



THE WINNING FINESSE

Volume 23 Number 1 Website: <http://d16acbl.org/U172>

March, 2014



President's Column by Roxana Tom. Have car will travel.....that has been the theme for January. Roxie and I visited family while playing in the Austin Sectional; then picked up Ann Gary and enjoyed the delicious hospitality playing in the Harlingen Sectional. Two days later we loaded up and headed for the Houston Regional where I saw a number of San Antonio players and the competition was, to say the least, quite challenging. If your circumstances permit, I would encourage you to play in a couple of out of town tournaments each year. It will enhance your bridge experience and increase your points. Coincidentally, Kerrville is hosting a sectional March 13-16. You'll enjoy spring in the hills, delight at their unsurpassed hospitality, and meet a group of really nice West Texas players. Make your reservations today.

Many thanks to Roxie Tom (chairman), Beverly Santos & Paula Wissman (partnerships), Jay Thorne & Stephen Hoffman (set up), Tom Marsh (director), Janise Saul (photos), Judy Hoffman (who pitched in everywhere) and to all of you who played in our Winter Sectional. I would like to thank Doug Cross who donated a truck to our unit to enable us to move the supply trailer.

Congratulations to Greg Hinze for winning flight A in the District 16 finals of the North American Pairs. Wayne Rauschuber won the Texas Star Award, Hank Eng and Pat Prichard won the Goodwill Players of the Year Award, Donna Swarhout won the Cisse Horton award, Ed Rawlinson won the George Gray award and Larry Levin won the Paul Lewis award for 2013. Please congratulate them when you see them.

Bridge Club of San Antonio Is Back! As many members know, BCSA lost their lease at their Nacogdoches location. They have relocated to 16418 Cypress Park Street. They have games Tuesday-Saturday at noon. Card fees are \$6 for regular games and \$7 for special games. The location is off Judson Road between Loop 1604 and Nacogdoches Road. From 1604, turn south on Judson, go to Lost Creek, turn left on Lost Creek, go to first intersection. From Nacogdoches, go north on Judson to Lost Creek, turn right on Lost Creek, go to first intersection. The playing site is on the left at the intersection. For information or partnerships, call Rich Lampman at 659-4248 (H) or 867-4248 (C) or Penny Smith at 281-8154 (H) or 928-5854 (C).

Care & Comfort

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

Board Meetings.

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

Calendar

Mar. 7-8	NLM Sectional	Fiesta BC
Mar. 13-16	Kerrville Sectional	Inn of the Hills
Apr. 5	Awards Day	Fiesta BC
Apr. 14-20	Sectional Tournament at Clubs (STaC)	Participating Clubs
Apr. 24-27	Fiesta Sectional	Fiesta BC
June 5-8	Summer Sectional	BCSA

ACBL Rankings of Unit 172 Members. Most duplicate players know a little about the ACBL masterpoint ranking system; a few may know all the fine points. Here's a list of all the ranks, the requirements for each, and the number of Unit 172 members in each category. Black points are earned in club games; silver points are earned in sectional tournaments; red and gold points are earned in regional tournaments; and red, gold, and platinum points are won at national tournaments.

