

# DIAMOND

# IN THE RUFF

ACBL District 21 Newsletter

Vol 1, Number 6 October 2018

## District 21 Regionals

*By Pam Hughes, Regional Tournament Manager*

As the summer has ended, it's time to think bridge and make plans to play in our upcoming District 21 Regionals!

By the time this hits your inbox, Santa Clara will be in the history books. I hope many of you were able to attend and enjoy the 84th All Western Championships! If you missed it, take heart - there's always next year. And in the meantime, please join us at our next hurrah, the Reno/Sparks Regional.

Last year was our first Reno tournament and it was very successful, despite the horrible fires in the Santa

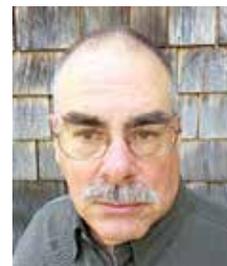
*Continued on Page 3*



## Victory in the NABC Senior Swiss

*By Cris Barrere*

We won the 2018 ACBL Truscott/USPC Senior Swiss, so perhaps I can offer a little insight into winning. Our victory provided Bill Harker and me our first unrestricted national titles, as Bruce Noda and Mark Ralph added their third and second to leave



us walking on air for quite some time. Here is a play-along report with some observations about what helped us achieve success and an opportunity for you to try your hand at some of the decisions we faced.

We started out the first day with disasters in our first two matches. In the first round I made a vulnerable five-over-five bid to go for 500 against a contract they would not have made. It seemed right at the time but I neglected the excellent general advice that the five-level belongs to the opponents. The net for the set was an inauspicious 1 IMP loss. Do not let your spirit be broken by a minor set-back. Everyone makes mistakes; it's how you handle yourself for the rest of the match that matters.

In the next set we had a bidding misunderstanding for our second disaster. I held something like:

♠x ♥Qxxx ♦xxx ♣AQJxx and passed in first seat to hear: (1♠)-4♥-(4♠)- back to me. Intending to continue to 5♥, I bid 5♣ to tuck in a lead-director in case they competed to 5♠. But partner passed and I went down two for a 13 IMP loss when 5♥ was cold. Not a word was spoken – what could be said that would have been helpful at the table? Luckily, the rest of our set was very good and our teammates also picked us up at their table so we emerged with a 15 IMP win. This put us back on track but could have left lingering doubts. My self-made private scorecard has plenty of space for notes; that's the place to

*Continued on Page 5*

## President's Message on Slow Play

*By Tom Pajak, District 21 President*

This month I'd like to speak on behalf of our distinguished directors and for many of our distinguished players as well about an age-old topic that just doesn't ever seem to improve...Slow Play!

ACBL suggests that a 2-board round of duplicate bridge be given 15 minutes, and a 3-board round should take 21 minutes. Many clubs use display clocks set to these parameters, and if followed, a game of duplicate bridge should last from 3:15 to 3:30 hours. There's nothing unreasonable about this timing. Some hands are "slam-dunks" and most of the room can finish them in less than the allotted time, while others require more concentration and will move more slowly.

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# Upcoming Tournaments

## Sectionals

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 12-14, 2018

### Gold Country Sectional

St Canice Center, Nevada City 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

Jan 12–13, 2019

### San Francisco Sectional

Pomeroy Center, San Francisco CA

Jan 26–27, 2019

### Livermore Valley Sectional

Christensen Middle School, Livermore CA

Feb 9–10, 2019

### Grand National Teams

### Championship Flight District Finals

East Bay Community Bridge Center, Oakland CA

(continues Feb 16–17 in Burlingame)

Feb 15–18, 2019

### Fresno Winter Sectional

Fresno Bridge Center, Fresno CA

Feb 16–17, 2019

### Grand National Teams

### Flight B District Finals

Bayshore Bridge Club, Burlingame CA

Feb 23–24, 2019

### San Mateo County Winter Sectional

Cañada College Cafeteria (aka the Grove)

Redwood City CA

Mar 2–3, 2019

### Grand National Teams Flight A District Finals

San Jose Bridge Center, San Jose CA

Mar 9–10, 2019

### Unit 509 Santa Rosa/Petaluma Sectional

Odd Fellows Hall, Santa Rosa CA

Mar 16–17, 2019

### Grand National Teams Flight C District Finals

East Bay Community Bridge Center, Oakland CA

Mar 27-31, 2019

### March Into Spring Sectional

Nugget Casino Resort, Sparks NV

## Regionals

Oct 15–21, 2018

### Reno/Sparks

### Regional

The Nugget, Sparks NV

Dec 31, 2018–Jan 6, 2019

### Monterey Clambake Regional

Hyatt Regency, Monterey CA

# Hughes

*From Page 1*

Rosa area. (By the way, our thoughts are still with all of you as you continue to regroup and move on as best you can - and also with the many people affected by this summer's many fires!)

We've made a few small changes to make sure the Reno Regional is even more enjoyable this year. Mostly, this has to do with creating playing and sleeping spaces that are smoke-free.

Although the Casino Tower is \$10 a night cheaper, it's called the Casino Tower because it's located on the Casino end of the property. One of the reasons the Nugget works well for a tournament is that the Casino is confined to one area only. So, this year, not only will all our playing space be on the other end of the facility, but if you book in the Resort Tower, you won't have to deal with smoke in your elevators or hallways. Also, the Resort Tower elevators will drop you off right in the playing area. Long story short: don't stay away because of the smoke! Come and stay in the Resort Tower.

There are so many great things about this regional, and foremost is the price! These are the lowest priced rooms of any tournament in the country, and they're newly renovated and extremely comfortable. Self and Valet parking are free (so you can go to dinner anywhere in the city and leave your car at the door). Victoria Square is adjacent and has almost two dozen restaurants for all tastes and budgets. There are simply too many reasons to include this tournament on your yearly calendar. Make your reservations via the online link at our website ([www.d21acbl.com](http://www.d21acbl.com)), or call the Nugget (800) 648-1177.

Reservations are open for the Monterey Clambake, and the rumor that the bridge rate rooms are sold out is not true. You can book using our online weblink, or call the hotel directly (831)372-1234. This is always a wonderful tournament, the favorite of people not only from D21, but from all over the country. And this year, we are starting off with a party! On Monday, December 31, come and celebrate the New Year at the bridge table with us. After the evening session, we have a special bridge event: a Zip Knockout teams. If you've never played in a zip team game, they're a blast! Matches are short (six boards), and you pay your entry fee by the round (\$3 per player). We'll be serving champagne and cake during the event. It's fast and a lot of fun, and what better way to bring in 2019!

So enjoy the rest of the warm weather, and I'll look forward to seeing you at these upcoming District 21 bridge parties.

# Pajak

*From Page 1*

However, averaging out the quickies, the pass-outs, and the problem hands, 3-1/2 hours is quite a fair expanse of time to complete playing a full set of boards in a match.

So, why do some games take so frustratingly L-O-N-G? Discounting things like a burst water pipe, a player taking a fall, a fire in the kitchen and other true disasters, the real reason we don't finish on time is because of our dreaded enemy, Slow Play.

A while back, I saved a brief write-up by Matt Smith, one of today's top Tournament Directors in ACBL. Gentleman that he is, he doesn't berate or whine or blame. He simply states facts:

"Slow play? We all hate it! Seriously, though, slow play is the most difficult issue we tournament directors have to deal with on a regular basis. We understand that everyone occasionally falls a bit behind when difficult hands are encountered, but we are instructed to have very low tolerance for pairs who are egregiously or chronically slow. One of our directors always tells slow pairs that she is not allowed to let them take time that belongs to other players. I think that is a good way of looking at it. So even if the original slowness was not necessarily your fault, we expect you to be part of the solution and not part of the continuing problem.

'Late pairs can expect a visit from a director, and those who don't catch up soon can expect a penalty. That is the only tool we have to keep the slowest pairs from ruining the enjoyment of playing in a game that has to move on schedule. So keep an eye on the clock and help us to give everyone a pleasant tournament experience.'

As a counterfoil to Matt's careful avoidance to pinpoint offenders, my friend Gloria Tsoi has come up with more specific hints to nudge particular un-named people in a better direction (but maybe you can tell whom she's referring to; is it you?)

The director is hovering by your table waiting for you to finish, but you protest, "bridge is not an easy game - there are lots of things to think about. I'm a new player and I need time to think!" This is all true, and with time and experience your bridge skill will improve and you will be able to play faster. However, the truth is most of the time wasted has nothing to do

with “skill,” after all there are plenty of experienced players who are chronically slow.

Ninety-five percent of the time wasted is not due to people thinking about how to execute a triple squeeze to brilliantly make a contract. Time is lost on more mundane things that are not even relevant to the play. The good news is with a couple of minor changes in your habits, you can improve the pace of the game, giving you more time to think about the hands when you actually need it.

So, here are a few simple tips and suggestions that help you speed up your bridge game with zero effort:

1) Don't talk about the hands until after the game. Holding a post-mortem takes a great deal of time and usually broadcasts to the rest of the room what happened on a board. If there is something noteworthy, circle it in your convention card to review later. Hand records are a life saver. It is okay to politely remind your opponents that you are behind in time if they will not stop talking about the previous hand.

2) Learn to pick up and put down your cards all at the same time. There is no need to pick them up one by one to sort them.

3) If you are the dealer, you have the ability to set the pace for the bidding, so try to start the auction quickly. It is tempting to think and ask questions about the previous hand, but that will take up valuable time. Again, hand records are really helpful later.

4) Unless you plan on entering the auction, wait until the end to ask for explanations about the alerts. If you ask questions in the middle of a live auction for no reason, you can only help the opponents if they have forgotten a convention.

5) You can ask the opponents to leave the bidding cards out for an extra moment while you process the auction. Don't be the person who asks for a review of the auction ten seconds after the bid cards are put away.

6) If you are on opening lead, choose your lead before you write down the contract in your private score.

7) If you are dummy, put down the dummy as soon as the opening lead is exposed. Three other people should not have to wait for you to write the contract in your scorecard before dummy is exposed. You'll have the chance to write when the others are studying the dummy. Also, there is no need for the one-by-one card reveal; just flop them quickly on the table so declarer can plan the play and the defenders can plan a defense.

8) If you are East/West and you're done with the round, and the pair following you is also done, get up.

Let them get a head start on the next round. They might need the time to execute a triple squeeze.

9) However, if you are East/West, do not go wandering far off while you wait to sit at the next table. Your opponents (or the director) should not have to go searching for you.

10) If you are still playing when it is time for the next round and someone at the next table asks for a board, supply it promptly. If your club uses side tables, you should graciously place your played boards on the next location's side table so the cards are waiting for the players to move them into position for the next round.

11) If the new round has started and you have not received your boards, don't be shy about asking the next table to pass you a board. They have no right to hold up your game once the next round has begun.

None of these tips requires you to improve your playing skill. They are simple, thoughtful and efficient ways that only require mindfulness on your part. Remember that everyone is responsible for the pace of the game, and even if you are following the slowest pair in the room and are forced to start five minutes late, you should still make the effort to finish within the allotted time. This will make for a more pleasant game for everyone.

And, don't we all show up expecting to have a pleasant game? If you've recognized a point or two that may apply to you, try to make a minor improvement. Your table-mates will be thrilled to have experienced a more pleasant game thanks to your courtesy.

## District 21 2019 GNT

*By Grant Vance, D21 GNT Coordinator*

A proposal was voted on at the Atlanta Nationals to expand the GNT Flights B and C to send two teams from each district to participate in the National Final. The proposal was defeated by one vote, although our District 21 representative, Jackie Zayak voted in favor. We think it would be a good move to encourage less experienced players to travel and participate in national tournaments. The issue will be revisited in six months, and our players should make their opinions heard, to our D21 officers, ACBL officers, and other district representatives. Get more players involved at an earlier stage of their playing careers. It's good for the game!



leave issues for later discussion. Put past results and any attendant negative energy immediately behind you and out of your mind. This is similarly true for good results. Don't dwell on distractions; your focus must always be the current hand.

We had a couple of other good rounds, one against an always tough Jeff Roman and were in solid shape entering the last two sets of the qualifying day. But then we hit a giant pothole with a 42 IMP loss and a flat finish with a tie against Ron Powell and Bob Sanner on the last set of the day to qualify 31st of 54 teams, more than a blitz behind the Sherwood team and the very formidable Beth Palmer team who lay in second.

The next day started well; we won our first four matches to steadily gain ground. Our only double-digit loss of the day came from a missed slam against Howard Parker's team. We recovered those IMPs and more when our teammates took a good save against the creative George Jacobs and Claude Vogel who bid on to a failing grand slam. After the dinner break we played Gary Soules' team (with tough locals Gene Simpson and Ed Nagy at the other table), winning by 16 IMPs with two defensively-based game swings. Now we were really rolling and I think we all felt the possibility as tension ratcheted up another notch. To keep centered I took a break between each round, stretching my legs and visiting the water cooler frequently.

The set-up to our win came in the 6th round when we played Beth Palmer's team. They had gone in with a substantial lead and were still solidly ahead. But not after we played them. On the first board I dropped a partscore trick but came right back to make a doubled game on the second board. We then bid and made a vulnerable slam as our teammates found a profitable save, and beat 3NT two tricks while our teammates brought it home. Doing well is a collective accumulation of good play. The result was a decisive 23 IMP win. We entered the 7th round of the finals in second place, mere 100ths out of the lead.

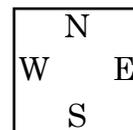
We won the penultimate round against Jerry Helms by 14 IMPs on a thus-far unbeaten day to claw our way into the driver's seat. This is what I wrote on my score sheet at the round's end: "Leading with one to go, like last year. But this will be different." Last year my partner, another Bruce (Tuttle) and I had a good last set but our teammates didn't and we dropped from 1st to 5th in the event. Very respectable, but not a win.

We entered the final set leading by 6 VPs; the event was ours to win. I don't think in terms of bridesmaids, but rather that being regularly close is a sign of both strength and opportunity. Stay positive. That's easily said but there were other strong contending teams, all ready to pounce. The tension was palpable. We were playing a team I felt happy to find at the table; I thought we'd beaten them day one and was pumped to play them again. Actually, they'd beaten us 44-2 for a full blitz! But my confident impression did prove correct. As we waited for the pre-duplicated boards to arrive, they conferred in whispers over a small note showing the score they needed against us in order to win the event. I thought about asking what that number was but felt as if they'd cast themselves as second best and didn't want to tamper with their negative point of view.

What follows is the last set of the 2018 Atlanta NABC - Truscott/USPC Senior Swiss finals, reported in the order we played the pre-duplicated boards at our table. How will you do on the decisions we faced?

Board 26 IMPs  
Both Vul

- ♠ Q 7 3
- ♥ A J 9 7 6 3
- ♦ 8 5 2
- ♣ 4



- ♠ A J 1 0 4
- ♥ K 5
- ♦ Q 4 3
- ♣ A J 8 2

West	North	East	South
			1NT
Pass	4♦*	Pass	4♥
All Pass			

\*Texas

Bidding: Normal. The same contract was reached at the other table.

Opening lead: K♣. Plan the play.

I considered the hand at length. This is the time to do it and it's important to not reveal whether you're worried or just weighing options. If you show weakness, opponents will find it. If I lose a trump finesse there is

a strong chance they'll cash three diamonds for down one, especially since if East wins there's no way he will shift to a spade holding the king. It occurred to me that if trump were (3-2) I might be able to get a diamond discard if spades behaved real well, and that if the spade finesse lost they might not shift to a diamond. A bit of long shot since if the Q♥ isn't doubleton I may have four losers no matter what. I cashed the K♥ and led a low heart to see what would happen. On the K♥, LHO played the 8♥ and on the low heart she played the 2♥. She seemed like a straight-forward player and I suspected she wouldn't card that way holding Q82 and backed that assessment boldly by going up with the A♥. The doubleton queen of trump tumbled down offside and as I drew the last trump the opponents' shoulders drooped in disappointment. Now I led the Q♠ and finessed twice more when it won, using a club ruff as an entry, to make an overtrick. The guy on my right whined about how unlucky they were to be playing against someone who didn't know the right percentage play of a suit. I loved it – there's nothing better than having the opponents complaining or arguing. That's a boost for the other side, diminishes focus and seems to provide self-permission to lose.

At the other table Bill started the defense with the A♦ and then switched to the K♣, probably a better plan to establish winners. On the trump play he false carded with the 10♥ on the second lead to persuade declarer that he held the Q♥, a devious spot choice. You have to decide which spots to trust. Would you have noticed and correctly interpreted what was going on? We picked up 12 IMPs on that first board and set a pivotal positive tone for the match.

Here's the entire hand:

♠ A 6 ♥ A J 8 ♦ A K 8 5 3 ♣ 9 3 2	<table border="1" style="border-collapse: collapse; width: 60px; height: 60px; margin: auto;"> <tr><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">N</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">W</td><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">E</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">S</td><td></td></tr> </table>		N		W		E		S		♠ Q 8 7 4 ♥ 7 ♦ 10 9 2 ♣ A K 10 8 6
	N										
W		E									
	S										
♠ 5 2 ♥ 10 8 2 ♦ A K 9 7 ♣ K Q 10 5	<table border="1" style="border-collapse: collapse; width: 60px; height: 60px; margin: auto;"> <tr><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">N</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">W</td><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">E</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">S</td><td></td></tr> </table>		N		W		E		S		♠ K 9 8 6 ♥ Q 4 ♦ J 10 6 ♣ 9 7 6 3
	N										
W		E									
	S										
♠ A J 10 4 ♥ K 5 ♦ Q 4 3 ♣ A J 8 2											

The second hand presented a play problem for the opponents, and then a defensive one for us.

