



THE WINNING FINESSE

Volume 21 Number 3 Website: <http://d16acbl.org/U172>

September, 2012

President's Message



We have survived another of our lovely, hot summers, and as we wait for the first “norther” there are things to do in the bridge world. The New Braunfels Sectional will take place at the Civic Center September 6 to 9. Paula Warren and her fellow bridge players always provide great fun and food. Following that the unit North American Pairs qualifying will be held at the Bridge Club on September 29. You have all been playing in special NAP qualifying games at the clubs this summer. Check with the clubs to see if you qualified to play in the Unit Final, as I’m sure most of you did. Then grab your partner, who also qualified, and come play on September 29 in a stratified pair game that can enable you to play in the District Finals in January. I hope to see a lot of you there. Next comes our Election Sectional (October 4-7) at Turtle Creek. There is a great set of candidates running for the four open slots on the board. Be sure to vote. Surely by that time the “norther” will have arrived. Summer is the price we Texans pay for the rest of the year and sometime in October it will become a distant memory. Many of you have asked for the recipe for Ann Gary’s Hot Crackers:

- 1 1/3 cup Canola Oil
- 1 pkg. dry original Ranch Dressing mix
- 1 Tablespoon Garlic powder
- 1 Tablespoon hot chili flakes
- 1 box saltine crackers

Mix first 4 ingredients together. Add crackers and toss occasionally until all the oil is absorbed. Store in an airtight container.

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.

Calendar

New Braunfels Sectional	Sept. 6-9	Convention Center
NAP Unit Qualifying	Sept. 29	BCSA
Election Sectional	Oct. 4-7	Turtle Creek
Fall Sectional	Nov. 1-4	BCSA
Mentor-Mentee Championship	Nov. 10	Turtle Creek
Holiday Party	Dec. 8	BCSA

ALERT!!! New Directory Coming

In the next few months, the Unit 172 Directory will be updated and published. It will provide names, addresses, and phone numbers of all Unit members. Roxie Tom and Steve Simpson are in charge of this project. The directory will use the addresses and phone numbers on file with ACBL. Thus, if you have changed your address or phone number and have not notified ACBL, please do so by October 31. You can contact ACBL either by email (addresschange@acbl.org) or phone (662-253-3130). If you do not want to be listed in the new Directory, please contact Roxie (rtom85@yahoo.com or 508-4697)

Luau Report.

A big crowd (32 tables) showed up for the annual Luau and Membership Meeting at Turtle Creek on Aug. 25. Thanks to co-hosts **Rebecca Brown** and **Ed Rawlinson** for a real smorgasboard of goodies. Bravo to **Debbie Schweiss, Carole O'Connor, Susan Hernandez, and Judy Carol Taquino** for their saucy hula hoop demonstrations, although they were hampered in their efforts by a defective hula hoop. There was general consensus that they had all the right moves. **Doug Cross** (in absentia) was awarded the coveted Tiki fertility idol. Doug is well known as the Unit's most prolific smoocher. There's no telling what we might expect now that he has the powers of the idol. There was also some bridge. Winners included: **Bill Scapero-Laurie Ann Levin** (1st in A), **Ed Rawlinson-Gool Castleberry** (2nd in A), **Chuck Jefferson-Cecilia Zachar** (3rd in A), **Brian Bankler-Hank Eng** (1st in B), **Gary Larson-Kathy Sinkin-Amor** (2nd in B), **Stuart Windeler-Andy Villastrigo** (3rd in B), **Wyn Coleman-Richard Greenbauer** (1st in C), **Marjorie Miller-Georgia Baron** (2nd in C), **Jan Wingate-June Reimer** (3rd in C).

Membership Matters.

We welcome the following new members and transfers: **Vicki Boyce, Dr. Gary Cox, Socorro Martinez, Ravi Sandhu, Monnie Smith.** Congratulations to all those who received higher ACBL ratings: new Junior Masters: **Dr. Cynthia Casteel, Dr. Govindasamy Durairaj, Carol Hall, David Holcomb;** new Club Masters: **James Gardner, Carla Harman, Ann McMullan, Mary Lou Daughtery, Valerie Katz, Larry Levin, Marlene Nesland, Rebecca Switzer;** new Sectional Masters: **Paul Carver, Paula Barr-Hunter, Carolyn Ruble;** new Regional Masters: **Darla Barger, Louree Greehey;** new Life Masters: **Betty Knaggs;** new Bronze Life Masters: **Betty Knaggs;** new Gold Life Masters: **Judith Ortiz, Myra Ribak.**

Individual

As advertised, it was a hoot! Eighty-eight adventurous souls showed up for the Unit's first Individual Championship in decades. Just about everybody had a good time (there were three known critics, but, hey, some people don't like KO's...or pair games...or whatever).

