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## East Bay By Tom Pajak (502)



Mark your calendars so you don't miss attending the East Bay Fall Sectional on November 16th and 17th (Saturday & Sunday). We'll be playing again at the terrific Mastick Senior Center at 1155 Santa Clara Avenue in Alameda where we've been hosted several years earlier. If you've played before at that location you'll recall it's got ample free parking, easy access, spacious playing area, and the usual "East Bay amenities" including free coffee, tea, water, snacks, nibbles, and all the rest.

Sessions start at 10:00 am with a lunch break before the afternoon game at 2:30 pm. And you won't have to leave the location to find a place for lunch because your Unit 502 volunteers have arranged for a delivered lunch of your choice of deluxe sandwich, chips, cookie, and beverage for \$12 from a local provider. These have proven very popular in past tournaments and we're keeping the same affordable price this time, too.

### **Here's one new twist...and PAY ATTENTION 99er PAIRS!**

We're holding a special 0-99 game on Saturday (Nov. 16th 10:00 am) for all newcomers at the discount price of \$5 per player, whether or not you're a member of the ACBL [but we hope you are so you can amass those lucrative masterpoints on your record]. This special game is targeted towards the many players involved in the EBCBC mentoring games held at the bridge center. It's time to get your feet wet playing in a real, live tournament setting to see what fun and enjoyment it holds to compete with people at your own level at a price that's more than affordable. You won't have to face any players with more than 99 masterpoints, so all the "pros" and "experts" whom you want to avoid won't get in your way. This is an event tailored especially for you and I hope you'll show up on Saturday with your partner to have the time of your life showing your peers how to conquer the game of bridge.

Our Sunday schedule holds the classic "Barbara Harmon Bracketed Teams" game where your Swiss team of four players will compete with others in your relative equal masterpoint bracket. Sessions run at 10:00 am and 2:30 pm with a lunch break in between. You must play both sessions. Fees are \$15 per player per session, with a surcharge of \$4 for unpaid ACBL members who compete.

Check out the flyer in this newsletter for all tournament details and where to go for further information.





**Moving up on the masterpoint advancement rank are:**

NABC Master: Jeff Fountain

Advanced NABC Master: Andre Fargeix

Life Master: Richard Springer

Bronze Life Master: Kathy Wolf

Junior Masters: Hing On Hsu & Sunhee Kim

Sectional Masters: Tim Underwood & Patricia Anderson

Silver Life Master: Libby Silver

Ruby Life Master: Donna Rolle

GOLD Life Master: Jo Levy

Give each of them your congratulations and encouragement to keep working to the next level.

**Fresno By Laura Da Costa (522)**



Hello Everyone! It's October again. It is hard to believe that the Table Mountain Regional was already over a year ago. No new Regionals in our area to discuss, but we do have a Sectional.

**Past Events**

**Mentoring Game:** We had another Mentoring Lesson/Game on September 22nd. We seem to be having three or four of these a year now. This lesson/game had 6 tables this time around. We are especially pleased to see some of our very new students from recent Clovis Adult School lessons attending these events. Thanks to all of our mentors who volunteered their time and knowledge.

**Club Appreciation Pro-Am Team Game:** Sunday, October 6th was our Club Appreciation Pro-Am Team game. We kind of squeezed this game in to an already full month (Sectional just two weeks later). As such, it was a little less attended than usual, but we still ended up with 4 teams (2 with 5 members and 2 with 4 members). This version of the Pro-Am Team paid 5% gold masterpoints, and I am happy to say that everyone one at least one match, so all got some gold. The big winners were Lowell Gist (Captain), Rhonda Hampton, Margot Cegielski, & Lori Sandersier.





**Fresno Fall Sectional (October 19th & 20th):** We did not have the Fall Sectional last year since we had the Table Mountain Regional at that time. We brought it back this year as a Local Sectional. "Local" in that it had me as the Director. I have run Non-Life Master Sectionals before, but this was my first time running one that did not have a masterpoint limit.



It was nice to have visitors from Bakersfield, Morro Bay, Santa Maria, and San Luis Obispo come and join us. Our own members turned out as well. We only sanctioned the event a few months ago, but we managed to get a total of 44.5 tables across the two-day, 4-session event. As a comparison to our last Fall Sectional in November 2022, when we had 49 tables across 3 days (6 sessions). So, we were very happy with the turnout.



We had 48 members win masterpoints. Congratulations to the Unit 522 winners: Gerard Laquerriere & Mun Takeda (President's Award winners for most masterpoints won) and Anthony Gamber & Patty Head (top 99er Award winners).

The Unit supplied pizzas on Sat. and hot dogs on Sun., but our members added many amazing dishes: salads, chili, beans, casseroles, desserts. We were well fed; our appreciation goes to all who contributed such great food. Also, thanks to those who donated money, time serving food, and time cleaning up. All too many to name here, but know you were all greatly appreciated. Thanks also to Steve Johnson for being our partnership chair.

## Upcoming Events

**Royal STaC:** The Royal Sectional Tournament at Clubs has moved to November this year (instead of the usual December). It will be November 18th - 24th. So far, we plan to have this STaC game on our regular Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Saturday games. Royal STaCs payout 25% Gold, 25% Red, 25% Silver, and 25% Black points.

**Christmas Party:** The party/game/general meeting is scheduled for Sunday, December 15th (a little later than normal). More on it will be posted at the clubhouse.





**Winter Sectional in 2025:** Flyers are already available for our regular 3-day sectional on Presidents Day Weekend (February 15th-17th). Yes, I actually got the flyer out fairly early, but this way you can't say I told you about it so late that you already made other plans.

### Members News

**A New Life Master:** As can be seen in the Change of Ranking below, Jonel Mueller made Life Master at the Santa Clara Regional. Yay! She needed 5 gold points, and she and teammates (Howard Arquette, Ann Keag, & Steve Johnson) earned 12! At the same time, Jonel also achieved the ranking of Bronze Life Master.



**Change of Rankings:** New rankings for August & September 2024

#### Sapphire Life Master

- William Glass

#### Silver Life Master

- Cynthia Tingey

#### Bronze Life Master

- M. Steve Johnson
- John McGregor
- Jonel Mueller

#### Life Master

- Jonel Mueller

**New Member:** A big welcome to Bradford Taylor of Fresno.

#### Advanced NABC Master

- Ann Keag

#### Sectional Master

- James Cosby

#### Club Master

- Neville Abraham
- Patty Head

#### Junior Masters

- Ann Wanger





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

<b>Pair</b>	<b>Percentage</b>	<b>Game</b>
Sandy Petrie	72.22	Fri. Aft. 49er Ind. (8/23)
Mark Smith & Steve Johnson	72.50	Thurs. Aft. 750 Game (9/5)
Sandy OwYoung-Chu & Doris Myers	70.00	Thurs. Aft. 750 Game (9/5)
Mun Takeda & Gerard Laquerriere	73.21	Sat. Aft. Open Game (9/7)
Fred Schellack & Margot Cegielski	70.00	Sat. Aft. 199er Game (9/21)
Mark Smith & Robert Cherry	71.88	Thurs. Aft. 1000 Game (9/26)
Steve Johnson & Rhonda Hampton	80.84	Thurs. Aft. 1000 Game (10/3)
Sandy Petrie	75.00	Fri. Aft. 99er Ind. (10/4)
Maura Pennington & Lowell Gist	74.00	Wed. Eve. Open Game (10/9)
Chrys Moore	81.25	Wed. Aft. Pupil Game (10/16)

**Changes:** The Thursday afternoon game (12:30 pm) now has a 1000 mps limit. The Friday afternoon (1 pm) individual game is now a 99er game. Wednesday afternoon at 1 pm will have a brief lesson followed by a beginner game (less than 20 mps). This Wednesday afternoon game is basically a continuation of the beginning lessons from the Clovis Adult School series.

