

## Bridge at the Fort Collins Senior Center



Senior Center membership: \$25/year, 50+; \$50/year <50. Daily drop-in fees: \$3.25 60+; \$4 < 60.

Joining the Fort Collins Senior Center provides many benefits to enjoy a variety of activities. Bridge players can enjoy 15% member-discount off of bridge class fees, the quarterly Sunday Practice Duplicate Game and the Friday non-sanctioned Duplicate Bridge game at 11:30 am, play for free at

Party Bridge events held Tuesday afternoons at 12:30 pm and Thursday evening at 5:00 and attend the Bridge Mentoring sessions for free. (Non-members can participate by paying non-member prices or drop-in fees to play in the Party Bridge games or Bridge Mentoring.) Monday & Tuesday 12:30 pm sanctioned Duplicate Bridge games not sponsored by the Senior Center. Fees paid at game.

Nila Hobbs, a certified ACBL Teacher, teaches Bridge classes. Her philosophy on the different “paths”:

1. Bridge Mentoring – place to come to practice concepts learning in classes. Thirty-minute mini lesson then deal and play hands, ask Mentor for help on bidding or playing hand. Focus on applying practices covered in classes. Sometimes back up and bid again to apply concepts and sometimes lay out hand to discuss further. Scheduled 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Monday of month from 6:00–8:30 pm. Free for Senior Center members or a drop-in fee for others. Come when want.
2. “Play” Classes – scheduled 4-week class where 8 pre-set hands played each session preceded by 30-minute mini lesson covering teaching points in that night’s hands. Hands reviewed using companion Guide that has recommended bidding, leads, play of the hand, defending and scoring Duplicate Bridge-style with a Traveler showing how 7 other tables played that hand. Scheduled Monday evenings 5:30–8:30 pm and alternate with Bridge Mentoring. Series of 8 “Play” classes, companion to ACBL Bridge Series. “Play” classes offered in series. Did 1-6 in 2015-2016 so 7 and 8 will finish the series in fall. Start over in January with Class 1, Bidding. Purpose of series: provide more playing of hands that use the concepts taught.
3. Bridge 1 – Getting Started: foundation class using MiniBridge as technique to get students playing first night. Additional concepts added as more hands played. Some “training wheels” in order to let students proceed. Down road “training wheels” replaced with improved concepts as students learn. Goal: understand basics of working as partnership to win most “tricks” and choices for scoring most points by selecting “target” or “contract” the “attackers” or “declaring side” (pair) will try for (some have a chance of making bonus points), playing each hand, defending by the other side (pair), scoring and beginning to understand some techniques that work better than others. No bidding involved yet. More students practice playing hands outside of class, more will learn and understand. Free software available to help practice. (Go to [WIKIPEDIA](#), search for [MiniBridge](#), at the bottom are 3 links to [free software](#). [Blue Chip MiniBridge](#) is sponsored by American Contract Bridge League (ACBL) and the English Bridge Union. Students can download free software.) One 4-week class in September on Wednesday, 5:30–8:30 pm.
4. Bridge 2 through Bridge 5 covers ACBL Bridge Series in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century (not last book). Standard American 5-card major bidding system using latest duplicate bridge ideas and philosophy. Purpose: introduce new player to game of duplicate bridge. Accompanying EZ Deal card decks for pre-set hands to practice teaching points plus “Play” classes for more practice hands. Also, series complements free software available for students to learn more and practice using same conventions. Books taught are:

Bridge 2 – Bidding in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century (The Club Series)

Bridge 3 – Play of the Hand in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century (The Diamond Series)

Bridge 4 – Defense in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century (The Heart Series)

Bridge 5 – Commonly Used Conventions in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century (The Spade Series)

No student is expected to pick up everything that will be covered in these materials. Individual progress is based upon each student’s background and how many hands they play outside of class...the more they practice and study, the faster they will learn. Each player will pick up concepts that they are “ready for” so get the “ah-ha!” experience because they have struggled with something as they have been playing. Many students return to take the classes multiple times as their knowledge grows and are ready to pick up something new.

(Go to [www.ACBL.org](http://www.ACBL.org), Education, Learn, scroll down to Free Learn to Play Bridge online (interactive, learn-as-you-play web-based program accessible from any device with an internet connection) or scroll further to Free Learn to Play Software that can be downloaded to a PC (uses more classic approach of lessons, exercises and hands). Scroll down to the bottom to Commonly Used Conventions to read some 1-2 page articles on individual conventions – very useful.)

5. Bridge R1 – Introduction to Beginning Party Bridge taught for first time. Some people like playing but need something less complicated when get into bidding. Desirable for class to follow Bridge 1 and will cover just enough bidding and rubber bridge scoring using “older” bidding rules to get players to the point can play in Party Bridge groups. After gain more experience playing, some may want to come back and do some of ACBL Series. Monday afternoon, 2:00-5:00 pm, in October and March.