



# Jacksonville School of Bridge

Northeast Florida's premiere bridge club experience



**February 2022 – March 2022**

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**Website:** [www.bridgewebs.com/jacksonvilleschool](http://www.bridgewebs.com/jacksonvilleschool)

Welcome to new Director **Mike Siebenhaar**, who will fill in where needed.

Our thoughts and prayers are with **Vicki Coward**, whose husband passed away.

Thanks to **Dawn Genest**, who donated new original artwork and numbered prints that are hanging in the club. She also donated new potholders for the kitchen and several Christmas tree decorations.

Winning Charities: **City Rescue Mission, Mayo Clinic Department of Development, and Arlington Community Services.**

**Mentor Program:** Charlie Schubiger has organized the 2022 mentor program. Mentor-mentee pairs are strongly encouraged to play on Wednesday or Thursday with a reduced table fee of \$12 for the pair on Wednesday. Mentors will sit N and E; mentees will sit S and W. A post-mortem Q&A will be conducted by Craig Hemphill (Platinum Life Master) after every Wednesday game.

## **Upcoming Dates:**

- STAC week Feb 14-20: silver points every day
- Back to Normal (pizza and extra points, open and 499): Friday February 25<sup>th</sup>
- JSOB Summer Sectional: July 15-17
- JSOB Non-Life Master Tournament: Oct 27-28

**Tacos and Teams:** The popular Tacos and Teams games will revive on **Tuesday, March 15, 2022**. The format will be "9 is Nifty" (a team can have no more than 9 points, with A players being worth 3 points, B players worth 2, and C players worth 1). Anne Landry will once again provide the tacos and the guacamole! Game time is 6:30pm with food service at 6:00pm. The game will be held monthly on the third Tuesday.

**State of JSOB from President Jan Madsen:** We have 22 new members and 222 paid members. We lost about 90 paid members although I expect some of them to rejoin later this year. Of the 222, there is a core group of about 100 playing regularly. Our table count so far in 2022 is averaging 38 tables per week, well short of the 60 needed to break even.

*The 2021 profit and loss statement* has been posted in the club but here is a recap. The good news is that the club showed a profit of \$13,000 for 2021. However, the table fees from regular games made up only about 56% of our income. We averaged 36 tables per week. The remainder came from \$8600 in

donations, \$4200 in membership fees, and miscellaneous income, e.g. drinks and snacks \$600. The Holiday Party that **Julie Mackey** and **Nancy Meade** organized added another \$600 to our income.

*Plan for 2022:* The Board and instructors targeted two areas to be addressed in 2022. The first is to teach better bidding, the biggest key to improving the games of most of our members. We have 23 new people enrolled in Bridge Basic I, a six-week course which began on Wednesday. Our bidding lessons begin this week with "Bid to Better Bridge" on Tuesday, and "1 NT Bids and Continuations" on Saturday. On Friday, there will be a Lesson on "Major Suit hand evaluation with emphasis on Losing Trick Count." In addition, we have Chat Bridge on Saturday and Supervised Play on Wednesday. All in all we will have about 75-85 people involved among these activities just this week!

The second area of emphasis is retention. Board members Carol Shotwell and Jacqueline Bates have taken on this challenge. Their plans include engaging the current 0-299 members in volunteering to play with the newer players on the Limited side and the "1 Club" Club which is a contact and follow up group who work to keep their individual charges engaged. Support at every level is key.

For future success, we need member support in terms of improved attendance.

Have a happy and healthy 2022!

**Have you checked out our bridge library lately?** The bookshelf in the corner, between the back door and our storage room, is our library. If you are not already familiar with it, check it out. (No pun intended.)

*Organization:* To help you find what you are interested in, the books are organized by topics – bidding, defense, play of the hand, and comprehensive. If you are taking classes, you might ask your instructor for recommendations. I have a few personal favorites that I would like to mention: How You Can Play Like an Expert by Mel Colchamiro, Opening Leads by Mike Lawrence, The Backwash Squeeze & Other Improbable Feats by Edward McPherson. Don't be put off by the last title. This is not a book about how to bid or play better. Rather, it is an entertaining book for bridge players that is filled with history and humor. In 2005, the New York author, who has written for many periodicals, decided to infiltrate the world of bridge, a game about which he knew nothing. He signed up for classes at the Manhattan Bridge Club and the story grows from there.

*Book Donations:* In the last few years, we have had some great books donated to the library. Because of limited space, when we receive duplicates, I usually shelve the most up to date or the one in better condition, then place the duplicates on a shelf in the storage closet. If you and your partner want to read the same book at the same time, check with me and I will search for a duplicate for you. If you have books you'd like to donate, we welcome them.

*The Bottom Shelf:* The bottom shelf deserves mention. There you will find what I have called "vintage" books from the golden days of bridge. Many of them are out of date, especially regarding bidding methods, but there are still a few jewels there. It could be a lot of fun to browse through and discover some interesting things about bridge of the 40s and 50s and 60s.

*We need a second bookcase. Please let us know if you have one to donate.* –Lynn Brown

Thank you, **Judy Miller**, for editing the newsletter.