THE BRIGHT LEAF ALERT

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF UNIT 191 **NOVEMBER 2026**

From our co-presidents……..

2026 is swiftly coming to a close, but the Unit 191 calendar is loaded with goodies—You are all invited to partake in the abundance! This message will be a brief introduction to what's on offer.

First and foremost in our minds right now is our upcoming Unit 191 Bright Leaf Sectional Tournament at our new venue! See Tournament Chair **Deanna Larus'** note in this issue of ***Alert***.

Next, we have elections coming up for two open spots and one return race for our unit board of directors. Ann Fisher will run again to retain her seat. Thanks to our Nominations Team, **Phylliss Woody and Stanley Wilson**, for rounding up an impressive slate of nominees who are looking forward to contributing to our shared future! Their report follows. *Ballots will be made available to you electronically and on paper for those who prefer that option.*

Also on the horizon, we will be having our 2026 Unit 191 annual meeting in December, to align with the close of our fiscal year (Dec 1-Nov 30). *More on this in the weekly email updates!*

Finally, we anticipate another joyous holiday party and Unit Championship game, to be held at TBA. Tables will be limited to 14, so sign up early when the invitation arrives! *More info coming to you closer to the time!*

November is traditionally a month to give thanks. Even in our crazy world, we do have so much to be grateful for—including our bridge community, which only exists because we love to play, share our talents, and treasure each other. See you at the table!

Morris and Ray—Co-presidents

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The Polls Are Open

It is time to vote for the Unit 191 Board of Directors. The polls open on November 1st and close at midnight on November 21st. The directors elected will serve a three-year term. Three director positions are available. The nominating committee has recommended **Bill Chappell, Martha Schulwitz, and Ann Fisher** for board positions.

Here are the instructions for voting.

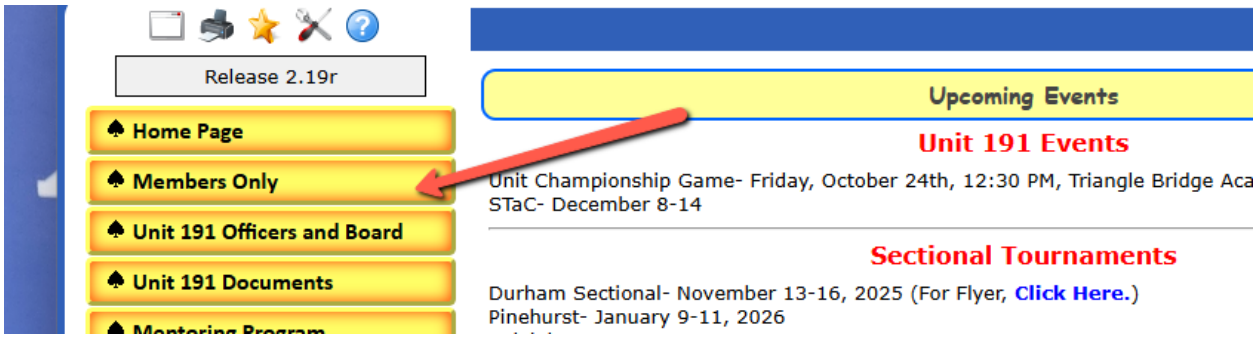
Only members of Unit 191 may vote in this election. (Many members of other units receive our emails and Alert).

You may vote for up to three candidates. Ballots having votes for more than three candidates will not be counted.

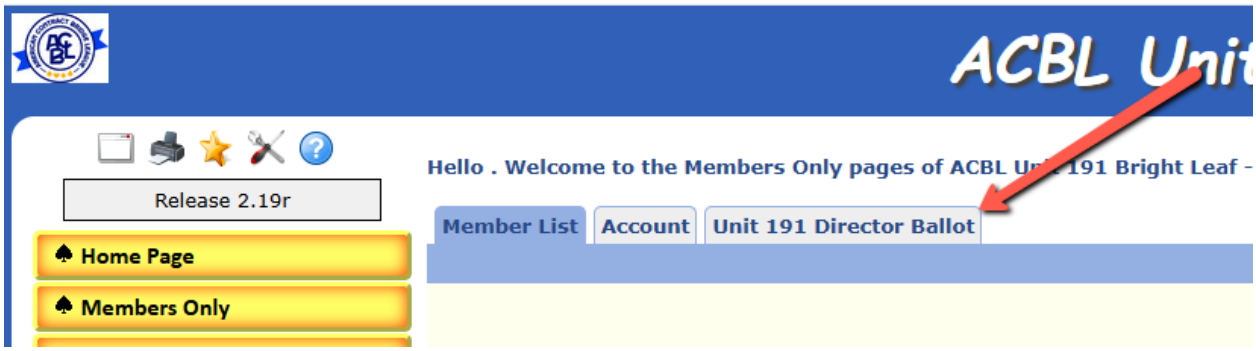
You may only vote once. Multiple submissions from one person will invalidate all of their ballots.

