



THE BRIDGE TEACHER

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Summer Opportunities

This summer, ACBL and ABTA Teachers will have many opportunities to strengthen their skills.

The ABTA's annual convention will take place July 30-August 1, in Atlanta GA, just before the start of the Summer North American Bridge Championships. This program will feature celebrity guest speakers, a live Learn Bridge in a Day?™ event, a sneak peek at the improved Learn to Play Bridge program and more. This is also a great opportunity to network with other world class teachers. To register, visit <http://www.abtahome.com/index.php?id=93>.

ACBL is holding numerous Teacher Accreditation Programs this summer. If you've put off getting your accreditation, or you have your accreditation but want to brush up on your skills, now is a great time to look up the schedule and attend one of the upcoming programs. You'll be amazed at what you will learn! For the complete schedule, visit www.acbl.org/tap.

We hope to see you there.

Sincerely,
Bryan Delfs
Bryan Delfs
Education Program Manager



The NABC Triples the Fun for Juniors

In addition to the Youth NABC, this summer, Juniors from China, Italy, Venezuela, Turkey, Australia, Argentina and the U.S. will participate in the World Youth Open Bridge Championships (WYOBC).

WYOBC events include an Open Pairs Championship, a Swiss/KO Teams Championship and a Board-A-Match Teams Championship.

Other activities planned for WYOBC participants include: dinner at the Hard Rock Café, a trip to the Georgia Aquarium, a tour of the World of Coke and a Braves baseball game!

The WYOBC takes place August 3–11 and is made possible by the following: the WBF, ACBL, USBF, District 7 (Georgia, East Tennessee, North Carolina and South Carolina), Mid-Atlantic Bridge Conference, District 9 (Florida), Turner Broadcasting Systems and The Common Game.

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Free TAP/Cruise Seminars on Regionals at Sea



ACBL is offering Free Teacher Accreditation Program (TAP)/Cruise Seminars on our Regionals at Sea and we wanted you to hear about it first! We hope that you will take advantage of this offer to increase your skills and opportunities.

In addition to the TAP, highlights of the seminar include:

- How to market yourself to cruise agents
- Hands-on training aboard a cruise liner
- A meet and greet with a cruise director

The TAP/Cruise Seminar schedule allows participants to enjoy the ports of call, play in every sessions of the regional, attend the celebrity host's daily lecture and participate in parties and awards ceremonies.

Regionals at Sea with TAP/Cruise Seminar:

Canadian Maritime – hosted by George Jacobs

Roundtrip from New York City
September 21-28, 2013

www.acbl.org/regionalatsea/Canada

Caribbean – hosted by Mike Lawrence

Roundtrip from Miami, FL Nov.30–Dec.7, 2013

www.acbl.org/regionalatsea/Caribbean

To attend the TAP/Cruise Seminar, call Cruise Planners at 866-500-9900 or visit www.coolcruiseplanners.com

With questions about the TAP/Cruise Seminar, call the Education Department at 662-253-3161 or email education@acbl.org

With questions about the Regional at Sea, call the Tournament Department at 662-253-3123 or email tournaments@acbl.org



Clip Art Now Available

Good news! After receiving requests from Clubs, Teachers and Members, the ACBL is now providing free clip art which can be used on flyers, brochures and other marketing documents.

The clip art is available in various formats on the ACBL website at www.acbl.org/clipart.

This is part of a project to build an entire ACBL clip art library. You will find cards, shapes, backgrounds and more. Some examples are shown here.

Cruising Along

By Lynn Berg

Cruising is a delightful vacation.

The ships and their destinations are a treat. Bridge teachers are fortunate to have the chance to take cruises at bargain rates in exchange for teaching and directing skills. If you're hoping to get the chance to cruise, make sure you have the appropriate skills and expectations. Here are a few things to be aware of:

- You will need to be an experienced teacher and a director with minimum qualifications.
- Many cruise lines want only ACBL-trained teachers and/or Master Teachers with ABTA.
- Some lines only want Life Masters.
- Brokers may want you to use their prepared lesson materials.
- You may have to take the masters and copies for any handouts being used.
- You may have to provide your own bridge supplies.
- If you are running duplicate games on the ship, you may have to provide your own computer and printer.
- Any companion you bring may be expected to assist you, for instance, to play with someone who comes in without a partner.

These will vary from one cruise line to another, but the broker who places you aboard will know all the details.

