

Southern California Bridge News

Deliver by 1st of the Month

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Director's Report From Houston NABC



by Rand Pinsky
District
Director

The mid-night swiss has just completed and I finally got time to write this report. The following are highlights of the Board of Director's meeting this past week.

First the board voted to allow the averaging of masterpoints of the pair when entering a stratified pairs at local, sectional or regional tournaments. This is an optional feature and is up to the sponsoring organization. Next the Platinum Pairs were placed in the Spring NABC scheduled to begin on the first Friday and run through the weekend. The Board of Governors has asked the board to reconsider the placement of this event as it runs concurrent with the Open Pairs. We also expanded the eligibility of the Platinum Pairs to all players who have attained the rank of Platinum File Master or Grand Life Master.

The board approved the ACBL Whistleblower Policy which now puts the ACBL in compliance with federal law on this subject matter. Also, the board approved a motion that allows any member who pays their dues within 90 days after their membership has expired to have

DIRECTOR *continued on page 2*

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Coming Soon: Bridge Week Regional



by Bill
Schreiber
ALACBU
President

Due to the time of the year (tax season), this will be a rather short column. The Spring NABCs are going on in Houston, but as of the first few days, there is nothing much to report. Only one championship event has been completed and no one from our district cracked the Top 5.

What I will talk about is our Bridge Week Regional coming up July 3 through 12 at the Pasadena Hilton. Lots of fun events! Two Barometer finals, one for the Mark Schreiber Memorial 299'er Championship on Friday, July 3 and one for the Mary Jane Farrell

PRESIDENT *continued on page 14*

Oh Calcutta!

by Bill Schreiber

No, it's not the raunchy musical from yesteryear. It's a **money**, no masterpoints, bridge event to be held at our Bridge Week Regional on Friday evening, July 3, 2009.

Prior to the playing of the 24-board event, there will an auction for each and every pair entered into the event by 7:00 p.m. of that evening. Anyone can bid on any pair of players entered. You do not have to enter yourself. The minimum bid to start will be \$50 and if no one bids on a particular pair, it is deemed that that pair has bought itself for the minimum and must pay the \$50 minimum fee.

Increments will be \$10 until the bidding reaches \$100 for any pair and \$25 thereafter. The bidding is expected to be fast and furious and fun. The playing pair has the right to purchase back, up to 50% of itself for half the final bid price.

CALCUTTA *continued on page 2*

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their masterpoints recorded free of charge and there will be no break in membership. Next the board allowed at the sponsor's option that at Unit-Wide Games (multi-site) identical hands may be used.

Another point of interest is that clubs are now allowed to hold shortened club championships of 12-17 boards. It does not seem like a face-to-face club will hold shortened championships, but online bridge clubs regularly hold these types of games. Overall masterpoint awards are capped at 4.50 points. Online regular club championships are capped at overall masterpoint

awards of 6.00.

Finally, I want to thank the following District 23 people who attended the Board of Governors meeting: Bob Kent for Bill Schreiber, Ellen Anten for Becky Clough, Kathy Swaine for Roger Clough, and Ellen Kent.

It Is A Different View From Dummy

I need to report the two interesting things that have happened during the Houston tournament. Have you ever had an auction where the first five bids at the table were: one club, two clubs, three clubs, four clubs, five clubs? Ask Valerie Gamio for more

details as this auction occurred at her table during a swiss team event.

The second thing teaches a very good lesson. Unfortunately, I was involved in this situation. After being up by 6 IMPs at the first half of a knockout, the second half resulted in our team losing by 2 IMPs. Our team captain started to walk to the other team and about halfway there, held up two fingers and said, "Two." He reported that they nodded and agreed. We left and the other team left. The next morning I got a phone call from the director asking for the result of our match. I told him we lost by two. Apparently the other team thought they lost by two and left the night before without reporting the result, as did our team. The bottom line was that neither team showed up the next day to complete the event. It will never be known who won our match and the opportunity to win 9 masterpoints was lost. Lesson to be learned: Confirm your results!!!

Next month, a discussion of ACBL Strategic Planning, the relocation of ACBL headquarters, and the results of our District's Team Game Sectional.

Do not forget I can always be reached at pinsky4bridge@earthlink.net.

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CALCUTTA *continued from page 1*

The prize pool is determined by the bids, with 20% of the prize pool being retained by ALACBU and the remaining 80% distributed among the owners of the winning pairs. The number of owners who collect will be dependent upon the number of entrants. Conditions of Contest may be found on the district website: www.acbldistrict23.org.

Around the Units in District 23

Antelope Valley Santa Clarita by Gin

There seems to more and more Unit 556 members experiencing health issues each month. Currently Jan Gibson is hospitalized after suffering a stroke. Our thoughts and prayers are with Jan. Bobbi Thompson is still mending from her recent surgery. Bobbi is also in our thoughts and prayers. Jill Adkins has been readmitted for therapy at a local hospital. Jill has been and continues to be in our thoughts and prayers. There was another unconfirmed report of potential health issues for another member. Joan Adams' youngest daughter has been diagnosed with breast cancer. According to Joan, her daughter's cancer is curable with a lumpectomy. Bridgette will not need to undergo chemo nor radiation therapy. We wish her a speedy and complete recovery. President Marlene Gasper is very accurate in her reports before game time and she will keep us posted.

Jane Tennesen passed away recently. She was 98 years of age, yet she could still play bridge with acuity. Jane was very much admired in the bridge community although it had become increasingly difficult to make it to the clubroom in recent years, Jane enjoyed bridge in home games where mobility was not an issue. Our condolences are extended to her family. She will be missed as she was an inspiration with her will and determination to life to the fullest.

It would be so easy to claim writer's block but reality is that this writer is so far out touch with every day events at Unit 556 that is difficult to write an interesting column. Keep track of coming events on the white board calendar. Dave White does keep that calendar current and accurate. Thanks, Dave.

Top Five

Mary Stauf and Henry Roediger won first place with

70.83% and fifth place with 70%. Results in February were delightfully different. Pat Juenemann won second and third place. She paired with Brad Ward for 68.58% and Dave Gasper for 68.51%. The Vandemores, Don and Luanne took fourth place with 68.06%. Games in February must have been rather interesting. Congratulations to all.

Unit Championship 2/08/2009

	Overall		
	A	B	C
Brad Ward & Pat Juenemann	1	-	-
Marlene & Dave Gasper	2	-	-
Dave White & Jack Miller	3	1	-
Kristi Kubo & Mira Rowe	4	2	1
Hansford Rowe & Bill Brodek	5	-	-
Ron & Sandi Oest	6	3	-
Mary Anne Shaw & Don Crozier	-	4	2

A parting thought... a missed blessing is an all-you-can-eat buffet at the House of Tofu.

Downey – Whittier by Bernice Crelia

Spring is in the air, and that means we will soon be enjoying warmer weather and hopefully more time to come out and play bridge.

Our last unit game was especially dedicated to Dolores Phillips who will always be remembered for all the many, many years she dedicated to being a faithful member of our club.

The overall winners for the day were: 1. Bruce and Chiye Horiguchi, 2. Mary Kiechle and Marcie Evans, 3. Kim Wang and John Williams, 4. Sam Wang and Sankar Reddy, 5. Edward Hsi and C. C. Fang.

A delightful luncheon was enjoyed by everyone, but don't forget to bring your own lunch to all of our future games.

Remember only the first Friday unit games will provide a luncheon.

Glendale Verdugo

by Dorothy LaMaie

Unit Game 1:00 p.m. Saturday, April 11
12:15 p.m. Buffet Lunch

As noted in the Los Angeles Times, we lost another stalwart in the notable persona of Robert Quarry who passed away February 20. Quarry was a "regular" at the Regency Bridge Club for many years and was a worthy opponent. His renown, however, was as an actor, with credits sufficient to provide a cult following in honorifics at the Egyptian and Vista theaters for his "Count Yorga" films. Bob's skill as a raconteur were evident, usually with a wallop of wit, and we lucky bridge players benefited from his gourmand interests

by the specialties he brought to the counter fare at the Regency. You left your mark, Bob, and it was a pleasure...

Having celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary several years ago at the Ritz-Carlton Hotel in Laguna Beach, Joe Hasencamp and his "bride" continue to honor their vows with a week's cruising on the Mexican Riviera. They must have resolved long ago the Mars/Venus complexity, n'est-ce pas?

Gerry Belcher and Barbara may be doing some cruising on the Nile on their trip to Egypt. They're visiting areas not covered on a previous stop-over at Luxor. Don't forget the saffron! Thorough planner that he is, they also plan to touch down in Jordan to explore even more ancient sites.

