

BRIGHT LEAF ALERT

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF UNIT 191

SEPTEMBER 2026

Welcome to September!

Some thoughts related to our Mentor-Mentee program, and all the recent news and changes to the news.

First, our gratitude to **Michael Lavine and Kim Wasserman** for making this program a highlight of Unit 191. And to all of you who participate, as mentees—working to play our game with ever more finesse, and as mentors—giving of your time and expertise to nurture our friends and future competitors. Thanks also to those of you who give of your time to organize and lead the pre-game lessons!

Over the summer, Michael and Kim surveyed last year's participants with an eye to continuing to improve the program on offer. The schedule was created and participants were ready to go.

Suddenly, we got word less than a week ago that our friend **Henry Meguid**, in order to further another important endeavor, the teaching program offered by Triangle Bridge Academy, could not make the familiar Tuesday mornings available to the Mentoring program. Mentor-Mentee was to be moved to the 2nd and 4th Wednesday afternoons. This change was not anticipated by the Unit board or the leaders of the Mentor-Mentee program.

Meetings were held, emails were sent, as you might imagine. We are all hoping when the dust settles, that every component of our Durham bridge world will enjoy a successful program year. Fingers crossed that those of you who desired to participate on the prior schedule will still be able to take advantage of this program's excellent offerings.

Feedback, positive or negative, is requested, as for all of our endeavors. For comments specifically regarding the change in dates and times, please address those directly to Henry (henry@bridgeacademync.com) . See you soon at the bridge table!

Morris and Ray—Unit 191 Co-Presidents



MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Reporting activity in Unit 191 from June 30-July 31

449 paid members

We welcome—

New member—**Rick Kreiselman**

New transfer into the unit—**Maxie Templeton**

Congratulations to the following who have attained a new rank -

Mark Thomas—Junior Master

Maryann Petroskey—Junior Master

Kathrine McLendon—Junior Master

Thomas Campbell—Junior Master

Pauline An—Junior Master

Ginger Long—Club Master

Cynthia Johnston—Club Master

Jeff Olsen—Regional Master

Michele Smith—NABC Master

Lee Nackman—Advanced NABC Master

Margaret Smith—Life Master

Michael Lavine—Life Master

Liz Schuler—Silver Life Master

Michael Lavine—Silver Life Master

Diane Bastian—Gold Life Master



Calling All Bridge Mentors and Mentees

Dear Bridge Players,

We're excited to invite you to participate in **Unit 191's mentoring program for 2026/27**. We'll again offer a combination of face-to-face and online opportunities designed to help players improve their game, get more practice, and learn from more experienced players.

We especially encourage experienced players to volunteer as mentors. **You don't have to commit to every month - even serving occasionally as a substitute mentor is a big help.**

Face-to-Face Mentoring

As last year, we'll offer two tiers.

TIER I – 250 MP Mentees / 500 MP Mentors

Tier I is designed to help **less experienced players** develop their game.

Mentees: fewer than 250 masterpoints (MPs)

Mentors: fewer than 500 MPs

When: Fourth Wednesday of each month, beginning September 22

Where: Triangle Bridge Academy (TBA)

Game: 10:00 AM

Optional lesson: 9:15–9:45 AM

Each pair will consist of one mentor and one mentee.

TIER II – Unlimited Masterpoints

Tier II is designed for **more experienced players** who want to continue developing their game.

Mentees: any number of masterpoints

Mentors: players who feel qualified

When: Second Wednesday of each month, beginning September 8

Where: Triangle Bridge Academy (TBA)

Game: 10:00 AM

Optional lesson: 9:15–9:45 AM

(continued)

Each pair will consist of one mentor and one mentee.

If you are a Tier II mentee with fewer than 500 MPs, we strongly encourage you to also volunteer as a **Tier I mentor**. When matching Tier II mentees with mentors, we will give priority to mentees who are also willing to mentor in Tier I.

Online Mentoring Game – 500 MP Limit

We'd like to offer the monthly online mentoring game on BBO again this year, provided we have enough players to make it worthwhile.

