

DIAMOND

IN THE RUFF

ACBL District 21 Newsletter

Vol 1, Number 3 July 2018

District 21 Regionals

By Pam Hughes, District 21 Tournament Manager

Hi everyone! Hope you're enjoying the Diamond in the Ruff.

The most important thing I have to tell you is make your reservations for the All Western! It's coming up fast (August 28-September 3rd). The Hyatt still has rooms available. You can use the link on our website (www.d21acbl.com), or call them at (408) 200-1234.

If you miss out on the Hyatt, our overflow hotel is the Biltmore. We have their link on the website too, or their phone number is (408) 988-8411.

Last year there was a pre-season 49ers game that we received discounted seats for. A lot of people went and really enjoyed the game, seeing the Levi Stadium, and the great food that's available there. The offer is being extended again this year, for a game Thursday night. Details about the game are on the website, as well as a link for purchasing tickets. Or, see me at the tournament.

It's also time to make your reservations for our regional at the Nugget in Reno/Sparks, October 15-21. Guess what? There's a link on the website for this one too!

I'd like to remind and invite you to attend these terrific tournaments. It's easy to come up with reasons to stay home. But, it's so much more fun to go and be a part of these really fun opportunities to play lots of great bridge! We have games for players of every skill level, and two free lectures a day. If you're a newer player, you owe it to yourself to check out what's offered for you at these D21 Regionals. And, if you're an old hand, you owe it to yourself to come see old friends and play some quality bridge.

Everyone is important! We need you all.

Enjoy the rest of your summer, and I'll see you at the All Western!



Report from the President

by Tom Pajak, District 21 President

Your District Board met during the recent regional tournament in Sacramento and several items of interest were discussed. Among them: Treasurer Jean Barry announced the April regional that took place in Modesto was essentially break-even. Although this may not sound important, the board was fearful that if hotel attendance didn't fulfill the terms of our contract there'd be a \$14,000 penalty imposed to satisfy a clause from our prior tournament held there when we failed to meet our promised room commitment. As you've read in these pages before, too many players called and made reservations for rooms for more days than they intended to stay to play, and when cancelling or shortening their stay our guaranteed occupancy total fell short. That's what resulted in this potential penalty, only to be waived if our subsequent event's total occupancy came in as promised. Thankfully this attrition didn't repeat and the district escaped paying that large penalty. So you see, a break-even result looks like a PLUS to us.

Marion Robertson, our district's representative to the Western Conference, reported that the conference has been restructured to handle solely the three STaC weeks each year. Formerly the conference also managed the editing, production, and mailing of The Contract Bridge Forum which as you're well aware has ceased. In its place is the newly created electronic newsletter you're reading right now which is a product of District 21 alone. Board Vice President Ray Yuenger volunteered to chair a committee to direct the future of the Diamond in the



Continued on Page 3

Upcoming Tournaments

Sectionals

Jul 7–8, 2018

Wine Country Sectional

Vintage House Senior Center, Sonoma CA

Jul 13–15, 2018

Castro Valley Sectional

Transfiguration Church Hall, Castro Valley CA

Aug 11–12, 2018

San Mateo County Summer Sectional

Cañada College Cafeteria, Redwood City CA

Aug 11-12, 2018

Fresno Non Life Master Sectional

Fresno Bridge Center, Fresno CA

Aug 15–18, 2018

Sid & Lillian Davidson Memorial Sectional

Nugget Casino Resort, Sparks NV

Sep 7–9, 2018

Sacramento Fall Sectional

Orangevale Community Center, Orangevale CA

Sep 15–16, 2018

Stockton Sectional

Ben Holt Middle School, Stockton CA

Sep 15–16, 2018

Earthquake Sectional

Gilroy Senior Center, Gilroy CA

Sep 29–30, 2018

Santa Rosa Fall Sectional

Odd Fellows Hall, Santa Rosa CA

Oct 4–7, 2018

Carson-Tahoe Fall Sectional

Plaza Conference Center, Carson City NV

Oct 6-7, 2018

Almond Valley Sectional

Homewood Village Clubhouse, Modesto CA

Oct 13–14, 2018

SM Intermediate/Newcomer Fall Sectional

Bayshore Bridge Center, Burlingame CA

Oct 13–14, 2018

Santa Cruz Surf's Up Sectional

Mid-County Senior Center, Capitola CA

Oct 26–28, 2018

Unit 507 Fall Sectional

West Valley College, Saratoga CA

Nov 10–11, 2018

Diablo Valley Fall Sectional

San Ramon Valley High School, Danville CA

Nov 17–18, 2018

East Bay 2-Day Fall Sectional

Oakland Masonic Center, Oakland CA

Nov 30–Dec 2, 2018

Sacramento Winter Sectional

Orangevale Community Center, Orangevale CA

Dec 3–9, 2018

Western Conference Holiday STaC

Local clubs

Dec 8–9, 2018

North American Pairs Flight A District Finals

Palo Alto Bridge Center, Mountain View CA

Dec 9, 2018

North American Pairs Flight C District Finals

Palo Alto Bridge Center, Mountain View CA

Dec 15, 2018

North American Pairs Flight B District Finals

San Jose Bridge Center, San Jose CA

Regionals

Aug 28–Sep 3, 2018

All Western Regional

Hyatt Regency

Santa Clara CA

Oct 15–21, 2018

Reno/Sparks Regional

The Nugget

Sparks NV

Dec 31, 2018–Jan 6, 2019

Monterey Clambake Regional

Hyatt Regency, Monterey CA

Ruff going forward. This group will work to make this publication the best it can be. If you readers have positive or negative feedback about the newsletter, let Ray hear about it (rayyuenger@gmail.com). Marion will be resigning from her position in the Western Conference at the end of 2018 and your board will hold an election to select her replacement. Now's the time to give a big hand to thank Marion for the vast amount of work she's done for many years not only with Western Conference work, but for nearly every possible job in the district. Many thanks to you, Marion. You've served us well.

Past President Jim Leuker is heading up the committee to bring the NABC to San Francisco in the Fall of 2019. He's got experience from doing this same job so well the last time Nationals were here in 2012. If you attended back then you'll remember how smoothly everything took place and it's Jim and his volunteers who are to thank for that. Speaking of volunteers, if you have any interest in helping out in any of the various capacities, let Jim know and he'll put you to use (jleuker100@aol.com). It's not too early to start planning. The tournament will again be held downtown at the San Francisco Marriott Marquis located on 4th Street between Mission & Market Streets.

Goodwill Chairman, Ginny Wailes, announced that she'll shortly be contacting all Unit Presidents to solicit nominations for this year's Goodwill Awards. I hope the Unit Presidents confer with their boards to come up with a stellar list of worthwhile honorees for this annual award. Think of those in your unit who can be depended upon to be welcoming, cordial, willing to do what's needed with a cheerful and can-do attitude that overflows to all those with whom he/she comes in contact. People like that need to be recognized, and submitting nominations to Ginny Wailes starts this process happening. Watch for her upcoming communication packet.

Ray Yuenger is taking over the Youth Bridge program and reported to the board that he and his committee are asking for funding of \$10,000 this year to finance the program that helps send young players to a National event. Depending on the number of qualified youths chosen, each will receive a stipend from District 21 to aid in paying their costs to attend and play in a major tournament. The board approved this disbursement.

Are you a Facebook user? Then head over to District 21 ACBL Bridge League which is the page managed by Social Media chairman Tracey Bauer. There you'll find all kinds of items of interest and photos of people you'll easily recognize. Tracey bends over backwards to keep the content fresh, vital, and informative for all bridge players to enjoy. You'll find recent results, tournament schedules, playing information, biographies of players, announcements, rank advancements and all kinds of interesting things. Tracey would be delighted to receive any noteworthy items, particularly those with photos, to add to the Facebook page. Snap a selfie with your phone, write a blurb, and send it to Tracey to add to the page: tlcinsf@hotmail.com by e-mail, or text to 415-828-0655. She's always interested in adding bridge-related content, and YOU can be the one to help.

The district webmaster, Grant Robinson, is another tireless worker to keep the district's web page current with all the bridge scoop you ever could want. Log onto www.d21acbl.com and check out the wealth of information Grant has posted. One of the newest links that Grant has added is a library of Diamond in the Ruff editions which today has just two back issues, but it will definitely grow over time.

I want to thank Arti Bhargava for stepping up this past January to take the position of Second Alternate to the District Director. Unfortunately, life has the tendency to get in the way and Arti has decided to resign from that position.

So as President, it was my task to appoint Arti's replacement and Treasurer Jean Barry volunteered to become the new Second Alternate and attend the Board of Governors meeting in Atlanta this July along with District Director Jackie Zayac and First Alternate Stu Goodgold.

Finally, be prepared to meet ACBL Board President Jay Whipple when he comes to visit District 21 at the All Western Regional Tournament in Santa Clara at the end of August. At this time, his schedule isn't yet firm but he will be giving some speaking opportunities between sessions where you can hear what he's got to say about the direction of the National Board, his future visions, and he'll open it up to questions from the group. Watch the daily Bulletin for specifics. This is something you won't want to miss.

Until next time, be friendly, play well, and remember Goodwill!

East Bay Community Bridge Center Hosts Pro-Am Event

By Jackie Zayac

On Saturday, May 26, 2018, the East Bay Community Bridge Center hosted its second Advanced Pro-Am Event. The event was proposed by intermediate East Bay Unit players, who are Life Masters with 500 to 1,000 masterpoints.

Since educational opportunities for its members are a major focus of the East Bay Community Bridge Center, when these intermediate players voiced how helpful it would be for them to play with a pro who would normally play in a Pro-Am Game with a player with fewer than 500 points, a new event was born!

The first event, which was held in July, 2017, was attended by Intermediate Players and Pros from the East Bay Unit 502 and Diablo Valley Unit 499.

The first Advanced Pro-Am Event provided such a wonderful educational opportunity for Intermediate bridge players that Betty Kael, Club Manager of the East Bay Community Bridge Center, Susan Boyers and Mary Levine, East Bay Community Bridge Center Event Coordinators, and Pat Leary, Livermore Unit Recruiter of many of the A/X Pros and some Intermediate Players, decided to extend the invitation to participate in this event to A/X Pros and Intermediate Players in four adjoining District 21 units. East Bay Unit 502, Livermore Unit 501, South County Unit 500 and Diablo Valley Unit 499 each sent members to participate in the Advanced Pro-Am Game. Jackie Zayac assisted them by recruiting A/X Pros and Intermediate Players from Unit 499.

Fourteen tables of A/X Pros and Intermediate Players signed up to play in the Advanced Pro-Am Event! By including four units in the event, the organizers were able to match A/X Pros with Intermediate Players from different units. The goal of the event was to give Intermediate Players the opportunity to upgrade their game by playing with an A/X Pro who was willing to share his/her knowledge and help improve the Intermediate Player's game. Each Intermediate Player was asked (1) do you want to play Precision or Two Over One and (2) do you want your Pro to focus on carding, opening leads, or defense?

The day began with the Intermediate Players and A/X Pros meeting their partners thirty (30) minutes prior to the game to review a copy of the convention card provided by the Intermediate Players.



The players were also able to help themselves to a delicious mid-morning snack prior to beginning the game.

At 10:30 a.m., the twenty-four (24) board Advanced Pro-Am Game began.



There was a break for lunch after the first twelve (12) boards were played. As you can see, lunch was delicious!

It was a great time to socialize with the players from the four different bridge units in the room.



volunteered their time to give back to our bridge community.

The Livermore Unit, South County Unit and Diablo Valley Unit would like to send a special thank you to the East Bay Community Bridge Center for hosting the Advanced Pro-Am Event and for sharing this educational opportunity with three very appreciative adjoining units.

By sharing this Advanced Pro-Am Event information with you, it is hoped that other units in District 21 will consider hosting an Advanced Pro-Am Event to help their Intermediate Players advance to the next bridge playing level. Based on the feedback received, this is a very rewarding experience for our A/X Pros too.

District 21 2019 GNTs

By Grant Vance, D21 GNT Coordinator

The 2019 GNT schedule will be as follows: Open Flight February 9/10/16/17; Flight A March 2/3/16/17; Flight B February 16/17; Flight C March 16/17. Registration will be online, and will close one week before the beginning of each event. Please note that March 22 will be an open date to complete ANY of the four flights that receive more entries than can produce a winner in the allotted play days. Winners of the four flights will receive stipends from D21 to help defray the costs of traveling to the National Final, to be held in Las Vegas during July 2019.

