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# North County Inland, Unit 549

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



# TABLE



# TALK



**THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF ACBL UNIT 549**

## ***PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE***

The Board would like to thank all of you who made our Holiday Toy Drive an incredible, almost beyond the imagination success. Rabbi Jonathan Sacks said, "Happiness is not made by what we own. It is what we share." And there was a whole lot of happiness at the November unit game. You donated well over 100 toys and with your cash contributions and all of our card fees for the game we contributed \$1,725 to Interfaith Community Services. This Holiday Season is certainly going to be brighter for a lot of families here in North County.

"Once in a lifetime" is a phrase that may be a little overused, but it looks like it applies to our non-life master regional scheduled for January 10th and 11th. Earlier this year the ACBL Board voted to allow Units to run sanctioned non-life master regional events with the permission of their District. As part of our mission to promote more opportunities for our non-life masters, we jumped at the opportunity and requested a sanction for the January dates. District 22 agreed and the ACBL sanctioned the dates. We have since learned that District 22 has reconsidered their position on letting units sanction regional events, and will not be approving any additional unit sanctioned events, so that truly makes this a "once in a lifetime" opportunity that our non-life masters shouldn't miss.

Just a heads up, Audrey Grant will be returning again this coming year on January 31st and February 1st. Registration is running way ahead of last years record attendance. There is a chance that we might have to limit registration because we have reached the capacity of our facilities. Anyone planning to attend or thinking of attending should get their registration in as soon as possible.

There will be no unit game next month. Our next unit game will be on February 22nd.

The Board would like to wish all of you a very Happy and Prosperous New Year. We hope you get your new year of duplicate bridge off to a great start by joining us at our Non-life Master Regional and Open Sectional on January 10th and 11th.

Art

## Upcoming Unit 549 Events - Mark the Dates!

NLM Regional/Winter Sectional – Fri. & Sat., January 10 & 11, St. Gabriel's Catholic Church Auditorium, Poway (see below)

Audrey Grant Festival – Fri. & Sat., January 31 & February 1, 7 Oaks Community Center - RB (see below)

### Unit 549 News

Happy New Year! 2020...it's pretty hard to skip some sort of cute reference to vision/sight/insight, etc. because it's just so obvious! Instead, let's remember that every new year is a gift full of possibilities for new adventures if we're open to them. So, here's wishing your new year is filled with good health and happy exploration, discovery, and growth - especially as it refers to bridge! We look forward to seeing you practicing your new skills at our tables for another great year of unit games.

I hope all you NLM players have scheduled yourselves to play in Unit 549's "once in a life-time" **NLM Regional/Winter Sectional**. That's right – once! We have learned that ACBL has decided that only Districts can sponsor Regionals from now on, so our event will truly be a one-time thing. AND, it's coming up fast...on **January 10th and 11th**. Every non-life master in San Diego County should take advantage of this remarkable opportunity to win GOLD points right here at home. If you haven't already got it scheduled, get a move on. 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.

Attention Open players: this is 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, again 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)

There are a few more seats available for the **Audrey Grant Festival** we're hosting on **Friday, January 31** and **Saturday, February 1st**. If you haven't reserved your seat for this two-day event, do it soon, because space now is really 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.

You will all be delighted to hear the results of our annual November Toy Drive Fund Raiser for the Interfaith Services "Adopt a Family" program. We took in \$1240 in card fees and received an additional \$490 in additional donations, plus two full car loads of toys. The pot-luck was terrific – as usual. There were varieties of food to please every palate, in sufficient quantity for everyone to be satisfied. SO, a really big thank you from the board for making this our most successful charity event ever!

With 31 ½ tables playing in that November unit game, there were too many winners 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:** Bunny Schmidt – Jean Holt, Lawrence Sherman – Daniel Koppenhafer, Mac Busby – Cameron Cotton, and Ken Matson – Hazel Turner.

