



## UNIT LAUNCHED FANTASTIC FIRECRACKER

Cheers, the Unit Firecracker Sectional was successful again with the table count back over the 1000 mark. The June 25-29 tournament held at the Santa Clara Convention Center attracted 1042 tables. Particular thanks go to the Tournament Chair James Stuart-Smith and the extraordinary committee chairs. Special appreciation goes to Will Watson for the reports on the Unit website making results quickly and accurately available, Chris Bunz for her flyer design, Polly Siegel and Lori Spaeth for advice on the games schedule, and former chairs, Steve Barasch and Allen Wolman, for recommendations and checking periodically on progress and meeting deadlines. The Unit is also grateful for the dedicated work of the Tournament Director, Nancy Boyd, and all the other ACBL directors who kept the games running smoothly.

Saturday was the big day with 262 tables, the largest single day (by 22 tables) in the past five

years and Friday second with 221. The table summary for all the sessions was: Wed first 80, second 60; Thurs 118, 93; Fri 114, 105, Sat 143, 119, Sun 104.5, 103.5. Some new features to note: the Wednesday count was all pairs, side games were available for single session players, 0-5 masterpoint pairs with youth playing free, and the increased fee to \$11 didn't seem to affect attendance. Out of 1007 youth player sessions, 895 of them won over 3,819 silver points. The tournament chair James-Stuart Smith reports an estimated net income of \$3200. The *Kibitzer* will print a detailed financial report in the September issue.

The Unit News on page 3 gives a report on the success of the Second Harvest Food Bank Drive.

Most of all, James wants to congratulate Unit members for making the event a success by supporting with their participation. "Now we are able to say that Unit 503 sent more members to the Firecracker than any other Unit."

## AUGUST 10 UNIT SWISS

Mark your calendars for the August Unit Game, being held on Sunday the 10th. Gather your team for the popular Swiss format at the Bridge Center, with lunch at noon and team play at 1 p.m. Chair James Harris and director Will Watson will be there with spectacular food

and totally amazing organization for your enjoyment. Please do remember to sign up on the Unit website (preferred) or at the Bridge Center. Bring your talent, lucky charms, your appetite and, most importantly, your smile.

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

## FIRECRACKER HEROES AND HEROINES

These chairs and committee members were the ones who made the Firecracker a success:

Hospitality - Chair, Sioux Atkinson, Alice Arnold, Valerie Baldwin, Steve Barasch, Margaret Becker, Sue Bockmann, Joan Bower, Corinne Carter, Carolyn Chaney, Annie Green, Cheryl Haines, Margot Livenspargar, Linda Mattis, John Mattis, Michele Musy, Randee Palmer, Don Partridge, Rita Rubenfeld, Bob Scheidtmann, Carol Swenson, Allen Wolman and Margery Yates.

Partnership - Chair, Carolyn Chaney, Rita Rubenfeld, Carol Swenson, Linda & John Mattis, Euo Menezes, Jennifer Shepard, Jo Ventura, Leslie Kelly, Puliur Santanam, Merry Stephenson, Ellie Bernhardt, Valerie Hatton, Minnette Diamond, Joe & Dori Foster, Kathie Shaw, Joan Bower, Fran Bennett, Steve Lubeck.

Caddies - Chair, Josephine Ventura, Winston Shustock, Sarah Haley, Ryan Sato, Russell Luttrell, Emily Cook, Douglas Sefton, Williams Poe.

Set-Up/Take Down – Chair Paul Davis submitted the following: “They say it takes a village to raise a child. It takes a great group of Unit volunteers to setup a sectional. Kudos to all who signed up in advance and to the many who pitched in to make take-down go as quickly as possible.

Carl Baeuerlen and Jim Hulseman were the Wednesday muscle who unloaded 150 tables and other bridge paraphernalia from Calvin’s van, then

### NEXT BOARD MEETING

Thursday, August 7

3:45 p.m. Bridge Center

All are welcome to attend.

### Palo Alto Unit 503 Board

Brian Samuels, President

James Stuart-Smith, Vice President

Todd Makler, Treasurer

Leslie Altick, Secretary

Valerie Baldwin, James Harris, Bob Horowitz,  
Kevin O’Leary, Jody Williams

worked with Nancy Kehl, Bill Dalton, Alan Cummings, and Grant Spaeth to set up the upstairs room. Leslie Altick came along at just the right time and took the initiative to set out late arriving Bridge Pads.

