

CHATTANOOGA BRIDGE CENTER

September 2026

News and Tidbits

A Publication of ACBL Unit 206



Editor: Mary Robertson



A Message From Richard Spangler, Our President

Fall is around the corner and so is our semi-annual Fall Sectional Tournament. Time to start thinking of partners and how you can support the event. Hopefully you are already reaching out to find partners for both the Pairs games and Team game!! Also, please reach out to Richard Spangler on how to support the tournament, for example, help with parking or being a Greeter. Reach out to Mary Duffy as well as she coordinates lunch and snacks for the event.

We also have two chances to improve our understanding of the game. Learn Bridge in a Day with its subsequent lessons starts September 12. If you see the post on Facebook, please share to expand its visibility. Plus, help get the word out - word of mouth is the strongest endorsement!! Finally, John Felker will be conducting another round of lessons geared to Intermediate to Advanced players in November. More details to follow.

Richard Spangler, President



HATS OFF TO MYRA RENEAU

Hats off to Myra Reneau for her support of the club as our Manager, a director, a mentor and an ongoing resource for many. Many of us are probably unaware of the constant demands of being a Club Manager as well as Unit Manager across all three clubs. An example is all of the special games that we play that generate extra master points through their participation. Every one of those games requires ensuring the games align with the ACBL calendar, are approved by ACBL and are then communicated to each club so that we can all participate in these special games. We meet almost quarterly to ensure we are up to date with the ACBL calendar to ensure we have the opportunity to generate as many extra master points as possible and to make the game more interesting like Team Games, IMP games, Charity games, etc.

As for being a director, the other directors have relied on her advice or help with ACBL issues, Bridgемate issues, rulings. Many of us seek her advice concerning the game of bridge with respect to both bidding and playing the hands. Myra greatly loves the game and being a part of this club and unit and the Board reciprocates that appreciation with this recognition!!

Hats off to Myra, thank you!!

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](#)

Learn Bridge In A Day

LBIAD Saturday, September 12th 10 AM-4 PM
\$50 in advance, \$60 at the door
To register: skeeze42@gmail.com

Ambassador Program Celebration

Friday, September 18th Noon Fabulous snacks provided
All former and current Ambassadors play for free. Come play and enjoy the celebration as we honor Ann Keown for bringing this opportunity to our Club.

Special Game Sunday, September 6th 8 is Enuf Team Game Party

Lunch-12:30 Game-1 PM

Sign up to bring a side dish. Don't cook? No problem-cash donations are appreciated as well

Chat With Joe Tuesday, September 8th, 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.

Chattanooga Open Sectional

Thursday-Saturday - October 22-24, 2026

St. John United Methodist Church

Thursday/Friday

Open Pairs & 499 Pairs: 9:30 a.m. & 2:00 p.m.

Saturday

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

Reach out to Anne Donnovin if you need a partner

ONE SMALL THING WRITTEN BY BRUCE ANTMAN

When Partner Jumps to Game

First of all, it's good to be back with you all! Especially because it means that my wife Jan is doing much better, and is able to do things on her own much of the time. We thank God, many people's prayers, and modern medicine.

Back to bridge! Your partner jumps to game. What do you do?

First question: Is partner offering you a choice of games? If so, just choose.

Next: Have you limited your hand? If you have, partner's jump is a closeout bid and you are expected to pass about 99% of the time. In very rare cases, if partner's bid improved your hand beyond the range of your previous bids, you might try for slam.

Third: Is partner's bid weak? If so, you need an extraordinary hand (or an extraordinary fit) to go on. Even so, go gently.

There are very few sequences that don't fall into any of these categories – for example, **1♦-1♠-4♠**. or **1♠-1NT-4♠**.

