Northern Colorado BRIDGE

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ACBL Unit 363 Newsletter The RECAP January 2012

# PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

Larry Matheny

As I look back at 2011, our strong growth continues to be a major topic. We are the fastest growing unit in our district and a result, our local games are flourishing. A good example is the Daytime Duplicate club that meets each Monday. This game has gone from a small 5-7 table event to one that now averages around 15-17 tables. While changing the location of the game was an important factor, this huge increase is also a result of the arrival of new players. Most of our other local games are also gaining in attendance.

Looking ahead to 2012, our Winter Sectional is in February. The schedule is on page five so be sure to mark it on your calendar. You can find all of our schedules and results on our web page. Please contact any of your board members with suggestions or concerns.

## UNIT 363 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Larry Matheny | President | 461-3136 |
| Doug Watt | Vice President, Unit Games | 667-2432 |
| Bill Stoltey | Secretary, Web Site | 206-1202 |
| Ed Yosses | Treasurer | 667-5312 |
| Andrea French | Education, Publicity | 225-0243 |
| Jim Berthold | Intermediate/Newcomers | 232-9767 |
| Bill Dorin | Technology Support | 282-1842 |
| Dawn Foltz | Membership, Directories | 204-1952 |

Other important volunteers within Unit 363 are:

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Jon Gustafson | Web Site | 267-9691 |
| Barbara Meier | Unit Games | 282-4331 |
| John Blankinship | Sectionals | 663-9390 |
| Bob Link | Sectionals | 631-8600 |

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# RESULTS & SCHEDULES

## UNIT GAME REPORT

By Larry Matheny

Our Unit games continue to have very good attendance. At the October Election game Andrea French, Bill Stoltey, and Ed Yosses were re-elected to the board along with newcomer Bill Dorin. The December Holiday Party was well attended with 18 tables in both the morning and afternoon Open sessions and 8 tables in the 199'er section. There were many delicious treats and Stella O'Neill did her usual good job of selecting door prizes. Our thanks go to Doug Watt for organizing the 2011 Unit games and to Barb Meier for directing.

**September Pairs Championship**

| | A | B | C |
|---|---|---|---|
| Dawn Foltz – Greg Foltz | 1 | | |
| Bill Stoltey – Jim Zuboy | 2 | | |
| Gail Greeley – Ruth Roden | | 1 | |
| Joanne Burger – Theo Meyer | | 2 | 1 |
| John Wolf - Judy Gutschenritter | | | 2 |

October Election Party

| | A | B | C |
|---|---|---|---|
| Jim LaForce – Ed Yosses | 1 | | |
| Cynthia Smith – Marwin Smith | 2 | | |
| Bill Darden - Melvin Rueppel | 3 | 1 | |
| Florence Liittjohann - Jan Green | | 2 | |

**November Unit Championship**

| | A | B | C |
|---|---|---|---|
| Gil Merrill - Fiona Freeseman | 1 | 1 | |
| Bill Stoltey - Jim Zuboy | 2 | | |
| Rita Koch - Joyce Glittenberg | 3 | 2 | |
| George Varra - Elizabeth Varra | | 3 | |
| Pete Pietenpol - Zoel Martinson | | | 1 |

**December Holiday Game**

**Morning STaC session – N/S**

| | A | B | C |
|---|---|---|---|
| Larry Matheny – Bob Sherman | 1 | | |
| John Krueger - Melvin Rueppel | 2 | 1 | |
| Walter Hutton - Rena Hansch | 3 | 2 | 2 |

**Morning STaC session – E/W**

| | A | B | C |
|---|---|---|---|
| Barb Gustafson - Andrea French | 1 | | |
| Joyce Glittenberg - Carol Hjelte | 2 | 1 | |
| Clara Bunning - Sandra Lee | | | 1 |
| Robert Bob Link - Al Walsh | | | 2 |

**Morning 199'er session – N/S**

| | A | B | C |
|---|---|---|---|
| Linda Meininger - Sharon Stuart | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Michael Innis - Shirley Ahrens | 2 | 2 | 2 |

**Morning 199'er session – E/W**

| | A | B | C |
|---|---|---|---|
| Gwenda Purdy – S. Reimer | 1 | | |
| Nancy Adams – C. McArthur | 2 | 1 | 1 |
| Lloyd Parker - Suzy Fallon | | 2 | |
| Nancy Crow - Clint Black | | | 2 |

