

## North County Inland, Unit 549

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

TABLE



TALK



THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF ACBL UNIT 549

***PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE***

A couple of weeks ago, Ruth Aronsohn stopped me after the Friday bridge game and told me that four women from a small town in Montana were coming to the club the next day to play. They contacted the club to see if people who hadn't played duplicate before would be disruptive to the game on Saturday. Of course the club said no, and Ruth wanted to know if I could come in and help get them started. I was there the next day when they arrived. They were from Glasgow, Montana, a town of about 3,500 in the northeast part of the state. The reason there is no duplicate bridge there is a density issue. If you took all the people within a 70 mile radius of Glasgow, you still wouldn't have 5,000 people and very few bridge players.

The next day, they played in the Sunday game in La Jolla. I thought it was interesting these women would leave colder Montana and fly to sunny San Diego with its beaches and all those other things to do, and choose to spend their day playing duplicate bridge. Good regular bridge games are just something we take for granted, but maybe we shouldn't. I hear AIB isn't going to open again because they can't find space with adequate parking. I heard that the city of San Diego is making waves with the Redwood Club over parking issues. And the biggest issue for the Escondido Club as they look for a new home is parking. Of course, this is also a density issue, but at the other end of the spectrum. And it should concern us. Just in case you were wondering, they had a great time here.

December 28th is our "we appreciate you supporting us" unit game. The Unit will provide a really nice Holiday meal, and we don't collect any card fees from our unit members. So, mark your calendars, find a partner and come join us for some Holiday bridge.

Reminder - We will be conducting an election for four positions on the Board at this week's unit game. We currently have four nominees, Alan Turner, Noel Weidner, Jill Roberts, and Sharon Feingold. Nominations will remain open up until the time of the election.

Art

## Upcoming Unit 549 Events - Mark the Dates!

**Saturday, December 28 - Annual Holiday Party, 7 Oaks Community Center, Rancho Bernardo (see below)**

**NLM Regional/Winter Sectional – January 10th and 11th, St. Gabriel's Catholic Church Auditorium, Poway (see below)**

**Audrey Grant Festival – Friday, January 31 and Saturday, February 1st, 7 Oaks Community Center - RB (see below)**

### Unit 549 News

Happy Holidays! Here we are - in December again. Coming up on 2020... Can you believe how fast time goes by? I know that sounds trite, but it's so true. It just seems to melt away while we're busy doing whatever. Sometimes your "whatever" time is spent at our bridge tables and that's something we appreciate because it helps us keep bridge alive and well in our corner of the world. Your continuing patronage has allowed us to provide yet another year of great bridge games.

In our traditional way of saying "Thank You" for your support, Unit 549 will present its Annual Holiday Party on December 28th. The unit will provide a special seasonal lunch with all the trimmings, and a free game to all unit members.

This event will be held at the Seven Oaks Community Center, 16789 Bernardo Oaks Drive, San Diego, 92128. Be sure to set the date in your calendar, book your favorite partner, and bring along your appetite!

Our "really BIG show", the **NLM Regional/Winter Sectional**, is right around the corner... on **January 10th and 11th**. This is an event all the non-life masters in San Diego County won't want to miss. Think of it... an opportunity to win GOLD points right here in North County. Mark your calendars now so you don't forget. Let us know if you need a partner and we'll try to help you find one. Go to our website at [acblunit549.org](http://acblunit549.org) and click on Partnerships.

We're jazzed! Our whole unit crew is diligently working to make this project a great success. It's really exciting to be planning our very first Regional type event. There's so much to learn and so much to do!

Remember now, it's a combo event, which means that our Winter Sectional will run concurrently – in the same location as the NLM Regional. It will be held at St. Gabriel's Catholic Church Auditorium, 13734 Twin Peaks Road, Poway, CA 92064. There will be two sessions for each event both days of the tournament. The NLM Regional will offer 0-750 "**Gold Rush**" 2-session games and single session side games (all stratified C: 0-200, B:200-500, A:500-750). The Sectional (for silver points) will also offer 2 sessions per day also with no requirement to play in both sessions each day. In addition to the Open Section (C:0-2000, B:2000-4000, A:4000+), there will be a 0-1500 Section (C:0-500, B:500-1000, A:1000-1500). Games will start at 10 a.m. and 2:30 p.m. Entry fee for each session is \$13. Lunch will be available for purchase at \$7. Players with 0-20 MPS play free! Additional information and directions to St. Gabriel's is available on the event flyer posted on our website at [acblunit549.org](http://acblunit549.org)

The **Audrey Grant Festival** we're hosting on **Friday, January 31 and Saturday, February 1st** is "on fire" with advance reservations. If you haven't reserved your seat for this two-day event, do it soon, because space is limited.

