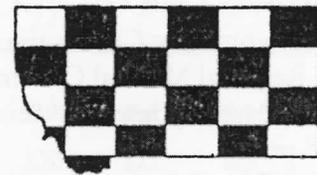


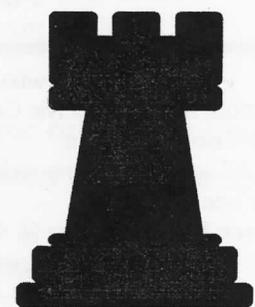
# Montana Chess News



Montana Chess Association

## 83RD MONTANA OPEN

BILLINGS  
DOUBLETREE INN



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Spring greetings Montana chess buffs!

Once again the days are longer, the sun is warmer and April is suddenly upon us. Time for the "Big Dance". That is to say, the Montana Open is only days away as this issue goes to the press-room. The playing site promises to be unique in the annuals of Montana chess. The 20th floor of the DoubleTree in downtown Billings. On a clear day you can see the Bear's Tooth west of Red Lodge and maybe even the Sleeping Giant north of Helena. Indoors, you'll see tough battles on 64 squares.

Don't forget, this year's annual meeting will happen 8pm Friday in the DoubleTree's Montana Sky Restaurant. No one will miss a long Sunday afternoon meeting.

Details are posted at [www.montanachess.com](http://www.montanachess.com) and on the US Chess website under upcoming tournaments. See you there!

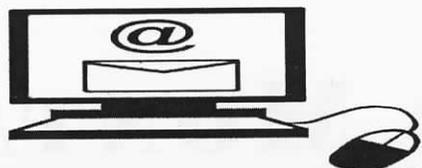


**Kalispell Chess Club**

**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; 253-3883 galsolomon@yahoo.com



www.montanachess.org  
 facebook.com/montanachess



**University-Community Chess Club**

**Meeting Location:** Room 235, L.A. Building  
 University of Montana, Missoula  
**Meeting Time:** Thursdays Start drifting in about 6:45pm  
 Clocks start at 7:00pm  
**Club Info:** Sherwood Moore 360-3079 SMOORE1721@aol.com  
 Dan McCourt 274-0465 mccourtdj@charter.net  
 3 rated games per month, occasional blitz

**Billings Chess Club**

**Location:** Starbucks at 9th and Grand  
**Time:** Thursdays 7 pm  
**Info:** All skill levels welcome; No fees; Chess sets and clocks are available  
**Contact:** David Duke, ddukelaw01@gmail.com, 672-8946 or Dan Mattson, mattsondm@me.com, 490-3983

**Helena Chess Club**

**Location:** Lewis and Clark County Library  
**Time:** Thursday 6 – 9 pm  
**Contact:** Murray Strong murstrong1958@gmail.com

**Lewistown Chess Club**

**Location:** Lewistown Civic Center  
**Time:** Tuesdays 5-8 pm  
**Info:** All ages and abilities welcome; No fees; Some equipment provided (or bring your own)  
**Contact:** Brett Thackeray @ 406-350-0170 or brett\_paco@gmail.com  
 Find 'em on Facebook too!



**MCA Board Members**

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

**Bozeman Chess Club**

**Location:** Bozeman Public Library  
**Time:** Thursday 6 – 8 pm / 6 – 9 pm when on first floor  
**Info:** No fees, All skill levels welcome, boards and pieces available, brings clocks if you wish  
**Contact:** Kevin Kuehnel; kevin.kuehnel1@gmail.com  
**Note:** There is a kids chess club that meets at the library Tuesday afternoon – see library events calendar for more information

**“PROVISIONAL” DOES NOT MEAN UNRATED!**

*Ratings based on between 4 and 25 games are called “provisional ratings” to indicate they are less reliable than established ratings. However, such ratings are valid for pairing and prize purposes at all USCF-rated events, unless otherwise stated in advance publicity.*



**The Chess Guest**

It's always nice to save some bucks and stay at somebody's house when out of town. Some things to consider when there are several of us so as to make the host's work lighter. Bring: 1) a sleeping bag, 2) a pillow, 3) maybe even bring your own towel, and 4) buy breakfast for the host.



## Chinook Open - Great Falls National Chess Day 2017 - Standings

#	Name	Rating	State	Club	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Rd 5	Tot
1	WILTON STRICKLAND	1848	MT	MSLA	W5	W6	D2	D3	W9	4.0
2	LAWRENCE S COHEN	2023	IL		W8	W7	D1	W4	H---	4.0
3	CHRIS BAUMGARTNER	1741	IL		D4	W5	D6	D1	H---	3.0
4	SCOTT R CALDWELL	1902	MT	MSLA	D3	W8	D7	L2	W10	3.0
5	FRANK E MILLER JR	1338	MT	MSLA	L1	L3	W10	W9	W6	3.0
6	DANIEL MCCOURT	1720	MT	MSLA	W10	L1	D3	W7	L5	2.5
7	JAMES J SKOVRON	1844	MT	GTF	W9	L2	D4	L6	D8	2.0
8	DARREN C STACEY	1843	MT	HLNA	L2	L4	D9	W10	D7	2.0
9	COLTON QUIRK	1155	MT	MSLA	L7	W10	D8	L5	L1	1.5
10	BRIAN W KELLEY	1083	MT	GTF	L6	L9	L5	L8	L4	0.0

Congratulations to Wilton Strickland and Larry Cohen—4-points and tops in the 2017 Chinook Open. Cohen, visiting from Villa Park, Illinois, matched Strickland's score but Wilton held the edge on tie breaks. 3rd place went to Chris Baumgartner (also from Illinois), Scott Caldwell and Frank Miller.

