



KIBBITZER



Newsletter of Palo Alto Unit 503 of the American Contract Bridge League

Volume XLVII, Issue 8, August, 2009

Join the crowd at the Bridge Center on the first Monday night of the month for the Unit's Swiss Teams with separate sections for the open and 99er strata. The competition this month is on August 3 at 6:30 p.m. Sign-up on the Unit website to help the chairs' planning. This event is first-rate: good bridge, good fun, good friends and good eats.

On Sunday, August 23 at the Bridge Center you'll discover a very special two-session compact bracketed KO event for teams of four with games at 11 a.m. and tba. After several requests from the Unit, the ACBL finally gave permission to stage this event. Teams pay \$72, the fee for two-sessions including lunch, which will be served between the rounds. Teams will play only against other teams with similar numbers of masterpoints. There will be four 12-board rounds. Teams which have been knocked out will play in a Swiss game. Everyone will play the full 48 boards. Teams must sign up on the bulletin board or on the Unit website.

More teams! August is so busy with teams, teams, teams! Monday, August 31 is the date for another Night Time Open and 99er Swiss Teams. Sign up on the Unit website. Why two in August? Well on the first Monday of September, players will still be at the Regional in Santa Clara.

What a Wow! BIG, BIGGER, BIGGEST ever! The 1050 tables is a whopping 15% increase from 2008's record of 917 tables. Congratulations to everyone who helped make this Firecracker such a resounding success, especially Tournament Chair Steve Lubeck, Director Nancy Boyd, the other directors and all those who played and assisted at the event.

The table summary for all the sessions was: Wed first 98, second 93.5; Thurs. 130, 97; Fri 129,120; Sat.101.5, 86; Sun. 107, 88. The open pairs table count was 321.5, 199er pairs 181.5 and Swiss 27, side pairs 27, KO 78, comp. KO 167 and open Swiss 248. Top attendance was 130 tables Thursday afternoon with Open, 199er Pairs, compact KO's on the schedule closely followed by 129 tables on Friday morning with Open, 199er and Bracketed KO games. The 199er games totaled 208.5 with the 199er table count a 23% increase over 2008. The partnership committee set up an estimated 45 matches.

The large participation made it possible for the Unit to earn an estimated net income of \$5200.

Team up for August Unit Games!

August

3: Evening Swiss

23: 2-session KO/Swiss

31: Evening Swiss

Firecracker Explodes!

Collect the Silver at August STAC Pairs and Swiss

What's better and more fun than the tables at Reno and Las Vegas?? Why of course the answer is the bridge tables at our Unit's Great Western Summer Fun STAC II! STAC fun begins August 24 and continues to August 30. Club owners can run pair games or Swiss teams as they choose. Like the other STAC's, the pair overalls will be computed across all participating clubs. The stratification for the open games is A=2000+, B=750-2000 and C=0-750.

Most clubs are holding pairs game and there are two Swiss STAC's. Players can amass the silver points at STAC pairs at: Bridge Mix, Palo Alto BC, Tuesday Noon BC, Bridge 'n Brunch, Wednesday Aft 49er, Thursday, Doubleton BC, Afternoon BC, Sherie's BC, Friday Morning BC, One Club and Sunday Afternoon BC. They will search for silver at STAC Swiss Teams at Alpine BC, and Friday Night Barometer. The winners' awards are silver and all points awarded are sectionally rated.

Who, Me?? Yes, You!

We all enjoying coming to bridge, having a place to play, a director at our games, Unit games, hand records, game results on the web, the Kibitzer, receiving our master points automatically, etc. However, these many activities take volunteers' time and commitment to our Unit for us to have these perks

Elections for the upcoming Unit 503 Board of Directors will be in November. Board members serve two-year terms of office. The Board meets monthly at the Bridge Center and in addition, individual members participate in special projects and committees. Also, from time to time, the Unit requests help from non-Board members for assistance on special tasks.

The Unit is now asking for members to give some extra valuable time and join the Board to enable you and others to continue to enjoy bridge at its best. If you have an interest in serving the Palo Alto Unit to continue the wonderful activities that we all take pleasure in or if you can suggest a person, please contact Betsy Steele – (650) 968-5030, betsys@flash.net or Ginger Herrick – (650) 948-2995, ginger@khcww.com.

