

ROCHESTER's MED CITY REGIONAL

Rochester Best Western Empire Event Center ♠ 1517 16th Street SW ♥ Rochester MN 55902 ♣ 507-289-8866

Welcome to Rochester!

Labor Day week is here, one of the unofficial signs of the end of summer – and we're pleased to welcome you to the D14's Med City Regional. It's the first big tournament of this type in Rochester in five years. The next six days will provide you with the opportunity to greet old friends, earn some gold points, and enjoy our outstanding hospitality while playing cards with some of the friendliest people in the Midwest!

The Rochester Best Western Hotel is our host hotel, with convenient, free parking. The Empire Event Center (where all the action will take place) is just 10 feet from the hotel lobby, and everything is conveniently on one floor. There are dozens of eateries within ten minutes of your bridge table (check out the map on page 8) and there are plenty of opportunities for fun here in Rochester when you're not at the bridge table.

This year's tournament team has put together some terrific opportunities for you to enjoy some competitive bridge. We've got an ambitious schedule of events for you to make sure everyone can play the game they love in their preferred event. New to our tournament this year are the Mini-Soloway style KOs (details on page 4) – team games that promise two sessions of team play on day 1 – along with Bracketed Swiss teams and the usual Gold Rush and Open Pairs. "Lunch 'N' Learn" lessons for Advancing Players will take place Wednesday through Saturday in the NLM playing area. Following the opening rounds Tuesday at 130pm and 7pm, the schedule of games each day this year will be at 10am and 230pm, so there's plenty of time between games for lunch (and, of course, *endless* discussion of the morning's hands). There's also going to be an online option for those that can't travel to Rochester this week (or just can't get enough bridge while here) – so Wednesday and Thursday evenings at 7:00pm you can get earn some gold points by signing into BBO and competing from the comfort of your own home. AND we'll host players who are staying in

Rochester at a post-dinner meet-and-greet Friday and Saturday nights. It'll be a really fun way to cap off the day's cards.

If you're looking for a commemorative sticker for your convention card, you'll find it at the Hospitality Desk. There will also be a Partnership Desk outside the playing area, so whether you have 5 or 15,000 masterpoints, we'll hook you up. Should you come in 1st in your event (or if you become a new Life Master) be sure to stop by the Hospitality Desk to get your photo taken for the Daily Bulletin and Minnesota Bridge Blog! (Plus there's a really terrific Hospitality Award for you as well.) There are plenty of other volunteers who can help you as well as our stellar team of game directors – this should be a terrific week.

While ACBL COVID protocols were eliminated this past May, we still adhere to the common sense that if you're not feeling well, please do not play – all your bridge friends will be happy to try and set you when you're feeling better.

We're happy to see you here! On behalf of all the Med City Regional volunteers, our directing staff, the D14 Board of Directors, the Unit 103 Board, and our local Duplicate Bridge Club, we look forward to hosting you this week. I'll be running around and very easy to find over the next six days, so if there's anything I can do to make your tournament experience more enjoyable, please stop me and say "hello!" And if I happen to be playing at the table, you'll know me as I will be the one who just got doubled.

Matt Baylow
2024 Med City Tournament Chair



DAY 1 - TUESDAY SEPTEMBER 3rd SCHEDULE

OPEN PAIRS.....130pm and 7pm

MINI-SOLOWAY BRACKETED TEAMS.....130pm and 7pm

(Guaranteed 2-session Swiss teams, qualifies to play on Wednesday at 10am and 230pm)

GOLD RUSH PAIRS.....130pm and 7pm

Single-session entries are allowed in the OPEN PAIRS each day as a SIDE GAME alternative

Single-session entries are allowed in the GOLD RUSH PAIRS each day in case you either
1) have something better to do for the second session (we know, it's hard to imagine, but it does happen) or 2) you want to play with two partners in the same day – however, to earn gold points in the Gold Rush you must play both sessions and with the same partner



...DON'T FORGET OUR HOSPITALITY DESK!

