



Bloomington-Normal Bridge Newsletter

Volume 18 Number 4 – April, 2016

14 pages



April Events

Monday Morning Duplicate games at the First Christian Church located at Jefferson and Lee streets near downtown Bloomington starting at 11:45AM:

April 4 – open pairs April 11 – open pairs

April 18 – open pairs April 25 – open pairs

Contact Betty Capodice at 309-827-3318 for information or to arrange for a partner.

Mike's Bridge Club schedule:

Saturday, April 2, 11:45AM – open pairs – Centennial Christian

Monday, April 4, 6:15PM – 99ers only pairs – First Christian

Wednesday, April 6, 1:15PM – 99ers & NLMers only pairs – Centennial Christian

Thursday, April 7, 11:45AM – open pairs – Centennial Christian

Saturday, April 9, 11:45AM – open pairs – Centennial Christian

Monday, April 11, 6:15PM – 99ers only pairs – First Christian

Tuesday, April 12, 12:30PM – invitation only pairs – Clinton Country Club

Wednesday, April 13, 1:15PM – 99ers & NLMers only pairs – Centennial Christian

Thursday, April 14, 11:45AM – ACBL-wide charity open pairs – Centennial Christian

Saturday, April 16, 11:45AM – open pairs – Centennial Christian

Monday, April 18, 6:15PM – 99ers only pairs – First Christian

Wednesday, April 20, 1:15PM - 99ers & NLMers only pairs – Centennial Christian

Thursday, April 21, 11:45AM – open pairs – Centennial Christian

Saturday, April 23, NO GAME – EAST PEORIA TOURNAMENT

Monday, April 25, 6:15PM – 99ers only pairs – First Christian

Tuesday, April 26, 12:30PM – invitation only pairs – Clinton Country Club

Wednesday, April 27, 1:15PM - 99ers & NLMers only pairs – Centennial Christian

Thursday, April 28, 11:45AM – open pairs – Centennial Christian

Saturday, April 30, NO GAME – GNT at UAW 2488

Contact Mike Tomlianovich at 309-825-5823 for information or to arrange for partner. All game results are posted online: clubresults.acbl.org

All games sanctioned by the American Contract Bridge League.

Announcement: Effective 4/1/2012, all ACBL-sanctioned bridge games held in Bloomington-Normal are fragrance free. Please be respectful of those who are fragrance intolerant. Thank you!

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The Bloomington-Normal "Top 25" Masterpoint holders

As of 3/6/2016 – residents of Bloomington-Normal only
paid up ACBL members only



- 1 **3,677.45** Betty Capodice
- 2 **3,380.01** Steve Babin
- *** **2,557.18** Laura Addison
- 3 **2,504.04** Zack Freehill
- 4 **2,332.87** Eunice Patton
- 5 **2,084.84** Mike Tomlianovich
- *** **1,735.61** Steve Hawthorne
- 6 **1,668.08** Cindy Moore
- 7 **1,630.76** JoAnn Schroeder
- 8 **1,582.22** Dewey Gronau
- 9 **1,577.92** Ann Schuyler
- *** **1,398.35** Sharad Chitgopekar
- *** **1,320.43** Ed Lombard
- 10 **1,263.31** Stan Gutzman
- 11 **1,221.93** Ron Emmett
- 12 **1,218.74** Lori Moore
- 13 **1,210.62** Charlie Morton
- 14 **1,184.37** Jeanne Strand
- 15 **1,129.95** Ivey Weaver
- *** **1,091.94** Marian Edmunds
- 16 **1,040.13** Jean Barnett
- 17 **957.05** Randall Motchan
- *** **835.37** Glen Beaman
- *** **792.95** Don Strand
- 18 **791.44** Henrietta Crain
- *** **780.34** Jack Kessler
- *** **741.06** Pearl Harris
- 19 **728.58** Jeff Furler
- 20 **724.49** Dennis Moll
- 21 **717.05** Steve Wulfers
- 22 **694.76** Peg Deutsch
- 23 **680.41** Dave Freehill
- *** **610.73** Martin Compton
- *** **570.80** Ann Farnsworth
- *** **567.22** Ruth Wettaw
- 24 **564.53** Stevie Joslin
- 25 **557.05** Joyce Clay
- *** **deceased**

Other players:

- *** **12,741.55** Dick Benson-LeRoy
- 11,944.53** Chris Benson-LeRoy
- 4,673.35** John Seng-Champaign
- 4,584.48** Larry Matheny-Colorado
- *** **4,073.45** Alan Wienman-Morton
- 4,020.97** Phyllis Rahn-Dunlap
- 3,968.38** Ron Sholes-Springfield
- 3,721.59** Kish Devaraj-Georgia
- 2,829.87** Paul Lindauer-Varna
- 2,530.73** Carole Sholes-Springfield
- 2,506.15** Pat Carrington-Champaign
- 2,507.39** Georgia Heth-Morton
- 2,489.59** Ray Russ-Henry
- 2,446.86** Gail Moon-Tennessee
- 2,410.69** Mary Allen-Peoria
- 2,344.48** Margaret Hansell-Champaign
- 2,227.74** Terry Goodykoontz-Champaign
- 1,884.22** Hank Hoffman-East Peoria
- 1,794.01** Tim Cull-Arizona
- *** **1,776.22** John Burdon
- 1,662.49** Marilyn Stickel-Lacon
- 1,643.15** John Maloney-Champaign
- 1,561.85** Dennis Fitton-Champaign
- 1,532.31** Bobbie Straker-Pekin
- 1,279.89** Jim Moon-Tennessee
- *** **916.41** Floyd Sherry-Eureka
- 910.15** Bill Bulfer-East Peoria
- 888.31** Phil Kenney-Eureka
- 782.13** Doug Steele-Seymour



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2051 Ireland Grove Road, Bloomington, IL 61704



#1 -

Some players seem to forget the opponents are the enemy. Through the bidding and defense, this E/W pair did nothing but give aid to their adversaries.

Scoring: Matchpoints (Pairs)

#15-38	♠ K85	West	North	East	South
Dir N	♥ AJ632	-	1♥	Pass	1♠
Vul E/W	♦ Q109				
	♣ A6	Dbl	Rdbl	2♦	4♠
♠ J10		Pass	Pass	Pass	
♥ Q	♠ 73				
♦ AK732	♥ K10754				
♣ Q7432	♦ J864				
	♣ 109				
	♠ AQ9642				
	♥ 98				
	♦ 5				
	♣ KJ85				

BIDDING: West made a takeout double showing the minor suits. North's Support Redouble showed 3-card spade support and South bid the game.

Play: West led the ace of diamonds and then shifted to a trump. Declarer won the ace and drew a second round. Next declarer played the ace and king of clubs as East followed with the 10 and the 9. The auction made it very clear that West held the queen of clubs so declarer led the jack and trumped in dummy when West covered. Declarer conceded a heart trick and had his game with an overtrick.

West's takeout double is another example of bidding because you can rather than because you should. All West did was help the declarer. So many players bid without first deciding what they are trying to accomplish. If the opponents have opened the bidding, your call should be made with some purpose. Are you trying to buy the contract, obtain a lead, suggest a sacrifice, or perhaps trying to impede the opponents? Don't just bid because you have a certain number of points or length in a particular suit; think about your objective.

And while it is often necessary to signal your length in a suit, you should not give away this information unless it will help your partner more than declarer. Here West had already admitted to a club suit and there was no reason for East to give count.

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#2 -

A simple review of the auction before making your opening lead will often guide you to the best defense.

Scoring: Matchpoints (Pairs)

#15-40	♣ A4		West	North	East	South
Dir W	♥ QJ8		1♠	DBL	Pass	2♣
Vul E/W	♦ AKJ9		Pass	2♠	Pass	2NT
	♣ KJ96		Pass	3NT	Pass	Pass
♣ K7653	<div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 40px; height: 40px; display: flex; align-items: center; justify-content: center;"> </div>	♣ J82	Pass			
♥ A732		♥ 10964	Pass			
♦ Q5		♦ 832	Pass			
♣ A8		♣ 1073				
	♣ Q109					
	♥ K5					
	♦ 10764					
	♣ Q542					

BIDDING: North cue bid the spade suit to show extras and ask for a stopper. South cooperated with 2NT and North bid game.

