



## Contents

Diablo Valley By Lisa Assoni/The ShortCut Cook (499) ..... 2

Fresno By Laura Da Costa (522) ..... 2

Gilroy/Morgan Hill/Hollister By Jim Craig (524) ..... 4

Livermore Valley By Don Garka (501)..... 12

Modesto By Ray Adams (529)..... 14

Monterey By Ed Schrenzel (530) ..... 15

Palo Alto By Dianne Giancarlo (503) ..... 16

Reno By Martha Hildreth (473)..... 20

San Francisco By Tom Stillman (506)..... 21

San Mateo By Lauren Rosen (498)..... 26

Santa Cruz By Leslie Davidson (550) ..... 27

Santa Rosa/Petaluma By Maxine Reagh (509) ..... 29

Silicon Valley By Ray Yuenger (507) ..... 32

Stockton By Debbie DeZarn (510)..... 33





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

Have you ever had to eat humble pie? Well, I've eaten my share at the bridge table. I don't like losing, and I don't think you do either. Losing gracefully is a misnomer. Others at the table will console you with "We all come in last sometime," "Heck, it's only a game," but when they lose, they become crusty crabs or worse, snapping turtles and just watch their faces turn beet red. And then there are the grumblers, like myself, who complain because we just can't get a good hand. I've even said, "I'm bored playing defense." Or, I'm showing my hand, I mean my face, which often reflects the bidding, etc. Yes, I'm Italian, and have a hard time keeping my feelings hidden. I'm now getting a new look: no, not a face lift, but a poker face.

## Fresno By Laura Da Costa (522)



**Welcome to 2026!** We have already had a lot happen since our last report in mid-December—including a New Year's game, a Mentoring game, and a Sectional.

**New Year's Eve Party/Game:** This year we decided to truly have our New Year's Eve game on December 31st, which was a Wednesday (as opposed to last year when we had it on the Sunday before). We did decide to make it a very early day though, as we had a potluck lunch at noon and a game at 1 pm. The lunch was, as it usually is, amazing and plentiful. Thanks to all who came to the lunch including some who joined us for the party but did not stay for the game. The game was 6 tables. The winners were (N/S) Ann Derwin & Steve Holmes and (E/W) Cyndi Tingey & Avis Morse (Overall Winners).

**Mentoring Game/Lesson:** We had 4 tables attend the Mentoring Game/Lesson on Sunday, January 18th. A fun time was had by both mentors and mentees. Hope you can join us at a future event; we do these game/lessons three to four times a year.

**Fresno Winter Sectional in 2026:** Our 3-day sectional on Presidents Day Weekend (February 14th-16th) ended yesterday as I write this article (I am still recovering). This tournament seemed to be celebrating a bit of everything. We started on Valentines Day, which was also Anthony "Ant" Toto's birthday. Just to make the 14th even more to celebrate, we had two individuals obtain their final silver points to reach Life Master—our own Matt Wilkins and our good friend Charles Vandborg (Santa Maria). Congratulations to both of them! Also, we celebrated a successful turnout despite a few last minutes cancellations due to illnesses. We ended up with a total of 63.5 tables—up 3.5 tables from last year. Our difference in tables has a lot to do with having visiting players from outside of Unit 522, as we welcomed players from Bakersfield, Corona Del Mar, Laguna Woods, Los Angeles, Loudon (TN), Merced, Santa Maria, and Visalia.

We had other notable achievements at the sectional besides our two new Life Masters. This includes a Saturday afternoon that had 70% winners in both the Open





and 499er games. For the Open game, there was Mun Takeda & Gerard Laquerriere's 71.73% game. For the 499er game, it was Jeannie & Greg Willmon (of Bakersfield) with a 70% game. Overall, 62 individuals earned masterpoints. The awards to local members who were top point winners goes to Gerard & Mun (President's Award) and Neville Abraham (99er Award). Congratulations to all!

I want to thank the whole village that made this tournament a success. Starting with our director, Gregory Vance, who kept the games running smoothly. Steve Johnson was rather busy as partnership chair this time around. Then the crew that kept us well fed with donations of food and/or money. Special mentions: Ant who bought the clubhouse Sam's Deli sandwiches on his own birthday, Marianne Kast who gave us egg dishes every morning (even the morning she didn't play), Barbara Thacker for the two coconut cakes, and Mun with the healthier items of salads and grapes each day. Also, thanks to those who delivered our lunches: Patty Toto with the sandwiches on Saturday and Don & Marion Austin who delivered the Sal's Mexican Restaurant order on Sunday. There were many others who brought in goodies—I am sorry I cannot remember all of you—but know that your contributions were appreciated by everyone. Finally, thanks to the cleanup crew who stuck around after most had left—Marianne, Steve, and Jason McAlexander.

### **Upcoming Games**

**Unit Championship Pairs Game:** Sunday, March 1st, at 1 pm will be a pairs game. Grab a partner and come out and play. Unit Championship games pay nice points and cost the same as a regular game.

**Pro-Am Team Game:** We will be having a Pro-Am Team game on Sunday, March 22nd at 1 pm. This time, we are thinking of going back to the old tradition of having a potluck lunch before the game. Stay tuned to see if that is still the game plan.

### **Member News**

**New Director:** Ant Toto has already been mentioned quite a bit in this article, but we need to include him one more time. After many years of saying he wanted to try to take the director's test someday, Ant finally did so and passed. Now if he stays in town long enough, he might actually run a game for us.





**Change of Rankings:** New rankings for December 2025 & January 2026.

**Regional Master**

- Madeline Lynes
- Judy Pierre

**Ruby Life Master**

- Judy Jessick

**Bronze Life Master**

- Jim Luther

**Gold Life Master**

- Howard Arquette

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

<u>Pair or Ind.</u>	<u>Percentage</u>	<u>Game</u>
Pat Heckathorn	71.43	Fri. Aft. 99er Individ. (1/9)
Beverly Little & Jeremy Newel	73.61	Tues. Aft. <750 (2/10)
Pat Heckathorn	71.88	Fri. Aft. 99er Individ. (2/13)

The next series of bridge lessons will be taught by Don through Clovis Adult Education starting in March. This series will be Tuesday evening lessons.

Keep up to date with all events on our Website at [fresnobridge.org](http://fresnobridge.org).

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

It's a new year and we have new advancements, events, celebrations, and heartaches. We lost two more bridge players well connected to our Unit over the years.

**Maureen Van Tuyl** passed away December 24, just a few weeks before her 85<sup>th</sup> birthday. Maureen played in our local games for years leading up to Covid and then participated regularly online during and since the Covid years. Most recently her husband and partners helped her get to the Unit games in Morgan Hill in her wheelchair to continue in this game we all enjoy so much. As is true of most of our bridge friends, Maureen had a very active and successful life before taking up the game. A teacher of French, English and ESL classes for over 40 years, Maureen was an accomplished equestrian, competing in dressage, and teaching riding, and judging competitions. Her combination of skills took her to assisting with Olympics and World Equestrian Games around the world. And she trained dogs. And raised kids. And THEN, after retiring from teaching, she took up bridge. She came to the game late, but she loved it, and she valued every masterpoint she won. We all know THAT feeling. She won several certificates for collecting the most Masterpoints in her category over the years, including the Sectional Master Ace of Virtual Clubs for 2025, listed elsewhere in this report. At the Unit Game this past Sunday (February 15) Linda King read a note from





Maureen's family to the Unit thanking everyone for being great friends to Maureen and describing how much she enjoyed playing and socializing with her partners and Unit members. We'll miss you, Maureen.

