



## Unit 174 July 2026 Newsletter



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*North Side Bridge Club LLC*  
*Pebble Creek Duplicate Bridge Club*  
*Star Duplicate Bridge Club*

**Contributors**  
*The Early Suit Preference Signal by Thomas Rush*

### **In Memoriam**

### **From the Editor**

Please visit the Unit 174 [Website](#) to view additional information about the activities in our Unit and at our Clubs.

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## President's Message



**Lauri Laufman**

At our last board meeting, Brigitte Sandifer announced that, for health reasons, she would step down as president but remain on the board. I was honored – and surprised – to be elected as her successor. With such a terrific board and dedicated volunteers, I'll do my best to serve our unit in this role.

And now for some big news: Our 2027 Lone Star Regional has a new name...

### **Betty and Milton Freedman Houston Lone Star Regional**

Thanks to the Freedman Family's generous \$10,000 commitment, we now have a sponsor for our 2027 Regional, January 25-31, which will again be held at the Westchase Marriott. Betty and Milton were not only well-known, accomplished players – they also gave countless hours to our bridge community.

The tournament schedule is being finalized, chairs are being confirmed, and a flyer will soon be available.

### **The Longest Day (Do What You Love)**

Near and dear to me, I'm delighted to report that our unit's clubs have raised more than \$40,000 for the Alzheimer's Association this year through fundraisers and direct donations, not including table fees. Thank you to all our players, donors, and volunteers for your generous support and commitment to this important cause!

### **Nearly Summer Sectional**

Congratulations to Tournament Chairs Brigitte Sandifer and Carol Jewett for a smooth, successful tournament! Thanks to David Litman for setting up our new projectors, Director Kevin Perkins for improving table assignments and results, our ever-present photographer, Al Fortier III, and everyone who volunteered. We couldn't do it without you! We hosted 280 tables this year, up from 268.5 last year, and once again finished in the black.

### **Awesome August Sectional**

The upcoming sectional will be held at the Bridge Club of Houston (BCOH). Tournament Chairs Fred Gregory and Susan Banks-Johnson, along with BCOH volunteers, are hard at work preparing for what promises to be a great event. BCOH will offer a \$10 cash lunch each day. Seating is limited, so please pre-register by emailing Susan at [BCOHEvents@gmail.com](mailto:BCOHEvents@gmail.com). Need a partner? Contact Susan Domsalla at [sdomsall@gmail.com](mailto:sdomsall@gmail.com).

### **October Sectional and NLM Regional**

Being held at the Arabia Shrine Center, Thursday - Saturday, October 15-17, Lesley Kellet and Judi Whaling will be the dynamic duo chairing this event. Mark your calendars and look forward to learning more next month!

### **Future Sectionals**

With the Arabia Shrine Center now for sale, our unit board is actively looking for future sectional tournament venues. The unit's "Top 20" preferred site specifications can be found on our [unit website](#). While a central location is ideal for many events, we're also open to venues throughout the region, over the years we've successfully hosted tournaments from Galveston to Bryan/College Station. If you have a suggestion, we'd love to hear it!

May your bridge hands and your **4th of July** be as colorful as the fireworks lighting up the holiday weekend!

Lauri Laufman  
[llaufman@texas2211.com](mailto:llaufman@texas2211.com)



## **New Members and Rank Advancement**



## New Members

ACBL notifies us each month about the members new to our Unit and those who transferred into our Unit. Please welcome the following players to our unit:

**New Members:** Mary Douglass, Kathryn Pullum, Hong Sun, Cavin Zeng

**Transfers:** Judy Walsh

***Welcome!***

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## Masterpoint Milestones

Listed below are the Unit 174 Masterpoint Milestones reported by ACBL as of June 2, 2026. An explanation of ranks may be found on the [ACBL website](#).

### **Junior Master**

Bruce Carlin

### **Club Master**

Helen Kelly, Donna Sachs, Kemberly Warren, Kathy Winn

### **Sectional Master**

Michael Balchunas, Vickie Balchunas, Elizabeth Bradley, John Untereker

### **Regional Master**

Rodney Armstrong, Mary Burrows, Bob Driskell, Fred Infortunio

### **NABC Master**

Ann Johnson, Mannie Magid

### **Life Master**

Beryl Booker, Jinrong Wang

### **Bronze Life Master**

Robert Domsalla, Charlotte Howell

### **Silver Life Master**

Kathy L'Hommedieu, B J Renshaw

### **Ruby Life Master**

Louis Bockman, Debbie Nash

### **Gold Life Master**

Carl Hogan, Donna Moore

### **Sapphire Life Master**

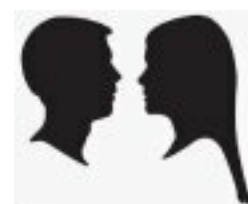
Thomas Jahnke

### **Diamond Life Master**

**Dianna Gittelman**

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## Member Profile



This month, we have no member profile. If you know someone who you know is interesting and want to share that with our members, please contact Sarah Springer at [sarahspringerbridge@gmail.com](mailto:sarahspringerbridge@gmail.com)

