

eDeclarer

ACBL UNIT 499 NEWSLETTER

President's Message



May was a busy month for all of us bridge enthusiasts!

To start us off, we had the Spring STaC week. Unit 499 had a good showing, with three of our players earning over 20 MP's - Angie Murray (26.28), Jerry Weitzner (24.02), and Marvin Suchman (23.06). Congrats on winning all those silver points!

On May 20, the Unit hosted a Goodwill Dinner and Game at DVBC to recognize Bruce Johnsonbaugh as a D21 Goodwill recipient for 2014. Bruce has made numerous contributions to the unit, and the award was well deserved. There was a delicious dinner provided by the Board, and a club championship game for extra master points! Former D21 Goodwill recipients Angie Murray and Lo Pesavento took home the top honors, with second place going to past Goodwill recipient, Keith Gunn, and his partner Dan Rubenfield.

Many of you have heard the news that Judy Lowe and her husband, Bob, are moving to Palm Desert. Judy has been a very active participant in our unit for a quarter of a century! She is a past D21 President, member of the D21 Goodwill Committee, and the ACBL Goodwill Committee. Many of us know her as a director and bridge teacher. She is a very special lady and will truly be missed. Please plan to come for the Unit game on **Sunday, June 7**, at DVBC. There will be a Farewell Potluck Going Away Lunch for Judy, starting at 11:45am, prior to the game which will begin at 1pm. Please RSVP and plan to bring your favorite dish to share! Please check our website (diablovalleybridge.com) for more details.

This month, Jerry Chamberlain and Winnie Jasper will have the inaugural games with their new bridge club in our unit - the 24/680 Bridge Club. This will provide more games for all of you players in our unit. Please check for more information in this newsletter on game dates and times.

June 11 is our summer ProAm game. If you have less than 300 MP's and haven't signed up yet, please check our website for more information. It's a fun evening of bridge for both the "pro" players and the "am's", starting with a pizza dinner. Come and play!

For those who played at the recent Sacramento Regional, I hope you had a fun week at the tables and came home with good stories and lots of master points!

Anne Hollingsworth
scootcat@pacbell.net

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Unit 499 eDeclarer

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Deadline for July is June 17th

To submit a letter to the editor,
send it to Judy Keilin at
jkeilin@pacbell.net

Be sure to visit the unit website for more information on our clubs and events, as well as archives of our newsletters.

diablovalleybridge.com

...from the editor

Last month I asked for feedback regarding the worth of continuing to publish eDeclarer. Since I received no feedback at all, I can only conclude that either no one is reading the newsletter and/or no one cares one way or the other.

Mary Krouse, eDeclarer's publisher, and I feel that everything we include each month is already on the Unit 499 website, or can be posted there. By doing that, Unit 499 members and anyone else interested can get this information instantly, rather than having to wait for the monthly publication of our current newsletter.

If you have an opinion on the matter, please let me know. It's not that Mary and I don't want to continue as publisher and editor - it's just that we feel we're not providing anything new and different from what is on our excellent website.

In the meantime, this month we've included an informative and humorous piece by Chris Pizarra, describing the Gatlinburg Regional and his place in it. Be sure to read this and then think about attending some time soon.



Play those hands well, and make your bids!