Play: Determined to avoid losing a spade trick, West started with a low heart. Declarer won the king in his hand and quickly realized West held most if not all of the missing honor cards. He led a low club to dummy's king. Next he cashed the ace of diamonds followed by the jack of clubs. West won the ace and stayed with her plan by leading another heart. Declarer won the jack and led a club to his queen. Now when he led a second diamond, the queen appeared on his left. He continued with the last club and then the ten and jack of diamonds. Here was the three card ending:




Declarer led the queen of hearts and West had a lead a spade to give declarer his 11th trick. West should have realized from the auction that her partner was broke. If she just starts with a low spade, wins the first ace to lead another spade, she will hold declarer to 9 tricks. She should at least win the second heart to prevent being thrown in at the end. That will limit declarer to 10 tricks.

#3 –

Many players use the 2/1 bidding system. It is helpful for many auctions but it sometimes makes it difficult to find the best fit.

Scoring: Matchpoints (Pairs)

#15-39	♠ 98		West	North	East	South
Dir E	♥ K9862		-	-	Pass	1 ♠
Vul E/W	♦ A74		Pass	1NT	Pass	2♦
	♣ K104		Pass	2NT	Pass	3♥
♠ Q72		♠ KJ6	Pass	4♥	Pass	Pass
♥ 107		♥ J54	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass
♦ 10982		♦ 53	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass
♣ AQJ8		♣ 97652	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass
	♠ A10543					
	♥ AQ3					
	♦ KQJ6					
	♣ 3					

BIDDING: North was not strong enough to make a game-forcing two hearts bid so he started with a forcing 1NT response. After his partner's rebid of two diamonds, North still could not introduce his heart suit; a two heart bid would have been an attempt to sign off while a jump to three hearts would show a better and longer suit. Instead, he showed the value of his hand with a rebid of 2NT. This showed 10-12 high card points and invited game. South was strong enough to accept the invitation to 3NT and on the way, stopped off to bid his heart fragment. South was delighted to bid the heart game.


Play: West led the ten of diamonds. Declarer won with the king and led a low club. West rose with ace and led a second diamond. Declarer won with dummy's ace and then trumped a club in his hand. He drew trumps and discarded one of dummy's spades on the last diamond. Declarer ended with 12 tricks: 1 spade, 5 hearts, 4 diamonds, 1 club, and 1 club ruff.

The most frequent contract was 3NT declared by North resulting in 10 or 11 tricks. The play of the hand was not difficult but most N/S pairs could not find their heart fit.

#4 –

The introduction of math into the analysis of a bridge hand causes panic for many players. Attempting to explain the reasoning behind the Theory of Restricted Choice particularly causes eyes to glaze over. Still, it does describe a situation that occurs frequently.

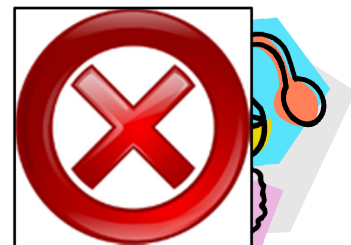
Scoring: Matchpoints (Pairs)

#15-41	♠ A953	West	North	East	South
Dir W	♥ KQ1063	Pass	1♥	Pass	1♠
Vul E/W	♦ Q10	Pass	2♠	Pass	4♠
	♣ K6	Pass	Pass	Pass	
♠ J		Pass	Pass	Pass	
♥ 982					
♦ A765					
♣ QJ1052					
	♠ K10876				
	♥ AJ				
	♦ KJ92				
	♣ 73				

BIDDING: North-South had a routine auction to four spades.

Play: West led the queen of clubs and continued the suit after East encouraged. East won the second club and returned a diamond to the ace. West exited with a diamond and declarer was left with the task of bringing in the trump suit with no loss. He won the king of diamonds and led a low spade from his hand. When the jack appeared on his left, he was left with a decision. The only two possibilities that mattered were the singleton jack and the doubleton QJ. This is where restrictive choice entered into the equation. Restrictive choice says you should now finesse East for the queen because two times out of three the jack will be singleton. The reasoning is that holding both the queen and the jack gives West the option to play either card while holding a singleton allows him no choice. Or, to state it another way, with a singleton honor, West's play was restricted. There is a lot of math to back up this theory so if it doesn't bother you, do the homework.

Announcement: Effective 4/1/2012, all ACBL-sanctioned bridge games held in Bloomington-Normal are fragrance free. Please be respectful of those who are fragrance intolerant. Thank you!



