

100 Clubs in 100 Days

The Travelogue of ACBL President
Craig Robinson



Club #100: Kathy's Duplicate BC in St. Petersburg, FL

Posted on [December 12, 2011](#)

For my 100th club, I flew to St. Petersburg Florida. Kathy's Duplicate BC is owned by Kathy Newell and runs on Wednesday's at the St Petersburg BC. I arranged with Gretchen Funk and Leon Lyday to keep the second half of my purpose for visiting St. Petersburg a secret. Not only was I attending my 100th club, I was naming Charles Gill, manager of the St Petersburg BC, as the recipient of the Nadine Wood Volunteer of the Year Award. Charley is President, manager, part-time director, partnership chairman and he writes a clever email on the upcoming club happenings every week! He is a great guy and I wish every club had a Charley. To surprise me, Charley presented me with a caricature of yours truly in honor of my 100 clubs in 100 days. It is really just fabulous. We both pulled off a surprise!

Well I achieved the 100 clubs but I needed more. I decided to visit another club that was in somewhat familiar territory. In about 1973, I founded the South Jersey BC with two other guys and we had games seven nights a week. We introduced a day game and a game for players with less than 100 points. I sold my ownership after a couple years, but the club survived numerous owner and location changes. Today there is a club called the BC of South Jersey, so I think of it as a continuation of club I founded. This was my 101st club. They had 14 tables, and I played with Joelyn Shilliday.

So on September 21st, I completed club 99 and spent the next six weeks basking in failure. Now I have exceeded my goal and I did it in 97 days (no one ever said 100 clubs in 100 consecutive days). The tour was great. Thanks to everyone. Bridge players are nice.



ACBL President Craig Robinson



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- [Club #100: Kathy's Duplicate BC in St. Petersburg, FL](#)
- [Club #99: Sandpoint DBC in Sandpoint, ID](#)
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Charles Gill, recipient of the Nadine Wood Volunteer of the Year Award



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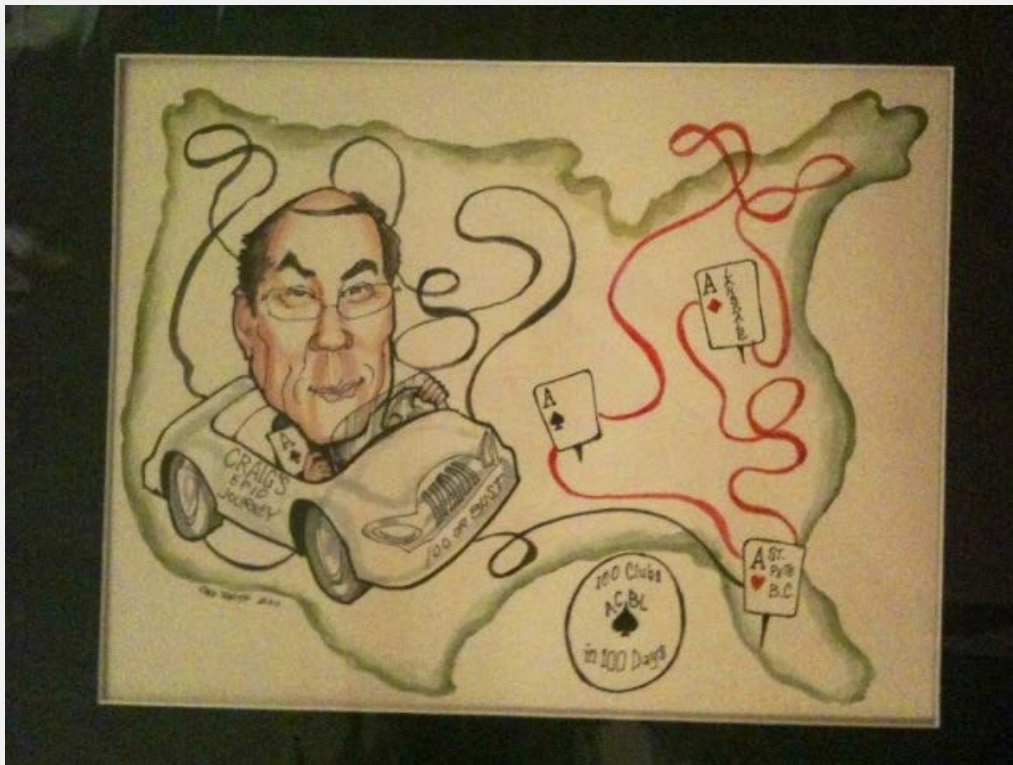
melind0908 on Club #77: Aspen Bridge Club in...

Archives

- December 2011
- October 2011
- September 2011
- August 2011
- July 2011
- June 2011
- May 2011
- April 2011

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- [RSS - Posts](#)
- [RSS - Comments](#)



Caricature of Craig's tour

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Club #99: Sandpoint DBC in Sandpoint, ID

Posted on [October 26, 2011](#)

September 21

Sandpoint Idaho was just named the most beautiful small town in the United States by USA Today. The picture shown here is a downtown bank. The lakes, mountains, and beaches all add to the overall beauty of the area. Bridge is alive and well in the Couer d'Alene valley too. They have three games a week in the valley including one here in Sandpoint. Don Hanset directed the game of 10 tables, and I played with John Cox who traveled up from Couer d'Alene, some 30 miles away. The people were very nice, and I had conversations with as many as possible. John and I won. This is club stop #99. Elaine and I go home tomorrow, and I'll have plenty of time to think about where to go for #100. I realized that today is September 21st which means there are exactly 100 days left in the year. Maybe I could do 200 clubs? Never mind.

'It is not over til it is over'. I am going home now to think about where to go for number 100. We have had a great time and we would like to thank all the people at the clubs we visited. You were great. I enjoyed playing bridge everyday but I really enjoyed all the people I met. Bridge players are really nice. I drove about 18,500 miles and got to 37 states and two provinces.



Bank in downtown Sandpoint



June McCann, John Cox, Mary Faux

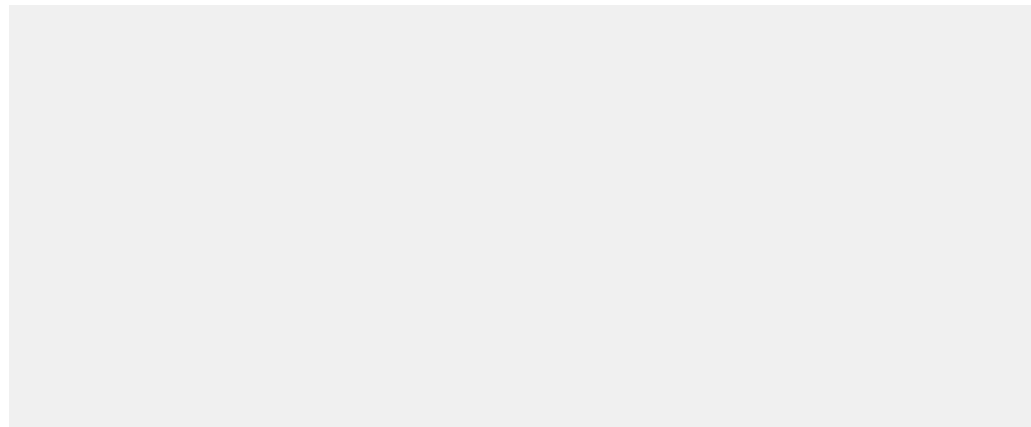
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Club #98: Eastside Bridge Center Inc. in Redmond, WA

Posted on [October 25, 2011](#)

September 20

Redmond Washington is a suburb of Seattle. Eastside BC is a really nice club that runs 19 games per week, including 4 limited games. The owners, pictured below, plus Mary Miller who was away on vacation, provide all the amenities a club should have. Matt Koltnow, a full-time ACBL tournament director, directs games when his schedule allows. Roger Putnam, another full-time TD, was playing today. I played with Maurice Blustein, an excellent player, and we coasted home, placing 1st in a 17 table game. After the game I met with the owners to suggest ways to help them with problems that may arise. But looking at the big picture, this is a fine club with all the ingredients for success.





Diane Cox, Elaine Vona, and Dennis Duryea



ACBL tournament director Matt Koltnow

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Club #97: North Shore Bridge Club in Vancouver, BC

Posted on [October 24, 2011](#)

September 19

Vancouver British Columbia is a beautiful city. The club tour's second trip to Canada brought us to the North Shore Bridge Club, a once a week club that meets in a community center. The center is an excellent facility for a bridge game. One of the owners, Sandi White (others are Steve Beaton and Tai Eng), is caterer in her real life. They had a spread that was set out at the beginning of the game (10:00AM) and consisted of roast beef, ham, and salmon salad, among a variety of other dishes. The game had 25 tables and I played with Ram Hira whom I had met in both Louisville and Toronto. He asked me to come to Vancouver and a second visit to Canada seemed a very appealing way to end my Western swing. As it turned out, this stop was #97, not #100. Elaine and I toured the city Sunday afternoon when we arrived, and Monday after the game. We were happy we got to visit Vancouver for the first time.



Ram Hira and Craig



Steve Beaton, Sandi White, Craig, Tai Eng

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Club #96: East Side Bridge Club in Portland, OR

Posted on [October 21, 2011](#)

September 18

I came to Portland to visit a bridge club and it was closed. It seems the two full-time bridge clubs in Portland close when there is a sectional. Despite this, Molly Harris arranged to have a breakfast with the owners and directors of the Eastside Bridge Club and the Ace of Clubs Bridge Club so I could meet them all. It was good to see them all sitting at the same table (there are a lot of places I have visited this would be close to impossible to arrange). I tried to answer questions and tell of things I had learned. It was a very good meeting (as was the food). Later I played in the sectional with Jeff Taylor (former District 20 Director) in an attempt to inflate my masterpoint holdings. They had 56 and 42 tables in the Saturday sessions and we finished 5th and 4th overall and I won 7.14 masterpoints! I had dinner with the unit board between sessions and from my viewpoint it was a well spent day for stop #96.



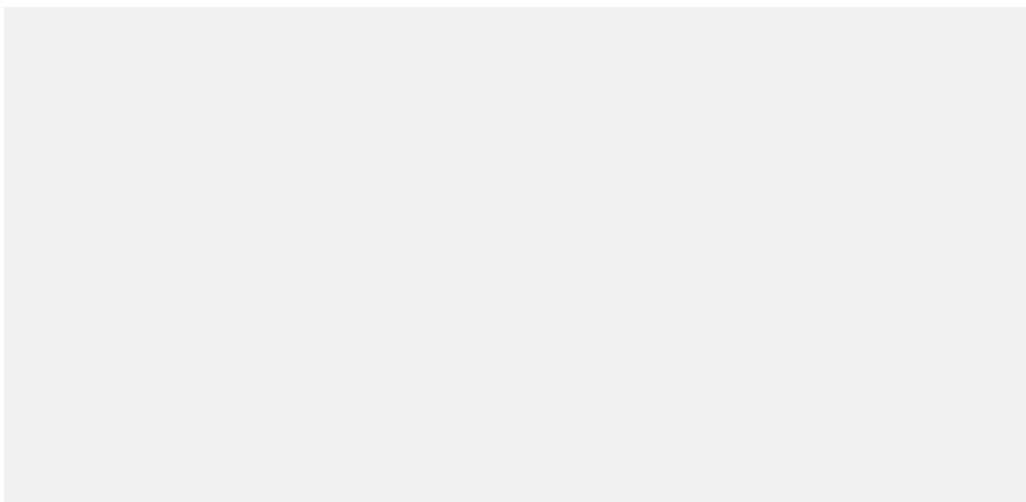
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Club #95: Seaside Bridge Club in Seaside, OR

Posted on [October 20, 2011](#)

September 16

Seaside is a small (6,000) town on the Northern coast of Oregon, about 85 miles from Portland. The town may be small, but it is big bridge-wise. The city hosted a 2000 table regional the following week. Sue Kroning has done so much to promote bridge in this community. She teaches and directs, and has built games from almost nothing to double digit tables. Today I played in a 13 table game. I partnered with Gerry Leenerts, who played well. We had a 61% game, which finished 3rd. Gerry's wife, Gretchen; it should be noted, finished 1st E/W. After the game there was a very nice party at the home of Teresa Jefferson. The food was great, as was the view of the ocean and the town of Seaside.





Cake from Seaside

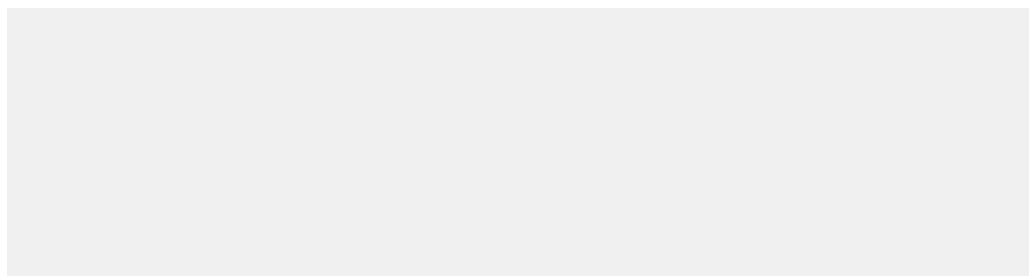
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Club #94: Emerald Bridge Club in Eugene, OR

Posted on [October 19, 2011](#)

September 15

Eugene is the home of the University of Oregon. The city has a very nice club that was recently remodeled. There was a lively discussion on a variety of topics which everyone seemed to enjoy. One question was, "what was the most embarrassing thing that happened to you on the tour?" I gave them a hand that I went down 5, but that was a lie because the most embarrassing was about to happen in Canada. I held S-x H-Kxx D-KQxxx C-KJxx. My partner opened 1H, pass, I bid 2D, then 2s by LHO, and 4H by partner, pass, now what? Well I found the worst answer and my most embarrassing moment. First I bid 4NT, and my partner bid 5 spades. Oops. You can't bid 4NT playing key card if you can't stand the answer of 2 plus the queen of trumps. As if 4NT wasn't bad enough, I was so upset with what I had done, I passed 5 spades and my poor partner had to play in his 3-1 fit in their suit! Jeff Taylor and I did manage to win in Eugene while Elaine played with Mary Egger and finished 3rd. I had a fun time at a very nice club.





Jim Wolf, Unit 479 president, Craig, and Jeff Taylor, former District 20 president

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Club #93: Sequoia Bridge Club in Eureka, CA

Posted on [October 18, 2011](#)

September 14

Eureka is a small town in Northern California on the coast. The Sequoia Bridge Club meets three times a week in a church. The games were small, 4 ½ tables, the day I was there, but the players love the game and are happy there is a game at all! I played with Ginger Bowes, a new life master, and a very enjoyable partner. We did pretty well, 3rd I believe. I know these small games exist all over ACBL land and I am concerned about the future of these games. It is very difficult to get new players into games when the population density is low. This is largely due to the fact that it's difficult to find someone who feels it is worth their effort to teach bridge to a very small number of people (1 or 2). Without teachers, we don't have new players. It appears to me to be a serious problem that lacks an easy answer.