After all, no one could talk about the boards!

After lunch, the final twelve boards were played.

At the end of the game, the results were tabulated and the winners were:

First Place: Edwin Seputis (East Bay Unit) and S. Andrew Sass (South County Unit)

2/3 Place Tie: Mike Bandler (Diablo Valley Unit) and Sherry Larsen Beville (East Bay Unit)

2/3 Place Tie: Bradley Komsthoeft (Diablo Valley Unit) and Esther Rubke (East Bay Unit)

After the game, wine and cheese were served as the A/X Pros and the Intermediate Players discussed the day. The A/X Pros took their responsibility seriously and gave freely of their knowledge. It was so rewarding to see all of the pairs going over their hands after the game.

The Intermediate Players were very appreciative of the helpful tips given to them by their A/X Pro partner for the event. The Intermediate Players all agree that the Advanced Pro-Am Event was a huge success. They all learned a great deal, appreciated the input from the A/X Pros and wanted to know when the next event will be held!

Everyone agrees that this is a very special event that helps our Intermediate Players become better players. Thank you to all of the A/X Pros who

**Have great news to
share from your unit?**

**Contact *Diamond in
the Ruff* Editor Rich**

Luttrell at

luttrellr@sbcglobal.net

and tell him all about it!

DISTRICT 21 ACBL PRESENTS

84th ALL WESTERN



CHAMPIONSHIPS

August 28 - September 3, 2018

Tournament Highlights

All Western Open Pairs Championship

Saturday and Sunday

- New Knockouts Daily
- Six Days of 0-750 Gold Pairs
- Three Stratified Side Game Series
- Daylight Pairs
- Wednesday - Sunday at 10 & 3
- Celebrity Speakers
- 6:15-6:45 Wednesday-Sunday

ENTRIES \$12

Unpaid ACBL members \$16

Non-members will be required to become members by either purchasing an annual membership, or a \$7.99 special monthly membership.

**District 21 website is your first resource
for our Regionals:**

- Make hotel reservations
- Plan your tournament events
- Gather general information/direction
- www.d21acbl.com

For information contact:

Pam Hughes: email: jmom380@yahoo.com
District 21 website www.d21acbl.com
Please comply with D21's Pet Policy. See website for details.
Schedule subject to change.

at the

HYATT REGENCY
5101 Great American Parkway
Santa Clara, CA 95054

LIMITED PARKING!
REMEMBER TO CARPOOL

Reserve EARLY for the
BRIDGE RATE
Mon-Wed \$209
Thurs - 2nd Mon \$134
Full Tournament Rate \$159
(must stay entire time. No early departure)
408-200-1234
800-233-1234

Intermediate/Newcomer Events

99er/299er Pairs Daily at 9, 1 & 7
Bridge Concepts Lectures
with Scott Campbell
Wednesday thru Sunday at Noon
Free Student Game(0-5mp's) Sat. 1:00

Matt Smith, Director in Charge
ACBL Sanction R1809084 Conventions on the General Chart allowed in all events. Mid-chart allowed in top bracket of 2 day KOs and any bracket which contain no team with an average master point holding of less than 1500 points, as well as 4 session Open Pairs/Swiss & Flight AX Events, but not AB Events.

DISTRICT 21: Upbeat Bridge....Low Key Atmosphere!
Like us on FACEBOOK

84th All Western Championships

August 28 - September 3, 2018

at the HYATT REGENCY, 5101 Great American Parkway, Santa Clara, CA 95054

Tuesday, August 28

- 1pm Pony Express Side Pairs 1st of 6
99er/299er Stratified Pairs
Stratified Swiss Teams
- 1 & 7 **OPEN PAIRS 0-1500/1500-3000/3000+**
HOE DOWN GOLD PAIRS 0-300/750
- 7pm **KIT CARSON BRACKETED KOs**
continues Wednesday 9, 1 & 7
Pony Express Side Pairs 2nd of 6
99er/299er Stratified Pairs

Wednesday, August 29

- 9am KIT CARSON KOs – round 2
Morning Side Pairs 1st of 5
99er/299er Stratified Pairs
- 10 & 3 **WEDNESDAY DAYLIGHT PAIRS**
- 1pm Pony Express Side Pairs 3rd of 6
99ers/299er Stratified Pairs
- 1 & 7 **OPEN PAIRS 0-1500/1500-3000/3000+**
GOLDEN SPIKE PAIRS 0-300/750
WYATT EARP BRACKETED KOs 1 & 2
continues Thursday 1 & 7
KIT CARSON KOs 3 & 4
- 7pm Stratified Swiss Teams
Pony Express Side Pairs 4th of 6
99ers/299ers Stratified Pairs

Thursday, August 30

- 9am **GOODWILL SWISS TEAMS** – 1st of 2
Morning Side Pairs 2nd of 5
99er/299er Stratified Pairs
- 10 & 3 **THURSDAY DAYLIGHT PAIRS**
- 1pm Pony Express Side Pairs 5th of 6
99ers/299er Stratified Pairs
- 1 & 7 **OPEN PAIRS 0-1500/1500-3000/3000+**
CHEROKEE GOLD PAIRS 0-300/750
SIERRA BRACKETED KOs 1 & 2
continues Friday 1 & 7
WYATT EARP KOs 3 & 4
- 7pm Stratified Swiss Teams
Pony Express Side Pairs 6th of 6
99ers/299ers Stratified Pairs

Friday, August 31

- 9am **GOODWILL SWISS TEAMS**– round 2
Morning Side Pairs 3rd of 5
99er/299er Stratified Pairs
- 10 & 3 **FRIDAY DAYLIGHT PAIRS**
- 1pm Stagecoach Side Pairs 1st of 6
99ers/299er Stratified Pairs
- 1 & 7 **OPEN PAIRS 0-1500/1500-3000/3000+**
SASPARILLA GOLD PAIRS 0-300/750
APACHE BRACKETED KOs 1 & 2
continues Saturday 1 & 7
SIERRA KOs 3 & 4
- 7pm Stratified Swiss Teams
Stagecoach Side Pairs 2nd of 6
99ers/299ers Stratified Pairs

Saturday, September 1

- 9am **DOC HOLIDAY SWISS TEAMS** 1st of 2
Morning Side Pairs 4th of 5
99er/299er Stratified Pairs
- 10 & 3 **OPEN PAIRS 0-1500/1500-3000/3000+**
ANNIE OAKLEY GOLD RUSH PAIRS 0-300/750
- 1pm Free Student Game 0-5 masterpoints
Stagecoach Side Pairs 3rd of 6
99ers/299er Stratified Pairs
- 1 & 7 **ALL WESTERN OPEN PAIRS CHAMPIONSHIP**
2 qualifying sessions Saturday
2 final sessions Sunday
O.K. CORRAL BRACKETED KOs 1 & 2
continues Sunday at 1 & 7
APACHE KOs 3 & 4
- 7pm Stratified Swiss Teams
Stagecoach Side Pairs 4th of 6
99ers/299ers Stratified Pairs

Sunday, September 2

- 9am **DOC HOLIDAY SWISS TEAMS**– round 2
Morning Side Pairs 5th of 5
99er/299er Stratified Pairs
- 10 & 3 **SUNDAY DAYLIGHT PAIRS**
- 1pm Stagecoach Side Pairs 5th of 6
99ers/299ers Stratified Pairs
- 1 & 7 **ALL WESTERN OPEN PAIRS** - finals
O.K. CORRAL KOs 3 & 4
OPEN PAIRS 0-1500/1500-3000/3000+
WILD BILL GOLD RUSH PAIRS 0-300/750
- 7pm Stratified Swiss Teams
Stagecoach Side Pairs 6th of 6
99ers/299ers Stratified Pairs

Monday, September 3

- ***EARLY START - All games at 10am*****
STRAT A/X TEAMS 0-3000/+3000+
0-2000 mp ROUND ROBIN TEAMS
- 10am •No individual player over 2000 mp
& •Typically brackets of eight, three gold overall
TBA places per bracket.
•Teams may not withdraw after one session.
- SENIOR SWISS TEAMS(60 years+)**
FAST STRATIFIED OPEN PAIRS
10am and TBA with a short break
99/299ers Stratified Pairs 10am and TBA

Events in **BOLD FACE** are two or more sessions and award **gold points**. Single session events award **red points**.

Stratified Events Key Unless otherwise posted.

A 2000+ B 750 – 2000 C 0-750
Eligibility is based on masterpoint total of top player.
Stratification is determined by average of pair/team

KO Events with only one Bracket may be Handicapped

DISTRICT 21 ACBL PRESENTS

Reno Regional

Generously Co-Sponsored by District 7

October 15-21, 2018

Tournament Highlights

- New Knockouts Daily
- FIVE Days of Gold Rush Pairs
- Three Stratified Side Game Series
- DAYLIGHT PAIRS

Tuesday - Saturday at 10 & 3

- Free Bridge Concepts Lectures
Tuesday - Saturday at Noon
- Celebrity Speaker Program
- Side Games at every 9, 1 & 7 session

Intermediate/Newcomer Events

99er/299er Pairs Daily at 9, 1 & 7

Bridge Concepts Lectures
with Scott Campbell

Tuesday through Saturday at Noon

Free Student Game(0-5mp's) Sat. 1:00

ENTRIES \$12

Unpaid ACBL members \$16

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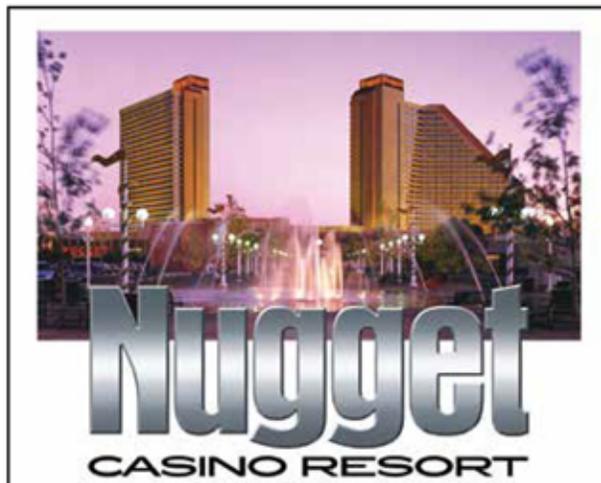
For information contact:

Pam Hughes: email: jmom380@yahoo.com

District 21 website www.d21acbl.com

Please comply with D21's Pet Policy. See website for details.

Schedule subject to change.



1100 Nugget Avenue, Sparks, NV 89431

- Resort Tower Rooms and Meeting Spaces are Brand New Renovated!
(Casino Tower Rooms renovated 7 years ago)
- Free shuttle to and from airport 5am - midnight
- Best Pool in Reno!
Long enough to swim laps, and multiple hot tubs. If you like water, bring your suit!
- Fully appointed fitness center
- Complimentary valet and self parking
- Welcome reception with full bar
- Victorian Square with dozens of restaurants and shops adjacent to hotel

Book bridge rate and Resort Fee is waived!

Non-Smokers should book the Resort Tower

- Resort Tower (stay here if you want to avoid the casino smoke)
\$69+tax Sunday - Thursday
\$99+tax Friday & Saturday
- Casino Tower
\$59+tax Sunday - Thursday
\$89+tax Friday - Saturday

For Reservations:
800-648-1177

or book on our D21 website link

Nancy Boyd, Director in Charge
ACBL Sanction R1810140 Conventions on the General Chart allowed in all events. Mid-chart allowed in top bracket of 2 day KO's and any bracket which contain no team with an average master point holding of less than 1500 points, as well as 4 session Open Pairs/Swiss & Flight AX Events, but not AB Events.

