



BACK TO BACK UNIT GAMES, JUNE 21-22

Double and redouble your bridge fun the weekend of June 21-22. Get started with the Unit open and 199er Pairs at the Bridge Center on Saturday, June 21 with lunch at noon and the game at 12:30. The directors will be John Prior and Will Watson. Chair Jim Harris has announced that comments by Marty Bergen on 16 of the hands will be available. The Unit welcomes donations to the ACBL Longest Day Alzheimer Fund. To make sure there are lots of goodies for everyone, please sign up online or at the Bridge Center.

The very next day, Sunday, June 22, you might think is a day for camping, fishing, swimming, sunbathing at the lake and seashore. You'll find, however, that the best fun on that day happens at the Unit game at the Bridge Center. Come and find the good times at the Unit open and 199er Swiss Teams. Discover the special treats at the noon lunch hosted by Nancy Kehl and her team, and then play to your hearts content at the game at 1 p.m. under the direction of Will Watson. Please make sure there is plenty for everyone by signing up online or at the Bridge Center. Show your pleasure by coming with your biggest and best smile.

FIRECRACKER
SUPER SECTIONAL
JUNE 25-29 2014

Get Ready
TO WIN A STACK OF SILVER POINTS

TOURNAMENT HIGHLIGHTS

- 3 DAYS OF TWO-SESSION OPEN PAIRS
- 3 DAYS OF 499er NLM SILVER RUSH PAIRS
- EXCLUSIVELY PAIRS WEDNESDAY
- 2 SESSIONS OF 0-5 MP PAIRS
- 2 DAYS OF FULL KOs
 for the FULL SCHEDULE see back.

For the very latest information go to:
www.palobaltonbridge.com
 for partnerships, schedule, travel information, results,
 hand records and more.

Palo Alto Unit 503 • SANTA CLARA CONVENTION CENTER • 5001 Great America Parkway

IT'S ALMOST HERE!

YOU WON'T WANT TO MISS THE FANTASTIC FIRECRACKER SO MAKE YOUR PLANS NOW. FIND ALL THE DETAILS ABOUT OUR UNIT'S PREMIER EVENT ON PAGES 4 AND 5. GRAB YOUR FAVORITE PARTNER AND COME ON DOWN!

PLAY BRIDGE! PLAY BALL! APRIL 13 BRIDGE 'N BASEBALL UNIT GAME RESULTS

Players honored baseball's Opening Day. They came wearing the Giant's, A's and even some other team's colors for the Unit Swiss Teams on Sunday, April 13. Those that finished the 20-team open game on top were: A, Kathy Harper-Jim O'Neil-Donald Rothschild-Jean Barry; B, Manuela Marani-Alan Cummings-Franklin Gonzalez-David Cheng; C, Laurie Faulkner-Anne Neeter-Carol-Ann Ackerman-Roy Grady. The 199ers who played to a first place tie were: Nancy Kehl-Paul Davis-Ralph Griffin-Susan Griffin and Merri Banks-Eugene Acton-George Hopkins-Mary Hopkins.

The biggest cheers came from the free play winners: Sharon Humphreys, Mary Clare Hopkins and Sheila Hockman. We had wonderful bakers: Virginia Lyons, Vera Baum, Cathy Priest, Mary Mason, Nancy Kehl and two mystery cookie makers. Our appreciation to them and the helpers: Paul Davis, Ralph and

Sue Griffin, Jim Harris and, as usual, to Will for a great job of directing. Thanks to everyone who made this an opening day to remember by sharing their memorabilia including posters, bobble heads, team blankets and other keepsakes. Lastly, kudos to Sue Griffith's sixth grade for the fantastic welcome banner.

The **Cinque de Maio Fiesta on May 4** was no siesta, just players concentrating on their cards in the Unit Swiss Teams on May 4. Hats, oops, sombreros off to the open winners in the 19-table open section: Kathy Harper-Donald Rothschild-Jim O'Neil-Robert Ng in A, Ralf Singer-Misook Jung-Anne Keyser-Sheldon Keyser in B and Don-Min Tsou-Winston Huang-David Cheng-Yu Chang in C. The quartet of Nancy Kehl-Paul Davis-Ralph Griffin-Susan Griffin took the honors in the 10-table 199er section. As usual, thanks to Will Watson and Jim Harris with special appreciation to Nancy Kehl and her team for clean-up chores.

