



# Fall Wishbone Royal STaC

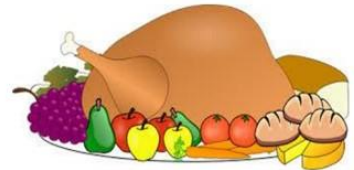
Sectional Tournament at Clubs

## District 17 Royal STaC - November 6<sup>th</sup> - 12<sup>th</sup>, 2023 Masterpoint Rankings in the District

12	17.25	Robert Craig	526	2.11	Nancy Stockton	1244	0.80	Gerald Sullivan
16	16.06	Peggy Craig	732	1.59	Donald Klenke	1247	0.80	Ellen Eastman
23	12.41	Renee O'Donnell	744	1.58	Helen Byers	1248	0.80	Ella Duncan
38	10.6	Jerald Gershowitz	745	1.58	Gary Byers	1261	0.79	Joan Anthony
264	3.45	Cindy Osborn	749	1.58	Ashley Erwin	1262	0.79	Gary Bingham
272	3.38	Chuck Duke	828	1.43	Gustavo Gonzalez	1387	0.64	Edgar Flores
297	3.15	Barbara Harrid	960	1.19	Scott Norris	1448	0.59	Patricia Adams
398	2.57	R Liguori	1012	1.11	Stephen Nordberg	1455	0.59	Joseph Anderson
429	2.46	Ashok Bhakta	1015	1.11	Selina Whitworth	1523	0.51	Sondy Lillebo
525	2.11	Patricia Nickerson	1124	0.96	Patrick Haughey	1531	0.51	Debi Covington



**Awards are**  
**25% GOLD, 25% SILVER,**  
**25% RED and 25% BLACK**



## 2023 District 17 Falling Leaves Royal STaC September 11-17, 2023

District 17 Overall Ranking of our El Paso Players



**Congratulations  
Barbara Harrid  
First Overall  
In the District**

1	28.55	Barbara Harrid	785	1.11	Ashley Erwin
4	20.85	Robert Craig	786	1.11	Kay White
10	18.46	Peggy Craig	958	0.83	Sharon Benedict
14	16.25	Ralph Liguori	961	0.83	Gustavo Gonzalez
23	12.56	Chuck Duke	965	0.82	Louise Guthrie
29	2.74	Ellen Eastman	966	0.82	Jerald Gershowitz
215	3.49	Steven Kubala	968	0.82	Patrick Haughey
274	3.00	Herbert Woods Jr	969	0.82	Barbara Crews
404	2.12	Edgar Flores	972	0.80	Nancy Welshimer
447	1.98	Ashok Bhakta	974	0.80	Lorraine O'Donnell
458	1.95	Nancy Stockton	984	0.80	Bill Hickman
495	1.82	Catherine Tompkins	1003	0.79	9 Gerald Sullivan
581	1.59	Paul Ritters	1006	0.79	9 Patricia Adams
583	1.59	Gerald Georges	1132	0.64	4 Joe Guthrie
604	1.56	Cindy Osborn	1132	0.64	Joe Guthrie
625	1.51	Selina Whitworth	1246	0.52	2 Renee O'Donnell
648	1.48	Margarita Flores			

Masterpoints Awarded - 100% Silver

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# FALLING LEAVES ROYAL STAC

## SEPTEMBER 11-17, 2023

AWARDS ARE 25% GOLD, 25% SILVER, 25% RED AND 25% BLACK.  
THE ROYAL STAC OPERATES LIKE A NORMAL STAC, BUT NOW YOU  
HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO WIN MULTI-COLOR POINT AWARDS.  
RESULTS FROM THE CLUBS WILL BE COMBINED FOR HIGHER MULTI-  
COLOR OVERALL AWARDS.

ALL FACE-TO-FACE CLUBS IN DISTRICT 17 ARE ELIGIBLE TO BE PART  
OF THE ROYAL STAC.

CHECK WITH YOUR LOCAL CLUB DIRECTOR TO ENSURE THAT THEY  
ARE PARTICIPATING IN THE GAMES YOU WANT TO PLAY IN.

