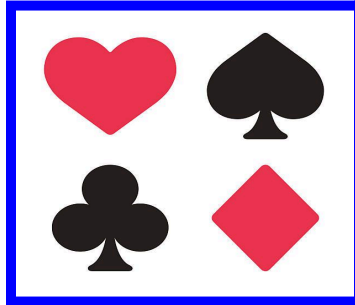


ALERT! August 2025

A Publication of ACBL Unit 206



Editor: Mary Robertson Features Editor: Cheryl Whitfield

A Message From Richard Splanger

Our President...

Two key events are starting this fall: Learn Bridge in a Day (LBIAD) with follow up lessons and our semi-annual sectional tournament. LBIAD will occur Sept 6, Saturday, from 10-4 with follow up lessons on Saturday mornings, lasting thru early December. Please get the word out for those wanting to learn bridge for the first time or need a refresher. Thanks to Suzy Bryant for coordinating this activity.

The semi-annual fall sectional will be Oct 2-4, Thursday thru Saturday, at the same church as last year: St. John's United Methodist Church. Start to think about your partners for the pairs games on Thursday and Friday with a team game on Saturday. We will also need several volunteers to make it a successful tournament. Look for announcements shortly of what our needs will be.

Final congrats to Mary Robertson and Jan Alexander as they coordinated this year's **The Longest Day** fundraiser for the 5th year. We raised \$17,366 for **The Longest Day** to help find a cure for Alzheimer's. This placed us as #1 in the state and one of the top fundraisers in the country!! Way to go everyone for your strong support!

Richard Spangler - President

CBC CALENDAR UPDATES & REMINDERS

Look for email updates from Margie Moses

For the most current events calendar, follow this link to our club's website calendar for more information: [CBC Calendar](#)

Saturday, August 16 199er Game 12-3:00 pm

This 199er game does not include lunch. Snacks from the kitchen or those provided by players will be available. Please provide your own partner for the Game. Players with fewer than 199 master points are invited to play.

Saturday, August 23 Probability & Statistics 10:00am-12:00pm

Guest teachers, Debbie and Bill, will present a class on developing extra tricks for your contract. There will be a lesson followed by example hands. The cost is \$5.00

Sunday, August 24 STaC Game 12:30-4:30 pm

Enjoy extra Silver points by winning in this STaC game. Lunch will be served at 12:30 and the game begins at 1:00. Side dishes and/or desserts are appreciated.

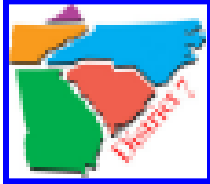
Most Saturdays through August - Bridge Tips, by Janie Hunt and Margie Moses

Saturdays at 10 am No class on August 16

No August Come Chat with Joe Viola - to resume in September

Great learning opportunity every second Tuesday of the month at 10:30 AM at the CBC. Do you have a question about a particular hand? Are you wondering which defense over a no trump opening he thinks works the best? Does he recommend upside down carding or standard? All you need to do is bring yourself and your questions, and Joe will do his best to answer them. If you are concerned about something particularly complex, you can always clue him in beforehand so he can come prepared.

Chattanooga Open Sectional Fall 2025



Thursday -Saturday Oct 2-4, 2025

St. John United Methodist Church

3921 Murray Hills Dr, Chattanooga, TN 37416

Tournament Chair: Richard Spangler (805) 231-8917 raspangler58@gmail.com

Partnership Chair: Bruce Antman (423) 290-8207 bruceantman1@gmail.com

Host Hotel: Variety of hotels within 10 minutes of the venue.

Fee All sessions: \$12. TEAM GAME: \$100 per team

Thursday

9:30 a.m / 2:00 p.m. Open Pairs, single sessions

9:30 a.m / 2:00 p.m. 499er Pairs, single sessions

Friday

9:30 a.m / 2:00 p.m. Open Pairs, single sessions

9:30 a.m / 2:00 p.m. 499er Pairs, single sessions

Saturday

9:30 a.m. Swiss Teams, counts as 2 sessions

Strats for pairs games: 3000+/3000/1000 (open games), 500/300/100 (499er games) - stratification for all games based on attendance and pair/team average.

