



¿Qué Pasa? --Continued from page 1

when it is "their year." This will enable our district to make two more contributions in 2010. Other recipients, as voted on at the district board meeting in Ruidoso, included Hospice & Palliative Care of Western Colorado, La Mesita Family Homeless Shelter in Mesa, Self Help in Los Alamos, Wyoming Air National Guard Family Program, and Hospice of the Valley in Phoenix.

Denver in 2015?

The ACBL board voted to approve management's recommendation to pursue negotiations to hold the 2015 Fall NABC in Denver November 26-December 6. This is not yet a "done deal," but prospects are very promising!

Headquarters Update: Construction of our new ACBL headquarters building is well underway. We expect to be moved into our new quarters in early March, 2010, and the warehouse will be relocated there by the end of January.

ACBL Presidency

Since my last article, I attended the district board meetings at our regional in Ruidoso, New Mexico. There is sadness that this was perhaps the last regional tournament there, as it was a great tournament site and the volunteers there did a terrific job. The volunteers at all of our tournaments are special, and are a big reason our regionals and sectionals are fun and successful. A "thank you" from those of us who attend is always appreciated. Following Ruidoso, I went to three regionals in the northeast; Danbury, Conn., Buffalo, New York and Lancaster, Penn. In Danbury, we ran into our first snowstorm of the season, but it didn't dampen the enthusiasm of the players at the tournament. They had a nice turnout, and I attended a District 3 board meeting. From there I went to Buffalo, where the weather was actually quite nice. While hospitality is terrific everywhere I've been, I think the apex is Buffalo. They had food and drink between and after every session, had a hospitality room open throughout, and had an amazing variety of section top prizes. This is not a large tournament, but it was great. Lancaster is about an hour out of Philadelphia, and the regional there is held in a site with an unbelievable amount of playing space. Again all the players and I were treated to exceptional hospitality. While still a large tournament, it is my understanding that the attendance here has slowly been dropping. An added benefit was being able to observe the fantastic fall foliage in New England and the Northeast!

I accepted an invitation from Guillermo Poplawsky, a popular director from Mexico who has worked many of our tournaments, to attend the Mexican Regional in Puerto Vallarta. What a fantastic setting! The host hotel is right on the Pacific Ocean, and the weather was warm (hot) and very enjoyable. The playing area was festive with different colored tablecloths on every table and the same on all the chairs. When we weren't playing bridge we wandered all over town and had a terrific visit, experiencing none of the problems that have made news for the past several months.

Game times are different! The afternoon session was at 2:30 p.m., and the evening session started at 8:30. The tournament was well run and very enjoyable.

Like other tournaments I've attended, they don't hold back when it comes to hospitality for the players. The tournament is small, probably because there is not a large Mexican bridge community and because not too many people from the US attend. There were lots of Canadians there. I highly recommend it!

Following this tournament, I get to spend a few days at home before leaving for the NABC in San Diego. There I chaired the last board meeting of my term as ACBL President. I'll conclude the discussion of my year as ACBL president next article. Your input and suggestions on any of the above topics are always appreciated, whether you agree or not. My phone number is 505 662-3036, you can e-mail me at peanutcat@aol.com, or write me at 2175 La Tierra Road, Los Alamos NM 87544-2766. A special thanks to those of you who have contacted me to share your opinions.

ABTA Master Point Press Teacher of the Year Award



Not every bridge teacher has authored a bestseller, written a newspaper column, or become well-known enough to receive an entry in the Encyclopedia of Bridge. Nevertheless, there are many teachers who continue to inspire their students day in and day out, promoting the game in their community and answering any question clearly, concisely and without judgment, whether it's about Roman Keycard Blackwood or simply, "What's a finesse?"

Their work too often goes unrecognized, yet it is vital to the future of the game.

Starting next year, thanks to Master Point Press, the world's largest publisher of books on bridge, and the American Bridge Teachers Association (ABTA), these anonymous-yet-praiseworthy mentors will finally have an annual award to call their own: the ABTA Master Point Press Teacher of the Year Award.

"This is really for the unsung heroes of the bridge world," Barbara Seagram, co-author of the best selling *25 Bridge Conventions You Should Know*, chair of the ABTA Teacher of the Year Committee, and a bridge teacher herself, said in a statement. "At last there is an award for those in the trenches."

To nominate someone, students are encouraged to e-mail one or two paragraphs to Seagram (bseagram@ca.inter.net) explaining why their teacher deserves consideration. Nominees must have at least five

years teaching experience, and teach at least 75 hours a year. Nominations will close on April 1, 2010. The award will be given to a teacher who exemplifies what Seagram calls "love for the game." "They may not have a famous name, but ... their communication skills and enthusiasm promote bridge's future, adding to your enjoyment," Seagram said.

Master Point Press co-founder Ray Lee is "delighted" to be working with the ABTA to create the Teacher of the Year award.

"It is the bridge teachers who bring new people into the game, and we want to recognize their hard work and dedication," he said.

The first winner will be presented with a "Teacher of The Year" plaque and a cash award next July in New Orleans, at the ABTA's 2010 convention.

The ABTA is a professional organization of bridge teachers from Canada, Mexico and the USA. Its mandate is to help those who teach bridge to do it better.

Master Point Press is the world's largest publisher of books on contract bridge with more than 150 titles in print.

