

January Thaw Issue

MCA NEWS

Montana Chess Association



2016-2017
Tri-Champions



Congratulations!

David Duke Jim Skovron Wilton Strickland

Competition was tough in the 2016 Montana Closed as evidenced by the final scores. Wilton Strickland secured a share of the championship after several years of near misses while perennial ‘heavies’ David Duke and Jim Skovron once again landed in familiar territory. For David, it might mean converting the spare bedroom into a chess trophy room after so many finishes at the top rung while, for Jim, it’s a return to the top after a couple of off years. The Closed tournament report and standings follow on page 3.

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Upcoming Events	9

The turnout was modest at the 2016 Memorial satellite event held in conjunction with the Montana Closed in Great Falls. Still, attendance for the combined sections brought the total in the playing hall to 16 and made for a good chess tournament atmosphere.

Bob Mitchell landed a 344 point upset over Dan McCourt in the 1st round while Frank Miller’s draw with Dennis Petrak in that same round was good for a 140 point upset. McCourt and Petrak worked their way back up the ladder and each finished at 3.5 to lead the group. Tournament Director Gary Solomon filled in as the houseplayer. Crosstable is on page 3.



www.flatheadchess.org

Whitefish Chess Club

Every Thursday 7-9 p.m.

Red Caboose on Central

All ages and abilities welcome.

Kalispell Chess Club

Location: Sunnyview Cafe in the Kalispell Regional Medical Center

Time: Tuesdays anytime between 5 pm and 8 pm

Info: All skill levels welcome; No fees; Bring your chess set, but there are extras at the site; Free lessons available

Contact: Gary Solomon; galsolomon@yahoo.com; 253-3883

Board of Montana Chess Association

President	Dan McCourt	608 West Central, Missoula MT 59801 mccourtdj@charter.net 406-274-0465
Western V.P.	Jacob Copley	yelpocbocaj@gmail.com
Eastern V.P.	Dan Mattson	mattsondm@me.com
Executive V.P.	Wilton Strickland	wiltonlaw3@yahoo.com
Sec./Treasurer	Gary Solomon	712 Mountain Meadow Rd, Kalispell, MT 59901 galsolomon@yahoo.com 406-253-3883

From the editor's nook

And there is another MT Chess Newsletter. It's been awhile. Well...the biggest hurdle is getting an obsessive personality to somehow interface with software that is customer-unfriendly by design. I think I've got it figured out now though.

Let's look forward to an issue that includes games from the January Thaw and an agenda for the upcoming annual meeting. Also, coming up on the 3rd anniversary of the sudden loss of Bill McBroom, we will publish retrospectives looking back on the man and his place in Montana chess.

Lastly, the news is a lot more interesting when games are published. Scoresheets are most welcome...inclusion of game notes is even better. In the meantime, let's keep pushing wood—or plastic, as the case may be.

—————danmccourt

Montana Closed Report

Round one went pretty much as expected although the games were close and Tom Mostad upset Darren Stacy with alert play. Tom continued strong play in the 2nd round holding Wilton Strickland to a draw. Hans Mazur scored the 2nd upset tipping Anthony Raelund. The most daring opening featured Jim Skovron's 1. g4 against David Duke. Jim got a good game but David kept his balance and it settled into a draw. Strickland overcame Skovron in round three and Mazur struck again with an upset over Stacy. Going into round four it was Duke, Strickland, and Mazur leading with 2.5.

Duke and Strickland played to a draw in that round while Skovron got back on track with a solid win over Mazur. Jacob Copley also got back into the running with his 2nd win. Round 5 began with Duke and Strickland at 3 points and Mazur, Skovron, and Copley just behind at 2.5. Copley couldn't get past Duke but did hold the draw as did Mazur in his game with Strickland. Skovron's 2nd win of the day not only pulled him up to the first place tie but also gave him the lead on tie-breaks. Darren Stacey also finished with 2 wins on Sunday but it was too late to overcome Saturday's slow start. He and Copley joined Mazur in the near-miss group with 3 points. Mazur's play over the weekend was strong and solid—a little unexpected but definitely not a total surprise. He won't be taken lightly in any future events.

