

NEWSLETTER

Vol 7



Fall 2025



In this Fall issue of the **WBU Newsletter**, we will focus on a few of the new players who have joined us in the game of Duplicate Bridge. We will embrace all who have chosen to join us in loving the game.

MEET OUR NEW PLAYERS



Cheryl Fountain

Cheryl, a resident of Mt. Rainier, had often driven by The Hut and wondered about the building and what goes on there, never thinking she would be a part of it. The roots of her interest in bridge go back to a time when she played golf at a country club during summer months. Despite her love of golf, she and a small group of club members of color decided to learn bridge as something to do during the winter months. This, however, was not a serious endeavor and served mostly as a social outlet for fun.

She later learned the history of The Hut and the ABA and has become committed to spreading the word about the game and bringing in more players, hopefully to join the WBU and the ABA. She believes Bridge presents unique opportunities and challenges and The Hut provides the means and resources to improve skills. Through the bridge classes, the reflective supervisory games, the mentoring and the bridge tournaments, she is determined to excel. The early struggles to bring people of color into the game have been an inspirational and an impetus for her to move forward.

Cheryl is quite a go-getter. Besides bridge and golf, she is currently undertaking pickleball, too. Her love for bridge, however, continues to grow and dominate.

Gwen Bryant

We welcome Gwen to the WBU. She learned about Bridge through a co-worker, President Wilma Bonner, as a terrific opportunity for retirees. Gwen finds the game interesting and challenging. She was a student in the WBU classes and never realized how much time and energy is necessary to really learn the game. She finds it necessary to balance Bridge with all the other personal needs, particularly related to physical activities. She will persevere and intends to take additional classes.

Bill Robinson

Bill recently was honored by the ABA to receive the highest score in the Asterisk Category, a category for inexperienced players. This certainly shows that Bill is rising through the ranks!

He came to the game looking for an outlet following the pandemic. He already had been an avid bid whist player and had dabbled with contract bridge. But he was looking for something else that would be both challenging and fun. Eventually he was introduced to the WBU and was welcomed with open arms. He has been playing with Jill Pennington as his primary bridge partner and has thoroughly embraced the game. He is an easy and quick learner as he expands his skills and knowledge of the game.

BRIDGE CLASSES STARTING...SIGN UP NOW

It has been no secret that WBU is dependent on having new players join our group. One way to accomplish our goal is to provide classes, supervision and mentoring to new and prospective players. We are so grateful for Pat Cunningham, Lewis Cleveland, Lou Garner, Jill Pennington, Liz Lyons, and Wilma Bonner for their leadership in preparing and executing the instructional lessons. They teach the game effectively, compassionately, and patiently. Not only new players learn and practice, but on Mondays, between 1:00 PM and 3:30 PM, "Supervised Play" provides opportunities for more experienced players to hone their skills as well.

Our wonderful bridge instructors have planned a rigorous schedule of bridge classes for the 25-26 program year for Beginners to Advanced Beginners starting September 22, 2025, for an 8-week period. So, register NOW!!

CLASS SCHEDULE:

MONDAYS: 11:00 AM – 12:30 PM

**(Monday sessions are followed by Supervised/Reflective Play
until 3:00 PM**

MONDAYS: 5:00 PM to 6:30 PM

(Only if at least 4 people register)

COSTS: \$75 which includes the book for the course

Register or for additional information, contacting Pat Cunningham at patm1261@aol.com

WBU LEADERSHIP FOR 2025-2026 YEARS

All WBU members are asked to make recommendations for all leadership and Committee positions for the upcoming year.

WBU Executive Positions include: President, Vice President, Financial Officer, Treasurer and Secretary. Remember you can nominate yourself, too!!

Chairs for the following committees can also be suggested: Education/Membership, Publicity, Public Relations, Housing, Scholarships, and Tournaments.

Chairman of the Nominating Committee, Mickey Burnin, will gladly receive Your recommendation(s) at mlburnim@gmail.com or 252-267-3690. Please make your recommendations By **OCTOBER 1, 2025**.

SPECIAL EVENTS AND TOURNAMENT PARTICIPATION

Many WBU members have been very active with the various special events and tournaments held here at The Hut and all over the country. Examples include the ABA Summer Nationals, and the Eastern Regionals. These events allow for wonderful social interaction in addition to playing non-stop bridge.

The Hut has also organized such events including the Pro-Am game which allows less seasoned players to learn from those considered pros. Or, the Mentor-Mentee games, with a similar theme, have been enjoyed by beginners and more experienced alike.



Below are some photos of the HAM game recently held at The Hut on August 9, 2025



HAM PHOTOS

CIRCLE OF CARE

We are saddened to learn of the passing of former WBU member, Lawrence Yates on August 12, 2025. Services will be held at McKendree Methodist Church near 24th and South Dakota Ave., NE. Please keep his family in your thoughts and prayers.

Miscellaneous notes:

- **It is almost time to pay membership dues to WBU and to the ABA for 2026. We are dependent on dues as a major source for maintaining our precious HUT.**
- **Please remember that the newsletter's Circle of Care is the forum to check on WBU members and friends who are in need of prayers or a phone call. Please share this information and send to ltdurham22@comcast.net.**