

FEBRUARY ALERT

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF UNIT 191

FEBRUARY 2014

MARCH MADNESS IN UNIT 191

Unit 191 is having its own version of **MADNESS in March** with a busy schedule of special events. Additional details may be found on the following pages. Mark your calendar and plan to participate ---don't miss out on the fun!

MARCH 6-9

Unit 191 hosts the popular tournament, Carolina Dreamin'. A full schedule of all sessions is found on the website, on flyers on the front table at TBC or on page 3 of the Alert.

MARCH 14

Club Championship at the Friday game at Seymour Center operated by Paul and Ruth Ann Schwenke.

MARCH 19

Bring a canned food item for a donation to the Durham Food Pantry, buy an entry and play two or three sessions—prizes awarded to the persons in the 299er with the highest percentage playing two sessions and the highest percentage for Flights A-B-C playing in two out of three sessions. Plus an additional special prize for Flights A-B-C— having the highest total percentage playing all three sessions!

Win big bridge bucks! Big points awarded— fun— food—and prizes!

MARCH 19

Open House at The Game Spot—beginning at 4:30pm. Basketball, wine, beer, non-alcoholic drinks plus complimentary appetizers. Dress in your favorite collegiate team's colors and receive a free drink. Red wine special.

MARCH 20

Plan to come early (12:30) for the 1:00 game at the TBC to have cake and celebrate our unit's winners for the Mini-McKinney and Ace of Clubs. Winners for the double/triple session event will also be announced.

March 20

Open House at the Game Spot - beginning at 4:30pm after bridge. Basketball, wine, beer, non-alcoholic drinks plus complimentary hot appetizers. White wine special.

MARCH 21

Open House at the Game Spot—beginning at 4:30pm after bridge. Complimentary sandwiches and barbeque—all with a southern flavor. Enjoy draft beer from the kegerator.

MARCH 24-28

Spring Break at The Game Spot! Students, come learn to play bridge while on spring break—details on the next page.

MARCH 28

Charity game at the Seymour Center in support of Chapel Hill IFC food pantry.

MARCH 29—MARCH 30

A weekend for families to learn the game of bridge—plan to attend 1, 2, or 3 sessions offered on the above dates.

MARCH 31-APRIL 4

Another session of bridge and activities will be offered at The Game Spot. Students who are on break can spend the week learning the game.

A TASTE OF BRIDGE

By Maggie Lindquist

Bridge players, do you remember playing games at your grandparents as I do? Pass that experience on by telling your friends, neighbors and grandchildren about **SPRING BREAK 2014** at **THE GAME SPOT**.

Non-bridge players often are uncertain about committing themselves to the time needed to learn this complex game. Will they like it? Will they get bored after learning to play? Will they find others who want to play? Parents don't want to lock their children into two weeks of their summer vacation to attend a camp they may dislike.

With these issues in mind, **SPRING BREAK** at **THE GAME SPOT** at 4348 S. Alston Avenue in Durham, NC has been established to introduce our favorite game to kids, adults, and families. Three weeks and one weekend are devoted to this event. The Spring Break weekday events are March 24-28th, March 31-April 4th, and April 14-18th. People can choose to attend as many or as few days as they like.

In an attempt to get families playing, we are offering a weekend for families. This event is in collaboration with Raleigh Junior Bridge with **Intro to Bridge** offered in three segments: morning and afternoon on Saturday, March 29th and the afternoon of Sunday, March 30th. Again, participants can attend one, two, or all three sessions. To get more information and registration forms, go to unit191bridge.org (under the education tab) or NCBridgelessons.com.

CAROLINA DREAMIN' SECTIONAL

March 6th—9th, 2014
Durham NC—Triangle Bridge Center,
5110 Revere Rd. 919-405-2016

Thursday, March 6

Stratified Open & 299er Pairs 7:00 PM

Friday, March 7

Stratified Open & 299er Pairs 10:00 AM

Stratified Open & 299er Pairs 2:30 PM

Saturday, March 8

Stratified Open & 299er Pairs 10:00 AM

Stratified Open & 299er Pairs * 2:30 PM

Sunday, March 9

Stratified Open Swiss Teams 10:00 AM

Based on team MP average

299er Swiss Teams 10:00 AM

No player over 300 MP

Both events are play—thru with lunch

Included

Open Stratification: 0-750, 750-2000, 2000+

299er Stratification: 1-100, 100-200, 200-300

***Saturday Afternoon Regional-rated game**

benefits Junior Bridge (\$1 extra)

