



July



Unit 174 July 2024 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.



Sarah Springer

President's Message

Happy Independence Day! Summer has definitely arrived with our temperatures soaring into the 90's and the humidity rising accordingly. Bridge Clubs in our unit have air conditioning, so come out and support our clubs and stay cool! Along with many other players in our unit, I will be heading to Austin to play in the Firecracker Regional, a great way to celebrate our freedoms.

Our Nearly Summer Sectional has come and gone, with our table count rising slowly. We had only twenty-six tables on Sunday, while Friday and Saturday we had 55 and 56, respectively. The Board is still working on making Sundays more appealing to our players, and hopefully we will have more robust competition Sundays in upcoming tournaments. If you have suggestions for making Sundays more attractive, please send them to me or any board member.

We have nine elected Directors on the unit board, and two unelected officers, the Secretary and Treasurer. All these individuals continue to devote their time, talent and treasure to the furtherance of our prime objective: To preserve and promote the best interest of the competitive or tournament form of contract bridge. To that end, we organize four sectional tournaments and one regional every year. Two board directors are usually appointed to chair a particular tournament and everyone on the board helps.

As my mother used to say, "many hands make light work," and the Board of Directors need your help. At the last sectional, we hired two young men to help with the heavy lifting after the tournament. Unfortunately, because we had these two hired to help, the perception was that we did not need any additional help. Wrong! There is so much that needs to be done not only in the setup of the tournament, but also in the tear down. Our next tournament is August 8-9, with the setup on the 7th, and the tear down when we get finished on Sunday (9th). If you are well-bodied (no heavy lifting required - that is for our young helpers) please plan on helping on the 7th and the 9th. Your reward may be in Heaven, but I speak for the Board in giving you a big THANK YOU in advance for helping us with these tournaments, and THANK YOU for all your help in the past as well.

Mark your calendars for the Awesome August Summer Sectional, August 8-9. James Sells and John Eric Watson are hard at work getting everything ready for the tournament, and thanks to Betty Westbrook our beautiful flyer is already available (You can see it in this newsletter). We have made a change to the pair games—instead of double sessions in which you can play in one or both, we will have single sessions, so more winners and more masterpoints! We will have a shorter break on Sunday so we can finish up earlier, so plan on buying lunch from the Shriners' Daughters of the Nile or bring your lunch.

The Halloween Sectional will be in Galveston this fall, October 25 - 27. Dave Becker, Nile Gross and Linda McReynolds are hard at work getting things planned. And believe it or not, we are already working hard on the February 2025 Lone Star Regional. We will be offering the Best Practices Teachers Course once again, so please consider taking this course and starting your own bridge class. Karen Nussbaum will be coordinating the registrants. I took the course last year at the Regional and was certified as a "Best Practices" teacher. I have never taught bridge before, but once I finished the class, I put a message out in my neighborhood and I have been teaching a group of seven ladies. It is hard work, but lots of fun and I have made friends and they all have become friends. Win-Win! Two pairs from my class played in the recent 99er tournament and two of my students got their first masterpoints. Their teacher is very proud and pleased.

In closing, your unit board and I extend to all of you best wishes for a wonderful Independence Day, and a peaceful and productive summer with lots of bridge games and Masterpoint awards. See you at the tables!

Thank you again,

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: Faruk Gopalani, Jan Lynn, Jc Nickens, Debra Oakes, William Paulson, Pamela L Richmond, Janice Sauve, Naomi A Smith, Wei Xu

Transfers: Mrs. Kathleen M Grover, Lalita Limaye, Mr. Christopher L Tsai, Mrs. Liane Tsai, Maryann W Wolff

Welcome!



