

CRIBBAGE WORLD

VOLUME XIX - NUMBER 1 - JANUARY 1998

AMERICAN CRIBBAGE CONGRESS

172 Players

Frank Danielski Tops Menominee

Grand Master Frank Danielski, pegging out of Little Chute, WI came away the winner at the recent Menominee Casino and MGM Open at Keshena, WI. With a whopping 172 players in the match, Danielski came away with a sizeable top prize...and 196 MRP's.

Roger Wauters (WI) nailed 2nd in this large match and took home 147 MRP's. But, the MRP race big news had Joe Bernard, the Life Master from Illinois coming away with another 105 MRP's for a 3rd place tie, solidifying his hold on first place in this year's point race. Darlene Johnson (MN), holder of the ACC's record 9-game score (239/9+264) scored in St. Paul, MN's Grand National in Sept., 1994) finished in the 3rd place tie.

Mike Munroe (WI) took top-qualifying honors with a nice 35 16 +212.

Newly-crowned Master Connie Staven, Racine, WI, came away the winner in the 93-player Consolation, edging Grand master Alan Schaefer (WI) in the final playoff match. Jack Wilborn and Grand Master Eugene Mikulsky finished 3-4. Pete Monsen (WI) scored an excellent 19 GP card in the qualifying round to take home the top "Q" prize.

Director's Tom Gallagher, Bob Miller, and Jerry Lemke had a full array of satellite events. The winners:

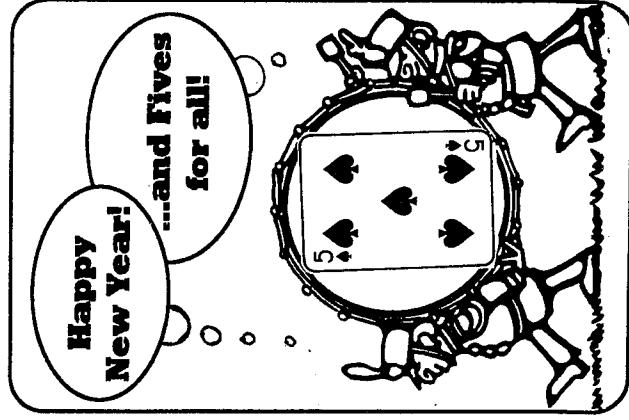
Friday EB: Richard Laitinen (MI)

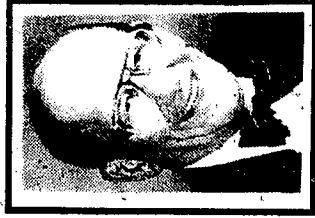
High Rollers: Robert Brotski (WI)

Saturday Special: Jerry Gruber (MN)

Last Chance: Lloyd Kraft (WI)

This event is held at the Menominee Casino...and the largess of the host facility make it hard for any player to lose. The casino gave every player who scored a 24-hand a \$20 casino credit...and some 269 were scored, much to the player's delight! And to top that, any 28-hand was worth \$100. Four players came away with this gem: Ann Stradal (WI), Todd Schaefer (MN), Harvey Rasmussen (MI), and Jerome Fischer (WI).





The President's Column

Everett "Ev" Bey

1997 Banner Year

The start of each new year is a time for reflection, an up-to-the-minute look at "how we're doin'."

According to Membership Chairman Jeff Monroe, our ACC paid membership totals 6,667.

California leads the list with 1,315 members; followed by Oregon with 632; Wisconsin at 557; Washington, 453; and Massachusetts, 405.

Grass Roots Commissioner Gene Mikulsky tells me we have 135 active Grass Roots clubs offering regular competition on a local basis for some 4,000 cribbers. An additional 117 clubs have their programs "on ice" for various reasons, with 242 GR clubs chartered all over the U. S.

The five Grass Roots Regional Tournaments wind up in January and the Grass Roots National Tournament will start its annual play on February 1.

Statistician Bob McCabe reports that the ACC sanctioned 139 major tournaments during the last Master-Point year, attracting 15,030 players, an average of 108.1 per tournament.

In addition, there were 120 Consolation tournaments in connection with the above, drawing 9,103 players, an average of 75.9 contestants per Consolation event.

The largest sanctioned tournament of the 1996-97 year was the Joseph Petrus Wergin/ACC Open at Reno, Nevada, which drew an all-time record maximum crowd of 1,024 competitors. The Consolation event played the same weekend had 826 players, second highest number in any tournament during the year.