2016 Montana Closed Championship										
#	Place	Name	Total	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Rd 5	TBrk[M]	TBrk[S]
1	1-3	James Skovron	3.5	W7	D2	L3	W4	W10	12.5	12.5
2		David Duke	3.5	W9	D1	W8	D3	D5	12	13
3		Wilton Strickland	3.5	W10	D8	W1	D2	D4	12	12
4	4-6	Hans Mazur	3.0	D5	W9	W6	L1	D3	13	14
5		Jacob Copley	3.0	D4	L6	W7	W8	D2	12	14
6		Darren Stacey	3.0	L8	W5	L4	W10	W9	9	9
7	7	Simon McGlenn	2.5	L1	W10	L5	W9	D8	6	9.5
8	8	Tomas Mostad	2.0	W6	D3	L2	L5	D7	12	15.5
9	9	Anthony Raelund	1.0	L2	L4	W10	L7	L6	8.5	12

2016 Memorial

#	Place	Name	Total	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Rd 5	TBrk[M]	TBrk[S]	TBrk[C]
1	1-2	Daniel McCourt	3.5	L3	W2	W5	W4	H---	10	10	9
2		Dennis Petrak	3.5	D5	L1	W3	W5	B---	9	9	7.5
3	3	Robert Mitchell	3.0	W1	L4	L2	B---	W5	11	11	7
4	4	Gary Solomon	2.5	W6	W3	H---	L1	U---	4	7.5	10
5	5	Frank Miller Jr	1.5	D2	W6	L1	L2	L3	10	13.5	6.5
6	6	Brett Thackeray	0.0	L4	L5	U---	U---	U---	1.5	4.5	0



Turkey Open 2016

This year's tournament experienced a more normal turnout of 23 players after the near record attendance of 39 in 2015. Still, it was a highly competitive event with the Casey brothers, Braxton and Garrett, returning to Spokane with both prize money and rating points. Each of them cracked the 1800 plateau as well. Braxton was one of three players to come away with more than 100 points in new ratings. His 5th round victory over Garrett gave him clear 1st while Garrett shared 2nd place and the "B" prize with Sherwood Moore and Anthony Raelund. Anthony's 4th round win over Spokane expert Michael Cambareri snagged the biggest upset prize which was a fine wooden chess set generously donated by Dennis Petrak. Offered cash on the barrelhead in exchange for the pieces, Anthony opted for keeping the set. Tom Booth, a western Montana regular in the 1980's, traveled back here from the Boise area and collected the "C" prize—for which he'll no longer be eligible unless he returns the 110 rating points he nipped away from us. Tom's weekend play boosted him into the "B" crowd. Dylan Cornish and Jesse Driscoll also bumped up their ratings while sharing the "D" prize. Jesse's tough pairings brought him a nice 101 point gain.

Once again, I received superb assistance from Sherwood Moore, Dan McCourt and Gary Solomon for which I'm very grateful.

