



# District 21 Unitscope

## Berkeley/El Cerrito/ Richmond

By Beer Dude

Autumn has befallen us; may the forecast El Niño bring heavy precipitation. May our area escape the inevitable wildfires, & the wine grapes get picked before the precipitation starts! Now to catch up the last 2 months; there wasn't much to put in a September column, so I blew it off.

*Unit stuff first:* We've killed our fall sectional for financial reasons – between rent increases & ACBL's fee hikes, it's become a money loser the past 2 years – not to mention that we were stuck with the weekend before Thanksgiving because of the way ACBL defines weekends. Our long-time dates are the 1st weekend in November. When Halloween falls on Saturday, as it does this year, the facility we use is unavailable. Because an adjacent unit changed its sectional November 7-8 to a 499er, there was no way I could re-book our site.

The August 7 unit game drew 7.5 tables, which Elazar Friedman & Roger Gabrielson topped; the chasers: "3 Wood" & Jan Straus 2A/1B; Laura McCrea & Carrie Stoltzfus 3A/2B; Jan Kosel & Veda Mason 4A/3B, & Tom Shimizu & Shahla Verrall 5A/4B. September 4 drew 6.5, which C players George Cage & Marge Hutchings topped (way to go, kids!), w/ Dick Walker & Larry Zeni 2A/B, Dexter Hodes & Gordon Libby 3A/B, Eric & Susie 4A, & the Cobeens 5A/4B. October games are Friday 2nd & Wednesday 21st.

*In-Outs, etc:* Welcome new member Joan Sopher; Anna Mantell is our newest Jr Master, & Eugene Sor (our resident classical musician & a helluva nice guy) is

our latest Silver LM (1K+) – good going y'all! I'm still getting a lot of "phantom" transfers-out on people I never saw come into our unit; the ACBL software which processes this stuff has been in need of serious upgrade for at least 10 years!

*At da club:* John Begley was July MP champ; Aki Watanabe topped August. Best % games: "H-J" 65; "H"-Carol Scott 65.5; "J" & Larry Zeni 66.67; Lamar Marutani & Dick Walker 71.72 (good for 3rd overall in StaC); Cobeens 67.81; Dick Walker & Susie 71.67. Way to go, Dick – 2 Honor Roll games in the same month! Regular club championship game is Monday 5th; club appreciation games all week 26th-30th. I'll be gone September 23-October 7; again October 14-21, so my trusty relievers will be running a lot of the games. There's no game on September 30, as all my relievers also will be traveling/have other commitments.

Final note to the club regulars: *Please* rinse out your coffee cups & stash them in the cupboard before you leave; I don't do dishes! And *please* get the sticky stuff off your hands before you pick up your cards! We replace cards once/year. Your cooperation helps keep our overhead down & game fees the *lowest* in the Bay Area; we are a "co-op" in the true sense of the word.

Tweak *beerman1949@gmail.com* to brag/gripe/suggest; unit info & game results available 24/7 @ [www.berunit497.org](http://www.berunit497.org)

## Carson/Tahoe

By Leona Pchelkin

It's almost here! We are busily planning our Tahoe/Carson Fall Sectional. The date is October 8-11 in Carson City. In addition to the wonderful snacks we are famous for, there will be

lots of fun games and many opportunities to earn points. We are offering an exciting new event on Thursday evening, Eight is Enough at 6:00 p.m., after our no-host reception with appetizers.

So get your teams together; it's a fun event. See our online flyer for details. We hope to see you all there.

We are especially excited that by the time the tournament begins we will have our very own dealing machine. Leona Pchelkin, our president, organized a pledge drive to help defray the cost and I am pleased to announce that it was quite successful. It wasn't too many years ago that we had two clubs one of which was struggling. We now have two very successful clubs averaging ten to fourteen tables once a week. Both clubs are at local Senior Centers, one in Carson City and one in Gardnerville.

A number of our players participated in Reno's recent sectional, and did very well; report to follow in next month's *Forum*.

## Diablo Valley

By Lisa Assoni

**B**oo Who! Who's there? When handing out candy this year, make sure you have someone else in the house. I used to love this fun-filled evening, but since I'm in my jammies by 6:00 p.m., have eaten half the goodies, and afraid of clowns and masks, I only answer the door if I have a friend or family member with me.

Geez, we had a whopper of a turnout for our Almost Fall Sectional. The king and queen of food, Bruce Johnsonbaugh and his wife Sheri, once again stepped up to the table, and whipped out lots of homemade goodies. From snacks to delicious breads, they truly put their best food forward. Other members of our unit, generously contributed assorted platters of substantial snacks. Our Unit 499 works hard for no money. These events require all board members on board. After an exhausting two days, we still had a wonderful attitude for serving others.

What a board! Job well done.

When trying to gleam the results for the 2015 Summer NABC in Chicago, after one hour of searching through 5000 names, I couldn't find all the winners from our unit; so you can find the results at the ACBL's website. I heard it through the grapevine that the Architectural Tour of downtown Chicago, was off the charts. Apparently the food was awesome as well, and the weather was most accommodating. So what else matters? Right answer: bridge.

What's cookin' at the DVBC? North American (Open) Pairs – unit finals. The Unit 499 NAP qualifying game is on Sunday, October 18 at DVBC. It will be a two-session event, at 10:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. Players must have qualified at a local club game to participate.

A platter of praise goes to the following members Master advances: Felicity Warner (NABC); Barbara McKay (Advanced NABC); Joyce Hayward (Bronze Life). Congratulations ladies.

Very impressive.

