



District 25

NEW ENGLAND BRIDGE CONFERENCE - AMERICAN CONTRACT BRIDGE LEAGUE - DISTRICT 25



Welcome to the Presidential Regional

Cromwell, CT February 13-18 The 6 Best Days of Winter

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Vouchers for entry fees are on sale in the hotel's **lounge area**. Buy as many as you want, use them whenever you want, and pay by credit card, cash, or check!

Today's schedule is on the last page.

Lineup of Events

Wednesday, February 13			
A/X Pairs		Open/3000	10:00 & 2:15
B/C Pairs	0-2500	2500/1250	10:00 & 2:15
Gold Rush Pairs	0-750	750/300	10:00 & 2:15
299er Pairs	0-299.99	300/100/50	Single Sessions: 10:00, 2:15, 7:30
Expert Panel (Lloyd Arvedon, Ron Mak, & Tom Joyce)			1:30
Super Point Series		Open/1500/500	Single Session: 7:30
Thursday, February 14			
Monster Knockout I	Brackets		10:00 & TBA Continues on Friday
Open Pairs		Open/3000/750	10:00 & 2:15
299er Pairs	0-299.99	300/100/50	Single Sessions: 10:00, 2:15, 7:30
Red Point Swiss		Open/3000/750	Single Session: 2:15
Super Point Series		Open/1500/500	Single Session: 7:30
Friday, February 15			
Talk by Victor King: "The Woolsey Defense Against 1NT"			9:15-9:45
A/X Pairs		Open/4500	10:00 & 2:15
Mid-Flight Pairs	0-2500	2500/1250	10:00 & 2:15
Gold Rush Pairs	0-750	750/300	10:00 & 2:15
Open Swiss		Open/3000/750	10:00 & TBA
299er Pairs	0-299.99	300/100/50	Single Sessions: 10:00, 2:15, 7:30
Super Point Series		Open/1500/500	Single Session: 7:30
Saturday, February 16			
Monster Knockout II	Brackets		10:00 & TBA Continues on Sunday
Open Pairs		Open/3000/750	10:00 & 2:15
299er Pairs	0-299.99	Director	Single Sessions: 10:00, 2:15, 7:30
Red Point Swiss		Open/3000/750	Single Session: 2:15
Super Point Series		Open/1500/500	Single Session: 7:30
Sunday, February 17			
A/X Swiss		Open/4500	10:00 & TBA
Mid-Flight Swiss	0-2500	2500/1250	10:00 & TBA
Gold Rush Swiss	0-750	750/300	10:00 & TBA
299er Pairs	0-299.99	300/100/50	Single Session: 10:00
Super Point Series		Open/1500/500	Single Sessions: 10:00, 2:00, 7:00
Monday, February 18			
Open Pairs		Open/3000/750	10:00 & 2:00
Open Swiss		Open/3000/750	10:00 & TBA

Upcoming Bridge Events in New England

Regional Events (Gold and Red Points):

Tournament	Site	City	Dates
Gold Mine Regional*	Sturbridge Host Hotel	Sturbridge, MA	April 11-13
GNT Flights (except C)	Sturbridge Host Hotel	Sturbridge, MA	April 13-14
GNT Flight C	Sturbridge Host Hotel	Sturbridge, MA	April 14
Keohane Senior** Regional & Cape Cod Sectional	Sea Crest Beach Hotel	North Falmouth, MA	April 24-28

* 0-750 Non-Life Masters

** Born in 1959 or earlier

Sectional Events (Silver Points):

Tournament	Site	City	Dates
Winter Sectional	Armenian Center	Watertown, MA	February 22-24
Winter Sectional	St. Barbara's	Orange, CT	February 22-24
Spring Tonic Sectional	Woodford's Club	Portland, ME	March 9-10
Unit 126 STaC	Clubs	CT	March 11-17
Spring Sectional	Senior Center	Johnston, RI	March 16-17
Seacoast Sectional	Elks Club	Dover, NH	March 23-24
Spring 199er Sectional	Annunciation Church	Stamford, CT	May 4

Club Games (Black Points):

Sanctioned club games are held nearly every day. Wherever you find yourself, you can find a nearby club at <https://web3.acbl.org/findalist/club>.

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The first tournament in the Northeast **exclusively for non-Life Masters with under 750 points** will be held from April 11-14 at the Sturbridge Host Hotel. Pairs, teams, and knockouts are included. Partners are guaranteed! The winners will take home **GOLD POINTS**.

Free lessons will be given on Friday and Saturday.

Look for flyers in the playing area of the Red Lion Hotel in Cromwell. The digital version is on NEBridge.org. Click on the ad in the right column on the main page for tournament & hotel info.



I/N Director Sue Miguel has promised that there will be lots of fun and prizes. Believe it or not, each day one **genuine American Eagle gold coin** will be raffled off. One will also be awarded to the player who travels the farthest to get to the tournament.

Don't miss this great opportunity.

The Last Regional on the Cape?

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“Say it ain't so!”

The Keohane Senior Regional and Cape Cod Sectional will be held at the beautiful Sea Crest Beach Hotel in North Falmouth, MA, April 24-28. If you love the Cape (and who doesn't?), you should make plans soon to attend this unique event.

If you have never been to the Sea Crest, you should definitely plan to attend this year. 2019 is the last year of the district's contract with the resort, and the plans for the future are still to be decided. This may well be the last regional tournament ever held on Cape Cod.

This year's schedule looks like the best ever. For the first time there will be a **Monster Knockout** at the Cape. **Gold Rush** events have also returned. The flyer containing the complete schedule and hotel information can be viewed at NEBridge.org.

Come celebrate spring in style at the Cape!



The Grass Roots Events: NAP & GNT

The ACBL crowns many champions at its three North American Bridge Championships every year. Fundamentally different from all of the others are the two sets of “Grass Roots” events, the North American Pairs (NAP) and the Grand National Teams (GNT). The NAP finals are held at the Spring NABC (Memphis in 2019). The GNT is in the Summer (Las Vegas in 2019).

