



THE FRIENDLIEST BRIDGE CLUB

TABLE TALK

MEET THE MASTERS



Alan Olschwang
Gold Life Master

Bridge has been an important part of Alan's life since high school. Introduced to the game when his sister started playing, Alan picked it up and regularly played social bridge with neighbors.

Six years later in 1962, a girl was visiting the family

across the street. She was bored and called Alan's sister to see if she could rustle up a bridge game. Alan answered the phone, recruited friends to play, and met Barbara. They were married in 1965 and just celebrated their 57th anniversary. Barbara and Alan continued playing social bridge as time allowed while raising their three children.

After 25+ years as general counsel for Mitsubishi Electric, Alan gave up this job in 2008 but continued working part time for the next two years before fully retiring in 2010. He is still an American Arbitration Association arbitrator and handles several cases each year.

With retirement, Alan had more time for social bridge including a Tuesday afternoon neighborhood game with other retired men from his area, including Marty Lipman. Alan learned that Marty played duplicate bridge and, although he had never tried it, Alan said

to him, "If you ever need a partner, call me. He did." The rest is history. Alan started playing with Marty in 2014 and was hooked.

Alan's rise in the ACBL ranks has been meteoric, attaining Life Master then Bronze, Ruby, Silver and, in January this year, Gold Life Master! He noted, "I wanted to reach Gold Life Master before I turned 80 but missed it by one day."

Alan had always resisted playing online until the pandemic but added, "Now that I've started, I play whenever I have time. I bore easily and always need to have something to do, so BBO is it." In the two and one-half years of playing on BBO, he has earned 1,400 masterpoints. As of today, Alan has 2,802.46 masterpoints. His next level to conquer is Sapphire Life Master but he noted, "With the new rules, I need another 190 Gold points, more than I have now. At 80 years old, I don't

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Status Changes

Sectional Life Master

Judy Blits



New!
ACBL Guest Membership
FREE for 120 days!

- Play in any ACBL club or tournament game
- Earn up to 20 masterpoints*
- Read online editions of the Bridge Bulletin
- Receive Live for Clubs results emails

Non-members can join here acbl.org/guest-join.

70's Club Big Games



Jackie Hess and Alan Flower scored a 70.54% game on September 9th in a field of 8 tables.



On September 12th, Fern Dunbar and Rob Preece played a 70.45% game in a field of 9 tables.



Unit News

Thanks to all who joined us for the September 25th unit game! We had 12 ta-

bles in the Open, when 1-½ tables of 199'ers joined the Open competition. Let's break this record in October! Join us at 12:30 on Sunday, October 23rd.

The unit is also finalizing the format of its first sectional in three years. Stay tuned for details but save the dates, Saturday and Sunday, November 12-13.

-Lillian Slater, President

See you at the bridge table!

Long Beach Fall Sectional



November 12-13, 2022

**HELLO
I AM...**

**PATSY
GONZALES**



Patsy Gonzales is new to ACBL but not to bridge—playing socially for over 50 years. For years, she was also the coordinator for the CSULB Fine Arts Affiliate's Bridge Marathon fundraiser.

Patsy and her husband loved California and New Mexico living in both for alternating 20 years. Patsy's husband passed away in April so Patsy sold her Texas home. "I love California, and I'm glad to be back."

Patsy discovered her social bridge groups were falling apart so she came to Long Beach Bridge. She explained, "It's easier to access and dependable because there's always a game. Duplicate bridge is more challenging but the people are friendly so I'm enjoying it." In addition to bridge, Patsy plays Chinese Mah Jong and spends time each day at the Seal Beach dog park so her dog Chuy can "work off all his energy."

Welcome, Patsy!

Continued from Page 1

expect to get anywhere close."

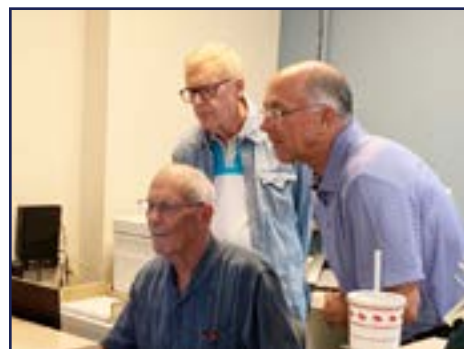
Alan's bridge advice is "try to learn the bidding conventions and accurately follow them. It is one key in communicating with your partner." He is also proud of helping six other people achieve Life Master.