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Club #92: Redwood Heights BC in Oakland, CA

Posted on [October 17, 2011](#)

September 13

Bruce Blakely had been hosting us the last two nights. Today Bruce drove us over to

Oakland to play in a community center where they had about 25 tables. Like many morning games, they work in a break for food and there was an enormous strawberry shortcake. The game was directed by Betty Kael who did a very good job considering there were two sections and she was playing to boot. I played with Tom Pajak who gave some assistance to Betty with technical problems during the game. Tom was very enjoyable to play with. We had some bad luck and scored OK, but nothing to write home about. The club held a question and answer session with the members and myself, and I really enjoyed giving answers and speaking to everyone. We left immediately after the game to start the long drive to Eureka.

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Club #91: Quicktricks BC in San Francisco, CA

Posted on [October 14, 2011](#)

September 12

Today's stop held an evening game with three sections (Newcomer 5 tables, 0-299 15 tables open 10 tables), 30 tables and no parking! The newcomer game had a lecture before their game on the stage in the basement of the church facility. The Newcomer game finished early and they cleaned up and left without disturbing the other 25 tables. I played with Robert Hartman, the new CEO of the ACBL and we managed to win. Elaine played with Steve Smolen (the brother of the man who invented the Smolen convention). They had a 57% game and finished out of the money. That is the second time this happened recently (isn't that very rare or am I just whining?). Anyhow, it was a very enjoyable game at a very spectacular show of evening bridge. My presence didn't exactly pack them in. There is always a good crowd at evening bridge here. The same game had 29 tables the following week.



Robert Hartman, Kim Fanady, and Craig

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Club #90: Bridge Center in Palo Alto, CA

Posted on [October 13, 2011](#)

September 12

I looked forward to this game for a long time. I met Hamish Bennett at several NABCs and we have struck up a friendship. I played against him for years, so I was sure it would be enjoyable to play as his partner. It was. We had a very nice game and fell just short of winning. The club is very nice and I got to meet with a lot of officials (board members, directors, owners). I was able to answer their questions and discuss the status of club bridge. The club had a very nice lunch and plenty of desserts.



ACBL President Craig Robinson



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Polly Seigel, Crag, Don Rothschild, Hamish Bennett



Elaine playing with partner Lori Spaeth

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Club #89: Santa Barbara Bridge Center in Santa Barbara, CA

Posted on [October 12, 2011](#)

September 10

I played with my brother Phil who has really never played duplicate. We played Stayman and Blackwood, and on the second hand of the day we were the only pair to bid to a grand slam that had 15 tricks! Phil had no problem with bidding boxes, and only tried to touch cards on the dummy a couple of times. The game proceeded well until about the half way mark when everything just collapsed, and we finished at 46%. It still was great! The Santa Barbara club is in a stand alone building was recently been refurbished and the members are very proud of. The club has been renting this facility for 35 years! It was suggested to buy it back in 1975 but the owners decided to rent instead. What a mistake. The players were very nice and extremely nice to a new player.

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Club #88: Ojai Valley BC in Ojai, CA

Posted on [October 11, 2011](#)

September 9

This is a beautiful town in Ventura County. The bridge club meets on Monday and Friday in a local church. The scheduling of this tour takes a great amount of time and requires help at the club end. I got a lot of help from club President, Alan Greenberg. I thank him for that, especially because he did so knowing he would not be able to play the day schedule because he had to leave for his son's wedding. I did get to meet Alan before he had to leave, and then I played with Judy Murphy. She was a great partner and played



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Archives

- [December 2011](#)
- [October 2011](#)
- [September 2011](#)
- [August 2011](#)
- [July 2011](#)
- [June 2011](#)
- [May 2011](#)
- [April 2011](#)

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very well, but I am afraid we lost it on the very last round. It might have something to do with the fact that I doubled 4 spades for minus 790? The club had lots of food and a great cake. It was a really good day. Elaine and I were even able to spend time seeing the town and countryside.



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Club #87: Beverly Hills Bridge Club in Los Angeles, CA

Posted on [October 7, 2011](#)

September 8

Horrible traffic and almost running out of gas made getting to this game on time an adventure. The club held a team game and our squad consisted of Rand Pinsky, District 23 Director, Elaine and Kathy (Rand's wife) playing with me. They had twelve teams and we played four rounds. Assignments and results were on a plasma TV high on the wall (what a novel idea). Table count was hurt due to the proximity of the Irvine regional, but it was still a good field. We tried the Swiss coup by losing our first match, and then winning our next three. However, Silky Sullivan we were not, and we ran out of room and tied for second. The club has everything a club needs due to a list of generous members who have donated money over the years.

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Club #86: Valencia Bridge Club in Santa Clarita, CA

Posted on [October 6, 2011](#)

September 8

The Valencia BC in Santa Clarita meets twice a week one of which is Thursday morning. The biggest surprise during the trip occurred when they took a break for lunch. Suddenly one of the players, Kristi Kubo, turned on some music and then sang an opera. She is a very good singer and the music was well appreciated. I played with Rita Vannatter, and Elaine played with Rand Pinsky. Neither pair had a very good game. Kathy Pinsky was 2nd and I am happy to report that Kristi was 3rd. This was the first half of a doubleheader, as tonight Elaine, I, and our hosts (Kathy and Rand) will play as a team.



Carol Ashbacker, Craig, and Rita Vannatter



Kristi Kubo singing

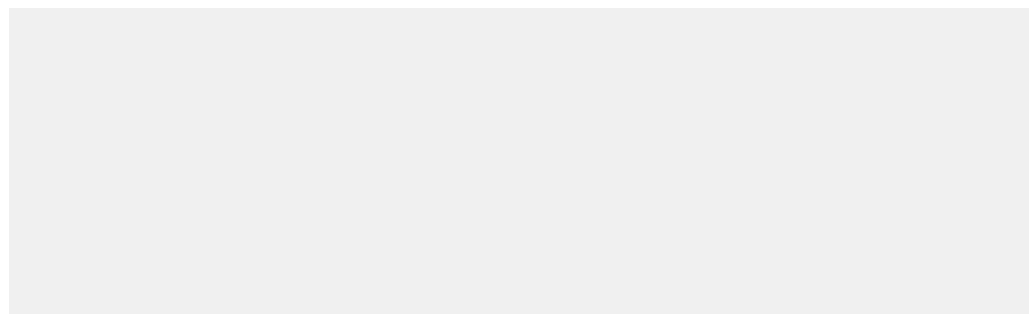
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Club #85: Long Beach Bridge Club in Long Beach, CA

Posted on [October 5, 2011](#)

September 7

This was my first experience of a Regional (Irvine) tournament impacting a local bridge club's game schedule. What is normally a 20-table game was down to 9 yesterday and 13 today. Good food is a daily occurrence here, but the specialty of the house is desserts. The club takes a break in the middle of the game and the house brings out all sorts of desserts – including ice cream! A very nice facility that is located on the second floor of the building; which is rare. Second floor locations bring lower rents because retailers have no interest in them. I played with Kevin Lane, a hi-tech guy that helped the ACBL in the past with his ideas. In addition, he is a very fine player who does not play every afternoon at a local club (this is a note for his wife), but we had an unlucky afternoon and finished in the upper 50s. If the chance ever occurs in the future, I would enjoy playing another game with him.





Brandon Shuemeker, Craig, Loren Hilf, and Rand Pinsky, District 23 Director

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Club #84: Henderson Bridge Club in Henderson, NV

Posted on [October 4, 2011](#)

September 6

This is a full-time club that runs six days a week owned by Carol Warren. Carol owns the building which was formally a bar, but she converted it into a very nice bridge club. The bar is still present and it was used to serve the food which was good and plentiful. Bobby and Judy Wolff came down from Las Vegas to play which was nice. Judy used to live near Elaine and me. Toady's game had 14 tables and the players were very nice. This is the seventh (and last) club in the West that I visited that owns their bridge club's building. There were only two clubs in the East that had building ownership. I think (4%) is much closer to the ACBL average.

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Club #83: Adult Center of Prescott DBC in Prescott, AZ

Posted on [October 3, 2011](#)

September 5

Prescott is a growing area in Arizona. It is much higher altitude than the Phoenix area, so it's cooler by 15 to 20 degrees. Joan Shay runs a game at the senior center that drew 24 tables about 1/3 of whom were playing in a non-sanction game. I talked to the non-

sanctioned folks and gave them my goldfish theory (if you put a goldfish in a river he will grow to become a carp, but if you keep him in a goldfish bowl he cannot get bigger), but no one lined up to join the ACBL. I played with Joan and we had a disappointing/average game. On the last hand of the day Chris and Jim Showalter bid 6 clubs holding S-void H-KQx D-xxxx C-KQJ10xx opposite S-AQ10xxxx H-x D-AK C-Axx. Chris and Jim bid it very nicely, and Chris played it very carefully to bring home 12 tricks and a clear top on the board. I am sure the newer players liked my goldfish theory and have all joined the ACBL by now.

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Club #82: AZ Bridgeworks in Scottsdale, AZ

Posted on [September 30, 2011](#)

September 4

Today was the 33rd time this year that the temperature reached 110 degrees. AZ Bridgeworks is a fulltime club run by Joy Balsar. The President of Unit 354 is Leon Lowe and he was my partner. My RHO opened 1 spade and I held S-Ax H-AKQJ109xxx D-xx C-void. I don't have a systemic bid for this hand and 4 hearts didn't seem very sporting so I chose to start with a double. It went pass 2C by partner 2D by my relentless LHO so now I tried a not very sporting 4 heart bid that ended the auction. Opening lead 10 of spades and dummy tabled S-J98x H-87 D-xxx C-AKxx. Trick one collected 100 honors in spades, a heart to the 8, AK of clubs shedding a spade and a diamond, then the 9 of spades, covered, ruffed, a heart to the 7 and shedding the last diamond on the 8 of spades. Plus 510, an average the hard way. The club had wonderful food and was a perfect way to get out of the heat. Joy was great and Leon was a fabulous partner.

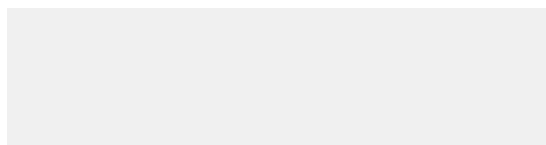
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Club #81: Sedona Bridge Club in Sedona, AZ

Posted on [September 29, 2011](#)

September 3

The first stop in Arizona was Sedona, which some believe is the most beautiful place of all. The scenic views of the canyon's reddish walls are not only a dramatic entrance to the valley, but also a gracious curtain to the village of Sedona. Bridge is booming here, with teaching programs and new people moving into the valley. I played with Robb Gordon; an excellent player. We had a nice game and a good time. There was a luncheon beforehand in the Elks Club where the bridge games take place. Besides a really nice meal, they had a great selection of candy during the game. After the game Robb gave me a tour of the town and then I had a great dinner with he and his wife, Linda. I talked to Robb and Linda in Toronto and although I originally planned to only travel on this day, I am pleased that I added Sedona to my club visits.





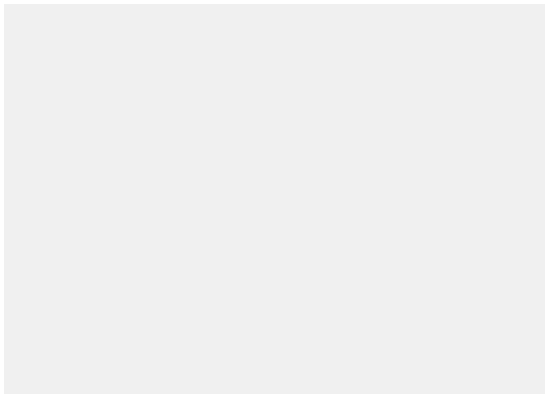
Alice Marin and Maudell Terry, with Marjean Good serving



Joy McIlraith & club



Rob Gordon and Karen Wahl





Sonya Webber

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Club #80: Duke City Bridge Club in Albuquerque, NM

Posted on [September 28, 2011](#)

September 2

There is nothing like being in the Wild West and meeting 'Billy the kid'. Billy Trabaudo is a 19 year old sophomore at the University of New Mexico and is a highly regarded young player. We played and had a great time and a lousy score (probably because we didn't play particularly well). But it was enjoyable to play with one of our 1100 members under the age of 26. Billy has flare without fear. I guess too many of the opponents were related to Pat Garrett. Felicity Moore is a very active club manager, teaching and directing in addition to managing this very large club in Albuquerque. This is the third club in last five that I have been to, where the club is in a building that they own. My estimate is that less than 5% of full time clubs play in a building that they own.



ACBL President Craig Robinson



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Craig with Billy "the Kid" Trabaudo

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Club #79: Los Alamos DBC in Los Alamos, NM

Posted on [September 23, 2011](#)

September 1

The Los Alamos game on Thursday night is directed by Jerry Fleming. They had 14 tables including two tables of 'home-style' bridge. There were players from Santa Fe and Taos in addition to those from Los Alamos and the surrounding suburbs. I played with John Ruminer, a retiree from the Lab. We had a nice game, although this is one tough field. I can't remember the last time a 57% finished 7th in a field of 12. This is the home of the labs where they developed 'the bomb' that ended World War II. It is a beautiful area atop several Mesas, with canyons and mountains everywhere one looks. I stayed with Jerry and Marion and had a great time for two days.

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Club #78: Santa Fe Games in Santa Fe, NM

Posted on [September 22, 2011](#)

September 1

I have two days and three club stops in New Mexico. The first stop is in Santa Fe at the Leonard Helman Bridge Center. Clearly the best dressed player west of the Mississippi is Leonard Helman, known affectionately as 'The Rabbi'. He was a major force in raising



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- [December 2011](#)
- [October 2011](#)
- [September 2011](#)
- [August 2011](#)
- [July 2011](#)
- [June 2011](#)
- [May 2011](#)
- [April 2011](#)

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money to build the bridge center here in Santa Fe and therefore the building carries his name. I had the pleasure of playing with 'The Rabbi' and we had a very nice game. He a gracious man and it was certainly a highlight of the trip to play with him. Leonard is known for playing contracts in 3NT, so on the last deal I gave him his chance. I picked up S-Jx H-AKxxxxx D-xxx C-x. I passed. LHO opened 1 spade, Leonard bid 1NT, pass, so I bid 3NT. Oops, opening lead is the club nine, but the Rabbi had me covered with S-AKxx H-Qx D-xxx C-AQxx. When the dust settled the Rabbi had taken all 13 tricks for a top.



Craig, Leonard Helman and Jerry Fleming

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Club #77: Aspen Bridge Club in Aspen, CO

Posted on [September 21, 2011](#)

August 30

The trip to Aspen had my first major pitfall. I arrive to play in the Aspen club with John VanNess, former District 17 President. About the third round, I realized that my glasses had no left lens. John and I played and looked for the lens throughout the game to no avail. On the last round we managed to get 22 of 24 matchpoints to vault over the 12th round leaders to victory. Avey Manges directed the game and then hosted a cocktail party after the game. Later in the evening, she, John and I ventured downtown for an evening of 'seeing the town'. The next day I headed out for New Mexico. On the road, I again called the motel I had stayed in two nights before and they had found the lens. So I added a 50 mile detour to retrieve the lens. What is 50 miles when one is driving 18,000? This is one beautiful state and Aspen and Colorado Springs are two really pretty places.



