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

### Building Bridges

This special day was set aside as American Independence Day on the Fourth of July every year that represents the Declaration of Independence and the birth of the United States of America. Let's all have a blast, as the 4th of July demands barbecues, drinks, food, and friends.

That's if we're lucky.

OK, celebrate at home. Get takeout ribs, baked beans, and a salad. Now you can party, or better yet, gather some friends for a home game of bridge. If all else fails, eat with your doggie or kitty and make no bones about it. DO NOT give your pets any leftover bones or any kind. Enough already.

What a game! So often when we play, we bridge bitch, complain, pitch the best cards to defeat contracts, lick our wounds, and maybe even jump for joy.

Not too long ago, I played bridge at CCBC and almost cried. How could I have made that dumb lead? Also, when I played the hand, it was embarrassing. OK, it's time to move on. Bridge isn't my life, but it sure places on my top 10 list. I felt sad for a little while but began to count my Blessings. It's so easy to focus on the negative. I love the saying "Well, you learn from your mistakes." "Are you Kiddin." So, I turned my negative thinking, plucked out the bad thoughts, and focused on so many things I take for granted. My mantra "Keep positive."

## Fresno By Laura Da Costa (522)



Hello everyone. It is Summer and the temperatures are finally reflecting that (the rain in May was rather surprising). Because I ended up delaying the Diamond in the Ruff issue until the end of this week, I can actually report on the just completed Longest Day event along with our special game in May.

### Past Events

**Richard Meffley Memorial Game:** We held our annual memorial game on Sunday, May 17th. This game is to honor those we had lost in the previous 12 months, as mentioned last issue we were honoring Jane Bragg, Carol Miller, and Donny Graham. However, we ended up finding out that two former members also passed this last year: Jay Roll and (earlier that week) John Simpson.

We had a barbecue lunch that day with potluck for the side dishes. Six tables attended. The big winners were Victor Greener & Matthew Wilkins—their name will be added to the plaque in the clubhouse.





**Longest Day:** Our bridge marathon is now consistently held on the Saturday of the week the ACBL devotes to raising money for the Alzheimer’s Association—this year that was the 20th. We started at 6 am with a group of 8 Early Birds showing up for an individual and ended up a little after 6:30 pm with 4 tables playing Fast Pairs. Only one player played in all four games—Lowell Gist. Nice job, Lowell! I am choosing to give myself honorable mention as I played in three and directed the only one I didn’t play in.



<b>Games</b>	<b># of Tables</b>	<b>Winners</b>
6 am Individual	2	Tie: Laura Da Costa & Mary Warner
9 am Open Pairs	6.5	Barbara Thacker & Belva Quattrin (N/S, Overall) Kim Morris & William Glass (E/W)
12:30 pm Open Pairs	7	Mun Takeda & Gerard Laquerriere (N/S) Victor Greener & Matt Wilkins (E/W, Overall)
12:30 pm 299er	3.5	Marianne Kast & James Cosby
4:15 pm Fast Pairs	4	Mun Takeda & Gerard Laquerriere

Thirty-seven different players won some masterpoints throughout the day. Big masterpoints winner for the day was Gerard Laquerriere.

Thanks to the directors (Don Austin & Steve Johnson), the cleanup crew (Jackie Finn, Jason McAlexander, and Steve), and our photographer (Marion Austin). Also, thanks to all who played and donated food or money for the food.

Finally, I wish to thank all who donated to the Alzheimer’s Association. Between the game fees, money collected at the clubhouse and money donated directly to the Website, we raised over \$2700.





### Upcoming Events

**North American Pairs Qualifier:** Qualifiers for the 2026-2027 NAP are supposed to occur during the months of June, July, & August. The only one scheduled so far in our Unit is Sunday, July 12th, at 1 pm. Club qualifiers pay out in 50% black & 50% red masterpoints. This game is Open to all players.

**Non-Life Master Sectional:** It has been traditional to have a weekend tournament for our Non-Life Masters on the first or second weekend in August. However, last year we had good attendance on Saturday (6.5 tables in the morning and 6 tables in the afternoon), but barely enough to have a game attendance on Sunday (4 tables in the morning and 3 tables in the afternoon), so we decided to try out a one-day sectional this year. Our Fresno Non-Life Master Sectional will be a two-session event on





Saturday, August 15th. It will consist of a 10 am morning session with two games (if possible) an under 750 and a 99er. A lunch and learn (like normal) between the two sessions. Then a 2:30 pm afternoon session with an under 750 game. If this works well, we can possibly have two of these sectionals a year—maybe even have one on a weekday. Flyer is [here](#).

**Members News**

**Change of Rankings:** New rankings for April & May 2026.

**Junior Master**

- John Grotz

**Silver Life Master**

- M. Steve Johnson

**Regional Master**

- Mary Gullo

**Diamond Life Master**

- Victor Greener

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

<b>Pair or Ind.</b>	<b>Percentage</b>	<b>Game</b>
Sandy Petrie & Shirley Fletcher	70.84	Sat. Aft. 199er Game (4/18)
Victor Greener & Lowell Gist	70.37	Sat. Aft. Open Game (5/16)
Lowell Gist & Victor Greener	71.11	Sat. Aft. Open Game (5/23)

Next issue in August. In the meantime, keep up with what is going on in the clubhouse on our Website at [fresnobridge.org](http://fresnobridge.org).

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

**Vinny McLoughlin (1944 – 2026)**

We’ve lost another outstanding member of our Unit, friend of many, and excellent partner. Losing Vinny was a real gut-punch. One day he was at the table with a bit of a cough, then he was away for a couple of weeks, and then he was just gone. A member of the Unit for 3 decades, Vinny played regularly, rode his bike, and loved being active and outdoors. Once an active tournament player, Vinny had settled in with his regular partners (wife Joanne, Ken, Mark, and Graham) over the past few years. He didn’t venture out of town much for bridge, but he and Joanne regularly traveled to visit family members. He never lost his Irish accent, and he was always quick with a smile and a welcome.

*"May the road rise up to meet you. May the wind be always at your back. May the sun shine warm upon your face, the rains fall soft upon your fields, and until we meet again, may God hold you in the palm of His hand."*





Joanne announced at her first game back how much bridge and our weekly games meant to Vinny, and how much he enjoyed all the people involved. The feeling was more than mutual, good friend. You have been an integral part of our bridge playing enjoyment for a very long time. The Unit is poorer for our loss. And we have confidence you were in Heaven at LEAST an hour before news of your passing was picked up by you know who. Blessings.

### **Aces and Wild Cards**

The Unit sponsored a Pro-Am game on Sunday, May 31, scored as a Unit Game, and played in Morgan Hill at the Recreation Center. The Unit Board members organizing the event spent many hours lining up partners, verifying the size of the game, and providing delicious snacks. A full 9 tables took part in the excitement, with the cream rising to the top by the end of the last round. Winners of masterpoints included:

#### North-South

1. Graham Kelly & Dennis Rubida
2. Win Stone & Susan Vance
3. Margot Kakalec & Pat Kelley
4. Jim Craig & Bradley Whitaker

#### East-West

1. Lucy Grisetti & Lennart Naslund
2. Diana Dragt & Jim Krause
3. Barbara Earley & Nancy Sampson
4. Elsie Shaw & Saniye Alaybeyi

### **Charity Unit Game**

**(June 21, 2026)**

Our Unit focused June on what we could do to raise money for the Alzheimer's Association. A collection jar was out at all games in June and a portion of our Monthly Unit Game went for this good cause. Many of us are of an age where Alzheimer's is no joke. We worry about our own minds, and we keep an eye on any slip by our loved ones, friends and partners. Through Sunday, our small Unit has raised over \$900 in donations, and contributions are still coming in. It's never too late to donate to such a worthy cause. Contact a Board member if you have been carrying around a check you want to be sure gets included in the Unit's fund-raising efforts.