Remember: All Bloomington-Normal duplicate events adhere to the ACBL's zero tolerance for unacceptable behavior. Do NOT let this person's conduct rub off on you!!



TIP OF THE MONTH

The Convention Card – part 10 of a 16-part series

This month: The section titled “simple overcall”.

It would be best if you have a copy of the convention agreement sheet as you read this description.

Take a look at the section titled “simple overcall”.

This section is for you to describe what agreements you and your partner have for when the opponents open the bidding with 1 of a suit and you or your partner overcalls.

First show your high card point range. Many players mark 10 to 15 points. It is becoming more typical to mark 8 to 15 points. Some players mark 6 to 15 points.

If your partnership often overcalls at the 1 level with 4 card suits or with less than 6 points, mark so (not recommended).

When responding to your partner’s overcall, decide if bidding a new suit is forcing (not recommended), not forcing constructive (most typical), or not forcing.

Then decide how a jump raise is to be handled. Is a jump raise forcing (not recommended), invitational (not recommended), or weak (the best treatment)? If you choose a jump raise is weak, then expect to cue bid the opponent’s bid suit as an invitational or better raise.

Next month’s tip: The section titled “JUMP OVERCALL” & “OPENING PREEMPTS”.



**Bloomington-Normal 70% club
Years 2015 & 2016
Sponsored by: TBA**

2016/3/16	70.00%	Bev Branning & John Ford(NLMers)
2016/3/14	71.11%	Larry Ziegler & Rick Kern(99ers)
2016/3/14	70.56%	Mike Gross & Carroll Kinnaman(99ers)
2016/2/10	72.02%	Kay Marvin & Linda Odette(NLMers)
2016/2/3	71.67%	Lynn Steffen & Mary Houska(NLMers)
2016/1/12	70.14%	Marilyn & Darryl Bremner(Clinton invitational)
2015/12/14	70.83%	Mike Gross & Carroll Kinnaman(99ers)
2015/12/5	70.31%	Christine Carroll & Wes Seitz
2015/11/30	71.11%	Phil Kenney & Zach Freehill
2015/11/28	72.22%	Ann Schuyler & Zach Freehill
2015/11/2	71.35%	Ann Schuyler & Dennis Moll
2015/10/28	71.11%	Gary Kemp & John Ford(NLMers)
2015/10/10	73.66%	Lane O'Connor & Steve Wulfers
2015/09/02	71.11%	Gary Kemp & John Ford(NLMers)
2015/08/17	73.33%	Mary Lou Gold & Gaye Hoselton(99ers)
2015/08/10	70.56%	Linda & Dave Odette(99ers)
2015/07/29	71.25%	Marilyn & Gene Byers(NLMers)
2015/07/15	71.67%	Mary Tweedie & Michelle Tomlin(NLMers)
2015/06/17	70.00%	Linda Odette & Ramesh Chaudhari(NLMers)
2015/06/08	81.25%	John Stahly & Rick Kern(99ers)
2015/03/23	71.79%	Eunice Patton & Jeff Furler
2015/03/02	71.11%	Lynn Steffen & Bev Branning (99ers)
2015/02/04	70.00%	John Stahly & John Ford (NLMers)
2015/02/02	71.30%	John Stahly & Rick Kern (99ers)
2015/01/05	70.83%	Kay Marvin & Terri Huebsch (99ers)

BRIDGE BITES

from: The American Contract Bridge League

By: Brian Gunnell



#97 - DOUBLE DECEPTION

	♠ T6 ♥ 763 ♦ AQT653 ♣ 87	
♠ K2 ♥ QJT42 ♦ J42 ♣ T43	North West East Declarer	♠ QJ543 ♥ 985 ♦ K7 ♣ QJ9
	♠ A987 ♥ AK ♦ 98 ♣ AK652	

E-W Vulnerable

South	West	North	East
1♣	Pass	1♦	Pass
2NT	Pass	3NT	All Pass

We've mentioned in previous Bites how much pleasure bridge players derive from a dastardly bit of trickery now and again. The deception you are about to see was all the more fun because *both* defenders had to be in on the joke.

