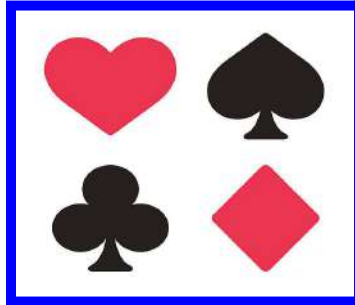


ALERT! September 2025

A Publication of ACBL Unit 206



Editor: Mary Robertson Features Editor: Cheryl Whitfield

A Message From Richard Splanger

Our President...

Our fall tournament is around the corner - Oct 2-4 at St John United Methodist Church. Hopefully you are already planning on what events to play as well as getting the word out for the club!! We will need additional volunteers to make this a success. Look for email announcements on how this is progressing as well as updates at our games.

We will also be starting our next session to help people learn about playing bridge or to improve their skills. Suzy Bryant will be kicking this off with "Learn Bridge in a Day?" starting September 6 followed up with additional lessons. Janie Hunt and Margie Moses will then transition this class to our weekly Saturday Bridge Tips lessons/games at the start of January 2026. Advertising has started to announce the opportunity and please help get the word out!!

Looking forward to seeing you and the new people at the Bridge Center!!

Richard Spangler

A MESSAGE FROM MYRA RENEAU OUR CLUB MANAGER

Hi everyone. It's so great to see all the new Life Masters this year. I've been happy to help facilitate a few of these teams. I am very proud of all the Chattanooga players that represented in the Atlanta Bridge tournament. Now with Learn Bridge in a Day and some intermediate lessons bridge will definitely be on everyone's mind as the fall comes around. It will be really nice to hold our tournament back at the church.



We finished 2nd, 3rd and 4th, all winning gold and a new life master. WTG Anne Donnovin ❤️

Well, and I still feel it's my responsibility to mention a few director things that are continuing to happen in our club games. These things also happen in the NC mountains and they get the same lecture lol.

1) count your cards - this is not a suggestion, but a requirement you are supposed to make sure you have 13 cards when you start before you look at them

2) make sure you are playing in the time allotted for the round. We try to run the clock, but even if we don't, a round of bridge cannot take 30 minutes. If you are one of the ones that seems to be late every time, please keep in mind to do everything within your power to avoid this - no talking, no snacking, lead

before you write, lead before you enter data in the bridgemate, etc.. this has become such an issue. The only sad next step is a penalty so please don't let that be you.....

I will honestly say that the Wednesday game went very efficiently. Thank you all for the big effort.

Myra

HATS OFF TO... Mary Robertson

Hats off to Mary Robertson for her leadership and coordination of the club's fundraising efforts to support **The Longest Day** and to ultimately helping to find a cure for Alzheimer's disease!! Through Mary's efforts and creativity, Unit 206 has continually been a leading contributor to this important cause. This year, over \$17,000 was raised - a new record!! This also placed us #1 in the state and Top 14th in the U.S. Thanks to everyone for their support and to Mary for making this happen!!



June 2019-Mary's first year as The Longest Day Fundraising Coordinator. What a good looking group