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SACRAMENTO REGIONAL WINNERS

Pair Events

Monday Stratified Open (21.5 Tables)

- 1A: Jim Houghton, Pollock Pines - Tom Zinkle, Folsom
 1B: David Strauss, San Francisco - Paul Kushner, So Lake Tahoe
 1C: Sally Hale - Jeffrey Rogers, San Jose



Judith & Robert Robyns

Monday American River Gold (22 Tables)

- 1D: Judith Robyns - Robert Robyns, Reno, NV
 1E: Kevin Smith, Ione - Michael Saeler, Modesto

Monday Afternoon 299er (11 Tables)

- 1F, 1G: Sara Goerke, Truckee - Sue Friedenbach, Redwood City
 1H: Nick McCully, Piedmont - Frank Silver, Oakland

Monday Afternoon Side (24 Tables)

- 1A: Katherine Ewing - Edwin Ewing, Sacramento
 1B: Gary Minnig, Swanzey NH; Ameen Paul, San Ramon
 1C: Julie Chenu - James Chenu, Sacramento

Monday Evening Side (6 Tables)

- 1A: Kathryn Le Gro, Carmichael - Dorothy McDermott, Sacramento
 1B, 1C: Wilson Wallace, Mariposa - Judy Reeve, Saratoga



Mark Itabashi, Peter Gelfand

Tuesday Daylight Open (29 Tables)

- 1A: Mark Itabashi, Murrieta - Peter Gelfand, Corralitos

- 1B, 1C: Enlow Ose - Melena Ose, Sacramento

Tuesday Open Stratified (18 Tables)

- 1A: Robert Todd, Tallahassee, FL - Judy Hyde, Los Angeles
 1B: Elizabeth Borgese, Cumming, GA - Beverly Wright, Los Gatos
 1C: Judy Soong, San Francisco - Gay Yamagiwa, Honolulu, HI



Renate Bialy, Eileen Holsten

Tuesday Daylight Gold (43 Tables)

- 1D: Renate Bialy - Eileen Holsten, Sonoma
 1E: Sherrie Barakatt, Modesto - Susan Dietz, San Jose

Tuesday Morning Side (6 Tables)

- 1A: James Merzon, Templeton - Alfred Lee, San Mateo
 1B, 1C: David Whitman - Rich Fabbre, Roseville

Tuesday Morning 299er (5 Tables)

- 1D, 1E, 1F: Stacey Day, Sparks, NV - Sandy Powell, Reno, NV

Tuesday Afternoon Side (12 Tables)

- 1A, 1B, 1C: Muriel Harkins - Ann Thurston, San Luis Obispo

Tuesday Afternoon 299er (8 Tables)

- 1D, 1E, 1F: Joan Donlon - Jean Eccleston, Roseville

Tuesday Evening Side (11 Tables)

- 1A, 1B: Muriel Harkins - Ann Thurston, San Luis Obispo
 1C: Kurt Browning, Grass Valley - Mary Pascale, Chicago Park

Wednesday Daylight (40 Tables)

- 1A: Mark Itabashi, Murrieta - Peter Gelfand, Corralitos
 1B: Kenneth Johnson - Joanne Wicker, Morgan Hill
 1C: Russell Barlow - Katy Foulkes, Piedmont

Wednesday Placer Gold (23 Tables)

- 1D: James Collart - Ron Parker, Lincoln
 1E: Barbara Bottomley - Forrest Bottomley, Lafayette

Wednesday Morning Side (9 Tables)

- 1A: Sherman Gao, Brea - Jim Liu, Saratoga
 1B, 1C: David Whitman - Rich Fabbre, Roseville

Wednesday Morning 299er (11 Tables)

- 1D, 1E, 1F: Marilyn Rickard, Stockton - Judith Tillinghast, Lodi

Wednesday Afternoon Side (16.5 Tables)

- 1A: Garth Gregory, Chico; Jim Leuker, San Francisco
 1B: Cathie Hayes, Larkspur; Alex Kinas, Sausalito
 1C: Jeannette Stern, Carmel By Sea; Libby Longstreth, Riverbank

Wednesday Afternoon 299er (10 Tables)

- 1D, 1E: Arthur Amos - Barry Klein, Davis
 1F: Susan Brenden - Larry Brenden, Lincoln



David Strauss, Paul Kushner

Wednesday Mid-flight (9 Tables)

1B: David Strauss, San Francisco - Paul Kushner, So Lake Tahoe

1C: Richard Rogers - Stephanie Rogers, San Francisco

Wednesday Afternoon 99er (3 Tables)

1G: Ronald Gross - Barbara Gross, Livermore

Wednesday Evening Side (11 Tables)

1A: Lisa Evans, Danville; Cheryl Haines, Half Moon Bay

1B: Barbara Simon - Wayne Kaneko, Honolulu HI

1C: Larry Lasher, Moffetville; Alan Bostrom, San Francisco

Wednesday Evening 299er (5 Tables)

1D: Carolyn Loe - Gretchen Filer, Benicia

1E, 1F: James Sherriff - Rona Sherriff, Carmichael



Veronica McMurdie, Valentin Kovachev

Wednesday Stratified Open (20 Tables)

1A: Valentin Kovachev, Las Vegas, NV - Veronica McMurdie, Sacramento

1X: Ronald Powell, Santa Clara - Bob Sanner, Palo Alto

Thursday Stratified Open (16 Tables)

1A, 1X: Mark McCarthy, San Francisco - Christopher Earl, Oregon House

Thursday Mid-flight (13 Tables)

1B, 1C: Frank Xie, Sunnyvale - Ying Liu, Palo Alto

Thursday Placer Gold (24 Tables)

1D: Jennifer Duval, Santa Clara - Dorr Clark, Campbell

1E: Linda Duncan, San Mateo - Rose Bauer, Hillsborough

Thursday Morning 299er (9 Tables)

1D, 1E, 1F: Rob Davis - Anita Davis, Durango, CO

Thursday Afternoon Side (15 Tables)

1A: Linda Bandler, Alamo; Jerry Weitzner, Danville

1B, 1C: Roy Redlich, Petaluma; Hans Van Boldrik, Santa Rosa

Thursday Afternoon 299er (8 Tables)

1D, 1E: Kevin Patterson, Hayward - Karen Corburn, San Ramon

1F: Kenneth Krenzin - Pamela Zaid, Walnut Creek

Thursday Morning Side (16 Tables)

1A: Jeff Reynolds - Genie Reynolds, San Francisco

1B: Doris Ashcroft - Debra Dezarn, Stockton

1C: Iris Appleby, Garden Valley - Judy Orchard, Placerville



Brian Gilbert, Allan Deserpa

Thursday Daylight Open (51 Tables)

1A: Allan Deserpa, Tempe, AZ - Brian Gilbert, Irvine

1B: Tsao-Tung Tsai, Cupertino - Jim Liu, Saratoga

1C: David Ashby, Sacramento - Charles Berger, Citrus Heights

Thursday Afternoon 99er (5 Tables)

1G, 1H, 1I: Swan Day - Kathy Ann Wilson, Napa

Thursday Evening Side (9 Tables)

1A, 1B: Nick Demmon, Roseville - Denis Racine, North Highlands

1C: Michael Lucey - Don Peterson, Carson City, NV



Bruce Noda, William Harker

Jackie Matthews Daylight (47 Tables)

1A: Bruce Noda, Corte Madera - William Harker, Santa Fe, NM

1B: Charles Bass Jr, North Highlands - Sam Sandusky, Elk Grove

1C: Chris Chen - William Zhu, San Francisco

Friday Straified Open (15 Tables)

1A, 1X: Nick Bykov, Stockton - Leszek Rabiaga, Watsonville

Friday Mid-flight (7 Tables)

1B: Carl Oeser, Roseville - Steve Maurer, Fair Oaks

1C: Frank Xie, Sunnyvale - Ying Liu, Palo Alto

Friday Placer Gold (22 Tables)

1D: Paulette Moe, Ross - Carolyn Farren, Larkspur

1E: Mary Wells - Michael Wells, Bakersfield

Friday Morning Side (14 Tables)

1A: Douglas Smith - Gary Nitzberg, Carson City, NV

1B, 1C: Donald Bierman, San Ramon - Sarah Simmerman, San Leandro

Friday Morning 299er (11 Tables)

1D: Clare Smith, Walnut Creek - Jeanette Bartz, Clayton

1E: Harry Struthers, Carmichael - Bob Dorian, Sacramento

1F: John Eastman, Reno, NV - Diane Balter, Sacramento

Friday Afternoon Side (10 Tables)

1A: Linda Bandler - Mike Bandler, Alamo

1B, 1C: Franklin Kitchiner Jr, San Jose; Beverly Thrasher, El Paso

Friday Afternoon 299er (8 Tables)

1D, 1E, 1F: Laura Storto - Charles Michalopoulos, San Francisco

Friday Evening Side (9.5 Tables)

1A, 1B: Tracey Bauer - Keith Bauer, San Rafael

1C: Donald Bierman, San Ramon - Sarah Simmerman, San Leandro

Saturday Daylight (35 Tables)

1A: Bruce Ruskin, Modesto - Allan Deserpa, Tempe, AZ

1B: Michael Hughes, San Jose - Ben Tucker, Vashon, WA

1C: Daniel Sonner, Redwood City - Finn Kolesnik, Ventura

Saturday Open (10 Tables)

1A, 1B, 1C: Dmitri Stukalov - Marina Seppius, Palo Alto

Saturday Morning Side (11 Tables)

1A: Sherman Gao, Brea - Robert Micone, Tustin

1B: Helene Gay - Roy Gay, Santa Rosa

1C: Mark Humphrey - Lynne Humphrey, Moraga

Saturday Morning 299er (6 Tables)

1D: Claudia Sims, Sonoma - Sissel Grove, Mill Valley

1E: Harry Struthers, Carmichael - Bob Dorian, Sacramento

1F: Larry Brenden - Susan Brenden, Lincoln

Saturday Afternoon Side (10 Tables)

1A, 1B: Charles Conrad, Castro Valley; Michael Stambaugh, Fremont

1C: Donna Raynor, Los Altos; Debbie Lundahl, San Carlos

Saturday Afternoon 299er (7.5 Tables)

1D, 1E: Larry Brenden - Susan Brenden, Lincoln

1F: Betsy Jennings - Layne Hersh, Carmichael

Saturday Evening Side (4 Tables)

1A, 1B, 1C: Mark Kogan - Patti Kogan, Orinda

Sunday Fast Pairs (18 Tables)

1A: Bjorgvin Kristinsson, Columbia Hgts, MN - Daniel Hoekstra, Portland

1B: Bill Yeast, Mill Valley - Michael Hartnett, Greenbrae

1C: Dorr Clark, Campbell - Arlie Stephens, Sunnyvale

Team Events

El Dorado Bracket 1 KO (13 Tables)

Steve Gross, Westlake Vlg; Ellen Anten, Encino; Sharon Anderson - Roger Anderson, Eagan, MN

El Dorado Bracket 2 KO (12 Tables)

Douglas Smith - Paul Jorgensen, Carson City, NV; Bruce Moon, S Lake Tahoe; Gary Nitzberg, Carson City, NV



Donna Soehrens, Karen Rice, Linda Marin, Barbara Norman

El Dorado Bracket 3 KO (12 Tables)

Barbara Norman - Donna Soehrens, Healdsburg; Linda Marinlistoga; Karen Rice, Sebastopol



Chris Compton, Eric Leong, Ishmael Del'Monte, Stephen Kennedy

Auburn Bracket 1 KO (9 Tables)

Stephen Kennedy, Oakland; Chris Compton, Dallas, TX; Eric Leong, Oakland; Ishmael DelMonte, Las Vegas, NV

Auburn Bracket 2 KO (7 Tables)

Marilynn Schuyler, Discovery Bay; Stephen Russell - Susan Huber, Brentwood; John Miller, Discovery Bay

Tuesday Evening Swiss (17 Tables)

1A, 1B, 1C: Dennis Uthe, Roseville; William Martin, Sacramento; David Whitman - Richard Fabbre, Roseville



Lynn Deas, Curtis Cheek, Huub Bertens, Barbara Sonsini, Jacob Morgan, Daniel Korbel

Sierra Bracket 1 KO (12 Tables)

Barbara Sonsini, Woodside; Jacob Morgan, Madison, WI; Huub Bertens, Bend, OR; Daniel Korbel, Las Vegas, NV; Lynn Deas, Schenectady, NY

Sierra Bracket 2 KO (15 Tables)

Mark Bloom - Gloria Shagrun, Chico; Carole Schmitz - Wilhelmina White, Redding

Sierra Bracket 3 KO (16 Tables)

Gary Smith, Merced; Dee Heller, Atwater; Lorraine Bocks, Legrand; Patricia Gallo, Livingston

Wednesday Morning Swiss (17 Tables)

1A: Veronica McMurdie, Sacramento; Carole Liss, San Rafael; Bruce Ferguson, Palm Springs; Valentin Kovachev, Las Vegas, NV; Howard Parker III, Clements

1B: Douglas Smith - Paul Jorgensen, Carson City, NV; Bruce Moon, S Lake Tahoe; Gary Nitzberg, Carson City, NV

1C: John Shribbs, Petaluma; Hans Van Boldrik, Santa Rosa; Roy Redlich - Patricia Shribbs, Petaluma