Board 27  
Neither Vul

♠ A 6 ♥ A J 8 ♦ A K 8 5 3 ♣ 9 3 2	<table border="1" style="border-collapse: collapse; width: 60px; height: 60px; margin: auto;"> <tr><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">N</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">W</td><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">E</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">S</td><td></td></tr> </table>		N		W		E		S		♠ Q 8 7 4 ♥ 7 ♦ 10 9 2 ♣ A K 10 8 6	
	N											
W		E										
	S											
West	North	East	South									
			Pass									
1NT	Pass	2♣	Pass									
2♦	Pass	3NT	All Pass									

Lead: J♠. How would you play the hand?

Since hearts is the bigger weakness of the hand, I think I'd prefer to lose a trick into North and so would travel to dummy by leading the visually tempting 9♣ (in case of a foolish cover from QJx♣) and then float the 10♦. Perhaps North would win and clear spades providing nine tricks. Our declarer chose instead to attack dummy's visible minor, clubs.

On defense, Bruce led the J♠. Declarer didn't cover, won the A♠ and finessed a club into me. I won and knowing from the bidding that declarer has fewer than four hearts and that hearts was thus a possible source of tricks for our side, shifted to the 10♥, covered by declarer's J♥ and won by Bruce's Q♥. We play that after the opening lead, the lead of a jack denies and a ten or nine shows zero or two higher honors; this resolves many defensive positions without giving away opening lead information. So Bruce can tell by my lead of the 10♥ that I don't have the A♥ and by deduction the likely layout of the remaining honors. Not knowing whether I held the 9♥, he reverted to spades by leading the 10♠, as he put it, "hoping that declarer would err, otherwise I did not think we could set the hand." He was right to force an early decision. Declarer did cover with the queen; I won and continued a heart. Declarer now had only eight tricks and ended down one.

At the other table, the jack of spades was led and covered by the Q, K and Ace. Would you have played it that way? Covering ensures a second trick but creates two immediate defensive tricks if the K♠ is off – a tricky tradeoff. Bill next led a club, his LHO playing the Q♣, won the A♣ and ran the 10♦. North

won the J♦, went into the tank and finally led the K♥, ducked, and continued a heart giving Bill his 9th trick. The opponents must have missed or misinterpreted a spot. As with the previous hand, you must maintain focus to notice and correctly interpret the spots that are played. It is often the accumulated details such as this that win or lose a match.

Here is the complete hand:

♠ A 6 ♥ A J 8 ♦ A K 8 5 3 ♣ 9 3 2	<table border="1" style="border-collapse: collapse; width: 80px; height: 80px; margin: auto;"> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">N</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">W      E</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">S</td></tr> </table>	N	W      E	S	♠ J 10 9 5 3 ♥ K Q 5 3 ♦ J 6 ♣ Q 5	♠ Q 8 7 4 ♥ 7 ♦ 10 9 2 ♣ A K 10 8 6
N						
W      E						
S						
		♠ K 3 ♥ 10 9 6 4 2 ♦ Q 7 4 ♣ J 7 4				

A team effort of good defense and good play gave us 10 more IMPs, two solid pick-ups in a row. Our opponents were now a little edgy and I think we both felt confident and in control even without knowing that the contract had been made at the other table.

The following board included an opening lead problem. As a result of computer analysis and simulations there has been a lot of new thinking about opening leads, particularly at notrump. It's no longer considered best practice to "lead fourth best from your longest and strongest." Instead, you should guess to lead partner's five-card suit and generally not away from four-card strength, especially containing high honors or at low-level notrump contracts. Alternatively, try a passive lead to avoid sacrificing a trick with the lead.

Board 28  
N/S Vul

West	North	East	South
1♣	Pass	1♦	Pass
1♥	Pass	1NT	All Pass

- ♠ A 8 4
- ♥ A Q 10 5
- ♦ Q 7 4
- ♣ J 7 4

*What would you lead?*

While the unbid suit, spades, may seem obvious, I noted that partner didn't overcall in spades. Our style is to get in at the one-level on pretty much any light overcall, so the absence of a spade overcall suggests that one way or another the opponents were prepared for a spade lead. A question before the lead might be whether the opponents play a California/Walsh style, bypassing diamonds with a less than invitational hand.

If that's the case it may be that, paradoxically, the 1♦ bid was a weak waiting bid, hoping that West would bid notrump. A diamond lead also seemed unlikely to blow the hand early.

The complete hand:

♠ Q J 5 2 ♥ K 8 7 6 ♦ K 7 ♣ K J 7	<table border="1" style="border-collapse: collapse; width: 80px; height: 80px; margin: auto;"> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">N</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">W      E</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">S</td></tr> </table>	N	W      E	S	♠ K 7 6 3 ♥ 9 4 ♦ A 10 6 ♣ Q 6 5 4	♠ 10 9 ♥ J 3 2 ♦ J 8 5 3 ♣ A 9 8 3
N						
W      E						
S						
		♠ A 8 4 ♥ A Q 10 5 ♦ Q 7 4 ♣ J 7 4				

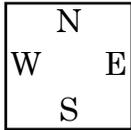
A major suit lead would have fared poorly. After much thought I led a low diamond. Declarer ducked in dummy, Bruce inserted the 10♦ and declarer won the J♦.

Now the 10♠ went to Bruce's K♠, followed by A♦ and a diamond. I cashed the remaining diamond and played ace and a spade to exit without helping declarer. In the fullness of time declarer drifted down one. At the other table our teammates played 2♣ down two for a loss of 2 IMPs, our only losing board of the match. Would your bidding methods have gotten you to the lower and safer 1NT contract on the E-W hands?

Next up is a bidding problem that underscores the importance of having good methods for slam investigations after a major fit is found. *Bid these opponent hands with your favorite partner to see how system agreements affect the level of your contract:*

Board 22  
E-W Vul  
Dealer: East

♠ A Q 5 4		♠ K J 9 7 3 2
♥ K 6 4		♥ A Q 10 9
♦ K 1 0 7 6 2		♦ J 4
♣ K		♣ 6



With hands like these someone needs to apply the brakes before reaching the unsafe five-level. Modified Jacoby agreements where you can show a strength-range coupled with the presence (but not specific location) of shortness really help with these sorts of hands.

Here is the full layout:

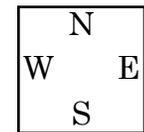
		♠ 10
		♥ 7 5 3
		♦ A 5
		♣ 10 9 7 5 4 3 2

♠ A Q 5 4		♠ K J 9 7 3 2
♥ K 6 4		♥ A Q 10 9
♦ K 1 0 7 6 2		♦ J 4
♣ K		♣ 6

		♠ 8 6
		♥ J 8 2
		♦ Q 9 8 3
		♣ A Q J 8



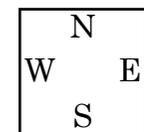
E-W had a tortuously stilted auction to explore a possible spade slam. West appeared to contemplate bidding a slam off two key cards before signing off in 5♠. Perhaps she was considering a potentially missing king of trump being onside, or felt they needed a big board to get back into the match? The auction had revealed club shortness so I started with the A♣, with Bruce playing low, probably a suit preference signal for diamonds. After some thought as to whether declarer might have a heart discard for a losing diamond or I might be blowing a trick by leading the

suit, I led a low diamond. Declarer had a rather wild look about him, perhaps from the tension of the match or from the two prior poor results. He seemed to be vaguely self-destructive or overly suspicious that I was playing with his mind, and rose with the K♦. Bruce snapped it up and quickly returned a diamond for down one.

Dummy questioned declarer's play a bit sharply, effectively providing an extra rooter for our side – welcome aboard! Partner knows when he's gone wrong and never needs a public reminder. People have been shot for far less. At the other table, North made a pre-emptive bid in clubs and diamonds were guessed correctly for 13 more IMPs, what turned out to be our third big pick-up of the set.

The next board represented a play problem for me and there's nothing that makes you feel more alive than playing a tough hand in high-stakes match. It's important not to let on when you have a long-shot hand that may not make as that only encourages the opponents to look for the defense they might not otherwise find and discourages them from giving up and making a desperation play that gives you a contract that would otherwise elude you. Your goal at the table is to be unreadable to the other three players.

♠ A 8 4 3
♥ K 10 4
♦ 10 4
♣ A 7 4 3



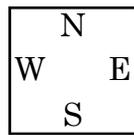
♠ Q 7 2
♥ Q 5
♦ A K 8 7 6
♣ K 9 5

West	North	East	South
Pass	3♣	Pass	1NT
Pass	3NT	All Pass	3♦

I opened a light notrump, partner responded with puppet Stayman (designed to find 5-3 major fits and hide opener's 4-c major), and placed the contract in what turned out to be a tenuous 3NT.

♠ A 8 4 3  
♥ K 10 4  
♦ 10 4  
♣ A 7 4 3

♠ J 10 5  
♥ A 9 6  
♦ 9 5  
♣ Q J 8 6 2



♠ K 9 6  
♥ J 8 7 3 2  
♦ Q J 3 2  
♣ 10

♠ Q 7 2  
♥ Q 5  
♦ A K 8 7 6  
♣ K 9 5

With the opening lead diminishing the chances for a length trick in clubs and only six sure tricks, the contract looked pretty dicey. I ducked the first club to see what would happen. Lo and behold, a small diamond came back which I rode around to the winning 10♦ in dummy. This certainly illustrates the idea that it can be a good idea to give the opponents an opportunity to help. True here in spades, or diamonds, more specifically. The opponents attacked the suit I was going to work on and also adjusted the timing to my benefit.

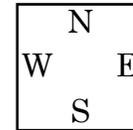
Now I led a low spade from dummy and East hitched, revealing the K♠ it seemed to me. The contract went from wobbly to wow! Later, I managed a red suit squeeze and finished by felling the now stiff J♥ offside to make an overtrick. At the other table it was played from the opposite side where a normal heart was led from jack fifth. Declarer later floated the 10♦ through East. Would you have covered? It might have made life tougher for declarer on this layout but would lose in the more common case of declarer holding the 9♦. Was declarer intending to go up all along?

You won't ever know. What you do know is that in cases like this you must pre-decide your play and follow smoothly in tempo, especially if you intend to duck. Covering would not have defeated the contract.

The opening lead and subsequent diamond play made the hand easier for their declarer but we still won 1 IMP because I remained diligent in the play to score an extra trick. We were feeling very confident at this point, just the time to be careful of a silly misstep.

The fifth board of the set had various significant decision points depending on how East responded to (1♠)-1NT. Consider decisions from several seats at the two tables:

Board 24  
Neither Vul

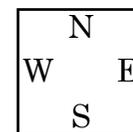


♠ 7 3  
♥ 7 4  
♦ 9 4 3  
♣ A J 9 8 7 6

West	North	East	South
1♠	1NT	2♥	?

What would you have bid as South after East's 2♥ response?

The real action was at the other table where East simply raised spades. Perhaps this induced South to make the ambitious leap to 3NT. This could certainly work on a good day - if clubs run there will be lots of tricks.



♠ 10 8 6  
♥ A J 10 9 6 5  
♦ J 8 7  
♣ 10

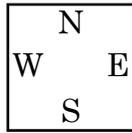
♠ 7 3  
♥ 7 4  
♦ 9 4 3  
♣ A J 9 8 7 6

West	North	East	South
1♠	1NT	2♠	3NT
All Pass			

Now consider the defense to 3NT as East after your opening J♥ is ducked. What would you lead next?

Finally, jump over and consider North's play problem at the notrump game:

♠ KJ2  
♥ KQ8  
♦ K102  
♣ KQ53



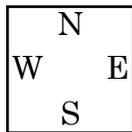
♠ 73  
♥ 74  
♦ 943  
♣ AJ9876

Declaring as North, how would you proceed after the J♥ lead runs around to you?

Here is the full hand with the more pedestrian contract achieved at our table:

♠ KJ2  
♥ KQ8  
♦ K102  
♣ KQ53

♠ AQ954  
♥ 32  
♦ AQ65  
♣ 42



♠ 1086  
♥ AJ10965  
♦ J87  
♣ 10

♠ 73  
♥ 74  
♦ 943  
♣ AJ9876

West	North	East	South
1♠	1NT	2♥	2NT*
Pass	3C*	3♠	All Pass
All Pass			

\*lebensohl with forced relay

It was a tamer time at our table as I bid a lebensohl 2NT over the aggressive 2♥ response, relaying to 3♣. Our transfer methods don't permit a natural 3♣ bid and the state of the match suggested safety over risk. After that, East elected to compete to a non-vulnerable 3♠. There is less to gain in partscore competition when playing IMPs and although I wanted to bid again, I prudently passed. We won our five defensive tricks.

At the other table, the automatic J♥ was led and won by declarer, making down two a foregone conclusion on the lie of the cards. But it didn't necessarily have to be that way, as teammate Mark Ralph pointed out: "I led the jack of hearts and declarer won the king. Since West still held a heart, the hand is essentially over.

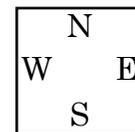
'However, if Declarer had ducked the heart, I must find a diamond switch to beat the hand. Fortunately, I did not have that problem.'" The hold-up makes sense if declarer reads the opening leader for the A♥, but with hearts not having been bid at this table, it's not obvious what the position is. Yet another reason to think through the play carefully at trick-one. For small plusses at both tables we won 4 IMPs on what could have been a pick-up for the opponents.

The last board of the match was a somewhat anticlimactic push but held some technical interest in the play.

Board 25  
E/W Vul

♠ 84  
♥ A  
♦ KQ109643  
♣ Q76

♠ A92  
♥ K764  
♦ 82  
♣ AJ94



♠ 73  
♥ QJ10952  
♦ J  
♣ 10853

♠ KQJ1065  
♥ 83  
♦ A75  
♣ K2

West	North	East	South
	1♦	2♥	2♠
Pass	3♦	Pass	3♥
Pass	3♠	Pass	4♠
All Pass			

Lead: K♥. The A♥ wins performe. *Plan the play.*

While it may seem right to lead a trump from dummy – if they duck you'll ruff your last heart in dummy, if they continue a trump you'll claim – it

can never hurt to look a little deeper. If they duck the trump and you ruff a heart as planned, how will you get off dummy? Obviously, only with a club. But now you will have eliminated other defensive moves, forcing a diamond shift for a ruff if it's there. I reasoned that breaking up communications early was a better plan, making a trump play by them enticing. So I started with the Q♣ to sever communication and establish a hand entry. The hand was a push with an overtrick at both tables.

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At our table I think everyone knew that barring several disasters at the other table, we had won the match and the event. It was a great anticipatory and somewhat stupefying glow that enveloped us as we waited for our teammates to return. When they arrived a quick comparison confirmed our lock on the event and a warm wave of triumph washed over us. It was quite an experience, one we hope to repeat in the future.

## Winning Tips

We won every match of the final day. Remarkably, out of forty-eight boards our only double-digit loss came early on a missed light slam. The final match was a definitive 38 IMP near-blitz to win the event by a commanding total of 134.27 Victory Points, a sizable margin over the second place Katz team with 121.36 with the Palmer team less than a VP behind them. There were bridge decisions to be made on every hand and a high level of focus and mental sharpness that had to be maintained throughout. The outcome determined that we would win a prestigious and coveted national title. We could not have been more pleased. You had the opportunity to play along with the thought process although perhaps not the emotion. How did your decisions fare? The good news is that you really only had to get one hand right to win as the opponents helped lose it for themselves. Of course, you don't know that at the time. You must do your best on every single hand right through the last board of the event, never letting up. That's the winning way.

So, how do you win a national title? The exact same way you win any event from club game on up.

Habits and practices that contributed directly to our success in winning this national event:

- Play the best events as often as you can. It's trite

but true: If you don't enter, you can't win.

- Know your agreements. We have a written set of meticulous and well-articulated agreements which we study and review regularly. We often exchange emails in the week or so before a tournament clarifying any questions we might have. We build on our past play and experience few system misunderstandings.

- Be composed and confident. It is important to believe in yourself even if the other pair or team is also very good. Play your game knowing that you play well. Never run yourself down or admit doubt in front of your opponents; it pumps them up as it deflates you.

- Maintain unwavering focus, particularly after a big loss or gain. Either frustration or elation can induce slips or silliness. Keep steady, don't fall sway to the temptation of wildness (note to self).

- Leave a played-hand behind. Don't dwell on distractions; devote all your energy to the current hand. Never re-hash hands or criticize partner at the table. The only thing potentially worth discussing is a misunderstanding about an agreement that might reasonably come up again in the match.

- Don't lose the match at your table. Trust your teammates to do their job at their table.

- Don't be afraid to back your judgment. An inference from a spot card or hitch in tempo can guide you to a winning play others might not find. Double check that a hunch is consistent with the known facts.

- Relish the pressure; it's part of the greatness of the game. Don't let it spin you into a tizzy.

- Give the opponents every opportunity to defeat themselves. Letting them win an early trick where the winning shift may be obvious to you but not to them could be your key to success. I usually don't correct mistaken analysis by the opponents. If one opponent says something like, "If you'd only shifted to my suit we'd have beaten the hand," but I know I would still have made the hand on a squeeze, I will probably be quite content to let them think they blew the hand.

- Winning is a team effort; everyone played solidly throughout. You can't win on your own, only lose.

- You've got to get at least a little lucky. Bruce Noda and I have done well recently in the Wernher Open pairs, finishing 4th this year and 9th last year. We also played well three years ago and didn't even qualify for the finals. Bridge is a tough game and no matter how well you play, you will mostly lose. Learn

to take satisfaction in a well-played session and savor every victory, at any level, that comes your way.

