



KIBBITZER



Newsletter of Palo Alto Unit 503 of the American Contract Bridge League Volume XLVII, Issue 9, September, 2009

Coming up is the Unit Monday Night Swiss Teams with open and 99er flights on Monday, August 31 at 6:30 p.m. at the Bridge Center. Need a partner? Need a Team? Try and set up your own. Look for a form on the Center bulletin Board or on the Unit web site by selecting the Partnership Desk link at the left.

Yes, there is more! The Unit will hold another Swiss Team contest on Sunday, September 20 at 12:45 p.m. at the Bridge Center. There will be an open and a 99er flight, each with its own director. To help with the planning, please use the sign-up sheet at the Bridge Center or on the web site. For further information or to sign-up, phone the Bridge Center at 650/940-1824 or email 2oma-opa-gaffney@comcast.net. Be sure to bring your smile (say cheese and make sure it's Swiss).

At the August 3 night time Swiss, the team of John Stanczak, Donald Spaulding, Derek Fiero, Robin Booth out-scored three other open teams. In the 99er eight team contest, first in A were Polly Siegel, Randy Rhody, Lynn Giusti, Rick Giusti and the top spot in B went to Gina Norberg, Kathleen Weiman, Beverly Bernhardt, Shirley Kowaleski .

**Choose Swiss for
Excitement
Monday, August 31
and
Sunday, September 20**

The Unit will hold an election for the 2010 Board of Directors on Monday, November 16. The following will run for the seats available: Mike Atherton (incumbent), Steve Barasch, Sue Griswold, Lu Isaacs, Terry Lancaster and John Mattis. They will join those who will remain on the Board, Phyllis Gaffney, Eric Mayefsky, Jeanette McNeill, Grant Spaeth and David Wheeler. Any others who wish to become a nominee for the Board should contact Ginger Herrick at (650) 948-2995, email ginger@kbcww.com.

**Members Respond
to
Candidate Call**

Thursday Morning Lecture Series

Sept. 10 and 24 10::00 - 11:30 BID YOUR SLAMS (2 parts)

Sue Johnston

Please Help Our Lecture Series Continue

Many have asked about the cost of the Lecture Series. The 2008-09 total was \$5,600, made possible from tax deductible donations by Unit members. Please consider a donation. Contact alan.cummings@stanford.edu or make out your contribution to: **ACBL Educational Foundation** (Note **Unit 503** on the memo line.) Mail your contribution to:

Palo Alto Unit 503, 2639A Terminal Blvd.

Mountain View, CA 94043 Attn: Alan Cummings

Donations will be collected and sent to the Foundation at the end of August.

Unit's Lecture Series, Then and Now

The 2008-09 Lecture Series concluded in June. There were nice comments, good suggestions and hopes for the series to continue. An average of 60 persons attended per lecture, with 186 different players attending one or more of the 19 lectures. Lecture notes are available on the Unit web site. Special thanks go to our terrific lecturers - Dave Bernstein, Sherie Greenberg, Kathy Harper, Geeske Joel, Sue Johnston, Ron Karr, Jim Leuker, Eric Mayefsky, and Lori Spaeth. And kudos to Lori Spaeth for creating an e-mail list to keep us up to date and to Alan Templeton for managing the finances.

The Series will resume in September with two lectures by Sue Johnston and continue through June, 2010. Circle the dates September 10 and 24. We hope to see you there!

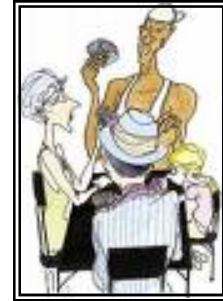
Please Carpool to Bridge

A committee has been formed (including Carolyn Chaney, Alan Cummings, Lee Haze and Alan Templeton) to promote participation in carpools for bridge games. Please use the Bridge Center bulletin board to post your carpool requests and read about other people's, just like a partnership desk at tournaments. And stay tuned for a bulletin board on our web site, where you will be able to find carpool buddies for games.

Why carpool to bridge? Because ride sharing is the environmental right thing to do, because we save gas and because we find lovely people to talk about bridge as we travel. **A reminder:** Please do not park in the spaces directly in front of any building except our half of our building. Also, do not park next to our building in the row next to the Twisters Rock Climbing entrance (handicapped spots are OK). Sure, we love our cars and the freedom to drive by ourselves, but let's give ride sharing our best effort.