Tournament Co-Chairs:

Barbara Martin

Bmartin1@mebtl.net

(919)-417-4056

Jim Bean

vbean3557@aol.com

(919)-428-3345

Partnership Co-Chairs:

Kay Gruninger (Open)

kaygruninger@gmail.com

(919)-408-0377

Nancy Crow (299ers)

nancykcrow@gmail.com

(919)-933-4884

Nearby Lodging:

LaQuinta Inns & Suites

1910 Westpark Dr. Durham

(919)-484-1422

IT'S TOURNAMENT TIME!

The **Carolina Dreamin'** tournament will soon be here and we need the help of everyone to make this the biggest and best ever. The sign up sheets are on the wall by the kitchen and it makes planning and the purchase of food much easier if people sign up in advance as to what they wish to donate. Please sign up for your food donations, if you can volunteer your time in the kitchen, or if neither of these are options, then consider making a cash donation. The envelope is at the desk at the TBC. We are hoping all unit members make an effort to play in the tournament.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 19—DOUBLE/TRIPLE SESSION EVENT

On Wednesday March 19, unit clubs will be hosting a double/triple session event. **Bring a canned food item to be donated to the Durham Food Bank**, buy an entry and plan to play two sessions (or three) for big bridge bucks, extra master points, good food, door prizes, and lots of fun! There will be sheets available at TBC to sign up for games there. Please don't forget to sign up if you intend to play—this makes planning for food much easier. Winners in A-B-C flights plus the 299ers receive \$40 in bridge bucks for having the highest average after two sessions. There is also an additional prize in flights A-B-C for anyone who plays in 3 sessions and has the highest total percentage. *See additional guidelines for the double/triple session event on the last page.

DURHAM BRIDGE CLUB - Flight A-B-C—start your double/triple session at 9:30 by playing in the Durham Bridge Club at the TBC. Breakfast food and snacks will be provided.

THE BRIDGE ACADEMY— is hosting a two-session Unit 299er Championship. Game times are at 9:30am and 2pm. The \$20 entry fee includes playing two sessions, breakfast snacks, and catered lunch between sessions. The event will be held at the Dick Levin JCC, located at 1937 West Cornwallis Road in Durham. There is room for only 30 tables, so please arrive early to purchase your entry. Sign up at BA, or send an email to:

register@bridgeacademync.com

TARHEEL BRIDGE CLUB — A-B-C's—play a second session at 1:00 at the TBC in the Tarheel Bridge Club. John will provide a ham and asks that anyone who wishes to bring a side dish to do so—salads, desserts, vegetables would be welcome additions.

TBC— Flights A-B-C—play another session to qualify for big prizes in the 7:00 evening game at the TBC hosted by Jay and Darleen Bates. Pizza will be provided for the evening game. Anyone who wishes to bring a salad or dessert may do so and that would be much appreciated.

THE GAME SPOT—

will be hosting an open house to watch basketball on the following days beginning at 4:30pm or 1/2 hour before any game time for Duke, UNC, or NC State. Note that The Farmhouse may still be under some construction.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 19 AT 4:30PM

Three red wines will be offered for a suggestion of \$1 a glass (.50 going to charity), \$1 beer, or \$1 for unlimited mixers for BYOB. There will be complimentary non-alcoholic beverages, cheese, fruit, and veggies. Contest for the best team colors dress-up (yours or rivals—tasteless dress prohibited). **THIS IS A GREAT WAY TO SPEND TIME BETWEEN THE AFTERNOON AND EVENING GAMES, MEET FRIENDS FROM BRIDGE AND OTHER ORGANIZATIONS, AND HAVE FUN!**

THURSDAY, MARCH 20 AT 4:30PM

Two white wines (South African Chenin Blanc and a Chilean chardonnay) are featured for a suggested donation of \$1, plus complimentary hot appetizers and non-alcoholic beverages. **IF YOU ARE WONDERING WHAT THE GAME SPOT IS ALL ABOUT, PLAN TO DROP BY AFTER THE THURSDAY AFTERNOON GAME, VISIT THE BUILDING, MEET OTHER PEOPLE WHO PLAY GAMES, AND HAVE A GREAT TIME!**

