

# UNIT 191 BRIGHT LEAF ALERT

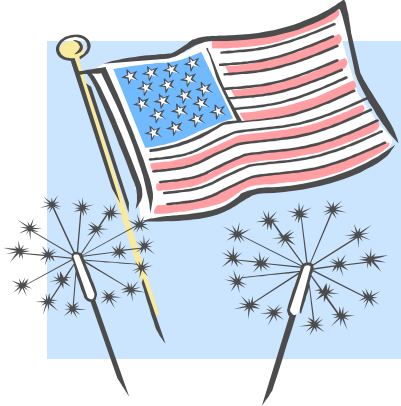
## OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF UNIT 191

# JUNE 2014

## FROM THE PRESIDENT

What better way to celebrate July 4th than playing bridge at the Bright Leaf Summer Sectional, July 3rd-6th!

Our chairs,  
**Leonard Beeghley**  
and **Jackie Marks**,  
as well as our Hos-  
pitality chairs,  
**Robin Marin** and  
**Diane Saulsberry**,  
have been working  
round the clock to  
ensure that you



will be well fed and taken care of. If anyone would like to help, please speak to any of them or send an e-mail, but more importantly, come and join the fun!

Please check the Unit 191 website for information. The Alert will be sent out in an e-mail from the unit, and it may also be found on the website. Plus you can get game results, board minutes, functions of the board, information about tournaments, the directory, and memories.

Happy Bridging!

Jim Bean, Unit 191 President

Beginning with the July Alert, there will be a special section devoted to “feedback” from our readers. If you would like to comment on any articles in the Alert, write a Letter to the Editor, or make any other suggestions for publication, feel free to do so. Please send by e-mail to Barbara Martin.

# FOURTH OF JULY 2014 SUMMER SECTIONAL

Come celebrate with our unit! The Bright Leaf Summer Sectional will be held over the Fourth of July weekend this year. It starts with a pairs session on Thursday evening, July 3, and continues through our Swiss Teams session on Sunday, July 6. The complete schedule may be found at

<http://web2.acbl.org/Tournaments/Ads/2014/07/1407059.pdf>

If you need a partner or the other half of a Swiss Team, we'll match you up – contact one of our partnership chairs:

299-ers - **Phyllis Woody**  
pwoody@unc.edu  
919-489-0020

Open - **Mary Vickers**  
mvickers@mindspring.com,  
919-363-2555

Mark your calendar and plan to attend!

Our unit is becoming very well known as hosting the tournament that offers lots of very good food. Please plan to sign up on the sheets by the kitchen for your food contribution to allow the hospitality chairperson to better plan for food setup. We would enjoy having you make one of your favorite recipes! Or make a monetary contribution to defray some of the additional expenses. If you would like to volunteer to help in the kitchen or to help clean up after each game, please contact either Leonard or me.

Jackie Marks

## ROXBORO CLUB NEWS

Helen Starr writes:

*"The Roxboro Bridge Club was uprooted from its ten-year meeting site when the 12,000 square foot Person County Senior Center was closed at the end of March. With no meeting place, the Roxboro Health-care and Rehabilitation Center "took us in" and provided a temporary meeting place until the substitute Senior Center, 4000 feet, was opened. This site didn't work out for us as they asked us to change our schedule to a more limited one due to the demands of their programs at the Center. So as of May 1, 2014, we will be meeting at Long Memorial Methodist Church in up-town Roxboro until further notice. Once the politics in Roxboro settle down and a newer, bigger Senior Center becomes a reality, we hope to move back into the Senior Center. This may take several years."*

*"On a brighter note, we recently had 2 of our members take the director's test and pass. They are **Gerry O'Neil** and **Susan Korn**. We now have as directors: **Keith Starr**, **Fran Westmoreland**, **John Barnard**, **Claiborne Tuck** and as directors-in-training Gerry and Susan. Since we are using Bridgemates, most of the training involves their usage. All of our directors are playing directors and the numbers help 'distribute the load'".*

*The club meets on Monday at 1:00 and Wednesday evening at 7:30. Game fee is \$3.00.*