Unit News



NAP Unit Final — The NAP Unit final on Sunday, September 27 starting at 1:15 p.m. is a two-session qualifier for Strata A, B, C for the District 21 Finals.

Biiiiigg Game - R. Murty Ponnappalli and Mark Pensler had a 71.15% game on Tues. July 14 at Alpine B.C. Maybe someone will out score them before August is over?

Nick Ward's Photographs— The art currently gracing the Unit's walls is by Nick Ward, www.nickwardimages.com. His website states: "My work is grounded in my love of natural places and an attraction to ambiguity. ...I see rich complexity and opportunity in ordinary, common-place settings. Sometimes the familiar can seem ambiguous—I'm drawn to subtleties that make the viewer stop to wonder just what is going on, including images that can be approached from multiple points of view. If some of the images in this collection are slightly disorienting, I have achieved part of what I set out to do".

Cruise To Mexico - Jeannette McNeil has organized a dream bridge cruise and invites everyone to participate. It includes three full days at sea with games scheduled both at sea and in port. The ship leaves from Los Angeles on January 30, 2010 traveling South as far as Puerto Vallarta. It includes a trip through Mexico's Copper Canyon, with a return to Los Angeles on February 9. If this bridge cruise interests you check the flyer on the Unit bulletin board and/or contact Jeannette by e-mail at jmcsunset@aol.com or at (650) 854-2249 for more details.

New Junior Ambassador— At the Nationals, Eric Mayefsky was named a Junior Ambassador on the basis of his ethics, sportsmanship and passion for the game.

Stanford Team on Top! Also at the recent WDC Nationals, the Stanford team which Eric captains took the Collegiate Team Championship from the University of Chicago by a score of 98 to 72. Congratulations to Unit members Alex Lovjoy, in a biology doctoral program; Elena Grewal, working on an education PhD; Eric Mayefsky, working on an economics PhD; and Zizhuo Wang, a doctorate student in management science.



L to R: Elena Grewal, Eric Mayefsky, Alex Lovejoy, Zizhuo Wang.

Squeezing Your Opponents by Gersh

In 1930 a hand appeared in a bridge column in our local newspaper that required a squeeze play to make the contract. The bridge columnist said he thought the play was too difficult to find “over the table” and in his opinion squeeze plays were figured out after much study in the postmortem. Now flash forward to the 21st century. In local games I make a squeeze play almost every session. What’s more, the play doesn’t give me a top on the board, which means other players found the squeeze too. Like most techniques in bridge, squeezes are not difficult but they do require some experience with them to recognize a potential squeeze situation.

There are many varieties of squeezes, but I would like to explain how to recognize simple squeezes. First you must be able to take all but one of the remaining tricks. Second, you must have two threats for the final trick. One of these threats must consist of the highest card in a suit and a small card. The other threat must be the second highest card of another suit. Third, one opponent must have to protect both threats.

Here is an example:

<u>DUMMY</u>		
♠ A2		
♥ K		
<u>LHO</u>		<u>RHO</u>
♠ KQ		♠ 5
♥ A		♥ 2
<u>YOU</u>		♣ 2
♠ 43		
♣ A		

Your two threats are the ♠2 and the ♥ K. When you play the ♣ A, LHO cannot protect both. If LHO discards a high spade, you discard the ♥K from dummy and win two spade tricks. If LHO discards the ♥A, you discard a spade from dummy, and dummy wins the last two tricks.

Notice that if your opponent’s hands were interchanged, the squeeze wouldn’t work because dummy would have to give up one of the threats before the opponent who is protecting them. But if

the ♥K were in your hand, either opponent would be squeezed. The situation would be:

<u>DUMMY</u>
♠ A32
<u>YOU</u>
♠4
♥ K
♣ A

Now if either opponent held both suits protected, he would be squeezed when you play the ♣ A.

A slight variation also works against both opponents:

<u>DUMMY</u>		
♠ A2		
♥ K		
<u>LHO</u>		<u>RHO</u>
♠KQ		♠ J10
♥ A		♦ A
<u>YOU</u>		
♠5		
♦K		
♣A		

When you play the ♣ A, LHO must keep the ♥ A, so discards a spade. Now dummy discards the ♥ K. RHO is squeezed since a spade discard lets you make 2 spade tricks, and a discard of the ♦ A lets you make the ♦ trick.