When: Third Wednesday of each month, beginning September 16

Time: 7:00 PM

Where: BBO

Who: Players with fewer than 500 MPs

Both Tier I and Tier II mentees are welcome, as are players who do not participate in the face-to-face program. Each pair will consist of two mentees, and we can help you find a partner.

After each game, a panel of experienced players will review selected hands and provide comments, which will be distributed to the participants.

If you are interested in playing online, please let us know - and please plan to participate fairly regularly. The online game will only run if we have enough We are also looking for experienced players who are willing to serve as **online mentors by writing comments on the hands**.

Fees

The fee for each face-to-face game is **\$12 per player**. We encourage mentees to cover their mentor's fee. In addition, Unit 191 will subsidize **\$5 of the mentor's fee** when the mentor is playing with a mentee from the unit, so the fee will be **\$19 per pair**.

The online game will be **\$8 per player**. Of this, \$5 covers administration and \$3 will be donated to a charity to be named later. Because mentors do not play in the online game, there is no payment or subsidy. (continued)

Sign Up Now

Please email **Kim Wasserman** (kwasserm@gmail.com) and let her know:

Whether you would like to be a **mentor, mentee, or both**

Tier I, Tier II, or both

Whether you are interested in the **online game**

Whether you are willing to serve as an **occasional or substitute mentor**

We hope many of our more experienced Unit 191 players will consider giving back to the game by mentoring - even if you can only participate occasionally. A strong pool of substitute mentors makes it possible for us to accommodate more mentees and keep the program running smoothly.

First Games

Tier II: Wednesday, September 8 at 10:00 AM

Tier I: Wednesday, September 22 at 10:00 AM

Online: Wednesday, September 16 at 7:00 PM

We hope you'll join us!

FROM THE ARCHIVES—SEPTEMBER, 2016

1. **Nancy Crow and Phylliss Woody**, chairpersons for the Mentor-Mentee program have set up the program for the year and have 34 pairs signed up.
2. **Liz McGuffey**, Unit 191 member and author, recently gave a reading at The Regulator, a local bookstore, about Mary Hancock, an author who Liz knew while growing up. Also in this issue are 2 interviews did with **Henry Meguid and Chris Moll**.
3. Unit board members are: **Joyce Jenzano, Jackie Marks, Phylliss Woody, Diane Saulsberry, Carole Crotty, Nancy Crow, Melanie Riva, Ed Fuller, Betsy Mebane, Hugon Karwowski, Linda Harris, Barbara Martin**.
4. Unit 191 is hosting a NLM tournament the weekend of November 11-13,
5. **Maggie Lindquist** conducted two successful adult bridge camps in August.
6. The holiday gala will be held on December 4th at the Sheraton Hotel in Chapel Hill. **Linda Harris and Kay Richardson** are chairing the event.
7. The Bridge Academy is hosting a Mixed Pairs Championship on September 28.

Memories

Breaking News from the Card Table: September at the Roxboro ACBL Bridge Club

September is here, and our Monday games are **consistently bringing in 4½ to 5 tables!** We love seeing so many familiar faces around the tables, and there is always room for a few more. If you have a friend who enjoys Bridge—or someone who has been saying they need to get back to playing—**invite them to come join us!**

Ⓝ No Bridge on Labor Day

There will be **no Monday afternoon Bridge game on Labor Day, September 7th**. Enjoy the holiday, and we'll see you back at the tables the following Monday.

Invite a Friend to Play Bridge!

We all know someone who plays Bridge but hasn't joined us lately—or someone who has been looking for a friendly game. Why not be the one to invite them to play with on Monday afternoons or Wednesday evenings? And, if you are from out of town consider a leisurely drive to Roxboro for lunch and bridge or bridge and dinner. We love our out of town friends!

Sometimes all it takes is a personal invitation. Instead of simply saying, *"You should come play sometime,"* try something a little more inviting:

- "We're having such a fun group on Mondays. Come play with us!"
- "We're consistently getting 4½ to 5 tables, and we'd love to have you join us."
- "You don't need to have a partner—I can help you find one!" (Or ask your partner to play with someone else in the club so your friend can be your partner the first time).
- "Come play a few hands with us. It's a friendly group, and we have a lot of fun."
- "You've got to come back to Bridge! We miss you!"
- "How about joining me for Bridge Monday? I'll save you a seat!"
- "Come give our club a try—you might even win some Masterpoints!" 😊

"Bridge is always more fun when you have good people around the table. Come join us!"

