



THE FIRECRACKER IS ABLAZE; COME HELP TO KEEP IT LIT

The Firecracker Sectional is coming very soon. By now you are all aware that the dates have changed from previous years. Since the Convention Center is not available over the July 4th weekend, this year's tournament dates are Wednesday, June 26 through Sunday, June 30.

Conveniently located the same as last year, the Firecracker will be at the Santa Clara Convention Center and in the same rooms. The Unit encourages all members to attend, especially all the new members. If you plan on staying at the adjacent Hilton for the special tournament rate of \$119 per night, be sure to make reservations by May 26 since availability will be very tight this year. To obtain the bridge rate go to <https://resweb.passkey.com/go/PAFI>.

In order to give our beginning bridge players the opportunity to feel comfortable at a sectional tournament, there will be a 49er pairs game at every session. The schedule also includes open pairs games

and 199er games every session, as well as Compact KO's every day but Sunday. A two session Swiss game is on the Sunday schedule. The Wednesday and Thursday games will be at 1 p.m. and 7 p.m. to accommodate people who are working. The games on Friday and Saturday will be at 10 a.m. and 3 p.m. and on Sunday at 10 a.m. and 2:30 p.m. Food service, i.e. coffee and a no-host buffet, will be available from 11:30 to 3:30 on Friday, Saturday and Sunday. A complete schedule is on page 7 of this *Kibitzer*, in an ad in the *Forum*, on the club web site and on posters at all the club games.

For the past few years the Firecracker has been running with 1000 tables over the course of the five days, making it one of the largest sectionals in the United States. Let's continue the record for this year.

The committee is working hard to (cont. p. 6)

MENTOR- MENTEE PARTNERSHIPS TO PLAY SUNDAY, JUNE 16

Our Mentor program matches an experienced player with a lesser experienced player to help less experienced players improve their games. Mentors and mentees must be Unit members. There will be a Unit Mentor-Mentee game on Sunday, June 16 at 1 p.m. The fee for this game will be \$8. Mentors and mentees should contact each other to plan on participating in this fun event. Please sign up on the Unit web site or on the list at the Center so the coordina-

tors can make plans. The committee chairs, Chuck Lane and Pat Chambers, invite those interested to contact them. You can reach Chuck at (650) 948-7007, chucklane5@aol.com or Pat at pat-nrobin@att.net, (650) 856-2101.

They plan on holding other Unit mentor-mentee contests later in the year. There also will be a regular Sunday game on June 16.

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

JOIN IN THE JUNE 21 BRIDGE MARATHON

PLAY TILL YOU DROP BY RANDY RYALS

The ACBL invites bridge players around the country to support the Alzheimer's Association's "Longest Day" event on Friday, June 21. Please join me at the Bridge Center on that day, since our Unit is participating wholeheartedly in this worthy cause. In addition to the three regularly scheduled games that day, there will be four additional games at 5:48 a.m. (sunrise), 8:15 a.m., 2:15 p.m. and 4:45 p.m. to make for a marathon day of bridge! All games that day will receive upgraded masterpoints and all sanction fees collected by the ACBL will be donated to the Alzheimer's Association. For further information, please contact Randy Ryals ryalshousehold@mac.com, (650) 269-9135.

Alzheimer's is the most common form of dementia and currently there is no cure. It is a terrible dis-

ease in that it not only robs the person's memory, but it also affects the person's ability to function in every respect. It is particularly hard on the family. A friend's mother had Alzheimer's. She did not recognize any of her family or remember who they were. Now every time I get a senior moment, my fear of Alzheimer's surfaces. You can lend your support to the Alzheimer's Association by participating in The Longest Day Games. What better way to support a cause and have fun playing bridge! I plan to play till I drop.

Please also consider joining the Unit 503 fundraising team or just making a donation by going to: <http://thelongestday.alz.org/home/team/90245>. Our Unit will donate \$1 per player from all games on June 21 to the Alzheimer's Association.

