



# The Fifth Column

## August, 2016

### Upcoming Tournament Calendar

#### AUGUST

- 5-7 Cleveland Silver Bowl Sectional [Information](#)
- 6-7 Wheeling Sectional [Information](#)
- 30-Sep 5 PITTSBURGH RONI ATKINS LABOR DAY REGIONAL [Information](#)

#### SEPTEMBER

- 10-11 Erie Sectional [Information](#)
- 16-18 Buffalo Fall Sectional [Information](#)
- 16-18 Akron Autumn Sectional [Information](#)
- 24-25 Youngstown Sectional [Information](#)

#### OCTOBER

- 8-9 District 5 NAOP Final *DATE CHANGE* [Information](#)
- 14-16 Pittsburgh Fall Sectional
- 18-23 BUFFALO REGIONAL [Information](#)

#### Deadlines for Columns and Tournament Information

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October Issue - September 15  
December Issue - November 15  
February Issue – January 15

## **UNIT 229 NEWS by Lois Porter**

Congratulations are in order for **David Ruppert** of Butler who earned the rank of Ruby Life master and **Judith Jacobs** of Mars who became a Life Master.

Thanks to **David Ruppert**, Tournament Chair and **Alex Bealles**, Tournament Director, and all of the helpful members of Unit 229 for their efforts at our tournament on June 11 and 12. On Saturday, **Lois Porter** and **Maxine Gant** came in 2nd in the 499er game. In the evening game, **Alan Leaver** and **David Ruppert** were tied with **George Cross** and **Lorraine Worsley** for 3rd. In the Sunday Swiss Teams, **Elio Catulfamo** of Pittsburgh, **Jim Wheeler** of New Castle, **Bill Lindgren** of Slippery Rock and **Lynn Rafferty** of Columbiana, Ohio came in first in A. A good time was had by all and we appreciated the support of other ACBL clubs.

Seen at the Cleveland Regional in May were **Tim Glass**, **Larry Puntureri**, **Cynthia Custer**, **Brina Segal**, **Gary Marcus**, **Sheila Rabovsky**, **Maxine Gant**, **Lois Porter**, **Philippe Westreich**, and **David Ruppert**. Our Butler born **Alex Bealles**, now a full time director in the ACBL, was directing and making us proud. We thought the new hotel was excellent and the players were gracious.

**Bill Stewart** and **Max Rubin** have been scoring well in Zelienople. On May 17 they had a 64.81% game and continued their run to a second place finish on July 12 with a 58.35% score. Other top scorers in this game are **Barbara** and **Ken Bergman** of Wexford and **David Ruppert** and **Alan Leaver**. On July 5 **Ron Franck** and **Philip Goulding** had a 74.40% game - AWESOME! **June Morrison** continues to be a gracious hostess and **John Bernard** a dedicated Director. The Passavant Retirement Community Scholl Auditorium is a great facility for the game.

Ellwood City continues to be a fine game-thanks to **Jane Crowley**, **Helen Greenburg** and **George Cross**. On June 6, there was a tie for first between **Lynn Rafferty** and **Alex Bealles** and the pair of **Helen Greenburg** and **Art Aronson** with 70.83% games.

The Butler game is still meeting at **Jean Brackett's** home. On June 30, **David Ruppert** and **Alex Bealles** came in first with a 65.48% game. Jean has a lovely home and is so kind to open it while the previous venue is under repair.

I hope that the Pittsburgh Regional is well attended and I hope to see all of you at the new venue in Monroeville. Happy bridge playing and happy summer!!

## **WHISTFULLY YOURS by Bev Carter**

WOW.....our Unit is truly blessed to have 2 very fine players who have just attained the levels of Diamond and Grand Life Masters. The new Diamond Life Master is **Paul Facinelli** and our new Grand Life Master is **Kathy Sulgrove**. Both these players represent the nicest our Unit has to offer. They are kind and caring both at the bridge table and beyond; always willing to help others by answering questions, volunteering to serve on various committees and just all around great people. Be sure to congratulate them on their newest achievement.

We say goodbye and thank you so much for serving to our outgoing board members **Barb Bacon, Chuck Bisesi, Mike Creager** and **Kathy Sulgrove**. They contributed much time and effort to making our Unit proud. Congratulations to our incoming Board members: **Bev Carter, Rhona Jacobson, Maureen Merker** and **Cathy Wolford**. A combined board meeting was held on April 25th where **Bill Hogsett** was elected President, Barb **Greenspan** Vice President, **Bev Carter** Secretary and **Harvey Bernstein** Treasurer.

If you missed our Annual Membership Meeting this past May, you missed a really good time. 15 tables of players came to the dinner and to celebrate our various award winners for 2015. Awards for winners of Vichill League were given out as well as those for Ace of Clubs, Mini-McKenney, Scholarships and the prestigious Member of the Year Award.