And don't forget the best invitation of all: "I'm going to Bridge Monday. Want to come with me?"

A personal invitation makes all the difference. Bring a friend, introduce them to our Bridge family, and help us keep those tables full!

♥ ☐ Remember: You're not just inviting someone to play Bridge—you're inviting them to be part of a fun, friendly group of people who love the game as much as you do. (continued)

♠♦♣♥ If you're new to duplicate bridge, don't worry. Most of us still remember when we thought a Bridgmate was someone who drove us to the game.

Let Jayne Know You're Playing

Please let **Jayne Bremer** know if you plan to play. You can **text, email, or call**—whatever is easiest! **919-824-0666** OR RoxboroACBLBridge@gmail.com Knowing who is coming helps us make sure we have enough tables and can help arrange partners when needed. Speaking of partners, we have some people who need, but do not have a consistent partner so, please if you are willing to play on a day when your regular partner is not available, please let Jayne know.

✿ Teresa Is Off to Ireland!

While Teresa is away in Ireland, she'll be busy kissing the Blarney Stone and hopefully bringing back enough luck to keep her Bridge game on a winning streak! In the meantime, Lydia Eanes will be Teresa's stand-in, so be sure to give Lydia your money and let know if you will be playing the following week.

We're looking forward to another fun month of Bridge, laughter, a little friendly competition—and, of course, plenty of excuses for why that last hand didn't go quite as planned!

Come join us in September. Bring a friend, bring your luck, and bring your best Bridge face! See you at the tables!

New ACBL Unit 191 Bulletin Board

This summer a new ACBL Unit 191 Bulletin Board was installed. It's located on the right-hand wall as you enter the Triangle Bridge Academy. We are hoping to make the board informative and interesting for all of our members. What would you like to see posted there? Possibilities:

Contact Info for Leadership
Minutes of Board Meetings and Treasurer's Report
Masterpoints Milestones
New Members' Information
Tournament Flyers
Bridge Humor
Hand of the Week
Player Spotlights
Personal Announcements - Get well wishes - Obituaries - Moves
Other

We are open to suggestions. Please let us know what you'd like to see by using the "Suggestion Box" that will be on top of the bookcase which is located below the new bulletin board. —**Maggie Smith**, coordinator

NAP

In June, July, and August, bridge clubs have been running qualification games for the annual North American Pairs. The next competition event will be the District 7 NAP finals to be held on September 19th and 20th in Charlotte. Winners of these games (top 3 or 4) will receive a stipend from District 7 so that players can attend the National NAP contest at the NABC in Dallas, Texas in March 2027.

So are you qualified to compete? [Click Here](#) for the list of qualifiers from Unit 191. If your name is on the list, there will be a Q showing what flight you have qualified for. If you have a Q, you should seriously consider playing in the District 7 tournament. (The list of Unit 191 qualifiers may be found on the unit website).

Here is a summary of the Flights, competition, and schedule (compiled by Barbara Hudson).

District 7 finals:

a. Flight Championship: Open

District Final will be held in Charlotte, NC, Saturday, September 19, 2026, 10:00 a.m. and 3:00. The top three pairs ***in Championship flight will receive an invitation to the NABC Final in Dallas, TX, Wed/Thu March 10-11, 2027.

b. Flight A: Under 6000 masterpoints

District Final will be held in Charlotte, NC, Sunday,

September 20, 2026, 9:30 and 2:00. The top three pairs *** in A flight will receive an invitation to the NABC Final in Dallas, TX, Wed/Thu March 10-11, 2027.

c. Flight B: Under 3000 masterpoints

District Final will be held in Charlotte, NC, Saturday September 19, 10:00 a.m. and 3:00. The top four pairs Flight B will receive an invitation to the NABC Final in Dallas, TX, Sat/Sun March 20-21, 2027.

d. Flight C: Non-Life Master <750

District Final will be held in Charlotte, NC, Sunday, September 20, 2026, 9:30am & 2:00 pm. Flight C players remain eligible to enter Flight B district competition. The top four pairs in Flight C will receive an invitation to the NABC Final in Dallas, TX, Sat/Sun March 20-21, 2027.

