



Unit 174 August 2026 Newsletter



This month's newsletter includes the sections listed below:

President's Message

Membership
New Members
Masterpoint Milestones

Member Profile
Meet Your Vice President, Gary Kerr

Unit News

Class Flyers
Unit 174 Free Class - Learn Bridge in a Day
LSBC Beginner Bridge Lessons

Flyers
BCOH Online Mentor/Mentee Games
Awesome August Sectional
FLM Special Game
District 16 NAP Finals
2027 Betty & Milton Freedman Houston Lone Star Regional
2027 Betty & Milton Freedman Houston Lone Star Regional Event
Naming
99er Nite Club
199er Nite Club

Club Table Counts

Club News
Apple Clubs
Bridge Academy of West Houston
Bridge Club of Houston (BCOH)
Choose Houston - Basic Online Schedule
Clear Lake Bridge Club (CLBC)
Cypress Northwest DBC
Kingwood Duplicate Bridge Club
Lone Star Bridge Club (LSBC)
North Side Bridge Club LLC
Pebble Creek Duplicate Bridge Club
Star Duplicate Bridge Club

From the Editor

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



Lauri Laufman

President's Message

My goodness, it’s hot enough to fry an egg on the pavement in Houston these days! Whether or not that’s actually possible is up for debate, but either way, my suggestion is to spend August doing what we love best: enjoying more duplicate bridge in our wonderful, air-conditioned bridge clubs.

August is full of opportunities. The month starts with Unit Club Championship games being offered August 3-8 at participating clubs, followed by our Awesome August Sectional August 14-16 at Bridge Club of Houston (BCOH), and finally a District 16 STaC Week August 17-23 at participating clubs. Feel like a little travel? The Dallas Labor Day Regional takes place September 2-7 in Richardson. For more info, [click here](#).

Awesome August Sectional (Friday - Sunday August 14-16)

Coming up fast and being held at BCOH, chairs Fred Gregory and Susan Banks-Johnson are pulling out all the stops to ensure that this tournament is an event not to be missed! Bring a \$10 bill with you as I’ve heard the lunches being prepared by BCOH volunteers will be more than worth it! Please email BCOHEVENTS@gmail.com to let our chairs know the days and sessions you plan to attend (even if you are unsure if you are playing pairs or teams) so they can ensure there are enough tables set-up to accommodate everyone. The flyer is in this newsletter and posted on our [unit website](#).

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

Block out January 25-31 on your calendar now. Be one of the first to view both our LSR and Event Naming flyers in this newsletter! Paper copies will be available at our August Sectional. Our room block at the Marriott is now live and the easiest way to make your reservations is online, so [click here](#).

A shout-out along with many thanks goes to two of our unit volunteers who continuously go above and beyond: Betty Westbrook for creating our LSR flyer and Marsha Bernstein for chairing Event Naming.

Fun and Educational

As bridge players, it is always fun to see our next or next-next generations learn to have an appreciation and hopefully want to play the game too. ACBL has created a trick-taking table game which mimics bridge and that you can play with non-bridge players of all ages. They introduced the boxed version of the game at the Summer NABC and sold out all that they brought. It is called BridgeBattle™ and it is touted as “The card game you can learn in a minute and play for a lifetime.” Perfect for playing at home, as a club event or online with a robot partner. You can [learn more and play online for free](#).

If you have any ideas about how your unit board can better server you, please drop me an email. I look forward to seeing you at our upcoming sectional.

Lauri Laufman
llaufman@texas2211.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: Gary Walia, Donna Shirley, Patricia Thompson

Transfers: Esther Granade

Welcome!



Masterpoint Milestones

Listed below are the Unit 174 Masterpoint Milestones reported by ACBL as of July 2, 2026. An explanation of ranks may be found on the [ACBL website](#).

Junior Master

Robert Macleod, Susan Salumunek, Hong Sun, Cavin Zeng

Club Master

Bruce Carlin, Suzanne Cornelius, Carol Labreche, Sheila Lipkin

Sectional Master

June Cullum, Mary Untereker

Regional Master

Alex Han

NABC Master

Pamela Greenwood, Randall Rollins

Advanced NABC Master

Hau-Ran Wang

Life Master

Cordelia Cottingim

Silver Life Master

Vivian Cyprus, Janice Rush, Barbara Sweeney

Ruby Life Master

Carol McCord

Sapphire Life Master

Steve Levinson

Member Profile



**Meet Your Vice President,
Gary Kerr**

BY SARAH
SPRINGER

One of our very hard-working Unit 174 Board Members, Gary Kerr, has just become a Life Master, so if you run into him at the club be sure to congratulate him. Gary’s main partner is his father-in-law, Ben Ball, so give Ben credit and congratulate him too on Gary’s success.

Bridge Journey

When speaking of his bridge journey, Gary focuses on his relationship with Ben who is just ninety-eight years young and still plays bridge twice a week and takes weekly lessons to improve his game. Ben was the one who got Gary involved in bridge in 2008 to 2009, but Gary was still working full time and did not have the time to devote to regular bridge games. Gary came back to bridge in 2018, and played in the 99r and 299r games before the pandemic hit. Once the clubs reopened, Gary and Ben have been regular partners.



GARY KERR

Cheeky Boy

Gary is a life-long Texan and Houstonian (other than a few adventurous years.) He was born in a tiny town south of Houston, West Columbia, and eventually moved into Houston with his parents who both worked in oil and gas. He met his wife, Barbara, in high school when they were 15 and 16. During the two years they dated in high school, they always knew they would marry. Gary met his future father-in-law and bridge partner when he was sixteen. But he met his future mother-in-law when he was in 4th grade! Ben’s wife, Helen, was Gary’s 4th grade teacher and she flunked him! Then this same cheeky boy starting dating their daughter Barbara when he was in high school.

College & Early Career

Gary and Barbara were married, spent a year in Denton then moved to Austin where Gary got his BS in Finance and MBA from the University of Texas. Barbara worked at the university and later finished up her Master’s degree when they moved back to Houston. Gary always wanted to be in money and banking and he and Barbara wanted to live in New York City, so Gary interviewed only with companies with headquarters in the Big Apple. He was hired by a chemical company and he and Barbara lived their exciting dream in New York City – their apartment was located over a theater close to Times Square. Barbara ran the Ann Taylor store on 52nd Street and 5th Avenue. Although they had a double income and no kids their money did not go too far in the big city. Gary got bored of the repetitive work in finance and he and Barbara agreed he should switch careers. They moved back to Houston and started their family.

Move from Finance to Health Care

Gary landed a great opportunity with the Sisters of Charity, working in health care, and moved on to Memorial Hermann Hospital System. He loved the work in healthcare and had a new adventure at work every day. Unfortunately, Barbara came down with Parkinson’s disease, and Gary decided to retire early so that he could spend all his time with the love of his life and take care of her. He said it was the best thing he ever did. Barbara developed ALS disease and sadly passed away fourteen months after that diagnosis. Gary laughs saying he went from CEO of a hospital to a nursing aide, but it was the best job of his life.



Gary's Grandkids
Wesley & Lawson

Kids, Grandkids and Pets

Gary and Barbara had one daughter born twelve years after they got married, and he has two grandchildren, Wesley who is 8 and Lawson who is 6. Gary lives close by and enjoys stepping in from time to time to help with the grandkids. He lives with his cocker spaniel, Attie – she is his 4th cocker.

Gary gave up golf after a stroke impacted his balance, so he enjoys his leisure time playing bridge, traveling, and following University of Texas Longhorns. His favorite travel destination is Las Vegas and his most fun activity there is people-watching. He says Vegas is a great place to visit, has great places to eat, he follows sports there, and he does play cards a bit.

Congratulations to Gary on becoming Life Master and thank you for all your

hard work on our unit board.

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



Unit News

Coming Tournaments

Date	City	Unit	Category	Type
July 30 - August 1	Plano [DFW]	176	Sectional	I/N
August 8-9	Austin	207	Sectional	I/N
August 14-16	Spring	174	Sectional	Open
August 17-23	STaC D16		Sectional	STaC
September 2-7	Richardson [DFW]	176	Regional	Open
September 10-13	New Braunfels	172	Sectional	Open
September 17-20	Spring [Houston]	174	Sectional	I/N
September 24-27	Austin	207	Sectional	Open
October 1-3	Denton [DFW]	183	Sectional	Local
October 5-7	San Antonio	172	Sectional	I/N
October 10-11	Austin	207	Sectional	I/N
October 15-17	Houston	174	Sectional & I/N Regional	Open & I/N
October 15-17	Fort Worth	183	Sectional	Local
October 19-25	STaC D16		Sectional	STaC
October 29- November 1	San Antonio	172	Sectional	Open
October 31- November 1	San Antonio	0	GNT/NAP	NAP District Fi...
November 4-6	Georgetown	207	Sectional	Local
November 4-7	Dallas	176	Sectional	Open
November 9-15	Puerto Vallarta	205	Regional	Open
November 9-15	STaC U174 (D16)	174	Sectional	STaC

November 15-17	Arlington	183	Sectional	I/N
November 21-22	Austin	207	Sectional	I/N
December 5-6	Austin	207	Sectional	I/N
December 10-12	Spring [Houston]	174	Sectional	I/N
January 7-10	Austin	207	Sectional	Open
January 13-16	Dallas [DFW]	176	Sectional	Open
January 21-24	San Antonio	172	Sectional	Open
January 25-31	Houston	174	Regional	Open

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

BCOH Online Mentor/Mentee Games

BRIDGE HOUSTON

*Do You want to Improve Your Bridge Game?
Those Mentored must have less than 300 Masterpoints.
Mentor's must have greater than 300 Masterpoints.
Everyone in the ACBL with these qualifications can join the*

BBO MENTOR GAME



First and Third Monday nights monthly at 7:00 p.m. Central Time

18 Boards

On BBO, go to "Competitive"

"ACBL e-Clubs" & click "Choose Houston"

You invite your mentor by checking appropriate box on BBO,
saying you will pay for both games, a total of \$10.00.

- You get individual feedback from your mentor however & whenever the two of you decide.
- A Diamond Life Master discusses the boards you just played immediately after the game on Zoom.

Need help finding a mentor? Or would you like to mentor?

Email Mike: mlinkins@swbell.net



Awesome August Sectional



FRIDAY, SATURDAY AND SUNDAY, AUGUST 14, 15 and 16

10 & 2:30	Stratified Open Pairs	A: 4000+ B: 1500-4000 C: 0-1500	Single Sessions
10 & 2:30	Stratified 299er Pairs	B: 200-300 C: 100-200 D: 0-100	Single Sessions
10 & 2:30	Bracketed Round Robin Swiss Teams		Two Sessions

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

Seating is limited, pre-registration is recommended, please contact Susan.

Fees
\$17 per session
Credit Card Only

Lunch
\$10 – Cash Only
Free Water, Coffee, and Sodas
Donations Gladly Accepted

Accommodations
Holiday Inn Express and Suites
21606 Spring Plaza Drive
Spring, Texas 77379
(281) 824-7723

Tournament Chairs		Partnerships	Hospitality
Fred Gregory (832) 315-7721 fhgregory777@gmail.com	Susan Banks-Johnson (281) 536-1451 BCOHEvents@gmail.com	TBD	TBD

FLM Special Game

**FLM
99er
Game!**

**SATURDAY
SEPT 12**

Special Game

- ✓ Trini Mendenhall Community Center
- ✓ 1414 Wirt Road
- ✓ 10:00 A.M.
- ✓ \$5 Game Fee



**This is a great opportunity to play, meet
other newcomers, make new friends, and
share the fun of duplicate bridge in person!**

- ✓ Singles welcome!
- ✓ Partner guaranteed!
- ✓ Fun! Food! Frivolity!

 flm174.org
 admin@flm174.org

The Fun Is Just Beginning!



D16 NAP Finals



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

Jewish Community Center

12500 NW Military Highway San Antonio, Texas 78231

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

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

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

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

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

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



Betty & Milton Freedman

HOUSTON LONE STAR REGIONAL

January 25-31, 2027



Marriott Houston Westchase

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

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



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

Tournament Chairs

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

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

Partnership

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

Hospitality

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

I/N

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

Event Naming

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

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

Complimentary ACBL labels

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

Future Life Masters



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

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

The Fun is Just Beginning!



Betty & Milton Freedman

HOUSTON LONE STAR REGIONAL



January 25-31, 2027

Monday, January 25

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

Friday, January 29

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

Bracketed Round

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

Tuesday, January 26

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

Saturday, January 30

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

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

Wednesday, January 27

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

Sunday, January 31

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

* May play one session only.

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

Thursday, January 28

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

**Bridge
for
Everyone!**

Stratification & Flighting

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

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



Visit us at
ACBLUnit174.org

2027 Betty & Milton Freedman Houston Lone Star Regional Event Naming



EVENT NAMING OPPORTUNITIES

BETTY AND MILTON FREEDMAN

2027 HOUSTON LONE STAR REGIONAL

January 25-31, 2027



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Monday-Saturday Side Pairs Series

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

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

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

Make checks payable to: ACBL Houston Unit 174

Event Naming Coordinator:

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

Tournament Chairs:

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

99er Nite Club



THE 99er Nite Club East

GREAT PLAY, LESSONS & LOADS OF FUN!

And...It's only for you, New Players!

District 16 now has a BBO game just
for the 0 to 99 players

the "99er Nite Club East"!

When: 6pm, 7 days a week

Where: ACBL Clubhouse*

Perks:

✓ **More Masterpoints**
(cross club scoring)

✓ **Mini-Lessons**
by Lynn Berg at 5:30 pm

*Check to make sure your club is participating.

If your club has questions they should
contact Janice Rush at:

janice_hardcastle@hotmail.com



199er Nite Club

199er Nite Club East

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

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

7 DAYS A WEEK AT 6:00 PM CST

- ✓ Recent graduates of the 0 to 99 group can play in a game with players of the same ability.
- ✓ Work during the day? Graduates continue go grow skills at a time that's "worker friendly".
- ✓ Safe environment where no sharks are allowed, because the game is limited to 199 mpts.
- ✓ Clubs benefit too and cointue 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



Club Table Counts

Yearly Totals:

<u>Year</u>	<u>Table Count</u>	<u>Number of Clubs in Unit 174</u>
2019	32,137.00	30
2020	30,401.00	28
2021	30,365.00	24
2022	20,451.00	24
2023	18,183.00	25
2024	16,900.00	24
2025	16,840.00	21

2026 Table Counts by Club:

Club	Jan 1-Jul 27, 2026 Table Counts
Clear Lake BC	2,346.00
BC of Houston	1,855.00
BA of W. Houston	1,770.00
Lone Star BC	911.00
Star DBC	428.00
Apple DBC	380.00
Apple II DBC	373.00
Northside BC	327.00
Cypress N/W DC	280.00
Kingwood DBC	208.00
Pebble Creek DBC	177.00
Sugarland DBC	162.00
Forest Club	105.00
Houston Raquet Club	105.00
Gulf Coast	90.50
La Grange BC	85.50
Galveston DBC	76.50
Houston Country Club	64.00
Les Match Bridgeurs	52.50
Lakeside Country Club	47.50
River Oaks Country Club	37.50
Buckingham DBC	4.50
Total:	9,885.50

Unit 174 still has two of the top three clubs in District 16: Clear Lake Bridge Club with 2,026.50, Bridge Center of Austin with 2,048.00 and Bridge Club of Houston with 1,855.00.



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 Apple games are \$3.00 / person. Apple II games are \$4.00 / person.

Clubs' Policy:

APPLE clubs (Susan and Tom) have agreed to let members of the board play free with a FLM that has less then 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!

Apple II August Game Schedule

August 7 Unit Club Championship
August 14 Closed for the August Sectional. Everyone is encouraged to attend.
August 21 Quarterly Club Championship #2
August 28 ACBL Charity Championship

Watch our [website](#) for further updates and the usual closings as they may arise.

Also Note: The scores from Fridays at Apple II can now be viewed on the [Unit 174 website](#). Click on scores and look at Fridays. Every Friday will have a space, but only those dates that a game is held will have scores. When posted, the color will be **blue**. If a scoring change required re-posting, the color will change to **purple**.

For information, please contact:

Monday – Apple – Susan Banks-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

PREVIOUSLY...

Kerr Godfrey 75th Birthday Party

On Wednesday, July 15, our club gathered to celebrate Kerr Godfrey with a special party hosted by his wife, Debbi Balter, who generously provided a delicious spread of food for everyone to enjoy.

Kerr is well known throughout our club for his outstanding card play, thoughtful analysis at the table, and his trademark dry wit that always keeps his partners and opponents smiling.



Kerr Godfrey

We were concerned about Kerr's partner, David Henke, who fell on his way into the club and suffered a cut to his head. Fortunately, after sitting out the first board, David was able to continue playing. We were all impressed that he and Kerr went on to post an outstanding 60% game and win their section.

Congratulations to New Life Master Lesley Kellet!

Our congratulations go to Lesley Kellet, who recently achieved the rank of Life Master. Members and friends gathered on Wednesday, July 22nd to celebrate this well-earned milestone with her.

Lesley's career in the oil and gas construction industry took her to North Africa, where she lived for ten years before moving to Houston in 1989. She first learned to play bridge in the United Kingdom in 1975 and continued to enjoy the game socially while living in Africa.



Lesley Kellet

Bridge has also reminded Lesley what a small world it can be. She was delighted to reconnect with Anik Waters at the Clear Lake Bridge Club after having played together years earlier in Africa. Later, at the Galveston Regional, she discovered that Barbara Pope was another familiar face from her African bridge days.

When she isn't playing bridge, Lesley stays active in the community through volunteer work with the Westside Tennis Club, Houston Accueil, the Daughters of the British Empire, the Awty International School Parent Association, International Voices of Houston Community Choir, and other organizations.

Congratulations again, Lesley, on this well-earned accomplishment. We wish you many more years of enjoyable bridge and continued success at the table.

U P C O M I N G . . .

Mentor/Mentee

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

August 14 – 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

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

August 30 – 8 is enough Swiss Teams

The stratifications for the Swiss Teams game are:

- Level 1** – 0 to 1000 masterpoints
- Level 2** – 1000 to 3000 masterpoints
- Level 3** – 3000+ masterpoints

For example, a Level 3, Level 1 and two Level 2 players would add up to eight, as would four Level 2 players.

Another example would be one Level 1 and three Level 2 players. That adds up to seven; it is okay to be less than eight.

The Swiss Team has become an extremely popular event. To find teammates, please use the Team-Matching service. It is a two-step process:

1. Register and provide

Name:
Email:
Phone:
Masterpoints
Please email to lavignej@me.com

2. Request

If you are looking for a team, send an email to lavignej@me.com indicating whether you are:

- A single player looking for a team
- A pair looking for another pair
- Three players looking for a fourth

As requests are received, we will do our best to put teams together. Please send requests early, two weeks before the event or earlier.

Mini-lesson

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

Game Schedule

Tuesday - Mentor/Mentee
Tuesday - Open
Wednesday - Open & 299'er
Thursdays - Open & Beginner Pairs
10:30 a.m.
Sunday - 8 is Enough Swiss Teams
1:30 p.m.
Arabia Shriners Center
10510 Harwin Dr.

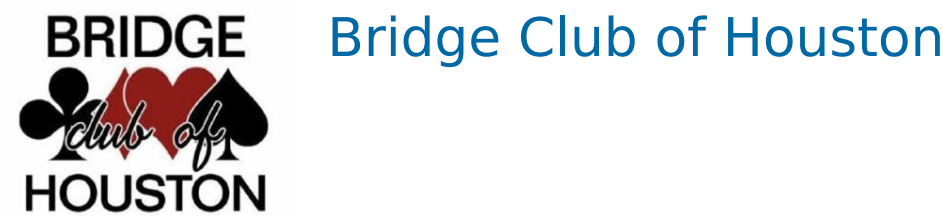
- \$7.00 per person
- Coffee & Snacks are provided
- Tom Jahnke, Janice Rush & Marty Hrachovy, directors

Game Calendar

Tue – Aug 4	Unit Club Championship	Wed Aug 19	NAP
Wed – Aug 5	Unit Club Championship	Thu Aug 20	NAP
Thu – Aug 6	Unit Club Championship	Tue Aug 25	Charity Game
Tue – Aug 11	NAP	Wed Aug 26	Charity Game
Wed – Aug 12	NAP	Thu Aug 27	Charity Game
Thu – Aug 13	NAP	Sun Aug 30	Charity Game
Tue Aug 18	NAP		

Need a Partner?

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



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

Lessons

- Beginner Bridge classes with Susan & Andy – New Class begins Saturdays, July 18, 9:30 – 11:30 a.m., cost \$130. Information and Registration: BridgewithSusanandAndy@gmail.com, 281-651-6550.
- Tuesday Tidbits – Build a solid foundation with Susan Banks-Johnson, Life Master and ACBL Teacher. Enjoy a free lesson for all from 9:30-10:10 a.m. A game follows at 10:30 a.m. Email Susan at sisbjohnson@gmail.com for more information.

PPractice for Intermediate/Newcomers

- FLM 0-99 Game – Sundays at 1:30 p.m., \$5 fee. For more information, please contact BridgewithCarol@gmail.com, 936-650-8180.
- F2F Mentor Games – 2nd & 4th Tuesdays, 10:30 a.m. To be matched with a mentor, for 2nd Tuesday call or text Judy Cupps, 713-320-5592, for 4th Tuesday call or text Bob Ziegler, 713-829-6928.
- Online Mentor Game – 1st & 3rd Mondays, 7:00 p.m, (Protege should invite and pay for game of mentor.) Make sure to check out the flyer in this issue if you missed it. Contact Mike Linkins if you have any questions: mlinkins@swbell.net
- Online 0-99 Game – 2nd Saturdays, 9:00 a.m. (usually). See [FLM website](#).
- F2F 399er Game – Saturdays at 12 p.m. (noon), for a partner or to register contact Kas Rangan, kas.rangan@gmail.com, 539-210-1333
- I/N Game less 1000 – 5th Tuesday of any month at 10:30 a.m.

For more information about the games, please see [BCOH website](#).

F2F Open Pairs Games

- Mondays 10:30 a.m.
- First & Fifth Tuesdays 10:30 a.m.
- Wednesdays & Fridays 10:30 a.m.
- Saturdays – 12:00 p.m. (noon)

F2F Swiss Teams

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

PREVIOUSLY...

Do What You Love to Fight Alzheimer’s results! BCoH raised \$3,815 in online and F2F fundraising. Everyone had a great time and aided in the quest to defeat Alzheimer’s!

COMING
ATTRactions

August 1, 10-12,	NAP Qualifier – 150% - 50% Red
24, 26, 28-29	Club Championship, Handicapped Swiss
August 2	Unit Club Championship
August 3-8	Open & 49934 Pairs
August 4	Unit August Sectional at BCOH
August 14-16	District 16 StaC
August 17-22	Pizza Friday!
August 28	Grass Roots Fund
August 31	

Good Times with Good Friends



Waving the Red, White and Blue

Check the [BCOH Website](#) for more including details, potlucks and points each week.

CHOOSE HOUSTON BASIC SCHEDULE - [BBO®](#) ONLINE GAMES

Online Games for all levels every day! These dates will change if the ACBL has approved special games online so please check the Bridge Club of Houston and Clear Lake Bridge Club for updates.

Mentored Pairs

1st & 3rd Monday @ 7:00 p.m.

Open Pairs

Thursday @ 7:00 p.m.

[SE Carolina Consortium](#)

Future Life Masters

Tuesday (0-50) @ 3:05 p.m.*

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

*Usually - See [flm174.org](#) for dates.



Clear Lake Bridge Club

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

The game fees are \$6.00 for members and \$7.00 for guests. Games are held every day of the week. The club closes for Christmas and Thanksgiving. The club **WILL remain open** during the Unit 174 Awesome August Sectional, August 14-16. You can reach us by phone at 281-480-1911.

Weekly Game Schedule:

- Open Games: Monday - Wednesday & Friday at 10:00 a.m., Thursday & Saturday at 1:00 p.m.
- 0-299 Games: Saturday at 10:00 a.m. (Free lesson starting at 9:30 a.m. with a Q&A after the game.)
- 0-499 Games: Monday & Wednesday at 2:00 p.m.
- 0-499 Games: (Played in Conjunction with Open Games) Tuesday at 10:00 a.m. & Thursday at 1:00 p.m.
- Swiss Teams: Sunday at 1:00 p.m.

To start games on time, registration closes *10 minutes before game start time*. Late arrivals are not accepted. If you are coming to a game and find that you cannot arrive on time, please call the club to alert the director to hold your seat.

Teams Stratification & Registration

The B players' upper limit is 2000 - 2500 masterpoints. If you are interested in playing in a Sunday afternoon Teams Game, please register *at least one day prior* so that the director can have the set up done on time. Plan to arrive no later than *10 minutes before game start time*.

8 is Enough Swiss Teams

Game is held on the Sunday following the Mentor/Mentee game each month

unless otherwise identified. Check the club's bulletin board to find out when the next game will be held.

The 8 is Enough Swiss Teams stratifications are:

- Level 1** – 0-749 masterpoints (1)
- Level 2** – 750-1999 masterpoints (2)
- Level 3** – 2000+ masterpoints (3)

For example one Level 3, two Level 2 and one Level 1 players total 8 as would four Level 2 players. Another example would be three Level 2 and one Level 1 players whose team total is 7 and it is OK to be less than 8.

Mentor/Mentee Game:

The Mentor/Mentee game is held on the third Wednesday afternoon at 2:00 p.m. The next game will be held on August 19. Reservations must be made in advance by noon on the prior Monday.

Sandwiches are served for lunch prior to the game.

Mentees must be Non-Life Masters with less than 500 masterpoints. The Mentee pays the game fee for the Mentor. For information and to submit a contact form, please visit the [CLBC MM site](#). You can alternately contact Susan Hanna at s.l.hanna@gmail.com if you are interested in becoming a mentor or a mentee.

Bridge Labs (Supervised Play):

Sunday and Tuesdays from 2:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Bridge Lab table fee is \$8.00.

Check out www.clearlakebridgeclub.org/bridge-education for new classes offered in 2026.

P R E V I O U S L Y . . .

The final tally for the club's annual Alzheimer's Fundraiser (Do What You Love) was \$15,336. Thank you to all of our generous members for making this year's event one of our best.

U P C O M I N G . . .

Club’s Saturdays for 0-299ers

The club’s Saturday morning offering for 299ers continues to prosper, but we are always hoping for more participants.

At 9:30 a.m., Dallas and Donna Moore present a lesson, often a topic requested by the players. After the lesson, there is a sanctioned game, followed by an opportunity to review boards and ask questions.

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

Judith Rebmann
secretary

P.S.

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



CYPRESS NORTHWEST DBC

Cypress NW DBC meets at the Richard and Meg Weekley Community Center, 8440 Greenhouse Rd, Cypress, TX, and games are played every Tuesday and Thursday starting at 11:30 a.m., with sign-up beginning at 11:00 a.m.

Coffee, tea, and snacks are provided. Games are \$3.00
For more information, contact Jim Warren at **832/851-4745** or jwarren760@gmail.com.



KINGWOOD DUPLICATE BRIDGE CLUB

Games:

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

For information, contact any of the following:
Bill Riley at (832)289-3833 or ichibanbill@yahoo.com
Sam Khayatt at kwbridge1430@gmail.com
Kingwood Community Center Phone: (281) 348-2570
Or Visit our [website](#).



LONE STAR BRIDGE CLUB

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

Open Games:

Mondays at 11:45 a.m.
Thursdays at 10:30 a.m.

Snacks, coffee & bottled water are provided.
Game fee is \$5.00.

Upcoming Events...

Monday, August 3	August Birthdays will be celebrated. Cake will be served.
	Jeff Kroll will give a free lesson at 10:50 a.m. Jeff's lessons can be viewed on our website or on Youtube
Tuesday, August 11	Mentor-Mentee Game at 10:30 a.m.
Thursday, August 13	Free Pizza Lunch

August Games

August 3 - Monday	Unit Club Championship Game
August 6 - Thursday	Unit club Championship Game
August 10 - Monday	Unit club championship Game
August 11 - Tuesday	North American Pairs Game (Mentor-Mentee)
August 13 - Thursday	North American Pairs Game
August 17 - Monday	District 16 STaC Game
August 18 - Tuesday	District 16 STaC Game
August 20 - Thursday	District 16 STaC Game
August 24 - Monday	North American Pairs Game
August 27 - Thursday	North American Pairs Game
August 31 - Monday	Charity Club Championship Game

Mentor/Mentee Information

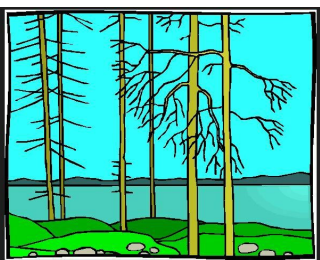
For information about the Mentor-Mentee game, please contact Chair Anita Rothfuss at larryandanita@gmail.com or 936-537-5039.

Need a partner?

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

Please visit our website by clicking [here](#). You may also contact Mary McDonald, club manager at maryemcdonald22@yahoo.com or 281-964-7212

for more information.



NORTHSIDE BRIDGE CLUB LLC

Northside holds stratified open games Fridays starting at 10:30 a.m. and ending no later than 2:30 p.m. Game fee \$5. Games are held at Restoration Church, 107 Fish Creek Thoroughfare, Montgomery.

We take a short mid-day lunch break so bring your lunch. There is a microwave, ice maker and refrigerator available.

August Game Schedule:

- August 7 Unit Club Championship
- August 14 North American Pairs
- August 21 D16 STaC
- August 28 Charity Club Championship

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

We are blessed with volunteers who are generous with their time and scrumptious food offerings and we are proud to continue the decades-old tradition of a friendly duplicate bridge club in the April Sound area.

For further information, contact Norm Gautier (281-795-6665) or Joyce Gautier (713-249-8767) or email at gautier39@comcast.net



PEBBLE CREEK DUPLICATE BRIDGE CLUB

Face-to-face games are held on Wednesdays at 9:30 a.m. For further information, please contact Richard Duble at 979-324-8421 or richard.duble@yahoo.com or visit our [website](#).



STAR DUPLICATE BRIDGE CLUB

Games are on Mondays and Fridays at 9:30 am and **are** \$5.00 per person. You must have a partner.

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



**BY SAM KHAYATT
& JEFF KROLL**

Let's look at the following example:

South opens in fourth seat with 1♥. After previously passing North bids 1♠. South's jump raise (3♠) of responder's one-level bid shows about 16-19 support points. Responder has shown 6+ points and four or more spades. The 3♠ bid invites responder to raise to game with ten or more valuation points.

South has 12 HCP, two points for the heart-suit length and four points for the diamond void. That is 18 points in support of spades – more than enough to invite; not quite enough to force to game. With a slightly stronger hand (enough to force to game opposite six HCP), South would bid 4♦, a splinter. A splinter shows shortness in the suit bid and four-card support.

North has an easy raise to 4♠.

East leads the ♣6 to the ♣K; West returns the ♠10 to dummy's ♠K.

A low spade is played to the ♠A, West discarding. Bad news. Help is needed from the opponents. Fortunately, defense is difficult.

North leads the ♣Q to West's ♣A. At this point a diamond through the ♦K would set the contract. However, West cannot see the ♦K in North's hand and yielded to the temptation of the club ruff.

West leads the ♣7; East ruffed.

East helped us out some more by leading the $\spadesuit A$, which we ruff with dummy's $\spadesuit 9$.

Now we are home free. The ♠Q is led, removing the opponents' last spade followed by the ♥AK, pitching two diamonds from the North hand. A heart is ruffed in North's hand and North's hand is now good.

Whew! So never underestimate a void particularly after the partnership has agreed on a trump suit and reap the benefits of The Magic of Voids.

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.



From the Editor



Thank you to all of the people who contribute to the Newsletter. It takes a team of fellow bridge players to bring this information to you. Unit 174 runs on volunteers' energy.

If you are interested in volunteering for Unit 174 events and activities, please contact Lauri Laufman, Unit 174 Board President - llaufman@texas2211.com.

If you would like to have your club information or an article of interest published, or if you have a bridge accomplishment for which you are proud and would like to share in the Unit 174 Newsletter, please send your name, phone, email, and subject title to unit174news@gmail.com.

Evvie Gilbert
Editor
unit174news@gmail.com
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