



THE DISTRICT 20 TRUMPET

www.ACBLD20.org



Vol. 16, No. 2

Bridge Across the District

Summer 2020

Virtual program throws clubs a lifeline

By Chip Dombrowski
The Trumpet

Within days of the cancellation of the Columbus NABC on March 12, clubs across the district shut down. Most of District 20's large clubs had already made the decision to close by the time the ACBL sent out a recommendation to cease all club and tournament operations on March 16.

Partnering with Bridge Base Online and former ACBL president Jay Whipple, the ACBL launched the virtual clubs program March 25. District 20 clubs began onboarding in early April, with all the Portland area clubs offering online club games the first week of that month.

By the end of the month, there were 15 virtual clubs operating in areas all over the district, including Boise, Bend, Eugene, Medford; Eureka and Penn Valley,

Calif.; and Honolulu and Kailua Kona, Hawaii. More joined in late May.

Meanwhile, the district canceled the Bend regional on April 13, the Treasure Valley Regional on May 4 and the Seaside Regional on May 24. The ACBL canceled the Montreal NABC on April 15 and this year's North American Pairs and Grand National Teams on May 4. The ACBL has held one online regional and has another in the works, but doesn't currently plan to

allow districts to run online regionals. For the time being, virtual clubs are the only game in town.

The program offers clubs a way to generate income during the shutdown while offering players the opportunity to compete in a familiar, friendly environment. BBO returns the larger share of the playing fee to participating clubs.

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ACBL takes measures to reduce costs

I would like to thank those who voted for me for their support. I hope to represent all of our district well.

As you know the board was supposed to meet in Columbus for four days prior to nationals starting. Meetings via conference calls were being held prior to the scheduled meeting. When the Ohio governor outlawed meetings of large groups, the ACBL was able to get out of our contracts without penalty. If we had canceled prior to the governor's directive, it would have cost the ACBL \$2.2 million. However, the ACBL still lost money because of lost revenue.

The board met online for five days and in that time approved a resizing of the board from 25 members to 13. District 20 will combine with 21 to form one region (see story, page 3). Although this will take three years to implement, it will save the organization about \$150,000 annually.

Covid-19 has wreaked havoc in the world, affecting all kinds of businesses and organizations, including the ACBL. It is unclear when we will be able to



Laurie Rowe
D20 District Director

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Top row: Ellen McCumsey, Lee Brackhahn, Eric Sieg; middle row: Eileen Boal, Jeff Jacob, Toni Heitkamp; bottom row: Zack Woodbury, Karen Boss and Bill Jones.

Life and bridge in a time of corona

How players across the district are coping with quarantine

By Jen Smith
The Trumpet

It seems you can't go five minutes these days without hearing or seeing some headline about the novel coronavirus. Stay-at-home orders went into place around the country around mid-March, which meant a big disruption to many

people's weekly routines. And we aren't just talking about your regular TP run. Bridge clubs have been forced to shut down around the country. So how our players in District 20 coping with this new normal? We talked to a handful of players to find out.

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Eyer: Thank you, and you and you!

I hope this finds you, your family and friends safe and well. What a long, strange journey we are all on.

Everyone has been socially distancing, reaching out to those we know and care about. The bridge community is tightly connected by a shared, secretly coded language, and by friends and partners worldwide; those we already know and those we will know. Yes, we can still talk of intra-finesses and backwash



Mike Eyer
D20 President

squeezes; unfortunately, we now have to know about COVID toes and travel bubbles. All of you are making a difference every minute, every day. I'd like to offer special thanks to the behind-the-scenes folk, the unsung heroes, who have enabled us to play the game we love.

Thanks to District Director Laurie Rowe, ACBL President Georgia Heth and all the other directors and ACBL staff for so promptly setting up BBO as an alternative for our needed fixes.

To the district officers: Vice President Jon Gustafson, Treasurer July Ratley, Secretary Rich Carle, area

Continued on Page 10

The rise and rise of McKenzie Myers

By Don Marsh
The Trumpet

To describe McKenzie Eugene Myers' story as local boy makes good would be a little like describing 7NT redoubled making as a good result. What Mac has accomplished is unprecedented. He has achieved suc-

cess at the highest level as a player, playing professional, educator and national-level director.

It all began when Mac received a copy of Eddie Kantar's "Bridge for Dummies" for his 21st birthday in 2000 from his father, Chris. Mac was not a bridge dummy for very long. He took to the game like an over-

bidder to a phantom sacrifice. He started playing online and soon saw that he was one of the better players on now defunct sites like Playsite and MSN Games. Locally, he found a home at the Emerald Bridge Club. His job called for lots of travel that afforded him the opportunity to play at many clubs with many partners.

"For a couple of years, I averaged at least eight hours a day of bridge activities, if you include playing live, reading and practicing online," he said. "I'm sure it wasn't healthy, but it sure was a good way to get good at the game."

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McKenzie Myers

All this time with nowhere to go? Time to get a dog

On an unseasonably warm, sunny day in March, I met a friend for tennis. Irving Park was unusually full of people for a midweek late afternoon. Luckily, I got there early and was first in line for a court to open.

I brought my son Noah with me so he could play in the park. He spent the entire time chasing dogs in the off-leash area. He has been wanting a dog for a long time.

Never having had a dog before, I was nervous about the idea. I've tried to hold him off with a cat, fish and two different kinds of geckos. But you know what happens when you do that? You end up with a cat, fish, two different kinds of geckos and a dog.

OK, but what kind of dog? I knew essentially it was going to be my dog, too, and that I would be taking care of it. A lot. Noah goes to his dad's house most weekends.

Noah really wanted a blue heeler, which is in the Australian sheep-herding family, very high-energy and loyal, sometimes only to one person. I feared it would be too hyper and maybe like only me.

My partner was lobbying for a standard poodle because they are smart and hypo-allergenic. Noah said, "I don't like curly-haired dogs with long legs." I thought some kind of golden- or labra-doodle would be a good compromise.

The next day Noah wanted to go to the dog park again, and it was another beautiful

day with no school, so we did. The most fun dog was there, an enormous shaggy beast that was leaping and bounding and happy. We asked what kind of dog it was and we were told that it was a Bernedoodle, a cross between a Bernese mountain dog and a poodle. That was acceptable to Noah. But they're like \$3500 and not readily available.

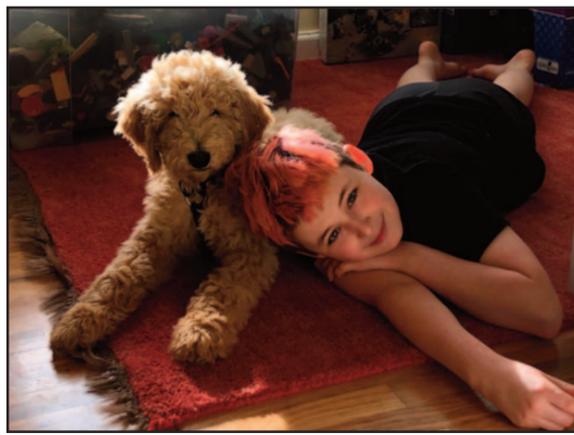
We arranged for Noah to meet a full-grown standard poodle so that he could have an informed opinion. As you might have guessed, Noah loves all animals and this poodle was on exceptionally good behavior. Noah acquiesced to the idea of the breed.

We spent Friday googling and saw a breeder in the Corvallis area with a few puppies left. I wanted a female, Noah wanted a male. I wanted apricot, I don't think Noah cared.

We drove to Corvallis March 21 and left with Bucky, an apricot, male, curly-haired, long-legged bundle of love and fun. He's practically a neighborhood celebrity, making friends everywhere he goes. He is truly irresistible.

On March 23, Oregon issued the stay-at-home order. I had planned to be playing bridge at the NABC in Columbus, Ohio, that week. I knew I wasn't going anywhere for a while, which is why I finally relented and got the puppy.

So here we are, at home — a lot. We do Zoom, Google Hangout, BBO, YouTube,



Noah and Bucky



Amy Casanova
Managing Editor

FaceTime, Amazon Prime and Disney+. I am able to work from home. Even though there are plenty of frustrations, I know that we are among the lucky ones.

Maybe worrying about how we are going to play bridge is low on the priority scale, but nonetheless it is an important part of many people's lives and still our job here in the district and beyond.

Live bridge is on indefinite hiatus. It may never be the same.

I'd like to point out that whether to cancel tournaments, and the timing of those decisions, was not only determined by concern for players' health, but also by business concerns. Delaying the cancellations until government mandates were issued saved hundreds of thousands if not millions of dollars, depending on the scale of

the tournament. I can assure you that the players are cared about and everyone hopes that soon the league can run live bridge games for us all.

What do we miss? Getting dressed in nice clothes. Wearing a new piece of jewelry or a shirt that gets noticed and complimented. Celebrating birthdays, having a piece of cake. Trying a new recipe. Exchanging books. Discussing movies, TV shows, plays. The puzzle table. Smiles. Hugs. There is more to bridge than cards.

I'll "see" you on BBO. My name is Cricket75. In the background the dog is playing with the cat. The fish swim around. The geckos don't do much of anything.

Amy Casanova can be reached at trumpeteditor@gmail.com.

Online play is tedious, until you try it this way

The NABCs are a lot of hard work for me without much reward, so I generally don't look forward to going to them and am happy to get out of it when I can. Columbus was an exception.

It's a short flight, so I rated to escape the usual travel snafus, and only an hour and a half from where my mom and brother live, so delaying my return a couple days would give me a chance to see them.

I knew from producing the restaurant guide you never saw that there was not much in the way of Thai food, but still the American and Mexican restaurants looked more gluten- and vegetarian-friendly than usual.

As questions about its safety mounted, I found myself in a rare situation. I really wanted to go.

We were lucky Columbus was our destination for spring this year, as opposed to, say, Tampa. Ohio Gov. Mike DeWine was a great leader early on during this pandemic, consistently making moves ahead of other states to close things down that were soon copied elsewhere. I'm grateful to him and Ohio health director Amy Acton for making the decision easy and timely for us.

Within a week of that cancellation, I was working from home. I didn't think it would work out as well as it has, but boy do I like it.

The Zoom difference

For the past two months, I've been playing three times a week in unsanctioned games. I have a practice match on Tuesdays with my regular partner and a pair from Arizona. We get through 20 boards in two hours, and the pace feels awfully slow. I want to give my partner as many opportunities as possible to learn our conventions, but I sure wish our opponents would move on to another table after several boards.

I play in an ABA game on Saturdays with another partner, and that's more typical of the BBO experience. We're both fast players and frequently have five to eight minutes left on the clock when we finish each round. It is truly agonizing waiting for that time to expire.

What a difference Zoom makes! The third game is the one **Zack Woodbury** hosts on Fridays. It's nice to have the opportunity to play with friends in Portland, and even nicer that we can talk to each other during the game. Those five minutes at the end of every round go by so much faster when you're at a "table" with other people you can talk to.

I didn't realize how important the social aspect of bridge was to me until it was gone. The social experience makes playing in Zack's game far superior to any other game on BBO. I hope this practice of pairing BBO with Zoom becomes widespread in the coming months. For those who hate playing online, it mitigates just about every drawback you can find.

Many reluctant online players carry constant suspicion bordering on paranoia that their opponents are cheating. While Zoom hardly makes it impossible to cheat, being able to see one's opponents and hear any conversation does much to melt that suspicion.

Online regional

I played one day in the online regional last month. I was sitting on almost a 70% going into the last round of the first session when this happened.

♠A K 10 9 3 ♥10 ♦J 7 3 2 ♣8 6 5

Partner passes and RHO opens 1NT. LHO bids Stayman and opener shows hearts. I can see they're about to get to 4♥, which rates to be good. If they're minimum for game, there's room in partner's hand for, say:

♠Q x x x ♥x x x ♦K Q x x ♣x x

We'd have a great sacrifice in 4♠, but partner will have no idea unless I bid now. It's not without risk when the opponents have the strength, but I expect they'll go on to 4♥ regardless of what I do, so I bid 2♠.

They double. When that passes back to me, I give fleeting thought to running to 3♦, but that seems like a crapshoot. I'm not embarrassed by my spade suit, so I pass. Partner's hand:



Chip Dombrowski
Editor at Large

♠J 5 ♥9 5 3 ♦K 10 9 8 6 5 ♣Q 7

2♠ goes down three for minus 500 — the only way they can improve on their 450. It's a zero. Funny, 3♦ is only down one.

Not the worst bid I ever made by any means, but it sure took the wind out of our sails. The second session was reasonably good until another disaster in the penultimate round. I'll save that one for Facebook.

How remotely?

In early March, the ACBL posted a job opening in my department in anticipation of a retirement coming later in the year. Critics on Bridge Winners questioned the requirement that the candidate be willing to relocate to the Memphis area. Certainly the limited pool of interested candidates would expand without such a requirement, and people reasoned that editing can be done remotely.

Those more familiar with our operations defended the condition, but I wondered whether it was necessary to live here after all. If not, maybe I could move back to Oregon someday and bring the job.

There is a slight difference in working remotely 2 miles from the office and working remotely 2000 miles away. Although I'm not there most days, I still go into the office two or three times a month. We circulate a paper copy of the magazine (twice) in the two weeks before it goes to press. That wouldn't work cross-country.

From my own experience, I know I find more errors if I'm reading a paper proof than I do looking at a screen. I insist on printing out all of the Trumpet's pages before finalizing them, and it's likewise necessary to have a printed copy of the Bridge Bulletin. But my old home printer doesn't handle modern documents very well, so most of my trips to the office are to use equipment.

I do know, though, from four years of experience, that it's possible to produce a publication with colleagues who are as remote as Portland and Ashland. With better equipment, I know now my job can be done anywhere. That's a promising thought.

Chip Dombrowski can be reached at chip.dombrowski@acbl.org.

Deaths

Eva Hogan – 94, of Jacksonville OR died April 15, 2020.

Ray Sjoblom – 96, of Hood River OR died March 11, 2020.

Francis O'Connor – 86, of Lake Oswego OR died April 5, 2020.

George Watts – 86, of Bend OR died Jan. 10, 2020.



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New Life Masters: Please send a photo for publication by email.



The Trumpet on Facebook
www.facebook.com/d20trumpet

ACBL Board

Reorganization plan approved

Board will be cut to 13 pending final votes by board, BOG

By Chip Dombrowski
The Trumpet

A plan to reduce the size of the ACBL board of directors cleared its first hurdle when it was passed by the required two-thirds vote in a teleconferenced meeting of the board March 16-20.

The reduction has long been sought by some on the board and in ACBL management who believe 25 members are too many to be efficient, a view widely held in the corporate world, where board sizes tend to be much smaller. A smaller board also would reduce travel costs.

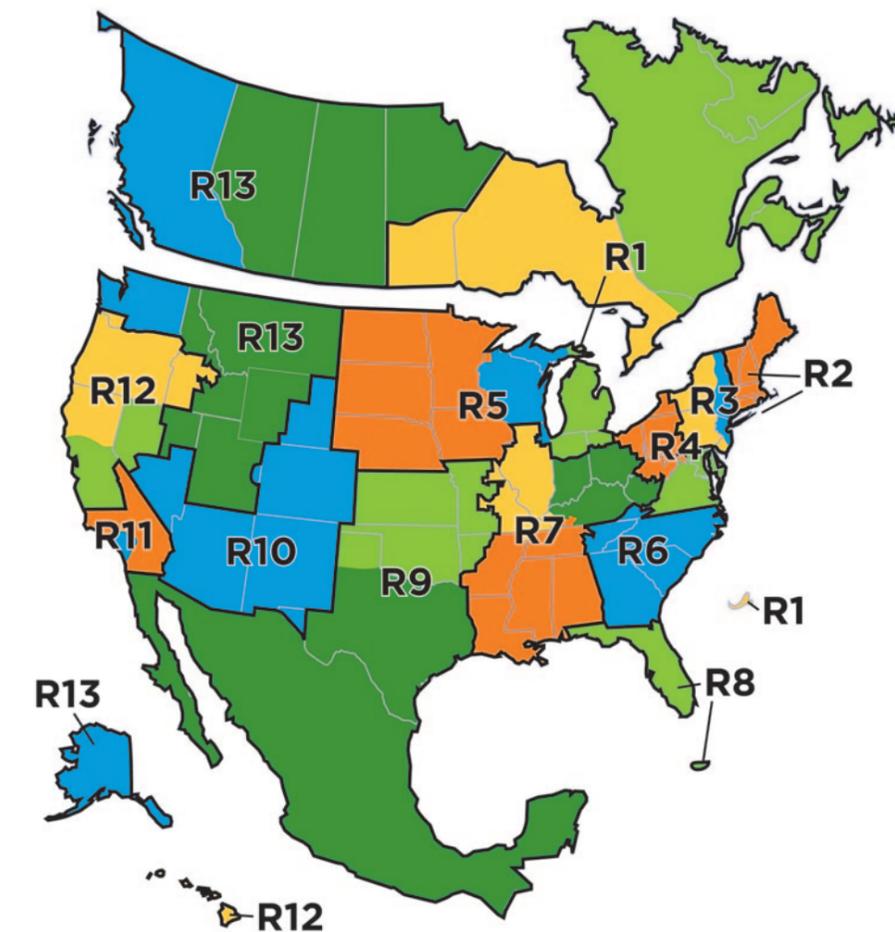
The plan will be voted on again by the board in its July 13-16 meeting and then by the board of governors on July 19. If it passes those votes, it will go into effect in the 2021 election cycle for terms beginning in 2022.