CUSTOM MADE PLAYER LABELS

There's a signup sheet at the Hospitality Desk where you can provide your name and ACBL number, and we'll print you a page of custom entry labels. Use them here at the Med City Regional, or at your next big tournament – but it'll make entries a breeze as you just peel, stick, and start the bidding.

MED CITY REGIONAL PLAYER PATCHES

If you're a collector of Regional Patches for your convention card, have we got one for you! Stop by the Hospitality Desk and we'll provide you with a custom-made Med City 2024 patch for your convention card. This patch will let everyone know you got into some trouble at our regional! (Page 8 of this Bulletin has an image of the patch in Q.)

WINNER WINNER – CHICKEN DINNER

Ok, well, so, there's no chicken dinner for winners this week (not everyone likes chicken of course) but if you come in 1st place in either any pairs event or in any team game (Soloway-style Knockouts or Bracketed Teams), stop by the Hospitality Desk to pick up your BONUS prize! Both players in a partnership and everyone on your team is entitled to this one-of-a-kind bonus prize that you'll enjoy LONG after you're back home.

PHOTO OPPORTUNITY

Also at the Hospitality Desk is where you'll get your photo taken for the Med City Daily Bulletin – new Life Masters and winners of all events should share it loud and proud! Get your picture taken when you pick up your bonus prize. AND – don't forget to check out our "Red Carpet" where you can get your photo taken *just like the bridge pros!*

CHECK OUT THE PARTNERSHIP DESK

Whether you've got a ton of masterpoints or are just getting your tournament beak wet for the first time, our partnership volunteers will be able to hook you up. Once the tournament starts, if you're looking for a partner, please provide at least an hour before the session you'd like to play in for them to make sure they can find you someone. Sheri French will help the Open crowd get partnered up, and Joanne Long will assist any Non-Life Masters looking for someone to play with. It's not just pairs, either, if you'd prefer team play – we'll do our best to make sure you've got a foursome. The partnership desk will be just outside the playing area and super easy to find.

LET THEM ALL KNOW JUST HOW WELL YOU DID

Both partners that win the day's pair events and every member of a winning team is eligible to pick up their one-of-a-kind prize at our Hospitality Desk. Be sure to let everyone back at your local club know how well you did while at the tournament this week!



WHO WILL TAKE HOME THE TROPHY?



When everything wraps up at the Med City Regional following a week of exciting bridge Sunday afternoon, *someone* is going to be taking home the trophy as our 2024 Med City Regional Tournament Champion. (There's also a trophy for our Non-Life Master Champion at the tournament!) Perfect for the fireplace mantel at home or bringing to your local club and placing on your table to ~~intimidate~~ impress your opponents, we'll happily take your photo with your award for our website along with the Minnesota Bridge Blog and look forward to seeing you defend your title in the future.

A SPECIAL WELCOME TO OUR ADVANCING PLAYERS

*Especially if you're a less experienced player,
you are going to have a GREAT time this week in Rochester.*

Regional tournaments are a **great opportunity** for advancing players to meet other bridge players and to improve your bridge skills – both by the competition of tournament play and also by asking more experienced players questions about how to have played, bid, or defended a hand.

Less experienced players with fewer than 750 masterpoints are encouraged to go for the gold in our **two-session Gold Rush** games. The Gold Rush pairs games are held each day of the Med City Regional. You *do* need to play in both of the day's sessions to earn gold points, but single-session entries are allowed (if you don't have the time or want to play the same day with two different partners). Keep in mind that **299ers and 99ers** each have their own stratification in the Gold Rush, so every session you are competing against players of your own experience level!

If you're looking for a team game, **Knockouts and Bracketed Teams** are happening every day this week. The KOs include a two-session guaranteed Swiss teams the first day, and the Bracketed Teams (by being "bracketed") means you'll be playing against teams of your own playing experience. (Unlike a regular Swiss Teams game, where you can run into some excellent but occasionally intimidating teams!) And of course, there's the **Open Pairs** each day – if you want to play in the "big game" and show 'em up! (The Open Pairs pays the MOST masterpoints of any event at the tournament.)

