



Bridge Buff

July/August 2009



Bernie and Dick Czarnecki, Editors - Phone: 731-1707
Email: sanbornjoker@aol.com

A Publication of Unit 116, Buffalo, New York

UNIT SECTIONALS 2009

President's Message

Glad to have **John Marvin** as our newest board member.

Joined an online team game a few weeks ago and found myself playing against Mike Passell (64 000) points and WON

Just doesn't seem right that master points should be awarded for games of under 50%

Congratulations to **Danny Gerstman** for earning the right to represent the US in the upcoming World Championship in Brazil.

When will the ACBL start awarding quadruple points for regular club games?

I really appreciate the hard work that our Board of Directors has shown all year. Thank You !

Looking forward to my retirement on August 7

Hope to see you at the next sectional in September

Jay Levy,
Your President

SINGLE SITE UNIT GAMES RUN - 2009

Your 2009 Unit 116 Board Member

9/11-13	Main & Transit Fire Hall - Williamsville	Judie Bailey – 636-6148
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Important! Please Read

Bailey, Judie	636-6148	j.anneb@verizon.net
Czarnecki, Dick	731-1707	sanbornjoker@aol.com
Danielson, Luke	632-5309	SLuke32@roadrunner.com
Lederhouse, Bob	625-9443	
Levy, Jay	689-2110	JLevyB@aol.com
Marvin, John	836-2803	Johnmarvin@msn.com
Metz, Betty	773-7398	bettymetz@roadrunner.com
Rasmus, Pat	649-4634	prasmus@verizon.net
Toy, John	885-5364	JohnToy@msn.com

Editor's Note

To accommodate members without e-mail access, there will be limited printing of the Buff. **PLEASE READ AND RETURN COPY TO DESK OR TABLE.**

Judy Bailey asks that anyone with an e-mail address contact her at j.anneb@verizon.net and they will receive the Buff by electronic delivery.

The Editors will continue to e-mail Buffs to those asking for this service in the past. The next on-line issue of the Buff will be sent on or about October 15^h. Sub-missions accepted through October 8th.

The Buff is also available on the Unit 116 website courtesy of **Dick Rasmus**. It can be read or downloaded from that facility.

Thanks for your attention.

Bernie and Dick Czarnecki, Editors

12/6	Knights of Columbus- Union Rd	11:00 – Lunch / 12:00 mtg
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Buff by E-Mail - Notice!

Members who have e-mail addresses are requested to go to Unit 116 website www.arejayare.net/u116off

And enter their names so Unit Games and Sectional flyers can be e-mailed to them electronically. You can also download the Bridge Buff from this website.

UNIT 116 - Presidential Masterpoints Race

0 to 100 MP's

- 1 12.78 Franklin Kidd**
- 2 9.27 Florence Boyd**
- 3 7.66 Robert Kaprove**

100 to 300 MP's

- 1 15.36 George Donsky**
- 2 12.47 Gary Schmitt**
- 3 11.66 Tova Reinhorn**

300 to 1000 MP's

- 1 11.41 Richard Czarnecki**
- 2 9.50 Chongmin Zhang**
- 3 9.40 Dale Anderson**

1000 to 2500 MP's

- 1 27.26 Judith Padgug**
- 2 21.83 Kathy Pollock**
- 3 16.05 Allen Beroza**

2500 + MP's

- 1 47.06 Jim Mathis**
- 2 34.69 Randolph Seidenberg, Jr.**
- 3 29.56 Dan Gerstman**

-----Reporter Found-----

Jay Levy has agreed to write 5th Column for District 5 publication. Thanks Jay.



The editor interviewed a kind and resourceful lady by the name of **Chris Urbanek**

Bridge:

- Chris went to Kenmore East HS Adult Education to take a tax course. There

were not enough people for the class so it was cancelled. Looking at a course schedule, she noticed a beginning bridge class (taught by Rhoda Jacobs) and decided to try it. She remembered thinking "You mean I have to STUDY!!??"

