



# THE WINNING FINESSE

Volume 21 Number 4 Website: <http://d16acbl.org/U172> December, 2012



**President's Column** by *Roxana Tom*. Congratulations to Kathy Sinkin-Amor, Debbie Schweiss, Steve Simpson and Roxie Tom as they join your Unit Board for a three year term. We will miss Fran Vanecko and David Mitchell and appreciate their valuable work. Many thanks to Beverly Santos, Sheryleen Grothus, Anyemarie Weaver, Dee Baker, Betty Knaggs and Sandra Weber who pitched in to hold the election when Pete Voges was called out of town.

The board elected me to serve as president for another year. I look forward to working with all of you to make bridge in San Antonio better. Your ideas about how to do that will be welcomed.

At the Wilson Davis Election Sectional, we had the pleasure of playing with a delightful pair from British Columbia and the very next week with a pair from North Carolina. The Canadians were staying downtown and most days rode the bus both ways in order to play. Both couples said they were vacationing in San Antonio and that one of the reasons they chose to come here was that they could also play bridge, and invited all of you to come and play at their local clubs.

See you at the Fall Sectional at Bridge Club, Nov. 1-4.

**LAST CHANCE!!! 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 November 15 (deadline has been extended by two weeks). You can contact ACBL either by email ([addresschange@acbl.org](mailto: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](mailto:rtom85@yahoo.com) or 508-4697).

### 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

Fall Sectional	Nov. 1-4	BCSA
Mentor-Mentee Championship	Nov. 10	Turtle Creek
Holiday Party	Dec. 8	BCSA
Winter Sectional	Jan. 18-21	BCSA

**Mentor-Mentee Championship Coming Up.** The annual Mentor-Mentee Championship will be held at Turtle Creek on Nov. 10. Snacks start at 11:30, with game time at noon. The game is limited to mentees and their partners. Mentees whose mentors are unavailable for this date but who want to play may contact Jeri Tribo (394-1139). Jeri will find you a partner. Jeri also promises prizes and great hospitality.

**North American Pairs Results.** The Unit Finals of the North American Pairs was held Sept. 29 at BCSA. The "NAPs" is a grass roots competition. During the summer, players playing in club games qualified to compete in the Unit Finals (or not). About two-thirds of the field qualified to compete in the District 16 Finals, which will be held January 5-6 during the Austin Sectional. At the District Finals, the top three pairs in each flight (4 in Flight B) will qualify to compete in the National Finals at the Spring Nationals in St. Louis. Unit 172 has had members who have previously qualified and competed at the national level. The Unit and the District provide financial support for those going to the National level. It's a great experience, and we wish good luck to those competing at the District Finals. Top winners at the Unit Finals include: **Terry and Carolyn Riely (1<sup>st</sup> in A), Forrest Gray-Laurie-Ann Levin (2<sup>nd</sup> in A, 1<sup>st</sup> in B), Marilyn Arnold-Bill Walker (3<sup>rd</sup> in A), Kay Laird-Pat Prichard (2<sup>nd</sup> in B), Jeri Tribo-Fran Vanecko (3<sup>rd</sup> in B), Bob Steidel-S.K. Shama (1<sup>st</sup> in C), Jamie Gardner-Homer Payne (2<sup>nd</sup> in C), and Andy Williams-Marjorie Miller (3<sup>rd</sup> in C).**

**Sectional Summary.** Almost 300 tables attended the New Braunfels Sectional in September. Thanks to Tournament Chair **Paula Warren** and the great volunteers in the New Braunfels bridge community for the wonderful hospitality. Unit 172 Pair Game winners included: Thursday AM: **Chuck Jefferson-Beverly Santos (A), Karen & George Fillis (B), Wyn Coleman-Richard Greenbauer (C), Virginia Gafford-Sylvia Hamilton (E)**; Friday AM: **LaNelle Strickland-Barbara Burns (A), Dee Baker-Dorothy Rippstein (B), Carolyn Martin-Barbara Habiger (C), Ann & Jim McMullan (E)**; Friday PM: **Chuck Jefferson-Wayne Rauscher (A), Karen & George Fillis (B), Jan Wingate-June Reimer (E)**; Saturday AM: **Andy Williams-Marjorie Miller (C)**; Saturday PM: **Bill McCarty (A/B)**. Unit 172 Team Game winners included: Thursday Swiss: **Doug Cross-Gary Anziani-Bill Walker-Ed Rawlinson (A), Shirley Brooks (B), Debbie Schweiss-Dolores Reiley-Jo Ann Manfredi-John Hilbig (C)**; Friday Compact KO: **Terry & Carolyn Riely-Jon Richard Ware (A)**; Saturday Compact KO: **Greg & Patty Hinze-Ellen & Ira Hessel (aka The 4H Club) (A)**; Sunday Swiss: **Robbie Borchers-Carolyn Riely-Jon Richard Ware (A), Jeri Tribo-Laurie-Ann Levin-Sheryleen Grothus-Fran Vanecko (B), Steve & Stephanie Stevens-Jim & Carole Lee O'Connor (C)**. Unit 172 members finishing in the top ten masterpoint winners included: **Jon Richard Ware (25.59), Carolyn Riely (24.13), Chuck Jefferson (19.59), Ira Hessel (19.29), Ellen Hessel (19.29), Patty Hinze (18.56), Greg Hinze (18.56).**