**Afternoon STaC session – N/S**

| | A | B | C |
|---|---|---|---|
| Billie Turner - Stella O'Neill | 1 | | |
| M. C.l Evenson - Ruth Roden | 2 | 1 | |
| John Worley – F. Freeseman | 3 | 2 | 1 |

**Afternoon STaC session – E/W**

| | A | B | C |
|---|---|---|---|
| Bill Stoltey - Jim Zuboy | 1 | 1 | |
| Neil Petrie - Jon Gustafson | 2 | | |
| Rena Hansch - Walter Hutton | | 2 | 1 |

**Afternoon 199'er session – N/S**

| | A | B | C |
|---|---|---|---|
| Michael Innis - Shirley Ahrens | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Judith Lilly - Phyllis Tegtman | 2 | 2 | |
| James French - Steve Keen | 3 | | 2 |

**Afternoon 199'er session – E/W**

| | A | B | C |
|---|---|---|---|
| Jim Berthold - Nila Hobbs | 1 | | |
| M. Roberts – Doug Yeager | 2 | 1 | |

# Our Next Unit Games

The following Unit sponsored events are coming up in the next few months. Our playing site for the Unit games is Saints John's Lutheran Church at 305 East Elizabeth Street in Ft. Collins. There is great close-in parking and the playing site is roomy. The Unit maintains a calendar of coming events that can be accessed over the Internet. The calendar lists all of the ACBL Nationals, District 17 Regionals and the Colorado and Cheyenne Sectionals, along with all of the Unit games. Access the calendar through: http://calendar.yahoo.com/norcolobridge/

<u>January Grand National Team Qualifier</u>
Event: Two-Session Team Game
Date: Saturday, January 7, 2012
Starting Times: 9:30 AM and 1:45 PM
Entry Fee: $7/person each session

<u>February Championship</u>
Event: One-Session Pairs Game
Date: Saturday, February 4, 2012
Lesson at noon, Game at 1:00 PM
Entry Fee: $7/person each session

<u>March Championship</u>
Event: One-Session Pairs Game
Date: Saturday, March 3, 2012
Lesson at noon, Game 1:00 PM
Entry Fee: $7/person

<u>April Championship</u>
Event: Two-Session Pairs Game
Date: April 21, 2012
Starting Times: 9:30 AM and 1:45 PM
Entry Fee: $7/person each session

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# OUR MEMBERSHIP

Our Unit has a good mix of players spread very nicely from the Rookie category up through the Grand Life Master rank. We now have 295 members, up from 286 a year ago. Here is the breakdown:

| ROOKIE | JUNIOR MAST. | CLUB MAST. | SECT. MAST. | REGL. MAST. | NABC MAST. | LIFE MAST. | BRONZE LIFE MAST. | SILVER LIFE MAST. | GOLD LIFE MAST. | EMER. LIFE MAST. | GRAND LIFE MAST. |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 44 | 40 | 36 | 30 | 34 | 18 | 18 | 40 | 24 | 9 | 1 | 1 |

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# FALLING LEAVES SECTIONAL

The annual Falling Leaves 299er Sectional Tournament was held on Saturday, November 5, 2011 in Fort Collins. There were 12 tables in the morning session and 13 tables in the afternoon. There was also a 4-table 0-20 MP side game in the morning. Tournament co-chairs Jim Berthold and Rena Hansch did a great job with the organization.

Here are the overall winners and top twenty masterpoint winners:

**Morning Session**

**Section A – North/South**

| A | B | C | |
|---|---|---|---|
| **1** | **1** | | **Jim Berthold - Nila Hobbs** |
| **2** | | | **Louise Dalke - Curtis Cramer** |
| **3** | **2** | | **Susy Smith - Julie Wertz** |
| **3** | | | **W. Pietenpol – Z. Martinson** |
| | **1** | | **Alfred Katzman - Jim Rattmann** |
| | **2** | | **J Brian Sokolik - Grace Sokolik** |
| | **¾** | | **Susan Fallon - Lloyd Parker** |
| | **¾** | | **Judith Lilly - Phyllis Tegtman** |

