



GO SOUTH OF THE BORDER FOR THE MAY UNIT GAME

To celebrate Cinco de Mayo, the Unit is hosting a Fiesta at the monthly Unit Swiss Teams on *Sunday, May 19* with lunch at noon and game time at 1 p.m. There will be plenty of special food for the gala event, including a taco bar, tasty food for our vegetarians and a delicious Mexican flan cake for dessert. There will be extra points for the winners in each stratum and prizes for a couple of lucky players. So join the fun and complete the **required** sign-up with contact info on the Unit web site or on the Bridge Center List.

Give a helping hand with our Unit games. We need volunteers who will be willing, from time to

time, to set up, prepare a salad or dessert and, of course, join the clean-up crew. Talk to Bev Nuding at bevnuding@gmail.com or (650) 591-1399.

In the Monday, April 1, 199er Unit Swiss, the players on the eight teams showed that there was no fooling around going on at the bridge table. The winning team in A was Drew Donovan-Virginia Wailes-Helen LaRash-Wendy Benveniste, while honors in B,C went to the team of Elena A- Sanda Henry-George Bazgan-Mike Aldea.

The *Kibitzer* will report the results of the April Unit Swiss in the May issue.

LIKE TO PLAY LOTS OF BRIDGE??

Join the Unit 503 team in support of the ACBL's participation in the Alzheimer's Association's "the longest day" event on June 21. See: acbl.org/play/thelongestday/. We are working on the details of the day's events, but the goal is to play bridge at the Bridge Center continuously from sun up to sun down on June 21. If you don't want to join the team, you can still support the event by playing bridge that day in one or more of the regularly scheduled games. All games that day at the Bridge Center will be special fund games with upgraded master points and with the ACBL fees going to support the Alzheimer's As-

sociation. If you have questions or comments, please contact Randy Ryals at ryalshousehold@mac.com. Further information with details for this event will appear in the June *Kibitzer*.

You can join the Unit 503 team by going to <http://thelongestday.alz.org/>. Click on REGISTER NOW. Check the "I am new..." button (there will be no fee for joining an ACBL team) and then click NEXT. Check the "Join a Team" button and for Team Name enter Unit 503. Then click on SEARCH and when the team comes up, click on JOIN.

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

PZZT ! THE FIRECRACKER IS SIZZLING



Twenty-five years ago, the Unit lit up its first Firecracker Sectional, a three-day bridge blast at the Palo Alto Elks Club

with about 400 tables. Fast forward to today, when your Unit is aiming for an attendance of over 1000 tables. Start planning to play every session to make this Firecracker Sectional Tournament another huge success! Remember the tournament fireworks dates are early this dates this year: Wednesday, June 26 to Sunday, June 30. The Firecracker is at the same venue as last year, the Santa Clara Convention Center, which is adjacent to the Hyatt Regency Santa Clara Hotel. Enjoy the convenience of free parking in the multi-level attached garage with elevator access to the Convention Center. The Hyatt is offering a special bridge rate of \$119 per night. Players planning to stay over at the hotel should make reservations as soon as possible since room availability will be particularly tight this year. To secure the \$119 nightly rate, use the web address: shown at the top of the next column:

resweb.passkey.com/go/PAFI

The Unit is fortunate to have many new players who have taken an avid interest in learning how to play duplicate bridge. To generate excitement for their participation in the Firecracker, the tournament will feature 49er pair games just for them every day. As always, there will be Open Pairs and Swiss Team games, including 199er pair games, every day and several Compact KO games that begin and end on the same day. Wednesday and Thursday will have afternoon and evening games. The schedule changes on Friday, Saturday and Sunday, when there will be morning games and afternoon games. The full schedule for the tournament is available on the Unit's website.

The tournament chairperson this year is Allen Wolman. The working committee chairs are: Carolyn Chaney, Partnerships; James Stuart-Smith, Setup and Take down; Sioux Atkinson, Hospitality; and Josephine Ventura, Caddies. Since this is a Unit event, your help is needed; please contact any of the above (contact information in the Unit Directory) to lend your support.

SEARCH FOR SILVER AT STAC

The 49ers came for gold, but in May the 49ers, 99ers, 199ers and 299ers as well as all the rest of us avid bridge players will be looking for silver at the STAC (Sectional Tournament at Clubs). This treasure hunt will happen Monday, May 6 through Sunday, May 12 at all the Unit clubs as well as Easy Bridge on Friday, May 10. Please note that the Monday, May 6 199er STAC

game is for Swiss teams. The STAC is a sectional tournament played simultaneously in local clubs throughout the Western Conference. Shine up your bridge skills to get your share of extra masterpoint awards and sterling silver points, while playing at your favorite club game. The competition is terrific, the masterpoint awards are high and a wealth of silver awaits the winners.



