



The Villages Duplicate Bridge Club Member News

September, 2025

From the Editor: This month's highlights include a profile of Pat Furlo who shares with us information on the Guardian ad Litem program; a very good play of the hand problem submitted by Harry Messenheimer; a book review by Buck; Bridge cruise update; trip reports, photo corner, and Mary Jo's monthly humor input. We also have a special message from Buck Buchanan.

Lastly, we thought we'd try something fun: In the past, the newsletter asked people to send pictures of themselves from 30-40 years ago, which were published, and asked people to guess who they were. It proved to be a popular feature, and we thought we'd try it again. Please send a picture of yourself to Buck, Nancy or myself, and we'll publish them, and see if we can guess who these youngsters are! Jennie Cleary

Happy Birthday

Congratulations to Buck Buchanan who recently celebrated his 89th birthday on August 22. Buck tells his that on August 24 he and Mauri celebrated their 62nd wedding anniversary. "Every morning I wake up, I thank God for bringing Mauri into my life."

He also announced his retirement from in-person bridge, with the following note that was published in an August E-blast. Buck has been instrumental in production of our Member News, and we look forward to his continued involvement with his interesting articles, and his great book reviews.

Dear friends,

After thirteen wonderful years of playing face-to-face bridge with you, it's time for me to step back. As I approach my 89th birthday on August 22, I've had to admit that my strength and stamina just aren't what they used to be. That said, I'm not giving up bridge entirely—I've been keeping sharp with online games (18 hands instead of 27

suits me just fine!) and would love to find new online partners if you know anyone interested.

My last in-person game will be this Friday, August 22, with Patricia, my favorite partner. And I'll tell you this: if Patricia and I manage a 65% game, I just might have to reconsider my retirement! It's been a joy and an honor to share the table with you all. Thank you for the camaraderie, the competition, and the memories.

Semper Fi,
Buck Buchanan

Pat Furlo

By Dave Winer



Meet Pat Furlo. Pat grew up in Michigan, graduating from Michigan State University. An engineer, he worked for GM for 34 years. He designed high speed automation machines for the first 15 years and then trucks.

Pat became exposed to bridge, occasionally subbing (he says weakly!) for co-workers that played bridge during lunchtime. He says he really didn't learn how to play bridge until he attended Paul Matheson's beginner games and lessons and is grateful to Paul for the help.

Pat retired and moved to The Villages with his wife Chris in 2013. He is quite athletic, playing softball, golf and running about 15 miles a week.

Pat certainly showed his compassionate side by becoming a Guardian ad Litem, advocating for and mentoring children removed from their parents, who have been placed in foster care. The ultimate goal is to work with the parents and the foster care system to rehabilitate the family and re-unite the kids with their family. If that is not possible, the goal is then to get them adopted, which is more likely when they are younger.

He eventually volunteered to work with teenage boys who were about to age out of foster care and "must make some very important adult decisions." Pat says "It is very satisfying to work with a child who has serious mental health issues due to growing up in an abusive or neglectful home, and build him back up to where he can make good life decisions when he turns 18 and enters college or vocational school." When Pat was able to accomplish both getting a child adopted and then go off to college, he likened it to both bidding and making a 7NT Grand Slam! Pat would be happy to talk with anyone who thinks they might like to become a Guardian ad Litem.

Play of the Hand Quiz

Submitted by Harry Messenheimer

You get to **6 hearts** on the auction shown. Opening lead is the **king of spades**. East plays the **spade 3** at trick one and you win with the ace:

♠ 8 5 2
♥ A J 10 4
♦ A J
♣ A K Q 2



♠ A 9 7 4
♥ K Q 9 7 5 2
♦ 10
♣ 8 5

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
	1 ♣	Pass	1 ♥
1 ♠	4 ♥	Pass	5 ♠
Pass	6 ♥	All pass	
6 ♥ by South			
Lead: ♠ K			

What's your best chance to make the contract?

Answer: What you know at trick 1 – West started with 5 spades and East with 1. That leaves West with 8 unknown cards and East with 12. So, East is the odds-on favorite to hold 4 or more clubs. You are missing 3 hearts, so no worries about trumps.

Plan: Draw trumps, cash the ace of diamonds, and ruff dummy's jack of diamonds. Play dummy's ace, king, queen, of clubs. Then throw East in with the deuce of clubs. East cannot lead a spade so must give you a ruff/sluff to rid yourself of dummy's losing spade

Photo Corner

“Morgan” By Nancy Tessier



“The Leopard” By Jennie Cleary, Tanzania, August, 2023



Trip Reports



Shown here in Budapest, Jan and Maury Fjestad enjoyed a Danube River cruise in early July. Highlights included an 18k pipe organ concert in Germany, a Mozart/Strauss concert in Vienna and e-biking along the Danube.