### Spring Royal Sectional Tournament at Clubs (STaC)

May 4 – 9, 2026

Both the Buena Vista (Hollister) club and Stone’s (Gilroy) club hosted STaC games in early May. A number of Unit members scored points of various colors in the three games: the Tuesday game in Hollister, the Thursday Open game in Gilroy, and the 199er game in Gilroy, also on Thursday. Winning gold/red/silver/black points in the overalls of the various games were:

Suzanne Proctor	3.66	Jeff Rogers	1.41	Pat Kelley	0.98
Barbara Earley	3.66	Sally Hale	1.41	Lucy Grisetti	0.73
Graham Kelly	3.18	Diana Dragt	0.99	Julie Meader	0.64
Patrick Arnett	3.74	Patty Stone	0.99	Merrill Wolfe	0.64
Liega Arnett	3.49	Gretchen Ross	0.98	Dave Glashan	0.55
Jim Craig	2.31	Carmel Trela	0.98	Geff Kinn	0.55
Seala Fletcher-Kelly	1.86	Ernestine Hicks	0.98		

#### Rank Advancements

We had several advancements over the past two months.

Two players have begun the journey and achieved Junior Master (5 mp):

Shireen Zekanoski

Patricia Jackson

Bob Wiedlin continues on his path and now is a Club Master (20 mp)

Congratulations! Enjoy the climb!

#### The Tournament Trail

Not a lot of tournament activity for our Unit over the past few months, but a few highlights.

Ken Johnson made a showing at the Capital City Regional in Sacramento at the end of May and came away with 4.64 Red points!

Helen and Ed Shaw won a 0-300 Open Pairs at the Monterey Sectional May 23-24 and won 1.65 Silver points!

Way to sneak out there and grab a handful when you can!





## 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). For this edition, an added Pro-Am Unit game was added in May (on the fifth Sunday), and the June Unit game was a charity game benefiting the Alzheimer's Association.

### Results

#### April Unit Game in Morgan Hill (4/19/26)

The open/stratified game had 8 tables

N/S A– Stewart Goodgold & Songtao Zhang

N/S B – Norm Dow & Mark Moore

E/W A&B – Joanne McLoughlin & Seala Fletcher-Kelly

The 199er game had 5 tables

N/S A&B&C – Dave Glashan & Marilyn Bankert

E/W A&B&C – Kathy & Jim Krause

#### May Unit Game in Morgan Hill (5/17/26)

The open/stratified game had 6 full tables

N/S A&B – Norm Dow & Mark Moore

E/W A&B – Jim Craig & Richard Ross

The 199er game had 4 1/2 tables

A&B1 – Hadi Eslambolchi & Shireen Zekanoski

C1 – Gretchen Ross & Carmel Trela





May Special ("Aces and Wild Card" Pro-Am) Unit Game in Morgan Hill (5/31/26)

The combined game had 10 full tables

N/S 1st – Graham Kelly & Dennis Rubida

N/S 2nd – Win Stone & Susan Vance

E/W 1st – Lucy Grisetti & Lennart Naslund

E/W 2nd – Diana Dragt & James Krause

June Charity Unit Game in Morgan Hill (6/21/26)

The open/stratified game had 7 full tables

N/S A – Ken Johnson & Graham Kelly

N/S B – Mary Legrand & Lorrie Scott

N/S C – Dennis Rubida & Ginny Arguello

E/W A – Jim Craig & Richard Ross

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

The 199er game had 5 tables

N/S A&B&C – Nousheen & Hadi Eslambolchi

E/W A – Pat Kelley & Ernestine Hicks

E/W B&C – Celeste Brandt & Peggy Bradley

Full results are available on the ACBL "Live for Clubs," and the "Common Game" websites, 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). During the reporting period there was no Buena Vista game on Tuesday, June 16, due to a City event using what is normally our playing space.





Winners over the past two months were:

Apr 14 A –Graham Kelly & Vinny McLoughlin

B – Joanne McLoughlin & Seala Fletcher-Kelly

Apr 21 1st – Barbara Earley & Suzanne Proctor

2nd – Graham Kelly & Vinny McLoughlin

Apr 28 1st – Graham Kelly & Seala Fletcher-Kelly

2nd – Patrick & Liega Arnett

**May 5 -- Royal STaC game (27.5 District Tables)**

**N/S 1 – Patrick & Liega Arnett (District A 6th, B 2nd) – 2.75mp**

**E/W 1 - Barbara Earley & Suzanne Proctor (District A 4th, B 1st, C 1st) – 3.66mp**

May 12 1st – Jim Craig & Win Stone

2nd - Barbara Earley & Suzanne Proctor

May 19 A – Patrick & Liega Arnett

B– Barbara Earley & Suzanne Proctor

May 26 A – Patrick & Liega Arnett

B – Jim Craig & Win Stone

Jun 2 A – Graham Kelly & Seala Fletcher-Kelly

B – Jim Craig & Win Stone

Jun 9 A – Jim Craig & Skip Pack

B– Barbara Earley & Suzanne Proctor

Jun 16 NO GAME





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 all participants.

Apr 16 (Open) 1st – Lennart Naslund & Lesley Waltner

2nd – Jim Craig & Jonna Robinson

(<199) NS 1 – Jim & Kathy Krause

NS 2 – Shireen Zekanoski & Patricia Jackson

EW 1 – Geff Kinn & Dave Glashan

EW 2 – Pat Kelley & Ernestine Hicks

Apr 23 (Open) A1st – Ken Johnson & Jim Craig

B1st – Peggy Bradley & Dennis Rubida

(<199) 1 – Jim & Kathy Krause

2/3 – Merrill Wolfe & Brad Whitaker

2/3 – Julia Meader & Bob Weidlin

Apr 30 (Open) A1 NS – Ken Johnson & Carol Nicoletti

B1 NS – Skip Pack & Betsy Wagner

A1 EW – Sally Hale & Jeff Rogers

B1 EW – Irene Popenhager & Seala Fletcher-Kelly

(<199) 1 – Gretchen Ross & Carmel Trela

2 – Jim & Kathy Krause

### **May 7 (Open) Royal STaC Game**

**N/S A – Jim Craig & Graham Kelly (District A 5th – 2.49 mp)**

N/S B – Lucy Grisetta & Liega Arnett

**E/W A – Sally Hale & Jeff Rogers (District A 8th – 1.41 mp)**

E/W B – Patrick Arnett & Seala Fletcher-Kelly





(<199) 1/2 – Pat Kelley & Ernestine Hicks

1/2 – Gretchen Ross & Carmel Trela

May 14 (Open) A1 – Sally Hale & Jeff Rogers

B1 – Graham Kelly & Seala Fletcher-Kelly

C1 – Lucy Grisetta & Liega Arnett

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

2nd – Pat Kelley & Ernesting Hicks

May 21(Open) NS 1 – Linda King & Dave Jackson

NS 2 – Jonna Robinson & Jim Craig

EW 1 – Sally Hale & Jeff Rogers

EW 2 - Elsie Shaw & Patty Stone

(<199) A&B1 – Gretchen Ross & Peggy Bradley

C1 – Julia Meader & Irene Popenhager

May 28 (Open) A1 – Sally Hale & Jeff Rogers

B&C 1 – Lennart Naslund & Dennis Rubida

(<199) 1 – Peggy Bradley & Celeste Brandt

2 – Pat Kelley & Ernestine Hicks

June 4 (Open) N/S 1 – Suzanne Proctor & Carol Nicoletti

N/S 2 – Jim Craig & Graham Kelly

E/WA 1 – Margot Kakalec & Norm Dow

E/WB 1 – Lennart Naslund & Patrick Arnett

(<199) 1– Dave Glashan & Geff Kinn

2 – Jim & Kathy Krause

Jun 11 (Open) – CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP

1/2 – Lennart Naslund & Lesley Waltner

1/2– Ginny Arguello & Norm Dow





(<199) 1– Patricia Jackson & Brad Whitaker

2 – Irene Popenhager & Merrill Wolfe

Jun 18 (Open) 1st – Lucy Grisetti & Liega Arnett

2nd – Margot Kakalec & Patrick Arnett

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

E/W 1st – Jim & Kathy Krause

Full results are available on the Unit website, and ACBL "Live for Clubs," both with hand records (for Gilroy and some Hollister 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 Fridays 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 Club has started using RSVPbridge as a replacement for ACBLscore. It has many enhanced features that are not available with the ACBLscore. It has a reservation system that works very well, players are able to register with their partner or say they are looking for one as well as select their seating preference. The seating is then posted on a display, or they can log in and look on their phones to find their table. The RSVP system is web-based so you will need a good network or very good cell service. We have had some issues interfacing our Bridgemates scores to RSVP and with our internet service. Hopefully we will be able to resolve those issues to make a complete transition from ACBLscore. The new system does cost but the ACBL is paying for the first 200 tables. If there are any club managers that are interested in our experiences, please give me a call. Don Garka 925-606-8808.

