



## **CRAM FOR THE FIRECRACKER!**

### **PRACTICE AT THE JUNE 6 AND/OR 19 UNIT GAMES**

Another 199er Swiss Unit game is happening at the Bridge Center on Monday, June 6 at 6:30 p.m. There is an optional sign up on the Unit web site.

And the regular June Unit game on Sunday, June 19 at 1 p.m. will be a Pairs event, with a separate 199er section at the Bridge Center. Tune up your bidding, offense and defense as you prepare for the Firecracker and get ready to sparkle. Enjoy the snacks (no extra charge) and look for the names of your fellow players on the name tags. But whatever your reason, be sure to COME.

Much more FIRECRACKER INFORMATION on Page 4!

## **PRESENTING OUR NEW DIGS AT 432 STIERLIN RD., MTN. VIEW**

**AND THE STRING OF EVENTS LEADING UP TO OUR IMPENDING MOVE**

**BY DAVID CROSLY**

In The Beginning was The Flood. Thus began the quest for a new home for Unit 503, and thereby began a tale involving a landlord with a secret hiding place, an hysterical plumber, brilliant legal minds, a mysterious group of heirs scattered globally, a Portuguese brotherhood, and finally a serendipitous luncheon meeting at which All Is Revealed.

We moved into our current quarters a little over nine years ago. Not only did this interior space suit our Unit, but, importantly, the spacious parking on Terminal Avenue was ideal for the number of cars we drive, and this location was in fact suggested to us by the city of Mountain View, which has to okay such usage. At the time of the flood, we expected to be occupying the present space more or less indefinitely, via a sublease from Twisters, the gymnasium group that leases the entire building from the owner, Jack Dymond Associates, which in turn owns all of the three nearly identical buildings along Terminal. This sublease expired in August 2011 but we then had no reason to (cont. on p. 5)



**Find the *Kibitzer* on the Unit's website, [www.paloaltobridge.com](http://www.paloaltobridge.com)**

## EVERYBODY ENJOYS UNIT GAMES...HERE ARE RECENT RESULTS

At the April 17 Unit Charity Pairs, there were 13 tables in the Open and seven in the 199ers. The winners in the Open, who defied the number 13 jinx, were Jody and Richard Williams in A and Christian Lazarovici and Kris Tejwani in B. In the 199er flight, the victors who had no problem with fateful omens were the lucky Michele Musy and Devesh Goyal. Sue Griswold congratulated the Unit first place finishers in the Ace of Clubs and Mini McKenny and new Life Masters.

In the nine-team 199er Swiss STAC on Monday, May 2, the cheese stack went to Edward So, C Engelhard, Phil Freiberger, Ed Lin in A with Beverly Bernhardt, Shirley Kowaleski, Bev Benson, Miriam Jacob scoring in B.



### NEXT BOARD MEETING:

Tuesday, June 7  
3:45PM

**PALO ALTO UNIT 503 BOARD**

Sue Griswold  
PRESIDENT  
Mike Atherton  
VICE-PRESIDENT  
Beverly Nuding  
TREASURER  
Sue Barkley  
SECRETARY

Steve Barasch, Valerie Baldwin,  
Keith Burnett, David Crosley,  
Lu Isaacs, John Mattis, Allen Wolman

### PLAYER ADVANCEMENTS

The May report from the ACBL shows that the following players have moved up. Congratulations to all!

Junior Master	5 MP	Mary Driscoll, Virginia Lyons, Todd Makler, Alexandra Narasin, Michelle Tai
Club Master	20 MP	Ron Chestnut, Naomi Klughaupt
Sectional Master	50 MP	Hedvig Fejerne
Regional Master	100 MP	Kip Kado, Larry Lasher, Richard Recht
NABC Master	200 MP	Don-Min Tsou, Eileen Zefting
Bronze Life Master	500 MP	Lee Haze, Robert Horowitz, Florence Nesenblatt, Robert Scheidtmann
Silver Life Master	1000 MP	Marjorie Akselrad
Gold Life Master	2500 MP	Geeske Joel



### FIRECRACKER ANYONE?

Special thanks to Chris Bunz for creating so many delightful graphics!