Hey, hey, Tim Lolli and Bob Tayrien had a 75% game on February 17, two days after my 15th-of-the-previous-month deadline; however, late or not, that's a worthy

WEST LOS ANGELES SPRING SECTIONAL



Friday Night Game at
Barrington Bridge Club



KAYNE ERAS CENTER
5350 Machado Road
Culver City, CA 90230
MAY 1 - MAY 3, 2009



Friday Night Game at
Barrington Bridge Club
11502 Santa Monica Blvd.
(310) 966-4144

FRIDAY, MAY 1st
7:30 pm

BRACKETED KNOCKOUT TEAMS

STRATIFIED OPEN PAIRS

SATURDAY, MAY 2nd

11:00 am

**STRATIFLIGHTED OPEN PAIRS IN HONOR
OF WEST LOS ANGELES
PLAYER OF YEAR BECKY CLOUGH**

Flight A/X (approx. 35% of field) 0 - unlimited
Flight Strats B, C, D - 2,000MP

KNOCKOUT TEAMS - 2nd Session

4:00 pm

**KNOCKOUT TEAMS - Finals
STRATIFIED OPEN PAIRS**

Masterpoint Limits for all Stratified Events
unless otherwise noted:

- Strat: Flight A/X 0- Unlimited
- Strats B, C, D 0-2000, 0-750, 0-300,
(or TBA as attendance warrants)

KNOCKOUT TEAMS

Not handicapped unless only 1 bracket

1st Round	Friday, May 1	7:30 pm
2nd Round	Saturday, May 2	11:00 am
Final Round	Saturday, May 2	4:00 pm

WEST LOS ANGELES UNIT BOARD

Peter Benjamin	Howard Einberg	Fred Mautner
Karen Byrd	Ed Feldmann	Mario Mory
Jordan Chodorow	Charles Fonarow	Barbara Nusbaum
Roger Clough	Toby Green	Bill Schreiber
Cecil Cook	Sam Haveson	Carolyn Taff

SUNDAY, May 3rd

11:00 am and TBA

STRATIFLIGHTED SWISS TEAMS

Flight A/X 0 - Unlimited MP
[approximately 35% of field]

Strats B, C, D - 2,000MP

COMPETE FOR TWO TROPHIES

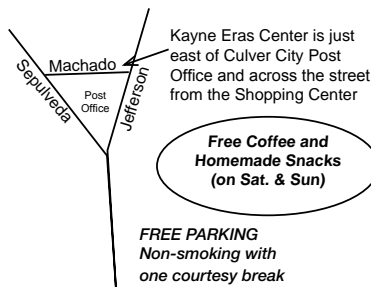
The West Los Angeles Unit player winning the most master points combined at the two 2009 West Los Angeles Sectionals will have their name engraved on the Jill Meyers Trophy. The 299er player winning the most master points at the West LA Sectionals will have their name engraved on the Mary Jane Farrell Trophy. The 2008 winners were Margie Michelin and Charles & JoAnna Kelley.

**CARD FEES \$10.00 PER PERSON
PER SESSION**

Non-Members and Life Masters who have not paid service fees pay \$11.00.

Students under the age of 19 play free!

Tournament Manager - Peter Benjamin
(310) 558-0888 EMAIL ahoneydo@aol.com
(310) 720-6050 (cell Peter Benjamin)
Tournament Director - Peter Knee



DIRECTIONS FROM 405

- Exit at Jefferson and go east
- Turn left onto Sepulveda
- Turn right, onto Machado from Sepulveda
(or left onto Machado from Jefferson)

Be sure to hold the date for our Fall Sectional - Sept. 4 - Sept. 7

number and the edge is not lost through this delay.

We have another statistic to pass along: Charo Holdo of the Pasadena Unit has earned 2500 MPs and the title of Golden (Girl-?) Life Master, for which our kudos.

A "Welcome to our World" goes out to Michel Rapaport who joined our unit recently, and we look forward to friendly and/or serious encounters at our tables.

'Twas the March month for C. B. & C. and Merry Besvold and Pat Abbey shared the toque with accoutrements provided by Betsy Josias, Nancy Lyon, Margaret Mataga, Eva Seri and Kraft, Inc. for our unit game. After all the fine dining, players contested with the following results:

North/South

A1	B1	John Villalobos & Brad Beland
A2		Carolyn Cohen & Melina Stevens
A3		Michael Pudlin & Emily Moffatt
A4	B2	C1 C. C. Fang & Edward Hsi
A5	B3	Maureen Peterson & Claudia Elmes
	B4	Sanford Glick & Sedwyn Glick

East/West

A1		Weezie Reich & Amr BIGHamry
A2		Daniel Oakes & Thomas Lolli Jr.
A3		Samuel K. Wang & William Ng
A4		Bob Tayrien & Dan Botaca
A5		Ann Banta & Ron Moeckel
	B1	C1 Sixten Ohman & Temo Arjani
	B2	Bob Hogan & Esther Tapelband
	B3	Arthur Chacanas & Dorothy LaMaie

Our congratulations to the winners and a proxied blessing from St. Patrick for those needing one. Now that Spring is here calendarly, you can put away your UGG Boots and put on your Spring sandals for our April award awarding UG on the 11th. 'Til then, take care everybody...

Long Beach
www.acblunit557.org
www.longbeachbridge.com
 by Jon Yinger

MARCH 15 UNIT GAME (25 tables): Overall results in the open game: 1st in A: Samuel Wang/Robert Gish; 2nd Eileen Niesen/Colleen Cody; 3rd Earl VanDerVord/Jon Yinger; 4th John Killian/Cayce

Blanchard; 5th Mark Tang/Steve Sulzby; 6th Jo Daigle/Betty McClellan. Overall winners in the B flight included: 2nd Eileen Cathy Bauer/Lucille Hovland; 3rd Sean Lui/Dan Oakes; 4th Pam and Michael Moreland; 5th Mimi and Ron Spain; 6th Kevin Lane/Steve Ramos. Overall winners in C were: 4th Lynn and Curtis Johnson; 5th Carol Murakoshi/Tom Ludwig. Overall winners in the non-Life Master game: 1st in A: Renee Hoffman/Anne Munchow; 2nd Claudette Barrack/Earl Liston; 3rd G T Tseng/Harry Wang; 4th Sherry Royce/Nancy Karl. And 3rd over-all in B in the NLM game were Bonnie ODonnell/Gary Watkins. A special thanks to John Killian for a great dinner.

70+% GAMES 2/16 through 3/15: Six pairs had 70+% games during the past month. In the open game Feb 23 Mort Futterman and Stanley Snyder had 71.59%. In NLM and Easy Bridge games five pairs met the threshold: Feb 23 David Morgan Jones/Sara Langley, 73.02% (evening invitational game), March 6 Pam Gudish/Kathy Randolph 71.02% (NLM), March 9 Bernie Gesko/Sandy Lex 72.50% (NLM), March 10 Monica Gettis/Claudette Barrack 69.64% (299er), and on March 14 Sally and Alan Gordy 73.97% (Easy Bridge). Congratulations to you all!

BIG MASTERPOINT AWARDS: Big points for 1st overall in big games: On Feb 22 Irma Johnson/Cory Hand 3.67mp; Feb 23 Stanley Snyder/Mort Futterman 5.17mp; Feb 24 Mark Teafor/Jon Yinger 6.00mp; Feb 24 (eve) John and Suzy Hand 3.17mp; Feb 25 George Welsh/Irma Johnson 5.33mp; Feb 25 (eve) Steve Clements/Marjorie Michelin 3.67mp; Feb 27 Kay Tseng/Hank Dunbar 6.00mp; Feb 27 (eve) Jack Chao/Alfred Lee 3.67mp; Feb 28 Bill Wilson/Pam Kirkner 4.33mp; Mar 15 Samuel Wang/Robert Gish 5.10mp. Big masterpoint awards for 2nd overall: Feb 23 Mark Teafor/Irwin Bender 3.88mp; Feb 24 Len Beck/Bruce Horiguchi 4.50mp; Feb 25 Masako Omaru/Masae Kato 4.00mp Feb 26 Fred Benedetti/Ron Spain 4.25 mp; Feb 27 Joe Swain/Gertrud McLachlan 4.50 mp; Feb 28 Gabrielle Sills/Larry Bolls 3.25mp; Mar 15 Colleen Cody/Eileen Niesen 3.83mp. And big masterpoint awards for 3rd overall: Feb 23 Marilyn McClintock/Sibyl Slutsky 3.07mp; Feb 24 Loren Hilf/Baum Harris 3.38mp; Feb 25 Lucy Tredennick/Bruce Horiguchi 3.00mp; Feb 26 Baum Harris/Walter Rothstein 3.19mp; Feb 27 Mark Tang/Sankar Reddy 3.38mp. Congratulations to all!

NEW MEMBERS and NEW STATUS: We issue

a warm welcome to new members Maya Das, Ron Johnson and Jeanne Richmond. Status changes: New Life Master: Darlene Suder. Club Master: Colleen Gardner. Congratulations to you both!!

UPCOMING SPECIAL EVENTS AT THE CLUB: April Fool's Day Party, unit-rated game, Wednesday April 1 at 12:30 p.m. A week of championship games Sunday the 12th through Saturday the 18th. Regular schedule, regular prices. Open team game Monday April 13, 7 p.m. Unit Game Awards Day Sunday April 19. Lunch at 12 noon, awards 12:30 p.m., game at 1:00 p.m.

CONDOLENCES to the family and friends of Ray Cummings who passed away suddenly last month.

GET WELL WISHES to Frank Bartlett and Joyce Siegel.

HELP THE COLUMNIST: If I have missed an award or status change please let me know. If you have any news items you would like to see in the column, my email is jyinger1@gmail.com.

Pasadena
San Gabriel Valley
www.darbonne.com/bridge
 by Jan Wickersham
 and Roy Wilson

Unit Game: April 5, 2009
 San Marino Community Center

The Election Party was a definite winner! Our members were very pleased with the outstanding dinner, the truly exceptional centerpieces and the overall atmosphere. Dominique Moore handled the table decorations, plus the balloons, Shui-Ming Huang was in charge of the munchies that tided us over until dinner, and Jan Wickersham worried about everything else. This is the party where the awards are presented to those who have achieved special goals the previous year. Roger Lee won honors in two categories; most points earned at the unit games and the John Waken Sectional. Jeff Goldsmith won for the most points earned at the combined Holiday/Election Parties. Congratulations to you both.

