

President's Column

by David Campbell

"We don't meet people by accident. They are meant to cross our paths for a reason." —Unknown

This year I was lucky enough to travel out to Reno a week early. I flew from Boston MA to Eugene OR. Some eighteen hours later I arrived and started my adventure. **Julie and Rick Pierce** graciously would be my chauffeurs for the trip. We stayed at Seven Feathers Casino the first night. The following day we traveled to Medford OR, where we picked up my girlfriend, **Lana Newhouse**.

We headed for Redding CA and along the way made a pit stop in Weed CA to take some pictures around midnight. We arrived in Redding and played in the Northern California Open. The tournament is in a beautiful location and was run wonderfully by **Jeanne Jelke**. We then traveled to Susanville CA to play the Susanville Winter Classic. This tournament again was run wonderfully by **Steve Hastie**. In Susanville I was lucky enough to lose in the consolation finals to one of my favorite cribbage players, **Phyllis Schmidt**.

After making our way to the Sands Regency in Reno NV, the Reno weekend started with six friends counting the Hall of Fame votes. We were excited to learn that both **Wayne Steinmetz** and **Charlie Finley** received seventy-seven votes and became the ACC's newest HOF members. At the BOD meeting on Thursday

we passed some important issues. We clarified random seating and addressed a few changes for consolations. That evening we played in Canadian Doubles, which easily turned out to be the largest Canadian Doubles tourney of all time.

Along the way our daily food companions grew with the additions of **Jeanne and Roy Hofbauer**, **David Clemmey**, **Mark Soule**, and **Jason Hofbauer**. Jeanne and Roy always try to assist me with any questions I have, and both have helped the ACC wherever and whenever they could. The TOC arrived on Friday and I was lucky enough to qualify.

Now we reach the JPW Open on Saturday, and the point of this whole story begins. I want to share a little bit of three people I had the pleasure of meeting at my table EE in the bingo hall: **Lynn Multari** (Phoenix AZ), **Greg Dumas** (Sonora CA), and **Tom Nohrden** (Citrus Heights CA).

You already know from the cover of this issue what two of the three—Lynn and Greg—accomplished a few hours later after our chance meeting: on Saturday Greg won the TOC, and on Sunday Lynn won the JPW Open. Neither of them will likely credit their chance meeting with me as the event that propelled them to win these prestigious events, but either way it was a pleasure to have met both!

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I was also lucky enough to play Tom on Saturday. Tom has attended *every* tourney in Reno—the only person who has done this. This year proved to be much trickier than ever for Tom to make his way there. In January Tom had surgery on his right foot. In



early February he broke his elbow. Lastly, while driving to Reno he ran into a closed mountain pass. What did Tom decide to do? He didn't turn around and go home. Rather, Tom turned around and went to a train station and took a train to Reno!

These people and their stories are what truly makes our wonderful organization special. CW

ACC membership odometer

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