Miller's 5th round win brought him the biggest upset (382 points) against none other than Dan McCourt as well as the tie for 3rd and a well-earned 65 point rating gain. Closest to Miller's upset was Colton Quirk's 3rd round draw with

While the event was just short of the required 10 MCA participants and will not qualify for a Grand Prix tournament, the games were tense and outcomes were surprising. There was also an atmosphere of small-group friendliness and camaraderie. Thanks and a tip of MCA hat to Brian Kelley who filled in as house player for all five rounds.

MCA 2017-2018 Grand Prix	Turkey	Thaw	Total
Jim Skovron	15.59	8.66	24.25
Wilton Strickland	6.55	11.13	17.68
Dan McCourt	2.81	11.13	13.93
Joshua Brown	13.10		13.10
Dylan Cornish		11.13	11.13
Anthony Raelund	8.73		8.73
Darren Stacey	8.71		8.71
J. Michael Jensen	6.55		6.55
Michael Muller	4.69		4.69
Ed McLaughlin	3.73		3.73



# Agenda Items for the 2018 MCA Annual Meeting

## 2018 MCA Annual Business Meeting Agenda - Draft

The regular annual business meeting of the Montana Chess Association will be held Friday, April 6, 2018.

Robert's Rules of Order will be used to expeditiously run this meeting.

### Order of Business:

#### 1. Approval of 2017 Minutes

#### 2. Treasurers and other reports from the Executive Board

#### 3. Election of officers

[Nominations do not need to be seconded.]

President

Executive Vice-President

Western Vice-President

Eastern Vice-President

Secretary/Treasurer

#### 4. Motion to Set the Conditions of Debate to:

A. Each speaker is given three minutes for debate.

B. Each member may speak twice.

[2/3 majority to adopt]

#### 5. Old Business

5.1 Romie Carpenter to present the motion to determine the form of the award / trophy for the MCA Championship. This will update Bylaw V.B.

[majority to adopt]

Reference 5-1 below.

5.2 Wilton Strickland to present the motion to define a clear definition of Montana Resident for MCA membership. This updates Article II.A. [2/3 majority to adopt]

Reference 5-2 below.

#### 6. New Business

6.1 Delete Bylaw IV.C defining entry fees for the MT Open. [ majority to adopt ]

Reference 6-1 below.



6.2 Amend Bylaw V.E to delete the text “The Closed will be held sometime between June 1 and October 31.” [majority to adopt]

Reference 6-2 below.

6.3 Delete Bylaw V.F which is the mandate to hold the Satellite event concurrently with the Closed. [majority to adopt]

Reference 6-3 below.

6.4 Amend Bylaw II.F to change ‘New Players’ to ‘Unrated Players’ and delete the reference to first ever USCF event. [majority to adopt]

Reference 6-4 below.

## **7. Members items**

(2/3 majority required to consider any actionable items offered from the floor)

## **8. Good and Welfare**

### References

**5-1.** The University-Community Chess Club will donate a perpetual MCA Champions trophy which will have each year’s champion(s) since 2000 added on an engraved plate. Individual awards will continue to be given to each champion/co-champion. Language on the annual award will read “Montana Championship (year) Bill McBroom Award” or “The Bill McBroom Montana Chess Champion” or words to that effect.

**5-2.** In determining whether a person is a resident for the purpose of membership in the Montana Chess Association, certain provisions of Montana Code Annotated shall apply. Those provisions will be described in a handout to be distributed at the annual meeting.

**6-1.** Specifying numerical entry fees is too restrictive. No provision is made for inflation. Tournament organizers need leeway to set up a financially viable cost structure.

**6-2.** This change will allow the Closed to be held before summer to end the “chess season”. It may also help clear the fall schedule so that a separate MCA sponsored “Memorial” tournament may be held to start the “fall chess season”.

**6-3.** Attendance for the Barto Memorial has been variable and usually low. Forcing a venue to be rented and under-utilized is not a good allocation of limited MCA funds, especially for an event which generates no income. A (Barto) Memorial event at a separate time and being an MCA Grand Prix event might have a better turnout.

**6-4.** This allows players with fewer than four USCF rated games to qualify for the MCA dues waiver.



## Raelund and Duke Share 2017—2018 Championship Title

September 23-24, Helena: Antonius Raelund rolled to 3 wins during the Saturday go-round and convincingly inserted himself into front-runner status at the MCA Closed...and future MCA events. His 5<sup>th</sup> round victory earned him a 4-1 result and a share of the Montana Championship.

Meanwhile, David Duke put 2-point bookends around a single 3<sup>rd</sup> round loss and also finished at 4-1 with a share of the Championship title.

The SwissSys pairing program had to cipher out to the 3<sup>rd</sup> tie-break in calculating which player would earn the top seed in the 2018 closed. That honor goes to Antonius by a single tie-break point. Although coming second on tie-breaks, David still added a 7<sup>th</sup> championship trophy to an illustrious run over the past 12 years. Congratulations to both players!

The event began inauspiciously with only eight of the expected 10 participants. However, players quickly settled into a friendly but “winner take all” mode. No quarter asked....No quarter given. None of the 20 games ended in a draw. The biggest distraction at the playing site was a low-level “upset” vibration noticeable both days of the event. Underdogs frequently carried the day.

Round 1 recorded two upsets....Raelund coming in at 175 points and Dan Mattson at 281 points. Also in Round 1, Duke’s defense wore down Sherwood Moore’s queen pawn opening and Wilton Strickland’s 1. f4 prevailed over Michael Muller.