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## Unit News

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## Coming Tournaments

Date	City	Unit	Category	Type
June 29- July 5	Austin	207	Regional	Open
July 20-26	STaC U174 (D16)	174	Sectional	STaC
July 23-25	Tyler	225	Sectional & I/N Regional	Open & I/N
July 23-25	Tyler	225	Open	
July 30 - August 1	Plano [DFW]	176	Sectional	I/N
August 8-9	Austin	207	Sectional	I/N
August 14-16	Spring	174	Sectional	Open
August 17-23	STaC D16		Sectional	STaC
September 2-7	Richardson [DFW]	176	Regional	Open
September 10-13	New Braunfels	172	Sectional	Open
September 17-20	Spring [Houston]	174	Sectional	I/N
September 24-27	Austin	207	Sectional	Open
October 1-3	Denton [DFW]	183	Sectional	Local
October 10-11	Austin	207	Sectional	I/N
October 15-17	Houston	174	Sectional & I/N Regional	Open & I/N
October 15-17	Fort Worth	183	Sectional	Local
October 19-25	STaC D16		Sectional	STaC
October 29- November 1	San Antonio	172	Sectional	Open
October 31- November 1	San Antonio	0	GNT/NAP	NAP District Fi...
November 4-6	Georgetown	207	Sectional	Local

November 4-7	Dallas	176	Sectional	Open
November 9-15	Puerto Vallarta	205	Regional	Open
November 9-15	STaC U174 (D16)	174	Sectional	STaC
November 21-22	Austin	207	Sectional	I/N
December 5-6	Austin	207	Sectional	I/N
December 10-12	Spring [Houston]	174	Sectional	I/N
January 7-10	Austin	207	Sectional	Open
January 13-16	Dallas [DFW]	176	Sectional	Open
January 21-24	San Antonio	172	Sectional	Open
January 25-31	Houston	174	Regional	Open

You can find tournament information by clicking [ACBL Tourneys](#).

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## **BCOH Online Mentor/Mentee Games**

# BRIDGE HOUSTON

*Do You want to Improve Your Bridge Game?  
Those Mentored must have less than 300 Masterpoints.  
Mentor's must have greater than 300 Masterpoints.  
Everyone in the ACBL with these qualifications can join the*

## BBO MENTOR GAME



First and Third Monday nights monthly at 7:00 p.m. Central Time

18 Boards

On BBO, go to "Competitive"

"ACBL e-Clubs" & click "Choose Houston"

You invite your mentor by checking appropriate box on BBO,  
saying you will pay for both games, a total of \$10.00.

- You get individual feedback from your mentor however & whenever the two of you decide.
- A Diamond Life Master discusses the boards you just played immediately after the game on Zoom.

Need help finding a mentor? Or would you like to mentor?

Email Mike: [minkins@swbell.net](mailto:minkins@swbell.net)



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## Awesome August Sectional

# Awesome August Sectional

ACBL Unit 174

August 14-16, 2026

Bridge Club of Houston

4688 Louetta Road (corner of Kuykendahl)

Spring, Texas 77379

## FRIDAY, SATURDAY AND SUNDAY, AUGUST 14, 15 and 16

10 & 2:30	Stratified Open Pairs	A: 4000+ B: 1500-4000 C: 0-1500	Single Sessions
10 & 2:30	Stratified 299er Pairs	B: 200-300 C: 100-200 D: 0-100	Single Sessions
10 & 2:30	Bracketed Round Robin Swiss Teams		Two Sessions

*All Strats may be adjusted by the director to balance for strength of players.*

*Seating is limited, pre-registration is recommended, please contact Susan.*

**Fees**  
\$17 per session  
Credit Card Only

**Lunch**  
\$10 – Cash Only  
Free Water, Coffee, and Sodas  
*Donations Gladly Accepted*

**Accommodations**  
Holiday Inn Express and Suites  
21606 Spring Plaza Drive  
Spring, Texas 77379  
(281) 824-7723

Tournament Chairs	Partnerships	Hospitality
Fred Gregory (832) 315-7721 <a href="mailto:fhgregory777@gmail.com">fhgregory777@gmail.com</a>	Susan Banks-Johnson (281) 536-1451 <a href="mailto:BCOHEvents@gmail.com">BCOHEvents@gmail.com</a>	TBD
	TBD	TBD

## FLM Special Game

# FLM 99er Game!

## SATURDAY SEPT 12

### Special Game

- ✓ Trini Mendenhall Community Center
- ✓ 1414 Wirt Road
- ✓ 10:00 A.M.
- ✓ \$5 Game Fee



This is a great opportunity to play, meet other newcomers, make new friends, and share the fun of duplicate bridge in person!

