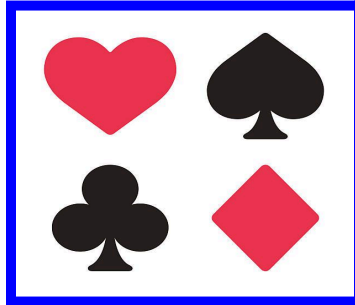


ALERT! July 2025

A Publication of ACBL Unit 206



Editor: Mary Robertson Features Editor: Cheryl Whitfield

A Message From Richard Splanger

Our President...



Thanks to everyone for their support in raising funds to help find a cure for Alzheimer's disease!! During the Longest Day party we had 15 tables, leaving only ONE table free. We will have a final donation tally soon and will update you accordingly. Thanks especially to Mary for her leadership and coordination of this key event for the club!! Thanks to Iris and Marian for coordinating the lunch that Friday.

Fall tournament is around the corner!! Our next sectional tournament will be Oct 2-4 at the St. John United Methodist Church, where we held the tournament last year. We will follow our traditional flow, with pairs games Thursday and Friday and a team game on Saturday. Thursday and Friday will feature two sections-Open and Under 500. Being offsite, we will need MORE volunteers, so we will start soliciting for help soon. Please think about how you can help; for example, with food, snacks, transporting tables to the site, setting up and taking down the room, etc. Looking forward to seeing you there. Richard Spangler - President

A MESSAGE FROM OUR CLUB MANAGER

Just wanted to send out positive vibes about everything happening at the Chattanooga Bridge Club. We just held our first successful speedball pairs, had a great Alzheimer's week (thank you for ALL the contributions), secured the Church as our tour site, and have a lot of great new members coming in through all the lessons' venues. Keep up the good work and I hope to see you at the bridge table very soon!

Myra Reneau



HATS OFF TO JOHN PRESCOTT

Hats off to John Prescott who oversees maintenance of CBC tied to the Building and Grounds. We had completed quite a few major projects prior to John taking on this role, so we expected the needs to diminish, using this as a selling point as we asked John to take this on. WELL... John has been busy! When you have your own building and grounds, something always seems to need attention. This has been the case with our furnace, the bathrooms, kitchen flooring, ceiling tiles, water leaks, gutter cleaning etc. John also worked to attach the new bulletin board and adjusting the TV placement on the wall. We have kept him busy! Thanks for all you do!!

CBC CALENDAR UPDATES & REMINDERS

Look for email updates from Margie Moses

Thursday, July 3rd- Fairyland Bridge Club

Let Susie Crouch know if you plan to attend the special holiday celebration with a day of bridge and BBQ lunch. Plan to arrive before 10:15 am.

Friday, July 4th Hot Dog Lunch at 11:30 Pairs Game starts at Noon

Sign up to bring side dishes, desserts, or drinks

Saturday, July 5th 10 am - Noon

Special Lesson – How and when to finesse taught by Debbie Hoveland and Bill Young. Join us to learn how to remove some of the guesswork regarding finesses. There will be a lesson with a hand-out followed by the play and discussion of pre-set hands. The \$5.00 fee goes directly to our bridge club.

Everyone is invited to attend. In order to facilitate the lesson, text or call Margie Moses to RSVP: 910.620.4582

Saturday, July 19th Game/Party Celebrating Recent Life Master Achievers Lunch at 11:30-Play at 1 pm

Bridge Tips, by Janie Hunt and Margie Moses

Saturdays at 10 am (please note July 5th will be replaced by the lessons mentioned above.)

199er Game

Saturday, July 27th at 1 pm-stay tuned for more details on this monthly game.

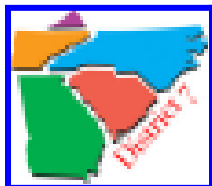
Tuesday Nights With Dan Lesson at 6:30 followed by play

After a short lesson, players with more than 50 MP will play with those players with less than 50 MP. We need players with more than 50 MP to come and partner up with someone learning the game. Can you sign up for one Tuesday per month? The cost to play is \$5 per player.

Come Chat with Joe Viola 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.

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

Chattanooga Open Sectional Fall 2025



Thursday -Saturday Oct 2-4, 2025

St. John United Methodist Church

3921 Murray Hills Dr, Chattanooga, TN 37416

NEW LOCATION - Larger venue - see address above.

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!