The online games with Real Bridge did not have enough participants and have been discontinued. 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, please sign up on RSVPbridge and if you do not get a match you will still be able to play as we promise to find you one! Please arrive 10-15 minutes early. If you do





not have an RSVP account or are having any issues using it, please let me know [dgarka@comcast.net](mailto:dgarka@comcast.net). Check [livermorebridge.com](http://livermorebridge.com) for details about the club. The Livermore Village Parking Garage is now open and free with no time restrictions at 50 S L St.

## Marin By Mary Warner (508)



### Rank Changes

Abraham Weitzberg – San Rafael - Junior Master

Heather Young - Mill Valley - Junior Master

Marylou Hayward - Novato - Sectional Master

David Berger - San Rafael - NABC Master

2025 New Life Masters

- Nancy Chiu
- Paul Leake
- Chris Eggan
- Steve Levinson





### 2025 Virtual Ace of Clubs

0-5	Helene Jaffe
5-20	Paula Pagano
10-50	Kent Gershengorn
50-100	Bob Mayer
100-200	Linda Gruber
200-300	Beverly & Bruce Stamper
300-500	David Berger
500-1000	Jerald Young
1000-1500	Stanley Green
1500-2500	Barbara Prior
2500-3500	Andrea Ventris
3500-5000	Margaret Peterson
5000-7500	Bruce Blakely
7500-10,000	None
10,000+	Carole Liss

### 2025 Helen Shanbrom Ace of Clubs

0-5	Tess Offord
5-20	Anita Sinclair
20-50	Marylou Hayward
50-100	Wayne Gilbert
100-200	Azar Riaz
200-300	Chris Eggan
300-500	Larry Eggan
500-1000	Jorgen Hildebrandt
1000-1500	Patricia Irwin
1500-2500	Mathew Quint
2500-3500	Jo Anne Murdock
3500-5000	Angelo Servino
5000-7500	Laura Kenney
7500-10,000	Robert Thompson
10,000+	Loretta Bromberg





### 2025 Mini McKenney

0-5	Tess Offord
5-20	Anita Sinclair
20-50	Marylou Hayward
50-100	Bob Mayer
100-200	Azar Riazi
200-300	Chris Eggan
300-500	David Berger
500-1000	Jerald Young
1000-1500	Carolyn Farren
1500-2500	Matthew Quint
2500-3500	Andrea Ventris
3500-5000	Margaret Peterson
5000-7500	William Bailey
7500-10,000	Arti Bhargava
10,000+	Carole Liss

A grand time was had by the many members celebrating the Awardees last Saturday, June 6. Congratulations to all. Many thanks for so many delicious contributions, salads and desserts. And along with the yummy meats the Board provided no one left hungry.



Andrea Ventris deserves praise for handling all the awards. President Carolyn Farren presented them and introduced the new members of the Board: Tess Offord, Jim Boswell, Chris Ohland, Gary Grande, Anita Sinclair and Susan Sundberg. The new Board will be serving for 2 ½ years due to our change in the Bylaws, which changes our year end from June 30 to Dec 31.

Three of the new Life Masters received their pins: Nancy Chiu, Mary Warner, and Chris Eggan. Missing were Paul Leake and Steve Levinson, who earned his Bronze Life Master.





Our Director Henry Kingdon is away for several weeks this summer so three directors will be filling his shoes. Thanks to Tom Stillman, Christian Goetze and Kathy Venton for their assistance to keep our games running smoothly.

Tracy Bauer will be teaching some wonderful classes on Thursday evenings through July 30 while Henry is away. She shares tips for all levels.



## Modesto By Ray Adams (529)



The biggest news in the unit came in May with the STAC week and the Swiss Team Pro-Am STAC event. The Monday morning STAC saw Nancy Lilly and Marcia Eblen win with a 67.46% game. Kathy Amos/Sharon Schroeder were second and Lynn Pont/Lynn Brooks tied Sandy Dieker and Mindi Lassman for third.

Overall leaders in the STAC week were: A, Lee Maddocks with 8.10, John Rollin at 5.43, and Ray Adams with 3.91. In B, Judy Remmers won with 3.50. Barbara Page was second at 3.04, and Garrard Marsh third with 2.74. In C, Matt Weston-Dawkes came in first with 3.55, Kathy Amos was right behind him with 3.49, while Zhimin Lin's 2.70 was third.

There were eight teams in the Pro-Am Swiss. The quartet of Sheela Wani, Zhimin Lin, Matt Weston-Dawkes, and Kathy Amos won all four matches and the event. There was a three-way tie for second among Garrard Marsh/Barbara Page & Ed Jeffers/Tom Au: Trelle Uhl/Cindy Rodgers & Nancy Lilly/Marcia Eblen; with Lee Maddocks/Jim Page & Mindi Lassman/Marilyn McRitchie. Everyone had a great time and there were delicious snacks for all.

There were four Monday morning games in April and May. On April 6, Patti Heckendorf and Sharon Schroeder won with 60.56%. The twentieth saw Lynn Pont and Kathy Amos turn in a magnificent 71.25% game to win it all. In May, the fourth saw Nancy Lilly and Marcia Eblen turn in a 67.46% game to win, while on the eighteenth, Kris Domitrovich and Marilyn Tallent won NS with 63.33%, while Colleen Blackman and Linda Ewing captured first EW with 56.11%.

Lee Maddocks and Ray Adams won the April unit game with 63.99%. Matt Weston-Dawkes and Terry Sciabica were first in B and C. In May, Lorraine Bocks and Garrard Marsh won both A & B, while Jeanne Russo & Marcia Laird tied Barbara and Jim Page for first in C.





The highest score in the Saturday morning game was 61.25% turned in by both Sharon Cole/Joyce Rudesill and Judy Remmers/Joyce Compton. By the way, Joyce Compton is a long-time rubber bridge player who was playing duplicate for the first time ever. Nice going, Joyce! Sharon Cole and Joyce Rudesill also had the next two highest scores in this game.

Leading B point winners in the Saturday game were: 1) Sharon Cole/Joyce Rudesill, 2) Barbara Page, and 3) Jeanne Russo. In C, Jim Page was first, Tom Au second, Marcia Laird third, while Kathy Amos earned an honorable mention.

In the open game, Lee Maddocks and Ray Adams had top score with 68.98%. Ralph Jungwirth and Trelle Uhl were second at 67.41%. Third went to Judy Remmers and Ray Adams with 67.36%.

Top point winners in the open game were: in A, Sheela Wani with 21.07, second, Ray Adams at 20.67, third, Frank Frohman with 17.71, while Lee Maddocks won an honorable mention at 17.03. In B, Garrard Marsh won the honors at 13.57, Sharon Cole second with 11.17, Gary Capwell third at 10.86, while Cindy Rodgers won an honorable mention with 10.09. In C, Jim Page won with 8.58, Matt Weston-Dawkes second at 7.39, while Marcia Laird was third with 4.81, just edging honorable mention Kathy Amos at 4.77.