"CR" jersey - Colorado Rockies, or Craig Robinson?

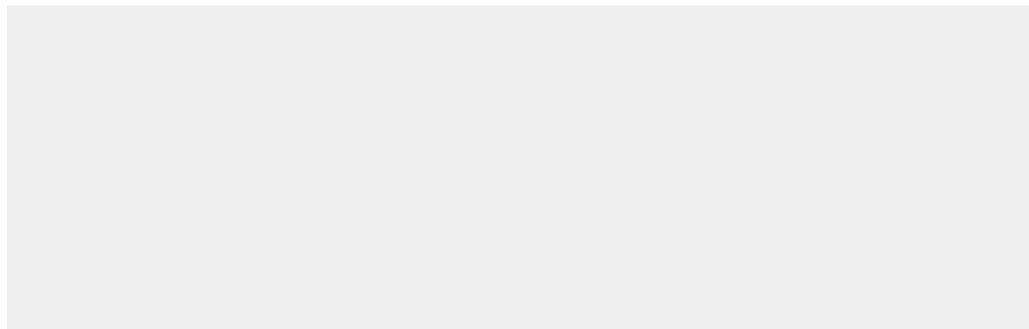
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Club #76: Five Aces in Colorado Springs, CO

Posted on [September 20, 2011](#)

August 29

Typically, I've been driving from club to club, but today I flew and arrived in Colorado Springs. Many years ago some members of this club had the foresight to buy a building for a bridge club. Each put up \$1000 and today several local clubs have consolidated into the Colorado Springs Bridge Club. I played at this club twice – once on Sunday, and again on Monday. Sunday I played with Bonnie Bagley, District 17 Director, in the Great Western Conference STaC. The Sunday afternoon game had over 200 tables District-wide. Monday, I played with Bob Harward who won the club raffle to be my partner. Bob played very well and it shouldn't be long before he achieves LM. I also spent a lot of time with Bob Wingard, one of the original investors in the bridge club and also a former District 17 Director. Thanks to Bonnie for being a wonderful hostess.





Bob Harward and Craig



Bob Wingard and District 17 Director Bonnie Bagley

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Club #75: Houston Bridge Studio in Houston, TX

Posted on [September 19, 2011](#)

August 27

I somehow got the address of the wrong Houston Bridge Club in my GPS, but I was able to rally and show up on time. Up to this point, 41 tables was the biggest game I have played, today that total was topped by 10. This is another full service club, run by Terry Currie. With 51 tables in play it was a full house, though they may have been able to get more if they didn't have so much food and so many desserts. I played with District 16 Director, Dan Morse, who had six desserts prior to the game. He then proved he plays well on a full stomach as we were first overall with a 70% game. This Saturday afternoon game drew many of Houston's top players. I'm now finished with the seven day tour of Texas, where the average high temperature was 106 degrees. I thank Texans for an enjoyable week and wish you some cooler weather! Now I turn in my rental car, fly to Denver and rent another one.



51 tables on a Saturday afternoon to welcome Craig!



Houston Bridge Club staff Tom Jahnke, Nic Prado, Silvia Toledo, Eric Watson, and Wolf Schroeter along with co-owners Terry Currie and Sue Williams



Both cakes together



And the overall winners with a 70% game are ACBL President Craig Robinson (left) and District 16 Director Dan Morse (right), sitting with John Zilic

Posted in [Uncategorized](#) | [2 Comments](#)

Club #74: Bridge Club of San Antonio in San Antonio, TX

Posted on [September 16, 2011](#)

August 26

The Bridge Club of San Antonio is a nice facility with really good furniture. Their Friday night game was resurrected for my tour and 15 tables were in play. This is another full service club with a teaching program and limited games. They have a full kitchen and club manager, Everett Lewis, prepared a full lasagna dinner for the 60 players. I played with Everett and again we played pretty well but wound up with a 56% game. This is a very nice club and management makes an effort to make everyone feel at home. Bridge-wise, this was not the best of days, but bridge is certainly alive and well in San Antonio and I really enjoyed coming to this city for the NABC in 1999.

Posted in [Uncategorized](#) | [Leave a comment](#)

Club #73: Turtle Creek DBC in San Antonio, TX

Posted on [September 15, 2011](#)

August 26

Turtle Creek Bridge Club is managed by Paula Wissman. One neat feature of the club is a teaching program, with supervised play and a 5th chair. I played with Ed Rawlinson but we had one of those games where played OK, but the opponents just got too many things

right. They had a lot of good food for their 12 table game. The facility is excellent, holding possibly about 30 tables and the people are very friendly. The temperature was less than 100 degrees for the first time in about 50 days here, and there were even a few rain drops, though nothing measurable. It hasn't rained here in 11 months. This club is the first half of a doubleheader in San Antonio.

Posted in [Uncategorized](#) | [Leave a comment](#)

Club #72: Bridge Center of Austin in Austin, TX

Posted on [September 14, 2011](#)

August 25

The Bridge Center of Austin is a really good club. A good club takes a lot of people working together to make it great. This club is led by Laura Delfeld who teaches, directs, and probably washes the dishes. Flora Pettit was in charge of hospitality and she put out a great lunch. 38 tables showed up to play and Laura and Mark McAllister did a great job of directing. I played with Jack Lacy, who is another instructor at the club and a fine player. Austin happened to be one of the cities where I was there for two nights and one day. I did laundry in the morning and then met many from the club for dinner at County Line on the Lake. I showed up an hour early because I lost track of what time zone I was in, even though I had been in the same time zone for two weeks. I went out to the lake and watched the turtles go to their dock and play on their miniature slide and miniature diving board. We had great barbeque and it was a great day.



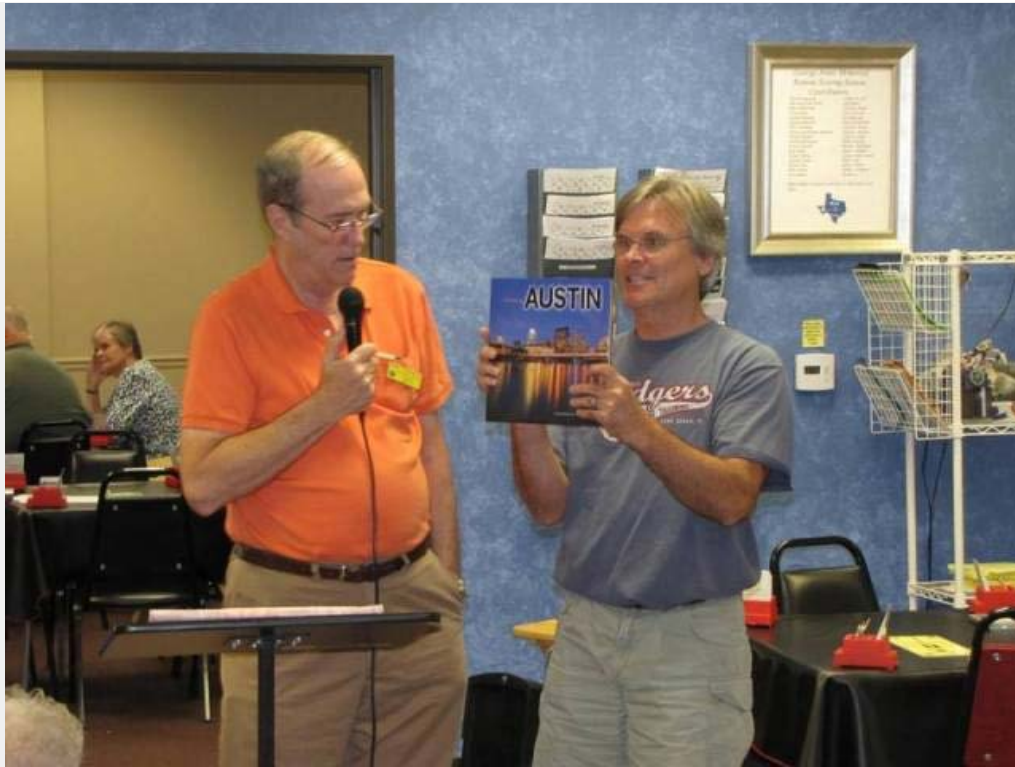
Bob Burton, Craig, and Tom and Gail Banet who run the game in Georgetown



Craig with George Watkins, Unit 207 President



Craig with Jack Lacy



Craig with Jeff Emmert



Mark McAllister, Laura Delfeld, Jeff Emmert, Craig and Flora Pettit

Posted in [Uncategorized](#) | [1 Comment](#)

Club #71: Abilene Bridge Club in Abilene, TX

Posted on [September 9, 2011](#)

August 24

Abilene has an energetic new President in Jo Smith. She has also become their representative on the District Board. Coleen Grisham had invited me to the game she directs, Bridge etc, but it turned out that I would get to Abilene on a Wednesday and her games are held on Tuesday and Thursday. So Coleen spoke to Jo Smith and my visit was changed to the Abilene Bridge Club at the Mabel Lilius Bridge Center. They had 15 tables and they gave me a cowboy hat and bandana so I wouldn't look like a 'Philadelphia Tenderfoot'. Coleen and I played a very nice game on a very nice day (only 106 degrees) at the bridge center.







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Theme: *Twenty Ten*  *Blog at WordPress.com.*

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Club #70: Kay's Afternoon Bridge in Fort Worth, TX

Posted on [September 8, 2011](#)

August 23

I had a fun time in Fort Worth and had the best barbeque brisket sandwich ever. The restaurant that makes them is in the same parking lot as the club! I played with Mary Jane Orock, a well thought of teacher and a nice player. The game was very large and had its own limited section. Diane Washabaugh, who is the Unit President, Carolyn Pinto, Unit Education Chair, Mary Jane, Jerry Cosby and others showed me the town of Fort Worth, the old stockyards and the new downtown, including the convention center. It was a great day. I don't often spend two nights (one day) in the same city, so it was great to see some of the city. As for the Bridge Studio itself, I would say it has all the ingredients of success.



ACBL President Craig Robinson



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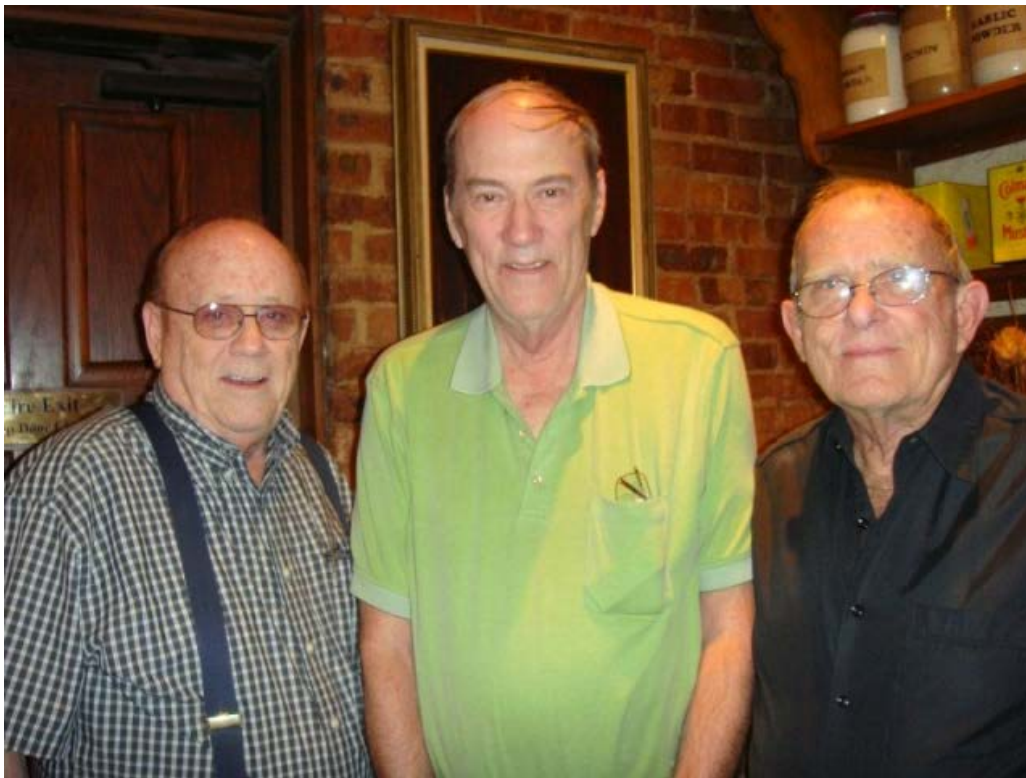
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[ACBL on Club #75: Houston Bridge Studi...](#)



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Archives

- [December 2011](#)
- [October 2011](#)
- [September 2011](#)
- [August 2011](#)
- [July 2011](#)
- [June 2011](#)
- [May 2011](#)
- [April 2011](#)

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- [RSS - Posts](#)
- [RSS - Comments](#)





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Club #69: Dottie Pirkle DBC in Athens, TX

Posted on [September 7, 2011](#)

August 22

The club building was given to the club by Nancy Strain. The players of Athens were looking for a place to hold their club game and just couldn't find anything suitable, so Nancy asked her husband to build one. Such a simple solution, I don't know why others don't think of it. They named the Bridge center the Dottie Pirkle Bridge Club in memory of the named, who did so much for East Texas bridge. Another lady who has done a lot of teaching is Lela Mae Corley. I played with Lela Mae and we managed to get 20 ½ out of 24 matchpoints the last round to win our direction by a hair. The club manager, Ginger Rhamey is the club's hero of today. Athens is a town of 11,297 and their bridge game draws players from Gunbarrel, Canton, and Tyler. They had a great lunch and their recently elected President, Jimmy Wright was there.

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Club #68: Bridge Academy of North Dallas, Dallas, TX and Dorsey's Bridge Studio in Richardson, TX

Posted on [September 6, 2011](#)

The Bridge Academy of North Dallas (BAND) is owned by Donna and Chris Compton. Donna and her team of Barabara Sifuentes, Lydia Smidt, and John Pelletti do an excellent job of teaching and building a bridge club. They have a nice facility, with every possible bit of technology known to the bridge community, including two 92" flat screen TVs. The

TVs are used to show the Eagles games when they are playing the Cowboys and other sporting events (no sound). The screens are used to put up the scores of everyone who won masterpoints today and they use it for pairings in Swiss Team events. They had 21 tables. Donna is a World champion (Mixed Pairs 2010) but she could only drag me in with a 53% game. I have never had so many scores of +170.

Later that evening I went to Richardson, Texas where the Chinese/American Community was celebrating the 100th anniversary of the Republic of China. They ran a two day Swiss team event across three brackets and invited me to present some of the awards. They thanked me for coming which was not needed, I thanked them on behalf of the ACBL for making bridge part of their celebration. It was a good time!