**Joe Smith**, former member of Unit 524, also passed away recently. Joe and his wife Susan moved to Sacramento several years ago. He was an electrician and plumber by trade and was the lead electrician during the construction of the Centennial Recreation Center in Morgan Hill, where we play our Unit Games. After retiring he focused on his life-long love of camping and fishing, and then also discovered an interest in bridge. As his newest hobby he fell in love with the game and played every Tuesday in Hollister and in Morgan Hill back when the Monday night game was going. We lost touch with Joe when he moved and were saddened to hear of his passing. We wish him well as he moves on to a better place.

### **The Tournament Trail**

#### **Monterey Clambake Regional**

**January 5-11, 2026**

The first Regional of the year is always right here in our backyard. We had a few members wander down to the site in Monterey, and a couple even had some great successes. Ken Johnson and Graham Kelly were **THIRD** in Bracket 2 of the Tuesday Bracketed Pairs event. They followed that up with a **SECOND** in the X stratification of the Wednesday TopFlight pairs. Total Gold/Red points for the tournament: Ken with 23.90 and Graham with 22.41. Others getting some points for the week included: Seala Fletcher-Kelly, Joanne McLoughlin, Win Stone, Jim Craig, and friend of the Unit Jan Piffner. Well done all! Way to represent! And especially congratulations to Ken and Graham!!

#### **Livermore Valley Sectional**

**Jan 31 – Feb 1, 2026**

Lesley Waltner and Lennart Naslund made the trek to Livermore for this sectional and came away with 0.60 silver points each. Hey, I'll take any reward for making the effort to support a local economy and taste of a slightly different local cuisine. We play for the fun and the challenge, but a touch of color is always nice.

### **Rank Advancements**

We had a couple of advancements over the past two months.

**Gretchen Ross** attained the rank of Junior Master (5 mp)!

**Patrick Arnett** became a Ruby Life Master (1,500 mp)!





Congratulations! We will see you at the club working on your next step up the Masterpoints ladder!

### **Unit 524 Award Winners for 2025**

The following table lists the individuals in our Unit who won the most Masterpoints in their category in 3 different areas: Face to Face clubs, Online, and Total Masterpoints (Mini-McKinney). Those players who are also listed in the District 21 list of Masterpoint winners are noted. (Special thanks to Seala Fletcher-Kelly for compiling and formatting the Masterpoint Award Winners list.)

#### **Rookie (0-5 MPS)**

- Ace of Clubs: Bob Wiedlin
- Ace of Virtual Clubs: n/a
- Mini-McKenney: Bob Wiedlin

#### **Junior Master (5-20 MPS)**

- Ace of Clubs: Dave Glashan
- Ace of Virtual Clubs: Julia Meader
- Mini-McKenney: Kathy Krause

#### **Club Master (20-50 MPS)**

- Ace of Clubs: Lennart Naslund (Placed 10th overall in D21)
- Ace of Virtual Clubs: Lennart Naslund (Placed 24/25th overall in D21)
- Mini-McKenney: Lennart Naslund (Placed 10th overall in D21)

#### **Sectional Master (50-100 MPS)**

- Ace of Clubs: Arlene and Steve Greenberg (Placed 14/15th overall in D21)
- Ace of Virtual Clubs: Maureen van Tuyl
- Mini-McKenney: Arlene and Steve Greenberg

#### **Regional Master (100-200 MPS)**

- Ace of Clubs: Pat Kelley
- Ace of Virtual Clubs: George Bitner (Placed 3rd overall in D21)
- Mini-McKenney: George Bitner





### **NABC Master (200-300 MPS)**

- Ace of Clubs: Richard Ross
- Ace of Virtual Clubs: Ginny Arguello (Placed 4th overall in D21)
- Mini-McKenney: Richard Ross (Placed 6th overall in D21)

### **Advanced NABC Master (300-500 MPS)**

- Ace of Clubs: Seala Fletcher-Kelly (Placed 9th overall in D21)
- Ace of Virtual Clubs: Lesley Waltner
- Mini-McKenney: Seala Fletcher-Kelly

### **Bronze Life Master (500-1000 MPS)**

- Ace of Clubs: Mark Moore
- Ace of Virtual Clubs: Mary Ann Ruggles
- Mini-McKenney: Mark Moore

### **Silver Life Master (1000-1500 MPS)**

- Ace of Clubs: Patrick Arnett
- Ace of Virtual Clubs: Patrick Arnett
- Mini-McKenney: Patrick Arnett

### **Ruby Life Master (1500-2500 MPS)**

- Ace of Clubs: Sally Hale (Placed 4th overall in D21)
- Ace of Virtual Clubs: n/a
- Mini-McKenney: Graham Kelly

### **Gold Life Master (2500-3500 MPS)**

- Ace of Clubs: Jeffrey Rogers (Placed 12th overall in D21)
- Ace of Virtual Clubs: Jim Craig (Placed 3rd overall in D21)
- Mini-McKenney: Jim Craig (Placed 20th overall in D21)





### **Sapphire Life Master (3500-5000 MPS)**

- Ace of Clubs: Winston Stone
- Ace of Virtual Clubs: Winston Stone (Placed 3rd overall in D21)
- Mini-McKenney: Winston Stone

### **Platinum Life Master (10,000+ MPS)**

- Ace of Clubs: n/a
- Ace of Virtual Clubs: Tony Glynne (Placed 2nd overall in D21)
- Mini-McKenney: Tony Glynne

Listed winners will also be recognized in a presentation at the March 2026 Unit Game.

### **Unit Games**

Regular monthly Unit Games are generally held on the third Sunday of the month. Occasionally the Unit Game must be moved to a different weekend, and sometimes additional, special Unit Games are added on a different, but announced, basis. Usually, the location is the Morgan Hill Centennial Recreation Center, but check any announcements. Starting time is 11:30 am (which also can vary for different/special events).

### **Results**

#### December Unit Game in Morgan Hill (12/25/25)

The Open/Stratified game had 7 1/2 tables

1st A – Graham Kelly & Vinny McLoughlin

1st B&C – Dennis Rubida & Lennart Naslund

The 199er game had 3 tables

1st – Dave Glashan & Geff Kinn

2nd – Ann Leishman & Brad Whitaker





January Unit Game in Morgan Hill (01/18/26)

The Open/Stratified game had 7 full tables

N/S A – Graham Kelly & Vinny McLoughlin

N/S B&C – Carol Reid & Jane Michaels

E/W A&B&C – Lennart Naslund & Lesley Waltner

E/W 2nd – Margot Kakalec & Melanie Kakalec

The 199er game had 4 1/2 tables

1st – Gretchen Ross & Carmel Trela

2nd – James & Kathy Krause

February Unit Game (02/15/26)

Results are still being compiled as this report is prepared.

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) plays at the club house in Dunne Park (600 West Street, Hollister). Game time is 11:00 am most Tuesdays. The game is generally 3 - 6 tables, and open to all. If you plan to come and have not played there in a while, call Skip a day in advance to save your place (831-524-4883).

Winners over the past two months were:

Dec 16 A – Win Stone & Jim Craig

B – Barbara Earley & Suzanne Proctor

C – Steve & Arlene Greenberg

There were no games on 12/23/25 and 12/30/25.

Jan 6 (2026) A – Graham Kelly & Vinny McLoughlin

B – Joanne McLoughlin & Seala Fletcher-Kelly





## D I A M O N D I N T H E R U F F

- Jan 13 A 1/2 – Patrick & Liega Arnett  
A 1/2 – Jim Craig & Win Stone  
B – Dave Glashan & Geff Kinn
- Jan 20 A – Graham Kelly & Vinny McLoughlin  
B – Barbara Earley & Suzanne Proctor  
C – Steve & Arlene Greenberg
- Jan 27 A – Win Stone & Jim Craig (73%)  
B – Dave Glashan & Geff Kinn
- Feb 3 A – Barbara Earley & Suzanne Proctor  
B 1/2 – Lennart Naslund & Lesley Waltner  
B 1/2 – Steve & Arlene Greenberg
- Feb 10 A – Barbara Earley & Suzanne Proctor  
B – Nancy Sampson & Sheila Holt

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. There is an Open section and an Intermediate/Novice section with a top limit of 199 MP for participants.