Thursday saw a mostly new setup crew for the downstairs ballroom: Nancy Kehl and Grant Spaeth again along with Jolly and Ron Perkocha, Allen Wolman, Roger Jackman, and John Mattis plus some expert guidance from Steve Barasch. Kevin O’Leary took a break from refreshing the Bridge Center to help out, then made a run back to Mountain View to pick up extra tables and bidding boxes. What a Unit hero he is, all year long.

Take-down was more rushed and chaotic. Nick Ward and Randy Ryals were stalwarts along with Alan Wolman, Nancy Kehl, Bill Dalton, Carolyn Cheney, Valerie Baldwin, Josephine Ventura, Stephen Lubeck, Eileen Zefting, Carol Kemper, Bruce Luttrell, and Steve Barasch. Many other unknown angels pitched in to help fold up bidding boxes and tables. Thanks to all of you!”

The way you bid your games,  
The way you trumped my ace,  
The memory of all that,  
No, they can't take that away from me

The way your smile just beams,  
When you have made your slam,  
The way you haunt my dreams,  
No, they can't take that away from me

We may never, never meet again, on the road to  
JCC  
But I'll always, always keep the memory of;

The way you hold your cards,  
The time we set them three,  
The way you taught me bridge,  
No, they can't take that away from me.

Lyric creativity by Todd Makler

# UNIT NEWS

**New Free Play Policy** - The Unit Board has decided to change the way Free Play Certificates are handled. The Board’s intention is to make a Free Play just that – a free play in a club game - independent of the table fee the club owner has decided to charge for that game. Effective immediately, all new and currently in-circulation Free Play Certificates, despite having an \$8 face value, will be accepted by our directors and club owners as FULL PAYMENT for the table fees in any standard club game, or any standard Unit game, for which the table fee is \$9 or \$10. This is despite the fact that the Free Play Certificate states it is worth \$8. Free Play Certificates will not be accepted for payment or partial payment at any special games, i.e. games that have a special surcharge, for example, STAC, charity or other games with a surcharge. Also, effective immediately, Free Plays will be sold for \$10 each, but they will be redeemed according to the above policy.

**Second Harvest Food Bank**— Lothar Klatt reports that so far the Firecracker received \$4966 in money donations and one full barrel of food. The on-line drive continues for the next month. The *Kibitzer* will have the totals in the September issue.

**Kevin O’Leary**— While all the players were away playing and having a fun time at the Firecracker, this leprechaun hung out at the Bridge Center working and cleaning up the area to make it ready for their return. Let’s all cheer and say “thanks” to Kevin for his efforts!

**One+Two**— Kevin O’Leary and Marolyn Yancey have joined with Claire Coleman as owners of the Friday Morning BC. This game has added a NLM section.

**BIG GAMES**— The partnerships with these 73.3% scores come from the ViDBC: Richard Kilner-Marjorie Sterngold and Elizabeth Kan-Kato Reis.

**NAP**— Take advantage of this opportunity to qualify for the Unit final at a Unit club game on Wednesday, August 6 at 7 p.m. at the Doubleton BC.

**Library**— Our Unit library has acquired a new book with an intriguing title – *How to be a Lucky Player* by Matthew Thomson. Here is a summary of Amazon’s review: Are you a lucky player? It is no co-incidence that the best players are lucky players. You can become a "better" player by improving your bidding system with your partner and your play technique; however, this will not make you a lucky player. How can you become a lucky player and a winner? The author demonstrates how to become a lucky player. Lucky players evaluate their trick winning potential, recognize and grab opportunities, maximizing their score over all the likely distributions of the cards.

**Members Approve New Bylaws**— The election results showed that 92 members voted and the By-laws Update passed unanimously. Thanks go to Roy Robinson who organized the voting and to Steve Lubeck who assisted in the vote count. But the Unit especially owes a vote of gratitude to Jody Williams for her tireless efforts in this important revision.

## PLAYER ADVANCEMENTS

The July ACBL report shows that the players identified below have moved up.

Congratulations to all!

|                    |         |   |
|--------------------|---------|---|
| Junior Master      | 5 MP    | Suzanne Band, Kathy Brown, Peter Dehlinger, Dianne Giancarlo, Hai Zhu             |
| Club Master        | 20 MP   | Helen Kuckens, Susan Marshall, Jane Matheson                                      |
| Sectional Master   | 50 MP   | Misook Jung, Sue Kaupp, Elizabeth McKenna   |
| Regional Master    | 100 MP  | Michael Chin, Paul Davis, Russell Norman, Erli Zhou, Ann Suyeyasu, Marleen Zwiers |
| Life Master        | 300 MP  | Barbara Hansen  |
| Bronze Life Master | 500 MP  | Gladys Fong   |
| Silver Life Master | 1000 MP | Sioux Atkinson  |

## UNIT GAMES CELEBRATED THE SUMMER SOLSTICE

On June 22 at the Bridge Center, it was, as the song says, "Summertime and the Livin' is Easy." Flowers and butterflies added to the overall good feelings created by all that delicious food that included many different salads and wraps plus ice cream along with good fun, good people and stimulating competitive bridge.