2<sup>nd</sup> round play saw Raelund still locked into upset mode and winning with a surprising tactical shot against Strickland’s Budapest for win number 2. Moore’s French game got him back on track as he overtook Darren Stacey in a matchup of endgame sharpies. Duke’s English opening overpowered Mattson’s defense making use of a nice tactic while

Scott Caldwell outlasted Muller with a Sicilian set-up.

Only Raelund and Duke arrived with two wins for the evening round. The Goddess, Cassia, smiled on young Antonius. He took the white pieces against David’s trusty King’s Indian and scored with some strong tactics in a rook and bishop pair ending. Strickland-Mattson (also Rd 3) featured surprising turns and skids. Black, Mattson, achieved a position he liked but a knight sac for two castle pawns didn’t bring sufficient juice and Strickland’s middle-game prowess began to weigh in heavily. White likely would have gone on to win but for a vision of check-mate which ended like Black’s short-of-the-goal knight sac----just short. A series of rook checks drove the Black king in front of his own castle pawns but the maneuvers had afforded Black time enough to plant two rooks on the 7<sup>th</sup> rank with the Black King, driven from his comfort zone, helping with a mating net. A white goose was cooked and the 286 point differential gave Mattson the biggest upset of the weekend. In the moment, Mattson was lowest rated – a number corrected considerably after USCF rating machinery digested the weekend’s results.

In other 3<sup>rd</sup> round play, Moore parlayed a Slav Defense into an upset win over Caldwell while Stacey’s endgame got the best of Muller on move 70.

Sunday play continued along the same unpredictable bent. Raelund’s streak was real but the path to 1<sup>st</sup> place was not without a bump and a bruise. 1<sup>st</sup> board in round 4 paired Moore vs. Raelund --- a game in which White’s Torre Attack rolled up the kingside even as pieces came off the board. Sherwood’s end game savvy picked up the point extending his own win streak to three games and pulling him even with the front-runners. Stacey-Strickland featured a good White attack against the Owen’s De-

fense. The upper hand seemed to be with Darren but Wilton judiciously acquired a passed pawn which, combined with dogged defense and White's time troubles, brought home the point.

Meanwhile, Duke and Mattson also scored fourth round victories pulling them even with Raelund and Moore going into the finale.

The 5<sup>th</sup> round games were all entertaining, even intriguing for chess buff onlookers. Raelund worked up to a material and positional advantage against Mattson then survived a tactical blunder as Mattson returned the oversight. The game ground down to Raelund technique wresting the point.

Meanwhile, Moore's win streak derailed much the same as did Raelund's. Mike Muller's kingside attack arrived with too much punch for Sherwood's French defense. For Mike, the point salvaged a hard-luck tournament and, for Sherwood, it was "close, but no cigar" for an otherwise 1<sup>st</sup> rate showing.

The Caldwell-Stacey game didn't affect standings but played out in the spirit of the event ending only after a white miscalculation on move 40.

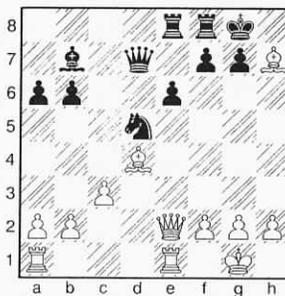
The Strickland-Duke matchup in round five may have been the most entertaining game of the weekend. Strickland, playing White, arrived at the middle-game with the position of desire. Safe king and minor pieces well posted. That the rooks were slightly left behind might have been the "missing nail that lost the horse that cost the rider.....etc." White's well-aimed pieces blew up the kingside—at a price—leaving the Black position seriously challenged to avoid collapse. The investment of a rook and two bishops for a Queen and two pawns came as close as a single tempo to winning. Black's skillful reorganization of his defense maintained that margin of safety. The weight of two rooks, a knight, and a deadly light-squared bishop proved too much for the White queen and rook to hold back and the David Duke patented tactical crunch won the point and a share of 1<sup>st</sup> place.  
*(notes from danmcc)*

W. Strickland, 1848

D. Duke, 1872

2017 Montana Closed Rd 5 Colle system

1.d4 Nf6 2.Nf3 d5 3.e3 e6 4.Bd3 c5 5.c3 Bd6 6.Nbd2 b6 7.0-0 Bb7 8.Re1 Nbd7 9.e4 dxe4 10.Nxe4 Qc7 11.Nxd6+ Qxd6 12.dxc5 Qxc5 13.Be3 Qc6 14.Qe2 0-0 15.Bb5 Qc7 16.Bd4 a6 17.Bd3 Qc6 18.Qf1 Qc7 19.Ne5 Nd5 20.Nxd7 Qxd7 21.Qe2 Rae8 22.Bxh7+ Diagram



Kxh7 23.Qh5+ Kg8 24.Bxg7 Kxg7 25.Qg5+ Kh8 26.Re4 f5 27.Rh4+ Qh7 28.Rxh7+ Kxh7 29.Rd1 Rg8 30.Qh5+ Kg7 31.c4 Nf6 32.Qh4 Kf7 33.g3 Rh8 34.Qf4 Re7 35.Rd6 b5 36.c5 Ne4 37.Qe5 Rc8 38.Rd1 Rxc5 39.Qh8 Nf6 40.Kf1 Bf3 41.Rb1 Rc2 42.Ke1 Re2+ 43.Kf1 Rc7 44.Re1 Rxb2 45.Qb8 Rcc2 46.Qa7+ Kg6 47.Rxe6 Rxa2 48.Qb6 Ra1+ 49.Re1 Rcc1 50.Qe6 Rxe1+ 51.Qxe1 Rxe1+ White resigns  
0-1

The 2018 January Thaw drew 18 participants. Top rated Jacob Nathan of Idaho Falls won the tournament with 4.5 points yielding only a half point to Wilton Strickland in round 3. Strickland joined Dan McCourt and Dylan Cornish to share the 2nd place prize. Jesse Driscoll scored the biggest upset with a 3rd round win good for a 163 point differential.

