



Unit 174 January 2025 Newsletter



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Contributors

Thomas Rush - A Fun Squeeze from Toronto's Summer NABC

Joe Siqueira - Communicating on Defense

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.



Sarah Springer

President's Message

Happy New Year! 2025 dawns with much excitement over the upcoming Max Levit Lone Star Regional starting February 3 and continuing through February 9. Make your plans to attend, line up your partners and get ready for a wonderful time at our great tournament.

The board has been working on the particulars for this tournament for months already, and we are hoping for a better than ever post-pandemic turnout. We have many great games planned from 0-5, 0-99, 0-299, Gold Rush, open pairs and bracketed Swiss. There is sure to be something to please every player. We also have our traditional great hospitality.

Check out some of the high points:

- Single sessions for 0-5, 0-99, and 299r games to optimize masterpoint awards.
- Double sessions, entrants may play in one or both sessions.
- Tuesday is Future Life Master Day.
- 0-99 players will have a free play to use on either Tuesday or Saturday.
- 0-5 game on Friday, players will include Robert Burridge's Junior High bridge students from Clear Lake.
- Free daily breakfast items.
- Free coffee before games start each day.
- Free ACBL labels - [email](#) with your name, city, state, and ACBL#. (You can also order them on site once you arrive.)
- Welcome Gift
- LSR stickers
- Awards
- Hot Dog Lunch with Cake on Friday
- Ice Cream on Saturday
- Buffet Lunch on Sunday
- Daily Speakers

There will also be a double-session on-line game on Saturday, February 8 at 10:00 a.m. and 2:30 p.m. on BBO. Instructions are available on our [website](#).

Please consider taking the Best Practices Teaching course which is being offered Saturday and Sunday prior to the start of the tournament. I took the course last year and I have been teaching in my neighborhood. It is a great way to make friends and bring new people in to the game we all love. For information and to register, call or email Karen Nussbaum at 832-524-5233 or [email](#).

Marsha Bernstein has been working hard on naming all of our games. We have Max Levit named for the entire tournament, a Joe Gittleman day (Thursday) and many other honorees. There is still time to honor someone, so contact Marsha at 713-857-6088 or [email](#) her. For more details, you can see the flyer in this issue and on our [website](#).

January is a time for New Year's Resolutions. Let's all resolve to improve our game, be polite and cool-headed at the table, come to the clubs and make friends, participate and volunteer, and generally spend our 2025 enjoying life and bridge! On behalf of our unit's Board of Directors, Happy New Year! May your days be happy, may your bids make, and may all of us have at least one or two grand slams that we bid and make.

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Sarah Springer
sarahspringerbridge@gmail.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: Judy Briggs, Eva Domene Molnar, Vesta Gaubert, Alex Han, Phyllis Roberts, Linda Smith, John St Pierre, Donald Woodard

Transfers: Christine E Caine

Welcome!



Rank Advancements

Listed below are the Unit 174 Masterpoint Milestones reported by ACBL as of December 1, 2024. An explanation of ranks may be found on the [ACBL website](#).

Junior Master

Xueqian Lin, Kai Liu, Tom Lyda, Aline D Wilson

Club Master

Dmitry Braverman, Junhui Du, Stephen O Schrader, Frances C Tarbett

Sectional Master

Rodney M Armstrong, Loretta N Cross, Penny M Gregg, Debra Oakes

Regional Master

Kelly Harp, W A Hecht, Wei Xu, Shuangxing Yu, Xiaoxing Yu

NABC Master

Ludmila Bellazoug, Mr. Thomas Brown, Gary Kerr, Jessie Y Lee, Mr. James W Moore, Dennis D Sucec

Advanced NABC Master

Phyllis A Dillard

Life Master

Teresa A Bolen, Mr. David L Bradt, Mrs. Ann C Coates, Mrs. Susanne Dittmann, Ms. Lois A McCallister

Bronze Life Master

Helen B Hollis, Mrs. Sandra A Maalouf, Ms. Lois A McCallister, Mrs. Sara M Rowe

Silver Life Master

Mr. David L Bradt, Ms. Evita J Rduch, Mr. Corbin N Shouse

Ruby Life Master

Steven Gordon

Sapphire Life Master

Ms. Lori Jacobs

Diamond Life Master

Mr. Wolf D Schroeter

!!! Congratulations !!!

Member Profile



We have no member profile this month. If you know someone who we should recognize, please email Unit174News@gmail.com.



Unit News

Coming Tournaments

Date	City	State	Unit	Category	Type
January 2-5, 2025	Austin	TX	207	Sectional	Open
January 11-12	Austin	TX	D16	NAP	NAP District Finals
January 16-18	Denton	TX	183	Sectional	Local
January 16-19	San Antonio	TX	172	Sectional	Open
January 29 – February 1	Dallas [DFW]	TX	176	Sectional	Open
February 1-2	Austin	TX	207	Sectional	I/N
February 3-9	Houston	TX	174	Regional	Open
February 6-9	Ajijic	JA	205	Sectional	Open
February 12-14	Puerto Vallarta	JA	205	Sectional	Open
February 15 -16	San Antonio	TX	172	Sectional	I/N
February 25 – March 2	San Miguel De Allende	GJ	173	Regional	Open
February 25 - 27	Fort Worth	TX	183	Sectional	Open
March 1	San Antonio	TX	172	Sectional	I/N
March 6-8	Denton	TX	183	Sectional	Open
March 6-8	Beaumont	TX	201	Sectional	Open
March 6-9	Austin	TX	207	Sectional	Open
March 26-29	San Antonio	TX	172	Sectional	Open
April 4-6	Houston	TX	174	Sectional	Open
April 5-6	Houston	TX	D16	GNT	GNT District Finals
April 5-6	Austin	TX	207	Sectional	I/N
April 8-12	Longview	TX	225	Regional	Open
April 24-27	Houston [Spring]	TX	174	Sectional	I/N
April 30 – May 3	Dallas	TX	176	Sectional	Open
May 1-4	Austin	TX	207	Sectional	Open
May 2-3	Dallas	TX	D16	GNT	GNT District Finals
May 17-18	Austin	TX	207	Sectional	I/N
June 6-8	Midland	TX	209	Sectional	Open
June 6-8	Houston	TX	174	Sectional	Open
June 9-15			176	STaC	Open
June 19-22	Houston [Spring]	TX	174	Sectional	I/N

