



Bridge Buff

May/June 2011



www.unit116.com
A Publication of Unit 116, Buffalo, New York

Bernie and Dick Czarnecki, Editors - Phone: 731-1707
Email: bernieczar@aol.com or sanbornjoker@aol.com

President's Message

Since I have become president of Unit 116, I have asked many people, many questions. Most answers are informative and helpful to me. But one answer I get sets me back on my heels and actually brings more questions to my mind. That answer is, "We do it this way, just because that is the way we have always done it." Many times people and organizations are held back by limitations unbeknownst to them. Not because what they want can't be done but because that is the way it has always been done.

Here is one of my favorite stories: **The reason the solid rocket boosters (SRBs) on the space shuttle are exactly 12.17 feet in diameter is because 12.17 ft (3.71 m) is the width of two horses.** You may want to read that again. Before you think I am totally crazy, let me explain:

The standard railroad gauge (distance between the rails) in the United States is 4 feet, 8.5 inches. That odd measurement is used because that is the measurement used on railroads built in England and it was English engineers who designed the first railroads in the United States. The English engineers used that measurement to build railroads in England because the first railroads were built by the same people who built the wagon tramways. These tramways were modeled from the same jigs and tools that were used for building wagons, which had a wheel spacing of 4 feet, 8.5 inches. The wagons had this odd wheel spacing because if any other spacing would have been used the wagon wheels would be damaged by the ruts in English roads. It was Roman war chariots that formed those initial ruts when Imperial Rome was building the first long distance roads in England. The chariots were made for Imperial Rome; therefore, they were all alike in the matter of wheel spacing because the Imperial Roman army chariots were made just wide enough to accommodate the width of two war horses.

So what on earth does any of this have to do with the SRBs on the Space Shuttle? Well, the SRBs are manufactured at Thiokol aerospace and defense factory in Utah. **The engineers who designed the SRBs calculated the ideal size of the SBR to be larger than 12.17 feet in diameter.** However, the SRBs were scheduled to be shipped via train from the factory in Utah

to the shuttle launch site in Florida. The only railroad from the factory to the launch pad runs through a tunnel in the mountains. The tunnel is only slightly wider than the railroad track. **Because the SRBs had to fit through that tunnel, the size of the SBRs was reduced from an optimal size calculated by the engineers to the width of two horses.**

So what has happened in the past can help us and give us information but it is no reason on its own to dictate the present or future. We must constantly reevaluate why we do what we do with current information.

Keep Thinking!! Keep Evaluating!! Get the Best Answers!!

Betty Metz, Board President

Announcing Unit Events:

With the beginning of June, we start thinking summer. Warm weather, family gatherings, vacations, golf, boating and of course bridge. Unit 116 has many great events planned for the summer months. Don't forget to visit our website for up-to-date details and results – Unit 116.

But before we move ahead let's take a moment to sit back with our thoughts about the Spring Sectional. The good advertising resulted in a wonderful turnout of 152.5 tables (610 players). Wow!! I Hope you were there on Sunday for the Swiss Teams – 28 tables. The room was buzzing with excitement. This is what we are striving for, GREAT BRIDGE EXPERIENCES!! Thank you players for your support and I send out a huge thanks to Tova Reinhorn (co-chair and food boss). Thanks also to those who helped me with supplies and clean up. Running a sectional is a big job and receiving good support is always appreciated.

Now for summer events: Full details can be found in this Buff

Strawberry Social will be held Saturday, June 11 at 1:00 pm. Held at the Lockport Club, players will enjoy strawberry shortcake and a pairs game.

Non-Life Master Sectional will be held July 8,9,10 at the Bridge Center of Buffalo. All silver points and low strats. We encourage all our newest members to take advantage of the tournament. It is held especially for you. Try the

Swiss Team on Sunday, there will be many people there to help you out in the process and scoring of this wonderfully exciting event.