- Since only one of her friends played bridge, she found the Barrett Club right down the street where she lived. She started there on Thursday night novice group with her friend **Margaret Allen**; the director was **June O'Connor**.
- Her very first duplicate hand was played against **Joan Rose** and **Sue Neubecker**.
- Chris also took classes from **Alan Greer** and **Jeanette Michienzie**. **Dan Gerstman** also gave a series of classes that were excellent.
- She believes that newer players should have only one or two "experts" to answer bridge questions. **Dan Gerstman** is always a great source of bridge information, because of his credentials and experience.
- As a bridge Director Chris contacted **Peter Mollemet** on many occasions for advice regarding rulings.
- Her comments on the bridge community and Unit 116, Chris feels that it is full of wonderful and caring people. She experienced this firsthand while going through her health problems. She enjoys attending unit games, sectionals and regionals and appreciates all the work that volunteers put into running these events. It is not only the wonderful game of bridge itself that is so appealing but the people that play the game.
- One of her memorable moments in bridge was a few years ago going to the Ft. Lauderdale regional with **Joan Rose**, **Meg Klamp**, **Marcia Freed**, and **Jill Wooldridge**, playing in a KO. They were in a 3-way robin the 1st round with two teams surviving. One of the teams had at least one pro – a world champion. They were in the 2nd bracket, not the top one and she wondered what that person was

doing there. They lost both matches but stayed in the event because the team with the pro was disqualified for misrepresenting Masterpoints. The second round was another 3-way. They lost one match and won the other by only 1MP. They were now in the semi-finals (and guaranteed about 14 master points) after losing 3 matches and winning 1 by 1 IMP! She was sure the teams they met in the semi-final and final thought they would have an easy time with them – they didn't – Chris's team won.

- Chris taught a few classes for **Jeanette Michienzie**'s clubs in the 80's along with the free lessons that were always offered before her Thursday night's games. She recently began offering classes and enjoys it because of the students. It is a good feeling when a student does something at the table that they learned in class and it works well for them.

Personal

- Chris has been married for 32 years to Jerry, has no children, just cats. When she started playing duplicate 30 years ago, Jerry said, "Play as much as you want, just don't make me do it!" He did accompany her to many National Tournaments.
- Chris worked as a Forensic Chemist at the Erie County Central Police Services Forensic Lab. She is currently working part time at the same job. She was the first female technologist hired at the crime lab (in 1986) Atta way Chris!

After asking **Pat** and **Mike Weber** for an interview. your editor received the following:

Mike was a veteran of the Korean War. He learned to play bridge during basic training in the Army. He and his wife, Pat played social bridge for many years. They decided, after their first duplicate game, that lessons were definitely needed. They went to the Barrett Bridge Club and were fortunate to have a very young **Alan Greer** for their teacher. It was evident Alan was extremely dedicated and

passionate about the game. He even gave us homework and corrected our papers. Alan was our mentor and continually encouraged us to play Tournament Bridge. We won our first gold points in Toronto at a National Tournament. We drifted away from bridge for sixteen years when we became deeply involved in Square Dancing.

Square Dancing was a great exercise for our bodies and the many configurations of the dance calls offered good mental exercise. We had to give up dancing when Pat developed a back problem. We returned to playing bridge in 1999 and met many friendly, cordial people and enjoyed the game more than ever. We were pleasantly surprised when Pat became a life master in 2004 at a Niagara Falls Ontario game and Mike in the spring of 2005 at a Sectional game.