Rank Advancements

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

Junior Master

Russell Hall, Jay Jorns, Mary Ella Price, Richard G Whaling

Club Master

Lee Emmett, Jessie Y Lee, Sherry L Scarborough, Linda K West

Sectional Master

Sherian Bloomer, Ann Starr

Regional Master

Judi Whaling

NABC Master

Gloria L Bazer, Teresa Becker, David S Good, Dr. Cynthia D Heagy, Craig P Howard

Life Master

Hua Chen, Madhu Moza, Marcella Tigner

Bronze Life Master

Madhu Moza, Charles H Otto, Mrs. Toni Roesler, Sandy Snelling

Silver Life Master

Mr. Ronnie T Martin, Ms. Leora Nowitz, Mrs. Lorita A Tipton

Gold Life Master

Mrs. Naomi Spicer

!!! Congratulations !!!

Member Profile



Never too Old to go Back to School!

BY US Census Bureau

Fun Facts: Fourth of July

The Beginning of Independence

The Declaration of Independence was approved on July 4, 1776, by the 2nd Continental Congress leading 13 colonies to gain independence. This holiday of freedom is celebrated with various festivities that include fireworks, parades, concerts, and time with family. There were 56 signers to the Declaration of Independence and among them a committee of 5 (Benjamin Franklin, John Adams, Thomas Jefferson, Roger Sherman, and Robert R. Livingston) drafted the declaration.

Then & Now

Population of the 13 Colonies and Their Signers to the Declaration of Independence

	Signers	Estimated Population*
Pennsylvania	9	434,373
Virginia	7	747,610
Massachusetts	5	378,787
New Jersey	5	184,139
Connecticut	4	237,946
Maryland	4	319,728
New York	4	340,210
South Carolina	4	249,073
Delaware	3	59,094
Georgia	3	82,548
New Hampshire	3	141,885
North Carolina	3	393,751
Rhode Island	2	68,825

Population of the First 13 States and Their U.S. House of Representatives Seats



118th Congress	Estimated 2023 Population
17	12,961,683
11	8,715,698
9	7,001,399
12	9,290,841
5	3,617,176
8	6,180,253
26	19,571,216
7	5,373,555
1	1,031,890
14	11,029,227
2	1,402,054
14	10,835,491
2	1,095,962

A New Free Nation

2.5 Million

The number of people living in the new free nation in July 1776.



334.9 Million

The nation's estimated population as of July 2023.

Celebrating With a Bang!

- **Approximately \$396 million** — The value of fireworks imported into the United States in 2023.

Stars and Stripes



- **\$6.5 million** — The value of U.S. imports of American flags in 2023.
- **\$1 million** — The value of U.S. flags exported in 2023.

Backyard Barbecues



In the United States in 2021, there were...

- **180** businesses that make household appliances, including **barbecue grills**.
- **276** businesses who use paper and cardboard to make different products, such as **paper plates and cups**.
- **704** snack food manufacturers.



Note: These are for establishments with employees.



CENSUS.GOV/SCHOOLS



Unit News

Coming Tournaments

Date	City	State	Unit	Category	Type
July 1-7	Austin	TX	207	Regional	Open
August 3-4	Austin	TX	207	Sectional	I/N
August 8-11	Houston	TX	174	Sectional	Open
August 15-17	Beaumont	TX	207	Sectional	I/N
August 22-24	Tyler	TX	225	Sectional	Open
August 22-24	Tyler	TX	225	Regional	I/N
August 27-Sep 1	Dallas	TX	176	Regional	Open
September 5-8	New Braunfels	TX	172	Sectional	Open
September 19-22	Spring [Houston]	TX	174	Sectional	I/N
September 19-22	Austin	TX	207	Sectional	Open
September 24-29	Ajijic [Chapala/Guad...]	JA		Regional	Open
September 30-October 6	D16			Sectional	STaC
October 11-13	Fort Worth	TX	183	Sectional	Open
October 16-19	San Antonio	TX	172	Sectional	Open
October 25-27	Galveston	TX	174	Sectional	Open
October 25-27	Galveston	TX	174	Regional	I/N
October 31-November 2	Denton	TX	183	Sectional	Open
November 4-10	Houston	TX	174	Sectional	STaC
November 14-17	Spring [Houston]	TX	174	Sectional	I/N