**The top four overall winners in the NLM section were:** Kim Lazarus – Liane Brennar, Stuart Showalter – Sarah Hans, Ramakant Asaravala – David Greenwood/Kevin Spiro – Mark Spiro/Sheila Slayton – Sandra Hrstich (3-way tie).

**Welcome new members to Unit 549:** Ellen Fowler, Lydia Irvine, Sandra King, Fran Heffler, James Rafferty, Mark Slonium, and Deborah Slonium.

**Members attaining new levels of achievement:**

**New Junior Master:** Donna Capone

**New Club Masters:** Ram Lal, and Nancy Neal

**Sectional Master:** Joan Gershman

**New Regional Masters:** Sandra Hrstich, and Lynne Jaseph

**New Gold Life Master:** Al Nadel

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

We're **OPEN** on January 1st – New Year's Day. Two sessions, 9:00 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. We're having an "Appetizers Pot Luck" all day. Morning players can bring late morning/brunch type foods if you prefer. Everyone is invited 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! Hey...if you have nothing more pressing to do, you can stick around and play all day! Remember, if

you play in the morning, your game fee for the afternoon session is only \$6. What a deal!

By the way, if you haven't decided on a "New Years Resolution" yet, one of the most popular ones I found on the internet is to "learn something new". We have a golden opportunity for you to follow through on this one! Every Thursday afternoon at 1:00, the club will sponsor an on-going class with Norman Schwartz, who is a Sapphire Life Master, ACBL Certified Bridge Teacher, and National Champion. Topics scheduled for discussion will be posted on the Club News bulletin board – usually a few weeks in advance. Here's the current schedule: **Jan. 16th** - Hand Evaluation – Part 2; **Jan. 23rd** - Slam Bidding (Note, this class - \$15, includes booklet signed by Eddie Kantar); **Jan. 30th** - Doubles – Part 1; **Feb. 6th** - Doubles – Part 2; **Feb. 13th** - Dummy Recognition; **Feb. 20th** - Cue Bids – Part 1; **Feb. 27th** - Cue Bids – Part 2.

You don't need to pre-register and you don't need to come with a partner. You can attend whenever the subject scheduled for discussion appeals to you. Cost per lesson is \$10.

Speaking of learning, a new **Bridge Basics 1 series** (6 weekly classes) is set to begin on Thursday, January 9th at 9 a.m. The cost is \$70, which includes the BB1 lesson book. To register for this class email [hazelturnerbridge@gmail.com](mailto:hazelturnerbridge@gmail.com)

Also beginning in January is an "open" 8-lesson series entitled "**Play of the Hand.**" You don't have to register in advance. Cost is \$10 per lesson. The first session will be on January 18th and then every Saturday morning at 9:00 a.m. for 8 weeks. Flyers with a list of titles for all eight lessons are available at the club and on our website.

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.

We're **CLOSED** on Friday and Saturday, January 10th and 11th so that everyone can participate in the Unit 549 NLM Regional/Winter Sectional (details elsewhere in this article).

Our club's most special event in January will take place on Monday, the 20th. Thanks to all of you for your patronage and support, we will be celebrating our **5-year anniversary** as Bridge Club of North County! Wahoo!!

To mark this special milestone, the club will provide a catered lunch for all players at 11:45 a.m. Morning players are invited to stay for lunch and afternoon players are invited to come early to allow time to eat before the afternoon game starts at 12:30 p.m. Sign-up is required so we can get a headcount for the caterer. The sign-up sheet is located on the wall behind the director's desk.

January is ACBL's **Junior Fund Month**. Extra table fees collected this month go to advancing junior player programs for youth up to age 26. We really want to support this program that reaches out to encourage young people across the country to join our bridge family, so plan to play as many of these games as possible. Players earn 63.6%

sectional-rated black points. Look on our calendar at the club and online to see when these games will be offered.

The monthly **Birthday Celebration** will be on Monday, January 13th, and don't forget that Saturdays are Pizza Days so you get a free lunch with your bridge game.

