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where both declarers failed to read the opening lead as a stiff, causing both to go down in a contract that should be made. The Barretts, to their credit, did not get upset over this error, and pushed forward in the match. The opponents at the other table did get upset, and allowed this to affect how they played the rest of the match.

I point this out as it shows the improved mental toughness that Bob and Lori have developed. Both have come a long way in the last few years, and continue to work to bring a higher level of discipline and concentration to their game. They serve as good role models for newer players, as they struggled with learning the game for a long time. But they never gave up, and kept working towards the goal of steady improvement. And over the course of time have made progress towards becoming steady players with a good understanding of all aspects of the game.

Speaking of the sectional, the tournament was a success. I don't have the figures for tables or dollars in front of me, but I do know that both units made a little cash. I was at the tournament both days, and I did observe that the room was full all four sessions. It does appear that there is a group of players who prefer to play in limited games, so this type of sectional has potential. Just something to think about as we move forward.

Congratulations to the team of Jody, Marcella, Hans, Bob, Lori, Donna, Susan, and Jerry for doing an outstanding job.

As one additional note, I was given the chance to give a talk to some of the players on the differences between IMPs and matchpoints. I must say that I walked away from that group impressed on their ability to digest the subtleties that were discussed. It left me with an optimistic feeling towards this new generation of players.

Congratulations to John Johnson, who has joined our unit board. He tried his best to get out of this, but I held him down while Susan made him sign his name on the dotted line. I am certain that we will benefit from his patience, and his genuine kindness. I think that it will be helpful to add another senior player to the board who has been a part of our unit for a long time.

It is good to see Tom Felice back at the table. Now if we can just get Alice to come out.

I have to admit I am more than a little jealous of Linda Renkus, who is on a three week vacation to Costa Rica where she will be visiting the various nature preserves. That sounds like the vacation of a lifetime, especially for a nature lover like Linda. I look forward to hearing her stories when she returns.

*Happy New Year To Everyone!*

## Santa Barbara

*By Annetta Patrick*

The Santa Barbara Sectional was highly successful. Kudos to Nancy Hofbauer (chair), and her able committee: Phyllis Denison, Chuck Patrick, Tish Gaaney, Ken Mueller, Carol Mackey, and Bobbi Davis. Thanks also to all who

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Richard Stein, Newport Beach - Evan Ziegler, San Diego

Mary Heiney, Laguna Beach - Martha Mossawir, Aliso Viejo

Carl Brick, Fullerton - Dana Lee, Corona Del Mar

Flight winners receive a \$700 per person subsidy to offset some of their expenses to attend the national NAP Finals in Memphis NABC beginning March 14. Second place pairs will receive \$300. These awards are only paid to those that actually attend the

attended, and congratulations to the winners. Jack Yeasley earned over 24 points!

Other winners include Mark Bartusek, Tom McCrackin, Kalon Kelley, and Rick Panter.

Many members participated in the Palm Springs Regional, but special mention must be given to Bob Hollman for his spectacular performance. Bob accumulated 124.21 masterpoints. Tish Gaaney, Sissy Taran, Michael Gritz and Ety Yenni were also winners.

It is with great sadness that we report the passing of a fine man and avid bridge player, Don Schroeder. Don served in many capacities on the board, and was directly involved in the Santa Barbara Sectionals. This past year Don was nominated as an Ambassador of Goodwill for District 22, and recently achieved the distinction of Silver Life Master. He was highly regarded by all, and will be greatly missed.

Happy New Year to all, and may all your slams be bid and made!

## Santa Maria

*By D. Jackson*

Here's hoping everyone had a Happy Holiday Season ... but aren't we glad it's over! We did enjoy a lovely Christmas party, thanks to the efforts of Marie Sheehy and John Arbogast, among others. One sad note this month was the passing of Al Goldwyn - an excellent player who always greeted his opponents by name. He had a kind and gentle manner and will be missed.

In the winners circle for December were Barbara Basila (4), Sue Barrett (3), John Arbogast (3), Vi Dallessandro (2), Jan Pettis (2), Robert and Jean-Allen Faust (2), Marlene Verderey (2), Marie Sheehy, Dianne Bouquet, Jerry Riezebos, Dave Hickey, Judy English, Peggy Johnsen, Paul Grant, Genevieve Konop, Doris Dunn, Gina Kirk, Lou Harsch, Diana Jackson, Al Quod, Bruce and Janice Scott, Don Kerr, Irene Schlekau, and Marilyn Bullock.

The novice game champs were Wayne Johnsen, Dick Sherman, Lori and Mark Hays, and Alice and Roger Flocken.

