



# District 21 Unitscope

Palo Alto's traditionally successful early July Firecracker tournament, chaired this year by Steve Barasch, will be history by the time you are reading this. So it's a fine time to thank the folks who helped Steve make this year's Firecracker memorable. (We'll provide table numbers next month.) Many thanks go to Phyllis Gaffney, who handled the hospitality table in her usual enthusiastic style; to Fran Bennett, who made sure everyone had an appropriate partner; to Carolyn Lemm who recruited and organized those great caddies; and especially to the mostly unseen helper, Allen Wolman, who chaired setting up and taking down all those tables and chairs, bidding boxes, trash bags, etc.

Another member deserving a big hand is Claire Coleman, who came in on Fathers Day, which she had planned to spend with her husband, to direct the game. It was to have been a unit game, but neither of the two directors who were nominally handling the game was able to be there.

At first the decision was made reluctantly to cancel the game, but that generous Claire stepped forward at the last minute to save the day. I haven't heard what her husband thought of her decision, but all of us certainly appreciated it!

## Sacramento

By Dave Vidaver

In 1985, after playing duplicate for 7-8 years, I found myself sitting alone amidst the aftermath of an event at the Oakland Regional. The playing area was largely empty as was I, a miserable session with a partner who, while a friend, I hadn't treated very well over the course of the preceding three and a half hours. The opponents had been almost uniformly rude as well; in the days before zero tolerance a healthy share of duplicate players, myself included, might have been doing two to five years for aggravated assault had they not been able to unleash their anti-social tendencies on a captive card-playing population.

So I quit. Cold turkey. Didn't pick up a card for ten years. There was graduate school and working abroad, and so much more. But when I returned to the States in 1996, I found myself in a new town, with a new job, and needing conversation and company, I ventured out to the local bridge club.

There was something different when I returned. Among my first sessions was a side game at the San Francisco Nationals in 1996. Sitting N/S, I watched, and heard, an approaching E/W pair with increasing discomfort. After almost every hand he would turn red in the face, the vein in neck bulging out as he failed to control his anger, sputtering insults at his quiet, downcast partner. This time such behavior seemed not only strangely familiar but out of place. For two or three rounds no one said anything, but then a miracle happened.

A director, my memory is that it was Matt Smith, but my memory, well, it sucks, blocked the man's path to the next table and calmly said "Sir, it seems that you're not enjoying yourself. If you cannot begin to do so, this very moment, you will be leaving." The man looked at him defiantly for a moment but said nothing. "Do you understand?" asked the director. He did.

Fifteen years later, civility at the table is given. Yes, there are occasional intemperate outbursts, as well as the odd individual whose 86'ing would be a blessing in the minds of most. Our diversity still stands out and never ceases to amuse. Where else in the world can, or would, an 85-year-old church-going grandmother trade stories with a 55-year-old corporate lawyer, a 35-year-old advocate for the homeless with six piercings in each ear and a penchant for clubbing, and a 26-year-old PhD student in Physics from Taiwan. And our humanity, which never ceases to amaze. On a daily basis we not only bring casseroles and cookies, suit boards and vacuum. We forgive the revokes and leads out of turn of those whose concentration dims with age, we make sure those who can no longer drive can make it to the game, that those without family have a place to be on Thanksgiving and Christmas. We give rides

to doctor's appointments, run errands for those who are hobbled by surgery, and provide company when spouses pass on.

And more.  
John McMurdie describes the memorial service for a bridge player: family on one side of the aisle, fellow bridge players on the other. The latter have to leave early to make the noon game, but that's okay, the deceased would have surely understood. And not had it any other way.

And the game goes on.

## San Francisco

By Kim Fanady

As promised, this month we're bragging about the victories of Unit 506ers in our San Francisco Summer Sectional back in June. The sectional was a big hit, with fine attendance and good food. The pizza lunch provided by the unit board was particularly well received.

