

Did you get plenty of Halloween TRICKS? Did you get extra master point TREATS? We hope you enjoyed our virtual bridge Club Appreciation Week last week. **Congratulations** to all the winners!

- Monday, 10/26, Open
 - Anne Cline – Donald Cline
- Tuesday, 10/27, Open
 - N/S: John Anderson – Judy Kupperman
 - E/W: Anne Conn – Pat Shaw
- Wednesday, 10/28, 1499er
 - N/S: Peggy Nielsen – Mike Pemberton
 - E/W: Teryl Burke – Lorraine Salvatore
- Thursday, 10/29, Open
 - Rosemary Reitz – Charles Clark (77.73%)
- Friday, 10/30, 1499er
 - Lorraine Salvatore – Gary Feldman
- Saturday, 10/31
 - 499er: Sally Rea - Tim Rea
 - Open: Jack Rudy – Josh Rosenbluth (70.63%)

Reminder -- all of our 499er, 299er and 99er games will cost only \$5.

You can find a list of all of our games on our [club website](#).

BBO TIP OF THE WEEK: My favorite way to practice my declarer play solo on BBO is the ACBL Instant Tournament. For \$1.25, I get 12 boards to play with 3 robots. I can take my time. Right now, I'm practicing "counting" the hands to figure out opponent's distribution and high card points. I jot notes on a piece of paper as I play to get into a mental discipline. If I get a good score for the 12 boards, I'll win "uncolored" ACBL master points.

To get there, select "Solitaire" from the Home Page. Next select "Instant Tournaments." It shows you 5 kinds. I like the ACBL MP (matchpoint scoring) for practicing for pairs games. The ACBL IMP (international master point scoring) is great to practice for team games, like Swiss Teams and Knockouts.

See you at the table 😊

P.S. Don't forget to vote. Only 2 days left.

Warm regards,

Rose Buckley
buckleyrose357@gmail.com
805-659-9223

11/02/20

Hi Unit 547 Virtual Bridge Players. I have been giving you tips on various ways you and your partner can practice as well as compete for masterpoints on BBO. I need to clarify a few things, however. When practicing with each other, in formats that don't award masterpoints, you can be on the phone and discuss partnership understandings, etc., to your heart's desire.

However, ALL "sanctioned" ACBL tournaments (meaning they award master points) do not allow unauthorized information exchanges between the partners **during** the bidding and/or play of the hand. No talking on the phone, texting, side-by-side conversations or table chat. This is considered cheating and the consequences, when discovered, are severe. You can explain your bids to your opponents via the Alert process.

Reminder -- all of our 499er, 299er and 99er games still cost only \$5.

You can find a list of all of our games on our [club website](#).

BBO TIP OF THE WEEK: You might have a "remote" partner that doesn't live close by, who can't make our Virtual Club Games or can't get to the club (when the club resumes games again). If you are fast players, you can practice tournament play and compete for ACBL "uncolored" masterpoints in ACBL Speedball Tournaments on BBO. They are held every hour, on the hour, and play 12 boards at 4.5 minutes a board. The tournament lasts about 50 minutes. Cost is \$1.25. Pairs that like our "Fast Pairs" tournaments at our club would enjoy these games.

To get there, select "ACBL World" in the Features Areas on the Home Page. Look on the list for a Speedball tournament and sign up as you would normally by clicking on the tournament, then registering with your partner.

What are "uncolored" points? To achieve some ranks in ACBL, like Life Master, you need a specific number of ACBL points. Some of these points must be a certain "color." You will need some *black* points (usually earned at club and virtual club games). You will also need some *silver* points (earned in Sectional tournaments), some *red* points and *gold* points (earned at Regional and National tournaments). The sum of these colored points represent about ½ of the total points you need for that rank. The remaining points you need can be any color or uncolored. Here you can find out more about the various [rank requirements](#). If you are an ACBL member you can find what you need for your next rank in the MyACBL web page.

See you at the table 😊

Warm regards,

Rose Buckley
buckleyrose357@gmail.com
805-659-9223

11/09/20

Mark your calendars! Another Stardust week of Virtual Club Games will start a week from Monday on Nov. 22 lasting for the whole Thanksgiving week. Double masterpoints (1/4 of them gold) will be in your Thanksgiving week bridge cornucopia. The Unit will absorb the extra ACBL fees for these games so your cost to play will be the same.

Reminder to our I/N players -- all of our 499er, 299er and 99er games still cost only \$5. We will continue these games per current schedule for the rest of November. Depending on attendance (or lack thereof) we will change the schedule in December to only holding a Tuesday and Saturday 499er game. BUT ... if we have enough attendance this month on the other days for an I/N game (**5 pairs**), we'll be happy to continue on that day of the week also.

You can find a list of all of our games on our [club website](#).

BBO TIP OF THE WEEK: We are very grateful to our regular local players, and their guests, for supporting our virtual club games, thus helping our club. But we understand that our game times may not be convenient for a few players. You can look for virtual games offered by other clubs, such as those offered by Santa Barbara (titled California Coast and Friends). To do that, select Virtual Games from the home menu. BUT, *instead of* selecting "ACBL - North America" at the top of the list, go all the way down the list to the bottom and *select* "All clubs". You will see a list of all virtual games scheduled within the next two hours.

The title for some of these games is often vague. To get more info, click on the game. You will see the normal invite but, at the top, is a menu item called "Details." Click on that. On the page that displays, go down to the Description category and look for what is called a "hack" (words preceded and followed by a "+" sign. Specifically look for the +MPLIMIT=nnnn+ hack. The nnnn will tell you what the upper masterpoint limit is for the game, for example 99, 499, etc. No player with more than that many masterpoints can play in that game. If there is no MPLIMIT hack in the game description, then the game allows players with ANY number of points to play, including non-ACBL members. This is called an "open" game.

