

The Kibitzer

Newsletter for Duplicate Bridge Players

ACBL Unit 360

Spring, 2022



President's Message

I hope all of you are having a great start to the new year. As you know, Unit 360 is in full operation and there are regularly scheduled bridge games each week. Unfortunately, attendance at the weekly games has been about half of our pre-COVID numbers. On a positive note, the financial results for January indicated we were a little more than break even (and we had two snow closures during the month). We will continue to monitor the income and expenses to make sure the Colorado Springs Bridge Center stays financially sound.

Congratulations to Morgan Patrick for achieving Bronze Life Master and we wish him the best of luck as he transitions to his new home in Denver. We have a new Director, Karen Campbell, who is running the Tuesday 9:00 am game. We hosted our first Sectional tournament in over two years on February 26th and 27th.

In the upcoming months there is a lot happening in Unit 360 and District 17. Unit 360 is looking forward to hosting a Sectional Tournament in April and another in September. There are Sectional and Regional tournaments scheduled in District 17 that are listed on the Unit 360 Web page. Also, the Bridge Academy is scheduling bridge lessons for beginner bridge players and another course for players with bridge playing experience. We hope to see the table counts increase at the regularly scheduled games at the Bridge Center.

See you at the bridge table.

-Bud Raabe

The Unit 360 Board of Directors has approved a trial period concerning revisions to our COVID-19 Protocols. The trial period will run until the next scheduled BOD Meeting in May. As soon as the revisions are completed, the revised COVID-19 Protocols will be posted on the Unit 360 Web Page and in the Bridge Center.

Achievements:

Junior Master (5 pts):

Laura Lowan

Mary Ogden

Club Master (20 pts):

Tom Daley

Regional Master (100 pts):

Kay Brock

Steve Lebel

NABC Master (200 pts):

Paul Andrews

Bronze Life Master (500 pts):

Morgan Patrick

Ruby Life Master (1,500 pts):

Dorothy Hyden

Dr. Rande Short

Gold Life Master (2,500 pts):

Joan Tokarz

Inside this Issue:	
Bridge Academy	2
Hospitality Harbor	2
Annual Awards	3
Spring Sectional	4
Waggies	5
GNTs & Future Events	6
299er Sectional	7
Notable Achievements	8



Bridge Academy is Up and Running

The new Bridge Academy, spearheaded and directed by John Dukellis, is underway. John has begun teaching a new series of classes at the Bridge Center on Monday mornings at 9:00 a.m. The first class in this new series began on March 7 and had twelve students, four who are already Bridge Center “regulars,” and eight new faces. The first class covered responses to minor suit openings. Future classes will cover weak twos, strong opening bids, Bergen raises, inverted minors, and other popular conventions. Future courses scheduled for Monday mornings will cover two-over-one bidding and slam bidding.

John has also reinstituted “assisted play” on Thursday mornings for members of the Monday classes. Students play hands designed to complement the lesson material. They can ask questions and review the hands with an experienced mentor at each table.

In addition to John’s classes, Fran Pilch is currently teaching a free class on Wednesday mornings at the Senior Center covering bridge basics for novices, beginning with “What is a trick?” At the class on March 9, the students reviewed hand evaluation, how to use a bidding box and 1 NT opening bids. Hopefully, these students will soon progress to playing at the Bridge Center in a new 99er game that is being planned.

More information about the Bridge Academy is on the bulletin boards to the left of the big chalkboards at the Bridge Center. If you know someone who would like to learn or improve their bridge, please let John know.

-Kay Brock

Hospitality Harbor

Hello! My name is Dave Loring and I am the newest member of the Unit 360 Board of Directors (BOD). Thank you for electing me.

I’ve been asked to facilitate “Hospitality” for Unit 360, and to write a Hospitality column for our Kibitzer Newsletter — hence this first edition of “Hospitality Harbor.”

