

San Diego

By Larry Sherman

Hi, my name is Larry, and I am a bridge addict. You may think I am practicing my speech for the next area Bridge Addicts Anonymous meeting, but alas, I am practicing the speech I need to make when my wife Laura learns I plan to play 2 sessions per day at the Pacific Southwest Regional Tournament at the Town and Country Resort and Convention Center from March 26 - April 1. I offered to participate in Maritha Pottenger's mentoring program for one session until I realized my call would be deemed insufficient by the home director, and thus changed my call to Pass. By the Laws of Duplicate Bridge, this would bar my partner from further calls in this auction, but we will try and make an exception if they choose to volunteer themselves. At least I have yet to revoke or lead out of turn.

After all, we just hosted our Spring Sectional at Marina Village March 2-4. The highlight of the tournament surely had to be learning Rhoda Walsh had eclipsed the 20,000 MP plateau after the Saturday morning session. Our on site reporter, Jack Spade, spoke with the Unit's own Queen of Hearts, Lamy Agelidis, as the games concluded Sunday evening, and learned that the table count was down about 10% to 235 tables, but that the 3 day event went smoothly. We hope that the downturn at the turnstiles was a result of the rain showers on Saturday morning. Spade further noted that after getting clubbed by the disappointing numbers, word has filtered down from Dr. Ace Diamond that the Spring Sectional is resting comfortably in the ICU of ACBL's Medical Center and should be fully refreshed in time for our Summer Sectional in August. Winners of the Open events included Scott Nelson-Pat Chapman, Roger Doughman-Suzanne Lebedig, Finn and Alexander Lolesnik, Peter Gelfand-Om Chokriwala, Yoko and Sam Jordan, and David Anding-Richard Gold-Dorn Bishop-Alex Fowlie in the A/X Swiss. winners in the 1499er events included Batia Kvashny-Suresh Kanekar, Richard Hill-Patrick Staley, a tie between Hill-Staley and Arlen Special-Yvonne Gallagher, and Dwaine Hawley-Gary Zoss. Winners of the 299er events were Marnie Barnhorst-Merrel Olesen, Beth Ott-Darlene Morell, Susan and Larry Brenden, and Ginny Potter-John Fabian. Winners of the B/C/D Swiss event were Chris Hastie-Dan Koppenhafer-Linda Gu-Tom Herzog. Congratulations to all.

Our unit plans to introduce two special games this year that we'd like to make you aware of. The August 5 Unit game will be a mixed gender pair competition, with both Open and 999er sections as usual.. The October 7 Unit game feature pairings of players with less than 1,000 MP and players with more than 1,000 MP. There will only be one section for this game. We encourage you to find your own partners for each of these games, but if you need assistance, feel free to contact our partnership chairperson.

We are working on our 2nd edition of a Unit 539 newsletter, tentatively scheduled to be published in May. We are interested in what other pursuits our members are interested in. Please share yours, including any photos, by emailing beboplar@yahoo.com.

On Super Bowl Sunday (February 4), we merged our 999er game into the Open event and fielded 13 tables. Finishing 1st in the A strat were Bette Cornelius-Dan Dayani, while Chebi Jada-Peter Moyer won the B and C strats. Two weeks later on February 18, we had a nice turnout of 26 tables total. The 19 table Open game was won by Christine Denny-Jim Johnsen, with Bridgette Poizner-John Howard finishing atop both B and C strats. 7 tables competed in the 999er game, with Gigette and Craig Caldwell winning, while Wendy Platt-Stuart Showalter finished atop both the B, and Leslee Levin-Iris Menninger won the C.

We are happy to announce that some new milestones have been reached by Unit 539 members: Club: Rose Mary Johnston, John Neill, and Bk Swenson; Regional: Jeff Weien; NABC: Raj Patel; Advanced NABC: Luke Williams; Bronze: Susan Ealy-Pililaau and Evan Ziegler; Silver: Malcolm Jarvis; Ruby: David Vier; Diamond: Ron Kay; Emerald: Greg House.

Our Awards Chairperson, Carolyn Casey, will be in contact to offer a free play at any of our unit games during a 3 month window. In addition, the Unit welcomes a few transfers from outside the area, including Victoria Haines from Calgary, Mary Hudson from Tucson, and Connie Nute from Saddleback Unit 525.

Club News: The San Diego Bridge Club (www.sandiegobridgeclub.com) offers a weekly game every Tuesday at 10:30 a.m. Winners from February were Barbara Blake-Paul Darin (twice), Pam Lawrence-Lois Hill, and Bill Grant-Sam Madison Jammal. The club will be closed on March 27 during the week of the Pacific Southwest Regional. Starting in April we will have a drawing for a free play for a pair the following week. Anyone can win just come and play and have a chance to win a free play. The club will host a STaC game on May 8th.

San Diego Bridge Academy (www.sandiegobridgeacademy.com) and Redwood Bridge Club (redwoodbridgeclub.org). Check out the websites for game results, descriptions of all the available games and lessons.

Adventures in Bridge (www.adventuresinbridge.com). Check out the website. Game results are posted quickly and there's a description of all the available games and lessons.

21st Century Bridge Club meets every Thursday evening at 6:30 p.m. at the Redwood Bridge Club. If you need a partner or would like information on this sanctioned game, please call Betty Riedler at 619-276-3476, or email her at bettyriedler@gmail.com.