



DIAMOND

IN THE RUFF

ACBL District 21 Newsletter

Vol 2, Number 1 May 2019

Memphis ACBL Board of Directors Meeting - Spring 2019

By Jackie Zayac - District 21 National Director

There is so much to experience in Memphis that I found it impossible to complete my checklist of things to do and play bridge too! The warm Southern hospitality, Beale Street and its musical past and the world-famous BBQ are all great reasons to visit. A visit to Graceland, which was built in 1939 AND the home of Elvis Presley is on the top of the list! I was lucky to get a photo without any people in it!



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District 21 Regionals

By Pam Hughes, Regional Tournament Manager

Remember to make your reservations for our upcoming D21 Regionals: Santa Clara and Reno! Booking information and links can be found on our district website, www.d21acbl.com.



If you make a reservation you cannot use, please consider offering it to those on my wait list. E-mail me at jmom380@yahoo.com.

Openings on the ACBL's Board of Governors

The Board of Governors ("BoG") of the ACBL is an elected group that holds one meeting during each of the three annual Nationals in part to review the recent decisions by the ACBL's 25-member Board of Directors. Each of the 25 Districts is entitled to five members on the BoG. BoG members should serve as spokespeople for the members of their district and may propose changes to the operation and policies of the ACBL. They are elected by the Unit Boards within the District if there is a contested election.

Under the ACBL Bylaws, two of the BoG members are the First and Second Alternates to the District Director. Last year Stu Goodgold and Doug Couchman respectively were elected to these positions. Under the Bylaws, the three-

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Upcoming Tournaments Sectionals

May 3–5, 2019

Sacramento Spring Sectional

Orangevale Community Center, Orangevale CA

May 4–5, 2019

SM Intermediate/Newcomer Spring Sectional

Fattoria e Mare, Burlingame CA

May 6–12, 2019

Western Conference Spring Fling STaC

Local clubs

May 17–19, 2019

47th Lone Cypress – Monterey Sectional

Unit 530, Monterey Bridge Center, Marina CA

Jun 8–9, 2019

San Francisco Sectional

Pomeroy Center, San Francisco CA

Jun 22–23, 2019

East Bay Summer Sectional

Masonic Center, Oakland CA

Jun 29–30, 2019

Diablo Valley Summer Sectional

Rossmoor Event Center, Walnut Creek CA

Jul 3–7, 2019

Firecracker Supersectional

Palo Alto Bridge Center, Mountain View CA

Jul 17–28, 2019

2019 Summer North American Bridge Championships

Cosmopolitan Hotel & Casino, Las Vegas NV

Aug 3–4, 2019

Wine Valley Sectional

Vintage House Senior Center, Sonoma CA

Aug 10–11, 2019

Castro Valley Sectional

Transfiguration Catholic Church, Castro Valley CA

Aug 14–17, 2019

Reno 2019 August Sectional

Nugget Casino Resort, Sparks NV

Aug 17–18, 2019

San Mateo County Summer Sectional

Cañada College Cafeteria, Redwood City CA

Aug 19–25, 2019

Western Conference Summer Fun STaC

Local clubs

Sep 6–8, 2019

Sacramento Fall Sectional

Orangevale Community Center, Orangevale CA

Sep 14–15, 2019

Santa Cruz Surfs Up Sectional

Mid-County Senior Center, Capitola CA

Sep 19–22, 2019

Carson-Tahoe Fall Sectional

Plaza Conference Center, Carson City NV

Sep 21–22, 2019

Unit 509 Santa Rosa/Petaluma Sectional

Santa Rosa CA

Sep 27–29, 2019

Sacramento Fall NLM Sectional

Sacramento Bridge Center, Sacramento CA

Sep 28–29, 2019

Earthquake Sectional

Gilroy Senior Center, Gilroy CA

Oct 5–6, 2019

Non-Life Master Sectional

Fattoria e Mare, Burlingame CA

Regionals

May 27–June 2, 2019

California Capital Regional

DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel,
Sacramento CA

Aug 27–Sep 2, 2019

All Western Championships

Hyatt Regency Santa Clara,
Santa Clara CA

Oct 7–13, 2019

Reno/Sparks Regional

Nugget Casino Resort, Sparks NV

During the Memphis NABC, a free shuttle ride and tour of the ACBL Museum in Horn Lake, Mississippi was available on several days. If you have never visited the museum, it is well worth a trip. The history of bridge is beautifully displayed in the museum. The collection of bridge trophies is overwhelming! My favorite is the Vanderbilt Trophy which was donated by Howard Vanderbilt in 1928.



After my Honolulu Board Report was released, I was contacted by a few people who were confused about the meaning of the voting information that I listed after each motion. Here is how the voting works:

If the vote is 6 – 9 – 8 – 2:

- 6 = yes votes
- 9 = no votes
- 8 = abstain votes
- 2 = absent and not voting

In this example, the vote for the motion did not pass. If the result of the vote had been 9 – 6 – 8 – 2, the motion would have passed.

At our Memphis meetings, the following

elections were held:

- Claire Jones ran unopposed for ACBL Treasurer for another year. His term will end on April 30, 2020.

- Georgia Heth and Al Levy were elected to the North American Bridge Federation effective immediately through December 31, 2021.

- Al Levy was elected to the World Bridge Federation Executive Council effective immediately through December 31, 2021.

There were also several appointments made at the meetings.

- Ross Grabel, John Carruthers and David Grainger were appointed to three-year terms on the Hall of Fame Committee.

- Jeff Meckstroth was appointed to a three-year term on the Competitions and Conventions Committee. Jeff Goldsmith and Sabine Auken were appointed to one-year terms on the committee.

- Kevin Bathurst, John Brissman, Hendrik Sharples, Eddie Wold and Bruce Ferguson were appointed to three-year terms on the Ethical Oversight Committee.

- Chris Benson, Jan Martel, Chris Moll and William Schreiber were appointed to three-year terms on the Disciplinary Committee.

- Robb Gordon, Eric Rodwell and Jeff Goldsmith were appointed to five-year terms on the Laws Commission.

- Bruce Lang was appointed to a one-year term on the Masterpoint Committee. Harold Jordan was appointed to a two-year term on the Masterpoint Committee. Doug Couchman was appointed to a three-year term on the Masterpoint Committee.

The following motions were voted on in Memphis:

- 1. NABC Child Care:** Provide options for child care at every NABC. The vote was 0-24-1. I voted no because the Board was informed that there will not be child care allowed at the Cosmopolitan Hotel this summer.

- 2. NABC Child Care Non-Agenda Item:** Management will solicit third party providers

for child care services at NABCs where reasonably practicable. The vote was 25-0. It is effective immediately.

3. Goodwill Receptions: To reduce costs, ACBL Management submitted a motion to hold the Goodwill Reception only at the Summer NABC. The Board amended the motion to hold the Goodwill Reception at all THREE NABCs with the ACBL providing food and a cash bar instead of a hosted bar. The vote was 13-12-0. I voted yes because we reduced the cost by changing to a cash bar while still allowing Goodwill Committee Members to be recognized at each NABC. It is effective August 1, 2019.

4. Remuneration of Support Staff and Volunteers: The Goodwill Chair receives airfare, two nights hotel and free plays for the duration of each NABC. The Board voted to change this and give the Goodwill Chair two nights hotel and two days (4 sessions) of free plays. The vote was 19-3-3. I voted yes because the Goodwill Chair was receiving substantially more benefits than all the other volunteer chairs. It is effective August 1, 2019.

5. Operating and Capital Budgets: The operating and capital budgets were approved by the Board. The operating budget is relatively flat for 2019 and the capital budget is \$157,000 which includes replacing half of the roof on the ACBL Headquarters Building and various IT upgrades. The vote was 25-0.

6. Incentivize Recruiting Prospective New Members: The ACBL shall reward members in good standing who refer prospects to teachers, clubs, Units, Districts or ACBL when these prospects either sign up for a multiple year membership or renew a one-year membership. The motion was defeated by a vote of 2-23-0. I voted against the motion because the ACBL Marketing Department is working on a plan which addresses this issue.

7. Recognition for Top New Member Recruiters of the Year: The ACBL shall reward individuals with a \$700 credit toward bridge entries at the Fall NABC tournament

for outstanding performance in the recruitment of new members. The motion was defeated by a vote of 0-25-0. I voted no because the ACBL Marketing Department is working on a plan to address this issue.

8. 4-Session Regional Events: The original motion requested for those unrestricted four session Regional events, other than Knockouts, the masterpoints shall be computed by formula as if a two-session event and then increased by 40%. The day that I arrived in Memphis, I received an e-mail from Li-Chung Chen of the Silicon Valley unit informing me that the proposed award was not equitable. I forwarded the information Li-Chung provided to me to our new ACBL President and masterpoint guru, Russ Jones, and the motion was changed to: for those unrestricted four session Regional events, other than Knockouts, the masterpoint awards shall be computed by formula increased by 60% and not to exceed fifty (50) masterpoints. A BIG THANK YOU TO LI-CHUNG CHEN! The vote was 25-0, but it will take a second reading and approval to be effective August 1, 2019. It will not be effective in time for the California Capital Regional in May, but, if all goes well in Las Vegas, it will be in effect for the California Capital Regional in 2020.

9. Flight C Canadian National Team Championship and Canadian Mixed Team Championship: Change the overall masterpoints awarded based on the formula to overall masterpoints for a fixed award to be determined by the Masterpoint Committee to be equivalent to the awards in similar USBF events. The vote was 25-0, but it will take a second reading and approval in Las Vegas to be effective August 1, 2019.

10. GNT Clarification: If eight (8) or more teams compete in the Flight B or Flight C GNT District Final, either the top two teams at a single site or, if a split-site event, the top team from each site will represent the District at the National Final. One District wanted the ability to choose its second team rather than select the top two teams in the District event. The vote

was 24-1-0. I voted in favor of the motion. I believe that the top two teams in each flight should represent each District. It is effective immediately.

11. Jane Johnson Club Appreciation Games: This motion allows clubs to run two PAIR Club Appreciation Games in October instead of one PAIR game and one TEAM game. HOWEVER, there will be no gold points available if a club chooses to run two pair games. Gold masterpoints will only be awarded for a team game. The vote was 25-0 and it is effective September 1, 2019.

12. Masterpoints Awarded at Regional Events: A motion was submitted to allow Regional events with 18 or more boards per session to award 100% masterpoints of regional ratings. The motion was defeated and the vote was 2-23-0. I voted no because I think we should play more than 18 boards at Regional events.

