

EAST BAY UNIT 502

By

Tom Pajak

I hope all of you are in the holiday spirit cuz you know once Thanksgiving goes by, you'll just race through the rest of good old 2018. I'll never know why time seems to go on turbo drive this season of the year! But before 2019 knocks on our door, remember to make your reservations for the Unit 502 Holiday Banquet happening on Sunday, December 16th at the East Bay Community Bridge Center. The game starts at 1:00 with the banquet following. For just \$10 for unit member and \$15 for non-members you'll get a game of duplicate followed by a complete turkey dinner with hors d'oeuvres, salads, ham, turkey, all the trimmings, desserts, beverages, and other goodies. Everything is homemade by unit members and is guaranteed to be delicious. Space is limited to 48 pairs, so let me know you're coming and make your payment in advance to secure a spot for you and a partner.

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We've had a whirlwind of special activities occurring lately with many names to mention, so let me begin with the Pro-Am contest from November 3rd where Richard Walker & Nick McCully took 1st place N/S with Cathleen Otvos & Allan McAllister in 2nd, followed by Joyce Hart/Mark Kogan in 3rd. Finishing 1st in the E/W direction were David Snyder & Joann Lorber, then Kevin Schoenfeld & Patty Kogan in 2nd, with Kathryn Von Dohre & Carol Alliger ranking 3rd. As per her usual superlative organizing, once again Susan Boyers waved her magic wand and this event went flawlessly. Kudos to her helpers as well, including John O'Brien who delivered the sandwiches to add to the catered goodies that the players enjoyed.

Believe it or not, EBCBC had its 5th birthday party on October 28th celebrated by a full house of players joining in the fun while the champagne flowed and the finger food was gobbled up. In the open section, Cathleen Otvos & Allan Harris grabbed 1st N/S while Dave Cartwright & Carol Smith perfected their precision technique to take 1st E/W. In the 299er game Jeri Ram & Sylvia Victoria won, with Mark & Patti Kogan in 2nd place. Special mention and thanks to Linda Kohn for the fantastic cake she created to help celebrate the event.

Still more to report...we held our annual Halloween Swiss game on Oct. 26th awarding all who scratched a combination of gold/black masterpoints for their efforts. Bravo to finishers: in the lead were the team of Neal Mazaroff, Bob Kaplan, Matt Quint, and Ralph Briskin in 1st; Joyce Hart, Sam Mukherji, Carol Warren, Fred Schwartz in 2nd; and the Steven Drucker/Russ Kirschenbaum team taking 3rd place. Very much enjoyed was the surprise sheet cake donated by Susie & Herbert Chung to make the day that much more festive. A highlight of the day was seeing Sarah Simmerman arrive in her bag-lady costume (complete with various bags) to the delight of everyone.

Swiss anyone? Since we love playing team games, the unit sponsored the Dick Hart Memorial Pizza Swiss game on October 21st with the team of Peter Bonfanti, Grant Vance, Jessica Lai, Dan Kroll grabbing the winning position and a tie for 2nd by Sandi Davis, Barry Kael, Tom McKelvey, John Santibanes against the Bandlers, Jerry Weitzner, Joel Teller, and Bob Berger all neck & neck. Carol Warren organized the kitchen efforts and nobody went home hungry after gobbling up 15 pizzas, multiple salads, homemade cakes and cookies, sodas, and other treats. This group likes to EAT! Thanks, Carol...you definitely know how to put on a great party.

Had enough yet? Oh, no...the 6th annual Tunnel Tournament was held on November 4th where our unit and neighboring unit 499 competed for the coveted trophy in a 2-session knock-down drag-out battle with Unit 502 coming out victorious. We've been sponsoring this co-jointly six times and every year it never ceases to be a friendly challenge. Finishers 1st overall in the open section were N/S pairs David Snyder & Ravi Bhalla, Lisa Euphat & Amy Hansell in 2nd, Dave Cartwright & Carol Smith in 3rd. While in the E/W direction were Grant Vance & Jessica Lai in 1st, Andy Fine & John O'Brien in 2nd, with David Geary & Blair Hoffman taking 3rd place. In the 299er section proud placers were Don Levine & Richard Springer, Haig Agigian & Karen Aldridge, and Suzanne Quick & Lori Rosenthal making their best efforts to make Unit 502 rise to the top of the heap. Well done, everyone.

Wait...there's more! I told you things have been active lately. How about the Oakland Sectional results? In the A/X contest in the morning we saw Nick Wiebe & Sigrid Price in finishing position along with Jessica Lai & Rajeev Gupta. The afternoon session produced Mark Moss & Tom Traschuk in 1st, Grant Vance & Andre Fargeix 3rd, and once again Jessica Lai & Rajeev Gupta in 4th. In the 299er group the morning scratchers were Andy & Carla Shockley, Rod Goree & Helen Burke, Madelaine Georgette & Kennedy Richardson. The afternoon results showed Marty & Joann Lorber grabbing 2nd, Kathleen Clancy & Marilyn Bookbinder taking 4th, and Fran Friesen & Katy Kahn, with Mark & Patti Kogan all finishing in a respectable spot. The Sunday Swiss resulted in a cascade of noteworthy names placing high in their brackets: Grant Vance, Cris Barrere, Jessica Lai, Norman Marks, Tom McGuire, Glenn Boyce, Dave Pratt, Ed Seputis, John Eidinger, Dave Cartwright, Carol Smith, Cathleen Otves, Joye Sidoti, Steven Drucker, Russ Kirschenbaum, Lili Bassett, Amy Hansell, Sarla Purohit, Lisa Euphrat. Whew!!!! Full results for all tournaments can always be found on the District 21 website if you want to read even more names. If you played in the tournament you can thank organizer Libby Silver and her crew for the tons of work that went into making this event so successful.

Now to welcome a new member to our unit: Virginia Davis—please introduce yourself to us and get a round of applause for your wise decision. Joining Virginia are transfers to U502 Shervin Stoney from Palo Alto, and Karen Aldridge from BER. We're sad to have Jeff and Mary Toman leave us as they relocate to Tennessee, and we still love them and wish them well in their new home.

Advancing in rank are Jason Leith & Sandra Maker (Junior Master), Jolanda Heijnen (Club Master), Arnita Calloway, Nick McCully, Jeri Ram (Sectional Master), Robert Joerger (Regional Master), Larry Bowerman, Lisa Euphrat (Bronze LM), and Les Friedman (Gold LM). It takes lots of work and skill to climb this masterpoint ladder and we give all of you sincere congratulations on your achievements.

Before I end this (whew!) I should remind you that EBCBC is closed on Christmas Day and New Year's Day, but we're having games every Sunday at 1:00. The first and third Sundays are Unit games with extra masterpoints, and the other Sundays are regular club-rated games, but each and every Sunday comes with a free lunch for players—so plan on arriving early to help yourself to sandwiches and other treats.

Lastly, we offer our condolences to the families of Otto Eder and Leo Rolandelli who've recently passed away. Otto was a gentle giant at the table, occasionally snarly but really sweet down inside. His usual Sunday partner was Gunnar Niemi who could calm Otto down and keep the game running smoothly. Leo played with his lovely wife Patricia and we offer her our sympathy for her loss.

I'll be rolling off the Unit 502 board after 16 years, so this is my final column in that regard. Larry Bowerman will be handling next month's so if you have anything of interest to report, let him know and I'm sure he'll be more succinct than I've been. Happy bridging and aces to all of you!