There will not be an Ambassador, please pair up with another player for each session. Please consider volunteering to help make this a huge success!

This will be a great opportunity to pitch in and volunteer in one of several open capacities to make this Sectional a

huge success. Stay tuned for a listing of the volunteer opportunities.

Bruce Antman, a Club Director, has begun writing articles geared toward helping newer Bridge players strengthen their skills.



One Small Thing

One Small Thing

We've all had a penalty card (or three). As you probably know, if you expose a card so that partner can see it, and it can't legally be played, it remains on the table as a penalty card.

Declarer and dummy can't have penalty cards, so if you expose a card and then become declarer, put it back in your hand.

Most penalty cards are "major penalty cards". They must be played at the first legal chance – no exceptions. In addition, if you have a major penalty card, and your partner has the lead, the declarer may **require** or **prohibit** the lead of that suit – in which case the penalty card is picked up. Furthermore, if partner leads before declarer makes a choice, that card is also an illegally exposed card.

But if you **accidentally** expose a single card which is a 9 or smaller, it is a "minor penalty card". [All cards played out of turn, and all revokes, are major penalty cards.] If you have a minor penalty card, you can play any honor (10 or above) in that suit instead. And if your partner gets the lead, she can lead anything she wants.

Example: Partner leads ♥A at trick 1, you play ♥9 from ♥KT983, and partner wins the trick.

Case 1: The ♥10 sticks to the ♥9 and is visible on the table. It is now a **major** penalty card. Declarer says "Don't play a heart". You pick up the ♥10.

Partner leads the ♣A, which wins. She still cannot lead a heart, until she loses a trick and then wins another.

Case 2: The ♥10 sticks to the ♥9 as in case 1. Partner quickly leads the ♣4. Declarer calls the director, and requires the lead of a heart. The ♣4 is another major penalty card.

Case 3: The ♥8 sticks to the ♥9 and becomes visible. It is a minor penalty card, so declarer cannot tell partner what to lead. She leads ♥5, and you win the ♥K. The ♥8 is still a penalty card, so you must lead either ♥8 or ♥10 (an honor in the same suit).

If you think this is not “one small thing”, you’re right! And this summary is not complete – we haven’t even mentioned “unauthorized information”. The moral: Please call the director immediately, any time a card is exposed, and whenever you’re unsure about your rights and responsibilities.

GETTING TO KNOW OUR VOLUNTEERS

Learn more about our Club President

Richard Spangler

Roughly eight years ago, I enrolled in Dan’s LBIAD class. I finally decided to walk into the building thinking it had to be for playing cards because it seemed to have too many cars in the parking lot to just talk about bridges!! I am glad I did. My parents taught me Goren bridge when I was a young pre-teen living in Europe (all TV was in Flemish!!). I played off and on through college but stopped once Linda and I married and we started to have a family. I thought things had probably changed in how to play the game and felt going to LBIAD would be a great way to find out.

Shortly after obtaining my ACBL number and playing games mostly at night because I was still working, I was approached to join the Board which I gladly did. CBC cannot succeed without players but also cannot survive without volunteers. While new to the Board, I took on running the tournaments for the club and later taking on the task to determine what the club needed to do for long term success. I also saw that we were about to have a shortfall in the number of directors, so I took a class and test to become one. A couple years on the Board and I was asked to be the President, which again I jumped at the opportunity to help even more. As President, I have been encouraged by seeing the number of people volunteering their time beyond just playing cards working together to help CBC succeed.

Net - I love the game and am grateful to be a part of a committed group of people wanting Unit 206 to be a success. What I enjoy most about the game, though, is the camaraderie, playing with a broad range of

personalities, backgrounds, skills, etc. That is what gets me coming back!!

OUR 2025 THE LONGEST DAY WRAP UP: \$17,366



We will celebrate our huge and amazing success Friday, October 24th with a visit from the Alzheimer's Association Tennessee Coordinator. Our 2025 goal was \$16,000 and we not only met this goal, we exceeded it. Our current total amount of donations is \$17,366, ranking us as the 13th highest donations ACBL Bridge Club in the United States. What an incredible achievement! Thank you again on behalf of all those who benefit from the \$1,025,375 raised during this The Longest Day campaign. Be sure and join us for cake.

