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Berkeley/El Cerrito/Richmond By Mark Kornman/The Beer Dude (497)

Welcome to summer & KUDOS to the Warriors for pulling off Championship #4 in the last 8 years! Now if only the Giants can get going on a long win streak.

FTF bridge returns July 6 (we hope). As usual, masks optional & we'll keep table fees @ \$8. E-mail/text me if you plan to play (beerman1949@gmail.com/510-528-5351). We need at least 3 tables to have a game. So come on out & shake off the rust!

We've had a few new members plus a couple transfers-in. Eric is back from Missouri & back on the Unit Board. Rank advancers are listed somewhere above the Unit columns. Because of the schedule change in Sacto, we couldn't have a ftf meeting, so we Zoomed again on June 18. Longest meeting ever – lasted almost three hours! I missed an hour due to a power outage & slow reboot of my laptop. Next Regional is early September in Santa Clara (8/30-9/5). STaC games in August & December (I won't hold them unless we're averaging 6+ tables/session).

So, enjoy your summer traveling, despite the higher gas prices & airfares; when you're home, come by & play – game time remains 12:15! For updates, visit our website: www.berunit497.org.

Cheers! Skoal! Prost! Le Chaim! Salud!

East Bay By Marcia Wasserman (502)

Unit 502 continues to have both face-to-face and on-line games. You can find all the information you need by going to the unit 502 website www.eastbayunit-502.com

We have a couple of very important topics this month.

First and foremost, the East Bay Summer Sectional is coming up the Weekend of June 25th and 26th. This is our first sectional since the start of the pandemic, and we are very excited to welcome everyone back. In fact, ACBL is so excited about our return that they are allowing us to award 20% more points for this event. For now, masks are highly recommended, but not required. However, that may change by the time the sectional occurs. It is a fluid situation. We will have some available should you forget to bring one. Proof of vaccination is required. The location is the Alameda Elks Lodge 2255 Santa Clara Ave Alameda, Ca. (I visited it last month and the facility is beautiful) Saturday is a two-session stratified open pairs (single session allowed) at 10:00 and 2:30. Sunday is bracketed Swiss at 10:00 and 2:30. Coffee, tea, and water along with some pre-packaged snacks will be provided. There are several cafes and take-out restaurants walking distance from the venue. Limited parking behind the facility is available, but street parking on Sunday is free. On Saturday there is garage





parking one block away for \$6. For more information, go to the 502 website at www.eastbayunit-502.com

The next thing is something new that we are really excited about. EBCBC has been discussing ways to help newer bridge players build their confidence and improve their game. They believe they have come up with an idea that just might be perfect.

Players are invited to organize a table of four new bridge players. Perhaps three others from a class. Then come on down to the center a little after 12:00 on Mondays, Wednesdays, or Fridays or at 10:30 on Tuesdays for couple of hours of bridge. One of their experienced teacher/directors will be available to answer questions and even provide an occasional mini-lesson in a friendly, relaxed environment.

What they are offering are practice sessions. They are not sanctioned games, no masterpoints will be awarded and there are no time restrictions.

Here's what you need to know.

- Come to the bridge center shortly after 12 pm, any Monday, Wednesday or Friday, or 10:30 on Tuesday with a group of four bridge playing friends.
- Shuffle, Deal and Play for as little as an hour or up to three hours. You decide!
- On your first visit, you play for FREE. On your next visit the fee will be \$5/person.
- You must show proof of vaccination on your first visit to the center.
- Join their partnership desk. This will be a great help for filling in your foursome. Contact JJ Kael and he will get you enrolled.
- When you get a foursome together, contact Betty Kael and let her know when you are coming.

Next, a few congratulations are in order. New Club Masters are Donna Lee and Ellen Sirbu, and our newest Regional Master is Gretchen Griswold. Please congratulate them when you see them. Also, we had a number of big winners at the Sacramento Regional. Anant Rathi earned 43.97 gold, Eric Leong earned 36.58 gold in one event, 23.98 gold in another event, and another 34.86 gold in yet another event (holy cow), and Barak Engel garnered 24.81 gold; Chris Barrere and Mark Moss received 30.21 gold, and Stephen Kennedy earned 23.98 gold with Eric in one event.





And finally, we are heartbroken to announce the passing of Carin Caroe. She was an avid bridge player and a wonderful person. My fondest memory of her stems from her origin in Copenhagen. When my husband and I planned a trip there in 2017, she coached me constantly on the proper pronunciation of Copenhagen. Apparently, I never mastered it, but that didn't stop her from continually working with me on it. We all miss her terribly.

Fresno By Laura Da Costa (522)



Hello All,

As always, I will be covering upcoming events and Unit news from the last couple of months.

