

THE CAPITAL DISTRICT BRIDGE ASSOCIATION

APRIL 2026 Newsletter



President's Message...

Hello "Bridge-Mates"...

I hope you enjoyed the new feature in the March newsletter where Mike Short was featured as the board member of the month. This month features Chris Almy.

It is not too soon to make sure you have blocked out the weekend of May 29-31 for our Spring Sectional tournament. It is a great way to earn silver master points. If you have less than 100 master points your second session each day is FREE. That \$26 savings is a half tank of gas.

I received the quarterly membership report from the ACBL. Our Capital District unit was the best in the district in terms of retaining membership. We had more gains and fewer losses than any other unit. Thank you to everyone who renewed your membership.

Our next board meeting is on April 16. It follows the face-to-face bridge at the Studio in Latham. If you have any questions regarding board membership and responsibilities, please stay for the one-hour meeting. Our bylaws require at least five board members have less than 200 master points. You are our future and the future of bridge in general.

John Templin

518-210-7760

UNIT 115 Capital District

SAVE the DATE

SPRING 2026 Sectional



6 British American Blvd. Suite
103-D
Latham, NY
(518)-424-8240

10 minutes West of
I-87 Northway Exits 3&6

Friday-Saturday May 29-30

Stratified Open Pairs 10:00 am & 2:30 pm

Stratified 499* Pairs 10:00 am & 2:30 pm

*No player with more than 499 MPs

Sunday May 31

Stratified Open Swiss Teams

Two Session play-through 10:00am START

FREE Lunch provided halfway through

Tournament Chair

Dan DiTursi
(518) 892-3546
ditursi@gmail.com

Partnership Chair

Dave Buchyn
(678) 644-7143
dfbuchyn@live.com

Director in Charge

Rob Neuhart

**Strats for Open Games
Unlimited/3000/1000***

**Strats for 499 Games
499/199/99**

*Subject to change based on
attendance.

All games will be stratified by
Pair/Team Average.

Free snacks & beverages
provided throughout the
weekend.

Under 100 MPs – Buy one
entry, second session on same
day is free.

SILVER POINTS !

All Pair Games are
\$13/player

Swiss Teams are
\$104/team

**Credit Card
Preferred**

ACBL membership
required. \$4 additional
per person per session
for lapsed ACBL
members.

Guest Member Link:

[http://my.acbl.org/
membership/join?
guest=X&club=270942
&teacher=1881116](http://my.acbl.org/membership/join?guest=X&club=270942&teacher=1881116)

In Memorium

Liz Foster Regional Master

Hal Bigelow Silver Life Master

Upcoming Events:

April 16 Unit 115 Board Meeting following the game at Shelly Studio.

May 1-3 Unit 186 Sectional Poughkeepsie

May 17-21 District 3 Summer Regional Iselin, NJ

May 22-24 Unit 175 VBA Sectional Williston, VT

May 29-31 Unit 115 Spring Sectional Shelly Studio

June 8-12 District 4 Finger Lakes Regional Penn Yan, NY

June 14 Unit 115 Awards Ceremony & game, Shelly Studio

Sep 25-27 Unit 115 Fall Sectional Shelly Studio

Oct 4-7 District 3 Fall Regional Poughkeepsie

2026

APRIL

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
29	30	31	01	02	03	04
	SS 11:30A INV RSVP GF NO GAME SS 6:30PM Open	CP 11:30AM Open Online BBO 7:10PM		SS 11:00AM Free Lesson SS 11:30AM Open Online BBO 7:10PM		
05	06	07	08	09	10	11
	SS 11:30A INV RSVP GF NO GAME SS 6:30PM Open	CP 11:30AM Open Online BBO 7:10PM	LG 12:00PM Open	SS 11:00AM Free Lesson SS 11:30AM Open Online BBO 7:10PM		Avila 12:00pm Open Club Championship
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
Charity Club Championship all SS F2F games this week	SS 11:30A INV RSVP GF NO GAME SS 3-5 Chat Bridge	CP 11:30AM Open Online BBO 7:10PM SS Eddie Kantar lessons	LG 12:00PM Open GAME MOVED to GLENS FALLS COUNTRY CLUB	SS 11:00AM Free Lesson SS 11:30AM Open Online BBO 7:10PM		SS Play of the Hand Course 12:30-2:30
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
	SS 11:30A INV RSVP GF 11:30AM SS 6:30PM Open	CP 11:30AM Open Online BBO 7:10PM SS Eddie Kantar lessons	LG 12:00PM Open	SS 11:00AM Free Lesson SS 11:30AM Open Online BBO 7:10PM		Avila 12:00pm Open SS Play of the Hand Course 12:30-2:30
26	27	28	29	30	01	02
SS = Shelly Studio Director Diana Lack	SS 11:30A INV RSVP GF 11:30AM SS 6:30PM Open GF = Glens Falls Senior Center Director Terry Bentley	CP 11:30AM Open Online BBO 7:10PM SS Eddie Kantar lessons	LG 12:00PM Open	SS 11:00AM Free Lesson SS 11:30AM Open Online BBO 7:10PM		
		CP = Clifton Park Senior Center Director Terry Bentley	LG = Lake George Holiday Inn Director Terry Bentley		Online Game BBO vacb270942 Dir Rob Neuhart Tues Dir Diana Lack Thurs	

Chris Almy – Unit 115 Publicity Team Assistant

At age 10, I learned Canasta and Scrabble playing with my great Aunt and Uncle. Hearts was the game in the college dorm. After six years of graduate school, I entered Army as a 1LT during the Vietnam War. Following two years of active duty with the Signal Corps, I joined Knolls Atomic Power Laboratory in Niskayuna. Lunchtime bridge was popular with the engineers. A co-worker taught me the basics of Standard American, and I played whenever the regulars needed a 4th.