Of the eighteen, five traveled from Idaho to participate. The tournament included four provisional players who definitely proved competitive and are expected to provide good competition in tournaments to come.

.....submitted by Murray Strong, TD

SwissSys Standings. 2018 January Thaw

		Rtng	Post	St	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Rd 5	Tot
1	JACOB NATHAN	2005	2016	ID	W11	W14	D2	W3	W5	4½
2	WILTON STRICKLAND	1848	1858	MT	W10	W7	D1	D5	D3	3½
3	DANIEL MCCOURT	1739	1764	MT	W17	W6	W7	L1	D2	3½
4	DYLAN CORNISH	1361	1470	MT	L7	W16	W6	H---	W8	3½
5	JAMES SKOVRON	1828	1832	MT	W9	W8	H---	D2	L1	3
6	JONATHAN GEYMAN	1570	1553	ID	W13	L3	L4	W17	W11	3
7	DANIEL MATTSON	1670	1648	MT	W4	L2	L3	W13	D9	2½
8	ROBERT MARTIN	1636	1613	MT	W16	L5	H---	W11	L4	2½
9	JESSE DRISCOLL	1422	1481	MT	L5	W18	W12	U---	D7	2½
10	FRANK MILLER JR	1348	1318	MT	L2	L13	W18	D12	W16	2½
11	DUSTY G MASON	1551	1516	ID	L1	W17	W13	L8	L6	2
12	DENNIS F PETRAK	1585	1526	MT	H---	D15	L9	D10	D13	2
13	THOMAS WALTHALL	486	645	MT	L6	W10	L11	L7	D12	1½
14	SHERWOOD MOORE	1720	1715	MT	W18	L1	H---	U---	U---	1½
15	MURRAY STRONG	1501	1503	MT	H---	D12	H---	U---	U---	1½
16	JOSIAH GEYMAN	unr.	743	ID	L8	L4	W17	L18	L10	1
17	JUSTIN TRAFTON	741	740	MT	L3	L11	L16	L6	W18	1
18	BRANDON MASON	unr.	743	ID	L14	L9	L10	W16	L17	1

## TURKEY OPEN 2017

Thanks in large part to the addition of 11 new players from the Hamilton Chess Club, the 2017 Turkey Open scored 40 entries. Hopefully, we'll be seeing them again in the future. The Spokane Chess Club was also well represented and to show our appreciation we sent them home with a fair amount of prize money.

Michael Cambareri and Garrett Casey shared 1<sup>st</sup> place. Braxton Casey and Jim Skovron shared the "A" prize and Darren Stacey won the "B" prize. Michael Muller took home the "C" prize while Jesse Driscoll and Colton Quirk shared the "D/E" prize. Ted Baker's 4<sup>th</sup> round scalp got him the Biggest Upset.

I'd like to express my appreciation to everyone who attended. Thanks to the Griz finally getting their priorities straight and not scheduling any home games in early November, the 2018 Turkey will be held at the traditional time.

Special thanks to Gary Solomon, Dan McCourt, Sherwood Moore and Jim Skovron whose assistance was invaluable.

.....submitted by Romie Carpenter, TD

### SwissSys Standings. Turkey Open 2017

		Rtng	Post	St	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Rd 5	Tot
1	MICHAEL CAMBARERI	2004	2020	WA	W19	W13	W4	D3	W5	4½
2	GARRETT CASEY	1917	1950	WA	W23	W10	W15	D5	W6	4½
3	BRAXTON CASEY	1888	1906	WA	W26	W12	H---	D1	W8	4
4	JAMES J SKOVRON	1814	1831	MT	W34	W27	L1	W16	W12	4
5	ANTONIUS RAE LUND	1843	1855	MT	W18	W14	W11	D2	L1	3½
6	WILTON STRICKLAND	1835	1849	MT	W24	W16	H---	W7	L2	3½
7	J MICHAEL JENSEN	1865	1864	MT	W17	W20	H---	L6	W11	3½
8	JOSHUA BROWN	970	1289	Mt	W29	W23	D25	W20	L3	3½
9	JEREMY KRASIN	1842	1828	ID	W21	L15	H---	W19	W18	3½
10	DARREN C STACEY	1776	1783	MT	W35	L2	H---	W26	W15	3½
11	MICHAEL MULLER	1578	1634	MT	W36	W22	L5	W14	L7	3
12	DANIEL MCCOURT	1685	1682	MT	W38	L3	W28	W25	L4	3
13	ED MCLAUGHLIN	1710	1694	MT	W30	L1	L16	W21	W17	3
14	THOMAS E BOYD	1646	1653	CA	W39	L5	W29	L11	W23	3
15	DANIEL R MATTSON	1662	1670	MT	W32	W9	L2	H---	L10	2½
16	ROBERT A MARTIN	1632	1636	MT	W33	L6	W13	L4	H---	2½
17	TED BAKER	1436	1473	WA	L7	W32	H---	W22	L13	2½
18	JESSE DRISCOLL	1398	1433	MT	L5	W30	H---	W27	L9	2½
19	ROBERT JAM RAJALA	1526	1535	MT	L1	W31	H---	L9	W26	2½
20	KEVIN M KORSMO	1708	1671	WA	W28	L7	W24	L8	H---	2½
21	COLTON QUIRK	1180	1230	MT	L9	W33	H---	L13	W28	2½
22	SHERWOOD MOORE	1787	1738	MT	W31	L11	H---	L17	W24	2½
23	MURRAY STRONG	1523	1484	MT	L2	L8	B---	W28	L14	2
24	DANIEL CARLINO	858	862	MT	L6	W36	L20	B---	L22	2
25	DENNIS F PETRAK	1601	1573	MT	W40	H---	D8	L12	U---	2
26	GARY SOLOMON	1512	1484	MT	L3	W35	H---	L10	L19	1½
27	DAVID B GRIFFIN	1572	1538	WA	W37	L4	H---	L18	U---	1½
28	FRANK MILLER	1338	1289	MT	L20	W37	L12	L23	L21	1
29	SCOTT R CALDWELL	1841	1789	MT	L8	W34	L14	U---	U---	1
30	JAMES HOENSTINE	unr.	750	MT	L13	L18	U---	U---	U---	0
31	SHELBY CRUSE	unr.	750	MT	L22	L19	U---	U---	U---	0
32	CLAIRE MATTHEWS	unr.	750	MT	L15	L17	U---	U---	U---	0
33	ALAN GARCIA-PEREZ	unr.	750	MT	L16	L21	U---	U---	U---	0
34	HAILE SPEAR	unr.	750	MT	L4	L29	U---	U---	U---	0
35	JONATHAN DRIGGERS	unr.	750	MT	L10	L26	U---	U---	U---	0
36	CORBIN GRAY	unr.	463	MT	L11	L24	U---	U---	U---	0
37	CONNOR ROUNDY	unr.	750	MT	L27	L28	U---	U---	U---	0
38	CODY KIRKBRIDE	unr.	750	MT	L12	U---	U---	U---	U---	0
39	RIO HAMMOND	unr.	750	MT	L14	U---	U---	U---	U---	0
40	WILLIAM TORRES	unr.	750	MT	L25	U---	U---	U---	U---	0