Will Watson handled 36 Swiss teams in this Charity Game, 14 in the 199er section and 22 in the open. Two teams tied for first overall in the Open: Steve Barasch-Allen Wolman-Serl Zimmerman-Steven Lipson and Kathy Harper-Jim O'Neil-Roger Ng-Donald Rothschild; Patricia Wong-Ruby Chow-Akiko Murakami-Scott Maa were first in C. In the 199er section, Judy Goodnow-Warren Goodnow-Joelle Perkocha-Ron Perkocha came out on top. Free plays were won by Sue Griffin, Donna Raynor and Min Wells.

This doesn't happen without the help of many people. Thanks to Fran Guara, Cathy Johnson, Nan Roey and Virginia Lyons for bringing tidbits to add to our menu. More kind folks dropped things off without giving their names. A big "thank you" to all of you.

Our Unit games have grown into a happening. It only works because people almost always say "yes" when they are asked to help. Thanks to Nick and Anne Ward, Sue and Ralph Griffin, Paul Davis, Roy Grady, Carl Baeuerlen, Jim Hulseman, Martha Huggins and others who just stopped by and said "How can I help?" As always, we had the absolutely best director in Will Watson not to mention the "wonderful, delightful and always gracious" leader of the Swiss team event and author of this write-up, Nancy Kehl.

### JUNE 21 UNIT GAME RESULTS

The Unit held an open and 199er Charity Pairs Game on Saturday, June 21 as a kind of warm up for the big Unit game the following day. Ten pairs competed in the open and four in the 199er. First overall in A1B1 went to Daniel Kroll and Misook Jung with Valerie Baldwin and Eusebio Menezes leading the way in C. Marnie and Mel Sharp had the advantage in the 199er flight. Thanks go to the directors, Will Watson (yes, again) and John Prior and to Jim Harris for the lunch and to all of them for clean-up.

According to Chair Jim Harris, these two Charity Games netted \$200 for the ACBL charity, \$200 for the Alzheimer's Longest Day Fund and an additional \$165 in individual contributions for Alzheimer's.

### SWISS CAME BACK AGAIN FOR UNIT TEAMS

On Sunday, July 13, the Unit players were again challenged in Swiss teams at the Bridge Center. After a delicious lunch again hosted by Nancy Kehl, they got down to the business of playing bridge. There were 14 teams in the open and seven in the 199ers. When all was bid and played, the results in the open were: A1, Prudence Saunders-Hansa Narasimhan-Trina Bowman-Sigmund Malek; B1C1, Reddy Raju-Josephine Ventura-Andrew Dentai-Nate Munger. The 199ers were led by: A1, Ingrid Mattinger-Leila Mattinger-Barbara Hansen-Carolyn Taylor; B1C1, Delores Dunlap-Roger Dunlap-Janet Dekker-Barbara Dicks. Of course, the event would not have been as successful without Nancy's goodies and Will Watson's excellent organization.



## WINNERS TROPHY STANDINGS

The Unit makes annual awards to the players, both Life Master and Non-Life Master, who win the most points each year in the Unit games. Standings after seven events through June are: in Open, Kathy Harper-21.6, Jim O'Neil-21.2, Polly Siegal-20.6, Don Rothschild-18.3, Alan Cummings-13.7; in NLM, Carol Ackerman-5.7, Donna Raynor-4.9, Debbie Machlin-4.9, Roy Grady-4.4, Paul Davis-4.4, Nancy Kehl-4.4. The Unit needs a volunteer to keep the records for the rest of the year. Just contact Brian Samuels to offer.

## SILVER SEARCH COMING

Looking for silver? No need to go to Virginia City or to hunt for it in the pawn shops; the silver will be right here at your local club. The bridge players will seek the silver at the Great Western Summer Fun STAC VII. Put this gigantic sectional on your calendar for the week of August 18-24. The time and place to win precious silver points is right here at your Unit club games. As with the other STAC's, the pair overalls will be computed across all participating clubs in the Western Region. The masterpoint levels and strat limits are set by the STAC sponsor. All STAC games will be pairs except the Wednesday Bridge 'n Brunch which will be a Swiss Teams and the Friday Night Barometer Open flight which will be Board-A-Match. To review the STAC schedule, refer to the back page.