## UNIT NEWS

**New Bridge Center Landlord**—The organization (IFES) is known as the brotherhood of the Festa of the Holy Spirit or Irmandade da Festa do Espirito Santo. The first annual festa, celebrated by the Portuguese people of Mountain View, California, was held in the home of Jose F. Costa. The festa began after a promise that Jose made to the Holy Spirit. People came to his home at night, for a week, to pray the Rosary to the Holy Spirit.

**Transfer**— Will Watson is now the owner of the Thursday Afternoon BC which meets at noon at the Bridge Center. Thank you to John and Linda Mattis for your efforts in serving the players for the last few years.

**Art**—Originally from, Ohio, Alan Plisskin moved to California. It wasn't long before the beauty of California's majestic scenery made a dramatic impact on Alan's photographic vision. Alan has initiated a "green" approach to his photography by using the chemical-free Giclee process which offers the additional benefit of 100+ year archival life to the finished prints. The Bridge Center displays his work from Marin to Yosemite, Hawaii, Italy, India and beyond.

**Library**— Do you often have trouble recognizing problems when playing a bridge hand? Our Unit library has a new book *Bridge Play Unravelled* by Freddie North that can help you. He guides us through various patterns of recognition to increase our skills in solving play problems. Other new books are *How the Experts Win at Bridge*, by Burt Hall and Lynn Rose-Hall, *How You Can Play Like an Expert (Without Having to Be One)*, by Mel Colchamiro, *Take All Your Chances at Bridge*, by Eddie Kantar and *Bridge with Bells and Whistles*, by Mary Ann Dufresne and Marion Ellingsen.

**Mentor-Mentee**— On Saturday June 25, John Swartz will teach positively on the use of negative doubles.

**Lectures**—Fred Schwerer is the new chair for the lecture program . The Unit owes Alan Cummings a big cheer for his inauguration of the series to foster the education of our Unit players. On Tuesday, May 17 at 10 a.m. at the Bridge Center, Frank Smoot will enlighten the players on "Penalty Doubles" and there will be a lecture on Tuesday, June 10 same time same place with the speaker and topic to be announced on the Unit web site.

**Unit Record**—With the STAC bringing out some extra players we had over 56 tables of players at our overlapping games at the JCC and our Bridge Center on Thursday, May 5. John Schwartz's game had a whopping 40 1/2 tables.

**Big Games**—Not just at big game but a huge win for Marian Kelly and Doreen Hornback, first in the entire Western Conference STAC with a 71.73% game at the Tuesday Noon BC with 22 points going to each. An even bigger game for Gary MacGregor and his non-Unit partner Frank Lowenthal with 73.6% and 19 master points in the Friday Morning BC STAC, again to lead the Western Conference.



## ALERT! COMING RIGHT UP, THE NORTH AMERICAN PAIRS (NAP).

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. The Doubleton BC will host a NAP qualifier on Wednesday, June 29. Remember to sign up for this popular game in advance. Watch the *Kibitzer* and the Unit web site for other announcements of NAP games in the summer months.

Players who place in the overalls earn sectional-rated 50/50 red and black masterpoints. Players who score average or in the upper half in their respective strata will be eligible to play in a two-session Unit final. The masterpoint strata are: A (unlimited), B (0-2000), C (0-500 Non-Life Masters).



"You can **Help End Hunger** by leading with your heart." ❤️

Join your friends! Bring food and cash donations to the Firecracker Sectional.



## THE FIRECRACKER NEEDS PEOPLE POWER!

The Firecracker Tournament is quickly approaching and those chairing the committees are asking for your help.

