The Kibitzer



Newsletter for Duplicate Bridge Players

ACBL Unit 360 Fall, 2026

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

This President's Message is addressed to our lapsed members and our guest members. A lapsed member is someone who has not renewed his/her ACBL membership. A guest member is someone with less than 20 Masterpoints who has not as yet joined ACBL as a full member. In both cases Unit 360 receives no monies from ACBL for these individuals.

The common responses I receive from lapsed members who are asked to rejoin ACBL are that they no longer care about Masterpoints and/or they do not read the Bridge Bulletin.

Guest members I expect being new to ACBL and duplicate play are not aware that Unit 360 receives monies when they join ACBL as a full member and receives no money while they remain a guest member. Being under 20 Masterpoints there seems to be no reason to pay for a membership as yet.

While the reason for not being a full member of ACBL I expect differs for lapsed members and guest members, the result is the same. In both cases the result is the same in that our unit receives no monies from ACBL.

If you are a lapsed member or a guest member, please consider rejoining/joining ACBL as a full member.

Achievements:

Junior Master (5 pts):
Mel Williamson
Russell Lee
Joseph Adams
Wendy Demandante
Shireen Rudderow

Club Master (20 pts)
Betsy Sobral
Jacqueline Keller
Rick Isaac
Robert Carlson

Sectional Master (50 pts):
Ken Day
Patricia Loun

Regional Master (100 pts):
Terry Hensel

NABC Master (200 pts):
Sue Coast
Kathy Dawson
Anne Maverick
Jared Nakamura

Advanced NABC Master (300):
Danuta Brown

Life Master: (500 pts)
Claudia Busch Lee
Ann Sage

Ruby Life Master (1500 pts):
John Dias
John Prescott
Gordon Jensen
Patricia Towle

Silver Life Master (1000 pts):
Lee Brown

Gold Life Master (2500 pts):
Bill Longfellow

Diamond Life Master: (5000pts):
Terry Deering

BOULDER TRIUMPHS IN CLASSIC BRIDGE BATTLE- John Grossman

Boulder bridge players won the 20th anniversary Front Range Challenge on November 7th. A total of 125 players participated. Over $1,000 was raised for food banks and charities in this event hosted in Fort Collins.

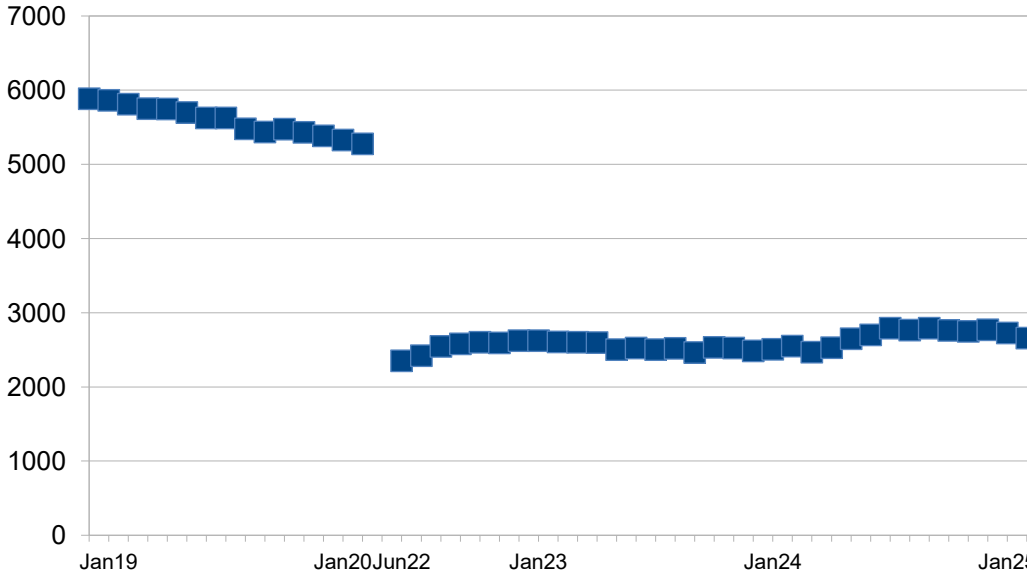
The Boulder win was boosted by the first-place finish of their B team. Seven of the eight Boulder teams placed in this event. A total team effort overcame two first place wins by Denver teams in the A and C brackets. Boulder collected 300 points, Denver 260 and Fort Collins 200.

