

# Albuquerque Bridge Player

*Unit 374's Quarterly Newsletter*

## President's Column

Our 2014 Albuquerque Regional has come and gone. As anticipated, attendance was lower than normal. Because we moved the dates at the request of District 17, who has governing control over regionals in the Rocky Mountains, the District 17 board guaranteed that we would receive reimbursement for any shortfall in our normal profit for this tournament. The final figures are not yet in, but I expect the District to contribute several thousand dollars to make up for our lower attendance and profit. This was still a win-win situation because the main reason for the change was to shift the Las Vegas Regional from their normal summer date to our date because their summer date will be taken by the NABCs being held in Las Vegas. Hence, Las Vegas was able to have a regional and the NABCs this year. Since these are very large tournaments in the world of the ACBL, everyone is happy.

One highlight of this regional was the visit of 2014 ACBL President Phyllis Harland and her husband Bill. She thanked the Albuquerque Unit and volunteers that make our tournament a success by hosting a wine and cheese party for us and the Western Conference board who were meeting here at the same time. I would like to add my thanks to all those volunteers who made this year's regional a success with everyone who attended. This year saw approximately 800 bridge players play one or more sessions at the regional. About half of those come from New Mexico but we enjoy tremendous support from out of state – especially Colorado. If you are wondering, we had about 1000 people attend last year's tournament.

This tournament turned out to be

the farewell to the board for Jerry Shinkle, who resigned from the board at the closing of the tournament. Jerry has been the unit treasurer for about the last 10 years and that job involves handling the tournament finances as well. Thanks, Jerry, for all your service to the Unit and Albuquerque bridge. Frank Fine is assuming the duties of unit treasurer.

After Jerry resigned, Jill Burtram, who usually sits by Jerry at the board meetings, decided she could not learn to sit next to anyone else and has also resigned from the board. Jill, as well, has served on the board for about 10 years as vice-president and liaison for Conduct and Ethics matters. She has produced legal advice and handled caddy chairperson duties at the tournaments. She also did a stint as partnership chair but her tendency to want to maim bridge players toward the end of the tournament necessitated her

replacement in this position. Rick Weigle has been doing that task for several years and does a marvelous job of it. All kidding aside, thanks Jill for your service. Bob Zipp has been elected the new VP.

Mark Brownstein and Gerald Wellman have been selected through the processes provided in the Unit bylaws to replace Jerry and Jill. We will be shuffling board positions to find new assignments that everyone is comfortable with.

One of the highlights of the tournament Daily Bulletin this year was the short history of bridge in Albuquerque that Joe Harris wrote. I furnished some background information that I have been collecting as a memory jogger for Joe and he filled in the color details. My point is that I have a

<b>In This Issue</b>	
<i>President's Column.</i>	1
<i>Buddha Says</i>	2
<i>Internet Tips</i>	3
<i>Property Report</i>	4
<i>Education</i>	4
<i>Rules of the Game</i>	5
<i>Player Profiles</i>	7
<i>Re GNTs</i>	8
<i>Sectional Flier</i>	9
<i>Newer Players Page</i>	10
<i>Membership Changes</i>	12
<i>Calendar</i>	13

lot more information available to anyone who would like to organize a part of it and write some stories. I invite you to contact me and we can go through some of what I have collected. So please call or email. I'm in the book.

-Bill Kass

## Buddha Says

Starting a regional open pairs, I sit down against a player I've competed against for many years. I've always considered him to be quite competent, and I was surprised to hear him tell his partner that other than trumps he has trouble keeping track of the play of the hand. For me figuring out what the hidden hands look like as soon as possible is the most interesting part of the game. A large part of succeeding lies in counting, but it takes more than that. Seeing and processing partner's signals are necessary skills. This is a two step process – partner shows this, therefore declarer has this. The big buzzword in bridge these days is "visualization". Here are three hands from our regional that illustrate visualization but don't need counting.

