

## North County Inland, Unit 549

[acblunit549.org](http://acblunit549.org)

TABLE



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5**THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF ACBL UNIT 549**

### **A Lot of History**

In 1970 Bettie Messer Heldring started the first bridge club in Escondido at the Elk's Lodge. Within a year Bettie gave the club to Emma Knight. Games were played at the Escondido Elks Club and then the Escondido Farm Bureau. The bridge club finally found a home of its own in a small shopping center on Felicita Ave between Centre City Parkway and Escondido Blvd, eventually moving to Rancho Bernardo. Emma managed to acquire a loan to buy tables and chairs for the club by using her own furniture as collateral.

Ken Varva bought the club in 1988 and moved it back to Escondido. The location was on Felicita Ave at Centre City Parkway just behind the McDonalds. The new location was less than a hundred yards from where Emma Knight had her club fifteen years earlier.

In 2006 Ken Varva retired and sold the Escondido Bridge Club to Lee Hofacre. The club was renamed the North County Bridge Center.

Forty-five years is a long time. The club was way more than just a game to many of the players. It was a place where friends gathered and friends were made. It was a social event where sometimes bridge was played.

### **The Day the Earth Stood Still**

With Lee's passing in December 2014, the club went dark. It was the end of time. And then something wonderful occurred. The club was reborn thanks to the efforts of those who would not just let it disappear. A new club was formed in a month thanks to the efforts of a small group of determined diehards.

Listed in alphabetical order are those who made it happen: Holly Aufmann, Gary Beed, Sue Compton, Jeannine Holt, Betsey Illes, Rex Latus, Liz Nixon, Vic Pitcock, Jill Roberts, Mariam Saner, Bill Sperry, Dot Swanger and ACBL Unit 549 Board of Directors. It's not every day that a group gets to make a difference.

### **A New Beginning**

The resurrected club is Mutual Benefit Corporation. An application is being submitted to the IRS for the club to be a 501c7 nonprofit social club. There are no owners. There are no employees. It will be run by volunteers. It is intended that the club will continue as long as there are people willing to make a difference.

It's your club. Enjoy!

Rex

## Upcoming Unit 549 Events - Mark the Date Special Games with Extra Points

Tuesday, Feb 10 - 6:30PM - Lake San Marcos DBC - Charity Game

Wednesday, Feb. 11 - 11AM - Lake San Marcos DBC - Charity Game

Tuesday, Feb. 17 - 6:30PM - Lake San Marcos DBC - Club Championship Game

Wednesday, Feb. 18 - 11AM - Lake San Marcos DBC - Club Championship Game

**Saturday, February 28th - 1:00 PM - Unit Championship Game, Lake San Marcos Pavilion**

### Big Happenings in Unit 549 in February!

Audrey Grant Returns in February! Audrey Grant will be coming to Unit 549 February 12th and 13th for two jam packed days! **Day 1** topic is **Declarer Play** and **Day 2** is Making the Most of Cue Bids. Mark the Date! Location will be at the Lake San Marcos Pavilion, 1105 La Bonita Dr. Hours are 10:00am – 3:00pm and include a light lunch, Morning work-shop and afternoon work-shop plus all materials. Call Liz Nixon at 760-214-8999 to reserve your spot. Early Bird rate is \$79 per person per day. Checks should be made out to ACBL Unit 549 and sent to Liz Nixon, 1127 Los Campaneros, Lake San Marcos, Ca 92078

Alert! In 2015 our Unit games will be February 28th and March 28th at the Lake San Marcos Pavilion. Unit Games now **include lunch**. Bottled water and sodas are provided at 50 cents apiece and coffee and tea are free. Overall winners in each section receive a **free play** at any Unit game. Unit Games are held on the 4th Saturday of each month at the Lake San Marcos Pavilion, 1105 La Bonita Dr, Lake San Marcos, Ca 92078. Call Liz Nixon for directions – 760-214-8999. The games are \$8.00 including lunch and begin at 1:00pm. Doors open at 12:15pm. Go to Unit 549's web-site [www.acblunit549.org](http://www.acblunit549.org) for partnerships, to sign-up for the Unit games and see results.

**Unit 549 has lost a friend**, a bridge brother, a mentor, a director and a club owner. Lee Hofacre died peacefully December 7th after a short illness. The Executive Board for Unit 549 would like to personally extend our sympathies to Lee's wife Joan, his son John and the rest of the Hofacre family. The family said they were not planning a funeral service and that his ashes would be taken to northern California to rest with his daughter. The family has suggested that those wishing to, send a memorial to Elizabeth Hospice. <http://elizabethhospice.org/>

### Welcome New Members to Unit 549

Flora Fenequito, Carole Gatwood, Craig Rifel, and Penny Berman. Welcome back Bill Butler and Gwen McFarlane.

