



Unit 174 November 2026 Newsletter



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From the Editor

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



Lauri Laufman

President's Message

Walking by the TV, I noticed CBS’s Gayle King interviewing actress Sophia Bush about her mantra: "You are allowed to be a work in progress and a masterpiece, simultaneously." Her response really resonated with me. She explained that if you get caught up in what your next goal is, you’ll miss enjoying your present moment. And if you stay in that moment too long, you risk becoming complacent. The key is balance – appreciating exactly where you are today while still looking forward to future growth.

This is so true in our duplicate bridge community, where there is a unique balance of ambition and presence that makes duplicate bridge so compelling. As we continue to better our game and eye our next rank advancement, it’s a great reminder to celebrate the masterpoints we win along the way and simply enjoy the game, one hand at a time. In addition to planning your upcoming bridge dates, it’s finally “that” time of the year. Cooler weather, costumes, and candy, and then clocks fall back welcoming in November (a.k.a. the holiday season).

Silver Opportunities

Two more “silver opportunities” await us this year. Tucked between Halloween and Thanksgiving, November 9-15, is our final Sectional Tournament at Clubs (STaC), which means games held at participating clubs within our unit will be sectionally rated. Last, the Bridge Club of Houston is hosting a 499er Sectional on December 10-12. You can see the flyer in this issue for the details.

2027 Betty and Milton Freedman Houston Lone Star Regional (LSR)

If you haven’t yet done so, mark your calendars and start partnering up for our [2027 Betty and Milton Freedman Houston LSR](#), January 25-31 at the Houston Marriott Westchase. When you run into Linda McReynolds (Partnerships), Maria Luzia Turner (Hospitality), Marsha Bernstein (Event Naming), Future Life Masters (FLM) leadership, and your unit board members, please thank them for their volunteerism.

2027 Dallas North American Bridge Championships (NABC)

Also, keep in mind that the [Spring NABC](#) will be held in Dallas, Texas, March 11-21, 2027. If you’ve never been to a national tournament, please consider attending – I guarantee there’s something there for everyone. There will be classes, speakers, games for players of all levels, and more. The host hotel is the Hyatt Regency Dallas, and all events will take place there. The [weblink](#) includes information about the NABC, the schedule, and a link to make hotel reservations.

Unit Board Business

To keep you updated on board business, we are still working to secure venues for future unit sectionals. It is now official that the Arabia Shrine Center recently passed a motion to sell its current location, and the transaction process has begun. Where are we moving, you ask? Great question. So far, we have contracts in place for both of our 2027 summer sectionals at the Hilton Westchase. We also hope to have a contract for our April Election Sectional within the next week or two, and we are continuing to work on securing a venue for the fall sectional.

Celebrity Game & Auction

Looking for a fun online fundraiser? Check out the Canadian Bridge Federation’s upcoming [CBF Celebrity Game & Auction](#). More than 100 celebrities will offer lessons on a mutually agreed-upon date, a chance to play with them in the Maple Leaf Celebrity Classic on March 8, 2027 – or both. The auction opens November 1, and the lineup is worth a look.

May your November be filled with gratitude, good company, and enjoyable hands at the bridge table. As we celebrate Thanksgiving, let’s appreciate how far we’ve come, savor the moments we share, and look forward to what’s ahead – one hand at a time.



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 Brewer, Robin Christo, Nicole Husband

Transfers: J Mark Braswell, Suzann Broesche, Linda Lewis, Joyce Long, Paul Olstad, Sue Olstad, Roxann Shafer, Gordon Vogel, K Gayle Vogel

Welcome!



Masterpoint Milestones

Listed below are the Unit 174 Masterpoint Milestones reported by ACBL as of October 8, 2026. An explanation of ranks may be found on the [ACBL website](#).

Junior Master

Lana Armstrong, Michael Bourque, David Brewer, Yongming Cia, Jill Conway, Paul Cornell, Samji Dedhia, Nayantara Dongre, Kim Donnell, Mark Donnell, Sharon Felt, Zachary Franco, Xiaoming Guo, Feng Han, Robin Husband, zTao Li, P M, James Peek, David Rains, Joanne Rucker, Karl Sweetman, Adam Trussell, Xiao Hua Wang, Xiangli Yang