Matchpoints Vul: N/S	NORTH S: A3 H: 95 D: T95 C: AKQT43
	SOUTH S: Q8 H: AK D: AQJ63 C: J762

West preempts 3 hearts and N/S ends up in 6NT. West makes the only lead to threaten your contract - the spade 6. What do you play at trick one and why?

You hold Vul vs. Vul at IMPs:

S: K873  
 H: T832  
 D: KJT9  
 C: A

Right hand opponent opens 1 Club and you double. Left hand opponent bids 1 Heart, partner bids 1 spade and RHO raises to 2 Hearts. What do you bid now and why?

Matchpoints Vul	NORTH S 854 H AT74 D QT32 C AT
	SOUTH S AT63 H K D AKJ987 C K4

You open 1 Diamond, LHO preempts 3 Hearts and you now stumble into 6 Diamonds. The opening lead is the heart queen. How do you play the hand?

Hand one: You should play the Spade Ace. If LHO has the spade king and the finesse wins, then almost surely the diamond king is on your right. If both kings are wrong that's just too bad bridge. At matchpoints you always want to win as many tricks as possible. On this hand RHO had both the spade and diamond kings.

Hand two. Our teammate (one of the country's best players) bid two spades which turned out to be the final contract. Our opponent bid 4 spades. Since there were only three losers, we lost 10 IMPs and the match. Our teammate apologized for not visualizing that if partner has only five spades and shortness in hearts you might make 4 spades (she had AQxxx and a heart singleton), so you should bid a vulnerable game at IMPs.

Hand three: This is much harder. It looks like we have two spade losers. Of the four spades in our hand, we can win the Ace, pitch one on the heart King and lose one, but what about the fourth one? Well, if we can get the opponents to give us a sluff

and ruff, then we can ruff in dummy and pitch the fourth spade. For this to occur, someone must have the doubleton king of spades, and that someone is probably West. So to make the hand, we pull trump, eliminate clubs and hearts and cash the spade ace and play a spade and pray. It turns out that the preempter had KJ doubleton of spades. She couldn't keep declarer from succeeding by jettison her spades when declarer was pulling trumps, or dropping the king under the ace to keep from being end-played.

*-Joe Harris*

---

ALBUQUERQUE BRIDGE ON THE INTERNET  
..... TIPS ON HOW TO FIND THE  
INFORMATION THAT COULD IMPROVE  
YOUR GAME!

Our home page is at [www.abqbridge.com](http://www.abqbridge.com). This is the gray page with the roadrunner! From here there are links to local clubs and on this page you will also find information about upcoming and past tournaments and other unit projects. This is where results are posted from our tournaments, both the regional and sectionals.

If you click on the link entitled Duke City, you will be directed to the page for DCBC where, on the left, you will find links to the results and hand records for the various games that are played at the Duke City Bridge Center. If you scroll down this page you will find a section entitled "Results and Hand Records now available at the Common Game". The links here direct you to the Common Game where you can see all the scores right next to a copy of the hand record. This is very useful and will help you analyze your game.

Back at the home page, there is a link for Sandia West. This is the club that hosts the games at Taylor Ranch and Placitas. Results from both these games may be found here. Placitas results are found under the Taylor Ranch ones ... just scroll down.

If you haven't already done so, I recommend that you create an account with ACBL. Through this account you can check your masterpoint totals and change your address or other contact information. This is much easier than mailing in your change of address.

To create an account you must go to the ACBL home page, either by clicking on the link on our home page or by typing in [www.acbl.org](http://www.acbl.org).

At the top left of the ACBL home page is a link entitled "Your Member Page". This will take you to the login page for your account. If it is your first visit then you must create an account by following the instructions at "click here". You will need your ACBL number and a simple password.

Apart from being able to check your masterpoints there are lots of good things on the ACBL website. You will find information and help with convention cards and conventions, free Learn to Play Bridge software and lots more. Take some time and explore.