June 30 – July 6	San Antonio	TX	172	Regional	Open
August 2-3	Austin	TX	207	Sectional	I/N
August 7-9	Tyler	TX	225	Regional	I/N
August 7-10	Houston	TX	174	Sectional	Open
August 26-31	Allen [DFW]	TX	176	Regional	Open
September 4-7	New Braunfels	TX	172	Sectional	Open
September 11-14	Houston [Spring]	TX	174	Sectional	I/N
September 25-28	Austin	TX	207	Sectional	Open
October 2-4	Denton	TX	183	Sectional	Local
October 4-5	Austin	TX	207	Sectional	I/N
October 15-18	San Antonio	TX	172	Sectional	Open
October 17-19	Fort Worth	TX	183	Sectional	Open
October 29-November 1	Dallas [DFW]	TX	176	Sectional	Open
November 8-9	Austin	TX	207	Sectional	I/N
November 13-16	Spring [Houston]	TX	174	Sectional	I/N
December 6-7	Austin	TX	207	Sectional	I/N

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

BCOH 0-50 Game



New 0-50mp Bridge Game

On Sundays

Starting January 19th

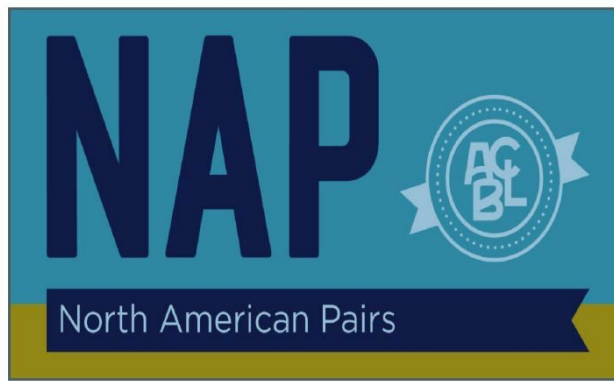
At 1:30 pm

Where: Bridge Club of Houston
 4688 Louetta Road
 (NE corner of Louetta and Kuykendahl)
 Spring, TX 77388

For more information contact: Carol McCord
bridgewithCarol@gmail.com
 936-650-8180



2025 D16 NAP Finals



**January 11-12, 2025
(Saturday & Sunday)**

Bridge Center of Austin

6700 Middle Fiskville Austin, Texas 78752
(near IH-35 & US290E)

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

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

If eight or less tables are in a flight, the
two-session final event is on Saturday.

Please Note: These events are **NOT** held in conjunction with
the previous week's Austin sectional tournament.

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



2025 Max Levit Lone Star Regional



MAX LEVIT LONE STAR REGIONAL FEBRUARY 3-9, 2025



Tournament Chairs

- ♥ Sarah Springer
(281) 904-5791
sarahspringerbridge@gmail.com
- ♥ Dave Becker
(214) 274-2978
dbecker03@hotmail.com
- ♥ Linda McReynolds
(713) 819-7812
lindamcreynolds@comcast.net

Partnership Chairs

- ♣ James Sells
(281) 785-5295
jamesells@live.com
- ♣ Linda McReynolds
(713) 819-7812
lindamcreynolds@comcast.net



Tournament Hotel

Marriott Houston Westchase
2900 Briar Park Drive
Houston, TX 77042



- ♣ \$129 Room Rate
- ♣ Call (713) 978-7400
- ♣ Ask for ACBL Bridge rate
- ♣ Cut-off Date: Jan 12, 2025
- ♣ Reserve Early before it's sold out!
- ♣ <https://www.marriott.com/event-reservations/reservation-link.mi?id=1694898652688&key=GRP>

Hospitality

- ♥ Complimentary ACBL labels
 - Email in advance to lsrlabels@gmail.com
 - Include Name, City, State, ACBL #
 - Pickup at Hospitality Desk
- ♥ Awards at Hospitality Desk
- ♥ Welcome gift
- ♥ Daily Breakfast items
- ♥ Complimentary morning coffee until game time
- ♥ Hot Dog lunch on Friday
- ♥ Ice Cream on Saturday
- ♥ Buffet Lunch on Sunday

Future Life Masters

- ♦ FLM Day Tues for 0-99ers
- ♦ 1 Free play on Tues or Sat for 0-99ers



Game Fees

- ♣ Mon-Fri \$16
- ♣ ACBL Charity Game \$17
- ♣ Saturday \$17 (\$1 for NABC)
- ♣ Sunday \$18 (lunch included w/2 session entry)
- ♣ Cashless = cc only



Best Practices Teacher Workshop

- ♦ Sat Feb 1 8:00-5:00
- ♦ Sun Feb 2 8:00-Noon
- ♦ Registration Fee \$50
- ♦ Contact Karen Nussbaum
(832) 524-5233
karenunit174@gmail.com





MAX LEVIT LONE STAR REGIONAL 2025



Houston Marriott Westchase Convention Center

Monday, February 3

ACBL Charity Fund Pairs	.....	Double Sessions*	..	10 & 2:30
299er Pairs	.....	Double Sessions*	.....	10 & 2:30
Gold Rush Pairs	.....	Double Sessions*	.....	10 & 2:30
Bracketed Swiss Teams	.....	Double Session	.....	10 & 2:30
Evening Side Pairs	.....	Single Session	.....	7:00

*Players may play in one or both sessions.

