

North County Inland, Unit 549

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

(760) 747-6092



TABLE



TALK



THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF ACBL UNIT 549

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

THOSE BLANKETY BLANK BIDDING BOXES

I have been playing bridge since the dark ages (about 40 years) and have seen many changes. The best thing that has happened to our game is the use of bidding boxes. How the players howled at its introduction. But, what a difference those little cards and plastic boxes have made. The room is so much quieter. Gone are the inflections. No more "I double that". No more **DOUBLE !!!!**

But along with the good came a whole new set of problems. The boxes often just jump off the table scattering all the bidding cards. Putting them back together can be a pain. Then there are the times when the cards stick together and an unintentional bid is made. And the times when an opponent makes a bid that is not "heard" and an insufficient bid is made.

In my opinion, the biggest problem is the hovering between a bid card and a pass card, or the touching of one and then the other. This action will usually result in a director call and perhaps a penalty would be assessed. My suggestion is that you make up your mind about what your bid would be before allowing your hand to approach the bidding box. As I heard at the bridge table last weekend: "Do your shopping in your mind, not in your bidding box".

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
Sue Compton



Under 750
George Yeh



Under 300
Mariam Saner



Under 100
Patti Frinell



Future Master
Peg Dyer

Upcoming Unit 549 Events - Mark the Date

Special Games with Extra Points

Wednesday May 1st, 12:30PM, NCBC, Mega-Point Game (Open)
Friday, May 3rd, 12:30PM, NCBC, Mega-Point Game (Open)
Saturday, May 4th, 12:30PM, NCBC, Mega-Point Game (Barometer)
Monday, May 6th, 12:30PM, NCBC, STAC Game (Open)
Tuesday, May 7th, NCBC, STAC Games, 9:00AM (NLM) and 1:00PM (Open)
Wednesday, May 8th, 12:30PM, NCBC, STAC Game (Open)
Wednesday, May 8th, 10:00AM, Town Hall Bridge Club, STAC Game
Thursday, May 9th, 12:30PM, NCBC, STAC Game (Mentor/Mentee & Open)
Friday, May 10, 10:00AM, Town Hall Bridge Club, STAC Game
Friday, May 10, NCBC, STAC Games, 9:00AM (NLM) and 1:00PM (Open)
Friday, May 10th, LSMDBC, Potluck 5:30PM, STAC Game 6:30PM
Saturday, May 11th, 12:30PM, NCBC, STAC Game (Barometer)
Wednesday, May 15th, 12:30PM, NCBC, Club Championship Game (Open)
Saturday, May 18th, 12:30PM, NCBC, Mega-Point Game (Barometer)
Monday, May 20th, 12:30PM, NCBC, Mega-Point Game (Open)
Tuesday, May 21st, 1:00PM, NCBC, Club Championship Game (Open)
Thursday, May 23rd, 12:30PM, NCBC, Mega-Point Game (Mentor/Mentee & Open)
Friday, May 24th, 9:00AM, NCBC, Mega-Point Game (NLM)
Friday, May 24th, 12:30PM, NCBC, Club Championship Game (Open)
Saturday, May 25th, 1:00PM, Unit Championship Game, Lake San Marcos Pavilion/Conference Center
Tuesday, May 28th, 1:00PM, NCBC, Mega-Point Game (Open)
Wednesday, May 29th, NCBC, Mega-Point Game (Open)

Great Western STAC Spring Fling – Reminder! Silver Points at Clubs!

Mark the Date! May 6th – 12th all clubs in Unit 549 will participate, Call Jean Holt, Lake San Marcos DBC at Grandon, Lee Hofacre, North County Bridge Center, Escondido and Maryann Houston, Townhall Bridge Center, Ramona for dates and times of the STAC Games.

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. New feature! Friday will be a Charity Game with Extra Master Points!! Another new feature! Non-Life Masters with 0-25 Master Points play for Free!

The Summer Sectional will have NLM (0-499), Open Pairs, Compact Knock-outs (start at 10:00am) and Swiss Teams. Games start at 10:30am and 2:30pm and cost \$10 per player per game. Contact: **Mariam Saner**, Tournament Manager by email: mariamsaner@me.com for further information. Partnerships: Art Foeste **Email: artfoeste@gmail.com**

Welcome New Members to Unit 549: Mary-Ann Donnolo and Esther Workman, Ramona; Gwen Fox, San Marcos; Milo Shapiro, San Diego; Carey Simkin, Rancho Santa Fe; and Bill Carlson, Pauma Valley. We look forward to meeting all of our new members at the next Unit game and in our clubs.

Pacific Southwest Regional

Unit 549 members scored early and often in the Pacific Southwest Regional in San Diego the week before Easter. The number of winners is too great to list individually here, but eight members finished far up in the overall standings:

David Anding.....	36.85 points
Suzanna McDowell.....	28.34 points
Debbie Vier.....	25.66 points
Tim Flaherty.....	27.14 points
Jeri Adams.....	23.66 points
John White.....	20.58 points
Bunny Schmidt.....	20.31 points
Pete Watt.....	20.31 points

Congratulations to all!