Our Club Facebook Page Is Growing



Interest in the club page has grown because people are seeing fresh information about our members playing bridge, with pictures of them. Have you looked at the many postings on our club Facebook page? Then you know it emphasizes our club members and what they are doing in pursuit of their bridge passion. As we strive to attract newer, even possibly younger players, social media is a great tool for outreach and awareness. If you haven't looked at our Club Facebook Page, it is easy to find on your phone, tablet, or computer. At Facebook.com, login or start your account. Then use the search function to go to 'Chattanooga Bridge.' This is the picture on our page. Questions? Reach out to John Hubbard.

Now here is some new news about our Facebook page:

First, it has a slightly new name -- As you see above its name is 'Chattanooga Bridge' and not 'Chattanooga Bridge Center.' This is so it reflects that we are using it for stories about our members who also play in our two area sister bridge clubs, Nooga East and Fairyland. Soon you will start seeing stories posted by them of fun things they are doing.

Second -- We have three people doing the postings to our Facebook Page John Hubbard for the Bridge Center, Sharon Lewis for Nooga East, and Susie Crouch for Fairyland. Since they don't always have all the ideas for what to post, You Can Help. Let one of us know about your ideas. Also, if we are not at a special game or event that would be good to post, take pictures yourself and send them to the appropriate person. Add a few comments about what happened.

Lastly -- The Board approved going ahead to start a Facebook Group for members of the three clubs where you can make posts, ask bridge questions, and give answers. This will be a closed group that you can join. We aim to get this Group up and running around mid August. More on this will come by email to you soon.

Nooga East Bridge Club

Every Monday at 12:30 p.m. there's a bridge game at Christ United Methodist Church located at 8645 East Brainerd Road across from Hurricane Creek Shopping Center. Players are asked to arrive no later than 12:15 p.m. so the game can begin promptly. For those of you in Cleveland or North Georgia, this is just a hop, skip and a jump away. We are a very welcoming, fun group and are always looking for new players of all levels. Are you interested? Just email noogabridgeeast@gmail.com to make a reservation. Need help finding a partner or have a question? You can text or call Sue Riddle at 423.509.3583 or Sharon Lewis at 423.240.5360.

The Fairyland Duplicate Bridge Club

The Fairyland Bridge group plays every Thursday at our Club. This group often combines celebrating special occasions along with a delicious lunch and great cards. Stay tuned to upcoming game announcements to make sure you don't miss the fun. Players should be registered before 10:15 to allow play to begin at 10:30. Lunch is provided between 12-12:30, afterward the game resumes. Reservations are appreciated, please reach out to Susie Crouch at 423.443.6889.

Friday Face-to-Face Mentor/Mentee

Our popular Friday Face-to-Face Mentor/Mentee Game occurs on the fourth Friday of the month. Bruce Antman coordinates this game and will have sign-up sheets at the CBC for both Mentors and Mentees. If you can't sign up in person, you can text or call Bruce at 423.290.8207. The Mentee group is growing, and we always need Mentors to help our newer players with valuable on-the-spot advice. Don't be bashful. Sign up early and make Bruce's life easier.

Partnership Committee

If you need a partner, our Partnership Committee can help. All you need to do is text the new Committee Chair, Anne Donnovin at 423.605.2996 and let her know that you're interested in playing more often. Anne will do

BRIDGE WISDOM & HUMOR



An Ode To Bridge

I'm giving up bridge-tonight's my last night
 It's amen to Staymen, I give up the fight.
 The insults and middles are giving me troubles.
 I can't sleep at night for thinking about doubles.

Misunderstanding

We had a partnership misunderstanding. My partner assumed I knew what I was doing.