This is also the time of year when there are changes on the board. We are saying "goodbye and many thanks

for a job well done" to Shiu-Ming Huang and Dominique Moore. Both of you have given so unselfishly to the board and to your unit and both of you will be greatly missed. Our new additions are Amr Elghamry and Robert Wang. Thank you for agreeing to serve, and the board members look forward to working with you.

The big winners for the day were Jake Frenkel and Miriam Harrington who were first in A and B and Nona Stokes and Romona Hernandez who were first in C. The Swiss was won by C.C. and Jeff Fang, Eric Tan and Shiu-Ming Huang, first in B were Miriam Harrington, Jake Frenkel, Karen Arase and Gitta Earll, and first in C honors went to Mike Marcucci, Bob Verhoef, Genise Hasan and Denise Morgan. Congratulations to everyone.

Nancy Nakanishi was the 50/50 winner which was worth \$75. Officers for the current year are as follows: President - Mark Hartzell; President in charge of Vice - Jan Wickersham; Secretary - Mary Falvey; and Treasurer - Miriam Harrington. Mike Marcucci continues as Unit Manager, Marie Nimmrich is Membership, Kim Horn and Georgiana Bierman are in charge of supplies, Mark Hartzell and Sandra Franciscus will once again chair the sectional, Jan Wickersham and Robert Wang will co-chair the holiday party, Sandra Franciscus and Robert Wang will co-chair the Election Party, Georgiana and Kim will do the 8 is Enough. Marion Miller has graciously agreed to serve as our Friendship Chairman. She is your contact when someone in our unit is ill or grieving. Peter Szecsi and Amr Elghamry will serve on the Conduct and Ethics committee, and Roy Wilson will be our recorder.

Several times a year the clubs in District 23 hold STaC games which award the coveted silver points. (STaC is an acronym for Sectional Tournament at Clubs.) The awards are larger than normal club games because the scores are compared with players at other clubs. Although the Bridge Center chose not to participate, the San Marino Bridge Club held two STaC games in March and Peter Szecsi and Roy Wilson were 2nd in the district and won over 12 silver points. Jan Wickersham and Mike Twiehaus were in 17th place.

On Wednesday evening several players from our district were in the money for another STaC game. Karen Arase and Miriam Harrington placed 2nd for 6 silver points, and these players did well, also: Gitta Earll - Eli Wang, Nancy Stimson - Natalie Rader, Diane

Searls – Fay Hsu , and Marion Miller - Linda Stuart.

Every Wednesday night there is a strong game at the San Marino club, and each week a jackpot increases by \$6 until someone has better than a 70% game. Ron Moeckel and Dominique Moore did just that last month, winning \$60 with a 72% score.

Were you at the birthday party? Miriam Collup found a lot of friends when she turned 96 years and we all enjoyed a wonderful cake. Maybe we were a bit off-key with the Happy Birthday song, but we were enthusiastic.

Someone asked about the silly names that occasionally appear in the score results posted on our website for the San Marino Club. Why are they in there? Mostly it's just to save a bit of embarrassment. If you get less than a 40% score, you will be known as something like Broomhilda Twaddletoes that week.

The Monday following their big STaC win, Peter and Roy became Alphonse Schniddlewort and Mortimer Flubbitt. That was the Monday when Herman Helber and Fred Theurkauf scored a 72% game.

Here's what's happening at the Arcadia Bridge Center: Rookie Swiss Teams on Friday, April 17 at 7:30, Winners and Losers Sunday on the 19th and beat the House night on Friday the 24th. The Bridge Center will be closed on Easter Sunday.

Free six weeks of lessons! Art Gulbrandsen will be teaching beginning bridge starting Tuesday, April 14 at 7:00 p.m. and repeating on Saturday the 15th at 10:30 a.m. If you have a neighbor or a friend who would like to become addicted, this is your chance to enable them. Each class is 2½ hours.

Long before the days of Eli Culbertson there was a bridge expert known as Joseph Elwell who was

THE LAS VEGAS REGIONAL

Tournament Chairman
Tom Shulman
702 367-2057
Tom@LVRegional.com

JUNE 22-28 2009

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Bridge rates: \$79 Sunday-Thursday \$99 Friday-Saturday • Reserve before May 29, 2009 (Hotel will sell out)

New KO's Starting Every Day!

BRACKETED KNOCKOUTS

Monday-Tuesday	Monday	7:00 p.m.
	Tues	9:00 a.m., 1:00 & 7:00 p.m.
Tuesday-Wednesday	Both days	1:00 & 7:00 p.m.
Wednesday-Thursday	Both days	1:00 & 7:00 p.m.
Thursday-Friday	Both days	1:00 & 7:00 p.m.
Friday-Saturday	Both days	1:00 & 7:00 p.m.

BRACKETED COMPACT KNOCKOUTS

Weekend Compact	Fr-Sat	9:00 a.m.
Saturday Compact	Saturday	1:00 & 7:00 p.m.

Famous Vegas Hospitality

▲ Partnership Desk Opens One Hour Before Game Time for All Events

Flight AIX 0-5000/5000+ B/C/D 0-750/1500/2500
Strat A 2500+ B 750-2500 C 0-750
Stratified Swiss Teams are stratified by average masterpoints of the team.

NEWCOMER (I/N) GAMES
0-300 mp Pair Games Every Session Mon-Sat
0-300 mp Sunday Swiss Teams
All I/N Games are Stratified
(0-20/50 mp & 0-100/200/300 mp)
I/N Partnership Desk will be open before all games

ZERO TOLERANCE POLICY WILL BE IN PLACE
Sanction R0906003

MONDAY, JUNE 22

Stratified Charity Swiss Teams (20-VP Scale) (1 session) 1:00 p.m.
Stratified Charity Pairs 1:00 p.m.
Newer Player Charity Stratified Pairs 1:00 & 7:00 p.m.
Stratified Evening Side Game Series (1st of 6 sessions) 7:00 p.m.
All Monday games other than KO's are single sessions

TUESDAY, JUNE 23

Stratified Swiss Teams (20-VP Scale) (1 session) 9:00 a.m.
Stratified Morning Side Game Series (1st of 5 sessions) 9:00 a.m.
Newer Player Stratified Pairs 9:00 a.m., 1:00 & 7:00 p.m.
Stratified Senior Pairs 10:00 a.m. & 3:00 p.m.
Stratified Afternoon Side Game Series (1st of 5 sessions) 1:00 p.m.
Stratified Pairs 1:00 & 7:00 p.m.
Stratified Evening Side Game Series (2nd of 6 sessions) 7:00 p.m.
Stratified Swiss Teams (20-VP Scale) (1 session) 7:00 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 24

Stratified Swiss Teams (1st of 2 sessions) 9:00 a.m.*
Stratified Morning Side Game Series (2nd of 5 sessions) 9:00 a.m.
Newer Player Stratified Pairs 9:00 a.m., 1:00 & 7:00 p.m.
Stratified Senior Pairs 10:00 a.m. & 3:00 p.m.
Stratified Afternoon Side Game Series (2nd of 5 sessions) 1:00 p.m.
Stratified Pairs 1:00 & 7:00 p.m.
Stratified Evening Side Game Series (3rd of 6 sessions) 7:00 p.m.
Stratified Swiss Teams (20-VP Scale) (1 session) 7:00 p.m.

THURSDAY, JUNE 25

Stratified Swiss Teams (2nd of 2 sessions) 9:00 a.m.*
Stratified Morning Side Game Series (3rd of 5 sessions) 9:00 a.m.
Newer Player Stratified Pairs 9:00 a.m., 1:00 & 7:00 p.m.
Stratified Senior Pairs 10:00 a.m. & 3:00 p.m.
Stratified Afternoon Side Game Series (3rd of 5 sessions) 1:00 p.m.
Stratified Pairs 1:00 & 7:00 p.m.
Stratified Evening Side Game Series (4th of 6 sessions) 7:00 p.m.
Stratified Swiss Teams (20-VP Scale) (1 session) 7:00 p.m.

* single-session teams will be accommodated

FRIDAY, JUNE 26

Stratified Morning Side Game Series (4th of 5 sessions) 9:00 a.m.
Newer Player Stratified Pairs 9:00 a.m., 1:00 & 7:00 p.m.
Stratified Senior Pairs 10:00 a.m. & 3:00 p.m.
Stratified Fast Pairs (finish by 5:15) 11:00 a.m. & 2:30 p.m.
Stratified Afternoon Side Game Series (4th of 5 sessions) 1:00 p.m.
Stratified Pairs 1:00 & 7:00 p.m.
Stratified Evening Side Game Series (5th of 6 sessions) 7:00 p.m.
Stratified Swiss Teams (20-VP Scale) (1 session) 7:00 p.m.

SATURDAY, JUNE 27

Stratified Morning Side Game Series (5th of 5 sessions) 9:00 a.m.
Stratified Swiss Teams (20-VP Scale) (1 session) 9:00 a.m.
Newer Player Stratified Pairs 9:00 a.m., 1:00 & 7:00 p.m.
Stratified Senior Pairs 10:00 a.m. & 3:00 p.m.
Stratified Fast Pairs (finish by 5:15) 11:00 a.m. & 2:30 p.m.
Stratified Afternoon Side Game Series (5th of 5 sessions) 1:00 p.m.
Stratified Pairs 1:00 & 7:00 p.m.
Stratified Evening Side Game Series (6th of 6 sessions) 7:00 p.m.
Stratified Swiss Teams (20-VP Scale) (1 session) 7:00 p.m.

