



Western Conference Report



By Bonnie Bagley
WC President



What a difference a year makes. In the 2013 December *Forum*, I reported how well the Western Conference was doing because of the successful Western Conference regionals in D17, D21, & D22, and our three annual STACs.

The picture is no longer so rosy; to date the 2014 Western Conference regional table count is 963 tables less than last year. The 2014 May Spring Fling STAC with 8133 tables was 222 tables less than 2013, and the 2014 August Summer Fun STAC of 7394 tables was 234 down from last year.

Although our Western Conference STACs have shown some recent decrease in table count, they remain the largest sectionals in ACBL, and are always popular with our players who enjoy the challenge of trying to be number one in a 500+ table game. We're looking forward to a much improved 2015.

The 2013 December Holiday STAC provided perennial winner Mark Itabashi, D22, 51.97 masterpoints for 1st, Chris Compton, D16, 49.22 for second, and Steve Gross, D23, 3rd place with 41.81 masterpoints. Although the following is old news, it is possible there is someone who is unaware that our December Holiday STAC played a major role in determining the Barry Crane 500 winner, a race that continued to the last day of that year. Mark Itabashi and Chris Compton were neck and neck in the race. Chris knew that Mark can amass bushel loads of masterpoints in the WC STACs, and knew he had to participate there to beat Mark. He rounded up friends to play with him and provide hospitality and won enough masterpoints to win the coveted title. It was a nail biter to the end ... who says bridge is boring?

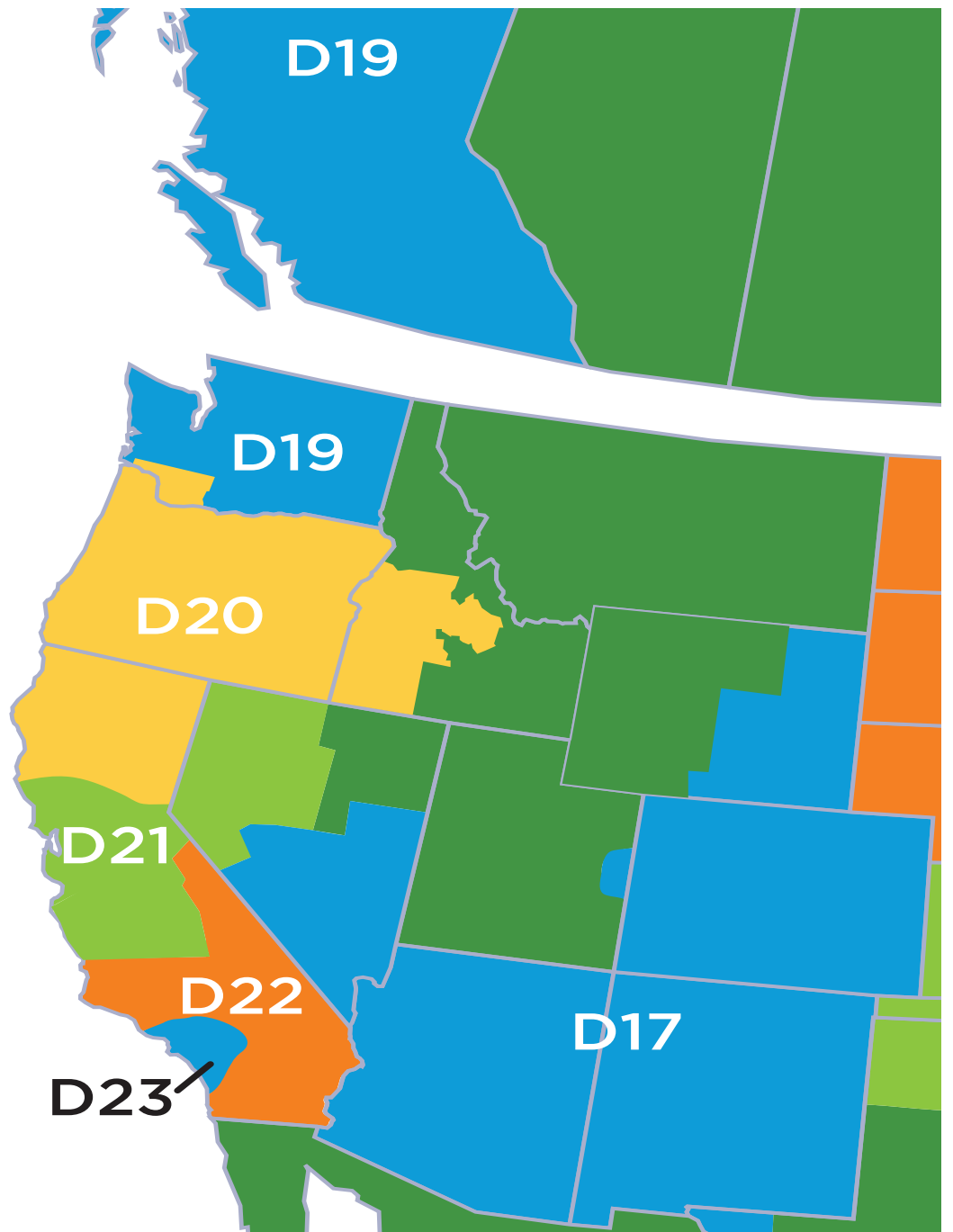
The 2014 May Spring Fling STAC saw Aram Bedros, D23, top winner with 51.19 MPs, Mark Itabashi, D22, with 37.81 MPs in second and Peter Benjamin, D23, third with 32.56 MPs. Charles Clarke, D22, was first in the August Summer Fun STAC earning 31.91 MPs, Bradley Komsthoef, D21, was second with 28.35 and Irva Neyhart, D20, closely behind with 28.32 MPs to take third place. *All points were silver!*

Who will top the point list for the WC Holiday STAC, December 8-14? Get your partners and play at your local clubs to see your name in lights (perhaps green and red, for the Holidays, and silver for the MPs earned).

The final WC regional in 2014 is December 15-21 at the Palm Springs Regional, one of ACBL's premier tournaments, and one not to be missed. Plan ahead. get your shopping and decorating done early and win gold points.

Best wishes to you and yours for a Blessed Holiday Season from your 2014 Western Conference Board:

- D17: Bonnie Bagley & Carolyn Newcomb
- D21: Stu Goodgold & Marion Robertson
- D22: Ken Monzingo & Teri Atkinson



December 8-14, 2014

**GREAT WESTERN
HOLIDAY STAC XXIII**

The XXIII Annual Great Western Holiday Sectional Tournament at Clubs

The Holidays - when friends and families enjoy the season.
It's also the time for the XXIII Annual Great Western Holiday Sectional Tournament at Clubs - the world's largest silver point tournament!
Support your clubs, enjoy your bridge at home during this magnificent time, and win bushels of Silver Points!

Happy Holidays!