For the purposes of board representation only, the plan creates 13 regions by combining existing, neighboring districts. For all other purposes, districts will remain intact and independent.

District 20 would join with District 21 to form Region 12, beginning in 2023. District 20 Director Laurie Rowe's term lasts through 2022. That summer, when an election for her district director seat would normally be held, there would be an election for regional director from the combined districts.

Directors whose terms are not complete as of the beginning of the regional director's term will have the option to remain on the board until the end of their terms. This would apply to the District 21 director, who will be elected this year to a term that extends through 2023.

Under the current organization, there is a great disparity in the number ACBL members represented by each board member, with the largest district having about eight times the population of the



smallest district. The reorganization plan would reduce this disparity, bringing 12 of the 13 regions within 2,000 members of the average size, about 11,500.

District 20 is the ACBL's fifth smallest, while District 21, with about twice the population, is the fifth largest. Region 12 would be the median.

The plan eliminates the positions of first and second alternate district directors. These officials would be reclassified as members of the board of governors.

Each district would have five board of governors representatives.

At the March meeting, the plan passed, 20-4-1. Rowe voted for it, as did her predecessor, Merlin Vilhauer, when it was presented last fall and failed by one vote short of the required two-thirds majority.

For more information on amendments to the ACBL Board of Directors bylaws that would implement these changes, see page 62 of the May Bridge Bulletin or acbl.org/bylawschanges.

NAP/GNT Grass roots 2020 events are canceled

Look for new online team matches this summer

Normally in my North American events report for the summer issue, I would be telling everyone of our players' successes in the NAP finals at the spring nationals. I would be extolling the winners of our district GNT online finals, and promoting the club qualifying games for next year's NAP, normally scheduled to start in June.

Because of the virus, this year's spring and summer nationals have been canceled, along with the NAP and GNT events to be held there. There was no NAP. We didn't contest our district GNT finals, even though it would have been online.

We don't know yet what qualifying for future NAP or GNT will be. Those who qualified last year to represent us in the NAP are now qualified to compete in St. Louis in spring 2021.

However, bridge continues and is thriving. Players are playing on BBO. The league and local clubs are offering multiple sessions of online bridge each week. Local clubs offer lessons and chat sessions over the Internet. The ACBL even hosted a nationwide online regional.

Although there is no GNT at the national level this year, D20 has decided to run the equivalent of its GNT finals in a similar manner. Players will play from their homes without monitors. We will crown a D20 GNT virus champion in each of the four flights and award substantial gold points for the overall finishers.

The D20 board approved the formation of districtwide round-robin teams. We will play flighted teams all summer long, starting play in June.

Registration information will be on the D20 website. The 16-board matches will cost \$5 per person per match. Teams will have about a week to schedule and play their matches. The matches are regionally rated and pay red points. The overall awards pay gold as follows: 48 points for the open, 40 for flight A, 33.5 for flight B and, for flight C, 10 gold and 10 red.

We hope that every club and unit will sponsor multiple teams in each flight. We are planning to share a portion of the fees with our sponsoring clubs and units.

I plan to award a prize for the most interesting hand reported in each bracket. I will post submissions on the D20 website and call for voting from within each bracket to help determine the winners.

For this year only, there will be no club qualification needed. Any member of good standing in D20 can play in the online finals. We want everybody to play.

Matches will be posted on the D20 website and the teams will have about a week to play and report the outcome. If there are more than 10 teams in a bracket, we might have to play a match every five days. You can enter in more than one flight. A team from Eugene could play against the Corvallis hot shots one week and laid-back Hawaiians the next.

Get your teams together. Sharpen your MPs play. Check the D20 website for registration information. Let's have some fun.

Hal Montgomery can be reached at dewitt@imaginata.com.



Hal Montgomery
NA Events Coordinator

THE SECTIONAL SECTION

Possible sectionals?

All events are subject to cancellation or postponement. Check acbl.org for the latest information.

Ace of Clubs

The Ace of Clubs Sectional, scheduled for June 26-28, has been canceled.

Salem

The Salem Sectional, scheduled for July 10-12, has been canceled.

Vancouver

The Vancouver Summer Sectional is scheduled to be held Aug. 14-16 at the Washington School for the Deaf in Vacouver WA. See ad page 4 for details.

McCall

The Nampa-Caldwell Spring Sectional is rescheduled for Aug. 26-27 at Idaho First Bank in McCall ID, about 100

miles north of Boise. See ad page 4 for details.

Eureka

The Eureka Sectional is scheduled to be held Sept. 11-13 at Humboldt Area Foundation in Bayside CA. See ad page 5 for details.

Portland

The Portland Fall Sectional is scheduled to be held Sept. 11-13 at the Milwaukie Elks Lodge in Oak Grove OR. See ad page 5 for details.

Phoenix

The Rogue Valley Fall Sectional is scheduled to be held Sept. 18-20 at the Dan Voorhies Bridge Center in Phoenix OR. See ad page 6 for details.

Boise

The Boise Fall Sectional is scheduled to be held Sept. 25-27 at the Red Lion Hotel Downtowner in Boise ID. See ad page 6 for details.

SECTIONAL RESULTS

Maui (88 tables)

- 20.29 Christopher Young, San Diego CA
- 18.41 Gary Donner, Bluffton SC
- 15.55 Ronald Resnick, Portland OR
- 15.29 Satish Gupta, Reno NV
- 14.05 Jack Patnode, Kula HI
- 13.01 Gordon Hepperle, Summerland BC
- 13.01 Carol Gutsell, Summerland BC
- 12.72 Mari Livingston, Portland OR
- 12.72 Leon Joseph Grafe, Kihei HI

Boise (129 tables)

- 27.94 John Cissel, Boise ID
- 27.94 Craig Jones, Boise ID
- 18.86 Suzanne St. Thomas, Boise ID

- 18.86 Kathy Downen, Boise ID
- 13.90 Clyde Coon, Boise ID
- 13.90 Bill Cook, Twin Falls ID
- 12.32 Duane Christensen, Boise ID
- 12.32 Carol Christensen, Boise ID
- 11.73 Larry Chase, Boise ID
- 11.73 Carol Holmes, Meridian ID
- 11.56 Ian Martindale, Boise ID
- 11.56 Charlene Martindale, Boise ID

Big Island (94 tables)

- 19.03 Dean Jenkins, Kailua Kona HI
- 17.98 Richard Leach, Laguna Beach CA
- 14.71 Jim Cheney, Hilo HI
- 12.05 Penny Kallaus, Holualoa HI
- 11.79 Robert Hope, Honolulu HI

- 11.22 Marlene Sabo, Kailua Kona HI
- 10.87 Walter Knox, Kamuela HI
- 10.87 David Dodson, Pahoia HI
- 10.70 Eileen Hayes, Sacramento CA

Honolulu (120 tables)

- 26.65 Thomas Lum, Honolulu HI
- 22.07 Godfrey Chang, Honolulu HI
- 19.89 Everett Fukushima, Aiea HI
- 18.76 Martie Wright, Honolulu HI
- 16.14 Ronald Wong, Honolulu HI
- 15.30 Marion McLaren, Honolulu HI
- 14.78 Steven Johnson, Honolulu HI
- 13.99 Leo Williams, Honolulu HI
- 13.58 Joseph Bussen, Kailua HI
- 13.08 Iku Donnelly, Honolulu HI

Chris's Corner

Continued from Page 14

dependent on those other calls. But those will be South's choices, not yours. Your only choice is whether you would like to accept this call or not. Would you like to accept it?"

Assuming West does not accept, it is North's turn. I would turn to North and say, "You are the dealer and need to make your normal opening call. You may make any call you wish but if you are trying to choose between two calls and one has become more attractive by the fact that your partner tried to open 1♠, you would have to choose the other option." North opens 1♣. East passes. Time for a conversation with South (away from the table, bring the hand along). You need to get a firm grasp of the methods of the partnership. If 1♠ is the normal 4+ spades, 6+ points, it is not comparable to an opening of 1♠ (5+ spades, 12+ points). (The new call, 1♠ response, is not a subset of the withdrawn 1♠ opener.) If 2♣ is a strong jump shift showing 5+ spades and a game-forcing, slam-interested hand, that would be comparable. South might choose to make that call even if he has only 12 points, just to keep the auction alive, with partner bidding. It is very possible that South simply does not have a comparable call. If so, advise him of that. He may still make any call that he wishes, but he does so with the knowledge he must pass at his next turn. South may choose 3NT or 4♣ or maybe still only 1♠. These are completely valid choices and may be made with full knowledge that partner will have to pass at his next call. If the opponents keep the auction open, partner may choose something other than pass at subsequent turns.

Ruling Questions for Chris? Email chris.wiegand@acbl.org.



THE IN! CROWD

For Intermediate/Newcomer Players

Sherry's unexpected bids test Franny's trust

Sherry gets excited! Sherry Squirrel is pacing and so happy to be playing online. It is the only game in town, but it is better than life with no bridge. She does her happy dance whenever she remembers to alert herself. And she plays her partner's convention card.



Margi Redden
D20 I/N Coordinator

[Sherry's POV] Franny enjoys playing weak notrump and we both agree to no singletons even though ACBL allows them. When you play systems over notrump, one needs to remember that the opener has described her hand and responder is in charge. The Owl insists that when I am

going to bid, I think before I bid and try not to get too excited before the auction in over. What a concept, working out a plan!

What is your plan when your partner opens a 12-14 HCP hand 1NT with the North hand (see next column)?

Sherry is highly excitable and tries to calm down and make a plan. She will ask Stayman, and bid 3♦, knowing that her partner will not pass her there and that is slam interest and game forcing. So, Sherry makes her plan and bids 2♣, Franny shows the hearts, just like that Sherry gets excited and makes a key card ask. She is only missing three key cards

Dir: North ♠K 8 6
Vul: All ♥KJ 6 3
♦9 4
♣AJ 10 2

♠J 9 7 5 2 ♠Q 10 3
♥A 8 7 4 ♥9 5 2
♦8 ♦J 6
♣6 5 4 ♣K Q 9 8 7

♠A 4
♥Q 10
♦A K Q 10 7 5 3 2
♣3

| West | North Franny | East | South Sherry |
|----------|-----------------|------|-----------------|
| Pass | 1NT | Pass | 2♣ |
| Pass | 2♥ | Pass | 4NT |
| Pass | 5♥ | Pass | 6♦ |
| All Pass | | | |

Dir: West ♠A 10 9 5 3
Vul: None ♥K J 4
♦J 10 6 3 2
♣—

♠Q 8 6 ♠7 4 2
♥A Q 10 9 8 7 ♥6 5 3
♦K 5 ♦Q 8 7 4
♣Q 10 ♣8 6 2

♠K J
♥2
♦A 9
♣A K J 9 7 5 4 3

| West | North Franny | East | South Sherry |
|------|-----------------|------|-----------------|
| 1♥ | 2♥ | Pass | 5♣ |
| Pass | 5♦ | Dbl | All Pass |

around hearts. Franny answers two key cards which can be the ♥AK or the ♣A and one of the heart honors. Sherry does not care which one, and bids 6♦. Franny thinks and thinks, wondering if this is a choice of slams and decides that it is not and passes. Whew!

♠♦♥♠♠♦♥♠♠

All vulnerable, I pick up a lovely hand as South (see next column).

Franny has shown spades and a minor. I just bid what I think I can make.

Franny is truly annoyed and thinks that I want her to correct if that is not the right minor. They double to her left and I think I should bid 6♣. But, like the wuss I am, I passed. In 6♣, if they lead the ♥A, I make six, if they lead a diamond, I make five.

This is a trust-your-partner bid. If, in re-

sponse to Michaels, you bid 2NT, that asks, what is your minor? If you don't bother to ask but jump in one of the minors, that should be a self-sufficient suit, not caring what your partner has. If I had bid 3♣, that would be pass or correct. I remember the time I bid 2♣ over 1♠ (Michaels) and Franny thought and thought and finally passed.

She had seven spades and I had a void. Boy is it hard to play a hand from the void side. Or in my case it was easy to misplay that hand from the void side.

On the first hand she trusted me and on the second hand she was upset with me and did not stop to think what I could have had. I was not a passed hand and I had the best hand at the table. So, have fun and trust your partner.

D20 I/N Coordinator Margi Redden can be reached at d20incoord@yahoo.com.

Vancouver USA Summer Sectional

Join us at the
Washington School for the Deaf,
611 Grand Blvd. (entrance on Evergreen Blvd.)
Vancouver, Wash.

Aug. 14-16, 2020

Friday, Aug. 14

- Open Pairs (stratified)..... 10 a.m.
- Garland Wilson NLM Pairs (0-500, stratified)..... 10 a.m.
- Novice Pairs (0-100 stratified, # of tables permitting)..... 10 a.m.
- Paul Gabalis Stratified Open Pairs..... 3 p.m.
- NLM Pairs (0-500 stratified)..... 3 p.m.

Saturday, Aug. 15

- Bob Turkisher Strati-flighted Open Pairs (AXY & BCD) 10 a.m.
- Novice Pairs (0-100 stratified, # of tables permitting)..... 10 a.m.
- Strati-flighted Open Pairs (AXY & BCD) 3 p.m.

Sunday, Aug. 16

- Memorial Strati-flighted Swiss Teams (AXY & BCD) 10 a.m. & TBA
- *Stratified Fast Pairs (single session)..... 10 a.m.

*Field stratified by director based on entries

| Open strats | NLM strats | Stratiflighted events |
|-------------|------------|-----------------------|
| A=2000+ | A=300-500 | A=5000+ |
| B=1000-2000 | B=100-300 | X=3000-5000 |
| C=0-1000 | C=0-100 | Y=0-3000 |
| | | B=750-1500 |
| | | C=300-750 |
| | | D=0-300 |

All pair strats determined by average MP of pair, but **AXY, BCD, & NLM** limits apply
A team or pair with any player over 1500 MPs plays in Flight **AXY**

Fees:

\$10 for members, \$14 for lapsed ACBL members. Temporary memberships available. New ACBL members (0-5 MP) play free!

Head Director: Jeff Jacob

Tournament Chair: Kathleen Mather, mather.kath@gmail.com

Partnership Desk: Barbara Pyles, barbarapyles@gmail.com

Free coffee, tea and snacks!

Sanction No. 1908045

Nampa-Caldwell Downgraded Sectional

August 26-27, 2020

Rescheduled from the spring!



Idaho First Bank
475 E. Deinhard Ln.
McCall, ID 83638
(208) 634-1000



Wednesday, Aug. 26

- Stratified Open Pairs – 11 a.m. and 4 p.m. (Single Sessions)
- Single Session 199ers (if attendance allows) – 11 a.m. and 4 p.m.

Thursday, Aug. 27

- Stratified Swiss Teams – 10 a.m. (2 Session Play Through) (Six 7-Board Matches - Victory Points)

Masterpoint Ranges: A = 1000+; B = 300-1000; C = 0-300

Stratification: By average masterpoints, pairs & team games

Entry Fees:

- Wednesday:
 - \$10 per person (ACBL members)
 - \$14 per person (lapsed ACBL members)
- Thursday - \$100 per team – Includes Lunch!