Typically, you'll be asked on sea days to teach one or two class sessions in the morning and then run a duplicate game in the afternoon. On port days, you'll need to make sure the social players have access to cards and scoring materials. If the weather is bad, the ship may ask you to teach or run an extra game. If you are lucky, there will be a place to post winners. I like to add the winner pictures which I snap and then print on the small printer which travels with my laptop.



Don't be surprised if your classes include beginners, enthusiastic yet suspicious social bridge players, and advanced players looking to amuse themselves for an hour. I've had British players who still play ACOL with its four card suit openings and 11-14 NT openers right there with the latest 2/1 advocates. I've had members of the French National Team. There may also be players who learned "Goren" in 1955 and never saw a reason to change. When I have this type of diversity, I stick to defense topics like opening leads, third hand play, signals, preempts and take-out doubles and I avoid conventions.

Lessons and games are shorter than on land. Yours is just one of the many activities going on all over the ship and players have no compunctions about leaving early to go to a salon appointment or even to Bingo. Be prepared to be flexible.

In the usual 40 minute class, I'll introduce the topic and have them look at cards on the table to illustrate the point. Unless I expected 20 tables, I have the first example already made-up on the tables. For instance, to talk about opening leads, I might put a hand like ♠K J 8 6 2 ♥A 3 ♦10 9 8 ♣7 3 2 on each table, with the suited stacks of unused cards face-down. Then I might call for the *S*Q to be added and the deuce to be removed to show the difference between Top of a Sequence and Fourth Best leads at NT. Where possible, cards on the table are much more effective than any blackboard or easel.

Occasionally challenges arise. Sailing out of Ft. Lauderdale, I arrived early to check for supplies and there were no boards! It seems the previous Director had absent-mindedly taken them home with him. I called the nice folks at the Ft. Lauderdale Bridge Club, got in a taxi and borrowed a box of boards for our two week cruise. Another time, I found cards but no boards — and no nearby club from which to borrow. The Purser's Office gave me small white and larger brown envelopes. We labeled the white ones with the board number and direction (1W, 1E, etc.) and collected the four for each hand in a larger brown envelope. It was a bit cumbersome, but the passengers didn't mind. They realized that there had been a problem and that the difficulty had been surmounted.

It is important to note that whether or not you are required to wear a name tag with the ship's logo

while you are on the ship or even ashore, you are a representative of the ship. Although you may be in a passenger cabin and eating in the passenger dining rooms, you must be careful to represent the best interests of the line. There's an old saying, "Whose bread I eat, his song I sing." You are there to help the paying guests have a good time.

Your evaluation by ship personnel, the Cruise Director, and the passengers will determine whether or not you are offered another chance at this kind of great working vacation. Even more than on land, we are providing a service—and the players are the consumers, whether they're spending their money or their time with us.

ACBL School Bridge Lesson Series

School Bridge Program Registration

The ACBL School Bridge Lesson Series program is designed to help you bring the joy of bridge to youth. More than 4000 youngsters participate each year in schools throughout North America. The fully funded program is sponsored by the ACBL and includes teacher stipends and free textbooks.

The next school year is just around the corner and we want to help make your class registrations go smoothly. Following the guidelines below will ensure that you receive the class materials on time.

Registration and requests for supplies should be done one month in advance of the class.

Each class should be registered separately. This can be done by sending an email to education@acbl.org with New School Bridge Order in the subject line and the following in the body of the email:

- 1. Your Full Name**
- 2. ACBL Player Number**
- 3. Shipping Address**
- 4. Name of School/Center**
- 5. Address of School/Center**
- 6. Anticipated Number of Students**

The registration process and forms can be found online at:

www.acbl.org/schoolbridge

The Teacher Guide, a walkthrough of the class, can be found here:

www.acbl.org/teacherguide

Please don't hesitate to call us at 662-253-3115 or email us at education@acbl.org if you have any questions about the program.



Seminars and Meetings at the Atlanta Summer NABC

There is more to the game at the NABCs when members have an opportunity to take advantage of numerous educational programs. Here is a listing of the seminars being offered in Atlanta at the Hyatt Regency. For more information, contact education@acbl.org.

