

District 21 Unitscope

QuickTricks will host the ACBL InterClub championship on Monday, March 8. Compete against clubs all over the ACBL and win lots of masterpoints for placing in the overalls. QuickTricks has produced two first overall winners; you could complete the hat trick! Also at Quicktricks, the Easy-bridge! lesson series continues on, and it's not too late to join. Go to the club website at www.quicktricks.org for the full schedule and details.

Congrats to this month's masterpoint ladder climbers: new Junior Masters Joan Berry, Daniel Edelman, Kevin Liberg, Arnie Miller, Peter Myers, Loren Nordlund, Leeann Steiner; Club Masters Olga Abouab, Judy Soong, Sheila Stuart; Sectional Masters George Carter, Thomas Stillman, Charlene Tuchman; Regional Masters Ashesh Parekh, Maxine Sigel; Silver Life Master David Neuman.

May the luck of the Irish smile on you this St. Patrick's Day, at the NABC in Reno or wherever you are!

Santa Clara Valley

By Ray Yuenger

On Monday, March 8 at 7:00 p.m., there will be a Stratified Pairs unit game to honor the winners of the 2009 Ace of Clubs and Mini-McKenney races. Come out to pay your respects and to test their mettle.

If you're used to our Santa Clara Valley Sectional being the first weekend of April, this year we are preempted by Easter, so it will be April 9 through 11.

At the Monterey Regional, Will Watson came in second in the open Barometer Pairs and Gary Porter third. Earning stratification tops in two-session pair games were Bill Reister, Robert Dean, and Jason Chiu.

In the limited pairs games it was Brenna Wundram. On winning Knockout teams were Lyle Supp; Cassandra Leung, Samuel Shat, Paul Lee & Fung Bao; Derek & Teddi Fiero, Mindy Foes & Michael Fleisher; Panette Talia, Richard Parsons & Ray Yuenger. Prevailing in the two-session Swiss strats were Judy Kaplan & Betty Rosa; Don Nemiro; Will Watson & Gary Porter; Dan O'Neal & Marilyn Campbell; Peggy Sprague, Gigi Spinazze, Ken Rosenfeld & Joel Koransky; Zag Kadah & Arkady Estrin; Josephine Murray, Norma Epler, Tim Prime & Sharon Sava.

At the San Francisco Sectional, the pair stratifications were topped by Jennifer Gu & Eugene Hung, Belinda Gu and Will Watson. Winning in their Swiss were Eugene Hung & Sathya Bettadapura.

At the Livermore Valley Sectional, besting their round robin bracket were Peggy Sprague, Stephen Tu & Elenalani Lam; and Belinda Gu.

Congratulations to our newest Masters: Ching-Hua Chou, Dee Hansen, Nancie Plumb (Junior); Fred Brown, Richard Glasspool (Club); Rosemary Heath, Don-Min Tsou (Sectional); Betty Rosa (Regional); Karen O'Connell (NABC); Jennifer Gu, Art Quaipe (Bronze); John Prior (Silver).

Our unit members did well in the District 21 NAP Pairs with Li-Chung Chen placing first in Flight A and Mindy Foes & Michael Fleisher first in Flight B.

It was heartening to see Jack Verson and Marshall Yancey back playing at the club on Wednesday night. Come out to play and see old friends and make new ones.

Keep me posted with the latest news and gossip at rayyuenger@comcast.net

San Mateo/Redwood City

By M.C. Hevener

February is just about over with March in view and your unit games sub-committee has met and planned an exciting series of games for the spring and early summer. First on the schedule is March 27 when we are holding a Pro-Am Swiss Teams game at Bayshore Bridge Club. Look for the colorful poster at the club or check our website for details (www.Unit498.com), but at \$12 for entrée salads and the game, it is a Saturday bargain just for you.

Then on April 24, we are hosting the first part of a "home & home" match with the

Palo Alto Unit. A pizza party is planned as part of this new event, which debuts as the "Peninsula Challenge." Let's mix it up with pride. After you pay your taxes.

