



IT'S FIRECRACKER TIME

Grab your partner and/or your team. It's not too late to make plans to be part of our Unit's sparkling sectional tournament, aptly named FIRE-CRACKER. From Wednesday, June 27 through Sunday, July 1, if you want to play bridge locally, you'll need to go to the Santa Clara Convention Center for our big event because most of the regular Unit games will be closed during those days.

The schedule, which was published in the last *Kibitzer* can also be found on our website and in the June newspaper, the *Forum*. Daily games include Compact Knockouts, every day but Sunday, pairs games at any hour, and lots of 49er and 199er pairs games in addition to daily Swiss Team games. There's something for everybody!

If you haven't been before, you will find that parking is convenient and free. For your pleasure, there is a no-host buffet available on Saturday and Sunday, as well as restaurants nearby.

And please don't forget to bring something for the **Second Harvest Food Bank**. Barrels will be set up to accept food or you may give a cash donation.

The fellows in charge this year, Steve Barasch and Allen Wolman, have been hard at work ever since last year's successful event and hope to set new attendance records this year.

Allen is also in charge of the Set-Up/Take Down Committee and, as of this writing, could still use a few more volunteers to help with that job. Find Allen at allenwolman@sbcglobal.net.

UNIT GAME/MEMBERSHIP MEETING SUNDAY, JUNE 24

Don't forget our June Unit Game which happens on Sunday, the 24th at **12:30 p.m.** Note the time change. It's a charity Swiss teams game with sections for both the long timers and for you relatively newbies who prefer the 199er stratification. Fee will be \$40/team.

Will Watson will doubtless have lots of goodies on hand to go with the master points.

The Unit's annual Membership Meeting, which was postponed because of the Bridge Center construction, will be held prior to the game on that day. President Sue Griswold will answer the questions previously submitted in writing to the Unit secretary.

Please signup at the Bridge Center or on the Unit web site.

Find the *Kibitzer* on the Unit's website, www.paloaltobridge.com

DATE CHANGE FOR JULY 199ER MONDAY NIGHT SWISS

Mark your calendars for *JULY 9*. Because the Firecracker Sectional ends July 1, the chances of your being all "bridged out" the next night are pretty high. No problem. We moved the game to the next week.

If you're not familiar with the Unit Game First Monday 199er Swiss Teams, here are the facts: The game is for a team of four and the *average* master points of the four must be fewer than 200. The game is stratified into two sections; Section A has a limit of 200 and Section B, 100. It's a great introduction to team games! Since it is a Unit Championship game, the points awarded are higher than usual. Start time is 6:30 p.m. We try to be finished at 10 p.m..

We use BridgePads for scoring, so the game moves along quickly. You don't have to compute the IMP difference manually. At the end of the round, the BridgePads give you the IMPS, the Victory Points, and advise you where to go. If these

terms are not familiar to you, Margot Livenspargar, the director, is happy to explain them.

It is helpful if you sign up ahead of the game on the Unit Website. On the left side of the Home Page is a section called Special Events and under that is the Online Signup link. If you need two or three partners for your team, you can indicate it there AND in the Partnership Desk, which can be found on the same Home Page under Games. Of course you can always come and hope someone else shows up and needs a partner or team mates.

As usual at the Bridge Center, there are yummy snacks, coffee, tea and friendly people.

At our most recent game on June 6, with four wins, the most successful team consisted of Joe Buchanan, Joy Barrett, Henry Wen and Shirley Streifer. Congratulations to them.

See you July 9th!

UNIT 503 MENTOR/MENTEE GAME – SUNDAY, OCTOBER 21, 2012

We have been working hard throughout the year to pair newer players who want to improve their games with experienced players, calling them Mentor/Mentee pairs. Our Unit currently has 40 such pairings. We ask that mentees have approximately 40-50 points and 1-2 years of bridge lessons so that the mentoring experience is positive for both players. Mentors commit to play with their mentees at least once a month and spend time following each game going over the hands from the bidding as well as the play-of-the-hand perspective. Many have been playing regularly now for some time, while others are just getting started.

Once each year in the fall, we hold a special game for this group of players. This year's Unit

mentor/mentee game will be held on Sunday, October 21, 2012 at 1 p.m. at our new Bridge Center. We encourage as many of you as possible to sign up and attend this event. There will be signup sheets posted at the club, as well as online signups. We'd love to have 8-10 tables competing and see how our mentees have improved. There is also an open game on that day for others who are not in this group. So, set aside this date and continue playing through the summer and early fall. We look forward to having as many of you as possible participate.