PLAYERS GREET THE SWISS WITH ALOHA

There were no holes in the Swiss at the Bridge Center on Sunday, April 21 as 35 teams crowded in to compete for the Unit team event. The players who danced the hula in the 21-team open field were Randy Ryals - Eileen Zefting - Jim Harris - Richard Recht with the team of Joe Buchanan - Robert Bergey - Shirley Streifer - Henry Wen on top in the 14-team 199ers in A, B and the team of Alan Polish - John Verhagen - Marcelo Gumucio - Rita Rubenfeld in the lead for C. The free plays went to Paul Davis and Barbara Hansen

The Unit appreciates Nancy Kehl for the festive paper flower bouquet, for set-up by Pete and Bev Nuding, and also to Bev for the goodies, including Kahlua pulled pork, wild rice salad, fruit salad, pineapple upside down cake, and Hawaiian cupcakes. Additional treats were also enjoyed from Diane Dollinger's veggie tray, Nancy Kehl's deli-

cious pupus, and Virginia Lyons' carrot salad and second veggie tray. Special thanks to the cleanup crew: Randy Ryals, Bob Horowitz, Paul Davis, Jim Faisx Valerie Hatton, Marian Kelly and Clare Thorpe.

The May 6 Monday 199ers STAC Swiss featured eight teams with Richard Recht-John Salera-Al Dau-Steve Bird the winners in A and Ronald Perkocha-Joelle Perkocha-Warren Goodnow-Judy Goodnow in B.

The Sunday Swiss team players will take a siesta in June to rest up for the Firecracker, but the 199er Monday Niters will be at it again at the Swiss on Monday, June 3 at 6:30 at the Bridge Center.

NEXT BOARD MEETING

Thursday, June 6 at 4:00 p.m. at the
Bridge Center
All are invited to attend.

BRIDGE NEWS

Sunday/Monday Bridge— Don't listen to those rumors!! There is a game every Sunday afternoon at 1 p.m. and Claire hopes to see you at the tables. On the other hand, do listen to the rumors for Walter's Think Slam Club at the Unity Church on Mondays. He is closing it, effective immediately.

Bridge 'n Brunch— The Big Sir Says . . . contrary to previous rumor.....SIR's will continue to have their lunch meetings on the third Wednesdays at the IFES Hall, so parking will continue to be at a premium.

Library— The Unit Library recently received some welcome donations: *ACBL Bridge Series – Bidding* by Audrey Grant, and *Expert Bridge Simplified* by Jeff Rubens. Zia Mahmood takes you *Around the World in 80 Hands*. From world championship tournaments to big-money rubber-bridge games, this book puts you at the table as thousands of dollars (or a world title) change hands on the turn of a card. In the smoke-filled clubs of London and New York, characters, such

as Harry the Horse, Moonbeam, Godzilla, and Hannibal the Cannibal, play for high stakes. World championships hang in the balance in Chile, Italy, and Bali. In the jet-set resorts of Europe, the top pros play invitational money tournaments with millionaire sponsors. Share the favorite bridge memories of one of the world's best.

Lectures— On Tuesday, June 11 at 9:45 a.m., Will Watson will speak to players about "The Law of Total Tricks." This will be the last lecture until September, when Dan Thatte and Sue Griswold will take over as co-coordinators. Dan and Sue welcome comments and suggestions to shape the series for the upcoming season. A feedback form is available from the lecture series web page.

More Kudos from Michele— Hansa Narasimhan and Ed Barlow achieved a 74.62% game at Bridge & Brunch May 8 (STAC week!). Tahir Gokcen and Don Rothschild topped that on May 10 at the Friday Barometer game with a show-stopping 75.60% (also STAC week!).

FIRECRACKER AIDS SECOND HARVEST

Help Second Harvest Food Bank's Share Your Lunch programs to feed needy children in San Mateo and Santa Clara counties. Thanks go to the generosity of all who enjoyed the 2012 Firecracker last year. Nine Barrels of Food and \$6,335 in donations with a 1-1 match = \$12,670! Once again, we hope that players at the Firecracker will show their generosity with food and cash donations. Please do your part for our youth. Good nourishment is a cornerstone in our young peoples' lives to help them achieve their dreams. SHFB is 501(3) 94-2614101. Cash donations will be acknowledged. Any ques-

tions contact: Brian Samuels (650) 703-9510, briansamuels@yahoo.com.