- ✓ Singles welcome!
- ✓ Partner guaranteed!
- ✓ Fun! Food! Frivolity!

 [flm174.org](http://flm174.org)  
 [admin@flm174.org](mailto:admin@flm174.org)

*The Fun Is Just Beginning!*



## 99er Nite Club



# THE 99er Nite Club East

**GREAT PLAY, LESSONS  
& LOADS OF FUN!**

**And...It's only for you, New Players!**

District 16 now has a BBO game just  
for the 0 to 99 players

**the "99er Nite Club East"!**

**When: 6pm, 7 days a week**

**Where: ACBL Clubhouse\***

**Perks:**

✓ **More Masterpoints**  
(cross club scoring)

✓ **Mini-Lessons**  
by Lynn Berg at 5:30 pm

\*Check to make sure your club is participating.  
If your club has questions they should  
contact Janice Rush at:

**[janice\\_hardcastle@hotmail.com](mailto:janice_hardcastle@hotmail.com)**



**199er Nite Club**

# 199er Nite Club East

*Ready to Graduate from  
the 0 to 99 Game?*

## **D16's 199er NITE CLUB EAST GAME ON BBO IS YOUR NEXT STEP!**

**7 DAYS A WEEK AT 6:00 PM CST**

- ✓ Recent graduates of the 0 to 99 group can play in a game with players of the same ability.
- ✓ Work during the day? Graduates continue go grow skills at a time that's "worker friendly".
- ✓ Safe environment where no sharks are allowed, because the game is limited to 199 mpts.
- ✓ Clubs benefit too and continue to receive payments for their participating players.

*Clubs must be signed up to participate, just like for the 99er NITE CLUB game.*

*Contact Janice Rush for details:*

*janice\_hardcastle@hotmail.com*

*New Game in Town*



## **Club Table Counts**

**Yearly Totals:**

<u>Year</u>	<u>Table Count</u>	<u>Number of Clubs in Unit 174</u>
2019	32,137.00	30
2020	30,401.00	28
2021	30,365.00	24
2022	20,451.00	24
2023	18,183.00	25
2024	16,900.00	24
2025	16,840.00	21

**2026 Table Counts by Club:**

<b>Club</b>	<b>Jan 1-Jun 27, 2026 Table Counts</b>
Clear Lake BC	2,026.50
BC of Houston	1,558.50
BA of W. Houston	1,530.50
Lone Star BC	463.50
Star DBC	367.50
Apple II DBC	327.50
Apple DBC	312.50
Northside BC	285.50
Cypress N/W DC	244.00
Kingwood DBC	170.50
Pebble Creek DBC	154.00
Sugarland DBC	146.00
Forest Club	105.00
Houston Raquet Club	90.50
Gulf Coast	75.50
La Grange BC	73.00
Galveston DBC	67.50
Houston Country Club	64.00
Lakeside Country Club	47.50
Les Match Bridgeurs	45.00
River Oaks Country Club	37.50
Buckingham DBC	4.50
<b>Total:</b>	<b>8,196.50</b>

Unit 174 still has two of the top three clubs in District 16: Clear Lake Bridge Club with 2,026.50, Bridge Center of Austin with 1,855.50 and Bridge Club of Houston with 1,558.50.



**Club News**

Below please find the information reported by some of the clubs in our unit. Please send your club news to: [unit174news@gmail.com](mailto:unit174news@gmail.com).

Additional information about all of the clubs can be found on the [Unit 174 website](#). Or, click a club name to jump to their website.

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## Apple Clubs

Our games begin at 11:30 a.m. sharp at the Tracy Gee Community Center, 3599 Westcenter Dr. 77042. Please plan to arrive by 11:15 a.m. All games are Apple games are \$3.00 / person. Apple II games are \$4.00 / person.

### Clubs' Policy:

APPLE clubs (Susan and Tom) have agreed to let members of the board play free with a FLM that has less than 50 points.

*APPLE II **upped** the offer:* The normal game fee of \$3.00 / person will be *waived* if the pair has less than 100 MP's on average, so all of you FLMS should come on out on Friday and test your skill at *no cost!* In addition, any player who pairs up with someone under 100 points plays for *FREE!* Since many of our FLM's didn't take advantage of playing with a board member, the club is offering *FREE* plays to pairs that average less than 200 points! What a DEAL!

### Apple II May Game Schedule

July 3	Closed for the holiday
July 10	Quarterly Club Championship #1
July 17	Unit Club Championship
July 24	Unit STAC
July 31	Local Charity Club Championship

*Also Note:* The scores from Fridays at Apple II can now be viewed on the [Unit 174 website](#). Click on scores and look at Fridays. Every Friday will have a space, but only those dates that a game is held will have scores. When posted, the color will be **blue**. If a scoring change required re-posting, the color will change to **purple**.