## UPCOMING TOURNAMENTS

June 6-8	<b>Southern Pines, NC—Non-Life Master Sectional</b>
June 20-22	<b>Blacksburg, VA Sectional</b>
June 20-22	<b>Florence, SC Sectional</b>
June 27-29	<b>Flat Rock, NC Sectional</b>
June 30-July 6	<b>Bethesda, MD Regional</b>
July 3-6	<b>Durham, NC Sectional</b>
July 7-13	<b>Columbia, SC Regional</b>
July 17-27	<b>Las Vegas NABC</b>
July 25-27	<b>Winston-Salem, NC Sectional</b>



What a pleasure it was to see **Lucy Terrell** back at the bridge table again! Lucy fell on March 14, broke her hip, shattered her elbow and has been recuperating since. Lucy returned in style—teaming with Anne Boyd to finish third in the 17 table game on May 15.



## Cinco de Mayo Feliz Cumpleaños a Ann! Te miras magnífica en un sombrero!

In addition to May 5th being a special day for celebrating Mexico's victory at Puebla, it was also a special day at THE BRIDGE ACADEMY. **Ann Vaughn** was surprised with a birthday party. Having grown up in Texas, Ann participated in 5/5 activities as a child. We hope to see her wearing this sombrero again. Ann, with the support of **Robin Marin**, is responsible for preparing food for the games at THE BRIDGE ACADEMY.

# BEHIND THE SCENES

It can be any day of the week in Unit 191 and members have the opportunity to play bridge—even on selected Sundays. We all show up close to game time and the room is set, mats are out, everything is in order, and we take for granted that it just all “happens”. It is true that club owners and managers do the bulk of the work, but there are some “**behind the scenes**” people who deserve some credit for constantly being there and doing their jobs.

On Mondays and Wednesdays at The Bridge Academy, arrive early and you will see **Ann Vaughn** or **Robin Marin** bringing in coolers loaded with food for the sessions—sandwiches, vegetables, fruit, dips, and desserts. They display the delectables attractively and keep the area clean. Of course, at the end of the session, they make sure the area is all cleaned. Ann also collects the money and assigns tables. **Joe Haseman** comes early on both Monday and Wednesday to put out and open bidding boxes. At game time, **Audrey Crosby** is busy passing out boards.

The Durham Bridge Club, which meets on Wednesday mornings is managed by Nancy Young. She would like to say a special thank-you to the board members, who contribute food for the game, **Jeff Boak**, for helping with the finances, **Ken Dye**, the director, and **Jim Bean**, who acts as liaison to the board.

At the Tarheel Bridge Club which meets on Wednesday and Friday afternoons, two persons have served as designated partners for over a year. **Phylliss Woody** and **Janet Hitti** are always there to fill in as a partner so John can run the game smoothly.

“At the Friday Senior Center game, we are very grateful for **Diane Saulsberry**. She is usually in the room before we get there to help arrange tables and chairs, set out table mats and bid boxes and get the refreshments ready. She greets everyone by-name, helps as a guaranteed partner when Paul and I can’t both be there, and generally makes the game run more smoothly. She even goes to Sam’s for us. We couldn’t do it week after week without her. Thanks, Diane. We love you.”

*“We are also grateful that a number of very generous players bring goodies to share, and **Henry Meguid** helps out as substitute director when we take a notion to go traveling. ”*

*“Most of all we are grateful for the congenial, faithful and all-around outstanding players who show up on Fridays to play at our game. Thanks to all.”*

Ruth Ann and Paul Schwenke

*“**Linda Harris, Linda Harris, Linda Harris!** Linda has been the ‘God Send’ of everyday operations of Triangle Bridge Club. Not only does Linda act as a guaranteed partner for many games but she is the one who does a lot of the general cleaning of the facility. Linda stays ‘after work’ to make sure the restrooms and floors are clean. She helps organize the kitchen whenever there are tournaments scheduled and helps with the computer during the games. The only ‘pay’ she gets is free plays. She refuses to accept a paycheck because she is learning to become a director.”*

*“Ever since **Paul Williams** retired, he has been a guaranteed partner on Monday afternoons. It certainly helps the game run smoother whenever the director does not have to play. And what would we do without **Maggie**? “Maggie, a player is here from out of town. Can you play?” “Sure.”*