Bracket 1 of the Vichill League was won by the team of **Don & Kathy Sulgrove, Roger Tiktin, Jeff Alexander, Dan Roseberry & Paul Facinelli**. Bracket 2 was won by **Bob Bartko, Eileen Gibbs and Mike & Jayne Stahr**. Bracket 3 was captured by the **Bev McMullen** team with **Laurie Ross, Barb Cunliffe, Kent Fuerst and Janet Auwerter**. Bracket 4 was captained by **David Hunter** along with **Greg Bruhn, Ted Silverberg, Natalie Silverberg, Peggy Gallagher, and Marilyn Garfunkel**. Congratulations to all these winners.

The Bob Hardies Race (most masterpoints overall) was won by **Brian Ellis**, the Larry Rock race (the female capturing the most masterpoints) by **Kathy Sulgrove** and the Marvin Melamed Race (newer player accumulating the most masterpoints) by **Steve Garfunkel**.

The Ace of Clubs and Mini-McKenney winners can be found on our website: [whistclub.org](http://whistclub.org).

Our Unit Member of the Year Award was awarded to **Bob Bartko**. Bob is one of those people we never notice and take for granted. He can be found working quietly behind the scenes, setting up and taking down tables, chairs, etc., taping trashbags to tables, emptying and replacing them (things we never think about), preparing a whole bunch of boards for our Unit events (at least 2 sets for every section every day), and filling in as caddy or partner when needed. He was our Caddy Master for years, meaning he was responsible for recruiting caddies for our sectionals and regionals, and supervising them throughout the tournaments, serving on our board, etc. etc. etc. He truly deserves our recognition.

OK.....Humor Time:

According to the local bridge news, there are only five real authorities on bridge in our country. Odd how often one gets one of them as a partner.....

Bridge is a game where a bunch of people sit down to be frustrated.

I shoulda passed the hand out, but with entry fees the way they are today.....

For some strange reason, minus 1100 never seems to get you many matchpoints.

Definition of an absolute zero—a result that can't possibly be repeated across the rest of the field.

There are only two acceptable excuses for not leading your partner's bid suit—having no cards in the suit or sudden death.

The first step toward winning at bridge is to become not only suspicious and watchful of opponents, but also to realize that for the most part, you are playing with a group of people who have the instincts of ax murderers.

## **GREETINGS & NEWS FROM PITTSBURGH by Ron Franck**

We are extremely proud of our Ann McGilvery Award recipient **Barbara Bergman**. Barbara has worked endlessly to strengthen Unit 142 and is a fantastic person at and away from the bridge table.

Congratulations to:

**Joe Bernot** (Bronze Life Master) and **Karen Shipkovitz** (Life Master)

MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR THE LABOR DAY REGIONAL IN MONROEVILLE (AUG 30 TO SEPT 5)!

New Site: Monroeville Convention Center Doubletree Hotel

209 Mall Plaza Blvd Monroeville Pa 15126

Contact Person: **Mary Carns** Hospitality: **Ken and Barb Bergman**

Partnership Chair: **Ron Franck** 1-724-888 Pard (7273) or  
[16pard@D5bridge.com](mailto:16pard@D5bridge.com)

Finally congrats to the Cleveland Cavaliers and the Pittsburgh Penguins for their Championship Seasons!

See You at the Regional!

## **AKRON ALERT by Jim Sullivan**

**Fall 2016 Team League** - You have a chance to participate in the next **Team** event. You can sign your Team up for the four-night Fall event which will be held **October 7, October 14, October 28, and November 18**. Anyone wanting to get on a Team or needing someone to fill out a team should contact **Subhash Agarwal** at [Agarwalsc@hotmail.com](mailto:Agarwalsc@hotmail.com) or phone 330-867-3195. This Team League event will use the “**Eight is Enough**” format. Teams must be made up so the team total is no more than eight points; where A players (2000 or more master points) are 3 points, B players (750 to 2000 master points) are 2 points, and C players (0 to 750 master points) are 1 point. Teams will be placed in brackets based on the ACBL masterpoints of the four highest team members. All matches will be handicapped based on the player used for each match. The handicap for each match will be assigned based upon the ACBL published team handicap table.

**Autumn Sectional September 16-18** - The location is the **Quirk Center** at 1201 Grant Avenue, Cuyahoga Falls, 44223. To get directions use one of the Internet directions finder, e.g. MapQuest. There will be a Stratified 499ers Pairs game and Stratified Open Pairs events at both sessions on Friday and Saturday. Times for the sessions will be **1 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. on Friday** and **11:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. on Saturday**. This should still allow players time for their Saturday night social events. The **Sunday event will be a Stratified Swiss Team Game** starting at **11:00 a.m.** with lunch included in the price. The calculations for all of the events will be the average of the players.

