



# KIBITZER



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

Volume XLVII, Issue 7, July, 2009

For the past six years, the Unit has been able to keep the rent charged to Bridge Center owners unchanged because the growth of our games has matched increasing costs. However we now find we are unable to meet current expenses and to plan for future expenses without additional income. Accordingly, beginning July 1, owners will raise table fees for all games at the Bridge Center. Owners will make their own new fee announcements.

## Bridge Center Table Fees to Increase.

On Tuesday, and Wednesday, July 14 and 15, the Unity Church will *not be available* for bridge. Because of this closure, the Bridge Center Tuesday noon game expects an overflow. Therefore director Will Watson will be posting a reservation list for that game, since **he will not be able to accommodate all the players from both Walter's closed game and his own.** To make a reservation, e-mail Will at [willwats@comcast.net](mailto:willwats@comcast.net) or sign up on the list on the bulletin board. For those of you who normally attend Will's Tuesday game, he promises to reserve your tables.

## Do You Play at Walter's Games?? Then This Notice Is For You!!

Additionally, Walter *will* hold his 49er game on Wednesday, July 1 at 1 p.m. during the Firecracker.

This year, our Firecracker Sectional tournament runs from Wednesday, July 1 through Sunday, July 5. There are games for players of all skill levels, with numerous team games in addition to the daily pair games – so take your pick. If the last two years is indicative of a trend, we hope to have a big turnout which adds to the intensity and enjoyment for all. The complete schedule was in the June *Kibitzer* and you will also find it on our website [www.paloaltobridge.com](http://www.paloaltobridge.com) and in our ad in the Contract Bridge Forum. The tournament will be held at the Santa Clara Convention Center, 5001 Great America Parkway in Santa Clara and there is plenty of free parking. Even though it's past the official deadline of June 10, the Hyatt has said the \$95 special room rate is still available. (to p.4)

## Firecracker explodes July 1

## Unit Game Results

Sunday, May 17

Monday, June 1

Sunday, June 14

Players who participate in the Unit games both on Sunday and Monday Night earn lots of masterpoints. At the Sunday, May 17 game two teams in the Eight Is Enough open flight topped the 10-team field. Tied for first with 56 points were Robert Ipswitch - Stan Green - Fabien Lubais - Martie Moore and Ralf Singer - Hal Harbatkin - Fung Bao - Doreen Hornback. The winners among the four teams in the 99ers were Sharon Krawetz - Rochelle Gutmann - Irwin Maltz - Mona Maltz.

There's no better way to start out the month than playing at the Unit Night Time Swiss. In the June 1 eight team open the winners were A1B1 Franklin Gonzalez - Sigmund Malek - Richard O'Brien - Henryk Szejnwald and in C Kate Smith - Fred Smith - Judy Vadasz - Les Vadasz. The 99ers outdid the open with 10 teams. DT Levy - James Van Campen - Devesh Goyal - Hedvig Fejerne came in first.

Because of the postponement of the Mentor -Mentee game, the Unit held a stratified pairs game on Sunday, June 14. In the 11 ½ table event, the partnership of Sigmund Malek and Franklin Gonzalez took first in strata A/B. Geoff and Judith Blood were victorious in C.

Thanks go to directors, Will Watson, Sue Johnston, Alan Templeton and Claire Coleman, hostess Phyllis Gaffney and Vera Howard and Elinor Tanck assisting with set-up and clean-up for making sure everyone enjoyed the games.

## Add NAP Qualifying Games to Your Calendar.

The July calendar has two NAP qualification matches, both on Wednesday. The Doubleton Club will hold one on July 15 at 7 p.m. and Bridge 'n Brunch on July 22 at 11 a.m. Players who place in the overalls in their respective strata earn sectional-rated half red and half black masterpoints. Any player scoring average or higher or finishing in the upper half will be eligible for the next qualification round.

## Monday, July 6 is Swiss Time

Monday, July 6 at 6:30 p.m. is the moment for players to play at the Bridge Center in the monthly Night Time Swiss Teams game, open and 99er flights. Join us for the fun; don't leave all your skills and luck at the Firecracker Sectional! The 99ers will have their own special director. There will be lots of munchies, yes, even cheese for good eating. Please sign up on the Unit web site for this game.