Don't forget about our "**Lunch 'N' Learn**" sessions each day Wednesday through Saturday in the Non-Life Master playing area. The sessions are taught by some terrific local teachers, and you can learn a LOT when enjoying your lunch before the second session with your fellow Non-Life Masters.

LUNCH 'N' LEARN SESSIONS THIS WEEK

WEDNESDAY

"Responses to 1NT Openings" with Sue Greenberg

THURSDAY

"TBA" with Layne Vinje

FRIDAY

"TBA" with Greg Caucutt

SATURDAY

"How To Be A Better Dummy" with Matt Baylow

No advance sign up required – bring your lunch (and questions!) and learn a few things about bridge

GETTING THE GOLD!

How and where to earn those GOLD points at the Med City Regional



GOLD RUSH PAIRS - All players must have no more than 749 masterpoints. You'll earn gold points by competing against players of your own experience level – and this event is stratified, so 99ers compete against players at their own level! This is a two-session event, however single-session entries are accommodated.

BRACKETED SWISS TEAMS - Bracketed Swiss teams is for teams play – this two-session event requires a team of four players, but there is no masterpoint restriction on any player or team. Your team will be "bracketed" to play Swiss Teams with other teams who are of your similar playing experience. You'll play round-robin style matches against all the other teams who are in your same bracket. The first three or four places in your bracket will earn some gold points (maybe ALL gold, depending on your bracket) – it's a great opportunity to get some GOLD.

KNOCKOUTS - Here at the Med City Regional we'll have some Soloway-style KOs. These are two-day four-session events, so be sure everyone on your team is available for all four sessions (even those "tomorrow" sessions). It starts with a round-robin style Swiss Teams the first two sessions (on day 1) where you play everyone in your bracket. This eliminates the "bad first round draw" and ensures you play two full sessions on day 1 and lots of teams in your bracket. These KOs pay TOP gold points during the week!

OPEN PAIRS - These two-session events pay gold points to the Section Top pairs as well as those that finish in the Overalls. Held every day, there are a lot of opportunities to get some gold points. Single session entries are welcome as an alternative to the side games these tournaments used to have.



The Med City Regional is primarily cashless for purchase of entries. We accept major credit cards, Bridge Bucks, and checks made out to D14. Also we encourage you to use Entry Express on the ACBL's website to purchase your entries.



Please remember not to wear fragrances, as some of our players are sensitive to them. We want everyone to have a comfortable playing area.



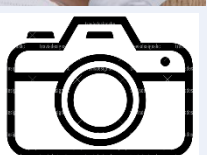
The Med City Regional will strictly enforce the ACBL's Zero Tolerance Policy. Remember to respect not only your partners, but also your opponents, directors, tournament staff and hotel employees. We've got the "friendliest players in the Midwest" – and we strive to keep that title for another year!



When you are in the playing area, **please make sure your cell phone is turned off** and keep it out of sight. If you must have your phone on, be sure it is set to vibrate; thank you for your cooperation and understanding.



All possible scoring corrections should be reported immediately to Matt Koltnow, our Tournament Director in Charge. The correction period for any event expires 30 minutes after the official scores have been posted.



If you're a **new Life Master or winner in your event**, we want to share your achievement with the rest of the bridge playing world. Stop by the Hospitality Desk to get your photo taken for the Daily Bulletin, our Med City Regional website, along with the Unit 103 and Region 5 websites. Oh! And don't forget to collect your prize!

ROCHESTER'S 2024 MED CITY REGIONAL

YOU KNOW IT JUST WOULDN'T BE THE MIDWEST WITHOUT SOME HOT DISH RECIPES

SALMON LOAF

It doesn't get any more Minnesotan than this. As served in Orpha Gullickson's Fertile, MN kitchen on Garfield Avenue back in the 1940s, regardless of what you THINK you might like (or dislike) about this dish, you'll find it's great with a baked potato and vegetable on the side. We substitute regular mayonnaise for the Miracle Whip here, as we find Miracle Whip a little too sweet for our liking. . . and fresh, deboned, skinless salmon can be substituted for the canned salmon in the original recipe – but be sure to increase your saltines to 1½ stacks to compensate for the additional moistness.