The third largest was the MGM at Green Bay, WI, drawing 430; followed by the Grand National XV at Napa, CA, registering 428 players (with 308 in the Consolation); Veteran's Day at Reno, 380; 4th of July at Reno, 338; and the World Championship in Quincy, CA, hosting 284 players.

McCabe is now on the Internet and can be reached at www.rmccabe444@aol.com.

Meanwhile, Secretary-General Joan Rein has sent out 841 invitations to the 16th Annual Tournament of Champions at the Sands Regency Hotel/Casino in Reno on Friday, January 30, 1998. This is an all-time high in the number of cribbers who have qualified for this championship event.

She reminds everybody that their entry form must be returned by **January 12 to be eligible to play.**

Entries for the TOC should be sent to Joan Rein, PO Box 306, Carver, MN 55315; entries for the JPW/ACC Open go to the Sands Regency Hotel/Casino, 345 Arlington Ave., Reno, NV 89501.

New Bumper stickers were included free in last month's issue of *Cribbage World*. If you need any more, they are available at slight charge from Jeff Monroe, PO Box 10486, Napa, CA 94581. He also can provide copies of our new updated ACC recruiting brochure, "Cribbage Anyone?"

Happy New Year to all...see you around that tournament circuit. 29's to all in '98.

Keep peeggin'...Ev Bey

Battle of the Titans

Jerry Gruber, Warren Sondericker Slug It Out For Long Match Title

Three years ago, Larry Samet, the Life Master from Massachusetts, introduced the National Long Match as a much fairer test as to who is the best player in America.

The first two years One-Star and Hall of Famer Robert "Mick" Michaelis came away the winner...and may well have proven, once and for all, who the best player in America is! This Marinette, WI, pegger placed a strong claim with the double win.

However, in this third year of competition, two of America's best players have risen to the top, and are currently in the final few games to determine a winner (the final match is a 44-game affair, and the winner must win by at least 3 games). Life Master Warren Sondericker, Milwaukee, WI, and newly crowned Life Master Jerry Gruber, Minneapolis, MN are in the midst of the final playoffs. With 28 games down and 16 to go, Gruber is enjoying a 22 GP lead (a win is 3, a skunk win scores 4). However, Sondericker is never out of a match until the final peg is in the winner's hole. He is the only two-time winner of the huge ACC Open in Reno.

Both players advanced to the finals over stiff competition. Gruber edged One-Star Jesse Jarrell (CA) to advance, and Sondericker won over Jack Shumate III (CA) to make the final playoffs. Both these contests were played at the recent Veteran's Day Classic in Reno.

Gruber and Sondericker plan on playing the remainder of their match at the North Pole Open, and, possibly, at the ACC Open in Reno.

Believe It Or Not

Keith Forrest is the King of the Bitterroots in Western Montana. Cribbage is played at several spots in this valley, and Forrest comes away the winner more times than not. But lately, he pulled out all stops. In one game he scored **TWO 28-HANDS!** And in the next game, **SCORED YET ANOTHER!** Believe it or not!

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Written, illustrated by Life Master (Two Star)

DeLynn Colvert

"Before the 1994 season, I thoroughly read Colvert's book *Play Winning Cribbage* and studied his "26-Theory." I then put this information into my game plan...and I have won **TWO** National Championships (1994 and 1996)!" *Bob Julian, Milwaukee, WI*

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15% discount Full page: \$85, \$850 year (12X)

Deadline for copy: 15th of month before next month's issue. Checks payable to American Cribbage Congress

Patricia Upton Hits Win Column

Pat Upton from nearby Eagan, MN is a veteran pegger that has paid her dues...and she came up roses at the Jesse James Open November 23. Upton has been on a roll lately, cashing in the last few tournaments, but a win has eluded her. Not this time...she nailed the 106-player event and carted home 147 MRP's, and the top prize.

Newly crowned Master Al Booth (MN) simply could not match Upton's cards and finished 2nd...and 105 MRP's. Bill Sperry (MN) and Grand Master Bob Hanes (IA) nailed 3-4.

In a very unusual twist, Les Kvien had a great qualifying round card...a 40 16/22 +319. This card included 8 skunks, 5 of them in a row (games 13-14-15-16-17). Rob Palmer (Baker City, OR) pulled that trick years ago, but it remains a very rare event. Only Leo Might (MT) can top that story...he went 7/7 in 1983...and all 7 were skunks!