Check the list on the website to see if you qualify and if you do, consider participating in your flight at the local level. **Marc Goldberg and Ian Cloudsdale** recently participated and made it to the NABC tournament as representatives from our unit and district.

Oops! I Dropped a Card for All to See! Now What? What are the Rules?

While playing this game that we love, a player sometimes exposes (shows) a card at the wrong time. This may occur during the auction or during play. It may be accidental (ex., Buttery fingers drops one or more cards on the table or floor during the auction or during play) or intentional (Oops, I led out of turn!). Either way information has been shared by error.

If it occurs during the bidding auction, the card is left face-up on the table until the auction ends. If the offender becomes a defender after the auction or if it occurs during the play of the hand, then the card becomes either a Minor Penalty card or a Major Penalty card. If the offender's side wins the auction, there is no penalty and card is returned to Declarer's hand.

What is the difference between Major and Minor Penalty cards?

Minor Penalty card is a single accidentally exposed card below 10 (non-honor – 2 through 9). It must remain on the table until appropriately played. Offender *cannot play another non-honor card* in that suit until this card is played. He *can choose to play any honor card in that suit* and leave the exposed minor penalty card on the table to be played later.

Major Penalty card is any single accidentally exposed honor card or a card lead out of turn (considered a deliberate exposure).

Any major penalty cards must be played at

the first legal opportunity. If there is more than one exposed card for any reason, all are major penalty cards. These cards can be of the same or different suits. If Offender's partner gets on lead, declarer has some say in what may be lead (Called Lead Restrictions).

Lead Restrictions: If there is a penalty card on the table and the offender's partner wins a trick and as a result is on lead, the declarer has choices:

Declarer can require the lead of the penalty card suit to the next trick only.

Declarer can prohibit the lead of the penalty card suit as long as Offender's partner remains on lead.

Allow any lead. Penalty cards stay on the table but can be played at any time.

If two or more penalty cards exist in one hand, all become major penalty cards and declarer can designate which one will be played. So if you accidentally expose the 2 and 3 of hearts, both become major penalty cards. If in the same suit and declarer requires the lead of that suit, all other PCs are picked up and returned to player's hand.

Remember to call the director when such an irregularity occurs to ensure that everyone knows their options.

Deanna Larus

SEPTEMBER 2026

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	1	2	3	4	5
	1-4 PM Barometer Game	9:30 AM – 11:30 AM Supervised play 12:30 PM Open Game	12 PM ABA Bridge	9:30 AM – Noon Beginner's Supervised Play 12:30 PM Open Game	
7	8	9	10	11	12
9-11 AM Play and Learn Online 12:30 PM Open Game 6:30 – 8:30 Social Bridge	1-4 PM Barometer Game	9:30 AM – 11:30 am Supervised play 11:45 AM Lesson Tier II MM Game 12:30 PM Open Game	12 PM ABA Bridge	9:30 AM – Noon Beginner's Supervised Play 12:30 PM Unit Championship Game	
14	15	16	17	18	19
9-11 AM Play and Learn Online 12:30 PM Open Game 6:30 – 8:30 Social Bridge	1-4 PM Limited 0-750 Game (18 boards)	9:30 AM – 11:30 am Supervised play 12:30 PM Open Game 7 PM MM Online BBO Game	12 PM ABA Bridge	9:30 AM – Noon Beginner's Supervised Play 12:30 PM Stratified Open Game	10 AM Eight is Enough
21	22	23	24	25	26
9-11 AM Play and Learn Online 12:30 PM Unit Championship Game 6:30 – 8:30 Social Bridge	1-4 PM Barometer Game	9:30 AM – 11:30 am Supervised play 11:45 AM Lesson Tier I MM Game 12:30 PM Open game	12 PM ABA Bridge	9:30 AM – Noon Beginner's Supervised Play 12:30 PM Stratified Open Game (\$12)	
28	29	30			
9-11 AM Play and Learn Online 12:30 PM Open Game 6:30 – 8:30 Social Bridge	1-4 PM Barometer Game	9:30 AM – 11:30 Supervised play 12:30 PM Stratified Open Game			

