



What's New in District 22

again and our newest Silver Life Master as well.

The other 2013 officers are Judy Lacy, vice president; Dennis Eshelman, secretary; and Ron Williams, treasurer. The 2013 board members are Myrna James, Rick Kerbel, and Dennis Boomgaarden.

The 2013 unit committee chairs are: tournament committee, Dennis Boomgaarden; unit game equipment manager, Charlie Fox; Temecula Sectional Manager, Sheril Maag; Sun City Sectional Manager, Dennis Boomgaarden; *Chatter* Editor/Publisher, Harvey Lesser; Charity Committee, vacant; Judicial, Peggy Cowherd; Webmaster, Rick Kerbel; unit game food supplies - Hemet, TBD; unit game food supplies - Sun City, Berna Lord; unit game food supplies - Temecula, Peggy Cowherd; membership, TBA; Novice, Open; *Forum* reporter, Harvey Lesser; educational liaison, TBA; game schedule editor/publisher, Dennis Boomgaarden.

Congratulations again to everyone. Without your time and effort there would be no Inland Valley bridge.

La Jolla/Beach

By Skipbid

Our third annual Holiday Party - held December 9 at the La Jolla Country Club - had the usual wonderful food, company and bridge in a fabulous setting. 25 tables were in attendance, and the winners were Lynne O'Neill and Bill Grant (Flight A), Barbara Blake and Joyce Bailey (Flight B), and Judy Hunter and Marc Matz (Flight C). Special thanks to board members Janet Ansfield and Cass Donovan for arranging this big success and making sure a good time was had by all.

Speaking of success, several unit members/unit game players found their names in lights at the Palm Springs Regional held December 10-16. Kathy Moyer, who directs at the Soledad Tuesday afternoon game, and her partner Nancy Lowrey managed to win the well-attended Gold Rush Pairs two days in a row! Other pairs games winners were Maritha Pottenger and Kit Humphreys in the Sunday Fast Pairs, Steve Johnson and partner in Saturday Open Pairs, and Ron Kay and Bill Grant in the Friday Open Pairs. In team games, our own director Paul Darin won his Compact Indian Wells Knockout event and also placed second in the A/X Swiss. Kevin Chaisson and Philippe Lamoise won their Bracket KO and placed second in two others.

Meanwhile, Mac Busby, Rebecca Rogers and Alan and Debbie Gailfus took top honors in their extremely competitive Bracket 1 event. Congratulations to all.

Back at home, the December 23 unit game was won by David Abelow and Diana Marquardt (Flight A) and Kevin Chaisson and Philippe Lamoise (Flights B and C).

And finally, more congratulations are due to the following unit members who have moved up in their ACBL masterpoint rank: New Junior Masters Grace Johnson, Mary Lowe, Julia Smith, Thomas Smith, and Mark Wilf; new Club Masters Yael Aires and Batia Kvashny; new Sectional Master Joyce Blumberg; new NABC Master Jim Wood. Good job, all!

(And please refer to this column for a free play during January or February.)

Lompoc

By Jo Gowenlock

Thanks to club manager Darlene Fraser - with help from Pearl Howerton and Evelyn Schuler - the annual Christmas Potluck at the Alpha Club was a great success. This Christmas Party has been held for many years at the Alpha, and this year was no disappointment. Thanks also to all players who brought their favorite dishes, and to Bob Lindquist who served wine (Qupe) from his family winery.

The travel section in December was active: Bob Male went on a cruise to Tahiti, Sarah Flinkingshelt visited her son and family on the east coast, Suzanne Budabin visited friends (and played some bridge) in Arizona, Jon Wall spent time with a friend in Ohio. On the bridge front Joyce Gehlhaar, Barb Holt and Skook Porter went to Palm Springs for the regional. Joyce played with long - time partner Gary Yant, who lived in Lompoc a few years back and was instrumental in running our unit.

I forgot to mention in the last report that Suzanne Budabin, Nick Sehgal and Bob Lindquist all earned a few gold points at the Ventura Regional in October.

Congratulations to them!

Even though we did cancel two of our games during the Holiday Season, we managed to hold some important games. Two Great Western STAC games were held as scheduled during the first week of December. Winning partnerships were Malcolm Anderson - Margaret Courtney, Nelson Owens - Don Beck, and Suzanne Budabin - Nick Sehgal. Winners of the three unit championship games were Karen and Ken Hollinga, Joyce Gehlhaar - Kay Rowland, Joyce Gehlhaar - Jim Gibbs, and Joyce Gehlhaar - Maralynn Haney. (check out Joyce's three wins in a row!)

"On the Rise" still moving ... remember? ... new players that win in Strat A, B, and C: Tom Small (3), Barbara Gordon (who, by the way, just achieved Club Master status) and Lynley Bernau (2), John Greer, Judy Greer, Don Beck, Karen Hollinga, Ken Hollinga, Jack Hoffman (new) and Helen Young (1).