Craig, Tomi Fitzgerald, Donna Compton, and DeWitt Hudson, District 16 President



Chinese banquet



Chinese banquet



Chinese banquet



Chinese newspaper with Craig (sorry, no translation)

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Club #67: Bridge Club of OKC in Oklahoma City, OK

Posted on [September 2, 2011](#)

August 20

This club had a drawing to determine who would be my partner, and Jan Huber, I guess one would say, won me. Jan is a relatively new player and generally plays in the 0-299er game. I found it very nice that every East/West pair (these are open game players) went out of their way to introduce themselves and welcome Jan to the game. Jan did many things well and will soon be a regular in the open game. This is Phyllis Harlan's home club so she played for a second straight day. In 1971, I was in Kwajalein Marshall Islands, and I played in the bridge club there with a friend, Joe Windes. Joe lives in Norman, Oklahoma, which is nearby. He came up to Oklahoma City for my visit. It was great to see him. This is another full service club.



Joe Windes, formerly of Kwajalein



Phyllis Harlan, District 15 Director

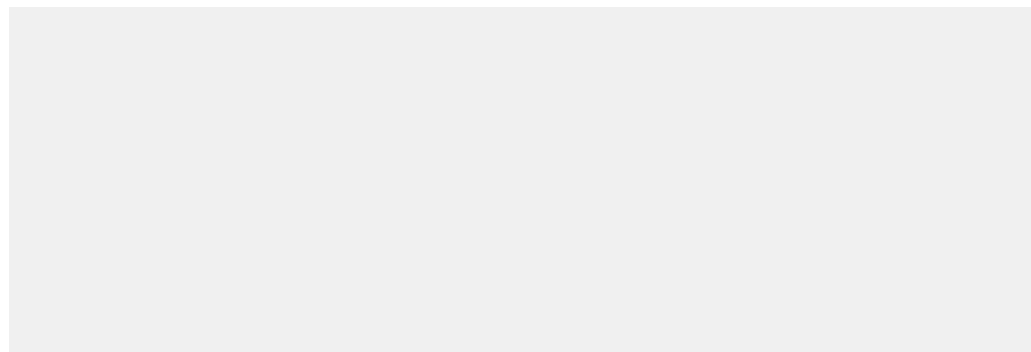
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Club #66: Bridge Studio of Tulsa #6 in Tulsa, OK

Posted on [September 1, 2011](#)

August 19

It seems appropriate that stop #66 be in Tulsa. This is the home of Phillips 66 and old route 66 goes this city. The Tulsa Bridge Club had 22 ½ tables. Greg Burton is the director and he runs his own version of a spider movement, therefore we had one section playing two sets of 26 boards. The club has a vibrant teaching program, hand records for all games, limited games for new players, and friendly people. I played with Nancy Phillips, formerly of Western Pennsylvania, but as she explained, “I gave birth to five kids in this state. I am an Oklahoman!” She was a delightful partner and we played pretty well and finished 4th. Afterward, Nancy joined District Director Phyllis Harlan, her husband Bill, Elaine and me, and our granddaughter Faith for a sandwich and a drink next door. This would be the first of 9 consecutive days of 100+ degrees heat.





Craig, Greg Burton, Marilyn Lafleur, Ted Meyers



Craig with Nancy Phillips

Posted in [Uncategorized](#) | [1 Comment](#)

Club #65: Little Rock DBC in Little Rock, AR

Posted on [August 31, 2011](#)

August 18

The Curtis Finch Bridge House is one of the finest bridge facilities in all of the ACBL. It was built with donations from its members, one of whom was Curtis Finch Jr., the son of the man the building was named. Inside is a main playing hall, a teaching room, a library which serves as an extra playing room, and a complete kitchen. Pictured is the director's office and behind it is a wall of cubby holes where each member can leave convention cards or whatever. I thought that was a nice touch that I had not seen anywhere else. Then there are the people. The main playing room is named in honor of Peggy Jett, a long time member and a delightful lady who I got to play with and we had a good time. This is one wonderful bridge club and I recommend anyone who is in the neighborhood to stop by and play a session. They had 3 sections of 9 tables.



The director's office with some of the cubby holes in the back



The main playing room "The Peggy Jett Room" with the library in the back



Peggy Jett and Craig

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Club #64: The Village Card Club in Hot Springs Village, AR

Posted on [August 30, 2011](#)

August 17

Every club should have an Andy Cosby. Andy introduced Easy Bridge and his club has grown over a few years to almost 800 members. He does, however, have an advantage: the club is located in a retirement community of about 13,000. With 800 members, he claims about 6% of the Hot Springs Village population as members. If 6% of the Philadelphia Unit were members of the ACBL, the unit would have 400,000 members! I played with another important force from this unit, Ned Irving, President. He is a fine player in addition to being a unit leader. The facility in the 'Village' is outstanding. It easily holds 39 tables in play with room for more, which is good because they had a 299 sectional this weekend which drew 215 tables. After the game Andy and Sheila Cosby hosted a cocktail reception/dinner in his home for the unit/club boards. I had a great time in the 'Village'.



Ned Irving with Craig

Posted in [Uncategorized](#) | [1 Comment](#)

Club #63: Southwest Missouri Unit 101 in Springfield, MO

Posted on [August 29, 2011](#)

August 16

Joyce Easson must be a saint. I double booked and set up games in both Emporia KS and Springfield MO on the same day. When I asked Joyce if we could switch to Tuesday the 16th, she replied, "not a problem." She lied. They put out a great spread for all the players that took a lot of effort by many volunteers. I'm not sure how she did all this

while she directed a two section game. She gets a lot of help from Unit President, Bernardo Flasterstein. While she can move mountains, even Joyce couldn't get Virgil Anderson to move his birthday from the 15th to the 16th, but we celebrated his birthday a day late. It was a thrill for me to play with Virgil, the former District 15 rep, who left the board the year before I arrived. I have heard good things about him and I looked forward to this evening. His bridge was brilliant. He played four hands and on each of them he made one more trick than was possible; carrying us to a 67% game. Thanks to Joyce, Bernardo, Virgil and everyone who made the evening enjoyable.



Virgil Anderson

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Club #62: Emporia DBC in Emporia, KS

Posted on [August 25, 2011](#)

August 15

Well this was different! I got to a Best Western with 5 tables set-up and I was the first one there. As people slowly came in I found out how today would be played out. First, my partnership in the game would be raffled off, and the money raised would go to the Reading relief fund. Reading Kansas was recently destroyed by the tornados. Marie Aisenhauer came over and introduced herself and showed me that she had bought five raffle tickets. She said she was going to win because I would pick her name when the drawing was held. Arriving next were two tables of players from Wichita, Lawrence and Manhattan Kansas. There were players who traveled 60-100 miles to play in today's game. In no time, I went from being the only guest, to the game having 15 tables! Unbelievable! Next it was my turn to draw the raffle winner. Of course I drew Marie. We

won by getting 90% of the matchpoints the last three rounds. After the game we had a Q&A session which was a lot of fun. Later, a group of about 15 went to have dinner and a drink. What a great day!

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Club #61: Sunday Sluffer in Kansas City, KS

Posted on [August 24, 2011](#)

Sunday, August 14

Today's club stop was in Kansas City, KS and there was a nice treat of having some youth participate in the game. The girls are sisters and the boys are brothers, when mixed they are cousins. These youth are excited about the game! They enjoy it and definitely take it seriously. One of the boys, Patrick, wants to know on every hand how he could have done better. The kids had 17 tables of pretty tough competition and Patrick and Kate finished above average and won .19 masterpoints.

I played with Steve Crutcher, the Unit 131 President. The Unit is very fortunate to have such an interested and capable President. We played pretty well, but the field was tough. The club is very nice with plenty of parking, 26 tables are set up and there is a food area. Janice Bremer prepares enough for an army. Her husband Kelley directed the game.

Read more about Craig's visit to this club on the [Youth4Bridge](#) website.



Craig with Patrick, Kate, Sara, Michael Caughron

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Club #60: Des Moines Bridge Club in Des Moines, IA

Posted on [August 23, 2011](#)

The Des Moines Bridge Club is a great facility. Initially a shell built to be a bridge club, funds were raised to finish the inside at a cost of about \$70,000. Now it is beautiful and just what the players wanted. The building is leased and then rented to the club owners for their game. This is an interesting financing operation, indeed. The club had 24 tables on a Saturday afternoon, despite being opposite the Iowa State Fair, and the straw poll for the 2012 Presidential Election (I have chosen not to run). Minus the 48 players at the club, everyone else in Iowa was there; though neither Palin nor Romney was on the ballot. I was wondering why there was so much northbound traffic going into Ames on my way to Des Moines. I played with a fine player, John Gustafson. The game was very enjoyable and the people were great. Dee Wilson, Unit President was the MC.



ACBL President Craig Robinson



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Craig and John Gustafson

Archives

- December 2011
- October 2011
- September 2011
- August 2011
- July 2011
- June 2011
- May 2011
- April 2011

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- RSS - Posts
- RSS - Comments



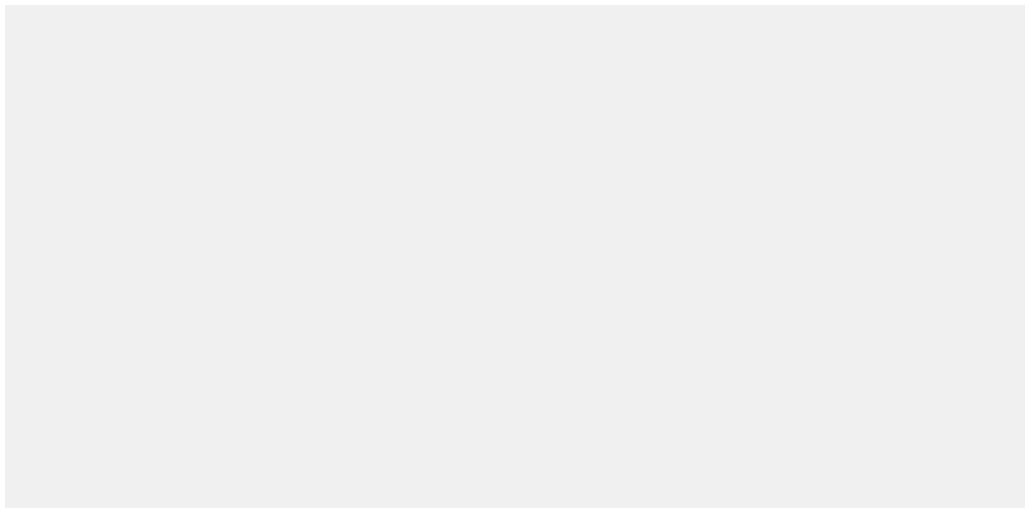
Craig and Dee Wilson talking to players

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Club# 59: Twin City Bridge Center in Minneapolis, MN

Posted on [August 22, 2011](#)

Teri Blu has a full slate of 18 games, seven days a week at the Twin Cities Bridge Center. On Friday night I visited, they had 20 tables. I got to play with Sue Jackson who emceed the evening activities. It is a nice club with a great set-up for the directors. The club provides pre-made boards and hand records for the players. I spoke for a while and then took questions from the players. The questions were thoughtful and I know I had a fun time answering them. The members had dinner before the game, and it was a full night of bridge, friendship and fun. It was a nice conclusion to an enjoyable two days in the Twin Cities. Tomorrow I will continue the journey South on route 35.





Kerry Holloway, Bjorgvin Kristinsson and Kurt Schaeffer



Teri Blu

Posted in [Uncategorized](#) | [Leave a comment](#)

Club #58: Bridge Center of St. Paul in St. Paul, MN

Posted on [August 19, 2011](#)

The Bridge Club of St. Paul is an excellent facility that is large enough to hold local sectionals (34 table max). The club has a very nice layout with lots of windows, a rarity amongst bridge clubs. The BC of St. Paul does a great job of encouraging new players,

and holds five invitational games per week. I played with a very nice lady, Mary Meinecke, a former club president, a teacher, and an advocate of our game.

I have a slight geography problem on this tour. Now in my second leg, I am visiting clubs west of the Mississippi. However, the Mississippi River divides the Twin Cities of Minneapolis and St. Paul and St. Paul is east of the Mississippi.



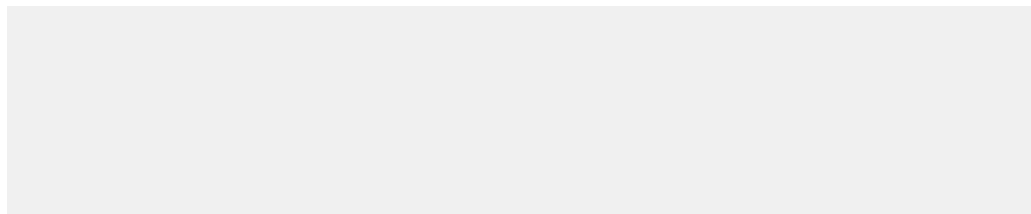
Bridge Center of St. Paul, St. Paul, MN

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Club#57: Plymouth Bridge Club in Minnetonka, MN

Posted on [August 18, 2011](#)

Tony Ames runs a Swiss Team event at his Plymouth BC. I partnered with John Koch and teamed with District 14 Director, Sharon Anderson and her husband Roger. John and I had a fun time, and after playing everyone then comparing with our team, we thought we won! Ultimately, we had a vulnerability wrong, and lost the match. That 30 point scale raised its ugly head and snatched defeat from the jaws of victory. There were 16 teams (5 in open, 11 in limited). The club members brought lots of desserts including a cake. Tony Ames has done a great job building this game almost from nothing into a strong duplicate game. It was a very enjoyable night.





Welcome Cookie



Marsha Devine, Rebecca Connolly and Craig Robinson



Sharon Anderson, Roger Anderson, Peg Waller and Ron DeHarpporte

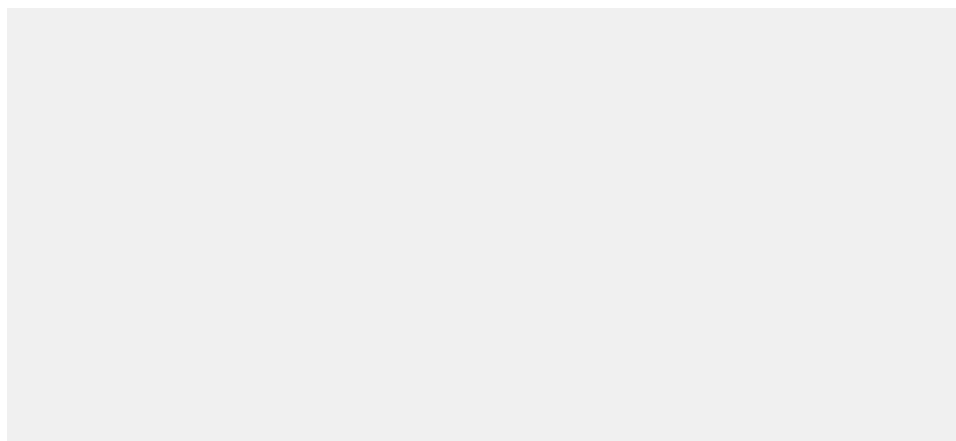
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Club #56: Fargo Country Club DB in Fargo, ND

Posted on [August 15, 2011](#)

August 10: Craig Robinson Begins Next Leg of Club Tour in Fargo

Fargo is the only club in the first 99 that I arrive to by plane. I was concerned that arriving was out of my control, but American Eagle got me there. Fargo is certainly an interesting city and I wish I had more time there. The club had dinner before the game and lots of players brought desserts. 11 1/2 tables was a nice turn-out! Rosie Venek, District 14 President was the MC and she is a delight. Naomi Paasch, who I met in Louisville when she invited me to come to club, directed the game. I am glad I did come! It was a great night. I played with Tom Fox, who is an excellent player. We did well, but as usual, could have done better. After the game, most of us went to the bar; which again brought back memories of the good old days. Naomi, thanks for inviting me. I am glad I came! Also, thanks to Rosie, Tom and everyone for making it so enjoyable.