FRIDAY, MARCH 21 AT 4:30PM

After the Friday afternoon Tarheel Bridge Game at the TBC or the game at the Senior Center, visit The Game Spot for some nice draft beer from the new kegerator for a suggested donation of \$1 and complimentary finger sandwiches—barbeque, egg salad, and chicken salad. **THIS IS THE PERFECT WAY TO END THE WEEK AND A GREAT PRELUDE TO THE WEEKEND. MEET NEW PEOPLE—EAT GOOD FOOD—AND HAVE A GOOD TIME!**

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Submitted by Harrison Brooke

January activity brought us a net gain of 1 member bringing us to a total of 553, a drop of 3 from this time last year. Our 1 new ACBL member is **Tom Henkel** of Chapel Hill who follows in the steps of his wife and partner **Teddy Lovejoy** who joined ACBL in June of last year. In addition, 3 players transferred in —**Paula Chason** of Raleigh, **Eloise Fontaine** of Cary, both from Unit 191, and **Judith Henry** of Chapel Hill from Unit 130 in Central Indiana.

2 snowbirds joined us to enjoy our beautiful(?) winter weather—**Lila Berry** of Pittsboro from Unit 150 in New Hampshire and **Debbie Sears** of Durham from Unit 195 in Western Michigan. Debbie and her husband and bridge partner Mike have a son who lives in Durham and they've purchased a house here. Mike is a member of the Board of Directors for Unit 195 so he couldn't jump ship to become a snowbird. **Welcome one and all!!** 4 of our inactive Future Life Members were reinstated but 6 went inactive while 4 transferred out.

Advancing in rank during January were:

Junior Master	Sydney Kunin
Club Master	Bob Keeter John Pinkerton
Sectional Master	Thomas Walton
Regional Master	Greg Bolt Judy Bolt
Life Master	Charlie Marshall
Bronze Life Master	Lilyan Levine

Charlie Marshall is our first Life Master named in 2014. Partnered with **Gary Zadjeika** and teamed with Tim Laverty and J. C. Thomas of Burlington, he won a Knock-Out event at the Myrtle Beach tournament on New Year's Eve and went over the 500 master point mark. He had fulfilled his color point requirements months before.

Charlie was our first member to achieve in the summer of 2012 the rank of Advanced NABC, a new rank established by ACBL, when the minimum for Life Master was increased from 300 to 500 for those who joined January 1, 2010 or later or allowed their memberships to expire thereafter. Charlie had reactivated his membership during the summer of 2010. Those who've kept their memberships active since December of 2009 are grandfathered at the 300 minimum.

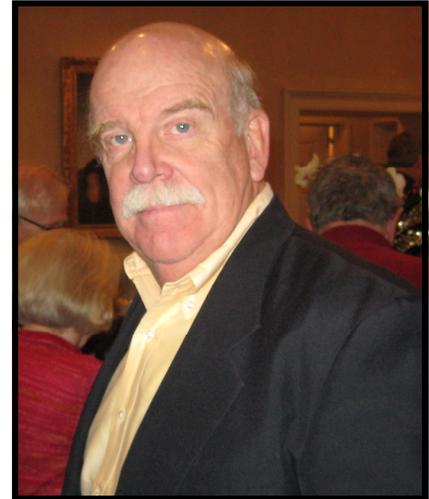
Congratulations!

I'm distressed to report that Bob Lenkeit died near noon on Saturday the 22nd of February as a result of inoperable brain cancer. He and his beloved wife Joyce Bell met at a bridge game and moved from the NY/NJ area to Cary in 1994 and became members of Unit 191. Soon after, they opened what became a tremendously successful duplicate club in Cary and transferred their memberships (understandably) to Unit 119. Bob was a successful mechanical engineer in the NYC area. He leaves to cherish his memory his wife Joyce, sons Cary and Matthew, their wives and three grandsons as well as a step-son and two step-daughters and their families. He'll be missed by all of the area bridge community.

A private burial and memorial were held Wednesday, February 26. Memorial contributions may be made to Hospice of Wake County or Hayes Barton Baptist Church.

NEWEST LIFE MASTER

Unit 191's newest life master and the first in 2014 is **Charlie Marshall**. Yes, the person in the photo is Charlie, although you may not recognize him without his hat—I almost didn't! I captured this great photo at the holiday gala.