Judy Keilin, Editor
jkeilin@pacbell.net

Mary Krouse, Publisher



Unit 499 Milestones

New Junior Masters

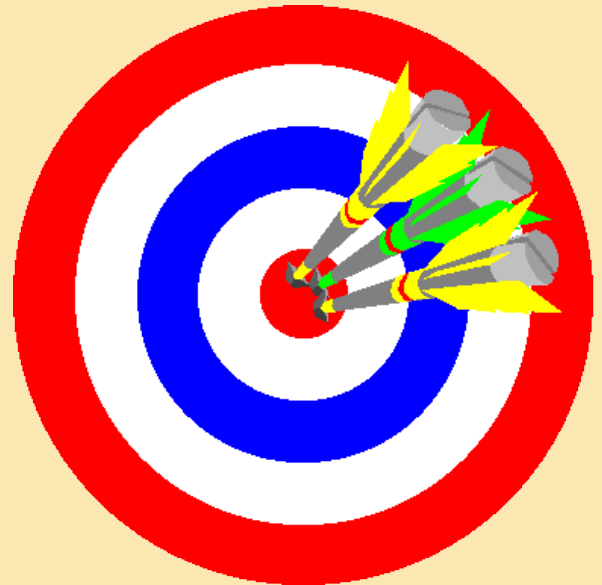
Muriel Bruton
Ben Bryce
Donna Derr
Doreen Schmiedl
Dolly Wilson

New Club Masters

Jean Kitchens
Ethel Lew
Jana Logan
Dolores Parr

New Sectional Masters

Robert Elgie
Beverly Engelbrecht
Jane Kadner





JUDY LOWE'S GOING AWAY LUNCHEON AND UNIT GAME AT DIABLO VALLEY
BRIDGE CENTER

JUNE 7, 2015

POTLUCK LUNCH AT 11:45 AM - UNIT GAME AT 1:00 PM

JUDY LOWE IS MOVING TO PALM DESERT IN MID JUNE AFTER BEING A DRIVING FORCE IN OUR UNIT FOR OVER 25 YEARS! SHE HAS SERVED AS PRESIDENT OF DISTRICT 21. SHE IS A MEMBER OF THE DISTRICT 21 GOODWILL COMMITTEE AND THE AILEEN OSOFSKY ACBL GOODWILL COMMITTEE. JUDY IS ALSO A BE-LOVED BRIDGE TEACHER AND DIRECTOR. SHE IS A PERFECT 10!

PLEASE JOIN US TO SAY GOOD BYE TO JUDY LOWE ON SUNDAY, JUNE 7, 2015 AT DIABLO VALLEY BRIDGE CENTER AT 11:45 AM FOR A POT LUCK LUNCH AND PLAY IN THE UNIT GAME IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING LUNCH AT 1:00 PM. **PLEASE BRING A FAVORITE POTLUCK DISH TO SHARE!**

WE WILL BE TAKING RESERVATIONS FOR THIS SPECIAL EVENT. PLEASE RSVP TO LYN SACCO BY JUNE 5, 2015 AT:

lyn.sacco@gmail.com

The 24 / 680 Bridge Club

There is a new bridge club in Unit 499!

Jerry Chamberlain and Winnie Jasper have started a new club at their home in Moraga. As it grows we hope to find a suitable location with convenient freeway access and good parking somewhere along the 24/680 Corridor, explaining a name with "legs" to travel within our local communities.

In the beginning, we will hold our monthly Swiss Team game on the third Saturday of each month. The time has been moved to a 10am start with a light lunch served at noon to enable our participants to enjoy other afternoon activities.

Beginning Wednesday June 17, we will hold a new weekly OPEN game beginning at 10am with lunch at noon. This means you can avoid the commute traffic coming and going!

The table fee for the Wednesday game will be \$8 per person. But, to celebrate the opening of our new club, the fee will drop to \$5 per person for June 17 and June 24.

Where else can you find a sanctioned open game that includes a nice lunch for such a bargain?

The location is our home:
183 Corliss Drive , Moraga 94556
(on the corner of Corliss and Crossbrook Drives at the stop sign)
On-street parking
[925-376-1125](tel:925-376-1125)

Reservations required:
Winnie: Winnie@wjasper.com or [925-376-1125](tel:925-376-1125) (home)

Jerry: [925-766-5228](tel:925-766-5228) (cell)

Ken White Memorial PRO-AM GAME

Thursday, June 11, 2015

Free Pizza at 6:30pm - Bridge 7-10pm

\$10 for AMs, Free for PROs

Diablo Valley Bridge Center

2920 Camino Diablo, #100

Walnut Creek 925-935-2273

Always a fun event - and a great opportunity for mentoring by some top-notch players. Each "amateur" (less than 300 MPs) is matched with a "professional". 40 Pros have already accepted invitations to play.

