

# bRidge Bits

The Newsletter of the Rhode Island Bridge Association

June 3, 2018

## Message from the President

Welcome back, snowbirds. We have missed you. Our March Sectional was another successful event. Thank you board directors for your assistance in making this event popular and profitable. And my sincere appreciation to all the attendees who foster the good times and the great competition at our Sectionals. Support RIBA by attending our next Sectional, June 9 and 10.

Each RI club is eligible to hold North American Pairs (NAP) qualifying games during the months of June, July and August. The NAP is a major ACBL pair championship. This grassroots event is staged in qualifying rounds at the club, unit and district levels. It culminates in a final held at the 2019 Spring NABC, in Memphis, TN. For more information go to [acbl.org](http://acbl.org) and then North American Pairs. So make an effort to attend those qualifying events at any RI club offering these games. Who knows, you might qualify to represent D25 at the Spring Nationals.

Also, STaC games will be offered June 25 - July 1 at various clubs in RI. If you are in need of silver points, this is a great opportunity to stay close to home, support our clubs and rack up the much desired shiny points.

We are always looking for ideas to improve our bridge play, our games and tournaments and to increase our membership, including encouraging more people to play this game we love. If you have any ideas, please contact one of our board members (listed on page 2). We look forward to hearing from you.

*Paula Najarian*

## The Longest Day

### To Benefit the Alzheimer's Assn

The ACBL has designated the week of June 17 - 24 for this year's fundraising event to benefit the Alzheimer's Association, "The Longest Day."

Bridge Clubs around the United States will hold special charity games and events that week, with proceeds going toward Alzheimer's research. A club can designate any single day for special fundraising games.

In Rhode Island, all of our clubs will be participating, according to the following schedule:

Monday, June 18:

Bridge Club of Northern Rhode Island: game at 10 a.m.

Tuesday, June 19:

The Bridge Place: game at 11 a.m.

Viking Bridge Club: game at 12 noon.

Wednesday, June 20:

Warwick Bridge Club: games at 12 noon and 6:45 p.m.

Narragansett Bridge Club: game at 12:30 p.m.

In addition, if you're planning to attend the Granite State Regional in Nashua, N.H. (June 19 - 24), you'll be able to participate in fundraising events at that tournament.

If you'd like to contact family or friends to make additional contributions, you can join our Team, The Rhode Island Kings & Queens. There is a web site which you can use to make a donation, contact friends or family by email, and connect with other people helping to raise dollars to combat Alzheimer's Disease. Go to the ACBL web site and click on the link for The Longest Day. You'll be directed to the site where you can find our team, The Rhode Island Kings & Queens.

You can make an extra donation at any of our clubs, or make a donation online by clicking on The Longest Day link on the ACBL web site. Bridge players around the country have now raised more than 1 1/2 million dollars for Alzheimer's research, and it's a great way to make a contribution and enjoy some good bridge at the same time!

If you want any more information about helping out with The Longest Day in Rhode Island, contact Marshall Williams at 401-749-2009 or at [marshallwilliams@mac.com](mailto:marshallwilliams@mac.com).

Thank you!

## Rhode Island Bridge Assn. Summer Sectional

**June 9 & 10, 2018**

**Win EXTRA Silver Points on Saturday!**

*FREE Lesson: "Reverses" by Barton Buffington at 9:15 Sat.*

**Johnston Senior Center, 1291 Hartford Avenue  
(Route 6A), Johnston, RI**

**[www.RIBridge.org](http://www.RIBridge.org)**

## Membership Report

Greetings! The Rhode Island Bridge Association extends a hearty welcome to all new members and to all members who recently transferred into our unit! Be sure to check your e-mail for regular mailings from RIBA. The clubs in RI are known for friendliness and sociability and we are confident that you will find bridge games relaxing and mentally stimulating.

### New Members

John Fitzpatrick	Warwick
Ed Greene	Cranston
Marguerite Vigliani	Barrington
Cynthia Mottle	Smithfield
Darryl Hazel	Portsmouth
Robert Zipf	Barrington
Mario Briccetti	Kingston
Julie McGeoch	LittleCompton
Joshua Resa	Providence
Peter Ripp	Bristol
Susan Heffner	Jamestown
Alison McNaughton	Providence
Madeleine Missry	Providence
Martha Palombo	Portsmouth
Colette Schwoeri	Newport

Total Members: 520 (as of 6/1/18)

## In Memoriam

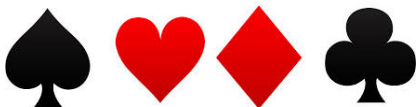
Evelyn Balasco	Barrington
Henry Best	East Greenwich
Joseph Giard	Pascoag

## Transportation Available

If you are interested in playing bridge at a club, Sectional, or Regional and are unable to walk to a bus stop due to a disability, then you may be eligible to receive transportation from RIDE at a cost of \$4 each way. You will get picked up and dropped off at your home. Call 461-9760 to get more information.

