

"THE NEWS AT CASA DE CARTA"

"Where ladies and gentlemen gather to play a game they love"

January 2012



IS IT 2012 ALREADY?!?!?!?

Looking for some really nice bridge games ?? – don't miss the special games scheduled for January – and if you have something you would like

included in the VCC newsletter, please e-mail Peg Birzer at birz3134@sbcglobal.net. Also, if you would like to receive the newsletter in a different form, please notify Peg.

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VCC ANNUAL MEETING



At the Village Card Club on December 9, Ron Rice, the Chairperson of the Election committee, announced the following VCC

members elected to the Board of Directors.

Officers: *Andy Cosby, President; Rick Wendricks, Vice President; Clark Vernon, Treasurer; Kathie Riedel, Secretary. Directors:* *Teri LaBove, Programs; Marcie Bearden, Logistics; Marge Gortsema, Player Development; Johnnie Niemann, Member Services; Annette Bono, Communication.*

Shown are Marge Gortsema, Andy Cosby, Rick Wendricks, Teri LaBove and Marcie Bearden



HAPPY NEW YEAR

The Village Card Club is in great shape!!! And growing . . . At the annual meeting, Andy Cosby gave a report using our new screen and highlights with a PowerPoint presentation.

Revenue showed that our games brought in \$84,000 this year; classes - \$18,000; Dues, \$4,000; and tournaments - \$7,600.

Some highlights of the education program were that three series of Basic and Intermediate 2/1 classes were held, three classes of 12 sessions each of the ACBL Club Diamond and Heart series were held and 63 two hour Easybridge! workshops were held. The mentoring program had 12 sessions and three workshops for 150 VCC members.

The VCC surpassed the previous record of 9,175 tables (through November) with 9,188 tables of bridge offered to Hot Springs Village residents in 2011. Memberships were up from 2010 (780) to a total of 803 members (including 83 new Easybridgers!).

Andy also noted the many Standing Committee and the volunteers who serve on those committees – which helped for another successful year for the Village Card Club.

HELP WANTED:

Our newsletter needs some new writers: possibilities include a "Tips" column each month – an unusual bridge hand and results – or whatever!!! E-mail Peg at birz3134@sbcglobal.net

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WHAT'S NEW AT THE VCC IN OUR EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

* New Classes in January *****

More information posted at the VCC

Easybridge! 1 for New Players

Learn to play the best card game!

Friday January 20 9:00 A.M.
Twelve Weeks - Four weeks free
Textbook = \$13.00

Bidding in the 21st Century

Modern Standard American
For Freshmen

Monday January 30 9:00 A.M.
Twelve Weeks \$60.00
Textbook = \$15.00

Basic 2/1 Game Force Course

Play the system preferred by experts
For Sophomores and Juniors

Tuesday January 10 9:00 A.M.
Eight Weeks \$80.00
Free Course Reference Material

BIDDING IN THE 21ST CENTURY TO BEGIN!

Starting Monday, January 30 from 9:00 -11:00 am, Bidding in the 21st Century will again be offered for the beginning bridge player. If you have friends who have expressed a desire to "learn to play bridge," this is the time for them to participate in this 12-week course. The course consists of eight weeks of lessons, followed by four weeks of "hands-on" practice. Each lesson consists of an hour of lecture, followed by an hour of play.

This class will be taught by Vicki Jennings and Cathy Irving.

A NEW EASYBRIDGE! 1 CLASS
WILL BEGIN ON

Friday, January 20th at 9:00 am.
Nancy Luehring will be the presenter. If
you have friends who are interested in
our Easybridge! classes
call Andy at 915-9827
or Peg at 915-0320

ASK OUR EXPERT EDUCATION DIRECTOR

Didn't have room on the next page for Denny's gift in your
Christmas stocking—so included it below. . .



Bridge is a partnership game. Although it is fun to play with a variety of personalities, try to develop one or two established partnerships. Established partnerships have a big advantage, especially in team events at tournaments. If you already have one or two favorite partners, please consider the advantages that can be gleaned from participation as a partnership in the club's education and mentor programs. Bridge enlightenment occurs in one of two ways. You acquire it on your own through self-development and trial and error or you attend a workshop to accelerate the learning process. The latter method is quicker and more fun. The educational staff hopes to see you in the classroom during 2012. Thanks in advance for your participation.

Denny Penticoff

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ASK THE EXPERTS???

As a gift in our Christmas stockings, we have advice from some of our VCC "experts" . . .

What one thing is important for us to concentrate on this year???



Tempo!!

Louallen Thomassen

Simple conventions

Lou Agnew

Counting everything!

Rick Wendricks



The thing that I think is most important is to be consistently following the system that you have agreed to play. This is most often not done in the bidding by many players. I see people refusing to pass out a board for fear of getting a bad board, I believe. They do this most often in fourth seat. I believe that when you make an opening bid you guarantee an opening hand, so that when you have opened the bidding and the opponents get into the auction, your partner knows whose hand it is so that he can bid on or double the opponents.

