



# District 21 Unitscope

**BER***By the Beer Dude*

The local bridge world lost a great lady late August; Barbara Harmon! Nearly 91, she still had her bridge wits about her when she & Susie Wiebe won the 24-table game that U502 held in her honor earlier this year & I had the privilege to direct! She was the epitome of class, as player, teacher, director, & East Bay board member. May she find a great table in the great beyond!

Our "last chance" NAP club-level qualifier drew 8 1/2 tables, which "invaders" pretty much owned. Top pair was Helen Studabaker & Susie Wiebe; the rest: 2A/1B, Dennis Dunn & Kim Yatim; 3A/2B, John Eidinger & Dennis Pratt; 4A/3B, Eric & Sandi; 5A/4B, Jennifer Gu & Adam Portley; 5B, Veda & Ben.

Good luck to all in the later rounds should you opt to continue!

Welcome Barbara Gilbert to the fold, as well as "re-joiners" Michael Mueller, John Wilson (who moved in from Diablo Valley), & Mihai Toheanu. Adieu to Cathy Adams, who moved east to Danville. Pay those dues when you get the bill, or save yourself the trouble of writing a check & *Do It Online* via the ACBL web site!

Rank advancers are Janice Kosel to Sectional (>50) & Jonathan Ohliger (whom I've never seen at any club games I direct) to Silver LM (>1K). Jonathan; show up sometime at a club/unit game!

At the clubs, "H-C" (the "C" is Carol Scott) regained their MP champ status on Monday, & had the best August game, 66.15%. At Live Oak, "H" was the MP champ w/a paltry 3.85. Best % games were Tom Shimizu & Shahla Verall's 66.96% on Wed, Doug Heying & Larry Zeni's 66.67 on Friday. Doug is one of those who has rediscovered bridge, & is a damned good player; he's always looking for a partner, so call Vi & ask for him!

Club games now are at Castro Clubhouse, 1420 Norvell St, El Cerrito. Call me/see our web site for direxions.

I close with a sad tale from Carl Lomelino, whom I've ragged often for not playing up from the "comfort zone." At the recent San Mateo Sectional, his team played in the Compact KO on a day when the pair games were more popular; his team ended up in the top of the two brackets (he said they had the lowest MP total). They got bounced early, but I hope that doesn't discourage them; you learn *nothing* playing down/even. As I've said before, top players are far nicer overall; you won't get lectures (but maybe suggestions as to how you could have played/defended the hand better), & they'll gladly explain their "system," provided you're ethical about it and ask only when it's your turn to make the next call or the opening lead (your partner has the same rights at his turn to call/play to trick 1).

As I write (9/1), I'm betting in my head that MD covers the current 21 1/2 point spread; by the time you see this, you'll know if I was right.

Fall Sectional coming Nov. 14-15; ad's somewhere in this issue & on [www.berunit497.org](http://www.berunit497.org)

## Carson/Tahoe

*By Rich Tirissini*

The Celebration of Life for Roberta Anderson, was held at the Carson Plaza Convention Center, was attended by numerous members of Roberta's family and friends. Many thanks to those who assisted at the gathering and to those who contributed to the outstanding welcoming table.

Best wishes for a speedy recovery and an early return to the bridge table for Imogene Meyer and Geoffrey Stokes.

The Carson-Tahoe Fall Sectional tournament will be held at the Carson Plaza Convention Center from Thursday, October 8

through Sunday, October 11.

**Game Results:** The Sid and Lillian Davidson Reno Memorial Sectional, held at the Ramada in Reno from August 19-23 was attended by many members from the Carson-Tahoe Unit. Bob & Konrad Garret were second at the Wed. 750-2000 plus pairs competition. Jim & Margaret Breedent tied for second at the 300/500/1000 Pairs held on Wed. Julie Cardinalli & Ron Haines of Reno came in second in the 150-250 NLM Pairs on Thurs., and Fri. morn., Roxanne Hart & Mary Sandhagen placed 3rd at the 100/200 NLM group. Leona Pchelkin & Gladys Turissini placed second in the Fri. 200/500/1000 Pairs competition. Julie Cardinalli teamed with Donna Deroos for 1st in 100-300/NLM Pairs on Sat. morn, and on that afternoon, Nancy Palmer and Marlene Engel, were second in the 200/500/1000 Pairs. Unit 465 did very well indeed at the KO Teams competition held on Sunday, with a 2nd for Brenda & Paul Pugsley along with Donna McLeod & Virginia Kellermeyer in Bracket 1, while John & Diane McCall combined with Gary Nitzberg & Paul Jorgensen for 1st in Bracket 2.