Lecture Series Resumes In September

Anxious to refine your game? Don't fret. The Unit is planning another Lecture Series beginning in September with format similar to last year's highly successful series.

Put September 10 and 24 on your calendar; those are the Thursdays when your bridge knowledge will increase. More details next month.

Unit News



NAP Last chance to qualify at a Unit club game is on Wednesday, August 12 at 7 p.m. at the Doubleton BC.

Betsy Steele Welcome to the Board. She will finish out the term of Trina Bowman, who has resigned.

Membership Growth The Unit membership is over 825. The July 1 ACBL report shows the addition of 21 new members, most of the enrollments as a result of the Unit Thursday Night lessons, taught by Frank Smoot and Lori Spaeth.

Firecracker Trivia There were 1144 players versus 1038 last year, up 10.2% and 473 of these were NLM; 333 were Unit members including 146-199ers. Sherie Greenberg with 31.69 was the Unit member earning the most points with Gloria Darke the NLM with the most points. The players included some from as far away as British Columbia, Massachusetts and Florida.

Big Game! Arlene Levy and Betty Hirsekorn had a big game Wed. morn, July 15th--**72.43%**.

Director! Yes, Jeanette McNeill may now answer your call. She organized the highly successful director's course earlier this year, participated in the program and has now passed the exam. Congratulations, Jeanette.

Bridge Center The Unit is continuing to work with Twisters to resolve issues relating to the flood damage in February.

Go Green! Go green to the Bridge Center. Players at the Center have been wondering about the surveys questioning if a player has arrived in his own car. The Unit Board wants to encourage car pooling to the games. Those who have ideas about ways to promote car pooling or with an interest in this green approach to transportation should contact Mike Atherton at michaelatherton@sbcglobal.net.

Firecracker Sparklers

These Unit players shone brilliantly by reaching first overall in their respective strata - -

Judith Blood(2) Geoffrey Blood (2), Betsy Steele (2), Neal Strand (2), Gloria Darke (2), Elizabeth Tromovitch, Susan Barkley, Mark Robichek, Alice Story, Eric Byler, Omer Barnir, Claudia Tamblin, Barbara Klein, Kenneth Shafer, Kathie Shaw, Merle Orellove Jan Samuels, Helen Corbin, Marilyn Payne, Michael Atherton, Paul Clermont, Grant Spaeth, Randy Rhody, Joe Tang, Fred Stout, John Tse, Isha Thapa, Mukund Thapa, Lori Spaeth, David Wheeler, John Williams, John Schwartz, John Mattis, Linda Mattis, Jerianne Foley, Daniel Harting, Michele Miller, Steven Miller, Angeliki Magklara, Eric Mayefsky, Margery Yates, Carol Brigham, Virginia Herrick, Nancy Rude, Carol Clements, Paul McEleney, Tahir Gokcen, Sadik Arf, Margot Livenspargar. If you belong on this list and don't see your name, the editors apologize for the omission

It Seems to Me

By Gersh

Don Rothschild sent me a memo about opener's rebids after partner has made a negative double. His views make sense to me. Don gives this hand:

S: AT98

H: 54

D: J76

C: AKJ2

As dealer you open 1C, partner bids 1S. You rebid 2S. No problems. But suppose after the 1C opening, the next player bids 1H and partner doubles. Partner's double is negative showing a spade suit.

Don's view is that you should treat the double as a spade bid. Therefore, you should rebid two spades. A two-spade rebid describes your hand accurately and gives the opponents more trouble than a rebid of 1S. Going further, if you were strong enough to raise partner's spade bid to three or four, then bid three of four after the negative double.

Is it ever right to rebid 1S? Yes, save that bid to show only three-card support, with no stopper in the opponent's suit and no other attractive bid for your hand.

In another case with this hand, you open 1C and the next player bids 1D. If partner doubles, it is negative showing 4-4 or 5-4 in the majors. As before, you should bid 2S. If instead of doubling partner bids 1H, you know he does not hold four spades, so do not bid 2S but instead bid 1NT.

You hold S: AT98

H: QJ86

D: 32

C: Q54

Your partner is dealer and opens 1C or 1D. The next player doubles. Don suggests that you make a "negative redouble" to show 4-4 or 5-4 in the majors. Then, if opener has four cards in either major, he bids two of that suit or more.

