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## Diablo Valley By Lisa Assoni/The ShortCut Cook (499)

Hope you're keeping your cool, and that encompasses all aspects of our lives.

Anyway, our tempers can flare like a sunburst, and spoil your day and others. At the bridge table, sour apples go to the following folks who are no shows and no phone calls telling your partner you can't play that day. Unless you've experienced an emergency, you're causing temperatures to rise from the waiting bridge players, that delays the start of the game. You're all super, but we all need to be courteous and kind.

We're thriving at the Contra Costa Bridge Center. Attendance has been like a fine wine: Smooth, mature, and ageless. Time marches on, but with bridge it seems to come to a stand-still. We're in the moment, present and sometimes "knocking our heads and saying, "I should have had a V-8. I mean, and should have been in 5 NT. "

This game of trying to reformulate contracts, bids and more, is a lot like making dinner. If you like to cook, you experiment, try new recipes, and reap the benefits of eating good, healthy food. And so it goes for bridge. The more we learn, the better player's we become, we devour every morsel of a point, and relish every play of the hand.

It does take a village to make delicious, hard to resist events happen at Unit 499. We take pride in our deliveries and work very tirelessly to make you happy. The board is amazing, and you can check out these dedicated folks on our website-[Unit499.com](http://Unit499.com).

Yes, we're still cookin' on all four burners. Like all clubs, we all try and engage on getting new players to sign-up. It's a great game to teach family members. (OK, it's not easy to entice them) but the younger folks should be encouraged to learn "A game that keeps on giving"! I remember one person who arrived on the gurney. Yikes. She did great.

So, never give-up and enjoy each game of bridge!

Ciao.

## East Bay By Tom Pajak (502)



Well, we're all familiar with the expression "*spring forward, fall back*" when it comes to changing our clocks twice a year. We'll get to apply that aphorism a little earlier than usual since the East Bay Community Bridge Center's game schedule will be "falling back" starting September first. Right now our Monday, Wednesday, and Friday games are starting at noon. Come September we're changing the starting time for all three games to **Eleven o'clock** a.m. Many of our loyal players come to play from the other side of the tunnel and we've heard for a long time that their commute back home is choked by heavy traffic—making playing in





the Oakland game more difficult than it needs to be. In the early days of the pandemic traffic wasn't such a problem, but currently the congestion has returned so we're taking action to alleviate some of this problem. An 11:00 game will normally end by 2:30 p.m. giving players a generous head-start home without as much traffic hassle. Oh, by the way—if you've been taking advantage of the free pre-game lessons every Friday, they won't go away. Instead of them starting at 11:00, they'll now begin at 10:00—same great FREE lessons, just one hour earlier on Fridays.

There are also a few new wrinkles coming up once September arrives.

### **Beginning Monday, September 9**

We will be holding our first **monthly Pro/Am game**.

This game will normally be held on the first Monday of each month. Please note: there will be **NO Open game on Pro/Am game days**. We are depending on all who play regularly on Mondays to further enrich our growing bridge community by participating. Masterpoint limits for each category of player are:

Pro = 750+, Am = 0-750. Pros, just ask anyone from our mentoring groups or limited games to play; Ams, just ask anyone from any of our Open games to play. Need help, just ask any director. We are here to assist in any way we can. As an added incentive, the monthly Pro/Am game will include a complimentary light lunch as well. Table fees are the usual \$10 per player.

### **Beginning Monday, September 16**

**All Monday (except Pro/Am games) and Tuesday games will become Open/Handicap games.** Those players having less than 750 masterpoints will receive additional points based on a sliding scale contingent upon their skill level. These games were specifically created for those of you who have outgrown our 499er games. So, please consider joining us on Mondays and Tuesdays. These will be Open games but players under 750 masterpoints will receive bonus points to help level the field.

### **Class Schedule**

On Saturday, September 7th Greg and Grant Vance will hold a class entitled "Counting – the basis for strong play" starting at 11:00 a.m. at the East Bay Community Bridge Center. This class is aimed at advancing players who already know the basics. They'll learn how to effectively count the cards as declarer and defender; count tricks even before the hand is played; discovering unseen distribution; placing high card points in all four hands; and remove the guesswork in the play of the cards.

If this seems like just the thing you'd like to learn to improve upon, go to the Club's website to fill out the registration form [<http://www.eastbaycommunitybridge.com/>].





The fee is only \$70 for instruction and supervised play, and it includes lunch, beverages, and snacks.

Also, starting on Monday, September 9th Jonathan Kael will teach beginner bridge (the ACBL's "Club Series"). Class will be held from 6:30 – 9:30 p.m. for ten sessions ending on November 11<sup>th</sup>. Lessons are at the East Bay Community Bridge Center for a fee of \$250. If you or someone you know wants to learn the basics of this fantastic game, this is the class for you. You can find the registration form on the EBCBC website. Mr. Kael is a professional teacher and has garnered tons of favorable praise from the hundreds of students that have attended his courses. You'll enjoy his humorous style of delivery, and you'll learn all about playing our favorite game.

### Could This Be You?

**EBCBC is looking for two additional new members for their Board of Directors.** They are hoping to find individuals who can help with decision making and bring some fresh ideas to the club's programs and games. This is a volunteer position for individuals who have the creativity to make 'outside the box' suggestions for positive change and improvement. Are you unsure about being up to the task? Just ask any current board member: Betty Kael, Sandi Davis, or Tom Pajak. We would be happy to answer all your questions.

## Fresno By Laura Da Costa (522)



Hello Everyone! I hope you are all able to remain cool as we finish out this very hot summer this year.

### Past Events

**Longest Day:** Our Unit celebrated the Longest Day on Saturday, June 22nd. This was just a few days after our last issue, I almost forgot it needed to be covered this issue, but it certainly was a memorable day both for the marathon and the flies.

The flies....Just two days before the big tournament, we had a sudden fly infestation at the clubhouse. After setting off many fly bombs over the ensuing days, we still were infested on Saturday. I will always remember getting there early for the 6 am game (arriving around 4:30 and vacuuming up the dead flies and trying to spray the still living ones). Our 6 am game would often be punctuation with a loud slapping sound as people who had sitouts were roaming around with fly swatters. We made it through the day though, and by the following Monday, we were fly free.

The Marathon...We, once again, went to our 4-game schedule. Our goal each time we have an event such as this, is to have more tables than the previous year. We ended up having a total of 23 tables—an increase of 1.75 tables more than last year's marathon.





**Games and winners below:**

<b>Games</b>	<b># of Tables</b>	<b>Winners</b>
6 am Individual	2.5	Mary Lou Pease
9 am Open Pairs	6	Howard Arquette & Kim Morris (N/S) Blake Rundquist & Cyndi Tingey (E/W, Overall)
12:30 pm Open Pairs	6	Lowell Gist & Matthew Wilkins
12:30 pm 299er Pairs	3	Judy Pierre & Madeline Lynes (Tie 1/2) Tom & Mary Warner (Tie 1/2)
4:30 pm Fast Pairs	5.5	Matthew Wilkins & Victor Greener (N/S, Overall) Laura Da Costa & Ray April (E/W)

A successful day in many ways: 37 different people won masterpoints that day; the big winner being Matthew Wilkins. Many members played more than one game that day, but six played them all: Howard Arquette, Laura Da Costa, Lowell Gist, Jason McAlexander, Mary Lou Pease, & Matthew Wilkins. An honorary member to this list is Don Austin who ran the one game he did not play in.

Many thanks to the people who donated time and food to the day. I know there were a lot of you, and I wish I could remember all who contributed, but I cannot. I do remember we were well fed, and we did a fairly good job of keeping the flies away from the food.