STAC COODINATOR: BONNIE BAGLEY, BONIBON@COMCAST.NET  
DIRECTOR-IN-CHARGE: JESSE LAIRD, JLAIRD@ACBL.ORG



SEE FOLLOWING SLIDE FOR DATES



### ACBL Unit 159

Decker Bridge Center  
2216 East Yandell El Paso, TX 79903  
915-544-6565

### ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 29, 2023

1:00 pm Meeting & Dessert  
1:30 pm Open Pairs  
1:30 pm 499er Pairs (if 3 tables)

#### AGENDA

Minutes of 2022 Annual Meeting  
Treasurer's Report  
Memorials  
President's Report-  
2024 Board Nominations/Election



### 2023 District 17 Winter Wonderland STaC January 30 – February 5, 2023 District 17 rankings of our El Paso players



**Congratulations  
CJ Tompkins**

13	16.75	Catherine Tompkins	663	1.59	Cindy Osborn
31	12.47	Barbara Harrid	668	1.58	Russell Johnson
105	5.87	Herbert Woods Jr	938	1.12	Jenny Ayer
120	5.51	Robert Craig	941	1.11	Steven Kubala
121	5.51	Peggy Craig	1036	0.99	Billy Crews
124	5.43	Delores Craig	1084	0.91	Patricia Adams
135	5.29	Ellen Eastman	1169	0.80	Robert Esch
329	2.82	Patrick Haughey	1171	0.80	Jerald Gershowitz
348	2.74	Barbara Crews	1174	0.80	Gerald Georges
357	2.70	Scott Norris	1175	0.80	Donald Klenke
386	2.52	Chuck Duke	1230	0.74	Ruby Bailey
421	2.32	Gerald Sullivan	1235	0.74	Donna Moltane
473	2.09	Jane Warach	1385	0.60	Paul Ritters
499	2.01	Lorraine O'Donnell	1416	0.56	R Liguori
583	1.80	Patricia Lama	1419	0.56	Bernice Williams
605	1.72	Renee O'Donnell	1421	0.56	Ashok Bhakta

## Celebrating the Sapphire & Gold Life Masters with poems



Chuck Duke and Ralph Liguori – Sapphire,  
and Lorraine O'Donnell – Gold. Click the  
various links below to read the poetry, and  
two other links with video excerpts of  
Lorraine reading her masterpieces. Barbara  
Harrid wrote and read a poem for Lorraine.



## High/Low Game on Nov. 12<sup>th</sup> Winners!



**Barbara Harrid & Kay White**

**Also scoring:**

Renee O'Donnell & Lorraine O'Donnell

Pat Lama & Ashok Bhakta

Phil Anderson & Cindy Osborn

Patty Nickerson & Peggy Craig

Scott Norris & Don Klenke

Patrick Haughey & Gerald Georges

Link of Lorraine reading excerpts of poem to Ralph

[https://photos.google.com/share/AF1QipNX\\_Jqpg-Lr9vbjybORkfaywklpiSOFNaGhLx6EoswZ7v1w5jFCLFy9hOb22St1Hg/photo/AF1QipPjN3A\\_nvdESTOqszuzdrDM\\_Prog3VrYYG-czH5?key=bFlwdzdsX2VicmpkRmxIOUVEMXpUS1FFbWJDbW1n](https://photos.google.com/share/AF1QipNX_Jqpg-Lr9vbjybORkfaywklpiSOFNaGhLx6EoswZ7v1w5jFCLFy9hOb22St1Hg/photo/AF1QipPjN3A_nvdESTOqszuzdrDM_Prog3VrYYG-czH5?key=bFlwdzdsX2VicmpkRmxIOUVEMXpUS1FFbWJDbW1n)

Link of Lorraine reading excerpts poem to Chuck

[https://photos.google.com/share/AF1QipOFQ4D7fDfpr\\_3JLsQf5lcWVCKTiuzuJWe83UtSEElqoL6Y96F\\_OBM9D1AXBmw\\_NA/photo/AF1QipPezL\\_HqWGIWrf1ZikDI2f3C71OupVdXzXJKHdm?key=SVk3a1dHQUNfVUpwbTB4SjNqazBJLVlIVnRhZzIB](https://photos.google.com/share/AF1QipOFQ4D7fDfpr_3JLsQf5lcWVCKTiuzuJWe83UtSEElqoL6Y96F_OBM9D1AXBmw_NA/photo/AF1QipPezL_HqWGIWrf1ZikDI2f3C71OupVdXzXJKHdm?key=SVk3a1dHQUNfVUpwbTB4SjNqazBJLVlIVnRhZzIB)

Lorraine O'Donnell and I have been fairly regular bridge partners over the past few years, and several months ago we had a conversation about dreams. I told her about a dream I'd had, and she told me about a dream she'd had. Well, the poem that follows is about our conversations and dreams coming true.