- Dec 18 (Open) A 1/2 NS – Jim Craig & Jonna Robinson  
A 1/2 NS – Vinny McLoughlin & Ken Johnson  
B1 NS – Joanne McLoughlin & Betsy Wagner  
A1 EW – Sally Hale & Jeff Rogers  
B1 EW – Skip Pack & Barbara Easley  
(<199) 1 – Dave Glashan & Geff Kinn  
2 – Merrill Wolfe & Irene Popenhager

[There were no games on 12/25/25 and 01/01/26]





Jan 8, 2026 (Open) A 1st – Mary Legrand & Lorrie Scott

B 1st – Suzanne Proctor & Carol Nicoletti

C 1st – Skip Pack & Dennis Rubida

(<199) 1st – Bob Wiedlin & Merrill Wolfe

2nd – Jim & Kathy Krause

Jan 15 (Open) A1 – Ken Johnson & Vinny McLoughlin

B1 & C1 – Lennart Naslund & Lesley Waltner

(<199)1st – Bob Wiedlin & Julia Meader

2nd – Jim & Kathy Krause

Jan 22 (Open) N/S A – Graham Kelly & Vinny McLoughlin

N/S B – Arlene & Steve Greenberg

E/W A&B – Lennart Naslund & Lesley Waltner

(<199)1st – Pat Kelley & Ernestine Hicks

2nd – Dave Glashan & Geff Kinn

Jan 29 (Open) A – Ken Johnson & Carol Nicoletti

B – Joanne McLoughlin & Seala Fletcher-Kelly

C – Lennart Naslund & Lesley Waltner

(<199) 1st – Pat Kelley & Ernestine Hicks

2nd – Merrill Wolfe & Irene Popenhager

Feb 5 (Open) A – Graham Kelly & Jim Craig

B – Margot Kakalec & Patrick Arnett

C – Skip Pack & Barbara Earley

(<199) 1st – Peggy Bradley & Celeste Brandt

2nd – Pat Kelley & Ernestine Hicks





Feb 12 (Open) N/S A – Mark Moore & Vinny McLoughlin

N/S B – Seala Fletcher Kelly & Carol Nicoletti

E/W A – Win Stone & Jim Craig

E/W B – Joanne McLoughlin & Ginny Arguello

(<199) 1st – Rebecca Sanchez & Bob Wiedlin

2nd – Jim & Kathy Krause

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

### **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 Friday at 1:25 pm local time. Players are welcome from all over, including Florida, Colorado, and even Walnut Creek. But generally, it is made up of Unit 524 members and their friends. Usually, 3 to 8 tables of friendly competitors each day. Look for "Stones Game" at 1:25 (pacific time) on BBO, Monday, Wednesday and Friday.

### **Livermore Valley By Don Garka (501)**

The Livermore Sectional was a success with 120 tables. A special thanks to Greg Vance who was directing and had to register all the players, and we had to set up more tables. There were plenty of excellent munchies and comfy red seat cushions. Thanks to all those that volunteered their time to make this a successful event. If you left a jacket, brown and white by Refinery Republic, please send me an email to [dgarka@comcast.net](mailto:dgarka@comcast.net).

The online game has been postponed until Feb 27 on [realbridge.online](http://realbridge.online). The Livermore Club will continue to meet on Mondays at 10 a.m. All games are 'special', offer extra points, and still only cost \$7. Singles are always welcome—partners will be provided! Please arrive 10-15 minutes early to get matched with a partner. Check [livermorebridge.com](http://livermorebridge.com) for details. The Livermore Village Parking Garage is now open and free with no time restrictions at 50 S L St.





## Marin By Mary Warner (508)



### Homeward Bound: The Results are In!

At our Holiday Party 85 of our members donated \$62,600 which was double matched by our very generous member for a total of \$186,000 a new record for us!

To see the effect our donations have had on the Homeless, take a look at some of the people we've helped. Watch a brief YouTube video to hear some of the stories--have a hanky handy (link is [here](#)).

Our Club Championship was held on Friday, February 13, a lucky day for these all-GOLD point winners. We had 15 tables earn nearly 26 gold masterpoints.

Top winners:

- Carolyn Farren and Palette Moe – 5.0 gold
- Robert Thomsin and Crispin Barrere – 3.75 gold
- David Ganz and David Blohn – 2.18 gold
- Joanne Murdock and Pat Irwin – 2.18 gold

We have a bunch of new achievers who have been working hard to learn and progress their games:

Tom Bertelsen	San Rafae	Junior Master
Marijane Gay	Greenbrae	Junior Master
Christopher Ohland	San Rafael	Junior Master
Debra Bright	San Rafael	Club Master
Benjamin Gale	Mill Valley	NABC Master
Paul Leake	Mill Valley	Life Master
Stephen Levinson	San Rafael	Life Master
Stephen Levinson	San Rafael	Bronze Life Master
Shirley Ehrlich	Mill Valley	Silver Life Master
Stanley Green	Greenbrae	Ruby Life Master
Sandra Brush	Novato	Junior Master





Helene Jaffe	Greenbrae	Junior Master
Tom Ruppenthal	Greenbrae	Junior Master
Tess Offord	San Anselmo	Sectional Master
Guy Chambers	Tiburon	NABC Master
Georgiana Farren	Larkspur	Advanced NABC Master

### Modesto By Ray Adams (529)



The unit was proud to announce two rank advancements this period. Both are regular students & players in Judy Remmers's Monday group. Kris Domitrovich moved from Rookie to Junior Master, while Marilyn Tallent achieved the rank of Club Master. These two ladies work hard to improve their game and we are all quite pleased with their achievements. Way to go!

The top Monday scores were: 68.06% by Sandy Dieker & Mindi Lassen. Next were Cathie Peck & Nancy Simas with 65%, and coming in third were Ed Jeffers & Kathie Amos. Kris Domitrovich was top Monday point winner. She was followed by Kathie Amos as Nancy Simas was third.

In the December Unit game, Libby Longstreth/Judy Remmers came in first in both A & B with a nice 65.42% effort. Ralph Jungwirth & Trelle Uhl were second, with Garrard Marsh & Lorraine Bocks finished third, with Barbara & Jim Page winning C stratum. Libby also won the January Unit game, this time playing with Garrard Marsh. Second were Sheela Wani/Ray Adams. The Pages once again won C stratum. The 2025 leaders in the Unit game were: in A, (1st) Ralph Jungwirth with 19.08 points, (2nd) Trelle Uhl at 16.08, and (3rd) Sheela Wani with 15.18. In B., (1st) Libby with 12.11, (2nd) Judy Remmers with 9.36, and (3rd) Mike and Mary Wells – who have since left us for San Luis Obispo – with 7.42, & Lorraine Bocks received an honorable mention at 7.23. In C, (1st) Jim Page paced at 4.39, (2nd) Matt Weston-Dawkes, (3rd) Jaime Hamilton, and (4th) Jeff Gaudio receiving an honorable mention. Alas, we have lost Jeff for three months as he is currently cruising around the world. Bon voyage, Jeff!