**Top Five Open Players** for November: Tim Flaherty, Sheila Latus, Rex Latus, Dan Higgins, and Art Foeste.

**Top Five NLM 150-499 Players** for November: Ken Patrick, Angela Jaraicie, Dorothea Williams, Jack Stanley, and Bejai Higgins.

**Top Five 0-149 Players** for November: Mel Cohn, Noel Weidner, Dixie Peterson, Dave Peterson, and Madelyn Trainor.

There were **three games over 70%** in November. Special kudos to the following pairs: Sue Halfaker and Susan Van Cott (71.03% on 11/18), Dave Anding and Rick Gold (75.46% on 11/20), and Judy Astamendi and Debby Wunderle (72.5% on 11/25).

Our winner for the title "**Player of the Month**" for November is Candace Blocher. Candace was nominated because: "She's just delightful!", "She's a good player and so pleasant all the time", "Everyone likes her, she's just always so nice", "She's so welcoming and gracious", "She's a great partner."

Our winner for the title "**Student of the Month**" for November is Rosemarie Straight. Reasons provided by her instructors and mentors are the following: She attends all the classes, and comes regularly to the 0-20 game on Wednesday mornings. She works at improving her game and has a reputation for being a great partner with a nice personality.

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

## Lake San Marcos Duplicate Bridge Club

**Top Five Open players** for November: Rima Sharron, John Sharron, Lorraine Gordon, Tom Nolan, and Ray Curtiss.

**Top Five NLM players** for November 0-499: George Wilkinson, Sandy Hrstich, Ed Zevely, Angie Tilaro, and Julie Watkins.

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

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.

# January 2020

## 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 • [bridgeclubofncc@gmail.com](mailto:bridgeclubofncc@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>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						
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
NO GAMES TODAY	BCNC Supervised Play 499er NLM 9:00 AM BCNC Open Pairs 12:30 PM JUNIOR FUND	BCNC Supervised Play 499er Game 9:00 AM Open Pairs 12:30 PM JUNIOR FUND	BCNC 0-20 MP (\$5.) 0-149 MP Games 9:00 AM BCNC Open Pairs 12:30 PM JUNIOR FUND Lake San Marcos DBC 11:30 AM Open Game	BCNC Bridge Basics 1 9:00 AM BCNC Intro/Adv Class \$10 1:00 PM Bridge in Ramona 6:00 PM	BCNC CLOSED UNIT 549 SECTIONAL/ NLM REGIONAL ST. GABRIEL'S CHURCH 13734 Twin Peaks, Poway 10 AM & 2:30 PM	BCNC CLOSED UNIT 549 SECTIONAL/ NLM REGIONAL ST. GABRIEL'S CHURCH 13734 Twin Peaks, Poway 10 AM & 2:30 PM
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
NO GAMES TODAY	BCNC Supervised Play 499er NLM 9:00 AM BCNC Open Pairs 12:30 PM JUNIOR FUND BIRTHDAY RECOGNITION	BCNC Supervised Play 499er Game 9:00 AM Open Pairs 12:30 PM JUNIOR FUND	BCNC 0-20 MP (\$5.) 0-149 MP Games 9:00 AM BCNC Open Pairs 12:30 PM JUNIOR FUND Lake San Marcos DBC 11:30 AM Open Game	BCNC Bridge Basics 1 9:00 AM BCNC Intro/Adv Class \$10 1:00 PM Bridge in Ramona 6:00 PM	BCNC 499er NLM 9:00 AM BCNC Open Pairs 12:30 PM JUNIOR FUND Bridge in Ramona 9:30 AM	BCNC 499er NLM and Open Pairs JUNIOR FUND 12:30 PM - Pizza Day 9 AM Play of the Hand \$10 Making a Plan
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
NO GAMES TODAY	BCNC Supervised Play 499er NLM 9:00 AM BCNC Open Pairs 12:30 PM JUNIOR FUND BCNC 5TH ANNIVERSARY CELEB FREE LUNCH/SIGN UP REQD.	BCNC Supervised Play 499er Game 9:00 AM Open Pairs 12:30 PM JUNIOR FUND	BCNC 0-20 MP (\$5.) 0-149 MP Games 9:00 AM BCNC Open Pairs 12:30 PM JUNIOR FUND Lake San Marcos DBC 11:30 AM Open Game	BCNC Bridge Basics 1 9:00 AM BCNC Intro/Adv Class \$10 1:00 PM Bridge in Ramona 6:00 PM	BCNC 499er NLM 9:00 AM BCNC Open Pairs 12:30 PM JUNIOR FUND Bridge in Ramona 9:30 AM	BCNC 499er NLM and Open Pairs JUNIOR FUND 12:30 PM - Pizza Day 9 AM Play of the Hand \$10 Developing Tricks
26	27	28	29	30	31	
NO GAMES TODAY	BCNC Supervised Play 499er NLM 9:00 AM BCNC Open Pairs 12:30 PM JUNIOR FUND	BCNC Supervised Play 499er Game 9:00 AM Open Pairs 12:30 PM JUNIOR FUND	BCNC 0-20 MP (\$5.) 0-149 MP Games 9:00 AM BCNC Open Pairs 12:30 PM JUNIOR FUND Lake San Marcos DBC 11:30 AM Open Game	BCNC Bridge Basics 1 9:00 AM BCNC Intro/Adv Class \$10 1:00 PM Bridge in Ramona 6:00 PM	BCNC 499er NLM 9:00 AM BCNC Open Pairs 12:30 PM JUNIOR FUND Bridge in Ramona 9:30 AM AUDREY GRANT (7 Oaks CC)	