For information, please contact:

Monday - Apple - Susan Banks-Johnson  
[sisbjohnson@gmail.com](mailto:sisbjohnson@gmail.com) - 281-536-1451

Friday - Apple II - Tom Jahnke  
[tomtomj211@yahoo.com](mailto:tomtomj211@yahoo.com) - 713-777-0333

Results and additional information [here](#).

Only drinks in bottles or covered containers are allowed. No food is allowed at the tables during play. You are welcome to bring food and eat before the game starts.

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Bridge Academy of West Houston

## PREVIOUSLY...

### Ben Ball's 98th Birthday Party

On Thursday, May 28, club members gathered to celebrate Ben Ball's 98th birthday. A wonderful time was had by all as friends came together to honor one of our favorite players.

Ben is well known for the T-shirts he wears, often featuring clever sayings about mathematics and physics. This year's birthday shirt took a different approach and drew plenty of smiles. If you can't read it from the photo, it says:

*"At 98, I'm Still Playing with a Full Deck — I Just Shuffle Slower."*

The birthday cake, generously provided by Gary Kerr, perfectly captured the

spirit of the occasion. Judging by the laughter and good wishes, Ben's sense of humor remains as sharp as ever. Happy 98th Birthday, Ben!



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### **Jinrong Wang - Life Master Party**

On Wednesday, June 10, we celebrated Jinrong Wang's achievement of the rank of Life Master.



**Joe Quinn & Jinrong Wang**

In the photo, Joe Quinn recounts Jinrong's journey to becoming a Life Master, noting with a smile that Jinrong has a reputation as an overbidder (just take a look at the cake!).

Jinrong spoke about his bridge experience and thanked his many friends for their support along the way. He recalled that when he first started playing duplicate bridge, he would become nervous whenever someone at the table called, "Director, please." Over time, he learned not only the skills needed to play the game well, but also the rules and procedures that are an important part of duplicate bridge.

Congratulations, Jinrong, on this impressive achievement!

**DO WHAT YOU LOVE TO END ALZ**

ALZHEIMER'S ASSOCIATION

ALZHEIMER'S ASSOCIATION

PROUD NATIONAL TEAM

### **DWYL to End Alzheimer's**

Our **Do What You Love to End Alzheimer's** event was held on Thursday, June 18. The table fees were donated to the Alzheimer's foundation. In conjunction with the event a fundraising campaign, Raffle tickets were sold for \$5 each or 5 for \$20. The winners who will receive 10 free plays were Miriam Cooper, Sandra Parker and Robert Rolnick. Congratulations to them and thank you to all the players who won raffles.

An online auction was held. Unit players and teaching pros generously agreed to donate either a future playing session or a lesson with the auction winners.

Based on the auction, raffle and other donations and BAWH figures, we are thrilled to report that our donations will end up slightly over \$13,000.

**Thank you to all of our generous members!**

## UPCOMING...

### Mentor/Mentee

Our monthly Mentor/Mentee game is held on the first Tuesday of the month at 10:30 a.m. The next game will be on

*July 7 - Mentor/Mentee*

If you have not signed up and would like to participate please contact our coordinator Bert Onstott by clicking [here](#).

Mentees must have fewer than 300 masterpoints and Mentors greater than 300 points.

### 8 is enough Swiss Teams

The 8 is enough Swiss Teams games are held monthly on a Saturday at 1:30 p.m. The next game will be held on:

*July 26 - 8 is enough Swiss Teams*

The stratifications for the Swiss Teams game are:

**Level 1** - 0 to 1000 masterpoints

**Level 2** - 1000 to 3000 masterpoints

**Level 3** - 3000+ masterpoints

For example, a Level 3, Level 1 and two Level 2 players would add up to eight, as would four Level 2 players.

Another example would be one Level 1 and three Level 2 players. That adds up to seven; it is okay to be less than eight.

The Swiss Team has become an extremely popular event. To find teammates, please use the Team-Matching service. It is a two-step process:

#### 1. Register and provide

Name:

Email:

Phone:

Masterpoints

Please email to [lavignej@me.com](mailto:lavignej@me.com)

#### 2. Request

If you are looking for a team, send an email to [lavignej@me.com](mailto:lavignej@me.com) indicating whether you are:

- A single player looking for a team
- A pair looking for another pair
- Three players looking for a fourth

As requests are received, we will do our best to put teams together. Please send requests early, two weeks before the event or earlier.

### Mini-lesson

Before each Wednesday and Thursday games there is a mini-lesson beginning around 10:00 a.m. taught by Joe Quinn.