Boulder gets to display "The Rock" for the next 12 months.

GRADUALLY

"How did you go bankrupt?" Bill asked.
"Two ways," Mike said. "Gradually and then suddenly."
-- The Sun Also Rises by Ernest Hemingway

I am concerned that, with the current status quo, the Bridge Center is in the process of going bankrupt. At present it is doing so gradually. A large, immediate yet unanticipated expense could cause it to do so suddenly. A requirement to immediately replace the roof might be an example, but the real concern is any expense that we cannot or do not anticipate.
The major source of this is declining table counts and therefore declining income, combined with increasing costs for everything. See the figure below. Each square indicates the total number of tables played at the Bridge Center, excluding tournaments, for a one year period. Those in the upper left precede the Covid shutdown. The remaining squares follow the Covid shutdown. Thankfully table counts have remained stable, rather than decreasing, since the Bridge Center re-opened.



Prior to the Covid shutdown table fees were $5 per player, $20 per table, for most games. For calendar *2018* a total of 58851⁄2 tables were played, for approximately *$117,710* in gross income. For calendar *2019* a total of 5383 tables were played, for approximately *$107,660* in gross income. The Bridge Center's rent from this income was sufficient to fund the Bridge Center's operating expenses, routine everyday maintenance, and contribute to Unit 360's reserve fund (savings account).

Table fees were increased to $6 per player, $24 per table, when the Bridge Center reopened after the Covid shutdown. For calendar *2025* a total of 2808 tables were played, for approximately *$67,392* in gross income.

In 2025 table fees would have had to be $10 per player, $40 per table, to yield income comparable to 2018 and 2019.

Unfortunately, the expenses of operating and maintaining the Bridge Center are relatively fixed, not reduced with lower table counts. Instead, expenses have been rising. For example, the County Assessor's office recently revalued the land occupied by the Bridge Center and its parking lot, approximately tripling our annual Real Estate taxes.
Currently the rents, from table fees, received by the Bridge Center are insufficient to pay its operating expenses and routine everyday maintenance. The only reason the Bridge Center, or Unit 360, is not already bankrupt is it hosts Sectionals at the Bridge Center. For example, Unit 360's "profit" from the recent 2026 Spring Sectional was approximately $3,900. These "profits" from hosting Sectionals are what is keeping the Bridge Center solvent, covering the operating expenses and routine maintenance that table fees no longer cover. While there is a modest contribution to savings for major repairs (e.g. sewer repairs or roof replacement), it is insufficient, so the Bridge Center is dependent on appeals for voluntary donations. This situation is not stable. Sooner or later some combination of events will leave the Bridge Center bankrupt. This is better addressed sooner, that is now, rather than after a combination of unfortunate events have occurred. My preference would be to increase table fees to cover all operating expenses and routine maintenance, as they did before Covid. The "profits" from Sectionals should be added to reserves for major repairs.

Ed Gardner Presently a member of the Bridge Center's Board of Directors
All opinions stated herein are my own, and have not been approved by other Board members

TABLE FEE INCREASE

In January table fees will increase from six dollars to seven dollars. The rise in table fees is due to cost increases in many areas including property taxes, utilities and supplies. Thursday morning and Saturday evening will be $3.00.

The Board of Directors delayed a cost increase as long as possible. However, without the increase the yearly revenue was barely meeting the expenses required to keep the doors open.

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING- Save the Date

The Annual Membership Meeting will be held on Saturday, December 12th and is a Unit Game. There will be lunch, a business meeting and a game.

Details will be sent in a e-blast and will be posted in a flyer at the Bridge Center.