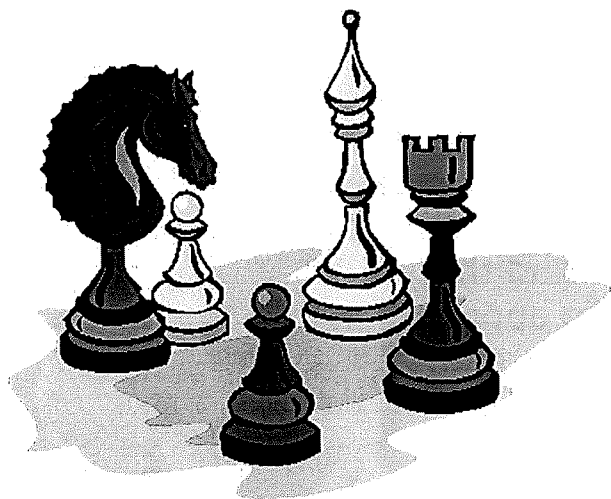
Submitted by Romie Carpenter



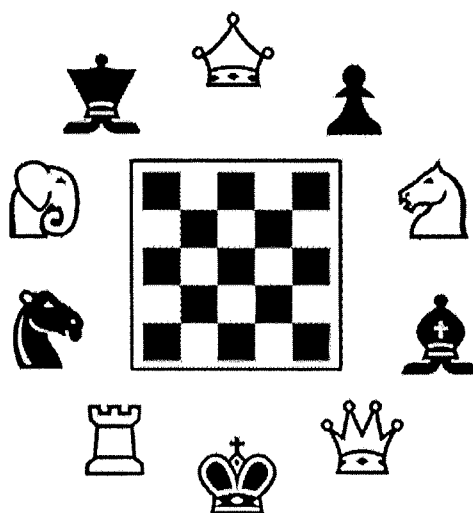
University / Community Chess Club	
Meeting Location:	Rm 235 Liberal Arts Building, The University of Montana, Missoula
Meeting Time:	Thursdays: Start drifting in about 6:45pm, clocks start at 7:00pm
Club Info:	Sherwood Moore 544-9992 Dan McCourt 274-0465 Generally, 3 rated games per month followed by Blitz tourney. Chess study sessions occasionally.

2016 Turkey Open Romie Carpenter, T.D.

#	Place	Name	Rtng	Total	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Rd 5	TBrk[M]	TBrk[S]
1	1	Braxton Casey	1638	4.5	W15	W8	D7	W6	W2	12.5	14.5
2	2-5	Garrett Casey	1790	3.5	W3	W13	D9	W5	L1	14.5	17
3		Tom Booth	1523	3.5	L2	W21	W10	W7	D4	13	14.5
4		Anthony Raelund	1697	3.5	W23	L6	W13	W16	D3	11	11
5		Sherwood Moore	1734	3.5	W17	W20	H---	L2	W11	9.5	9.5
6	6-10	Wilton Strickland	1827	3.0	W11	W4	H---	L1	D8	13.5	13.5
7		James Skovron	1730	3.0	W22	D9	D1	L3	W16	13	14
8		Jacob Copley	1764	3.0	W12	L1	D16	W19	D6	12.5	14.5
9		J Michael Jensen	1835	3.0	W14	D7	D2	D11	H---	11	11
10		Brad Bodie	1837	3.0	L13	W22	L3	W15	W14	10	11
11	11-12	Gary Solomon	1529	2.5	L6	W23	W20	D9	L5	7.5	11
12		Robert Rajala	1470	2.5	L8	L15	H---	W17	W21	5.5	8.5
13	13-19	John Henneford Jr	1584	2.0	W10	L2	L4	W18	U---	8.5	12
14		Daniel Mattson	1538	2.0	L9	L16	W17	W20	L10	8.5	11.5
15		Jesse Driscoll	1134	2.0	L1	W12	H---	L10	D19	8	12.5
16		Michael Cambareri	2067	2.0	H---	W14	D8	L4	L7	8	11.5
17		Dylan Cornish	1347	2.0	L5	W18	L14	L12	W23	6.5	10
18		Philip Molina	unr.	2.0	L20	L17	W23	L13	W22	4.5	7
19		Daniel McCourt	1668	2.0	W21	H---	U---	L8	D15	3.5	6.5
20	20-21	Michael Muller	1592	1.5	W18	L5	L11	L14	H---	6.5	10
21		James Burney	1267	1.5	L19	L3	W22	H---	L12	6	9.5
22	22	Frank Miller Jr	1338	1.0	L7	L10	L21	W23	L18	6.5	9.5
23	23	Colton Quirk	1286	0.0	L4	L11	L18	L22	L17	7.5	11



2016-2017 Grand Prix	Turkey
Anthony Raelund	12.6
Jim Skovron	10.9
Sherwood Moore	9.5
Wilton Strickland	6.5
Jacob Copley	6.5
J. Michael Jensen	6.5



Here's a quote from Lipnitsky's Questions of Modern Chess Theory that I think you'll find interesting. It's in his chapter-*Plans in the Opening*.

"Thus success in the opening struggle depends to a very large extent on our ability to discern our opponent's plan in good time, to decide how dangerous it is and to take the correct decision accordingly. If his plan is proceeding more slowly than ours, or if for various reasons it is unrealistic, then the best thing is to press straight ahead with our own plan and execute it energetically. This will be enough to compel our opponent at some stage to renounce his design in order to oppose our plan."