Bridge Center Sign—Yes...it's true! After many delays in getting approval for the sign from the City of Mountain View, we have a real, professional Bridge Center sign over the front door. The Unit's thanks go to Chris Bunz who worked so diligently to develop a design which the City would accept and to Mei Wu, who made a considerable financial donation towards the sign's construction.

Bridge on the Bridge - When the Unit web page announced this bridge tournament on April 1, were you one of the players who got excited about playing on the new Bay Bridge at its opening over the Labor Day weekend? By April 2, of course, the announcement had somehow disappeared.

Mentor-Mentee - The chairs, Chuck Lane and Pat Chambers, invite players to get in touch with each other and make ready to play in a special Unit game on Sunday, June 16 at 1 p.m. at the Bridge Center. The Unit is planning to hold several games for these partnerships during the year.

Swiss is on the Menu - Players with a masterpoint average of fewer than 200 should choose the game on Monday, May 7 at 6:30 p.m. at the Bridge Center. A STAC Swiss Unit game with extra masterpoints awaits the winners and a chance to collect those precious silver points. Go to the Unit website to sign up.

Library - Our featured book for May is *Declarer Play at Bridge: a Quizbook* by Barbara Seagram and David Bird. This book is for near beginners. It gives them a chance to practice the principles for sound declarer play. We are familiar with this author team because they also wrote *Bridge: 25 Ways to Make More Tricks as Declarer* and *Bridge: 25 Ways to be a Better Defender*. Their *Planning the Play of a Bridge Hand* was named the 2010 Book of the Year by the American Bridge Teacher's Association. This book is also in our Unit Library.

Lectures - Holy Cow! Are Those Cows Really Sacred? Find out from Sue Johnston on Tuesday, May 21 at 9:45 a.m. at the Bridge Center.

Celebrity Bridge - The Jerry Helm's Series on "How to Play and Defend No Trump Contracts" concludes with mentoring play on Saturday, May 4 at 9:30 a.m. at the Bridge Center.

Ace-Mini - The Unit has posted the 2012 Ace of Clubs and Mini-McKenny race standings as of March 31 at the Bridge Center.

Bravo! - The Bridge'n Brunch players are cheering. The SIRS has moved its monthly luncheon from the IFES hall to a new location, so parking will no longer be at a premium for that Wednesday game.

Dealing - Lots of great deals happen at the Bridge Center. Our new machine has dealt more than 100,000 decks of cards. Our older machine, still in limited use, has dealt 165,000 decks. Our two machines enable us to provide pre-dealt hands with hand records at our games.

NEWCOMERS

A warm welcome to new Palo Alto Unit 503 members: Francis Cano, Elizabeth Fischbein, Jerome Fischbein, Nora Grimm, Andrew Hoskins, Brahm Levin, Deborah Levin, Nuno Rebelo, John Rollin, Sandra Rollin, Victoria Santos, Clare Thorpe and Pashi Vakiva.

Since this is the column for gratitudes and acknowledgements, let's start with thanks to Chris Bunz, our resident artist, for the jazzy mast-head artwork (and, btw, have you seen the very handsome new sign above the Club doorway? That too is Chris' handiwork). I would also like to thank those of you who sent me, or whispered in my ear, tips for notable accomplishments during the last month. Please keep those coming as the more eyes and ears reporting, the more kudos are assured to appear here.

March was a busy month for tournaments. Let's start with the Nationals in St. Louis, March 14-24. I scanned the results from the nearly 4000 participants who scored points, and whereas I saw a lot of familiar names, unless my eyes deceived me, only one of our kind showed up in red. That was Miss Polly "the Indomitable" Siegel with a team from hither and yon. They tied for first place in an AX Side Swiss of 32 tables. And surprise to say, that does it for the Nationals.

The San Diego Regional took place March 25-31. The only home team members who placed first in an event there are Barb Shukov with partner Kip Kado, teaming up with some friends from Southern Cal. Their team placed first in the Kickoff KO, Bracket 3. It's always a strong showing to place First in a Regional event.

Moving onto an array of Sectionals, both local and in other parts of California. The first of these was the Palm Springs Sectional from March 8-10. The only Unit 503 member that popped up in red is again Barb Shukov who teamed up with Tony Glynne (yes, he's a pro but let's not hold that against anyone). They had a 62.85% game to place first in a Saturday Open Pairs event. There was also a Sectional that same weekend, March 9-10, closer to home in Santa Cruz. Believe it or not, nary a Unit 503er's name showed up in red. What gives?

We had more success in the recent Sectional put on by the San Jose Club, the Santa Clara Sec-



tional sited in Saratoga, April 5-7. Euo Menezes from our Unit with his Hawaiian partner teamed up with two San Jose players (Reggie Sharma and Paul Lee) to place first in a Stratified Swiss game of 20 tables.