Turtle Creek hosted the **Willson Davis, Jr.** Election Sectional in October. Years ago, the Unit named this tournament in the memory of **Willson Davis, Jr.**, one of the all-time "good guys", although definitely on the wild and crazy side. Willson kept everyone entertained and laughing, both at the bridge table and around the bridge scene in general. He also kept everyone well-fed, providing fresh fruit at every tournament (he was a produce broker). **Linda Williams**, Willson's sister, shared reminiscences of Willson and carried on the tradition of providing fresh fruit for everyone. Unit 172 Pair Game winners included: Thursday AM: **Chuck Jefferson-Beverly Santos (A), Robert Martin-Betty Jo Betterworth (B), Marjorie Miller-Andy Williams (C)**; Friday AM: **Jeri Tribo-Fran Vanecko (A/B), Laura Matuszewski-Jamie Gardner (C)**; Friday PM: **Jon Richard Ware (A), John & Betty Gibson (C)**; Saturday AM: **Terry & Carolyn Riely (A), Brian Bankler-Hank Eng (B), Beth Gale-Kathy Sinkin-Amor (C)**. Unit 172 Team Game winners included: Thursday Swiss: **Donna McBride-Diane Olson-Sheryleen Grothus-Fran Vanecko (A), Andy Williams-Marjorie Miller-Carol Ellis-Lena Runke (B/C)**; Friday Compact KO: **Carolyn & Terry Riely-Jon Richard Ware**; Saturday Compact KO: **Dave & Donna Swarthout-Gary Anziani-Ed Rawlinson**; Sunday Swiss: **Dave & Donna Swarthout-Gary Anziani-Ed Rawlinson-Bill Walker (A), Brian Bankler-Forrest**

**Gray-Hank Eng-David Morris (B).** Unit 172 members finishing in the top ten masterpoint winners included: **Donna Swarthout (20.31), Carolyn Riely (19.97), Terry Riely (19.97), Dave Swarthout (19.40), Ed Rawlinson (19.40), Fran Vanecko (18.64), Jon Richard Ware (15.17), Bill Walker (14.41), Gary Anziani (13.41).**

**Membership Matters.** We welcome the following new members and transfers: **Mary Ann Lindquist, Dr. Coleman Driver, Renate Auray, Jean Forsberg, Chip Frank, Ronnie Gollehon, David Johnson, Art Kessler, Martha Kessler, Thomas Klein, Bennie McKenzie, Lillian Shockley, Ralph Sturgis.** Congratulations to all those who received higher ACBL ratings: new Junior Masters: **Joann Hanson, Richard Arnold, Barbara Dreeben, Garrie Gillaspie, Sylvia Hamilton, Roxana Hayne, Doris Salley, Marjorie Tucker;** new Club Masters: **Joyce Bond, Dr. Jim McMullan, Linda Fisher, Dr. Vijay Koli, Sherry McNeil, Joseph Zuchlch;** new Sectional Masters: **Ruth Sullivan, Christine Collier;** new Regional Masters: **Nancy Dewar, Catherine Supple, Jan Wingate, Betty Cutler, Maria Groussman, Jim O'Connor;** new NABC Masters: **Dolores Reiley;** new Life Masters: **Brian Bankler, Kathy Sinkin-Amor;** new Silver Life Masters: **David Morris, Grant Coon, Anyemarie Weaver;** new Gold LMs **Beverly Santos.**

**Albert "Biig Al" Lochli**  
**July 31, 1938 to September 10, 2012**



Al was a fixture in the San Antonio, Texas bridge world. He had been playing high level, duplicate bridge for many years and was well known both in his home city and nationally. He was a Gold LM with 3,112.43 MPs. Al had served Unit 172 as president of the Board of Directors as well as creating the Unit 172 and District 16 websites. He also assisted other units with creation of their own websites.

Al was awarded the Oswald and James Jacoby Service Award in 2003 and the Unit 172 Texas Star in 1996. He was the District Alternate to the ACBL Board of Governors and a member of the ACBL Goodwill Committee.

He was co owner and Director of the Turtle Creek Bridge Club for many years which eventually became one of the ten largest in District 16. Everyone looked forward to his Monday game when he served his famous poached salmon. He had been raised in kitchens of the family's restaurant business and knew his way around a stove.

He was instrumental in encouraging novice bridge players to continue learning and was protective of the new players when less than positive encounters with more experienced players occasionally occurred. During one of those episodes, when the more skilled player was complaining about a novice player having reversed and then passed, Al said, "When did you get your teaching accreditation from ACBL?" The ranting stopped and the novice remains grateful to this day. When he had a beginning player as his partner, he was unfailingly patient and encouraging.

Several days before he died, he donated his bridge book collection and a bookcase to house them to the club. He has provided a great resource for all present and future San Antonio bridge players.

Al also enjoyed poker with his long time friend and bridge partner, Robert Barber. Their use of the Italian Blue Club System was legendary in the San Antonio bridge community.

Al had served honorably in Viet Nam as a Warrant Officer. He had a big soft spot in his heart for all the stray cats which can be found in any apartment complex. With his neighbor, he helped feed many of them and adopted two.

He will be missed in the San Antonio bridge community.

# **Bridge Club of San Antonio January 18-21, 2013**

3195 Nacogdoches Rd., San Antonio, TX 78217  
(210) 590.9100 [www.bridgeclubsasa.com](http://www.bridgeclubsasa.com)

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

## **Thursday, January 18**

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

## **Friday, January 19**

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, January 20**

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, January 21**

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

## **Partnership Chair:**

Susan Hernandez 210.710.8240

## **Stratifications:**

A 2000+B 500-2000 C 0-500  
299er (3 table minimum)

**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 \$1

**The Winning Finesse**  
c/o Ira and Ellen Hessel, Editors  
2826 Barrel Oak  
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