Upcoming Events:

Summer months means lots of vacations, but I hope you will be around for some of the big events that are coming up. Starting with this Saturday (assuming you read this within a day of it being published). We will be having our Longest Day Marathon. I hope you can attend one or more of our 4 sessions: 6 am Individual Barometer, 9 am Open pairs, 12:30 pm Open & 299er pairs, and 4:30 pm Fast pairs. Donations for the Alzheimer's Association is accepted at the clubhouse or from our Unit's page (see our website for the link-- fresnobridge.org).

Just a little over a week later, on July 3rd, we will have an Independence Day luncheon and championship game. The 3rd is a Sunday, and we intend to barbecue hot dogs as part of the luncheon we will be having at noon. Game will be at 1 pm.

Another lunch is scheduled for Sunday, July 24th. We will be having another of our popular Pro-Am Teams games at 1 pm. We decided to go back to our old tradition of having a potluck before the team game, so lunch at noon. We hope all of you can join us that day.

August 13 & 14 will be our Non-Life Master Sectional. We will have four pair games, two each day, for our players that are not life masters and have less than 500 masterpoints. Flyers will be available in the clubhouse by the end of June.





Unit News:

Special Games



Memorial Game Sunday, May 1st was our Memorial Game. Formerly named for Peggy Ochs; it was now rechristened as the Richard Meffley Memorial Game. An amazing potluck lunch was followed by the presentation of two quilts made of Richard’s former bridge t-shirts. These were given as a gift by Richard’s sister Elaine. She also brought some other of Richard’s memorabilia to share. We were thrilled to have Elaine, her husband, son, and Richard’s twin brother, Ralph, join us for the lunch. Along with honoring Richard,

we honored the many other people we lost in the 3 years since our last Memorial. At the 1 pm Unit Championship game, we had 7 tables in an Open game and 3 tables in a 399er game. Winners in the Open game were Belva Quattrin & Barbara Thacker (N/S) and Ray April & Laura Da Costa (E/W, Overall Winners). For the 399er game, the winners were Don & Marion Austin.



Pro-Am Team We had a Unit Championship Pro-Am Team game on May 22. Six tables participated. Happily, everyone won at least some masterpoints. With 4 victories, the winning team was Gerard Laquerriere (Captain), Judy Zimmerer, Gloria Fitzgerald, & Pat Heckathorn. I hope you can join us again on the July 24th game.

Member News:

Welcome to new members Judy Statler and Thomas & Mary Warner!

New Rankings Since Our Last Issue:

- | | |
|------------------|--|
| Matthew Wilkins | Club Master (20 Masterpoints) |
| Judy Nibler | Bronze Life Master (500 Masterpoints) |
| Mary Lou Pease | Silver Life Master (1000 Masterpoints) |
| David Haberstick | Ruby Life Master (1500 Masterpoints) |





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

<i>Pair</i>	<i>Percentage</i>	<i>Game</i>
Mark Stern & Victor Greener	73.70	Mon. Aft. Open Game (5/9/22)
Lowell Gist & Gerard Laquerriere	71.88	Mon. Aft. Open Game (5/16/22)
Lowell Gist & Mun Takeda	70.83	Wed. Aft. Open Game (5/18/22)
Margot Cegielski & Fred Schellack	74.38	Sat. Aft. 99er Game (5/21/22)
Matthew Wilkins & Maura Pennington	73.13	Sat. Aft. 99er Game (5/21/22)
Margot Cegielski & Fred Schellack	80.63!	Sat. Aft. 99er Game (5/28/22)
Patricia Creede & Sandy OwYoung-Chu	70.83	Thurs. Aft. 750 Game (6/9/22)

That's all until August. I hope you will join us for the many upcoming games!

Livermore Valley By Don Garka (501)

Well, we have some good news and some bad news to report. First the good news, our plea for help has been answered! Having passed the test to become a director, Alan Williams has assumed a managerial role for the Stoneridge Creek Pleasanton club (this is a private club and requires an invitation) and has also volunteered his services to direct some games at the Livermore bridge club. Thank you Alan. Also, Rick Wilson has volunteered to assume a teaching role at the club.

With the promise of help by many people, Don Garka is now the club manager of the Livermore Bridge Club (Look for the game schedule on the calendar on the website: Livermorebridge.com). First up to help was Jim Ostrowski who offered to mentor those interested in becoming directors. Thankfully, he will also continue to direct occasional games for the club as we return to face to face play. Dan Bergmann and Arthur Mirin have been extremely helpful organizing Monday games.

Our return to face to face in May was fantastic - 11 tables. The great turnout encouraged us to believe a return to face to face would be successful. We organized a Monday in-person game. Unfortunately, we had to cancel the Thursday online games as we had problems finding directors for the games.