Several unit members scored well in the nearby Sacramento Regional the last week of May. Best of all was Bruce Ruskin who played with his regular out-of-town partner, Alan DeSerpa. This duo won about 65 gold points by amassing two seconds, one fifth, and one ninth overall. Well done, Bruce! John Rollin also did well, winning about 15 gold points, while Garrard Marsh and Lorraine Bocks captured 5 gold points. Mike Saeler and Marcia Laird won points, as did rookies Sharon Schroeder and Kris Domitrovich. The unit is proud of all of these achievements.

Well, that covers it for this period. See you at the table.

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

The Unit 530 Bridge Club was proud to host a highly successful Monterey Cypress Open Sectional last month. The tournament format featured stratified pairs on Saturday May 23rd, and both pairs and team play on Sunday May 24th.

Over 50 bridge players from all over California attended the Sectional and filled a two-day total of 79 tables. Winners came from the northern, southern and central part of the state, including Newport Beach, Brentwood, Castro Valley, Hayward, Los Altos, Saratoga, Milpitas, Mountain View, Livermore, Corralitos, Santa Cruz, Aptos and, of course, the greater Monterey Bay peninsula.

The club netted over \$1,800 from the tournament plus nearly \$4,800 in generous donations, all of which will help offset club operating expenses.





Earlier this month the club held its monthly Lunch and Unit Bridge game on Sunday, June 14th. Following a potluck luncheon, Club President Joe Truskot announced the election of three new board members: Joyce Hamza, Joanie Purcell, and Leigh Zerboni. Each will serve a three-year term. Joe was also reelected to a new two-year term.

The event was attended by 52 bridge players and netted \$894, including \$77 in donations. Among the North-South pairs, Janet Hedlund and Amy Pofcher finished first while Gerry Kapolka-Martha Hawley were the runners-up and Mano Singham-Robert DuBroff were in third place.

The top East-West partners were Sam Dodson and Philip Duterme followed by Trulee Ricketts-Helen Rubin and Lynne Weatherman-David Ow.

The club also announced that a new weekly game for intermediate players with fewer than 500 points has started on Tuesdays at 10 am. It is directed by Susan Mazzei, who will also provide occasional lessons. Refreshments will be served.

Our next Unit Game is scheduled for Sunday, July 12th. Lunch will be served at 12 noon with bridge following shortly thereafter. On most other Sundays, the club offers an open stratified game starting at 10 am.

The Monterey Bridge Center is located at 201B Calle del Oaks (Highway 218) in Del Rey Oaks, just north of route 68. Our phone number is 831-747-1650.





## Napa/Solano/Sonoma By Sigrid Price (512)



The Celebration of Life for Barbara Storrie held on May 11th at The Sonoma Grill, expertly organized by Lois Lourie, was a huge success with many members of Vintage Duplicate Bridge Club as well as her friends in the community attending. It was a perfect day for an outdoor event and just as Barbara had wished, folks gathered to “tip a glass” and share memories of Barbara and her feisty manner. She was a fixture at Table 2 North and had always had a kind word for her partners and opponents. We will miss her! See pictures of attendees.

On June 15th the annual meeting of Unit 512 was held at The Moose Lodge. Participants enjoyed a lunch supplied by the unit and quickly elected a new board of directors composed of Helen Bohl, Carole Kupsoff, Barbara Lemme, Sigrid Price, Tom Sheahan, and Kathleen Smith. Members offered suggestions of ways to enhance our bridge experience in the unit and the new board will be meeting to work through implementation.





Here's are the latest leaders in the Mini-McKenney race in the Unit:

0-5 mps	Isobel Luria
5-20 mps	Randy Loe
20-50 mps	Jean Kilgore
50-100 mps	Cheryl Marcillac
100-200 mps	Howard Bye-Torre
200-300 mps	David Mendel
300-500 mps	Sherry Shone
500-1000 mps	Leandra Stewart
1000-1500 mps	Britt-Marie Eldred
1500-2500 mps	Richard Tebay
2500-3500 mps	Kathleen Smith
3500-5000 mps	Clyde Smith
5000-7500 mps	Jeff Ferro
7500-10,000 mps	Tom Jacobson

You can find the complete list on the ACBL website under District/Unit Races. Some of these folks have a significant lead, while others have second-place holders nipping at their heels.

You may want to mark your calendars for these special events at Vintage Duplicate Bridge Club, all of which award extra masterpoints:

July 1	ACBL Membership Game
July 6 & 8	North American Pairs (hereafter NAP)
July 13, 14 & 15	Club Championship
July 20 & 22	NAP
July 27 & 29	Charity Game
August 3 & 5	Unit Championship
August 10 & 12	NAP
August 17, 18 & 19	STaC
August 24 & 26	Unit Championship
August 31	Charity Game





Special games to be held at Napa Valley Bridge Club are as follows:

July 10	NAP
July 17	Club Championship
July 24	NAP
July 31	Unit Championship
August 7	NAP
August 14	Charity Game
August 21	StaC
August 28	NAP

Finally, we are very grateful to Kelley Thompson who took over the Napa Valley Bridge Club from Howard Bye-Torre. He will host his final game on Friday, June 26th and thereafter Sigrid Price will be directing and running the game, starting July 10th. There will be no game on July 3rd in observance of the July 4th holiday.

Here's to a really enjoyable Fourth of July to you all...stay safe! I hope you get to see the fireworks 😊

## Palo Alto By David Merenbach (503)

Two thousand years ago in ancient Rome, Seneca wisely stated, "while we teach, we learn". I am fairly confident he was not speaking about Bridge because the game was not invented for another 1800 years. Nevertheless, the philosophy is true when it comes to our great game. All of us who play this game strive to get better each day and one of the best ways to do so is to mentor someone who is still developing skills that we are already practicing.

At the Palo Alto Bridge Center (PABC), we have long had a mentoring program that matches developing players with more experienced players. The mentors share their experience thereby leading the mentees to accelerate their learning. Nothing helps a developing player more than access to a player who has been in their shoes before. The mentor/mentee relationships can take many forms. Most of the relationships feature one mentee and one mentor playing together in person or online followed by a detailed debriefing session. Other relationships have featured one mentor coaching either a partnership or a full table of players. As we talk to mentors, we hear time and again that one of the greatest joys for the mentors in this program is that in sharing their knowledge they too **become better players!**





Today at the PABC we need more mentors! The new co-chairs of the mentor program Sandy Lee Chen ([sandyleechen@yahoo.com](mailto:sandyleechen@yahoo.com)) and Bill Chow ([billchow01@gmail.com](mailto:billchow01@gmail.com)) ask that you reach out if you are willing to become a mentor, or if you want more information about the program. You will not only be helping others, but you will also be helping us build community and you will be bettering yourself. As Phil Collins said 2000 years after Seneca, "In learning you will teach, and in teaching, you will learn."

We hoped you enjoyed the Firecracker! Here is what's coming up in Unit 503 at the PABC:

- EZ Bridge every Monday Morning at 11:15.
- 49er game Wednesday Evenings at 6:45
- **New** free lessons at 10:15 Friday mornings with **Chris Chung** (NAP Flight A Champion). Targeted to intermediate players and followed by the club game at 10:45.
- Thursday August 6th through Sunday the 9th the PABC will host our next Super Silver Sectional with Open, Mid-flight, Silver Rush, and 99er pairs games. There will also be bracketed team games.
- STaC week August 17th-23rd.



For more information about everything above and all things going on at the PABC please go to [PaloAltoBridge.org](http://PaloAltoBridge.org). And remember to visit us on Facebook.

If you have questions, comments, or recommendations regarding this article you can reach me at [merenbach@yahoo.com](mailto:merenbach@yahoo.com).

Play, Laugh & Learn!

## Reno By Martha Hildreth (473)

Our club hosted about 150 tables April 16-19 at the Silver State Slam. We were delighted to welcome to our club for this Sectional a team from the US and India: Jayant Rajgopal, Srikar Reddy, Savij Menon, and K Balakrishnan. They won the Open Swiss Teams on the 19th, gaining 7.15 silver. They had other pair successes as well.