Annual Picnic will be held Sunday July 17 at the Lamm Post. There will be a noon game then a good old fashioned picnic with all the traditional food, followed by more bridge. Please Note: tickets MUST be purchased ahead from any board member.

The Unit Board urges you to attend the picnic for the presentation of our NEW TABLES. We are in the process of purchasing new, big, composite tables for our bridge games. They will arrive in time for our annual picnic. No more wobble, no more weak legs, no more rust, and no more small playing surface.

Come and enjoy!!

Betty Metz

Bridge Buff Deadline – July 29, 2011. **No submissions accepted after 5:00 pm**

Your 2011 Unit 116 Board Members:

Bailey, Judie	636-6148	baj_42@msn.com
Kaprove, Judy	689-0330	japk@aol.com
Kidd, Franklin	656-5740	fwkidd@verizon.net
Kurtz Fran	688-7069	Kurtz1095@roadrunner.com
Lederhouse, Bob	625-9443	
Metz, Betty	773-7398	bettymetz@roadrunner.com
Neubecker, Sue	876-2630	suebobneu@roadrunner.com
Petrov, Dian	688-1226	dpetrov@roadrunner.com
Pollock, Kathy	688-0054	bridgekat@gmail.com



Bridge Center of Buffalo
Phone # 834-4222

Website:
www.bridgecenterofbuffalo.com

MENTORING ON
Tues. &
Thurs. @ BCB

Newcomer Games, 0-20 master points, are held on Tuesday morning and Thursday evening, and are half hour before game time on Thursday evening or before lunch on Tuesday morning

"mentored" games running in parallel with stratified pair games. Both games are preceded by a free Mini-Lesson



Bridge Club Meridian website:
www.cuebid.com/meridian

MENTORING -4-6 Sessions over 2-3 months. – For more information, contact **Dian Petrov**.

Check the Duplicate Bridge column in The Buffalo News each Saturday for weekly game results and other announcements. Unfortunately, space there is limited, but additional results, more complete announcements and other information can be found in the weekly Internet version of the column at www.buffalonews.com. For quickest results, search the words “duplicate bridge” and Saturday’s date. For the latest information and detailed game results directly from the clubs, check the web sites of [clubs in Western New York](#).

UNIT 116 – WNY 2011 EVENTS

June 11th	“ Strawberry Social ” Unit Game – 1:00 pm @ Lockport Bridge Club – Bob Lederhouse , Chair
June 13-19	District 5 STaC
June 26 th	Unit Game at BCB
July 8, 9, 10	Non-LM Sectional, Bridge Center of Buffalo, Frank Kidd , Chair
July 17 th	Unit Game & Picnic, @ American Legion Lamm Post on Union Judie Bailey . Chair
Aug. 27 th	Rd., two games and picnic lunch. Unit Game @ Lockport 1:00 pm
Sept. 12 th	Unit game – 7:15 pm @ Whist Club
Sept. 16 ^h – 18th	Fall Sectional, Main Transit Fire Hall, Williamsville, NY. Fran Kurtz , Chair
Sept. 25 th	Unit game Pro/Am held @ BCB
Oct.	Club Appreciation Games at local Clubs
Oct. 1 st	Unit Game at 1:00 pm - Lockport
Oct. 11 th – 16th	District 5 Spooktacular Regional
Oct. 28 th	Unit Game Halloween Party 11:30 am at BCB
Nov. 1 st	Unit Game 7:00 pm at Lockport
Nov. 19 th	Unit Game – Wine & Cheese @ BCB
Dec. 5 th – 11 th	Judy Kaprove & Kathy Pollock, Chairs
Dec. 18 th	District 5 STaCs at local clubs
	Annual Meeting @ Lamm Post- Frank Kidd, Chair

Member's Corner

.Congratulations

Life Master
Carol Bedell
Betty Metz

Gold Life Master
Kathy Pollock

Bronze Life Master
Paula Kotowski

Kevin Gervase, a former Unit 116 member had a 78.23% game with **Anne Lambdin** at Winter Haven Bridge Club in Florida.