### Game Schedule

**Tuesday - Mentor/Mentee**

**Tuesday - Open**

**Wednesday - Open & 299'er**

**Thursdays - Open & Beginner Pairs**

**10:30 a.m.**

**Sunday - 8 is Enough Swiss Teams**

**1:30 p.m.**

**Arabia Shriners Center**

**10510 Harwin Dr.**

- \$7.00 per person
- Coffee & Snacks are provided
- Tom Jahnke, Janice Rush & Marty Hrachovy, directors

## Game Calendar

Wed – Jul 1	Club Championship	Tue Jul 21	Unit STaC
Thu – Jul 2	Club Championship	Wed Jul 22	Unit STaC
Tue – Jul 7	Charity Game	Thu Jul 23	Unit STaC
Wed – Jul 8	NAP	Sun Jul 26	NAP
Thu – Jul 9	NAP	Tue Jul 28	NAP
Tue – Jul 14	Unit Club Championship	Wed Jul 29	NAP
Wed Jul 15	Unit Club Championship	Thu Jul 30	NAP
Thu Jul 16	Unit Club Championship		

### Need a Partner?

Contact Linda or Tom Martinsen at 713-398-4907 [martinsens@comcast.net](mailto:martinsens@comcast.net).



## Bridge Club of Houston

Please consult our monthly calendar online for updates and complete listings: [BCOH Calendar](#).

### Lessons

- Beginner Bridge classes with Susan & Andy – New Class begins Saturdays, July 18, 9:30 – 11:30 a.m., cost \$130. Information and Registration: [BridgewithSusanandAndy@gmail.com](mailto:BridgewithSusanandAndy@gmail.com), 281-651-6550.
- Tuesday Tidbits – Build a solid foundation with Susan Banks-Johnson, Life Master and ACBL Teacher. Enjoy a free lesson for all from 9:30-10:10 a.m. A game follows at 10:30 a.m. Email Susan at [sisbjohnson@gmail.com](mailto:sisbjohnson@gmail.com) for more information.

### Practice for Intermediate/Newcomers

- FLM 0-99 Game – Sundays at 1:30 p.m., \$5 fee. For more information, please contact [BridgewithCarol@gmail.com](mailto:BridgewithCarol@gmail.com), 936-650-8180.
- F2F Mentor Games – 2nd & 4th Tuesdays, 10:30 a.m. To be matched with a mentor, for 2nd Tuesday call or text Judy Cupps, 713-320-5592, for 4th Tuesday call or text Bob Ziegler, 713-829-6928.
- Online Mentor Game – 1st & 3rd Mondays, 7:00 p.m. (Protege should invite and pay for game of mentor.) Make sure to check out the flyer in this issue if you missed it. Contact Mike Linkins if you have any questions: [minkins@swbell.net](mailto:minkins@swbell.net)
- Online 0-99 Game – 2nd Saturdays, 9:00 a.m. (usually). See [FLM website](#).
- F2F 399er Game – Saturdays at 12 p.m. (noon), for a partner or to register contact Kas Rangan, [kas.rangan@gmail.com](mailto:kas.rangan@gmail.com), 539-210-1333
- I/N Game less 1000 – 5th Tuesday of any month at 10:30 a.m.

For more information about the games, please see [BCOH website](#).

### F2F Open Pairs Games

- Mondays 10:30 a.m.
- First & Fifth Tuesdays 10:30 a.m.
- Wednesdays & Fridays 10:30 a.m.
- Saturdays – 12:00 p.m. (noon)

### F2F Swiss Teams

- First Sunday 1:30 p.m.
- First or Third Tuesdays 10:30 a.m.

# COMING ATTRactions

July 1, 3	Grass Roots Game
July 4	Hot Diggity Dog, 11:15 am (bring sides to share)
July 4, 6-10, 27, 29, 31	NAP Qualifier, 150% with 50% Red
July 11, 12, 19	Silver Quest Glitter - 35% Silver
July 13-18	Unit Club Championship
July 20-25	Unit 174 STaC

## Good Times with Good Friends



Winners of Their First Gold Points



Do What You Love Game

Check the [BCOH Website](#) for more including details, potlucks and points each week.

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## CHOOSE HOUSTON BASIC SCHEDULE - [BBO®](#) ONLINE GAMES

Online Games for all levels every day! These dates will change if the ACBL has approved special games online so please check the Bridge Club of Houston and Clear Lake Bridge Club for updates.

### Mentored Pairs

1st & 3rd Monday @ 7:00 p.m.

### Open Pairs

Thursday @ 7:00 p.m.

[SE Carolina Consortium](#)

### Future Life Masters

Tuesday (0-50) @ 3:05 p.m.\*

2nd Saturday (0-99) @ 9:00 a.m.\*

\*Usually - See [flm174.org](http://flm174.org) for dates.



