

WESTERN CONFERENCE CONTRACT BRIDGE Forum



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The San Diego Fall Nationals November 26 - December 6

Manchester Grand Hyatt Hotel



By Jared Johnson
ScoreCard Editor

The Fall North American Bridge Championships are set November 26 to December 6 in one of America's most fascinating cities, San Diego. Playing site is the Manchester Grand Hyatt Hotel.

Average daytime highs this time of year are only a few degrees off the average mid-summer highs of about 72, although it cools off more at night.

There are plenty of attractions north of the border. The San Diego Zoo is world renowned and Sea World also pulls in the visi-

tors. A drive inland provides some great desert vistas.

Contract Bridge Forum publisher and District 22 representative to the ACBL national board of directors Ken Monzingo is the chairman for this upcoming tournament. You can expect plenty of top-notch hospitality in addition to the excellent schedule of

bridge. There will be first class entertainment with Peter Rank's "My Fair (Little Old) Lady." See their tournament web site at:

www.sandiegofallnabc2009.com

Even if you're not playing in it, the Reisinger is the event to keep track of. Check the anticipated vugraph show for this competition toward the end of the tournament.

The Ruidoso Aspengold Regional



The Lodge at Sierra Blanca

Just a reminder. There is still time to make your plans to attend the Ruidoso Aspengold Regional October 5-11 at the Ruidoso Convention Center. The adjacent host hotel is The Lodge at Sierra Blanca.

See the ads in the past two issues of *ScoreCard* for further details.

D17 at the D.C. Nationals

Per the usual *ScoreCard* policy of recognizing D17 players who hit the top three places in national championships, we (slightly belatedly) take a look at the results of the Summer NABC in Washington D.C. where our players did well.

Congratulations to Karen Allison of Las Vegas from the winning Senior Swiss Teams.

Carolyn Lynch of Scottsdale and Mike Passell of Las Vegas were on a team tying for third in the

Spingold, with Fred Gitelman and Geoff Hampson, both of Las Vegas, on the other team tying for third. Marc Jacobus of Las Vegas and Roger Bates of Mesa were on the second place squad in the North American Open Swiss Teams.

And finally, Garth Yettick, Peggy Ware, Spencer Jones and Jon Brandon, all of Denver, were on the second place team in the Mini-Spingold I (0-5000).

Congratulations!

Youngest Director?



According to a Daily Bulletin at the Summer NABC in Washington, D.C., 11-year-old Burke Snowden of Fort Collins, Colo., is probably the youngest certified bridge club director in the country. He passed his director's test last fall and is already running some games.

Burke and his father, Craig Snowden, attended the Summer NABC and also play in Colorado tournaments.

It's Only A Game!

By Frank Queen
Former D17 President

"Insanity; doing the same thing over and over again and expecting different results."
— Albert Einstein

I can honestly state that the last District 17 regional in Ruidoso, New Mexico was as much fun as a person can have in bridge. If you have not been there and can attend you owe it to yourself. Sadly, I cannot attend this year. [Editor's Note: The Rui-

doso Aspengold Regional is coming up October 5-11 at the Ruidoso Convention Center, and you can still attend.]

At the last one, I had the privilege to visit at length with Mr. Jay Baum, CEO of the ACBL. Mr. Baum is a very affable man, quite intelligent, and well versed in the issues confronting bridge - always good traits for an ACBL CEO.

We traded observations and I mentioned that the founding fathers of ACBL had been ingenious, for they had devised an or-

(See Game on page 12)



A Rocky Mountain Hi!

By John Van Ness
President, District 17

I don't know how we ever made it through the day back in the Dark Ages before the Internet and cell phones. As recently as 1990 there were but a few million computers in the world, used mostly by universities, governments and very large corporations. More than half the world's population had not only never used a telephone, they'd never even seen one. Just nineteen years ago less than one percent of Americans owned a personal computer and less than two percent had cell phone service.

