



# WESTERN CONFERENCE CONTRACT BRIDGE Forum

Happy 4th of July!

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## A Tournament as Good as it Gets



By Fran Schwartz  
Tournament Manager

They say it takes diligent study, practice – plus luck – to become a winning bridge player. Those players who show up at the Orange County Regional at the Irvine Hyatt September 3-9 will have ample opportunities to advance their skills in all three of these important categories: Plus we will provide three days of Gold Rush Pairs on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday. This is an excellent opportunity

for players to stockpile those elusive Gold Points ... even if you are under 750 masterpoints at this stage in your career!

Grand Life Master Marjorie Michelin will again be kicking off the I/N program with a two hour lesson, followed by a light reception and the 299er charity game. If you've never been to one of Marjorie's lessons this is an event you won't want to miss. Reservations can be made with tournament co-chair and I/N coordinator John Jonas at [jjlapher@gmail.com](mailto:jjlapher@gmail.com). Cost for the entire Monday I/N event is only \$12.00, so sign up today.

And ... as usual ... a great lineup of speakers will start the 299er sessions each morning and be followed by more speakers before each afternoon session.

For those who love Knockouts, the schedule has either a Bracketed or Compact Knockout starting every day except Sunday.

Check the schedule at [Orange-CountyRegional.com](http://Orange-CountyRegional.com) and get your teams together for these events. You'll find an online partnership desk signup there, also.

Pairs players will enjoy playing events every day: Bridge players are known for their generosity, so be sure to be there Monday when the evening schedule kicks off at 7:30 p.m. with a charity game.

Evenings provide players the opportunity to play either pairs or Swiss Teams Tuesday through Friday. No games Saturday eve.

This year on Sunday you can chose to play Swiss Teams, Fast Pairs or ... if you are prequalified ... you can play in the District 22 NAPairs finals. All these events pay lots of gold points!

Reserve your deluxe room at the Hyatt at the bridge rate of \$119 by calling 949 975-1234 or 800 233-1234, or you can reserve your room online at [www.Orange-CountyRegional.com](http://www.Orange-CountyRegional.com) before the cutoff date of August 13.

A free shuttle is available to and from John Wayne Airport. You will enjoy the excellent food at the Hyatt, or try one of the many area restaurants within walking distance.

Jody Pedri will be handling partnerships this year; she can be reached at 714 546-4685 or email her [jodypedri@yahoo.com](mailto:jodypedri@yahoo.com)

Ann Cressman and Hans Giroux will be sharing Orange County's famous hospitality desk with you and in our Hospitality Suite on Tuesday through Friday evenings.

Be sure you have us on your calendars. See you in September.

## Kids Rule at NLM Sectional



Sixth-graders from the GATE Program at Sunset Elementary School in San Ysidro

By Vicki Creamer

Thirty-three sixth-graders from the GATE Program at Sunset Elementary School in San Ysidro had a great time playing in their own special bridge section at the Non-Life Master Sectional May 18, at Adventures in Bridge, San Diego. Both events were sponsored by Unit 539, who subsidized a bus ride up from San Ysidro to the tourney; besides the card play, the kids enjoyed a super free lunch, and the ACBL kicked in by donating the tee shirts (seen here in one of the many photos taken of the event by Matthew Kidd of the La Jolla Unit).

The event was coordinated by Ken and Joan Maden and their teaching team, who are in their second year of promoting bridge at Sunset Elementary. They teach for almost two hours once a week

at the school, and ... after the class ... the kids who can, usually stay to participate in some more bridge play.

As you can tell from the concentration expressed on the faces in this photo, the kids were very serious about this very special field trip. But throughout the day, there were countless smiles on everyone's face, and the bottom line was that the kids got a taste of an organized ACBL club game and won some masterpoints.

The ACBL profited too; there are now 33 more members, all of whom help considerably to lower the average age of American Contract Bridge League members. Talk about a win-win situation!

It's a well-researched fact that playing bridge keeps the mind sharp and active. But what happens when they start this young? We'll find out over the next 70+ years!