Thanks to **Tom Marsh** for directing the event (and congratulations for pulling it off), and thanks to **Dr. Ira Hessel and Gary Anziani** for organizing and arranging the hospitality. Winners included: **Robert Martin** (1st in A & B), **Ellen Hessel** (2nd in A), **Kay Laird** (3rd in A and 2nd in B), **Laurie-Ann Levin** (3rd in B), **Vijay Koli** (1st in C), **Pat Roberts** (2nd in C), and **Dolores Reiley** (3rd in C).

North American Pairs

There will be a 2-session unit qualifying September 29 at the Bridge Club at San Antonio for the District NAPS starting at 10 am. The second session start time TBA.. The District finals will be in Austin January 5 and 6. The top 3 or 4 pairs will qualify for the National final. Those that qualify will receive up to \$1400 a pair to help pay the costs of the National. In order to play in the unit event you had to qualify at the club level in the special games held during June, July and August.

Election Time!

Unit 172 is managed by a Board of Directors elected by the membership. It includes 11 members elected to three-year staggered terms. There are four positions up for election this year. Board members whose terms are expiring include David Mitchell, Steve Simpson, Roxie Tom, and Fran Vanecko. Candidates for election and their statements are shown on page 2. 2012 Voting Schedule

Date	Time	Location
Thurs., 9/27	5:15 pm	Karnes City
Friday 9/28	12:15 pm	Kerrville
Sunday 9/30	12:30 pm	Gonzales
Monday 10/1	10:15 am	Turtle Creek
Tuesday 10/2	11:45 am	New Braunfels
Wed. 10/3	11:15 am	Bridge Club of San Antonio
Thurs. 10/4	10:15 am and between sessions	Sec. @ Turtle Creek
Friday 10/5	10:15 am and between sessions	Sec. @ Turtle Creek
Sat. 10/6	10:15 am and between sessions	Sec. @ Turtle Creek & count votes
Sunday 10/7	Runoff election if required	

Candidates for Board of Directors

Karen Fillis



I think the most important thing you need to know about me is that I love bridge. I have been a member of ACBL for about 5 years and have enjoyed every minute. I enjoy learning more about the game each time I play. I have been fortunate enough to make it to the Nationals with my husband, George, in two GNT's and two NAOP's. I have volunteered to help with regional and sectional tournaments. I was Hospitality co-chair for the SA Regional in 2011. As far as personal background, I graduated from San Diego State University and have been an accountant and office manager most of my adult life. I have done accounting and tax work for individuals, corporations and non profits. I am married and have 2 daughters and 4 grandchildren.

Susan Hernandez



I have served on 3 boards over the last 25 years: Christian women's Club, Junior League, and Chamber of Commerce. I owned and ran a successful retail business for 6 years in the Rio Grande Valley. After moving to San Antonio I managed a group practice of Doctors for 15 years. I have played bridge for 20 plus years. I am a certified Bridge teacher and Director. I am very interested in growing the bridge community in San Antonio. I would like to see at least 100 new bridge members join our community in the next 5 years. I would also like to see the newest bridge members in our community be committed to growing their bridge skills and time at the bridge table with as much joy and love as I have over these past 6 years!

C. David Mitchell



It would be an honor and privilege to continue working on our Unit 172 board. We have had such a cohesive and hard working group for many years now and great leadership. I would appreciate your support and vote. Thank you!

Barbara Morgan



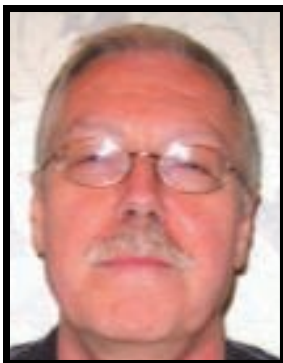
I am a full time Realtor with Coldwell Banker. I have been in real estate for the last 9 years in Iowa, Illinois and Texas. I graduated from Michigan State University with a degree in Business. After college I entered the army and worked as a club manager for Officer and NCO clubs. I left the army to get married and stayed home to raise my children. During that time, I worked part time in the banking industry and I have held various volunteer positions for swim teams, boy scouts and umpire leagues. I started playing duplicate bridge when I moved to Texas in 2007 and try to play as much as work will allow. My hobbies include painting, reading and annoying my husband as much as possible. If elected to the SABL Board, I would like to give back a little to a game that gives me such great enjoyment.

Debbie Schweiss



I moved to San Antonio from Minnesota in 1986 with my husband, Mike, and our two children, finding a very warm welcome here (in addition to the climate contrast!). I worked as an office manager for a plastic surgeon for 22 years and when the doctor retired, so did I! I started taking bridge lessons five years ago, primarily to keep my memory strong. Little did I know I would get addicted to the game! When I am not playing bridge, I do the bookkeeping for my husband's plumbing business, spend time with my grandchildren, garden, read, and exercise. I am a 299'er who has really benefited from the mentor-mentee program; I am so glad to have been a part of it. As a Board member, I will do whatever I can to help the Unit to maintain its appeal to all members, novices and veterans alike.