New members to our unit include Mary Jane Kunz, Suze Moon, Alex Smith, Kate Timberlake and Marie Williams. Welcome to all. New Junior Masters include David Crampton, Pam Hakman, Gilbert Reese and Lynn Spielman. Kudos to new Club Master Joy Jeffery. We have one new Regional Master, Guy Gecht. And congratulations to our very own Diamond Life Master ... Ted Richmond! Quite an accomplishment.

Our Thursday & Friday morning games continue to provide the lifeblood for our growing unit. Recent Thursday winning partnerships include Bob Johnson & Doriane Heyman with Karen Key & Linda Duncan close behind. Jayne Scallion & Betty Count also scratched, followed by Sylvia Merkadeau. Seen on the Friday leader board were Linda Brown & George Leishman and Pat Wong & Kal Aziz. In the E/W direction, we find Pat & Ron Haupt followed closely by Leila Jensen & Mary Jane Kunz. Our game is truly growing.

At the annual Monterey Clambake Regional in January our unit was well represented in the winners' column. Topping our list was Peter Klebofski with 24.79 points. Dan Stowell brought home 23 masterpoints of various colors, Norrie Cavallero came up with over 20 masterpoints, and Ted Richmond scored over 16 points.

In the newcomer category, although hardly newcomers, Penny Bellamy & Alice Wallace earned 12.84 points and Nancy Finney played with her favorite first partner, Sue Hagerty, now living in Tucson.

Unit president Kathleen Martin won 8.95 points with various partners and 7.91 points went to Marg Conner and Glenna Cook.

Thomas Quinlan, Janice Nakao, Arlie Lamb and Ed Hornung each posted over seven masterpoints during the week. Finally, Mary Jane Armacost and I broke the six masterpoint mark. It's a great regional and you should plan to attend next year.

Daily games are open to one and all each weekday at 12:15 and on Monday & Thursday nights at the Bayshore Bridge Club. Plus, newcomer games are a big draw on Thursday & Friday mornings at 9:00 a.m. For more information go to our website at www.Unit498.com

Hope to see you at the tables.

Santa Cruz

By Irma Andrews

Congratulations to our two new Diamond Life Masters, Jim Slinger and Wayne Stuart III. Wayne is sharing his expertise with the club with a seminar series preceding unit games and targeting intermediate players and above. His latest seminar, "Double Trouble I," was presented to over 40 SCBC members. Wayne is donating the fees charged for his presentation to the SCBC. The club is extremely grateful for his generosity. Not surprisingly, Wayne and Lynn Yokel were the winners of the game that followed.

If you are a 299er plan on attending the Rising Stars Sectional on March 6 & 7. Here is your opportunity to win silver points in a friendly atmosphere. So line up your favorite partner, or contact Marti Jones for help in finding a partner. There are games for pairs and teams; there will even be games Saturday restricted to those with fewer than 50 points. It's an opportunity for our newest players to enjoy the tournament atmosphere with players of equal caliber. The tournament location is the Santa Cruz Masonic Temple; other information, including lodging, can be found at the SCBC website, santacruzbridge.org

Many SCBC members were winners at the Monterey Clambake in January. In Saturday's Swiss Teams Neil Smyth, Ken Llacera, Don Seldeen and Mick Friedberg came in first overall. The same team won the SCBC January Swiss Teams. Other winners in Monterey Swiss Teams were Susan Benich & Diana Schilling joining a pair from another club, as did Peggy Dilfer & Lois Wolfe.

Robin Evenden & Pam Benz tied for first overall and placed first in B in Seniors Pairs game. Other pairs winners were Denis Webb & Claire Swetland, Vee Duvall &

Mary Canepa, Howard Feldstein & Hal Rodgers. Roger Griffith & Marc Cohen had two first place finishes in 99er games.

Elena Laborde-Bishop's team, which included Henri Cooper, Irma and Peter Andrews, knocked out twelve other teams to win Bracket 3 of the Mark O'Meara Knockout Teams.