**0-20 Morning Side Game**

| | |
|---|---|
| **1** | **Nancy Adams - Clint Black** |
| **2** | **Nancy Crow – Caroline McArthur** |
| **3** | **Rose Schenk - Geri Raichel** |

**Afternoon Session**

| A | B | C | |
|---|---|---|---|
| **1** | **1** | **1** | **Nancy Crow - James French** |
| 2/3 | | | Ray Hedberg - Lorena Soares |
| **2/3** | **2** | **2** | **Leona Wingard - Helga Teehan** |
| | **3** | | **Susy Smith - Julie Wertz** |
| | | **3** | **Linda Hansen - Michael Hansen** |

## Total masterpoints: 50.54 earned by 49 players

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| **1** | **2.97** | **Nancy Crow, Fort Collins CO** |
| **2** | **2.62** | **Nila Hobbs, Fort Collins CO** |
| **3** | **2.62** | **Jim Berthold, Fort Collins CO** |
| **4** | **2.54** | **Susy Smith, Fort Collins CO** |
| **5** | **2.54** | **Julie Wertz, Ft Collins CO** |
| **6** | **2.32** | **James French, Fort Collins CO** |
| **7** | **1.97** | **Louise Dalke, Fort Collins CO** |
| **8** | **1.97** | **Curtis Cramer, Fort Collins CO** |
| 9 | 1.53 | Ray Hedberg, Boulder CO |
| 10 | 1.53 | Lorena Soares, Louisville CO |
| **11** | **1.53** | **Leona Wingard, Loveland CO** |
| **12** | **1.53** | **Helga Teehan, Fort Collins CO** |
| **13** | **1.28** | **Jim Rattmann, Ft Collins CO** |
| **14** | **1.28** | **Alfred Katzman, Ft Collins CO** |
| **15** | **1.11** | **Zoel Martinson, Wellington CO** |
| **16** | **1.11** | **William Pietenpol, Fort Collins CO** |
| 17 | 0.99 | Sandra Lee, Cheyenne WY |
| 18 | 0.99 | Norma Malmborg, Cheyenne WY |
| **19** | **0.96** | **J Brian Sokolik, Ft Collins CO** |
| **20** | **0.96** | **Grace Sokolik, Ft Collins CO** |

# 2012 WINTER SECTIONAL

## NORTHERN COLORADO UNIT 363
## 2012 WINTER SECTIONAL
## February 17-19, 2012
### Thomas M. Mckee Building at The Ranch

Food concession open for lunch Friday and Saturday
Hot lunch between sessions Sunday

## SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

### FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 17

KNOCK OUT OR ROUND ROBIN - 1ST ROUND .....9:30
STRATIFIED PAIRS CHAMPIONSHIP SINGLE SESSION….9:30
STRATIFIED PAIRS 299ER SINGLE SESSION*……..9:30

KNOCK OUT OR ROUND ROBIN – 2ND ROUND.....1:30
STRATIFIED PAIRS CHAMPIONSHIP SINGLE SESSION....1:30
STRATIFIED PAIRS 299ER SINGLE SESSION*.....1:30

KNOCK OUT OR ROUND ROBIN – 3RD ROUND.....7:00
STRATIFIED PAIRS.....7:00
STRATIFIED PAIRS 299'ER SINGLE SESSION*.....7:00

CHAMPIONSHIPS: A = 2000+; B =750-2000; C = 0-750
299'ERS: D=150-300; E=50-150; F=0-50

*TROPHIES TO OVERALL WINNERS FRIDAY AND SATURDAY

### SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 18

STRATIFIED PAIRS.....10:00 & 3:00
A: 2000+ B: 750-2000 C: 0-750
STRATIFIED 299'ER PAIRS* .....10:00 & 3:00
A: 100-199 B: 50 – 99 C: 0 - 50

### SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 19

**STRATI-FLIGHTED (OR ROUND-ROBIN) SWISS TEAMS**

**10:00 & TBA**

A: 3000+X: 0-3000
B: 750-1500 C: 200-750
D: 0-200
Short Break, Hot Lunch Between Sessions

**ENTRY FEES**

$9 per Player per Session
$100 per team Sunday (includes hot lunch)
Rookies (0-5 points) play Free on Friday in a single session
(Additional $1 if non-ACBL member)

**PARTNERSHIPS**

Every effort will be made to accommodate
timely requests for partners. Please contact:
Stella O'Neill – 970-482-1253
Sue Simmons – 970-353-1035

**TOURNAMENT CO-CHAIRPERSONS**

John Blankinship( 970) 663-9390 *ej_blank@msn.com*
Bob Link (970) 631-8600 *robertlink97@comcast.net*

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# DID YOU KNOW

By Dawn Foltz

This is what ACBL has to say about: **Opening 1NT with a Singleton**.

