

Staying Connected in Steamboat
By Sharon Smith, Unit 364
Colorado
(Continued)

We are also utilizing BBO for one table casual games. It would be great if we could host casual games with as few as two tables. I am impatiently awaiting the ability to hold virtual Swiss team games. It would be fun to have a competition between the many remote Western Colorado and Wyoming towns.

Recently, we hosted a virtual Play of the Hand seminar through Colorado Mountain College. Jim Randall was the speaker and drew from his library of material from teaching on bridge cruises. The seminar filled shortly after we opened the entries. We reached many social players and seasoned players that have a desire to learn. We are using BBO for teaching lessons.

Several players started playing online as soon as the quarantine began. They enjoyed playing with friends across the nation. This new motivation to play online will undoubtedly become a part of many player habits even after the COVID-19 crisis is over. Online play will continue to grow.

Player quotes when asked: what does the virtual club mean to me?

While the bridge community may bemoan the absence of group gatherings for weekly play and tournaments, this should be seen as a great opportunity to attract more people - especially younger generations to the game. *Fran Stoltz, Steamboat.*

Since Steamboat is a seasonal residence for me, I was excited to connect with friends out West. We are in lockdown in Florida hoping to head West for summer soon. Plus, I learned a new technology feature and got to play bridge. What's not to like? My gratitude goes to our leader, Sharon Smith, who has brought us all on board. My lake in Florida is 20-miles from town and I wasn't sure our snail pace internet could handle the game. Sharon assured me that it would be OK and it was. I'm looking forward to playing again this week. Thanks again, *June Lloyd, FL.*

As a response, the virtual club has been and will continue to be a wonderful opportunity to spend quality time with old friends who may be scattered throughout the states. Sure beats thinking of ways to make the days go by. *Ken Steinhouse, NY.*

The virtual club is fantastic. It has allowed play to continue during this period of lockdown. The glitches have been minimal and the pace of play is no better or worse than live games. Afternoon games are convenient to participate in. I'm very grateful to our club director for making this happen. *Betsy Ludlow, Steamboat.*

It means contact with my friends, a challenge for my mind, and comfort knowing I'm not alone. *Linda, WY.*