As always, the purpose of the Longest Day marathon is to raise money for the Alzheimers Association. Between game fees and donations at both the clubhouse and website, Unit 522 and its members contributed a little over \$2800.

**Mentoring Lesson/Game:** We had another Mentoring Lesson/Game on July 28th. We have had a few of these over the past year, and they have been popular with usually 5 tables each time. So, what a surprise when the lesson/game ended up with 8 tables! The day was enjoyed by both the Mentors and Mentees (okay, one person said she didn't enjoy herself, but everyone else raved about it!). There will be more.

**Non-Life Master Sectional (August 10<sup>th</sup> & 11<sup>th</sup>):** Part of the reason I forgot some of the details from the Longest Day was because I so recently ran the Non-Life Master Sectional. As I mentioned with Longest Day, our goal is to be bigger than last year with these events. We managed it with this turn out—barely. We exactly matched the game totals for each session until the last one, when we ended up with 5 tables instead of the 4 1/2 of a year ago. A half-table improvement counts! I loved that so many of our players played in all 4 sessions across the two days. This year, we raised





the cap for masterpoints to 750, instead of the usual 500. I don't think it mattered too much for this year but can matter in the years to come. We had a total of 25 tables across the two-day tournament, and 28 different players earned silver points. The big winner was Maura Pennington & Matthew Wilkins (yep, Matt managed the most for this one and Longest Day). Thanks to all who contributed their help in putting on this tournament: whether helping the director, bringing or preparing lunch, or helping with the setup/cleanup—these include Steve Johnson, Margot Cegielski, Mary & Tom Warner, Matt & Maura, Don & Marion Austin, and Jason McAlexander. Many others brought food, too many to recall all of it; we were well fed.

### **Upcoming Events**

### **Members News**

**Fresno Fall Sectional:** Traditionally, we had a Fall Sectional, but we took off last year from having it as we had the Table Mountain Regional in October instead. We decided to add it back this year in a smaller form—just a weekend (**October 19th & 20th**). It will also be a “downgraded” sectional as it will only pay off 80% silver and 20% black points. Why the change? Well, it is due to the Director being a “Local Director,” as in me. I was qualified as a Local Director last year, but this is the first time I am running an Open Sectional...so be nice. We are still working on the schedule for games, but flyers should be available soon.

**New Member:** A big welcome to Richard Moses and Mary Jane Sabol, both of Fresno, who have just joined Unit 522.

**Change of Rankings:** New rankings for June & July 2024

### **Club Master**

- Anthony Gamber

### **Junior Masters**

- Ivy Darden
- Maureen Hays







**70% Games:** We have some special games to report, 70% and above

<b>Pair</b>	<b>Percentage</b>	<b>Game</b>
Ruth Townsend	72.22	Fri. Aft. 49er Ind. (6/21)
Lowell Gist & Ray April	71.67	Mon. Aft. Open Game (6/24)
Mary Gullo & Sandy OwYoung-Chu	70.00	Thurs. Aft. 750 Game (6/27)
Lowell Gist & Barbara Thacker	71.53	Sun. Aft. Open Game (7/14)
Mary & Tom Warner	76.25	Sat. Aft. 199er Game (7/20)
Tom & Mary Warner	81.25	Sat. Aft. 199er Game (7/27)
Bill Glass & John McGregor	70.00	Wed. Eve. Open Game (7/31)
Richard Moses	78.34	Fri. Aft. 49er Ind. (8/2)
Neville Abraham & Sally Lauritzen	73.75	Sat. Aft. 199er Game (8/3)
Marion & Don Austin	71.88	Thurs. Aft. 750 Game (8/15)

**Lessons**

**Clovis Adult Education:** Don Austin will be starting a new 8-class session of beginning bridge on August 28th. Don’s next series of lessons will be a departure in that he is going to conduct them on Wednesday afternoons from 1-3 pm instead of the usual Tuesday evening. If you know someone who might be interested who has always been unsure about evening lessons, let them know about this change of time and that they can sign up with the Clovis Adult Education website.

I hope you make plans to join us for the Fresno Fall Sectional. Keep up with the latest news and all other events at the clubhouse from our website: [fresnobridge.org](http://fresnobridge.org).

**Gilroy/Morgan Hill/Hollister By Jim Craig (524)**

**Earthquake Sectional**

**September 14-15, 2024**

The 2024 Earthquake Sectional is just around the corner! Sign-ups are available now through email and at club and Unit games for pairs on Saturday, September 14, and teams on Sunday, September 15. Space is limited, and we expect participation from outside the Unit. Therefore, if you want to play in the Earthquake, be sure to submit that information on one of the sign-up sheets when you are at the club. OR, you





can email to Anna Gervacio, at [anna.gervacio@gmail.com](mailto:anna.gervacio@gmail.com). Anna is coordinating entries and attendance.

### **North American Pairs (NAP)**

The North American Pairs (NAP) is an ACBL-wide event that starts at the club level and concludes with a finale at an NABC, in three flights (Open, <2500, <500). Follow the report in the main body of "Diamond in the Ruff" for details and conditions of contest. The annual cycle begins at the club level through August, continues with District finals at the Monterey Clambake Regional, with the winners going on to the NABC. Players can qualify in any ACBL NAP qualifying event, including online NAP games.

Stone's Game held an NAP qualification event as part of the regular games on Thursday, August 1. The following players qualified for the District finals in January:

Open: Liega Arnett, Patrick Arnett, Sue Comporato, Jim Craig, Lucy Grisetti, Graham Kelly, Linda King, Lorrie Scott, Patty Stone, Betsy Wagner

Flights B & C: Janet Bernhardt, George Bitner, Seala Fletcher-Kelly, Anna Gervacio, Dave Glashan, Arlene Greenberg, Steve Greenberg, Jim Krause, Kathy Krause, Joanne McLoughlin, Lennart Naslund, Dennis Rubida, Carolyn Wilson, Marianne Wucherpfennig

More qualifying events may be scheduled through the end of August, including online games.

### **The Tournament Trail**

#### **Palo Alto Unit 503 NLM Regional**

#### **Mountain View, July 10 - 14, 2024**

For the second year in a row, Palo Alto added a Non-Life Master Regional to the traditional Firecracker Sectional held in early July. Lots of Gold Rush Pair and similar events, all limited to players with fewer than 750 masterpoints who have not attained LM status. No event winners from Unit 524, but we had some members pick up some colored points:

Joanne McLoughlin 1.23

Ginny Arguello 1.23







## Palo Alto Unit 503 Firecracker Sectional

### Mountain View, July 10 - 14

Silver points were also available in Mountain View in July, at the Open Firecracker Sectional event. No event winners, but coming away with some reward for their efforts were:

Jan Pfiffner 3.04

Graham Kelly 0.69

Win Stone 0.69

Jim Craig 0.69

Vinny McLoughlin 0.69

Ken Johnson 0.42

### Rank Advancements

There are two rank advancements since our last publication. **Helen Shaw** and **Vicki Saxton** have both reached the level of Junior Master (5 Masterpoints). Well done Helen and Vicki!

### Monthly Unit Game

The monthly Unit Game is the third Sunday of the month. This quarter there was also a special Pro-Am Unit Game on June 30. The Unit 524 has invited players from all Units to come join us for the Unit game in Morgan Hill, especially those Units who have lost playing space and are short on face-to-face games. Join us at **the Centennial Recreation Center (CRC)** on Edmundson, just west of Monterey Road, in Morgan Hill. Upcoming Unit games are on August 18 (it's here!), and October 20. (There is not September Unit Game because that is the weekend of the Earthquake Sectional in Morgan Hill!)