Keep up with the latest news and all other events at the clubhouse from our website: [fresnobridge.org](http://fresnobridge.org).

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

Lots to cover, so let's get to it.

First, an announcement in case you are reading this as soon as it comes out. The Thursday game at the Gilroy Senior Center is being changed from Thursday to Friday on October 24 & 25. ONE TIME ONLY. JUST for this game. The facility is not available on Thursday, so we are playing the next day. This has been announced several times in the club, so this is just a written follow up to make sure you marked your calendar properly.

In conjunction with the changing of the face-to-face game (ONE TIME) from Thursday to Friday, there will also be a revision for the Friday online "Stone's Game" for Friday, October 25, to be SWITCHED to THURSDAY, October 24. This is the Gilroy/Hollister/Morgan Hill game on BBO (Bridge Base) that has been drawing players





from all over lately. Normally games are MWF at 1:25 pm. But for this week, only, the game is MWTh.

### **Unit Christmas Party**

**December 8, 2024**

**Old City Hall, Gilroy, CA**

The time has come to circle the date and line up your partner for the Unit Christmas party. Details have not yet been announced, so stay tuned and finalize all the details as the day gets closer. This is always a fun event with a bridge game, good food (an entire sit-down meal), a bar, entertainment, good company! Don't be left out! Sign up as soon as the sheets are available!

### **Earthquake Sectional**

**September 14-15**

Well done and congratulations for all those in Unit 524 involved in the organizing and running of the 2024 Earthquake Sectional. As it was last year, the room was filled at the Morgan Hill Centennial Recreation Center for the Lawson Sakai Open Pairs game on Saturday. Thanks to Greg Vance for his typical outstanding Directing, and a hearty WELL DONE to all of those involved in the snack/refreshments. The talk continued for weeks amongst many of those who attended as to how nice facility was and terrific food provided.

The Ron Dragt Open Swiss game on Sunday was not as heavily attended but was still perfectly organized and players well provided with snacks. A special pat on the back to Skip Pack, Tournament Chair, particularly for his outstanding assistance to many players very new to teams and scoring. This added to the overall friendly environment and positive experience for all concerned. It's possible that word will get out about the great experience of playing in Unit 524's Sectional, and some extra space might be needed in the future. Reservations were requested this year and worked well to manage the field. The middle of September should be circled on calendars for 2025 to be sure to sign up early when the announcement comes out. (Look under "Tournament Trail" for bridge results.)

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

A reminder to those who qualified for the North American Pairs (NAP), ACBL-wide event that starts at the club level and concludes with a finale at an NABC, in three flights (Open, <2500, <500). **Follow the report in the main body of "Diamond in the Ruff" for details** and conditions of contest. Next up for those who qualified are the **District finals (for all levels) at the Monterey Clambake Regional, January 11 & 12, 2025**, with the winners going on to the NABC.





### The Tournament Trail

#### All Western Regional

**Santa Clara CA, August 26 – September 2, 2024**

The All Western is about as close as you can come to a "home Regional" for Unit 524. A number of our members participated, and some pretty cool results were attained! Points won were Gold and Red. Some of the overall successes included:

Tuesday Afternoon Side Pairs: Sue Comporato & Betsy Wagner tied for **First in Flight C**

Saturday Bracketed Teams, Bracket 2: Ken Johnson, Joanne Wicker, Ken Llacera, Mick Friedberg tied for **Second place**

Saturday Stratified Pairs: Jim Craig & Graham Kelly were **Fourth in Flight B, and tied for Eighth in Flight A**

Sunday Mid-Flight Pairs: Graham Kelly & Jim Craig were **Second Overall**

Unit members winning Gold & Red points included:

Jim Craig	24.35	Lennart Naslund	1.18
Graham Kelly	23.82	Vinny McLoughlin	1.05
Ken Johnson	11.13	Dave Jackson	1.05
Joanne Wicker	11.13	Seala Fletcher-Kelly	0.83
Sue Comporato	2.23	Joanne McLoughlin	0.83
Lesley Waltner	1.18	Ginny Arguello	0.53

#### Unit 524 Earthquake Sectional

**Morgan Hill CA, September 14-15, 2024**

This was our big event of the year, and here is how our local talent prevailed!

#### Lawson Sakai Open Pairs

Graham Kelly & Jim Craig, **First Overall**







**499er Morning Pairs**

Anna Gervacio & Elsie Shaw, **Fourth**

Ginny Arguello & Susan Vance, **Fifth**

Arlene Greenberg & Frank Codd, **Fourth in B and C**

**499er Afternoon Pairs**

Lesley Waltner & Lennart Naslund, **First**

Merrill Wolfe & Frank Codd, **Second (and First in B)**

Marianne Wucherpfennig & Carolyn Wilson, **Fourth**

**Ron Dragt Open Swiss Teams**

Jim Craig, Graham Kelly, Jonna Robinson, Dave Jackson **Second Overall**

Don McCown, Patrick Arnett, Chuck Wilson, Lorrie Scott **Fourth Overall**

Lesley Waltner, Lennart Naslund, Dennis Rubida, George Bitner **First in C**

Following are the top Masterpoint winners of the Unit over the SPECTACULAR weekend:

Graham Kelly	14.85	Dave Jackson	4.54
Jim Craig	14.85	Dennis Rubida	4.00
Lesley Waltner	4.79	Patrick Arnett	2.55
Lennart Naslund	4.79	Lorrie Scott	2.55
Jonna Robinson	4.54	Don McCown	2.55

**Surf's Up Sectional**

**Santa Cruz, CA October 5-6, 2024**

The Unit made a good showing at the Santa Clara Sectional, even finishing high in the overalls in a few instances. Notable results included:

**Saturday Open Pairs**

Jim Craig & Graham Kelly, **Third Overall**





### Sunday Open Swiss Teams

Vinny McLoughlin, Ken Johnson, Joanne Wicker, Graham Kelly, **Second Overall**

Win Stone, Jim Craig, Dave Jackson, Jonna Robinson, **Fourth Overall**

Top Masterpoint winners from our Unit over the weekend included:

Graham Kelly	9.39	Joanne Wicker	4.75
Jim Craig	7.31	Win Stone	2.67
Vinny McLoughlin	4.75	Jonna Robinson	2.67
Ken Johnson	4.75	Dave Jackson	2.67

### Seaside Regional

#### Seaside OR, October 11-15, 2024

Friends of the Unit, Betsy Wagner and Jan Pfiffner headed up to the Oregon Coast to take in some sea air and Regional gold and red points. While their names are not on any trophies after the event, each came away with 3.92 colored points towards future advancement!

### Sectional Tournament at Clubs (STaC)

#### August 19 - 25, 2024

The Summer STaC event was held in mid-August, and included clubs in Districts 19, 21, 22 and 23. Unit 524 had 3 games during that time frame: the Tuesday Buena Vista game at Casa de Fruta, and concurrent Open and 499er games Thursday for Stone's game at the Gilroy Senior Center. This was a "normal" STaC week, meaning that all Masterpoint awards were Silver points, as in any standard Sectional. The size of overall awards were based upon total attendance at all of the games running concurrently, which varied widely.

