



Billiards Club Newsletter

March 2026

Created by "Oh Gene" Krajeck



Most snowbird members have now returned to enjoy the sunny weather of Arizona. The cold weather is behind us and now warmer March is here. This is the time that the Club and its members experience the most exciting times of the year. As you read this month's issue, I think you will agree that the month of March is not one to be missed as a Club Member. I don't want you sitting on the sidelines being a wall flower this month, get out and enjoy what the Billiards Club has to offer. Buckle Up, the March good times are coming.



March, as Doug Asleson calls it, is the Club's premier month of the year. This is the month when both the Club Championships and the Brieseth Cup take place.

The next time you enter the Billiard Room, you will find that the sign-up sheets for these upcoming events are posted. Also included by the sign-up sheets are each tournaments format. And in case you didn't know, all Billiard Club members are eligible for these club events. The only restriction is that Master Players are not able to play in the Players tournament. The restricted Masters Players names are also posted. In addition, there is no entry fee for any of these events.

One of the side benefits of Club members competing in the Club Championships is that the winners receive a red Billiards Club shirt, name on the Champions Plaque and their picture posted on the Champions Wall for one year. What more could a Club member ask for?

The Club Championships started in February leading off with the Women's which took place on Saturday, February 28th. Nine players from our club competed in a round robin tournament to see which two players would play on Championship Saturday to be crowned this year's Women's Club Champion. **After a very competitive day, Karen Bendickson and Roxie Collins earned the chance to be the 2026 Women's Club Champion. Congratulations Karen and Roxie!**

The remaining upcoming Club Championships Tournament dates and signup deadlines are listed below:

MASTERS: Thursday, March 5th at 9:00 AM - Sign-Up deadline March 4th

PLAYERS: Friday, March 6th at 9:00 AM - Sign-Up deadline March 5th

BRIESATH QUALIFIER: Saturday March 7th at 9:00 AM - Sign-Up deadline March 6th

The top two players in each Club Championship event will play their final match on Saturday, March 14th at 9:00 AM.

The Briesath Cup Captains have been announced. They are: Randy Biko and Randy Salzwedel. There may be some club members that don't know how the remaining Cup Team members determined. Besides the team captains, there are five additional players on each team. The top two players from the Masters, Players and Briesath Tournaments contribute one each to each team. That leaves two remaining players for each team. Those remaining two players are selected by the Briesath Cup captains. The remaining Cup team players will be announced after the prior named tournaments have concluded.

So, come and enjoy a day of competitive pool and fellowship with some of our club members at these events. The Club is hoping we have a great turnout this year.

Due to the upcoming Club Qualifier events during the week of March 1st, there will be no Thursday Morning 8-Ball event, Thursday Afternoon Instructional Session or Friday 9-Ball League matches that week.

All these tournaments lead up to the Club's premier event of the year, Championship Saturday. This year, Championship Saturday is on Saturday, March 14th. The day's events are as follows:

Women's, Players & Master finals at 9:00 AM

Luncheon is 11 AM to 1:00 PM

Briesath Cup at 1:00 PM



Remember, Allison Fisher made a one-day visit to our Club on Saturday, January 24th. Club members had a wonderful time listening and visiting with her. Recently I spoke to Linda Asleson and she told me that Allison also had a wonderful time. In fact, she texted Linda the following message:

"I just want to thank the people at the Grand in Surprise, Arizona for making my mom and me feel so welcome. What a pleasure spending time teaching and being around Jerry Briesath".



So, thanks go to the Club Members who interacted with Allison to make her visit a memorable one for both her and the club.

For those that didn't attend, the Billiards Club hosted the New Year Potluck on Saturday, February 7th. It was held in the Hopi Room in the Chaparral building. This event was the Club's first social event of the year. It was attended by 70 club members and their guests. Plenty of good food items were brought in which contributed to the wonderful time that was had by all.

Our Club President Rob Pulvino said a few words about his vision for the Club. He also talked about several Club members that have made significant contributions to the Club. Rob also stressed that our Club Members are a family of individuals and that we all should look out for one another. He gave the example of a club member and how he was helped by club members concerning his recent medical episode.

Two raffles were held during this event, a 50/50 and a pool cue. The 50/50 was won by June Janssens who took home \$158. Steve Crnecki had the honor of winning the cue raffle. To top the night off, a game of Left-Right-Center was held. Paul Ertman & Steve Crnecki both were winners of that game.

Congratulations to June Janssens, Steve Crnecki and Paul Ertman for being winners in this Years Pot

Luck event.

Remember last month when I talked about some of our club members participating in the Arizona State ACS Championships. Well, some of our members wanted to expand their horizons by competing in a national pool tournament. So, they entered the 2026 BCA Pool League World Championships that were recently held at the Westgate Resort and Casino in Las Vegas. This tournament was held from February 18th through February 28th. Talk about a gigantic event. According to the tournament website, over 10,000 players entered this world competition. In addition, this tournament was conducted on over 400 tables. Can you imagine a tournament conducted with over 400 tables? My reporter on the scene, Doug Asleson, provided the following.

