



# KIBITZER



The Unit will lead off June with the Monday Night Open and 99er stratified Swiss teams on the first at 6:30 p.m. at the Bridge Center. Sign your team up for either section on the Unit web page or just drop in for good bridge fun.

On Sunday June 14, the Unit will hold a stratified Mentor/Mentee pairs game at 12:45 p.m., again at the Center. Players do not need to be Unit members or have an established Mentor-Mentee partnership to participate. However, to be an eligible mentee, a player must have fewer than 300 masterpoints. The Unit will post a signup list at the Bridge Center. If either a mentor or mentee needs a partner, please indicate it on the list or on the Unit web site before Thursday, June 11. The Unit will do its best to locate a partner for anyone who requests one.

This is a great chance for established mentor/mentee partnerships to play and to meet other similar partnerships. As usual, for both games, name tags will be available to create a friendly mood.

**June Unit Games:  
Swiss, Monday June 1  
Mentor/Mentee, Sunday,  
June 14**

Our 2009 Firecracker tournament is just around the corner. It is a full five-day tournament from **Wednesday, July 1 through Sunday July 5** at the **Santa Clara Convention Center** at 5001 Great America Parkway in Santa Clara. There is plenty of free parking and the games will be in rooms on the lower level and the second level. On the Friday-Saturday-Sunday weekend, there will be express line lunch service with a wide choice of sandwiches, soups, salads, cookies and various hot and cold drinks.

The full schedule is in this issue of the *Kibitzer* on page 3, on our website, and in our ads in the May and June issues of the *Contract Bridge Forum*. The Wednesday and Thursday sessions will be at 1:00 and 7:00 p.m., then the schedule shifts to 10:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. times for the weekend. Quite a variety of pair and team games is included in the ten sessions and, as always, there are games for beginner/intermediate players with fewer than 200 masterpoints in every session. In addition, there is a "Newcomer Lesson" scheduled on Wednesday morning at 11:45 a.m. on *Team Games* (to p. 2)

**Firecracker  
Sectional -  
Fun for Everyone!**



**THE  
Firecracker  
Cont. from p. 1**



**Strategy.** Matt Smith, an ACBL National Tournament director will describe how the various team games (Bracketed Knockouts, Compact Knockouts, Swiss Teams) work logistically and are scored using IMPs. Plus, he will discuss some basic tactics and strategy.

The Firecracker has an outstanding group of tournament directors headed by Nancy Boyd. However, the success of our tournament depends a lot on the volunteers who staff the various working committees. Please help out by contacting any of the following:

Steve Lubeck, Tournament Chair  
(650) 592-7707 splubeck@yahoo.com

Phyllis Gaffney, Hospitality  
(408) 730-0654 zoma-opa-gaffney@comcast.net

Fran Bennett, Partnerships  
(650) 838-9451 franbennett@sbcglobal.net

Steve Barasch, Setup/Takedown  
(408) 732-6663 barasch1@ix.netcom.com

Carolyn Lemm, Caddies  
(650) 493-8017 cblemm@wans.net

There are many good reasons to come to the Firecracker, not the least being the opportunity to test your skill against a diverse group from all over the Bay Area and beyond, but the best reason of all is *you'll have a lot of fun!*

**Bridge Center  
Flood Remedy  
Still on Hold**

There was a meeting on April 29, with Twisters, their insurance company, the building owner and representatives of the company that did the original work. Alan Cummings and Alan Templeton represented the Unit along with representatives of the companies that we have hired to ensure that our facility is safe to occupy. After prolonged discussion and inspection, Twister's insurance company requested additional time to consider what steps, if any, they plan to take. We are still waiting to hear from them.

Meanwhile, our air filters are operating full time, and our own air specialist has assured us that we are maintaining safe air quality levels. We will continue in this vein until the determination of a final course of action.

**Author of New Book  
About Bridge History  
Will Talk at Stanford  
Bookstore**

Gary Pomerantz, a visiting lecturer at Stanford will talk about his new book, **The Devil's Tickets**, on Thursday, June 11th at 6:30 p.m. at the Stanford Bookstore. The book concerns the Bennett bridge table killing and trial in Kansas City and Ely Culbertson's emergence as the Barnum of the contract bridge craze that swept the nation at the end of the Roaring 20's.

