

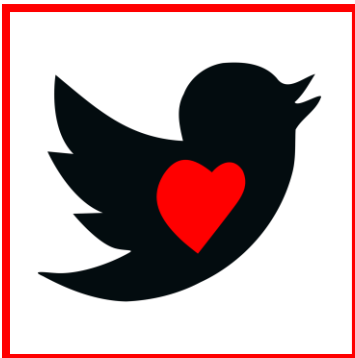
CHATTANOOGA BRIDGE CENTER

February 2026 News and Tidbits

A Publication of ACBL Unit 206



Editor: Mary Robertson



**February is a special month observing our upcoming
Sectional and a
Valentine's Day Open game and chili lunch. Read
more for additional details.**

A Message From Richard Splanger Our President...

Our semi-annual sectional tournament is just around the corner - February 19-21 (Thursday-Saturday). Hopefully you are close to having all of your partnerships in place for each of the games!! The tournament will be held at St. John United Methodist Church, as in the past. Thanks

to those who have already volunteered to support the event. We will be reaching out to everyone on where else we will need support.

It is exciting to see the support for all of the classes being held to advance our understanding of the game. Bridge Tips, being led by Janie Hunt and Margie Moses, is seeing strong support from newer players which is held every Saturday from 10-12. For intermediate to advanced players, John Felker has been leading a class every Wednesday morning focusing on Losing Trick Count and Law of Total Tricks. It has been hard finding parking when John hosts his lessons!! Suzy Bryant will also be starting another session of Learn Bridge in a Day (LBIAD) this spring. Details to become available shortly.

Net - while the winter has been cold, Bridge has been HOT! Thanks to everyone for supporting the unit. It is great to see a variety of opportunities to learn and play the game, from LBIAD to Tournaments! See you at the tables!

Richard Spangler

President - Unit 206

A Message From Myra Reneau Our Club Manager

Hi everyone,

Happy New Year! I'm just back from the Hilton Head Regional. The winter weather affected it a bit. It was down five hundred room nights and Hilton Head got snow and had the coldest temperatures on record. But a good time was had by all. It was my birthday so we all celebrated. Bruce and Jan, MJ, Sandy (boy, do we miss her), Trisha (from my NC mountain games) and Joan, and our teammates, Steve and Nancy all had a lovely evening.

I hope everyone has lots of tournaments on their 2026 calendar. They are such a great time.

Myra

HATS OFF TO JUDY, LIZ, ANNE & MYRA



Have you noticed the great art pieces now adorning our club walls?

Hats off to those who recently contributed art to the bridge center! The walls have been rather bare and it was a great idea to post art that people from the bridge center contributed to the building. Hats off to: Judy Monen (pictures taken by her deceased husband), Myra Reneau, Liz Norris and Anne Donnovin. The art has definitely upgraded the look of the building. Thanks to each of them for their contribution.

**Are you ready for the
Chattanooga Open Sectional
Thursday-Saturday, Feb 19-21, 2026**

**The Winter Sectional Club Tournament is only three weeks away.
Schedule your games with your favorite partner**



We need volunteers to sign up for tasks and to bring food..
We will need lots of help to set up and clean each day.

Use this link to access the sign up form using your computer or phone.

[Sectional Sign Up Genius Link](#)

The link to sign up will be on the club website home page with the other tournament information.

Our club is known for great tournament hospitality.
Help make this tournament one for all to remember.

St. John United Methodist Church

3921 Murray Hills Dr, Chattanooga, TN 37416

Tournament Chair:

Richard Spangler (805) 231-8917

raspangler58@gmail.com

Partnership Chair:

Anne Donnovin (423) 605-2996 aadonnovin@bellsouth.net

Host hotel: Variety of hotels within 15 minutes of venue.

Hospitality: complimentary snacks and drinks every day.

Sandwiches Thursday and Friday for \$5.
Complimentary lunch Saturday.

Pairs games: \$12 TEAM GAME: \$100 per team

Thursday, Feb 19

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, Feb 20

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, Feb 21

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**

FEBRUARY CLUB EVENTS

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](#)

Novice Game

Mondays-6:30-9PM

Enjoy a short lesson at 6:30, followed by a game at 7 and ending at 9 PM. More experienced players are encouraged to come play with Novices. A Novice (newer player) can have zero masterpoints, but simply wants to learn more about playing duplicate bridge. \$5 per player.

Chat With Joe

Tuesday, February 10 at 10:30 AM

Do you have a question about a particular hand? How is your defense? Here is a great chance to seek feedback from an advanced player. Just bring yourself and your questions.