13. Cheating scandals have become way too frequent in the ACBL. There are strong opposing opinions as to how cheaters should be punished. Here are the first two motions brought forward to deal with this issue.

Collusive Cheaters: There was a lot of discussion on this motion as well as many friendly amendments. In the end, here is what the motion said:

Notwithstanding the preceding provisions of Section 10.2, the ACBL Board of Directors will not hear, and ACBL Management hereby is instructed not to forward to the Board, any request for readmission of a member who was expelled for premeditated collusive cheating in NABC+ or equivalent events, or who resigned his membership for the purpose of avoiding possible disciplinary actions concerning premeditated collusive cheating in such events, or combination of such expulsion or resignation. Such a former member may never be readmitted to Membership in the ACBL nor participate in any ACBL sanctioned events.

The vote was 16-9-0. I voted yes because I do not want collusive cheaters in our organization.

It is effective immediately.

Readmission Following Expulsion: This motion has three parts. (1) the ACBL Board of Directors will not hear, and ACBL Management will not forward to the Board, any request for readmission before ten (10) years from the date of Expulsion. Notwithstanding the previous sentence, if the individual who was expelled admitted to the factual basis of the Charges prior to the commencement of the hearing on those Charges, he may apply for readmission after five (5) years. (2) The ACBL Anti-Cheating Commission and the Ethical Oversight Committee will be informed of a prospective Readmission Following Expulsion. They may advise the ACBL Board of Directors, may be represented at a Readmission hearing, and may give oral or written testimony. (3) Any member readmitted under CDR 10.2.2 shall be placed on probation for a minimum of 5 years. The vote was 23-1-1. I voted yes. It is effective July 1, 2019.

14. Code of Disciplinary Regulations: 2.2.3 Original/Appellate Jurisdiction of the ACBL Board of Directors- The motion states that the ACBL Board of Directors has original jurisdiction of the following:

- (a) Disputes between Districts
- (b) Disputes between units from different Districts
- (c) Cases involving alleged violations by Districts referred to in CDR 9.2
- (d) Cases in which:
 - (1) Circumstances make it impractical or unfair for a matter to be handled by the District or Unit, or
 - (2) The issues involved are of paramount importance to the ACBL.

ACBL Management may use the Executive Committee or the ACBL Board of Directors to make a determination under subrule (d).

In these disputes or cases, the ACBL Board of Directors delegates its duties as Charging Party to the Executive Director to act on its behalf. Any dispute or case that results in a Charge shall be heard by the ACBL Disciplinary

Committee.

The vote was 25-0. It is effective April 1, 2019.

15. Voluntary Relinquishment: ACBL Management is directed to develop a policy and any related procedures allowing for the voluntary relinquishment of NABC+ titles and second place finishes in KO, BAM, and Swiss events. They should include provisions governing:

- Who on the team has the authority to relinquish a title
- How the ACBL should be notified of the intention to relinquish a title
- How the intention to relinquish a title should be confirmed by other teammates, if such confirmation is required
- How the relinquishment should be made public
- The status of Masterpoints won in the event
- The status of seeding points to team members acquired in the event
- How far back in time titles may be relinquished.

The policy and any related procedures must be developed within the following parameters:

- A member of a team is not required to consent to the relinquishment if the player has been: (1) expelled from the ACBL for any reason; (2) resigned for the purpose of avoiding possible disciplinary actions; or (3) suspended for ethical violations at the time of the relinquishment.

- No team may be elevated to a higher finishing position because of any title relinquished under this policy.

- Any title relinquished under this policy shall be recorded in the official ACBL records as “Vacated”.

The vote was 25-0. It is effective at Management’s discretion.

16. Codification Clean Up Project: Management is reviewing the Codification for consistency and making necessary changes. The Board is reviewing and approving the

changes. The vote was 25-0. It is effective immediately.

17. Board of Directors Manual: An Orientation Manual for New Members of the Board of Directors shall be maintained by the Governance Committee. The current Board Member Welcome Packet, as Appendix 4A-2, from Chapter IV, ACBL Board of Directors, is deleted from the Codification. The vote was 25-0. It is effective immediately.

18. Requirement for Candidacy in Elections of District Directors, Alternate Directors and Board of Governors Representatives: A motion was made to ensure that each District is represented by someone who is a member of a unit in the District and to clarify what unit membership is for purposes of elections. A procedure was also established in the event a candidate’s candidacy is contested. The vote was 24-1. It is effective April 1, 2019 and retroactive for all candidates who have already filed for the Board of Directors in the 2019 election. It is effective June 1, 2019 for all Board of Directors, First and Second Alternates and Board of Governors Representatives.

I look forward to seeing everyone at the California Capital Regional! If you have anything you would like to discuss at any time, please contact me at jackiezayac@gmail.com.

Governors

From Page 1

year terms for the other three positions begin this year, the year following the elections of Stu and Doug.

You are qualified to become a BoG member if you belong to the District you represent, you remain a member during your term, and you are a member in good standing of the ACBL. To throw your hat in the ring and stand for election, you must notify the ACBL’s Director of Elections at elections@acbl.org by May 31, 2019. If you are elected, you must attend at least one annual meeting in person or by proxy to retain your position.



Now You Can Name A Game!

**AT THE 2019 NORTH AMERICAN
BRIDGE CHAMPIONSHIPS
NOV 28 – DEC 8, 2019**

**The perfect gift for friends, family or even a bridge partner!
Great for a 2019 Birthday, Anniversary, Tribute, Memorial,
Friendship Message, Master Level Achievement...**

Why not buy **Naming "rights"** to a **regionally rated event** at the upcoming **SAN FRANCISCO NABC** in the fall of 2019? The regionally rated events that complement the NABC+ event schedule are available **NOW**. Honor someone close to you personally or someone special in your local bridge world, or promote your bridge club or business. These dollars will offset costs incurred by D21 to host the 2019 SF Nationals. (Payment must be received prior to printing deadlines noted below.)

Please act ASAP if you want your named event to be included on the four-page San Francisco NABC schedule distributed nationally by ACBL. Deadline for the 1st printing by ACBL is 2/15; 2nd printing is 8/15. This schedule with your named event will also be posted on the ACBL website and in the NABC Daily Bulletins. Event naming can occur up to the day before the event, to be published only in the NABC Daily Bulletins.

In addition, your named event will appear in the full-color "Schedule and Restaurant Guide" included in the Registration Packet received by more than 5,000 players at the San Francisco NABC. Printing deadline is 10/1.

Choose the Level of Naming Rights to Fit Your Wishes!

- ♦ \$2,500 An entire day named
- ♠ \$500 Naming rights for a Regional 4-session KO event
- ♥ \$350 Naming rights for a Regional 2-session event, including Open Pairs, Gold Rush Pairs, Swiss Teams and Compact Knockouts
- ♦ \$250 Naming rights for a 3-Session Side Game Series
- ♣ \$150 Naming rights for a 1-Session (Intermediate/Novice) event or a 1-session Open event (Pairs or Teams) or a 1-Session midnight Swiss or Knockout team game

**IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN NAMING AN EVENT,
PLEASE CONTACT JEAN BARRY, Finance Chair
Email: jbarry.d21@gmail.com, Phone: 925-209-9893**

California Capital Regional

May 27 - June 2, 2019

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
- Mid Flight Pairs Wed - Friday
- 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
- 0-5 mp's play free 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

Matt Koltnow - Director in Charge

ACBL Sanction R1906041



at the **DoubleTree Hotel**
2001 Point West Way
Sacramento, CA 95815
Capital Freeway (Bus. 80) @ Arden Way

Reserve **EARLY** for the
BRIDGE RATE
\$109 single/double plus tax
\$149 for Cal Expo Wing

limited number of rooms available

916-929-8855
800-222-TREE

Intermediate/Newcomer Events

299er Pairs Every Day
(stratified based on attendance)

**Bridge Concepts Lectures
with Scott Campbell**

Tues-Sat at Noon

Free game for 0-5mp's Sat. 1:00

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.

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

Like us on FACEBOOK www.facebook.com/d21acbl

California Capital Regional

May 27 - June 2, 2019

at the DoubleTree Hotel in Sacramento

Monday May 27

- 1:00 Folsom Mon-Wed Side Pairs, 1st of 6
299er Stratified Pairs
- 1 & 7 **STRATIFIED OPEN PAIRS 0-1500/1500-3000/3000+**
AMERICAN RIVER GOLD PAIRS 0-300/750
- 7:00 **AUBURN BRACKETED KOs**
Continues Tuesday 9, 1 & 7
Folsom Mon-Wed Side Pairs, 2nd of 6
299er Stratified Pairs

Tuesday May 28

- 9:00 AUBURN KOs – round 2
River Cats Morning Side Pairs 1st of 5
299er Stratified Pairs
- 10 & 3 **OPEN PAIRS 0-1500/1500-3000/3000+**
TUESDAY DAYLIGHT GOLD PAIRS 0-300/750
- 1:00 Folsom Mon-Wed Side Pairs, 3rd of 6
299er Stratified Pairs
- 1 & 7 **STRATIFIED OPEN PAIRS**
EL DORADO BRACKETED KOs
rounds 1&2 Continues Wednesday 1 & 7
AUBURN KOs – rounds 3 & 4
- 7:00 Stratified Swiss Teams
299er Stratified Pairs
Folsom Mon-Wed Side Pairs 4th of 6

Wednesday May 29

- 9:00 **EUREKA SWISS TEAMS** 1st of 2
River Cats Morning Side Pairs 2nd of 5
299er Stratified Pairs
- 10 & 3 **WEDNESDAY DAYLIGHT PAIRS**
- 1:00 Folsom Mon-Wed Side Pairs, 5th of 6
299er Stratified Pairs
- 1 & 7 **STRATIFIED OPEN PAIRS 0-5000/5000+**
STRATIFIED MID-FLIGHT PAIRS 0-1500/1500-3000
PLACER GOLD PAIRS 0-300/750
SIERRA BRACKETED KOs 1 & 2
Continues Thursday 1 & 7
EL DORADO KOs – rounds 3 & 4
- 7:00 Stratified Swiss Teams
299er Stratified Pairs
Folsom Mon-Wed Side Pairs 6th of 6

Thursday May 30 GOODWILL DAY

- 9:00 EUREKA SWISS TEAMS – 2nd of 2
River Cats Morning Side Pairs 3rd of 5
299er Stratified Pairs
- 10 & 3 **JACKIE MATTHEWS DAYLIGHT PAIRS**
- 1:00 Capital Thu-Sat Side Pairs, 1st of 6
299er Stratified Pairs
- 1 & 7 **STRATIFIED OPEN PAIRS 0-5000/5000+**
STRATIFIED MID-FLIGHT PAIRS 0-1500/1500-3000
PLACER GOLD PAIRS 0-300/750
KINGS BRACKETED KOs rounds 1 & 2,
Continues Friday 1 & 7
SIERRA KOs – rounds 3 & 4
- 7:00 Stratified Swiss Teams
299er Stratified Pairs
Capital Thu-Sat Side Pairs 2nd of 6