Unit Directory Updates

David Donaldson – 5 Eagles Trace, Williamsville, 14221 – ph-716-568-0923 home and 716-706-8256-cell. E-mail: dave-don@hotmail.com

Dordy Bales Donaldson – 5 Eagles Trace, Williamsville, 14221 – ph – 716-568-0923 – e-mail: dodryint@aol.com

Sad Tidings

Miriam Davidson	Chester Fell
Robert Gala	Janet Morgan
Chris Vogelsang	Bob Jeffords

Another prize-winning recipe at the Taste of Buffalo Unit Game at the Bridge Center for desserts was a Blueberry Pound Cake made by **Carol Bedell** which won 1st place. The recipe follows:

Blueberry Pound Cake



Pre-heat oven 350 degrees 60-70 minutes (Makes two cakes – 9x5 loaf pans)

Ingredients:

- 2 sticks unsalted butter (no substitutions)
- 3 C sugar
- 1½ t vanilla extract
- 1½ t lemon extract
- 6 eggs
- 3C flour

- ½ t baking soda
- 1 C (8 oz.) sour cream
- 3C fresh or frozen blueberries (I use 2 C if I use fresh blueberries; I freeze them first.)

Cream butter and sugar. Beat with eggs, extracts, baking soda, flour. Add sour cream alternating with dough. Fold in frozen berries. Bake 350 degrees for 60+ minutes (until toothpick comes out clean in the center.

Blueberry Sauce

- 1 C sugar
- ¼ C corn starch
- ½ C cranberry juice concentrate (frozen)

6 C fresh or frozen blueberries

Combine sugar, cornstarch and cranberry juice until smooth. Add blueberries. Bring to boil over medium heat. Cook 2 minutes until thickened. Serve cold, hot or room temp. (your choice) I usually serve Reddi Whip with it as well.

	Bob Jeffords
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Crunchy Asian Salad
By Kathy Pollock

Also called three bad salad, it's best to make the three groups together right before serving.- - Makes 12 servings

Combine and mix well

Dressing:

- 1 envelope Good Seasons Italian Dressing Mix
- 1/4 cup vinegar
- 1/2 cup sugar
- 3 Tbs water
- 2 Tbs soya sauce
- . Add 1/2 cup oil and shake well

Crunchies:

Combine

- 1/2 cup dry roasted sunflower seeds (no shells)
- 1/2 cup sliced almonds, toasted
- two 3-oz pkgs of Raman Noodle soup; discard seasoning and break up noodles

Salad Base:

- two 16 oz pkgs of cabbage coleslaw blend
- 4 green onions with tops, sliced

Bon appetit!

Hall of Fame

By the Editors- Dick & Bernie

The editors of the Buff want to honor all those volunteers who have worked creatively over the years to build Unit 116 into the organization it is today.

The editors want to thank all the members who have been elected to the Board of Unit 116 and who have additionally accepted leadership roles on the Board.

We will accept letters nominating the member you, the members of Unit 116, believe have helped to build the Unit into the progressive organization it is.

In 100 words or less, please nominate the person you think has gone beyond the norm in helping the Unit be successful.

The Buff will publish your letter and send a Hall of Fame thank you certificate to that nominee.

We often say, "People like to go to a party but are not so crazy about putting the party together." This is your chance to thank those people that actually put together the bridge parties we have been enjoying for many decades,

Either e-mail your nominating letter to bernieczar@aol.com or sanbornjoker@aol.com or if you prefer regular mail- send it to the editors at: 2961 Lockport Rd, Sanborn, NY 14132,

This program to thank people who should be thanked will only be successful if you participate. We, the editors, are thanking you in advance for your participation.

Remember, the people selected, that this is a pay-forward

Nominee for Volunteer Award

The Grand Lady of Lockport Bridge

Marge Schomers has personified the essence of Volunteerism in District 5 and Unit 116 since starting the Lockport games in 1982. She served on the Unit Board and even was the Unit Treasurer.

