

UNIT 191 BRIGHT LEAF ALERT!

Official Publication of ACBL Unit 191

February 2013

BOARD SPLINTERS

Years ago, while Unit President, I wrote a column which appeared occasionally under the above heading. Maybe I'll do it again just to stay in shape! Our unit continues to grow while others seem to shrink. I wondered about this and have come to the conclusion that the reason is because we offer our members services that others probably do not. We try hard to encourage new members to learn new things with the classes we offer taught by accredited ACBL teachers. Our mentor-mentee program is gaining in popularity due to our great volunteers. We schedule as many tournaments as we're allowed which enables our members to get the feel for tournament play so when they venture outside our unit, tournament play will not be intimidating. We are also blessed by the fact that this area continues to be a prime location for retirees from other areas of our country. This not only brings us new members, but brings new vitality, different views and good bridge to our unit. Please go out of your way to welcome any new players whether they have moved here or are just visiting....they will feel good and so will you!

We also have any number of members who volunteer their time and energy to improve our unit by working at our tournaments, bringing good food, lugging tables and doing whatever they can to be of help. I couldn't name them all because if I tried, I'd leave someone out and that wouldn't be good! These are just some of the things that I believe make Unit 191 exceptional.

The primary job of your board is to make bridge in our unit the best it can possibly be and we welcome any constructive criticism to make it better. Contact any board member with your suggestions.

*Phil Erlenbach
Unit 191 President*

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Harrison Brooke, Membership Chair

The record 561 membership we achieved during December slipped during January to 556. We welcome new ACBL members **Rosalie E. Bateson, Levi V. Diala, and Frankie S. Dubose**, all of Chapel Hill and **Janice and John Kelley** who have transferred from Unit 128 in Florida to make their home at Carolina Meadows. We're sorry to lose **Dot** and **Larry Boulia** whose new home is in China Grove which is part of Unit 169 Central Carolina.

Two of our Future Life Masters were reinstated but at the same time eight went inactive. This is a recurring problem for us as well as for ACBL as a whole. In the good news department are the elevations to **Life Master** of **Susan McAllister** and **Barbara Newton**. Having fulfilled her color point requirements, Barbara also moved to the rank of **Bronze Life Master**. Congratulations to you both!

Congratulations also go to the others advancing in rank:

Junior Master	Paul D'Angelo
Club Master	Susan Ingelbrinck
	Pat McFeely
	Sherry Wogen
	Warren Wogen
Sectional Master	Kathy Bishop
Regional Master	Melanie Riva
Silver Life Master	Frank Hund
	Geoff Scott

I'm sad to report the death of **Betha Wade** on 30 January. A native of Omaha, Betha received from the University of Colorado a BA in sociology and an MS in business, and later an MS in elementary education from New York University. She retired to Florida and in 1995 moved to Carol Woods in Chapel Hill.

WILMINGTON TOURNAMENT

Our unit was well represented at the regional tournament held in Wilmington January 28—February 3, both in numbers and in the winners' circle.

Winners were:

Jerry Zaremba—89.13
Josef Blass—87.68
Jacek Pszczola— 87.68
Kay Joyce—75.34
Randy Joyce— 72.01
Kathy Newman—34.95
Gale Meyer—34.95
Sally Foushee—29.15
Pahnea Ratty—29.15
Jean Mathews—28.78
Harry Mathews—28.78
Paul Morrissette—28.76
Donna Walther—28.76
Jim Cunningham—26.50
Ken Dye—24.34
Joanna Pagano—24.34
Jim Bean—24.14
Jim Drake—24.14
Victor Riva—23.20
Melanie Riva—23.20
Jack Whetstone—21.13
Paul Smith—20.60
Julia (Bon) Smith—20.60
Deanna Larus—18.81
Dave Schreiber—16.59
Joyce Jenzano—16.21
Kathleen Stallings—14.83
Anne Boyd—13.80

Many others also attended and won points.

YOUTH BRIDGE CAMP

We are looking for a few good kids!! Rising fifth graders through college aged youth are specified although if a bridge player vouches for a child younger than that we will accept them.

Dates for the first week of this summer's Youth Bridge Camp are June 17-21st and the dates for the second, more advanced week are June 24-28th. The only requirement for the second week is that they have attended the first week or that they attended last year's bridge camp. The hours will be 9:00 am until 2:00 pm Monday through Friday. Fees will be \$75/child/week. Lunch will be included. Pre-registration is required. Both the flyer and the registration form are posted on the Unit webpage but there are also flyers and registration forms available at the Triangle Bridge Club.