"Playing cards is addictive. My habit has me up to two packs a day."
 Joshua Jay

Arnie's Angle - For Those Who Wish To Learn More About The World In General By Arnie Meagher



The Beaver-My Story

Hello, my name is Chippy and I appreciate the opportunity to share my story with you. There are two species of beaver living on our planet today, the North American beaver, to which I belong, and the Eurasian beaver, native to Europe and Asia. Though our general appearance, behavior, and how we live and work are similar, we are two distinct species. Humans have tried to hybridize our two species but have failed in their multiple attempts, because, as humans tell us, our chromosome count differs. We beavers of North America have 40 chromosomes, while our relatives in Europe and Asia possess 48 chromosomes. Why that matters is beyond my understanding, but I do know from experience that we are not genetically compatible. Our two species separated from a common ancestor about 7.5 million years ago when we became geographically isolated from each other. We are the second largest rodent on Earth weighing from 24 to 66 lbs. The capybara of South America is the largest rodent on the planet and weighs from 77 to 146 lbs. Our fur coats have on average 77,000 hairs per square inch, composed of an under-layer of warm downy hairs, and a longer layer of slick, water-resistant hairs. The combination of these two layers provide us with a totally waterproof fur coat all over our bodies that keep us warm, help us float in water, and protect us against our many predators that include coyotes, foxes, bobcats, otters, and great-horned owls.

Our freshwater habitats include rivers, streams, lakes, and ponds where we build dams and lodges using tree branches, vegetation, rocks, and mud. Our adult males and females live in monogamous pairs with their offspring. Both of our species are herbivorous, eating tree bark, aquatic plants, grasses, sedges, ferns, roots, herbs, water lilies, rushes, and cattails. We can remain underwater for 15 minutes without surfacing, and have a set of transparent eyelids that function much like goggles. When

surfacing, we can replace 75 percent of the air in our lungs in one breath, compared to 15 percent for a human.

Our two beaver species have shared a similar fate at the hands of humans. In the 19th and 20th centuries in both North America and in Europe and Asia, we were trapped and hunted by humans to near extinction for our fine furs, meat, and castoreum, a secretion of our scent glands that humans believed to have medicinal properties and was used in perfume and food flavoring. Before Europeans arrived in North America at the end of the 16th century, naturalist Ernest Thompson, together with biologists, estimated that beavers numbered anywhere from 60 to 400 million, but by the turn of the 20th century that very large population was reduced to around 100,000. Something similar happened around the same time to our Eurasian relatives with a population of approximately 1 to 2 million that by the 16th century was reduced to a mere 1,200 at a handful of sites in Norway, France and Germany. At the urging of environmentalists and land managers we were re-introduced throughout Europe and Asia in the latter part of the 19th and early 20th centuries and our population rebounded to 1.5 million by 2020. That story is told in some detail in 459 pages of *The Eurasian Beaver Handbook: Ecology and Management*, by Roisin Campbell-Palmer et al, Pelagic Publishing, 2016. It was the collapse of the beaver population together with the collapse of the bison and the passenger pigeon populations that triggered the modern conservation movement.

I will continue my story as a North America beaver and let someone from the Eurasian beaver family continue telling theirs. It has been well documented that during our many millions years of existence, we have modified almost every watershed on the North American continent. We played a prominent role in flooding meadows - a key ecosystem process that created suitable sites for seed dispersal and seeding establishment, and controlling vegetation succession. We made an especially dramatic contribution to northern landscapes by recolonizing ice-gouged valleys after glacial retreats as geologists and ecologists have established by discovering that the first layer of organic matter lying above glacial deposits was an ancient beaver pond with twigs and stems, showing markings of beaver teeth.

However that positive story suffered a major setback with the arrival of Europeans at the end of the 16th century. As Europeans spread across North America they recruited American Indians to trap and hunt our brothers and sisters offering in exchange for our furs, meat, and castoreum iron axes, knives, hatchets, fish hooks, woolen blankets, linen shirts, brass kettles, jewelry, glass beads, guns, ammunition, gun powder, and alcohol. Indian tribes across North America came to rely on beaver pelts along with the pelts of otters and other animals as their sole source of revenue. One beaver pelt could buy either one brass kettle, one and a half pounds of gunpowder, a pair of shoes, two shirts, a blanket, eight knives, two pounds of sugar or a gallon of brandy. Ten to twelve pelts could buy a long gun, while four pelts could purchase a pistol. But worse

was to befall us as European settlers in competition with Native Indian tribes began trapping us.

