

TABLE TALK



SPRING 2009

DENVER BRIDGE NEWS

From Ruth Pana, Denver Unit 361 President

Welcome to 2009!

Our new Unit 361 Board has taken up its duties. On behalf of the 1100 members in Unit 361, I want to welcome **Don Heitler**, our new Treasurer and **Chuck Anderson** who will be chairing Partnerships. For all tournaments contact Chuck if you are looking for a partner or a team.

It's already Spring and we have had another successful January tournament (over 565 tables). The November tournament had 500 tables. Speaking of November, we had an opinion survey regarding the starting times of Saturday sessions. The survey was a result of member interest in changing the starting times on Saturdays. The feedback was overwhelming for 10am and 3pm starting times on Saturdays. I want to thank all of you who wrote the Board and expressed opinions and/or participated in the survey. The January tournament implemented the new changes. Be assured we will still monitor Saturday attendance.

SECTIONAL HOSPITALITY: On both Friday and Saturday, Unit 361, led by Hospitality Chair, **Maxine Divine**, will offer complimentary lunch, snacks and desserts. On Sunday, during the Swiss Team game, you can enjoy a catered lunch.

District 17 Representative **Carolyn Newcomb** was appointed to the 2009 ACBL Goodwill Committee. Congratulations Carolyn!

The **Rocky Mountain Regional** will be held at the Renaissance Hotel May 19-25, 2009. There will be pair games, team games, knockouts, GNTs and more...so a game for everyone. We hope to see all of you there. Look for the Regional Brochure insert in this issue of Table Talk. Start planning!!! There will be books for sale, great hospitality gifts and hand-

outs, dining discounts and lots of Masterpoints.

On Tuesday, May 19th at 7pm be sure to play in the traditional Charity pairs or start the Mt. Elbert Knockouts. As always be ready to graze an assortment of wonderful cookies. This year's charity will be **FAMILIES FIRST**. For more information about this worthwhile Denver Charity go to:

FamiliesFirst Colorado.org.

How can you help? There are several areas: Volunteers are needed to bring a dozen cookies on Charity night. Call Lori Beard, Charity Event Chair, 303-758-0123. Hospitality desk needs volunteers throughout the week. Help with photography, setup and cleanup are also needed. Give Jerry Newcomb, Regional Chair a call at 303-979-9409, or any of the board members, if you can help.

COMING UP... April I/N Tournament... look for the ad in this Table Talk.. Contact Don Boyarsky, chairman, if you have any questions. At the I/N Tournament in October **THE TRAVELING SUSAN DITTMER MEMORIAL TROPHY** was awarded to **Yayoun Zee and Antonio Vila** for the most masterpoints earned. Congratulations!

Log on to www.denverbridge.com for local bridge information such as lessons, schedules at sectionals, regionals, and links to local clubs. Log on to www.acbl.org for national information.

**THE 2009 DIRECTORY IS AVAILABLE. PICK ONE UP AT YOUR FAVORITE BRIDGE CLUB. THANK OUR ADVERTISERS LISTED IN THIS ISSUE.**

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Appreciate the Little Things

By Jan Janitschke

When evaluating one's hand one must appreciate the value of minor honors, especially in a suit that partner has bid. Let's say that partner has opened 1S and you have

xxx,Axxx, Qxx, Q109.

You bid 2S and partner bids 3C (game try, of course). Despite the always-useful A, and the club help that partner is asking for, you should bid 3S and decline partners's invitation because your hand has 2 big flaws- bad shape, and awful spades.

If partner has, say, AQ9xx, KJx, x, KJxx, he will be happy not to be higher. Just looking at the spade suit, he will have to be quite lucky not to lose more than 1 spade trick. If, on the other hand, your spades were, say, J10x, he needs only a finesse to not lose any spades tricks at all.

Similarly, if his spades were KJ8xx, he could easily lose 3 trump tricks with a little bad luck if yours were 3 small, but if yours were as little at 109x, then he might well lose only 1 trump trick with a successful finesse.