K. Balakrishnan wrote me some history of the group, and their experience in Reno:



Left to Right: Sajiv Menon, Srikar Reddy, K. Balakrishnan, Jayant Rajgopal





There were many high points that defined our visit to the United States, but what remains the icing on the cake is the time we spent in Reno.

Four of us met 50 years ago when we attended the National Institute of Technology, Trichy in South India. We all went our different ways after we graduated but we continued to stay in touch. While in college we played bridge at several regional tournaments in our state and in the region. To get together after all those years and to play a tournament was like a dream come true.

Reno is a remarkable place. The venue for the tournament was so warm and friendly. The participants were so welcoming. All in all, we found it a thoroughly enjoyable experience. Thank you for making it so special for us.

He also mentioned in particular the helpfulness of Tournament chair, Shannon Dressel.

As all our readers know, a tournament hosted by a club takes lots of volunteer effort. Shelley North took excellent care of amenities and clean up. Donna Neff brought her fabulous dips and salads. Virginia Kellermeyer contributed a yummy pineapple coconut cake (or so I am told, it disappeared in a hurry). The debris was cleaned up by Shelley, Brad Stone, Susan Powell and Judy Kienle. Thank you all.

Near disaster was averted by Susan. A couple months ago we started using touch screen Bridgemates. They are great (in my view at least) but It's a learning curve, and there have been some glitches. When the software got balky, Susan figured it out and rescued the tournament.

## San Francisco By Tom Stillman (506)

### Milestones

Ninive Calegari and Catherine Klumpp both earned their first Gold Points at this year's Royal STaC game.

Liam King recently obtained his Life Master.

Also, Kim Fanady of Quick Tricks fame attained her Diamond Life Master (5000 MP) recently. I've always maintained the ACBL should award at least a chip of the gem for which these level of Life Masters are named.

Congratulations to all!

### Royal STaC Results

District 21 held their Royal STaC event from Monday May 4th through Sunday, May 10th (the 157th Anniversary of the Driving of the Golden Spike to commemorate the completion of the Transcontinental Railroad). Complete results can be found [here](#).





Here are some of the highlights.

There are not a lot of invitational clubs that meet Monday morning or open clubs Monday evening in the District besides Chinese American Bridge Club (CABC) and Quick Tricks (QT). So those two clubs represent the unit for those periods. Chris Chou and Sue Papilion came in first at CABC, and Ryan Gossiaux and Shazi Makhdumi came in first at QT with a score over 70%.

Two pairs from the relatively new Carlisle Club tied for 6th in the Tuesday afternoon Open Section. Denny Arar & Christian Goetze and Ashish Gupta & Marc Rosaaen finished with a 60%.

Adding things to the category of "I don't understand the ACBL," two Sunset Bridge Club pairs were omitted from the overall District 21 Open Pairs listing for Wednesday. Had they been put in the proper spot, Andy Straus & Kim Fanady would be 10th with 59.17% and Gary Porter & David Strauss (no relation to Andy because David has an extra "S" in his name) would have finished 13th with 58.50%. For the 499er section, the Sutter Street Duplicate Club swept all the spots with Lynne Crawford & Nancy Thompson coming in first.

Thursday, May 7th, was a travel day as Diane Ross visiting Santa Cruz, Jane McLaughlin (Palo Alto), and Jo Ginsberg & Len Vishnevsky (Cypress) all left The City to gather some points.

On Friday, the Sunset Bridge Club was well-represented and properly credited with two pairs making the Top 10 in the District: Bruce Osterweil & Gary Porter, 3rd and Meg Andrews & Kevin Liberg 10th.

### **Sacramento Regional**

The Sacramento Regional was held May 25-31. Some of the winners of note will be mentioned here.

Lea Salem & Mark Sawchuk came in first in the Monday Gold Rush Pairs.

Ilan Tadmor of Sunnyside, NY teamed with Kim Fanady to come in first in the Bracket 2 Bracketed Pairs.

Mark Ralph's team of four came in second in the California Capital Swiss Teams.

Overall, Gail Gabiati led all San Franciscans with 25.61 MP, good for 72nd overall.

### **Unit 506 Games**

In the May Unit Open Game, held Saturday, May 16th, Gary Porter & David Straus were the overall winners, playing N/S, with a 57.41%. Sheila Stuart & Mike Held finished first E/W with a 56.06%. Complete results can be found [here](#).



In the 499er game, we had a nice turnout of 5 tables. Sarah & Arthur Eidelhoch came in first overall playing N/S with a 60.63%. Mary Pulvermann & Laura Rotbert came in first E/W with a 62.50%. Complete results can be found [here](#).

The June unit games were held on Friday, June 12th, in association with the Sunset Bridge Club. Fourteen tables showed up for a rare Friday afternoon Unit game. The winners in both directions were last-minute or pick-up partners. In the North/South direction, David Gendreau came in first with his partner at 64.74%, but the overall winners were Peter Krag and Chris Chou with 67.15%. It was the first time Peter and Chris had played together. Complete results for the June Unit game can be found [here](#).

### **Support your local club**

Local clubs won't survive without your support. In particular, I'd like to remind you about the Sunset Bridge Club that meets Wednesdays and Fridays at Noon at the Masonic Lodge, 855 Brotherhood Way. It's the only daytime Open game. There is an enormous amount of space and parking. It is a friendly game and those newer players who have ventured to join have found it a welcoming and educational experience. The Sunset Bridge Club is also willing to hold a separate 499er game if they can get at least three tables signed up for it. If you're interested, please contact me at [tjsbridge@gmail.com](mailto:tjsbridge@gmail.com).

### **In Memoriam**

Unit 506 lost a dear lady on May 7th. Dolores Bee passed away after a very short illness. Dolores was known as an impeccable dresser with her hair always perfectly done. In hindsight, the last time Dolores played at the Carlisle Bridge Club, I noticed a hair out of place and knew something was wrong.

Dolores was 95 and led a fascinating life. She met her future husband, an employee with the State Department, on a trip to Europe. They discovered that they had a common interest in chess, so when Dolores came home, she played correspondence with her new love. The problem was that she didn't know a thing about chess and had her brother send in all the moves. Obviously, Dolores was quite smitten with this man she met and wanted to impress him immensely.

Dolores showed her non-conformist side in other ways. Dolores was living in The Towers, a senior living residence, when the Pandemic hit. These types of facilities which much more cautious at the beginning of the Pandemic than the regular population. So, they had a "lock-down" for residents telling them they could not leave. I'm happy to report Dolores told the staff she had a doctor's appointment and joined us for one of her last visits to the Sunset Bridge Club.

Finally, this woman of great dignity and class shocked me one afternoon when she came over to the club. Someone was driving too slow in front of her on Sunset Blvd. She came into the club complaining in no uncertain terms how slow this individual was.



And she was also indignant by what was on a bumper sticker of this slow car. I would never in all the years I have known could have imagined she would say "that word" out loud.

We certainly will miss you, Dolores!

## San Mateo By Lauren Rosen & Rita Armstrong (498)

### Do What You Love to End ALZ

Our "End Alzheimer's" Unit game and fundraiser on June 20 was a great success, bringing together club members and friends for an enjoyable afternoon of bridge while supporting an important cause. The event featured raffles and a silent auction, with members generously donating a variety of desirable items. Friendly bidding competition and enthusiastic participation helped raise meaningful funds for Alzheimer's research, care, and support programs. In addition to the fundraising activities, the event highlighted the spirit of generosity and community that makes our bridge club so special. We are grateful to everyone who donated auction items, purchased raffle tickets, volunteered their time, and participated in the event.