No fragrances please

Information

Chair: Anita Hansen, (208) 697-9435, anitahan24@hotmail.com

Co-chair: Duane Christensen, (208) 362-6553, duane345@msn.com

Partnerships: Duane Christensen, (208) 362-6553, duane345@msn.com

McCall Partnerships: Ruth Bingaman, (208) 634-5622

Tournament Director: Duane Christensen

Sanction No. 2008905

DISTRICT 20 RANK CHANGES

JUNIOR MASTERS

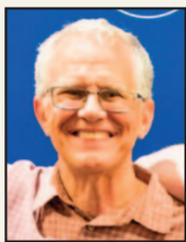
Kay Abramowitz, Portland OR
David Beaudoin, Ashland OR
Andrew Chodolski, Bend OR
Colette Cobb, Waikoloa HI
Susan Ford, Philomath OR
Gary Hansen, Ashland OR
Steve Hawkins, Ewa Beach HI
Ronna Hoffman, Portland OR
Anne Jantzi, Medford OR
Charles Jenney, Portland OR
Veronique Johnstone, Portland OR
Barbara Lorentz, Redding CA
Shirley McGinnis, Redding CA
Stacey Melnick, Portland OR
Brian Morgan, Portland OR
Lynne Patzel, Beaverton OR
Cynthia Quackenbush, Portland OR
Kathy Richmond, McCall ID
Maya Schimpf, Boise ID
Julie Snyder, Portland OR
Joyce Trawle, Eugene OR
Catherine Watkins, Brookings OR
Hank Werner, Woodburn OR
David Wood, Redmond OR

CLUB MASTERS

Mary Brandt, Honolulu HI
Nancy Calkins, Chico CA
Lynda Campf Weinstein, Portland OR
Jane Crane, Boise ID
Richard Crist, Marylhurst OR
Maureen Dion, Chico CA
Mary Ellen Dolan, Kihei HI
Peggy Edgerton, Nampa ID
Randy Forrest, Kelso WA
Jared Jenkins, Boise ID
Amy Lowes, Portland OR
Pamela Matheson, Portland OR
Mary Oparowski, Penn Valley CA
Debra Platt, Portland OR
Sterling Smith, Middleton ID
Dana Terhune, Tualatin OR
Jill Thach, Kailua HI
Steven Vegdahl, Portland OR
Dennis Viner, Princeville HI
Luann Ward, Vancouver WA
Jacqueline Webster, Kihei HI
Wanda Wynne, Lake Oswego OR
Jean Zoeller, Kailua Kona HI

For definitions of ranks, see acbl.org/masterpoints-results/masterpoint-ranks/

New Life Masters



Bruce Backup
Portland OR



Dee Fulton
Holualoa HI



Mary Hanni
Eagle ID



Judy Huston
Vancouver WA



Barbara Nelson
McMinnville OR



Carol Schmid
Lake Oswego OR



Walt Thies
Corvallis OR

SECTIONAL MASTERS

Margaret Bechard, Redding CA
Donald Branton, Eagle ID
Gary Haynie, Kailua HI
Michael Keeney, Salem OR
Tara McMahan, Portland OR
Michael Rohm, Meridian ID
Larry Zgonc, Boise ID

REGIONAL MASTERS

Patty Crispe, Portland OR
Barbara Durkin, Honolulu HI
Rachel Frame, McMinnville OR
Ronald Holbrook, Portland OR
Roma Johnson, Kailua Kona HI
Ernest Ludington, Salem OR
Sue McMullen, Eugene OR
Carl Scheffler, Eugene OR
Patrice Stewart, Vancouver WA

NABC MASTERS

Patricia Baham, Beaverton OR
Susan Carter, Portland OR

Dorsie Glen, Kihei HI
Ashok Hargunani, Portland OR
Kathleen Hart, Portland OR
Jim Kahan, Portland OR
David Ouyang, Waianae HI
Sharon Sandell, Waianae HI
Beth Unger, Portland OR
Jane Urban, Portland OR

ADVANCED NABC MASTERS

Fran Henry-Jansa, Portland OR
Vern Katz, Eugene OR
Janice Smith, Portland OR
Kristin Steinmetz, Portland OR

BRONZE LIFE MASTERS

James Anstine, Vancouver WA
Steve Colmer, Vancouver WA
Ronald Foerster, Bend OR
Michael Hollins, Redding CA
Diane Mackenzie, Portland OR
Joan Spence, Eugene OR

SILVER LIFE MASTERS

Deanna Birch, Portland OR
Don Gile, Boise ID
Ellie Hall-Pitzer, Salem OR
Alan Stewart, Vancouver WA
Inez Weiss, Portland OR
Nancy Wetherson, Keizer OR
Jack Wetherson, Keizer OR

RUBY LIFE MASTERS

Beth Aronoff, Corvallis OR
Judy Davis, Beaverton OR
Barry Sorenson, North Bend OR
Linda Tubbs, Vancouver WA

GOLD LIFE MASTERS

James Flint, Ashland OR
Loring Harkness III, Kilauea HI
Terrance Hill, Corvallis OR

SAPPHIRE LIFE MASTERS

Robert Hope, Provost AB

Luckybreak

This deal was played in an online club game.

Dir: North ♠—
Vul: E-W ♥J9732
♦104
♣KQJ632

♠Q62 ♠AK10954
♥AQ ♥K10864
♦Q865 ♦—
♣10987 ♣54

♠J873
♥5
♦AKJ9732
♣A

| West | North | East | South |
|------|----------|------|-------|
| | Pass | 1♠ | 2♦ |
| 3♦ | Pass | 3♠ | 5♦ |
| Dbf | All Pass | | |

Poor West. He's holding an ace and a natural trump trick opposite a partner who opened in second seat vul. Pretty hard not to double when your opponent bids 5♦. On a good day you might get it down three.

West led his partner's suit. I ruffed in dummy, came to my hand with a club and ruffed a second spade. I cashed the ♣K, shedding my lone heart. Then the ♣Q, perplexed when East discards a heart.

Why didn't he ruff? Yes, he knows I'm overruffing, but surely killing the entryless dummy is worth spending his worthless trump. Oh well, poor novice. I pitch a spade and continue the ♣J, pitching my last spade as East once again fails to ruff.

I need to get back to my hand to pull trump, so I ruff a heart, and the ♥Q falls. Finally all is revealed when I cash the ♦A. East didn't ruff because he didn't have any.

And, thanks to my partner's golden ♦10, the diamond suit is coming in for one loser. Making six.

Normally a 4-0 trump break would be cause for cursing, but this one proved quite lucky.

— Chip Dombrowski

- **Maritime climate**
(Escape the heat!)
- **Free lodging**
(Limited; reserve early)
- **Full meals!**
- **Grand finale dinner at oceanside home**

Unit 458 Presents Eureka California Sectional Sept. 11-13, 2020

Humboldt Area Foundation
363 Indianola Road, Eureka, CA

Friday, Sept. 11

11 a.m. — Stratified Open Pairs, single session
4 p.m. — Stratified Open Pairs, single session

Saturday, Sept. 12

10 a.m. & 3 p.m. — Stratified Open Pairs, double session play through with option of playing only one session

Sunday, Sept. 13

10 a.m. & TBA — Swiss Teams

Cost: \$10 per session;
\$14 for lapsed ACBL members

Stratification — A: open,
B: 500-1500; C: 0-500

Director in Charge: Steve Kaessner

| | |
|---|-------------------------------------|
| Tournament Chair: | • Host Motel: |
| Mark Phelps, 707-443-9029 | • Holiday Inn Express Suites |
| email: my3@suddenlink.net | • 3107 Concorde Dr. |
| Partnerships: | • McKinleyville, CA 95519 |
| Suzanne Cook, 707-499-7790 | • 707-840-9305 |
| email: suzanne2@fastmail.fm | • Ask for bridge rate |

Portland Fall Sectional

Get your **SILVER** sectional points! **Sept. 11-13, 2020**

FRIDAY, Sept. 11, 10:30 a.m. and 3:30 p.m.
Stratified Open Pairs, two-session playthrough (single session entries welcome)
Flight AX (plays separately), A=3000+, X=0-3000
Flight BCD: B (1250-2000), C (750-1250), D (0-750)
Single session events (10:30 a.m. & 3:30 p.m.)
Non-LM pairs (0-500, Stratified), one session events
Novice pairs (0-100, stratified, # of tables permitting)

Playing site:
Montgomery Elks
13121 SE McLoughlin Blvd.
Oak Grove, OR 97222
503-654-9580



SATURDAY, Sept. 12, 10:30 a.m. and 3:30 p.m.
Stratified Open Pairs, two-session playthrough (single session entries welcome)
Flight AX (plays separately), A=3000+, X=0-3000
Flight BCD: B (1250-2000), C (750-1250), D (0-750)
Single session events (10:30 a.m. & 3:30 p.m.)
Non-LM pairs (0-500, Stratified), one session events
Novice pairs (0-100, stratified, # of tables permitting)

SUNDAY, Sept. 13, 10:30 a.m., 2nd session TBA

Flight A/X Swiss Teams, VPs
Flight A=3000+, X=0-3000
Bracketed 0-2000 Swiss Teams, VPs
One Session Teams (Non-LM, 0-500) — win/loss

Note: A team with any player over 2000 plays in Flight A/X.

All brackets determined by average masterpoints of team

Sunday lunch available for purchase between sessions.
Please, no scents or perfume

New ACBL players (0-5) play FREE!

FREE Coffee & Snacks

Head Director: Jeff Jacob
Tournament Chair: Alan Johnson, 971-998-4261, apeace01@comcast.net
Partnership: Jon Gassaway, 503-530-8583, jonpgassaway@yahoo.com
\$12 per session. \$16 for lapsed ACBL members.
\$5 for students under age 26 with student I.D. and ACBL membership

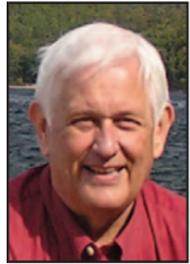
Sanction #2009375

Sanction #2009366

Play of the Hand

Opening 1♣ wasn't so convenient after all

The lexicon of bridge includes the phrase, "short club," a popular but often misused term. Many players mistakenly believe it applies to opening a three-card club suit. However, as defined by ACBL, the promise of at least three is natural and completely normal. The definition of a "short" club is a suit of two or fewer.



Jim Flint
Play of the Hand

In Standard American and 2/1 systems, it is common practice, with a four-card major, to open a three-card club suit in search of a major fit. But in today's hand, played at Bridge Base Online, South misapplied the concept by ignoring his four-card diamond suit and got into a heap of trouble.

North/South have no 4-4 major fit, but they'll never find their diamond fit if South opens a club.

With play unavailable at the local clubs because of the covid-19 shutdown, many of us began feeding our bridge habits at BBO. Partner **Bob Scott** and I favor the ACBL speedball tournaments — 12 hands in about an hour for \$1.25, with masterpoints awarded the winners. Log on about two hours before to assure a spot in the tourney. They fill up fast.

In this BBO tourney hand, after I made a takeout double and partner let it stand, South had no idea where else to go with- out possibly getting into even more trouble. So, he passed with hope.

Even though Bob had a weak hand, he figured the best action with a stack of

Dlr: South ♠K 8 5
 Vul: Both ♥9 3
 Lead: ♣J ♦J 10 8 5 2
 ♣9 7 6

♠A Q J 7 6 ♠10 9 4
 ♥A 6 5 4 ♥Q 10 8
 ♦A Q ♦6 3
 ♣J 3 ♣K 10 8 5 4

♠3 2
 ♥K J 7 2
 ♦K 9 7 4
 ♣A Q 2

West North East South
 1♣
 Dbl All Pass

clubs and no four-card major was to convert the takeout double into a penalty double.

I knew either declarer or dummy would be short in clubs, maybe both, so I led the suit, hoping to deny declarer the ability ruff losers in either hand. South was soon out of clubs and the hand collapsed like, well, a house of cards. Down four, minus 1100.

The short club has its place in Precision or similar systems. However, if you're playing SAYC or 2/1, most experts will tell you opting to play a short club is a poor choice that is systemically inferior.

But what about the "convenient" club opening with three in the suit?

With opening count, if you are 2=4=4=3, open the diamonds. If you're 4=4=3=2, you could hazard an off-system diamond opening, but doing so is fraught with danger, especially with lousy diamonds. Even with good diamonds, partner is expecting you to have four, so things can go wrong.

Some will open a 4=4=3=2 hand with the better major, but you'd better be sure it's a solid one. Otherwise, with minimum opening points, just pass and see what develops. That's the long and short of it.

Jim Flint can be reached at pubathome@yahoo.com.

VBC player fighting cancer

Judy Huston of Vancouver, Wash., became a Life Master during the Oregon Trail Regional in February. About two months later, she was diagnosed with lymphoma. She will be undergoing chemotherapy through August.

The Vancouver Bridge Club sent out an email with the news relayed by Judy's husband, Jim Anstine. "He wants everyone to know that Judy is doing well and looking forward to when she can play bridge at the club again," the email said.

HAWAII REGIONAL RESULTS

Total masterpoints: 5788.46 earned by 391 players. Total attendance: 801 tables.