The Tuesday (August 20) Buena Vista game had 5 tables and was included in an event of 112 tables over a number of clubs from Seattle to Spokane to Modesto to Bakersfield to Long Beach, and beyond. Our local winners, with a score of 72.50%, were Vinny McLoughlin and Graham Kelly, good enough for FIRST PLACE overall and a prize of 16.28 MPs! Congratulations to Vinny and Graham! They were the only players from Unit 524 to finish in the overalls for the Tuesday afternoon game, but there were also other local winners in the game.





- N/S 1 – Vinny McLoughlin – Graham Kelly (16.28 Silver)  
2 – Marianne Wuchcerpfennig – Skip Pack (0.99 Silver)
- E/W 1 – Jim Craig – Win Stone (1.41 Silver)  
2 – Linda King – Ron King (0.99 Silver)

The Thursday (August 22) 499er game in Gilroy had 7 tables, and had only one other club, in Stockton, competing at the same time. The top finishers in Stone's Club tied and wound up tied for first Overall across the clubs involved. Overall awards for Unit 524 were:

- Matthew Rode & Lesley Waltner (A:B: 1/2) [2.05 Silver]  
Lennart Naslund & Dennis Rubida (A:B: 1/2) [2.05 Silver]  
Seala Fletcher-Kelly & Anna Gervacio (A:4, B:3) [1.09 Silver]  
Ernestine Hicks & Pat Kelley (B:6, C:1) [1.28 Silver]  
Julia Meader & Don Montag (C: 2/3) [0.84]  
David Glashan & Geff Kinn (C: 2/3) [0.84]  
Arlene & Steve Greenberg (C:5) [0.41 Silver]

The Thursday (May 9) Open game in Gilroy was a smaller game (5 tables), but the full competition included 32 tables across several clubs. Win Stone and Jonna Robinson finished in 7th place in the District! Here were the top finishers in the Open section of Stone's Game:

- N/S 1 – Win Stone & Jonna Robinson (1.41 Silver)  
2/3 – Don McCown & Patty Stone (0.85 Silver)  
2/3 – Graham Kelly & Vinny McLoughlin (0.85 Silver)
- E/W 1 – Chuck Wilson & Norm Dow (1.41 Silver)  
2/3 – Skip Pack & Jim Craig (0.85 Silver)  
2/3 – Ken Johnson & Alan Johnson (0.85 Silver)

### Rank Advancements

We have one new rank advancement to announce since our last publication. **Marianne Wucherpennig** has attained the rank of Sectional Master (50 Masterpoints). Congratulations and a round of applause for Marianne!





## Monthly Unit Game

The monthly Unit Game is the third Sunday of the month: except in September. In September we push the Unit Game out with the Earthquake Sectional. Therefore, we only have one official "Unit Game" to report this edition. [Unit 524 has invited players from all Units to come join us for the Unit game in Morgan Hill, especially those Units who have lost playing space and are short on face-to-face games.] Join us at the **Centennial Recreation Center** (CRC) on Edmundson, just west of Monterey Road, in Morgan Hill. Upcoming Unit games are on October 20 (Oops, just missed it. See next issue for the report!), November 17, and December 15.

The **August** Unit Game Open game was 6 full tables:

N/S A – Graham Kelly – Vinny McLoughlin

N/S B – Skip Pack – Ivan Godard

E/W A – Ed Logg – Jim Craig

E/W B – Mark Moore – Norm Dow

0-499 Section was 6 1/2 tables.

First A – Dennis Rubida – Lennart Naslund

First B – Elsie Shaw – Barbara Miller

First C – Merrill Wolfe – Julia Meader

Full results are available on the Unit website, and ACBL "Live for Clubs," both with hand records.

## Club Games

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

Aug 20 (STaC game. See separate section.)

Aug 27 NO GAME (this was cancelled due to illness)

Sep 3 A – Graham Kelly – Vinny McLoughlin

B – Joanne McLoughlin – Seala Fletcher-Kelly

Sep 10 A – Graham Kelly – Vinny McLoughlin

B – Arlene & Steve Greenberg





- Sep 17 A – Jim Craig – Win Stone  
B – Joanne McLoughlin – Seala Fletcher-Kelly
- Sep 24 1/2 – Graham Kelly – Vinney McLoughlin (tie)  
1/2 – Lesley Waltner – Arlene Greenberg (tie)
- Oct 1 A – Jim Craig – Win Stone  
B – Arlene & Steve Greenberg
- Oct 8 1 – Jim Craig – Win Stone  
2 – Barbara Earley – Suzanne Proctor
- Oct 15 (scores unavailable)

The **Thursday** game in **Gilroy** (Stone's Game) is at the Senior Center across from City Hall and adjacent to the Police Station, with a brief lesson at 10 am followed by play. Most weeks there is an Open section of 4-6 tables and a 499er section of 5-8 tables. (Remember this game is being changed ONE TIME ONLY from Thursday October 24 to Friday October 25, 2024.)

- Aug 22 (STaC Game. See separate section.)
- Aug 29 (Open) A – Jonna Robinson – Dave Jackson  
B – Carol Nicoletti – Suzanne Proctor  
(<499) N/S – Lesley Waltner – Matt Rode  
E/W – Joanne McLoughlin – Seala Fletcher-Kelly
- Sep 5 (Open) N/S – Mark Moore – Vinny McLoughlin  
E/W – Skip Pack – Win Stone  
(<499) N/S – Lesley Waltner – Matt Rode  
E/W – Seala Fletcher-Kelly – Joanne McLoughlin
- Sep 12 (Open) 1 - Don McCown – Patrick Arnett  
2 – Mark Moore – Vinny McLoughlin  
(<499) N/S – Dennis Rubida – Lennart Naslund  
E/W – Joanne McLoughlin – Ginny Arguello





- Sep 19 (Open) 1 – Vinny McLoughlin – Ken Johnson  
2 – Betsy Wagner – Lorrie Scott
- Sep 26 (<499) N/S – Steve & Arlene Greenberg  
E/W – Lennart Naslund – Lesley Waltner
- Oct 3 (Open) A – Lorrie Scott – Win Stone  
B – Linda King – Patty Stone  
(<499) N/S – Geff Kinn – Barbara Earley  
E/W – Don Montag – Julia Meader
- Oct 10 (Open) 1 – Dave Jackson – Diana Dragt  
2 – Carol Nicoletti – Suzanne Proctor  
(<499) N/S – Seala Fletcher-Kelly – Dennis Rubida  
E/W – Joanne McLoughlin – Ginny Arguello
- Oct 17 (Open) N/S – Ken Johnson – Vinny McLoughlin  
E/W – Jim Craig – Jonna Robinson  
(<499) A/B – Pat Kelley – Ernestine Hicks  
C – Steve & Arlene Greenberg

### Local Online Game

Win Stone, who operates the Thursday game at the Gilroy Senior Center, also hosts Bridge Base (BBO) online games, Monday, Wednesday and Fridays at 1:25 pm local time. Turnout has risen slightly lately with the addition of players from outside the Unit, and in some cases from all over the world, on an apparently random basis. But generally it is made up of Unit 524 members and their friends. Usually, 4 to 8 tables of friendly competitors each day. Look for "Stones Game" at 1:25 PDT on BBO. Monday, Wednesday and Friday. ***(Except Oct 24/25 play Thursday instead of Friday, one time exception.)***





## Marin By Melanie Haddad (508)



**Welcome New Unit Members!** Unit 508 is excited to welcome our newest members Cindy Charles and Heather Young. A warm welcome as well to Edward Nicolaus, Fritzie Von Jessen, Patricia Aaronoff, Barbara Johnson, and Sarath Silva, who have recently transferred into Unit 508. We're glad you're here and can't wait to meet you at our live bridge games.

