



San Diego Unit #539

By Stuart Showalter

With all of Unit 539's clubs closed and tournaments around the country cancelled, we have little regular news to report, so your faithful journalist put out a call to some of his sources for story ideas. He was seeking personal experiences, fun anecdotes, memorable hands, decent (i.e., clean) jokes—in other words, anything to fill column inches. The bridge community didn't disappoint; there were numerous replies, some of which are reported here.

First, Larry Sherman, a former scribe for this august publication, recalled two memorable occasions in his bridge career. He wrote, "Mark Austerlitz and I once played against Joel Hoersch, who had around 12,000 MP. His partner opened 2♣. I doubled, and Joel redoubled as responder. My partner passed and Declarer left the redouble in, so the contract was two clubs, doubled and redoubled. I was on lead holding:

♠ xx ♥ QJT ♦ xx ♣ AKJxxx

"I led the ♥Q and the king was in dummy, so I needed my partner to have just one card, the ♥A. He did! Declarer covered my Q in dummy, Mark won the ace and returned a small club. We took six club tricks and three heart tricks, for *down 4, redoubled*. Mark and I had to hold ourselves together until we could move away from table before letting our giddiness overflow."

Larry continued, "The other hand that I recall fondly was against Roger Doughman and Michael Crawford in a compact knockout event. Their team had something like 38,000 MP combined, and we had a total of about 350. The event was handicapped, so we had something like a 15 IMP edge. The opponents ended in 3NT, with Roger as declarer, my partner and I having never entered the auction. When Michael laid dummy down, he put diamonds on his right. He had bid that suit during the auction, and Roger got it in his head that he was in a diamond contract. Boy, was he surprised when he went to ruff a spade only to find out he was playing Notrump! We set the contract by 2 or 3 and won the match. We actually lost head-to-head by 3 IMPs, but with the handicap we were awarded the win. It just goes to show you that even the experts have their moments."

Larry's message was followed by an email from Sapphire Life Master and local bridge guru Robert Rosenblum. The following true story had me laughing out loud. If you know how impish Robert can be, you'll be able to relate.

It seems that one day years ago a physician friend asked Robert if he was free over the Memorial Day weekend. He replied that he was, so the friend said, "Good. We'll drive to my cabin at

Idyllwild above Palm Springs, just the two of us, and you can spend the weekend teaching me bridge.”

Always seeking converts, Robert agreed, but after thinking a moment he asked, “Doc, can you get away over July 4th or Labor Day?” His friend said Labor Day would work and asked what he had in mind. “Well,” came the response, “we can go back to your cabin and over those three days you can teach me medicine.” ☺

Finally, I have a remembrance of my own. My parents began teaching me and a friend to play while we were in high school. It was in the days when Charles Goren was king, preaching four-card majors and 13+ points to open. On one deal, my partner opened 1♠ and I held 27 hcp! The bidding went simply 1♠ - (P) - 7NT - All Pass. Between us we had every point in the deck. In nearly sixty years I’ve never held a better hand or had such a simple contract to play.

For other recollections, check out the Unit 539 website for an [article](#) about Robert Rosenblum’s career as a player, teacher, bridge cruise director, syndicated bridge columnist, and co-founder of the Adventures in Bridge club. It’s the first in what we hope will be a series of articles on a History Page on our website, www.sandiegobridge.com.

If you have anecdotes of your own or topic suggestions for future issues of the D22FORUM, please contact me at unit539.editor@gmail.com.

San Diego Area Games

San Diego Bridge Club. Thanks to the ACBL and Bridge Base Online, [San Diego Bridge Club](#) launched virtual club games in early April, and they have been well received. For folks who have played at the Adams Avenue venue, the games are Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays at 10:30 AM, and the BBO game number is VACB272799.

SDBC’s sister organization, Eastlake Bridge Club, also offers BBO games. They are scheduled for Mondays at 12:30 PM, Wednesdays at 10:30 AM, and Fridays at 6:30 PM. Eastlake’s BBO game number is VACB260323.

Here are some specifics to be aware of:

- The games are open to players of the specific clubs. Email the club managers — jlagodimos@yahoo.com, kathie@eastlakebridgeclub.com, or 1kathymoyer@gmail.com — to get on their mailing lists, and check the clubs’ websites regularly for their latest schedules since more games may be added at a later date.
- It’s free to join BBO, but you need to create a screen name and become familiar with the site. A helpful instructional video from the Sagamore Bridge Club can be found [here](#).
- There is a small fee to play local clubs’ games, and the money goes to support them during this time of uncertainty. Click on the “BB\$” tab on the BBO home page to create a “BB\$” account to pay game fees.

- Registration for virtual games begins two hours before game time, and you won't actually see the games until then. You and your partner both have to be online to complete the sign-up.
- BBO is experiencing a lot of bridge traffic as you can imagine, and it may take a few minutes to log on, so give yourself enough time to get registered.
- If you get a "YOU ARE BLOCKED" message, call or text John Lagodimos at 619-847-3001 for the SDBC/Eastlake games or Kathy Moyer for the Soledad games at 858-220-9895 and they will assist you.

Redwood Bridge Club/San Diego Bridge Academy. Club Manager David Walters has also started some BBO games online. Each game is \$5. Check redwoodbridgeclub.org for updates. (Note: Redwood's website and sandiegobridgeacademy.com have been combined. Both links are operative and take you to the same information.)

San Diego Unit 539. Unit 539 went online on April 19 with 24 tables in play, way more than expected! Being a huge game, it felt like the real thing. Lots of kudos. We plan to do this every Sunday until further notice, and we may even be able to have a 999er game if there's enough interest. Watch the San Diego Unit 539's [website](#) for more information.

In Memoriam

On April 12, long-time San Diego bridge expert Riggs Thayer died suddenly. Condolences to his wife, Cathy Strauch.

And In Closing

We congratulate a number of players who reached new award levels recently: Linda Miller (Junior Master); Glenn Sipes and Cynthia Warwick (Club Masters); Eric Duff and Donald Green (Sectional Masters); Victoria Mogilner and Dean Vestre (Regional Masters); Liane Brennar and Kim Lazarus (NABC Masters); and William Bartley (Ruby Life Master). Bravo and brava!