



DIAMOND

IN THE RUFF

ACBL District 21 Newsletter

Vol 1, Number 2 June 2018

District 21 Regionals

By Pam Hughes, ACBL District 21 Tournament Manager

The California Capital Regional is right around the corner as I write this. It will be history by the time you read this. I'm confident it's going to be a great tournament! Hotel room nights indicate there will be good attendance, which is an ingredient that always contributes to a fun and exciting event.



Speaking of which, there are still two opportunities to attend a D21 Regional this year. This is your friendly reminder to make your plans and reservations so you can be part of things!

Next up is the 84th All Western Championships, a historic tournament that will be held in Santa Clara at the Hyatt Regency. Right now there are still rooms available. Please, refrain from booking only to make sure you have a room IN CASE you decide to go. This practice leads to far too many cancellations. It's unfair to the hotel, people that want to attend but can't get a room, and tournament management.

Try to get in the habit of making your plans to attend and THEN make

your reservations. Room cancellations are absolutely fine when something comes up that prohibits you from attending. Frivolous bookings that end up as cancellations have become such an issue that many hotels are charging non-refundable deposits and early departure fees. In some cases, if you leave early, you may lose your group rate for the nights you DID stay. It could get worse from here, and the problem is magnified by changes in the hotel corporate world.

So, please, if you're planning to come (and I hope you are!) call the hotel and book your room. The number there is (408) 200-1234. If you miss out, don't worry. I will have an overflow hotel plus my Hyatt wait list to make sure everyone who wants to come can be there!

The final hurrah for this year is the Reno/Sparks Regional. The dates are October 15-21, and it's at the Nugget Resort. This hotel has a wing that was just remodeled, the Resort Tower. Rooms there rival the rooms at a four-star hotel, but they're only \$69 (\$99 on the weekend) - which includes the Resort fee.

Also in the Resort Tower we have a newly renovated playing space, in the Sierra Ballroom. The Resort Tower elevators drop you off right there. It's spacious, light and airy, and brightly lit in the evenings.

Continued on Page 2

FALL 2019 NABC

By Jim Leuker, Chairman

The North American Bridge Championships will soon return to San Francisco. It seems like just yesterday that we hosted the big show in San Francisco. In fact that last NABC was in Fall, 2012. Before you know it, it will be time to welcome back bridge players from places near and far to return for another great NABC.



The venue will be the one we've used for all recent SF NABC's, the Marriott Marquis on 4th Street between Market and Mission Streets. This is a great playing site with excellent, spacious ballrooms. The location is great, situated just a short walk to Union Square or Yerba Buena Gardens. The neighborhood keeps getting better and better, with dozens of choices of restaurants and cafes.

We are currently assembling the planning committee for this event. If you're interested in being part of the planning process, we may have a spot for you as a committee chair, volunteer or other participant. Please contact me to talk about possible opportunities, 415-361-7678, or jleuker100@aol.com.

It's our second year at the Nugget. Overall, our tournament there last year went very well! Despite the devastating fires that started the day before, attendance was great for a brand new event. We learned a lot, including that if you don't like cigarette smoke, stay away from the Casino Tower and that end of the building. It's a nice feature of the Nugget that the Casino is only at one end of the building and the Convention area at the other.

The Reno/Sparks Regional is

expected to grow gradually and become a mainstay US tournament (like our other three). Hotel room rates are very affordable there, and (if you still have energy after bridge) there is a lot of nightlife. The Nugget is adjacent to Victoria Square, which has 25 restaurants and lots of shops, and there are many wonderful restaurants and shows in Reno. Parking and valet parking are free at the Nugget so you can easily leave and return to the property. They offer a free airport shuttle as well. Loads

of perks!

The phone number for reservations at the Nugget is (775) 356-3300.

You can also make reservations for both of these regionals online at our district website: www.d21acbl.com. My email is jmom380@yahoo.com, if you have any questions or need help with rooms.

Have a great summer everyone! I hope to see you (or to have seen you) next week in Sacramento, and again in Santa Clara and Reno!

Upcoming Tournaments

Sectionals

Jun 9–10, 2018

San Francisco Sectional

Janet Pomeroy Center, San Francisco CA

Jun 23–24, 2018

East Bay Two-Day Summer Sectional

Oakland Masonic Center, Oakland CA

Jun 27–Jul 1, 2018

Firecracker Super Sectional

Palo Alto Bridge Club, Mountain View CA

Jul 7–8, 2018

Wine Country Sectional

Vintage House Senior Center, Sonoma CA

Jul 13–15, 2018

Castro Valley Sectional

Transfiguration Church Hall, Castro Valley CA

Aug 11–12, 2018

San Mateo County Summer Sectional

Cañada College Cafeteria, Redwood City CA

Aug 11–12, 2018

Fresno Non Life Master Sectional

Fresno Bridge Center, Fresno CA

Aug 15–18, 2018

Sid & Lillian Davidson Memorial Sectional

Nugget Casino Resort, Sparks NV

Sep 7–9, 2018

Sacramento Fall Sectional

La Sierra Community Center, Carmichael CA

Sep 15–16, 2018

Stockton Sectional

Ben Holt Middle School, Stockton CA

Sep 15–16, 2018

Earthquake Sectional

Gilroy Senior Center, Gilroy CA

Sep 29–30, 2018

Santa Rosa Fall Sectional

Odd Fellows Hall, Santa Rosa CA

Oct 4–7, 2018

Carson-Tahoe Fall Sectional

Plaza Conference Center, Carson City NV

Oct 6–7, 2018

Almond Valley Sectional

Homewood Village Clubhouse, Modesto CA

Oct 13–14, 2018

SM Intermediate/Newcomer Fall Sectional

Bayshore Bridge Center, Burlingame CA

Oct 13–14, 2018

Santa Cruz Surf's Up Sectional

Mid-County Senior Center, Capitola CA

Oct 26–28, 2018

Unit 507 Fall Sectional

West Valley College, Saratoga CA

Nov 10–11, 2018

Diablo Valley Fall Sectional

San Ramon Valley High School, Danville CA

Nov 17–18, 2018

East Bay 2-Day Fall Sectional

Oakland Masonic Center, Oakland CA

Nov 30–Dec 2, 2018

Sacramento Winter Sectional

Orangevale Community Center, Orangevale CA

Regionals

May 28–Jun 3, 2018

California Capital Regional

DoubleTree by Hilton Sacramento CA

Aug 28–Sep 3, 2018

All Western

Regional

Hyatt Regency

Santa Clara CA

Oct 15–21, 2018

Reno/Sparks

Regional

The Nugget

Sparks NV

HEART OF THE DISTRICT

Berkeley/El Cerrito/ Richmond

By The Beer Dude

First off, KUDOS to Editor Rich Luttrell for his fantastic job on premier of “Diamonds in the Ruff”, & to D21 Secy Sandi Davis for coming up w/the name. More KUDOS to Rich for extended deadline, which will make us more up to date as we report. I’m finishing this off May 19. We send it, he arranges it w/no space limitations! Digital’s where it’s at; nada to ship off to a print shop; gone are the non-D21 Regional results & ads that wasted a lot of space we columnists could have used.

We killed our May 19 BBQ Swiss in deference to the Susie Wiebe memorial gathering that day – Susie was a long-time amiga; partner/teammate of Eric & I for many a club game/BBQ Swiss. I met her at the late Oakland Bridge Club not long after I started playing there in 1979 (I lived a 10-min walk away, so got called in to fill in & play free to fill up a half-table). Great partner for all, Susie tolerated damn near everyone & knew a lot of “inside” stuff – we’ll miss her – our sympathies to Nick on losing his long-time wife (they wed 1972, then played in a local Sectional the next day). The gathering drew 100+, bridge players & relatives. I had a wonderful time sharing tales/memories, as did the many who spoke up after we’d enjoyed good wine & finger food (great job, Nick!).

2 Unit Games since last post: Fri 4/6 drew 5.5 tables (3/4 Howell w/ 3-board sitout); Dick & Lamar topped it, then Dexter-Gordon 2A/1B, Carol Scott- “H” 3A, Narvelle Handy-Linda Ward 4A/2B,

& Dolores Mackinnon-Chet Young 3B. Fri 5/4 was a freak – 4-table ¾ (6-round) Howell; again Dick & Lamar took top honors. Eric & Sandi were 2nd; “RoJo” 3rd overall. June game is Fri 8th – a week later because of Sacto Regional. July Unit games are Fri 6th, Wed 25th, & BBQ Swiss Sat 28th. Unit members dine free btwn sessions; others pay \$7. Table fees are \$80/team – 6 rounds of 8 boards, game time is 11AM. Call/e-mail me to sign up – we’re space-limited to 12 teams; Unit members & long-time supporters from other Units have priority.

Nobody moved in/out, but we have 2 rank advancers: Roger Edelson amassed his 1st 5 to reach Jr Master Level; Marilyn Bookbinder crossed the 100 plateau to reach Regional Master. Further Kudos to Roger for a nice STaC Game Wed 5/9 – he & his pard George Proper shot 64.5%, ending up 4th overall C. Their reward was 4.25 silver points. Same game, Jack Shiffer-Chet young shot 67.5%, ending up 12A/3B overall. Both are long-time LM’s, but their silver collections got enriched a bit & moved Jack closer to being our next “Ruby Begonia”.