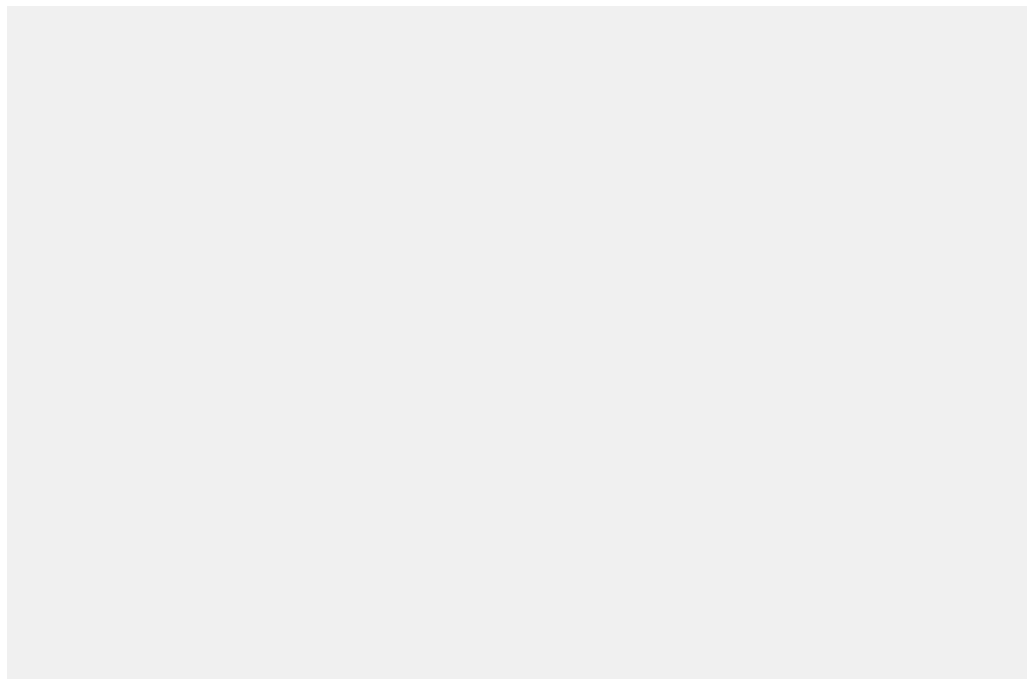
Rosie Venek and Craig

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Club #55: Niagara Bridge Club in St Catharines, ON

Posted on [August 2, 2011](#)

Visiting Niagara Bridge Club was a great experience. They made great Cobb salads for lunch and had a nice pastry/pudding/fruit combination for dessert. The club is bright and beautifully done. It appeared they have taken two store fronts and have completely remodeled them to their liking. The club has an eating area and multiple playing areas (~40tables). I played with Muriel Tremblay who was just a delight to play with. The club was ideal. At night, Elaine and I went into Niagara on the Lake. It is a town you would dream of. What a great preamble for the Summer NABC in Toronto.





Niagara: Muriel and Claude Tremblay



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Club #54: Vestal Bridge Studio in Vestal, NY

Posted on [July 27, 2011](#)

Mary Poplawski and Harry Nuckols have aimed this club at newer players from the

beginning. They have been pioneers in getting players to the game, making them feel comfortable, teaching the game, and playing it in various forms. They have an extensive library which they share with all their players. Additionally, they are very good marketers of the game. I didn't have the opportunity to play at the game, Elaine and I just stopped on our way to the Summer NABC in Toronto.



Harry Nuckols and Mary Poplawski



Posted in [Uncategorized](#) | [1 Comment](#)

Club #53: Dotty Lou's Boutique and Bridge Studio in Warminster, PA

Posted on [July 14, 2011](#)

Friday, July 8

Dotty Ehling has been on the scene of women's clothes and bridge for a long time. She had a shop in Peddler's Village (Pa) for ~40 years. She started a bridge club in Doylestown about 40 years ago in the Moose Lodge. She moved to the Boys Scout Headquarters in Doylestown and then about 11 years ago rented a facility in Warminster and started adding games to her then twice a week schedule. Five years ago she got the idea to merge her two businesses and form Dotty Lou's Boutique & Bridge Studio where they have day game every day of the week and an evening game on Monday. The store is a clothing store in front and about 20 tables in the back portion of the store. Certainly a unique format for a bridge club and Dotty is quite a lady!



Posted in [Uncategorized](#) | [1 Comment](#)

Club #52: Tuesday Night Bridge Club in Lancaster, PA

Posted on [July 5, 2011](#)

Tuesday, June 21

Tuesday Night Bridge Club held their first ever extravaganza. Club director John Klinger

(who along with his wife Debi and Pat Landis) have been tournament chairs of the Lancaster Regional for many years. It was a wine tasting party, 'bring a bottle of wine and we will taste it'. It was an ACBL game to benefit the Charity Foundation. John held a raffle for the remaining bottles of wine and those proceeds also were given to the ACBL Charity Foundation, for a total donation of \$120! I played with Bob Priest, longtime tournament chairman of Harrisburg Regionals and Sectionals. We had a nice game. There were 14 tables.

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Club #51: M.A. Lightman Bridge Club in Memphis, TN

Posted on [June 27, 2011](#)

Before Craig officially began his 100 Clubs in 100 Days tour in Lansdale, Penn., he visited the MA Lightman Bridge Club of Memphis, Tenn., and would like to share that experience with you.

In February, I visited the MA Lightman Bridge Club in Memphis TN. It was '8 is enough' night, a Swiss Team event run by Mary Oshlag and her husband Richard. The rules for this event are that all players are either Strat A, B, or C. 'A' players count 3, 'B' players 2, and 'C' players 1. Teams are formed by making up a team of 8 points or less. So if you have 2 'A' players, your team must have 2 'C' players or you could have 4 'B' players etc. This event gives the less experienced players the opportunity to be teammates of the veteran players and is a very nice social event.

The bridge club is well designed with basically two rooms, one for the open game and one for either an I/N game or for teaching. They have a kitchen and there was plenty of food. Keith Wells did a great job directing.

-Craig

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Club #50: Shadowfax Bridge Club in Chester, NJ

Posted on [June 24, 2011](#)

June 7th – Chester, NJ Shadowfax Bridge Club

For days I would mention to people my 'last' stop would be in Chester NJ. Where is Chester NJ? I told Jan Weber that I would have to come back to Chester some other time because they had no game on Tuesday. She said, 'No problem, we'll have a game Tuesday instead of Wednesday'. I was wondering what facility is this flexible.

It seems that Lauren Alcock loves bridge and wanted a bridge club in her home. So her husband built her a house with a large room upstairs that holds eight tables comfortably and another room takes the overflow. Lauren joined forces with Jan Weber to form the Shadowfax BC. Where that name came from I don't exactly know but I do know that Lauren used to have a horse named Shadow. This house is on a small horse farm. I played with District President, Glenda Calkins and we had a very nice game. Talk about a friendly game; many of the players at this game have been friends for years. I still don't know exactly where Chester is, but I am glad I went there.



ACBL President Craig Robinson



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Craig with Jan Weber and Lauren Alcock

That marks the halfway point of Craig's club tour, but check back next week for a "bonus" club visit.

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Archives

- December 2011
- October 2011
- September 2011
- August 2011
- July 2011
- June 2011
- May 2011
- April 2011

RSS Feeds

- RSS - Posts
- RSS - Comments

Club #49: Essex Bridge Center in Livingston, NJ

Posted on [June 21, 2011](#)

June 6, 2011 Essex Bridge Club, Livingston, NJ

On Monday I went to the Essex BC, the largest club in the ACBL. They have 22 games (including 14 limited games). The club has been run by the Powell family, Ken, Ros, Alan(son) and Meagan(daughter-in-law). The four of them have a great attitude and are focused on the newer players while serving the experienced players. I returned to Essex a week later to play with Neeta Mona. Neeta had been at the World Championships in Philadelphia and was the top masterpoint winner in her category and chose to play a game with me as her prize. She may have been better off finishing 2nd in her category. We only had a 53% game, disappointing but fun.



Posted in [Uncategorized](#) | [1 Comment](#)

Club #48: Sagamore Bridge Club in Syosett, NY

Posted on [June 20, 2011](#)

June 5, Syosett, NY – Sagamore Bridge Club

Everyone should meet Silvana Zangri. She fell in love with the game of bridge and decided to own her own bridge club. She put in the best tables and chairs and bought the best equipment, duplicating machines, hand records and electronic scoring. She is also a

marketing genius. She has promotions going all the time. She also prepares the best hot lunch during the week. I can only wish her success! I played with a very nice player, David Paull, we did not have a good game. At times the opponents were just brilliant and I was very aggressive on a day to be timid.

Sagamore was the 18th largest club last year and they figure to move up in 2011.

Posted in [Uncategorized](#) | [Leave a comment](#)

Clubs #44-47: New Jersey clubs

Posted on [June 17, 2011](#)

New Jersey visits

I went to four clubs in New Jersey. First was Glen Rock BC in Maywood. A large club with 12 games (including two 0-299er games) seven days a week. Unlike most clubs I have visited, I actually recognized some players now that I am within 100 miles of home.

Next stop was the Bridge Table managed and directed by Steve Nellissen. This club has a new type of schedule with free mini-lessons prior to some games. He also runs 'Goodtimers Games' for the new duplicate players and some night games for those who work. I liked what Steve is doing and I wish him success.

On Monday I went to the Essex BC, the largest club in the ACBL. They have 22 games (including 14 limited games). The club has been run by the Powell family: Ken, Ros, Alan(son) and Meagan(daughter-in-law). The four of them have a great attitude and are focused on the newer players while serving the experienced players. I will play here later in the month.

Last I went to the Livingston Bridge Studio. This is a new club with excellent facilities with open games, seven days a week, managed by Vijay Ahuja. They have a teaching program targeting players at various levels of experience.

I did not play at any of these clubs but I would like to thank them all for their warm welcome. I am not used to a club running multiple games per day but I am glad for District 3 that they have such facilities available to their players. I wish them all well and I thank them for having me.

-Craig

Posted in [Uncategorized](#) | [Leave a comment](#)

Club #43: The Bridge Deck in Scarsdale, NY

Posted on [June 16, 2011](#)

June 4, 2011 Scarsdale, NY

The Bridge Deck is owned by Richard and Carol Laufer. They run 20 games a week (including five 0-NLM games). It is an excellent facility and it is the 11th largest club in

the ACBL. Rich also runs a class for juniors (free) weekly. I played with Eileen O'Neill, who also directs some at the club, and we had an enjoyable time and a 59% game. They have classes, supervised play and do a nice job of furthering the game.



Craig with Eileen O'Neill and Carol and Rich Laufer

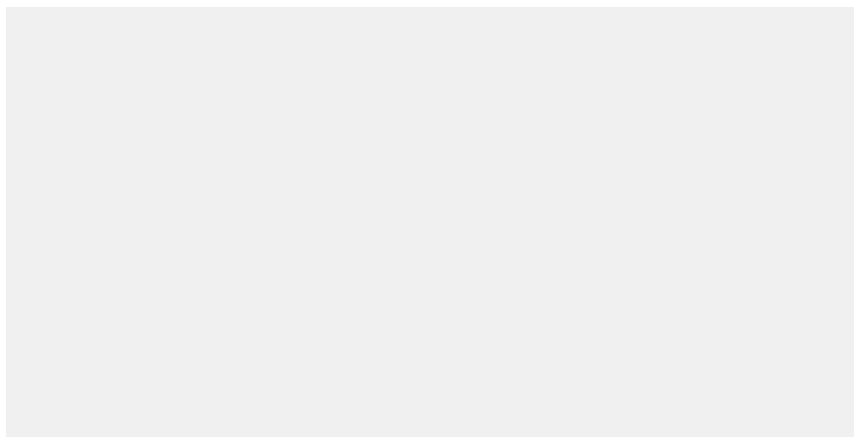
Posted in [Uncategorized](#) | [Leave a comment](#)

Club #42: Hartes BC in White Plains, NY

Posted on [June 15, 2011](#)

June 3, 2011 White Plains, NY

This 'doubleheader' had about thirty minutes to spare. Hartes BC is owned by sisters Allison Harte and Gail Greenberg and is managed by Chris Lubesnik and is held in St. Gregory's Armenian Church. They run 21 games per week (closed Sundays) with five 0-NLM games. This is the 5th largest club in the ACBL. I played with a very nice lady, Frances Yedlen and we had a 57% game. Last year's ACBL President, Richard Demartino and Jeff Ahrens were there and won 1st in our section. They serve lunch prior to the game. Hartes BC also has a full teaching program. It is a very well run club.





Chris Luvesnik and Allison Harte give Craig a warm welcome



Craig with Frances Yedlin, Chris and Allison

Posted in [Uncategorized](#) | [Leave a comment](#)

Club #41: Syracuse Contract BC in Syracuse, NY

Posted on [June 14, 2011](#)

June 2, Syracuse, NY

The Syracuse Contract Bridge Club is a growing club under the direction of Bob Simard. Part of the club's success is due to their attention to newer players and their Mentor/Mentee game. They had 14 1/2 tables with every entry being a mentor playing

with a mentee (I believe the Cincinnati BC holds these games). It gives the newer players an opportunity to learn from the more experienced players and the chance to play in an 'open' game while still being on a level playing field. Elaine played with Claire Downey and I played with Peggy Bonnie. It was an enjoyable afternoon and the players seemed very relaxed and like they were having fun.

Posted in [Uncategorized](#) | [Leave a comment](#)

Club #40: Erie BC in Erie, PA

Posted on [June 13, 2011](#)

June 1st, Erie, PA

Erie BC is in a stand-alone building (only Tampa had a member owned building) and is managed by Pat Smith. The night we were there Pat gave a nice talk to the members on transfer bids and the subsequent auctions. The lesson was free if they stayed to play bridge. Of course members brought a lot of food for the game. They had 18 tables on a Tuesday night. I played with Lois DiPlacido, the President of Unit 127. Unfortunately, I didn't give her a very good game. She deserved better. Francis Tseng faired much better, and he and Elaine finished 2nd overall. This club is doing everything it can to keep up a long history of success.



Craig and club manager Pat Smith in Erie

Posted in [Uncategorized](#) | [Leave a comment](#)

Club #39: Westgate Duplicate Club in Rocky River, OH

Posted on [June 10, 2011](#)

Tuesday, May 31

The Cleveland Unit runs a game on Tuesdays at a Municipal building in Rocky River (a Western suburb). They charge members \$4 and non-members \$5 but it seems that on 5th Tuesdays of the month members play free. They made me an honorary member so I wouldn't have to pay. This is the only Unit game I have played. I played with Ray Meyer and we had a 67% game. On Wednesday morning, Sharon (District 5 Director) and Stan Fairchild went to the Rock N' Roll hall of fame. Chubby Checker and Bobby Rydell are not members, so the Philadelphians in the group were disappointed but it was fun to remember our High School days. We left after a downtown lunch for Erie.



