

Mark Chen

From: NVBA Board of Directors <announcements@nvba.org>
Sent: Monday, February 12, 2024 9:13 AM
To: mark_chen@cox.net
Subject: NVBA E-News - NVBA Winter Sectional is this Thursday 2/15 to Sunday 2/18!

Dear Mark:

The NVBA will hold its first sectional of the year, the [NVBA Winter Sectional](#), from February 15 - 18. This is an opportunity to see your friends and to play competitive bridge in a socially fun environment!



Thursday Evening: The kick-off session will be held Thursday evening February 15 at both Unit Game sites, continuing our tradition of competing in your favorite location for lots of silver points, since combined table counts are used to determine overall masterpoints for that night.

The tournament will continue at the nicely renovated main hall of the Arlington/Fairfax [Elks Lodge](#) Friday-Sunday:

Friday Afternoon & Evening: Three stratified pairs events Friday afternoon (Open (A/X), 0-2500 (B/C/D), and 499ers) and the Triple Nickel Swiss and a 0-750 pairs game on Friday night.

Saturday Morning & Afternoon: Saturday offers lots of extra silver points at both sessions. In the morning, we begin our annual two-session [barometer](#) final Open Pairs event plus a one-session [stratified pairs](#) game for B/C/D (0-3000) players. In the afternoon, there will be a Stratified Consolation Pairs for those who do not qualify for the [Barometer](#) Final plus all other players who want to play a one-session game. For \$1 more each session, all events that day will be regionally rated, with the extra income going to [District 6](#) to help support our players who win our District [NAP](#) and [GNT](#) competitions and represent us at the national level in these events.

Sunday Morning & Afternoon: The tournament concludes with Flight A [Swiss](#) and [Bracketed](#) B (0-3000) Teams on Sunday the 18th. plus the **New! You asked for it! Stratified 499er Pairs Sunday morning.**

0-750 players, we have special events just for YOU at the sectional! There will be a free Intermediate/Newcomer Lecture by NVBA Master Teacher [Ron Kral](#) on Friday at 1:30PM (What Does that Double Mean?) and another again on Saturday at 2:30PM (When to Bid One More?). Use your new knowledge to play in Saturday morning's one-session [Stratified](#) Pairs game for B/C/D players and Sunday's two-session [Bracketed](#) B Teams.

49er/199er/499er players, we welcome you to the Sectional as well. You can learn from Master Teacher Ron Kral Friday (1:30PM) and Saturday (2:30PM) and compete against your peers and more experienced players in **Thursday** Evening's B/C/D Pairs (Strat D's upper limit is 750); **Friday** afternoon's stratified 100/300/500 (499er Pairs), and Friday evening's 200/500/750 Pairs. Saturday's morning and afternoon 0-750 Pairs have the same strats as Friday evening, and **Sunday morning's 499er Pairs** has the same strats as Friday afternoon. You always have the opportunity to kibitz top local players who include many National and World Champion players -- just ask a Director who you should watch.

Please see the [tournament flyer](#) for the complete schedule and other important information. If you have other questions, please contact Margot Hennings at margot10bridge@cox.net or Amy Brisson at Bridgebrisson@yahoo.com.

Thursday Night NVBA Unit Game

Congratulations to Alan, Annie, and Jeffrey Schwartz and Andrew Rowberg, who swept all four matches, topping the GNT Qualifier at [last week's NVBA Unit Game](#). Mark Tonnesen-Hal Jones and Hal Hindman-Amy Brisson finished second, Ben Umansky-Brooks Chupp and Pam Yood-Mike Miale finished third and first in Flight B.

This Thursday's Game kicks off the NVBA Winter Sectional at [Beth El](#) (3830 Seminary Rd, about a mile east of I-395) at 7PM. Please arrive at least ten minutes before game time. If you need a partner or teammates for any Thursday game at Beth El, please email Jason Carter at the [NVBA Partnership Desk](#) or use the [RSVP Bridge](#) Reservation System to assist you in finding a partner. Jason works hard and does an excellent job; reach him before 4PM Tuesday afternoon for your best chance to obtain a partner among your peers. Plan ahead for future unit games by viewing the [2024 Unit Game Schedule](#).