Winners of regular games: Betty Brown, Tom Snouse, Jack Hoffman, Bob Jurgensen, Barb Gustitus, Jo Gowenlock and Pat Hodges. (1)

So it probably won't come as a surprise that Joyce Gehlhaar won the most points (8.81) in our unit in the month of December. And she did it with two cancelled games! Good for you, Joyce.

Bye for now.

Riverside

By Kathy Sinkovich

When one writes a news column of this sort, there is always the concern - almost a fear - of omitting a name or misspelling a name. In the last article by this author, the former occurred. In reporting on the Riverside Sectional held October 12-14, the name of Sadhna Joshi, the hospitality chair, was inadvertently left out! *mea culpa, mea culpa, mea maxima culpa.*

The omission, however, provides the opportunity to provide further information about Ms. Joshi. She came in first on three successive Tuesdays with her partner Theo Palmer, and with another partner, Dagmar Welker, earned a score of 73.21%!

Congrats to all three.

Two other pairs achieved 70% games in December: Emoke Gaspar - Diana Garber and William Hamann - Dolores McDonald; both pairs are no strangers to this feat.

Robert Graves and Lysle Shaffer, who have been playing together for about two years, have also been burning up the boards as they came in first or second consistently in December. In the opinion of Dagmar Welker, one of the directors, they are the most improved players in our group.

Congratulations to this pair who, with Tony and Pat Mascari, recently earned points in a Swiss Teams event at the Palm Springs Regional.

Speaking of which, several of our members also attended this tournament and received points. These included Terry Berg, Paul Caslavka, Jonathan Harvey, James Linke, Owen Kustner, Chris Buechler, and Arleen Harvey.

Terry not only earned 1.75 in gold playing there with Paul, but also 1.75 in red with a pick-up partner, and, the following day, added 1.75 in black at our club with Jessie Myers. We do have some stellar players, don't we?

The unit game on December 16 produced the following winners: David and Susan Ruoff, James Tanner - William Hamann, and Nancy Kulak - Donna Markham. Congrats again!

The 299er game on Saturdays continues to draw players; the following pairs earned points in it: Mona Busick and Bev Moneteiro, Carol Meredith and Mary Ann Braden, Jo Harris and Bruce Bartholomew. Kudos to you!

We appreciate all of you so much who support our club: keep on coming, and playing bridge!

Saddleback

By Helene Dykes

There is still time to join us for silver points at the Saddleback Sectional on February 9 and 10. Get your partners and teammates lined up for Open Pairs, 299ers, Swiss Teams and Knockouts. This event is a great opportunity to celebrate an early Valentine's Day and earn the silver points you need to move up to the next masterpoint level. You can find all the details at www.acbl.org/tournaments

We had 45 tables at our December unit game. There were three open sections and

a 299er group.

Overall Flight A winners were Lowell Andrews - Ann Nixon in first place and Walter Schafer - Steve Love in second place. Overall Flight B winners were Mary St. Julien - Lucille Hovland. Overall Flight C winners were Pat Masters - Jackie Gibson. Section winners were Chris Larsen - Norman Woo, Judy Elbogen - Xiaoxue Walker, David and Rita Wakeman, and Gabrielle Sill - Cathy Bauer. Overall winners in the 299er group were Tobie Allard-Smith - Tom Singleton in first place and Ellie Sekula - Ingeborg Lillyman in second place.

Unit games are held at 1:00 p.m. every second Sunday (except February) at Laguna Woods Village Clubhouse #7 on Moulton Parkway. Refreshments are served at 12:30 p.m.

Congratulations to unit members who have reached new masterpoint levels. Our new Junior Master is Ann Worley. New Club Masters are Jan Anchell and Philip Brady. Jim Brauer and Steve Johnson are new NABC Masters. Our new Gold Life Master is Fran Schwartz.

Keep piling up those masterpoints!

Our featured members of the month, John and Dixie Bliss, started playing bridge in college. Dixie played what she calls "dormitory bridge" at the University of Missouri, and John played bridge with the guys at the University of Michigan. Dixie majored in music and worked for two summers as a "chorus girl" with the St. Louis Municipal Opera. Dixie said that it was a thrill getting paid to do something she loved to do. John played duplicate for a few years after he moved to California to work in the aerospace industry. Although he stopped playing after a few years, he knew that he would come back to it.

Dixie became a music teacher in the Newport Mesa School District and was fortunate to have an English credential when music positions were cut due to Proposition 13. In addition to teaching, Dixie bred and showed standard poodles for twenty-five years.

Both Dixie and John retired in 1996 and moved to Laguna Woods in 1999. According to Dixie, John was in the Laguna Woods bridge room before the boxes were unpacked. Since he had kept the postcards listing his masterpoints, John Larson, the director, worked with the ACBL to reinstate them. Dixie assumed that John would find partners at the club, but John insisted that this was something that he really wanted to do with her.

He tactfully suggested that she might want to take some lessons, so Dixie started learning from Paul Larson. She says that she needed to take his lectures three times to finally get it. She still remembers the laughter of her fellow bridge students when she told them about the look she received from John when she passed his opening 2♣ bid!