BOARD ELECTIONS: We are having Board Elections in the next several weeks. There will be an online election option, or you can also vote (only once please) at the Bridge Center with a paper copy. Please view our list of candidates for the Board.

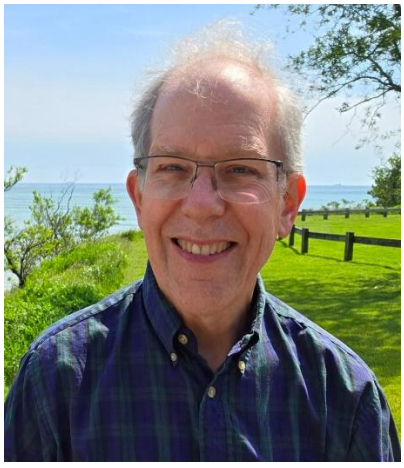
Colorado Springs Bridge Center Board: Election Candidates 2026: VOTE FOR 4 Candidates

Elected Board Members will serve for 2 years at a time. Dave Loring is stepping down from the Board and three current members are up for election. We also have three new candidates.



Patricia Rodriguez- I'm honored to stand as a candidate for the board. My main focus will be to support development opportunities and projects that increase membership and improve the financial stability of the Center. I also want to support tournament organization, strengthening partnerships, and ensuring clear communication

across the club. I would be grateful for your vote and your ideas so we can make the Center even more welcoming and enjoyable for everyone.



Andrew Maverick- I have played bridge for decades, but only played duplicate occasionally until 2024, when I retired and we moved to Colorado Springs. My wife (Anne) and I have enjoyed meeting the other members at the Bridge Center, and we appreciate the friendly atmosphere you create. I would be happy to help the club in any way that I can through service on the Board.

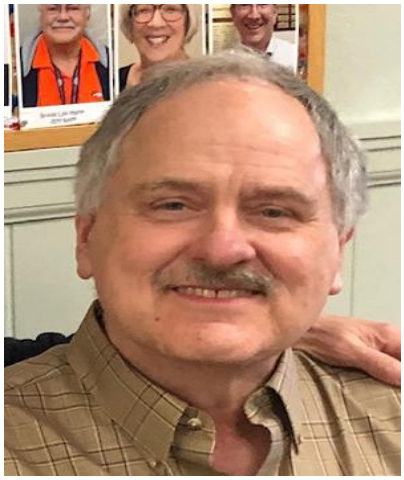


Lora Marshall-I love bridge and I want to give back to the Bridge Center. It gives a lot to the community, but the building needs some TLC. I'm open to ideas and I want to help build the Center into a respected place to make friends.



Bob Wagstaff- I am running for reelection to the Board of Directors. I have been on the Board for four years. I was Vice-President before my President role. I have been on the Board for four years and per the by-laws, can be elected one more time. I have enjoyed being on the Boad and look forward to one more term before leaving it.

My background was as a psychotherapist and I was in management. I grew up in small towns in Iowa before college and later lived in Chicago and Colorado Springs since 1984.



Ed Gardner-Having grown up in a family
that enjoyed cut-throat Hearts, at college I watched the nearly constant bridge game, eventually attempting to play. I still remember my first time. I think it was the third hand, I was dealt 28 HCP. I whimpered and said “Help”. Told to just bid 3NT, it wasn’t hard to make. I’ve only seen one hand that good since, but it was my partner's. I later worked in a group that always had lunchtime bridge, as many as four tables. One player and I decided to try a local duplicate game, played once a week for most of 1979. Then I was transferred to Colorado and stopped playing but enjoyed reading Bridge columns. About a decade ago, when I could still walk, my wife suggested we visit the Bridge Center, we’ve been playing ever since.



Claudia Busch Lee. I have enjoyed my two years on the Board and the editor of the Kibitzer. I have also enjoyed looking for opportunities for the long-term sustainability of our unit. In the shorter term, I have spearheaded the Ambassador games and the emergency contact list. I would enjoy serving another two years for the good of the 'bridge' order.

