



Marin Unit 508



DOUBLE DUMMY

SEPTEMBER-NOVEMBER 2009



New Board Members

and their email contact addresses:

President: Gene Simpson:

gsimpsongene@sbcglobal.net

Vice President: Jim Cohen:

james_cohen@sbcglobal.net

Secretary: Lynn Blankfort:

ethelynn@aol.com

Treasurer: Ron Studen:

ronstuden@yahoo.com

Membership: Alex Kinas:

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Tournaments: Richard Mani:

rlmani@pacbell.net

Education: Debbie Levine:

debbielevine@pacbell.net

Newsletter: Gwen Toso:

gwentoso@comcast.net

Website Coordinator: Michael Nistler:

Bridge_hands@yahoo.com

UPCOMING EVENTS

Santa Rosa Fall Sectional, October 3-4, 2009

Carson/Tahoe Fall Sectional, Carson City, NV,
October 8-11, 2009

Santa Cruz Surf's Up Sectional,
October 10-11, 2009

Sonora Fall Sectional, October 17-18, 2009

Santa Clara Valley Sectional, San Jose,
October 23-25, 2009

Diablo Valley Sectional, San Ramon,
November 7-8, 2009

B-E-R Sectional November 14-15, 2009

Fall NABC 2009, San Diego, Nov 26-Dec 6

MEMBERS ON THE MOVE

New Silver Life Masters: June Zullo, Clifford Lardinois

New Bronze Life Masters: Ann Herner, Robert Roman, Kenneth Tishgart

New Life Masters: Anita Stone

New Regional Life Masters: Molly Anderson, Tracey Bauer, Jackie Greenberg, Jean Marchant, Dr. Mark Peterson, Ed Talmus

New Sectional Life Masters: Linda Bacon, Jane Bauer, Jane Canning, Judith Dwelley, Jan Gigliotti, Fae Kettering, Don Kreider, Sylvia Levin, Geri Lovette, Sue Parker, Sheilah Wasserman

New Club Masters: Patricia Albo, Robert Carey, Hugh Marchant, Susan Kolb

New Junior Masters: John Bamberger, Arti Bhargava, Doreen Fan, Robert Fan, Patricia Gilbert, Ellen Karel, Marilyn McCarthy, Mary Polite, Pamela Ralph, Ian Sammis, Robert Sammis, Cherril Scarth

New Members: Boo Boero Mimi Clarke, Kaye Ferdun, Sheila Kerr, Marge Lewis, Linda Nelson, Larri Odland, Lynn Odland, Ronald Radtke, Azar Riazi, Eloise Rivera, Cherril Scarth, Charlotte Scherman Dr. Rolf Scherman, Judith Trusiadi

Transfers Into Our Unit: Margaret Anderson, Kent Chapman, James Griffin, Patricia Griffin, Robert Haar, Cassandra Mani, Gene Simpson

New Non Life Master Duplicate Games in our unit:

Roy Hoppe is starting a 299er game at the Tiburon Town Hall, 1505 Tiburon Boulevard, Thursdays at noon starting September 17.

Crossley Bridge Center also is starting a 0-20 and 299er game on Thursdays at noon beginning September 17.

Beginning Bridge Lessons in Marin: An excellent listing of all beginner classes can be found on our website (<http://www.marinbridge.com/>). Teachers are listed below with phone numbers:

Bob Crossley (415)461-3171

Roy Hoppe (415)637-8951

Michael Hartnett (415)383-1885

Barbara Prior (415)892-1856

Peggy Tatro (415)485-3344

2009 MINI-MCKENNEY UNIT & ACE OF CLUBS WINNER



The Mini-McKenney annual masterpoint races are won by members from each category who earn the most masterpoints during the year. A Unit winner is also designated. The Ace of Clubs award is given to players winning the most masterpoints in each masterpoint category in club games during the year. There is also a national race, the results of which are published in the ACBL Bridge Bulletin. This year Ellen Schiller won both awards in our unit, the unit McKenney and the Ace of Clubs for her category (4800 masterpoints!).

Ellen is reluctant to be the subject of an interview, claiming that “what you see is what you get,” - a bridge player usually in tennis clothes. Woody Allen says “80% of success is showing up.” Ellen shows up regularly six days a week at the bridge table, often playing with her long-standing partner Bob Liss. She also plays tennis nearly every day, and with the same success as her bridge. What compels her to play every day is that she prefers tennis and bridge to any other activity. She remembers years ago when still working as a math teacher at Katherine Branson School that her favorite summer days were those spent playing tennis and then social bridge. That was the beginning of her fascination with bridge.

Ellen has been married to the same husband for 45 years and has two grown daughters. She grew up in Buffalo, New York and came West to attend Stanford because it was in the West and a coed school. She played tennis growing up and took the Tournament Tennis class at Stanford, which was all that was offered in those days before Title IX. She taught math for 20 years and still tutors high school math. When not playing tennis or bridge, she likes to read and attend concerts, especially choral ones as she once sang in Stanford’s chorus.

It was a challenge, but I knew there must be a skeleton somewhere in Ellen's closet. Indeed there is. She confided to me that while teaching at Branson there was a bomb scare. She planned to leave for a tournament in Santa Rosa, but the students were all gathered in a safe place and the teachers were sent to investigate the endangered classrooms. Ellen left for the tournament, leaving her classroom uninspected. Fortunately, disaster did not occur; but Ellen still cringes at the memory.

Ellen has several Mini-McKenney awards, but she looks forward to future years where hopefully she will be in the 5000-7000 masterpoint category, a rarified strat where she will have fewer competitors for the coveted award.



A Bridge Player's Nightmare ??

Photo taken at the June 2009 San Rafael
Italian Street Painting Festival.