Rank	Masterpoints Earned	# Unit 172
Rookie	Fewer than 5	91
Junior Master	5	64
Club Master	20 (at least 5 black*)	89
Sectional Master	50 (at least 10 black & 5 silver*); (at least 5 silver**)	70
Regional Master	100 (at least 15 black, 15 silver, and 5 red, gold or platinum*); (at least 15 silver, and 5 red, gold, or platinum**)	86
NABC Master	200 (at least 20 black, 25 silver, and 15 red, gold or platinum, and 5 gold/platinum*); (25 silver, 15 red, gold or platinum, and 5 gold or platinum**)	38
Advanced NABC Master	300 (at least 50 black, 50 silver, 25 red, gold or platinum, and 25 gold or platinum*); (ranking did not previously exist**)	2
Life Master	500* (at least 75 black, 75 silver, 50 red, gold or platinum, and 50 gold or platinum*); 300** (at least 50 black, 50 silver, 25 red, gold, or platinum and 25 gold or platinum**)	25
Bronze Life Master	(ranking unavailable for new members*); (LM with 500 mp**)	
Silver Life Master	1000 (at least 200 silver, red, gold or platinum)	82
Gold Life Master	2500 (at least 500 silver, red, gold or platinum)	
Diamond Life Master	5000 (at least 750 silver, red, gold or platinum and 250 gold or platinum)	90
Emerald Life Master	7500 (at least 1000 silver, red, gold or platinum and 500 gold or platinum)	45
Platinum Life Master	10000 (at least 1250 silver, red, gold or platinum; 650 gold or platinum and 100 platinum)	5
Grand Life Master	Same as for Platinum LM + a win in a National Event with no upper masterpoint limit	4
		3
		2

*Effective for members joining ACBL after Dec. 31, 2009. **Effective for members joining ACBL prior to Jan. 1, 2010.

Mirror, Mirror, On the Wall. Grand Life Masters include **Babu Koneru (12,898)** and **Greg Hinze (12,730)**. Platinum Life Masters include **Ira Hessel (13,514)**, **Terry Riely (11,582)** and **Donna Swarouth (11,428)**. Emerald Life Masters include **Diane Olson (9,716)**, **Dave Swarouth (8,679)**, **Donna McBride (7,610)**, and **Ed Rawlinson (7,523)**. Diamond Life Masters include **Peggy Fritsch (7,170)**, **Ellen Hessel (6,888)**, **Nell Morgan (5,372)**, **Bill Walker (5,313)**, and **Jyme Schmieder (5,293)**.

Upcoming Events. Sectional Tournaments are coming up in Kerrville and Fiesta BC (See flyers). Unit 172 will host a STaC (Sectional Tournament at Clubs) Apr. 14-20. Several other Units will be participating also. In a STaC, the results for club games are compared for all participating clubs, and the "overall" winners in each flight (across all the clubs) receive master-points as if they were in a big sectional tournament.

The annual Awards Day will be held Apr. 5 at Fiesta BC. This Unit game is a Stratified Pair Game with higher-than-normal point awards. Prior to the game, there will be a recognition of new Life Masters, Horton-Gray-Lewis winners, Goodwill and Texas Star honorees, Ace of Clubs and Mini-McKenney winners. There will be the usual smorgasboard of appetizers and desserts, all for the reduced price of \$5.

Rauschuber, Prichard, Eng Honored! Wayne Rauschuber was named the Texas Star Award winner for Unit 172. The Texas Star Award is given jointly by Unit 172 and District 16 each year to an individual who has provided exemplary service to the Unit and its members. In Wayne's case, this recognition was long overdue. Wayne served for many years on the Board of Directors, including serving as President of the Unit. Wayne also took on the big job of Tournament Chair for sectional and regional tournaments for several years and as Co-Chair of the 1984 Nationals held in San Antonio. Since he has retired from the Board, Wayne continues to be active in mentor programs and has been generous in sharing materials with many mentees. Congratulations, Wayne, and thanks for your outstanding service!

Hank Eng and Pat Prichard have been named as winners of the Goodwill Members of the Year Award for Unit 172. This award honors individuals who exhibit courtesy, kindness, and tactfulness and who are "ambassadors of goodwill". That fits Hank and Pat to a "t". This affability is not recently acquired. Hank won the Nice Guy Award all through middle school, and Pat was Miss Congeniality in two different beauty pageants. Congratulations, Hank and Pat. This is a well-deserved honor!