The reason that virtual club games were formed was to allow local players to continue to play with folks that they know. Therefore, if you want to play in another club's game (for example, your friend belongs to another club), you must get on that club's FRIENDS list. You'll need to contact the director of that game. Here's how.

Get to the game early with your partner. I would suggest at least 20 minutes before the game starts. On the game title line in that list of games I spoke of earlier, on the left side, is a little colored box with an "id" in it. Most of the id's start with vacb.... That is the BBO name of the host director. Click on that colored box. A "profile" pop-up screen appears. Using the message line, ask the director if you (or your partner – give the BBO name) can play in that game. Don't forget to hit the blue "CHAT" button to send the message. If the director approves,

he/she will add you to that game's guest list and send you back a confirmation message. You can also do this if you wish to play in one of our games with a partner from another club.

Don't be upset if you aren't allowed to play. Because the primary goal of virtual games is for local players, ACBL has limited the attendance of "guests" to 15% or fewer (aggregated weekly) at a particular club's games.

See you at the table 😊

Warm regards,

Rose Buckley
buckleyrose357@gmail.com
805-659-9223

11/16/20

I wish you a very happy Thanksgiving. For me, it marks the beginning of a magical time every year. Thanksgiving week, when I count my blessings such as a warm bed, a roof over my head and playing bridge with friends. December -- love and giving. January -- hope.

And speaking of giving thanks, this week is Stardust Week. All of our Virtual Club Games will award double masterpoints (1/4 of them gold). And don't forget to set aside Tuesday, Dec 15, 11:45 am to 12 noon for a "pop in" Holiday hello on Zoom.

You can find a list of all of our games and a flyer for our Holiday Zoom party on our [club website](#).

BBO TIP OF THE WEEK: I've had so much fun giving you tips about BBO. But I've run out of all the ones I know. As I try to do when I'm bidding, I won't repeat myself. You can find all of my weekly blasts on our club website [Bridge Buzz | VUBC](#). The weekly blasts are at the bottom of that page and are in order by month. Here's a list for your use:

June: All of the emoticons, how to chat with a friend, how to add friends to your people list and view them, how to clear the white "chat" box, how to display your on-going results while you are playing, what to do if you can't get registered for a game.

July: How to display suit symbols, features you can use when you display hand results using the History tab, what the "compatibility" stars mean in your profile, table chat abbreviations, how

to “friend” someone in your People list, filling out your BBO profile and abbreviations you can use to describe your conventions.

August: How to call the director during play, how the director handles a player that lost their connection, how to alert your bids, warning about table “chat” during bidding and play, explanation of how robot pairs are assigned and whether they win masterpoints, description of the system the robots use.

September: How to set up a convention card in BBO, ACBL’s free Guest Membership program, how to ask opponents to explain their bid and how to answer, how to make the font size bigger in the white chat box.

October: New VUBC mentoring program, how to save a hand that you played so you can play it later, CAL 99er Nite Club games, setting up a practice “teaching” table, how to set up a casual practice “play” table, using Bridge Master to improve your game.

November: Practicing for masterpoints with ACBL Instant Tournaments and ACBL Speedball tournaments, description of ACBL “colored” points and rank requirements, how to find and register for other clubs’ virtual games.

See you at the table 😊

Warm regards,

Rose Buckley
buckleyrose357@gmail.com
805-659-9223

11/23/20

**Hope you had a great Thanksgiving and enjoyed our Stardust games last week.
Congratulations to all of our Stardust winners!**

- Monday, 11/23, Open
 - Gary Feldman – Jody Shapiro
- Tuesday, 11/24, Open
 - N/S: Larry Pelletier – Barry Brenner
 - E/W: Don Cline – Josh Rosenbluth
- Wednesday, 12/25, 1499er
 - N/S: Sally Rea -- Tim Rea
 - E/W: John Anderson – Marjorie Butler
- Friday, 11/27, 1499er
 - Fahim Shah – Keith Selbrede
 - Anne Conn – Marilyn Waples

- Saturday, 11/28
 - 499er: David Law – Wen Zhou
 - Open: Jack Rudy – Josh Rosenbluth

ANNOUNCING OUR HOLIDAY ZOOM PARTY! Tuesday, Dec 15, 11:45 am to 12 noon. Drop in on zoom and say hello to your bridge friends. Wear your favorite holiday sweatshirt, sweater, hat or even socks and say hello upside down. Our own “theme party” Susan Lang along with BJ Fitzgerald and ... moi ... will be your hosts. You’ll get your zoom invite in the Sunday email before the party.

GAME SCHEDULE changes starting this week:

- Monday - Open 11:55
- Tuesday - 499er 12:15
- Tuesday - Open 12:30
- Wednesday - 1499er 12:30
- Thursday - Open 12:30
- Friday - 1499er 12:30
- Saturday - 499er 12:15
- Saturday - Open 12:30

You can find a list of all of our games, a list of directors scheduled and our Holiday Zoom party flyer on our [club website](#).

And speaking of our club website, here’s a tip or two. To find our web page simply Google “ventura bridge club”. You see it heading the list. Click on it and you’ll get to our home page. Once on the site, save the page in your “favorites bar” for easy reference. This is usually the star on the top banner of your web browser.

Once on our web page, click various menu items and see what’s there. There’s lot of handy and fun info. **I especially like the “About Us” Photo Gallery.** When I miss seeing your faces, I peek at all the wonderful photos of you all.

See you at the table 😊

Warm regards,

Rose Buckley
buckleyrose357@gmail.com
805-659-9223

11/30/20

