

District 21 Unitscope

San Mateo/Redwood City

By M.C. Hevener

My last column and hooray!

By now you have all received the unit's mailing, enclosing a ballot, asking for your vote on a slate of new board members and inviting to our next event. Elections, new officers, a gala annual meeting with awards, prizes and a Barometer game. It's not too late for you to join us on Sunday, May 30 at 5:00 for appetizers before a grilled tri-tip BBQ dinner. We'll announce results then. The game starts at 6:30 p.m. For more information, go to our web site at ACBLUnit498.com.

Winners' circle and success stories from our unit: We've all heard about the regional in Gatlinburg, Tenn., which is famous for boundless hospitality and fun. Well, our own Fred Chaslow went there this spring, played nothing but team games with several different teams and came away with 68 gold points! What a whopper of a week! Quite a haul and congratulations to Fred.

Simultaneously, at the Santa Clara Valley Sectional here in San Jose, Ted Richmond & Bill Reister won the 2-session Open Pairs event and scored 15.75 masterpoints. Now you should all be on notice that you cannot come home from a bridge tournament unless or until your masterpoint total is in the double digits!

Recently our unit hosted the Palo Alto Unit in the first part of what we called "The Peninsula Challenge." This is a new event composed of a Stratified Swiss Teams competition between the two units. After a gala pizza party organized by Sandra Tilch, teams from both units went head to head for a pleasant Saturday afternoon. I'm happy to report that when the dust had settled, our Unit 498 squeaked out a win. We are looking forward to the second half of the challenge to be hosted by the Palo Alto crew in the fall.

Under the category of "Proud to Announce," we have eight new Junior Masters: Judy Barton, Peter Coebergh, Betty Count, Bob Crosby, Sharon Dolin, Marcia Eisner, Maryellie Johnson and Scott Maa. Congratulations on your first step in the right direction; more to come!

New Club Masters include Bob Anderson, Linda Brown, Donna Currier, Kate Horricks, and Richard Ihrie. Beverly Nuding is an NACB Master; Peter Klebofski has achieved Bronze Life Master status and Dan Raider is a new Gold Life Master. Well done by members of our unit.

For all of you seeking those illusive silver points, turn your calendar to the month of August make an entry for our own San Mateo Summer Sectional. It will be held August 14 & 15 at the South San Francisco Municipal Services Building and it is the place to be that weekend.

Chair Fred Chasalow promises a variety of events to spark your interest. For novices, there will be the Art Weinstein 99er Championship, single session pairs. It is stratified at 0-20/50/100/200 and is strictly limited to those within these strats. There are two other Open Pairs games on Saturday.

On Sunday, August 15, look for Stratified Swiss Teams plus, for newcomers, a single session 199er Swiss Teams. Two other pairs games are offered on Sunday as well. Come and enjoy our hospitality and win some silver!

We continue with our Thursday morning and Friday morning games at 9:00 a.m. designed for the newer player. Seen recently on the leader board for these games were Marg Harger & Gayle Hester, Joanne Gates & Doriane Heyman, Paul & Tricia Mock, plus Karen Key & Linda Duncan. A Friday first place went to Arlene & Chuck Callaghan last month; it's both rare and wonderful to see a husband & wife team who can play together and win!

That's it for me. See you at the tables.

Santa Clara Valley

By Ray Yuenger

Saturday, July 10 will be our annual member appreciation dinner and game. Please sign up at the San Jose Bridge Center for the free dinner for Unit

507 members at the Sonoma Chicken Coop in Campbell with Stratified Pairs games to follow. In a break with tradition, there will be a charge to play. The unit intends to raise money for some capital improvements to the bridge club (such as chairs and Bridge Pads). Due to room availability, the limited section will be in the Bridge Center, while the open section will be in the Roosevelt room. More details will appear in next month's column.

I hope you enjoyed our displaced Santa Clara Valley Spring Sectional. I say displaced because our usual weekend included Easter this year, so we had to find another weekend amidst all the other local sectionals held in the spring. While we were able to use our regular venue, the Masonic Temple had some rooms committed to other groups on Sunday, so we were also displaced within the playing site, having to set up tables in the hallway for part of Sunday. My apologies to anyone who was inconvenienced by this combination of circumstances. We'll try to plan better in the future. Because of the crowding, it was fortunate that attendance was down slightly. Sectional chair Shirley Foreman and her helpers deserve credit for keeping the snacks coming.

Bill Reister won the two session pairs games, with Robert Moen & John Prevolos earning a stratification top. Strat tops in single sessions in open pairs went to Harriell Shea & Dave Gambelin, Stu Goodgold & Mike Roney, Lyle Supp, Julie Joyce & Fred Brown, Cheryl Mandala & Yul Inn, Neal Webb & Annette Powers, Fran Dickman & Don Nemiro, Bruce Luttrell, Michael Bodell & Karen Paffendorf, Allan Malloy & Elenalani Lam, J. Charlebois, Shirley Foreman & Hiram Shen, Mike Cailean, Missy Verson & Marilyn Imaoka-Yancey, Mark Pensler & R. Ponnappalli, Arkady Estrin & Zag Kadah, Ray & Maxine Lubow, Samuel Shat & Paul Lee, Richard Jacobs, Miwako Wong & Carolyn Tutko, Jack Verson & Dana Brown, and Victor Rivkin & Boris Ginzburg.