## Clear Lake Bridge Club

Clear Lake Bridge Club (CLBC) is located at 16614 Sea Lark, Houston, Texas 77062.

The game fees are \$6.00 for members and \$7.00 for guests. Games are held every day of the week. The club closes for Unit 174 tournaments, Christmas and Thanksgiving. You can reach us by phone at 281-480-1911.

### Weekly Game Schedule:

Open Games: Monday - Wednesday & Friday at 10:00 a.m.,  
Thursday & Saturday at 1:00 p.m.

0-299\* Games: Saturday at 10:00 a.m. (Free lesson starting at 9:30 a.m.  
with a Q&A after the game.)

0-499 Games: Monday & Wednesday at 2:00 p.m.

0-499 Games: (Played in Conjunction with Open Games)

Tuesday at 10:00 a.m. &

Thursday at 1:00 p.m.

Swiss Teams: Sunday at 1:00 p.m.

To start games on time, registration closes *10 minutes before game start time*. Late arrivals are not accepted. If you are coming to a game and find that you cannot arrive on time, please call the club to alert the director to hold your seat.

### Teams Stratification & Registration

The B players' upper limit is 2000 - 2500 masterpoints. If you are interested in playing in a Sunday afternoon Teams Game, please register *at least one day prior* so that the director can have the set up done on time. Plan to arrive no later than *10 minutes before game start time*.

### 8 is Enough Swiss Teams

Game is held on the second Sunday each month. Due to the Unit's Nearly Summer Sectional the next game will be moved. Check the club's bulletin board to find out when the next game will be held.

The 8 is Enough Swiss Teams stratifications are:

**Level 1** - 0-749 masterpoints (1)

**Level 2** - 750-1999 masterpoints (2)

**Level 3** - 2000+ masterpoints (3)

For example one Level 3, two Level 2 and one Level 1 players total 8 as would four Level 2 players. Another example would be three Level 2 and one Level 1 players whose team total is 7 and it is OK to be less than 8.

### Mentor/Mentee Game:

The Mentor/Mentee game is held on the third Wednesday afternoon at 2:00 p.m. The next game will be held on July 15. Reservations must be made in advance by noon on the prior Monday.

Sandwiches are served for lunch prior to the game.

Mentees must be Non-Life Masters with less than 500 masterpoints. The Mentee pays the game fee for the Mentor. For information and to submit a contact form, please visit the [CLBC MM site](#). You can alternately contact Susan Hanna at [s.l.hanna@gmail.com](mailto:s.l.hanna@gmail.com) if you are interested in becoming a mentor or a mentee.

### Bridge Labs (Supervised Play):

Sunday and Tuesdays from 2:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Bridge Lab table fee is \$8.00.

Check out [www.clearlakebridgeclub.org/bridge-education](http://www.clearlakebridgeclub.org/bridge-education) for new classes offered in 2025.

**PREVIOUSLY...**

## DWYL to End Alzheimer's

The club's celebration and fundraising day to help cure Alzheimer's Disease was a great success, with bidding to play with our "Stars", for bottles of wine, and restaurant-donated gift certificates (Tommy's, Carrabba's and Pomodoro's). We also want to thank our neighbors, Moore Fabrication, for allowing our overflow parking at their facility. The proceeds raised as of June 25 is \$15,336. It was an awesome way to have fun and support a worthy charity.

***Thank you to all of our generous members!***

Please enjoy the photos of our events.



support the care, support and research efforts of the Alzheimer's Association.

## UPCOMING...

### Club's Saturdays for 0-299ers

The club's Saturday morning offering for 299ers needs YOU! At 9:30 a.m., Dallas and Donna Moore present a lesson, often a topic requested by the players.

After the lesson, there is a sanctioned game, followed by an opportunity to review boards and ask questions. Sometimes there are even muffins (to go with free coffee!).

Bring a partner, bring a gang of friends, or come alone. Everyone is welcome. Everyone plays!

Judith Rebmann  
secretary

P.S.

For more information, please visit our [website](#).



## CYPRESS NORTHWEST DBC

**Cypress NW DBC** meets at the Richard and Meg Weekley Community Center, 8440 Greenhouse Rd, Cypress, TX, and games are played every Tuesday and Thursday starting at 11:30 a.m., with sign-up beginning at 11:00 a.m.

Coffee, tea, and snacks are provided. Games are \$3.00  
For more information, contact Jim Warren at **832/851-4745** or [jwarren760@gmail.com](mailto:jwarren760@gmail.com).



## KINGWOOD DUPLICATE BRIDGE CLUB

### Games:

Wednesday 10:00 a.m. at the Kingwood Community Center, 4102 Rustic Woods Drive, Kingwood, TX 77345. Entries are still \$2 and \$3 for upgraded games.