| | | | | | | | | |
|-----|-------|---------------------------------|-----|-------|------------------------------------|------|---------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1 | 71.11 | Susan Schnelwar, New York NY | 48 | 34.72 | Alan Kosansky, Kailua HI | 105 | 14.64 | Claudia Maddalena, Honolulu HI |
| ... | 71.11 | John Kranyak, Las Vegas NV | 50 | 33.45 | Bruce Martin, Paia HI | 106 | 14.29 | Marion McLaren, Honolulu HI |
| ... | 71.11 | John Hurd, New York NY | 53 | 32.62 | Mark Bennett, Honolulu HI | 109 | 14.01 | Jean Choi, Honolulu HI |
| ... | 71.11 | Lulian Rotaru, New York NY | 54 | 31.54 | Loring Harkness III, Kilauea HI | 110 | 13.98 | Martie Wright, Honolulu HI |
| 5 | 70.45 | Ron Smith, Chicago IL | 54 | 30.07 | Howard Co, Honolulu HI | 115 | 13.73 | Greg Manchuk, Kihei HI |
| ... | 70.45 | Joshua Donn, Las Vegas NV | 57 | 28.75 | Will Williams, Honolulu HI | 118 | 13.52 | Kristen Melcher, Honolulu HI |
| ... | 70.45 | David Grainger, Etobicoke ON | 60 | 28.75 | Shelly Hershberger, Kailua Kona HI | 125 | 13.00 | William Georgi, Stayton OR |
| 8 | 69.34 | Wenfei Wang, Shanghai China | 61 | 25.44 | Anna Sung, Honolulu HI | 126 | 12.96 | Leo Williams, Honolulu HI |
| ... | 69.34 | Peter Weichsel, Carlsbad CA | 63 | 25.28 | Dileep Bal, Kapaa HI | 129 | 12.58 | Susan Owens, Salem OR |
| 10 | 69.25 | Gary Soules, Elk Grove CA | 65 | 25.21 | Carolyn Adams, Steilacoom WA | 133 | 12.53 | Ed Ulman, Portland OR |
| 11 | 65.82 | Michael Hargreaves, Victoria BC | 65 | 25.21 | Bert Adams, Steilacoom WA | 143 | 11.54 | Nancy Baker, Honolulu HI |
| ... | 65.82 | Gordon McOrmond, Vancouver BC | 67 | 25.20 | Patricia Berg, Princeville HI | 144 | 11.53 | Wallace Young, Honolulu HI |
| 13 | 64.63 | Kevin Dwyer, Melbourne FL | 69 | 25.07 | Wilfred Motokane Jr., Honolulu HI | 146 | 11.48 | Daniel Berman, Honolulu HI |
| 14 | 63.52 | Godfrey Chang, Honolulu HI | 71 | 24.23 | Lily Johannessen, Honolulu HI | 147 | 11.46 | Kathleen Manchuk, Kihei HI |
| 15 | 63.43 | Barbara Kasle, Boca Raton FL | 72 | 23.55 | Ronald Wong, Honolulu HI | 148 | 11.15 | Francesca Luzuriaga, Koloa HI |
| 16 | 62.96 | Nancy Cord, Sun Valley ID | 73 | 23.20 | Yasuko Shrenzel, Honolulu HI | 154 | 10.80 | Busaba Williams, Honolulu HI |
| ... | 62.96 | Brenda Keller, Palm Springs CA | 74 | 22.63 | Martin Leftik, Honolulu HI | 155 | 10.74 | Ann Bernson, Honolulu HI |
| 18 | 62.01 | Joe Grue, New York NY | 77 | 21.27 | Gail Yap, Honolulu HI | 156 | 10.70 | Mary Farrell, Honolulu HI |
| ... | 62.01 | Brad Moss, Denver CO | 87 | 19.30 | Vicki Sutton, Honolulu HI | 157 | 10.53 | Susan Frieder, Wailuku HI |
| 20 | 58.73 | Nanette Noland, Baton Rouge LA | 87 | 19.30 | Catherine Hess, Kaneohe HI | 160 | 10.08 | Walter Knox, Kamuela HI |
| ... | 58.73 | Mike Passell, Plano TX | 88 | 18.67 | Sandra Ohara, Honolulu HI | 164 | 9.91 | Hazel Theodore, Honolulu HI |
| ... | 58.73 | Marc Jacobus, Las Vegas NV | 89 | 18.64 | Larry Denneau Jr., Honolulu HI | 165 | 9.82 | M. Gay Conklin, Honolulu HI |
| 24 | 56.77 | Morris Chang, Santa Clara CA | 90 | 18.56 | Joseph Bussen, Kailua HI | 168 | 9.74 | A Acey, Honolulu HI |
| ... | 56.77 | Allan Graves, St. Johnsbury VT | 91 | 17.93 | Bev Drill, Kaneohe HI | 169 | 9.71 | Edwina Moscatelli, Honolulu HI |
| 26 | 56.55 | Sheila SACHE, West Vancouver BC | 94 | 16.93 | Laurie Carr, Honolulu HI | 170 | 9.58 | Keith Kalway, Honolulu HI |
| ... | 56.55 | Donald SACHE, West Vancouver BC | 95 | 16.88 | Patti Moore, Kalaheo HI | 171 | 9.45 | Joseph Habeich, Portland OR |
| 28 | 55.93 | Yoko Sobel, Brooklyn NY | 97 | 16.68 | Steven Johnson, Honolulu HI | 174 | 9.38 | Thomas Lum, Honolulu HI |
| 29 | 54.66 | Jack Patnode, Kula HI | 99 | 16.21 | Arun Savara, Honolulu HI | 179 | 9.35 | Robert Pfeffer, Bend OR |
| 30 | 53.66 | Everett Fukushima, Aiea HI | 100 | 15.74 | James Keefe, Honolulu HI | 190 | 8.80 | Suzanne St. Thomas, Boise ID |
| 36 | 51.56 | Ronald Resnick, Portland OR | 104 | 15.42 | Mary Phillips, Honolulu HI | 8.80 | Steven Bruns, Honolulu HI | |
| 37 | 50.10 | Harjinder Ajmani, Kula HI | | | | | | |
| 45 | 39.12 | Maurice Fujimoto, Honolulu HI | | | | | | |
| 46 | 38.27 | Robert Liu, Honolulu HI | | | | | | |
| 47 | 36.31 | Iku Donnelly, Honolulu HI | | | | | | |

2020 Southern Oregon Fall Sectional

Friday-Sunday
 Sept. 18-20

Dan Voorhies Bridge Center
 4149 S. Pacific Highway, Phoenix, Oregon

SCHEDULE

Friday, Sept. 18 (single sessions)

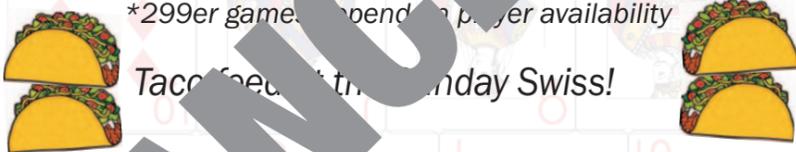
299er Pairs* 10 a.m. and 2:30 p.m.
 Stratified Open pairs 10 a.m. and 2:30 p.m.

Saturday, Sept. 19 (single sessions available)

299er Pairs* 10 a.m. and 2:30 p.m.
 Stratified Open pairs play through 10 a.m. and 2:30 p.m.

Sunday, Sept. 20

Swiss Teams, stratified by avg. 10 a.m. and TBA
 *299er games depend on player availability



HOSTS AND CONTACT

Director: Steve K...
 Chair: John Co...
 Partnership: G... Gee Walker,
 29... 3474, ggwalker@gmail.com

DIRECTIONS

From north or south, take exit 24 off of I-5 near Medford, go west on Fern Valley Road, turn right at S. Pacific Hwy., go one block to bridge center on the right.

PLAYER FEES

\$10 per player per session (\$14 for lapsed ACBL members); \$9 for less than 50 MPs. Temporary memberships available.

STRATIFICATIONS

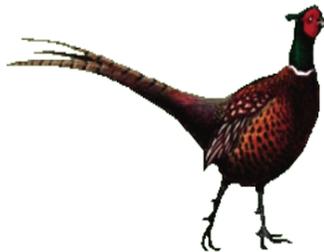
A = 1500+; B = 750-1500; C = 0-750

Sanction No. 2009372



Boise Unit 394
www.boisebridge.club

Boise Fall Sectional



Sept. 25-27, 2020
 Red Lion Hotel Boise Downtowner

1800 Fairview Ave.
 Boise, Idaho 83702
 (208) 344-7691

Friday, September 25

10 a.m. and 3 p.m.: Stratified Open Pairs
 10 a.m. and 3 p.m.: 0-199er games

Saturday, September 26

10 a.m. and 3 p.m.: Stratified Open Pairs
 10 a.m. and 3 p.m.: 0-199er games

Sunday, September 27

10 a.m.: Stratified Swiss Teams

Masterpoint Ranges

A=unlimited
B=750-1500
C=0-750

- Stratification by team or pair average.
- \$10/session for ACBL members, \$16/session for lapsed ACBL members; non-ACBL members will be required to join. Temporary memberships will be available.
- \$120 per Swiss team Sunday includes lunch.

Tournament Chair: Art Crawford; acraw42@gmail.com; 208-401-4108

Partnership Chair: Leslie Muir; lamuir55@gmail.com; 208-401-4106

Tournament Director: John Gram
 Sanction No. 2009365

No coffee will be provided at this event

The Oregon Coast Regional

at Seaside

SCHEDULE

MONDAY September 28

7 p.m. Seaside Bracketed KOs
(winners continue at 9, 1 & 7 on Tues.)
7 p.m. Stratified Charity Swiss Teams
7 p.m. Stratified Open Charity Pairs
(part of Evening Side Game Series) (1 of 6)
7 p.m. ♦ 299er Stratified Charity Pairs

TUESDAY September 29

9 a.m. Morning Side Game Series (1 of 5)
9 a.m. ♦ 299er Stratified Pairs
1 p.m. Gearhart Bracketed KOs
(winners continue at 7; and at 1 & 7 on Wed.)
1 & 7 p.m. Three Strat Open Pairs
1 & 7 p.m. ♦ Razor Clam Gold Rush Pairs
1 p.m. Afternoon Side Game Series (1 of 5)
1 p.m. ♦ 299er Stratified Pairs
1 p.m. ♦ 99er Stratified Pairs
7 p.m. Stratified Swiss Teams
7 p.m. Evening Side Game Series (2 of 6)
7 p.m. ♦ 299er Stratified Pairs

WEDNESDAY September 30

9 a.m. Morning Stratified Swiss Teams
(continues at 9 on Thur.)
9 a.m. Morning Side Game Series (2 of 5)
9 p.m. ♦ 299er Stratified Pairs
1 p.m. Astoria Bracketed KOs
(winners continue at 7; and at 1 & 7 on Thur.)
1 & 7 p.m. Two Strat Open Pairs
1 & 7 p.m. Mid-Flight Pairs (Under 3000)
1 & 7 p.m. ♦ Coho Gold Rush Pairs
1 p.m. Afternoon Side Game Series (2 of 5)
1 p.m. ♦ 299er Stratified Pairs
1 p.m. ♦ 99er Stratified Pairs
7 p.m. Stratified Swiss Teams
7 p.m. Evening Side Game Series (3 of 6)
7 p.m. ♦ 299er Stratified Pairs

THURSDAY October 1

9 a.m. Morning Side Game Series (3 of 5)
9 a.m. ♦ 299er Stratified Pairs
1 p.m. Lewis and Clark Bracketed KO
(winners continue at 7; and at 1 & 7 on Fri.)
1 & 7 p.m. Two Strat Open Pairs
1 & 7 p.m. Mid-Flight Pairs (Under 3000)
1 & 7 p.m. ♦ Chinook Gold Rush Pairs
(Thursday continues - see next page)

THURSDAY October 1 (continued)

1 p.m. Afternoon Side Game Series (3 of 5)
1 p.m. ♦ 299er Stratified Pairs
1 p.m. ♦ 99er Stratified Pairs
7 p.m. Stratified Swiss Teams
7 p.m. Evening Side Game Series (4 of 6)
7 p.m. ♦ 299er Stratified Pairs

FRIDAY October 2

9 a.m. Morning Stratified Swiss Teams
(continues at 9 on Sat.)
9 a.m. Morning Side Game Series (4 of 5)
9 a.m. ♦ 299er Stratified Pairs
1 p.m. Sand Dollar Bracketed KOs
(winners continue at 7; and at 1 & 7 on Sat.)
1 & 7 p.m. Three Strat Open Pairs
1 & 7 p.m. ♦ Oyster Gold Rush Pairs
1 p.m. Afternoon Side Game Series (4 of 5)
1 p.m. ♦ 299er Stratified Pairs
1 p.m. ♦ 99er Stratified Pairs
7 p.m. Stratified Swiss Teams
7 p.m. Evening Side Game Series (5 of 6)
7 p.m. ♦ 299er Stratified Pairs

SATURDAY October 3

9 a.m. Morning Side Game Series (5 of 6)
9 a.m. ♦ 299er Stratified Pairs
1 & 7 p.m. Jellyfish Bracketed Swiss Teams
1 & 7 p.m. Three Strat Open Pairs
1 & 7 p.m. ♦ Steelhead Gold Rush Pairs
1 p.m. Afternoon Side Game Series (5 of 6)
1 p.m. ♦ 299er Stratified Pairs
1 p.m. ♦ 99er Stratified Pairs
7 p.m. Stratified Swiss Teams
7 p.m. Evening Side Game Series (6 of 6)
7 p.m. ♦ 299er Stratified Pairs

SUNDAY October 4

10 a.m. & 1 p.m. Flighted Swiss Teams
& TBA Bracketed Flighted Swiss Teams
1 p.m. Stratified Fast Pairs
All events on evening session ♦ 299er
teams will be scheduled.
*Lowest table fee will include 299er and 0-750
events. Gold points in every bracket!

Sept. 28-Oct. 4, 2020

Seaside Convention Center
415 1st Ave., Seaside, OR

INTERMEDIATE/NEWCOMER PROGRAMS

- ♦ Saturday prize game
- ♦ Between session breaks
- ♦ Tips for Top Breakers
- ♦ Mini-Classes: 12-12
- ♦ Morning 299er Pairs - Sa
- ♦ Afternoon 299er Pairs - S
- ♦ Evening 299er Pairs - S
- ♦ Morning 99er Pairs Tu
- ♦ Gold points daily Tues - Sat.
- ♦ Golden opportunity Sunday in the low bracket 2-session Bracketed Swiss Teams.
- ♦ Prize beads.

DISTRICT 20 I/N Coordinator

Jim Wheeler, cell 503-805-2103
jimpamw@yahoo.com

OUR HOSTS

DIRECTOR IN CHARGE: Matt Koltnow

D20 TOURNAMENT MANAGER:

Jim Wheeler, 503-860-0563
jimpamw@yahoo.com

LOCAL CHAIRS: Gil & Ann Gramson

503-861-1133; cell 503-440-7363
gilandanngramson@charter.net

PARTNERSHIPS: Sue Kroning

503-738-7817; cell 503-739-0264
skroning@charter.net

CADDY CHAIR: Sandra Baker

HOSPITALITY CHAIR: Jan Amend

ACCOMMODATIONS/TRAVEL

- THE INN AT SEASIDE: Across the street; free breakfast; \$109-\$129. 800-699-5070; 503-738-9581.
- RIVER INN AT SEASIDE: Riverfront; 2 blocks; \$119-\$129. 503-717-5744.
- BEST WESTERN PLUS OCEAN VIEW RESORT: Oceanfront; 4 blocks; cafe; indoor pool; fitness center; \$105-\$155. Cut-off date 8/28/2020. 1-800-234-8439.
- RIVERTIDES SUITES: Riverfront condo hotel; ½ block; free breakfast; evening reception; indoor pool; fitness center. \$129-\$209. Cut-off date 8/28/2020. 877-871-8433.
- HOLIDAY INN EXPRESS: Riverfront; ½ block; free breakfast. Call for rates. 503-717-8000.
- SHILO OCEANFRONT RESORT: Oceanfront; 3 blocks. \$100-\$140. 800-222-2244; 503-738-9571.
- SHILO EAST: ½ mile; Continental breakfast. Call for rates. 503-738-0549.
- OTHER CHOICES: Seaside has many charming small hotels, bed & breakfasts, condos and houses to rent. www.SeasideOR.com.

- By rail & coach: MAX train from Portland Airport (PDX) to Portland Union Station connects to twice daily Amtrak coach service to Seaside; 1-800-USARAIL or www.amtrak.com.
- Cab service: Alpha Shuttle (Seaside); 503-440-7777.

STRATIFIED EVENTS

Stratified Open/2000/750
Three Strat Open Pairs
Open/3000/1500
Two Strat Open
Open/4000
Mid-Flight Pairs (Under 3000)
3000/1500
♦ **Gold Rush Pairs (Under 750)**
750/300/200

♦ **299er Events (Under 300)**
300/200/100

♦ **99er Events (Under 100)**
100/50/20

Strati-Flighted A/X/Y Swiss Teams
Open/4000/2500 (plays alone; 20 VP).
Bracketed Flight B Swiss Teams
0-2000 (no player over 2000); teams play in groups of 7-9 by MP average; gold points in each bracket; (20 VP).

SCHEDULE NOTES

- Eligibility for flighted events based on top player's MP total. Thereafter, strats determined by average of pair or team.
- One bracket KO may be handicapped.
- Play 2 times in side game series to qualify for overall gold points.

- ♦ Indicates I/N events. (Intermediate/Newcomer).

TABLE FEES

ACBL members \$13
Unpaid ACBL members \$17
Under age 26, \$6

Time of corona: How players around the district are dealing with changes

Ellen McCumsey

This player from Junction City, Ore., went into action when the covid-19 crisis began, working to ensure her bridge community would go on even in quarantine. "I'm the member of my club who has been pushing for years to get people to play online, which is where I learned to play," Ellen McCumsey says.

"When our club closed, I set to work getting as many members as possible onto BBO. I was lucky in that I have director privileges on BBO, plus I am an ACBL club director, so setting up daily tournaments for the club was fairly easy."

McCumsey says many people stepped up to help, and they now have a cadre of seven, which is enough to cover the entire week.

"We printed out copious instructions about playing on BBO, and cajoled/wheedled over 100 of our members into joining us," she says. And since many of the members had little experience with technology, McCumsey says people volun-



teered to do one-on-one sessions. She says they did all of this because they feel keeping their bridge community together is extremely important.

"People who live alone are given the chance to interact daily, and friendships are sustained."

While McCumsey was disappointed about regionals being canceled, she

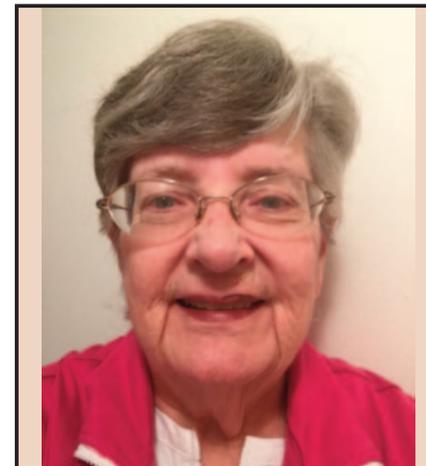
agrees it was the right thing to do.

