

# DIAMOND IN THE RUFF

ACBL District 21 Newsletter

Vol 3, Number 4 August 2020

## Leaves From the Executive Branch    Online Board of Directors Meetings

*By Ray Yuenger, President*

*By Jackie Zayac*

My column last month describing the first online meeting of the District 21 (“D21”) Board was informative, I hope, if lengthy. I tried to summarize the decisions and actions by the Board that would be of the most interest to D21 members. This month I have much less to report. With the cancellation of the All-Western regional, the next Board meeting in early September will also be online.



### Regional cancellations

Earlier today (writing on July 21), I sent out a mass email announcing the official cancellations of D21’s remaining two regionals in 2020. People who had heard that on June 17, 2020, the ACBL decided not to provide Tournament Directors for any tournaments for the remainder of 2020 may have assumed this would result in cancelling the regionals, but the ACBL did not actually cancel the regional sanctions they issued to D21. And the ACBL was not a party to the hotel contracts that D21 entered with the Hyatt Regency in Santa Clara or the Nugget

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The ACBL Board of Directors has been meeting online as the COVID-19 pandemic continues to spread in the world. We met every two weeks in April and May to discuss a variety of topics. In addition, we have held three special meetings to date and voted on the following motions:



### Online Ethical Oversight Committee

The ACBL Board created an Online Ethical Oversight Committee. The Committee will hear original cases involving cheating or serious breaches of ethics arising from online bridge events. It will consist of 15 members and, initially, members have been appointed in three classes to get to three-year staggered terms for groups of five members. Georgia Heth, ACBL President, appointed the first 15 members for the following terms:

David Caprera, Harold Bickham, Adam Parrish, Becky Rogers and Mike Lipkin are appointed for a one-year term from June 2020 through the end of the Summer 2021 NABC.

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The list of upcoming tournaments and the regional flyers will not be published in this newsletter since the ACBL has decided to not provide tournament directors for the rest of 2020.

## *Yuenger*

*From Page 1*

Casino in Sparks, so our Tournament Manager, Pam Hughes, was still required to negotiate with hotel personnel to extract D21 from these contracts without liability. And she did so.

I'll repeat what I said in that email. The Hyatt Regency is going to cancel reservations that it knows are associated with attending the regional, but it can't hurt for you to follow up and make sure your reservation is cancelled, and particularly if you made reservations at a nearby hotel or motel, make sure you cancel.

### **The Diamond in the Ruff Newsletter**

Switching hats now from President to Executive Editor, you will have noticed some changes in last month's and this month's newsletter. You will not find a tournament list on page 2, because no tournaments are scheduled in the immediate future. You will not find flyers for the next two D21 regionals, because those regionals have been cancelled. You will not find an article by Pam Hughes extolling the variety of events being offered at our regionals.

The page counts for the last three newsletters have gone from 35 pages to 30 to 27. I don't have the final number for this edition yet, but I suspect it will be even shorter, because several unit columnists

have been stumped about news to report without sectionals or games at local clubs. There has been talk about publishing every two months, and maybe we'll get to that point, but so far there are a lot of D21 rank advancements to acknowledge every month, and I'd rather do that sooner than later for our advancing members.

### **Online Tournaments, Virtual Clubs, and Player Misconduct**

Switching hats back to President, D21 has no stake in any virtual club games and there are no immediate plans for any entity but the ACBL itself to hold online "regionals." These are termed "regionals" presumably because gold points can be earned for playing in them, but the first two online regionals at the beginning of May and the end of June were different than regular regionals because, in addition to being sponsored by the ACBL, they were four-day events and offered no team games.

While the ACBL has organized three daily Support Your Club games on BBO at 7 a.m., 2:10 and 4:30 p.m. PDT that feed back much of the table fees through BBO and the ACBL to the home clubs of the players, there is currently no similar mechanism for feeding back table fees from regionals to districts. The main income source for D21, its regionals, has simply evaporated. Fortunately, D21 has had many successful

years and should be able to weather the financial aspect of this pandemic storm, though it's anyone's guess right now when people will feel safe enough to play face-to-face bridge again.

Meanwhile the ACBL is holding the first North American Online Bridge Championships with a knockout team event scheduled for the last two weekends of July. Presumably the lessons learned from this experimental event will shape how future team games can be held in other online ACBL tournaments. There has been a lot of attention given to the security of the event.

Regarding online bridge, there has been a lot of discussion on the Bridge Winners social media website about how easy it can be to cheat without a director watching the playing area. People living together can share information in person while playing as partners online, but even without physical proximity, it's easy enough to communicate by text or cell phone while playing with a partner. Playing in your own virtual club against familiar opponents, you will be used to some of their bidding styles and quirks, but that's not the case when you enter nation-wide ACBL events and play against a series of strangers.

At the end of May this year, the ACBL created a new Online Ethical Oversight Committee specifically to hear charges arising from online ACBL events, but the National Recorder can't personally monitor all the hands played in all the ACBL events. His message to online players has been, "say something if you see something." There is a lot of wild bidding online, but if you see something that looks fishy, take a few minutes after the game to fill out an

online player memo. You can find a form specifically for BBO games at <https://fs3.formsite.com/acbl/g1rqeexvzd/index.html>. It is very easy to report a BBO hand because you can simply copy the hand's url from your own playing history and paste it into the form. The auction that strikes you as odd may be just dumb luck, but if a series of similar auctions by the same pair is reported, there will be something for the National Recorder and his staff to investigate. In this way you can do your part to keep the game we love clean.

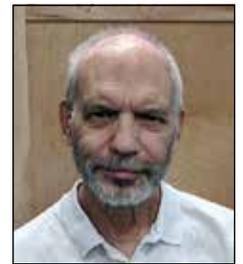
### **Loose Ends**

I'm not going to tell you how to live your lives. I have no medical training. Bridge players are smart people. Just follow the advice and orders of public health officials, be safe, and stay healthy.

## **District 21 Charity Report 2020**

*By Jeff Hack, Charity Chair*

Every year District 21 allocates \$5,000 to charities. At the Board meeting in May 2020, the District 21 Board voted to allocate \$6,000 this year. Nominations are accepted between January 1 and July 4 each year. In 2019 the Board voted to accept nominations only from units. Individuals who have a charity request need to go to a unit board and get them to make the nomination request. It doesn't have to be your own unit board.