At da club, Dick was MP champ; Barb Lanier the top NLM. NAP Qualifier (our 1st of 2) Wed 6/27 (\$7 table fees); “Longest Day” game Wed 6/20 (table fees \$7 for all – no freebies/discounts; all the gate will go to Alzheimer’s research – see ACBL website for details); you can kick in extra cash should you desire. Club Championship game is Fri 15th.

I was early about StaC games being matchpointed across the field – didn’t happen in May. Game %’s that occurred @ our club & made the overalls were identical – statistically

next to impossible if the results were matchpointed across 700+ tables. Hopefully, that’ll be fixed for the August games.

By the time I post again, I hope to be celebrating another Warriors’ championship – meanwhile, I’m rooting for Boston to get Lachrymose Lebron’s arse out of the playoffs (which could have happened in game 6 against Indiana if the gutless refs had called the obvious foul when he blocked that shot w/8 or seconds left, then recovered the ball to come down & hit the game winner.

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

Carson/Tahoe

By Carole Sill

Spring is having a hard time getting here but our summer players are rolling in. So far we have John and Judy Greer, Barry Jones, Ila Lucas, George Soto, and Michael Lucey.

We are proud to announce Edwin Straver earned his silver Life Master and Glenn Quinn earned his gold Life Master. Mike Regan also received his Life master. Congratulations guys. There were a lot of competitions last month. Here are some of our winners. Ed and Cornelia earned 2.72 Red and 5.90 gold in Modesto and 2.52 silver in Sparks. Duane Ollech and Kathleen Sliter played with Doreen Beavers and Mary Carol each earned .88 Master points and came in 6th in Reno. Mike Regan and Bruce



Mike Regan

Moon and Gary Nitzberg played in the Gatlinberg Regional and earned 35 Master Points. Don Peterson and Beverly Meyer earned 22.5 gold and .79 red in a knockout with Nick and Leona Pchelkin. Nick and Leona also won 12.91 gold in Swiss Teams and 2.99 in other events at the games in Jackpot. Paul and Brenda Pugsley also won 35.49 Master points in Gatlinberg. I apologize if I missed anyone.

Otis Clamp had his knee replaced and is coming along fine, but not as fast as he would like. With sadness I report that Nancy Palmer has died.

May you all bid and make 7 NT vulnerable and win.(doubled).

Diablo Valley

By Lisa Assoni

It's June, and a fine time to tune-up our game. It's considered the top sunshine month. So share your bright smiles



and your guiding light. The more experienced players, if asked, can shed a bit of glow to help others. Remember unsolicited negative advice, is never well received. It's hard to keep quiet, when you see something so blatantly wrong. I know, I'm Italian. Facial expressions can be a give-away for the outcome of the hand, so put on your poker face. Actually, I need a paper bag. Yikes.

The following folks stayed steady in their game, as the Contra Costa Bridge Center was the only club holding a 999er STaC game on Thursday mornings, so all nine pairs who placed overall were from our own game of 31 pairs.

The top three finishers: Drum roll please 1. Bruce Berman and Martha Ann Wishnev 2. Ben Bryce and Mike McCluer 3. Myrna Brown

and Joyce Goodman. Nine Hundred Ninety Six pairs participated in the Wednesday afternoon open STaC game. Please congratulate John O'Brien and Ronald Olswang for placing in the overalls. There were lots more qualifies, so please check our website DVBC. You'll find the latest and greatest info.

Grant Robinson wrote he was curious as to just how large this STaC is. He said there are about seven districts participating, noting clubs in Alberta, Arizona, British Columbia, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, Utah, Washington, and Wyoming. Who knew! When traveling to one of these states, you can play bridge too.

Well, big news for our Diablo Valley Spring Sectional held on April 28 and 29. A super turnout, as usual. Before I shout out of the winning names from our unit, I want to give a big plate-of-praise to the following folks.

Marian Renvall was food coordinator and did a terrific job. Plenty of healthy snacks for all. Lyn Sacco, her usual self, giving of her precious time to be help coordinate. This special event could not have happened without the dedicated board members.

The hostess with the mostest, goes to Barbara McKay.

This lady made our day! From planning, organizing, and working closely with the school to make for a fun-filled, Bridge-full weekend.

I'm a real namedropper, and love to brag about folks from our unit who placed first or second place. So let the names begin:

Open Pairs went to Grant Robinson and Teresa Boyd. Sat. AM 499er pairs was won by Robert Lapointe and Arnold Jacobson. Then Sat. AM 99er Pairs went to Roger Peters and Maddy Klein.



Barbara McKay

Sat. Open Pairs scored big. Gary Soules, Edward Nagy. Sat. Afternoon 499er Pairs took top board, Kenneth Krenzin and Pamela Zaid. Top scorers for Sat. Afternoon 99er Pairs went to Mark and Patti Kogan. Sunday: Open Swiss (Bracket 1) table toppers, were Crispin Barrere, Robert Thomson, Daniel Friedman and Linda Friedman. Open Swiss (Bracket 2) won by Glenn Boyce, David Geary, Thomas Franklin III, Brian Eisenberg. Open Swiss (Bracket 3) in second place, going to Michael Kruley, Jacob Rosenberg, Anne Hollingworth, and Mark Marty. Open Swiss (Bracket 4) was won by Lorraine Welsenbert, Donna Barker, Kairong Michelsen, and Richard Michelsen. Open Swiss (Bracket 5) went to Susan Schlicht, Linda Ingham, Clare Smith, and Jeanette Bartz. Congratulations to all.

Folks in our unit love metal. Joyce Goodman, received the precious metal, and earned the title of Bronze Life Master.

Word Spread: Larry Cohen Seminar dealt a big serving of "Ways to Improve your Game" to 124 attendees. Rave reviews for Larry. It was a great educational



Larry Cohen and Jackie Zayac

opportunity for all the east bay unit players. Kudos to Unit 499 Board of Directors for making a great day even better!

Mangia Bene, Stai Bene, Lisa

East Bay

By Larry Bowerman



First and foremost, the Unit 502 Spring Sectional will take place on June 23 & 24 at the Oakland Masonic Center (third floor), 3903 Broadway, Oakland, CA. This is always a great event, so please plan to attend.

The games begin at 10:00 am each day and the table fees will be \$12.00. Lunch will be available for \$5.00 per person on both days, along with lots of good (and healthy) snacks throughout the day. There is some parking available behind the building off of Manila Ave, otherwise street parking is your best bet, especially on Sunday when the parking meters don't require feeding.

Unfortunately, I have sad news to report: Susan Wiebe passed away on April 15 and Esther Larsen passed away on March 24.

Susan Wiebe was a regular player on the East Bay bridge scene for more than 40 years. Susan was a Diamond Life Master (having earned more than 5250 masterpoints), served on the Unit 502 Board (mostly as the Unit Secretary) off and on for at least 25 years, was the Unit 502 Representative to District 21 and received the Unit 502 Goodwill Award. In talking with several of Susan's friends, what stands-out were her personal qualities.

Although a recognized expert player, Susan was always willing to play with newer, less experienced players. She was a person of few words, but all who had the good fortune to play with her, loved and respected her as a player and mentor. However, you had to pay attention and listen carefully to get the full

web site: www.eastbayunit-502.com



East Bay 2-Day Summer Sectional

OAKLAND MASONIC CENTER
3903 Broadway, 3rd Floor, Oakland 94611

Saturday June 23
at 10:00 a.m. and 2:30 p.m. (single sessions)
Strati-flighted Pairs A/X 3000+
Strats B/C/D 1000-1500/500-1000/0-500
Stratified 299er Pairs 0-75/75-150/150-300 (Attendance Permitting)

Sunday June 24
at 10:00 a.m. and approx. 2:30 p.m.
"BARBARA HARMON Bracketed Swiss" -- 20VP scale
The top bracket will consist of the highest ranked teams plus any teams that opt to be in the top bracket.
Teams must play both sessions.
All brackets except the bottom will play 7 rounds, 7 boards;
Bottom bracket plays 7 rounds, 6 boards.

Lunch provided each day for \$5
Table fees \$12.00 per Session
(unpaid ACBL members - \$16.00)

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

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

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



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Valerie Petersen
(Rossmoor Resident)

benefit of her advice. As Betty Kael described her style: “no drama, no trauma.” Joyce Hart emphasized that Susan had the rare ability to make all of her bridge partners better players. On a more personal note from Sandi Davis, Susan loved to knit sweaters and scarves, and she loved her cats. She will be missed. Our thoughts and sympathies go out to her husband, Nick Wiebe.

Esther Larsen was also a regular player on the East Bay bridge scene for more than 60 years. She was 96 when she passed and was able to continue playing bridge until a couple of years ago. Although they never joined the ACBL, Esther and her husband, Carl “Chile” Larsen were regular duplicate bridge players at clubs throughout the East Bay, including Mosswood, the Dimond Library, Redwood Road, Bay Farm Island, the East Bay Community Bridge Center (EBCBC) and Doug Handler’s Piedmont games. Carl passed away in 2015 at age 98. As all who knew them will attest, both were accomplished players and ambassadors for the game of bridge. Her daughter Sherry said, Esther was a happy person who loved playing bridge (and did so for close to 70 years). In tribute to her mother, Sherry will have a plaque placed on a table at the EBCBC, next to the plaque honoring her father. Esther will also be missed. Our thoughts and sympathies go out to Sherry and her family.