"I think it would be irresponsible of ACBL to allow for any kind of tournament until there is a vaccine," she says. "Who, in all conscience, could participate in an activity where an older population plays at a table with four people sitting 2 feet from each other, handling cards that at least half the people in the room have handled?"

She does hope that it'll be possible to play tournaments online by the summer, but knows that as long as we're in this virtual world, she'll be missing the people most of all.

"We do often Skype while playing online but that is *not* the same as seeing friends in person," McCumsey says. "My partner, Judy, and I used to play twice a week, meeting for an hour before the game over coffee to discuss conventions and interesting hands. We still do that but it is not quite the same."

The one bright light: McCumsey says she's probably playing more bridge now than before the virus.



Lee Brackhahn

Lee Brackhahn says she's pretty much been housebound since the end of the regional in Vancouver in February. The Lincoln City, Ore., woman says she misses her bridge friends terribly. "While most of us don't have to deal with the financial impact, and it is easy for us to stay home, the lack of our bridge games is a great loss," she says.

She's playing plenty of bridge online, and enjoys it, but says it's just not the same.

"Playing at a real table with real people is not easily replaced," she says. "Sitting at the table, the camaraderie, watching the struggle and the victory when a hand is played or defended well, perfect auctions which get you to slams that others have missed — those are some of the things I miss."

The covid-19 outbreak hasn't impacted just her daily routine. Travel is something Brackhahn also misses.

"I probably will never get to attend another tournament as I have underlying conditions and can't afford to get sick," she says. "I was planning on taking a cruise through the inland passage in June, a trip I have wanted to take for a long time. Now I doubt if I will ever get to do it."

Yet, despite all of that, she still counts her blessings every day.

"I am fortunate that I dodged this illness. I am fortunate that I have fabulous friends, many of them in their 80s and 90s, and none of us has suffered from it. I am sure I will get to direct the Monday game again within a month or two and that we will all be at the table as soon as possible. We have much to be thankful for, one of the greatest of which is bridge."

Eric Sieg

Eric Sieg, a self-described extrovert, says covid-19 has made a huge dent on his personal life. The Issaquah, Wash., resident was working from home before the quarantine started, so playing bridge in the evenings and on weekends was a big social outlet.

"I'm playing some online and we use Zoom so we can see the other people at the table which helps," he says. "It's a lot better than no bridge or no social connection, but I definitely miss in-person bridge and activities."

The thing he misses most about playing in a club is just being around people.

"I can play somewhat serious bridge online for now, especially with games hosted by Tom Reynolds, but there's no substitute for the social connection. It's what helped draw me back into playing bridge when I started my own company and by far what I miss the most right now."

Sieg says he would have gone to the Columbus tournament, but, in hindsight, he thinks canceling it was probably for the best.

"I don't think the ACBL had a choice in the matter," he said. "It's also probably



the right call, since back then I would have gone if they held it, and I'm sure many other people would have as well. In retrospect, probably wouldn't have been a good idea."

With many more tournament cancellations in the works, it's the NABCs he misses the most. "That's when I see the most friends who aren't local and play the biggest events," he says.

On the bright side, Sieg is stocked up on Clorox wipes and TP, thanks to a Costco connection. He also has a tight circle of what he calls quarantine buddies.

"We still spend time with each other, but with no one else. This seems to follow the spirit of stay-at-home while keeping people, and me especially, from going crazy completely," he said.

With a vaccine still months away, what does Sieg think are the long-term effects of this virus?

"As this continues on longer and longer, I think people will start to lose their patience and take risks that might not be smart," he said. "However, the mental cost of remaining isolated is not zero as well, so I can understand the willingness to risk it."

Sieg, who lives in District 19, says there are talks of moving his district's local GNT qualifiers online.

"I would expect that over time, the ACBL and/or BridgeWinners and/or BBO in some combination might also start organizing more serious online events that are played with partners instead of robots," he said. "They can't replace an NABC, but there's plenty of opportunity between the random club games that exist and a full-blown NABC equivalent, and hopefully we'll see more serious events in between those two extremes become available. Regardless, I'll continue to play in Tom's team matches."

Toni Heitkamp

The biggest change to Toni Heitkamp's daily life is doing housework — something she hasn't done in 40 years. The Portland woman says she's doing just fine, despite the covid-19 outbreak.

"It's not different from my regular life, as I am disabled," she says. "I was going out to play bridge twice a week and had an average of three doctor's appointments a week. I prefer the telehealth option, except I need my body work with the DO or chiropractor. I do miss that."

But there's no lack of things to do in quarantine for Heitkamp, who says she's very busy and volunteering for a non-profit.

"I am able to use my experience with clinics to expedite orders for face shields and masks for health care facilities. I find it very rewarding," she said.



But that doesn't leave quite as much time for bridge.

"I had to get everything else organized, but I am starting to make some regular games so I don't get rusty," she says.

And it seems at-home bridge actually

suits Heitkamp more than playing in person.

"My doctors always insisted that I go out to play bridge," she explains. "It was a hardship, and I am glad to have an excuse not to go out. Turns out I didn't need that social interaction."

While she will miss going to Seaside tournaments, that type of travel was also difficult for her. Plus, she missed her pups when she was away.

Heitkamp doesn't think life will ever really go back to the way it was.

"I think that it is a segue to another way to live our lives," she said. "I am surprised at what a consumer I have been — gas, packaging, makeup, clothing, etc. Americans are spoiled and need to be less consumptive."

And now that she's cleaning her own home, she's found it's actually cleaner than it's ever been before — another silver lining.

Zack Woodbury

Zack Woodbury is a player who not only runs his own club, but who also is creative about how to connect with his fellow bridge players in quarantine. The Portland resident has been hosting online games with a twist. He holds simultaneous Zoom meetings so players can see and talk to the players at their table, which makes the game feel much more social than just using the chat function on BBO.

Woodbury says his group has gotten together every Friday since 2012 to play a private duplicate pairs bridge game.

"When the shutdown order took place, I had everyone in our group sign up on BBO," he said. "We then play played a previously played tournament and scored it. Simultaneously, all 20 of us were on Zoom. It was a total disaster since you had to pass out hands to get to the ones you were supposed to play," he explains.

Woodbury says it was fun to be fumbling along together in a Zoom chat, but it wasn't sustainable.

"After that game, Dave Brower reached

to their lives and bridge routines amid the coronavirus pandemic



Jeff Jacob

As a tournament director, Jeff Jacob of Vancouver, Wash., has a unique perspective on the current quarantine situation. He was furloughed by the ACBL in early May as a result of the covid-19 outbreak.

So what's it like to be a tournament director when there are no tournaments to direct? Jacob says he deeply misses the travel.

"With Columbus, I was going to visit Michigan, making it my 46th state to visit," he says.

He agrees with the decision to cancel upcoming regionals, but it's still difficult to adapt to the new normal.

"Safety first, but I want to see bridge players," Jacob says.

With the shift to online play, Jacob is able to put his efforts into helping others get acclimated to that style of bridge.

"I miss directing at my local club. At first, I wasn't getting much done, but since the end of March, I have been spending a lot of time getting bridge clubs trained to play on BBO," he said. "It has helped me keep my sanity by staying busy helping others."

Online play has its pros and cons, according to Jacob.

"I miss not being able to play across the table, but I am interacting with bridge players across the nation," he says. "I have helped clubs on the East Coast, Canada, Alaska, Hawaii, as well as clubs on the West Coast."

So how does he think things will change within the bridge community as this goes on?

"Mckenzie Myers has said the toothpaste is out of the tube," Jacob jokes. "Some things are going to change, some will be the same. We are going to have to adapt."

Eileen Boal

Eileen Boal lives in a semi-rural area in Albany, Ore., so social distancing outdoors hasn't been a problem. She says she's been using a daily walk and her hobby of gardening to fill the hours, along with playing a lot of bridge online.

"It's not quite as satisfying as playing at the club with friends, but it's real bridge, and it does provide interaction with your partners and opponents to some extent," Boal says. "I loved it a couple of days ago when, while waiting for a game to start, people started posting 'good morning from NM,' 'Hi from Nebraska,' and 'Hello from northern Virginia.'"

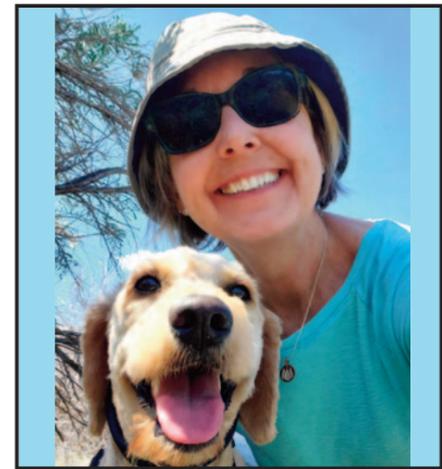
Online bridge may be the next best thing, but she misses playing at the local club. What she misses most: "No question: being able to see and talk to my friends."

And while the current situation and the cancellation of many tournaments is a disappointment, Boal whole-heartedly agrees with the decisions that have been made.



"As things stand, it would be selfish, and probably foolish, to go ahead with tournaments," she says. "It would be too great a risk to our players, who are mostly high-risk."

"I hope things can be loosened up fairly soon, but even then, how long will we have to wait to reopen the clubs? I don't know. I hope it's soon enough that we don't kill some of our clubs. But we don't want to kill our members!"



Karen Boss

Karen Boss of Boise, Idaho, has managed to not visit the grocery during the entire shutdown, choosing instead to have everything she needs delivered. She says she's doing great, despite the pandemic, and feels lucky to be mostly retired, so she's not stressing about getting back to work. She does miss the warm interaction of her bridge friends at her local club.

"I miss very much seeing my friends in person but I'm glad knowing they are staying well," Boss said. She's playing bridge online, but less than when she was playing at the club. "I am reading more, taking long walks, and enjoying craft and art hobbies," Boss says.

Boss was looking forward to the regional tournaments, but feels canceling was the right decision.

"It's unfortunate, but in the scope of this pandemic it's a small sacrifice," she says. Boss canceled tournament and personal trips to France, Spain, Italy, Gatlinburg, Santa Fe, Sacramento, Portland and Bend.

What she misses most is spending time with her nearly 90-year-old mother.

"My mom is in assisted living and I'm not allowed to visit — only windows visits," Boss said. "The facility is very accommodating, so I can visit every day, but I get there three to four times a week. We also email and video chat."

As for the future, Boss knows she won't be rushing back to her local club right away.

"I personally won't consider returning to in-person play before a proven and safe vaccine is widely available," Boss says. "It's important to set priorities and as much as I love the game and my bridge friends, our demographic and the close proximity required of the game render it a very risky endeavor."

Bill Jones

An active player, Bill Jones of Grass Valley, Calif., isn't coping with the pandemic too well. He misses hugs.

"I miss the human contact," Jones says. "I'm continually thinking about touching things that could be contaminated."

He is also struggling with the closure of his local club and filling that void, missing his bridge community.

He is playing online to keep up with the game and pass the time.

"Our president, Bob Shuken, has arranged three club games a week with BBO and ACBL," Jones said. "And Kurt Browning has organized a team game once a week."

Still, all of the online play just isn't quite the same. Jones says he misses the "wonderful family of caring members" at his local club.



Of all the regionals and sections that have been canceled as a result of the coronavirus situation, Chico and Orangevale are the ones he was most looking forward to.

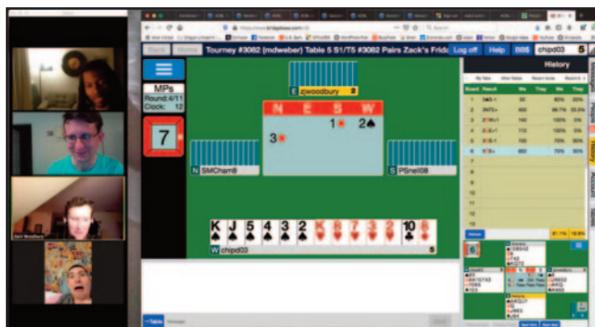
"I hope we can have our sectional in Nevada County in October," he said.

Whether it happens by then or later, Jones is eager to get back to playing in person and spending quality time with the bridge community.



out to us and offered to set us up with tournament director Mike Weber on a BBO tournament that was restricted to our group. We gave that a try and it worked flawlessly," Woodbury says. "The critical piece to make this work is using Zoom in conjunction with BBO."

They all start together in one Zoom meeting and socialize. Then they go to "breakout rooms" that correspond to their table numbers, moving from room to



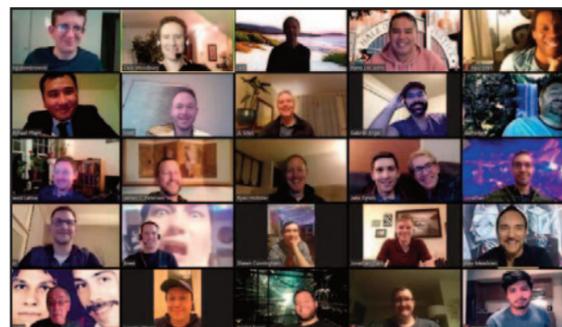
Using Zoom gives Woodbury's games a social feel. In-game you see the players at your table; afterward everyone returns to the main session.

room each round. At the end of the game, they all return to the main meeting, announce scores, and then hang out and socialize, sometimes until 3 a.m.

"It's the closest we can come to actually being together," Woodbury says. "What we enjoy so much about bridge is the social aspect. I also love the game, so bridge is what enables me to see my good friends at least once a week."

What was the impetus that inspired bridge on Zoom?

"When the shutdown order got put in place, it occurred to me that there are



those in our group who live alone, have no family in the Portland area, and might not handle this isolation very well," he said. Combined with the fact that many people in his group had lost their jobs due to the virus, he knew it was time to take action.

"Our bridge group has become a very tight group of friends," Woodbury said. "I felt it was my duty to find a way for our Friday game to continue and give everyone something to look forward to each week. It was more important than ever to figure this out."

What does he think is the foreseeable

future for bridge?

"My concern is that the typical bridge player is in a higher risk category due to age. As the stay-at-home orders come to an end, I fear that we may not see the same size

games at the clubs again, especially as they get more comfortable playing at home," Woodbury says. For that reason, he feels the community *must* continue initiatives aimed at getting younger people to take up the game.

On a positive note, encouraging all players to take up online bridge has likely extended the game for many who were close to the age of staying home. Even Woodbury's mother started playing online.

So for many, regardless of what the next several months bring, bridge can still go on, just not quite in the same way.

Rowe

Frequent meetings

Continued from Page 1

gather and play bridge again. I for one miss the live games. I am impressed with ACBL management for several things they have accomplished. They have worked overtime with BBO in getting games online that benefit players, local clubs and ACBL. They have achieved a 20% reduction in headquarters operating costs.

By meeting virtually, ACBL saved about \$70,000 and ended stipends of \$25,000 for board members. We continue to meet at least every two weeks. I'm proud to serve with this group of dedicated board members and hope to meet them in person soon.

While I wish I could see you soon at the tables, we are saving lives by not gathering. Please stay safe.

District director Laurie Rowe can be reached at district20director@acbl.org.

Eyer: Canceled regionals impact district finances

Continued from Page 1

reps **Lorraine Rodich, Merle Stetser, Sam Asai, Pete Grice** and **Dennis Harms.**

To the ex-officio personnel: **Rich Carle, Amy Casanova, Hal Montgomery, Nancy Jonske, Roger Thomas, Marilyn Vilhauer.**

To the tournament managers: **Amy, Angela Jacobs** and **Jim Wheeler.**

And, of course to the one who keeps the district running, **Marie Ashton.**

Thanks especially to those running the newer and intermediate online games, the ones I know and all the others: the two Davids, Flo, Irene, Kent and Rich. And applause to the club owners, managers and directors navigating the boards through these uncharted, new to everyone, shoals.