This is a useful tool, but it is controversial because in most bidding systems, the redouble already has a different meaning. The question is: Which tact is more useful? If you adopt "negative redoubles," you and your partner should practice it in private before using it in a game. This might enable you to "forget" the old meaning of a redouble.

Sympathy

The Unit officers and members extend their sincere condolences to the families and friends of two members who recently passed away. Albert Katz played at the Club often on Mondays and Thursdays. James R. Burlingame, a 40-year Life Master, passed away on his 91st birthday.

Unit Game Second-Half Schedule

- Mon. Aug. 6 Open-99er Night Time Swiss
- Sun. Aug. 23 Compact KO (two sessions)
- Mon. Aug 31 Open-99er Night Time Swiss
- Sun. Sept. 20 Open-99er Swiss Teams
- Mon. Oct. 5 Open-99er Night Time Swiss
- Sun. Oct 18 Mentor/Mentee and Open Barometer Pairs
- Sun. Nov. 1 Pot Luck Open-99er Pairs
- Mon. Nov. 2 Open-99er Night Time Swiss
- Mon. . Dec. 7 Open-99er Night Time STAC Swiss
- Sun. Dec. 20 Holiday Party Open-99er Pairs

All games are at the Bridge Center.



Player Advancements

The ACBL July report shows that the players named below have moved up. Congratulations!

Junior Master	5 MP	Warren Goodnow
Club Master	20 MP	Peter Dollinger, Marjorie Gray, Joanne Jacobs, Carol Kemper, Barbara Klein, Claudia Tamblin, Suzanne Wingate
Sectional Master	50 MP	Cyrus Coupal, Garth Wilson
Regional Master	100 MP	Mary Linda Cook, Susan Griswold, Monica Williams
Life Master	300 MP	Carol Clements
Bronze Life Master	500 MP	Steve Barasch, Phyllis Gaffney
Gold Life Master	2500 MP	Gary H. Yang

And the Winners Are.....

At the post-Firecracker Monday Night Swiss....

Lots of 99er players came out for the Monday Night July 6 Unit Swiss even though it was the day after the Firecracker. In the eleven team 99er field, Ronald Perkocha, Joelle Perkocha, Barbara Thayer, Bill Thayer were first in A with Gina Norberg, Beverly Bernhardt, Kathleen Weiman, Shirley Kowaleski taking the top spot in B/C. Open players had had enough bridge at the Firecracker because there were only three teams with Michael Bodell, Raymond Yuenger, Alan Malloy, Lynn Bartz the winners.

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- ★ **Newcomer Games** ★
- ★ Tuesday evening (Begin./Intermed.) ★
 - ★ Wednesday afternoon (<50) ★
 - ★ Wednesday evening (<50) & (-200) ★
 - ★ Friday morning (<30) ★
- ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

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NEWCOMERS

A warm welcome to new Palo Alto Unit 503 members: : Suzanne Barnett, Jenny Blaschke, Mary Evenson, Marianne Gardner, Lee Goines, Jane Herman, Bebe Hoppe, Beverly Lewis, Robert Lewis, Bob Lurie, Ann Porteus, Alex Prazma, Kim Shetter, Bonnie Siegel, Vivian Weber, Walter Weber, Mary Condon, Barbara Hansen, Geir Helleloid, Connie Lurie and Randi Zuckerberg

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2009 Leaders in Ace of Clubs and Mini McKenney

The ACBL gives the Ace of Clubs award to the player who earns the most points in club games and the Mini-McKenney award for total points including sectionals and higher ranked tournaments. Congratulations to those who are in the lead at the midyear for 2009