Tuesday, February 4

99er Pairs	.....	Two Sessions*	.....	10 & 2:30
299er Pairs	.....	Two Sessions*	.....	10 & 2:30
Open Pairs	.....	Double Sessions	.....	10 & 2:30
Gold Rush Pairs	.....	Double Sessions*	.....	10 & 2:30
Bracketed Swiss Teams	.....	Double Session*	.....	10 & 2:30
Evening Side Pairs	.....	Single Session	.....	7:00

*Players may play in one or both sessions.

Wednesday, February 5

Top Flight Pairs	.....	Double Sessions*	..	10 & 2:30
Mid-Flight Pairs	.....	Double Sessions*	.....	10 & 2:30
299er Pairs	.....	Two Sessions*	.....	10 & 2:30
Gold Rush Pairs	.....	Double Sessions*	.....	10 & 2:30
Bracketed Swiss Teams	.....	Double Session**	..	10 & 2:30
Evening Side Pairs	.....	Single Session	.....	7:00

*Players may play in one or both sessions.

Thursday, February 6

Top Flight Pairs	.....	Double Sessions*	..	10 & 2:30
Mid-Flight Pairs	.....	Double Sessions*	.....	10 & 2:30
299er Pairs	.....	Two Sessions*	.....	10 & 2:30
Gold Rush Pairs	.....	Double Sessions*	.....	10 & 2:30
Bracketed Swiss Teams	.....	Double Session**	..	10 & 2:30
Evening Side Pairs	.....	Single Session	.....	7:00

*Players may play in one or both sessions.

Stratification & Flighting

Top Flight Pairs:	A: 6000+	X: 0-6000		
Open Pairs:	A: 5000+	B: 2000-5000	C: 0-2000	
Mid-Flight Pairs:	B: 1500-3500	C: 0-1500		
299ers:	B: 200-300	C: 100-200	D: 0-100	
Gold Rush:	B: 500-750	C: 300-500	D: 0-300	

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

Friday, February 7

Top Flight Pairs	.....	Double Sessions*	..	10 & 2:30
Mid-Flight Pairs	.....	Double Sessions*	.....	10 & 2:30
299er Pairs	.....	Two Sessions*	.....	10 & 2:30
Gold Rush Pairs	.....	Double Sessions*	.....	10 & 2:30
Bracketed Swiss Teams	.....	Double Session**	..	10 & 2:30
Evening Side Pairs	.....	Single Session	.....	7:00

*Players may play in one or both sessions.

Saturday, February 8

99er Pairs	.....	Two Sessions*	.....	10 & 2:30
299er Pairs	.....	Two Sessions*	.....	10 & 2:30
Gold Rush Pairs	.....	Double Sessions*	.....	10 & 2:30
Open Pairs	.....	Double Sessions*	.....	10 & 2:30
Bracketed Swiss Teams	.....	Double Session	.....	10 & 2:30
ON-LINE Open Pairs*	.....	Double Sessions*	.....	10 & 2:30
Evening Side Pairs	.....	Single Session	.....	7:00

*Players may play in one or both sessions.

*Instructions on the Unit 174 website at ACBLunit174.org.

Sunday, February 9

Open Pairs	.....	Double Sessions*	..	9 & 1:30
Bracketed Swiss Teams	.....	Double Session	.....	9 & TBA

*Players may play in one or both sessions.

* Early start to finish in time for Super Bowl LIX.

Hospitality Chair

► Peaches Eads
(713) 569-7700
hallieeads@aol.com

I/N Chair

► Tracy Meyer
(910) 685-5615
tracy.meyer.tx@gmail.com

Event Naming

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

NOTE: Be scent-sitive - this is a fragrance-free tournament.
No offensive odors.

2025 Max Levit Lone Star Regional Event Naming

Naming Opportunities



LONE STAR REGIONAL Houston



FEBRUARY 3-9. 2025

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

- Entire Tournament \$7,500
- All Games For Entire Day \$1,000
- Charity Fund Pairs Single-Session Monday \$125
- 0-20 Pairs Single-Session Monday \$125
- 99er & 299er Combo Single-Session Mon thru Sat \$125
- Side Pairs - Morn/Aft/Eve Single-Session Mon thru Sat \$125
- Open Pairs Double-Session Mon thru Sat \$200
- Gold Rush Pairs Double-Session Mon thru Sat \$200
- Bracketed Swiss 1-day Double-Session Mon thru Sun \$200
- Evening Swiss Double-Session Tue/Wed or Thu/Fri \$200
- Bracketed Swiss Double-Session Sunday \$200
- Sunday Side Games Single-Session Sunday \$75

If an entire day is named, then all one-day events will be part of that package including the Side Games, 49er/299er, Gold Rush and Swiss games.

Make checks payable to Unit 174. Please provide a picture and write-up (about 100 words) of your honoree for the Daily Bulletin and Poster Board.

Sponsoring Corporate or other promotional gifts for Hospitality will be handled on an individual basis.

Event Naming

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

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 to 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



Future Life Masters



Future Life Masters of Unit 174

www.flm174.org

The fun is just beginning!



