

Diamond in the Ruff: East Bay Unit 502, September 2019

By Larry Bowerman (lmjtbow@pacbell.net)

I'm sorry to start with sad news, but we recently learned that **Larry Schaleger** passed away in late July. Larry was a Life Master having earned 457 masterpoints. He enjoyed golf, teaching chemistry labs at Laney College and spending time at Lake Tahoe. He was a nice person, a pleasure to have known, and always a gentleman at the bridge table. We extend our sympathies and condolences to Larry's wife, Marjorie and to the rest of his family. He will be missed!

As usual, there are a few important upcoming calendar events to note. First, there will be regularly scheduled **Unit 502 Games on Sunday, September 1st and Sunday, September 15th**. For both games, the free lunch will be served at about 11:30 am, and the games will begin at 12:00 noon.

In addition, the Unit 502 NAP Final will take place on Sunday, September 8th (entry fee is \$10/person) at the EBCBC. Snacks (but no lunch) will be available at this game.

This year's **Tunnel Tournament (Unit 502 vs Unit 499)** will take place on September 22nd at the Contra Costa Bridge Center (CCBC) located at the First Christian Church, Fellowship Hall, 3039 Willow Pass Road, Concord, CA. The Tournament is a two-session event with the first session beginning at 9:30 am. The comprehensive scoring system will tally results from four levels (Strats A, B and C from the Open Game, and the results from the 299er Game). The competition is friendly, so find a partner and sign up to compete in this annual event by contacting Estelle Baum at (dominodog@aol.com).

On those Sundays when there are no Unit 502 Games, there will be **EBCBC Sunday games**. In September there is only one such game, which will take place on September 29th. The game begins at 12:00 noon, and a light lunch will be served before the game.

The week of September 16th to September 22nd will be **Club Championship Week** with extra award points available. There is also a **Club Membership game** on Friday, October 4th.

The monthly **Swiss Teams game** is on Saturday, September 14th. This month it will be a Bracketed Board-A-Match team game starting at 12:00 noon. For further information contact Greg Vance, Grant Vance or David Geary.

Finally, it's not too early to mark your calendars for the upcoming **Unit 502 Fall Sectional** which will take place on November 16th and 17th at the Oakland Masonic Center. More details to follow next month.

Many Unit 502 Members did well at the Summer NABC in Las Vegas and the Los Angeles Summer Regional in July. First and foremost, **Jesse Chao** competed in the Collegiate Bridge Bowl Championship on the UC Berkeley Team which took first place, earning 30 gold points for each team member (Foster Tom was also a member of the UC Berkeley Team)! In addition, Jesse tacked on another 17 gold or red points at the NABC. Way to go Jesse!

Jacob Karstens earned 45 gold points as a member of the team that finished first in Flight C of the Grand National Teams event at the Las Vegas NABC. Wow!

Stephen Kennedy earned 37.7 gold points by finishing second in Knockout and Swiss Teams events at the Los Angeles Summer Regional. He added 5.6 red points in another Swiss Teams event.

Rohan Srivastava (a relatively new member of Unit 502) earned approximately 6 gold and 5 red points in Youth Pairs events at the Las Vegas NABC.

Last but not least, **Loretta Dimitruck** won 10.98 gold points by finishing second in a Knockout game at the Las Vegas NABC.

Congratulations to all of you! Nice work.

In the **July 21st Unit Game** Ching Chao and Joye Sidoti finished in first place, Betty Kael and Susan Boyers finished second, Trudy Sinclair and Sarah Simmerman third, and Norman Marks and Irwin Lichtblau fourth. Ching and Joye had a 66.44% game! The other three pairs had games between 57.64% and 59.03%.

The **August 4th Unit Game** was held to honor the memory of **Russell Rector**, former Unit 502 Board Member who passed away unexpectedly in mid-April. Appropriately, a fabulous lunch was provided by Marcia and Andy Wasserman, with major assists from Libby Silver and Neal Mazaroff. In the game, Allan Harris and Cathleen Otvos finished in first place, Roseanne Smith and Sandi Davis finished second, Jo Levy and Robert Johnson third, Cole Powell and David Snyder fourth, and Manfred Michlmayr and Daniel Rubinfeld fifth. The game was quite competitive, with all five pairs having games between 59.04% and 61.35%.

Welcome to new Unit 502 members Natalie Kitchener and Michael Engel (transfer from Vermont)! When you see them, please introduce yourself and welcome them to our unit.

Congratulations to the following members on their recent rank advancements: Marcia Bohan to Junior Master, Harry Dewey to Club Master, Jason Leith and William Schultz to Sectional Master and Margaret Landy to Bronze Life Master! When you see them, please take the time to congratulate them. Kudos to all and keep on playing! There is always another goal in front of you!

Joye Sidoti is writing the October column, so please contact her (efsibd_ba@hotmail.com) if you have noteworthy results or other items to report.