As usual, there are a few important calendar events to note. First, there will be regularly scheduled Unit 502 Games on Sunday, June 3 and June 17 beginning at 1:00 pm; the free lunch will be served in the East Bay Community Bridge Center (EBCBC) kitchen at about 12:30 pm.

EBCBC Club Championship games will take place during the

week of June 4 to June 9.

The upcoming Saturday games at the EBCBC at 12:00 noon will be on June 9, July 7, July 21 and July 28. If you want to play, please contact Betty Kael to sign-up for these games.

In addition, there are several NAP Qualifier Games at the EBCBC on June 11, June 26, July 11, July 26 and August 10.

Congratulations to Gail Oraftik and Pam Sawyer who had an incredible 87.5% game in the 299er section on April 10!

Congratulations to Grant Vance and Jessica Lai, who were unbeatable in the April Marin Sectional. On Saturday they won the two session Open Pairs game and on Sunday they teamed with Cris Barrere and Bob Thompson to win Bracket 1 of the Swiss Teams event! Nice job!

In the April 15 unit game, Pat Leary and William Rudman Jr took first place, Neal Mazaroff and Stuart Schneck second place, Sandi Davis and Barry Kael third and Lynne Bromley and Darlene Mayhew fourth. The top three pairs all had games above 61%.

In the May 6 unit game, Michael Schneider and Grant Vance took first place, Pat Leary and William Rudman Jr second place, Bonnie Macbride and Sidney Mar third place and Neal Mazaroff and Stuart Schneck fourth. All four pairs had games above 62.5%.

Welcome to new members Adrienne and Gene Kuehneman, and Margaret Tam! When you see them, please take the time to welcome them to our unit.

Congratulations to the following players on their recent rank advancements: Madelaine Georgette, Eric Lindquist and Jennie Schacht, Junior Master; and Robert Sieben, Club Master. Kudos to each of you, and keep on playing! There

is always another goal in front of you! When you see them, please take the time to congratulate them on their advancements.

Tom Pajak is writing next month’s column, so please contact him if you have interesting results or other items to report: Tom Pajak <tompajak999@gmail.com>.

Fresno

By Laura Da Costa

My deadline is now later in the month, so I have both April and early May activities to report on.

April 8 was the 9th Anniversary party, celebrating our move to the Shaw location. Head of hospitality, Jackie Finn, provided lunch, and the rest of the Board of Directors provided desserts. We had a great turnout for this game (also a charity game to raise money for the “March of Babies” fundraiser). We had 8 1/2 tables on the Open side; winners from the Open game were N/S: Al Crane & Laura Neville (Overall Winners) and E/W: Mark & Sally Stern. We also had 2 tables in a 299er game; winners were Cheryl Johnson & Karen Matthews.

April 29, we had a Pro-Am Swiss Teams game. Seven teams played a Round Robin format that had each team play every other team. Everyone received some masterpoints, but the big winners (based on Victory Points) were Barbara Thacker (captain), Mary Lou Pease, Rhonda Hampton, & Kathryn Miller.

May 6 was our Peggy Ochs Memorial Game. Our day to honor those who have passed away in the past 12 months. Four tables participated in this event. Big winners were Robert Durbrow & Richard Meffley.

In May, we also had a big turnout for Mun Takeda’s 2 Over

California Capital Regional

May 28 - June 3, 2018



Tournament Highlights

- California Capital Open Swiss
Two qualifying sessions Saturday
Two final sessions Sunday
- New Knockouts Daily
- Four Days of 0-750 Gold Pairs
Tuesday Daylight Gold Pairs
- Three Stratified Side Game Series
- Daylight Pairs
Tuesday - Saturday at 10 & 3
- 10 & 3 Gold Rush Swiss Teams Sat.
- 0-3000 Bracketed Swiss Teams Sunday
*Top 3 Places in each bracket get Gold Points!
- Celebrity Speaker Program
6:15 - 6:45 Tuesday -Saturday

ENTRIES \$12

Unpaid ACBL Members \$16

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

District 21 website is your first resource

For our Regionals:

Make early partnership arrangements

Make hotel reservations

Plan your tournament events

Gather general information/directions

www.d21acbl.com

For information contact:

Pam Hughes: email: jmom380@yahoo.com

District 21 website: www.d21acbl.com

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

Schedule subject to change.

at the **DoubleTree Hotel**
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Sacramento, CA 95815
Capital Freeway (Bus. 80) @ Arden Way

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or
800-222-TREE

Intermediate/Newcomer Events

99er/299er Pairs Every Day
Bridge Concepts Lectures
with Scott Campbell
Tues-Sat at Noon
Free Student Game
(0-5mp's) Sat. 1:00

Nancy Boyd, Director in Charge

ACBL Sanction R1806034 Conventions on the General Chart allowed in all events. Mid-chart allowed in top bracket of two day KOs and any bracket which contains no team with an average master point holding of less than 1500 points, as well as four-session Open Pairs/Swiss & Flight AX Events.

DISTRICT 21: Upbeat Bridge....Low Key Atmosphere!

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1 Lessons. Over 30 students took part in this fun event spanning four Tuesday evenings. It was enjoyed so much that there are discussions of other topics for single night lessons. Thank you Mun for giving your time for what turned out to be a great clubhouse fundraiser.

An upcoming big event for June is Friday, the 22nd, Longest Day Marathon. Five games scheduled for the day are: a 6am individual, 9am pair game, 12:30pm Open pairs and (if possible) 299er game, 4:30pm fast pairs games, and a 6:45pm Barometer pairs game. Please attend one or more games and support the ACBL's fundraiser for the Alzheimers Association.

Another upcoming event will be July 1. That day will be the unit's graduation party (typically a Pro-Am pair game). We have no new life masters in these past 12 months, but others have achieved new ranks. Come celebrate these achievements.

Six pairs had 70% games in April. In Oakhurst, Wally Wallace & Dana Brown, 73.21%; Burke Zane & Bill Carroll, 71.73%; in Fresno, Walt Kelso & Alvin Fred Schellack, 70.83% & 85.42%; Steve Johnson & Margot Cegielski, 77.08%; Patricia Creede & Angelina Heisdorf, 73.42%.

Congratulations to life masters achieving new ranks: Laura Da Costa (Silver Life Master, 1000 mps) and John Oakshott & Wally Wallace (both achieving Bronze Life Master, 500 mps).

That's all for now. Hope to see you on the Longest Day!

Livermore Valley

By Rosemarie LaFrancesca

I hope my loyal readers have found this publication online because there is a lot of activity ongoing at the Livermore Bridge

Club. On and on I could go! We're already planning our next sectional for the last weekend in January. We again will use Christensen Middle School for our tournament and have been assured that the furnace will be in good working condition. We'll strive to continue to offer the best in snacks and hope our members will step up to the plate as they always do to provide home-made goodies.

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

Novice Games (0-99 points) are held the 2nd and 4th Thursdays of the month, and you don't even need a partner. Every "novice" Thursday we will guarantee a partner to any player with fewer than 100 masterpoints. Encourage your bridge-playing friends to give Duplicate Bridge a try!

We are happy to see some of our 99ers play on Mondays as well. Keep up the good work, 99ers! The Livermore Bridge Club website is livermorebridge.com. You will find a calendar of events there; you can also find Paul's bridge tips and publications via pfdubois.com/publish. There are links to neighboring units if you want to travel to your next bridge game. We all know that Bridge is a partnership. You cannot take all the credit when things go well, and your partner doesn't deserve all the blame when things go poorly. Bridge is like car insurance in California; No Fault!

Marin

By Gail Haar

Welcome to our new members David Berger, Michael Calder, Elizabeth Collins, Helen Tavakoli and Robin Williams. And congratulations to our members who have "leveled up" (a phrase I just learned from my granddaughters) - Mary Warner (Junior Master); Jerry Angel (Regional Master); Jorgen Hildebrandt (NABC Master) and Carolyn Farren (Life Master.)

The Marin Spring Sectional was a rousing success. Chair Ellen Coll is fond of saying "it takes a village" but the village needs a mayor and Ellen (and her Co-Chair & Chair in Training Judy Leedy) did a masterful job managing the logistics, the food, and the volunteers. For the first time ever, we included a Sectional Novice game and the attendance exceeded expectations. Thanks to all of our beginner class teachers for encouraging their students to come out and see what tournament life is all about. And thanks to the



Dana Evans and Louise Gross



Jim Griffin celebrates with his wife Pat.

DIAMOND IN THE RUFF

unit board for coming out and doing the hard work of set-up and take-down. There were two enormous milestones reached over the weekend. Dana Evans and Louise Gross placed first E/W in the Novice Section and won their very first 1.0 masterpoint and Jim Griffin made Grand Life Master. Congratulations!

A sold-out crowd came to hear Larry Cohen and came away with heads stuffed with useful information and a book to help remember that helpful information. Many thanks to Special Events Co-Chairs Rita Schaulat and Chris Koehler, to the board members who pitched in, and to the many other volunteers who made the day run smoothly. A nice footnote to the day was when a couple of attendees from other units came and complimented us on the number of volunteers we had; they said they always have trouble finding help and were amazed at how our unit turned out to lend a hand.