January's Top Pair in Pam Benz's Monday evening game were Bruce Dau & Jim Martin. They've earned a free game in February. Pam is now running the monthly Bridge Camp and monthly lesson and practice game. Check the online calendar for times and dates.

Nancy Wainer has a new Wednesday evening 49er game. It is dedicated to newer players and "kitchen table"/social players who want to gently ease into duplicate. It features a 20 minute lesson, then slow-paced duplicate with time to discuss the hands, and "Help Me" tickets. The hands are pre-dealt and demonstrate the lesson. There is analysis at the end of the game.

Encourage your social bridge buddies to give it a try.

The 2010 SCBC Board welcomes five new members: Bruce Dau is the treasurer, Teri Handzel handling fund raising and membership, and new directors Phil Johnson, Mary Pulliam and Dick Wasserstrom.

Santa Rosa

By Randee Dimond

If you're an expert on the hotness of chiles, you know it's measured in "Scoville Units." On a recent Monday Jerry Scoville was as hot as a scotch bonnet when he & Larry Borsian scored a magnificent 78.7% game. Congratulations to both. Larry had a hot time with John Kozero in Monterey winning an Open Pairs event.

Our other out of town stars include Bob Klein, Patty Harberson, Carol Zocchi, John Vion, Nell Magnuson and Chris & Bob Evans.

The year started with a number of players on fire, taking top honors at the club. They are headed by unit game overall winners Joanne Pransky & Kate Hill. Our winners also include Mary Omodt, Lee Grams, Jane Wahler, Jon Merry, Mark Hersko, Kathy Juarez, Lynn Dondero, Wendy Zukas, Cindy Ketelsen, Elise Henderson, Patricia Gittings, Patricia Scoville, Debbie Tesler, Alan Shotkin, Margery Levit, Chris Flindt, Sally Jamison, Mimi Armstrong, Laura Camm, El Shaw, Meryl Fischer, Fred Blatt, Larry Spanier, Jonathan Cohen, Dave Pankratz, Kathy Venton, Courtney Footman, Wyatt Bessing, Mark Wilson, Abbe Cohen, Gary Robinson, Lou Bailin, Bill Stead, Barbara Briggs-Letson, Walter Muelken, Jackie Ortiz, Erwin Linzer, Patricia Frenaye, Erin Sheffield, Margaret Ewald, Eleanor Wales, Susan Campbell, John McNulty, Shirley Bloom, Larry Hansen, Jan Hess, Gloria Hersch, Nancy Johnson & Richard Zalenski.

What a great way to kick off the new year. You know the old saw "you can't tell the players without a program?" There's so much going on at the Gallery these days, the seats hardly have a chance to cool off between morning and afternoon events and then another game into the evening.

Consult the bulletin board, the website, and calendar for dates of regular and special games. Of course with all the players come their cars. Please make sure you park in the farther reaches of the lot, leaving nearby spaces for customers of the Laundromat, beauty parlor, printer and Subway whose visit times are much shorter than our four hour stints. The lot between ours and Trader Joe's is virtually empty all day and available for your parking pleasure.

Besides, a little walking is good for you. March will go out like a lion; the sectional is March 27-28; all the accouterments: snacks, cards, director, great competition. Newcomers are especially welcome. Note the 10:30 a.m. start time. If you have questions or need a partner, call Kathy Venton at 707 591-5015 or Larry Borsian at 707 658-2284. And, yes, Jackie Ortiz is the lunch maven on Sunday.

There are multi-track newcomer classes in March & April held evening & daytime. Do your friends know about the world's greatest card game? Invite them to come play in our sandbox.

I have been remiss in not recognizing the real achievements of unit members in recent months: Several have added to their grandchild count and others have just embarked on the trip down grandparent lane.

Congratulations to them all. How we love seeing those baby pictures.

Cool Hand Luke says that mechanical and mental errors happen, but you can minimize them by leading face down, arranging your cards in a red/black/red/black pattern, never putting a singleton at the end of your hand, never physically selecting your card before your right hand opponent has played, playing to a trick in tempo as if you're without a care in the world, never making a claim until you're certain your ducks are in a row. If an error happens, just call your friendly neighborhood director who'll help you figure it out.

