

SANTA CRUZ BRIDGE CENTER

NEWSLETTER



Santa Cruz
Unit 550

2450 17th Ave., Suite 200 Santa Cruz, Ca 95062
831-603-2448. santacruzbridge.org



NOVEMBER/DECEMBER NEW ACHIEVEMENTS

NEW J MASTER
CHARLENE DUCEY

NEW CLUB MASTERS
CHRIS LYNNE
CRAIG CANADA
NIKKI SHOEMAKER
NANDOR VADAS

NEW SECTIONAL MASTERS
KENNETH GIROURD
JULE HILTON
CHRISTINA KOBLAND
BARBARA RODRIGUES

NEW NABC MASTER
LESLIE DAVIDSON

NEW BRONZE LIFE MASTER
DAVID HARKEN

70 % GAMES

9/30 THROUGH 12/3

ANGIE MILLSLAGE -
MICHAEL MODEST
70.1%

JANE BARR - PETER
BARR
72%

THE HOLIDAY
ANNUAL MEETING
AND GAME
WILL BE HELD AT
THE SUNDAY
BRUNCH GAME
JANUARY 25, 2026

MORE INFO TO COME
MARK YOUR
CALENDARS



**OUR 2025 OCTOBER 18/19
SURF'S UP TOURNEY INFO:**

Sat AM I/N Pairs - 5.0 Tables

MP WINNERS

1st Cindy Sedey, Mary Graves, 64%

2nd Mary Kelly - Lawrence Frank, 56.4%

3rd Nancy Pringle - Barbara Rodrigues, 56.3%

4th Chris Lynnes - Nikki Shoemaker, 56.1%

Sat AM OPEN Pairs - 11.0 Tables

MP WINNERS

1st A James Slinger - Susan Slinger, 60.10%

2nd A 1st, B 1st Weilong Shen - Vasisht Ganesh, 59.14%

3rd A, 2nd B 2nd C, Pamela Resser - Kathryn Walker, 58.57%

4th A Tomasz Pawlowski - Dimitry Goder, 57.74%

5th A Stuart Goodgold - Songtao Zhang, 55.34%

4th B, 3rd C Robin McDuff - Michael Modest, 51.97%

4th C Leslie Davidson - Christina Kobland, 49.00%

Swiss Teams Results*

A1: 93.00 Ken Llacera - James Slinger - Susan Slinger, Ken Gamble

A2: 79.00 James Craig - Winston Stone - S Graham Kelly - Seala Fletcher-Kelly

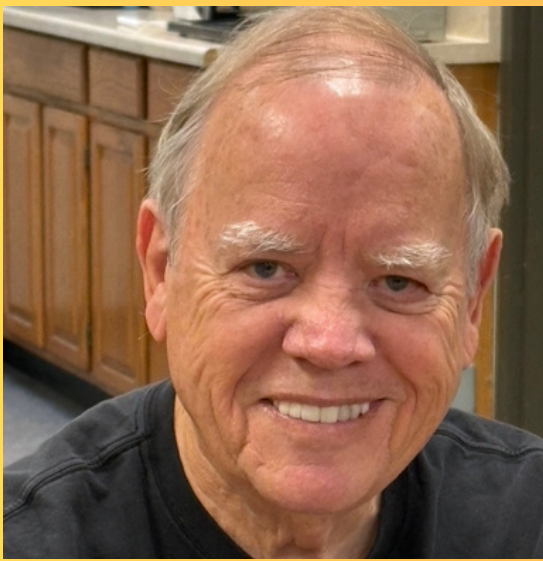
A3B1C1: 77.00 Josh Karter - Lester Loops - Angie Millslagle - Mary Graves

A4B2: 74.00 Kenneth Martin - Jacci Sterling - Farol Henderson - Bruce Dau

B3C2:2. David Niver - Judy Niver - Kathryn Walker - Pamela Resser

B4C3: Shamim Formoso - Betsy Allen - Kathy O'Neil Traback - Cindy Sedey

***more results on acbl.org**



Getting to Know...

Ken Gamble

There are few people in the bridge club who are as recognizable as the renowned Ken Gamble. Always joking, and smiling, Ken is an expert bridge player and an institution around the club. He always has a kind word or joke for everyone.

