

Santa Claus is on vacation! This is Mich Ravera.

I hope that you are on someone's "nice" list, so that you can take advantage of some great news! The San Jose Bridge Club is reopening in just a couple of days! Games will be held every Wednesday at 11:00 AM at the Campbell United Methodist Church at 1675 Winchester Blvd. in Campbell. Preregistration is REQUIRED for all games. You can sign up at <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/5080d4badaa29abff2-sanjose1> This week's game, yes on January 18, is the Grand Opening and will be an Upgraded Club Championship Game (side 499er game if attendance warrants). Entry fee is \$10. Coffee, tea and light snacks will be served. Contact [Lynn Yokel](#) for more information.

NEWER PLAYERS: Just a reminder: There is a weekly online 199er game on BBO. It is held Nanyoobi at Quando.

We are in the process of arranging our Spring Forward Sectional. Subject to final arrangements, it will be held April 29 and 30 at the Bridge Center in Mountain View. The Unit Board voted to advance the starting time of the second Saturday session to 3:00PM, so that you have a better chance of heading home in daylight. Talk to a Unit Board Member, particularly [Bruce Luttrell](#), our sectional coordinator, if you can help with anything.

Our regular monthly Unit Board meeting is usually held on the second Tuesday of the month at 5:30 PM, but will next be held on Tuesday, February 21, 2023. Almost all of the meetings are open to all Unit 507 members. So, if you contact me at michravera@yahoo.com, I will send you an invitation and a meeting packet, usually a day or two ahead of the meeting.

The District is trying to work out how to hold its full compliment of Regionals this year. Usually there are two in the summertime, at the moment, only Santa Clara in late August is firmly scheduled.

Please join me in officially welcoming Jory Fort to the Silicon Valley from North Texas.

I'm also happy as to announce that we have been officially notified that Gary Levison and Jacqueline Mariadassou have been welcomed as Junior Masters; Kathleen Cole has advanced to Club Master; Bill Roman has earned the rank of Regional Master; Murat Alaybeyi, Michele Liu, and Bharat Kamdar have been promoted to NABC Master; Aravind Alwan qualified as Life Master; Philip Freiburger advanced to Ruby Life Master. Congratulations to all of them! But special recognition goes to Unit Board Member Norman Marks who achieved the rank of Gold Life Master.

I am compelled to remind everyone that there is also a weekly club game held at The Villages and that our neighbor to the South, Morgan Hill, has Unit Games usually on the third weekend of every month. Contact Jim Craig at geminijim79@yahoo.com for details. If you are trying to get someone to play with or against, but can't quite teach them yourself, maybe they can contact any of the least 4 Community Centers in the area: Almaden, Camden, Willow Glen Senior and Cypress! They all say that they have lessons on their web pages.

Enjoy every day! I'll see you at the tables!

If you would like to hear more about transfers, you can read on.

Suppose that you are dealt a strong **1NT** hand with three hearts, but partner is dealer and opens a weak **2♥**. You need to find out whether partner just barely judged not to open **1♥** or whether partner has the usual pile of moldy logs implied by a weak **2♥**. In standard methods, you could try using **2NT** "Feature-Max", but that would "leak" the information about the location of partner's high cards in precisely the situation where you can just barely make game. You could use some artifice, such as Ogust or (Reverse) Steps, but both of those offer up artificial bids for opponents to double or disrupt short of your "safe" contract. Wouldn't you rather have a bid, let's say **3♦**, that lands you directly in **3♥** or **4♥** depending upon opener's strength. For those who play transfers, that's the ordinary use of the "transfer back into opener's suit". You still have the direct raise to **3♥** available for whatever use you like (usually an extension of the preempt). If opponents **double** your transfer, they've given the opener a chance to show a hand in the middle of the range, so put it to good use.