



# THE WINNING FINESSE

Volume 22 Number 1 **Website:** <http://d16acbl.org/U172> March, 2013



### **President's Column** by *Roxana Tom.*

85 degrees in January – Oh the joys of living in the San Antonio area. We have some new players and winter visitors playing with us lately. In visiting with them I heard over and over how enjoyable they found being here and playing bridge with you all. So pat yourselves on the back and keep being your friendly and pleasant selves.

For those who are non-life masters with fewer than 500 points the Bridge Club of San Antonio has a sectional only for you on Friday, March 8 and Saturday, March 9. Great chance to pick up silver points and have fun.

Don't miss Kerrville in April (see schedule). It's lovely in the spring and we have a really terrific room rate of \$79 for a double including breakfast at their wonderful restaurant. Can't beat that!

### **The I-35 Cup, Year Three.**

Circle the wagons! Keep your powder dry! And be sure to remember the Alamo! It's Year Three of the I-35 Cup, the annual shootout between San Antonio (and the rest of Unit 172) and Austin. Each Unit will hold a two-session qualifying event to select teams in each of four flights to represent their Unit in a final shootout. Our qualifying round will be Mar. 30 (10 & TBA) at Turtle Creek. The flights are A (unlimited); B (0-2500); C (0-750) and D (0-299). Two teams (each) in A and B will qualify for the finals. Three teams will qualify in Flights C and D. The finals will be held at BCSA on June 1 (10 am). For the qualifying event, the Unit will provide great hospitality, a reduced entry (\$5/person/session) and good point awards for each flight (sectionally rated knockout event).

There are actually two cups: one for A/B/C and one for the 299ers. In 2011, San Antonio won the I-35 Cup and Austin won the 299er Cup. In 2012, those results were reversed. In 2013, we expect to win it all!

### **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**

Mar. 8-9	NLM Sectional		BCSA
Mar. 30	I-35 Cup Qualifying	10 & TBA	Turtle Creek
Apr. 4-7	Kerrville Sectional		Inn of the Hills
Apr. 25-28	Fiesta Sectional		Fiesta BC
May 18	Awards Day (Stratified Pairs)	12:30	Fiesta BC
June 1	I-35 Cup Finals	10:00	BCSA
June 7-8	NLM Sectional		Fiesta BC
July 1-7	<b>REGIONAL</b>		Omni

## Turtle Creek Bridge Club to Change Name and Location

Turtle Creek is moving. The new location is just down the road...at 2112 N. W. Military Highway. Games will continue at the current location through April 3. The new location will open on April 8 (after the Kerrville tournament). The club will also change its name to Fiesta Bridge Club. The new website will be [www.fiestabridgeclub.com](http://www.fiestabridgeclub.com).

### Ellen and Ira Hessel Win the Texas Star Award Gary Larson and Fran Vanecko Win Goodwill Award!

Unit 172 and District 16 jointly sponsor two prestigious awards annually. The Texas Star Award is given for exemplary service to the Unit. The 2013 winners are **Ellen and Ira Hessel**. They have been editors of the Winning Finesse (Unit newsletter) forever and editors of the Scorecard (District newsletter) for several years. They also edited the Daily Bulletin at the San Antonio Regional multiple times. A full write-up of their contributions will be in the next edition of the Scorecard. Thanks, **Ellen and Ira**, for a tremendous amount of work over a long period of time.

The Goodwill Member of the Year is presented to two members of each Unit who exemplify courtesy and goodwill. The 2013 winners are **Gary Larson and Fran Vanecko**. Gary is the ultimate role model for what a good mentor should be. Fran has been the inspiration for collecting donations for the Support the Troops program and for starting the I35 Cup competition with Austin. Congratulations, **Gary and Fran**, for a well-deserved honor.

---

### Donna Swarthout, Ed Rawlinson and Marjorie Miller Win Unit Masterpoint Races!

Unit 172 has three awards for players winning the most masterpoints at seven Unit Sectional Tournaments during the year: the **Cisse Horton** Award for women, the **George Gray** Award for men, and the **Paul Lewis** Award for players under 300 points at the start of the year. Leaders for 2012 were:

<b>Cisse Horton Award</b>		<b>George Gray Award</b>		<b>Paul Lewis Award</b>	
Donna Swarthout	140.26	Ed Rawlinson	150.37	Marjorie Miller	35.10
Fran Vanecko	77.66	Dave Swarthout	139.82	John Hilbig	33.15
Carolyn Riely	76.32	Gary Anziani	116.15	Dolores Reiley	25.47
Ellen Hessel	76.27	Bill Walker	81.79	Tena Gorman	21.82
Patty Hinze	67.04	Richard Ware	74.47	Jim Gorman	21.52
Roxie Tom	64.32	Terry Riely	70.04	Georgia Baron	20.96
Sheryleen Grothus	55.09	Ira Hessel	69.27	Mary Powell	19.97
Beverly Santos	53.62	Chuck Jefferson	61.90	Jan Wingate	19.09
Kathy Sinkin-Amor	53.09	Greg Hinze	55.60	Debbie Schweiss	18.19
Karen Fillis	52.24	Hank Eng	51.16	Steve Kassarjian	14.02