Peter Miller, Sharon Fairchild and Craig in Rocky River

Posted in [Uncategorized](#) | [Leave a comment](#)

Club #38: Deschappelles in Cincinnati, OH

Posted on [June 9, 2011](#)

Monday, May 30

Deschappelles is a women's bridge club. On holidays they allow men to play. Today is Memorial Day.

The club has history. My understanding is that many years ago, men would come to the game to escort their lady home, but they were not allowed in the bridge playing area, they had to wait for them in the lounge below.

They had 32 tables and a rather large percentage of men playing. I played with A J Stephani, still the Unit President and we did well and it was well directed by Pat Newman. They prepared a lot of food for lunch which we actually broke for during the 4th and 5th rounds.

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5

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Club #37: Sunday Bridge in Cincinnati, OH

Posted on [June 7, 2011](#)

Sunday, May 29

The Cincinnati Bridge Association has taken on the job of landlord for various clubs in the unit to be run in a central facility; and a nice facility it is. The club is in suburban Cincinnati with adequate parking. Inside is a lovely room setup for 40 tables, but could hold more. There is a side teaching room and a very nice lounge area. Besides a daily teaching program, they may have the largest mentoring program. They have 208 signed up: 104 mentors, 104 mentees! The facility is large enough to hold sectionals with the surrounding clubs support. I played with Barbara Levinson. We had a nice game, as did Elaine, who played with unit President A J Stephani. This bridge club is excellent in every way. Mike Lipp directed and is also an integral part of the club.



ACBL President Craig Robinson



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AJ Sperhani, Mike Lipp, Barbara Levinson and Craig



Craig and Elaine at Sunday Bridge

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Club #36: Miami Valley Bridge Center in Dayton, OH

Posted on [June 6, 2011](#)

Saturday, May 28



Helen Newton on Club #99: Sandpoint DBC in San...



melind0908 on Club #99: Sandpoint DBC in San...



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Archives

- [December 2011](#)
- [October 2011](#)
- [September 2011](#)
- [August 2011](#)
- [July 2011](#)
- [June 2011](#)
- [May 2011](#)
- [April 2011](#)

RSS Feeds

- [RSS - Posts](#)
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First, Georgia Banziger, President MVBA Unit 136 and VP of District 11, welcomed everyone. Tom Coyle, Manager Miami Valley Bridge Center, introduced me accompanied by the playing of Hail To The Chief, performed by the U.S. Army Band & Herald Trumpets. A presentation was made to local players Dave Camillus & Ryan Schultz, who, along with a pair from Cincinnati, were the victors in the 2010 NABC Grand National Team Flight C event in New Orleans. Prior to the start of the Unit Charity Championship game, a two minute period of silence was observed for the Memorial Day weekend.

In the game that followed at the Bridge Center, Dave finished 4th Overall to come within less than a point to become Life Master. 21 tables were in play, overall winners were Elaine, playing with Scott Gates. I managed to struggle in 6th overall, playing with DLM Wayne Penrod, who built the current MVBC Bridge Center in 2008. The MVBC facility is 5,300 sq ft, designed specifically as a Bridge Center, can hold up to 50 tables, complete with full Kitchen, lounge area. Unit 136 conducts 3 Sectionals per year at the Center, and is now host to the District 11 GNT finals, starting in February, 2011. It was a pleasure to meet Sandy and Marc Lowe (Marc, along with John Hamilton invented the Swiss Team movement).



Tom Coyle, Craig and Georgia Banzinger

Posted in [Uncategorized](#) | [1 Comment](#)

Club #35: Kalamazoo Bridge Center in Kalamazoo, MI

Posted on [June 3, 2011](#)

Friday, May 27

Many clubs have adopted a mentoring program. This is when a more experienced player helps a less experienced player, with the goal being to make the mentee feel more comfortable. Often this program consists of the mentor/mentee playing together, but could also include the mentor merely makes himself available to answer questions the mentee might have. Kalamazoo is not the first club to have a mentoring program by any means; it just seemed a good time to mention it. I played with Dennis Carmen, a very enjoyable game to say the least. During the game, club manager Alan Bau announced

that everyone is invited to come over to Marion Gilbert's house after the game for dinner. I asked Dennis, "Did he just invite 80 people over to Marion's house for dinner?" "I think that is correct," he replied. More amazing than that, Marion played against us next round. So she is playing bridge even though 80 are coming for dinner. The players at the Kalamazoo like each other, bridge is competitive but very social.



Craig in Kalamazoo

Posted in [Uncategorized](#) | [Leave a comment](#)

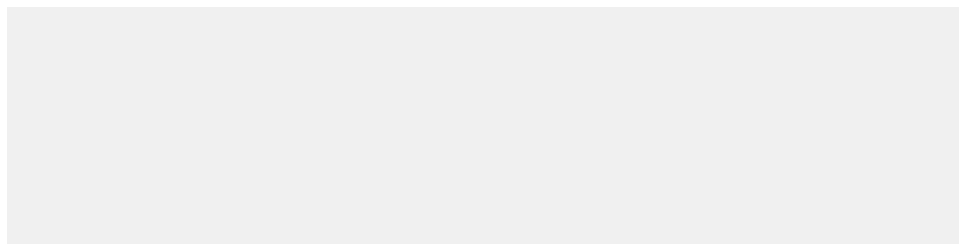
Club #34: Thursday Evening Bridge in Ann Arbor, MI

Posted on [June 2, 2011](#)

Thursday, May 26

Elaine rejoined me in Chicago. I am now paying for the late night in Chicago with a 270 mile drive to Ann Arbor. We went to the home of Bill (district 12 Director) and Sandy Arlinghaus. They gave us a partial tour of the University of Michigan before going to the City Club for dinner and bridge. The campus is enormous. My father, uncle and Elaine's niece and nephew all went to UofM.

Bill and Elaine finished first overall. I played with Beverly Riordan and we had a good game, but Bill and Elaine got to play all the easy boards so they won. I would like to thank Sandy Arlinghaus for her contribution of [the Google map of the tour](#) that is on this website. Big time thanks to Sandy!





City Club



Craig with Beverly Riordan

Posted in [Uncategorized](#) | [Leave a comment](#)

Club #33: University of Chicago BC in Chicago, IL

Posted on [June 1, 2011](#)

Wednesday, May 25

From Deerfield, I went back to the Subeck's where I was picked up by Matthew Dyer who drove me to the University of Chicago for an evening game. We went to the campus pub where we played bridge and ate and drank with many of the students warming up for the main affair at 7:30. I answered questions from the players prior to the game, and I played with Dennis Kriventsov the President of the University of Chicago BC. There were 5 tables, and very similar to the MIT/Draper Lab club in Cambridge, the students/players are very considerate and helpful of each other. One other note: the campus is a very beautiful city campus. Matthew does a lot with the students (lessons and instructions) and he drove me all the way back to the North Shore. Wilson Valdez was pitching for the Phillies in the 19th inning when I returned.

No pictures, no lawsuits

- Craig

Posted in [Uncategorized](#) | [2 Comments](#)

Club #32: Deerfield Bridge Club in Deerfield, IL

Posted on [May 31, 2011](#)

Wednesday, May 25

On Wednesday I drove over to the Patty Turner Center, a beautiful Senior Center, which had a great room for bridge that was filled with 31 tables. I played with Stan Katz, a former controller of the ACBL. We played well. 72 tables in two days, this is a hotbed for bridge. Elaine Morrison, an absolutely delightful lady, directed this game. They had plenty of food and coffee and it was a very pleasant game.

Posted in [Uncategorized](#) | [Leave a comment](#)

Club #31: ABC Bridge Club in Northfield, IL

Posted on [May 31, 2011](#)

Tuesday, May 24

Stan and Suzi Subeck showed me around this toddlin' town. Stan and I played in Northfield where they had the largest game of the tour, 41 tables. We ran into problems when we took pictures and I was advised that I could be sued for publishing pictures on the ACBL website. She said it was free legal advice and it was worth every penny of it! The game was held in a large hall which was part of a synagogue. We had a very nice game and finished 2nd overall. Elizabeth Hoffman directed assisted by two others and handled the game very well.

Posted in [Uncategorized](#) | [Leave a comment](#)

Club #30: Monday Morning Duplicate in Bloomington, IL

Posted on [May 27, 2011](#)

Monday, May 23

Mike Tomlianovich runs five games in the Bloomington area. On Monday morning, the game is held in First Christian Church. There are two things that were different than other bridge clubs I have visited. The card fee was \$2.50 (for members \$5/year) and to do hand records the following process is used: shuffle and deal, and then during the game Mike comes along and 'borrows' a board and keys the hands into the computer so hand records will be available. I played with Hank Hoffman and we nearly came through missing only by a half a matchpoint. Bloomington may not be a small town but I am going to Chicago next so it seemed small.

Posted in [Uncategorized](#) | [Leave a comment](#)

Club #29: Lexington BC in Lexington, KY

Posted on [May 27, 2011](#)

Sunday, May 22

Eight is enough drew 30 teams of just wonderful people. The Lexington BC has been expanded and remodeled and now it has everything: plenty of room, facilities, a kitchen, deal4, and electronic scoring devices. But the best thing they have are the people, and they were great! They honored me by making me a Kentucky Colonel. At the time I had no idea what a Kentucky Colonel was, but I have read up on it and is it quite an honor. Sondra and Terrell Holt were great hosts including giving me a tour of horse farms. The players prepared a record amount of great food. I had a great time in Lexington and a great time in Kentucky.



Craig with the Eight is Enough team in Lexington



Mike Marlin, Terrell Holt, grandchildren, Craig, Sandra Marlin

Posted in [Uncategorized](#) | [1 Comment](#)

Club #28: Louisville BC in Louisville, KY

Posted on [May 26, 2011](#)

Saturday, May 21

The Louisville BC is another great facility. They have room for 30 tables, a full kitchen and bathroom. The playing facility is broken into two rooms so teaching and playing can be run concurrently. I got to play Kaplan/Shienwold with Gary Peterson. We had a very nice game after I messed up the 1st hand. I have had more first hand disasters on this tour, and I would like a 'mulligan' in the future. Today some of the best players in Kentucky/Indiana showed up to play. I was able to thank many of the volunteers who made the Louisville NABC so successful and pleasant. It was great to see the NABC chair Hanna Davis again.

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Club #27: Birmingham DBC in Birmingham, AL

Posted on [May 25, 2011](#)

Friday, May 20

‘Welcome to Dreamland!’ The Birmingham BC rolled out the red carpet and had lunch catered by Dreamland Barbeque. When I go to Horn Lake, I always try to get to ‘Corky’s’ and ‘Interstate’ which are two of the best barbeque places in Memphis. ‘Dreamland’ is Birmingham’s answer to barbeque. The bridge club is big and I think there were 25 tables and the ‘pride of Birmingham’, Frank Stewart also played. I got to speak to Frank about his days with the ACBL and his life today as a bridge columnist. I spent the night at the ‘Parrish Inn’ and played with Bill Parrish. A lot of Alabama’s best players came out and pummeled Bill and me. Special thanks Sandy Smith, club manager, whose efforts made this stop possible.



ACBL President Craig Robinson



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Craig with Frank Stewart

Posted in [Uncategorized](#) | [2 Comments](#)

Club #26: Shelby County DBC in Hoover, AL

Posted on [May 24, 2011](#)

Thursday, May 19

John and Linda Randall have a game in Hoover Alabama. It runs every day in the Presbyterian Church and is geared toward newer players. The games are all 0-1500 and I am told that limit keeps moving upwards. They had a lot of food that was prepared for a dinner for all. This club has been using charity games to raise money to help battered women. I played with Ginger Hess, a very enthusiastic young player and even with two bottoms the last two boards, we finished 2nd in our section. It was a very enjoyable evening with some very friendly people.



Dinner



Helen Newton on Club #99: Sandpoint DBC in San...



melind0908 on Club #99: Sandpoint DBC in San...



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- [December 2011](#)
- [October 2011](#)
- [September 2011](#)
- [August 2011](#)
- [July 2011](#)
- [June 2011](#)
- [May 2011](#)
- [April 2011](#)

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John & Linda Randall, Ginger Hess and Craig

Posted in [Uncategorized](#) | [1 Comment](#)

Club #25: Jack Sullivan Open in Gautier, MS

Posted on [May 24, 2011](#)

Wednesday, May 18

Well, I have a new favorite food... meat pies! They are in a round pastry, folded in half and filled with meat and some very tasty green stuff. There was also a sauce on top (garlic) that was just great! The club members were talking about two things on this visit: some girl and the new bridge club they built in Gulfport MS. The big question was why didn't I go to that club? Well, for the most part I go to clubs who invited me and Jim Crowe invited me to the club in Gautier. As for the girl, Katrina is still very much on everyone's mind here. She destroyed the old bridge club in Gulfport, and the people in this area are very proud they were able to raise money to build a new bridge club. I played with Walter Lewis and he was a very enjoyable partner. We did well, and would have done better if I had not given us -500 on a board instead of +500. We had the deal of the tour:

	KJx	
	Jxx	
	K	
	AKQxxx	
xx		AQxxxx

xxx	void
AJxxxx	Qxxxxx
xx	x
10x	
AKQ10xxx	
void	
J10xx	

EW can make 6♦, 7 if a club isn't led. NS can make 5♥ or 6♣ or 7 of either if a spade is not led. We played in 6♥ by South down 1 and got 42% of the matchpoints.

-Craig

Posted in [Uncategorized](#) | [Leave a comment](#)

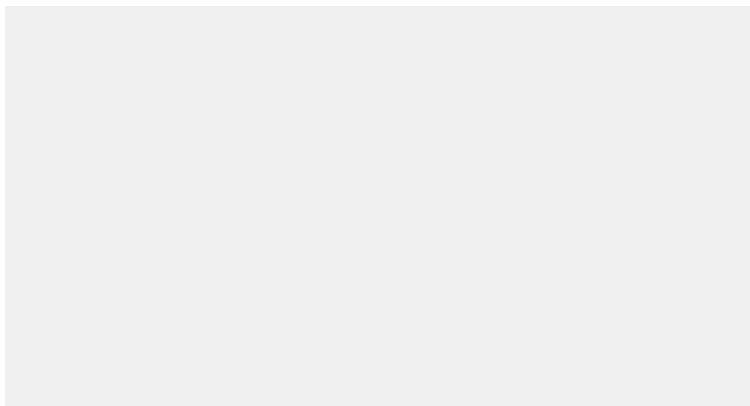
Club #24: St. Petersburg BC in St. Petersburg, FL

Posted on [May 19, 2011](#)

Tuesday, May 17

St. Petersburg BC is the third of the Florida clubs, with just as great of a facility as the others. Charlie Gill presented me with a St Petersburg shirt which he suggested that I wear to the remaining clubs on the tour. He presented rank advancements to club members before the game. They had a cocktail party with wine, hors d'oeuvres and desserts for 45 minutes before the game also. I played with Charlie and we started against Donna and Eric Rodwell. On the first hand Donna opened 1♥ with Axx 10xxxxx void A10xx. Eric bid 6H holding 10xxxx AKQxx AQx void. One of Donna's spades went on the diamond ace and -1430 was worth 1/2 matchpoint. I don't learn quickly, on the second hand I held x AKQJxx AQ Kxxx. Eric opened 2♠, I doubled, Donna bid 4♠, two passes, I bid 5♥, Donna bid 5♠ and I doubled. Donna tabled A10xxxx x KJx AJ9. We now had 1 matchpoint after two boards. We rallied to 3rd but there was no trifecta.