Questions? Please contact coordinators Kathie Shaw, bandkshaw@aol.com, (650) 854-7443 or Merle Orelove, Merleor@comcast.net, (650) 326-1788.

UNIT NEWS

Monday Night 199er Swiss—Will be held on the *second* Monday, July 9th, rather than on the usual first Monday. See article on previous page.

Saturday Mentor Lessons -. On Saturday, June 23rd, the morning lessons will be on Michaels and on the Unusual No-Trump bids, chapter 16. On Saturday, July 7 there will be a review of the hands covered in lessons 1-8 on prior Saturdays but no lecture. On July 21, the review will be for the hands for lessons 9-16, similarly without a lecturer.

Library—The monthly Bridge Bulletin is a good source for reviews of new books. We have purchased four books that were reviewed in the May Bulletin. They are: *Clever Plays In The Trump Suit* by David Bird, *The Complete Guide to Passed Hand Bidding* by Mike Lawrence, *Breaking the Bridge Rules: First Hand Play* by Barry Rigal, and *The Amazing Queen: Winning With Your Queens* by Clement Wong. The Bulletin gives the Lawrence book an A+ rating. The review says, "One of Mike Lawrence's great strengths as an author is the willingness to tackle subjects that are rarely, if ever, covered by other writers." We also purchased the 2011 edition of "The Official ACBL Encyclopedia of Bridge." For the first time the encyclopedia has hundreds of pictures.

Big Game—Malcolm McLaughlin and Metin Gocken had a 74.42% game on Friday, June 8 at Claire's game. Way to go, guys!

Monday Morning game previously held at the JCC moves to the Bridge Center at a New Time
The game, directed by John Schwartz, will start at **11:30 a.m.**, rather than the old 11 a.m. time. John's snacks will be available before the game; there will be no game break for snacking. Table fee is \$9 per person. Because of the size of this game, please reserve your space at jrpdy@yahoo.com.
Update: The turnout for the first such game was HUGE. Please *do reserve* when you wish to play.

John will do his best to fix his (crashed) computer and have enough help to handle a large roomful of tables. Welcome, John!

Free Game - To all you folks with fewer than 50 master points....we call you 49ers....Will Watson is dropping your playing fee for his Thursday noon game on June 21 and invites you to play at the Bridge Center for **free**. Come a bit early for a little lunch and enjoy easy parking, comfy chairs, and our attractive new digs.

Electronic Kibitzer?? - Approximately 100 members receive the monthly Kibitzer in color via e-mail, usually before the printed edition is available. If you'd like to be added to our distribution list, send a request to Kelly.marian@gmail.com.

NEWCOMERS

A warm welcome to new Palo Alto Unit 503 members: Jane Challas, Carol Field, Diana Lloyd, Patrick Morton, John Nicholson, Mary Nicholson, Sharon Patterson, Carolyn Steele, John Steele, James Lipe, Olga Schanz, Sari Staver and John Verhagen.

Palo Alto Unit 503 Board

Sue Griswold, President
David Crosley, Vice-President
Margot Livenspargar, Secretary
Beverly Nuding, Treasurer
Valerie Baldwin, Steve Barasch,
Sue Barkley, Keith Burnett, Kevin O'Leary,
Henryk Szejnwald, Allen Wolman

NEXT BOARD MEETING

Tuesday, July 10 at 3:45 p.m. at the
Bridge Center

BRIDGE CENTER MANAGEMENT AND FINANCES

Here is some history and background information about the Palo Alto Bridge Center. The Palo Alto Bridge Unit started in 1957. The first Bridge Center opened in March 1975 at Elwell Court. Deposits made by club owners who chose to hold their games there provided the initial funding. But the Unit agreed to assume the financial risk and to provide management (via the Board and Treasurer), collect rent from the owners and then pay the landlord. On May 28, 2000, the Elwell Bridge Center closed. With the expiration of this lease, the owners' deposits were refunded.

From that time until June 2002, the owners of the weekday clubs ran their games at the YWCA on Alma St. and the Friday night and weekend games ceased operation. The Bridge Center at Terminal Blvd opened in June 2002. The relationship between the club owners and the Unit remained as at Elwell under a license agreement with the owners renting space from the Unit and the Unit paying the Twisters as a tenant under a sublease.