*“Many other people make TBC run better by always picking up the boards, garbage etc. after the game: **David Crow, Jody Bartlett, Sara Janszen, Ingrid Toschlog, Janet Hitti, and Maggie Lindquist**. Others bring in delicious goodies. I don’t want to list them as I am afraid I leave off a name! **Ira Vendig** has been picking up pencils after every game in which he plays for many years!”*

*“Of course one group of people who help TBC is the substitute directors who cover the games while Jay and I are out of town. **John, Maggie, Marty, Ruth Ann and Ken** step in so the games continue.”*

Darleen Bates

# Membership Report

*Submitted by Harrison Brooke*

April activity didn't treat us kindly with a drop of 6 from our March figure and a dip of 9 from April of last year. We had no new ACBL members for the first time since our report of 10/01/12. While 2 of our inactive Future Life Members were reinstated, 4 went inactive, and 3 of our members transferred out. 2 of our snowbirds returned from months in the sun and 1 of our snowbirds fled to cooler weather. 1 of our LMs went on unpaid status, and sadly we lost 1 member. Please see NOTE below.

For the month, 12 of our members advanced in rank, almost matching the 13 for the month before. We cheer the following:

<b>Junior Master</b>	<b>Christine Chai</b> <b>Marian Meyer</b>	<b>Steve Kunin</b> <b>Mary Tate</b>
<b>Club Master</b>	<b>Rosalie Bateson</b> <b>Linda Karp</b>	<b>Levi Diala</b> <b>Lee Thomas</b>
<b>Sectional Master</b>	<b>Richard Cole</b>	<b>Jo Heiss</b>
<b>Regional Master</b>	<b>Don Hierman</b>	
<b>NABC Master</b>	<b>Murali Rao</b>	

**We're proud of and pleased for you !!**

I'm sad to report the death of Life Master **Jeanne H. Parsons** who transferred to Unit 191 in late summer of 2008 from Unit 139, Piedmont Virginia. She was a resident of the Cedars in Chapel Hill and while I didn't know her and haven't been able to find an obituary, I assume she moved to this area to be near her family.

We also lost former member **Richard C. (Dick) Wilson** who passed away on 20 April. He and his late wife **Rosemary** who died 28 December of last year were active players during the 1990s and beyond before they moved to the Cedars in 2006. Dick was 81 and is survived by his son Barry and two granddaughters.

**Sarah R. (Sissy) Craver** 82, died Sunday 4 May at The Arbor at Galloway Ridge. Born in Charlotte, she and her family spent many years there as well as a decade in Roanoke and many happy hours at both Blowing Rock and Wrightsville Beach. She is survived by son Sam (Sally) of Roanoke, son Rhodes (Ann) of Durham, daughter Ashley (Howard Rice) also of Durham and three grandchildren.

Sadly **Virginia Wagner's** brave battle with pancreatic cancer ended on Thursday 10 May. She was 72, a devoted wife, mother and grandmother, an award-winning teacher, an active member of Duke's Campus Club and her church, and an accomplished artist. She is survived by her husband Bob, her son David (Tho) of Austin TX, her daughter Sara (Lloyd Patillo) of Durham, her daughter Beth of the DC area, and four grandchildren.

**NOTE:** The figures in the first paragraph of this report are based on ACBL's report of 1 May and do not include Sissy and Virginia.

# What's a "Balance of Power [BOP]" Double?

*Written by Dave Streifford*

Having just read Mel Colchamiro's *How You Can Play Like An Expert* [no comments, please], I have just enough understanding to be dangerous. Also, I need to alert my patient partners of this newfound interpretation of what looks like a takeout or penalty double. So, let's look at the differences.

Mel attributes the idea to Eric Kokish, but says he codified and clarified what Kokish called "active doubles" and renamed them "BOP" doubles. Three conditions and/or rules govern:

1. Both partners have bid at least once ["usually"],
2. The lengthy opponent bidder is on the left, and
3. You are entertaining the double because you know we have most of the points.

