

Unit 441 Newsletter

January 2011

Our unit doesn't have a newsletter so lets start one! To begin with we would like to hear from you, what would you like to see in a newsletter. Please send your suggestions to ginger8a@yahoo.com.

Member Profile

We would like to run an article each month about our members, their milestones and their bridge history. Fred Hosea has so kindly consented to be the subject of this month's article.

Fred Hosea (pronounced Jose), born 7/13/23. Hosea is a made up name. His father's last name was Hose; but his mom did not want to go through life with the last name of Hose, so they added an 'a' to the name.

Fred started playing bridge in 1964. At that time he lived in Yakima and had a full time job at the Game Department. He didn't use his name when he played bridge, as the winners would be listed in the newspaper. His alias was F. F. Partner.

In 1964 Fred took lessons from Mary Glasson in Yakima. The game cost 50 cents to play.

Fred moved to Olympia in the early 70's. Mary Ann Ratekin was the director of the club. He took over the job from her in the 80's. Later Phyllis Rakevich took it over from Fred. The games were held in the basement of the Governor House restaurant and later at a building on 5th Avenue, where the Olympia Senior Center parking lot is now. Once the center was built, the game moved across the street. At first all bidding was vocal, in the 80's bidding boxes were introduced to the game. Fred bought the bid boxes we currently use. Fred also gave bridge lessons out at TESC and at the YWCA. He estimates he taught over 400 students

Fred met his wife, Sally, at the bridge table. One of his jokes is that "Sally prefers not to play with anyone but me, and she can't stand to play with me."

Sally and Fred were appointed to the Goodwill Committee for the ACBL in the mid 80's. They worked on cruise ships for several years teaching bridge (28 cruises!). He learned Spanish, Dutch and some Portuguese during this time. His favorite cruises were the ones to Alaska (unless they ran into 30-foot waves). Fred has 4 dogs at home; his granddaughter rescued the newest one. She found the puppy while in Romania, got his passport and brought him home to Grandpa.

Fred attended the world championship held in Seattle in the 80's. He helped set up the games. Percy Bean was our representative at that time and was instrumental in getting the world championship to Seattle. At another tournament Phil Wood from Canada let Fred participate in an Appeal Committee hearing. Appeal Committee members would listen to player's appeals of director calls.

Tournaments in the 1970's and 1980's were not stratiflighted games so Fred played against the big names in bridge. At a Swiss team game held in Yakima, Fred's team, (rated the

lowest), drew Paul Soloway's team for their first round. Fred has played against Kaplan, Crane, etc. The world bridge masters would travel to towns as far away as Yakima for the points. At that time it took many games to get 1 point. It was not unusual to earn .04 master points at a game. The scoring was manual on a big sheet of paper. Each winning player was given a 'rating point slip'. It was the player's responsibility to send the slips to ACBL. The catch was you only sent the slips in when they totaled 1 full point. This took forever for beginners!

When Fred started playing bridge there were very few conventions. He remembers when transfers came into the game. The transfer convention originated in Texas. Professional bridge players would play with their clients, to have the strong hand play the transfer to the opener was invented.

Advice from Fred – "Never give bridge lessons at the table. This is the dumbest thing you can do". And, a final word from Fred -- "We play for fun."

New Members Corner

Welcome to our Unit! We would like to hear from our new members. Please let us know what you would like to have in our newsletter.

Please contact Ginger at ginger8a@yahoo.com or call me at 236-1412

From the Unit President

Your bridge unit designated by ACBL is Lewis, Mason, and Thurston counties. There are four recognized clubs in Olympia, Centralia, and Alderbrook. We have elected nine members to decide how to run the unit, and each serves a three-year term. Any member may stand for election in December.

The unit hosts a monthly game on the first Sunday. All are welcome! The morning session includes an open and novice section. Another main project is the Pow Wow, our sectional

tournament every Labor Day weekend. These projects make the bulk of our income. With so many tasks, there are many opportunities for you to help.

The main expense each year is advertising support for bridge classes. In return we have a bridge growth rate the envy of the Northwest. Other expenses include the annual dinner and the annual picnic, along with trophies and awards to our players.

Our members help the game in more ways than I can name here. But there may be more we can do to improve the game. Personally, I want to see a tournament in Ocean Shores, in cooperation with the Harbor unit. Perhaps we will purchase our own Bridgemate scoring system one day. Maybe we will have a building just for bridge some day, maybe in cooperation with Tacoma/Lakewood.

Here is a hand that makes bridge fun for me. I was standing around as usual at the Tacoma Sectional some years ago when a director asked me to fill in for one

hand for a missing player in a team event. I sat East opposite a player I did not know against a North South I will disguise as “Hiff” and “Clugh”. We said “hi”, no time for a card, and the bidding proceeded:

N	E	S	W
1D	1H	1S	2H
3H	P	4C	P
4H	P	4S	P
5H	P	6H	P
P	P	P	

My hand:

S- Kx
H- AQxxx
D- xxxx
C- A

After the opening lead, dummy came down with three small hearts. Declarer North stated incredulously, “I’m in six hearts.” (Declarer turned out to have Kx) Dummy South said, “After the third heart bid, I thought it was ‘psyche exposed’.” “Noooo!” wailed Declarer. Neighboring tables turned to look for the fire engine. My partner seemed pleased with down five for +500.

Will you be the wild man to sit down with a brand new

partner, a stranger, and psyche in that position? That’s a hand that makes bridge so memorable for me.

Alex

Upcoming Local Tournaments

Please double check all the information below on ACBL’s website.

Regional: 2/21/11 to 2/27/11
Vancouver, WA

Sectional: 1/28/11 to 1/30/11
Port Townsend and one in
Portland
2/11/11 to 2/13/11 Bellingham
and one in Spokane
2/18/11 to 2/20/11 Renton
3/4/11 to 3/6/11 Moses Lake
3/25/11 to 3/27/11 Mukilteo

Game Schedules

Olympia:

MWF 1:00PM at Olympia Senior Center.

Saturday 9:00AM and 1:00PM at United Churches.

Friday 6:30 PM (as scheduled - Contact Kim Johnson)

Centralia:

Mon 12:00.

Tues 6:30PM.

Saturdays 6:30PM (as scheduled - Contact Alex Rajala)

Union: Fri 10:00AM. Contact: Linda Shallit 360-275-2342

Board Members

Alex Rajala (*President*)

Dave Fallen (*Vice President*)

Greg Trautman (*Treasurer*)

Nancy Sjoblom (*Secretary*)

Ginger Andersen

Fay Bronson

Darlene Kemper

Helen Miller

Jim Remy

Unit Web Site

<http://www.acblunit441.org/>