FUNDRAISER RECOGNITION AND APPRECIATION

In the past 6 months or so, we have had several major building repair challenges. One involved the kitchen flooring, and the other was the more recent major plumbing snafu that happened during one of our tournaments. The Board wanted to thank and recognize those who contributed to these efforts to keep our Bridge Center in working order. If anyone was left off this list, please accept our apology. *If you would like to still contribute to the many needs of our building maintenance, please make your check out to Unit 360 and leave it with any Board member.* Thank you again for your heartfelt donations. Your prompt response to our needs demonstrates the appreciation you have for our Bridge Community.

Joseph Adams
Anonymous
Hetti Bachet
Rick Bachet
Tom Baesl
Bonnie Bagley
Chas & Kathy Barrett
Davis Bennett
Mark Bishop
Diane Black
Ron Bliss
Ron Bliss
In memory of Fran Pilch
Brenda Bocek
Pam & Joe Bricker
Sandra Brightwell

Kay Brock
Danuta & Lee Brown
Claudia Busch Lee
Chris Champion
Sue Coast
Pete & Sandy Coggeshall
Ann Couch
Ken Day
Terry Deering
John Dias
John Dukellis
Cheryl Everett
Chrys Fotenos
Jay & Lynn Francis
Mary Gollehon
Donna Grant

John Grossman
Robert Harward
Tina Hayes
Terry Hensel
Judy Hummel
Jim Hurley
John Hurwitz
Gordon & Stephanie Jensen
Jackie Keller
Helen Kosley
Sharon Kruse
In memory of Fran Pilch
Lee Kulbitski
Scott Laudert
Steve Lebel
Dave Loring

Laura Lowan
Kay Malownay
Lora Marshall
Ann & Andy Maverick
Sheri McLaughlin
Sally Misko
Joan Newhouse
Polly Parent
Ann Parker
Don Paterson
Lorna Perkins
John Prescott
Jane Rothwell
Wojtek Rychlik

JoAnne Santa
Hartman Smith
Torrie Smith
Robin Spaulding
Miriam Spivey
Michael Stuart
Peter Viliesis
Robert Wagstaff
Don Washburn
Margaret Wiillard
Carol Zavarella

HELP WANTED

INDOOR BUILDING MANAGER

In an effort to continue to provide maintenance to the Bridge Center building and grounds, the Building Manager position is being split into an Outside Building Manager and an Indoor Building Manager position.

Roger Williams has agreed to continue as the Outdoor Building Manager.

The Indoor Building Manager position is largely one of supervising and coordinating and only rarely one requiring making repairs though even those repairs may be made by contacting an outside contractor.

The thinking behind splitting the Building Manager duties is due to the historical difficulty in filling the Building Manager position and due to the increased maintenance of our aging building and grounds.

As a reminder we are a volunteer organization which means that in order to keep the doors open we rely on people volunteering. We need one or two people to step forward and assume the duties as outlined below.

Supervise and interface with our Cleaning Service

The cleaning has done a great job for many years and has needed very little guidance. Coordinate twice yearly ice machine cleaning with JoAnn Santa and Harold Franson

Schedule and supervise yearly carpet cleaning

Coordinate Appliance Repair as needed

Coordinate Restroom Repair as needed

Coordinate other repairs as needed

For further information or to apply for the position please contact Roger Williams or Bob Wagstaff

BRIDGE DOWN HERE by Ed Hill *(our intrepid Pueblo Board Member)*

Was feeling rather burnt out on bridge, so I took the summer off from our Monday afternoon study group here in Pueblo. I have been running that group for a few years now and we have added numerous routine players that way.

We had our first Monday study meeting the other day (I had been on 2 vacations since Labor Day.) and this hand came up.

S KQx
H AKQ 10 xxxx
D Ax
C (void)

What should you open? With nine of us in the session, we had **One Heart, 3 Hearts, 4 Hearts, and 2 Clubs** as possible bids in first seat. We decided that the risk of **One Heart** was too great: might never get to game. **Three Hearts** was also discarded since it could also get passed out short of game, and do we need a pre-empt . **Four Hearts** was the second place favorite: you would get to game, and if partner had some "stuff" she might bid on. Maybe not. Many did not like the **2 Club** bid, as it overstates point count. Those in favor saw it as the only likely way to get to slam.
You decide. Partner had both the Club Ace and the Jack of Spades.

