

Southern California Bridge News

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

What Makes a Great Regional?

by Becky Clough, ALACBU President



We have been working hard at finding out what makes a good regional and then applying that new knowledge to our regionals. Roger and I continue to visit new regionals each year to find out what they know that we don't.

We have found that the best regionals are located in interesting places with lots of restaurants to choose from. Most of them schedule their major events at 1:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. Most of them begin new Knock Out Team events every day and have many opportunities for the newer players to earn gold points.

We are headed to Seaside, Oregon next week. This tournament fits the bill very nicely. Seaside is a small resort town on Oregon's Pacific Coast about 90 minutes from Portland. It attracts players from both western United States and Canada. Between sessions there are many restaurants for dinner or lunch and many coastal walkways to meander down to enjoy the scenery. Because it is held in late September, it is off-season and many players unite with friends to rent a house or condo for the week. New knock outs are scheduled every day and those who want to play more bridge can play a minor event each morning.

Earlier in the summer we attended the regional in Eugene, Oregon. Eugene is as university town, home

PRESIDENT *continued on page 11*

MP Inflation: Fact or Fiction?

by Rand Pinsky, District Director



There has been substantial discussion on the national level (and below) if due to the greater awards of masterpoints, less seasoned players are advancing to higher brackets or strats before they are ready. I welcome your thoughts on this subject and I will be asking

the ALACBU board at our October meeting to discuss this issue. The following are the recent developments.

The immediate questions that are raised include: 1) For large Gold Rush games, are the masterpoint awards too high and 2) Is the "X" flight of an AX flight an appropriate amount of masterpoints when compared to the Gold Rush awards? A brief history.

Many, many years ago, there was only one game to play in, namely an Open Flight. Then to encourage less experienced players to participate in ACBL events without the "expert" competition, flights, stratifications, seniors, day light, and gold rush events were created. As time passed, the masterpoint formulas that were in effect before stratification have become outdated. The national board is undertaking a review of the formulas.

Some of the things the board has done were to raise the masterpoint requirement for life master from 300 to 500. The other categories have also been raised. In Atlanta, the board also voted to raise the masterpoint limit for Flight B of the North American Pairs to 2500 starting with the 2014-2015 cycle. The flights for the Grand National Teams have been raised as follows: Flight C: non-LM-500 MP, Flight B: 0-2500 MP, Flight A 0-6000 MP, and Championship Flight: 0-unlimited. These ranges will be effective for the 2013/2014 cycle.

Finally, a change was made in the Red Ribbon eligibility raising the range to pairs who have fewer than 2500 master points. The motion to include players with fewer than 2000 master points in the Micro-Spangold NABC knockout Teams was deferred to Phoenix for further discussion.

Rand Pinsky: pinsky4bridge@earthlink.net

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North American Pairs Getting Real

by Mike Marcucci,
District 23 NAP Coordinator

Our semi-final NAP games for District 23 are on the schedule and we hope everyone who qualified will enjoy either the Long Beach game or the Beverly Hills game. On the line are trips for the winners to Dallas next March. Come play against your A, B, or C peers and try out those new systems designed to get you those top boards. If attendance will let us afford it, we have tentative agreement from the District Board to again supplement

the ACBL awards for the B and C winners with an additional \$100 each. Since there are no entry fees in Dallas, that will probably help out with a few glasses of wine for sure. There are a lot of gold points on the line at these games and we also will continue the pre-duplicated board experience so you can discuss those sticky defense issues afterwards. The game flyer with all the details has been on the District web site for weeks now, so take a look at the site or call me for any of those strange requests that pop to mind.

We have made a lot of progress since last year on the historical listing of past winners and will be displaying that plus a few old pictures at the games. Many snacks will be served. Come and enjoy.

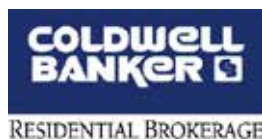


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District 23 Rank Changes August, 2013

Junior Master

Amy Choy Sai Ba, Donna Bauer
Richard Bentley
Carol Decordova
Vadoujan Dolbakian
Marlene Ellison, John Glovcka
Wesley Hampton
Jim Keese, Toni Kerker
Linda Lane, Ellen Levitt
Ken Millius, Jimmy Tarbell

Club Master

Barbara Barishman
David Edwards
Eleanor Edwards
Sherman Gao
Kathleen Keller
Madge London
Carol Lopresti
Kay Maeda
Betsy Nicassio
Richard Pavlotsky
William Renter
Eddi Samandar
Raimonda Scime
Robert Singer
Lucy Zhang

Sectional Master

Norma Appley
Roberta Brown
Jack Dampman
Judy Freeman
Barbara Ann Haas
Dalia Hernandez
Michael Hoolahan
David Hwang
Lisa Karako
Tim Lee
Kathleen Shinkle
Linda Tessier

RANK CHANGES
continued on page 13

Around the Units in District 23

Antelope Valley by Brad Ward

The Unit 556 Sectional is upon us and we welcome all you point seekers and good competitors to come and visit a really beautiful venue. The game area overlooks a lovely pool and the vista is calming in the midst of intense competition. The Magic Mountain Sectional begins at 10 a.m. on Saturday, October 5 with a two session Stratified Open pairs and a 299 Stratified game. The Stratified Barometer Swiss will happen at 3 p.m. for those interested in only one session of bridge on Saturday. Bribg a team and enjoy! On Sunday, the exciting two session Stratified Swiss will begin at 10 a.m. with Stratification all the through 299er and Open categories.

To reach our Sectional, drive as if you were going to go to Magic Mountain, but you must turn off of I-5 well before you reach the Magic Mountain exit.

Here are directions: You must exit I-5 at the Lyons Avenue ramp, **go east**. Turn right on Wiley Canyon. Turn right again on La Glorita Circle. Turn left into the parking lot. Our location is the Del Prado Clubhouse, 24360 La Glorita Circle, Santa Clarita, CA

Please come for great snacks, bridge and lots of fun! **Our unit strictly enforces the no tolerance for toads policy!**

Before I offer the list of winners from this past month I want to remind everyone that we really should think about celebrating our Super Seniors more than we do. Gathering together for a bridge game rather than online play may be headed to the realm of extinction, but as long as we gather together with our friends every week, perhaps we all should take time to seek life stories from our Superior Seniors. It is really amazing to learn what this group has done and achieved and seen in their lives! Betty, Hansford, Nell, Shoup, Onorita and so many more of our friends have some great things to share. **Just ask them!**

Winners at Paula's Club last month included: Ron & Sandy Oest, Dan Foley & Rosemary

Frankian,C.K.Kennedy Ross & Bill Brodek, Roshun Hadulla & Basant Shah, Nell Schantz & Albert Stock and Gary and Carol Trenda.