*News flash:* bridge players like to eat!

Congrats to the triumphant: Victor Chubukov & Steve Smolen, winners of the marquee event, the two session Open Pairs; Teiko Peterson & Takemi Totes, winners of the morning Side Pairs, with Gary Near & Emanuel Vacakis, 1st Strat B; Dean Wangsvick & Joanne Allen, winners of the afternoon Side Pairs, with Lynn Norris & Patty DeBono 1st Strat B and Cecily Rogers & Aleksandr Reznitskiy, 1st Strat C (an SF sweep!); in the 1999 Pairs, Nancy Igdaloff & Judy Baer, 1st Strat F, 3rd overall, Nadine Koss & Barbara Voss, 3rd Strat F, and Etan Cohen & Ed Mah, 5th Strat F; and in the A/X Swiss, Owen Liebman, on the winning team in Strat X.

Many others had overall placings and section tops. Good going, all!

All the local clubs are participating in Great Western Summer STAC Week, August 16-22. Get your silver points here!

This month's unit game will be a Swiss Teams event on August 7. Next month's game is pairs on September 11. All games are at noon at the Masonic Temple, 850 Brotherhood Way, and all are welcome.

Congratulations to our ladder climbers: new Junior Masters Patsy Ludwig, Jane Pedley, Ted Pyle; new Club Masters Frances Bowes, Ethan Fingerma, Richard Spalding, Tom Twaddell; new Sectional Master Julian Standen; new Regional Masters Hinda Gilbert, Peter Huppert, and Gill Sperlein; new NABC Master Liliane Kirchoff; and new Life Masters, Stephanie and Rick Rogers. Way to go!

Welcome to our new members: Sharon Elsen, Judith Kurtz, David Llewellyn, James Petersen, Janis Stipins, and Hristo Zahov; and transfers: Mary Condon (Palo Alto), Alan Malloy (Santa Clara Valley), Corey Powell (Santa Cruz), and Bart Rhoades (Sonoma-Napa-Solano). Welcome all! Be sure to greet these new players when you meet them at the table.

Board of directors elections are coming up for Unit 506 and for the QuickTricks club. If you'd like to get involved, jump right in; your bridge community needs you!

Finally, we sadly say goodbye to Bill Stephens, who cut a colorful figure at the QuickTricks club for many years. Bill's bidding was circa 1953 but boy could he play a hand! Our condolences to his family and friends.

## San Mateo/Redwood City

By Nancy Chapman

Our annual meeting was held with a unit game on May 30. Elected to the board were Peter Klebofski, Gayle Hester, Bob Johnson, Fred Chasalow, Nancy Chapman, Ed Frymoyer and Kate Talbot.

On June 9 the new board elected officers: Nancy Chapman (pres), Hugh Huff (VP & membership chair), Kate Talbot (secretary) and Ed Frymoyer (treasurer and discipline). Hugh is also unit's electronic contact. Fred Chasalow remains unit tournament coordinator. Gayle Hester is publicity chair, and the webmaster for our web site ([www.unit498.com](http://www.unit498.com)) is Mary Bates. We welcomed new members Kal Aziz, Elizabeth and Hank Bottino, Anne Helfert, Cathy Priest, Lori Bard, Sallie Bernstein,

Myrna DeFriesse, Mary Driscoll, Nancy Fulton, Lorelei Greenfield, Susan Shea, and Carol Wilner. Jerry Patrick transferred in. Our new Junior Masters are Charles Callaghan and Ronald Haupt; new Regional Master is Terri Richards and new Life Masters are Scott Brozell and Al Malouf.

Big scores in the June 26 unit game went to E/W. Ed Frymoyer & Mie Thiemmedh, 1st E/W; Fred Chasalow & Hugh Huff, 2nd EW; Mildred Engelman & June White, 1st N/S; Janet Grove & Bella Berkovitch, 2nd N/S. Rotisserie Chicken was the featured food.