Today, 1.7 billion of the world's 6.7 billion people use the Internet, and perhaps 1.5 billion own a cell phone. In the United States, more than 75% of us own a cell phone and about the same percentage use the Internet. These numbers are constantly increasing at a rapid rate, especially worldwide. There are at least 60 countries with a higher percentage of their population hooked up to a cell phone than in the U.S. (When you add in land lines, the U.S. is a lot higher on the list.)

Our methods of communicating with other people have completely changed. If you wanted to talk to somebody back then you picked up the phone in your home and placed a call. If the other person wasn't home you left a message and waited for a return call. And if you weren't home when your call was returned you repeated the process. This is the classic "phone tag," and it could go on for days, if not weeks. If these calls were toll calls, it could end up getting expensive. If you were calling from your hotel room or a pay phone you were really in trouble. I once had a hotel phone bill that was more than the charge for the room.

Of course you could always write them a letter and you'd probably have your response in a week or so.

Now communication is almost instantaneous. Cell phones go where the owner goes, and you can catch somebody while they're driving down the road or eating in a restaurant or even in the bathroom - but not while they're playing bridge. You can silently send (and receive) a text message no matter where you are.

E-mail is another tremendous advance in communicating. You can write a message anytime day or night and send it to any number of people anywhere in the world. And the cost is zero. If you want to stay in touch while you're out of town at a bridge tournament, you can bring along your laptop or you can use one in the hotel's business center or if all else fails go to the local library. The newer iphones and gphones include Internet access, so you are always plugged in.

Faxes are an unusual case. They were the wave of the future before e-mail became popular in the 1990s. Now one can transmit a document by simply scanning it and sending it by e-mail. One would think there is no use for faxes, but they just won't go away.

It may surprise you to learn that the fax was invented and patented in 1843, and put to commercial use. There were a few bugs that needed to be worked out, including the fact that the telephone would not be invented for another 32 years. We all remember the immortal words of the first phone call: "Watson, stop playing with that hand and come here." Their P.R. people cleaned it up a little bit, so you don't hear much about *Watson's Play of the Hand* these days.

Word processing is another great advance. As recently as the 1980s 75% of all business word processing was done on IBM Selectric typewriters. Most amateurs used a Corona or Underwood. If you made a minor mistake, hopefully you had correction tape, or there was always whiteout. If you wanted to make a major change you just started over. Now, of course, we just click a few buttons and we can switch paragraphs around, and add or delete. If we make a spelling error the computer tells us or automatically corrects it. There is very little need for a secretary of the typist variety.

The biggest change resulting from the Internet is in the way we gain information and knowledge. One can start one's day by checking the headlines on newspapers from anywhere in the world. One can follow big bridge events in real time, and know the outcome before the participants do. You can read the Daily Bulletins from NABCs and most regionals before the players.

If you want to know something - anything - just go to Google. There's just no excuse for not knowing something. I'm a lawyer, and I used to spend more than \$3,000 a year on law books in order to keep professionally abreast. Now it's all available on the Internet. When the Supreme Court issues an opinion, I can read every word within minutes instead of waiting months for it to be printed and shipped. And it's free.

The biggest impetus towards the huge popularity of these modern electronic devices is the low cost. In the 1980s computers cost at least \$4,000, copying machines close to \$2,000, color copiers \$8,000, and fax machines and scanners over \$1,000. Now you can buy an "All-in-one" printer, scanner, fax, and color copier for less than \$100. Computers (new) are on the market for less than \$400. Many cell phones are free if you agree to a 2-year service contract.

(See Rocky on page 12)

Deadlines

ScoreCard no longer accepts hard copy ads. All ads must be e-mailed directly to the publisher Ken Monzingo (see e-mail address right hand column on page two), with a copy to Jared Johnson, the *ScoreCard* editor.

Stories and all other articles of any sort still get e-mailed directly to the *ScoreCard* editor at: jaredjohnson@aol.com Just regular e-mail, no attachments please.

Deadlines are the fifth of each month for the following month's issue. Deadlines are firm, exceptions for only the most pressing and unusual of circumstances.

Stories past deadline still go to the editor, not the publisher, for inclusion in the following issue.

So now it's all e-mail. Ads to the publisher (with a copy to the editor, okay for attachment on ad copy), stories and all else to the editor. Thanks for your help.