**Rank Advancements!** Congratulations to our Unit members who have reached new milestones:

- **Junior Master:**

Julian Brandes, Brogan Duffy, Paula Pagano, Linda Wiley

- **Club Master:**

Marylou Hayward, Richard Sunberg, Susan Sunberg, Charles Westmiller

- **Life Master:**

Veronica Berlin

- **Bronze Life Master:**

Shirley Ehrlich

- **Silver Life Master:**

Susan Angel

**Save the Date!** Mark your calendars for Sunday, December 15! Our Marin Unit's **Annual Holiday Party and Fundraiser** for Homeward Bound of Marin will be held at the Terra Linda Recreation Center. Lunch will begin at noon, followed by a free Unit bridge game at 1 pm. This year's lunch will be potluck-style, so bring your favorite dish to share! Let's make this year's fundraiser our biggest yet and continue to support the amazing work Homeward Bound of Marin does for our community. Stay tuned for more details in The Blast.

**Speaking of which...New Blast Editor!** We're excited to announce that **Mary Warner** will be taking over as the new editor of The Blast. Thank you, Mary, and a huge thank you to outgoing Editor, Judy Leedy, for all her hard work and dedication in keeping us connected through the newsletter.

**Amazing Games!** Congratulations to Margie Peterson who racked up 69.60 masterpoints at the recent Reno Sparks Regional, coming in 3rd overall and to Carole Liss who was not far behind with 49.85 masterpoints overall. Well done!





Don't forget that D21 NAP finals will be held at the Monterey Regional in January 2025. Book your rooms now!

**Amazing Opportunity!** Are you looking to improve your game? Here's your chance! Vince Mueller, one of our experienced players, will partner with you for a day at the Wednesday or Friday games in Terra Linda. This is a great opportunity to gain valuable insights and tips from a seasoned player. To schedule a playing date, give Vince a call at 415-342-3331.

**Share Your Stories!** Do you have an amazing game, a memorable hand, or a funny story from the bridge table? We'd love to hear from you! Share your experiences with the Unit by dropping us an email at [marinunit508@gmail.com](mailto:marinunit508@gmail.com).

Stay Connected! If you're not already receiving The Blast, our weekly newsletter filled with the latest Unit news, be sure to subscribe [HERE](#). Don't miss out!

## Modesto By Ray Adams (529)



The unit had four advancements in rank the past two months. Patricia Heckendorf became a Junior Master; Tom Au, a Club Master; Barbara Page, a Silver Life Master; and Dee Alexander, a Ruby Life Master. The unit is very proud of these members' achievements and sends the very best congratulations to them all.

Judy Remmers's junior group had two duplicate games (other than the one STaC game) with Marilyn Talent/Cathie Peck winning in August with a 62.5% game and Mike and Rose Epting tying with Cathie Peck/Nancy Simas for the top spot with a 56.35% game.

August 19 saw the beginning of STaC week, and we had four silver-point games. Sharon Schroeder and Pat Heckendorf won on Monday with 60.94%. The top scorers for the other games were: A, Ralph Jungwirth/Trelle Uhl, followed by Frank Frohman at second, and Lee Maddocks third. In B, Sharon Cole outdid everyone else in the unit, winning a total of 7.18 points. Joyce Rudesill was second, and Judy Remmers third. In C, Jaime Hamilton was first and actually second overall behind Sharon with 5.18 points. Lynn Pont/Lynn Brooks were second and Cathie Peck was third.

The August Unit game was paced by Galen Neptune/Ray Adams with 63.55%. Zhimin Lin/Ben Rushin were second, with Judy Remmers/Sheela Wani third, and Ralph and Trelle fourth. In September, Roger Smith/Ray Adams tied Sheela Wani/Judy Remmers for first in A, while the latter pair also captured first in B. Marcia Laird and Jeanne Russo were first in C.

The Saturday Invitational game welcomed new players Kent Mitchell and Gaye Nelson in August, with Gaye being involved in the highest scoring game in the month when she and Barbara Page had a 73.61% effort. The next highest game was in







September by Tom Au/Alex Limbach, at 69.795. Third were Sharon Cole/Joyce Rudesill at 68.25%.

Readers will remember that no A players are allowed to win points in the Saturday Invitational game. Top point earners in B were: first, Sharon Cole, second, Joyce Rudesill, and third was the pair of Judy Remmers/Barbara Page. In C, Tom Au came in first, followed by Jeff Gaudio at second, and his regular partner – Terry Sciabica – came in third.

High scores for the month in the open game were: 72.92% by Lee Maddocks/Garrard Marsh, 68% by Frank Frohman/Bruce Rusking, and 66.67% by Barbara Page/Ray Adams.

The top point winners in the open game were: first, Sheela Wani at 14.67, second Frank Frohman with 14.32, and third, Ray Adams at 13.25. In B, Sharon Cole was not just first in this category, but also first overall with 15.92, Gary Capwell came in second at 11.92, and Judy Remmers third with 9.35. In C, Jaime Hamilton led all with a nice accumulation of 11.01, Zhimin Lin was second, and Tom Au third. Unfortunately, we will not be seeing Zhimin among the leaders for a while as he and his wife are on an extended vacation in China. However, be aware that he may come back even better than he left after getting in some tough games against the best Chinese players.

The club will stage four club appreciation games starting on the twenty-first. Then Halloween looms at the end of the month. I imagine many local bridge buffs are readying costumes for this occasion. I decided that I would dress up like a bridge expert in the hopes that this will help me win more master points.

## **Monterey By Ed Schrenzel (530)**

Once again, the Unit 530 Monterey Bridge Club was busy the last couple of months.

On Sunday, September 8th, we hosted our monthly Unit Game with a Greek-themed lunch and open game. Yaza Shafai, a chef and friend of one of our members, prepared the meal featuring chicken souvlaki, tzakziki and lemon rice pilaf along with stuffed grape leaves and a Greek salad. Unit treasurer Ray Mok reported that the event, which was directed by Doug Halleen, netted \$826, of which \$45 were donations.

The unit held its bi-monthly Team Game on Saturday, September 28th. Alan Hedegard directed the 8-team event, which netted \$330 for the club. Our next Team Game is Saturday, November 23<sup>rd</sup>.

Our next monthly Bridge and Lunch Unit Game occurred on Sunday, October 13th and was directed by Maja. The Italian theme included both meat and vegetarian lasagna as well as salads, side dishes, and desserts. The center earned \$993 including \$97 in donations.





The Monterey Bridge Center was happy to announce that it received a significant donation from the estate of Larry Slayton, a former expert bridge player and club director. That and other donations, along with the sale of shirts and paintings as well as funds earned by our Unit Games, are helping the center offset revenue we lost during the Covid-caused closing in 2020.