To vote online, first go to the Unit 191 website- https://www.bridgewebs.com/unit191brightleaf/

Click on the Members Only tab. Log on using your password. If you have never set up your account, follow the directions provided on the website. If you have difficulty logging on, contact the Unit 191 Webmaster for assistance (Marc Goldberg, goldberg73@gmail.com, (717) 712-4446)

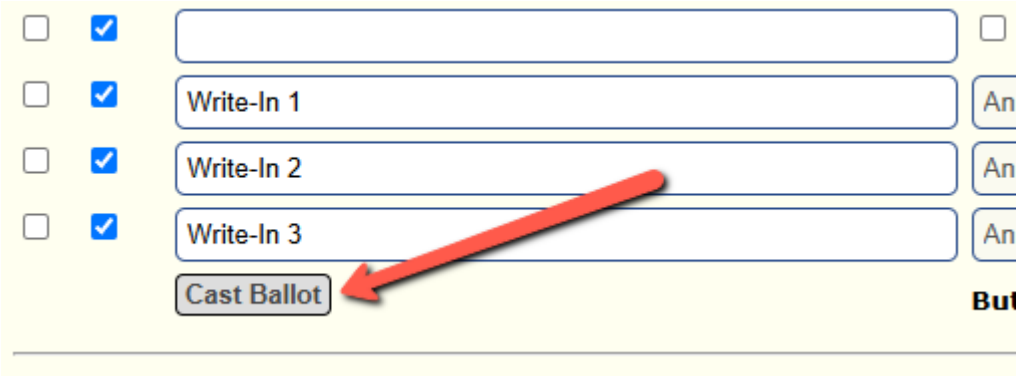


Click on the Unit 191 Director Ballot tab.



Vote your preferences. You can vote for those listed on the ballot as recommended by the nominating committee, or you can write in a person's name. You may vote for or write-in up to three candidates. (**Note: if you write in another person's name, please check with them in advance that they are willing to serve on the Board of Directors if elected.)**

When you are finished voting, click on **Cast Ballot**. You should receive an email confirming that your ballot was submitted.



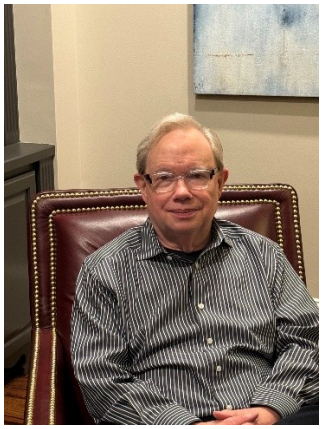
Unit 191 Director Candidates
November 2026

Ann Fisher



I love the game of bridge, and it is a pleasure to promote the game by serving on the unit board. Thank you for allowing me to serve, and I hope to continue to do so. The game has brought many new friends into my life as well as a family of support. I hope to see each of you at the table.

Bill Chappell



My return to the bridge table—following a nearly four-decade hiatus while living and working in the New York metro area—came after retiring and moving back to North Carolina. Retirement and the move followed a career focused on accounting and systems policy and projects in financial institutions.

College friends in the Triangle area enticed me back to playing socially in late 2024. The first game with them introduced me to bidding boxes. The boxes were fine, but I soon realized that the meanings of many bids had changed in the intervening decades: explanations of “two over one,” “negative doubles,” “inverted minors,” and other English-language-sounding phrases followed. After doing my best to adapt at the most basic level, I played my first duplicate game in January 2025 and was immediately hooked.

It is an honor to be nominated to serve on the Unit 191 board, and, if elected, I look forward to working with the board and all of you. I am particularly interested in helping newer players become comfortable in the bridge community, in whatever form works for them.