The point is that those minor honors can make a huge difference if partner's trumps are not solid. You will do well to NEVER make any aggressive moves with 3 small in partner's suit.

As one more example, let's assume partner has opened 2S, and you have a singleton S, but otherwise a good hand. As most players know, it is best to not bid very much here, since even if partner's spades are decent (say, KQ107xx), if he is a little unlucky, he could easily lose 3 tricks in spades alone.

If , on the other hand, your singleton spade is the Jack, he would have to be unlucky to lose more than 1 spade trick. In this situation, any singleton higher than the 9 is likely to be a useful card.

If partner has, for example, KJ9542 and you had a singleton 10, that alone makes it unlikely that partner will lose more than 2 trump tricks.

The little things are important and should help you decide how aggressive to be

About the Author: Jan is on Barry Crane's top 500 list , a bridge lecturer and author of several books on bridge as well as Unit 361 Ace of Clubs and Mini-McKenney award winner. He has over 16,000 masterpoints. His latest , co-authored with Norma Sands is a software program "Bridge Master 2000" available at Tattered Cover and Bridge Baron Supplies..

DENVER UNIT 361

WINNERS

CIRCLE



2008 ACE OF CLUBS AWARDS

(Most masterpoints at clubs)

Betsy Messerschmidt, Rookie of the Year (0-5)

Judith A. Hein, Junior Master (5-20)

Wendy C. Leonard, Club Master (20-50)

Carol Ward, Sectional Master (50-100)

Sheryl L. Siegel, Regional Master (100-200)

Mary J. Hess, NABC Master (200-300)

Steven C. Wainz, Life Master (300-500)

Richard W. Belt, Bronze Life Master (500-1000)

Penelope Coffman, Silver Life Master (1000-2500)

Tom M. Breed, Gold Life Master (2500-5000)

En T. Hay, Diamond Life Master (5000-7500)

Chuck F. Henke, Emerald Life Master (7500-10,000)

Jan P. Janitschke, Grand Life Master (10,000+)

2008 MINI-MCKENNEY AWARDS

(Most masterpoints overall for 2008)

Kevin Dunn, Rookie of the Year (0-5)

Pierre Campbell, Junior Master (5-20)

Eric Mead, Club Master (20-50)

Carol Ward, Sectional Master (50-100)

Sheila Peterson, Regional Master (100-200)

Jon Brandon, NABC Master (200-300)

Garth Yettick, Life Master (300-500)

Roger Miller, Bronze Life Master (500-1000)

Peggy Ware, Silver Life Master (1000-2500)

David Caprera, Gold Life Master (2500-5000)

En T. Hay, Diamond Life Master (5000-7500)

Chuck F. Henke, Emerald Life Master (7500-10,000)

Jan P. Janitschke, Grand Life Master (10,000+)

2008 Director's Trophy

(Denver unit player winning most masterpoints for overall awards in the various stratified 299er events at Denver's 4 sectionals)

Carol Ward

2008 Denver Unit 361 winners on BARRY CRANE'S TOP 500

Garth Yettick

Jan Janitschke

En Hay

David Caprera

Cal Newlin

Flo Newlin

Peggy Ware

Allen Kane



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2009-2010 DENVER UNIT 361 CALENDAR

April 18-19, 2009.....Spring 299er Tournament, Aurora Board of Realtors
May 19-25, 2009.....Rocky Mountain Regional, Denver Renaissance Hotel
July 9-12, 2009.....Summer Sectional, Jefferson County Fairgrounds
October 10-11, 2009.....Fall 299er Sectional, Aurora Board of Realtors
November 12-15, 2009.....Fall Sectional, Jefferson County Fairgrounds
January 7-10, 2010.....Winter Sectional, Jefferson County Fairgrounds
March 11-14, 2010.....Spring Sectional, Jefferson County Fairgrounds
TBA.....Spring 299er Sectional, Aurora Board of Realtors
May 25-31, 2010.....Rocky Mountain Regional, Denver Renaissance Hotel