The Lewis Clark Expedition, 1804-1806, promoted and funded by President Thomas Jefferson, who had a keen interest in advancing the nation's participation in the fur trade, which was a major economic enterprise at the time, and one of the principal forces that had generated the longtime imperial rivalries for control of North America. Therefore, it was imperative that Lewis and Clark collect as much information on us as time and circumstances permitted. The expedition's captains collected a wealth of information on our distribution and abundance, as well as on our activities and our impact on the environment. The first beaver trapped on the expedition, as reported in the journal of Patrick Gass, occurred on July 22, 1804, near present day Council Bluffs, Iowa. That was the first of 201 to be killed and eaten by expedition members. Meriwether Lewis gave us high marks for our excellent flavor writing: "the men prefer the flesh of this animal, to that of any other which we have, or are able to procure at this moment. I eat very heartily of the beaver myself, and think it excellent, particularly the tale, and liver." Lewis explained that we tasted similar to lean beef, that we tasted best when slow cooked in a broth, and that our tails were considered a delicacy.

From the collective effort of the Lewis Clark Expedition emerged an impressive compilation of detailed information on our distribution, relative abundance, our dens, dams, food, habitats, and trade items. The expedition showed how to reach the Pacific Ocean by waterways and land routes. American settlers and traders soon began to travel over the route the expedition had blazed and multiple fur companies competed with one another for a portion of the lucrative beaver fur trade. Fur trader and entrepreneur, William H. Ashley, revolutionized the fur trade by organizing multiple fur trading expeditions employing white settlers up to 180 of them in one expedition, outfitting them with trapping tools and supplies in return for half of the fur trapped, and initiating the rendezvous system whereby traders brought their furs to a central location. One such expedition returned to St Louis with 100 packs of beaver pelts with each pack containing 50 to 75 pelts, which was valued at \$50,000.00. Beaver fur was in high demand in Europe and North America and was used to make felt top hats, which became status symbols, and was also used in making coats, capes, shoe lining, and ornamental trim for collars, cuffs, muffs, and gauntlets. With our fur being so valued, no wonder that both Native Americans and European settlers pursued us to the brink of extinction, a story that ranks among human's greatest crimes against nature. Not only were we relentlessly hunted but we had bad press with humans writing stories of how destructive we were felling trees, disrupting water systems, and creating flooding.

The consequences of our near extinction were profound: streams eroded, wetlands and meadows dried up, and salmon, trout, and swans lost habitats. Fortunately for us, humans gradually began to see the enormous error of our disappearance. From Meriwether Clark's observations and his

sensitivity to the systems of nature, arose the stirrings of an ecological awareness. Clark described how we served as nature's hydraulic engineers and as key animals in the shaping of stream ecosystems and surrounding landscapes. We built dams that formed ponds and wetlands and created new habitats for wildlife including fish, birds, insects, and amphibians. Trails created by our dragging of dam-logs also made paths for wildlife to access different food and shelter resources. The weight of our ponds pressure water deep into the ground, recharging aquifers. Floods dissipate in our ponds. Wild fires burn out in the wetlands we create. The bacterial and biochemical decomposition of the organic material we create produces nitrogen and phosphorus and other pond nutrients which are made available to a wide variety of single-celled organisms, thereby increasing a stream's fertility and capacity at the lowest food web level to support everything from microbes to mammals.

It took some time, but humans gradually came to realize that we serve as keystone agents in strengthening the food web at every level, increasing the fertility of entire river systems. Researchers have become "beaver believers", and are using NASA Earth observations to monitor impacts of beaver restoration on water availability in drought-prone ecosystems. Ecologists and ranchers alike realize that rivers and streams with healthy beaver populations support more biodiversity, are more drought resilient, and keep water available on the land for more days of the year. Today, a NASA-supported effort in Idaho adds remote sensing data to the suite of tools used to predict which streams can support beavers and to monitor how water and vegetation change once we return. We have rebounded in North America from a low population of 100,000 around 1,900 to an estimated 10 to 15 million in 2024.

Today, we splash our tails in appreciation of being Canada's national animal and of our restored rightful place as key players in building and maintaining the health and vitality of North America's ecosystems.
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