Now for the bad news. The games subsequent to the free game in May have experienced a poor turn out with fewer than half the 11 tables. The bottom line is that we need about 6-7 table to be a viable club. We hope as word gets out attendance will increase. Singles are welcome as we have volunteers who make sure everyone who comes is guaranteed a partner. Many thanks to those that have been helping to set up, check for covid cards, make coffee and spread the word that we are again playing face





to face.

“Whistful” words of wisdom: The road to hell is paved with good conventions.

Marin By Gail Haar (508)



Thanks to everyone who came out for our Annual Unit Election and Awards Game on June 8th. We had 14 tables! Kudos to the overall winners Michael Hartnett and Nancy Ferguson. Now that we’ve seen how much fun F2F bridge can be, please keep supporting our local club games. Many thanks to Henry for running such a smooth game and to Judy Leedy for providing our snacks. We recognized our Ace of Clubs and Mini McKenney winners and our new life masters and elected three new Board members. A busy day.



Sacramento proved a treasure trove for local players. Todd Werby and partner were 1st in the Top Flight Pairs and Henry Kingdon and Michael Hartnett were 1st in the Mid Flight Pairs. Well done! Many, many others came home with lots of gold – congratulations to you all.

On a personal note, June marks the beginning of a big transition for me. In addition to leaving the Presidency of the Unit and passing the torch of writing this column on to someone new, I’m preparing to move this Fall to the Midwest to be nearer to extended family. While it is exciting, it is also bittersweet. The old Girl Scout song that goes “Make new friends but keep the old, one is silver and the other is gold” applies to bridge players too. I’m looking forward to making new bridge friends but also hope to come back to play with my California partners. Monterey maybe? Or the San Francisco NABC in 2025? And there’s always BBO.

Modesto By Ray Adams (529)

We had two nice achievements by unit members in April. Libby Longstreth, unit president and Tuesday director, earned enough Master Points to become a Silver Life Master. Good going, Libby! Also, Jaime Hamilton had such a nice sectional that he garnered the points he needed to move up to the rank of Regional Master. Well done, Jaime!





Modesto staged two STaC games in May. Leading point winners were A. John Rollins of Tracy with 2.44, second, Frank Frohman at 2.19, and tied for third were Ralph Jungwirth and Trell Uhl with 1.32. In B, Libby Longstreth led all players in the unit with 2.77, Barbara Page was second in B at 1.88, and out-of-town visitor Don Weld was third with 1.78. Garrard Marsh led all C players. High games for the STaC series were Libby and Barbara at 64.55%, while John Rollins and Don Weld came in at 62.55%, and in third were Lee Maddocks/Frank Frohman with 56.44%.

Sunday game leaders were: B, Libby Longstreth with 1.77, second, right behind Libby was Joyce Rudesill at 1.69, and third was Jeanne Russo with 1.20. In C, it was Jeff Gaudio at 1.18, barely nudging Jaime Hamilton who had 1.14, and Marcia and Jim Laird came in third at .76. High game of the two months was turned in by Wes and Judy Remmers, with a 65% effort.

High pointers for the two months were: A. 1, Frank Frohman with 12.19, 2, Ralph Jungwirth at 8.67, and third, Sheela Wani with 5.80. In B, first was Libby Longstreth at 9.39, second was Gary Capwell with 4.58, and right behind Gary in third was Barbara Page with 4.53. In C, Garrard Marsh led everyone with 3.99, Jaime Hamilton was second with 1.48, and Jeff Gaudio came in third just behind Jaime with 1.40.

Top scores for the month were 72.22% turned in by Lee Maddocks/Ray Adams on May 12, and there were two 68.45% games: the first by Bruce Ruskin/Frank Frohman on April 21, and the second by Frank Frohman/Sheela Wani on May 19.

Six players from the Modesto Unit (this includes Chris Gray who now lives in San Diego, but formerly lived in Modesto) attended the Sacramento Regional from Labor Day to June 5. Chris Gray and Ray Adams had an overall in the side pairs on Wednesday, while Libby Longstreth and Brenda Hatton of Palo Alto won gold in the Mid Flight Pairs on the same day. Ray Adams and Lee Maddocks were third overall in the Fast Pairs on Sunday, while Lorraine Bocks and Gary Smith also won gold in the same event. It was the first regional I have attended in over four years, and I had a lot of fun, as did almost all the attendees.

The summer months are coming up and I for one am hoping that the bridge will be as hot as the temperatures.

Monterey By Mary Block (530)

It is with much sorrow that we must report the passing of Brad Dow. Brad was a great benefactor of Unit 530, having donated and refurbished our former building on the old For Ord in Marina. Brad was also a true gentleman and a role model at the bridge table. This week's Carmel Pine Cone has a wonderful long article about Brad. www.pineconearchive.com





The Unit 530 annual membership meeting and unit game was held on Sunday, June 12. The new members of the Board of Directors were announced: Bill Breen, Neville Kirby, and Rita Sturgeon. Thanks to our outgoing members: Pat Heller, Curt Hussey, and Kathy Pfitzer. The new officers will be elected at the July meeting.