(With all these winners, I have no space to mention repeat winners.)

In the limited games, it was Dee Hansen & Dick Yaeger, Susama & Amar Chunder, Tim Prime, Lynn Bartz & Leslie Perkins, Dennis & Joanne Nelson, and Rochelle Gutman.

Winning in their respective Swiss flights were the teams including Lynn Shannon, Lynn Yokel, Don Nemiro & Fran Dickman; Mike Cailean; Zag Kadah, Arkady Estrin, Hiram Shen & Raja Smadi; Raghu & Manju Agarwal, Susama & Amar Chunder tying with Melanie Kakalec, Tim Prime, Eugene Boyd & Allen Samuels; Betty Rosa & Judy Kaplan; Chuck Wiesen, Janet Odell, Rhonda Hardy & David Dewell.

At the Marin Sectional, Gary Porter's team was first in its bracket, as was Randy Ryal's. At the San Ramon Sectional, stratification tops were earned by Wendy Dewell & Elenalani Lam. First in their round robin bracket were Betty Rosa & Karen Rice.

Congratulations to our newest Masters: Anthony DiSilvestre, Nancy Plumb (Club); Alan Chase, Roberta Murai (Regional); Raghu Agarwal (Life); Richard O'Brien (Bronze); T-C Yang (Gold).

It's election time for the unit board. If you want to serve your local bridge community, let me or another unit board member know. You can reach me at:

rayyuenger@com.cast.net

Santa Cruz

By Irma Andrews

Members of Unit 550 have noticed a change in the website. After considerable deliberation the board determined the unit site should contain only information relating to the unit. All six bridge clubs within the unit now have their own websites. The five operating at the Santa Cruz Bridge Club have consolidated into one site and their schedules and results may be accessed from it. The unit website shows unit game dates, schedule and results. April unit game winners were Wayne & Jeanne Boss, and Lani Ray & Ginger Stone were top in the Pro-Am

game.

Before our April 24 unit game Wayne Stuart, one of top players in the country and a Diamond Life Master, conducted a seminar on "Overcalls." This, like his "Double Trouble" seminar in January, was outstanding.

Save the date! August 14 is the unit's Second Annual Upscale Rummage Sale. Proceeds will be used to upgrade the playing experience at the unit. We hope to get a dealing machine so most games will have hand records and analysis. Donations and volunteer set-up help will be welcomed on Friday, August 13, from 9:00-4:00. Members are asked to start saving new or gently used jewelry, house wares, small appliances and electronics that work, antiques and collectibles, vintage clothing, linens, decorative items, art, rugs, and books. Teri Handzel can provide more information.

There are celebrations coming up at the clubs. On June 7, Surf City Bridge on Monday night is celebrating its first birthday. There will be champagne and pizza at 6:00 p.m. before an Open Pairs game.

Due to many gentle nudges, the monthly free game winner is now based on the single best game. Congratulations to Lynn Yokel & Wayne Stuart whose high April score won them a free game in May.

Nancy Driscoll will host a party in her garden on Saturday, June 12 from 11:00-4:00 to celebrate the second anniversary of Nancy's Bridge House. All current and former NBH students are invited to come for barbecued hamburgers, homemade salads, yummy desserts, bountiful blooms and hours of friendly bridge. Please sign up at Nancy's Bridge House or call Nancy Driscoll before June 8. Nancy has a 99er game every Monday evening at 6:30.

Bring your favorite partner or Nancy will arrange one for you.

Jim Slinger is one of our new Diamond Life Masters. Jim has a PhD. in philosophy and was a philosophy professor at CSU Fresno. He started to play bridge in college, but did not play duplicate regularly until getting to Fresno in 1969. He enjoys endlessly tinkering with his preferred bidding system. For 30 years that was a form of Precision, but now he is largely "Standard American, 2-over-1." His favorite partner in all things, including bridge, is his wife, Susan. They have been together since 1998.

Apart from bridge, Jim loves to travel down arctic rivers by canoe or kayak. He also enjoys backpacking in the Sierras, and in 2008 climbed Mt. Kilimanjaro (19,340'). Congratulations, Jim on achieving your latest milestone in bridge, and on conquering Mt. Kilimanjaro!

Congratulations also go to Nancy Wainer. She has been nominated for the American Bridge Teacher's Association "Teacher of the Year" award. The winner will be named at the NABC in New Orleans in July.