Friday May 31

- 9:00 **JOHN SUTTER SWISS TEAMS** 1st of 2
River Cats Morning Side Pairs 4th of 5
299er Stratified Pairs
- 10 & 3 **FRIDAY DAYLIGHT PAIRS**
- 1:00 Capital Thu-Sat Side Pairs, 3rd of 6
299er Stratified Pairs
- 1 & 7 **STRATIFIED OPEN PAIRS 0-5000/5000+**
STRATIFIED MID-FLIGHT PAIRS 0-1500/1500-3000
PLACER GOLD PAIRS 0-300/750
DELTA COMPACT KOs
KINGS KOs - rounds 3 & 4
- 7:00 Stratified Swiss Teams
299er Stratified Pairs
Capital Thu-Sat Side Pairs 4th of 6

Saturday June 1

- 9:00 JOHN SUTTER SWISS TEAMS – 2nd of 2
River Cats Morning Side Pairs 5th of 5
299er Stratified Pairs
- 10 & 3 **SATURDAY OPEN PAIRS 0-1500/1500-3000/3000+**
GOLD RUSH SWISS 0-300/750
- 1:00 FREE GAME 0-5 mp's (attendance permitting)
Capital Thu-Sat Side Pairs 5th of 6
299er Stratified Pairs
- 1 & 7 **CALIFORNIA CAPITAL OPEN SWISS TEAMS**
Two qualifying sessions Saturday
Two final sessions Sunday
STRATIFIED OPEN PAIRS
OPEN BRACKETED TEAMS
- 7:00 Stratified Swiss Teams
Capital Thu-Sat Side Pairs 6th of 6
299er Stratified Pairs

Sunday June 2

EARLY START - 10am - PLAY THRU **with a short break**

CALIFORNIA SWISS CHAMPIONSHIP finals **STRATIFIED A/X SWISS TEAMS**

Strat A 4000+ Strat X 0-4000

0-3000 mp Bracketed Swiss Teams

•No individual player over 3000 mp

•Typically brackets of eight, three gold overall places per bracket.

•Teams may not withdraw after one session.

SENIOR SWISS TEAMS(60 years+)

STRATIFIED OPEN FAST PAIRS, 1st and 2nd

10am and TBA

299er Swiss Teams & 299ers Stratified Pairs

two single sessions

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

Stratified Events Key Unless otherwise posted.

A 2500+ B 1000 – 2500 C 0 - 1000

Eligibility is based on masterpoint total of top player.
Stratification is determined by average of pair/team

KO Events with only one Bracket may be Handicapped

RANK UPGRADES

JUNIOR MASTERS

Whitney Applegate, Carmichael CA, 505
Daniel Bergerac, San Francisco CA, 506
Golda Boeck, Belvedere CA, 508
Dorsey Braunstein, Saratoga CA, 507
Micheline Brown, Sacramento CA, 505
Bill Carroll, Mariposa CA, 522
Jennifer Caulfield, San Francisco CA, 506
Lois Decius, Napa CA, 512
Karen Driscoll, Walnut Creek CA, 499
Carl Ebeling, Redwood City CA, 498
Geoffrey Fletcher, Tiburon CA, 508
Judy Forman, Rancho Murieta CA, 505
Ronald Forney, Lafayette CA, 499
Kenneth Girouard, Aptos CA, 550
Beryl Greenberg, Los Gatos CA, 507
Herm Greenberg, Los Gatos CA, 507
Jared Jacobs, Aromas CA, 550
Margo Leahy, San Francisco CA, 506
Ralph Lyle, Morgan Hill CA, 524
William Mentzer, Larkspur CA, 508
Jimmy Moore, Mariposa CA, 522
Ann Moser, Martinez CA, 499
Diane Piedemonte, San Mateo CA, 498
Bebe Pierce, San Carlos CA, 498
Suzanne Rhudy, Ashland OR, 501
John Stremel, San Jose CA, 507
Kathy Vita, San Jose CA, 507

CLUB MASTERS

Sharon Call, Sausalito CA, 508
Charlie Chen, San Jose CA, 507
Stephen Clark, Walnut Creek CA, 499
Rebecca Eddy, Windsor CA, 509
Patricia English, El Macero CA, 505
Mike Ghosh, Walnut Creek CA, 499
Irving Googins, Pleasanton CA, 499
Pamela Hoffman, San Rafael CA, 508
Joann Hollenbeck, Fresno CA, 522
Phil Humphreys, Portola Valley CA, 503
Jeanne Johnston, Gilroy CA, 524
Aaron Jones, Menlo Park CA, 503
Edward Kozlowski, San Rafael CA, 508
Ben Kutnick, Petaluma CA, 509
Eileen Kutnick, Petaluma CA, 509
Jeanmarie Mariadassou, Saratoga CA, 507
Christine McMahan, Alameda CA, 502
William Moorhouse, Tiburon CA, 508
Melanie Pereira, Danville CA, 499
Paul Phelps, San Rafael CA, 508
Melvin Pincus, San Mateo CA, 498
Tad Quayle, Rio Vista CA, 512
Annette Ruby, Fair Oaks CA, 505
Fataneh Scampa, San Francisco CA, 506
Eric Stolzberg, Santa Cruz CA, 550
Rita Sturgeon, Pacific Grove CA, 530
Audrey Wagman, Piedmont CA, 502
Catherine Wilkins, Kingsburg CA, 522

SECTIONAL MASTERS

Lorraine Bocks, Legrand CA, 529
Christine Forter, Mountain View CA, 503
Barbara Huse, Hollister CA, 524
Cheryl Johnson, Fresno CA, 522
Meiling Lai, Antioch CA, 499
Stephen May, So Lake Tahoe CA, 465
Carroll Mayer, Aptos CA, 550
Joann Newton, Walnut Creek CA, 499
Sandra Rusconi, Elk Grove CA, 505
Rony Tal, El Cerrito CA, 497
Linda Walker, Walnut Creek CA, 499

REGIONAL MASTERS

Devlin Delaney, Pacifica CA, 498
Mark Kogan, Orinda CA, 499
Cathy Priest, Portola Valley CA, 503
Richard Salvas, Livermore CA, 501
Marilyn Schaeffer, Benicia CA, 512
Gail Sickler, Petaluma CA, 508
Sunil Singh, San Francisco CA, 506
Dmitri Stukalov, Palo Alto CA, 503
Terry Wassmann, Walnut Creek CA, 499

NABC MASTERS

Joanne Cornbleet, Saratoga CA, 507
Kathryn Houk, Fairfield CA, 512
Jesse James, Roseville CA, 505
Walter Jones, Stockton CA, 510
Steven Merritt, Incline Village NV, 465
Dolly Musey, San Mateo CA, 503
Judy Orchard, Placerville CA, 505
Kevin Patterson, Hayward CA, 500

ADVANCED NABC MASTER

Donghui Lu, San Jose CA, 507
Robert McHugh, San Francisco CA, 506

LIFE MASTERS

NORMAN DOW, GILROY CA, 524
JUDY KAPLAN, SARATOGA CA, 507
MICHAEL STAMBAUGH, FREMONT CA, 500

BRONZE LIFE MASTERS

Philip Essig, Santa Rosa CA, 509
Carolyn Farren, Larkspur CA, 508
Bill Legler, Orinda CA, 499
John Shick, Rio Vista CA, 512

SILVER LIFE MASTER

Robert Chilvers, San Rafael CA, 508

GOLD LIFE MASTERS

Richard Bellerose, San Francisco CA, 506
Joye Sidoti, Oakland CA, 502

RUBY LIFE MASTERS

Susan Eastman, Walnut Creek CA, 499
Betty Kael, Oakland CA, 502
Sheela Wani, Modesto CA, 529

SAPPHIRE LIFE MASTERS

Daniel Kroll, Berkeley CA, 497
Anthony Trebaol, Milpitas CA, 507



Bridge Summer Camp



Do you know a 5th - 10th grader who likes games?



WHEN Monday, June 24th to Friday, June 28th
1:00 to 5:00 PM instruction and play daily
Friday special pizza party and tournament with prizes!

WHERE IFES Hall 432 Stierlin Road, Mountain View, CA

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<u>Diablo Valley</u>	<u>499</u>	<u>Lisa Assoni</u>
<u>East Bay</u>	<u>502</u>	<u>Marcia Wasserman</u>
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Berkeley/El Cerrito/Richmond

By The Beer Dude

Hope ya got yer taxes in & are getting \$\$ back from the Uncles. I filed before I went to HI & had refunds before I took off (the wonder of electronix vs. snail mail!). BBQ Swiss coming 5/18 – as I write, I have 4-6 spots open, so call/e-mail me ASAP if you wanna play – cutoff date is May 15. Off to the rest I go.

2 unit games, both on the small side. Wed 3/27 drew 6 tables; Fri 4/5 drew 6.5. Sandi Davis & Carol Scott topped 3/27 by 0.5 matchpoint over upstarts Roger Edelson & George Proper (2A/1B); Jack Shiffer & Aki 3/4A along w/Prez Joyce & Ercan. 9 days later, Carol Scott & “H” topped it; Tamms 2A/1B, Esther Schroeder 3-4A/2B; Joyce & Trudie 3/4A; Dolores Mackinnon & Chet Young 5A/3B/5A-2B, Lamar & Dick 4/5A, and Dolores Mackinnon & Chet Young 3B. May games are Fri 3rd & the aforementioned BBQ Swiss. STaC Games Wed/Fri 8/10 – come on in to chase the silver you lack to hit LM! If you need Gold, head for Sacramento Regional 5/28-6/2 (Check D21 Website for game schedules, which ran in a previous issue of DITR).

Welcome new member Patricia Anderson, plus transfer-in Michael Gerson from La Jolla Beach; adieu to Mingyang Zhou, who moved to Taiwan & into U 999 (International). No rank advancers, but a lot of you need to get your dues renewals in – the unit gets a kickback from those, which helps us subsidize the games you play in so to keep prices low. Save \$\$ if you renew for 3 yrs, which I have to do soon (been doing that for at least 20 yrs).