Mike is a graduate of Canisius High School and Erie Community College. It was his time spent with the Jesuits at Canisius that Mike credits as the foundation of his lifelong success and now takes great delight in having two of his grandsons attending his alma mater. He worked for Buffalo Gravel Corporation for sixteen years, ending his career there as Quality Control Manager. Mike took advantage of an opportunity to join W.R. Grace in sales. He retired as District Manager in the Sales Engineering Group in which Mike helped pioneer. Several key industrial organizations Mike has been a long time member include: The American Concrete Institute, The Construction Specification Institute and The Empire State Ready Mix Concrete Association. Mike was also a member of the Kenmore Rotary Club for seventeen years. Mike retired from W. R. Grace in 1994 after having heart by-pass surgery. He exercises four times a week at the Tonawanda Fitness Center and enjoys playing golf. His favorite bridge partner and best friend is his wife Pat. They have been married fifty-seven years; have three children and eight wonderful grandchildren.

We are hopeful the passion of today's bridge players, especially those of noted persons such as **Bill Gates & Warren Buffet**, will help

ignite a spark with the younger and future generations in learning to appreciate the game to the extent they will enjoy the mental challenge and camaraderie of bridge.

PLEASE READ THE FOLLOWING:

Below are the candidates' statements that are running for Unit 116 Board. Additional nominations may be made by the membership and submitted to the Nominating Committee sixty (60) days prior to the Annual Meeting, The Nominating Committee consists of **John Marvin**, Chair, **Kathy Pollock** and **Bernie Czarnecki**. Such nominations must be in writing, signed by at least twenty-five (25) members in good standing. The annual meeting is on Dec. 6, 2009.

Candidates' Statement

George Donsky

I have been playing bridge since I was 15 years old. I learned how to play from my parents and from Charles Goren books but only joined ACBL about 5 years ago after my children had grown. I have been modernizing my bridge game and am only 60 points from becoming a life master. I own my own business and my organizational skills and life-long passion and enthusiasm for the game would make me a very good addition to the Board.

Fran Kurtz

After being away from bridge for 25 years, I started again in 2001. In the time away, I was a Guidance Counselor in Buffalo Jr. and High School I have good organizational and communication skills and would love to use them again as a Board member. I am looking forward to working with a Board that's cooperative and productive. I can use my energies to continue their progress in my term of office.

John Marvin

I have been a member of Unit 116 since the 1960s. In all that time I have never served on the Board or done any work for the unit so I think it's about time I pitched in if the other

members want me. I have leadership experience in union organizing, negotiating and representation so I have skills that will be of use to the unit and its members. With respect to bridge, I don't play much anymore but love to mentor and I write a newsletter for 299ers at the Tuesday BCB game. One goal I would pursue is to reach out to members who restrict their playing to one or a few clubs. I think it's possible to mend fences from past animosities and problems and make strides toward more collegiality and mutual respect.

Sue Neubecker

Yes, I have consented to be a candidate for the Unit Board. Why? Well maybe the question is Why Not? I will do my best to facilitate Unit activities and be available for all your input. I have been playing bridge since about 1979 (that's the previous century). I have seldom been part of any planning processes but have offered my services to those who were doing the work because I believe it is important to help. If elected I would appreciate everyone's help in making the games, sectionals and special events as positive an experience as possible. Thank you for your consideration whether you chose to elect me or not

Stan Zionts

I started playing bridge fifty years ago. After my retirement from U.B. as a Professor of Management and Industrial Engineering, I began playing again with my wife. We would love to become Life Master but presently we only have 40 points each. My goal as a Board Member is to promote the "nice kind of bridge" that I find here and across the country. I will promote fairness in the Unit, as well as encouraging more people, especially young ones to take up this exciting game! I am only in town six (6) months of the year.

Congratulations-New Bronze Life

Master

Dotty May

David Millward

A former long-time member, **Jean Burgoine**, of Unit 116 now living in Texas just made Life

Master and Bronze Life Master in a San Antonio Regional. Congratulations.

Sad Tidings

If you know of a recent member passing,

Please add the following to your Bridge Directory:

NANCY K. RUSSELL
 112 PATTON PLACE, WILLIAMSVILLE, NY
 14221, PHONE: 634-4764

Bridge Club News



Bridge Center of Buffalo Phone # 834-4222 for reservations and information.

