



Sacramento

ACBL Unit 505



## Frequently Asked Questions . . .

### What is DUPLICATE Bridge?

Duplicate bridge is the most widely used variation of contract bridge in club and tournament play. It is called *duplicate* because the same bridge deal (i.e. the specific arrangement of the 52 cards into the four hands) is played at each table and scoring is based on relative performance. In this way, every hand, whether strong or weak, is played in competition with others playing the identical cards, and the element of skill is heightened whilst that of chance is reduced. In duplicate bridge, a player normally plays with the same partner throughout an event. The two are known as a "pair".

### How is it different from SOCIAL Bridge?

As noted above, the hands are played by all players in the game. The competition is between all others playing the same hand. In other bridge games the goal is to win more points than the pair of people you are playing against, in duplicate bridge the goal is to do better than other pairs playing exactly the same cards. Because of this, strategies are different. Even a bad hand can be good, if you play it better than others.

### How much does it cost?

*If you want master points awarded to you for doing well at club games and larger tournaments to count toward Life Master ranking or other official rankings, you must become a member of the American Contract Bridge League (ACBL).*

As of January 25, 2012:

One-Year New Member: \$28

Regular One-Year Membership: \$37

Game fees vary from \$5 - \$8 with Unit games an added \$1. Game fees often include lunch!

*Fees at larger tournaments beyond the club level will vary depending on where the tournament is held and the magnitude of the event.*



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## How many people and clubs are there in the Sacramento Unit 505?

Unit 505 has around 1000 members in the Sacramento, Placer, El Dorado and Yolo County area.

ACBL Sanctioned games are held at the locations noted on this website. Click on the one in your area for details about games, dates and times.

ACBL is a non-profit organization. Each year ACBL gives thousands of dollars to charities, not affiliated with bridge. In Sacramento some recipients have been: Loaves & Fishes, Mustard Seed School, Weave, Heritage Institute for Family Advocacy, Make a Wish. In addition, individual clubs hold charity events during the year for various organizations in their area.

## What events do you hold?

Unit 505 is made up of clubs. Each club has separate owners who secure the facility and host the games. The owners hold a variety of events, including 4th of July picnics, Thanksgiving potlucks and even New Year's Eve parties. Charity games are popular, with each club picking the charity of their choice.

During the year, Unit 505 hosts tournaments for all levels of play which create opportunities to meet new people from around the Unit and an annual Holiday Party with dinner and bridge games.

Additional tournaments at the District (Northern California) and National levels provide the chance to travel, as well as, meet new people.

## How often would I have to play?

This is up to you. There is no requirement. The more you play the better your game and the chance for more points. Games are held 7 days a week; daytime and evenings. Besides, why would you want to miss your friends!

## Isn't this just for points or is there more to it?

Duplicate bridge includes friendly people and time for socializing. It also provides a challenge in competing with others. Learning tactics and strategies keeps your mind sharp and gives a sense of accomplishment.



## **What benefits does ACBL membership include?**

From [www.ACBL.org](http://www.ACBL.org) website:

### Member Benefits

- The Bridge Bulletin — monthly magazine for players of all levels
- Access to 3200 bridge clubs and 1100 tournaments
- Online Games
- Recognition for masterpoint achievement
- Support for bridge education
- 10% discount at Baron Barclay Bridge Supplies
- 35% FedEx Office discount on color and black and white printing
- OfficeMax Discount Card
- Hertz® Member Savings
- Delta Airlines Discount

All of this, plus the fun and camaraderie of the bridge table!

## **What if I don't have a partner?**

Not a problem, Unit 505 and each club has a partnership chair whose job is to find you a partner. Especially for newer players, efforts are made to match you with people who volunteer to act as mentors.

## **What support is there for new players?**

New players are welcome. Most clubs offer classes, many free and others at low cost. Check the calendar at clubs near you for a variety of classes available. Partners and mentors can be arranged to assist your learning while playing. Friendly Directors seek to assist as much as possible prior to their games. The Bridge Bulletin (ACBL's Magazine) features helpful articles for all levels of play. ACBL also maintains a robust website full of information for new and experienced players. Need more help? Just ask. Where there is sufficient demand an owner will plan a workshop!