Save the Date: The Annual Unit Election & Awards Party and Unit Game will be held on Sunday, June 24 in Terra Linda. Please come eat, drink and celebrate your accomplishments and those of your friends and peeps and then stay for the Unit Pairs. We will be asking for sign-ups and if there is enough interest we'll have a separate 199'er game.

Because important information can't be repeated too often, here are the current club contacts for Unit 508.

"Belvedere" - Barbara Prior at cardscases@aol.com or 415-892-1856

"FULDEK" - Wednesday Evening Game at Terra Linda: Hannah Kishi at 415-897-7664 or hrdhrtd@aol.com

Thursday Novice Game at Belvedere: Henry Kingdon 415-

572-9458 or h_kingdon@yahoo.com "HOPPE" (Thursday & Friday at Belvedere)

David Blohm at david_blohm@hotmail.com or 415-332-9548 "PICKLEWEED" - Ellen Weingart at grammyellen@comcast.net or 415-461-5905 "TERRA LINDA" - Peggy Tatro at peggytatro@sonic.net or 415-299-7511

And a pertinent thought from a Bay Area player in the latest Larry Cohen newsletter, responding to an auction where the partnership clearly had no fit. "Pass; when you're in a hole, stop digging."

Modesto/Merced/ Sonora

By Gail Vick

D u r i n g April, Chris Brown & Bruce Ruskin were 1st overall in A with 67.78%. Traudi Kofler & Robert Rodenheizer placed 1st overall in B with 64.06%, and Barbara Page & Christine Barkley finished 1st overall in C at 52.50%. During the first half of May, with 65.77%, Mary Sue Moore & Lee Maddocks placed 1st in A, and not far behind Jeanne Russo & Robert Frohman with 63.70%. Gary Capwell & Traudi Kofler were 1st in B with 62.50%. Barbara Barnewolt & Betty Beard were 1st in C, with 50.60%.

The newcomer beginner Tuesday game in April was won by Casey O'Mara & Carol Whiteside with a 71.53% game, followed by Jeanne Lamke & Nedra Voorhees 2nd, and Nancy Lilly & Susan Winters captured 3d. Finishing out 4th were Lynn Pont & Lynn Brooks. The newcomer beginning bridge was again played in Mid-May, with Casey O'Mara & Joan Clendenin



winning 1st across the board in A, B, C Divisions, winning 2nd in both A, B were Raj Modi & Carol DiPiero, and finishing 3rd in A & B, and 2nd in C were Marilyn Tallent & Pete Hoy.

Taking top honors for the Sunday beginning group during April in A were Libby Longstreth & Christine Barkley with 65%, and winning the following Sunday game were Tony & Ken Hillman with 63.54%. Sherrie Barakatt & Raj Modi finished 1st in both B & C for April.

At the unit game in April, Lee Maddocks & Bruce Ruskin were 1st overall in A with 67.26%, and Barbara Page & Gail Vick were 1st overall in both B & C. The unit game for May was won across the board in A/B/C by Barbara Page & Gail Vick with 61.11%, followed by Ray Adams & Lee Maddocks for 2nd in A, and Sherrie Barakatt & Paul Eyer, 2nd in both B & C.

Overall High STAC games played in May were won by Lee Maddocks & Frank Frohman on the 8th, Trelle Uhl & Ralph Jungwirth on the 10th, and Sharon Cole & Robert Frohman took top honors on the 13th.

The Modesto Regional turned in much success for many of our unit members bringing home points, Nelda Smith, Raj Modi, Casey O'Mara, Christine Barkley, Libby Longstreth, Lee Maddocks, Ray Adams, Dave Terry, Frank Frohman, Roger Smith, Mike Saeler, Pam Sands, Dee Alexander, Vicki MacClyment, Cynthia Rogers, Terry Sciabica, Jeff Gaudio, Ralph Jungwirth, Trelle Uhl, Joyce Rudesill, Lorna Crooks, Jackie Wilson, Roland Wilson, Gary Capwell, Mary Sue Moore, Toots Wade, Connie Arnold, Judy Remmers, Barbara Page, and Gail Vick. The diversity of being able

to pick two games out of three for the day seemed to also be great for those, who are not able to stay up later than most, and the hospitality of Marilyn & Sharon was fabulous; their dedication and hard work is always most appreciated by all! If there was not such a monopoly with the Doubletree in Modesto for high quality rooms, I am sure the turnout would have been larger than what it was; however, the turnout appeared to be bigger than our first regional. Modesto needs another high rise hotel downtown to give the Doubletree a much needed run for their money! Players from North to South in California, as well as Nevada, Utah, Maryland, Texas, Arizona, New Hampshire, and Minnesota attended the Modesto Regional.

From The Foothills: Players of the month for April are: Monday games, Rich Banks; Tuesday and Friday, Alan and Susan Hamilton. The Hamilton's also had top score of the month with a 70 % on April 30; On Wednesday the champs were Yvonne Tiscornia and Jo McInturf.

Early in April a dozen of our players took a cruise to Mexico together, having a great time. While they were gone, a small group enjoyed attending the Regional in Modesto. Dave Jenkins, Yvonne Tiscornia, Sally Rockholt and Pam Elliott scored 5.17 master points in two team games. Kevin Smith and Roger Hanlon also brought home master points from Modesto.

Later in April , Dana and Tim Davis put together a much delayed and wonderful celebration honoring Bonnie Landis and Rich Banks for achieving the Silver Life Master. The theme of the party was the Kentucky Derby with the ladies wearing large hats and receiving a beautiful red rose donated by Tom Wright. A picture of Bonnie and Rich is

attached in their "Kentucky Derby" hats "Life Master" Celebration.

Merced Happenings for April: George Loscalzo, 4.27; John Ellery, 4.17; Lenore Ellery, 3.61; Dennis Northern, 3.09; James Higgins, 2.75.

Vicki & Larry Sweet have been out due to his operation.

Gary & Judy Smith have been out due to her Cancer treatment and operation.

Monterey

By Mary Block

By the time you are reading this, our sectional will be in the books, but my deadline precedes the event, so look for results and details next month.

Remember to purchase your raffle ticket to benefit The Longest Day, ACBL's fundraiser for Alzheimer's research/treatment/support. A \$50 wager can win you one year's free bridge, thanks to the generosity of the unit's club owners. Trust me, I won last year; to say that this was rewarding is an understatement. You can't win if you don't play.

Voting for the Unit Board of Directors continues up until the annual meeting and membership appreciation game on Sunday, June 10. This is a unit game, free to members of the unit, and a potluck lunch will be provided. Alan Hedegard is directing and there will be two sections, subject to the number of players in each.

We are happy to welcome back several of our snowbird members: Walt and Rosemary Blankley, Laura Quinn, and Rob and Demie Williams. Perhaps "snowbird" is not the accurate term as these players are fleeing heat for our temperate climate. Maybe "desert rats"? Any less rodent-ish ideas? Susan Weckesser has also transferred from

Santa Fe into our unit.

Sadly, we have recently lost three of our members: Tom White, Walter Newman, and Dona Merillat. Although they had not played in some time, many of us have fond memories.

The education outreach sponsored by the Monterey Bridge Education Foundation is continuing with Hetty Eddy teaching beginning classes on Monday evenings at Shoreline Community Church. The beginning classes at the Bridge Center taught by Doug Halleen have finished for now. The shuffle and play supervised by Hetty Eddy with the help of Charlotte Wilson continues at the Bridge Center on Thursday afternoons at 2:30.

Rank changes this month include Steven Green to Junior Master and Susan Mehra to Sectional Master.

Joe and Julie Garvin had a whopping 72.62% game on Saturday, April 28 in Alan and Janet's NLM game. The Saturday games have been restructured so that both open and NLM sections and the beginner group are starting at 9:30, with a brief lesson first. The restructuring allows for more choice for the NLM players and is proving to be popular with the attendees.

For those of you who are intrigued by coincidences, or who maintain there is no such thing as a coincidence, Alan reports the following from the Saturday, April 14 open game. The pairs of Elizabeth and Michael Nasr and Mark and Carol Maggipinto both started the game with the exact same average masterpoints, 2270 for each pair. At the end of the game, the pair tied for first place at 57%.

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

Napa/Solano/Sonoma

By Tom Sheahan



The Longest day is right around the corner! Unit 512 will be having it's annual fundraiser game for Alzheimer's research at the Sonoma Club on Wednesday June 20. The game includes a lunch and it's your chance to help raise funds for research via raffles and items to bid on in a silent auction. Barbara Lemme is doing her usual great job of organizing the event and let her know if you have any valuable items to auction off. Sigrid Price was co-chair last year when our unit raised almost \$17,000.00 thanks to our extremely generous membership. We have members who can benefit from this research so it's a cause very dear to us. We're hoping for 30 tables again

this year and arrive early to view our auction items. See you there!

We had a Pro-Am game in May that was very successful thanks to the efforts of Molly Johnston who coordinated the game and lined up partners. It was great to see a lot of players that normally don't play in the Open game enjoying the outing. I would like to see more opportunities like this as it's a great chance for newer players to appreciate what a wonderful, non intimidating game we have in our unit. Yes, we do need newer players as our average age keeps climbing year by year. If you do see a new player come to our game, go out of your way to welcome them.