Scoring well in the San Francisco Sectional were Andrew Hoskins, Art Quey, Walter and Renate Hoeger, Hamish Bennett, Doriane Heyman, Linda Frye, Nancy Lee, Pat Galligan, Kazuko Miyabyashi, Ayoko Narumi, Anne Curry, Virginia Wailes, Greg House, Margaret Harger, Doriane Heyman, Linda Connolly, Bella Berkovitch, Mary and Jay Bates, Arline and Jim Van Ness.

Topping the qualifiers in our first 2010 NAP qualifying game were Dan Raider & Eugene Sor N/S and Ann Longknife E/W. The second NAP qualifying game resulted in Larry Kolton & Sandra Tilch 1st N/S and Justin Beck & Douglas Grant 1st E/W.

Our members did very well at the Sacramento Regional. Hamish Bennett and his teammates placed 1st in the Monarch KO; Fred Chasalow, Ed Frymoyer, Marcus Bollinger and Eugene Sor placed 1st in Flight A/X Swiss.

Others who earned a place of honor were Pete Klebofski, Hugh Huff, Bruce Bishop, Arlie Lamb, Ted Richmond, Dariush Youssefi, Leonore Cavallero, Richard and Jody Williams, Mary Jane Armacost, Christy Hevener, Carol Knowles, Gretchen Schmeeckle, Beverly Nuding, Tony Baranski, Don Doolittle, Loretta Baines and Mie Thiemmedh. It is wonderful to see so many of our members enjoy the game of duplicate bridge.

We want to remind everyone once again that the NAOP qualifying will take place at Bayshore Bridge Club on the following dates and time: July 15 at 7:00 p.m.; July 20 at 12:15 p.m.; August 5 at 12:15 p.m.; August 19 at 7:00 p.m. Take a stab at it and you may be the next person to represent us.

On the horizon is the San Mateo Sectional, August 14-15. Parking is free at the Municipal Services Bldg. in South San Francisco. A lecture for 199ers starts things off Saturday at 10:15 and the games begin at 11:00. The strats accommodate all levels of players. We'd love to see you at the sectional so get your partner and/or teammates lined up quickly. David Hoffman also reminds us to start making plans for the 7th Annual Maye Soules Memorial Game. It will be held on Sunday, August 29, a Stratified Barometer game. Hand records and a 299er section will be available. There were 35 tables last year so please RSVP by Friday August 20 as seating is limited.

RSVP the Bayshore Bridge Club or Dave Hoffman @ 650 574-0460 or e-mail [eyedoc243@sbcglobal.net](mailto:eyedoc243@sbcglobal.net)

By the way, games and lessons are offered at BBC on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Friday mornings. Please call the club to find a game that is right for you.

Hope you all had a terrific 4th of July.

## Santa Clara Valley

By Ray Yuenger

Our next unit game will be on Monday evening, August 9. It will be a team game, with a format based on the World Cup format. I can't tell you now what that means. More details will be provided on [sjbridge.org](http://sjbridge.org) once I understand it.

I like to think that the following members of the unit board were re-elected by popular acclaim, Stu Goodgold, Jeff Hack, Lyle Supp, Shirley Foreman, and Judy Clark, as no one stepped forward to run against them. Eileen Kotecki did not run for re-election. At the last meeting, the unit board appointed Doug Hong to fill the vacancy and re-elected president Ray Yuenger, vice-president Mich Ravera, secretary Erin Gove, and treasurer Lynn Bartz to continue in their (our) positions.

No one volunteered to take over writing this column, so you're still stuck with me.

Looking back, at the Palo Alto Sectional, Fran Dickman's team won in the two-session Swiss, with Dinah McNutt's team first in their stratification. In the single-session Swiss, prevailing in their strats were Cheryl Mandala & Yul Inn; Michael Bodell, Larry & Kathy Wagner; Steve Conaway & Barbara Dahl; Peggy Chen, Ivy Chueh & Jim Tseng; Karen O'Connell, Gail Yeikle, Kirk Woolsey & Michael Freda.