Open Game/Party

Saturday, February 14-
Chili is on the menu

Lunch at 12:30

Game at 1 PM

Look for the sign up sheet for side dishes to bring, or donate to the Club's snack fund

Bridge Tips

Saturdays at 10 AM

Lessons begin promptly at 10 a.m. Cost: \$5. The topic varies from week to week. Led by Margie Moses and Janie Hunt

*Due to the Sectional-there will be no Bridge Tips

Saturday, February 21

Intermediate Bridge Lessons

Scheduled for each Wednesday through February 18

*Look for updates-this may change

Wednesday, 10:45-11:30 AM

\$5 per class, or \$20 for entire series

John Felker will lead these sessions diving into Losing Trick Count (LTC) and Law of Total Tricks (LOTT) methodologies.

Mentor Mentee

Mentor/Mentee occurs on the fourth Friday in January. Be sure to sign up and let Bruce know if you can play.



One Small Thing

By Bruce Antman

One Small Thing Support Cue Bids

What does it mean when your partner bids a suit that the opponents have already bid? That's the definition of a "cue bid".

For advanced players, there are many possible meanings. But there are two cases every duplicate player should be aware of.

If you have not yet bid, and your partner bids an opponent's suit, it is probably a Michaels cue bid showing a two-suited hand. That's a topic for another time.

If you have bid a suit, and your partner bids the opponent's suit at the first opportunity, it shows support for your suit and (at least) an invitational hand. For example,

$1\spadesuit - (2\clubsuit) - 3\clubsuit$ - 10+ support points and 3+ spades

$1\heartsuit - (1\spadesuit) - 2\spadesuit$ - 10+ points and 3+ hearts

$(1\diamondsuit) - 1\heartsuit - (P) - 2\diamondsuit$ - 10+ points and 3+ hearts

$1\diamondsuit - (2\clubsuit) - 3\clubsuit$ - 10+ points and 4+ diamonds (inverted minors are off after overcalls)

$1\diamondsuit - (P) - 1\heartsuit - (2\clubsuit) - 3\clubsuit$ - 17+ points and 4+ hearts

Note that the above point counts and suit lengths are absolute minimums. If you're minimum in both, and don't have super distribution, make a single raise instead.

The support cue bid is 100% forcing. But if the next opponent bids, opener should pass with a minimum hand and normal distribution.

Responding to support cue bids is easy, especially in major suits. With a minimum hand, bid your original suit at the lowest possible level. Jump to game with extra values, just as if your partner had made a normal limit raise. **If the original bid was a minor**, rebid no-trump to show a balanced hand with a good stopper in opponent's suit. If you're a beginner, that's probably enough.

Remember what the cuebid shows, and add up the points in the two hands to determine what level of your suit to rebid, knowing you have at least an 8-card fit. Use these examples to check your logic:

1♠ – (2♣) – 3♣ – (P) – 3♠ - any minimum spade opener; not forcing

1♠ – (2♣) – 3♣ – (P) – 4♠ - any spade opener with 15+ points

(1♦) – 1♥ – (P) – 2♦ – (P) – 2♥ - overcall with less than an opening hand

(1♦) – 1♥ – (P) – 2♦ – (P) – 3♥ - minimum opening hand, invitational

(1♦) – 1♥ – (P) – 2♦ – (P) – 4♥ - 15+ points

1♣ – (1♠) – 2♠ – (P) – 3♣ - most minimum club openers (11-14 points)

1♣ – (1♠) – 2♠ – (P) – 2NT - 12-14 points, good spade stopper, decent ♦ and ♥

Picture a hand like ♠KQ3 ♥KJ76 ♦A43 ♣876. Cuebidder can pass.

Why isn't there a 3NT option for 15-16 balanced? (Answer: you would have opened 1NT)

1♣ – (1♠) – 2♠ – (P) – 4♣ - 4+ clubs, unbalanced, 15-16 points, invitational to 5♣

1♣ – (1♠) – 2♠ – (P) – 5♣ - 4+ clubs, unbalanced, 17+ points, invitational to 6♣

If you and a regular partner are past the beginner stage, you can discuss what other rebids would mean. Bids of other suits can be defined as natural, help-suit game tries, stoppers for a possible 3NT, controls for a possible slam, or simply extra values. In any case they are 100% forcing, and with a minimum the cuebidder always returns to the original suit at the lowest possible level.