In addition to enjoying his children and six grandchildren, Alan's second passion is puzzles—crosswords as well as a other word puzzles. Not only does he solve them, he is a puzzle master. He has created puzzles that have appeared in many publications including the Los Angeles Times, the New York Times, and the Bridge Bulletin. His puzzle story was highlighted in detail in the November 2020 Table Talk (available in the archives on Long Beach Bridge's website). Although creating puzzles is a labor of love, he estimates that he has earned enough to cover his bridge fees.

Alan has served on Unit 557's board for five years, offering his bridge and legal wisdom. He and Barbara continue to play social bridge together, and she teaches bridge at the Fountain Valley Senior Center and occasionally plays with Alan in a duplicate game.

Alan, thanks for all your support of the unit, the club, and its advancing players. You're solid gold to us while you're working towards that Sapphire Life Master!

by Lillian Slater



How Many Directors Does It Take to Upload to ACBL Live?

And I hope the person who went to In-N-Out Burger shared.

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



www.alliancebridgeclub.com

TABLE TALK

Editor	Ardie Laine
Contributors	Steve Ramos
	Lillian Slater
	Nancy Toussaint

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.



Magic Manifested

I circled September 17, 2022, on my calendar as a magical day, the day I made Life Master. I start my morning with a cup of coffee and a go at the New York Times puzzle, Wordle. I usually get it in 4 or 5 tries. This day I got it in three. Next I was off to Hot Dog Saturday at the Long Beach Bridge Center to play with John Hagman. We very seldom play together so we exchanged notes and said, "Let's do our best and have fun." We came in first; we even beat some of Long Beach's strongest pairs. Later that day we got a congratulatory email from Common Game saying we had come in 13th out of 800+ pairs, receiving .06 Common Game points. As non-bridge players always ask what we do with Master Points, John and I wondered what to do with these points. I thought maybe print a hard copy and put it on my refrigerator with a magnet. John wondered if he

could invest and trade them on the open market.

I hurried home to play game #3 in "Howling Wind" side games of the BBO Regional. The prior Thursday Lynn Danielson and I came in under 40%, an awful game. Friday we did a little better and got a fraction of a red point. Saturday was our last try for the final .06 Gold I needed. Lynn and I gave each other the standard pep talk: focus, take your time, concentrate, and be competitive. The game felt pretty good and we anxiously waited for the finals to appear. We came in 7th out of 104 pairs! Surely enough to get a little gold but waited for our email to come to be certain. Yes!!!! I had helped Lynn get her Life Master in Palm Spring December 2019 and now she helped me get mine.

But let's go back to the beginning. I grew up in Minnesota always playing cards to pass the long, cold, dark winters, but I never learned bridge. A few years before I retired, I decided bridge would be one of my retirement activities. I took my first lessons on a cruise in May 2011. Then I did some lessons on ACBL and took basic tests. I found on the internet that Long Beach offered "open bridge" on Sunday afternoon. I figured that meant all were welcome to play so I just showed up. Paul Pettler graciously helped me fill out a mysterious "convention card." The director kindly called Rosemary Ford

to be my partner. All our opponents were friendly but they all said, "Do you know the Center offers lessons?" It was a humbling experience. My partner thanked me for the game but she didn't offer her phone number. I thought, "She'll never play with me again." But I took their advice and took lessons, mainly from Bob Mault. Ironically Rosemary and I played bridge almost daily for over a year on BBO during the pandemic.

I started playing with different people and going to sectionals and regionals. When I got the first fraction of a gold point, I was hooked! I had a mission: get my Life Master. I did a calculation and decided it might take until I was 90 years old to get it, or maybe longer. Luckily as time passed, my progress accelerated, and more points flowed my way.