On many occasions when 1NT is opened with a singleton, someone becomes upset with opener. Frequently it's an opponent, but often it's opener's partner who has transferred into opener's short suit. This results in the partnership playing in a 5-1 fit when the contract should have been in notrump.

Bridge players have different understandings of what the rules are concerning opening 1NT with a singleton. It has been described as illegal, immoral, unethical or fattening. The answer is almost always—none of the above.

The ACBL General Convention Chart states: "A notrump opening or overcall is natural if not unbalanced (generally, no singleton or void and only one or two doubletons)." If your notrump opening shows a balanced hand, you may occasionally pick up a hand with a singleton which you may want to treat as balanced. You may use your bridge judgment to open or overcall a notrump with a singleton, provided that: (1) It is a rare occurrence (no more than 1% of the time); (2) your partner expects you to have at least two cards in each suit; and (3) you and partner have no agreements which enable you to discover that partner has a singleton.

Law 40 (Partnership Understandings) stipulates that a partnership MAYNOT have an agreement to open 1NT with an unbalanced hand.

Paraphrased from the ACBL Website with emphasis added by Dawn Foltz.

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There is a very good discussion of this topic by Mike Flader (Associate Nat'l Tournament Director rulings@acbl.org) in the September 2011 Bridge Bulletin, page 38. If you Google "opening 1NT with a singleton" you will be directed to the ACBL web page with the full text of the above description.

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# EDUCATION: MENTOR MAGIC

By Andrea French

**The Northern Colorado Bridge Unit 363 is a Community of Learners**

We are very fortunate to have an active mentor program in our unit. The number of players at both our Monday and Wednesday mentor games in Fort Collins has increased so it is obviously a very popular event.

HOWEVER!!! It should be more than a one-time event. A mentor program should provide an opportunity for review and reflection that helps the mentee improve. Consider these possibilities:

-**The mentor and mentee should establish regular dates**. At the very least they should try to play at all of the mentor games.

**-Provide time before the game to review the convention card**. This is important in preparing for the game. The mentor should play the mentee's card; however, helping the mentee improve might take the form of encouraging a new convention. At the very least there should be a clear understanding of the agreements being used.

**-Find a time after the game for review**. On Monday that could take place right after the game and on Wednesday night some of the local establishments are still open. If those times don't work – try to calendar a date as close as possible to the game. In a pinch an on-line review can work. The review sessions are very valuable.

It has been wonderful to see these pairings go beyond the mentor games. At many of the club and unit games there are pairings of new with more experienced players. An atmosphere has been created where learning is supported and nurtured. Our newer players feel comfortable playing with the more experienced players and these advanced players are encouraging the newer players to grow. Everyone benefits when the unit itself becomes more competitive.

If you would like to be a mentor or find a mentor you can contact the club manager or the Unit's educational representative, Andrea French.

Continue to enjoy the game

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# MORE BIDDING PROBLEMS & SOLUTIONS

By Larry Matheny

While I don't encourage newer players to become excited by every new idea that comes along, I do agree that certain conventions and agreements are needed

I will present a problem and then suggest a solution to it. Please understand there is often more than one solution. I won't go into detail so to fully explain the conventions or agreements; you will have to do the homework.

## MAXIMAL DOUBLES

**PROBLEM:** How do you make a game try in competition?

| YOU | OPP | PARD | OPP |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1♠ | 2♥ | 2♠ | 3♥ |
| ? | | | |

| YOU | OPP | PARD | OPP |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1♠ | Pass | 2♠ | 3♥ |
| ? | | | |

**SOLUTION:** Those rude opponents have taken up your room for a game try so a double here can be used to invite and 3♠ as only competitive. Partner can accept by bidding game, rebid 3♠ with a minimum, or pass the double for penalties.