## Between a Rook and a Hard Spot!

Sherwood Moore

36 years of accumulated stories

TEN MAN CLOSED.....part one

In April, 2017, the MCA membership voted to end the “TEN MAN CLOSED.” With its autumn, 2017 demise, I was given pause to reflect on how it came about.

Michael Long had moved to Livingston, Montana from California where he had been a fire battalion chief. Arriving in Montana, he began playing chess. Michael’s rating went into the 1800’s and he qualified for the “Six Man Closed.” The Six Man was played as a round robin, all participants playing each other. Michael thought the Six Man lacked excitement. “What we need is to open the field! We need to give MORE players a chance to win the State Championship! We need MORE pizzazz!”

After two years, Michael finally convinced the membership to adopt the Ten Man. The problem was a 10 man tournament in 5 rounds was a nightmare to direct without a computer, and computer directing programs were just being developed. None of the state’s tournament directors wanted to direct the tournament, including me! However, after much pleading, begging, and a guarantee from Michael that he would have a computer, program, and printer, I agreed to be the director.

The first problem was to arrive at a consensus for the playing site. Two players wanted Billings, two wanted Bozeman, two wanted Helena, two wanted Missoula, one wanted Colstrip, and one Great Falls. Well, to heck with them! I choose Butte! If you’re going to make someone unhappy, make them all unhappy!

Les Brennan was president of MCA. He called me up and asked, “Do you have name for the satellite tournament?” I said, “How about the BIG PIT OPEN?”

Les sighed heavily. He did that frequently with me.

“Sherwood, you cannot call it that.”

John Barto had passed away earlier that spring. So I chimed in with, “How about we call it “The Barto?”” Les liked the idea.

I arrived in Butte to find that Michael did not have a computer, program, or printer. I had been suckered. To make matters worse, there were 10 players for the 5 round Barto too! Thus, the fun began! Sigh!

If Dan and Gary agree to print these pages, I will continue the story. In any case, September, 2017 marked the final TEN MAN CLOSED. I bid it a fond farewell!



## 2018 Inland Empire Open

Saturday-Sunday  
April 28-29

**Site:** Gonzaga University  
Jepson Center Room 109

**Format:** 5 rd, Swiss System.  
**Time Control:** G/120;d5

**Reg:** Saturday, 8:30-9:30am  
**Rounds:** 10am, 2:30pm, 7pm,  
and 9am, 1:30pm (or ASAP)

**Prizes: Guaranteed \$630**  
*Only one prize per person  
excluding biggest upset.*  
Overall: \$140, \$100  
Class Prizes  
\$60 first, \$25 second for  
A, B, C, D/E/unrated  
*Class prizes based on at least  
five per section.*  
Biggest Upset: \$50 (non-prov)

**Entry:** \$23 by Apr 27, \$28 at  
the door. U/19—\$5 less.  
Telephone entries accepted.

**Info and entries:** Spokane CC,  
c/o Kevin Korsmo, N. 9923  
Moore, Spokane, WA 99208  
**Phone:** 509-270-1772

**Misc:** 1/2 pt byes available—  
with restrictions....see TD.  
[www.spokanechessclub.org](http://www.spokanechessclub.org)



## Western Montana Unrated Championship



Saturday, April 14

**Location:** Ruby's Inn  
4825 North Reserve, Missoula, MT  
**Format:** Four rounds, Swiss pairings, Not Rated  
**Time Control:** G/30 SD

**Registration:** 12:10-12:30pm Cash only at the door.  
**Entry Fee:** Early Registration: \$15 Adults, \$5 Juniors  
and Newcomers. \$5 more at the door.

