

Double Dummy



Marin Unit 508 April - June 2011

UNIT SECTIONAL SCORES A HIT!

Our Marin Sectional held April 9 and 10, 2011 had 247 tables in action. See the Unit website for all the results and masterpoint awards. Thanks to Jim Cohen, Unit Vice President, for organizing this event.

The Unit 508 Board unanimously decided to let any member over 90 or under 18 years of age play for free at Unit games.

News Flash! There will be three Unit Saturday games at the Crossley Bridge Center: April 23, May 28 and June 25, at 1:00 p.m. Attendance will determine the fate of these games, so plan to play if you would like to see a Saturday game as a scheduled event.

Upcoming Events

April 23, 2011, Saturday Unit Game, Crossley Bridge Center, 1:00 p.m.

April 29-30, May 1, 2011 Sacramento Spring Sectional, Orangevale Community Center

May 2 – 8, 2011, Great Western Spring Fling StaC XII week, local clubs

May 13-15 2011, Lone Cypress Sectional, Monterey, Bridge Center at former Fort Ord

May 20-22 2011, Diablo Valley Spring Sectional, Elks Lodge, Walnut Creek

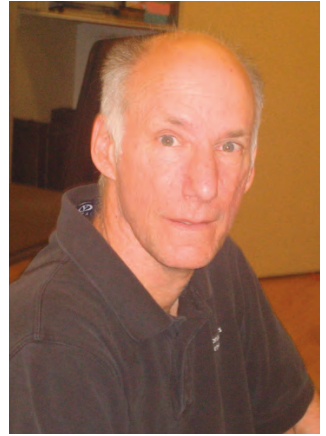
May 28, 2011 Saturday Unit Game, Crossley Bridge Center, 1:00 p.m.

May 30-June 5, 2011 California Capitol Regional, Doubletree Hotel, Sacramento

June 11 –12, 2011, San Francisco Sectional, Janet Pomeroy Center, San Francisco

Jim Oser and fournotrump.com Revisited

The unique web site www.Fournotrump.com created by our home grown computer guru Jim Oser keeps the scores and compiles statistics on everyone in our unit at least as concerns their bridge games. No confidential information is divulged, just scores and stats that have already been reported on club web sites. Here gathered in one place going back in time until 2008, you can find your average scores, your favorite partners, your highest scores, how many games you have played each year and on and on. You can find it for any other player as well. Other bridge units have been added, including an unexpected one from White Plains, N.Y. A pilot from there who plays here when in town requested that Jim add this.



The impetus to create this website came from helping Bob Sampson obtain the list of high scorers (70%) to write up in his column for the Unit Bulletin. Jim wanted to learn the program “Rudy-on-rails” which would enable the information from every club game to be broken down by player and compiled into all sorts of relevant data. Success was achieved and the web site has been running for three years now. A little known feature of the site is that the “g” in the corner of your day’s results will bring up the total results for that game. The home page lists numerous statistical compilations for our unit’s players such as who played the most games, whose average score is the highest per number of games played and much, much more. The program runs automatically so Jim does not have to take time from his computer consulting business to maintain it. He does learn how many hits it gets and when people use it. A surprising number of insomniacs are logging on at 2 a.m.

We have Jim to thank for getting the dealing machines up and running and showing club directors how to use them. When not playing bridge or checking on the web site, Jim is a self-employed computer consultant to small businesses. Previously, Jim was employed in aerospace, Silicon Valley and spent two years working for Siemens in Germany. After being away from Marin County for 25 years, Jim has happily relocated back to where he was born and raised (Greenbrae, Redwood High School and UC Berkeley). He is married with a son who is a professional musician working in Los Angeles and a daughter at U.C. Berkeley. Jim teaches a class for retirees on using the computer for the Golden Gate Computer Society.

There have been complaints about perfume or cologne worn to the bridge parlors. Please note that many members are sensitive or allergic to smells, even pleasant ones. Hopefully this gentle reminder will suffice to have our games take place in a smell-free atmosphere.

The Adventures of Nancy Zakim, Bridge Director at Sea

For quite a number of years, I have been teaching bridge on Cruise ships. They have taken me to many ports in the world and afforded me an opportunity to travel in a very pleasant manner.