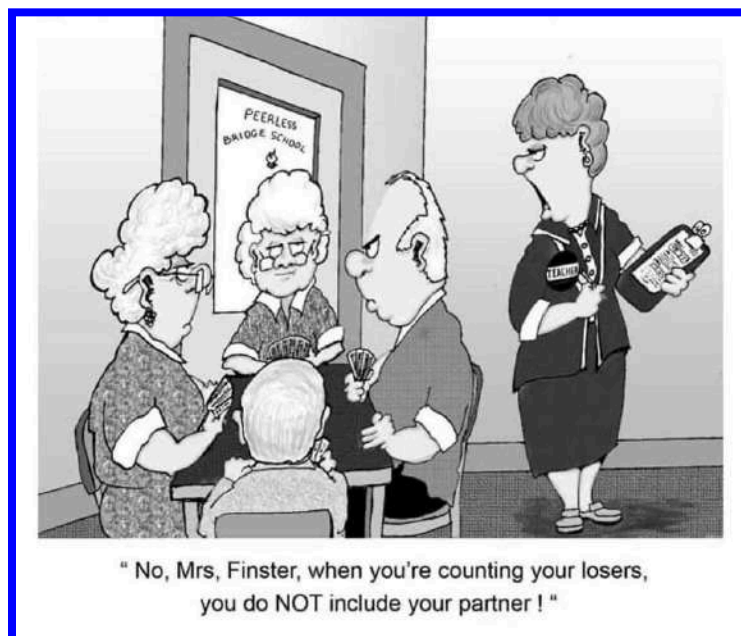
CBC CALENDAR UPDATES & REMINDERS

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](#)

[Calendar of Events](#)

- Learn Bridge In A Day Saturday, Sept. 6
10 AM Led by Suzy Bryant
- LBIAD Lessons Saturday, Sept. 13-thru end of October
10 AM Led by Suzy Bryant
- Lunch and Game Sunday, Sept. 14 12:30 Lunch
Game at 1
Look for a sign up sheet for a dish to bring
- 199er Game Saturday, Sept. 27 1 PM
Game only, no lunch
Feel free to bring snacks
- Chat With Joe Tuesday, Sept. 9 10:30 AM
Come and try to baffle one of our club experts



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. Richard will share these opportunities, please pitch in and help.



One Small Thing

By Bruce Antman

One of the first “rules” you learn about playing defense is that if your partner has bid, your opening lead should be in that suit. Like most “rules”, this one is true more often than not, but has plenty of exceptions. The following thoughts are not rules, just suggestions about how to think before you lead. Always start by thinking about the meaning of your partner’s bid.

If your partner opened one of a minor, and did not rebid it, there’s no strong reason to believe it’s her best suit – or your best lead. If you have a good lead in a different suit, ignore the bid and make that lead. If you have a singleton in a suit contract, or a suit headed by AK, KQJ, QJT, or the like, ignore your partner’s bid and lead it. But if you don’t have another obvious lead, partner’s suit is the best choice.

If your partner opened one of a major, you know they have 5 or more cards in that suit, so the odds of their having honors in the suit are quite high. In a suit contract, if you have a singleton, doubleton, ace, king, or queen in their suit, you should generally lead it, even over another good option. In notrump, you lead partner’s suit unless (1) you are 90% sure of setting the contract by leading something else, or (2) you have a good suit of your own to lead, a singleton in theirs, and an outside entry or two.

If partner preempted in any suit, remember that you can’t expect her to have much in high cards, especially in your suit. Unless the opponents are in notrump and you have a really good suit of your own, it’s usually best to lead the preempted suit. It’s least likely to cost you a trick, and partner isn’t likely to get in to return your suit anyway.

If partner overcalled, the “rule” is even more solid. One of the main purposes of overcalling is getting you to lead the suit. If you have any card in your partner’s suit and you don’t lead it, your partner’s trust in you will suffer - even if it doesn’t cost any tricks. It’s not worth the risk. Still, if you have a singleton ace in another suit, lead that first and

then partner's suit. If you have AK in another suit, it's o.k. to try the ace first, and even to continue if your partner signals encouragement. Otherwise, trust your partner's bid.

Don't try to remember all these suggestions. Just think about the **meaning** of your partner's bid, and your other options, before you blindly make the opening lead!

GETTING TO KNOW OUR VOLUNTEERS

Learn more about

Janie Hunt

When in the 4th grade I was seated at the family bridge table and told to hold 13 cards in my hand and do as told. After 12 weeks I was on my own. I was thrown into the throes of playing bridge and have never stopped playing. When my children were growing up I was 1 of 4 who played every Wednesday night.

With my family grown and only working part time, I heard of the CBC, grabbed a friend and went to play. I think I played every time the doors opened for 5 years. Now games are played everyday of the week and there are many as addicted as I am.

Thankfully the CBC is a place where duties and responsibilities are shared, you feel very invested in the membership. As a volunteer, I have created boards, chaired a tournament, carted soft drinks by the car load, cleaned out the center with Sue Shramko - including rearranging furniture. I have served on the board, held a 3 month stint as club manager - Covid rescued me, and now I teach bridge tips with Margie Moses on Saturday mornings.