We are looking for 40 Ams. So sign up early! The deadline is May 31. (Please note that priority will be given to members of Unit 499.)

Please sign up with Mark Humphrey at markhumphrey@comcast.net or 925-377-6508.



Gatlinburg

I love Gatlinburg. It's where I go for a week every year to get away with the boys to play cards morning noon and night.

I hate Gatlinburg. It's where taste, style, class and fine dining go to die.

You could say I have mixed emotions.

Mike Bandler and Mike Katz started this tradition 10 years ago; making the pilgrimage to the nation's largest regional tournament, a place where they could play in bracket 2 of the KO's and not have to face Jeff Meckstroth, Eric Rodwell and Mike Passell every day. That first year they came home with over 175 masterpoints.

The team evolved. The Two Mikes stopped playing with professional partners, Ken White joined the team, as did Bob Munson and Danny Friedman. Bruce Tuttle was added. This year Danny's mother turned 100 and he went to the party instead of coming with us, so Mike Schneider filled in. I thought Mom Friedman should have come to Gatlinburg, but she has too much class.

Ken went to heaven, and I was added. Mike Katz passed on and Jack Scott became a member. Jack had a fatal stroke, and Bill Heid came aboard. Through all of this, the team spirit has stayed strong.

Mike stays in the Hampton Inn, which gets us parking next to the convention center. The other 5 of us rent a magnificent house a 3 minute drive up the hill.

One of the things we like about G'burg is that it is cheap. Our 5 bedroom, 5.5 bathroom house with every possible amenity was \$2200 for the week this year. Bob Munson pays all the bills, buys the entries and the food, then gives us a spreadsheet of what we owe him at the end. I think my entire week at the regional this year cost about \$730, plus a frequent flier ticket to get there.

Ah yes, getting there. Gatlinburg is a tourist trap at the entrance to the Great Smoky Mountains National



...players in Gatlinburg wear footwear to stomp out the competition!

Forest. It is within a 6 hour drive of some massive percentage of the US population, like about 40%. Mike and I fly to Knoxville on American (through Dallas) and make the hour drive through the park. You can also drive through Pigeon Forge, home of Dollywood and dead center in redneck heaven, but the traffic sucks.

The other guys flew to Nashville, via Austin Texas, on Southwest. They then have a 3 hour drive through the green rolling hills of Tennessee, but the airfare is cheap.

The town of Gatlinburg is one huge tourist mecca. The main street is nothing but an endless row of gift shops, candy stores, fudge stores, Old Tyme photo shops (really. How can one little town have SEVEN Old Tyme photo stands?) pancake houses, two whiskey distilleries, motels amusement palaces and miniature golf courses.

There are restaurants, too. Not good, but plentiful. Lots of fried food. Ribs, chicken, trout, potatoes, these people would fry coffee if they could figure out how. Tons of sugar in everything. No butter: margarine. The good news is the sweet potato casserole, which is full of margarine and brown sugar and more like dessert than a side dish. I think the best restaurant in town is the No Way Jose's, the Mexican joint.

The tournament itself is enormous. Last year it was 8700 tables, which is larger than some nationals. There may be over 33 brackets in the KO's, and a variety of multi-session pair games as well. Morning games, afternoon games, evening games, midnight games and dinner-bell KO's for the truly depraved. Excellent systems make it all work very smoothly. KO matches are posted by computer on a huge screen, so everyone can see their assignment at once. Minutes after a pairs game is complete scores and results are emailed or texted to the players. The daily bulletin is in your email inbox every morning. They know how to use technology there.

If you take a session off, you can go walking in the national forest just a mile outside of town. In April, the dogwoods are in blossom and the mountains are beautiful—but you have to be on the lookout for the black bears. Even our house has locked cages for the trash to keep the bears out. The athletic types among us take the hike to Klingman Dome, the highest point on the Appalachian trail; I take a nap.