Wednesday Evening Swiss (20 Tables)

1A: Kathrine Loh, Walnut Creek; Irwin Lichtblau, Lafayette; Bradley Komsthoef, Clayton; Bonnie Macbride, Lafayette

1B: Eileen Hayes - Cindy Daugherty, Sacramento; Patricia Zavadil, Denver, CO; Barbara Wheeler, Sacramento

1C: Carol-Ann Ackerman, Fremont; Donna Raynor - Deborah Machlin, Los Altos; Rita Rubenfeld, Portola Valley

Kings Bracket 1 KO (14 Tables)

Mac Busby, San Diego; John Grantham, Bentonville, AR; Rebecca Rogers, Henderson, NV; Cameron Cotton, Chula Vista



Paul Kushner, Douglas Smith, Gary Nitzberg, Paul Jorgensen

Kings Bracket 2 KO (14 Tables)

Paul Kushner, So Lake Tahoe; Douglas Smith - Gary Nitzberg - Paul Jorgensen, Carson City, NV

Kings Bracket 3 KO (15 Tables)

Ken Hajek - Kathleen Beasley, Wilton; Ron Parker - James Collart, Lincoln

Thursday Evening Swiss (19 Tables)

1A: Carole Liss, San Rafael; Bruce Ferguson, Palm Springs; Veronica McMurdie, Sacramento; Howard Parker III, Clements

1B: Gary Near, San Francisco; Gloria Darke, Atherton; Douglas Hong, San Jose; Marie-France Benoit, Gatineau, QC

1C: Richard Herzog, Los Altos Hills; Buz Battle, Los Altos; Kathryn Kranen, Menlo Park; Susan Zhang, Los Altos Hills

Delta Compact KO 1 (13 Tables)

Stephen Kennedy, Oakland; Ishmael DelMonte, Las Vegas, NV; Eric Leong, Oakland; Chris Compton, Dallas, TX

Delta Compact KO 2 (14 Tables)

Kathrine Loh, Walnut Creek; Pam Moreland - Michael Moreland, Penn Valley; Irwin Lichtblau, Lafayette



Baron Wang, Kris Wong, Gail Gabiati, Martin Kaye

Delta Compact KO 3 (15 Tables)

Gail Gabiati - Kris Wong - Martin Kaye - Baron Wang, San Francisco

Friday Morning Swiss (9 Tables)

1A: Linda Bandler - Mike Bandler, Alamo; Jerry Weitzner, Danville; Grant Robinson - Teresa Boyd, Dublin; Daniel Rubinfeld, Berkeley

1B, 1C: Mary Lou Pease - Judy Jessick, Fresno; Rhonda Hampton, Auberry; Renee Laquerriere, Clovis

Friday Evening Swiss (21 Tables)

1A: Ray Humiston, Surfside, FL; Jill Levin - Robert Levin, Henderson, NV; Hansa Narasimhan, Mountain View

1B: Mark Humphrey - Lynne Humphrey, Moraga; Marilyn Horan, Walnut Creek; William LeMaire, El Sobrante

1C: Jonathan Bagg - Shelley Bagg, Orinda; Janet Campbell - Robert Campbell, Danville

Saturday Swiss Bracket 1 (8 Tables)

Barbara Sonsini, Woodside; Huub Bertens, Bend; Jacob Morgan, Madison, WI; Daniel Korbel - Curtis Cheek, Las Vegas; Lynn Deas, Schenectady, NY

Saturday Swiss Bracket 2 (8 Tables)

Ninad More, Mountain View; Nitin More, Sunnyvale; Andrew Sinclair, Albany; Jacqueline Ortiz, Rohnert Park

Saturday Swiss Bracket 3 (9 Tables)

Anthony Toto, Clovis; Donald Baze, Lakeport; Mary Lou Pease - Judy Jessick, Fresno

Gold Rush Swiss (30 Tables)

1D, 1E: Carol Schwerer - Kingston Duffie - Cornelius Duffie - Stella Q. Wan, Palo Alto

Sunday A/X Swiss (32 Tables)

1A: Barbara Sonsini, Woodside; Huub Bertens, Las Vegas, NV; Jacob Morgan, Madison, WI; Daniel Korbel, Las Vegas, NV; Lynn Deas, Schenectady, NY; Curtis Cheek, Las Vegas, NV

1X: Stephen Castellino, Castro Valley; Paul Cornelius, Mountain View; Larry Leskiw, Martinez; John Feo, Kennewick, WA

Bracket 1 Under 3,000 (8 Tables)

Randy Ryals, Menlo Park; Arthur Mirin, Castro Valley; Stephanie Singer, Belmont; Carol Kemper, Portola Valley

Bracket 2 Under 3,000 (8 Tables)

Sam Sandusky, Elk Grove; Charles Bass Jr, North Highlands; Jim Bowman, Carmichael; Jeffrey Beyers, Orange Vale

Bracket 3 Under 3,000 (8 Tables)

Robert Locke - Ellen Eggers - Maggie Edwy, Sacramento; Wayne Miller, Benicia

Bracket 4 Under 3,000 (8 Tables)

Donna Cleary - Bob Shafer, El Dorado Hills; Judy Orchard, Placerville; Iris Appleby, Garden Valley

California Capital Open Swiss (32 Tables)

1: Stephen Kennedy, Oakland; Chris Compton, Dallas, TX; Ishmael DelMonte, Las Vegas, NV; Eric Leong, Oakland

2: Aaron Jones, San Francisco; Jeff Roman, Bend, OR; John Mohan, Las Vegas, NV; Sudhakar Divakaruni, Scottsdale, AZ

3: Mitch Dunitz, Sherman Oaks; Mark Perlmutter, San Diego; JoAnna Stansby - Lew Stansby, Dublin

4: Gary Soules, Elk Grove; Mark Ralph, San Francisco; William Sanford, Orangevale; Bruce Noda, Corte Madera; William Harker, Santa Fe, NM; John Jefferson, Davis

5: Jim Houghton, Pollock Pines; John Miller, Discovery Bay; Tom Zinkle, Folsom; Lynn Shannon, Campbell

New Life Masters



Kathy Juarez



Doug Schmickrath

HEART OF THE DISTRICT

CLICK ON THE LINK TO GO TO THAT PAGE

Area	Unit	Columnist
<u>Berkeley/El Cerrito/Richmond</u>	<u>497</u>	<u>Mark Kornmann</u>
<u>Carson-Tahoe</u>	<u>465</u>	<u>Carole Sill</u>
<u>Diablo Valley</u>	<u>499</u>	<u>Lisa Assoni</u>
<u>East Bay</u>	<u>502</u>	<u>Tom Pajak</u>
<u>Fresno</u>	<u>522</u>	<u>Laura Da Costa</u>
<u>Livermore Valley</u>	<u>501</u>	<u>Rosemarie LaFrancesca</u>
<u>Marin</u>	<u>508</u>	<u>Gail Haar</u>
<u>Modesto/Merced/Sonora</u>	<u>529</u>	<u>Gail Vick</u>
<u>Monterey</u>	<u>530</u>	<u>Mary Block</u>
<u>Napa/Solano/Sonoma Valley</u>	<u>512</u>	<u>Tom Sheahan</u>
<u>Palo Alto</u>	<u>503</u>	<u>Carolyn Chaney</u>
<u>Reno</u>	<u>473</u>	<u>Sandy Powell</u>
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<u>Santa Cruz</u>	<u>550</u>	<u>Karen Schamberg</u>
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Berkeley/El Cerrito/Richmond

By The Beer Dude

Warriors did it again, as I expected – just hope Lachrymose Lebron isn't back next year, whatever his team next season – I'm sick of him & all the surrounding hype. Maybe the Giants can overcome their injuries & reach the playoffs – I could care less about the World Cup & the most boring professional sport by 9 miles!

Slow month – just one unit game to report since last time – no Wed games until Oct; the 1st (occasionally 2nd). Fri games always will make the next column (rarely possible before we went digital). Fri 6/8, we drew 6.5 tables, which Marcia Mattoon-Sarla topped (barely). I played my usual 6.5 table 1-winner movement that reduces sit-out to 2 boards. Chasers: Jack Beers-Barb Lanier 2A, Prez Joyce-Roger Edelson 3A/2B, Jan Straus-Jeanne Sutter 4A/3B, Eric & Sandi 5A, & Dexter-Gordon 5B. Jul games are Fri 6th; BBQ Swiss Sat 28th – had to kill Wed 25th & one other Wed game to accommodate resched Swiss; forgot to kill May 19 beforehand.

Unfortunately, ACBL setup for scheduling Unit Events online won't let you do a "retrospective" cancel – even the overseer in ACBL HQ can't do it. That sucks - we who book those games sometimes are forced to make changes on relatively short notice (<10 days ahead) due to circumstances beyond our control/general player or Unit Board consciences.

In/Out action & rank advancers: Welcome new members Victoria Irwin & Dan Kosovoc, plus transfer-in Renee Gaines from Santa Rosa. Farewell to 3 to 502: Cris Barrere, Robt Kaplan, & a woman I never saw come in. Rank advancers: Stephanie Daly & Gail Unno to Junior (5+), & to now-departed Kaplan who hit 200 for NABC Master status.

Don't forget to keep your ACBL dues current (done easily online) – I see many names every month who've been sent their second renewal bill – make life easier on yourselves & the ACBL by going paperless! I did that 10 yrs ago – get a reminder msg 2-3 mos before my term's up (I renew 3 yrs at a time).

At da club in May, Dick was MP champ; Barb Lanier the top NLM (again). No club champ game in July (we hold ours 2nd & 3rd months of each quarter, as we killed the Mon game long ago). Thanks to all who participated in "The Longest Day", which ran 2 days after I sent this column in.

I'm outta here w/an interesting July 4 trivia

bit: Both our 2nd & 3rd Presidents (John Adams & Thomas Jefferson for ye who forgot/never learned history) died on July 4, 1826 – Adams was 90, Jefferson 83. Stay safe on Firecracker Day!

Tweak beerman1949@gmail.com to brag/gripe/suggest; Unit info & game results available 24/7 @ www.berunit497.org.

Carson/Tahoe

By Carole Sill

Unit 465 is finishing up on the plans for our annual Bar-B-Q at the home of Theresa Pinney. This wonderful foodfest will directly follow the unit game.

I'm proud to announce our club's winners in the Sacramento regional games. Gary Nitzberg and Doug Smith each earned 45.45 gold and 4.55 red. Wow!

Don Peterson earned 6.0 red, Ed and Cornelia earned 5.54 Gold and 3.21 red. Beverly Meyer earned 7 gold and 4.5 red.

When I say our games are getting close, I really mean our tables are getting close to each other. We have our Desert, Florida, and Puerto Villarta here now and we also have several new players. This makes us all closer to each other.

On the last hand it gets very loud. We are now using the clock and it helps a little with the speed of the game Roxeanne Hart and her husband had a fun and adventurous trip visiting multiple sights in Viet Nam. Plans are in the works for our Sectional in October.

Diablo Valley

By Lisa Assoni



This special day was set aside as American Independence Day on the Fourth of July every year that represents the Declaration of Independence and the birth of the United States of America Let's all have a blast, as this day seems to demand barbecues, drinks, food, and friends. That's if we're lucky. OK, celebrate at home. Get take out ribs, baked beans, and a salad. Now you can party, or better yet, gather some friends for a home game of bridge. If all else fails, eat with your doggie or kitty, and make no bones about it. Do not give them any leftover bones or any kind. A change of menu: The date of the Goodwill Lunch and Game, honoring Anne Hollingsworth, our 2017 District 21 Goodwill Recipient, has been changed to Sunday,

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August 19, 2018. Attendance at this event will be by reservation only, since it is expected to sell out. Lyn Sacco, lyn.sacco@gmail.com will be sending out an announcement this month for you to make your reservations.

Sacramento, our state capitol, is filled with opportunities to learn and enjoy. And they did at the Sacramento Regional. Many from Unit 499 had a grand time gobbling-up master points. I don't mince words, and I love to brag about folks that took first place—and we had a plateful of winner's: Folsom Side Series went to Lisa Evans and Cheryl Haines. Wed. evening side Swiss was won by: Katherine Loh, Irwin Lichtblau, Bonnie McBride, and Bradley Komsthoef. On to Thu. -Sat. Series, was secured by Linda Bandler, Jerry Weitzner. Again on the Thu.-Sat. Series, was the high-scoring duo, Linda and Mike Bandler. There's more: Fri-Sat. AM Swiss-awarded to Linda and Mike Bandler, Jerry Weitzner, Grant Robinson, Teresa Boyd, and Daniel Rubinfeld. Whew—Friday Compact KO's 2 was dished out to Kathrine Loh, Pam Moreland, Michael Moreland and Irwin Lichtblau. Almost done, Fri.-299er's pairs: Claire Smith and Jeanette Bartz. Thu.-Sat.