Physical preparation for success:

- Get a full night's sleep. I don't share a room and avoid watching TV as they both contribute to less restful sleep for me.

- Eat light and lay off alcohol between sessions. Maybe caffeine-up when playing into your resting time.

- Quiet your mind before you play. Even as gregariously social as I am, I often sit quietly by myself before game time, reviewing the key points of our agreements or simply reading some junk detective story.

- Give yourself downtime and physical exercise. I read a lot during big tournaments and often arrange to stay some distance from the tournament site in order to provide myself some daily walking.

- Keep hydrated – your brain functions better lubricated by the liquid of life. I make a point to drink quite a bit of water before and during play. This was especially important in Atlanta where it was plenty warm.

## The Sociality of Bridge

The game of bridge is far more than the meanings of bids or the percentage of plays. Bridge is an inherently social game. We play with a partner and sometimes, as in this event, with teammates. The dynamics of the human interactions are a huge competitive component of the game and also of its enjoyment. The personalities of players, styles of partnerships, the emotional ebb and flow as hands unfold in a match, and the subtle but significant interchanges at the table – from a soothing and supportive “It's ok, no problem” spoken to an erring partner, to a barely perceived hitch as a card is delivered to the table – all certainly affect our play and add a dimensional richness to the game. Sharing

the challenges with others, from triumphs to disasters, is a fundamental component of the game that extends beyond the session itself. Just look at all the clusters of animated conversation at the end of every session, or later at dinner or the bar. That sociality is of integral importance to the game of bridge.

One silent social interaction with a big emotional content is the act of kibitzing. I watch friends and fellow experts more than most and vicariously enjoy experiencing their decisions and always discover something new. The camaraderie you feel from a friend or student kibitzing you adds to the enjoyment and appreciation of the game for everyone. In the last match of our national win I was fortunate to have my friend Jerry Premo, just out of the hospital, at my side for both the support and the sharing. I welcomed his presence but quickly tuned him out so I could focus on the task at hand. At the other table, Bill and Mark had Bill's daughter, Cheryl, and her life-partner, Yul, kibitzing them. Having someone at your side that is also close personally can add an extra layer to the pressure. But in their match it also served to defuse the pressure by injecting some humor. As Bill puts it, “I mentioned to our opponents that my daughter was kibitzing and my RHO turned to her and said ‘Your mother must be really good looking.’ Hilarious, but sadly true.”

The overarching social context of bridge permeates and binds a complex array of sophisticated bidding, thoughtful play and wily strategy to marry the challenge of reason with the perplexity of human interaction. You can't help but love this game. I am happy to have been able to share our experience winning the Truscott/USPC Senior Swiss at the 2018 Atlanta Nationals and hope you were able to find an occasional touchstone or useful tip for yourself.

Thanks to my teammates Bruce Noda, Mark Ralph and Bill Harker for their strong effort, consistently fine play and supportive spirit throughout. Finally, thanks to the reader for following our path to the win.

**Have an interesting story about a great win by you and your partner/your team? Contact us so we might share it with the rest of District 21!**

# ALL WESTERN REGIONAL WINNERS

## Pairs

### All Western Open (26 Tables)

- 1: Lew Stansby, Dublin - Guy Gecht, Los Altos
- 2: Stephen Castellino, Castro Valley - Paul Cornelius, Mountain View
- 3: Bruce Tuttle, Berkeley - Bill Heid, Santa Fe NM
- 4: Bruce Noda, Corte Madera - Mark Ralph, San Francisco
- 5: Sidney Lorvan, Pacifica - Mark McCarthy, San Francisco
- 6: Ari Greenberg, San Francisco - Li-Chung Chen, Cupertino
- 7: Gary Macgregor, Portola Valley - Tahir Gokcen, Mountain View
- 8: Harold Singleton III, Newtown Square PA - Erwin Linzner, Santa Rosa
- 9: Ethan Liu, Fremont - Yanong Han, Milpitas
- 10: Allan Deserpa, Tempe AZ - John Mohan, Las Vegas



*Bob Enenstein and Mukund Thapa*

### Tuesday Hoe Down Gold (31 Tables)

- 1C: Jung Hu, San Jose - Dorr Clark, Campbell
- 1D: Malcolm Mendelson - Irwin Javinsky, Moraga



*Guy Gecht and Lew Stansby*

### Tuesday Open (30 Tables)

- 1A, 1B: Bob Enenstein, Los Altos - Mukund Thapa, Palo Alto
- 1Y: Franklin Smoot, Sunnyvale - Dana Martin-Newman, Los Altos



*Dorr Clark and Jung Hu*

### **Tuesday Aft Side (21 Tables)**

1A: Mark Ralph, San Francisco - Gary Soules, Elk Grove

1B, 1C: Judith Ritchie, Pebble Beach - Marion Keyworth, Carmel

### **Tuesday Aft 299er (9 Tables)**

1E, 1F: Karen Wisialowski - Anne Baxter, Hillsborough

1G: Robert Lapointe, Walnut Creek - Arnold Jacobson, Alamo

### **Tuesday Aft 99er (4 Tables)**

1H, 1I: Ruth Quigley - Austin Hills, San Francisco

### **Tuesday Eve Side (13 Tables)**

1A, 1B, 1C: Rajeev Jog, San Jose - Shrikant Sathe, Saratoga

### **Tuesday Eve 299er (5 Tables)**

1D: Marie Chong - Roy Tsai, San Jose

1E: Rochelle Alhadeff - Barry Alhadeff, Saratoga

### **Wednesday Morn Side (5 Tables)**

1A: Sherman Gao, Brea - Esther Chen, Laguna Niguel

1B: Wanwan Ren, Sunnyvale - Jim Liu, Saratoga

### **Wednesday Morn 299er (9 Tables)**

1D: Margo Seymour - Dale Seymour, Los Altos

1E: Barry Alhadeff - Michael Cohn, Saratoga

### **Wednesday Daylight (36 Tables)**

1A: Luen-Jyh Luo, Milpitas - John Stanczak, Sunnyvale

1B: Larry Wagner - Kathy Wagner, Cupertino

1C: Julie Burnet, Oakland - Hank Sigal, Piedmont



*David Strauss and Paul Kushner*

### **Wednesday Open (26 Tables)**

1A: Allan Deserpa, Tempe AZ - John Mohan, Las Vegas NV

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

1C: Charles Riffle, Emerald Hills - Douglas Grant, San Francisco

### **Wednesday Golden Spike (28 Tables)**

1D, 1E: William Mann, San Carlos - Ron Terry, San Jose

### **Wednesday Aft Side (12 Tables)**

1A: John Miller - Marilyn Schuyler, Discovery Bay

1B: Moira Murphy, Mountain View - Donald Vance, Los Altos

1C: Jory Segal - Kathy Jasper, San Jose

### **Wednesday Aft 299er (14 Tables)**

1D, 1E: Minoru Tomijima, Menlo Park - Jenny Blaschke, Stanford

1F: Ashish Gupta - David Sweet, San Francisco

### **Wednesday Aft 99er (4 Tables)**

1G, 1H: Bill Kornbluh, Palo Alto - Henry Rivers, San Jose

### **Wednesday Eve Side (12 Tables)**

1A, 1B, 1C: Philip Grant - Michael Flaster, Menlo Park

### **Wednesday Eve 299er (6 Tables)**

1D, 1E, 1F: Ashish Gupta - David Sweet, San Francisco

### **Thursday Morn Side (5.5 Tables)**

1A: Valentin Kovachev, Las Vegas NV - Carole Liss, San Rafael

1B: Jerry Nakamura - Terence Degan, El Dorado Hills

1C: Shirley Foreman, Santa Clara - Linda Caren, San Jose

### **Thursday Morn 299er (9 Tables)**

1D, E, F: Therese Kristensen - Ginny Strock, Los Altos

### **Thursday Daylight (46.5 Tables)**

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

1B: Joel Singer, Santa Clara - Michael Cohen, Seattle WA

1C: Pamela Meckenstock, Los Gatos - Judy Macarthur, San Jose

### **Thursday Open (26 Tables)**

1A: Sarita Mathiasen, Albany - Prudence Saunders, Palo Alto

1B, 1C: Arthur Mirin, Castro Valley - Rick Wilson, Pleasanton



*Sarita Mathiasen and Prudence Saunders*

### **Thursday Cherokee Gold (27 Tables)**

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

### **Thursday Aft Side (23 Tables)**

1A: Alfred Lee, San Mateo - Mansoor Gowani, San Jose

1B: Carolyn Chaney, Emerald Hills - Valerie Baldwin, Portola Valley C

1C: Carolle Carter, Los Altos - Dori Foster, Atherton

### **Thursday Aft 299er (15 Tables)**

1D, 1E: William Mann, San Carlos - Ron Terry, San Jose

1F: Ginny Strock - Therese Kristensen, Los Altos

### **Thursday Aft 99er (4 Tables)**

1G, 1H: Evan Teehan, San Jose - Steven Doyle, Fremont

### **Thursday Eve Side (13 Tables)**

1A: Sherman Gao, Brea - Yu Chang, Milpitas

1B, 1C: Pradeep Verma - Meena Oza, San Jose

### **Friday Morn Side (6.5 Tables)**

1A: Valentin Kovachev, Las Vegas NV - Carole Liss, San Rafael

1B: Doris Ashcroft, Stockton - Susan Vogtlin, Rio Vista

1C: Dawn Black, Palo Alto - Patricia Mitchell, Menlo Park

### **Friday Morn 299er (9 Tables)**

1D, 1E, 1F: William McLain, Los Altos - Dick Walker, Santa Clara

### **Friday Daylight (47 Tables)**

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

1B: Richard O'Brien - Henryk Szejnwald, Los Altos

1C: Frederick Tierney Jr, Fremont - Christy Hartsell, Palo Alto



*Mark Itabashi and Peter Gelfand*

### **Friday Sasparilla Gold (34 Tables)**

1D: John Watson-Williams - Judith Corney, Saratoga

1E: Philip Abrahamson - Dana Shelley, Atherton

### **Friday Aft Side (18 Tables)**

1A, 1B: Yu Chang, Milpitas - Jim Liu, Saratoga

1C: Alan Chase - Robin McDuff, Santa Cruz

### **Friday Aft 299er (18 Tables)**

1D, 1E: Alex Martelli - Anna Ravenscroft, Sunnyvale

1F: Rajeev Gupta, Sunnyvale - Prince Kohli, Saratoga

### **Friday Aft 99er (4 Tables)**

1G: Carolyn Darcey, Castro Valley - Carol Alliger, Alameda

1H: Henry Rivers, San Jose - Bill Kornbluh, Palo Alto

### **Friday Open (34 Tables)**

1A: Michael Rosenberg, Sunnyvale - Edward Zuckerman, Los Altos Hills

1B: Anant Rathi - Edmund Wu, San Francisco

1C: Art Quey, San Mateo - Baron Wang, San Francisco



*Michael Rosenberg and Edward Zuckerman*

### **Friday Eve Side (14 Tables)**

1A: Mark Perlmutter, San Diego - Iftikhar Baqai, Irvine

1B, 1C: Mark Perlmutter, San Diego - Iftikhar Baqai, Irvine

### **Friday Eve 299er (4 Tables)**

1D, 1E, 1F: Lori Chang - David Sweet, San Francisco

### **Saturday Morn Side (10 Tables)**

1A, 1B, 1C: Barbara Dali, Hailey ID - Terri Richards, Scottsdale AZ

### **Saturday Morn 299er (10 Tables)**

1D: Robert Silver, Palo Alto - Richard Ahrons, Santa Clara

1E, 1F: Prince Kohli - Murarka Prabhu Dayal, Saratoga

### **Saturday Aft Side (23 Tables)**

1A: Fred Chasalow, Belmont - Paul Gelb, Palm Springs

1B: Sally Craig, Port Moody BC - Louise Elliott, Nanaimo BC

1C: Kathy Juarez - Conrad Larkin, Santa Rosa

### **Saturday Aft 299er (10 Tables)**

1D: Pamela Meckenstock, Los Gatos - Judy Macarthur, San Jose

1E: Linda Kenigsberg - Joanne Cornbleet, Saratoga

1F: Raghu Murthy, Palo Alto - John Grout, Fremont

### **Saturday Daylight (39.5 Tables)**

1A: Mark Itabashi, Murrieta - Veronica McMurdie, Sacramento

1B, 1C: Ninad More, Mountain View - Nitin More, Sunnyvale



*Mark Itabashi and Veronica McMurdie*

### **Saturday DL Oakley Gold (42.5 Tables)**

1D, 1E: Shuo Zhang, Fremont - Limin He, Monte Sereno

### **Saturday Aft 99er (7 Tables)**

1G: Serena Greening - Lillemor Leichum, San Francisco

1H: Cynthia Yock, Atherton - Bill Ralston, Los Altos Hills

1I: Irene Jacobson - Steven Jacobson, Santa Clara

### **Saturday Eve Side (18 Tables)**

1A: Sherman Gao, Brea - Yu Chang, Milpitas

1B: Anne Hollingsworth, Walnut Creek - Diane Todd, Reno NV

1C: Debbie Machlin, Los Altos - Rita Rubinfeld, Portola Valley

### **Sunday Morn Side (10 Tables)**

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

1C: Barbara Dali, Hailey ID - Terri Richards, Scottsdale AZ

### **Sunday Morn 299er (5 Tables)**

1D, 1E, 1F: Rakesh Gupta - Murarka Prabhu Dayal, Saratoga

### **Sunday Daylight (29.5 Tables)**

1A: Mark Perlmutter, San Diego - Iftikhar Baqai, Irvine  
1B: Jack Hawks - Marilyn Horan, Walnut Creek  
1C: Steven Smith, Corralitos - John Oppenheimer, Aptos

### **Sunday Open (14 Tables)**

1A: Huub Bertens, Las Vegas NV - Naren Gupta, Woodside  
1B: Tracey Bauer, San Rafael - Jason Chiu, San Jose  
1C: Bo Xiao - Rory Xiao, Fremont

### **Sunday Wild Bill Gold (12 Tables)**

1D, 1E: Anjan Ghose - David Wong, Palo Alto

### **Sunday Aft Side (10 Tables)**

1A: Sherman Gao, Brea - Esther Chen, Laguna Niguel  
1B: Gloria Leitstein - Kathie Shaw, Palo Alto  
1C (tie): Xin Ge - Min Bai, Cupertino  
1C: Andy Scott, San Jose - Irene Hashfield, Los Altos

### **Sunday Aft 299er (9 Tables)**

1D, 1E: Kathryn Barnard - Penelope Sibun, Redwood City  
1F: Suzanne Vuko, San Mateo - Debbie Carey, Emerald Hills

### **Sunday Eve Side (9 Tables)**

1A: Mark Perlmutter, San Diego - Iftikhar Baqai, Irvine  
1B: Arthur Mirin, Castro Valley - Stephanie Singer, Belmont  
1C: Donald Bierman, San Ramon - Sarah Simmerman, San Leandro

### **Sunday Eve 299er (3 Tables)**

1D, 1E: Shrikant Joshi - Sandhya Vora, Sunnyvale

### **Monday Morn 299er (8.5 Tables)**

1D, 1E, 1F: Bill Roman - Monica Bacon-Proctor, San Jose

### **Monday Fast (32 Tables)**

1A: Joshua Donn, Las Vegas NV - Peter Gelfand, Corralitos  
1B, 1C: Roger Joseph, Sunnyvale - Jory Segal, San Jose

### **Monday Aft 299er (5 Tables)**

1D, 1E, 1F: Rajeev Gupta, Sunnyvale - Murarka Prabhu Dayal, Saratoga

## **Teams**

### **Tuesday Aft Swiss (14 Tables)**

1A: Veronica McMurdie - Dick Jones, Sacramento, Cameron Doner, Surrey BC - Howard Parker III, Clements  
1B, 1C: Alan Morris, Oakley - Georgia Lambert - John Mount - Stephen Russell, Brentwood



*Dick Jones, Cam Doner, Veronica McMurdie, Howard Parker III*

### **Kit Carson KO 1 (10 Tables)**

Lou Ann O'Rourke, Scottsdale AZ - Mike Passell, Plano TX - Marc Jacobus - Geoff Hampson, Las Vegas NV - Chris Compton, Dallas TX - John Hurd, New York NY



*First Row: John Hurd, Mike Passell, Marc Jacobus.  
Second Row: Chris Compton, Lou Ann O'Rourke, Geoff Hampson.*

### **Kit Carson KO 2 (9 Tables)**

Marion Robertson, San Francisco - Mark Pensler, Los Gatos - Ruth Sporer, San Jose - Anthony Trebaol, Milpitas



*Marion Robertson, Tony Trebaol, Ruth Sporer, Mark Pendleton*

### **Wednesday Eve Swiss (21 Tables)**

1A: Bruce Noda, Corte Madera - Cheryl Mandala - Yul Inn, Cupertino - William Harker, Santa Fe NM  
1B: Norman Marks - Joye Sidoti - Herbert Chung - Susie Chung, Oakland  
1C: Alan Morris, Oakley - Georgia Lambert - John Mount - Stephen Russell, Brentwood

### **Wyatt Earp KO 1 (16 Tables)**

John McAllister, Keswick VA - Roger Lee - Daniel Korbel - Sylvia Shi, Las Vegas NV

### **Wyatt Earp KO 2 (13 Tables)**

Jack Uppal, Lincoln - Edward So, Pleasanton - Edward Lin, Saratoga - Shailesh Sampat, San Jose