SUNDAY, JUNE 28

Stratified Fast Pairs (finish by 4:15) 10:00 a.m. & 1:30 p.m.
Newer Player Swiss Teams 10:00 a.m. & 2:00 p.m.
Senior Swiss Teams (20-VP Scale) (playthrough) 10:00 a.m.
Flight A Swiss Teams (20-VP Scale) (playthrough) 10:00 a.m.
Strat B/C/D Swiss Teams (20-VP Scale) (play through) 10:00 a.m.
(All Swiss Teams play Finished by 5:00 p.m.)

Card Fees are \$11.00 per session for dues paying ACBL members.

Need a Partner? Need Teammates?
Visit our online partnership desk at
www.LVRegional.com

You'll love the Riviera's newly remodeled rooms!

Special Presentation

After the evening session on Wednesday, June 24, sleight-of-hand artist **Derek DelGaudio** combines unbelievable magic, classic conjuring and a quick wit to create a truly memorable experience. This **FREE** show takes place in the Club 373 Showroom, right in the bridge ballroom and comes with free beer, soda, and snacks. **Don't miss this GREAT SHOW!**

murdered in 1920; one of a very few to share that awful distinction. (Barry Crane and John Bennett are two others) Do you know the Elwell convention? The bidding starts on your right with an opening call of 1NT. You pass, and your LHO jumps to 3NT which your partner doubles. What is your partner telling you? Well, if you have agreed to play the Elwell convention you will know that your partner has made a penalty double, and that she is requesting you to lead hearts regardless of what might be in your hand. It doesn't necessarily mean your partner has a long and running heart suit, but a heart lead for sure will defeat the contract. Suppose your partner has the singleton ace of hearts and four clubs to AKQJ. If you don't lead either a heart or a club they might take the first nine tricks with spades and diamonds. Players on the West coast sometimes prefer that the lead request is a spade instead of a heart, but there is no particular reason for that change so long as you have an agreement. Remember, the Elwell double is only used when no other suits have been bid by either side after one opponent opens 1NT and the other jumps to game in notrump. It can also be used when an opponent opens 1NT and the other jumps to 4NT, a quantitative asking bid, and the opener accepts and bids the notrump slam. Again, a double requests a heart lead. (Or a spade lead, depending on your agreement.)

NOTE: a jump to 4NT is never Blackwood when your partner opens 1NT. It's quantitative, meaning your partner wants you to pass if you have a hand with a minimum hand of perhaps 15 points, or bid a small slam with the maximum point count. How do you decide what to bid when you have the in-between-hand of 16 points? Some players will bid the slam only if they have a 5-card minor and 16 points.

See you at the table!

Pomona Covina

by Vic Sartor

Unit Game: Saturday, April 18
Game at 11:00 a.m., lunch at 1:00

In what seems to be happening all too frequently lately, our lead story concerns the loss of one of our long-time members. Gary Olson, whose local playing ties stretched all the way back to the Pomona unit's days at the Assistance League building on Pearl Street, died early in March. Gary had been in failing health

during the last few months, but he was still playing regularly up until a few days before his death. I'd like to thank the unit board, Roger Boyar, and Bill Papa for their efforts in raising contributions to help his family. I'd also like to commend the generous members of the unit who made individual contributions. Gary was a strong player who had many friends in the unit, and we will all miss him.

We have no unit game results available for March, due to the shift in dates we announced last month. **don't forget.** The unit game has been moved to the **third Saturday** of the month at 11:00 a.m., at least until we see if it helps boost our attendance. Unit board members have been reminding players of the change at all the local club games. Let's hope the effort resulted in a nice turnout for the March game. I'll have both the play and the attendance results in the next column.

Speaking of changes, I hope all of you are getting the new version of the Bridge News. Those of you who have email are probably accessing the paper through the ACBL District 23 website. If not, I'm probably just writing this for myself and a couple of confused Bulgarian hackers. If you are getting it, be sure to help your non-computer using friends by making them a copy or by reminding them to pick up a copy at one of the LaFetra club games. If no copies are available, ask Roger or a board member to get you one.

Top game of the month was a 70% effort by Lulu and Fred Minter. Other winners included Herman Helber, Kathy Helber, Milt Kalikman, Clint Lew, Ann McClelland, Ron Purkis, Cordell Goode, Vic Sartor, Helen Wang, Roger Boyar, Norma Appley, Albert Lax, Richard Patterson, Kurt Trieselmann, John Tyner, Genise Hasan, Joe Unis, Susan Ruoff, Herb Stampfl, Jerry Androus, and Billie Steiner.

Richard Patterson took top honors in the monthly individual, followed by Clint Lew, Walt Otto, and Genise Hasan.

Our hand of the month was submitted by Tom Lill. He suggests that though it shouldn't be a challenge to an expert it holds a useful lesson for intermediate players. You are playing 4♠ holding ♠AKJ10x ♥Kx ♦xxx ♣Ax opposite dummy's ♠xxx ♥A109x ♦AKQx ♣Jx. You take the opening club lead, go to dummy in diamonds, and successfully finesse in spades and draw trump. Now what? Tom reports that almost every other declarer now apparently cashed high diamonds in hopes of ditching

a club and wound up with 12 tricks when they didn't split. They overlooked an extra chance. It costs nothing to see if one of the opponents was dealt QJx of hearts. Sure enough, when you play K-A and ruff a heart the QJ come crashing down and you pitch your club loser on the heart 10, taking all the tricks. Tom was pleasantly surprised to get a tie for top, but didn't complain. The moral: Give yourself an extra chance when it involves no risk. As Aesop would say, don't put all your eggs in one basket. 'Til next time...

San Fernando Valley

sfvunit561@aol.com

by Jimmie Swan

The next Unit 561 event will be the annual Sectional on April 24-26. We hope you will join us! Flyers are available at several clubs in, and near, the District. The information is also available at www.acbldistrict23.org/ and www.acbl.org under Upcoming Tournaments, April Sectionals, respectively. Note that lunch will be available for \$5 which includes a choice of assorted 6" Subways, chips, and a drink; plus free coffee and snacks.

The unit would like to congratulate the following winners of the Mini-McKenney Awards and the Ace of Clubs Awards. The Mini-McKenney Awards are given to the player in each unit, in the categories listed below, with the most masterpoints earned in 2008, in clubs in District 23. The Ace of Clubs Awards are given to the player in each unit, in the categories listed below, with the most masterpoints earned in 2008, in clubs in Unit 561. The category, in which the player is judged, is based on the player's masterpoints at the beginning of each calendar year.

2008 Unit 561 Mini-McKenney Awards

0-5 MP Race	Leo Lin
5-20 MP Race	Michael Klemens
20-50 MP Race	Phil Rabichow
50-100 MP Race	Allan Palansky
100-200 MP Race	David Lodge
200-300 MP Race	Gloria Malkin
300-500 MP Race	Marta Peltz
500-1000 MP Race	Arlene Dick
1000-2500 MP Race	Josh Sher
2500-5000 MP Race	Andy Vinock
5000-7500 MP Race	Gil Stinebaugh
7500-10000 MP Race	Mitch Dunitz

Over 10,000 MP Race Ellen Anten

2008 Unit 561 Ace of Clubs Awards

0-5 MP Race	Wallis Annenberg
5-20 MP Race	Michael Klemens
20-50 MP Race	Lee Skupen
50-100 MP Race	Samy Antoun
100-200 MP Race	Mel Lerner
200-300 MP Race	Herbert Ehrmann
300-500 MP Race	Marta Peltz
500-1000 MP Race	Mark Peters
1000-2500 MP Race	Sheila Bozin
2500-5000 MP Race	Andy Vinock
5000-7500 MP Race	Gil Stinebaugh
7500-10,000 MP	Bill Sides

There will be a **Unit Awards Game** in May or June, to present these players with their awards. Watch for this information, which can be reached from the district site, where there are links to the Unit 561 club websites. This information will also be posted at these clubs. The winners will play as a guest of the Unit at this Game. Further information will also appear in the May Bridge News.

There have been requests for copies of the San Fernando Valley Unit, ACB.L, Inc. Bylaws on file with the ACBL. They are posted in the Bridge Academy and available at the 750 Club. Or, if you would like a copy emailed to you, please email SFVunit561@aol.com, and put "BRIDGE" in the subject line and your name and request in the email, and a copy of the By-Laws will be sent to you.

The websites for The Bridge Academy and The 750 Club can both be reached from the District 23 site: www.acbldistrict23.org/ (or from their individual web sites). Just click on Clubs/Local at the top of the District 23 home page and you'll find a link to both clubs after San Fernando Valley Unit 561.

CONGRATULATIONS ON YOUR RANK CHANGES!

Regional Master: Eric Heilman
 NABC Master: Carol Bloomfield, Norm Bloomfield,
 Margie Sievers
 Life Master: Carol Stein, Jimmie Swan
 Bronze Life Master: Carol Stein

70% GAMES FROM FEBRUARY 15-MARCH 14

CONGRATULATIONS!