We need your help in promoting this venture. Many of you brought participants to last year's bridge camp and have told us they are planning to return this year which is great! We also need to find a way to better promote it in the schools. Last year we got no students from the schools despite a strong effort to get the word out in both Durham and Chapel Hill. This year we have had some people with specific contacts at some schools take flyers to those contacts. This seems to be a more effective route so we are asking for any of you retired teachers who might have contacts in the schools or anyone with young relatives in the schools who can recommend a teacher who would be willing to promote it to either get flyers from us or to give us the contact information so that we can get the information to them.

Maggie Lindquist and Darleen Bates

AWARDS CEREMONY

Please join us Monday, March 4, at 1:00 before the game at the TBC for the ceremony honoring The Ace of Clubs and Mini-McKinney winners for our unit.

CORRECTION

Leonard Beeghley's name was inadvertently omitted as co-chairman of the July Sectional. Paul Morrissette, co-chairman, as well as Carol Schachner will be the team responsible for the tournament.

OUR NEWEST LIFE MASTERS

Our two newest life masters (as reported in the January membership report) are **Jackie Marks** and **Mary Cole**.

Mary is a retired school teacher who learned to play bridge when she was 12 while visiting cousins in Roanoke, VA. She played party bridge until 2004 when she began playing duplicate at the Bridge Center on Fayetteville Road. Mary enjoys the people and the competition. She says she has struggled—but with the help of teachers, regular partners, Cecelia Spach, Bunny Wheeler, Kay Murray, Sharon Crane, and mentor Sally Foushee, has become a life master, her goal since the first time she played in a tournament. She hopes to continue to play and achieve as high a rank as she can. Mary's hobbies are knitting, shag dancing and reading. This is her second year as a mentor and she enjoys it very much. P.S. We all know Mary as a fashion expert—and one who has outfits for every holiday.

Jackie started playing bridge with her family and friends when she was in high school but only got into duplicate about 3 years ago after a very long hiatus. Her partners inspire her to play the game.

"There's just something wonderful when communication clicks," commented Jackie.

Jackie's early career was in Biophysics. She took time off for motherhood and currently has a business with her husband, programming iPhones and iPads and consulting in computer security. Her husband is the security expert and Jackie is in the back office. In addition to bridge, she loves drawing and painting.

Jackie, and her co-chairperson, Dave Schreiber, will be doing the hospitality for our upcoming March sectional.

WELL DONE!!

NATIONAL GOODWILL RECIPIENTS

District director Bob Heller recently named **Jay and Darleen Bates** to be recipients of the national Goodwill award. This automatically makes them members of the district and unit Goodwill committees.

From an article in the district bulletin:

Two of the most positive things that have happened to Unit 191 over the past several years have been the emergence of Darleen and Jay Bates as leaders in the bridge community.

Jay, a Durham native, became a club director in 2003 as did Darleen, who had moved to North Carolina from Canada just four years earlier. The Triangle Bridge Club—which now hosts 10 sanctioned games a week as well as two record setting open sectionals and a non-Life Master tournament each year, had one game a week in 2003 at the old bridge center, then added a second.

After Jay resigned from his job as a researcher at Duke, he concentrated on the TBC becoming a full-time, full-service club in a 6,100-square foot facility. Darleen is an elementary schoolteacher, so Jay handles most directing and other chores during the day, and they split teaching and directing duties at night.

Darleen and Jay met playing bridge at the Raleigh club. Each, with a partner, was looking for teammates in Flight C of the Grand National teams. They ended up as teammates—and won the district championship and a trip to the Summer NABC in Toronto. (They did not marry until Thanksgiving of 2006).

The couple started caddying in Gatlinburg in 2004, and Darleen quickly moved up to head caddy for several years. In 2005, Jay became chief of caddy operations which later led to his becoming a full-time ACBL tournament director with duties that still include Gatlinburg caddy supervision as well as assisting in set-up of the convention center. He also is one of the top set-up persons for all NABCs and directs at many district sectionals and regionals.

Darleen has passed the tournament assistant's test and has done a bit of tournament directing near home. Darleen has been district's GNT coordinator since 2008, and Jay is a past STaC coordinator. The unit named Darleen as its Goodwill district recipient for 2011, and she was an instructor for the youth bridge program last summer.

CONGRATULATIONS JAY AND DARLEEN!