### **Wyatt Earp KO 3 (14 Tables)**

David Koble, Bartlesville OK - Doris Dunn, Arroyo Grande - Patrick Howlett, Nipomo - Gayle Larson, San Luis Obispo

### **Thursday Eve Swiss (18 Tables)**

1A: Joshua Fendel - Barbara Fendel, Walnut Creek - Bradley Komsthoef, Clayton - Elizabeth Golanco, Alamo  
1B (tie): Garold Adamson, Santa Maria - Bob Robbins, Reno NV - Nick Sehgal - Suzanne Budabin, Lompoc  
1B, 1C: Paul Davis, Mountain View - Geraldine Macdonald, Los Altos - Anna Ravenscroft - Alex Martelli, Sunnyvale

### **Thursday-Friday Goodwill Swiss (15 Tables)**

1A: Veronica McMurdie - Dick Jones, Sacramento - Cameron Doner, Surrey BC - Howard Parker III, Clements  
1B: Regina Norberg - Kathleen Weiman, Cupertino - Valerie Baldwin, Portola Valley - Carolyn Chaney, Emerald Hills  
1C: Charles Rauch, Monterey - Jeannette Stern, Carmel By Sea - Timothy Maloney, Palo Alto - Robert Crosby, San Mateo

### **Sierra KO 1 (14 Tables)**

Mary Ann Berg, Atherton - Jason Feldman, San Diego - Grzegorz Narkiewicz, Chapel Hill NC - Krzysztof Buras, Warszawa Poland

### **Sierra KO 2 (12 Tables)**

Steve Hubbell, Mountain View - Michael Hughes - Alan Wood, San Jose - Bob Enenstein, Los Altos



*Alan Wood, Mike Hughes, Bob Enenstein, Steve Hubbell (not pictured)*

### **Sierra KO 3 (12 Tables)**

Vera Baum - Buz Battle, Los Altos - Joanie Dinsmore, Mountain View - Susan Zhang, Los Altos Hills

### **Friday Eve Swiss (9 Tables)**

1A: Dick Jones - Veronica McMurdie, Sacramento - Loretta Bromberg, Bel Tiburon - Howard Parker III, Clements  
1B (tie): S Andrew Sass, Fremont - Drayton Swartz, Castro Valley - Carol Clements, Napa - Nancy Rude, Santa Rosa  
1B: Mischel Postas, Campbell - Phyllis Vierra, Palm Desert - Frank Concepcion, Walnut Creek - Carol Cottam, Concord

1C: George Welch, San Jose - Stacie Bowman, Sunnyvale - Rita Rubinfeld, Portola Valley - Debbie Machlin, Los Altos

### **Apache KO 1 (9 Tables)**

Ray Yuenger, Campbell - Brian King, Kihei HI - James Lutz, Laguna Niguel - Panette Talia, Kelseyville



*Jim Lutz, Panette Talia, Brian King, Ray Yuenger*

### **Apache KO 2 (9 Tables)**

Eli Zinner - Jan Grieff Zinner, Nipomo - David Koble, Bartlesville OK - Doris Dunn, Arroyo Grande

### **Apache KO 3 (9 Tables)**

Pam Stoner, Menlo Park - Diane Weissman, Fountain Hills AZ - Linda Rocha, Los Gatos - Margaret Becker, Saratoga

### **Saturday Eve Swiss (12 Tables)**

1A: Valentin Kovachev - Brenda Jacobus, Las Vegas - Carole Liss, San Rafael - Cameron Doner, Surrey BC

1B, 1C: Vilas Namjoshi - Rajeev Jog, San Jose - Ashwini Datar, Cupertino - Aaron Mayerson, Redwood City

### **Saturday-Sunday AM Swiss (12 Tables)**

1A: Diane Vaughan - Worth Vaughan, Madison WI - Marcus Ballinger, Burlingame - Eugene Sor, Richmond

1B: Eli Zinner - Jan Grieff Zinner, Nipomo - David Koble, Bartlesville OK - Doris Dunn, Arroyo Grande

1C: Darel Hodgson - Janine Hodgson, Palo Alto - Jenny Blaschke, Stanford - Minoru Tomijima, Menlo Park

DIAMOND IN THE RUFF

### **OK Corral KO 1 (12 Tables)**

Lou Ann O'Rourke, Scottsdale AZ - Mike Passell, Plano TX - Geoff Hampson - Marc Jacobus, Las Vegas NV - John Hurd, New York NY - Chris Compton, Dallas TX

### **OK Corral KO 2 (12 Tables)**

Pangjie Xu, San Jose - Winston Huang - Weihong Tao - Huiwen Yang, Los Altos

### **Tom Quinlan Compact KO 1 (12 Tables)**

Freddie Straus, Encino - Julia Gosnell - Michael Gosnell, Walnut Creek - Susan Ledford, San Francisco

### **Tom Quinlan Compact KO 2 (12 Tables)**

Marion Robertson - Martha Keller - Bette Meers-O'Hara - Michael O'Hara, San Francisco

### **Tom Quinlan Compact KO 3 (12 Tables)**

Dana Shelley - Philip Abrahamson, Atherton - Jana Cushman, Mountain View - Russell Norman, Palo Alto



*Susan Ledford, Freddie Straus, Michael Gosnell, Julia Gosnell*

### **Sunday Eve Swiss (14 Tables)**

1A: Grant Robinson - Teresa Boyd, Dublin - Peter Lit, Elk - James Merzon, Templeton

1B, 1C: Qing Lu - Jung Hu, San Jose - Ying Liu, Palo Alto - Leila Mattinger, Cupertino

### **Monday A/X Swiss (37 Tables)**

1A: Finn Kolesnik, Ventura - Alexander Kolesnik - Sharon Beynon, Los Angeles - Daniel Sonner, Redwood City

1X: Jim Liu, Saratoga - Jun Shi, Palo Alto - Yu Chang, Milpitas - Peter Sun, San Jose

**Monday Under 2,000 RR 1 (8 Tables)**

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

**Monday Under 2,000 RR 2 (8 Tables)**

Norman Marks - Ronald Baron, San Jose - Brenna Wundram, Los Altos - Dee Ann Hansen, Saratoga

**Monday Under 2,000 RR 3 (9 Tables)**

David Puryear - Kathy Puryear - Joanie Dinsmore, Mountain View - Judi Gentry, Los Altos

**Monday Senior Swiss (15 Tables)**

1A: Veronica McMurdie - D Jones, Sacramento - Mark Itabashi, Murrieta - Howard Parker III, Clements

1B: Barry Samuel - Larry Wyner - Paul Scheinberg, Santa Rosa - Thomas McGuire Jr, Oakland

1C: Art Quey, San Mateo - David Ng, Hillsborough - Joseph Fang - Baron Wang, San Francisco



*New Life Masters Andrea Ventris and Jocelyn Startz*



*New Life Master Peter Kilner*

**We look forward to listing winners and having photos of even more of our players when the next issue reports on the Reno Regional!**

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

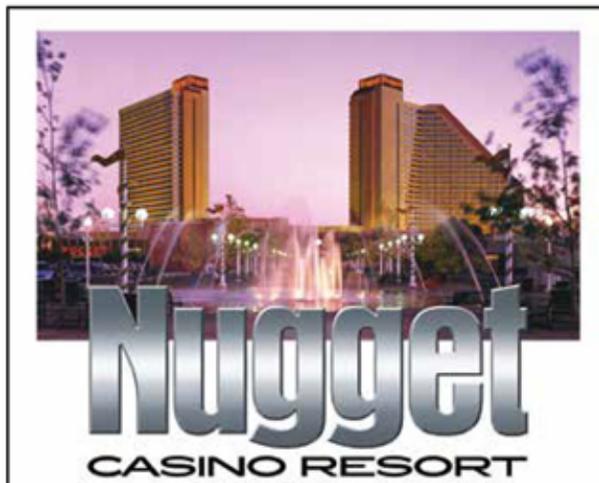
Non-members will be required to become members by either purchasing an annual membership, or a \$7.99 special monthly membership.

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

Make hotel reservations  
Plan your tournament events  
Gather general information/direction  
[www.d21acbl.com](http://www.d21acbl.com)

For information contact:

Pam Hughes: email: [jmom380@yahoo.com](mailto:jmom380@yahoo.com)  
District 21 website [www.d21acbl.com](http://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 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

# Reno Regional October 15-21, 2018

at the Nugget Casino & Resort 800-648-1177  
Generously Co-Sponsored by District 7

## Monday, October 15

- 1pm Sparks Side Pairs 1 of 6  
99er/299er Stratified Pairs  
Great Pumpkin Swiss Teams
- 1 & 7 **STRATIFIED ELY OPEN PAIRS**
- 7pm **NUGGET BRACKETED KOs**  
continues Tuesday 9, 1 & 7  
Sparks Side Pairs 2 of 6  
99er/299er Stratified Pairs

## Tuesday, October 16

- 9am NUGGET KOs – round 2  
Morning Side Pairs 1st of 5  
99er/299er Stratified Pairs
- 10 & 3 **STRATIFIED DAYLIGHT PAIRS**
- 1pm Sparks Side Pairs 3 of 6  
99ers/299er Stratified Pairs
- 1 & 7 **OPEN PAIRS 0-1500/1500-3000/3000+**  
**PROSPECTOR GOLD PAIRS 0-300/750**  
**NORTHSTAR KOs 1 & 2**  
continues Wednesday 1 & 7  
NUGGET KOs 3 & 4
- 7pm Stratified Side Swiss Teams  
Sparks Side Pairs 4 of 6  
99ers/299ers Stratified Pairs

## Wednesday, October 17

- 9am **GOODWILL SWISS TEAMS** – 1st of 2  
Morning Side Pairs 2nd of 5  
99er/299er Stratified Pairs
- 10 & 3 **OPEN PAIRS 0-1500/1500-3000/3000+**  
**EUREKA! GOLD PAIRS 0-300/750**
- 1pm Sparks Side Pairs 5 of 6  
99ers/299er Stratified Pairs
- 1 & 7 **STRATIFIED OPEN PAIRS**  
**TAHOE BRACKETED KOs 1 & 2**  
continues Thursday 1 & 7  
NORTHSTAR KOs 3 & 4
- 7pm Stratified Side Swiss Teams  
Sparks Side Pairs 6 of 6  
99ers/299ers Stratified Pairs

## Thursday, October, 18 GOODWILL DAY

- 9am **GOODWILL SWISS TEAMS**– round 2  
Morning Side Pairs 3rd of 5  
99er/299er Stratified Pairs
- 10 & 3 **STRATIFIED DAYLIGHT PAIRS**
- 1pm Sierra Side Pairs 1 of 6  
99ers/299er Stratified Pairs
- 1 & 7 **OPEN PAIRS 0-1500/1500-3000/3000+**  
**LOVELOCK GOLD PAIRS 0-300/750**  
**ALPINE BRACKETED KOs 1 & 2**  
continues Friday 1 & 7  
TAHOE KOs 3 & 4
- 7pm Stratified Side Swiss Teams  
Sierra Side Pairs 2nd of 6  
99ers/299ers Stratified Pairs

## Friday, October 19

- 9am **VIRGINIA CITY SWISS TEAMS** 1st of 2  
Morning Side Pairs 4th of 5  
99er/299er Stratified Pairs
- 10 & 3 **DAYLIGHT OPEN PAIRS 0-1500/1500-3000/3000+**  
**BLACKJACK GOLD RUSH PAIRS 0-300/750**
- 1pm Sierra Side Pairs 3rd of 6  
99ers/299er Stratified Pairs
- 1 & 7 **STRATIFIED OPEN PAIRS**  
**BONANZA BRACKETED KOs 1 & 2**  
continues Saturday at 1 & 7  
ALPINE KOs 3 & 4
- 7pm Stratified Side Swiss Teams  
Sierra Side Pairs 4th of 6  
99ers/299ers Stratified Pairs

## Saturday, October 20

- 9am **VIRGINIA CITY SWISS TEAMS**– round 2  
Morning Side Pairs 5th of 5  
99er/299er Stratified Pairs
- 10 & 3 **PONDEROSA COMPACT KOs**  
**STRATIFIED DAYLIGHT PAIRS**
- 3 Stratified Side Swiss Teams
- 1pm Free Student Game 0-5 masterpoints  
Sierra Side Pairs 5th of 6  
99ers/299ers Stratified Pairs
- 1 & 7 **STRATIFIED OPEN PAIRS 0-1500/1500-3000/3000+**  
**HEAVENLY GOLD PAIRS**  
**BONANZA BRACKETED KOs 3 & 4**
- 7pm Stratified Side Swiss Teams  
Sierra Side Pairs 6th of 6  
99ers/299ers Stratified Pairs

## Sunday, October 21

- \*\*\*EARLY START - All games at 10am\*\*\***  
**STRAT AX TEAMS 0-3000/+3000+**  
**0-2000 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  
299ers Swiss Teams (10am and TBA with a short break)  
99/299ers Stratified Pairs 10am only  
Pairs interested in playing second session  
may form teams and join 299er Swiss 2nd session

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

# Monterey Clambake Regional



**December 31 - January 6, 2019**

## \*Tournament Highlights\*

- *New Knockouts Daily*
- *SIX Days of 0-750 Gold Rush Pairs*
- *Friday Open Pairs Qualifies to a BAROMETER final*
- *Three Stratified Side Game Series*
- *DAYLIGHT PAIRS*  
*Tuesday - Saturday at 10 & 3*
- *MID-FLIGHT PAIRS Wed-Thurs*
- *Free bridge concepts lectures*  
*Tuesday-Saturday at Noon*
- *Celebrity Speaker Program*
- *Side Games at every 9, 1 & 7:00 session*

## HYATT REGENCY MONTEREY

1 Old Golf Course Road, Monterey, CA 93940

Reserve EARLY for the Bridge Rate

single/double \$119 plus tax  
no resort fee

Includes parking

831-372-1234 or 800-233-1234

### 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:

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View tournament schedule  
Plan your tournament events  
Gather general information/directions  
[www.d21acbl.com](http://www.d21acbl.com)

#### For information contact:

Pam Hughes: [jmom380@yahoo.com](mailto:jmom380@yahoo.com)  
District 21 website: [www.d21acbl.com](http://www.d21acbl.com)  
On site tournament info: 408-810-2273  
Please comply with D21's Pet Policy. See website for details.  
Schedule subject to change.

### Intermediate/Newcomer Events

*299er Pairs at every session*  
*(stratified based on attendance)*

**Bridge Concepts Lectures**  
**with Scott Campbell**

**Tuesday thru Saturday at Noon**

**Free Student Game on Saturday at 1:00**

**(0-5mp's)**

Nancy Boyd, Director in Charge

ACBL Sanction R1901035

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

# Monterey Clambake Regional

## December 31 - January 6, 2019

at the Hyatt Regency Monterey, 1 Old Golf Course Road, Monterey, CA 93940

### Monday, December 31

- 1:00 Stratified Swiss Teams  
Cannery Row Stratified Side Pairs 1 of 6  
299ers Stratified Pairs
- 1 & 7 **STRATIFIED OPEN PAIRS 0-1500/1500-3000/3000+  
MONTEREY GOLD PAIRS 0-300/300-750**
- 7:00 **BING CROSBY BRACKETED KOs**  
Round 1, Continues Tuesday 9, 1 & 730  
Cannery Row Stratified Side Pairs 2 of 6  
299ers Stratified Pairs

### 11:00 ZIP KOs - Champagne and Refreshments

### Tuesday, January 1

- 9:00 BING CROSBY KOs – round 2  
Clambake Morning Side Pairs 1st of 5  
299ers Stratified Pairs
- 10 & 3 **STRATIFIED DAYLIGHT PAIRS**
- 1:00 Cannery Row Strat Side Pairs 3 of 6  
299ers Stratified Pairs
- 1 & 7 **OPEN PAIRS 0-1500/1500-3000/3000+  
BIG SUR GOLD PAIRS 0-300/300-750  
JACK LEMMON BRACKETED KOs**  
Rds 1 & 2 Continues Wednesday 1 & 7
- BING CROSBY KOs – rounds 3 & 4
- 7:00 Stratified Swiss Teams  
299ers Stratified Pairs  
Cannery Row Strat Side Pairs 4 of 6

### Wednesday, January 2

- 9:00 **MONTEREY SWISS TEAMS**, 1st of 2  
Continues Thursday at 9am  
Clambake Morning Side Pairs 2nd of 5  
299ers Stratified Pairs
- 10 & 3 **STRATIFIED DAYLIGHT PAIRS**
- 1:00 Cannery Row Strat Side Pairs 5 of 6  
299ers Stratified Pairs
- 1 & 7 **STRATIFIED OPEN PAIRS 0-5000/5000+  
STRATIFIED MIDFLIGHT PAIRS 0-1500/1500-3000  
BLUE WHALE GOLD PAIRS 0-300/750  
RORY MCILROY BRACKETED KOs**  
Rds 1 & 2 Continues Thursday 1 & 7
- JACK LEMMON KOs – rounds 3 & 4
- 7:00 Stratified Swiss Teams  
299ers Stratified Pairs  
Cannery Row Strat Side Pairs 6 of 6