Winners at Rita's club were: Arif Shah & Roshun Hadulla, Basant Shah & Lamonte Johnson, Roshun Hadulla & Nell Schantz, Tom & Barbara Jones, Anita Walker & C.K.Kennedy Ross and Marguerite Pinkers & Bert Stock.

Winners at Rand's Club were: Lamone Johnson & Rand Pinsky, Ted Maki & Roshun Hadulla, Peggy Fleming & Kathy Swaine. Tom Shudic & Elaine Moore.

The Lancaster Club is still alive and last months winners were: Dave Gasper & Brad Ward, Nell Schantz & Roshun Hadulla, Lola Messhia & Doris Thompson, Louise Levin & Ron Oest, Alfred Miller & Barb Shuping, Brad Ward & Marlene Warren-Gasper and Erlene DeHass & Onorita Pallanti.

Good luck and have a great time at the Sectional.

Glendale Verdugo by Sharon Wolf

Unit Game, October 12, 2013

Lunch at noon, game at 1:00

Thanks to Dick Banta for directing the September Unit game, which was accompanied by a lasagna dinner and yielded the following results:

	N/S
A1	Ann Banta & Ron Moeckel
A2	Peter Szecsi & Bernie Mateer
A3	Carolyn Cohen & Tim Lolli
A4	Hugh Bartlett & Nell Schanz
B1	Joseph Hooker & Robert Brogan

	E/W
A1	Shiu-Ming Huang & Peter Glatzel
A2	Jack Futrell & Rae Murbach
A3	Ted Maki & Lorraine Adams

A4 B1 Brad Beland & Amr Elghamry
 B2 Leon Alexander & Bob Hogan

Our next Unit game is on October 12. Please join us for Merry's delicious "chicken Betty" and a rousing game of bridge.

Long Beach by Jon Yinger

unit website: www.acblunit557.org

club website: www.LongBeachBridge.com

August 18 Unit Game: Overall results: 1st in A: John Petrie/Ron Lien, 2nd Patricia Jay/Paul Pettler, 3rd Eva Mroz/Penny Wentworth, 4th Steve Mager/Gerri Carlson, 5th Betty Jackson/Lois Abramson, 6th Kevin Lane/Rob Preece. In the B flight overall: 4th Al and Sharon Appel, 5th Lina and Simon Cheng, 6th Marcus Evans/Fran Every. In the C flight overall Jane Reid/Collen Gardner were 3rd, Sandy Lex/Nancy Karl 4th. In the NLM section: 1st Rick Schaeffer/Bill Dilks, 2nd Joan and Richard Buhl, 3rd Dahlia Hernandez/Colleen Bilas, 4th Cooie and Jack Dampman, 5th Joyce Roberts/Machiko Sharp. Congratulations to all!

70+% Games in the club August 16 through September 15: There was only one 70+% game, but what a game!! In the NLM game Friday the 13th of September Tom Cotten/George Alemshah had a 77.27% game. Congratulations!

Big Masterpoint Awards August 16 through September 15: In the afternoon game Aug 16 Gabrielle Sill/John Petrie were 1st winning 4.33mp, Kay Tseng/Betti Harris were 2nd winning 3.25mp. In the Unit Game Aug 18 John Petrie/Ron Lien won 5.38mp for 1st over-all, Paul Pettler/Patricia Ann Jay won 4.04mp for 2nd and Eva Mroz/Penny Wentworth won 3.03mp for 3rd. Sept 10 Charlotte and Steve Sturm won 4.52mp for 1st and Chiye Horiguchi/Mark Tang won 3.24mp for 2nd. Sept 11 Janet Logan/Ralph Beazley won 3.50 for 1st. Sept 12 Rich Wasser/Baum Harris won 3.27mp for 1st. Sept 13 Jo Melis/Richard Shen won 5.48mp for 1st, Steve Mager/Dean Kaloudis won 4.11mp for 2nd and Cecil Cook/Gary Paugh won 3.08 for 3rd. Sept 14 Sankar Reddy/Greg Tapia won 3.27mp for 1st. Congratulations to all!

New Members: Gilbert Fisher, Sue McHale. Welcome to the club!

Status Changes: New Junior Master: Sylvia

Kaprelyn. New Regional Masters: Beatrice Aron, Pam Cronn. New NABC Master: George Alemshah. New Life Masters: Kiyo Nagaishi, Reva Alban. New Silver Life Master: Sudershan Sood. Congratulations to you all!

Upcoming Events at the Club: Wednesday Oct 2 evening game 7pm: instant machpoint game. Club Appreciation Week Oct 7-13. Extra points, regular prices. Club Championship Week Oct 20-26. Extra points, regular prices. Unit Game Oct 27 lunch at 12:30, game at 1:00 pm. Oct 31 Halloween Party unit-rated game. Extra points, regular prices.

High School/Middle School Bridge Program: The Long Beach Unit is considering instituting a school bridge program for area middle and high schools. If you are interested in teaching school children our game, or have contacts with local schools, we'd appreciate your input. Please contact us at robprece2@hotmail.com

News from Leisure World

by Judy Carter-Johnson

My column this month will cover August and September news.

70% Games - August and September: August 2nd Jaye Woodington and yours truly had 71.36% game.

August 19th Unit Rated game results: Overall winners: A1 Jeanette Estill/John C H Chang; 2Dorothy Favre/ Verna Becker; 3Betty Jackson/Betty Witteried;4 Ruth Kaller/Linda Carder; 5 - B1Bob and Pat Turansick; 6 - B2 - C1 Joyce Henderson/Jane Reid;7 - B3 - C2 Richard Norris/ Ron Yaffee.

Congratulations: In August Sylvia Kaproelyan attained status of Sectional Life Master.Joan Tschirki, Betty Jackson, Sylvia Kaproelyan, Howard Smith and Bud Parish scored master points while playing at the Irvine Regional.Sylvia and her partner Pam Conn placed in a 299'r game.She proudly wears her "I AM A WINNER" t-shirt!!!

