

# Capital District Bridge Association

## NEWSLETTER

Vol. XXXIII #3

June 2011

District 3 website: <http://www.bridge-district3.org>

CDBA website: <http://www.cdbanet.org>



### Schenectady Sectional (at the Studio) July 15-17, 2011

#### Friday July 15

Stratified Open Pairs (0-750, 750-2000, 2000+)	12:30 pm
Stratified Newcomer Pairs (0-100, 100-199, 200-299)	12:30 pm
Pro/Am Dual Scored -Pair game movement with Pro-Am Team	6:30 pm

#### Saturday July 16

Stratified Open Pairs (0-750, 750-2000, 2000+)	10 am and 3 pm
( 2 One Session Games)	
Stratified Newcomer Pairs (0-100, 100-199, 200-299)	10 am and 3 pm
( 2 One Session Games)	

#### Sunday July 17

Swiss Teams (2- Session stratiflighted play through; 42 boards)	12 pm
(1/2 hour break between sessions)	

Need Help: Call Lois Phillips (518) 793-3375 or [Malois1539@aol.com](mailto:Malois1539@aol.com)

For Partnerships: Call Bernie Neuhart (518) 372-3936 or [bhnewhart@nycap.rr.com](mailto:bhnewhart@nycap.rr.com)

**NOTE: For stratified pair events, the strat will be based upon the average MPs for the pair. For events less than 300MPs, each player must have fewer than 300 MPs.**

**Event to be held at:**

**The Studio  
1639 Eastern Parkway  
Schenectady, NY**

**CAPITAL DISTRICT BRIDGE ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER  
(USPS 001-100)**

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### President's Message

Before reading on, please glance around to see if District Director Joan Gerard has written her always informative THIS 'N THAT article for this month's Newsletter. If so, it will be the penultimate article Joan will author for us as Director of District 3. Alas, after 26 years as our District Director, Joan has decided to give up the directorship and will be passing the torch to her successor, effective December 31.

Many of you know Joan and her many contributions to the District 3 bridge community. As a Unit 115 Board member and later officer, I have found Joan to be a tireless worker, always been responsive to our needs, and her advice most welcome. No doubt she served the District for many years with all the attributes of a leader, and always with the best interests of the District 3 bridge community in mind. She will be missed.

Fortunately, I don't have to wish Joan and husband Ron "best of luck" at this time, as Joan will continue to be involved with District 3 activities, just not as District Director. Importantly, Joan expects to work on the planning and scheduling of District 3 events.

One of the responsibilities she will retain is negotiating with hotels for room rates, conference room fees, food costs, etc. for the District's four regional tournaments. Not an easy job, but she'll still be there for us.

I offer one important observation regarding Joan's contribution to Unit 115 in particular. There are only four scheduled regionals in District 3, one in Saratoga, yet we are one of the smallest units in the district. The June ACBL Bulletin notes three of the top eleven busiest clubs in the US are in District 3, none in Unit 115, yet we host a Regional, in great part, thanks to Joan and her unyielding support for the Saratoga venue. Most of our members do not travel to regionals, so if they're going to play in one, it has to be close to home. Take away Saratoga, and you take away the opportunity to play in a Regional from a significant portion of our membership. Because of Joan's enthusiasm for Saratoga and its positive effect on Unit 115 members, the Unit and District hosted a small thank you reception for Joan on Friday of this year's Saratoga Regional attended by people who worked closely with Joan for so many years.

Speaking of the recent Saratoga Regional, it looks like the attendance was up this year. That's great news, considering gas prices and an uncertain economy have had a negative effect on attendance at other regionals this year. Let's continue to support our Saratoga regional in upcoming years, it's the only way we can be sure Saratoga will be considered as a venue for future regionals.

My thanks go to **ALL** volunteers who contributed their time to make the Regional a success, particularly Fran Leary as overall coordinator, John O'Brien for registration, Terry Bentley for recruiting a cadre of volunteers from her club game in Saratoga, Bernie Neuhart for managing the partnership

desk, and Norma Shelly for her selection of a well-received registration gift and for organizing the reception for Joan Gerard. I've suggested in earlier articles our volunteers make our events the best they can be, so please, thank them when you can, including all those who worked so hard for you but I failed to mention by name in this message.

