



Billiards Club Newsletter

April 2026

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The most important Club event laden month of the season is over!! The month of March is definitely the busiest and most exciting time of the Winter Season for our Club members. The months activities included the Annual Club Luncheon, Club Championships, and finally the Briesath Cup. Hopefully you were able to participate and or watch at least some of these exciting events that the Club has provided during this past month.

Before I get into all the previous months news, I owe an apology to the Club members and especially to Jay Delich, the Billiards Club's entertainment guru. Unfortunately, last month I forgot to include in the Newsletter the Club's Annual Luncheon announcement which is one of Jay's premier Club events. So, to all of you, especially Jay, my heartfelt apology. And now, on with the April Newsletter.



The Grand will be hosting an Open House on Thursday, April 2, 8:30-11:30 AM in the Sonoran Plaza. This event will give residents of The Grand to meet your Community Association Management staff, Chartered Club and Special Interest Group representatives and City of Surprise officials. Coffee and pastries will be available. The Billiards Club will have several members present to provide Club information to attendees. Hopefully, this event will attract some Grand residents to become new members of our club.



Thursday, March 5th was an important day for our Club. That was the day that Jerry Briesath celebrated his 89th birthday. As Rob Pulvino once said, "we all have birthdays, but we're all not Jerry". Jerry has been very instrumental in the success of our Billiards Club. His continuing guidance has made our Club the great organization that it is. **Congratulations Jerry!! You are the BEST.**

Our Annual Club luncheon took place in the Agua Fria Room in the Chaparral Center on March 8th from 2:00 PM to 6:00 PM. Jay Delich and his group planned for many weeks to provide an outstanding menu. 84 club members and guests attended this event. Sharko's Catering provided beef stroganoff and lemon chicken along with mashed potatoes and salad. The food was excellent and it was enjoyed by all. For those of you that didn't attend, you missed a fun event.

At the Luncheon, our Club President, Rob Pulvino, said few words about Jerry Briesath and his significant contributions to the Club. He also repeated some of his thoughts from the Pot Luck about his future visions about the Club.

Before the Luncheon, a Skills Competition was held in the Pool Room. Following were the winners of this competition:

First Place: Steve Crnecki Second Place: Doug Asleson Third Place: Roger Schumaker

Also at the Club Luncheon, two raffles were held, a Cue and 50/50. The Winners of these raffles are as follows:

Winner of the Cue Raffle: Dan Maurer

Winners of the 50/50 Raffle: Maria Conte won \$86 and Mike Wilson won \$86

Congratulations to all the Club Luncheon winners.

Besides the Annual Club Luncheon, March was also the month to determine the Club Championships. Following are the results of those qualifying tournaments.

Women's

This year's Women's tournament began with a round robin bracket. We welcomed some new players to this year's tournament. All nine players competed in a very competitive event. At the end of the day, Karen Bendickson and Roxie Colins earned the chance to win this year's championship. Roxie and Gayle Anderson were tied at the conclusion of the tournament and Roxie defeated Gayle in a playoff. Karen and Roxie competed on Championship Saturday to determine this year's champ.

Players

The Players tournament played a double elimination bracket. After a very competitive day, Bud Anderson was undefeated and Bruce Rebut came through the loser's side to challenge Bud to become this year's Players champion. They played the final match on Championship Saturday with Bud needing to win one match and Bruce had to win two.

Masters

The Masters tournament played a double elimination bracket with the races being 5 on the winner's side and 4 on the loser's side. This proved to be a long day but we finished all the matches necessary to narrow the field to the final two players. Linda Asleson was undefeated and Randy Salzwedel came through the loser's side to challenge Linda on Championship Saturday. Linda needed to win one match and Randy two to determine this year's champ.

Briesath Cup Qualifier

Before I get into the results of this tournament, I thought I would provide some background to how this tournament came about. When the Briesath Cup started, the Cup team captains picked all the individual team participants. One of our club members, Bill Zapka, felt it was unfair that club members didn't have an opportunity to be a part of the Cup selection process. So, Bill came up with the idea of having a tournament and have the top two players be represented on each team. His idea was accepted and that became part of the team Cup structure. **Thank you, Bill Zapka, for your great idea!!**

This year, thirteen players competed in this round robin bracket with every player playing two games against all the other players. Richard Wear and Dave Bowlin won those two spots edging out Kevin Strong by one game.

