



## Newsletter – July 2016

*Edited & Published by  
Kay Beebe*

# *Third Annual Blue Ridge Summer Spectacular*

Flat Rock, NC (population 3,264) is making bridge history! In 2014, we scheduled the first Blue Ridge Summer Spectacular in Flat Rock, NC. The WNC Unit 171 Board took this venture on as a small business start-up. They posed challenging questions and successfully designed an event that would be –in modern lingo –*a game changer!*

The numbers tell the story: 2014: 490 unique players and 465 tables; 2016: 604 unique players and 608 tables. That is 30% growth in just two years! We are bucking the nationwide downward trend and ACBL is taking notice.

Word is out that it is one of the best sectional tournaments in the nation. Credit goes to Jeff Pratt and Gayle Covey who worked tirelessly to build the first BRSS in 2014

I would like to personally thank all of the many wonderful bridge players who served on committees and all of the volunteers who worked at the registration desk selling lunch tickets or handing out registration bags, all of you who cheerfully welcomed everyone at the doors and those who brought the outstanding assortment of wonderful food. I would also like to thank everyone who played bridge or served as ambassadors by inviting out-of-town guests to our tournament.

Friday was a special day with the conclusion of the 2016 Summer Bridge and Golf Camp.



Thank you to the co-chairs, Linda Brown and Jane Headland and all of their amazing volunteers for bringing the graduation tournament & ceremony for all of us to share.

Special recognition goes to Arthur Lebowitz who secured a grant of \$3,200.00 from the Henderson County Tourism and Development Authority to help promote the 2017 tournament.

Lastly, a word of gratitude to our sponsor, Carolina Village Retirement Community and our underwriter, Saint Paul Mountain Vineyards for their support.

*Jane Champion  
2016 & 2017 Tournament Chair, Blue Ridge Summer Spectacular*

## TOP TOURNAMENT PLAYER AWARDS

Once again, the Blue Ridge Summer Spectacular rewarded the players who had broad tournament success. The rewards went to players of all levels, based on master point tier. In 2016, the awards went to the following players:

### **2500+ :**

Jeff Ziemer (Taylors SC) & Hugh Hughes (Greenville SC) – 50.39 points: \$25 each

### **-2500:**

Stephanie & John Felker (Signal Mountain TN) – 29.79 points: \$25 each

### **-750:**

William Baker (Spartanburg SC) - 22.89 points: \$50

### **-300:**

Kate Oates Dargan (Spartanburg SC) - 14.87 points: \$50

### **-200:**

Kim Rhodehamel (Greer SC) - 9.46 points: \$50

### **-100:**

Joe Bill Sloan (Flat Rock NC) - 9.09 points: \$50

*Congratulations to all!*

*Gayle Covey  
President, Unit 171*

## VERY FIRST TOURNAMENT EVER!! SUCCESS



*Larry Bolen (Salem, SC) & Gayle Covey  
Blue Ridge Summer Spectacular*

At the end of day #1  
name in lights....well,  
on the 0-99 leaderboard!

On June 6, Grace and Tony Schmidt, Howard Berkowitz and Paul Westervelt participated in the Tampa Regional by playing on their tablets at the ABR. We were the only club in North Carolina to do so.

***All four players earned Red points.***



*Clockwise from left:  
Tony Schmidt, Paul Westervelt,  
Grace Schmidt & Howard Berkowitz*

# *Director Please!*

## *Opening Faced Lead Out Of Rotation (Law 54) The Dreaded 5 Options*

1. See dummy before you play
  - The person on your right has lead a suit that you expect is a strong suit in dummy; accepting a lead toward strength of the dummy will give you a “free finesse”
  - Accept the lead if you have a singleton in the suit; you may get a surprise free finesse
2. Become dummy and let your partner play the hand
  - Accept this option if your partner has the stronger hand
  - Accept this option if your partner has put you in an impossible contract!
3. Allow the person on your right who made the lead out of rotation to return the card to his hand, and require the correct person to lead that suit (*one time*)
  - If the suit is one of your strong suits, its lead will give you a probable free finesse
  - If you have Kx in that suit, your king will win and will not fall to the A if the A is on your left
4. Allow the person on your right who made the lead out of rotation to return the card to his hand, and forbid the lead of that suit by the correct person (*for as long as that person is on lead this time*)
  - Accept this option if the suit lead is your weak suit and you are in a NT contract
  - If the suit is your trump suit and you will need to cross-ruff before pulling trump in order to make the contract
5. Allow the proper person to lead any suit, the illegally lead card stays on the table as a Major Penalty Card, to be played at the first legal opportunity (leading, following suit, discarding, etc.)
  - If there is no clear option this early in the hand, accept #5 and you will get to choose options 3 - 4 - 5 each time the partner of the person with the major penalty card is on lead; a favorable option may become more apparent as the hand progresses.