- 1 can pink salmon, bones removed
- 1 cup Miracle Whip
- 1 can cream of celery soup
- 1 stack saltine crackers
- 2 eggs
- Lemon wedges, for serving

- 1) Preheat oven to 350F. Grease or oil spray a baking dish, set aside.
- 2) In a large bowl, combine canned salmon, Miracle Whip, and cream of celery soup, mixing thoroughly.
- 3) Crumble saltine stack, add to salmon mixture.
- 4) Mix in eggs.
- 5) Pour into baking dish, bake for about 60-70 minutes (until top is crusty golden brown).



WILD RICE WITH HERBS + BACON

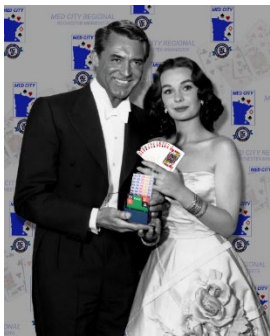
(Serves 8 as a side dish)

- 6 slices of applewood-smoked bacon, cut crosswise into thin strips
- 1 C finely diced red onion
- 2 garlic cloves, minced
- 1 1/2 C wild rice, rinsed well under cold water and drained
- 2 1/2 C water
- 2 C chicken broth
- 1 bay leaf
- 1/2 t salt, or more to taste
- 1 T minced fresh parsley
- 1 T minced fresh rosemary
- 1 T minced fresh thyme
- Freshly ground black pepper to taste
- 1/2 C toasted pine nuts



- 1) Cook bacon in a large saucepan with a lid, uncovered, over moderate heat, stirring, until crisp; remove with a slotted spoon and drain on paper towels.
- 2) Stir in the onion and garlic and cook, stirring, over moderate heat until golden, about 5 minutes.
- 3) Add wild rice, water, broth, bay leaf, and salt. Cover and bring to a boil over moderate heat.
- 4) Uncover and boil gently without stirring, 55 to 60 minutes, depending on desired degree of doneness.
- 5) Drain, add herbs, season well with pepper and set over lowest possible heat. Dry out for 5 minutes, shaking the pan.
- 6) Stir in the bacon and pine nuts, and discard the bay leaf. Serve hot.

WALK THAT RUNWAY



Be sure to get the "red carpet treatment" by walking that red carpet runway in front of the Med City Regional banner while at our regional. The banner will be just outside the playing area (seriously, you cannot miss it), and our local tournament photographer will make sure that your friends back home know just how much fun you were having at the tournament!



WHO IS WHO AND WHAT IS WHAT AT THE MED CITY REGIONAL

These bridge tournaments (really, tournaments of ANY type or size) don't just happen. It takes an army of well-meaning bridge enthusiasts to put together a tournament like the Med City Regional – and they do it for the love of the game (trust us, there are no W-2s going out). Here are some of the volunteers that have helped to get this week off the ground – be sure to stop one of our volunteers (should you see them) and give them a hearty "thank you!"