## Upcoming Events

June 9-10	Sectional, Johnston, RI
June 19-24	Regional, Nashua, NH
Aug 28-Sept 2	Regional, Warwick, RI
Nov 7-11	Regional, Mansfield, MA
July 20-30	NABC - Providence, RI (2021)



## Newest Rank Achievements

Congratulations to the following members on their rank advancements!

### Gold Life Master (2500 MP's)

Judith Clark, Middletown

### Ruby Life Master (1500 MP's)

Paula Najarian, East Greenwich

### Silver Life Master (1000 MP's)

Lois DeBlois, Warwick

### Bronze Life Master (500 MP's)

Lynn Finley, Providence

### Life Master\*

Barbara Roy, Newport

### NABC Master (200 MP's)

Sonia Wilson, Newport

### Sectional Masters (50 MP's)

Beverly Cohen, Pawtucket

Stanley Cohen, Pawtucket

Patricia Gauthier, Tiverton

Suzanne Grossman, Riverside

Stephen Lister, Barrington

Laura Yentsch, Jamestown

### Club Master (20 MP's)

Thomas Bendoraitis, Narragansett

Kathleen Caron, East Greenwich

Dr Spencer Hall, Providence

Phillip Wallis, Barrington

### Junior Master (5 MP's)

Mario Briccetti, Kingston

Gary Gallucci, Johnston

James Shaughnessy, Wakefield

William Sikov, Providence

Paul Thompson, North Kingstown

(as of 6/1/2018)

\*300 MP's if a player joined ACBL before 1/1/2010; 500 if a player joined after that

## RIBA Officers

President: Paula Najarian

Vice President: Marshall Williams

Secretary: Linda Ahrens

Treasurer: Joseph Brouillard

## Board of Directors

Barbara Barrette Barton Buffington

Charleen Christy Lois DeBlois

Maureen Fahey Julie Goulet

Meg Gousie Diane Lambert

Bea Martini Carol McCullough

Arthur Norman David Prentiss

Chris Soares Stanley Williams

## Bonus for Bakers

We get many compliments on the wonderful food that is served at our tournaments.

Be part of the team!

Bring something you've made to the June tournament. Baked goods are always a favorite, bonus: you'll get a discount on your entry fee!

## 70%+ Games

70%+ Open Pairs games March - May 2018, at least 5 tables, at least 20 boards in play

### Warwick Bridge Club

• Alex Levitsky & John Maselli, 72.32%, March 17

• Fred Randall & Terry Byrne, 74.17%, March 27

### Viking Bridge Club

• Alyce Carlson & Eileen English, 73.75%, May 31

### Bridge Club of Northern RI

• Phyllis Chase & Philip Lam, 71.21%, May 8

## Win Silver Points at Local Clubs

STAC games are Sectional Tournaments At Clubs, available twice a year at participating clubs. Next ones for Unit 145 are June 25 - July 1. Check the ACBL website under the tournaments tab, or ask your local club about specific games.

## First Place Winners

### March Sectional

• Phillip Wallis & Stephen Lister, Saturday Afternoon 299er Pairs (C)

• Chris Soares, Douglas McCormac, Bernard Bendiksen & David Pimental, Sunday Swiss (X)

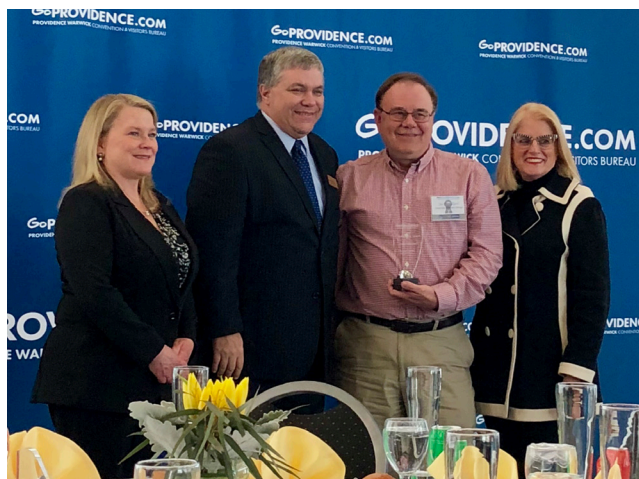
• Dolores Kotler, Julie Goulet, Beatrice Martini & Rita Barbone, Sunday 299er Swiss (A)