What does “Hospitality” mean to you? I’ve asked a few players at the Bridge Center for their ideas and was told it is about helping people feel welcome at our Bridge Center. A couple of specific ideas I heard were to restart a mentoring program and a find-a-partner program, and to begin serving food again.

What ideas do you have to help everyone feel more welcome at our Bridge Center? Would you be interested in helping with hospitality? Please tell me when we meet at the Bridge Center. Or, text your name and suggestions to me at 719-440-2823.

Together we can help our Bridge Center feel like a safe, comfortable, welcoming Harbor for all of us. Thank you.

-Dave Loring

Annual awards:

2021 Unit 360 Mini-McKenney Winners and Ace of Clubs Winners

Each year the ACBL recognizes, with the Mini-McKenney Masterpoint awards, the ACBL members who earn the most MP's in sanctioned tournaments and clubs (excluding NAP/GNT qualifiers and STaCs) within a calendar year. This race is named after William E. McKenney. Mr. McKenney was ACBL's first executive secretary and remained at the helm until 1947.

There also are the Ace of Clubs awards, that are like the Mini-McKenney Master points awards, but only black points are counted. This award was created in 1984, and in 2011, the Ace of Clubs award was renamed after Helen Shanbrom, the most successful club player in ACBL history.

There are 15 race categories in each award ranging from 0-5 MP's to 10,000+. A player is placed in a category based on his/her MP totals at the beginning of a given year.

I have posted a list of each award of Unit 360's top three finishers per race on the Awards Bulletin Board at the Bridge Center. If you would like a copy of the lists, please contact me.

Bud Raabe

What is the Barry Crane 500?

The ACBL member who has accumulated the most masterpoints during the calendar year wins the Barry Crane Top 500 race. Originally the McKenney Trophy, it was put into play by William E. McKenney, ACBL executive secretary. It was known as the McKenney Trophy contest from 1937-1981. When the list was expanded to include the leading 500 players it was called the Top 500 from 1982-1985. It became the Barry Crane Top 500 in 1986. Crane, who was murdered in July 1985, was ACBL's top masterpoint holder and was acknowledge by his peers to be unequalled as a masterpoint winner and a matchpoint player. His influence on the race was dominant for more than three decades.

CONGRATULATIONS

JEANNE SCHLEICHER

**2021 Unit 360 Top Masterpoint Winner
Barry Crane 500 number 399 with 366.5
masterpoints**





Unit 360 Spring Sectional

April 21 – 24

Unit 360 Bridge Center

Line up your partners and teammates for the Spring Sectional

Thursday - 6:30 Swiss Teams

Friday (lunch on your own)

10 am & 3 pm Double Session Stratified Open Pairs
(single sessions allowed)

10 am & 3 pm Stratified 299er Pairs, Single Sessions

Saturday (lunch on your own)

10 am & 3 pm Double Session Stratified Open Pairs
(single sessions allowed)

10 am & 3 pm Stratified 299er Pairs, Single Sessions

Sunday, (Catered lunch)

10 am Bracketed Swiss Teams* (7 rounds of 7 boards)

*To ensure fair competition, teams are bracketed based on the
average of each team's MP

DIC: Teresa Venhuis

Stratification: All events stratified by average master point holdings

Open - A: 2000+, B: 750-2000, C 0-750

299er Pairs - D: 150-300, E: 50-150, F: 0-50

Tournament Chair: Bonnie Bagley 719-593-0205 bon1bon@comcast.net

Partnership Chair: Karen Campbell 719-502-6812 karenunit360@aol.com

Security Officer: Bud Raabe 719-510-5213

Reservations Chair: Kay Brock 512-517-9919 kay.brock@yahoo.com

Session Fees: ACBL Member - \$12, Unpaid ACBL Member - \$15, 0 to 5 Masterpoints - Free;
Sunday Swiss - \$100/team. Credit cards may be used for payment of entries.

PREREGISTRATION IS REQUIRED!

