

2011 Calendar Enhancements

Summary:

As of March, 2011 the Unit 550 and SCBC websites have enhanced capabilities for accessing and using the online bridge calendar. These enhancements have been extended in October (see items marked with an * below:

- View a consolidated calendar showing all games, classes* and results for any game played within Unit 550.
- Switch to SCBC Club Games Only, Unit Games Only or Classes* Only via a single-click.
- Details of games* and/or classes* may be shown or hidden.*
- Export game dates to any iCal compatible calendar.
- Create your own Partner Schedule which selects only games to export that you are playing in with a partner.

All these enhancements are accessible from either the Club or Unit calendar pages.

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Last Update: October 25, 2011

Overview

Maintaining an accurate bridge calendar can sometimes be challenging. How many times have you missed an important game because you didn't look at the game calendar on the www.santacruzbridge.org website? Or perhaps you looked at the Unit calendar instead of the Club calendar. Entering your reoccurring bridge dates can become tiring after a while. And, how frustrating is it when you have forgotten you are playing with Joe and get a call just as the game is starting!

The calendar enhancements described below will help reduce the amount of work to maintain, update and view your bridge calendar.

Consolidated Calendar View

The upper left corner of the calendar now contains links which switch the calendar view. In the screen shot below, the calendar is displaying all games and classes. These links are “on/off” switches; i.e., if it is off, clicking it turns it on. You can tell if a selection is on: yellow and larger characters; or off: white and smaller characters. The center also tells you what is being displayed.

Games: Unit SCBC Details		All Games and Classes				Export Game Dates Update U550 Database	
December 2011							
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	
				1 12:00PM NLM Pairs 6:30PM Open Pairs ClubChamp	2 10:30AM Open Pairs w/travelers, Lunch	3 10:30AM Open Pairs Unit Game; Please SIGN-UP	
4 1:00PM NLM Pairs Free Lesson at Noon	5 12:00PM Open Pairs STaC + \$1.50 STaC Week	6 10:30AM Open Pairs w/Lunch (\$3) STaC +\$1.50 6:30PM NLM Pairs STaC Week	7 12:00PM Open Pairs STaC +\$1.50 6:30PM ♠ Beginning Bridge Peggy Diller Beginner (\$10.00/Session) STaC Week	8 12:00PM NLM Pairs STaC +\$1.50 6:30PM Open Pairs STaC +\$1.50 STaC Week	9 10:30AM Open Pairs w/travelers Lunch STaC + \$1.50 STaC Week	10 10:30AM Open Pairs Holiday Party & Annual Mtg; Please Sign Up STaC +\$1.50 2:30PM Open Pairs Holiday Party & Annual Mtg; Please Sign Up STaC +\$1.50 STaC Week	
11 1:00PM Open Pairs Free Lesson at Noon STaC +\$1.50 STaC Week	12 12:00PM Open Pairs 6:30PM Open Pairs barometer sign ups required	13 10:30AM Open Pairs w/Lunch (\$3)	14 12:00PM Open Pairs Membership Game	15 12:00PM NLM Pairs membership game 6:30PM Open Pairs	16 10:30AM Open Pairs w/travelers, Lunch	17 10:30AM Open Swiss membership game	

Screen Shot 1: All Games and Classes

Classes are identified by a “spade” (♠) symbol which precedes the class title. The instructor, target audience and class fee are all provided in class details. You can get more information on classes by hovering your mouse over the class title, see Screen Shot 3.

There are certain items which stay shown on the calendar no matter which combination of games and classes you choose. Generally these are **events**, shown in yellow.

If you try to turn off both games and classes, the calendar will return to the default display which shows all games, but no details.