Yesterday at our Thursday club game in Pueblo we had 3 and ½ tables. We might have had 4 tables but one player called off early, and one cancelled late with a toothache. I was directing (since George, the usual director and club owner, had some meeting somewhere) and would have sat out, but the toothache got me in the game.

On the last round, my right-hand opponent opened **1 Notrump**. I passed, and my left-hand player, a beginner, was stuck with this:
S AJxx
H Axx
D Axx
C Qxx

The bidding was not precise, but the final contract was **5 Notrump**, with opener showing no Aces. We will discuss this hand on Monday at the study group. It will probably address forcing bids, the Stayman Convention, quantitative bids, Gerber, and a few other odds and ends. Declarer made his 5 Notrump bid, but the other tables both made six. Growing pains!

The game ran smoothly with a few minor glitches. I have never ruled on a revoke that made 5 tricks afterward. One table was a bit miffed when I told them that they COULD NOT redeal a passed-out, first round board. And, or course, I had a difficult time uploading the results—again. Growing pains.



San Diego NABC Nov. 26-Dec. 6

Las Vegas NABC Nov. 28 - December 8

Palm Springs Regional Dec. 8-14

Kansas City Regional Dec. 26-31

Albuquerque Regional Jan. 18-24

Phoenix 749 NLM Regional Feb. 5-7

Colorado Springs Sectional Feb. 18-21

Dallas NABC March 11-21

Tucson Regional April 6-10

Colorado Springs Sectional April 29-May 2

Denver Regional May 25-31

PLEASE CHECK DATES AND WEBSITE FOR MORE TOURNAMENTS

70% Games



DAVIS BENNETT - GORDON JENSEN
Monday, Nov. 2nd 72.62%
Wednesday, July 22nd 72.92%



PAT ATKINSIN – MARK BISHOP
Tues. 499ers, Nov. 3rd 76.46%



GORDON JENSEN – JOHN DUKELLIS
Tuesday Morning, Nov. 10th 71.88%



GORDON JENSEN - L. C. CROWE
Thursday Aft., July 23rd 71.88%
Tues. Morning, Aug. 4th 73.75%



CHRIS CHAMPION - BONNIE BAGLEY
Tuesday Morning, July 21st 73.41%



MARTHA RZASAS - CAROL JOHNSON
Thurs., Aug. 6th 20 MP Game 73.75%



SANJIV DAMLE - CHRIS CHAMPION
Thurs. Aft., Oct. 8 70.14%



JARED NAKAMURA – RICK ISAAC
Sat. Sept.19th Pro-Am 71.84%



CHERYL EVERITT-WENDY DEMANDANTE

Thurs., Oct. 8th 20 MP Game 70.00%



JOHN ALLMAN – MARK HUTH

Saturday, October 17th 72.67%

ADVANCEMENTS



CLAUDIA BUSCH LEE
NEW LIFE MASTER



ANN SAGE
NEW LIFE MASTER



TERRY DEERING
DIAMOND LM 5,000 MPs



JOHN PRESCOTT
RUBY LM 1,500 MPs



PATRICIA TOWLE
Ruby LM 1,500 MPs



LEE BROWN
Silver LM 1,000 MPs

499 Sectional



DREW & SANDY THWAITES
Saturday Open Pairs P.M. A & B



RICK ISAAC - TERRY HENSEL
Saturday Open Pairs P.M



TIM HURLEY - JOE HILDEBRAND
Saturday Open Pairs A.M. A



JOSEPH LAYSER - MARJORIE LAYSER
Saturday Open Pairs A.M. B & C



BOB WAGSTAFF - MARK BISHOP - GERRY & NANCY BOESCHE
Sunday Swiss Teams

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

EST 1937

AMERICAN CONTRACT BRIDGE LEAGUE

DEALING INFINITE POSSIBILITIES