Welcome to all new members!

### December Unit Game Results

December Unit Open Game Winners: Joe Houde – Ron Kay followed by Kay Haralson – Hazel Turner; Terry Badger – Ray Curtis; Gail Whiteley – Cheryl Rodach; Lynn & Janice Wells and Richard Ziock – Ian Collins.

Non-Life Master winners in December were Angela Tilaro – Susan Winebrenner followed by Joanne Dilling – Ross Penne; Witold & Mary Lou Modlinski; George Berris and Louise Mangenelli and Jackie McGhee – Shirley Malone. Again congrats to all winners! And thank you for the great turn-out! 21 tables in the Open Section and 7 tables in the NLM. See you in January!

### Members Reaching New Levels of Achievement in Unit 549 in December

Junior Masters – Bill Black and Jackie Hough

Club Masters – Nancy Campbell; Penelope Fox and Bejai Higgins

Bronze Life Masters – Arleen Gimbel and Fayne Shead

Silver Life Master – Jan Sperla

Congratulations to all achievers! See you at the Unit games or our clubs.

### 2015 Winter Sectional President's Perspective

Thank you for coming to our winter party. I was so pleased to see the wonderful turnout for your Sectional Friday and Saturday January 16 & 17. Many of the usual suspects were there and there were many new faces. We certainly appreciate the players coming down from Orange and Riverside counties.

Thanx to the members of the Board of Unit 549 (Art Foeste, Jean Jantz, Ken Matson, Jill Roberts, Mariam Saner, Nancy Scott, and Hazel Turner) for setting up the playing area, the morning and afternoon snacks, and for cleaning up after the tournament was over.

Scott Campbell (our wonderful head director) apologizes for the snafu during the Saturday afternoon game. He spent a good part of Sunday calling the players and getting all of the scores. I also want to thank Jean Molnar for directing.

Looking forward to seeing you all at our next sectional coming this summer.

Y'all come y'hear.

# Unit 549 Club News

## NEW - Bridge Club of North County

Eureka!! It's back!! Yes, duplicate bridge has returned to Escondido. The board for the new Bridge Club of North County has been running in overdrive and now has enough i's dotted and t's crossed to get the new Club open for bridge. Reservations not needed, just show up in droves. There will be an open game at 12:30 p.m. Monday through Saturday except those Saturdays that Unit 549 holds its unit game. Saturday games will be barometer games. The Club will have a non playing director to run the game and keep things on time. Please plan time to get registered and seated by game time.

Great News! The Bridge Club of North County is beginning a 0-499'er game for the advancing players on Thursdays at 12:30 p.m. If you would like to play, just show up; no reservations required! However, if you would like to request a North-South seat, please call the Bridge Club of North County at 760-807-9396. If you need a partner, Sue Compton will try to match you up with someone close to your master point total. Call her at 760-317-6174 or email at [comptons@cox.net](mailto:comptons@cox.net). Let the games begin!

Got some of those prepaid tickets from the old club? Not a problem, the Club will be accepting them for one month.

There is limited parking in the lot next to the Club so if you don't mind walking 150 yards or so you can park on the street and leave the spots in the lot for those who don't get around as well. We have rented additional parking spots from the Elks Club just down the street at 2430 S. Escondido Blvd. We will be providing a shuttle service starting at 12:00 p.m. from the Elks Club parking to the Club. The last shuttle will leave the Elks Club at 12:20 pm. so we can get the game started on time as promised.

## Lake San Marcos Duplicate Bridge Club at Grandon

The charity for December was the SM Senior Center West and LSM Kiwanis. The monthly potluck will be on February 20th. Charity games will be held Feb. 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup>. Club championship games will be held Feb. 17<sup>th</sup> and Feb. 18<sup>th</sup>. All of this means more points for the winners!

Top Five Players for December were Nina Laughbaum, Gail Whiteley, Michael & Ginger Bowes, John & Judy McCaffrey and Joe Potts. Way to go top five!

Reminder: LSMDBC has a Tuesday night game at 6:30pm! The Wednesday game starts at 10:00am and includes a Free Chalk Talk by Jean Holt, snacks and coffee. Players are asked to bring a bag lunch if they desire. The cost is \$5.00 for chalk talk and game. Both games are based on The Common Game. You can compare what you did nationally with others playing the same hands at the same time.