WEEKLY 49er Game! Beginning Jan 19, 2025

EVERY Sunday afternoon at 1:30

\$5.00

Hosted by Bridge Club of Houston

4876 Louetta

Spring, Tx

**This will be a Supervised Play for the
newest players to enjoy & win masterpoints!**

Regular Club Games

Face-to-Face

299er Games

- Bridge Academy of West Houston WEDNESDAYS at 10:30
- Bridge Club of Houston SATURDAYS at 12:00
- Clear Lake Bridge Club MONDAYS & WEDNESDAYS at 2:00

Mentor-Mentee Games

Contact the following clubs to explore playing in the FABULOUS Mentor-Mentee Programs! Each club offering is a little different...but the experience is the same: playing with a knowledgeable player, learning about stronger competition, getting to know the better players at the club. **These fun programs will improve your game!**

- Bridge Academy of West Houston
- Bridge Club of Houston
- Clear Lake Bridge Club
- Lone Star Bridge Club

Meet the Candidates

The nominating committee worked hard and found six great candidates who agreed to run for the three Unit 174 board positions that will need to be filled in April. Watch for details about how you can vote in the next issue. In the meantime, get to know all of the candidates.



Fred Gregory worked as a chemical engineer for the past 40+ years. He retired from his current position as Process Safety Manager and Technical Fellow at Lubrizol's Deer Park facility at the end of 2024. Fred is looking forward to having more time to devote to hobbies such as playing bridge at the local club and at tournaments. He says, "It has been a challenge to balance work with my bridge life!"

Fred started playing bridge at age six with his grandparents and parents using the traditional Goren methods. His parents had the same group of friends playing bridge at each others' homes for over fifty years. Fred took a bridge hiatus when he got married and had children (three) but picked it back up in 2015 when his son suggested he try it once again.

Since resuming the game, Fred plays regularly at the Bridge Club of Houston. He hasn't missed a single Lone Star Regional and has attended almost all the local sectional tournaments as well. During the past decade, Fred says, "I have met some of the nicest and friendliest people ever and look forward to contributing to the bridge community in the greater Houston area."



Joe Quinn has been playing bridge since graduating college in 1972 with a degree in Chemical Engineering and an MBA. His career took him all over the world working as a project director with Fluor. Joe spent 16 years working overseas mostly in Europe (UK, Denmark, Poland and Switzerland) with a couple of years in Saudi Arabia. The rest of his career was divided between Texas and California. He went to part time employment in 2020 and with his extra time he started teaching bridge part time. Joe enjoys teaching bridge especially seeing the enthusiasm of his students.

Joe is a Grand Life Master with two national championships and numerous high placings in other national championships. His favorite bridge partner is his wife, Shawn, who has won several world championships and over 20 national championships. They don't get to play together as much now as they have a twelve-year-old daughter with whom they enjoy spending time.



Gary Kerr started playing bridge in 2008 and played for nine months. Due to work and his wife's health, he was unable to play for several years but knew he would return to the game when time permitted.

After retirement in 2018, Gary resumed playing. Following the COVID-19 pause, he started playing with his father-in-law, Ben Ball.

Gary was married for 49 years but unfortunately, "I lost the love of my life 15 months ago." He has one daughter and two grandkids. Gary was raised in Houston and, following high school, attended the University of Texas at Austin where he earned both a BBA and an MBA. He worked in the healthcare industry for 35 years.

Gary says, "It is an honor to be nominated."

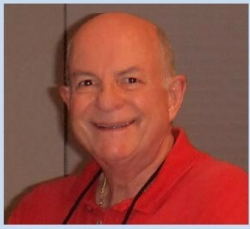


Cindy Schaefer is a native Houstonian who grew up in New Jersey before returning to the University of Texas to study chemical engineering. She worked in the chemical industry, focusing on process safety for the last 25 years of her career.

Cindy first learned bridge from Geoff and Wilma Booth. After retiring, she took several classes from Dave Glandorf, Education Director at Clear Lake Bridge Club (CLBC), and admits that she has repeated at least one class. Cindy appreciates playing with and learning from the friendly people at the CLBC. She says, "Now I'm somewhat addicted."

Aside from bridge, Cindy's hobbies include playing clarinet in Gulf Coast Concert Band, reading (she's in two book clubs), and walking. With her husband, Alan – who also plays bridge, they have a son, a daughter and three wonderful grandchildren.

Cindy is interested in helping to encourage more people to play bridge and join this wonderful community.



John (Eric) Watson played bridge socially from age 13 and duplicate from 1990 when he joined the ACBL. He is currently a Silver Life Master. Eric worked as a director for Houston Bridge Studio and Sue Williams' Sugarland Duplicate Bridge Club. He purchased her club in 2015.

Eric has a BS in education from UNC Chapel Hill and an MBA from the University of Houston in Marketing and Finance. He served three years as an artillery officer in the US army and worked both as a banker and paralegal.

He has over 25 years of experience as a director and 10 years as a club owner and manager. Eric currently owns, manages, and directs Fort Bend County Duplicate Bridge with an open game every Tuesday morning at Arabia Shriners in Houston.

Eric was appointed to the Unit 174 Board of Directors in 2023 and immediately applied his years of experience to the difficult task of bringing the unit back to pre-COVID levels of membership and open game participation. He has the time, energy and experience to help the unit continue to grow.



Judi Whaling is an Olympian who competed under the name Judi Genovesi in the 1976 Olympics in Ice Dancing, placing 15th. She was the 1977 National Champion and placed 9th in the world. Judi graduated from Boston College (cum laude) with a degree in business. She ran and finished the Boston Marathon in 1981 and won a local women's golf championship in 2003. Judi owned and operated an interior design business for over 25 years.

After retirement, Judi decided to learn how to play bridge because she, "Wanted to give my brain exercise by learning something new, difficult, and hopefully enjoyable." She fell in love with bridge and met a lot of new friends!