**Friday Unit Games** - The Unit Games at the Quirk Center will be at **12:30 p.m.**, There will be hand records and automatic scoring for all of the games. Come on out and enjoy the fun, competition, and hospitality. If you need a partner call **Jim Sullivan** at 330-659-4707. The schedule is:

**August 5 – No Game, Parma Sectional**

**August 12 - Unit Championship Game**

**August 19 – NAP (North American Pairs) Qualifier**

**August 26 – Unit Championship Game**

**September 2 – No Game – Holiday Weekend**

**September 9 – Unit Championship Game**

**September 16 – Akron Sectional @ Quirk Center**

**September 23 – Unit Championship Game**

**September 30– Unit Championship Game**

**October 9 – Team League Game (@ 7:00 p. m.)**

## **BRIDGE IN BUFFALO by Howard Foster**

Western New York kicked off what turned out to be a real spring (not like the ersatz ones that start in June) with a successful Spring Sectional in April. Double-digit masterpoint winners included **Jay Costello, Saleh Fatouh, Buddy Seidenberg, And John And Martha Welte**. The bridge season continued with a Unit Championship Week in May at all local clubs and a 17-table Strawberry Social game in June, hosted by the Lockport Bridge Club. Summer events include a “Future Stars Sectional” for non-life masters, the Annual All-American Picnic (featuring the famous corn from Zittel Farms and the barbecued chicken to die for), and an “Eight Is Enough” Swiss teams game. The Fall season will kick off with the Fall Sectional (actually held at the end of summer, but who’s counting) and the “Buffalo Spooktacular” Regional in October.

The Bridge Center of Buffalo sponsored a very well-attended game to celebrate the memory of **Bob Olin**. Bob was a fixture at local clubs over many decades, often pairing with new and emerging players.

The Unit is launching two exciting programs aimed at recruiting new bridge players and encouraging others to up their game. School Youth Bridge started this summer with a free instructional program for middle-schoolers, taught by **Christy Kellogg**. In the Fall, the Unit will sponsor after-school programs at two middle schools, taught by **Carol Bedell, Elaine Kurasiewicz, and Donna Steffan**. All programs will include weekly lessons and playing experience. The initiative was conceived and launched by the redoubtable Carol Bedell, who will be helped by the above-named instructors as well as a number of “bridge buddies,” established players

who will work with students at their tables as the lessons are being delivered.

The second initiative, conceived and skillfully organized by **Dian Petrov**, is a Bridge Mentoring Program. The idea is to encourage 299ers to develop their bridge skills by competing at higher levels. To that end, the Unit will cover game fees for veteran players (2,000+ MPs) who agree to pair with a 299er for five open games anywhere in the area during the last six months of 2016. The response has been gratifying, with about 25 pairs signed up.

The Unit was pleased to see \$6,000 grants to two local charities from “ACBL Charity Money” allocated to District 5. One went to The Little Portion Friary, a temporary “emergency” homeless shelter in Buffalo. The organization’s volunteers provide counseling to the short-term residents and follow up after they leave. The other grant went to the Dale Association Senior Center in Lockport, which runs various support programs for the elderly.

**Judie Bailey**, who edits the Unit’s newsletter, was especially busy in the Spring updating the Unit 116 Directory, which came off the presses just in time for the Unit picnic. This was a major undertaking that demanded all of Judie’s considerable organizational skills and attention to detail.

A number of players attained new masterpoint rankings since the last newsletter. They are:

Junior Masters:	<b>John Bava, Rose Ann Grimaldi, Martje More, Edward Morgan, Joan Nigrelli, Biao Xie, Ethan Xie</b>
Club Masters:	<b>Mary Berlow, Vince Taeger, Alan Tanner</b>
Sectional Masters:	<b>Larry Abate, Amita Arora, John Lyth, Barbara Scott</b>
Regional Masters:	<b>Wufeng Luo, Violet Makhija, Kathleen Stamm</b>
NABC Master:	<b>Sharon Wilcox</b>
Advanced NABC Master:	<b>Ten-Pao Lee</b>



Life Masters:	<b>Beena Deshmukh, Ron Henrikson</b>
Bronze Life Masters:	<b>Jim Jones, Tom Koralewski</b>
Silver Life Masters:	<b>Davis Heussler, Nancy Kessler</b>
Diamond Life Master:	<b>Saleh Fatouh</b>

The Unit has welcomed seven new members since the last newsletter. They are: **Dennis Clary, Nonie Coovert, Janet Desman, Nancy Kirkpatrick, Carol Lauber, Jewel Marshall, and Denise Slattery.**

The Unit was saddened by the passing of five members: **Gina Campbell, Gayle Cryan, Joe Peters, Marge Schomers, and Biao Xie.** Joe Peters was a well-known drummer in Buffalo. Marge Schomers was the long-time manager of the Lockport Duplicate Bridge Club and was instrumental in teaching bridge to many area players. Biao Xie was a newcomer who had recently begun playing in club games with his young son, Ethan, both of whom recently became junior masters. Ethan continues to hone his skills with a variety of local players.



# RECENT TOURNAMENT RESULTS

2016

[Pittsburgh Summer Sectional](#), July 15-17, Pittsburgh, PA

[Buffalo NLM Sectional](#), July 7-8, Amherst, NY

[Canton Sectional](#), June 24-26, Canton, OH

[Butler Sectional](#), June 11-12, Butler, PA

[Cleveland All-American Regional](#), May 24-30,  
Independence, OH



The Pittsburgh RONI Regional is moving to the Monroeville Convention Center in August 2016.