Our Club Facebook Page Is Being Seen By Many

Interest in the club page has grown because people are seeing fresh information about our members playing bridge, often 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 Club.' This is the picture on our page. Questions? Reach out to John Hubbard or Myra Reneau.



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 her best to match players with similar experience and skill levels.

Bruce Antman, a Club Director, has agreed to write an article geared toward helping newer Bridge players strengthen their skills. Thank you, Bruce, for taking the time to write this first and future lessons



One Small Thing

By Bruce Antman

"If you don't have anything to say, pass"

Of course, this saying doesn't apply all the time. If your partner makes a forcing bid, and the next player passes, you WILL bid something, whether you like it or not. If your partner opens one of a suit, the next player passes, and you have six points, again, you WILL bid. No questions. In both cases, you need to make sure partner has another chance to bid, just in case they have a big hand.

But when your partner has bid, and the next player bids or doubles, you are off the hook. If you have a minimum hand under the circumstances, and nothing special to say, just pass. Since the opponent has kept the bidding open for your partner, you don't have to.

Simple example: You hold: ♠9863 ♥A8 ♦Q65 ♣J842. Partner opens 1♥, so you plan to bid 1♠, but your opponent bids it first. Just pass. If partner has extras, she will bid again. If not, defending is probably the better option.

Another example: You open 1♦, followed by a pass, 1♥ from partner, and a double. You hold: ♠986 ♥A8 ♦KQ65 ♣KJ42. Without the double, you have to bid. After the double, any bid shows extra strength and/or extra shape ("something to say"). Your pass tells partner a lot:

- You have a minimum opener.
- You didn't bid 2♥, so you don't have 4 hearts. If you play support redoubles, you don't have 3 hearts either.
- You didn't bid 1♠, so you don't have 4 spades.
- You didn't bid 2♦, so you don't have 6 diamonds, or 5 really good ones.
- You didn't bid 2♣, so you don't have 5 clubs.
- You didn't bid 1NT, so you're weak in spades and/or clubs.

Knowing all that, partner should make a good decision about whether to re-enter the auction!

Final example: You open 1♥, followed by a pass, 1NT (forcing) from partner, then a double or 2 bid by opponent. With a hand like ♠Q86 ♥AK853 ♦976 ♣K2, you sigh with relief and pass.

The same principle applies at higher levels. After your right-hand opponent intervenes, pass just says "Partner, I've already described my hand." Sometimes that needs to be said. And it's often hard – unless your opponents help.

GETTING TO KNOW OUR VOLUNTEERS

Get to know Iris Abelson

I have been asked to tell a bit about myself for those who don't know me.

My bridge journey started in high school. I was friends with the son of Anna Reynolds, a long-time player at the bridge center who is listed on the Bridge Center Contributors Established April 1986 plaque at the Bridge Center. I knew nothing about bridge, but she taught a group of us the basics in her basement. I also played a little in college. Trust me that this bridge was at a VERY basic level. About 20 years ago, I started playing party bridge with friends. Because of the encouragement of MJ Levine, I came to the Bridge Center on a Monday night (a non-life master game), and I was hooked! I only played on Monday nights for a long time. When I retired in 2016, I had more time for bridge and now usually play about 4 times a week. I don't know what I would do in retirement if I didn't have bridge!

Ever since I retired, I have tried to give back to the Bridge Center. It is a community of friends, and I feel the need to support it as much as I can. I was on the board for 6 years, 3 years as president. Currently, I am responsible for the food at our Saturday/Sunday lunch games. (I would love for anyone to sign up to help me or host lunch!) I also do whatever else I can to support our club both financially and with my time. As I am a member of this community, I feel the need to be involved and give back as I can. Sometimes that is as easy as replacing a roll of toilet paper or helping to clean up after games.

If anyone is interested in my life outside of bridge, I am from Chattanooga (although I was born in Japan!). Lee (my husband) and I have been married for 48 years and have two children and two in-law children as well as 4 adorable grandchildren. We live on Signal Mountain and travel quite a bit.

OUR 2025 THE LONGEST DAY GOAL: \$16,000
WE EXTENDED OUR CAMPAIGN THROUGH JULY 15, 2025
We have reached \$15,166 as of 6/30/25



[THE LONGEST DAY ONLINE DONATIONS](#)

Did you remember to make your donation? Thank you to the many people who have so generously donated this year. Every dollar donated goes directly to the Alzheimer's Association to help fund research and expand outreach initiatives.