### Thursday, January 3 GOODWILL DAY

- 9:00 **MONTEREY SWISS TEAMS** 2nd of 2  
Clambake Morning Side Pairs 3rd of 5  
299ers Stratified Pairs
- 10 & 3 **STRATIFIED DAYLIGHT PAIRS**
- 1:00 Tom Watson Strat Side Pairs 1st of 6  
299ers Stratified Pairs
- 1 & 7 **STRATIFIED OPEN PAIRS 0-5000/5000+  
STRATIFIED MIDFLIGHT PAIRS 0-1500/1500-3000  
CARMEL GOLD PAIRS 0-300/750  
STEINBECK BRACKETED KOs**  
Rds 1 & 2 Continues Friday 1 & 7
- RORY MCILROY KOs – rounds 3 & 4
- 7:00 Stratified Swiss Teams  
299ers Stratified Pairs  
Tom Watson Strat Side Pairs 2nd of 6

### Friday, January 4

- 9:00 **MICHELLE WIE SWISS TEAMS**  
1st of 2 - Continues Saturday at 9  
Clambake Morning Side Pairs 4th of 5  
299ers Stratified Pairs
- 10 & 3 **STRATIFIED DAYLIGHT PAIRS**
- 1:00 Tom Watson Stratified Side Pairs 3rd of 6  
299ers Stratified Pairs
- 1 & 7 **OPEN PAIRS Qualifies to a  
BAROMETER FINAL**  
NQs enter 7:00 Swiss or Side Pairs
- SPANISH BAY GOLD PAIRS 0-300/750  
ERNIE ELS BRACKETED KOs**,  
Rds 1 & 2 Continues Saturday 1 & 7
- JOHN STEINBECK KOs** – rounds 3 & 4
- 7:00 Stratified Swiss Teams  
299ers Stratified Pairs  
Tom Watson Stratified Side Pairs 4th of 6

### Saturday, January 5

- 9:00 **MICHELLE WIE SWISS TEAMS** 2nd  
Clambake Morning Side Pairs 5th of 5  
299ers Stratified Pairs
- 10 & 3 **OPEN PAIRS 0-1500/1500-3000/3000+  
DAYLIGHT GOLD RUSH PAIRS 0-300/750**
- 1:00 Tom Watson Stratified Side Pairs 5th of 6  
299ers Stratified Pairs
- 1:00 **FREE Student Game 0 – 5 masterpoints**
- 1 & 7 **STRATIFIED OPEN PAIRS  
CYPRESS BRACKETED SWISS TEAMS  
ERNIE ELS KOs** – rounds 3 & 4
- 7:00 Stratified Swiss Teams  
299ers Stratified Pairs  
Tom Watson Stratified Side Pairs 6th of 6

### Sunday, January 6

- EARLY START - 10am - PLAY THRU**  
with a short break
- STRATIFIED A/X SWISS TEAMS**  
Strat A 4000+ Strat X -0-4000
- 0-2500 ROUND ROBIN TEAMS**
- ◆ No individual player over 2500 mp
  - ◆ Typically brackets of eight, three gold overall places per bracket.
  - ◆ Teams may not withdraw after one session.
- CLINT EASTWOOD FAST STRAT OPEN PAIRS**  
2 fast sessions with a short break

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

KO Events with only one Bracket may be Handicapped

**Stratified Events Key Unless otherwise posted.**

**A 2000+ B 750 – 2000 C 0 - 750**  
Eligibility for Flighted Events based on top player.  
Thereafter, stratification based on average of pair/team

# RANK UPGRADES

## JUNIOR MASTERS

Tere Aicardi, Gold River CA, 505  
Betsy Allen, Santa Cruz CA, 550  
Julie Anongos, Monterey CA, 530  
Min Bai, Cupertino CA, 507  
Christopher Barnes, Nicasio CA, 508  
Jay Beatty, San Francisco CA, 506  
Jeremy Brott, Santa Rosa CA, 509  
Sue Burish, Oakland CA, 502  
Chao-Hung Chen, Sunnyvale CA, 507  
Charlie Chen, San Jose CA, 507  
Helen Chow, San Francisco CA, 506  
Nathan Chow, San Francisco CA, 506  
Benjamin Darnell, San Jose CA, 507  
Dirk Epperson, Berkeley CA, 497  
Lee Fitzsimons, Santa Rosa CA, 509  
Kayden Ge, Cupertino CA, 507  
Lee Goines, Los Altos CA, 503  
Barbara Goldstein, Tiburon CA, 508  
Michael Goldstein, Tiburon CA, 508  
Jolanda Heijnen, Oakland CA, 502  
Charles Hinger, San Francisco CA, 506  
Debra Jones, Fremont CA, 500  
Helga Justman, San Francisco CA, 506  
Alan Lazar, Sacramento CA, 505  
Sheri Norbosh, Scotts Valley CA, 550  
Yilmaz Ozturhan, San Ramon CA, 499  
Melanie Pereira, Danville CA, 499  
Ken Phillips, San Anselmo CA, 508  
Murarka Prabhu Dayal, Saratoga CA, 507  
Betty Pribula, Pacific Grove CA, 530  
Deane Satow, Castroville CA, 530  
Robert Shanks, Sacramento CA, 505  
Anoop Singhal, Cupertino CA, 507

Marianne Stuart, Fair Oaks CA, 505  
Michael Topper, Walnut Creek CA, 499  
Helen Trop-Zell, Incline Village NV, 465  
Carolyn Watanabe, Aptos CA, 550  
Youfeng Wu, Palo Alto CA, 503  
Richard Wuerthner, Santa Rosa CA, 509

## CLUB MASTERS

Estelle Andrews, Walnut Creek CA, 499  
Debeliah Anthony, Pacific Grove CA, 530  
Monica Bacon-Proctor, San Jose, CA, 507  
Marien Berggren San Francisco, CA, 506  
Jane Blum, El Dorado Hills CA, 505  
Marilyn Chilcote, Oakland CA, 502  
Jolene Cole, Los Altos CA, 503  
Shirley Ehrlich, Mill Valley CA, 508  
Bob Farkas, San Carlos CA, 498  
Serena Greening, San Francisco CA, 506  
Margareta Hodzic, San Jose CA, 503  
Jerold Kaplan, Alamo CA, 499  
Will Kenigsberg, Saratoga CA, 507  
Michael Lucey, S Lake Tahoe CA, 465  
Anna Mantell, Berkeley CA, 497  
Nancy Martin, Palo Alto CA, 503  
Han Moy, Pleasanton CA, 501  
Mary Rock, Placerville CA, 505  
Bill Roman, San Jose CA, 507  
Sarah Ryland, Hillsborough CA, 498  
Edward Schrenzel, Marina CA, 530  
Nancy Swanson, Kingsburg CA, 522  
Linda Urquhart, Sacramento CA, 505  
Catherine Wallace, San Rafael CA, 508  
Gretchen Zaballos, Pleasanton CA, 501  
Mary Lou Zoback, Stanford CA, 503

# SECTIONAL MASTERS

Barry Alhadeff, Saratoga CA, 507  
Christina Amerio, Lincoln CA, 505  
Margie Baldwin, Lodi CA, 510  
Pamela Davison, Oakland CA, 502  
Swan Day, Napa CA, 512  
Kenneth Derr, Orinda CA, 499  
Kim Fusch, Petaluma CA, 509  
Robert Goetzinger, Petaluma CA, 509  
Bill Hammerback, Union City CA, 500  
Limin He, Monte Sereno CA, 507  
Natalie Huang, Los Altos CA, 503  
Kenneth Hui, San Mateo CA, 498  
Kirsten Klinghammer, Folsom CA, 505  
Helen Kuckens, Mountain View CA, 503  
Charles Landau, Sacramento CA, 505  
Jeri Leu, Georgetown CA, 505  
Jesse Liu, Fremont CA, 500  
Bruce Mahood, Calistoga CA, 509  
Wayne McIntyre, Pebble Beach CA, 530  
Sharon Metcalf, Lodi CA, 510  
Karen Mok, Pebble Beach CA, 530  
Lenore Parisi, Lincoln CA, 505  
G Proper, Albany CA, 502  
Elaine Prosser, Lincoln CA, 505  
Sally Reed, Pebble Beach CA, 530  
Adolph Rosekrans, Woodside CA, 498  
Wendy Schwartz, Walnut Creek CA, 499  
Elizabeth Sebring, Pacific Grove CA, 530  
Ellen Sirbu, San Rafael CA, 508  
Marilynne Solloway, San Francisco CA, 506  
Sara Van Dyke, San Francisco CA, 506  
Gerald Williams, Carmel CA, 530  
Kathy Ann Wilson, Napa CA, 512  
Cynthia Yock, Atherton CA, 503

# REGIONAL MASTERS

Enid Barnes, Santa Rosa CA, 509  
Susan Brenden, Lincoln CA, 505  
Marie Chong, San Jose CA, 507  
Ashwini Datar, Cupertino CA, 507  
Steven Doyle, Fremont CA, 500  
Gary Fields, San Francisco CA, 506  
Suresh Gadad, Walnut Creek CA, 499  
Charles Gherman, San Francisco CA, 506  
Bob Gleason, San Carlos CA, 498  
Toni Hillman, Stockton CA, 510  
Samuel Jones Jr, Elk Grove CA, 505  
Bill Kirn, San Rafael CA, 508  
Kenneth Krenzin, Walnut Creek CA, 499  
Robert Lapointe, Walnut Creek CA, 499  
Jay Margulies, Los Altos CA, 503  
Steve Marsh, Mills Valley CA, 508  
Michael Modest, Aptos CA, 550  
Thomas Morse, Milpitas CA, 507  
Tillie Myers, San Jose CA, 507  
Joan Pierce, Walnut Creek CA, 499  
Jon Probst, Reno NV, 473  
Maxine Reagh, Sebastopol CA, 509  
Ken Rice, Oakland CA, 502  
Richard Russ, San Leandro CA, 500  
Gobind Sadaranganey, San Jose CA, 507  
Pam Schrock, Santa Rosa CA, 509  
Robert Silver, Palo Alto CA, 503  
Marian Smith, Menlo Park CA, 503  
Margaret Timm, Oakland CA, 502  
Thomas Trimble Jr, Carmel Bay CA, 465

# ADVANCED NABC MASTERS

Buz Battle, Los Altos CA, 503  
Rajeev Jog, San Jose CA, 503  
Gary Mankin, San Francisco CA, 506  
Paulette Moe, Ross CA, 508

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## Berkeley/El Cerrito/Richmond

*By The Beer Dude*

The Giants are dead; A's likely will have to beat the Yanks in NY to get a shot @ Boston. 49ers & Raiders are works in progress; no worries about the Warriors. I head off to the East Coast for 17 days (Oct 6-23), so I'll be transmitting my Nov. column from Myrtle Beach, assuming one of the tropical storms still hanging offshore doesn't blast the area before/after you see this one. Now to the card stuff, including a goofy hand my team played last round during our BBQ Swiss.

The BBQ Swiss drew 7 teams, 3A & 4B based on average masterpoints. Len Vishnevsky's crew (Jo Ginsberg, Grant Vance, & Peter Bonfanti) shot 87.5% (105 VP's out of a possible 120) to win it (even tho they lost a match by 6 IMPS); "H" & her crew (Sara Rothmuller, Nancy Gunn & Bob Klein) were next; my crew (Eric, Sandi, Roseanne, & Dick) were 3rd. On the B side, Veda-Ben-Jan Straus-Shahla tied w/ Marcia Mattoon-Sarla Purohit-Lois Flock-Stuart Schneck for 1st – Veda's team was the one who managed to beat Len's crew - & mine as well!).

Pair game Aug 29 drew 7 tables, which Sandi & Roseanne topped, chasers being E & Dick 2A, Dexter-Gordon & Jack Shiffer-Chet Young 3/4A, & "H"-Larry Zeni 5A. On the B side, Marcia- Lili Basset 1, Vicky Chen 2, & Ben-Jan Kosel 3. Sept 7 drew 6 tables, which "H"-Carol Scott topped. Chasers: Jack Shiffer-Aki Watanabe 2A, Eric & Sandi 3A, John Love-Bob Post 4A/1B, & Dexter-Gordon 2B. Oct Unit Game is Fri 5th.

Welcome new members Linda Berkowitz & Yanloi Yengy; Robin Baker is our newest Jr Master (5+).

At da club, "H" was the August MP champ for the 1st time in a good while. Ercan Turken topped the NLMs. Dexter-Gordon hit the 70% club again on Sept 1 (7th one of the year). October, we'll have Jane Johnson Club Appreciation Month games 24th & 26 (Club Champ MP awards), plus an ACBL-wide Instant Matchpoint game on Halloween; come costumed if you desire. You find out immediately how you scored, as there will be info travelers w/ the pre-duplicated boards, plus info booklets after. Table fees \$7 for that one (because of higher sanction fees/table). Also, I'm considering changing game time to noon so to accommodate slow play (which

there is too much of, a lot being attributable to too much talking after a hand's over – if you're not a fast player, shut-up & go to the next board; you can discuss hands if you have a sitout, or before I call the next round) & those who have to battle I-80 going home. Let me know what you think – if I move it up, it'll be no earlier than Nov; more likely starting 2019.

To the aforementioned goofy hand: Red vs white in 4th seat, you hold: ♠x ♥AKxx ♦AKQT ♣ATxx, & see 1♠-Pass-2♠. I double, then Pass & 2NT from partner – what now? I took a stab at 3NT, hoping partner had the ♠K amongst his 3-5 possible points. Down 3 – he'd meant his 2NT as a Lebensohl response (which I don't play – the automatic response is 3♣, which he can pass or correct; I can bid a 5+long suit if not 1-4-4-4).

At our teammates' table, the 1st round of bidding went the same as at ours, but opener then bid 4♣, having a 15-16 count with a club void & solid spades – her partner had raised on a 4-5 count with a diamond void. The person holding my hand doubled, but her partner didn't lead a trump, so 4♣ rolled home on a crossruff and a ♥ trick. Partner's hand was a flat Yarborough. Strangest "20-20" hand (point-wise) I've ever encountered.

Good luck in Reno if you go; the weather still should be good & dry, & the Nugget has a great casino & Sports Book if you decide to take a break & bet some baseball/football/horse races whilst having a few free libations. Further good luck when you hit the slots/table games. Now all we need around here is for "Indian Summer" to show up – highest temp to date I've recorded on my shaded front porch in the Richmond Annex is 77. I have a cheap (from Amazon) small digital device that tracks temp & humidity & posts highs & lows for both, which I reset Jan 1.

Tweak [beerman1949@gmail.com](mailto:beerman1949@gmail.com) to brag/gripe/suggest; Unit info & game results available 24/7 @ [www.berunit497.org](http://www.berunit497.org).

## Carson/Tahoe

*By Carole Sill*

It's that time of the year again. Our bridge families from the warmer states are starting to return home. We have really enjoyed having them at our games and we will miss them. It is also time for our sectional, October 4 thru 7, where we are known for our fabulous hospitality. Last but not least, we are preparing for

our club elections. I'm sure they won't be nearly as controversial as our political elections.

At the Reno sectional, which was held August 15 thru 18, many of our members scored quite well. Paul Kushner scored 21.43 Masterpoints, Gary Nitzberg 17.48, Leona Pchelkin 8.98, Jim and Marge Breeden 8.51, Nick Pchelkin 8.41, Paul Jorgensen 7.92, Ed and Cornelia Gould 7.18, Bob Garrett 3.71, John Greer 3.64, Judy Greer 3.40, John & Carole Sill 3.40, Larry Brilliant 1.84, Bruce Moon 1.84, Francis Brun Anderson 1.76, Richard and Patricia Eddy 1.60, Michael Lucey 1.54, Don Peterson 1.32, Lars Anderson 1.27, Glenn Quinn .81, Robert Langson .57, Doug Smith .46, Otis and Betty Clamp .40, Rich and Gladys Turissini .23.

At our Western Conference STAC games on August 20, Bruce Moon and Gary Nitzberg scored 2.16, Paul and Eileen Jorgensen 2.16, Paul and Mary Lockwood 1.90.

August 22, Jim and Marge Breeden scored 2.06, Gary Nitzberg and Paul Kushner 1.24, Michael Lucey and Don Peterson 1.44, Rich and Gladys Turissini .85. Congratulations to all.

## Diablo Valley

By Lisa Assoni

Get ready, set, and plan to go!

November News: It's here again and you've gotta attend. Tune-up for our 6th Annual Tunnel Tournament. It's Sunday, November 4, with two sessions, first at 10:30 a.m. and second at 2:30 p.m. We will meet at the East Bay Community Bridge Center. Address: 9520 Mountain Blvd, Oakland. You must have a partner, and reservations are mandatory. Please sign-up ASAP. We are limited to 25 pairs, and filling up quickly. So contact Andy Fine, at [Afine963@aol.com](mailto:Afine963@aol.com). He's the man who's helping us connect. Please note, when registering you must provide each player's MPs.



So let's bridge the gap, and the prized plaque could be ours. We're tricky players, and we may try to strong-arm the offense with interfering bids. We want that plaque bad. Really, it's a very fun way to spend a day.

Back to October, the month where fall nestles in, and the costumes come out. The Jack-O-Lantern is a symbol of celebrating Halloween, Oktoberfest's, and Pumpkin Pie. The associated terms of a pumpkin are either endearing or frightful. When playing bridge, we don't want to be a gourd in someone's side. Yet, we try to intimidate the defense with interfering bids and try to scare the bejeebers out-of-um. Perfect timing. Hey, we're here to try and win.

This strange holiday has dark roots that stem back to the Romans and the Druids, centuries ago. So best not to stir up trouble, as goblins and witches may ring your bell. It's quite a unique holiday, since we're all told not to answer our doors, unless we know who's-a knockin'.

Well, you can be certain that Karen Corburn who took on the job of chairperson for the mentoring program, is really out to help you. Her quest to help began in January of this year. She's done a super job, and encourages all who need to pump up their game, to contact her. She's very enthusiastic about sharing her love for bridge, and happy to assist you. E-mail Karen at: [corburndk@sbcglobal.net](mailto:corburndk@sbcglobal.net).