In the Saturday pairs game, Sharon Cole/Joyce Rudesill had the high score of 69.44%. Jeff Gaudio & Terry Sciabica followed with 65.98%. Marcia Laird/Jeanne Russo were third at 63.49%, while the Pages earned an honorable mention with 63.78%. Top point winners were Sharon & Joyce, with Jeanne Russo second, and Barbara Page third. Terry Sciabica led C players, with Marcia Laird second, and Tom Au third.

Sheela Wani/Ray Adams turned in the high score in the open game at 65.38%, followed by Libby Longstreth/Lee Maddocks with 63.89%, and Lee & Ray at 63.1%. Sheela Wani was top point leader in open game A players, with Ray Adams second, and





Frank Frohman third. In B, Libby won the most points, and was even second overall for the two-month period, Garrard Marsh was second, while Sharon Cole came in third. In C, Jim Page dominated, Marcia Laird followed, and Terry Sciabica was right behind Marcia.

Two unit players did well at the recent January Clambake Regional in Monterey. Garrard Marsh won 15 gold points, while Lorraine Bocks captured 20. Congratulations, you two!

February is already upon us and here's hoping you all are receiving many Masterpoint valentines!

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

On December 31st, the Unit 530 Bridge Club bade farewell to 2025 and welcomed 2026 with a special New Year's Eve bridge party. Sixty-eight players attended the event, which began with a festive array of hors d'oeuvres followed by a 17-table game. Top partners were Alan Hedegard and Leonard Chriss north-south and Kurt Schnebele and Arlene Seckel east-west. Afterwards, Richard Sheere led everyone in the traditional New Year's Eve song, Auld Lang Syne. And a special visit from long-time director Lyde McReynolds topped things off.

Next up was our monthly Unit Lunch and Bridge game directed by Club President Joe Truskot on Sunday January 18th. The theme was "PastaFest" featuring several different types of pasta and sauces along with salads and desserts.

The event drew 46 people and netted the unit \$786, including \$66 in donations to help the club offset expenses. Leading finishers were Helen Rubin and Trulee Ricketts followed by Tom and Ewan Eby north-south, while Ray Mok and Rita Harvey finished first east-west with Marti Jones and Richard Wang the runners-up.

In February, the club added a regular stratified Sunday morning 10 am game hosted by Ann Ahmadi on weeks when the Unit Game is not scheduled.

The game is especially intended to attract bridge players who cannot play on a weekday. But of course, all players are invited to join in the fun. The inaugural game was attended by 34 players, which should increase as word spreads about the Sunday game.

The monthly Unit Lunch and Bridge event occurred two weeks later, on February 15th, with a Mardi Gras theme featuring jambalaya, prepared by Don Fennell, and various salads, side dishes and desserts.

The game was attended by 48 players and raised \$888, including \$128 in donations, according to Club Treasurer Ray Mok. The first place north-south team was





Tom and Ewen Eby with Joyce Hazma and Gary Fontana runners up, while Maja and Helen Rubin led the east-west teams followed by Marti Jones and Judy Murdock.

Our next Unit Game is scheduled for Sunday March 8th with lunch served at 12 noon and the game follows at 12:30. We welcome bridge players from all over to attend.

## Palo Alto By Dianne Giancarlo (503)



Greetings from Palo Alto Unit 503.

We are well into the groove this year, holding games every weekday and consistently attracting a dozen tables or more. We are pleased with this achievement and look forward to continuing to increase this number. We have a fantastic line up of directors to thank for so much of our success. They create a welcoming atmosphere at the Bridge Center and go out of their way to make the games fun for all, from holding special limited sections, providing delicious snacks, calling in substitute players and, when necessary, sitting opposite a player. I even saw John Schwartz playing bridge last week (in addition to his directing duties - he probably jogged in that morning!). Members - existing and new, have also been drawn to the club by special games such as Find-A-Partner, Pro-Ams, and Monday monthly Swiss games; the re-emergence of Frank Smoot's classes; and additional celebrity lectures and post mortems offered by members such as Debbie Rosenberg, Phil Abrahamson, Amber Lin, Ken Rosenfeld and Michael Bodell. We are grateful to have these resources and will continue to do our best to maximize their use. Come join us! Give us two days a week for a month and you will be hooked on face-to-face bridge! Your friends at Unit 503 await you.

Upcoming events for you at Palo Alto Bridge Center:

- **Daily Monday – Saturday club games:** Bridge Center is open every weekday and some Saturdays. [SignUp](#) **Free Post-mortem sessions** for some Tuesday daytime and Wednesday evening club games.
- **Monthly Swiss Team club games:** upcoming 2nd Mondays March 9, April 13 and May 11 at 11:30AM. [Swiss Team games SignUp](#)
- **San Mateo Unit Winter Sectional:** Saturday February 21 – Sunday February 22 [U498 events](#)
- **District 21 Grand National Teams (GNTs):** certain games on Saturday March 21 – Sunday March 22. Register: [D21 GNTs](#)
- **For new players, we are holding EZ games on 3 Mondays in March:** 3/9,





3/16, 3/23. The game is from 11:15am to 1:15pm and 12-14 boards will be played amongst this group. [SignUp](#)

- **Pro-Am Pairs game:** an aspiring player is partnered with a more experienced player: Thursday, March 12 at 11:00AM – register: [Pro-Am game](#)
- **St. Patrick's Day game:** wear green and get lucky on Tuesday, March 17. [SignUp](#)
- **Silicon Valley Unit Spring Sectional:** Saturday March 28 – Sunday March 29 [U507 website](#)
- **Adam Parrish celebrity seminar:** Saturday, April 11 via Zoom - "Planning the Play in No Trump" – Save the date!
- **Palo Alto Bridge Unit April Sectional:** Thursday April 23 – Sunday April 26 [Palo Alto April Sectional](#)
- **Kathy Harper's classes:** Monday evenings and Tuesday mornings – register: [Bridge classes](#)
- **Silicon Valley Youth Bridge (SiVY):** Casual Friday evenings: [SiVY website](#)
- **SAVE THE DATES – 6/24-6/28!** Palo Alto Bridge's annual **Firecracker Open Sectional & NLM Regional** tournament will be held in June this year due to the Summer North American Bridge Championships being held earlier in July than usual.



Palo Alto Bridge will host the District 21 Grand National Teams (GNTs) Flight A and Flight B Round 1 and Finals games and Open Flight Finals at the Bridge Center in the weekend of March 21-22. It's a great opportunity to compete against your peers in extended team play - the purest form of the game. Information and register online: [D21 website](#)



Palo Alto Bridge offers monthly Swiss team games for you to gain team game experience in a relaxed atmosphere. Our next team club game is on Monday, March 9 at 11:30AM, where the boards are already shuffled and dealt with hand records. This is a great opportunity to practice for the GNTs later in March. If you need a partner, or help to be matched with another pair, let us know. [Swiss Team games SignUp](#)

At this month's game on February 9th, congratulations to the winning team: **Ken Imboden-Lynn Bartz-Jack Verson-Lynn Yokel**. Honorable mention to the top strat C team (and overall 4th): **Pamela Resser-Kathryn Walker-Debra Martinez-Carl Ebeling**.





And at the January 19 monthly Swiss team game, congrats to the winning team: **Anne Wilson – Ying Liu – Frank Xie – Jim Liu**. Honorable mention to the top strat C team (and overall 3rd): **Kathy Wheeler – Stephanie Youngquist – Bill Roman – Monica Bacon-Proctor**.

### HELPING HAND



Want to improve your bridge game by playing in a relaxed atmosphere and partnering with an experienced player? Then sign up to play in Palo Alto Bridge's **Pro-Am Pairs Game** on **Thursday, March 12!**

11:00AM Meet partner and discuss bidding preferences

11:30AM Game starts

Our Pro-Am games have been very popular. 'Amateurs', players with less than 500 masterpoints, are paired with more experienced 'Pros'. After the game, the 'Pro' will review bidding, declarer play, defense, and opening leads of select hands with the 'Am'. The goal of the game is to have a fun time, with both players taking part in a post-game debriefing session, which should be a valuable learning experience for the newer player.