Charlie started playing bridge in college while passing time in the student union. He and a classmate learned to play duplicate and played once or twice a week for about a year, and then didn't play again for over 40 years. He picked it up again shortly after moving here in 2010.

Charlie said, *"I started playing bridge again at a Meet Up group in Cary in 2010 and really found that I wanted to be a little more competitive than just party bridge. The competitive nature of duplicate hones the skill (which I lack) better. My regular partner is **Gary Zadjeka**, but I play frequently with **Lucy Terrell**, **Anne Boyd**, and **Bob Sumner**—all members of our club. I grew up in the Boston area, lived my adult life in New Hampshire and moved to this area in 2010. I still work full time (sort of) in sales/marketing and am an avid skier with a season pass at Alta in Utah where I spend a good part of the winter."*

Congratulations Charlie!

CONGRATULATIONS TO HILTON HEAD WINNERS!

Our unit was well represented at the Hilton Head Regional—following is a list of the double digit winners:

B. Wayne Stuart	89.62	Jackie Marks	29.56	Margaret Rouse	11.26
Chris Moll	74.87	Doris Elkin	15.08	Katie Wilson	11.26
Jacek Pszczola	63.14	Tammy Moll	13.11	Mary Newman	11.15
Josef Blass	63.14	Paul Morrisette	11.27	Carol Wilcox	11.15
Joyce Jenzano	29.56	Mary Vickers	11.27		



MENTORING GAME

Liz McGuffey and **Rita Musante** were the winners in the special mentoring game held on February 11 at the TBC. There were 10 tables for the event. Special thanks to **Sharon Crane** and **Linda Harris** for organizing the mentoring program and special games this year, to **Jay Bates** for directing, and to the **Unit 191 board** for their support of the program.

UNIT 191 TEACHERS

We are fortunate that we have many qualified teachers in our unit. I invited all members who have taught in the past, or are presently teaching to provide information about their experiences in the unit and area. Everyone did not reply, but I did receive the following information:

Maggie Lindquist is an ACBL accredited teacher for Easy Bridge. Maggie has been playing bridge since she was 11 years old when she was taught by her grandmother. She started playing duplicate in February, 2004.



Officially, Maggie has taught bridge since 2009 when she taught Easy Bridge for the first time. She had helped Darleen before that and still substitutes for her when needed. Maggie teaches a monthly mini-lesson at Fearington Bridge Club. She also teaches at the Youth Bridge Camp during the summers, 2014 being her fourth term.

Maggie's teaching philosophy is to always remember it is a game and therefore should be fun first and foremost. This is also a game played with a partner. Your bridge partner is the only one at the table who is on your side so treat your partner with respect and find ways to work together as a team.

Kay Joyce is an ACBL accredited teacher and has taught at TBC and Bob Boggs' club, The Bridge Center. She generally teaches on any subject that the duplicate players want, as determined by the Education Coordinator for Unit 191.



Kay is currently teaching a Bidding Review class in February-March at North Ridge Country Club in Raleigh (class closed), and will be teaching a Play and Learn Fundamentals class to second year students in April-May at North Ridge Country Club (class closed).

Randy Joyce has taught a Conventions class with Kay at TBC and several seminars in the Raleigh area. He currently has "Supervised Play" groups in Raleigh and Durham (waiting list). (See Randy's photo in his profile on page 11).

Contact information: randkjoyce@gmail.com or home phone 919-908-9047.

Keith and Helen Starr (photo unavailable) have offered Easy Bridge classes at their club in Roxboro although they are not presently teaching a class. Keith is prepping 4 members to become ACBL directors. They will be teaching a workshop in the spring on *No Trump*. Susan Korn and Gerry O'Neil have recently become directors at their Roxboro club.

Valerie Roberts, an accredited ACBL teacher, began teaching beginning and intermediate bridge classes ten years ago at her club in Kalamazoo, MI. After moving to the area, she was excited about the opportunity to teach the same classes at the Seymour Center in Chapel Hill.



Valerie is currently teaching the ACBL's *Play of the Hand in the 21st Century*, a ten week course offered at the Seymour Center in Chapel Hill. This is the second in a three part series developed originally by Audrey Grant and then adopted by ACBL, when Grant published another beginning series. The class sequences include: Bidding, Play of the Hand, and Defense. These classes are a wonderful introduction to the game, providing sound advice to the beginning player. Many students played bridge in their younger days and are looking for a refresher class.