The other championships may have restrictions based on age, gender, masterpoints, or ribbons, but they are otherwise open to all players. In contrast, the participants in the NAP and GNT are chosen by the districts. There are several flights for both events.

Qualification for the NAP begins at the club level. Last summer clubs throughout New England held special games. Players who did well in these games earned the right to play in the qualifying tournaments held last fall. Here are the players who survived those events and will represent New England in Memphis:

New England NAP District Finals, 2018				
	1st	2nd	3rd	4th
FLIGHT A	James Streissand Walter Lee	Doug Doub Frank Merblum	Geoff Brod Rich DeMartino	
FLIGHT B	Yin Lichen Chang Liu	Trevor Reeves Felix Stringer	Rob Baum Parul Jain	Dan Jablonski Al Muggia
FLIGHT C	Alan Peterfreund Michael Ramella	Shen Duan Meiyan Duan	Nathalie Tabor Lisa Muir	Allen Barber Howard Abrams

Flight A was open to all. Flight B was limited to players with less than 2,500 masterpoints. Only non-Life Masters with less than 500 points were eligible for Flight C. The Doub-Merblum team has previously won all the marbles in this event several times.

The Grand National Teams has four flights. The Championship Flight is open to all. Every player on teams competing in Flight A must have less than 6,000 masterpoints. Flight B is limited to players with less than 2,500. Only non-Life Masters with less than 500 points are eligible for Flight C.

The representatives will be chosen at the Gold Mine Tournament in Sturbridge, MA, the weekend of April 13-14. The format for Flight C will be a two-session Swiss on Sunday April 14. The other three flights will be contested over both days. The directors will determine the most appropriate format for each flight depending upon the number of participants.

Everyone who can should try to compete in these events. The big thrill, of course, comes from representing the entire region in a continental championship. The icing on the cake is the **monetary stipend** paid by the district to the players. The funds come from the entry fees at the qualifying games and other events like the Super Points series.

Special Events at the Presidential Regional

Hospitality:

- Coffee and treats every morning at 9:00 outside the main ballroom.
- Treats such as cookies or fruit cups in the middle of the afternoon sessions outside of both ballrooms.
- Candy available at the Welcome Desk and in the 299er room.
- Coffee and treats during the evening pairs games.

Education:

- A panel of experts will discuss the hands from the morning pairs game at 1:30 on Wednesday in the Jersey (299er) Room.
- Victor King will explain the Woolsey Defense against 1NT at 9:15 on Friday morning in the Jersey (299er) Room.

Committee Meetings:

Committee	Day	Time	Location
Tournament Scheduling	Friday	6:00 PM	Room 107
Communications	Saturday	8:30 AM	Room 107
Executive	Saturday	5:30 PM	Nutmeg Room



To be safe, check the sign posted at the Welcome Desk for the **locations** of all committee meetings and special events.

Flights, Strats and Other Bridge-isms

At some point almost every serious bridge player wonders about how the schedules for Regional Tournaments are determined. This page attempts to clarify part of the process.

In District 25 the schedule for each tournament is drawn up by the Tournament Scheduling Committee, a group of volunteers that works hard to devise schedules that will provide a positive experience for the largest number of participants. This schedule must then be approved by the Executive Committee, which includes representatives from each unit.

The schedule must meet certain guidelines established by the ACBL. These guidelines use two terms that might be somewhat confusing to the average player: **flights and strats**. Here is the schedule for the first two days of this tournament with each event's flights and strats.

Day	Times	Event	Eligibility	Strats
Wednesday	10 & 2:15	A/X Pairs		Open/3000
February 13	10 & 2:15	B/C Pairs	0-2500	2500/1250
	10 & 2:15	Gold Rush Pairs	0-750	750/300
	10 & TBA	Open Swiss		Open/3000/750
	10, 2:15, 7:30	299er Pairs	0-299.99	300/100/50
	7:30	Super Point Pairs		Open/3000/750
Thursday	10 (continues)	Monster Knockout		Bracketed
February 14	10 & 2:15	Open Pairs		Open/3000/750
	10, 2:15, 7:30	299er Pairs	0-299.99	300/100/50
	7:30	Super Point Pairs		Open/3000/750

A strat (in bridge circles “stratum” and “strata” are seldom used) is a **level in an event** used for scoring, not for eligibility of participation. The scores in stratified events are based upon masterpoints. The stratification can be based upon the player with the most points or upon the average of the team members (or pair in a pairs game). In District 25 stratification is usually based upon the **average** of the team members or pair.

So, the Gold Rush Pairs event on Wednesday has two strats: 0-299.99 and 0-749.99. Pairs with an average of under 300 points can win the top strat, but they must do better than all the players in the event, even those with hundreds of points more than they have. However, to win the bottom strat they must only score more than the other pairs with average points under 300. This approach allows players with less experience to play against players with more points but to be scored against their peers. It helps address the frustration of players who must compete against others with far more experience.

Similarly, the Open Pairs on Thursday event also has three strats. The breaking points are 3,000 and 750 masterpoints. The Open Swiss Teams on Wednesday also has three strats, with breaking points at 3,000 and 750. In all of these the averages of all players are used for stratification.

The ACBL considers the two-session pairs event on Monday as **three flights of the same event**. This distinction is important. This is a much larger event that awards a much larger number of masterpoints than the Swiss. In effect, the winners in the A/X Pairs event are given credit for finishing ahead of everyone in the B/C and Gold Rush events! Of course, those who do not place win nothing.

The Monster Knockout has no strats. It is **bracketed** based on masterpoints. Each bracket has between nine and sixteen teams. Players exclusively play against the other teams in their bracket.

The 299er games and Super Points games are also stratified. Because these games are single-session events, they are covered by a different set of standards. In District 25 the levels in 299er games are usually set by the director. The most common strats are 300, 100, and 50.

Social Media

Bridge news and more: **NEBridge** on Facebook, **@NE_Bridge** on Twitter

In the Super Points pairs games, there will be three strats – Open, 3000, and 750.