Club Master

Michael Bourque, Lecia Chaney, Rosalind Clayton, Kevin Dellsperger, Brenda Leydens, John St Pierre, Hong Sun, Lynn Lemon, Renee Metcalf, Michele Donnelly, Joseph Dunk, Laura Dunk, Susan Feely, Stan Gearhart, Tom Smith, Ruth Martin, Peggy Bopp, Angela Dickinson

Sectional Master

Mir Ali, Christine Feng, Sandy Tomich

Regional Master

Russell Hall

NABC Master

Alex Han, Patricia Holy

Life Master

Jim Gosnell

Bronze Life Master

Nathan Yee

- Silver Life Master

Judi Whaling
- Ruby Life Master

Brian Schaffer, Ann Sinclair
- Gold Life Master

Anne Adams, Beverly Fanarof
- Sapphire Life Master

Paddy Fiorino, Alfred Fortier III

Member Profile



BY SARAH
SPRINGER

Meet Paul Nimmons

Your first impression of Paul Nimmons might be that he is a grumpy curmudgeon. He is tall and has a stern countenance as he skillfully makes his finesses and overtricks at the bridge table. But if you talk to him, you will find a charming, delightful and witty man, who has many passions in his interesting life. Don't let that first impression stop you from engaging in conversation with this treasure of our bridge community.



Paul Nimmons
(Center)

Paul was a lawyer by trade, having retired in conjunction with the COVID-19 pandemic. His able daughter lawyer had worked for him for ten years prior to his retirement, and he had no qualms about leaving his successful law firm in her capable hands. Paul's son lives in Santa Barbara and is a successful ticket broker.

During his career, Paul represented subcontractors who found it necessary to sue the contractors and owners who did not pay their bills, and he was "pretty darn successful." He described one case in which \$120,000 was owed to his client, and he thought the case ought to settle out of court for about \$100,000. The case took three mediations, and Paul reminded the attorneys who would not settle the matter that the attorney fees would "eat their lunch." This sage advice ignored, the matter went to trial and resulted in a judgment of \$440,000 for the amount owed, interest and attorney fees. The matter could have been settled for \$100,000 and instead the wrongdoers had to pay \$440,000.

Paul is married to the love of his life, Karen, and where do you think those two lovebirds met? At bridge of course! Paul started playing bridge in high school and college, transitioning to duplicate bridge in 1991. He served as a mentor for other players - you might recall from a previous article that Paul Cuneo credits Paul Nimmons as his bridge mentor. Another of his mentees was Karen. When he saw her, he knew she was The One and told Judy Crupps who was managing the Mentor/Mentee program that he wanted to mentor Karen Alvarado. Soon they started dating and were married two years later and have been living happily ever after. His secret to their successful twenty-two years and counting marriage: going out to dinner at least once a week and playing bridge.

A passionate bird watcher, Paul has abundant opportunities to enjoy birds right from his back yard which is adjacent to a creek. Although he has been on bird watching adventures, he has plenty to satiate his passion right at home. Paul spotted a bald eagle here in Houston - he saw a juvenile and an adult eagle the same day. His favorite birds include the Atlantic puffin, the painted bunting, the tufted titmouse, and the Cooper's hawk. In addition to watching birds, he also listens to them, and recounts hearing a great horned

owl capture a squirrel. Paul also enjoys plants native to our area.

Paul has volunteered over the years for our unit, and he currently serves as Parliamentarian and Election Official. He is an Emerald Life master with just over 10,000 masterpoints so watch out when you get to his table...but engage in some friendly conversation. You'll be glad you did.

Sarah Springer is a past Unit 174 president, the Unit 174 Scorecard reporter and a Ruby Life Master. She is a retired Family Law Attorney.



Unit News

Coming Tournaments

Date	City	Unit	Category	Type
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 15-17	Arlington	183	Sectional	I/N
November 21-22	Austin	207	Sectional	I/N
December 5-6	Austin	207	Sectional	I/N
December 7-13	STaC (U173, 176, 183, 205, 254)		Sectional	STaC
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
January 31- February 6	Galveston	172	Sectional	NC Cruise
February 4-6	Denton [DFW]	183	Sectional	Local
February 4-7	Ajijic	205	Sectional	Open
February 6-7	Austin	207	Sectional	I/N
February 17-19	Puerto Vallarta	205	Sectional	Open
February 17-20	San Miguel de Allende	254	Sectional	Local