If you need any help or advice to help you get online, please do not hesitate to contact me. My email address and telephone number may be found on the back page.

*-Felix Moore*

## DCBC BUILDING/PROPERTY REPORT

1. Five new bookcases were purchased, on sale (the cost of one of them was donated by two of our members, who wish to remain anonymous, in memory of James King and Dick Allen who have passed away. A commemorative plaque was attached). Thanks to Doyce King, Cherri Berry, Scott Baker, Craig Tyner, and Jerry Wellman for their help in the selection, delivery, and assembly of the bookcases. They are located in the NW corner of the North room, and look very nice.

2. The roof has been repaired, which is required every Winter. All of the water-stained ceiling tiles (from previous water leaks through the roof) have been replaced. Thanks to Scott Baker and Jerry Wellman for their assistance.

3. Each of our 80 florescent light fixtures includes a ballast; when it ceases to function, it causes the lights in the fixture to go out. Rather than call an electrician to replace it, volunteer labor from the DCBC performs the work. Thanks to Scott Baker for his help.

4. Our Dumpster had to be replaced because the bottom had developed holes from corrosion. Rather than purchase a new one at a cost of over \$600.00, the replacement is being leased from the City of Albuquerque.

5. The City of Albuquerque inspected our building recently and found that one of the exit signs had a dead battery. The battery powers the lights in the signs should the power go off. We checked all of the signs (7), and found that most of the batteries were dead. All of the batteries were replaced. There is a test button on each sign which determines if the battery is good. This test will be conducted on a periodic basis in the future. Thanks to Scott Baker for helping. No other deficiencies were discovered.

6. Emergency lighting has been installed in the restrooms. Should the power go out, batteries will power two LED lights in each fixture to allow anyone in the restrooms at the time to make a safe exit. Test buttons are included. All of our emergency light fixtures will be tested periodically.

7. Recently, all six of the AC/Furnaces located on the roof were inspected, cleaned, and the filters replaced.

This is done twice a year. No problems were encountered.

8. Last week, all of our chairs(280) were professionally cleaned. This is the first time that some of these chairs have ever been cleaned.

*-Russ Edwards*

## EDUCATION COMMITTEE NEWS

**New Class Offering this May 2014**

Perhaps you are familiar with the Dr. Seuss saying, "Think left and think right and think low and think high. Oh, the things you can think up if only you try." Like this quote suggests, the Duke City Bridge Club classes provide students with exciting opportunities to develop "thinks" and skills for their bridge game.

This spring there will be a stimulating new class offering: "Four Thursdays in May: 2/1 Review" taught by Mark Brownstein. The course will review and thoroughly examine the tenets of 2/1. In addition, conventions such as Roman Key Card Blackwood, NAMYATS, Jacoby 2NT, Lebensohl, Flannery, and Drury may be presented. Students who take the class must play 2/1 and be familiar with Stayman, Jacoby Transfers, and Blackwood. The target audience for this class is intermediate and advanced students. Classes start on Thursday, May 1, 2014 and will be held at the DCBC from 9:30 – 11:30 AM. The course fee is \$10.00. There is no textbook requirement.

The instructor for this class is Mark Brownstein, aka Mr. Spock. As a teenager, Mark kibitzed his parents when they played bridge with their friends and relatives. He played the game throughout college and adulthood, becoming a Life Master in 1974 and a Gold Life Master in 2014. In addition to playing bridge, Mark was also a director and teacher at the Wild Whist Bridge Club in California. In the 1970's, Mark was a partner of Max Hardy, one of the original co-creators of 2/1 game force. Mark claims many regional and sectional wins and aspires to get a first place at a national tournament. Mark, "Mr. Spock," plays 2/1 game force most of the time and looks forward to sharing his enthusiasm and passion for this system with you. Please mark your calendars and

attend “Mr. Spock’s” class, “Four Thursdays in May: 2/1 Review.”

