

2009 SPRING NORTH AMERICAN BRIDGE CHAMPIONSHIPS



Pre-Bulletin



MARCH 11-22, 2009

HOUSTON, TEXAS

Welcome to Houston! All events will be played in the Hilton of the Americas.

Wednesday, March 11, 1 & 7:30 p.m.

Event	Session	Sold	Entry/player/session	
			ACBL members**	Others
Baldwin North American Pairs, Flight A <i>Pre-qualification required. Continues Thursday.</i>	1-2 Q	Lanier Ballroom	No fee	—

Thursday, March 12, 1 p.m.

International Fund Stratified Open Pairs*	single	Lanier Ballroom	\$16	\$18
International Fund Stratified 299er, 199er, 99er, 49er, 0-20 & 0-5 Pairs	single	Lanier Ballroom	\$16	\$18

Thursday, March 12, 1 & 7:30 p.m.

Baldwin North American Pairs, Flight A	1-2 F	Lanier Ballroom	No fee	—
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Thursday, March 12, 7:30 p.m.

Educational Foundation Bracketed KO Teams <i>Continues Fri.–Sun. at 9 a.m.</i>	1st	Lanier Ballroom	\$20	\$20
Educational Foundation Stratified Open Pairs*	single	Lanier Ballroom	\$20	\$20
Educational Foundation 299er, 199er, 99er, 49er, 0-20 & 0-5 Pairs	single	Lanier Ballroom	\$20	\$20

Friday, March 13, 9 a.m. **Go Texan Day**

0–5 Newcomer Pairs play free today!

Educational Foundation Bracketed KO Teams	2nd	Ballroom of the Americas	\$16	\$18
Helen Levy Side Game (<i>Session 1 of the Fri-Sun Morning Side Game Series*</i>)	single	Ballroom of the Americas	\$16	\$18
299er, 199er, 99er & 49er Pairs	single	Ballroom of the Americas	\$15	\$17
0–20 Pairs	single	Ballroom of the Americas	\$15	\$15
0–5 Pairs	single	Ballroom of the Americas	Free	Free

Friday, March 13, 10 a.m. & 3 p.m.

Stratified Senior Pairs*	1–2	Lanier Ballroom	\$16	\$18
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*Unless otherwise noted, strata breaks for all stratified events are: A (2000+), B (750–2000), C (0–750).

**Members whose dues payment is current and Life Masters whose service fee payment is current.

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Friday, March 13, 1 p.m.

Event	Session	Sold	Entry/player/session	
			ACBL members**	Others
Friday-Saturday Side Game Series*	single, 1 of 4	Ballroom of the Americas	\$16	\$18
The Jo Dene Bond Memorial IN Games:				
299er, 199er, 99er & 49er Pairs	single	Lanier Ballroom	\$15	\$17
0–20 Pairs	single	Lanier Ballroom	\$15	\$15
0–5 Pairs	single	Lanier Ballroom	Free	Free

Friday, March 13, 1 & 7:30 p.m.

Silodor Open Pairs	1–2 Q	Lanier Ballroom	\$20	—
<i>2 qualifying, 2 final sessions</i>				
The Bob Gerberich Stratified Open Pairs*	1–2	Ballroom of the Americas	\$16	\$18
The Ed Hoffing Memorial				
Friday-Saturday Bracketed KO Teams	1–2	Ballroom of the Americas	\$16	\$18

Friday, March 13, 7:30 p.m.

The Nancy Strohmer One-session				
Stratified Swiss Teams*	single	Ballroom of the Americas	\$15	\$17
Friday-Saturday Side Game Series*	single, 2 of 4	Ballroom of the Americas	\$16	\$18
Stratified 299er Swiss Teams	single	Lanier Ballroom	\$15	\$17
299er, 199er, 99er & 49er Pairs	single	Lanier Ballroom	\$15	\$17
0–20 Pairs	single	Lanier Ballroom	\$15	\$15
0–5 Pairs	single	Lanier Ballroom	Free	Free

Friday, November 13, 11:30 p.m.