Most recently MPP has expanded its reach by starting a blog site at www.bridgeblogging.com, aimed at providing a forum for discussion on all things bridge, and a sister site mastering-bridge.com designed for teachers and students.

For more information, contact Barbara Seagram 416 487-8321, barbaraseagram.com or Linda Lee 416 781-0351, masterpointpress.com, or visit the ABTA web site at www.abtathome.com



Barbara Seagram

February 3 ScoreCard Deadline!

Please note that the deadline for the March issue of *ScoreCard* is two days earlier than normal. Normal deadline is the fifth of the month for the following month's issue. The deadline for the March issue of *Scorecard* will be February 3. All ad copy goes to the publisher (see e-mail address page two, right hand column) and all other information and stories directly to the editor at jaredjohnsonco@aol.com. And, as always, the earlier the better. Thanks for your help.

The Best in the West
MESA ROADRUNNER SENIOR REGIONAL 55 & Older
Gold & Red Points
April 5 thru April 11, 2010

MONDAY, APRIL 5			
Charity Pairs (Single Sessions)	ALL AGES	1:00	7:30
0-200 Charity Pairs (Single Sessions)	ALL AGES	1:00	7:30
Yucca Bracketed KO (1 st of 4; Seniors only)			7:30
TUESDAY, APRIL 6			
Stratified Open Pairs (2 sessions)		10:00	3:00
0-200 Pairs (Single Sessions)		10:00	3:00
20 or less MPs morning session free			
Side Game Series (1 st of 5)		10:00	7:30
Saguaro Bracketed KO (1 st & 2 nd of 4)		10:00	3:00
Stratified Swiss Teams (Single Sessions)			3:00
Yucca Bracketed KO (2 nd of 4)			7:30
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 7			
Stratified Open Pairs (2 sessions)		10:00	3:00
0-200 Pairs (Single Sessions)		10:00	3:00
Side Game Series (2 nd of 5)		10:00	7:30
Saguaro Bracketed KO (3 rd & 4 th of 4)		10:00	3:00
Cholla Bracketed KO (1 st & 2 nd of 4)		10:00	3:00
Stratified Swiss Teams (Single Sessions)			3:00
Yucca Bracketed KO (3 rd of 4)			7:30
Organ Pipe Compact Bracketed KO (1 st of 2)			7:30
THURSDAY, APRIL 8			
Stratified Open Pairs (2 sessions)		10:00	3:00
0-200 Pairs (Single Sessions)		10:00	3:00
Side Game Series (3 rd of 5)		10:00	7:30
Cholla Bracketed KO (3 rd & 4 th of 4)		10:00	3:00
Prickly Pear Bracketed KO (1 st & 2 nd of 4)		10:00	3:00
Stratified Swiss Teams (Single Session)			7:30
Yucca Bracketed KO (4 th of 4)			7:30
Organ Pipe Compact Bracketed KO (2 nd of 2)			7:30

Our hospitality room will be open after the morning & afternoon sessions
 Free Bridge lessons 2:00 PM Tuesday thru Saturday

CROWN PLAZA
SAN MARCOS GOLF RESORT
 One San Marcos Place
 Chandler, Az. 85225
For Reservations call
1-888-233-9527
or visit our web site
www.tinyurl.com/MesaRoadrunner

Special Bridge Rate Deadline
March 4th, 2010

District-17, Unit 351
www.unit351.com
 Director in charge – Gary Zeiger
 Chair: Jim Horton
 480-883-6369, rjh2739@cs.com
 Co-Chair: Leo Bicknese
 480-854-6926
leopoldbicknese@cox.net
 Co-Chair: Lori Ortiz
 480-832-1677, loriortiz@cox.net
 Partnership: Mary Eager
 480-830-8424, eager@cox.net

FRIDAY, APRIL 9			
Stratified Open Pairs (2 sessions)		10:00	3:00
0-200 Pairs (Single Sessions)		10:00	3:00
Side Game Series (4 th of 5)		10:00	7:30
Prickly Pear Bracketed KO (3 rd & 4 th of 4)		10:00	3:00
Cacti Bracketed KO (1 st & 2 nd of 4)		10:00	3:00
Stratified Swiss Teams (Single Session)			3:00
Fri./Sat. Stratified Swiss Teams (1 st of 2 sessions)			7:30
SATURDAY, APRIL 10			
Stratified Open Pairs (2 sessions)		10:00	3:00
0-200 Pairs (Single Sessions)		10:00	3:00
Side Game Series (5 th of 5)		10:00	7:30
Cacti Bracketed KO (3 rd & 4 th of 4)		10:00	3:00
Ocotillo Compact KO (2 sessions)		10:00	3:00
Afternoon Stratified Swiss Teams (single session)			3:00
Fri./Sat. Stratified Swiss Teams (2 nd of 2 sessions)			7:30
SUNDAY, APRIL 11			
Strati-Flighted A & AX Swiss Teams (30 Point Victory Scale)		10:00	TBA
Strati-Flighted B/C/D Swiss Teams (30 Point Victory scale)		10:00	TBA
FREE LUNCH AT BREAK			
ROADRUNNER SECTIONAL			
Open to all ages – Silver Points			
FRIDAY APRIL 9			
Stratified Open Pairs (single sessions)			3:00 7:30
SATURDAY APRIL 10			
Stratified Open Pairs (single sessions)		10:00	3:00
SUNDAY APRIL 11			
Swiss Teams (30 point victory scale)		10:00	TBA
FREE LUNCH AT BREAK			