The next Brunch and Bridge Unit game is scheduled for Sunday, July 10. Watch your mailbox for updates from bridgewebs.com/montereyunit530.

Lyde is giving lessons on Wednesday afternoons at the Bridge Center. Contact her at lydefromcarmel@comcast.net. Hetty is offering her beginner sessions on Monday mornings. Contact her at hettyeddy1@me.com.

Maja is restarting her open game in July. 12:30 on Thursdays.

The Board of Directors is continuing to search for solutions for a venue for our games. As you are aware, the diminished attendance has resulted in a loss of revenue and that issue is also being addressed. Monthly unit games have helped to create some additional income and have been popular both for bridge and social interaction.

The following status changes have taken place since the last report:

New Members: Ginny Arguello, Jackie Lynch, Esther Takigawa, Alexander Noto-Hagan

New Junior Masters: Sandra Berris, Kate Spacher

New Club Masters: Miranda Morris, Sara Myers

New Sectional Master: Steven Green

New Regional Masters: John Mahoney

New NABC Master: Sally Reed, Wayne McIntyre

New Silver Life Master: Joyce Newell

Also at the Unit Meeting, the following awards were distributed





Ace of Clubs Awards: are given to the members for the points earned in local club games, separated by category of points earned previously.

Don McIntyre 0 to 5

Anthony Muller 500 to 1000

Paula Robichaud 5-20

Richard Papst 1000 to 1500

Eleanor Gutierrez 20 to 50

Trulee Ricketts 1500 to 2500

Sam Calloway 50 to 100

Helen Rubin 2500 to 3500

Rita Sturgeon 100 to 200

Ray Boehne 3500-5000

Wayne McIntyre 200 to 300

Betty Jackson 5000 to 7500

Sally Reed 300 to 500

As always, be sure to check our Unit website at bridgewebs.com/montereyunit530. Joe Truskot is doing a wonderful job of maintaining and expanding this site to keep our members up to date. A new feature of the website is a partnership registry to assist members who do not have a regular partner or whose regular partner is unavailable. Contact Mano Singham at mano.singham@case.edu to be included in the registry.

In addition to being our webmaster, Joe also sends out e-mails of interest to our membership. Some of you may have your spam filters set so that e-mails to a mailing list go into your junk folder, so make sure that members@bridgewebsemail.com is in your on-line address book.

We are bridgewebs.com/montereyunit530. The Bridge Center is 831-747-1650. I am maru0407@comcast.net. The Foundation is montereybridgeeducation.org.

Napa/Solano/Sonoma By Sigrid Price (512)

Good News, Bad News, Good News

The very good news is that Muthiah "Ram" Ramanathan is our newest Life Master. Ram achieved his goal at the recent Regional held in Sacramento playing with Carol Fraser on June 2nd placing 5th overall in the Gold Rush Pairs. All Ram's friends are delighted about his success. Gretchen Filer also achieved Life Master status sometime in the month of May. Please join me in congratulating these two when you see them.

Unfortunately, the bad news is that Covid ran rampant through the Sonoma Vintage Duplicate Bridge Club and affected perhaps as many as 20 players. The club closed for a couple of weeks for the sake of safety. Clyde Smith was one of our members who tested positive despite his caution in wearing a mask when not required. His Napa Valley Bridge Club was also closed temporarily. It's very bad news when the virus runs through a bridge club and forces a temporary shutdown.





Back to good news: The Sonoma Club reopened its' doors on Monday, June 20th at the new time of 11:30. And Clyde has recovered from his bout with Covid; his games resumed on Friday, June 24th. The Two Over One class being taught by Barbara Lemme and Tom Sheahan will resume on Tuesday, June 28th at 10:00 am at the Moose Lodge (before the 499er game starts).

Vintage Duplicate Bridge Club has scheduled another Pro-Am game (Pro=over 500 masterpoints, Am=less than 500 masterpoints) for Wednesday, July 27th with a potluck before the game starting at 10:45 at the Moose Lodge. If you would like to play and need a partner please contact either Eileen Holsten 707-933-1444 or John Colston 707-696-7937.

Encouraging players to come back to the table is part of ACBL's strategy in offering extra masterpoints to clubs. VDBC has Upgraded Club Championship Games scheduled for June 27th, 28th, 29th and July 5th, 6th. Napa Valley Bridge Club has planned their upgraded championship games July 1st and July 8th. Mark your calendars! There will be no game on Monday July 4th in Sonoma.