**DCBC Teacher and Student Appreciation**

We greatly appreciate all of our teachers and their willingness to share their enthusiasm and love of the game with their students. The spring semester of classes and teachers were: Felix Moore (Supervised Play), Athena Kelly (Absolute Beginners), Pat Plummer (Defense), Bob Zipp (25 Ways to Compete in the Bidding, Part 2), and Cliff Hill (How to be a Tougher Opponent.) We extend a heartfelt shout-out to our teachers and attendees! Please check the bulletin boards at the DCBC and the DCBC website for information regarding our late spring and summer course offerings.

And finally, another Dr. Seuss thought, “You have brains in your head. You have feet in your shoes. You can steer yourself any direction you choose.” Thanks so much for steering yourself to the DCBC and choosing to support our education program.

*-Ellen Brabson, Chair, Education Committee*

**RULES OF THE GAME**

**Break in Tempo**

The majority of appeals in regional and national events involve a break in tempo (BIT). Law 16B1(a) provides that "a player may not choose from among logical alternatives one that could demonstrably have been suggested over another by the extraneous information." What does that mean? It means that when your partner breaks the tempo of the auction, you may not use that information to take a call. A BIT frequently seen at our club is when, in a competitive auction a player must make a decision at the 3-level or higher and is unsure what to do and he or she sighs, squirms, hesitates -- and then passes in obvious frustration. The information conveyed: "Partner, I have points but I don't know what to do." Partner may not take another bid or double the opponents; your BIT has barred partner from acting. Here's an example from an ACBL appeal:

NORTH	
S: J7 H: QJT D: Q754 C: Q954	
WEST	EAST
S: Q2 H: K985 D: AT C: AK863	S: 54 H: 7642 D: KJ863 C: JT
SOUTH	
S: AKT9863 H: A3 D: 92 C: 72	

The auction:

W	N	E	S
			1S
DBL	1NT	P	2S
P*	P	3D	All Pass

The parties agreed there was a BIT before West's pass after the 2 spade bid. The committee ruled that East could not bid 3D because it was suggested by West's BIT and therefore pass was a logical alternative. In other words, East could have bid 2 Diamonds over 1NT but failed to act at that time, strongly suggesting that his bid was influenced by partner's BIT.

The director and the appeal committee agreed that West's 6S call was influenced by his partner's BIT because it suggested values. West would be allowed to double 6D even with the BIT because he ostensibly had it set in his own hand and the score was adjusted to 6 diamonds doubled.

How long is a BIT? "ACBL has no present standards for normal tempo on any action." BITs can be fast or slow; a "fast pass" can suggest that partner not take a call. That's why ACBL laws provide a 10-second pause when there is a skip bid. So does this mean you are not allowed to pause and think in a difficult auction? No. What it does mean is that when you break tempo, you should make the call that seems right to you, but if that call is a pass, your partner is most likely barred from taking any action suggested by your BIT.

*-fill Burtram*

NORTH

S: 42  
 H: QT974  
 D: QJ73  
 C: JT

WEST

S: AKQJT973  
 H: 8  
 D: A9  
 C: A8

EAST

S: 6  
 H: KJ6532  
 D: —  
 C: KQ6432

SOUTH

S: 85  
 H: A  
 D: KT86542  
 C: 975

The auction:

W	N	E	S
			3D
4S	5D	P*	P
5S	P	P	6D
6S	All Pass		

## Player Profiles.....the Lohfelds

We play for years against the same people, but sometimes we know almost nothing about them. Take that nice couple who play North-South at Table 7 in section A. Everyone knows Bob and Sally Lohfeld, but do they? Bob is known for unorthodox leads, and Sally has been accused of chortling after getting a good board. They really play just for the enjoyment of the game, and don't worry about where they place. Bob was born and raised in Auburn, Maine. His parents played bridge at home and taught Bob the game. After college, Bob was in the armed forces during the Korean War, assigned in France where he got to travel around Europe and play a lot of cards. When he got out of the service, he enrolled in a foreign affairs program at Columbia. He took the foreign service exam three times, each time just barely missing passing. At this time he was living at the YMCA on 34th Street paying \$1.95 a day, and also working there to raise a little cash.