## North County Inland, Unit 549

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TABLE



TALK



THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF ACBL UNIT 549

***PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE***

I'm not a wine connoisseur but for some reason fine wine always has some year associated with it. Well, in the case of duplicate bridge in North County, 2019 will be one of those years. The state of our unit and the state of our clubs has never been better in the 8 years I've been a member. And all of this is due to a lot of selfless volunteers who just step up and make good things happen.

Our club in Ramona keeps building on it's successes and is providing some real good bridge opportunities for our members up in the hills. They acquired a dealing machine which has made getting ready for those games that much easier and they have a solid core of volunteers. San Marcos is steady as you go. They provide a Wednesday game for players on the coast and an alternative for the inland players. They saw an almost 20% increase in their table count from 2018.

Our crown jewel of course is the Bridge Club of North County. Their table count grew by 17% over 2018 and they are now the 13th largest bridge club in California. But the most important thing they have done is to work hard to foster and grow duplicate bridge. Their mentoring program provided over 260 tables of mentored bridge. They maintained a strong program of beginning bridge lessons with some really amazing results. They offered Bridge Basics 1, 2 & 3 and a 2 over 1 class to a total of 213 registered students. These efforts resulted in 25 new ACBL members. For the more advanced players they offered defense workshops and had 164 attendees.

The unit itself had another really good year. Our Winter Sectional was a success with a table count increase from the previous year and a small profit to show for our efforts. The Audrey Grant seminar was a roaring success with a record turn out. We had attendees who traveled over 120 miles for the event and were glad they did. Our unit games table count is up significantly and we are now averaging about 30 tables each month. The really positive part of that number is we are averaging more than 12 non-life master tables each month.

The Board would like to thank all of our members and all of you who play bridge here in North County for our success in 2019. It is going to be a hard act to follow but based on our January start we might actually do it.

