

Table Talk – May 2009

District 21

South County Unit 500

ACBL

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
**South County Unit 500 Spring Pairs Game ** May 22, 2009 at Marina Bridge Club					1	2
						
3	4 RBC, TCBC	5 MBC FEC	6 LBC	7 ABC WEZB	8	9 TCBC
-----STaC Silver Point Week -----						
10	11	12 MBC Club Championship	13	14	15	16
17	18 RBC Club Championship	19	20 LBC Unit Game	21	22 Unit 500 Spring Brunch MBC	23
24	25 <i>Memorial Day</i> RBC TCBC OPEN	26	27	28 WEZB Closed ABC OPEN	29	30
31						

Table Talk Volume XXXXIII No.5

Visit our World Wide Web Site at: <http://unit500.bridgeforyou.com/>

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT:



We owe a special thank you to JoAnn Teixeira who has been preparing the *Table Talk* Member Profiles since May of 2006 – 3 years of dedicated service. She has decided to retire after this issue and we want to express our appreciation for her contribution to the unit. Jan has written a special tribute to JoAnn which can be found at the end of this month's profile.

Volunteer Needed: Do you like to write and want to share your talent, **we need you!** Showcasing the interesting aspects of our members has greatly enriched *Table Talk*. If you would like to become our member profiler please contact one of the Board members.

We have an ad hoc committee working on our **August Sectional**. This is the one and only fund raiser for our Unit and requires planning and assistance. I will be keeping you up to date on our progress.

Get ready, here comes another Unit event. We will have our annual pairs “Brunch” game this month. As always, there will be reduced fees as well as higher masterpoint awards. *The complete flyer and the sign up sheets are available at all the clubs.*



South County Unit 500 Spring “Pairs” Game Friday, May 22nd



MarinaCommunity Center

Brunch will be served at 11:00 AM.

(followed immediately by the game)

For partnership help, please call: Jan Hollowell 783-8678, Isabel Stefani (925) 485-3285 or Terry Terzian, Director 581-4424

See you at the tables

Mary Ramos,
Unit 500 President

Note: Joyce Morrison is the Board Member responsible for hospitality (“sunshine”) and she mails condolences from Unit 500 to the families of unit members who have passed away and get well cards to those who are ill. Please let her know when you hear about such players. Telephone 510-728-1029 (leave a message if she's not at home) or via email at joycebobmorr2K9@SBCglobal.net



Spring Pairs Brunch

If you haven't taken note of the announcements in at least a couple of other places in this issue of Table Talk, here's another opportunity for you to make yourself aware of our Spring Pairs Brunch coming up on Friday, May 22nd, at the Marina Community Center in San Leandro. This will be a Unit Championship game, with extra masterpoints available. Brunch will be served at 11 a.m., with the game to follow. If you're a current member of Unit 500, all you'll pay for both brunch and bridge is \$6; if not, well, join up with us soon—or pay \$2 more for this event.

Spring STaC Week Arrives

The Western Conference's Spring STaC (Sectional Tournament at Clubs) week will soon be upon us, from Monday, May 4th to Sunday, May 10th. All clubs in our South County Unit will be participating in these special silver masterpoint pair games; line up your partner now! You can earn those hard-to-win silver points in your own favorite clubs, without having to travel to a sectional tournament. It's less expensive than a tournament, too: just the regular club table fees plus the STaC fee of \$1.50 (the directors at each game would appreciate your having the correct change, by the way).

New Owners at Tri-City

As of the beginning of this month, the Tri-City Bridge Club in Fremont has new owners: Bill Hodges, who's currently directing at Ashland Bridge Club's Thursday morning game, and your faithful correspondent. Bill will direct the Monday Tri-City game, as he's been doing for the past month, and I'll continue as the Saturday director, as well as the club's manager. See our club page in this issue of *Table Talk* for more information.

Members on the Move

They're no strangers to the Monday afternoon Redwood City Bridge Club crowd, but **John** and **Marilyn Gage** of Castro Valley have now joined ACBL and officially joined our unit. Also new to us are **Jan St. Denis** of Hayward (sister of Ferne Freitas), now a regular player in the Thursday afternoon Hayward Weekes Park Easybridge Club, and **Dr. Henry Hornstein** of Fremont, an occasional Tri-City BC player who, we hope, will soon become a regular, along with his wife Cornelia.

