

District 21 Unitscope

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The Foundation is montereybridgeeducation.org

Napa/Solano/Sonoma

By Tom Sheahan

We have two new Life Masters in our unit. Congratulations to John Shick and Chandler Stauffer, both from the Rio Vista Club, who recently earned enough gold to go over the top! Well Done! Rio Vista has a game every Tuesday night, and the winners of those events were Sue Vogtlin & Bob Lohse, and Cliff & Natalie Crew. Xiao Gong & Larry Epner won twice and were the only players in our unit to record more than one win in February.

Even better news for our unit is that Anastasia is back playing again. The Friday game in Napa has always been a very enjoyable game run by Anastasia and Knud, who also put on a very delicious spread.

Have I ever mentioned that we have a great unit? Anastasia's game is a big part of that and we are all thrilled to have her back. Thank you Anastasia and Knud for all the enjoyment we have had at your game over the years!

First place in Napa went to Preston Shackelford & Mardi Schma, Doug Keller & Louis Lipset, Sigrid Price & Theila Smith, and Judy Kale & Lana Stanley. Britt Marie Eldred & Betsy Bolen won the lone unit game. Betsy came in 1st on the day that she was honored for winning the Barbara Fox Memorial award! If you're not at the unit game, you're missing a great lesson from Gerry

Fox before the game.

George Gordon is up to 10 tables now in his Tuesday afternoon beginner-intermediate game. If you are a Non-Life Master with fewer than 500 points, it's really a fun way to spend an afternoon. Besides that, you might actually learn something from his lesson. Winners in that game were Dennis Sturevant & Brooke Farcas, Barbara Storrie & Judy Brodsky, Jocelyne Malkasian & Doris Hearn, and Paul & Cris Pecknold.

First place honors in Sonoma went to Gerry Fox & Tom Jacobson, Mark Hersko & Lee Grams, Larry Page & Dolores Jaquez, Denny Olmsted & Bill Oran, Don Powell & Jeffery Reid, Anita Pensler & Dawne Dickenson, and Marsha Horowitz & I, who had our first ever 71% game. The winners listed above are official.

We're not like some award shows that announce a winner and then give it to someone else. The Pro-Am game we had was a big success in introducing new players to our game and we look forward to the next one.

We are all concerned about eventually "losing it." Does bridge help you in keeping your faculties? Our unit currently has eight players over the age of 90 that play regularly, and all are good players. Look for a big celebration in Sonoma at the end of March as we celebrate Doris Leckie's 100th! She still plays about three games a week. Keep playing!

Our new online partnership desk is up and running. If you need a partner, just go to our homepage, click on the "Partnership Desk" on the right side of the page and follow the instructions. If you are somewhat computer challenged, you can call Anita Pensler and she will help you get a partner.

Palo Alto

By Carolyn Chaney

In Memoriam: Shortly after I submitted last month's column, our beloved director Walter Miller passed away. As a beginner to bridge, I "graduated" from EZ bridge to Walter's Wednesday 49er game, where he provided a free lesson each week from his book, *Winning Duplicate Bridge* and welcomed all by saying, "You are the nicest, friendliest bridge players in the United States." Gabi Bowling, who is now directing Walter's games at the Unity Church, wrote: "People respected him very much and appreciated the stress-free environment he provided, and his lessons were a launching point for many. This year, he was being nominated for ACBL Teacher of the Year award by his 99ers long before they knew he was so ill. Sue B. recalled a remark Walter made one day about director calls. He said his favorite came from a very cultured lady who simply raised her hand and said, "Walter, dear." Forever after, it became customary to call for the director in this way at his game.

In addition to the basics of good bridge, Walter taught us to greet our opponents nicely (because they may be our future partners), to thank our partners even when they table horrible hands, and to "Think Slam." At tournaments when I greet opponents to our table, they often note that I must have been a student of Walter's because his hospitality at the bridge table was legendary. Thank you, Walter, for your dedication to newcomers and to the game.

In an obituary on our Palo Alto website, Judi G wrote: "A Harvard graduate, Walter served in the Army and once worked

at NASA Ames. Walter was an excellent player in his own right. He amassed thousands of points during his playing career, and he is profiled in the *Encyclopedia of Bridge*."

Walter often told this story: "I was playing at Nationals for the first time and was very nervous. After a bid of INT on my left and 2♣ on my right, I turned to the left hand opponent and asked, "Is that Stayman?" The LHO smiled and replied, "Why, yes it was." The RHO was Sam Stayman. Walter, we hope that wherever you spirit now resides, you are still thinking slam and enjoying a good game of bridge.

