

# Kalamazoo Bridge Club News



Volume 5: Issue 2

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## Kalamazoo Bridge Center – Status Report

The Bridge Center is progressing well since the move to our current site. Table counts continue to exceed last year's numbers by significant amounts. The move of the Wednesday game to Friday evening has turned out to be a very good idea. After changing to Friday evening, we had 22 tables during February. This exceeds the Wednesday evening table counts for the previous 5 months combined. We have experienced a slight drop off in the Friday afternoon game, but we expect that to pick up once the snowbirds return and the students in the beginning class start playing. We thought we might see a slight decline on Saturday afternoon, but so far these numbers are up as well.

The new schedule is displayed below.

### **Kalamazoo Bridge Center – Weekly Schedule of Duplicate Bridge Games**

	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
Daytime	-	-	-	Open @ 11:00 AM	NLM @ 1:00 PM *	Open @ 1:00 PM	-
Evening	Open @ 7:00 PM	-	NLM @ 7:00 PM *	-	Open @ 7:00 PM	-	-

\* Bridge Discussion ½ hour before game time.

### Partnerships

We all have occasional difficulties finding a bridge partner. Often, instead of coming solo, we decide to stay home or make other plans, when we would rather be at the bridge table. However, everyone is encouraged to come because all of the games at the Bridge Center have a guaranteed partner. Of course, we also recognize that there are some players you may not feel comfortable playing with for whatever reason. This problem can easily be overcome by calling Brenda Bau for assistance. (269) 372-9299. It is important to the success of the Bridge Center that everyone wanting to play has an opportunity to, regardless of skill level or experience. It is also important for everyone to enjoy playing with their partner. Please give Brenda a call if you find yourself in need of a partner.

## **Kalamazoo Sectional**

Over the last few years the attendance at the Kalamazoo Sectional has been sporadic. We have been averaging 105 tables per year since the tournament was moved from January to June. The high of 119 tables was in 1999 and the low was 81 in 2001. Last year we had 93 tables. It is our goal for this year is to exceed the 119 tables we had in 1999.

To add a little spice to the Kalamazoo Sectional this year, we are trying some new and hopefully interesting things to increase the size of the event and make it a little more fun.

- The tournament starts on Friday with an Open Pairs Game at 1:00pm.
- There will also be a separate Open Pairs Game at 7:00pm.
- To encourage the newer players to participate in our only local tournament of the year, we are bringing back the 299er game on Friday evening at 7:00pm. This will be a separate event and is limited to those players that have fewer than 300 masterpoints. We need something in the area of 6 to 8 tables to make this a worthwhile event.
- We will be introducing a Knockout event starting on Saturday at 9:00 a.m. This will be a three-session event. The second session starts at 1:30 p.m. and the final session at 7:00 p.m. If you get knocked out, then you can play in either or both of the open pair sessions on Saturday. Breakfast will be available prior to the 9:00 a.m. Saturday Knockout session. We are hoping for at least 12 teams, which will allow us to have two sections. If we have fewer than 12 teams, the event will be handicapped.
- The two Open Pairs games on Saturday are separate events.
- The Sunday Swiss teams start at 11:00 a.m. Donuts, juice, coffee and other goodies will be available prior to the event. We will break after the 4<sup>th</sup> match on Sunday for dinner. This year we will be trying something completely new. We will be having a PIG ROAST with all the trimmings. Pray for good weather, as we don't want to see Dave Shafer roasting the pig out in the rain.
- Sign in at the registration table and receive a welcome gift.
- Door prizes will be available and we will have prizes for the winners in each flight of the open pair events.
- We have broadened the flights this year. Flight C is up to 500 points and Flight B is up to 1,500 points.
- To make things run a little more efficiently this year, we plan to have two caddies on Sunday.

It is our intention to make the Kalamazoo Sectional in 2005 the best ever. We need your support. Start now to line up your partners and teammates. Spread the word to other players in the area and friends from out of town. We will be looking for volunteers to help get things set up at the fairgrounds and to help clean up at the end of the day on Sunday. We are asking for volunteers to bring cookies, salads and other assorted goodies throughout the tournament.

