



# THE WINNING FINESSE

Volume 21 Number 2 Website: <http://d16acbl.org/U172>

July, 2012



Dear Friends,

We had an extraordinary spring and early summer. The Kerrville Tournament was so much fun with a really great turnout. Everyone enjoyed the hospitality, the food and the bridge, not to mention the weather. Eighteen teams turned out for the 8 is Enough unit game and the Bridge Club of San Antonio and Turtle Creek had an extremely good turnout for their sectionals. It was so lovely to see so many of you at our events.

Thanks to Ann Gary, Donna McBride, Jean Billie and David Ewing for the hospitality in Kerrville and to Tom Marsh for directing at all the sectionals.

We all owe a great big thank you to Fran Vanecko for her superb work in collecting and shipping our donations to Support the Troops. Hat's off to all who participated in this worthwhile effort.

Congratulations to our B flight team (Rich Curtin, Kay Laird, Pat Prichard and Roxie Tom) for winning the Grand National Team event at the District competition.

Coming up this summer are the Austin Regional, our Individual unit event on July 28, our Luau and annual meeting on August 25, and the New Braunfels Sectional in September. Articles about these appear in this issue. I want to encourage all of you to come and try the Individual event. This is an old event that we have not played here in ages. It should be great fun and I hope to get to play with a lot of you that day. Please read Ed Rawlinson's article which explains how it will work.

Roxana

**Bravo!**

**Pat Prichard-Kay Laird-Roxie Tom-Rich Curtin** won the Flight B Grand National Teams for District 16 (most of Texas and all of Mexico). They qualified to represent District 16 in the national finals of the GNT in Philadelphia this summer, where they would have been the early favorites. Alas, prior travel commitments preclude their participation. Now if their subs from Houston win, it will only confirm what we knew all along.

**Ole'**

**Donna Swarthout** has achieved Platinum Life Master status. Donna becomes only the fifth member (and the first woman) in Unit 172 to surpass 10,000 masterpoints. A write-up of Donna's achievement will appear in an upcoming issue of the ACBL Bulletin.

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

July 28	Unit Championship-Individual @ BCSA
Aug. 25	Luau-Annual Membership Meeting @ Turtle Creek
Sept. 6-9	New Braunfels Sectional
Sept. 29	Unit Championship-North American Pairs @ BCSA

## Care & Comfort

Carmeline Squires sends get-well or sympathy cards for illness or death of members. Please notify Carmeline at 658-0249 .

## Board Meetings.

The Unit 172 Board of Directors meets at 5 p.m. on the second Monday of each month at Turtle Creek Bridge Club. Visitors are welcome.

## Election Time

Unit 172 is managed by an eleven-member Board of Directors elected to staggered three-year terms. Current Board members whose terms are expiring are **Roxie Tom, David Mitchell, Fran Vanecko, and Steve Simpson**. A Nominating Committee consisting of **Jeri Tribo (Chair), Fran Vanecko** (who is not running for re-election), **Hank Eng, Dolores Reiley, and Carol Price** has nominated the following individuals as candidates: **Karen Fillis, Susan Hernandez, David Mitchell, Barbara Morgan, Debbie Schweiss, Steve Simpson, Kathy Sinkin-Amor, and Roxie Tom**. Any Unit member may make additional nominations at the annual membership meeting, held in conjunction with the Luau on Aug. 25. Following the membership meeting, a new issue of the Winning Finesse will list all candidates complete with bios and/or statements. The Board will identify dates on which voting will occur at various clubs in the Unit in early October. Voting will continue during the first three days of the Election Sectional at Turtle Creek October 11-14. If a runoff is necessary, it will held on the final day of the tournament. New members are installed and new officers elected at a Board meeting shortly after the election.

## Mark It Down!

The Unit's next extravaganza will be July 28 at BCSA (food at 11:30, prizes at noon, bridge at 12:30). You can expect the usual good stuff: great hospitality, great prizes, \$5 entries, generous masterpoint awards. You will also experience something new.....exciting.....titilating. An Individual Championship! You are familiar with pair games. Also with team games. But probably not Individual games. It's a little like party bridge when you play with multiple partners. In an Individual, you play each hand with a different partner. Each round consists of three boards. In the first round, you are assigned to a seat at a table. You play the first board. Then South and East switch seats and you play the second board. Then South and West switch seats and play the third board.