February 18-20	Fort Worth [Dallas]	183	Sectional	Local
February 25-27	Spring [Houston]	174	Sectional	I/N
February 25-28	Austin	207	Sectional	Open
February 26-28	Arlington[DFW]	183	Sectional	I/N
March 6-7	Austin	207	Sectional	I/N
March 11-21	Dallas		NABC	Open
March 25-27	San Angelo	204	Sectional	Local
April 2-4	Houston	174	Sectional	Open
April 3-4	Austin	207	Sectional	I/N
April 6-10	Longview	225	Regional	Open
April 14-17	San Antonio	172	Sectional	Open
April 16-18	Lubbock	197	Sectional	Local
April 17-18	Denton [DFW]	183	Regional	Open
May 6-8	Spring [Houston]	174	Sectional	I/N
May 12-15	Austin	207	Sectional	Open
May 17-23	Cancun	173	Regional	Open
June 4-6	Midland	209	Sectional	Open
June 5-6	Austin	207	Sectional	I/N
June 11-13	Houston	174	Sectional	Open
June 17-19	Fort Worth [Dallas]	183	Sectional	Local
June 21-27	STaC (D16)	172	Sectional	STaC
June 28 - July 4	San Antonio	172	Regional	Open

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

Clear Lake Bridge Club Fast Pairs Open Game

**FAST PAIRS
OPEN BRIDGE GAME
(5 Minutes / Board)**

**TUESDAY EVENINGS
6:30 PM**



**CLEAR LAKE BRIDGE CLUB
16614 SEA LARK RD
HOUSTON, TEXAS 77062
(281) 480-1911**

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: mlinkins@swbell.net



BCOH 499er Sectional



499^{er} Sectional
December 10th-12th , 2026

4688 Louetta Rd, Spring, TX | 281-651-6550 | thebridgeclub@sbcglobal.net

Event Schedule <i>Thursday thru Saturday</i> <i>Dec 10th – 12th Single Sessions</i> ♠ 499er Pairs 10am ♠ 499er Pairs 2pm	Entry Fees <i>(Per Session - Cash Only)</i> Current ACBL Members \$12 Lapsed ACBL Members \$16 <i>ACBL number required to play.</i> <i>Initial free membership available at</i> https://www.acbl.org/membership/
Stratification* A (300-499) B (100-300) C (0-100) <i>* Strats may be modified by Director</i>	Snacks / Lunch Free snacks and drinks. Lunch available for \$10 Cash each day.
Need a Partner? Contact Kas Rangan 539-210-1333 kas.rangan99@gmail.com Ambassador available for all sessions.	Lodging SpringHill Suites 20303 Chasewood Park Dr., Houston, TX 77070 offers a rate of \$105 + tax per night, and free cancellation 24 hours before check-in. A block of rooms is not reserved for tournament. Rooms depend on availability. Contact hotel at 832-953-2223, ask for Imagine Peels and mention BCOH Bridge Tournament.
Notes ♠ BCOH is a fragrance-free facility. ♠ Life Masters with less than 500 pts can play.	
Tournament Chair Marylin Knatz 281-298-9033/ mknatz@hotmail.com	

Silver Points – Silver Points – Silver Points

D16 NAP Finals



October 31 - November 1, 2026
(Saturday & Sunday)

Jewish Community Center

12500 NW Military Highway San Antonio, Texas 78231

Two-Session Qualifying Event on Saturday
Two-Session Final Event on Sunday
Saturday Game Times: 10:00 a.m. & 3:00 p.m.
Sunday Game Times: 10:00 a.m. & TBD

If eight or less tables are in a Flight, the
two-session Final Event is on Saturday.

\$14.00 / Person / Session on Saturday
\$18.00 / Person / Session on Sunday
Free Coffee & Refreshments
Free Meal on Sunday for Those Qualifying

Please Note: This event is held in conjunction with the
Diane Olson Election Sectional.

Event Chair: Larry Davis (larrysdavis@att.net, 512-343-6942)

**2027 Betty & Milton Freedman
Houston Lone Star Regional**



Betty & Milton Freedman

HOUSTON LONE STAR REGIONAL

January 25-31, 2027



Marriott Houston Westchase

2900 Briarpark Drive, Houston, TX 77042
(713) 978-7400

- \$135 Special Bridge Rate
- Reservation Deadline: January 4, 2027
- Scan the QR Code to book instantly
- Direct online booking by clicking [HERE](#)
- Call 1-800-452-5110 and ask for the ACBL Bridge Rate



- ▶ Welcome Gift
- ▶ Awards at Hospitality Desk
- ▶ Hot Dog Lunch on Friday
- ▶ Expert Lecturers Daily Mon-Sat between Sessions