Some years ago my wife and I were playing in a regional tournament after complicated bidding. I was declarer at 6NT. My LHO was Lou Mathe, one of the great international players. Mathe led a small ♣. Dummy had ♠ AK alone, so I won the opening lead in dummy and considered my prospects. I could count 11 top tricks and realized I needed a squeeze to make the contract. But for the squeeze to be successful I had to be able to win all but one trick. Thus, I had to lose a trick first. So I led a small ♥ from dummy and played another small one from my hand. Mathe won the trick and conceded the slam. He knew that I lost the trick to “rectify the count” and he also knew that he would be squeezed since he held the two guard cards.

Andrews Heads Trophy Race

Each year the Unit makes an award to the member who accumulates the most points in Unit games, which for 2009 include the Sunday specials and the Monday night Swiss. The list shows those leading as they round the mid-year turn with their point totals as of the end of June: Michael Andrews-14.06, Gene Drew-12.75, Helga Solleder-11.85, John Stanczak-11.85, Jim O'Neil-11.22, Donald Rothschild-9.97, Sherie Greenberg-9.80, Sigmund Malek-9.51, Franklin Gonzalez-9.51. Among the Non-Life Masters with fewer than 300 MP, the front runners are Alex Lovejoy- 8.43, Irwin Maltz 7.21, Mona Maltz 6.65.

Another Thought from Gersh

About eighty years ago there was a popular song which supposedly made fun of grammar. The opening words were:

If I could have knew
 What I ought to have knew,
 I'd never had did what I done.

What has this to do with bridge? Well, when I hear players say "I should have" and "I could have", I'm reminded of the song. The song is a good anthem for bridge players, except for those who never make mistakes.

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

Firecracker Financial Statement

The following is a summary of the finances for the 2009 and 2008 Firecracker Sectionals.

Income	2009	2008
Number of Tables	1050	917
Player Fees	\$41,907	\$36,671
Expenses		
ACBL fees	17,704	17,316
D-21 Supplies	1,313	1,146
Rent	13,230	11,200
Caddies	1,200	1,590
Hand records	300	230
Bridge pads rental	270	0
Advertising, water, candy, PA sys, misc.	2,440	1,434
Total Expenses	\$36,457	\$32,916
Net Income	\$5,450	\$3,755

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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: Ron Chestnut, Jeremy Hoffman, Charlene Porras, Lynn Tollner, Andrew Hoskins and Nancy Layendecker.

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NEXT BOARD MEETING:
 Tuesday, September 8 at 3:45 p.m.
 Bridge Center

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

- **STAC Pairs, Monday, Aug. 24-Sunday, Aug.30:** Bridge Mix, Bridge n'Brunch, Doubleton, Thurs. Aft, Fri. Morn, Noon & Sun. Aft. BCs at Bridge Center; Tues. Noon, Wed. Aft. 49ers at Unity Church; Sherie's BC at Cubberley
- **STAC Swiss, Tues. Aug. 25 & Fri. Aug. 28:** Alpine BC and Friday Night Barometer at Bridge Center
- Unit Swiss, Open and 99er, Monday, Aug. 31 at 6:30 p.m., Bridge Center
- Regional, Tuesday, Sept. 1 at Santa Clara, Hyatt Regency
- ACBL-wide Instant Match Pt. game, Wed., Sept. 9 at 7 p.m., Doubleton BC
- Unit lecture, Thursday, Sept. 10 at 10 a.m., Slam Bidding, Bridge Center
- Sectional, Friday, Sept. 11at Comm. Ctr, Orangevale
- Club Champ, Wednesday, Sept. 23 at 11 a.m., Bridge 'n Brunch BC
- Club Champ, Wednesday, Sept. 30 at 7 p.m., Doubleton, BC
- Unit Open-99er Swiss Teams Sunday, Sept. 20 at 12:45 p.m., Bridge Center
- Unit lecture, Thursday, Sept. 24 at 10 a.m., Slam Bidding, Bridge Center
- NAP Unit Final (two-sessions). Sunday, Sept. 27, 1:15 p.m., tba, Bridge Center

Club Closings

- No Easy Bridge on Friday, Aug. 28.
- No games from Tuesday evening, Sept. 1 through Monday, Sept. 7 except Wed. Aft 49er at Unity Church at 1 p.m. will be OPEN

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