This looks like a routine contract, wouldn't you say? West leads the ♥Q won by Declarer's Ace. Declarer runs the Diamond Nine, losing to East's King. Back comes a Heart, but now Dummy's Diamonds are good and Declarer romps home with 10 tricks. Bridge is an easy game! But when the deal was played in real life, East and West conspired to make Declarer's life not quite so easy.

East started the fun at Trick 2 by ducking the Diamond! Now Declarer had a choice to make. Should he play West to have started with ♦KJx, in which case the Diamonds will run? Or, should he play for 3-3 Clubs and get to 9 tricks that way? Declarer decided to try Diamonds first and led a second round of the suit. Now West realized that playing low would be fatal for the defense, making it plain to Declarer that West had not started with KJx, that the Diamonds were not coming in and therefore that Dummy's Ace must be played. So, to keep the deception alive, West squandered the Jack on the second round of Diamonds! Our duped Declarer confidently finessed Dummy's Queen, which was taken by East's King. Dummy was now officially dead and Declarer was down.

Nice play by both defenders, but Declarer could have given himself a second way to win. After the Diamond Nine holds the trick he should duck a Club, win the Heart return, and cash the ♣AK. If the suit is 3-3 then there are 9 tricks without the Diamonds ... if the suit does not break then he must rely on a lucky Diamond situation.

#98 – ONE WINNER TOO MANY

	♠ J9 ♥ AJ98 ♦ K87632 ♣ 8	
♠ QT42 ♥ ♦ JT4 ♣ JT9542	North West East Declarer	♠ K753 ♥ 543 ♦ AQ95 ♣ 76
	♠ A86 ♥ KQT762 ♦ ♣ AKQ3	

Both Vulnerable
South West North East
 1♥ Pass 3♥ Pass
 6♥ All Pass

South might have opened the bidding with an artificial game-forcing 2♣, but one way or the other it seems that N-S should get to slam on these cards. In fact 7♥ is a fine contract, though a hard one to reach. Sadly, our Declarer even managed to go down in 6♥, which took a lot of doing!

Against 6♥, West led the ♣J, Dummy went down and South rued the missed grand slam. Even so, this being a duplicate bridge event, making the overtrick was important. With that

in mind, he counted four side-suit tricks, and could make the rest with ruffs back and forth. In fact, with 10 trumps between the two hands he even had one trump more than was needed to score 13 tricks. So, he cashed the ♥A, followed by his two remaining Club winners. Tragically for Declarer, East ruffed the third round of Clubs and fired back a trump. Suddenly, Declarer's 13 tricks had been compressed into 11 and he was down one!

Declarer's drawing of a round of trumps served no useful purpose whatsoever, the missing trumps being miniscule and offering no overruffing threat. Also, cashing that third Club was a needless risk, Declarer could count up to 13 with just three side-suit tricks and ten trumps. Making the overtrick was simple enough: Win the ♣A, cash the ♣K (pitching a Spade), cash the ♠A, and merrily cross-ruff the rest of the hand for all the tricks. That ♣Q was one winner too many, if instead Declarer had been dealt ♣AK32 then he would have made 13 tricks with ease!

#99 – YOU MIGHT BE AN EXPERT IF ...

	♠ KJ ♥ AQ9 ♦ KJ65 ♣ KT75	
♠ 9743 ♥ 652 ♦ QT94 ♣ Q9	North West East Declarer	♠ A852 ♥ 43 ♦ 732 ♣ 8632
	♠ QT6 ♥ KJT87 ♦ A8 ♣ AJ4	

E-W Vulnerable

South West North East

1♥ Pass 2♣ Pass

3NT Pass 6♥ All Pass

Playing in 6♥ there are 11 easy tricks. The 12th might come from a Diamond finesse (it works!), a Club finesse against West (that works too!), or a Club finesse against East (that fails). You might be an expert if you managed to go down in this contract.

Against 6♥ West led the Spade Three to East's Ace. Back came the Spade Two won in Dummy, after which our expert Declarer cashed two trumps only, then ♦A, ♦K, followed by a

Diamond ruff. Now back to Dummy with a trump and the last Diamond was ruffed.

Let us pause to admire Declarer's technique so far. The purpose of ruffing a Diamond was to build a 12th trick if the Queen were to come down in three rounds. And, by ruffing that Diamond before drawing the last trump, Declarer had the timing to ruff the last Diamond also. Thus he was able to discover that West had started with four Diamonds. West had also started with three Hearts. How about the Spades? That suit looked to be 4-4 based on the opening lead and the play to the second trick, in which case West's original distribution was 4=3=4=2.