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.

## Ramona Town Hall Bridge

729 Main St. - Ramona, CA 92065  
Sanctioned Games Wed. & Fri. at 10:00 a.m. BYO Lunch  
Free Adult Lessons - Tues. at 2:00 p.m.  
Sanctioned Game Afterwards  
Sanctioned Evening Game - Thurs. at 6 p.m. + Snacks  
After-School Bridge - Fri. 3 - 5:00 p.m. Pizza, too!  
Call Mary Ann Houston for Details:  
760-789-1132 - [rthbridge.com](http://rthbridge.com)

This column is dedicated, with love and remembrance, to our dear Ramona Town Hall Director, Doug Houston whose last act was to smile on Christmas as his grandchildren gathered to find presents waiting for them. Perhaps it is Doug's humor we will miss the most at our RTHB games, especially when we call out, "Director, please" as he instructed us.

We all wonder from time to time how we will be remembered.

For Doug, serious contemplation of that idea must have been reviewed many times as the medical establishment informed him - for five years, of the impossibilities of his ongoing survival. With each new diagnosis, he must have thought about his legacy . . .

If Doug could summarize his life, he might describe himself in simple, elegant terms, the words chosen by a builder, an engineer - the cogs he fashioned in the wheel of life, the parts that improve the whole: Commitment to God, Commitment to Family, Commitment to Country, Commitment to Community.

Doug did not leave anything unfinished. To show how seriously he thought about the details, ask Mary Ann. He even called the American Contract Bridge League to make sure they understood that she had achieved her Director's Certification and would be taking over for him in the Sanctioned Bridge Games. And he did this in the last month of his life, when he could no longer walk or get out of bed. Mary Ann is convinced he held death at bay to make certain she got her Certification . . . no pressure there, Mary Ann?

On his passing we all learned of the medals marking his commitment to his country: three bronze stars, several service medals and a Purple Heart. He flew Chinook helicopters in the Vietnam War.

Since the early 1970's he served the community through his volunteerism with Boy Scout Troup 679 (he had been a Eagle Scout at age 18), with the Ramona Squares, the square dancing group where he met Mary Ann and for which he built a dance hall, and with ongoing restoration of the historical Ramona Town Hall. He did all this while building custom homes and raising a family.

We are grateful that he was there to bring us together through his ability to organize and run our RTHB games. Thank you, Doug. We miss you. We all hope to depart this earth knowing, as you did, that we made things better while we were here, and like you, to have the grace to leave with a smile.

# February 2015

## North County Inland, Unit 549

[aclunit549.org](http://aclunit549.org)

Bridge Club of North County (BCNC) • 2320 S. Escondido Blvd., Escondido, CA 92025  
 (760) 807-9396 • [bridgeclubofnc@gmail.com](mailto:bridgeclubofnc@gmail.com) • Website Under Construction  
 Town Hall Bridge Club - Maryann Houston • 729 Main Street, Ramona, CA  
 (760) 789-1132 • [houston6805@sbcglobal.net](mailto:houston6805@sbcglobal.net) • [www.rthbridge.com](http://www.rthbridge.com)  
 Lake San Marcos DBC - Jean Holt, Director; Nina Laughbaum, Manager  
 1605 Grandon Ave., San Marcos • (760) 734-4518 or (760) 736-9386 • [jnmh1582@gmail.com](mailto:jnmh1582@gmail.com)