The event is open to the public, and the author invites any and all Unit 503 bridge folk to attend.

# \* FIRECRACKER SECTIONAL – 2009 \*



**Palo Alto Unit 503**  
**July 1 – July 5, 2009**  
**Santa Clara Convention Center**  
**5001 Great America Parkway**

### Wednesday, July 1

Newcomer Lesson – Team Games Strategy  
 “Star” Compact KO’s, Rounds 1, 2, 3, 4  
 Stratified Open Pairs, single sessions  
 199’er Pairs, single sessions  
 Stratified Swiss Teams

11:45 AM	
1:00 PM	7:00 PM
1:00 PM	7:00 PM
1:00 PM	7:00 PM
1:00 PM	7:00 PM

**\$95 Special Rate**  
**at the adjacent**  
**Hyatt Regency Hotel**  
**Santa Clara.**

Reserve by June 10,  
 2009.

Call (800) 233-1234

### Thursday, July 2

“Spangled” Compact KO’s, Rds 1, 2, 3, 4  
 Stratified Open Pairs, single sessions  
 199’er Pairs, single sessions  
 Stratified Swiss Teams

1:00 PM	7:00 PM
1:00 PM	7:00 PM
1:00 PM	7:00 PM
	7:00 PM

### Friday, July 3

Bracketed Knockouts, Rounds 1, 2  
 Stratified Open Pairs, single sessions  
 199’er Pairs, single sessions  
 Stratified Swiss Teams

10:00 AM	3:00 PM
10:00 AM	3:00 PM
10:00 AM	3:00 PM
	3:00 PM

Director in Charge  
**Nancy Boyd**

Tournament Chair  
**Steve Lubeck**  
**(650) 592-7707**  
**email: splubeck@**  
**yahoo.com**

Partnerships  
**Fran Bennett**  
**(650) 838-9451**  
**email: franbennett@**  
**sbcglobal.net**

### Saturday, July 4

Bracketed Knockouts, Rounds 3, 4  
 “Banner” Compact KO’s, Rds 1, 2, 3, 4  
 Stratified Open Pairs, two sessions  
 Stratified Side Pairs, single sessions  
 199’er Pairs, single sessions  
 Stratified Swiss Teams

10:00 AM	3:00 PM
10:00 AM	3:00 PM
10:00 AM	3:00 PM
10:00 AM	3:00 PM
10:00 AM	3:00 PM
	3:00 PM

### Sunday, July 5

Strati-Flighted Open Swiss  
 Stratified Open Pairs, single sessions  
 199’er Swiss Teams

10:00 AM	& TBA
10:00 AM	3:00 PM
10:00 AM	& TBA

STRATIFIED EVENTS		STRATIFIED-FLIGHTED EVENTS			I/N EVENTS (as needed)				
A	2000+	A	3000+	B	1000-1500	D	100-200	G	5-20
B	500-2000	X	0-3000	C	500-1000	E	50-100	H	0-5
C	0-500			D	0-500	F	0-50		

**FEES: \$10 per session – paid ACBL members, \$11 for others**

## **Players Compete in April Pair & Team Matches**

The Unit players took part in an IMP Pairs Game which featured a unique scoring scheme on Sunday, April 26. The partnership of Belinda Gu and Michael Bodell was victorious in strata A/B while Irwin and Mona Maltz triumphed in C in the 19-table match.

Because it was STAC week the Unit was able to run the Monday night-time Swiss as a STAC team game with two 11-team flights, an Open and a 199er. In the Open, the team of Michael Andrews - Helga Solleder - Gene Drew - John Stanczak was first in A and the squad of Ken Rosenfeld - Peggy Sprague - Holly Sprague - Ron Baron topped B/C. Among the 199ers, the team of Mary Linda Cook - Judith Gentry - David Puryear - Kathy Puryear led in A/B and Dan Thatte - Manda Thatte - Judy Goodnow - Warren Goodnow won in C.

As always, the organizational skills of the directors Will Watson, Eric Mayefsky and Lori Spaeth and the tasty munchies coordinated by Phyllis Gaffney made both events a memorable occasion for one and all.