Sally's father was a soldier in the Spanish American war. After that war, the U. S. annexed the Philippines, and Sally's dad stayed on to make his life. During WWII he was interred in a Japanese prison camp, and the family endured terrible times. In 1955, Sally, who was born in Manila, but an American citizen, came to live with her aunt on Long Island, New York. Her aunt's neighbor was executive director of the Y, and got Sally a job there. One thing led to another and soon Sally and Bob were married. That was in 1956; they will celebrate their 58th anniversary this year. Bob got a job in Accord (town of Rochester), New York, near the Catskills, in labor management. He worked for the National Electrical Contractors Association as executive director. Since the union's contracts had no-strike clauses, Bob's job was to negotiate settlements when there was some strife. Being a labor boss paid pretty well, and Bob and Sally got to travel to some nice conventions.

Sally took a job as a clerk at a PX on an Air Force base. The lady who headed her department told her that to become a buyer she needed to learn to type. "How can I do that?" asked Sally. The lady took Sally into NYC to the TV show Strike It Rich, hosted by Art Flemming, and got Sally onto the show. She won

a Royal Typewriter, learned to type, and soon moved up to buyer. When she became pregnant, Sally quit and became a stay-at-home Mom. The Lohfelds have three girls who live in San Francisco, Salt Lake City and Boston. The girl in Boston is learning disabled, but lives on her own in an assisted care apartment. One girl is married and has no children, the other has one child and four grandchildren. The Lohfelds travel a couple times a year to visit family.

During the eighties, Bob got into politics, and with Sally as his campaign manager he was elected to the town council. For several years the council elected him as supervisor (mayor.) This surprised Bob since he was the only democrat on the council. Bob and Sally were good friends with the Weinsteins, who owned about a hundred vacation bungalows nearby. The Lohfelds ran the camp's grocery, Bob having to drive many miles for kosher supplies as many of the guests were Jewish. The Weinsteins loved bridge and their son Steve was a prodigy who took Sally under his wing and taught her the game. Steve Weinstein is now one of the top American stars, and when he was 3, he told Sally "Just bid 3NT." The Weinsteins took Bob and Sally to a regional at Grossingers. The first session they played against Al Roth and Barbara Rappaport; they got into an argument that ended with boards being thrown. Sally didn't go to another tournament for 7 years. In the mid-1980's, IBM closed 3 plants, laying off 25,000 workers, many of whom were electricians. Bob, now 62, thought this would be a good time to retire. With the kids gone and winters brutal in New York, they thought about where to move. The Carolinas were too humid, Phoenix was too hot, San Diego was just right but too expensive. So they flew to Albuquerque on a Thursday and looked at homes, finding nothing until Sunday morning. Just before the plane was leaving they put in an offer on a home, and bought it over two weeks using the phone and fax. The house had a renter, and Bob and Sally couldn't leave New York until their house was sold. It took 2 1/2 years, but the day they sold their house the renter moved out of town, so everything worked out.

Soon after showing up at Duke City, Bob was elected to the board, and served three terms as president. The club house in those days was not in very good shape, but Bob and the other board members were at odds about what to do. Bob was for a major overhaul, while the board wanted cheap piecemeal improvements. The bylaws were changed to impose term limits on the president and Bob retired. But the new board, under Mary Erickson's direction, raised \$250,000 from the players, temporarily moved the game to Stein-Mart, and completed the renovation to give us the wonderful space we now have. Bob feels that this building is his (and many others') legacy. Over the years Bob has had some health problems. He deals with a chronic lymphocytic leukemia, has had two heart attacks and bypass surgery. Outside of bridge, Bob and Sally live quiet lives, reading and watching TV. Lately Bob, who has studiously avoided exercise all his life, has been going to the gym with Sally for aerobics and exercise. They do like to eat out occasionally; Bob loves lobster and oysters. Sally doesn't care what's for dinner but has to have ice cream for dessert. Bob's health has gotten better and they are back to five days a week at Duke City.