Condolences: OnAugust 2ndour dear friend Gloria (Lesh) Sedore passed away. She will be missed by her many friends and bridge partners.We send our condolences to her family.

Unit Game: Seal Beach Leisure World is hosting the September Unit game on Sunday, September 29that Burning Tree Club House #1.BBQ lunch starts atnoon-bridge to follow.

New 'Last Minute' Phone Number: If you are signed up to play bridge on Mondays or Thursdays →

at Clubhouse #3 and will be late or have to cancel at the last minute, call [562-293-8358](tel:562-293-8358) after 12:00. You will reach the club manager. Also, if you are available to fill in at the last moment, please call this number.

Upcoming Club Championship Dates: Clubhouse #3 - October 3 and Nov 14. Clubhouse #1 - October 4 and November 2.

Games are held on Mondays/Thursdays at Clubhouse #3 and Friday/Saturday at Clubhouse # at 12:15. Advanced reservations are requested as Leisure World is a gated community. Please call: Monday-Midge Dunagan 594 9698 Thursday- Cookie Pham 431-6453 Friday- Jane Gibbons 430-2104 Saturday- Sharon Beran 308-7838.

If you have any news for next month's column, please email me at jcj90740@gmail.com Results of all Leisure World games are posted on www.acblunit557.org

Get the Unit 557 Newsletter via email: Send me your email address and I'll put you on the list. My email is jyinger1@gmail.com.

Pasadena-San Gabriel Valley by Marie Nimmrich

Unit Game: Sunday, October 6 at 1:00

Greetings to all. Our next unit game (as you can see above) will be held on Sunday, October 6 at 1:00 p.m. at the San Marino Recreation building. **Come early** for food-- a free, full, fabulous meal. You know, I send free plays for one of our unit games to all new members of our unit. However, most of them go unused. We would really like to see those of you who have recently joined us in Unit 559. We are all friendly folks and would welcome you unhesitatingly.

Congratulations to Ann Raymond on becoming our newest life master. She played with Sandy Rucker at the Irvine Regional and accumulated the last of the points she needed.

And welcome to new members Nancy and Carl Hulick, James Pollock, Fay Riedel, Pamela Risinger and Christopher Yoder. We have a membership total of 416 players. But where are they? Just imagine that all 416 came to one of the games, perhaps to one of the unit games. Do you, readers of this column, know of a unit member who has not played lately? Maybe you

could invite that person to a game. Or pair up a couple of these elusive people and point them towards a unit game.

September Unit Game: We had 15 tables at our September unit game and the winners were... Amr Elghamry and Madhu Sudan. Did you know that if you are a unit member and win a unit game, you receive a free play to another unit game? (It's a fact!) Second were Peter Szecsi and Bernie Mateer. Patrick Carullo and Mike Doll followed, with Lulu and Fredy Minter in fourth place. Bernie brought the food and there was plenty of it. Thank you, Bernie. You are a great hostess.

San Marino Bridge Club: We recently held STAC games sponsored by Districts 22 and 23. And we are proud to report that on Monday afternoon, Diana Borgatti and Paul Nason were second overall in the event. They had a 68.5% game. Also in the overalls from San Marino were Shiu-Ming Huang and William Ng, and Steve Shanker and Phil Dessert.

On the second Monday of each month, our club hosts a special event - either a charity game or a STAC game. These games are accompanied by predealt hands and hand records after the game. In October, we will hold a charity game on Monday the 14th (upon which date Columbus Day is being celebrated).

On Wednesday nights the jackpot is growing because no one seems able to achieve a 70% game; or if they do, the attendance is below 6 tables. The jackpot was last won in March of 2010. It was won by Joe Viola and Rae Murbach and the total was \$42.00. The jackpot is now reaching \$800.00. Is this an incentive to attend the Wednesday evening game, which starts at 7:15? One of the reasons the jackpot is so difficult to gain is the caliber of players on Wednesday night. In order to stratify the game, it is necessary to put the top strat at 3000 MPs!! The competition is fierce. But, the atmosphere is friendly and Jan Wickersham provides the refreshments, which are always top quality.

Arcadia Bridge Center: There is a charming couple who play at the Bridge Center and they are from Rumania: Andrei and Maria Verona. They should meet Lulu Minter, who is also from Rumania. Maybe they did not know each other there, but they could have some good conversations about their homeland. And who knows? They may have some mutual acquaintances.

Sorry I have a deadline and did not have time to contact the Bridge Center regarding dates for Beat the House Night or Winner/Loser Sunday in October. However, if you want to know, you can always call →

626-445-3797 to get that information.

If anyone has newsworthy items or just plain old news, please let me know.

I am now handing you over to our resident expert on bridge hands and bridge bidding. You will be sure to learn a thing or two. Your turn, Roy!

Some thoughts on the Balancing Notrump bid

by Roy Wilson

Many players agree that after an opening bid by the opponents and two passes a notrump bid in the balancing seat does not promise full values. Most players agree that it shows about 10-13 points and a hand unsuitable for a double. I asked a number of good players what their agreement is for subsequent bidding about a hand such as this after the player in first seat opened 1♠ and the other two players passed: ♠Qxx ♥Kx ♦AJxx ♣Qxxx.

This is a typical hand for a balancing notrump call. You can't double because your partner will expect heart support, but you don't want to pass, either. The question though, is this: What does your partner's next bid mean? The majority of players seem to prefer to play Stayman and Jacoby transfers, but a smaller number prefer to play natural calls and use a cue bid as Stayman. The reason given is that there are three remaining suits and if you use both Stayman and Transfer bids you can only play one of those three suits at the two level. Wouldn't you like to play in two diamonds if you partner has this hand: ♠xxx ♥Jxx ♦Kxxxx ♣Kx?

You probably should assume your partner prefers Stayman and Transfers until you talk to him or her about your agreements.

Pomona Covina

by Tom Lill

Unit Game – Sunday, October 27, 10:00 a.m. and TBD
Individual – Saturday, October 5, LaVerne site

First up: the Unit game this month is delayed by one week + 1 day, to avoid conflict with the District 23 Regional in Torrance. Also – and this is very important: this is our annual two-session championship game. Play one or both sessions, of course, but to qualify for the blue jeans ... I mean the overalls ... you have to play both sessions. In between, we are planning to mosey on

over to a restaurant for an early dinner and our annual Membership Meeting and Unit elections. We will meet between sessions at the Olive Garden for dinner and our annual membership meeting. Cost of dinner is \$18, and advance sign-up is required. See any Board member for more details.

