

District 21 Unitscope

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Santa Clara Valley

By Ray Yuenger

The nationals in Reno offered bridge morning, noon, evening, and midnight. A number of our unit members made the trip worthwhile with success at the bridge tables. (Success at the gambling tables is between them and the IRS. Success at the dining tables is between them and their belts.) I was among a group that was taken in by an on-line travel agent that offered a deal too good to be true on the host hotel. Imagine my surprise on arriving to find my payment hadn't reached the hotel. At least my name had, so a room was available.

Back to the bridge tables. Li-Chung Chen was fourth in the Silodor Open Pairs. Coming out on top in their stratifications in two-session Open Pairs games were Y.E. Chen & Don-Min Tsou (twice), and Judy Clark. In the limited pairs, prevailing were Wendy & David Fotland; Betty Rosa; and Lynn Bartz & Leslie Perkins (twice).

Winning in Knockout Teams were Philip Freiberger & Steve Burnham; Ray Yuenger & Mansoor Gowani; and Erin Gove & Fung Bao. Succeeding in their strats in two-session Swiss matches were Doug Hong & Fung Bao; Mich Ravera & Sharon Sava; and Mike Braun & Joan Simpson.

In limited Swiss Teams it was Karen Rice & Fred Brown.

In March sectionals leading up to the nationals, in BER, a Swiss team with Rose & Cliff Meltzer won. Strat tops in the 299er Santa Cruz Sectional pairs went to Betty Rosa, Marc Epstein, Dee Peterson, and Leslie Perkins & Nancie Plumb (twice). Rosa's Swiss team also won.

Congratulations to our newest Masters: Michael Freda, Arthur Gallum, Wilson Haddow, Gretchen Mair, Stuart Whannel, Dick Yaeger (Junior); Mervin Falk, Shirley Falk, Rajeeva Sharma (NABC); Bob Ward (Life); Ted Finlayson, Louis Martin, Lyle Supp (Bronze); Michael Bodell, David Chang, Boyer Chu, Missy Verson (Silver).

Writing as I am in advance of the next unit board meeting, I direct you to sjbridge.org for news of our upcoming unit game and special club games.

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Santa Cruz

By Irma Andrews

Our Rising Stars 299er tournament brought out a good crowd again this year. Some of Unit 550's newest members won silver points. Section winners included Ginger Stone & Shirley Smith, Janet Perry & Patsy Mills, Bob Nicolaisen & Rita Benbow, Diane Gunter & Betty Wilkinson, Rachael Spencer & Ceil Cirillo. Visitors Betty Rosa and Beverly Nuding took away the trophies for most total points, and Bob and Rita captured the trophies for the best overall 49er performance. John Benich was our top overall point earner.

The tournament was expertly organized by Jane Jennings, and co-chairs Phyllis Cramblet and Annemarie Moller, with help and contributions from many club members. Jim Slinger generously shared his insight and wisdom during a bridge seminar on Saturday.

Several of our members went to the Reno Spring NABC. Top point getter was club president Ken Llacera. Ken paired with Neil Smyth to place in Red Ribbon Pairs, with Jane Jennings in Mixed Pairs (earning 3+ platinum points), and in a pairs game with his wife, Shirley. Nancy & Mark Wainer played with Candace Dauphinot & Ken in a team game. Success there added to the Wainers' winnings which included a first in a pairs game and placed them second in total points from Reno.

Back at the club, Monday night winners for March were Jim Martin & Bruce Dau, their third win in a row. To beat them, you must play with the same partner at least three times during the month and have a higher average score than they do.

Mark Hasey hosted another special party on March 14, a corned beef and cabbage meal to celebrate St. Patrick's Day. And there is more to come! Mark will host free barbeque dinners before his games on Memorial Day weekend. They are on Thursday, May 27 at six, before his 6.30 game, and on Sunday, May 30 at noon, before an open game at one o'clock.