At da club, Sandi was the March LM champ; George Proper topped the NLMs (I hope he doesn't shout it out @ a club game – his voice could wake up a cemetery!) (George, I can't resist - & I know you won't take offense). Club championship game is Wed. 5/15 (moved back from normal 2nd Wed. due to STaC). Longest Day Wed. Jun 19 (all the “gate” goes to ALZ charity; table fees \$7; I take no director fee – contribute extra if you so desire). Our best to

Larry Zeni, Board member & one of my relief directors for a speedy recovery from his recent blood/circulatory system issues, which took his docs a long time to diagnose. Hoist a glass of wine or a beer to him – his current meds preclude his ingestion thereof for awhile.

Before I go: 1NT forcing – the best “what the hell to do?” bid as an unpassed hand (regardless of strength) to have in your arsenal (whether you play 2/1 or not is irrelevant!) after pard opens 1-major (1NT is semi-forcing after 3rd-seat opener). The idea is to find out what pard has. ACBL Learn has lots of info for FREE on this – my advice to newbies is to learn that convention BEFORE tackling 2/1, which 1NT forcing is a major component of. That some places are teaching 2/1 to newbies appalls me – ya gotta learn the basics before you up your game unless you're a math-whiz <25-30. I could fill up a lot of pages w/tales of my HS bridge club 1966-7 (spawned from the Math Club) – you may see one here occasionally – from the luddite analog days (TMI was not an option!).

Have a good time in Sacto if you go - & may the Warriors survive losing Cousins, plus getting “black & tanned” (NBA refs no longer wear “zebra” shirts) far too often (especially Curry) to get a 3-peat! May the Sharks still be around by the time this hits your inbox.

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

Diablo Valley

By Lisa Assoni/The ShortCut Cook

May Medley. Spring is the time of year when the flowers bloom and we try to sing to an upbeat tune! The warmer weather, sunshine galore, let's try and play bridge more. With indoor air-conditioning, comfy chairs, we team together in hopes of becoming a great pair, playing mind games that will surely keep your



brain on the speed bullet train. So, this organ needs to be exercised too, so keep your mind on the game and your dedication to your well being. There may be side effects in the air, as allergies turn your nose into a war zone. But, there's relief, come to the bridge center and keep your cool. That's where even your nose can find relief, too.

As some of you may have noticed, I am now writing as The ShortCut Cook. That's my register mark, and I've worked hard to earn that title. It does revolve around food, but so do most things. I've emphasized how important a healthy meal can help improve your game. So gobble up the veggies, fruits, nuts, and proteins.

There's no cookie cutter in this game of bridge. Each hand presents a different challenge, and requires your utmost attention. Don't scramble about trying to decipher what to do. Time is of the essence, and directors can be called, so get on the ball, and bid something.

DID YOU KNOW that our summer sectional is set for June 29 and 30? For some of us, this location is just perfect, the driving is easy. So hold that date, mark it on your calendar, and make arrangements for a partner. Don't forget to gather up a Swiss team too. As always, the food and fun will all be served-up, just for YOU! Then the big November, our fall sectional. I'll write more about this delicious, yummy play date. Food, fun, and a heap load of bridge.

If you're reading this column, I would love to know. Let the folks who so diligently compiled information to help us all. These dedicated people need to know that their input is appreciated. We all work hard for NO MONEY.

Ciao Bella

East Bay

By Marcia Wasserman

There is nothing more heartwarming than to see a father/son team at a bridge game, especially when the son is only 8 years old. Brian Zhang, along with his father, Qiang, played in one of our unit games last month. Brian told the director that he used to

play chess but didn't find it challenging enough, so he switched to bridge. Not only did he play, he and his father scratched.

Another thing that is heartwarming is when families do things together on Sunday afternoons – like going to the Oakland Zoo. Unfortunately, in this case it makes for a terrible parking situation as the East Bay Community Bridge Center is within walking distance from the zoo. Since it is in our mission to serve our members, the board of Unit 502 has agreed to move the unit games from 1:00 on the 1st and 3rd Sundays each month to 12:00. The EBCBC is also moving the regular Sunday games to noon.

Hopefully, that will help with the parking situation and don't worry, lunch will still be served. A special thanks goes out to JJ Kael who allowed players to use his driveway to park one Sunday. Although it might have been an inconvenience for the family, they were quite gracious in allowing players to park there avoiding potential long walks.

During the month of May, several special events are planned at the East Bay Community Bridge Center, 9520 Mountain Blvd. May 6-12 is ST@C week, with a special Sunday ST@C game. Sunday, May 19 is a Pizza Swiss. This event always sells out, so reservations are mandatory. Contact Joseph Held at jph3@pacbell.net for reservations.

Please make note of the following schedule change: The Bracketed Swiss Teams game originally planned for May 11 is being cancelled so that it doesn't conflict with the Russell Rector memorial service. Needless to say, we were all shocked and saddened to hear about Russell's sudden passing. Details about the memorial service should be available at the EBCBC before May 11.

All weekend games will be at noon, including this special Saturday game. For more information about Unit 502 events, please go to our website (www.eastbayunit-502.com). Moving ahead to June, the East Bay Sectional will be June 22 and 23. Don't miss it – the games are fun and the food is phenomenal.

March 31 was the 90th day of 2019, so our club, the EBCBC, marked the event by celebrating those players who are 90+ years young. In attendance,

from left to right, were Trudie Sinclair, Joyce and Dave Denyven, and Faith Hall.



Speaking of Sunday games, the March unit game results are in. In the March 3rd unit championship, Teresa Boyd and Grant Robinson came in first North/South as well as first overall with Betty Kael and Susan Boyers coming in second North/South. Foster Tom and Doug Couchman came in first East/West with Marcia Wasserman and Andy Wasserman coming in second.

On March 17 Bonnie Macbride and Sidney Mar came in first North/South as well as first overall with Neal Mazaroff and Stuart Schneck coming in second. East/West was Lois Flock and Sarla Purohit coming in first and Peter Bonfanti and Grant Vance coming in second. Please congratulate them when next you see them.

Another reason for congratulations is the newest rankings of our members. Cynthia Hull is our newest Junior Master. Margaret Garms and Jason Leith are new Club Masters, Kathy Wolf is our newest Life Master. Please congratulate them all.

Last, but certainly not least, we have the winners of the 2018 Mini McKenney and Ace of Clubs awards. Ace of Clubs: 0-5 Jolanda Heijnen; 5-20 Eric Lindquist; 20-50 Richard Springer; 50-100 Don Levine; 100-200 Robert Kaplan; 200-300

Herb Chung; 300-500 Kathy Wolf; 500-1000 Susan Boyers; 1000-1500 David Cartwright; 1500-2500 David Snyder; 2500-3500 Edwin Seputis; 3500-5000 Kit Humphrey; 5000-7500 Ravi Bhalla; and 7500-10000 Nick Wiebe.

Mini McKenney: 0-5 Jolanda Heijnen; 5-20 Eric Lindquist; 20-50 Richard Springer; 50-100 Jacob Karstens; 100-200 Robert Kaplan; 200-300 Herb Chung; 300-500 Kathy Wolf; 500-1000 Susan Boyers; 1000-1500 David Cartwright; 1500-2500 Joye Sidoti; 2500-3500 Jessica Lai; 3500-5000 Stephen Kennedy; 5000-7500 Eric Leong; and 7500-10000 Chris Barrere.

Larry Bowerman is writing the June column, so please contact him (at lmjtbow@pacbell.net) if you have noteworthy results or other items to report.

Fresno

By Laura Da Costa

Hello Everyone,

Saturday, March 2 was a memorial held in honor of Wally Wallace at the Oakhurst clubhouse. A nice potluck lunch, a short sermon, and some touching reminiscences by family and friends occurred before a special game. Nine tables played for free, though donations of over \$400 were collected for Unit 522's beginning bridge lessons in Wally's honor.

There were a couple special Sunday games in the Fresno clubhouse in March, 3 ½ tables participated in an ACBL Charity game on 3/10. This is the charity for the ACBL that will allow us to choose our own local charity for the anniversary game in April. The winning pair was Richard Meffley & Victor Greener.

On Sunday, March 17 there was an impromptu St. Patrick's Day party and unit championship. There were 7 tables participating; the winners were (N/S) Robert Durbrow & Belva Quattrin and (E/W & Overall) Gerard Laquerriere & Mun Takeda.

May's activities include the traditional Peggy Ochs Memorial game on Sunday the 5th. This is the day in which we honor the players from Unit 522 who have died since our last Memorial game. This was a very hard year as we will be remembering Wanda Cardella, Bev Daniels, Lorraine Elia, Terri Grootendorst, Pat Huston, Barbara Kelley, Laura Lum, Margaret Mahaffey, Jean Moats, Wilson "Wally" Wallace, & Carol Willoughby.

There is a potluck lunch at noon and a unit championship game at 1 pm.

Mun Takeda has been holding a monthly lesson for beginners and intermediate players on conventions we should all know. She is now doing both a Tuesday morning and Thursday evening session on the same topic so that all have a chance to attend. Look out for topics and dates at the clubhouse. Fees for this game are donated to the unit (thanks Mun).

We had many 70% games in March; all were in Fresno and most seem to involve the same set of people. Quite a few involve Victor Greener (welcome back to Fresno, Victor). He and partner Mark Stern earned a 71.76% in the Monday afternoon game on 3/04, then Victor and partner Lowell Gist did it twice with a 70.14% in the Wednesday evening game on 3/20 and 70.83% in the Friday afternoon game two days later (3/22). Mun Takeda & Gerard Laquerriere also did it twice with a 70.54% in the previously mentioned St. Patrick's Day game and a 70.6% in the Friday afternoon game on 3/29.

Another duo with two are Fred Schellack & Walt Kelso who had a 74.6% in the Tuesday evening 99er game on 3/12 and exactly 70% in the same game on 3/26. Others who achieved 70% were Robert Heisdorf & Edward Hampton with 75% in the Tuesday evening 99er game on 3/5, and Bill Glass & James Sweet with a 71.88% in the Wednesday evening game on 3/27.

A big welcome to new Unit 522 member Edward Keller of Fresno.

New free sessions of Easybridge! 1 & 2 will start up in May...tell a friend.

Livermore Valley

By Rosemarie LaFrancesca

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.

Marin

By Gail Haar

We have several new and new to us members in our unit this month –James Bryant, Michelle Dimmick, Barbara Johnson, Laurie Kahn, Diana Nicoll and James Swanson. Be sure to greet them warmly when you meet them



at the table. Congratulations to our members who have advanced a rank –Beverly Stamper, Sherri Sugarman and Julie Wong (Junior Master), Naomi Spiegelman (Regional Master), Anita Marcus (NABC Master) and Nani Ranken (Silver Life Master).