In April, Valerie will teach *Defense in the 21st Century* on Tuesdays at the Seymour Center. She is also offering an introduction to *Two/One* on Thursdays. Both classes will run for ten weeks from 9:30 until 12:00. Registration is done through the Seymour Center at 919-968-2070. Additionally, upon request, Valerie is able to facilitate personalized instruction to small groups of players on topics of their choosing.

Jack Whetstone is a certified ACBL teacher, silver life master, 2007 Ace of Clubs winner and may be reached at Jack.Whetstone@gmail.com or 919-244-1660.



When bridge players have learned the basics of bidding with some conventions, playing a hand, and defending a hand, I will offer a course called “Modernizing your Bridge” to current concepts and strategies. This *Modernizing your Bridge* curriculum will include, but not be limited to, the following offerings:

- Rule of 21/22 evaluation to OPEN a hand
- Law of Total Tricks
- Law of Losing Trick count
- What are ‘dummy points’

Most important, students will learn HOW to make decisions during bidding when asking themselves “Should I Pass or Bid more”? A second concept of emphasis is DEFENSE principles like opening leads, signaling, preference signals, attitude and count.

Finally, each student receives full-color handouts with examples for every session attending. Find Jack at: info@WWW.BridgeWithJackNC.com

Paul and Ruth Ann Schwenke, both ACBL accredited teachers, have both taught in the past. Ruth Ann taught EZ bridge for one year and Paul taught a mini-lesson before their Thursday morning game at the Bridge Center. When the Schwenkes were running bridge games on cruise ships, Paul taught a lesson each day.



Darleen Bates completed the EasyBridge teacher’s class in 2003 and began teaching Easy-Bridge at the Bridge Center and continued teaching at Triangle Bridge Club. Darleen will be beginning a new series of lessons on February 25, 2014. Darleen has given private lessons, has been a mentor, is a silver life master and assists with the summer youth program. On Tuesday and Thursday nights at the TBC, Darleen directs the Play and Review games. All tables play the same three boards and are then given the opportunity to ask questions about the bidding or play of the hands. Darleen began playing bridge in 1993, but grew up in a house that played many other card games. She directs the night and weekend games, is an accredited ACBL teacher, became a club director in 2003 and has passed ACBL’s Tournament Assistant test.



Jay Bates has completed the ACBL Teacher Accreditation Program, is a silver life master and directs the Play and Review games on Tuesday and Thursday nights. He assists with EasyBridge, has given private lessons, is a mentor and directs the day time games. Jay began playing bridge in 1987 and played his first duplicate game in 1994. He became a club director in 2003 and has been an ACBL tournament director since 2008.

From **John Torrey**:

My website is <http://www.play-to-learnbridge.com/index.html> Its focus is on how people with no bridge knowledge can learn the game. There are some "philosophical" thoughts by me, some nice links, and the materials I presented in my 10-lesson class last fall. And a funny picture on the John Torrey page.

My first attempt to teach bridge came when I was in college. A classmate's brother wanted to learn, and I did my best to teach from the Kaplan-Sheinwold book presenting their weak-notrump system. We played some rubber bridge (no stakes) in the dorm for practice, and then one session of duplicate - special game (awarding a whole masterpoint!) at the Harvard Bridge Club, where many future world and national champions played. We were first East-West in a very lucky session that we never repeated, as far as I can remember.

In the early 1990s I became an ACBL Certified Teacher and taught several sessions using the Audrey Grant Club/Diamond/Heart/Spade materials, at the Chapel Hill Senior Center. My students enjoyed their classes (at least, they kept coming back week after week) but they never actually played the game. I decided that there had to be something wrong and stopped teaching, except for occasional classes in "Basic Advanced Bridge". Last fall I rekindled the "new player" flame with about 16 students in a play-to-learn beginner class. I should be following up with my students now (and possibly starting a new class), but I've been preparing my house for market for the past two months and have not had the required time nor energy.



Teaching beginners is a humbling experience in many ways: how can smart people do such creatively awful things? Is it my fault?? It's humbling to the teacher, but even the least successful of our duplicate-playing community can reflect that we have come a long, long way from

those days of trumping our partner's tricks and passing partner in five-card trump "fits". I am more and more convinced that the (brave) people who did learn this game did it by playing, with very little help from organized classes. I'm still looking for ways to use this insight to bring people to our game.