Following are the winners of the most recent Unit games. Full results are available on the Unit website, and ACBL "Live for Clubs," both with hand records.

#### The **June 16** Unit Game

Open section had 5 1/2 tables.

First in A – Jim Craig – Ed Logg

First in B – Betsy Wagner – Judith Gouvea

0-499 Section was 3 tables.

First in A – Seala Fletcher-Kelly & Joanne McLoughlin

First in B – Jim & Kathy Krause





### The special **June 30** Unit Game

Open was a Pro-Am event with 11 full tables:

N/S A&B – Margot Kakalec – Helen Shaw

NS C – Carol Nicolleti – Maria Schalk

EW A&B&C – Chuck & Carolyn Wilson

### The **July 21** Unit Game

Open game was 7 full tables:

N/S A – Ken Johnson – Joanne Wicker

N/S B – Jim Craig – Ginny Arguello

E/W A – Graham Kelly – Vinny McLooughlin

E/W B – Linda King – Patty Stone

0-499 Section was 5 1/2 tables.

First A – Li Zhang – Lesley Waltner (70.89%)

First B – Sue Comporato – George Bitner

First C – Jim & Kathy Krause

### **Club Games**

The **Tuesday** game in **Hollister** (Buena Vista Bridge Club) is held at 11:00 am at Casa de Fruta, on Highway 152, at least for the time being. The game is generally 3 - 6 tables, and open to all. Winners over the past two months:

Jun 18 A – Liega & Patrick Arnett

B – Steve & Arlene Greenberg

Jun 25 1 – Jim Craig & Win Stone

2 – Geff Kinn & Dave Glashan

July 2 A – Jim Craig & Win Stone

B – Barbara Earley & Suzanne Proctor

C – Steve & Arlene Greenberg





- July 9 A – Linda & Ron King  
B – Skip Pack & Geff Kinn / Barbara Earley & Suzanne Proctor
- Jul 16 1 – Jim Craig & Win Stone  
2 – Barbara Earley & Suzanne Proctor
- Jul 23 A – Jim Craig & Win Stone (74%)  
B – Joanne McLoughlin & Seala Fletcher-Kelly
- Jul 30 1 – Barbara Earley & Suzanne Proctor  
2 – Jim Craig & Win Stone
- Aug 6 A – Jim Craig & Win Stone  
B – Barbara Earley & Suzanne Proctor
- Aug 13 A – Jim Craig & Win Stone  
B – Barbara Earley & Suzanne Proctor

The **Thursday** game in **Gilroy** (Stone's Game) is at the Senior Center across from City Hall and adjacent to the Police Station, with a brief lesson at 10 am followed by play. Most weeks there is an Open section of 4-6 tables and a 499er section of 5-8 tables.

- Jun 20 (Open) N/S – Win Stone & Seala Fletcher-Kelly  
E/W – Graham Kelly & Joanne Wicker  
(<499) A – Dennis Rubida & Carolyn Wilson  
B – Don Montag & Julia Meader
- Jun 27 (Open) N/S – Ken Johnson & Joanne Wicker  
E/W – Vinny McLoughlin & Graham Kelly  
(<499) N/S – Barbara Earley & Geff Kinn  
E/W – Don Montag & Julia Meader
- Jul 11 (Open) A - Win Stone & Jim Craig / (A/B) Mary Legrand & Lorrie Scott  
(<499) N/S – Dennis Rubida & Lennart Naslund  
E/W – Matt Rode & Lesley Waltner





- Jul 18 (Open) N/S – Graham Kelly & Joanne Wicker  
E/W – Vinny McLoughlin & Ken Johnson
- Jul 18 (<499) N/S – Lesley Waltner & Lennart Naslund  
E/W – Jim & Kathy Krause
- Jul 25 (Open) A - Graham Kelly & Vinny McLoughlin  
B – Don McCown & Skip Pack  
(<499) N/S – Steve & Arlene Greenberg  
E/W – Dennis Rubida & Seala Fletcher-Kelly
- Aug 1 (Open) 1 – Jim Craig & Graham Kelly  
2 – Patrick Arnett & Lorrie Scott  
(<499) N/S – Marianne Wucherpfennig & George Bitner  
E/W – Dennis Rubida & Lennart Naslund
- Aug 8 (Open) N/S – Jim Craig & Win Stone  
E/W – Vinny McLoughlin & Mark Moore  
(<499) A - Marianne Wucherpfennig & Seala Fletcher-Kelly  
B – Lesley Waltner & Lennart Naslund  
C – Jim & Kathy Krause
- Aug 15 (Open)1 – Mark Moore & Norm Dow  
2 – Win Stone & Graham Kelly  
(<499) A – Lesley Waltner & Matt Rode  
B – Steve & Arlene Greenberg

### **Local Online Game**

Win Stone, who operates the Thursday game at the Gilroy Senior Center, also hosts Bridge Base (BBO) online games, Monday, Wednesday, and Fridays at 1:25 pm local time. Turnout has risen slightly lately with the addition of players from outside the Unit, and in some cases from all over the world, on an apparently random basis. But generally, it is made up of Unit 524 members and their friends. Usually, 4 to 8 tables of





friendly competitors each day. Look for "Stones Game" at 1:25 PDT on BBO. Monday, Wednesday, and Friday.

## Marin By Melanie Haddad (508)



**Welcome, New Unit Members!** Unit 508 extends a warm welcome to our newest members. Say hello to Joseph Greenberg, who joins Unit 508, and Candy McColl, who has transferred into the Unit. We look forward to meeting you at our live bridge games.

### Celebrating Rank Advancements!

Congratulations to our members who achieved new ranks in the last 2 months:

- **Junior Master:** Barbara Matas
- **Club Master:** Kent Gershengorn
- **Regional Masters:** James Boswell, Ken Phillips, Diane Sklar, Michael Goldstein, and Kathy King
- **Ruby Life Master:** Pat Friesen

**Annual Meeting and Election Party!** On June 23rd, we held our annual meeting and election party. Congratulations to Cindy Blum and Shirley Ehrlich, who were re-elected to the Board for second terms. We're also thrilled to welcome new Board members Pat Irwin and Elaine Kitano. When you see these amazing volunteers, be sure to thank them for their dedication to our Unit.



A special shout-out to Cindy Blum, who went above and beyond to plan a fantastic party. Everything ran smoothly, and everyone had a great time, thanks to her leadership!





During the event, we celebrated 2023 rank advancements and announced the winners of the 2023 Mini McKinney, Ace of Clubs, and Ace of Virtual Clubs awards. Congratulations to all the Unit 508 winners!

- [Mini McKinney](#)
- [Ace of Clubs](#)
- [Ace of Virtual Clubs](#)

**New Unit Officers:** At its first meeting after the election, our Board got to work and selected new officers. Congratulations to Carolyn Farren, who was elected President, Pat Irwin as Vice President, Steve Levinson as Treasurer, and me, as Secretary. Please be sure to give us major accolades when you see us 😊

And speaking of accolades, a heartfelt thank you to our outgoing President, Arti Bhargava. Arti has served as President of Unit 508 for multiple terms and has been a steadfast leader, helping us rebuild and grow our bridge community post-pandemic. Under her leadership, we hosted our first live speaker event since the pandemic, featuring Robert Todd, and welcomed special guest Mitch Dunitz at our Sectional for the first time ever. Arti's dedication to the game and commitment to nurturing new players has made a lasting impact on our Unit. Thank you, Arti, for everything!