As a certified Bridge Director and Bridge Teacher, I am qualified to lecture and direct on cruise ships. In order to be assigned, I must apply with an agency the cruise lines use for placement of entertainers and lecturers on their ships. I have at least 3 or 4 agents who offer me assignments. When openings are available I choose the ones I prefer usually 6 months ahead of schedule. I pay a fee to the agency and must buy my own airline tickets. All else is free and I may take along an assistant at no additional cost. Members of our unit who have assisted me on some of these cruises are Sylvia Ross, Kirsten Wibroe, Cassandra Mani, and Nancy Ferguson. I have taken along some of my friends as well.

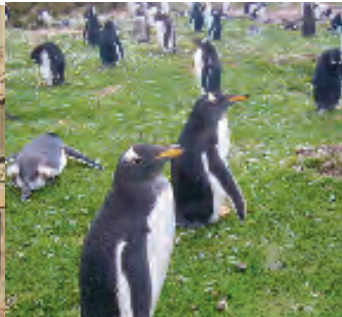
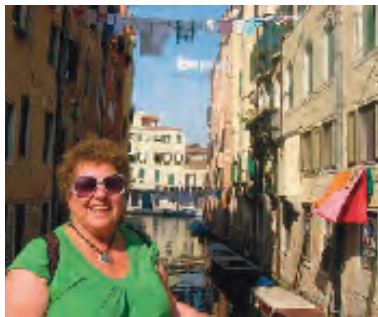
The cruises I have taken are on a variety of cruise lines including Royal Caribbean, Princess, Norwegian and Celebrity. They have been to many places including Alaska, MexicaRiviera, Canary Islands, England, Spain, Norway, Denmark, Sweden, Finland, Russia, Poland, Germany, Italy, Turkey, Greece, Australia, and New Zealand. Last month we toured South America and stopped in Brazil, Uruguay, Argentina, Falkland Islands, rounded Cape Horn and ended up in Chile.

On the ship, my assistant and I are usually given an inside passenger cabin although the last trip we had a roomy fleet cabin across the hall from the Captain. I am considered part crew/part passenger so have the benefits of both. We eat in the regular dining rooms and have access to all passenger amenities, On days that we are at sea I usually lecture for an hour or more mornings and run a sanctioned game in the afternoons. On the last cruise that Kirsten and I did in South America, we had 13 tables of bridge each day at sea and most came to the talks in the mornings. We had a very spirited and appreciative group.

(see Zakim p. 4)



1. Nancy Zakim checking on laundry day in the streets of Venice 2. Well I guess penguins need to look for partners too. 3. Nancy's room on the Ship. 4.(page 3) Nancy arriving at Sidney Harbor in Australia. 5. A friendly group of bridge players and friends on her recent cruise. 6. Overlooking Florence from David's square with the Duomo in the foreground. Are we all jealous or what?



Nancy Zakim, continued

When the ship comes into ports there is no bridge. As often happens Kirsten and I were asked to be Escorts for Shore Excursions. We had our choice of free trips off the ship in most of the ports including a visit to a penguin colony in Tierra del Fuego.

My trips teaching Bridge on Cruise ships have been an exciting, adventurous experience that I never expected to have. I tell everyone it's my "retirement gig" and I feel fortunate to be able to do it. As I have always said, when you play bridge, you never know what adventure is around the corner.

Members on the Move

New Members: Ellen Gilliam, Courtney Hughes, Joel Lurie, Charlotte Molosky, Constance Oclassen, Terry Ohleyer, Judith Schofield, Paul Schofield, Susan Shargel, Muriel Thompson, Sharon Wilcox

Transfers into the Unit: Susan Kolb, Karen Rocco, George Schumer, Andrew Moss

New Junior Masters: Nancy Burke, Claire Gould, Janet Scales, Victoria Shea, Dorothy Steckler, Joan Werner

New Club Masters: Jane Grimm, Andrea Johnson, Peggy McCormick, Evelyne Norris, Ann-Marie Parker, R.A. Rosen

New Sectional Masters: Dr. Stephen Pardys, P J Perring

New Regional Masters: Arti Bhargava

New NABC Masters: Margaret Callinan, Donald Kreider, Janet Natov, Sue Parker

New Life Masters: Tracy Bauer

New Bronze Life Masters: Constance Johansson

Gwen Toso, Editor

Bob Greenwood Assistant Editor