We still have additional ways for bridge players anywhere to improve their skills while supporting our fight against Alzheimer's:

- For a minimum donation of \$50 to Unit 498 - Peninsula Team fundraiser to benefit the Alzheimer's Association, you can take an interactive online lesson and practice session with Audrey Grant and David Lindop. The Online Class on cuebids will be held on Thursday, July 23, beginning at 11:00 am PDT. There will be a 2-hour lesson, an hour break for lunch, and practice hands on BBO with a debrief afterwards. The video and notes on Cuebids will be yours to keep forever. Included is one month's access to The Better Bridge Learning Pass. This one-month learning experience is designed to extend the value of the session and help you continue improving at your own pace. Use [this link](#) for more information on the Audrey Grant package.
- Additionally or alternatively, you can have access forever to Barbara Seagram's 3-part online course (6 hours all-together) including videos and notes covering Hand Evaluation, Control Bidding, and Slam Bidding. You will be able to watch this course online any time with no expiration date for a minimum donation of \$50 to Unit 498 - Peninsula Team fundraising to benefit the Alzheimer's Association. Use [this link](#) for more information on the Barbara Seagram package.





On Saturday June 13, we held our second special event for newcomer and intermediate players with fewer than 200 master points. Teacher and Director Jenny Kuhn gave a lesson on "When to pull trump," followed by a 20-board game with 13 tables. It was wonderful to see many newer players come through our doors.

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)



**May - June 2026**

**Welcome to New Member--**Garth Gregson

#### **New Accolades**

##### **New Junior Master**

- Susan Schwartz

##### **New Club Masters**

- Peter Emanuel
- Lawrence Frank

#### **70% Games**

5/7/26 Ken Llacera - Mick Friedberg 74%

5/14/25 Ken Llacera - Leslie Xu 77%



Santa Cruz Bridge Center held a successful Cinco de Mayo party on the 6th of May. Members brought appetizers, and we had 10 full tables.

FANTASTICO





**STaC week Top Winners -- May 4th through May 10th**

*Monday May 4, 749er game*

Larry Frank - Peter Emanuel	61.5%	1st A	1.03 MP
Christina Kobland - Leslie Davidson	60.01%	2nd A	0.72 MP
Chris Tainty - David Harken	58.77%	3rd A	0.52 MP

*Tuesday May 5, Open Game*

Lesley Xu - Michael Modest	58.15%	1st A	2.06 MP
Heather MacGregor - Peter Gelfand	57.41%	2nd/3rdA	1.24 MP
Ken Llacera - Mick Friedberg	57.41%	2nd/3rd A	1.24 MP

*Wednesday May 6, "Seis de Mayo" 99er Game*

Cathy Foy - Pamela Kissiah	67.88%	1st OA	1.11 MP
Danielle Garland - Vi Gassman	62.69%	2nd OA	0.83 MP Open Eve
Andrew Calciano - Marilyn Calciano	62.78%	1st A	1.88 MP
Farol Henderson - Jacci Sterling	61.94%	1st A	1.88 MP

*Thursday May 7, Open Game*

Ken Llacera - Mick Friedberg	74.48%	1st A	1.97 MP
Angie Millslagle - John Wesolowski	64.35%	2nd A	1.38 MP
Farol Henderson - Ken Gamble	57.41%	3rd A	0.99 MP

*Friday May 8, Open Game*

Jacci Sterling - Ken Gamble	61.22%	1st A	2.25 MP
Ken Llacera - Peter Gelfand	60.26%	2nd A	1.58 MP

Events Committee Presents 3rd of July bring your favorite partner to the 10 a.m. Open game. SCBC will contribute hot dogs. Members will contribute side dishes and desserts. Everyone enjoy your 4th with family.





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

### Unit 509 Masterpoint Race Winners 2025



On Saturday, May 16, we recognized our Ace of Clubs and Mini-McKenney 2025 award winners. Each winner receives two free play coupons and a certificate.

The Mini-McKenney awards go to the person who accumulates the most points in their point range category in any in-person game, including tournaments, the Ace of Clubs award goes to the person who accumulates the most black points only in their point range category in local club games. Certificates also go to players accumulating master points in online games.

<u>Category</u>	<u>Mini-McKenney</u>	<u>Ace of Clubs</u>	<u>Online Masterpoints</u>	<u>Virtual Ace of Clubs</u>
0 to 5	Joseph Gorin	Joseph Gorin	Greg Kirsch	Greg Kirsch
5 to 20	Steve Harold	Steve Harold	Arlee Geary	Steve Harold
20 to 50	Jane Drever	Jane Drever		Raleigh Fohrman / Sandy Kriegsman
50 to 100	Mark Randol	Mark Randol		
100 to 200	Douglas Schrock	Douglas Schrock	Thomas Campbell	Jeremy Brott
200 to 300	Cathy Wagener	Cathy Netz	Stephanie Poley	Herschel Cozine
300 to 500	Jeff Sacher	Jeff Sacher	Katherine Schram	Jeff Sacher
500 to 1000	Gerald Besses	Gerald Besses	Shelley Schuster	Kim Fusch
1000 to 1500	Tony Jackson	Tony Jackson	Lisa French	Jane De Briyn
1500 to 2500	James Reed	James Reed	Jeff Sengstack	Barbara Simon
2500 to 3500	Patricia Hertz	Patricia Hertz	Corrick Brown	
3500 to 5000	Larry Spanier	Larry Spanier	Larry Spanier	Denis Racine
5000 to 7500	Nancy Gunn	Nancy Gunn	Lynn Blumenthal	Kate Hill
7500 to 10000	Sara Rothmuller	Evelyn Holtz	Evelyn Holtz	Sara Rothmuller
Over 10000	Bob Klein	Bob Klein	Erwin Linzner	Bob Klein





### **Betty Sather Celebrates her 104th Birthday!** *by Carol Morse*

Wednesday, May 6, was a special day for the Finley 509 Bridge club. Not only was it the third anniversary of the club, but it was also unit member Betty Sather's 104th birthday. Club Manager Maxine Reagh held a drawing for free plays before revealing a beautiful birthday cake.

Originally from Pennsylvania, Betty had a career as a nurse. After living in San Francisco for three years, Betty and her husband, Paul, moved to Marin County, CA in 1951. They had three children. In 1956, she met Jean Marchant, and through Jean, connected with two other couples who would become lifetime friends. Known as "the four families", the group played social bridge and enjoyed parties and family celebrations together. Fifty years later, Jean encouraged Betty and Paul to try playing duplicate, and they took bridge lessons at the Crossley Center in Greenbrae.



In 2016, Betty and Paul moved to Santa Rosa to be closer to their daughter. Betty began playing at the Bridge Gallery in Santa Rosa with her current regular partner, Carol Morse, who grew up with the four families, and has known Betty for over 70 years. Paul passed away in 2017.

Special guests for the occasion were longtime friends, Jean Marchant, and her daughter, Susan Angel, who drove up from Marin County for the day.

Today, only two of the original senior members of the four families are still with us, Betty and Jean, 101, and they are both still playing bridge. Carol feels very fortunate to be able to play regularly with two of her mother's best friends, with Betty on Wednesdays, and with Jean on Tuesdays on BBO. And Jean's daughter, Susan, is her bridge travel partner.

Jean and Susan came in first, making the trip up from Marin even more worthwhile!

When she first started playing with Carol in Santa Rosa, Betty joked she wanted to get 100 masterpoints by the time she was 100. She almost made it and has now exceeded it. Betty looks forward to the weekly game at the Finley Center and says Wednesdays are her favorite day of the week. And earning over 1.04 master points on her birthday was just the icing on the cake!





### ProAm Game

Finley 509 held a ProAm game on the fifth Wednesday of the month in April. **Mark Hersko** and **Maxine Reagh** came in first N/S and **Abbe Cohen** and **Ron Welch** came in first E/W, earning free plays and other goodies. Three lucky people won door prizes of free plays, too.



### Unit Game Lessons

We have had three very fine lessons provided on Saturday Unit game days. Tony Jackson gave a very thorough lesson on all kinds of doubles on April 11 and was able to challenge all levels of players. Evelyn Holtz took us deeper into slam bidding on May 16, also challenging all levels. On June 20th, Bruce Blakely presented a fine lesson on Negative Doubles, a review for some, with a challenging play of the hand at the end. These lessons are very well attended and attract players from out of our immediate area. Jacki Ortiz provided delicious lunch buffets each of these dates. We are quite lucky to have such generous talent amongst us.