Horton-Gray-Lewis Winners. The Unit sponsors three competitions for most points won in six Unit Sectional Tournaments during the calendar year. The Cisse Horton Award is for the most points won by a female player. The George Gray Award is for the most points won by a male player. The Paul Lewis Award is for the most points won by a player with less than 300 points. Winners for 2013 were:

Horton Award

Donna Swarhout (106.72)
Marilyn Arnold (90.62)
Donna McBride (85.10)
Diane Olson (83.27)
Ellen Hessel (82.93)
Patty Hinze (81.04)
Carolyn Rieley (74.92)
Karen Fillis (55.85)
Janise Saul (53.48)
Rebecca Brown (52.33)

Gray Award

Ed Rawlinson (132.47)
Gary AnZIANi (117.00)
Dave Swarhout (115.00)
Greg Hinze (81.04)
Ira Hessel (78.89)
Terry Rieley (74.61)
Bill Walker (66.56)
Everette Lewis (65.42)
Hank Eng (62.83)
Babu Koneru (59.73)

Lewis Award

Larry Levin (37.51)
Jan Wingate (19.35)
David Johnson (15.09)
Catherine Supple (14.40)
Marjorie Miller (13.60)
Debbie Schweiss (13.46)
Prema Durairaj (13.11)
Stewart Windeler (12.95)
Maria Groussman (11.96)
Christine Collier (11.77)

District 16 North American Pairs Finals. The North American Pairs is a long, tough event. Competition begins at the club level in the summer. Player who score high enough in club games qualify to play in the Unit Finals (in Units all across the country) in the fall. Top finishers there qualify to play in District Finals in January and February. Unit 172 hosts the District 16 Finals every other year. The District Finals includes two qualifying sessions and two final sessions. This year 37 pairs competed in Flight A, 46 in Flight B, and 32 in Flight C. After the two qualifying sessions, 18 pairs survived in Flight A, 20 in Flight B, and 14 in Flight C. Unit 172 members who had the most success included: **Greg Hinze (first in Flight A), Jeri Tribo-Fran Vanecko (tenth in Flight B) and David Johnson-Bob Steidel (seventh in Flight C).** Greg qualifies to compete for the National Championship at the Spring Nationals in Dallas in March. A full report on the District Finals will be in the next Scorecard. FYI, the point awards for the District NAP Finals are all gold. Greg won 36, Fran and Jeri won 6.4 and David and Bob won 5.0. First in B paid 24, and first in C paid 15. So, all you B & C players who need gold, gear up for next year!

Winter Sectional Results. There was a big turnout (307 tables) for the Winter Sectional and District 16 North American Pairs Finals (another 167 tables) held at the Omni Jan. 17-20. Unit 172 members who were winners in Pairs Events included: Friday AM Pairs: **Donna McBride-Diane Olson (1A), Greg & Patty Hinze (3A), Robert Martin-Betty Jo Bettersworth (1B), Jeri Tribo-Fran Vanecko (3B), Jan Wingate-Polly McCamey (1C), David Johnson-Bob Steidel (2C), Marjorie Miller-Stewart Windeler (3C);** Friday Eve. Pairs: **David Mitchell (3A);** Saturday AM Pairs: **Chip Franck-Nell Morgan (1A), Dorthy Rippstein-**

Ralph Sturgis (2B), Evelyn Berns-Elaine Van Buren (3B, 1C), Wyn Coleman-Dick Greenbauer (2C), Christine Collier-Geneva Johnson (3C); Saturday Aft. Pairs: Jo Neesvig-Robert Otis (2A, 1B), Patty Hinze (3A), Olivia Brown-Steve Simpson (2B), Sam Williams (3B), Christine Collier-Geneva Johnson (1C); Saturday Eve. Pairs: Jeri Tribo-Fran Vanecko (2A, 2B), Patrick Vinyard-Steve Kassarian (3A, 3B, 1C); Monday AM Pairs: Roxie Tom-Pat Prichard (1A), Judy & Steve Hoffman (2A), Laura Matuszewski-Mary Lou Daughtery (2B, 1C), Pat Balhorn-Carole O'Connor (3B), Jim O'Connor-David Herron (3C); Monday PM IMP Pairs: Rebecca Brown-David Johnson (1A, 1B), Hank Eng-Brian Bankler (2A, 2B), Gary AnZIANi-Ed Rawlinson (3A), Pete Voges-Susan Ohm (3B), Beverly Poth-Jo Gayle Carter (2C), Steve Simpson-David Herron (3C); Friday AM 299er Pairs: Mary Lou Anziani-Richard Arnold (1), Jim & Ann McMullan (2); Friday Aft. 299er Pairs: Betty & Earl Cutler (3); Saturday AM 299er Pairs: Candy Cheney-Kathryn Wandrisco (1), Diana Kellerman-Dean Groussman (2), Haija Naftali-Sandy Bernstein (3); Saturday PM 299er Pairs: Ruth Eilene Sullivan-Gerda Jacobs (1), Earl & Betty Cutler (2), Peggy Baker-Susan Peterson (3), Monday AM 299er Pairs: Ann & Jim McMullan (1), Robert Sims-Luann Cohen (2); Monday PM 299er Pairs: Jim & Ann McMullan (1), Coleman Driver-Barbara Boren (2).

