

# Sharpen Your Competitive Edge

2025 Fall: September 11 - November 13 — Thursdays, 7:15 - 9:30pm  
Class break week (no class) on October 16 and 23.

Location: Palo Alto Bridge Center

Instructor: Frank Smoot

Fee: \$240

Register at [paloaltobridge.org](http://paloaltobridge.org) In the Education tab, click on Classes

This course is designed for players who understand the basics, but are working on accurately assessing their hand strength to avoid overbidding or underbidding - players who are refining techniques like finesses, setting up long suits and entry management. We will cherish mistakes in class and grow stronger from them.

You will learn powerful and practical bidding, play and defense concepts. The opponents will often get into your auction (and you into theirs) in this course. You will add tools to overcome the competition and use the bidding to help your play of the hand.

We do exercises in class (and homework outside of class). We finish the evening by playing deals related to the topic. Snacks are provided. You will be amazed at what you will learn, even if you have played for years and years! The in-class deals are available in downloadable format so you can play the hands at home and receive commentary on the bidding and play (requires Bridge Baron software).

Topics of Eight-Week Course Include:

- 1 - Weak Two-Bids: Modern (flimsy?) Requirements and Responses
- 2 - Strong Two-Club Opening: ... and Effective Follow-ups
- 3 - Bidding Judgment - Uncontested: Positional Values like K-x
- 4 - Bidding Judgment - Contested: Green (and Red) Lights
- 5 - Competing and Sacrificing: Compete to the Proper Level
- 6 - Combating Weak Openings: ... and How to Declare Afterward
- 7 - Third Hand Defense: When to Finesse Against Dummy
- 8 - Second Hand Defense: Which (and Why) Rules to Bend

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