If you play them in other situations, self-splinters are a good option:

1♠ – (2♣) – 3♣ – (P) – 4♦ - at most 1 diamond, interested in slam

Rebids by the cuebidder are rarely a problem. Normally the only options are pass, a further bid in the agreed suit, or (rarely) Blackwood.

In more complicated auctions, cue bids may mean other things, and are generally best avoided unless you have discussed specific situations with your partner. If your partner makes one, try to further describe your hand – and do NOT pass. Note: Jump bids in the opponent's suit are not usually considered cue bids, and are normally natural.

Support cue bids are nearly universal, beyond the beginner level. They aren't even on the convention card, since they mean the same thing to everyone. So be prepared to field them, and to use them when appropriate. Your partners will thank you.

Our Club's Facebook Discussion Group is Growing



ChattDuplicateBridge
Private group · 25 members

Discussion Members Events Media Files

Write something...

Feeling/activity Check in Poll

Featured Add

About

The purpose of the Chattanooga Duplicate Bridge Facebook Group is to discuss bridge related subjects and bridge related activities among the members of the Group, Chattanooga Bridge Center (CBC) and affiliated bridge club members can join the Group upon request to join. -Membership is determined by the current CBC membership directory. Others may join the Group upon approval of the CBC President.

We are up to 25 members now.

The group is all about bridge -- ask a question, comment on a club or other bridge event, or find a partner, and more. It is for all CBC club members, including our two sister bridge clubs.

To join, just enter your Facebook app, find the group by name (ChattDuplicateBridge), and ask to join by clicking on the blue join button. Administrators Bruce Antman or John Hubbard will approve you, usually within a day. Then join the conversations.

A few of the conversations posted were:

- Bruce Antman reminded me about the upcoming Mentor/Mentee game.
- John Hubbard told about a super birthday party for Alice Greenleaf at the Pigeon Forge tournament.
- Administrator John posted about John Felker's hand evaluation class starting soon.
- Mary Robertson asking, and getting, for a bridge partner the day before the club game.

NEED SOME LAUGHTER TODAY?



A Little Humor: (borrowed from Barbara Seagram)

National ACBL tournament director Maury Braunstein was called to the table where the North-South pair were complaining. “Those two gentlemen behind us are so slow that our opponents come late to our table every single round!”

Maury was surprised to see two priests sitting at the other table, but that didn’t stop Maury from saying “Our fathers, who art at seven, hurried be thy game.”

2026 CBC Board of Directors

President:	Richard Spangler
1st VP:	Bruce Antman
2nd VP:	Janie Hunt
Secretary:	Mary Robertson
	Marian Creighton
	John Prescott
	John Hubbard
	Sharon Lewis
	Joe Schatz

**Supported by our Club Treasurer: Myra Tatum Club Manager:
Myra Reneau**

LOOKING FOR A BRIDGE 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. Don't miss out on their fun holiday gatherings.

Friday Face-to-Face Mentor/Mentee

After a two month break, the very popular Mentor Mentee game is back. Be sure to sign up so Bruce knows who is playing. Questions? Text or call Bruce Antman at 423.290.8207.

Partnership Coordinate

If you need a partner, our Partnership Coordinator can help. Contact Anne Donnovin at 423.605.2996.

Arnie's Angle - For Those Who Wish To Learn More

About The World In General



The Swans - Our Story

Greetings! Our names are Odette and Odile, named after the white and black swans in the Swan Lake ballet by Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky in 1876, one of the most famous classical ballets. We belong to the seven species of swans that are a universally recognized group of waterfowl, which have played important roles in the folklore, myths and legends in many cultures on planet Earth. Among the largest of all flying birds, we swans have been used as symbols of royalty, grace and beauty, and largely for these reasons we have rarely been considered acceptable as targets for sports hunting.

Our Evolution: Swans belong to the family Anatidae, which includes ducks and geese. The earliest known swan-like birds date back to the Miocene epoch, around 23 million years ago. These early ancestors shared many characteristics with modern swans, including their long necks and aquatic lifestyle. The oldest known swan fossil, dating back to the late Miocene, was discovered in Germany and is estimated to be around 5 million years old. We have developed remarkable adaptations that benefit our survival in aquatic environments. One most notable feature is our long necks, which allows us to forage efficiently for food while swimming. With our long necks we can reach underwater vegetation and small invertebrates without diving. In accessing food sources, our neck length plays a vital role. We inhabit lakes and ponds where aquatic plants thrive. The ability to stretch our necks means we can graze on plants that are out of reach for shorter-necked birds. Additionally, we can explore deeper areas increasing our chances of finding diverse food options. Peculiar physiological traits accompany this adaptation. A longer neck requires a stronger skeletal framework and increased muscle power, which we have developed over generations. These evolutionary changes have contributed to the species diversity we see today in swan populations. The ecological niche occupied by us is shaped by our physical characteristics. Long necked water fowl tend to choose shallow waters with abundant aquatic life support. Moreover, our adaptability helps us migrate between various environments, ensuring we find food throughout the different seasons. Over the course of millions of years, we swans have diversified into several distinct species, each with its own unique adaptations and characteristics. The most well-known species include:

- 1) The Mute Swan: A white swan with an orange bill and black knob at the base, native to Eurasia.

