

THE PHILLY SUMMER NATIONALS

FAQ's

WHY?

It is fabulous! Go to find the best bridge, a nice registration gift, some afternoon snacks of cheesesteaks, soft pretzels, and Tastykakes, and explore the culture, the history, and the arts, of the birthplace of America. Yes, the festivities include gifts, prizes, Mummers strutting, and delicious treats but, more importantly, your friends and future friends will be there!

Besides eleven days of my favorite game, with events for the very newest newcomers to the very oldest experts, there are other fun happenings. Bowling, karaoke, board games, and a photobooth happen on Beyond Bridge Game night on Sunday July 27th at 8:30. Three days later, at Bridge Mania, James Holzhauer will be hosting Jeopardy, and the Grossack bro's are emceeding Family Feud on Wednesday July 30th. A "*Wear your Best NABC Tee-Shirt*" contest also runs on July 30th. If you play that day, wear your oldest, rarest, prettiest, rattiest, or most colorful NABC tee-shirt for fame, glory, laud and honor and maybe even a prize. At both events, there's light food, a cash bar, and great fun!

WHO?

Everybody should go! There's special bridge games for **every level** where you can play against your peers or try your hand against the sharks. Just getting started? Try the friendly bridge experience of the Intermediate/Newcomer Area at the NABC! Stop by and see Linda and Brendan O'Malley at the welcoming Intermediate/Newcomer Desk for more information and your special goodie bag.

Soak up some bridge knowledge, sharpen your skills and take your game to new heights as you learn from world-class teachers and players. Most days at 9:15 a.m. and 2:15 p.m., before the morning and afternoon games, there will be celebrity speakers giving lessons and pointers.

WHERE?

The Downtown Marriott, Jefferson Station, and the Reading Terminal Market, are situated on three of the four corners of the intersection of 12th and Filbert Streets. Reservations at the Marriott should be made through Conference Direct at (855) 956-0776 or online by [clicking here](#) to get the special bridge rate of \$199+tax. **Reservations close on July 2nd.** If you just call without getting the bridge rate, the Marriott is quoting up to \$1,000 a night! The entrance to the Marriott is now on Filbert Street, which is one block North of Market St., while the entrance to the Reading Terminal Market is on the opposite corner of 12th and Filbert Streets. The Marriott is the playing site for all NABC events, although the Youth and Collegiate events are held in the Convention Center Headhouse.

FOOD!

After you've checked out some of the 50+ vendors at the Reading Terminal Market, you can walk a block or two down 13th Street and you will find a sumptuous array of some of the best casual restaurants in Philadelphia. One of my favorites is Sampan, which is Pan-Asian, but there's Mexican at El Vez, Pearl and Mary Oyster Bar, Prunella, Alpen Rose, and Bud and Marilyn's. But maybe I should walk a few blocks North to Chinatown, where there's Sang Kee Peking Duck House, EMei, Ho Sai Gai, MLBB Hot Pot, and Lee How Fook, to list a few. Check out the Philadelphia Restaurant Guide prepared just for this NABC, for more options.

HOW to get there by train?

All SEPTA Regional Rail lines stop at Jefferson Station, which is located next to the Marriott. This includes the [Airport Line](#), [Chestnut Hill West Line](#), [Fox Chase Line](#), [Lansdale/Doylestown Line](#), [Manayunk/Norristown Line](#), [Media/Wawa Line](#), [Paoli/Thorndale Line](#), [Trenton Line](#), [Warminster Line](#), and [Wilmington/Newark Line](#).

If you're 65+, you want to get a SEPTA Key Senior Fare Card. There's no charge to get one, and it allows you to ride all of SEPTA - including Regional Rail (within PA) - *FOR FREE!* You can get one at SEPTA Headquarters (1234 Market Street, Philadelphia, PA) or at your local legislator's office. If you have a Senior Fare Card it is half-fare to ride from New Jersey or Wilmington, although they do not always collect this. Download the easy-to-use SEPTA parking app to pay for your \$2 lot or \$4 garage parking fee.

HOW to get there by car?

There is only valet parking at the Marriott which charges \$69.50 plus tax(!!!). If you use a parking app, there are much cheaper options available. District 4 and the ACBL have partnered with SpotHero, a parking application which allows you to book an earlier cheaper parking spot right from your phone. It's the fastest and cheapest way to book parking. SpotHero, moreover, gave us a discount parking code of **ACBL72483**, which is good for 10% off the cost of your parking. Download today the top-rated SpotHero app on your smartphone.

4.8/5 iOS App Store

WHAT GAME?

For the **newest newcomers**, on Friday July 25th, players with fewer than 5 masterpoints play for FREE in Intermediate/Newcomer events. On Saturday and Sunday, July 26th and 27th, there are FREE lessons from 8 am to 9:45, followed by a FREE short game (12 boards) for players with fewer than 20 masterpoints. On Wednesday July 30th there will be a **99er** Intermediate/Newcomer game at 10 am, which is limited to players with less than 100 masterpoints.

If you see an event in red, such as the **Alan Horowitz Memorial 299er Pairs**, on Tuesday July 29th at 10 am, it is for players who have less than 300 points. These games are also stratified so your results will be compared to players like yourself.

If you look at the schedule of events, you will see that events in blue lettering, such as the **King of Prussia Bridge Club Gold Rush Pairs** on Thursday July 31st at 10 am and 3 pm, are for **Gold Rush** games. These **Gold Rush** games

are for players who have less than 750 points and are stratified at 750/400/200 points. They're called **Gold Rush** because with certain results you can get those coveted gold points.

If you see events in **green lettering** on the schedule, those are regionally-rated events. There are different stratifications by average masterpoints for different **Regionally Rated** pair and team events, which you can see listed on the schedule. The **Rick Rowland Top-Flight Pairs** on Tuesday July 29th is stratified into two flights listed as unlimited/5000.

Events which are in **BLACK** and are **BOLD** are generally open to all players, with certain exceptions. For instance, to play in the **VON ZEDWITZ LIFE MASTER PAIRS**, which begins on Friday July 25th, you have to be a Life Master. BUT there are events in BLACK which are not in bold, such as the 0-3000 MINI-SPINGOLD KNOCKOUT TEAMS, which start on Tuesday July 29th, and which are Nationally-rated events, but have masterpoint limitations.

BUYING ENTRIES?

All members of District 4, or anyone who is staying at the Marriott, receive a \$10 per session discount, but you must go through Entry Express. It is recommended that you do this through your smartphone or computer the night before the event. Either you or your partner can register for an event through Entry Express. If you don't have a smartphone or computer, or you make arrangements that day to play, you need to go to an Entry Express Help Desk and wait in line to get the \$10 discount voucher. You then take the voucher to where you will need to purchase the entry.

Come and play!

Ala Hamilton-Day

Tournament Co-Chair