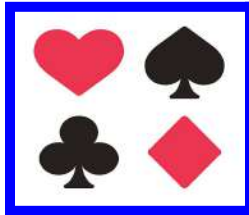


CHATTANOOGA BRIDGE CENTER

May 2026

News and Tidbits

A Publication of ACBL Unit 206



Editor: Mary Robertson

A Message From Richard Spangler, Our President

The Longest Day games and other fundraising activities to help find the cure for Alzheimer's disease are just under two months away!! We will kick this off with a party on Saturday June 13, followed by a full week of games at each of the clubs. The Unit has always greatly supported this important time and we look forward to your continued support!

Separately, we are creating a signup sheet to help people add other games and partners to their schedule. See the sign up sheet on the bulletin board and please feel free to note what Club and games that you would be interested in playing so that then people can reach out to you. Naturally, you can always work with Anne Donnovin to find partners, but we thought this might serve as a useful tool as well.

See you at the games!

Richard Spangler

President

A Message From Myra Reneau

Our Club Manager

Myra's Box



I just wanted to take a brief moment to talk about Gatlinburg. In this ever-changing world of bridge and then after COVID, tournaments have really changed. Gatlinburg was always known for being a stellar tournament, often having 50+ brackets and 10,000+ tables. Sadly, that is no more. I have some of my most precious memories from that tournament. Many of you have heard about them from me personally. Gatlinburg will be held in 2027 and possibly in 2028. The facility is just crazy expensive. So with that said, Chattanooga is on the horizon as a potential for a future regional replacement city. It would not be every year like Gatlinburg, but maybe on a rotating basis. We have not hosted a regional in quite a while. It does take a fair bit of manpower, and the reward is not great. But it puts our city on the map and helps support Bridge. So when the time comes, I hope you will step up to support this initiative. Thank you for all you do for Chattanooga Bridge.





HATS OFF TO MYRA TATUM

Hats off to Myra Tatum for her exemplary work as Treasurer for the Chattanooga Bridge Center. Her natural level of detail and diligent follow up provides the club with great confidence in our financial picture. She also goes beyond the call of duty, for example, recently challenging AND WINNING that challenge concerning a significant increase in our property taxes. That plus managing our CDs helped to strengthen our financial position. Finally, she makes sure that we are on top of all reporting requirements. Kudos to all that Myra does on a volunteer basis to support the club!!

DO WHAT YOU LOVE TO END ALZ

ALZHEIMER'S ASSOCIATION®



It's almost that time of year again. Our Club will celebrate our annual fundraiser supporting the Alzheimer's Association beginning Saturday, June 13. The following week there will be an opportunity to buy raffle tickets for the chance of winning free bridge games, and there will be a Silent Auction on our last day. Each year our Club has generously contributed to this vital opportunity to help raise money. Susan Rothberger is acting as our TLD coordinator this year, and Mary Robertson will support her in the planning and coordination.

Recent advancements in Alzheimer's research highlight significant progress in both earlier detection and risk reduction. Scientists are increasingly focused on identifying biomarkers—such as tau and beta-amyloid—in blood and other fluids, paving the way for simple, non-invasive blood tests that could detect the disease before symptoms appear and improve diagnosis, treatment tracking, and access to care. At the same time, growing evidence shows that individuals may be able to lower their risk of cognitive decline through lifestyle choices that support brain and heart health, including regular physical activity, nutritious diets like the Mediterranean or DASH diets, strong social connections, and ongoing mental engagement. Together, these developments reflect a promising shift toward earlier intervention and proactive prevention—bringing us closer to more effective treatments and, ultimately, a world without Alzheimer's.

So, get ready to play bridge for a great cause and get your checkbooks out! It's a win win.

KEYCARD BLACKWOOD

Written by Joe Viola

In April, I wrote about keycard asking bids. In this article, I am going to give some advanced advice on asking for keycards.

Keycard Blackwood is one of the more useful bridge conventions. There are two other items to consider before committing to a slam.

- Do you have enough “stuff” to take 12 tricks? I remember a deal when my partner and I had a good trump suit and lots of controls, but he ran out of tricks before cashing 12 winners.
- Are there any suits that do not have a control (1st or 2nd round, i.e., A or K or void or singleton, if a trump contract)? Control-bidding is the best way to find out if you have a suit with 2 quick losers. Recently, N opened 2NT with ♠Axxx ♥AKx ♦AKx ♣QJx. S made a mild slam try in ♥. He had 4 of the 5 keycards and S has shown a long ♥ suit, but the opponents may have the ♣AK. If N makes a control-bid of 4♠ (over 4♥), S has the chance to bid 5♣ with 1st or 2nd round ♣ control. That day the opponent on lead had the ♣AK, so 5♥ was the limit.

