

BRIGHT LEAF ALERT

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF UNIT 191

FEBRUARY, 2025



2025 Unit 191 Board of Directors

Back row—l to r—**Ian Cloudsdale, Morris Weinberg, Eric Hamilton, Michael Lavine, Ray Boylan, Bill Ingram**

Seated—**Deanna Larus, Ann Fisher, Mary Newman**

Also—**Ira Meuller, Phylliss Woody, Joanna Karwowska**

From the new President—or an old one.....

It's fabulous February everyone! January was very cold and a great time was had by all staying inside and playing bridge. This past weekend many of us played at the Raleigh sectional and boy did we represent. On Friday Jan 31st, we had more than 52 players drive to Raleigh to play! We accounted for more than 50% of the players that day! Attendance by Unit 191 on Saturday and Sunday was great as well. It was fun to see everyone there. And believe me the Raleigh players noticed! Overall, we had more than 51 of our Unit 191 members earn masterpoints at this event. Way to go everyone!

In January we welcomed three new board members. First, we thank **Barbara Bute**, and **Gail King** for serving on the Unit Board for the past three years. We really appreciate all of the hours they spent volunteering on behalf of our unit. We welcome **Ray Boylan**, **Joanna Karwowska** and **Morris Weinberger** as our newest Board members. We looking forward to their ideas and contributions to our bridge community. In other news, **Stanley Wilson** has recently passed the director's exam and is busy learning the ins and outs of being a director. We can never have too many directors amongst us.

We have lots of fun events coming up! All month there will be special games -Educational Fund games. On **Friday February 7th and 21st from 10-11:30am**, **Ian Cloudsdale** will be hosting a special FREE class on Bergen Hand Evaluation. These techniques can help everyone make better bidding decisions and find games and slams more easily. Join us

at these classes on Friday. Bring a bag lunch and then

stay to play at 12:30. We will have a guaranteed partner on those days so everyone can play after the class. Hope to see you there!

On February 14th, the Unit is hosting a Valentine's luncheon (catered by Robin Marin with assistance from Katie Wilson). Reservations were required and the 14 tables filled last week. That said, I am keeping a waiting list and have asked attendees to let me know if they have to cancel so that we fill all of the tables! Right now, I have only one pair waiting to get in. Let me know (deanna@elarus.com) if you want to join the waiting list.

February will end with District 7's next Regional tournament in Hilton Head. It had recently been one of the biggest regionals on the east coast and I hope that many of you are making plans to attend.

The Unit is looking for someone who can help us create flyers for our special events so that we can better publicize them. Please let me know if you are interested in helping with this project.

As you may already know, the Board of Directors made the decision in December that we will not host a spring sectional this year. Our next Unit 191 sectional will be held in mid-July. So mark your calendar for July 10-13 and plan to join us escape the heat that week!

A C B L UNIT 191 R E P O R T

Includes all transactions processed 11/30/24 through 1/01/25

TOTAL MEMBERS – 491

NEW MEMBERS

Bill Chappell, Frank Gohs, Harry Schuler

TRANSFERRED INTO UNIT

Mary Jo Dunnebacke Old Unit # 119 – North State

William Gay Old Unit # 143 – St Louis

Randy McKay Old Unit # 119 North State

Paul Norton Old Unit # 145 Rhode Island

TRANSFERRED OUT OF UNIT

Edy Bulhuis New Unit # 102

Dixie Hopgood (Snowbird Address on File Unit 191)

NEW REGIONAL MASTERS

Joan Roberts and Michele Smith

NEW CLUB MASTER

Margaret Burchinal

NEW NABC MASTER

Ernest Brooks

NEW CLUB MASTER

Margaret Burchinal

NEW BRONZE LIFE MASTER

Carol Schachner

DECEASED: **Alice Parson, Morton (Mort) Stromberg, and Judy Laney**

Submitted by Phylliss Woody, Membership Chair

January, 2025

Unit 191 members please check the Directory on our unit website (unit191bridge.org) and report to me (pwoody@unc.edu, (919) 612-7711) any changes or corrections that need to be made. Please remember Contact information in this directory is provided as a courtesy to Unit 191 members. **Unauthorized use of this information is forbidden.**

**MEMBERSHIP RE-
PORT
DECEMBER 31,
2024—JANUARY 31,
2025**

Transfers into the unit—

Michael Dennis—from Unit 135,
Maryland

Marilyn Gordon—from Unit
256, Southeast Michigan

Earl Klugman—from Unit 165,
Tennessee Valley

John Woog—from Unit 103,
Minnesota Gopher

**Welcome everyone
to Unit 119!**

Transfers out of the unit—

Gail Levy—to Unit 190 in Dela-
ware

Congratulations to the fol-
lowing for achieving a new rank —

Club Master

Anne Henkels

NABC Master

Donald Hierman

Golf Life Master

Marc Goldberg

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS
FOR THE UPCOMING TOUR-
NAMENTS**

Need some silver or gold points? Plan to
attend these tournaments in our area.