To those who graciously feed we starving players at every game: **Heather, Jan, Marie** and those in your games.

And to all of you who faithfully support each other, your clubs, unit games and sectionals, district regionals, NAPS/GNTs.

Special thanks to **Jim Wheeler** for working above and beyond on the canceled Bend regional this year and trying to find a date for 2021. Our new host hotel in downtown Bend was unable to work with the week we had available for 2021. **Nancy Jonske** put in oodles of hours to arrange for Barbara Seagram to lead a series of classes at Nampa. Nampa, like Bend, is now canceled.

Hal Montgomery has been working hard trying to schedule the GNTs. With both the GNTs district events and NAPS now canceled for this year, I know his efforts will help produce a better response for next year. Amy deserves double kudos, writing and editing the Trumpet, and being a tournament manager.

Like all organizations, the pandemic shutdown is having an impact on our finances, tournaments and staff. Thanks to years of prudence by the past and present boards and finance committees, we have a reserve that can carry us for a while. The district has financial guidelines that

require us to take steps to continue liquidity if we fall below certain reserve levels. At the board meeting in February, the board foresaw declining revenues and voted to raise regional entry fees to \$15 per session starting next February at the Oregon Trail Regional.

Most of our district monies come from our regionals; canceling Bend and Nampa will have an impact. The cancellation of our biggest (and one of the top 10 nationally) regional, Seaside, will definitely have an impact. ACBL President Heth was scheduled to visit with us at Seaside.

Please feel free to contact me or your area rep with concerns. As soon as decisions are made regarding future tournaments, and especially the possibility of reopening, we will let you know.

One of my goals this year was to play in every one of our eight areas. I hope to see you soon.

District president Mike Eyer can be reached at leela.tardis@gmail.com.

Myers: Eugene native promoted to national tournament director

Continued from Page 1

By 2002, Mac's game began to elevate to the next level. In what would become a transformative experience for him, he and Darius Jackson won the D20 Flight C North American Pairs. This earned them a trip to the 2003 NABC tournament in Philadelphia. As Mac describes it, "We did no damage there." However, it did open his eyes to how much fun high-level bridge could be.

It also was the year he was invited to be a member of the U.S. Junior National Team, which was coached by Jade Barrett. He and his partner (and current ACBL colleague) Tim Crank took first place at the Irish Bridge Union Junior Friendship Cup held in Dublin, squeaking past a strong Swedish team in the final match. In just three years, Mac had earned his Life Master rank, won the D20 Flight C NAP, and was a member of the winning U.S. Junior Team.

He also had become quite accomplished as a bidding theoretician. One of his proudest accomplishments was developing, along with Garth Yettick, a big club system, parts of which have been adopted by big-time players such as Joe Grue and Brad Moss. The 300-plus pages of system notes verify Mac's self-appraisal as somewhat of a system geek.

Mac's appetite for attending the nationals was now whetted, and he has missed only two since 2004. His early trips often had to be done on the cheap, which translated into sleeping in youth hostels, his vehicle, and even in hotel stairwells. The good news for Mac was that beginning in 2005, he began his career as a playing professional which afforded the luxury of sleeping in a real bed each evening.

In 2006, Mac emerged as a player on the world stage. He and D20's Joel Datloff placed sixth in the World IMP Pairs in Verona, Italy. The pair was in second place after eight of the nine sessions in the grueling event. The disappointing finish in the finals taught Mac two very valuable lessons: that poor fortune can play a role in the outcome and, despite the best of intentions, he sometimes does not play to the best of his ability. Still, a top 10 finish in a world championship within a few years of taking up the game is, by any standard, a very impressive accomplishment.

The year 2007 was another transformational one. Up to that point, he had been supporting his bridge addiction by serving as a contract courier for FedEx. The company issued an ultimatum: he had to become a full-time employee or sever the relationship. The choice was clear. His income as a playing pro and from giving lessons was sufficient to allow him to embrace his first love and passion, 24/7.



McKenzie Myers serves as the director-in-charge for Summer NABCs since last year in Las Vegas.

He hasn't looked back.

Playing with system co-creator Garth Yettick, Mac was part of the team that placed second in the 2009 Mini-Spangold at the Washington, D.C. NABC.

For a while, Mac focused more on playing as a pro. He describes this experience as "interesting." When asked if he might write a book about being a playing pro, Mac used the word again. "That would be interesting," he said. "There would probably have to be a lot of names changed to protect the guilty." He described his approach as not only trying to win, but also to educate. He added that hogging the contracts was not fun.

It was a natural evolution from playing to teaching. He especially was drawn to teaching his championship-level peers. He finds four-hour seminars the most fun and also the most work. I can attest to the quality of the experience. They are without equal. My wife Sherri and I are convinced that our 45 minutes of fame was hosting Mac's first lesson in our living room.

For most mortals, all these accomplishments would constitute a remarkable career. McZen, Mac's BBO handle, is not most mortals, however. In many ways, every part of his bridge life was really prologue leading to what would turn out to be his true calling and his real passion.

In 2008, the late National Tournament Director Millard Natchwey asked if he was getting tired of "teaching new minor forcing for the fiftieth time to little old ladies." Might he be interested in becoming a tournament director?

At that time, Mac was beginning to tire of the lifestyle of the playing professional.

With encouragement from Millard as

well as from TDs Matt Smith and Charlie MacCracken, Mac became a TD for ACBL and found new, intriguing challenges dealing with the laws and with tournament logistics.

Mac's phenomenal rise through the directing ranks in many ways surpasses his near meteoric rise as a player. He directed his first sectional tournament in Pocatello in 2011 which maxed out at 15 tables.

He started running bigger and bigger sectionals. His first regional was in L.A. in 2015. Since then, he has been the DIC in more than a dozen regionals in districts all over the country.

In the fall of 2011, he was placed on ACBL's tournament services team, which handles the huge amount of behind-the-scenes logistical issues at each NABC. In 2013, the head position opened for the team and Mac was the natural choice to fill it. He held that post until 2019.

In 2013, he was given the ultimate compliment as recipient of the Tom Weeks Award, voted on by his peers for the director who most exemplifies the qualities ACBL seeks and promotes in its directors.

He was tapped in 2019 to replace the retiring Steve Bates as ACBL's DIC for the Summer NABC. His calls that debut at the Las Vegas nationals as the challenge of his career. In just nine years, Mac went from directing a small-town sectional to an event where the largest room had 725 tables.

The ACBL mountaintop was reached in February when he was promoted from associate national director to national director.

Mac also is actively involved with the World Bridge Federation, which is the international governing body of contract bridge. The WBF is responsible for world champi-

onship competitions such as the Bermuda Bowl, Venice Cup, and Senior Bowl as well as the quadrennial World Team Olympiads.

Mac does have a life outside of bridge. A bout with thyroid cancer in 2017 helped focus his priorities.

"My career with the ACBL is very important to me and is something in which I take great pride," he said, "but work can't be everything. At that point I started setting the job and the game aside when possible so I could spend more time with my real-life partner and wife, Caitlin, and my family."

He describes himself as now living happily in west Eugene with Caitlin and their two dogs. Their shared passion is international travel. They honeymooned last year in Japan and Thailand and just got back from an enjoyable but frigid trip to Scotland. They are hoping to get to Uganda and Greece this year, although the worldwide covid-19 pandemic may have something to say about that.

"I find the game even more fascinating than I did when I picked up the addiction 20 years ago," he said.

When I asked his mother Cindy to provide input, she was brief.

Eugene is more than just a home for Mac. His mother Cindy explains:

"When he was born, we were living in Eugene and so we gave him Eugene as his middle name," she said. "When he was 2, we moved to Turner, Oregon, and he asked us, 'Is my name now Mac Turner?'"

She says that was a hint that his brain worked in mysterious ways. He was reading at an eighth-grade level in kindergarten, so he was not a happy camper at school, she said. He loved bowling but gave it up when bridge came along.

Despite all the fame and good fortune, Mac has stayed grounded. Today he is the same good guy he was 20 years ago. Let me share a story from those earlier times.

The Emerald Bridge Club was new and working with limited funds. Mac was just beginning to offer a few workshops that provided him a little bit of extra income. He gave EBC \$1,000 from one of those early workshops just because he wanted to say thanks for the club's support. At that time, Jon Neimand was my partner in the running of EBC. It did not matter that Mac had limited financial resources at that time. He did what he felt was the right thing to do. And he still does.

His graciousness at the table, whether as a player or a director, is a model for all of us. He is a great ambassador for the game of bridge.

The bridge world got lucky the day Mac's dad gave him Eddie's "Bridge for Dummies." Clearly, Kantar's title was a bit of a misnomer in this case.

Clubs: Managers of virtual clubs work to adapt to the new environment

Continued from Page 1

Unlike other sanctioned games on BBO, these games are open only to players who have played at that club in the previous year. Limited exceptions are granted when a club player invites an out-of-area friend to partner up. While other games on BBO such as the Support Your Club games fill up fast about two hours before game time, restricted-membership virtual club games don't require early registration — though it does make things easier on the director if people register at least 10 minutes in advance.

While it is mostly the larger clubs in the district that have entered the virtual clubs program, there are a few small ones, including two new clubs that formed just a few months before the virus hit, in Corvallis and Redmond.

In the early weeks of the program, Howell movements were not available, but now they are, making it easier for small clubs to join.

For small clubs that don't want to undertake running their own online games but have players who would like to play in them, there are a couple of options. They can grant their member list to a larger club in the program, giving their players a place to play; or several small clubs could form a collective and split the revenue.

The business of bridge

The financial situation of clubs in the district during the shutdown varies widely. Many small clubs, and those who rent from public buildings such as senior centers, have no expenses and can afford to remain closed indefinitely. Those who rent commercial space generally don't have it as easy.

Clubs in Boise and the Medford area are holding fundraisers to meet expenses. Emerald Bridge Club in Springfield, Ore., is paying reduced rent. Vancouver (Wash.) Bridge Club is drawing from reserves. As a tenant of the Lloyd Center, Portland Bridge Club benefits from an agreement negotiated by Macy's and pays no rent while the mall is closed; the club continues to pay its employees. The Ace of Clubs in Lake Oswego, Ore., hopes to negotiate a lease extension and avoid rent on the months they are unable to use the space, but the outcome remains unclear.

The Cascade Duplicate Bridge Club in Bend is the exception.

"We're coming out ahead financially," said manager Chip Cleveland. Although the club's online games attract about half the attendance of IRL games at the Bend Senior Center, the member-owned club is not paying rent. The club charges the minimum \$3 for virtual games, which amounts to \$2.15 per person after BBO takes 20% and ACBL takes 25 cents.

One thing the district's virtual clubs have in common is a heavy workload.

"It's *craazy*," said Staci Christian, owner of the Ace of Clubs. "You think, you're just sitting at the computer. You're not running up and down, serving coffee. You don't have the normal calls. But, oh my goodness! Not everybody is computer savvy. There are many people we've had to walk through getting online and onto BBO. There's been a lot of handholding." Even

weeks after running online games, Christian still has players who call for tech support every day.

The same is true for Portland Bridge Club owners Dave Brower and David Castles. "Castles and I are definitely doing more work than we used to," Brower said.



Staci Christian

Adapting to change

Support is available for virtual club managers. There are regular Zoom meetings hosted by Jay Whipple, who has done much to get the program running, along with Greg Coles, the ACBL director of bridge services; Rick Beye, a national tournament director; and Don Freeland of BBO. In the early days of the program, it was held daily. It has since been reduced to two days a week. Cleveland called these discussions invaluable, though he noted a level of technical knowledge is needed to understand them and the support documents available.

Rich Carle runs two virtual clubs on behalf of Vancouver, the district's third-largest club, and nearby Longview, one of the smallest clubs to participate. He requested to join early after seeing a post about the program on Bridge Winners. Longview's virtual club began April 2, the second in the district, and Vancouver the following day. Both charge \$2 less than usual. He too commends the team holding the support meetings.



Rich Carle

"Those guys have been amazing in putting it all together," Carle said. "How quickly they did it, and getting all those organizations cooperating, is just phenomenal."

After starting out with five games a week, he's been expanding the Vancouver club's offerings to more than twice that. When he surveyed club members, he found little interest in holding evening games online; but then Longview's evening game became a surprise hit, regularly drawing more tables than most of Vancouver's daytime games.

At the two large Portland clubs and many others across the country, a pattern emerges regarding which games do well. "We've both seen a really big drop in our open games," Christian said. "The games that are going gangbusters are the limited games. I added two other limited games to our schedule."

Brower cites several reasons for the discrepancy.

"We're offering something quite valuable to the limited-game players," he said: "the opportunity to play against people of similar skill level, and familiarity with the people they're playing against. Tournament

players are already used to playing against people they don't know. They may prefer the protection of a 200-table field. Limited-game players tend to be younger, more adaptable."

Despite the shortfall in the open games, PBC was getting 80% of its normal attendance and rising as of late April. Quarantine has also been a boon for the club's teaching program. After hosting a lesson each Saturday for two years that never drew more than 15 people, Brower began seeing dozens show up when he began teaching via Zoom — as many as 43.

He is developing plans to offer Learn Bridge in a Day on Zoom and using the platform to host a social hour before Friday evening games. Eventually, several months down the line, he'd like to incorporate Zoom usage into games to give them a more social feel.

But that will take time for players to develop more comfort with the technology they're already using. Christian, meanwhile, fields director calls from people who think commonly used BBO chat such as "typ" (thank you partner) and "glp" (good luck partner) is a nefarious code used for cheating.

In an effort to cooperate, PBC and the Ace agreed to share each other's player lists and stagger their schedules so they don't have any games at competing times, with the Ace running at 10:30 a.m. and PBC at 1 p.m. daily and a few evenings. Both charge \$6 compared to their usual \$10.

"We want to work well together," Christian said. "We want this to be successful for everyone."

The future

The new playing environment is likely to last a long while. The push to reopen going on in other parts of the country is not happening on the West Coast. And even if it does, it's not likely to affect bridge.

"We don't plan to play in person until

there is a vaccine," Cleveland said of the Cascade Club.

Even if Lloyd Center were to reopen this fall, Brower doesn't see PBC going back in 2020.

"You have to convince people to come," he explains. "We don't have a successful business model at 60% attendance. If we open in September, we'd be lucky to hit 60%."

Social distancing is impossible at a bridge club. Christian laughs about trying to explain this point to her landlord. "He wanted us to sit 6 feet apart. Can you imagine trying to see the cards?"

Eventually, face-to-face bridge will return.

"We appreciate the ability to continue to play but much prefer playing where we can see our partners and opponents," Cleveland said. "The social interaction playing bridge is as important as the challenge of bidding and playing."

In the meantime, the BBO virtual clubs program offers clubs a means to stay afloat.

"I have been asked more than once what value the ACBL provides to clubs," Brower said. "Before this, the answer has truly been, 'Not much, but they don't charge much.' The best answer I've been able to give previously was the sense of belonging to a larger community. With this crisis, we would not have been able to get this running without the ACBL, BBO and Jay Whipple. I'm very grateful to the ACBL for the work they've done."

Players also appreciate it, Carle says. "I'm awed by what they were able to put together to help the clubs. It seems to be very popular." There are about 55,000 players online during peak periods now, compared to about 5,000 before virtual clubs.

But somehow, bridge — clubs and players alike — will survive.

"It's all a big conundrum," says Christian. "We're all in this together."



