



## **San Diego Unit #539**

By Stuart Showalter

*NOTE: All Unit 539 clubs are closed until further notice. That includes Redwood Bridge Club, S.D. Bridge Academy, 21st Century Club, and San Diego Bridge Club. The San Diego Regional tournament is also cancelled.*

### *Spring Sectional*

Our Spring Sectional concluded on Leap Day at Marina Village with a total of 234.5 tables competing over the three days. Space does not permit a listing of all the outcomes, but a review of the results shows that Rick Roeder was the big winner with 32.48 MPs. Dorn Bishop was second with 26.35, followed closely by Anne and Lance Malkind with just over 24 MPs each.

Congratulations to these “heavy hitters.” (The complete list of masterpoint winners at this and other events can be found at [ACBLLive.org](http://ACBLLive.org).)

In the Swiss Teams on Thursday, Yates/Isporski/Loh/Houde took top honors in Flight A, and O’Malley/O’Malley/Hastie/Klayman led Flight X. Bracket 1 of the Bracketed Teams game was led by Kantz/Lazzaro/Musbach/Kammerer. In Bracket 2 the winning team was Kaneka/Kiang/Tsu/Hsieh. These games were well attended, so our switch to the Thursday-to-Saturday schedule seems to resonate well with people.

For those who didn’t get enough bridge at the Sectional, our regular unit game was held on Sunday, March 1. The top three pairs in the open game were Busby-Chaffee (66.33%) followed by Yates-Isporski (60.90%) and Newman-Dougherty (60.52%). In the 999er game Ramey Farah and Batia Kvashny were the winners.

Complete game results are posted at [BridgeResults.net](http://BridgeResults.net). To receive notifications when your results are published, go to <http://www.bridgeresults.net/login.cgi> and register your email address.

### *Youth Education Programs*

Unit board members Sam Madison and Wendy Vaughn Platt plus a few intrepid volunteers are spearheading an ambitious effort to bring the game of bridge to elementary school students in the San Diego area. The initiative started last year when we approached multiple schools and the YMCA to gauge their interest and determine what is needed. As a result of these activities, we started these courses:

- McKinley Elementary School held one session per week for each of two classes, a total of twelve third- fourth- and fifth-grade students. This program ran from January to early March with David Abelow and Wendy Vaughn Platt as instructors. Board member Wayne Sottosanti provided additional support. Discussions are underway with the school to determine whether additional lessons will be provided.
- Loma Portal Elementary School also hosted a class, and eleven fourth-graders were enrolled starting March 5. There will be one class each week with Malcolm Jarvis, Alana Shapley and Wayne Sottosanti teaching and one of the students' parents also attending.
- At Santa Rosa Academy in Atascadero, the fourth-grade teacher holds classes for thirty-two students, and Sam Madison assists by conference call.

Another class will be offered at the YMCA's summer camps in July this year, if the corona virus scare has abated by then.

When asked why the unit is making this effort, Sam replied, "We need children to take up bridge because they are the future. If we don't get young people involved, the game will die out."

Wendy, a former teacher and school district administrator, adds that the game "is like an extracurricular sport. It gets the kids socially active and provides aerobics for the mind." And as an accredited teacher of ACBL's "Learn Bridge in a Day" seminars, she points out that youngsters as young as eight can take up the game. "When they do, they're acquiring a skill that can last a lifetime," she says.

The unit's youth education classes are supported by teaching materials from the ACBL including Patty Tucker's *Bridge is for Kids* books, certificates of completion, trophies, backpacks, decks of cards, and letters to the parents.

### *Adult Education Programs*

In addition to the youth program, an overture has been made to the Navy to hold classes for interested service members at North Island. One set of five classes has been completed, and a new program is being planned. Sam Madison will be the instructor. We are also working to engage a community center in San Diego to hold classes.

All our education efforts were aided by Wirt Gilliam and John Lagodimos, who loaned us cards, boards, bidding boxes and moral support. We thank them and everyone else who has helped in this vital effort. We hope to make these kinds of classes a regular feature of San Diego Unit 539's service to the bridge community.

### *San Diego Clubs' Normal Schedules:*

*Redwood Bridge Club* ([www.redwoodbridgeclub.org](http://www.redwoodbridgeclub.org)) and *San Diego Bridge Academy* ([www.sandiegobridgeacademy.com](http://www.sandiegobridgeacademy.com)) are located on the west side of Balboa Park at 3111 6th Avenue. There are games every day except Sunday and lessons for players at all levels. Check out the websites for upcoming classes, descriptions of the games, and daily results.

*San Diego Bridge Club* ([www.sandiegobridgeclub.com](http://www.sandiegobridgeclub.com)) offers a sanctioned game on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays at the Normal Heights Masonic Center (3366 Adams Avenue). All games begin at 10:30 a.m. and include a light lunch. This month's team game will be April 14. Check the website or call (619) 847-3001 for more information.

*21st Century Bridge Club* meets at 6:30 p.m. every Thursday for a sanctioned game at the Redwood Bridge Club. If you need a partner or would like more information, please call Beverly Stebbins at 619-463-0927.