DO YOU KNOW THE FAIRYLAND BRIDGE CLUB'S RICH HISTORY?

Compiled by Susie Crouch

When Mary Robertson asked me to write a paragraph about the Fairyland Club History, I was delighted-I wanted to know more as well and I had this great big book of Minutes, By-Laws, Constitution, etc. However, nothing in it mentioned the History of Fairyland Club.

I have found out that it was started by ladies on Lookout Mountain who played party bridge. Dan Chandler says he thinks it started in the early sixties. Obviously, it grew. Dan also said he played there and they had 22 tables, mostly Lookout residents. Sadly, the key players have passed.

I don't know when, but Betty Sue Farmer had the Club moved to the Chattanooga Golf and Country Club because of declining attendance. My first records are on January 2, 2002. In a beautifully hand-written page of minutes on July 15, 2003, President Frank Green said that "attendance has been much better since meeting at the Chattanooga Golf Club"

Past presidents are Marla Michel, Bill Adams, Joy Jones, Cheryl Whitfield, Dan Chandler, Stephanie Felker, Suzy Bryant and Leigh Broadway. Suzy Bryant is our current president.

Fairyland remained there until Covid. We found our next home at the Signal Mountain Golf and Country Club until they started their remodeling. We next went to the Mountain City Club where we had a very successful few years until they sold the Club. On May 23, 2024, President Suzy Bryant presented the offer from Richard Spangler to play at the Chattanooga Bridge Center where we are now. We have big crowds, delicious food and lots of fun. y'all come join us!

Love from North Chattanooga,

Susie Crouch

BRIDGE WISDOM & HUMOR



Life is not a matter of holding good cards, but sometimes, playing a poor hand well. Jack London

I stayed up one night playing poker with tarot cards. I got a full house and four people died. Steve Wright

When to give up bridge: First you forget how to finesse, then you forget what picture cards have been played. After that you forget what the contract was and finally you forget to pull up your zipper. Wordpress Jokes

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

By Arnie Meagher

(Arnie, we all wish you well as you recover from your illness. You have been missed!)

The Owl - My Story



Welcome! My name is Hooty, and I have quite a story to tell about my family's evolutionary journey since the Middle Miocene, approximately 40 million years ago. I will explore with you the various adaptations that have allowed us to survive and even thrive to become the special creatures that we are today.

My Owl family has been around for a long time. In fact, the fossil record

shows that my ancestors existed as far back as 60 million years ago. The earliest recorded evidence of owls dates back to the Eocene epoch, which spanned from 56 to 33 million years ago. The common ancestor of all modern birds, including owls, is believed to have been a small dinosaur-like reptile known as theropod. We did not descend directly from this reptile but from other raptors such as hawks, eagles, and falcons and we have evolved to live in many different climates, from deserts to rainforests, and have adapted our hunting techniques accordingly.

We have evolved into a wide range of 254 species, with different sizes, colors, and habits. Nineteen owl species have homes in the United States, ranging from the diminutive Elf Owl about the size of a sparrow around 5 inches tall with a wing span of 9 inches and weighing from 1 to 1.5 ounces — the smallest owl on the continent — to the massive Great Gray Owl about as tall as a golden retriever - 2 feet 9 inches with a wingspan of about 5 feet. Today, we can be found in almost every part of the world, except for Antarctica, which is too cold for us. We prefer to inhabit forests, grasslands, deserts, and wetlands, and some of us have adapted to live near humans in urban areas. We have been part of human culture for centuries, symbolizing wisdom and good luck, and in some human societies we are kept as pets.

What enables us to live so long is the development of unique features. We possess wings that allow us to fly silently due to their asymmetrical shape. We have large eyes that see clearly in the dark and ears that pinpoint the exact location of our prey. We are nocturnal birds and hunt prey at night and sleep during the day, but some of us hunt in daylight hours. In the wild, most of us live up to 10 years, while some have been known to live 20 years. The oldest known wild owl was a Great Horned Owl that was recorded to have lived for 28 years. In captivity, the oldest owl was a Great Grey Owl that lived for an impressive 51 years. A gathering of owls is called a 'parliament', a term first coined by author, C.S. Lewis, in his classic adventure tale: 'The Chronicles of Narnia'. Lewis used the term to describe the gathering of a tribunal of owls who would meet to deliberate Narnian business and legislation.