*-Joe Harris*

September, you are still eligible for Flight C as long as you have qualified.

District 17 will reimburse some of your travel expenses. This amount is not known at this time, but will be calculated after the event. It all depends on how many teams there are, from where they have travelled, and how much was collected in sanction fees during the qualification period.

If you are in the "C" final, then District 17 will waive your entry fee and if you are in the Championship, "A" or "B" final, Unit 374 will reimburse your entry fee.

The winning teams in Denver will qualify to play in the National Finals that will be held in conjunction with the Summer NABC in Las Vegas.

Full Conditions of Contest may be found on the District 17 website at [www.dr7acbl.org](http://www.dr7acbl.org) under "Tournaments" or you may contact Felix Moore for more information.

*-Felix Moore*

### GRAND NATIONAL TEAMS

The District Final for the Grand National Teams will be held during the Denver Regional in May. Many of you have qualified already, but there are still some qualifying games left. If you want to enter this event in Denver, you do not have to play with your original team but can make up a team from any qualifiers in your flight.

Flights are as follows:

Championship flight	Unlimited
Flight A	0-6000
Flight B	0-2500
Flight C	NLM 0-500

Your eligibility for a flight is taken from your masterpoint total on September 1st 2013. So, for example, even if you have made Life Master since



# ALBUQUERQUE SPRING SECTIONAL

**June 13 - 15, 2014**  
**Duke City Bridge Center**  
**8616 Northeastern NE, Albuquerque NM**  
**505-871-2877**

**Friday, June 13**

Bracketed KO	Round 1	9.00am
Open Stratified Pairs	Single sessions	9.00am / 1.00pm
199er Stratified Pairs	Single sessions	9.00am / 1.00pm
Bracketed KO	Round 2	1.00 pm
Stratified Swiss Teams	Single session	7.00pm
Bracketed KO	Final round	7.00pm

**Saturday, June 14**

Strati-flighted Pairs	Two sessions	10.00am / 2.30pm
<i>A/AX play together, B/C play together</i>		
Open Stratified Side Pairs	Single sessions	10.00am / 2.30pm
199er Stratified Pairs	Single sessions	10.00am / 2.30pm

**Sunday, June 15**

Strati-flighted Swiss Teams	Two sessions	10.00am & TBA
<i>A/AX play together, B/C/D play together</i>		
Separate 199er Swiss Teams if sufficient entries		

Stratified events: A: 2000+, B: 750-2000, C: 0-750  
 Strati-flighted events: A: 3000+, A/X: 0-3000, B: 750-2000, C: 0-750 (Sat.Pairs) C: 200-750, D; 0-200 (Sun.Teams)  
 199er Pairs: A: 100-200, B: 50-100, C: 0-50 :

All events stratified by average masterpoint holdings. Mid-chart methods allowed in Flight A events and in the top flight of the KO.

Entry Fees: \$8.00 per player/session (\$3.00 extra/session for non/unpaid members), Juniors(U19): \$4.00 per player/session  
 \$80.00 per team for Sunday Swiss (includes lunch between sessions)

Director-in-Charge:	Bill Michael	Sanction # 1406036
Chairperson:	Felicity Moore	f.moore@netscape.com 505-717-1483
Partnerships:	Pam Himes	pam.himes@yahoo.com 505-554-3935

***Complimentary food and beverages at all sessions .....the best in the west!***  
***Non-smoking tournament with breaks. Information and results at [www.abqbridge.com](http://www.abqbridge.com)***

Directions to DCBC: From I-40 take Wyoming Ave Exit north to Northeastern Blvd (approximately 1 mile) turn right (E) on Northeastern Blvd (traffic light), DCBC is second building on the right.