MASTER POINT LEADERS FOR CALENDAR YEAR 2012

The Ace of Clubs and Mini-McKenney standings below cover calendar year 2012 and show the total ACBL master points recorded for those listed. Each individual is shown for the point range (not the rank) in which he/she stood as of the first of the year.

The Ace of Clubs points are those won at the club level only and include those won at clubs within Unit 191 as well as those won at other ACBL sanctioned clubs. The Mini-McKenney points are those won in all ACBL sanctioned events.

<u>ACE OF CLUBS</u>		<u>MASTER POINT RANGE</u>	<u>MINI-MCKENNEY</u>	
Phyllis Woody	29.54	0-5	Phyllis Woody	37.05
Susan Ingelbinck	23.72		Xiyuan Ge	32.48
Pat McFeely	21.39		Susan Ingelbinck	26.50
Bill Ingram	45.30	5-20	Jim Wells	53.88
Jim Wells	31.00		Bill Ingram	50.13
Rita Musante	27.54		Rita Musante	30.47
Bon Smith	44.36	20-50	Bon Smith	106.62
Carole Crotty	31.58		Ron Jeffers	48.03
Linda Allen	29.48		Joyce Herr	47.00
Melanie Riva	96.69	50-100	Melanie Riva	119.54
Betsy Mebane	52.94		Paul Smith	112.30
Karen Curtin	45.97		Betsy Mebane	73.66
Skip Riva	89.16	100-200	Andrea Roitman	129.60
Dave Streifford	65.52		Janet Fanta	125.08
Andrea Roitman	63.32		Skip Riva	114.55
Phil Draper	104.10	200-300	Jackie Marks	147.56
Jackie Marks	83.37		Phil Draper	142.87
Anne Boyd	80.83		Joyce Jenzano	132.82
Dave Schreiber	129.12	300-500	Dave Schreiber	222.73
Lucy Terrell	59.37		Barbara Newton	109.24
Barbara Newton	58.32		Lucy Terrell	91.86
Rosa Lin	113.43	500-1,000	Rosa Lin	209.89
Kathy Newman	101.39		Linda Whipple	177.76
Donna Walther	91.96		Kathy Newman	147.49
Henry Meguid	144.41	1,000-2,500	Henry Meguid	214.80
Ken Dye	142.78		Ken Dye	210.48
Jim Bean	130.96		Jack Whetstone	176.56
Howard Su	247.94	2,500-5,000	Josef Blass	713.66
Mort Stromberg	245.30		Tammy Moll	345.48
Jim Hansell	123.87		Howard Su	342.19
Sandy McCay	194.74	5,000-7,500	Sandy McCay	443.34
Irene Adams	98.19		Irene Adams	209.70
Mary Lou Johnson	90.59		Wayne Stuart	186.47
Kay Joyce	192.58	10,000+	Kay Joyce	988.17
Randy Joyce	94.16		Chris Moll	970.95
Chris Moll	32.64		Randy Joyce	872.68

UNDERSTAND YOUR CONVENTIONS

Sandy McCay, Board Education liaison

You're playing Garbage Stayman. With only you and partner bidding, what does 1NT 2C 2D 2H mean? 1NT 2C 2D 2S? You agree to play Western Cue Bids with your partner. Does the cue bid ask for a full or a partial stopper? You play Michael's (doesn't everyone). Does it show a good hand, a bad hand, an intermediate hand or all of the above? Can you differentiate those hands? Learn the answers to these questions and many of the "mysteries" of follow-up bids to the conventions we all love to play.

Kay and Randy Joyce are again teaching their enlightening class, "Popular Conventions," at TBC. You may take any or all of the 8 sessions on Garbage Stayman and Transfers, Western Cue Bids and Michaels, Unusual No-trump, Negative Doubles, penalty doubles, Fourth suit forcing, Puppet Stayman and Keycard Blackwood from March 5 until May 7, \$20 per class or \$140 for all 8. Contact them at randkjoyce@gmail.com or 919-846-1166 by March 5 to enroll.

RALEIGH SECTIONAL WINNERS

The following Unit 191 members scored well at the Raleigh sectional held last weekend.

Randy Joyce	30.17
Kay Joyce	30.17
Wayne Stuart	13.79
Sandy McCay	11.55
Howard Su	10.15
Mort Stromberg	10.15
Jack Whetstone	8.75
Andrea Roitman	6.54
Rosa Lin	6.13
Rose Meltzer	5.59
Victor/Melanie Riva	4.06

UNC TEAM QUALIFIES FOR CHAMPIONSHIP FINAL!!