Take the following auction [you are South, both Vulnerable]:

W	N	E	S
1C	P	1H	P
1NT	P	P	X

Rather than being short in clubs, it would seem that W is long. Moreover, E has only 4 hearts and probably less than 10 points, hence his pass rather than a New Minor Forcing bid of 2D. So, with an opening 12-14 point hand and the partner with between 6 and 9, South sees an opening. You decide to double because YOU KNOW you and partner have about the same or more points as the opponents. Further, you don't want to let them play in 1NT.

Here's another example [you are South; both NV]:

W	N	E	S
P	1H	1S	1NT
2S	P	P	X

Here is the South hand: K984 5 KQ7 K865

As before, you KNOW you and partner have the majority of points [at least 23], so this is the best way to tell partner. Because you have a spade stopper, a 2NT bid is perfectly acceptable, but double is better because it conveys the points. Now, if partner wants to leave the double in, you'll be ok.

Mel summarizes the difference this way: if it's known that opponents have an 8-card fit, it's a Balance of Power double. If it looks like a 7-card fit, it's a penalty double. Also, if they have an 8-card fit, 2NT is for takeout and says we have two places to play. (See the May 2014 BB, p. 54)

Please send me your preference for other columns: Specific Hands, mostly taken from our club play, or professional recommendations on bidding, declarer play and defense. Just email me at [streif411@gmail.com](mailto:streif411@gmail.com).

# UNIT 191 BRIDGE TEACHERS

Since the first feature on our unit 191 teachers, I have received information from others who have taught in our unit.

**JIM DRAKE** *(Written by John Torrey)*

Jim's health has prevented him from teaching actively since 2004, but he is possibly our area's most successful teacher when measured by the progress in bridge made by his students. Many of his students are now active players, and some are teachers themselves.

Jim started teaching in his native New Hampshire, in 1985. He ran a duplicate game on Wednesday nights, and taught beginner lessons while open and novice sections played. He moved to Rhode Island in 1992 and was the resident teacher at the Bridge Club of Rhode Island until 1995, when he moved to Chapel Hill. Shortly afterwards, Jim filled a Wednesday evening opening at the old Chapel Hill Senior Center for bridge lessons. He considers this to be his most interesting adventure in teaching bridge. From 1997 to 2004 he taught over a hundred residents of Governor's Club. None of these students were life masters when they began their lessons with Jim, but very soon, over 50 students achieved that rank.



Jim always made his classes fun and entertaining. He rarely taught duplicate specific bridge, but encouraged play in any venue. His classes stressed fundamentals and discipline, if only for the sake of partnership trust. When teaching conventions, he always explained the purpose and benefits as well as any downside. Also, conventions were always taught in their complete form. He always encouraged his students to ask any questions that would occur to them, and found ways to get value from the most basic questions.

Jim really enjoyed teaching, but nowadays he can be found at the Monday and Wednesday evening Swiss team events at the Triangle Bridge Club.

**LARRY HONEYWELL**



*"It has been several years since I taught at the bridge center. When I did, I taught modern conventions. For the past almost four years, I have taught a 30 minute mini-lesson every Tuesday afternoon at the Governors Club Bridge Club which I follow with an unsanctioned duplicate supervised*

*game in which I provide assistance when asked. My lessons have been on a variety of basic bridge subjects to players who have taken beginner and intermediate lessons and to people returning to bridge after many years of absence. Modern bidding conventions have been our most frequent subject but recently we have concentrated on defense."*

**MARTY DEMKO**

*"I have been teaching bridge at many locations in the Triangle area for seven years, including the Triangle Bridge Center, Governor's Club, Raleigh Bridge Club, and the Glen-*



*naire Retirement Community. I also regularly offer pre-game lessons at the Middle Creek Bridge Club in Cary. Over the years, I have helped over 200 players improve their bridge skills in formal classes."*

*"I prefer to teach at the novice or intermediate level, and use a number of Pat Harrington "Play and Learn" courses. My favorite is "Polishing Your Basics", a fourteen lesson course designed to meet the needs of both novices and those players who have been playing socially for 30 or 40 years but wish to learn the current thinking in bidding and techniques."*

*"I have moved to Holly Springs and enjoy managing the Tuesday/Thursday games at the Middle Creek Community Center in Cary. I am not currently offering any formal classes. I'm a Silver Life Master and a member of the American Bridge Teachers' Association."*

Other teachers who have given of their time to give lessons in our unit have been **Glenn and Doreen Marek, Jim Cunningham, Andrea Roitman, and Carol Stromberg.**

When serving on the board a few years ago, **Diane Bastian**, as Education liaison, contacted bridge teachers and arranged for lessons to be held in the unit. This opportunity was used by many to further their bridge skills and thus began the beginning of many lessons within the unit. She deserves a huge thanks for organizing classes.