## SUPPORT DOUBLES

**PROBLEM:** How do you show three and four-card support in competition?

| PARD | OPP | PARD | OPP |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1♣ | Pass | 1♠ | 2♥ |
| ? | | | |

**#1 ♠Q98 ♥A102 ♦J9 ♣AK982**
**#2 ♠KQ102 ♥Q9 ♦J9 ♣AJ632**

**SOLUTION:** A double in this sequence shows three-card support (hand #1) and a raise to 2♠ shows four-card support (hand #2). A redouble over the opponents' takeout double is another way to show three-card support. Knowing you have four trumps across from you is often very important. Giving up a penalty double in this situation is not a big loss.

## WESTERN CUE BID

**PROBLEM:** Wanting to get to 3NT, how do you find out if partner has a stopper in the opponents' suit?

| PARD | OPP | YOU | OPP |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1♦ | 1♠ | 2♥ | P |
| 3♦ | P | ? | |

**#1 ♠108 ♥AKJ107 ♦Q83 ♣KJ102**

| PARD | OPP | YOU | OPP |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1♦ | 1♠ | 2♠ | P |
| 3♦ | P | ? | |

**#2 ♠108 ♥AK7 ♦KQ109 ♣QJ102**

**SOLUTION:** The cue bid is a valuable tool. It may be used as a general force, show support, show a control, or as an asking bid. In #1 it's likely 3NT is the best contract if partner has a spade stopper and a cue bid here asks partner that very question. With #2, your first cue bid showed a limit or better diamond raise. Your next cue bid will ask partner if he has a spade stopper.

Here is a rule: "If the opponents have bid one suit, the cue bid **asks** for a stopper; if they have bid two suits, the cue bid **shows** a stopper."

## DOPI, ROPI, & DEPO

**PROBLEM:** How do you handle interference over Blackwood?

| OPP | YOU | OPP | PARD |
|---|---|---|---|
| 3♣ | 4♥ | 4♣ | 4NT |
| 5♣ | ? | | |

**SOLUTION:** There are ways to show aces in this auction. The above three acronyms stand for:

**DO** (double w/zero) **P1** (pass w/1) bid the next suit w/2, etc.
**RO** (redouble w/zero) **P1** (pass w/1) bid the next suit/2, etc.
**DE** (double w/even) **PO** (pass w/odd)

DOPI and ROPI are used below five of your suit and DEPO is used for the higher auctions. Zero along with 2 & 4 is considered even.

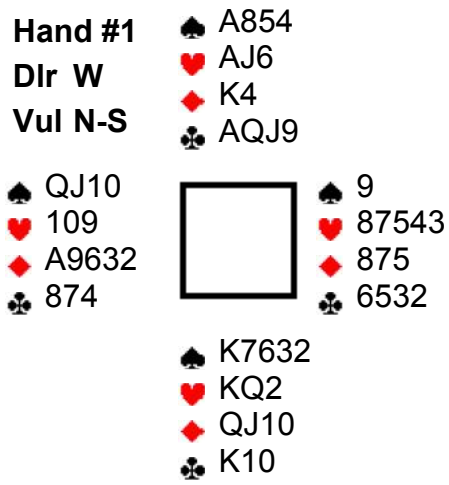
# IMPROVE YOUR PLAY

with Larry Matheny

The Roman Keycard convention is used to ask partner how many keycards (aces plus the king of the agreed trump suit) he holds. A useful feature of the convention is the ability to ask about the trump queen. See if you could have stayed out of this slam.

Scoring: Matchpoints

**Hand #1**
**Dlr W**
**Vul N-S**




| West | North | East | South |
|---|---|---|---|
| Pass | 1♣ | Pass | 1♠ |
| Pass | 4♠ | Pass | 4NT* |
| Pass | 5♣ | Pass | 5♦ |
| Pass | 5♠ | Pass | Pass |
| Pass | | | |

*Roman Keycard

**BIDDING**: North's leap to 4♠ showed 19+ points in support of spades. South knew they were in the slam zone and bid 4NT to ask about keycards. The 5♣ response showed 0-3 so South knew they were missing one keycard. His 5♦ bid asked about the queen of spades and North's return to the spade suit denied it. Knowing they were off a keycard and the trump queen, South gave up on slam.

