

# LONG BEACH BRIDGE

— THE FRIENDLIEST BRIDGE CLUB —

# TABLE TALK

## MEET THE MASTERS



### John Crabtree Sapphire Life Master

In an extended conversation with John Crabtree, his Southern accent emerges. When asked about it, he said, "Yes, I seem to turn it off and on in different circumstances." Hailing from Knoxville, John moved to California right out of the University of Tennessee.

An electrical engineer working on router systems, John worked for a variety of companies in several locations: two years in California at North American

Continued on Page 1

## EVENTS MARCH 2022

### Face-to-Face Games

Monday	12:30 p.m.	Open*	\$10
Tuesday	12:30 p.m.	Open*	\$10
Wednesday	9:30 a.m.	0-99	\$5
Wednesday	12:30 p.m.	Open*	\$10
Thursday	12:30 p.m.	Open*	\$10
Friday	12:30 p.m.	Open*	\$10
Saturday	12:30 p.m.	Open*	\$10

\* NLM games possible, if enough players participate.

**Stay and Play - Take a morning class, stay and play for only \$5.**

**Unit Game - 20 March\***

**Royal STaC 21 - 27 March**

\* pending board approval

### BBO VIRTUAL GAMES

All-Western - Districts 17, 19, 21, 22, 23

Monday-Thursday 6:30 p.m.

**99ers NiteClub - VACB905265**

**199s NiteClub - VACV277640**

BBO Competitive/ACBL Virtual Clubs



Alliance Bridge Club schedule available at

[www.alliancebridgeclub.com](http://www.alliancebridgeclub.com)

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## January Status Changes

Club Life Master

Joanne Armenia

Herb Glazeroff

Terry Royce

Sectional Master

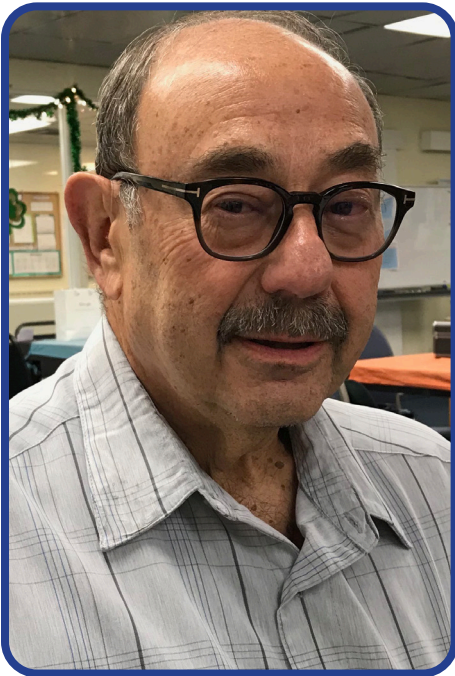
Allene Buchanan

Adv. NABC Master

Sandra Schlosser

Gold Life Master

Alan Olschwang



Alan Olschwang  
Gold Life Master

Alan reported that he wanted to achieve the rank of Gold Life Master before he turned 80 - but he missed by one day. We say close enough. Congratulations, Alan.

Continued from Page 1  
Aviation, five years in Houston, 10 in Arizona, and then back to California to work for Hughes Aircraft Company at its airport site. He left engineering 30 years ago, effectively retiring from the profession. Since then, he's played bridge and worked several jobs before fully retiring in 2009.

John got interested in bridge in the mid-1970's while working at Sperry Flight Systems in Phoenix. He explained, "I watched coworkers play bridge at lunch; then I was asked to sit in and play a hand or two." From that introduction, he was mostly self-taught but did take an eight-week course of lessons from Pat Marks. Then he started playing duplicate bridge, which he preferred, but still participated in the lunchtime social games. Today he reads ACBL's monthly Bridge Bulletin cover-to-cover to "get some new ideas."

In 1981 John returned to California, initially playing at the South Bay Bridge Club on Pacific Coast Highway. After moving to San Pedro in 1991, he became a regular at Long Beach Bridge, "It was more convenient to come to Long Beach just over the bridge." In his typical laconic style, John's advice to newer players is "Don't overbid."