They did it again! Gerry Fox and Tom Jacobson went to the Vancouver B.C. Regional, played in the Open pair games, finished second, third, and fifth overall in 3 different games, and came home with 50 Gold points! Congratulations guys!

Clyde & Kathleen Smith won 2 of the games in Sonoma, one of which was a 71% game and Susan Cook & Carol Clements had a 70% in the Pro-Am game. other winners included Carol Fraser & John Kardach, Jim & Frances O'Brien, Don Powell & Bill Wells, Jack Zeller & Joanne Wegsten, Tom Jacobson & Kate Hill, and Rosemary Boss & Eleanor Gauger.

First place in Rio Vista went to Joyce Vass & John Mount, John Shick & Alan Morris, Xiao Gong & Bob Bard, and Marilyn Schuyler & John Miller with a nice 70% game.

71% games were the norm in the 499er game with Dick Hale & Willa Mundell, James Lawson & Lynda McGuire, and Donna Sjolund & Karen Albertson bringing them home. Dennis Sturdevant & Brooke Farkas won the other game.

Napa games were won by Sigrid Price & Russell Quinnell, Anita Pensler & Richard Tebay, Jack

Castro Valley Sectional

Unit 500-South County - ACBL Sanction #S1807040

July 13, 14, and 15, 2018

TRANSFIGURATION CHURCH HALL *(ample parking!)*

4000 E Castro Valley Blvd

Friday Pairs: 10:30 a.m.
Stratified 99er Single Session
Stratified 499er Single Session
Stratified Open Single Session

Friday Pairs: 3:30 p.m.
Stratified 499er Single Session
Stratified Open Single Session

Saturday Pairs: 10:30 a.m.
Stratified Open - **Double Session**
(Open Single Session Allowed)
Stratified 99er Single Session
Stratified 499er Single Session

Saturday Pairs: 3:30 p.m.
Stratified Open - **2nd Session**
(Open Single Session Allowed)
Stratified 499er Single Session

Sunday Swiss: 10:30 a.m. & TBA
Bracketed Swiss Teams
Teams must play both Sessions

Sunday: 10:30 a.m. (1 session)
Stratified 499er Pairs

Free Continental Breakfast!
Snacks Provided!
Order Lunch

Or Eat Out!
(within walking distance)

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

TABLE FEES ONLY \$12
per Session
(Lapsed ACBL members: \$16)

♠♦♥
99er Strata: 0-20/50/<100
499er Strata:
0-50/100/200/300/<500
Open Pairs:
0-750/2000/2000+

*Tournament Director: Dianne Barton-Paine
Co-Chairs:
Charlie Conrad and Bob Hamilton*

*Information/Partnership: Charlie 510-329-5916 or
conrad313@aol.com or
robert.hamilton4@sbglobal.net*

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

DIRECTIONS by CAR

580 (FROM OAKLAND) Take EXIT 37,
left at light onto Grove Way, right onto E.Castro Valley Blvd, left at 2nd light into parking lot

580 (FROM PLEASANTON) Take EXIT 37,
right at light onto E.Castro Valley Blvd, left at next light into parking lot

880 Take 238/580 toward Stockton,
Then follow "580 (From Oakland)" directions

WINE COUNTRY SECTIONAL

UNIT 512 - BENICIA, NAPA, RIO VISTA, SONOMA

JULY 7-8, 2018

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

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

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

Newcomer Sessions (Under 20 MPS Pairs)

10:30 am Only

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

SUNDAY, Jul 8
Swiss Teams
10:30 am

Bracketed Swiss Teams
7 Rounds of 7 Boards

Bottom Bracket
7 Rounds of 6 Boards

Teams will play through
with a short lunch break

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

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

Tournament Chair: Sigrid Price 707-486-1517 or 707-253-8963 prscsigrid@gmail.com
Partnership Chair: Barb Lorenz 707-494-7164 barbl@acbl.com
Contact Sigrid for additional information and IBarb for partnerships
Check our Website for more details at <http://www.acblun4512.com>

Zeller & Adrienne Varin, and Gerry Fox & Tom Jacobson. Vicki Chang & Don Steedman won the lone unit game.

Don't forget to mark your calendars for our unit's sectional which will be held on July 7 & 8.

Wait 'til next year! It appears that I have yet again been passed over by The Pulitzer Prize and Nobel Prize officials for monthly bridge column writing. I'm sure it will come my way one of these years.

Palo Alto

By Carolyn Chaney

Unit 503 is gearing up for the 2018 Firecracker, our annual super sectional tournament on June 27 - July 1



at our club and the IFES hall next door. Here is a link to the flyer with schedule and details: <http://www.paloaltobridge.com/firecracker/flyer.pdf> Free parking at the Bridge Center and the nearby Buddhist Temple. Delicious home-made food for sale. Entries \$12, and students (under 26) are half price. Last year our youth players skunked me in the team games, but I'm rarin' to go for a re-match.

May was a busy month. We hosted our Non-Life-Master Sectional with 34 tables in the morning and 29 in the afternoon. Organizers Carl Baeuerlen and Jim Hulseman reported that folks had loads of fun and really appreciated the directors Will Watson and Gerry MacDonald. Congratulations to the 96 winners of silver master points, with a special shout-out to Philip Abrahamson-Dana Shelley, who achieved 73% in 499er Pairs.

On May 12-13, participants learned tons at Larry Cohen's

seminars: "Second Hand Play," "NT Defense," "Throw-In Plays," and "Finding the Queen." Larry kindly provided the hands, so that those of us who couldn't attend could practice at home. Look here: <http://www.paloaltobridge.com/education/specialprograms/cohen/2018/cohen.html>

Twenty people volunteered to make this event a success, instead of the disaster it almost turned into. On Friday we learned that IFES had scheduled a huge event for Sunday, using all the available parking. Volunteers stepped up to locate offsite parking and to shuttle the Sunday Cohen participants to our Center. Wow, that is the team spirit! Other volunteers provided lovely food, registered participants, managed AV, and kept everything cool in the impending chaos. Well done!

In other news, our Palo Alto youth players brought home the first place trophy, their third consecutive victory, in the annual Bay Area High School Bridge Championship. Palo Alto vied against Lynbrook for the championship while Gunn and Monta Vista competed for third place. Team Paly was Sarah Younquist, Jonathan Youngquist, Cornelius Duffie & Stella Wan. In the pairs game, Brent Xiao from Mission San Jose and Calix Tang from Homestead High School placed first with an impressive 72%, and in second were Helen Chang from Cupertino High School and Claire Duffie from Palo Alto High School. Below, SiVY President Debbie Rosenberg congratulates the Pairs winners. Do you have kids or grandchildren or friends with kids that you know would love bridge? If so, consider SiVY summer camp at the IFES hall from June 18-22. Camp is intended for kids entering 5th through 10th grades in fall who

are newcomers or who already know the basics but want to advance. For more info, check the website: <http://siliconvalleyyouthbridge.org/summerncamp/2018/summerncamp.html> or email to Randy Ryals summerncamp@siliconvalleyyouthbridge.org. Last day to register is June 4.

And for us too old for summer camp, check out our summer classes. Beginning Bridge and Supervised Play with Kathy Harper, Mondays, 6:45-9 pm, starts June 4. Essential Conventions with Frank Smoot, Thursdays, 7:15-9:30 pm, begins June 14. For more info: <http://www.paloaltobridge.com/education/classes/classes.html>

Congrats to our newest Life Master, Leila Mattinger.

Reno

By Sandy Powell

Special thanks to Ruth Swain, Tournament Chair, for our April Showers Sectional. The amount of time Ruth put in to make the tournament a success was phenomenal. This was a huge responsibility she took on that entailed some 16-hour days. We are most grateful. Also, thanks to those of you who helped logistically. Packing up and transporting tables, bidding boxes, and bridge mates down to and back from the Nugget is hard work and no fun at all.

It was only after becoming a member of the board that I learned that the sectionals account for the overwhelming amount of money that flows into our treasury each year. In other words, sectional attendance determines how much money we have to spend. Our ability to upgrade our facility is directly dependent on how much money we raise in our sectionals.

Both the number of people

participating and the number of total tables played was down fairly significantly in April compared to previous years. Due to scheduling problems with the Nugget, we had to shorten the tournament by one day, from 5-4. Additionally, there is some data to suggest that sectionals everywhere are suffering because of the increasing number of "cruise regionals." The type games we offer also might be a contributing factor. 116 people participated in the tournament. Around 20% of those who played came from outside our area (overwhelmingly California). The out of town visitor number also was down.