Dave Brower



Chip Cleveland

The virtual clubs of D20

| | Hiatus | | Games/week | | Tables/Week | |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------|--------------------|---------------------|--------------------|
| | Last IRL ⁽¹⁾ | First OL ⁽²⁾ | Then ⁽³⁾ | Now ⁽⁴⁾ | Then ⁽⁵⁾ | Now ⁽⁶⁾ |
| Portland Bridge Club | 3/15 | 4/1 | 15 | 14 | 113 | 115.5 |
| Ace of Clubs, Lake Oswego OR | 3/13 | 4/6 | 10 | 8 | 75.5 | 64.5 |
| Vancouver (WA) Bridge Club | 3/14 | 4/3 | 12 | 9 | 61 | 50 |
| Bridge Cooperative of Boise | 3/13 | 4/15 | 5 | 3 | 46.3 | 37 |
| Emerald Bridge Club, Springfield OR | 3/15 | 5/1 | 7 | 2 | 42 | 21 |
| Cascade DBC, Bend OR | 3/13 | 4/22 | 3 | 3 | 31 | 19 |
| Honolulu Unit | 3/15 | 4/12 | 2 | 9 | 21 | 76.5 |
| Kona (HI) Bridge Club | 3/14 | 4/20 | 4 | 3 | 19 | 40 |
| Jackson County (OR) Bridge Club | 3/16 | 4/17 | 3 | 3 | 14 | 24.5 |
| Sequoia Bridge Club, Eureka CA | 3/16 | 4/25 | 4 | 2 | 13.5 | 11 |
| Lake Wildwood DBC, Penn Valley CA | 3/11 | 4/20 | 2 | 3 | 12.8 | 22 |
| Longview (WA) Bridge Club | 3/12 | 4/2 | 2 | 2 | 11.3 | 13.3 |
| Nampa-Caldwell (ID) Open Pairs | 3/16 | 4/20 | 1 | 1 | 10.7 | 9.5 |
| Central Oregon Hub BC, Redmond OR | 3/12 | 4/16 | 1 | 1 | 4.5 | 7.5 |
| Corvallis New Deal BC | 3/2 | 4/20 | 1 | 3 | 4 | 17 |

1. Last in-person game before shutdown
2. First official virtual club game
3. January/February 2020
4. April/May 2020
5. 2019 average
6. Average from April 27 through May 17, 2020

NEW ACBL MEMBERS

- | | | | | | |
|--------------------------------|------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------|------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Laureta Almer, Vancouver WA | Loma Dies, Medford OR | Michael Holman, Vancouver WA | Byrne Lovell, Portland OR | Carol Ogburn, Meridian ID | Andrew Smith, Portland OR |
| Cristin Babcock, Creswell OR | Bill Edmonds, Corvallis OR | Tom Hussey, Portland OR | Mary Betty Lowry, Boise ID | Pamela Perkins, Eugene OR | David Soderquist, Redmond OR |
| Marjorie Bell, Vancouver WA | Zachary Faltersack, Lake Oswego OR | Elke Kiva, Portland OR | Pablo Lucas Jr., Ewa Beach HI | Marianne Perrin, Portland OR | Lisa Stecker, Boise ID |
| Milo Bell, Vancouver WA | Rochelle Ferran, Truckee CA | Caroline Koley Stoner, Wailuku HI | Linda Maletis, Portland OR | Barbara Phipps, Oakridge OR | Robert Stoner, Wailuku HI |
| Jean Benedict, Portland OR | Anne Gram, Portland OR | Blythe Lasley, Ashland OR | Rick McKay, Corvallis OR | Terri Pickard, Portland OR | Stirling Tomkins, Portland OR |
| Karen Berky, Bend OR | Mark Gram, Portland OR | Janet Lide, Vancouver WA | Mary McKay, Corvallis OR | Gary Rhoades, Portland OR | Vickie Van Fechtmann, Pahoa HI |
| George Brandt, Honolulu HI | Susan Green, Canby OR | William Lide, Vancouver WA | Brian Morgan, Portland OR | Claire Ryberg, McCall ID | Cher Wagner, Bend OR |
| Catherine Burnett, Honolulu HI | Judy Grodahl, Portland OR | Tyler Lippincott, Portland OR | Jeanne Neville, Portland OR | Patricia Sanborn, Kailua HI | Sharann Watson, Bend OR |
| Karen Chock, Kailua HI | Lillian Harper, Kailua Kona HI | | | Carla Santos, Honolulu HI | Kathryn Wright, Eureka CA |
| Lori Cooke, Waikoloa HI | Nancy Hoadley, Hawaii HI | | | Colette Sheehan, Trail OR | Mary Beth Yosses, Portland OR |

Welcome!

AROUND THE UNITS

Boise sets up virtual club, seeks donations



Boise



By Jill Wood

boisebridge.club

"Where are we going, Pooh?" asked Piglet. "Home, Piglet, we're going home. Because it will keep us safe and keep others we care about safe, too."

I suspect that by the time you are reading this we will still be hunkering down in our homes and continuing to practice physical distancing.

By now I hope that you have discovered bridge online. Bridge Base Online has games that support our units. Three times a day, BBO has Support Your Club games, and most of the fee goes to the clubs.

The owners of the Bridge Co-Op of Boise have also started a virtual club game to be played on Wednesdays and Fridays at 12:30 p.m., also on BBO. Under "Competitive" click on "ACBL Virtual Clubs." Our games will be clearly noted as Boise Bridge. The games will not appear



Jill Wood, John Cissel, Kay Alspaugh, Art Crawford, Karen Boss, Maryon Evans and Gene Gerard are members of the Boise Unit Board.

until two hours before the start time. Grab your partner and show up online to support our club. This is all to help keep the club in business until the virus has retreated. Your support is appreciated.

2019 races

Congratulations to the winners of the 2019 Helen Shanbrom Ace of Clubs awards in their masterpoint categories:

Ace of Clubs — (0–5) Michael Rohm; (5–20) Larry Zgonc; (20–50) Barbara Harrison; (50–100) Bruce Hanni; (100–200) Phil Emerson; (200–300) Karen Boss; (300–500) Paul Penland; (500–1000)

Larry Chase; (1000–1500) Pat Coontz; (1500–2500) Bill Wood; (2500–3500) Sandra Watson; (3500–5000) Craig Jones; (5000–7500) Ian Martindale; (7500–10,000), Suzanne St. Thomas; and (over 10,000) Jo Morse.

Promotions

Congratulations are also in order to **Sue Hanni** for becoming our latest Life Master. Also reaching masterpoint milestones in April are Maya Schimpf, Junior Master; Jane Crane, Club Master; Jared Jenkins, Club Master; and Larry Zgonc, Sectional Master.

Big game: On March 1, **John Cissel** and **Craig Jones** had a sizzling 72.4% game.

Nancy Feldman and **Karen Boss** wrote a limerick and submitted in to the ACBL Bulletin. It did not make the cut: "West laughed at vulnerability, East forgot Drury with impunity, Paired nonetheless, It wasn't a mess, They played with suitability."

A Go Fund Me page for the bridge club to help with expenses has been established. Please check out the page and donate if you can. Here is the link: www.gofundme.com/f/help-boise-bridge-cooperative.



Klamath Falls



By Bobby Thompson

www.unit482.com

No basketball? No bridge?

The 3-Bs for Bobby T (basketball, broadcasting and bridge) took an unbelievable hit in early March when the coronavirus pandemic hit the United States. The sports world came to a halt followed by closures of schools, restaurants and the loss of many jobs everywhere.

I felt for our seniors on the Oregon Tech basketball team not getting to finish their careers on the court. For the basketball junkies of March Madness who feel those three weeks in March and early April are the best in college sports, I agree with you and am sad. But most of all I wanted to see the U of O Duck women play Baylor and South Carolina on the way to the women's championship. We will never know.

The active duplicate bridge world was put on hiatus as well. Tournaments and club games were canceled. It could be months before duplicate bridge returns. For now, we remain in our homes and grab groceries and go right back to our houses. Eventually our normal lives will return, but may never be quite the same.

In 2020, we had bridge for two months plus five games in March, the last game on the 12th. The first quarter point parade leaders were **Laila Griffith**, **Carol McClure** and **Reid Sherwin** in the open category. Sherwin, **Dale Taylor** and **Duane Weiss** were the NLM leaders.

Griffith and McClure won the January unit game while **Randall Paul** and Thompson were February and March winners. Paul was getting ready for the Rogue Valley tournament that was canceled.

Big games: Griffith and McClure scored 71.9% and 70% while **Doug Higgs** and **Ed McClure** nailed a 73%.

Gail Pfrimmer moved to Eugene in April after joining us in 2018. She moved here from Nashville where her late husband was a songwriter. We will miss her and wish her well.

Eureka looks to connect with a virtual club in the district

Here in Humboldt County, we are distinguished by having been the first rural county in the U.S. to have a covid-19 case. However, I am proud to say, our officials have been very proactive, shutting down the county March 20, days before the state issued similar measures.

Unit 458 held its last game March 16, realizing that the games put our club members at risk. It was a responsible act, but we miss the structure, camaraderie and intellectual stimulus. We wonder how long this will last and what shape our small club be in when it is all over.

Here's the good news: as of this writing, no club members have contracted the coronavirus. Also, our hardworking director, Mark Phelps, is studying how to direct BBO games. It appears that we can con-

nect to clubs in Southern Oregon and play with them online.

It gives us a way to continue having regular games, which will entertain us and help keep our small club alive, not to mention our brains. We now have something new to learn.

Keep safe everyone. Shelter in place, wear a mask and observe physical distancing when shopping, and don't get discouraged. Until we can get together again, look into Bridge Base Online.



Eureka



By Frederica Aalto

www.acbdlld20.org/unit458

Virus halts lessons

Our club had given three Easybridge! lessons when covid-19 shut everything down. We were very pleased with the turnout (five to six tables) and the students were very enthusiastic. We hope we can get them all back when we resume.

Our club has been shut down since early March, so any bridge play has been online.

Another great disappointment was the cancellation of our sectional which was scheduled for mid-April.

We're looking forward to the time when we can resume our club activities.

Searching for things to do in Salem

No bridge at the clubs? What to do?

A few people are trying out the Support your Club games on BBO. Others are reading through various online lessons. I'm taking the opportunity to catch up on my backlog of Bridge Bulletins and the rest of the ever-growing stack of bridge literature that has expanded beyond its designated space in my house.

Whatever you are doing, we hope that you are well and staying healthy. Hopefully we'll be back to the tables soon. Assuming that we are, we'll see you in Keizer July 10–12 for the Salem Sectional.

Comings and goings

In a somewhat ironic twist given all the illness around us, it is pleasant to note that there were no reported deaths of Unit 490 members this quarter.

In additional good news, the unit would like to welcome new member **Jan Middleton** and transfers **Susan Hamilton** and **Jane Drevo**. We're glad to have you here with us!

Tournament tales

The only area sectional on the calendar since the deadline for the last issue of The Trumpet was the Portland Sectional in late January. **Anita Caviglia** and **Sandra Emmons** represented the unit in fine fash-



Salem



By Kevin Kacmarynski

www.salembridgeclub.org

ion by claiming first place overall in both the Friday morning 99er pairs as well as the Saturday afternoon 0–750 pairs.

Unit 490 also had some success at the Oregon Trail Regional in February where tournament stalwarts **Mike Green** and **Randy Naef** of the Oak Valley Club in McMinnville

joined forces with Neil Swanson (Monroe WA) and **James Weider** (Portland) to win Bracket 4 of the Friday-Saturday Jim Elliot KO. Also on Saturday, the foursome of **Kevin Kacmarynski**, **Henri Jansen** (Corvallis), **Louis Beauchet** (Sherwood), and **Gene Hval** (Portland) fought their way out of the round robin to salvage first place in Bracket 2 of the 0–2500 Swiss teams. Congratulations also go out to the two-



Randy Naef, Mike Green

somes of **Marion Hull-Barbara Nelson** and **Jack and Nancy Wetherson** who picked up strat B wins in side games earlier in the week.

Rank changes

Even with our limited slate of games in March (and none in April), several members of the unit acquired the points they needed to achieve their next masterpoint milestone, including our newest Life Master, **Barbara Nelson**.

Additional congratulations go out to Junior Masters Peter Soni and Hank Werner; Sectional Masters Anita Caviglia, Chris Graf and Michael Keeney; Regional Master Peg Frame; and Silver Life Master Ellie Hall-Pitzer.

Five unit games into the year, **Stewart Trimble** and **Wing Yung** are tied for the lead in the race for the Lewis Award. **Tom McGuire** is in third place, less than a half point behind.

Results

Unit Game, Feb. 2 — 1A/C: Dennis & Susan Lee; 2A/B: Mabel Polley — Skip Ludington; 3A/B: Stewart Trimble & Wing Yung.

Unit Game, Feb. 26 — 1A: Brian Breckenridge — Ross Hilder; 2A/1B: Shain Oleson — Randy Jordan; 3A: Irva Neyhart — Dennis Harms.

Unit Game, March 1 — 1A: Brian Breckenridge — Chris Poulos; 2A, Dennis & Carol Harms; 3A/1B/C: Terry Hart — Don Pitt. The March 18, April 5, and April 15 Unit games were canceled.



Redding



By Joan Sullens

www.bridgescore.com/redding

In coping mode

It came as a shock to all of us to have the Senior Center closed to us, followed by closures everywhere.

Like everyone else, we've all had to go into our coping mode. For some of us, it's been online bridge. For others, it's been a time to catch up at home.

We're all becoming acquainted with virtual get togethers. In the meantime, we can pore over our bridge books, practice play and/or go online to play.

We will definitely see changes in our club play as a result of this pandemic. No more picking up foods/snacks with our fingers for one thing. We may even wear masks. Washing our hands and using a sanitizer immediately after playing will be a must. We will wipe down our convention card holder after play. We will definitely be more aware.

Meanwhile, stay safe. We look forward to our fall sectional.

AROUND THE UNITS

Online bridge feeds habits, supports club

At press deadline, the bridge scene was all about how players were coping with the shutdowns attributed to the covid-19 crisis. That may have changed somewhat by the time this summer edition of The Trumpet breaks, but we'll all remember how we dealt with the pandemic.

March 16 was the last club game played in Unit 484 at the Phoenix Bridge Center in Phoenix, Ore. Games were being played at the center five days a week, and all were canceled until at least May 11, at which time there would be another assessment.

The unit board sent out a plea to members for donations to help defray rental expenses incurred by **Mark and Leah McKechnie**, who lease a building for the local bridge clubs. After only a couple weeks, more than \$7,000 had been raised, with more donations expected.

"It is obvious that we all want to play bridge as a community," said board president **Gee Gee Walker**. "People have stepped forward in a most effective and touching way."

Meanwhile, players fed their bridge habits in a variety of ways.

The day the local bridge clubs were



Jackson County



By Jim Flint

bridgewebs.com/unit484medford

closed, Walker hosted a foursome at her home for some old-fashioned rubber bridge. "That was before social distancing," she said, "and we haven't played face-to-face since, honoring the stay-at-home guidelines."

Some play at Bridge Base Online, which offers casual free games and ACBL-sanctioned masterpoint games.

BBO added special games for pairs in support of clubs at a fee of \$5 to \$6 per player, depending on the format, sending 80% of the fee to your clubs.

In mid-April, the McKechnies set up a virtual club on BBO with play at regular local game times. Only players who are part of Unit 484 are allowed to sit. Participating are McKechnies' clubs on Tuesday night and Wednesday and Friday at 2 p.m., and Bob Fox's clubs, also at 2 p.m., on Monday, Thursday and Saturday.

Bob Scott and I tried to play in a BBO club-support game early on, but the 600 player slots were sold out early. All game start times are listed as of the eastern time zone. People are going online about two hours before the game is scheduled in order to get a seat in most midday games. However, since the Unit 484 games are limited to locals only, those games never sell out, and players can get a seat just a few minutes before game time.

Before the virtual club games started, Bob and I played in a speedball ACBL game (12 boards, completed in about an hour). There were hundreds of pairs registered and the competition was stiff. We finished with 66%+ and didn't make the overalls, earning a fraction of a masterpoint for second place east/west in our section.

Status of special games and tourneys

Our March 27-29 spring sectional was canceled, as was our May 2 unit game. Also canceled are our Sept. 18-20 fall sectional and the Aug. 1 unit game. The unit hopes to be able to go ahead with the planned unit game on Dec. 5, subject to progress on the pandemic.



Eugene/Springfield



By Don Marsh

www.emeraldbridgeclub.org

See bright spots amid adversity

*To believe in this livin'
Is just a hard way to go*

The late John Prine always seemed to have the right words.

It is easy to see the way in which these are the worst of times. The events speak for themselves. What has caught my attention is the way in which these are also the best of times. If ever there was a time that showed the level of caring within the Eugene-Springfield bridge community, this would be that time.

Once the Emerald Bridge Club shuttered its doors temporarily, **Ellen McCumsey** jumped in and began organizing games on BBO. Dr. McCumsey's patience in getting us all up to speed was the stuff of sainthood.

