

THE KIBITZER

Colorado Springs, Colorado www.bridgewebs.com/coloradosprings/

Achievements

Club Master (20 pts):

Lora Marshall

Ron Olivares

Sectional Master (50 pts):

David Bowman

Regional Master (100 pts):

Paul Gelfreh

NABC Master (200 pts):

Fred Cannon

Ruby Life Master (1500 pts):

Page Walker

Congrats to ALL!

UNIT 360 Membership Roster

Chris Champion has started developing the 2021/2022 Unit 360 Membership Roster. The new Roster will include the ACBL members that live in Pueblo, Buena Vista, Rocky Ford, Salida, Trinidad and other southeastern Colorado cities in the Unit 360 geographical area.

As Chris has done in the past, he will print a copy of the current ACBL roster and post it (see notice on the white board by the kitchen) in the COS Bridge Center. Members can make changes, additions and subtractions as needed. If you are a non-ACBL member and want your name in the roster, please provide Chris your information.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Just as the reopening of Bridge Center was making satisfactory progress, we had to shut down again. However, as previously announced, the Bridge Center reopened on August 9th. The requirement that everyone must be fully vaccinated has remained in place. In addition, all participants are required to properly wear face masks. See the article on the Unit 360 Home page for more details.

It was not an easy decision by the Board of Directors and Club Owners to temporarily close and then reopen. The Board and the Club Owners instituted a plan that we thought was both thorough and respectful of everyone coming to the Bridge Center. A few members have felt differently, and their concerns have been heard.

We, like everyone else, hope that the Bridge Center can soon be free of all restrictions. Until that day, we are asking participants to complete and submit the Certification of Vaccination form. On the form we also asked for a current phone number and email address so we can contact participants immediately if there is another outbreak of a highly infectious illness. We also ask for your full cooperation with the requirement to properly wear face coverings while in the Bridge Center.

If you are unhappy with the decisions we have made, we hope you will understand the position we are in. Some of the members have objected that we are being too strict; others, that we are not being strict enough. Soon, we hope we will be free of the need to have any restrictions at the Bridge Center, and we can welcome all participants with no forms to fill out and without the need to wear face masks. Until then, thank you for your support and for your understanding that the steps we have taken are in everyone's best interest.

See you at the bridge table.

Bud Raabe

Problems with emails from Unit 360

The Board of Directors has been working on improving communication with the Unit 360 membership. In the past, when we had face-to-face games at the Bridge Center, the paper copy of the Kibitzer was used to communicate with members. When the Bridge Center was shut down, due to COVID, the paper copy of the Kibitzer was no longer available to the membership.

Ann Parker, the Kibitzer editor, and Jeff Rapp, the Unit 360 webmaster, published digital issues of the Kibitzer for Spring 2021 and May/June 2021. The digital issues of the Kibitzer can be found on the Unit 360 Web Page.

When the Spring 2021 Kibitzer and May/June 2021 Kibitzer were issued, we sent individual emails to Unit 360 members indicating the latest issue of the Kibitzer was available on the Unit 360 Web Page. At times, these Unit 360 emails were routed to members' spam folder by the email network provider. (Comcast, Gmail, AOL, etc.) Until this problem can be fixed, we urge you to routinely check your spam folder to see if there is an email from Unit 360.

If you know members who do not have email, please share Unit 360 email information with them. The next issue of the Kibitzer newsletter will be published as a paper newsletter and as a digital newsletter.

Looking for a Volunteer to be Building Manager

Are you interested in becoming part of the team that keeps our Bridge Center in top notch condition? We are looking for a volunteer with experience in managing building maintenance to become the Building Manager.

Ed Texel, who helped us get through the challenging 18 months during shutdown, has decided to retire. Thank you, Ed for your superb efforts. JoAnne Santa, who has been Building Manager in the past, has agreed to step in until the end of the year. Thank you, JoAnne for volunteering.

If you would like to volunteer, contact Bud Raabe or another member of the Board of Directors who will give you more details.

Upcoming Board of Directors Election

It seems that an election for the Board of Directors only just happened but preparations for the November 2021 election to select the 2022 Unit 360 Board of Directors are in full swing. If you are interested in pursuing a challenging, meaningful, and rewarding way to serve our bridge community, please consider running for any of the four seats that will be opening up. We heartily welcome participation by those who have been recently added to Unit 360. If you know anyone who may want to toss their hat in the ring, please communicate that information to any member of the Election Committee. Those members are:

Howard Donaldson, hodon46@msn.com, (719) 594-4184

John Dukellis, JohnDukellis@comcast.net, (719) 418-2574

Phoebe Lostroh, plostroh@gmail.com, (719) 473-5053

We need all of the information about potential nominees not later than September 1, 2021.

