

North County Inland, Unit 549

2433 S. Centre City Pkwy., Escondido, CA 92025

(760) 747-6092

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3**TABLE****TALK****THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF ACBL UNIT 549*****PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE***

Thanx to all the people who helped to make our Winter Sectional a success: The directors who ran the games smoothly; Lupe who worked so hard getting the room in order; Karen Okey and her committee in keeping the snacks coming (I hope I'm not forgetting anyone); And especially the players who braved the San Diego winter weather (at least we did not have 3 feet of snow!) to come and play. It was nice to see so many friendly faces enjoying a morning or afternoon of their favorite pastime. I am looking forward to seeing y'all at our summer sectional in the same place on June 28th & 29th (bring your friends, the more the merrier). Details and schedules will be available soon.

If you have any question, compliments, or complaints you can reach me by email at selatus@gmail.com.

Congratulations to all the Mini-McKenney and Ace of Clubs awards winners listed elsewhere in the Table Talk. Special kudos to Art Foeste who was first in the nation in the Mini-McKenney race!

Y'all play nice.

Sheila Latus

P L A Y E R S O F T H E M O N T H

Open
Tim Flaherty



Under 1500
Marion McDonald



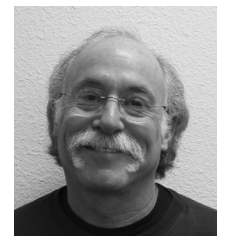
Under 750
Maggie Yeh



Under 300
Ayoub Jaraicie



Under 100
Sue Compton



Future Master
Rick Sontag

Upcoming Unit 549 Events - Mark the Date

Special Games with Extra Points

Saturday, February 23rd - Unit Championship Game at Lake San Marcos Pavilion - 1pm

NCBC Mega-Point Games: Open Games: Monday, March 4th, Tuesday, March 5th, Wednesday, March 6th, Friday, March 8th, Tuesday, March 19th, Friday, March 22nd, Monday, March 25th, Wednesday, March 27th, and Saturday, March 30th. All Open games start at 12:30pm.
NCBC Non-Life Master Mega-point games: Tuesday, March 5th, Tuesday, March 19th, Friday, March 22nd, and Friday, March 29th. All NLM games start at 9:00am at NCBC.

NCBC Club Championships will be held Friday, March 8th at 9am, Monday, March 18th at 12:30pm, and Wednesday, March 20th at 12:30pm

STAC games at NCBC: Monday, March 11 at 12:30 and 6:30pm (both Open), Tuesday, March 12 at 9am (NLM) and 1:00pm (Open), Wednesday, March 13 at 12:30pm (Open), Thursday, March 14 at 12:30pm (Open), and Friday, March 15 at 9am (NLM) and 12:30pm (Open)

STAC games at Town Hall BC: Wednesday, March 13 and Friday, March 15, 10 am both days.

STAC games at Lake San Marcos DBC: Wednesday, March 13 at 11am and Friday, March 15 at 6:30pm (preceded by potluck at 5:30pm)

Saturday, March 16th - Unit Championship Game at Lake San Marcos Conference Center - 1pm

STAC Games in March!

March 11th – 15th!

Check with your local club for participation. Jean Holt, Lake San Marcos DBC, North County Bridge Center, Lee Hofacre and Town Hall Bridge Club (Ramona), Maryann Houston.

Summer Sectional – June 28th – 29th, 2013...New Location! Mark the Date!

Come One! Come All! Unit 549's Summer Sectional will be held at our **new location**, the **Lake San Marcos Conference Center**, 1105 La Bonita Dr, Lake San Marcos, 92078. The Summer Sectional will have NLM, Open Pairs, Knock-outs and Swiss Teams. Mark the date! Contact: **Mariam Saner**, Tournament Manager by email: mariamsaner@me.com for further information.

Winter Sectional a Big Success! Thanks to all the hard work of the board members our Winter Sectional was a great success in our new location. We look forward to seeing you all at the Summer Sectional, June 28th – 29th!

Audrey Grant Workshop a Huge Success!