Tournament Chairs

Lauri Laufman
(281) 235-8777
llaufman@texas2211.com

Gary Kerr
(281) 543-8712
madk86@aol.com

Partnership

Linda McReynolds
(713) 819-7812
lindamcreynolds@comcast.net

Hospitality

Maria Luzia Turner
(832) 633-9433
jturner102@att.net

I/N

Lesley Kellet
(713) 852-7198
lellybean@msn.com

Event Naming

Marsha Bernstein
(713) 857-6088
marshabernstein@att.net

- ★ Bracketed Round Robin Teams
- ★ Gold Rush Pairs
- ★ Side Series Games
- ★ Newcomers 0-20 Game

Complimentary ACBL labels

- Houston 174 is happy to print ACBL labels for you!!
- However, to do so you **MUST MAIL your info by Saturday, Jan 23!!**
- Email to: LSRLABELS@gmail.com
- Include Name, City, State, ACBL #
- Pickup at Hospitality Desk
- No labels can be printed during the tournament

Future Life Masters



The FLMers are players with **0-99** MPs..

- ▶ 99er games Mon-Thu & Sat
- ▶ **FLM Day** is Tuesday, Jan 26
- ▶ Prizes for **FLM Day** Winners
- ▶ FLMers can play in **GOLD RUSH**
- ▶ **GOLD RUSH** Monday - Friday
- ▶ **0-20** Game on Friday, Jan 29

The Fun is Just Beginning!



Betty & Milton Freedman

HOUSTON LONE STAR REGIONAL

January 25-31, 2027



Monday, January 25

Bracketed Round Robin Teams	10 & 2:30
ACBL Educational Foundation Open Pairs	10 & 2:30
GOLD RUSH Pairs	10 & 2:30
Morning Side Series (1 of 6)	10
299er Pairs	10 / 2:30
99er Pairs	10 / 2:30
Afternoon Side Series (1 of 6)	2:30
Evening Side Series (1 of 6)	7:00

Friday, January 29

Bracketed Round Robin Teams	10 & 2:30
Top-Flight Pairs	10 & 2:30
Mid-Flight Pairs	10 & 2:30
GOLD RUSH Pairs	10 & 2:30
Morning Side Series (5 of 6)	10
299er Pairs	10 / 2:30
0-20 Pairs	10
Afternoon Side Series (5 of 6)	2:30
Evening Side Series (5 of 6)	7:00

Bracketed Round

Robin Teams are based on the team's combined masterpoint averages. Each team plays against every other team in their bracket.

Tuesday, January 26

Bracketed Round Robin Teams	10 & 2:30
Open Pairs	10 & 2:30
GOLD RUSH Pairs	10 & 2:30
Morning Side Series (2 of 6)	10
299er Pairs	10 / 2:30
99er Pairs	10 / 2:30
Afternoon Side Series (2 of 6)	2:30
Evening Side Series (2 of 6)	7:00

Saturday, January 30

Bracketed Round Robin Teams	10 & 2:30
Open Pairs	10 & 2:30
GOLD RUSH Pairs	10 & 2:30
Morning Side Series (6 of 6)	10
299er Pairs	10 / 2:30
99er Pairs	10 / 2:30
Afternoon Side Series (6 of 6)	2:30
Evening Side Series (6 of 6)	7:00

Gold Rush Pairs are offered every day Monday thru Saturday. Pairs are stratified but both players must have fewer than 750 masterpoints.

Wednesday, January 27

Bracketed Round Robin Teams	10 & 2:30
Top-Flight Pairs	10 & 2:30
Mid-Flight Pairs	10 & 2:30
GOLD RUSH Pairs	10 & 2:30
Morning Side Series (3 of 6)	10
299er Pairs	10 / 2:30
99er Pairs	10 / 2:30
Afternoon Side Series (3 of 6)	2:30
Evening Side Series (3 of 6)	7:00

Sunday, January 31

A/X Swiss Teams	10 & 2:30
0-3000 Bracketed Round Robin Teams	10 & 2:30
Open Pairs*	10 & 2:30

* May play one session only.

Double session events are indicated by **&** and Single Session events by **/**.

Thursday, January 28

Bracketed Round Robin Teams	10 & 2:30
Open Pairs	10 & 2:30
GOLD RUSH Pairs	10 & 2:30
Morning Side Series (4 of 6)	10
299er Pairs	10 / 2:30
99er Pairs	10 / 2:30
Afternoon Side Series (4 of 6)	2:30
Evening Side Series (4 of 6)	7:00

Bridge for Everyone!

