

Santa Cruz Bridge Center

2450 17th Ave., Suite 200, Santa Cruz, CA 95062.

Website: santacruzbridge.org



Santa Cruz
Unit 550

District 21
May 2023

Email: info@santacruzbridge.org



Sunday Evening STaC play

MAY Starts out with ROYAL STaC week...
Do you know what STaC stands for?

STaC is an acronym for **Sectional Tournaments at Clubs**. They are ACBL tournaments played within participating clubs, allowing players to earn Silver sectional rated master points without having to travel far. A **ROYAL STaC** game, awards **Gold**, **Silver**, **Red** and **Black** points. **STaC** games are exceptional because your winning points are converted to 25% black, 25% silver, 25% red, and 25% gold when the games are processed by the ACBL.



MEMBER MILESTONES

We have some member achievement titles to recognize:
3/31/23 through 5/1/23:

NEW SECTIONAL MASTER (50+) **Jim Miller**

NEW NABC MASTER (200+) **Jason Prochaska**

NEW LIFE MASTER (500+) **Robert Johnson**

NEW SILVER LIFE MASTER (1000+) **Alan Chase**

Congratulations

70% + scores achieved March 1st thru April 30th :

Claire Swetland/D. Webb - Wed Eve Open **77.22%**
3/22/2023

Theresa Loftus/Larry Bazinett - Tues Eve BBO **75.0%**
4/18/2023

Have you thought about playing in the **evening** again?
There are two face to face games during the week.



MONDAY night is a 499er game...just like the pre-covid times.

Then there's an OPEN game:

WINE DOWN WEDNESDAYS 🍷🍷🍷🍷

Both games start at **6 p.m.**

The Monday 12:30 social bridge and lesson continues this month on **May 8th**, Please **RSVP** if you are planning on having lunch.

Member's Corner

...Getting to Know RICH HILL



Can't wait for that spectacular
SUNDAY Brunch! 🙌 chef Heather

The Board of Directors sent out an email survey last month regarding members without COVID vaccinations returning to the bridge center to play in face to face games. A number of active members indicated they would be reluctant to play face to face with non-vaccinated persons returning to the Bridge Center. Thus, it was decided that it is too soon to change our **current vaccination requirement**.



Rich Hill was born in Long Beach, CA. He grew up in Sacramento, (he's NOT a King's fan [interview during NBA game]). Rich went to college at UCSC and majored in Mathematics and Economics. He became interested and played some bridge while he was in school. He remembers going to a predecessor bridge club off of Porter Street in Soquel. Rich returned to Santa Cruz County taking the position as the Capitola City Manager in

2001.

Rich started playing bridge again in either 2011 or 2012 when he began joining the Sunday bridge game and lesson Mark Hasey ran. He remembers learning losing trick count and other lessons Mark taught. Rich has been a member of the Santa Cruz Bridge Center for twenty-one years, he has served on the Board of Directors twice.

What makes him happiest about bridge? He really loves the company that the smart and funny membership brings. "I've gotten to where I just like our club." He says he doesn't like to go to tournaments much any more just likes the sociability at the SCBC.

Rich's advice for beginners: think tactically and make your plan on offense and defense. Structure your game, look from offense to defense and be thinking one or two bids ahead, depending on what your partner bids.

Another first step is to play in tempo. Opponents can draw a lot of inference from not playing in tempo. Plus it's courteous. Once Rich was at a table where two top players were bidding in NT. His RHO took too long to bid, he knew right away she didn't have suit control somewhere. He reevaluated his hand; seven tricks taken and down three because of what he inferred from her hesitation.

The funniest thing that happened while playing? There have been a number, that's what makes playing at the Club enjoyable. Rich does remember conspiring with his partner to obfuscate a director call on a newly certified director. The fake bidding resulted in the director being nonplussed but clearly confused. His partner came clean with the truth.

They all had a good laugh.

Rich is retired now. He is married and has one son who lives in Indianapolis. Rich volunteers with SCORE The Service corps of Retired Executives giving help, advice, and mentoring to small businesses and start up companies.