

The Kibitzer

Newsletter for Duplicate Bridge Players

ACBL Unit 360

March 2026



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The President's Message this quarter is an effort to clarify the financial status of the Bridge Center and to clarify the Board of Directors work to maintain the financial stability of the Bridge Center.

First, the recent fund drive raised \$12,000.00 plus dollars. Currently, we have a little over \$75,000.00 in reserve. We recently placed \$45,000.00 in three short term certificates of deposit moving the monies out of our savings account.

Second, the table fees, the tournament monies and the ACBL payments from membership fees cover our usual expenses including taxes, insurance, utilities, internet, copier costs, janitorial services, trash pickup and routine maintenance. But costs go up over time, this year our property tax assessment increased more than \$4,000.00. The increase was appealed but to date there has been no response to the appeal.

Third, along with our building structure and our parking lot having aged so has our HVAC system and our kitchen appliances. Some of our HVAC system is over twenty-five years old and various of our kitchen appliances are several years old. The refrigerator and stove date from the kitchen remodel during John Grossman's time. The dishwashers are from when JoAnne Santa was building manager. The carpet has been remarkable but has been with us for many years. The card dealing machines are nine and ten years old.

Fourth, the constant question is what about the roof. Recently the southwest corner of the roof, that is the part of the roof where we have had the leaks, has been worked on such that our roofer believes that the problem may have been solved. If that does not fix the leaks, the Board is considering three options for addressing the leaks in the roof. To replace the existing roof the cost is estimated to be \$75,000. To coat the entire roof with a substance having a 20-year guarantee is estimated to be

Achievements:

Junior Master (5 pts):

Robert Carson

Peter Viliesis

Club Master (20 pts):

Brenda Bocek

Cristine M. Leatherman

Aileen Tracy

Sectional Master (50 pts):

Beverly Tucker

Regional Master (100 pts):

Sue Coast

NABC Master (200 pts):

Advanced NABC Master (300):

Life Master: (500 pts):

Paul Gefreh

Ruby Life Master (1500 pts):

Silver Life Master (1000 pts):

Gold Life Master (2500 pts):

Sapphire Life Master (3500):

\$26,000. To coat the southwest corner of the building with this same substance is estimated to be \$3000.

Fifth, in summary the Board of Directors' task is to maintain a functional building and grounds for our Bridge Center by ensuring that enough capital is available for daily operations and for the kinds of unexpected expenses that will occur.

Sixth, the Board of Directors is considering **ways to increase our income stream**, including raising table fees and/or holding yearly or bi-yearly fund drives. Additionally, the Board continues to address the question of how much is enough to have in reserve.

REMINDER MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

One of the sources of income for the Bridge Center is the monies that our Unit receives from ACBL from membership fees. The Unit receives a minimum of 5% and can earn up to 15% annually from memberships dues. Brenda Bocek is the Board Membership chair. She has many tasks to perform each month to try to ensure that we earn the additional 10%.

We receive zero monies from our lapsed members. We have lapsed members who regularly play in our weekly games. The Board is looking at re-introducing a surcharge of a dollar or two dollars per game for lapsed members. **In short, please, if you are a lapsed member renew your membership and help keep the Bridge Center open for business.**

THE LONGEST DAY

The Longest Day fund raising event will be held this year on Thursday, June 18th. We will again have three games starting at 9am. We will not have a raffle or a silent auction, but we do encourage people to make donations instead either by check or cash to the Alzheimer organization. There will be a box clearly marked for donations.

Another change this year is that food will not be provided. Instead, **people are encouraged to bring food** so that we can again have food throughout the day. A signup sheet will be posted for people to sign up to provide food for the event.

If you have questions, please contact Bob Wagstaff.

HELP WANTED

Two of our game directors, Shirley and Tom, have recently indicated that their tenure as directors at the Bridge Center is time limited and that the time for two, three or four people to step up and become directors is now.

The Board of Directors pays the fee for individuals to take the online directors' test. Our existing directors have been helpful in assisting people to pass the test and to learn the routine of directing a game. Our current directors are willing to mentor new directors who could then substitute direct in the interim. Please consider becoming a new director or for individuals who have been directors please consider coming back into that role.

Goofus and Gallant from Highlights Magazine

Dear Beloved Reader, as children, we received this educational magazine. The messages are hopefully both funny and poignant.

Goofus throws his candy wrappers on the table and leaves junk on his table; Gallant looks around puts things in the trash.

Goofus doesn't look behind him when entering a building; Gallant looks back and holds the door open for the person behind him.

Goofus leaves his bridge boards on the table when he is done for the day; Gallant brings his bridge boards and table card to the Director's table.

Goofus leaves globs of toothpaste in the sink; Gallant cleans them up and puts the toothpaste cap back on the toothpaste.

Goofus leaves the dining table and leaves his chair out in the middle of the room; Gallant pushes his chair in when the meal is finished. Gallant pushes his bridge chair in at the end of the day.