The September Individual was captured by Larry Clark, making it two in a row for him. Trailing behind were Sofi Kasubhan, Al Lax, Steve Mancini, and Thomas Lill. Barring unforeseen circumstances, all the remaining Individuals for this year will be at Lois Snowden's place in LaVerne. Remember, this is a gated community, so if you don't have the most recent code, check in first! The October game will be a club appreciation game, paying extra master points (at no extra entry fee, of course).

The September Unit game falls well after our publishing deadline, unfortunately. Que lastima. So there's nothing to report. The same will be true for the October game, of course. You can always find the results on the ACBL web site, of course. Your hard-working club manager usually has the results posted by the following morning.

The top game this month was 66.3% by Al Lax and Norma Appley. You gotta watch those flight C players, don't you. Otherwise they will sneak up on you and eat your lunch. Other winners included Lu and Fredy Minter, Ken Bloomfield, Kurt Trieselmann, Vic Sartor, Bill Papa, Penny Barbieri, Cordell Goode, George Altinis, Roger Boyar, Sandy Jones, Gino Barbieri, Dave Ruoff, Linda Ananea, Susie Emminger, Don Naf, and Hanan Mogharbel.

We have three new Junior Masters this month: Vinay Gupta, Linda Hedden, and Anand Kumar. Congratulations all, and keep up the good work.

Once again, we have sad news to report. Long time Unit 551 member, fine player, and all around Character, Lary Alba (that IS Lary-with-one-r) passed away, after a long illness, on September 9. To give you some idea, Lary's nickname on the Bridge Base was ... the Albatross. (Hopefully you got that faster than Your Somewhat Slow Correspondent.) Lary was famous ... or should we say, infamous ... for his partnership with Scott Samarel, and their "Scary Club" bidding system. (Think about it ... you'll get that joke, too.) With 8-point openers in first and second seat, it was a rare hand indeed that was passed out. The system could really bollix the opponents... until they caught on. One memorable evening, Scott and Lary were competing in spades →

against the opponents' clubs. The auction reached 3♠ (neither side vulnerable) when Lary's LHO decided he had had enough and pulled the red card. 1100 later, Scott remarked to Lary, "Maybe we should have let them play 3♣ ..."

Our hand of the month this time is nothing too unusual, at first sight. As dealer, you pick up the following collection: ♠AKTxx ♥AKxxxx ♦x ♣x. "Only" 14 points. Look again, Walter (the Walrus, that is). A sniff of a fit in either major and this hand has ENORMOUS playing strength. So you open (I hope) 1♥, not 1♠, with big plans for the future.

Partner calls 2♣, not game forcing. The opponents obligingly remain silent. Now what?

I certainly hope you've read Eddie Kantar's book, *A Treasury of Bridge Tips* (540 Bidding Tips to Improve Your Partner's Game). Check out tip #165, which says:

"After a two level response, a reverse can be made with as few as 15 HCP." (The italics are Mr. Kantar's by the way.)

Certainly this hand is worth 2♣, which you duly call. Partner's bid is 3NT. And the ball is back in your court.

The indicated call is ... 4♥, of course. The communications in 3NT are going to be just awful, especially after the expected diamond lead. (Singletons in three suits! Ewww.) 4♥ was passed out, and dummy flopped with: ♠x ♥Qx ♦AQxxx ♣QJTxx.

With some luck you would make 9 tricks in notrump, but unless you manage to revoke, there are eleven tricks in hearts. (Spades are 4-3, but even if they are 5-2, you have 10 tricks. Where was the ♦K? Offside, of course, which you knew when the opening lead was the ♦9.) Oddly enough, only one pair got to

4♥. 3NT failed miserably, as did 4♠ in the 5-1 fit.

The lesson here is Man (or Woman) Does Not Live by Points Alone. Marty Bergen has expressed this more eloquently, of course, but we do try to keep the plagiarism down to an absolute minimum. (Of course, plagiarism from three or more sources can be called "research" ...)

Quote for the month: "It's what you learn after you know it all that counts." (John Wooden)

Until next month ...

San Fernando Valley by Deborah Levinson

Greetings and Salutations!

Achievements

Top Ten Masterpoints for August

- 1 Helen Malzer - 6.39
- 2 Ron Malkin - 5.78
- 3 Frona De Covnick - 5.00
- 4 Larry Kussin - 4.90
- 5 Gloria Malkin - 4.80
- 6 Carol Bell - 4.79
- 7 Jerry Goodman - 4.35
- 8 Jim Gardner - 4.15
- 9 Bunnie Roth - 4.03
- 10 Dick Berg - 3.88

The Bridge Academy (open)

- 1 Deborah Levinson - 8.48
- 2 Seymour Zemlyn - 8.09
- 3 Mark Peters - 8.03
- 4 Joan Rubin - 7.99
- 5 Tom Wylie - 7.70
- 6 Gary Frans - 7.49
- 7 Gilbert Stinebaugh - 6.89
- 8 Armand Szulc - 6.78
- 9 William Carlson Jr - 6.50
- 10 Robert Rice - 5.96



January 20-26, 2014

BALLY'S

LAS VEGAS

3645 Las Vegas Blvd., South

Room rate \$109

For reservations call 800-358-8777
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Free parking and no resort fee.

Tournament Co-Chairs:
Bruce Rubin & Jane Rubin
702-277-4929 or 702-277-7949
jane1212@aol.com or brr32196@aol.com

♥

GOLD POINT PROGRAM

♦

Speakers will present helpful bridge tips before the 0-299er games most afternoon and evening sessions.

Looking for **Gold Points**? The entire tournament schedule is packed with **Gold Point events** including the popular **Knockout Teams** and our newest game, the daily **Gold Pairs** in which you can win **Gold Points** and nobody you play against will have more than 750 masterpoints. KO events may be handicapped.