Charles Korman, a Sonoma resident, has recently joined Unit 512. Welcome, Charles! Four of our unit members have moved and are now affiliated with other units; we will miss Brooke Farkas, Elizabeth George and Brenda & Stephen Perry and wish them well in their new locations.

Please remember that vaccinations are required in order to play in Unit 512 games and masking is option but encouraged.

Hope everyone enjoys a fine Fourth of July!

Palo Alto By Judi Gentry (503)



Dear Bridge Friends:

As the time for another issue of Diamond in the Ruff approaches, I begin to wonder "what can I possibly find to say?" For me, the days, weeks, and months just seem to blend. My routine is simple and, well... routine! Then I receive an email from our wonderful directors listing all the bridge events they have in store for us in June/July and I always find something that appeals to me to do.

Hopefully you all had an opportunity in June to enjoy an Upgraded Club Championship, one (or several) NAP Quailfiers and/or one of the Longest Day special games to raise money for research to combat Alzheimers. All of these 3 special categories of games have had sessions both at the PA Bridge Center and on-line. They offer extra points or other incentives to benefit you when you play. Be sure to check the





website when you plan to play to see if there is something special happening at the Bridge Center.

July is a big bridge month with lots of special games and 5 days of our famous Firecracker Sectional. Here's an overview of the schedule:

Week of 7/1-7/5 – Games at the Club will be Upgraded Club Championships with lots of extra points, some red. Games online will be NAP qualifiers.

All this to help you get ready for the Firecracker Sectional, which will run from Wednesday, July 6 through Sunday, July 10. The tournament will be held at the Palo Alto Bridge Club and will occupy space in the IFES Hall next door as well. Coffee and snacks will be available as well as sandwiches to pre-order for lunch. Table fees will be \$15 per session. There is a complete schedule on the PA Bridge Center website. Any questions? Contact one of the Tournament Chairs: Marc Cervellino (marc.cervellino@hotmail.com) or Geraldine MacDonald (geraldinem@aol.com) It's been such a long time since we've hosted this wonderful event. Come join your friends and play.

More and more bridge players are now playing face to face and the social and fun aspect of bridge is back! Please welcome the following players who recently either joined or transferred into our Unit. We look forward to seeing them at our Bridge Center:

John Affaki	Vanessa Leighton
David Gaddy	Dan Lickly
Teddy Hsia	Suzy Papazian
Linda Kenigsberg	Marilyn Wiley
Sivaram Krishnan	

We are looking forward to seeing more of you there in person.

And finally. congratulations to the following members on their recent rank achievements:

- Club Masters: Michael Gardner, Dale Kramer, Avery Wang
- Advanced NABC Masters: Dianne Giancarlo
- Life Masters: Jeanine Ardourel
- Bronze Life Master: Clive Surfleet
- Ruby Life Masters: Kip Kado





I hope to see many of you at the Firecracker Sectional. It will be fun to get out and play again. Judi

San Francisco By Kimberly Fanady (506)

June welcomed the long-awaited return of the San Francisco Sectional -- the first one since January 2020! Unit 506ers covered us in glory!

Congrats to Kristine and Matt Therian, who won the 499er Pairs and the afternoon Side Pairs back to back on Saturday; David Gendreau, winner of the morning Side Pairs on Saturday; and Helen and Nathan Chow (two high school kids from the Center for Bridge Education program), first in the Sunday Side Pairs. Mark Ralph and teammates won the Bracket 1 Swiss, with Ron Goodman, Frank Mainzer, and teammates first in the Bracket 2 Swiss. Numerous San Franciscans placed in the overalls as well. Check ACBL Live for all the names in lights. Kudos to all! And many thanks to Tournament Chair Bob Schwab and the Unit 506 Board of Directors and volunteers (Lauren Friedman, Gail Gabiati, Kris Wong, David Gendreau, Shazia Makdhum, Andy Straus, and the indispensable Charles Chow) for making it happen.

The QuickTricks club is very happy to have successfully resumed its beginner lesson program. The club recently concluded a 16-week lesson series which drew about 25 students. The club plans to offer the class again in the fall. Details and scheduling will be posted on the club website, www.quicktricks.org, Send your tired, your poor, your huddled masses yearning to play bridge to QuickTricks! The Sunset club is also considering a beginner lesson program in the fall. Hope that comes to fruition since we always need more bridge players.

QuickTricks has also enjoyed having a recent influx of kids at its Monday night games. They are students at the aforementioned Center for Bridge Education, and they are training hard for the upcoming Youth NABC next month in Providence RI. The club is honored that they've chosen QT for their prep and very happy to have them playing with us! The kids' three hardworking mentors, CBE directors Chris Chen, Anant Rathi, and Will Zhu, are devoting their time and knowledge to help the kids learn and grow. If you would like to support the kids in their quest for fun and glory at the Youth NABC, please consider making a donation to CBE to fund their trip East.