And we bid farewell to **Taylor Lyen**—but still hope to see him at many of our games. After the recent death of his wife Marie, for which we extend our condolences, Taylor has moved to San Francisco.

Moving up the Masterpoint Ladder

We have two new Silver Live Masters (1000+ masterpoints) among us: **Margaret Halland** and **Darlene Mayhew**. Congratulations to you both!

by Jim Solomon

Note: The information that appears in this column is gleaned from my reviewing the results for sectional and regional tournaments in District 21, as well as the occasional national championship. To make sure that I haven't overlooked your name (and performance), or to let me know of tournaments that you played in *outside* of our district, please get in touch with me, at <mailto:LSJ63@ix.netcom.com> LSJ63@ yahoo.com or 510-538-9889.

Almond Valley Sectional, Centre Plaza, Modesto, March 27–29

In the stratified Swiss teams on Sunday, your faithful correspondent played on the team that won it all—first overall as well as first in the B strat.

Santa Clara Valley Spring Sectional, Masonic Temple, San Jose, April 3–5

Stephanie Singer is increasingly making her presence known in Bay Area tournaments, including this one. She won the Saturday Afternoon 199er Pairs, and her team tied for fifth overall and fourth in the C strat in the Sunday B/C/D/ Swiss Teams. Your faithful correspondent managed a fourth overall in the same Swiss event, and **Darrell Fung**'s team won the 299er Swiss.

Reno April Showers Sectional, Grand Sierra Resort and Casino, April 15–19

Terry Terzian was the star of the pairs competition in this (for us) far-flung sectional: he won the Thursday Afternoon Open Pairs, was second overall in the same event on Friday afternoon, and third overall on Saturday afternoon. Well done, Terry! In other action, your faithful correspondent was on the team that claimed second place in bracket 2 of the two-day Bracketed Knockout Teams event.

Diablo Valley Spring Sectional, Iron Horse Middle School, San Ramon, April 17–19

In the kickoff event of this tournament, the Friday Night Elegant Pairs, **Chuck Wong** placed sixth overall. **Marty Holtz & Charlie Conrad** did well in the two-session Saturday Open Pairs: sixth overall and third in the B strat. The Saturday Morning Side Pairs event was won by **Darrell Fung** and his partner, and **Darlene Mayhew & Norma Bozzini** tied for third overall. In 199er Pairs action, **Bob Hamilton & Valerie Byrne** won the morning session, and **Stephanie Singer** came in second (and first in strat E); in the afternoon **Stephanie** was first overall. In the Sunday Bracketed Swiss Teams, **Mark Dean**'s team claimed second in bracket 1, and **Darrell**'s was third in bracket 4.

Profile of Kevin Schoenfeld



LSMFT! For those of you old enough (or wise because you read a lot about past history) you instantly recall: Lucky Strike Means Fine Tobacco – an advertisement that was heard far and wide in the 40's! Now what does this have to do with Kevin? I don't suspect he even smokes. Read on.

How about KSMFT? Are you ready? Kevin Schoenfeld Means Finely Tuned! Kevin's "life story" explains the reason for this little ditty.

Kevin was raised in Albuquerque, New Mexico. In 1979 he received a BS in Chemistry from the University of Oklahoma, followed by an MBA from the U of Michigan in 1981. Quite a start. But wait – there's more. He is currently attending JFK University in Pleasant Hill, expecting to graduate in August 2010 with a Doctorate in Law; he plans to take the Bar Exam in February 2011 – after passing the bar he hopes to work for a non-profit organization helping elders with legal financial problems. Is that Finely Tuned or what?

His wife, Debbie Wojtowicz and he have been together for 24 years. They met at the University of Michigan where she graduated in 1984 with a Nuclear Engineering Degree. Debbie's pretty finely tuned herself! She is just starting to learn bridge and "very much enjoys the friendly players at Terry's games."