Steve Simpson



I've been part of the San Antonio bridge community for over 7 years and would be delighted to serve a second term on the Board of Directors. For those of you who don't know me, I'm the guy who takes photos and runs the big screen slideshow at nearly all of our tournaments. I'm also the local North American Pairs (NAP) Coordinator and the Unit 172 webmaster. Thank you for your continued support.

Kathy Sinkin-Amor



Who would have thought that a casual decision a little over 3 years ago to go back to duplicate bridge after over 30 years would lead to a love affair with the game and the people who play. I am honored to have been asked to represent these amazing people. Nitty Gritty: Native of San Antonio; Real Estate Agent since 1972; Real Estate Broker since 1974; have had my own real estate office since 2002; Plan II at UTSA (did not graduate); am on the board of Jewish Family Service; on the board of the Opera Guild of SA/treasurer for 8 years; organized and ran major fund raisers for the Arthritis Foundation and the Opera Guild; own and manage commercial and residential property in the San Antonio area.

Roxana Tom



I am Roxana Tom and I am a candidate in the upcoming board election. I am an accountant and have recently retired, although I still help my family and our family business. I am currently serving as Treasurer on the Unit board. It has been a great experience learning how the ACBL, District 16, our unit and our clubs interact to promote bridge and make your participation pleasurable. I hope to put that experience to use in another term. Bridge is the best game around and I want to see it thrive. Your support will be appreciated.

Bridge Club of San Antonio November 1-4, 2012

3195 Nacogdoches Rd., San Antonio, TX 78217 (210) 590.9100

www.bridgeclubsa.com admin@bridgeclubsa.com

On Nacogdoches, 1.2 miles north of Loop 410
1.4 miles south of Wurzbach Parkway

Thursday, November 1

10:30 am Stratified Open Pairs
10:30 am 299er Pairs
3:00 pm Stratified Swiss Teams
3:00 pm 299er Pairs

Friday, November 2

10:30 am	Stratified Open Pairs
10:30 am	299er Pairs
10:30 am	Bracketed KO Teams (1 of 3)
3:00 pm	Stratified Open Pairs
3:00 pm	299er Pairs
3:00 pm	Bracketed KO Teams (2 of 3)

Saturday, November 3

10:30 am	Stratified Open Pairs
10:30 am	299er Pairs
10:30 am	Bracketed KO Teams (3 of 3)
3:00 pm	Stratified Open Pairs
3:00 pm	299er Pairs

Sunday, November 4

10:00 am & TBA Stratiflighted Swiss Teams
Meal between sessions

Partnership Chair:

Susan Hernandez 210.710.8240

Stratifications:

A 2000+B 500-2000 C 0-500
299er at director's discretion

Average Masterpoints will be used in all events

Co-Tournament Chairs:

Rich Lampman 210.867.4248
Everette Lewis 210.663.3545

Hospitality Chair:

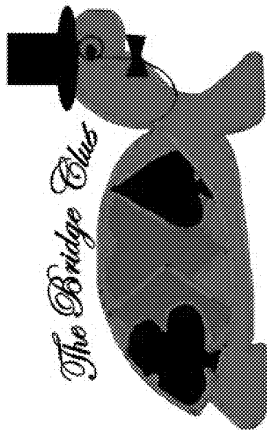
Kathleen Pigott 210.828.7261

Card Fees:

\$11/person/session \$100/Swiss Team
Unpaid/non-ACBL members add \$11

The Winning Finesse
c/o Ira and Ellen Hessel, Editors
2826 Barrel Oak
San Antonio, TX 78231

**PRESORTED STD
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
PERMIT 595
SAN ANTONIO TX**



Willson Davis, Jr.
San Antonio Election Sectional
October 4-7, 2012

Turtle Creek Bridge Club
2343 NW Military Hwy San Antonio 78231
210.375.0500 www.tcdbc.com

Thursday, October 4
10 am Stratified Open Pairs and 199er Pairs
3 pm Swiss Team

Friday, October 5
10 am & 3 pm Compact KO #1
10 am Stratified Open Pairs and 199er Pairs
3 pm Stratified Open Pairs

Saturday, October 6
10 am & 3 pm Compact KO#2
10 am Stratified Open Pairs and 199er Pairs
3 pm Stratified Open Pairs

Sunday, October 7
10 am & TBA Strati-flighted Swiss – Lunch included
Tournament Chair: Laurie Levin (210) 213-3631
Partnership Chair: Susan Hernandez 210-378-7764
Card Fees: \$10/person/session \$96/Swiss Team

50% Student discount Unpaid and non-ACBL members plus \$1
Averaged Stratifications: Open Pairs: A 2000+ B 500-2000 C 0-500
Separate Section for 299ers and below

Swiss: A - 2000+ A/X - 1000 - 2000 B - 500 - 1000 C - 0 - 500

**We're outside Loop 410, inside Loop 1604, just north of
Lockhill-Selma in North Salado Village**

**Host Hotel: Hilton Airport Hotel - Ref. Bridge Tournament for
special rates.**