Ten over 70% games this month. Too many to list, but congratulations to all the pairs involved – you know who you are! The unit team winners in March were Treva Zarlengo & Nancy Zakim and the April winners were Bob Thompson and his partner.

The Marin Sectional was a triumph. We seated 221 tables, which was 28 more players than last year! Especially gratifying was the increase in the number of novice tables. Thanks to many people, including Judy Leedy, Sectional Chair; Andrea Ventris, Partnership Chair; and Peggy Tatro, who suggested changing the point range for the novice section 0-5 to 0-20 points. Thanks also to the many members of our unit who donated food, cash and time.



Marin Section Tournament site



John Graham (98), Edie Glynn (98), and Bob Houston (103)



Marin Section volunteers

It was a special day in May when we celebrated the 98th birthday of Edie Glynn with a delicious cake. She was joined by two of our still older players for a combined total of 299 years! Let's see, if they started playing when they were 20, that's 239 bridge playing years if my math is right. (Usually I only have to count to 13.)

Save the date. Fuldek will host a "Longest Day" game on Wednesday June 19. Plan to play bridge and support a worthy cause.

The San Francisco NABC is coming this fall from November 28 through December 8. Lots more information will be available soon, but for now mark your calendars to be where the bridge action is on Tuesday December 3 when our unit will be providing volunteers for the different desks. Stints

will be short and concentrated because the idea is that everyone will be able to both volunteer and play.

With the new electronic format of the unit columns, we're able to easily add photographs. If you have a digital picture taken at a club event that you want to share, just send it along. My contact information is in the Unit Directory (available for a mere \$2 from the club directors) or send them to marinunit508@gmail.com to my attention!

I should check with our senior players to see if they agree with this month's quote. "Bridge is a great comfort in your old age. It also helps you get there faster." Stay tuned.

Modesto/Merced/Sonora

By Gail Vick

During the last half of March's club games, overall winners were: Sheela Wani & Ray Adams 66.30% 1st in A; Libby Longstreth & Galen Neptune 57.76% 1st in B; Jaime Hamilton & Don Weld 56.25%, 1st in C; Sunday's Beginner Intermediate Club games overall winners were Libby Longstreth & Mike Saeler 60.37%, 1st in A; Sherrie Barakatt & Jeff Gaudio 58.89%, 1st in B; Alan Beban & Jaime Hamilton 55.19%, 1st in C.



Club game overall winners for the first half of April were: Ralph Jungwirth & Lee Maddocks, 1st in A 68.93%; Sharon Cole & Garrad Marsh took 1st in both B & C divisions with 65.74%, as well as pulling off a solid win of 1st across the board on the same day. The once a month beginner club game was won by Marilyn Tallent & Pete Hoy across the board for 1st, 68.13%, followed by Wendy Summers & Maureen Webster for 2nd across the board.

April unit game overall winners were Trelle Uhl & Ralph Jungwirth 1st in A with 67.31% and Barb Page & Gail Vick 1st in both B & C divisions.

The first Sunday in May, the unit will have a Pro Am game. Sign-ups are at the bridge center and with either Roger Smith or Judy Remmers.

Our sectional was another winner, thanks to Jackie & Roland Wilson for the great venue, along with Barb Page & Bruce Ruskin for their organizational skills and hard work in putting the event and food together, as well as all the donations and food from members of our club, who also worked diligently in preparation and clean-up. A unit that works together accomplishes a lot, and that is exactly what Modesto did.

Overall winners in the Modesto Sectional from Modesto, for Saturday Morning Open Pairs were: Jackie & Roland Wilson 3rd in A, Sheela Wani & Ray Adams 6th in A, Barb Page & Gail Vick 4th in B, 2nd in C, Margaret Quinn & Joyce Rudesill 5th in B, Pamela & John Mayne 6th in B, Libby Longstreth & Chris Barkley 3rd in C, Pam Sands & Dee Alexander 4th in C, Sherrie Barakatt & Lorraine Bocks tied for 5th & 6th in C, in the 99ers, Terry Sciabica & Jeff Gaudio 1st in D & E, and Marcia Eblen & Jaime Hamilton 1st in F. Saturday Afternoon Open Pairs, Bruce Ruskin & Chris Brown 1st in A, Lee Maddocks & Frank Frohman 3rd in A, Sheela Wani & Ray Adams 5th in A, Dave Terry & George Loscalzo 4th in B, Christine Barkley & Libby Longstreth 3rd in C, Sherrie Barakatt & Lorraine Bocks 4th in C, Sharon Cole & Garrad Marsh 5th in C, and in the 99ers Peder Hoy & Nancy Lily 1st in D. Sunday Swiss Teams overall were Roland & Jackie Wilson with Trelle Uhl & Ralph Jungwirth 6th in A, Ray Adams & Sheela Wani along with their partners 7th in A, Sharon Cole & Garrad Marsh with

Mike Gutowski & Fred Fellows tied for 3rd & 4th in B and 2nd & 3rd in C.

For the next few months, the Sunday Beginning/Intermediate Group will be run by Barbara Page with lessons from Ray Adams. Presently Ray Adams is in the Veterans Hospital in Vancouver, Washington, as much to all of our astonishment, Ray has undergone a kidney transplant in the VA Hospital in Portland, Oregon, and is doing fine, already up on his feet! He needs to rest and get the kidney pumping with rehabilitation, so he will be out for about three months. I am sure a big welcome back party will be ready for him by the Sunday group, when he returns! Should you want to contact him, his survival address is VA Transplant & Oncology Lodge, 1604 E. 4TH Plain Blvd., Bldg. 18, Vancouver, WA 98661, Ray Adam. Make sure that you address his name, at the bottom under the city/state, and he also has an e-mail up there, blindberlin@gmail.com. Ray also said that he has already lost about 30 pounds, an all-new Ray, when he returns. I am sure everyone is hoping for a speedy recovery and sending out get well wishes and prayers.

Monterey

By Mary Block

Welcome to new/reinstated members Adrian Murillo and Janice Akin. We have just a few rank changes to report this month: Mary Castagna is now a Junior Master. Judith Ritchie has reached the status of Advanced NABC Master. Charles Rauch is now a Life Master. Congratulations and keep it up!

The major upcoming event is the sectional, Friday-Sunday, May 17-19. The schedule includes pair events both morning and afternoon sessions on Friday and Saturday. There are Swiss Teams all day Sunday, with a pair event in the morning. Lunch tickets will be sold for Sunday. Volunteers are needed for set-up and take-down, as well as providing food; sign up at the Bridge Center. This sectional is noted for our fine hospitality and many players come from surrounding areas. The schedule is posted on-line and on the wall at the

Bridge Center.

This will be the last sectional in our Bridge Center, so there will be an element of nostalgia. We have all enjoyed this venue for so many years and have so many memories. The search team is still working on finding us a new venue, taking into account many different factors, both financial and logistical.

The first full week in May is STAC week, so extra silver points are available. Premium points are possible with high scores compared with other games at the same time in the region.

Twenty-seven bridge players traveled with Lyde to the regional in Victoria, B.C. Glen Chee and David Ow were the big winners, earning ten gold points.

Lyde is in the middle of teaching a series of classes on conventions, including 2/1 Simplified. The classes are from 2:45-4:45 Wednesday afternoons. Sign up at the Bridge Center.

Elections for the Unit Board of Directors will take place in May-June, with voting at the Bridge Center. Pat Heller is in charge of nominations. Contact her at hellerpatricia@yahoo.com or 422-1766. The results will be announced on Sunday, June 23 at the annual membership meeting. This is a unit game.

Reminder to NLM players: if you play in the Tuesday morning game, you receive a \$2 discount when you also play in Doug's open game in the afternoon.

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

I've been writing this column for 7 years now and this is a first for me. This is being written from 35,000 ft. as we're on our way to New York City. I thought the gravity pull on my brain would be less at this altitude and I would be



able to write something interesting, but so far that hasn't been the case.

The big event of the year was in March as we celebrated everyone's favorite Holiday of St. Patrick's Day with a game in Napa and fantastic corned beef cooked by Sheila Malinowski. Sigrid Price contributed her yummy colcannon dish. A few days earlier, we had another celebration in Sonoma as Marge Sheridan did her usual great job with the decorations. Only 322 days until next St. Patrick's Day.

The March winning teams resembled the February winning teams a lot. Tom Jacobson continued his winning ways with 6 more wins even though he was on a trip to Egypt for a couple of those weeks. We're looking at the possibility that he may have consulted with the Aliens that built the Pyramids while he was there and acquired some advanced knowledge. In Sonoma, Tom won 3 times with 3 different partners that included Gerry Fox, Kate Hill, and Panette Talia. Other winners were Marsha Horowitz & Sherry Shone, Dan Harp & Phil Shoemaker, Don Powell & Jeffrey Reid, Molly Johnston & Betsy Bolen, and John Kozero & Gary Robinson.

Tom also picked up 2 wins in Napa with Panette. Gerry Fox & Molly Johnston, Barbara Lemme & Adrienne Varin, and Sigrid Price & Russell Quinnell were also in the winners circle. The unit games went to Gerry & Tom and Don Powell & Gary Henry.

The 4 games in Rio Vista also had a double winner and that was the team of Tad Quayle & Robert Wiskotzil. Alan Morris & John Shick, and Sue Vogtlin & Tim Crew won the other two.

There was a lot of good times in the Tuesday 499er game as Dennis Sturdevant & Brooke Farkas won twice and had a 70% game. Carole Terry & Gail Silvestri had a 70% game for a win and tied for another first place finish with Dick Hale & Willa Mundell.

Congratulations to Richard Tebay for achieving Silver Life Master with his 1000th point and John Shick who reached Bronze Life Master with his 500th point!

Palo Alto

By Carolyn Chaney

May is a busy month at Unit 503. We will be hosting our Non-Life-Master Sectional (Silver Points!) on May 18-19, featuring pairs games for 49ers, 299ers, and 749ers (YES!) on Saturday plus pairs and Swiss Teams on Sunday. For more info and sign-up, check our website under “events.” Or contact the tournament and partnership chairs: Anne Keyser apkeyser@aol.com or Ying Liu yingliu988@gmail.com. For ACBL members, \$12 per session with half price for students under age 26. Bag lunches only \$7 if ordered by May 15. Be sure to sign up soon, because only 45 tables are available.