Winners April 11: Section A Bob Klein and Nancy Gunn 4.97; Larry Borsian and Asher Nathan 2.86. Section B: Roy Redlich and Hans Van Boldrik 2.6, David Mendel and Jerry Besses 1.46. Section C Doug and Pam Schrock 1.96mps.

Winners May 16: Section A: Stephanie Singer and Carol Kemper with 4.22, Shelley Dunietz and Sara Rothmuller with 2.37, Evelyn Holtz and Lynn Blumenthal with 1.78, and Joanne Wegsten and Daniel Harp with 1.00. Section B: David Kramer and Veronica Berlin and Tony and Naomi Ramsden.

Winners June 20 Kate Hill and Jim Reed 4.77, Lynn Blumenthal and Evelyn Holtz 3.58, Carol Morse and Andy Andrews 2.6, and Joni Conner and Jeremy Brott, 2.01.

### Fall Sectional October 3 and 4

Mark your calendar now so that you will attend our Fall Sectional on **October 3 and 4** in Petaluma. It is usually in September so if you haven't been able to attend in the past, try to make it this year. See the linked flyer ([here](#)) for more information.





## Big Games

**Debbie Tessler** and **Patricia Gittings** placed **first** in Speedball on 4/13/26.  
(69.72%)

**Debbie Tessler** and **Jackie Ortiz** placed **first** in Speedball in IMP scoring on 4/15  
(38.97 IMPs)

**Debbie Tessler** and **Mark Hersko** got a 72.98% game, coming in **first** out of 78  
pairs on May 15.

**Patricia Hertz** and **Eleanor Wales** came in **first**, with 71.94% in the Club  
Championship Speedball game on June 12.

At the **Oakland Sectional** on June 13, **Nancy Gunn, Sarita Mathiason, Bob Klein** and **Erwin Linzner** placed first in the Sunday Team Game. And, as a matter of fact, they did not lose even one match! BIG WIN!

Congratulations.

## Sacramento Regional Report

Here are the results for Unit 509's top twenty-one scorers:

Larry Spanier 29.87, Tony Jackson 18.12, Denis Racine 13.97, Carol Morse 13.52, Andy Andrews 13.49, Lawson James 13.03, David Mendel 12.46, Kathy Venton 11.59, John Oswalt 11.59, Jane De Briyn 10.68, Patricia Hertz 9.78, Daneil Harp 8.90, Joann Wegsten 8.90, Evelyn Holtz 8.38, Jeff Sachar 7.66, John Shribbs 5.54, Shelley Dunietz 5.41, Gerald Besses 4.80, Jeremy Brott 3.64, Joni Conner 3.64.

Larry came in 51st out of almost 700 players!!

Several attendees got sick at the tournament, unfortunately, from either food poisoning or a Noro virus and therefore did not participate as many days as they had planned.

## Changes in Rank

- Larry Spanier has become a Sapphire Life Master
- Tony Jackson has become a Ruby Life Master
- Brian Sullivan has become a Bronze Life Master
- Jim Kirk has become a Junior Master

Congratulations, all.





## Alzheimer's Fundraiser

Unit 509, including the Bridge Gallery and Finley 509, donated more than \$600 to the Alzheimer's Association during ACBL's End Alz campaign. Thank you to everyone who participated the week of June 15-June 19.

## Silicon Valley By Ray Yuenger (507)



It has been just slightly over eight weeks since I composed my last column reviewing recent developments in Unit 507 ("U507").

The most recent news is that last Saturday we held our annual Unit member meeting, preceded by a free lunch and followed by a free stratified pairs game. Those who arrived early to help set up the room at the Campbell United Methodist Church were surprised to find that another group had already set up a lot of the room, setting out large round tables that seat eight and covering many of the onsite chairs in decorative fabric covers. It was eventually determined that that group's event was scheduled for Sunday, not Saturday afternoon, but the Church front office had assured them they could set up a day early, apparently forgetting about our Unit's Saturday afternoon reservation. To avoid taking down 24 round tables and putting up 20 card tables and then taking down the card tables and restoring the round tables, we decided to use the round tables for lunch and the game. There were mixed feelings about using their covered chairs while eating, although they said it would be fine. So, most tables ended up with the regular folding chairs for lunch and the game, not the covered folding chairs. Players put away the folding chairs at the end of the game. It was not an ideal arrangement for playing cards on a much larger table, but it allowed larger groups to gather at one table for the barbecued meats provided by the Unit and the potluck salads, desserts, and other tasty dishes contributed by players. We ended with too much of a good thing, with leftover barbecued meat and other dishes.

The member attendance wasn't large enough for a quorum, but there was no Unit business to transact.

During the membership meeting, the Unit did hand out medallions and certificates acknowledging those U507 members who in 2025 were first in their respective masterpoint categories in three races. The mini-McKenney recognizes who won the most masterpoints points during a calendar year. The Ace of Clubs does the same, while focusing on masterpoints won in face-to-face clubs, excluding Sectional Tournaments at Clubs and online points. The Virtual Ace of Clubs recognizes the online points winners. This table lists the winners in all three categories. You'll see it is not unusual to be first in more than one type of masterpoint race.





	Mini-McKenney	Ace of Clubs	Virtual Ace of Clubs
<5	Peggy Bradley	Peggy Bradley	Peggy Bradley
<20	Craig Hom	Kyoko Ogawa	Craig Hom
<50	Guoliang Yu	Pat Jeffries	Rollo Parsons
<100	Kapil Bhalla	Kapil Bhalla	Alicia Breyer / Renee Cantu
<200	Henry Zhang	Bill Roman	Ann Blach
<300	Monica Bacon-Proctor	Monica Bacon-Proctor	Shailesh Naik
<500	Li Zhang	Pamela Meckenstock	Li Zhang
<1000	Sriram Ganesan	Rick Giusti	Betsy Wagner
<1500	Kathy Jasper	Annette Powers	Kumar Ramaiyer
<2500	Xin Ge	Colin Hemsley	Jung Hu
<3500	Anne Wilson	Anne Wilson	Ken Imboden
<5000	Frank Xie	Frank Xie	Paul Nelson
<7500	Lynn Shannon	Michael Fleisher	Lynn Yokel
<10,000	John Miller	Bruce Luttrell	John Miller
>10,000	Will Watson	Ed Barlow	Diane Shannon

Li Zhang was given special recognition at the meeting because she was also the ACBL-wide mini-McKenney winner for her category as noted in the April 2026 Bridge Bulletin on page 19, having earned 751 masterpoints, almost double the player in second place. Attending the membership meeting, I was glad to be able to finally put a face to one name I've been reporting so frequently in past columns.

At our meeting, our Unit President, Mich Ravera, also acknowledged that two prominent Unit members and frequent partners, Lynn Shannon and John Miller, have recently relocated their principal residence to Tucson, Arizona. To that news I say, "good riddance." I hasten to explain that the only reason I say that is that their repeated winnings on the tournament trail have required me as our U507 columnist to write them up at least once in every column for the past years.

I'll note that Lynn was 8th in the entire ACBL in 2025 in the mini-McKenney race in the 5,000-7,500 masterpoint category and 7th in all masterpoint categories in winning masterpoints at sectionals. John was 3rd in winning masterpoints at sectionals and 12th in the ACBL mini-McKenney race in the 7,500-10,000 category.

Kidding aside, I value them as friends and hope they'll realize I'm joking about the work they've caused for me as a columnist, but the rest of this column will help illustrate how frequently they are reported.

Nineteen tables of players (mostly U507 members) turned out for the member appreciation game. First overall was John Miller, playing with Floyd McWilliams. First in the B stratification was Li Zhang (another familiar name) & her partner. Second in the B stratification and first in the other direction were Robert Allen & Linda Rocha. Second in





the other direction were Lynn Shannon & her mother Diane. (I don't usually report second place finishes, but I'm doing it to make a point here.) First in the C strat were Kathy Vita & her partner.