GREAT OPPORTUNITY COMING TO OUR BRIDGE CENTER

Do you have a friend or family member who doesn't know how to play bridge, but who wishes they could enjoy it as you do? Here is a marvelous opportunity for them. Introduce the game you love to someone at Learn Bridge in a Day. Register now! The Learn Bridge in a Day seminar will be held Saturday, June 14 from 9:30 to 3:00 p.m. at the Bridge Center, 432 Stierlin Road, Mountain View. The fee of \$25 per student (\$20 if they come with a friend & \$10 for youths under age

25) includes the instruction, a student handbook, and light snacks. The ACBL Accredited Master Teacher is Patty Tucker, the LBIAD author. For more info or to register, go to our website www.paloaltobridge.com. If students want MORE after the fun-filled five hours, they can take Kathy's beginner class this summer. If you would like to be a table mentor (yes, you are qualified!), email Valerie Baldwin at unit503mentor@gmail.com.

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. As the *Kibitzer* goes to press, the only qualifying game scheduled is June 11 at Doubleton Club Wednesday eve. Watch the *Kibitzer* and the website 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 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).

UNIT GAME SCHEDULE

Sat. May 24—Open/199er Pairs
 Sat. June 21 - Open/199er Pairs
 Sun. June 22 - Open/199er Swiss Teams
 Sun. July 13 - Open/199er Swiss Teams
 Sat. Aug. 2 - Open/199er Pairs
 Sun. Aug. 10 - Open/199er Swiss Teams
 Sun. Sept. 14 - Open/199er Swiss Teams
 Sun. Oct. 5 - Open/199er Swiss Teams
 Sun. Nov. 22 - Open/199er Pot-Luck Pairs
 Sun. Dec. 7 - Unit NAP Final
 Sun. Dec. 21 - Open/199er Holiday Pairs

UNIT NEWS

Passed out - John Prior has cancelled his Tuesday Night Passed Out B.C.

New Art - Kevyn Warnock graduated with a fine arts degree with an emphasis on drawing and painting. After a long artistic hiatus, she returned to her art and discovered a love for landscape painting. The art exhibited includes oil paintings of California landscapes and seascapes. Bev Jauch is also showing her work with oils and chalk, including several flower arrangements.

Celebrity Series - This series concludes in June with Bergen mentored-play on "How to play a Part Score" on Saturday, June 21. Thanks go to Valerie Baldwin for sponsoring this series which gives intermediate players an opportunity to improve their bridge skills by lectures and mentored-play with Jerry Helms, Barbara Seagram, Ron Klinger and Marty Bergan,

Library - How often do you sit at the bridge table wondering if your hand is worth opening? Most players know how to bid but are less skillful at deciding when not to bid. For a better understanding of this concept, Ron Klinger has written the book, *When to Bid, When to Pass*. Many players bid too often and too much, but it can be profitable to know when just to pass. Klinger's style is to start with a principle, explain it in depth, and then give an example or two. This is a good way to learn how to bid and play all hands of a certain type. If you read nothing else, you will find the first chapter on the "Rule of 21 & 1/2" very helpful. Check out the book from our Unit library.

Lectures - The Unit lecture series is taking the summer off. This is a good time to consider a donation to the Unit's Education fund which subsidizes the free lectures and the Unit library. Contact Valerie Baldwin at (650) 851-7810 or valbaldwin@yahoo.com for details. Thanks go to Sue Griswold and Dan Thatte for organizing the lecture series.

SiVY - The Silicon Valley Youth Bridge organization has 36 students, including several from outside of California, enrolled in its June summer camp and there may be more.

Big GAMES - The count for April is five. Harriel Shea-David Gambelin scored 74% at Friday Morning

BC, Linda Elman-Jenny Blaschke 73.6% and Merri Banks-Eugene Acton, 72.4% at Wed Aft.99er, Edward Schmidt-H Alan Gaudie, 72.4 % at Thurs. JCC and Cheryl Mandala-Yul Inn, 72.2% at Friday Barometer.

PLAYER ADVANCEMENTS

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

Congratulations to all!

Junior Master	5 MP	Yumi Kobayashi
Club Master	20 MP	David Aston, Nancy Hogan, Renee Koury, Nathaniel Munger
Sectional Master	50 MP	Fran Gaura, Anne Ward
Regional Master	100 MP	Judy Goodnow, Bette Hirsch
NABC Master	200 MP	Winston Huang, Alice Redfield, Carol Schwerer, Carolyn Taylor, Todd Makler
Silver Life Master	1000 MP	Barbara Shukov
Diamond Life Master	5000 MP	Prue Saunders

Master the Art of Playing a Bridge Hand

For Basic-Intermediate Players

Master Teacher: Kathy Harper

Fall 2014: Thursdays 9:15 – 11:15 a.m.