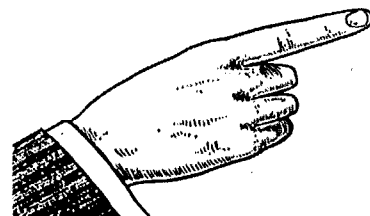
Conversely, he points out that if our opponent's plan is faster (assuming it's realistic) then it's imperative to immediately take prophylactic measures, rather than defensive measures later.

Submitted by Romie Carpenter.

My sense for correct play is that if the opponent's plan doesn't appear to be dangerous, then the correct decision is to sac a pawn. If the plan looks dangerous, then sac a piece! Mr. Lipnitsky can call me anytime for free advice.

Submitted by Dan McCourt.

"Lipnitsky moments"—check out a couple games of interest—particularly to those Frenchaphiles amongst us. One is a good example of things going well for the second player. The other game is a well-deserved win for white while French players can look through it and find the numerous instances where black fails to appreciate the possibilities of the positions as the game unfolds.



□ J. Michael Jensen, 1880

■ Daniel McCourt, 1690

French--Advance January 2017

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.e5 Unexpected but in keeping with "trends" Mike's opponents have noticed lately. With white, Mike seems to like throwing "changeups" at our pet defenses. Romie sees a different landscape with each successive Caro-Kahn as have I with the French. First a Tarrasch, then the Two Knights, a KIA, and now the Advance.... **c5 4.c3 Nc6 5.Nf3 Bd7 6.Bd3** Also unexpected. This is played if white wants to play a pawn-sac variation and is quite strong. Black must be well-prepared to defend precisely. I've played both colors of this variation, barely surviving Frank Miller's attack when I was black and going down in flames as white against a well-prepared Sherwood Moore.... **Qb6 7.Be2** giving up an important tempo to defend the pawn.... **Nh6** Be7 might be better so as to beef up h4 in case ofNf5 followed by g4 and Nh4 **8.a3** appealing but definitely unhelpful to white's cause. Na3 followed by Nc2 bolsters the center and keeps the b3 square under pawn control.... **a5** McCourt yields to Lipnitsky! White's b4 is often troubling for black in the French. This prophylactic move not only prevents b4 but sets serious problems for white's development. Black looks to play a4 followed by Na5 and Bb5 and Nb3 getting a very safe game. **9.Bxh6** generally, I consider it a good thing to exchange a queen bishop for a king knight but not on this square. An open g file is going to be trouble and white's queenside development remains awkward.... **gxh6 10.Qd2 a4 11.Qc2?** it's hard to find good moves but this loses the d4 pawn without compensation.... **cxd4 12.cxd4 Nxd4 13.Nxd4 Qxd4 14.Qc3 Bc5 15.0-0 Rc8 16.Qg3 Qxb2 17.Nc3 Bd4** Suddenly, the knight is attacked by three pieces and the Bishop is on prix if the knight moves away. **18.Nxd5** In keeping with the McCourt maxim---when in danger, sac a piece!... **exd5** is Bxe5 better? **19.e6** again, in keeping with the McCourt maxim--not in serious danger, then sac a pawn and -- even better if it happens with an e-pawn on the 6th rank.... **Bxe6 20.Rae1** White sets a challenge for black. How to handle the coming check after Bb5.... **Bc3** after a very long think, black settles on attacking the very well-placed rook on e1. Lipnitsky! and prophylaxis--not McCourt and sac something someplace. **21.Rc1** better than Rb1 but also takes a pair of bishops and rooks off the board while black is up on material **Qxe2 22.Rxc3 Rxc3**

23.Qxc3 0-0 24.Re1 Qc4 25.Qe3 Qg4 26.Qxh6 Qg6 27.Qf4 Qg7 28.Kh1? Kh8 29.Qxa4? d4 30.Rd1 Rg8 31.Rg1 Bd5 32.f3 Bxf3 33.Qc2 d3 34.Qf2 Bc6 35.h3 Re8 36.Rf1 Re2 37.Qf6 Bxg2+ 38.Kg1 Bxf1+ 39.Qxg7+ Kxg7 40.Kxf1 Ra2 41.Ke1 Rxa3 White resigns
0-1