Additionally, the Center was pleased to add three new members and three transfers in September.

We welcome guests from neighboring communities or visitors to the Monterey Peninsula for our unit games. Lunch is served at noon and bridge begins at 12:30, ending about 3:45. The fee for bridge and lunch is \$20 per person. The next Unit Game is Sunday, November 10th at 201-B Calle del Oakes in Del Rey Oaks. Our phone number is 831-747-1650.

As always, a great way to stay up to date is to visit our website, [www.bridgewebs.com/montereyunit530](http://www.bridgewebs.com/montereyunit530).

## Palo Alto By Dianne Giancarlo (503)

Hello from Unit 503!

As October rolls in, we're feeling a little out of sync with the typical fall weather. I still hold on to my Boston roots, and I often forget that Northern California's fall can feel more like a July heat wave. With temperatures hitting 95 degrees, it's the perfect excuse to escape the warmth of your home and join us at the air-conditioned bridge center! Come enjoy some friendly banter about the heat and engage in competitive bridge games with friends.

### Celebrations and Events

We've had a busy few months at the Palo Alto Bridge Center. On September 26, we celebrated the Fall Equinox with a heartfelt 80th birthday party for our dear friend Alan Templeton. Players of all levels came together to honor Alan, who has been a dedicated "super volunteer" for over two decades. A big thank you to board member Dan Thatte, club owner/director John Schwartz, bridge pro Debbie Rosenberg, and teacher Kathy Harper for their warm tributes. Special thanks to Stephanie Youngquist and Kathy Wheeler for organizing such a memorable celebration. Check out the photos!





Also, a shoutout to our owner/director Kevin O'Leary, who celebrated his birthday on October 4. We had a great time celebrating Kevin at his Friday game which, along with the Tuesday game, he acquired partial ownership of and has been directing for over ten years. It's no wonder that he helped to grow these games to nearly double the size to 40 tables each. His Friday lunches and desserts have been legendary! For all his contributions, in 2017 he was given Unit 503 Palo Alto Bridge Club Service Award. Also, at the Monterey Regional bridge tournament, he was awarded the 2018 District 21 Goodwill Award. Check out the photos.



August was filled with excitement as well. We hosted STaC games from August 19-25, awarding silver masterpoints. Congratulations to our top masterpoint winners:

- **Charles Riffle:** 21 mps (1st out of 6,312 participants!)
- **Brenda Hatton:** 16 mps
- **Josephine Ventura:** 10 mps

The annual All Western Championships Regional in Santa Clara was another highlight, thanks to Tournament Chairs Brenda Hatton and Anne Wilson. Here are our top winners from that event:

- **Geeske Joel:** 79 mps
- **Max Schireson:** 75 mps
- **Edward Zuckerberg:** 53 mps
- **Debbie Rosenberg:** 52 mps

### Upcoming Events

Mark your calendars! We have some exciting events coming up:

- **Fall Sectional Tournament:** Join us from Thursday, October 24 to Sunday, October 27 for a four-day event open to both NLM and Open players. This is your chance to win silver points!
- **Halloween Spooktacular:** On Thursday, October 31, come dressed in your best costume for a chance to win prizes! The game starts at 11:30 AM, with a





special table fee of just \$4.99/player for the 499er section. Don't miss Phil Abrahamson's free lecture on improving your bidding at 10:30 AM!

- **Celebrity Seminar:** Adam Parrish will present "When Not to Draw Trump" on October 19 via Zoom. Registration includes a free eBook!
- **Swiss Teams Game:** Our next monthly event is on Monday, November 11 at 11:30 AM. It's a great way to enjoy bridge with more than just your partner, and it's perfect for honing your skills. Need a partner? Let us know! The last monthly team game in 2024 will be held on December 9.
- **Saturday Club Games:** Coming up on October 19, November 16, and December 21. Help us grow our weekend games!

**Is there a directorship in your future?** Your bridge community thrives on involvement! If you're interested in becoming a certified club director, an online course starts on November 16. Sign up on the [acbl.org](https://acbl.org) website.

**Volunteer Opportunities** You can also get involved with special events, marketing, or organizing tournaments. Reach out to our Volunteer Chair, Gerry MacDonald, or Unit 503 President, Liz Koh, to learn more.

### **Bridge Education:**

**Kathy Harper's** fall classes are underway, and it's not too late to sign up on the Unit 503 website. Plus, **Silicon Valley Youth Bridge** continues its casual Fridays for young players—check out the SiVY website for details!

### **Newer Players**

We offer novice/0-50 masterpoint games every Tuesday at 10:45 AM and Wednesday evenings at 6:45 PM. These relaxed club games are a fantastic way to gain experience and improve your skills.

Our **Mentor Program** pairs aspiring players with experienced mentors to enhance their skills and enjoyment of the game. If you're interested in being a mentee or a mentor, please contact our coordinator, Sid Chen.





## **Congratulations!**

A big round of applause to our members who achieved new ACBL ranks recently:

### **July:**

- **Junior Master:** Ken Gradiska, Karen C Maness, Beth Siegelman
- **Club Master:** Evan Alexis, Ilya Sherman
- **Sectional Master:** Suzy Papazian
- **NABC Master:** Susan Pretel
- **Advanced NABC Master:** Judy Berkeley
- **Bronze Life Master:** David Merenbach
- **Silver Life Master:** Theresa S Iantosca
- **Diamond Life Master:** Harriel A Shea

### **August:**

- **Junior Master:** Jason Degraaff, Dave Greenberg, Nancy Kirwan
- **Club Master:** Lewis Lorton, Shubha Tuljapurkar
- **NABC Master:** Dimitry Goder
- **Life Master:** Ming Sheng
- **Bronze Life Master:** Peter Kilner
- **Silver Life Master:** Yehudit Hasin-Brumshten, Ken Pelowski
- **Sapphire Life Master:** Ming Sheng

### **September:**

- **Junior Master:** Rob Boucher, Kathryn B Burns, Patricia Kantor, Shankar Ruge
- **Club Master:** Jan Bochnowski, Kathy Mach, David C Scherer
- **Regional Master:** Christine Forter
- **NABC Master:** Jian Fang, Cornelia Tilney
- **Adv. NABC Master:** Liz Koh





- **Life Master:** Yakov Feldman
- **Ruby Life Master:** Martia Fikes

### **Welcome New Members!**

A warm welcome to our new members: Rob Boucher, Robert D Brunkhorst, Linda Nemmer, Jerry T Pugh, Patricia Pugh, Jill Rubin, Mary Ruth Leen, Joelle Perkocha, Kent Perkocha, Ronald Perkocha, Elise Rossiter, Jay Rossiter, Shankar Rugge, Kapil Sabharwal, Beatriz Aldana, Jenny Bixby, and Daniel Cohen.

As we say at Unit 503: **Play, Laugh & Learn!**

We can't wait to see you at the Palo Alto Bridge Center soon!

## **Reno By Martha Hildreth (473)**

### **Hot Summer; Cool Bridge**

Many of our players cooled off at the Mathewson Bridge Center during a very hot Summer, bringing us record breaking table counts every month. A Fall highlight was the very cool workshop presented by Michael Berkowitz on "Pass, Overcall or Double." There were 110 in attendance and a total of 120 played that afternoon, sending our manager, Kathy Lane, scrambling for tables. As the rounds proceeded, the double cards were well used.