SECTIONALS

Greensboro Sectional—May 16-18

Durham Sectional—July 10-13

Winston-Salem Sectional—August 15-
17

Pinehurst Sectional—September 5-

Raleigh Sectional—September 25-28

REGIONALS

Hilton Head - February 24-March 2

Gatlinburg—April 21-27

Greenville—June 16-22

MEET KEN AND REGINA BANN

Our hobby is playing bridge! Up until 2021, I rode horses in dressage and I still have a retired horse in Siler City, We both do photography, me a bit more seriously than ken.

We started playing bridge in 2018. We began playing because we were going to Florida with the horses for the winter season and wanted to find a way of making friends outside of the horse community. We had taken only a very few lessons before we went to Florida and found a game that was being played at a local country club. The people in this game were so incredibly kind to us, when we knew absolutely nothing! (We had never even seen a bidding box) and inexplicably invited us to play in another local game. When we returned to NJ after the winter season, we began taking lessons at the Essex Bridge Center, which unfortunately has closed due to COVID. We have really enjoyed meeting people through bridge and it really facilitated our transition to NC, which was difficult since we moved during COVID.

Ken was a financial analyst who worked on high yield securities, retiring in 2016. I have been a psychotherapist with a specialty in marital/family work and retired when we moved here in 2020. I had a private practice for 30+ years in NJ.

Before moving to NC, we lived in South Orange, NJ, for 38 years, 35 years in the same house!

Ken was born in Bridgewater, NJ, and only didn't live in NJ during college. I grew up on Long Island.

We have two sons, one who is a physician, married with two daughters and lives in Charlotte, NC. He is the reason we moved here, as he was doing a fellowship at UNC and we thought he probably would end up working here. Charlotte is OK though. Our other son is also married and a musician and divides his time between Memphis, TN and Costa Rica. Our two grandchildren are 2 1/2 and 7 years old.



Bergen Hand Evaluation

A two part series by **Ian Cloudsdale**

You pick up this 6 point hand:

S—A874323

H—53

D—Q7652

C—

How strong is this hand after Partner bids:

1D or 1S, 1 NT or 2 NT?

What about 1 C or 1 H?

We will discuss this hand and others using Marty Bergen's hand evaluation techniques

FRI—Feb 7 10-11:30 AM (Triangle Bridge Academy)

Part One—Introduction to the methodology and hand example

FRI—Feb. 21 10-11:30 am (Triangle Bridge Academy)

Part two—Hand evaluation and comparison to common game results

Followed by practice hands (no partner needed)

Please **RSVP verbally to Ian or Henry or [ian - isclou@gmail.com](mailto:ian-isclou@gmail.com)**—we will endeavor to ensure a partner if you want to play in the 12:30 game but we need to know the extra number of people due to the limited number of tables available in excess of the regular Friday players.

Lesson is free

TEACHING BRIDGE ON A CRUISE SHIP

By Marc Goldberg

Perusing the current edition of the ACBL Bridge Bulletin, it is clear that cruise ships are the newest venue for bridge. There are advertisements for Regional Tournaments at Sea (which I wrote about in a previous Alert). There are also bridge teaching cruises hosted by famous bridge instructors such as Jerry Helms and others. Hosting these activities on a cruise ship offers many amenities. The cost includes a beautiful cabin with daily maid service, all meals, all bridge activities, and a wide variety of onboard entertainment when you are not playing bridge. Plus, the voyage will stop in various ports giving you an opportunity to enjoy an interesting and exotic experience ashore (especially nice during the cold winter months in North Carolina).

In addition to tournaments and instructor cruises, there are advertisements in the Bridge Bulletin from well-known cruise lines such as Oceania, Crystal, Regent Seven Seas, and Silversea. These lines offer high quality cruises around the world, and they want bridge players to know they are welcome on board. Their voyages include an ACBL accredited instructor and director to oversee the bridge experience on the ship. The Bridge Instructors provide bridge instruction each day that the ship is at sea, and they direct an ACBL sanctioned bridge game (with masterpoints).

Several of the bridge players in our area serve as the Bridge Instructors on cruise ships, and Suzie and I are very fortunate to be included in this group. While each cruise line is slightly different, the Bridge Instructors work for the Cruise Director on the ship with the goal of enhancing the cruise experience for the passengers. We typically teach two lessons in the morning- one for beginners and one for intermediate players-

and then run a duplicate bridge game in the afternoon. We have had as many as 24 students in a class and 9 tables in a bridge game.

To qualify as a Bridge Instructor, a person must be a certified ACBL instructor through the Teacher Accreditation Program or similar class, and they must pass the ACBL Club Director course. The person should have experience in teaching various levels of players and be able to run an effective bridge game. That requires knowledge of basic movements, how to operate ACBL Score and Bridgemate software, director skills, and post-game reporting. Bridge Instructors represent the cruise line, and they are expected to provide a positive example through their conduct, adhere to ship policies, and interact with passengers and crew in a pleasant manner.

