

Henry Kingdon's Bridge Classes

415-572-9458

h_kingdon@yahoo.com

Class descriptions are first. For the schedule of upcoming classes, enrollment links, and phone numbers please scroll down the page.

Private Lessons

In addition to the classes I teach through the community centers I am also available for private lessons for beginners and new intermediate players. With a smaller group that knows each other, lessons can be tailored more closely to the group's needs and goals. Typically lessons are at one of the group member's homes. The larger the group, the smaller the individual cost. Please contact me if you can get a group, or if you have interest in joining a group that is forming that might meet your needs. Individual coaching is also an option.

Drop In Rubber Bridge

Everyone is welcome, even if you have zero experience at the bridge table. It's OK to show up late, leave early, just watch, or just visit, or pair up and play a few hands. This is just a chance to play and practice keeping score while there's an experienced player around to help answer questions.

Introduction to Modern Bridge Fundamentals (six weeks)

And More Modern Bridge Fundamentals (six more weeks)

Come learn the fascinating game of contract bridge. There are many benefits to playing duplicate bridge including mental, social, and even physical (google benefits of playing duplicate bridge) but mostly it's fun!

To grow into a strong bridge player you need a strong foundation. We start at the very beginning in this thorough introduction for true beginners.

In these classes we will look at Pat Harrington's Beginning Bridge series. Using her curriculum as a guide, players will learn and practice basic bridge techniques for declarer play, defense, and bidding. For flexibility of scheduling I have broken the lessons into two six week sessions.

Every lesson contains several hands that students will play to demonstrate each new concept. Students will take turns as declarer and defender so everyone gets to try everything. There is plenty of time to talk about what worked and what didn't and why.

Week 1 : Introduction to the Game of Bridge
Week 2 : Hand Evaluation and Bonus Contracts
Week 3 : Opening Bids
Week 4 : Responding to No Trump Opener
Week 5 : Responding to One of a Major Suit
Week 6 : Responding to One of a Minor Suit

Week 7 : Dummy Points and Hand Re-evaluation
Week 8 : When Responder Bids No Trump
Week 9: When Opener Bids No Trump
Week 10 : The Takeout Double
Week 11 : Preemptive Bids
Week 12 : Opening 2 Clubs for a Big Strong Hand

Introduction to No Trump Conventions

Week 1: Gerber and Quantitative No Trump
Week 2: Stayman
Week 3: Jacoby Transfers

Finding the perfect contract over your partner's opening no trump bid is easier with these awesome tools. Explore Stayman, Jacoby Transfers, Gerber, and Quantitative No Trump bids. Everyone will get a turn at defense and declarer play. The main topics each day will be 4/13: Gerber & Quantitative No Trump; 4/20: The Stayman convention; 4/27: Jacoby Transfers.

Gerber and Quantitative No Trump: Use Gerber to ask you No Trump opening partner how many aces are in their hand so you can pick the right slam contract. Use a Quantitative No Trump bid to safely explore for marginal slams in No Trump.

Stayman: We all know an 8 card fit usually plays better in a trump contract than a no trump contract. Use the Stayman convention to find those 4 - 4 major suit fits.

Jacoby Transfers are a powerful tool after a no trump opener that allow the responder to do each of the following:

- Force to game with a 5 card major.
- Force to game with a 6+ card major
- Invite to game with a 5 card major
- Invite to game with a 6+ card major
- Place the contract in a partscore in any suit

The Basics of Stayman, a great first convention for everyone (one class)

Stayman is a convention used to find a 4 - 4 major suit fit after an opening No Trump bid. The focus of this class is how Stayman can be used by responder to:

Force to game with 4 cards in one or both of the major suits.

Invite to game with 4 cards in one or both major suits.

Or rarely, under very special circumstances, rescue partner from a bad no trump contract

This class will also show how opener and responder navigate the continuing auction.

The Basics of Jacoby Transfers, make the most of your partner's no trump hand (one class)

Jacoby transfers are used to show a long suit. They are additionally useful because they allow responder to more accurately show the length , i.e. exactly 5 vs 6+, and they prevent the contract from being 'wrong sided' allowing the stronger hand to remain hidden and receive the opening lead. Jacoby transfers can be used by responder to

Force to game with a 5 card major.

Force to game with a 6+ card major

Invite to game with a 5 card major

Invite to game with a 6+ card major

Place the contract in a partscore in any suit

2025 Schedule

Drop in **Rubber Bridge** on the second Friday evening every month from 6:30 - 9:00 at the Unitarian church, 240 Channing Way, San Rafael, 94903. Come play casual, social bridge, with an experienced player nearby that can answer questions.

Jan 10

Feb 14

Mar 14

Apr 11

May 9

Jun 13

July - no game

August - no game

Sept - Dec likely 2nd Friday, room not yet secured

My **Beginning Bridge** series will run at the times below.

Typically the first six lessons are Introduction to Modern Bridge Fundamentals, and the second six lessons are More Modern Bridge Fundamentals, followed by three lessons on No Trump conventions.