*Barbara Doster*



The Smokey Mountain Bridge Club in Waynesville has lost a very special friend. Mary was not only our club director, but teacher and mentor as well. We will always cherish the many memories we have shared over the years. Her faithful work in hosting the Waynesville Fall Sectional Tournament reflected her dedication to the game and to everyone involved. Mary's passion was definitely bridge and baking for friends and family. Her wonderful family shared a celebration reception for her many friends on July 6. It was Mary's wish to have a celebration. Mary will always be missed and will long be in our hearts.

*Smokey Mountain Bridge Club*

*Waynesville, NC*

# **YOUTH BRIDGE AND GOLF CAMP**

## **A GREAT SUCCESS**

The Unit's 3rd annual Bridge and Golf Camp held in partnership with Broadmoor Links was a resounding success. Thirty nine young people from all over WNC participated in one or two weeks of learning bridge and golf with average attendance of 27 per week. Dorie Hasty brought four campers from Indian Trail and Swansea, NC. Each week concluded with a Friday tournament. The second week the campers traveled to the Blue Ridge Spectacular tournament. Thank you to all players who welcomed and cheered on the campers.

Many of our young players have participated in one of the several sponsored clubs throughout the area; charter members just finished their fifth year with Blue Ridge Youth Bridge. The progress these players are making is amazing with several participating regularly in Unit Club games.

An off shoot of our Youth Bridge Program is we now have six parents, who have taken introductory classes and are playing at sanctioned games with their children. Several grandparents are anxiously awaiting summer vacations with their bridge playing grands. Several new camper parents have inquired about beginning bridge lessons.

Much planning and effort go into this camp and it could never happen without the outstanding moral and financial support of our unit members. Approximately 20 unit members are currently volunteering at one of the student clubs and/or the camp. Without this volunteer support the program just could not operate. If you are interested in getting involved, please contact us.

While I cannot possibly recognize everyone who has contributed to the success of our programs several deserve special recognition and your thanks when you see them. Jane Headland for co-chairing our camp. Polly Crabtree along with her army of volunteers-Hendersonville after school club, Barrie Watters -Asheville Saturday Morning club, Dan Brown-Asheville Catholic, Hal Smith-Art/Space Charter School club, Tom Poland-Big Brother Program and Brenda Barnhill-Enka Middle School. In addition unit members, community partners and parents supply us with card holders, cupcakes and sheet cakes, pizza parties, t-shirts, and meeting space, and directing our youth tournament. A shout out to all who contributed over \$1,400.00 for scholarships. Many campers attended camp who otherwise could not have had our bridge and golf experience. Parents are very supportive of our program efforts and provide transportation to and from our clubs.

The Unit as always underwrote the youth bridge program financially and many members contributed scholarship funding and ACBL memberships and renewals for ALL campers.

A very special thank you to David Bonner for his partnership efforts with Carolina Village. David provides free camp tuition to all children of Carolina Village employees.

A special thank you to Jane Champion for program coordination and grant funding support.

Please forgive me if I have forgotten a volunteer recognition.

Thank you.

*Linda Brown*  
*Blue Ridge Youth Bridge and Camp Co-Chair*



*A special speaker and workshop, two days before the Asheville Fall Spectacular (Sectional)*

Unit 171 is offering a special partnership workshop **"Beyond the Convention Card"**. Robert Todd, professional bridge player and teacher, will be presenting a comprehensive partnership development workshop:

- What's most important to discuss with your partner
- What to ask that's not on the Convention Card
- Getting partnerships on the same page
- Essentials to talk about in a 15 minute discussion with a new partner - focus on style not elaborate conventions

Something to learn for all players of all levels.

***Win a chance to play with Robert in the Asheville Sectional on Friday, October 7.***

All workshop sessions include lunch buffets and a sanctioned game with hand analysis. \$120.00 per person for all workshop sessions including lunch buffets and a sanctioned game with hand analysis Wednesday evening. \$75.00 per person for one day. If you have any questions, please contact Jane Champion @ [janeschampion@yahoo.com](mailto:janeschampion@yahoo.com) or 850-509-6163.

Advanced Registration and payment required by October 1<sup>st</sup>.

**Mail-in Registration Form**  
**"Beyond the Convention Card" 10/5-6/2016**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Masterpoint Total: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ All Sessions 10/5 & 10/6: \$120.00  
\_\_\_\_\_ Wednesday 10/5 9:00 am & 1:00 pm: \$75.00  
\_\_\_\_\_ Thursday 10/6 9:00 am & 1:00 pm: \$75.00

Mail Check payable to WNC Unit 171:  
Jane Champion  
PO Box 219, Naples, NC 28760



*Upcoming Tournaments & Events*

Hendersonville NLM	August 12-14
Asheville Fall Spectacular	October 7-9
Asheville Regional	February 20-26, 2017
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Unit Wide Swiss – ABR	Saturday, August 27