After watching the news and seeing how many people don't have enough food to eat,

our plan this year is to donate to food banks and food pantries. Most food banks are connected through Feeding America even though we donate to each individually. We seem to have a two-tier country right now. The wealthy and the well-off who can invest in stocks are doing great as the stock market approaches all-time highs while those who are near the bottom don't even have food to eat. They wait hours in line to get a free supply of food.

Bridge clubs are all closed. Tournaments are cancelled. If it wasn't for BBO Bridge would be dead. We can't donate to clubs but you can support them through BBO.

The July 4 deadline has passed. The nominations that we received will be reviewed and the selections made. Normally, we announce the selections at the All-Western Board Meeting. I assume that will be via Zoom this year.

## **Zayac**

*From Page 1*

Sylvia Moss, Ira Chorush, Jordan Chodorow, Greg Humphreys and Martin Hirschman are appointed for a two-year term from June 2020 through the end of the Summer 2022 NABC.

Jon Brissman, Jan Martel, Ron Smith, Karen Walker and Fred Pollack are appointed for a three-year term from June 2020 through the end of the Summer 2023 NABC.

The vote was 25-0. It became effective immediately.

In case you would like some clarification, the Ethical Oversight Committee hears original cases involving cheating or serious breaches of ethics in face-to-face bridge

events. The Online Ethical Oversight Committee hears original cases arising from online bridge events. The ACBL Appeals and Charges Committee, which I am a member of again in 2020, is primarily an appellate body that reviews and hears cases on behalf of the ACBL Board of Directors. Decisions of the Appeals and Charges Committee are final unless amended or reversed by the full Board of Directors.

## **Report on Hearings**

The ACBL Appeals and Charges Committee approved three negotiated resolutions for cheating, requested more information on a fourth negotiated resolution and approved the dismissal of cheating charges on a fifth negotiated resolution. The ACBL Board of Directors accepted the report of the Appeals and Charges Committee.

## **Discontinuation of Board of Directors' Stipends for the Remainder of 2020**

Forego the two remaining \$1,000 stipends in 2020 for the President of the Board of Directors, each District Director and the Chair of the Board of Governors.

The vote was 22-2-1. I voted yes because there are furloughed ACBL employees and the employees who remained on the payroll had a 20% reduction of their wages in the month of May. In addition, the stipend is given to cover the cost of travel to District and Unit events, telephone expenses, mailings and miscellaneous office expenses connected with the office of District Director and a number of those expenses will not be

realized for the duration of 2020. It was the right thing to do.

### **NABC+ and GLM Qualifying Events**

Players who win, or have at any time in the past won, an ACBL or WBF event which qualifies them to achieve Grand Life Master (GLM) status upon meeting all other GLM requirements may not enter a Masterpoint-restricted event, may play only in the top stratum of the top flight in non-bracketed events, and will be assigned eligibility points (if and as necessary) to bring them to 10,000 masterpoints for bracketing purposes in bracketed events.

The vote was 25-0. It was made retroactive to January 1, 2020.

### **Proposal For District Or Unit Run Online Regionals And Sectionals**

Allow Districts and/or Units that run regionals to do so online. Allow Units to run Sectionals online.

The vote was 5-20 and the motion was defeated. I voted no because (1) ACBL management noted that there are many limitations within BBO's system and there are extra processes that need to happen in the background on both the BBO side and the ACBL side and they are not prepared to go forward with this work at this time; (2) it is important to get the money to the clubs and the ACBL which are brick and mortar and this would impact their revenues; and (3) we do have some Units in our District with building leases and the ACBL has suggested that these units run Unit Games that are not in direct competition with the club games in their unit to obtain revenue. The Units may run more than 24 games in 2020 to help them offset their lease expenses.

I hope you are all in good health during this pandemic. If you haven't played bridge online, I encourage you to give it a try. It is a great way to pass the time and it is fun to reconnect with your bridge friends! If you have any questions or comments, please contact me at [jackiezayac@gmail.com](mailto:jackiezayac@gmail.com).

**Have great news to share from your unit? Have an exciting experience from an online game? Contact *Diamond in the Ruff* Editor Rich Luttrell at [luttrellr@sbcglobal.net](mailto:luttrellr@sbcglobal.net) and tell him all about it!**

## Dreaming of F2F Bridge

by Jackie Zayac

I now understand the meaning of the phrase “Absence makes the heart grow fonder.” I never thought that I would say this, but I miss the “The Goops” of the bridge world. How many of you have arrived at your assigned table only to find it covered in food crumbs, the Daily Bulletin or a half full cup of cold coffee? You have to clean up after The Goops before you can start playing bridge!



Some of you may be wondering who are The Goops? The Goops were brought to life in a poem by Gelett Burgess around 1900. Here it is and please note that the poem is in the public domain because it was published prior to 1923.

### The Goops Table Manners

*The Goops they lick their fingers,  
And the Goops they lick their knives;  
They spill their broth on the tablecloth—  
Oh, they lead disgusting lives!  
The Goops they talk while eating,  
And loud and fast they chew;  
And that is why I'm glad that I  
Am not a Goop—are you?*

I hope that many of you remember this poem. This is only one verse, but I loved it and memorized it when I was a child.

Now, I would welcome pre-COVID-19 days at a bridge tournament seeing old friends including The Goops and, yes, I think I would even enjoy cleaning up my assigned

table. There might be one exception. The worst thing I ever found left behind by a Goop was this:



Who leaves their Invisiliners on a chair in a side pair game? Not only that, it was the second round of the game! I checked with the player in my seat in the first round and that person was definitely not missing any Invisiliners.

I did not reveal that round one was spent sitting on these lovely Invisiliners. I am certain that the Mystery of the Invisiliners will remain unsolved unless someone comes forward and confesses. In order to accept your confession, you must identify the tournament where the dastardly deed took place.

I hope this brought a smile to your face as you read it. I look forward to seeing everyone—Goop or not—when we return to F2F bridge!