ACE OF CLUBS		MP	MINI-MCKENNEY	
Rick Flucke	12	0-5	Carol Kemper	24
Geoffrey Blood	9		Geoffrey Blood	16
Carol Kemper	9		Terry Lancaster	15
		5-20		
			Janet Tate	12
Joanne Jacobs	12		Joanne Jacobs	12
Janet Tate	10		Frances Green	12
Peggy Wheeler	9		Peggy Wheeler	12
		20-50		
Cyrus Coupal	43		Cyrus Coupal	47
Jack Lucas	17		Eileen Zefting	22
Merry Stephenson	13		Rick Giusti	21
		50-100		
Susan Griswold	20		Susan Griswold	49
Judith Blood	12		Laura Tanner	35
Kenneth Shafer	12		Gloria Darke	29
		100-200		
Lu Isaacs	24		Alex Lovejoy	70
Edward Schmitt	21		Valerie Baldwin	56
Valerie Baldwin	20		Han-Yu Chang	42
		200-300		
Gary Fong	25		George Paris	79
LaVerne Welch	25		Robert Scheidtmann	59
Gladys Fong	24		Josephine Ventura	56
		300-500		
Stan Charney	41		Stan Charney	62
Lee Haze	31		Allen Wolman	61
Stephen Lubeck	28		Phyllis Gaffney	59
		500-1K		
Christian Lazarovici	46		Geeske Joel	196
Freya Charney	39		Barbara Oshman	127
Sigmund Malek	37		Henryk Szejnwald	61
		1-2.5K		
Virginia Herrick	71		Eric Mayefsky	182
D Bernstein	66		Lori Spaeth	148
Martie Moore	65		Fung Bao	143
		2.5-5K		
Patricia Chambers	62		Mary Ann Berg	254
Carol Brigham	50		Barbara Sonsini	207
John Stanczak	50		Patricia Chambers	134
		5-7.5K		
Jim O'Neil	66		Hansa Narasimhan	272
Hansa Narasimhan	41		Gary Macgregor	235
Sherie Greenberg	41		Jim O'Neil	220

NEXT BOARD MEETING:
 Tuesday, August 4 at 3:45 p.m.
 Bridge Center

Palo Alto Unit 503 Board

Michael Atherton, President
 Dave Wheeler, Vice-President
 Susana Krulevitch, Secretary
 Alan Templeton, Treasurer

Phyllis Gaffney, Nita Girand,
 Steve Lubeck, Eric Mayefsky, Jeannette
 McNeil, Grant Spaeth, Betsy Steele

Many Thanks to All the Fireworkers!



Photos, top to bottom; directors Jay Magid and Nancy Boyd. Next, directors Matt Smith and Dianne Barton-Paine. Next Linda Mattis and Fran Bennett. Bottom, Mike Atherton, Steve Lubeck and John Williams. To the right, Calvin the Book Guy and Fran Bennett, Phyllis Gaffney, Annette Laird, Diane Kelley. Thanks to Roy Robinson for these great photos.

Steve Lubeck, Firecracker chair, appreciates all the help he got. Steve thanks Alan Templeton for implementing the posting of the Firecracker game results on the Unit web site, Marian Kelly for contacting and sending extra flyers to all units in D21, John Hornback for planning and directing the table layout, Alan Cummings and Ginger Herrick for their continuing interest and sage advice.

The Unit owes a ton of thanks to the chairs: Steve Barasch, Setup/Takedown,; Phyllis Gaffney, Decorations and Hospitality; Fran Bennett, Partnerships; Carolyn Lemm, Caddies, and to their committees whose participants are listed below.

Hospitality: Marilyn Payne, Fran Bennett, Barbara Mash, Sheryl Johnson, Etta Herbach, Karen Hunt, Betty Rosa, Sue Fikes, Valerie Hatton, Mary Radin, Denise Pitsch, Carolyn Chaney, Val Baldwin, Marcella Atherton, Mary and Mark Dowley, Sue Griswold, Fung Bao, Gabriele Pani, Diana Lowe.

Partnership: Sheryl Johnson, Fran Bennett, Nancy Rude, Allen Wolman, Lu Isaacs, Lynne Johnson, Diane Kelley, Annette Laird, Josephine Ventura, Karen Kulander, Fung Bao, Jim Tseng, Joe and Dori Foster, Linda and John Mattis and Nita Girand. John Hornback created the partnership forms in WORD.

Caddies: Brandon Cochran, Nathan Mueller, Maryssa Skarloff, Michelle Friedlander, Samantha Pinkus, Angie Inn, Emily Cook, Oren Merry.

Set-up/Take-down: Sioux Atkinson, Amanda Atkinson, Fran Bennett, Gabriella Bowling, Alan Cummings, Paul Clermont, Cres Cole, Mark Herbach, Etta Hermack, John Hornback, Lu Isaacs John Mattis, Linda Mattis, Mark Mickelson, Kevin O'Leary, Elinor Tanck, Allen Templeton, Grant Spaeth, John Williams, Allen Wolman, James Stuart-Smith, Bruce Scott.

Photographers: Roy Robinson, Elinor Tanck.



