

District 21 Unitscope

B-E-R

By The Beer Dude

Monterey's gone; time to shift your thoughts to Burlingame Regional & Reno NABC! Mine are on Reno, where I've not been since 2004, when three of my five senior-year college housemates & I celebrated our 55th birthdays, joined by one of our younger softball teammates & his family.

I'm headed up there to check out two good brew pubs, play a few sessions Mar. 15-18, & celebrate turning my next prime number age until 2016 - my last was 2008. Math geeks know how old I am :).

Dec. unit Holiday Party Great Western STAC drew a surprisingly low 6 1/2 tables, but food & beverages were excellent; we thank all the contributors! Don Steedman & Vicki Chang topped N/S, with Doug Heying & Carl Lomelino 2nd & Cris Barrere & John Hadreas 3rd. On the E/W side, Carol & Jack Scott were tops, followed by Harold Hayashi & Jack Syme and Keith Freeman & Virginia Sykes. Don & Vicki picked up some overall across the field bonus points.

Joyce Demercurio won the NLM Player of the Year as a no-show; only two of her competitors made the game, & they didn't scratch. LM POY Helen Studabaker had an uncharacteristically bad game (under 40%).

Feb. unit game is the usual Strat Pairs on the 28th; ye who've been getting the *Forum* super-early (my Jan. issue came Dec. 22!) are reminded that the Jan. game is the 31st, charity Strat Pairs to benefit the Richmond YMCA.

December club game stars: Art & Joanne Cobeen owned Monday, MP champs & 71.29% best game. "H-J" were LO game MP champs; best games were Tom Shimizu & Shahla Verrall's 65.39% Wed, Dexter Hodes & Gordon Libby's 62.35% Fri. ACBL-wide Senior Pairs (55+) Mon., Feb. 22, hand records, etc. & colored points for directional tops local & national over-

alls. *Free Play* club championship day this month is Fri., Feb. 12.

I'll *Kudos* our 2009 Mini-McKenney & Ace of Clubs winners next month; ye who scour the Internet can click the link button on our website's home page & get the info sooner. I'll post in-out/rank advance news in odd #'d months only. May you score well in Burlingame & at the local sectionals you choose to attend!

www.berunit497.org tells you where we're at; tweak me @ beerman49@msn.com ... when you wanna brag or gripe.

Carson/Tahoe

By Rich Tirissini

A wonderful time was had by all at the unit Christmas party which was held at the Carson City Bridge Center on Dec. 5. The turkey dinner was organized by Gladys Turissini and Leona Pchelkin. Many thanks to the attendees who contributed great dishes and desserts.

The Christmas Party was followed by a club championship game, which yielded the following results: N/S: 1A: Ken Grafton & Donna McLeod, 2A: Gary Nitzberg & Shelly Zimble, 3A: Brenda & Paul Pugsley, 4A(1B): Betty & Otis Clamp. E/W: 1A: Beverly & Sam Batdorf, 2A (1B): Dorothy Stewart & Bill Richter, 3A: Diane & John McCall, 4A(2B): Jacqueline Chandler & Julie Cardinali.

Carson City Bridge Center held Great Western STAC games that awarded silver points were played on Dec. 11 and 12, with the following results: Dec. 11 N/S: 1A: Thelma Nelson & Gary Nitzberg, 2A: Bill Richter & Bob Anderson, 3A(1B): Cheryl & Wayne Kinder, 4A(2B): Marie Bresch & Dorothy Stewart E/W: 1A: Bob Garret & Konrad Garret, 2A: Ken Grafton & Donna McLeod, 3A(1B) Joyce Barrett & Elaine Cain, 4A(2B): Rae Logan & Pat Newman. Dec. 12: 1A: Ben & Donna McLeod, 2A: Bob Anderson & Thelma Nelson, 3A(1B):

Paul Jorgensen & Gary Nitzberg, 4A: Paul Pugsley & Nick Pchelkin.

