

My Mother first taught me to play bridge when I was in high school. She would have 3 tables of bridge going at our house; and if she needed a sub she would force me to play with them. One summer she decided to personally teach four of us to play. I played some in college, and couples bridge when I was married; until I met Pat Rice and Marcia Biggs. Pat started us on duplicate, hand scored the games and mailed in our points to ACBL. I wish I had saved those tickets with fractions of points on them and my original ACBL number. When I moved to Little Rock I was too busy working all of those years and only played occasionally.

Later on my Mother was playing duplicate at AARP and invited me to play with her over there. I remember my first tournament was at AARP. Dick Champman came in with a computer and boards in a box. Little did I know what I was getting into. Nancy Speer found the bridge house and talked me into playing with her at night. We played on Mon. & Th. Nights. Dan Graham taught classes on Th. Nights and took us through the book "25 conventions". Not long after that David Cockroft took over the Th, night games and we were hooked on his many classes. Nancy said, "when you retire we are going to start playing during the day" and we did. I think I ended up playing in every game everyday and having the time of my life. All of the lunches and parties and lessons Dick Heil had on Fri. were so much fun. I was ecstatic. I started going to tournaments in Hot Springs Village and didn't realize why I should even keep up with my points. After I learned how many points I had, I started to calculate and add things up. If I had kept my original ACBL number when Pat started mailing those tickets in, I would have been a life master long before now. So I went to many more tournaments, and made wonderful friends in the bridge world. I finally won enough gold points to achieve my life masters at the Mexican Nationals in San Miguel de Allende. I am forever grateful to all of my partners, friends, and excellent teachers who have helped me along this journey. I do believe many of us have become addicted to BBO during the pandemic, but nothing can replace the social relationships that we all need. The Little Rock Duplicate Bridge Club has been my favorite place to cure the social isolation during these times. I love everyone at this club and hope to pass along the knowledge and be of help to any that I can.