# March 2020

## North County Inland, Unit 549

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

Bridge Club of North County (BCNC) - 2320 S. Escondido Blvd, Escondido, CA 92025  
 (760) 807-9396 • [bridgeclubofNCC@gmail.com](mailto:bridgeclubofNCC@gmail.com) • [bridgeclubofnorthcounty.org](http://bridgeclubofnorthcounty.org)  
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 Information: (760) 788-6189 • [wildrose@barneyinc.com](mailto:wildrose@barneyinc.com)

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<b>1</b> NO GAMES TODAY	<b>2</b> BCNC Supervised Play 499er NLM 9:00 AM BCNC Open Pairs 12:30 PM STac	<b>3</b> BCNC Supervised Play 499er Game 9:00 AM BCNC Open Pairs 12:30 PM STac	<b>4</b> BCNC 0-149 MP Game 9:00 AM BCNC Open Pairs 12:30 PM STac Lake San Marcos DBC 11:30 AM Open Game	<b>5</b> BCNC Bridge Basics II - 9 AM BCNC Int/Adv Class NO CLASS TODAY Bridge in Ramona 6:00 PM	<b>6</b> BCNC 499er NLM 9:00 AM BCNC Open Pairs 12:30 PM STac Bridge in Ramona 9:30 AM	<b>7</b> BCNC 0-20 Newcomer Game 9 AM BCNC 499er NLM and Open Pairs 12:30 PM Pizza Day-STac
<b>8</b> NO GAMES TODAY	<b>9</b> BCNC Supervised Play 499er NLM 9:00 AM BCNC Open Pairs 12:30 PM	<b>10</b> BCNC Supervised Play 499er Game 9:00 AM BCNC Open Pairs 12:30 PM	<b>11</b> BCNC 0-149 MP Game 9:00 AM BCNC Open Pairs 12:30 PM Lake San Marcos DBC 11:30 AM Open Game	<b>12</b> BCNC Bridge Basics II - 9 AM BCNC Int/Adv Class \$10 1:00 PM Dummy Recognition Bridge in Ramona 6:00 PM	<b>13</b> BCNC 499er NLM 9:00 AM BCNC Open Pairs 12:30 PM BIRTHDAY RECOGNITION Bridge in Ramona 9:30 AM	<b>14</b> BCNC 499er NLM and Open Pairs 12:30 PM - Pizza Day Educational Fund 9 AM Play of the Hand \$10 Managing Trump
<b>15</b> NO GAMES TODAY	<b>16</b> BCNC Supervised Play 499er NLM 9:00 AM BCNC Open Pairs 12:30 PM	<b>17</b> BCNC Supervised Play 499er Game 9:00 AM BCNC Open Pairs 12:30 PM ST. PATRICK'S DAY	<b>18</b> BCNC 0-149 MP Game 9:00 AM BCNC Open Pairs 12:30 PM Lake San Marcos DBC 11:30 AM Open Game	<b>19</b> BCNC Bridge Basics II - 9 AM BCNC Int/Adv Class \$10 1:00 PM - Cue Bids Part 1 Bridge in Ramona 6:00 PM	<b>20</b> BCNC 499er NLM 9:00 AM BCNC Open Pairs 12:30 PM Bridge in Ramona 9:30 AM	<b>21</b> BCNC 499er NLM and Open Pairs Educational Fund 12:30 PM - Pizza Day 9 AM Play of the Hand \$10 Putting it Together
<b>22</b> NO GAMES TODAY	<b>23</b> BCNC Supervised Play 499er NLM 9:00 AM BCNC Open Pairs 12:30 PM ACBL Charity VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION DAY	<b>24</b> BCNC Supervised Play 499er Game 9:00 AM BCNC Open Pairs 12:30 PM ACBL Charity	<b>25</b> BCNC 0-149 MP Game 9:00 AM BCNC Open Pairs 12:30 PM ACBL Charity Lake San Marcos DBC 11:30 AM Open Game	<b>26</b> BCNC Bridge Basics II - 9 AM BCNC Int/Adv Class \$10 1:00 PM - Cue Bids Part 2 Bridge in Ramona 6:00 PM	<b>27</b> BCNC 499er NLM 9:00 AM BCNC Open Pairs 12:30 PM ACBL Charity Bridge in Ramona 9:30 AM	<b>28</b> 549 Unit Game Open & NLM Pairs 12:30 PM / Lunch 11:45 AM 7 OAKS CC
<b>29</b> NO GAMES TODAY	<b>30</b> BCNC Supervised Play 499er NLM 9:00 AM BCNC Open Pairs 12:30 PM	<b>31</b> BCNC Supervised Play 499er Game 9:00 AM BCNC Open Pairs 12:30 PM				

