

Marvelous Monday: Jan – Mar 2025

Here is our Marvelous Monday lineup for First Quarter 2025. These lessons are intended for players at all skill levels – from beginners seeking to hone basic skills to advanced players looking to cement and expand their understanding of the game. They start promptly at 11:30 and run approximately one hour. A voluntary donation of \$5 is appreciated but not required. Come join us!

1	Jan 6	T/O Doubles	Barb S
2	Jan 13	Balancing	Jack W
3	Jan 20	Responding to a Take Out Double	Bob H
4	Jan 27	Declare (and do it better)	Steven D
5	Feb 3	Fourth Suit Forcing I- a basic bridge essential	Gayle C
6	Feb 10	Fourth Suit Forcing II - a basic bridge essential	Gayle C
7	Feb 17	Overcalls	Joe O
8	Feb 24	IMPs	Steven D
9	Mar 3	Rabbi's Rules I - Things you gotta know!	Kay A
10	Mar 10	What Double is This?	Bob H
11	Mar 17	Rabbi's Rules II - Things you gotta know!	Kay A
12	Mar 24	Hands from the Trenches (Memphis!)	Steven D
13	Mar 31	Let's discuss: Drury and New Minor Forcing	Gayle C

See next page.

More about your teacher and their lesson topic:

1 Barb Sullenger, new to our list, has taught on cruise ships and bridge clubs for years....and always a fave! Now NWTBC gets her back! Just because Rightie opens and you have an opening bid, you don't necessarily have a bid. What should a T/O Double look like? What are you telling partner when you pull out that red card?

2 Jack Wholey, our own National Champ, will tackle the topic of Balancing. Mike Lawrence is THE expert. Jack, who knows Mike, will work from Mike's words of wisdom...and from his own years of experience and success. Balancing comes up all the time: When it goes Pass-Pass to you, what's *your* job?

3 Bob Hertzog, NWTBC teacher extraordinaire, will pick up where Barbara left off, expanding on the topic in 'Responding to Overcalls.' You ask yourself: What do I do now? Bob will tell you!

4 Steven DeVico, just short of 10,000 points, is playing great bridge and giving great lessons. We really focused on Defense in the last months of 2024; Steven kicks off his 2025 lessons talking about improving your Declarer play. You **MUST** take all of your tricks to win!

5/6 Gayle Covey has threatened to teach Fourth Suit Forcing for a year; now she does. You simply *cannot* play modern bridge if you don't know how to create a forcing auction. And you can't force without FSF. These are the most fun auctions in bridge. AND....After 4SF, *what next*? Two classes can actually turn you into a MUCH better bidder.

7 Joe Olivier will talk about Overcalls. What are you saying to pard when you overcall? What should you have....and what should partner count on? What are you inviting pard to do? Bidding is a conversation. Again: what are YOU saying? Bad overcalls guarantee you'll lose; good overcalls give you the chance to win.

8 Steven on IMPs. The Tucson Regional starts tomorrow. Playing teams? You can't miss this one! IMP Strategy....designed for winning bridge THIS week!

9/11 Kay Afdahl (our Director in Charge, heartbeat of our club, longtime club owner in Va Beach, 10,000+ master points) kicks off March. She's put together the Rabbi's Rules! Just like Eddie Kantar, Kay knows – and shares – basic tenets for better bridge. (And, she says, you and pard should agree on these!)

10 Bob said this 'vague' topic is not vague at all. That red card comes out all the time in all sorts of auctions. What double IS this?????

12 Steven brings back "Hands from the Trenches"—things that actually happened at the bridge table that we can laugh at, criticize, praise....and LEARN FROM!! He'll just be back from 10 days at the Nationals and will bring us the best hands he played, defended, witnessed.

13 Gayle ends the first quarter talking about a couple of conventions that many/most play – Drury and New Minor Forcing. There are different ways to play both conventions; nothing is really 'standard.' She'll talk about why these are pretty essential tools for modern bidding – and how you can examine what these tools might look like in YOUR tool chest.

