

## Palo Alto Bridge Club's Own "Superman"

I used to think it was ridiculous that all those smart people in the Superman stories couldn't tell that Clark Kent was Superman. Honestly, could a pair of glasses and an unassuming demeanor really hide the fact that he had all those powers and abilities? That was until recently, when I began research for our next member profile and realized that we have our own Unit 503 Superman. His name: Alan Templeton. I started reflecting on the fact that he was always there working when wonderful things happened:

- While he doesn't direct his own game, he is there helping set up, responding to director calls, making coffee and cleaning up several days a week. He also makes sure things go smoothly for our guest lecturers, such as Frank Smoot.
- Our website is always updated and full of information. How does that happen? It's the work of our "mild mannered reporter."
- When we needed to leave our club site on Shoreline and had to find a suitable new location, Alan and a few others located our current spot. Then he was part of the team negotiating with the City of Mountain View regarding our occupancy and getting things set up.
- Another similarity: Alan has gone around the world several times, although I don't think he went "faster than a speeding bullet."
- Speaking of a speeding bullet, Alan did recently drive his Corvette at great speeds around a race track in Las Vegas. He loved it!

If you've been around the club a while, you probably know of the many services Alan has given to this club. For those of us who are newer to the unit, here are some roles Alan has played – and continues to play—in support of Unit 503:

- Alan developed the club's website in 2001 and has been its webmaster ever since. He keeps it updated and functioning for all of us.
- Alan was on the Board of Directors for 10 years; two years as president and 8 years as treasurer.
- He had an integral role in the formation of SiVY Bridge (Silicon Valley Youth Bridge), he developed and now maintains their website and also serves on the board. He often can be seen helping at SiVY events.
- In the "old days," when the Kibitzer was typed and mailed, Alan was responsible for typing the Winners' Circle every month as well as proofreading all issues before they were printed.
- Alan is an ACBL certified teacher and an ACBL certified director. As such, he helps several directors set up, run and clean up after games. He does the same for instructors, including guest lecturers. Again, like Superman, the spotlight is not on him, he's just doing a whole lot of work behind the scenes.
- His work has not gone totally unrecognized however. He was the recipient of the Unit's Sportsmanship Award in 2004 and Service Award in 2009. He also received the District's Goodwill Award in 2008.

Unlike Superman, Alan wasn't born on some far away planet. In fact, he was born in Palo Alto and has lived his entire life right here in Silicon Valley. He is one of three children, all of whom settled in

California. Alan's brother lives in Mountain View and the two go hiking together every week, usually at Rancho San Antonio. His sister is in Fresno. He spent his entire career working with the same company -- Sylvania -- which became GTE. In that position he was able to travel throughout the world. Favorite places? Alan said he loved Greece, spent an interesting month in Israel and visited Japan multiple times. Once he was scheduled to change planes in Switzerland and at the last minute decided to stay and tour the country.

After a challenging and interesting career, he decided to retire early (in 1994) and see what was next for him. He knew he wanted to continue to use his brain, so when his friend Frank Frates encouraged him to play duplicate bridge, he joined ACBL and the Palo Alto Bridge Club and jumped right in. He found he had a knack for the game and really enjoyed it. He made a new set of friends and became very involved in the game and the Palo Alto Club. Lucky for us, this man with great talent and great energy lived here in Silicon Valley and had some new found time on his hands. I think this is supposed to end as the grateful citizens applaud the man of steel. So: **Thank you, Alan, for all that you have done for the Palo Alto Bridge Club.**