

2013 SPRING NORTH AMERICAN BRIDGE CHAMPIONSHIPS



# Pre-Bulletin



**MARCH 13-24, 2013**

**ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI**

Welcome to St. Louis! All events will be played at the St. Louis Renaissance Hotel and the America's Center.

## Wednesday, March 13, 1 & 7:30 p.m.

Event	Session	Sold	Entry/player/session:	
			ACBL members*	Others
<b>BALDWIN NORTH AMERICAN PAIRS, FLIGHT A</b>	1-2 Q	America's Center	No fee	—
<i>Pre-qualification required. Continues Thursday.</i>				

## Thursday, March 14, 1 p.m.

International Fund Stratified Open Pairs	single	America's Center	\$15	\$17
International Fund Stratified 299er, 199er, 99er, 49er, 0-20 & 0-5 Pairs	single	America's Center	\$15	\$17

## Thursday, March 14, 1 & 7:30 p.m.

<b>BALDWIN NORTH AMERICAN PAIRS, FLIGHT A</b>	1-2 F	America's Center	No fee	—
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## Thursday, March 14, 7:30 p.m.

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

## Friday, March 15, 9 a.m. **0–5 Newcomer Pairs play free today!**

Educational Foundation Bracketed KO Teams	2nd	Renaissance	\$16	\$18
Friday-Sunday Morning Side Game Series	single	Renaissance	\$16	\$18

## Friday, March 15, 10 a.m.

299er, 199er, 99er & 49er Pairs	single	America's Center	\$15	\$17
0–20 Pairs	single	America's Center	\$15	\$15
0–5 Pairs	single	America's Center	Free	Free

## Friday, March 15, 10 a.m. & 3 p.m.

Stratified Daylight Pairs	1–2	Renaissance	\$16	\$18
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## Friday, March 15, 1 p.m.

Friday-Saturday Side Game Series	single	America's Center	\$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.*

## Friday, March 15, 1 & 7:30 p.m.

Event	Session	Sold	Entry/player/session:	
			ACBL members*	Others
<b>10K SWISS TEAMS</b> <i>2 qualifying, 2 final sessions. No player with more than 10,000 MPs. 10% Platinum Points for overall placings (10 Platinum Points maximum).</i>	1–2 Q	Renaissance	\$17	—
<b>KAY PLATINUM PAIRS</b> <i>2 qualifying, 2 semifinal and 2 final sessions. Pre-qualification required in one of three ways: players must have earned at least 50 Platinum Points in the last three years OR must have earned at least 200 Platinum Points lifetime OR must be a Platinum or Grand Life Master.</i>	1–2 Q	Renaissance	\$20**	—
<b>LEBHAR IMP PAIRS</b> <i>2 qualifying, 2 final sessions.</i>	1–2 Q	Renaissance	\$20**	—
David C. Carter Memorial Stratified Open Pairs	1–2	America's Center	\$16	\$18
Friday-Saturday Bracketed KO Teams	1–2	America's Center	\$16	\$18

## Friday, March 15, 3 p.m.

299er, 199er, 99er & 49er Pairs	single	America's Center	\$15	\$17
0–20 Pairs	single	America's Center	\$15	\$15
0–5 Pairs	single	America's Center	Free	Free

## Friday, March 15, 7:30 p.m.

Tom Kniest Stratified Side Swiss Teams	single	America's Center	\$15	\$17
Friday-Sunday Morning Side Game Series	single	America's Center	\$16	\$18
299er, 199er, 99er & 49er Pairs	single	America's Center	\$15	\$17
0–20 Pairs	single	America's Center	\$15	\$15
0–5 Pairs	single	America's Center	Free	Free

## Friday, March 15, 11:30 p.m.

Zip Knockout Teams	single	Renaissance	\$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.*

*\*\*\$1.50 per person per session benefits the International Fund.*

## Welcome, Intermediate/Newcomer Players, to St. Louis!

All IN (Intermediate/Newcomer) events will be played in the America's Center at 10 a.m., 3 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. in Room 230.

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 9:15 a.m. and 6:45 p.m. all week in Room 230 at the America's Center. On Friday, Mar. 15, at 9:15 a.m., **Jerry Helms** will present "Ask Jerry." At 6:45 p.m., **Audrey Grant** will discuss "Audrey Grant's Daily Bridge Column."

