



# KIBITZER



Newsletter of Palo Alto Unit 503 of the American Contract Bridge League Volume XLVIII, Issue 6, June, 2010

Our 2010 **Firecracker Sectional** tournament is getting ready to explode! Mark your calendars for Unit 503's main annual event and line up your favorite partners. The site, as last year, is the **Santa Clara Convention Center** at 5001 Great America Parkway in Santa Clara. The dates are **Thursday, July 1 through Monday, July 5**.

Thursday and Friday sessions will be at 1 and 7 p.m. For the holiday weekend the schedule shifts to 10 a.m. and 3 p.m. start times. You'll find a big variety of pair and team games included in the ten sessions and, as always, there are games for beginner/intermediate players with fewer than 200 masterpoints in every session. The full schedule is in this issue of the *Kibitzer* on page 2, on our website, [www.paloaltobridge.com](http://www.paloaltobridge.com) and in our ads in the May and June issues of the *Forum*.

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

**Steve Barasch**, Tournament Chair (408) 732-6663, [barasch1@ix.netcom.com](mailto:barasch1@ix.netcom.com) ;

**Phyllis Gaffney**, Hospitality (408) 730-0654, [2oma-opa-gaffney@comcast.net](mailto:2oma-opa-gaffney@comcast.net);

**Fran Bennett**, Partnerships (650) 838-9451, [franbennett@sbcglobal.net](mailto:franbennett@sbcglobal.net);

**Allen Wolman**, Setup/Takedown (650) 967-2220;

**Carolyn Lemm**, Caddies (650) 493-8017, [cblemm@wans.net](mailto:cblemm@wans.net)

By the way, the 2009 Firecracker had the **highest attendance** of all the sectionals in the United States, so the goal is to break that record this year. This is just one good reason to come to the tournament, another being the opportunity to test your skill against a diverse group of players who come from all over the Bay Area and beyond, but the **best** reason of all is: *You'll have a lot of fun!*

**Go, Go Go!  
Where? To the  
Firecracker**



At the Unit Game on Sunday June 20, the Unit will hold a special meeting to make revisions to the Constitution. The Unit requests that the Unit members present vote to *accept* the proposed changes. The purpose of these revisions is to simplify the Treasurer's job which currently necessitates maintenance of two bank accounts, one for the Unit and one for the Bridge Center and which requires writing checks to transfer funds in and out of each bank account. The proposed changes would eliminate one account but the Treasurer would keep separate books, one set for Unit income and expenses and the other for Bridge Center income and expenses. On p. 4 find the proposed deletions as indicated by the underlined text. (to p. 4)

**Unit to Revise  
Constitution**

# \* FIRECRACKER SECTIONAL - 2010 \*



**Palo Alto Unit 503**  
**July 1 – July 5, 2010**  
**Santa Clara Convention Center**  
**5001 Great America Parkway**

**Thursday, July 1**

“Red” Compact KO’s, Rounds 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 2**

“White” 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

**Saturday, 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

**Sunday, July 4**

Bracketed Knockouts, Rounds 3, 4  
 “Blue” 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

**Monday, 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

**\$89 Special Rate**  
**at the adjacent**  
**Hyatt Regency Hotel**  
**Santa Clara**

Reserve by:  
 June 10, 2010

Call (800) 233-1234  
 Specify  
 Palo Alto Bridge

**Tournament Chair:**  
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**Partnerships:**  
 Fran Bennett  
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<u>STRATIFIED EVENTS</u>		<u>STRATIFIED-FLIGHTED EVENTS</u>			<u>I/N EVENTS (as needed)</u>				
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 for paid ACBL members; \$11 for others**

**Bridge Center Rehab and Relocation, Status Report** – Alan Templeton and Alan Cummings reported that they are now in the 16<sup>th</sup> month of negotiations for the Bridge Center Rehab. The results of a recent meeting of lawyers and insurance representatives include the need for a new remediation company with a possible site visit in mid May, new detailed contractors estimates of the work to be done, and the possibility of 2 months work on the Bridge Center in the mid to late fall. As for moving, Mike Atherton reported that the space next door is no longer being considered and that the Board is actively pursuing other locations for the Bridge Center in 2011.

**Better Bridge** - Please donate your used bridge books to our library. Thank you to all those who have made donations recently. You can check the current list of books on the Unit 503 web site or on the list hanging on the side of the bookcase. We are keeping a limit of 2 copies of each book. Please leave your donations in the basket next to the Library. Contact Fran Bennett or Valerie Baldwin with any questions or suggestions of new books that you would like to see in the library.

Learn from the Unit Library, which has acquired some new books: Marty Bergen's *Slam Bidding Made Easier* with more Bergen books coming, Dee Berry's *Cue Bidding in a Nutshell & Two over One in a Nutshell*, Audrey Grant's *2 over 1 Game Forcing* and her *Teacher's Manual and E-Z Guide*, part of the ACBL Bridge series.

**Lectures** - Dave Bernstein will advise players on "How to Select and Adopt New Conventions" on Thursday, May 27 and there will be a lecture on Thursday, June 10 with the speaker and topic to be announced. Also, the Lectures will resume in September on a new day: Tuesdays at 10 -11:30 a.m.