Championship Saturday

One of the best parts of our Billiards Club year is Championship Saturday, March 14th. With the Club Championships played in the morning, a wonderful Jay lunch, remember those Hot Dogs, at noon and the Briesath Cup tournament in the afternoon, the day was packed with competitive action all day. We had a packed room most of the day with over a hundred pool enthusiasts attending throughout the day. The day started with the Club Championships at 9:00 that morning. Following are the results of that wonderful day.

Club Championships 2026

Women's

On Championship Saturday, Karen Bendickson and Roxie Colins competed to determine this year's champ. **Karen Bendickson came through in the final match to claim the title of 2026 Women's Club Champion.**

Players

Bud Anderson and Bruce Rebout played the final match on Championship Saturday with Bud needing to win one match and Bruce had to win two. Bud came through in the first match with a narrow 3-2 win. **Bud Anderson is the 2026 Players Club Champion.**

Masters

Randy Salzwedel and Linda Asleson played in the final match on Championship Saturday. Linda needed to win one match and Randy two to determine this year's champ. Randy defeated Linda in the first match with a lot of games being very close. **Randy Salzwedel won the second match to claim his third straight Masters Club Championship.**

2026 Briesath Cup

As always, we had a wonderful and very competitive Briesath Cup tournament this year. The two Briesath Cup teams, Breaking Bad, captained by Randy Biko and Rack em Up, captained by Randy Salzwedel competed that Saturday afternoon. Players played 8 ball and 9 ball in singles, scotch doubles and scotch triples. After 19 games Rack em Up trailed by only 1 game in a race to 14. Breaking Bad pulled out the next 4 games to win the match 14-9. Top shooter for Rack em Up was Steve Crnecki who was 4 and 1 and for Breaking Bad Linda Asleson who was 5 and 1. The winning player's names will go on the Briesath Cup plaque and their picture will be on the wall over the next year. **Congratulations to the 2026 Briesath Cup Champions Breaking Bad with team members Randy Biko, Rich Wear, Linda Asleson, Tim Ell, John Fenwick and Bud Anderson.**



2026 Winter Season League News

March was a busy month for the Club's Leagues. It also was the last full month of League competition. The last League matches were completed the week of March 15th. Following are the final results of the Winter League Season competitions.

Monday Night 8 Ball League – League Operator Jim Janssens

Rack em Up took the top spot over second place Running Balls by 16 games. Congratulations to Rack em Up and team members Randy Salzwedel, Dave Bowin and Lew Oliphant. Randy Salzwedel was the top individual player with a 73.1% winning percentage.

Tuesday Night 8 Ball League – League Operator Tim Fitzpatrick

Pool Sharks were our Tuesday Night League winners. Second place went to Straight Shooters 3 scoring points behind. Hot Pockets came in third 7.5 scoring points out. **Congratulations to team Pool Sharks with team members Kevin Strong, Bruce Rebout, Gene Krajeck and Phil Sargent.** Kevin Strong was the top

individual shooter with a 92.9% winning percentage.

Wednesday Afternoon 8 Ball League – League Operator Mike Garrett

The competition for the Wednesday Afternoon League's champion was a real nail biter. **In the end, One Shot Wonders squeaked out the top spot by 0.5 scoring points over second place Pure Luck.** Cue Fighters rounded out third 1 scoring point out. **Congratulations to team One Shot Wonders with team members Charlie Fox, Howie Koval, John Chiebeck and Joyce Miller.** Charlie Fox was the top individual player with an 80% winning percentage.

Thursday Night 8 Ball ACS League – League Operator Doug Asleson

The second session of this seasons ACS league was completed the previous month.

Friday Morning 9 Ball League – League Operator Charlie Fox

The Friday Morning League Champions was Flying Niners over second place Rack Pack by 5.5 scoring points. Congratulations Team Flying Niners with team members Charlie Fox, Roger Schumaker, Bruce Rebout, Jim Witkowski, Tom Hansch and Elle Bates. Jerry Bullins was the top individual player with an 81.3% winning percentage.

Travel League – Doug Asleson Team Captain

The Grand Travel league team has successfully defended our title as champions of the North Forty Travel League. We finished the season with victories over Sun Village, Festival, Sunflower and Sun City. Our team finished the season with a perfect 10 and 0 record. This was a real team effort with all players contributing with great play. This year marks our fifth year in a row as league champs. Our Travel Team is looking forward to repeating again in 2027. **Congratulations go to Team members Doug Asleson, Linda Asleson, Randy Biko, Jim Janssens, Randy Salzwedel, Tim Ell, Steve Crnecki and to sub–Richard Wear.** Thanks to our Billiards Club members for supporting us in our home matches and being respectful in sharing the pool room with us.