You do not need a partner to sign up – we'll do the matching of partnerships.

Experienced players are also encouraged to register if you are willing to partner and help our aspiring players!

Pros and Ams, **please register online** in advance: [Pro-Am game](#)



### Newer Players: Welcome to Your Bridge Safe Space!

At Palo Alto Bridge, we know that walking into a room of experienced (and somewhat scary looking) bridge players can be uncomfortable if you are new to bridge or you have recently taken up the game after an extended absence (still playing Goren?). We welcome you and want you at Palo Alto Bridge. We have a few specific games made just for this group. On **Tuesdays** at the Bridge Center, we have newcomer/0-49 masterpoint games at 10:45AM and **Wednesday evenings** at 6:45PM. Gain experience and improve your game in a relaxed environment. [SignUp](#)

Also, for newer players, we are holding some **EZ games** on three **Mondays** in March: **3/9, 3/16, 3/23**. The game is from **11:15am** to 1:15pm and 12-14 boards will be played amongst this group.

We are nicer than we look! Give us a try. [SignUp](#)



**Highlights:**

Congrats to the top Palo Alto Bridge masterpoint winners at the recent Monterey Regional ([Monterey Regional 2026](#)):

- **Susan Zhang**, 82mps
- **Amber Lin**, 51mps
- **Kevin Rosenberg**, 48mps
- **Ying Liu**, 41mps
- **Ilya Sherman**, 37mps
- **Bo Han Zhu**, 36mps
- **Mukund Thapa**, 32mps

Celebrity **Amber Lin** gave a terrific seminar on “How to Defend against 3NT – Taking ALL your Tricks”. If you miss this seminar or any of our other past celebrity online seminars, they are available for purchase [Celebrity Seminars](#). Thank you to our Celebrity Seminar Organizer, **Dede Barsotti**, for arranging these celebrity seminars.



**Happy Anniversary Unit 503 Website!**

February 2026 marks the 25th anniversary since our website was created. In February 2001, **Alan Templeton** created our first website on his home computer using a simple website software package. Over the years the software improved as well as Alan’s programming skills which allowed a more sophisticated website. The biggest functional upgrade was made in December 2017 when the Game Results page was automated. The Games Results page continues to be the single most viewed page on our site. As of this year, our website has been visited over 2.9 million times. Alan created almost all our website content himself and still maintains it today. Thank you, Alan and congratulations for 25 years of presenting Unit 503 to the world in a professional, clear and easily managed manner.



Looking for a way to expand your love for bridge? Get involved in our community! Our events and activities are put together by our **volunteers**, and we want your help. Any amount of time that you can spare would be appreciated! We need volunteers for marketing and publicity (photo-takers, storytellers, email blaster) and to help organize a bridge tournament. Please let us know.



Accessorize your outfit at your next club game, tournament or bridge event. You can purchase your own customized name badge with our colorful Palo Alto Bridge logo - order yours online for \$14: [PA Name Badge Order](#)





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

Junior Master: **Ignatius Bezzam, Oren Scheer.**

Regional Master: **Renee Koury.**

NABC Master: **Ilya Sherman.**

Silver Life Master: **Yakov Feldman.**

Diamond Life Master (>5000mps): **Susan Zhang.**

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

Junior Master: **Leslie Landers.**

Club Master: **Ignatius Bezzam, Douglas Boyle, Christina Fuhr, Chengjun Mo.**

Regional Master: **Mary Lou Zoback.**

NABC Master: **Kerry Fanwick, Maria Grigorieff, Pearl Renaker.**

Advanced NABC Master: **Kathy Ormseth, David Sweet, Sandhya Vora.**

Life Master: **Shrikant Joshi.**

Ruby Life Master: **Marina Seppius.**

Sapphire Life Master: **Tahir Gokcen.**

Emerald Life Master: **Kevin Rosenberg.**

A very warm welcome to **our new Palo Alto Unit 503 members:**

**Laura Carcione Bezzam, Kathy Ormseth, Shames Panahi, Paul Seah, Ritesh Shah, Kathy Walker.**

Play, Laugh & Learn!

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

Come to Reno for Sectionals in the Spring

We are getting to be known for our limited and open, stratified, sectionals. We aimed to provide tournaments for our many newer players where they can be comfortable and start to realize that tournament play is not all that scary, as well as





opportunities for our advanced folks. A bonus: now we are finding loyal visitors who come over the mountain to play with us. The more the better... And merrier.

Two sectional tournaments are coming up: March 14 will have a **Limited One-Day Sectional** ([flyer](#)) with 49er, 199er, and 749er pairs.

And in April, one of our big events: an open sectional from Thursday afternoon April 15 through Sunday the 19th. A flyer will be posted soon at the [club web site](#).

The club owes a big thanks to Shannon Dressel who continues to chair these events. Thanks also to Judy Kienle who has stepped up, very ably, as partnership chair.

Some club accomplishments of late: table counts continue to outpace previous years. Our December table count of 340.5 was up 23% over 2024 (overall 2025 was 11% up over 2024). In January the numbers exceeded 2025 by 11%. But February is worrisome for as I write several inches of snow is expected on the valley floor for this week. We shall see how dedicated (or foolish) our club members are! March and April tournament travelers, don't worry. Snow is rare in those months with lots of sunshine.

## San Francisco By Tom Stillman (506)

### Milestones

Three San Franciscans have achieved their Life Masters in the last couple of months. Congratulations to Carolyn Kotner, Lea Salem, and Sheila Stuart.

### NABC Part 2

All the results had not been posted at the time of my last NABC report, so here are some additional highlights.

Chris Chung of Belmont and Chris Chen of San Francisco came in 17th in the NAIL Life Master Pairs. If you're like me, you have no idea what that is. Thanks to Wikipedia, I found that the roots of the NAIL Life Master was in 1961 for MALE (my emphasis) players with a rank of National Master or higher. The event was named after George Robert ("Bobby") Nail who invented the Big Diamond system with Robert Stucker in 1965 in the book *Revolution in Bridge*. Women were finally allowed to participate starting in 1990, and it appears the first woman to win the NAIL Life Masters pair was Joanna Stansby with her husband, Lew Stansby (who passed away in 2024 but lived in Dublin, CA).

Finishing 8th in the Mitchell Board-A-Match (Mitchell BAM) were Ari Greenberg of San Francisco; Bryan Delfs (Vancouver, WA); Stan Christie (Kirkland, WA); and Tom Carmichael (Marysville, WA). Again, thanks to Wikipedia (my Bridge Encyclopedia is in storage), this event started in 1946. Like the NAIL, it was a men's only event until 1990 (apparently, the ACBL did not recognize the Women's Liberation Movement for several





decades). The event was named after Victor Mitchell whose team won consecutively in 1962 and 1963. It is not clear why it was named after Mitchell as Jeff Glick and Alvin Landy won the tournament in 1947 and 1948. It is not named after them. Rita Shugart was the first woman on a winning team in 1999.

Kim Fanady, club manager of Quick Tricks and her partner, Prudence Saunders of Palo Alto took 10th place in the Whitehead Women's Pairs Tournament. This tournament had been run at NABCs since 1930. Oddly, the tournament is named after a man, Wilbur Whitehead. Mr. Whitehead was president of the Simplex Automobile Company but was so fascinated with bridge he retired in 1910. He spent the last 21 years of his life inventing bidding conventions and aiding in standardization of procedures in contract bridge.