Winners of the Ace of Clubs and Mini-McKenney 2009 awards have been named. Winning both are Cheryl Martin, John Peterson, Hal Rogers, Elena Bishop, Diana Schilling, Dick Wasserstrom and Ken Llacera. Other Ace of Clubs winners are Mary Canepa, Annemarie Moller and Ann Ottenberg. Maureen Jones, Phyllis Cramblet and Jim Slinger topped their divisions for the Mini-McKenney awards. Jim was the overall point winner in the unit for 2009.

Nancy Wainer is pouring margaritas at her games on May 11 & 12! Her 49er game continues to grow. Players scoring over 62% have their names posted on the 49er Super Star board, and earn a free play after three big wins. Ginger Stone and Rachel Spencer are the first 49er Super Stars, and Diane Gunter & Barbara Denny won the first Club Championship.

At first Thursday NLM Bridge Camp, Pam Benz taught New Minor Forcing and "table manners" for bridge. Her third Thursday lesson was an overview of opener and responder bids.

There are classes at Nancy's Bridge House too. A year-round curriculum is offered for players at every experience level. Five courses are currently being offered: Bidding, Conventions, Play of the Hand, Defense, and Cuebids, Rebids, etc. Diane Gunter & Barbara Denny, two of Nancy's Bridge House's original students, recently were thrilled to bid and make their very first grand slam. To top it off, they earned first overall with a 65% game.

Santa Rosa

By Randee Dimond

Nothing succeeds like success, and March proved the point from both the NABC in Reno and our very own sectional. First, Reno saw multiple winners from our fabulous Flight C ranks: Gloria Hersch, Jan Hess, Roy Redlich, Hans vanBoldrick, Abbe Cohen, Barbara & Lou Meola, Alan Shotkin. All walked away with honors in various events. John Kozero & Gary Robinson led the NAP Flight B after the first day and finished second by a hair's breadth overall; very heady stuff. And of all contestants, Conrad Blumenthal (the last name might be familiar) won his first MPs in his first tournament.

More winners from our unit can be found in the results on line. Congratulations to all.

Sectional winners include Carol Zocchi & Patty Harberson who won both ends of the two 299er single session events on Saturday. Larry Borsian & John Kozero topped the open pairs Flight B. Sara Rothmuller, Larry Hansen & Erwin Linzer won Bracket 1 of the Sunday team event. The rooms were full of great bridge and good will. Lunch was terrific. Special thanks go to Jackie and all who brought wonderful snacks and volunteered for setup and tear down. Let's do it again in October. Michael Nistler became a thousandaire, earning his Silver LM card. Big deal? You bet!

The Gallery's gaggle of winners in March was headed by Jennifer Jones & Larry Hansen who scored a 70% game. Other winners: Abbe Cohen, Ron McEwan, Mark Hersko, Jon Merry, Wyatt Bessing, Gloria Hersch, Jackie Ortiz, Erwin Linzer, Gary Robinson, Dave Pankratz, Elise Henderson, Pat Frenaye, Bob Klein, Kathy Venton, Kay Ritter, Edna Gaddie, Debbie Tesler, Meryl Fischer, Lou Bailin, El Shaw, Mary Omodt, Mimi Armstrong, Wendy Merget, Patty Hertz, Cindy Ketelsen, Bill Stead, Ken Green, Gladys Sawyer, Marilyn & John Farnsworth, Chris Flindt, Patricia Gittings, Shirley Blum, Tom Gee, Tim Coshaw, Howard Jacobs, Linn Erickson, Eleanor Wales, Susan Campbell, Peggy Leiser, John McNulty, Judy Sibley, Rob

Jacobi, Edward Sutcliffe, Allegra Gunning, Richard Zalenski, Larry Wyner, Sara Rothmuller, Paul Scheinberg, Steve Bearg, Carl Tillmanns, Mark Wilson, Margery Levit, Charlene Light, Nina Arrabit, John Kozero, Asher Nathan, Miriam Bruner, Holly Gustafson, Nancy Lowe, Jim Sremba, Sally Jamison, Marie Eakle, Ramona Haller, Steve Hundley, Kathy Juarez, Maureen Karbousky, Lynn Blumenthal (see Conrad above). Congratulations to all on your top-notch performances.