## Newer Players Page

### USING SIGNALS ON DEFENSE

Do you ever wonder how more advanced players seem to be able to see through the back of their partner's cards when defending? How do they find the best defensive strategy? The answer is that they use their discards to transmit information. I won't attempt to describe every method used, but will attempt to describe some rudimentary signals you should use.

#### **Attitude Signal to the Opening Lead**

First, let's look at a simple situation. Partner is on opening lead, and leads Ace from the suit that your side was bidding. This is the time to show an attitude signal. Using standard attitude signals, a high card encourages and a low card discourages. A low card is usually a 2-5; a high card is usually a 6-9. Following with a high card encourages partner to continue leading the suit, and would imply that you hold the King; a low card would indicate that partner should not continue leading the suit and should switch to a different suit. Play the highest or lowest you can, because a 5 or a 6 can be confusing!

Alternatively, let's say partner's opening lead was a low card, and dummy plays the Ace. Again, it is time for an attitude signal, since partner presumably led from his strong suit. High encourages; low discourages. In this situation, you might encourage with a high card if you hold a Queen, or even the Jack-Ten combination.

Attitude does not apply when you are forced to play a card. If dummy plays low, and you must play your highest card, attitude does not apply. Also, if you must cover dummy's card with a higher card, attitude does not apply. Also, recall the High-Low Signal in trump contracts. A high card followed by a low card would show a doubleton in that suit. Note how the Attitude Signal and High-Low Signal complement each other. Partner will continue the suit when you play high, which allows you to discard low on the next trick; hopefully, this sets you up to trump the suit the next time around.

#### **First Discard Signals**

When you run out of a suit and must discard a card, don't just toss any old low card. Use the card to indicate the suit that you like. Using Standard Signals, a high card says that you like that suit, and a low card says that you do not. In this situation, there are usually two suits left for partner to switch to. If this is the situation, discouraging in one suit then encourages in the other. Otherwise, use a high card in the suit you wish to encourage. Note that this only applies for the first discard--every card you toss cannot have a meaning.

Some newer players just use a Suit Signal, where the size of the card does not matter; the first discard merely shows the suit that you like. This system is simple, and it allows you to signal with the lowest card in that suit. If you are using this method and are asked "What are your discards?", DO NOT say "Standard Discards". You should say something like "Preferred Suit". On your convention card, you should enter "Suit" under the "First Discard" section, and check the boxes next to that line. Since Standard Signals is so easy, I suggest that beginning players use Standard Signals as described in the previous paragraph.

#### **For More Advanced Players: Different First Discard**

There are many other systems used for first discard. These include upside-down, odd-even, and Lavinthal. Each of these systems has its' advantages and disadvantages. Most intermediate players at our club prefer the odd-even system. In this system, if your first discard is an odd card, that means that you like that suit. If the first discard is an even suit, it means that you do not like that suit. Most players also like to include a suit preference signal in the even (discouraging) signal when trump is led; a high discouraging discard (even) shows the higher remaining suit and a low discouraging discard (even) shows the lower remaining suit.

With the Upside-Down system, you enter the topsy-turvy world. Most signals have the opposite meanings of the Standard System. In other words, a high card is discouraging and a low card is encouraging. This is an

advanced system which you might come across at the club. Upside-down players have an advantage when playing against novice and intermediate players, but only because you won't understand their defense. This is why it is always a good idea to ask "What are your discards?" when playing an unknown pair. The really hard part is figuring out what they tell you in response!