Decision time had arrived and, with West known to have two Clubs and East four, the odds were two to one in favor of East holding the Queen. So our unfortunate Declarer finessed against East and went down *two* when West produced the ♠Q and a Spade winner.

When this deal was played in a local club duplicate game, most Declarers made 12 tricks ... a few went down one when they misguessed Clubs ... but only one Declarer was expert enough to ruff two Diamonds, get a perfect count on the distribution, and then go down two. How expert were *you* on this deal?

#100 – MAXIMUM DAMAGE

	♠ J96 ♥ Q876 ♦ A4 ♣ Q643	
♠ AT32 ♥ 5 ♦ JT962 ♣ JT9	North West East Declarer	♠ 875 ♥ A432 ♦ KQ83 ♣ 75
	♠ KQ4 ♥ KJT9 ♦ 75 ♣ AK82	

Both Vulnerable

	South	West	North	East
1NT	Pass		2♣	Pass
2♥		Pass	3♥	Pass
4♥		All Pass		

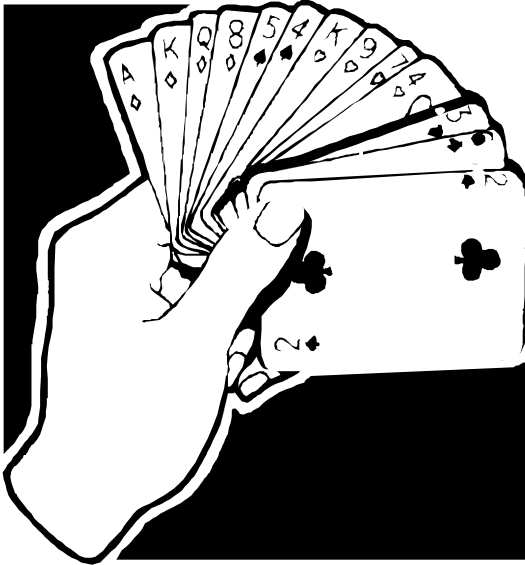
The defense will score the ♠A, ♥A and a Diamond trick for sure, but the rest of the hand looks solid for Declarer. The only hope for the defense is that the 4-1 trump split will prove awkward for Declarer. How can East inflict maximum damage and set 4♥?

West's opening lead is the ♦J, won in Dummy. At this point the defense's strategy is to lead Diamonds at every opportunity, hoping that repeated ruffs by Declarer (or Dummy) will eventually set up a trump trick for East. At Trick 2, Declarer tackles trumps, and let's suppose that East grabs her Ace immediately, cashes a Diamond and continues the suit. Dummy ruffs that and plays a second round of trumps, getting the news of the 4-1 break. Now Declarer must delay drawing trumps while he knocks out the ♠A. When West is in he persists with Diamonds, again ruffed in Dummy. Now Declarer is home free, he simply crosses to hand with a Club, draws trumps and is left with nothing but black suit winners. Making 10 tricks.

East can do better than that. She must hold off with the Ace on the first round of trumps. And also on the second round! Now Declarer is done for. If he leads a third trump then East will finally take her Ace, after which repeated Diamond leads will set up a trump trick for East ... and if Declarer abandons trumps then East's small trump will score a Club ruff. Down one!

Nice defense by East, who will remember to say "Great opening lead, Partner!" The auction told West that Declarer was probably in a 4-4 fit and had a bad trump split in his future. So, West concluded that a forcing defense might be the best way to put Declarer's trump holding under pressure. Accordingly, he led his long Diamond suit, the only way to set the contract.

Upcoming tournaments:



Peoria Spring Sectional

Apr 22-24, 2016

Fon du Lac Park District Admin Center
201 Veteran's Drive, East Peoria, IL 61611

District 8 Grand National Teams

April 30 - May 1, 2016

UAW Union Hall, 10226 E. 1400N Road, Bloomington IL
Saturday, April 30: 1:00 pm & TBA -- Open flight -- A & B qualifying
Sunday, May 1: 10:00 am -- Flight C -- A & B semi-finals and finals

