

# CONTRACT BRIDGE FORUM



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## Monterey Clambake Regional January 4-10, 2016



Monterey Bay

### Western Conference Regionals



**By Pam Hughes**  
D21 Regional  
Manager

**H**ello from the All-Western Championships! After months of trying to work out housing details and how it would go with a 49ers game on Thursday night (it was smooth as silk, no parking worries or anything), we are wrapping up a wonderful tournament. As well as great bridge, we had excellent celebrity speakers including Curtis Cheek, Janice Seamon-Molson, Mike Lawrence, Robert Todd and Bobby Etter. We also had our usual complement of wonderful District 21 attendees: Thanks to all of you who showed up and made it such a success!

#### Monterey Next

**M**onterey is booking up fast so if you haven't made your reservation for the Clambake Regional, it's time! The phone number for the Hyatt Regency is 831 372-1234. As always, let me know if you have any trouble, or if you have a reservation you decide not to use. The wait list system works well, and the people that are able to

get in are so appreciative.

#### Reno NABC

**A**lso, I want to remind everyone that we aren't having a Presidents Day Regional next year so that you can attend the Spring NABC in Reno! There are three host hotels for this exciting tournament (housing information is available at [acbl.org](http://acbl.org)). Nationals offer all sorts of experiences you just can't get anywhere else! You might want to play in a NABC+ game (there are so many!), it's a great opportunity to try to see how you measure up! Or, if you're not ready for that, play in one of the huge Knockouts there. Or kibbitz an expert, that's an experience you'll never forget. There will be games and lectures for the intermediate/novice players and gold rush games galore. So come and play; you'll love it!

**T**hat's it from me for now. Mom and I are heading home for a little R & R; we've earned it! But I'm looking forward to our next get-together. *Take care until then!*

### North American Pairs

#### District 21 Unit Qualifiers



**By Jack Ortiz**  
District 21 NAP  
Coordinator

**P**layers may play in any, but only one unit qualifier game. You must have pre-qualified at a club qualifying game to participate in a unit qualifier.

Here is a list of the currently scheduled unit qualifiers to be held at a unit location.

**Unit 530 Monterey:** October 3 - 1:00 p.m.

**Unit 506 San Francisco:** October 10 - 12:00 p.m. - at St. Mary's Cathedral

**Unit 499 Diablo Valley:** October 18 - 2 sessions 10:00 a.m. & 3:00 p.m.

**Unit 550 Santa Cruz:** November 7 - 2 sessions 10:00 a.m. & 2:00 p.m.

**Unit 500 South County:** November 1:00 - 12:00 p.m.

**Unit 509 Santa Rosa:** November 8 - 1:00 p.m.

**Unit 522 Fresno:** November 8 - 1:00 p.m.

**Unit 503 Palo Alto:** December 13 - 2 sessions 1:00 & 5:00 p.m.

**A**ll District 21 North American Pairs finals will be held at the Palo Alto Bridge Club starting at noon & TBA each day. Open Flight (unlimited) on Saturday, Jan. 23, & Sunday, Jan. 24; B Flight (0-2500) on Saturday, Feb. 6; C Flight (0-500 NLM) on Sunday, Jan. 24.

For more info go to the D21 net pages and/or [jackieo@sonic.net](mailto:jackieo@sonic.net)



## District 21 Students Storm Youth NABC in Chicago

**By Jim Leuker**  
District 21 Vice President  
Education & TAP Coordinator

**D**istrict 21 was very well represented at the Youth NABC held in Chicago this summer. Our kids were out in force and made a good showing of themselves. D21 established a new program this year, the Youth Bridge Sponsorship Program. Its purpose is to assist young, new bridge players in participating in the Summer Youth NABC or other national or international youth bridge contests. The participant must be a full-time student under the age of 26. If under 18 years of age, the student also has to obtain a Parental Consent and Release. The student applies to District 21 for a matching stipend of up to \$500 to offset the cost of traveling to the youth tournament. The student is also to have applied to a unit or educational organization for funds of an equal amount.

**T**he program got off to a roaring start this summer. A total of 19 students applied to the district for stipends to help them travel to Chicago for the YNABC on August 6-8. All were approved. The students are all affiliated with one of three educational organizations. Reno Youth Bridge sent two students; Center for Bridge Education (San Francisco) sent six; and Silicon Valley Youth Bridge (SiVY) sent 11 students with D21 stipends (they also sent three others who didn't apply for D21 stipends.) The total outlay for the district was \$9,300. The district considers this money well spent in supporting the new generation of bridge players.



Youth NABC Chicago

**The participants have returned** home with nothing but positive comments about their experiences at the Chicago Youth NABC. Emma Miller of Reno said: "I got to meet many others of my same age who love bridge as much as I do." She was surprised to meet players from all over the U. S., and from Denmark and elsewhere, too. Olivia d'Arezzo of SiVY was also thrilled to meet bridge players from all over the world: "Meeting more than a hundred other youth who shared a love for bridge was amazing." Lisa Liao of CBE was also amazed to get to meet young players from all over North America. Samuel Erickson of SiVY says, "It was a friendly environment and overall a very good tournament experience."

Max Krawczyk of SiVY reports that the whole event is very casual and fun-oriented. Many of the players, even the older ones with lots of experience, were still very gregarious and friendly and even able to crack good jokes at the table."

Quite a number of the participants and parents were very clear that without the support of the stipends they wouldn't have been able to attend the Youth NABC.

**A number of our District 21** players enjoyed success in their events. Second place in the final national Youth Swiss Team Championship went to the SiVY team of Brent Xiao and Rory Xiao of Fremont, Michael Hu of San Jose and Kevin Huang of Palo Alto. In the opening single-session youth pairs, the top two placing pairs consisted of these same four students.

Michael Hu went on to play other events in Chicago to bring home a total of 54.72 masterpoints, while Brent Xiao, a 9th grader, finished 15th in the Red Ribbon Pairs. Some of the participants are inspired to become more serious youth competitors. A handful have already made plans to travel to Atlanta in December for the 2015 Junior USBC qualifying event (U-21 team trials).

**But winning or losing** wasn't really the point, was it? These students had a great experience, one that they'll remember for a very long time. All in all, it was a pretty impressive showing by the young people from our district. We're very proud of them, and hope they'll continue their love of bridge.

### D21 FORUM DEADLINES

Deadline for all Forum copy and ads is the 5th of the preceding month!

**Rich Luttrell**  
D21 Forum Editor  
6550 2nd Street  
Rio Linda CA 95673  
Phone: 916 991-6997  
[luttrellr@sbcglobal.net](mailto:luttrellr@sbcglobal.net)

**Change of Address**  
Send information to:  
[addresschange@acbl.org](mailto:addresschange@acbl.org)

Or by regular mail to:  
ACBL/Address Change  
P.O. Box 289  
Horn Lake MS 38637