Matt Baylow
TOURNAMENT CHAIR



Sheri French
PARTNERSHIP CHAIR



Joanne Long
PARTNERSHIP CHAIR



Ann Van Ryn
HOSPITALITY CHAIR



Greg Caucutt
EDUCATION CHAIR



Tom Grigoleit
CADDY CO-CHAIR



Linda Grigoleit
CADDY CO-CHAIR



Bonnie Fox
FOOD/BEVERAGE CHAIR



Layne Vinje
EVERYTHING ELSE



Sue Greenberg
WEDNESDAY SPEAKER



Layne Vinje
THURSDAY SPEAKER



Greg Caucutt
FRIDAY SPEAKER



Matt Baylow
SATURDAY SPEAKER



Matt Koltnow
DIRECTOR-IN-CHARGE



Kim Hayward
DIRECTOR



Sue Greenberg
UNIT 103 PRESIDENT

DAY 2 SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 4th

SOLOWAY STYLE KNOCKOUTS.....10am and 230pm

Semi-Final and Finals matches continue from Tuesday's qualifiers

OPEN PAIRS.....10am and 230pm

BRACKETED SWISS TEAMS.....10am and 230pm

GOLD RUSH PAIRS.....10am and 230pm

ONLINE OPEN PAIRS (1st session of 2).....7pm

ONLINE GOLD RUSH PAIRS (1st session of 2).....7pm

Online events conclude with the second of two sessions on Thursday evening at 7pm

These online events are on BBO and open to ACBL members of D14 only

WEDNESDAY'S LUNCH 'N' LEARN LESSON:
"Responses to 1NT Openings" with Sue Greenberg



NEARBY PLACES TO EAT

There are dozens of spots to eat within about 10 minutes of the playing area, and downtown Rochester features dozens more! Our convenient playing times of 10am + 230pm provide for a relaxing lunch at the location of your choosing – with plenty of time for endless discussion of the morning's hands. Plus, between our daily lunch offering and the Wildwood Sports Bar in the host hotel itself, you don't even have to get into your car for lunch. Here are some of the many restaurants Rochester has to offer and where they're located:



PLAYER PATCHES

Don't forget to stop by the Hospitality Desk and get one of our player patches for your convention card! Our supply is limited, so don't delay – you are welcome to stick one on your convention card holder to let everyone know you got into some trouble at the Med City Regional.



WE'VE GOT YOUR EVENINGS COVERED

There are lots of goings-on around Rochester the week of this regional tournament. But just in case you're looking for something to do after dinner each night, *we've got you covered*.

Wednesday and Thursday evenings at 7pm, we have an online BBO bridge event – where you can earn gold points (just as if you were sitting in the Empire Event Center) from your home or hotel room. You don't need to be present physically in Rochester to participate (these online events for gold points are an opportunity for players who can't travel to play for some gold) – but if you are staying overnight in Rochester, you're welcome to participate online! (We know for some bridge players, two sessions a day at these tournaments is not enough.) Please note that these online evening games are available only to D14 ACBL players. You must be a resident of D14 and your partner must also.

Friday and Saturday evenings at 730pm, we will have a player reception off-site roughly five minutes from the playing area. Join your fellow bridge players for a bit of dessert, wine/cheese, a light grazing table, and some discussion of the crazy hands of the day. Maps with directions to the location of the reception will be provided at the Hospitality Desk the week of the Med City Regional. Bidding boxes and shuffled boards will also be in attendance, so, who knows what will break out?

MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR THESE

UPCOMING D14 REGIONAL TOURNAMENTS



Sioux City, Iowa OPEN REGIONAL

OCTOBER 14-20, 2024

Waverly, Nebraska I/N REGIONAL

APRIL 4-6, 2025

Gopher Regional (Bloomington, MN) OPEN REGIONAL

MAY 19-24, 2025

Waterloo, Iowa I/N REGIONAL

JUNE 13-14, 2025

Des Moines, Iowa OPEN REGIONAL

JUNE 23-28, 2025

Omaha, Nebraska OPEN REGIONAL

AUGUST 11-17, 2025



ROCHESTER'S MED CITY REGIONAL

September 3 - 8, 2024

Tuesday September 3

Tue/Wed **Bracketed Soloway KO** (2-sess qual)
Open Pairs (2-session*) 130p + 7p
Gold Rush Pairs (2-session*)

Wednesday September 4

Tue/Wed **Soloway KO** (Semi-Final and Finals)
Bracketed Swiss Teams (2-session) 10a + 230p
Open Pairs (2-session*)
Gold Rush Pairs (2-session*)
 D14 ONLINE Open and Gold Rush pairs (1st of 2, 7pm)