#### LORRAINE HAD A DREAM

She told me, I dreamed one day soon I'd become gold life master,  
And stop making decisions resulting in disaster.  
Over the next few months, she often struggled with her play,  
As we both patiently awaited that glorious day.  
Then it finally happened, her dream of gold did come true,  
And I was shocked to observe how much her confidence grew.

She said, I've learned to evaluate my hands like a pro,  
And have learned the advantages of opening one no.  
Opening one notrump can be hard on your opponents,  
But proper hand valuation has many components.  
I'm now a gold life master and can explain them to you,  
Once you agree with my wisdom, you can play better too.

Counting only high card points using the old 4-3-2-1 scale,  
Is a beginner's count method and will cause you to fail.  
A 15 to 17 notrump is marked on our card,  
And properly adjusting that point count is not too hard.  
If you follow my lead, and adjust your way of counting,  
We will soon see the number of our master points mounting.

She said 4-4-3-2 distribution's the most common sight,  
And considering only your high-card-count strength is right.  
But suppose instead, distribution of 3-3-2-5,  
Well, the 5-card minor is a signal to come alive.  
Even though your high-card-point count may be only 14,  
The 5-card suit certainly makes it worth at least 15.

And suppose your hand distribution is 3-2-2-6,  
Then adding two for club length puts 13 points in the mix.

But suppose your hand distribution is 3-3-3-4,  
Then 18 points becomes 17 points, and not a bit more.

And if you have a 3-3-3-4 count with no aces,  
Then a full two points must be deducted in all cases.  
Thus, a hand with a high-card-point count totaling 19,  
After adjustment, is worth, at most only 17.

After pondering all this, I said, "Lorraine this sounds strange",  
Are you suggesting a 13-to-19 notrump range?  
She replied, Gold Life Masters learn to be sly like a fox,  
And that often requires them to think outside of the box.  
If your partnership with me is to go on forever,  
You must improve your game like me and learn to be clever.

Yes, finally Lorraine's dream of gold did in fact come true.  
And as her frequent partner, I've often had a dream too.  
Her dream was bridge achievement and the resulting glory.  
And what then was my dream? Well, that is another story.

By: Chuck Duke

## A New Year – A New You

We're here to celebrate a friend or two or three  
If it be true.

Our maestro and poet laureate will opine two  
While our maestro, herself, gets a stand-in. How Blue!

Nonetheless, proceed we must, to a little tiddy bold  
That I call "A Journey to Gold"

It was in 1972 that Lorraine started playing bridge, as I did too  
She in Ft. Rucker, I at Ft. Bliss – and what a coincidence is this!

It wasn't 'til 1973, that, destined to meet were we – briefly –  
At the Y, at a club operated by Rose and Bob Black, "Oh, my!"

During this era bridge was incomparable games night and day, local and away.  
Members numbered 500, active, healthy, mobile, competitive  
Games and locales not repetitive.  
Because we didn't yet have a permanent home – that was yet to come.

There were tournaments you could attend any weekend –  
Midland Odessa, Lubbock, San Angelo, Amarillo, Fort Worth, Dallas, Houston, San Antonio, El  
Paso, Clovis, Ruidoso, Carlsbad, Tucson, Phoenix, Albuquerque, even Juarez-El Paso's third  
tournament site each year.  
I haven't named them all here, and some of those named no longer appear.

Our Gold Life Master garnered gold with her frequent early partner, Sandy Myers, in Ruidoso  
and some of the other locations mentioned above.

Then from the bridge scene she took a sabbatical  
While she worked two jobs, and matriculated to achieve her doctorate –  
How radical!

Returning to bridge play in a decade with her friend, Sandy primarily she played.  
Occasionally, she played with her husband, Terry  
Eventually adding Ashok, Chuck, myself, and others to the gallery.

Then during the time of Covid, bridge took other forms morbid.  
*There's gold in them thar hills, but, where are them hills?*  
Robots designed by nerds and gamers online bridge.  
Games via remote – Lots of innovation wrote.

She became highly proficient and successful at tournaments at sea,  
Often with Barbara Crews, Pat Lama, and Dixié.