- If you know any teenagers who would like to be caddies, contact Carolyn Lemm at [cblemm@wans.net](mailto:cblemm@wans.net). Caddies are compensated for their work.
- If you can help with the set up or take down, contact Allen Woman at [allenwolman@sbcglobal.net](mailto:allenwolman@sbcglobal.net)
- If you can take a turn covering the hospitality table, contact Sioux Atkinson at [sioux.atkinson@gmail.com](mailto:sioux.atkinson@gmail.com)
- If you can assist at the partnership table, contact Fran Bennett at [franbennett@sbcglobal.net](mailto:franbennett@sbcglobal.net)

## ATTENTION, EVERYONE

This year we will be contributing to the Second Harvest Food Bank. When you come to play, please remember to bring canned food donations. There will be a drop-off barrel in the lobby of the Convention Center where you sign in.

### Why YOU are Coming to the

### \* FIRECRACKER 2011 \*

*Sectional Tournament by ACBL Unit 503 - Palo Alto  
July 13 – July 17, 2011*

- ☒ **NEW DATE – ONE YEAR ONLY!!**
- ☒ **5-day "super" Sectional** (almost a Regional) with something for everyone!
- ☒ **NEW! 49er games every day for our new players!**
- ☒ **Play Open and 49er and 199er pairs every day, Compact Knockouts and Swiss Teams; Open and 199er Swiss Teams (two sessions) on Sunday.**
- ☒ **Still being held at the Santa Clara Convention Center, 5001 Great America Parkway in Santa Clara. Plenty of Free Parking in the convenient parking garage.**
- ☒ **Stay at the elegant Hyatt Regency Santa Clara adjacent to the Convention Center at 5101 Great America Parkway. Special tournament rate \$99. Reserve by June 10, 2011 for the special rate (specify Palo Alto Bridge); after that the rate is not guaranteed but may be available. Call 800-233-1234.**
- ☒ **Daily posting of results and hand records at our unit's website: [paloaltobridge.com](http://paloaltobridge.com).**
- ☒ **No Partner – No Problem.** We'll pair you with a good one at the tournament.
- ☒ **No Host Lunch Buffet available Friday, Saturday, Sunday. Many restaurants nearby.**
- ☒ **Chance to win silver points and have fun at FIRECRACKER 2011!!!**

## THE SAGA OF OUR NEW DIGS

Cont. from p. 1

think it would not be readily extended well beyond that date.

It is still not known just how the flood started, i.e., what caused the pipe above the men's room to burst, but it was discovered during the night of February 12, 2009. Immediately a plumbing repair company, AAA, (found due to its listing at the start of the phone book) was summoned. After repairs by AAA, the Center reopened on February 25 with humidifiers humming away. However, there remained a musty smell and some complaints were received from our members. Concerned with health issues, the Unit hired an environmental engineering company to assess the situation. Over the ensuing month, particulate filters were added and mold testing was undertaken. Important for us, a crack executive committee was formed, consisting of the then-president of the Board, Michael Atherton (little did he know what he was getting into when he took the post two months earlier...), and two past presidents, Alan Templeton and Alan Cummings.

The 26 page report from the consultants had devastating news: The estimated cost of the repairs would be over \$183,000 and would shut down both the Center and Twisters for two months. Near the end of April, 2009, a summit was held with the consulting company, Jason Pacheco, the head of AAA, and Allan Fusilero, president of Twisters and us. Pacheco denied any responsibility and the tantrum which this loose cannon then threw constituted the remainder of his response. Neither would Fusilero accept responsibility, contending (as did later his lawyers) that AAA was the liable party, and he also refused to shut Twisters down for repairs in any case.

### Sympathy

The Unit officers and members extend their sincere condolences to the friends of Gloria Weiss, former Unit member and President in 1990, who passed away earlier this month after a lengthy stay in the hospital. She and her husband Gil have been living in Arizona.