**Rounds:** 1:00pm, 2:45, 4:15, 5:40

**Prizes Guaranteed:** \$30, 25, 20, 16, 14, 10, 8  
Top Junior \$7 Top Newcomer \$10

**All skill levels welcome.** Please Bring Tournament  
Standard Sets and Clocks

**Players must arrive by 12:40 or lose their entry fee.**

**Entries and Info:** Mail to: Greg Nowak, PO Box 8572,  
Missoula, MT 59807 **or in person at:** Liquid Planet on Hig-  
gins, 7:00-9:00pm, Mondays and Thursdays.

**Misc:** No time delay or insufficient losing chances rule.



## 2018 Idaho Open April 14-15

**Location:** Pocatello Red Lion Inn, 1555 Pocatello Creek Rd, Pocatello ID  
Jefferson Room

**Format:** 5 Round Swiss **Time Control:** G/120;d5

**Registration:** 8-8:30am **Rounds:** 9am, 2:00pm, 7pm, 9am, 2pm

**Entry Fee:** \$33 online, \$28 for 60+/U18. \$10 late fee for on-site registration

**Prizes b/30:** \$200, \$100, \$75;

\$50 each for top U1800, U1600, U1400, U1200, U1000, & UNR

**Entries and Info:** [idahochessassociation.com](http://idahochessassociation.com)

## 82nd Montana Open By Seth Talyansky

The 82nd Montana Open took place in the quaint Ruby's Inn in Missoula during the first two days of April. Memorabilia decorated the walls, including an assortment of amusing postcards (e.g. "It's not heaven—it's Montana!") and current and century-old maps of the vast state. Pastel tableaus depicted chalky goats and jet-black bears gamboling on the lush slopes beneath arêtes in the tranquil Glacier and Yellowstone National Parks. Mountains dominated the literature, and understandably so, for the snow-laden peaks rising above the Missoula Valley imbued the air with crispness that galvanized, especially for the players after the twelve-hour, three-round first day.

Forty-two of us hailed from only five states, though, with the tournament located in Montana, the total hours of travel far exceeded these numbers: several players drove from each of Spokane, WA (three-and-a-half hours); Whitefish, MT (two-and-a-half hours); Kalispell, MT (two hours); Billings, MT (five-and-a-half hours); Helena, MT (two hours); Coeur d'Alene, ID (three hours); Great Falls, MT (three hours), among other cities within an eight-hour-drive radius. I was out of state but took comfort in western Montana's glorious past—comprising the Oregon Territory circa 1848. Kevin Chen of New Jersey and I were the only contenders who

flew (I would tingle with shame telling eight-hour-drivers that the flight from PDX to Missoula lasted not ninety minutes), and we faced each other in the fourth round. I stood on 3/3 and he on half a point less. I missed opportunities in a pawn-up but cramped rook-and-minor-piece ending and needed to concede half a point, and then another half-point by taking a bye in the final round to make the early evening plane to Portland. Kevin won in the meantime, and no one else caught me, so the two of us shared first place with 4.0/5.

From the welcoming chess community to the surrounding sights, Montana provides an idyllic chess adventure! Check the Montana Chess Association's website ([montanachess.org](http://montanachess.org)) for upcoming tournaments in Big Sky Country, where the sky is big, but the chess is even bigger!



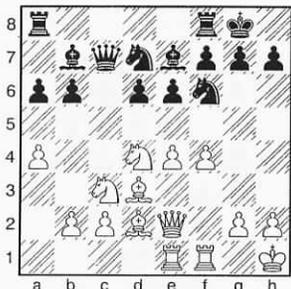
□ Talyansky, Seth

■ Jensen, J Michael

Montana Open Round 3 Sicilian defense

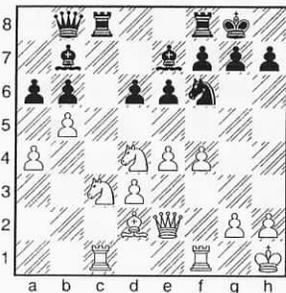
[note by S. Talyansky]

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 e6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 a6 5.Bd3 Qc7 6.0-0 Nf6 7.Qe2 d6 8.Kh1 b6 9.f4 Nbd7 10.a4 Bb7 11.Nc3 Be7 12.Bd2 0-0 13.Rae1 Diagram



I had obtained this setup before in my games. **Nc5 14.b4** a natural move that would turn out move stronger than I expected. **Nxd3 15.cxd3** I trusted in the solidity of my center, the open c-file, and the stymied Bb7.

**Rac8 16.Rc1 Qb8?!** The queen is passive and prone to forks on b8. [ 16...Qd7 ] **17.b5!** Diagram



Seizing the c6 square. **a5?!** [ 17...Rfe8 ] **18.f5!** forcing **e5**, which yields white the d5 square, a grip on the light squares, and the tactical opportunity **19.Nc6! Bxc6** [ 19...Qc7 20.Nd5 Nxd5 21.exd5 and white is likely winning, given the stranglehold on black's pieces. ] **20.bxc6 Rxc6?!** [ 20...Rfe8 offering more resistance, but white should be winning after 21.Nd5 Nxd5 22.exd5 given the protected, passed pawn on c6 and black's pawn weakness on b6. White's light-square domination is picturesque. ] **21.Nd5** winning the exchange **Nxd5** [ 21...Rxc1 22.Nxe7+ Kh8 23.Rxc1 Qb7 24.Nd5+- ] **22.Rxc6 Nb4 23.Bxb4 axb4 24.Qa2?!** [ 24.Qf2 first, forcing **Bd8**, would have been more accurate ] **24...d5** else **Qd5**, suffocating the black pieces **25.Qxd5 Bc5 26.a5** breaking apart black's queenside **Rd8 27.Qc4 Qb7 28.Qb5 Bd4 29.axb6 b3 30.Rd6! Qb8 31.Rxd8+ Qxd8 32.b7**  
1-0