NVBA, ACBL, and District Six News

- **Climbing the Ladder:** Nine NVBA members were announced as having advanced in rank effective January 2024 -- and their names and new ranks are reported on the NVBA website [here](#), thanks to NVBA Webmaster Ron Kral.
- Flight B and Flight C played the first round of District Six **Grand National Teams (GNT)** February 3 and 4, online. Congratulations to the teams that advanced to the second weekend! In Flight B, the top four were Bingham(123 VPs), Aldrich(121), Devaney(115), and Munro(98). In Flight C, the top two were (**correction**) Sawczuk(50) and Maggio(30). The complete results and upcoming schedule are out at the [District Six GNT Results](#) page.
- Another round of [ACBL Intro to Bridge starts on Feb. 13!](#) In case you haven't heard, this popular 10-week online course is made up of interactive classes covering the basics of bridge. Students start with "there are 52 cards in a deck" and move up to conventions for responding to notrump bids. The course – which has been in high demand since the pandemic – is only \$99. It's a great way to invite your friends and family into the world of bridge! Click [here](#) to register now.
- Fairfax County Park Authority is offering Bridge I, Bridge II, Bridge III, and Brush Up Bridge classes. Search for bridge in the [Parktakes Registration](#) or see p. 149 of the [Parktakes Catalog](#).
- [Joe Hertz](#) and [Ron Kral](#) have been carpooling from Reston for the Thursday night Unit Game (often with a pre-game meal at [Valentino's Pizza](#)). We're looking for one or two people who would be interested in joining us so as to qualify for HOV toll avoidance when driving in the 495 HOT lanes. Anyone who is interested should contact [Joe Hertz](#) via email.
- [The Virginian](#) is having their [weekly Sunday game](#) at 1PM. If interested in playing, email Marilyn Golias at Virginianbridge@aol.com.
- There are 15 in-person club games listed with times in green on the updated [Clubs](#) page of the NVBA website that are scheduled to be held. Anyone who is interested in playing an in-person game should contact the listed director in advance to confirm the game is on and to make a reservation.
- Here is the current schedule for [NVBA Online Games](#) on BBO.

Just for 0-20, 0-49, 0-499 Players

Supervised Play is coming to Beth El on Thursday evenings! . This is especially for players moving from online-only play or informal play or returning to in-person play after a long break. It's in-person play with a round timer, bidding boxes, BridgeMates, and alerts/announcements. There will also be teaching on bidding, play, and defense. "Graduates" of supervised play should find they can play comfortably in face-to-face games competing for masterpoints in clubs and tournaments. Use the RSVP Registration System, or contact Jim Gerding, Jason Carter, or E-mail Kevin O'Brien (OBrien.Bridge+Individual@gmail.com) for more information. All we need to get started is four players, are you one of them? Do you have a friend or relative, neighbor or co-worker who might be interested? This WILL cost you ... Beth El's \$2 Security Fee (pay by credit card at Beth El) and your Thursday evening, about 6:30 - 9:30PM. Need a ride? We may even be able to help with that, but no guarantee. ***Will NVBA have Supervised Play Feb 15? If we have the four players, YES!!***

Upcoming Sectional, Regional, and National Tournaments

- [NVBA Winter Sectional](#) - Thursday 2/15 to Sunday 2/18
- [Williamsburg Regional](#) - Monday 2/26 to Friday 3/1
- [Louisville Spring NABC](#) - Wednesday 3/13 to Sunday 3/24
- [Fredericksburg Sectional](#) - Friday 3/15 to Sunday 3/17
- [Gatlinburg Regional](#) - Monday 4/15 to Sunday 4/21
- [NVBA Spring Sectional](#) Thursday 5/2 to Sunday 5/5 (schedule coming soon, save the dates!)
- [Reston Regional](#) Monday 7/1 to Saturday 7/6
- The NVBA website includes all [2024 tournaments of interest](#).

Play well, have fun, and hope to see you at our winter sectional!

Your NVBA Board

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