Finally, I have been able to personally congratulate three of our members who made Life Master in Saratoga, Harry Landry, Mark Hartley, and your Unit 115 VP Chuck Mantia. By the way, a month ago Chuck needed 1.33 silver points, so he traveled to the Rutland sectional and earned 1.34 silvers. As they say in football, no sense in running up the score. If I have missed anyone who made LM last week, congrats to you, also.

See you at the table.  
Bob Valenti



### Sectional Special

Newcomers and players under  
300 master points

299 game only

Buy one entry..get one entry free

Friday & Saturday – July 15 & 16  
\$ 8.00

### THIS 'N THAT FROM YOUR DISTRICT DIRECTOR

Oh wow! What a great tournament Saratoga Springs was this year. Thanks to a wonderful unit with a beautiful idea spearheaded I know by Norma Shelly and Fran Leary, your unit made me feel so loved that it is hard to express my happiness. The special words written and then put into a frame about me were so meaningful and then the "Joan" buttons for the convention card that everyone was wearing was such fun. There were only a few left over and I took them home for my friends. And if that was not enough, the special surprise party on Friday evening given with love by your unit meant sooooo much to me. The cake was beautiful and delicious but the gift of a luggage tag was so meaningful. Most of you are too young to remember, but when your unit became part of District 3 in the '70's. You had a zillion luggage tags left over to give away as section tops and it was always a joke because we could never get rid of them. This luggage tag is not like that. It is special and I will use it proudly when I travel. And then to make everything perfect the table count was up 92 tables from last year. Might well be the highest we have ever been!!!! Thanks to Fran Leary. Bob Newhart, the local caddy staff and all the many volunteers who made Saratoga the great tournament that it was. I will never forget your kindness as I leave the position of your representative on the National Board. Don't forget – you can still always call when you need help.

Along with the great success of the Saratoga Regional, the GNT Finals held in White Plains on April 9<sup>th</sup> literally broke down the walls. We had 58 teams – another all time first – and after getting in a few extra bridge tables, lots of extra food for brunch, we had to move Flight A to the Bridge Deck – about 20 minutes away from the site. Everyone was very cooperative and a good time was had by (continued page 6)

# BRIDGE BITES

from The American Contract Bridge League

## A SURPRISING DUCK

By: Brian Gunnell

	♠ 8432 ♥ AJ43 ♦ J62 ♣ K2	
♠ KT76 ♥ 72 ♦ T9854 ♣ 63	North West      East Declarer	♠ J9 ♥ T9865 ♦ 73 ♣ JT98
	♠ AQ5 ♥ KQ ♦ AKQ ♣ AQ754	

### Both Vulnerable

South	West	North	East
2♣	Pass	2♦	Pass
3NT	Pass	6NT	Pass
Pass	Pass		

South's 2♣ bid was artificial and strong, and North's 2♦ was also artificial, showing a hand without a suit worth bidding. Then common sense took over, and N-S blasted into 6NT. Can you make 12 tricks? Be warned, this one's not easy!

West led the Diamond Ten and Declarer could count 11 top tricks. Where was the 12<sup>th</sup>? One possibility was the Spade finesse but that was only a 50% proposition and Declarer knew that a 4-2 or 3-3 Club break was more likely. So Declarer's general plan was to unblock the ♥KQ, cross to the ♣K, cash Dummy's Heart winners (pitching Spades), and play on Clubs, hoping for a reasonable break in the suit.

But Declarer had neglected to think about the consequences of a bad *Heart* break. That's right, when Dummy's Heart winners were cashed the suit proved to be 5-2. Even worse, it turned out that the defender with the long Hearts also had the long Clubs. Declarer could set up his 12<sup>th</sup> trick alright, but the defense scored a Heart and a Club first. Down one!