**Carson City Bridge Club:** Unit game, Aug. 9: N/S 1A, Thelma Nelson & John Ide; 2A, Donna McLeod & Virginia Kellermeyer; 3A/1B, Cheryl & Wayne Kinder; 4A/2B, Diane & John McCall; E/W 1A, Paul Ringer & Ben McLeod; 2A/1B, Brenda & Paul Pugsley; 3A/2B, Gary Nitzberg & Shelly Zimble; 4A/3B, Doug & Janet Braman & Janet Braman. Aug. 26 (Special game): N/S 1A/1C, Marlene Warver & David Gasper; 2A, Martin Sklar & Bob Anderson; 3A/1B, Gary Nitzberg & Shelly Zimble; 4A/2C, Phil & Ellen Collins; E/W 1A/1C, Joyce Barrett & Betty Clamp; 2A/2C, Carol & John Sill; 3A/3C, Charlotte Hennessey & Rae Logan. August 28 (special game): N/S 1A, Kathleen St Germain & Ruth Rouse; 2A, Benjamin McLeod & Paul Ringer; 3A, Gary Nitzberg & Martin Sklar; 4A/1B, Richard & Vivian Betcher; E/W 1A, Donna McLeod & Kenneth Grafton; 2A/1B, Roxanne Hart & Mary Sandhagen; 3A/2B, Paul Jorgensen & Eileen Angelucci; 4A/3B, Dick Halliday & Lois Halliday

**Carson Valley Bridge Club:** Aug. 3: 1A, Bob Anderson & Kenneth Grafton; 2A, Nancy Palmer & Rich Turissini; 3A, Beverly Meyer & Aleeta Jones; 4A, Beverly & Sam Batdorf. Aug. 10: N/S 1A, Beverly Meyer & Imogene Meyer; 2A, Gladys Turissini & Konrad Garret; 3A/1B, Leona Pchelkin & Nick Pchelkin; E/W 1A, Dick & Lois Halliday; 2A/2B, Theresa Pinney & Roxanne Hart; 3A, Beverly & Sam Batdorf; 4A/3B, Mary Phillips & Paul Lockwood. Aug. 17: N/S 1A, Kenneth Grafton & Bruce Belshaw; 2A/1B, Theresa Pinney & Geoff Stokes; 3A, Donna McLeod & Nancy Palmer; 4A/2B, Marie Coffey & Joyce Barrett; E/W 1A, Frances Coursey & Bob Allgeier; 2A/2B, Paul Lockwood & Mary Phillips; 3A/3B, Aleeta Jones & Jony Sellers. Aug. 24: N/S 1A, Thelma Nelson & Gary Nitzberg; 2A/1B, Lola Messiah & Doris Thompson; 3A/2B, Marie Coffey & Ried Bridges; E/W 1A, Nancy Palmer & Charlotte Hennessey; 2A/1B, Roxanne Hart & Theresa Pinney; 3A/2B, Dave & Marlene Gasper. Aug. 31: 1A, Beverly Meyer & Roxanne Hart; 2A, Donna McLeod & Kenneth Grafton; 3A, Beverly & Sam Batdorf; 4A/1B, Dick & Lois Halliday; 5A/2B, Dorothy Stewart & Pat Newman.

## Diablo Valley

*By Chris Pisarra*

You don't think of a brown UPS truck as a mournful thing, but there it was: the biggest, brightest, shiniest, newest UPS truck you ever did see, parked in front of a funeral home in Danville, honoring Mike Katz. After a five year fight, Mike at last succumbed to pancreatic cancer. There will be no more items about The Two Mikes.

Mike was my partner, my bookie, my roommate, my friend. Irascible, volatile and difficult at the card table, he was the best of traveling companions. He never once got the hand right the first time he told the story, and could get lost in a brown paper bag. He was really bad at driving on the left in England. He traveled with a salon's worth of hair brushes and his own bath towel. And he always "forgot" about

the cash I owed him.

There must have been 200 people at the memorial. Billy Miller flew in from Las Vegas, and ACBL Board Member Don Mamula came down from Seattle. Other, non-bridge friends from New York, Connecticut and Arizona were there, too. Friends from Lowell High School and SF State showed up; people who knew Mike never forgot him.

