

SILICON VALLEY UNIT NEWS

March 2026



If you wanted to read about the [Recife Carnival Parade](#), this is the wrong email. It's just I, Unit 507 President, [Mich Ravera](#).

Unit 507's Silicon Valley Spring Sectional is scheduled for Saturday and Sunday, March 27 and 28 at the [PABC](#). [Here is the flyer](#). [Here is the partnership signup](#). We have a Special 0-99 game on Saturday morning. If you want to help, please contact [tournament chair Linda Rocha](#).

If you have any questions, especially about hands from the Wednesday game, use our website's new "Ask a Teacher" feature. If you'd like to join our list of volunteers other than just at the Sectional, contact [me](#).

The Unit offers regular club games at the Campbell United Methodist Church and the Villages. Both require advanced registration. For details, see [Unit 507's home page](#).

Upcoming special Wednesday games:

March 18: Club Championship (extra masterpoints!)

April 15: Unit Championship and Birthday Game (extra masterpoints!)

At the recent St. Louis North American Bridge Championships:

- In the Lebhar IMP Pairs: 3rd Xin Ge, 4th Murat Alaybeyi, and 8th Arif Janju
- In the Women's Open Swiss Teams: 2nd Jung Hu, 3rd Michele Liu
- Pairs winners included Sriram Ganesan (2), Xin Ge, Li Zhang, Arif Janjua
- Knockout Winners included Michael Bodell and Michael Cailean
- Team Winners included Xin Ge, Arif Janjua
- Earning Section tops in Pairs Events: Peter Friedland (2), Joshua Balmin, Li Zhang, Xin Ge, Julie Burkhart (2), Cadir Lee (2), Murat Alaybeyi, Murat Alaybey, Michele Liu, John Wachsman, Rick Jasper, Arif Janjua, and Michael Fleisher

At the Sacramento Winter Sectional:

- Pairs Section Tops went to Roy Tsai and Danning Lu

At the San Mateo Winter Sectional:

- Wanwan Ren was a Pairs winner
- Pairs Section Tops went to Michael Callahan (2), Demian Li, Michael Bodell, Roy Tsai, Stuart Whannel, Henry Koransky, Jane Michaels, Jason Long, and Frank Xie

- Team winners included Peng Cheng, Xiaoyu Cheng, Michele Liu, Yin Lin, Li Zhang, and Michael Callahan

At the Northern Virginia Winter Sectional:

- Peter Friedland earned a section top in Pairs

At the Unit 509 Petaluma Spring Sectional:

- Michael Callahan was a Pairs winner

At the Santa Cruz Rising Stars Tournament:

- Kathy Vita and Jan Pfiffner were Pairs winners
- Pairs Section tops went to Louise Kirkbride and Craig Hom

At the Marin Spring Fling tournament:

- Weilong Shen earned a Section top in Pairs

If you would like to join a Mentor Chain, check out our [Mentorship Program](#). Preference is given to Unit 507 members, but we'll try to help, especially if you play in a Silicon Valley club.

We welcome Junior Masters Christopher Chen, Nivedita More, and Dean Zhou. We also bid a sad good-bye to Pat Wong who recently died.

We also congratulate the following advancing members:

Club Master	Joann Zimmerman
Regional Master	Yin Lin
NABC Master	Yannie Zhao
Ruby Life Master	Melanie Kakalec
Diamond Life Master	Michael Bodell

For games held in nearby Units, results, online games, and finding teachers and lessons, or to become a club director [check out our website](#).

Our regular monthly Unit 507 Board meeting is usually held on the second Tuesday of the month at 5:30 PM. Our next meeting is on Tuesday, April 14, 2026. Almost all of the meetings are open to all Unit 507 members. If you [contact me](#), I will send you an invitation and a meeting packet a day or two ahead of the meeting. In the next few months we will be seeking candidates for the Unit Board. At least one Board member is retiring from the Board, so be careful! If you come to a meeting or two, you may be the person who fails to step back fast enough and finds yourself on the Board!



Melanie Kakalec (L) and Michael Bodell (R)

I often comment that the Italian Blue Club Team had at least nine different inquiry (“asking”) bids, named at least *alpha* through *iota*. They included, among many others, trump quality and the count of outside aces. It was only when suit agreement wasn't reached until the four-level that they felt the need to combine the two into what eventually became Roman Key Card. If you determined through an asking bid that your trump was bad enough that you would probably lose two trump tricks, you could sign off in game and never risk a five-level contract. If you held AKQxx in your trump suit, you could ask about the outside aces and, missing a couple, once again sign off in game without risking the five-level. It's not just beginners who open **1♥**, receive a low-level invitational or game forcing response, and head immediately to **4NT**. Never mind unwinding what the responses mean, or how to bail out when you don't like the answer, if that is even possible in your system. If you are missing two important cards, it's not a “given” that you won't need the **“Luck of the Irish”** even to make **5♥**. And, with that thought, I'll see you at the tables!



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