

Granite City Open Sectional Wrap

June 12-14, 2025

We had another great tournament. We hosted 137.5 tables at our Granite city Sectional, or an average of 23 tables per session. While down from last year's record-setting numbers, this is still our second highest turnout of the past twenty years!

To me, tournament **MVPs** are those playing in their *first ACBL tournament ever*. We had three this time— **Phil Schloss**, **Marilyn Lisbon**, and **David Johnsen** (all St Cloud MN). Welcome to tournament play!



Phil Schloss

Marilyn Lisbon

David Johnsen

Another MVP worth noting is **Roger Knauss** (Rockville MN), who became our Club's newest **Life Master**. Congratulations, Roger!



During our Tournament, **one hundred nineteen** different players earned Silver! I smiled when **Mary Hanson** (Emily MN), said her goal was to earn "*a sliver of silver!*" And she did, earning .44 Silver on Thursday. Many earned *slivers* or more, including **sixty-two** players from our Club.

The highest master point winners were **John Koch** (St Cloud MN) and long-time partner **Terry Beckman** (Brooklyn Park MN). Second Overall were **Sarah and Jackson Wahl** (Minneapolis MN), while brothers **Maurice Evans** (Willmar MN) and **Vernon Evans** (Redfield SD) earned Third Overall.



Tournament Co-Champions!

Terry Beckman

John Koch



Third Overall

Vernon & Maurice Evans

While I won't be repeating pictures of winners, quite a few people were able to experience the fun of winning an event. So happy for all of you! Just look at these smiles....

Thursday – **Roger Melaas** & **Gloria Mize** Strati-Flighted Pairs

First Overall of **A/X Pairs**
& **Second Overall** of the Tournament!

B/C/D Pairs – First Overall



Sarah & Jackson Wahl
(Minneapolis MN)

Tom Buttweiler & Bev Burg
(St Cloud MN)

Taking Second in A/X were **Vernon** and **Maurice Evans**, and taking Second in B/C/D were **George & Nancy Schnepf** (Sartell MN).

Friday AM – **David Boushek** Pair/Teams & 499-er Pairs

Open Pair/Teams – Team **First Place**



Teammates **Alex Warzecha & Win Anderson** (both St Cloud MN), and **Sarah & Jackson Wahl** (Minneapolis MN) won **First**. Sarah and Jackson left before a team picture could be taken, but they okayed this substitute! Second Place Teams went to **Keith Thompson** (Bloomington MN), **Michele Grindal** (Minneapolis MN), **Paski Paskaradevan** (Newport MN) and **David Gustafson** (Stillwater MN).

First Place in **Pairs** was won by **Terry Beckman & John Koch**, while **Vernon** and **Maurice Evans** took 2nd.

499-er Pairs. **First Place** was won by **Charlie Maternus** (Waite Park MN) and **John Selden** (Richmond MN), followed by a tie for Second! The pairs who tied were: **Mary Johannes** (Sauk Rapids MN) & **Marlene DeVoe** (St Cloud MN), and **Rex Newman** (Fridley MN) & **Jim Muecke** (Eden Prairie MN).

Friday PM - **John Melancon** Pair/Teams

Open Pair/Teams. **Barry Purrington** (Eagan MN), **Michael Cassel** (Roseville MN), **David Newhall** (Mahtomedi MN) and **Jill Wroblewski** (Minneapolis MN) won First Overall in Teams, followed by **Marylou Doerrie** and **Todd Flowerday** (both Coon Rapids MN), **Joann Sufka** (Nisswa MN) and **Dale Simson** (St Cloud MN) Second. **John Koch** and **Terry Beckman** won the **Pairs**, with a 61% game. **Second** place was earned by **Scott** and **Shirley Richardson** (St Joseph MN).

499er Pair/Teams PM – First Overall Team



(l. to r.) **Tom Owens** (Woodbury MN), **Lynn Reis** (Maple Grove MN), **Marlene DeVoe** (St Cloud MN) and **Dan Ganter** (Maple Grove MN) won First overall. **Joan Sand** (St Cloud MN), **Amy Roske** (St Cloud MN), **Rex Newman** (Fridley MN), and **Jim Muecke** (Eden Prairie MN) took Second overall.

Saturday **John Koch** & **Mary Knier Wenner** Stratified Charity Pairs

Guess who won **First Overall** in the **Open** of this two-session play through Pairs event? Fittingly, **John Koch** won his own named game, with a **67%** game, playing w/ partner **Terry Beckman**. **Jackson** and **Sarah Wahl** took 2nd, and **Teri Blu** & **Belinda Caspari** (both Bloomington MN) took third.

Overall winners of the **499er Pairs** event were **Dan Ganter** and **Tom Owens**. **Jim Muecke** and **Rex Newman** took Second, and **Mark Huseth** (St Cloud MN) & **Brian-Paul Crowder** (Little Falls MN) took Third.



Dan Ganter & Tom Owens looking happy!

As mentioned, the Saturday games were **Charity Pairs**. This year, we raised funds for **Terebinth Refuge**, which provides shelter to formerly sex-trafficked women and youth. I was blown away by our players' generosity. We raised \$1,634, an amount that turned into **\$3300** when we delightfully learned our donations were doubled by another donor of theirs!



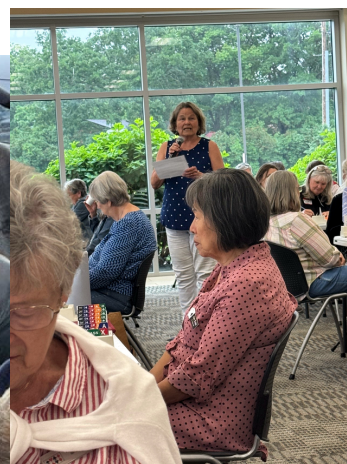
LaVonne Rykhus of Terebinth Refuge receiving our Check

Across it All

This was the second year we had *Named Games* at our tournament, thanks to Club members' donations. As a consequence, we were able to provide a small gift to every person playing in each game. It was fun to tell stories of honored players who have come before us. **Dan Knier** (Waite Park MN) and **Frank Knier** (Fargo ND) brought additional pictures of their Grandma who helped teach them how to play. It was also great to talk about those currently playing who mean so much to us. And, because of the generosity of **KNSI** (thanks, *Bob Leighton!*), we were able to offer a complimentary pizza lunch from House of Pizza on Saturday as well – a favorite spot of all three Knier brothers, including Tom!



Roger Melaas listening...



Attendees liked the stories!

Thank you to *each of you* who helped make our Tournament such a success. From those who contributed money, to those who helped with food, carried tables, answered questions, decorated, and welcomed our guests.

And, our Club did welcome people, most importantly at each table, and after the bridge games ended. Over sixty people came to the beautiful home on **Sandy Johnson** after Friday's game. Aptly aided by **Nancy Balfanz** and **Judy Scheuerelle**, she put on quite the party. I saw players from at least five other Clubs, and a lot of comradery and revelry.



Hostesses with the Mostest

Two first-time attendees said to me as they were leaving: *"We have heard so much about your Club's tournaments. It's all true. We are definitely coming back!"*

Finally, please help me give a **HUGE thank you** to our Club's tournament team, in alpha order: **Win Anderson, Nancy Balfanz, Jane Curtis, Saundy Fedor, Sue Knauss, Theresa Kornwolf, Charlie Maternus, Rhonda Rossman, Joan Sand, Jim Schnepf, Nancy Schnepf, John Selden** and **Zach Wefel**. Plus, **Scott Krupke** supported us all the way!

It takes a village! Connie