On Feb. 9th at the Lake San Marcos Country Club Unit 549 hosted 120 eager bridge players. Organized by Liz Nixon, Secretary of Unit 549, the group learned new Bidding Techniques from Audrey Grant. Many of the attendees traveled as far as Apple Valley to soak up the knowledge that Audrey Grant brings to her work-shops. We look forward to hosting her again next year. For information call Liz Nixon, 760-214-1899.

January Unit Game Winners

Open Game winners: Congratulations to winners Chuck Ward and Ken Matson – 67.15% followed by Bob Anuskiewicz & Cheryl Fosdick – 58.81%; Chuck & Madonna Donaldson – 58.65%; Carol & Steve Bruno – 57.05%; Kent Hartman & Bettie Heldring – 56.89%; Paul Landrum & Toshi Yasutake – 56.09%.

Non-Life Masters winners were Alan & Doris Groh – 70.14% followed by Ray Gogolewski & David Goldfarb – 61.81%; and Lyn Lazarro & Suzanna McDowell – 52.08%. **Congratulations to all players especially Alan and D.R. Groh.** See you next month on March 16th at the Lake San Marcos Pavilion.

Unit Games are held on the 4th Saturday of each month at the Lake San Marcos Pavilion or Conference Center, 1105 La Bonita Dr, Lake San Marcos, Ca 92078. **Call Liz Nixon for directions – 760-214-8999.** The games are \$7.00 and begin at 1:00pm, loads of snacks with bottled water, sodas and coffee are provided. Doors open at 12:15pm. **Please sign-up in advance by calling Kay Haralson at 760-685-2535** or at one of the Clubs, North County Bridge Center, Lake San Marcos at Grandon or Townhall Bridge Club in Ramona. Dates for next Unit games are Feb. 23rd, March 16th (Conference Center), and April 27th. See you at "The Lake"! Please note the March 16 Unit Championship Game (3rd Saturday) will be a STAC event and will be held in the Conference Center. Entry fee for the Unit STAC game will be \$8.

Members reaching new levels of achievement in Unit 549 in January are:

Junior Master – Lois Bobbit, Ramona

NABC – Suzanna McDowell – Escondido

New Advanced NABC – Roger Liles

Silver Life Master – Nancy Sperry, Rancho Bernardo

Congratulations to all achievers! See you at the next level or the next tournament!

2012 Ace of Clubs & Mini McKenney Awards

The Ace of Clubs awards are given to individuals in Unit 549 that have accumulated the highest number of masterpoints from club games throughout the year. The Mini-McKenney medals are awarded to those individuals in our unit with the highest number of total masterpoints for their level. Please join Unit 549 in congratulating these Ace of Clubs and Mini McKenney winners for 2012:

Level	Ace of Clubs	2012 Points
0-5	Sue Compton	57.88
5-20	Harriett Landon	32.42
20-50	Art Foeste	142.86
50-100	Ed Ford	46.48
100-200	Roger Liles	104.72
200-300	Jenna Katz	41.19
300-500	John White	74.88
500-1000	Minnie Williams	78.22
1000-2500	Alfred Nadel	179.67
2500-5000	Bernard Figueiredo	158.79
5000-7500	Bettie Heldring	45.59
Over 10,000	Tim Flaherty	250.78

Level	Mini McKenney	2012 Points
0-5	Sue Compton	77.82
5-20	Harriett Landon	43.93
20-50	Art Foeste	266.75
50-100	Ed Ford	59.30
100-200	Roger Liles	190.11
200-300	Nancy Perkins	64.83
300-500	John White	167.95
500-1000	Pete Watt	190.13
1000-2500	Jeri Adams	237.19
2500-5000	Bunny Schmidt	234.28
5000-7500	Bettie Heldring	50.95
Over 10,000	Tim Flaherty	372.85

70% Games in January

Congratulations to: Jean Jantz - Doris Cashman, North County BC, Jan. 12th, 71.30%; Alan & Doris Groh, Unit Game at Lake San Marcos, Jan. 19th, 71.00%; Carolyn Scerni & Ilene Brodsky, Lake San Marcos, Jan. 9th, 70.50%; and Cathy Staver & Lynn Lazarro, North County BC, Jan, 8th, 70.05%

New Members welcomed to Unit 549

Unit 549 wants to welcome new members Sandra Hrstich and Lynne Jaseph, both of San Marcos, Jolinda Marshall of Ramona, and Ralph Tribbey and Earl and Marjorie Vossenkemper, all of Escondido. Unit 549 also wants to welcome back Margo Behr of San Diego, Nancy Campbell of Lake San Marcos, and Robert Gunnlaugsson of San Diego. We look forward to seeing you at our games and events.