**Kalamazoo Sectional**  
**Schedule of Events**

**Friday, June 3**

**1:00 pm** - Stratified Open Pairs - Single Session  
**7:00 pm** - Stratified Open Pairs - Single Session  
299er Stratified Pairs - Single Session

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**Saturday, June 4**

**9:00 am** - Knock Out Session # 1  
**1:30 pm** - Knock Out Session # 2  
Stratified Open Pairs - Single Session  
**7:00 pm** - Knock Out Session # 3  
Stratified Open Pairs - Single Session

If there aren't sufficient teams for two flights, the one bracket will be handicapped

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**Sunday, June 5**

**11:00 am & TBA**

Stratified Swiss Teams – Play through - Dinner break midway through event.  
Food will be provided. The cost will be included in the entry fee.  
Stratification will be based on average team masterpoints.

If you have any questions, please contact either Alan Bau (269) 372-9299  
[alanwbau@ameritech.net](mailto:alanwbau@ameritech.net) or Marian Vyverman (269) 385-9255 [marian530@aol.com](mailto:marian530@aol.com)  
We would also like to thank Dave Shafer and JoAnn Cornell for their efforts and contributions.

**~Milestones~**

**Congratulations to Susan Bailey Carmen for becoming a Life Master!**

**~Bridge Player News~**

The Kalamazoo area Bridge Community wishes to extend condolences to the family of Orval Rice, who passed away in February. Orval will be missed by us all.

Evelyn Dinsmore has moved to Sturgis, Michigan where she is recuperating from a recent illness.

The Bridge Center would like to extend condolences to Allen Schwenk and his family due to the recent death of his father

**~Recent Tournament Winners~**

**Ethel Mitchell, Dennis Carman, Robert Houtrow, Beverly Riordan -6<sup>th</sup> in A  
Ann Arbor Sectional ~ Saturday, January 22 – Swiss Team**

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**Tom Eadie, Harold Karnes, Art Nevins, Jeanine Dow – 1<sup>st</sup> in A  
Portage, IN Sectional ~ Sunday Swiss Teams ~ March 6**

**Jay Bortz**  
By Bette Chavoya

Dr. Jay Bortz MD, was born in Pottsville, Pennsylvania, October 10, 1939 and was whisked away to live in Conway, South Carolina before he even opened his eyes. His father's line of work entailed extensive traveling and relocating the family now and then. His formative years were spent mostly in Virginia.

A graduate of the University of Tennessee and Medical School of Richmond, Virginia, Jay became a United States Navy doctor, Captain (06) for twenty years and two minutes. He claims those two minutes seemed longer than the twenty years. His Navy travels took him to Puerto Rico, Guam and Vietnam, then back to South Carolina.

Jay and his lovely wife, Jo, raised six children, three each from previous marriages. In 1999, retired from the Navy and with children grown, they chose to move to Lake Allegan, Michigan to be closer to Jo's family in nearby Indiana. That was the year Jay saw more snow than he had seen in 60 years. A passionate gardener, Jay brought a 100 year old native primrose plant to Michigan and it flourishes under his tender care. Gardening, crossword puzzles and bridge keep him busy.

Bridge was introduced to Jay literally at his mother's knee. He continued to play in high school and college. He encountered duplicate bridge for the first time in Guam where he earned his first masterpoints. Rich Kosty invited Jay to play in Kalamazoo and he has since become a regular member of our bridge community. A true southern gentleman, he brings vestiges of magnolias and mint juleps to the bridge table along with his enjoyable humor and good manners.

Jay wishes to extend his thanks to the Bridge Center for the good times and good friends. Your positive thoughts and prayers will be most encouraging for Jay as he is now experiencing nine and one half weeks of cobalt treatments which he, of course, is scheduling around his bridge games. Best Wishes, Jay.

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**Please welcome our new players!**

Lydia Walsh  
Sharon Jenness

Dolly Brogger  
Jim Nardi

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**GET READY FOR TEAMS ... GRAND NATIONAL TEAMS**

**April 9 & 10, 2005**  
**Farmington Hills, MI**

Come join the fun! Your team can qualify to represent District 12 at the Atlanta, GA Nationals this summer! And, it will be partially subsidized by District 12!!

There is no pre-qualification but all entrants must be members in good standing of District 12. Just bring your team and play! Teams may have 4 - 6 members. Full ACBL and District 12 Conditions of Contest are posted on our website at [www.d12bridge.org/specialeventslist.html](http://www.d12bridge.org/specialeventslist.html). Join us!!

# Congrats!

The 2004 Mini-McKenney results were recently posted. The Mini-McKenney races list the top 10 players with the most masterpoints in the current year in each rank category.