If you are satisfied that these two items are not a problem and you are not missing 2 keycards (or 1 keycard and the trump Q), bid the slam.

When Partner Asks for Keycards and You Have a Void

(This is definitely for advanced players.)

If partner asks for keycards, and you have a useful void and enough keycards to think that you may have a slam:

- Bid 5NT with an even number of keycards plus a useful void.
- Bid 6 of your void with an odd number of keycards plus a useful void, but do not go past 6 of your trump suit.

Do not count the void as an extra A. Partner may already have that A, and s/he will count the same control twice.

Usually partner will be able to figure out your void, but if s/he needs to ask after 5NT, 6♣ asks. Again, do not go past 6 of your trump suit.

Be careful, if you have bid strongly and only have 1 keycard. Partner may be counting on you for more than that, and you will end up in an unmakeable slam.

You may want to file this away with your favorite partner(s). It will probably never come up, but you will have a great story to tell if it does.

MAY 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](#)

Learn Bridge In A Day
Follow Up CLasses

Saturdays at 10 AM
Led by Suzy Bryant-no charge

Novice Game

Cancelled Monday night lessons and games

Chat With Joe

Tuesday, May 5th - 10:30 AM

(Normally this occurs the 2nd Tuesday)

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.

Bridge Tips

Paused

Mentor Mentee

Friday, May 22nd

We are back to the "typical" routine, look for the sign-up sheet and let Bruce know if you wish to play.

Sunday Open Game

May 24th-1 PM Game-Stardust Party with extra points!

Lunch at 12:30 - look for the sign up sheet

Game at 1

It really helps the party planner make sure there is enough food when people sign up. Even if you do not wish to bring anything, monetary donations are quite welcome.

OTHER IMPORTANT DATES

Week of June 13th-The Longest Day Fundraiser

Make sure you have our Club's Fall Sectional on your calendar: October 22-24.

My First Gatlinburg Bridge Tournament

Written by: Mary Robertson

The Gatlinburg Convention Center is located toward the far side of town, surrounded by hotels, restaurants, and souvenir shops. What a good place for a large and popular tournament. Over the next two days I met people from all over the United States. Some flew in from distant airports and others drove to this busy little town.

My husband (Dale) was my partner on Thursday afternoon, and as we settled in at our table I looked around at the hundreds of people there, ready to play an afternoon of bridge. Many of the other people had played on the first day of the tournament and played two, sometimes even three times a day. I spotted Mark and Susan Davis playing one day in another section, these fairly new-to-bridge people are hooked! Tournament, of any size, are suitable for Life Master players as well as us Non Life Masters.

While at play, many people saw my Chattanooga Bridge Center name badge and told me how they loved to come to Chattanooga to play in our sectionals-how the food served at our Club was awesome. Some mentioned our sectionals held at the "church" (St. John's United Methodist Church with a smile, even though there was no mention of the great food. (Put October 22-24 on your calendars for our Fall sectional).

No matter the reference point, I heard lots of stories about the kind and generous people from the Chattanooga Bridge Center. One lady told me how she forgot her thick score book (full of convention cards and other historical stuff), and how a lady named Margie Moses found it and gave it to the lady's husband the next time he was in town. We are famous for our hospitality as well as our food.

After my second day of bridge I did not score any of the coveted Gold or Silver points, but my partner and I did score some Red points. I also brought home some of Gatlinburg's famous fudge. For anyone considering traveling to a Regional or National tournament-I say: Go. Try it, Dale and I highly recommend it.

Go to this ACBL link to find an upcoming tournament: [ACBL Tournament](#)