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

Awesome August Summer Sectional

AWESOME AUGUST SECTIONAL

AUGUST 8-11, 2024

Arabia Shrine Center
10510 Harwin Drive, Houston TX 77036

Thurs, Fri, Sat Aug 8-10

Sunday, Aug 11

Stratified 299er Pairs	Two Sessions *	10 & 2:30	Stratified 299er Pairs	Two Sessions *	10 & TBD
Stratified Open Pairs	Two Sessions *	10 & 2:30	Stratified Open Pairs	Two Sessions *	10 & TBD
Bracketed Swiss Teams	Two Sessions	10 & 2:30	Bracketed Swiss Teams	Two Sessions	10 & TBD

* Players may elect to play single session only.

Stratification

299er Pairs A: 200-300 B: 100-200 C: 0-100
Open Pairs A: 3000+ B: 750-3000 C: 0-750

Hospitality

\$ 10 box lunches available
 \$ 1 coffee
 Free bottled water



Accommodations

TownePlace Suites by Marriott
 10610 Westpark Dr, Houston TX 77042
 (713) 266-2210

Fees

\$15 per session per player
 Credit Card Only

Tournament Directors


John Eric Watson (832) 287-9107 ewat2004@aol.com
 James Sells (281) 785-5295 jamesells@live.com

Partnership

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



99er Nite Club



**THE
99er
NITE CLUB**

**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"!

When: 8pm, 7 days a week
Where: Your Online Club*

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

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

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

7 DAYS A WEEK AT 6:05 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



Future Life Masters



Future Life Masters of Unit 174

www.flm174.org

99er Future Life Masters ALL ARE WELCOME

On BBO
TUESDAYS 3:05

"Houston U174 FLM 99er"

Virtual Club game based in Houston...meet other D16 players online...you will see us at area Regionals & Sectionals!

Contact:
Mary Ellen Vail
MEVAIL48@gmail.com

Regular Club Games

Face-to-Face

199er Games

- Clear Lake Bridge Club WEDNESDAYS at 2:00 PM

299er Games

- Clear Lake Bridge Club MONDAYS at 2:00 PM
- Bridge Academy of West Houston WEDNESDAYS at 10:30
- Bridge Club of Houston Selected SATURDAYS...check website

Online at BBO



- **0-99er FLM Tuesdays at 3:05**
- All are welcomed! If new to the game, make sure you have your ACBL# linked to your BBO Account
- Questions? Contact MaryEllen Vail: mevail48@gmail.com

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 - June 25, 2024:

Total Tables: 8427
Total F2F: 7572
Total Online: 365
Total Swiss Teams: 484

The number of clubs in our unit is holding at 25. The top three club table counts are:

1. Clear Lake Bridge Club: 2043 Tables, all F2F
2. Bridge Academy of West Houston: 1260 Tables, all F2F
3. Bridge Club of Houston: 1167 Tables, 835.5 F2F, 275 Online
4. Lone Star Bridge Club: 803 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 1318 tables and Bridge Academy of West Houston with 1260.

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 is open on Friday, July 5th.

Apple Special Games:

July 29th and August 26th: The 299 games on Monday will be back for the summer.

*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](#).

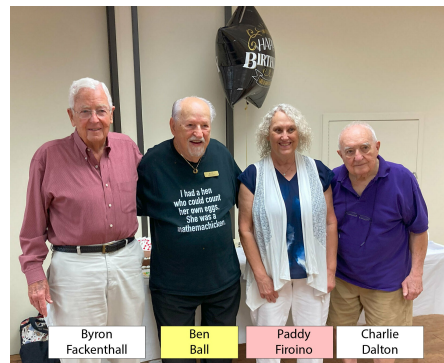
Only drinks in bottles or covered containers are allowed. No food is allowed at the tables during play. You are welcome to bring food and eat before the game starts.