## SYMPATHY

THE UNIT OFFICERS AND MEMBERS EXTEND THEIR SINCERE CONDOLENCES TO THE FAMILY AND FRIENDS OF UNIT MEMBER, JOHN HANCOCK, WHO RECENTLY PASSED AWAY.

## 2014 LEADERS IN ACE OF CLUBS AND MINI MCKENNEY

The ACBL gives the Ace of Clubs award to the player who earns the most points in club games and the Mini-McKenney award for total points including sectionals and higher ranked tournaments. Congratulations to those who are in the lead at the midyear for their respective strata:

Ace - Christopher Kolner, Nancy Hogan, Leila Mattinger, Misook Jung, David Cheng, Carol-Ann Ackerman, Rick Flueke, Don-Min Tsou, Polly Siegel, John Stanczak, Margery Yates, Jim O'Neil, Debbie Rosenberg;

Mini-McKenney - Christopher Kolner, George Hopkins, Leila Mattinger, Misook Jung, Erli Zhou, Jon Rayden, Lynn Giusti, Barbara Shukov, Vinita Gupta, Geeske Joel, Mary Ann Berg, Gary Macgregor, Debbie Rosenberg. The Unit has posted the complete list at the Bridge Center.



If there's an accident, don't just let it be. Please clean it up yourself or notify a director to help us keep the Bridge Center carpet and chairs looking sparkling clean.

## NEWCOMERS

A warm welcome to new Palo Alto Unit 503 members: Fuvir Bajaj, Carol Berg, Anand Chandra, Bryan Chang, Arthur Chen, Harrison Chen, Myra Cohen, Kevin Cox, Olivia D Arezzo, Ben Erickson, Janine Hodgson, Naveen Mirapuri, Shivansh Rustagi, Jonathan Shi, Matthew Shi, Reese Toomre, Daniel Vesurai, Cindy Wang, Eddie Wang, Irene Hashfield, Paul Hashfield, James Long and Eleanor Sax.

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 INFO                                |
|------|--------------------------|----------------|------------|-----------------|--|
| 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                                    |
|      | EZ Bridge                | <99 MP         | 11:30 a.m. | Saunders        | Bridge Center.                                   |
| WED. | Bridge 'n Brunch         | Open/Strat.    | 11:00 a.m. | Will Watson     | Bridge Center                                    |
|      | Wed Aft. 99er            | <100 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, Kevin,  | Bridge Center                                    |
|      |                          | NLM            | 10:30 a.m. | Marolyn         |  |
|      | Friday Night Barometer   | Open/Strat.    | 7:30 p.m.  | Will Watson     | Bridge Center                                    |
|      | Friday Night Barometer   | <500 MP        | 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, August 1 at Transfiguration Church, Castro Valley
- N.B. The .Open/199er Unit Pairs game scheduled for Saturday, August 2, **has been cancelled.**
- Sectional Wednesday, August 6 at Boomtown Hotel, Reno
- NAP Qual. game, Wednesday, August 6 at 7 p.m., Doubleton Club (sign up), Bridge Center
- NLM Sectional, Saturday, August 9 at Bridge Center, Fresno
- Unit Open/199er Swiss Teams, Sunday, August 10, lunch at noon, game at 1 p.m., Bridge Center
- Sectional, Saturday, August 16 at Janet Pomeroy Ctr, San Francisco
- Pairs STAC, Mon. Aug. 18–Sun. Aug 24 all games, all locations
- Swiss Teams STAC, Wednesday, Aug. 20 at 11 a.m. at Bridge 'n Brunch, Bridge Center
- Pairs STAC, Wednesday, Aug. 20 at 7 p.m. at Doubleton BC. (sign-up required), Bridge Center
- Board-A-Match STAC (open flight), Fri., Aug. 22 at 7:30 p.m. at Fri. Night Barometer BC, Bridge Center
- Pairs STAC, (<500 MP), Friday, Aug. 22 at 7:30 p.m. at Friday Night Barometer, Bridge Center
- Regional, Tuesday, August 26 at Hyatt Regency, Santa Clara

### Club Closings

No games from Tuesday evening, Aug. 26 through Monday, Sept.1 except, Wed. Aft 49er at Unity Church at 1 p.m. will be OPEN

### Club Contacts

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