We welcome Linda and Mark Morris to our club, and hope we'll see them regularly. And we say goodbye to Marlene Verderey as she sets sail for the winter and spring. The Scheithauers are back from Park City, Jan Pettis has returned from a Hawaiian cruise, and the Scotts have returned from the Palm Springs Regional with a big overall win.

Ervin Poteat continues to be M.I.A., and we hope the new year brings a happy resolution to his health problems.

As this goes to press we await word from the Monterey Regional, where we are well represented by a group of our members.

We'll have some exciting results, I'm sure, in the next issue.

## Ventura

*By Evelyn Fox*

The presents are unwrapped, the last of the fruitcake is eaten (thank goodness) and all is back to normal.

nationals. Pairs not able to attend should notify the ACBL in advance, since the next place finisher will in that case be eligible for the subsidy. The top three place finishers are all eligible to play in the national final, and all those attending will have their fees in this event waived. The fourth place finisher is first alternate.

At the D22 Palm Springs finals, the Flight A event was a nail-biter, almost a photo finish. The difference between first and third place was one match point per session - one overtrick likely made the difference!

We have said goodbye to the old year and welcomed the new year, with all its hope and promise. We wish everyone a very happy and healthy New Year!

Once again, the Great Western Holiday STAC games were a great success, with several members of our unit doing quite well. Buki Burke and Peter Klopp scored twice in the overalls for a total of 23.23 points. Very well done!

Other members who also scored in the overalls are: Bob Bradish, Charles Clarke, Dick Zizic, Ronald Landgraff, John Eliason, Judy Kupperman and Marie Offerman.

Our Holiday Party was held December 22. We had a good turnout and delicious food, provided by the members. A good time was had by all.

Alan and Valerie Greenberg played in the two-session North American Pairs playoff event at the Palm Springs Regional on December 17. They played in the C category, which is 0-500 points, for Non-Life Masters. They finished first overall with a 62%. They qualified to go to the North American Pairs finals at the NABC in Memphis in March! The district will pay all of their expenses, as they do for every pair that places first in each category. The unit is very proud to have them represent us, and wishes them the very best.

We had a couple of 70%+ games this month. Ronald Landgraff and John Eliason had a 71.34% and Ken Thompson and Oeki Krogfoss had a 74.62%. Well done.

Winners around the unit this month were: Judy Kupperman, Anita Roll, Marilyn Brett, Gloria Lemmo, John Funk, Ronald Landgraff, Joseph Gaynor, Alan and Valerie Greenberg, Dick Zizic, John Eliason, Gwen Wagner, Marie Offerman, Ken Ellenberger, Annabelle Hurlis, Dagmar Ragnow, Gary Morgan, John Leming, Bob Gruber, Charles Clark, Maria Coulson, Diane DiConti, Molly Maurette, Linda Gruber, JoAnn Bowen, Maurine Moore, Mary Jane Graham, Pat Shaw, Joan Forchione, Judith Murphy, Nancy Ritter, Irene Petroff, Elinor Hood, Louise James, Dorothy McCoy, Nancy Stowell, Carolyn Koroknay and Christopher Gilmon.

That's all the news that's fit to print.

## Visalia

*By Robbie Rouch*

Christmas morning brought sadness with the passing of our beloved Karen Cooper. Her quick wit was always at the ready, and the world would be a far better place if we could all model her servant's heart; a truly compassionate lady.

Visalia's final fortnights featured festive feasting among friends. Not only were we treated to three separate Christmas parties, but a whole gang of us made the trek to Palm Springs, where we somehow managed to fit as many as 18 around the time-share dinner tables for fabulous home-cooked meals. Unfortunately, or fortunately, our culinary prowess far surpassed our bridge playing talents, as very little masterpoint augmentation was evidenced.

At the Monterey Regional, the wining and dining continued unabated, but the bridge results improved dramatically. More details will be forthcoming in the March *Forum*, but it should be noted that two of our newest members, Barbara Fulmer and Beth Mansfield - playing in their first regional - got back-to-back wins their first two times out, and have four wine-glass trophies to show for it!

Back at the unit, 32 different players shared the 46 top spots as we fielded 125 tables over the 13 games. Bob Loudermilk led with five wins, followed by Suzi Cederberg, Villa, Vejvoda, and Warren Cederberg with three each. Double winners were Bob Iorio, Helen Davidson, Jean Hoffman, and Lisa Darcy. Rounding out the list were Allyson Farrell, Belva Quattrin, Betty Smith, Bonnie Chan, Curtis Reeves, Bob Rouch, Edie Loudermilk, Elaine Smith, Esther Perrotta, Fran Prins, Fred Davis, Gary Blair, Harlan Ellis, Lorna Cheng, Marcie Buford, Maudmarie Calhoun, Mavis De Pass, Mike Zvonar, Mun Takeda, Nancy Holley, Pam Woods, Pierre Gaston, and Vincent Cheng.