Stratification & Flighting

Top-Flight Pairs:	A: 6000+	B: 0-6000	A/X Swiss Teams:	A: 6000+	B: 0-6000
Mid-Flight Pairs:		B: 1500-3500	C: 0-1500	Bracketed Teams:	Bracketed by attendance
Open Pairs:	A: 3500+	B: 1500-3500	C: 0-1500	299er Pairs:	Stratified at Director's discretion
Side Pairs:	A: 2500+	B: 750-2500	C: 0-750	99er Pairs:	Stratified at Director's discretion
GOLD RUSH Pairs:	A: 500-750	B: 300-500	C: 0-300	0-20 Pairs:	Stratified at Director's discretion

- Strats are determined by MP average, but no player may exceed event limit.
- Strats may be adjusted by the director to balance for strength of players.



Visit us at
ACBLUnit174.org

2027 Betty & Milton Freedman Houston Lone Star Regional Event Naming



EVENT NAMING OPPORTUNITIES

BETTY AND MILTON FREEDMAN

2027 HOUSTON LONE STAR REGIONAL

January 25-31, 2027



The Lone Star Regional provides an excellent opportunity for you to honor a friend, a loved one, another player or someone significant who has left us. You can purchase an event or an entire day to honor your person. There will be a poster at the playing site with your honoree's photograph and a write-up. The same information will be in the Daily Bulletin on the day of the named event. Your honoree's name will be the name of the event. For example: "Winston Churchill Open Pairs" and the FastResults will report the named events.

Monday, January 25, 2027 (\$1000/all)

Bracketed Round Robin Teams	\$250
ACBL Education Foundation Open Pairs	\$250
GOLD RUSH Pairs	\$250
299er Pairs	(2) \$125 each
99er Pairs	(2) \$125 each

Tuesday, January 26, 2027 (\$1000/all)

Bracketed Round Robin Teams	\$250
Open Pairs	\$250
GOLD RUSH Pairs	\$250
299er Pairs	(2) \$125 each
99er Pairs	(2) \$125 each

Wednesday, January 27, 2027 (\$1000/all)

Bracketed Round Robin Teams	\$250
Top-Flight Pairs	\$250
Mid-Flight Pairs	\$250
GOLD RUSH Pairs	\$250
299er Pairs	(2) \$125/each
99er Pairs	(2) \$125/each

Thursday, January 28, 2027 (\$1000/all)

Bracketed Round Robin Teams	\$250
Open Pairs	\$250
GOLD RUSH Pairs	\$250
299er Pairs	(2) \$125/each
99er Pairs	(2) \$125/each

Friday, January 29, 2027 (\$1000/all)

Bracketed Round Robin Teams	\$250
Top-Flight Pairs	\$250
Mid-Flight Pairs	\$250
GOLD RUSH Pairs	\$250
299er Pairs	(2) \$125/each
0-20 Pairs	\$125

Saturday, January 30, 2027 (\$1000/all)

Bracketed Round Robin Teams	\$250
Open Pairs	\$250
GOLD RUSH Pairs	\$250
299er Pairs	(2) \$125/each
99er Pairs	10 / 2:30

Sunday, January 31, 2027 (\$750/all)

A/X Swiss Teams	\$250
0-3000 Bracketed Round Robin Teams	\$250
Open Pairs	(2) \$125/each

Monday-Saturday Side Pairs Series

Morning Side Pairs Series	\$250
Afternoon Side Pairs Series	\$250
Evening Side Pairs Series	\$250

Please provide a photograph and a write-up of about 100 words about your honoree.

If you name an entire day, all events on that day are included in the package. Sponsoring Corporate or other promotional gifts for hospitality will be handled on an individual basis.

Make checks payable to: ACBL Houston Unit 174

Event Naming Coordinator:

Marsha Bernstein 713-857-6088
marshabernstein@att.net

Tournament Chairs:

Lauri Laufman: 281-235-8777
Gary Kerr: 281-543-8712

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



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



D16 Teacher of the Year Nominations



District 16 Teacher of the Year

Is there a bridge teacher who has inspired you? Now is the time to reward that individual’s enthusiasm, passion and patience! Celebrate your teacher! Nominate your teacher for the D16 Teacher of the Year award.