Kevin learned to play bridge from reading a book written by a fellow named Charlie Brown. Correction, Charles Goren. This was when he just started college in Oklahoma. A friend read the same book and they started playing duplicate in the local club. "We were dead last for three months," he states. He told me privately that the two of them do not blame either of the two Charlies! In fact, "the first time we came in 2nd to last we went out and celebrated!" They progressed rapidly (he and partner) and started winning games at local tournaments. In the 80's he learned to play Precision and even played in a team game against Ron Anderson and Kathy Wei – inventors of Precision.

Kevin tells me that he has learned the game best by reading and then trying to apply what he has learned at the tables against real opponents – a noble gesture but sometimes difficult to apply (sez I). I have played against Kevin on many occasions; he is a fine student of the game and also a gentleman to play against. (He did not pay me handsomely to so say.) In fact, NADA.

Mr. KSMFT started playing in Terry's game about fifteen years ago. But starting up his own Accounting & Tax practice "got in the way" of playing for about ten years. In 2005 he sold his practice and has started playing more bridge – best he can, while attending law school. His favorite partner is wife, Debbie, "Of course." "What else do you expect me to say?" He adds, "Of course, when my wife is not available, I have played a lot of fun bridge with Doug Burke, Wen-Yen Leung and Marv Griebrok. During the summer of 2008 Kevin passed the ACBL Director's exam and noted: "Terry bravely allowed me to direct a couple of his games in his absences."

Kevin and Debbie like to combine their travels with the outdoors and exercise: they have canoed the Missouri River in Montana, following the Lewis & Clark Trail along the "White Cliffs," canoed a remote and challenging section of the Rio Grande River (bordering the US and Mexico), taken a 100 mile hike around Mt. Blanc in France, starting in the French Alps, then hiking over mountain passes to Italy, Switzerland, then back to France. These treks all took place between 2006 and 2008. In 1996,

Kevin bicycled from California to Florida with a group of 50 bikers, it took seven weeks. He comments, “The highlight was meeting wonderful people every day all across the USA, meeting such helpful and kind folks that I’m eager to do the trip again – this time with Debbie joining me on the adventure.” Both are rock collectors and often travel to find beautiful rocks! How nice that they found each other. And he’s a recent LM too, because he’s KSMFT.

- JoAnn Teixeira -

NOTE: “*Getting to know you, getting to know all about you....*” This “King & I” song reminds me of the joy and fun I have had serving our wonderful Unit 500 by writing profiles for the last three years. Thanks for reading them (well, those who did!) Hope you enjoyed them as much as I did! Adieu, adieu from me to you.....or something similar!

* * * * *

Many Thanks!!



Many thanks to you, JoAnn, for serving as the Profile Writer for Unit 500 for the past years.

Your unique style of writing has kept us amused and always waiting for the next profile to appear. You have helped us get to know our fellow players better. Their stories are always interesting and sometimes amazing! Thank you for sharing your talent with us!



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Unit 500 Easybridge Clubs

Manager/Director: Jim Solomon 510-538-9889

Website: <http://jimsolomon.bridgeforyou.com>

Fremont Easybridge Club

Tuesday Evenings

Parish Hall, St. James'

Episcopal Church

Newcomer Lesson and Game (0-20 MP): 5:30-9:15 p.m. 37051 Cabrillo Drive at Thornton Avenue

Intermediate Stratified/Limited (0-150 MP) Game: 6:00-9:15 p.m.
Fremont

Hayward Weekes Park Easybridge Club

Sponsored by the Hayward Area Recreation and Parks District

(H.A.R.D.)

Thursday Afternoons

Weekes Park Community Center

Newcomer Lesson and Game (0-20 MP): 12:30-3:30 p.m.

27182 Patrick Avenue

Avenue

Intermediate Stratified/Limited (0-150 MP) Game: 1:00-3:30 p.m.

Hayward

Our Easybridge program continues to grow. Last month we welcomed to the Hayward Weekes Park club **Vilma Morales** and **Denise Hook**, both of Hayward. And we were pleased to see the return of **Joyce Dobro** after a lengthy absence.