DISTRICT 23 PRESENTS: LOS ANGELES BRIDGE WEEK REGIONAL
July 3 - 12, 2009
Pasadena Hilton, Pasadena, CA

Tournament Features

Pre-duplicated Boards for All Pair Games
 Barometer Finals for Selected Events
 Team Games Daily
 Four Session Open Pairs
 Four Session Swiss Team Game
 Free Coffee before Morning Sessions
 Daily Speakers
 299er Games Daily at 10:00 & 3:00
Gold or Red Points Awarded in All Events

Friday, July 3rd
 Entries close at 7:00 p.m.
 Auction begins at 7:15 p.m.
 Prize Pool determined after Auction
\$\$\$\$\$PRIZES\$\$\$\$\$
 No Masterpoints Awarded

CONTACTS

Tournament Chair: Ellen Kent 310-822-2021
 Tournament Manager: John Killian 562-592-2716
 Partnerships: Betty Jackson 562-594-4420
 DIC: Betty Bratcher
www.acbldistrict23.org

CLASSIFICATIONS

Stratified & Flighted
 A/B/C = UNL/2000/750
 Stratiflighted: A= Unlimited
 AX/B/C/D=5000/2500/1000/750

ENTRIES

\$12 Per Session (All Events)
 (Fees are \$2 extra for non-ACBL & Unpaid members)
\$8 Juniors (under 25) under 19: FREE
CALCUTTA \$50 (Starting Bid)
 Rules and Conditions of Contest at:
www.acbldistrict23.org

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BRIDGE WEEK 2009 DAILY SCHEDULE

Friday July 3 299er Mark Schreiber Memorial Pairs (Barometer Final) Stratified Open Pairs Friday/Saturday KO (Rds 1 & 2 of 4) First Side Game Series (1 of 6) First Side Game Series (2 of 6) Stratified Swiss (One Session) CALCUTTA 7:00 entries, 7:15 bidding Friday/Saturday Stratified Swiss (1 of 2)	10:00 AM & 3:00 PM 10:00 AM & 3:00 PM 10:00 AM & 3:00 PM 10:00 AM 3:00 PM 3:00 PM 7:00 PM 7:30 PM	Wednesday July 8 Stratified IMP Pairs Wednesday/Thursday KO (Rds 1 & 2 of 4) Second Side Game Series (5 of 6) Second Side Game Series (6 of 6) Tuesday/Wednesday Evening Swiss (2 of 2) Evening Side Game Series (5 of 6)	10:00 AM & 3:00 PM 10:00 AM & 3:00 PM 10:00 AM 3:00 PM 7:30 PM 7:30 PM
Saturday July 4 Mary Jane Farrell 4 Session Open Pairs Qualifying Friday/Saturday KO (Rds 3 & 4) Firecracker Compact KO First Side Game Series (3 of 6) First Side Game Series (4 of 6) Margaret Jacobs Memorial Stratified Swiss (1 of 1) Friday/Saturday Stratified Swiss (2 of 2) Evening Side Game Series (1 of 6)	10:00 AM & 3:00 PM 10:00 AM & 3:00 PM 10:00 AM & 3:00 PM 10:00 AM 3:00 PM 3:00 PM 7:30 PM 7:30 PM	Thursday July 9 Wednesday/Thursday KO (Rds 3 & 4 of 4) Stratified Board-A-Match Teams (Rds 1 & 2 of 2) Stratified Open Pairs Third Side Game Series (1 of 6) Third Side Game Series (2 of 6) Thursday/Friday Eve. Stratified Swiss Evening Side Game Series (6 of 6)	10:00 AM & 3:00 PM 10:00 AM & 3:00 PM 10:00 AM & 3:00 PM 10:00 AM 3:00 PM 7:30 PM 7:30 PM
Sunday July 5 Farrell Open Pairs (Rds 3 & 4) Barometer Final Stratified Swiss Teams First Side Game Series (5 of 6) First Side Game Series (6 of 6) Evening Side Game Series (2 of 6)	10:00 AM & 3:00 PM 10:00 AM & 3:00 PM 10:00 AM 3:00 PM 7:30 PM	Friday July 10 Marshall Miles 4 Session Open Swiss Qualifying Compact KO Stratified Open Pairs Third Side Game Series (3 of 6) Third Side Game Series (4 of 6) Thursday/Friday Eve. Stratified Swiss Side Game	10:00 AM & 3:00 PM 10:00 AM & 3:00 PM 10:00 AM & 3:00 PM 10:00 AM 3:00 PM 7:30 PM 7:30 PM
Monday July 6 Monday/Tuesday KO (Rds 1 & 2 of 4) Strata-Flighted Open Pairs Second Side Game Series (1 of 6) Second Side Game Series (2 of 6) Stratified Swiss (One Session) Monday/Tuesday Compact KO (Rds 1 & 2 of 4) Evening Side Game Series (3 of 6)	10:00 AM & 3:00 PM 10:00 AM & 3:00 PM 10:00 AM 3:00 PM 3:00 PM 7:30 PM 7:30 PM	Saturday July 11 Marshall Miles 4 Session Open Swiss Final Compact KO Stratified Open Pairs Third Side Game Series (5 of 6) Third Side Game Series (6 of 6) Stratified Swiss (One Session) Thursday/Friday Eve. Stratified Swiss Side Game	10:00 AM & 3:00 PM 10:00 AM & 3:00 PM 10:00 AM & 3:00 PM 10:00 AM 3:00 PM 3:00 PM 7:30 PM 7:30 PM
Tuesday July 7 Monday/Tuesday KO (Rds 3 & 4 of 4) Stratified Open Pairs Tuesday Compact KO Second Side Game Series (3 of 6) Second Side Game Series (4 of 6) Monday/Tuesday Compact KO (Rds 3 & 4 of 4) Tuesday/Wednesday Evening Swiss (1 of 2) Evening Side Game Series (4 of 6)	10:00 AM & 3:00 PM 10:00 AM & 3:00 PM 10:00 AM & 3:00 PM 10:00 AM 3:00 PM 7:30 PM 7:30 PM 7:30 PM	Sunday July 12 Becky Clough Flighted Swiss Teams (short break) Fast Pairs (short break) Side Game Series count best 2 games	10:00 AM & TBA 10:00 AM & TBA

76.04% Gloria Malkin & Ron Malkin
 74.26% Phil Calloway & Gary Grey
 73.46% Sue Sarture & Jimmie Swan
 72.82% Judy Marylander & Stuart Marylander
 71.35% June Symonds & Bill Symonds
 70.83% Phil Calloway & Gary Grey
 70.37% Mike Fierman & Freddi Straus

Congratulations to the leaders in the February Masterpoint Races in clubs

Top Ten MP leaders in January with <299 MPs in the 0-500 games or the open games:

Bud Shapiro led with 5.21 MPs, followed by Eric Heilman, Bob Glasser, Allan Palansky, Michael Klemens & Donald Rosen (tied), Nancy Becker & Fred Becker (tied), Barbara Wellisch, and Merri Anderson.

Top Ten MP leaders in January with <1000 MPs in the 0-1000 games

Ron Malkin led with 3.64 MPs, followed by Shelley Linick & Sam Faye (tied), Phil Calloway & Gary Grey (tied), Sue Sarture, Carol & Norm Bloomfield (tied), Herb Zweig, and Ed Berliner.

Top Ten MP leaders in January with >299 in the open games

Andy Vinock led with 24.07 MPs, followed by Ellen Anten, Gil Stinebaugh, Gary Frans, Marta Peltz, Sy Zemlyn, Armand Szulc, Marty Blain, Joan Rubin and Leila Greenfield.

Thousand Oaks Sectional: Congratulations to Freddi Straus, John Clark, Susan Somogyi, and Marty Blain, who were third overall in the Flight A Swiss Team Event.

We extend our sympathies to the families of their loved ones, who played with us many years, and, who recently died: Sandy Berliner, David Cochran and Roxy Violin. They will all be missed.

And, on a happier note, it was great to see Gert Davis back across the bridge table, after a long absence (since October), as well as her partner, Marilyn Weinstein. And it was also great to have Paula Mishkin back after a series of health issues, as well as her partner, Phyllis Schroeder. I keep hearing rumors Myra Gurian will also be playing again soon—hope to see you soon Myra.

Carpe diem!



Torrance South Bay

Unit Website:

<http://www.freewebs.com/bridgeatunit568>

SBBC Website:

<http://www.bridgeclubs.org/index.php?id=sbbc>
 by Steve Mager

Upcoming Events at the South Bay Bridge Club

Club Championship: Friday, April 3, 11:30 a.m.

2-Session Swiss Team Championship:

Saturday, April 4, 10:30 a.m.

Club Championship: Monday, April 13, 11:30 a.m.

Club Championship: Thursday, April 16, 7:00 p.m.

Handicapped Swiss Teams: Sunday, April 19, 1:00

NLM Club Championship: Wednesday, April 22, 6:30

Handicapped Swiss Teams:

every Tuesday night at 7:00 p.m.

Friday Night games on April 3 and April 17

Club Championships

The Club Championship on February 20 was won by Fran Israel/Patti Taylor in Flight A with Betsy Amador/Kathy Rudolph capturing Flight B honors. On March 9 the Club Championship was won by Bruce and Chiye Horiguchi in Flight A with Claire Hulett/Lutrell Long ahead in Flight B and Bruce Weiner/Rafael Gishri Taking Flight C.

Team Winners

The February 15 Handicapped Swiss teams was won by the quartet of Jean and Harold Brunner plus Sheila and John Bray. On February 17 Bea and Jon Brailliar plus Jeff Strutzel and Bruce Horiguchi took home the honors. The February 24 game was won by the quartet of Marie Willis, Mark Raggio, Carol McCully and Ed Barad. At the March 3 STaC Swiss top honors went to Bea and John Brailliar, Lucy Tredennick and Bruce Horiguchi.