As readers of the ACBL bulletin know, Michael and his wife recently added a new bridge player to the family. The club was pleased to present the new parents with a beautiful baby quilt, hand-made by Judi Stone.



Another highlight was the recently completed Reno-Sparks Regional at the Nugget Casino where many of our players raked in the gold and red points. Congratulations to them all. It was great to see familiar faces from the Sacramento and Bay areas, several of whom had previously traveled over the mountains for our in-club tournaments held this past year. We are hoping to see these "neighbors" at our limited sectional coming up on October 26. Please see: [renobridge.com](http://renobridge.com).





Our limited tournament organizers, Tam Gandart and Shannon Dressel, have been very busy in the last three months. The club held a Non-Life Master Regional on August 16th-18th, proceeded by a Sectional on the 15th. Thanks also, to Donna Neff, who led the effort to bring the NLM to the Mathewson Bridge Center. In September we had a limited sectional, and another one is coming up soon (see above).

A central reason that our in-club tournaments are so successful, with so many returning players, is the able and genial direction of Lynn Yokel. Thanks again Lynn, great seeing you in Sparks.

## San Francisco By Tom Stillman (506)

Welcome back to Unit 506

We have been on a bit of a hiatus, but now we'll have a presence in "Diamond in the Ruff" once again. Let's start with some basic information for those who have missed us (and even for those who haven't).

Our website is [www.unit506.org](http://www.unit506.org). There you will find all the information pertaining to games in person and online in San Francisco. Here is a rundown of those games by day of the week. All games are in San Francisco and Open unless otherwise specified:

- Monday: Chinese American Bridge Club (CABC), Invitation Only, 11:30 am Quick Tricks, Most Holy Redeemer Church Hall, 100 Diamond Street
- Tuesday: Carlisle Bridge Club, 1450 Post St (between Octavia & Gough), 1 PM, Parking available for free in "Visitor" spots in garage
- Wednesday: Sunset Bridge Club, 855 Brotherhood Way, NOON. Lots of parking in the lot
- Thursday: PIPS Bridge Club – BBO – 12:35 pm
- Friday: Sunset Bridge Club, 855 Brotherhood Way, NOON. Lots of parking in the lot

First Saturday of the month: CABC – BBO – 9:30 am – All are welcome

By the time you read this, we will have had our October Unit Game on October 19th. That game had an ice cream social at the break as we like to do different things to entice you to join us.

In September, a generous donor at the Janet Pomeroy Center made it possible for us to have our Unit game there. Lunch was provided. As part of our agreement, we sponsored a social game of bridge for those who would be interested. We had nine players of social bridge. One table rotated a player in each hand. The players were extremely fortunate to have Deborah Murphy and Jim Leuker helping out at the tables.





The social players all seemed to have a good time and spent three hours enjoying bridge.

### **Unit Games**

Our schedule for Unit games the rest of the year will be as follows:

Saturday, November 9th: Swiss Teams in the Open game & Pairs in the 499er (if we get enough)

Saturday, December 15th: Pairs in the Open & 499er games. Holiday Potluck.

At our November game we'll have a fun activity to get people to know one another. "Magic Pairs" will start at 11:30. Those interested in participating can put their name in a container and people will be paired up randomly to play two or three hands before the main Swiss Teams game begins.

At our December game, we will have another social bridge game. The planned format will be casual playing of dealt hands with assistance from some of our local players if available. There won't be any scoring so it will just be a fun time to play some bridge and meet some new people. If you know someone who has been out of bridge for a while or just wants to play some pressure-free hands, please tell them about this very special event on December 15th.

Our Unit games are held on the lower level of St. Mary's of the Assumption Cathedral, 1111 Gough St at Geary. Last entry is sold at 11:55 am and the game starts at noon.

### **At the Clubs**

#### *Quicktricks*

October 28th: Club Appreciation & Swiss Teams in the Open Game

#### *Sunset Bridge Club*

October 23rd & 25th: Club Appreciation

October 30th: Instant Matchpoint Game

Be sure to support the Unit 506 clubs listed above. Without your support, clubs in San Francisco may not be open any longer. Particularly with regard to online clubs.







## San Mateo By Lauren Rosen (498)



We're looking forward to the fall season and a harvest of bridge events at Unit 498.

Kudos to Carol Lashman for organizing a successful two-session Non-Life Master Sectional on Saturday, September 28th. The event drew players from around the Bay Area to our home at the Villa.

The top four overall pairs in the 199er section were Nancy and Craig Shibata, Hatim and Muna Tarazi, Lynne Walter and Diane Ross, and Nancy and Ken Hoeck.

In the morning 749er session, the leaders were: Larry McMahan and Ann Morrison, Bill Roman and Monica Bacon-Proctor, David Murray and Raymond Ochoa, Ilya Sherman and Garrick Louis, and Craig Lewis and Elizabeth Majchrzak.

Many players stayed for the combined afternoon session, with more Silver points up for grabs. The top six pairs were: David Gin and Brad Carson, Chin Huang and Yannie Zhao, Raymond Ochoa and David Murray, Ilya Sherman and Garrick Louis, Bill Roman and Monica Bacon-Proctor, and Judy Olson and Elizabeth Fortini.

All are welcome to join our remaining Saturday Unit Games at the Villa on November 9th and December 14th, with lunch at 11:30 and the game starting at 12:15.

Jennifer Kuhn kicked off a new Easybridge class for 16 registered participants on October 16. Her classes offer a wonderful intro for beginners and bring many new members to our Unit.

We have one more Mentor/Mentee game for the year on October 24 with the online format. We're looking forward to bringing back in-person Mentor/Mentee games in 2025.

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

## Santa Cruz By Leslie Davidson (550)



Santa Cruz Bridge Club has seen an increase in our table counts. This is due mainly to our new players. Several newcomers have joined the 499er game on Monday nights and some even join the Open game on Wednesday evenings. Lots of new faces and great camaraderie in the evening games.



**Welcome to our new members:**

Jenny Bear

Brian Smith

Mike Russak

Tom Martin

**Congratulations to those with 70 and + % games (August 5<sup>th</sup>-October 11<sup>th</sup>):**

8/6: Ken Llacera - Mick Friedberg

8/7: Ginger Stone - Jan Winham

Andrew Calciano - Marilyn Calciano

8/19: Janet Loops - Lester Loops

8/26: Robert Hartmann - Tony Nelson

9/16: Barbara Tidmore - Judy Osborn

Andrew Calciano - Marilyn Calciano

9/18: Lester Loops - Michael Modest

**Accolades and applause to those reaching new milestones:**

Michael Modest-New NABC Master

Lester Loops-Advanced NABC Master

**STAC WEEK AUG. 19-24\*\***

**August 20:**

Mick Friedberg - Ken Llacera 67.50% 2.16 silver mps (1ST A)

Richard Hill - Malcolm Sprott 60.83% 1.31 silver mps (1ST B)

Kenneth Martin - Jared Boggs 51.25% 0.92 silver mps (1ST C)

**August 22:**

John Wesolowski - Cindy Sedey 57.50% 1.41 silver mps (1ST A)

Diana Schilling - Janet Loops 52.50% 0.85 silver mps (2/3 A/B)

Richard Hill - Jim Miller 52.50% 0.85 silver mps (2/3 A,B)



**August 23:**

Richard Hill - Rachael Spencer 64.44% 2.06 silver mps (1ST A AND B)

Diana Schilling - Joanne Bruno 57.78% 1.44 silver mps (2ND A)

Robert Johnson - John Wesolowski 55.19% 0.88 silver mps (1ST C)

For more STaC results go [Here](#).