To all newcomers, play, play, play. Ask someone to mentor you once a month to fine tune what you are trying to work on. Add a new bidding technique or fine tune one you use at least every 2 months, to build your game. Practice playing hands on BBO. Enjoy every person, we all love this game.

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. During the month of September, contact Mary Robertson at 423.605.7702. Anne will be back as the regular Committee Chair in mid October.

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

The Llama - My Story

Hi There! My name is Wooly and I have an interesting story to tell particularly regarding my family's role in ancient civilizations and how we have captured the hearts of people around the world as beloved companions and majestic creatures of the animal kingdom. We llamas have a long and fascinating history. Our ancestors, known as Camelids, originally appeared around 40 million years ago in North America. These early ancestors of ours resembled modern-day deer and had long limbs and necks. Over time, we spread across the globe and eventually made our way to South America around 3 million years ago. And it was in South America that we began to evolve into the special creatures we are today. We adapted to the harsh and diverse environments of the Andes Mountains, developing unique features that set us apart from other Camelids. These adaptations allowed us to survive and thrive in high altitudes and the extreme temperature fluctuations of the Andes mountains.

Our ancestors, the camelids, are thought to have originated on the great plains of North America about 40 million years ago and migrated to South America during the Great American Interchange, which took place about three million years ago when the land bridge between the two continents formed, allowing for the exchange of flora and fauna. By the end of the ice age, around 12,000 years ago, camelids had become extinct in North America, and it was in South America that our ancestors continued their evolution and adaptation to the harsh and diverse environments of the Andes Mountains of Peru and Bolivia. It was in the Andes Mountains that we llamas were bred from our wild ancestor, the guanaco, which still roams the high-altitude grasslands and mountains of South America. In the Andes Mountains we underwent significant changes to adapt to our environment. We developed unique dentition in the form of 3 premolars and one molar on each side of our jaws allowing us to efficiently chew and grind the tough fibrous vegetation found in the high altitude regions we inhabited. In addition to dental adaptations, we developed the ability to extract nutrients from the vegetation due to unique bacteria in our complex three-compartment stomachs, which break down and ferment the cellulose-rich vegetation we consume that other animals would find indigestible. We llamas also possess an extremely long and complex large intestine (colon), which absorbs water, vitamins, and electrolytes from food passing through it, allowing us to survive on much less water than other animals, a major advantage in the arid climates of the Andes. We also developed sturdy legs that help us navigate the rugged, steep terrain of the Andes Mountains and a thick double coat of wool that protects us from the frigid cold temperatures. We are large animals, standing 47 inches at the shoulder, with males weighing between 300 and 400lbs, and females weighing from 230 to 350lbs.

It is no wonder that the Inca peoples of the Andes recognized our skills, our strength, and our usefulness and around 5,000 years ago in a process of domestication conscripted us to carry heavy loads of textiles, food, and silver across long distances, establishing trade routes that served as vital links between distant communities that helped foster cultural exchange and economic development. We also provided the Incas with wool and meat, and as our relationship with the Incas developed we began to play an essential role in the social fabric of Andean

communities. We became an essential part of the agricultural cycle, providing fertilizer for crops through our waste, and in return were fed on a diet of natural grasses and plants that were readily available in the region. This symbiotic relationship allowed both humans and us to thrive in the challenging condition of the Andes. As the only livestock to be domesticated by humans anywhere in the New World, we llamas fulfilled the role in the Andes equivalent to horses, cattle and sheep in Europe, furnishing the Inca civilizations with transportation, wool, and meat. The Incas deeply appreciated us, often giving us as gifts to religious leaders and nobility, keeping us as pets, and sacrificing us to their gods as their most precious gift. The Incas refrained from sacrificing female llamas to ensure that flocks survived and prospered. As part of their careful management they conducted a census of us each November to keep a good accounting of our numbers that served them so well in multiple ways.