For many years while teaching at Chapel Hill High School, **Bud Stuart** sponsored a bridge group - students who played over their lunch hour. **Carol McCaskill** taught bridge to elementary students at McDougall School as an extra-curricular activity. **Doreen Marek** ran a bridge camp for students during one summer in Carrboro. Each made a major contribution to the promotion of bridge in the unit.

Our unit is extremely fortunate to have so many members who have contributed to the growth of bridge in our area. Whether you are a teacher, director, board member, club manager, mentor, or volunteer—your efforts are greatly appreciated by all. Let us all continue to work together to promote bridge in our unit!

## RALEIGH REGIONAL WINNERS!

There were many members of our unit who attended the Raleigh Regional tournament held over Memorial Day weekend.

Leading winners from our unit were:

<b>Josef Blass</b>	116.70
<b>Jacek Pszcola</b>	116.70
<b>Kay Joyce</b>	61.85
<b>Randy Joyce</b>	57.59
<b>Andrea Roitman</b>	45.57
<b>Howard Su</b>	40.21
<b>Wayne Stuart</b>	36.52
<b>Gale Meyer</b>	25.43
<b>Ken Dye</b>	24.59
<b>Betsy Mebane</b>	24.59
<b>Jack Whetstone</b>	23.55
<b>Jill Kaufman</b>	21.69
<b>Cliff Kaufman</b>	21.69
<b>Dave Schreiber</b>	20.08
<b>Charlie Marshall</b>	19.31
<b>Paul Morrisette</b>	19.27
<b>Ben Kompa</b>	18.84
<b>Jackie Marks</b>	17.49
<b>Deanna Larus</b>	17.16
<b>Valerie Roberts</b>	17.01
<b>Linda Whipple</b>	17.01

What an exciting tournament for **Betsy Mebane!** She earned the last of her gold points and became Life Master.

Congratulations to everyone!

It was a pleasure to see **Sandy McCay** at the tournament! She is doing well in Naples, Florida and sends greetings to all unit members.

## MENTOR/MENTEE GAME

The next and LAST mentor/mentee game will be held on Tuesday, June 10. There will be a potluck luncheon beginning at 12:30. Plan to play and celebrate the end of a successful year of the mentoring program.

Please contact **Linda Harris** (lharris166@nc.rr.com) or **Sharon Crane** (scbridge@earthlink.net) if you are planning to play or could be a substitute.

# When in Doubt, Bluff

*Written by Randy Joyce and Sandy McCay*

Playing the last round of a Swiss Team, you pick up the following distributional collection of garbage S x, H xx, D QJxxxxx, C Qxx. You are vulnerable, and the opponents are not. The bidding proceeds 1 Heart to your left and a 2 DIAMOND overcall by partner. RHO contributes 2 Hearts and now you must decide how many Diamonds to bid. You could make a majestic leap to 5 Diamonds. This is indicated by your length in trumps, but your overall lack of quick tricks makes this a little extreme. You could merely raise to 3 Diamonds and proudly tell partner that you are making up for a lifetime of never holding trumps for him. Or, you could go for a semi-bluff bid of 4 Diamonds which would be a distributional LIMIT raise as you play. Maybe a bluff bid will keep the opponents out of their 4 Heart game, so you bid 4D. The bidding quickly escalates. 4 Hearts carols LHO, 4NT cheerfully offers partner, 5 Hearts barks RHO. NICE....

What a kettle of fish you have propelled yourself into. Systemically, a double by you would announce zero Aces and a pass would show 1. However, you feel that with this particular hand, 5 Hearts doubled might be the final contract, and it might just be a race to see if you could hold the overtrick.