Unit 172 members who were winners in Team Events included: Friday Swiss: **Doug Cross-Barbara Caruthers-Beula Mae Pearce-Steve Kassarian (1A, 1B), Ellen & Ira Hessel-Patty & Greg Hinze (2A), Pete Voges-Judy Taquino (2B), Dorthy Rippstein-Ann Gary-Stephen & Dolly Simmons (3B), Barney Bursack-Carol Lahser-Janice Fletcher-Geneva Johnson (1C), Rowena & Jim Gorman-Gerda Jacobs-Ruth Eilene Sullivan (2C); Saturday Compact KO: Dave Swarthout-Donna Swarthout-Gary AnZIANi-Ed Rawlinson (1), Carolyn & Terry Riely-Babu Koneru (2); Sunday Swiss: Dave Swarthout-Donna Swarthout-Gary AnZIANi-Ed Rawlinson (1A), Carolyn & Terry Riely-Babu Koneru (2A), Andy Villas-trigo-Susan Hernandez (2B), Dee Baker-Ann Weaver-Penny Smith-Linda Williams (3B), Barney Bursack-Carol Lahser-Geneva Johnson-Janice Fletcher (2C); Monday Compact KO: Ira & Ellen Hessel-Greg & Patty Hinze (1), Donna & Ken McBride-Diane Olson (2), Bill McCarty (3).**

Top masterpoint winners included: **Patty Hinze (26.10), Greg Hinze (20.30, Ed Rawlinson (20.09), Diane Olson (19.77), Gary AnZIANi (19.71), Donna Swarthout (19.37), Dave Swarthout (19.04), Carolyn Riely (17.65), Donna McBride (17.42), Ira Hessel (16.08), and Ellen Hessel (16.08).**

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Membership Matters. We welcome the following new members and transfers: **Jeanne Crisci, Sherril Theis, Christopher Heins, Alta Peck, Jon Wall, Pamela Cobb, Karen Henderson, E. D. Horne, Louis Ray, Carol Silvertooth.** Congratulations to all those who received higher ACBL ratings: new Junior Masters: **Ziena Faltin;** new Club Master: **Barbara Dreeben, Charlotte Schuepbach;** new Sectional Masters: **Luann Cohen, Mary Lou Daughtery, Lew Spurlock;** new Regional Masters: **Barbara Thigpen, Irene White, Jack Stein;** new NABC Masters: **Judy Taquino;** new Silver Life Masters: **George Fillis;** new Gold Life Masters: **Gary AnZIANi.**