One winner who doesn't get much publicity is Brian Haley. Not only is he the treasurer for our unit (a job he handles masterfully), he has the lead on recycling. He is also dedicated to working with newcomers and helps teach many classes.

We are lucky to have him in our midst.

The Frank Bessing Team game is Saturday, May 1. Get your teams together and celebrate Frank's legacy. Let it not be forgotten: Bid your games; make your games.

The unit game is Sunday, May 16. Sign up at the club. And ready, set, Great Western-Spring STAC! Starting Monday, May 3 with Stratified Pairs. Monday night is Non-Life Master Pairs. Tuesday, May 4 is Stratified Pairs. Wednesday (Cinco de Mayo) is pairs by day and Pro-Am teams by night. The two Ams must have less than 200 MPs and each plays with a Pro. Thursday is a Pro-Am teams game. It's the Noah system (two of each kind), but you can mix your team any way you wish. Friday, May 7 is a Stratified Pairs game.

Saturday sees a NLM Pairs at 1:00 and Open Pairs at 6:30. Lots of opportunities to add to your silver collection and have fun at the same time. Partnership questions or needs? Call Kathy Venton at 707 591-5015 or 707 573-1200.

We lost a special friend in Janet Hargreaves who passed away in March. Her vision may have diminished in recent years, but her skills never did. She was as tough an opponent as you'd ever meet, but her kindness, especially to newer players, was unmatched. The Hargreaves charity event this year will take on special meaning as we remember this remarkable woman.

Currently in sick bay are Jane Wahler and John McNulty. We look forward to their speedy return pending doctor's orders. Both know we miss them very much, but cards and calls are always welcomed.

South County

By Jim Solomon

All of our clubs will be participating in the Western Conference Great Western Spring STAC, May 3-9. Check you favorite clubs for details.

News from the Tutoriale BC: the Wednesday afternoon game has been canceled, and the 1:00 p.m. Sunday game is now an open game (table fees: \$6.00). Director Charlie Conrad invites you to attend.

If you don't have it on your calendar already, mark down April 30 for our South County annual Lasagna Pairs, at 10:30 a.m. at the Marina Community Center in San Leandro. See our unit website, unit500.bridgeforyou.com, for details.

Nancy Boyd has been promoted to the rank of ABCL associate national director.

Special Club Games in the Next 30 Days: May 18: Fremont Easybridge! Club upgraded club championship. May 19: Redwood BC unit championship.

Notable Tournament Performances: BER (Almost) Spring Sectional: Andrew Gumperz; Steve & Colette Castellino.

Spring NABC Championship, Reno: Yanong Han; Kaye Folsom & Jerry Brown; Stan Green; Stephanie Singer; Kaye & Jerry; Andrew Gumperz; Sam Srinivasan.; Doug Burke, Kevin Schoenfeld, Rajan Jeyakumar & Richard Feinberg; Charlie & Ann Conrad; Bill Cubley; Jim Solomon; Kunio Okui; Nancy Boyd.