Carson Valley Bridge Club: Nov. 30: 1A (1B): Gladys Turissini & Geoff Stokes: 2A (2B) Rick & Viv Betcher, 3A: Beverly & Sam Batdorf, 4A: Gary Nitzberg - Donna McLeod. Dec. 14 N/S: 1A(1B): Rick Betcher & Ruth Rouse, 2A: Marie Coffey & Donna McLeod, 3A(2B): Eileen Angelucci & Paul Jorgensen; E/W: 1A: Ken Grafton & Bob Garret, 2A: Bob Anderson & Gary Nitzberg, 3A: Aleeta Jones & Ben McLeod. Dec. 21: 1A: Ken Grafton & Bob Garret, 2A: Gloria Randle & Donna McLeod, 3A(1B): Mary Phillips & Paul Lockwood, 4A(2B): Mary Sandhagen & Susan Carnegie.

Diablo Valley

By Chris Pissarra

Happy New Year! And here's to the first winners of the year; we had a great game on Jan. 1, and the winners were Heidi Lippitt & Linda Gross N/S, Herb Constant & Dennis Teifel E/W. There were ham hocks and black eyed peas, kraut salad, corn bread, won tons, guacamole and trifle. And champagne, lots of champagne. I think we'll do the same thing Jan. 1 next year - start planning.

The big news this month is from the Palm Springs Regional. Bob & Nancy Munson, Danny & Linda Friedman and Mike & Linda Bandler went down to make an assault on the KO Teams, and, not only did they win a couple, but they won enough points to put Mike over the 10,000 point barrier! Yes, Mike Bandler is now a Platinum Life Master. Don't believe him when he says you have to kiss his ring, though.

I shouldn't make light of this achievement; out of more than 163,000 members, there are 450 with ten thousand points or more. Mike is in the top 0.27% of all players.

Pretty darned impressive, no? By the time you read this, the fabulous Monterey Regional will be but a memory, and you will be getting ready for the Chris' Birthday Regional in Burlingame. Then we prepare for the spring NABC in Reno. This looks like a great year for bridge; even a world championship in Philadelphia this coming October.

All of which brings me to the next point; bridge resolutions for the New Year. I have three for you:

1. Count every hand; you're just hanging around the bridge table anyway. Jack Scott teaches this. The key to defense is count, count, count. Count distribution, count declarer's points, count partner's points. Reconstruct the hands. You'll be amazed how much your defense will improve. Every hand, every time. Make it a habit.

2. Be nice to your partner. It's just the two of you against the world, and the better you treat partner the more you will win. Nobody plays better because you deride, hector, harass or berate them, ever.

3. Don't sweat the small stuff. A memory of Mike Katz. Bridge is just a game, even to those of us for whom it is a way of life. Your family and friends are more important, always. Life is short, pay attention to the things that really matter.

And that's all I have to say this month. Congratulations again, Mike. I'll be keeping up my Totally Unofficial Blog (unit499.wordpress.com) with current information. Be sure to drop me a note at chris@Pissarra.com if you have anything you want me to tell the world.

East Bay

By Sandi Davis

Here's hoping everyone is off to a good start this year with good health and good bridge. The food coma induced over the holidays is finally over and it is a good time to start those resolutions. I haven't done a reminder for a while but if you have not included your contact information in the unit directory yet, go to www.eastbayunit-502.com and fill out your info. It is a good way to keep in touch with each other.

Welcome to new ACBL and Unit 502 members Alan Cerf, Lila Cerf, Carole Robinow and Norman Robinow. Also, welcome to new to Unit 502 member Jun

Chen. There have been some advances in rank. Congratulations to new Junior Masters Virginia Quong, Barbara Stumpf and Kirk Stumpf, new Club Master Harry Gluckman, and Kerstin Barnett, Estelle Baum, Janis Brown, Joseph Held, and Roma Rehfish advancing to Sectional Master. Lillian Harris recently became a Silver Life Master. Well done.

At the December 6 unit game, E/W Sam Gurbaxani & Barry Kael captured 1st OA and N/S Sol Rubin & Jim Emerson took 1st in their direction. At the Holiday Party, in the overalls Vicki Chang & Don Steedman won 1st, Betty Kael & Hugh Callahan 2nd, and Nadine Levine & Cass Hawes 3rd.

We also had several unit members do well in the Great Western STAC games in December: Tuesday - Les Friedman & Phil Bender - 24A, Carol Haskell & Kay Andersen - 15B; Wednesday - 13B Carin Caroe & Jack Shiffer, 18B Ron Kow & BJ Ledgerwood, and (NLM) 5 Gail & Pat Albin; (Special) 1A Barbara Simperts & Bill Williams, 3A Anna Wong & Miriam Bloomberg, 4B Peggy Mendelson & Jeanne Copeland, 3C Dianne Macleod & Connie Corkhill, 5C Susan Bailey & Joyce Jacobson; Friday (NLM) 1A Jeanne Copeland and Dianne Macleod and 4B Isabel Bradshaw & Sue Yahng. This is pretty impressive considering you are competing against all of the Western Conference in the same type of game. Fine job, folks!