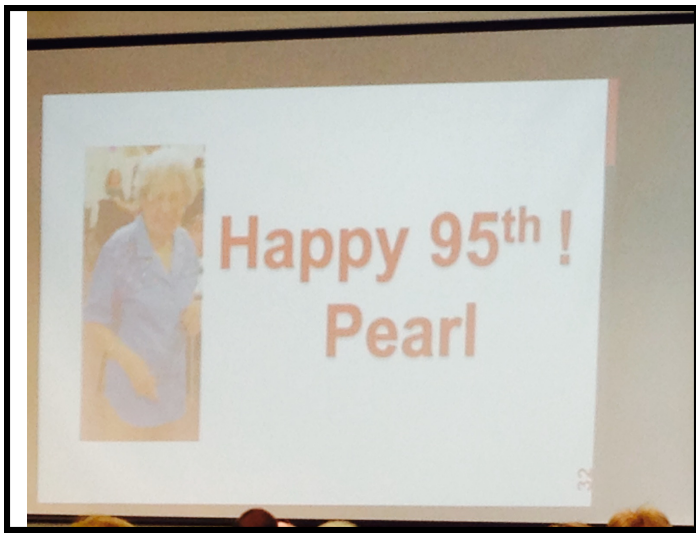
You decide to bluff high AGAIN and pass showing an Ace. As they say in Texas Hold 'Em Poker, ALL IN. The bidding now goes pass on your left and 6 Diamonds by partner. You can't forget that good old pard thinks you have an Ace. After some thought, RHO produces the red double card. Well, you say to yourself, at least my medical malpractice insurance is paid up to help cover a botched operation like this.

LHO, throwing ethics to the wind, produces a prompt 6 Hearts, and partner doubles. Sweet Jesus! We will be minus 1210 (see how quickly I know the scoring) or plus 100. All pass, and partner leads the A,K, and another club to beat the contract 300! Maybe those insurance premiums should be just a smidge lower next month. This hand certainly goes to show that good bidding and play are not always needed to achieve a good score.

## TBC NEWS

- Congratulations to the following for placing 1st in Flight C of the Grand National Teams for District 7. **Tatyana Stemkovski, Vladimir Stemkovski, Ben Kompa and Robert Thorstad.** The ACBL finals take place during the summer NABC in Las Vegas in July. Since Ben and Robert are also on the collegiate team and the collegiate finals are taking place at the same time as the GNTs, **John Gripman and Carole Hamilton** will join Vladimir and Tatyana. Good luck to all!!!
- Join us for the annual Worldwide Bridge Contest games taking place on Friday evening, June 6 at 7:00 and Saturday afternoon, June 7 at 1:30. Come for one or both. Partner guaranteed. To make the Friday evening game extra special, there will be a potluck beginning at 6:15.
- Evening Swiss games, Monday 2nd and 30th and Wednesday 11th and 25th. Come with a partner, teammates guaranteed.
- Lots of NAP games will be held in June, July and August. NAP stands for North American Pairs. You must qualify at a club before you can attend the district finals in November. Several pairs from all 3 flights will earn the right to represent District 7 at the ACBL finals at the spring nationals. Stipends are given to all winners to help with expenses. Heads up for the flight C players--- a district finals for flight C will be held at TBC in November! You won't need to travel elsewhere.

Darleen Boone Bates



Monday, May 19, was a special day for a special lady—**Pearl Schechter**. Although her birthday was actually May 18, **Kay Joyce** and **Henry Meguid** surprised her with a party at The Bridge Academy. In spite of receiving no intentional gifts from any of her opponents, Pearl and Kay finished with a 67.79% for first overall in the 16 table field.



## Unit 191 Master Point Leaders for First Quarter of 2014

The Ace of Clubs and Mini-McKenney standings below cover the first quarter of calendar year 2014 and show the total ACBL master points recorded for the individuals listed. Each individual is shown for the master point range (not the rank) in which he/she stood as of 01/01/14. Since then, many of those listed have advanced to the next range. The Ace of Clubs points are those won at the club level only and include those won at clubs in Unit 191 as well as those won at other ACBL-sanctioned clubs. The Mini-McKenney points are those won in all ACBL-sanctioned events.