We'll admit that Declarer was most unlucky with that line of play, it only failed because Hearts were 5-2, Clubs were not 3-3, *and* the long Hearts and long Clubs were in the same hand. But good players make their own luck and Declarer had a most surprising play at his disposal. Remember, he had won the opening Diamond lead, and unblocked the ♥KQ. Now at Trick 4 he ducks a Club! See the difference? Yes, the Club trick that he could afford to lose is now lost before Dummy's Hearts have been cashed (in other words, before East's long Heart has become a winner). That's a difficult play to find at the bridge table, did you find it at your breakfast table?

Visit [www.acbl.org](http://www.acbl.org) for more about the fascinating game of bridge or email [marketing@acbl.org](mailto:marketing@acbl.org)

**Mini-McKenney & Ace of Club Standings  
Unit 115 (as of June 6, 2011)**

	<u><b>Mini-McKenney</b></u>	<u><b>Ace of Clubs</b></u>
<b>0-5</b>	Aggie O'Brien Richard Zak Phil Ulrich	Aggie O'Brien Richard Zak Phil Ulrich
<b>5-20</b>	Barbara Wolner Margaret Dillon Judith & James Miller	Margaret Dillon Judith & James Miller Barbara Wolner
<b>20-50</b>	Joan Weaver Christine Converse Ellen Larson	Joan Weaver Anne Beard John Leslie
<b>50-100</b>	Glen Perry Jerry Lipfield Susan Klein	Jerry Lipfield Judith Parker Victor Turaew
<b>100-200</b>	Jane Carusone James Beard Carol Weaver	Jane Carusone James Beard Terry Bentley
<b>200-300</b>	Firm Weaver Harry Landry Wilma Delucco	Firm Weaver Harry Landry Marilyn Hart
<b>300-500</b>	Matthew Lahut Richard Bobilin Charles Mantia	Harold Bigelow Charles Mantia Rhoda Levine
<b>500-1000</b>	Ulla Sattinger Rosemary Isele Bonnie Taylor	Rosemary Isele Lukas Fekete Lois Tuohey
<b>1000-2500</b>	Judy & Richard Hill Charles Schmidt Nancy Sharp	Charles Schmidt Nancy Sharp Diane Alexander
<b>2500-5000</b>	Lucy & Gary Spongberg Lois August Don Cohen	Lois August Don Cohen Larry Berman
<b>5000-7500</b>	Judy Dubay Walter Smith Bill Dubay	Judy Dubay Bill Dubay Walter Smith
<b>Over 10000</b>	Bill & Sandy Nelson Lynn Deas Neil Chambers	Bill & Sandy Nelson Betty & Steve Bloom

## Club Corner

### THE STUDIO

Tue. Aug 9 - 12:00 Club Championship

Sat. Aug. 27 - 12:00 Club Championship

#### NAOP Qualifiers:

Wed. Jul 13 12:00 - Mon. Jul 25 12:00

Mon. Aug 15 12:00 - Thu. Aug 18 12:00

Wed. Aug 31 12:00

### AVILA

Sat. July 23 - 12:30 Charity Club Championship

Sat. Aug 13 - 12:30 Charity Club Championship

Sat. Sept 3 - 12:30 Club Championship

Sat. Sept 17 - 12:30 Charity Club Championship

#### NAOP Qualifiers: Saturdays 12:30

July 2, July 30

Aug. 6, Aug 27

Contact Rhoda Kratenstein

(518) 640-9553

## RANK CHANGES

### New Club Master

Barbara Wolner

### New Regional Master

Susan Klein

### New Bronze Life Masters

Harold Bigelow

Patricia Ackerman

Linda Millenbach

## This N That (from pg 3)

all. Not to many came down from, Unit 115 – why don't you try it next year? It is two sessions, but you can still get home at a reasonable hour. Give it some thought.