Recently, the Palo Alto Unit received a platinum award certificate for its 2012 food and fund drive efforts as an expression of gratitude from the Second Harvest Food Bank of Santa Clara and San Mateo Counties.

NEWCOMERS

A warm welcome to new Palo Alto Unit 503 members: Geri Derby, Marjory Greenwald, Qunxiang Ong and Olga Schanz

Did you know that GNT stands for Grand National Teams and is a Knockout event that is played each year in the Summer National NABC Tournament? But you have to qualify district-wide to compete at the Nationals.



This year the event takes place in Atlanta. We are proud to have two Unit 503 players, Eugene Hung and Han-Yu Chang (with three other non-503 teammates), who will represent District 21 because they won the GNT Flight B (0-2000 points) finals in Walnut Creek this April. Congratulations...and good luck in Atlanta! We'll be rooting for you.

Since our last column there have only been a few local Sectional tournaments on which to report. First was the Marin Spring Sectional in Kentfield over the April 27-28 weekend. We have several stars from Palo Alto who placed. Kathy Harper and her clone (remember Halloween 2012 at the Doubleton Club costume gig?), Jim O'Neil, had a whopping 66.24% game on Saturday afternoon to place first in the pairs event. What a dynamic duo! In that same Sectional, the team of Geeske Joel, Will Watson, Betsey Schneider and Robert Ng tied for first in the Sunday 'Crossley Fit' Swiss 3000+ bracket. Another chart-topping performance.

Going a bit further afield, let's check out the Sacramento Spring Sectional in Orangevale over May

2-5. I wouldn't ordinarily report on this, but my life-long friend Sandra Flattery (we were Brownie Scouts together locally while growing up) put a bug in my ear. Sandy, as I still call her, is only a part-time visitor to Unit 503 as she resides most of the

year in Sun Valley. She came within a sliver of silver points to make her Life Master, and her partner, Denise Pitsch, who is a full-time member of our Unit, helped her do it. Then, the very next week, Sandy and Clara Chang hooked up to finish the task. On May 8 at the Wednesday evening Doubleton Club, Miss Sandra reached the goal. Yahoo!!

We have room for one oversight which did not make the last Kudos Korner "kolumnn." Garth & Margaret Wilson placed first in C in the Monday afternoon Charity Pairs at the Pacific Southwest Regional in San Diego (March 25-31). Good job, and thanks for reporting to me after the fact. Just goes to show that to insure your accomplishments will appear here in neon lights, it's very helpful if you toot your own horn by emailing me at mmusy@apr.com. That's a wrap for this month. Happy Bridge!

PLAYER ADVANCEMENTS

The April ACBL report shows that the players identified at the right have moved up. Congratulations to all!

Junior Master	5 MP	David Aston, Gene Straube, Dorothy Weber
Club Master	20 MP	Cornelia Hornstein, Jane Herman, Maryann Hinden, Winston Huang, Worth Ludwig, Issie Rabinovitch, Alden Sprowles
Sectional Master	50 MP	Kathryn Henkens, John Verhagen
Regional Master	100 MP	Annie Green, Kim Shetter
NABC Master	200 MP	Todd Makler

PROFILE OF LESLIE ALTICK AND NANCY LAYENDECKER

By MARY VAN TAMELEN



Leslie

About three or four years ago, these two ladies met each other while taking Cameron Cotton’s bridge course at Oak Creek. They liked each other, and they liked bridge, so they began playing together. They tried out various games in the area and decided they preferred the Palo Alto Unit games.

“We learned so much more here,” Leslie says. “And the players are very,

very kind to us,” Nancy adds.