So I guess we'll go on, because there isn't anything else to do. Next year, some of us will go to Gatlinburg and raise a glass to Mike's memory. We'll try to remember to call Pam, his wife. We'll go to his son's wedding. But none of it will be as much fun as just sitting across the table from him at a sectional just a few weeks ago.

Yes, there was a regional in Santa Clara. But I'm past deadline already, and the results aren't up on the ACBL web page yet and all I really know is that Danny & Linda Friedman were 7th overall in the four-session Open Pairs event, while I didn't qualify for the second day. I'll have all the good stuff next month.

So this month, I thought I'd add a few words about mentoring. Specifically, how to play with a newer player.

First off, play the newer player's card. He's nervous enough without you throwing 17 new conventions at him. Your job is to instill confidence, make your protege comfortable, and just try to get all the basics right. Minorwood won't be coming up anyway.

Second, remember that there is *not* a lesson on every hand. No one can absorb 26 lessons in an evening; 2, maybe 3, is the most you should strive for. If you can actually teach *one* thing in a session you have been a success.

Third, teach by example. You are there to show how an experienced player behaves, not just the necessary point count for a 2NT rebid. Count your cards. Be polite to partner and opponents. If you claim, give a complete explanation of your line of play. Think about what you are doing, but play in tempo. Under no circumstances give lessons that embarrass your partner or opponents.

And that's the end of my wisdom for this month. Get all your winning results in the paper and you can be rich and famous. Famous, at least.

Tell me all [Chris@Pisarra.com](mailto:Chris@Pisarra.com)

## East Bay

*By Sandi Davis*

There are people we meet in our journey that touch our lives and make us better people simply for their presence in our lives. Barbara Harmon was such a person. As a teacher, a mentor, a partner and a friend, she set a standard of commitment that will be hard to replicate and impossible to replace. She was one of a kind. So many people I have conversed with over the years mention her as the one who got them started playing bridge or encouraged them to keep playing when they were frustrated or discouraged or even just listened to them vent about a perceived injustice at the table. That was Barbara; always willing to listen, always with an encouraging word, always ready to step in to help wherever she could. She would remember your name even if you had not played in a local game in years. She would notice if you had not been at the tables for a while and remind you that you were missed. She had a gift of making every player she met feel that he or she was the most important person in the room.

Her love for people and passion for the game of bridge were an inspiration. Nowhere was this more evident than at the party in March honoring her constant influence on bridge through the years in our community. The outpouring of admiration and deep affection was palpable. And she was amazed that anyone would want to come to a party in her honor. Barbara's contributions to all of us in the bridge community will be remembered. Her gracious presence at the table will be sorely missed.

For some reason, last month's column did not make it into the *Forum* so there will be a bit of repetition here. Welcome to our new 502 members Karen Cabrera, Toni King, Laura Courtney, Stuart Graham, Jill Reese and Ed Yunck. In addition, we want to recognize members advancing in rank -

web site: [www.eastbayunit-502.com](http://www.eastbayunit-502.com)



## East Bay Fall Sectional

**HOLY REDEEMER CENTER**

8945 Golf Links Rd, Oakland

### Friday, November 20

at 1:00 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. (single sessions)

Stratified Open Pairs 0-500/500-1500/1500+

Stratified 299er Pairs 0-50/50-100/100-300 (Attendance Permitting)

### Saturday, November 21

at 11:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. (single sessions)

Strati-flighted Pairs A/X 3000+

Strats B/C/D 1000-1500/500-1000/0-500

Stratified 299er Pairs 0-50/50-100/100-300 (Attendance Permitting)

### Sunday, November 22

at 11:00 a.m. and approx. 4:30 p.m.

**Bracketed Swiss Teams -- 20VP scale**

The top bracket will consist of the highest ranked teams plus any teams that opt to be in the top bracket.

Teams must play both sessions.

All brackets will play 7 rounds, 7 boards.

**Table fees \$9.00 per Session (non-ACBL & unpaid \$11.00)**

#### DIRECTIONS:

**From 580 (from the north)** take **Golf Links Rd.** exit, Right  
**(from the south)** take **Golf Links Rd.** exit, Left

**From 880** take 98<sup>th</sup> Ave. exit - East, Left onto Golf Links Rd.  
 (just before Hwy. 580)

**From Golf Links Rd:** Approx 0.3 miles north of 98<sup>th</sup> Ave.  
 Left into Parking Lot (Castlewood Rd. on the right)

**Information: call (510) 530-4913**