Fast forward to the July Long Beach Regional. I only needed 7.93 Gold and Lynn, Colleen Gardner, Jane Reid and I were playing Knockouts. We got 7.87, so close! That is why I needed Lynn to help me get the final .06 online. For my award acceptance speech I would like to thank Lynn, Colleen, Jane, Betty, Bettyanne, Reva and numerous other partners over the years. My advice is to play with lots of different partners as you learn something from each one. You develop your bridge style. Just hang in there and eventually it will happen: your Magic Day.

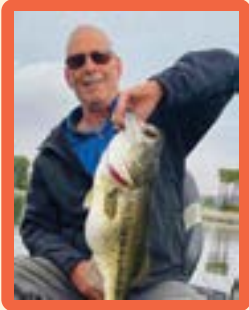
by Nancy Toussaint

In-Person Bridge Classes Fall 2022

FUN, INEXPENSIVE
KEEPS YOUR BRAIN YOUNG
MAKE NEW FRIENDS

BRIDGE 1

MONDAYS, 17 OCTOBER - 12 DECEMBER
9:30 A.M. - 11:30 A.M.
REGISTER THROUGH OLLI
OR \$40 THROUGH LBBC

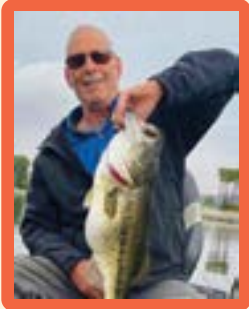


PLAY OF THE HAND

MONDAYS, 3 OCTOBER - 28 NOVEMBER
9:30 A.M. - 11:30 A.M.
\$40

BRIDGE 2



TUESDAY, 18 OCTOBER - 6 DECEMBER
9:30 A.M. - 11:30 A.M.
\$40



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October 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
2 12:30 Open Director: Steve Rowe 9:30 Play of the Hand Rob Preece	3 12:30 Open Director: Alan Flower 9:30 Play of the Hand Rob Preece	4 12:30 Open Director: Nancy Toussaint 9:30 Supervised Play Hank & Fern Dunbar	5 12:30 Open Director: Steve Rowe  9:30 Supervised Play Sharon Biederman	6 12:30 Open Director: Alan Flower	7 12:30 Open NLM Director: Nancy Toussaint	1 12:30 Open Director: Steve Rowe 8 12:30 Open Director: Steve Rowe
9 District NAP 12:30 Open Director: Steve Rowe	10 12:30 Open Director: Alan Flower 9:30 Play of the Hand Rob Preece	11 12:30 Open Director: Nancy Toussaint 9:30 Supervised Play Hank & Fern Dunbar	12 12:30 Open Director: Steve Rowe 9:30 Supervised Play Sharon Biederman	13 12:30 Open Director: Alan Flower	14 12:30 Open NLM Director: Nancy Toussaint	15 12:30 Open Director: Steve Rowe 
16 12:30 Flighted Team Game (min 6 teams) Club Appreciation Game	17 12:30 Open Director: Alan Flower 9:30 Play of the Hand Rob Preece 9:30 Bridge 1 Hank Dunbar	18 12:30 Open Director: Chuck Laine Bridge 2 Hank Dunbar 9:30 Supervised Play Rob Preece/ Fern Dunbar	19 12:30 Open Director: Steve Rowe 9:30 Supervised Play Sharon Biederman	20 12:30 Open Director: Alan Flower	21 12:30 Open NLM Director: Nancy Toussaint Club Appreciation Game	22 12:30 Open Director: Steve Rowe
23 12:30 Unit Game	24 12:30 Open Director: Alan Flower 9:30 Play of the Hand Rob Preece 9:30 Bridge 1 Hank Dunbar	25 12:30 Open Director: TBD Bridge 2 Hank Dunbar 9:30 Supervised Play Rob Preece/ Fern Dunbar	26 12:30 Open Director: Steve Rowe 9:30 Supervised Play Sharon Biederman	27 12:30 Open Director: Alan Flower	28 12:30 Open NLM Director: Nancy Toussaint	29 12:30 Open Director: Steve Rowe
30 12:30 Open Director: Chuck Laine	31 STaC * 12:30 Open Director: Alan Flower 9:30 Play of the Hand Rob Preece 9:30 Bridge 1 Hank Dunbar	* Sanction Number: 2303501	