	Board 1		Board 2		Board 3		
	Bob		Bob		Bob		
Sue	Sally		Sue	Jim	Sally		Jim
	Jim		Sally		Sue		

In the next round, you move to a new table with 3 new players and repeat the process. So typically you would play 9 rounds of 3 boards with 27 different partners. The good news is that you don't have to worry about playing 27 different convention cards (i.e., bidding systems). One of the rules is that everyone must play the same simple system (the ACBL yellow card). If you are a relative newcomer, you may have discovered that an advantage experienced players have is a familiarity with esoteric conventions. In an Individual, the pros can't use all these weapons of mass destruction, even if they happen to be matched up with their regular partner for one board. If they use their fancy convention, they would be subject to penalty. So.....the top 10 reasons to put this event on your calendar:

10. It's inexpensive and there's lots of good food
9. You don't need to bring a partner.
8. You get to know a lot of people a little better
7. Where else can you play with 27 different partners
6. You could win Dinner and Bridge at Ed's
5. You can watch the pros try to play without all their tools
4. Tom Marsh has promised that no one will be confused (about the movement)
3. If your partner makes a mistake, you can trade him in for a new one.
2. If you make a mistake, by the next round no one at your table will know.
1. It'll be a hoot!

## Luau and Annual Membership Meeting

The Luau and Annual Membership Meeting will be held at Turtle Creek on Aug. 25 (food at 11:30, prizes at noon, bridge at 12:30). This event also has its top ten reasons to come...

10. It's FREE!
9. The Membership Meeting will be really short
8. If you don't come, you may end up being nominated as a candidate for the Board

7. Prizes for the best Hawaiian outfits (plus the usual prizes)
6. Special prizes for those wearing coconut bikinis (ladies only)
5. Special prizes for those wearing grass skirts (men or women)
4. Hula hoop contest (voluntary but entertaining)
3. REALLY GOOD food from co-hosts **Rebecca Brown and Ed Rawlinson**
2. Award of the Tiki Fertility Idol to some unsuspecting recipient
1. Testimonials from prior recipients of the Tiki Fertility Idol

### I35 Cup Update

This is Year Two of the annual intercity match between San Antonio and Austin. Each Unit has a qualifying match to select its representatives in Flights A, B, C, and 299ers. The Unit 172 qualifying match was held at BCSA on Feb. 25. Qualifying teams included: Flight A-**Donna Swarthout-Dave Swarthout-Gary Anziani-Ed Rawlinson**; Flight B-**Jeri Tribo-Fran Vanecko-Kay Laird-Pat Prichard**; Flight C-**George Fillis-Karen Fillis-Jim Gorman-Rowena Gorman**; 299ers-**Delores Reiley-John Hilbig-Leslie Tramer-Jon Tramer**.

The intercity competition actually has two separate components. Each team plays its counterpart in the same flight. There is a Flight ABC Cup. The Unit winning the most matches of these three flights wins the cup. The 299ers compete for a separate cup. Last year Unit 172 won the ABC competition and Austin won the 299er competition. This year these results were reversed. San Antonio won in Flight A, but lost in B and C, so Austin won the ABC cup. **Delores, John, Leslie and Jon** won their match and brought the 299er cup back to SA. Congratulations to all these teams for qualifying and representing Unit 172.

### Sectional Summary

Three sectionals have been held in Unit 172 since the last newsletter. Kerrville had a great tournament Mar. 29-Apr. 1. Thanks to tournament chair **Dave Ewing** for his hard work. Kudos also go to **Ann Gary** and **Donna McBride** for their work on hospitality. Unit 172 pair game winners included: Thursday AM: **Hank Eng-David Mitchell (A); David Ewing-Jacqui Lewis (B); Victor and Sandra Press (C)**. Friday AM: **Greg Schepens-Fran Vanecko (A/B); Mary Powell-Barbara Morgan (C)**. Friday PM: **Bill Walker-Marilyn Arnold (A); Phil Brown-Beula Mae Pearce (B); Rena Lunke-Carol Ellis (C)**. Friday Fast Pairs: **Kathy Sinkin-Amor-John Hilbig (C)**. Saturday AM: **Everette Lewis-Art D'Entremont (A); Michael Boulette-Maureen Lightfoot (B); Ginny Littrell-Jacquelyn Fisher (C)**. Saturday PM: **Cecilia Zachar-Beverly Santos (A); Ginny Littrell-Jacquelyn Fisher (B/C)**. Saturday Fast Pairs: **Kathy Sinkin-Amor-Gary Larsen (C)**. Saturday AM 299er: **Mike Robinson-Chuck Mundy**. Saturday PM 299er: **Catherine Supple-Jan Wingate**.