In the Soloway Knockout Teams event, the team of Mike Rippey of San Francisco, Irene Baron of France, and Kamil Nowak, Piotr Marcinowski, and Wojciech Strzemecki of Poland came in 9th. The Soloway has been run only since 2019, so men and women have been allowed to participate through its entire history. I am not sure, but it appears that it was named for Paul Soloway, whose life was quite interesting. At the age of 3 he nearly drowned in the pool of family friend George Raft but was saved by Paul's uncle, Bugsy Siegel. Siegel financed many of the first casinos in Las Vegas. He was also a childhood friend of Meyer Lansky who was not in any way related to Quicktricks and Sunset player, David Lansky.

Third place of the 0-6000 Blue Ribbon Pairs went to Ryan Gossiaux and Belinda Gu of San Francisco. The Blue Ribbon Pairs is limited to players who finish in the top two of unrestricted Regional Tournaments. Blue Ribbon Pairs is considered one of the most difficult national tournaments. Congratulations to Ryan and Belinda for their third-place finish in this tough event.

In the "open" Blue Ribbon Pairs with no upper limit restriction, Stella Wan of San Francisco and her partner Johan Saefsten of Sweden finished 33rd in a very tough field.

I blatantly plagiarized from Wikipedia for the information in the above paragraphs, and yes, it will be on the final exam.

The following finished first in the indicated tournament. Each winner had at least one member of Unit 506.

- **1st Friday AM 299er:** Izzy Bokser, San Francisco and Kathy Wolff, Banking Ridge, NJ
- **1st Sunday Aft 299er:** Miriam & Laurence Baskin, San Francisco
- **Mon 0-4000 Bracket 2 Teams:** Gail Gabiati, Martin Kaye, Denny Arar, and Christian Goetze, San Francisco





- **Mon Eve Side Pairs:** Deepak Ramanathan, San Francisco & Brian Wallace, UK
- **Wed 0-4000 Bracket 7 Teams:** Jeff Sanchez, Petaluma; David Mendel, Sonoma; Christiane Turner, Ketcham, ID; Helen Spalding, San Francisco
- **Wed Aft 299ers:** Martha Ehrenfeld and Sue Debits, San Francisco
- **NABC 10K Fast Pairs:** Thuy Tran and Ari Greenberg, San Francisco
- **2nd Thursday 0-4000 Bracket 4 Teams:** Jeff Socher, Petaluma; Gerald Besses, Petaluma; Helen Spalding, San Francisco; Christiane Turner, Ketcham, ID
- **2nd Thursday Aft Side Game:** William Glass, Clovis and Andrew Straus, San Francisco
- **2nd Friday AM 299er:** Robert Saken and Brandi Chavin, San Francisco
- **2nd Friday Bracket 2 Teams:** Ethan Wood, Dover, MA; Jane McLaughlin, San Francisco; Daniel Brandgaard, Denmark; Sibrand van Oosten, Netherlands
- **2nd Friday Bracket 7 Teams:** Ashish Gupta (shout-out to his four-legged companion, Zeus) and Marvin Arnold, Sacramento; Liam King, San Francisco; Jim Bowman, Carmichael
- **2nd Friday Bracket 11 Teams:** Ann Morrison, Fremont; Etan Cohen & Diane Hidy, San Francisco; James Hopkin, Orinda
- **2nd Sat Aft 299er:** Josh Jia, Palo Alto & Amelia Lee, San Francisco

In my last Heart of the District report, I listed the top five MP winners at NABC. The updated list is as follows:

Ari Greensberg	93.18
Mark Ralph	75.52
Douglas Grant	68.30
Kim Fanady	59.42
Thuy Tran	58.99





## Monterey Clambake

Here are the winners and notable performances at the Monterey Regional Tournament January 5-11, 2026.

- **Wednesday Teams Bracket 3 & Thursday Teams Bracket 4:** Fred Chasalow, Belmont; Janelle van Rensselaer, Burlingame; Susan Papillon, San Mateo; Susan Ledford, San Francisco
- **Wednesday Teams Bracket 5:** Paulette Moe, Ross; Carolyn Farren, Larkspur; Ronnie Fuchs, San Francisco; Pat Irwin, San Rafael
- **Bracketed Pairs Bracket 4:** Tom Reis, San Francisco and Brian Reis, Foster City
- **Bracketed Pairs Bracket 3:** Christian Goetze and Denny Arar, San Francisco
- **Thursday Mid-Flight Pairs:** Robert Hse, San Francisco and Jackie Zayac, Lafayette
- **Saturday Teams Bracket 4:** Stephanie Rogers, Richard Rogers, Christian Goetze, and Denny Arar, San Francisco

## Monterey Clambake Top MP earners among Unit 506 members

Susan Ledford	34.84
Denny Arar	29.93
Christian Goetze	29.93
Robert Ilse	27.81
Tom Reis	25.48

## San Francisco Sectional

It's been a very busy couple of months of bridge in Northern California. Unit 506 held their Winter Sectional the weekend of January 17-18. The Saturday Open Pairs was won by Amber Lin and Kevin Rosenberg from Mountain View.

Sharon Lee and Bruce Osterweil from San Francisco came in first in the Saturday morning side pair game. Nicholas Paleologos & Michael Scharlau of The City won the 499er game Saturday morning. In the 99er game, Laurie and Andrew Cohen from San Francisco took first place. Diane Hidy of San Francisco and her partner, Ann Morrison from Fremont came in first in the Saturday morning side pairs.





Sunday featured three brackets of team games. The winners there were:

- **Bracket 1:** Brian & Qiang Zhang, Dublin; Andrew Sinclair, Sunnyvale; Chris Chen, San Francisco
- **Bracket 2:** Fred Chasalow, Belmont; Deepak Ramanathan & Deborah Murphy, San Francisco; Lauren Friedman, Daly City
- **Bracket 3:** David Murray & Etan Cohen, San Francisco; Jay Nitschke, Berkeley; Ann Morrison, Fremont

The top 5 Unit 506 MP earners at the Winter Sectional were:

Chris Chen	20.44
Deborah Murphy	10.98
Lauren Friedman	10.76
Deepak Ramanathan	10.26
Mark McCarthy	6.93

### **Around the Unit**

*The Chinese American Bridge Club (CABC)* is an invitation-only club that meets Mondays at 11:30 am. Contact Sue Papilion, [suepapilion@icloud.com](mailto:suepapilion@icloud.com).

*Quick Tricks* will be having a Swiss Teams game in their Open game on February 23rd. And they will have their very special Tadd Waggoner Memorial Dinner and Game on Monday, March 30th. A complete list of events in the coming months can be found at [Quicktricks.bridgeclubs.net](http://Quicktricks.bridgeclubs.net).

*Carlisle Bridge Club* meets at The Carlisle, 1450 Post St (between Octavia & Gough), Tuesdays at 1 pm.

*Sunset Bridge Club* meets Wednesdays and Fridays at noon, 855 Brotherhood Way.

### **Next Unit Games**

The next Unit 506 game will be held on Saturday, February 28th at St. Mary's of the Assumption Cathedral, 1111 Gough St (at Geary), San Francisco. Daniel Kroll will give a lesson on "Raises in Competition" at 11:00 am. The game will start at noon. Last entries will be sold at 11:55 am. Flyer is [here](#).

The March Unit game will be on Saturday, March 28th. Check <https://www.unit506.org/> for details in the coming weeks.





## San Mateo By Lauren Rosen (498)



### Happy 2026 from Unit 498!

As we celebrate our passion for bridge this month, we look forward to sponsoring some exciting activities to grow that love for players of all levels.