### Cape Cod Senior Regional

• Lillian Richards & Brian Richards, Friday, Session 1 Open Pairs (C)

Join the fun and experience the great competition at the next Rhode Island Sectional, June 9 & 10. Just think, you could have your name highlighted in the next issue of bRidgebits.

Your submissions to and ideas for bRidge Bits are welcome. Send to Carol McCullough at [christmascarol999@yahoo.com](mailto:christmascarol999@yahoo.com). Upcoming bRidge Bits planned for September 2018.



### Brouillard Honored

During the annual Ambassador’s luncheon at the Rhode Island Convention Center, “Recommend RI” honored Joe Brouillard for his immense contributions to the economy in the State of Rhode Island.

The Fall North American Bridge Championships, formerly held in Boston, were brought to Rhode Island through the efforts of Joe Brouillard, Helen Pawlowski and the staff of the Rhode Island Sports Commission.

Because of both the large audience and the duration of the tournament, this was an incredibly lucrative event for the state; with a direct spend impact of \$4.85 million. The tournament also filled hotel rooms during Thanksgiving week, which is traditionally a slower period.

In addition, Joe also helped the Providence Warwick Convention & Visitors Bureau secure the annual New England District Ocean State Regional Bridge Tournament which takes place annually at the Crowne Plaza in Warwick. For the second time Joe has agreed to serve as local co-chair when the Summer North American Bridge Championships returns to Rhode Island in July of 2021, an event that has a projected direct spend impact of \$6.5 million.

When you add up all of the bridge events that Joe has helped bring to Rhode Island, his efforts have resulted in about \$13.3 million in direct spend revenue for his home state. That is a tremendous contribution to the state’s economy and “Recommend Rhode Island” recently celebrated Joe’s contributions by presenting him with the Valued Partner Award.

The Rhode Island Unit 145 and District 25 are extremely thankful to have a volunteer as committed as Joe Brouillard.

*submitted by Lois DeBlois  
President, District 25*

## Great Tournaments Ahead

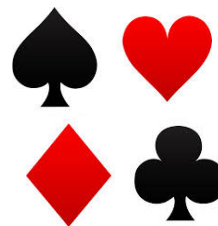
The Granite State Regional (Nashua, NH) is approaching. This 6-day event (June 19-24) is packed with pairs and team games. Among the events will be two Knock Outs; one on Thursday/Friday and another on Saturday/Sunday. One great reason to play in a KO is that you are matched with your peers. We are also guaranteeing partners for players with fewer than 750 masterpoints. If you attend with your favorite partner, but have no teammates, we will match you up! Just let us know!

Nashua will also be hosting the 2018 District 25 Pro-Am game on Saturday, June 23 at 7:30 pm. Please come and play. If you need a Pro or an AM, let Karen Randle know and she will help you (klhewitt9@gmail.com).

Jay Whipple, President of the ACBL will be attending the Regional in New Hampshire. We will host a Meet & Greet with him on Saturday morning before the first session. If you would like to meet him, ask questions or have concerns about all things ACBL, attend the Regional and our morning reception.

Rhode Island will host the Ocean State Regional starting August 28. Make your partnership plans early and come and play! Keep your eyes out for information coming about a special Non-Life Master Regional to be held in April of 2019. This will be a very special event.

*Lois DeBlois  
President, District 25*



### Save the Date:

## Rhode Island Bridge Association Annual Meeting & Gala

Saturday, October 20, Johnston Senior Center, 1291 Hartford Avenue (Route 6A), Johnston, RI  
Two sessions of bridge offering EXTRA POINTS, a delicious luncheon, the highlights of the past year, and awards for the 2017 Mini-McKenney and Ace of Clubs winners.