Pool Knowledge

Normally at the end of the Newsletter, I provide a piece about either a pool game rule or a type of pool shot. This month I thought I would shake things up a bit by ending this month's Newsletter with a bit of Pool Knowledge. I own the book, "The 99 Critical Shots of Pool" and in it is a Glossary of Pool Terms. I happened to be looking through the glossary pages one day and came across a pool cue component term that I wasn't familiar with. There may be some club members that may not know the names and definitions of a pool cues component parts so I found the following diagram and definitions regarding two-piece cues on the Billiards Republic website for your review. I hope you find this information as informative as I did.



POOL CUE TIP - Billiards Cue tips vary based on their composition from hard to soft, which affects how long they last and how often you need to maintain them. They usually range in size from 11.75 mm to 14 mm. Typical, 13 mm tip size is the most used tip size among pool players. Most billiard cue tips come with medium to hard strength. Medium strength is most preferred by most pool players worldwide due to its desired medium hardness. Softer cue tips tend to stay in contact with the cue ball longer and leave it slower, which causes the cue ball to spin. Harder cue tips are fore breaking with since they cause less spinning and are more solid and durable than softer tips.

POOL CUE FERRULE - The ferrule is the second part that the tip attaches or glues to. Pool Cue ferrules can be from different strong materials. Each ferrule connects to a cue shaft by either glue, threads, or just slipping it inside. The function of a billiards cue ferrule is to strengthen the cue tip, absorb energy, and reduce vibrations.

POOL CUE RINGS - The Rings reinforce the two-piece pool stick joint design and give a better and stylish appearance than traditional non-ring pool cues.

POOL CUE COLLAR - Pool cue collars are high quality and strong materials such as stainless steel and other hardwood types or even Ivory. Billiards cue collars connect to the cue shaft end and forearm by glue and threads to provide more reinforcement. There are two billiards cue collars in each two-piece cue type; one connects to the shaft end and the second connects to the forearm. Both link together by a pin-joint system and very well balanced to provide a secure lock and energy transfer between the cue shaft and the butt.

POOL CUE JOINT - A billiard cue joint is a small part that connects the cue shaft to the butt. It is usually a very hard and durable material such as metal. The function of the joint is to connect the two parts together and provide a sustainable and smooth energy transfer between the two.

POOL CUE BUTT - A billiard cue butt is the second main component of a cue stick which has some common parts as the cue shaft and also has new and customizable parts that pool players are looking for in terms of design, color selection, style, weight or other features the butt side of the cue may include.

POOL CUE PIN - The pin is the metal threaded part that sticks out of the upper side of the cue butt and connects the forearm to the shaft. The threaded pin goes inside the joint and should be tight and secured before playing.

POOL CUE WRAP - It is very important to have a solid grip on your cue that feels comfortable in your hand to make your best shot. This is what cue wraps are all about. Most wraps are leather material or Irish linen. If your hands tend to sweat more frequently while playing, it is better to use the Irish linen wrapped cue types instead of leather.

POOL CUE FOREARM - The forearm is the part between the wrap and the collar of a pool cue. It is usually the same material as the shaft which is Hard Rock Maple. Most billiards cues come with regular non-stylish forearms. Forearms that have inlays and other different special patterns on them tend to be more expensive in price for their luxurious designs and how cool they look. Some designs help with aiming like diamonds inlays and other designs. However, it is not a must-have type of thing.

POOL CUE BUTT SLEEVE - The cue butt sleeve comes just under the billiard cue wrap. It is usually the same material as the forearm or it could even be a more expensive and exotic material as well. Made with a cored-out design and its function is to balance the overall weight of the cue. It usually follows the forearm stylish design and inlays which gives the pool stick a nicer overall looking design.

POOL CUE BUMPER - The bumper is the last piece of a pool stick located at the bottom end. It is usually a rubber material or any other hard material that is flexible and absorbs impact and protect the cue from any possible damage when the rubber hits the ground.

POOL CUE WEIGHT - The best weight for a pool cue typically ranges between 18 to 21 ounces, as this provides a good balance of control and power for most players. The different cue weights and their pool cue playing characteristics are described in the following chart.

Weight Range (ounces)	Characteristics
18-19	Ideal for precision and control
19-20	Best balance of control and power
20-21	Suitable for powerful shots and breaks

The ideal pool cue weight is a personal choice shaped by your playing style, physical strength, and the demands of the game.