Thursday September 5

Thur/Fri **Bracketed Soloway KO** (2 sess qual)
Open Pairs (2-session*) 10a + 230p
Gold Rush Pairs (2-session*)
 D14 ONLINE Open and Gold Rush pairs (2nd of 2, 7pm)

Friday September 6

Thur/Fri **Soloway Knockout** (Semi-F and Finals)
Bracketed Swiss Teams (2-session) 10a + 230p
Open Pairs (2-session*)
Gold Rush Pairs (2-session*)

Saturday September 7

Bracketed Swiss Teams (2-session) 10a + 230p
Open Pairs (2-session*)
Gold Rush Pairs (2-session*)

Sunday September 8

Fast Pairs 930am start
A/X/Y Swiss Teams
Bracketed "B" Teams (No one above 3000 MPs)
 All Sunday events two-session play-through incl/lunch

ENTRIES: \$16, +\$4 if unpaid ACBL **SUNDAY** \$168/team \$84/pair includes lunch
 *SIDE GAME single-session entries in OPEN pairs or GOLD RUSH accommodated
 ONLINE pairs restricted to D14 members per ACBL rules

EMPIRE EVENT CENTER

Best Western Rochester
 1517 16th Street SW
 Rochester MN 55902
(507) 289-8866



Host Hotel connected to the playing area

Bridge room rates 35% OFF (Rate code: MedCity)
 Discount expires August 20th

Soloway-style KOs!
Pairs and Team games every day
Prizes for all winners
I/N program featuring speakers at
 each day's break
Lunch included Sunday with the Fast
 Pairs + Swiss Teams
Free, up-close parking along with
 our "no snow" guarantee
Legendary Midwest Hospitality coffee,
 snacks and more
World Famous Mayo Clinic minutes
 away should partner pass your
 forcing bid

TOURNAMENT CHAIR:
 Matt Baylow medcitybridge@gmail.com

DIRECTOR-IN-CHARGE: Matt Koltnow

PARTNERSHIP CHAIRS:
 Open crowd: Sheri French rochestermnbridge@gmail.com
 Non-Life Masters/Gold Rush players: Joanne Long NLMpartnerships@gmail.com

STRATS: OPEN (Unlimited/3000/1500) **GOLD RUSH** (749/300/100) **TEAM STRATA** based on average of all team members;
 Director may divide brackets by MP holdings as deemed appropriate and alter pairs strats to balance the field;
 KOs will be handicapped if only one bracket; face masks provided should a player request the table wear one



LATEST UPDATES, BULLETINS, LOCAL EATERIES, RESULTS + MORE AT
medcitybridge.com/regional



TOURNAMENT AND ACBL* COVID POLICY

Here at Rochester's Med City Regional, we are committed to providing the safest possible environment in which to play bridge for everyone in attendance. As you may know, the *ACBL's COVID safety policy is that *there is no ACBL COVID safety policy*. Protocols were dropped for all ACBL tournaments, as of May 13th, and that includes the Med City Regional. But we still want to approach this tournament with precautions in place that will protect you and your fellow bridge players.

- There are no COVID vaccination or booster requirements – everyone is welcome to play at the Med City Regional regardless of vaccination status.
- Masks are not required, but they will be available near the Director's desk should you need one.
- Hand sanitizer will be readily available throughout the playing area at all times.

Common sense is the best thing to remember when it comes to playing cards in public - if you don't feel well, *please stay home!* Your fellow players will be happy to try and set you when you are feeling better. We want *every* player at the Med City Regional to have a good time this week and we appreciate your help in making this the safest possible bridge playing experience for everyone.

MINNESOTA HOSTS 2026 SUMMER NABC!

And don't forget that Minnesota has been awarded the 2026 Summer NABC! The North American Bridge Championship in July of 2026 will take place up in Minneapolis, with the host hotels of the Hyatt and Hilton in downtown Minneapolis. The dates of the tournament will be July 8 to July 19, and cards will be dealt at the Minneapolis Convention Center. We're very excited to host this NABC and hope to see you there.