The Anna Marlatt Zip Knockout Teams*	single	Lanier Ballroom	\$12 / team / match	
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*Unless otherwise noted, strata breaks for all stratified events are: A (2000+), B (750–2000), C (0–750).

**Members whose dues payment is current and Life Masters whose service fee payment is current.

Welcome, Intermediate/Newcomer Players, to Houston!

All IN (Intermediate/Newcomer) events will be played in the Ballroom of the Americas at 9 a.m., and in the Lanier Ballroom at 1 and 7:30 p.m.

Don't forget to pick up your **registration gift**.

The **IN Partnership Desk** will guarantee you a partner if you sign up one hour prior to game time.

Celebrity Bridge Speakers will give free mini-lessons at 12:15 and 6:45 p.m. all week. On Thursday, March 12, at 6:45 p.m., **John Hermann** will discuss "Third- and Fourth-seat Openings." On Friday, March 13, at 12:15 p.m., **Jerry Helms** will present "Ask Jerry." And at 6:45 p.m., **Toni Snow** will discuss "The Lady — When to Play the

Queen."

On Friday, March 13, there will be **free Newcomer games** (0–5 MPs) at 9 a.m., 1 and 7:30 p.m.

On Saturday, March 14, at 9:45 a.m., *Bridge Bulletin* columnist **Jerry Helms** will give a **free two-hour lesson**. On Sunday, March 15, at 9:45 a.m., **Gary King** will also give a **free two-hour lesson**.

On Saturday, Mar. 14, there will be a reception for IN players at 5 p.m. in the Lanier Ballroom.

Entry fee special! Players with 0–100 MPs who buy a regular-price entry March 13–15 will receive a half-priced entry for games held March 20–22.

Entry fees

Players *must* be ACBL members whose service fees or dues are current in order to compete in any of the following nationally ranked events: Silodor Open Pairs, Vanderbilt Knockout Teams, Leventritt Silver Ribbon Pairs, Rockwell Mixed Pairs, Lebhar IMP Pairs, Whitehead Women's Pairs, Jacoby Open Swiss Teams, and the Machlin Women's Swiss Teams. The entry fees for these contests are **\$20** per player per session.



Players must also be current ACBL members to play in the Bean Red Ribbon Pairs. The entry fee is **\$17** per player per session.

Regional championships are **\$16** per player per session for ACBL members, **\$18** for non-members.

All other events are **\$15** per player per session for ACBL members, **\$17** for non-members.

(Note: There is no entry fee for any flight of the North American Pairs, but participants are still required to be paid-up members.)

Electronic Devices Banned in National Events

The ACBL Board of Directors approved a comprehensive ban on electronic devices for all national-level events, but not to regional or Intermediate-Newcomer contests:

Electronic devices, excluding health-related equipment, capable of sending or receiving communication, including but not limited to, headphones, earphones, cellular phones and minicomputers: (1) shall not be allowed in the playing areas, adjacent hallways, restrooms or accessible break areas; and (2) shall not be used during a session.

These restrictions shall apply to all pairs, team members, captains, coaches, recorders and kibitzers and shall apply throughout any actual playing session or segment.

A violation of this policy shall result in a disciplinary penalty of one full board (or 12 IMPs at that form of scoring) for the first offense. A second offense shall result in disqualification from the event for the pair/team.

Kibitzers violating this policy shall be removed from the playing area for the remainder of the session.

Participants will be reminded not to approach the playing area with a personal electronic device in their possession, *even if the device is turned off.*

Defenders, Spring North American Bridge Championships

Baldwin North American Pairs, Flight A: Xiaodong Shi, David Yang

Golder North American Pairs, Flight B: Sidney Kanter, Ron Nelken

President's Cup North American Pairs, Flight C: Abraham Pallas, Dmitri Bourilkov

Vanderbilt Knockout Teams: Jerzy Skrzypczak, Boguslaw Gierulski, Krzysztof Martens,
Krzysztof Martens

Jacoby Open Swiss Teams: Perry Johnson, Chris Compton, Jeff Meckstroth,
Eric Rodwell