Llamas Under Spanish Rule: With the arrival of Spanish conquistadores in South America in 1532, unfortunately, the careful practices of the Incas regarding us llamas were not maintained. We suffered much the same fate as our Inca owners, perishing in large numbers as fell victims to newly imported diseases, were over-exploited for our meat and wool, and were out-competed for grazing by sheep. We experienced near annihilation, declining in numbers by 80 to 90 percent in the first hundred years after the conquest. Thankfully, we have put those bad days behind us and have rebounded in numbers so that as of 2007 there were around 4 to 5 million llamas in South America.

Thankfully, today, we llamas have survived the demographic catastrophe of globalization that began with the voyages of Christopher Columbus and other sea-faring captains as they opened up commercial trade routes across the world at the beginning of the 16th century- a process that continues to the present, and have come out on the other side internationally loved animals, farmed and traded around the world. Gradually, we rebounded in numbers, so that as of 2007 there existed about 4 to 5 million llamas in South America, and we have extended our range to Europe and beyond where we are prized for our wool, our meat and as therapy animals.

In the 1860s, we were reintroduced to North America as part of zoological collections, and later gained popularity as pack animals for trekking and hiking in the American West. In the 1980s, llama farming became a popular industry in the U.S. where we were bred for our wool, our meat, as therapy animals for humans, and as guard animals for livestock including sheep, calves, and poultry to protect them from wolves and coyotes. In Oregon, a llama named Rojo conducted regular visits to hospitals, schools, and old peoples homes, while Sherwood Forest Golf Club in Brevard, North Carolina in 2025, rents us as caddies. We are very helpful with your clubs, but do not ask us for advice on golf shots. Today, we continue to captivate humans around the world by our beauty and gentle nature.

Our Fleece: we llamas are normally sheared every two years, yielding about 6-7 pounds of fleece. For the best outcome, we are brushed down to remove all dirt and debris, then given a bath and allowed to dry overnight before shearing.

Our Diet and Digestive System: One of the significant evolutionary changes that we underwent was the development of our unique dentition, which allows us to graze on tough and fibrous vegetation found in the high-altitude regions of the Andes. This dental adaptation enables us to efficiently chew and grind our food. In addition, we also developed the ability to efficiently extract nutrients from the fibrous grasses we eat due to the unique bacteria in our

stomachs. We llamas have also undergone physical changes to adapt to our environment. Our long, sturdy legs help us navigate the rugged and steep terrain of the Andes Mountains. We also have a thick double coat of wool that protects us from the cold temperatures and high-altitude conditions we often encounter. Our wool is highly prized for its softness and warmth.

Our Reproduction System: We llamas have an unusual reproductive cycle for a large animal. Our females are induced ovulators. We mate in a lying down position for an extended time of 20–45 minutes. The gestation period is 350 days, and the baby, called a cria, is typically born with all the herd's females gathered to protect against potential predators. Our females give birth standing. Birth is usually quick and problem-free, over in less than 30 minutes. Most births occur between 8 am and noon, during the warmer daylight hours, which may increase cria survival by reducing fatalities due to hypothermia during cold Andean nights. This birthing pattern is considered a continuation of the birthing patterns observed in the wild. Our crias are up and standing, walking, and attempting to suckle within the first hour after birth.

Why Do We Spit? Yes, we spit for a number of reasons. When we feel threatened, we spit to protect ourselves or to maintain our position within the group. During mating season, male llamas spit at each other when fighting over females, who might spit at a male to stop his advances. We sometimes spit when we are annoyed or to establish dominance. Although we rarely spit at humans, we will spit when overloaded or mistreated. We are intelligent animals and when we are overloaded or mistreated we will lie down, hiss, spit, and kick, and refuse to move. Our spit is usually mingled with regurgitated food and can carry up to 33 feet. So please do not mistreat us.

In conclusion: our evolutionary history is a testament to the remarkable ability of llamas, and for that matter all creatures, to adapt to their environment, and through years of natural selection develop characteristics that enable them to overcome deprivation and hardships, even near annihilation and come out on the other side with vigor and zest to address the challenges of an unknown future.

Thank you for reading my story. I hope it gave you some understanding of us llamas and our role in developing the beautiful mosaic that is our plant Earth.

Yours truly, Wooly