Winners at Recent Special Club Games: Tri-City BC club championship, Mar. 6: Rajan Jeyakumar & Venkat Sivasankaran. Redwood BC cc, Mar. 8: Ed Jimison & Kevin Schoenfeld; E/W: Darrell Fung & Susan Wiebe. NLM: Al Larson & Barbara McNeal (74.40%!); B E/W: Bob & Evie

Lemon; C N/S: Sherard Wood & Irene Keegan; C E/W: Sandy Bulger & Muriel Krieger. Fremont Easybridge! Club unit championship, Mar. 9: Suseela Dantuluri & Jean Wood. Hayward Easybridge! Club, Mar. 11: Kate Hare & Bettie Benz. Ashland BC, Mar. 18: Vince De Pasquale & Joyce de Roco; B: Ivar Kvalnes & Sherard Wood. Fremont Centerville BC, Mar. 22: William George & Alfred Chang. Marina BC ACBL interclub championship game, Mar. 23: N/S: Darrell Fung & Gary Minnig; E/W: Marty Holtz & Charlie Conrad (& 6 OA ACBL-wide, Liz Silverman & Adrienne Hillebrandt). TCBC charity cc, Mar. 27: Rajan & Venkat. RBC U.C., Mar. 29: Open: Rick Bentley & Carole Burgess; E/W: Jim Kelsey & Darrell Fung; NLM: Marian Deen & Lori Wilson; C E/W: Al Larson & Barbara McNeal; C N/S: William King & Dee LeBlanc; B N/S: Marge McIntosh & Joyce Harper. FCBC U.C., Mar. 29: Gerry Jones & Marolyn Lorish. FEC Pro-Am, Mar. 30: N/S: Gloria Uhl & Sam Srinivasan; E/W: Jean Wood & Cynthia George. ABC UC, Apr. 1: OA: Bob Hamilton & Charlie Conrad; E/W: Marolyn Lorish & Gerry Jones. TCBC UC, Apr. 3: OA: Pat & Jim Leary; N/S: Bill Cubley & Prakash Karamchandani.

Welcome to Our Fold: Welcome to Clark Millikan, now a resident of Fremont; Steven & Michele Miller of Hayward; and Alex Prazma of Newark.

All have transferred to South County from the Palo Alto Unit.

Moving up the Masterpoint Ladder: Lots of movement here lately! Kunio Okui has become a Silver Life Master, and we have two new Life Masters: Ann Conrad and Darrell Fung. Mickey Row and Ann Vargas are now Sectional Masters; Anna Bauman, Jean Wood, and Carolyn Zeljak have advanced to be Club Masters; and Pam Fisher and Don Siefkes are Junior Masters.

Congratulations to you all!

Stockton

By Elizabeth Youngman

It is always fun to have guests come to our bridge center. Last month we had two nice gents from Modesto join us for a game. And we are always open to more drop-ins. Or if you need a partner let our directors know and they will set you up.

Our hospitality director, Norma Peterson continues to knock herself out hosting our marvelous monthly unit games.

Her Easter decorations were just sensational, although outdone by her tasty corned beef and cabbage buffet. Sides were provided by our expert cooks along with a terrific display of goodies at the dessert table. First to go was Tanya Alonzo's cheesecake with raspberry sauce.

That alone is worth the price of admission. Heading up the list of winners: 1st, Ron Magin & Lee Pyron; 2nd, Mike Sullivan & Roger Quillian; 3rd, Richard Bianchi and Sherry Cohen.

The rest of us kinda dribbled in.

Saturday, March 27 was my 65th Birthday Bridge Bash at the Stockton Bridge Center. Thirty-five of my closest and dearest opponents came to celebrate my right-of-passage as I became an official Senior Citizen. Lunch preceded the session backed by lots of great wine which, no doubt, added to the confusion as director Ron Magin guided us through the rigors of an individual movement. Naturally, it was like herding cats.

In addition to the regular points distributed at a sanctioned game, this session also included silly awards like the floating deuce prize won by Richard Bianchi in the last round.

The top three players also got prizes: Arlene Farley of Lodi a bottle of Ironstone Zinfandel for 1st; Betty Francis of Sacramento was 2nd; and Barbara Smart, of Stockton came in 3rd. Max Jonker & Dorothy McDermitt were awarded for making their doubled contract and Dorothy McDermitt & Mary Sievers drew for top score after being tied with Marion Goldberg & Ricky Elin. The two bottom players each

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