Congrats, Euo! Donna Raynor and Deborah Lundahl, along with Ginny Strock and Deborah Machlin, came in First in C in an 11-table Stratified Swiss game. Good job, ladies! And lastly, Ellie Bernhardt and Miriam Jacobs came first in the Under 300 Pairs on Saturday. Yahoo!

That brings us to the Super Steroidal Seventy Plus games. Here they are:

March 14 in Will's Thursday game, Heather Cutting and Kathy Harper had a 71.03% game

March 18 at John Schwartz's Monday game, Dave Wheeler and Marolyn Imaoka-Yancey achieved a 72.57% game

And last but not least, March 28 Gary and Gladys Fong had a whopping 73.1% game

Congratulations to all of you for outstanding performances. Let's all aspire to such sterling heights between now and the next Kudos Korner! And, remember to keep the news flashes flowing my way. mmusy@apr.com.

Palo Alto Unit 503 Board

Brian Samuels, President
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IT SEEMS TO ME BY GERSH

Many years ago there was a bridge player known as Ike. Whenever Ike had to make the opening lead, he would ask himself, "Is there any reason why I should not lead a trump?" If the answer was "no", he would lead a trump, frequently setting the contract. When he was elected President of the United States, Eisenhower had to cut back on his bridge, but still managed to play a few friendly games, where his trump leads were effective.

Playing in a duplicate game, I held the following hand as dealer:

- ♠ AQ
- ♥ ---
- ♦ AQ7
- ♣ AKQJ10642

If my partner held the diamond King, six clubs would be cold; if partner held the spade king, six clubs would depend on a finesse. Since I had no way of learning if my partner held either king, I opened the bidding with six clubs. My opponent led the Queen of hearts. Dummy held the A and K of hearts on which I discarded the 7 and Q of diamonds. Then I took the spade finesse which won. So I made seven. But Ike would have set me.

NEXT BOARD MEETING
 Thursday, May 2 at 4:00 p.m. at the
 Bridge Center
 All are invited to attend.

PLAYER ADVANCEMENTS

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

YOUTH "SPLASH" PROGRAM A BIG SUCCESS

On April 13 and 14, Stanford hosted its Spring "Splash" program for 7th through 12th graders in topics ranging from Literature to Knitting to Quantum Physics to Bridge. Stanford students, Ted Sanders and Emily Kelly, led the bridge session with help from Debbie Rosenberg and several volunteer helpers from the Stanford and Palo Alto clubs. After just five minutes, the six tables of students were dealing hands and taking tricks. And after just two hours, they had learned the basics of bridge play and bidding.

Many thanks to the Palo Alto Unit for donating funds to support the Splash bridge class. This class represents a first step in creating a larger youth bridge program for our area. If you'd like to help with building or delivering the program, teaching classes, or helping in any other way, please sign up on our Unit website, paloalto-bridge.com.

Junior Master	5 MP	James Faix, Sridevi Padmakumar, Lynn Tollner
Club Master	20 MP	Janice Flowers-Sonne, Sheila Hochman, Joanne Rayden
Sectional Master	50 MP	Polly Burn, Richard Herzog
Regional Master	100 MP	Lynda Connolly, Roy Grady, Dolly Musey, Jon Rayden
NABC Master	200 MP	Carl Baeuerlen
Life Master	300 MP	Beverly Bernhardt
Silver Life Master	1000 MP	Louise Frye, Dorothy Shannahan

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
	Mon. Think Slam BC	<100,<300,Open	12:30 p.m.	Walter Miller	Unity Church 3391 Middlefield Rd, PA
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

- * Unit lecture, Tuesday, April 16 at 9:45 a.m. , Bridge Center
- * Sectional, Wednesday, April 17, Boontown Hotel, Reno
- * Helm's Lecture/Play, Saturday, April 20 at 9:30 a.m., Bridge Center
- * Sectional, Saturday, April 20 at Centre Plaza, Modesto
- * Unit Swiss Teams, Open and 199er, Sunday, April 21, lunch at noon, game at 1 p.m. , Bridge Center
- * Sectional, Saturday, April 27 at Catholic HS, Kentfield
- * Unit lecture, Tuesday, April 30 at 9:45 a.m., Bridge Center
- * Great Western Spring Fling STAC, Monday, May 6-Sunday, May12 – all clubs
- * Helm's Mentoring Play, Saturday, May 4 at 9:30 a.m., Bridge Center
- * Unit 199er Swiss STAC, Monday, May 6 at 6:30 p.m., Bridge Center
- * Sectional, Friday, May 17 at Bridge Ctr. Marina
- * NLM/500 Sectional, May 18, 19 at Bridge-4-Fun, Reno
- * Unit Open/199er Swiss Teams, Sunday, May 19. Lunch at noon, game at 1 p.m., Bridge Center
- * Unit lecture, Tuesday, May 21 at 9:45 a.m., Bridge Center
- * Regional, Monday, May 27 at Doubletree Hotel, Sacramento

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