Speaking of silver points, STaC week is coming up May 6-12. This sectional tournament at clubs offers opportunities to earn silver points right at our favorite clubs. You may not realize this, but our Unit 503 has many games that are, technically speaking, clubs. That is why we don't see “Palo Alto” listed in the ACBL as a club with big membership; our games are all counted as separate clubs by the ACBL. But you can enjoy STaC week at all of our games...er, clubs.

Other events on the 503 May calendar are: Free lecture on Control Bids by Brian Samuels on May 7 and one on Tips and Tricks for Slams by Sarah Youngquist on May 21. Our lectures begin at 9:30 and are all uploaded to our website, if you miss one. Unit games are on May 11 (pairs) and May 26 (Swiss). C'mon down and enjoy our brand new bidding box inserts (Thanks Geeske!) and clean boxes (Thanks, lovely helpers!).

Have you checked out our fabulous bridge library, supported by the Peninsula Bridge Education Foundation? Unit members may check out up to two books at a time before and after games. The library key is available from Val Baldwin, Fran Bennett or any director. Our library works on the honor system. Unfortunately,



a recent audit shows that there are sixty books which have been taken without checking them out. If you have one of these books, please bring it home, so that everyone can enjoy it as much as you did.

If you haven't read the Bridge Bulletin cover-to-cover, you may have missed the final results of the 2018 masterpoint races. Kudos to the six local SiVY players who were ranked in the top 25 youth players in the ACBL: Sarah Youngquist; Brent Xiao; Cornelius Duffie; Rory Xiao; Stella Q. Wan; Michael Hu. In the pic, our Unit President Dan Thatte honors Sarah, who won both our unit's Ace of Clubs and the Mini-McKenney races.



Sarah Youngquist and Dan Thatte

If you saw me at a recent game, you may noticed my hugely black eye. Although I got it by falling into my own front door, I am having fun saying that my partner did it because I trumped her Ace. If you are easily grossed out, beware, I'm told this shiner could last for months.

Reno

By Judith Robyns

Our March sectional was a success. The table count was up this year. There were 145 players who earned master points. The top winners from the Reno club were: Charlotte Falk, 23.82; Lin Goldstein, 19.34; Mark Lundblad, 14.9; Cats Connell and Catherine Johnson, 12.25. Congratulations to all who earned points.

Thanks to all who attended. There were about 40 people who came from out of town. The 499er pairs and the single sessions seemed to be popular. We are planning two more sectionals this year. There will be a non-life master sectional tournament at our club in Reno on June 30. There will be an open sectional August 14-17 at the Nugget in Sparks. Mark your calendar with these dates.

We have some great news for our club. We have received a generous donation and have obtained a new facility for our club. It will be ready for play later this year after the renovations are completed. It will be known as The Mathewson Bridge Center. It has about twice as much space as our present facility. The parking is much improved. We are excited about getting into our new place.

Also congratulations to the following members who have achieved new ranks this month: Erna Bailey, Phyllis Blackwell and Madeline Soo are new Junior Masters and Paul Ferber is a new NABC Master.

Sacramento

By Miriam Steinberg

You probably have realized by now that everyone has a different opinion on what playing good bridge means. So I decided to take a sampling from some local teachers and good players to learn about their favorite systems, agreements or conventions that are essential to their game.



I started by asking local instructor Ted Muller, who apparently uses a lot of agreements with partner Albert Chow that are too complicated to explain in this space. However, he did share that they prefer playing Reverse Drury in all positions, which prevents the auction from getting too high when opener has a bad hand. That way you can shut out the bidding at the two level in your major. Thus, 1S/2C forces opener to bid 2D. Responder bids 2S with a limit raise in spades. If instead, he really has at least 5 clubs and 4 hearts, he would respond 2H. If he has a 6 card club suit with 10-12 points, he would bid 3C.

John Hughes, who teaches at the SBC, has several favorites. "I like Flannery," he said, "Although I know it is out of favor with a lot of people. (Opening 2D shows 5 hearts and 4 spades and 11-15 or 16 points). "I feel the 2 diamond pre-empt doesn't take anything away from the opponents to prevent them from bidding." He also recommends Kokish relays. When you open 2C, partner bids 2D waiting or 2H with a complete bust. If the responder bids 2D, opener bids 2H with 25+ points or 2NT with 22-24 NT hand. A 2H bid demands responder bids 2S and opener can bid 2NT with a NT hand and all systems are on; 4C is Gerber.

He also likes Suction (which is illegal in sectionals) in defense of 1NT. It indicates a single or double-suited hand. (1NT)/X is a weak hand with a single-suited clubs suit or both red suits; 2C is diamonds or both majors; 2D is a single suited hearts hand or spades and clubs; 2H is a single-suited spades suit or clubs and diamonds; 2S is a

strong hand with single-suited clubs or both red suits; 2NT is clubs and hearts; 3C is diamonds and spades.

Al Beckner, a bridge teacher at the FBC, loves teaching everything Goren. “It’s amazing how many people don’t know standard Goren and they fall apart (with a lot of complicated conventions).” One of his favorite agreements is opening a weak 1NT (12-14 points) to give you possibilities with all of those flat hands.

SBC instructor Sam Sandusky feels just knowing, counting and visualizing the hands takes precedence over partnership agreements.

Roz Flynn, another FBC instructor, exuberantly stated, “I love Spiral! It allows me to raise with 3 card support; otherwise, you might respond 1NT when your minor isn’t good enough to re-bid and you have a bad holding in one of your suits. Responder can bid 2NT asking you to further describe your hand so you can place the contract.”

Teacher Barbara Wheeler also was excited to discover Spiral 7-8 years ago. Both she and Dave Willmott find Unusual vs. Unusual very important over Michael’s Cuebid or Unusual 2NT. Both of their systems are similar—I will quote Dave here.

1. Raise partner’s suit. Non-forcing.
2. Cuebid the lower of the 2 suits announced by the bid. It says you have a limit raise or better in hearts in the case of Unusual 2NT or clubs if they used Michael’s.
3. Cue bid the higher of the 2 suits announced by the bid. It says I have a limit raise or better in spades in the case of Unusual 2 NT, or diamonds if they used Michael’s. Note that it matters not which suit your partner originally bid. If their bid shows a minor and major you adapt the system to cue bid their known suit to show the limit raise.
4. Double. Partner, I have one or both of their suits and want to penalize if possible. Partner should pass if they can’t double the response or if the opponent passes to leave it up to you.
5. Bid the 4th suit at the 3 level, non-forcing, but should be a good 6 card suit.
6. Bid 2 or 3NT to play with stoppers in both of their suits.

SBC instructor Carl Oeser likes Minorwood. The opponents all pass. The bidding goes INT/2C/2S/3C or 3D indicates a slam try in a long minor. Bidding 4 of the minor is RKC or you may cuebid if you like it.

John Blubaugh, who used to give a class at SBC (and I wish he would resume that practice!) recommends the Useful Space Principle. Because the explanation takes up too much space, I will address this in another column!

Barbara Somervill favors Western cuebids which asks partner for a stopper in opponent’s suit to help find game in NT by cuebidding their suit at the 3 level.

In addition to asking teachers I asked a sampling of top players about their favorite systems/agreements. Carrie Touslee favors XYZ because it allows more options to get to slam by giving a better description of your hand. “It comes up at least a few times a day,” she discovered. “You can also stay at a lower level.”

Dick (“Stormy”) Jones shared the system he learned from pro Chris Compton with whom he has played on how to bid a slam in a long minor. The opponents all pass. The bidding goes for example 1NT/2D/2H/2S (cancels the transfer) /2NT/ 3C or 3D; if the opener likes the slam try, opener bids RKC by bidding 3H over 3D (0-3), 3S (1 or 4), 3NT (2 without the queen) or 4C (2 with the queen). The responder may choose to shut out in NT. Over a 2NT opening, the bidding would go 2NT/3S/3NT/4C or 4D. Opener cuebids if he likes the slam try or shuts out the bidding in 4NT.

Gary Soules, also a top-notch player in our unit, shared his recommendations. “The agreement I have with partners who have not yet had the opportunity to bid (thus they are unlimited) is that I won’t pre-empt unless I have 2 of the top 3 honors and possibly an outside A or K.” He continued, “My favorite convention is stolen bids when partner opens 1NT and opponent interferes at the 2 level. An example would be 1NT (2H). I double to transfer to spades since they stole my 2H transfer bid.” Another interesting bid Gary utilizes is when the bidding goes (1m)/P/(1M)/2NT to show clubs and diamonds. It shows at least 5/5 in

the minors and is unlimited. Keep in mind that the opponent often opens a short minor.

What are your favorite agreements? I personally like Lebensohl for interference over my 1NT, although I think I need a special convention for Steve Kolodney's Interference Over 1 NT—he always manages to find that bid that my system has no way around. Thanks, Steve, for the challenge!

Unit 505 will hold its Spring Sectional on May 3-5 at the Orangevale Community Center at 6826 Hazel Ave. in Orangevale. There will be newcomers' games Friday and Saturday at 10:30 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. and Sunday, at 10:30 a.m. only. Pairs games will be held at 10:30 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. on Friday and Saturday and will be stratified: A/X 0-4,000 and 4,000+ and also B/C/D 0-500, 500-1000 and 1,000-2500. Stratified Swiss Teams will be Sunday at 10:30 a.m. along with the newcomers' game. Jim Houghton will teach a NLM seminar on Interference Over 1 NT at 9:30 a.m. on Friday. For partnerships, please contact David Britton-Ohl at dands@britton-ohl.name or 916-690-1981.

In an upcoming column, I would like to write about "Life Lessons Learned From Being a Bridge Player." I encourage you to send me your feedback to mirsteinberg@yahoo.com. I look forward to hearing from you!

San Francisco

By Kimberly Fanady

To a sports fan, May means the Kentucky Derby and the Indy 500. To everyone, May means Mother's Day. Did your mom teach you to play bridge, ages and ages ago? Bring her to the club this month and celebrate your game with a mint julep afterwards. Or at least a glass of milk. (If you don't get the beverages, you're not a sports fan. Ask your mom.)

To a Unit 506er, May means that our always terrific summer sectional is right around the



corner on June 8-9. Start making your plans to play at the Bay Area's best sectional now. But while we wait, there's lots of bridge coming up this month at the clubs. First, the Spring Fling STaC kicks off the month during the first full week of May. Come on out and win silver points from the comfort of your favorite club while competing against players from all over the Western Conference. Score big and win lots of silver points! Then QuickTricks will hold its annual and very popular Pro/Am on May 20. The Pro/Am pairs newer players with experienced players, and a good time is had by all. Meet new people, get some bridge tips, give some bridge tips, and most of all have fun! See the club website, www.quicktricks.org, for further info.