Kudos also to Bob Iorio and Vincent Cheng for their 70.7% effort in the Great Western Holiday STAC, tops for the B bracket in all the conference.

## The Fabulous Palm Springs Sectional

February 17-19 2012, Palm Springs Pavilion

401 S Pavilion Way - Palm Springs California

### Schedule of Games

#### Free Parking Available

Lunch available on site.

Refreshments will be available throughout the day.

#### Tournament Director

Peter Knee

#### Tournament Managers

Jim Maniscalco

Steve Goldstein

#### Partnership Chair

Bev Hartin  
(760) 318-4266  
bevhartin@aol.com

#### Accommodations

Host Hotel: Comfort Inn  
390 S Indian Canyon Dr.  
Palm Springs, CA  
(760) 778-3699  
Mention American Contract Bridge League for discount  
Rates: \$88 / night plus tax with full American breakfast  
*Players are requested to make hotel reservations before February 3, 2012*

**Book early! This is high season in the desert, and you don't want to miss out!**

*Come have fun with ACBL Unit 533 - Strike silver with us!*

## D22 Seventy Percenters

78.00%	Robert Grimes - Patrick Page, Morongo Basin BC, Dec. 4	72.04%	Arnold Berman - Frieda Kurzweil, Laguna Woods, Dec. 29
77.56%	Norma Koskoff - Ruth Cummins, Towers DBC, Dec. 28	72.01%	Doug Murphey - Cathy Garvin, Sun City BC, Dec. 5
76.08%	Virginia Hoppe - Janice Pond, Temecula Sr. Ctr., Dec. 28	71.88%	Gloria Byrne - Judy Higashi, Laguna Woods, Dec. 30
75.63%	Rena and Scott Magged, DBC 199, Dec. 24	71.83%	John and Millie Carr, Scripps Ranch DBC, Dec. 23
75.09%	Ruth Salzberg - Ann Christensen, Laguna Woods, Dec. 15	71.82%	Pat Riedy - Russell Leary, Ventura Townhouse, Dec. 18
74.10%	Bill Lewis - Tom Codey, Cathedral City, Dec. 11	71.67%	MaryAnn and Warren Wotring, Big Bear BC, Dec. 21
74.07%	Bette Cornelius - Dan Dayani, Esplanade BC, Dec. 1	71.53%	Peggy Bailey - Bill Wellman, Hemet Memorial Ctr., Dec. 15
73.75%	Joan McCarthy - Elizabeth Isombe, Laguna Woods, Dec. 2	71.38%	Tim Flaherty - Ayoub Jaraic, North County BC, Dec. 1
73.51%	Gerri and Hal Knilians, Bridge Academy 2, Dec. 29	71.34%	Ronald Landgraff - John Eliason, Ventura Unit BC, Dec. 13
73.24%	Letha Couch - Bjorn Sylverson, San Diego, Dec. 12	70.83%	Kurth Krause - Roger Skinner, Laguna Woods, Dec. 22
73.02%	Ian Kravitz - Alana Polachek, IRCC, Dec. 5	70.83%	Tony Miller - Greg Vernon TGIF Bridge Club Dec. 2
73.00%	Tim Flaherty - Scott Nelson, North County BC, Dec. 26	70.82%	Tim Flaherty - Scott Nelson, Unit 549 Game, Nov. 19
72.92%	Nahid and Ali Mahdavi, Esplanade BC, Nov. 25	70.71%	Marilyn Benjamin - Barry LaPointe, SRC, Dec. 8
72.92%	Charlene Stephens - Craig Stump TGIF Bridge Club Dec. 19	70.70%	Bob Iorio - Vincent Cheng, Visalia, Dec. 6
72.75%	Catherine Marco - Gloria Byrne, Laguna Woods, Dec. 16	70.63%	Joan Forchione - Judith Murphy, Ojai Valley BC, Dec. 16
72.74%	Hal and Gerri Knilians, Bridge Academy 2, Dec. 27	70.54%	John White - James Porter, North County BC, Dec. 6
72.62%	Alan Groh - Margaret Allen, North County BC, Dec. 13	70.30%	Anthony Faint - Lilla Hadeleer, Bishop BC, Dec. 5
72.45%	Jo-Ann Dobbins - Nancy Nason, DBC, Dec. 5	70.14%	Ali Selim - Cleland Nelson, Murrieta Senior Ctr., Dec. 6
72.36%	Roman Matusik - Jacob Weisberg, Dana Harbor, Dec. 6	70.14%	Jack Waller - Craig Stump TGIF Bridge Club Dec. 9
72.24%	Sandy Denison - Jerry Schmitt, Bakersfield, Dec. 12		