Ray Banks



Since we play defense more than we do anything else I would suggest that they really work out a carding system with their partner. Improving their play of the hand will reap great rewards. Finally add one convention that they believe the need for occurs frequently and work on that until they feel they have it before adding another. Finally, don't take this game too seriously -- it is NOT life and death. Have fun and keep that brain working!

Betty Schultz



I have listed below my opinion of the top success factors that determine the quality of bridge played. If you want to have better results in 2012 than you did in 2011, **pick one or two of these and work hard on it in the coming year.**

1. Focus -- ability to consistently execute what you know -- in other words -- don't make errors due to concentration
2. Partnership communication and harmony
3. Understanding the percentages -- know what the numbers are telling you and how to apply them
4. Counting suit lengths, cards played, and opponents points and applying this information to your decision making
5. Declarer play technique -- the technically correct way to play card combinations
6. Table feel -- know what is going on around you -- not the odds but that intangible gut feeling
7. Vision -- ability to apply all of the tools - the percentages, counting, play technique, and table feel -- to make the right decision based on the circumstances.

If the list seems rather daunting, keep in mind the fact that very few players in the country - 1% at the most - consistently do all of the above well. We all know that some people have more or less God given ability in some areas than others. My advice, control what you can control and don't worry about what you cannot. I have no doubt in my mind that the players that consistently win or scratch are able to do these things better than others.

Ned Irving



Keeping count of various cards, to make informed judgments.

Jack Leach

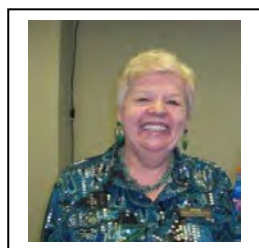
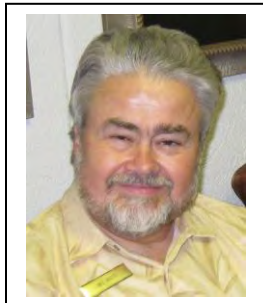
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Mentoring Program provides Mini-Lessons and Maximum Support

VCC's Mentoring Committee, consisting of **Ned Irving (chair), Greg Bono, Betty Schultz, and Rick Wendricks**, is to be congratulated and recognized for their outstanding efforts! Together they were the backbone of the new mentoring program that was wildly successful last year. **Thanks to their combined efforts**, many "students of bridge" have benefited from excellent help. Ned, Greg, Betty, and Rick created a masterpiece, our Mentoring Program, as it stands today. And, these same four will continue to "work their magic" in 2012.



Their magic is nothing tricky or deceiving, it comes via **hard work and excellent planning and execution**. Ned, Greg, Betty, and Rick assembled winning combinations of people by pairing skilled and caring mentors with small groups of like-minded players. Having the same mentor work each session with his (or her) same group provided a steady dose of continuity. At the beginning of each mentoring session, our mentoring committee selected a mentor to come up to the front of the entire room and give a well-thought-out and documented mini-lesson. **After the mini-lesson, the maximum support began**. Each individual

mentor further clarified the lesson, if needed. Then, and rather quickly, the boards came out and the playing began. Most of time spent at each mentoring session was spent on bidding, playing, and reviewing the hands. The pre-dealt hands deliberately illustrated and taxed the players to put into play the lesson under consideration that evening. The mentor was able to supervise and make timely suggestions based on what was happening right then and there during and after the play of each hand. The **immediate feedback and time to offer helpful suggestions** contributed greatly to the tremendous success of the mentoring program.

Kudos to Ned, Greg, Betty, and Rick!

And while these (fearless) four will continue to tackle the huge mentoring task before them in 2012, they are quick to recognize and thank the many talented mentors who answered the call to donate their time and efforts last year.

During 2011, these generous VCC members served as mentors: during both Spring and Fall were *Dwayne Ballew; Marcia Ballew; Greg Bono; Andy Cosby; Sheila Cosby; Bob Davis; Greg Franks; Ned Irving; Becky Rice; Don Russell; Betty Schultz; Louallen Thomasson; Rick Wendricks*.

Mentoring during the Spring were *Dick Banks; Gina Doss; Teri LaBove; Denny Penticoff*.

Mentoring during the Fall were *Joe Fischer and Bubba Raxsdale*.

In addition to mentoring, Denny Penticoff also offered educational support throughout the year with his follow-up mentoring support classes. **Thanks to this entire collection of talented bridge players who served as mentors!**

(A word to the wise: Check out the bulletin boards and the VCC website for details about the upcoming 2012 Mentoring session that will begin in February.)

Anne Mindock

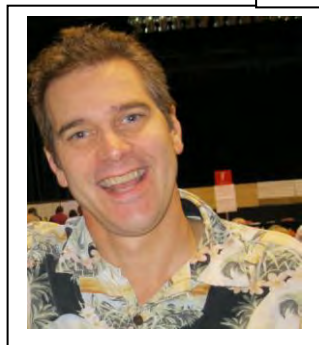
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CONGRATULATIONS!!