# RANK ADVANCES

## JUNIOR MASTERS (5 MASTERPOINTS)

Shashi Agarwal, Santa Clara CA, 507  
Martha Barry, Carmel CA, 530  
Romy Bauer, San Mateo CA, 498  
Hallie Beacham, Healdsburg CA, 509  
Ray Bland, Lafayette CA, 499  
Betty Brandel, Moraga CA, 499  
Zoi Calomiris, Redwood City CA, 498  
Gene Caselli, San Jose CA, 507  
Jesse Costello-Good, San Francisco CA, 506  
Laura Dholakia, Menlo Park CA, 498  
Steve Dinning, Concord CA, 499  
James Dirgin, Del Rey Oaks CA, 530  
Sydney Dodds, Walnut Creek CA, 499  
Carol Gonela, Burlingame CA, 498  
Rita Gupta, Menlo Park CA, 498  
David Hirsch, Palo Alto CA, 503  
Dede Huffman, Los Altos Hills CA, 503  
Richard Jacobs, Piedmont CA, 502  
Santosh Jain, Berkeley CA, 497  
Marcy Klein, Salinas CA, 530  
Mary Martin, Santa Cruz CA, 550  
Bruce Pollock, Piedmont CA, 502  
Joseph Pomroy, Carson City NV, 465  
Judith Prothro, Redwood City CA, 498  
King Prothro, Redwood City CA, 498  
Kumar Ramaiyer, Cupertino CA, 507  
Karen Siefert, Walnut Creek CA, 499

William Sorenson, San Francisco CA, 506  
Evan Teehan, San Jose CA, 507  
Cornelia Tilney, Portola Valley CA, 503  
Margaret Wong, Hillsborough CA, 498  
Jerrold Zell, Incline Village NV, 465

## CLUB MASTERS (20 MASTERPOINTS)

Patricia Anderson, Kensington CA, 497  
Daryl Babbitt, San Francisco CA, 506  
David Becker, Sonoma CA, 512  
Karen Bukowski, Sparks NV, 473  
Gail Cameron, Redwood City CA, 498  
Irene Cappelloni, Tiburon CA, 508  
Christine Foley, Martinez CA, 499  
Michele Goldman, Menlo Park CA, 503  
Daniel Granger, Incline Village NV, 465  
Josephine Killen, Menlo Park CA, 498  
Robert Maxfield, Saratoga CA, 507  
Susie McCormick, Nicasio CA, 508  
James McGraw, Pleasanton CA, 501  
Barbara Mickle, Carson City NV, 465  
Hamid Motamed, Belmont CA, 498  
David Platshon, Half Moon Bay CA, 498  
Ellen Railton, Campbell CA, 507  
Archana Rathnakar, Saratoga CA, 507  
Lipika Sur, Cupertino CA, 503

## **SECTIONAL MASTERS** **(50 MASTERPOINTS)**

Helene Byrne, Oakland CA, 502  
Michael Calder, San Rafael CA, 508  
Leslie Davidson, Santa Cruz CA, 550  
David Freimuth, Martinez CA, 499  
John Gamble, Carmel CA, 530  
Laura Gamble, Carmel CA, 530  
Siuling Ku, San Mateo CA, 498  
Kathy Lee, Mountain View CA, 503  
David Niver, Alamo CA, 499  
Umesh Padval, Menlo Park CA, 498  
Roberta Polson, Clayton CA, 499  
Adam Ross, San Francisco CA, 506  
Betsy Wagner, San Jose CA, 507  
Nicklos White, Sacramento CA, 505  
Coralie Wilkes, Walnut Creek CA, 499

## **REGIONAL MASTERS** **(100 MASTERPOINTS)**

Barry Alhadeff, Saratoga CA, 507  
Rochelle Alhadeff, Saratoga CA, 507  
David Berkeley, Atherton CA, 503  
Patricia Berkley, Los Altos CA, 503  
Gina Brown, Soquel CA, 550  
Jennifer Caulfield, San Francisco CA, 506  
Linda Chang, San Jose CA, 524  
Peter Coebergh, Menlo Park CA, 503  
Jim Commons, Walnut Creek CA, 499  
Brian Davis, San Rafael CA, 508

Irving Googins, Pleasanton CA, 499  
Maria Grigorieff, Half Moon Bay CA, 503  
Gloria Halliday, Foster City CA, 498  
Kaili Jiao, Foster City CA, 498  
Ed Lichtig, Lafayette CA, 499  
G Proper, Albany CA, 497  
Agnes Reti, San Rafael CA, 508  
Marilyn River, Lasrkspur CA, 508  
Peggy Rule-Meyer, Incline Village NV, 465  
Judith Tillinghast, Lodi CA, 510

## **NABC MASTERS** **(200 MASTERPOINTS)**

Karen Cabrera, Oakland CA, 502  
Charlene Friedman, Menlo Park CA, 503  
Gregory Gauthier, San Francisco CA, 506  
Neil Vaz, San Francisco CA, 506  
Cynthia Yock, Atherton CA, 503

## **ADVANCED** **NABC MASTERS** **(300 MASTERPOINTS)**

Sherrie Barakatt, Modesto CA, 529  
Lorraine Bocks, Legrand CA, 529  
Paul Ferber, Reno NV, 473  
Susan Mazzei, Aptos CA, 530  
Anna Ravenscroft, Sunnyvale CA, 503

**LIFE MASTERS**  
**(300/500 MASTERPOINTS)**

William Dalton, Dublin OH, 503  
James Hlavka, Los Altos CA, 503  
Carmella Sogge, Ross CA, 508  
Nancy Thomas, Concord CA, 499

**BRONZE**  
**LIFE MASTERS**  
**(500/750 MASTERPOINTS)**

Daphne Bransten, San Francisco CA, 506  
Bill Cohen, Pebble Beach CA, 530  
Jung Hu, San Jose CA, 507  
Todd Makler, Los Altos CA, 503  
Carmella Sogge, Ross CA, 508

**SILVER**  
**LIFE MASTERS**  
**(1000 MASTERPOINTS)**

Vera Baum, Los Altos CA, 503  
Bernadine Donoghue, Palo Alto CA, 503  
Richard Michelsen, Walnut Creek CA, 499  
Judy Zimmerer, Fresno CA, 522

**RUBY LIFE MASTERS**  
**(1500 MASTERPOINTS)**

Cyrus Ansari, San Anselmo CA, 508  
Michael Kruley, Pleasant Hill CA, 499  
Ingrid Purcell, Larkspur CA, 508