Series (616) Went to Mark and Patti Kogan. Linda Bandler scored big again, in the Tur.-Sat. Series. Congratulations to all.

There's always something cookin' at the Diablo Valley Bridge Center. New classes are being offered, for newbie and seasoned players. Check out our website at diablovalleybridge.com. I know there been lots of new players joining our club. Welcome to All.

It's very refreshing to see people who are enthusiastic and exciting about learning this brain game. Little did we know when taking up bridge, that it could be a mind-saver. So keep on, keep on.

Words to play by: Be kind to all players.

Ciao Bella

East Bay

By Tom Pajak

As I write this, the East Bay Summer Sectional is just around the corner. As in the past, we'll hold a 2-day contest at the Oakland Masonic Center (June 23 & 24), and yes—I realize it'll all be over by the time you read this column.



Sandi Davis will give kudos to all who finished well when she writes next month's article, but I wanted to give an early shout-out to Libby Silver who organized all the festivities. For those of you who don't realize it, managing a sectional event takes months of pre-planning and negotiating. One major hurdle is securing a playing space large enough to accommodate 70 tables of players with the necessary chairs, kitchen space, and parking required at an affordable rent cost (what an oxymoron "affordable rent!" with Bay Area prices being what they are!) Then Libby recruits people to buy the food, prepare and serve lunch both days, others to set up and break down the room, still others to haul supplies in and out of the facility, and Libby puts the unit treasurer on point to let us know if we've eked out a small profit from all this work. Anybody want to volunteer to help at the next sectional on November 17 & 18? As you can tell, your efforts are greatly appreciated.

Don't forget the 12:00 noon Saturday games at the East Bay Community Bridge Center. We're having three of them in July: on the 7th, the 21st, and the 28th. Table fees are the usual \$7 per player. If you're still a working person who's itching to play daytime bridge, this is your golden opportunity. Grab a partner and plan to show up for a great session of

duplicate. Games last about 3-1/2 hours; coffee & snacks are provided. We ask that you contact Betty Kael (bkael@sbcglobal.net) to let her know you'll be playing.

How would you like a subsidized trip to Memphis next March? Everyone has a chance if you play in the North American Pairs (NAP) contest this summer. It begins with a qualification at the club level. If you and a partner scratch in the upper half of your strata, you'll receive a "Q" next to your names on the final score. This indicates you've qualified to advance to the next level, a Unit Qualifier. You'll get one chance to play in a Unit NAP game to get another "Q" that allows you to advance to play in the District qualifier in December. If you then finish among the top contenders in your strata, District 21 will give you a partial subsidy to play in the NAP finals at the Memphis NABCs March 21-31, 2019. Sound like fun? Then plan to play at EBCBC on Wednesday, July 11 and/or on Thursday, July 26 where for \$7 you can begin your journey up the NAP ladder to Memphis.

Grant & Greg Vance are offering a six-hour class titled, "To Slam or Not To Slam" on Sunday, July 22 at EBCBC. For \$100 you'll get lunch and instruction about Minorwood, Exclusion, Roman Key Card,

Blasting, Cue Bidding, and much more. If you think you could use some invaluable tips on slam bidding, send an e-mail to Grant (GrantVance1@gmail.com) to register. Those folks who've attended other classes offered by Grant & Greg praise them highly for their witty style and clear instruction technique.

Results of recent unit games show Ed Seputis, John Eidinger, Blair Hoffman, and David Geary taking 1st place in the May 20th Pizza Swiss game followed in 2nd by Sherry Larsen-Beville, Susan Kovacevic, Neal Mazaroff, and Stuart Schneck. On June 3rd it was Otto Edor & Gunnar Niemi taking 1st place N/S with Bonnie Macbride & Sidney May 1st E/W. Second place N/S went to Peter Bonfanti & Grant Vance, with E/W to Elazar Friedman & Tom Pajak. In the June 17th NAP Qualifier game, top of the heap were Gary Peck & Robert Ipswitch N/S, and Jessica Lai & Dmitri Shabes E/W.

Following them came Greg Vance & Doug Couchman N/S with Robin Roche & Vicki Lerner E/W. Well done, everyone. Remember Unit games are held every 1st and 3rd Sunday of the month beginning at 1:00 p.m. But plan to come early, because we serve a free lunch before the game—all this for a mere \$7. Plan on attending.

Unit 502 has a new member - Jennifer Bell, and four others transferring into our unit: Cris Barrere, Marcia Bohan, Monica Deutsch, and Bob Kaplan. Let's give all of them a rousing welcome next time we're at the table together, ok? And rank advancements? Oh sure, let's give pats on the back to new Junior Master Ann Reynolds, Bronze Life Master Marcia Wasserman, Silver Life Masters Barry Kael & Sherry Larsen-Beville, and ta-da! Emerald Life Master Eric Leong. It takes years of fine playing to reach that pinnacle and we're proud you made it, Eric. That's it for this month. If you have any juicy news, let Sandi Davis in on it, and she'll spread it around in next month's column (sandi.david21@gmail.com).

Fresno

By Laura Da Costa

May, as always was a quiet month. Between Memorial Day weekend and the Visalia Sectional, the clubhouse had a few less games than normal.

Sunday, May 6, was our annual Peggy Ochs Memorial Game. This game honors those members we have lost in the last 12 months: Paula Baraldi, Betty Coates, Maxine Leonard, Marlene McCready, Ruth Reynolds, Steve Sharp, Marian Steinmetz, Vi

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Steitz, Ron Viera, and Martha Waller. A potluck preceded a 4-table championship game. Winners from the Memorial Game have their names added to the plaque in the clubhouse; for the second year in a row, that honor goes to Richard Meffley & Robert Durbrow.

Next big event for our clubhouse is the July 1 graduation party. For a while it looked like we would not have any new life masters to celebrate, but thanks to events at Sacramento's California Capital Regional, we do have a couple. Unit 522 member, Renee Laquerriere, made life master as did former unit member Donald Baze (we choose to still claim Donald). Congratulations to both of them! The graduate party will also honor those life masters that obtained new rankings (Bronze, Silver, Ruby, Gold, etc).

Another event in July is the unit's first poker night tournament on Friday, July 20. Prizes will be awarded for the top three positions in the tournament. It is a deal, as a \$25 buy-in gets you \$100 in poker chips and dinner. For those of us who are likely to still lose all our chips quickly, there will be a bridge game that night as well.

Sectional tournaments that are coming up include the Fresno Non Life Master Sectional on August 11 & 12 and the Fresno Fall Sectional on September 28-30. (Note the earlier date for the Fall Sectional.)

There were just 5 games with 70% winners in May. Three of these games occurred in Oakhurst, Nancy Hays & Ruth Ann Fruehauf earned a 71.48% in the Thursday Morning Open game on 5/3. The other two were both earned by the same pair as Wally Wallace & Dana Brown obtained a 72.32% in the Thursday morning Open game on 5/10 and then a 71.73% game two weeks later on 5/24. In Madera, Richard Meffley & Carol Kaufman earned exactly 75% in the Wednesday evening Open game on 5/16. Finally, in Fresno, Steve Johnson & Julia Kendall earned 70.83% in the Tuesday evening Lesson/99er game on 5/29.

After great success with her 2 Over 1 lessons, Mun Takeda has decided to have once a month lessons on specific topics. These lessons will occur on the first Tuesday evening each month starting in August. Topics will be advertised each month and will usually involve a fee for the lesson and for the pamphlet/book on that topic.

That is all for this month. I hope to see you at the Graduation Party and at the Poker Night!

Livermore Valley

By Rosemarie LaFrancesca

I have been playing bad bridge lately; it is so frustrating because I know I can do better. We all have peaks and valleys in our bridge play. What can we do to have more peaks than valleys? I know I need to slow down! Think before acting, use the info available to you, take a deep breath! Here's what I will do to make myself slow down and give myself a better chance of playing good bridge. When the dummy goes down, "C" count the points in your hand and dummies hand and try to determine where the rest are; "R" review the bidding to gather all the possible clues to good play; "A" analyze the lead; "P" plan your attack. This should work out well or it may be as spelled out "CRAP!"

We hope you will join us weekly for bridge at the Livermore Bridge Club. We meet Mondays and Thursdays at 10 a.m. in the IOOF Building, 2160 First Street, in Livermore. Parking and entrance are in the rear; an elevator is available. Most games, including extra point games, are only \$6. STAC games are \$8; educational fund games are \$7. Reservations are suggested for the Monday STAC. Players bring food to share; the club provides coffee/tea; a good time is had by all.

Novice Games (0-99 points) are held the 2nd and 4th Thursdays of the month, and you don't even need a partner. Every "novice" Thursday we will guarantee a partner to any player with fewer than 100 masterpoints. Encourage your bridge-playing friends to give Duplicate Bridge a try! We are happy to see some of our 99ers play on Mondays as well. Keep up the good work, 99ers! The Livermore Bridge Club website is livermorebridge.com. You will find a calendar of events there; you can also find Paul's bridge tips and publications via pfdubois.com/publish. There are links to neighboring units if you want to travel to your next bridge game. We say goodbye to Nancy Blasingame as she moves to Ray Charles' favorite place, Georgia! Enjoy your family, your new home, and may all your fitnesses work!

Marin

By Gail Haar

We have several new members including Golda Boeck, Sara Bostock, Evelyn Jaffe, Edith Lonergan, Ken Schwarz, Sally Secor and Jerald Young. Transferring into our Unit are Ronald Moeckel,

Marilyn River, and Gay Sholes. Be sure to greet them all with our famed Marin hospitality. And congratulations to our members who have advanced in master rank - Jean Buckley (Junior); Leslie Zimring & Michael Zimring (Sectional); Spencer Brainerd (Regional); Stan Green (Life); William Bailey (Ruby Life); and James Griffin (Grand Life).



Stan Green

Several of our current members had a good games this month - winners of the unit game in June were Gene Simpson & Laura Kenney; having over 70% games were Rita Shaulat & Suzanne Johnson and Jeanne Radtke & Steve Boyle.



Henry Kingdon

There was a great turnout at Fuldek in support of Alzheimer's and the American Contract Bridge League major fundraiser. Henry Kingdon auctioned off Bob Thomson and others of our top players raising close to \$6K. Thank you to all those that supported a worthy cause.



Bob Thomson



If you haven't explored the website fournotrump.com, you really should. Jim Oser compiles all sorts of fascinating information in an easily searchable format. You'll find Marin Point Leaders, Marin Partnership Leaders, Top Percentage Games, and a Quick search by player name. Another gold mine of

information is the Unit 508 Directory. Find the names and contact information for most of your fellow Marin bridge players. Only \$2.00 and available from any club director. There was a time in the past when there were no computers, television sets, telephones, fax machines or cars, but people still came together and played card games. They would play in taverns, inns, at countryside homes, in royal palaces, in the mansions of the rich, in the private rooms of the clergy. Every nation, kingdom and state would have



card players battling each other in the afternoons and evenings on every night of the week. It was a pastime, a way of filling the evening with fun and games. (Thanks to BridgeGuys for this excellent history.) Your trusty reporter took the photo attached at Locust Grove in the Hudson River Valley a few weeks ago proving that an afternoon or evening of bridge was a regular event in the mid-1800's.

Modesto/Merced/Sonora

By Gail Vick

For the second half of May, all finishing 1st in A Division games with over 60% were Trelle Uhl & Ralph Jungwirth who took top honors with 69.91%, followed by Barbara Page & Jan Mastenbrook, Ray Adams & Dave Terry, Bruce Ruskin & Frank Frohman, Mary Sue Moore & Lee Maddocks, Linda Kenyon & Jeanne Russo (who were also 1st in B division), Ralph Jungwirth &



Vickie MacClyment, and Lee Maddocks & John Fiscalini. Galen Neptune & Dave Terry finished 1st in C Division.

In early June, those scoring over 60% In A Division were Frank Frohman & Lee Maddocks taking 1st twice, Bruce Ruskin & Frank Frohman, Trelle Uhl & Ralph Jungwirth, Linda Kenyon & Jeanne Russo, followed by Vickie MacClyment & Cindy Rogers, who also tied for high, 1st in B Division with Dee Alexander & Kathy High, and high overall in C Division were Sharon Cole & Garrad Marsh.

