

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:

- View a consolidated calendar showing all games and results for any game played within Unit 550.
- Switch to Club Games Only or Unit Games Only via a single-click.
- 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: March 16, 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 Club games but no Unit games. By clicking on All Games the user can switch to a view that includes all games in Unit 550, shown in the next screen shot.

Unit Games Only All Games		Club Games Only				Export Game Dates Update U550 Database	
March 2011							
	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	
		1 10:30AM ♦Open Pairs w/Lunch (\$3) 6:30PM ♦NLM Pairs	2 12:00PM ♦Open Pairs	3 12:00PM ♦NLM Pairs 6:30PM ♦Open Pairs	4 10:30AM ♦Open Pairs w/travelers, Lunch(\$5)	5 10:30AM ♦Open Pairs barometer club championship	
6 1:00PM ♦NLM Pairs Free Lesson at Noon	7 12:00PM ♦Open Pairs 6:30PM ♦Open Pairs Club Championship	8 10:30AM ♦Open Pairs w/Lunch (\$3) 6:30PM ♦NLM Pairs	9 12:00PM ♦Open Pairs	10 12:00PM ♦NLM Pairs 6:30PM ♦Open Pairs NABC+ Louisville	11 10:30AM ♦Open Pairs w/travelers, Lunch(\$5) NABC+ Louisville	12 NABC+ Louisville	
13 1:00PM ♦NLM Pairs Free Lesson at Noon; Daylight Saving Starts Party	14 12:00PM Open Pairs 6:30PM	15 10:30AM Open Pairs w/Lunch (\$3) 6:30PM	16 12:00PM Open Pairs	17 12:00PM NLM Pairs 6:30PM	18 10:30AM Open Pairs w/travelers, Lunch(\$5)	19	

Screen Shot 1: All Club Games

Club Games Only Unit Games Only		All Games				Export Game Dates Update U550 Database	
March 2011							
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	
		1 10:30AM ♦Open Pairs w/Lunch (\$3) 6:30PM ♦NLM Pairs	2 12:00PM ♦Open Pairs	3 12:00PM ♦NLM Pairs 6:30PM ♦Open Pairs	4 10:30AM ♦Open Pairs w/travelers, Lunch(\$5)	5 10:30AM ♦Open Pairs barometer club championship	
6 1:00PM ♦NLM Pairs Free Lesson at Noon	7 12:00PM ♦Open Pairs 6:30PM ♦Open Pairs Club Championship	8 10:30AM ♦Open Pairs w/Lunch (\$3) 6:30PM ♦NLM Pairs	9 12:00PM ♦Open Pairs	10 12:00PM ♦NLM Pairs 6:30PM ♦Open Pairs NABC+ Louisville	11 10:30AM ♦Open Pairs w/travelers, Lunch(\$5) NABC+ Louisville	12 10:30AM ♦Open Pairs Unit Game Please SIGN UP NABC+ Louisville	
13 1:00PM ♦NLM Pairs Free Lesson at Noon; Daylight Saving Starts Party	14 12:00PM Open Pairs 6:30PM Open Pairs	15 10:30AM Open Pairs w/Lunch (\$3) 6:30PM NLM Pairs Club Championship	16 12:00PM Open Pairs	17 12:00PM NLM Pairs 6:30PM Open Pairs Free St. Paddy's Day Corned Beef Dinner	18 10:30AM Open Pairs w/travelers, Lunch(\$5)	19 10:00AM 299er Pairs Rising Stars 299er Sectional Results (AM) 10:00AM 49er Pairs Novice Results (AM)	

Screen Shot 2: All Games in Unit 550 after clicking on "All Games" link

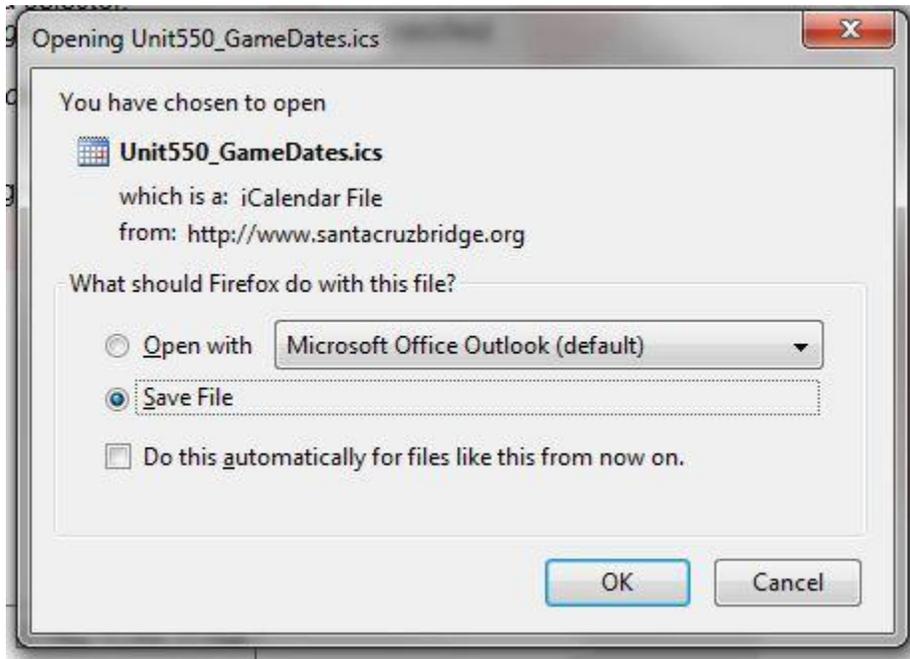
Notice that the links at the upper left have changed with this alternate view.

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 any of them except “Events” 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. If you also check “Open”, then only Monday Open games are selected for export.
- 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 add to your game dates selected for export. For example, if you want to add Saturday games to your schedule, click on Sat. This 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.

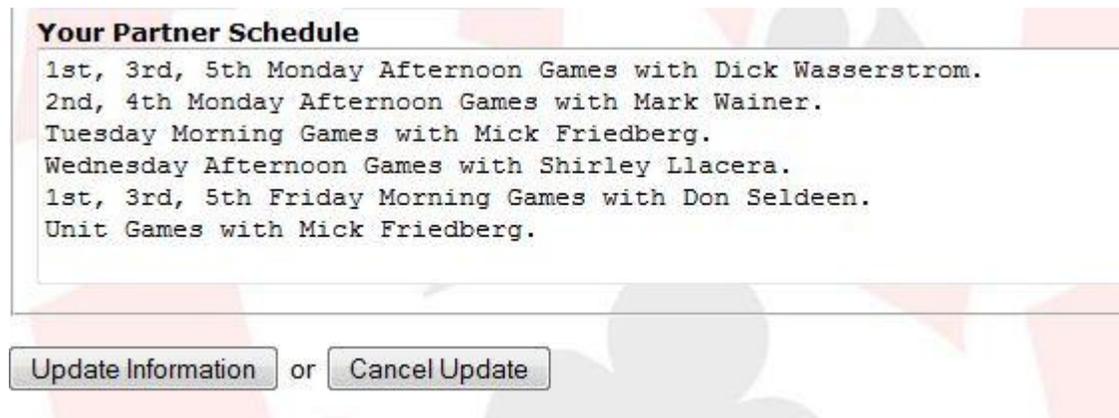
Except for Unit games and Sectional tournaments, games are conducted by ACBL-sanctioned bridge clubs in Unit 550. Please use the links below to obtain their game schedules and on

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.

You input the name of the day, spelled out with the session designation, before “Games with”. Acceptable session entries are: Morning, Afternoon, Evening, 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.