1NT P 2♦ P 2♥ P 3NT P ? Partner has asked you to pass or bid 4♥. No other options.	1♦ P 1♠ P 2♠ P 4♦ P ? Partner is making you choose between 4♠ and 5♦. Just make your choice. Or bid 4♥ to show extras, the heart ace, and no strong preference. Partner may be interested in slam.
1♠ P 1NT P 4♠ P ? You limited your hand by bidding 1NT. You MUST pass, unless you play 2/1 and hold a freak like ♠QJ ♥- ♦A9852 ♣A86542.	1♦ P 1♠ P 4♠ P ? Your 1♠ bid was unlimited. You can bid again. Expect partner to have 19-22 support points and exactly 4 spades. You need about 11-12 declarer points, and good spades, to go on.
1♠ P 3♠ P 4♠ P ? You made a "limit" raise (hint, hint). You MUST pass. No exceptions.	1♠ P 2♦ P 4♠ P ? Your 2♦ bid is unlimited – but partner has shown a sub-minimum hand with self-sufficient spades, so be careful. Expect something like ♠KQJ9875 ♥A6 ♦96 ♣42, or ♠AKJ9875 ♥63 ♦9 ♣Q42. To continue, you need a lot of aces and kings. Bid Blackwood with ♠AT6 ♥K762 ♦AKJ43 ♣6.
1NT P 2♦ P 2♥ P 4♥ P ? Your 1NT bid is limited. You will pass, even with 5 beautiful hearts and 17 good points.	1♦ P 1♥ P 1♠ P 4♠ P ? You limited your hand to 18 HCP by bidding 1♠ instead of 2♠ or 2NT. But if you have 5 spades (and thus 6-8 diamonds), recount your hand, and bid again if it's worth more than 18 declarer points now.
1♠ P 4♠ P ? You have not limited your hand, but partner has. You need a very big hand, or a very distributional hand, to go on.	1♦ P 4♠ P ? You have not limited your hand, but partner has shown a weak hand with very long spades. Count your losers in spades, assuming partner has 7 or 8 good spades and one outside trick. If you have ♠A98 ♥- ♦AKT52 ♣AJ973, you will make 6 most of the time, and sometimes 7.
1♦ P 1♠ P 2♠ P 4♠ P ? You have limited your hand, so pass. Partner would have bid 3♣ or 3♥ if interested in continuing.	1♦ P 1♠ P 2♠ P 4♠ P ? You have limited your hand to about 18 HCP, and could have a minimum. Partner an opener (or very close) with good long spades. Bid 4NT with 18 support points, like ♠A98 ♥3 ♦KQJ52 ♣AQ97.

DO YOU HAVE A PET PEEVE?

The CBC Board is interested in learning what your pet peeve is while playing bridge. How about this one?

Courtesy goes a long way.

When moving from one bridge table to the next, make sure you take all your stuff with you before you leave the table. Nobody wants to dispose of your dirty kleenex or coffee cup.

Share your favorite Pet Peeve with a Board member. We will post these in upcoming newsletters. Awareness is 50% of the solution.

FAREWELL TO SHAYNA



Shayna Scott recently sold her home and made a move to Knoxville to live with her son and his family. Shayna was an integral part of the Club for decades and was a tireless volunteer. Shayna will be missed by her many friends. Hopefully she will visit us in the future and those of us who occasionally play bridge in Knoxville will run into her again and again. Shayna, we wish you all the best on your new journey.

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, or if you need to cancel, please reach out to Susie Crouch at 423.443.6889. Don't miss out on their fun holiday gatherings.

Partnership Coordinator

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

A Note From Our Popular Bridge Tips Instructors

Thanks to all of you who have endured another Bridge Tips session. The progress that's been made is so apparent -- particularly with your successes playing in the open games. We are both so pleased that you've not given up conquering this many faceted card game. Joining the Chattanooga Bridge Center makes you part of a card playing family that will support your efforts to learn the "duplicate language" that starts out being so baffling. We welcome one and all and will help celebrate your future successes.

Janie & Margie

2026 CBC Board of Directors

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Speckled - The Leopard Tells His Story



INTRODUCTION

Hi there! My name is Speckled and I am a leopard. My Mother gave me that name as a baby, and I am proud of it as it is descriptive of my rosetta-patterned fur coat with dark spots all over my body, including my tail and legs. She told me that I would never lose those spots. Now that I have grown, I can see that they have become more pronounced like my Mom's. I want to share with you my story—where my family lives, what makes me a powerful big cat, how I survive, and the important role leopards play in the natural world.

MEET MY FAMILY AND WHERE WE LIVE

My Mother told me that we were at one time a large family with leopards in almost every country of our planet, but that our numbers decreased drastically primarily due to habitat loss, poaching, and human-wildlife conflict. Scientists who study animals tell us that we are one species of leopard with

several different sub-species, each adapted to the place we call home. We once ranged across much of Africa and Asia, living in savannas, forests, and mountains, almost everywhere with a supply of food. We wear irregular spots called rosettes, clustered shapes that look like paw prints pressed into our light yellow fur. This spotted pattern is unique to each of us, somewhat like the way fingerprints identify humans. In open grasslands, the rosettes break up the body's outline, and in dense bush, they mimic dappled light providing camouflage as we hunt. We are renowned for our independent nature and thrive in solitude, except during mating season or when a mother is raising her young.