ACE OF CLUBS		MASTER POINT	MINI - McKENNEY	
		RANGE		
Steve Kunin	4.71	<b>0 - 5</b>	Diana Spock	12.84
Teddy Lovejoy	3.64		Steve Kunin	6.98
Susan Korn	2.17		Teddy Lovejoy	5.35
Ben Kompa	13.56	<b>5 - 20</b>	Ben Kompa	19.35
Bill McCartney	11.92		Page Thomas	19.04
Page Thomas	7.53		Bill McCartney	16.21
Larry Kupper	16.07	<b>20 - 50</b>	Larry Kupper	18.26
David Crow	7.79		David Crow	16.24
Bette Harrington	7.65		John Pinkerton	8.98
Eloise Fontaine	16.12	<b>50 - 100</b>	Robert Thorstad	21.63
Robert Thorstad	15.83		Rita Chapman	20.85
Bobbi Pinkerton	14.38		Eloise Fontaine	20.39
Phylliss Woody	15.94	<b>100 - 200</b>	Jim Wells	37.18
Jim Wells	15.76		Kathe Baer	24.80
Carole Crotty	12.62		Beth Watson	23.91
Betsy Mebane	19.68	<b>200 - 300</b>	Betsy Mebane	33.87
Eric Larson	12.39		Jill Kaufman	17.35
Ray McEntee	12.11		Bonnie Cox	16.92
Melanie Riva	40.46	<b>300 - 500</b>	Andrea Roitman	50.44
Andrea Roitman	32.12		Melanie Riva	48.53
Phil Draper	20.02		Joyce Jenzano	46.60
Skip Riva	46.68	<b>500 - 1,000</b>	Skip Riva	55.18
Joanne Koepke	24.41		Patsy Whitehurst	39.56
Dave Schreiber	23.68		Pahnea Ratty	38.51
Barbara Martin	43.18	<b>1,000 - 2,500</b>	Kathy Newman	62.81
Jack Whetstone	31.56		Paul Morrisette	59.04
Jim Bean	30.46		Barbara Martin	57.66
Mort Stromberg	45.63	<b>2,500 - 5,000</b>	Mary Vickers	69.61
Ken Dye	35.22		Howard Su	66.69
Jim Hansell	27.80		Mort Stromberg	63.75
Irene Adams	42.61	<b>5,000 - 7,500</b>	Wayne Stuart	222.00
Wayne Stuart	12.81		Josef Blass	71.14
Peggy Barbee	11.07		Irene Adams	61.41
Kay Joyce	28.77	<b>10,000+</b>	Kay Joyce	271.85
Randy Joyce	14.56		Randy Joyce	256.06
Chris Moll	2.70		Chris Moll	217.60

## Jim Cunningham

Born in Peoria Illinois, Jim grew up in the South — Roanoke VA, Salisbury NC, and Fort Lauderdale FL. His father was in sales for Caterpillar Tractor and his maternal grandparents followed their only daughter and her family with each transfer. Playing a lot of sports, Jim excelled at football in high school and won a scholarship to Iowa State where he graduated with a degree in chemical engineering in 1968.

Jim applied for a Marshall Fellowship (sponsored by the British government as a thank you for the Marshall Plan) to study at Oxford, but thought his chances of winning were slim. The Christmas of his last year, he blithely opened an ordinary looking letter from England and was surprised, but ecstatic, to learn of his fellowship acceptance. During his three years studying economics and engineering at Oxford, he met Rhodes' Scholar Bill Clinton with whom he has maintained a friendship. Few bridge players at any level can boast that they went to graduate school and played on the same basketball team with a U.S. President.



From Oxford, Jim went to Wall Street where he had a 21-year career. He started as a securities analyst in the chemical industry and ended up in mergers and acquisitions. He worked for several firms, the largest of which was First Boston. In Manhattan he met his future wife Jill, at that time a flight attendant. Jim married late, at 36, and retired early, at 47. The couple moved to Naples, Florida, where they could be near their parents and where their sons Scott and Devon could play sports in an environment similar to Ft Lauderdale 30 years before. Both sons work for the Raleigh-headquartered bond trading company that Scott founded in 2012.

