

Learned to play in college in the mid-1960's. That was Arkansas State Teacher's College in Conway, Arkansas. Now University of Central College. Saw a course offering at the Little Rock Club in 2009 and took the Basic Bidding Course (ACBL Club Series). A guy named George Ballard was the teacher. And, i caught the fever. Had not played duplicate before. I fell in love with the club and the game from there. Dick Heil was the education director at that time, and I learned so much from him. A key for me was asking to play as a partner with Kathy Gates. Played against her a couple of times and she was tough. I asked her and we started playing together in 2010. We have played most of the time together as partners since then. We both became directors, we taught the club series, diamond series, and heart series ACBL courses and we enjoyed doing both teaching and directing. We both worked, and therefore directed some of the night games at the LR club. We decided to play a tournament a month if we could. We played regularly at the Tunica Regional and also the Hot Springs Regional. But, the competition we really enjoyed was the North American Pairs and the Grand National Teams. We compete in those games every year. Probably our top highlight was playing in the NAP Nationals in St. Louis. I believe it was 2012. We were in the zero to 500 category and we finished fourth. And, then drove home in a blizzard. One very fun thing we recently did was to play at every club in Arkansas. We finished that goal just before the pandemic.

Not much the District or Unit can do to improve my bridge experience. It is pretty terrific. We need to get past this Pandemic and increase participation from younger players. I know that is one of Ned's primary goals.

Most of our play is online right now. We still play several times a week in virtual clubs games. I do wish we could have an opportunity to play team games online. I do miss the team games we had at our club so much. I don't know if that is technically possible, but i would love to see it. Our LR club had a thriving team game going on alternate Sundays and were starting to play some on Saturdays. Would like to see that online if possible.