Bill and Jennie Cleary recently returned from an Ebike/riverboat cruise along the Rhine from Basel Switzerland to Amsterdam. They biked on average about 25 miles/day on “off the beaten path” routes through Switzerland, France, Germany and The Netherlands. The Upper Middle Rhine Valley is a UNESCO World Heritage Site known for its large concentration of castles.

Their favorite biking day was through the Alsace region of France, near the German border, where they enjoyed quaint French

Villages with cobblestone streets, and beautiful vineyards, along with wine tasting. The riding through the Netherlands was also fantastic, and they finished off their trip in Amsterdam. A visit to the Anne Frank museum was very moving, and they enjoyed their tour of the Van Gogh museum, as well as a canal boat tour through the city.

Condolences

The club is saddened to learn of the sudden passing of **Glen Harmer's wife, Janice**. Glen is one of our Canadian seasonal players. His mailing address is:
443 Muskrat Drive.
Thunder Bay, ON P7C-0C1, Canada

Sandy O'Brien, wife of Club board member and past president Jim O'Brien, suffered a massive cerebral hemorrhage on Monday, August 11th and passed away on August 16. Our thoughts and prayers go out to Jim and family. Jim asked for no phone calls or visitors during this difficult time.

Classified Ad Buck Buchanan

When I retired (several decades ago), I bought myself a very expensive titanium bike. Time has passed, and I haven't ridden it in 6 years. The bike is like brand new, and I'd like to give it away.

I thought if someone would like to acquire it, they could have it if they promised to make a generous donation to some organization such as the Wildwood Food Bank, then they could have the bike. If there are several people interested, the largest donation gets the bike.

Contact me if you'd like to see the bike.

Book Review: Hold Strong by Robert Dugoni By Buck Buchanan

I've never been a fan of Robert Dugoni's books, but someone recommended Dugoni's latest book, "Hold Strong". I started it and couldn't put it down. Read it right through. Don't miss it.

Dugoni's latest book, (written with three other authors) is a fictional novel, based on real events from WWII, which starts with two young sweethearts, Sam and Sarah, in

1938 in Minnesota. Sam's father's farm is dying due to the Depression, and Sam joins the Army. He is stationed in the Philippines and is taken prisoner by the Japanese in 1942.

Sarah is a math major in college and ends up being a code breaker for the military. Her portion of the book is interesting, but about two thirds of the book is about Sam and his mistreatment. He is a POW in various camps, and endures the Baatan Death March. In 1944, he and 2500 of his fellow prisoners were taken from the prison camp and put on a prison ship. No air, no bedding, no food, no sanitary facility, just inhumane conditions. In all, 25,000 Americans died on Japanese prisoner ships. This book takes a look at a lesser known portion of WWII history and the POW experience, as well as exploring courage and survival.

The Lighter Side

By Mary Jo Johnson

I've been in many places...but I've never been in:

- 1. Cahoots. Apparently, you can't go alone. You have to be in Cahoots with someone.**
- 2. Also never been in Cognito. I hear no one recognizes you there.**
- 3. I have, however, been in Sane. They don't have an airport; you have to be driven there.**
- 4. I would like to go to Conclusions, but you have to jump, and I'm not too much on physical activity anymore.**
- 5. I have also been in Doubt. That is a sad place to go and I try not to visit too often.**
- 6. I've been in Flexible, but only when it was very important to stand firm.**
- 7. Sometimes, I'm in Capable, and I go there more often as I'm getting older.**
- 8. I like to be in Suspense! It really gets the adrenaline flowing and pumps up the old heart!**
- 9. And, sometimes I think I am in Vincible but life shows me I am not!**
- 10. People keep telling me I'm in Denial but I'm positive I've never been there before!**
- 11. I have been in Deepshit many times; the older I get, the easier it is to get there.**
- 12. So far, I haven't been in Continent, but my travel agent says it is on the list.**

Bridge Cruise

Please note the bridge cruise scheduled for March 2026 is now full. There is a new cruise scheduled for October 2026, see the new flyer below. I know its a long way off, but in order to reserve a good number of cabins, it's necessary to start early. The cruise industry is booming! Villagers will have first crack, then it will be opened up to other Florida bridge players. Thanks, Marilyn Williams.

