



Steve Maltzman

I was born and raised in Jersey City, New Jersey just a stone's throw from New York City. Growing up I was active skiing, swimming, scuba diving, and golf.

After graduating Dental School in 1967 I served 2 years in the Air Force where I started to play bridge 2 days a week— or should I say, "started to learn how to play bridge."

When I left the service, I gave up bridge for 22 years as I had a family to raise and support.

In the late 70's when casinos opened in Atlantic City, I learned how to count cards in blackjack. I was a math major in college and did my senior thesis in statistics and probability theory, so card counting seemed to be very logical for me to experiment with.

I did very well counting cards at blackjack and was known in Atlantic City as a counter and they made it very difficult for me to count cards when they would reshuffle the shoe of 8 decks after 2 decks were played out. I then took to poker where I was equally as successful. I had my own plane and making those AC trips was easy.

I had a patient come in one day and she put her pocketbook in the rack reserved for that purpose and I happened to see what looked like a convention card sticking out of her pocketbook and asked Edith if that was what I thought it was. I asked her where the closest club was and went that evening and that was the end of my poker playing. I met a bridge player with 2000 mps and thought that he was a genius. He wanted to take up counting at blackjack and playing poker for a living so I told him that I would take him down to AC and teach him how to count on the way if he would talk bridge with me on the way home. (2 hours each way)He told me that they now played a new system that I was not familiar with and it was 2/1. (2 hours wasn't enough and I'm still working on learning bridge).

That was 1993. I had a carryover of 71 mps from my 2 years in the service and in 1994 I became a life master. I was on the board of directors for both my unit 140 and District 3. I was also the tournament co-chairperson for many years for both the unit and District. In 1997 I began to work on cruise ships as the bridge director/teacher.

I sold my practice in 1998 and the new owner requested that I work for him for 5 years. I did so 3 days a week. I gave him 6 years and in 2004, I worked for MetLife as a dental consultant as their main home office was just 1.5 miles from my home. I would go in a 4am and work until 12, 3 days a week and go right to the bridge club after work.... I traveled to all local tournaments and 2 Nationals every year.

My son moved his family to Tucson in 2002 and in 2011 I decided that the grandkids were at the perfect age for me to interact with them. Here I met the LOVE of my life after being single for many years. Donna DePesa has been my partner at the bridge table since 2012, but more importantly my Partner in Life.

I have been very lucky to have somebody like Donna in the last innings of my life.

We have traveled the world together working on cruise ships and will sorely miss doing that as we have retired from cruising.

We have and will survive the pandemic. Fortunately, we have bridge online and I am an organist and spend many hours each day playing organ/piano and flying my drones. Donna has bridge and her weekly dancing. We are not bored.