For information, contact any of the following:  
Bill Riley at (832)289-3833 or [ichibanbill@yahoo.com](mailto:ichibanbill@yahoo.com)  
Sam Khayatt at [kwbridge1430@gmail.com](mailto:kwbridge1430@gmail.com)  
Kingwood Community Center Phone: (281) 348-2570  
Or Visit our [website](#).



## LONE STAR BRIDGE CLUB

Lone Star Bridge Club (LSBC) in Conroe, Texas, plays at St Paul Global Methodist Church, 1100 Semands Street, Conroe; the church is located within easy access from Interstate 45. Directions to our game may be found on our [website](#).

### Open Games:

Mondays at 11:45 a.m.  
Thursdays at 10:30 a.m.

Snacks, coffee & bottled water are provided.  
Game fee is \$5.00.

### Upcoming Events...

Thursday, July 2 Lone Star will celebrate our country's 250th Birthday. Hot Dogs with all the trimmings will be served. Reservations are required.

Monday, July 6 July Birthdays will be celebrated. Cake will be served. Jeff Kroll will give a free lesson at 10:50 a.m. Jeff's lessons can be viewed on our [website](#) or on

### [Youtube](#)

Thursday, July 9 Free Pizza Lunch

### July Games

July 2 - Thursday North American Pairs  
July 6 - Monday North American Pairs

July 9 - Thursday	Charity Club Championship
July 13 - Monday	Unit Club Championship
July 14 - Tuesday	Mentor-Mentee Unit Club Championship
July 16 - Thursday	Unit Club Championship
July 20 - Monday	Unit 174 STaC
July 21 - Tuesday	Unit 174 STaC
July 23 - Thursday	Unit 174 STaC
July 27 - Monday	North American Pairs
July 30 - Thursday	North American Pairs

### DWYL to End Alzheimer's

The Lone Star Bridge Club is proud that we partnered with the Alzheimer's Association again this year to raise funds for research and care. Players had the opportunity to buy raffle tickets for the chance to win a game or lesson with an advanced player.

Chairman Evita Rduch announced at the Alzheimer's Game on June 15 that the club had already raised over \$1700.00.

***Thank you to all of our generous members!***

Please enjoy the photo from our event.



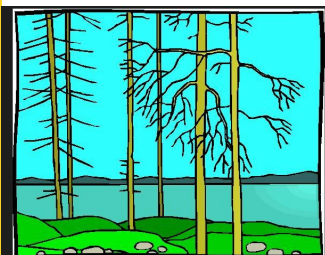
### Mentor/Mentee Information

For information about the Mentor-Mentee game, please contact Chair Anita Rothfuss at [larryandanita@gmail.com](mailto:larryandanita@gmail.com) or 936-537-5039.

### Need a partner?

Contact our partnership chairman Sandra Maalouf at 832-283-1674 or [smaalouf@icloud.com](mailto:smaalouf@icloud.com)

Please visit our website by clicking [here](#). You may also contact Mary McDonald, club manager at [maryemcdonald22@yahoo.com](mailto:maryemcdonald22@yahoo.com) or 281-964-7212 for more information.



## NORTHSIDE BRIDGE CLUB LLC

Northside holds stratified open games Fridays starting at 10:30 a.m. and ending no later than 2:30 p.m. Game fee \$5. Games are held at Restoration Church, 107 Fish Creek Thoroughfare, Montgomery.

We take a short mid-day lunch break so bring your lunch. There is a microwave, ice maker and refrigerator available.

### July Game Schedule:

July 3	North American Pairs
July 10	North American Pairs
July 17	Unit Club Championship
July 24	Unit STaC
July 31	Charity Club Championship

If you need a partner, contact Carol Meade at 281-543-4541 or email her at [meadecm@icloud.com](mailto:meadecm@icloud.com) and she will do her best to assist you in getting a partner.

We are blessed with volunteers who are generous with their time and scrumptious food offerings and we are proud to continue the decades-old tradition of a friendly duplicate bridge club in the April Sound area.

For further information, contact Norm Gautier (281-795-6665) or Joyce Gautier (713-249-8767) or email at [gautier39@comcast.net](mailto:gautier39@comcast.net)

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## PEBBLE CREEK DUPLICATE BRIDGE CLUB

Face-to-face games are held on Wednesdays at 9:30 a.m. For further information, please contact Richard Duble at 979-324-8421 or [richard.duble@yahoo.com](mailto:richard.duble@yahoo.com) or visit our [website](#).

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## STAR DUPLICATE BRIDGE CLUB

Games are on Mondays and Fridays at 9:30 am and are \$5.00 per person. You must have a partner.

### **DWYL to End Alzheimer's**

Star and Pebble Creek clubs participated in the ACBL's DWYL Alzheimer's Fundraiser. The two clubs raised just under \$5,000 for this worthy cause.

***Thank you to all of our generous members!***

Please enjoy the photos of our events.