### **For Even More Advanced Players**

You've probably realized that counting the number of trump cards is very important. Advanced players count the cards in every suit based on the bidding and the play of the hand. Don't worry, someday you will do the same. What if you could know how many cards partner holds in each suit? Count signals will help you to do this. While you might not be ready for this, I will explain the concept. In situations where attitude does not apply, there are situations where you can tell your partner the distribution (count) of your hand. For most situations, the experts' order of priority is: attitude, count, then suit preference. The thing that makes them experts is realizing which of these situations apply, and how to use the information. The important thing to remember is to ask what system the opponents are using, and to use that information to your benefit!

*-Bob Zipp*

# Changes in Unit 374 Membership

## RANK PROMOTIONS

### NEW JUNIOR MASTERS

Shelley Schaeffer

### NEW CLUB MASTERS

Louise Belanger  
Jane Butel  
Eli Follic  
Cynthia Schneeberger  
Arthur Shirley

### NEW SECTIONAL MASTERS

Lynn Fugelso  
Marcae Keefe  
Karen Soutar  
John Thorson

### NEW REGIONAL MASTERS

Michael Hannah  
Alan Pope

### NEW NABC MASTERS

Janine White

### NEW LIFE MASTERS

Ellen Brabson

### NEW SILVER LIFE MASTERS

Elaine Stone

### NEW MEMBERS

Carol Adams  
Peter Bonner  
Gordon Hennessy  
Philip Sackinger  
Susan Sackinger

### TRANSFERS INTO UNIT

June Brunner  
Paul Harris  
Jerry Keeran  
Richard Metts  
Judy Starr  
Polly Tausch

IN MEMORIAM  
  
RITA DAVIS  
ALICE GOFF  
EVELYN KORNBERG  
BILL NELSON  
CAROL SANNA  
JUNE  
SCHUTZBERGER



c/o Susan Law  
 13101 Summer Place NE  
 Albuquerque, NM 87112

## MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

### UPCOMING UNIT GAMES SCHEDULE

Sunday games start at 1.30pm. All games are stratified and award enhanced masterpoints. GNT games award 50% red points.

#### April

- 6<sup>th</sup>: GNT Qualifier (Teams)
- 13<sup>th</sup>: Pairs Championship
- 20<sup>th</sup>: Pairs Championship
- 27<sup>th</sup>: GNT Qualifier (Teams)  
Awards Day

#### May

- 4<sup>th</sup>: Pairs Championship
- 11<sup>th</sup>: STaC Pairs (silver pts.)
- 18<sup>th</sup>: Pairs Championship
- 25<sup>th</sup> : Swiss Teams

#### June

- 1<sup>st</sup>: NAP Qualifier
- 8<sup>th</sup>: NAP Qualifier
- 15<sup>th</sup>: ABQ Sectional
- 22<sup>nd</sup>: Pairs Championship
- 30<sup>th</sup>: Swiss Teams

### UNIT 374 BOARD OF DIRECTORS CONTACT LIST

Mark Brownstein	822-9916	<a href="mailto:markakamrspock@comcast.net">markakamrspock@comcast.net</a>	Felix Moore:	717-1483	f.moore@netscape.com
Frank Fine	345-5155	<a href="mailto:finefrank@gmail.com">finefrank@gmail.com</a>	Karel Toohey	294-4129	<a href="mailto:kareltoo@aol.com">kareltoo@aol.com</a>
Pam Himes	554-3935	<a href="mailto:pam.himes@yahoo.com">pam.himes@yahoo.com</a>	Jerry Wellman	856-6845	<a href="mailto:jerryandleonie@aol.com">jerryandleonie@aol.com</a>
Bill Kass:	268-5922	<a href="mailto:kwjdr@msn.com">kwjdr@msn.com</a>	Mal Wilhelmi	823-4407	<a href="mailto:malwilhelmi@yahoo.com">malwilhelmi@yahoo.com</a>
Susy Law	296-7719	<a href="mailto:susanlaw09@comcast.net">susanlaw09@comcast.net</a>	Robert Zipp	884-6308	<a href="mailto:zipp_bridge@yahoo.com">zipp_bridge@yahoo.com</a>