Emil Dimitrov –
Bronze Life Master



Doug Berke –
Life Master

Dorothy Rumreich also reached Bronze Life Master status.

MENTORING SPRING 2012

February 8

February 22

March 7

March 22

April 4

April 25

Wednesdays @ 6:30 PM

See sign-up sheets on the bulletin board

STAC WEEK

STAC week begins on January 30th and continues until February 5, 2012.

TOURNAMENT TIME

The Little Rock Duplicate Bridge Club will sponsor and host *the River City Silver 299er Sectional Tournament*, at the Curtis Finch Bridge House on **Friday, January 20, and Saturday, January 21**

0 to 300 Knockouts 9:30 am (1:30 pm) (7:00 pm)

0 to 20 Pairs 9:30 am 1:30 pm 7:00 pm

0 to 300 Pairs 9:30 am 1:30 pm 7:00 pm

All pairs games are single-session stratified

Sunday, January 22, 2012

0 to 300 Swiss Teams 9:30 am TBD

Two-session stratified with hot lunch between sessions

**PLAYERS WITH FEWER THAN 5
MASTERPOINTS PLAY FREE**

MASTERPOINT RACES

For the Unit 161 2011 Ace-of-Clubs Awards the following are VCC members who are leading their strat:

0-5	Joe Petitto	29.30 points
5-20	Marcie Bearden	34.25 points
200-300	Emil Dimitrov	145.72 points
300-500	G.E. Raxsdale	161.47 points
500-1000	Becky Rice	142.82 points
2500-5000	Joseph Fischer	248.36 points
5000-7500	Betty Schultz	291.29 points

Following are those VCC members who are leading their strat for the Mini-McKenney Awards:

5-20	Marcie Bearden	38.34 points
200-300	Emil Dimitrov	270.48 points
500-1000	Becky Rice	195.19 points
2500-5000	Ned Irving	516.20 points
5000-7500	Betty Schultz	436.74 points

Winners for these awards in 2011 will be announced mid-January.

GET READY for the Little Rock 299'er Sectional this month, January 20-22nd by playing Swiss Teams 0-300 on Sunday, January 8th @ 1 pm. Sign up your team or contact Teri LaBove 915-9101 Snacks are Welcome! Come have **FUN** and prepare for the Sectional . . .

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VCC TABLECOUNT SETS A NEW RECORD

For the first time in our history, the Village Card Club exceeded 10,000 tables in a year.

Bridge clubs and tournaments are measured by their tablecount (the number of people playing in each session), and our record at the end of December was 10,036 revenue tables.

We had 8,422 "sanctioned" tables – duplicate games where masterpoints are awarded. This includes club games, Unit 161 games and STAC games held at our club, but not the tables of our Spring Fling and Silver Lode Sectional Tournaments.

We had 1,614 tables in non-sanctioned games – Better Bridgers, Rubber Bridge, Men's, Ladies and Social duplicate.

When you consider that we closed the year with 803 paid and life members, also a record, 2011 was a very good year for our club, and set the stage for another banner year in 2012.

Many thanks to all the members who supported our club in 2011 and sincere appreciation to those members who rolled up their sleeves to help – on the Board of Directors and in the 22 Functional Committees that run this club.

Andy Cosby, President



GREEN THUMBS NEEDED

Our Rose Memorial Garden, along the east wall of Casa de Carta, needs a team of amateur gardeners to help keep it pretty. If you have a pair of pruning shears and maybe an hour or so a month to help, please call or e-mail Wally Johnson at wallyjohn@earthlink.net that you can help.

UNIT 161 TOURNAMENTS

Little Rock 0-300	January 20-22, 2012
Hot Springs Village Sectional	March 9-11, 2012
Resort City Regional (Hot Springs)	May 14-20, 2012
Jonesboro Sectional combined with 299er Regional	May 31-June 3, 2012
Little Rock Summer Sectional	July 13-15, 2012
Hot Springs Village 0-500	August 14-16, 2012
DeGray Sectional	November 2-4, 2012

DON'T FORGET - SPRING NABC MARCH 15-25



**2011
IRONMAN**

THE IRONMAN AWARD FOR 2011 GOES TO

JOE FISCHER.

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ANOTHER REALLY GREAT CHRISTMAS PARTY AT THE VCC

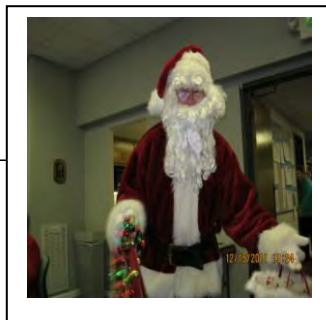
Our annual holiday party was a huge success -- a luncheon catered by Home Plate that was one of the best in recent years – chicken cordon bleu!!...and all the trimmings. Ginna and her crew were there very early to see that all had a good time.



We think a record was set – over 200 VCC members had a holiday meal and some good bridge. The lines for food were long – but everyone was happy when they got their excellent meal.



Then Santa arrived with a gift for all and hugs and kisses, too!



AS VCC MEMBERS ENJOYED A VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS . . .