

San Antonio 4th of July Regional Monday Bulletin

This is a fragrance-free tournament.
ACBL Zero Tolerance Policy is strictly enforced.
Your cooperation is appreciated.

Welcome. On behalf of the San Antonio Bridge League and Unit 172 Board of Directors, welcome to our 4th of July Regional.

The Westin Hotel provides free parking and a special "Grab & Go" discounted menu for the convenience of players. Please be sure to check in at the Tournament Registration Desk to receive your hospitality gifts from Unit 172.

Our tournament offers opportunities to win gold with 2-session pair games, morning and afternoon side series, "Gold Rush" games and Swiss team events. In the La Joya Ballroom as part of the Intermediate-Newcomer Program, bridge experts will speak on various topics Tuesday through Saturday from 2:15pm to 2:45pm, giving you ample time to play at 3pm.

As a consideration to other players, we ask that you observe that we are a fragrance-free tournament. Strong scents can be offensive, and many people have allergies. The Westin's housekeeping team will check our restroom facilities on an hourly basis, but we too can help, by picking up after ourselves.

Many folks have worked long hours putting this Regional together and no one person can do it alone. I am grateful to my co-chair Jerry Harrington, committee chairs and volunteers for their outstanding efforts.

John Hilbig, *Tournament Chair 2023*

Today's Schedule

- 1:30pm** ➔ Gold Rush Pairs (1/2)
 - ➔ Open Pairs (1/2)
 - ➔ Jeri Tribo Bracketed Swiss (1/2)
- 7pm** ➔ Gold Rush Pairs (2/2)
 - ➔ Open Pairs (2/2)
 - Jeri Tribo Bracketed Swiss (2/2)

Tuesday - Friday Schedule

- 10am** ➔ Morning Side Pairs
 - ➔ Gold Rush Pairs (1/2)
 - ➔ Open Pairs (1/2)
 - ➔ Bracketed Swiss (1/2)
- 3pm** ➔ Afternoon Side Pairs
 - Gold Rush Pairs (2/2)
 - Open Pairs (2/2)
 - Bracketed Swiss (2/2)



Your Hosts

From top to bottom, left to right: **John Hilbig** (Tournament Chair), **Jerry Harrington** (Tournament Co-Chair), **Karen Fillis** (Unit Treasurer), **George Fillis** (Photography), **Mary Harrington** (Prizes), **Everette Lewis** (Supplies), **Mary Massey** (I/N Program), **David Mitchell** (Caddy Master), **Lynn Pierson** (Partnership Co-Chair), **Joe Ramirez** (Publicity), **Jo Ann Robertson** (Decorations), **Debbie Schweiss** (Partnership), **Steve Simpson** (Daily Bulletin), **Nancy Tom** (Flyers, Registration) and **Roxie Tom** (Registration).



Speakers

Stop by the La Joya Ballroom (across the hall from the main playing area) at 2:15pm Tuesday through Saturday to learn from expert players who are eager to share their knowledge and insights with us.

From top to bottom, left to right: **Hank Eng**, **Ken Monzingo**, **Ed Rawlinson**, **Carolyn & Terry Riely** and **Thomas Rush**.



Tue

Learning to Tango

Carolyn & Terry Riely

Wed

The ABCs of Defense

Hank Eng

Thu

End Plays: Strip & Throw In

Ed Rawlinson

Fri

What Would Declarer Do?

Thomas Rush

Sat

Overcalls

Ken Monzingo

Honor Roll

Special people deserve special recognition.

Naming an event for a favorite partner, mentor, friend or loved one is a great way to honor them.
We present our honorees for 2023.



Jeri Tribo

Bracketed Swiss (Monday)

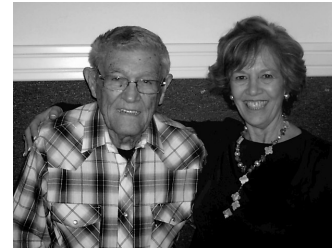
Jeri has been an extremely valuable member of San Antonio Bridge League Unit 172, serving as a member of the Board for many years and holding numerous offices. She has chaired the Regional tournament three times and volunteers whenever there is a need. In 2012 she was recognized for her service by District 16, receiving the Star Award. Her contributions to the game of bridge are sincerely appreciated.