Lesson 1: welcome, tricks, declarer, dummy, declarer planning, opening lead

Lesson 2: Playing in No Trump, Playing in a trump suit, Choosing a contract

Lesson 3: Introducing Bidding and hand evaluation

Lesson 4: 1NT Opener and responses

Lesson 5: Opening one of a major suit, and responding

Lesson 6: Opening one of a minor suit, and responding

Lesson 7: Dummy Points, Counting Losers

Lesson 8: Responder bids No Trump

Lesson 9: Opener Bids No Trump

Lesson 10: Takeout Double

Lesson 11: Preempts

Lesson 12: Strong Two Clubs

Lesson 13: Quantitative No Trump and Gerber

Lesson 14: The Stayman convention

Lesson 15: Jacoby Transfers

=====

Henry's Remaining 2025 classes as of May 10, 2025

Classes by Location

These classes are Monday evenings from 6:30 - 8:30 at the Mill Valley Rec Center

Sign up online at <https://www.millvalleyrecreation.org/>

Or call 415-383-1370

Intro to Modern Bridge Fundamentals, 6 weeks, \$210, Sep 8 - Oct 13

More Modern Bridge Fundamentals, 5* weeks, \$175, Oct 20 - Nov 17

No Trump Conventions, 3 weeks, \$120, Dec 1 - Dec 15

* The sixth week will be at strawberry on 11/24, sign up through strawberry rec

These classes are Tuesday mornings from 10:00 - 12:00 at the Strawberry Rec Center

Sign up online at <https://strawberryrecreation.recdesk.com/>

Or call 415-383-6494

Intro to Modern Bridge Fundamentals, 6 weeks, \$190, Sep 2 - Oct 7

More Modern Bridge Fundamentals, 6 weeks, \$190, Oct 14 - Nov 25 (no class 11/11)

No Trump Conventions, 3 weeks, \$110, Dec 2 - Dec 16

These classes are Tuesday evenings from 6:30 - 8:30 at the Terra Linda Rec Center

Sign up online at <https://www.cityofsanrafael.org/terra-linda-communitycenter/>

Or call 415-485-3344

Intro to Modern Bridge Fundamentals, 6 weeks, \$190, Aug 19 - Sept 23

More Modern Bridge Fundamentals, 6 weeks, \$190, Sept 30 - Nov 18 (no class
10/28, 11/11)

No Trump Conventions, 3 weeks, \$110, Nov 25, Dec 9, Dec 16

These classes are Thursday afternoons from 1:30 - 3:30 at the Sausalito Rec Center

Sign up online at: <https://sausalito.recdesk.com/Community/Program?category=2>

Or call 415-289-4152

Intro to Modern Bridge Fundamentals, 6 weeks, \$190, Sep 4 - Oct 9

More Modern Bridge Fundamentals, 6 weeks, \$190, Oct 16 - Nov 20

No Trump Conventions, 3 weeks, \$110, Dec 4 - Dec 18

These classes are Tuesdays 1:30 - 3:30 at the Ross Art and Garden Center

Sign up online at: <https://www.rossrecreation.org/all-programs>

Or call 415-453-6020

More Modern Bridge Fundamentals: Lessons 7 - 12 , \$190, May 6 - Jun 10

Intro to Modern Bridge Fundamentals: Lessons 1 - 6 , \$190, Sep 2 - Oct 7

More Modern Bridge Fundamentals: Lessons 7 - 12 , \$190, Oct 14 - Nov 25 (no class
11/11)

No Trump Conventions, 3 weeks, \$110, Dec 2 - Dec 16

=====

Classes by Topic

Intro to Modern Bridge Fundamentals

Mill Valley, Mondays, 6:30 - 8:30, Sept 8 - Oct 13

Terra Linda Tuesdays, 6:30 - 8:30, Aug 19 - Sep 23

Strawberry Tuesdays, 10:00 - 12:00, Sep 2 - Oct 7

Ross Tuesdays, 1:30 - 3:30, Sep 2 - Oct 7

Sausalito Thursdays, 1:30 - 3:30, Sep 4 - Oct 9

More Modern Bridge Fundamentals

Mill Valley, Mondays, 6:30 - 8:30, Oct 20 - Nov 24* (11/24 at Strawberry)
Terra Linda Tuesdays, 6:30 - 8:30, Sep 30 - Nov 18 (no class 10/28, 11/11)
Strawberry Tuesdays, 10:00 - 12:00, Oct 14 - Nov 25 (no class 11/11)
Ross Tuesdays, 1:30 - 3:30, Oct 14 - Nov 25 (no class 11/11)
Sausalito Thursdays, 1:30 - 3:30, Oct 16 - Nov 20

No Trump Conventions:

Mill Valley, Mondays, 6:30 - 8:30, Dec 1 - Dec 15
Strawberry Tuesdays, 10:00 - 12:00, Dec 2 - Dec 16
Ross Tuesdays, 1:30 - 3:30, Dec 2 - Dec 16
Terra Linda Tuesdays, 6:30 - 8:30, Nov 25, Dec 9, Dec 16
Sausalito Thursdays 1:30 - 3:30, Dec 4 - Dec 18