| SUNDAY                      | MONDAY  | TUESDAY  | WEDNESDAY   | THURSDAY   | FRIDAY   | SATURDAY  |
|-----------------------------|---|--|---|--|--|---|
| <b>1</b><br>NO GAMES TODAY  | <b>2</b><br>BCNC 9:00 AM -<br>Supervised Play<br>BCNC 12:30 PM - Open Pairs                             | <b>3</b><br>Town Hall BC 2:00pm<br>Teaching Session/Sanctioned Game<br>BCNC 12:30 PM - Open Pairs<br><b>Lake San Marcos DBC<br/>6:30PM Open Game</b>   | <b>4</b><br>Town Hall BC 10am -<br>Open Game<br>BCNC 12:30 PM - Open Pairs<br><b>Lake San Marcos DBC<br/>10AM Chalk Talk<br/>11AM Open Game</b>                                     | <b>5</b><br>BCNC 12:30 PM - Open Pairs<br>BCNC 12:30 PM -<br>0-499'er NLM Game<br>Town Hall BC 6pm<br>Open Game                                      | <b>6</b><br>Town Hall BC 10am<br>Open Game<br>BCNC 12:30 PM - Open Pairs<br>Town Hall BC 3pm After School Bridge   | <b>7</b><br>BCNC 12:30 PM -<br>Open Pairs<br>Barometer Game                       |
| <b>8</b><br>NO GAMES TODAY  | <b>9</b><br>BCNC 9:00 AM -<br>Supervised Play<br>BCNC 12:30 PM - Open Pairs                             | <b>10</b><br>Town Hall BC 2:00pm<br>Teaching Session/Sanctioned Game<br>BCNC 12:30 PM - Open Pairs<br><b>Lake San Marcos DBC<br/>6:30PM Open Charity Game</b>  | <b>11</b><br>Town Hall BC 10am -<br>Open Game<br><b>BCNC 12:30 PM - Open Pairs<br/>Membership Game</b><br><b>Lake San Marcos DBC<br/>10AM Chalk Talk<br/>11AM Open Charity Game</b> | <b>12</b><br>BCNC 12:30 PM - Open Pairs<br>BCNC 12:30 PM -<br>0-499'er NLM Game<br>Town Hall BC 6pm<br>Open Game                                     | <b>13</b><br>Town Hall BC 10am<br>Open Game<br>BCNC 12:30 PM - Open Pairs<br>Town Hall BC 3pm After School Bridge  | <b>14</b><br>BCNC 12:30 PM -<br>Open Pairs<br>Barometer Game<br>Membership Game   |
| <b>15</b><br>NO GAMES TODAY | <b>16</b><br>BCNC 9:00 AM -<br>Supervised Play<br>BCNC 12:30 PM - Open Pairs                            | <b>17</b><br>Town Hall BC 2:00pm<br>Teaching Session/Sanctioned Game<br><b>BCNC 12:30 PM - Open Pairs<br/>Membership Game</b><br><b>Lake San Marcos DBC<br/>6:30PM Open<br/>Club Championship Game</b> | <b>18</b><br>Town Hall BC 10am -<br>Open Game<br><b>Lake San Marcos DBC<br/>10AM Chalk Talk<br/>11AM Open<br/>Club Championship Game</b>  | <b>19</b><br>BCNC 12:30 PM - Open Pairs<br>BCNC 12:30 PM -<br>0-499'er NLM Game<br>Town Hall BC 6pm<br>Open Game                                     | <b>20</b><br>Town Hall BC 10am Open Game<br><b>BCNC 12:30 PM - Open Pairs<br/>Membership Game</b><br>Town Hall BC 3pm After School Bridge<br><b>Lake San Marcos DBC<br/>Podluck 5:30 pm Game 6:30 pm</b> | <b>21</b><br>BCNC 12:30 PM -<br>Open Pairs<br>Barometer Game                      |
| <b>22</b><br>NO GAMES TODAY | <b>23</b><br>BCNC 9:00 AM -<br>Supervised Play<br><b>BCNC 12:30 PM - Open Pairs<br/>Membership Game</b> | <b>24</b><br>Town Hall BC 2:00pm<br>Teaching Session/Sanctioned Game<br>BCNC 12:30 PM - Open Pairs<br><b>Lake San Marcos DBC<br/>6:30PM Open Charity Game</b>  | <b>25</b><br>Town Hall BC 10am -<br>Open Game<br><b>Lake San Marcos DBC<br/>10AM Chalk Talk<br/>11AM Open Charity Game</b>  | <b>26</b><br><b>BCNC 12:30 PM - Open Pairs<br/>BCNC 12:30 PM -<br/>0-499'er NLM Game</b><br>Both BCNC Games Membership<br>Town Hall BC 6pm Open Game | <b>27</b><br>Town Hall BC 10am<br>Open Game<br>BCNC 12:30 PM - Open Pairs<br>Town Hall BC 3pm After School Bridge  | <b>28</b><br>Unit Championship Game<br><b>Lake San Marcos Pavilion<br/>1:00pm</b> |

### Unit 549 Board Members:

**President:** Sheila Latus ([selatus@gmail.com](mailto:selatus@gmail.com))

**Board Members:** Liz Nixon, Ken Matson, Mariam Sener, Art Foeste, Jill Roberts, Hazel Turner, Jean Jantz, Erica Federman, and Nancy Scott

**BOLD** games denote Mega-Masterpoint Games.

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