**GOLD LIFE MASTERS**  
**(2500 MASTERPOINTS)**

Robert Johnson, Hayward CA, 500  
Helen Macdonell, Atherton CA, 503  
Jeffrey Reid, San Rafael CA, 508  
Daniel Rubinfeld, Berkeley CA, 499  
Clyde Smith, Napa CA, 512

**SAPPHIRE**  
**LIFE MASTERS**  
**(3500 MASTERPOINTS)**

Raymond Adams Jr, Riverbank CA, 529  
Rajeev Gupta, Oakland CA, 502  
Panette Talia, Kelseyville CA, 507

**DIAMOND**  
**LIFE MASTER**  
**(5000 MASTERPOINTS)**

David Pankratz, Santa Rosa CA, 509

# HEART OF THE DISTRICT

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<a href="#"><u>Diablo Valley</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>499</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Lisa Assoni</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>Fresno</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>522</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Laura Da Costa</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>Livermore</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>501</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Rosemarie LaFrancesca</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>Marin</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>508</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Gail Haar</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>Monterey</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>530</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Mary Block</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>Napa/Solano/Sonoma Valley</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>512</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Tom Sheahan</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>Palo Alto</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>503</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Judi Gentry</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>San Francisco</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>506</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Kim Fanady</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>San Mateo</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>498</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Fran Gaura</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>Santa Cruz</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>550</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Karen Schamberg</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>Santa Rosa/Petaluma</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>509</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Cecelia Zachar</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>Silicon Valley</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>507</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Ray Yuenger</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>Stockton</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>510</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Debbie DeZarn</u></a>

## Berkeley/El Cerrito/Richmond

*By The Beer Dude*

Talk about “dog days of summer” – pure hell for bridge clubs. Last word I got from EC Rec was that we’re dead thru the end of August, & given the recent spikes locally, I’m giving up on speculation & playing it as it lies – I’ll post monthly updates here & on our website.

July 4, we lost one of our long-time club stalwarts, Tom Shimizu. He was a long-time member of the Live Oak Bridge Club (which ECBC absorbed some yrs ago when Vi Kimoto gave it up) board, but we never could get him to join our Unit Board. He was the consummate gent at the table – always a joy to oppose (he was a good player). He leaves behind a wife of 50+ yrs, 3 kids, & a few grandkids – he was 87. He spent time in an internment camp in Arkansas 1942-45, later joined the AF. Got his degree from UC & worked there for many years. He stopped playing a few yrs ago due to health & vision issues – he lived in Walnut Creek. RIP Tom – we’ve missed you since you quit playing.

The only other news is that Faith Franck (whom I never met) moved to Vegas – no new members or move-ins. Rank advancers (if any) are on the lists on a page above this one.

Keep staying safe & sane – wear those masks when you’re out in public!

## Diablo Valley

*By Lisa Assoni/The ShortCut Cook*

It’s new day, I hope it goes my way. I’ll clean the house, I’ll wash the floors, and when I’m done, I’ll have some fun. But as the months pass by, I get very lazy, and I think I’m going crazy.



I wash my hands, counters as well, and even cook healthy meals too. So you should try to enjoy your time, and season it with a bridge game or two. And remember to keep your distance from others, and maybe later, we’ll all enjoy a cup of hot tea. (More like a bottle of wine)!

Don’t stray too far, your safety comes first, so when you see a neighbor walking by, you nod your head, smile, chat from 6 feet away.

I’m hungry, it’s time for lunch, I think I’ll have a lovely brunch. So treat yourself and others with kindness, because you can.

So a diversion for you to read, DID YOU KNOW, that it’s August and for a fun tidbit, this month was originally Sextilis, the sixth month of the Roman calendar and consisted of 31 days. It became the eighth month with a length of 29 days around 700 BCE when January and February were added to the year. Julius Caesar added two days to the month around 45 BCE. Who knew!

As you all know, baby, it’s hot outside; it’s been downright blistering. So what better way to cool down than to turn on the air, and get on-line for a lively game of Bridge. You’ll be indoors, the air-conditioning blowing, and your brain will

be flowing. Remember, Bridge is a lot like a great dessert. Once you get a taste for the game, you always come back for seconds, thirds and never get your fill. It's a brain game that can take you through your youth, and dishes out a smorgasbord for a lifetime of learning. Sometimes we get so busy with watching the news that we forget our brain needs exercise too. This is especially true during these challenging times. Don't get Corona Brain, log on line, and begin to train. Yes, life has changed, and now were becoming so isolated and lonely.

Truly, this will help boost your spirits by playing on-line bridge. If you've registered with the ACBL, you're on your way to becoming an active bridge player. If you're having difficulties logging on, contact your local director. He or she will show you the way. Ciao Bella

## **Fresno**

*By Laura Da Costa*

Hello Everyone!

The Fresno Bridge Center remained closed for the month of July. So, there are only a couple pieces of news to share.

First, the Non Life Master Sectional scheduled for August has now been officially cancelled. The ACBL made the decision that even sectionals conducted by local directors should be cancelled. Given Fresno and California ordinances, we would have had to cancel it anyway. Let's cross our fingers that things will be better in the new year and that the Fresno Winter Sectional will still occur on President's Day Weekend 2021.

Last time I mentioned that some of our clubs have pooled our player database with Desert City Bridge Club. It turns out that Kay Chrisman has switched to sharing her Tuesday and Thursday afternoon database with Duncan Bridge Center. The switch was due to Duncan Bridge Center having weekday games every day at 1:10 pm. Also, there are lessons for players in the 399er group.

We have two life masters that have managed to change ranks through Online play. Congratulations to Mark Stern who is now a Sapphire Life Master (3500 mps)! Also, congratulations to Judy Zimmerer who has achieved Silver Life Master (1000 mps)!

We do have a new member to report. A big "welcome" from Unit 522 goes to Joachim Schirmacher of Fresno.

A reminder, our old website is going to be shut down. Once it is gone, please use [www.fresnobridge.com](http://www.fresnobridge.com) to keep up to date with what is (or is not) going on.

Stay well. Maybe call a clubhouse partner or two to keep in touch.