Leslie, who hails from the Chicago area, came to Cal for an MBA in finance and marketing and spent most of her working years at Wells Fargo, with a stint at Stanford Research Institute. She is married and has two sons, seven grandchildren and 2 great grandchildren.

Nancy graduated from Oregon State; coincidentally a classmate of Bob Altick, and worked at various jobs. She has two grown children. Her daughter is a scientist, a “particle metrologist.” Upon graduation from college, her son, instead of taking an immediate job, decided to be a professional tennis player on tour. That lasted nine years. He’s now with the athletic department of the University of Portland.

Nancy herself has been very involved in tennis organizations. She served on the board of the Junior Tennis Council in Northern California that deals with college tennis. She has also served on several national tennis committees. For the USTA, she goes to the U.S. Open in New York and has met “most of the big guys.” She also plays. At the age of 75, she played in a mother-son competition and

did well enough to get a national ranking. She remains a “retired volunteer.”

Leslie’s non-bridge involvement is with the non-profit Community Financial Resources, an organization designed to help low income families who can’t get banking services. She served six years on its board.



Nancy

This organization has had tremendous nationwide influence, forcing banking to change its methods. While working at Wells Fargo, Leslie found that 1 to 2 percent of applicants could not even get checking accounts.

From the financial world and the tennis world, these two women came together—over the game of bridge. It turns out that they even live in the same neighborhood, Ladera. It’s our wonderfully-named game that can happily bring together, or *bridge*, so many disparate and various personalities and professions!

Palo Alto Unit 503 Board
 Brian Samuels, President
 Valerie Baldwin, Vice-President
 Margot Livenspargar, Secretary
 Todd Makler, Treasurer
 Steve Barasch, Sue Barkley, Sue Griswold, Lee Haze, Bob Horowitz, Kevin O’Leary, James Stuart-Smith.

SUMMER'S THE SEASON FOR 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 the first NAP qualifier on Wednesday, June 5. Remember to sign up for this popular game in advance. Go to "Events" on the web site. 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 whose scores are in the upper half of 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.

UNIT OFFERS TWO OVER ONE CLASS

Learn the Two Over One system. The course is for intermediate-level bridge players with at least one year of duplicate experience who want to learn this system or want a refresher course on it. This six-week course covers: Introduction to 2/1, 1NT Forcing, Rebids, Choose Game or Slam, Variations (1NT semi-forcing, etc) Add-on Gadgets. Our course lecturer is the very popular Frank Smoot who has taught bridge to beginners and beyond in Palo Alto for almost 20 years. Frank and our won-

derful volunteers give students individual attention which helps everyone learn in a fun environment.

The Particulars: Starts Thursday, July 11 for six weeks, ending August 15; 7-9:30 p.m. at the Bridge Center; Cost is \$100 per person, plus purchase of *2 over 1 Game Force* by Grant and Rodwell. Please go to the Unit web site for further information or contact Barbara Shukov bshukov@pacbell.net, (650) 207-9670, .



FIRECRACKER, CONT. FROM P. 1

see that the Firecracker is another fun time for all, so plan to be there! We also need people to help with all parts of the tournament. If you would like to volunteer, please contact the heads of these committees: Carolyn Chaney-Partnerships, cchaney@sfsu.edu; James Stuart-Smith-Set up and Take down, jstuartsmith@att.net; Sioux Atkinson-Hospitality, Sioux@natureimages.com; and Josephine Ventura-Caddies, vent16@gmail.com. She is still looking for more young people to caddy, especially boys. You may also check in with the tournament chairman, Allen Wolman, allenwolman@sbcglobal.net.