The Cunninghams relocated to Durham in 1997 and Jim renewed his interest in bridge, a game he had played since junior high school. Jim and Jill took lessons at the old Senior Center in Chapel Hill from Joanne Van Such and they played social bridge in their neighborhood of Hope Valley. Following knee surgery and the resulting immobilization, Jim “got hooked” on bridge. He learned about duplicate bridge and Bob Boggs’ games and he has never looked back. Recognizing the difficulty of married couples playing bridge together, Jill dropped bridge in favor of tennis and the marriage has survived. Jim continues to be active physically, playing racket ball, golf, tennis, and pickle ball (a high-energy, half-court tennis-like game that is played with a paddle and a whiffle ball, and named for the dog of the game’s inventor). He also moderates a movie group that sees mainly art, foreign, and independent films, takes several OLLI classes each semester and presides over a Men’s group that he founded, made up mostly of OLLI students.

When asked to identify his proudest moment, Jim recalled four events. First, he mentioned his marriage and the birth of his two sons. He is grateful that both sons are healthy and that they like sports, a pastime that Jim believes “bonds all of us.” Second, Jim is proud to manage a foundation that supports educational endeavors. The foundation is named for a Wall Street friend who died of AIDS. Third, Jim still savors the day he opened the letter awarding him the Marshall fellowship. And finally, Jim is proud of being a mentor for nine of the ten years he has played duplicate bridge.

“A wise friend at Oxford told me that it is good to have several careers. My Wall Street experience was money, money, money, pressure, pressure, pressure. I consider my second career to be teaching (substitute and full-time teaching in charter schools when I first moved to Durham), mentoring at bridge, and coaching my sons in many sports. I am willing to help people, I am patient, and I enjoy teaching and giving back,” Jim said.

All of Jim’s most memorable bridge moments came in tournament play. In one of his first tournaments, he remembers winning almost 70 master points over five or six days at a South Carolina regional, teaming with Howard Su, Paul Kobrin, and Rosalie Marcus. Women opponents, grand dames of social bridge, treated them like “rock stars,” Jim recalled, “a thrill for a bridge upstart like myself.” Later Jim’s team of Craig DeAlmeida, Jeff Puckett, and Mike Kawalec beat the favored team of Mike and Liz McGuffey, Maggie Lindquist, and Mike Zimmerman in a Grand Nationals Team qualifying event in Morganton. Ahead at the half, Jim suggested his team not bid too aggressively. Jeff bid 7 spades, missing the ace of diamonds. The person on lead didn’t have the ace, the contract made, and the right to continue the competition came home for his team. Another time, Jim’s team played the Meckstroth/Rodwell team in a six-hand mini-Swiss event and lost by only one IMP. “We should have won,” Jim lamented.

Jim takes competition seriously whether on a sports field or at the bridge table. “I am not easily intimidated and my attitude that I always think I can win any match keeps me loose. Although I like to win, I always try to be a good partner, and not criticize my partner or teammates. Bridge is a very humbling game.” Jim credits his parents with teaching him to be a good sport and he has found that he has become less judgmental as he has matured. He is thankful for local bridge opportunities and for guidance from his own mentors and he looks forward to continuing bridge into his old age.

Written by Liz McGuffey

**THE ALERT IS PUBLISHED  
MONTHLY AND IS THE OF-  
FICIAL NEWSLETTER OF  
UNIT 191.  
PLEASE LET ME KNOW IF  
YOU HAVE IDEAS OR  
SUGGESTIONS.**

**BARBARA MARTIN, EDITOR**

**THERE UNDOUBTEDLY ARE MANY  
MEMBERS WHO SHOULD HAVE BEEN  
MENTIONED IN THE “BEHIND THE  
SCENES” ARTICLE. PLEASE KNOW  
THAT YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS, LARGE  
OR SMALL, ARE GREATLY APPRECI-  
ATED BY OUR MEMBERS. IF YOU HAVE  
VOLUNTEERED—HELPED TIDY UP AF-  
TER A GAME—BROUGHT FOOD—YOU  
QUALIFY TO BE PART OF THIS GROUP.  
THANKS EVERYONE!!**