Well, it's getting close to our annual fall sectional. What a great opportunity to earn MPs. It's so easy you'll fall in love with bridge. Unit 499 is hosting, so

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make your calendars for November 10-11, 2018. It will be held at Dougherty Valley High School, 10550 Albion Rd., San Ramon, CA 94582. For directions, game times and all the details, please log onto [diablovalleybridge.com](http://diablovalleybridge.com). It's an event that shouldn't be missed. Hope to see you all there.

Ciao Bella

## East Bay

*By Larry Bowerman*

As mentioned last month, the Sunday game on October 28 will mark the fifth anniversary of the opening of the East Bay Community Bridge Center (EBCBC). The game will begin at 1:00 pm with catered appetizers being served before the game. Reservations are required for this game, so please contact Betty Kael if you want to play. The EBCBC plans to show highlights of the first 5 years, so if you have any good photos from the opening celebration or other significant events, please forward them to Sandi Davis at: [sandi.david21@gmail.com](mailto:sandi.david21@gmail.com).

As another reminder, the Unit 502 Fall Sectional will take place on November 17 & 18 at the Oakland Masonic Center (third floor), 3903 Broadway, Oakland, CA. This is always a great event, so please plan to attend. The games begin at 10:00 am each day and the table fees will be \$12.00. Lunch will be available for \$5.00 per person on both days, along with lots of good (and healthy) snacks throughout the day. There is some parking available behind the building off of Manila Ave, otherwise street parking is your best bet, especially on Sunday when the parking meters don't require feeding.

As usual, there are a few other important calendar events to note. First, there will be a regularly scheduled Unit 502 Game on Sunday, October 7 at the EBCBC. The free lunch will be served at about 12:30 pm, and the game will begin at 1:00 pm.

The October 21 unit game is the Dick Hart Memorial Pizza Swiss Teams Game. Reservations are required no later than October 19; contact Carol Warren at: [carolwarren036@gmail.com](mailto:carolwarren036@gmail.com). Entries will be sold at 12:00 noon, the pizza lunch will be served at 12:15 pm and the game will begin at 1:00 pm.

After September 30, the Saturday games will be discontinued and replaced by Sunday games on those Sundays when there are no 502 Unit Games. In October these new games will take place only on

Sunday, October 14 (October 28 is the EBCBC Fifth Anniversary Game). Club Appreciation Week at the EBCBC will take place during the week of October 22 to 27.

There will be a Halloween Swiss Teams Game at the EBCBC on Friday, October 26 and an Instant Match Point Game on Wednesday, October 31.

The Tunnel Tourney (Units #499 vs Unit #502) will take place on Sunday, November 4 at the Unit #502's EBCBC. Please note that this is a two-session event and registration is required. Both members of each pair must be from the same unit (either #499 or #502). The scoring for the game will be the same as last year; 4 pairs in each strat will count. We look forward to this opportunity for more friendly competition between the two units.

In the August 19 unit game, Grant Vance and Jessica Lai took first place, Pat Leary and Nick Wiebe took second place, Neal Mazaroff and Stuart Schneck third place, Betty Kael and Susan Boyers fourth. The top three pairs had games at or above 60.8%. In addition, Nadine Levine and Tom Pajak, and Joyce and David Denyven tied for 5th earning nice master point awards.

The September 2 unit game ended up being relatively small (7 tables) due to the Santa Clara Regional and bad traffic/parking associated with a free day at the Oakland Zoo. Pat and Jim Leary finished first, Otto Eder and Gunnar Niemi second, David Snyder and Allan Harris third, and Nadine Levine and Margaret Rourke fourth. All four pairs had games between 51.4% and 56.3%.

In the September 9 Unit 502 NAP Final Game, Jo Anna and Lew Stansby took first place, Sarita Mathiasen and Shirley Nedham took second place, Jack Beers and Manfred Michlmayr third, and Daniel and Linda Friedman fourth. Congratulations to all who qualified for the District 21 NAP Finals, which take place in December (see the District 21 Calendar for specific dates and locations).

In the September 16 unit game, Nancy Gunn and Sarita Mathiasen took first place, Edwin and Teresa Seputis second place, Jessica Lai and Grant Vance third place, and Randy Corr and Carol Penskar fourth place. It was a very close game, as all four pairs had games between 59.13% and 60.74%!

Welcome to new member Robert Schenker! When you see him, please take the time to welcome him to our unit.

Congratulations to the following players on their recent rank advancements: Ama Torrance - Junior Master; Susie and Herb Chung – Life Master; Susie Chung – Bronze Life Master; and Richard Leres – Ruby Life Master. Kudos to each of you, and keep on playing! There is always another goal in front of you! When you see them, please take the time to congratulate them on their advancements.

Sandi Davis is writing the October column, so please contact her (at sandi.david21@gmail.com) if you have noteworthy results or other items to report.

## Fresno

*By Laura Da Costa*

Hello Everyone, August 11 & 12 was our annual Non-Life Master Sectional. This year's attendance was not as good as previous years, but it still accomplished the two most important components of a Non-Life Master Sectional: 1) it was profitable, and 2) we had many members experiencing tournament play for the very first time. We had 39 players win silver points, with the big winners being Sam Earnhardt (Walnut Creek) and Jackie Thomas (San Ramon). The big winners from Unit 522 were Don & Marion Austin. Our appreciation goes to Richard Meffley (Tournament Director), Jackie Finn (Hospitality), and Mary Lou Pease (Partnership). Thanks also go to those who donated food and helped serve the two lunches.

Our Fresno Fall Sectional has not yet occurred as I write this article, I will be reporting on the tournament next month.

It isn't too early to remind you that our Fresno Winter Sectional will once again be Presidents' Day Weekend (February 15-18). Plan to play that weekend with us.

Mun Takeda gave a Tuesday evening lesson on August 7. There were 31 people attending the lesson on Marty Bergen's "Hand Evaluation." Our thanks to Mun for the lesson and for the fund raising for the club.

October is Club Appreciation month. These high masterpoint games are allotted to each club and do not cost extra; check Aces, Places, & Faces to see when each club owner has scheduled this game. There is even a Club Appreciation Swiss Teams game planned for Sunday, October 28. This is the special game that awards 5% gold points. This year, to give everyone

a chance to place in this event, we have scheduled it as a Pro-Am Swiss Teams. No partners or teams to arrange in advance. Just show up for the potluck lunch at noon, enter your names with masterpoints, and the teams will be drawn shortly before game time.

We have very few 70% games in August, just four pairs and all were in Fresno. Mark & Sally Stern started the month (8/1) with a 70.24% in the Wednesday evening Open game; on 8/4, Richard Meffley & Gary Nelson earned a huge 75.52% in the Saturday afternoon Open game; then there were no more 70% games until near the end of the month when on 8/25 Steve Johnson & Margot Cegielski earned a huge 76.67% in the Saturday afternoon 99er game; the last for the month was on 8/28 when Clint Hudson & Julia Kendall earned exactly 75% in the Tuesday evening Lesson/99er game.

Big welcome to new member Louise Stermer of Fresno.

Remember to join us throughout October for the Club Appreciation Pair games and the Club Appreciation Pro-Am Swiss Teams game.

## Marin

*By Gail Haar*

Tracey Bauer has been given a National Goodwill award and been appointed to membership in the prestigious Aileen Osofsky ACBL National Goodwill Committee. This is a big deal, so please congratulate Tracey when you see her. Make "Goodwill" part of your daily life, too!

The top 10 Goodwill Gestures; Greet and Welcome Opponents; Always Say, "Director, Please"; Lead or Place Dummy before You Write; Mentor a New Player; Say, "Thank You, Partner"; Compliment Opponent's Play; Discuss Hands after the Game; Accept Defeat and Victory with Grace; Leave a Tidy Table; Smile Often!

Congratulations to our members who have advanced in rank –Bruce Innes (Regional Master); Andrea Ventris and Jeff Sengstack (Life Master); and Carole Liss (Emerald Life Master.)



*Tracey Bauer*

There were a number of big games this month: Caroline & Don Kosovac (74.50); Barbara & Michael Goldstein (74.17); and Joan Ehmann & Peggy Tatro (72.12 twice!). Laura Kenney and Gene Simpson won the unit game on September 16.

October is Club Appreciation Month, so start getting your Teams together for the last big Team opportunity before the Nationals in November! Club Appreciation games, both Pairs and Teams, yield elevated masterpoints, with Team games bestowing 5% Gold points. Check the "News Section" at [marinbridge.com](http://marinbridge.com) for dates and details.

The Goldwater Rule: A suggestion from Tournament Director Harry Goldwater that barring obvious consequences, a lead out of turn should generally be accepted. The rationale being that if a player does not know whose lead it is probably does not know the right lead either!

## Modesto/Merced/Sonora

*By Gail Vick*

During the second half of August, Frank Frohman & Bruce Ruskin took 1st with 66.67% in A; Toots Wade & Margaret Quinn finished 1st in B at 63.10%; Connie Arnold & Judy Remmers captured 1st in C with 59.63%; Jackie & Roland Wilson took 1st overall in A Division at 63%; Sharon Cole & Garrad Marsh finished 1st in both B & C Divisions the first half of September, with 62.50%.

In the once a month Tuesday duplicate group for August, Raj Modi & Joan Clendenin were 1st, followed by Carol Whiteside & Casey O'Mara tying with Pete Hoy & Jeannette Lamke for 2 & 3rd place; Kathy Comden & Ted Rupert won 1st across the board, A,B,C with 61.25% in the September game, followed by Joan Clendenin & Jeanne Lamke for 2nd across the board at 58.75%.

The weekend STAC games on August 25 were won by N/S Bruce Ruskin & Chris Brown A; Joyce Rudesill & Gail Vick in both B & C. Winning E/W were Margaret Quinn & Toots Wade in A, who also had the highest score overall in both directions at 69.05%, while Raj Modi & Sheela Wani were 1st in both B & C.

STAC games for the beginner & intermediate group with fewer than 750 master points on the 26th of

August were won by Barbara Page & Joyce Rudesill 1st in A, with Jim Page & Mike Saeler taking 1st in both B & C Divisions.

Ray Adams & Jim Page had a 75% game on September 2 in the intermediate beginning group, but were disqualified due to the fact that Ray is the instructor and over the maximum points allowed to earn points. A feather in Jim's cap though, onwards and upwards! As a result, Pat Gallo & Barbara Bogart took 1st in A, and Barbara Barnewolt & Betty Beard 1st in B.

At the unit game on the 9th, Sheela Wani & Ray Adams won 1st overall in A, with 69.05%; Trelle Uhl & Ralph Jungwirth followed with 61.31%; Sharon Cole, Garrad Marsh, Pat Gallo & Barbara Bogart all tied for 1st in both B & C Divisions.

Those placing the highest in the Stockton Sectional from Modesto were Ray Adams & Bruce Ruskin along with their team mates taking 2nd in the Sunday Swiss teams A Division event; Chris Barkley & Libby Longstreth received enough silver to now have Life Master Status; Congratulations to both of you! They managed to win third in the Sunday Swiss C Division with Mike Saeler and Roger Smith who helped steer the group to victory. Chris Brown & Bruce Ruskin were third in the Saturday morning open pairs A Division. Marcia & Jim Laird placed 2nd in D Division of the morning 199ers, with Sharon & Neil Von Tersch placing 3rd in E Division, as well as 1st in both D & E of the Saturday afternoon 199er event. Connie Arnold & Judy Remmers placed 1st in B Division during the Saturday afternoon open pairs game.

A few Modesto players traveled to Santa Clara, where most came home with points. Dee Alexander, Kathy High, and Pam Sands brought home a 2nd place finish in a knockout, while Judy Remmers, Connie Arnold, Barbara Page and Gail Vick garnered a third & fourth placement tie in a knockout. Other high scorers were our usual top players of Ruskin, Adams, Maddocks, Uhl, Jungwirth, Frohman.

Remember the dates coming quickly for the Modesto Sectional, Saturday and Sunday October 6 & 7, Homewood Village, Mable Avenue, Modesto. There will be a special 99er game on Saturday, provided enough attendance. Always a large array of food for our guests, this year headed by Lee Maddocks, and the sectional assembled by Barbara Page.

# Monterey

*By Mary Block*

The ever-popular Annual Pro Am game was a great success. Thanks go to Lyde for matchmaking all the congenial partnerships, a total of eighteen tables. Last minute cancellations required even more of her usual grace under pressure. The overall winners were Fred Quadros & Gerald Williams, former golf buddies who had never played bridge together before.

The Monterey Bridge Educational Foundation and Doug Halleen have started a new 8-week Easybridge! beginner series on Thursdays, from 4:30 - 6:30 at the Bridge Center. The cost for the 8 lessons is a mere \$50.00 tax deductible donation, which includes refreshments. No partner is necessary. Tell your family and friends who may want to learn our game. We were delighted to have so many Easybridge! graduates at the recent Pro-Am game and our goal is to continue the addition of new players to the club.

The Foundation will also be holding their annual Halloween Charity Game Fundraiser on Sunday, October 28. Raffle prizes, free lunch and lots of fun. Costumes encouraged but not required. Lunch at 12:00 and game about 1:15. Details to follow and signups at the Bridge Center.

Alan and Janet are always working to make their games both more accessible and more rewarding. For example, on Tuesday evening, September 4, an Interclub Championship game took place. Elizabeth Sebring and Keith Hedlund were the local winners and because of the game status, earned 1.72 MP.

We are [www.montereybridgeclub.com](http://www.montereybridgeclub.com) (831)384-7800. I am [maru0407@comcast.net](mailto:maru0407@comcast.net). The Foundation is <http://montereybridgeeducation.org>.

# Palo Alto

*By Carolyn Chaney*

In case you haven't heard, Robert Todd is coming to our Palo Alto Bridge Center on Saturday, April 27. Robert is a professional bridge player, teacher, bridge cruise host, and founder of Adventures in Bridge, [www.advinbridge.com](http://www.advinbridge.com).

Everyone who has traveled on one of his cruises or heard him speak raves about his personable style and bridge acumen. Topics for his visit will



be Slam Bidding and Trump Management, and the intended audience is intermediate to advanced players. Early Bird registration is \$85 before April 17, so sign up soon at [PaloAltoBridge.org](http://PaloAltoBridge.org) (Please note the new web address at .org).



*Robert Todd*

In education news, many fall classes for all levels started in mid-September, but Beginning Bridge with Kathy Harper starts September 27; tell your friends. Also, our free Tuesday morning lecture series is so valuable. Remember, you don't have to be a member of our unit to be welcome. On September 18, Tony Glynne gave a real winner on Cue Bidding the Opponents' Suit. I thought I understood this concept, but I got a lot from Tony's lecture. Past lectures are available in the archives at: <https://paloaltobridge.org/lecture-series-archive/>. On October 2, Bruce Lutrell presented: "Useful but Often Neglected Lead Treatments." And on October 30, Frank Smoot will address "Team Game Strategy," just in time for our Non-Life-Master/750 Sectional on November 3 & 4. For more info about the tournament, watch our web site or contact Susan Zhang: [szhang78@gmail.com](mailto:szhang78@gmail.com).

Alert, there is a sectional nearly every weekend this fall, and Swiss Teams is the best way to earn silver points, IMHO. Because you play against your masterpoint peers, you have a great chance to fulfill your Life Master silver requirement early. Santa Cruz's Surf's Up Sectional is always fun; and we won't want to miss the Silicon Valley's Sectional on October 26-28 at West Valley Community College. SiVY players take note: Youth rate is just \$6 and there will be free pizza on Saturday. But you need to sign up at: <http://www.siliconvalleyyouthbridge.org/events/pizzapartysignup.html>.

We will have a unit pairs games on October 6, and a unit Swiss Teams on October 7, another chance to practice team game strategy. All include a 299er section, attendance permitting. Lunch is served at 11:30 with the games at noon. Please come, and sign up ahead of time.

Here's this month's story: I was playing with my regular partner and passed her 1NT opening bid for the fourth time that day. Amid groans, our friendly opponent Bill E. suggested I bid 2NT (with 4 points), because no one likes to play in 1NT.

# Reno

*By Sandy Powell*

This past month has been an incredible one for our unit both in terms of Rank Advancement and STAC results. Charlotte Falk advanced to Emerald Life Master; Ruth Swain to Ruby Life Master; Jefri Donovan to Bronze Life Master. In the STAC games, Rich Scoggin & Sharon Bahry pulled off a 1st place finish (18.81 silver) and Richard Schiveley & Paul Kushner a 2nd (12.79 silver.) Winning the B group, Paul Ferber & Joanne Onstine walked off with 10.77 silver. Top scorers in club games overall were Robert & Elizabeth Underwood (71.58%) and in the 299er competition, Paul Ferber & Fred Kelly (68.75%). Additionally, Rosemary Foley advanced to Regional Master; Linda Loveland to Club Master. Congratulations to all!!

For those of us just beginning our journey into the duplicate world, leaving the club with just a smidgeon of a point is a big achievement. Usually we leave with none. Personally, I can't imagine earning 500 points let alone 7,500. I plan to use this edition of Diamond to tell Charlotte's story followed in coming months by Ruth's and Jefri's. I hope you enjoy reading about their bridge lives as much as I did listening to them.