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# TABLE



# TALK



**THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF ACBL UNIT 549**

## ***PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE***

Greetings from someone who never heard of or even conceptualized of a term like "social distancing". Someone who after two long weeks is needing to do a little of that "social distancing" in his own house. But considering that literally 100% of our bridge family is in that high risk category this was absolutely the right thing to do in my opinion. Hopefully, within a couple of months we will be getting back to normal and all of us will have weathered this pandemic with nothing more than a lot of social isolation.

The Board has been in regular contact and has canceled all of our unit games through April and will not be conducting any more unit games until it is absolutely safe to do so. The Bridge Club of North County is closed until further notice and all the senior centers in North County are closed along with their respective bridge games.

If you are like me you started getting the DTs (delirium tremens) after about 4 days of no duplicate bridge. Personally I enjoy the social contact, the face to face bridge games and getting out of the house and out of yard work. And that just isn't happening with this social distancing thing. I needed a bridge fix to deal with those DTs and fortunately there was a fix out there. It is called Bridge Base On-line or BBO. They are an on-line platform where you can play duplicate bridge for fun or points including ACBL black points. You can play as an individual or with your favorite partner. And you can play 24/7 if you're so inclined.

I would suggest you check it out ([bridgebase.com](http://bridgebase.com)) if you are in need of a fix or just trying to break a little boredom. You won't be alone. Yesterday when I logged on to register for the Support Your Club game there were over 32,000 people playing bridge on Bridge Base. Once they overcome this incredible surge of new players they will be looking for innovative ways for clubs to start up their own on-line game.

Please stay safe and distant.

Art



TABLE



TALK

**THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF ACBL UNIT 549**

## *PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE*

Getting a drivers license was the number one thing for a teenager in Montana. It was like independence. Some of the coolest kids at school were the ones that got to drive to school. Every Friday and Saturday night those kids with cars would drive at opposite directions around the downtown city block admiring each other. It was called "burning the point". On my 15th birthday I got my license and was ready for that independence and to be cool. Unfortunately, my dad saw it differently. Before I got the keys he wanted me to get a little more behind the wheel experience.

My Mother grew up in a family that never owned a car so she never learned to drive and my dad took her to her hair appointment and grocery shopping every Wednesday afternoon. What he saw in my driver's licence was his own independence. My behind the wheel experience was going to be as my Mother's chauffeur. She decided not to waste this opportunity either and taught me the art of grocery shopping. And I learned so well that I have been the grocery shopper for my family our entire married lives.

That grocery shopping has taken a whole new meaning in the middle of this pandemic. It is no longer a weekly chore. It has become the one avenue of freedom I have from house arrest. The opportunity to feel a little bit of normalcy while I'm wearing a mask, keeping my social distance and minding those markers six feet apart in the checkout line.

So grocery shopping and duplicate bridge have become the two things I get up for every day. And there is some good news out there. Not only does California have the lowest per capita coronavirus infection rate in the nation, the Bridge Club of Escondido is now a virtual club on Bridge Base. That means that you can play duplicate bridge with your partner and former opponents just like in the good old days, you just can't see them.

If you haven't checked this out I encourage you to do so. It costs nothing to become a Bridge Base member. There are actually some games that you can play for free. What I am most encouraged about is the 6 BCNC virtual club games you can play in each week. Four of them are open games and two are 499er games. It costs \$5 per game and most of those proceeds go directly to the club to help defray those fixed costs they pay even when they aren't open.

If you have any questions about playing on Bridge Base or would like some help getting started you can contact Alan Turner at [alanturner2009@gmail.com](mailto:alanturner2009@gmail.com) or me at [art.foeste@gmail.com](mailto:art.foeste@gmail.com). It is going to be a while before we can play bridge face to face again so don't give up your bridge fun and get started on Bridge Base.