On February 16th, the UNC team qualified for the USA Collegiate Championship final.

Members of the team are **Zimeng (Parker) Xie, Kuangda Lu, Xiyuan Ge** and **Robert Thorstad**. The team is coached by **Ovunc Yilmaz**. In the qualifying round, UNC defeated Texas, Berkeley, Columbia and Chicago. The two day final will take place at the 2013 Summer NABC in Atlanta.

If you see any of these players, please congratulate them for qualifying for the finals and wish them well in Atlanta. Thanks to Hugon Karwowski and Erlinda Wehrman for being sponsors and mentors of the team.



MENTORING PROGRAM

The mentoring program is going well and we hope all mentors and mentees are playing often and learning many new conventions. Sharon Crane, coordinator for the program has announced the following schedule for mentor/mentee games:

Thursday, March 21 at 7:00
Saturday, April 13, at 1:00
Tuesday, May 14, at 1:00
Saturday, June 1, at 1:00—includes lunch.

Sharon will be sending out announcements to remind you of the games. Please let Sharon know one week in advance if you are able to play.

A reminder that the mentor who plays with his/her mentee in the Wednesday morning game and finishes with the highest average receives a free play.

THE ADVENTURES OF DUKE AND CAROLINE

Dramatis Personae

Caroline...Smart, vivacious, trusting

Founded her own company at 25, now retired at 50 and seeking new challenges

Wants to learn to play bridge the right way, both technically and ethically

Duke.....Rich, cavalier, devil-may-care

Made his money the old fashioned way, he inherited it

Sees bridge as a social outlet

Not above bending the rules to advance his status

Over the course of many weeks, other characters will be introduced to our little drama. Any relation to real life persons will be purely coincidental.

STOP IT

It was almost game time and Caroline could barely control herself. In two hours it was to be their very first REAL duplicate game at the TBC. She and Duke had taken lessons for 6 months, had learned all the cool lingo (6-5 come alive, 5 over 5 don't take the dive, The Law of Total Tricks, etc.) and had practiced hand after hand with their very patient teacher, but this was going to be the real thing. No more laboratory hands where all suits split and finesses worked. This was to be real life where opponents were trying to win just as hard as she. If only she could remember her NT ranges and Duke wasn't a total goofball, it hopefully would be a wonderful and fulfilling experience.

Duke, on the other hand, had a little different set of goals. Sure, he looked forward to the repartee at the table, but he was doing all this bridge stuff just to keep Caroline happy. If he screwed up or did something inappropriate, he figured he would get by with his usual bluster or charm, whichever seemed called for, not caring whether he gained anything from the experience.

Fast Forward 2 Hours

Duke bought the entry (a steal @ \$14.00), and he and Caroline quickly found their places. This wasn't an Open game, but a 299er which limited players to less than 300 Master points. Since Duke and Caroline had a grand total of 0.00, they certainly qualified. They had bought an entry that pitted them against strong opponents for this game. They were an elderly husband and wife, the McAdoos, who had taken up bridge at a late age but really loved the game.

Everyone removed the hands from the first board and Mr. McAdoo placed a red card marked STOP on the table. Duke had never heard of one of these and was further dumbfounded when it was followed by a Two Heart bid. Duke only had 4 HCPs in his hand so he quickly passed. Mr. McAdoo glowered at him and said, "I think you owe me a little more time don't you, Young Fellow?"

"What do you mean by that?" Duke inquired.

"When I put the STOP card on the table, you have to wait 10 seconds before you take a bid."

Isn't that just the oddest thing I have ever heard, Duke thought to himself. If I brought out the STOP card before every bid that I made, we would take an extra hour to play a session.

Mrs. McAdoo, seeing Duke's confusion, decided to weigh in with a little helpful advice. "The STOP card was invented to protect everyone's rights. All players might need a little extra time since the bidder has skipped one or more levels of bidding. Sometimes you might be ready for the one level, but not for the 2, 3, or 4 levels. It is just a little cooling off period where you can think about

your hand without it conveying information to partner. While you wait about 10 seconds, you should appear to be considering your hand so you don't convey obvious disinterest."

Caroline got to the point a little quicker. "The STOP card is a visual for someone who makes a Skip Bid."

"Right on Honey," said Mrs. McAdoo.

