

Dear Bridge Players, we survived Ian and have reopened effective 10/4 with unisex and limited restrooms. Repair work continues but the venue is safe. Our thoughts and prayers go out to all who are suffering the aftereffects. FUNDRAISER EVENT FOR THE UKRANIAN FAMILY HAS BEEN POSTPONED. NEW DATE TBA.

Warren Prince asked me to help spread the word that the North Port Bridge Club is also closed until further notice. He himself remains without power and water and is surrounded by three feet of water. I keep him and all of you who need help in my prayers.

When Greater Venice reopens, we will continue to have special games, all with extra point awards, every day for the rest of the year. October's games are all no extra charge. Highlights and updates:

- Club Appreciation Ukraine Charity Game EVENTUALLY. We will add a limited section for the 299er group. Please invite your social bridge playing friends. Pastor Ken has advised me that due to the generosity of so many people, the family no longer needs clothing, household items, or furniture. Financial support is sorely needed to pay the rent until employment can be secured so we are hoping for a huge turnout. 100% of the proceeds, including your playing fee, Tom's director fee, and the rent, are going to the family. Bring your checkbook for the silent auction table, and any extra donation you may wish to make beyond the \$8 playing fee. Remember to put Ukrainian family on the memo line of your check and make it out to Christ Lutheran Church. We'll have extra refreshments and door prizes. Presentation of the funds raised will be made to Pastor Ken at Church on Sunday, October 11. You are most welcome.
- Two Prize Club Appreciation Game Tuesday, October 18. Whoever has the two-prize at the end of the game wins!
- Pro-Am Club Appreciation Game Thursday, October 20. At least one member of each pair must have fewer than 1000 masterpoints. There's a list of eligible players in each category on the website or Tom can help you. Al and Ann will host a postmortem after the game.
- Eight-is-Enough Sloppy Sunday Swiss Club Appreciation Game (including fractional GOLD POINTS!) October 30. You'll need a four-person team of players with various skill levels for this event

consisting of four six-board rounds. Sloppy Joe sandwiches will be served prior to the game and black cows (root beer floats) will be served during the afternoon.

Christ Lutheran Church is sponsoring October Fest dinner Saturday, October 22. Bridge players are welcome to join the party, reservation required, flier attached.

Beginner lessons are starting November 1. If you have any friends who might be interested, please ask them to contact me.

November is chock full of extra point games at no extra charge; check out the calendar.

Holiday party has been scheduled. Members of the club and graduating beginner students are invited to complimentary luncheon at 12:15 on Tuesday, December 20. Non-member players may join the festivities for a \$15 upcharge. Game fee is \$8 as usual, and it will be a Club Championship event. We'll need a head count for the caterer, so reservation for lunch is required. Invitation attached, never too early to reserve.

Welcome back snowbirds! Contact me if you have any questions, comments or complaints, and Tom if you need a partner. Speaking of suggestions, thanks for using the box. You have saved us from that fellow's annoying voice associated with the time clock. Turns out it works just as well running silently. However, whoever made the suggestion that we show traveler information on the Bridgemate "like Warren does" will find that *never* happening while I am your club manager. I feel very strongly that this is wrong, wrong, wrong. It does slow down the game, and also gives unauthorized information that is especially useful for the stronger players, who know when to change their strategy based on the standings. They don't need extra help!! Tournament directors agree with me. You will never see this information in an ACBL-sponsored tournament.

See you at our tables soon.
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