PLEASE BE GALLANT

THANK YOU and FUNDRAISER UPDATE

Our recent fundraiser has yielded a total of almost \$13,000! Thank you so much as we have many needs for the future as outlined in the President's Message earlier. Just for context, this **represents 39 members and couples contributions from our 380+ membership**. Please consider contributing based on the many benefits you receive from our Colorado Springs Bridge Center. Also for context, teams in Denver pay either \$8 or \$10 per game, Fort Collins charges \$10 per game, St. Louis, \$12 and Chicago, \$15.

DIRECTOR INTERVIEWS

Dick Licciardi joined our Bridge Center in August of 2025. He came up with a brilliant idea to interview our Directors so that we can learn more about their lives. Be on the lookout for a special supplement to this Kibitzer as we will be sending out these interviews shortly. Thanks, Dick, for sharing your gift of connecting with others for the benefit of us all!

AMBASSADOR GAMES

We want to thank everyone who participated in the Pairs Ambassador game on February 9 (11 ½ tables) and to those who played in the inaugural Swiss Team Ambassador game March 9th (13 tables). We appreciate your openness to try something new and forge new connections, one of the primary reasons why people come to our Bridge Center. We are always looking for ways to improve the process and streamline the games. Thank you for your continual feedback.

The Board had a thorough discussion about those Pairs who choose not to play with a 499er or not to play with a 499 team. We know this was unavoidable in the last Swiss game. In the future, however, those Open Pairs or totally Open Teams will **NOT be eligible** to earn points that day. This seems like the fairest solution for all. Please let us know if you cannot make it.

"I noticed such positive energy and of major importance was the constant valuable feedback given to the 499ers by the ambassadors throughout the day, both to their team members and opponents!"

PARTNERSHIP SURVEY

Currently Sheri McLaughlin and Diane Black help with partnership matches in our regular Bridge Center games. Sheri helps with 0-490 players and Diane with Open players.

The survey below is an effort to provide Sheri and Diane a list of people willing to be contacted as potential partners for individuals new to our unit or for current players who have lost their partner due to illness, death or relocation.

If you are willing to be on a partnership list, please email the following information to Bob Wagstaff at waggies@sprintmail.com.

NAME

NUMBER OF MASTER POINTS

CONTACT INFORMATION

DAYS OF THE WEEK YOU PLAY AND/OR ARE WILLING TO PLAY

OTHER HELPFUL INFORMATION

Mentoring

Around four years ago, the President of Unit 360 asked me to create a Mentor program for our unit. (Thanks, Bud). The Mentor program asks the mentor and the mentee to commit to four games together. As a thank you, the mentor's fee will be paid by the Unit.

Originally, mentors had to have a minimum of 1,000 Master Points, and mentees had to have fewer than 500 MPs. A member asked me if we could lower the requirement for the number of MPs for the mentors. So we did lower it to those who had more than 500 MPs. (Thanks, Nancy).

We had over 20 mentor / mentee relationships that first year. (Special thanks to Dennis and Bob S. who each mentored five mentees within a year)!

I left the Board for a year and the Mentoring process was streamlined and made simpler, such as having "chits" for the Mentor to give to the director. (Thanks, Paul).

Now we have made further changes to the Mentoring process (Thanks, John D.). It was never intended for the mentors to teach the mentees. We are very lucky to have so many qualified teachers in Unit 360. They will teach students the basics of

modern bridge such as:

opening bids for 1NT, one of a major, one of a minor,

weak two bids

two Club openers

Jacoby 2NT

transfers

Stayman

takeout doubles

opening leads

declarer play

defensive play

1430 Blackwood. (If we have new bridge players who come to our Bridge Center, and they already know the above basics of modern bridge and have fewer than 500MPs, then they can request mentoring without the classes).

The mentor's responsibility is to help the mentee:

create a convention card

review the key boards after the game

develop confidence in her / his play

celebrate successes

understand what went wrong or what could be improved in a couple of boards

have fun

learn to love our game.

If you're in the 499er group and would like to mentor one or two new players, please contact me (Dave Loring, 719-440-2823). Also, if you would like to transition to open games and would like a mentor, please contact me and we will try to pair you with a life master who will help you improve your game. You can be both a mentor and a mentee!

As always, we are looking for mentors who are willing to play four games with newer players so we can continue to grow our membership. Please let me know if you're willing to volunteer. Thank you, Dave



Unit 360 Spring Sectional April 16 – Sun., April 19, 2026

BOB WINGEARD BRIDGE CENTER

901 N. 17th Street Colorado

www.ColoradoSpringsBridge.com

719 634-7250

RESERVATIONS REQUIRED

Springs, CO 80904

Last minute entries allowed if space available

SCHEDULE

Thursday 6:30 p.m. Stratified Swiss Teams

Friday (lunch on your own - snacks provided)

10 a.m. & 3 p.m. Two Session Stratified Open Pairs
(Single sessions allowed)

10 a.m. & 3 p.m. Stratified 299er Pairs, Single Sessions

Saturday (lunch on your own - snacks provided)

10 a.m. & 3 p.m. Two Session Stratified Open Pairs
(Single sessions allowed)