Unit 549 Club News

North County Bridge Center

NCBC will continue its full schedule of classes and games Mondays at 9:00am with Bill Butler; Wednesdays and Thursdays at 9:00am with David Anding. Call Lee to sign-up for the classes. There is a fee of \$15 per session for David Anding's classes.

March Birthday game is at 12:30pm on March 21st. Play free if your birthday is in March. Call Lee to sign-up.

Reminders: **Monday night is Pizza** night and **Every Saturday is a Barometer Game** with lunch included. Both games are a great value and a lot of fun.

Lake San Marcos Duplicate Bridge Club at Grandon

LSMDBC at Grandon will hold its monthly Pot-luck on Friday, March 15th. Dinner at 5:30pm, Game starts at 6:30pm. This will be a STAC game.

Charities supported during the month of January were Hurricane Sandy Relief Fund and the Lake San Marcos Kiwanis.

Jean Holt is teaching classes for beginners every Wednesday morning at 9:00am. Charge is \$5.00 per person. Jean is also giving a chalk talk at 10:00am for advancing players. There is no charge for the Chalk talk.

Top Five Players for January were Jeanne Griffin, Minnie Williams, Jean Holt, Carolyn Scerni and Ilene Brodsky! Way to go girls!

Alert! LSMDBC game start time changes! The Wednesday game now starts at 11:00am and includes snacks and coffee. Players are asked to bring a bag lunch if they desire. The cost is \$5.00 for chalk talk and game. For Information call Jean at 760.734.4518 or Nina at 760.736.9386 for further information.

The **Lake San Marcos DBC** hosts an Open Game on Wednesday at 11:00am, and twice a month Potluck on the third Friday night at 6:30p. For Information call Jean at 760.734.4518 or Nina at 760.736.9386 for further information.

Town Hall Bridge Club in Ramona

GROWING PAINS ~ GATHERING REINS - RAMONA TOWN HALL ACBL WELCOMES THE POSSE

In the little country-western town of Ramona, we're rounding up a remarkable bridge-playing posse, complete with sharp-shooting masters and high-spirited apprentices. Already these partners are jingling their spurs with aspirations of taming conventions, lassoing transfers and bucking those devious doubles.

Boasting a roster that surpasses expectations, our eager duplicate players rein-in every Wednesday and Friday morning. Head wrangler Mary Ann Houston dishes up coffee and treats then shakes out her lasso for lessons at 9:30 am and the main event begins at 10:00 am. Doug Houston, one of the volunteers that helped restore our Town Hall, serves as Sheriff - er, Director and Master Lee Hofacre lends us high-booted expertise. By the time they ring the triangle at noon, we're ready to join the community for a delicious lunch and a chance to laugh at the morning's bidding that (invariably) threw us over the horns.

Since our namesake home is not quite ready, our posse continues the twice-weekly round-up at the Ramona Community Center. Soon, we'll move into the spacious and gracious Town Hall where every care has been taken to restore the building to its original 1890's glory - with all the modern conveniences. An open door will welcome guests from near and far, so if you're feeling the need for an ACBL rodeo, mosey on in, grab a saddle or simply come to gaze at the fixtures, fireplaces and quilt hangings. (we're used to you city dudes, so we'll understand when you get distracted and forget what's trump!)

You may call ahead for directions and reservations: Town Hall Bridge Club has games every Wednesday and Friday at 10:00 a.m. Lunch and game are \$6.00. The games are being held at the Senior Center, 434 Aqua Lane. Call Doug & Maryann Houston at 760-789-1132 email them at houston6805@sbcglobal.net

Get all of the latest Unit 549 news at www.sdbridge.com including the unit 549 Calendar of events, Unit Newsletter and game results.

Bridge Hand of the Month

"Listen." your partner Raoul whispers to you as you stand up to stretch waiting for the caddy to bring you the final board in the final round of the biggest Swiss game you've ever played in. "Not your fault, but if the cards are right on this board, push a bit. We need a swing to win. Our teammates are taking way too long to play and that's a bad sign."