As a Captain performing annual training at Fort Monmouth, I saw a sign in the Officer's Club dining area announcing a bridge game upstairs. I was curious and found the folks very welcoming. They were all retired Generals paired with their wives. A Major just returning from Europe was my partner. This was my introduction to duplicate bridge. We finished 2nd and won \$3! Hooked on duplicate, I purchased trays and cards and organized the KAPL noontime bridge groups into an eight-table duplicate game. It took a week or more to complete a full set of boards.

When I retired from the Army in 1993, I was recruited to sub in Pat Harrington's Workshop game at B'nai Shalom. I soon found a regular partner, joined ACBL, and read a lot of bridge books. However, with a wife and three young children, my opportunities to play sanctioned games were limited.

A guest lecturer at a Saratoga Regional explained how to analyze your performance for a session. This was very helpful for improving the play of deal. Finally enough silver for LM in 2006 and Bronze LM in 2019 as my partner, Len Lapinski, left for Florida. I retired with 48 years of service at KAPL in 2020.

I always envisioned a trip down the Mississippi on the Delta Queen. March 2023, Larry Cohen chartered a paddlewheel river boat for his Regional on the River. Twenty percent of the ship's power was provided by the paddlewheel. As each paddleboard hit the water, the empty wine glasses on the dining room tables danced! We also made stops in Natchez, Vicksburg, and Memphis. After a five-year hiatus, a week of bridge with various partners netted 16 gold points.

In 23-24, I gave bridge lessons to beginners. Half of those beginners are regulars at our local games now. I often play two or three times a week. Also have attended a few Sectionals and Regionals.

UNIT 115 Face-to-Face Games...

Avila Retirement Community

100 White Pine Drive, Albany

Saturday 12:00 noon - Game Dates

April 25 Charity Club Championship

May 16 STAC

May 23 Club Championship

Clifton Park Duplicate Bridge

Senior Center, 6 Clifton Common Blvd

Tuesday 11:30 AM

Glens Falls Duplicate Bridge

Senior Center, 380 Glen St.

Monday 11:30 AM

Season starts April 20, 2026

Lake George Duplicate Bridge

Holiday Inn, 99 Canada Street.

Wednesday 12:00 noon.

Shelly Studio Duplicate Bridge

6 British American Blvd

Monday 11:30 AM & 6:30 PM

Thursday 11:30 AM

New Classes by Diana Lack

Bridge Play of the Hand Course

Course Overview

Enhance your skills as a Bridge declarer by enrolling in the *Play of the Hand Course*. This program is designed to provide players of all levels with practical strategies for successful contract play. Across eight focused lessons, you will learn how to create and implement effective plans that maximize your chances of fulfilling your contracts. \$80 for eight two hour lessons.

Key Topics Covered

- Planning your play effectively
- Developing additional tricks
- Eliminating losers from your hand
- Identifying and avoiding dangerous opponents
- Managing entries between hands
- Integrating the above skills for cohesive play

Class Schedule

Classes will be held on Saturdays,

starting April 18, from 12:30 to 2:30 PM.

Eddie Kantar Bridge Lessons

Course Overview

Enhance your Bridge skills by enrolling in a new series of lessons. This program is tailored for advancing players and focuses on practical strategies for bidding, playing, and defending contracts. The lessons cover a wide range of topics to help improve your overall game. \$10 per week for two hour lessons.

Key Topics Covered

- Long Suit Establishment
- Counting the Hand
- Placing the Opponent's Honors
- Discarding
- Responding to a Takeout Double
- Common Errors in Bidding, Play & Defense
- Defense - Counting the Opponent's Tricks
- Signaling vs. Suit Contracts
- Modern Uses of the Cue Bid
- Deception (by Declarer)
- Opening Leads vs. Suit Contracts
- To Finesse or Not to Finesse - Part I
- More Techniques of Finessing - Part II
- Leads vs. Notrump Contracts
- Slam Bidding at Suit Contracts
- Slam Bidding at Notrump Contracts
- Planning a Strip and End Play
- Third Hand Play
- The Jacoby Transfer

Class Schedule

Classes will be held on Tuesdays, starting April 14, from 10:30 AM to 12:30 PM. Please note there will be no class on Tuesday, May 19, 2026 as I will be working at the D3 Regional.

Need a Partner for Bridge Games?

Diana Lack – 518-424-8240

Monday & Thursday - Shelly Studio, Latham

Terry Bentley – 518-796-2481

Tuesday - Clifton Park Senior Center

Wednesday - Lake George Holiday Inn

Rhoda Kratenstein – 561-252-0517

Saturday - AVILA Retirement Community

Albany

Unit Officers

John Templin, Jr., President

John Barnes, Vice President

Andrea Campbell, Secretary

Joanne Schlang, Treasurer