District 25's Website, NEBridge.org

Home
Calendar
About Us
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District Director's Report
Links to Other Sites
Tips for Tournaments ▼
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If it has anything to do with bridge in New England, you can find it at NEBridge.org. The home page provides news in the center column. The column on the right promotes upcoming events. Navigation to the rest of the site is done using the green menu bar on the left.

The “Home” tab allows you to return to the home page with one click from any of the other pages

The “Calendar” tab directs the browser to the official D25 calendar that includes all events sponsored by the district. It also includes sectionals sponsored by all eight units, three NABC tournaments held every year, and a few tournaments in nearby districts. For all of the New England events pdf files for the flyers are linked.

“About Us” contains a great deal of information about the organization of bridge in New England as well as explanations of ranks and other matters controlled by the ACBL.

The next tab concerns the two “Grass Roots” events, the North American Pairs (NAP) and the Grand National Teams (GNT). These two championships are sponsored by the ACBL and are

contended at the NABC in the spring and summer. The district sponsors teams in both of these events. This tab (and all of the tabs with down-pointing arrows) has several sub-tabs. You can see them by hovering the cursor on the main tab.

The “Online Partnership Desk” tab links to the ACBL's partnership software. You must sign in to “MyACBL” to use it.

The “Tournament Results” tab connects to a page that links to the results from this tournament and all other district tournaments dating back many years. The sub-tabs provide links to the Winners Board (photos) indexes by player name and event as well as the results from StaC games.

The “Tournament Locations” tab provides a map that shows the locations of the district's events.

The “Conditions of Contest” tab provides a pathway to detailed explanations of the rules of different types of competition, including the NAP and GNT.

The “Member Achievements” tab connects to lists of winners of awards based on points as well as advancements in rank and winners of the Larry Weiss award and NABC events.

Where are my results?

Results from the games are no longer included in this publication. Players who register at ACBLLive.org are sent an email with links to their results as soon as they are posted. Links to both the detailed results and the list of high finishers are also posted on NEBridge.org on both the home page and the Tournament Results page.

Results will now also be posted under a daily banner in the hallway, and, of course, can still find them on the wall in the room in which the session took place.

Nearby Restaurants

860 area codes; distances in miles; B=Berlin; M=Middletown; RH=Rocky Hill

Italian



ABC Trattoria 316 Main St. • 635-4338 3.4
Baci Grill 134 Berlin Rd. • 613-2224 0.7
Cafe Luna 35 Berlin Rd • 788-2653 1.0
Cantina Cafe 74 Court St. M • 704-0000 5.5

Carbone's Prime 838 Cromwell Ave RH • 969-8088 3.7
Casa Mia on the Green 600 Cold Springs Rd RH 563-7000

DeNovellis 944 Cromwell Ave RH • 563-4474 3.5
Fiore II 332 Main St. M • 344-5557 5.5
Luce 89 Washington M • 344-0222 5.4
Pasta e Vino 670 Newfield M • 788-3074 3.2

Mexican / South American



Iguansa Ranas Taqueria 484 Main St. M • 346-8630 2.9
La Boca 337 Main St. M • 347-4777 5.3

On the Border 1519 Silas Deane Hwy RH • 899-1670 7.3
Puerto Vallarta 200 E. Main St. Metro Sq. M • 852-0080 6.2

Salsa's 3 120 Washington St. M • 316-5058 5.5
Taco Bell 10 Shunpike Rd • 632-9868 1.5

Pizza & Subs



Cromwell Pizza & Pasta 307 Main St. • 635-4655 3.5
Freddy's 552 Main St. • 635-9677 3.4

Mario's 530 Main St. • 635-2224 3.3
PizzaPie 136 Berlin Rd.. • 613-0050 0.7

Party Pizza 11 Berlin Rd. • 632-0091 1.3
Wooster St. Pizza 77 Berlin Rd. • 635-1176 0.4

Pub / Brewery



Chicago Sam's 51 Shunpike Rd. • 635-1860 1.5
Digger McDuff's 195 Shunpike Rd. • 613-0400 2.6

Joe's Filling Station 35 Berlin Rd. • 852-5678 1.0
Taphouse 150 150 Sabethe Dr. • 632-1333 4.2

The Well 546 Main St.. • 632-8682 3.4

Seafood



Blue Lobster 376 Berlin Turnpike B • 828-5833 4.0

Shad Row 277 Meadow Rd RH • 571-0535 6.8

Saybrook Fish House 12165 Silas Deane Hwy RH. • 721-9188 8.1

Steaks



Carbone's Prime 838 Cromwell Ave RH • 969-8088 3.7

Chuck's Steak House 2199 Silas Deane Hwy RH • 529-0222 7.4

Dakota Steakhouse 1489 Silas Deane Hwy RH 257-7752 6.5

Irish



Celtic Cavern 45 Melilli Plaza M • 894-2954 5.2

American

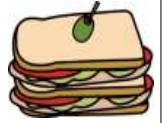


99 36 Shunpike Rd. • 632-2099 1.6
Chili's 4 Sebethe Dr. • 632-1779 1.6
 In Marriott Courtyard

Ruby Tuesday 50 Shunpike Rd. • 635-9970 1.4

Sheffield's 100 Berlin Rd. • 635-2000 0
 In Red Lion Hotel

Bakery and Deli



Fils Polish-American Deli 34 Shunpike Rd. • 635-5503 1.6
Ghezzi's Market & Deli 970 Newfield St M • 632-2442 2.4
Nardelli's Grinder Shoppe 136 Berlin Rd. • 788-3170 0.7

Neon Deli 130 Cross St. M • 347-1800 4.9
New York Pickle Deli 397 Cromwell Ave. RH • 257-9465 4.7
Patty Cakes Bakery 948 Cromwell Ave. RH • 529-9808 3.6

Steve's Place 366 Cromwell Ave. RH 721-8545 4.7
Whole Deli & Coffee 3329 Silas Deane Hwy RH 571-0388 6.3
Zerio's 2 Willowbrook Rd. • 632-8555 0.9