**Big Game**— Rich Mora and Ava Norman had a 72.24% on 4/16.

**Betsy's Back** - Yes, Betsy Steele is back on the Board as a replacement for Jeanette McNeil, who is moving to Tennessee. While on the Board, Jeanette organized a successful director's course and chaired the Mentor-Mentee Program. The Unit will miss her. Merle Orelove and Kathie Shaw have stepped up to be the new Mentor- Mentee Chairs.

**Bonnie Retires** - Bonnie Beardsley has retired from club ownership by selling her interest in the Thursday Afternoon BC. Now she can devote more time to playing her favorite game. Good luck, Bonnie!

**Lori Leads** - The ACBL May Bulletin acknowledges Lori Spaeth as one of the top recruiters of new ACBL members. The Unit owes her a thank you for being one of those responsible for the significant increase in Unit members.

**Familiar Faces** - Also in the May Bulletin, the ACBL congratulated Lou Ann O'Rourke for achievement as Grand Master and Sheila Bleiman as a Platinum Master. Both of them were once Palo Alto Unit members.

## Bridge Bits



**NEXT BOARD MEETING:**  
Tuesday, June 1, at 3:45 p.m.  
Bridge Center

### Newcomer Games

Tuesday evening (Begin./Intermed.)  
Wednesday afternoon (<50)  
Wednesday evening (<20) & (<200)  
Friday morning (<30)

### NEWCOMERS

A warm welcome to new Palo Alto Unit 503 members: Susan Enzmann, Diane Feldman, Mary Jane Finch, Rick Flucke, Roxanne Hetzel, Aaron Jones, Chuck Jones, Marla Kravatz, Dorothy Mullin and Dee Peterson.

## Study the Scores with Bridge Composer

**Board 1**     ♠ 5  
 North Deals   ♥ 7 6  
 None Vul     ♦ Q 9 7 6  
                  ♣ K 10 8 6 5 3

♠ 9 8 4 3 2 ♥ K J 8 2 ♦ 8 5 3 ♣ 9	<table border="1" style="border-collapse: collapse; width: 60px; height: 60px; margin: auto;"> <tr><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">N</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">W</td><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">E</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">S</td><td></td></tr> </table>		N		W		E		S		♠ J 10 7 ♥ Q 5 4 ♦ 10 4 2 ♣ A Q J 2	♠ A K Q 6 ♥ A 10 9 3 ♦ A K J ♣ 7 4
	N											
W		E										
	S											

NS 4♣; NS 2N; NS 2♥; NS 3♦; NS 1♠

For an increasing number of Unit 503 club games, directors are posting a new feature made possible by a program called "Bridge Composer," along with the usual recaps and hand records on the Game Results page on the Unit website. On the "Game Results for \_\_\_\_ (month) page, look for a "C" associated with the game in which you played, click on that (C) and scroll down to the first board. Do not click the name of the game as you normally would. As you can see in the sample below, it gives you the hand, the makeable contracts and the results for each pair sorted by rank from the N/S perspective. (We changed the names to protect the innocent.) If there are multiple sections, they are separated by section and then ranked. This is a great learning tool!

Contract	Scores		Matchpoints		Pairs
	N-S	E-W	N-S	E-W	
3 NTS	430		6.00	0.00	5-Smith-Jones vs. Hubble-Station
2 NTS	120		5.00	1.00	1-Astaire-Rogers vs. Taylor-Burton
3 NTS		50	2.00	4.00	2-Laurel-Hardy vs. Abbott-Costello
3 NTS		50	2.00	4.00	3-Hepburn-Tracy vs. Reynolds-Fisher
3 NTS		50	2.00	4.00	4-Partridge-Pear vs. Tree-Ring
3 NTS		50	2.00	4.00	6-Bacon-Eggs vs. Raisins-Oatmeal
3 NTS		50	2.00	4.00	7-Hewlett-Packard vs. Jobs-Gates

### Continued From Page 1, Constitution     Article XIII Section C

The Treasurer shall have care and custody of the funds of the Unit and the Bridge Center. He shall disburse money for the business of the Unit and the Bridge Center as authorized by the Board. He shall keep an accurate account of all receipts and disbursements and shall submit a financial report at each meeting of the Board of Directors. He shall deposit all funds of the Unit in bank(s) designated by the Board. He shall deposit all Bridge Center funds in a separate account.

#### Article XV, Section E

2. The Treasurer shall have care and custody of the funds of the Bridge Center. He shall receive and disburse money for the business of the Bridge Center. He shall keep an accurate account of all receipts and disbursements and shall submit a financial report at each meeting of the Board of Directors. He shall pay all bills and deposit all funds related to the Bridge Center in a separate account. Such funds shall be kept separate from the Unit funds.

### Player Advancements

The ACBL May report shows that the players named at the right have moved up. Congratulations!