As a director, she runs a no-tolerance game in a compassionate and instructive atmosphere. As a teacher of the game, she employs Audrey Grant techniques enriched by her own extensive knowledge and experience. As a hostess of the game, she has established a welcoming and gracious atmosphere.

Her talents are certainly not limited to Bridge. A retired Medical technologist,, she volunteers at the Kennan Center and because she is so inactive – she also helps seniors during the tax season.

I consider it an honor to have come to know Marge and to have had the opportunity to have had her as a Bridge partner, and to have played in her games.

In my limited mind - **Marge Schomers** will forever have the title of "The Grand Lady of Lockport Bridge" as she continues to constantly add to the integrity of the game.

Dave Larcom

Nominee for Volunteer Award

Sharon Benz has been a very active member of our Unit for over 35 years and during that time she has

always been willing to help in any way possible. She has served as Chairperson of our Regional, Chair of a number of sectionals, President of our Unit during the most trying of times and as a very active President and Board Member of the Whist Club. She is also well known by many Unit members for her perseverance in finding partners for anyone who asks.

Sharon is clearly worthy of the award for outstanding volunteer.

John Toy

The Road to Platinum Master points.

Kathy Pollock was kind enough to research who in our unit qualify on the road to platinum pointhood:

Here is what she gave me:

"Any player with more than 10,000 mps so **Jim Mathis** is eligible; **Bob Freedman** is no longer an ACBL member.

Otherwise need 200 total Platinum points or earn 50 Platinum points within the last three years, so the other eligible players locally are **Chris Urbanek** and **Jill Wooldridge**.

I had to give ACBL the player number so they could look them up.

Players who were ruled NOT eligible that I checked were: **Meg Klamp, John Toy** and **Brian Meyer**. **Jay Levy** and **Saleh Fetouh** have not played in very many open National events.

Several local players have done very well but they were not playing in Open National events and so did not earn any Platinum pts. "

**Unit 116 Spring Fling @ BCB
April 17, 2011**

MP's	A	B	Names
1.98	1		Judy Graf, Fred Yellen
1.61	2	1	Kathy Pollock, Chongmin Zhang
1.21	3/4	2	John Bielinski, Jeffrey Bender
0.98	3/4		Howard Rose, Joan Rose

**Unit 116 Cinco de Mayo Game @ Whist Club
May 9, 2011**

MP's	A	B	C	Names
2.27	1			Jay Levy, Judith Padgug
1.70	2			Margaret Klamp, Jim Mathis
2.06	3	1		Harry Cheung, Elizabeth Clark
1.55		2		Judy Graf, Michael Ryan
1.16		3		David Hemmer, Kathy Pollock

slam, 3% bid slam but went down, while 59% bid a lower contract and **made** six.

The focus group of this study consisted of all those hands with less than 30 points and making six. Their point range was 23 to 29, with an average of 26.5. These hands were compared with a stratified random sample of hands, with the same point range and average that did not make six. These two groups were compared on the frequency of four characteristics: Voids, Singletons, long suits (6+) and number of trumps. The results are in Table I.

Table I
Percent of Hands With:

Point Range	Voids		Singletons		Long Suits	
	Made Slam	No Slam	Made Slam	No Slam	Made Slam	No Slam
23-26	44%	12%	56%	50%	62%	26%
27-29	13%	13%	48%	60%	36%	34%

Table I shows voids and long suits to be the more significant aids in making slam for hands in the 23 to 26 point range. They were present three times as often in the focus group as in the comparison group. Without exception, every hand, that made six or seven with only 23 to 26 points, had one or more aids.

Surprisingly, hands in both the focus group (27-29 points) and comparison group were **alike** in the percentage of aids. Although 80% of the focus group's hands had at least one aid, 20% of this group was able to achieve slam without a single aid. No explanation is forthcoming!