Matters unfolded, including our retaining as counsel Susan Reinstra from the firm of Wilson, Sonsini, Goodrich and Rosati, who performed the work for us on a pro bono basis. The major events were: a refusal by AAA's insurance company to pay for the needed repair; Twisters learning they would have to sue AAA and refusing to do so; and Fusilero disappearing at each time meetings were scheduled among him, the Unit committee, the engineering companies, and of course, lawyers. Matters were at a stalemate and the only recourse appeared to be our initiation of a lawsuit. We were warned by our lawyers that, if we lost, we would be liable for the opposing party's legal fees, sure to be well above \$100,000. This would have been too risky for the Unit.

And (surprise!) Fusilero informed us that Twisters would now in no way extend our lease past August 2011; he wanted us OUT.

With all these problems (and, in Michael Atherton's words, "many more details too numerous to recount here"), the executive committee, with the board's full approval and trust, commenced a search for new quarters. Adequate floor space, or an ability to modify the space for our purposes, was never the issue; rather, the parking needed *was* the problem for us. A top realtor was engaged. The committee first looked at a spot in an industrial/commercial park in north Mountain View on Wyandotte. The normal parking allotment for such an environment is four parking spaces per 1000 sq. ft. of floor space, which would mean we would have 15 spaces — not quite adequate for 30 tables and four players per table! Parking on the street would not be an option as the neighbors would, rightfully, complain. Remember, Terminal Blvd. is a nearly unique situation. The committee even looked into leasing parking space, and considered buying it. Another attractive candidate was a Lutheran church on El Monte and Cuesta in Los Altos. Roy Robinson, a past Board member and someone who will figure later in this tale, first discovered this opportunity for us. The parking

## NEW DIGS, CONT. FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

would work out fine, but we would have to relinquish the space to other uses some of the time, which would entail setting up and taking down chairs and tables continually. It was finally decided to consider this an option for temporary occupancy only, if matters came to that.

Then, a year after the flood and just about a year ago now, one of the committee members happened to notice a (large) sign by the building to the south of us offering 5000 sq. ft. of space from Dymond, the owners. The then-current tenant was moving to larger quarters in the building to the other side of us and the space would be vacant. After some negotiations, the price appeared good: a smaller monthly rent of \$5000, compared to \$7000 for our current 3700 sq. ft. from Twisters. There was, of course, a downside which to a greater or lesser degree, figured in any move we would make. That is, the move would cost some \$150,000 with most of the money going to remodel the space to make it not only suitable for our purposes, but also in conformity with the Mountain View city codes for space usage such as ours (much of this is putting in sufficient restroom facilities for the number of people present).

That seemed fine, until Dymond dropped its bombshell informing us that they were planning to tear down all three buildings in early 2015, so our lease would run only for 41 months after August of this year. Perhaps the business climate would be such that the demolition wouldn't happen, but we would have to plan to depart at that time. Yet, there appeared no other alternative by late 2010 and in early 2011 the executive committee was authorized to negotiate a contract.

They did this and we committed ourselves, contingent on Dymond's approval. This seemed to take time, and then more time. The Dymond company is now in the hands of a number of heirs, geographically scattered, and, apparently, not responsive to requests for decisions. Dymond (the management corporation, that is, who understood our frustration) could not sign the contract, as they could not obtain approval from everyone. Could we sign a contract soon enough to get a use permit from the city and perform the necessary remodeling in time? Or would the Unit have to shut down or find temporary quarters this fall, as we waited for those actions? We were anxious to get a response and get our move next door underway.

Reenter Roy Robinson, club-quarters-seeker nonpareil. It is mid-March of this year and the scene is the IFES, a Portuguese social club in Mountain View (this is but one of two Portuguese social clubs in Mountain View!). Roy is attending the monthly luncheon for a retired men's group that he belongs to, which happens to meet at IFES, and looks around the room. Roy is aware of the current situation. "Would this be suitable for us? Is there someone from the club here?" he asks. Oh, there is a board member right here at the next table. Yes, there is a board meeting this Friday.