Remember that bridge is a lot like a great dessert. Once you get a taste for the game, you always come back for seconds, thirds and never get your fill. It's a brain game that can take you through your youth and dishes out a smorgasbord for a lifetime of learning.

*Don't forget the children:* We offer free Youth Bridge Classes held at DVBC on Tuesday nights at 6:15 p.m. every other week. Contact Bruce Johnsonbaugh at 925 766-7586 for more info. Bruce, thank you for your continued efforts to promote the game of bridge, and his assistant, Ted Gunn, for mentoring the youth in our unit!

*Ciao, Bella.*

## East Bay

By Sandi Davis

**W**elcome to new members Marvin Berkowitz and Lena Tashkevych. In addition, Rochelle Linick, Mary Lubin, Michael Lubin, Monique Schonberger, and Stanley Schonberger have transferred to our unit. Alden Sprowles has moved from the area but achieved the rank of Regional Master before departing. Other rank advancements this month are Louann Fratt to Club Master, Russell Rector to NABC Master, and Jeff Toman became our newest Life Master. Congratulations to you all!

At the August 16 unit game, Betty Kael & Susan Boyers won the overall event with Grant Vance & Jessica Lai winning E/W. Good job!

The STAC games had many excellent finishers from our unit. Monday, Libby Silver & Charlie Tonelli finished in the money. Tuesday, Bob Berger & Joel Teller, Matthew Quint & Ralph Briskin, and Russell Kirschbaum & Kathy Wolf all had strong finishes. On Wednesday, Fred Schwartz's 49ers shone with Amy & Stephen Bess 1st and Asieh Mansour & Don Levine 2nd; other Wednesday winners were David Snyder & Marcia Wasserman, Dick Walker & Lamar Marutani, Nick Wiebe & Stephen Kanzee, and Joseph Held & Libby Silver.

Friday we had Susan Wiebe & Eric Childs, Jessica Lai & Grant Vance, and David Snyder & Ravi Bhalla.

Our October big event is the 3rd Annual Tunnel Tournament with players from Unit 502 and 499 competing for bragging rights and the magnificent trophy which has been residing at Diablo Valley Bridge Center since last year's victory by Manfred Michlmayr and the late Jack Scott. It is time for us to retrieve it and bring it back home! Just like last year, this 2-session event will have both an Open and 299er game and have a complementary light lunch between sessions. The event is Sunday, October 25, and game times are 10:00 a.m. & 3:00 p.m. Space is limited and reservations are required by October 17, so contact Mary Neff at [marykayneff@comcast.net](mailto:marykayneff@comcast.net) or call 925 954-7923 to secure your slot. Cost is a bargain at \$15.00 for both sessions and lunch. Just email her (or call her) with the names and number of masterpoints of your partner and yourself, if you are playing in the open or the 299er, and that you are members of Unit 502. So go out there and bring our trophy home!

The Diablo Valley Bridge Center is located at 2920 Camino Diablo, Suite 100, in Walnut Creek.

At the All-Western Regional in Santa Clara, at the charity game Fred Schwartz & Tina Heldman finished 2nd. Joel Teller & Bob Berger struck gold in the open while Amy & Stephen Bess did well in the 299er. In the Gold Spike Pairs J. D. Lin & Marcia Mattoon, Andy & Marcia Wasserman, David Snyder & Carol Warren, Mary & Jeff Toman, Charlie Tonelli & Diane Macleod, and James Bond & Sarla Surohit all had strong starts in this multi-session event. In the evening, Susan Bailey & Joseph Held, Amy Hansell & Lisa Euphrat, Libby Silver & Steven Drucker chimed in with good finishes while the afternoon folks continued to do well. In the open on Wednesday, Ed Seputis & Don Wong did well as well as Joel & Bob. On Thursday Mike Warner & J. D. Lin placed in a tough field and were rewarded with gold. In the Gold Pairs, Larry & Meg Bowerman, Ralph Briskin & Matthew Quint, Annemarie Moller & Phyllis Cramblet, David Snyder & Shailesh Shah, Libby Silver & Steven Drucker and Amy & Stephen Bess did well and many finished with gold.

Well done, all.

If you have any news & you'd like to see your name in print, inform me at *san-*

## Diablo Valley Unit 499

### 0-499 NLM\* Sectional

### SILVER RUSH

**Location:** Diablo Valley Bridge Center  
2920 Camino Diablo, Suite 100  
Walnut Creek, CA. 94597  
925-935-2273



*Silver points awarded for all events.*

**SATURDAY NOVEMBER 7, 2015** (Single session games)

**Stratified Newcomer 99er Pairs 10 AM & 3PM** (0-20/50/100)

**Stratified Pairs 10 AM & 3PM** (0-100/300/500)

**SUNDAY NOVEMBER 8, 2015**

**Swiss Teams (7 rounds) 10 AM & TBD**

*(Short break, lunch available for purchase)*

**\*Only Non-Life Masters with less than 500 MPS may play in this sectional. Strats based on average.**

**Director may change strats based on attendance.**

**SPACE LIMITED: EARLY ARRIVAL HIGHLY RECOMMENDED**

**Tournament Director: Ron Olswang** ACBL sanction # 1511047

**Tournament Chair: Mike Kruley** [bear\\_kruley@hotmail.com](mailto:bear_kruley@hotmail.com)

**Table Fees \$11 per session**

**(\$14 for non- ACBL members & unpaid)**

**Food: Snacks provided**

**Directions: for directions go to [diablovalleybridge.com](http://diablovalleybridge.com)**

*(click on sectional tab)*