*2026 Star & Pebble Creek Duplicate  
Fundraising for Alzheimer's*



For more info, contact Richard Duble at 979-324-8421  
or [richard.duble@yahoo.com](mailto:richard.duble@yahoo.com) or visit our [website](#).



## Contributors



### The Early Suit Preference Signals

BY THOMAS RUSH

How early in a hand can you send a suit preference signal?

Most of you know that if partner leads a suit (say A from AK and keeps the lead) and there's a singleton in dummy, 3rd hand should usually give a suit preference signal rather than the usual encourage/discourage (attitude) signal. Here's an example and let's call it a "**Suit Preference Signal at trick 1**":

Partner leads the  $\heartsuit$  A (agreed leads are A from AK) against  $4\spadesuit$ .  
Dummy comes down with  $\spadesuit$  AT94  $\heartsuit$  KJ93  $\diamondsuit$  6  $\clubsuit$  KJ65.

You hold ♠K82 ♥AQ5 ♦97543 ♣72  
Which card do you play on partner's lead?

This is the perfect time to give a suit preference signal. Playing your ♦3 would suggest partner lead a club (the lowest suit that's not the suit led, nor trump). Playing ♦9 would suggest you lead the higher suit that's not diamonds or trump. If your agreement was just to give an encouraging or discouraging signal, partner could never tell if your discouraging signal suggested a club or a heart... and on this hand, declarer could pitch losing hearts on dummy's good clubs (after drawing trump and playing the ♣AQ from declarer's hand).

On this hand, you play the ♦9, partner reads your signal and shifts to a heart, and you collect your ♥AQ no matter what declarer does, then wait for your trump ♠K to come by and by. Down one, well done!

That's all well-and-good, but have you ever heard of a "**Suit Preference Signal at Trick... Zero**"?

On a recent hand on BBO, I held ♠A954 ♥954 ♦KJ6542 ♣-. After two passes, I chose to open 2♦. The auction ended up like this:

P	P	2♦	2NT
3♦	3♥	P	4♥
All Pass -			

What do you lead against 4♥? Some might opt for the "standard" 4th best diamond; others might try ♠A to see what dummy has, others might lead a trump and see what happens.

But I was thinking about that really-interesting club void. How might I make use of it?

It seemed to me that if partner had the ♦A and could read my mind, we might just get the ♦A, a club ruff, and the ♠A... and hope for another trick somehow, or at least that others would not find the club ruff.

If partner has the ♦A (or even the trump ♠A?), how can I help partner 'see my hand' enough to know to lead a club?

The solution is to lead an impossible card at trick 1. Partner knows that you have a six-card diamond suit (perhaps five in 3rd seat?). Supposing you play 4th-best leads. If you lead your 4th best ♦5, partner's going to have no idea that anything odd is going on. But I chose to lead the ♦2, which couldn't possibly be 4th best. Plays like this are designed to wake partner up. "Wait! Why didn't my partner do the 'normal' thing?" and should ask and then figure out what you're trying to convey.

It might have been a brilliant lead, but on this hand, virtue was not rewarded; the opponents' diamonds were ♦Axx opposite ♦x, and partner never got in until after trump were drawn.

Nonetheless, I think you should always look for opportunities to make plays to "*Awaken Partner!*", and I'll remember this "**Trick Zero Suit Preference Signal**" for a long time.

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Thomas Rush is a regular contributor to the newsletter, served on the unit 174 board and is a bridge teacher who lives in the Houston area and teaches across North America using the internet and online bridge. His specialty is coaching partnerships to the next level of bridge: making sure your agreements and understandings are synchronized so that you get the maximum results when you play together. If you'd like to take your personal game or your partnership to the next level, contact him at [PlayBridgeWithThomas@gmail.com](mailto:PlayBridgeWithThomas@gmail.com), or 832-228-7835.

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## In Memoriam

\* Robert Arnett, Houston

Bridget C. Burkhart, Houston

Carolyn A. Johnson, Kemah  
Audrey C. McCool, Lubbock

\* Glenda Stieber, Houston

\*Life Master



## From the Editor



Thank you to all of the people who contribute to the Newsletter. It takes a team of fellow bridge players to bring this information to you. Unit 174 runs on volunteers' energy.

*If you are interested in volunteering for Unit 174 events and activities, please contact Lauri Laufman, Unit 174 Board President - [llaufman@texas2211.com](mailto:llaufman@texas2211.com).*

If you would like to have your club information or an article of interest published, or if you have a bridge accomplishment for which you are proud and would like to share in the Unit 174 Newsletter, please send your name, phone, email, and subject title to [unit174news@gmail.com](mailto:unit174news@gmail.com).

Evvie Gilbert  
Editor  
[unit174news@gmail.com](mailto:unit174news@gmail.com)