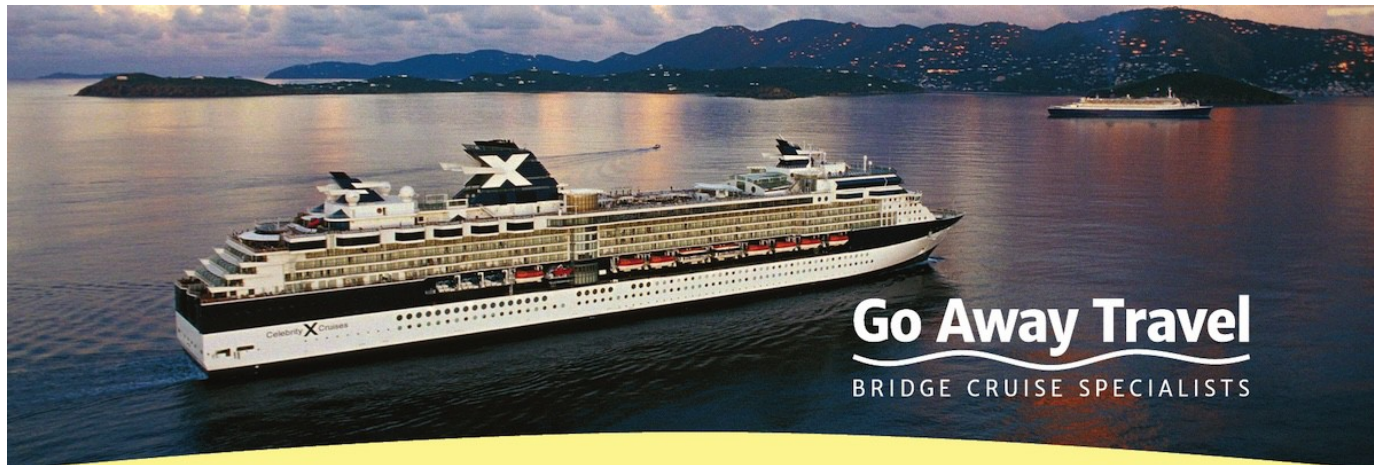
Pictures

Buck Buchanan

Several years ago, we asked people to send pictures of themselves from 30-40 years ago, which we published and asked people to guess who they were. it proved to be a popular feature, and we thought we'd try it again. Please send a picture of yourself to Jennie, Nancy or me. We'll publish the best ones

A big thank you to all who participated with their articles. If you have member news to report, have an interesting background or experience you'd like to share, have been involved in a fun activity or have a trip report, we'd love to hear from you. Pictures would be great! Do you enjoy a fun hobby? What's the most interesting thing that has ever happened to you? A significant day or experience in your life? What's the one place you'd like to see? A special birthday or anniversary coming up? Please send your articles to Buck Buchanan at BuckandMauri@aol.com, Jennie Cleary at wkc44@comcast.net, or Nancy Tessier at NancyBrooks2020@gmail.com Buck , Nancy, and Jennie are also able to help with write-ups if you send us the basics.

See October 2026 Bridge Cruise flyer on the next page.



Go Away Travel
BRIDGE CRUISE SPECIALISTS



GO AWAY TRAVEL PRESENTS:

THE VILLAGES DUPLICATE PLAYERS SECTIONAL AT SEA

October 18-25, 2026

Please join us as we sail round-trip Tampa to Key West and the Bahamas on the Celebrity Summit. You will have the opportunity to play and earn Silver Points two times every day in a card-playing area reserved exclusively for our group.



ITINERARY: Tampa * Day at Sea * Day at Sea * Key West
*** Bimini * Nassau * Day at Sea * Tampa**



SPECIAL OFFER ONLY FOR RESIDENTS OF THE VILLAGES:

**THE FIRST 50 TO SIGN-UP WILL GET
FREE ROUND-TRIP TRANSFERS TO TAMPA!**

*Prices are per person, based on either single or double occupancy and include the following: All taxes and fees, travel protection, bridge games, classic beverage package, basic Wi-Fi and gratuities.

CAT	CABIN	DOUBLE	SINGLE
A2	AQUA	\$2,675	\$4,750
C1	CONCIERGE	\$2,525	\$4,400
V1	VERANDA	\$2,375	\$4,075
O1	OUTSIDE	\$1,850	\$3,050
I2	INSIDE	\$1,650	\$2,700

CALL & BOOK NOW! Contact John Sobel at Go Away Travel
PHONE: 954-349-2800 | EMAIL: BestBridgeAtSea@GoAwayTrav.com

Government taxes and fees, travel protection, bridge fees, classic beverage package, basic Wi-Fi and gratuities are included. Valid passport required. Deposit of \$500 per cabin is refundable until the final payment due date of May 15, 2026. Cancellations made between May 16-July 11, 2026 will be subject to a 50% penalty. Cancellations made on or after July 12, 2026 will be subject to a 100% penalty. If you do not reserve your cabin from Go Away Travel, you must register with us prior to the cruise. A \$900 per person non-refundable bridge fee will apply.

The Villages DBC Sectional at Sea, October 2026 – See next page.