



**The Villages Duplicate Bridge Club**  
**Member News**  
**October, 2024**

As part of our continuing series of player profiles, we are pleased Dutch Dresser shared with us a look into his life, and recounted the adventurous trip he and his wife Elaine took in their sailboat.

### **DUTCH DRESSER**

This month, we are happy to profile Dutch Dresser, one of our newer Directors.

Dutch and Elaine Dresser hail from the state of Maine, where Dutch served as Associate Head of School, Director of studies and a math and computer studies teacher at Gould Academy, a private boarding school in Bethel, Maine. In addition to being an educator, Dutch also had the habit of being on the cutting edge.

In the early 80's Dutch became interested in computer technology and led Gould through many computer network and technology advancements, such as hooking up to that new-fangled thing called the internet. Thanks to Dutch's ingenuity, Gould became the first independent school in the nation to be fully "wired" with every dorm room having a computer port for each resident. Along the way, he also helped many others, including the Federal Government, the State of Maine, and the local public school system, to implement significant technology improvements.

Life for the Dressers took an interesting turn in 2014-15, when they sailed their 42 foot sailboat Dawn an adventurous 7,000 miles in ten months, round-trip from Rockland, Maine to the Caribbean. Their voyage started with coastwise travel to Hampton, Virginia. They then sailed across 1400 miles of open North Atlantic to Virgin Gorda in the British Virgin Islands, and spent the winter wandering through the Caribbean. In the spring they returned through the British and US Virgin Islands, along the southern Puerto Rican coast before spending several wonderful weeks with friends and family in the Dominican Republic. The return to the US was via the Turks & Caicos, the Exumas, New Providence Island, and Grand Bahama Island.

Dutch says that his wife Elaine was the real hero of their Caribbean cruise. With only coastwise sailing experience, she left Maine as the only crew member on a 14-ton sailboat that would routinely sail day and night without sight of land. She stood regular watches AND provided gourmet fare for the Captain and the crew when they had friends aboard for their two longer passages. There were “full hot menus supplemented with bowls of fruit, candy bars, and snacks of all varieties. No weight will be lost on this junket,” blogged Dutch.

There were both desirable and undesirable weather and sea conditions, as well as exhilaration as each destination approached. They did have some issues with mechanical failures of their refrigeration system and the autopilot which were eventually repaired. One of their friends quipped that cruising is “boat repair in exotic places.”

As they traveled further south towards the Caribbean, the Dressers found one of the great pleasures of an ocean passage is the variety the sea surface can provide in color, shape, and size, and the truly remarkable sky, which changes its act each hour of every day, much to their delight. They truly enjoyed the adventures and sights they experienced on their trip, along with the joy of spending time with other cruising sailors.

If you're interested in reading more about their adventure, this site generally outlines their trip: <https://dutchdresser.com/sailing-on-dawn> and this site has the many blogs they wrote along the way: <https://www.sailblogs.com/member/svdawn>



Dutch and Elaine Dresser

## **Bridge Tips for Newer Players**

1. Cover an honor with an honor.
2. Aces are to be used to take kings and queens. Don't lead unsupported aces.
3. Don't lead a singleton trump. It almost invariably finesses your partner.
4. With a two-way finesse, lead the Jack to tempt opponent to cover with the queen. If he doesn't, play high and finesse back the other way.
5. If you don't want the lead, don't win the trick.

## Trip Reports

**Ann McClellan** had an exciting three week travel adventure to Australia and New Zealand. “We started at the Great Barrier Reef where we snorkeled at Michaelmas Cay, took the Kuranda Railway to the Kuranda Wildlife Park (where my 2 favorite pictures were taken) then back down the treetop rainforest gondola, then flew to the desert of the Outback and Ayers Rock, then flew to Sydney (where we toured the city and opera house and went to a kiwi preserve).

Then we flew over to New Zealand and bussed around to Christchurch, Mt. Cook, Queenstown, Milford Sound (which we first saw by boat and then a 14 person airplane), Rotorua (where we saw a lot of Maori people) and Auckland. I especially liked the animals and Milford Sound.”



Ann McClellan



**Jean Knight** not only does well at the bridge table, but she also had a big win in the casino not too long ago. Jean and her husband traveled to New Orleans to meet with family. Besides enjoying the company of her relatives, and the tasty Beignets in New Orleans, Jean hit it big playing at the Beau Rivage Casino in Biloxi. Way to go Jean!