Life Master Russell Adams, the pegging professor from Minneapolis is on an unusual run...he keeps winning Consolation events, and he topped this one as well (60 players). Larry Loupee (IA) is zeroing in on his Grand Master, and finished 2nd. Steve Post (MN) and Grand Master Frank Trojan (MN) finished 3-4. And once again, Darlene Johnson posted another top qualifying round score...this time around a nice 17 8/9 +116.

The Satellites:

Friday EB: Al Schaefer (WI)
Saturday Special: Patricia Upton (MN)
All-Events: Les Kvien (MN) 66 GP's

Frank Trojan was Mr. Nice Guy for the weekend. He dealt the only 28-hand to Dorothy Schaefer (MN)...and then a \$100 29-hand to Don Alexon (MN). Alexon's gem is only the 7th scored this cribbage year. Trojan still managed a Consolation 4th place finish, despite his generosity.

Director Jerry Gruber kept all events on track and had another sizeable crowd in this annual affair.

3rd Annual Bob McCabe Tops Eau Claire Classic

ACC National Statistician Bob McCabe, a Life Master from Cudahy, WI, decided to post a few big numbers in his own lofty MRP column by winning the recent Eau Claire Classic. In besting the 120 peggors, McCabe took home some 147 MRP's, and the top prize.

The big guns were out as the top four peggors are all highly ranked ACC peggors: Life Master Jerry Gruber (MN); Jerry Fischer (WI); and Shawn Andrusko (MN). Fischer and Andrusko are pace-setters in the Central Region. Fischer has topped 500 MRP's for the year, and Andrusko is only a step behind. Andrusko was also the top qualifier with a 36 15 +242.

And Life Master Russell Adams (MN) won the 82-player Consolation. A week earlier he had won the Jesse James Consolation. Kevin Bremmer, Grand Master Lloyd Kraft, and Grand Master Gene "Moose" Biegler finished 2-3-4. All three are Wisconsin peggors. Ed Heinowski (WI) nailed a 9/9 19 GP +138 card to take qualifying honors.

The Satellites:

Friday EB: Pat Schmitt (WI)
Saturday Special: Jeremy Wussow (WI) 9/9 21 GP's
All Events: Mike Burns (MN) 61 GP's
Single Elimination (16): Max Steplyk (IL), Grace Cummings (WI), Tom Gallagher (WI)

Tournament players raved about the amenities provided by the Ramada Inn of Eau Claire, and the expertise of Alan Lindner (Director) in running the show. This event is one of the better Central Region tournaments. Mark your calendars for next year's re-run.

In Memoriam

Morris C. Ross
Walnut Creek, California

Morris died recently of congestive heart failure one day before his 88th birthday. His life was colorful and laced with a great variety of enterprises, the most successful being the founder of the Ross Dress-For-Less discount apparel chain. Always active in civic affairs, he still found time for his cribbage. He was an avid member of the Rossmoor Cribbage Club, and participated in a tournament three weeks before his death.

Ervin Bentz Earns Master

This month's posting of Master rating Points was a light one, as only a handful of tournaments were reported. However, Ervin C. Bentz, a pegger from San Francisco, came away with a lifetime total of 2,004. MRP's...and Master number 329. He scored the magic 2,000th point at Reno's huge (388 pegger) Veteran's Day Classic.

ACC Getting Organized

With Dennis Moore's new computer program for posting current and lifetime Master Rating Points, and the ability to zip this information nationwide via E-Mail, the American Cribbage Congress has joined the information age with gusto. Now, if *Cribbage World's* editor would get "on-line", the circle would be complete, and keeping America's cribbage players informed made much easier...and faster!



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Capital City Classic

March 6-8, 1998

Ramada Inn - St. Paul, MN

The Ramada Inn, 1870 Old Hudson Rd. (I-94 & White Bear Ave.), has been newly remodeled. A block of rooms has been reserved for this tournament at \$62 (special rate). **Please reserve your rooms early. Call (612) 735-2333 or (800) 2-RAMADA for reservations. Say "Cribbage."**

The Schedule

Friday, Mar. 6 7 PM: Register, 8 PM: Early Bird, 9 games \$20

Sat. Mar. 7 7:30 AM: Main Event Registration, \$60* \$15 Q (optional)
8:30 AM: Orientation