Darlene Riely

Bracketed Swiss (Tuesday)

Bridge savant, great friend, excellent player. DARLENE passed away during her 68th year. Too early! She was a friend to ALL. On our unit board, helping to run tournaments and build our membership. She had approximately 8,000 points. She has truly been missed these almost 14 years. [David Mitchell]



Bill Scarpero

Open Pairs (Wednesday)

An officer, and a gentleman, and the king of 3 No Trump. Bill was the reason that I came back to playing bridge after retiring for about fifteen years. I was persuaded to play as a fourth in a team match with this special gentleman and after that I could never refuse him. I am guessing that without Bill, there would never have been a Fiesta Bridge Club. With his support and encouragement, I opened Fiesta Bridge Club in 2013 at our new location in Castle Hills, when we were forced to move out of Turtle Creek BC premises. A positive influence at the bridge table, he had a great smile and an even better sense of humor. One thing that really got to me was that it seemed to take him forever to make a bid. On one particular hand, I opened 1 diamond with 18 points intending to rebid 2NT. Bill took so long to bid 2 NT that I forgot that I had opened and thought that he had opened 2NT. Of course, I bid 7NT! When the dummy came down, he didn't even flinch and actually managed to make 6 NT.

After ten years without our dear Bill, he is still sorely missed by his many friends. [Laurie Levin]



James Cuccia

Bracketed Swiss (Wednesday)

0-2500 Bracketed Swiss (Sunday)

James Cuccia, our sharp dresser with a gentle smile, lives with his poodle, Tony and plays bridge every day, but that's not the beginning of his story. In fact, James, over 90 years young, spent 22 years in the U.S. Navy, 41 years as a researcher and 46 years in education committing his almost century-long life in service to others.

In the Navy, James served during the Korean War as a Communications, Radar, Submarine Battery and Generator Technician. He was active duty for 2 years and 8 months before spending another 20 years in the reserves.

While serving, he also worked at Southwest Research Institute where James' key project centered on helping the Pentagon by measuring the quantity of water in the U.S. Army gunpowder barrels. The foundation of his research and the insights yielded from that pursuit had greater value than the initial project – in fact, his breakthrough results were scalable and led to the development to MRI medical equipment that benefit millions of people annually.

James enjoyed his research so much that he decided to serve as an adjunct professor at St Philip's College to inspire curiosity in over 5,000 students. By partnering with an industrial researcher, James and his students helped develop a sorting machine to separate grains of rice for the iconic company, Uncle Ben's. Originally, rice was separated by hand, resulting in many labor hours and a greater margin for error. Together, under James' direction, his team created the economic and efficient technology still used today.

In his spare time, James enjoyed spending time with his wife (until her passing), playing five different instruments in many bands over 18 years, and playing bridge – in fact, he's played almost every day for the last eight years – and his partners (most call him THEIR "boy friend") find him to be a great player and an amazing human.

[Wednesday: Linda Banks, Ann Kuehler] [Sunday: Elisabeth Kay]



Roxana Proctor Tom

Bracketed Swiss (Thursday)
Open Pairs (Saturday)

Roxana Tom was raised in Victoria, Texas and graduated, with honors, from the University of Texas, where she earned a BBA in Accounting. There she met the love of her life, John Lytle Tom Jr. They married soon after college, raised four children, and spent many happy years together in Campbellton, TX.

Roxana ran the financial side of Tom Brothers Ranch and had many adventures with Lytle. They were a great team. She thoroughly enjoyed being active in her community by participating in, serving on, and presiding over numerous boards.

Bridge was Roxana's all-time favorite game; a game she learned to play at the age of 16 on a train to summer camp. She did not find duplicate bridge until her children were grown and out of the house. A good friend took her to a local duplicate game and the rest was history. She always said it was love at first matchpoint! She enjoyed the bridge community and proudly served on the Unit 172 board for many years, most notably as president.

Roxana will always be remembered as a leader who was fair and responsible with a heart for service. She was genuinely authentic and was always willing to work hard. She may be gone, but she will never be forgotten.