Our annual **Santa Cruz bridge Center's Surf's Up Sectional** was held on October 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup>. This year the SCBC Board of director's voted to hold the sectional at our own **Santa Cruz Bridge Center**, with a very successful turnout:

- 3 tables in the 0 - 500 Pairs
- 12 tables based on 14 in the Saturday Open pairs
- 13 Tables for Open Swiss teams

**Top Scorers at the Sectional:****0-500 Saturday AM game with 3 Tables**

Nancy Kirwan, Campbell CA; Melinda Byerley, San Jose CA 63.39%

Linda Downing, Soquel CA; Nandor Vadas, Santa Cruz CA. 51.00%

**Saturday Open Pairs with 12.0 Tables**

8.25 mps 1A Lynn Shannon - Diane Shannon, Campbell CA 63.39%

6.19 mps 2A 1B Carol Avenmarg, Aptos CA; Robin McDuff, Santa Cruz CA 59.32%

4.64 mps 3A James Craig, Gilroy CA; S Graham Kelly, San Martin CA. 57.19%

3.48 mps 4A 2B 1C Rajee v Jog - Niraj Jain, San Jose CA 56.61%

**Sunday Open Swiss Teams 13 Tables**

6.33 MP 1A : Lynn Shannon, Campbell CA; Ken Rosenfeld, Mountain View CA; Joel Koransky, Saratoga CA; Michael Bodell, Santa Clara CA

4.72 MP 2A: Vincent McLoughlin - Kenneth Johnson - Joanne Wicker, Morgan Hill CA; S Graham Kelly, San Martin CA

3.56 MP 3A 1 B: Diana Schilling, Aptos CA; Joanne Bruno, Watsonville CA; Robert Johnson - John Wesolowski, Santa Cruz CA





2.67 MP 4 A: James Craig - Winston Stone, Gilroy CA; David Jackson, Morgan Hill CA; Jonna Robinson, San Jose CA

2.55 MP 2B 1C: David Ow - Glenn Chee, Salinas CA; Carol Cowen, Capitola CA; Gina Brown, Soquel CA

For more detailed results go to [tournaments.acbl.org](http://tournaments.acbl.org)

**Many thanks to our team:**

Tournament Director: Greg Vance

Chair: Robert Johnson

Co-Chair: Ken Llacera

Partnerships: John Wesolowski

Thanks to our Events Committee SCBC is looking forward to: **"Come as you aren't" Costume Party and Potluck.** Wednesday October 30th, 5:30 with Game at 6:30. **Happy Halloween!**

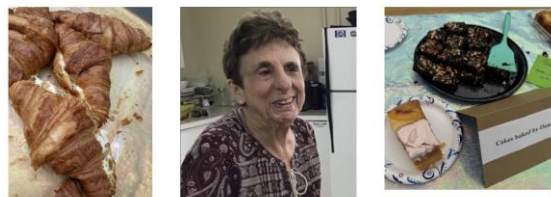
**Santa Rosa/Petaluma By Cecelia Zachar (509)**

**... with help from Maxine Reagh (for Sectional).**

**October 2024 (Aug 18 - Oct 18)**



Unit 509 celebrated Fall in Sonoma County with our sectional September 14 and 15. Though not as well attended as last fall's event, people seemed to enjoy themselves with great competition and plenty of snacks and beverages throughout the day. Comments about Unit 509's hospitality are always complimentary, and several people said that they consider our sectional tournament to be one of the nicest. Of course, the very best part is Jackie Ortiz' Sunday luncheon. This fall Jackie made egg salad croissant sandwiches, bean salad, cole slaw, green salad and tortellini for 110 people. And Dana





Murphy made three different cakes that people raved about, that we enjoyed for dessert.

There were a few sweet stories from our sectional. We had a player who was visiting from New York who planned her vacation to center on attending our sectional. She had met her partner, Catherine Shanahan, on BBO and they have been playing together online for a while, never having met in person.

Another joy of our sectional was the attendance of a sixteen-year-old from Redwood City. He has been playing in a youth group known as SiVY Bridge (Silicon Valley Youth Bridge), an all-volunteer, non-profit organization which offers free after school programs, clubs, events and other opportunities for youth to learn and play bridge. He wanted to play in our sectional, so he asked his parents to bring him to Petaluma, about a 65-mile drive. His parents said "Yes!", rented a motel room, and drove him here for the weekend. He contacted Kathy Venton who set him up with Jim Oser for Saturday and Helene Gay for Sunday. The young man and Jim won 3.44 Silver Saturday morning with a 58.33% score, and he and Helene along with Patty Harberson and Frederick Morris won 1.79 Silver in the Swiss Team. Helene commented on how delightful the experience was and encouraged anyone to "Play with a teenager! I would certainly play with him again!"



Perhaps some of the credit of Michael attending our sectional can be given to Phil Abrahamson from Atherton (near Palo Alto), the winner of the 2024 ACBL Teacher of the Year award. Phil played in the Open Pairs with his wife, Dana Shelley, winning 1.69 Silver in the B strat on Saturday, and 4.22 Silver for 2nd place in the Ax strat on a team with Dana Shelley, Carol Kemper, and Stephanie Singer on Sunday. An article in this summer's NABC Bulletin says "for all the praise his students heap, Abrahamson feels he gets more from them. 'Every time I do a presentation, I feel like I'm the luckiest person in the room. I'm having so much fun.'"

A high point of any sectional is when one of the players becomes a Life Master. In the Sunday Swiss, one of our unit's players, Howard Neckel, finally got the silver points he needed to become our newest Life Master.

As to winners at the tournament, we had some heavy hitters from other units in the competition. Leading the tournament with





20.73 masterpoints were Gene Simpson and Laura Kenney of Marin. Close behind in Unit 509 were Sara Rothmuller with 19.32 and Bob Klein with 15.55. On Saturday, our top 499er pairs were Mary King and Gail Sickler in the morning and Joni Conner and Jeremy Brott in the afternoon. In Saturday's Open game, in the afternoon Sara Rothmuller was 1st overall with 14.44 Silver, and Neill Ray and Andy Andrews came in 2nd overall in A, 1st in B and C for 3.75 silver. In Sunday's B/C/D Swiss Team Game Ron Chestnut, Brian Sullivan, Ronald Welch, and Jonathan Cohen won 1st overall for 5.36 Silver, followed by Andy Andrews, Lori Kiefer, and Robert Keys in 2nd place and Jeff Sacher and Gerald Besses in 3rd. In the A Swiss, Erwin Linzner, Larry Borsian, Bob Klein, and Asher Nathan placed 2nd, and Sara Rothmuller, Kate Hill, James Reed, and Nancy Gunn were 3rd.

And, our effort to reduce our waste was well received. We no longer have plastic water bottles. In addition to sodas, we had ice water on tap. Clearly marked containers for compost, recycling and trash helped participants to figure out what goes where.



Congratulations to our players who advanced in rank since the last article. In addition to Howard Neckel, Judy Duport also earned her Life Master, and Jim Reed advanced to Ruby Life Master. Congratulations, Judy and Jim.