**Bridge Center Rehab Update**— Mike Atherton and Alan Cummings reported that essentially there was nothing new since the last Board meeting. Despite repeated attempts on our part and our attorney's part to have Twisters' insurance carrier follow up on its promise to hire an independent air testing expert, nothing has happened. The insurance carrier representative had indicated on April 20 that it would ask a recognized authority in the field to conduct the investigation. Alan Cummings, Mike Atherton and Alan Templeton will continue to work through this temporary impasse.

**Read all about two eye-popping scores** — Two EZ Bridgers, Randy Rhody and Polly Siegel, recently made it all look very Easy. They both went through the Beginning Bridge Class offered by the Unit (Polly started playing serious bridge in September!) had a 79.02% game on June 5. This even topped Sal Cagnina and John Stanczak's 75% in the Doubleton Club game on Wednesday evening, May 27. That's a very high score for an Open game!

**Improved Site Search**— The Unit has an improved search capability located below the **Welcome** message. How many times has your name been mentioned on our site?

**Lori and Frank send A Big Thank You to Their Wonderful Volunteers**— The final Deadly Defense Class (the third in the series of Beginning Bridge classes which started in September) ended last Thursday, June 11. Frank Smoot and Lori Spaeth wanted to publicly thank all of the wonderful volunteers who helped with the Beginning Bridge Classes. They are (in alphabetical order): **Erik Aker, Alice Arnold, Omer Barnir, Nita Girand, Jan Samuels, Joyce Sogg, Grant Spaeth, Alan Templeton (!!!)** and **James Van Campen**. With at least 16-20 tables of new players every Thursday evening since September, at least five volunteers were there to visit tables, fill in and check up on and help those in need. Several students also expressed their gratitude to all of our volunteers. We are one lucky Unit to have them!

**An analogy of duplicate bridge from someone who has never played**— I think it must be like speed dating - 5 minutes with someone, then you move on to the next person. The pace is very fast and little time is available to make a plan or to figure what we (I) did wrong. But it was fun and we will do it again.

## Unit News



## Intermediate and Beginning Classes Start in September

Sign Up Now



Frank Smoot and Lori Spaeth will hold a 12-week Intermediate class starting Thursday evenings, September 17, from 7 until around 9:30 p.m. The topics will include overcalls, doubles, preemptive bidding and advanced declarer and defensive play. The instruction will use a similar format to the very successful Beginning Bridge Classes - lecture, exercises, homework and play. We will also have our wonderful volunteer helpers who visit each table and offer assistance when needed. A prerequisite for this class is at least one year of playing experience. Frank and Lori will teach this in lieu of a beginner class.

We expect this class to be very popular; please sign up on line to assure a seat - [www.paloaltobridge.com](http://www.paloaltobridge.com). Click on Classes, next click on SIGN UP.

### Absolute Beginning Bridge at the Palo Alto Bridge Center

Tuesday mornings from 9:30 AM to 11:30 AM

Sept. 15 & 29, Oct. 13 & 27, Nov. 10 & 24, Dec. 8 & 15,  
Jan. 5, 19, & 26, Feb. 2.

**\$150.**

Series taught by Kathy Harper, ABTA Master Teacher

(650) 851-8322, [kharper100@aol.com](mailto:kharper100@aol.com)

## Firecracker, cont from p. 1.

On the opening Wednesday at 11:45 a.m., there will be a "Newcomer Lesson" on the different team games (Knockouts, Compact KO's and Swiss Teams), how they work logistically and are scored with IMPs or Victory Points. Matt Smith, an ACBL National Director, will be the instructor and he will also discuss the basic strategy and tactical differences between pairs and team games.