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

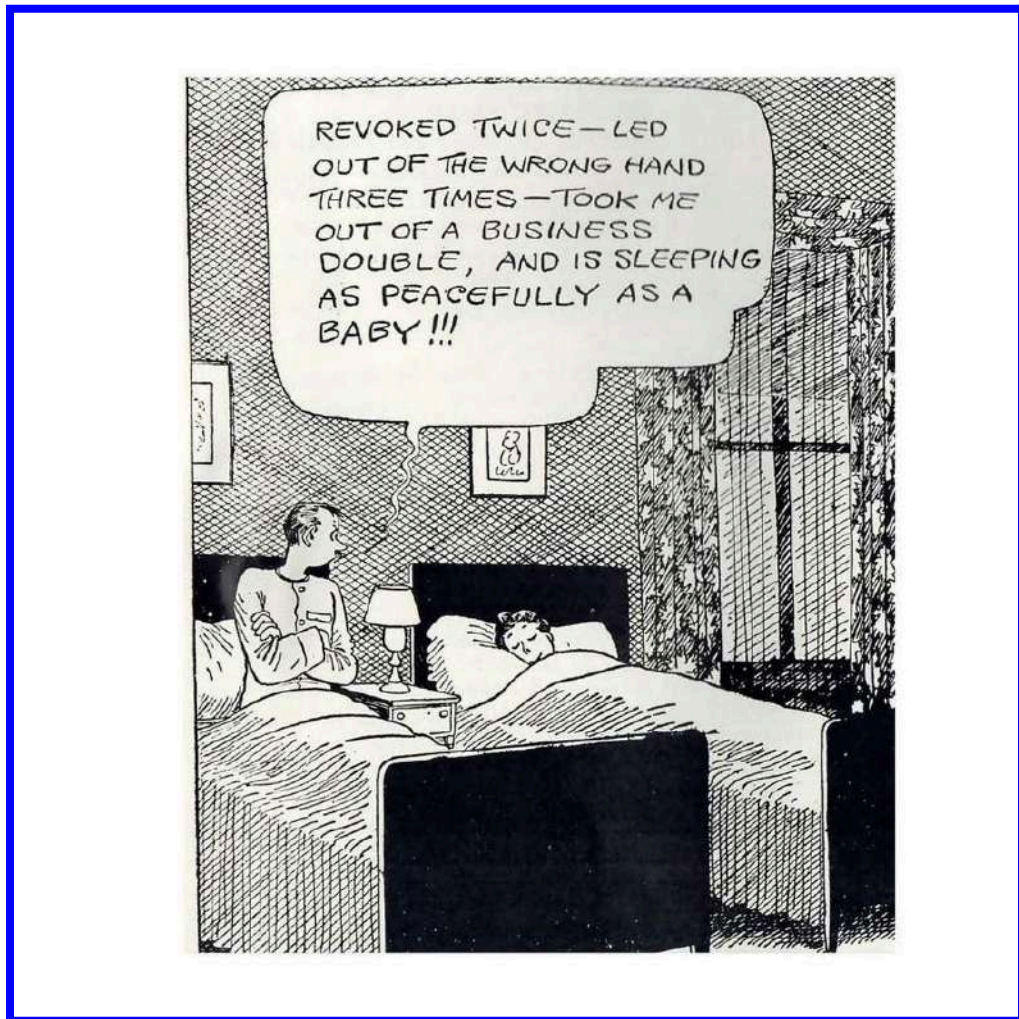
The Fairyland Bridge group plays every Thursday at our Club. This group often combines celebrating special occasions along with a delicious lunch and great cards. Stay tuned to upcoming game announcements to make sure you don't miss the fun. Players should be registered before 10:15 to allow play to 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.

The Fairyland group loves to celebrate the holidays and special occasions. Don't miss out on the fun. Check it out.

Partnership Coordinator

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


NEED SOME HUMOR?




CHECK OUT [BRIDGE UNLEASHED](#)

WHAT IS IT?

A double used after partner makes a **takeout double** and opponents raise their suit.




Ask first.
Then describe.




RESPONSIVE DOUBLES

DON'T JUST DEFEND.
COMMUNICATE.





IMPORTANT

- ☒ NOT used in No Trump auctions (Only in suit auctions)
- ☒ NOT a penalty! It's constructive! 

WHEN TO USE?

- ☑ Opponent raises partner's takeout double
- ☑ You have values
- ☑ You are short in opponent's suit
- ☑ You have support for unbid suits
- ☑ You have no clear bid 

WHAT YOUR DOUBLE SHOWS

★	VALUES	Usually about 6-10 HCP (more at the 3-level) 
♥	SHORTNESS IN THEIR SUIT	Usually 0-3 cards in their suit 
🤝	SUPPORT FOR UNBID SUITS	Often both minors after they raise a major 
?	NO CLEAR BID	Partner, you choose the best suit 





EXAMPLE AUCTION

1♣ - Double - 2♣ - Double (Responsive)





↑ ↑ ↓

Takeout They raise You respond


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PARTNER'S JOB

- ☑ Choose the best suit
- ☑ Expect more information
- ☑ Listen to your partner's next bid
- ☑ Play the hand together! 

EXAMPLE AUCTIONS & HANDS

1 CLASSIC MAJOR AUCTION

1♣ - Dbl - 2♣ - Dbl

♠ 7 3
♥ A J 8
♦ K 10 7 3
♣ J 8 6 2

★ 2 spades, 3 hearts, both minors.
No clear bid - Double!

2 MINOR AUCTION - BOTH MAJORS

1♣ - Dbl - 2♣ - Dbl

♠ K 10 6 4
♥ Q J 8 3
♦ 8 5
♣ 7 4 2

★ Good values, short clubs, support for both majors.
No clear bid - Double!