Caroline, quickly sizing up the situation again said, "So Duke, with his quick pass, conveyed information to me that he didn't hold much."

"Right on again, Honey."

"What's done is done," said Mrs. McAdoo. "Now you have to bend over backwards to not use this unauthorized information to your advantage."

As fate would have it, Caroline was dealt a very good hand. When the bidding continued Pass Pass to her, she reopened with a Double. Mr. McAdoo passed, and Duke dredged up 2 Spades.

I know Duke has a bad hand, Caroline thought to herself, but I am not entitled to that information. Even though he might get set, I have to bid 3 Spades because I have extra values that I have not shown by doubling. So she bid 3 Spades. Try as he might, Duke could only muster 8 tricks and had to go set 1. Duke was about to chide her for what he thought was a needless raise in the face of what had happened, but thought twice about it and remained silent. The second board was played without much fanfare and our hero and heroine moved for round 2.

The game proceeded pleasantly until the last round. They had to play the best pair in the section, a couple of college sophomores named Buzz and Jim, who were fast-tracking their way to Life Master status. After introductions were made, Buzz started things with a STOP card and then bid 3 Clubs on Duke's right. Duke had a problem. He had the points but not the shape to Double. Ten seconds grew to 20, which grew to 45, and finally after 1 minute of agonizing, Duke passed. Jim passed.

Caroline had 9 points and a 5 card major. Caroline knew from her lessons that it was seldom right to allow opponents to play an uncontested preempt and she could justify a bid on that basis.

She knew for a certainty that Duke held values because it had taken him so long to pass. His slow tempo gave her unauthorized information that she could not legally use. So Caroline passed. Their defense was lackluster and instead of beating the hand one trick for a terrible score, they defended poorly and allowed it to make for a Cold Zero.

After the game, Duke and Caroline anxiously awaited their scores, 42% and 3rd in C. The .26 master points were almost a second thought. Caroline could see an answer for her competitive drive in this card game and was hooked forever. Duke was thinking of ways to use the rules to his advantage.

Buzz stopped Caroline on the way out the door. "**You are Aces in my book,**" he said. "**A lot of people would use some kind of half-baked excuse to balance on the last board that you held against us. I really admire your ethics and applaud them. I learned to play from a really good player, and he told me something that I have remembered since our first conversation. He said, 'Buzz, you can always get more masterpoints. You can always play in another bridge game. But you can never resurrect your good name once others perceive you as unethical. You don't have to shoot yourself in the foot, but you do have to bend over backwards not to use any information to which you are unentitled.'**"

Caroline's actions were honorable because with less than a clear-cut bid, she sensed that it wasn't fair to be swayed by the information gained inadvertently. The use of the STOP card is to provide time to consider an unusual bid, not to wake up your partner or express a strength-showing bid. Some people may not use a STOP card, but **EVERY EXPERIENCED PLAYER SHOULD WAIT TEN SECONDS ANY TIME A SKIP BID IS MADE** and appear to be considering their hand. If a player acts with undue haste or hesitation, the director may be called and may award an adjusted score (Law 16) and/or procedural penalty (Law 90). Duke took more than the ten seconds and it is possible that you or your partner will, too. That happens. What should not happen is for partner to take advantage of what he/she learned from the break in tempo.

(Written by Sandy McCay and Randy Joyce)

WHYTE DAUGHTERS HOST LUNCHEON



Virginia (left) and Laura Whyte, daughters of Betty Whyte accept a token plaque in appreciation of the Betty Whyte Team Championship Event held in honor of their mother last year.

The daughters of Betty Whyte hosted an appreciation luncheon on February 25th at the JCC Center in Durham. Robin Marin and her sister, Holly, catered a luncheon for over 100 people at the Levin Center, followed by a game which consisted of 25 tables.

Virginia and Laura presented mugs to the winners of each event and expressed words of appreciation to all who participated in the tournament.

In an article written by Liz McGuffey last June:

“Betty was the consummate bridge partner. She was smart, savvy, and studious. Night or day she was ready to play regular games as well as impromptu invitations. She apologized to her partner and harshly berated herself if she made a mistake, but she graciously forgave her partner’s gaffes. While she like to win, she did not take bridge so seriously that it prevented her from enjoying the camaraderie of the game and she saw the game as a valuable venue for developing close relationships.”

“Betty had an innate ability to make others feel comfortable. She enjoyed life and her inimitable spirit endeared her to almost everyone she met. Based on comments from her daughters and friends, three words describe Betty—gracious, generous, gregarious.”