John recalled one of the many bridge experiences he has had. Long Beach used to post a list of masterpoints earned to date, and John was at the top of the list. Playing with a veteran player one day, he had one Ace and two Kings and raised his partner from one Heart to two. When his hand came down as dummy, his partner grumbled because they weren't in game. To stop this "feedback," John just calmly remarked, "I guess that's why I'm at the top of the list." His partner stopped complaining.

John's Tennessee family has all passed so he hasn't been back to Knoxville for 13 years. He does have two nieces, one near San Diego and another near Washington, D.C. In addition to bridge, John enjoys reading, especially books about recent history. He used to carry his book table-to-table, reading between rounds but has stopped since the pandemic. He explained, "I got my books from my local library but they totally closed for months at the beginning

Continued from Page 2 of the pandemic. I got out of the habit of reading." He also enjoys listening to NPR, which constantly plays on his car radio but added, "I'm not driving as much lately." One of his favorite programs was "All Things Considered" with its original host, Susan Stamberg. John has excellent taste, as this program was NPR's flagship news magazine, delivering in-depth reporting.

With 3,251.28 masterpoints to date, John is a Sapphire Life Master and the 12th highest in the unit. When asked if he has other bridge goals such as Diamond Life Master, he quickly commented, "No, no, no. I won't last that long."

Since the club reopened, John has been serving as a fill-in, partnering effectively with a range of players. He added, "I'm comfortable doing this because on weekends I used to travel to Sectional Tournaments throughout the

area (even to Porterville) and pick up partners. Doing this at the club is only an extension of that."

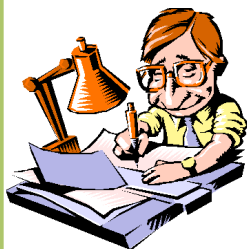
Now that we're starting to play again without masks, we look forward to hearing John's Southern drawl at the table. And, if you finish a good book on recent history, pass it on to him! Thanks again, John, for sharing your enjoyment and knowledge of bridge by being such a supportive fill-in.

by Lillian Slater



Join us  
Sunday, 27 March  
for a special  
Royal StaC Team Game

## WE WANT YOUR STORIES!



Tell us the tale of your path to Life Master. What did you

do to pass time during the pandemic? Are you celebrating a milestone? Send an email to Ardie at [ardeaux1@gmail.com](mailto:ardeaux1@gmail.com) or call/text at 562-254-0099



## ATTENTION: NEWCOMERS, NON-LIFE MASTERS, AND NERVOUS PLAYERS

Not ready to swim with the (card) sharks? Looking for a slower game with fewer boards? Ask Sharon Biederman or the daily director to create a limited game for your group. We need at least 8 players to create this section. Bring friends, have fun and play bridge!



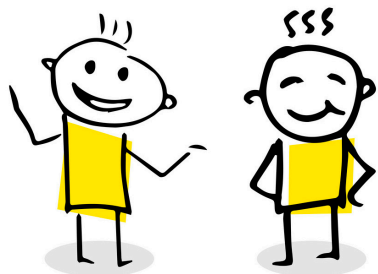
### TABLE TALK

Editor  
Contributors

Ardie Laine  
Lillian Slater

#### Article Submissions

We welcome articles, ideas and photos pertaining to our club. We reserve the right to revise submissions. Contact Ardie at [ardeaux1@gmail.com](mailto:ardeaux1@gmail.com).



## NEED A PARTNER?

Let Susan Bibby and Colleen Gardner help you. Email them at [susanbibby@gmail.com](mailto:susanbibby@gmail.com) or [novcol@me.com](mailto:novcol@me.com) (Colleen.)





March 21-27, 2022

# Royal STaC

**Special Masterpoint Awards:**  
25% Gold, 25% Red, 25% Silver, 25% Black

**Face to Face at Participating Clubs**  
**Sponsoring Districts: 21, 22 and 23**

Clubs: Register for your STaC games at  
<https://tournaments.acbl.org/club-stac-admin.php?id=46515>

For club registration info, please contact:  
Arleen Harvey [arleen.harvey@acbl.org](mailto:arleen.harvey@acbl.org)

For more information contact:  
Cornelia Gould (D21) [cornelia.gould@gmail.com](mailto:cornelia.gould@gmail.com)  
Lamya Agelidis (D22) [lamya.agelidis@gmail.com](mailto:lamya.agelidis@gmail.com)  
Ruth Baker (D23) [rbaker1234@sbsglobal.net](mailto:rbaker1234@sbsglobal.net)