Diners: Breakfast & Lunch



Cromwell Diner 135 Berlin Rd. • 635-7112 0.6
Dunkin Donuts 161 Berlin Rd • 778-7903 1.0
 1 Kirby Rd. • 613-2450 0.5

Friendly's 48 Berlin Rd. • 635-3903 0.8
Mitchell's on Main 317 Main St. • 613-0770 3.2

O'Rourke's Diner 728 N. Main St. M • 346-6101 5.1
Perk on Main 386 Main St. M • 788-2287 5.1

Ice Cream



Cromwell Creamery 2 Willowbrook Rd. 770-4594 0.9

Friendly's 48 Berlin Rd. • 635-3903 0.8

Asian



China Dragon 544 Main St. 632-1545 3.4
Kuyi Sushi 34 Shunpike Rd. 788-2801 1.6
Luen Hop Chinese Kitchen 34 Shunpike Rd. 635-4108 1.6

Mizzu Asian Bistro & Hibachi 136 Berlin Rd. 788-6306 0.7
Moon Star 2 Willowbrook Rd. 632-5506 0.9

Puket Cafe Thai Cuisine 945 Cromwell Ave. RH 436-4366 3.6
Wang Chinese Restaurant 30 Berlin Rd. 788-6030 1.1

Greek



Ambrosia 548 Main St. 613-0203 3.4

Many more restaurants of every description are located in Hartford, on the Berlin Turnpike, and in other nearby towns. A more complete list is available at the Hospitality Desk. Copies of menus from many restaurants are there for perusal.

What's Available at the Tournament for Newcomers and Intermediates?

299er

- Limited to players with less than 300 masterpoints
- Single-session pair games
- 10:00, 2:15, and 7:30
Wednesday through Saturday
- 10:00 Sunday
- Red points
- Strats determined by director

Gold Rush

- Limited to players with less than 750 masterpoints
- Two-session events
- Pairs on Wednesday and Friday
with two strats: 750, 300
- Swiss Teams on Sunday with
two strats: 750, 300
- Gold and red points

Monster Knockouts

- Four-session team events at
10:00 and 2:15 on two
consecutive days
- Monster KO I starts on Thursday
and continues through Friday
- Monster KO II starts on
Saturday and continues through
Sunday
- Bracketed (9-16 teams per
bracket) so that everyone plays
against other teams with similar
levels of experience
- Gold and red points
- Everyone who makes it to the
second day wins gold points

Who Does What in District 25?

Board of Delegates	Representatives from each of the eight units	Chosen by the units	Meets twice a year to set policy and elect officers.
Executive Committee	Officers plus past president plus one or two reps from each district	Officers elected by BoD. Reps chosen by the units.	Meets at every regional event to deal with issues that have arisen.
Tournament Director	Peter Marcus	Selected by Executive Committee	Hires and manages directors. Provides advice on ACBL rulings and policy.
District Director	Bob Bertoni	Elected by units	Represents the district in all ACBL meetings and decisions. Appoints the NAP and GNT coordinator.
President	Lois DeBlois	Elected by BoD	Sets the agenda and makes sure that everything gets done.
Vice President	Jack Mahoney	Elected by BoD	Chairman of the Tournament Scheduling Committee and backup for the president.
Treasurer	Joe Brouillard	Elected by BoD	Manages investments and accounting.
Secretary	Carolyn Weiser	Elected by BoD	Records, writes, and publishes minutes. Acts as liaison with the units and clubs.
Tournament Manager	Sally Kirtly	Selected by special committee	Negotiates and manages contracts with tournament sites. Arranges all details of tournaments and reports on attendance and finances.
I/N Director	Sue Miguel	Appointed by president	Manages program for beginners and intermediates. Creates flyers.
Communications	Mike Wavada	Appointed by president	Manages website, emails, database, and tournament bulletin.
Tournament Coordinator	Maureen Fahey	Appointed by president	Arranges for the ACBL to sanction all events sponsored by D25. Maintains the calendar on NEBridge.org.

Monday is Allan Clamage Day



Long-time partner Dean Montgomery and Allan won the Open Pairs in Nashua in 2015.

I only worked closely with Allan Clamage the last seven years of his life. I had played against him in sectional and regional tournaments a few times before that. I always lost.

Allan was my “Editor” when I took over as webmaster of NEBridge.org in 2013. He wasn't like Perry White to my Jimmy Olsen. Instead he provided a gently guiding hand whenever the website

introduced new features and directions. He kept me out of trouble when my ideas were off-base or I forgot to post something. He provided excellent advice when difficulties arose. The only disagreement that we ever had was about the propriety of using “less than” or “fewer than” when referring to masterpoints. To avoid conflict I often employed “under.”

Through this relationship I learned some interesting things about Allan. He was from Detroit, and, as I did, he attended the University of Michigan. His career was spent in the advertising field, working first in New York and then in Stamford, CT.



Allan and William Titley prevailed in the A/X Pairs in Cromwell in 2017.

Allan served as President of the Connecticut

Bridge Association from 2001-2003 and was President of the New England Bridge Conference from 2008-2009. Those were very rough periods. Demographics was wreaking havoc on attendance at sectionals and regionals, and most bridge enthusiasts were at a loss as to what to do about it.

Allan's specialty was communications, and for decades he put his talents to productive use in improving the ways in which both bridge organizations interacted with their members. He was a key player in the difficult tasks of getting the websites for both organizations set up and managed. For many years he also was the editor of *The Kibitzer*, the very fine newsletter published by the CBA.



Allan's Facebook photo.

For decades Allan served tirelessly on the district's Executive Committee, the Website Committee, and the Communication Committee as well as the Board of the CBA. He was as passionate about tournament bridge as anyone I ever met. He was proud of the improvements made in the playing environment and frustrated with the difficulty of attracting more players to participate in a visibly improved product.

Allan was all business when it came to bridge. He was not, at least in the years that I knew him, a party person or back-slapper.