### **Blast Editor – Unit 508 Wants Needs You!**

Oh, my goodness, more accolades! After many years of stellar service, our esteemed Blast Editor, Judy Leedy, is hanging up her visor and retiring (from the Blast, not bridge). We all have come to love her humor and informative style and will miss her weekly missives. Thank you, Judy, for you have done and will continue to do for our Unit. Your contributions have truly shaped the way we stay connected and informed.

As Judy steps down, we're on the lookout for someone to replace the irreplaceable Judy. The role requires some computer skills, the ability to write a Word document, and about a three-hour per month time commitment. It's a fantastic way to stay engaged with all the latest Unit news and events! If you're interested, please contact Judy Leedy at [jbleedy46@gmail.com](mailto:jbleedy46@gmail.com) or me at [marinunit508@gmail.com](mailto:marinunit508@gmail.com) for more details.

**The Longest Day - Team Game** On June 19th, Henry Kingdon's Fuldek Club hosted a team game fundraiser for the Alzheimer's Association. The turnout was amazing, and together we raised \$3,751 for this important cause. Thank you, Unit 508! And a special thanks to Mimsy Kaegi, who prepared a delicious lunch for everyone at the event.



**Amazing Games!** A special shout out to Bill Bailey who came in second in the





entire ACBL in the Mini McKenney race in the 3500 to 5000 category with a whopping 1129.76 masterpoints earned in one year!

Several Unit 508 players competed at the Summer NABC. Arti reports that she had a dismal Nationals but that:

Todd Werby had a fabulous Nationals in Toronto playing with Aaron Jones (Las Vegas). They started on a good note by winning an open pairs event, then they competed in probably the hardest pair event at the Nationals, the "Von Zedwitz Life Master Pairs." It's a grueling 3-day event; on the first day they finished in 43rd place out of 286 pairs. On day two, they finished in 63rd place out of 143 pairs (each day the field is approximately cut in half), and on day three they finished in 6th place for 76 Platinum!! They also won regional fast pairs event and placed in other pair events for a total of 158 points. Please congratulate him when you see him.

Don't forget that NAP qualifiers have started. The D21 finals will be held at the Monterey Regional in January 2025. See our Unit calendar for NAP qualifying games.

**Amazing Opportunity!** If you're looking to sharpen your bridge skills with a more advanced player, **Vince Mueller** is offering to partner with players at Wednesday or Friday games at Terra Linda. Take advantage of this opportunity by calling Vince at 415-342-3331 to schedule a game.

**Share Your Stories!** Do you have an amazing game, a memorable hand, or an amusing anecdote to share with the Unit? We want to hear from you! Drop us an email at [marinunit508@gmail.com](mailto:marinunit508@gmail.com).

**Stay Connected!** Don't miss out on all the latest Unit news and events. If you're not already receiving our weekly email Blast, subscribe now! Subscribe [HERE](#).

## Modesto By Ray Adams (529)



Lynn Brooks and Lynn Pont, good friends and frequent partners, achieved the level of Junior Master this past period. Way to go, ladies! I am certain this is just the first step in many more to come. Zhimin Lin is actually registered in the Stockton Unit, but plays much more in Modesto. He recently reached the level of Sectional Master. Zhimin earned the silver points he needed in a nearby sectional. He is already one of the top C players in the unit and is likely to continue impressing local bridge buffs.

The unit staged four membership games in June, one of them on June 24 for the beginning group. This event was paced by the above-mentioned partnership of Lynn Brooks and Lynn Pont with a 55% game. Second went to Sue Winter and Nancy Lilly







while Patricia Heckendorf/Marilyn Talent tied with Cathie Peck/Nancy Simas for third place.

In the other three games, Lee Maddocks led all A players with 5.81 points, while Frank Frohman was second with 4.46, and John Rollin third at 3.44. In B, Garrard Marsh led with 5.11 points, Galen Neptune was second with 2.91, and Gary Capwell, Libby Longstreth, and Joyce Rudesill tied for third. In C, Jaime Hamilton was first, with the two Lynns second, and Terry Sciabica/Alex Limbach came in third.

The June Unit Game was dominated by Sheela Wani/Ray Adams with a very nice 71.88% game. Ralph Jungwirth/Trelle Uhl tied Roger Smith/Matt Weston-Dawkes for second while Barbara and Jim Page won the C stratum.

The July Unit Game was paced by Rose Knutson/Joy Gotelli of Lodi and Stockton respectively. This pair came in with a 58% game to win both A & B strata. Jaime Hamilton/Sharon Cole came in second behind these two ladies, also in both categories.

The top point earners in the Saturday invitational game were: B: (readers must remember that A players cannot earn points in this game) 1) Barbara Page, 2) Ben Rushin, and 3) Connie Arnold. In C, Mike and Rose Epting dominated, while Zhimin was second, Ed Jeffers third. The two Lynns earned an honorable mention.

The top scores in this game were turned in by Ben Rushin/Zhimin Lin at 68.06%, Barbara Page and Connie Arnold with 66.25%, and once again Ben Rushin/Zhimin Lin at 63.75%. Good going, all!

The highest score in the open game was turned in by Ralph Jungwirth/Trelle Uhl in June with a nice 70.83% effort. Bruce Ruskin engineered a type of coup when he played only twice in July yet had the two highest scores for that month (and second and third overall for the two months) with a 68.98% game with Lee Maddocks and another nice effort of 68.75% with Libby Longstreth. Readers may be interested to know that Libby and her husband are currently on a river cruise in eastern Europe, along the Danube. Waltz on, Libby and Ron!

The high scorers for the two months were: A: 1) Frank Frhoman with 14.94, 2) Lee Maddocks at 12.54, and 3) Ralph Jungwirth with 11.80. In B, Garrard Marsh easily dominated, while Sharon Cole barely edged Barbara Page for second, 5.05 to 4.92. Jeanne Russo had an honorable mention. In C, Jaime Hamilton was first, Matt Weston-Dawkes second, and Jim Page third.

The unit is looking forward to more competitive bridge in August and September, with STAC week starting on the nineteenth of August.



## Monterey By Ed Schrenzel (530)

The Unit 530 Monterey Bridge Club had a busy couple of months!

On Sunday, July 21st, we hosted our monthly Unit Game with a Hawaiian-themed lunch and open game. The meal featured a luau table donated by many members. The 10 table-game was directed by Maja. Unit treasurer Ray Mok reported that the event netted \$758, of which \$132 were donations.

On July 24th, 10 tables of players in the regular Wednesday game celebrated the birthday of beloved director, Lyde McReynolds (which was actually the following day, 7/25) with a cake and other goodies. The group showed its appreciation for her wonderful welcoming spirit, her knowledge of the game, and her innate ability to share that knowledge with others. Each Weds game begins with a short lesson that usually covers common areas of misunderstanding.

The unit held its bi-monthly Team Game on July 27th. It featured 24 participants on 6 teams. The director was Alan Hedegard. Our next Team Game is Saturday, September 28th.

Our August Bridge and Lunch Unit Game on Sunday, August 11th was directed by Doug Halleen. The barbeque menu theme included hot dogs with a wide array of toppings, potato salad, baked beans, salads, fruit, and desserts. We had 13 full tables and netted \$1,032, including \$135 in donations.

The additional funds earned by these special Unit Games help the center offset its costs. We welcome guests from neighboring communities or visitors to the Monterey Peninsula. Lunch is served at noon and bridge begins at 12:30, ending about 3:45. The fee for bridge and lunch is \$20 per person. The next Unit Game is Sunday, September 8th at 201-B Calle del Oakes in Del Rey Oaks. Our phone number is 831-747-1650.