Milestones

Former South Bay resident and onetime frequent player at the South Bay Bridge club, Harriet Wells, passed away this February in Henderson, Nevada. I first met Harriet in 1972. Maybe my favorite memory of Harriet was when I fixed her up with my dear old mother in 1973 to play in the Bridge Week Women's Pairs and to my utter amazement they won a section one session. Harriet was always a lot of fun at and away from the bridge table.

STaC Overall Finishers in Games Played at the South Bay Bridge Club

TSB overall finishers in District 23 STaC

Following are overall finishers in District 23 STaC pair games played at the South Bay Bridge Club.

Monday Morning, March 2

1A		Jeff Strutzel/Dick Cheng
3A	1B	Booth Tarkington/Jim Jensen
5A	2B	Kim Wang/Lutrell Long
	6C	B. Narahara/C. King-Kepperling

Monday Evening, March 2

4B	3C	Frankie Victor/Marilyn Daeschner
6B		Wilma Brickley/Tonie Morgan

Tuesday Morning, March 3

3A		Dorothy Wood/Ray Mack
----	--	-----------------------

Wednesday Evening, March 4 NLM Pairs

1A	1B	Bob Svensrud/Neil Kleiner
3A	2B	Setsuko Miyasaka/George Stinson
6A	4B	2C James and Marie Lynch
	5B	Bill Lama/Linda Henson
	6B	3C Susan Genta/Karen McKittrick
	4C	Mary Anne McNiel/Mary McIntyre

Thursday Morning, March 5, NLM Pairs

1A		Marilyn Morton/Anne Andres
2A		Beebe Moorhead/Marianne David
3A		Mary Overby/Bernard Gee
6A		Bee-De Lim/Margaret Yeh
	1B	Setsuko Miyasaka/George Stinson
	2B	Elaine Mannick/Dorothy Easley
	3B	Zulmira Faris/Johnny Arceri
	4B	Bob Svensrud/Fred Swinthe
	5B	S. Rahimtoola/S. Kuuskmæe

Thursday Evening, March 5

1A		Lucy Tredennick/Dean Kaloudis
----	--	-------------------------------

Friday Morning, March 6

3A		Barbara White/John Farr
	6C	Margaret Yeh/Ron Prando

GUV Memorial Award

With no good candidates for the GUV Award this month let me digress a bit and campaign for bringing back the expression RINK into the bridge vocabulary. RINK you ask? Well, when I first got into bridge (more years ago than I would care to admit to) we used the

expression RINK during the lunchtime game at my place of employment. The best definition I can think of for RINK was that a RINK bridge player was not quite as accomplished as a bridge player who was not a RINK.

At that time we started adding RINK to various names. Like I was MageRINK. Whatever you think of my game now in those days I was a RINK. Also a popular bridge club located in Inglewood at the time was House of Bridge. As I recall Paul Ivaska started calling it House of RINKS. Not to imply that I consider any of the following players RINKS there are a number of players at the SBBC whose names adapt well to including RINK. Try the following. Bob BachaRINK, Booth TaRINKington, Ed BaRINK, Robert RINKman, RINK Mack, GabRINKela Jackson, GarRINK, King, Jeff StRINKzel. GerRINK Carlson and of course my sister and brother in law, Emily and Jon RINKin.

Enough.

Na Zdrowie

West LA
by candy

This is due to take place on your computer April 1, starting this month with April Fool's Day is so appropriate. Passover is a holiday in which the Jews try to make creative meals out of matzo, then we wash it down with four sweet glasses of concord grape swill. But just around the corner is Good Friday on a bad traffic day, followed by Bad Hare Day, in which a tacky basket full of mylar and Peeps makes one wonder what were you thinking when you bought this stuff. Then there are the unfortunate couples who do them both — Peeps washed down with Manichevitz. The sugar rush should make for a very creative tax return. While I approve of the Lewis Carroll approach to ones taxes, I think we should go back to the traditional chocolate bunnies and matzo ball soup.

Since the next column is coming out the first day of our tournament, this is the hype the tournament month. Friday night May 1 the KO's and Stratified Open Pairs start at the Barrington at 7:00. On Saturday and Sunday the tournament moves to the Kayne Eras Center at 11:00 a.m. at 5250 Machado Road in Culver City, map and directions are in our ad somewhere in



Unit 547 Presents:
Ventura Sectional
 April 17-19, 2009

Stratifications:
 0-500, 500-1500, 1500+

Fees per person:
 \$10 per session

Friday, April 17

Compact KO Teams

10:00 am & 2:30 pm

Stratified Open Pairs

Single Sessions

99er Stratified Pairs

single session

Stay for 2nd session and play FREE

Oxnard Performing
 Arts Center

805-985-4688
 800 Hobson Way (H Street)

Saturday, April 18

Grand National Teams

(Flights A & C - District Semi-finals)
 10:00 am & T.B.A.

Compact KO Teams

Stratified Open Pairs

(single sessions)

99er Stratified Pairs

single session

Stay for 2nd session and play FREE

10:00 AM & 2:30 PM

Sunday, April 19

Stratified Swiss Teams

6 rounds of 8 boards

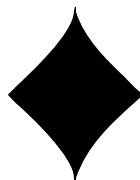
\$100/team - includes dinner

2 Session Stratified Open Pairs

\$50/pair - includes dinner

10:00 AM & TBA

Director In Charge: Peter Knee
Tournament Chair: Mary Anita Hill
 (805.985.4688; rhandma@aol.com)
Partnerships: Louise Shaffer
 (805.640.8712, and Joan Glenn)



Host Hotel
Country Inn and Suites
 805.986.5353
 3.3 miles from site
 Ask of BRIDGE rates!

FREE coffee and snacks all day

Play 2 sessions on any one day, and --- Lunch Is On US!!

*****Alert***All Pairs' Hands Are Predeal**

AROUND THE UNITS *continued from page 12*

this unpapered newspaper. The second round of the KO's and the Stratiflighted Pairs in honor of the WLA Player of the Year Becky Clough start the day, with the KO finals and the Stratified Open Pairs at 4:00. Sunday at 11:00 a.m. is the Stratiflighted Swiss Teams. On Saturday and Sunday there will be plenty of free coffee and homemade desserts to make up for those hands that didn't make it home. Students under the age of 19 play for free.

A note for Carolyn Taff's mother, Ethel... Even though this is on the internet, it is true that your daughter has made it to Life Master, so you can truly be proud and proclaim it's all in the genes. Other rank changes this month were: Junior LM - Sarah Yort, Sectional LM - Henry Koransky, Stephen Massman, Carolyn Mitchell, NABC LM - Sue Ann Simon, Bronze LM - Dawn Kowalski, Sherie & Alan Schneider, Silver LM Leah Coulter, Helen Palmer.

In the Club News Department, Tony's Wednesday game is now 7:00 with no dinner just dessert and card fees are now \$9. At Barrington Club Champs were "A" Connie Fishbach & Art Zail, Carol McCully & Ed Barad, "B" Hans Schwarzkopf & Jack Weingarten, Ronnie Berland & Joyjit Sarma, "C" Barbara Kahn & Neal Johnson, Irene Ghassemieh & Al Myers. 70% games were Nelly & Colin Gordon, Art Zail & Rodger Harbin, Jan Goldsmith & Gail Windisch (I believe

this is their first time on this list, so welcome aboard). Definitely first time in my column and on this list are Rochelle Blumenfeld and Val Romoff who came in with a whopping 82% game!!!

I know there a lot of players out there cringing every time they hear "back in the good old days," but back in the good old days when I was learning bridge, after the evening bridge game players would go to the nearest bar and discuss the hands. For the price of a glass of wine I learned bridge. Two of my teachers died this month, Roxy Violin and Rick Henderson. Roxy was member and president of the Culver City Unit Board for many years. Roxy cheerfully greeted me the same when I had 1 masterpoint and 1000 masterpoints, a real class act. Rick Henderson had over 15,000 masterpoints when he died. One of the last games he played was with his good friend Bob Kerr at the Beverly Hills Bridge Club. They had a 78% game which was mainly all defense. Danny Kleinman kibitzed and wrote an article that was published in the National Bulletin in Houston about this session. So I raise a glass to all those friends who are a part of this bridge family.

I guess this is my leading to the Pro-Am coming up. Those scary people out there are really very nice and *helpful*. So instead of complaining about how they gave you a bad board, grab a glass of wine and find out why. Be sure to sign up for all the pro-ams you can.

Next time, May, 1 at the tournament and in cyber space...

PRESIDENT *continued from page 1*

four-session Open Championship on Sunday, July 5. There will be a **Money Calcutta** on Friday evening, July 3, open to anyone. The conditions of contest may be found on our district website, www.acbldistrict23.org. There is also the Marshall Miles four-session Swiss Teams starting on July 10. Knockout events abound throughout the tournament, and you can find the detailed tournament schedule on the website as well.

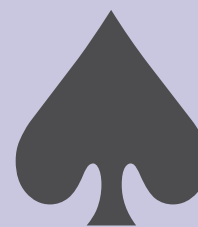
Look for flyers at your local club and upcoming sectionals and regionals in the coming months.

Come and stay at the Hilton and enjoy the party atmosphere as we go back to the 10-day event that we had when I first started playing in 1965... **Boy that was a long time ago!!!**

For those of you who remember Bridge Week at the Ambassador Hotel in Los Angeles, I invite you to recollect and jot down your memories and share them with us via e-mail to bridgenews@acbldistrict23.org.