Online partnership desk at
LVregional.com

Zero Tolerance Policy will be in place
See LVregional.com for full schedule of events

The Bridge Academy (<750)

- 1 Deborah Levinson - 8.48
- 2 Sheila Singer - 5.05
- 3 Martin Hurwitz - 3.43
- 4 Douglas Timmer - 3.43
- 5 Philip Berk - 3.25
- 6 Anne Hurwitz - 2.94
- 7 Beverly McLeod - 2.65
- 8 Gregory Bozin - 2.65
- 9 Marilyn Gaims - 2.60
- 10 Ruth Fleisher - 2.60

70 Percent Games

Bob Glasser and Bill Morton 79.63%

STaC

Monday AM 1199er Pairs

1st in A, B, & C! - Shari Elias - Gary Baxley

Tuesday AM 1199er Pairs

1st in A, B, & C! - Bill Taylor - Lilli Kalmenson

Wednesday AM 1199er

1st in A - Charles Sarture - Ellen Sue Sarture

1st in B - Linda Silvey - Carol Bell

1st in C - Maxine Rudoff - Libby Lemaine

Wednesday Eve Open Pairs

1st in C - Marilyn Gaims - Ruth Fleisher

Thursday AM 1199er Pairs

1st in A - Susan Raphael - Sylvia Morstein

1st in B - Ellen Carrier - Rochelle Lotto

1st in C - Dick Bratkovich - Hal Schneider

Thursday AM Open Pairs

1st in A with a whopping 77% Game! - Sharon David - Armand Szulc

Friday AM Open Pairs

1st in A - Peter Benjamin - Peter Knee

Remember - if you are reading this, and you want your name to be here, and you do not see it, it is because you did not send your "news" to Deborah Levinson at dlevinson@acesupms.com or leave a note in the "Bridge News" envelope at either of our clubs! New ranks? Life events? Let me know!

Upcoming Events

ACBL-Wide Instant Matchpoint Game – to be held at the new location of The Bridge Academy (see below) on October 2, 2013 at 7:15. Please call for reservations at 818-999-9131. Card fees will be \$11.00 as \$3.00 will be added to the card fee to cover the costs of the materials provided by the ACBL.

New Location for the Bridge Academy

The Bridge Academy has moved. Its new location is:

20350 Ventura Boulevard, Suite 120

Woodland Hills, California 91364

Phone – 818-999-9031

<http://bridgeontheboulevard.com>

The schedule remains the same.

Please remember to support all the clubs in our Unit and help keep bridge alive and thriving in the San Fernando Valley.

Column News: Make certain that your bridge news will appear in the next edition of Bridge News by sending it to Deborah Levinson (dlevinson@acesupms.com) with the subject BRIDGE COLUMN.

Torrance-South Bay by Steve Mager

Unit: www.freewebs.com/bridgeatunit568

SBBC: www.bridgeclubs.org/index.php?id=sbbc

Upcoming Events at the South Bay Bridge Club

Club Championship: Monday, October 7, 11:30

Club Championship: Saturday, October 12, 3:00

Club Championship: Wednesday, October 23, 11:30

Handicapped Swiss Teams Every Tuesday Evening

There will be a Friday Night game on October 4.

The South Bay Bridge Club will be closed from Monday October 14-20 due to the nearby Los Angeles Regional at the Torrance Marriot. Enjoy the Regional.

Free Lessons

The South Bay Bridge Club is offering free Bridge lessons beginning October 3. These classes will be →

for eight weeks from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. on Thursday evenings. Gerri Carlson will be the instructor.

Club Championships

The North American Open Pair Qualifier on August 26 was led by Gaye Herrington/Ed Barad in Flight A and Stan Greengard/Hank Sheehan in Flight B. The NAOP Qualifier on August 27 was won by Sumi Tokufuji/Iyoko Kawamura in both flights A and B. The Club Championship on August 9 was headed by Stan Greengard/Mark Raggio in both Flights A and B. On August 13 the Club Championship was won by Dick Jones/Ernie Frank in Flight A and Bob Rothman/Stam Greengard in Flight B

Team Winners

August 27: Fran Israel, Luis Gamio, Jim Dutton,
Bronek Felczer
September 10: Masae Kato, Jeff Strutzel, Steve
Ramos, Ed Piken

Western Conference STAC

Following is a list of pairs that placed in the recent Western Conference STAC in games played at Torrance South Bay clubs.

Monday Morning, August 19
15A 8B Carol McCully/Cal Waller
17A Maurice Suhre/John J. McDermott
19A Gabriela Jackson/Patricia Taylor
17B 4C Christine Uriu/BeeDe Lim

Monday Evening, August 19
6A Kim Wang/Ray Mack

Tuesday Morning, August 20
5A 3B Kim Wang/Chein-San Han

Tuesday Morning, July 16, SBBC NLM Pairs
1A Dolly Weiner/Jean Brunner
2A 1B Marie Lynch/Marilyn Skolich
3/4A 2B Johnny Arceri/Elaine Wagner
3/4A Setsuko Miyasaka/George Stinson

Friday Morning, August 23, 99er Pairs
2A 1B 1C Rae Yan/Deborah Downs

3A 2B James Deflon/Kathy Shinkle
5A 4B 2C Kathy Miller/Freda Main
6A Carolyn Woo/Ed Bucklin
5B 3C Nancy Carnes/Ann Igawa

Friday Morning, August 23, Aux Pairs

1A 1B 1C Dolores Nawa/Carole King
2A 2B Dick Jones/Ernie Frank
5A 3B 2C Kim Wang/John Williams

GUV Memorial Award

To change the tenor of the GUV award column for this month only, I would like to report what I thought was a classy act during a Compact KO at the recent Irvine Regional. My partner was Mike Savage and we were playing two Bulgarian gentlemen. On one of the first hands of the match Mike arrived in 4♠ after his LHO had made a preemptive jump in clubs. The opponents took the first three tricks and Mike was left having to pick up the trump suit holding AKJxxx opposite 3 small to make. He played the ♠A and was planning to go to dummy and finesse through the non preemptor for the ♠Q. Mike played a card toward dummy's entry and his LHO kind of fumbled his cards and said "oops" as a club fell on the table. While I am sure the "oops" was not an intention to lead declarer astray, Mike decided that LHO really meant to trump and decided not to finesse for the trump queen since LHO already had shown up with one singleton. Well it was right to finesse and Mike went down one. Mike, being a director himself, knew that any ruling about the "oops" comment would be that if declarer takes a different action than he would have after the "oops" comment, he does so at his own risk. However Mike's RHO understood why Mike had gone wrong. Since the board had not been played at the other table he told us to forget the board and redeal it. A classy act to be sure. The RHO was Val Kovachev, who recently won an NABC championship in Atlanta.

