

Lawson Bridge Studio News August 2021

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Club Games – Rates are for each player

Games: 6:20 pm at Ann Sather's Restaurant, 909 West Belmont Ave, Chicago, IL

Aug 2	Open Pairs—\$12	Sep 1	O/I Pairs ACBL Int'l Fund Month—\$13
Aug 4	O/I Pairs Grass Roots Fund—\$13	Sep 6	No Game Labor Day Skokie Sectional
Aug 9	North American Pairs Qualifying—\$13	Sep 8	O/I Pairs ACBL Int'l Fund Month—\$13
Aug 11	North American Pairs Qualifying—\$13	Sep 13	Open Pairs ACBL Int'l Fund Month—\$13
Aug 16	Open Pairs Club Championship—\$12	Sep 15	O/I Pairs ACBL Int'l Fund Month—\$13
Aug 18	O/I Pairs Club Championship—\$12	Sep 20	Open Pairs ACBL Int'l Fund Month—\$13
Aug 23	North American Pairs Qualifying—\$13	Sep 22	O/I Pairs ACBL Int'l Fund Month—\$13
Aug 25	North American Pairs Qualifying—\$13	Sep 27	Open Pairs ACBL Int'l Fund Month—\$13
Aug 30	Swiss Teams Grass Roots Fund—\$13	Sep 29	O/I Pairs ACBL Int'l Fund Month—\$13

Cub Games in August

Baseball season is here so traffic may be snarled on these August Cub home dates as per the published Cub's schedule. If there are changes due to weather etc., I will not be aware of these:

Monday 7:05 pm game: **Aug 9, 23**
Wednesday 1:20 pm game: **Aug 25**
Wednesday 7:05 pm game: **Aug 11**

Team Game Monday August 30

Please form your teams and let me know before 4 pm on August 30th for room set-up and an orderly start of the game. A sign-up sheet will be available at the games as well as registering with me at lawsonbridgestudio@gmail.com.

COVID-19 update:

Illinois Cook County per the CDC is listed as have a **substantial** increase in COVID-19 cases as of week ending 7/30/2021. Substantial is 50 cases/100k in the last 7 days. Cook County is on the low end of this criteria at 56.25. The counties next to Cook are all substantial from Lake with 55.56 to Will with 89.03. The Cook County positivity rate is 2.93%. Cook County vaccination percentage is 61% for the 18-64 and 71.7% for 65+.

COVID-19 cases have been increasing in the twenty-seven zip codes from the loop north along the lakefront that I have been tracking. The number of new cases has been doubling from week to week since I started tracking for week ending 6/26/2021. The positivity rate as of 7/24/2021 for these zipcodes is slightly less than the city overall rate (2.6% vs 2.9%). My data source is updated on Tuesdays so 7/24/2021 is the last data that I have. The vaccination rate for all is 66.4%.

Very likely these increases are due to the delta variant; however, that information is not available to me. For those who have been vaccinated and above 65 years because we have more underlying medical conditions, the infections may be more severe but not necessarily requiring hospitalization. Yet that is not ruled out. The risk is never going to be zero as the virus is never going to be eradicated. All data concerning the vaccines and known variants is positive for mitigating breakthrough; however, vaccines are not 100% effective.

The more common symptoms of breakthrough are: fever and widespread chills throughout the physique; nasal congestion, runny nostril and sore throat; coughing; labored respiratory, chest ache and respiratory congestion; partial or full lack of style and scent; fatigue and joint ache; diarrhea, nausea and vomiting; and headaches.

The COVID-19 breakthrough cases reported by the CDC as of 7/26/2021 were 0.004% for hospitalizations and deaths. This means that the vaccines were 99.996% effective preventing hospitalizations, and deaths. The delta variant is more aggressive and much more transmissible than previously circulating strains even for those who have been vaccinated and asymptomatic. Thus, a shorter time is reasonable for the transmission between people. This would correlate with the rise in cases, especially among the unvaccinated. There is insufficient data on breakthrough transmission even though reports are stating shorter incubation periods and extremely higher viral loads for the delta variant in comparison with the previous variants. The percentage of mild cases is unknown because there is no effective way to track.

So, what does all this mean for us in masking with the new CDC guidelines, "That fully vaccinated people also "might choose to mask regardless of the level of transmission, particularly if they or someone in their household is immunocompromised or at increased risk for severe disease, or if someone in their household is unvaccinated." I would recommend masking if you were in a large group, whether vaccinated or unvaccinated. Please mask as you feel comfortable knowing your health condition and the risk of infection for your life.

I am planning on keeping the room setup the same as we have been, square tables spaced apart.

Thanks to all for your support as we experience life during this time.