The nomination process works like this:

- 1. You ask your teacher if he/she would like to be nominated.
- 2. Your teacher agrees.
- 3. You send an email to district16TOY@gmail.com with your teacher’s contact information.
- 4. We take it from there.

Please submit nominations by November 30, 2026, so that your teacher has time to put together a portfolio by December 31, 2026.

The winner will be announced at the 2027 Lone Star Regional.

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:

Club	Jan 1- Oct 25, 2026 Table Counts
Clear Lake BC	3,389.50
BC of Houston	2,638.50
BA of W. Houston	2,584.50
Lone Star BC	1,326.50
Star DBC	605.50
Apple II DBC	546.00
Apple DBC	497.50
Northside BC	482.00
Cypress N/W DC	422.00
Kingwood DBC	321.00
Pebble Creek DBC	255.00
Sugarland DBC	243.00
Forest Club	155.50
Houston Raquet Club	138.00
Gulf Coast	137.00
La Grange BC	127.00
Galveston DBC	93.50
Lakeside Country Club	81.00
Houston Country Club	78.00
Les Match Bridgeurs	74.50
River Oaks Country Club	54.00
ABC Bridge	23.00
Buckingham DBC	4.50
Total:	14,277.00

Unit 174 still has two of the top three clubs in District 16: Clear Lake Bridge Club with 3,389.50, Bridge Center of Austin with 2,924 and Bridge Club of Houston with 2,638.50.



Below please find the information reported by some of the clubs in our unit. Please send your club news to: 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.

Apple II Club

Apple II club games are held at 9800 Richmond with the Bridge Academy of West Houston. Our games begin at 11:30 a.m. Please plan to arrive by 11:20 a.m. All games are \$10.00 / person.

David Henke Memorial Luncheon and Game

On Friday, November 6 a game honoring David Henke will be held. Lunch will be served at 11:00 a.m. and some members will say a few words in memory of David. Everyone is welcome but you **must** make a reservation to attend via [BAWH Website](#).

November Regular Game Schedule

November 13 Quarterly Club Championship

November 20 Membership Game

November 27 Closed due to Thanksgiving. No game scheduled.

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 more information, please contact:

Tom Jahnke
tomtomj211@yahoo.com - 713-777-0333



Bridge Academy of West Houston

Players' response to the new facility has been fantastic! We have covered parking and a walkway from the garage to the building. This makes the cars much cooler in the summer and everyone stays dry if it is raining.



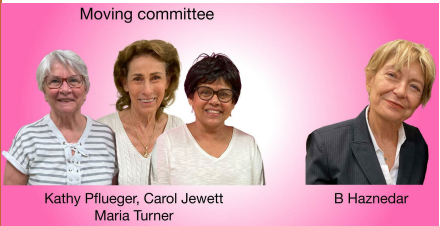
After our first week, we listened to suggestions from our players and made several changes that have been well received.

Pictured is Kathy Pflueger, who is delighted to be selling entries to players at our new location

We had two exciting events in October: Grand Opening Party on Wednesday, October 14, and our First Saturday game

on October 24.

We had a full house for the grand opening party.



President Joe Quinn recognized the contributions of the moving committee, the players who helped us move on Saturday, September 26, and all the players whose generous donations, totaling more than \$20,000, enabled us to purchase new chairs. He also thanked B Haznedar for providing the wonderful lunch for the party.

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:

November 3 - 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

With the move, the 8 is Enough Swiss Teams games days are *changed*. The 8 is Enough Swiss Teams game is held on the last Saturday of the month at 9:30 a.m. However, because of Thanksgiving, the game will be held on:

November 21 - 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.

If you are looking for a team, send an email to 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

Monday & Wednesday - Open
Tuesday - Mentor/Mentee
Tuesday & Saturday - Open & 299'er
Thursdays - Open & Beginner Pairs
10:30 a.m.
Last Saturday - 8 is Enough Swiss Teams
9:30 a.m.
9800 Richmond

Suite 120

- \$10.00 per person
- Coffee & Snacks are provided
- Tom Jahnke, Janice Rush & Marty Hrachovy, directors