On the contrary, he was 100% reliable, and he worked hard. He did more behind the scenes than anyone knows. I will wear a cardigan sweater on Monday in his honor. MW

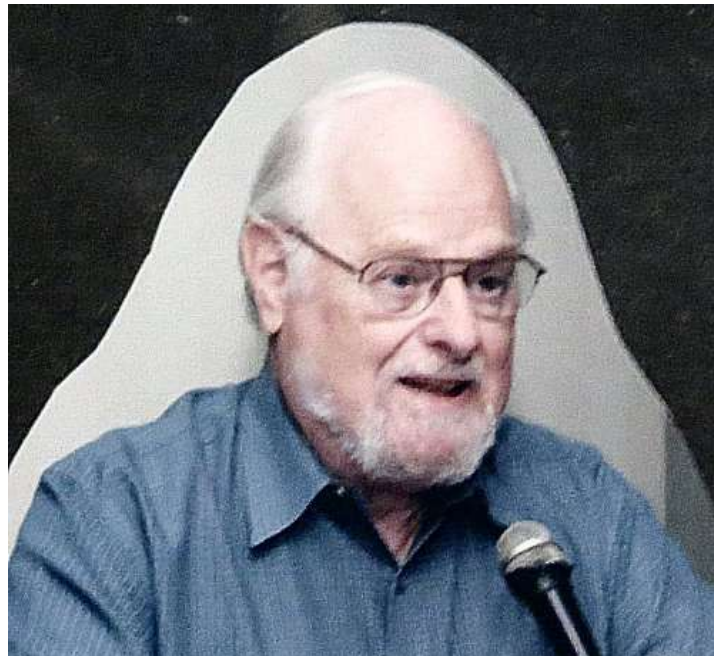
Monday's Schedule

Event & Flight	Eligible	Strats	Times
Open Pairs		Open/3000/750	10:00 & 2:00
Open Swiss		Open/3000/750	10:00 & TBA

No meetings or special events.

Last year's winners (with photos) can be viewed at <http://nebridge.org/pages/326/>.

“Life without bridge is not worth living.”
Allan Clamage (1929-2018)



"Make sure that you have all of your stuff, and have a safe trip home."

A Small
Voice in
Your Ear

Sunday is George H. W. Bush Day

George Herbert Walker Bush was born in Milton, MA. Both his name and his nickname (Poppy) were a tribute to his maternal grandfather, George H. Walker, known in the family as Pop. When George was an infant the family moved to Greenwich, CT, where Prescott Bush became a very successful businessman. He was elected to the US Senate in 1952.

The first President Bush owned the last name on the long list of presidents with valiant and heroic military records. He enlisted on the first day he legally could and served until one month past VJ Day. He flew fifty-eight combat missions. He was shot down once and parachuted into the Pacific Ocean where he spent four hours alone on an inflated raft until he was rescued.



After the war he graduated from Yale in only two and a half years. Somehow he still found time to be the captain of the Yale baseball team and a member of ΔKE and the Skull and Bones Society. Shortly after graduation he and his wife Barbara moved to Texas, where George made a fortune in “Texas tea.”

One of Bush's companies, Zapata, had international connections. Several researchers have produced evidence that Bush worked with or for the CIA in the sixties or even before. In the latter part of that decade he ran for Congress in Texas and was elected twice. At President Nixon's request he ran for the US Senate in 1970. He lost, but Nixon appointed him Ambassador to the UN.

In 1973 Bush was named Chairman of the Republican National Committee. There he evidently had some involvement in the White House's attempt to thwart the prosecution of Spiro Agnew. His next job, as Chief of the US Liaison Office in China, lasted about a year. Despite the fact that Bush apparently had experience neither in intelligence nor in running an agency, President Ford appointed him the Director of the Central Intelligence Agency. He succeeded at polishing the agency's image. As Ronald Reagan's Vice President he continued his involvement with secret foreign policy issues, including the imbroglio called Iran-Contra.

In 1988 Bush was elected President, but many conservatives considered him a wimp in comparison with their hero, President Reagan. Bush's foreign policy was hardly wimpy. He ordered the invasion of Panama and the capture of General Noriega. He worked with Gorbachev to finalize the SALT agreement and end the Cold War. Eventually the Soviet Union itself was dismembered. When Saddam Hussein sent Iraqi troops into Kuwait, Bush responded with four weeks of intense bombing followed by an almost unimpeded land assault that decimated the Iraqi army. However, he allowed Hussein to stay in power.

Bush lost a close election in 1992 to Bill Clinton. Ross Perot also ran as a candidate in that election. He may have cost Bush the election by attracting many disgruntled conservatives who were outraged that Bush reneged on his campaign pledge of “Read my lips; no new taxes” and his call for a “new world order.” Also, he sounded to many more like an effete intellectual from Yale than a Texas oilman. All those photos of him vacationing in his “cigarette boat” in Maine may not have helped.

President Bush, who was wheelchair-bound at the time, celebrated his ninetieth birthday by parachuting 6,000 feet from a helicopter. Some wimp.

At the time of his death he had been married to Barbara for seventy-three years, smashing the record for the longest marriage of any “first couple.” However, they may not hold the title for long.



Sunday's Schedule

Event & Flight	Eligible	Strats	Times
A/X Swiss		Open/4500	10:00 & TBA
Mid-Flight Swiss	0-2500	2500/1250	10:00 & TBA
Gold Rush Swiss	0-750	750/300	10:00 & TBA
299er Pairs	0-299.99	300/100/50	Single Session: 10:00
Super Point Series		Open/1500/500	Single Sessions: 10:00, 2:00, 7:00

No meetings or special events.

Last year's winners (with photos) can be viewed at <http://nebridge.org/pages/325/>.



"In pairs games it is never OK to discuss hands in the playing area. Others will be playing those hands later."