All games take place at 2639A Terminal Blvd., Mountain View 94043 unless otherwise noted.

DAY	BRIDGE CLUB	TYPE	TIME	DIRECTOR(S)	PLACE/OTHER INFO
MON	Bridge Mix	Open/<2K	11:00 a.m.	Kevin/Bonnie/ Claire/John	
TUES	Tuesday Noon BC	Open/Strat.	12:00 p.m.	Walter Miller	Unity Church, YES Rm, 3391 Middlefield Rd, PA
	Alpine BC	Open/<1K	12:00 p.m.	Will Watson	
	Just For Fun	Begin./Inter.	7:00 p.m.	Solna/Omer	No master points given. Call Solna at (408) 685-5323
WED.	Bridge 'n Brunch	Open/Strat.	11:00 a.m.	Sue Johnston	
	Wed Aft. 49er	<50 M.P.	1:00 p.m.	Walter Miller	Unity Church, YES Rm, 3391 Middlefield Rd, PA
	Lori & Sue's Dblton Club	Open/Strat.	7:00 p.m.	Spaeth/Johnston	
	Lori & Sue's Dblton Club	<50 M.P.	7:00 p.m.	Spaeth/Johnston	
	Lori & Sue's Dblton Club	<200 M.P.	7:00 p.m.	Spaeth/Johnston	
THUR	Thur. Afternoon BC	Open/Strat	12:00 p.m.	Beardsley/Mattis	
	Sherie's BC	Open/Strat.	12:30 p.m.	Sherie Greenberg	4000 Middlefield Road, Auditorium, Palo Alto
FRI	The EZ Game	<30 M.P.	9:00 a.m.	Roy Robinson	
	Friday Morning BC	Open/Strat.	10:30 a.m.	Claire Coleman	
	Friday Night Barometer	Open/Strat.	7:30 p.m.	Will Watson	
SAT	One Club	Open/Strat.	12:00 p.m.	John Prior	
SUN	Sunday Afternoon BC	Open/Strat.	1:00 p.m.	Coleman/Watson	

SPECIAL EVENTS

- * 299er Sectional, Saturday, July 25 at Monterey Bridge Center, Marina
- * Unit Swiss, Open and 99er, Monday, August 3 at 6:30 p.m. Bridge Center
- * Sectional, Friday, August 7 at Castro Valley, Transfiguration Church
- * NLM Sectional, Saturday August 22, at Fresno, Bridge Center
- * NAP qualifying game, Wed. Aug. 12 at 7 p.m., Doubleton BC
- * Sectional, Saturday, August 15 at So. San Francisco, Municipal Svc Bldg
- * Sectional, Wednesday, August 19 at Reno, Ramada Inn
- * Unit Compact KO/Swiss Teams (two-sessions), Sunday, August 23 at 11 a.m.
See article on p. 1.
- * Pairs STAC, Mon. Aug. 24 at 11 a.m., Bridge Mix at Bridge Center
- * Swiss STAC, Tues. Aug 25 at noon, Alpine BC
- * Pairs STAC, Tues. Aug 25 at noon, Tuesday Noon BC
- * Swiss STAC, Wed. Aug. 26 at 11 a.m., Bridge 'n Brunch
- * Pairs STAC, Wed. Aug. 26 at 1 p.m., Wed. aft. 49ers
- * Swiss STAC, Wed. Aug 26 at 7 p.m., Lori & Sue's Doubleton Club
- * Pairs STAC, Thurs. Aug. 27 at noon, Thursday Afternoon BC
- * Pairs STAC, Thurs. Aug. 27 at 12:30 p.m., Sherie's BC
- * Pairs STAC, Fri. Aug. 28 at 10:30 a.m., Friday Morning BC
- * Swiss STAC, Fri. Aug. 28 at 7:30 p.m., Friday Night Barometer
- * Pairs STAC, Sat. Aug. 29 at noon, One Club
- * Pairs STAC, Sun., Aug. 30 at 1 p.m., Sunday Afternoon BC
- * Unit Swiss, Open and 99er, Monday, August 31 at 6:30 p.m. Bridge Center
- * Lecture, Thurs. Sept. 10, Bridge Center
- * Lecture, Thurs., Sept. 24, Bridge Center

Club Closings

- * No game for Easy Bridge, Friday, August 28

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