Other Unit News: Registration is now open on our website for the next event in our Celebrity Teacher Series. On Saturday, May 13, we will welcome Jerry Helms, who will teach "Defend to Win" and also invite questions, as he does in his *Bridge Bulletin* column, "Ask Jerry." Should be a really fun day. Also, we have some interesting speakers lined up in our Tuesday 9:30 a.m. lecture series. March 28: Wendy Dewell: More on Entries to Dummy; April 11: Lynn Yokel: Six Hands to Play & Discuss; April 25 Frank Smoot: When to Sacrifice.

An upcoming unit pairs game is scheduled for April 22 (lunch at 11:30, game at noon). The next unit Swiss Teams will be April 30, same time, same station.

Reno

By Bob Robbins

Hello to all you *Forum* readers. I received the Ace of Clubs too late to report in the March article. Don Rogers, the new owner, has
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Tournament Trail

Grand National Teams: Flight A

East Bay Community Bridge Center, Oakland, Calif.
April 1-2, 2017 (continues April 8)

Grand National Teams: Flight A

Bayshore Bridge Center, Burlingame, Calif.
April 8-9, 2017 (continued from April 2)

Grand National Teams: Flight B

Bayshore Bridge Center, Burlingame, Calif.
April 8-9, 2017 (continued from March 5)

Reno April Spring Showers Sectional

Nugget Casino Resort, Sparks, Nevada
April 19-23, 2017

Marin Spring Sectional

Redwood High School, Larkspur, Calif.
April 22-23, 2017

Modesto Almond Valley Sectional

Homewood Village Clubhouse, Modesto, Calif.
April 22-23, 2017

Bay Area High School Bridge Championship Sectional

Bayshore Bridge Club, Burlingame, Calif.
April 23, 2017

Diablo Valley Spring Sectional

Dougherty Valley High School, San Ramon, Calif.
April 29-30, 2017

Palo Alto NLM Sectional

Palo Alto Bridge Center, Mountain View, Calif.
May 6-7, 2017

Carmichael Spring Sectional

La Sierra Community Center, Carmichael, Calif.
May 6-7, 2017

Western Conference Spring Fling STAC XVIII

Local Clubs, D17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23
May 8-14, 2017

Monterey Sectional

Bridge Center of Monterey, Marina, Calif.
May 19-21, 2017



Host Hotel

Holiday Inn Express & Suites
Sacramento NE Cal Expo
Address: 2224 Auburn Blvd,
Sacramento, CA 95821
Phone: (916) 923-1100

SATURDAY, May 6th 2017

9:30 am
Non Life Master Seminar
with Jim Houghton

2 Session Open Pairs:
Strats: 2000+ / 750-2000 / 0-750 or by attendance

2 Single Session Open Pairs:
Strats: 2000+ / 750-2000 / 0-750 or by attendance

2 Single Session 499er/NLM Pairs:
Strats: 200-500 / 100-200 / 0-100
No one over 500 may play

2 Single Session 99er Pairs:
Strats: 50-100 / 20-50 / 0-20
No one over 100 may play

Partnerships

Miriam Steinberg
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Arrive Early to Avoid
Parking Problems

Director in Charge
Dianne Barton-Paine

Sacramento Unit 505 2017 Spring Sectional

La Sierra Community Center
5325 Engle Road Carmichael, CA 95608

All Events Use Pair/Team Averages
All Strats depend upon Attendance

Games begin at 10:30 am and 3:30 pm

Masterpoint awards are silver

DAILY RESULTS now available on-line at:

www.playbridgesacramento.org
or by prior registration: ACBL Live

SUNDAY, May 7th 2017

2 Session A/X Swiss Teams:
Strats: 3000+/0-3000

2 Session B/C/D Swiss Teams:
Strats: 1000-2000 / 300-1000 / 0-300
No one over 2000 may play

10:30 am until approx. 6:30 pm
(Mid-game break for lunch)

Entries \$11

Unpaid & Non-members \$14

Hospitality by Sally Wheeler-Valine
Unit 505 welcomes you
with coffee, tea, snacks

Saturday and Sunday lunches
available for purchase each morning

Tournament Chair

Dave Willmott
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dwillmott@yahoo.com

Co-Chair

Sam Sandusky
916-705-5557
samelayne@gmail.com