Unit 172 team game winners included: Thursday Swiss: **Jean Blilie-Richard Hamm-Maureen Lightfoot-Margaret Higgins (A/B); Jacquelyn and Horatio Aldredge (C)**. KO Teams: **Dave Swarthout-Donna Swarthout-Gary Anziani-Ed Rawlinson (Bkt 1); Horatio & Jacquelyn Aldredge (Bkt 2)**. Sunday Swiss: **Dave Swarthout-Donna Swarthout-Gary Anziani-Ed Rawlinson (A); Ginny Littrell-Jacquelyn Fisher-Homer Stevens-Stephanie Stevens (C)**.

Unit 172 members finishing in the top ten in overall masterpoint winners included: **Ed Rawlinson (27.87); Dave Swarthout (27.87); Donna Swarthout (27.87); Gary Anziani (27.03); Terry Riely (16.48); Carolyn Riely (16.48); Sharon Mann (16.48); George Mann (16.48); Jean Blilie (15.78); Maureen Lightfoot (14.40)**. A new award (the Silver Tongued Devil Award) went to **Terry Riely** (who else) for his quote of the tournament. After noticing that **Kathy Sinkin-Amor** won her flight in both days of the new Fast Pairs event, Terry remarked "That's no surprise, she's always been a very fast lady."

The Bridge Club of San Antonio held its annual Fiesta Sectional Apr. 12-15. Thanks to **Kathleen Pigott** and her crew for an excellent tournament. Unit 172 pair game winners included: Thursday AM: **Roxana & Roxie Tom (A); Gunnar Wilhelm-Jo Neesvig (B); Georgia Baron-Kathy Sinkin-Amor (C)**; Friday AM: **Venkatroa Koneru-Ken McBride (A); Becky Mosely-Verlyn Stahlecker and Marjorie Miller-Brenda Johnson (B); Marjorie and Brenda also won C**. Friday PM: **Pat Prichard-Roxie Tom (A/B)**; Saturday AM: **Greg Hinze-Patty Lozano (A); Charles Loeffler-Gene Lux (B); Brian Bankler-Hank Eng (C)**; Saturday PM: **Richard Ware (A); Pat Prichard-Roxie Tom**

**(B); Rowena & Jim Gorman (C);** Thursday AM 299ers: **William Osborne-Geneva Johnson;** Friday AM 299ers: **Richard Greenbauer-Polly McCamey tied with Sheila & Jack Stein;** Friday PM 299ers: **Catherine Supple-Jan Wingate;** Saturday AM 299ers: **Carol Ellis-Rena Lunke;** Saturday PM 299ers: **Barbara Boren-John Hilbig.**

Unit 172 team game winners included: Thursday Swiss: **Donna Swarthout-Dave Swarthout-Gary Anziani-Ed Rawlinson (A);** KO Teams **Donna-Dave-Gary-Ed;** Sunday Swiss: **Donna-Dave-Gary-Ed (A); Tom Trudeau-Sheryleen Grothus-Kay Laird-Pat Prichard (B); Robert Barber-Gool Castleberry-Jim & Rowena Gorman (C).**

Unit 172 members finishing in the top ten in overall masterpoints included **Donna Swarthout (29.23); Dave Swarthout (26.46); Ed Rawlinson (25.23); Gary Anziani (23.95); Pat Prichard (15.60); Roxie Tom (15.47); Ken McBride (13.86); Donna McBride (13.39); Bill Walker (13.22); Fran Vanecko (12.78).**

Turtle Creek held its summer sectional June 7-10. Thanks to **Laurie-Ann Levin** and her crew for the excellent hospitality. Congratulations to TC for the great turnout. This turnout was marked by several big wins by the underdogs. In the Friday PM Pair Game, **Dolores Reiley-John Hilbig** posted a huge 66.35% game to win all three flights (ABC) by a big margin. In the Friday Compact KO **Rebecca Brown** (playing with some out-of-towners) beat up on the pros to win overall. In the Saturday Compact KO, **Charles Loeffler-Gene Lux- Karen Fillis-George Fillis** did the same thing, beating all the pros to win overall. Other local winners included:

Pair Games: Thursday AM: **Dave Swarthout-Ed Rawlinson (A); Phil Brown-Jay Thorne (B); Bob Steidel-Kathy Sinkin-Amor (C);** Friday AM: **Gene Lux-Charles Loeffler (B); Earl Cutler-John Gibson (C);** Saturday AM: **Roxana Tom-Ann Gary (A/B); Vijay Koli-Gavindasamy Durairaj (C);** Saturday PM: **Laurie Levin-Bill Scarpero (B); Catherine Supple-Linda Banks (C).** 299er Pair Game winners were: Friday AM and Saturday AM: **Mabel Byrnes-Darlene Kinstley;** Friday PM: **Gene and Ann McMullan;** Saturday PM: **Earl and Betty Cutler.** Unit 172 Team Game winners were: Thursday Swiss: **Gary Anziani-Ed Rawlinson-Dave Swarthout-Donna Swarthout (A); Charles Loeffler-Gene Lux-Goerge and Karen Fillis (B); Dick Greenbauer-Catherine Supple-June Reimer-Jan Wingate (C);** Sunday Swiss: **Bill Walker-Gary Anziani-Ed Rawlinson-Donna Swarthout-Dave Swarthout (A); Becky Mosely-Gary Larson-Linda Lawrence-Kathy Sinkin-Amor (B); Steve Simpson-Anne Evers-Robert Evers-David Herron (C).** Unit 172 members finishing in the top 10 overall masterpoint winners included **Ed Rawlinson (27.47); Dave Swarthout (26.25); Donna Swarthout (23.63); Gary Anziani (21.47); Charles Loeffler (18.89); Gene Lux (18.89); Ira Hessel (16.76); Ellen Hessel (16.76).**

## Membership Matters

We welcome the following new members and transfers: **Richard Shields, Daniel Quintero, Robert Craig, Dr. Prema Durairaj, Leslee Connally, Ziena Faltin, Virginia Gafford, Mary Malone, Yesh Singh, Joyce Carlson, Matthew Brunoehler, Susanna Linam, Adele Strelchun, Phillip Corrigan, Sarah Pletz, Jo Ann Robertson, Gloria Rodriquez, John Stewart, Frances Metcalf.** Congratulations to all those who achieved higher ACBL ratings: new Junior Masters: **Dr. Vijay Koli, Mary Goldman, Beverly Poth, Yesh Singh, Lew Spurlock, June Eubank, Gerda Jacobs, Larry Rettinger;** new Club Masters: **Elizabeth Berger, Dr. Laura Matuszewski, Jack Stein, Marilyn Weinstein, Christine Collier, Beverly Miller, Homer Payne, Bobby Terrell, Luann Cohen, Ellen Gutermuth, Sheila Stein;** new Sectional Masters: **Evelyn White, Elisabeth Kay, Frances Stoltz, Catherine Supple, Dane Tune, Dee Carter;** new Regional Masters: **Richard Greenbauer, Eleanor Bump, Rena Lunke, Mary Jean O'Connor, Sisir Sharma, Sharon Bishop;** new Bronze Life Masters: **Judy Hoffman, Dr. Stephen Hoffman, George Fillis, Karen Fillis, Homer Stevens, Harry Pierson;** new Silver Life Masters: **Paula Warren, Dr. Hank Eng, Linda Lawrence, Jo Neesvig, Hal Leonard;** new Gold Life Masters: **Roxana Tom.**

## A Nail-Biter

By Ed Rawlinson

Going into the last round of the Swiss at the Turtle Creek tournament, our team was leading by 10 VPs. If we won the round or lost by 1 or 2 IMPs, we would win the event. Losing by 3 would be a tie. Anything more would be sayonara. The first three boards were routine (we lost 1 IMP). On Board 4, I opened 1H in fourth seat; partner bid 2D Drury (3 trumps, 10-12 pts.); I signed off in 2H; LHO balanced with a double; RHO bid 2S; I took the push to 3H; down one. This would turn out to be a 5 IMP loss (2H making at the other table). On Board 5, our opponents got to 6H making. I

was not sure our teammates would get there, but they did, for another push. Then came Board 6:

<p>♠-KJ1087 ♥-xx ♦-108xxx ♣-Q</p> <p>♠- ♥-Qxx ♦-AKQxx ♣-10xxxx</p> <p>♠-A96x ♥-Axx ♦-J9 ♣-AKxx</p>	<p>♠-Qxxx ♥-KJ10xxx ♦-x ♣-Jxx</p> <p><b>Dlr: E</b> <b>Vul: Both</b></p>	<p>As South, I opened 1N. East bid 2C (clubs and a higher suit). Partner bid 2H (transfer). East doubled. I bid 3S (super-accept) and partner raised to 4. West cashed the AK of diamonds (East pitching a club) and shifted to a heart. My plan was to win the heart, club to the Q, Spade K, spade to the 9 (expecting 3-1 spade split), club Ace (pitching a heart), ruff a heart, spade to Ace, ruff a heart, ruff a diamond, cash club K for the 10<sup>th</sup> trick. When West showed out on the first round of spades, I could no longer make the contract. Later, on the drive home, I finally figured out how to make the contract. (<b>Try it yourself before reading further</b>). It would have been so much easier if dummy had a small club rather than the queen. After winning the heart Ace, cash AK of clubs (pitching a heart). Now ruff a heart, ruff a diamond, ruff a heart, ruff a diamond, ruff a club with the spade king, ruff a diamond for the ninth trick and you still have the spade Ace. At the other table, NS played 3S making (a loss of 6 imps for us).</p>
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Board 7 was a push. Some side info: the other table finished a couple of boards sooner than we did. So our teammates were anxiously watching (from a distance). They were especially anxious because Director **Tom Marsh** (who could see all the scores on his computer) told them we were down by 12. Then came Board 8:

<p>♠-Kxxx ♥-10x ♦-J10xx ♣-Kxx</p> <p>♠-xx ♥-xx ♦-Ax ♣-AJ9xxxx</p> <p>♠-AQ10xxx ♥-Jx ♦-K9xxx ♣-</p>	<p>♠-x ♥-AKQxxxx ♦-Qx ♣-Q10x</p> <p><b>Dlr: W</b> <b>Vul: NS</b></p>	<p>At our table, West opened 4C, East bid 4H, I bid 4S, East bid 5C, I bid 5D, West doubled, North bid 5S, East bid 6C, and North doubled. Partner (<b>Gary Anziani</b>) made the excellent lead of the spade king (so that he could see the dummy) and shifted to the jack of diamonds. Down 2, 300. At the other table, East opened 1H, South bid 1S, West passed, North bid 2S, East bid 3H, South bid 4S, and West bid 5H, making 5 for 450. 750 was good for 13 IMPs. All of this was attributable to the recent addition to our team of <b>Bill Walker</b> (because he goes to church regularly). Divine intervention never hurts.</p>
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### Unit Game Updates

The annual Awards Day was held Apr. 28 at BCSA. Thanks to the **Roxanas** for organizing and co-hosting this event. Winners included **Jo Neesvig-Susan Spencer (A/B)** and **George and Karen Fillis (C)**.

The Eight Is Enough Swiss Teams Championship was held at Turtle Creek on May 19. Thanks to co-hosts **David Mitchell and Fran Vanecko** for the hospitality. Winners included: **Carole Lee O'Connor-Marilyn Arnold-Hank Eng-Brian Bankler (A)**; **Roxie Tom-Pat Prichard-Jim and Rowena Gorman (B)**; and **George and Karen Fillis-Steve and Stephanie Stevens (C)**.

# New Braunfels Sectional

September 6-9, 2012  
New Braunfels Civic Center  
380 Seguin Ave New Braunfels 78130



**Thursday, September 6**  
10:30 am Stratified Pairs  
3:30 pm Stratified Swiss Teams

**Friday, September 7**  
10:30 am Stratified Pairs  
10:30 am Compact KO#1  
3:30 pm Stratified Pairs  
3:30 pm Compact KO.#1

**Saturday, September 8**  
10:30 am Stratified Pairs  
10:30 am Compact KO #2  
3:30 pm Stratified Pairs  
3:30 pm Compact KO #2

**Sunday, September 9**  
10:30 am & TBA Nell Morgan Stratified Swiss Teams  
**299er Games**  
Thursday-Saturday 10:30 am and 3:30 pm (3 table minimum)

**Stratifications:**  
**Flight A 2000 Flight B 500-2000 Flight C 0-500**  
*All events will be stratified based on average master points*

**Card Fees**  
\$11/person/session Sunday Swiss/\$120 team (includes lunch)  
\$1/session more for non-member

**Tournament Chair**  
Paula Warren 830-620-0004  
**Partnership Chair**  
Janet & Bill Moody 830-708-3612/ 830-632-6890  
**Hospitality Chair**  
Jan Wingate: 830-629-0212 /830-705 7558  
June Reimer

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