Apple II will be closed on Friday, July 26th because the County Commissioner scheduled a Children's day at the facility.

Birthday Party

We had a birthday party to celebrate June birthdays on Thursday, Jun 13th. Byron and Charlie celebrated their 79th birthdays and Ben his 96th. Ben still plays E/W! Paddy's age was kept secret but she is the baby of this prestigious group.

Congratulations!



The Longest Day

The Longest Day is an annual fundraising event by the Alzheimer's Association held to support the fight against Alzheimer's disease. The Bridge Academy of West Houston is supporting this effort in four ways:

1. Online auction to partner with some of the better players such as Joe Quinn, Georgiana Gates ...
2. Purchase raffle tickets for 10 free plays.
3. Make donations.
4. Play in the Longest Day game held on Wednesday, June 19th.

Over \$3800 was raised. Congratulations to all the volunteers and players.

Mentor/Mentee

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

July 4nd - 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.

Future Life Masters and 8 is enough Swiss Teams

Our Future Life Masters (FLM) and 8 is enough Swiss Teams games are held monthly on Sunday at 1:30 p.m. The next game will be held on

July 21st - FLM & 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, John Herzer and Tom Jahnke

directors

Game Calendar

Tue – Jul 2	Charity	Thu – Jul 18	NAP
Wed – Jul 3	NAP	Sun – Jul 21	Charity
Thu – Jul 4	Closed – public holiday	Wed – Jul 24	Club Championship
Wed – Jul 10	NAP	Thu – Jul 25	Charity
Thu – Jul 11	NAP	Wed – Jul 31	Club Championship
Wed – Jul 17	Charity		

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: 1st and 3rd Mondays at 7:00 p.m. (**Protege should invite and pay for game of mentor.**) Contact Mike Linkins if you have any questions: minkins@swbell.net.

BCOH Open Games (Face-2-Face):
Monday: 11:55 a.m.
Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday: 10:30 a.m.

ALERT - ALERT **Time changes for Saturday games******
Games will begin at noon.

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

SAVE THE DATES:

8 is Enough Swiss Teams - July 16th at 10:30 a.m. (**Register at the club.**)

Mentor/Mentee F2F: July 9th and 23rd 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 to 10:10 a.m. Game to follow begins 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.**

July 6th - **Independence Day Celebration:** "Hot Diggity Dog" - Hotdogs will be served at 11:15 a.m., please bring a side to share. Open and 299er games begin at noon.

July 13th - Full lunch with Summer Salads will be provided starting at 11:15am. NAP Pairs and NAP C Pairs (NLM<500) games begin at noon. Lots of points half red, half black and prizes for section tops! Check out the flyer below.

July 19th - Pizza Friday: Come and enjoy a free pizza lunch and a fun game of bridge.

July 27th - Come celebrate the 80th birthdays for Julie Halperin, Judy Cupps, Joanna Heebner and Marsha Boyer. Food will be catered and served at 11:00 a.m. Open and 299er games follow at noon.

New Beginner Bridge classes start in July!

All classes will be taught on Saturdays at the Club by Susan Banks-Johnson and Andy Remson.

If you would like to learn to play bridge for the first time, bone up on your

basics, have the opportunity to ask questions in a safe environment or if you have friends that are interested in learning bridge; these classes are for you and your friends!

The classes use Audrey Grant teaching materials available on Amazon.

To sign up, please contact Susan Banks-Johnson or Andy Remson. Click to see the class [flyer](#).

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.

Playing online? CHOOSE HOUSTON!

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
9:00 AM	<i>Monthly, usually second Sat; hand review after the game →</i>					FLM 0-99	<i>flm174.org</i>
10:00 AM							
10:10 AM							
11:50 AM							
12:00 PM							
3:00 PM							
3:05 PM	FLM 0-99						
	<i>↓ First and third Mondays only. Visit www.bridgewebs.com/bcoh for details</i>						
7:00 PM	Mentor				Open		

Check the club and FLM websites for the most up-to-date information.