Welcome to our new members: Lawrence Guo, Ethan Mei, Helen Simon. Johnathan Tran. Charlie Wadley; and transfer Joan Crevier (Maui). Say hi to these new players at the table or online. Congrats to our latest rank advancers: new Junior Master Keith Lin, Sectional Master Gary Grossman, NABC Master Frank Mainzer, Advanced NABC Master Brigitte Sandquist.

Finally, we sadly say goodbye to Helene Ettelson, who recently passed away. Among her many other pursuits, Helene graced our tables at the Sunset and Pips clubs, the unit games and sectionals, and in particular the Metropolitan Club, for many years.





Always pleasant and looking good, Helene was a lovely presence at our games. She will be missed. Our condolences to her family and friends.

Happy summer, all! See you at the table, real or virtual

San Mateo By Melanie Mauldin (498)

We welcome new, reinstated, and transferred Unit members:

Allan Abrams	Foster City	Edward Lange	Woodside
Bharati Chadha	Hillsborough	Victoria Lowdon	Burlingame
Sms Chadha	Hillsborough	Hilary McMahon	Hillsborough
Lennie Gotcher	Hillsborough	James Mosso	Redwood City
Jonathan Handler	Half Moon Bay	Carol Ordemann	San Carlos
Lois Hauch	Belmont	Cat Raanes	San Mateo
Michael Hoagland	Redwood City	Ann Savage	Redwood City
Joan Kersten	Half Moon Bay		

Congratulations to our new Master Achievers:

Junior Masters

- Isobel Fox
- Lennie Gotcher
- Joan Kersten
- Arthur Lund
- Vivian Weitzman

Club Masters

- Rita Armstrong
- Susan Galletta
- Orene Kearn
- Griff Weber

Advanced NABC Masters

- Bob Gleason

Life Masters

- Kathryn Barnard
- Kenneth Hui

Bronze Life Master

- Glenna Cook

Ruby Life Master

- Alex Stagner

Gold Life Master

- Loretta Baines





Our April Unit game was the largest we've hosted at the Villa to date, with 13 tables. Siuling Ku and Kenneth Hui won the open game, with Roger Dewes and Dariush Yousseffi coming in second, and Alfred Lee and Bruce Luttrell coming in third. Kit Morse and Sharon Sloan won the limited game, with Gale Cameron and Lauren Rosen coming in second.

Both the April and May mentor-mentee games were held on BBO and drew nine tables. In both games, the overall winners were Jim Bolton and Jeffrey Pugh. The gauntlet has been thrown.

The unit hosted its first Sectional of the year on May 7, at the Villa. This non-life master sectional had nine tables in the morning, and six and a half in the afternoon. The morning winners were Kit Morse and Lucy Ballard, followed by Alex Narasin and Dana Bisconti. The morning event also offered a game for those with fewer than 200 masterpoints. In this game, Debra Martinez and Lauren Rosen tied for first with Kai Eckert and Becca Simmons. In the afternoon game, Lucy Ballard and Debbie Carey won, followed by Shirley Ehrlich and Jennifer Caulfield in second place.

The May unit game had six open tables and five and a half 499er tables. Gloria and Mike Halliday won the open game, followed by Alfred Lee and Bruce Luttrell in second place. Kit Morse and Sharon Sloan won the 499er, with Kai Eckert and Becca Simmons coming in second.

Thanks to Raad Bunni for directing these Unit games, and to Art Quey for directing the mentor-mentee games.

Several club games are available each month. Raad Bunni holds two open stratified handicap games at the Villa every week. These games are on Tuesdays and Fridays, at noon, with a lesson given beforehand at 11:30. These games have been growing, and now have around six to eight tables. Jenny Kuhn holds games online, with games on Wednesday and Thursday mornings, (lessons are available before these games), and on Wednesday evenings at 6:30. For more information about these games, or about Jenny's Easybridge lessons, email her at jkuhn@peninsuladbc.com.

And finally, the Unit's Open Sectional will return on August 13 and 14, at Canada College. Mark your calendars; we hope to see you there!





Santa Cruz By Rick Zinman (550)



Our unit will continue to follow COVID health and safety guidelines provided by Santa Cruz County. Currently, masks are required at all times (except when eating or drinking) and all players must have proof of vaccination on record.

The SCBC will reopen for F2F games the week of Monday, June 27, with all games beginning at 10AM: Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday.