Unit Game results for March:

Open Game winners: Congratulations to winners Tim Flaherty & Joe Houde – 71.99% followed by Earl Maas & Minnie Williams – 58.80%; Lorraine Suder & Ed Kunkel – 57.41%; Tom Nolan & Al Nadel and Doris Cashman & Jean Jantz – 54.86%; Rex & Sheila Latus tied with Bill & Nancy Sperry – 54.63%; Herb Schaffer & Mary Fenton – 53.94%; Chuck & Madonna Donaldson – 53.01% and Paul Landrum & Toshi Yasutake – 52.31%

Non-Life Masters winners were Art Foeste & Roger Liles – 59.00%; Sue Compton & Barbara White - 54% tied with David Goldfarb & Mr. Gogolewski – 54.00% and Sheila Slayton & Katherine Wilkey – 50%. **Congratulations to all players.** See you on April 27th and again on May 25th 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 May 25th and June 22nd and July 27th. See you at “The Lake”!

70% Games in March

Congratulations to: Tim Flaherty - Joe Houde with 71.99%, at the Unit 549 Game, Lake San Marcos on Mar. 16, and to George Blair - Margaret Allan Schmitt with 74.00% at North County BC on Mar. 26.

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

Junior Master – Nancy Campbell, Lake San Marcos; Carey Simkin, Rancho Santa Fe; Greg Smith, San Marcos

Club Master – Ralph Tribbey, Escondido

Sectional Master – Gail Stiglitz, San Diego

Advanced NABC Master – Art Foeste, Escondido

Bronze Life Master – Beverly Larson, Rancho Bernardo

Silver Life Master – Minnie Williams, Escondido

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

Unit 549 Club News

North County Bridge Center

North County Bridge Center announces its new website: www.northcountybridgecenter.com Now you can sign-up on-line for your games and classes, see results easily and special game announcements. Check it out May 1st.

NCBC will continue its full schedule of classes and games Monday's Mentoring Class at 9:00am with Bill Butler; Wednesday's and Thursday's 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.

Call Lee for schedule of Open and NLM games or go to www.northcountybridgecenter.com to see game schedule and sign-up.

Birthday game change! You can play for free once during the month of your birthday. So choose your game and let Lee know it is your birthday month and Bingo, you play for free! Call Lee to sign-up in advance on on-line.

Reminder: **Every Saturday is a Barometer Game** except May 25th, with lunch included. The Barometer game is a fun format and a great value. Try it! This game is growing so sign-up early.

Lake San Marcos Duplicate Bridge Club at Grandon

LSMDBC at Grandon will hold it's monthly Pot-Luck on May 10th because it is a STAC game. Dine at 5:30pm, game at 6:30pm. Wednesday, May 8th will be STAC game as well. Charities supported in March were the International Fund and San Marcos Senior Center.

Jean Holt is giving a chalk talk every Wednesday at 10:00am for advancing players. There is no charge for the Chalk talk.

Top Five Players for March were Minnie Williams and Jeanne Griffin (tied), followed by Carolyn Scerni, Jean Holt and Nina Laughbaum. Way to go girls!

Alert! 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. The **Lake San Marcos DBC** hosts a once a month Potluck (dine at 5:30pm) 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

"Okay, so it's a STAC," our Director smiled. "Any questions?" "Huh?" The crowd murmured. "What's a STAC?" "It means we're going to a rodeo, competing against other clubs and attempting to earn Silver Points."

"Sounds important." Whispers passed under ten-gallon hats. The director nodded. "You bet." He looked us square in the eyes. "We'll ride against San Diego Clubs and ...," He paused. "L.A. Clubs, too. Big competitors – flatlanders and valley folk."

"We'll have to sharpen our spurs," a cowboy commented. "Oh, I could use some new silver," a cowgirl spoke and winked at her friends.

The Director cautioned, "You'll be playing in Open Pairs." "Nothing new." We players were restless to start, shaking out lassos (reviewing conventions) and checking our cinches (practicing doubles.) The Director grinned, "We won't even need to trot down the hill so let's saddle up and ride out!" He read off the names and the players ponied up to their partners.

For such a small group of new wranglers, we're quick on the reins. Pity the greenhorns who don't know our "Yeess" from our "Haws!" At the end of the STAC day, we tied up at the hitching post and sashayed out of the Town Hall with a whole lot of jingle in our jeans. Cowboys Jim Rudeen and Ernie Bernard placed 4th and 5th overall in A, 2nd in B and C with 5.59 in Silver. (Jingle – Jingle). Rodeo champ Lee Hofacre played with that savvy rodeo queen, Sue Compton to corner 4th and 5th and 4.06 in Silver. (Jingle – Jingle). Larry Whattoff and Nancy Frazee wowed the crowd when they roped in 5th in C and 1.53 in Silver. (Jingle – Jingle). Two other cowgirls, Dolma Christiansen and Judy Rice, keyholed 58% and missed collecting Silver by only .5 points. Yep, a mighty profitable day for the posse on the hill!