Kathy High & Dee Alexander took 1st in both A & B Division at the June unit game and Barbara Page & Gail Vick were 1st in C Division.

During the last half of May, the beginning Sunday group was won by Joyce Rudesill & Gail Vick in A Division, Libby Longstreth & Raj Modi 1st in B Division, and Marcia Eblen & Terry Sciabica, 1st in C Division on the 20th. Sherrie Barakatt & Gail Vick were 1st in A's on the 27th, with Casey O'Mara & Raj Modi taking 1st in B's.

Judy Remmers & Joyce Rudesill secured 1st in A, Sherrie Barakatt & Christine Barkley took 1st in B, and Marcia Eblen & Terry Sciabica finished 1st in C on June 3rd.

Many of our members went to the Sacramento regional, and all who placed in the Modesto Regional, performed the same, continuing to win or place in their divisions.

The Beginning Invitational game is continuing on the second Tuesday of every month at noon. All those with 0 - 99 points are encouraged to participate. A great way to earn master points among players at your level, playing the same cards as those that are already Life Masters, but only in competition within your own group.

Congrats to Raj Modi who made Club Master

Here's his story in his own words: I started playing bridge very late in life after my 90th birthday. Bobby Wolf's Bridge column in the Modesto Bee News Paper got me interested in Duplicate Bridge. I joined the Modesto Bridge Club, but I had not been a member of ACBL, and had trouble getting partners at first, as everyone wanted to play with experienced players.

Ray Adams, the Director of the local Sunday game,

who would play with me when no one else would, took time to mentor, teach and guide me every step of the way. Then I became a member of ACBL. My first lesson was the ACBL'S "Learn to play Bridge", and my first two books were "Bridge for dummies" by Eddie Kantar, and "25 Bridge Conventions" by Barbara Seagram. Bridge has been a struggle for me. A player has to read a lot, and remember things at the right time.

Even in my post graduate exam, I did not have to spend this much time to read and learn. On the other hand, it has been extremely fulfilling for me and I am glad to have reached my present level.

From the Foothills

May started out with a Cinco De Mayo party organized by Dana and Tim Davis. The event was won by Susan and Alan Hamilton. The Hamiltons were also players of the month for Monday games and had the big game of the month with a 66.07% on May 21.

The Tuesday players of the month are Duane Oneto and Ann Strum. On Wednesday Christine Vanderliet and Darryl Rosenheim took top honors, and on Friday Christine was the champ all by herself.

Twelve of our players enjoyed the Sacramento Regional; comin home with various results; Pam Elliot, Sally Rockholt, Dave Jenkins, and Bonnie Landis were pleased with a Swiss Teams win. We send our best wishes to Rolene Kiesling and Ora Beth Nelson as they deal with medical challenges.

Welcome home for the summer to Dick and Frankie Thorsted. Also, welcome back Kitty and Bill Saul from a trip to the East Coast and Marna Ferreira and Sonny Bailey from Hawaii.

Monterey

By Mary Block

Welcome to new members: Lisa Butler, John Kelly, Ruth Kusnir, Keri Mistler, and Margaret Schulte. Officially, we have the following rank advancements to report this month: Judith Perry to Junior Master; Amy Pofcher and Julie Stein to Club Master; and Maja to Silver Life Master. More Life Master news later in this report.

The Unit is sorry to have lost Ron Lawson, one of our newer and most enthusiastic members. We will miss his smiling face. Go Bears!

The May sectional is in the books and was a success. Lessons were learned, mainly that it takes



Raj Modi

the whole unit to pull together to have a positive result. Thanks to Lynn Yokel, the director from D21.

The unit is especially grateful to Ewan Ebey, who stepped into a giant breach and worked tirelessly. We don't know what we ever would have done without her.

Gratitude also goes to Ray Boehne for donating the best trophies ever given to the winners of the George Gooden competition for newcomers, Candi Taylor of San Jose and Ellen Beaudet of Los Altos. Jeanette Stern and Laura Gherman earned the points they needed for Life Master during the Sectional; the awards will be official next month.

The unit annual general membership meeting and election of board members was held on Sunday, June, 10. The new board members are Bill Cohen, Trulee Ricketts and Fran Soskins. Thanks to Bill Breen and Donna Jett for all of their years of tireless service to the unit.

Bill was the treasurer for a number of years. Donna had been vice president and also wore many other hats very well. Officers will be elected at the July board meeting.

Now that the board of directors has a smaller membership, it is more important than ever for the general membership to step up to the plate and volunteer for tasks essential to the unit. All of our events require multiple hands on deck, no pun intended.

The unit mentoring program is continuing with benefits accruing to both mentors and mentees. More mentors are needed, both for beginning and intermediate players. Contact Mary Block at maru0407@comcast.net or look for me at Table 1 most days.

Speaking of mentoring programs, Alan and Janet ran a successful one at their Saturday morning games, resulting in the integration of many of the beginners into the regular games. Both the open and NLM games are now starting at 9:30 a.m.

Our web site is at www.montereybridgeclub.com and our phone number is (831)384-7800. My email is maru0407@comcast.net. The Foundation is <http://montereybridgeeducation.org>.



Jeanette Stern



Laura Gherman

montereybridgeeducation.org.

Napa/Solano/Sonoma

By Tom Sheahan

Hopefully you will receive this on the 5th of the month like last month's fish wrap so you can get a last call to play in our great sectional tournament on July 7 & 8. It is always one of the premier tournaments in our district drawing players from all over the Bay Area.

There will be an Open pair game and 299er game on Saturday and stratified Swiss Team games on Sunday. Besides that, there will be the usual great food and warm hospitality that our unit is known for. The new online format of the Diamond in the Ruff calls for all columns to be in by the 20th of the month, so you're be getting May's results in the beginning of July.

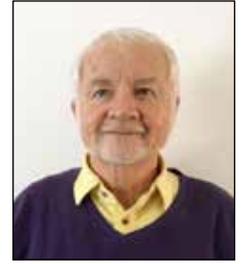
Of all the reporting I've done over the years, this is my favorite story: Renate Bialy and Eileen Holsten went to the Sacramento Regional and played in the 750 Gold Rush pairs and came in first place overall and collected over 12 Gold points! It couldn't have happened to two nicer people. It's a real feel good story. Congratulations Renate and Eileen!

The month of May also had a STaC week and not surprisingly, we did very well in the Western STaC regional. Don Powell & Wayne Gordon came in 6th overall in one game out of 1146 teams with a nice 69% game. Curt Jeschke & Barry Walner were 8th overall in the 499er game out of 212 teams.

In the Sonoma club games, Jim and Frances O'Brien got a little out of control again and won 3 times. Other winners were Carol Morse & Brooke Farkas, Evelyn Holtz & Nancy Gunn, Lee Grams & Bruce Emmons, Delores Headley & John Heisler, and Don Powell & Phil Shoemaker with a very nice 72% game.

Brien & Karen Aabel won twice in the 499er games. Other games were won by Carole Terry & Barbara Harper, and Jocelyne Malkhassian & Bill Harris. First place honors in Napa went to Gerry Fox & Molly Johnston, Nancy Roman & Helen Wade, Sigrid Price & Carol Clements, and Dan Harp & Richard Tebay. The unit games went to Susan Cook & Carol Clements and Barbara Kiesel & Janice Vad.

Nancy Lowenstein & Bruce Morison won twice in Rio Vista while John Mount & Joyce Vass, Tad



Quayle & Robert Wiskotzil, and Georgia Lambert & Anthony Salam were your other winners.

We lost another friend in May with the passing of Hap Pool. Hap was a genuine good guy and it was always a pleasure to be at his table. He will be missed.

We know how to play bridge. We know how to have fun and we know how to travel. Welcome back to the tables to Roger and Helen Bohl after their driving trip across America while racking up 14,000 miles while not using one drop of gas in their Tesla. They really had a good time! Also welcome back Malcolm Scott after his 4 month round the world cruise that included bridge while on ship.

Starting on July 5, the Friday Napa game will begin at 11:30 rather than noon.

Palo Alto

By Carolyn Chaney

When this issue of our District 21 newsletter is published, we will be competing at our Firecracker Sectional. Best of luck to all! On Saturday June 30 there will be 2 sessions (10:00 and 2:00) for new players with 0-5 masterpoints, as well as the regular tournament play. Between sessions, from 1:45 to 2:45, there will be a pizza party for Silicon Valley Youth players. Sue Griswold could use some help with set-up and clean-up, if you aren't playing both sessions that day. Contact her at suepaloalto@gmail.com.



I remember my first regional tournament when I played the 0-5 mp game. We newbies were all terrified, especially when Director Nancy B. kept hurrying us along. I remember I opened 1 Club, my "better minor," with two. When asked later about my bid, I said that having AK was much better than 3 small diamonds. I guess we managed our fears and inept bidding, because here we are, happily and courageously playing tournament bridge.

Hey! Newer and returning players! Prue Saunders will hold a special summer game, Duplicate Bridge Boot Camp, for you on Tuesday mornings, July 10-31. Boot Camp will be a relaxed, fun environment to practice duplicate bridge techniques, learn basic etiquette and a few basic conventions. Bidding assistance will be provided. For more info, contact Prue Saunders at prue@pruesaunders.com, phone 650-464-3969. Here is the link: <http://www.paloaltobridge.com/games/news/2018%20>

Bootcamp%20v1.pdf

In July we will have two unit games: Pairs on Saturday July 7 and Swiss Teams on Sunday July 22. All games start at noon with lunch served at 11:30 am. To help with planning it is important that you sign up at our web site or at the Bridge Center. If you like to play on weekends, check out the Shoreline DBC, meeting the third Saturday of each month at noon (plus more, if the Bridge Center is available). Check the web site for dates...this month the game is scheduled for July 21. On July 4, the 11 am game, Bridge 'n Brunch, will be open, but the 7 pm Doubleton Club will be closed. Happy 4th of July!

Our fund-raising drive for Second Harvest Food Bank is currently underway. Last year we raised \$14,960 during the months of May and June! We need to work a bit harder to get to that figure this year. If you haven't made your "Firecracker" donation yet, please do it today at <https://www.shfb.org/pabc>

Congrats to our newest Life Master, Douglas Schmickrath. And also warm regards to Steven Carr, Kathryn Kranen, and David Wong, new NABC Masters. Our new Bronze Life Masters are Ann Carlson and Ying Liu, and Gabi Bowling, director of our games at the Unity Church site, is a newly minted Gold Life Master. We are saddened by the recent passing of Duane Coleman, who was instrumental in our moves to our Terminal Road site and our new Bridge Center. Duane turned empty buildings into warm and inviting bridge centers. We owe you a lot, Duane, thank you.

Reno

By Sandy Powell

Thanks to all who participated in The Longest Day, through play, hosting events, standing for raffle, contributing items for raffle and just plain contributions. All of us should be proud of those who put so much work into making this event such a success for our club.

I hope those of you who went to the Sacramento Regional did so at the end of the week rather than the beginning when, hopefully, the DoubleTree Hilton managed to fix its air conditioning system both in the playing and private rooms. Sitting in a frigid room, for hours on end, that resembled a meat locker with a fan going full blast was more than uncomfortable. It was downright dangerous. I developed a severe bronchial infection and had no choice but to pack my bag and leave, as did others. Compounding the

misery was that the private rooms were just as frigid and the temperature could not be controlled by the room thermostats. I promise you, when we host our Regional at the Nugget in October, you can come to Reno without risking pneumonia by participating.

Kathy is trying hard to expand the mentoring program. I am a big fan. Until Tom Howell stepped in, I was floundering: the more I played, the worse I seemed to do. I didn't really start learning this game until Tom started spending time with me, just not playing but going over boards, identifying mistakes, and, most importantly teaching me competitive bridge.

But, I also want to say that mentoring is a 2-way street. A mentor cannot turn you into an accomplished (or even improved) bridge player unless you are willing to work. If you only play on Tuesdays with your mentor, then go off to play in your social games playing just as you have for the past 40 years, you are wasting your and your mentor's time. Improvement only comes with effort. That means going over boards, studying books and suggesting that your social bridge partners learn the bidding rules and conventions by which you play.

Even that is not enough. Social bridge, both party and duplicate, is non-competitive bridge: You open, opponent may overcall, partner supports you and opponents drop out. You can learn the newest conventions and bidding techniques; but, until you learn to play competitively, you will not improve significantly. You can only learn competitive bridge by playing at the club. The mentoring program, in my view, should be for those who seriously are interested in improving their game, and that means just not study but internalizing what you are learning by playing at the club.