The purpose of the article on

Unit 191 teachers was to:

- Recognize all those people who have taught classes in the past
- Give teachers an opportunity to explain what they are doing presently or willing to do in the future
- Present a list of classes currently offered in our unit and area
- Allow teachers to present their philosophy about teaching and the game of bridge
- To thank all those who spend hours on preparation and teaching the game of bridge so that we all may improve our skills at the table

**THANKS TO ALL OUR TEACHERS FOR
YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS!**

From **Henry Meguid**: I have been involved in education, training and development for over 35 years and began teaching bridge in 1986. I am an ACBL accredited teacher, club director, and gold life master. My philosophy of teaching has been greatly influenced by a quote from World Champion Bob Hamman - *“Most people play bridge by asking themselves what they should do. Instead, they should be asking themselves what is going on”*. In my teaching, I emphasize the importance of inference and deductive reasoning skills, as well as strive to help my students construct a roadmap of how to think and analyze what is happening at the table before bidding, playing and defending.



My general approach is using visual interactive learning tools, with hands on applications and practice to engage students to learn and think. Naturally, this varies by where students are on their learning curve. For example, for new comers, the primary focus is on learning the general mechanics of bridge and playing the cards not on memorizing bidding sequences and conventions. For beginners and intermediate players, the focus is on building a strong foundation of bidding, declarer play and defense. For advancing players, the focus is on improving overall judgment, filling-in gaps, and fine tuning their bidding, play and defense strategies.

“Most people play bridge by asking themselves what they should do. Instead, they should be asking themselves what is going on”. - Bob Hamman

In addition to regular classes, I offer in home lessons for groups of 4-8 players; on line bidding lessons; playing lessons, and webcasts from the comfort of your home using Cisco’s Virtual Classroom. These fully interactive sessions use clear voice communication and participants are able to download both the presentation slides and the recorded audio file. No special equipment is needed, just your computer and an internet connection.

Current Classes:

- Newcomer Bridge – Governors Club
- Fill-In The Gaps II – Governors Club (intermediate plus)
- Weekly “Play, Discuss & Learn” – EduDuplicate class/game on Wednesdays at 1pm at the JCC

Upcoming Spring Classes



Learn from the comfort of your home.

Five 90-minute Webcasts (cost: \$10 per session, capacity 25).

2/1 Game Force – The Nuts & Bolts

The six 2/1 forcing auctions (part I and II) -Thursday, April 10 and 17, from 7-8:30p

The Forcing INT (part I and II) - Thursday, April 24 and May 1, from 7-8:30pm

How to Defend Against Precision?

(1 session) – Thursday, May 15, from 7-8:30pm



Defense is a Team Sport – This six-week class will help you develop basic defensive techniques, and build a strong foundation of how defend against no trump and suit contracts. It will be held at the Dick Levin JCC on six Wednesdays from 9:30-11:30 am, starting May 7-May 28 and June 4. No class during the Raleigh Regional on May 21.

(Cost: \$120. Fee includes a copy of Eddie Kantar’s book, *“Modern Bridge Defense”*.

(Capacity 32)

Please contact Henry at: info@bridgeacademync.com for more information



Chris and Tammy Moll, both ACBL accredited teachers, aren't able to do much teaching locally due to their bridge work schedule, however, Chris lectures regularly at sectionals and regionals to Intermediate/Novice groups who attend the tournament.

Chris also teaches at a youth bridge camp for a week in Illinois during the summer—working with both teenagers and adults teaching classes and supervising bridge play. He volunteers for this job and will spend a week in June of this year at the camp.

