



A Day At The Museum



ACBL Museum & Hall of Fame

By Bruce W. Blakely
D21 Representative to the
ACBL Board of Directors

The twenty-five members of the ACBL Board of Directors were invited to attend the Grand Opening of the new League Headquarters in Horn Lake, Mississippi in late June. Twenty-three of the board members attended. The new

building, first occupied in April 2010, is a fabulous facility which our members can be very proud of. It is spacious, bright, open, and tastefully appointed with new furniture and an up-to-the-minute computer system. The League now has all of its central operations under one single story roof, including executive operations, editorial, education, bridge administration, marketing, club operations, I.T., data, accounting, mailroom, H.R. and warehouse.

Jay Baum, who spearheaded the acquisition and financing, and Jim Miller, who had primary responsibility for working on the construction and furnishings, deserve our great praise.

The new building has four conference rooms, a computer learning center, attractive (bridge-related) art work, and a huge warehouse to hold all of the 200,000 lbs. of equipment that ACBL trucks across the continent three times a year to the NABC's. In the center of the building is an impressive museum. ACBL employee, Tracy Yarbrow, along with a team of museum consultants, architects and contractors, has created a technologically advanced, aesthetically beautiful, interactive forum for education, information, memorabilia, and the cultural history of bridge.

The Museum's biographical exhibits include displays about Harold S. Vanderbilt, Eli and Josephine ("Jo") Culbertson, Charles Goren, Helen Sobel Smith, and the Dallas Aces. There are thematic displays concerning the

history of playing cards, the development of contract bridge, the evolution of duplicative boards, the history of the League, Auto-bridge games, the Bennett Murder, and tournament scandals. One wall is comprised of an exhibition of the Joan Schapps Collection of Trump Indicators.

A particularly interesting exhibit was the Hammond Electric Bridge Table, a full-sized card table with a mechanical dealing machine under the tabletop. Invented by Laurens Hammond, the inventor of the Hammond organ, and manufactured in 1932, the table randomly dealt four hands in one minute into *N*, *S*, *E* and *W* under-table slots.

By using two decks, one in play on top of the table, and one inside the table dealing mechanism, players never had to shuffle or to wait for a hand to be dealt. Mr. Hammond sold 14,000 of these tables prior to Christmas 1932 at the price of \$25 per table (\$40 for a deluxe model).

Unfortunately, the Great Depression put an end to demand for the invention, and production ceased. A video presentation describes how new card shuffling machines that use either bar coded cards or optical character reader shuffling and delivery technology have reduced dealing time to under seconds per board.

The Museum also has a number of interactive video displays. These include features on tournament directors, members of the ACBL Hall of Fame, and photos of ACBL's many trophies which

are also on display in alarm-triggered cases.

There is at least one feature which is still in production. In the future there will be an interactive video exhibit of famous hands that visitors can select and play for themselves. The program will also have a description of how the hands were played in actual tournament competition.

Once again, I was hugely impressed by the collegial, friendly atmosphere of the League's seventy in-house employees. They have a great sense of pride in what they do, and in their new home. They get along famously with one another and are gracious and welcoming to visitors. When the League moved to a new facility, ten miles away from its prior headquarters, in another state, which takes an additional 5% out of each employee's salary in income tax (Tennessee has no income tax), every single employee followed ACBL to the new headquarters

facility. It speaks volumes.

The new headquarters is impressive, beautifully designed, cleverly laid out, and smartly furnished. I encourage you all to visit Horn Lake, where our friendly staff will provide a warm Southern welcome.

On an unrelated matter, I recently received stats regarding I/N attendance at recent NABCs. Our San Francisco NABC in 2007 had the highest I/N table count, with 1458 ½ tables, of all 36 NABCs held over the past 12 years. San Francisco also had the highest number of I/N player participants and, at 9.86%, the highest number of I/N tables as a percentage of total table count, of all Fall NABCs.

Once again, Terry Terzian deserves our highest praise for the excellent job he and his staff did at our last NABC. We are pleased that Terry has agreed to be the I/N chair again when the Fall NABC returns to San Francisco in late November, 2012.



Fun, Friendship, Competition

By Jackie Ortiz
Former D21 President

Bridge is the game for a Lifetime!

It has been Hot Summer Days and what is better than playing bridge at one of your friendly local bridge clubs, or a sectional or even our regionals? Would you rather be cleaning your house or sitting home doing nothing when you can experience having chats with nice people, enjoying snacks (that you did not have to prepare) sitting in a air-conditioned room and costing even less than going to the movies?

Bridge is so inexpensive compared to so much other events such as golf — as my husband says, you can play bridge about eight times compared to his one golf game. Such a deal!

I hope you even noticed that our regional fee is the least expensive (at \$10.00) in the US and the hotel room rate (thanks to Jackie Matthews & Pam Hughes) is only \$88.00 a night at Santa Clara Regional starting Aug. 31. Our hospitality room for all our players is the best in the country (thanks to Sally Wheeler) and most regionals do not even do this for their players. D21 now has a new Executive Committee with Bill Corliss, Cindy Kirk, Katherine Ewing, Harvey Brody, Marion Robertson, Stu Goodgold, Bruce Blakely, Pat Thomas and myself.

Any suggestions can be addressed to your Executive Committee members. Looking forward to seeing all of you at the tables in Santa Clara. (I just love this game of bridge!) jackieo@sonic.net

All-Western Regional



By Jackie Matthews
Tournament Chairman

The upcoming All-Western Regional in Santa Clara, starts on August 31 and ends September 6, Tuesday through Monday. The host hotel is the Hyatt Regency, phone numbers 408 200-1234, and 800 233-1234.

Why not make your late reservations now?

We have lots of Knockout Teams starting every day until Monday, and we have a special, two-day All-Western Open Pairs event on Saturday and Sunday.

Everyone will have a great time, and (once again), it's not too late to make reservations.

FORUM DEADLINES

Deadlines for *Forum* copy and ads is the 5th of the month!

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