THE PHYSICAL FEATURES THAT MAKE US SPECIAL

As I was thinking about what to say here, I turned to my Mother for her advice. She said : “you are now a young adult leopard and you know from your own experience that we have strong, muscular bodies, so just tell them what you know”. I needed her confidence in me. So, I can tell you that I have a long, lithe body supported by powerful legs, giving me agility and strength, so that I can even drag prey heavier than myself into trees, sometimes including young giraffes. My speed is another remarkable characteristic, allowing me to reach nearly 40 miles per hour during short hunting sprints. I can also make up to 10 feet-long leaps from one tree to another. My tail helps to steer movement and maintain balance, serving as a rudder when climbing and hunting. My tail also acts somewhat as another limb and allows me to turn sharply when chasing prey or playing with members of my family. I can also share with you that leopards are among the four species of large cats that can truly roar. The other 3 are lions, tigers, and jaguars. The leopard's roar is not the deep rumble of a lion. Rather it sounds like someone sawing through hardwood, a rasping sound that carries for miles across large grasslands. My body is also built for survival. I can live in dry regions because I obtain much of the moisture I need from my prey and my body is extremely efficient at conserving water.

WHAT WE EAT

Leopards are at the top of the food chain and are known as apex predators. We hunt a wider variety of prey than almost any other big cat. Our diet includes over 90 different prey species, ranging from small insects and rodents to birds, monkeys, antelope, and occasionally young giraffes.

OUR PREDATORS

My Mother warned me that while as adult leopards we may be the ultimate predator in many regions, we are not invincible. Disputes with lions and tigers over territory may occasionally cause us loss of life. But she stressed that our greatest enemies are humans with their poaching for our belts and body parts as well as human encroachment on our habitats and retaliatory killings by farmers due to leopards attacking their livestock. She then lowered her voice, receiving my full attention, and added: “Our young are the most vulnerable with only about half reaching adulthood, as they become prey to tigers, lions, hyenas, wild dogs, and crocodiles near water sources”.

OUR REPRODUCTION AND LIFE CYCLE

The females in my family helped me with this part of my story. Female leopards give birth to two or three leopard babies after roughly 96 days in the womb. The babies are born blind and helpless, relying entirely on their mother for care. They remain dependent on her for up to two years, learning essential

hunting and survival skills. During this period, the mother fiercely protects her cubs from predators. She hides them in rock crevices, tree crotches, or hollow logs for the first six weeks. She changes hiding places every few days so as to avoid predators. When the young venture out, they shadow their mother for up to two years before setting out on their own.

OUR ECOLOGICAL ROLE

As apex predators, leopards play a vital role in maintaining the health and balance of our ecosystems. By controlling populations of animals that eat mostly plants and fruit, we prevent overgrazing and protect vegetation. Our scavenging habits also contribute to nutrient cycling and help to prevent the spread of disease. Even other predators know we are important members of the animal community. Our presence changes how they hunt, where they travel, and how they share the land.

LEOPARDS IN HUMAN CULTURE

The relationship between leopards and humans has been complex throughout history. In some cultures, leopards are revered as symbols of power and grace, appearing in art, mythology, and folklore. However, leopards are also perceived as a threat to livestock and occasionally attack humans, leading to conflict. Throughout history, humans have admired our strength, beauty, and mystery.

OUR EVOLUTIONARY HISTORY

My ancestors appeared millions of years ago when the early big cats began separating into different species. Over time, leopards spread across Africa and Asia, living in forests, mountains, grasslands, and dry regions. Fossil evidence suggests that leopards diverged from other big cats around 6 to 8 million years ago with different leopard subspecies adapting to specific environmental conditions.

INTERESTING FACTS ABOUT LEOPARDS

Before we part company, I want to share with you 6 leopard facts that surprise almost everyone.

- 1) We patrol large territories marking them with scent, scrapes, and claw marks on tree trunks.
- 2) We use purring and mewing to express contentment and to communicate with our young.
- 3) We communicate with growling, snarling, and hissing in territorial disputes.
- 4) Our eyesight is specially adapted for seeing in low light, helping us hunt after sunset.
- 5) Our very long whiskers help us hunt at night, acting as sensitive tactile sensors.
- 6) We have incredible ears, even hearing small animals like mice running underground in their burrows.

CONCLUSION

Although we leopards rarely appear in human news, I hope my story helps you understand that we are more than beautiful spotted cats. We are important members of the natural world we share with you. So I ask you to share my story with your friends, so they can share it with their friends, and in that way more humans become aware of who we are and the role we play in making the planet we share an enjoyable home for leopards and humans alike.

Yours truly, Speckled

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