How can we increase participation both from our base and out of towners? Let board members know your thoughts. Our livelihood depends on people playing in our sectionals in large numbers and frequently. For those of you who live outside our area, what changes could we make to bring you here for the August sectional? (Feel free to email me at powellsndy8@aol.com)

Now, the results. The individuals earning the most masterpoints overall were Stan Green Reno (19.65); Robert Ipswitch San Mateo (19.65); Paul Blumberg Sparks (16.23) and Tom Howell Reno (15.48). Game winners were:

Wednesday; Stratified Open Pairs (10 tables): Paul Blumberg & Tom Howell; Stratified NLM Pairs (9 tables): Michael & Joan Chien; 8 Is Enough (10 tables): Thomas Quint, Paul Jorgensen, Paul Kushner, Joyce Remsen; Thursday Morning: Strat A/X Pairs (8 tables): Tom Howell & Paul Blumberg; Strat B/C/D Pairs (12.5 tables): Susan Powell & Don Parsons; Thursday Afternoon: Strat A/X Pairs (9 tables): Stan Green & Robert Ipswitch; Strat B/C/D Pairs (9 tables): Jefri Donovan & Bobbi Kornbluth; Friday Afternoon: Strat

A/X Pairs (6 tables): Stan Green/Robert Ipswitch; Strat B/C/D Pairs (8 tables): Carol Barr & Catherine Johnson; Saturday Swiss Teams (13 Tables): A winners: Satish Gupta, Thomas Quint, Joyce Remsen, Sheila Wimer; B winners: David & Katherine Welch and Don & Tomoko Rogers

Advancement in Rank: Congratulations to Steve Freedman and Emma Miller who have advanced to Sectional Master & to Stacey Day for advancing to Club Master.

Alzheimer Fundraising: Susan Powell's efforts in this regard truly are heroic: garage sales; raffles; quests for personal donations. Also, thanks to Jacquie Mall for organizing a great Bunco night and to those who are contributing the raffle prizes. To date \$2140 has been raised. If you have an idea for raising money, take the ball and run with it!

Bridge Guidelines: I've been ending this column with different "rules" to facilitate bidding choices. I don't know if they've been helpful or interesting. If you'd like this end note to continue, I'd like you to email me (powellsndy8@aol.com) your favorite rule. Thanks.

Sacramento

By *Miriam Steinberg*

I never tire writing about bridge etiquette, after all, bridge is supposed to be a game that is fun. Players treating each other without thoughtfulness and consideration taints that experience.

Resorting to bad language is one of the worst transgressions. One regular at the SBC recounted



an experience with a nonagenarian who continuously kept scolding her with "You should have done this, you should have done that" with every board. Fed up, the victim finally faced her and declared, "I will either play bridge or take lessons, but I won't do both at the same time." The totally irritated offender responded by calling her a 2 word epithet, to which the victim responded, "neither of those adjectives apply to me!"

One of my favorite players, who I might add, is the epitome of good bridge etiquette, had a partner who was declarer in a Swiss team game, turn and curse at her at the end of the play because she was angry for going down one and blamed it on dummy's bid. Another breach of bridge etiquette occurred after she politely asked a player at a neighboring table to please be quiet so she could concentrate. Another player heard him curse at her when she turned her back. All of this behavior is absolutely inexcusable.

Then there are less explosive issues. Bob Bergdorf emphasized playing in tempo, without which "innocent and volitional mistakes happen."

Barney Neufeld shared, "One of the things that gets me every day is when players play their cards half-turned away from the table or cover the card by putting their hand on top of it". He also detests when people refuse to stop talking during the hand.

Others hastily flip their cards over before the other cards are played. And snapping cards definitely riles the other players.

George Lim brought up the importance of not revealing information. "Try to be a robot; be mechanical, be poker-faced all the time. Don't show anything!" He also discussed giving advice. "I try

to never say anything at the table except with people I know won't mind." You never know how people will respond, with hurt feelings, anger or gratitude. It is best to first ask if a person would like commentary.

Jim Bowman advises, "The dummy needs to shut up!" Some are known for their unauthorized director calls and advice. Dummies need to be virtually invisible most of the time. A dummy at the recent sectional was actually observed hesitating and holding back when his partner called for a card! That constitutes cheating, in my opinion.

Many players shared their hatred of gloating. Explained Elizabeth Sachs, "It's certainly off-putting, especially to newer players and it's plain rude. And comments like "they could have set us if they had only led a club, ridicules the opponents." If you realize you have "fixed" the opponents, please save your

comments until after you leave the table. But according to a regional tournament director, it is perfectly ok to compliment your partner with a "well-played."

Be kind to your partner, above all. Give him the benefit of the doubt. Ted Muller remembers at the May Sectional waiting impatiently two full minutes for his partner to bid. Finally Ted's partner spoke up, "Hey partner, it's your turn to bid!"

Carl Oeser recounted two horror stories. During the first incident, Partner A made a bid Partner B disliked, at which point he showed his displeasure by jumping to a grand slam. The opponent's doubled and then he re-doubled. To top off his atrocious behavior, he hastily retreated, abandoning the table during the play of the hand. During the other incident, at the end of a hand, an unhappy professional player snottily asked his partner, "You may wonder what it may take

for me to throw these cards in your face!" and then proceeded to throw the cards at his bewildered partner. That was obviously the end of that partnership.

And bickering between partners almost tops the list of poor etiquette; it can unsettle everyone at the table and neighboring tables as well. Perhaps more effective than arguing would simply be posing the question, "Please help me understand your thought process in _." And perhaps always comport yourself like you are on a first date, want to make a good impression and want that person do look forward to engaging with you on further occasions!

On another note, if you have not been receiving e-mails from ACBL regarding area tournaments, you may be "unsubscribed" from their e-mail list. The way to fix this is to go to "MyACBL". On the left side under Membership, go to Privacy Settings and check "subscribe".



SAN FRANCISCO SECTIONAL
June 9 & 10, 2018
Janet Pomeroy Center
207 Skyline Blvd San Francisco

SATURDAY 10:30 am	SUNDAY 10:30 am
Two Session Open Pairs Stratified at 0-750/2000/+	Bracketed Swiss Teams 4 rounds - 7 boards per Round Brackets based on average number of masterpoints for a team. Each team plays the other teams in its bracket except any team can choose to play in the top bracket
Single Session Open Pairs Stratified at 0-500/1500/+	Single Session Open Pairs Stratified at 0-50/300/+
Single Session Newcomer Pairs Stratified at 0-20/50/100	*FREE* Single Session Novice Pairs 0-10 Masterpoints only (NO TABLE FEE!)
Single Session 499'er Pairs Stratified at 0-100/300/500 No player can have more than 500 MP	0-10 Masterpoints only (NO TABLE FEE!)
3:00 pm	3:00 pm
Second Session Open Pairs	Second Session Swiss Teams 3 Rounds - 7 Boards per Round
Single Session Open Pairs Stratified at 0-200/500/+	Single Session Open Pairs (24 boards) Stratified at 0-200/500/+
Single Session Newcomer Pairs Stratified at 0-20/50/100	

Strata for pairs events based on masterpoint average for the two players
TOURNAMENT CHAIR: Libby Noronha (415-566-9485; libbynoronha@gmail.com)
PARTNERSHIPS: Gail Gabiati (415-566-9135; gail@intrinsicdevices.com) (email preferred)
MID-CHART Conventions OK except for newcomer and 499'er events
Per Session: \$12 Members *\$16 Unpaid Members *Half price for students under 25 yrs of age
LUNCH on both days provided by pre-purchased meal ticket at time of entry. \$5.00 sandwiches & side
Free coffee, tea and snacks
No need to pre-register, just show up! See www.unit506.org for directions to Pomeroy Center

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You should also send an e-mail to emailservices@acbl.org asking them to re-subscribe you into their system.

Many thanks to Dave Willmott and Sam Sandusky for chairing the May Sectional. The attendance was up and a good time was had by all! Sharon Neff did a fabulous job as well on hospitality.

If anyone has suggestions they would like to see in the Diamond in the Rugg, please contact me at mirsteinbergsac@gmail.com.

San Francisco

By Kimberly Fanady

To a Unit 506er, June means only one thing: it's time for the San Francisco Summer Sectional!



This year's edition of our always terrific event will be held June 9-10 at our usual great location, the Janet Pomeroy Center out by the zoo. See our ad elsewhere in this newsletter or check on the unit website, www.unit506.org, for all the details. We've got pairs, we've got teams, we've got open games, we've got novice games; something for everyone. And, our board members make it look easy, but putting on a tournament is a lot of work. Helping hands are always needed, so if you can lend one, please do. Everyone get out there and represent Unit 506!

June also brings us the ACBL's annual fundraiser for the Alzheimer's Association, the Longest Day, during the week of June 18-24. Research has proven what we all know from experience: bridge keeps the brain sharp, the memory working, and the neurons firing. It's way better than staring vacantly at the TV or the computer! QuickTricks will

hold a Longest Day game on June 18, featuring a raffle and other fun activities in addition to the game. Head out to the clubs to play in support of this worthy cause.

Congratulations as always to this month's masterpoint ladder climbers: new Sectional Master Joelle Huffman, Bronze Life Master Hinda Gilbert, and Gold Life Master Mark McCarthy.

Welcome to our new members Toby Lee and Gary Zeng, and transfers Mary Pulverman (New Hampshire) and Lenore Wyatt (Tacoma). Say hello to these newcomers when you meet them at the table.

Good luck to everyone going to the big Sacramento Regional. Win big so I can brag about you in my column! See you at the table and by the pool.

San Mateo

By Fran Gaura

First news of future endeavors: one more reminder that the Longest Day games coming up on June 21 promise something very different in the way of fund raising. The Longest Day committee is working ambitiously to solicit raffle and silent auction prizes which will entice even the most Scrooge-like among us to loosen our purse strings to donate generously. Everyone recognizes the importance of funding causes which touch us all. Alzheimer's research and prevention is one such cause. Keep the date marked and be ready with your checkbook! Clubs throughout the area will be participating so check on-line calendars for further details.