---

### Greg Hinze and Bill McCarty Reach Nationals in NAP!

It's a tough road to the nationals in the North American Pairs. Players play at the club level during the summer to qualify for the Unit Finals. Top finishers there move on to the District Finals, which were held in Austin in January. Competition there is extremely tough. **Greg Hinze**, playing with Hemant Lall of Dallas, finished 2<sup>nd</sup> in Flight A in Austin. **Bill McCarty**, playing with Daniel Jackson of Houston, finished 1<sup>st</sup> in Flight B. Both qualify for the National Finals to be held in St. Louis at the Spring Nationals. Congratulations and good luck!

### Moving on Up in the GNT!

Eleven teams competed in the Unit Finals of the Grand National Teams at BCSA on Feb. 9. Seven teams qualified to compete at the District Finals in Richardson in May. Qualifiers in Flight B were: **Karen and George Fillis (1<sup>st</sup>)**, **Forrest Gray-Kathy Sinkin-Amor-Arlene Rubin-Kenyon Daniel (2<sup>nd</sup>)**, **Leslie and Jon Tramer-Beth Gale-Tessa Bodnar (3<sup>rd</sup>)**, and **Susan Hernandez-Jeri Tribo-Laurie-Ann Levin-Fran Vanecko (4<sup>th</sup>)**. Qualifiers in Flight C were: **Marjorie Tucker-Dick Arnold-Barbara Boren-Ken King (1<sup>st</sup>)**, **Brenda Johnson-Paul Carver-Rowena and Jim Gorman (2<sup>nd</sup>)**, and **Georgia Baron-Laura Matuszewski-Jo Ann Manfredi-Nancy Dewar (3<sup>rd</sup>)**. Thanks to **The Two Roxanas** for organizing the event and providing great hospitality.

## Unit Holiday Party by Jeri Tribo

The Unit Holiday Party was held on Sat, Dec 8, at the Bridge Club of San Antonio. If numbers are an indication of a successful party, then this one qualified. We had 120 people attend with 2 sections of 15 tables! We also had a "ton" of food. No one went away hungry. The only complaint I heard was that there wasn't enough of Ed Rawlinson's Bread Pudding. My co-hosts -- **Debbie Schweiss** and **Kathy Sinkin-Amor** -- and I, being good hosts, waited till everyone helped themselves, and alas, we didn't get a taste. Thanks to everyone who brought something to share, and to my co-hosts for making this a great party. Also, thanks to **Kathleen Pigott** and daughter **Susan** at BCSA for their assistance and to **Everette Lewis**, our Director for the game.

Now to the winners. In Flight A it's never a surprise to see this husband and wife team lead a tournament. **Ellen and Ira Hessel** in Section B finished with a score of 205.92. Close behind was **Ed Rawlinson and Gool Castleberry** in Section A with 205.50. At my table Ed said that he liked aggressive women when Gool stretched a bid to invite game, but I guess Gool needed to be a little more aggressive to beat the Hessels. Flight B winners in Section A were **Anymarie Weaver and Dee Baker**, scoring 198. First in Section B were **Orpha Sears and Myong Young** with 182.96. Flight C winners were another husband and wife team -- **Carol and Joe Zulich** -- came in with a score of 167.04 in Section B followed by **John Hilbig and William Norvell** in Section A with 166. Congratulations to all the winners!

**Mentor-Mentee Championship Results.** The annual Mentor-Mentee Championship drew a nice turnout—14 tables—at Turtle Creek on Nov. 10. Thanks to **Jeri Tribo**, Mentor-Mentee Chair, who organized the event (although she was unable to attend due to an out-of-town trip). Co-hosts **Fran Vanecko and Ed Rawlinson** made sure everyone was well-fed. Winners included: **Cathy Supple-Nell Morgan** (1<sup>st</sup> in A), **Carol Hall-Roxana Tom** (1<sup>st</sup> in B; 2<sup>nd</sup> in A), **Fran Stoltz-Rebecca Brown** (1<sup>st</sup> in C, 3<sup>rd</sup> in A, 2<sup>nd</sup> in B), **Luann Cohen-Pete Voges** (3<sup>rd</sup> in B), **William Norvell-Kathy Sinkin-Amor** (2<sup>nd</sup> in C), and **Lew Spurlock-Mary Cooper** (3<sup>rd</sup> in C).