It was a great two days on great Tampa Bay, seeing three great clubs and lots of people who love the game. My thanks go out to everyone who came out to welcome me. I left for Mississippi and still feel great.





Eric Rodwell



Craig modeling the shirt he was given by St. Petersburg BC

Posted in [Uncategorized](#) | [Leave a comment](#)

Club #23: Tampa Bay BC in Tampa Bay, FL

Posted on [May 19, 2011](#)

Monday, May 16

Tampa Bay BC is a scenic building on a lot completely shaded by trees. Inside this building (which was built to be a bridge club) is a 'perfect' set-up. It has everything a bridge club should have and everything is in great shape and is up-to-date. Larry Sullivan, club manager, does a great job handling problems as they arise. They have an active teaching program and a growing membership. (I claim they just go to the bus stop and get new members as they step off the bus from the North). The problem is that the club is too small to hold sectionals and parking is limited by the amount of land they

own. Muriel and I stumbled a couple times but we managed to win our direction in a 17 table game.





Posted in [Uncategorized](#) | [Leave a comment](#)

Club #22: Clearwater BC in Clearwater, FL

Posted on [May 19, 2011](#)

Sunday, May 15

Clearwater Florida is the Spring home of the Phillies. I had to stop and see their Spring home, Bright House Network Field, then off to see the Clearwater BC. I met my partner, Jack Longman who informed me that he played with 100 members of the Clearwater BC in a year! I can see how; he was a great partner and we had a good time. This was Elaine's last game for a while as she would fly home Monday morning and will return to Chicago on the 24th. This club is on the 2nd floor of a bank building and it is a very good set-up for a bridge club. Muriel Altus, Chair of the last two Florida NABCs, was there and took pictures. We will play tomorrow in Tampa.



Craig at Brighthouse Park



Charles Gill, Craig, Jerry Kissel

Posted in [Uncategorized](#) | [Leave a comment](#)

Club #21: Roswell DBC in Roswell, GA

Posted on [May 18, 2011](#)

Friday, May 13

We showed up in a group to Roswell, Georgia. This is the only stop on the trip that I brought along a partner, Bob Heller District 7 Director. Elaine played with Barbara Heller, and my sister Sue Campbell played with her friend Joan Duffy. Sue and Joan have about 25 masterpoints each. They had a 56% game and finished 4th in A and 1st in C! Yeah Sis! Bob and I staggered to a 58% section 2nd while the girls had a 60% game.

The game was played in a church and directed by ACBL tournament director Bill Marks. 26 tables were in play. There was a very interesting field make-up. There were actually a lot of good pairs, with relatively new pairs woven in. Everyone was being very respectful of each other. My sister and Joan have been playing duplicate a little less than a year and are doing very well. Her brother is very proud of her. Hopefully, I can get my brother to play later in Santa Barbara.



Craig with Bill Marks and Bob Heller

Check back often for travel entries by Craig as he continues his bridge odyssey.

Posted in [Uncategorized](#) | [Leave a comment](#)

Club #20: Fayette Coweta DBA in Peachtree City, GA

Posted on [May 17, 2011](#)

Thursday, May 12

In Peachtree City, I was greeted by Councilwoman Vanessa Fliesch. I had a nice conversation with her about the park where we were and about her originally being from Vineland NJ and even Philadelphia. The game was held at the 'Gathering Place', a community center in the park. It was a 10 O'clock game, and the players brought in food for lunch. I played with Ken Parker and things went very well from the beginning and we won with a 73% game. After 4 rounds, we broke for lunch. A lot of the food was homemade goodies. I got to spend a lot of time talking to the players which was good. Jeanette Keener is the director and does a nice job. After the game I drove 40 miles

north to Ina Parry's non-LM game in Atlanta. Bob and Barbara Heller met me there and we arrived as the game was breaking up. I still was able to speak to many of the players of this 19 table game.



Councilwoman Vanessa Fliesch and Craig



Craig with Ken and Donna Parker

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Club #19: Aiken Bridge Club in Aiken, SC

Posted on [May 16, 2011](#)

Wednesday, May 11

I traveled across the state to Aiken, a very nice town about 20 miles North of Augusta

Georgia. Aiken has great history and has a lot of very nice homes. Alan Brooks, ACBL TD, invited us. Elaine played with an old friend, Eddie Bowers and had 64% game only good for 2nd. I played with Sedley Roach, who deserves the good sport award. The first hand of the day I held AK10 AKQxx AKQJ x. I opened 2♣ and it went double and Sedley bid 2♦, I bid 2♥, she bid 3♦, I tried 4NT and she bid 5♦ so I tried 7♦! They cashed the club ace and then I realized we were playing 1430. How embarrassing on the very first board! Sedley was so nice. This is definitely a players club, and on the first Wednesday of the month they have a birthday party for everyone with birthdays that month. Bridge players do love cake, it was a nice touch.



Craig with Sedley Roach

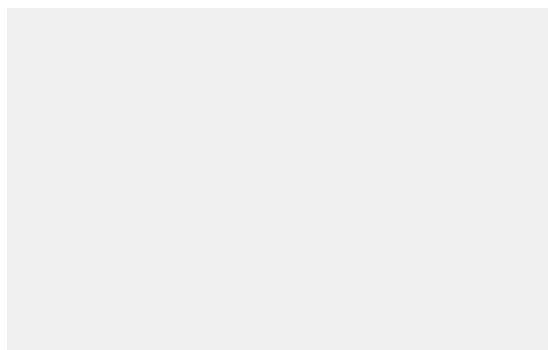
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Club #18: Charleston BC in Charleston, SC

Posted on [May 16, 2011](#)

Tuesday, May 10

My wife, Elaine, and I love Charleston, so when Lindsey Butler invited us to the Charleston BC we backtracked from Hilton Head. The club is located downtown at a church. I played with Tom Rutledge, one of the best players in the District and I was able to carry him (downward) to 3rd overall. Elaine played with Joyce Nichols and had a similar result. But as tough as they were at the bridge table, the players were as nice as could be and Yvonne Bishop and many volunteers prepared an awesome spread. After the game Lindsey and her husband, Tony, hosted us at their home. We had a great time and we will return for the 2012 Regional. Thanks to all.





Elaine Landlow, Tom Rutledge, Joyce Nichols, Craig,
Lindsey Butler



Felix Pelzer, Elaine Robinson, Cozy Pelzer, Joyce Nichols

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Club #17: Okatie Duplicate Bridge in Bluffton, SC

Posted on [May 10, 2011](#)

Monday, May 9

I stopped at Okatie Duplicate Bridge in Bluffton, SC on my way out of Hilton Head, and it turned into a unique visit. They stopped the game in progress to hear speeches and ask questions. The reception by the players was very nice. Sun City had 25 tables. Combine that with 17 tables at Hilton Head for a community of maybe 50,000. It was good to see all the players and I am glad I was able to stop and see this game.



ACBL President Craig Robinson



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-Craig

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Club #16: Hilton Head Island Bridge Assoc in Hilton Head, SC

Posted on [May 10, 2011](#)

Monday, May 9

Elaine and I traveled to Hilton Head where we were guests of Jane and Steve Bassett. It is certainly a beautiful spot and the bridge club is booming. I used to play bridge with Jane's mother back in the late 60's. The bridge club is one of the largest in the country. Well run by director Gloria Freer, they have a massive teaching program. They have a bulletin board with member's names on a card and they move the card from one board to another when there is rank advancement for that player within the ACBL. Jane and I had a 60% game, but it was only good for a section 3rd in this field of 17 tables.



Hilton Head Island Bridge Assoc



Craig with Jane & Steve Bassett



Helen Newton on [Club #99: Sandpoint DBC in San...](#)



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Archives

- [December 2011](#)
- [October 2011](#)
- [September 2011](#)
- [August 2011](#)
- [July 2011](#)
- [June 2011](#)
- [May 2011](#)
- [April 2011](#)

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-Craig

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Club #15: Virginia Challenge Match, Williamsburg, VA

Posted on [May 10, 2011](#)

Saturday, May 7

Today I drove over to the Firehouse in Williamsburg, VA to witness a match among the three units in the Tidewater section of Virginia. Each unit fielded a 32 person team made up of 2 teams in each flight. There were four flights 0-300, 0-1000, 0-2000, 0-unlimited. Each team-of-four played two seven board matches against each of the two teams from each of the other two teams in their flight. The format led to not only balanced competition, true team spirit and camaraderie among the participants. The Richmond Unit won for the second year in a row.



Bruce Grunwald, Craig, Wrus Kristiansen, Ed Kinlaw, Michael Stoller

-Craig

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Club #14: Colonial DBC in Williamsburg, VA

Posted on [May 9, 2011](#)

Friday, May 6

I woke up at 5:45 to get ready to go to Williamsburg. In case you are wondering why I am backtracking, it is because the Raleigh Bridge Club meets on Thursday and the Colonial DBC, managed by Sam Decroes, meets on Friday. Some parts of this odyssey are dictated

by when the clubs meet. Today's club meets in Windsor Meade, a beautiful room within a retirement community. Sam has done great work teaching in elementary schools in addition to building this club from 6 to 20+ tables.

I played with Unit President, Chuck Sadowski, and we had a very enjoyable game. The first hand of the day, I opened one spade and Chuck held S-Kxxx H-Ax D-x C-AKQxxx. Chuck chose to bid 4D, next person bid 5D, I passed, pass and Chuck bid 6S. They cashed one diamond and I had AJ1087 of spades and played for them to be 3-1 and lost to a doubleton queen. Absolute zero, but we recovered. Thanks to Pat and Ken Richeson for being such great hosts!



Craig with Sam Decroes and Chuck Sadowski



Craig with members of Colonial DBC

-Craig

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Club #13: Raleigh Bridge Club in Raleigh, NC

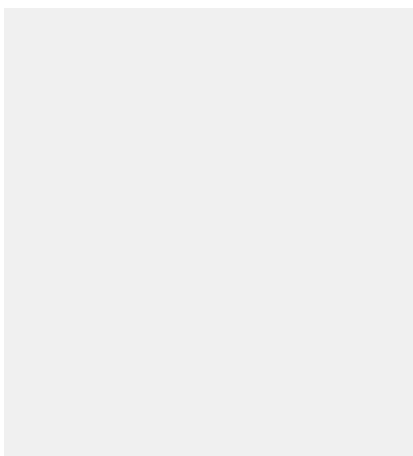
Posted on [May 9, 2011](#)

Thursday, May 5

John Markey of Raleigh Bridge Club was the first to invite me to come to a club. They had a Cinco de Mayo party complete with margaritas. Club President, Margaret Webb, presented recognition awards to all the club members who achieved rank advancements, with a special celebration of the three new Life Masters. A rather unique setting for a bridge club, the Royal Banquet Center had 35 tables. I played with John Marriott and we won our section by 1/2 point which concluded two days and four clubs in Raleigh/Durham. It is a great area for bridge with a lot of people working together to make it better. Special thanks to Bruce Reeve for helping with arrangements.



Raleigh Bridge Club





Raleigh Bridge Club

-Craig

Check back often for travel entries by Craig as he continues his bridge odyssey.

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Club #12: Vanderbilt Bridge Club in Raleigh, NC

Posted on [May 6, 2011](#)

Thursday, May 5

Today I had some free time so I made an extra stop in Raleigh at the Vanderbilt Bridge Club. Louise King directs this game and provides homemade goodies for the players. The players all pitch in to put up the tables, chairs, side tables, and bidding boxes. The Vanderbilt Bridge Club is held at the Quail Hollow Swim and Tennis Club in suburban Raleigh. They had 14 tables and I played with Bruce Reeve. Considering that we added this game to the schedule earlier in the week, the turnout and the reception was really surprising. I am very pleased that Raleigh/Durham has been part of the club tour and this area is really a hotbed for bridge. The visit concludes tonight with a Cinco de Mayo celebration at the Raleigh Bridge Club. Thanks to Bruce, Darleen and Jay Bates and Louise King and all the players.

-Craig

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Club #11: Triangle Bridge Club in Durham, NC

Posted on [May 6, 2011](#)

Wednesday, May 4, 2011

They recently held a sectional at Triangle Bridge Club and had 63 tables at one session. How many bridge clubs can hold 63 tables? Jay and Darleen Bates own the club and

direct games. Jay is a part-time TD with the ACBL. Everyone brought food and they had 17 tables. Sigrid Olin, Unit 191 President, spoke glowingly about the unit and the activities. The Unit has been growing, and no wonder with the programs available for teaching new players and games (0-20 0-100 0-199 and 0-500 are offered once a week at Triangle).

I played with Jay Bates and we agreed to play 2/1, Bergen, support doubles and standard carding. The first hand of the night I pick up ♠-KQx ♥-x ♦-AQxx ♣-AKxxx. I opened 1♣ planning to get into a reverse bidding auction and see how we handle that. After a pass Jay bids 1♠ and in comes 2♥ by my RHO, so I tried a support double and now for the complete auction:

1♣ P 1♠ 2♥

X* P 3♣ P *support

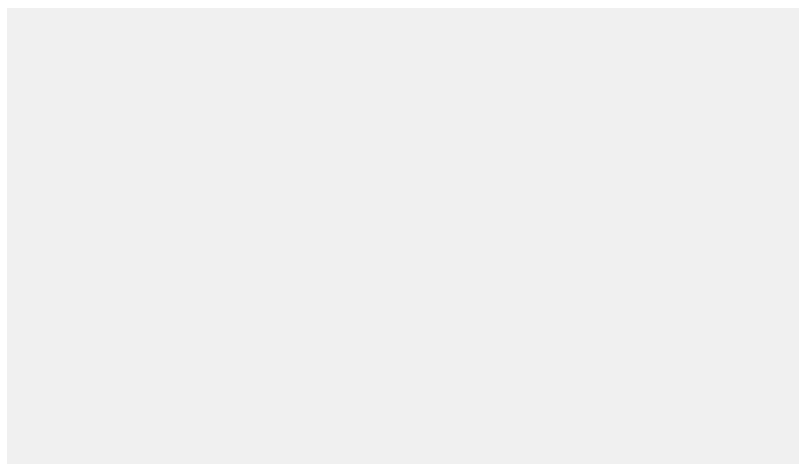
3♦ P 3♥ P

4♥ P 5♣ P Now what? Partner had the perfect 8 count ♣-A10xx ♥-xx ♦-Kx ♠-Jxxxx

Pretty complex auction for two who have never played before. How would have you bid it?