One non-bridge memory I have of the Ambassador is walking down a hallway with my brother, Michael, when someone walked toward us

and asked if we had the correct time. We both looked at our watches and simultaneously said, "YES," and kept right on walking. It was like we rehearsed a Marx Brothers routine, but hadn't. Strange that that is such a vivid memory.



www.acbldistrict23.org

District 23 Rank Changes 2/1/09 - 2/28/09

Junior Master (5 points)

Norma Appley
 Ronald Burke
 Mihir Das
 Evelyn Hoffman
 Donna Kupfer
 Lunsford Lavery
 Corinne MacPherson
 George Newell
 Muriel Newell
 Lawrence Newman
 Kathleen Pecarovich
 Val Romoff
 Nan Shipp

Club Master (20 MPs)

Linda Barnard
 Rosemary Carroll
 Noel Jeffrey
 Doreen Maes
 Stuart Marylander
 Marie Pink
 Sue Schultz
 Beverly Simpson
 Marilyn Skolich
 Maynard Tow

NABC Master (200 MPs)

Laurie Rubin

Life Master (300 MPs)

Sharon Aronson
 Gloria Anne Barrack
 Clinton Gorsuch

Bronze Life Master (500 MPs)

Colin Gordon
 Nelly Gordon

Sectional Master (50 MPs)

Donald Crozier

Gold Life Master (2500 MPs)

Melina Stevens

Regional Master (100 MPs)

William Smith

Tournament Director

Scott Campbell

Tournament Chairperson

Ruth Ann Alpert (714) 962-3251

Assistant

Lynda Crawford (714) 968-5870

Tournament Managers

Partnership Desk

Mary Lou Kiley (714) 434-3884
 Mary Lou Hughes (714) 969-2502

Hospitality Desk

Karen Johnston (714) 775-3589
 Marilyn Christy (714) 968-3048

Card Fees per Session

\$10.00 per Person
 \$11.00 Non & Unpaid Member
 \$110.00 per Team for All Swiss
 Teams of Two Sessions;
 includes a box lunch.

299er Only: \$44.00 per Team - One
 Session, no lunch included

*Stratification Levels

[Friday & Saturday Only]

Strat A 2000+
 Strat B 750 -> 2000
 Strat C 0 -> 750

Food for Sale

Box Lunches
 on Friday and Saturday

- Free Parking
- Non-Smoking Tournament

Sanction No.: 0906067



2009



Unit 515 Sectional

June

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
		1	2	3	4	5
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

Friday, June 5th

10:00 AM

- Stratified* Open Pairs
- 299er Pairs
- Compact K.O.s (Rounds 1 & 2)

3:00 PM

- Stratified* Open Pairs
- 299er Pairs
- Compact K.O.s (Rounds 3 & 4)

Saturday, June 6th

10:00 AM

- Stratified* Open Pairs
- 299er Pairs
- Compact K.O.s (Rounds 1 & 2)

3:00 PM

- Stratified* Open Pairs
- 299er Pairs
- Compact K.O.s (Rounds 3 & 4)

Sunday, June 7th

10:00 AM

- Stratified Swiss Teams (2 Sessions Only)
- 299er Swiss Teams (1 or 2 Sessions; declare at signup)

• TBA

Second Session

Flight A 5000+
 Flight AX 0 -> 5000
 Strat B 1250 -> 2000
 Strat C 750 -> 1250
 Strat D 0 -> 750

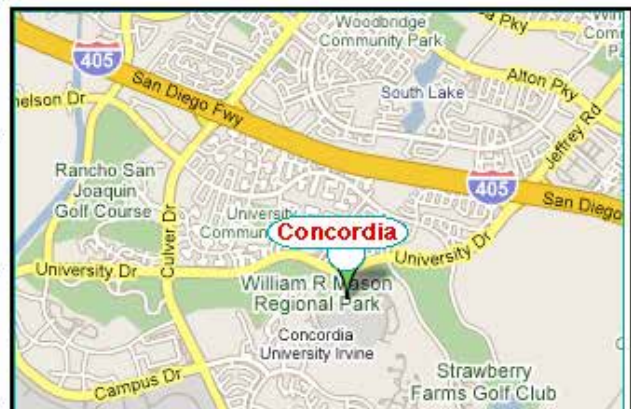
Let's
 Play
 Bridge
 at:



Concordia University
1530 Concordia West
Irvine, CA

Directions

South of 405 Fwy
 Between Culver and
 Jeffrey / University
 ▪ Take University to
 Ridgeline
 ▪ Take Ridgeline to
 Concordia East



Problem Solvers' Panel

Moderator: John Jones

Panelists: Billy Eisenberg, Marhsall Miles, Jill Meyers, Mr. Mealymouth,
Jon Wittes, Rick Roeder, David Sacks, Eddie Kantar

1

Matchpoints
Vul vs. Not

pass pass 1♠ dbl
3♠ pass pass ?

You hold: ♠AJ ♥A96 ♦A864 ♣AKT6

What call do you make?

Plus scores are very important at matchpoints, so some panelists want to make certain they are plus.

EISENBERG: Pass. Take the plus score, as partner will often bid.

MILES: Pass. I'd rather be plus than minus. Game our way is very unlikely; even making a part score is doubtful.

MEYERS: Pass. If I had four hearts, I would double again, but I'm not going for a part score at the 4-level, especially vulnerable. Even if partner has ♦KQxxx, if he has 2-3-5-3 distribution, I am easily down one and they may not be making 3♠.

MEALYMOUTH: Pass. Maybe we'll go plus, avoiding the -200 or worse that awaits those who double. They are twisting partner's arm to bid at the four-level and play in a seven- or eight-card fit on a combined 23 HCP (if they're lucky).

Some panelists like showing their extras with double.

WITTES: Double. If the opponents have their bids, partner will have 5 points or fewer and a doubleton spade. If he has a five-card suit and a maximum, we

might still have a game. There is a lot to be said for passing and taking our probable plus score, but at this vulnerability, there is always the possibility that the opponents could be extremely weak, especially after starting with a third seat major opening. With 6 or 7 points and a 5-card minor, I expect partner to jump to game after my second double.

ROEDER: Double. If partner bids 3NT, I will interpret that as pick a minor, not to play.

SACKS: Double. I would love to bid 3NT, but it must be over 90 percent likely that we do not have a second spade stopper. Without one I do not think that I am likely to find enough from partner to make 3NT a decent contract. The more I think about it, the more I like pass, but I just do not have enough fondness for that inaction to make it.

One panelist bids what he thinks he can make.

KANTAR: 3NT. I don't want to play some crazy 4-3 heart fit.

This hand came from the 2008 summer nationals. Doublers may get to 4♥, which is tricky but should make. 3NT should be defeated, but the defense is not obvious.

What call do you make?

Check out the weekly bidding polls on the District 23 blog:

www.acbldistrict23.org/blog

2

Matchpoints
Vul vs. Not

1♠ pass ?

You hold: ♠K942 ♥AJT8762 ♦Q♣A

What call do you make?

The panelists all like their hands, but have different ideas on how to approach slam.

WITTES: 2♥. If partner has the right minimum, we could be cold for a grand, so I'll bid slowly and naturally.

EISENBERG: 2♥. This is the wrong hand to gamble, as only the heart holding may cause a problem.

MEYERS: 2♥. I'll next support spades. I want to hear what partner bids over 2♥, and there is no rush to do anything else.

ROEDER: 2♥. I want pard to appreciate the king of hearts if he holds it.

SACHS: 2♥.

PSP continued on next page

• Friday, May 22nd

- 7:30 p.m.
 - Stratified Open Pairs
 - One Session Stratified Swiss Team

• Saturday, May 23rd

- 10:30 a.m.
 - Stratified Open Pairs
 - 199'er Pairs Game
- 3:00 p.m.
 - Compact Knockouts #1 – Rounds 1 & 2
- 7:30 p.m.
 - Stratified Open Pairs
 - 199'er Pairs Game
 - Compact Knockouts #1 – Rounds 3 & 4
- 10:30 a.m.
 - Stratified Open Pairs
 - 199'er Pairs Game
- 3:00 p.m.
 - Compact Knockouts #2 – Rounds 1 & 2
- 7:30 p.m.
 - Stratified Open Pairs
 - 199'er Pairs Game
 - Compact Knockouts #2 – Rounds 3 & 4

• Sunday, May 24th

- 10:30 a.m.
 - Stratified Open Pairs
 - 199'er Pairs Game
- 3:00 p.m.
 - Compact Knockouts #2 – Rounds 1 & 2
- 7:30 p.m.
 - Stratified Open Pairs
 - 199'er Pairs Game
 - Compact Knockouts #2 – Rounds 3 & 4

• Monday, May 25th

- 10:30 a.m.
 - Swiss Team – First Session
- TBD
 - Swiss Team – Second Session

Torrance – South Bay Sectional (Unit # 568)

May 22nd, 23rd, 24th & 25th

(Sanction No. S 0905131)

- Tournament Director **Peter Knee**
- Tournament Manager **Ray Mack**
 - Telephone Number **310-374-4906**
- Partnership Chairperson **Gabby Jackson**
 - Telephone Number **310-831-8727**
 - Cell Number **310-720-8177**
- Card Fees
 - ACBL Members **\$10.00 per session**
 - Non-ACBL Members **\$11.00 per session**
 - Individuals 18 and Under **Play for free**
- Stratification Pairs
 - A = 1,500+; B = 500 – 1,500; C = 0 - 500
- Swiss Teams
 - A = 2,000+; B = 500 – 2,000; C = 0 - 500

- Location Hollywood Park Casino
- Address 3883 W. Century Blvd.,
Inglewood, CA 90303
- Parking Self Parking - Free
Valet Parking - \$2.00
(with validation)



Venue Location
3883 W. Century Blvd.
Inglewood, CA 90303

Note: All Open Pairs are single session events.