Charlotte Falk: Emerald Life Master. Charlotte Falk is a bridge savant; no question about it. No one taught her. Simply, she was an innately great player, and she knew it. That knowledge gave her confidence to compete and play with the best—Margaret Wager, Lou Bluhm, Fred Strickland. Not only did she partner with icons in the bridge world, she became one herself. “In the 1970s, I knew all the bigwigs and won a lot so I guess I was famous too. It's been a fun ride.”

That ride began in Atlanta Georgia where Charlotte was born into one of the city's leading families. All Southern girls of her class entered womanhood at their debutante ball, attended cotillions, and learned bridge. But, none played bridge like Charlotte. As a young matron, after graduating from the University of Georgia, she played far more bridge with her “Daddy's” friends on Sunday afternoons at the Country Club than with her peers. Astounded by her ability (and the fact she kept beating them), they introduced her to some of the movers and shakers in the Atlanta bridge world. Now she was invited to join more serious games that went on during the week.

In 1970, Lou Bluhm told Charlotte it was time for her to leave rubber bridge (and strong 2 openings), join the ACBL, and start playing duplicate. Normal people would spend some time learning the duplicate game before taking off to a National Tournament. Not Charlotte. With all of 5 masterpoints, she headed to Houston that same year. In her very first game, competing against 200 pairs, guess who won. Yep.

Great story, right? But, it gets better. At Houston, her very first tournament, with 5 masterpoints, Charlotte was sought out as a professional player; paid to play. This is the story: As Charlotte was approaching the partnership desk to look for an afternoon partner, a woman, impressed by Charlotte's morning win, offered to pay her fee and give her some additional money to play with her in the afternoon, a woman with far more duplicate experience and points than Charlotte. Although they didn't win, they placed and the woman felt her money had been well spent and never knew she had paid someone with 5 masterpoints to play with her! Over the years, playing professionally to help players get their gold became common for Charlotte. Jerry, she remembers well. After unsuccessfully chasing the gold for a long time, he finally found it with Charlotte. Forever after, Jerry called Charlotte “My Golden Girl.”

After Houston, Charlotte was off and running, often winning and almost always placing. At the Kansas City Nationals, she and Fred Strickland blitzed the tournament, winning the morning game as well as the two session afternoon charity pairs. Just a year later, she became a Life Master. Without doubt, a remarkable achievement. And so it continued, tournaments all over the United States. Then, in 1990 Charlotte and her friend/partner Shelly Baze qualified to compete the Geneva World Tournament where Charlotte earned her platinum points. Charlotte has to be the only woman ever to win a men's pairs. That's right, a men's pairs. It happened this way: At a tournament in Atlanta, Charlotte's partner had to suddenly cancel as did the partner of her friend, Art Mathews. The Tournament Director said they could play together in either game, men's or women's. They chose the men's and won. The second-place pairs (male egos bruised) were not gracious in defeat.

Charlotte remarried and moved to Reno in 1991. For 7 years she put away the cards to explore Nevada and California with her non-bridge playing husband. Then, in 1998 the Nationals were held here and

Charlotte's phone started ringing, friends/partners from her previous bridge life asking her to play. Feeling rusty (ha ha), she meandered over to our club, introduced herself, and began playing again. We feel fortunate to have a person of such caliber as a member of our club. But even more important, Charlotte just has fun playing, never becoming angry; never berating her partner; she beats you with a twinkle in her eye (not a condescending attitude) and gently offers suggestions instead of lecturing you on your stupidity. So, we have fun playing with her too.

## Sacramento

*By Miriam Steinberg*

Life draws us into the game of bridge in serendipitous and surprising ways. My 6th grade buddy, Billy, was not a jock. Other kids chose him last on their teams for recess, which did not exactly encourage him to pursue athletics.



One day at recess, he pulled me into a corner of the playground, pulled out a deck of cards and introduced me to the game of bridge. Pretty soon our entire circle of friends was also hooked and by junior high the following year, we would take turns having bridge parties at our houses, our partners being our latest girl or boyfriend. Our clique would attend school dances, leave in protest to the blaring music and head to the school cafeteria for an evening of bridge. Mind you, few of us had a clue as to what we were doing. We barely followed any rules and never even kept score. But we were intrigued by the process. When I retired, I convinced my husband that playing bridge could be a fun activity to do together. My other motivation was part of my eternal quest to stave off dementia and keep our minds sharp. I figured it could only help our brains by stimulating new neural pathways with all of the complex thinking required. "Who knows," I told myself, "It could only help." We took lessons and played party bridge for a while, but when our teacher tried to get us involved with duplicate, my husband became a bridge drop-out, intimidated by the competitive nature of the game. It was probably for the best, because being the absent-minded professor he was, he would trump my good cards and I would not pleased.

Albert Chow participated on a quiz team; a televised inter-school competition with 3 other members. One of his team members had gotten a scoop that there was going to be an inter-school high school bridge team and invited his friends/teammates to get involved in the potential future venture. He invited Albert and the other boys to his place, which turned out to be this amazing mansion, at midnight. It turned out that the friend's father was the Consulate General for Indonesia. which there in Hong Kong was equivalent to the ambassador. The private chef cooked up a spread every night all summer while the boys played furiously from midnight to 6 a.m. at which time they went out for dim sum! (Unfortunately, the inter-high school bridge team never happened). Albert didn't play again until he met up with some players in the Sac State cafeteria in college. His partner later found him a job at Tower Records where he later became an executive. After being promoted, he was too busy to play for many years. Eventually, he started up again in the 70's when the friend from the cafeteria introduced him to the Sacramento Bridge Center at the Dante Club, where he later met his long-time partner, Ted Muller.

Mrs. Anonymous became involved with duplicate after being housebound on a rescue mission for a year with her daughter, who had been under treatment for drug abuse. After her daughter improved, she was able to venture out of the house; playing bridge became an escape for 3 ½ hours where she could take her mind off things and only focus on the game.

Sam Sandusky discovered bridge in the Navy in 1964 aboard the guided missile cruiser, the USS Albany. While looking for something to read in the 1000 + book library, he discovered Goren. He found others who knew how to play and got hooked!

Joel Lesser belonged to a tennis club where some members played bridge every Monday. "I was sitting there one day and one of the players had to leave. So, I just sat down and plunged in. I used to watch my father play and only knew that a higher card took a lower card. Cal Gezi later invited me to play at the SBC and they said to keep coming back. The 2nd time I was there I got a 31 point hand and just opened 7NT! Luckily, my partner had points!"

Carl Oeser was innocently playing poker his freshman year on the 3rd floor of his dorm, when in walked an upperclassman who pointed at 3 of the poker players and drafted them to play bridge. Carl

had never played before, but was hooked after the first night and has never stopped since!

John Chan's friend encouraged him to start taking bridge lessons, because too many old people were dying off at the friend's duplicate club. "After lessons, we got to play with Life Masters; they didn't want to play with us!"

Marty Rogers got involved in college in her dorm where twin sisters who had a father who was the bridge editor of the Brooklyn Eagle would invite her to play after homework. She later played with her former husband and she got involved at the officer's club in the Air Force in Berlin, where she won the first time! She kept playing and has never stopped!

Barbara Muller played party bridge from the 60's-80's. She had never heard of duplicate bridge until a friend mentioned it and she tried her first game at a club in Saratoga. "I had no idea of what was going on," she explained. "Someone called the director on me and I had no idea why. I started crying." (Apparently, the opponents thought she took too long.) The director, Florence, apologized to her for the negative experience and kindly offered her a free game if she would come back. And she has played duplicate ever since.

Barbara Wheeler got turned on to duplicate after years of party bridge when her brother took a cruise in 2003 and sent her notes from his lessons with Bernie Chazen on the ship. It made her realize how much she had to learn and got her interested in duplicate.

Congratulations are in order to Ronnie Mc Murdie and Dick (Stormy) Jones for their remarkable winning of 21 consecutive matches in 2 one session and 2 two session Swiss team games in Flight A at the All Western Regional In Santa Clara. "I'd be amazed if it's ever been done before, it's unreal," declared our Regional Bridge Tournament Program Director Pam Hughes. She continued, "And this was out of a field of around 50 pros and hundreds of top flight players in our district. We have many amazing players in District 21 that aren't pros; it just blows my mind!" Amazingly, Ronnie was oblivious to their success, until Stormy pointed it out to her after the tournament. "I was surprised," she declared. "When I play bridge, I don't think of anything else. I play each event and then forget about it. I was so happy we were so lucky we won; we had fun!" Ronnie also earned third place with over 111 MP out of 1,373 masterpoint winners at the Regional!

The Sacramento Unit 505 Non-Life Master Fall Sectional will be held October 26-28 at the Sacramento Bridge Center, 2035 Hurley Way, Suite 270. Stratification is 0-500. Friday night, there will be a pre-game class on knock-out strategies and scoring at 6:00 p.m. followed by session 1 of a knock-out game at 6:30 p.m. Reservations are required for the game; please call the SBC at 916-925-6322. Saturday, there will be a continuation of the knock-out game for those who were not knocked out and in addition, will be pairs games at 10:30 and 3:00 p.m.

Reservations are not required for the other games. Sunday, there will be a Swiss Teams game at 10:30 with a lunch break. Lunch will be served each day as well as snacks. Please avoid wearing perfumes and fragrances. Tournament Chairpersons are Dave Willmott at 916-709-8958, [dwillmott@yahoo.com](mailto:dwillmott@yahoo.com) and Sam Sandusky at 916-705-5557, [samelayne@gmail.com](mailto:samelayne@gmail.com). Partnership Chairperson is Miriam Steinberg at 916-607-4947 [mirsteinbergsacgmail.com](mailto:mirsteinbergsacgmail.com). Please also feel free to contact me with any interesting bridge stories or ideas for columns. I would love to hear how more of you got started playing bridge!

## San Francisco

*By Kimberly Fanady*

Love your clubs! October is ACBL Club Appreciation month, in honor of the heart of our bridge world. Tournaments near and far are exciting and challenging, but our clubs are home. We all learned to play, met our friends, and ate way too many cookies at a club somewhere. So get out to your favorite club and show it some love! While you're there, be sure to express your appreciation to the people who make our clubs wonderful: the club managers, directors, and volunteers who do a ton of work, mostly as a labor of love, so we all can have a great time playing cards. It's harder than they make it look; so say thanks. And if love and appreciation aren't motivation enough, Club Appreciation games award extra masterpoints; even some gold in the team games. Go!



Where were you 40 years ago? QuickTricks was just getting started. It's remarkable that a bridge club has endured and is still going strong after four decades.

That calls for cake and ice cream, and 26 boards, of course. The club will celebrate its anniversary on October 22 fittingly, during Club Appreciation month.

Unfortunately, on the other end of the spectrum, Cardology was forced to discontinue its popular Wednesday night game due to a problem with its playing space. Apparently its landlord didn't get the word on club appreciation! Cardology's Saturday afternoon game is unaffected and will continue; and hopefully Cardology will be able to bring back Wednesday nights sometime soon. Stay tuned.

Bridge opportunities are as abundant as pumpkin spice lattes in October. Besides the aforementioned Club Appreciation games, this month's unit game on October 5 also features the unit level NAP qualifying game (side by side with the regular game). If you dream of representing D21 at the finals in Memphis at the Spring NABC, the unit NAP is your next step. If not, come play in the regular game. See the unit website, [unit506.org](http://unit506.org), for all the details. Lesson at 10:45, lunch at 11:15, game at noon, at St. Mary's Cathedral, 1100 Gough St. at Geary. All are welcome. On October 17, the Sunset Club will hold an Inter-Club championship. Finally, Sunset will host the Instant Matchpoint game on Halloween. The winner in each direction earns a full gold point; how's that for a trick or treat?

Welcome to our new members John Kearney and Mike Shriver. Say hi to these two guys when you meet them at the table. Congrats to our newly ranked: Club Masters Michael Breslow, David King, Mary Pulvermann, Richard Rockwell, Jean Tepper; Sectional Master Brigitte Sandquist; Bronze Life Master Jocelyn Startz; and Ruby Life Master Jane McLaughlin. Well played, all!

Finally, we sadly say goodbye to one of our finest. Marty Hertz, an excellent player and a true gentleman in every sense of the word, passed away in late August at the age of 89. Marty was known for his unfailing kindness and courtesy, his impeccable shirts, and his ferocious defense. In decades of playing against him, I don't remember him ever dropping a trick on defense; as declarer I usually felt like a deer in the headlights with Marty on my right. He was a bridge player to the end: played on Saturday afternoon, went into the hospital on Sunday, complained to the nurses that he had to get to the Santa Clara regional, and passed away on Monday. He will be much missed. Our condolences to his family and his many friends.

While leaves were falling and stores were busy getting Christmas decorations into their aisles; can you believe it! September was a busy month for Unit 498. Opportunities for weekday games at the San Mateo Bridge Center, Bayshore Bridge Club and the Peninsula Duplicate Bridge Club continued, and special events provided chances for additional Masterpoints, camaraderie and shared learning experiences.

We hosted the Unit NAP Qualifier on September 15 at Fattoria. The Unit 498 folks qualifying for the District NAP Game as a result of their performance at this qualifier are: Eileen Battat, Nancy Fulton, Susan Papilion, John Shipley, Daniel Raider, Rajan Jeyakumar, Mike and Gloria Halliday, Robert Ng, Ted Richmond, Philip and Jennifer Kuhn, Bob Farkas, Bob Gleason, Dolly Musey, Barbara Fregoso, Jon and Lorelei Greenfield, Donna Pellegrini, Elizabeth Molumphy. Congratulations to all and best of luck as you advance to the next level of competition in the coming months.

Unit 498 is sponsoring two upcoming events that are guaranteed to be fun opportunities for players of all levels: the NLM Sectional on October 13 and 14 and a unit game on October 27. Both events will be held at Fattoria e Mare.

The NLM Sectional is open to all Non Life Master players. Sectional co-coordinator Marc Renson promises two lively days of bridge in both pair and team formats under the adept direction of Will Watson. As a result of popular requests, an earlier start time for these events is 9:00 both Saturday and Sunday; as also requested, a single session Swiss Teams event is set for Sunday morning. The flyer for this sectional is available at [www.unit498.com](http://www.unit498.com). Seating is limited for these games, so be sure to sign up on that site by using the reservation form near the top of the page. Also be sure to take advantage of lunch being offered for a separate fee by the restaurant, especially in light of the short hour-long lunch break; no need to leave the site!

Halloween is the theme of our October 27 unit game. Once again our team of merry gamers promises a lively and competitive game for both Open and Limited players. Costumes are optional (clothing is not!), but will add to the festivities. Rumor has it

that a prize will be awarded to the best costume of the day! Reservations should be made using the e-vite form you will receive in the next few days. Lunch will be provided as part of the \$17.00 registration fee and should satisfy the appetites of all ghouls and goblins in attendance.

Unit 498 will restart its mentor/mentee program with games on the last Thursday of the month starting October 25. The games will be held in the evening beginning at 6 pm at Fattoria. After playing 18 boards, there will be a recap session where select boards are reviewed. For more information, and to register, contact the program chairperson Jenny Kuhn at [jkuhn@peninsuladbc.com](mailto:jkuhn@peninsuladbc.com). The theme for the October game is the 49ers, so come wearing red and gold or your favorite football jersey. This is a great way to advance your game if you are a mentee and to invest in the future of the game if you are a mentor. Look for more information about this in the upcoming weeks.

School has resumed in San Mateo County and that means the resumption of Peninsula Youth Bridge and opportunities to join the cadre of volunteers assisting in teaching high school and middle school students the fine art of bridge. It is a rewarding and often humorous 90 minutes as the young people learn the rudiments of bidding, play of the hand and general table procedures. High schools involved are Burlingame, Hillsdale, Mills, and San Mateo and newly added last year, Bowditch Middle School. Volunteering their energies and bridge expertise are Joan Bodelos, Joanne Lewin, Mary Bates, Camele Wanat, Janelle VanRensselaer, Donna Pellegrini, Vaughn Patterson, Jeanie Kwong, Irv Agard, Madhu Mehta, Cathy Johnson and Ginny Zapitz. The group is happy to welcome new volunteers to help with this effort. If you are interested, please contact Peninsula Youth Bridge on [penyouthbridge@gmail.com](mailto:penyouthbridge@gmail.com).

The warmest of farewells to a familiar face who is leaving the Bay Area for another picturesque and lively part of west coast: D. Brown departs our Unit 498 for the great northwest at the end of October. D. has been a genuine asset to the San Mateo Bridge Center games, playing the role of facilitator assuring that tables are filled and boards handed out, easing the work for the director. D., you will be missed!

A warm welcome to new Unit 498 members: Christine Corsetti, Michael King, Carol Perusse, and John Shipley. And congratulations to players

advancing over the past months: to Junior Master, Jean Peers and Rebecca Simmons; and to Sectional Master, Robin Alioto.

## Santa Cruz

*By Karen Schamberg*

It's time for the Santa Cruz Surf's Up Sectional on October 13 & 14. We'll be at the Mid County Senior Center on Bay Avenue in beautiful Capitola. There's easy access from Hwy 1 and plenty of parking. Tom Burke is Chair this year with Sydney Reuben Co-chairing. If you need assistance finding a partner, contact Laura McCabe.



There are two sessions on Saturday with a free bridge lesson in between. Both sessions offer Stratified Open Pairs and I/N pairs. Sunday offers two sessions of Stratified Swiss Teams. As always, there will be sandwiches available for purchase as well as free snacks throughout the day. Complete information can be found on our website.

The Santa Cruz Bridge Education Foundation of Unit 550 is hosting an ACBL Best Practices Teacher Workshop on December 29 & 30. It's one of only four in the United States this year. If you are thinking of teaching bridge, or are already a bridge teacher and want to improve/update your skills, this is the way. More information on the ACBL website at: <https://www.acbl.org/teach/become-a-teacher/best-practices-certification/>.

