



Unit 174 February 2025 Newsletter



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Choose Houston - Basic Online Schedule
Clear Lake Bridge Club (CLBC)
Cypress Northwest DBC & Katy DBC
Fort Bend Duplicate Bridge Club - Sugar Land
Kingwood Duplicate Bridge Club
Lake Conroe Duplicate Bridge Club (LCDBC)
Lone Star Bridge Club (LSBC)
Pebble Creek Duplicate Bridge Club
Star Duplicate Bridge Club***

Contributors

Sam Khayatt & Jeff Kroll - Decisions, decisions...

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.

President's Message



Sarah Springer

It's the sweetest time of year - Valentines' Day! Show your love by wearing hearts to the Max Levit Lone Star Regional starting February 3, 2025, and by playing in our biggest, loveliest tournament of the year. I look forward to feeling all the love of our Unit 174 players show to each other and to our guests.

We all know that we are supposed to be good to our partners - let's show them our love at the Max Levit Lone Star Regional by paying attention to their every bid and every card that they play, minding every signal, and celebrating together at the end of a loving day of bridge. (Unfortunately, we can't do that at the table - we want everyone to feel good- and loved!)

Many of our members have shown their love already by naming our games after friends and loved ones. Lynne Andress Levit named the entire tournament after her beloved late husband, Max. Dianna Gittleman named all of Thursday's events for her beloved late husband, Joe. As you come to the tournament each day, show your love to these two fine ladies, as well as the numerous other honorees who will be showing up in your daily bulletin and in your score results.

Show your love to our candidates for the next Unit 174 Board - Fred Gregory, Joe Quinn, Cindy Schaefer, Lisa Sommer, John Eric Watson, and Judi Whaling. Check out the candidate poster at the games and read about our slate of candidates that is in this issue also on our website. Voting starts in March. Directions about how you can vote will be posed on the [website](#). You will be able to vote online, absentee, and in-person. Show your love for these volunteers, consider their qualifications, and vote.

They say that love makes the world go around, and it helps the mood of everyone around you when you treat each person with love and respect. I want to show my love and appreciation for all of the members of the Board of Directors who have worked tirelessly to promote bridge in the Houston area, all of our many volunteers who make things happen for us, love and thanks to Evvie Gilbert for keeping us all in the know with her careful editing of our newsletter, to Allison Ochsner for her thorough management of our website, and to Betty Westbrook for doing such a wonderful job with our flyers and their overwhelming number of iterations. If I were to mention every person who contributes by name, I would be way over budget on my newsletter space - just know when you step up to help the unit, you are loved. And all of our players that make up our unit - Happy Valentine's Day, and be mine, especially at the Max Levit Lone Star Regional, February 3-9, Westchase Marriott, Houston!

To close, I write to you all a silly poem for Valentine's Day:

Roses are red
Violets are blue
I love to play bridge
And so do you.

February brings the LSR
To the best city by far:
Space City, USA
Let games begin and we will play.

February 3rd starts our Regional.
Hopefully weather will be seasonal.
Not too hot and not too cold -
Come and play and make bids bold!

Enter the pairs, the open, gold rush;
Team up in the Swiss
Hear the room's sudden hush.
Good times is our wish.

We honor Lynne's Max
By naming the tourney
Their warm love a fact
Bridge part of their journey.

HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY, AND LET'S PLAY BRIDGE!



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: Lisa Goebel, Paul Johnson, Hua Li, Jian Tao, Pamela White

Transfers: Mr. George Sarnoff, Mr. Vijay A Shirsat, Zhongqi Zhao

Welcome!



Masterpoint Milestones

Listed below are the Unit 174 Masterpoint Milestones reported by ACBL as of January 2, 2025. An explanation of ranks may be found on the [ACBL website](#).

Junior Master
Donna Sachs

Club Master
Janet Jordan, Al Crump Madison, Dk K Medlin

Sectional Master
Ms. Christy W Kolva, Karel Kriel, Larry Lawhorn

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

NABC Master
Mr. Bradley C Etnyre, Mr. Daniel Macholan, Chung Tan, Shuangxing Yu, Xiaoxing Yu

Advanced NABC Master
Gretchen Y Lindquist

Life Master
Ms. Jan Delery, Mrs. Jean J Jardine

Bronze Life Master
Janice Rush

Silver Life Master
Linda C Aaron, Mrs. Johnell McKee

Ruby Life Master
Steven Gordon

Sapphire Life Master
Mrs. Gail D Carter

Emerald Life Master
Dr. Dolores C Aquino

!!! Congratulations !!!

[Editor's Note: As requested by Teresa Bolen, we apologize for publishing in the *Unit 174 January 2025 Newsletter* that she achieved her Life Master and in the *November/December 2024 Scorecard* that she had reached a new masterpoint milestone. This reporting was due to a blip in the ACBL database that occurred during an update and has been corrected.]

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 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	Ajjic	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 27 – March 1	Houston	TX	174	Sectional	I/N
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
March 27-29	San Miguel De Allende	GJ	254	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 24-26	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 Tournaments](#).

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
kareunit174@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.

Come and Play! FLM DAY



Tuesday - FEB 4 Saturday - FEB 8

FLM Games:

Tues, Feb 4	0-99 Pairs	10:00 a.m.	2:30 p.m.
Sat, Feb 8	0-99 Pairs	10:00 a.m.	2:30 p.m.

COUPON

Come to the FLM Table and get your coupon good for 1 Free Play on FLM Tuesday or FLM Saturday.
Look for the Red balloons!

BAWH 499er Sectional



499er Sectional

Thursday, February 27th 10:30 am & 3:00 pm

Friday, February 28th 10:00 am & 3:00 pm

and Saturday, March 1st 10:00 am & 3:00 pm

Also a 0-10 MPs Game Friday, Feb 28th 10 am

Cost \$10 per Player per Session

**Come out and play and earn SILVER at the
Academy!**

Partnership: Judi Whaling 832-661-1644 judiwhaling@gmail.com

**At the Arabia Shrine
Prairie Room (front right corner)
10510 Harwin Dr
www.bridgeacademyofwesthouston.com**

BCOH 499er Sectional

BRIDGE HOUSTON

499^{er} Sectional April 24th -26th, 2025

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

<p>Event Schedule <i>Thursday thru Saturday</i> April 24th – 26th Single Sessions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♠ 499er Pairs 10am ♠ 499er Pairs 2pm 	<p>Entry Fees <i>(Per Session - Cash Only)</i></p> <p>Current ACBL Members \$12 Lapsed ACBL Members \$16</p> <p>ACBL number required to play. 120 day guest membership available free at https://www.acbl.org/membership/</p>
<p>Stratification* A (300-499) B (100-300) C (0-100) <i>* Strats may be modified by Director</i></p>	<p>Snacks / Lunch Free snacks and drinks. Lunch available for \$8 Cash each day if ordered by 10am.</p>
<p>Need a Partner? Contact Zane Bolen 281-813-5448 zbolen@comcast.net Ambassador available for all Sessions.</p>	<p>Lodging SpringHill Suites 20303 Chasewood Park Dr., Houston, TX 77070 has a discount rate of \$105 + tax per night, and free cancellation 24 hours before check-in. Contact hotel directly at 832-953-2228 and ask for Imagine Peels and mention BCOH Bridge Tournament.</p>
<p>Notes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♠ BCOH is a fragrance free facility. ♠ Life Masters with less than 500 pts can play. 	
<p>Tournament Chair Zane Bolen zbolen@comcast.net</p>	

Silver Points – Silver Points – Silver Points

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!

Lone Star Regional has games for New Players!

FLM Day I is Tuesday, Feb 4 – 99er games at 10:00 & 2:30

FLM Day II is Saturday, Feb 8 – 99er games 10:00 & 2:30

0-5 Mps game on Friday, Feb 7 at 10:00

See Flyer for more info on www.acblunit174.org

WEEKLY 49er Game!

EVERY Sunday afternoon at 1:30

\$5.00

NEW!

SINGLETONS WELCOME - EVERYONE PLAYS!

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.



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.



Lisa Z. Sommer was born and raised in China. She attended Beijing University and earned her BS in business. Lisa taught at Beijing Institute of Economics for six years as an associate professor. She worked for a British satellite television and communication company as sales manager for four years.

Lisa moved to Houston in 1994 with her husband, Charles. She worked for Upstream (Norwegian company) as sales manager, and Tidewater (New Orleans company) as a market analyst. Since 2003, Lisa works an independent consultant for the oil and gas industry with her focus on upstream technology between United States and China. This work allows her to travel internationally but also provides lots of free time to play bridge and golf.

Lisa learned bridge from her husband about 30 years ago and they played lots of party bridge. She started playing duplicate bridge in 2000 and is now a Gold Life Master. Lisa says, "I truly love the game and greatly appreciate the club owners' and directors' contribution to the game. If elected, Lisa would, ".like to focus my efforts on attracting new people to the game."



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
2024	16,900.00	24

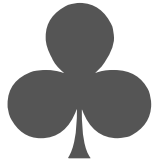
The ACBL website is still broken however, ACBL Executive Director, Bronia Jenkins was able to provide a tool that she is using to gather this information. The following numbers are the Unit 174 table counts from January 1-28, 2025:

Total Tables:	1,257
Total F2F:	1,109
Total Online:	63
Total Swiss Teams:	80

We are down to 18 clubs from 24 at the end of 2024. The top five clubs are:

1. Clear Lake Bridge Club:	356 Tables, all F2F
2. Bridge Club of Houston:	221 Tables, 158 F2F, 63 Online
3. Bridge Academy of West Houston:	165 Tables, all F2F
4. Lone Star Bridge Club:	118 Tables, all F2F
5. Apple II DBC	92 Tables, all F2F

One other bit of information, Unit 174's Clear Lake Bridge Club is still the District 16 leader for F2F tables with 356 followed by Bridge Club of Houston with 221 and Bridge Center of Austin with 201 tables. So, Unit 174 has two clubs in the top three for District 16.



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.

Note:

Both Apple clubs will be closed during the Max Levit Lone Star Regional (February 3-9). The full schedule will resume on February 10.

New Clubs' Policy:

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

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

For information, please contact:

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

Friday - Apple II - Tom Jahnke
tomtomj211@yahoo.com - 713-777-0333

Results and additional information [here](#).

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



Bridge Academy of West Houston

499er Sectional

The Bridge Academy will host a 499er Sectional from Thursday, February 27th through Saturday, March 1st. The game schedule is Thursday at 10:30 a.m. and 3:00 p.m., and Friday and Saturday at 10:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m.

Additionally, there will be a 0-10 masterpoint game on Friday morning at 10:00 a.m.

If you need assistance finding a partner, please reach out to Judi Whaling at judiwhaling@gmail.com or (832) 551-1644.

Mentor/Mentee

Our monthly Mentor/Mentee game is held on the first Tuesday of the month

at
10:30 a.m. However, we will be closed during the Max Levit Lone Star
Regional so the February game will be on the second Tuesday

February 11th - 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

February 23rd - 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 and Thursday games 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 - 8 is Enough 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

Tues – Feb 11	Educational Fund	Thu – Feb 20	Educational Fund
Wed – Feb 12	Educational Fund	Sun – Feb 23	Educational Fund
Thu – Feb 13	Educational Fund	Wed – Feb 26	Educational Fund
Wed – Feb 19	Educational Fund	Thu – Feb 28	Educational 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](#).

Please Note: The club is closed during the Max Levitt Lone Star Regional (February 3-9).

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.

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:

8 is Enough Swiss Teams - Tuesday, February 18 at 10:30 a.m. (**Register at the club.**)

Mentor/Mentee F2F - Tuesdays, February 11 & 25 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.**

New 0-49er - FLM games every Sunday at 1:30 p.m. Contact Carol McCord at 936-650-8180 or email-carol for more information.

Twenty Table Saturday - February 22

- Upgraded Club Championship game (Maximum points)
- Open and 299er Pairs games
- Prizes for section tops! Other random prizes!
- No partner, no problem - we will match you
- Full lunch featuring lasagna is provided
- Lunch at 11:15 a.m., Games start 12:00 p.m.

Please register for the game in which you would like to play so we can estimate the amount of required food. Make your reservation [online](#).

Welcome the 2025 BCOH Board of Directors

Janice Rush - president, Bob Ziegler - vice president, Kathy L'Hommedieu - treasurer, Susie Dittman - secretary. Returning members are Mike Linkins, Charles Woody, Kas Rangan. New members are Kathy Naylor and Baines Manning.

Dolores Aquino, Emerald Life Master Party

Mark your calendars for Saturday, March 1 and come celebrate Dolores' remarkable achievement.

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...

Our January Mentor/Mentee Winners are:

Mentor Mentee Winners!

Overall Winners
Joyce Wormser & Mentee Beverly Gebhart

E/W Winners
Bobbie Moutz & Mentee Ann Bragg
01/2025

UPCOMING...

All February Games are Education Foundation Games so come earn those extra points.

The Annual Meeting will be held Saturday, February 22nd at 11:30 a.m. to elect the 2025 officers and conduct a business meeting. The nominating committee include Claudia Parr, Edna Rice and Darlyn Dusek. Pizza will be available between the meeting and the Saturday, 1:00 p.m. game.

The proposed officers are:

Sherry Scoggins – president
Jim Ochsner – 1st vice president
Judith Rebman – 2nd vice president
Penny Dougherty – secretary
Bill Churchman – treasurer

You annual dues must be paid if you plan to vote.

Mentor/Mentee Game:

The Mentor/Mentee (MM) game is Wednesday, February 19th at 2:00 p.m. For

information and to submit a contact form, please visit the [CLBC MM site](#) or contact Marcia Chambliss, MM Director, who does an amazing job of matching pairs and coordinating the games. Due to costs, only members may participate in this game however we welcome all visitors to any of our other games.

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. February 2nd is 8 is Enough. Players are encouraged to come and practice with their team prior to the Max Levit Lone Star Regional that begins on February 3. 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.

The 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.

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
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
jwarren7602@gmail.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.

Let's Make Bridge Fun Again

- No Game will be held during the Max Levitt Lone Star Regional.
- The game is in the Prairie room every Tuesday, *not* the Oasis room.
- 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, gentle 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:

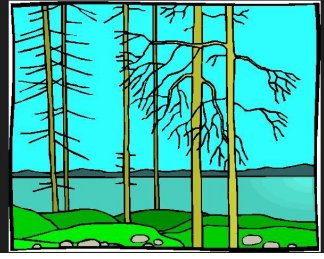
Wednesday and Thursday at 10:00 a.m. at the Kingwood Community Center, 4102 Rustic Woods Drive, Kingwood, TX 77345. Entries are still \$2 and \$3 for upgraded games.

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

February 2025

Happy Valentines' Day Month Everyone!

January was an exciting month for our bridge club. As most of you know, we have moved locations. We now meet at the Restoration Church, at [107 Fish Creek Thoroughfare, Montgomery](#). We are enjoying our new location so much and the staff at the church have been very accommodating and welcoming to their new residents!

As you drive onto the church property from Fish Creek, please drive all the way to the back parking area. Our game will be held in the Worship Center 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 midday, 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 February (All Educational Fund Games):

- February 7
- February 14
- February 21
- February 28 - Pizza Day

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.

Please Note: The club is open the first week of February with our regularly Scheduled games on Monday, February 3 at 11:45 a.m. and Thursday, February 6 at 10:30 a.m.

February Calendar of Events

All February games are Education Fund.

Monday, February 3 - 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:

1. Methods of interfering over opponent's 1NT opening bid with consideration given to these factors: strong, weak, direct, balancing, shape of our hand and vulnerability.
2. Methods of interfering with opponent's strong 2♣ opening bid or the 1♣ Precision opening bid.
3. IMPs versus Marchpoints when interfering or competing.
4. Equal Level Conversion
5. Garbage and Crawling Stayman

February birthdays will also be celebrated with a special cake!

Thursday, February 6 - Game begins at 10:30 a.m.

Monday, February 10 - Game begins at 11:45 a.m.

Thursday, February 13 - Game begins at 10:30 a.m. & Free Pizza Lunch.

Monday, February 17 - Game begins at 11:45 a.m.

Tuesday, February 18 - Mentor/Mentee game begins at 10:30 a.m. Please contact Anita Rothfuss at 936-537-5039 or [email](mailto:anita@pebblecreekbridgeclub.com) her. If you want to play as either a Mentor or a Mentee, Anita will be happy to help you and arrange a partner. A Mentee is a Non-Life Master.

Thursday, February 20 - Game begins at 10:30 a.m.

Monday, February 24 - Game begins at 11:45 a.m.

Thursday, February 27 - Game begins 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](http://www.pebblecreekbridgeclub.com).



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](http://www.pebblecreekbridgeclub.com).



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.



Contributors



Decisions, decisions...

BY SAM KHAYATT
& JEFF KROLL

The screenshot shows a bridge bidding interface with the following details:

- Board:** 6♦
- North (Robot):** ♠52, ♥K6, ♦K976, ♣A6542
- West (Robot):** ♠KJ109764, ♥3, ♦A32, ♣J10
- East (Robot):** ♠8, ♥AJ842, ♦Q105, ♣Q973
- South (texashen):** ♠AQ3, ♥Q10975, ♦J84, ♣K8
- Auction:**
 - West: 2♠ (pre-empt)
 - North: Dbl
 - East: Pass
 - South: 2NT
 - West: Pass
 - North: Pass
 - East: Pass
 - South: Pass
- Score:** 0-0, 2NT South

	W	N	E	S	
			P	1♥	12 HCP + 1 length point = 13
2♠ pre-empt X: 4-4 minors; 9+ pts	2♠	X	P	2N	12-15 points and a spade stop

Comments on the auction:

- Some West players would preempt 3♠ with a decent seven-card suit, but at unfavorable vulnerability, this West took the low road and decided to preempt at the two-level.
- North's double is a negative double, showing the other two suits.
- Although we would prefer to be behind the spade bidder with the 2N bid, we decide that 2N is a better option than:

Rebidding a less than stellar five-card suit
Going to the three-level in a possible 4-3 diamond fit

West leads the ♣J. Declarer (south) plays ♣A so that a finesse can be tried. No, not the spade finesse. That is surely a losing proposition; West is guaranteed to have the ♠K. The ♥10 is finessed against the ♥J. East has the majority of non-spade cards, so ♥J is likely to be onside. Declarer needs as many heart tricks as possible. The finesse works and the ♥10 wins.

Declarer leads a low heart to the ♥K and unfortunately, but not unexpectedly, East wins the ♥A.

East leads the ♠8. Because West preempted 2♠, not 3♠, we assume incorrectly that East has two spades. Nothing can be gained from playing the ♠Q, so declarer wins the ♠A and leads a low diamond to West's ♦A.

Now it is West's turn to misguess. West guessed (hoped?) that South had started with only two spades, that the suit was 7222 around the table. Were that true, playing the ♠K would drop the two remaining spades (including the ♠Q) and enable West to run the rest of the spades. West knows that East does not have three spades; East would have raised with three. West knows

that East does not have the ♠Q; with ♠Q8, East would have led the ♠Q. So, West is hoping that East started with ♠83 and that north started with ♠AQ.

West cashes the ♠K, making declarer's ♠Q good. West exits with a diamond, won by East's ♦Q and leaving this position:

The diagram shows a bridge hand in progress. North is the declarer (Robot) with a 2NT contract. The cards are as follows:

- North (Robot): ♠, ♥, ♦K9, ♣6542
- West (Robot): ♠10976, ♥, ♦3, ♣10
- East (Robot): ♠, ♥J8, ♦10, ♣Q73
- South (texashen): ♠Q, ♥Q97, ♦J, ♣K

The diamond suit is shown with cards 7, 2, Q, 8. A score of 3-4 is shown in the bottom right.

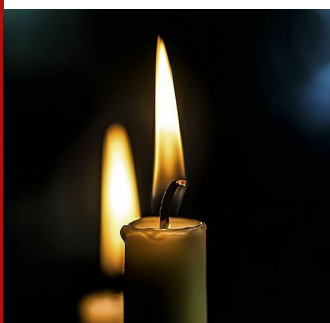
Declarer takes two tricks in every suit, making 2N.

West's decision to lead the ♠K was flawed for several reasons:

1. If South had held a ♠A doubleton, it would have been correct to duck the first spade trick and win the second, hoping to cut communication between the defenders (assuming West cannot get back on lead). Declarer's play of the ♠A should have hinted to West that south held more than two spades.
2. At matchpoint scoring every trick matters. The ♠K is a dangerous lead as it could set up an extra trick (and, in this case, the whole contract) for declarer. At IMPs scoring an overtrick is usually immaterial; at matchpoints an extra trick is critical.

If West had decided to lead the ♣10 instead of the ♠K, North/South can take only four of the last five tricks: a heart, a club and two diamonds. Down 1.

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

Rao M. Chalasani, Sugar Land
* Mrs. Jeane Crumpler, Conroe
* Jim M. Hawkins Jr., Cypress
* Kenneth B. McAllister, Webster

*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