2013 FIRECRACKER SECTIONAL



Palo Alto Unit 503

June 26-30, 2013

Santa Clara Convention Center
5001 Great America Parkway

Wednesday, June 26

Compact Knockouts, Rounds 1, 2, 3, 4
Stratified Open Pairs, single session
199er Pairs, single session
49er Pairs, single session
Stratified Swiss Teams

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

Thursday, June 27

Compact Knockouts, Rounds 1, 2, 3, 4
Stratified Open Pairs, single session
199er Pairs, single session
49er Pairs, single session
Stratified Swiss Teams

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

Friday, June 28

Compact Knockouts, Rounds 1, 2, 3, 4
Stratified Open Pairs, single session
199er Pairs, single session
49er Pairs, single session
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

Saturday, June 29

Compact Knockouts, Rounds 1, 2, 3, 4
Stratified Open Pairs, single session
199er Pairs, single session
49er Pairs, single session
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

Sunday, June 30

Strati-Flighted Open Swiss, two sessions
Stratified Open Pairs, single/double session
199er Swiss Teams, two sessions
49er Pairs, single session

10:00 AM	& TBA
10:00 AM	2:30 PM
10:00 AM	& TBA
10:00 AM	2:30 PM

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Tournament Chair
Allen Wolman
(650) 967-2220
Email: allenwolman@
sbcglobal.net

Partnerships
Carolyn Chaney
cchaney@sfsu.edu

STRATIFIED EVENTS		STRATIFIED-FLIGHTED EVENTS			I/N EVENTS (as needed)				
A	2000+	A	3000+	B	1000-2000	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

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 necessary. Website or
	Monday Morning	<100,<500	11.30 a.m.	John Schwartz	Bridge Center signup123.com/jsbridge
TUES	Tuesday Noon BC	<100,<300,Open	12:00 p.m.	Walter Miller	Unity Church, YES Rm, 3391 Middlefield Rd, PA
	Alpine BC	Open/Strat/	12:00 p.m.	O'Leary/Watson/	Bridge Center
	Alpine BC	299er		Saunders	
WED.	Bridge 'n Brunch	Open/Strat.	11:00 a.m.	Will Watson	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
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
	Thurs. Afternoon 49er		12.00 p.m.	Will Watson	Bridge Center
FRI	The EZ Game	<30 M.P.	9:00 a.m.	John Williams	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

- * Sectional, Friday, May 17 at Bridge Ctr. Marina
- * NLM/500 Sectional, May 18, at Bridge-4-Fun, Reno
- Unit Open/199er Swiss Teams, Sunday, May 19, lunch at noon, game 1 p.m., Bridge Center
- Youth Bridge Pizza Party, Sunday, May 19 at 5:30 p.m., Bridge Center, Registration required.
- Unit lecture, Tuesday, May 21 at 9:45 a.m., Bridge Center
- Regional, Monday, May 27 at Doubletree Hotel, Sacramento
- Unit 199er Swiss teams, Monday, June 3 at 6:30 p.m., Bridge Center
- Club championship, Wednesday, June 5 at 11 a.m., Bridge 'n Brunch
- NAP Qualifying game, Wednesday, June 5 at 7 p.m., Doubleton BC
- Club championship, Friday, June 7 at 7:30 p.m., Barometer BC
- Sectional, Saturday, June 8 at Janet Pomeroy Ctr., San Francisco
- Unit lecture, Tuesday, June 11 at 9:45 a.m., Bridge Center
- Club championship, Thursday, June 13 at noon, Thurs. Afternoon BC
- Sectional, Friday, June 14 at Hiram Hall, Oakland
- Unit Mentor/Mentee Game, Sunday, June 16 at 1 p.m. Bridge Center
- Longest Day Bridge Marathon supporting the Alzheimer's Association. Friday, June 21, Bridge Center. Games will be held at at 5:48 a.m., 8:15 a.m., 10:30 a.m., 2:15 p.m., 4:45 p.m., and 7:30 p.m.

PALO ALTO SECTIONAL,

Wednesday June 26-Sunday June 30, Convention Center, Santa Clara

Clubs Closed No club games Thurs., June 27 through Sunday, June 30

Club Contacts

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 Walter Miller (510) 839-5929
 Kevin O'Leary (650) 279-0005
 John Prior (408) 745-0380
 Prue Saunders (650) 464-3969
 John Schwartz (650) 324-2424
 Lori Spaeth (650) 906-3987
 Will Watson (650) 804-1731
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