□ D. Stacey, 1814

■ B. Casey, 1848

2017 Montana Open Round 5

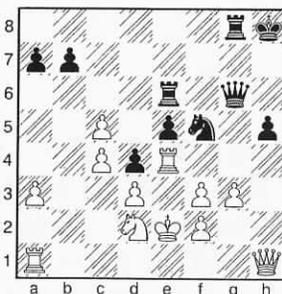
1.b3 d5 2.Bb2 Bg4 3.g3 Nf6 4.Bg2 e6 5.Nf3 c5 6.d3 Nc6 7.0-0 Bd6 8.Re1 e5 9.Nbd2 0-0 10.c4 d4 11.Ng5 Ne8 12.Nge4 f5 13.Nxd6 Qxd6 Diagram



14.a3 Qh6 15.Bc1 Qh5 16.Bd5+ Kh8 17.Nf3 f4 18.Nd2 Rf6 19.Bf3 Rh6 20.Nf1 Bxf3? Diagram



21.exf3 g5 22.b4 Re6 23.gxf4 gxf4 24.Bxf4 Ng7 25.Bg3 Rg8 26.bxc5 Qg6 27.Re4 h5 28.Nd2 Nf5 29.Kf1 Nce7 30.Ke2 Nxc3+ 31.hxc3 Nf5 32.Qh1 Diagram



**Nh6 Qxg3?! 33.Rh4**  
1-0

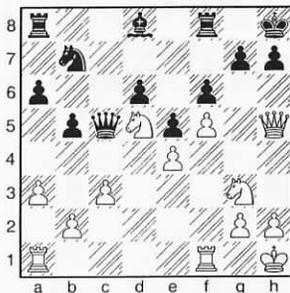
□ Dan Mattson, 1562

■ Darren Stacey, 1843

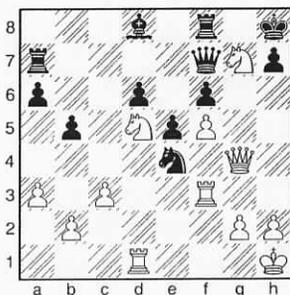
MT Closed Rd 1 Sicilian Defense

[notes--dmcc]

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6  
5.Nc3 a6 6.Bc4 e6 7.Bb3 Be7 8.0-0 0-0  
9.f4 b5 10.a3 Qc7 11.f5 e5 12.Nde2 Qc5+  
13.Kh1 Nc6 14.Ng3 Na5 15.Bd5 Bb7  
16.Bxb7 Nxb7 17.Bg5 Rfe8 18.Bxf6 Bxf6  
19.Nd5 (White's knights look very good) Bd8  
20.Qg4 Kh8 21.Qh5 Rf8 22.c3 (f6 and if gxf?  
Rxf6!) f6 Diagram



23.Rf3 Qa7 24.Qg4 Nc5 25.Nh5 Qf7  
26.Raf1 Ra7 27.Rd1 Nxe4 28.Nxg7 Diagram



Nxc3 29.Nxc3 Qxg7 30.Qxg7+ Kxg7  
31.Rxd6 Be7 32.Rd5 Rc8 33.h3 Rc5  
34.Rfd3 Rxd5 35.Rxd5 Kf7 36.Ne4 Rc7  
37.Kh2 Ke8 38.b4 Rd7 39.Rxd7 Kxd7  
40.Kg3 Kc6 41.Kf3 Kd5 42.Ke3 Bd8  
43.Kd3 h5 44.g4 hxg4 45.hxg4 Be7  
46.Nc3+ Kc6 47.Ke4 Bd8 48.Nd5 Kd7  
49.Nc3 Ke7 50.Nd5+ Kf7 51.Ne3 White goes  
on to win  
1-0

□ Stacey, 1843

■ Moore, 1760

MT Closed Rd 2 K.I.A.-French

[dmcc]

1.e4 e6 2.d3 d5 3.Nd2 c5 4.g3 Ne7 5.Bg2  
Nbc6 6.Ngf3 g6 7.0-0 Bg7 8.Qe2 0-0 9.c3  
b6 10.Nb3 Diagram



(The knight wanders and black's pieces come  
alive.) Ba6 11.Rd1 c4 12.dxc4 Bxc4 13.Qc2  
Rc8 14.Bg5 Qc7 15.Bxe7 Qxe7 16.Nfd2  
Rfd8 17.exd5 Bxd5 18.Bf1? Qb7 19.Nc4  
Ne5 20.Nxe5 Bxe5 21.f4 Bg7 22.Bg2 Qa6  
23.Bxd5 exd5 24.Qg2 d4 25.Nxd4 Bxd4+  
26.Rxd4 Rxd4 27.cxd4 Qd3 28.Qf1 Qxd4+  
29.Qf2 Qd3 30.Re1 Rc2 31.Re8+ Kg7  
32.Qe1 Qf3 33.Qe5+ Kh6 34.Qg5+ Kg7  
35.Qe5+ f6 36.Re7+ Kh6 37.Rxh7+  
A desperado. Black's active pieces have  
carried the day.  
0-1

□ Raelund, 1768

■ Strickland, 1848

MT Closed Rd 2 Budapest Defense

[mccourt,daniel]