At my 50th college reunion in June, several classmates seemed to remember me more for bridge than for academics. I explained that while they were worried about what they were going to do after college, I was already preparing for retirement.

Martha Schulwitz



During my childhood, growing up in a large family in Venezuela, Spain, and Greece, I was intrigued watching my parents play bridge with their friends, but unfortunately, they never invited us to join them.

Wondering what to do in retirement lead me to the OLLI catalog, and there I saw a beginner's bridge class starting in September 2019. After retiring from nursing, I was excited to finally find and take Modern Bridge Bidding offered through The Bridge Academy.

When Covid hit, we all know what happened to face-to-face bridge. So, four of us from our bridge class decided to play online from our homes for a year, my partner moving back to Poland for a while, another moving back to Canada, and our fourth living in Pittsboro. Every week we got together to talk on WhatsApp while we played a game on BBO. So much fun!

Learning and playing bridge have been addictive and as challenging as it was being a nurse, both requiring decisions to be made under pressure, but in nursing one wrong decision could be life threatening, whereas in bridge, well, that could depend upon your partner, LOL. Seriously, I have had the BEST partners and mentors.

Playing with a mentor has helped me with my confidence, communication skills, fear of playing with better players and playing in tournaments.

I would appreciate the opportunity to serve Unit 191 and its members.



Breaking News from the Card Table: November News from Our Bridge Club in Roxboro

A Fond Farewell and Some Wonderful Gifts

With heavy hearts, we share the sad news of the passing of **Sandy Dunevant** last month. Sandy was a cherished member of our bridge community, and she will be missed at the tables. In a beautiful tribute to Sandy, several Ladies' Bridge Ladies clubs, where Sandy played, have made memorial donations to our club to help continue bridge education for new players. We are deeply grateful for their thoughtful generosity and for helping keep Sandy;s love of bridge alive by welcoming and teaching the next generation of players.

What a Spooktacular Day at the Tables!

Our Spooktacular Halloween Bridge Luncheon was a real treat, with delicious food, festive fun, fabulous company, and just the right amount of Halloween mischief! From the creative bridge hands to the laughter around the tables, everyone brought their A-game (and maybe a few tricks along with those treats!). Our Tricky Treat Game added some extra excitement and extra SILVER points, proving that even ghosts and goblins take their bridge seriously! A huge thank-you to everyone who helped organize, dressed up, and joined in the fun. It was a boo-tiful day of friendship, food, and bridge—and definitely one for the scrapbook! If you were not in attendance you need to ask about the 31-point hand!

On another note, Our OXFORD folks were unable to join us for the luncheon… MOM (Chip's mother) is in the hospital and she could use some cheering up, if you feel so inclined please send Betty a card.

Betty Schwartz

89 Pebble Hill Lane

Henderson, NC 27537

Upcoming Events!

Leftovers, Lunch and Lots of Bridge!

Did you make enough Thanksgiving food to feed an army? Did your green-bean casserole turn out so fabulous that you simply can't eat it all? Well, we have a solution! Join us for our **Bring Your Leftovers Luncheon on Monday, November 30th!**

***Arrive**: 11:45 a.m. with your leftovers

***Eat:** A true potluck feast! Bring a dish to share.

***Play:** Enjoy an afternoon of bridge with your favorite card-playing friends.

This will be a **Club Championship Game with EXTRA POINTS**, so bring your appetite, your leftovers, and your competitive spirit! Fair warning: There may be no leftovers left after this gathering!

November & December Game Schedule

Monday, November 2 nd and 9 th : Susan Korn will be directing our games!

* Monday, November 16 th and 23 rd : Regular bridge game at 1:00 p.m.

***DURHAM BRIDGE TOURNAMENT!** Join fellow bridge lovers at the Durham, NC Bridge Sectional, November 12 th –15 th ! It's a great chance to play some competitive bridge, earn those masterpoints, and enjoy a little friendly table talk. Grab your partner and join the fun!

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*__Monday, November 30th__ : Leftovers Luncheon and Club Championship Game. Arrive at 11:45 a.m.
*Wednesday Night Games: No Wednesday night games in November or December.

Did you read that last bullet point?