This was a much shorter negotiation. Dymond, still unable to move itself, was informed of what we were doing and remained gracious about the situation. So now, pending the ever-necessary conditional use permits, we have new quarters for the Bridge Center. We already have an excellent reputation in the District, owing to innovations such as bridge pads, the dealing machine, the Tues. lectures, etc.; this property will only enhance that estimation.

Established in 1926, the Irmandade de Festa do Espirito Santo is dedicated to the preservation of the Portuguese traditions of the Azores. The lodge is located on Stierlin Road, next to Shoreline and very near the Central Expressway. It consists of a large building, where the IFES holds most of its functions, and a smaller one which will be rented to us. The

### NEWCOMER GAMES

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

## END OF THE SAGA, FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

space is 5200 sq. ft., about 40% again as much as we now have, allowing room for expansion. The area is zoned for social groups, and (surprise again!) we appear to qualify as a senior recreation center.

Best of all: the executive committee, now joined by our current Board president, Sue Griswold, negotiated a ten-year lease with no rent increase over that period. At the anniversary, we can exercise another ten year-option, the rent to be raised per the cost of living difference at that time, but not again for another ten years. Thus, we fully expect this will be our home for at least twenty years!

And does it have parking! A social center should, and it does. The ingress and egress is easy from almost anywhere, owing to the major thoroughfares a block away.

For a maximum of seven days a year, perhaps less, we will have to relinquish our space for special celebrations of IFES. We will simply have to close the Bridge Center those days, but we will be credited for the rent.

Our new home is now nearly an empty shell; IFES has been remodeling it for some time without much progress. Duane Coleman will take over the supervision and coordination of that effort so that it is completed on time. Duane, a contractor, is Claire Coleman's husband; he has graciously assisted the Unit in construction efforts in the past. After IFES finishes making the inside ready for us, we will still have to make it suitable for our specific use (again, as specified by the city of Mountain View). This remodeling is expected to cost us about \$60,000, considerably less than it would have cost to move into the Dymond space.

We will pay more rent to IFES, \$6000 per month, plus about \$700 more for utilities than would be the case with Dymond. However, this higher rent is offset many times by the costs of remodeling prorated over the periods of the leases. For Dymond, the cost was \$150,000 for 41 months, or more than \$3000 per month. This contrasts with the IFES space, where the \$60,000 spread over 20 years is only \$3000 per year, more than tenfold less.

The plans are to have the remodeling done by late August, when we must vacate the current premises. The executive committee hopes to reopen the Bridge Center on Sept. 6, the Tuesday after the Santa Clara Regional.

The efforts that have gone into dealing with the flood, and the subsequent search for a home for us, on the part of the executive committee (Michael Atherton, Alan Cummings, Alan Templeton, and Sue Griswold) have been phenomenal. Michael has (as befits a lawyer) a briefcase dedicated just to this case, and it only contains part of the pertinent paper; lots of people go on three day business trips with smaller carryon luggage than that briefcase. Other contributors are: Roy Robinson, who found the IFES site and worked on the Lutheran church study; Kevin O'Leary, on the church study; Bob Lawrence, on our application to the City of Mountain View for the Dymond and IFES sites; and John Hornback and John Mattis, on both those projects. These people deserve enormous gratitude from the members of our club for what they have done for us.

Take Heart!

We will not longer reside on a Dymond property,

but at great new digs.

Our Club has it in Spades!



Toni Baglay, Christine Forter, Stephen Aker, Cynthia Amelon, John Harpootlian, James Harris and Frank Rosenberg.