Owls in ancient human societies: In ancient Egypt, we were viewed as symbols of protection and were often depicted in hieroglyphics. We were thought to guard the Underworld, and were believed to represent death and rebirth. In Greek mythology, the Athena, the Goddess of wisdom and war, was often shown with an owl as her companion, symbolizing wisdom and offering special powers to help people make wise decisions. Native American cultures including the Apache, Cree, and Cherokee saw us as symbols of luck and messengers of the gods, bringing good fortune and protection to those who respected us. Throughout human history, we have also been linked to magic and the occult. In medieval Europe, it was believed that witches could transform themselves into owls, allowing them to fly silently through the night and spy on their enemies. Some even believed that witches used the blood of owls in their magical potions and spells. In some cultures, we still signify mystery and are thought to have

supernatural abilities.

Our impact on ecosystems: We are highly regarded by humans as ecological pest control agents. By keeping prey animal populations in check, feeding on small rodents like mice, voles, ground squirrels and rabbits, we prevent rodent overpopulation that could lead to habitat destruction. We also help buffer ecosystems from dramatic population swings and prevent widespread destruction of trees and crops by exploding populations of insects and rodents. We are considered apex predators, meaning that we are at the top of the food chain with significant impact on animal species below us, while having few animals above us that regard us as food including foxes, raccoons, coyotes, and bears. In addition to our role as predators, we also support the ecosystem, serving as important pollinators, helping to spread pollen from one plant to another. We also help to disperse seeds, which helps to promote the growth of new plants.

Currently, our species is threatened globally by habitat loss, forest degradation, climate change, secondary poisonings, pesticide use, loss of prey availability, road accidents, direct killing, trade, and collision with electric wires. Also, conflict between humans and wildlife is one of the primary causes of population declines in some human communities. We confront many forms of human-owl conflicts, such as hunting, perceptions created through associations with misfortunes, and our perceived association with witches and possessing supernatural powers causing some people to fear us and kill us. Diminishing this type of conflict requires convincing local communities that our protection is important and our continued existence on their lands will benefit them. Because of the increasing awareness among humans of the importance of our species in the ecosystem, most of our species are protected by national legislation and international conventions. We appreciate the efforts of the Convention of Migratory Species (CMS), an environmental treaty of the United Nations that provides a global platform for the conservation and sustainable use of terrestrial, aquatic and avian migratory animals and their habitats. But much more work, study, and education is required to provide us with the protection and habitat requirements needed in the long term.

Lastly, here are a few facts that make us one of nature's most fascinating and coolest creatures.

- 1) We can rotate our heads 270 degrees around our bodies thanks to extra vertebrae and blood vessels designed to avoid cutting off blood flow. This rotation of our heads enables us to see in all directions. We can also look up and down at 90-degree angles, providing us with the ultimate surveillance system. We can literally watch our own backs.
- 2) Our face shape acts like a satellite dish directing sounds to our ears. And we have asymmetrical ear placement, which helps us pinpoint sounds from various directions to locate prey.
- 3) We have feathers with serrated edges that allow us to fly almost silently in hunting prey.

- 4) We often swallow prey whole and regurgitate indigestible parts like bones and fur as pellets.
- 5) We have large claws, called talons, located on our feet. Each foot features four toes, with razor-sharp talons that are the primary strike weapons used in hunting. These talons are controlled by a unique joint that causes a 'reversible toe' effect. We have two forward-facing toes and two backwards-facing toes, and we can swivel one toe front-to-back, adjusting the placement to assist in clutching prey, or to establish secure footing while roosting high in the branches of a tree. Our reversible toe has been a vital tool in our survival.
- 6) One of our most recognizable features is our 'hoot'. Often utilized in movies to add that extra hint of eeriness to a horror scene, the ominous 'hoot' of an owl can send chills up any unsuspecting spine. Some of us like the burrowing owl actually 'up the ante' in the creepiness department, by mimicking the sound of a rattle-snake, producing a hiss-like rattle noise to ward off any unwanted visitors to their home.
- 7) Many of our 254 species mate for life forming long term partnerships.

Thank you for reading my story. Hopefully it gave you an understanding of owls as fellow creatures contributing to rich diversity and well-being of our planet.

Yours truly,
Hooty

Wishing you and yours a wonderful 4th of July