The Monterey Bridge Center is also proud to announce that it has accepted three new members and seven transfers into our Unit 530.

Our unit webmaster, Joe Truskot, does a wonderful job at maintaining our website, [www.bridgewebs.com/montereyunit530](http://www.bridgewebs.com/montereyunit530).

Visiting it is a great way for members to stay up to date.

## Palo Alto By Dianne Giancarlo (503)

Summer greetings from Unit 503. We have a lot to catch you up on, having missed the last edition of the Heart of the District. Apologies to all of you who take the time to read this District 21 report.





I will start out with **the highlight** of the past few months: celebrating **John Schwartz's 90th** birthday. John has been a club director and Unit Board director for well over a decade and has been previously recognized with the Unit 503 Service Award and District 21 Goodwill Award for his many contributions to our Unit and the bridge community. John has tirelessly worked to attract new and experienced players to our area and his kind, calm and nurturing nature has made the game of bridge

an important and enjoyable part of our lives. We all enjoyed getting together and celebrating his milestone birthday. Needless to say, John's fans packed the club on the Thursday game. We managed to squeeze in everyone for a group photo. A huge thank



you to Stephanie Youngquist and her volunteers Dianne Giancarlo, Kevin O'Leary, Kathy Wheeler, Dan Thatte, Mary Steele, and a generous donor, for making this an enjoyable and memorable occasion for all of us.

We are proud to announce that Unit 503 member Phil Abrahamson has been awarded **Teacher of the Year** by the American Bridge Teacher Association. This well-deserved award was announced in July at the Teacher's Convention in Toronto. Phil was nominated by the leaders and students at Planet Bridge (the free online teaching group) where he volunteered to teach every week. Phil also volunteers as both a mentor and coach to players at our club by supporting classes for newer players and by coming to 0-20 limited sections during play to coach players and answer questions. Phil has had great success at encouraging newer players to come to club sectional tournaments. He has formed partnerships and has also volunteered as our Partnership Chair for our sectionals. Phil helps to make the atmosphere friendly and inviting and it is no wonder that his nomination as ABTA Teacher of the Year was enthusiastically endorsed by many with a great deal of love.

We are proud of our many members who have earned **outstanding results** in events near and far. Congratulations to our Susan Zhang and her team - Daniel Korbel, Janice Molson, Sylvia Shi, Eddie Wold - for winning the **2024 US Bridge**





**Championships** last month held in Schaumburg, IL. They earned the right to represent the US in the Mixed Team Championship at the USBF World Bridge Games this October in Buenos Aires.

Congratulations to Unit 503 top masterpoint winners at the recent **Sacramento Regional**: Debbie Rosenberg, 57mps; Edward Zuckerberg, 57mps; Irene Hashfield, 53mps; Alex Martelli, 50mps.

We had many participants in the **Royal STaC club games** at the Bridge Center in May winning gold/red/silver/black masterpoints. Congrats to our Unit's top winner Ron Powell winning 19 mps.

We recently hosted the Palo Alto Unit **Firecracker Open Sectional & NonLife Master Regional**. From Wednesday, July 10 to Sunday, July 14, open players won silver points while NLMs won gold and red points at our annual Firecracker event. Although attendance was lighter than in the past, players were enthusiastic and very complementary of the efficient and orderly play. A lot of work goes into making our tournaments a welcoming one for all, so a huge thank-you to our Firecracker tournament co-chairs, **Marc Cervellino** and **Gerry MacDonald**, and their large team of volunteers (bridge and non-bridge!): Marc's partner **Ivana**, **Stephanie Youngquist** and her husband **Michael**, **Brenda Hatton** and her husband **Chris**, **Liz Koh** and her husband **TW**, **Josephine Ventura**, **Steve Cheng**, **Jackie Lowenberg**, **Vincent Wu**, **Dimitry Goder**, **Omer BarNir**, **Randy Ryals**, **Judy Huckabay**, **Rob Boucher**, **Lucy Ballard**, **Jay Wang**, **David Sweet**, **Mary Steele**, **David Merenbach**, **Carolle Carter**, and **Anne Wilson**.

Some notable achievements at the Firecracker:

In the Open Sectional, 89% of the 395 players earned a total of 2,022 silver masterpoints. Palo Alto Bridge's top masterpoint winners were:

- **Debbie Rosenberg**, 52mps, coming overall 1st
- **Ming Sheng**, 48mps, coming overall 2nd
- **Susan Zhang**, 41mps
- **Edward Zuckerberg**, 35mps

In the NLM Regional, 72% of the 173 players earned a total of 295 gold/red masterpoints. Palo Alto Bridge's top masterpoint winners were:

- **Jian Fang**, 7mps
- **Lipika Sur**, 6mps
- **Judy Huckabay**, 6mps





Other Firecracker highlights:

- 20 people played in 10 of the 11 tournament sessions over 5 days.
- Players from 19 of the 26 units in District 21 participated in the tournament.

We continue to draw a strong crowd at our **monthly Swiss Team** club games at the Bridge Center. Eleven teams played on May 13 – congrats to the winning team: Jack Verson - Lynn Yokel - Clark Millikan - Arif Janjua. We had 16 teams participating on June 10 – congrats to the winning team: Lori Spaeth - Kip Kado - Jack Clinch - David Wheeler. Our next Swiss game will be on August 12 at 11:30am. We encourage you to join us at these monthly Swiss teams game events, where the boards are already shuffled and there are hand records of the game. Our next will be held on Monday, August 12 at 11:30am. If you need a partner, or help to be matched with another pair, let us know. This is the perfect venue to practice for your team games at the All Western Championships Regional in Santa Clara coming up at the end of August.

### What else is going on:

First and foremost: Come and play at our daily Monday through **Saturday F2F Club games**. Table numbers are growing steadily and we would like to see YOU here with us. A shout-out to Bob (last name shall go unmentioned...) for playing almost daily at the Bridge Center! Come and join Bob, if you have not played in-person bridge in a while. For those with time on Wednesdays, we are trying to revive our Wednesday 10:30am club game. If you have not played in-person bridge in a while, please join us!

In response to your suggestions, we have made a change to the weekly Monday club games at the Bridge Center, which now start an hour later (11:30am), forgoing lunch, but light snacks provided. Table fees are lower, and we are receiving feedback that the extra hour that players have free in the morning is making it easier to play in person. Beginning in August, Thursday games have also moved to 11:30am.

The summer months continue with North American Pairs (NAP) club-qualifying games at the Bridge Center where players can win red and black points. Games are scheduled at the Club in July and August and an online game will be held in August.

For newer Players we have novice/0-50 masterpoint games at the Bridge Center on Tuesdays at 10:45am and Wednesday evenings at 6:45pm. Gain experience and improve your game in a relaxed club game environment.

We appreciate getting your feedback – which has prompted us to make an improvement to our club game reservations system. You no longer require a username and password to sign up. Thank you to all the club directors for assisting in making this more user-friendly.







Thank you to **Pete Moulds** for agreeing to be our new Marketing Chair. Keep your eyes open for some new Unit marketing materials. We welcome everyone to get involved in our bridge community. Volunteer positions are open for the marketing and publicity committee, coordinating our free lecture series, and help organizing a bridge tournament. If you are interested, please contact either our Volunteer Chair, Gerry MacDonald or Liz Koh.

A reminder that we have another valuable resource at the Bridge Center – our Library – which is well maintained by our dedicated volunteers, Valerie Baldwin, Anne Gregor, and Josephine Ventura. An index of all the books is available on our website. The check-out system requires the borrower to fill out a slip. For those who had not completed these slips, please return the books you have borrowed.