Game Calendar

Mon Nov-2	Club Championship	Mon Nov-16	Dallas NABC Fund Raiser Game
Tue Nov-3	Charity Game	Tue Nov-17	Dallas NBC Fund Raiser Game
Wed Nov-4	Charity Game	Wed Nov-18	Dallas NBC Fund Raiser Game
Thu Nov-5	Charity Game	Thu Nov-19	Dallas NBC Fund Raiser Game
Fri Nov-6	Club Championship	Fri Nov-20	Club Membership Game
Sat Nov-7	Charity Game	Sat Nov-21	Dallas NBC Fund Raiser Game
Mon Nov-9	Unit 174 STAC	Mon Nov-23	Charity Game
Tue Nov-10	Unit STAC	Tue Nov-24	Club Championship
Wed Nov-11	Unit STAC	Wed Nov-25	Club Championship
Thu Nov-12	Unit STAC	Sat Nov-28	Go Local Stardust
Fri Nov-13	Unit STAC	Mon Nov-30	Go Local Stardust
Sat Nov-14	Unit STAC		

Need a Partner?

Contact Linda or Tom Martinsen at 713-398-4907 martinsens@comcast.net.



Bridge Club of Houston

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

Lessons

- 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 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, 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: mlinkins@swbell.net
- Online 0-99 Game – Occasional 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, 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 Tuesdays 10:30 a.m.
- Wednesdays & Fridays 10:30 a.m.
- Saturdays – 12:00 p.m. (noon)

399er Pairs

- Saturdays – 12:00 p.m. (noon)

99er Pairs

- Sundays – 1:30 p.m.

Mentor/Mentee Pair

- Second & Fourth Tuesdays – 10:30 a.m.

Limited Pairs

- Fifth Tuesdays – 10:30 a.m.

F2F Swiss Teams

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



November 1	Handicapped Team Game
November 1-7, 20	Club Championship
November 9-14	Unit StaC
November 14	Memorial for David Henke – 11:15 a.m., Food
provided.	Please bring desserts
November 15-18	Education Fund
November 17	8 is Enough Team Game
November 21	ACBL Club Membership, HOLIDAY PARTY – 11:15
a.m.,	
November 26	Food provided.
November 28-	Thanksgiving Day – CLOSED
December 6	Stardust 33% Gold

Memorial for David Henke

A Memorial for David Henke will be held at BCOH on November 14 at 11:15 a.m. Lunch will be provided, but if you are able, please bring a dessert.



Good Times with Good Friends



Five Silver & One Ruby Life Masters



Kingwood Kats



Rita, A Brand New U.S. Citizen!

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

*Usually - See [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 Christmas and Thanksgiving. You can reach us by phone at 281-480-1911.

New Weekly Game Schedule:

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

Fast Pairs
Open Game: Tuesday evening at 6:30 p.m.
0-49 Games: Wednesday at 2:00 p.m. (Played in Conjunction with 0-499 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 *15 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 Sunday following the Mentor/Mentee game each month unless otherwise identified. 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 October 21. 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 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 for new classes offered in 2026.

U P C O M I N G . . .

****Beginning November 4th: 0-499er or 0-49er Wednesday Afternoons - You Choose Games and Lesson (Lesson begins at 1:30 p.m. Game(s) start(s): 2:00 p.m.)**

These games offer:

- A Q&A Opportunity
- Tips on Convention Cards
- Post-game review using hand records
- Review of Problem Hands
- Class input into Lesson Topics

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

If there are not enough tables for a 0-49er game, it will be merged into the 0-499er game.

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.



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
Sam Khayatt at 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...

Monday, November 2	Jeff Kroll's Free Lesson at 10:50 a.m. Jeff's lessons can be viewed on our website or on Youtube
	November Birthdays Celebrated – Cake will be served.
Thursday, November 12	Free Pizza Lunch
Tuesday, November 17	Mentor Mentee Game at 10:30 a.m.
Monday, November 23	Thanksgiving Celebration

November Games

November 2 – Monday	Charity Club Championship for ACBL
November 5 – Thursday	Charity Club Championship for St. Paul
November 9 – Monday	Unit 174 STaC
November 10 – Tuesday	Unit 174 STaC
November 12 – Thursday	Unit 174 STaC
November 16 – Monday	Club Championship
November 17 – Tuesday	Club Championship (M/M)
November 19 – Thursday	Club Championship
November 23 – Monday	ACBL Membership **
November 26 – Thursday	Thanksgiving – No Game
November 30 – Monday	Go Local 33% GOLD

** Anyone can play in the ACBL Membership game, but both players need to be ACBL members for the pair to be eligible for masterpoint awards.

