Fired Up in Providence
Report from the Fall NABC — Part 2

Super Senior Pairs
A pair of ACBL Board members won the Super Senior Pairs, capturing the title in the event — restricted to players 70 and older — by two boards.

Jeff Taylor, the former ACBL Board member representing District 20 (covering Washington, Oregon, Northern California, Nevada and Hawaii) and Craig Robinson, the current Board member representing District 4 (Central New York, Eastern Pennsylvania, Delaware, Southern New Jersey) and former ACBL president (2011), won the four-session contest by a comfortable margin.

The runners-up in the contest were Leonard Melander and Bert Newman. Taylor and Robinson were in second place after the qualifying round, but their modest session scores of 56.08% and 61.54% were enough to see them into the winner’s circle.

With the victory, the duo denied Ed Lazarus a fifth consecutive win in the event. Lazarus had won the event from its debut in 2010 to 2013.

On Board 20 from the second final session, Taylor took the maximum number of tricks as declarer to score 21.5 out of 25 matchpoints:

| Dir: West | ♠ Q | 10 9 7 6 2 | ♠ K J 8 |
| Vul: Both | ♥ J 9 8 2 | K 10 5 4 3 | ♥ 6 |
| ♦ K 10 3 | ♦ Q 7 | ♣ A J 9 6 | ♠ A 5 4 3 |
| ♣ Q 7 | ♦ K 9 6 4 3 | ♥ Q 7 5 4 |
| ♠ A J 8 | ♦ 8 2 |

North led the ♠ 4 which ran to declarer’s queen. Taylor then played a diamond to the jack, and when that held, he played a low club to his hand. South rose with the ace and exited with a low heart. Taylor won the ♥ A, cashed the ♦ Q, ruffed a heart and tried the ♥ A. When South ruffed, declarer overruffed, cashed the ♥ K and ruffed his last heart. With nothing but trumps left in his hand, Taylor called for dummy’s last trump, the ♠ K, and when the favorable layout in the trump suit was revealed, he claimed 11 tricks.

Can the defense do better by leading trumps at trick one and two? No. With clubs 3–3 and the diamond honors all in the slot, declarer can always come to 11 tricks in spades.

Super Senior Pairs champs Jeff Taylor and Craig Robinson.
Super Senior Pairs – 84 pairs
1. Craig Robinson, Lansdale PA – Jeffrey Taylor, Eugene OR 854.03
2. Leonard Melander – Bert Newman, West Bloomfield MI 806.21
3. Dennis Kasie, Bloomfield MI – John Solodar, Palm Beach Gardens FL 784.00
4. Richard Vatter – Jo Anne Vatter, Cadillac MI 778.14
5. Alan Daniels – David Pelka, Los Angeles CA 776.11
6. Arch McKellar, Dobbs Ferry NY – Chuck Lamprey, White Plains NY 770.54
7. Ellie Hanlon – Mary Savko, Tequesta FL 769.13
8. William Arlinghaus, Ann Arbor MI – Dave Swarthout, San Antonio TX 768.60
9. Carlos Munoz, White Plains NY – Tony Petronella, Boca Raton FL 768.31
10. Ronald Newburg – Elaine Newburg, Marblehead MA 767.57
11. Alan Popkin – Jack Bryant, St. Louis MO 755.57
12. William Niemi, Wakefield RI – John Urrucioli, Fountain Hills AZ 752.81
13. Sun-O Ho, Redmond WA – Ronald Tracy, Edmonds WA 749.32
14. Peter Morse, North Vancouver BC – Buddhadeb Biswas, San Jose CA 745.02
15. Elaine Landow, Lansdale PA – Raymond Raskin, King of Prussia PA 739.97
16. Malcolm Ewaskiwi, Belleville ON – Robert Hollow, Madoc ON 739.11
17. Fred Hoffer, Montreal QC – Don Piaty, Toronto ON 727.55
18. David Reiter, Dania FL – Sadat Nasisi, Aventura FL 727.54
19. Steve Becker, Old Greenwich CT – Larry Bausher, West Haven CT 726.78
20. Mark Laken, Glyndon MD – Ed Lazarus, Baltimore MD 725.00

Senior Mixed Pairs
Ginny Schuett and Jeff Schuett successfully defended their title in the Senior Mixed Pairs, becoming the first pair to repeat as champions in the four-year-old contest. The runners-up were Lew Finkel of Palm Beach Gardens FL and Kerri Sanborn of Delray Beach FL.

The Schuettos of Riverwoods IL, qualified in 61st place, but then posted a 63.05% game in the first final session and a 59.13% in the second to win the event by 12 matchpoints (51 was top). They won the event despite scoring two zeros in a single round in the second final session.

Here are two deals from the final.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Dir: North</th>
<th>Vul: None</th>
<th>♠ J 10 6 5</th>
<th>♥ 7 4 3</th>
<th>♦ 2</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>♣ Q 4 3 2</td>
<td>A J 10 7 5</td>
<td>♠ A K 9</td>
<td>♥ 10 6</td>
<td>♦ 5 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>♠ Q 9 6 4</td>
<td>♥ K Q J 9 8</td>
<td>♠ A Q 7 4</td>
<td>♠ 3 2</td>
<td>♦ 8 7</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

West North East South
Jeff Pass 1 ♦ 1 ♥
Dbl 2 ♥ 3 ♦ Pass
Pass 3 ♥ All Pass

Jeff aggressively competed to 3 ♥, and Ginny received the ♦ 5 lead. Capturing the king with the ace, Ginny decided against trying for diamond ruffs because of the lack of quick entries to her hand, so she played a club to the jack. East won the king, cashed the ♠ A K and played a third spade. Declarer ruffed and repeated the club finesse. When that held, a trump was played to the king and ace.

West continued with a trump to reduce the number of diamond ruffs, but Ginny was in control. Winning the trump shift, she ruffed a diamond in dummy, cashed the ♠ A to pitch a low diamond, then ruffed a spade in her hand to draw the last trump before enjoying the master diamond.