High Scoring Games

<i>Date</i>	<i>Pair Names</i>	<i>Score</i>
04/12/22	Mike Modest – Lou Browning	70.8%
04/13/22	Rick Zinman – Steve Smith	71.2%
05/13/22	Heather MacGregor – Gary Macgregor	73.1%
05/21/22	Mick Friedberg – Ken Llacera	75.0%
06/16/22	Lester Loops – John Walker	71.3%

Scoring Milestones

<i>Name</i>	<i>Rank</i>
John Wesolowski	Advanced NABC Master
Janet Tainty	Ruby Life Master

Santa Rosa/Petaluma By Cecelia Zachar (509)



Unit 509 Fall Sectional is coming September 17 and 18 at the Petaluma Community Center. Get your partner on board, and plan to attend. This spacious new venue proved to be comfortable and convenient last March, and we can expect the same this fall. Coffee, tea, water and sodas

will be provided, along with donations of snacks throughout the day. If you need a partner, contact Kathy Venton at BridgeGalleryCA@gmail.com.



The last time I wrote an article for





Heart of the District, things were looking up. Spring had sprung. Our first 2022 sectional was successful. Few people were wearing masks in Costco. Seems like lately, though, 10s of bridge players at a time are dropping out for a week or two to quarantine. The Petaluma Bridge Club has closed due to a lack of attendance caused in large part by covid.



Did anyone hear that the Bridge Gallery has closed? Well, that depends on whether you're talking brick and mortar or making the best of local resources.

Kathy Venton has taken advantage of her lease expiring and changed her business model. Her plan is to hold games at community resources. The club will still be named the Bridge Gallery. She will soon have a Thursday open game at the Petaluma Community Center. (It was scheduled to start June 9 but was delayed due to the high number of covid cases in our community.) In addition to the game in Petaluma, she is looking to start another game soon, this one limited, in Santa Rosa. More games might follow. Meanwhile the Gallery's virtual games continue several times a week.

Sacramento seemed to be the place to be in June. Sara Rothmuller was the big winner from Unit 509. She played with Allan Deserpa in the Top-Flight pairs game and came in first to win 40.28 Gold Points! Wow! I didn't know you could win that many points in a day. Mark Hersko, Larry Spanier, Roy Redlich, and Han Van Boldrik came in first in their bracket in Round Robin Teams on 6/3 for 11.14 gold after coming in second on 6/1 to win 13.50 gold. Other winners of note include Abbe Cohen, Barbara Norman,Carolynn Zocchi, Conrad Larkin, Helene Gay, Katherine Schram, Lawson James, Linda Marin, Muthiah Ramanathan, Nancy Gunn, Patricia Hertz, and Robert Goetzing.

The Bridge Gallery held virtual games for The Longest Day June 18 and 19. Saturday's game was limited to fewer than 2500 masterpoints. The winners of the 10-table event were N/S Meryl Fischer and Ronald Welch with 61.39% and E/W Robert Serrett and Judd Robbins with 60.56%. On Sunday, in the 6-table open game, winners were Larry Spanier and Mark Hersko, A, 63.00%; Melvin Rosen and David Ganz, B, 62.00%; and Mary Lyons and Robert Rottmayer, C, with 57%. Altogether, Unit 509 and Bridge Gallery players donated \$700 to the Alzheimers Association.

There was only one 70+% Virtual BBO game at the Bridge Gallery from April 1 through June 18. On June 16, Bonnie Nackley and Elizabeth Strasen scored 71.94%. In





Oakmont, Judy Kayen and Fikry Galal scored 73.81% on April 5, and on June 3 Carl Ballou and Mary Ann Essig had a nice 70.41% score.

In the BBO world, Panette Talia had a 71.31% game in a field of 143 tables on April 20. Later that day, Kathy Venton and Lynn Blumenthal brought in a 71.45% game in a field of 37 tables.

Each month the ACBL notifies units of players who have 'graduated' to a new rank since the last month. We've been notified that Bonnie L Barnes is our newest Club Master; Catherine Shanahan, Regional Master; Bill Walton, NABC Master; and John Oswalt, Gold Life Master. I haven't heard officially from the ACBL, but my sources have let me know that several of our members celebrated new ranks in Sacramento. Though not yet official, our new Life Masters are Linda Marin, Barbara Norman, and Muthiah Ramanathan, and Mark Hersko finally got enough points of the right color to make Sapphire Life Master. CONGRATULATIONS!

Silicon Valley By Ray Yuenger (507)



My last report on Unit 507 was composed nine weeks ago. It remains the case that no new San Jose Bridge club has opened. We are negotiating with a possible church site, but the process has been slow. If the club reopens, it will probably start with one or two days a week, not a daily schedule as before.

The Unit Board continues to meet on a monthly basis. Three new members have been added to the Board, Bruce Luttrell, Michael Fleisher, and Betsy Wagner. Bruce has agreed to serve as our sectional coordinator. The Board now has a full complement of 12 directors. Half of those positions lapse every year. Everyone on the Board would like to remain. We hold elections in June when there are more nominees than open positions. Once again (as has been true for over a decade) we have no nominees apart from the existing Board members, so there is no occasion to hold an election.