Finally, I would suggest that, while not mandatory, you may wish to pick up the table fee for your mentor; a gracious thank you for their willingness to share their expertise and time. By the time you are reading this, the results of the club survey no doubt will have been announced. But, the survey only will provide some guidelines and suggestions for the board. Additionally, we will be addressing issues not contained in the survey. And, we will be making some critical decisions primarily dealing with the allocation of funds.

Do you know that we spend almost \$2000 each year subsidizing the summer picnic and Christmas party? Would you prefer those funds to be used to upgrade our facility? How strongly do you feel about our current location? Would you prefer to move or upgrade? Etc. etc. etc.

Our By-laws state that all members of the club are welcome to attend board meetings. I hope all of you in the club will start seeing that not as an invitation but as a responsibility. We meet the 2nd Saturday of the month. Give any item you wish to see placed on the Agenda to any board member and it will be considered. Club members will be given an opportunity to express their opinions on motions discussed by the board. The more people participate, contribute their ideas and thoughts, the more vibrant our club will become. If we, the Board, are to govern and make decisions that reflect the consensus of our membership, we have to know your thoughts and preferences. Otherwise, our decisions will reflect the opinions of only the board which may not be representative of club members. What happens to the club in the future is your responsibility. So, mark your calendars for Saturday morning board meetings once/month.

Congratulations to those who have advanced in rank: New Junior Master: Stephen Price; Club Master: Everett Meiners; Sectional Master: Alice Probst.

Top Scores for May: 69.41%, Virginia Kellermeyer & Pat Green; 68.57%, Virginia Kellermeyer & Charlotte Falk; 68.13%, Satish Gupta & Irene Harlow; Top 299 Scores: 65.42%, Emma Miller & Matt Oakley; 65.0 %, Stacey Day & Sandy Powell; 63.0 %, Paul Ferber & Fred Kelly.

Sacramento

By Miriam Steinberg

One of my regular bridge partners died today (June 17). We played our final game together last week at Sutter Hospital. I had just written a column about him yesterday acknowledging how much I valued him and had been hoping to read it to him in hospice this morning.

Sadly, this did not come to pass. I met John 2 1/2 years ago when I started taking lessons from our mutual teacher, Veronica "Ronnie" McMurdie. Ronnie paired us up for the Reno Nationals which were 2 months in the future. We were an unlikely pair - he, a cool, tall distinguished-looking developer/businessman/lawyer and me, a sensitive, short, spunky music teacher many years his junior. We probably would never have crossed paths otherwise. But I am so grateful fate brought us together.

In the beginning, I couldn't grasp why John, a much more experienced player would want to play



with someone as green as me. We had fun times together and did especially well in games with other non-Life Masters, most recently coming in first both in pairs and Swiss teams in the NLM Sectional in Sacramento as well as getting a trophy in the Reno Nationals.

I will always appreciate John for his many qualities and way of making the game a positive experience. John always encouraged me, and when I would make a questionable bid, would raise his eyebrow ever so slightly. In the beginning, my declarer play was a little rough and he would gently find ways to suggest a better plan I might have considered.

I always loved the way John was so humble when he made mistakes and even did me the “favor” of also forgetting the Drury convention. John was always the quintessential gentleman. He was no goody, mind you, capable of gossip as good as the next guy’s, but always kind, caring and generous. Being a lawyer and businessman, John’s competitive streak always gave him the fierce drive to win.

He was absolutely unstoppable with less than 500 masterpoints playing in tournaments with Ronnie (who has over 21,000 masterpoints) against pros with over 55,000 masterpoints. I always loved how nothing or nobody intimidated him (he nonchalantly pointed out to me that they all make mistakes).

John set an example of a bridge player who could be both fun and serious, competitive and relaxed, and always ethical. John played bridge with the same passion and intensity that he lived his life. I had asked him how he reacted last January when in Hawaii for the regional during the missile crisis before he knew it was a false alarm and he emphatically stated, “I thought it was a life well-lived!”. I will always be grateful for his inspiration. And I encourage all of you to share while you can your appreciation with your partners for how they, too have enriched your lives.

San Francisco

By Kimberly Fanady

Last month’s San Francisco Summer Sectional was, as always, great fun and a great success. San Franciscans distinguished themselves at every level, from the Bracket 1 Swiss to the Newcomer Pairs. Raise a glass and toast to the winners: Open Pairs, 1st strat B, 2nd overall, Anant Rathi/Ankur



Rathi; Saturday Side Pairs, 1st strat B, Anne Derbes/Bob Schwab and Libby Noronha/Joan Weiss (tie), 1st strat C, Chris Chou/Kris Wong; Newcomer Pairs, Gil Gonzalez/Yuenyee Chung; 499er Pairs, 1st strat C, Laura Storto/Charles Michalopoulos; Sunday Morning Side Pairs, David Strauss/Steve Kipperman, 1st strat C Laura Storto/Charles Michalopoulos; Sunday Afternoon Side Pairs, Dean Wangsvick/Joanne Allen; Bracket 3 Swiss, Jocelyn Startz and teammates; Bracket 1 Swiss, Mark Ralph, Tom Stern and teammates. Well played all – cheers! And thanks to our hardworking Unit 506 Board of Directors who always make our tournament run so well.

Now that we all have thoroughly enjoyed the sectional, the unit game schedule resumes this month with a pairs event on July 14. As usual, Unit 506 will offer a pre-game lecture, light lunch, and three sections (open, 499er, and 99er, attendance permitting). All games are at noon at St. Mary’s Cathedral, 1111 Gough St., and everyone is welcome. Join us for a full and fun afternoon of bridge.

The North American Pairs club qualifying games continue this month; check club websites for details or ask at your next club game. Qualifiers move on to the unit and district level qualifying rounds, culminating in the chance to represent Unit 506 and District 21 in the national finals at the 2019 Spring NABC in Memphis. Do a Tennessee waltz over to your favorite club and give the NAP a try.

Congratulations to our masterpoint ladder climbers: new Junior Masters Christian Goetze, Paul Melodia, Charles Michalopoulos, Lori Sherk, Wayne Tse, Kusum Wagle, and Uday Wagle; Club Masters Kathleene Paul and Mark Sawchuk; Sectional Masters Ashish Gupta and Jon Rosen; Regional Master Nei Vaz; Life Master Dolores Mackinnon; Bronze Life Master Baron Wang; Gold Life Master David Neuman; Diamond Life Master Aaron Jones. Good going all!

Welcome as always to our new members Theodore Barnett and Bruce Huang; and transfers Bertrand Hsu (Silicon Valley), Joyce Murphy (La Jolla Beach), Gary Porter (Silicon Valley) and Gene Pudberry (Marin). Be sure to say hello to these new players when you meet them at the table.

Have a star spangled Fourth of July, everyone! Hope you celebrate the holiday with baseball, barbecues, blue summer skies, red, white and blue, and fireworks and flashes of brilliance at the bridge table!

San Mateo

By Fran Gaura

By the time this column reaches our faithful readers, the Longest Day activities will have concluded. It was gratifying to see how many clubs participated in this most worthwhile charitable endeavor. For Unit 498, accolades should redound to the Longest Day Committee: Fred Chasalow, Janelle Van Rensselaar; Marge Pachetti, Sue Papilion, Marie Pattie, Bob Johnson, Loren Charlton, Jackie Lowenberg, Donna Pellegrini, Jenny Kuhn, Sandra Tilch, Raad Bunni.

These folks came up with creative fund raising activities including the first ever Silent Auction with varied and fun items up for bid. Thanks to all involved.

Get into the Aloha spirit on July 21 at our next unit game to be held at Fattoria e Mare. Unit game planners Marge and Janelle are developing a luau themed game for that date and would love to see happy hula hands holding winning cards that day. So all of you kanes (men) and wahines (women) line up your partners and plan to join the fun!

Following on August 18 and 19 is our sectional at the Grove at Canada College. As usual our sectional planner, Marc Renson, has proceedings well in hand and again promises a lively two day tournament in the lovely foothills of the peninsula. Look for additional details and the flyer announcing specific events.

Our Unit 498 has been well represented in two recent tournaments: at the Sacramento Regional about 31 of our members walked away with Masterpoints to add to their winnings, while at the San Francisco Sectional about 37 of our players

added to their masterpoint totals. Congratulations to all and keep those winning ways on display!

A warm welcome to new members joining our unit recently: Amy Arnold, Rise Cherin, Pete Goldsmith, Lydia Gourvitz, Dianalee Jefferson, Adrienne Leigh, Jeanne M. Pope and Sharon Weight.

And congratulations to players advancing over the past months: to Junior Master, Siuling L. Ku and Sierra Liu; to NABC Master, Jeanie L. Wong; to Sapphire Life Master, Robert Ipswitch. For any of you looking for a few laughs to lighten your bridge endeavors, take a look at the website, kantarbridge.com/humor.htm for some of Kantar's best quotes on all aspects of bridge.

Sure to give you a smile when you need one!

Santa Cruz

By Karen Schamberg

Hey John Benich, thank you for an informative, fun and colorful exhibit about your time working on the railroad. Love those great posters going back over 20 years. Thank you for sharing your memorabilia and a bit of your life with us. John's show will be up through August.



It's been a long time since we had new art on our walls. Thanks to Joanne Brown, Shirley Llacera and Kris Smith, our new "Wall Committee" (an interesting name for three dynamic women). Can't wait to see what they have in store for us in the future. I'll keep you informed. It's not too soon to start planning for the Surf's Up Sectional. This year, it will be on October 13 & 14 at the Mid County Senior Center in Capitola. Follow the link from our website and get your partner/s lined up.

High scores in club games were earned by: Josh Karter & Rick Zinman, 72.02%. High scores in beginner games went to: John Wesolowski & Judy Osborn, 70%.

It's always fun to play at a tournament away from home. It's even more fun when you place in the top and get those precious MPs. SCBC members took home honors at the Monterey Cypress Sectional. Earning firsts were: Carol Maggipinto & Dick Wasserstrom, Suzanne Haley & Paula Cole, Jim Slinger & Ken Llacera, and Dick Wasserstrom & Jonni Faircrest. Finishing in the top 20% of MP earners were Dick Wasserstrom, Carol Maggipinto, Jim Slinger and Ken Llacera. Peter Gelfand and Les Rabiega were also on

GAMES AND LESSONS

TUESDAYS 9:00 AM
SMBC, Raad Bunni
49ers Lesson & Pairs

WEDNESDAYS 9:00 AM
PDBC, Jennifer Kuhn
Easybridge 2 (0-20) Lesson & Pairs

WEDNESDAYS 12:30 PM
PDBC, Jennifer Kuhn
Open Pairs

WEDNESDAYS 8:30 PM
PDBC, Jennifer Kuhn
Open Pairs

THURSDAYS 9:00 AM: Starts August 30, 2018
PDBC, Jennifer Kuhn
Easybridge 1 (0-20) Lesson & Pairs

THURSDAYS 12:30 PM: Starts August 2, 2018
PDBC, Jennifer Kuhn
Open Pairs

FRIDAYS 9:00 AM
SMBC, Raad Bunni
49ers Lesson & Pairs

Looking for Duplicate Bridge Lessons and Games in San Mateo County?

San Mateo Bridge Center and Peninsula Duplicate Bridge Club Run ACBL Sanctioned Duplicate Games Tuesdays Through Fridays at Fattoria e Mare Restaurant in Burlingame

Fattoria e Mare Restaurant
1095 Rollins Road, Burlingame, CA
Broadway Ave and US Hwy 101

San Mateo Bridge Center
Director Raad Bunni
www.sanmateobridgecenter.com
Office: (650)345-6584
Cell: (650)954-7747

Peninsula Duplicate Bridge Center
Director Jennifer Kuhn
www.peninsuladbc.com
650-698-2582

the move. Both finished in the top 5% of MP earners at the California Capital Regional in Sacramento.

The SCBC offers many opportunities to learn and improve your bridge game. One I never mentioned before is offered by Pam Benz. She works with advancing players (10-100 MPs) and uses a supervised play format with lots of feedback and guidance. This is a limited group requiring advance registration as there are only 4-6 people at one table learning 8 boards per session. The boards feature conventions those players are learning; defense, declarer play, ACBL rules and table etiquette. For details, contact Pam at pbenz@cruzio.com.

Our unit game will be on Saturday, July 14. Be sure to bring a lunch.