PSP continued from previous page

KANTAR: 2NT. I want to set the suit before I launch into RKCB. Besides, this is a good chance to find out if partner has a singleton heart.

MILES: 2NT. I never bid Jacoby with a singleton unless I plan to take control on the next round. If partner responds 5♦ to Key Card, I'll bid 5NT and try to find out about the king of hearts. I may miss out if partner has a singleton small heart. I think Marshall intends to bid 2NT (Jacoby) to set trumps and follow with 4NT (RKC).

MEALYMOUTH: 3♥ in standard methods. This hand is too big for a forcing raise. My plan over the expected 3♦ rebid from partner is to bid 4♣, a cue bid that is ambiguous as to hand type and can be based on either independent hearts or (at least three times as likely) a big spade fit. If strong jump shifts are unavailable in my partnership but an artificial 2NT forcing raise is, then 2NT should be unlimited, and "Fast Arrival" should not apply, as partner needs to be able to bid only 3♦ to leave me below-game bidding space that I can use to show an over-strength forcing raise. In that case, I shall start with 2NT.



1♥ 1♠ dbl pass
?

You hold: ♠QJ3 ♥AKQJ765 ♦Q8 ♣J

What call do you make?

Some panelists expect everyone to be on the same page.

EISENBERG: 3NT. I expect unanimity.

KANTAR: 3NT. Is there a man alive who wouldn't bid 3NT with this hand?

WITTES: 3NT. With all those secondary cards outside my suit, 9 tricks in notrump seems to be the best bet. Spades were not raised, so partner probably has at least two of them.

MEALYMOUTH: 3NT. Shows this hand type, as with ordinary strong notrump strength, I would have opened 1NT even with five hearts, and with a hand in between my 1NT and 2NT ranges, I would jump to 2NT now.

SACHS: 3NT. 3NT is a clear choice for me; partner showed both minors and I have a spade stopper plus 7 heart tricks. If I am an underdog or behind in an IMP match, I would open 3NT, which I play as a "to play" bid.

MEYERS: 3NT, I could be making 9 tricks and not 10.

ROEDER: 3NT. I'm worried about a spade ruff in 4♥. One of the few times 3NT is inferior to 4♥ is if pard holds something like ♦x ♥xx ♦AKxxx ♣Jxxxx, but even with this hand, we will likely make 3NT on a small spade lead.

MILES: 2NT. I think partner is very unlikely to pass 2NT, and it will not suggest a running suit, which might lead to the defenders trying to set me off the top.

I held this hand at the table, except that the diamonds were 10 8, not Q 8. I bid 2NT for the reason Marshall stated. My counterpart bid 3♥ and was raised to 4♥. Partner held ♦Txx ♥xx ♦Axxx ♣Axxx.

We had a discussion about the best bid, so someone sent out an email poll with the diamonds wrong. The email panelists liked a 3♥ rebid. Our panel disagreed, with every vote's being no trump!

Want to place an ad in the Southern California Bridge News?

email: bridgenews@acbldistrict23.org

full page (7.5x10) \$100
large (7.5 x 6) \$60

medium-v (3.6 x 6) \$40
medium-h (7.5 x 3) \$40

small (3.6 x 2.75) \$20



1♥ 2♣ 4♥ pass
 pass 5♣* pass pass
 ? * = the 5♣ bid was rather slow

You hold: ♠A4 ♥KJT64 ♦A9743 ♣4

What call do you make?

Some panelists just want to defend.

ROEDER: Pass. The 5 level is for the opponents, and LHO sounds uncertain. If pard has a defensive trick outside hearts, he will likely double. Pard may have put it to the opponents with his 4♥ bid. It is generally a sound policy to give the opponents the "last guess" on as many hands as possible.

Some want to defend doubled

SACHS: Double. This is not strictly a penalty double, and definitely not a trump trick double. Without partner's doubling 5♣, it looks like opponent made the right choice by bidding on. We are probably a fair underdog to go plus at the five-level, but IMP odds suggest that I give partner a chance to bid again. I think that partner will pass more often than not, but when he bids, we will definitely have some play.

EISENBERG: Double. 300 seems possible.

MILES: Double. I'm not confident

we can make 5♥.

MEYERS: Double. I am playing partner for a trick; I have two aces.

Some like their 5-5 and want to bid.

WITTES: 5♦. This bid can't be misconstrued as a slam try, since I didn't bid directly over 4♥. I am going to bid on with this distribution. Give partner the right minimum, ♦xx ♥Axxxx ♦KQx ♣xxx, for example, and we are cold for a slam. Give partner the wrong cards, and this is a phantom, but when in doubt, bid on with distribution and controls.

MEALYMOUTH: 5♥. This hand screams offense, not defense, so I must bid. Second choice is 5♦, but as partner neglected to make a strength-showing cue bid, I shall not seek slam.

One panelist entertains us as he competes.

KANTAR: (in response to the slow 5♣ bid) So is my 5♦ bid.



West Los Angeles Spring Sectional Back at Kayne Reas Center

by Mario Mory

On May of 2007 the West Los Angeles Sectional was moved to the Kayne Reas Center. Since then attendance has risen on each occasion and players feel very comfortable with this venue. This year's Spring Sectional will take place on the weekend of May 1-3. As always, the first session will be held at the Barrington Bridge Club, 11502 Santa Monica Blvd. (310-966-4144) at 7:30 p.m. On Saturday and Sunday the action moves over to the Kayne Reas Center located at 5350 Machado Road in Culver City. Machado Road runs between Sepulveda and Jefferson Boulevards, just north of where these two main arteries intersect. There is ample free parking at this facility, but in the event of an unusually large turnout, the parking lot of the neighboring shopping center will take care of the overflow. Many convenient restaurants are located at this shopping center.

The first session which takes place on Friday, May 1 at 7:30 p.m. at the Barrington Bridge Club, will feature a Stratified Open Pairs event and the first round of the Bracketed Knockout Teams. The first session on Saturday, May 3 starts at 11:00 a.m. and includes the second round of the Bracketed Knockout Teams and the Stratiflighted Open Pairs event in honor of West Los Angeles Player of the Year, Becky Clough. The second session on Saturday

WEST L.A. continued on page 20



pass 2♠ db1 3♠
?

You hold: ♠654 ♥J ♦T8542 ♣AQJ5
What call do you make?

Some like the flexibility of double.

MEALY MOUTH: Double, whether playing “responsive doubles” at this level or not. If playing responsive doubles, I expect partner to pick a minor, leading to a making 4♣ or 4♦. (5♣ or 5♦ on the off-chance that he has extras and can jump to game.) If playing penalty doubles, I expect to collect +300, I am reasonably confident of +100, and I am willing to accept an occasional -530 as the price one must sometimes pay in competitive partscore auctions to keep non-vul opponents from stealing.

SACHS: Double. Double is responsive and I’m hopeful that partner will not bid 4♥. Passing does not give us any better chance of getting to the right contract,

EISENBERG: Double. Unlike the first hand, we have serious game prospects.

KANTAR: Double. Not sure I get this one. It seems

like a slam dunk.

MILES: Double. I hope partner won’t bid 4♥, but if he does, I’ll bid 5♣.

Some want to compete.

MEYERS: 4♦. Although I think 4♣ could be right.

ROEDER: 4♦. 4♣ is best if pard ends up on lead against 4♦, but it sounds as if the opponents have shot their wad and will not be heard from again.

One panelist wants to take a stab at the best game.

WITTES: 4NT. This should show the minors. Partner is marked with at most a stiff spade. We should have an excellent play for game in a minor vs. a typical takeout double. Slam is possible if partner has extras.

I like 4NT. I don’t know the actual hand. I’ll try to find it and post it on the D23 blog.

WEST L.A. continued from page 19

starts at 4:00 p.m. and features the third and final round of the Bracketed Knockout Teams as well as a Stratified Open Pairs event. Finally, on Sunday, the Stratiflighted Swiss Teams event will start at 11:00 a.m. with a lunch break at a time to be announced.

Two trophies are at stake. The West Los Angeles Unit player winning the most master points combined at the two 2009 WLA Sectionals and the 299er player winning the most master points will have their names engraved on the Jill Meyers Trophy and the Mary Jane Farrell Trophy respectively. The 2007 winners were Margie Michelin and Charles and JoAnna Kelley (a tie).

Card fees are \$10 per session, but students under 19

years of age play free. Non-members and Life Masters who have not paid service fees pay \$11. On Saturday, May 3, the winners of the 2007 Ace of Clubs and Mini-McKenney awards will be acknowledged, and they have been invited to play as guests of the unit at the 4:00 p.m. session.

The Tournament Manager is Peter Benjamin and he may be contacted via email at ahoneydo@aol.com or by phone at (310) 558-0888 or his cell phone (310) 720-6050. The Tournament Director will be Peter Knee. Free coffee and homemade snacks will be offered on Saturday and Sunday. This is a non-smoking tournament with one courtesy break.

The 2008 WLA Fall Sectional will take place from September 4-7. Save the date!!!