Our Unit is not typical. In the country there are only about 20 units, (this number may have increased), which have a space leased by the board of the unit and not by club owners. Most unit boards have no authority over what club owners do.

Club owners may play their games at the Bridge Center or outside (such as the games owned by Walter Miller and John Schwartz). Owners who play at the Bridge Center pay rent to the Center based on the number of players at their games, currently \$15.00/table. They also pay a sanction fee to the ACBL. Owners whose games are not held at the Center do not pay rent to the Bridge Center, but do pay for supplies used from the Center.

Therefore, Bridge Center costs are paid for by the table fees. That is the primary B.C. income, supplemented by rent for classes taught there, along with a few other small items. For the first 9 months of 2011 (while we were still at the Terminal Way facility), monthly revenues averaged \$9.8K from club owner and Unit Game rent, plus \$.6K from education rent, for a total of about \$10K per month. At the new B.C. we estimate our fixed costs to be around \$K10. per month, as detailed in the next column:

Estimated	
Monthly Bridge Center Costs	
	\$K
Rent	6.0
Utilities excl. Electric	0.5
Electric (wild guess)	1.0
Janitorial	1.0
Supplies	1.2
Other	0.3
Total Monthly Costs	\$10K

We will need to get some real-time data over the next few months to establish a baseline and will then readjust our forecasts.

We do not try to make a significant profit on the running of the Bridge Center. However, we do need to be able to ensure that we can meet our fixed costs and have some cushion in case of emergency or changes to our situation.

In determining rents that we charge club owners, we walk a tightrope in order to meet our expenses, attract and retain excellent owners and provide affordable games for our players. As you probably know, our owners aren't doing this to get rich. They put in enormous efforts in return for a relatively small financial gain. Their income comes from their table fees minus their expenses, which include table rental fees (at B.C. only), food and other incidentals and sometimes the cost of a second director. If they sell their club, anything received is based on their goodwill/clientele and time slot at the Bridge Center. The Unit receives no compensation.

Our club owners set the table fees for their games: the Unit has no control over table fees charged. In our Unit, most games charge \$8 or \$9 per person. The Unit wants to keep the table fees competitive with other games in the area, both to make it affordable to members and to allow the club owner to earn a profit. The only way the Unit can directly impact club owner income is through the table fees charged to them.

Sue Griswold

CLASSES, CLASSES AND MORE CLASSES

BY LORI SPAETH, EDUCATION LIAISON

We are very fortunate to have so many players interested in improving their game. We are also very lucky to have a wonderful Bridge Center which allows us to hold so many activities: classes, lectures and learning games, not to mention having a game every single day and two nights a week, on Wednesday and Friday.

We will have many classes starting in September. All will be at the Bridge Center, 432 Stierlin Road. The list includes: BEGINNING (Thursday mornings), BASIC/INTERMEDIATE (Monday evenings and Tuesday mornings), INTERMEDIATE(Thursday evenings), INTERMEDIATE/ADVANCED (Monday afternoon, Tuesday evening, Friday afternoon)

Here they are, in the order in which they start, with a brief description:

1. Monday afternoons starting September 10 from 3:30-5:45, Debbie Rosenberg will teach "Defend Like a Pro," 8 lessons for INTERMEDIATE/ADVANCED players.

2. Monday evenings starting September 10 from 7:00-9:00, Kathy Harper will teach a 12-lesson (usually every two weeks) "Polish Your Basics" class. This class is BASIC/INTERMEDIATE - second-year beginning bridge students or players who have played before but want a refresher.

3. Tuesday mornings starting September 11 from 9:15-11:15, Kathy Harper will teach "Conventions You Need to Play" (12 weeks). This class is BASIC/INTERMEDIATE and is in preparation of the Thursday evening Intermediate I & II classes (the "gap" year)

4. Tuesday evenings starting September 11 from 6:45-9:00, Debbie Rosenberg will teach "Play Like a Pro," 8 lessons for INTERMEDIATE/ADVANCED players.

5. Thursday mornings starting September 13 from 9:15-11:15, Kathy Harper will teach a BEGINNER Bridge Class, 12 lessons (usually every two weeks).

6. Thursday evenings starting September 13, from 7:00-9:30, Frank Smoot will teach Intermediate

II, 12 weekly lessons, for INTERMEDIATE and INTERMEDIATE-PLUS players, with a focus on intermediate bidding and intermediate-advanced concepts in play.