Having discussed the Unit game, now we'll look back at which U507 members placed or tied for first (overall, stratifications, and sections) in recent tournaments, first regionals, then sectionals.

At the Gatlinburg regional, Lynn & John were on a team that won its bracket, as did Mike Cailean's team. Lynn & John also had a section top in an open pairs game.

The premier event at the California Capital regional in Sacramento is the two-day open Swiss. Cadir Lee's team won that event. Also successful in other bracketed team events: Anne Wilson & Li Zhang (bracket 3); Bharat Kamdar & Rick & Kathy Jasper (bracket 4); Stuart Goodgold & Songtao Zhang (bracket 2); Frank Xie (bracket 2); Anne Wilson (bracket 3); and Luen-Jyh Luo, Daren Kuo, Stuart Goodgold & Songtao Zhang (bracket 2).

In two-session pair events in Sacramento, Richard Reitman won the Open Charity Pairs, while John Stremel was first overall in the MidFlight Pairs and also won bracket 3 of the Bracketed Pairs. Stratification tops were earned by Henry Koransky & Joel Koransky (MidFlight Pairs), Kelly Heuschkel & Saniye Alaybeyi (Newcomer 49er Pairs), Kayden Ge & Xin Ge (TopFlight IMP Pairs), and Amit Garg (Open Fast Pairs). Section tops went to: Richard Reitman (TopFlight Pairs), Stuart Goodgold & Luen-Jyh Luo (pairs bracket 2), Li Zhang (pairs bracket 3), Michael & Jennifer Ravera (pairs bracket 4), Mike Cailean (TopFlight Pairs), and Nitin More (MidFlight Pairs), Mike Cailean, Luen-Jyh Luo & Brenna Wundram, and Arif Janjua (TopFlight IMP Pairs), and Arif Janjua (TopFlight Pairs).

In a four-day Palo Alto sectional in April: William Watson won the Open Pairs, Pat Jeffries won the Silver Rush Pairs, Gigi Chu & Joyce Tsai won the 99er Pairs, John Stremel was first overall in the MidFlight Pairs, Timothy Maloney's team won bracket 2 of the 0-3000 Bracketed Teams, and Sriram Ganesan & Weilong Shen's team won the A/X Swiss. Stratification tops at Palo Alto went to Peter Chow & Kyoko Ogawa (Silver Rush Pairs), Amit Garg & Nitin More (Open Pairs), and Michael Bodell (Open Pairs). Earning section tops: Mark Pensler, Michael Bodell, and Jung Hu & Michael Fleisher (Open Pairs); Pat Jeffries (Silver Rush Pairs); Sadik Arf & Luen-Jyh Luo (Open Pairs); Linda Rocha (MidFlight Pairs); William Watson (Open Pairs); Prince Kohli (MidFlight Pairs); and Kathy Vita & Yoseph Mak and Flora Ding (Silver Rush Pairs).

Hank Hsu had a section top in a 0-300 Pairs game at an I/N sectional in Hartford Connecticut.

Weilong Shen had a strat top in the Open Pairs at the Monterey sectional.



At the East Bay summer sectional, Weilong Shen had a strat top and Henry Zhang a section top in the Open Pairs. Elenalani Lam & Li Zhang's team won bracket 2 of the Open Bracketed Teams.

Congratulations to our newest U507 Masters: James Eby, Arvind Nimbalker, Ping Wen, Saniye Burcu Alaybeyi, Mark Copeland, Kelly Heuschkel, Robert Deline, Wayne Grubbs (Junior); Mihran Dars, Andrea Decasper, Rebecca Sanchez, Anna Kolodziejska, Gerald McNutt (Club); Kyoko Ogawa (Sectional); Stuart Whannel (Regional); Henry Koransky (NABC); Songtao Zhang (Advanced NABC); Hubert Roberts, Kathy Vita (Life); Jan Pffifner (Bronze Life); Jayesh Goyal, Kathy Jasper (Ruby Life); Lynn Bartz, Xin Ge, Joseph Chui (Gold Life); Anne Wilson (Sapphire Life); Stuart Goodgold (Diamond Life); Anthony Barre (Emerald Life).

Sorry this column is longer than usual but there has been more to report. I hope I haven't overlooked anyone's accomplishments. I am getting some help from AI (Claude), so I hope the column is accurate.

One final note. In July, the Unit Board expects to have a rare, contested election for Board President. That hasn't occurred in my 27 years on the Board, so maybe there are some new things under the sun.

## Stockton By Debbie DeZarn (510)



June is the annual month for holding The Longest Day fundraising activities for ending Alzheimer's disease. Although the Stockton Club is not holding any special games we all appreciate that the game of bridge is helping our brains stay sharp—especially the socialization part—so I encourage everyone to donate generously.

Our Unit has a new member, Margaret Kawai, who plays on Thursdays in Stockton. Welcome!

Lots of Rank Advancements to celebrate this issue! Betty Dailey of Arnold reached Club Master and Bobby Ilse earned his remaining needed "colors" for Silver Life Master. Two players finally crossed the finish line to Ruby Life Master after being close for several months. Congratulations to Glo Klinger Williams and Debra Klohs DeZarn.

David Clement became a Life Master at the Sacramento Sectional playing on a team with his wife Marina, mom Sherrie Barakatt, and Sue Vogtlin. Dave and Marina (Kong) are Sacramento Unit members but played quite a few times in the Stockton Club when they were first starting their ACBL journey. It is so fun to see the next generation take up the game! Sherrie, herself a Silver Life Master, only began the "tournament trail" in 2015. Other known "next gen" players are Sue Barnes, Earl Jones, Lorna Crooks' son David, and some social players like Glo's daughter Shelly and Cissy Hilken's daughter Hillary.





The May STaC games had quite a few players who got point “bumps” by scoring high in the District Overalls as well as winning points at the Club level. Congratulations to those who played on Monday, Wednesday, and/or Friday mornings and won extra silver points: Jack Fitzgerald (twice), Stephen Tu, Mikki Kindelberger, and Carole Seed (three times), Darlene Barnes and Rose Knutson, Richard Bianchi and Mort Horn, Mary Hill, Lynette Foppiano and Debbie Greenberg, Frank Klo and Terry Nagode (twice) and Earl and Walter Jones.

The Sacramento Regional didn't seem to get as many Unit 510 players or big winners as it has in the past but when looking at the totals, there were actually quite a few of our members who went for at least one day and picked up red or gold points. The most was by Sue Vogtlin who won just over 17 points. The others who won points, in descending order, are Rose Knutson, Joy Gotelli, Carole Seed, Mary Westin, Stephen Tu, Deb DeZarn, Wendy Buchanan, Zhimin Lin, Marcia Laird, Sherrie Barakatt, Mikki Kindelberger, Terry Nagode, Earl Jones, Walter Jones, and Margaret Stovall. Past Unit members or frequent visitors to Stockton and former Oak Park Club players who won points are Byron Barclay, Helen Wood, Mike Saeler, Fran Tabak, Natalie, Cliff, and Tim Crew, and Sharon McDougall.

A big Thank You to Lynette who has brought boxes of cherries and walnuts to share and to Joy for different varieties of cherries and the many people who have brought cookies, including Frank who brings a dessert at least once a week. I was happy to snag one zucchini recently that was enough for many meals and by the time you read this there should be peaches at the club as well. The perks of living in the San Joaquin Valley.

The Foothills Clubs have to report sad news with the passing of Shirley Sodergren, the move of Roger Hanlon to Redding, and Darryl Rosenheim giving up f2f bridge. In addition, we have Carrie Zetterburg, Bill Saul, and Sonny Bailey all laid up, and we wish them all the very best. Mort Horn is accepting visitors at Meadowood in Stockton. We hope to see our long-term players returning as soon as possible to the clubs.