Joyce Spence, Betsy Ovitt, Roy Lisi, Denise Cox, Carole Schmitz and Susie Piper all stepped up to help with directing. We all know much of the immediate future of bridge is online and Ellen's assistance has not only provided a wonderful diversion during the quarantine, but also has introduced lots of folks to BBO and all that incredible site has to offer.

At the same time, the unit board realized that EBC would need help with ongoing costs. President **John Wolf** and all board members put together a proposal that went out to all the players. The board made the decision to set up a separate account that would be dedicated to assisting the club during this time of lost revenue.

A shoutout is in order here to EBC's landlord, Steven Yett, who magnanimously agreed to reduce rent by more than \$1,000 until the games can resume. As of this writing, over \$6,600 has been contributed.

Betsy Ovitt and David Partridge also need to be acknowledged for their work in getting the Google Group distribution list updated and functional so that we are all able to remain in contact.

It also should be noted that EBC is about to have an updated website thanks to the efforts of **Doug Berg**. Doug's work will also allow the site to be hosted on a much less expensive server.

How fortunate we all are to be a part of such an incredible great group of folks.

It is hard to say where things will all be when this gets published. I just hope that it finds you all safe and well and able to return to the tables soon.

We placed first of 358 pairs with a 74% game on April 20.

Mike Donnelly

My 9-year-old grandson is living with us until school restarts. I play ball with him, and bicycle every day. I play bridge online, too. I've lost another nine pounds and feel great.

Betty Evans

Many of you will not know me as I play so seldom and don't do tournaments. I have spent more time in prayer. Gardening, reading and cooking are my outward relaxation moves.

Seaside players share quarantine journals

*Oh, my friends,
I never knew our closeness
Until it was gone.*

—Alicia Jo Rabins

Given the physical distancing and the lack of in-person bridge, our club members have been occupied differently from usual. I decided to ask our unit members to describe what they are doing, thinking and feeling.

Lucy Thorsensten

I miss seeing your faces! Well, my daily routine has not changed too much. This time of year, I usually spend most of my time in the garden, reading, practicing piano, baking and the other thousands (it seems) of things I have deemed "important." However, this year has been different. I started a Joy Journal where each day I chronicle something that made me smile, or laugh, or pause with appreciation.

I think our house arrest, as I call it, has actually made me reach out to people more than I would have otherwise. Normally, talking on the phone is an anathema to me. Now I voluntarily spend time calling people I know who may be somewhat vulnerable.

It's becoming clear to me that what will defeat the virus and save lives are caring people, friendship, a willingness to help and working together.

Sue Kroning

I have been painting my old wooden kitchen cabinets. An all-consuming task, it has taken four weeks. Now, for the bathrooms.

Robert Kroning

I am trying to find happy homes for some of my books. My lockdown tactic is to stack some in the boot of my car. It is sitting in the driveway these days because Sue is redoing our kitchen and has the garage otherwise engaged. My hope is that some of you could stop by, pop the hatch, take a look and take a book or two.

Virginia Zimmerman

I usually don't care much about shopping, but I am actually thinking of Fred Meyers and Costco as grand outings. I'm feeling sad for those who can't stand shut-in time and for those who may be ill.

I am a homebody and not playing bridge is great. I've been gardening. But



Seaside/Astoria/Illwaco



By David Wigutoff

bridgewebs.com/seasideunit491

the most fantastic experience is the beach. Robert takes his chair and walks half way to the dunes and sits and reads. I walk on to the beach with the two poodles. It's a magnificent feeling. No cars, sometimes no folks, no dogs for Clyde to bark at — 30 miles of pure out-of-this-world experience.

Jim Bernard

Cherie and I celebrated my 90th birthday at home. Thanks to all well wishers.

Kathy Hauswald

My husband, Herb, and I have to get dressed every day to go for our walk. And one of us gets our mail at the post office. The garage has been too cold for ping-pong. Occasionally we play dominoes. Otherwise, we stay in bed to read and watch movies and TV, including "Tiger King," the stupidest series ever.

We miss the gym, shopping, golf and bridge!

Larry Marshall

Our daily life has somewhat changed. More projects which are tedious and boring will get done sooner than later. Now we clean one window, inside and out, including the curtains. Number 7 today, only 10 to go.

More and longer walks to the beach with few or no visitors. Bridge online daily, normally about 8,000 players but yesterday it was up to 43,650. Maybe the game will be reaching new players.

We have been having Zoom calls with our family. One included all 15 grandchildren and one great-grandchild. The best news was that no one had yet been infected.

Mary Blake

I celebrated my 102nd birthday at home, reading old love letters, and reminiscing with the assistance of other nostalgic items.

Fred Kulczyk

I have a cat in my lap and I am doing my wash. I talked to **Jim Briganti** and he said it was quiet where he was. I ran my 5

miles this morning but I really would like to be playing bridge right now.

Monica Taylor

When we canceled club bridge, Lew didn't smile for three days, so we started bridge online and have been inviting friends to join us. We enjoy good food, good exercise, good rest, good online bridge, good books and movies, sunshine and good endorphins. We are trying to protect ourselves and others.

Lew Richardson

Monica and I are playing online in the ACBL Support Your Club tourneys on BBO four times week. We sure miss the local club games.

Vern Fowler

Cindy and I are living much as we always have. In place of bridge club, we have ventured into the adventure of the Bridge Base Online ACBL tournaments.

Our dahlias are coming up and we are enjoying walking on these wonderful spring mornings.

JoAnn Dawley

Since I have so much free time now, I decided at 86 to join the 21st century. I dumped my flip phone and now am the owner of an iPhone. An old dog can learn new tricks!

Terry and Ted Jefferson

We have plenty to keep ourselves busy around the house and gardens. We still play bridge in the evenings with Bridge Baron, but really miss our bridge family in District 20. As many of you may already know, I lost my oldest son, Tom, just two weeks ago. We have been overwhelmed and emotionally drained. He was the father of five.

Jane and Ray Lowe

I have to admit that I am getting cabin fever. I miss having contact with all our bridge friends and wondering if we will be able to travel at all this year. But as everyone else seems to say, we are getting a lot done around the house and yard. We have been playing some bridge online with Manny. It has been all casual bridge and not tournament play.

Doug West

Playing in the 8 a.m. pair game on Bridge Base with long time friend and partner Susan Parnes from Flint, Mich.



Chris's Corner

ACBL tournament director Chris Wiegand answers your questions on rulings.

Comparable calls – continued

Last Trumpet, I discussed some of the evolution of changes of the laws and how comparable call was introduced in the 2017 laws. Per 2017 Law 23.A, a call that replaces a withdrawn call is a comparable call, if it:

1. has the same or similar meaning as that attributable to the withdrawn call, or
2. defines a subset of the possible meanings attributable to the withdrawn call, or
3. has the same purpose (e.g. an asking bid or a relay) as that attributable to the withdrawn call.

I find that 23A1 has the most “wiggleroom” to it and is thus hardest to define. In general, if the new call shows the exact same suit length(s) and approximate values or the approximate suit length(s) and exact values, then it is comparable. An example: South opens 1♥ out of turn (not accepted). North is the dealer and opens 1♠. East overcalls 2♦. We would allow a 2♥ (natural and forcing) call as it shows exactly 5+ hearts just like the 1♥ opening bid and is approximate value with the 2♥ response showing 10+ points instead of the more usual 12+ (or thereabouts) for an opening call. A negative double would not be comparable as both the number of hearts and the strength could vary from what is shown by a 1♥ opener.

For 23A2, remember that it is the new call that must be more specific than the withdrawn call. Example: North opens 1♦. East overcalls 1♠. South does not see East’s call and attempts to respond 1♥ (insufficient), not accepted. The insufficient call of 1♥ was showing 4+ hearts and 6+ points. If a negative double here would show exactly four hearts and 8+ points, it is a subset of the hands shown by the withdrawn 1♥ call and thus comparable. That is, even though the shape and points were not exact, the new call is more specific; every hand that wants to make a negative double now would have started with a 1♥ response; no “extra” information is available to North with the “knowledge” that partner wanted to respond 1♥. (2♥ would also allow North to continue bidding.)

23A3 is the easiest to understand. Examples are things like insufficient Stayman may be replaced with sufficient Stayman even if they are a different variety of Stayman (Puppet versus normal), because the purpose of the calls (inquiring about opener’s major suit holdings) are the same even if slightly different hand types may make them. Similarly, Blackwood might replace Gerber (both asking for aces).

As a director, how do you handle this? Here is an example: North is the dealer and South has a 1♠ card on the table. Turn to West and say, “If you would prefer to be in second chair, rather than fourth chair, you may accept this call and take any legal call over it that you wish. It would be as if South is the dealer and we would proceed normally from there. If you do not accept, 1♠ will go back into South’s box. North will make his “normal” call as dealer with no knowledge that South tried to open 1♠. East will take a call. Then South and I will go have a conversation about comparable calls and incomparable calls. I do not know what they will be yet because they will be

Continued on Page 4



TOURNAMENT CALENDAR

DISTRICT 20 REGIONALS & SECTIONALS

All events are subject to cancellation or postponement. Check acbl.org for the latest information.

| JUNE 2020 | | |
|----------------------------|--|--|
| 26-28 | Acc of Clubs Summer Sectional | CANCELED The Acc of Clubs, Lake Oswego OR |
| JULY 2020 | | |
| 10-12 | Honolulu Sectional | Ala Wai Clubhouse, Honolulu HI |
| 10-12 | Salem Sectional | CANCELED Keizer/Salem Area Seniors, Keizer OR |
| July 27-Aug. 2 | TREASURE VALLEY REGIONAL | Nampa Civic Center, Nampa ID CANCELED |
| AUGUST 2020 | | |
| 14-16 | Vancouver Summer Sectional | Washington School for the Deaf, Vancouver WA |
| 26-27 | Nampa-Caldwell Summer Sectional | Idaho First Bank, McCall ID |
| SEPTEMBER 2020 | | |
| 11-13 | Eureka Sectional | Humboldt Area Foundation, Bayside CA |
| 11-13 | Honolulu Sectional | Ala Wai Clubhouse, Honolulu HI |
| 11-13 | Portland Fall Sectional | Milwaukie Elks Lodge, Oak Grove OR |
| 18-20 | Rogue Valley Fall Sectional | CANCELED Dan Voorhies Bridge Center, Phoenix OR |
| 25-27 | Boise Sectional | Red Lion Hotel Downtowner, Boise ID |
| Sept. 28-Oct. 4 | OREGON COAST REGIONAL | Seaside Convention Center, Seaside OR CANCELED |
| OCTOBER 2020 | | |
| 17-18 | Vancouver Fall I/N Sectional | Vancouver Bridge Club, Vancouver WA |
| 22-25 | Central Oregon Coast Sectional | Shilo Inn, Newport OR |
| 23-25 | Gold Country Sectional | St. Canice Center, Nevada City CA |
| 29-31 | Nampa-Caldwell Halloween Sectional | Elks Lodge, Caldwell ID |
| NOVEMBER 2020 | | |
| 6-8 | Redding Fall Sectional | Win-River Hotel & Casino, Redding CA |
| 7 | Rogue Valley I/N Sectional | Dan Voorhies Bridge Center, Phoenix OR |
| 7-8 | Corvallis 299er Sectional | Heart of the Valley Bridge Center, Corvallis OR |
| 13-15 | Honolulu Sectional | Ala Wai Clubhouse, Honolulu HI |
| 14-15 | Vancouver Fall Sectional | Washington School for the Deaf, Vancouver WA |
| DECEMBER 2020 | | |
| 7-13 | District 20 STaC | Local clubs |
| JANUARY 2021 | | |
| 9-10 | Vancouver Winter I/N Sectional | Vancouver Bridge Club, Vancouver WA |
| TBA | Garden Island Sectional | Sun Village Condominium Recreation Center, Lihue HI |
| TBA | Portland Winter Sectional | TBA, Portland OR |
| Jan. 25-31 | HAWAII REGIONAL | Prince Waikiki, Honolulu HI |
| FEBRUARY 2021 | | |
| TBA | Maui Sectional | Maui Bridge Club, Kihei HI |
| TBA | Boise Sectional | TBA, Boise ID |
| TBA | Big Island Sectional | Makua Lani Christian Academy, Kailua Kona HI |
| Feb. 15-21 | OREGON TRAIL REGIONAL | Vancouver Wash. Hilton, Vancouver WA |
| MARCH 2021 | | |
| 5-7 | Heart of the Valley Sectional | Benton County Fairgrounds, Corvallis OR |
| 5-7 | Honolulu Sectional | Ala Wai Clubhouse, Honolulu HI |
| TBA | Chico Almond Blossom Sectional | TBA, Chico CA |
| TBA | Rogue Valley Spring Sectional | Dan Voorhies Bridge Center, Phoenix OR |

TOURNAMENTS IN NEIGHBORING DISTRICTS

| | | |
|--|---|--|
| DISTRICT 19: www.d19.org | June 15-21 Penticton Regional BC CANCELED | June 26-28 Salt Lake City Sectional UT CANCELED |
| | June 22-28 Anchorage Regional AK CANCELED | Aug. 10-16 Edmonton Regional AB CANCELED |
| | July 10-12 Anacortes Sectional WA CANCELED | Aug. 14-16 Idaho Falls Sectional ID |
| | July 24-26 Silverdale Sectional WA | Aug. 20-23 Missoula Sectional MT CANCELED |
| | Aug. 14-16 Seattle Sectional, Kent WA CANCELED | Aug. 28-30 Saskatoon I/N Regional SK CANCELED |
| | Aug. 17-23 Puget Sound Regional, Lynnwood WA | Sept. 7-13 Great Falls Regional MT |
| | Sept. 4-7 Olympia Sectional WA CANCELED | Sept. 18-20 Salt Lake City Sectional UT |
| | Sept. 4-7 Spokane Valley Sectional WA | |
| | Oct. 26-Nov. 1 Leavenworth Regional WA | |
| DISTRICT 21: www.d21acbl.com | June 27-28 Oakland Sectional CA CANCELED | DISTRICT 18: www.wasumi.org |
| | July 8-12 Mountain View Sectional CA | July 31-Aug. 2 Vail Sectional, Avon CO CANCELED |
| | Aug. 11-14 Reno Sectional NV | Aug. 10-16 Phoenix Regional, Scottsdale AZ CANCELED |
| | Aug. 22-23 Sonoma Sectional CA | Sept. 28-Oct. 4 Taos Regional NM |
| | Sept. 1-7 All Western Regional, Santa Clara CA | Nov. 9-15 Las Vegas Regional NV |
| | Sept. 11-13 Sacramento Sectional, Orangevale CA | Nov. 19-22 Tucson Sectional & I/N Regional AZ |
| | Sept. 12-13 Santa Rosa Sectional CA | |
| | Sept. 17-20 Carson City Sectional NV | DISTRICT 17: www.d17acbl.org |
| | Sept. 25-27 Sacramento I/N Sectional CA | July 31-Aug. 2 Vail Sectional, Avon CO CANCELED |
| | Oct. 5-11 Reno Regional, Sparks NV | Aug. 10-16 Phoenix Regional, Scottsdale AZ CANCELED |
| | | Sept. 28-Oct. 4 Taos Regional NM |
| | | Nov. 9-15 Las Vegas Regional NV |
| | | Nov. 19-22 Tucson Sectional & I/N Regional AZ |
| | | |
| | | DISTRICT 22: acbldistrict22.com/d22 |
| | | Aug. 6-8 San Diego Sectional CA |
| | | Aug. 14-16 Santa Barbara Sectional CA CANCELED |
| | | Sept. 7-13 Costa Mesa Regional CA |
| | | Oct. 26-Nov. 1 Ventura Regional CA |
| | | Dec. 14-20 Palm Springs Regional, Rancho Mirage CA |

NORTH AMERICAN BRIDGE CHAMPIONSHIPS

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|------------------|-------------|----------------------------------|
| Nov. 26 – Dec. 6 | Fall 2020 | Convention Center, Tampa FL |
| March 11–21 | Spring 2021 | Renaissance Grand, St. Louis MO |
| July 15–25 | Summer 2021 | Convention Center, Providence RI |
| Nov. 25 – Dec. 5 | Fall 2021 | JW Marriott, Austin TX |