



# THE WINNING FINESSE

Volume 19 Number 1 Website: <http://d16acbl.org/U172>

March, 2010



## President's Message by Ed Rawlinson

Each year Unit 172 recognizes one of its members for exceptional service to the Unit and its members. The Texas Star Award winner for 2010 is **Becky Mosely**. Becky served on the Board for 6 years, as Treasurer for 3 years, as chair of the 2009 Regional tournament, and as sectional tournament chair for 2 years. The Unit also recognizes two members as Goodwill Members of the year. The 2010 winners are **David Ewing** of Kerrville and **Everette Lewis**. David and Everette are noted for being helpful and friendly good guys. Congratulations to all three of these folks for their well-deserved recognition.

The Unit's effort to attract new members is paying off. See the Membership Matters article below to see a lengthy list of new members. There are even more which are being processed by ACBL. Unit 172 now ranks first among the 17 Units in District 16 in terms of membership growth. In addition to attracting new members, we would like to keep them. **JeriTribbo** has done an excellent job in promoting the Mentor-Mentee program, which now has almost 70 mentees enrolled. Thanks to the teachers and the clubs for their efforts in recruiting and retaining new members. A special thanks to all the mentors.

A "bravo" goes to **Fran Vanecko**, who has organized a "Support Our Troops" drive (see article below). This project deserves our ongoing individual and collective support.

Congratulations to **Venkatrao (Babu) Koneru**, who recently became Unit 172's only Grand Life Master. To achieve this milestone, you have to win 10,000 master points **and** a national championship. Babu won a National Swiss Teams event at the Orlando Nationals in the 90's. About 0.1% of the total ACBL membership have achieved this ranking.

Finally, our condolences go to friends and family of **Koy Bass, Dick Wolfarth, and Pinky Murphy**.

## Calendar of Events

Apr. 8-11	Kerrville Sectional	Inn of the Hills
May 1*	Awards Day	Turtle Creek Bridge Club
June 3-6	Summer Sectional	Turtle Creek Bridge Club
June 17-20**	Summer Sectional	Bridge Club of San Antonio
July 17	"Eight Is Enough" Swiss Teams	Turtle Creek Bridge Club
Aug. 21	Luau & Annual Meeting	Turtle Creek Bridge Club
Sept. 9-12	New Braunfels Sectional	Civic Center
Oct. 2	NAP Unit Finals	Bridge Club of San Antonio
Oct. 8-11	Willson Davis, Jr. Election Sectional	Turtle Creek Bridge Club
Nov. 4-7	Fall Sectional	Bridge Club of San Antonio
Nov. 13**	Mentor-Mentee Championship	Turtle Creek Bridge Club
Dec. 11	Holiday Party	Turtle Creek Bridge Club

\*Change of date

\*\*New Listings

## **Awards Day** *by Roxie Tom*

I bet each of you remembers how you felt the day you made Life Master or another color of Life Master. Am I right? On Saturday May 1 at Turtle Creek Bridge Club, you will have a chance to join the bridge community in celebrating the 2009 accomplishments of your friends.

We will gather at 11:30 for snacks and desserts and at noon we will honor those who have reached new levels or placed in the Mini-McKinney or Ace of Clubs. The bridge game will follow at 12:30. The unit is sponsoring the game so can't beat the price!

## **Board Meetings**

Board meetings in 2010 will be at 5 p.m. on the second Monday of each month at Turtle Creek Bridge Club. Unit members are welcome and invited to attend.

## **Care & Comfort**

Carmeline Squires sends get-well or sympathy cards for illness or death of members. Please notify Carmeline at 658-0249 if you have information on the illness or death of members.

## **Grand National Teams Report.**

The Grand National Teams(GNT) was hosted by Unit 172 on February 13, 2010 at BCSA.

The winning teams in Flight B were: **Pete Voges, Susan Ohm, Arlene Schafer and Olivia Brown; Warren Watson, Becky Mosely, Robert Barber and Jesse Buentello; Alonzo Britton, Mary Britton, Phil Brown and Phyllis Giffin; Linda Lawrence, Gary Larson, Rebecca Lu Tanner and Verlyn Stahlecker; William Scarpero, Laurie-Ann Levin, Rebecca Brown and Jerrold Harrington.**

The winning teams in Flight C were: **Tessa Bodnar, Richard Curtin, Karen Fillis and George Fillis; Betty Knaggs, Bob Steidel, S. K. Sharma and Kathy Sinkin-Amor; Beth Gale, Carol Ellis, Terry Sherman and Lena Runke.**

These winning teams all qualify to play in the District 16 Finals (covering most of Texas and all of Mexico) in Richardson over the Memorial Day weekend. Unit 172 pays the entries for those who participate.

Co-hosts **Olivia Brown and Paula Wissman** provided a Pizza Party and desserts.

## **“Eight Is Enough Pro-Am” Results**

Thirty-one tables turned out for the Jan. 30 Eight Is Enough Pro-Am game at BCSA. Thanks to co-hosts **Everette Lewis and Steve Simpson** for providing the food and drinks. Congratulations to the winners: **Dan Blaettler-Brian Bankler-Tom Trudeau-Sheryleen Grothus (1A); Dee Baker-Anyemarie Weaver-Roxana Tom 1-Roxana Tom 2 (1B/2A); Steve & Judy Hoffman-Liane Tsai-Andy Villastrigo (2B/3A); Perry Pace-Shirley Brooks-Verlyn Stahlecker-Ralph Shaw (3B/4A); Pat Balhorn-Jim O'Connor-Gary Larson -Carol Lahser.**

## **Support Our Troops Drive**

This year Unit 172 is sponsoring a "Support Our Troops" drive. Each club that wishes to participate collects little necessities and "treats" for our soldiers and the unit pays for the postage. Thus far we have sent four boxes to our servicemen in Iraq. Following is an excerpt from an email Turtle Creek received:

"Dad...what a SURPRISE!! I just got the box today. The guys here absolutely loved everything in the

box. Everybody has their own little favorites when it comes to candy and sweets and everything in the box fit someone in the office perfectly. We had the salami, cheese and crackers today during our meeting....the guys are still talking about how good it is 'cause they're still eating it....even though we just had supper... :) My guys will eat all day long, but we play hard too so it all evens out.....Please accept our most sincere thanks for your support. We certainly don't do it for the money or the glory, but we'll keep on doing it until it is someone else's turn."