Wednesday Night Bridge Rap: The Players Have Left the Building! (Along with Elvis)

We shuffled, we dealt, we waited with flair, but Wednesday night players just weren't there! We need more folks to fill those chairs, not just a deck and a few folding pairs! So, November and December, we're calling it tight—NO Wednesday night bridge games in sight! Don't show up ready to bid or play; Wednesday nights are taking a holiday! Spread the word, recruit a friend, and let's get those Wednesday games back again! Until then, enjoy your evenings free…

Members in Unit 191 are fortunate in so many ways: it seems appropriate at this time of year to say thanks to: Club owners.....Directors.....Unit 191 board.....Webmasters.....
Tournament chairman.....Teachers.....the persons who make boards.....those who provide snacks and refreshments for games.....Mentor/mentee coordinators.....Volunteers.....the unit appreciates the efforts of so many who work to make our unit so great!



Calling all volunteers!

Upcoming Unit 191 Fall Sectional

November 12-15, 2026

We are excited to announce that we have a new venue for our sectionals. Thursday night Swiss (11/12) will be held at the Triangle Bridge Academy. Please thank **Henry Meguid** for allowing us to use his club for this! Friday, Saturday and Sunday events will be held at the Levin Jewish Community Center at 1937 West Cornwallis Road in Durham. It is a much larger venue with quality chairs! We are excited to try out this new space. As you know hosting a tournament takes lots of volunteers. Here is how you can help!

*__Tournament Set up and Break down__– We need at least five people to help set up tables, chairs and game equipment, unload cars, post signs, etc., on Thursday afternoon at 3:30pm at the JCC. We will also need volunteers on Sunday as soon as the Swiss game ends to help us break down the equipment. Please let **Deanna** know if you can help with on either day.

* **Guaranteed partners:** We offer guaranteed partners at our tournaments**. Ann Fisher** (afisher9tk@gmail.com) is the partnership chair once again. Otherwise, we have standby players available for each pairs (Open and Limited) game. So just show to play in a pairs game and we will have someone available. Ann is a wonderful help! We don't guarantee partners for Swiss but we do try to help form teams ahead of time. Contact her and we will try to match you up. If you are willing to serve as a standby guaranteed partner for the Open or Limited pairs game, please let Ann know. You will receive a free play coupon that can be use at a sectional game or a local club game as a benefit.

* **Hospitality Team**: We love tournament snacks! We are looking for people to join our fantastic leaders who keep us caffeinated and fed throughout the tournament. It takes a lot of work to keep the snack table full! So, they need some extra help before and during each session. Please volunteer for a session. Maggie Smith also needs someone to assist her for a couple of hours with setting up and serving Sunday Swiss Lunch.

*Hospitality Goodies: As usual we would love homemade treats and food items to share! Our players love to eat! Please plan to bring a homemade dish or donate $$ so we can have delicious goodies each day. You choose how to help. Bring your favorite cakes, cookies, breakfast items – anything**! Also, our players love little sandwiches to fuel their game efforts so small platters would be welcome. For cash donations, **Deanna Larus and Ann Fisher** will be collecting cash donations prior and during the tournament.

****Please respect our hosts and refrain from bringing any food with pork or shellfish to the Jewish Community Center. ****

* **Sunday Swiss Lunch** - Calling all chefs! For this tournament we will once again serve several types of chili for lunch. We are looking for members to make and bring a crock pot of chili (no pork please). We like

variety! Unit will reimburse for ingredients upon request. Please contact **Maggie Smith or Ira Mueller** if you can help.

Other needs:

*We need two coolers of ice on Friday, Saturday and Sunday. We have a sink this time but no refrigerator.

*Please volunteer at the end of the day to clean the game room and help prepare for the next event.

* We need volunteers to help retrieve the game tables from Unit 119's storage unit and transport them to the venue. We will also need to return them to Raleigh after the tournament. SUVs are fine.

Thank you so much for any and all assistance. Running any tournament is a tremendous task but with volunteering friends like you, we can make this tournament the absolute best!