As always, the tournament's success depends a lot on the volunteers who help out the chairs of the various committees. If you would like to help, please call or email the following and let them know your availability: Steve Barasch, Setup/Takedown, (408) 732-6663 [barasch1@ix.netcom.com](mailto:barasch1@ix.netcom.com); Phyllis Gaffney, Decorations and Hospitality, (408) 730-0654 [zoma-opa-gaffney@comcast.net](mailto:zoma-opa-gaffney@comcast.net); Fran Bennett, Partnerships, (650) 838-9451 [franbennett@sbcglobal.net](mailto:franbennett@sbcglobal.net); Carolyn Lemm, Caddies, (650) 493-8017 [cblemm@wans.net](mailto:cblemm@wans.net); Steve Lubeck, Tournament Chair, (650) 592-7707 [splubeck@yahoo.com](mailto:splubeck@yahoo.com)

# It Seems to Me

By Gersh

You open the bidding one in a suit. Your opponent doubles. Your partner bids one in a higher ranking suit. This should be played as a one-round force and may be of unlimited strength. Note that if partner bids two or more in a suit over the double, it should be preemptive. A bid of two no trump by partner usually indicates a limit raise or better.

My partner opened one heart. Next player doubled. I held a singleton spade, four hearts, and 13 HCP. I assumed we could make game in hearts, but I feared the opponents could sacrifice at four spades, so I bid one spade! After my partner's rebid, I bid four hearts.

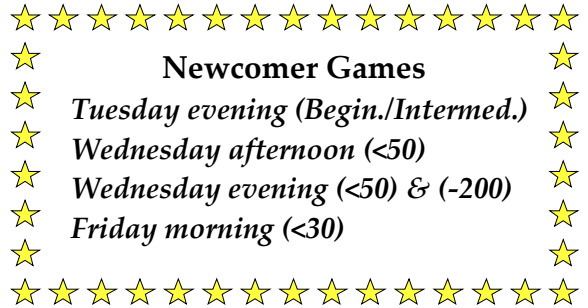
If this sequence comes up when your partner is the doubler, I would suggest that a double of the one spade bid says "that's my suit" and shows at least six HCP. It does not have to be alerted, but should be explained if opponents ask its meaning.

## Player Advancements

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

Junior Master	5 MP	Sundri Alim, Marilyn Ellis, Rick Flucke, Judy Goodnow, Harriette Huff, Donald Palermo, Dan Thatte, Adi Zarchi
Club Master	20 MP	Polly Burn, Henry Hsieh, Carol Schwerer
Sectional Master	50 MP	Irwin Maltz
Regional Master	100 MP	Gloria Darke, Daniel Harting
Bronze Life Master	500 MP	Aruna Desu


  
**NEWCOMERS**
  
 A warm welcome to new Palo Alto Unit 503 members: Andrew Dentai, Bette Hirsch, Marvin Siegel, Ute Zapf, Chris Chung, Paul Levine, John Wachsman and Susan Wachsman


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

**NEXT BOARD MEETING:**  
 Tuesday, July 7 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  
  
 Trina Bowman, Phyllis Gaffney,  
 Nita Girand, Steve Lubeck, Eric  
 Mayefsky, Jeannette McNeil, Grant Spaeth

*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 <b>Please Note: No Unity Church games Tuesday, July 14 or Wednesday, July 15.</b>
	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 <b>Please Note: This Wednesday game will be held as usual during Firecracker.</b>
	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

- \* Sectional, Saturday, June 27, at IOOF Hall, Hollister
- \* **Palo Alto Sectional Wednesday, July 1—Sunday, July 5. Convention Center, Santa Clara**



- \* **All clubs closed from Wednesday evening, July 1 - Sunday, July 5 except Walter Miller's Wednesday game, being played on Wednesday, July 1.**
- \* Unit Swiss, Open and 99er, Monday, July 6 at 6:30 p.m. Bridge Center
- \* Sectional, Saturday, July 11 at Vintage House Sr. Ctr., Sonoma
- \* NAP Qual. game, Wednesday July 15 at 7 p.m., Doubleton Club
- \* NAP Qual. game Wednesday, July 22 at 11 a.m. Bridge 'n Brunch
- \* 299er Sectional, Saturday, July 25 at Monterey Bridge Center, Marina

### Directors

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