Lots of San Franciscan successes to report: a big hurray for Unit 506er Chris Chen, who with teammates Jake Karstens, Andrew Sinclair, and Qucheng Gong will represent Unit 506 and District 21 in the Flight C Grand National Teams finals at the Summer NABC. Nice going guys — hope you hit the jackpot in Vegas! Big hurrays also to a couple of our stars at the recent Spring NABC in Memphis: Jim Leuker, 13th overall in the Lebar IMP Pairs (an NABC+ event); and David Neuman, 1st overall in the Daylight Pairs (a regional event). I'm sure there were other SF successes I missed. Congrats all!

The unit game schedule continues with pairs games on May 11. Lesson by one of our local pundits at 10:45, lunch at 11:15, game at noon, at St. Mary's Cathedral, 1100 Gough St. at Geary. Attendance permitting, 3 sections will be in play: open, 499er, and 99er. Check the unit website at www.unit506.org for all the details. Be there!

Congrats to our newly ranked: new Junior Masters Rhian Davies, Howard Miller; and new Club Master Etan Cohen. Well played all! Welcome as always to our new members Jane Baker, Roll Wendorf, and Sandra Whitman; and transfer Henry Fong, who is listed as coming

from “InHouse Unit.” Does that mean he used to live at ACBL headquarters? Welcome Henry, wherever you’re from. Everyone say hello to these newcomers when you get a chance. The rain has stopped, the fog is back — it’s almost summer in the city. See you at the table.

San Mateo

By Fran Gaura

Closing out news from the not too distant past, our March 23 Pro/Am game was a great success with 34 Pros teamed with enthusiastic and competitive Ams. Taking home top honors were Christian Goetze and Yardena Arar, with an impressive 66.25% game. Their names will be added to those of previous years’ winners on the Ted Richmond Pro/Am Winners plaque. Congratulations, Christian and Yardena! Other top winners were Kit Morse and Robert Ng placing 2d overall and Debbie Carey and Marcus Ballinger earning 3d place. In the Rookie section, Brad Friedman and Lucy Ballard took home top honors.

At the March 28 Mentor-Mentee game under the capable direction of Jennifer Kuhn, Marc Renson and Nora Frei came in first with an impressive 67.67% game. A hallmark of this game-series has been the post-game recap which gave the mentees an opportunity to see how selected hands might have been played. The March post-game recap was a particular highlight because five pros provided their insight to how each of them would play sample hands - are we surprised that each of them had different approach to each problem - oh the vagaries of bridge! Keeps us coming back.

And what an outstanding game at the spring unit game on April 20: in the Limited section, Carol Hockday and Marie Horn logged a 75.17% game, earning first place honors! Kudos, ladies, you are making us all jealous - share your secrets! At the same game, in the Open section, Arlie Lamb and Don Friedman placed first, while in the Rookie section, Eileen DiGiorgio and Hamid Motamed won first place. Thanks

to all who played on a weekend crowded with holiday activities!

For any Non-Life Master (NLM) looking to acquire silver points, our NLM Sectional will be held at Fattoria on May 4 and 5. The flyer outlining all events is available on the Unit 498 website. Seating is limited so be sure to sign-up if you plan to attend. The unit website provides sign-up instructions. Bob Gleason is coordinating this event and he encourages beginning players to join the activities. This event is designed specifically to offer newer players a chance to play in both stratified partner and Swiss Teams games. Will Watson brings his expertise to the event as director!

Do you know anyone suffering from the ravages of Alzheimer’s? Since the population of our players is aging, your answer is probably YES! As you know, the ACBL is an active agent for fundraising to find a cure for this debilitating disease. And June is the month designated to raise money for this cause. The key event is called the Longest Day (LD) and traditionally clubs make an all-out effort to meet this challenge. This year Unit 498 will again join other clubs in this undertaking.

Last year Unit 498 was remarkably successful in its efforts, raising approximately \$15K and becoming the 5th highest fund raising entity in the entire ACBL! We hope to repeat that success and exceed last year’s totals.

To that end, the LD committee is energetically soliciting prizes for a raffle and a Silent Auction. Already in hand for the raffle are bottles of premium wines, gift certificates/cards and bridge accouterments. We are looking to add to this list. Additionally, Silent Auction prizes include sanctioned games with lunches in a private home, pearl and diamond earrings, play with a pro, Giants game tickets, private lessons for 4 or 8, and other attractive items. Raffle tickets will be sold in Palo Alto (Fred Chasalow), San Mateo Bridge Center (Bob Johnson and Donna Pellegrini), and Bayshore (Fred and Bob). If you wish to donate items for the raffle or Silent Auction, contact Sue Papilion (suepapilion@

icloud.com) or Marie Pattie (mppattie@gmail.com).

On June 22 the LD activities at Fattoria will include lunch, game, No Host Bar with bar bites and the Silent Auction. It should be a fun filled and productive day. See any of the LD Committee members to volunteer to help, to donate items and/or to buy raffle tickets. On the committee are: Jackie Lowenberg, Janelle Van Rensselaer, Bob Johnson, Marie Pattie, Raad Bunni, Sandra Tilch, Marge Pacchetti, Fred Chasalow, Jenny Kuhn, Donna Pellegrini, and Joy Venosa.

A warm welcome to new Unit 498 members: Romy Bauer, Louisa Bussing, Amy Christen, Eric Faust, Anne Horstmann, Kit Reutmann, and Mary Ziegenfuss. And congratulations to players advancing over the past months: to Sectional Master, Suzanne Vuko; to Regional Master, Anne Baxter and Robyn Lee; to NABC Master, Robert Hevener and Christina Kamra; to Life Master, Rose Bauer and Lorelei Greenfield; to Bronze Life Master, Jon Greenfield.

Be sure to check the Unit 498 website, www.unit498.com to get all up to date info on game schedules and special events.

Santa Cruz

By Karen Schamberg

The 2018 Ace of Clubs and Mini-McKenney masterpoint winners were announced at our annual recognition game in April. Congratulations go out to all winners. Top Mini-McKenney masterpoint race winners were:

Jim Slinger (5000-7500), Peter Gelfand (3500-5000), Carol Maggipinto (2500-3500), Ken Gamble (1500-2500), Joanne Brown (1000-1500), Jonni Faircrest (500-1000), Rick Zinman (300-500), Steven Smith (200-300), Robin McDuff (100-200), John Wesolowski (50-100), Gina Brown (20-50), John Walker (5-20), and Betsy Allen (0-5).

Finishing at the top of the Ace of Clubs MP ranks were: Jim Slinger (5000-7500), Heather MacGregor



(3500-5000), Carol Maggipinto (2500-3500), Ken Gamble (1500-2500), Joanne Brown (1000-1500), Bill Lietzow (500-1000), Rick Zinman (300-500), Steven Smith (200-300), Sydney Reuben (100-200), John Wesolowski (50-100), Gina Brown (20-50), John Walker (5-20), and Betsy Allen (0-5).

Milestones this month were attained by: Jule Hilton, Club Master; and Lou Browning, Junior Master. Congratulations to both of you. A high score in a club game was earned by: Alan Chase & Carol Avenmarg, 70.54%.

Our unit game will be on Saturday, May 11 at 10 a.m. It's a STaC week game so an extra \$2 with the chance to win Silver Points. Don't forget to bring a lunch.

Unit 550 offers games most days and several evenings: Open Pairs games are Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday daytimes, and Thursday evenings; Newcomer Pairs play on Thursday evenings (first game is free); 99er Pairs play Wednesday evenings (free lesson preceding); 199ers play Monday evenings (free lesson preceding); 749ers are Tuesday evenings and Thursday mornings (bring lunch); and Sunday afternoon is NLM/Mentor game (free lesson preceding).

Paid lessons are also available: Nancy Wainer and Bette Harken both offer Beginner Bridge lessons; Sydney Reuben has a Mentored Group for beginners; Pam Benz offers Supervised Play for Novices and Re-entry players; and Ken Gamble offers Expert at Your Elbow for Beginners and Bid/Play for low-intermediate players. Check the "Learn Bridge" link on our website for contact information.

In keeping with the goals of the Santa Cruz Bridge Education Foundation (SCBEF), we offer a Mentor Program. 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.

Unit 550 now has a presence on Nextdoor.com, a great way to connect with prospective players. If you already use Nextdoor, please recommend us by searching for "Bridge" and clicking on "Recommend" for our Bridge Center. Also, be sure to visit our FaceBook page.

As a reminder, the SCBC is a fragrance-free venue. Please use unscented, non-perfumed products. To see the Unit 550 Game Calendar or to contact one of our club owners, please visit our website at www.santacruzbridge.org

Santa Rosa/Petaluma

By Cecelia Zachar

Unit 509 celebrated our Mini-McKenney and Ace of Clubs Awards on April 7. For 2018, first place Mini-McKenney winners were Rebecca Eddy, Lawson James, Robert Goetzinger, Karen Weissberg, Linda Marin, Tony Jackson, Jim O'Brien, Nancy Johnson, Larry Spanier, Patricia Hertz, Kathy Venton, Nancy Gunn, Sara Rothmuller, and Bob Klein. First place winners in the Ace of Clubs race were Rebecca Eddy, Lawson James, Henry Gaw, Charlene Stone, Karen Aabel, Tony Jackson, Jim O'Brien, Nancy Johnson, Larry Spanier, Patricia Hertz, Kathy Venton, Nancy Gunn, Frances O'Brien, and Bob Klein. Way to go!

Our monthly unit game followed our celebration on April 7. First N/S were Abbe Cohen and Bob Klein; E/W, Gary Robinson and Erwin Linzner. First in B were Tony Jackson with Randee Dimond and Betsy Todd with Becky Eddy.

We've kicked off our Longest Day campaign and already have several prizes on display for our raffle and silent auction. Our chairpersons for this event are Jan Lee and Stephanie Poley who are getting lots of help from Kathy Juarez and Kathy Venton. Last year we raised over \$3,200 and are hoping to be as successful in 2019.

Winner of seven NABC titles, Sylvia Shi will be teaching a class titled Opening Leads Against Suit Contracts on Sunday, May 5, at the Bridge Gallery. The class answers the questions: What lead does the bidding suggest? When do you make a passive lead vs. an aggressive lead? When do you lead from shortness? When do you lead trump? Most 30 year old world champions have been playing bridge since age 5. Not Sylvia. She started playing in 2011 and brings a new perspective to bridge classes. The

class is \$20 prepaid or \$25 at the door. A unit game follows at 1 p.m. For more information, see <http://santarosabridge.com/classes/>.