Kamen Nedeltchev won the only two-session Open Pairs, with Manju & Raghu Agarwal earning a strat top. In single-session pairs games section and strat tops went to Marilyn Imaoka-Yancey, Doug Hong, James Long, Jim Tseng, Will Watson, Melanie Kakalec & Ray Yuenger, John Watson-Williams, Robert Moen & John Prevolos, Raghu & Manju Agarwal, Lynn Yokel (once with a 71.46% game), Robert Lee, Henri Farhi, Larry & Kathy Wagner, Michael Fleisher & Mindy Foss, Karen Kulander & Mike Bennett, Bill Langlois, Peggy Sprague & Dinah McNutt, Subramanyan Chitti, David Chang & Chee Tung, T-C Yang, Mac & Milly Morris, Miwako Wong, Surendra Mandava, Paul Lee, Norman Marks, Mark Pensler & Murty Ponnappalli, Marilyn Bass & Joan Seipel, John & Ann Wainwright, Rajeeva Sharma & Corinne Carter.

(We have too many winners for me to mention repeat winners.)

In the limited pairs games, it was Rochelle Gutmann, Jimmy Woo, Dick Yaeger & Dee Ann Hansen, Bob & Carole Woldstad, Regina Norberg & Kathleen Weiman, Cathy Stahler & Gary Ratts, Chuck Wiesen, Joan Lynch & Mo Maxfield.

On winning Knockout teams were: Mischel Postas, Josephine Murray, Steve Conaway & Barbara Dahl; Jennifer Gu; Hiram Shen, Raja Smadi, Maureen Ellenberg & Ruth Sporer.

Earlier, at the Gilroy Sectional, pairs play brought strat tops to Mark Pensler & Bruce Scott, Lyle Supp, Rajeeva Sharma & Corinne Carter. Shelia Peterson prevailed in the limited pairs and Swiss, on a team with Jan Kiernan.

At the San Francisco Sectional, Mike Cailean had a section top, as did Rajeeva Sharma & Corinne Carter. The Swiss team of Ed Barlow, Peter Freidland, and Yul Inn won, with a strat top going to Mindy Foss & Michael Fleisher. At the Las Vegas Regional, Fran Dickman won a Knockout and a pairs event.

Congratulations to our newest Masters: Richard Mora, Aaron Muscant, John Wainwright (Junior); Mary Dyer (Club); Karen Hunt, Mary Jane Lattin, Kathleen Weiman (Sectional); Samuel Shat & Mary Williamson (Life); Ted Ujifusa (Bronze); Cherly Mandala (Gold).

Signing off for now as:  
[rayyuenger@comcast.net](mailto:rayyuenger@comcast.net).

## Santa Cruz

By Irma Andrews

Three of our members found gold in Sacramento in June! At the Capital Regional Susan Benich & Joanne Bruno, playing on a team with Diana Schilling & Vicki Kuhlmann, won 5.5 gold to become Life Masters. Mary Peterson paired with Nancy Driscoll in two events and won six gold to complete Mary's quest for Life Master. Leisel Sabloff and Dick Wasserstrom achieved Silver Life Master in June.

Congratulations to Susan, Joanne, Mary, Leisel and Dick!

Bill McIntosh had a very successful sectional tournament in his hometown of Gilroy. He won 11.81 masterpoints to have the second highest total in the event. Most of these came in his team's first place finish in the Sunday Swiss Teams.

Susan Benich & Peter Andrews, playing together for the first time, earned a 66.2% in Pam Benz's Monday evening game. That was the highest Monday evening score in June so they won a free game in July.

Nancy Wainer's Wednesday night 49er game has moved to Tuesday evening at 6.30. It features predealt hands with hand analysis sheets. The Tuesday NLM game will continue as usual with the opportunity

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