## **Livermore Valley**

*By Rosemarie LaFrancesca*

I keep wondering when I will have a normal writing of the newsletter. Still there are no tournaments, no club games, no face-to-face bridge. Don't get me wrong, I'm enjoying the online bridge. In fact, I have been playing more now than when my clubs were open; but it is not the same. Folks say it's social because of the chat feature; folks say it's better bridge because you can

never bid out of turn or underbid; folks say it's as much fun as club bridge. Nope, not there for me! I miss seeing the smiling faces of our club friends; I miss seeing the grouchy faces of our club friends; I miss Dan's homemade bread...

I lost my Tuesday bridge partner last week. Bob Rasp was a great man; a man of family and faith. He was a bridge lover and a sports lover and a devoted husband of 68 years! We were a great fit at the bridge table, and we loved talking sports. I was a Bay Area sports fan and he loved his NY Yankees and his Buffalo Bills. Our last game together was on July 2. We score a very respectable 61%. I know I will think of him every Tuesday. RIP, Bob, you'll be missed.

Enjoy your online games and stay safe!

## Marin

*By Gail Haar*

A big virtual welcome to Helene Jaffe, Harry Neuwirth, Josh Quittner, and Michelle Slatalla. I'm sure I speak for us all when I say we can't wait for the day when we can meet you at the table. We have lots of rank advancements this month so it seems folks are getting comfortable playing at a virtual table. Mark Nelson, Cynthia Peterson, Tracy Solomon & Susy Vrouvas (Junior Master); Elaine Kitano (Club Master); Linda Fong, Nancy Levinson, Jane Pedroli, Carol Ross, Jeff Slavitz, Virginia Willson (Sectional Master); Shirley Ehrlich,



Jayme Goodale, Natasha Khandheria, & Julie Wong (Regional Master); Peggy McCormick (NABC Master); Miriam Kaegi (Life Master); Bill Yeast (Bronze Life Master); Karen Turnbaugh (Silver Life Master); Peggy Tatro (Gold Life Master); and Ellen Schiller (Emerald Life Master).

If you haven't done so yet, go to [marinbridge.org](http://marinbridge.org) and check out the steadily increasing information about our Unit's BBO Virtual Club games. There's also an excellent FAQ that is updated frequently with input from our members. If you are still hesitant about on-line bridge and are looking for a mentor to help you through the process, please contact Don Tusel at [marinbridge.mentoring@sonic.net](mailto:marinbridge.mentoring@sonic.net). We have mentors ready and eager to assist players at all levels to get comfortable in this new-to-many-of-us environment.

And speaking of this new environment, two of our local directors have moved their games on-line and have both open and limited games available throughout the week. One thing that is sorely lacking in on-line bridge is the social camaraderie of seeing your friends and meeting new ones. Anyone can play in Speedball games or Support Your Club (SYC) games, but a large majority of our players want to play with the people whom they know. All of us have different schedules and time constraints, but let's all make an effort to play locally whenever possible to support our Unit 508 directors. And folks, please, many of us have cutesy user names and have posted a picture of our favorite animal but it is much friendlier to post at least a first name in the profile in the name of sociability.

Thanks to Audrey Grant for this month's humor. "My first card game was rummy, which my Bobe taught me sitting at a little table at the front of the Bazaar. She always won. As a teenager, I played chess. Chess has some great words. Why waste? Also, why not cannibalize some German words and put them to good use.

Here's a start.

- Scoredenfreude - the pleasure that you take when you get positive imps, or more than 50% because the opponents made a terrible mistake. This mostly applies when your own running total is abysmal.

- Zugzwang - A card that you play to put the opponents into an impossible position - like endplay, but harder to pronounce.

- Zwischenzug - in-between move, For example, a card that you play in order to establish a suit while you still have stoppers in the other suits. A great word because it's much harder to pronounce than Zugzwang.

- Patzer - your partner if you score badly.

- Detritophagic - the look someone has when their partner passes a Texas transfer."

And as Sergeant Phil Esterhaus said every week on Hill Street Blues, stay safe out there.

## Monterey

*By Mary Block*

Following the Board of Directors election in June, the new Board met via Zoom on July 9 and elected the following officers: President, Trulee Ricketts; Vice President, Sharon Larson; Secretary, Kathy Pfitzer; Treasurer, Ray Mok; Membership

Chair, Joe Truskot; Goodwill, Pat Heller; District 21 Representative, Susan Mazzei.

The unit has one new member this month: Sally Healey. The following promotions in rank are reported: Sarah Bouchier is a Junior Master; Beverly Gilfillan, Wayne McIntyre, Sally Reed, and Gerald Williams are now Regional Masters; Terence Degan is a Silver Life Master.

The unit lost one of its most valued members last month. Jill Leach was a wonderful player, teacher, mentor, partner and friend to so many. Over the years, her teaching of beginners in both formal classes and mini-lessons before the games set an example to be followed. Jill's family requested that donations in her memory be made to ACBL Unit 530, c/o Sharon Larson, 27224 Prado del Sol, Carmel, CA 93923.

Pat Heller, our Marina reporter, tells us that the Bridge Center is gone. There is nothing to see from Imjin Parkway and the road up Second Avenue is blocked off. Though we have been expecting this, it is sad to hear of the final demolition.

While we are all anxious for face to face bridge to resume so that we may enjoy the social aspects again, playing on-line via BBO makes for some interesting social interactions as well. Playing in the Endless Summer tournament, in an effort to make conversation, I asked our opponents "Where are you from?" Hearing British Columbia as a reply, and the polite return question, "And you?" my first thought was to say, "Oh, we are local." I guess I thought I was playing in the Regional at the Hyatt. I was really local, in my living room in my pajamas. I also, observing that another

pair was from Canada, stupidly said, “You came a long way for this,” although they may very well have been in their own living rooms in their pajamas.

When we do return to face to face playing, we will have some on-line habits to break and get back in to spirit of the real world. Playing on line, we don’t have to be concerned about revokes and insufficient bids, or playing out of turn. We will have to re-learn alerts of our partner’s bids rather than our own. Since we will probably be playing with masks on at first, we can still mutter curse words without the director being called. But we won’t be able to yell at our partners like I have yelled at the robot, “What were you thinking, doubling for penalty with five points and three little trump?” Or cursing out the robot for not leading the suit I bid.