Never rely on a coin toss! At the January 3 unit game, Chilly Larsen (playing with wife, Esther) picked up a hand with eight big spades, four good hearts and a stiff diamond ace. Trying to decide how to bid the hand, he mentioned to opponents Chris Pissarra & Jack Scott that he could not decide whether to open 6♠ or 7♠.

They suggested a coin toss which resulted in a 7♠ bid, down 1. Chris & Jack went on to win 1st OA. Nadine Levine & Cass Hawes took 2nd OA while Hugh Callahan & Dick Walker had the best N/S game placing 3rd OA.

The Grand National Teams events are starting this month for Flights A & C so send an e-mail to register with jackieo@sonic.net and give it a shot! Everyone has the same chance of winning the right to represent District 21 at the Summer Nationals. Just do it! And good luck at the Presidents Day Regional!

If you've got any news and you'd like to see your name in print, inform me at sandstress@mail2sandra.com and let me know what's on your mind.

Fresno

By Laura Da Costa

December 13 was the unit's annual Christmas party and end-of-the-year meeting. At the meeting, the results from the election of board members were presented. Incumbents Kay Chrisman, Mary Jo Davila, Richard Meffley, and Jill Wood were re-elected. Linda Coppersmith and Mike Molinari were newly elected to the board. Also at the meeting, the distinguished service award was presented to Jill Wood. Jill's outstanding accomplishments the past few years included producing the most recent phone directory, serving as our Sunshine member (sending cards to members), and leading the fund raising efforts that garnered the club over \$28,000 at the time of our move to the new clubhouse.

As for the bridge game, we had 13 1/2 tables of Open Pairs and three tables of 199er Pairs on what was the last Great Western STAC game of the week. For the Open Pairs, the winners were N/S: Bert Rettner & William Glass and E/W: Richard Meffley & Robert Durbrow. For the 199er Pairs, there was a tie between Judy Nibler & Gwen Davey and Paul Wilday & Patricia Alviso. As always, it was a wonderful party and a fun day. Thanks go to the board of directors for supplying the lunch and to all of the players who participated.

December was another tough month to get 70% games; there were just three pairs to do so. Jill Wood & Skip Miller managed a 70.83% in the Great Western STAC game Dec. 10; their percentage was high enough to achieve third place out of the 221 tables playing in the Thursday morning Open Pairs game. On Dec. 22, Jason McAlexander & Jackie Finn had a 71.88% game in

Berkeley - El Cerrito - Richmond

BER Unit 497 ACBL

(almost) Spring Sectional

March 6-7, 2010



El Cerrito Community Center
7007 Moeser Lane (at Ashbury), El Cerrito
5 blocks east of San Pablo Avenue



SATURDAY MARCH 6, NOON & 6 PM

NOON: STRATI-FLIGHTED PAIRS (A/X: UNLIMITED/3000; B/C/D: 2000/750/300)
6 PM: STRATIFIED A/B/C PAIRS (UNLIMITED/2000/750)

SUNDAY MARCH 7, 11 AM & 4:30 PM

STRATIFIED A/B/C Swiss Teams (UNLIMITED/2000/750)
20 VP Scale; 7 rounds X 8 boards
299er SWISS TEAMS (single-session events; minimum 3 teams required)

Entry Fees - \$9 per person per session
All-day Restaurant Listings at our website

For Information, call/e-mail:

James Scott: 510/525-1759 - eurekajim@aol.com; or
Mark Kornmann: 510/932-6064 - beerman49@msn.com
B-E-R WEBSITE: www.berunit497.org

Directions:

From eastbound I-80 or from Marin via I-580: Central Ave exit; right to Ashbury (dead end); left to Moeser Lane (cross it directly into Center's parking lot; street parking plentiful if lot's full).
From westbound I-80: Cutting Blvd exit; left to San Pablo Ave; right to Moeser Lane; left to ECCC; left into parking lot at Ashbury.