BRIDGE *club of* **HOUSTON**



Twenty-Table Saturdays!

Saturday, July 13

NAP Qualifiers

(lots of points - half black, half red)

11:15 AM Lunch

Full lunch featuring hearty Summer salads

12:00 PM NAP Pairs

Prizes for section tops!

No partner? No problem!

**12:00 PM NAP C Pairs
(NLM <500)**

Prizes for section tops!

No partner? No problem!

4688 Louetta Rd
Spring, TX 77388
281-651-6550

Entry: \$10

Questions?: kbl@fastmail.com

Register: www.bridgewebs.com/bcoh



Clear Lake Bridge Club

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

PREVIOUSLY...


THE LONGEST DAY
ALZHEIMER'S ASSOCIATION

**A PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN ACBL
AND THE ALZHEIMER'S ASSOCIATION**

The Longest Day games were held on Wednesday, June 19th at 10:00 a.m. and at 2:00 p.m. The exact amount raised is still in flux as of this reporting but we know we have exceeded our 2023 donations. Team captain and chair, Edna Rice will be reporting the final tally in next month's newsletter.

This year we had 18 Stars in our event. We want to thank them for putting themselves out there so our *Bid for a Star* event was fun for all who participated (both the bidders and our Stars). We particularly want to thank Dolores Aquino who we consider our "Visiting Expert" for trekking all the way

south to our club in spite of the weather. In addition we want to thank Thomas Rush for his generosity for a play at 2025 Lone Star Regional and for his Online Class donations.

The continued generosity of our members is really amazing both in terms of donations to the Alzheimer's Association but also with providing food for our light breakfast that preceded the morning game to those who in spite of the weather came out in large numbers, the members who made sure a nice lunch was available between the games and finally the clean up after both.

Watch for a detailed report and photos in the September/October *Scorecard*.

U P C O M I N G . . .

July 4th: The club will be open. Open and 0-749 games at 1:00 p.m.,

July 17th: Mentor/Mentee at 2:00 p.m. For more information and to submit a contact form, visit the [CLBC Mentor/Mentee site](#).

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 at 2:00 p.m.

0-199 Games: 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. June 23rd 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.

Bobbie Moutz
2nd Vice President
281-546-9199
natcolemmed@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.

- We use Bridge Mate II Bridge pads.
- We do not use slippery plastic cards.
- At least 36 upgraded games are held each year.
- 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 available immediately.
- Fully qualified and experienced directors.
- All games including upgraded are \$7.00.

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

John Eric Watson
ewat2004@aol.com
832 287 9107



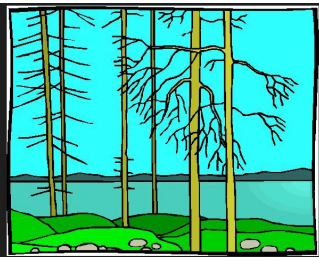
KINGWOOD DUPLICATE BRIDGE CLUB

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.

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

June 2024

Our Bridge Club is a very welcoming and friendly Club. We have players from all levels, so all players new to duplicate will feel comfortable. 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. Please bring your lunch as we have microwaves for heating and refrigerators for keeping your food cold.

Our games are played in the Fellowship Room at April Sound Church, located at [67 1/2 April Wind Dr. S](#), Montgomery. There is easy access from Hwy 105 into the church parking lot.

Temporarily our "partnership desk" is not available to help with obtaining partners. Gerry Earnest is under the weather and healing from a broken leg. Thank you for keeping her in your positive thoughts and prayers.

The following is what's happening in July:

- July 5th - North American Pairs (NAP)
- July 12th - Charity Fund
- July 19th - North American Pairs (NAP)
- July 26th - Club Championship - Pizza lunch provided

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

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.