3 HIGHER LEVEL - NEED MORE

1♥ - Dbl - 3♥ - Dbl

♠ A J 9 4
♥ 6 2
♦ K 10 7 3
♣ Q 8 6

★ At the 3-level, more values.
Still no clear bid - Double!

4 DON'T DOUBLE - CLEAR BID

1♦ - Dbl - 2♦ - ?

♠ 7 2
♥ K Q J 10 8 4
♦ 8 5
♣ 9 6 4

5 hearts - great suit!
Bid 3♥ instead of doubling.

5 DON'T DOUBLE - TOO WEAK


1♣ - Dbl - 2♣ - ?

♠ 8 3
♥ K Q J 7 4
♦ 10 8 5 3
♣ 9 6 2

Not enough values.
Pass and defend.

KEY REMINDERS


- ☑ Responsive double = values + shape
- ☑ Usually short in their suit
- ☑ Support unbid suits
- ☑ Not a penalty - it's constructive!



BridgeUnleashed.com

YOUR GAME. OUR PASSION.

DON'T FORGET

- ☒ Don't double weak hands
- ☒ Don't double with a clear bid
- ☒ Don't use in NT auctions
- ☒ Don't treat as a penalty 

Do you have a bridge question or tempted to hire a bridge tutor? Bridge Unleashed has a wide offering of resources to help all bridge players strengthen their game. Check it out.

OUR CLUB'S FACEBOOK PRESENCE



The private Facebook 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.

Did You Miss This?

At a recent Lunch/Game pot luck, Margie Moses' Artichoke Dip was a hit. Here is her recipe:

Hot Artichoke Dip

Ingredients

- 8 oz cream cheese
- 1/2 cup mayonnaise
- 1/2 cup sour cream
- 2 cups chopped marinated artichoke hearts drained

- 1 cup grated **fresh** parmesan cheese
- 1/2 teaspoon garlic powder

Instructions

0. Preheat the oven to 350°F. Using a stand or hand mixer, cream together the cream cheese, mayonnaise, and sour cream until well combined.
0. Add the remaining ingredients and mix.
0. Spoon the mixture into a 9x9 or 9x13 baking dish. Bake at 350°F for 25-30 minutes, until slightly browned and hot/bubbly. Serve immediately with tortilla chips or gluten-free bread. Enjoy!

Notes

Artichoke hearts: Be sure to use jarred marinated artichoke hearts (and not canned artichoke hearts) for maximum flavor.

Parmesan: I like to use a higher quality, freshly grated Parmesan cheese (like the kind from Trader Joe's) so it melts into the dip.

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

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

The Crow - My Story (for Children)

Hi there! My name is Gabbie and I say a lot- to my crow family each evening, to other birds and animals, and to humans. Sometimes humans do not understand us, so I want to tell you my story. When you learn about crows, you will see that we are clever, caring, and important members of the planet, Earth.

Who Are Crows? Crows belong to a bird family that includes ravens, magpies, and jays. Our crow ancestors lived on Earth millions of years ago. We became good problem solvers. We learned how to find food, remember safe places and work together as families. These skills help us live all over the Earth today.

What We Eat: Crows are omnivores, which means we eat plants and animals. Some of our favorite foods are: seeds, nuts, fruits, and berries; insects and worms; small animals like mice or fish, and leftover food that humans throw away.

Our Nests and Families: We build nests high in trees to keep our babies safe. Mom and Dad crows build the nest using sticks, grass and soft materials. A mother crow lays several eggs and both parents take turns sitting on the eggs until the baby chicks are born. Both parents find food for their babies until they grow up.

How We Behave: We like to be together in groups. We sleep together in big roosts in a bunch of trees. We solve problems, remember faces, and learn from each other when danger comes. We work together to protect our families. If a predator shows up, we warn one another and together chase it away.

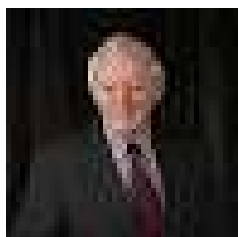
Our Enemies: We have predators: eagles, hawks, owls, snakes, raccoons, and cats may harm us or our babies. Living in groups high up in trees helps us stay safe.

Fun Facts About Us Crows:

- We are one of the smartest birds.
- We use tools, like sticks, to get food.
- We remember human faces and know who is kind or mean.
- We live on most continents of the world.
- Some of us drop nuts on roads so cars crack them open for us!

With my story, I hope you see crows in a new way. When you see a crow, remember—we are your neighbors on this planet.

Your friend, Gabbie



[ajmeagher](#)

Arnie has been home recovering from an illness and uses some of his time researching and writing about various subjects. Thank you, Arnie. Hurry back!