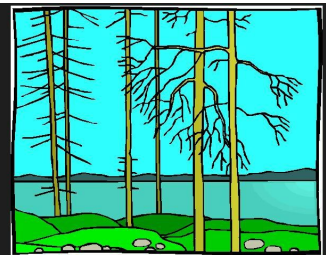
Mentor/Mentee Information

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

Need a partner?

Contact our partnership chairman Sandra Maalouf at 832-283-1674 or smaalouf@icloud.com

Please visit our website by clicking [here](#). You may also contact Mary McDonald, club manager at 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.

November Game Schedule:

- November 6 ACBL Membership
- November 13 Unit STAC
- November 20 Charity Club Championship
- November 27 No Game

If you need a partner, contact Carol Meade at 281-543-4541 or email her at 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



**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 or visit our [website](#).



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.

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



Contributors



Putting Spot Cards to Work

BY **SAM KHAYATT**
&
JEFF KROLL

When the opponents’ queen falls under our Ace, we must take care to maximize the number of our tricks in that suit. Let’s look at the following hand:

6		N Robot	
		♠1062	
		♥10643	
		♦AQ6	
		♣AK6	
W Robot		W	N E S
♠Q953		Pass	1NT
♥Q		Pass	2♥
♦K107		Pass	4♥
♣J9852		Pass	Pass
		E Robot	
		♠J4	
		♥J972	
		♦98542	
		♣Q4	
		S texashen	
		♠AK87	
		♥AK85	
		♦J3	
		♣1073	
		4♥ South	
		0 0	

This hand begins with a standard Stayman (2♣) auction to 4♥.

West leads their fourth-best ♣5 and declarer wins with dummy’s ♣K.

The ♥3 is led toward the ♥A. East follows with the ♥2 and West plays the ♥Q.

Declarer can infer that West has no heart cards lower than dummy’s ♥10. What isn’t known is if West holds the singleton ♥Q or the doubleton ♥QJ; but we should then know is that East holds either ♥97 or ♥J97.

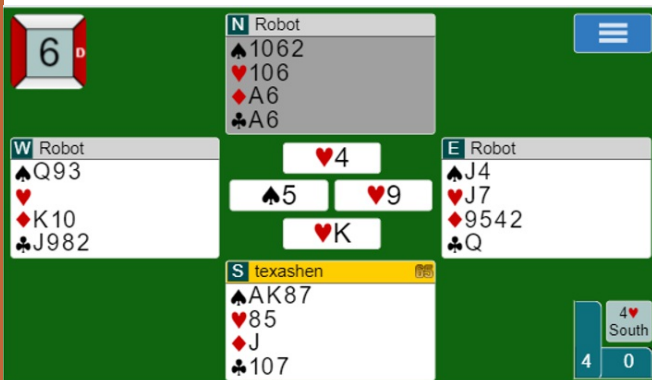
6		N Robot	
		♠1062	
		♥1064	
		♦AQ6	
		♣A6	
W Robot		W	N E S
♠Q953		Pass	1NT
♥Q		Pass	2♥
♦K107		Pass	4♥
♣J982		Pass	Pass
		E Robot	
		♠J4	
		♥J97	
		♦98542	
		♣Q	
		S texashen	
		♠AK87	
		♥K85	
		♦J3	
		♣107	
		4♥ South	
		2 0	

It would be wrong to play the ♥K and hope West drops the ♥J. If West’s original holding were the singleton ♥Q, East would hold the ♥J9 over dummy’s ♥10 and the defense would get two heart tricks.

The guaranteed way to limit the defense one heart trick at most is

to finesse against the ♥9 known to be held by East.

We successfully finesse the ♦Q to get to dummy and lead the ♥4, hoping to finesse the ♥8 or capture the ♥9.



We capture the ♥9 with the ♥K. Had East played low, declarer would have played the ♥8. By taking the marked finesse against the ♥9, the defense is held to one heart trick, not two.

Watch those spots!

Sam Khayatt and Jeff Kroll are frequent contributors to the Unit 174 Monthly Newsletter, co-authors of the ACBL Bulletin Notes since 2015 as well as a former co-editors of this Newsletter for 3 1/2 years. Sam is also the District 16 Intermediate / Newcomer Coordinator. Sam and Jeff have both been recipients of the District 16 Teacher of the Year award. Both Sam and Jeff teach bridge.



In Memoriam

* Mrs. Judith T. Earle, Houston
Mrs. Corinne L. Smith-Sloan, 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.

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.

Evvie Gilbert
Editor
unit174news@gmail.com