I'm off to Poland for a week to attend Management meetings of the World Bridge Federation. Then home a few days before I head out for the Toronto and the ACBL Board meetings. I do hope to see many of you in Parsippany, NJ at our new location – the Sheraton Parsippany. We were there many years ago when it was the Sheraton Tara. With great playing space, a decent room rate, a super schedule including two Golden Opportunity Pairs, Compact KO's, and Bracketed RR Team Games with a Swiss for the top bracket. I know it's a bit far for you to go but it's worth it. Check out all the details on our web site: [www.bridge-district3.org](http://www.bridge-district3.org)

Have a great summer. Thanks again for all the very special things you planned for me. You made me feel so wonderful. Hope to see many of you in Toronto and in Parsippany.

Joan Gerard, District Director

## Personal Notices

Condolences to the family and friends of **Marge Gavin**

Condolences to the family of **Ed Winke** on loss of wife Eleanor

## NEW TWO CLUB RESPONSE SYSTEM

There are several 2 club response systems used by bridge partners. Among these are 2D waiting, point steps, control steps, and probably others that I do not know. All of these were lacking in my opinion. The waiting bid really tells partner nothing, the steps bids don't tell the partner which suits the points are located, and in addition, whether the points are comprised of Aces and Kings or Queens and Jacks. The control bid doesn't identify the specific suits where the controls are located.

I know in my case when I bid 2 clubs, in 99% of the time, I expect to play the hand and I want my partner to tell me specifically what he (or she) has and in particular, how many Aces and how many Kings, and in what suits the Aces and Kings are located. I would rather know this information than how many points that could be comprised of only queens and jacks, by the point step method, or just the number of controls, by the control method.

I know every system has its fallacies and I'm sure the system I am about to propose has its own fallacies. However, I have used it with success and am presenting it to the Section 115 members for your information.

### 2 CLUB BID RESPONSE

#### FIRST BID:

2D-1 KING OR LESS  
2H- ACE OF HEARTS  
2S- ACE OF SPADES  
2N- 2 KINGS OR MORE\*  
3C- ACE OF CLUBS  
3D- ACE OF DIAMONDS

NOTE: IF 2 ACES, BID HIGHER  
RANKING SUIT ACE FIRST  
IF BOTH AN ACE & KING, BID  
ACE FIRST

#### NEXT BID:

IF NO OTHER A OR K, OR FIRST BID WAS 2D AND NO KING, REBID PARTNER'S BID 1 LEVEL HIGHER

ANOTHER ACE OR KING, OR IF FIRST BID WAS 2D AND YOU HAVE A KING, BID THE KING SUIT\*\*

\* IF AFTER BIDDING ACES, IF RESPONDER HAS 2 KINGS AND BIDDING IS AT 3 LEVEL, BID 3N (2 KINGS)

\*\* IF YOU SHOWED AN ACE WITH FIRST BID, AND SECOND BID SUIT IS HIGHER RANKING THAN FIRST BID SUIT, THAT SUIT HAS A KING. IF NOT HIGHER RANKING AND FROM YOUR HAND CAN'T TELL WHETHER ACE OR KING, 2 CLUB BID BIDS BLACKWOOD TO TELL WHETHER A OR K.

#### FINAL BID:

WHENEVER 2 CLUB BIDDER'S LAST BID IS A GAME BID IN FIRST SUIT HE MENTIONED, RESPONDER MUST PASS. 2 CLUB BIDDER HAS CONCLUDED NO SLAM.

If anyone has any questions or suggested improvements, please contact me at: [cmantia2@yahoo.com](mailto:cmantia2@yahoo.com) or 877-5523.....Chuck Mantia

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SCHENECTADY, NY 12309**

**PERIODICAL POSTAGE PAID  
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**Schedule of Upcoming Events**

<b>Wed – Tue</b>	<b>Jul 6 – 12</b>	<b>Unit STaC</b>
<b>Thu – Sun</b>	<b>Jul 21 – 31</b>	<b>NABC Summer Nationals Toronto, Ontario</b>
<b>Sat</b>	<b>Aug 20</b>	<b>Awards Luncheon, Studio</b>
<b>Fri – Sun</b>	<b>Sep 9 – 11</b>	<b>Sectional, Studio</b>
<b>Sun</b>	<b>Oct 23</b>	<b>NAP Finals, Studio</b>