Who to contact:

Help with hospitality: Contact **Ira Mueller** (**ira.d.mueller@gmail.com**), **Mary Newman** (mnewman0529@gmail.com) or **Maggie Smith**

Help with tournament set up or breakdown: **Deanna** (deanna@elarus.com)

Be a guaranteed partner: **Ann** (afisher9tk@gmail.com)

Need a partner: **Ann** (afisher9tk@gmail.com)

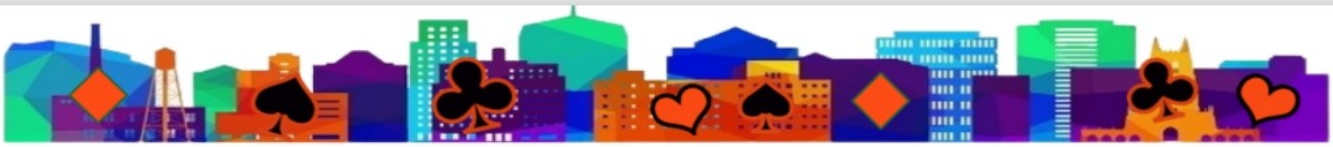
Any other questions: Contact Tournament Chair - **Deanna Larus** (Deanna@elarus.com)



Beef chili is the most classic chili, but you can always change things up. You can make it with other ground meat, as in white bean chicken, turkey, or even venison chili. Alternatively, skip the meat and bulk it out with extra beans or veggies, as in vegan white bean , vegetarian, or pumpkin chili. (**John Torrey** made an excellent chili and I believe he used cabbage). Use your imagination!!

Please let **Ira or Maggie** know in advance if you are willing to make a crock pot of chili—it makes their planning much more simplified.

Thanks in advance for your contribution!



Bright Leaf Unit 191 invites you to its Fall Sectional

New Location-
More Space
Better Chairs!!

November 12 - 15, 2026

Levin Jewish Community Center (Jewish for Good)
1937 W.Cornwallis Road, Durham, NC 27705

Dietary Policy: To respect the guidelines of our host facility, please refrain from bringing any outside food containing pork or shellfish into the building. Thank you for your cooperation!

THURSDAY, November 12
7 PM STRATIFIED SWISS TEAMS
Thursday night's Swiss Team Game will be held at The Triangle Bridge Academy 2634 Durham-Chapel Hill Blvd, Durham, NC 27707

FRIDAY, November 13
10 AM & 2:30 PM * STRATIFIED OPEN & 499'er PAIRS

SATURDAY, November 14
10 AM & 2:30 PM* STRATIFIED OPEN & 499'er PAIRS

SUNDAY , November 15
10 AM & TBD STRATIFIED OPEN AND 749ER SWISS TEAMS
PLAY THROUGH WITH LUNCH INCLUDED IN ENTRY FEE - $140 PER TEAM

*FRIDAY AND SATURDAY 2:30 PM GAMES ARE REGIONALLY RATED FOR MORE SILVER POINTS!

Stratification & bracketing for all games by average pair/team masterpoints. Strats may be adjusted at the discretion of the director.

Open Stratification:
0-1500, 1500 - 3500, 3500+

499'er Stratification
0-99, 100-299, 300-499

749'er Stratification:
0-300, 300-500, 500-750

ENTRY FEE: $14/PLAYER/GAME
0-10 MP play for free!

TOURNAMENT CHAIR
Deanna Larus deanna@elarus.com
(919)656-9666

PARTNERSHIP CHAIR
Ann Fisher afisher9tk@gmail.com
(919)417-7176

NEARBY LODGING
LA QUINTA INNS AND SUITES
4414 DURHAM-CHAPEL HILL BLVD. DURHAM NC
919-401-9660 $130+/ NIGHT (includes breakfast)
Book early: prices will increase as available rooms decrease(no group rate)