Nominations are open for five positions on the Unit 550 Board of Directors. Deadline for accepting nominations is Monday, October 15. Check the website for more information. Election results will be announced at our Annual Meeting in December.

Our unit game is Saturday, October 6 at 10 a.m. The NAP Unit Qualifier, a one-session game, will be November 10 at 10 a.m. While the game is open to all players, only those who have qualified previously at the club level are eligible to advance to the District NAP finals.

Unit 550 members were on the road last month. At the All Western Regional in Santa Clara: Peter Gelfand took 1st in A in both Thursday & Friday Daylight Pairs, and Monday Fast Pairs; Alan Chase & Robin McDuff took 1st in C, Friday Afternoon Side Pairs; Steve Smith & John Oppenheimer took

1st in C, Sunday Daylight Pairs. The top 30% of MP earners included Peter Gelfand, Jim Slinger, Ken Gamble, Jonni Faircrest, Alan Chase, D. Webb, Claire Swetland, and Les Rabiega. The Gilroy Earthquake Sectional saw Ken Gamble and Carol Maggipinto end up in the top 25% of MP earners.

A high score in club games was earned by: Lani Ray & Neil Smyth, 70%. In newcomer games, look at these scores: John Wesolowski & Michael Burk, 77.2%; Alicia Keen & John Walker, 76.52%; John Walker & Nancy Ficarrotta, 75.04%; Angie Millslagle & Patricia McNeal, 73.13%; Angie Millslagle & Shellie Roy, 72.5%; Eric Stolzberg & Mark Riley, 71.88%; and Angie Millslagle & Kristin Smith, 71.25%.

There are some scheduling changes at Unit 550. The Thursday evening Open Game will be held in the main room each week. There will no longer be a lesson prior to the Friday Newcomer Game. This allows that game to begin at 10.

To see the Unit 550 schedule and calendar or to contact one of our club owners, please visit our website at [www.santacruzbridge.org](http://www.santacruzbridge.org)

## **Santa Rosa/Petaluma**

*By Cecelia Zachar*

October marks the one year anniversary of the firestorms in which at least 18 members of Unit 509 lost their homes, cars and other belongings. Time stood still for a few days. You were grateful to be safe. What seemed important the week before was insignificant. The past year was one of rebuilding for some of us. We are all of us changed.

While I'm writing this, Unit 509 is getting ready for its fall sectional September 29 & 30. I look forward to writing about it in next month's Diamond in the Ruff.

As to the the Santa Clara Regional, if my addition is correct, Unit 509 players earned about 220 masterpoints this year. Top winners were Nancy Gunn with 33.98, Erwin Linzner with 26.6, and Sara Rothmuller with 26.07.

Other winners include Barry Samuel, Bob Klein, Bruce Mahood,Carolynn Zocchi, Conrad Larkin, David Pankratz, Donald Baze, Eleanor Wales, Elizabeth Strasen, Evelyn Holtz, Jacqueline Ortiz, John Shribbs, Jonathan Cohen, Kate Hill, Kathy Juarez, Kathy Venton, Kenneth Shafer, Larry

Spanier, Larry Wyner, Lynn Blumenthal, Muthiah Ramanathan, Patricia Hertz, Patricia Shribbs, Paul Scheinberg, Peter Lit and Shelly Dunietz. Congratulations all.

I am so impressed with how our unit supports the up and coming players through special guest lectures and classes at the clubs. On August 26, the Bridge Gallery hosted Sylvia Shi, a seven-time NABC title holder as well as a World Gold Medal winner.

What's remarkable is that she has only been playing since 2011! Sylvia played to a packed house of over 40 people. Her subject was "Signaling" and for two hours she explained Attitude, Count and Suit Preference in a systematic, common-sense and yet detailed manner. One player even called the lesson "magnificent." Everyone, novices and experts alike, seemed to take something away from the two-hour session.

On September 16, Cris Barrere presented his fourth class of 2018 for Unit 509. His topic this month was Our path to victory in the 2018 ACBL Truscott USPC Senior Swiss, How do you win a national championship? As always, Cris's lecture was interesting, well presented, and insightful. What I came away with from the class was how important it is to keep positive board after board and to be confident at the table. You won't get a good result on the next board if you can't let go of the last one.

The Bridge Gallery will be offering a new class called What to Do When You Haven't Got a Cue from October 23 through November 20 on Thursday mornings from 9:30 to 11:30. The 5 lesson series is \$55 in advance or \$15 per class. Class size is limited, so sign up soon. See <http://santarosabridge.com/classes/> for details.

Our winners in the September unit game were Bob Klein & Erwin Linzner (N/S) and Gary Robinson & Sara Rothmuller (E/W). Second place winners were Patricia Hertz & Carol Kemper (N/S), and Cecelia Zachar & Mary Omodt (E/W).

There were three 70%+ games since the last issue. At the Bridge Gallery, Kim Fusch & Maxine Reagh, 71.65 on August 22; Cris & Paul Pecknold, 74.17 on August 29; Nan Halberg & Darylan Strattan, 76.67 on September 5. In Petaluma: Jim O'Brien & Frances O'Brien, 70.60 on September 8; Lynn Blumenthal & Crispin Barrere, 73.33 on

September 15. Gary Robinson & Cecelia Zachar, 72.50 on August 28 at Oakmont.

Six players moved up in Master rank in August: Chuck Yinger (Club); Betty C Souch (Sectional); Cathy J Wagener (Regional); John Shribbs (Life); Paul Scheinberg (Ruby Life); John Kozero (Gold Life). Congratulations all!

If you're looking for a good time, the Petaluma Bridge Club is planning a late Halloween party and pot luck lunch on Thursday, November 1. It's a team game. See <http://www.petalumabridgeclub.com> for details.

## Silicon Valley

*By Ray Yuenger*

Our fall sectional is taking place near the end of October, from October 26 through October 28. At the San Jose Bridge Center on Friday evening the 26th is a pairs game. At West Valley College will be pairs games on Saturday the 27th and team games on Sunday the 28th. You can find the complete schedule elsewhere in this newsletter.

If you want to play in a two-session NAP unit qualifier, come to the San Jose Bridge Center on Saturday November 3 at noon. The annual Unit 507 holiday party will be on Sunday, November 18 at the Campbell Community Center; save the date. Details will appear at the Bridge Center and on the website, [sjbridge.org](http://sjbridge.org).

Elsewhere in this newsletter you'll find a list of all the winners at the All Western Regional regardless of unit membership, but this column focuses, as always, on the success of those who are members of Unit 507.

Li-Chung Chen finished sixth in the premier two-day open pairs. In open two-session pair events, stratification tops were earned by Luen-Jyh Luo, Michael Rosenberg, Jason Chiu, Larry Wagner, Roger Joseph & Jory Segal, Nitin More, Christy Hartsell, Pamela Meckenstock & Judy Macarthur, Paul Lee & Dee Ann Hansen. Section tops in those events went to Jim Liu & Tsao-Tung Tsai, Richard O'Brien (twice), Joel Singer, Donghui Lu, and Mich Ravera & Richard Parsons. Incidentally, I don't separately report section tops that qualify as strat tops.

In limited two-session pairs, strat tops went to Dorr Clark & Jung Hu, John Watson-Williams & Judith Corney, and Limin He. Section tops were earned by Marie Chong & Roy Tsai.

In limited single session pairs, topping their strats were Marie Chong & Roy Tsai, Evan Teehan, Dick Walker, Pamela Meckenstock & Judy Macarthur, Murarka Prabhu Dayal & Rakesh Gupta, Murarka Prabhu Dayal & Rajeev Gupta, Murarka Prabhu Dayal & Prince Kohli, Rajeev Gupta & Prince Kohli, Bill Roman & Monica Bacon-Proctor, Linda Kenigsberg, Barry & Rochelle Alhadeff, Barry Alhadeff & Michael Cohn, and Irene & Steven Jacobson. Topping their sections were Barbara & George Roupe (thrice) and Donna Wirt.

Winning their knockout brackets were teams including Mark Pensler, Ruth Sporer & Anthony Trebaol; Edward Lin & Shailesh Sampat; Michael Hughes & Alan Wood; Linda Rocha; Pangjie Xu; and Panette Talia & Ray Yuenger.

First in their two-session Swiss team strats were Regina Norberg & Kathleen Weiman; Jim Liu & Peter Sun; Timothy Maloney; and Norman Marks, Brenna Wundram, Dee Ann Hansen & Ronald Baron.

There was no earthquake during the Earthquake Sectional in Gilroy. However, a strat top was earned in limited pairs by Tillie Myers & Jackie Hiatt and in the two-session open pairs by Kevin Rosenberg. Lynn & Diane Shannon had a section top in the open pairs as did Mindy Foos & Michael Fleisher. Elenalani Lam's Swiss team was first in its strat.

Congratulations to our newest Masters: Susan Maki, Alex Zheng (Junior); David Chen, Manoj Thawani (Club); Rochelle Alhadeff (Sectional); Kathy Jasper (Bronze); Raja Smadi (Ruby).

Michael Hughes has joined our unit board. Doug Hong graciously stepped down to create an opening for a new member, though I expect Doug to continue working behind the scenes as he always has to enhance players' experiences at the San Jose Bridge Center and our unit games and sectionals.

I can't figure it out. Very smart people have created some software enabling me to search tournament results much quicker than before, and yet composing this column still takes me till well past midnight of the deadline day. Now I'm wearing the hat of Executive Editor of this newsletter, I'll excuse my tardiness this one time.

## Stockton

By Debbie DeZarn

Stockton just held its 2nd sectional in recent years and it was a great success! Many thanks to Ken Hillman who chaired the event and was pulling his remaining hair out the past few weeks as all the plans seemed to be unraveling. But after his unexpected trip to Modesto for boards, and lots of food donations and kitchen help, everything seemed to go perfectly for the many attendees, first timers and pros alike. There was plenty to eat and drink all through the day. We had the world's best Swiss Teams caddy, Director Lynn! Thank you to directors Dianne and Doug for getting things off to a good start Saturday morning.

The sectional awarded points to quite a few players who reached their next rank on Saturday and Sunday: New Regional Masters are Lynette Foppiano and Joyce Cates; Bill Mitchell advanced to Sectional Master; Libby Longstreth and Christine Barkley from the Modesto Club won their final silver points to reach Life Master. Others achieved new ranks



prior to the Sectional and are also recognized: Terry Nagode, NABC Master; Toni Hillman, Regional Master; Margie Baldwin and Sharon Metcalf, Sectional Masters; Kathryn Odell, Junior Master.

The Stockton Club welcomes back Mary Hill who is playing again as her work schedule allows. Kathryn Odell has started playing (and “scratching”) at Oak Park. People have become more aware of the lending libraries: check out books from Lorna Crooks and borrow interactive CDs from Debbie DeZarn.

Advanced Beginner lessons resume in October. Contact Wendy Buchanan or Lorna Crooks for more information. All you under-99ers put Tuesday, October 16 on your calendar for the initial Newcomer Game at the Stockton Bridge Club at 11:30. It will be Debbie DeZarn's directing debut and she will help you find a partner if needed. Please park in the rear of the center's lot as the front is for the insurance company customers who come and go all day.

Happy Halloween! Wear a costume to the Oak Park Game on October 31. There probably won't be prizes, but at least you will be ready for the \$3 burrito at Chipotle afterwards if they repeat their special this year.

**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...**



**SILICON VALLEY UNIT 507**

**2018 FALL SECTIONAL - TWO VENUES!**

**FRIDAY, OCTOBER 26**

**#1**

**SAN JOSE BRIDGE CLUB**

1190 S. Bascom Ave., Unit 105, San Jose

*Park and enter behind building*

**Friday pairs 7:00 PM** (single session) OPEN and 499er - Unlimited/2000/750 and 500/300/100

**SAT- SUN, OCTOBER 27-28**

**#2**

**WEST VALLEY COLLEGE CAMPUS CENTER**

14000 Fruitvale Ave., Saratoga

**Saturday Pairs** (double session)

10:30 AM and 3:00 PM

Stratified open: Unlimited/3000/1000

"Silver Rush" Pairs: 750/300

**Saturday Pairs** (single sessions)

10:30 AM or 3:00 PM

Stratified Open: Unlimited/2000/750

Limited: Under 300

**SAT 3:00 PM Newcomer Pairs: 0-20 ONLY \$5**



**Sunday Swiss Teams** (7 rounds)

10:30 AM and TBA

Top bracket open/5,000; lower brackets under 4,000



**LUNCHES: Saturday** - Event Center Grill open between sessions

**Sunday** - \$10 lunch includes chips, cookie & drink, and either sandwich, spinach salad or Caesar salad

**ENTRY FEES:** \$12.00/session for current ACBL members;

\$16.00 for lapsed members; \$6.00 for members 25 & under

Events will be stratified by pair and team averages. Turnout may determine strat limits.

Mid-chart conventions are allowed in two-session events with unlimited masterpoints.

**Tournament Director:** Lynn Yokel, (408) 499-2011

**Tournament Chair:** Mischel Postas, [mischelpostas@att.net](mailto:mischelpostas@att.net), (408) 379-6780

**Partnership Chair:** Ray Yuenger, [rayyuenger@gmail.com](mailto:rayyuenger@gmail.com), (408) 887-0642

**DIRECTIONS TO WVC:** Exit 85 north or south onto Saratoga Avenue; go west about .7 mile. Turn L on Fruitvale Avenue, then L onto Admissions Way. Use Parking Lot 5. FREE parking.



# Diablo Valley Unit 499

## Fall Sectional



**November 10 – 11, 2018**

**Dougherty Valley High School**

**10550 Albion Rd. San Ramon, CA 94582**

Presented by Diablo Valley Unit 499 (<http://diablovalleybridge.com>)

**Saturday, November 10th**

### 10:00 AM

Two Session Stratified Open Pairs (session 1)  
(0-4000/4000+)  
Two Session 0-2500 Mid-Flight Pairs (session 1)  
0-1500/1500-2500  
Single Session Stratified Pairs\*:  
Open (0-750/750-2000/2000+)  
499er (0-100/100-300/300-500)  
99er (0-20/20-50/50-100)

### 2:30 PM

Two Session Stratified Open Pairs (session 2)  
(0-4000/4000+)  
Two Session 0-2500 Mid-Flight Pairs (session 2)  
0-1500/1500-2500  
Single Session Stratified Pairs\*:  
Open (0-750/750-2000/2000+)  
499er (0-100/100-300/300-500)  
99er (0-20/20-50/50-100)

\* Games and strats will be adjusted based on attendance.

**Sunday, November 11<sup>th</sup>**

**10:00 AM & TBD: Bracketed Swiss Teams.** Brackets posted at tournament. **Teams must play both sessions.** 7 rounds/7 boards (lowest bracket plays 7 rounds/6 boards). 20 VP Scale for all brackets. Brackets based on team masterpoint average. Teams may elect to play in top bracket.

**Table fees:** \$12 per session (lapsed ACBL members \$16); non-ACBL members must join on a temporary basis to play.

**Tournament Director:** Lynn Yokel. ACBL Sanction #:1811038

**Tournament Chair:** Anne Hollingsworth @ (925) 899-7543 or [scootcat@pacbell.net](mailto:scootcat@pacbell.net)

**Partnerships:** Please use Unit 499's Google Groups to find a partner <http://groups.google.com/group/bridgepartner499>  
You may also contact Anne Hollingsworth @ (925) 899-7543 or [scootcat@pacbell.net](mailto:scootcat@pacbell.net) for assistance. Please do not attend without a partner or teammates.

**Food:** Refreshments. Lunch for purchase on Saturday and Sunday

#### Directions:

- From Highway 680 exit at Bollinger Canyon Rd. Head east for 3.92 miles. At Albion Rd, turn left.
- From I-580, exit at Dougherty Rd S and head north on Dougherty Rd S; at Y in road, stay to the right to continue on Bollinger Canyon. From I-580 exit, distance is about 5.7 miles. At Albion Rd, turn right.

Go to the light at Arrowfield Way, and turn left into the school entrance. After turning into the school, look for the parking on your right under the solar panels.

web site: [www.eastbayunit-502.com](http://www.eastbayunit-502.com)



## *East Bay 2-Day Fall Sectional*

**OAKLAND MASONIC CENTER**  
3903 Broadway, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, Oakland 94611

### *Saturday November 17*

at 10:00 a.m. and 2:30 p.m. (single sessions)

Strati-flighted Pairs A/X 3000+

Strats B/C/D 1000-1500/500-1000/0-500

Stratified 299er Pairs 0-75/75-150/150-300 (Attendance Permitting)

### *Sunday November 18*

at 10:00 a.m. and approx. 2:30 p.m.

**"BARBARA HARMON Bracketed Swiss" -- 20VP scale**

The top bracket will consist of the highest ranked teams  
plus any teams that opt to be in the top bracket.

*Teams must play both sessions.*

All brackets except the bottom will play 7 rounds, 7 boards;  
Bottom bracket plays 7 rounds, 6 boards.

**Lunch provided each day for \$5**

**Table fees \$12.00 per Session**  
**(unpaid ACBL members - \$16.00)**

Mid-chart allowed in Flight A/X and top bracket of Swiss Teams.

#### ***DIRECTIONS:***

Located on Broadway between 38th and 40th streets, 1½ blocks east of MacArthur Blvd.  
Entrance is under the blue awning. Located seven blocks from MacArthur BART.

**Partnerships / Information: call Shirley Rodenborn (510) 459-6286**



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