A bad sign? You've taken a lot more time than usual on every board so far. It's your first time ever playing in the monthly team game on the coast, which attracts the toughest competitors in the county and Raoul message sounds a lot like if you ever want to play with him here again, your team had better win.

The last board duly arrives and you try to clear your mind as you draw this hand:

S - K Q 7 4 H - 10 9 3 D - A 8 2 C - 9 5 2.

With only the opponents vulnerable, Raoul, the dealer, opens 1H and your RHO passes. It's tempting to simply raise his hearts; you've agreed to play constructive raises, and your 9 HCP and flat distribution argues strongly to do that. But your points are prime and your partner has warned you to "push a bit." Okay, so be it, you decide, and bid 1S. LHO passes after some thought and Raoul jumps to 4C!

Now what? The 4C bid could be a second suit - or a cue bid. Either way, it's 100 percent forcing. Common sense dictates that you simply give preference to 4H, but maybe Raoul is holding a rock crusher. And at least *he* believes you need a good result on this hand. After an eternity of wrestling with yourself, you finally cue bid 4D. You might be stupid, but you're not going to wimp out. What's the worst that can happen? If he cue bids 4S, you can always bid 5H.

Wrong. Raoul jumps to 6S!

West leads the club queen and Raoul, smiling, lays down this dummy:

S - A 8 6 3 H - A K J 6 4 D - Q 10 3 C - A.

You should have listened to your conscience. You may have pushed the bidding, but Raoul pushed it even harder. It appears you'll need the heart finesse and a 3-2 trump break and some kind of a diamond endplay - way against the odds. Is there anything better?

Yes. What about ruffing your two little clubs in dummy and then taking the heart finesse? That would be fine if the trumps split and the

heart finesse worked. That would require three entries to your hand. You have them - two high trumps and the diamond ace. But then if the finesse lost, you'd be down immediately, because the opponents would have at least one diamond to cash after winning the heart queen.

This is getting maddening. Maybe you should just take the heart finesse now and hope the trumps split. What if they don't? You'd likely be down no matter what. Wait a minute! If the trumps split 3-2, you don't need the finesse. You can force an extra entry to your hand in hearts.

Your mind made up, you call for a small heart from dummy at trick two. East wins the queen (it was off side!) and returns a diamond. You win your ace, ruff a club, play the spade ace and a spade to your king and then ruff your last club with the board's last trump. You return to your hand with the ten of hearts and draw the final trump. Returning to the board with your last heart, you pitch your remaining diamonds and claim. Twelve tricks!

"Nice push," Raoul says.

The complete deal:

E-W vulnerable

North
S - A 8 6 3
H - A K J 6 4
D - Q 10 3
C - A

West
S - J 9
H - 8 3
D - K 7 6 4
C - Q J 10 8 4

East
S -- 10 5 2
H - Q 7 2
D - J 9 5
C - K 7 6 3

South
S - K Q 7 4
H - 10 9 5
D - A 8 2
C - 9 5 2

(Post-mortem: Your opponents at the other table were content to play in four spades, making five, for 450. Making your slam was worth 11 IMPs to your team, just enough to give you first place by 2 Victory Points. Raoul's pre-hand analysis of the match was spot on.)

March 2013

North County Inland, Unit 549

North County Bridge Center - Lee Hofacre
 2433 S. Centre City Pkwy., Escondido, CA 92025 • (760) 747-6092 • ncbcc09@sbcglobal.net
 Town Hall Bridge Club - Doug & Maryann Houston
 Ramona, CA • (760) 789-1132 • houston6805@sbcglobal.net
 Lake San Marcos DBC - Jean Holt, Director, Nina Laughbaum, Manager
 1605 Grandon Ave., San Marcos • (760) 734-4518 or (760) 736-9386 • wrnblkwrm@pacbell.net