NOVEMBER 2026

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9-11 AM Play and Learn Online **12:30 PM** **Open Game** **6:30 – 8:30** Social Bridge	**1-4 PM** Barometer 750 Game	No supervised play **11:45 AM** **Tier I Lesson** **12:30 PM** **Open & Tier I MM Game**	**12 PM** ABA Bridge	**9:30 AM – Noon** Barometer 50 **12:30 PM** **Open Game**		
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
9-11 AM Play and Learn Online **12:30 PM** **Unit Championship Garme** **6:30 – 8:30** Social Bridge	**1-4 PM** Barometer 750 Game	**9:30 AM – 11:30 am** Supervised play **11:45 AM** **Tier II Lesson** **12:30 PM** **Open & Tier II MM Game**	**12 PM** ABA Bridge **7 PM** **Sectional Tournament Swiss Teams**	**10 AM** **Stratified Games** **2:30 PM** **Stratified Games**	**10 AM** **Stratified Games** **2:30 PM** **Stratified Games**	**10 AM & TBD Swiss Teams with Lunch**
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
9-11 AM Play and Learn Online **12:30 PM** **Open Game** **6:30 – 8:30** Social Bridge	**1-4 PM** **0-750 Game (18 boards)**	**9:30 AM – 11:30 am** Supervised play **12:30 PM** **Open Game**	**12 PM** ABA Bridge	**9:30 AM – Noon** Barometer 50 **12:30 PM** **Unit Championship Garme**	**10 AM** **Eight is Enough Swiss Teams** 1= up to 1000 2= up to 2500 3= >2500	
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
9-11 AM Play and Learn Online **12:30 PM** **Open Game** **6:30 – 8:30** Social Bridge	**1-4 PM** Barometer 750 Game	**9:30 AM – 11:30 am** Supervised play **11:45 AM** **Tier 1 Lesson** **12:30 PM** **Open & Tier I MM Game**	**Thanksgiving Day** **Club is closed**	**9:30 AM – Noon** Barometer 50 **12:30 PM** **Open Game**		
30						
9-11 AM Play and Learn Online **NEW - 12:30 PM** **GNT** **Stratified Swiss** **6:30 – 8:30** Social Bridge						

Bright Leaf Fall Sectional Tournament at JCC on Cornwallis Rd.

An Insufficient Bid! What to do?

By **Deanna Larus**

From time to time, a player will make a bid that is lower than the preceding one.

For example:

*** 1NT – 2D – 2C**

***1C – 1H – 1D**

***Some bids… 4S – 4D**

In all cases, the last bid is insufficient. It may be a mechanical error. Or the bidder may not have paid attention (cognitive error – not mechanical). Regardless, STOP!

Offender may not rectify the error by simply making a sufficient bid in the same suit. The opponent has options. The Laws pertaining to this can be quite complicated. Always call the director to guide everyone according to the laws.

1. The director will first explain that the next opponent may accept the insufficient bid and bidding will continue normally from that point with no penalty. Before he decides, the director will also explain that should he choose not to accept it, then the bid is withdrawn and must be replaced by a legal call.

2. If rejected, the offender must make a legal bid. Any bid except Double and Redouble are legal. But any new bid must have comparable meaning to the insufficient bid. So - was the insufficient bid natural or artificial? If a natural bid, the offender can easily choose to replace the call at the next level and the bidding resumes. If the bid was artificial, the offender must replace the bid with another bid that has the same meaning. Sometimes that is difficult to do.

   For example – the bidding goes: 1NT – 2D – 2C! 2C is Stayman – artificially asking for a 4-card major. There is no other bid that can be made with the same meaning. What is the offender to do? The offender must still replace the insufficient bid using a legal bid. However, any bid that is made that doesn't reflect the same meaning as the insufficient bid – even a pass – will bar his partner from bidding throughout the rest of the auction. Again, offender may not Double or Re double! A challenging predicament. The Director will evaluate the meaning of the new bid, decide if it is comparable and direct the auction.

3. If the Offending pair ends up defending, lead restrictions may apply. Declarer may require or forbid a lead indicated by the insufficient bid.

So – my recommendation? Bid carefully and do not make insufficient bids. That said, if you or one of your opponents do, call the director immediately and consider your options.

UNIT MEMBERSHIP REPORT

As of October8, 2026—submitted by **Deanna Larus**, membership chairman

Unit 191 currently has 454 full members and 74 guest members. We have 164 members who have achieved the rank of Life Master and 290 members who are in pursuit of that grand achievement.

Welcome to our newest unit members and transfers:

Trudy Amick and Robin Johnston (new members)

Michael Sears, Debbie Sears, Monet Shum, Bipul Agarwal (transfers)

Congratulations to the following players who advanced in rank since August 31st!

New Junior Master:

Pat Keenan, Kirk Kitchin, Bill Hendrich, Andres Chilton, Pete Brehm, Trudy Amick

New Club Master:

Stewart Johnson, Robert Thomas, Carole Ricker

New Regional Master:

Peter Hendee

New Sectional Master:

Jeanne Gismondi and Jayne Bremer

New NABC Master:

Stanley Wilson and Paul Cornwell

New Silver Life Master:

Phyllis Fuller

New Ruby Life Master:

Kamal Das