Ken is a native Californian. Born and raised in Compton, his parents moved to San Diego where he attended El Capitan High School. A talented young musician, Ken played both the clarinet and the saxophone. He enjoyed being in the high school marching band. He excelled in the physical sciences in high school, and as an undergrad, attended San Diego State, majoring in physics, optics and lasers. With his newly acquired BS degree, he found a job as a consultant software engineer. He needed to learn to program, using Fortran for this new job, hence, Ken was propelled to return to SDSC for one summer and learn programming language. With this new ability he found himself a job in Palo Alto at an aerospace company in 1974. He was successful, enjoyed his job, and worked there for forty years until his retirement.

Ken learned to play Whist, a form of bridge in 1969, from a college friend. This play migrated into Goren-style duplicate bridge the following year. Ken has been playing bridge for forty-four years.

Ken met his wife Vicki in a knockout bridge event in 1992 at the Palm Springs Regional. In 1993, they developed a bridge partnership and married later that same year. They played live tournament bridge together for about five years. Together, they walked their cocker spaniel around Mountain View and later Capitola. When Vicki's health began to deteriorate from a chronic illness, they took their bridge game on line. Eventually, Vicki's poor health stopped her from playing at all.

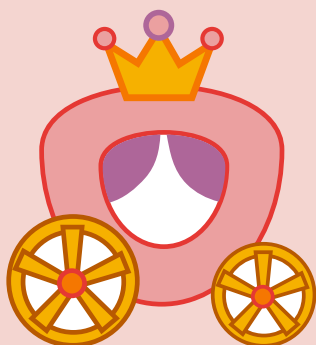
Ken is sort of a newcomer to Santa Cruz. He didn't move to Capitola until 2000. Ken resisted Vicki's persistent requests to move out of Mountain View. Vicki wanted to be by the ocean, to walk their dog and enjoy the views. Ken did not want to be around the "strange hippie culture" of Santa Cruz.

Ken believes he joined the bridge club a few years after their move to Santa Cruz because he and Vicki played so many tournaments, and his work didn't allow time for day games. In 2012, after retirement, Ken began playing on a more frequent basis at the club. Ken, being an excellent player, had no trouble finding partners at the club.

What makes Ken happiest about bridge? Ken has a passion for the game; it's in his blood, he says. He loves the challenge.

Ken's advice to new players is to develop your skills on line. Spend time reading books, put in the effort to learning on your own. Make mistakes, sometimes the best way to learn is through your own mistakes. Every hand is unique and perhaps played differently throughout the room.

Ken's anecdotal story is a bridge player's fairy tale. For many years, Ken and his best friend traveled to Hawaii for a regional bridge tournament. In 1993, Vicki joined them. On the very **first** day of competition, Ken seized the moment and proposed to Vicki. They managed to plan and execute a wedding on the **final** day of the tournament. The ceremony and dinner were attended by thirty fellow bridge players gathered on the roof of the Hilton Hotel. Held between the morning and evening bridge sessions, it was a race against the clock for thirty people to scamper (like mice) back to the evening session for tournament play. Except for the glass slipper, truly a Cinderella story.



Let's remember to PLAY NICE

Santa Cruz Bridge Center is committed to following the ACBL policy of “Play Nice”. There is a **Zero Tolerance** policy for abrasive, offensive or rude behavior at the tables regardless of any intentions to “help” or “teach” or to whom it is directed. All players are expected to maintain a courteous attitude.

If there **is** misbehavior at the table(s) members are encouraged to call the Director.

If the director determines that there was an unacceptable behavior, director may assign the offending pair disciplinary penalty .

Let's remember to be a GOOD PARTNER and GOOD OPPONENT

1. Do not give lessons, unless you are being paid to do so.

2. Never say anything to your partner unless you would want him to say the same to you.

If you are unsure whether to say something, **don't**.

3. Never "result" (criticize your partner for a normal action just because it did not work this time).

the next 3 good parnter/player practices will continue in January Newsletter



Newcomer Liaison Shamim Formoso

Together with Nancy Wainer, the SCBC Board of Directors has announced the creation of a Newcomer Liaison position for our Center. This role is one of the many ways we hope to integrate and assist new and upcoming players into our bridge community. As the *Newcomer Liaison*, Shamim Formoso is the go-to-person for questions about games, programs, events, learning resources, culture and more.

Starting January 12, 2026 Beginner Bridge Lessons

Do you know anyone who wants to learn the most popular card game?