## **Mentoring Is Here Again**

This month look for a sign-up sheet to join our mentoring program. Mentors and "mentees" must be members of our Unit and willing to play together at least once each month. This restriction does not apply, however, to the Unit's June 14th game.

Mentors should be accessible by phone or email to help with play problems and to enrich their mentees' club and tournament play experiences. Mentees need to be willing to work hard to improve and to implement their mentors' suggestions.

You will also see posted soon the list of mentors/mentees who are continuing their partnership from last year. If you are interested in participating please sign up or contact Jeannette McNeil at (650) 854-2249 or by email at [jmcsunset@aol.com](mailto:jmcsunset@aol.com). Without a doubt you and your mentor will share a gold medal experience.

## **Director's Program Proves Popular**

The Palo Alto Unit was pleased to host a Director's Course in April and May. We had 28 participants including some prospective new directors, some existing directors updating their knowledge and a few interested bridge players just wanting to know more about the rules. Nancy Boyd, whom many of you recognize as an outstanding director from the Regional, Sectional and National tournaments, taught the classes.

We all look forward to the prospect of some new directors to help out our ever growing list of clubs.

If you have any questions about taking a course, taking the test, etc. please contact Jeannette McNeil at [jmcsunset@aol.com](mailto:jmcsunset@aol.com)

**Achoo!** - The Board requests that if any player develops flu symptoms, please notify Mike Atherton so he can let the other players know of a problem. Also, please stay home if you have a cold or other contagious illness.

**Trash** - Don't throw away the wrong card. Learn about how to do it right from Sue Johnson in *The Art of the Discard* on Thursday June 4.

**Name badges** - The new name badges are here. Please contact Phyllis Gaffney at (408) 730-0654, 2oma-opa-gaffney@comcast.net to pick up your order.

**Watercolor** - Could the flood incident have been an omen for the current art display at the Bridge Center? The new exhibit features watercolors from the studios of two local painters: Beverly Balanis and Berni Jahnke. Beverly's goal is to develop her own point of view from the occurrence of the intermingling of colors on the paper. Bernie's subject matter is primarily from travels abroad as well as east and west coast seashore scenes. For further information about these artists read the write-ups on the Center wall.

**Small World!** - Paul Cornelius' partner failed to show up for the Doubleton game on April 22, so Lori asked him to partner a newcomer with one masterpoint. It wasn't until Paul checked the scores that he realized his partner's last name was "Sternheim." Many years ago he played an opponent named Eli (Elizar, if he remembers right) Sternheim in a chess tournament in Pittsburgh. Paul recalled that Eli was relatively new in town, a few years older than he, higher rated than he and a student at Carnegie-Mellon University.

Paul poked around on the Internet and found Eli's picture and a short bio on the web site of a local company. Sure enough Eli got a PhD from Carnegie Mellon in 1971. That's the right time frame, he mused. How many Eli Sternheims fitting all these details can there be?

Paul phoned Eli, his April 22nd bridge partner, and confirmed that indeed it was he whom he played in the Pennsylvania State Chess Championship in Pittsburgh on September 3, 1972. Paul slightly mis-remembered the date but he found the game record in an old notebook (at chess tournaments you are required to record every move). They had a nice long talk about chess in Pittsburgh circa 1970 and it turns out they have a lot of mutual acquaintances.

**More Eli** - Take a look at this month's Unit newcomer list. There he is, new Unit member Eli Sternheim!

## Table Talk



## Summertime! It's NAP Time!

The North American Pairs (NAP) begin at the club level in June, July and August. A player may qualify many times and with many different partners. Watch the *Kibitzer* and the Unit web site for announcements of NAP games. The Thursday Afternoon club has scheduled qualification games for June 11 and 18.

Players who place in the overalls earn sectionally-rated half red and half black masterpoints. Any player who scores average or in the upper half in his respective strata will be eligible to play in a two-session Unit final to fulfill the requirements for the District matches. The masterpoint strata are: A (unlimited), B (0-2000), C 0-500 Non-Life Masters).

## Bid Better, Play Better. Read Bridge Books!

Check out the Unit 503 library. There are around 300 titles donated by Unit members. The books are listed by TITLE and by AUTHOR on the web site [www.paloaltobridge.com](http://www.paloaltobridge.com). Check out is easy. Simply ask for access and fill out the Library Book Request form. Books are due back in two weeks.