Dixie and John became regulars at the Laguna Woods Bridge Club and became Life Masters last year at the Palm Springs Regional. They are active volunteers at the club and currently maintain the Bridge Mates. They are both licensed club directors, and Dixie is certified to teach both Audrey Grant and Easybridge! classes.

John and Dixie play exclusively with each other and have developed good partnership understandings. They don't discuss issues at the table and wish that people coming to their table would refrain from rehashing hands. They love the format of duplicate bridge and, although they like to win, just enjoy the general ambience and playing against different people. They frequently compliment the opponents on good play and maintain a friendly, relaxed demeanor. Consequently, people love to come to their table and enjoy their sense of humor.

Because of her love of music, Dixie is an active volunteer with the OC Philharmonic Society. John told us that he had enough time serving on various boards while he was working, so he just enjoys helping Dixie with her activities.

They have traveled all over the world and have visited people they met in their dog-showing years. They love taking bridge cruises and are currently on a two-month bridge cruise in the South Pacific.

When asked for some words of wisdom, Dixie and John laughed and stated that "People forget that bridge is just a game. If you are not having fun, do something else." With their joy of life and sense of humor it is easy to see why John and Dixie are so well-liked and admired at the Laguna Woods Bridge Club!

San Diego

By Vickie Creamer

Happy New Year! Our Unit 539 set records - most attendance, more members, increased treasury and fun, fun, fun! Our First Sunday Holiday Party was a huge success, thanks to the efforts of Tournament Chair Ralph Baty, who did the organizing, and Treasurer Barb Holles, who collected the payors, gave out the freebies and moved things along.

Winners of the 749er game were Kevin Chaison - Philippe Lamoise; #2, Craig and Gigette Caldwell; and #3, Anne Bradley - Jean Murphy. Open winners were Lamy Agelidis - Jim Johnsen; #2, Andy and Patricia Loh; and #3, David Oakley - David Walters. Lots of prizes, great food.

Plan on playing 12 unit games in 2013 for your free Holiday Party!

Third Sunday winners in Flight A were Vicki Creamer - Jon Wright; #2, Cass Donovan - Marilyn Peters-Dunn (who won Flight B); #3, Mary and Roy Green. #2 in B were Marty and Leila Bloomberg; #3, Juana and Ken Andrecht.

We trade fifth Sundays with La Jolla Unit 526, but we celebrated the end of the year with our fifth Sunday on December 30. Winners in Flights A and B were Andy and Patricia Loh; #2, Barbara Blake - Wirt Gilliam; #3, Ken Monzingo - Bill Grant. 2nd in B were Bob Walters - Alex Prairie; #3, Kathie Angione - John Lagodimos. Wonderful end to a wonderful year!

Big News! Lamy Agelidis, our publicity chair, is looking to create an online directory with names and phone numbers (current ones!). We will have to get written permission from each person who wants to be included (even members of other units). Forms available as you walk in to AIB.

Note: This will be password protected!

Milestones: Club Masters: Matt McLandrich, Douglas Sandeman. Regional Master: Darryl Smith. NABC Master: Bob Friedman. Life Masters: Dean Altschuler, Katherine Moyer. Bronze Life Master: Murray Goldman. Silver Life Master: Ben Domurat. Congratulations to all!

Check our own 539 website, www.SanDiegoBridge.com for all of the latest information and interesting bridge sites! Many times our awards chair Larry Sherman finds a disconnected phone number when he tries to call someone *re* their award. If you have won an award and didn't hear from Larry, call him at 858 692-2963 or e-mail him at beboplar@yahoo.com

Wirt Gilliam, Adventures in Bridge (www.adventuresinbridge.com) Take a look at this website for all of the interesting and informative lessons that are offered at AIB.

Also, you can see the latest total masterpoints and other interesting information.

Matt Belau, Scripps Ranch (www.scripps-ranchbridge.com): You know this club has been busy when Matt hasn't had time to write his usual column, but invites all you readers to check out the latest on the website (above).

Dave Walters, San Diego Bridge Academy (www.sandiegobridgeacademy.com). Also a good website for all the latest results and new happenings at this busy club.

San Diego North County Coastal

By Carolyn Scerni

I wish you all a very Happy and Healthy New Year. We have a lot to look forward to in 2013, and playing good bridge and having fun is a priority on our list. To begin with, I want to acknowledge Al Feldman. While playing at the National Tournament in San Francisco, Al qualified to play in the finals of the Super Senior Pairs with his partner Mike Albert, and won 27 platinum points.

This was quite an accomplishment, and giant congratulations go out to both of you.

Welcome back to Judy Gruenberger. Judy comes to visit and plays bridge in our unit every year after Thanksgiving, and then leaves us around the end of March to go back to New York. She splits her time between her daughters who live on both the east and west coast.

And lastly, we say goodbye to Harry Rotenberg, who passed on at the end of December. Harry was a wonderful man and bridge player, and will be missed by many.

December 2 we had our game at Ocean Hills, and the big winners coming in 1st overall were Rex and Sheila Latus in the open play section. Rima and John Sharron followed closely in 2nd place. In the 0-499