Dates: Sept 11, 18; Oct 2, 16, 30; Nov. 13; Dec. 4, 17;
Jan 14, 28; Feb 11, 25

Fee: \$185 for 10 classes including all materials

Contact Kathy to register: kharper100@aol.com or
(650) 207-1816.

Classes held at the Palo Alto Bridge Center
432 Stierlin Rd., Mountain View, CA 94043



PALO ALTO UNIT FIRECRACKER JUNE 25-29 – SUPER SECTIONAL

HELD AT THE SANTA CLARA CONVENTION CENTER

GREAT AMERICA PARKWAY AND TASMAN DRIVE, SANTA CLARA.

The playing schedule has been changed this year in response to numerous requests for full KO's (rather than last year's daily compact knock-out games) and two-session pairs games (pairs wishing to play only one session are welcome and will be accommodated). To assure fun for everyone, we are endorsing the ACBL Play Nice policy, and the directors will ensure compliance. Come with a partner or find one at the Partnership Desk which will be open before each game. The silver points are waiting for you! Below find just a few of the tournament highlights.....

- ⇒ Wednesday: Exclusively Pairs Day. No team games.
- ⇒ Earlier start, 6:30 p.m. for evening games on Wednesday and Thursday.
- ⇒ Three days of two session, Open and 499er NLM Pairs. Single session pairs welcome.
- ⇒ Two four-session KO games start Thursday and Friday.
- ⇒ Single session Swiss Teams on three days.
- ⇒ Compact KO game on Saturday.
- ⇒ Saturday: Youth Day with two 0 to 5 MP Pairs games in conjunction with SiVY (Silicon Valley Youth) Bridge. Youths 25 and under play free in this event, but all ages welcome to play.
- ⇒ Sunday: Swiss Day with two-session Swiss Teams and single-session Pair games
- ⇒ Parking is free. Park either in the Convention Center garage (which may fill up) or at the parking structure on Tasman across from the new stadium. Details on our web site, paloaltobridge.com.
- ⇒ Hungry? Thirsty? Food service, i.e., coffee and a no-host buffet, will be available from 11:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. on Friday, Saturday and Sunday. Food and drinks are also available in the hotel.
- ⇒ Need a hotel room? Hyatt Regency across the street offers a tournament rate of \$129/night. Call (888) 421-1442 by May 25.
- ⇒ Session fees are \$11 for ACBL members and \$14 for others.
- ⇒ If you're new at attending tournaments, you'll find lots of help and support. Come a little early for the game you want to play and ask a director or someone at the Hospitality desk where the I/N (Intermediate/Newcomer) area is.
- ⇒ **We still need people to help with all parts of the tournament.** If you are willing to volunteer, please contact the heads of these committees: James Stuart-Smith and Paul Davis for Set up and Take down, jstuartsmith@att.net or plmdavis@pacbell.net; Carolyn Chaney for Partnerships, cchaney@sfsu.edu; Sioux Atkinson for Hospitality, Sioux@natureimages.com and Josephine Ventura for Caddies, vent16@gmail.com. Josephine is still looking for more young people to caddy, especially boys. You may also check in with tournament chair, James Stuart-Smith, jstuartsmith@att.net.
- ⇒ No Kibitzer, need a schedule? Check out the ad in the Forum, the Unit website, flyers at Bridge Center
- ⇒ Reminder: Bring a donation for the Second Harvest Food Bank.
- ⇒ Lastly, play once, play twice—yes, play often.

NEXT BOARD MEETING

Thursday, June 5

3:45 p.m. Bridge Center

All are welcome to attend.