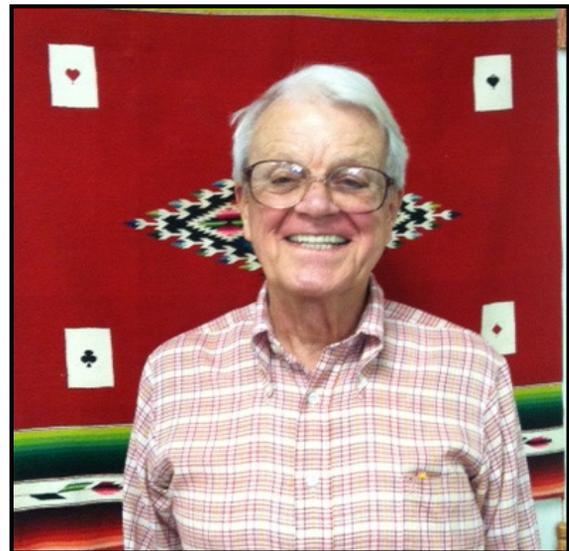
Chris and Tammy have clients who sometimes come to their home for a week to learn and/or they go to their homes for a weekend or two and focus on teaching and improving their bridge game. Last month, Tammy taught a new student while Chris worked at the Las Vegas regional.

Most of the Molls' teaching is done on cruises—last year, they were on two 30 day cruises (the first around South America and the second from Vancouver, Canada, to Alaska, Russia, South Korea, Japan, ending in Beijing and Shanghai). The pair has taught bridge on 7 cruises in the last 4 years. They teach beginning bridge, basic refresher and intermediate-advanced classes. They will be teaching again on SilverSea (The Cloud) in June/July in Norway.

Both Chris and Tammy hope to offer classes locally in the future.

Harrison Brooke is no longer teaching in the "official" sense. He continues to hold a supervised play game on Monday mornings at the Seymour Center in Chapel Hill. It does involve a lot of teaching and is not a sanctioned game. At 9:15am, he has on the white board a hand from the prior week and for 15 minutes discusses bidding and play of the hand. Then 14 or 15 boards are played. During the auction, any player can call him to the table for help with the bidding.

Harrison allows 10 minutes for each hand instead of the usual 7. If every table finished in fewer than 10 minutes, the round is called. He tries to enforce the proprieties—minimum noise, tempo, no loud discussion of a hand, no reciting from a traveler, no fingering of a bid box, etc. If



the first round of an auction starts improperly, he asks the agreement of the four at the table to back up and start again. He has a note box of explanations of conventions that he thinks everyone in the group should know whether or not they play.

The game is completed and the room cleared by noon for a social bridge game which starts around 12:15. Many of our active players (including several Life Masters) have taken part in the program. There is an average of 7 tables. Everyone must make arrangements to have a partner—before the last round, Harrison asks if anyone needs a partner for the next Monday and encourages then to contact him if a need should arise.

MEET RANDY

Randy Joyce grew up in Greensboro and graduated with a BA in History from UNC-Chapel Hill in 1969. His life plan was to become an attorney and he studied law at UNC for one year until he realized that was not what he wanted to do for the rest of his life. A friend put him in touch



with the Clausen Instrument Company in Raleigh. Randy settled in Raleigh, married, and stayed with Clausen selling high-end survey and engineering equipment until his retirement in December 2010.

Randy's first marriage ended in divorce, but Randy had a close group of friends in Raleigh and a busy social schedule, playing bridge as well as other strategy-oriented games and ice skating. It was in this tight circle that he met Kay in the late 1970s at a bridge tournament. While ice skating, Randy recalled that "they always seemed to be on the floor together." Both divorced, they shared many of the same interests and common allegiance to their alma mater UNC. Their first real date was dinner at an Italian restaurant and they married in 1981.

Randy is an easy-going guy with a ready smile that belies his keen competitive edge. He prefers the challenge of bridge at the tournament level rather than at the club level. He, however, is a player who has undeniably mastered the game, but who respects and encourages future Life Masters and others with less-honed skills by teaching classes and by the professional demeanor he invariably displays at the bridge table.

Like all bridge players, Randy set a goal, one higher than that of the average bridge player. He aspired to win a national championship and he came close two times. In 1983, he teamed with Dick Freeman, Lou Bloom, Larry Gould, and Nick Nickell to compete for the Grand National Teams Championship. It was Randy's first big national tournament and his team went up against a well-respected DC

team. On the first hand, Randy ambitiously got to 4 Hearts. He said, "I played it like a plumber. Down four." The second hand was flat. On the third hand, Randy got to 4 Hearts again. And again down 4. On the fourth hand, he overbid to 6 Hearts, but guessed a key Queen, and made it. Plus 11 IMPs. The world class player at the other table in Randy's seat got to 4 hearts on the first hand and went down 3. He also got to 4 hearts on the third board and went down 4. He did not bid or make slam on the 4th board. This was the first time that Randy felt that he could play with these guys. The match ended up as a rout for our hero. Their luck ran out in the semis and they lost a very close match.