Come on up, if you want to ride with us and we'll dust off your hat and give you a saddle – Wed. and Fri. in Ramona Town Hall - 10:00a.m. Call Mary Ann and Doug Houston: 760-789-1132 and they'll reserve a pony just for you, (and maybe help put some Silver Jingle in your jeans!) We are now in the beautifully renovated Ramona Town Hall ~ 729 Main Street, on Wednesday, March 6th. From now on that's where we'll Promenade every Wed. and Fri. with lessons at 9:30 and games at 10:00 a.m.

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

Playing in a pairs game at the San Diego Regional, you encounter this hand:

	North		
Both vul	S – A 10 7 6 4		
South deals	H – 9 7 6		
	D – 5 4 2		
	C – 7 4		
West		East	
S – 9 2		S – 8 5 3	
H – K Q 10 5		H – 8 4 2	
D – J 8 6		D – A 10 7	
C – Q J 9 3		C – K 10 6 5	
	South		
	S – K Q J		
	H – A J 3		
	D – K Q 9 3		
	C – A 8 2		
West	North	East	South
--	--	--	2NT
P	3H	P	3S
P	3NT	P	4S
All Pass			
Opening lead: H K			

You allow the heart king to hold the first trick as East plays a discouraging deuce. West promptly switches to the club queen at trick two, East following with the six. Not wanting to see a heart

lead from East, you duck again and West follows by leading the jack of clubs at trick three. What now?

It seems that you were right in choosing to play in spades rather than no-trump, but it also seems that you might be a level too high. You've already lost a heart and a club and must lose a diamond and likely another heart. The only hope is to set up a discard on the diamond suit.

You start by drawing three rounds of trumps, overtaking your jack on the last one to lead a diamond from dummy. As hoped, East plays low and your king wins. You return to dummy by cashing the club ace and ruffing your small club. When you lead a second diamond toward your hand, East wins the ace and shifts to a heart.

You take your ace and, when you then play the diamond queen, both opponents follow. Pitching the board's last heart on the good diamond nine, you claim. In all, you took five trumps, three diamonds and the aces of hearts and clubs. Making four!

Second look: East could have defeated you by overtaking partner's club queen at trick two. If you ducked, a heart shift would have sunk you. If you had taken your ace, you would have had only one entry to dummy to lead toward your diamonds.

Third look: West could have beaten you as well. Suppose she had shifted to a trump instead of a club at trick two. That would also have left you with only one entry to dummy to lead toward the diamonds. If you had ducked a club to set up a second ruffing entry, East could have won and led a heart through.

May 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
 729 Main Street, Ramona, CA • (760) 789-1132 • houston6805@sbcglobal.net
 Lake San Marcos DBC - Jean Holt, Director, Nina Laughbaum, Manager
 1605 Grandon Ave., San Marcos • (760) 7344518 or (760) 7369386 • 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 Jaraicie, Karen Okey, Sue Compton, Mariam Samer, Art Foeste, and Tom Nolan						
5 NO GAMES TODAY	6 NCBC 9am Mentor Aide Class NCBC 12:30pm: Open Pairs (STAC Game)	7 NCBC 9:00am NLM Game w/breakfast (STAC Game) NCBC 1:00pm Open Pairs (STAC Game)	8 NCBC 9-Noon: David's Intermediate/Advanced Class Town Hall BC 10am Open Game (STAC) NCBC 12:30pm Open Pairs (STAC Game) Lake San Marcos DBC 10AM Chalk Talk 11AM Open Game (STAC)	9 NCBC 9-Noon: David's Intermediate/Advanced Class 12:30pm Mentor/Mentee & Open Game (STAC Game)	10 NCBC 9am NLM Game (STAC Game) Town Hall BC 10am Open Game (STAC) NCBC 12:30pm: Open Pairs (STAC Game) Lake San Marcos DBC Potluck 5:30 pm, Game 6:30 pm (STAC Game)	11 NCBC Barometer Game 12:30pm (STAC Game)
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19 NO GAMES TODAY	20 NCBC 9am Mentor Aide Class NCBC 12:30pm: Open Pairs (MEGA POINT)	21 NCBC 9:00am NLM Game w/breakfast NCBC 1:00pm Open Pairs (Club Championship)	22 NCBC 9-Noon: David's Intermediate/Advanced Class Town Hall BC 10am Open Game NCBC 12:30pm Open Pairs Lake San Marcos DBC 10AM Chalk Talk 11AM Open Game	23 NCBC 9-Noon: David's Intermediate/Advanced Class 12:30pm Mentor/Mentee & Open Game (MEGA POINT)	24 NCBC 9am NLM Game (MEGA POINT) Town Hall BC 10am Open Game NCBC 12:30pm: Open Pairs (Club Championship)	25 Unit Championship Game Lake San Marcos Pavilion/ Conference Center 1:00pm
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BOLD games denote Mega-Masterpoint Games.

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