Long time friend and member, Jim Monahan passed away in June. Jim was playing bridge up until a few weeks before he passed away and will be remembered as an astute and talented player and friend. Patricia Johnson was a member for only 8 years but in that time, she endeared herself to many folks at the SCBC. Both will be missed and our condolences go out to their families.

As a reminder, the SCBC is a fragrance-free venue. Please use unscented, non-perfumed products. To see the Unit 550 schedule and calendar, to get information on our Mentor Program, or to contact one of our club owners, please visit our website at www.santacruzbridge.org

Santa Rosa/Petaluma

By Cecelia Zachar

In these days of political tugs of war, I am so proud to live in a unit where our two open bridge clubs work together for the good of the players as well as for a cause greater than ourselves. The Bridge Gallery in Santa Rosa has been participating in the Longest Day since its beginning, but the Petaluma Bridge Club was unable to participate last year since June 21 was a Wednesday and they do not have a Wednesday game. This year both clubs have Thursday games, and they were both all in.

Preparations started in April. The two clubs opted to work together with a raffle and silent auction. How can you have a raffle and silent auction on the same items when the clubs are about 30 minutes apart? How can you display the items when one club operates out of a community center and does not have its own space? It all works out in the end when you have a great team working together towards a goal.

Our core team were our chairpersons, Jan Lee and Stephanie Poley; our club owners, Kathy Venton and Karen Weissberg; and our webmaster, Kathy Juarez. These 5 unselfishly put in a lot of time and effort. Their first task was soliciting prizes and auction items from the community. Wow! What a turnout. At last count they had 45 raffle items and 8 items for the silent auction.

What made these really special is that they reflect our community. Five of our artists donated items and deserve special thanks: Karen Rocco, Enid Barnes, Lynda McGuire, Jan Lee, and Betty Sather. One psychotherapist donated a one hour session, and our former mayor donated 4 dozen just-out-of-the-oven chocolate chip cookies delivered to your door. Our biggest silent auction item was a \$250 bike. We had movie tickets, theatre tickets, bridge books, restaurant and grocery gift certificates, and a bar stool.

We are blessed by having some of the finest wineries in the world, and we had wines and wine tasting with values up to \$150. We had olive oil, hair styling, a facial, a pedicure, a day pack and a tote. What a generous community we live in. We have a "play with a pro" session with world champion Cris Barrere and 14 "Win a Game with an Expert" prizes with noteworthy players in the unit.

Making the raffle and silent auction work so that players could try to win any item at either club was a big challenge. Special thanks to Kathy Juarez for posting photos and bids on the unit website.

On the big day, June 21, the two clubs ran a total of 4 games with 33 1/2 tables total, 17 tables at the Bridge Gallery at noon alone! Altogether, Unit 509 has collected over \$3300 for the Alzheimer's Foundation. We feel great about it!

Kathy Venton is offering Play of the Hand lessons at the Bridge Gallery Tuesday evenings, July 25 through August 28, from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. The cost is \$99, single sessions \$15, and repeat for \$10. See <http://santarosabridge.com/classes/> for details.

There were three 70%+ games in May and the first 21 days of June. In Santa Rosa, Erwin Linzner and Bob Klein scored 71.80% on May 9, and Luree Schneider and Leon Hsu scored 70% on May 30. At the PBC, Jim and Frances O'Brien racked up 72% on June 9.

Two players in Unit 509 flew up in rank in May. Patty Mellana earned the rank of Junior Master, and Nan Halberg is now a Bronze Life Master.

Silicon Valley

By Ray Yuenger

As this column will be published before Unit 507's annual member appreciation potluck dinner and game on July 8 in the Redwood Room of the Campbell Community Center, I'll remind you again that you still have time to sign up at the San Jose Bridge Center.

The stratified pairs game is free to Unit 507 members. Make sure to bring your contribution in time to start dinner at 5:00 p.m. During dinner there will be a membership meeting.

Looking back over the last month for our members' successes, at the San Francisco sectional, Dorr Clark & Preston Kauk had a stratification ("strat") top in the two-session open pairs game, while Jim Liu had a section top. Linda & Will Kenigsberg had a section top in the newcomer pairs game.

At the Sacramento regional, a number of unit members had strat tops in two-session open pair games: Sally Hale & Jeffrey Rogers, Beverly Wright, Tsao-Tung Tsai & Jim Liu, Michael Hughes, and Dorr Clark & Arlie Stephens. Several had section tops in such games: K-P Cheng & Bruce Luttrell, Lynn Shannon, Robert & Marcia Dean, and Joel Singer.

I classify as "limited" any pair games that aren't open, namely midflight ("MF"; under 3,000 masterpoints), gold rush ("GR"; under 750), 299ers, and 99ers.

In GR pairs, strat tops were earned in Sacramento by Jennifer Duvall & Dorr Clark and by Susan Dietz. GR section tops went to Sandra Erickson, Laurie Faulker & Anne Bossange, Terry Ahern & Linda Rocha, and Dorr Clark & Arlie Stephens. In the MF pairs, Frank Xie had two strat tops, one being first overall, while Kathy Keener had a section top.

Nitin More's knockout team prevailed in its bracket. Placing in the premier event, the two-day Open Swiss, were Lynn Shannon (5th), Tsao-Tung Tsai & Jim Liu (6th), Cheryl Mandala, Eugene Hung, & Li-Chung Chen (7th), Will Watson & Yul Inn (8th).

At the Marina sectional, Lynn & Dianne Shannon had a strat top in an open pairs game. Candi Taylor was first in a limited pairs game. The Swiss team with Ashwini Datar & Vilas Namjoshi was first in their strat.



Dorr Clark and Jennifer Duval

Congratulations to our newest Masters: Helen Chang, Ramakrishna Nekkanti, Tom Rossi, Benjamin Smentek, Jasmine Wang, Ding Yang (Junior); Steven Jacobson (Club); Susan Dietz, Barbara Roupe, George Roupe (Regional); Andy Scott (Bronze); Sally Hale (Silver); Beverly Wright (Ruby); and Carole Dietz (Gold!).

Since I wrote last, the storage cabinets at the San Jose Bridge Center have been completed. I've heard nothing but compliments about the upgrade. Unit member Barry Alhadeff deserves credit for overseeing the design and construction of the cabinets with input from Ken Rosenfeld. If you haven't seen them yet, come to the club and stick around to play.

While no new candidates for the Unit Board threw their hats in the ring in time for a June election, some unit members have recently expressed interest in serving. The Board can always use help and is authorized to fill vacancies.

With this newsletter new electronic format, we can more liberally include photos of winners, so please send me (rayyuenger@gmail.com) one you'd like to see published.

Stockton

By Wendy Buchanan

Marlene Mohr, a long time Stockton Bridge Center/Oak Park player, was recently honored posthumously in a special game on what would have been her 85th birthday. We miss her positive energy and pleasant personality. As a newer player, I appreciated her helpful strategies at the table as well as her kindness towards the C level players.



Ann Chargin, another one of our players recently retired from a 20 year stint of teaching bridge at Delta College. That “career” began after retiring from a career as a defense attorney and serving seven years as a Stockton Municipal Court judge. Ann Chargin’s Delta College class is where I got my start playing bridge.

In fact, I took her class twice which inspired me to want to play more ultimately leading me to competitive bridge. I am one of several SBC/Oak Park players who owe their start to Ann.

Several players reached milestones. New masters are: Howard Parker, Grand Life; Jack Fitzgerald, Bronze; Debbie DeZarn, Advanced NABC; Judy

Tillinghast, Section; Club, Sheryl Rauman and Pete Cobb. Congratulations to all!

Many SBC/Oak Park players participated in the recently held Capitol City Regional in Sacramento bringing home lots of red and gold points. More importantly numerous hours of bridge were enjoyed as well as time spent socializing over dinner and adult beverages.

SBC: Glo Klinger Williams was May’s master point leader with a whopping 11.59 points. Well played, Glo! Team Nutting had the high game for the month with a 69.79% game.

SBC Intermediate: Gloria Rogin and Terry Nagode posted a 61.15% game for May earning the top spot. We welcomed two new players, Kathryn Odell and Naomi Magdanz, to our bimonthly game.

Oak Park: Glo Klinger Williams played brilliantly at Oak Park in addition to doing well at the Bridge Center. Not only was she the top master point winner but she and partner, Pam Kitto, posted a 71.99% game earning the high game for May. I’m wondering what her “glowing” May secrets are. Director Ken Hillman has decided to randomly award “golden” points as attendance was down the last week of May because many players were drawn to the gold fields of Sacramento. Go for it, Ken...we’d love to earn gold right here at home!

**Guess whose sectionals will
have more tables this year?
All of them who placed ads in
Diamond in the Ruff. Check
out the next few pages and
find out who thought ahead...**



**WINE COUNTRY SECTIONAL
UNIT 512 - BENICIA, NAPA, RIO VISTA, SONOMA
JULY 7 -8, 2018**



VINTAGE HOUSE SENIOR CENTER
[264 First Street East, Sonoma CA](#)

SATURDAY, Jul 7
Pairs
10:30 am and 3:00 pm

Two Session Stratified Open Pairs
Less than 750/750-2000/2000+

Single Sessions Stratified 299er Pairs
Less than 50/50-100/100-300

Newcomer Sessions (Under 20 MPS Pairs)

10:30 am Only

Single Session Stratified Open Pairs
Less than 500/500-2000/2000+

SUNDAY, Jul 8
Swiss Teams
10:30 am

Bracketed Swiss Teams
7 Rounds of 7 Boards

Bottom Bracket
7 Rounds of 6 Boards

Teams will play through
with a short lunch break

Pairs will be stratified and Teams will be bracketed based on the pair/team average points.

FEES and FOOD: The fee for two session events is \$24. Single session event fees are \$12. An additional fee of \$4 per session applies to unpaid ACBL members. Enjoy our warm hospitality and fabulous food. Lunch will be available on Saturday and Sunday for \$7 per meal. Soda and bottled water will be available for \$1. Coffee and tea are free. If you suffer food allergies please bring your own lunch.

Tournament Chair: Sigrid Price 707-486-1517 or 707-253-8963 price.sigrid@gmail.com

Partnership Chair: Barb Lemme 707-694-7164 bktella@aol.com

Contact Sigrid for additional information and Barb for partnerships

Check our Website for more details at <http://www.acblunit512.com>



Castro Valley Sectional

Unit 500-South County - ACBL Sanction #S1807040

July 13, 14, and 15, 2018

TRANSFIGURATION CHURCH HALL (*ample parking!*)

4000 E Castro Valley Blvd

Friday Pairs: 10:30 a.m.

Stratified 99er Single Session
Stratified 499er Single Session
Stratified Open Single Session

Friday Pairs: 3:30 p.m.

Stratified 499er Single Session
Stratified Open Single Session

Saturday Pairs: 10:30 a.m.

Stratified Open - **Double Session**
(Open Single Session Allowed)
Stratified 99er Single Session
Stratified 499er Single Session

Saturday Pairs: 3:30 p.m.

Stratified Open - **2nd Session**
(Open Single Session Allowed)
Stratified 499er Single Session

Sunday Swiss: 10:30 a.m. & TBA

Bracketed Swiss Teams
Teams must play both Sessions

Sunday: 10:30 a.m. (1 session)

Stratified 499er Pairs

Free Continental Breakfast!

Snacks Provided!

Order Lunch

Or Eat Out!

(within walking distance)

*Stratified by pair /Team Average
Eligibility based on
masterpoint total of top player*

TABLE FEES ONLY \$12

per Session

(Lapsed ACBL members: \$16)



99er Strata: 0-20/50/<100

499er Strata:

0-50/100/200/300/<500

Open Pairs:

0-750/2000/2000+

Tournament Director: Dianne Barton-Paine

Co-Chairs:

Charlie Conrad and Bob Hamilton

Information/Partnership: Charlie 510-329-5916 or

cconrad313@aol.com or

robert.hamilton4@sbcglobal.net

JUST 1.8 MILES FROM CASTRO VALLEY BART STATION (BART>Taxi>Tournament)

DIRECTIONS by CAR

580 (FROM OAKLAND) Take EXIT 37,

left at light onto Grove Way, right onto E.Castro Valley Blvd, left at 2nd light into parking lot

580 (FROM PLEASANTON) Take EXIT 37,

right at light onto E.Castro Valley Blvd, left at next light into parking lot

880 Take 238/580 toward Stockton,

Then follow "580 (From Oakland)" directions



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