Oh, and avoid those gratuitous comments that will doom your contract: "I wish I hadn't bid," or "We're in the wrong contract." Words like these give your opponents heart that they will beat you. So put on your game face and keep editorial comments inside your head at least until you are belted into your car seat.

South County

By Jim Solomon

Special Club Games in the Next 30 Days: March 9: Fremont Easybridge! Club (FEC) unit championship (U.C.). March 22: Redwood BC club championship. March 23: Marina BC ACBL inter-club championship. March 23: FEC Pro-Am charity club championship. March 27: Tri-City Bridge Club U.C. March 29: Redwood BC & Fremont Centerville BC U.C.

Dark Days (clubs closed): Tuesday, March 16: Fremont Easybridge! Club. Saturday, March 20: Tri-City BC.

Notable Recent Tournament Performances: ACBL Fall North American Bridge Championships, San Diego: winning flights or KO/bracket: Andrew Gumperz; Rajan Jeyakumar; Charlie & Ann Conrad; Bob Hamilton; Valerie Byrne; Kunio Okui. Also scoring: Steve Castellino; Kaye Folsom; Jerry Brown; Virginia Herring; Don Schrupp; Bonnie Janzen; Bill Cubley.

Monterey Clambake Regional: winners: Norma Bozzini & Mary Ramos; Doug Burke & Kevin Schoenfeld; Vince De Pasquale & Virginia Herring; Bill Beeson; Sherard Wood; Sherry Larsen Beville; Morrie Pakulis; John Rollin; Jim Solomon; Bill, Sherard, & Sherry.

Also placing: Richard Feinberg; Mary & Mike Lubin; Kunio Okui; Joe Parker; Andrew Gumperz; Stephanie Singer; Nuno Rebelo & Vicky Santos; Steve & Colette Castellino; Rajan Jeyakumar; Prakash Karamchandani & Dan Wong.

Livermore Valley Sectional: winning, Bin Liang. Also collecting masterpoints: Carol Ackerman & Michael Rose; Jan Hollowell & Mary Ramos; Bob Hamilton & Valerie Byrne; Sandy Rollin & Sally Silvera; Rajan Jeyakumar; Venkat Sivasankaran; Terry Kellerman; Chrystal Newell.

Winners at Recent Special Club Games: Fremont Easybridge! Club (FEC) charity club championship (CCC.), Jan. 12: 1st A/B/C: Jean Wood & Sharon Mistry. RBC/TBC UC, Jan. 13: Open: 1st overall/1B: Doug Burke & Kevin Schoenfeld; 1C: Jan Hollowell & Mary Ramos; NLM: 1st A/B: Joyce Morrison & Sylvia Allen. Tutoriale BC U.C. Jan. 13: 1st A/B/C: Anna Bauman & Susan Engelhart. RBC U.C., Jan. 18: Open: 1st A/B/C: Carla Francis & Donna Rolle; NLM: 1st A/B/C: Lois Horwitz & Libby Silver. FEC ACBL Educational Foundation championship, Jan. 26: 1st overall (tie): Nuno Rebelo & Vicky Santos and Michael Rose & Ruth Davis; 1st C: Carol Ackerman & Roy Grady. Tri-City BC CCC, Jan. 30: 1st (tie): Bill Cubley & Prakash Karamchandani and Marty Holtz & Gloria Darke; 1st C: Valerie Byrne & Bob Hamilton. FEC ACBL Junior Fund Championship, Feb. 2: 1st A/B/C: Mary Kelley & Joan Mullen. Unit 500 Pizza Swiss Teams, Feb. 5: Open: 1st A/B/C: Darrell Fung, Gary Minnig, Joel Teller and Bob Berger; NLM: 1st D/E: Lori English, Anne Herman, Joyce Morrison, Irene Keegan; 1st F: Pam & Gerry Fisher, Kate

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