



American Contract  
Bridge League

# NEWSLETTER

January 2018



## Events and News

Please refer to the President's Post found each month at the Unit 174 Website, [www.acblunit174.org](http://www.acblunit174.org). We hope you will set your home page at our Unit 174 Website and keep up with the news as it happens.

### *President's Message*

It's finally almost here! We are ready for the **LONE STAR REGIONAL January 29-February 4**. **Ken Hudson** and I, as Tournament Chairs, are anxious to be able to report that we have achieved all goals and broken records! **Lauri Laufman** and her excellent team of volunteers will be running our fine Partnership Desk, and they are ready to help all comers. We always get kudos from our Unit members as well as our wonderful visitors for our results-oriented Partnership Desk! You won't find any better service, so if you haven't firmed your plans for partners and teammates, they will be ready to help! And we all know that Unit 174 has the Best Hospitality anywhere! **Sam Khayatt** and her special volunteers will have their bowls filled and ready. And Sam will also be printing the labels for the attendees. Besides labels, our giveouts are a 2018 LSR applique and a mini lantern flashlight. So be sure to register! Let's reach that goal and exceed 3,000 tables, and we hope to see many first-timers this year. *Note the schedule: 2:30 p.m., and 7:30 on Monday; 10, 2:30, and 7:30 Tuesday through Saturday, and Sunday's Games start at 9:30 a.m.* to get you home in time for the Super Bowl.

**Nancy Guthrie** and her committee have great things in store for our Intermediate-Newcomer players, including review of a hand or two after each 2:30 session. They even have a special trophy for the player with the most points from I/N games at the tournament. That trophy will be awarded on Sunday between sessions. Wednesday will find **Joyce Ryan** conducting a very special game for 0-5 MP players, 2 sessions at 10 and 2:30 in the Rosegarden Room. They guarantee you a partner, so sign up early at the Partnership Desk. For questions, call Joyce at 713.301.0624 or email her, [jryan9620@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jryan9620@sbcglobal.net). Help make this event as special as we know it will be!

Of special interest not only for our I/N players but for ALL of us is the fantastic schedule of Speakers: Monday, **Gary King**, on "Three Things That Will Improve Your Bridge Game;" Tuesday, **Janice Seamon-Molson** on "Understanding Support Doubles"; Wednesday, **Mike Passell** will hold another of his famous "Q&A" sessions; Thursday, **Carolyn Fox** on "What is an Opening Hand?"; Friday, **Shawn Quinn** on "Hand Evaluation and Re-evaluation"; Saturday, **Sylvia Shi & Daniel Korbel** on "Two-Way New Minor." What a lineup!

The updated flyer is posted at the Unit's Website, so make sure you are where you want to be, when you need to be, and have fun, fun, FUN! For our pairs players, don't miss the **A/X/Y Lease-Laird BIG TEXAN PAIRS CHAMPIONSHIP**, a new, two-session with qualifying on Wednesday with the two-session final on Thursday. *Prize money [CASH] to be awarded is \$1,000 for 1st and \$500 for 2nd.*

Club news and information can be found later in this newsletter, but we want to especially welcome a new club to our unit: The **Lone Star Bridge Club** in Conroe! We are thrilled to add them to the best unit in all of the ACBL!

***Nancy Strohmer, Unit 174 President***

**[nastrohmer@yahoo.com](mailto:nastrohmer@yahoo.com)**

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***Here's the January 1 report from ACBL for December 2017:***

Each month the ACBL sends us the new members and rank advancements for our Unit. Here is the list from the January 1 report.

**NEW MEMBERS**

**Rita P. Armstrong, Lisa K. Brown, Rao M. Chalasani, Rita P. Durrett, Cynthia Edge, Tamara Johnson, Sarah Leslie, Patti Morgan, Dean D. Saunders, Anne A. Symonds, Donna Wasser, Richard J. Wasser, and John D. Yurchevich** have joined Unit 174. Please welcome these new members of our Unit as you meet them at the tables.

***Congratulations to these new Masterpoint Milestone Makers:***

**NEW JUNIOR MASTER**

(5 MP)

**Thomas D. Russell and Pamela R. Wilson.**

**NEW CLUB MASTER**

(20 MP)

**Richard T. Barski, Cindy Cox, Sally Johnson, Laurinda Lankford, Yetty J. Mikkelsen, James C. Sells, Anju Sethi, Pamela Vincent, and Barbara G. Weddle.**

**NEW SECTIONAL MASTER**

(50 MP)

**David A. Badertscher, Rose Cullivan Hock, and Jay Evert.**

**NEW REGIONAL MASTER**

(100 MP)

**Ann E. Dahn and Jackie M. King.**

**NEW ADVANCED NABC MASTER**

(300 MP)

**Marilyn Gale Vilyus and Robert P. Vilyus.**

**NEW LIFE MASTER**

(127 in Unit 174)

**Gaylene Jewell and Claire W. Zimmerman.**

**NEW BRONZE LIFE MASTER**

(303 in Unit 174)

**Vivian Cyprus and Judith T. Earle.**

**NEW SILVER LIFE MASTER**

(184 in Unit 174)

**Kenneth L. Baker and A. Deamond.**

**NEW RUBY LIFE MASTER**

(176 in Unit 174)

**Terri Orlean.**

**NEW SAPPHIRE LIFE MASTER**

(47 in Unit 174)

**Geoff L. Booth, Rose Marie Cleveland, and Harry S. Elliott.**

**NEW EMERALD LIFE MASTER**

(10 in Unit 174)

**Jack A. LaVigne.**

***Congratulations to all!***

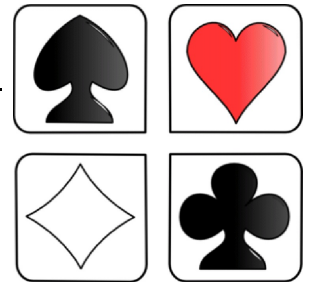
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## Why Is Our Beloved Game Called "Bridge"?



Would you believe *nobody knows*? A few hours' research yielded no answer. We know the game started as Whist by the Brits in the early 1500s. We find that a game called Russian Whist was also known as *biritch* or *britch*, whose meaning has nothing to do with a card game. Nevertheless, many think the British started using the word "bridge" at some time to refer to the card game, and it may have come from Russia. Etymologists tell us that the word "bridge" in reference to the card game has nothing to do with any of the traditional meanings of the word. Go figure. Bridge was first played in the U.S. in 1890. We know that **Harold Vanderbilt** invented Contract Bridge in 1925, while on a cruise (but not on the captain's "bridge"), but by then the game was already called "Bridge" by all who played it. You can have such fun researching this subject. If you find out where it comes from, let us know!

**HAVE FUN PLAYING!**



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## FEEDBACK & FODDER

### Unit 174 News and Club News

*Are you planning to attend our Lone Star Regional? Please do! And bring someone new.* We have so many special opportunities for masterpoints, but we also have some very Special Events. Wednesday Jan. 31 is **Dan Morse Recognition Day** with cake after the 2:30 game. Thursday is "Volunteer Recognition Day" with cookies at 1:45 p.m., compliments of the Marriott. Then we have a "Meet the President Reception" for ACBL President **Jay Whipple**, with drinks and "light bites" after the 2:30 game in the Hospitality Suite on the 10th floor of the hotel. And on Friday the Unit will present a check to our designated charity, **SEARCH**, just before the 2:30 game. After the game we will honor our special bridge teachers with **Teacher Appreciation Day**, enjoying hot dogs and cake.

Unit 174 will hold its Board Election at the Sectional tournament to be held May 4-6, so mark your calendars now. We appreciate all those who have agreed to run for the three positions: **Sheryl Thomas, Paul Nimmons, Ronnie Martin, Kathleen Malcolmson, Carol Lombardino, and Jack LaVigne.**

## News from Clubs

All Unit 174 clubs are linked at the Unit's Website, [www.acblunit174.org](http://www.acblunit174.org), so be sure to check their schedules, results, and other news.

A Big Unit 174 Welcome to our newest club, **Lone Star Bridge Club**, with games on Mondays at 12 noon and Thursdays at 10:30 a.m. **Jeff Kroll** will give free lessons at 9:30 before the Thursday games. Their home is at St. Paul Methodist Church, 1130 W. Semands Street in Conroe. The first game was held on January 15, and the Grand Opening Celebration will be Monday, February 19. Help them make it a grand occasion. **Harold Cameron** has the club Website almost ready. For further information, contact Interim President **Mary McDonald**, [maryemcdonald22@yahoo.com](mailto:maryemcdonald22@yahoo.com), 936.890.8593; or Director **Jody Henry**, [jody1614@gmail.com](mailto:jody1614@gmail.com), 936.355.1243.

**Westside Bridge Academy** will host its fourth **GNT Qualifying** game on Sunday, **January 28**, at 6 p.m. Their latest club awards were: Most Masterpoint winners *Mary Pat Gentry* in the Open Games with 20.26 and **Daryl Dunn** in the I/N Games with 10.71; and Most Frequent Players **Anna Marlatt**, who played 25 times in the Open Games, and **James Bettis**, who played 14 times in the I/N Games. Congrats! **Terry Currie** will offer a Beginning Bridge course of 8 classes starting March 12, 2-4 p.m., \$150. To register, email to [tcurrie1@comcast.net](mailto:tcurrie1@comcast.net). And "**Learn to Play Bridge with Gary King**" will begin on February 10 for 8 Saturday mornings, 10 a.m. to 12 noon. \$150 includes all materials. You must pre-register, [houstonbridge@gmail.com](mailto:houstonbridge@gmail.com). It will be offered again on Wednesday nights, 7-9 p.m. for 8 lessons beginning April 4, and yet again on Saturday mornings, 10 to noon, beginning September 5. Gary King will also teach "Card Play Technique" on Wednesday evenings, 7 - 9 p.m. for 8 weeks starting February 7. \$200 includes materials and pre-registration is required. **WBA** is one of our most active clubs, and you can learn more at the club's Website: [www.westsidebridgeacademy.com](http://www.westsidebridgeacademy.com).

**Clear Lake Bridge Club** will be holding elections at its Annual Meeting on Saturday, February 17, at 12 noon. Pizza will be served and the 1 p.m. Open Game will follow the meeting. Anyone interested in joining the Board should contact **Sherry Greisen**, Nominating Committee Chair. The club is closed for the dates of the Lone Star Regional but will hold its Bridge Lab on Sunday, February 4, at 2 p.m.

**Bridge Club of Houston** has a **GNT Qualifying** session for B and C on **January 27**, so don't miss it. At their recent annual Meeting they elected officers, and **Cindy Hillman**, **Marilyn Jordan**, and **Tom Romz** were elected to fill the available positions on the Board. The officers are **Mike Windham**, President; **Sam Khayatt**, Vice-President; and **Cindy Hillman**, Secretary. After a survey of the members, they have made the following schedule changes beginning February 1: Monday's games will begin at 11:55 a.m., and games on Tuesday through Friday will begin at 10:30 a.m. BCoH will hold REACH (Regional Event At Club House) events on **February 5-9**, with electronic hand files provided for "The Common Game." The games will be rated as a Regional Side Series Final (Gold/Red), *in addition to* the club masterpoints earned. What a deal! The \$30 registration fee is good for all five games, and registrations will CLOSE at midnight PST on February 2. Both the \$30 registration fee as well as the normal club per-game fee must be paid. The club will hold a 299r tournament February 15-

18, and another GNT Qualifying game on Saturday, Feb. 24. **Julie Halperin** starts a new Class, "Transition from Standard American," 2:15 to 4:15 p.m. beginning February 7, for \$75 plus book. Lots going on at this very active club. Details at [www.bridgeclubofhouston.com](http://www.bridgeclubofhouston.com).

We hope to get news from other clubs about their events and happenings for the February issue of our *Unit 174 Newsletter*.

For the February, and all other newsletters, please send your news, ideas, articles, comments, and suggestions, to [carolwilson@earthlink.net](mailto:carolwilson@earthlink.net), or leave a message or text me at 281-642-4050 or find me at work, 281-600-6000x2.

That's all for now!

*Carol Ann Wilson, Unit 174 Newsletter Editor*