Santa Rosa

By Randee Dimond

Why is it that "fix" has such a different meaning to us bridge players? Normal people know that to fix something is to set it right, i.e. "Fix the leaky faucet" or "I'll fix dinner." But then there's the bridge definition where it's more like "I'll fix you, you little." At the table, your opponent sitting *South* passes a forcing bid and *N/S* land in a minor part score, the only ones to go plus in the whole room. Then there is the RKC misunderstanding where the pair settles in 5♠ making. The rest of the room is in a good slam going down when *South* ruffs the normal lead. So if you haven't been fixed lately you just haven't lived.

This month's huge congratulations go to Elise Henderson who arrived at the 2500 MP plateau as she earned her gold LM status. Many of our newer players are winding their way up the MP ladder. Their names will appear in the future, though many have been featured in this column in previous months. All are to be congratulated on working hard to master this game. Our April club winners include Nancy Lowe, Jim Sremba, Jackie Ortiz, Evelyn

Holtz, Dave Pankratz, Mary Omodt, Barry Samuel, Michael Nistler, Barbara Briggs-Letson, Walter Muelken, Anna & Dave Webster, Larry Hansen, Sara Rothmuller, Erwin Linzer, Arlene Place, Kay Ritter, Mary Michaels, Shirley Ward, Jennifer Jones, Bob Klein, Meryl Fischer, Chris Flindt, Patty Harberson, John Kozero, Abbe Cohen, Wyatt Bessing, Elizabeth Yahn, Hedvig Jarvimaki, Susan Campbell, Eleanor Wales, Kate Hill, Kathy Venton, Elise Henderson, Peggy Leiser, Kate Wilmore, Nina Arrabit, Patricia Scoville, Shirley Blum, Patricia Gittings, Mark Hersko, Howard Jacobson, Linn Erickson, Kathy Juarez, Margery Levit, Jon Merry, Lee Grams, Brian Haley, Mimi Armstrong, Wendy Merget, Cindy Ketelsen, Richard Zalenski, Nancy Johnson, Joanne Argyres, George Brott, Barbara McAuliffe, Lynn Dondero, Bob Stinson, Ron McEwan, Peg Devine, Rose Marie Johnson, Oak Sawyer, Sue Snow, Charlene Light, Tom Vecchio, Wendy Zukas, Tim Coshov, Patty Hertz, Jonathan Cohen, Al Barber, Helene & Roy Gay. Our unit game winners were Larry Borsian & John Kozero and Gary Robinson & Peter Lit. Kudos to all on your successes.

It's time to get your ducks in a row for coming months. Watch the bulletin board for announcements of all shapes and sizes. Come to a lesson or two or three and enjoy the marvelous teachers to whom we owe so much. Each of them (Kathy, Kate, Evelyn, Lynn, Richard) contributes so much to the growth of the unit and the quality of play every day, every game. Thanks, too, to the many mentors who invest their time and skill in working one on one with so many of us. Coming attraction: Mark your calendar for July 10-11. That's the sectional in Sonoma. It's in a big, bright room. Great food is served and you'll have your usual good time. It's pairs on Saturday and teams on Sunday. Our friends are hoping newer players will come, so get your courage up for tournament play. You will love it.

We continue to send our best to John McNulty as he recovers. And we hope to see him in person soon.

South County

By Jim Solomon

Our annual Lasagna Pairs unit game on April 30 was a resounding success, with good food, awards to our Ace of Clubs and Mini-McKenney winners, and 29 tables of players enjoying themselves at bridge. See below for detailed results.

Charlie Conrad's Tutoriale Bridge Club will be moving to a different site at the end of this month. Check the club website, charlieconrad.bridgeforyou.com for late-breaking news.

Special Club Games in the Next 30 Days: June 8 & 29: Fremont Easybridge! Club North American Pairs club-level qualifying games (NAPs). June 12: Tri-City (Fremont) BC unit championship. June 24: Hayward Easybridge! Club NAP.

Notable Recent Tournament Performances: Santa Clara Valley Spring Sectional: Terry Terzian, Kwee Kuntjara, Steve & Colette Castellino, Charlie & Ann Conrad, Sam Srinivasan, Rajan Jeyakumar & Venkat Sivasankaran, Elena Ziuleva, Qing Xia, Darrell Fung, Jim Solomon. Diablo Valley Spring Sectional: Steve & Colette Castellino, Bin Liang & Song Wang, Elena Ziuleva, Bob Hamilton & Charlie Conrad, Anne Hermann & Joyce Morrison, Jim Kelsey, Terry Kellerman, Chrystal Newell, Bill Hodges. Bracket Four: 2nd: Darrell Fung, Stephanie Singer.

Winners at Recent Special Club Games: Fremont Easybridge! Club (FEC) charity club championship, April 6: Gloria Uhl & Joanne Baumgardner. Marina BC unit championship, April 13: Marty Holtz & Charlie Conrad; N/S, Joe Parker & Donna Rolle. FEC ACBL interclub championship, April 20: Cynthia & Arnold George; ACBL-wide: 9A/5B/4C: LaVonne Addison & Mickey Row. Tri-City BC CCC, April 24: Bill Cubley, Terry Kellerman, Jim Harper,

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