The title for the first day's seminar is "Make a Difference on Defense with the Weakest Hand at the Table". The second day is "Improving Intuition: 5 Tips to Empower Declarer." Both days start at 10:00 a.m., and end at 3:00 p.m. with a break for lunch. Advance reservations are \$79 each day if booked by January 18th, \$89 thereafter. The fee includes refreshments, lunch, and lesson materials. Although it's a two-day event, you don't have

to attend both days. The cost is the same per session whether you attend one or both. Make your checks payable to Escondido ACBL Unit 549; Send them to Alan Turner, 12578 Lomica Drive, San Diego, CA 92128

The seminars will be held at the Seven Oaks Community Center, 16789 Bernardo Oaks Drive, San Diego, CA 92128.

The unit game in October had so many winners that we have don't have space to name them all here. But, if you're interested in seeing the complete list of all players and winners, please visit our website at [acblunit549.org](http://acblunit549.org).

**The top four overall winners for the Open section were:** Alan Gailfus – Debbie Gailfus, Lawrence Sherman – John Boackle, Tim Flaherty – Robert Moore, and Doris Nizzi – Jean Jantz.

**The top four overall winners in the NLM section were:** Brian Schwedock – Larry Gach, Noel Wiedner – Bejai Higgins, Anne Schafer – Bill Schafer, and Magnus Leopold – Art Thompson/ Sharon Feingold – Skip Mueller (tie).

**Welcome new members to Unit 549:** Bob Berenson, Terry Berenson, Weihua Chang, Arline Curtiss, Laura Custis, Frank Pierro, Steve Balog, Betty Brown, James Hammett, Linda Olsoe, and Marjorie Sinel.

**Members attaining new levels of achievement:**

**New Junior Master:** Thomas Stuart

**New Sectional Master:** James Kaspar

**New Regional Master:** Alan Turner

**New Life Master:** Joe Hopkins

**New Gold Life Master:** Barbara Lemke

In addition to acknowledging the achievement of these bridge milestones, the unit awards a free play at an upcoming unit game to each of these outstanding players. Congratulations to all!

### Unit 549 Club News

#### Bridge Club of North County

If you're needing Silver MPs, you'll want to be sure to mark your calendars, book your best partners, and "come on down" because we're having a full week of **STaC** games December 9th – 14th. Those STaC hands are usually challenging, but there's always a "silver lining"!

Actually, December turns out to be a pretty busy month at our club. We're hosting two Unit games: The first is for Unit 539 on December 1st at 12:30; the second is for Unit 531 on December 15th – this one is a Pot Luck with the entrée provided by the unit. Both of these games are on a Sunday, so anyone looking for another "local" bridge day should try to attend one or both of these. It's also a great opportunity to meet some different players.

The monthly **Birthday Celebration** will be on Friday, December 13th. It seems to me that people who have birthdays in December sort of get short-shrift for celebration being sandwiched between Thanksgiving and Christmas, Chanukah, Winter Solstice, etc. when everyone is so busy with these holidays. If you're one of these December birthday folks, never fear! The bridge club will help you celebrate – we'll have cake and balloons, and play a game of bridge for sure. No song and dance, but it will be festive and you'll be glad you came.

We'll be closed on Christmas Day, but during that whole week there will be charity games galore. So, even if you're really busy with holiday stuff, do take some time off to come and play for those mega-MPs.

**Extra! Extra!** I need to tell you this now so you don't go making other plans...we're **OPEN** on January 1st – New Year's Day. We're having an Appetizers Pot Luck day and inviting you to stay after the game and visit for a while. Start the new year out right by socializing with some of the people you play bridge with all year...with no time clock to limit the chatting!

Wow! We had really great turn-outs for our first two Norman Schwartz lessons. Although the class was advertised as being for intermediate to advanced level players, the 40+ people attending each day had a much wider variance in skill levels. Still, the reaction was very positive and almost everyone has left vowing to be back for the next class. It has to be the knowledge and charisma of Norman himself, who is a Sapphire Life Master, ACBL Certified Bridge Teacher, and National Champion. His delivery style makes learning fun and easy to understand.

Remember, this will be an on-going class with Norman every Thursday afternoon at 1 p.m. (Except when he's off at tournaments or cruising). You don't need to pre-register, but you might want to come early to get a good seat. You can attend whenever the subject scheduled for discussion appeals to you. Cost per lesson is \$10 (what a bargain for such a great teacher!).