A Small
Voice in
Your Ear

Saturday is Jefferson Davis Day



The inauguration following the controversial presidential election of 1860 was held in Birmingham, AL, on February 18, 1861. The man who took the oath of office had received zero votes in the Electoral College. He was selected by a group known as the Provisional Congress of the Confederate States. There was no vote. Jefferson Davis, a former Senator from Mississippi, was chosen by acclamation by representatives of the six rebellious states to be their President. When Virginia joined the group the capital was moved to Richmond, despite the fact that it is only 95 miles from Washington, DC.

Davis was born in Fairview, KY, in 1808. His counterpart in Washington, Abraham Lincoln, was born eight months later in Hodgenville, KY, about 120 miles to the northeast.

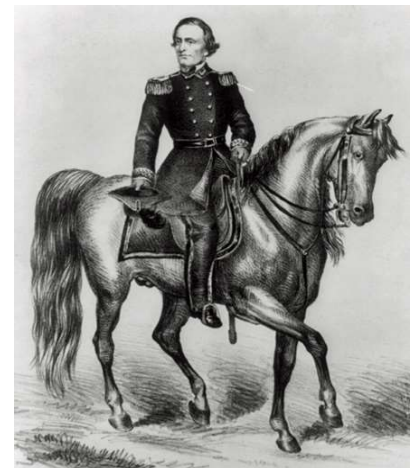
The Davis family relocated to Mississippi when Jefferson was an infant. His father died when he was only sixteen, but his brother Joseph arranged for him to get an appointment to West Point. He graduated from the academy without great distinction.

The CO at his first assignment was Zachary Taylor. Davis fell in love with the general's daughter, Sarah, but their engagement was vetoed allegedly because of Davis's choice of careers. Undeterred, Davis resigned from the army, and the couple eloped. She died of malaria only three months later. Davis also contracted the disease, which affected his health the rest of his life. He spent the following years developing the plantation that his brother had provided for him. By the time of the Civil War he owned **113 slaves**.

Davis was elected to Congress in 1845, but when the Mexican-American War broke out, he resigned to lead the 1st Mississippi Rifles. He had left the army as a Lieutenant, but now he was a Colonel. He fought bravely in the battles of Monterey and Buena Vista. At the end of the war the Governor of Mississippi appointed him to fill a vacant seat in the US Senate. He was elected to his own term by the state legislature in 1849. He resigned to run for governor, but he lost the election.

In 1853 President Pierce named him Secretary of War. In 1857 he ran for the Senate again, and he won. Throughout his political career he consistently supported expansionism and defended the concept of state sovereignty. He even turned down President Polk's appointment as a general of the militia because he considered it a state matter. Nevertheless, he was adamantly opposed to secession because he was convinced that the North would not tolerate it, and the South was not prepared to fight.

The South entered the war as a heavy underdog. The task that Davis undertook was extremely daunting, and he was not up to it. He had some military experience, but he was much better at making deals with his fellow plantation owners than he was at inspiring the common people.



The U.S. Department of State claims that not a single nation recognized the Confederacy. That may be technically true, but the ruler of one state on the Italian peninsula was a great admirer of Davis and the Confederacy. Giovanni Maria Mastai-Ferretti, better known as Pope Pius IX, was at the time the sovereign ruler of the Papal States, which stretched across central Italy from coast to coast. He wrote a friendly letter to Davis addressed to "*Praesidi Faederatarum Americae Regionum, Richmond.*" Members of Davis's Cabinet, which included both Catholics and Jews, interpreted this as official recognition.



After the war Davis was captured and arrested for treason. Although he was never put on trial, he served two years as a prisoner. During those trying times he received a short letter from the pontiff and an autographed picture. A crown of thorns that is on exhibit at the Confederate Memorial Hall Museum in New Orleans was also reportedly included.

Saturday's Schedule

Event & Flight	Eligible	Strats	Times
Monster Knockout II	Brackets		10:00 & TBA Continues on Sunday
Open Pairs		Open/3000/750	10:00 & 2:15
299er Pairs	0-299.99	300/100/50	Single Sessions: 10:00, 2:15, 7:30
Red Point Swiss		Open/3000/750	Single Session: 2:15
Super Point Series		Open/1500/500	Single Session: 7:30

It's Monster Knockout Day!

The Communications Committee will meet at 8:30 AM in Room 107.

The Executive Committee will meet at 5:30 PM in the Nutmeg Room.

The locations of the meetings will be posted at the Welcome Desk.

Last year's winners (with photos) can be viewed at <http://nebridge.org/pages/325/>.



"If it is your turn to bid, play, or lay down the dummy, do so before recording on your score card. Don't make everyone else wait."

A Small
Voice in
Your Ear

Friday is James Buchanan Day



The eight presidents who served between the two monumental figures, Andrew Jackson and Abraham Lincoln, had a lot in common. They all came from either northern or border states. They all dealt with the interconnected issues of slavery and expansion by tap-dancing around the former. Most faced economic crises with no reliable tools to address them. None was elected for a second term. Their presidencies seem so similar that many people have trouble remembering which president did what.

Most of these men were from Jackson's Democratic party. They not only agreed with his basic political outlook. They also aspired to be like Old Hickory – determined and tough, willing to resort to coercion and force when necessary to achieve the goal.

The last, James Buchanan, was quite different from the others. He never married. He was engaged once, but he spent almost no time with his fiancée. Instead he devoted himself to his legal and political ambitions, although he did exchange written correspondence with her. After two years of letter reading she broke off the engagement and then suddenly died. Buchanan was only 28. Her father refused Buchanan's request to attend the funeral. The only woman who played much of a role in the last 49 years of his life was his niece, Harriet Lane, an orphan whom Buchanan adopted. She served as a very popular first lady for his term.

Buchanan had a long-time roommate in Washington, William R. King of Alabama. The two seemed nearly inseparable from 1840, when Buchanan was the forty-nine-year old Senator from Pennsylvania, until 1853, when King, the newly elected Vice President, died of tuberculosis after serving for only forty-five days. When King had been named Ambassador to France in 1844, Buchanan wrote to a friend:

I am now solitary and alone, having no companion in the house with me. I have gone a wooing to several gentlemen, but have not succeeded with any one of them. I feel that it is not good for man to be alone; and should not be astonished to find myself married to some old maid who can nurse me when I am sick, provide good dinners for me when I am well, and not expect from me any very ardent or romantic affection.



