

Getting to Know You



Meet Alan Trippel.

My wife, Pati, and I moved to HSV from Connecticut where we joined hands in (our second) marriage in June 1990. We have 5 children ages 45 through 35 and 9 grandchildren ages 13 down to 2 years. All but one adult live in the CT & NYC area. Our oldest son lives in Boulder, CO.

I started playing bridge in 1970 when 3 buddies and I working together at a bank in downtown NYC read Charles Goren's classic – which was the rage back then. Anyone else remember how to bid 4-card majors? My regular partner and I were a decent partnership and started playing in duplicate tournaments in NYC and on Long Island. This continued for a few years until he moved out of state. I tried to keep up at the local duplicate club on Long Island with different partners but none clicked with me. I played Rubber Bridge off-and-on but as my career and two youngest children demanded more of my time bridge became an underdeveloped activity until I moved to HSV in December 2007.

Shortly settling in I renewed my ACBL membership, joined VCC and started playing in a weekly game or two moving up to the Open games. At our club I have held different volunteer positions on the Board (Program chair, Education Chair, President and now Treasurer) and two paid positions (Club Manager and game director). I still conduct my survey business a few hours each week and besides VCC I perform volunteer work at the Ouachita Children, Youth and Family Services Center and at Garvan Woodlands Gardens.

My favorite bridge memory is a Spring 2012 National Championship held in Memphis. Wally Johnson and I went and played many sessions. We took off one night, went out for a rib dinner and decided to watch the professionals play in the Vanderbilt Team Championship that night. I was observing one table watching two European women play against a pair from the US. Wally was watching another table where two Italian men were playing another foreign pair. Once when I looked over at Wally he was sitting in the North chair of an Italian playing dummy. I literally did a double take! Next time you see Wally ask him how it felt to play bridge with experts in a national championship. I won't give you the reason this happened – I will let Wally reminisce the remainder of the story. It was a bridge moment I will never forget – seeing my regular partner playing in a national championship with a new partner.