

I was born in Los Angeles in 1945. I was educated as a physicist and spent most of my career as scientist at Los Alamos National Laboratory. I worked on basic science research projects in collaboration with many U.S. and foreign universities. Nearly 20 students got their Ph.D.s working on my projects, and two of those were actually my students. I was elected as a fellow of the American Physical Society. Shortly before my retirement, some friends talked my wife and me into going on safari in Tanzania. This trip transformed my lifelong interest in photography into a passion. Since then, my wife and I have spent the last 16 years traveling the globe in search of great images of wildlife, cultures, and landscapes. My images may be viewed on my website at martincooperphotos.com. Photography has been a more occupying retirement hobby than bridge.

I started playing social bridge with my parents as a teenager. I played some in college (Caltech), graduate school (University of Maryland), and as a postdoc (University of Washington). When we moved to Los Alamos in 1977, my wife and I started a couples duplicate group. All these games were at the advanced-beginner level. I retired in 2013 and took up bridge as another retirement hobby. I played primarily at the Los Alamos Duplicate Bridge Club (LADBC), where I was introduced to advanced players. Once I got going, some club members took me under their wing, became my regular partners, and started teaching me as their student. As I advanced, I became interested in tournaments, an atmosphere I really like. The goal of life master seemed so distant that I did not think much about it until a Taos Regional about three years ago when my partners and I started winning the overall place in the Gold Rush sessions. After 11 years in the LADBC, I just attained the rank of Life Master by completing the colored master-point requirements. My other bridge experiences are as president of the LADBC for two years and as tournament chair of the LADBC sectional for three years. I anticipate continuing to play at the LADBC and in tournaments near New Mexico.

Martin Cooper, Life Master, March 2025