***MENTORING ON
 Tues. & Thurs. @ BCB***

Newcomer Games, 0-20 master points, are held on Tuesday morning and Thursday evening, and are "mentored" games running in parallel with stratified pair games. Both games are preceded by a free Mini-Lesson a half hour before game time on Thursday evening or before lunch on Tuesday morning.

**The Bridge "Gene-ie"
 By Eugene Harvey**

Hi everyone! The Gene-ie is back! ☺ Sorry for the lapse in columns...but I've successfully finished my degree in library science, and the career change is over. Now it's back to BRIDGE! ☺ *grin*

Hi Eugene! I've missed you... Here are our hands for bidding:

North (partner)	♠ K Q J T x x
	♥ x
	♦ K Q J T x x
	♣ x
South (me)	♠ x x
	♥ A x
	♦ A x x x x

♣ x x x x

Here is the bidding:

W	N	E	S
1♥	X(!)	2♥	P (!!)
P	4♠ (!!!)	5♥	P??

...by this time, I was totally confused! Here are my questions:

(!) Which is better over 1♥: a X, or a Michael's cuebid?

What your partner was trying to do was double and then bid their own suit. The problem is they are TWO-suited. Most times when I have chance to describe two "things" in one bid, I do so. Thus, I would have opted for the Michael's cuebid (2♥) to show ♠s plus a minor suit (♣s or ♦s). Most players I know use Michael's when they have a "mini" (less than opening values) or a "maxi" (more than opening values) hand; with only 4 losers, this would be a "maxi" hand. (With the equivalent of an opening hand, you simply would plan to bid your suits normally.)

(!!) Can I bid over 2♥ with my hand?

Absolutely! You must interpret your partner's X as a basic takeout double (initially), even though they do not have that kind of hand. In your mind, you should picture shortness in ♥s with support for the unbid suits, which would include ♦s. With 11 total support points (8 HCP + 2 for doubletons + 1 extra trump), you need to make a free bid (3♦) to show values and the ♦ fit. If you pass, partner can never expect the hand you have. Bid now while you have the chance, or you might (will!) get shut out!

(!!!) by this time, I was totally confused, but I must bid 5♠ because I have two A's, right?

Although this bidding should not exist, it doesn't mean that it doesn't happen at the bridge table. ☺ If I were to interpret your partner's X and jump to 4♠, I would assume they have a very long, strong spade suit and a distributional hand equivalent to a 2♣ opener. After 5♥, with 2 spades and 2 aces, I might have pushed to 6♠!! However, that contract would have failed because partner does not have the hand they said they had.

Tsk, tsk. Certainly, though, you need to bid 5♠ based on partner's strength-showing bids.

Here's a quick summary of some principles:

- Doubling and bidding your own suit likely shows a strong, single-suited hand. Doubling and then JUMP-bidding your own suit shows even more strength, likely a 2♣ opener with distribution.
- As responder, bid NOW when you have a fit and the points to bid at the appropriate level. You may not have another opportunity to bid, and partner will never know about your hand.
- Take some time to learn doubles and how to handle distributional hands. You will improve your bidding dramatically!!

(*in a booming voice* 'Genie HAPPY! Send more!' Eugene @ bridgegenie@gmail.com)

**Live Combat?
From the BCB 299ers 6/23/09
by John Marvin**

Board 18	♠-J4		
Dir: E	♥-KQJ4		
Vul: N-S	♦-52		
	♣-JT842		
♠-Q2	N	♠-T63	
♥-AT632	W E	♥-95	
♦-QT97	S	♦-AKJ86	
♣-93		♣-AK6	
	♠-AK9875		
	♥-87		
	♦-43		
	♣-Q75		

Cover the N- S hands. Suppose you are West in 3 no trump in spite of South's spade overcall. Much to your surprise, North and South lead clubs at every opportunity. Do you see your 9th trick? Would you have in live combat?