The Unit continues to offer **educational programs** at the Club. Thank you to Kathy Wheeler for organizing our celebrity speaker program. Barbara Seagram's webinar lecture on 'Opening Leads' on May 11 was very popular with many of our players. Gavin Wolpert, our next Celebrity Lecturer, will give a seminar on "Going for Overtricks" on August 10 via Zoom. Gavin is an excellent teacher with great insights for players of all levels. Stay tuned for future Celebrity Lectures during the year!

We have an outstanding and committed staff of instructors and volunteers who provide **classroom** and individual help to all levels of bridge players. Kathy Harper is an American Bridge Teachers' Association Master Teacher as well as an American Contract Bridge League Certified Teacher. She offers a diverse assortment of classes at the Club throughout the year. Kathy has taught bridge for over twenty years and her classes include all levels. Please refer to our website for classes currently and soon to be offered by Kathy at the Club.

We also have an active **Mentor Program** where we match aspiring players with more advanced players to encourage our Unit's newer and less experienced players to develop their skills and increase their enjoyment of the game. Please let us know if you would like to apply as a mentee or to volunteer as a mentor.

Silicon Valley Youth Bridge (**SiVY**) hosts **Casual Fridays** for youth players at the Bridge Center. SiVY held its summer camp at the Bridge Center with great success with 17 and 24 kids over two weekends. Their volunteers were Amber Lin, Kevin Rosenberg, Will Watson, Ken Rosenfeld, Ed Lechner, Olivia Schireson, Brian Zhang, Brandon Ge, Kayden Ge, Max Krawczyk, Anant Rathi, Florin Constantin, with special guests who brought their kids: Gavin and Jenny Wolpert from Florida and Rajath Shourie from Los Angeles.



## **New ACBL Ranks**

Congrats to the following Unit 503 members who achieved a new ACBL Rank in **April**:

Junior Master: Yu-Shih Chen, Ilya Sherman, Lucia Steinhilber.

Club Master: Ron Morris.

Sectional Master: Steve Cheng, Pearl Renaker.

NABC Master: Maggie Zhao.

Silver Life Master: Debbie Lundahl.

Ruby Life Master: Margaret Wilson.

Congrats to the following Palo Alto Unit 503 members who achieved a new ACBL Rank in **May**:

Junior Master: Keith Kitani, Carol Mei.

Club Master: Bill Chow, Yuchen Jiang, Jennifer Lu.

Life Master: Gretchen Wyatt.

Silver Life Master: Reuben Israel, Donna Raynor.

Diamond Life Master: Edward Zuckerberg.

Emerald Life Master: Ron Powell.

Congrats to the following Palo Alto Unit 503 members who achieved a new ACBL Rank in **June**:

Junior Master: Helena Liu, Birgit Shay.

Regional Master: Douglas Seifert.

Advanced NABC Master: Cathy Priest.

Some sad news: Unit 503 member Jim Hlavka passed away recently. He was a frequent club player and had volunteered as a mentor for our Mentor Program. He will be sorely missed.

A very warm welcome to our new Unit 503 members: Louisa Bussing, Jian Fang, Jackie Lowenberg, Christopher Rojahn, Stanley Cai, Barbara Castro, Anantha Jain, Mangalam Jain, Robert Bell, Suzanne Bell, Vijeta Kashyap, Tomasz Pawlowski, and Ken Rosenfeld.





### Reno By Martha Hildreth (473)

Like so many bridge clubs across the ACBL, the Mathewson Bridge Center held a Longest Day event on June 20. Susan Powell organized the fundraising day dedicated to the memory of her Grandmother, Ethel Sperry. Susan provided a fantastic lunch that was



obviously appreciated by the nearly 100 folks who ate and played, and then ate some more! The original goal was to raise \$8,000, but already the club has blown past that: we are well on our way to a new goal of \$10,000. That will add to the 80,000 that the club raised in the previous nine years.



The Longest Day event is only part of all the things that Susan does for our club. She is a director, and club technology expert. She maintains the website, updates announcements, sends out the weekly newsletter and creates video slides of information that run during our games. Thanks, Susan! And thank you to all the generous donors to the Longest Day.

### San Mateo By Lauren Rosen (498)



We're thrilled to be in our "new" space at the Villa in San Mateo. The room is bigger, brighter, and offers an even friendlier environment for our Unit and Club games. Many thanks to Raad Bunni and Jennifer Kuhn for renegotiating our agreements with the Villa, and to Board Members Janice Carter and Rita Armstrong for their support making the move happen. We're excited to host our Tuesday afternoon, Wednesday evening, and Friday afternoon Club games as well as our monthly Unit games in our

new space. Hope you can join us soon!

We christened the new room with a very successful Longest Day Game on June 22nd. The game and lunch were well organized, and we raised awareness and valuable funds in the fight against Alzheimer's disease.





Thanks to the generosity of our Unit 498 family and friends and the hard work by Barbara Lewis and her committee, we have raised more than \$37,000 to date. Donations collected until the end of August will help us surpass this total. If you are inclined to help us finish our Longest Day strong, please visit our [fundraising page](#).

We hosted our first and only Sectional this year on August 3rd and 4th at the Palo Alto Bridge Center, drawing 107 tables over two days, including many Junior players.

Saturday morning's Art Weinstein Trophy game for players with fewer than 100 master points was especially popular. Our Unit's own Bebe Pierce and Kathy Zmay came away with the trophy — Congratulations!

Kai Eckert, our Unit Games Coordinator, had the honor of representing the United



States in the FISU University MindSport Championship hosted in Entebbe Uganda from June 24th to June 30th. A long 30-hour travel day led to an amazing experience full of exploration, friendship, and, of course, Bridge! The competition held Bridge and Chess events attended by a total of 23 different countries and at least 200 mind athletes. There were 11 teams in the Bridge competition, comprised of USA, Germany, Poland, France, Slovakia, China, Chinese Taipei, three Ugandan

teams, and Burundi. USA placed 7th out of the teams. Kai feels they could have done better but there were many firsts for everyone on the team, so the nerves were taking up at least 25% of the team's brain power. Besides Bridge, the team got to enjoy the local cuisine and explore Kampala as well as the botanical gardens and the Animal Conservatory! Kai and the team feel so lucky to have the opportunity to compete on an international scale — it was truly a dream come true! Kai is still posting vlogs on his personal channel covering his experience if you are curious to see how it all went check out the channel [here](#).

Congratulations to Kai!

Please visit our [Unit 498 website](#) for more news on new members, rank advancements, results and schedules for our Unit and Club Games and more.





## Santa Cruz By Leslie Davidson (550)



We have been enjoying the beautiful coastal weather these past few weeks. The beaches have been crowded and so have some of our games!

Thanks to our newer players, our evening games have seen an increase in table counts! The Monday evening game, a 499er limit, is currently averaging up to five tables.



Our Sunday Brunch and game has become *the* game to attend once a month. Thanks to our stellar chef, Heather, her helpers Lani and Gary, and

Director, Carol. Chef Heather prepares a wonderful menu, which changes each month. Typically, the brunch is held the last Sunday of the month.