BRIDGE BONANZA

**TWO TOURNAMENTS – ONE VENUE
SEPTEMBER 17 - 20, 2026**



CHARLOTTE FALL SECTIONAL

THURSDAY, SEPT. 17 **TIME: 10:00 & 2:30**

Single Sessions: \$26/pair per session
Stratified Open and 499er Pairs, 0-50 Pairs

FRIDAY, SEPT. 18 **TIME: 10:00 & 2:30**

Single Session: \$28*/pair per session
Stratified Open and 499er Pairs, 0-50 Pairs
Free lesson between sessions
*Regionally rated games to benefit ACBL Grass Roots Fund

SATURDAY, SEPT. 19 **TIME: 10:00 & 2:30**

Single Sessions: \$26/pair per session
Stratified Open and 499er Pairs, 0-50 Pairs
Free lesson between sessions

SUNDAY, SEPT. 20 **TIME: 9:30 & TBA**

2-Session Stratified Open Swiss Teams / \$144**
1-Session 499er Swiss Teams / \$52
**Entry fee includes lunch

Strats:

- Open Pairs, by average: 0-1250 / 1250-3000 / 3000+, or Director's discretion
- Strats: 499er Pairs: 0-100 / 100-300 / 300-500, or Director's discretion
- Life Masters may play in 499er Pairs but must have < 500 MPs
- Open Swiss Teams by team average. No one can have more than 499 MPs for 499er Swiss Teams
- ACBL members < 5 MPs play FREE in 0-50 MP Pairs games; 3 table minimum required

TOURNAMENT CO-CHAIRS:

Greg LeBlanc (704) 996-1107
gnlbnc150@gmail.com
Cathy Miller (704) 560-2428
cathy.miller@cbcarolinas.com

PARTNERSHIP CHAIR:

Sue Peck (704) 778-2696
sueoy400@gmail.com



\$12 Box Lunches
Order *before* morning
games on Thursday,
Friday and Saturday.

NAP participants can order
Swiss Team lunch Sunday for \$10

DISTRICT 7 NORTH AMERICAN PAIRS FINALS

SATURDAY, SEPT. 19 **TIME: 10:00 & 3:00**

FLIGHTS: CHAMPIONSHIP & B

SUNDAY, SEPT. 20 **TIME: 9:30 & 2:00**

FLIGHTS: A & C

*Players may participate in any flight where they have qualified.
Entry Fee: \$15 per pp/per session*

Club Level Qualification:

June - July - August in face-to-face or virtual club games.

Flights:

Determined as of the June masterpoint cycle, recorded May 6, 2026. Any points won but not included in this cycle do not affect masterpoint eligibility.

- **Championship:** Open to all players
Top 3 pairs*** advance to Spring NABC finals.
- **Flight A:** < 6000 Masterpoints
Top 3 pairs*** advance to Spring NABC finals.
- **Flight B:** < 3000 Masterpoints
Top 4 pairs advance to the Spring NABC NAP finals.
- **Flight C:** Non-Life Masters < 750 Masterpoints
Top 4 pairs advance to the Spring NABC NAP finals.

Stipend and NABC Final Participation:

Pairs advancing to the Spring NABC Finals in Dallas, TX, will receive a per-player stipend to defray travel costs. Championship and Flight A are March 10-11, 2027 and Flights B and C are March 20-21, 2027.

***Club qualifier table counts will determine if a fourth pair will also be selected. See NAP Conditions of Contest at ACBL.org.

Questions: Contact Lee Webb, D7 NAP Coordinator
Cell: (803) 331-6894, LeeWebb1@sc.rr.com

HOST HOTEL

Courtyard by Marriott
321 W. Woodlawn Rd.
Charlotte, NC 28217
Phone: (704) 945-6800

Bridge Rate: \$109/night + tax
Deadline: August 31, 2026



All sessions at 510 EAST PARK AVENUE • CHARLOTTE • NC • 28203 (704) 333-9117 • www.charlottebridge.org