**“A Passion and Addiction For 3-
NoTrump”
By Lou T. DiLorenzo**

Over the years, I have frequently asked bridge players which contract they thought was the most successful. Without exception, the response has been 3-no trump and continues to be. This comes as no surprise as four of my prior studies revealed. Three-no trump contracts triumphed 77% of the time, roughly three out of every four times they were bid. Contracts in the majors were made only two out of every three bids. What has surprised and baffled me is why players bidding begin by pursuing a major contract and relegating a 3-no trump contract as secondary or by default.

Other findings in the studies further account for why players have “felt” 3-no trump to be the best contract. When the 3-no trump contracts were made, two out of every three times, overtricks were achieved. Further findings showed when the same hands were played in both 4-Hearts or 4-Spades and 3-no trump contracts, the latter resulted in higher scores 5 to 42% of the times when the major contracts held the “sacred” eight trump count.

Bridge players are often conservative as the studies showed in 233 partial contracts, They were all one bid short of game at either 3-Hearts, 3-Spades or 2-No trump. However when played 3-Hearts made game 34% of the time, 3-Spades made game 36% of the times and 2-no Trump made game 56% of the time. Is it any wonder Truscott writes in *Bridge Book* that Sidney Lenz “...had a passion and addiction for no-trump.”

Alas, 3-no trump does go down 25% of the time and the studies shed some light on when this does occur as follows:

1. A void in either partner's hand
2. Two singletons in either or both hands combined.
3. Two doubletons in either or both hands combined.
4. Qxx as the only stopper in the combined hands.
5. Less than 22 HCP's.

These five holdings account for over two-thirds of the 3-no trump contracts. These

hands should not have been in 3-no trump contracts.

Can we have it both ways? I think so. Bidding can begin by looking for a 3-no trump contract. By bidding “stoppers up the line”, (SUTL), it can be determined whether a 3-no trump contract exists – **AT THE ONE LEVEL** (providing oppo-nents don’t interfere). If 3-no trump isn’t there, bidding for a fit in a major can begin at the two level.

SUTL will be described in the next issue of the Bridge Buff.

Seeking Volunteers for the “Summer Finale” Sectional

Many hands make light work. You could lend your hands to help lighten the load and make the sectional in September run smoothly. For each of the three days, volunteer tasks include purchasing (to be reimbursed) and setting up morning and afternoon snacks, making and setting up the coffee, tea and hot water (at least one hour before game time) area and after game tidying up as well as clean-up at the end of each day. This should be about 18-20 people. Please join me and the other 8 Board members in this effort. Don’t just walk in and walk out. Thanks in advance.

Call Judie Bailey at 636-6148 or e-mail at j.anneb@verizon.net



UNIT 116

SUMMER FINALE SECTIONAL

September 11, 12, and 13, 2009

Main-Transit Fire Hall
6777 Main Street
Williamsville, NY

Friday, Sept 11th Stratified A/B/C Pairs
(Single Session) 10:30 AM and 3:30 PM

Saturday, Sept 12th Stratified A/B/C Pairs
(Single Session) 10:30 AM and 3:30 PM

Sunday, Sept 12th Bracketed* A and B/C
 Swiss Teams 10:30 AM
* If 24 teams (two session playthrough)

STRATUM “A” 2000+
STRATUM “B” 500 to 2000
STRATUM “C” 0 to 500

Entry fee per player per session - \$8.00
Non & unpaid ACBL members - \$9.00

Tournament Information/partnerships:
Chairperson, Judie Bailey – 636-6148 or
j.anneb@verizon.net



Buffalo’s Spooktacular Regional

Holiday Inn

Grand Island NY ♣ October 20th to
25th, 2009

TUESDAY – October 20th

Tuesday Bracketed KO’s

9:00A 1:30P 7:30P

1st, 2nd, and 3rd of 3 Sessions

299er Stratified Pairs (Single Session)