If elected to the board, Judi would like to help grow the game of bridge and promote a welcoming and nurturing culture in Unit 174. She recognizes that it can be very intimidating for a newcomer to play in a duplicate club game.

Club Table Counts

Unit 174 has many ACBL-sanctioned clubs so that means many games both Face-to-Face (F2F) and Online. The following information might be interesting:

<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

The ACBL website is still broken however, ACBL Executive Director, Bronia Jenkins was able to provide a tool that she is using to gather this information. The following numbers are the Unit 174 table counts from January 1 - December 26, 2024:

Total Tables:	16,750
Total F2F:	14,981
Total Online:	705
Total Swiss Teams:	1,060

The listing shows 25 clubs. Not all are still open but are included in the following list:

1. Clear Lake Bridge Club:	4,025 Tables, all F2F
2. Bridge Club of Houston:	2,545 Tables, 1,944 F2F, 601 Online
3. Bridge Academy of West Houston:	2,484 Tables, all F2F
4. Lone Star Bridge Club:	1,653 Tables, all F2F
5. Apple II DBC	821 Tables, all F2F
6. Star DBC	776 Tables, all F2F
7. Apple DBC	712 Tables, all F2F
8. Kingwood DBC	494 Tables, all F2F
9. Lake Conroe DBC	425 Tables, all F2F
10. Fort Bend DB	416 Tables, all F2F
11. Cypress Northwest DBC	373 Tables, all F2F
12. Pebble Creek DBC	298 Tables, all F2F
13. Sugarland Bridge Club	295 Tables, all F2F
14. Gulf Coast	189 Tables, all F2F
15. Houston Racquet Club	183 Tables, all F2F
16. La Grange Bridge Club	154 Tables, all F2F
17. Forest Club	146 Tables, all F2F
18. Galveston DBC	132 Tables, all F2F
19. Lakeside Country Club	119 Tables, all F2F

20. Houston Country Club	110 Tables, all F2F
21. Unit 174	104 Tables, all Online
22. River Oaks Country Club	90 Tables, all F2F
23. Les Match Bridgeurs	85 Tables, all F2F
24. Spring DBC	64 Tables, all F2F
25. Katy DB	57 Tables, all F2F

One other bit of information, Unit 174's Clear Lake Bridge Club is still the District 16 leader for F2F tables followed by Bridge Center of Austin with 3,157 tables and Bridge Club of Houston with 2,545. So, Unit 174 has two clubs in the top three for District 16.

Good News!



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.

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 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 \$3.00 / person.

New Clubs' Policy:

APPLE clubs (Susan and Brigitte) 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!

For information, please contact:

Monday - Apple - Susan Johnson
sisbjohnson@gmail.com - 281-536-1451

Friday - Apple II - Brigitte Sandifer
sandiferdb@gmail.com - 281-494-1464

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.

Christmas Party

On Thursday, December 19, the Bridge Academy hosted a delightful Christmas party. The festive spirit was in full swing, as showcased by Susan Silvey, Margaret Thompson, and Kathy Pflueger.

What's a Christmas party without delicious food? B. Haznedar generously prepared the main course, featuring a delectable selection of turkeys, pork loins, Kugel, parsley butter garlic potatoes, brown rice, apple crisp, and to top it off, banana cake.



Susan Silvey,
Margaret Thompson &
Kaathy Pflueger



B. Haznedar

Other players contributed to the feast with a selection of potluck dishes, ensuring no shortage of scrumptious side dishes and desserts to complement the main course.

Thanks to everyone who contributed and in particular B!

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

January 7th - 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

Please Note the Change:

The Bridge Club of Houston is now hosting the Sunday Future Life master game. See the flyer in this issue or you can go to the [FLM website](#) for details.

8 is enough Swiss Teams

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

January 26th - 8 is enough Swiss Teams

The Swiss Teams stratifications are:

- Level 1** - 0-1000 masterpoints (1)
- Level 2** - 1000-3000 masterpoints (2)
- Level 3** - 3000+ 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.

The Swiss Teams has become an extremely popular event. For help finding teammates contact:

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

Mini-lesson

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

Game Schedule

Tuesday - Mentor/Mentee
Wednesday - Open & 299'er
Thursdays - Invitational
10:30 a.m.

Sunday - Future Life Masters & Swiss Teams
1:30 p.m.

Arabia Shriners Center
10510 Harwin Dr.

- \$7.00 per person
- Coffee & Snacks are provided
- Jennifer Breihan, Janice Hardcastle Rush and Tom Jahnke directors

Game Calendar

Thu – Jan 2	Junior Fund	Wed – Jan 22	Junior Fund
Tues – Jan 7	Junior Fund	Thu – Jan 23	Junior Fund
Wed – Jan 8	Junior Fund	Sun – Jan 26	Junior Fund
Thu – Jan 9	Junior Fund	Wed – Jan 29	Junior Fund
Wed – Jan 15	Junior Fund	Thu – Jan 30	Junior Fund
Thu – Jan 16	Junior Fund		

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: [BCOH Calendar](#).

BCOH - **Online Choose Houston** - Thursday 7:00 p.m.

BBO - Mentor/Mentee Games - First and third Mondays at 7:00 p.m. (**Protege should invite and pay for game of mentor.**) Contact Mike Linkins if you have any questions: [mlinkins@swbell.net](mailto:minkins@swbell.net).

BCOH Open Games (F2F) - Monday: 11:55 a.m. & Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday: 10:30 a.m.

Saturday F2F 299er and Open games - Check the BCOH [website](#) for details, potlucks and points each week.

SAVE THE DATES:

Stratified Swiss Teams - Tuesday, January 21 at 10:30 a.m. (**Register at the club.**)

Mentor/Mentee F2F - Tuesdays, January 14 and January 28 at 10:30 a.m. Please contact Judy Cupps at judy_n_al@yahoo.com by phone 713-320-5592 or Bob Zeigler@713-829-6928. Also contact them with any questions.