Hopefully you still have time to join us for our Winter Sectional at the Palo Alto Bridge Center, 432 Stierlin Road, Mountain View for pairs games on Saturday, February 21 and team games on Sunday, February 22. All games award Silver points and start times are 10:00 am and 2:30 pm each day. We are grateful to Unit 503 for allowing us to host the tournament at their facility.

### Lesson and Game with Phil Abrahamson

On Saturday March 7th we welcome newcomer and intermediate players with fewer than 199 masterpoints to a guest appearance by 2024 ABTA Teacher of the Year and Planet Bridge Coach Phil Abrahamson. Phil will be giving a 30-minute lesson followed by an 18-board game with a post-game hand review. All this starts at 9:30 am, aiming to be finished around 12:30 pm for an entry fee of \$15. No partner needed! Snacks provided! Register here. We hope to see you there!

### Spring Non-Life Master Sectional

On Saturday April 18 at The Villa, we will host a sectional for those with 750 or fewer masterpoints and who are not yet Life Masters. This is a great way to play competitive bridge with players at your level and earn Silver points. At 10 am, two sections are offered: 0-200 or 0-750 masterpoints. At the 2:30 pm session, all players with 0-750 masterpoints will compete. You can play either or both sessions. To sign up and get more information, go to the [Unit 498 Tournaments](#) page.

### Bi-Weekly Supervised Play

Unit 498 hosts Supervised Play with local expert Mary Bates (along with other experienced players) at the Villa on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of most months from 1:30 to 3:30 pm. Upcoming dates are February 25th and March 11th and 25th.

Come and practice your bridge playing in a relaxed social setting, with veteran players on hand to answer any questions that may arise during the bidding and play of the hand.



All levels are welcome, but this program is especially geared towards newer players and partnerships who want to practice, as well as those who do not yet feel ready for a duplicate game.

No partner required! Cost: \$5

Register by emailing Mary Bates at [marymanleybates@hotmail.com](mailto:marymanleybates@hotmail.com)

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

## Santa Cruz By Leslie Davidson (550)



Unit 550 Santa Cruz report from Leslie Davidson January - February 2026. Santa Cruz Bridge Club started 2026 with a toast and a game to the NEW YEAR. It was a BLAST.

### New Accolades

#### Junior Master:

- Charlotte Keeley

#### Regional Master:

- Janet Loops

#### Life Master:

- Farol Henderson

#### Bronze Life Master:

- Farol Henderson
- Robert Johnson

### 70% games. 1/14 - 2/10/26

Lani Ray - Peter Gelfand 70.8%

Mary Graves - Nikki Shoemaker 72.5%

Lesley Xu - Matthew Nathanson 70.56%

### Monterey Clambake, Jan 05-11, 2026

Some of our SCBC members who were winners at the Monterey Regional. More names and scores can be found [here](#).

#### Mon 99er

Lesley Xu - Christina Kobland

Pamela Kissiah - Catherine Foy





***Tuesday Gold Rush Pairs***

9A Lesley Xu - Michael Modest 54%

9B Pamela Kissiah - Catherine Foy 52%

***Tuesday Bracketed Teams 5 - 7 tables***

3<sup>rd</sup> Angie Millslagle - John Wesolowski - Shamim Formoso -

Anthony Nelson

***Tuesday Bracketed Teams 3 - 8 tables***

Richard Papst - Glenn Chee - Alan Hedegard - Gina Brown

***Wednesday Bracketed Teams 4 - 9 tables***

Janet Tainty - Neil Joseph Smyth - Betsy Allen - Michael Kerner

***Thursday Mid Flight Pairs***

Annette Powers - Bruce Dau

***Thursday Bracketed Teams 7 - 9 tables***

Jacci Sterling - Farol Henderson - Robert Johnson - John Wesolowski,

Daniel Solow - Gina Brown - Glenn Chee - Neville Kirby

***Thursday Bracketed Teams 9 - 8 tables***

Michael Kerner - Mark Lipson - Betsy Allen - Stanley Skubic

***Friday Bracketed Teams 8 - 9 tables***

Anthony Nelson - Shamim Formoso - Lesley Xu -Cindy Sedey

Marti Jones - Gabrielle Fischer - Ahmad Ahmadi - Ann Ahmadi

***Saturday Bracketed Teams 5 - 9 tables***

Rick Zinman - Alan Chase - Irene Hashfield - Andy Scott

***Saturday Bracketed Teams 7 -9 tables***

Jacci Sterling - Bette Harken - Farol Henderson - Jan Winham





## SCBC's 100<sup>th</sup> Birthday Celebration for Liesel Sabloff, 12/14/2025



### SCBC's "Rising Stars" Limited/750 Sectional

Come join us for our sectional on March 14 & 15, 2026. Check out our flyer [here](#).

## Santa Rosa/Petaluma By Maxine Reagh (509)

### March 7 and 8 Spring Sectional in Petaluma

If you haven't already made plans to play in our **Spring Sectional**, it is not too late. If you need a partner or teammates, contact Kathy Venton at [BridgeGalleryCA@gmail.com](mailto:BridgeGalleryCA@gmail.com) or call her at 707 591-5015.

People always enjoy our hospitality and the comfortable venue at the Petaluma Community Center. We will have gourmet sandwiches to order on Saturday morning, to be delivered at lunchtime, and on Sunday Jacki Ortiz provides a full delicious lunch, for free! And Lynn Yokel is our terrific Director, so we can count on everything going smoothly. See the link to the [flyer](#) for more information. You won't be disappointed.

Results from Monterey

Congratulations to everyone who participated in the District 21 Monterey Regional





Tournament in January. Big winners were:

27.8 points	Kathy Venton
27.8	John Oswald
25.0	Sara Rothmuller
19.73	Patricia Hertz
19.05	Jeff Sacher
19.05	David Mendel
18.41	Andy Andrews
18.25	Tony Jackson
18.08	Doug Schrock
18.08	Pam Schrock
11.60	Conrad Larkin
10.25	James Reed

Twenty other Unit 509 players got 10 or fewer points, and we all enjoyed beautiful weather after the first day.

### **Unit Game January 24**

Tony Jackson's lesson on "The First Trick" brought several players from Marin and Sonoma/Napa and allowed us to have a complete 499er section of 3 tables for a total

of 18 tables. A big thank you to all who participated and a huge thank you to Tony for preparing and delivering another superb lesson.

There were fourteen sample hands in his prepared materials, each one a challenge. It is so important to consider the bidding, the meaning of the lead and transportation issues, all

before you play to the first trick. Jacki made a complete lunch with salads, roll-up sandwiches and dessert muffins. We are a lucky group to have these lovely lunches provided at our unit games.





First place winners were:

N/S	Jim Reed and Kate Hill	61.86%
E/W	Mark Hersko and Larry Spanier	59.78%

Second Place winners were:

N/S	Michael Nistler and Ted Pyle	58.81%
E/W	Tony Jackson and Patricia Hertz	58.65%

499ers:

Peter Pinfield and Cynthia Fantacone	60%
Ellen Sirbu and Anita Sinclair	56.25%
Mary Warner and Tess Offord	56.25%

### Unit Game TEAMS February 7

We had eighteen teams playing in this session, several from Marin and Sonoma, which we greatly appreciate. Kathy V met the challenge of getting everyone situated, right after we enjoyed the lunch that Jacki Ortiz cooked for us. Egg sandwiches, pasta salad, fruit salad, green salad and desserts made a delicious and ample buffet. Jacki is a legend! Thank you so much.

Tony Jackson gave a very helpful lesson on Notrump Defense, a difficult topic to tackle in an hour. But Tony is gifted at targeting various levels of learning and he walked us through how to think about communicating with your partner in various scenarios. As always, his "handout" gives us a chance to go over what we learned at home.