Buchanan enjoyed a long and successful career as a lawyer and politician in Pennsylvania. He was elected to the legislature in his early twenties. After that he served five terms in the U.S. House of Representatives and two in the Senate. He also served as Secretary of State and as ambassador to both Russia and the United Kingdom. He had competed for his party's nomination several times before he was chosen in 1856.

His presidency was an unmitigated disaster. It began with the Dred Scott decision, which declared that black people had no rights as citizens. Buchanan not only supported it; he had connived to make sure that it could be applied in other areas. Then the economy, at least in the north, collapsed. Buchanan did nothing about it.

He worked hard to have Kansas admitted as a slave state, but his attempts were thwarted. Bloodshed accompanied this effort. While he was in office a congressional committee reported that he committed many impeachable offenses, including bribery in the Kansas debacle, but he was never impeached.

Buchanan's presidency was as disastrous for his party as it was for the country. The Democrats could not agree on a candidate at their 1860 convention. Eventually Stephen Douglas was nominated at a subsequent gathering, but another Democrat, John Breckenridge, ran in the South. Abraham Lincoln, of course, won. Seven states had already seceded before he was even inaugurated.

Friday's Schedule

Event & Flight	Eligible	Strats	Times
Lecture by Victor King on the Woolsey Convention			9:15-9:45
A/X Pairs		Open/4500	10:00 & 2:15
Mid-Flight Pairs	0-2500	2500/1250	10:00 & 2:15
Gold Rush Pairs	0-750	750/300	10:00 & 2:15
Open Swiss		Open/3000/750	10:00 & TBA
299er Pairs	0-299.99	300/100/50	Single Sessions: 10:00, 2:15, 7:30
Super Point Series		Open/1500/500	Single Session: 7:30

Victor King will give a presentation on “The Woolsey Defense against 1NT” at 9:15 AM in the Jersey (299er) Room. This event is free and open to the public.

The Tournament Scheduling committee will meet at 6:00 PM in Room 107.

The locations of all events and meetings will be posted at the Welcome Desk.

Last year's winners (with photos) can be viewed at <http://nebridge.org/pages/324/>.

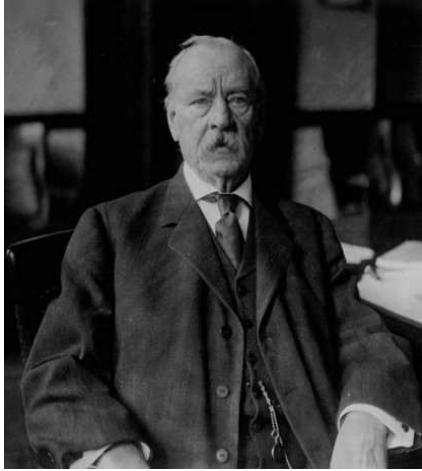


“Nobody likes to deal with other people's garbage. Try to leave each table at least as clean as it was when you arrived.”

A Small
Voice in
Your Ear

Thursday is Grover Cleveland Day

The Republican Party won ten of the twelve presidential elections between 1860 and 1912. Both exceptions – 1884 and 1892 – were won by the same Democratic candidate, Grover Cleveland. He also won the popular vote in 1888, but Benjamin Harrison prevailed in the Electoral College.



You won't hear Cleveland's views at gatherings of Democrats in the 21st century. He was a “Bourbon Democrat,” one who supported an aggressively pro-business agenda. He opposed high tariffs, Free Silver (thereby championing the gold standard), and any form of government subsidy. His foreign policy views were more isolationist than those of most contemporaries. He was skeptical of immigrants and at best lukewarm on civil rights. Today he would be called a libertarian.

Cleveland was born in New Jersey, but he spent most of his life in New York. He studied law in Buffalo and was admitted to the bar in 1859 at the age of 22. Bone spurs would not have kept him out of the draft when Congress passed the Conscription Act four years later. Cleveland had to shell out \$150 to a Polish immigrant named George Binninsky to take his place in the Union Army.

George survived the war, but not as well as Grover did. He developed a sterling career as an attorney and narrowly lost to his roommate (of all people) when he ran for District Attorney. In 1870 he was elected Sheriff of Erie County. He served there for two years before returning to his law practice for nine years. Then in a period of only four years he was elected Mayor of Buffalo, Governor of New York, and, in 1884 President of the United States. In each election his winning issue was the corruption of his opponent.

Cleveland's record was sparse, but almost spotless. In the presidential election the Republicans based their entire campaign on the discovery that Cleveland had evidently fathered an out-of-wedlock child with Maria Halpin. Nevertheless, Cleveland prevailed in a close contest.

Cleveland was a bachelor when elected, but halfway through his first term he met Frances Folsum, the daughter of one of his friends. She was twenty-eight years younger than the President. The marriage ceremony was performed in the Blue Room of the White House.



Cleveland's first period in office was just what one would expect. The Republicans controlled the Senate, and Cleveland vetoed nearly every bill that they passed because they did not meet his strict standards of efficiency and fairness.

Cleveland then lost a very close and controversial election to Benjamin Harrison of Indiana in 1888. He won the job back easily in the bizarre election of 1892. When Harrison's wife died of tuberculosis on October 25, both parties stopped campaigning.

The Panic of 1893 greeted Cleveland when he returned to the White House. He worked hard with Congress to address the economic woes. The resulting bills lowered tariffs and removed Free Silver, but they were so full of loopholes that Cleveland wanted nothing to do with them. They became law without his signature. Nothing seemed to help much, and Cleveland was blamed. He lost support of working people when he brought in the military to end the railroad strike. Thirty people were killed and fifty-seven wounded. The Republicans won both houses of Congress in 1894.