## District Direction

By Ken Monzingo  
National Board Representative

*Summer breeze ... makes me feel fine ...  
blowing through the jasmine in my mind.*  
–Seals and Crofts 1972

Has it really been forty years since the Texas duo of Jim Seals and Dash (Darrell) Crofts lulled us into serene bliss with the harmonious soft rock tones of their smash hit Summer Breeze? I was blessed to see them perform it live in San Diego's Balboa Stadium a year later in the era of mega-rock arena/stadium shows. The memory remains vivid, and I still hum that addictive tune in my (jasmine) mind ... *du di da dum dum, da du di da dum ... du di da dum dum, da du di da dum.*

### Summer in the Western Conference

Summer is here, and with it comes the usual void of red letter Sbridge regionals on the west coast. My July slate is more full than most, since I'll be attending the ACBL board meetings at the Summer NABC in Philadelphia. Also attending will be our four D22 entries into the national finals of the Grand National Teams. We need a GNT win; it's been a while.

Out here, our neighbor, District 23, hosts its annual July 4th tournament, but, following big Las Vegas, the Western Conference goes regional dormant for two months until District 21's legendary All-Western Championships closes out the season in late August. Our Orange County tournament begins the fall schedule the first week in September – just as football season arrives.

### Summer Fun V

To the seasonal rescue comes the fifth annual Great Western Summer Fun STAC, August 20-26, with bundles of silver points available while playing in the air-conditioned comfort of your local clubs. The three annual Great Western STACs – Spring Fling, Summer Fun, and the December Holiday – are the support and the lifeline of the conference, and the Forum. Supporting our STACs is supporting all three Western Conference districts, while stimulating attendance and growth of our many bridge clubs.

### Summer NABC Board Meetings

Back to the Philadelphia meetings. I'm co-authoring some controversial motions we'll be deciding upon. Along with my two colleagues from the Western Conference, I'll be online to stem the tide of forcing wholesale "strength of field" masterpoint changes on us before its time by asking management to thoroughly test the proposed change before we vote. Check it out for a year – if it's good we'll know; if not, we won't be locked into something we should have understood before taking the bait. We'd like a test drive before we buy the Ford – the Chevy's still running just fine.

- A motion is filed by the WC reps to not award silver points to playing directors and their partners during STAC games. Playing directors in clubs are often necessary as fill-ins to make full tables, but these directors have access to our STAC hand records.

Also, a playing director has a big advantage by seeing a hands in detail during his director calls. It is an inevitable viewing.

- Remaining outside the main stream, I'll again gear up my attempts to help our membership understand the magnitude of league spending on the international program. This is the issue upon which my opponents who enjoy the ride have really tried to silence me. But that won't happen; I've already taken their best shots and survived. Besides, I promised you transparency and truth. My concerns are not in whether we should or should not have an international presence; we probably should, but at what cost (\$400,000-\$500,000), and for whom? And who decides?

Last month there were team trials hosted by USBF, the winners of which will be awarded trips to Lille, France. Honestly now, how many of you knew of this? How many know what trials were being contested? Where was it held? When? Who was invited?

### Follow the Money

A constituent recently emailed me asking what the \$662,928 "board expenses" line listing on the current ACBL budget in the Bulletin comprised of. I had to research it myself – I didn't know. When I received a detailed expense accounting attributed to us (me!) as board members there was one item that stuck sorely in my craw – a \$162,747 annual payment to the World Bridge Federation, lightly referred to as "dues," although membership in that organization is invisible and means nothing to anyone in ACBL other than the upper echelon players (less than one half of one percent of us), pros to whom we donate almost half a million dollars each year so they can compete in WBF events like Lille.

More money, by far, than we invest in any other worthy ACBL department such as Juniors, marketing, teachers, education, etc.

### The View from Table 5

The international program, except for the high cost, has some merit and should be continued. But it could be contained by ACBL, not farmed out. There it would be better defined, and made completely transparent to our members who religiously pony up their IF donation dollars, not knowing to whom, or for what.

I shall now ruffle a few more feathers; maybe I'll do better this time. You knew that was coming.

*Peace, my friends.*

## D22 Forum Deadlines

The D22 Forum deadline for articles and ads is the 5th of the preceding month.

All ads must be prepaid, payable to D22 ACBL c/o Patrick Page, Treasurer P.O. Box 1212 Morongo Valley CA 92256 Please e-mail all ads (after prepayment) & all copy to: Joel Hoersch [joel@contractbridgeforum.com](mailto:joel@contractbridgeforum.com) 858 336-1508

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