7. Friday afternoons starting September 14, from 3:15-5:30, Debbie Rosenberg will teach "Defend Like a Pro" (same as Monday), 8 lessons for INTERMEDIATE/ADVANCED players.

All class topics are already listed on our website and you may sign up for these classes now at pa-loaltobridge.com/education/classes/. Classes cost between \$150 to \$200 per series.

If you have specific questions about a class, please contact the teacher directly: Kathy Harper (650)-207-1816, kharper100@aol.com; Debbie Rosenberg, debrose59@hotmail.com (preferred), (408) 320-4473. Frank Smoot – Contact Lori Spaeth, lespaeth@gmail.com (preferred), (650) 906-3987. If you are unsure of where you belong, and maybe you belong in more than one class, feel free to contact me - Lori - and I will try to steer you in the right direction.

PLAYER ADVANCEMENTS

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

Junior Master	5 MP	Issie Rabinovitch, Peter Barba, Joanna Wilkinson
Club Master	20 MP	Gillian Barsley, Paul Barsley
Sectional Master	50 MP	Deborah Lundahl, Jon Rayden
Life Master	300 MP	Pei Sun
Bronze Life Master	500 MP	Randy Ryals
Silver Life Master	1000 MP	Tad Yoshikawa

All games take place at our Bridge Center, 432A Stierlin Road Mountain View 94043, unless otherwise noted.

DAY	BRIDGE CLUB	TYPE	TIME	DIRECTOR(S)	PLACE/ OTHER I NFO
MON	Monday Morning	Open/Strat.	11.30 a.m.	John Schwartz	Bridge Center reservations recommended
	Monday Morning	<500,<100	11.30 a.m.	John Schwartz	Bridge Center jrpd@yahoo.com
TUES	Tuesday Noon BC	Open/Strat.	12:00 p.m.	Walter Miller	Unity Church, YES Rm, 3391 Middlefield Rd, PA
	Alpine BC	Open/Strat	12:00 p.m.	Will Watson	Bridge Center
WED.	Bridge 'n Brunch	Open/Strat.	11:00 a.m.	Sue Johnston	Bridge Center
	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	Bridge Center
	Lori & Sue's Dblton Club < 499 M.P.		7:00 p.m.	Spaeth/Johnston	Bridge Center
	Lori & Sue's Dblton Club < 99 M.P		7:00 p.m.	Spaeth/Johnston	Bridge Center
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.	Will Watson	Bridge Center
FRI	The EZ Game	<30 M.P.	9:00 a.m.	Marolyn Yancey	Bridge Center
	Friday Morning BC	Open/Strat.	10:30 a.m.	Claire Coleman	Bridge Center
	Friday Night Barometer	Open/Strat.	7:30 p.m.	Will Watson	Bridge Center
SAT	One Club	Open/Strat.	12:00 p.m.	John Prior	Bridge Center
SUN	Sunday Afternoon BC	Open/Strat	1:00 p.m.	Coleman/Watson	Bridge Center

SPECIAL EVENTS

- * Club Champ., Tuesday, June 19 at 12 p.m., Alpine B C
- * Club Champ., Thursday June 21 at 12 p.m., Thurs. aft. B C
- * Club Champ., Friday, June 22 at 7:30 p.m., Fri. Night Barometer, B C
- * Lecture and Mentee game, Sat. June 23 at 9 a.m., Bridge Center
- * Membership meeting, Sunday, June 24 at 12:30 p.m., Bridge Center
- * Unit Open and 299er Swiss teams, Sunday, June 24 at 12:30 p.m., Bridge Center
- * Lesson, Review hands, lessons 1-8, Sat. July 7 at 9 a.m., Bridge Center
- * 199er Unit Swiss teams, Monday, July 9 at 6:30 p.m., Bridge Center
- * Sectional, Saturday, July 14 at Vintage House Sr. Ctr., Sonoma
- * NLM Sectional, Saturday, July 14 at Monterey Bridge Club, Marina
- * NAP Qual. game Wednesday, July 18 at 11 a.m., Bridge 'n Brunch
- * Lesson, Review hands, lessons 9-16, Sat. July 21 at 9 a.m., Bridge Center
- * NAP Qual. game, Wednesday July 25 at 7 p.m., Doubleton Club, sign up

PALO ALTO FIRECRACKER SECTIONAL

Wednesday June 27-Sunday July 1, Convention Center, Santa Clara

All clubs closed from Wednesday, June 27-Sunday, July 1

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 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

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