**Membership Matters.** We welcome the following new members and transfers: **Danny Clark, Bonnie Gilley, Phyllis Vaughan, Shannon Collins, David Dye, Kathryn Noble, Katie Pirko, Stanley Broadwater, Scott Brown, Seth Fogarty, Sue Perkins, William Balzar, Margaret Linn, Robert Linn, Michael Panayotopoulos, Kathy Pfeffer.** Congratulations to all those who received higher ACBL ratings: new Junior Masters: **Nancy Moorman, Gloria Rodriquez, Kenneth King, Sandra Ricabaugh;** new Club Masters: **Janice Fletcher, Beverly Poth;** new Sectional Masters: **Dr. Prema Durairaj, James Gardner;** new Regional Masters: **Margie Gernsbacher, Barbara Habiger, Mary Harrington;** new Advanced NABC Masters: **John Hilbig** new Life Masters: **Mary Powell;** new Diamond Life Masters: **Bill Walker.**

### Bridge Club of San Antonio

#### Non-Life Master 0 – 500 Spring Sectional

March 8 – 9, 2013

##### Friday, March 8

10:00 a.m. Free Lecture – A  
10:30 a.m. Morning Pairs  
Sandwiches between sessions  
3:00 p.m. Free Lecture – B  
3:30 p.m. Afternoon Pairs

##### Tournament Chairman

Rich Lampman  
(210) 867-4248  
(210) 659-4248  
(210) 590-9100



##### Saturday, March 9

10:00 a.m. Free Lecture – C  
10:30 a.m. Morning Pairs  
Sandwiches between sessions  
3:00 p.m. Free Lecture – D  
3:30 p.m. Afternoon Pairs

##### Partnership Chairman

Everette Lewis  
(210) 663-3545  
(210) 590-9100  
plewisjr@satx.rr.com

##### Hospitality Chairman

Kathleen Pigott  
(210) 828-7261

##### Directors

Everette Lewis  
Rich Lampman



##### Playing Fee

\$11.00 per person per session

##### Free Lectures

A – Weak Twos / Strats  
B – Opening Leads  
C – Michaels Cue Bid  
D – Defensive Signals

##### Stratification

A 0 – 500 NLM  
B 0 – 300  
C 0 – 100

If you have between 300 and 500 master points, you must be a non-Life Master to be eligible to play.

##### Playing Fee

\$11.00 / person / session

3195 Nacogdoches

bridgeclubs.com

admin@bridgeclubs.com

(210) 590-9100

## FIESTA SECTIONAL

April 25 – 28, 2013

Fiesta Bridge Club (formerly Turtle Creek)

www.tcdbc.com (210) 375-0500

### Thursday, April 25

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

### Friday, April 26

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

### Saturday, April 27

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

### Sunday, April 28

10 am & TBA Stratified Swiss Teams Meal between sessions

**Partnership Chair** – Susan Hernandez

**Stratifications:** A 2000+ B 500-2000 C 0-500

299er at director's discretion

Average Masterpoints will be used in all events

### Chair & Hospitality

Laurie-Anne Levin (210) 213-3631 laurie-anne@satx.rr.com

**Card Fees:** \$11/person/session \$100/Swiss Team

Unpaid/non ACBL members add \$1

**Host Hotel:** HILTON SAN ANTONIO AIRPORT

All KO events are handicapped

## 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

Kerrville Spring in the Hills April 4-7, 2013  
Inn of the Hills  
1001 Junction Hwy1-800-292-5690  
Bridge Rate: \$79 (Book by 3/4/13)

### Thursday, April 4

Stratified Pairs 10 am  
Stratified Swiss Teams 2:30 pm

### Friday, April 5

Stratified Pairs 10 am & 2:30 pm  
Wildflower Knockout Teams (sessions 1,2, & 3) 10 am, 2:30 pm &  
7:30 pm  
Fast Pairs (24 boards, finished approx. 10pm) 7:30 pm

### Saturday, April 6

Stratified Pairs 10 am & 2:30 pm  
Mesquite Knockout Teams (sessions 1,2, & 3) 10 am, 2:30 pm &  
7:30 pm  
Fast Pairs (24 boards, finished approx. 10pm) 7:30 pm

### Sunday, April 7

Margaret Higgins Stratified Swiss Teams 10 am & TBA

299er pairs will be held with 3 table minimum

**Card Fees:** \$11/person/session, \$120/team Sunday Swiss (includes lunch)

Non or unpaid ACBL members add \$1

Stratifications: A: 2000+; B: 500-2000; C: 0-500 (averaging)

KO events are handicapped

### **Host Hotel: Inn of the Hills**

\$79 Room rate includes breakfast (book by 3/4/13)

**Tournament Chair:** David Ewing 830-285-4718 [ewingd@stx.ir.com](mailto:ewingd@stx.ir.com)

**Partnership Chair:** Richard Hamm 830-895-2085

**Director in Charge:** Tom Marsh