## Rookie of the Year

- 4) Barbara Harris
- 5) Phil Horwich
- 8) Alex Luria

## Junior Master of the Year

- 4) Julie Shaw

## Club Master of the Year

- 1) Dave Shafer
- 4) Emery Stickan
- 7) Barbara Brown

## Sectional Master

- 2) Marian Vyverman
- 4) Eileen Mischler
- 5) Marian Gilbert
- 10) Ellen Wilson

## Regional Master

- |                   |                     |
|-------------------|---------------------|
| 1) Dayle Harrison | 2) Glenn Terborg    |
| 3) Grace Terborg  | 4) Bette Chavoya    |
| 6) Sara Mounger   | 7) Dorothy Eppstein |

## NABC Master

- 8) Anne Grandstaff

## Life Master

- 3) Bill Northrop

## Bronze Life Master

- 1) Harold Karnes
- 2) Beth Armstrong
- 7) JoAnn Cornell
- 8) Tom Johnson

## Silver Life Master

- 4) Steve Sears

## Gold Life Master of the Year

- 2) Tom Eadie
- 3) Art Nevins
- 6) Jeannine Dow

The Ace of Clubs races list the top 10 players with the most masterpoints earned at club games in the current year, excluding North American Pairs, Grand National Teams, and Sectional Tournaments at Clubs, in each rank category.

## Rookie of the Year

- 1) Phil Horwich
- 4) Barbara Harris
- 9) Alex Luria

## Junior Master

- 1) Julie Shaw

## Club Master

- 1) Dave Shafer
- 6) Emery Stickan
- 8) Barbara Brown
- 9) Orval Rice

## Sectional Master

- 1) Marian Vyverman
- 2) Eileen Mischler
- 4) Marian Gilbert
- 6) Ellen Wilson
- 10) Bunkie Vandersalm

## Regional Master

- 1) Dayle Harrison
- 2) Bette Chavoya
- 3) Dorothy Eppstein
- 4) Glenn Terborg
- 6) Grace Terborg
- 8) Sara Mounger

## NABC Master

- 4) Anne Grandstaff
- 7) Margene Fuller

## Life Master

- 8) Bill Northrop

## Bronze Master

- 1) Harold Karnes
- 2) Tom Johnson
- 3) JoAnn Cornell
- 7) Alan Bau
- 10) Catherine Gay

## Silver Master

- 1) Steve Sears
- 10) Ailene DeLand

## Gold Master

- 1) Tom Eadie
- 2) Art Nevins
- 4) Jeannine Dow
- 10) Dennis Carman

## Want to learn more about Bridge?

We have an opportunity to bring Bernie Chazen to the Kalamazoo Bridge Center for a 3-day seminar. Bernie is one of the foremost bridge teachers in North America. We have had the opportunity to participate in two of the 3-day sessions over the last couple of years and have truly had a great time and learned a lot in the process. Bernie's teaching style and his ability to communicate to all bridge players of all levels is exceptional.

The 3-day event would go something like this.

- Friday evening – Wine & Cheese Party at 6:00 p.m. Short Bridge Lecture at 6:30 p.m. and an open game at 7:00 p.m.
- Saturday – breakfast at 8:30 a.m., bridge lecture at 9:00 a.m., lunch at noon - open bridge game at 1:00 p.m. Discussion of the hands at 5:00 p.m.
- Saturday evening at 7:30 p.m., play two hands and discuss, play two hands and discuss, etc. This is really a special event as everyone plays the same hands at the same time, followed by a discussion of the hands.
- Sunday – breakfast at 8:30 a.m., bridge lecture at 9:00 a.m., open bridge game at 1:00 p.m., followed by a discussion of the hands at 5:00 p.m.

The open games on Friday evening, Saturday afternoon and Sunday afternoon, would be open to all players, even those not participating in the lecture series.

The subject matter for the lectures would be decided about 6 months before the scheduled start date. The content of the program would be suitable for all levels of bridge players.

This program is not inexpensive, but it is well worth the price. The approximate cost would be in the range of \$150 to \$200 per player for the three days.

If there is sufficient interest to pursue a program as described above, it would most likely be held sometime in 2006.

Please let Alan know if you would be interested in this program.

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The Grand Rapids Regional will be in August again this year and most likely the Bridge Center will be closed August 15 – 21 to accommodate the Regional. However, I would like to hear everyone's opinion about running some of the games here at the center during that week. There are several players who do not go to the tournament and, if we have enough of them sign up to play, we may be able to hold a game or two. Please mention your ideas to Alan.  
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### **Special Events at the Bridge Center**

**Saturday, April 30 ~ Team Game**  
**Saturday, May 14 ~ Welcome Back, Snowbirds BBQ!**  
**May 16 – 20 ~ Club Championship Week**

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