On to events of the past months. As mentioned in previous columns, our unit game held on April 21 was to benefit Peninsula Youth Bridge. That event was a great success thanks to the generosity of our unit players and

the encouragement of a San Mateo High student player who addressed the group about her experience with the youth program. Our generous players donated over \$800 for the student education efforts! Kudos to all who participated.

The overall winners in that afternoon's game were: Section A, Ann Longknife and Roger Dewes, 1st, Akiko Murakami and Scott Maa, 2d, Gigi Markie and Jon Lawton, 3d; Section D, Dennis and Suzy Jackson, 1st, Kenneth Hui and Siuling Ku, 2d and Ford and Rula Tamer, 3d. Congratulations to these players!

Continuing the story of the success of the youth bridge program, the High School Championship competition was held on April 29 at the Bayshore Bridge Club. Fifty-eight students participated, assisted by a dedicated group of volunteer adults who organized the event, monitored the tables and generally helped the young people to enjoy a day long tournament experience. At the volunteer helm of the Unit 498 team was Jeanie Kwong, aided by Camele Wanat, Irv Agard, Mary Bates, Joan Bodenlos and Cathy Johnson. They were joined in the effort by adults from the Palo Alto club. Our Peninsula Youth Bridge students from Mills and San Mateo High were among the deserving winners. Congratulations to the student winners and thanks to the adult volunteers.

May was a busy month for unit sponsored events in San Mateo. Our NLM Sectional on May 12 saw matchpoints awarded to Mark and Danna Sorenson, Mike Dotterweich and Robert Chang; Janelle Van Rensselaer and Loren Charlton; Bob Gleason and Kit Morse; Alexis Van Lingen and Sue Papilion; Joyce Carlson and Marge Linder; Mike and Gloria Halliday; and Kenneth Hui and Siuling Ku.

If speed is the name of your game, our Fast Pairs Unit Game on May 16 under the auspices of Jennifer Kuhn, may have been just your cup of tea!

A first for our unit, this format was in response to requests for an evening game that moves quickly and enables folks to be through the session at a reasonable hour. Showing off their competitive speed were Unit 498 winners: Rosemarie Dean and Sandra Tilch 1st OA; Art Quey and Stan Chow, 2d OA. The positive feedback on this game may result in future such events. Stay tuned!

A warm welcome to new members joining our unit in the past two months: David Anderson, John G. Day, Shoch C. Shoch, Isaac Chan, Samuel Chen, Bradford Cattel, Raphael Cruanes, Rosemary Fordwood, Michael Huang, Danette H. Magilligan, Diego Rodriguez, Faith H. Seal, Genevieve B. Weeks, and Andrew Wong.

And congratulations to players advancing over the past months: to Junior Master, Lisa G. Bruml, Yu-Keng Shih, Marie E. Horn, Charles M. Simmons, Sylvia A. Warnes; to Club Master, Debbie Carey, Dr. Kaili Jiao, Donald Kristofferson, Sharyn Crosat, Gloria Halliday, Kenneth Hui; to Sectional Master, Robyn Lee, Kit Morse; to Regional Master, Bob Chang, Sue Z. Friedenbach, Anne H. Gregor; to NABC Master, Wesley May.

A healthy, relaxing summer to all readers. Wishing 7 No Trump hands to all!

Santa Cruz

By Karen Schamberg

This month I thought I'd let you know about the Santa Cruz Bridge Education Foundation. The SCBEF was



formed in 2017 and promotes the mental, social and health benefits of learning and playing bridge to people of all ages and skill levels in Santa Cruz County and the greater Monterey Bay area. The foundation will seek opportunities to cooperate and coordinate with similar efforts by other bridge and educational organizations, including schools, colleges and universities in neighboring areas.

In keeping with the goals of the SCBEF, we offer a mentor program as well as numerous classes, both free and paid, each month.

If you would like to be a mentor or to work with a mentor to improve any aspect of your bridge playing experience, why not give the mentor program a try. For more information, contact John Hullman.

Free bridge lessons precede the Sunday afternoon and the Monday and Wednesday evening games. Several Thursday evening games also offer a free mini-lesson. Sunday lessons are good reviews for players in the NLM category. Monday evening lessons are geared to 199er pairs. Wednesday evening lessons are formulated for pairs with a total of fewer than 200 MPs.

The 10 a.m. 749er game on June 7 will include a lesson by Ken Llacera. Game plus lesson is a total fee of \$10. If you are just interested in the lesson, the fee is \$5.

Ken Gamble teaches a class entitled "Advanced Bidding 2." He offers 18+ sessions for \$100. These lessons are on Monday and Wednesday mornings. Contact Ken for more information and to enroll.

If you're interested in learning "2 over 1 Essentials," Ken Llacera is offering classes on June 5 & 12 for \$10 per session.

Our unit game will be on Saturday, June 9. Be sure to bring a lunch.

High scores in club games were earned by: Jim Slinger & Ken Llacera, 73.21%; Don Seldeen & Robin Evenden, 72.92%; Carol Maggipinto & Ken Gamble, 71.88%; Annemarie Moller & Joanne Bruno, 70.89%; Chris Tainty & David Harken, 70.63%; Carol Maggipinto & Ken Gamble, 70.58%;

High scores in club Beginner Games went to: Richard & Susan Pearce, 72.19%.

To see the complete Unit 550 schedule and calendar, or to contact one of our club owners, please visit our website at www.santacruzbridge.org and be sure to visit our Face Book page. As a reminder, the SCBC is a fragrance-free venue. Please use unscented, non-perfumed products.

Santa Rosa/Petaluma

By Cecelia Zachar

We are hard at work preparing for our best ever Unit 509 Longest Day. Our co-chairpersons for this event are Stephanie Poole and Jan Lee. They are getting lots of help from Kathy Juarez, Kathy Venton, and Karen Weissberg. This year both the Bridge Gallery and the Petaluma Bridge Club will be participating. There will be 3 games at the Bridge Gallery and 1 game in Petaluma. We will have both a silent auction and a raffle in which both clubs will participate. Silent auction and raffle items and instructions of how to participate will be posted on our website at <http://acblunit509.org>. They include things like wine tastings, prints of original watercolors by one of our players, and gift certificates to some of our favorite restaurants. We will also raffle off games with some of the directors and top players in the clubs. We welcome bids on silent auction items by our friends from other units in District 21. Both clubs will draw for raffle prizes at 11:30. We're very

excited and expect everyone to have a good time.

On June 24, the fabulous Cris Barrere will be presenting Balancing Act I from 10:30 to 12:30 at the Bridge Gallery. The class is free to all, paid for by Unit 509 and the District 21 Education Program. We'll learn what balancing is, identify key factors affecting a decision to balance, and explore common balancing situations. Cris is a great lecturer. You can't help becoming a more successful bridge player when you attend one of his classes whether you are a newbie or have 1000s of master points. And, you are always entertained.

Our unit game on June 24, directly after Cris' lecture, will be an Individual game. This movement is quite rare at our clubs, but we will do it twice this month, once as part of the Longest Day and once in the unit game. It should be fun.

We are experimenting with our Wednesday Night Team games. Pairs will sign up for the game and be assigned teammates in a random draw a half hour before game time. Handicaps will be assessed depending on the average masterpoints for the team. We see this mix and match approach as a good way to make new friends and to bring in a few new players to the game as well.

We have had two Learn Bridge in a Day® classes in our unit and will have a third on July 15. The class is a five-hour concentrated course geared towards true beginners, those returning to bridge after long absences, and those wanting to "test the waters." Our July 15 class will be offered by John Shribbs at the Petaluma Community Center. Please email him at jshribbs@comcast.net for details.

Kathy Venton and Kate Hill are offering Absolute Beginner

Bridge lessons at the Bridge Gallery beginning Tuesday, May 29. Kate will teach the class in the morning and Kathy in the evening. The course lasts 7 weeks, and the first class is free. Graduates of the class may repeat any session for \$5. Kate Hill will be teaching Bridge Basics III - Popular Conventions beginning Thursday morning, June 7, from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. The cost is \$100 (including text), single sessions \$15, and repeat for \$10. See <http://santarosabridge.com/classes/> for details.

There were only two 70+ games in Unit 509 in April. In Petaluma, Jim and Frances O'Brien, 72.11% on April 5. At the Bridge Gallery, Mary Omodt and Cecelia Zachar won the Unit Game with 70.84%.

Five players in Unit 509 flew up in rank in April. Our new Junior Master is Joni Conner. Moving up to Sectional Master are Patricia Fidelak, Cathy Netz, and Margaret Senneff. Congratulations all!

Silicon Valley

By Ray Yuenger

I hope you're saving the date of the evening of Sunday July 8 for the annual Unit 507 membership meeting, potluck dinner, and pairs game. It will be in the Roosevelt Room of the Campbell Community Center again. As the date approaches, you'll be able to sign up with your potluck contributions at the San Jose Bridge Center. The pairs game is free for members of Unit 507. At the membership meeting, the Unit Board will be asking the members to approve a change to the by-laws of the Unit. The proposed amendment is explained by a link in the Club News at svbridge.org. I won't take the space here to summarize it.