If you now click “Games” that will now turn off all game displays and you will only view classes:

Games: Unit SCBC Details		Classes					Export Game Dates Update U550 Database
Classes: SCBC Details							
December 2011							
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	
				1	2	3	
4		6	7	8	9	10	
	STaC Week	STaC Week	STaC Week	STaC Week	STaC Week	STaC Week	
11	12	13	14	15	16	17	
STaC Week							
18	19	20	21	22	23	24	
25	26	27	28	29	30	31	
December 2011							

Screen Shot 2: All Classes shown after “Games” is clicked

If you take your mouse and hover over a class title, additional details of the class will be shown.

Games: Unit SCBC Details		Classes					Export Game Dates Update U550 Database
Classes: SCBC Details							
December 2011							
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	
				1	2	3	
4	5	6	7	8	9	10	
	STaC Week	STaC Week	STaC Week	STaC Week	STaC Week	STaC Week	
11	12	13	14	15	16	17	
STaC Week							
18	19	20	21	22	23	24	
25	26	27	28	29	30	31	
December 2011							

6:30PM
 • Beginning Bridge
 Peggy DiIfer
 Beginner (\$10.00/Session)

Instructor: Peggy DiIfer
 For: Beginner (\$10.00/Session)
 Schedule: Wednesdays, Weekly at 6:30PM

This class assumes the student knows nothing about bridge. It starts with basic concepts including bidding, play of the hand, and defense. You can attend any or all of the lessons.

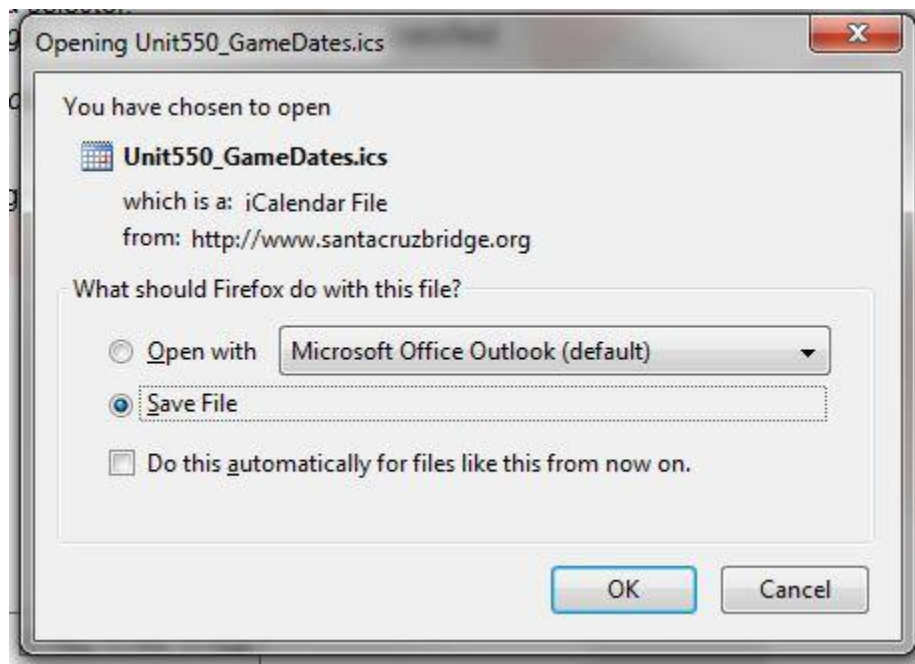
Screen Shot 3: Class details shown by hovering mouse over class.

Export Game Dates

By clicking on the “Export Game Dates” link, you are directed to the Export Game Dates program. This program provides a selection menu for specific game dates and exports these to a file which you can import into your personal calendar, such as Outlook, Outlook Express, Google, iCal or any other calendar programs which accept calendar entries in .ics format, an industry standard format.

The directions are listed on the program page. The Optional Selectors work differently when a Partner Schedule is specified; see below for more details.

When you click on “Export Game Dates” your selected game dates will be generated and a file will be downloaded to your computer, if you accept it. Here’s what you will see (or something like it if not using FireFox):



Notice that the Firefox browser knows this is a file containing calendar entries and asks if you want to Open it with Outlook (assuming you use Outlook as your calendaring program). Always save the file otherwise Outlook will only read the first calendar entry in the file. Now go to your calendar program and use “File → Import” to populate your personal calendar with the selected game entries. This entire process will take less than a minute.