TUESDAY TIDBITS - Build a solid foundation with Julie Halperin, Diamond Life Master and ACBL Teacher. Enjoy a free lesson from 9:30-10:10 a.m. Game follows beginning at 10:30 a.m. We will set up partnerships for those who need it. Text Julie at 713-857-8004 with questions or concerns. **Lessons are open to all.**

Ring in the **New Year!** - Wednesday, January 1. Please bring a snack or finger food to share.

HEAR YE. HEAR YE. - FLM 0-49er games every Sunday beginning on January 19 at 1:30 p.m. Contact Carol McCord at 936-650-8180 or [email-carol](mailto:carol) for more information. More details are available on the flyer in this issue.

Annual General Meeting – Will be held on Saturday, January 25. Potluck lunch at 11:00 a.m. so please bring a dish to share. New board members will be announced. The Open and 299er game will begin at noon.

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 PM

Open Pairs

Thursday @ 7:00 PM

Future Life Masters

Tuesday (0-50) @ 3:05 PM*

2nd Saturday (0-20) @ 9:00 AM*

*usually - see flm174.org for dates

SE Carolina Consortium

<https://sites.google.com/view/se-club-of-clubs/home>



Clear Lake Bridge Club

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

Games are held every day of the week. The club closes for Unit 174 tournaments, Christmas and Easter. You can reach us by phone at 281-480-1911.

PREVIOUSLY...

The Holiday Party was held Wednesday, December 18 between the open and the mentor/mentee (MM) games. The club had 18 tables for the open game and 13 for the MM game with plenty of food during both games and in between.

Many thanks to the volunteers who created this event. In particular, thanks to Marcia Chambliss, MM Program Director, who does an amazing job of matching MM pairs and coordinating the games – a *huge job!*

Many thanks to our president, Sherry Scoggins, and all of her elves for coordinating the entire day. Also, thanks to the chefs who contributed sumptuous items, those who did the setup and also the unglamorous cleanup job. Thanks to all!

And as usual, a very special thanks to Paula Wissman who has directed our MM games for years!

Our December MM Winners are:

Mentor Mentee Winners!

Mentor / Mentee
Winners



Overall Winners

Chris Caine & Mentee Carolyn Hardy

Winners



E/W Winners

Peggy Naughton & Mentee Lyn Breytenbach

12/2024

UPCOMING...

All January Games are Junior Fund Games so come earn those extra points.

The Annual Meeting will be held in February to elect the 2025 officers. The nominating committee include Claudia Parr, Edna Rice and Darlyn Dusek. If you are interested in serving, please let them know. Also watch the next newsletter and the club 's [website](#) for more information.

Partnership/Team Building:

Chuck Ensor will assist anyone to get a team organized for any of the Sunday Swiss Teams games. You can either call Chuck at 713-502-0282 or [email](#) him.

Weekly Game Schedule:

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

0-299 Games: Monday and Wednesday at 2:00 p.m.

0-749 Games: Tuesday at 10:00 a.m. and Thursday at 1:00 p.m.

Swiss Teams: Sunday at 1:00 p.m. September 8th is 8 is Enough. The B players' upper limit is 2000 - 2500 masterpoints. We ask that anyone interested in playing in any of the Sunday afternoon Team Games to please register before you come so that the director can have the set up done on time.

Please arrive no later than 15 minutes before the game start times.

Game table fee is \$6.00 for members, \$7.00 for guests.

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 2024.

Have a Healthy and Happy New Year to all.

Bobbie Moutz
Vice President
natcolemed@comcast.net

P.S.

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

CYPRESS NORTHWEST DBC
& KATY 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.

Katy DBC meets every Wednesday. Sign-in starts at 11:00 a.m., and the game begins at 11:30 a.m. The club meets at the Steve Radack Community Center - 18650 Clay Road, Houston, Texas 77084.

Coffee, tea, and snacks are provided. Regular games are \$3.

For more information, contact Jim Warren at **832/851-4745** or jwarren760@gmail.com.

CLUB OWNER RETIRING - BRIDGE CLUBS FOR SALE

Cypress Northwest DBC
Meets Tuesday and Thursday at Weekley Community Center

Katy DBC
Meets Wednesday at Radack Community Center

Will sell both or separately.
If interested please contact
Jim Warren
832-851-4745
jwarren7602gmail.com



Fort Bend Duplicate Bridge Club

Open Games Tuesday

Arabia Shriners Center
10510 Harwin Dr.
Houston, TX 77036
Please arrive by 10:15 a.m. Games starts at 10:30 a.m.

- The last game of 2024 was December 17.
- The first game of 2025 is Tuesday, January 7.
- January games are all Junior Fund Games with upgraded points.
- We use Bridge Mate II Bridge pads.
- We do not use slippery plastic cards.
- Most games are upgraded.
- Hand records are available after every game.
- Our players are a nice balance of friendly A, B and C players.
- Coffee and substantive snacks are provided.
- All games are fully sanctioned by the ACBL.
- Results are available immediately.
- Our directors are all fully qualified and experienced.
- All games including upgraded are \$8.00.

**CALLING AHEAD WILL FACILITATE STARTING GAMES ON TIME.
CONTACT:**

John Eric Watson
ewat2004@aol.com
832 287 9107



KINGWOOD DUPLICATE BRIDGE CLUB

Games:

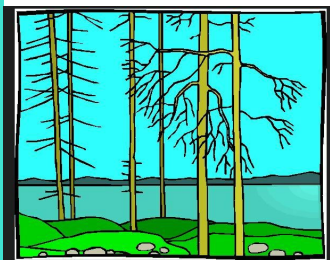
Wednesday and Thursday at 10:00 a.m. at the Kingwood Community Center, 4102 Rustic Woods Drive, Kingwood, TX 77345. Entries are still \$2 and \$3 for upgraded games.