10 a.m. & 3 p.m. Stratified 299er Pairs, Single Sessions

Sunday (catered lunch provided)

10 a.m. Bracketed Swiss Teams

(To ensure fairness, teams are bracketed
based on the team's masterpoints)

STRATIFICATIONS

Open: A: 3000+

B: 0 - 3000

C: 0 - 1000

299ers: D: 0 - 300

E: 0 - 150

F: 0 - 50

PARTNERSHIPS

Go to:

www.ColoradoSpringsBridge.com

SESSION FEES

ACBL Member: \$15

Unpaid ACBL Member: \$19

ACBL Members with 0-5

Masterpoints Play Free

Sunday Swiss: \$150/team

PAYMENT BY CREDIT CARD ONLY

Director In Charge: Joan Paradeis

Tournament Chair: Bonnie Bagley

719 593-0205 bon1bon@comcast.net

Tournament Co Chair: Mark Bishop

719 238-7730 bish40love@aol.com

Reservation Chair: Jeffrey Rapp

719 237-5010 jeffrapp@comcast.net



ACBL Sanction Number 2604318

**MARK
YOUR CALENDAR!**



Tucson Regional April 7 - 11

Denver 499er I/N (Intermediate/Novice)

Sectional April 11-12

Colorado Springs Sectional April 16-19

Gatlinburg Regional April 20 - 26

Boulder Sectional April 24-26

Oklahoma Regional May 11 - 16

Denver Regional May 19 - 25

Penticton, BC Regional June 15 - 21

Minneapolis NABC July 8 - 19

Omaha Regional August 3-9

Phoenix Regional August 10 - 15

Taos Regional September 21 - 27

Denver Sectional November 14-15





Paul Gefreh Life Master



Jeff Rapp/Randy Short 70.37%



Don Patterson/Judy Hummel 76.05%



Tami Kephart/Brenda Bocek
Ruff n Sluff 20 MP games 75% and 70%



Roger and Murlene Williams 71.11%



Aileen Tracy/Roy Nachand 70%



Thursday Swiss Teams A (tie)

DON PATTERSON - SHIRLEY SCOTT

JUDY HUMMEL - BOB HARWARD



Friday 299ers A.M. D, E

DAVID KALMAN - GARY RENEAU



Thursday Swiss Teams A (tie)

MIKE HELLMAN - BRETT HULET

LINDA SUNDBYE - DENNIS GOLDSTON



Friday 299ers A.M. F

ALANA BISSONNETT - BETH EISEMAN



JASON THEDE - BARBARA KAISER, not

Pictured Sam Taylor-Joy Brown



Friday 299ers P.M. D, E, F

SUE COAST - LYNNE TELFORD



Friday Open Pairs A, B, C

SANJIV DAMLE - DAVIS BENNETT



Saturday Open Pairs A

JOE PIEPER - DENNIS GOLDSTON

W
I
N
T
E
R

S
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C
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A
L



Saturday 299ers A.M. D

MARY HARRISON - LAURA MOORE



Saturday 299ers A.M. E, F

TAMI KEPHART – BRENDA BOCEK



MARK BISHOP Co-Chair

DAWN NEELEY – Hospitality



Sunday Bracketed Teams I

PAUL PERKOWSKI - MIKE HELLMAN

YING ZHANG - RICK CLELLAND



Sunday Bracketed Teams II

ED TEXEL - DOROTHY HYDEN
FRED CANNON - MARK HUTH



Mini McKenney GORDON JENSEN 1000+

JEANNE SCHLEICHER 3500+ - SHIRLEY SCOTT 5000+

NANCY TEEL 500+ - LEE KULBISKI 1500+ - RON BLISS
20+



Mini McKenney PAGE WALKER 2500+

KATHY DAWSON 100+ - CLAUDIA BUSCH LEE 200+

SANJIV DAMLE 300+ - JARED NAKAMURA
5+



Ace of Clubs LEE KULBITSKI 1500+ - CLAUDIA BUSCH LEE 200+

NANCY TEEL 500+ JARED NAKAMURA 5+



Ace of Clubs GORDEN JENSEN 1000+ - ANN SAGE 300+

SUE COAST 20+ - KATHY DAWSON 100+



Virtual Ace of Clubs STEVE LEBEL 300+ - PAGE WALKER 2500+

JEANNE SCHLEICHER 3500+ - KATHY DAWSON 100+



Ace of Clubs

MARGIE SCHRADER 3500+ - MEL LEVINE 5000+



Online winners JARED NAKAMURA 5+ - BILL CURTIS 5000+

Virtual Ace of Club Winner SHIRLEY SCOTT 5000+

Online & Virtual Winner RON BLISS 20+

UNIT

—360—

♠ ♥ ♦ ♣ ACBL

The Kibitzer is published several times a year by the Colorado Springs Bridge Center, Unit 360 of the American Contract Bridge League. Our unit is dedicated to the enjoyment and promotion of the game of duplicate bridge in the Pikes Peak and Southeastern Colorado region. News contributions and comments can be emailed to the editor Claudia Busch Lee at claudiabuschlee@gmail.com