- 2) The Trumpeter Swan: The largest species of swan with black bills and feet, native to North America, known for its distinctive trumpeting call.
- 3) The Whooper Swan: A white swan with a black bill that is adorned with a distinctive large, triangular yellow patch. It inhabits the more frigid northern regions. The Whooper swan is the national bird of Finland since 1981 and is featured on the Finnish one Euro coin.
- 3) The Tundra Swan: A smaller species of swan with a yellow spot in front of the eye, found in North America and Eurasia.
- 4) The Black Swan: A unique species with black plumage and a red bill, native to Australia.
- 5) The White Swan with a Black Neck and head with a greyish beak and a large red knob near the base of the beak, native to South America

Our Habitats: As indicated above, we are generally found in temperate environments, rarely occurring in the tropics. Four species occur in the Northern Hemisphere, one species is found in Australia, and one species is distributed in southern South America - nesting from Tierra del Fuego north to central Chile, Uruguay, and Rio Grande du Sol in southern Brazil. We are year-round residents of the Falkland Islands. We are absent from tropical Asia, Central America, northern South America and the entirety of Africa. One species, the mute swan, was introduced to North America, Australia and New Zealand in the late 19th century and has been viewed by some as an invasive species. Several species are migratory, either wholly or partly so. The mute swan is a partial migrant in Western Europe but wholly migratory in Eastern Europe and Asia. The whooper and tundra swans are wholly migratory, and the trumpeter swans are almost entirely migratory. There is some evidence that the black-necked swan is migratory over part of its range in South America.

Swans in Human Culture: We swans hold a prominent place in human culture. Many references to swans can be found in Greek mythology, Roman and Egyptian history, Irish and Nordic folklore and the writings of authors in Europe and Asia. Swans were used on coins in Germany and on the badge of Henry IV in England, where records of laws relating to the ownership of swans date back to the 12th century A.D. In Greek Mythology, the story of Leda and the Swan recounts that Helen of Troy was conceived in a union of Zeus disguised as a swan and Leda Queen of Sparta. References in classical literature include the belief that, upon death, the mute swan would sing beautifully—hence the phrase, 'swan song'. The mute swan is also one of the sacred birds of Apollo, who is often depicted riding a chariot pulled by swans. In the second century, the Roman poet Juvenal made a sarcastic reference to a good woman being a "rare bird, as rare on earth as a black swan" (black swans being completely unknown in the Northern Hemisphere until Dutch explorers reached Australia in the 1600s.) The Irish legend of the children of Lir is about an evil stepmother who transformed her children into swans for 900 years. In The Wooing of Etain (an Irish tale of Love, Loss, and Jealousy) the king of the Sidhe (the fairy race who make their homes in the mounds of the earth) transforms himself and the most beautiful woman in Ireland, Etain, into swans to escape from the king's army. The swan has recently been depicted on an Irish commemorative coin. Swans are also present in the poetry of W.B. Yeats. His poem, The Wild Swans at Coole, has a focus on the mesmerising characteristics of the swan. Yeats also recounts the myth of Leda and the Swan in the poem of the same name. In Norse mythology two swans

drink from the sacred Well of Urd in the realm of Asgard, home of the gods. According to legend the water of this well is so pure and holy that everything that touches it turns white, including the original pair of swans and all others descended from them. In the Finnish epic Kalevala, a swan lives in the Tuoni River located in Tuonela, the underworld realm of the dead. According to the story, whoever killed a swan would perish. Today, five flying swans are the symbol of the Nordic Countries, the whooper swan is the national bird of Finland and the mute swan is the national bird of Denmark.

