



Santa Cruz  
Unit 550

SANTA CRUZ BRIDGE CENTER  
2450 17TH AVENUE, SUITE 200  
SANTA CRUZ, CA 95062  
831-603-2448 SANTACRUZBRIDGE.ORG

# September/October Santa Cruz Bridge Club Newsletter



## NEW MEMBERS

**JENNY BEAR**

**MIKE RUSSAK**

**BRIAN SMITH**

**TOM MARTIN**



## **ACCOLADES**

**Michael Modest NBC MASTER**

**Lester Loops ADVANCED NABC  
MASTER**

**WOW!**

**70 AND + % GAMES  
AUG 5TH - SEPT 16TH**

**8/6**

**Ken Llacera - Mick Friedberg**

**8/7**

**Ginger Stone - Jan Winham**

**Andrew Calciano - Marilyn Calciano**

**8/19**

**Janet Loops - Lester Loops**

**8/26**

**Robert Hartmann - Tony Nelson**

**9/16**

**Barbara Tidmore - Judy Osborn**

**Andrew Calciano - Marilyn Calciano**



# STAC WEEK AUG. 19-24\*\*

## AUGUST 20

**MICK FRIEDBERG - KEN LLACERA**

**67.50%**

**2.16 SILVER (1ST A)**

**RICHARD HILL - MALCOLM SPROTT**

**60.83%**

**1.31 SILVER (1STA)B**

**KENNETH MARTIN - JARED BOGGS**

**51.25%**

**0.92 SILVER (1ST C)**

## AUGUST 22

**JOHN WESOLOWSKI - CINDY SEDEY**

**57.50%**

**1.41 SILVER (1ST A)**

**DIANA SCHILLING - JANET LOOPS**

**52.50%**

**0.85 SILVER (2/3 A/B)**

**RICHARD HILL - JIM MILLER**

**52.50%**

**0.85 SILVER (2.3 A,B)**

## AUGUST 23

**RICHARD HILL - RACHAEL SPENCER**

**64.44%**

**2.06 SILVER (1ST A AND B)**

**DIANA SCHILLING - JOANNE BRUNO**

**57.78**

**1.44 SILVER (2ND A)**

**ROBERT JOHNSON - JOHN WESOLOWSKI**

**55.19%**

**0.88 SILVER (1ST C)**

**\*\*FOR MORE DETAILED RESULTS  
GO TO [MYACBL.COM](http://MYACBL.COM)**



**COSTUME  
PARTY**

**HALLOWEEN COSTUME PARTY AND BYO APPETIZER TO SHARE NIGHT  
WEDNESDAY EVENING OCTOBER 30 5:30  
COME AS YOU AREN'T**

# Member's Corner

## Getting to Know... Susan Slinger



This month, Susan Slinger, is in the newsletter spotlight. Born in Fresno, California, Susan lived on her family's ranch. The family grew cotton, grain and cataloupes. She and her sister, Gail, got lots of time and attention, as their parents were mostly homebodies. Though the local district school wasn't far, it had no kindergarten. Her cousin, who was of equal age, was going off to a kindergarten in another district. Susan was heartbroken to learn she wasn't going too. However, Susan's doting mother and aunt arranged for Susan to attend the first day of school with her cousin. Susan says it may not seem like much, but it got her through the misery of missing out.

First grade was a different story. In those days, mothers made home-sewn dresses for the girls to wear. Susan still remembers one with smocking in the front. She got home from school that first day and said, "I didn't learn a thing, but I sure had fun." It was one of the things her mother oft-repeated well into Susan's adulthood.

At age 15, Susan's father died in an airplane crash on his ranch. The family of three moved into the town of Fresno. It was the first time Susan had actually lived in a town. Susan started at her new high school, bringing home new friends. Previously, the sisters had not wanted to learn to play bridge. But their new friends did! Susan's mother taught everyone on the living room floor.

Looking forward to attending college, Susan had only one school in mind, Stanford. While making plans to attend Stanford, and still at Fresno High School, she met and fell in love with Bill Berken. After graduation, Susan left for Stanford, met a few other fellows, but knew, after two years, she wanted to marry Bill. She transferred from Stanford to Fresno State and graduated from there; she earned a teaching credential. Their marriage was a whirlwind, Bill had to report to Lackland Air Force Base for duty. After the air force they both found jobs, he working for Cal Trans, she teaching junior high school.

Together, they had three children. Bill received a promotion which took them to Bishop, California. As Susan recalls, the Eastern Sierras were a great place to raise children. Employing those high school bridge lessons her taughtmother, she learned to play duplicate bridge in Bishop. While bridge was new for Bill, he was 'game' to play. Bishop had little leisure activities and it became their entertainment.

After yet another promotion the family found themselves in San Diego. Susan became an avid tennis player, but with the children in school, she needed something else to do. Just like that, she said to her family, “I think I’ll go to law school.” Bill was her biggest supporter and encouraged her. Susan did indeed get her Juris Doctor degree and practiced law for the state in the Health and Welfare Department.

Bill retired in 1991 and they moved to Santa Cruz. Susan still worked for the state government using telecommunication. Sadly, in 1994, while jogging around the yacht harbor, Bill suffered cardiac arrest, and didn’t recover. Susan and her family were devastated; slowly, they picked up the pieces.

An avid and life-long lover of reading, Susan discovered a book club for single people. Lo and behold, Susan meets the second lover of her life, Jim Slinger. They met at the end of 1998. They found they had a lot in common besides books and bridge and married in 2006.

Susan has been playing bridge for about sixty five years. She became a member of the Santa Cruz Bridge Club back when it was on Capitola Road at the Octagon Building. Dolores Abrams was directing games back then.

Asking Susan what makes her happiest about playing bridge, she laughs, and says winning of course. Playing the hand well and playing at the club with friends, too.

Her advice to new players? Focus, focus, focus, count the cards and keep track of the bidding. If you are the declarer, review the bidding before you play to the first trick. It is a very hard game, but Susan thinks everyone can get better at it.

She can’t think of a funny bridge incident. She says she can reveal that she always has a smile on her face, even when she is just grinding her teeth during the play of the hand. Susan says, “It’s always best to at least *appear* to be enjoying it!”



**SCBC Board of Directors elections will be in early December.**

**Several members have served their two year term and are stepping down. Perhaps you have some good thoughts and ideas how to make our club grow and flourish? Please consider joining us for the 2025-2027 term. We always need new input and ideas to make our club the best it can be.**

**WE NEED EVERY MEMBER'S HELP  
WE ARE HOSTING OUR ANNUAL SECTIONAL  
AT OUR OWN CLUB!!!!**

# SURF'S UP SECTIONAL

OCTOBER 5TH AND 6TH

SATURDAY 2 SESSIONS - STRATIFIED PAIRS  
10:00 A.M. AND 2:30 P.M.

SUNDAY - STRATIFIED SWISS TEAMS  
10:00 A.M.

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advanced reservations on our website strongly recommended [santacruzbridge.org](http://santacruzbridge.org)

TOURNAMENT  
DIRECTOR:  
GREG VANCE  
SANCTION#2410331  
CHAIR:  
ROBERT JOHNSON  
(831) 345-5966  
CO-CHAIR:  
KEN LLACERA  
(831) 426-4949  
PARTNERSHIPS:  
JOHN WESOLOWSKI  
(831) 332-4498



**Many hands make less work!!!**

**Please sign up on the bulletin board**

**bring food, help set up, help clean up**