Another approach was used to examine how vital aids were as compared to points. The slams with less than 30 points had **five** times as many voids, singletons and long suits as slams with 30+ points. The latter relying more on high card points than aids to make slam.

Likewise, no-trump was made exclusively on point-count and long suits, with voids and singletons absent as expected. Having a point range from 25 to 37 and an average of 30 points, no-trump slams still defied the textbook floor of 32 to 34 points.

The final question raised in the study was: how important is length in the trump suit for slams? Hands below 30 points (the focus group) averaged 9.0 trumps while 30+ hands averaged only 7.7 trumps. Clearly, length in trumps functioned as an aid as much as voids and long suits and even more than singletons.

In conclusion, the call for a 32-34 point requirement to bid slam is contradicted by the findings of this study. Slams are made, but not bid routinely, with 23

to 29 point hands with the help of voids, singletons, long suits and length in trumps. The lower the point count, the more aids are needed. Slams made with 30+ points and in no-trump are achieved primarily on high card point count.

Numerous bidding conventions exist to avoid missing a slam contract. Communication to explore slam possibility involves point-count, suit or no-trump preferences, aids and suit control. After partner opens and you can count 24 or more points, you are in potential slam country. Check your hand for aids, if you have some, let your partner know (cue bids, etc.). If none, give him or her point count and suit preference and let your partner decide on whether to pursue slam. Slams only occur in about 8% of your hands, but when you make them you feel special and your percentage will rise!

Hand Evaluation or "Points Schmoints"
John Marvin

In this deal from the BCB Tuesday Mentor Game, EW's 18 HCP are good enough to make 4 spades whereas NS's 22 are good for a precarious 2 diamonds. The question is, "Would you and your favorite partner find the game?" I saw a pair stumble into it after W opened the bidding with 1 spade. N preferred a takeout double to a 2 diamond call. E raised, perhaps an underbid, S bid an optimistic 3 hearts, W passed, N bid 4 hearts, and E bid 4 spades rather than give his partner an opportunity to double.

I won't try to explain any of the bids except the first. I think W has to open and 1 spade is far better than 2 with 4 hearts and a void on the side. The lack of structure (1/2 QT) precludes standing for a low level penalty double by partner, but I like 10 cards in the majors and what can be called a "6 loser" hand. Even so, getting to game is iffy.

In actual practice, 4 of 11 pairs bid and made the spade game, one of them doubled.

The hand:

	♠-K		
Dir: S	♥-A64		
Vul: E-W	♦-A65432		
	♣-AT6		
♠-QJT987	N		♠-A652
♥-QJ85	W E		♥-73
♦-	S		♦-KT98
♣-K84			♣-Q93
	♠-43		
	♥-KT92		
	♦-QJ7		
	♣-J72		

Found: at the Spring Sectional, a purse hanger. Very cute gold with a little frog on top. Call Betty 773-7398 or e-mail her at bettymetz@roadrunner.com.

Unit 116 Fall Sectional

September 16-18, 2011

Main & Transit Fire Hall

6777 Main Street • Buffalo, NY 14221-5948



Friday 9/16

Single session stratified A/B/C pairs

10:30 am 3:30 pm

Saturday 9/17

Single session stratified A/B/C pairs

10:30 am 3:30 pm

Sunday 9/18

Swiss Teams

10:30 am Stratified A/B/C (with short break)

Stratum "A" - 2000+

Stratum "B" - 500 to 2000

Stratum "C" - 0 to 500

Pairs and teams stratified by average masterpoints

ENTRY FEE per player per session = \$10.00
members/\$11.00 non or unpaid members

Hotels:

Clarion Hotel Williamsville 6700 Transit Road,
Williamsville, NY 14221 2.5 mi

Sleep Inn & Suites Buffalo 100 Holtz Drive,
Cheektowaga, NY 14225 1.9 mi

TOURNAMENT INFORMATION:

Chair: **Fran Kurtz** 716-688-7069

kurtz1095@roadrunner.com

Co-Chair: **Bob Lederhouse** 716-625-9443

Partnership: **Betty Metz** 716-773-7398

bettymetz@roadrunner.com

Olympiad VII

August 20-21, 2011

Knights of Columbus Hall

10806 Granger Rd

Garfield Heights, OH 44125

A Sectionally-Rated, Stratified Pairs Bridge Competition! This is a unique tournament where [layers with less than 750 MP's (as of June 1, 2011)] can represent their units to claim the District 5 Olympiad Trophy. Also gold, silver and bronze

medals will be awarded the top three overall winners of each session.

After each session, hand analyses and discussion by **Dick Early**, Emerald Life Master will be provided on an overhead.

Saturday August 20

Stratified pairs competition – 1:00 and 7:00 pm

Sunday, August 21

Stratified pairs completion – 11:00 a.m.

Closing ceremony – 4:00 pm

Entry fee: \$9.00 per session

An Olympiad entry form needs to be completed for this event.

If you have any questions, contact **Dick Early** at 330-928-1104 or gbidrie@yahoo.com or **Monica Earl**-30-958-0074 or Valleygirl3299@yahoo.com

BUFFALO NON-LIFE MASTER
(0-500 MP)
"SILVER POINT" SECTIONAL"



Friday, July 8

10:00am Single Session Pairs

3:00pm Single Session Pairs

Food Before and Between Sessions

Saturday, July 9

10:00am Single Session Pairs

3:00pm Single Session Pairs

Food Before and Between Sessions

Sunday, July 10

10:00am Single Session Pairs

3:00pm Single Session Swiss Teams

Food Before and Between Sessions

JULY 8-10, 2011

Bridge Center of Buffalo

3362 Sheridan Dr

Amherst, NY 14226

FREE FOOD
FREE LESSONS

FREE PARKING

STRATIFICATIONS

C: 0-100, B: 100-200, A: 200-500/NLM

GAME FEES

\$8.00 ACBL members
\$9:00 non or unpaid members

Information & Partnerships
Betty Metz - 716-773-7398
bettymetz@roadrunner.com

Summer BBQ

Come for a great day of Bridge, food & fun!

Sunday, July 17th
Geo. F. Lamm Post 962
Wehrle Dr., Williamsville

Purchase tickets from Board members by 7/10
\$20 members...\$24 non-members
Tickets can be purchased on line @
www.Unit116.com or from any Board member

Contact **Judie Bailey** for info/partners
636-6148 or baj_42@msn.com
Wheelchair accessible at Front door.
HELP will be at Side entrance



Game Times:
NOON and @ 4pm

Two sessions of Bridge with hamburger/hot dog
picnic mid-afternoon
Coffee/Tea/Soda available

Unit 116 "Strawberry Social"

Lockport Bridge Club
33 Ontario Street
Lockport New York

June 11th @

1:00 pm



ACBL members \$6.00

For Information
Call **Bob Lederhouse @ 625-9443**

Directions:

1. Take 990 to Millersport Hwy and turn NORTHEAST on MILLERSPORT HWY/RT 263 to Transit Road.
2. Turn SLIGHT LEFT onto RT-78/TRANSIT ROAD. Continue to follow RT-78.
3. Turn RIGHT onto ONTARIO ST. ONTARIO ST. is just past NIAGARA CT.
4. 33 ONTARIO ST. is on the left.
 - Your destination is just past CHURCH ST.
 - If you reach RICHMOND AVE, you've gone a little too far.
 - Parking is in back; so proceed to Pine St. and turn left to enter the parking lot.

Unit 116 Volunteer Hall of Fame

Betty Metz
Sue Neubecker
Franklin Kidd
Faith Perry
Judie Bailey
Alice Lind –In Memorium
Dave Larcom
John Toy
Marge Schomers
Sharon Benz