□ Bob Mitchell, 1415

■ Dan McCourt, 1759

2016 Memorial Biggest upset

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.exd5 The Exchange Variation in the French Defense. The second player can easily slip into a lost position so pay no attention to the promoters who claim white has nothing but a boring draw. **exd5 4.Bd3 Bd6 5.Nf3 Ne7 6.0-0 0-0 7.c4 c6** Sadly passive. What would Lapnitsky do? Well, taking notice that Qc2 is coming, it's time for prophylaxis. Capturing on c4 deflects the white Bishop, gives white an isolani, and leaves Black with much better choices for development. **8.Qc2 g6 9.h4** Bishop to h6 is appealing. **Bf5 10.h5 Bxd3 11.Qxd3 Nf5 12.hxg6 fxe6 13.Bg5 Be7 14.Bxe7 Qxe7 15.Nc3 Qd8 16.cxd5 cxd5 17.Qb5 Nc6 18.Rad1 Nfe7 19.Ne5 Rb8 20.b3 a6 21.Nxc6 bxc6 22.Qxa6 Qd6 23.Qe2 Rbe8 24.Rfe1 Nf5 25.Qd2 Qb4 26.Rxe8 Rxe8 27.Nxd5?** Looks strong but probably a blunder. This should lose a knight for a pawn, although white would still have two very good pawns on the queenside **Qd6??** A bigger blunder. Black should take the queen...the knight check on f6 is an illusion. **28.Nc3 Kg7 29.d5 Rd8 30.Qb2! Qf6 31.dxc6!** well played! **Nd4 32.c7 Rc8 33.Qd2 Rxc7 34.Qxd4 Qxd4 35.Rxd4 Rxc3 36.Rd7+ Kf6 37.Rxh7 Rc1+ 38.Kh2 Rc2 39.a4 Rxf2 40.Rh3 Ra2 41.Rf3+ Ke5 42.Kg3 Ke6 43.Re3+ Kf5 44.Kf3 Ra1** Resistance is futile. White picks up a nice win.
1-0



South Saskatchewan Chess

Date:

Friday- Saturday—Sunday
February 17-19

Site: Executive Royal Hotel,
4025 Albert Street, Regina, SK,
Canada

Format: 5 round, Swiss System

Time Control: Game/90 +30sec
increment per move

Reg: www.queencychess.club

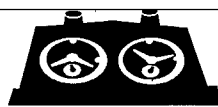
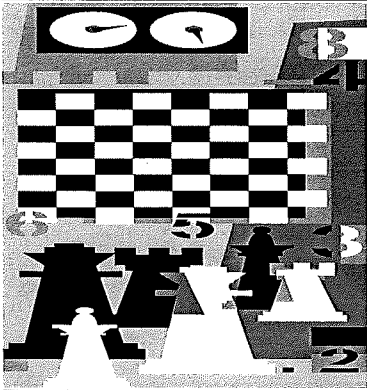
Rounds: Fri—6pm, Sat—9am,
2pm, Sun—9am, 2pm

Prizes: \$7000 based on entries
with \$5000 upfront by sponsors
Open (FIDE & CFC rated)
\$3000, \$1800, \$1200
Reserve (CFC rated)
\$500, \$300, \$200

Entry: Open-\$80, Reserve-\$60
CFC membership required

Info: Tom Bishoff
tombos21@gmail.com

Misc: Reserve is <1800 CFC
45 pre-entered as of Jan 25



25th Collyer Memorial A Northwest Chess Grand Prix Event

The Spokane Chess Club and the Gary Younker Foundation, in memory of former presidents Dave Collyer and Gary Younker, proudly present the Twenty-Fifth Dave Collyer Memorial Tournament.

Location: Millwood Presbyterian Church Community Center,
3223 N. Marguerite, Millwood, WA
From I-90 Exit 287, north on Argonne Road to light at Euclid,
turn left and travel two blocks

Format: Five-round Swiss System, Computer pairings

Time Control: Rd 1: G90 d5; Rds 2-5 : G/115 d5

Rounds: 11-2:30-7:00, 9-1:30 (or ASAP)

Registration: 9:30-10:30 am Saturday morning

Entry: \$27 by 2/24, \$35 at the door. Under 19 @ \$5 less. Telephone entries accepted (pay at door). Free advance entry to all rated over 2199. All registrants must check in by 10:40 unless a 1st round bye was granted.