Both of our Easybridge clubs will be participating in the Western Conference's Spring STaC week this month. These special games allow players to earn sometimes hard-to-win silver masterpoints, usually on offer only at sectional tournaments, right at home, in their local clubs (no wonder what *STaC* stands for: Sectional Tournament at Clubs). We'll be holding a STaC game at the Fremont Easybridge Club on Tuesday evening, May 5th, at 6 p.m., and at the Hayward Weekes Park club on Tuesday afternoon, May 7th, at 1 p.m.

The Fremont club held two special games in April, and one more's coming up after this month's *Table Talk* goes to press: a Charity Club Championship game on Tuesday evening, April 28th. We held another C.C.C. game earlier in the month, on the 14th, **LaVonne & Les Addison** came away with top honors. But our big special game news for April was what happened the previous week, when the Fremont club participated in a Tuesday evening ACBL-wide Inter-club Championship game. **LaVonne** and her partner du soir, **Jo Callahan**, put together an almost 68% game, good for first in our club—but when results from all the participating clubs were compiled in Memphis, LaVonne & Jo had placed themselves in second place overall nationwide (as well as second in the B strat and first in strat C), earning themselves 5.69 masterpoints in addition to what they'd earned in our Fremont game. **Bev Chance & Barb Watts** also placed nationally (6th overall, 5th in B, and 2nd in C), as did **Michael Rose & Henry Chan** (6th in C). In our local game, **Camille & Don Gillis** also scratched, coming in first in strat C. And we had another special game at the end of March, after April's *Table Talk* had hit the streets: in our first quarter Club Championship game, **Nuno Rebelo & Vicky Santos** won first overall.

Since our last report, the high masterpoint winner in the Fremont Easybridge Club has been **LaVonne Addison** (no surprise there); besides all those masterpoints, she wins a free game. At Weekes Park we had a tie, between **Solita** and **Perry Julien**; each will be rewarded with half a free play at a game of their choosing.

You'll find complete results and special announcements for our games on our Unit 500 Easybridge website:
<http://jimsolomon.bridgeforyou.com>.

REDWOOD BRIDGE CLUB

MONDAY 1 PM

OPEN & NON-LIFE MASTER

Kenneth Aitken Senior & Community Center
17800 Redwood Road, Castro Valley



MAY IS STaC MONTH ☺

*All of my games will be participating
Monday at Redwood, Tuesday at Marina, and Wednesday at Lakeside*

Other special games this month:

May 12 Club Championship Marina BC 10:30 AM

May 18 Club Championship Redwood BC 1 PM

May 20 Unit Game (club-sponsored) Lakeside BC 10:30 AM

Also, we expect to see you at Marina BC on Friday, May 22 for the Unit 500 Spring Pairs Game and Brunch! Brunch will be served at 11 AM with the game following at approx. 11:30 AM

Please note the Redwood BC in Castro Valley will be open for business as usual on Monday, May 25 (Memorial Day Holiday). Please do not arrive prior to 12 noon as the front gate will be locked.



HEY LOOK-



TERRY'S 2009 BRIDGE CRUISE!

MEXICAN RIVIERA & SEA OF CORTEZ

-Roundtrip from San Francisco!

-with an optional train ride to the Copper Canyon!

October 12, 2009 11 nights/12 days aboard NCL's *Norwegian Sun*

San Francisco- Topolobampo- La Paz- Mazatlan- Puerto Vallarta- Cabo San Lucas-
San Francisco

rates start at just \$959 per person plus port charges/ government fees (for an inside cabin, category I, based on double occupancy). * \$25 shipboard credit per person! * Please inquire for a brochure for full details. rates subject to change depending on cabin availability.

Tri-City Bridge Club

St. James' Episcopal Church
37051 Cabrillo Terrace at Thornton Avenue
Fremont

Open/Stratified Games

Monday 10:30 a.m.

Saturday 1:00 p.m.



Bill Hodges
Monday Game Director
510-790-0496
hodges5894@yahoo.com

Jim Solomon
Saturday Game Director
LSJ63@yahoo.com
510-538-9889

Club website: <http://tricity.bridgeforyou.com>

There's a big change at the Tri-City club this month: Bill Hodges and Jim Solomon are now not only the directors of the club's games but also its new owners. We anticipate some big changes, including location; we'll have an announcement about that later this month. Jim will continue as club manager.

