

Bridge in the Park

Burlington Bridge Club

**600 Blair Park Rd.,
Williston, VT**

[Website: Burlington Bridge Club](http://www.burlingtonbridgeclub.com)



Tournament Successes!

The VT **Spring Sectional** was held at the club May 31 to June 2, and we played to a full house: a total of 73 tables.



Over the three days, 78 players from Vermont, New York, Quebec, New Hampshire, and Florida earned more than 300 master points. Congratulations all!

Our next sectionals in Vermont will be in Quechee July 13-14, and Williston August 23-25 and October 25-27. Mark your calendar and prepare to take home some silver!

In the meantime, the Granite State Getaway (District 25 Regional) is next week, June 11 to 16 in Nashua, NH.

Granite State Get-Away

Come Start Your Summer with Us • Nashua, NH

Check Web for Full Details: www.nebridge.org

For full details, check the District website: www.nebridge.org. ■

The Longest Day

Our Alzheimer's fundraiser will return by popular demand during the third week of June. Last year we got good publicity for the club while raising money for the Alzheimer's Association. We hope to repeat that success this year with some extra activities, so please plan to play with us that week and give generously.



To donate or to join the "Vermont Bridge" TLD team please visit our [Team Page](#). Other clubs will join as well so their fundraising activities can get credited to ACBL's efforts. In addition, please consider purchasing a gift card from a local business to donate as a raffle prize. ■

Eight is Enough

Our Eight is Enough team games continue to be successful. The next one will be on Sunday, June 30. As before, to sign up you must send an email to Donna Hale at haledonnab@gmail.com with your and your partner's names. Registration ends on Wednesday of that week. Teams will be announced the day before the event. ■

Meet the Prez

Phil Sharpsteen the long-serving president of the Vermont Bridge Association (Unit 175), is a diamond life master with nearly 6,000 masterpoints. He is indefatigable in his promotion of the game, but he has

other interests as well, of course. Here's how he describes two of them.

First, there's music. "I play the bass in an orchestra and the piano and guitar at home for my own enjoyment. I enjoy live concerts and listening at home and in the car. I like a variety of music, and a list of my favorites composers and musicians includes Palestrina, Morley, Bach, Schubert, Chopin, Joplin, Domino, Brubeck, Dylan, Prine, Paxton, and



Fleck."

Phil thanks his parents for providing him with piano lessons and the public-school music program in Binghamton, NY for helping him to continue.

Second on Phil's list of non-bridge interests is his love of the rural landscape, especially the forests of New England. "I am interested in efforts to restore the American elm and Chestnut, and I'm partial to all the New England hardwoods, especially Shagbark Hickory and the oaks. My best friend, Sue Morse, complements this nicely as she favors the conifers and has an arboretum of 100 species from all over the world."

Along those lines, Phil is active in Keeping Track®, a charity that Sue, a nationally known naturalist, founded in 1994 to help protect wildlife habitats. More about the organization can be found on their website: keepingtrack.org.

And finally, there's bridge! In addition to serving as a director, the Unit president,

and an active member of the Burlington Bridge Club, Phil has been teaching newcomers at CVU for nearly 20 years. He encourages his "graduates" to give duplicate clubs a try, and some of them have gone on to join us at the BBC and in other venues. Bravo, Phil! Bravo! ■

Fun Facts

The precursor to bridge was Whist, a game in which the last card dealt indicates trump and a point is scored for each trick over six won by each pair. Whist originated as long ago as the 1500s, and the word "bridge" is thought to be taken from the Russian word "vist" (in Cyrillic, ВИСТ).

The first book completely devoted to Whist was written by Edmund Hoyle – he of "accordingly to Hoyle" fame – in 1742.

In the early 1900s, British civil servants developed the bidding system and the term "Auction Bridge" took hold. In 1925, Harold S. Vanderbilt changed the rules so that only tricks that were bid and made counted toward game; this turned Auction Bridge into Contract Bridge.

Some studies have linked playing bridge to health and well-being. For example, in 2000 a study found a link between bridge play and a stronger immune system, and another study found that students who played bridge scored higher on standardized tests than those who didn't.

The International Olympic Committee recognized bridge as a sport in 2018, and it made its debut at the Asian Games that year.

A list of famous bridge players includes Mahatma Gandhi, Dwight Eisenhower, Winston Churchill, Martina Navratilova, Bill Gates, Buster Keaton, Warren Buffet, Deng Xiaoping, Omar Sharif, and Charles Goren ("Mr. Bridge in the 1950s and '60s, when many of us learned the game). ■

Heard Around the Table

"They say winning isn't everything. I guess I'll have to take their word for it."

“No, those bruises on my shins aren’t from playing soccer, they’re from my bridge partner.”

“Sorry, partner. I would have led my singleton, but it was so small I couldn’t see it.” ■