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	
Unit 549 Board Members: President: Sheila Latus; Board Members: Liz Nixon, Ken Matson, John White, Ayoub Jaralcie, Karen Okey, Sue Compton, Mariam Saner, Art Foeste, and Tom Nolan							
3	4	5	6	7	8	9	
NO GAMES TODAY	NCBC 9am Mentor Aide Class NCBC 12:30pm: Open Pairs MEGA-PT GAME NCBC 6:30pm: Open Pairs	NCBC 9:00am NLM Game w/breakfast MEGA-PT GAME NCBC 1:00pm Open Pairs	NCBC 9-Noon: David's Intermediate/Advanced Class Town Hall BC 10am Open Game NCBC 12:30pm Open Pairs MEGA-PT GAME Lake San Marcos DBC 10AM Chalk Talk 11AM Open Game	NCBC 9-Noon: David's Intermediate/Advanced Class Town Hall BC 10am Open Game NCBC 12:30pm Open Pairs (STAC) Lake San Marcos DBC 10AM Chalk Talk 11AM Open Game (STAC)	NCBC 9-Noon: David's Intermediate/Advanced Class Town Hall BC 10am Open Game NCBC 12:30pm: Open Pairs CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP Lake San Marcos DBC 10AM Chalk Talk 11AM Open Game	NCBC 9am NLM Game CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP Town Hall BC 10am Open Game NCBC 12:30pm: Open Pairs MEGA-PT GAME Open Pairs	NCBC 12:30pm Barometer Game 12:30pm MEGA-PT GAME
10	11	12	13	14	15	16	
NO GAMES TODAY	NCBC 9am Mentor Aide Class STAC GAMES NCBC 12:30pm: Open Pairs NCBC 6:30pm: Open Pairs	NCBC 9:00am NLM STAC Game w/breakfast NCBC 1:00pm Open Pairs (STAC)	NCBC 9-Noon: David's Intermediate/Advanced Class Town Hall BC 10am Open Game (STAC) NCBC 12:30pm Open Pairs (STAC) Lake San Marcos DBC 10AM Chalk Talk 11AM Open Game (STAC)	NCBC 9-Noon: David's Intermediate/Advanced Class 12:30pm Mentor/Mentee & Open Game (STAC)	Town Hall BC 10am Open Game (STAC) NCBC 12:30pm: Open Pairs (STAC) Lake San Marcos DBC Potluck 5:30 pm, Game 6:30 pm (STAC Game)	Unit Championship Game (STAC) Lake San Marcos Conference Center 1:00pm	
17	18	19	20	21	22	23	
NO GAMES TODAY	NCBC 9am Mentor Aide Class NCBC 12:30pm: Open Pairs CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP NCBC 6:30pm: Open Pairs	NCBC 9:00am NLM Game w/breakfast MEGA-PT GAME NCBC 1:00pm Open Pairs	NCBC 9-Noon: David's Intermediate/Advanced Class Town Hall BC 10am Open Game NCBC 12:30pm Open Pairs CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP Lake San Marcos DBC 10AM Chalk Talk 11AM Open Game	NCBC 9-Noon: David's Intermediate/Advanced Class 12:30pm Mentor/Mentee & Open Game "Birthday Game"	Town Hall BC 10am Open Game NCBC 12:30pm: Open Pairs MEGA-PT GAME	NCBC Barometer Game 12:30pm	
24	25	26	27	28	29	30	
NO GAMES TODAY	NCBC 9am Mentor Aide Class NCBC 12:30pm: Open Pairs MEGA-PT GAME NCBC 6:30pm: Open Pairs	NCBC 9:00am NLM Game w/breakfast Open Pairs	NCBC 9-Noon: David's Intermediate Sanctioned Game Town Hall BC 10am Open Game NCBC 12:30pm Open Pairs MEGA-PT GAME Lake San Marcos DBC 10AM Chalk Talk 11AM Open Game	NCBC 9-Noon: David's Intermediate Sanctioned Game 12:30pm Mentor/Mentee & Open Game	NCBC 9am NLM Game MEGA-PT GAME Town Hall BC 10am Open Game NCBC 12:30pm: Open Pairs	NCBC Barometer Game 12:30pm MEGA-PT GAME	
31							
NO GAMES TODAY							

BOLD games denote Mega-Masterpoint Games.

COVERING POWAY, SAN MARCOS, RANCHO BERNARDO, VALLEY CENTER, RANCHO SANTA FE & ESCONDIDO