<p> ♠-32 ♥-A2 ♦-AQJ1098 ♣-AKJ ♠-KJ10765 ♠-4 ♥-Q74 ♥-K109865 ♦- ♦-654 ♣-5432 ♣-876 ♠-AQ98 ♥-J3 ♦-K732 ♣-Q109 </p> <p> N E S W Imps P 2♠ X P 3N P 6N All Pass </p>	<p> This was a hand from the November Rockport Sectional. I was South, but I thought the West hand provided some interesting defensive lessons. West's first problem is what to lead. Given South's original pass and subsequent jump to 3N, he should have 10-12 points including the AQ of spades. North's double typically would show hearts and if South holds a heart honor, leading a heart would be a potential disaster. So West led the ♣5, a reasonable choice. East plays the 6 (discouraging, unless he started with the Q6). Declarer now begins running diamonds, so West will have to make 6 discards. What should they be? South is known to hold the ♠AQ and ♦K and either the ♥K or ♣Q. If South had the ♥K, surely he would have opened. So if South holds the ♣Q and cashes all his minor suit winners, West will have to come down to 4 cards. If he comes down to two spades and two hearts, South (who knew how many spades West had to start with and will be counting the discards) will simply duck a spade, win the heart return, drop the ♠K and win the last </p>
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trick with a low spade. So West must keep three spades among his last 4 cards. If his 4th card is a heart, South can cash the ♥A and duck a spade to West, who would then have to lead a spade back into South's AQ (which is what happened at the table). However, if West keeps 3 spades and 1 club, South's goose is cooked. Lesson #1 here is sometimes the thirteenth card in a suit is a winner. If you discard a club early, you give up the potential to later hold the thirteenth club. Lesson #2 here is it's possible to count and visualize South's hand at trick two. Lesson #3 is that West should try to visualize what's coming in the last 4 tricks. Visualizing the possible endplay is pretty complicated. It's not quite as complicated to remember that having the thirteenth card of a suit might be useful. Thus, in choosing the early "easy" discards, start with 3 small spades. Then, on the fourth diamond, your partner will (should) signal strength in hearts, which should make you more comfortable with discarding hearts.

<p> ♠-K2 ♥-AKQ2 ♦-876 ♣-9764 ♠-43 ♠-765 ♥-765 ♥-1098 ♦-KQ32 ♦-AJ102 ♣-AK102 ♣-Q83 ♠-AQJ1098 ♥-J43 ♦-54 ♣-J5 </p> <p> N E S W Imps 2♠ P 4♠ All Pass </p>	<p> This hand was from the Swiss at the recent Austin Sectional. West led the ♣A (A from AK); East played the 8 (standard signals). West was not sure if East had a doubleton or the Queen. West continued with the K and a low club...disaster! In many situations, it would be reasonable to give an attitude signal to show the Queen, but here it is surely more important to show count, i.e. deny a doubleton. Lesson: when dummy has a solid suit on which losers can be pitched, the defense may only get one chance to cash their winners, Providing count may provide partner with the key to knowing which tricks are cashable. </p>
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Tales from the Twilight Zone by Ed Rawlinson. **Kim Carpenter and Judy Lewis** have a longstanding and successful partnership. They have a strong claim for the prize for the most esoteric conventions. They have an aggressive and creative bidding style, to put it mildly. **Gary AnZIANi** and I played them in the final

round of the IMP Pairs in the Winter Sectional. We got a top, a bottom and an average board, but all three were a trip through the twilight zone. On all these boards, Gary was North, Kim was East, I was South and Judy was West.