### Team Winners:

Strat A	Nancy Gunn, Bob Klein, Gary Robinson and JoAnne Murdock
Strat B	Lawson James, Jerry Besses, David Mendel and Cyrus Ansari
Strat C	Carolyn Farren, Georgie Farren, Paulette Moe and Veronica Berlin

### Big Games

**Jacki Ortiz** came in first overall in a Speedball game on BBO, on Jan. 20, with an **86%** game!!





## Rank Changes

- Brian Aabel is now an NABC Master
- Lawson James is now an Advanced NABC Master

## Finley 509 News

### 12:20 pm Start Time!!!

Starting immediately, all **Wednesday games at Finley will start promptly at 12:20 pm**. The custodians' hours end at 4:00 and they must be done putting all the chairs and tables away before they leave. Starting **ten minutes earlier** will give us time to put our equipment away and vacate the room to allow them to do their job within their paid hours. The Person Senior Center staff has been generous in allowing us to occupy the room for more than our allotted three hours. We are fortunate to have the use of this venue and want to keep the relationship going a very long time.

## Silicon Valley By Ray Yuenger (507)



It has been exactly 8 weeks since I last reported on developments in Unit 507. We do have a sectional coming up the weekend of March 28 and 29. Here's a link to the [flyer](#). Due to poor attendance on Fridays, we aren't offering Friday events anymore, just pairs on Saturday and teams on Sunday.

The Board is just starting to plan the summer membership meeting and game. I'll have more details to announce in my next column.

Our Unit members recently have had success on the tournament trail. 2026 kicked off with the Monterey Regional. In the premier barometer pairs event, Lynn Shannon & John Miller were the highest placing local pair, finishing 8th. In other pair events, in Open Pairs, Mike Cailean had a first-place finish, while Michael Callahan had a stratification top, and Sadik Arf & Luen-Jyh Luo had a section top. In the Top-flight pairs, Jung Hu had a strat top, with section tops going to John Hodges, Richard Reitman, Sadik Arf & Murat Alaybeyi, Weilong Shen, and Barbara Shukov. In Mid-flight pairs, Yannie Zhao and Linda Rocha & George Welch had strat tops, with section tops to Karen & Preston Kauk, Li Zhang, Andy Scott, Elenalani Lam, and Annette Powers. In the Gold Rush pairs, strat tops were earned by Barry & Rochelle Alhadeff and Henry Koransky & Jane Michaels, while Kathy McKenzie & Jane Michaels had a section top.

Bracketed Pairs is a relatively new event that is becoming popular, except for the extra time it takes to sell entries and establish the brackets. I think the directors are working out ways to speed up the start of this event, so be patient. Shailesh Naik was first in bracket 5. Collecting section tops in their brackets were: Will Watson (Bracket 2); Manoj Thawani & Rakesh Gupta (Bracket 6); and Judith Gouvea & Carol Reid (Bracket 7).





Bracketed teams is another popular event. Prevailing in their brackets were: Will Watson & Yul Inn and Lynn Shannon & John Miller (Bracket 2); Frank Xie (Bracket 3); Anne Wilson & Li Zhang (Bracket 4); Michael Callahan and Li Zhang (Bracket 5); and Bharat Kamdar & Prabhat Mishra (Bracket 8). In the under-3000 Bracketed Teams, Joanne Cornbleet and Michele Liu & Yin Lin prevailed in their respective brackets.

Some Unit members did more traveling to play in regionals. Cheryl Mandala & Yul Inn went to New Mexico, the Land of Enchantment, and won with their teammates in the top brackets of a knockout and a bracketed teams event. Jan Pfiffner & Kathy Vita won a Gold Rush pairs event at the Hawaii regional, as though being in Hawaii isn't reward enough.

There have also been a couple of local sectionals recently. In San Francisco Open Pairs, Weilong Shen had a strat top and Khapil Bhalla had a section top. Andrew Sinclair's team topped the top bracket. In Livermore, Khapil Balla was first in the Open Pairs and Xin Ge's team won Bracket 1.

In District 21's Grand National Teams competition, on the winning flight C team are Milind Girkar, Shailesh Sampat, & Henry Zhang.

Let's not forget to congratulate our newest Masters. This is a much longer list than usual, including: Mihran Dars, Ting Chun Huang, Joan Pinder, Navdar Sever, Thyag Thyagarajan, Joyce Tsai, Shu Wu (Junior Master); Cynthia Bitner, Ramesh Gupta, Russell Segal, Frank Tiernan, Bradley Whitaker (Club Master); Frank Ammon, Kapil Bhalla (Regional Master); Jane Michaels, Joanne Nelson (NABC Master); Weilong Shen (Advanced NABC Master); Bob Viersen (Life and Bronze Life Master); Jeffrey Pugh, Jennifer Stern, John Wachsmann (Ruby Life Master); Zag Kadah, Mark Pensler, Ming Su (Gold Life Master); Ken Imboden (Sapphire Life Master); and Lynn Shannon (Emerald Life Master).

The new year seems well launched with all this tournament success and rank advancements. If your name isn't listed above, keep trying and give me a reason to drop your name.

## Stockton By Debbie DeZarn (510)



This is the month that the Mini-McKinney, Ace of Clubs, and Virtual Ace of Clubs awards are announced. The winners are many repeaters but some new ones as well. But first, let's celebrate the recent rank advancements!

One of the newer members, Jon Uota, has been playing regularly (until a trip to Australia) with a variety of partners and has already





progressed to Club Master. Earl Jones reached NABC Master at the end of 2025 after getting the necessary pesky Silver Points. He is well on his way to the next rank with quite a few gold already under his belt. Mary Sievers just reached Ruby Life Master at the beginning of February! She had been close for several months but then illness sidelined her for several weeks after Christmas. But once back it seemed she won points with every outing and every partner and reached her goal!

The Stockton Club has become smaller in size with fewer playing tables each week and finds itself with an abundance of blue stackable banquet-style chairs. If you know of anyone looking for a good deal on extra seating, there are 16 available (and more can be arranged) for \$10 each.



Debbie DeZarn is still recruiting people to play an online team game (BBO at this time) for fun against a club in England on Thursday, March 4, from 11 am to 1 pm. Voice chat will be enabled so we can make new friends across the pond. Contact Debbie to be put on a team of 4 or create your own! You can play from home!

OK - award time. The Mini-McKenney (MM) is for total points won at clubs, tournaments, and online. The Shandbrom Ace of Clubs (SAOC) award is for points won at clubs only, including virtual clubs like Hwy 49ers BBO Club. Most people who won the MM also won the SOAC so if there is a second name listed it will be the SAOC winner for that points division (based on starting points in January 2025).

0-5	Nedra Voorhees	Jon Uota
5-20	Eric Daegling	
20-50	Victor Naylor	
50-100	Zhimin Lin	
100-200	Frank Klo	
200-300	Paula Monroe	
300-500	Earl Jones	
500-1000	Debbie Greenberg	Mary Hill
1000-1500	Michael Wells	
1500-2500	Joy Gotelli	Maryanne Sievers
2500-3500	Sue Vogtlin	Barbara Smart
3500-5000	Stephen Tu	





## D I A M O N D I N T H E R U F F

To see where you ranked in Unit 510 or the top 25 in District 21, log into your MyACBL account and choose District/Unit races from the column along the left side. Congratulations to all the winners and runner ups for a nice showing in 2025.

This will close with more somber news that Bill Hutchinson died in January after open heart surgery. Although Bill and his wife Jeannette have not played for some years, they were longtime members of the foothill clubs. Zulka Dozier is home now after hospitalization, and we hope to see her back at the Stockton Club soon.