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e5 3.dxe5 Ng4 4.Nf3 Nc6  
5.Bf4 Bb4+ 6.Nc3 Bxc3+ 7.bxc3 Qe7  
8.Qd5 Qa3 9.Rc1 f6 10.exf6 Nxf6 11.Qd2  
d6 12.e4 0-0 13.Bd3 Re8 14.0-0 Ne5  
15.Nxe5 dxe5 16.Bg5 Qd6 17.Bxf6 Qxf6  
18.f4 c5 19.f5 A big gain on the kingside! b6  
20.Bc2 Rd8 21.Qe2 Ba6 22.Ba4 Rd6  
23.Rcd1 Rad8 24.Rxd6 Qxd6 25.Rd1 Qe7  
26.Rxd8+ Qxd8 27.Bc6 Qe7 28.Bd5+ Kh8?  
29.Qg4 b5 30.cxb5 Bxb5 31.f6! gxf6

**32.Qg8#**  
1-0

□ **Muller, 1587**  
 ■ **Caldwell, 1902**  
 MT Closed Rd 2 Sicilian def.  
 [notes--dmcc]

1.e4 c5 2.Nc3 Nc6 3.Bc4 Nf6 4.f4 e5 5.d3  
 d6 6.Nf3 a6 7.Ng5 Diagram



d5 8.Nxd5 Be6 9.Nxe6 fxe6 10.Nc3 Qd6  
 11.0-0 Be7 12.Ne2? (Undeveloping the knight.  
 f5 looks very strong.) 0-0-0 13.fxe5 Nxe5  
 14.Nf4?? Nxc4 15.Qe2 Ne5 16.Be3 Neg4  
 17.Rad1 g5 18.d4 Nxe3 19.e5 Qc6 20.exf6  
 Bxf6 21.Qxe3 gxf4 22.Qxf4 Bxd4+ 23.Kh1  
 h5 24.c3 Rdg8 25.Rd2 Rg4 26.Qf3 0 Qxf3  
 27.gxf3 Bxc3 28.bxc3 Rf4 29.Re2 Rh6  
 30.Re4 Rhf6 31.Rxf4 Rxf4 32.Kg2 h4  
 33.Re1 Kd7 34.Re4 Rxe4 35.fxe4 b5  
 36.Kh3 Ke7 37.Kxh4 b4 38.c4 Kf6 39.Kg3  
 a5 40.h4 a4 41.h5 b3 42.axb3 axb3 43.h6  
 b2 44.h7 Kg7 White resigns.  
 0-1

□ **Duke, 1872**  
 ■ **Mattson, 1562**  
 MT Closed Rd 2 English Opening  
 [notes--dmcc]

1.c4 Nf6 2.Nc3 e6 3.e4 Nc6 4.Nf3 d6 5.d4  
 Be7 6.Bg5 h6 7.Bh4 e5 8.d5 Nb8 9.Bd3  
 Bg4 10.Be2 Na6 11.Nd2 Bxe2 12.Qxe2 g5  
 13.Bg3 h5 14.f3 h4 15.Bf2 Qd7 16.Nf1 Nh5  
 17.Ne3 Nf4 18.Qd2 h3 19.Bg3 Nc5 20.Bxf4  
 gxf4 21.Nf5 0-0-0 22.b4 hxg2 23.Rg1 Na6

24.Rxg2 Bh4+ 25.Nxh4 Rxh4 26.a3 Rh3  
 27.Qf2 b6 28.0-0-0 c6 29.Kb2 Kb7??  
 30.dxc6+ Diagram



(White spots the error and wins a piece) **Qxc6**  
**31.b5 Qxc4 32.bxa6+** White goes on to win  
 1-0

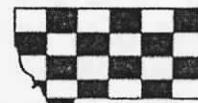
□ **Muller, 1587**  
 ■ **Stacey, 1843**  
 MT Closed Rd 3 Alekine Defense 19.10.2017  
 [notes--dmcc]

1.e4 Nf6 2.Nc3 d5 3.e5 Ne4 4.d4 Nxc3  
 5.bxc3 e6 6.Nf3 h6 7.Be2 c5 8.c4 cxd4  
 9.Nxd4 dxc4 10.0-0 c3! 11.Qd3 Nc6  
 12.Nxc6 Qxd3 13.Bxd3 bxc6 14.a4 a5  
 15.Ba3 Bb4 16.Rfe1 0-0 17.Re4 Rb8  
 18.Rb1 c5 19.Bc1 Bd7 20.Ra1 Rfd8 21.Rg4  
 Kf8 22.f4 Rdc8 23.Bc4 Rd8 24.Rg3?  
 Diagram



**Bxa4 25.Rxa4 Rd1+ 26.Kf2 Rxc1 27.Ra2**  
**Rd8 28.Rd3 Rxd3 29.Bxd3 Ke7 30.Kf3 f6**  
**31.exf6+ gxf6 32.g4 Kd6 33.Bc4 Rb1**  
**34.Bb3 e5 35.f5 Rh1 36.Kg2 Rd1 37.h4 e4**  
**38.Bc4 Ke5 39.h5 Kf4 40.Kf2 Rd2+ 41.Be2**  
**e3+ 42.Kf1 Rd6 43.Ra1 Rb6 44.Ra4 Rd6**  
**45.Ra1 Rd2 46.Ra2 a4 47.Rxa4 Rxc2**  
 0-1

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Montana Chess Association

# Montana Chess

## UPCOMING EVENTS

- |                                   |           |             |
|-----------------------------------|-----------|-------------|
| • 83rd Montana Open               | Billings  | April 7-8   |
| • Western MT Unrated Championship | Missoula  | April 14    |
| • 2018 Idaho Open                 | Pocatello | April 14-15 |
| • 2018 Inland Empire Open         | Spokane   | April 28-29 |
| • MIS Scholastic                  | Missoula  | May 19      |