**PLAY**: West led the diamond ace and waited on his spade trick. Many of the pairs reached the slam and felt very unlucky. It's true the slam would have succeeded if the outstanding trumps had divided 2-2, but at matchpoint scoring (pairs) you should not push for close games or slams. Take your plus scores is good advice.

While this convention is very helpful, it can also be dangerous. Be sure to research it and discuss with your partner before adding it to your card.

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# MILESTONES

**Big Games Reported (Aug – Dec 2011)**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Aug 24 | 74.58% | Cynthia Smith - Marwin Smith |
| Aug 26 | 72.06% | Irene Rechnitz - Clint Black |
| Aug 26 | 70.00% | Bill Dorin – Jan Dorin |
| Aug 31 | 70.55% | Linda Nelson – Marwin Smith |
| Sep 6 | 73.29% | Kitty Cooper – Steve Cooper |
| Sep 30 | 71.36% | Caroline McArthur - Nila Hobbs |

**Masterpoint Milestones**

**Junior Master – 5 Masterpoints**

Nancy Crow
Dana Fritz
Michael Hansen
Michael Innis
Beverly Loehrke
Caroline McArthur
Mrs. Daryl Smith
Brian Sokolik
Ron Sutton

**Club Master – 20 Masterpoints**

Ann Dinsmoor
Susan Fallon
Michael Innis
Glynn Sisson
Priscilla Sisson
John Wolf

**Sectional Master – 50 Masterpoints**

Hart Renger

**Regional Master – 100 Masterpoints**

Curtis Cramer
Phyllis Quick

**NABC Master - 200 Masterpoints**

John Atkinson
Marcia Christopher
Jane Harroff
Jerry Potter

**Life Master– 300 Masterpoints**

Frank Demeyer

**Bronze Life Master– 500 Masterpoints**

Sue Simmons
Bob Solick

**Transferred into Unit**

Shirley Ahrens from St. Louis
Richard Kampf from San Antonio
Carl Lake from Georgia State
Jean Petrilli from Delaware
Shirley Rowe from Boulder

**New Members**

Kathryne Adams
Christine Hall
Kheila Hillhouse
Pat Merry
Susan Miller
Geri Raichel
Rosemarie Schenck
Gretchen Snowden
Katie Snowden
Helga Teehan
Jimmie Van Thorre

**IN MEMORIAL**

Mary Frison

# CLUB CORNER

## Fort Collins

***Daytime Duplicate Bridge Club***
Senior Center, 1200 Raintree Drive
Marlene Aranci----------223-0046
Mon – 12:30----------Open

***Choice City Duplicate Bridge Club***
Senior Center, 1200 Raintree Drive
Marlene Aranci ----------223-0046
Tue – 12:30----------Open, All ages welcome

***Fort Collins Duplicate Players Club***
Community of Christ Church, 220 East Oak
Dawn Foltz**----------**204-1952
Wed – 6:30----------Open, Teams 1st Wed

***The Fort Fun Bridge Club***----------0-200 Game
St. John's Lutheran Church, 305 E. Elizabeth St.
Burke Snowden----------970-672-6652
FunBridge@comcast.net
Thurs – 6:30 - Call for reservation or a partner.
Teams – 3rd Thursday of even-numbered months.
Salon (mini-lesson) by Larry Matheny – 3rd Thursdays

***Senior Center Duplicate (non-ACBL sanctioned)***
Senior Center, 1200 Raintree Drive
Mark Spaeth----------669-7329
Fri – 11:30----------Open

## Greeley

***The Greeley Clubs***
Barbara Meier----------282-4331
Greeley Senior Center, 1010 6th Street
Wed – 12:30----------Open
Greeley Senior Center, 1010 6th Street
Sat – 12:30----------Open

## Estes Park

***Estes Park Duplicate Club***
Methodist Church, 1509 Fish Hatchery Road
John Krueger----------970-577-0657
Mon-1:00-----(except 3rd Monday) Open, Stratified
**3rd Monday -1:00----------0-200 Game**
Call to reserve a seat or for a partner.

The RECAP
% Larry Matheny
941 Alexandria Drive
Loveland, CO 80538-1573

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