We have 2 **excellent** opportunities -
Starting January 12, 2026

Monday Afternoon Classes - Standard Bridge (with a 2/1 twist)

12:30 - 2:30

Nancy Wainer, Instructor

For Information email: NLMBRIDGE@yahoo.com

Wednesday Morning classes - Standard Bridge

9:30 - 11:30

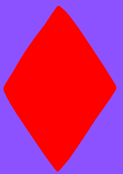
Bette Harken, Instructor

For Information email BDHARKEN@comcast.net

FIRST SESSION FREE!

Classes continue weely - \$10 per session Santa Cruz
Bridge Center

2450 17th Avenue Suite 200, Santa Cruz 959062



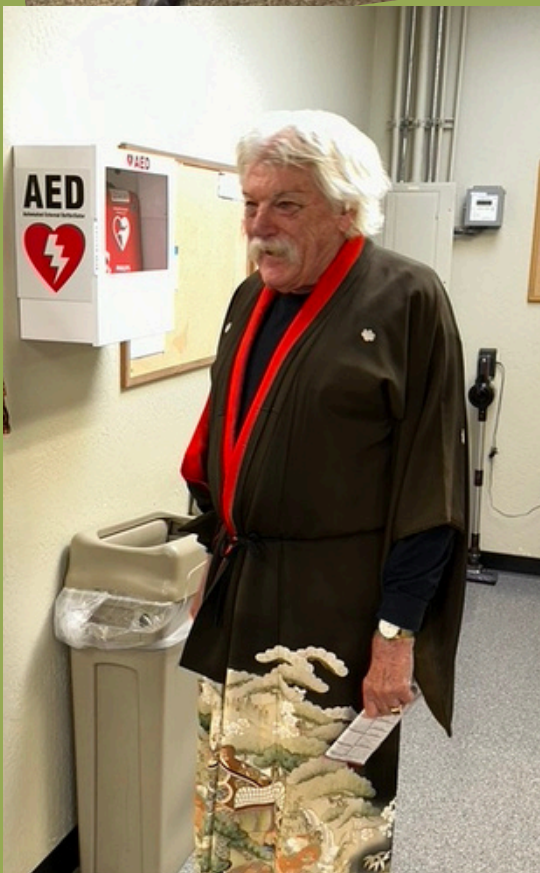
Halloween Party and Game

10/31/25



**AWARD WINNING COSTUME DUO
DIANA SHILLING AND JOANNE BRUNO
EACH TOOK HOME AN AWARD WINNING
BOTTLE OF WINE
DONATED BY THE LLACERAS**

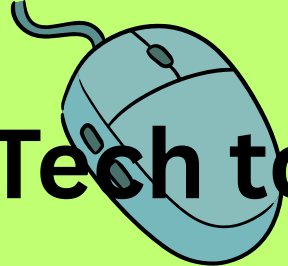
Unit 550's Halloween
Party Oct 31, 2025
Directed by Ken Llacera
was a fun time for everyone.
Ken used a program he called
"SPOOKY HANDS" to generate
crazily unbalanced hands!
Members brought their own
lunch; the Unit provided Pumpkin
pie for dessert.





Halloween 2025

Tech tok



Did you know you can read the Newsletter, the Brunch Menu, Game Results, Board Minutes, and Treasury Report, all on your home computer? And you can see it with **excellent** resolution?

In your Search Engine or WEB BROWSER, type in our webpage:
santacruzbridge.org

The newsletter and menu enlarge on your screen.

Also

LIVE links (those you can click on and be taken to a new section) are Underlined roll your mouse over the web page, and live links become highlighted!

Check it out!! You might find your name in the Accolades section !



Have you seen and heard the new Bridge Timer?

In an effort to keep the game moving, the directors will be implementing the Bridge timer.

Keep an ear out for the chime (sounds like the steward call bell) ding



The SCBC is toasting and honoring

LIESEL SABLOFF

celebrating her



100th



Birthday!

*Please join us, December 14th at 11:45 a.m.
for lunch and birthday cake - bridge at 12:30 p.m.*

ENTREE

Assorted Sandwiches

**Marinated carrots & olive tapenade on wheat
bread**

Ham, orange & arugula on baguette

SOUP & SALAD

**Mixed greens with candied almonds & goat
cheese**

Pumpkin soup with sage & gruyere

BIRTHDAY CAKE and BUBBLY



food and menu prepared by Chef Heather MacGregor

lunch is free, register on the SCBC Event app OR email Farol at:

farol@cruzio.com