[Kay Laird]



Linda Anne Fisher

Gold Rush Pairs (Wednesday)

Linda Anne Fisher was born into a loving family living in Johannesburg, South Africa. Linda was a teacher before immigrating to the United States with her husband and children. In 1985, she moved to San Antonio where her interest in bridge took hold. Linda was employed in the field of education where her efforts were greatly admired and valued. Following her retirement, Linda chose to devote more time to her eight grandchildren and to playing bridge, both of which provided her with so much pleasure and stimulation. Linda was a regular player at Fiesta Bridge Club and greatly loved by all her partners. Linda passed away in August of 2016 after a relatively brief illness. [Christine Collier]



Karen Fillis

Bracketed Swiss (Friday)

Karen is being honored for her selfless contributions to the San Antonio Bridge League. She is currently serving her second term as Treasurer of the Unit. As a Board member, not only fulfilling her responsibilities as the Treasurer, she has participated as a Mentor to the novice players and hosted several Sectionals and assisted with the Regionals. When the Kerrville tournament was going to be terminated because no-one from the area was willing to take responsibility, Karen stepped forward as the Chair for four tournaments. We owe Karen a debt of gratitude for her assistance in keeping duplicate bridge alive in San Antonio. [George Fillis, Susan Hernandez, Laurie Levin, Jeri Tribo]



Bertie Broer

Morning Side Pairs (Tuesday)

FOR MY FATHER, MY MENTOR, MY GUARDIAN ANGEL

Bertie Broer was born in South Africa in 1923. After volunteering to serve with the Allies in World War II, he returned to Johannesburg where he studied to become a Chartered Accountant and Auditor (CPA) and worked in the family practice which his father and late uncle had started many years prior.

I do not know exactly when Bertie started playing bridge, but I recall very vividly when I was still in elementary school that every Monday night, two medical students that Bertie was mentoring would come for dinner prior to the weekly Monday night duplicate game, resulting in me knowing all the bridge terminology at a very young age. Monday night tournaments were like a league with Sections A to L and then four color sections, more than 300 players. Each section of the approximately 16 sections would have 12 pairs (6 tables) and they would play a Howell movement. Each pair would be allocated points based on where they finished and ultimately players who did well in their section would move to the next higher section and the players who didn't do so well would move to a lower section... and the following week they would be back! Bertie was always in the A section. On other Monday nights, there would be Team of Four matches, which would consist of a whole match against another team consisting of about 28 boards. The victory points for each match would be recorded and carried forward for the next week. At the end of cycle, there would be a winner and a runner up in each section.

Friday and Saturday afternoons were reserved for the Rubber Bridge Club. Bertie said they he really learned to play bridge by playing for more money than he could afford! He also claimed that a huge part of his success at the bridge table was reading every bridge book that he could lay his hands on. I learned to play bridge after marrying a bridge player! Even though I was a complete novice, Bertie would give me a hand and ask me how I would bid it. He was never condescending and taught me so many different aspects of the game. I loved to watch him play no-trump contracts. He would switch from suit to suit and often had his opponents (and me) completely baffled. However, he would often make that extra trick or two!

Bertie represented South Africa in the World Olympiad in Deauville, France in 1968; Miami Beach, USA in 1972; Valkenburg, Netherlands in 1976; and the Bermuda Bowl in Tunisia in 1997. He also represented South Africa in a number of Maccabi Games in Israel.

Bertie loved life and everyone loved Bertie for his wisdom, friendliness and infectious laugh. He told me never to wish away the time. He said that the best place to be was where he was at that particular time. Bertie always said when it was his time he wanted to "die at the bridge table in 4 Diamonds doubled, redoubled and making!" However, that was not to be and he passed away from heart complications in 2002. [Laurie Levin]



Diane Olson

Open Pairs (Thursday)

There are few San Antonio players whose lives have not been touched by Diane and whose bridge games have not been improved by her teaching. Diane was a Platinum Life Master, holding 10,000 master points when she passed away in May 2022. She was quick to remind us that she had been playing for many years, as if that explained it! Diane taught bridge to many, many students and ran the Tuesday afternoon 299er game for many years. She always made time to mentor novice players and play with intermediate players. Although she was among the superstars in the San Antonio bridge community, Diane was always patient and polite with those at the table. She was highly and affectionately regarded by all. [Tessa Bodnar, Jeanne Dawley, Larry Levin, Kathy Sinkin-Amor]



Sue Ohm

Morning Side Pairs (Thursday)

Sue was a keen duplicate player and director for Fiesta Bridge Club. She started and subsequently ran the Tuesday evening and Sunday afternoon games for several years. When Covid-19 hit, Sue stepped up to direct most of the Fiesta virtual games and continued directing them until her death in January 2022. Without Sue, the club might well not have survived the long Covid-19 shutdown. Despite many health problems, Sue was always very positive, kind, and generous of spirit. She was a huge part of the local bridge community.