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

DAY	BRIDGE CLUB	TYPE	TIME	DIRECTOR(S)	PLACE/ OTHER I NFO
MON	Bridge Mix	Open/<2K	11:00 a.m.	Coleman/Prior	
	Monday Morning JCC	Open/Strat.	11.00 a.m.	John Schwartz	Jewish Community Center, 3921 Fabian Way, P.A.
	Monday Morning JCC	<50,<200	11.00 a.m.	John Schwartz	Jewish Community Center, 3921 Fabian Way, P.A.
TUES	Tuesday Noon BC	Open/Strat.	12:00 p.m.	Walter Miller	Unity Church, YES Rm, 3391 Middlefield Rd, PA
	Grand Slam 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, (408) 685-5323
	Grand Slam Club	Open/Strat.	7:00 p.m.	Marolyn Imaoka Yancey	
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	
THUR	Thursday Morning JCC	Open/Strat.	11:00 a.m.	John Schwartz	Jewish Community Center, 3921 Fabian Way, PA
	Thurs. Afternoon BC	Open/Strat	12:00 p.m.	John & Linda Mattis/Will Watson	
	Thurs. Afternoon BC	<50 M.P.	12.00 p.m.	John & Linda Mattis/Will Watson	
FRI	The EZ Game	<30 M.P.	9:00 a.m.	Marolyn Imaoka Yancey	
	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

- Lecture, Penalty Doubles by Frank Smoot, Tues. May 17, 10 a.m., Bridge Center
- Sectional, Friday, May 20 at Elks Lodge, Walnut Creek
- Lecture and Mentee game, Sat. May 28 at 9 a.m., Bridge Center
- Regional, Monday, May 30 at Doubletree Hotel, Sacramento
- 199er Unit Swiss teams, Monday, June 6 at 6:30 p.m., Bridge Center
- Unit lecture, Tuesday, June 7 at 10 a.m., Bridge Center
- Club Champ., Wednesday, June 8 at 11 a.m., Bridge 'n Brunch
- Sectional, Saturday, June 11 at Janet Pomeroy Ctr., San Francisco
- Club Champ., Wed. June 15 at 7 p.m., Doubleton BC **sign-up required**
- Club Champ., Thursday, June 16 at noon, Thurs. Afternoon BC
- Sectional, Friday, June 17 at Holy Redeemer Center, Oakland
- Club Champ., Tuesday, June 21 at 7 p.m., Grand Slam BC
- Lecture and Mentee game, Saturday, June 25 at 9 a.m., Bridge Center
- Sectional, Saturday, June 25 at Senior Center, Gilroy
- 299er Sectional, Saturday, June 25 at Bridge Center, Carson City, NV
- NAP Qualifying Game, Wednesday, June 29 at 7 p.m., Doubleton BC **sign-up required**

**PALO ALTO Firecracker Sectional: Wednesday July 13-Sunday, July 17,  
Convention Center, Santa Clara**

### Club Contacts

Gabriella Bowling (650) 941-8398  
 Claire Coleman (650) 368-5917  
 Sue Johnston (510) 505-0275  
 John/Linda Mattis (408) 739-7812  
 Walter Miller (510) 839-5929  
 John Prior (408) 745-0380  
 John Schwartz (650) 324-2424  
 Lori Spaeth (650) 906-3987  
 Will Watson (650) 804-1731  
 Marolyn Yancey (408) 532-6437

Unit Contact: Claire Coleman  
 (650) 368-5917 or e-mail  
[unit503@paltoaltobridge.com](mailto:unit503@paltoaltobridge.com)

**Unit 503 Web Address:  
www.paltoaltobridge.com**

**Bridge Center Phone: (650) 940-1824**  
 District 21 Hotline: (888) 292-4612  
 Dist. 21 Website: [www.d21acbl.com](http://www.d21acbl.com)

### Kibitzer Editorial Staff

Elinor Tanck (408) 738-2511  
 e-mail: [tancke@sbcglobal.net](mailto:tancke@sbcglobal.net)  
 Marian Kelly (650) 854-1896  
 e-mail: [kelly.marian@gmail.com](mailto:kelly.marian@gmail.com)