For times and dates see our website: [santacruzbridge.org](http://santacruzbridge.org)



### Welcoming New Members to Unit 550:

Janet Barber

Vi Gassman

Francesco Ruggeri

### Reaching New Milestones:

Congratulations to (5/31/24 - 08/01/24):

#### *New Junior Masters*

- Marilyn Walker
- Steve Whittaker

#### *New Ruby Life Master*

- Steve Smith







70% Games (May 26th - Aug 5th 2024). Congratulations to:

John Shurtleff and Jim Miller 83.33%\*\* June 25th\*\*limited tables

Carol Avenmarg- Robin McDuff 74.44% July 3rd

Jen Bear - Lesley Xu 71.33% July 17th

Ginger Stone - Jan Winham 71.88% July 25th

Our Events Committee, held a BYOA, (Bring your own appetizer to share), in May of this year during one of the 'wine down' Wednesdays. It was such a success among the members, it will now be held every third Wednesday evening game. Those members participating bring an appetizer. Being 'wine down' Wednesday, the additional snacks make for a fun evening game.

### Surf's Up Sectional. Oct 5th and 6th

The Surf's Up Sectional is being held this year at the Santa Cruz Bridge Center. Farol Henderson wrote to our board of directors with the suggestion to hold the sectional in our own digs. Her proposal was well thought and presented and met with a lot of excitement!



2450 17th Avenue,  
200

Santa Cruz, CA 95062

831-603-2448

[santacruzbridge.org](http://santacruzbridge.org)



out  
Suite

Ken Llacera, our webmaster, has innovated an online sign-up app. Using point and click, attendees register online, from any device. Those who preregister have priority as there are limited tables. Payment is made at the event. Linking to the app will be provided by email or going to the SCBC website, where you can also get the flyer.





## Santa Rosa/Petaluma By Cecelia Zachar (509)



We're getting excited here in the North Bay, looking forward to our sectional September 14 and 15 in the Petaluma Community Center. I don't know if you feel like I do, that we lost a great deal of life's excitement when Covid hit, but that the world is slowly but surely returning towards normal. That's true of our sectionals. Players from around the state are coming to our tournament, and there's an enthusiasm building up slowly but surely. That's no surprise. There's lots to do here in Wine Country —good restaurants, wine tasting, the beautiful Pacific Ocean less than an hour away. As they say, "What's not to like."

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Saturday features a two session Stratified Open Pairs. Single sessions of Open Pairs are also available, either morning or afternoon. If you prefer a 499er game, you can play single session games morning and/or afternoon. The morning session is at 10 am: afternoon, at 2:30 pm.

Sunday features Swiss Teams. Both the AX game for teams with any player having 3,000+ masterpoints and the BCD game are 2 sessions. If any player on a team has more than 5,000 points, the team will be flight A; otherwise, if no player on an AX team has 5,000 or more points, the team is flight AX. Flight B/C/D players all must have fewer than 3,000 masterpoints. Flight B is 1000-3000; C, 500-1000; and D, 0-500. For more details, see [the tournament flyer](#).

Our morning and afternoon snacks are always delicious, varied and plentiful, and all beverages, including sodas and bottles of water, are free.

Did I mention the Sunday Lunch? Yes, Jackie Ortiz will again provide a fabulous (free) lunch in between sessions. She will be cooking for 3 days again this year to get it ready for you. Her lunches are terrific.

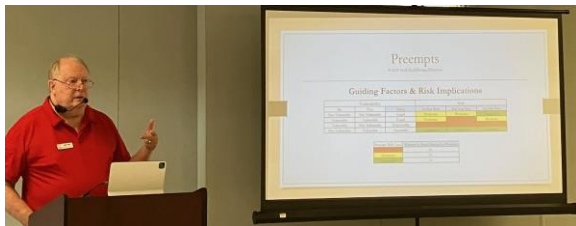
Well, in addition to putting on a good sectional, Unit 509 puts on the best monthly events that I've had the pleasure to attend. One of our players puts on a class starting at 11:30, a free lunch is served after the class and before the unit game, and then the unit game starts at 1 pm. Anyone can attend all or any combination of the class, lunch, and unit game. The game fee is \$12. What makes it great is that we have many excellent teachers in Unit 509. Since the last Heart of the District, we have had Evelyn Holtz, Tony Jackson, and Neill Ray present classes.





On June 29, Evelyn Holtz presented Lebensohl over 1NT Interference. Wow! What a great class! Evelyn had the crowd in the palm of her hand. She almost made the Lebensohl convention seem easy and natural. Plus, she stressed the strategies behind the convention, making it much easier to remember than pure memorizing.

Tony's class on Common Defensive Errors and How to Avoid Them was a big draw: people came from Marin, Sonoma, Napa, and even as far away as Benicia to hear his talk! Tony's next two classes are on October 19 and November 9.



Neill Ray presented a handy lesson on Preempts on August 17<sup>th</sup> that emphasized evaluating guiding factors such as vulnerability status, seat position and winners in hand. He created a chart that guides one to appreciate the risk — be

moderate, take caution, or be aggressive —implied by those factors. Neill also introduced the Ogust convention which the weak 2 bidder's partner can use to ask opener to quantify and qualify his hand.

Our lunches are lavish affairs. These photos show you one of our typical unit game lunches. Desserts are just as pretty.



On June 29 we had 12 full tables, some beginners, many intermediates, and most of the unit's top players. First overall were Mark Hersko and Larry Spanier at 64.38% winning 4.13 black points, 1st in B and 2nd overall were Tony Jackson and John Oswald, and 1st in C were Laurie Vree and Judy Duport. All overall winners sat E/W. First N/S in A were Jim Reed and Kate Hill; in B, Patty Harberson and Helene Gay; and in C, Jeff Sacher and Kim Fusch.

On July 20, we had such a great crowd, 17 1/2 tables, that we needed 2 sections. In Section A, Sara Rothmuller and Nancy Gunn took 1st overall with a 60.80% score winning 4.13 masterpoints. NS 1st in B were Shelly Dunietz and Patricia Hertz, followed by Carolyn Loe and Wayne Miller, 1st in C. In Section A, EW, winners were Kate Hill and





Jim Reed with 58.33%, 1st in B were Susan Cook and Barbara Simon, and 1st in C were Ronald Welch and Jim Oser. In Section B, E/W, 1st in A and B were Bonnie Barnes and Connie Pearson with 60.07, followed by 2nd place Stephanie Poley and Katherine Schram. In Section B, sitting N/S, 1st in A were Jeff Sacher and Jerry Besses, and 1st in B were Ed Flowers and Janice Gullarian.

On August 17, we had 11 1/2 tables for the unit game. First overall and 1st N/S were Dan Harp and Joanne Wegsten with a 61.14%; followed by Caro Morse and Andy Andrews 1st in B; and Jeremy Brott and Joni Conner, 1st in C. Sitting E/W, 1st in A were Nancy Gunn and Sara Rothmuller; 1st in B were Robert Goetzinger and Karen Rocco; and 1st in C, Stephanie Poley and Katherine Schram.

If you would like to attend one of our classes, lunches, and/or unit games, you will find the schedule at [santarosabridge.com](http://santarosabridge.com).



Congratulations to our players who advanced in rank. In June, Andy Andrews and Patricia Dunbar both got their Life Masters. Andy had the honor of getting both his Life Master and his Bronze Life Master at the same time. In July, Arlee Geary achieved the rank of Junior Master, and Jeff Sacher became a NABC Master.

We'd love to see you for our Sectional on September 14 and 15. We'll have good food, good bridge, and plenty of places to enjoy in the area.

## Silicon Valley By Ray Yuenger (507)



I wrote my last Unit 507 ("U507") column nine weeks ago. Since then, there has been a very popular local sectional and the Toronto NABC, as well as the annual U507 membership meeting and pairs game and two Unit Board meetings.

### **The member appreciation game**

On July 27 was our annual member appreciation stratified pairs game, free to members of U507 and their partners. The game was preceded by a potluck lunch, with the Unit providing barbecued meats and the members providing many tasty dishes and desserts. (The Board has learned that some players expect coffee to be provided, so future advertising will be clear about that.) Doug Hong was thanked for his years of service on the Unit Board and Milind Girkar was welcomed as a new Board member.