On Thursday mornings, Bill Riley will be giving a short 20-30 minute presentation on various topics, conventions, etc., starting at 9:20 a.m. A schedule of topics will be published shortly. Coffee is available.

On Thursday, October 24th and 31st, the game will not be held due to early voting.

However, the games will be held on Wednesday.

For information, contact any of the following:
Jim Simmons at (281)913-0441 or jrsimmons2102@gmail.com.
Bill Riley at (832)289-3833 or ichibanbill@yahoo.com.
Kingwood Community Center Phone: (281) 348-2570
Or Visit our [website](#).



LAKE CONROE DUPLICATE BRIDGE CLUB

January 2025

Happy New Year Everyone!

The New Year brings a major change in our Bridge Club. We have moved locations. We now meet at the Restoration Church, at [107 Fish Creek Thoroughfare, Montgomery](#). When you enter the property from Fish Creek, please drive all the way to the back parking area. Our game will be held in the sanctuary building. We look forward to seeing you at our new facility.

Our Bridge Club is a very welcoming and friendly Club. We have players from all levels, so players new to duplicate will feel comfortable; and seasoned players will find a challenge. We would like to invite you and your bridge friends to join us every Friday.

We begin playing at 10:30 a.m. The game fee is \$5.00. We always offer snacks, sweet and savory, and coffee and iced tea. We will take a break moday, so please bring your lunch.

If you need a partner, please contact Carol Meade at 281-543-4541 or email her at meadecm@icloud.com and she will do her best to assist you to get a partner.

The following is what's happening on Fridays in January (All Junior Fund Games):

- January 3
- January 10
- January 17
- January 24
- January 31

We welcome you to join us on Friday's at LCDBC and look forward to seeing all of you at the table.

[Please contact me either by phone or email if you have any questions regarding playing at our Club.](#)

Penny Grassedonio
Club Manager
832-361-4577
czthdaypjg@gmail.com
[website](#)



LONE STAR BRIDGE CLUB

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

We provide coffee, bottled water, and only individually wrapped snacks.

Our games are **always** \$5.00.

January Calendar of Events

Thursday, January 2 – Junior Fund Game at 10:30 a.m. We will be open celebrating the new year. Welcome and Happy New Year to all! Bring your leftover desserts to share.

Monday, January 6 – Junior Fund Game & Free bridge lesson with Diamond Life Master Jeff Kroll at 11:00 a.m. Game begins at 11:45 a.m. Jeff's class will cover:

When & How to Interfere with Opponents' Opening Bids

1. When to Make a Direct Call & When to Balance
2. When & How to Raise Partner's Call
3. How to Respond to Partner's Takeout Double
4. Interfering with Opponent's 1NT Opening Bid
5. Interfering with Opponent's 2♣ or 1♣ Opening Bid
6. What is Appropriate for Matchpoints & What is Appropriate for IMPS

January babies will also be celebrated with cake!

Thursday, January 9 – Junior Fund Game beginning at 10:30 a.m. & Free pizza for lunch!

Monday, January 13 – Junior Fund Game beginning at 10:30 a.m.
Thursday, January 16 – Club Anniversary & Upgraded Club Championship Game

Monday, January 20 – Junior Fund Game beginning at 10:30 a.m.
Thursday, January 23 – Junior Fund Game beginning at 10:30 a.m.

Monday, January 27 – Junior Fund Game beginning at 10:30 a.m.
Tuesday, January 28 – Junior Fund Game - 8 is Enough Swiss Teams Game at 10:30 a.m.
Thursday, January 30 – Junior Fund Game beginning at 10:30 a.m.

If you would like to be added to the email list for our weekly newsletter to keep up with our club news as well as a weekly lesson from DLM Jeff Kroll, please contact Linda Sutton at: lindasutton212@gmail.com or 936-443-3600.

For more information, contact Linda Sutton, Club Manager at lindasutton212@gmail.com.

Please visit our website by clicking [here](#).

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



A Fun Squeeze from Toronto's Summer NABC

BY THOMAS RUSH

[Editor's Note: This article was published in the December 1 Daily Bulletin of the recent NABC in Las Vegas.]

My partner and I had this hand in the third session of the Von Zedtwitz Life Master Pairs at the recent Summer NABC in Toronto (July 20). It features a *guard squeeze*, where East has potential winners in two suits (here, hearts and spades), but also can't afford to throw a baby club, since the low club guards the queen and protects West against a simple club finesse.

As it played out, this squeeze turned out to be almost automatic, which surprised me. I didn't have to do more than take a heart finesse and give up a trick early to rectify the count (squeeze talk for "get into a position where I had all but one of the remaining tricks"). Watch as I replay the hand (Note: I've rotated the hand 180 here to make it easier to follow; the South hand in the diagram was originally dealt to North, and so on around the table)

D	N North	
	♠ Q5 ♥ QJ82 ♦ A532 ♣ K104	
W West	W N E S	E East
♠ 92 ♥ 1065 ♦ Q6 ♣ J87632	1♦ 1♠ 3NT Pass Pass Pass	♠ K10863 ♥ K743 ♦ J10 ♣ Q5
	S South	
	♠ AJ74 ♥ A9 ♦ K9874 ♣ A9	3NT South 0 0

When RHO bid 1♠, I gave up on Great Things settled for the 3NT that I expected to make. West led the ♠9 as you'd expect, and I covered with the ♠Q, East played ♠King, and I won the ♠A.