Junior Master	5 MP	Suzanne M Barnett, Sue Homestead, Patricia Mitchell, Sandra Neuwelt-Truntze
Club Master	20 MP	Hedvig Fejerne, Kim Shetter
Regional Master	100 MP	Randy Jones
NABC Master	200 MP	Vinita Gupta, Daniel Harting
Bronze Life Master	500 MP	John Mattis

The first half of the Peninsula Challenge, pitting Palo Alto against San Mateo, was held Saturday, April 24 at the Bayshore B.C. The game was Swiss; 10 Palo Alto teams played against 15 San Mateo teams. Because of the unequal number of teams, the organizers only counted the results for the two top teams in each strata. After this half of the event, San Mateo led Palo Alto by 286 to 265 victory points. For Palo Alto the top teams were Imaoka Yancey - Marshall Yancey - Harriel Shea - David Gambelin in A, Elenalani Lam - Barbara Luttrell - Bonnie Janzen - Shirley Rodenborn in B and Michelle Musy - Jim Harris - Sue Barkley - Lois Perry in C. The Palo Alto Unit thanks Eric Mayefsky for organizing and John Mattis for assistance in directing this event.

April was Charity Game month. The Unit held a Charity Game with 15 tables participating on Sunday April 25, in which the best results went to Franklin Gonzalez and Henryk Szejnwald in strata A1B1 and Randy Rhody and Fred Schwerer in C1.

STAC proved popular at the Monday Night 199er Swiss with 14 teams playing four matches with the highest victory point total belonging to the team of Gina Norberg, Kathleen Weiman, Sharon Krawetz and Rochelle Gutmann, who topped all three strats.

Thanks go to Will Watson and Sue Johnson who directed these games.

## Check on the Outcome of Unit Events

The North American Pairs (NAP) gets underway 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. Kibitzer editors are waiting to hear from the club owners about the schedule for these special games.

Players who place in the overalls earn sectional-rated half red and half black masterpoints. Any player, who scores average or in the upper half in their 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).

## Make the Grade for the NAP

Yes, it's predictable. The Unit has dates for two Swiss games and a pairs event. Volcanic ash will not cloud the skies over Palo Alto as players travel to the Swiss Team event with Open and 199er flights scheduled to arrive on Sunday, May 23 at 1 p.m. at the Bridge Center. And 199er teams play for FREE!!! Please use the sign-up sheet on the Bridge Center bulletin board or make a reservation on the Unit web site for your seats, because we may have full flights.

Save up for another Swiss event for 199er teams as players take off for the Unit Monday Night Swiss at the Bridge Center on Monday, June 7 at 6:30 p.m. This time sign up on the Unit web site.

Be sure to come and play in the Unit Pairs on Sunday, June 20 at 1 p.m. at the Bridge Center to tune up your bidding, offense and defense as you prepare for the Firecracker and get ready to sparkle. The Unit needs a good turnout so Unit members can vote in the Special Membership Meeting to revise two articles of the Unit Constitution as described in the article on page 1.

Come to the friendly skies of the Bridge Center to find fun and friendship with a smile. Enjoy the snacks (no extra charge) and look for the names of your fellow players on the name tags.

## So, What's New on the Unit Calendar??

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.	Coleman/Prior	
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	<200 M.P.	7:00 p.m.	Spaeth/Johnston	
	Lori & Sue's Dblton Club	<20 M.P.	7:00 p.m.	Spaeth/Johnston	
THUR	Thursday Morning JCC	Open/Strat.	11:00 a.m.	John Schwartz	Jewish Community Center, 3921 Fabian Way, PA
	Thur. Afternoon BC	Open/Strat	12:00 p.m.	John & Linda Mattis	
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

- Unit Swiss Teams, Open and 199er, Sunday, May 23 at 1 p.m., Bridge Center
- Unit Lecture, Thursday, May 27 at 9 a.m. Bridge Center
- Sectional, Friday, May 28 at Holy Redeemer Ctr, Oakland
- Regional, Monday, May 31 at Doubletree Hotel, Sacramento
- 199er Unit Swiss teams, Monday, June 7 at 6:30 p.m. Bridge Center
- Upgraded Club Champ., Wednesday, June 9 at 7 p.m. Doubleton BC, Sign-up Required
- Unit lecture, Thursday June 10 at 9 a.m. Bridge Center
- Sectional, Saturday, June 12 at Janet Pomeroy Ctr., San Francisco
- Club Championship, Wednesday, June 16 at 11 a.m., Bridge 'n Brunch
- Unit Pairs, Open and 199er, Sunday, June 20 at 1 p.m., Bridge Center
- Sectional, Saturday, June 26, at Senior Center, Gilroy

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**PALO ALTO SECTIONAL Thurs. July 1 – Mon., July 5,**  
**Convention Center, Santa Clara**

### Palo Alto Unit 503 Board

Michael Atherton, President  
 Eric Mayefsky, Vice-President  
 Sue Griswold, Treasurer  
 Terry Lancaster, Secretary  
 Steve Barasch, Phyllis Gaffney, Lu Isaacs, John Mattis,  
 Grant Spaeth, Betsy Steele, Dave Wheeler.