Palo Alto Unit 503 FIRECRACKER SECTIONAL 2014

SANTA CLARA CONVENTION CENTER • 5001 Great America Parkway

Wednesday June 25 - EXCLUSIVELY PAIRS

1 & 6:30 Stratified Open Pairs
99 & 499er Stratified Pairs

Thursday June 26

1 & 6:30 **FIRECRACKER BRACKETED KOs**
Rounds 1 & 2, *continues Friday 10 & 3*
STRATIFIED OPEN PAIRS
Single Sessions Welcome
499er NLM SILVER RUSH PAIRS
99er Stratified Pairs
Stratified Swiss Teams

Friday June 27

10 & 3 **STARS & STRIPES BRACKETED KOs**
Rounds 1 & 2, *continues Saturday 10 & 3*
FIRECRACKER KOs – rounds 3 & 4
STRATIFIED OPEN PAIRS
Single Sessions Welcome
499er NLM SILVER BULLION PAIRS
99er Stratified Pairs
Stratified Swiss Teams

Saturday June 28 - YOUTH DAY

10 & 3 **STARS & STRIPES KOs – Rounds 3 & 4**
RED ROCKET COMPACT KO
STRATIFIED OPEN PAIRS
Single Sessions Welcome
NLM 499er SILVER STAR PAIRS
99er Stratified Pairs
0 – 5 Youth Pairs
All ages welcome
Age 25 and younger free
3 Stratified Swiss Teams

Sunday June 29

10 *with short Break* **STRATI-FLIGHTED SWISS TEAMS**
299er STRATIFIED SWISS TEAMS
10 & 2:15 Stratified Open Pairs
99er Stratified Pairs

TOURNAMENT CHAIR:

James Stuart-Smith
jstuartsmith@att.net
(408) 530-8834

PARTNERSHIPS:

Carolyn Chaney
cchaney@sfsu.edu

SESSION FEES:

\$11
FOR PAID ACBL MEMBERS
\$14
FOR OTHERS

Hyatt Regency Santa Clara

*Limited rooms are available
from Thursday June 26
at the tournament special rate of*

\$129/ per night
Make reservations early!

Call (888) 421-1442

*and specify
Palo Alto Bridge Firecracker 2014
or online at*

<https://resweb.passkey.com/go/firecracker2014>

STRATIFIED EVENTS	STRATIFIED-FLIGHTED EVENTS	I/O EVENTS (as needed)
A 2000+	A 3000+	D 300-500
B 750-2000	X 0-3000	E 200-300
C 0-750	B 1000-2000	F 0-200
	C 500-1000	G 50-100
	D 0-500	H 10-50
		J 0-10

KO events may be handicapped
EVENTS IN BOLD FACE ARE TWO OR MORE SESSIONS



FIRECRACKER AIDS SECOND HARVEST FOOD BANK

Help Second Harvest Food Bank's Share Your Lunch programs to feed our needy children in San Mateo and Santa Clara counties. Thanks to the generosity of all who enjoyed the 2013 Firecracker, we raised over \$6,000 in donations. In SHFB terms, our overall target was 12,950 points and we surpassed that with 14,980 points. Once again, we hope that

players at the Firecracker will show their generous spirits with food and cash donations. Please do your part for our youth. Good nourishment is a cornerstone of our young peoples' lives to help them achieve their dreams. SHFB is a 501C3, EIN 94-2614101. Cash donations will be acknowledged by request. Any questions, contact Lothar Klatt, Lnews1@msn.com, (650) 369-8352.

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

NEWCOMERS

A warm welcome to new Palo Alto Unit 503 members: Larry Anderson, Britt Arezzo, Jonathan Handler, Olga Schanz and Erli Zhou.

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 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

- Bergen Lecture, Saturday, May 24 at 9:30 a.m., Bridge Center
- Unit Pairs, Saturday, May 24. Munchies at 11:30, game at noon, hands and commentary by Marty Bergen, Bridge Center
- Regional, Monday, May 26 at Double Tree Hotel, Sacramento
- Unit lecture, Tuesday, May 27 at 9:30 a.m., Bridge Center
- Sectional, Saturday, June 7 at Janet Pomeroy Center, San Francisco
- NAP Qualifying Game, Wednesday, June 11, Doubleton Club, Bridge Center
- Sectional, Saturday, June 14 at Hiram Hall, Oakland
- Bergen Mentoring Play, Saturday, June 21 at 9:30 a.m., Bridge Center
- Unit open/199er pairs, Saturday, June 21, lunch at noon, game at 12:30 p.m., Bridge Center
- Unit Open/199er Swiss Teams, Sunday, June 22, lunch at noon, game at 1 p.m., Bridge Center

PALO ALTO Firecracker Sectional

Wednesday June 25-Sunday June 29, Convention Center,
Santa Clara

**No club games Wednesday, June 25 through Sunday,
June 29 except Unity Church Wednesday game**



Club Contacts

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John Schwartz (650) 324-2424

Lori Spaeth (650) 906-3987

Will Watson (408) 614-8881

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