Cris Barrere returns to the Bridge Gallery for a lesson titled Get Your Blue Card Working: All About the Redouble on May 19 from 10:30 to 12:30 before our 1 p.m. unit game. Cris' lessons are always a treat. The unit picks up the tab for the lesson. All are welcome.

Kathy Venton is teaching Bridge Basics III, Popular Conventions on Tuesday evenings through June 4. You are too late to take the entire course, but her next 5 weeks' topics are Jacoby Transfers, Strong Opening Bids, Control Showing Cue Bids, Roman Key Card Blackwood, and Gerber and Quantitative Bidding. The cost is \$15 a single session, \$5 if you are repeating a class. For more information, see <http://santarosabridge.com/classes/>.

We had a few big games since our last report. At the Bridge Gallery, Vicki Broward and Bonnie Barnes scored 71.11 on March 27; Erwin Linzner and Bob Klein, 70.37 on April 3; and Richard and Sharon Radovich, 72.22 on April 17. On March 22, Laurie Vree and Shirley Ward won in Oakmont with a 70.5 score. Excellent!

In March, Lisa French and Candace Kelly earned the rank of Junior Masters. Congratulations.

Silicon Valley

By Ray Yuenger

I contributed two articles to last month's Diamond in the Ruff newsletter. As the Executive Editor, I extended the deadline for my report from Memphis as District Vice-President. However, I held myself to the usual deadline for unit columnists, so it's not until this month that I can report on the success of Unit 507 members at the Nationals in Memphis.

Michael Rosenberg placed second in the Silodor Open pairs, earning a section top along the way.



Rich Reitman had a section top in the Lehbar IMP pairs.

In regional events, on winning knockout teams were Michael Rosenberg and Sadik Arf. A Swiss team with Frank Xie & Jung Hu was first in its stratification, while a team with Peggy Sprague & Linda Nemmer was first in its bracket.

Section tops in open pairs games went to Rich Reitman, Lynn Bartz & Ray Yuenger, and Kevin Rosenberg.

At the San Diego regional, Jim Liu's team prevailed in its bracket.

At the Almond Valley sectional in Modesto, Stephen Tu was first in an open pairs game, while Kevin Rosenberg and Ashwini Datar & Vilas Namjoshi topped their respective strats, Kevin twice. Stephen's Swiss team also placed first. Elenalani Lam's team was first in its strat.

At the Marin sectional, Stephen Tu had a section top in an open pairs game.

Congratulations to Unit 507's newest Masters: Andrew Chen, Narayanan Niranjana (Junior); Jane Gold, Prince Kohli (Club); Jack Chen (Sectional); Donna Wirt (Regional).

The two-year terms are elapsing for half of the dozen members of our unit board, namely Mich Ravera, Mischel Postas, Karen O'Connell, Bob Dean, Anne Bossange, and Ray Yuenger. All are willing to serve again, but if you're interested in nominating yourself or someone else, please let me or another unit board member know. If there are more candidates than vacancies, we'll hold an election in June.

Our annual membership meeting/potluck dinner/unit game is scheduled for Sunday, July 14, again in the Roosevelt Room of the Campbell Community Center. The game is free as a token of the unit's appreciation of its members. Sign-ups for the potluck will be posted at the San Jose Bridge Center as the event approaches.

Stockton

By Debbie DeZarn



STaC week starts in a few days and there will be multiple opportunities to earn Silver Masterpoints, especially for non-Life Masters. Sectional Tournament at Club (STaC) will include five games at the Stockton Bridge Center: May 6: Open. May 7: 99er, May 9: non-life Master, and May 10: Open. All games begin at 11:30 a.m. On Sunday, May 12, the Open Game will begin at 1:00 so Mothers may be celebrated at brunch then everyone can play bridge afterwards!

The Big Games in April were on the same day. At the April 8 club championship, Joan Garcia and Korey Baumbach had a 72.57% game as winner of North South while Ann and Bill Nutting earned 77.4%, winning East West. Wow!

Stockton will participate in The Longest Day which is a fundraising event for the Alzheimer's Association. Our designated game will be Monday, June 17. More information will be available next month and probably an e-mail will be sent as well to all regular Stockton players.

Dr. Walter Jones and his son, Earl Jones, recently returned from a Regional at Sea and Walter was happy to report that he won the necessary Gold points to reach Life Master! Congratulations Walter. Closer to home, Jerry Grisler became a Junior Master in late March. He took beginner bridge lessons at the urging of his mother in law, Marilyn Rickard, and frequently partners with her at the Oak Park game. His enthusiasm is contagious.

I am sad to report that Pam Kitto passed away April 15 from cancer. She needed to restart treatment last fall after a remission but was still able to enjoy playing (and winning) with friends at the most recent Seaside, Oregon and Monterey Clambake Regionals.

The Western Conference

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East Bay Summer Sectional

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

Saturday June 22, 2019

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 23, 2019

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: *Estelle Baum (510) 541-5195/dominodog@aol.com*

Information: *libbysilver@yahoo.com*





FIRECRACKER SUPER SECTIONAL

July 3rd to July 7th, 2019

Palo Alto Bridge Center/IFES Hall; 432A Stierlin Road, Mountain View, CA 94043

Free parking at the Bridge Center and Buddhist Temple opposite. Carpooling is encouraged.

Delicious home prepared food for sale. Morning coffee and specialty pastries daily. Sandwich style lunches with snack options on Thursday through Sunday.

Tournament hotels: We have arranged for special rates Wed.-Sat. for \$99 per night plus taxes at: Hotel Vue, 64 W. El Camino Real, Mountain View, CA 94040. (650) 965-0585 AND Hotel Avante. 860 E. El Camino Real, Mountain View, CA 94041. (650) 940-1000. Ask for Firecracker Bridge Tournament rates or see links page at <https://paltoalbridge.org/firecracker/>

For the very latest information, go to: <https://paltoalbridge.org/firecracker/>

Come for Silver Point Fun

Pairs games for players at all levels,
including 0-5 beginner games.
Full and Compact KOs and Swiss team games.

For full schedule, see back.

2019 FIRECRACKER INFORMATION

Schedule

Events in bold face are two or more sessions

Welcome Wednesday: July 3rd

1:00 pm & 7:00 pm

Open Stratified Pairs

99er and 499er Pairs

A/X & BCD Swiss Teams (single sessions)

Firecracker 4th: Thursday July 4

10:00 am & 3:00 pm

Open Stratified Pairs, 2 Sessions

Side Stratified Pairs (Two Single Sessions)

499er Stratified Pairs (Two Single Sessions)

99er Stratified Pairs (Two Single Sessions)

Compact KO (Teams) Rounds 1 & 2, 3 & 4

3:00 pm

A/X & BCD Swiss Teams (Single Session)

Fantastic Friday: July 5

10:00 am & 3:00 pm

Open Stratified Pairs, (Two Single Sessions)

499er Stratified Pairs (Two Single Sessions)

99er Stratified Pairs (Two Single Sessions)

Bracketed KO (Teams) Rounds 1 & 2 of 4 (continues 10:00 am Sat.)

3:00 pm

A/X & BCD Swiss Teams (Single Session)

Super Saturday: July 6

10:00 am & 3:00 pm

Open Stratified Pairs, 2 Sessions

Bracketed KO (Teams) Rounds 3 & 4 of 4

Side Stratified Pairs (Two Single Sessions)

499er Stratified Pairs (Two Single Sessions)

99er Stratified Pairs (Two Single Sessions)

0-5 Beginner Pairs Free Youth Entry (Two Single Sessions)

A/X & BCD Swiss Teams (Two Single Session)

Schedule (continued)

Spectacular Sunday: July 7

10:00 am and 2:15 pm

Open, 499er, 99er Pairs (2 single sessions)

10:00 am only

Free 0-5 Beginning Pairs

10:00 am & TBA:

A/X Swiss Teams (5000+/0-5000)

Bracketed B Swiss Teams (Under 3000)

Play only teams at your own level!

Tournament Information

Stratifications

Pairs by average

Open: 2000+ / 2000 / 750

499er: 500 / 300 / 200

99er: 100 / 50 / 20

Swiss Teams A/X 5000+ / 0- 5000

BCD: 3000 / 1000 / 500

Stratifications may be adjusted at Director's discretion.

KO events may be handicapped

Table Fees:

\$12.00 per session. Must be ACBL member to play. \$4.00 additional for lapsed members. Youth (Students under 26) half price, except for the free 0-5 games on Saturday.

Tournament Chairs:

Carl Baeuerlen (cullycarl@gmail.com)

Don Cohn (retaildon@att.net)

Partnership Chair: Joni Smith (jonips@comcast.net)

Full Information:

For directions, parking details and much more, visit the Firecracker web page at <https://palalotobridge.org/firecracker/>

District 21 Board of Directors

Unit 465	Ed Gould	ed-acbl@left.wing.org
Unit 465	Cornelia Gould	cornelia.gould@gmail.com
Unit 473	Diane Todd	ccnm8801@yahoo.com
Unit 473	Judy Robyns	whitsettrobyns@icloud.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	Karen Corburn	Kscorburn@gmail.com
Unit 499	Lyn Sacco	lyn.sacco@gmail.com
Unit 500	Shailesh Shah	srshah0345@gmail.com
Unit 500	Carla Francis	cfrancis14@sbcglobal.net
Unit 501	Art Mirin	aamirin@comcast.net
Unit 501	Pat Leary	pplenary@comcast.net
Unit 502	Carol Warren	carolwarren@mindspring.com
Unit 502	Doug Couchman	DougCouchman@sbcglobal.net
Unit 503	Prue Saunders	prue@pruesaunders.com
Unit 503	Kip Kado	kipkado@gmail.com
Unit 505	Jim Coke	jcoke@yahoo.com
Unit 505	Katherine Ewing	turtle7nt@att.net
Unit 506	Marion Robertson	mrobertson@msn.com
Unit 506	Thomas Stillman	tjsbridge@gmail.com
Unit 507	Ray Yuenger	rayyuenger@gmail.com
Unit 507	Stu Goodgold	stugo@sbcglobal.net
Unit 508	Bill Yeast	marinunit508@gmail.com
Unit 508	Tracey Bauer	tlcinsf@hotmail.com
Unit 509	Jackie Ortiz	jackieo@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@att.net
Unit 522	Richard Meffley	Sorter52@ix.netcom.com
Unit 522	Anthony Toto	calant@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	Susan Mazzei	samazzei@gmail.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

RAY YUENGER

Executive Editor
rayyuenger@gmail.com

GRANT ROBINSON

Web Site Administrator
dist21webmaster@gmail.com