Triangle Club in Durham, NC





Craig with Jay and Darleen Bates

-Craig

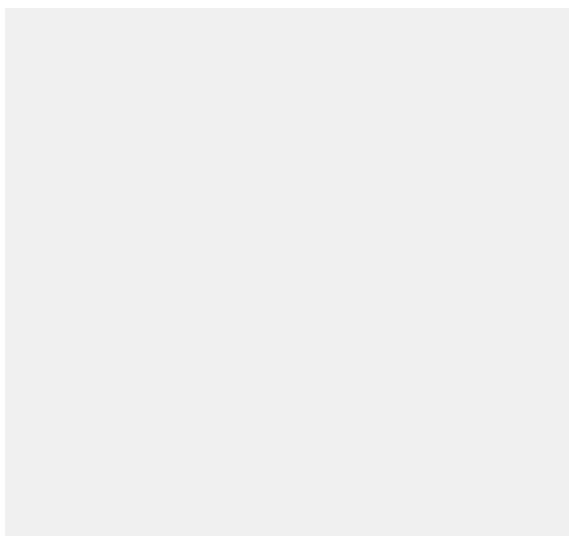
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Club #10: Carolina Country Club in Raleigh, NC

Posted on [May 5, 2011](#)

Wednesday, May 4, 2011

As far as I know, this is the only country club that I will be visiting. I certainly picked a beautiful one. Bruce Reeve, the director, invited me to visit here when I was in Gatlinburg and I am glad I did. Most of the players are ACBL members and are attending other ACBL sponsored venues which is quite different (and better) than in my home area. We have known for years there is a great source of bridge players at country clubs. The players were very nice and spoke highly of Bruce for what he has done to build the game at their club. I played with Leon Woodruff and we played well, however some of our opponents played 'weller' but we did manage to struggle to 4th in a nine table game.





Carolina Country Club



Craig with Sue and Bruce Reeve

-Craig

Check back often for travel entries by Craig as he continues his bridge odyssey.

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Club #9: Shuffles Bridge Club in Ocean View, DE

Posted on [May 2, 2011](#)

Thursday, April 28, 2011

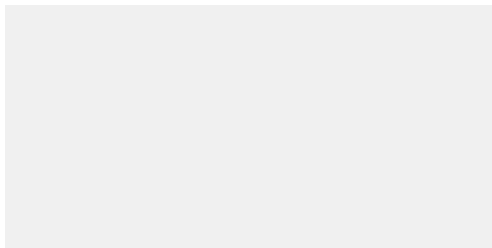
'I need a building!' roared Dini Romito. At my last stop, I observed what a great arrangement they have in Lancaster at their facility; setting up Monday morning and taking down Friday night. Well, in Ocean View, DE they have almost an identical building, a great place to play bridge, but they have to set up and take down every day they use the facility.



Shuffles Bridge Club

Dini Romito has been running bridge games in Southern Delaware for 15 years. Shuffles Bridge Club had 22 tables yesterday and played in the hall of a local Presbyterian Church. It was a great time, and Dini honored all the Ace of Clubs and Mini McKinney winners on behalf of the members of Unit 190. Many brought food. So many that a rare scene occurred at a bridge game: bridge players and food left over.

I played with Eli Solomon, a very nice partner, unfortunately the opponents were brilliant and pleasant. Dini was pleased she did not offer a free game to everyone who beat us because the thought crossed her mind. Players kept coming to tell me what a great teacher and director Dini is. After emailing and phoning with her for years, it was a pleasure to meet her!





Craig and Dini



Eli, Craig and Charlotte



Accepting Unit 190 Ace of Clubs and Mini-McKinney awards



Another photo of Craig and Dini

- Craig

Check back often for travel entries by Craig as he continues his bridge odyssey.

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Club #8: Maple Grove Community Center in Lancaster, PA

Posted on [April 27, 2011](#)

Monday, April 25, 2011

Today I played at the Maple Grove Community Center in Lancaster Pa. Five Bridge Clubs got together to rent this facility Monday through Friday. The building is great and complete with a kitchen, bathrooms, and storage for all the tables, chairs, and bidding boxes. Andrea (Andie) Shaeffer runs daytime games Monday and Friday. She has to set

the tables up on Monday and John Klinger, who runs the Tuesday and Friday night games, takes them down on Friday. It seems like a great arrangement for all (especially for those who run games in the middle of the week).

They had 27 tables Monday, in two sections: Life Master and Non Life Master. Andie prepared a lunch including salads to sloppy Joe's and dessert galore. I gave a lecture to the 25 or so players who came early, and I tried not to confuse anyone too much. I played with Ken Meyer who used to play a lot, then had a family, and now is retired and playing again; sound like anyone you know? The game and the people were enjoyable and I might return for an evening game later in the year.

- Craig

Check back often for travel entries by Craig as he continues his bridge odyssey.

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Craig Robinson



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Clubs #6 and #7: West Hartford BC in West Hartford, CT and Hartford Bridge Club in Hartford, CT

Posted on [April 25, 2011](#)

Thursday, April 21, 2011

The West Hartford BC was the sixth club on my list. It is a relatively new club, only 4-5 years and originally designed for new players, they started with 0-20 masterpoint limits! Over time the club has grown and the masterpoint limits have also grown to 1500. They had a nice game of 10 1/2 tables with plenty of food. The players were very friendly. Selma Moffie was my partner, and we cruised to a 3rd place finish.

- Craig

Friday, April 22, 2011

I wrapped up the New England segment of the trip by visiting the oldest (80 years) bridge club in the ACBL, the Hartford Bridge Club. Some members of the club members took me out to dinner last night before I visited the club. This is a members club, and members take pride in their club. These members are no exception and show great pride in the club they are a part of. Hartford BC has hand records and a great website to go along with their excellent facility and good directors.

They do have one interesting policy – they guarantee a partner. They do that by requiring their 500+ members to volunteer about once a year to be a standby. The member is rewarded with a free play and a second free play if they have to send him/her home.

I played with Bill Watson, the club President, and had a very enjoyable game.

All in all, the trip to New England was a great week. Thanks to all the clubs I visited and all the people I met!



ACBL President Craig Robinson



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-Craig



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Archives

- December 2011
- October 2011
- September 2011
- August 2011
- July 2011
- June 2011
- May 2011
- April 2011

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Hartford Bridge Club

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Club #5: Manchester and the Mountains DBC in Manchester Center, VT

Posted on [April 21, 2011](#)

Wednesday, April 20, 2011

What a fun group! Bob Smith gives a lot to bridge in this area, and is even building a club in a house for the future. Today I played in Manchester Center at an Eagles Lodge with twelve tables. Half of the lodge is a bridge club and the other half is a bar. My partner was Barbara Cross, one of the founders of bridge in Manchester. Manchester and The Mountains DBC boasts the title of "Vermont Friendly Bridge," and I can say that I would definitely enjoy a return visit.

After the game we migrated from club to bar with relative ease and worked on handling the World's problems.



The new club Bob Smith is building in a home



"Vermont Friendly Bridge" sign



Wayne Hersey (Montpellier DBC), Craig Robinson, John Conova (Manchester DBC), and Bob Smith, Director and Host

Until next time,

Craig

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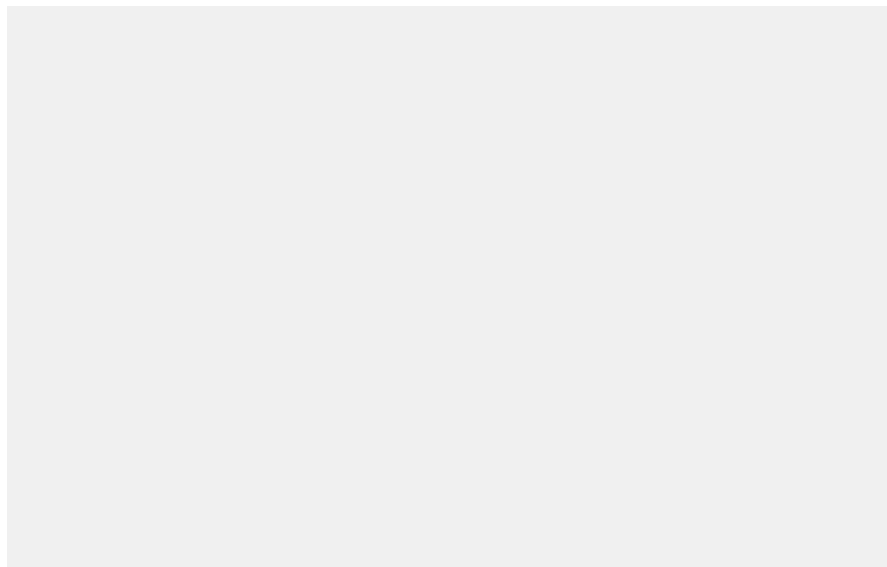
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Clubs #3 and #4: Bridge Spot in Woburn, MA and MIT/DL Club in Cambridge, MA

Posted on [April 19, 2011](#)

Tuesday, April 19, 2011 – A.M. game

Ernie Banks said, "Let's play two." So I did. This morning I went to the Bridge Spot in Woburn, MA.





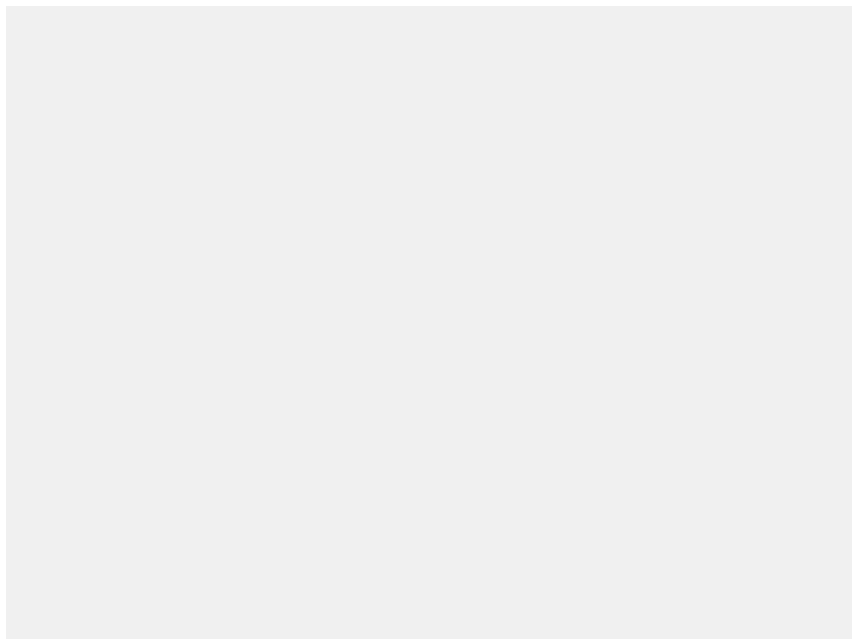
The Bridge Spot

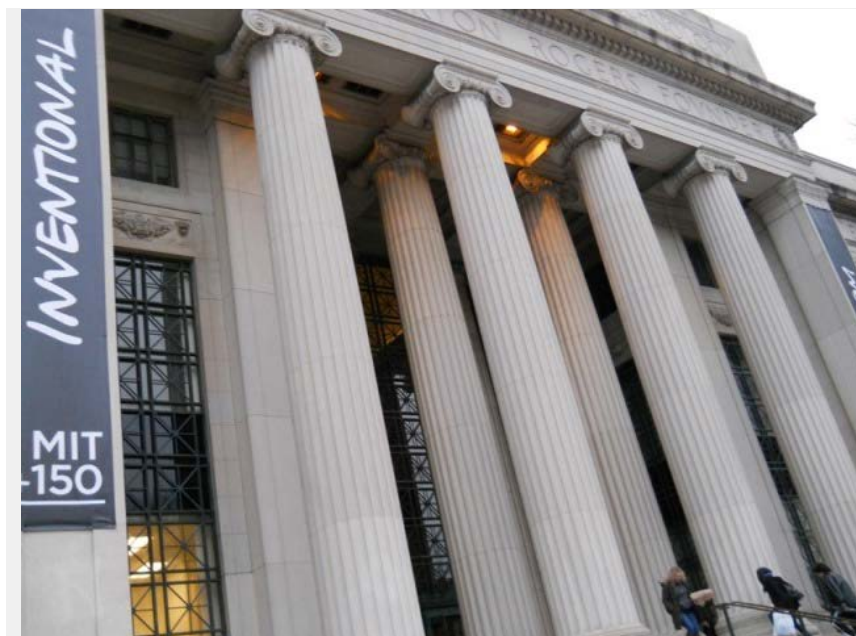
A large club, Dean Panagopoulos runs games six days a week in a plush office building facility. They had 16 tables in the main room, which holds about 25-30 people, and a side room used primarily for teaching. The Woburn facility is complete with a kitchen and game room. What a great club with all the modern technology necessary and very nice players!

- Craig

Tuesday, April 19, 2011 – P.M. game

Tonight I visited Cambridge, the home of MIT and Harvard. As soon as I made it inside the building I called my daughters to tell them their dad “got into MIT.” The MIT/DL Club is jointly sponsored by MIT and private company, Draper Labs.





MIT/DL Club in Cambridge



MIT/DL Club in Cambridge

Tuesday evening's game was held in a classroom, and there were a few bridge students in attendance, but most were seasoned players and former MIT students. Tables were complete with duplicate boards and bidding boxes brought by the players. It was wonderful to see an overall emphasis on players being very considerate, patient, and helpful to the less experienced players. It was fun playing in a game where I was the oldest player!

After the game, eleven of us went to a bar in Harvard Square and had a great time going over the hands we had. It reminded me of my college days in the '60s.

Check back often for travel entries by Craig as he continues his bridge odyssey.

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Club #2: Westwood DBC in Westwood, MA

Posted on [April 18, 2011](#)

Today was Patriots Day in Massachusetts and the day of the Boston Marathon. Housed in the same facility for 50 years, I visited the Westwood DBC for stop number two on my tour.



They held a marathon too, playing three sessions: 24, 20, and 7 tables. That's 51 tables of bridge! Former ACBL CEO, Roy Green, and I were partners, but it was Joyce Pearson who won the marathon bridge match, which allowed players to take their best two out of three scores.

Westwood has duplicated boards, electronic scoring, and a Bridge Webs presentation of their results on their website. Very impressive! It was an enjoyable evening spent at a great club, playing with a very interesting man.

-Craig

Check back often for travel entries by Craig as he continues his bridge odyssey.

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Club #1: North Penn DBC in Lansdale, PA

Posted on [April 17, 2011](#)

Today I visited my home club, North Penn DBC in Lansdale, PA, which is only about a three mile drive from my house.



North Penn DBC

I play here about 20-30 times a year. It is a member owned club with games all five weekday, but strangely, the biggest game is on Tuesday night with 10-13 tables. My first club game of 100 was played with Elaine Clair, one of my favorite partners here. Sometime near the end of the game I noticed I hadn't played a hand! Finally on the last round I got to play 3♥ down 2 for ½ matchpoint. We won comfortably.



Craig Robinson and partner, Elaine Clair

I'm looking forward to this tour and very hopeful it will be a success. Only 99 more clubs

to go!

-Craig

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