It takes 2500 masterpoints to make Gold Life Master. Of this number 500 must be  
pigmented - a certain portion red/gold/silver/platinum.  
So, gathering this combination takes a certain momentum.

It's been calculated (or rather speculated) that each point costs \$1,000!  
But when the level is achieved, I've never heard someone despair that it wasn't worth it.

To our worthy recipient  
Lorraine O'Donnell  
Gold Life Master

Links to above poems

[The Sapphire Twins-Ralph and Chuck a poem by Lorraine](#)  
[Lorraine Had a Dream – Poem by Chuck Duke](#)  
[A New Year, A New You for Lorraine by Barbara Harrid](#)  
[Lorraine reading excerpt of poem to Ralph](#)  
[Lorraine reading excerpt of poem to Chuck](#)

**THE SAPPHIRE TWINS**  
Ralph Boy and Chuckles the Duke

Today is a day of honor  
For some of our favorite sons!  
They have distinguished themselves at the table,  
And great accolades they have won.

Sapphire Life Master!  
It's an honor that they share,  
Earning 3,500 points!  
But the similarity stops there.

Though both are very fine players,  
They are as different as can be.  
And if you'll give me a moment,  
This fact I'll help you to see!

Few players, I think, are better  
Than our very own Chuck Duke!  
And if you don't believe me, just ask him!  
He'll tell you it's the God's honest truth!

And when he's not explaining  
Why his bridge game consistently excels,  
You'll find him outside smoking,  
Destroying his own brain cells.

I've known Chuck for decades,  
And saw he was not one to worry,  
Cause his partner was Barbara Harrid,  
Back when she was scary!

We have a love-hate relationship,  
Only without the love.  
But I know he really cares for me,  
And has helped me to improve.

My game is so much better  
And he is but one I thank.  
Even though he often says,  
"My partner likes to...." Fill in the blank!

And sometimes when we're partners,  
We say things most unkind.  
But he never gets so mad at me,  
It can't be fixed with wine!

But now that he has achieved  
This very honorable standing  
I think it's only fair for me,  
To clue you all in on something!

As brilliant as he is,  
He can definitely be unseated!  
And I'm going to tell you how right now,  
So you'll be able to defeat him.

When you find yourself playing against him,  
Remember to always play sloooooooow;  
This will drive him completely nuts,  
It's almost as if he's got someplace to go!

Don't be in a hurry to bid or to play,  
Take some time to really..... think.  
This will make him lose his mind,  
Especially when there's no wine to drink!

When he starts to roll his eyes,  
There's one helpful thing to remember:  
His head will pop off and roll on the floor,  
If you should call the director!

And if you question anything,  
Especially, a possible revoke,  
He'll say, "Fine! Just take the damn trick!"  
I'm goin' outside and smoke!

You don't even have to play well!  
Just enter the wrong score.  
He'll just agree you made your contract  
As he goes running out the door!

But observe: If the play of the  
hand takes too long,  
He might do something funny!  
Like claim all the tricks, for either side,  
Even when he's dummy.

And then there's Ralph, a calmer sort,  
A man with patience and wit,  
Who is quick to compliment his opponents,  
But is a competitor with fiercest grit.

I've been his opponent and his partner,  
And this I've often seen,  
As a math professor at UTEP  
This guy can count to thirteen!

As a board member and director,  
He helps our bridge club out.  
But when he makes a ruling,  
He just making all that stuff up.

He partners our best players,  
He plays all the systems, too,  
But he'll gladly help a novice,  
If they ask him what they should do.

A gentleman at the table,  
Ralph never says you're to blame  
And doesn't refer to you as "the center opponent!"  
He is a role model for our game!

And when you lay down your dummy,  
And about this, I'm not kidding,  
He never snarls and says,  
"Where's the hand you held during the bidding?"

He helped me to Gold Life Master,  
Though we never played a lot,  
Because I often lost my focus.  
I was always distracted by his socks.

We've known each other for decades,  
And a friend he's always been,  
But there are things about Dr. Liguori,  
That I have never seen!

I've never seen him run real fast,  
Or walk while looking up.  
I've never seen coffee, only tea,  
When he's drinking from a cup.

I've never seen him curse his partner,  
I've never heard him scream,  
He never smells like cigarettes--  
Compared to some, he's a dream!

I only have one question!  
Not to put him in a box, but  
Can't he wear his loafers, just once,  
Without those little socks?

Dr. Lorraine O'Donnell, January 2023