Holidays, Nationals, and Regionals are wreaking havoc with our schedule, but here's what's planned for the next few weeks:

**November 14th:** Defensive Carding, Part 2.

**November 21st:** The Balancing Act

**November 28th:** No lesson (Thanksgiving)

**December 5th:** No lesson (NABC in San Francisco)

**December 12th:** No lesson (Palm Springs Regional)

Norman likes feedback regarding bridge subjects that people are interested in learning more about. If you have any suggestions for future classes, we'd be delighted to hear them. As time goes on, more learning opportunities will be added. A new list of scheduled topics will be posted on the Club News bulletin board. You really won't want to miss any of these great lessons if you're working on improving your bridge game. So, mark your calendars for the topics that interest you and come learn with us!

Speaking of learning, we continue to offer Supervised Play on Monday and Tuesday mornings at 9 a.m. Geared more toward advanced beginner to intermediate players, these sessions offer a terrific opportunity for those in search of some personalized expert help with their game. It's necessary to register in advance so that we can provide enough mentors to accommodate all players. Email Vic Pitcock at [kcotip.rotciv@att.net](mailto:kcotip.rotciv@att.net) to sign up. AND, if you sign up – please show up.

For exact dates and times of the various club games and activities, check the "Calendar of Events" on our website. You can print a copy for easy reference. To find everything you need to know about bridge at the club, go to: [www.bridgeclubofnorthcounty.org](http://www.bridgeclubofnorthcounty.org). The club address is 2320 S. Escondido Blvd, Escondido, 92025. Phone # is 760-807-9396. Email: [bridgeclubofNC@gmail.com](mailto:bridgeclubofNC@gmail.com). Feel free to contact the club regarding club programs, special games, and partnership help.

**Top Five Open Players** for October: Tim Flaherty, Sue Compton, Holly Aufmann, Carey Simkin, and Bernie Simkin.

**Top Five NLM 150-499 Players** for October: Betty Serepca, Jack Stanley, Ken Patrick, Dorothea Williams, and Marvin Schwedock.

**Top Five 0-149 Players** for October: Deepak Vora, Noel Weidner, Bruce Bosworth, David Greenwood, and James Kaspar.

Our winner for the title "**Player of the Month**" for October is Jan Janecki. Jan was nominated because: "She's always supportive and a great partner", "She's always pleasant and friendly", "She tries to be helpful and encouraging", "She's such a kind person, and so welcoming", "She has a passion for bridge."

Our winner for the title "**Student of the Month**" for October is Kathy Randle. Reasons provided by her instructors and mentors are the following: She is always willing to learn, she's attended several classes, she's working hard at improving her game, and she plays regularly in the Wednesday AM 0-20 game. She was delighted recently when she and her partner had a 60% game (persistence pays off!).

Congratulations to all of these outstanding players. Their pictures will be posted on the \*STARS\* bulletin board throughout the month of November.

## Lake San Marcos Duplicate Bridge Club

**Top Five Open players** for October: Samuel Jordon, Rima Sharron, Patricia Hawkins, John Sharron, Patricia Hawkins (3-way tie), Jean Holt, Clare Laljer.

**Top Five NLM players** for October 0-499: Jack Benoualid, Sue Holbeck, Sally Ackerman, John Gates, Nira Levy.

The Lake San Marcos Duplicate Bridge Club holds one game each week on Wednesday at the San Marcos Senior Center, 111 Richmar Avenue, San Marcos, CA 92069. It starts at 11:30 AM. Snacks and coffee are provided. The cost is \$8.00. For further information call John Coulombe at 760-715-5896, or Nina Laughbaum at 760-736-9386.

## Bridge in Ramona

We have a dealing machine! With a generous, generous donation from our unit (549), Bridge in Ramona was able to purchase our very own dealing machine. We are beyond pleased and excited! Having this machine will make setting up our games sooooo much easier.

On another note, Carol Squires and Maxine McNamara wrote our bylaws and applied for non-profit status. We know they did an excellent job because we were approved a few months ago by the feds without any rewrite. We are waiting to hear from the state.

One more thing. We have copied the lovely idea of "membership appreciation" from Bridge Club of North County. On November 22, Bridge in Ramona had a "Members Appreciation" game which included a regular bridge game followed by lunch and a club meeting. We don't mean to brag, but we, the board of directors, believe that Bridge in Ramona is a very special club. We're small, but we have an extra-friendly dedicated group of players, and we decided it was past time to celebrate them! We will be closed November 28 & 29th for the Thanksgiving holiday and December 26 & 27 for Christmas.

Our regular games are held at St. Mary's in the Valley Episcopal Church, 1010 12th Street. The current schedule has two Open Pairs games: Thursday night from 6:00 to 9:00 PM and Friday morning from 9:30 AM to 1:30 PM with a break for (bring your own) lunch. We also periodically schedule special games – like the World-Wide Bridge Tournament and STaCs. If you would like to join us, please email: [bridgeinramona@game.com](mailto:bridgeinramona@game.com) to make a reservation. Our game fee is \$7. For more information about our club or upcoming events, please contact Maxine McNamara at [wildrose@barneymc.com](mailto:wildrose@barneymc.com) or 760-788-6189.