July's Calendar of Events

Monday, July 1st - Free bridge lesson with Diamond Life Master Jeff Kroll. The class will be followed by our birthday party for July babies.! The bridge game will be a NAP qualifying game.

Thursday, July 4th - Happy 4th of July Celebration. Club is providing BarBQ and trimmings. Please bring sides and/or desserts to begin serving at 11:00 a.m. The bridge game will be a NAP qualifying game.

Monday, July 8th - Club Championship

Tuesday, July 9th - ACBL Instant Matchpoint Game - game begins at 12 Noon.

WIN GOLD POINTS!

Thursday, July 11th - Club Championship. Enjoy Free Pizza for lunch ! LSBC Board Meeting

Monday, July 15th - NAP

Tuesday, July 16th - NAP and Mentor/Mentee Game

Thursday, July 18th - NAP

Monday, July 22nd - Charity Club Championship for ACBL

Thursday, July 25th - Charity Club Championship for St Paul

Monday, July 29 - TBA

Tuesday, July 30 - Monthly Swiss Team Game - Club Championship

Thursday, June 20th - THE LONGEST DAY

We raised money with a silent auction bidding to play bridge games with our local "experts". We have extended the bidding one week until Thursday, June 27th, so no total is yet available. We are expecting to exceed or equal our donation from last year.

AND.. Congratulations to our newest **Gold Life Master** Nancy Carlin!

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](#).



SPRING BRANCH DUPLICATE BRIDGE

Games are on Tuesdays and Thursdays starting at 11:00 a.m.

Location: Trini Mendenhall Sosa Community Center, 1414 Wirt Road, Houston, Texas. Located in the northeast corner of the intersection of Wirt Road and Westview in the Spring Branch area.

Regular games are \$1/person. Totally non-profit in accordance with County rules.

Manager & Director
John Herzer
737-287-7888
johncherzer@gmail.com
[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.

The club had The Longest Day on Friday, June 21, and was able to contribute more than \$3600 to the Alzheimer's Association.



The Star Alzheimer's Gang Strikes Again with their Generosity.

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



Contributors



Using Bidding Space Efficiently

BY **THOMAS RUSH**

This article describes two instances where advanced players might want to modify certain conventional bids to use bidding space more efficiently. The conventions discussed are Roman Key Card Blackwood (RKC) and Sprial.

Note that these are not standard treatments: I recommend using them only

in established, solid partnerships where you can discuss them and practice them together. This article is targeted at advanced players.

RKC

In the standard definition of RKC, we use either a 3014 or 1430 response structure. A flaw or problem lies when hearts are trump and the response to 4NT is 5♦ (regardless of whether you play 1430 or 3014). Asker doesn't know if partner has the trump queen, since when missing it and a key card we don't want to be in slam. However, often we will want to be in slam when missing one key card if only we knew our side possessed the trump queen. What to do?

Kickback was invented to solve this problem. When the trump suit is hearts, we use a bid of 4♠ to ask for keycards instead of 4NT. The responses are the same four steps, but they occur one bid lower than if using 4NT. (4NT still asks for keycards when spades are trump!)

	RKC Blackwood 4NT asks		Kickback 4♠ asks when ♥ trump	
	3014	1430	3014	1430
0 or 3	5♣	5♦	4NT	5♣
1 or 4	5♦	5♣	5♣	4NT
2 or 5, no Queen	5♥	5♥	5♦	5♦
2 or 5 + Queen	5♠	5♠	5♥	5♥

With RKC, we may not be able to ask for the Queen when hearts are trump; a 5♦ response takes away the Queen ask unless we're sure of 6 and looking for a grand slam (over the 5♦ response with hearts trump, 5♥ is a signoff, and 5♠ is the Queen ask). With Kickback, the 30 and 14 responses will always be either 4NT or 5♣, allowing us to ask for the queen and stop at 5♥ if our side doesn't have it (Responder's "no" is a return to 5♥).