Na Zdrowie

West LA
by Robert Shore

Reciprocation

We hope that everyone who attended the ABA/ACBL game at Barrington last month, particularly →

our guests from the ABA, felt like you got your money's worth for the game. The room was absolutely packed to capacity, and the food was the best I've ever seen at a bridge club. In fact, I'm pretty sure I've been to weddings where the spread wasn't as sumptuous. Your Humble Scribe managed to find a partner, Bruce Altshuler, capable of carrying him to victory. And I retain hope that the master points won at this event will at some point appear on our ACBL records. Watch this space for further developments.

Wishing Well

We learned recently that Allan Chapman will be enduring an extended absence from the table. We look forward to his return and wish him, his family and friends, and his partners all the best.

More from the Tables

Peter Benjamin and Aram Bedros got this month's tournament report off to a good start by winning the Wednesday evening event of the Great Western STAC. Then, at our Labor Day Sectional, Peter once again picked up more master points than any other player. He won the Friday evening pairs event, playing again with Aram, and backed it up with a second win Sunday morning. Mike Mikyska picked up a win in the Saturday morning pairs event, while Mike Savage won the Saturday Compact Knockout. Allan Daniels and David Pelka won the Saturday afternoon pairs event, and then made it a double by teaming with Joel Schiff and Bill Rogers to win the Sunday Compact Knockout. Harvey Katz won the Sunday afternoon pairs game. Our Unit won a pair of 299er games, with Margot Hartman and Lee Axelrod winning on Saturday afternoon while Mitchell and Rochelle Blumenfeld won the Sunday morning game. To cap things off, Eva Schondorf, Bill Wickham, and Howard Einberg won the Monday Swiss.

Traveling down the road to Irvine, Daniels and Pelka won their bracket of the Friday-Saturday Knockout Teams event. Robert and Ellen Kent won the Sunday A/X Swiss, while Joel Schiff and Alyssa Kennedy hit the winner's circle twice, playing with Rick Turner in their bracket of the Saturday Compact Knockout Teams and with Bill Rogers in their bracket of the Bracketed Flight B Swiss.

Things to Come

With autumn officially upon us, it's time to prepare for the Official Bridge Event of the Winter Solstice — our Unit's annual Holiday Party. We will once again hold this shindig at the Beverly Hills Country Club. Save the November 24 date. In addition to a great party and an afternoon of bridge, we will hold the Unit's annual membership meeting and present the Player of the Year and Volunteer of the Year awards.

And if you just can't wait for an event to anticipate, the Fall Regional is just around the corner. It will be held once again in Torrance from October 14-20, and rumor has it that the World's Greatest Caddy will make yet another appearance. For those who wish to avoid the hotel's parking rates, I found that my car remained unmolested last year in the mini-mall across Torrance Boulevard from the Marriott.

Test Your Defense

After overcalling spades and then raising partner's heart bid, you double RHO's 3NT bid, only to see them run to 5♣. Your hand is: ♠Q7632 ♥JT72 ♦A8 ♣A8.

Naturally, you lead the heart jack. Dummy comes down with: ♠K985 ♥5 ♦KQT43 ♣J53.

Declarer wins the heart ace and trumps a heart in dummy, then leads a club to the 10. You decide to win with the ace and exit your last club, partner discarding a heart. Declarer then leads a diamond toward the board.

Have you decided yet what you're going to do? If you're a habitual counter, the decision is easy. Declarer has 6 club tricks, the heart ace and a heart ruff, and surely also has at least Ax of spades (declarer needs the ace for his NT bid and if it were stiff, he would have unblocked it before crossing to dummy with a heart ruff. Declarer also can't be prevented from scoring at least 1 diamond trick, for a total of 11, so you may as well grab the ace.

What happens if you don't? One defender found out the hard way. After the diamond king held, declarer returned to the spade ace and then ran all his trump, coming down to 2 cards. With you discarding in front of dummy, dummy retains the diamond queen and the K9 of spades. Would you rather discard the diamond ace to establish dummy's queen or come down to one spade to establish dummy's long spade? Making 6, however, proved to be a poor board for declarer. Two pairs managed to take 11 tricks in 3NT when the defense

PRESIDENT *continued from page 1*

of the University of Oregon ducks. The tournament was held in a local hotel with an attached conference center. Many restaurants and shopping venues were nearby so players from out of town could do very well without renting a car. This tournament also began new knockouts each day and featured multiple Gold Rush Pairs as well as the new Bracketed Swiss Teams for players in Strats B and lower.

Later in August we traveled to Colorado Springs, Colorado. Though Colorado Springs is the second largest city in Colorado, it has a small town feel. One of its attractions away from the bridge table is an unusual city park called the Garden of the Gods. The park encompasses 1,350 acres where an abundance of plant and animal life can be found among the magnificent red sand stone rock formations. Many of these formations are more than 300 million years old and were sculpted through time by the forces of nature.

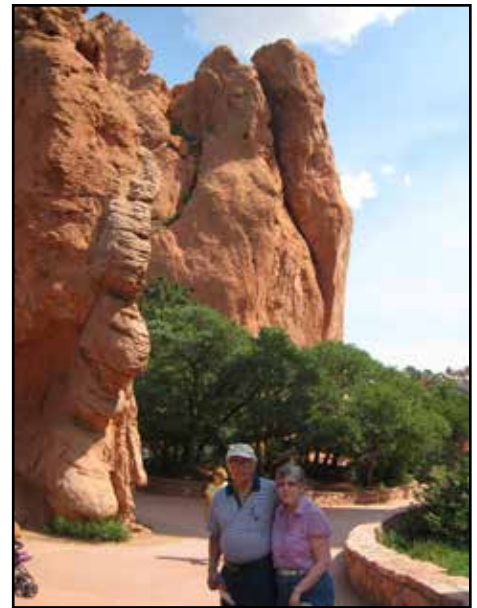
This tournament held its major events at 1:00 p.m. and 7:00

p.m. Minor events were held each morning giving players the option of sightseeing or playing bridge.

This schedule was also true for the Taos Regional held in early September. I had heard about Taos ever since my parents attended an Elderhostel there back in the 1980's. American Eagle has one direct flight to Santa Fe every day which is about an hour and a half drive from Taos. Taos is the home of the Taos Pueblo, considered to be the oldest continuously inhabited community in the United States.