Just remember, the hallmark of a good bridge player is learning from and adapting to new information.

We are [www.montereybridgeclub.com](http://www.montereybridgeclub.com)  
The Bridge Center is [831-747-1650](tel:831-747-1650). I am [maru0407@comcast.net](mailto:maru0407@comcast.net). The Foundation is <http://montereybridgeeducation.org>.

## Napa/Solano/Sonoma

*By Tom Sheahan*

So here is my report on Unit 512, which is chock full of nothing to report on. The only game in town is our Tuesday and Wednesday afternoon games starting at



12:15 on Bridge Base Online. It’s easy to sign on and play and it supports our club as \$4.00 of your entry fee of \$5.00 goes directly to our club. Contact George Gordon if you need any help getting entered into a game. George is at [gjggolfer@aol.com](mailto:gjggolfer@aol.com).

Our social life and most people in the unit’s social lives now consist of meeting other club members in back yards or driveways socially distancing while bringing our own chairs, beverages, and nibbles. It’s really enjoyable to see a lot of the players we haven’t seen in 4 or 5 months.

Thanks to Eileen Holsten who is keeping us entertained with her daily collection of emails. She has a knack of brightening our day with the funny stories and cartoons.

We heard recently that Bob Locke passed away. Bob wasn’t a member of our unit, but played in it once in awhile with Wayne Miller. We picked up the game around the same time Bob and Wayne did, and usually wound up playing against them a lot in the early days of our tournament play. It was always a good time when we’d see them. Bob was a good guy and will be missed.

Stay safe! You do not want any part of this disease. Even after you test negative it still lingers on.

## Palo Alto

By Judi Gentry

Hi Bridge Friends: I really appreciate clever quotes that encapsulate a thought in a few words. Here's one I liked from a recent Bridge Bulletin: "The difference between a master and a beginner is that the master has failed more times than the beginner has even tried." It is encouraging to believe that with each mistake we make, we get closer and closer to mastering this challenging game. There must be a corollary to that thought that says that, with proper instruction and a marvelous feel for the game, years of mistakes can be bypassed. I am continually in awe of the fine playing of so many young players today. There are a number of current and former SIVY members who are making their mark on the bridge world. Recently, Andrew Chen, a young player at our club, achieved the rank of Life Master just 3 days after his 8th birthday, the youngest player in history to reach that accomplishment. He didn't have time to make a lot of mistakes!

Playing bridge online is giving club players an opportunity to continue to achieve new milestones. With regionals on BBO, players can still earn the "colors" they need to meet the requirements for master levels. Following are PABC members who have gained new ranks in the past month: Junior Master: Anil Khatri, Adriano Quiroga, Patricia Smith; Club Master: Heather Black, Robert Healy, Gail Moberg, Cathy Spieker; Sectional Master:



David Berkeley, Judy Berkeley, Kathleen Danforth, Vijesh Iyer, Cindy McColl, Patricia Steele, Yuri Yatskar; Regional Master: Hilary Charlton, Theresa Iantosca, Leika Kejriwal, Jonathan D Shi, Fred Smith, Marcy Tivol, Eli Wismer; NABC Master: David Merenbach, Olivia Schireson, Hide Tanigami, Judy Tanigami, Sudhir Virmani; Life Masters: Rajeev Jog, Marina Seppius, Kate Smith, Dmitri Stukalov; Bronze Life Masters: Susan Barkley, Brenda Hatton, Marina Seppius, Dmitri Stukalov; Silver Life Masters (1000 master points): Michael Hu; Ruby Life Masters (1500 master points): Jim Harris.

Here's another reason you might want to consider playing bridge on BBO: You might have the opportunity to play against some interesting opponents (like Bill Gates and Warren Buffet.) Of course, you won't encounter them in our Virtual Club Games, but once in awhile it would be an adventure to play outside the club. They were recently quoted in an interview with CNBC saying that they keep their minds sharp by playing duplicate bridge online. The longtime friends are still playing at home amid the coronavirus pandemic. Warren Buffet said he plays about 8 hours a week. Anyone know their BBO IDs?

As we talk about bridge opportunities online, don't forget to use our PABC website as a source of bridge information. During SIP, we have been treated to some exceptional lectures on various bridge subjects. If you missed any of them – or want to review – they are all available on our website. In addition to recent presentations, we have an archive of

lectures going back 10 years. They are organized by topics: Bidding, Declarer Play, Defense and General Bridge.

So, keep playing, keep learning ... and keep making mistakes. Judi

## San Francisco

*By Kimberly Fanady*

Lots of exciting online bridge coming up in July and August. The second ACBL Silver Linings Week takes place in all the SF Virtual Clubs during the last week of July. Heaps of silver points to be won! For the very good or the very brave, ACBL is holding two national level events to stand in for the Spingold KO Teams and the Platinum Pairs. Give it a shot, what do you have to lose?

On the local front, QuickTricks is bringing back its most popular annual events. The club will host an online version of its annual Tadd Waggoner Memorial in honor of its founder on August 10. Proceeds from the event will be contributed to the AIDS Support Group in Tadd's memory. On August 17, the Pro/Am returns! The Pro/Am pairs newer players (0-299 MP) with more experienced players for meeting, greeting, learning, and fun. Finally, QuickTricks is working on offering a monthly free team game (no masterpoints), since team games are not available on the Virtual Clubs platform. Check out the club website at [www.quicktricks.org](http://www.quicktricks.org) for all the details.



Star player Sylvia Shi organized and hosted a great event, the first Online Women's Teams Tournament, in mid-July. Twelve teams from all over the country participated, including the San Francisco team of captain Jeannette Shinsako, Sally Foster, Jocelyn Startz, Martha Keller, Gail Gabiati, Marin import and honorary San Franciscan Pat Irwin, and your faithful columnist. The team unfortunately just missed the quarterfinals, but everyone had a great time in this super fun and very well organized event. Unit 506er Jane McLaughlin played on another team and helped promote the event. And the winners were: the USBF Juniors team, led by captain and Unit 506er Amber Lin. Those eight young women played great bridge and trounced all us old ladies. The future is female!