8:45 AM: Play begins, 22 games vs. 11 opponents

5:30 PM: First Round Playoffs, best 3 of 5

6:30 PM: Registration; 7:30 Saturday Special 9 games \$20

Sun. Mar. 8 7:30 AM Playoffs continue, best 3 of 5

8 AM: Registration, Consolation; 9 AM play 9 games \$35 (incl. \$10Q)
12:30 PM, Play 1 PM: Last Chance 7 games \$10

This tournament is sanctioned by the **American Cribbage Congress** and last year drew 170 players from all over the country. The format is 22 games vs. 11 opponents with alternating deals. The top 25% will advance to the playoffs. First round playoffs are Saturday at 5:30 PM. Lunch is included in your entry. Any cancellations will be refunded, please sign up early!

Information? Call **Todd Schaefer** at (612) 699-5878

***\$5 Late Fee after March 5, 1998**

Clip and Mail (or photocopy)

- \$20 Early Bird (Fri.)
 \$20 All-Events
 \$60 Main Event*
 \$15 Q-Pool
 \$20 Sat. Special

\$ _____ Total

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Capital City Cribbage Classic
St. Paul, MN - March 6-8, 1998

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Rit Alkas Tops Niagara Falls Open

Rit Alkas, the ACC's 1995 national champion, is on the prowl once again. This Manchester, CT pegger won the recent Niagara Falls Open (NY), after qualifying 3rd. Alkas brought home an aggregate 177 MRP's, and throws his hat into the run for the roses in the 1998 campaign.

Canadian Mervin Morris took 2nd in this 72-player meet...and garnered 105 MRP's. Two New York players finished 3-4...William Kraatz and Harold Belles.

Carol Draper, Grand Rapids, MI, qualified with the top score of 33 GP's in this 22-game match...and with the new scoring system, will score 35 MRP's. Veteran players from throughout the Eastern Region are in near parity, attested by the low top score.

Maurina Boughton (NY) came home the winner in the 49-player Consolation, besting Bob Faros (NY) in the final playoff match. Local Shamus O'Connor came home with the most MRP's, however, as he qualified tops (a nice 19 GP card = 24 MRP's + 18...an aggregate 42 MRP's. Milt Dries (NY) scored 18 for his third place tie.

Director Peachy Schrock had 72 players last year...and another 72 this year. The \$8 room rate at the Niagara Falls AFB keeps 'em coming!

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Cathy Perkins Wins Charm City

Director Steven Sattler reports that the pegging action is picking up in the "Charm City" (Baltimore, MD). Some 98 peggers were on hand, up from 90 last year, and Master Cathy Perkins, Bear Creek, NC came away the winner. Perkins is a member of the ACC's Board of Directors, and is no stranger to the winner's circle.

Sam Rubin (PA) qualified 5th and finished 2nd in this large match...and takes home 130 MRP's. Local Eleanor Bernstein and Dan Moore (NJ) finished 3-4. Moore qualified with a nice 31 GP card (20 games) and carted home an even 100 MRP's. Paul Barnes (FL) set the pace, however, in the qualifying round. He scored a very nice 33 16 +203, losing but four games in the 20-game match.

Joyce Miller (MD) took the 60-pegger Consolation, with Ralph Ardito (VA) in 2nd. Russell Perkins (NC) and local Norm Ferbert took 3-4. Local Bud Cole won 8 of 9 in the qualifying round to take honors.

The Satellites:

Friday EB: Lucille Simpson (NY) & Al Tennenbaum (NI)
Sat. Doubles: Betty Schaeffer (FL) & Al Tennenbaum (NI)
High Rollers: Skip Barker (VA)
Last Chance: Phil Martin (CT)

Steve Sattler keeps 'em pegging in Maryland...and reported three 28-hands, and Joyce Miller scored two of them! Utah Walton got the other one. Sattler also reported that Frank Wurman and Al Tennenbaum exhibited a fine collection of unique and rare cribbage boards. The ACC's Home Page (www.cribbage.org) was demonstrated for the crowd by Sattler, who is the originator and publisher of this information. Sattler also reported that \$260 was donated to the March of Dimes through the sale of raffle tickets.

American Cribbage Congress Has New Signs

The Board of Directors at last September's BOD meeting ordered another 200 sanctioning wall signs. These signs have been printed, and they are a tad better than the last batch of paper signs. These signs are slightly bigger and are printed on polyester...a very durable material. The design is the same as the old banners.