



# Billiards Club Newsletter

## December 2025

Created by “Oh Gene” Krajeck



**The Club welcomes our new members and also our newly returned snowbird members.** The reason we are all here is because our Arizona weather is absolutely fabulous now. It is a great time to be living in Arizona and also be a resident of The Grand. As you are reading this edition of the Club Newsletter, you are already experiencing the beginning of the 2025–2026 Season. For the returning snowbirds, you are playing on the re clothed tables and enjoying them. All the Club leagues have started with the exception of the Travel League. In addition, the Club started the annual board election process. **By the way, if you have any comments, either positive or negative, please email me at [eugene.krajeck@gmail.com](mailto:eugene.krajeck@gmail.com).** Over the years that I have been involved with the Newsletter, very few members have communicated with me regarding what they like or don't like. As this season progresses, maybe that will change. Believe it or not, I do welcome your input.



After doing some serious scrounging around, I couldn't come up with a noteworthy event coming up next month besides the December General Meeting and Club election.

So, I have come up with a news item outside of our club that I thought you might be interested in. The decision to write about it came about after speaking with a club member during the Monday Morning Drop-In. My wife and I are Amazon Prime members. Several months ago, while in Amazon Prime Video, I noticed a Sports Tab on the top of the screen. So, I decided to click on it and lo and behold, a wide selection of different sports programming appeared. While wandering around looking at the various options, I came across the “Billiard TV” option. Since then, I have watched several Predator tournament events. They consist of 8, 9 and 10 ball events. These are “Pro” events with top quality players. So, my “Tip for Better Living” for today is if you have access to Amazon Prime Video, you might consider watching the Billiard TV selection. It just might help to improve your game.



Last month, I mentioned that Paul Ertman had organized a monthly Scotch Doubles tournament this past summer. Well, Paul was at it again. Just before Thanksgiving, Paul had a last-minute idea to have another Scotch Doubles tournament. So, he organized one and it was held on Tuesday November 25<sup>th</sup>. The tournament consisted of 6 teams with a payout to the 2 top teams. The team of Randy Salzwedel & Linda Asleson came in 1<sup>st</sup> place and John Sanders & Gil Withey came in 2<sup>nd</sup>.

The election process for the Club Board is in full swing. The candidate sign-up sheets for club officers and directors were taken down from the Billiard Room bulletin board on November 30<sup>th</sup>. The On-Line voting option also ended on November 30<sup>th</sup>. Jim Janssens is chairing this year's Election Committee. He is being assisted by Ron Davis and Diane Dugovic. They administered the operations of this year's Club Board election. **Thank you, Jim, Ron and Diane for the work you are doing to make this year's Club Board election a success.**

At this point, all Club Officer positions are unopposed. In addition, with the recent withdrawal of a candidate for a Club Director position, all Club Board positions are now unopposed. The new Club Board members will be introduced at the upcoming Club General meeting.

**The Billiards Club General Meeting will be held on December 9<sup>th</sup> at the Palo Verde/Palms Room in the Sonoran Plaza at 1:00 PM.** Unfortunately, in past years, club member participation in the voting process and attendance at this important meeting has been sparse at the very least. In addition to new Club Officer information to be presented at this meeting, issues concerning the club will be presented, discussed and possibly voted upon. **If there are any Club action items to be acted upon, it will be done by the attending club members voting at this meeting. So, if you want your voice heard, it is important that you attend this meeting. This is your opportunity to chart the future of the Club.**

Recently, I was speaking with our Club President, Gary Mize, and he suggested we should do a piece about Harriet Ham. In case you don't know, Harriet coordinates the Thursday Afternoon training sessions for novices and new club members.

I had a chat with Harriet on a recent Tuesday afternoon to get to know her a little better. Now, I would like to share with you what I learned about her and the Thursday Afternoon program she heads up. Harriet was born, spent her childhood and graduated from high school in South Carolina. She continued her education in South Carolina by obtaining a Bachelor's Degree in English. She also did graduate work there in reading. From South Carolina, she migrated to California where she met her husband and obtained her Masters in English. During that time, Harriet also earned a credential in learning disabilities. While in California, she taught reading and writing as a specialist working with students who had not yet learned to read for a variety of reasons.

After teaching, she decided to end her working career by becoming involved with real estate. Outside of work, her hobbies consisted of painting and making jewelry which she still does. Through friends of hers and her husband, they learned about The Grand. They both looked at homes here, liked what they saw and purchased a home here.