Byes: One 1/2 point-bye available if requested by end of prior round. Sunday byes must be requested by end of round 3.

Prizes: \$2500 GUARANTEED. 1st—\$500, 2nd—\$300, 3rd—\$200.
Class prizes based on at least 5/class: classes (and class prizes) may be re-configured if less than five entered. Only one prize per player (excluding biggest upsets). Director reserves right to use class pairings in final round.

Class prizes: Top expert—\$100; for classes A; B; C; D/E/unrated—
top score \$125 and 2nd best \$75.

Biggest upset each round: \$50 (both non-provisional); additional \$50
for overall biggest upset (both non-provisional)

NS, NC, W. Coffee and snacks provided

Entries: Spokane Chess Club, c/o Kevin Korsmo,
N. 9923 Moore, Spokane, WA 99208-9339

Dave Collyer Memorial

February 25-26
Spokane, Washington

USA Grand Prix-20 pts
\$2500+ guaranteed

Greater Great Falls Open

Date:
Saturday-Sunday
March 11-12

Site: Holiday Inn, 1100 5th St.
South, Great Falls, 406-268-2791
Room discount if booked by Feb. 25
—mention chess

Format: 5 round, Swiss System
Time Control: Game/90 d5

Registration: 8:45-9:15am Saturday
must be paid to be paired

Rounds: Sat—9:45am, 2pm, 6pm,
Sun—9am, 1pm or ASAP

Prizes: \$\$b/25 (increased if possible)
1st...\$75 2nd...\$50
Biggest Upset...\$25 (both non-prov)

Entry: \$25 by March 10, Juniors at
\$13 by March 10 \$5 more at site,

Entries and Info: Jim Skovron, 1312
Camas Drive, Great Falls, MT 59405
skovron5@hotmail.com

Memberships: USCF and MCA
required Other state memberships
accepted
MCA: \$15 adult, \$6 junior.

Misc: Unrated MT players get free 1-
year MCA membership

MCA GRAND PRIX EVENT



82nd Montana Open A Montana Chess Grand Prix Event

Location: Ruby's Inn & Convention Center, 4825 N.
Reserve Street, Exit 101 off I-90, Missoula, MT, 59808
Phone: 406-721-0990

HR: \$89 if reserved by March 14, mention chess

Registration: 8:30-9am Saturday

Format: 5 Rd SS **Time Control:** G/120 d5

Rounds: 9:30am, 2pm, 6:30pm, and Sun at 9:00am and
2:30 pm or ASAP

Prizes: \$545 based on 25 paid adult entries:

1st—\$200, 2nd—\$120, 3rd—\$80

Combined classes B/C—\$40, classes D/E—\$35,
Provisional/unrated—\$30

Biggest Upset—\$40 (both must be non-provisional)

Entry Fee: \$30 by March 31, \$35 at site...Juniors at 1/2
Entries payable to MCA. Phone/email entries must be
paid by 9:15 to be paired.

Entries and Info: Dan McCourt, 608 West Central,
Missoula, MT 59801
406-274-0465 mccourt@charter.net

Misc: wheel chair access, MCA membership
required or OSA, 1/2 point byes available, byes
for rds 4-5 must be arranged before leaving Sat night.

MCA annual meeting between rounds 4-5
agenda to be announced

82nd Montana

Open

A Heritage Event
April 1-2

Ruby's Inn & Convention
Center
Missoula, Montana



Montana Chess



Montana Chess Association

UPCOMING EVENTS

- | | | |
|-----------------------------------|-------------|----------------|
| • January Thaw | Helena | January 28-29 |
| • South Saskatchewan Championship | Regina | Feb.. 17-19 |
| • 25th Collyer Memorial | Spokane | February 25-26 |
| • Greater Great Falls Open | Great Falls | March 11-12 |
| • 82nd Montana Open | Missoula | April 1-2 |
| • MIS Scholastic | Missoula | May 20 |

Dan McCourt
608 West Central
Missoula, MT 59801