Kudos to this month's ladder climbers: new Junior Master Susan Fox; Club Masters Brandi Chavin, Michael Peirce, Megan Sanguinetti; Sectional Masters Lora Danis, Gail Mejeur; Regional Masters Ashish Gupta, Pamela Mann; Life Master and Bronze Life Master, Helen Spalding. Well played all!

Welcome to new member Peter Holbrook and welcome back to transfer Emily Francis (Eastern Massachusetts) We look forward to giving you a virtual elbow bump on BBO.

Stay healthy, well, safe, and sane, Unit 506ers. Until we can see each other at the tables again, log on to BBO and keep clicking!

## San Mateo

*By Fran Gaura*

Folks who have been associated with Unit 498 in the past know our unit has taken an active role in the ACBL's Longest Day campaign to benefit the Alzheimer's Association. Over the years we have engaged in raffles, auctions and other activities to raise money for this worthy cause. Our efforts have paid off in substantial donations, earning kudos from both the ACBL and the Alzheimer's Association for our unit and the remarkable team headed by Fred Chasalow and Jackie Lowenberg.

This year was different – no face-to-face activities, but a concerted effort from the team netted \$8,306 through July 19. More donations are expected as a result of the Last Call solicitation cited below.

In a pared down campaign due to the Covid crisis, the committee sent a Last Call solicitation to our Unit 498 community asking for donations to the Longest Day to win a playdate and lesson with an expert, mentor, or teacher. In a heartwarming response, our players generously rose to the call and sent their \$\$\$ to the Alzheimer's Association. The angels who signed up to play and teach the donors were Fred Chasalow, Marcus Ballinger, Raad Bunni, Mark Sorenson, Jennifer Kuhn, Cheryl Haines, and Bob Ipswitch. We gratefully thank these special people for sharing their knowledge and skill and time. Our unit connected virtually to make a statement and once again displayed its generous and loving San Mateo heart.

Our thanks to the efforts of our dedicated Longest Day volunteers: Jackie Lowenberg, Janelle Van Renesselaer, Raad Bunni, Jenny Kuhn, Fred Chasalow, Donna Pellegrini, Sandra Tilch, Bob Johnson, Marge Pacchetti, Joy Venosa, Marie Pattie, and Jo Anne Gates.

In response to requests from our members, Raad Bunni introduced a Saturday BBO event under the auspices of Unit 498: an Open and a 499er game on Saturday July 18. Winners of the Open event were Ted Richmond and Roger Dewes with a 63.61% game; winners of the 499er event were Mike Dotterweich and Bob Chang with a 60.56% game. If you are interested in seeing Saturday games regularly scheduled, please contact Raad Bunni at [bridgepals@gmail.com](mailto:bridgepals@gmail.com).

## Santa Cruz

*By Karen Schamberg*

It's heartening that almost 5 months into the temporary closure of our facility, we can welcome several new members to the Santa Cruz Bridge Center: Caroline Frier, Jeanne Jorgensen, Olin Ottemann, Hunter Reid, and Simon Reid. Won't it be fun when we can meet in person?



Congratulations to the following folks for reaching Milestones this month: Charles Wilson, NABC Master; Barbara Black, Angie Millslagle and Gloria Reiss, Regional Masters; Nancy Ficarrota,

Sectional Master; and Betsy Allen, Club Master.

The high scores in vClub games were earned by: Gloria Reiss & Ken Gamble, 74.07%; Joani Mitchell & Stu Brager, 72.69%; Josh Karter & Rick Zinman, 72.50%; Mick Friedberg & Ken Llacera, 70.71%; and Rick Zinman & Josh Karter, 70.37%.

For the first time, Santa Cruz and San Jose have teamed up to expand the Friday evening open game. Santa Cruz will sponsor the first and third Fridays. San Jose will sponsor the second, fourth and fifth Fridays. Look at our website, <https://www.santacruzbridge.org/> for complete information, especially on how to join the San Jose sponsored games.

We now have daily opportunities to play online bridge with SCBC members. Saturday through Thursday, there are two vClub games and on Fridays, there are three. It's best to consult the website for times and levels for vClub games. In addition, Ken Gamble is offering a free open game every Tuesday evening (contact Ken to participate). While we all miss going to our club and the wonderful social aspect of playing bridge, we are thankful that the SCBC is offering so many opportunities to play.

## Santa Rosa/Petaluma

*By Cecelia Zachar*

We continue playing on BBO. We miss our friends, but at least get to see their names on our computer screens at BBO Virtual Club games. The Bridge Gallery club continues to be a success, 5 games a week and 233 tables in the last month.

Since my last article for this newsletter, we have had two 70+% Virtual Club games. On June 23, Robert Rottmayer and Mary Lyons scored a big 72.50% in an 11 table game. Larry Spanier and Mark Hersko scored 70.14% on June 29. In addition, in an open BBO ACBL Pairs game on June 26, Debbie Tessler and Mark Hersko scored 71.79%, coming in first in a game of 324 pairs.

It looks like lots of people are winning points on BBO! The ACBL notified us at the end of June of 7 new rankings. Our new Junior Master is Brian Sloan. We have 2 new Sectional Masters, Lisa French and Robert Keays. Our new Regional Master is Katherine Schram, and our new Bronze Life Masters are Dr. Ron Chestnut and Elizabeth Strasen. Our new Silver Life Master is Abbe Cohen. Congratulations, all!

Keep well.

## Silicon Valley

By Ray Yuenger

This unit-focused column reports successes of unit members playing in national, regional, and local tournaments, rank advancements of unit members, activities by the Board of Unit 507, and recent developments at the San Jose Bridge Center.



With COVID-19 causing the indefinite closure of the Bridge Center and the cancellation of face-to-face (“F2F”) bridge tournaments for the rest of 2020, there is much less to report.

The Unit Board continues to meet on a monthly basis online via Zoom. The only news is essentially no news. Once again, as for much of the last decade, there were no nominations to fill any of the six vacant positions on the Board. Fortunately, five of the six members whose terms ended agreed to continue serving. At the July meeting, the Board voted to keep its current officers in their positions, Stu Goodgold as President, Mich Ravera as Vice-President, Karen O’Connell as Treasurer, and Anne Bossange as Secretary. Jack Verson declined to continue, but he is now a co-webmaster of sjbridge.org along with me, Ray Yuenger. I’m trying to twist his arm to take over completely.