The other flaw with standard RKC when hearts is trump: if the answer is "Two with the trump Queen", we're at 5♠, and can't stop short of slam. What if asker needed partner to have three keys to make slam a good bet? Oooops, we're too high! Kickback avoids this situation, since the answer will never be past 5 of the major suit trump suit.

Side note: I've heard that a very fine bidding theorist said, "If Kickback had been invented first, 1430 would never have been invented." 1430 is just an attempt to make the awkward 5♦ response less likely (the one key card response comes up more often than the zero or three response). 1430 still doesn't 'fix' the 5♠ response of "2 with" when hearts are trump!

Pitfalls of Kickback

Kickback has two potential pitfalls: First, there can be some confusion if both spades and trump have been mentioned as potential trump suits. Is partner's 4♠ to play, or Kickback? Have the discussion with your partner and work through lots of practice hands on your favorite online platform. Secondly, you'll need to remember that when 4♠ is Kickback, 4NT becomes the spade cuebid, NOT RKC.

Well-oiled partnerships work these things out and find the benefits of Kickback outweigh the additional memory load.

Ethics Note: It is good active ethics for the declaring side to explain any conventional but non-alertable bids like key card auctions *after* the auction is over and *before* the opening lead has been made. Kickback and its responses are in a class of bids called *Delayed Alerts* - that is, they are not alerted when made, but **must be** explained before the opening lead is made.

Spiral

Spiral is used after opener raises a major suit in an auction like 1♦ - 1♠; 2♠. In some cases, opener will have raised with three-card support. How can responder find out? Commonly, responder bids 2NT (**Spiral**) to ask opener to clarify their hand in four steps:

1. 3♣ is 3-card support minimum

2. 3♦ is 3-card support maximum
3. 3♥ is 4-card support minimum
4. 3♠ is 4-card support maximum.

This system works most of the time but may land you in a 4-3 fit at times when 2NT might be a better contract.

To overcome that difficulty, many advanced and expert partnerships play that Spiral is the next step after opener raises responder's major - 1m - 1♠; 2♠ - 2NT is still Spiral, but after 1m - 1♥; 2♥, 2♠ becomes the Spiral ask. Opener uses the same four steps, but they start with:

1. 2NT is 3-card support minimum
2. 3♣ is 3-card support maximum
3. 3♦ is 4-card support minimum
4. 3♥ is 4-card support maximum

Sometimes, you'll be happy to be able to stop at 2NT when opener has that 3-card raise with a minimum hand.

A further modification(!)

To find a better fit than the possible 4-3 major suit, you can make an additional modification (this requires you to use 2♠ as the Spiral ask after a heart raise!) where opener's rebids are:

	2♠ Spiral Ask	2NT Spiral Ask	Meaning of opener's rebid
O P E N E R ' S R E B I D S	2NT	3 opener's <u>minor</u>	3-card support minimum
	3 opener's <u>minor</u>	3 "other" <u>minor</u>	3-card support but 5-card minor suit
	3 "other" <u>minor</u>	3♥	3-card support maximum
	3♥	3♠	4-card support minimum
	3♠	3NT	4-card support maximum

Pitfalls

There's a bit of a memory load in remembering the Spiral response is 2♠ when responder's suit is hearts. In addition, the partnership must remember that 2NT is now used for whatever game try 2♠ might have been previously (the meaning of 1m - 1♥; 2♥ - 2♠ is now shown by 1m - 1♥; 2♥ - 2NT).

Conclusion

They say that real estate is the best investment because they're not making any more of it. Bidding space would be a close second, because they're not making any more of it, either! That said, you can often find ways to optimize how you use bidding space so that you use it more efficiently and effectively. I've outlined two ways advanced and expert players do that in this article, and I hope it's useful to you.

Thomas Rush is a regular contributor to the newsletter, bridge teacher and previous unit 174 board member who lives in the Houston, Texas 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, or 832-228-7835.

In Memoriam



* Mrs. Genie F. Hayden, Missouri City

*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