Our experience as Bridge Instructors has been very positive. We love teaching bridge and helping our students improve their skills. We enjoy meeting new friends and the camaraderie that the bridge community brings. And we learn things, as well. On our last cruise, we had several Brits who played ACOL, so we became familiar with that system. The fact that we get to teach bridge on a beautiful ship and see the world is a bonus. On our most recent trip, we were away for 35 days. The cruise started in Cape Town, South Africa and ended in Singapore. Along the way, the ship stopped in Madagascar, the Seychelles, the Maldives, Sri Lanka, Indonesia, and Malaysia. We feel very fortunate that we were able to experience the ship, travel and bridge friends during the voyage.

Dear Bridge Players,

Unit 191 **Mentor/Mentee** program

Unit 191 held a Tier II (higher level) Mentor/Mentee game on Tuesday, January 14th. There were four and a half tables. Congratulations to **Ray Boylan and Hugon Karwowski** who finished first and **Mike Sauter and Bev Craig** who finished second. The game was preceded by a lesson from Hugon on hand evaluation. He talked about Losing Trick Count, the Law of Total Tricks, and Bergen raises, among other topics. Notes from his lesson are posted on the mentoring program's website. **Michael Lavine** posted comments on the website about several hands from the game.

The Unit held a Tier I game on Tuesday, January 28. There were 7 tables. Congratulations to **Jan Broughton and Henry Meguid**, who finished first North/South, and **Stewart Johnson and Barbara Bute**, first East/West. The game was preceded by a lesson from Henry Meguid on diagnosing auctions that don't make sense. Michael Lavine wrote comments on several hands from the game.

As always, you can find handouts from the lessons and discussions from the mentors by going to the **Unit 191** web site, following the link to **Mentoring Program** webpage, and looking at the **Learning** section there.

Tier I games are held the fourth Tuesday of each month at 1:00 PM, preceded by a half-hour lesson from Henry Meguid starting at 12:15. Tier II games are held the second Tuesday of each month at 10:00 AM, preceded by a half-hour lesson beginning at 9:15. The fee is \$12 per person, except that the Unit will subsidize \$5 of the fee for each mentor who is playing with a Unit mentee. That makes the fee \$19 per pair if the mentee is from the Unit. We encourage mentees to pay their mentors' fees.

If you or your partner are unable to attend a particular M/M game, please let us know in advance so we can find someone to take your place — either a mentor or mentee who would not otherwise have a partner. It's also a courtesy to your regular MM partner; no one likes

Finally, we encourage MM pairs to play in the Eight is Enough team game on the third Saturday of each month running from 10 AM to approximately 1 PM. If you and your MM partner would like to play, you can either form a team on your own or email Michael Lavine, mlavine@umass.edu, who will look for another pair to join with you to form a team.

To summarize:

1. We are running a **two-tiered** program this year. See the web site for details.
2. **Pairs who are not in the M/M program are invited to join the M/M game.** To join a Tier I game one player must have fewer than 250 masterpoints and the other must have fewer than 500. There is no limitation on pairs who want to join the Tier II game.
3. If and when you are unable to play, **please let us know**, so we can match your partner with someone else.
4. **Eight is Enough** is another good opportunity for MM pairs to play together.



February 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
						Club Closed (Raleigh Regional)
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
	12:30 PM Unit Championship	No Nuplicate Game	12:30 PM <u>Educational Fund Game</u>	12:30 ABA pairs (private)	10:00 AM Seminar 12:30 <u>Educational Fund Game</u>	
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
	12:30 PM <u>Educational Fund Game</u>	Mentor-Mentee T2 9:15 AM Lesson 10:00 AM Game	12:30 PM <u>Educational Fund Game</u>	12:30 ABA pairs (private)	12:30 PM Valentine's Day Lunch & Unit Championship RSVP deanna@elarus.com	
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
	12:30 PM <u>Educational Fund Game</u>	1:00 – 4:00 PM Nuplicate Barometer	12:30 PM <u>Educational Fund Game</u>	12:30 ABA pairs (private)	10:00 AM Seminar 12:30 PM <u>Educational Fund Game</u>	10:00 AM 8 Is Enough Swiss Teams
23	24	25	26	27	28	
	12:30 PM <u>Educational Fund Game</u>	Mentor-Mentee T1 12:15 Lesson 1:00 PM Game	12:30 PM <u>Educational Fund Game</u>	12:30 ABA pairs (private)	12:30 PM <u>Educational Fund Game</u>	

Sincere condolences to the family of **Judy Laney**, who passed away on December 15—and to **Carol Stromberg** and family on the passing of **Mort Stromberg**, who passed away on January 10. Both will be missed by their many friends in Unit 191.

If you have interesting hands that you would like to submit, please do so and I will include in the Alert.....

If you have travel adventures or human interest stories about our members, please send my way.....

It takes a “village” to do a newsletter, much appreciation to those who contributed for this edition.

Barbara Martin, Editor