Located on a rolling mesa at the base of the Sangre de Cristo mountains, Taos is an attraction year round. The majestic mountains, the wild Rio Grande River, and the unique blend of cultures have historically drawn many artists and photographers whose works are featured in the many museums and galleries.

We had hoped to hike those majestic mountains on alternate days, but the weatherman had other ideas. It rained six out of the seven days we were there. I was looking forward to hiking to Williams Lake for the magnificent view, though I



was kind of dreading the 1600 foot elevation gain. This was the first time Taos had a regional and might be the last. However, because it was quite successful, I believe District 17 will find a time to hold a regional there some time in the future.

So what have I learned that might be helpful. Primarily, I confirmed much of what I already knew. I knew that players want lots of competition at their level; they want many eating establishments in all price ranges to select from; and they want a variety of events to play in. I also learned that while snacks, prizes and registration items are appreciated, they don't determine the success of the tournament.

We will keep you posted. If you have ideas you would like us to consider, please email them to me at district23becky@hotmail.com or speak with Ellen Anten, Peter Benjamin, Penny Barbieri, Betty Jackson or myself at the tournament. Also make sure you make plans to play at the Torrance Regional coming up soon, October 14 – 20, 2013.



Problem Solvers' Panel

Moderator: Leo Bell

Panelists: Mitch Dunitz, Jeff Goldsmith, John Jones, Adam Meyerson and Jon Wittes

1

IMPs
NS vul

East	South	West	North
	1♥	3♦	3NT
pass	?		

You South hold: ♠AK54 ♥KQJ762 ♦75 ♣A
What call do you make?

DUNITZ: 4NT. Quantitative invite.

GOLDSMITH: 5♥. We should have the values for slam, so I'll just check for diamond control. If I bid 4♦ and later bid 5♥, partner should play me for a diamond control, and since I don't plan to pass 4♥, I can't start with 4♦.

JONES: 4♠. I can envision hands opposite with which a grand is cold (♠QJx ♥Ax ♦Axx ♣Kxxxx) or a small slam is hopeless (♠QJx ♥Ax ♦QJT9 ♣KQJT). I'll reverse into spades, but won't drive to slam. If partner bids 4NT (signoff), I'll pass. If partner bids 5♣ or 5♦, I'll bid 5♥, which is passable.

MEYERSON: 4♦. This is the clearest slam try. I want to play 6♥ opposite a doubleton rather than 6♠ opposite four weak ones.

WITTES: 4♦. Partner could have a minimum and we may be in grand territory, for example, a hand with the ♠Q, ♥A and ♦AQ. I'm a little worried about a diamond ruff if we play in hearts and partner has secondary rather than primary cards in diamonds. If partner bids 4♥ over 4♦, I can keycard. If partner shows the ♦A, I'll investigate a grand. If not, I'll play 6NT.

Partner's 3NT spans a fairly wide range of hands, so it seems as if a slam try is in order. I opt for natural 4♠.

WEST LA *continued from page 10*

couldn't find a heart lead, and three more pairs played 5C doubled, which can't be touched.

Welcome Mat

This month's new members are Charlotte Dobbs, Brenda Fine, Robert Love, Marcia Oshman, and Ira Swartz. Transferring into our Unit is Julie Kimelman. We look forward to getting to know them at the table.

Around the Clubs

Barrington reported no club championships last month. Hitting

the 70% mark were Paul Smith, Steven Yaffe, Cyma Aronow, and Art Zail. Club champions at Beverly Hills were Fuad Khuri twice, once with Huguette Galante and once with Viktor Anikovich, along with Lee Hausner and Eddi Samandar and Dovid Crum and Nancie Barrier. Cyndey Osterman and Jacob Libman scored up a 70% game.

Climbing the Ladder

Lots of movement in the ranks last month. Our newest Junior Masters are Abraham Cohen, Lynn Harvey, Doris Jacobson, Lawrence

Mann, and Sue Tewksbury. Reaching Club Master status were Lynn Evans, Sri Nagesh, Sandra Price, Brenda Rosin, Michael Schiff, and Ira Thierer. Susan Frank and Bruce Schelden have become Sectional Masters, while Lee Axelrod, Ellen Carrier, Susan Cohen, Marsha Kerns, and Dawn Lee all are now NABC Masters. Reaching the recently created ranks of Advanced NABC Master was Jim Brunet.

William Inglis is now a Bronze Life Master and Richard Glatzer has become a Silver Life Master.

Got news? Send it to me at Bob78164@yahoo.com.

2

IMPs
EW vul

South	West	North	East
?		2♠	pass

You, South, hold:
 ♠K ♥J83 ♦JT8742 ♣975
 What call do you make?

DUNITZ: Pass. Too old to rock n' roll. *[As Mick Jagger has proven, one is never too old.]*

GOLDSMITH: Pass. Marshall Miles would have raised and not understood why partner couldn't figure out to give him a spade ruff. I think you just can't mess around when partner has opened a white on red weak two bid. Just hope he's already done enough damage and don't bury him.

JONES: Pass. This hand is eerily similar to the hand from the 2004 Senior Trials where responder raised with a singleton queen, only to hear "double, all pass" for -1400 against just a game the other way. Yes, I want a spade lead, but I'm not offering a huge number only to find partner reluctant to lead away from AQ anyway.

MEYERSON: Pass.

WITTES: Pass. I know the vulnerability cries for me to take some action, as the opponents definitely have a game and quite possibly a slam, but without a fit

for partner, bidding is fraught with peril, especially if trumps are breaking poorly. If I bid, and the opponents elect to defend, we are going for a minimum of 800, possibly as much as 1400. If they have a slam and are able to bid it, that's no disaster. They are probably on a combined 25 to 29 points, so even if a slam is makeable, it might not be that easy to bid. If they weren't bidding the slam, or if partner has enough to beat it (maybe two spades cash!), then going for a number will be a disaster.

I agree that it's risky to bid 3♠, but isn't it worth it? Unless your partner tends to open weak two bids with Jxxxx, [White on red in first seat, don't you open 2♠ with Jxxxx all the time? Don't you open on a 5-card suit pretty regularly? - Jones, editor] it seems unlikely the opponents can double for penalty, so why not take away an entire level of bidding? Also, won't an opponent holding three or four spades count on his partner's spade shortness?