Unit 360 COVID protocols will apply. Masks strongly encouraged but not required. Proof of
COVID vaccination required for all players who have not previously signed Unit 360
Certification of Vaccine Status.

Waggies

Fran Pilch and Bob Wagstaff

I started to play bridge in 2015, after I retired from teaching. Phyllis Dunn was kind enough to invite me to her home to explain the difference between spades, hearts, diamonds and clubs, etc. That's how little I knew when I started. I thought bridge would be really easy and really fun. Just like I thought golf would be easy and fun. Well, golf is NOT easy, I found out, and not even fun for me. Now some people, like Randy Rush, love golf – and I appreciate that. But I might just as well ride around in a golf cart, drinking beer and looking at the scenery! That to me is more fun than swinging a golf club.

Bridge, I have discovered, is NOT easy either. But it IS FUN! The people who play bridge are, for the most part, really friendly and generous. And smart! You have to have some marbles to actually play this game.

I've gone through some crazy cycles in my short bridge life. I got a little obsessive for awhile. Really wanting to get points every time, and feeling miserable when I made idiotic mistakes. Like not sleeping at night as I dwelled on what I had done wrong and why I was so stupid. However, I have "matured." I see bridge a little more clearly than I did awhile ago. I'm pretty sure I'll never be really **really** good at it. I'm not destined to be Eva, or Judy, or Cheryl, etc. I'm positive that other things in my life – like writing books and remembering that I have grandchildren – should be my priorities. Now I have become convinced that bridge should be a little less stressful and a lot more light hearted.

Bob Wagstaff and I were chatting about this one day, and he said that he and his wife Laura, both beginning players, had a set of rules they try to stick to. He shares them with you here:

"When my wife and I began playing bridge at the Bridge Center, I came up with three rules which I've been asked to share.

Rule #1	Relax and have fun.
Rule #2 (Aspirational)	Occasionally make a contract. Or at least try to.
Rule #3	Learn something.

These rules have served us well as beginning bridge players. Some might be useful reminders to more advanced players.

The companion book to these rules is titled: Learning Bridge One Mistake at a Time."

I like Bob and Laura's rules! I like talking to other players and learning about their lives. I like laughing at myself and at all the crazy things that happen at the bridge table.

So in the interest of lightheartedness, feel free to send me any bridge jokes or funny incidents you have experienced in your "bridge life." I'll try to write a paragraph each month to highlight some of them! See you at the tables!

Fran Pilch (franpilch@gmail.com) and Bob Wagstaff

D17 GNT Finals Are Coming

The District 17 Grand National Teams Finals will be held at the Denver Rocky Mountain Regional Tournament on Saturday and Sunday, May 28 and 29, 2022. Teams must preregister by May 15. To register, contact Bonnie Bagley, bon1bon@comcast.net. The flights, which are based on masterpoint totals as of August 6, 2021, are:

- Flight C: NLM with 0-500 masterpoints
- Flight B: 0-2500 masterpoints
- Flight A: 0-6000 masterpoints
- Championship Flight Unlimited masterpoints

There is still time to qualify. The deadline for qualification is March 31. Online qualification games will be held Saturday March 19 and Saturday March 26 at 3:00 p.m. Contact Sharon Smith, sharondrsmith@me.com for information about these games.

National Finals will be held at the Summer NABC in Providence Rhode Island July 13 – 17, 2022.