While our Unit By-laws require an annual membership meeting, the By-Laws did not contemplate a situation where it would be unsafe to hold a F2F meeting. The Board continues to monitor the latest public health orders and has deferred any

planning of an annual membership meeting until it is safe to hold one. It may be that the unit will have to try to hold an online membership meeting, but I wonder what the turnout would be without a free unit game being offered as part of the event.

While there have been no sectionals or nationals, the ACBL had staged two online events designated as Regionals, because gold points were available for doing well. These were atypical regionals as they (a) were organized and staffed by the ACBL with no district involvement, (b) did not last the customary seven days of a District 21 regional, and (c) offered no team games.

From April 30 through May 3 was the Stay at Home - Play at Home regional. On May 3, Ashwini Datar & Vilas Namjoshi placed first in their stratification in a two-session open pairs event. This is quite notable because they finished 13th overall in a 201-table event!

On the same day, Anne Wilson & Gerald Hewitt Jr. had a section top and were third overall in a 384-table Gold Rush event. The day before, Anne had another section top in another Gold Rush event playing with Joanne Cornbleet. Also during that regional, Thomas Morse & Judy Reeve had a section top in a 299er event that had 130 tables and eight sections. Erin Gove & Malcolm McLaughlin had a section top in an open pairs game with 271 tables. Cindy De Santis had a section top in a Gold Rush event with 393 tables. Pangjie Xu had a section top and finished second overall in a side game. (While I don’t usually report side games from regionals, side games don’t usually have 184 tables either as this one did.)

From June 25 through 28 was the Endless Summer regional. Ashwini & Vilas again triumphed with a stratification top and 2nd overcall in a 91-table open pairs event. The day before they had another section top in a 73-table event with five sections. Shashi Agarwal had a strat top in a 499er event.

Gerald Hewitt Jr. had a nice run in limited games in the Endless Summer regional. In a Gold Rush event he had two section tops with John Stremel and they were fourth overall out of 367 tables. Two days later, in a 499er game he had two section tops with Mike Friedman and they finished second overall out of 82 tables. Also earning section tops in the regional were Bruce Luttrell, Jung Hu, Cindy De Santis, David & Wendy Fotland, Lucy Chen & Shirley Shi, and Andy Scott.

Congratulations to our unit's newest Masters: Mike Friedman, Shailesh Naik (Club); Lucy Chen (Sectional); Arlie Stephens (Regional); Emil Aalto, Carolyn Drozdiak, Gerald Hewitt Jr. (NABC); Charlie Chen, Kayden Ge (Advanced NABC); Andrew Chen, Ashwini Datar (Life), Anne Bossange (Bronze); Richard O'Brien, Mischel Postas (Ruby); Clark Millikan (Sapphire).

And here I want to publicly repeat my private email apology to brothers Charlie and Andrew Chen. In last month's column I went out of my way to congratulate Charlie for becoming the youngest Life Master in the ACBL when that was Andrew's accomplishment. I have no good excuse for that mistake, but as usual I was composing my column after midnight and after my deadline, as I am with this one.

There's really no excuse for me failing to catch and correct my own error while I was proofreading all the articles as the Executive Editor of this newsletter. Fortunately, the June newsletter had congratulated the right person, and Andrew is featured on the front page of the August Bridge Bulletin.

I hope you are all staying safe and healthy and enjoying the opportunities offered by online bridge.

## Stockton

*By Debbie DeZarn*

How many of you have ways of cooling off this summer? I used to love "bridge days" as the Stockton Club was always cooler than my home. And Oak Park?



I would complain about having to wear a heavy sweater due to the very efficient A/C and now I would love to be there "freezing." My HOA pool is closed this year so please, any of you with an outdoor pool please invite me over. I will bring my mask, beverage of your choice, and promise to stay more than six feet away from you.

BBO continues to be a great way to accumulate ACBL Masterpoints. Silver Linings games began July 27 but if you are reading this early on August 1 you still have 2 days to earn double silver points if you play well or have really good luck. Both Modesto and Sacramento Virtual Clubs are offering games each day through August 2. There are no rank advancements to announce this month but some are so

close. I will mention Dennis Del Paine as mid-July he needed only .18 points to reach Silver Life Master. I'm hoping he has now earned that!

Each month I invite all readers to update personal news with me so I can share it here. I was happy to hear that Richard Bianchi is playing bridge again after taking about a year off. Marion Goldberg plays tennis regularly and Bill Mitchell still runs 32-36 miles a week and his family has just started playing Dungeons and Dragons. Joan Garcia and Wendy Buchanan and I'm sure many others religiously get in a couple of miles or more of dog walking each day.

Debbie Greenberg's family Golden Retriever passed away in late spring and they have been on a long waiting list to find a new furry addition to their family. She just happened to call the breeder recently to check their status on the list and learned that there has been an unexpected pregnancy when the wife left her husband "watching things" and returned to find her male and female goldens together. Debbie and her husband are very excited to be adopting their new puppy November 1.

Jenny Lind spent a week in Oregon with her daughter's family and upon return graciously shared some drip irrigation

supplies and advice with me as I struggle with keeping new landscaping plants alive. Mary Sievers has enjoyed playing on BBO but shared her frustrations with reaching directors to request board adjustments when unexpected things happen beyond our control.

Jerry Baba emails Bridge Cartoons to people interested in a chuckle and also plays on BBO. I saw some sequined face masks and immediately thought of Carol Hakeem. She said she is faithful about wearing a mask in public but has skipped sequins and bling in favor of N95 protection. She also is having fun and success on BBO.

Please play in the BBO Support Your Club games (7:00, 2:10, and 4:30) as the \$4 per game is the Club's only source of income. Revenue from those games is no longer covering rent, insurance, utilities, and website expenses. Club reserves are still healthy through the end of this year but slowly dwindling. And please read pages 26 and 27 of the July Bridge Bulletin for instructions on how to report suspicious or rude behavior on BBO and how to create Player Memos if you encounter unethical conduct. Let's try to win but have fun and be courteous.

**Have great news to share from your unit? Contact *Diamond in the Ruff* Editor Rich Luttrell at [luttrellr@](mailto:luttrellr@sbcglobal.net)  
[sbcglobal.net](mailto:luttrellr@sbcglobal.net) and tell him all about it!**

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