Club Directors Course

Tuesday–Thursday, July 30–August 1

This is a comprehensive course that prepares candidates for directing club and bridge cruise games. Study materials may be purchased through Baron Barclay Bridge Supply (www.baronbarclay.com). Pre-register by July 22 at www.acbl.org/directorcouse or contact Joyce Stone at directorcourses@acbl.org or 662–253–3138.

Fee: \$50

Times: 1–10 p.m. Tuesday with dinner break;
9 a.m.–10 p.m. Wednesday with lunch and dinner breaks; 9 a.m. – noon Thursday followed by lunch break and testing.

The TAP: Teacher Accreditation Program

Wednesday–Thursday, July 31–August 1

This is an introduction to the ACBL Bridge Series material and other popular teaching products. Learn modern teaching techniques from one of the ACBL's premier teachers in this 10-hour interactive learning course which includes three hours of hands-on experience. Learn the business side of teaching bridge and be introduced to 64 weeks of class material and more! There are even techniques to move your students into duplicate faster. Leave with the tools you need to develop a successful teaching career.

Use the link at www.acbl.org/TAP to pre-register or contact the Education Department at 662–253–3115 or education@acbl.org for more information.

Fee: \$125 (previously ACBL-accredited teachers and players 25 and younger are free).

Times: July 31, 1–8 p.m.; August 1, 8–10 a.m.

Celebrity Speakers

Daily presentations (except the final Sunday)

FREE

Presented by some of the best-known players and teachers at 9:15 a.m. and 6:45 p.m.

Board of Governors and ACBL General Membership Meeting

Sunday, August 4, 8:15 a.m.

All members of the ACBL Board of Governors are invited to attend the Summer NABC meeting. This meeting is also open to the general membership of the ACBL. Discussion will include recent actions of the Board of Directors, reports from the CEO and treasurer and new proposals from the Board of Governors.

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Seminars and Meetings *(Continued from page 5)*

Learn Bridge in a DAY?

Two separate classes: Tuesday, July 30, or Sunday, August 4

A seminar designed to move new bridge players quickly along the initial learning curve. Typical participants include true beginners, those returning to bridge after long absences, and those merely wanting to “test the waters” before committing to formal classes. The concentrated course includes both class instruction and coached play. No pre-registration required. Contact Patty Tucker at patty@whirlwindbridge.com or 404-735-4779 for more information.

Fee: \$20. Covers valet parking, textbooks and door prizes.

Times: July 30, 5:30–9 p.m. or August 4, 1–6 p.m.

Reception for Club Officials and Teachers

Friday, August 2

FREE

This is the ACBL’s “thank you” reception for the club officials and teachers who recruit and retain our members. All club managers, teachers and club directors are encouraged to attend.

Time: 6:30–8 p.m.

Club Director Refresher Course

Tuesday and Wednesday, August 6–7

This is a continuing education course for bridge directors to increase their skills. Participants must attend both sessions.

Fee: \$15 covers both sessions. Sign up at the door.

Time: 9 a.m.–noon, both days.

Bridge Lessons

FREE

Saturday, August 3, 10 a.m.–noon: Audrey Grant

Monday, August 5, 10 a.m.–noon: Audrey Grant

CELEBRITY SPEAKERS

Friday, August 2

9:15 am Phillip Alder
6:45 pm Frank Stewart

Playing High Cards
Developing
Thought Processes

Saturday, August 3

9:15 am Julian Laderman
6:45 pm Robert Todd

Inspired Declarer Play
Preempts

Sunday, August 4

9:15 am Dick Yarrington
6:45 pm Tom Carmichael

Trump Promotions
and Uppercuts
New Minor Forcing
and Friends

Monday, August 5

9:15 am Lisa Berkowitz
6:45 pm Ken Monzingo

Playing to Trick One
Hand Patterns

Tuesday, August 6

9:15 am Harriette Buckman Rights and Responsibilities
6:45 pm Coley McGinnis
& Linda Hanson Defensive Carding

Wednesday, August 7

9:15 am Michael Huston Finessing
6:45 pm Patty Tucker Double, Double Toil & Trouble

Thursday, August 8

9:15 am Kevin Wilson Fitting Honors
6:45 pm Billy Miller Dear Billy Live

Friday, August 9

9:15 am Mike Flader Ruling the Game
6:45 pm Sam Marks The Use and Abuse of Blackwood

Saturday, August 10

9:15 am GS Jade Barrett Losing and Winning Trick Count
6:45 pm Marty Nathan Introduction to Signals