Bill Walker

Bracketed Swiss (Saturday)

Bill Walker was an Emerald Life Master when he passed away in 2021. He was not only a strong bridge player, he was a gentleman and a gentle man who was highly respected by the bridge community for those attributes. The Unit recognized his stature by naming a Sectional Tournament in his honor.

Bill was also highly respected outside the bridge world. For many years he was in charge of the competitive swim program for the North East School District. Over the years the District produced many state champions and many swimmers who were winners at the national and Olympic levels. Upon Bill's retirement, the District named its swimming facility after Bill.

In contrast, Bill's early adult life was not so rosy. He became an alcoholic and experienced at least one life-threatening event. But he recognized the need for change, went to AA, and was an abstainer for the rest of his life. His recognition of how life-threatening addiction could be led him to engage in a "prison ministry" for several decades. He would conduct sessions with prisoners to convince them that addiction to alcohol or drugs can ruin their lives but that they had the capacity to overcome such addiction. While many either didn't get the message or didn't have the strength to change their lives, some did. These victories are the ultimate testimonial to Bill.



John Hilbig

Open Pairs (Friday)

John Hilbig was the oldest of six boys and was born in San Antonio. He graduated from Wisconsin University majoring in journalism. His career started in Big Spring, TX as a journalist. There he met and married Lynna, and then off to Viet Nam in the army for two years. Next John went to Dallas to work and there obtained his masters in journalism at North Texas University.

Playing bridge in John's life started in high school and he was self-taught. He ended back in San Antonio 1984 to work for Valero in the accounting department. From 1984-2011 playing bridge was not a part of John's life.

John is being honored today for his tireless work as the Chairman of the 2023 4th of July Regional. He also served on the Unit 172 Board of Directors and has also been a Mentor to novice players. His friendly demeanor encourages the newer players to enjoy the game and continue playing in the face-to-face games. [Mary Massey, Jo Neesvig, Dolores Reiley]

Betty & Mickey Mangan

A/X Swiss (Sunday)

Betty and Mickey Mangan were two of San Antonio's top players in the 60's and 70's. They won many Sectionals and Regionals. Playing with our own Louise Krauss, Betty was second in the Smith Women's Pairs at the 1970 Fall Nationals in Houston. Mickey, with Steve Toplansky, played on many winning Swiss teams with Eddie Wold during Eddie's salad days.

Betty directed in the bridge club that became the Alamo Bridge Club in the 70's. Mick ran the rubber bridge segment. Mickey and Betty played mostly rubber bridge in their later days. Those that played regularly with and against them always admired their skill and excellent deportment.

Betty passed away in 2004 and Mickey in 2020. [Steve Toplansky]



Sam Williams

Morning Side Pairs (Saturday)

Sam Williams grew up in Central Florida and on a farm in north Florida. After completing high school, Sam entered the Navy as an Electronics Technician, was then elevated to the Naval Nuclear Power School and served on submarines.

After getting out of the Navy, Sam worked as a Reactor Control Operator, from which he retired. From time to time, he continued working in the field as a consultant; disappearing for months at a time. We missed him.

Sam started playing bridge in 1988 and made Life Master in three short years. He is also a director. He has been a great help to Unit 172, showing up to help set up tables at Unit Games even when he doesn't have a partner. He has also been a great help to Fiesta Bridge Club in the same capacity. He has served as an unofficial mentor to several members of the unit.

Sam is highly intelligent and it is always a challenge playing against him. [Everette Lewis, Sally Sanders]



Laurie & Larry Levin

Morning Side Pairs (Wednesday)

Since COVID-19, Laurie & Larry have done everything in their power to keep Fiesta Bridge Club up and running. Unfortunately they no longer have the luxury of their own premises but have managed to keep a place for people to play this wonderful game despite the difficulties that face them on an ongoing basis. In fact, according to recently published numbers, Fiesta Bridge Club is the 50th biggest club in the USA and that is with only three open games a week. Visitors often come from different cities including Canada and absolutely love playing at Fiesta. They say that everyone is so warm and welcoming! Both Laurie & Larry teach beginner, intermediate, and advanced classes as well as playing professionally with people on line and at the Club. Larry is always willing to play with anyone who comes to the club without a partner when he does not have an arranged game. Let's hope that Fiesta will continue to survive and thrive. [Sandra & Victor Press]