On Friday, March 15, there will be **free Newcomer games** (0–5 MPs) at 10 a.m., 3 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.

### **Free two-hour lessons!**

Saturday, March 16, at 10 a.m., **Audrey Grant**

Sunday, March 17, at 10 a.m., **Jerry Helms**

Monday, March 18, at 10 a.m., **Audrey Grant**

*All: Room 240, America's Center*

**Entry fee special!** Players with 0–100 MPs who buy a regular-price entry March 15–17 will receive a half-priced entry for games held March 22–24.

## 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: Kay Platinum Pairs, 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 NABC+ contests are **\$20** per player per session. **Note: only ACBL members are eligible to play in NABC+ events. \$1.50 per person per session benefits the International Fund.**



Players must also be current ACBL members to play in the 10K Swiss Teams and 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 members.)

## New Electronic Device Policy

The electronic device policy at NABCs has been revised to allow players to bring electronic devices such as cell phones into the playing area provided that such devices are **turned off**. Further, any such equipment **must not be visible** during the session. The policy applies to all pairs, team members, captains, coaches, kibitzers and play recorders, except those designated by the ACBL and are in force throughout any actual playing session or segment of play.

A violation of the policy will result in an automatic disciplinary penalty of one full board (or 12 IMPs at that form of scoring) for the first offense. A second offense will result in disqualification from the event for the pair/team. Kibitzers violating this policy will be removed from the playing area for the remainder of the session.

## Slow Play Regulations

Slow play, especially habitual slow play, is a violation of law and subject to penalty. When a pair has fallen behind, it is incumbent on them to make up the time lost as quickly as possible whether at fault or not. All players are expected to make a concerted effort to catch up when they have fallen behind, regardless of the reason for their lateness. In the absence of compelling evidence to the contrary, the director should presume that a pair finishing a round late by more than two or three minutes on more than one occasion during a session is responsible for the lateness. There is a strong expectation that the director will penalize such a pair. The size of a penalty will tend to increase for subsequent instances of slow play and for chronic or egregious slow play. While warnings typically will be given before a penalty is assessed, failure to do so in no way limits the director's authority to issue a penalty.

Players are expected to be aware, in a general sense, of time used and remaining in a segment in which they are playing regardless of whether a clock is in use or a time announcement has been made. An excuse of "no announcement" or "no clock immediately visible" will not be considered persuasive.

In consultation with the DIC of the tournament, the TD may require that a particular pair not play in a specified segment, not play against a specified pair or not play together as a pair. The foregoing is expected to be applied only due to egregious circumstances or to unduly repetitious offenders.

An appeal of an action taken by a TD with regard to time may be taken to the Director in Charge of the tournament, and no further.

For NABC+ KO events, the TD is charged with the responsibility to ensure that each KO match segment finishes within the allotted time. While a time monitor may be employed, the lack of a monitor in no way limits the TD's authority to apply one or more of the remedies listed below. The TD may choose to ignore an occasional minor late finish.

The TD may remove one or more boards from a segment. The TD may award no score (when neither team is more at fault), an assigned score (when a result already exists at one table which the TD wishes to preserve) or an artificial score in IMPs. Every effort should be made to remove boards before they can be played at either table, but not having done so does not preclude removing one or more later.

## 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.** Dates: Tuesday–Thursday, March 12–14. Time: 1–10 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: Room 240, America’s Center.**

### The Teacher Accreditation Program (TAP)

Introduction to the 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.** (*Free to players 25 and younger. ACBL Accredited Teachers can retake for no course fee.*) Dates: Thursday–Saturday, March 14–16.

Time: March 14, 1-5 p.m.; March 15-16, 8:30 a.m. to noon. **Location: Benton Room, Renaissance.**

### 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 15. Time: 4:30–6 p.m.

**Location: Washington Room, Renaissance.**

## Check Cashing

The first check cashing will be on Thursday, March 14 at 6:30 p.m. in the America’s Center. There is a \$500 limit.

## Food in the America’s Center

Hot food and more will be offered at America’s Center on the second floor near the playing area.

## 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.

## 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.

## Bid Box Alerts & 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.