In the midst of these struggles, a painful growth developed on the roof of Cleveland's mouth. In the middle of the summer he embarked on a “vacation cruise” during which he had surgery. It seemed to solve the original problem, but left him disfigured and slurred his speech. A surgical implant was required to address the side effects. A cover story was concocted, and the truth was concealed from the public for twenty years.

Grover Cleveland was not the most successful of presidents, but at least he played by the rules for his entire political life, and he was true to his principles.

Thursday's Schedule

Event & Flight	Eligible	Strats	Times
Monster Knockout I	Brackets		10:00 & TBA Continues on Friday
Open Pairs		Open/3000/750	10:00 & 2:15
299er Pairs	0-299.99	300/100/50	Single Sessions: 10:00, 2:15, 7:30
Red Point Swiss		Open/3000/750	Single Session: 2:15
Super Point Series		Open/1500/500	Single Session: 7:30

It's Monster Knockout Day!

No meetings or special events today.

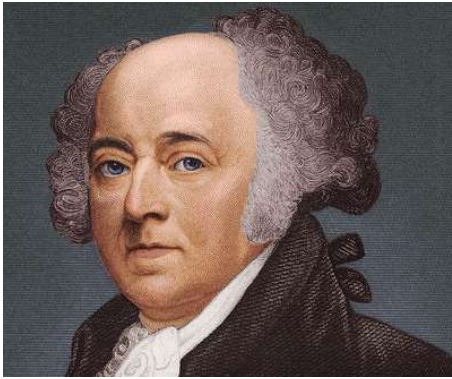
Last year's winners (with photos) can be viewed at <http://nebridge.org/pages/323/>.



"Tissues, handkerchiefs, and sleeves are for coughs and sneezes. Hands are for cards."

A Small
Voice in
Your Ear

Wednesday is John Adams Day



It is a pretty safe bet that the second President of the United States was the only holder of that office who admitted to being “obnoxious.” And yet, a good case can be made that no other Founding Father had as profound an effect on America's history as John Adams.

On the other hand, despite the fact that he was the most celebrated workaholic of his time, he accomplished nothing at all between September 3 and September 13, 1752. Of course, neither did anyone else in England and its colonies.

First and foremost, John Adams was a lawyer. He was a skilled and highly principled advocate in the courtroom, where he firmly believed that everyone was entitled to professional representation. He even defended the British soldiers involved in the Boston Massacre. He was also exceptionally good at writing legal documents. He was the primary author of the Massachusetts Constitution, and he had a tremendous influence on the final versions of the Declaration of Independence and the U.S. Constitution.

Adams was a genuine scholar. He read Thucydides in the original Greek! He graduated from Harvard and taught school for four years while he contemplated how best he could become a Great Man. He chose the law book over the Bible, but his unfulfilled dream was to be a soldier. Fortunately, Liberty Valance never came to town.

John definitely found his lifelong soul-mate in Abigail Smith. Although they could not have been a better match, their success in raising their children was mixed. John Quincy was a tremendous success, but their other two sons became alcoholics and died young.

Perhaps the problem was the incredibly high standards at home. Maybe John just needed to spend a little more time with them. He wrote that he was in his office “by 6 in the Morning – I am in it at 9 at night.”



Adams was, of course, the most active of Massachusetts' delegation to the First and Second Continental Congresses. It was Adams who nominated George Washington as Commander-in-Chief of the rebel army. He sat on **ninety committees**, of which he chaired twenty-five. In 1778 during the darkest days of the revolution, he went to France to seek assistance. By the time he arrived, Benjamin Franklin had already negotiated an agreement. Within a year, Adams returned in frustration. Shortly thereafter he was dispatched to the Dutch Republic to negotiate a loan. It took him quite a while, but he finally succeeded by taking his case to the people. His next diplomatic stop was Paris, where his attention to detail produced a peace treaty with very favorable terms for the Americans. This was followed by a stint as ambassador to England during a contentious period in which neither side met its treaty obligations.

In 1788 he was elected Vice President, which, by Adams's Puritan ethic, amounted to an eight-year vacation. He did, however, cast thirty-one tie-breaking votes in the Senate.

In the 1796 election Thomas Jefferson won the South and Pennsylvania. Adams received nearly all of the votes of the other northern electors, which was just enough. Adams retained Washington's cabinet, and by the terms of the Constitution Jefferson became Vice President. Adams spent four years absorbing criticism both from Jefferson's Democratic Republicans and from the Hamiltonian wing of his own Federalist Party, which included most of his cabinet. His primary goal was to avoid taking sides in the conflict between Britain and the nascent French Republic. The course that he steered was fraught with danger, but in the end he succeeded. Unfortunately, news of the treaty with France did not arrive until after the 1800 election, in which Jefferson prevailed over Adams by carrying New York.

After their political careers ended, Presidents #2 and #3 engaged in a protracted exchange of amiable letters. John Adams's last words on July 4, 1826, were “Thomas Jefferson survives.” He was wrong; Jefferson had died eight hours earlier. **Both perished on the fiftieth anniversary of their greatest work.**

Wednesday's Schedule

Event & Flight	Eligible	Strats	Times
A/X Pairs		Open/4500	10:00 & 2:15
Mid-Flight Pairs	0-2500	2500/1250	10:00 & 2:15
Gold Rush Pairs	0-750	750/300	10:00 & 2:15
Open Swiss		Open/3000/750	10:00 & TBA
299er Pairs	0-299.99	300/100/50	Single Sessions: 10:00, 2:15, 7:30
Ask the Experts Panel			1:30-2:00
Super Point Series		Open/1500/500	Single Session: 7:30

At 1:30 Lloyd Arvedon, Ron Mak, and Tom Joyce will go over the hands played in the morning session. Bring your questions to the Jersey (299er) Room. This event is FREE and open to everyone.

Pick up your free sticker for the Presidential Regional at the Welcome Desk!

The locations of all special events and meetings will be posted at the Welcome Desk.

Last year's winners (with photos) can be viewed at <http://nebridge.org/pages/322/>.



"Call the director whenever an irregularity occurs at your table, and don't forget 'please' and 'thank you.'"

A Small
Voice in
Your Ear