For a list of D17 qualifiers through March 2, go to

https://web2.acbl.org/documentLibrary/play/GNT_Qualifiers/GNT_D17.pdf

Need more information? Contact D17 GNT Coordinator Bonnie Bagley at 719-593-0205 or bon1bon@comcast.net



- D17 **ROYAL** STaC ... March 28 – April 3
Masterpoints awarded: 25% black, 25% **silver**, 25% **red**, and 25% **GOLD**
- Unit 360 Spring Sectional ... Thursday, April 21 – Sunday, April 24 at the U360 Bridge Center
- Denver Rocky Mountain Regional ... May 24 – May 30
- D17 GNT Finals ... May 28 & 29 at the Denver Rocky Mountain Regional
- D17 Summer Fun STaC ... June 6 – 12
- D17 Autumn Leaves STaC ... September 12 – 18

Winter 299er Sectional Winners:

Saturday Morning Winners:



Teresa and Lester Maxwell, 1st, NS, A, B & C

Saturday Afternoon Winners:



Cynthia Rose and Phyllis Dunn, 1st, NS, A



Meg Gross and Sandy Thwaites, 1st, EW, A & B



Ed Gardner and Mary Elizabeth Rowell, 1st, NS, B



Jean Brackett and Val Bardis, 1st, EW, C



Meg Gross and Sandy Thwaites, 1st, EW, A & B

Sunday Swiss Teams Winners:



Phyllis Dunn, Cynthia Rose, Joan Morris and Fran Pilch

These people made the event happen. Thanks:

- Bonnie Bagley, Tournament Chair
- John Dukellis, Game Director
- Kay Brock, Partnership Chair
- Maureen Tuttle, Hospitality
- Dennis Goldston, Celebrity Speaker

Notable Achievements



Tom Goings & Murlene Williams, 1st 70% game in 2022, Saturday evening Pro-Am Pairs, January 15



Bob Wingard & Mel Levine, 70.83%, Thurs Feb. 10



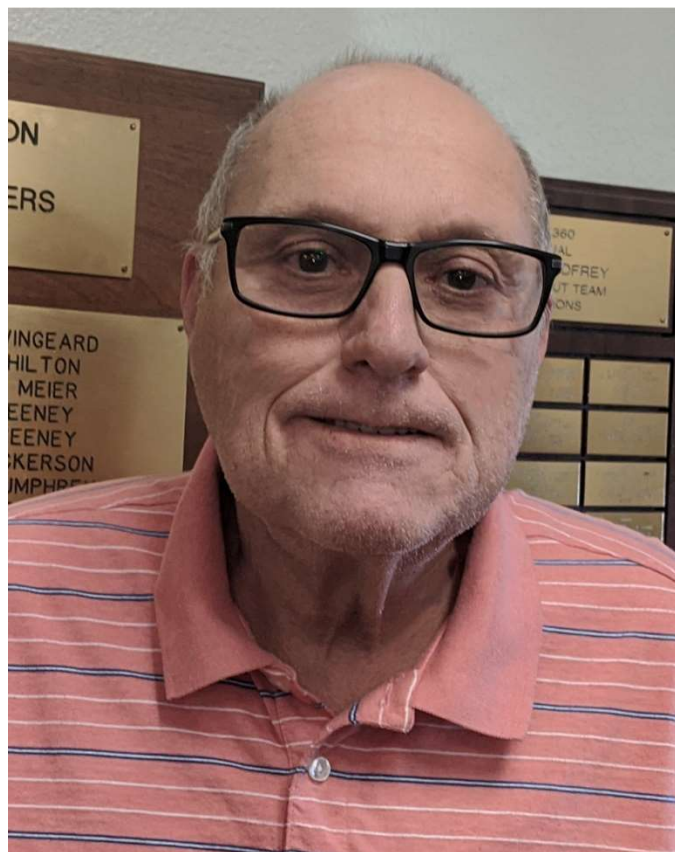
Mary Gollehan & Laura Kelly, 71%, Saturday Pro-Am Pairs, January 22



Joan Tokarz, Gold Life Master, 2500 points



Dorothy Hyden, Ruby Life Master, 1500 points



Morgan Patrick, NEW LIFE MASTER and Bronze Life Master, 500 Masterpoints

Bridge Riddle:

Why is it a bad idea to play bridge in the jungle?

Because of all the cheetahs.

The Kibitzer is published 4 to 6 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 Kay Brock at kay.brock@yahoo.com