Our Grand Billiards Club was well represented at this Las Vegas Tournament. In the Seniors Platinum 8 ball singles division, Steve Crnecki and Randy Salzwedel competed against a very strong field. Randy finished in a tie for 5th place out of 52 players. In the Seniors Gold 8 ball singles division there were 158 players competing. Jim Janssens finished in a tie for 9th place. Rob Pulvino and Linda Asleson were in a tie for 17th place. In the Silver 8 ball team division team from the Grand won 2 of 5 matches and just missed moving to the next bracket. Team members are Paul Ertman, Jim Janssens, Geoff Iverson, Kevin Strong and Bruce Rebut. Our participating Club members are to be congratulated for a job well done!

2026 Winter Season League News

February was a busy month for the Club's Leagues. This past month is the last full month of League competition. The last League matches will be completed the week of March 15th. The end of February League final results are as follows:

Monday Night 8 Ball League – League Operator Jim Janssens

Before this League's statistics are provided, I wanted to share the following. I am happy to report that our good friend, John Sanders is home and recovering well. He is under the expert care of his lovely wife Charlinda. Please keep both of them in your prayers. And now, the latest league standings.

Rack em Up is leading second place Ball Breakers by 14 games. Randy Salzwedel is the top individual player with a 72.2% winning percentage.

Tuesday Night 8 Ball League – League Operator Tim Fitzpatrick

Straight Shooters is on top over second place Hot Pockets by 1 scoring point. Pool Sharks rounds out third 1.5 scoring points out. Kevin Strong is the top individual player with an 87.5% winning percentage.

Wednesday Afternoon 8 Ball League – League Operator Mike Garrett

8 Ball Ninjas is in first place 3.5 scoring points in front of second place Pure Luck. Cue Fighters is in third 5.5 scoring points out. Charlie Fox is the top individual player with an 85.7% winning percentage.

Thursday Night 8 Ball ACS League – League Operator Doug Asleson

The second session of this seasons ACS league has been completed. We had four teams of four playing over an eight-week schedule. **The champions of this session are The Four Amigos over second place Corner Pockets by one and a half rounds. Congratulations to winning team members John Fenwick, Tim Ell, Paul Ertman and Bill Peterhans.** The top shooter was John Fenwick with a 24-8 record.

Friday Morning 9 Ball League – League Operator Charlie Fox

Flying Niners are in first place over second place Rack Pack by 3.5 scoring points. Jerry Bullins is the top individual player with an 81% winning percentage.

Travel League – Doug Asleson Team Captain

The Grand Travel team continued their undefeated season with wins over Sunflower, Sun City and Sun City West. The win over Sun City West was very close and we pulled out a very narrow 27-23 win. All our teammates contributed to these wins and played well against some very strong opponents. This year's season concludes March 24th and we are in a strong position to defend our championship title.

And now, on to the **Rule of the Month**.



There probably have been times when either you or your opponent has hit the cue ball so hard that the object ball, or the 8 in 8 Ball, the 9 in 9 Ball or the 10 in 10 Ball has been knocked off the table. We call that the Brian Pin effect. Then the question is, what happens to that knocked off ball? Does that ball go down or is it spotted? Good Question!!

That particular issue came up recently in a conversation I had with Rob Pulvino. He felt that issue should be brought up as a Rule of the Month topic. So, I then researched this issue in the bible of Pool Rules, the CSI, Cue Sports International, rules manual. In case you don't know, there is a hard copy version of this manual in a black binder located between the wall cabinet and the left edge of the Pool Room entrance. This binder also contains the Club Policy and Procedures. It is also located digitally on the Billiards Club Web Site under the Documents Tab. By the way, if any of you have a question about what the official rule is about any questionable pool situation, consult the CSI manual and you will find the official answer.

According to CSI, when a pool ball goes off the table, the ball knocked off the table is referred to as a "Jumped Ball". So, as this following situation is described, the reference term used is called Jumped Ball.

Per CSI, if you cause any ball to be jumped off the table, it is a foul resulting in Ball in Hand to the opponent. How the foul is treated is as follows:

Let's start with 8 Ball first. On the break, jumped object balls other than the 8-ball are not returned to the table except in the case of a re-rack. If the 8-ball is jumped on the break it is spotted. In non-break jumped object ball situations, the jumped ball stays down. Also, in a non-break situation, if the 8 Ball is jumped, it is spotted.

Regarding 9 Ball, on the break, jumped object balls other than the 9-ball are not returned to the table. If the 9-ball is jumped, it is spotted. In non-break object ball situations, the jumped ball stays down. Also, in a non-break situation, if the 9 Ball is jumped, it is spotted. In our unique Club way of playing 9 Ball, the 3 and 6 Balls are also point Balls. The rules that apply to the 9 Ball would also then apply to the 3 and 6 Balls.

If playing 10 Ball, the jumped ball rules for 10 Ball are the same as for 9 Ball.

I hope that this discussion of jumped balls has been helpful.