On Saturday morning, some of us make the ritual drive 40 miles or so through the park to Cherokee, North Carolina to visit the pancake house. The road is beautiful, the pancakes are doughy and the syrup is synthetic. Jack Scott is famous for wondering what Indian tribe might be behind the local casino. [In Cherokee.](#)

There is probably night life in G'burg, but we wouldn't know about it. Most of the town seems to roll up the sidewalks at 8 pm. The tourists are largely families with multiple children who aren't going out drinking and dancing, and there are more churches (and one mosque) than bars. My group of guys only wants to race back to the house, turn on the basketball game on TV, get the Giants game on the iPad, dish up a big bowl of mint chocolate chip ice cream and go over the hands in endless excruciating detail. I turn on my computer and play yet more bridge online with Gail, which ensures that I am the big masterpoint winner for the week.

Living in a house with these 5 men is pretty easy. Bob loves to cook omelets for breakfast and is obsessive about cleaning up. Danny sometimes makes everyone's bed just because he likes to. I'm always willing to go to the store to replenish the ice cream and whatever else is needed. This year I carved a bar of soap into flakes so I could do a load of laundry without buying Tide. Life is rough.

We have a great time on our trip, and I hope you all give Gatlinburg a chance. Reserve early, consider renting a house for the week, pack extra Alka Seltzer and plan on having a great time.

Chris Pisarra

Club News

This section is for club owners and managers who wish to submit news about their games. Please go to our website for information about all our clubs, game times, and to check on the latest results.

Diablovalleybridge.com

ROSSMOOR DUPLICATE BRIDGE CLUB

Gateway Club

Rossmoor



CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP WEEK

June 9 through June 14 will be Club Championship Week at Rossmoor. Extra points will be awarded.

NO GAME

There will **not** be a game at Rossmoor on Saturday, June 21.

UNIT GAME JUNE 22

There will be a Unit Game on Sunday, June 22, in the Oak Room at the Gateway Center at Rossmoor.

LUNCH will be served at noon, followed by play at 1pm.

Kit Miller

Bridge on the Lake-Discovery Bay

Discovery Bay Community Center

1601 Discovery Bay Blvd

Discovery Bay



The Bridge on the Lake Club in Discovery Bay will host the annual Worldwide Bridge Competition on Saturday, June 6th this year. Most years we have had pairs from our game place quite high overall in the world. Our highest pair ever was in 2013 when Carol and Harold Emme placed 5th in the world with a 72.75% game. If you'd like to try to break their record, or just enjoy a fun game, come out to the Discovery Bay Community Center on the 6th by 12:30pm. I'd appreciate a call first so we know you're coming: 925-516-4380 or my cell [925-759-6365](tel:925-759-6365). We'll also have a Club Championship game on the 20th.

Arlene Mahlberg

The Moraga Evening Duplicate Bridge Club

The Moraga Evening Duplicate Bridge club will meet in June 2015 as follows:

Wednesday, June 3rd

Tuesday, June 23rd

Games always begin at 7pm, and finish about 10. Fee is \$3 per player. ACBL Open Club, with Master Points. Hand Records. Free play for the winners.

YOU MUST SIGN UP IN ADVANCE with: Winnie Jasper (winnie@wjasper.com) for Wednesdays, or David Geary (dsgeary@comcast.net) for Tuesdays.

We meet at the Moraga Country Club, upstairs, on St. Andrews, a short distance from Moraga Way.

Recent results:

4/21/2015 - 2 tables

- 1 - Colleen & David Geary
- 2 - Lois & Dick Halliday
- 3 - Sue & Shyam Rungta

5/6/2015 - 3 tables

- 1 - Colleen & David Geary
- 2 - Winnie Jasper & Jerry Chamberlain
- 3 - Lois & Dick Halliday

5/12/2015 - 5 tables

- 1 - Sue & Shyam Rungta
- 2 - Winnie Jasper & Jerry Chamberlain
- 3 - Dan Green & Irwin Javinsky

Regards,
David Geary