RANK CHANGES
continued from page 2

District 23 Rank Changes August, 2013

Regional Master

Colleen Bilas
 Al Franken
 Gerry Gastelum
 Darlene Harrison
 Tom Lawrence
 Stanley Majcher, M.D.
 Dwight McCormick
 Lorena Mendelsohn
 Jacqueline Moor
 Marjorie Romans
 Sharry Vida
 Mary Young

NABC Master

Larry Clark
 Michael Newman

Life Master

Beverly Goldner
 Renee Hoffman
 Roy Ladd
 Mark Lavine

Bronze Life Master

Glenn Dicus
 Renee Hoffman

Gold Life Master

Gerard Geremia

Diamond Life Master

Armand Szulc

♣ **LOS ANGELES REGIONAL** ♠
 ♦ ♥ ♣ ♦ ♥ ♣ ♦ ♥ ♣ ♦ ♥ ♣ ♦ ♥ ♣ ♦ ♥ ♣ ♦

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3

MPs
no vul

West	North	East	South
1♥	2♦	pass	?

You, South, hold:
 ♠AKJ96 ♥75 ♦3 ♣KQJT8
 What call do you make?

DUNITZ: 2♠. (If forcing.) I play it is NF and constructive in most partnerships. In those partnerships, my choices are 2♥ planning to bid 3♠ over partner's 2NT or 3♦, or to jump directly to 3♠, which is not normally just a five-card suit. I don't hate the latter choice, but a small percentage of the time, partner will bid 3♣ after I cue bid, and that will make my tail wag. So I cue.

GOLDSMITH: 3♣. This is slightly skewed, but I'm planning to rebid 3♠ and 4♠. Bidding the normal 2♠ will usually get me 3♦, and then 4♣ is a little high. If partner was about to rebid 2NT, I did the wrong thing.

JONES: 2♠. Great if it's forcing and still probably the best bid if it's not.

MEYERSON: 2♠. In some partnerships, I play 2♥ as a spade transfer here; otherwise I play 2♠ is forcing opposite a two-level overcall.

WITTES: 2♠. I don't even know that this is 100% forcing, but it should be forward-going. If partner does not support spades, I will bid clubs at my next opportunity. That should be forcing.

The key here is whether 2♠ is forcing. Those who believe it is not are willing to risk a pass by partner. A cue bid works fine if it doesn't guarantee diamond support. I like Jeff's approach: Start with a forcing 3♣ and then bid and rebid spades.

4

IMPs
all vul

South	West	North	East
?	3♠	4♥	4♠

You, South, hold:
 ♠5 ♥KT ♦AT643 ♣87652
 What call do you make?

DUNITZ: Double. Double shows values and no clear action.

GOLDSMITH: Double. I have enough convertible values that if partner bids, I'm happy, and if he passes, we'll probably beat them. We are not in a force.

JONES: Pass. If forcing, otherwise 5♥. Mike Pudlin and I had the agreement that this was forcing. Pass isn't forcing in my other partnerships, but I think it ought to be. 5♥ is reasonable and partner might occasionally bid 6♥. It's my preference to play responsive doubles here, and double is reasonable if it's responsive.

MEYERSON: Double. Takeout / card-showing.

WITTES: 5♥. With a perfect hand from partner, we could have a slam, but that's asking for a lot. We could also be going down at the five-level. Even that's not necessarily bad; maybe the opponents are making 4♠.

Double seems normal here, but I like 5♥. It tells partner about my heart fit, and avoids partner having a decision over a double.

LOS ANGELES REGIONAL



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5

B-A-M
all vul

East	South	West	North
	1♣	pass	1♥
pass	2♥	pass	2NT
pass	?		

You, South, hold: ♠QT6 ♥KJ98 ♦653 ♣AKT
What call do you make?

DUNITZ: 3♥. Showing 4 hearts and a minimum, assuming that 2NT is not game forcing (my preferred method). If 2NT is a game force, then 3NT seems clear.

GOLDSMITH: 3NT. I think this is just enough to accept: 13 HCP, two tens and a 98. (K&R = 12.70, and it hates 4-3-3-3 shape. [K & R is the Kaplan and Rubens hand evaluator, developed by Edgar Kaplan and Jeff Rubens. See <http://www.jeff-goldsmith.org/cgi-bin/knr.cgi>]. As for strain, if I'm 4-3-3-3, and partner suggests notrump, then notrump it is. It wouldn't surprise me if each of 3NT and 3♥ were down one, but I think 2NT is forcing, so I might as well play a contract with an upside.

JONES: Pass. This is somewhat a stylistic problem,

but for me 4-3-3-3 13 HCP openers should be considered minimum hands. I hate 4-3-3-3 distribution and frequently pass 4-3-3-3 12 HCP hands. I like the connected club honors and the two ten-spots, but for me this is a minimum. If I were playing Spiral (also known as 3-3-4-4) or Robinson (a slightly better but more complicated method), then 2NT is forcing, and I will bid 3♥, although I dislike returning to hearts without a ruffing value.

MEYERSON: 3NT. Usually the place to play with 3=4=3=3.

WITTES: 3NT. I have no ruffing values and a hand well suited for no trump. If partner is suggesting a no trump game, I have no reason to disagree.



Marriott
TORRANCE
SOUTH BAY

Torrance, CA | October 14-20

The Torrance Marriott South Bay Hotel is **only two miles from Redondo Beach pier and miles of pristine beaches**, and is adjacent to the **Del Amo Fashion Center**. Spacious guest rooms include **FREE wireless internet**. Savor the South Bay hotel dining experiences, from Starbucks and Garden Court Restaurant, to the signature Rain Wine Bar and Lounge featuring **30 specialty wines by the glass**.

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Reserve online at
LosAngelesRegional.com

- Room rate \$134 single or double.
- Free in-room internet.
- Reserve by October 4.
- Group Code ALAA
- Reduced rate parking \$9/day.

The Los Angeles Regional at Torrance includes the **Gold Rush Pairs**, in which you can win **Gold Points** and **nobody you play will have more than 750 masterpoints**. On Thursday & Sunday try the **Bracketed B Swiss** with teams in each bracket having similar average masterpoints. Three teams in each bracket win **GOLD points!**

- Tournament Manager, Peter Benjamin, 310-720-6050, ahoneydo@aol.com
- Partnership, Betty Jackson, 562-594-4420, rjackson6277@roadrunner.com
- Card fees \$13 for paid members, \$15 for others

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