Jim & Tena Gorman

Open Pairs (Tuesday)

Salt of the earth! When you met Jim you'd think you were his best friend. Both of their parents were of modest means. Jim's mom was an elementary school teacher and his name sake was a roustabout, roughneck in the Wichita Falls area in the 1920's. Tena's dad was a traveling salesman from Oklahoma City. He had a chance to sink his life savings into a floundering coffee company. He kept the company name "Cain's". Jim and Tena met at Oklahoma University. Tena had been attending one of the 7 sister schools, but her dad sent her a wire at the end of her sophomore year - "I'm not allowing you to stay up there and marry one of the GD YANKEES. Enrolled in OU, she met Jim, set her sights on him with only one likely outcome. They were married, Jim entered the Air Force and was stationed in Korea after which they moved to San Antonio. He worked in the oil business, became a stockbroker, and tried his hand at banking over the years. They were married for 68 years and passed away within 10 months of each other at 90 years of age. Jim and Tena played party bridge at home and at the San Antonio Country Club. In their 70's and in good health (even with Jim's triple bypass) they decided to try duplicate bridge. Jim's favorite bridge tale: "the players at the bridge club are the NICEST people, but they SURE WANT TO KICK YOUR BUTT." I met Jim in 1973 right after he had been chosen King Antonio. Tena was on several boards, a driving force in philanthropy and a GREAT FRIEND Still, 2 years after losing them, I find myself going down 281 and saying: "I really need to stop at 200 Patterson and check in on them." They are sorely missed. [David Mitchell]



Steve Simpson

Afternoon Side Pairs (Tuesday)

Steve has been a huge support in the operations of Fiesta Bridge Club. Steve is our Webmaster as well as Unit 172's. He created TournaVision, which players loved when it was in operation during the Sectionals and Regionals. Steve stepped up as manager of Fiesta Bridge Club when Judy Hoffman retired many years ago. During COVID, he was a huge backup for Susan Ohm in Fiesta's virtual games and co-directed with Sue, as well as dealing with all the BBO problems we experienced. When Sue took ill and then subsequently passed away, Steve was there to run the virtual games and is still running them today. When Diane Olson became ill, Steve took over as director of the 299er game. All the players love Steve's wonderful sense of humor. When someone does not have a partner, Steve is always willing to play and never makes his partner feel bad, even when they forget to draw the last trump. Steve also runs the Wednesday night 499er game and gives a mini lecture before the game. I am not sure that Fiesta could survive without Steve. Thanks for everything and more, Steve. [Laurie & Larry Levin]



Schedule



OPEN PAIRS – Double Session

Monday, July 3 * *(may play 1 session)

Open Pairs 1:30 pm & 7:00 pm

Gold Rush Pairs 1:30 pm & 7:00 pm

Tuesday – Saturday, July 4 - 8

Open Pairs 10:00 am & 3:00 pm

Gold Rush Pairs 10:00 am & 3:00 pm

All Open Pair Games
are Strati-Flighted A/X/Y
A: 3000+ X: 0-3000 Y: 0-1500

Gold Rush Pairs
A: 500-750 B: 0-500 C: 0-250

*Stratifications may be changed at the
Director's Discretion*

SIDE GAME SERIES – Single Session

Tuesday - Saturday, July 4 - 8

Morning 10:00 am

Afternoon 3:00 pm

TEAM GAMES – Double Session

Monday, July 3

Bracketed Swiss 1:30 pm & 7:00 pm

Tuesday - Saturday, July 4 - 8

Bracketed Swiss 10:00 am & 3:00 pm

Sunday, July 9

A/X Swiss Teams 10:00 am & TBA

Bracketed Swiss 10:00 am & TBA

**4th of July
Regional**

San Antonio, Texas

Sunday:
A/X Teams
A: 4000+ X: 0-4000
Bracketed Swiss
0-2500

Any player with 2500+MP's, the
entire team plays in A/X Swiss

Newcomers -- **FREE GAME** for 0-25 MP's
On Saturday, July 8 at 10:00 am
A partner will be provided with 12-hours advance request

Guest Speakers
Tuesday – Saturday
2:15 pm