In April, the Unit Board adopted Norman Marks' suggestions and established goals for the remainder of 2022. One of them is holding a fall sectional. Another is holding a face-to-face membership meeting and other face-to-face unit games. We are looking for locations and available dates. When events are scheduled, they will be publicized by email and on the website.

We now have a new Unit website at sjbridge.org, the same location as our old website. Some technical problems delayed opening the new site, but it is now live.

Our Unit members have had success at face-to-face tournaments. At the Sacramento Regional, a knockout team with Lynn Shannon & John Miller took first in the top bracket. Anne Wilson's team won in bracket two of a knockout event. Michael &





Kevin Rosenberg's team prevailed in the top bracket of a round robin event. In pairs events, Richard Reitman & Stephen Tu won a top flight event. Roy Tsai & Li Zhang won a gold rush pairs event and had a section top in another gold rush event. H Paul Davis had a stratification top in the mid-flight pairs. John Stremel had a strat top in open pairs. Rich Reitman had a section top in a pairs event.

In sectionals before the Sacramento regional, Stephen Tu's Swiss team placed first in Almond Valley and he had a section top in a pairs game there. Andrew Sinclair's team was first in Marin. Bruce Luttrell had a sectional top in a pairs game in a Sacramento sectional.

In sectionals after the Sacramento regional, Kevin Rosenberg won the two-session pairs event in San Francisco. Yannie Zhao had a strat top in the same event. Stephen Tu's team won in the top Swiss bracket.

Congratulations to our newest Masters: Kathleen Cole, Chelsea Verhasselt, Max Zhang (Junior); Yin Lin (Club); Li Zhang (Sectional); Gavin Neson, Manoj Thawani, Brien Wilson, Michael Zheng (Regional); Carolyn Drozdak, Andrew Sinclair (Bronze); Anne Wilson (Ruby).

Stockton By Debbie DeZarn (510)



Attendance is finally picking up at all the clubs in Unit 510. Oak Park had a record low a few weeks ago of 5 tables then 3 weeks later it was 9-1/2 tables of eager players enjoying delicious cookies provided by Jerry Barnes. Stockton Club is averaging 5-1/2 to 8-1/2 tables per game and the Mountain Clubs (Sonora not open yet) look steady at 5-6 tables per session. I am not aware of any rank advancements this month but if I missed them, they will show up in a separate section of this District Newsletter. Come play in Stockton and see Maryanne Sievers' newest quilt on the wall which is a collection of playful kitty cats.

Lots of Unit players attended the California Capitol Regional post Memorial Day and brought home gold. Wendy Buchanan and Debbie Greenberg won their Gold Rush pairs event to start the week off on a high note! Other Gold winners in those pairs events were Judy Tillinghast, Shirley Womack, Mikki Kindelberger, and Fran Tabak (former Stockton member). The knockouts team of Joy Gotelli, Rose Knutsen, Sue Vogtlin, and Byron Barclay made it to the finals, scoring gold. Debbies DeZarn and Greenberg had success teaming up in both Mid-flight and Fast Pairs.



A new team, composed of Bill Mitchell, Sue Vogtlin, Mary and Michael Wells, was the overall winner of the Sunday BCD Swiss Team event. Congratulations! Sue reported that it was the first ever Swiss event in her personal history in which her team didn't lose a single match. Most other Stockton Club members also earned points during the week: Lynette Foppiano, Debbie DeZarn, Usha Bansal,

Mary Sievers, Mary Hill, Mary Westin, and of course Howard Parker III with the most of anyone. Francine Pogue and Barbara King from the Foothills clubs also brought home points.

News from the Foothills clubs: On April 16th a party was held to honor two retiring directors, Duane Oneto and Don Stillwell, at the San Andreas Senior Center. A catered lunch was followed by presentations of gifts and "Retired Director" hats, a cake was cut, and then nine tables played bridge. Look out for the story in the July Bulletin!

The Sonora Club has been closed for over two years but is due to open soon. It will host a game at the Sonora Senior Center at 12:30 pm on alternate Fridays beginning June 17th.

The local clubs have been using Bridgepads for about sixteen years, and it was time to replace them with Bridgemates. Thanks to a combination of donations and purchasing reconditioned units, two sets have been procured for a reasonable cost and are now in use at the clubs. Very many thanks to Ken Hillman and the Stockton Unit and Korey Baumbach of Oak Park Club for donations of table units, and to our local players who raised enough money to pay half the cost.

Michael Wells (also of Stockton Club) has begun Directing games in both the foothills and the June Unit Game at the Stockton Club. We are so glad to have him! He can look up anything for you as he keeps the entire rule book of ACBL as well as various Handbooks on his iPad for quick or not so quick references.