If the “Export” worked correctly, you will not see any error messages.

No Partner Schedule

The Optional Selectors operate as follows when no Partner Schedule is specified:

- Choosing Optional Selector(s) will reduce the game dates picked for export. For example, if you only play on Mondays, click the “Mon” box. Only Monday dates will be selected. Further, if you select “Open”, only Monday Open games will be generated.

- Choosing “Events” will add events to your selected game dates. You might want these to remind you about other bridge events, such as the Surf’s Up Sectional, the President’s Day Regional, etc.

Partner Schedule

When a Partner Schedule is specified by entering your ACBL number, the Optional Selectors operate as follows:

- Choosing any of them except “Events” will generally add to the game dates selected for export. For example, if you want to add Saturday games to your schedule, click the “Sat” box, which will export Saturday games with “No Partner Specified”.
- Choosing “Events” will add events to your Partner Schedule game dates. You might want these to remind you about other bridge events, such as the Surf’s Up Sectional, the President’s Day Regional, etc.

Creating a Partner Schedule

Use the “Update U550 Database” link on the top right of the calendar page to access the update database program. This is the same program you use to update any of your contact information in the Unit 550 Database. This program can also be accessed from the Unit home page, bottom left, as seen in the next illustration.

**American Contract Bridge League
of
Santa Cruz County
Unit 550**

We are the American Contract Bridge League (ACBL) of Santa Cruz County, Unit 550. Our bridge, support the ACBL-sanctioned bridge clubs operating within Unit 550 and provide a Cruz area who want to play duplicate bridge.

Except for Unit games and Sectional tournaments, games are conducted by ACBL-sanctioned bridge clubs in Unit 550. Please use the links below to obtain their game schedules and on

Bridge Club	Owner / Director	Location
Bid 'em Up	Nancy Wainer	Capitola
Eureka	Bill McIntosh	Capitola
Monarch	Mark Hasey	Capitola
Nancy's Bridge House	Nancy Driscoll	Aptos
Santa Cruz	Sherry Gilbreath	Capitola
Surf City	Pam Benz	Capitola

Some of these bridge clubs offer extensive bridge lessons; a consolidated list of currently clicking on the [Learn Bridge] on the left and selecting Lessons. Classes details are found

Unit games are typically held on the 2nd and 4th Saturdays of the month; the detail Unit viewed by clicking on the [Schedule] or [Calendar] links in the left navigation bar. You can these instructions. Unit game results are available via the [Results] tab in the left navigation clicking on the ♠ icon (includes hand records) or the ♣ icon (results only) on the Unit calendar Unit game results are not consolidated with any of the bridge clubs listed above; you must obtain calendar and game information about a particular bridge club.

After entering your ACBL number, your contact information is displayed along with your Partner Schedule, if it has been defined. Here is a typical Partner Schedule:



Your Partner Schedule

1st, 3rd, 5th Monday Afternoon Games with Dick Wasserstrom.
2nd, 4th Monday Afternoon Games with Mark Wainer.
Tuesday Morning Games with Mick Friedberg.
Wednesday Afternoon Games with Shirley Llacera.
1st, 3rd, 5th Friday Morning Games with Don Seldeen.
Unit Games with Mick Friedberg.

or

Each game specification is a sentence ending with a period and containing the exact words, “Games with”. After Games with, you must enter your partner’s name for this game specification.

Enter the name of the day, spelled out, with the session designation, before “Games with”. Acceptable session designations are: Morning, Afternoon, Evening, or Late. You may also specify the day occurrence within a month, such as the 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th or 5th Monday of the month.

After entering a Partner Schedule or changing an existing one, click “Update Information” to double-check your input and, if it is correct, click the “Confirm” button.