Speaking of the Unit Board, now's your chance to run for the

Board and give something back to the game you've enjoyed. Every June the terms expire for half of the dozen Unit Board members, so we're due for an election if we have more people running for positions than we have positions. Regrettably, that hasn't been the case lately, but we keep looking for new board members. There are monthly meetings with free pizza if you consider that an inducement. You can't run directly for President or any other office. The board itself selects its President, Vice-President, Treasurer, and Secretary. If you're interest in a board position, please let me or another board member know.

The unit recently held our spring sectional. I had to try to fill the shoes of our sectional coordinator, Mischel Postas, and I can say I have a new appreciation for the work it involves. In the Friday evening pairs event, Bruce Luttrell tied with Lynn Bartz & Bud Biswas for first in the ABC pairs. Thomas Morse & Jackie Hiatt were first in the limited pairs, with Tillie Myers & Julie Lee first in their stratification. In the two-session open pairs, Li-Chung Chen was first in his strat. Roy Tsai had a section top in that event, as did Will Watson. Pamela Meckenstock & Julie MacArthur prevailed in both strats of the Silver Rush pairs. Earning section tops in that event were Rhonda Hardy & Bill Roman and Limin He. Robert Lu & Jean Chiu placed first in the newcomer pairs. In the under 300 pairs, Manoj Thawani & Rajeev Gupta had a section top.

In Swiss teams at the sectional, the team with Yul Inn & Cheryl Mandala was first in A, while Arif Janjua, Ken Rosenfeld & Joel Koransky were first in the X flight. Susama & Amar Chunder & Rajeeva Sharma prevailed in their bracket, as did Elenalani Lam.

This month's column will have

more than its share of tournament reports because the deadline for columns has changed in light of our all-electronic publication. So for one time only I have six weeks to report, not four.

At the Modesto regional, Tad Yoshikawa's team won its knockout bracket, as did the team with Andy Scott & Robert Allen. Winning in their Swiss team strats were Vilas Namjoshi & Ashwini Datar and Mich Ravera & David Sisson.

The Modesto regional tried out a new pairs event giving players a choice of playing in any two of three daily sessions. A three-stage pairs event will give me more section tops to report. George Welch had one such section top. In choice gold rush pairs, Colin Hemsley & Anne Dudman had a section top, as did Limin He. Frank Xie had a strat top in an open choice pairs game. While there may be three sessions of section tops available, only one pair will win per strat.

At the Sparks sectional, Ray Yuenger had a section top in a pairs game.

Jiang Chen's team was first in the District 21 GNT flight B qualifier.

In a youth bridge tournament, a team with Jasmine Wang, Aman Desai, and Sophie Lian were first in their bracket. Calix Tang won both pairs event, playing once with Jonathan Yue.

At the San Ramon sectional, Rohit & Shalini Dubey had a strat top in a pairs game.

In a 499er tournament in Mountain View, Jeanmarie Mariadassou won a limited pairs game, as did Pradeep Verma & Meena Oza and Barbara Tommaney. Steven Jacobson had a strat top. In a similar tournament in Burlingame, Prince Kohli & Radhakishin Thawani had a strat top in a pairs game. Anit Garg's Swiss team won.

At May's sectional tournament

at the clubs, the following Unit 507 members had games of 65% or better: Bill Roman and Ferial Hurst & Matt Rode. Sometimes this list is longer. Sometimes I wonder if the competition in the San Jose Bridge Center is too good to afford many players the opportunities for big games.

Congratulations to our newest Masters: Arun Bahulkar, David Chen (Junior); George Schlinkert (Regional); Barbara Tiernan (NABC); Arthur Zho (Advanced NABC).

I hope you appreciate the new format of this monthly publication. Let me know if you have any suggested improvements.

Stockton

By Wendy Buchanan

"If Bridge is just a game, then Mt. Everest is just a hill." Recently I read this on a T-shirt and was reminded



of one of our club members, Debbie Greenberg, who completed a trek to the Mt. Everest base camp in April. She prepped for her journey over the course of several months by jogging, doing fitness exercises and running stairs at the new 13-story San Joaquin County Courthouse. Debbie also preps for competitive bridge in the same manner by attending classes, reading, playing with mentors, and looking over results to see what she could do better.

I've heard people at the club say "Bridge is just a game". If that's true, why play duplicate? Why not play social bridge where it is truly just a game? Philosophically, I truly believe most of us competitive players are striving to meet goals whether it be Club, Life or Platinum

Life Masters. Without the goals, why do we attend tournaments, take lessons, read, play with and learn from the better players, etc? Sure, attending tournaments is partly social but it's not the primary goal. Thus, I'm striving to reach my own personal goals and doing all I can to improve my game.

Speaking of tournaments, 23 club members participated in the Modesto Spring Fling Regional held in April. Almost all participants earned something, helping to move each individual closer to their goal.

Congratulations are in order to Debbie DeZarn who passed the director test. We're thrilled to have her as a new director as we are hoping to get a true beginner's game going.

We are pulling for Darlene Barnes to have a successful recovery from major surgery. The club doesn't seem quite the same without her at the table.

SBC: The high game of the month was earned by Marion Goldberg & Darlene Barnes with a 70.14%. Barbara Smart led the April master point race earning 6.59 points with Debbie DeZarn nipping at her heels with 5.97 points.

SBC Intermediate: Earl Jones & Irmgard Owens scored the high percentage of the month with a 68.03 game followed by Cissy Hilken & Norma Fetters with 62.68%. We welcomed Barb & Stephen Felton from New Jersey who were visiting family.

Oak Park: Mort Horn & Dennis Del Paine were the high scorers at our weekly Wednesday game with a 68.43% game.

Many Stockton area players are eagerly anticipating the Capitol City Regional the end of May.

Therefore get ready to be competitive and do your best to scale Mt. Everest!

District 21 Board of Directors

Unit 465	Bob Garret	bobgar101@charter.net
Unit 465	Cornelia Gould	cornelia.gould@gmail.com
Unit 473	Gil Ramirez	ramirezgil_2000@yahoo.com
Unit 473	Jill Wallace	gmjillian@gmail.com
Unit 497	Mark Kornmann	beerman1949@gmail.com
Unit 497	Joyce Burks	jburks@berkeley.edu
Unit 498	Jackie Lowenberg	jackielowenberg@gmail.com
Unit 498	Janelle Van Rensselaer	janellevanr@janellevanr.com
Unit 499	Anne Hollingsworth	scootcat@pacbell.net
Unit 499	Lyn Sacco	lyn.sacco@gmail.com
Unit 500	Charlie Conrad	cconrad313@aol.com
Unit 500	Carla Francis	cfrancis14@sbcglobal.net
Unit 501	Pat Leary	pplenary@comcast.net
Unit 501	Art Mirin	aamirin@comcast.net
Unit 502	Carol Warren	carolwarren@mindspring.com
Unit 502	Doug Couchman	DougCouchman@sbcglobal.net
Unit 503	Prue Saunders	prue@pruesauanders.com
Unit 503	Kip Kado	kipkado@gmail.com
Unit 505	Katherine Ewing	turtle7nt@att.net
Unit 505	Sharon Neff	Neffsm@aol.com
Unit 506	Marion Robertson	mrobertson@msn.com
Unit 506	Dean Wangsvick	deanwangsvick314@comcast.net
Unit 507	Ray Yuenger	rayyuenger@gmail.com
Unit 507	Stu Goodgold	stugo@sbcglobal.net
Unit 508	Arti Bhargava	abhargava@compasslexecon.com
Unit 508	Tracey Bauer	tlcinsf@hotmail.com
Unit 509	Jackie Ortiz	jackieo@sonic.net
Unit 509	Kathy Juarez	kjuarez@sonic.net
Unit 510	Marilyn Minden	mminden@comcast.net
Unit 510	Mary Sievers	Marysweet15@yahoo.com
Unit 512	Sigrid Price	sigridp@sbcglobal.net
Unit 512	Don Powell	metzpowe@cwnet.com
Unit 522	Richard Meffley	Sorter52@ix.netcom.com
Unit 522	Anthony Toto	ca1ant@aol.com
Unit 524	Linda King	linda.king@hughes.net
Unit 524	Patricia Stone	patty.stone@charter.net
Unit 529	Libby Longstreth	Libby10@sbcglobal.net
Unit 530	Debbie Davis	StvDbDavis@aol.com
Unit 530	Richard Papst	richardjpapst@gmail.com
Unit 550	Ken Llacera	pasa49@pacbell.net
Unit 550	Laura McCabe	laura@philippians313.org

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ACBL DISTRICT 21 OFFICERS

TOM PAJAK

District 21 President
tompajak999@gmail.com

RAY YUENGER

District 21 Vice President
rayyuenger@gmail.com

JEAN BARRY

Treasurer
jbarry.d21@gmail.com

SANDI DAVIS

Secretary
sandi.david21@gmail.com

JACKIE ZAYAC

District Director
jackiezayac@gmail.com

PAM HUGHES

Tournament Manager
jmom380@yahoo.com

TRACEY BAUER

Social Media
tlcinsf@hotmail.com

PUBLICATION STAFF

RICH LUTTRELL

Editor
luttrellr@sbcglobal.net

GRANT ROBINSON

Web Site Administrator
dist21webmaster@gmail.com