We all will miss Betty at the tables, but thanks to the generosity of her daughters, we shall always remember her as a pleasant and gracious bridge player. We thank Virginia and Laura for their kindness in sponsoring the tournament and hosting the appreciation luncheon. Her memory will live on in the hearts of many bridge players in the area.

CAROLINA DREAMIN' SECTIONAL March 7-10, 2013 TBC

Thursday

Stratified Open and 299er Pairs 7:00
Bracketed Knockouts 7:00 Continues at 10:00 and 2:30 on Friday

Friday

Stratified Open and 299er Pairs 10:00 and 2:30

Saturday

Stratified Open and 299er Pairs 10:00 and 2:30

Sunday

Stratified Open Swiss Teams—based on team MP average - 10:00

Play thru/lunch included

Open strats—0-750	750-2000	2000+
299er	0-100 100-200	200-300

Partnerships for the Open—**Kay Gruniger** Kaygruninger@gmail.com 919-408-0377

Partnerships for 299er—**Dave Streifford** streif411@gmail.com 919-651-0572

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

It takes many volunteers to make this tournament a success. If you have not signed up for food, please see the sign-up sheet on the wall by the kitchen. Cash donations are welcome. If you can help in the kitchen for a session, please sign up in the appropriate place. For those playing and are able to stay after each session for a few minutes, your help is appreciated to help tidy up the place for the next session. Jackie Marks and Dave Schreiber, co-chairpersons for hospitality will gladly accept food donations and contributions. We hope to see many of our members playing at the tournament to make this one the best ever!!

PHIL ERLENBACH

Contributing editor Liz McGuffey submitted this article as the first in her series of interviews with unit members.

Phil Erlenbach, Unit 191's current Board President, started playing bridge in 1954, his sophomore year at Duke University. He has served as president, two terms as vice president, as disciplinary chair, and as membership chair. He takes pride in treating people fairly and said, "I don't dote or brag about myself." Yet he freely shared his personal history and his passion in and outside of the bridge world.

During Phil's high school senior year at Wilbraham Academy in Wilbraham, Massachusetts, he applied to four universities, three in the Northeast and Duke. He had received early acceptance from all but Duke and he and his father checked out the northern schools, but Phil wanted to see Duke. His mother joined them and they traveled south to tour Duke. As they registered for the campus tour, the desk clerk said Phil's name was familiar. She excused herself and returned shortly to hand Phil his Duke acceptance letter. After the tour, Phil's mother said, "Well, Philip, I think this is the place for you." And the rest is history.

He graduated from Duke in 1956 and served in the Army in Germany for two years. In 1958, he married his college sweetheart, Barbara Freeman. After his discharge in 1959, he took a job with Continental Can Company and worked in Clinton, Mississippi (near Jackson) for three years. In 1963, he returned to the New York area where the family reared two boys and one girl. They lived in Brookfield, Connecticut, in Fairfield County, near Newtown.

In 1995 the couple retired to Mebane and continued to play bridge together regularly. Barbara ran a bridge game for 25 years in

Connecticut, but she retired when they moved south. Sadly, she died in 1999.

Phil believes that one his greatest achievements in life is having traveled to all 50 states. He has visited over 100 national parks and monuments. Most were car trips, except to Alaska and Hawaii, with the family, fishing and camping along the way. What really hooked Phil on nature and traveling was a summer spent with an aunt in Manitoba when he was 13. She was an ornithologist studying a specific wading bird in the area, the Hudsonian godwit. The train ride from Syracuse to Winnipeg was a five-day trip. After they reached their destination, they lived in tents on the tundra or cabins by the lake from May to August. He developed a close relationship with his aunt and his sense of adventure was born on this trip.

It is not hard to understand that Phil's passions outside of bridge are traveling, fishing for trout in western states and salmon in Alaska, and Duke basketball. He is also close to his three children and seven grandchildren. One son lives in Connecticut, one in Charlotte, and his daughter lives in Chapel Hill. He sees the grandchildren as often as possible, but thanks to online communication, they converse regularly.

When asked about a memorable bridge hand, Phil recalled declaring a 7 spade contract. Only two cards remained and the contract appeared to be doomed. He played a good diamond from his hand, discarding the king of hearts in the dummy. The opponent then discarded the heart ace and Phil took the 13th trick with heart two! "It wasn't my expertise that won the hand, it was opponent error, but I have never forgotten that hand," Phil recalled.

