

March 1, 2013



Welcome to the Cincinnati Bridge Association Home Page!

Card playing has a long history and is enjoyed in many cultures around the world. Many people equate bridge with poker or blackjack, but they are actually quite different. Someone once said, "Poker is a People Game that involves cards, but Bridge is actually a Card Game played by people." For many of us, that captures much of our fascination with bridge – primarily a game of skill, but with a social dimension that keeps us coming back for more.

The game of bridge traces back to 18th century games like whist. Bridge can be played on many different levels. Many people play rubber bridge in their homes with friends and family. A deck of cards, pencil and paper, and 3 friends and you are ready to play! About 10% of American households play bridge. "Duplicate" bridge players take the game up a notch, playing a version of the game where everyone plays the same hands – making your performance much more a matter of skill, not chance.

Why do people play bridge? Some of us play because we love puzzles and the mental challenges that the game presents. Some of us play because it's a relatively inexpensive form of entertainment. Some of us play because it's a social event – many friendships and even longstanding relationships have been made at the bridge table. Some of us play because we crave competition or have the desire to learn something new.

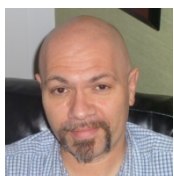
There are also known health benefits for playing bridge regularly – it helps you stay mentally sharp and can even slow down the aging process. Bridge improves your skills in logic, probability, deductive reasoning, inferential reasoning, decision-making, strategy, language and gathering information. Research has shown that kids who play bridge do better in class and on standardized tests than non-bridge playing students.

Duplicate bridge players have the opportunity to compete locally, nationally, or globally as their time and talent allow. Can you think of another activity where you can pay a small entry fee and sit down at the table and play against national champions, famous personalities like Bill Gates and Warren Buffet, and stars from around the world?

The Cincinnati Bridge Association (CBA) is the largest duplicate bridge organization in Greater Cincinnati. Our primary responsibility is to promote and support the numerous sanctioned bridge clubs in the area, including those in Northern Kentucky, Anderson Township, Middletown/Monroe, Lebanon, Western Hills, Oxford, and of course, at the Cincinnati Bridge Center in Evendale. We have an active Youth Bridge Program, free Newcomer seminars, for-fee bridge classes from certified instructors for players with a wide range of experience, and a full schedule of weekly games to fit everyone's schedule. Our game directors enforce a Zero Tolerance policy, which ensures that everyone behaves in a civil, fun way that creates an enjoyable environment. We have a rich website full of information about the game, a 99er Newsletter for our up-and-coming players, a large mentor mentee program, and the ALERT, a quarterly newsletter written by our members about bridge inside the CBA. The CBA also runs several tournaments each year, the largest of which is our Flying Pig Regional during the first full week of June, and several smaller sectional tournaments throughout the year.

If you have played bridge before and are interested in duplicate bridge, please join us on Saturdays for the Newcomer's seminar (12:30) and game (1:00). If you are completely new to bridge, you might be interested in our Learn Bridge in a Day seminars (check our calendar) or call us so that we can put you in touch with teachers or resources to get you started.

See you at the table!



A.J. Stephani
President
Cincinnati Bridge Association