**Kathy McKay** - We are happy to see Kathy McKay back at the bridge tables. Kathy has just returned from a summer in Scotland. She has a gorgeous suntan, which is hard to believe because it rains six days a week in Scotland.

Perhaps the highlight of Kathy's summer was scoring a hole-in-one on one of Scotland's many difficult courses. Buck told Kathy that we ordinarily require validation from two other VDBC players before we publish it. However, we thought we could waive that requirement because it took place in Europe.

Kathy is American, but has lived in Scotland for the past 26 years. Her late husband was Canadian of Scottish and English heritage, who practiced medicine in California. He retired at the ripe old age of 50, and they then moved to Scotland. Kathy has four sons, three of whom live in Edmonton, Alberta. The fourth lives in Singapore.

We welcome Kathy back to The Villages.



Kathy McKay

## **Bridge**

### **A Poem By Eileen Rush**

We love this game whether right or wrong  
And often play it all week long

It makes you think and sharpens the mind  
Yet bids and plays can be unkind

At the table friendships blossom and bloom  
But the cards reveal that troubles loom

The bidding is lively and tempers in check  
North-South trying to save their neck

A daring lead and dummy is spread  
You ponder what's in your partners head

East West defending with all their might  
Defeating this cold contract is in their sight

Though bridge is a game of love and strife  
What a great way to go through life!

## **Introducing Jennie Cleary, our Member News Editor**

By Buck Buchanan

This past Summer, I suggested in the weekly eBlast that we introduce a Member News column, in which we told club members about some of the interesting trips our members have taken, or biographies of people with an interesting background, significant dates, and general notes of interest. I was contacted shortly thereafter by Jennie Cleary, who volunteered to work with me.

It didn't take me long to realize that Jennie was much more organized than I am, was a much better writer than I am, and was probably smarter than I am. So I asked her if she would be the Editor of the Member News, and here we are.

Jennie and her husband Bill came from way upstate New York, where they have two seasons, winter and July. She went to Clarkson University, an engineering school in northern NY, where she majored in Civil and Environmental Engineering, and Mathematics. After graduation, she accepted a job with the New York State Department of Transportation where she worked many years as an engineer, and eventually became Communications Director.

Jennie retired in 2008, and she and Bill moved to The Villages. She began swimming with the Villages Swim team, and one of her highlights was being chosen to swim in an international swim meet in Turin, Italy. She only began to play bridge five years ago, but has since become a serious student.

We know Jennie will be a great editor of the Member News.



Jennie Cleary



## Snazzy Outfits

Did they coordinate their attire before the game?



Addie Adler and Bruce Thier

## Anniversary

George and Sandy King recently celebrated 60 years of marriage in Lancaster with family. Gathered together from Maryland, Pittsburgh and Nashville, Tennessee were their daughters, sons-in-law and many grandchildren. The highlight of the weekend together was a special dinner out and a beautiful cake, all gifted by the family. George and Sandy were married on August 22, 1964 at Immaculate Conception Church in Fairmont, West Virginia.

Best wishes George and Sandy!



George and Sandy King

## The Lighter Side

Submitted by Mary Jo Johnson

**There are just three  
words every  
Southerner wants  
to hear...**

~~I love you~~

**Low humidity today**

Scientifically, a raven has 17 primary wing feathers, the big ones at the end of the wing. They are called pinion feathers. A crow has 16. So, the difference between a crow and a raven is only a matter of a pinion.



## Bridge Cruise

The **VDBC Sectional at Sea** taking place February 9 – 16, 2025, is now sold out, however Marilyn Williams tells us that she can put people on a waiting list in the event there are any cancellations and cabins become available.

**A big thank you** to all who participated with their articles. If you have member news to report, have an interesting background or experience you'd like to share, have been involved in a fun activity or have a trip report, we'd love to hear from you. Pictures would be great! Do you enjoy a fun hobby? What's the most interesting thing that has ever happened to you? What's the one place you'd like to see? A special birthday or anniversary coming up? Please send your articles to Buck Buchanan at [\*\*BuckandMauri@aol.com\*\*](mailto:BuckandMauri@aol.com) or Jennie Cleary at [\*\*wkc44@comcast.net\*\*](mailto:wkc44@comcast.net). Buck and Jennie are also able to help with write-ups if you send us the basics.