Machlin Women's Swiss Teams: Cheri Bjerkan, Joan Glasson, Lisa Berkowitz,
Sue Weinstein

Silodor Open Pairs: Robert Lebi, Dan Jacob

Whitehead Women's Pairs: Lynne Feldman, Chris Benson

Leventritt Silver Ribbon Pairs: Sheldon Kirsch, Morrie Kleinplatz

Rockwell Mixed Pairs: Gail Greenberg, Jeffrey Hand

Lebhar IMP Pairs: Doug Doub, Adam Wildavsky

Bean Red Ribbon Pairs: Mike Develin, Li-Chung Chen

Mott-Smith Trophy: Krzysztof Martens, Krzysztof Martens



Special Events

Club Directors Course

Comprehensive course that prepares candidates for directing club and bridge cruise games. Anyone interested in becoming a club director or a director aboard a cruise ship is invited to participate. Study materials included. Fee: \$50. Date: Tuesday–Thursday, March 10–12. Time: Noon–10 p.m. Tuesday with dinner break; 9 a.m.–10 p.m. Wednesday with meal breaks; 9 a.m.–noon; Thursday followed by lunch break and testing. Location: Meeting Room 337.

The “New” TAP: Teacher Accreditation Program

Introduction to the updated ACBL Bridge Series material and other popular teaching products. Learn modern teaching techniques from one of the ACBL’s premier teachers in this 10-hour interactive learning course which includes three hours of hands-on experience. Learn the business side of teaching bridge and be introduced to 64 weeks of class material and more! There are even techniques to move your students into duplicate faster. Leave with the tools needed to develop a successful teaching career. Fee: \$125. (ACBL Accredited Teachers can retake for no course fee.) Date: Thursday–Friday, March 12–13. Time: 1–10 p.m. Thursday; 9 a.m.–noon Friday. Location: Meeting Room 336.

Reception for Teachers and Club Officials

This is the ACBL’s “thank you” reception for the teachers and club officials who work so hard to recruit and retain our members. All teachers are welcome, along with club directors, managers and owners. Free. Date: Friday, March 13. Time: 4:30–6 p.m. Location: Meeting Room 343.

Bid Box Alerts and Announcements

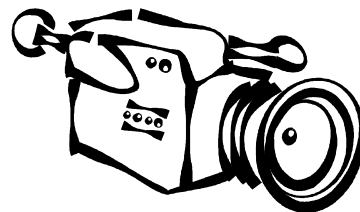
When using bid boxes, ACBL suggests that players tap the Alert strip and say “Alert” at the same time.

When making an Announcement, use the Announcement word — such as “transfer” — and tap the Alert strip at the same time.

A player who Alerts or Announces a bid should make sure his opponents are aware that an Alert or Announcement has been made.

Monitoring

At this and future North American Championships, ACBL will be monitoring NABC+ events with visible, real-time cameras. The images will be recorded and will be available for later official inspection and review.



By general monitoring of the session and participants’ behavior, ACBL has another source of information that may be useful in determining facts and settling issues arising from some types of ethical and behavioral complaints or actions. Please summon a director if a problem occurs at the table.

This procedure is intended to assure everyone that the playing field is level and that misbehavior will not be tolerated.

Convention card reminder

Each player is required to have a convention card filled out legibly and on the table throughout a session. Both cards of a partnership must be identical and include the first and last names of each member of the partnership.

If a director determines that neither player has a substantially completed card, the partnership may play only the Standard American Yellow Card and may use only standard carding. This restriction may be lifted only at the beginning of a subsequent round after convention cards have been properly prepared and approved by the director. Further, the partnership will receive a 1/6-board matchpoint penalty for each board played, commencing with the next round and continuing until the restriction is lifted. In IMP team games, penalties shall be at the discretion of the director.

If the director determines the partnership has at least one substantially completed convention card but has not fully complied with ACBL regulations, the director may give warnings or assign such penalties as he deems to be appropriate under the circumstances.

The objective of these warnings and penalties is the encouragement of full compliance with ACBL regulations.