The Tri-City will be participating in the Western Conference Spring STaC week in May, with opportunities to win silver masterpoints at both our Monday morning game on May 4th and our Saturday afternoon game on May 9th. For both of these special games we'll be collecting the usual STaC fee of \$1.50 in addition to our usual table fees; correct change appreciated, as always.

Last month we held four special games, all in conjunction with ACBL's Charity Month. In our Monday Charity Club Championship games, **Amy Wu & J. T. Wang** were first overall and first in the B strat on April 6th, and **Genore Schaaf & Barbara Dabney** came in first in strat C; on the 20th **Andy Sass & Steve Brosamer** grabbed first not only overall but in all three strats. On Saturday, the 11th, our champions were **Virginia Herring & Joyce de Roco**, with **Sherard Wood & Indira Somayajula** collecting first-place honors in both the B and C strats. And in our Spring Swiss Teams Festival on the 25th (which was also a Charity Club Championship event), **Dave & Joyce Denyven** teamed with **Sherard & Indira** and claimed first overall, but not until the dust cleared after an exciting final round; the all-Danville team of **Judy Keilin, Jack Meng, Sharon Tarpinian, & Carole Burgess** was first in strat B.

Alice Herceg has repeated as the player who accumulated the most masterpoints in our Monday games over the last month. Saturday honors go to **Joyce de Roco**. Both will receive a free play at the game of their choice.

For more detailed results of all games, as well as announcements about special events and late-breaking news, visit our club website (you'll find the address above).

Schedule of Games & Locations

Ashland Bridge Club (ABC)

Ashland Community Center, 1530 167th Avenue, San Leandro 94578

**Thursday 10:30 am Open/Stratified Director: Chuck Wong 925-736-2602
(cell) 925-413-4852**

Fremont Easybridge Club (FEC) (0-150 MP)

St. James' Episcopal Church, 37051 Cabrillo at Thornton, Fremont 94536

**Tuesday 6:00 pm (5:30 Lesson) Stratified/Limited (0-150 MP)
Director: Jim Solomon 538-9889**

Hayward Weekes Park Easybridge Club (WEZB) (0-20/0-150 MP)

Weekes Park Community Center, 27182 Patrick Avenue, Hayward 94544

**Thursday 1:00 pm (12:30 Lesson) Stratified/Limited (0-20/0-150 MP)
Director: Jim Solomon 538-9889**

Lakeside Bridge Club (LBC)

San Lorenzo Park Recreation Center, 1970 Via Buena Vista, San Lorenzo 94580

Wednesday 10:30 am Open/Stratified Director: Terry Terzian 581-4424

Marina Bridge Club (MBC)

Marina Community Center, 15301 Wicks Blvd, San Leandro 94579

Tuesday 10:30 am Open/Stratified & 199er Director: Terry Terzian 581-4424

Redwood Bridge Club (RBC)

Kenneth Aitken Community Center, 17800 Redwood Road, Castro Valley 94546

**Monday 1:00 pm Open/Stratified & Non-Life Master Sections (12:45 Lesson)
Director: Terry Terzian 581-4424**

Tri-City Bridge Club (TCBC)

St. James' Episcopal Church, 37051 Cabrillo at Thornton, Fremont 94536

**Monday 10:30 am Open/Stratified Director: Bill Hodges 790-0496
Saturday 1:00 pm Open/Stratified Director: Jim Solomon 538-9889**

2008 Unit 500 Board of Directors

Bill Beeson 468-3590, Wayne Bennett 483-4889, Zoe Foster (925) 735-1932, Carla Francis 582-5288, Marvin Griebrok 886-7021, Jan Hollowell 783-8678, Joyce Morrison 728-1029, Mary Ramos 537-4355, Isie Stefani (925) 485-3285 and Marilyn Tott 888-9368, Ann Vargas 886-5333

**District 21 Contract Bridge Forum Unitscope Reporter: Jim Solomon 538-9889 Table
Talk Editor: Carla Francis 582-5288**