In her career, her strengths were organizing programs and sequencing skills within in order to accomplish her goals. These qualities enabled her to be quite successful. She has continued to exhibit those qualities in the Billiard Club. Harriet recognized a need to help new and novice members to improve their quality of play. She petitioned for and obtained a Thursday afternoon 2:00 – 4:00 PM time slot to achieve her goal. From her teaching experience, she utilizes sequence learning to help the attending trainees improve their level of play. After determining an individual's skill level, trainees are separated into groups and given a series of drills lasting between 45 minutes to an hour. During this time, Harriet goes around to see how the people are doing. Then attendees play games where each person uses the Ball in Hand playing technique. Approximately 6 to 15 club members attend these sessions.

She has persuaded and eventually recruited our very own pool training expert, Jerry Briesath along with Clyde Krebs to assist her in this endeavor. Several of her students have improved their level of play to become involved in club league activity. **Harriet accepts club members and non-members that are considering becoming members between novice to mid-level skill levels. If any of you are interested in improving your level of play, there is a sign-up sheet located on the Billiards Room Bulletin Board.**

Harriet and her Thursday Afternoon training sessions fill a need to both improve club members' ability to play and also helps recruit new members by giving them the support they need. **The Club owes Harriet their gratitude for her dedication and expertise in coordinating this endeavor. Great Job Harriet!!**

Before I provide the latest League information, I thought I would mention that one of our club members has just hit the century mark. That club member is George Haden and he recently celebrated his 100<sup>th</sup> birthday. Perhaps you may remember that I wrote a piece about him back in January of 2024. George has had an interesting and fruitful life. We are fortunate to have him as a club member. Congratulations George!!

## **2025 – 2026 Winter/Spring Season League News**

The Billiard Club League activity with the exception of the Travel League is now in full swing. All the following leagues have a full complement of club members that are participating. Following are the league standings as of this writing. Congratulations to all the top individual league players for their outstanding play.

As always, the leagues are always looking for substitute players. If interested, there are sub sign-up sheets located in the Pool Room Bulletin Board.

### **Monday Night 8 Ball League – League Operator Jim Janssens**

Sticks & Balls is leading second place Team BlueJays by 9 games. Randy Salzwedel is the top individual player with a 79.2% winning percentage.

### **Tuesday Night 8 Ball League – League Operator Tim Fitzpatrick**

Straight Shooters are leading the pack over second place Breaking Balls by one scoring point. Good Vibes rounds out third 3 scoring points out. Jerry Haas is the top individual player with a 93.3% winning percentage.

### **Wednesday Afternoon 8 Ball League – League Operator Mike Garrett**

The first-place team is Point Predators by 1 scoring point over second place One Shot Wonders. Chalk-a-holics is in third 2 scoring points out. We have a tie for the top individual players. That honor goes to Charlie Fox and Jake Eggleston with each achieving an 83.3% winning percentage.

### **Thursday Night 8 Ball ACS League – League Operator Doug Asleson**

Rack Em Up is leading second place Caster Raiders by 1.2 rounds. Corner Pockets rounds out third 3 rounds out. Steve Crnecki is the top individual player with 151 points.

### **Friday Morning 9 Ball League – Charlie Fox**

Hot Hitters is in first place over second place Ball Busters by 2.5 scoring points. Jim Janssens is the top individual player with an 85% winning percentage.



## **Rule of the Month: Pool Etiquette**

As I stated earlier, the 2025 – 2026 Season is in full swing. Many Club members may not have played much during the summer months and thus might have forgotten some common pool etiquette rules that should be followed when your opponent is up and shooting. During non-league play, there may be more leeway between players to bend the following

rules as long as the participating players are OK with it. However, for League play, following are some common-sense Pool Etiquette rules that should be adhered to.

1. There is NO coaching to the player that is up and shooting. That player must decide what shot to take without any outside help.
2. Players near the pool table should keep conversations quiet and to a minimum.
3. Due to our pool rooms congested physical layout, don't walk through the center aisle while play is taking place. That activity can disturb a player's concentration and potentially mess up their shot.
4. There have been some recent occurrences of foul language being used when a shot has been missed. There is NO instance to use foul language in the Billiards Room. Please refrain from doing so.
5. Keeping your voice level to reasonable levels is paramount. Speaking in a loud tone can distract your fellow players so please speak at a reasonable level.

Adhering to the above rules will provide a more enjoyable environment for you and your fellow players.