If you have questions and/or want to donate books, contact [www.alan.cummings@stanford.edu](mailto:www.alan.cummings@stanford.edu). We are limiting the number of copies to two so please check the list first.

### Player Advancements

The ACBL April report shows that the players named here have moved up. Congratulations!



Junior Master	5 MP	Safieh Afshar, John Elman, Robert Healy, Vijesh Iyer, Elsbeth Newfield, Douglas Schmickrath, Lorraine Seelig
Club Master	20 MP	Eric Byler, Sally Dunmeyer, Jacques Fossourier, Michael Frank, Lorraine Godfrey, Frances Green, Patricia Jarman, Janet Tate
Sectional Master	50 MP	C Engelhard, Joan Smith, Ronald Smith, Merry Stephenson
Regional Master	100 MP	Donna Jones
NABC Master	200 MP	Sadik Arf
Bronze Life Master	500 MP	John Schwartz
Silver Life Master	1000 MP	Barbara Oshman
Emerald Life Master	7500 MP	Gary Macgregor

I opened the bidding 1 ♠. Next player bid 2 ♣. My partner passed, and my right-hand opponent bid 2 ♥. This was followed by three passes. Without much effort declarer took 11 tricks. At the end of the round, she said that she thought her 2 ♥ bid was forcing. I advised her that when playing with a new partner, she should have made a bid that was undoubtedly forcing, such as 2 ♠ (a cue-bid) or 3♥. The ACBL does not take a position on this. If you look at your convention card, on the left hand side you will see that after an overcall, a new suit by partner can be checked off as forcing or not. No alert required.

This is the most common question I am asked about bidding. "If I make an overcall and my partner bids a new suit, is it forcing?" My answer is that it is usually forcing, if partner has not passed earlier in the auction. But if you are playing with a new partner and have not discussed this, you cannot expect your partner to know what you think. Try to make an unambiguous force. Obviously this is one of the important points to discuss before the game.



**It Seems to Me**  
by Gersh  
**Is It Forcing???**

**NEWCOMERS**

A warm welcome to new Palo Alto Unit 503 members: John Cardoza, Mary Ann Hayward, Jan Mitchell, Andrea Smith, Eli Sternheim, Anjan Ghose, Terry Lancaster, Michele Musy, Susan Myers, Peggy Wheeler, Miwako Wong and Henry Zoellner.

**NEXT BOARD MEETING:**  
Tuesday, June 2 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

**Newcomer Games**

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

*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	
	Sunday Afternoon BC	<99 M.P.	1:00 p.m.	Coleman/Watson	

## SPECIAL EVENTS

- \* Unit Lecture, Thursday, May 21 at 10 a.m. Bridge Center
- \* Regional, Monday, May 25 at Doubletree Hotel, Sacramento
- \* Unit Swiss Teams, Open and 99er. Monday, June 1, 6:30 p.m., Bridge Center
- \* Club Championship, Wednesday, June 3 at 11 a.m., Bridge 'n Brunch
- \* Unit Lecture, Thursday, June 4, 10 a.m. Bridge Center
- \* Sectional, Friday, June 5 at Holy Redeemer Ctr., Oakland
- \* Upgraded Club Championship, Wednesday, June 10 at 7 p.m. Doubleton BC
- \* NAP qualification game, Thursday, June 11 at noon, Thurs. Afternoon BC
- \* Sectional, Saturday, June 13 at Janet Pomeroy Ctr., San Francisco
- \* Unit Mentor/Mentee Pairs, Sunday June 14, 12:45 p.m. Bridge Center
- \* NAP qualification game, Thursday, June 18 at noon, Thurs. Afternoon BC
- \* Sectional, Saturday, June 27, at IOOF Hall, Hollister
- \* Palo Alto Sectional Wed. July 1—Sun. July 5. Convention Center, Santa Clara

### Directors

Bonnie Beardsley (408) 263-5953  
 Gabriella Bowling (650) 941-8398  
 Claire Coleman (650) 368-5917  
 Sherie Greenberg (650) 856-7941  
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 Kevin O'Leary (650) 279-0005  
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