Swans In Latin American Literature: the Nicaraguan poet Ruben Dario (1867–1916) consecrated the swan as a symbol of artistic inspiration by drawing attention to the constancy of swan imagery in Western culture beginning with the rape of Leda and ending with Wagner's Lohengrin. Darío's most famous poem in this regard is Blasón – "Coat of Arms" (1896), and his use of the swan made it a symbol for the Modernismo poetic movement that dominated Spanish language poetry from the 1880s until the First World War. Such was the dominance of Modernismo in Spanish language poetry that the Mexican poet Enrique Gonzalez Martinez attempted to announce the end of Modernismo with a sonnet provocatively entitled, "Wring the Swan's Neck". In Hinduism swans are compared to saintly persons whose chief characteristic is to be in the world without getting attached to it, just as a swan's feathers do not get wet although they are in water. Swans are mentioned several times in Vedic literature, and persons who have attained great spiritual capabilities are referred to as "Supreme Swans" on account of their ability to travel between various spiritual worlds. Swans are intimately associated with the divine twins in Indo-European religions, and it is thought that swans were a solar symbol associated with the original Indo-European sun goddess.

The Swan Upping, is an annual ceremony happening in England since the 16th century, in which mute swans on the river Thames are rounded up, caught, ringed, and released on behalf of the British Crown, the Worshipful Company of Vintners and the Worshipful Company of Dyers, each of which is entitled to one-third of the Thames swans. Owning swans signaled nobility and in 1482 the crown ordained that only landowners of a certain income could keep swans. Ownership of swans was recorded by a code of marks nicked into their beaks; an intricate system of these 'swan marks' developed. Only those who owned the right to use an official swan mark could own swans, and marks were restricted and expensive to purchase. Any swans that didn't bear a mark were automatically the property of the crown. This effectively meant that only the monarch, wealthy landowners and some large institutions like trade guilds, cathedrals and universities could afford swan ownership.

Our Reproduction, Nesting and Young: We swans usually mate for life and normally begin nesting when we are 3 or 4 years old. A pair of us may build our nest on a muskrat house or construct it entirely from marsh vegetation. Nest mounds are approximately six to twelve feet across and eighteen inches high. We will aggressively defend up to 100 acres of wetland territory against other swans or predators. In late April, pens will lay a clutch of 5 to 7 eggs. The young swans, called cygnets, will hatch after 33 to 37 days of incubation. Cygnets feed mostly on aquatic insects and crustaceans during their first weeks of life. In July, while the cygnets are flightless, our adult swans lose their primary wing feathers—the ones they need for flying. During this flightless period, adults often stay hidden in the marsh with their young while new feathers are growing. In August,

with our new primary wing feathers we start to fly again. The cygnets first fly in September when they are 14 to 17 weeks old.

Swans As food: Swan meat was regarded as a luxury food in England during the reign of Elizabeth 1. A recipe for baked swan survives from that time: "To bake a Swan Scald it and take out the bones, and parboil it, then season it very well with Pepper, Salt and Ginger, then lard it, and put it in a deep Coffin of Rye Paste with store of Butter, close it and bake it very well, and when it is baked, fill up the Vent-hole with melted Butter, and so keep it; serve it in as you do the Beef-Pie." Swans being raised for food were sometimes kept in swan pits. We swans were eaten as a special dish at feasts, served as a centerpiece in our skin and feathers with a lump of blazing incense in the beak. We were particularly associated with Christmas, when we would be served in large numbers at royal feasts; forty swans were ordered for Henry III's Christmas celebrations in 1247 at Winchester.

Interesting facts and a few legends about us:

- 1) We swans boast over 25,000 feathers on our bodies.
- 2) We are the largest waterfowl on Earth, with males typically larger than females.
- 3) We have wingspans ranging from 5 to over 6.5 feet
- 4) We stand on one leg to regulate body temperature.
- 5) Our adult males are called cobs, and adult females are called pens.
- 6) Our feathers are highly prized for use in clothing and decorative items.
- 7) Cygnophobia is the irrational fear of swans.
- 8) However, it is best to admire us from a distance as we fiercely defend our territory against all intruders including humans.
- 9) We are proud to be considered a symbol of love and commitment because of our lifelong pairing.
- 10) Groups of us can have different names: swans in flight are called a wedge, swans in the water are called a bevy, and when we gather on the water's edge, we are called a bank.
- 11) Our males stay on guard duty the whole time a female swan sits on her eggs, and even perform victory dances after warding off predators.
- 12) The Aboriginal Noongar people of Western Australia believed that black swans were once white but had their white feathers torn out by [eagles](#) for being too proud.

Thank you for reading our story. We hope it gives you a deeper understanding of us swans and our role in human culture. Please share our story with your friends.

Yours truly, Odette and Odile