- Continental Breakfast available at 9:15 AM
- First session of bridge starts at 10 AM - Choose Open Pairs or 299er
- Luncheon and Annual Meeting 1:30 PM
- Second session of bridge starts at 2:30 PM - Choose Open Pairs or 299er

## Lesson: Losing Trick Count

You are dealt the following hand: K65432, 7, A743, 53. Partner opens 1C, you respond 1S and partner jumps to 4S. Most likely you Pass and routinely make 12 tricks. Partner had: AQ87, J4, K5, AK 976. You shrug, "no one will bid that" and find that two pairs did as you collect your average minus, "So and so always overbids." Did they?

The Bridge Bulletin is currently running a series of articles starting in May that revisits the topic of Losing Trick Count (LTC). This is well worth the read, but please read on as I will try to create an overview that complements that series.

LTC is only useful when a fit is found either in combination or as a stand alone holding. If you have AKQ7632 in your own hand, by definition you have a fit.

Here is the simplest version. If you are missing the A K or Q in a suit each of those missing honors is a loser to a maximum of three losers per suit. For example, if you hold A x x or longer you have two losers. K x x and Q x x are two losers. A Q x and K Q x are both one loser. This is not a perfect science. Note, the fourth card and longer are never counted as losers.

Minimum openings typically have 7 losers. Here is an example: A Q 7 3 2, K 3 2, A 4 3, 9 8. S = 1, H = 2, D = 2, C = 2. Total LTC = 7. Note if the opening hand were A Q 7 3 2, K 3 2, A 4 3 2, 9 this hand would have a LTC of 6. Distribution always affects LTC.

To complete the rule, add your combined losers and subtract that number from 24. The result is the number of tricks you can reasonably expect to make. You can call this the rule of 24. If your LTC is 14 you can expect to make 10 tricks (24-14=10). If your LTC is 12 you can make 12 tricks (24-12=12),

Let's look at the hand your were originally dealt: K x x x x x, x, A x x x. x x. In spades you have 2 losers (LTC = 2), in hearts you have 1 loser (you cannot have more losers than cards in the suit), in diamonds you have 2 losers (missing K Q) and in clubs you have 2 losers. This is a 7 loser hand.

Now let's consider partner's opener. If he had a 6 or 7 loser hand with support he would bid 2S. He figures you as responder have the typical 9 loser hand. (7 + 9 = 16, 24 - 16 = 8) If he makes a jump raise to 3S he would likely have a 5 loser hand. Why 5? The typical minimum response shows a 9 loser hand such as K x x x, K x x, Q x x, J x x. It takes a combined 14 loser hand to produce 10 tricks. Partner assumes you have the 9 losers. Therefore 9 + 5 = 14, 24 - 14 = 10. You have a play for 10 tricks. With these cards do you bid game or pass?

Ok, let's return to your original holding. Partner showed a 4 loser hand (actually he has 5) by jumping to 4. You have a 7 loser hand.  $4 + 7 = 11$ .  $24 - 11 = 13!$  Don't go crazy here, sometimes partner overbids. Bid 4NT and proceed. Partner will show two key cards and the Q of trumps (you do play Key Card?). You assume twelve tricks are odds on. On the actual combined holding 7 may make if the opponents fail to lead a heart. This takes us back to my first question. Did the opponents overbid?

If you have any questions or suggestions please email them to: [jmmaselli@verizon.net](mailto:jmmaselli@verizon.net)

*submitted by Jack Maselli*

## Professional Opinion

Bill: My cardiologist says I can't play bridge.

Tom: Why not? Do you have some kind of heart problem?

Bill: No. He's just played with me enough to know I'm hopeless.

## Cell Phone Ban

Judy, Trudy, and Meg would like to play in the Mixed Pairs, so they go to the partnership desk well before game time. The hostess cordially greets them but warns, "We have one rule here: No cell phones!"

Sure enough, before another word could be spoken, Judy's cell phone rings, and the hostess says, "Sorry Judy. For that I must pair you with Joe, the worst male bridge player of all time."

A few minutes later Trudy's cell phone chimes, and the hostess says, "Too bad, Trudy. Your partner will be Sam, who is about as hopeless as they come."

Meanwhile, Meg waits patiently for almost an hour with her cell phone carefully turned off. Finally, the hostess walks over with Bob Hamman and says, "Congratulations, Meg! Your partner will be the world's #1 player."

Meg is awestruck as she turns to Mr. Hamman, "I can't believe it! What could I have done to deserve a partner as great as you?"

"I don't know what happened to you," grumbled Bob, "but my damn cell phone went off!"

*submitted by our unknown comic*