<p>♠-KJ84 ♥-Q76 ♦-A8 ♣-QJ92</p> <p>♠-AQ5 ♠-10732 ♥-985432 ♥-AJ ♦-Q ♦-9542 ♣-1075 ♣-643</p> <p>♠-96 ♥-K10 ♦-KJ10763 ♣-AK8</p> <p>N E S W 1♣ P 1♦ 1♥ 1♠ 1N 3N All Pass</p>	<p>West led a heart to the 6, J, and K. After a diamond to the Ace, declarer led a low heart to East's Ace. East returned a club, and South took the rest of the tricks. This was a fairly average board at IMP scoring. The point is that this board gives you a clue as to what you are up against trying to figure out what Kim has. Since he bid 1N after the opponents bid clubs, diamonds and spades, you might think you had the diamond queen and a spade honor. You would be wrong.</p>
<p>♠-J108 ♥-A1075 ♦- ♣-AJ8764</p> <p>♠-Q9542 ♠-A3 ♥-J ♥-K643 ♦-KJ8754 ♦-Q63 ♣-Q ♣-10532</p> <p>♠-K76 ♥-Q982 ♦-A1092 ♣-K9</p>	<p>N E S W Both Vul 1♣ P 1♥ 2♦ 4♥ X P 4♠ P P X P P 5♦ X All Pass</p> <p>Down three for 800. This was our top. The board illustrates their aggressive bidding style. It didn't work this time, but there's one board left.</p> <p>Unfortunately for EW, the King of Hearts was wasted. Exchange it with South's spade or diamond honor, and 5D is a great save.</p>
<p>♠-10542 ♥-AKQ73 ♦-QJ92 ♣-</p> <p>♠-A ♠-963 ♥-10 ♥-42 ♦-107543 ♦-A8 ♣-KJ10975 ♣Q86432</p> <p>♠-KQJ87 ♥-J9865 ♦-K6 ♣-A</p> <p>N E S W P 1♠ 2♣ 3♥* 4♦*4N P 5N* P 6♠ All Pass 3H* shows 4 spades and undisclosed shortness; 4♦ (see commentary); 5N= 2 key cards + a void.</p>	<p>After 4♦, South was considering his next bid. After about 20 seconds, West alerted East's bid. South asked what it was, and the answer was....."it's ace-asking". This was followed by about 5 minutes of uproarious laughter intermingled with uncontrolled giggling by all parties, but mostly NS. When all this subsided, I finally decided that partner was likely to be short in hearts and must have the remaining aces for his splinter bid. The moral of this story is...what goes around, comes around. Kim's creative 4♦ bid prevented me from asking partner where his shortness was. Looking at my hand, I thought hearts, but I should have realized Kim had a big club fit, and that was where North's shortness was. With values in hearts, partner might not hold aces in both spades and diamonds. This may be the only hand in the history of bridge in which both sides asked for aces. At the end, I had the sense of the theme from Twilight Zone playing in my head.</p>

FIESTA SECTIONAL -SAN ANTONIO



April 24-27, 2014 @ FIESTA BRIDGE CLUB
2112 NW MILITARY, SAN ANTONIO 78213

Thursday, 24th 10 am Open Pairs & 299er Pairs
3 pm Stratified Swiss Teams
Friday, 25th 10 am Stratified Open Pairs & 299er Pairs
3 pm Stratified Open Pairs
3 pm Bracketed Handicapped KO Teams (1 of 3)
Saturday 26th 10 am Stratified Open Pairs & 299er Pairs
10 am Bracketed KO Handicapped Teams (2 of 3)
3 pm Stratified Open Pairs
3 pm Bracketed KO Handicapped Teams (3 of 3)
Sunday 27th 10 am & TBA Stratified Swiss Team – Meal
between session.

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 Partnerships : (210) 378-7764

Card Fees: \$11/person/session \$100/Swiss Team
Unpaid/non ACBL members add \$3

Host Hotel: HILTON SAN ANTONIO AIRPORT
210 377- 4607 : 611 NW Loop 410 | San Antonio, TX 78216 | USA

**Great New Venue – Great Sectional –
Great Hospitality**

Kerrville Spring in the Hills

March 13-16, 2014
Inn of the Hills
1001 Junction Hwy 1-800-292-5690
Bridge Rate: \$79 (Book by 2/10/14)
Includes continental breakfast

Thursday, March 13

Stratified Pairs 10 am
Stratified Swiss Teams 2:30 pm

Friday, March 14

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

Saturday, March 15

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

Sunday, March 16

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 \$3
Stratifications: A: 2000+; B: 500-2000; C: 0-500 (averaging)
KO events are handicapped

Host Hotel

Inn of the Hills - Room rate includes continental breakfast (book
by 2/10/14)

Tournament Chair

David Ewing 830-285-4718 ewinged@stx.ir.com

Partnership Chair

Richard Hamm 830-895-2085

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

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