# December 2019

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Bridge Club of North County (BCNC) - 2320 S. Escondido Blvd, Escondido, CA 92025  
 (760) 807-9396 • [bridgeclubofNC@gmail.com](mailto:bridgeclubofNC@gmail.com) • [bridgeclubofnorthcounty.org](http://bridgeclubofnorthcounty.org)  
 Lake San Marcos DBC - John Coulombe, Director; Nina Laughbaum, Manager  
 111 Richmar Ave, San Marcos, CA 92069 • (760) 715-5896 or (760) 736-9386  
 Bridge in Ramona - Maxine McNamara  
 Information: (760) 788-6189 • [wildrose@barneymc.com](mailto:wildrose@barneymc.com)

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>
NO GAMES TODAY	BCNC Supervised Play 499er NLM 9:00 AM BCNC Open Pairs 12:30 PM	BCNC Supervised Play 499er Game 9:00 AM Open Pairs 12:30 PM	BCNC 0-20 MP (\$5.) 0-149 MP Games 9:00 AM BCNC Open Pairs 12:30 PM Lake San Marcos DBC 11:30 AM Open Game	Bridge in Ramona 6:00 PM	BCNC 499er NLM 9:00 AM BCNC Open Pairs 12:30 PM Bridge in Ramona 9:30 AM	BCNC 499er NLM and Open Pairs 12:30 PM - Pizza Day
<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>
NO GAMES TODAY	BCNC Supervised Play 499er NLM 9:00 AM BCNC Open Pairs 12:30 PM STaC	BCNC Supervised Play 499er Game 9:00 AM Open Pairs 12:30 PM STaC	BCNC 0-20 MP (\$5.) 0-149 MP Games 9:00 AM BCNC Open Pairs 12:30 PM STaC Lake San Marcos DBC 11:30 AM Open Game	Bridge in Ramona 6:00 PM	BCNC 499er NLM 9:00 AM BCNC Open Pairs 12:30 PM BIRTHDAY RECOGNITION STaC Bridge in Ramona 9:30 AM	BCNC 499er NLM and Open Pairs 12:30 PM - Pizza Day STaC
<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>
NO GAMES TODAY	BCNC Supervised Play 499er NLM 9:00 AM BCNC Open Pairs 12:30 PM	BCNC Supervised Play 499er Game 9:00 AM Open Pairs 12:30 PM	BCNC 0-20 MP (\$5.) 0-149 MP Games 9:00 AM BCNC Open Pairs 12:30 PM Local Charity Lake San Marcos DBC 11:30 AM Open Game	Bridge in Ramona 6:00 PM	BCNC 499er NLM 9:00 AM BCNC Open Pairs 12:30 PM HOLIDAY PARTY FREE LUNCH-SIGN UP REQUIRED Bridge in Ramona 9:30 AM	BCNC 499er NLM and Open Pairs 12:30 PM - Pizza Day Local Charity
<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>
NO GAMES TODAY	BCNC Supervised Play 499er NLM 9:00 AM BCNC Open Pairs 12:30 PM Local Charity	BCNC Supervised Play 499er Game 9:00 AM Open Pairs 12:30 PM Local Charity	ALL CLUBS CLOSED CHRISTMAS DAY	ALL CLUBS CLOSED	BCNC 499er NLM 9:00 AM BCNC Open Pairs 12:30 PM Local Charity	549 Unit Game Open & NLM Pairs 12:30 PM FREE MEMBER Lunch & Bridge - 11:45 AM 7 OAKS COMM CTR
<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>JAN 1, 2020</b>	<b>Unit 549 Board Members:</b> President – Art Foeste; Vice-President – Alan Turner; Secretary/Recorder – Dorothea Williams; Treasurer – Ken Matson; Tournament Chair – Trish Frinell; Hospitality – Joan Gershman; Sharon Feingold; Membership Chair/Publicity – Noel Weidner; Education Liaison – Hazel Turner; Disciplinary Chair – Jill Roberts		
NO GAMES TODAY	BCNC Supervised Play 499er NLM 9:00 AM BCNC Open Pairs 12:30 PM CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP	BCNC Supervised Play 499er Game 9:00 AM Open Pairs 12:30 PM	BCNC OPEN HAPPY NEW YEAR 2020 9:00- 0-20 & 0-149 Games 12:30 Open Pairs POTLUCK-APPETIZERS SIGN-UP REQUIRED			