This election is very important to Unit 360 since we are faced with unprecedented challenges with the need to continue building on the great teamwork that has consistently marked the efforts of the Board of Directors and is more important now than ever before. This will include, but not be limited to, continuing the process of emerging from the COVID-19 pandemic lockdown and fully integrating our new Unit 360 members who live in Pueblo, Rocky Ford, Buena Vista and other southeastern Colorado areas. We will also need to continue expanding the robust program of reaching out to prospective students and conducting more bridge lessons and bridge sessions in order to make the goal of a bigger, better, stronger Unit 360 a reality. To do this, we will need selfless members who are willing to generously dedicate their time and talents toward maintaining and improving the well-deserved level of excellence for which Unit 360 has historically been noted.



2021 District 17 GNT Finals

What an experience - District 17 players rose to the occasion!! Although the majority of D17 players had not played online, the A, B, and C 17 GNT Flights had to be held online due to the Covid pandemic. Colorado Springs Unit 360 members rose to the occasion!

There was no pre-qualification required to play in the district final to encourage participation for the flights, with the exception of the Championship Flight as the winning team of the 2020 D17 GNT Championship Final was held at the 2020 Tucson Regional and the D17 Board declared that team to be the 2021 Championship Flight Team.

There was concern that Flight C players with little or no experience playing team games or online would be comfortable entering the event. To the rescue came Sharon Smith, a C player herself, who is the CO/WY representative on the D17 Board of Directors and the D17 Education Committee Chairman and by the way gained the gold points she needed for her Life Master playing in the D17 Flight C Finals. Congratulations! Sharon organized two practice Swiss team games for C players, a very successful endeavor. The sessions were free on Shark Bridge, teams were formed and coaches were found for the teams. Thirty-four teams played the first session and twenty-eight teams played the second session. Another incentive for the Flight C players is that D17 waived the entry fee for Flight C teams, which has been done for several years. The result?

TWENTY-EIGHT teams entered the D17 Flight C GNT Finals. Because of the participation of so many Flight C teams a total of 48 teams played in the D17 GNT Finals – the most ever! **Eighteen** teams were from Colorado with **eight** teams from Colorado Springs. The first-place team was The Flying GumBos from Boulder. The second-place team was The Colorado Aces (**Murlene Williams, Roger Williams, Sally Donaldson and David Loring**) from Colorado Springs. The Colorado Aces were able to compete in the National GNT Finals since more than 8 teams played in the District Final. The National Finals were also held online beginning July 14th. They made it to the second round—not an easy thing to do. Congratulations!

Fourteen Flight B teams entered the D17 GNT Finals - **eight** of those teams were from Colorado, **three** from Colorado Springs. One of those teams, the Ski Team, agreed to play the day before the District Final began; a team had to drop out due to illness. Thank you, **Lee Kulbitski, Sam Taylor, Myrna Heimer, and Joan Tokarz**, because of you there were no sit-outs. And thanks to Myrna Heimer and Joan Tokarz who also filled in the second day. The Gila Monsters, from Tucson and Phoenix won first and a team from Mesa, AZ, the Sun Lake Aces, placed second. The Gila Monsters made it to the second round at the National Finals, while the Sun Lake Aces made it all the way to the semi-finals - that was four grueling days playing twice a day against the best Flight B players in ACBL.

There were **four** Flight A teams, all from Colorado, two from Colorado Springs. The Colorado Springs Oldies, **William Curtis, James Black, Don Patterson, Kim Caley, David Ruttner** won the Flight A District Final and augmented their team with **Bob Harward** when they played in the National Final. Unfortunately, they narrowly missed qualifying for the second day.

Appreciation goes to Unit 360 who pays the District GNT entry fees for Flights A and B to encourage participation.

See Pictures Below



Colorado Springs Oldies—Winners of the D17 Flight A Teams
Bill Curtis, Don Patterson, Jim Black, and Kim Kaley



The Colorado Aces—Qualified for the GNT National Competition
David Loring, Sally Donaldson, Murlene Williams, and Roger Williams



Now that the Bridge Center is open, we are looking forward to next year. We hope we will be able to have our 499er Sectional (usually the end of February) and our two open Sectionals (April & late August/early September) ... **BUT YOUR HELP IS NECESSARY.** A chairman for the 499er Sectional is needed and a co-chairman for the Open Sectionals is also needed. Please contact Bonnie Bagley, Unit Tournament Coordinator, for more information. 719 594-0205 or bon1bon@comcast.net