In his second try in 1984, Randy played against the team of Peter Pender, Hugh Ross, Chip Martel, and Lou Stansby in the finals. At that time, this was regarded as the best team in the world. After a seesaw match, Randy's team had a chance to win on the last board (64th) if a teammate had cashed his 7 tricks for down 1 in a 2 Heart partial, but he pursued a fanciful line of play and went down 3. Randy's team lost THE heart breaker of heart breakers by 2 IMP's. This was the closest that he came to that elusive national championship in his bridge career.

When asked about his most fun tournament in recent memory, Randy jumped up and said the Charlotte Regional over Labor Day in Charlotte in 2013. At that tournament, playing with Tom Rutledge, Bill Wisdom, Jerry Helms, and Sam Marks, Randy and Kay twice came into matches in the fourth quarter of the finals down by 10 IMP's. In the first match, they outscored a national class pair 53-0 to handily win the event. In the second, Randy's team was for all intents and purposes playing the team that was the USA representative in the World Championships last year. Once again our heroes were down 10 and this time outscored the bad guys to the tune of 66-24 to win their second big KnockOut of the week. These efforts netted them over 100 Master Points for the week! According to Randy, "it doesn't get any better than that."

Randy likes to travel, but most of his travel is in tandem with a Regional or National tournament. Randy's favorite tournament cities are Albuquerque, where he has played two Nationals, with its great restaurants and climate, and Toronto, where he and Kay took a side trip to romantic Niagara Falls.

Continued.....

When asked his proudest moment at or away from the bridge table, without a hesitation he said, “marrying Kay.” Together or individually they are quite accomplished bridge players. With Randy’s 21,500+ master points and Kay’s 18,500+, collectively they have more than 40,000 MPs! Jointly, they have served on the expert panel of “It’s Your Call” in the Bridge Bulletin. They still play in the Grand National events across the country. That represents a lot of travel and tournaments and a lot of togetherness. Last year they celebrated their 32nd wedding anniversary, a feat few married couples who play bridge together regularly can claim.

For most of their years together, Randy and Kay lived in Raleigh and were members of Unit 119, but in the past few years with both of them settled into retirement, they relocated to Chapel Hill and transferred to Unit 191. In December 2013 Randy was elected to the Unit 191 Board where he works with fellow Board member Ed Fuller to process sanctions for special games. He is also working with Jim Bean to find “innovative ways to get extra master points for our local players.” Unit 191 genuinely thanks both Randy and Kay for their expertise, professionalism, politeness, and involvement with Unit activities.

Written by Liz McGuffey

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND MISCELLANEOUS.....

- Congratulations to the **UNC Bridge team** who once again have qualified for the ACBL Collegiate Championship. They will play in the finals in Las Vegas this summer. Thanks to **Hugon Karwowski** for mentoring the students and sponsoring the team.
- Please take time to read the information and details about the special double/triple session being held on March 19 and mark your calendars to spend the day playing bridge.
- Sign up to make food or time contributions for the tournament on March 6-9.
- Please be mindful of picking up pencils and putting them away after a game, pushing in chairs, tidying up tables, etc. Every little effort helps to make the room more presentable for the next game.
- Congratulations to Betsy Mebane and Jim Bean—who took the director’s course in Hilton Head recently. Betsy already has directed her first game last Wednesday morning.

MARCH 19 EVENT

The prizes for March 19 are bridge bucks—save them and use in the Raleigh sectional or at any tournament. There will be winners for Flights A—B—C playing in two out of three sessions with the highest percentage and 299ers playing in two sessions. Additional prizes for Flights A-B-C will be awarded to those who have the total percentage playing in all three sessions. If you are a B player and play with an A, you must qualify as an A player. The best 2 out of 3 sessions for Flight A-B-C may count for the two session winners—but your partner must be in the same flight. Plan your day accordingly, if you have at least one good round during the day and a not-so-good round, enjoy pizza and play in the evening game—it could be worth some wonderful bridge bucks!!

The Alert is published monthly and is the official newsletter of Unit 191. If you have suggestions or ideas for articles that you would like to be included in the Alert, please let me know. Deadline for the March Alert is March 21.

Barbara Martin, Editor