9:00A 1:30P 7:30P

Morning Side Series Pairs 9:00A

Tuesday Stratified Open Pairs

(2 Sessions) 1:30P 7:30P

Afternoon Side Series Pairs 1:30P

Evening Side Series Pairs 7:30P

WEDNESDAY – October 21st

Wednesday/Thursday Compact KO’s

9:00A

299er Stratified Pairs (Single Session)

9:00A 1:30P 7:30P

Morning Side Series Pairs 9:00A

Wednesday/Thursday Bracketed KO’s

1:30P 7:30P

1st and 2nd of 4 Sessions

Wednesday Stratified Open Pairs

(2 Sessions) 1:30P 7:30P

Wednesday Stratified Swiss Teams

(1 Session) 7:30P
Afternoon Side Series Pairs 1:30P
Evening Side Series Pairs 7:30P

THURSDAY – October 22nd

Wednesday/Thursday Compact KO's
9:00A
299er Stratified Pairs (Single Session)
9:00A 1:30P 7:30P
Morning Side Series Pairs
9:00A
Wednesday/Thursday Bracketed KO's
1:30P 7:30P
3rd and 4th of 4 Sessions
Thursday Stratified Open Pairs (2 Sessions)
1:30P 7:30P
Stratified Swiss Teams (2 Sessions)
1:30P 7:30P
Afternoon Side Series Pairs 1:30P
Evening Side Series Pairs 7:30P

FRIDAY – October 23rd

Friday/Saturday Compact KO's 9:00A
299er Stratified Pairs (Single Session)
9:00A 1:30P 7:30P
Morning Side Series Pairs 9:00A
Friday/Saturday Bracketed KO's
1:30P 7:30P
1st and 2nd of 4 Sessions
Friday Stratified Open Pairs
(2 Sessions) 1:30P 7:30P
Friday Stratified Swiss Teams
(1 Session) 7:30P
Afternoon Side Series Pairs 1:30P
Evening Side Series Pairs
7:30P

SATURDAY – October 24th

Friday/Saturday Compact KO's 9:00A
299er Stratified Pairs (Single Session)
9:00A 1:30P 7:30P
Morning Side Series Pairs 9:00A
Friday/Saturday Bracketed KO's
1:30P 7:30P
3rd and 4th of 4 Sessions
Saturday Compact KO's
1:30P 7:30P
Saturday Stratified Open Pairs

(2 Sessions) 1:30P 7:30P
Afternoon Side Series Pairs 1:30P
Evening Side Series Pairs 7:30P

SUNDAY – October 25th

Stratiflighted Swiss Teams
10:00A
PLAYTHROUGH 7-7 Board Matches
Stratum "A1" 3000+
Stratum "A2" 0-3000
Stratum "B" 1000-2000
Stratum "C" 300-1000
Stratum "D" 0-300

District 5 Continues The Tradition!
Low, Low Entry Fees!

\$10.00 per session
\$12 for non & unpaid ACBL members

INFORMATION:

Stratified Events

Stratum "A" 2000+
Stratum "B" 750-2000
Stratum "C" 0-750

299er's - Faith Perry 716.681.5251

Partnerships

Mike (The Matchmaker) **Ryan**
716.626.9332 or 716.645.6029
E-Mail: meryan@buffalo.edu

Tournament

Pat Rasmus 716.649.4634
E-Mail: prasmus@verizon.net
John Toy 716.885.5364
E-Mail: johntoy@msn.com

Hotel

Holiday Inn -100 Whitehaven Road
Grand Island NY 14072
716.773.1111 - 1.800.HOLIDAY

Ask for American Contract Bridge rate
\$86.00 Single or Double
(available until October 1st)

Great Hospitality!

Free Parking!

Board			
18	♠-J4		
Dir: E	♥-		
Vul:	KQJ4		
N-S	♦-52		
	♣-		
	JT842		
♠-Q2	N	♠-	T63
♥-	W	E	♥-95
AT632			
♦-	S	♦-	AKJ86
QT97			
♣-93		♣-	AK6
		♠-	AK9875
		♥-	87
		♦-	43
		♣-	Q75