Our next unit game will have come and gone by the time you see this article. On October 19, Tony Jackson will be presenting Opening Leads: Active or Passive, discussing what it means for a lead to be active or passive and what can help you choose between these two different approaches.

On Saturday, November 9, Tony Jackson will be presenting Hand Evaluation at 11:30, followed by a free lunch at 12:30, and a Unit Game at 1. As always, everyone is welcome to attend any or all 3 with no charge for the lesson or the lunch. Contact Kathy Venton at (707) 591-5015 or [bridgegalleryca@gmail.com](mailto:bridgegalleryca@gmail.com) for more information or a partner.

## Silicon Valley By Ray Yuenger (507)



I wrote my last Unit 507 ("U507") column eight weeks ago. Since then we've had a local regional. We are holding our fall sectional soon, namely the weekend of November 1 through 3. Here's a [link](#) to the flyer. Please note the afternoon session start for pair games is 30 minutes earlier, so plan your lunches accordingly. We did have a membership vote at our annual membership meeting about the start times and the earlier start was more popular.

There has been a lot of activity on the tournament trail in the last two months. At the All-Western regional, bracket and stratification tops were earned in team games





by Lynn Shannon & John Miller; Rick Jasper, John Wachsman, Marcia & Robert Dean (twice); Jack Verson & John Hodges; Joel Singer & Floyd McWilliams; Joanne Cornbleet; Stacie Bowman; Larry Wagner; Henry Zhang, Peng Cheng & Xiaoyu Cheng; Tien-Chun Yang, Yanong Han & Richard Reitman; and Ron Baron & Yubo Dong.

Earning strat tops in open pairs games were: Xin Ge; Richard O'Brien; Brenna Wundram & Luen-Jyh Luo; Jung Hu & Simon Zheng; Yannie Zhao; Kayden Ge; Michael Bodell. Section tops went to Xin Ge; Kumar Ramaiyer; Laura Finkelstein; Richard Reitman & Yanong Han. In limited games, strat tops were earned by Arlie Stephens & Gavin Nesom, with section tops to Andy Scott; Arnold Landsman; John Stremel; Kathy Ormseth (twice); Larry Wagner (twice); Michael Callahan; Bharat Kamdar (twice); Jung Hu; Roy Tsai & George Welch; and Li Zhang.

At a regional in Seaside Oregon, John Miller won three (!!!) open pairs games and placed second in a fourth. In a limited pairs game, Betsy Wagner & Jan Pfiffner had a section top.

At the regional in Sparks, Nevada (called "Reno/Sparks"), Anne Wilson's teams won their brackets twice. Anne was also the tournament co-chair. Jung Hu & Simon Zheng won an open pairs game and had a strat top in another one. Rick Jasper & John Wachsman also had a strat top in an open pairs game. Section tops went to Mansoor Gowani; Lynn Shannon & John Miller. Jan Pfiffner & Betsy Wagner had a section top in a limited online pairs game that was part of this regional.

In the online Digital North American under 6,000 pairs, John Stremel had a section top.

At the San Mateo sectional Peter Sun had a strat top in an open pairs game while Michael Bodell & Mike Cailean, Clark Millikan & Arif Janjua, Cadir Lee, and Kayden Ge had section tops. Jason Long had a section top in a limited pairs game. Kayden Ge's Swiss team placed first.

At the Sacramento sectional, Lynn Shannon & John Miller won one open pairs game and had a section top in another one.

At the Earthquake sectional in Morgan Hill, in open pairs Xin Ge; Jan Kiernan & Sumiye Minami had strat tops and Roy Tsai & George Welch had a section top. Elaine Hughes & Renee Perry were first in the limited pairs. The Swiss team with Xin & Kayden Ge placed first.

At the Santa Cruz sectional, Diane and Lynn Shannon won the open pairs, and Lynn's team with Michael Bodell & Joel Koransky won the Swiss.

Is that enough names from the tournament trail? I'm so grateful that Jay Whipple created some software for locating tournament winners from each unit. His software gave me almost 200 pairs, with some reported on multiple lists.





Congratulations to our newest U507 Masters: Jacqueline Bjurman, Yan Deng, Jin Wang, Jeremy Zhang (Junior); Mike Friedman, Rajeev Gupta, Shailesh Naik, Simon Zheng (NABC); Kumar Ramaiyer, Li Zhang (Advanced NABC); Anne Bossange, Joanne Cornbleet (Silver); Joel Singer (Ruby); Tsao-Tung Tsai, Brenna Wundram (Gold); Frank Xie (Sapphire); and John Miller (Emerald).

It's not exactly news anymore. Back in my April 2024 U507 column, I mentioned that U507 was in the process of filing articles of incorporation for the first time in its existence to accompany the U507 Bylaws that date back to 1960. The California Secretary of State registered our Articles on May 10, 2024.

Maybe it's not too early to save the date of January 18 for our belated U507 holiday party and stratified open pairs game. It will be the usual potluck format, with details to follow.

## Stockton By Debbie DeZarn (510)



Not one, not even two, but three Stockton Players recently passed the 2500-point mark to become Gold Life Masters! Congratulations to Sue Vogtlin, Barbara Smart, and Mort Horn. They are all regulars who support the Stockton and Oak Park clubs

by playing three times a week.



Not to be overlooked but others have had rank advancements as well: Frank Klo became a Sectional Master but is just a few silver shy of the next rank. Michael Wells achieved Silver Life Master. We also celebrate the relative newcomers who have achieved Junior Master: Eric Daegling, Beryl Simkins, and John Oesterle.

David McGee is a former Stockton Life Master who has been away from the game for many years. He now plays in the Mountain clubs, so we welcome him back to the Unit!

In a huge surprise to all the Stockton and Oak Park players, (former) Oak Park Director Korey Baumbaugh decided to "retire" from duplicate bridge and pursue other interests. Korey was a dedicated and hard-working player, Director, and member of the Unit 510 Board of Directors. He sponsored the only Longest Day fundraiser (knife sharpening) in the valley clubs and taught beginner and private bridge lessons for many years prior to becoming a busy Director.

There have been increases in card fees at both valley clubs to offset the higher ACBL fees and to create an emergency fund in case the dealing machine needs to be







replaced. It has been "refurbished" once and still acts up now and then and will have to be replaced eventually at a cost exceeding \$5,000. Stockton Bridge Center now charges \$10 and Oak Park \$3 (plus membership in the Stockton Community Centers). But the good news is that the STaC games in November will not charge the players anything extra.

Wendy Buchanan has been teaching (very) beginning bridge to 24 students since September. None have dropped out yet and at least 3 are people who have never before played any card games at all. Two are current duplicate players (but rarely come) just taking the class as a refresher. The rest are mixed levels of "social bridge" who we hope will join ACBL soon.

I will close with the sad news of 3 deaths of longtime Unit 510 players who will be sorely missed. Don Stillman was a long time Director of the Mountain clubs (see the Unit 510 website for a nice article). Irmgard Owen has played for years and was very tickled to get a Golden Master certificate a few years ago. We will miss her warm and quiet demeanor and generosity. She always arrived with a cake or other German dessert in hand when playing on Thursdays. The most surprising was the sudden passing of Marilyn Minden who was the Unit 510 representative to district 21 ever since I have known her. Many long-time players would recognize her as the face of the Hospitality Room at District Regionals until she gave that up about 5 years ago. She frequently bought pizza for the Stockton club games and was the first to recognize the achievements of others.