



10 Questions

for Betty Hale *by Shirley Belcher*

How long have you played Mah-jongg at Central Connections?

I started teaching and playing in 2008. We started with 8 women. I want to note that I teach Wright Patterson rules only. Wright-Patterson rules were developed by the U.S. Air Force for their men and women who played worldwide so there would be standard rules of play wherever the game was played.

What made you contact the Central Connections about Mah-jongg?

After I played the game in Arizona several winters, I wanted to play all year (in Middletown), so I asked if I could teach. The game has continued year-round at the center since 2008.

Tell me about Mah-jongg and when did you learn how to play?

Mah-jongg is an ancient Chinese tile game. Checking history, it started with men only playing. Most men play the game well. I started to play Mah-jongg in 2004 in Arizona in a RV park. A woman placed a note on the bulletin board that she was teaching Mah-jongg. About 18 women signed up, and all winter we learned to play. I was passionate to learn and fascinated by the game.

How many play Mah-jongg at Central Connections?

In 2010 we had 17 players. Through the years we have lost



Betty Hale has a passion for the ancient Chinese tile game called Mah-jongg. She would love to teach newcomers the game and she welcomes players of all skill levels to the Mah-jongg table at

several players for various reasons, including several who leave town to winter elsewhere, but we still have a nice group of players.

Can anyone join you? What days and time do you play?

We welcome everyone! We play every Thursday from 12:30—4:00 PM in the card room. All our present players can teach and they do. When a newcomer joins the group, the more veteran players start

teaching on the spot and we teach as we play. There are rules (2 books \$6 each) to learn. Usually, it takes about 3 months to become fluent in Mah-jongg, and it is so much fun to interact with other players because you learn your own strategy. Anyone can learn to play.

What will new players discover about Mah-jongg?

Mah-jongg is a game that stimulates the mind, offers a challenge, and the opportunity to make friends and socialize. Come and join us and make it your day!

What are your other interests?

I love to travel, mostly in our beautiful country.

Where has been your favorite place to travel?

Anyplace in the west. I love Yellowstone. My husband and I worked there the summer of 1996 and have returned several times.

What is something people don't know about you?

That I care for people and I pray a lot. To God be the glory! And I love the Red, White, and Blue.

What is on your bucket list?

That I return to Yellowstone one more time before I die. Each time that I go, I say, "I want to go to Yellowstone one more time before I die. We have reservations for 2018." 🌿