Any club wishing to start a Support Our Troops drive can contact **Fran Vanecko** (210-455-9233). She can send you a flyer to post and answer your questions. Also, if you know of a soldier that you would like us to send a package, please let Fran know.

## **Horton-Gray-Lewis Winners.**

The Unit recognizes the top masterpoint winners in Unit sectional tournaments in three categories: women, men, and players under 300 points (at the beginning of the year).

The 2009 results were:

Cisse Horton Award	George Gray Award	Paul Lewis Award
<b>Patty Hinze (139.39)</b>	<b>Ed Rawlinson (139.11)</b>	<b>Fran Vanecko (34.47)</b>
<b>Donna Watkins (134.94)</b>	<b>Bill Walker (138.26)</b>	<b>Susan Hernandez (29.70)</b>
<b>Marilyn Arnold (132.80)</b>	<b>Greg Hinze (109.19)</b>	<b>Sherril Harris (22.52)</b>

Congratulations to all the top finishers. A complete listing for all Unit members is posted on the Unit website. Thanks to **Diane Olson** and **Everette Lewis** for compiling these statistics.

**Membership Matters.** Congratulations to many Unit 172 bridge players who continue to achieve ACBL masterpoints rankings..Following are the latest winners:

**JUNIOR MASTER: Joyce Bond, Bobby Terrell, Earl G. Cutler, Dr. Prema Durairaj, Nancy Cross, Betty Cuttler, Janet Moody, Rebecca Switzer, and Jim O'Connor.**

**CLUB MASTERS: Dane L. Tune, Carroll Fournier. SECTIONAL MASTERS: Dee Baker, Carol J. Ellis, Bob Steidel, Dr. Stuart Windler, George J. Fillis, Kathy Sinkin-Amor and Ms. Mary Kathryn F. Twite. REGIONAL MASTERS: Rebecca G. Brown, Barbara Morgan, Anyemarie Weaver and Dee Baker. NABC MASTERS: Brian Bankler. LIFE MASTERS: Susan Hernandez. BRONZE LIFE MASTER: David L Morris. SILVER LIFE MASTER: Marjorie L. Donegan. GOLD LIFE MASTER: Bette Allen. GRAND LIFE MASTER: Venkatrao (Babu) Koneru.**

Please welcome the following new ACBL members: **Elizabeth Lesnek, Mary B. McMullen, Tina W. Thomas, Kathryn Wandrisco, Carroll A. Clark, Martha N. Crittenden, Pamela L. Crowley, Linda Fisher, Zee Fisher, Jeanne G. Holland, Patricia S. Huey, Jackie L. Jabs, Mark T. Jabs, Jenny Kalmin, Dana D. Kendin, Elayne Kuehn, Rochelle Lefton, Larry B. Levin, Marjorie McGovern, Suzanne M. Miller, Carol Ann Meyers, Ann Pomerantz, Steven L. Prichard, Sandra L. Ricabaugh, Pat Roberts, Meri Rosenblatt, Steven Rosenblatt, Jan M. Scheele, Kay A. Seats, Sheila Stein, Lana E. Taus, Dick Thompson, Judy K. Thompson, Marilyn J. Weinstein, Evelyn Irene White, George-Anne P. Whitehurst, Jim O'Connor and John A. Whitehurst.**

Finally a big welcome to the new transfers into Unit 172: **Mollie A. Childs, Cindy A. Wickiser, Marlene J. Clausen and Bob Jonason.**

**KERVILLE SPRINGTIME IN  
THE HILLS SECTIONAL**

**APRIL 8-11, 2010  
INN OF THE HILLS 1001 JUNCTION HWY  
1-800-292-5690 BRIDGE RATE \$92**

**Thursday, April 8**

**1PM:** Stratified Open Pairs

**7PM:** One Session Swiss Team; Stratified by team Average

**Friday, April 9**

**9AM:** Bracketed/Handicapped Knockout Teams #1: Session#1

**1PM:** Stratified Open Pairs

KO#1: Session #2

Stratified Open Pairs

KO#1: Session #3

**Saturday, April 10**

**9AM:** Bracketed/Handicapped KO #2 Session# 1

**1PM:** Stratified Open Pairs

B/H KO#2: Session #2

Stratified Open Pairs

B/H KO #2 session #3

**Sunday, April 11**

**Margaret Higgins Stratified Swiss Teams 10:30 AM & TBA**  
\$88/team Lunch provided between Sessions

**Newcomer Games**

Thursday-Saturday, 1PM

Friday & Saturday 7PM 3 table minimum

**Stratifications:**

Pairs & Swiss Teams Strata: C= 0-500 NLM; B=LM or 500-2000; A=2000+

**Tournament Chair:** Margaret Higgins 830-634-7254  
David Ewing 830-895-4718

**Partnerships:** Richard Hamm 830-895-2085

**Tournament Fees** \$10/player/ session \$88/ Swiss Team  
\$1 extra for non-ACBL members

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**The Winning Finesse**  
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