Trick 2: I led the ♦King and all followed suit.

Trick 3: I led the ♦9 to the ♦A and was happy to see the suit split 2-2. Note that I have kept the diamond four in my hand; should I need an entry to dummy, I can lead the ♦4 to dummy's ♦5! It's good practice to pay attention to spots at this level of detail and keep entries wherever possible.

Trick 4: I led the ♥Q which was ducked all around. Now I stopped to take stock. At this point I have four tricks in the bag. I have these sure tricks to come: ♠J, ♥A, three diamonds, and two top clubs... that's four plus seven, eleven. There aren't any legit chances for a finesse for a 12th trick, but I might be able to find a squeeze if the cards lie right. As a general rule, for a squeeze to work, you need to have all but one of the remaining tricks, here I have 11 of 13, or all but two.

Trick 5: Since I have stoppers in all the suits, I can afford to give up a spade trick, so I led the ♠5, East played the ♠8, and I ducked to "rectify the count". Now I've got all but one of the last tricks:

D	N North	
	♠ Q5 ♥ QJ82 ♦ A532 ♣ K104	
W West	W N E S	E East
♠ 92 ♥ 1065 ♦ Q6 ♣ J87632	♠ 5 ♠ 2 ♠ 8 ♠ 4	♠ K10863 ♥ K743 ♦ J10 ♣ Q5
	S South	
Claim	♠ AJ74 ♥ A9 ♦ K9874 ♣ A9	3NT South 4 1

With eight cards in the diagram above, it's a bit complicated, but let's break it down by suit:

I have the good ♠J. East can't lead a spade because I'll take the finesse and claim (My ♠J7 sits over East's ♠T6). East must keep two spades to keep my ♠7 from becoming a winner.

I have the ♥A which will soon be played, establishing East's ♥K as a winner and my ♥J in dummy as a threat card. Clearly, East must keep his ♥King.

I have the ♣AK. The ♣10 is a threat, but I can't come to three club tricks on my own - if I try to finesse, West will win the ♣J or East will win the ♣Q.

East's ♣Q isn't a winner on its own, though, as it will fall under the ♣A and ♣K if I cash them. East's problem is that if ♣5 is pitched, the ♣Q falls under the ♣A, and his partner's ♣J can now be finessed when I lead toward the ♣KT

in dummy.

I have three good diamond tricks ready to run, which will put pressure on East.

Final thought, I'm starting to like this hand....

East made the logical play of returning a heart to the next trick (trick 6), ♥4, ♥A, ♥6, ♥2.

Trick 7: Was ♦8, ♣2, ♦5, ♥7.

Trick 8: Was ♦7, ♣3, ♦3, ♠3.

Trick 9: Was ♦4, ♣6, ♥8, and... ?? Look at East's problem below:

The interface shows a bridge hand with the following cards:

- North:** ♠Q5, ♥QJ82, ♦A532, ♣K104
- West:** ♠92, ♥1065, ♦Q6, ♣J87632
- East:** ♠K10863, ♥K743, ♦J10, ♣Q5
- South:** ♠AJ74, ♥A9, ♦K9874, ♣A9

The dummy box (D) is empty. A trick table shows the following cards played:

- Trick 6: ♥8
- Trick 7: ♣6
- Trick 8: ♦4

The score is 3NT South, with 7 tricks for South and 1 trick for North. A "Claim" button is visible.

What can East pitch? If East pitches a spade, I cash ♠J and the now good ♠7 and ♣AK.

If East lets go of the heart, I cash the ♠J, ♣A then ♣K, and the ♥J.

East chose, as most would, to drop the ♣5. This is the essence of the *Guard Squeeze*. East's clubs aren't winners, but must keep ♣5 to protect partner from being finessed out of the ♣J.

Trick 10: I cashed the ♣A and saw the ♣7, ♣4, and ♣Q dropped from East. Now we are all down to three cards. I know East has the ♠108 and the ♥K. *East cannot have another club.*

Trick 11: I cash the ♠J, west pitches the heart and I throw the now useless ♥J from dummy. East plays the low spade.

Trick 12: I put the ♣9 on the table, and am 100% certain that the finesse is working, so I play the ♣10 from dummy and take 12 tricks (losing only the spade I ducked on trick five).

The interface shows the same bridge hand as above, but with the following changes:

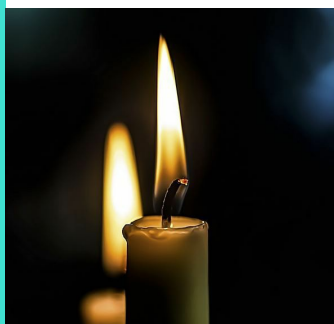
- West:** Now highlighted in yellow.
- Trick 10:** ♣9
- Trick 11:** ♣9

The score is 3NT South, with 10 tricks for South and 1 trick for North. A "Claim" button is visible.

I called this a nearly automatic squeeze because I didn't have to do anything exceptional other than rectify the count. That is, give up a trick early to make sure I had all but one of the remaining tricks and pay attention to East's cards so I knew it had to have two spades and the ♥K as the last three cards. Note: There are other paths to 12 tricks on this hand after West leads his ♠9, but

Try not to make Off Shape Doubles, even if you have an opening hand. If partner has 9+ HCP they will balance with a TakeOut Double or bid their suit. An expert gave me great advice, if you have nothing to say, Pass.

Joe Siqueria plays regularly with his wife at the Apple DB and Apple II Clubs. He teaches bridge to family and friends online and his articles are aimed at I/N players. Joe is a Ruby Life Master.



In Memoriam.

Carol L. Eichhorn, Spring

*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 Sarah Springer, Unit 174 Board President - sarahspringerbridge@gmail.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