In the month of July, the Board had to scramble to find a new location for the game, aware that the continuing summer heat wave was likely to make our original location unbearable. We found a new room at the Campbell Community Center with air-conditioning (and mirrors on some of the walls). We tried to sufficiently publicize the new location, so I hope no one missed it who wanted to attend.

There weren't enough tables for a separate limited game, so 15 tables played in the open stratified pairs game. Diane & Lynn Shannon were first overall, with Bob Allen & Linda Rocha first in the other direction and first in the B stratification. First in the C strat were Winston Huang & Erli Zhou. Gabi Bowling efficiently handled directing duties.

### **The tournament trail**

At distant regionals, in Long Beach, Uresh Vahalia had a strat top in an open pairs game. In Reston, Virginia, a team with Lynn Shannon & John Miller topped their bracket, Virginia. In Phoenix, Lynn & John had two section tops in pair games.

At a local NonLife Master regional in Mountain View, section tops in gold rush pairs went to Sandra Erickson, Julie Lee, Kathy Ormseth (twice), and Li Zhang (twice).

In local sectionals, Lynn Shannon & John Miller were first in the two-session open pairs game at the East Bay Summer sectional, in which Peter Sun and Roy Tsai & Li Zhang had stratification tops, and Richard Reitman had section top.

Lynn & John were also on a bracket-topping team at the local Firecracker sectional, as were T-C Yang & Yanong Han; Rick & Kathy Jasper; Joanne Cornbleet; Carolyn Drozdiak; John Stremel; and Michael Callahan.

Doing well in pair events at the Firecracker sectional were: Jack Verson, winning two two-session open pairs, one with Larry Wagner; with Arif Janjau & Sathya Bettadapura winning another. In open pairs games, Yannie Zhao had a strat top and section tops went to Arun Bahulkar, Lynn Bartz & Ken Imboden, Sadik Arf & Luen-Jyh Luo, and Ed Barlow. In mid-flight pairs, Wendy & David Fotland, Chung Lau, and Michael Callahan had strat tops.

At the NABC in Toronto, Elenalani's team won the under-2500 mini-Spingold. Sriram Ganesan was 2nd in the under-10,000 NABC Pairs. Frank Xie was 5th in the under-6000 Life Masters pairs, with a section top contributing. His team won its bracket in a regional event. Xin Ge had a section top in a regional pairs event.

At the Youth NABC, Jeremy Zhang had strat tops in two pairs games.

At the San Mateo summer sectional, Peter Sun had a strat top in an open pairs game, finishing second overall. Michael Bodell & Mike Cailean, Clark Millikan & Arif Janjua, and Cadir Lee had section tops. Kayden Ge had a section top in a pairs game, and he also was on the winning Swiss team.





**New masters**

Congratulations to our newest Masters: Koteeswaran Kumar, Ken Wong (Junior); Kyra Hembold, Ernestine Hicks (Club); Jason Scott (Sectional); Rajeev Gupta (Regional); Archana Rathnakar, Arlie Stephens (NABC); Erli Zhou (Life); Jayesh Goyal, Erli Zhou (Silver); Preston Kauk, Sharon Krawetz, Jory Segal (Ruby); Anne Wilson (Gold); Richard Reitman (Emerald)

**Ace of Clubs and mini-McKenney winners**

I need to correct an error in my last column. When I attempted to list the Ace of Clubs and min-McKenney winners for 2023, I was looking at the wrong mini-McKenney list. Here is the corrected list. I apologize for the confusion.

	Mini-McKenney	Ace of Clubs
<5	Rollo Parsons	Richard Lordan
<20	Jian Fang	Jian Fang
<50	Kyra Helmbold	Robert Williams
<100	Shaomin Zheng	Susan Maki
<200	Kathy Vita	Monica Bacon-Proctor
<300	Michele Liu	Michele Liu
<500	Betsy Wagner	Betsy Wagner
<1000	Carolyn Drozdiak	Kathy Jasper
<1500	Xin Ge	Ed Logg
<2500	Anne Wilson	Arif Janjua
<3500	Frank Xie	Frank Xie
<5000	Kevin Rosenberg	Michael Bodell
<7500	Lynn Shannon	Bruce Luttrell
<10,000	Sadid Arf	None
>10,000	Will Watson	Ed Barlow





## Stockton By Debbie DeZarn (510)



This article will hit your (e)mailbox after most of the STaC week games are completed but it is not too late to still play for Silver points in Stockton August 23, or another club like Sacramento or Modesto on the weekend. I would like to thank those who “sponsored” two of the STaC games by funding the extra table fees to encourage lower ranked players to participate. Ken Hillman is covering fees for the Stockton Club NLM game and Debbie DeZarn and Mary Westin will underwrite the game through the Oak Park Club. In addition, The next two STaC games at Oak Park in December of this year and May (probably) of 2025 have already been guaranteed funding by generous Bronze Life Masters (or higher) who play at both of the local clubs. Thank you, Mort, Glo, Richard B., Sue V., Mary H., Barbara S., and Marion (still needs some silver for LM).



There have been some rank achievements since the last issue of Heart of the District beginning with Christine Vanderliet who earned her Life Master (and concurrent Bronze Life Master) by winning her final gold points at the Long Beach Regional. Her amazing story of bridge keeping her going during years of health struggles is on our website at [www.bridgewebs.com/unit510](http://www.bridgewebs.com/unit510).

Kudos to other advancers: Wendy Buchanan reached Bronze Life Master (750), Yvonne Tiscornia is now a Silver Life Master (1000) and Jack Fitzgerald became a Ruby Life Master (1500). By next issue I am certain there will be one or more new Gold Life Masters to announce. The Santa Clara Regional begins August 27 for those still needing gold and red points.

Welcome to the newest members of our Unit 510: Herbert Pike and Nedra Voorhees who play in the mountain clubs and Gretchen Vander Kamp of Manteca.

The full schedule of games within Unit 510 (and Sonora) are posted on our website (link above). The Sonora Club is trying out some new ideas to recruit newcomers to play. Mike Wells runs a weekly practice game at Copperopolis. Mary Wells has come up with a great idea: bring a new player to duplicate and plan to take a No Play on the last board of each round. This means the newbie is not rushed and can enjoy the game. She is doing this with some of her students. Sue Kroning is running some workshops for six newer players and offering to play duplicate with them when they feel ready.

In Stockton, Wendy Buchanan is teaching a class through the Stockton Institute for Continued Learning (SICL, pronounced like cycle) at Delta College. The classes are a series of 8, two-hour classes held Tuesday mornings at the Stockton Bridge Center. It is designed for newcomers to the game or a refresher for “rusty” party bridge players. Classes are free but a certain book is recommended for purchase, but not required.





Spread the word among friends who have been curious about bridge. Wendy is a retired Educator and can tailor her message to individuals' learning styles. More information is on the SICL website at [siclStockton.com](http://siclStockton.com). Click on the 2024 Fall Schedule. Scroll down (page 3) to the "Bridge Boot Camp" listing and there is a registration link at the bottom of the course description.

For those of you who like to play online in addition to face to face, there is a section of BBO called "ACBL Clubhouse" games. These are designed for players under 299 masterpoints and there are even games for 0-5 points and other low stratifications such as under 50 or under 99. ACBL has just started sharing a percentage of your entry fee with the club with which you are affiliated. I haven't yet figured out how that works. For those with more points, please checkout the online Open or under 2500 games by SE Carolina which also share revenue with your club.

