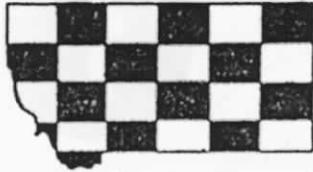


Big Sky Country Open Issue



Montana Chess Association



www.montanachess.org
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September Rising!

Montana Chess scored double in the September issue of ChessLife. First was prominent attention in the Membership Appreciation Program (MAP) article for our 2017 percentage gain in membership. Check out page 38 for an all-smiles/no game-faces photo of our 2018 Championship Six followed by a few paragraphs of good PR. MAP also sent us a spiffy award which you can view at www.montanachess.org. Or, just pack your chess bags for Butte and view the real thing on display at the Big Sky Country Open.

On the second score, we have—maybe for the first time ever—three notices of upcoming MCA events in the TournamentLife section—page 66. September, October, and November tournaments. Small market—big chess!



2018 Montana Closed



Congratulations to David Duke, Wilton Strickland, and Dorje McPherron for playing rough and hanging tough through the May 19-20 weekend at the 2018 Montana Closed. Each finished at 3.5 with David gaining the tie-break edge and the champion seed for the 2019 Closed. Defending champion, Antonius Raelund was stopped in round 5 just short of the top score with 3 points.

Duke and Strickland struck early with wins in the first two rounds. Both found their 3rd round opponents more prickly and the pace slowed to draws for both. Each held 2.5 scores as Saturday action concluded. Raelund trailed slightly with 2 points having incurred a second round loss to Duke. McPherron, mounting a comeback after a first round loss to Raelund, reached break-even at 1.5

Though somewhat unusual for round-robin pairings, Sunday's round four actually had the leaders squaring off. Duke's defense prevailed over Strickland's Colle setup. Raelund picked up another win as did McPherron to go to 3 points and 2.5 respectively.

In the decisive 5th round, Strickland, again with a Colle, outlasted Raelund while McPherron found some nice tactical shots to bring down Duke's English and the triumvirate was completed.



Billings Chess Club

Location:

Starbucks at 9th and Grand

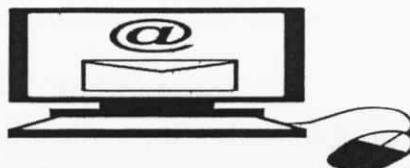
Time: Thursdays 7pm

Format: All skill levels welcome; No fees; chess sets and clocks are available

Contact: David Duke, dduke-law01@gmail.com, 672-8946 or Dan Mattson, mattsondm@me.com, 490-3983



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University-Community Chess Club

Meeting Location: Room 204, 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 mccourtj@charter.net
3 rated games per month, occasional blitz

Butte Chess Club

Location: Butte-Silver Bow Public Library
Time: Fridays 2 pm
Info: All skill levels welcome; No fees.
Some equipment available or bring your own
Contact:
Allen Brazier, abrazier@buttepubliclibrary.info

Helena Chess Club

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

Lewistown Chess Club

Location: Starbucks in Albertson's
Time: Monday 6-8 pm
Info: All ages and abilities welcome; No fees; Some equipment provided (or bring your own)
Contact: Brett Thackeray @ 406-350-0170 or brettspaco@gmail.com
Find 'em on Facebook too!



MCA Board Members

Dan McCourt—President (274-0465)
608 West Central, Missoula, MT 59801
mccourtj@charter.net

Mike Muller—Western V.P.
bamgee@live.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 Saturday morning— 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.



BETWEEN A ROOK AND A HARD SPOT

Sherwood Moore

36 years of accumulated stories

Sportsmanship is an important feature of chess. All players should be good sports, win, lose, or draw. John Barto was an exceptionally good sport. Whether he won, drew, or lost, John was always a gentleman. It was because of this that the satellite to the State Closed was named for John. I have always tried to emulate his graciousness, but there have been times when I've failed.

In 2003, we (Montana Chess community) had a new player from another country. The January Thaw was being conducted in Helena. Dan McCourt was doing the directing. I was paired with our new arrival in the first round. Going into the middle game, I anchored a knight on e6. My opponent had not castled. He attempted to castle Queenside. I explained, in a soft voice that he could castle through check.

He whispered back, "I not in check."

I said, "I know, but you cannot castle through check either.

In a loud voice he announced, "I Not in Check!"

I answered, "I know. BUT you cannot..." At that point my opponent made a move I had not anticipated.

"HE CHEATS! HE CHEATS!" he shrieked! Standing and pointing his finger at me.

Of course, ALL the other players stopped and looked at me. I stopped the clock and motioned for Dan, who indicated we should follow him into the kitchen of the playing site.

I explained, over my opponents outcries, what had transpired. Dan then took the rule-book and began explaining the rule, showing the rule to my opponent. As it was going to take a bit, I exited the kitchen and returned to table. A few minutes passed, then my opponent returned and seated himself.

"I not know the rule," he whispered.

"OK," I responded and started the clock.

My opponent offered his hand, and I reached to shake it and heard him softly whisper,

"I offer a draw."

I jerked my hand, shook my head, and went on to win the game.

Dan told me later that this person was noted for such shenanigans. I thought of John Barto, and how HE would have felt of such behavior. He'd have smiled, shaken his head, and slowly walked away.



2018 Big Sky Country Open

MCA Grand Prix
Saturday Sunday
September 15-16

Site: Finlen Hotel, 100 East
Broadway, Butte, MT 59701

Registration: 8:00 to 8:30am

Format: 5 rds, SS, G/105, d5.

Rounds: 9am, 1:30pm, 6:30pm,
8:30am and 12:30 or ASAP

Prizes: \$\$ based on 20 (paid adults)

1st Overall: \$100 2nd Overall: \$75

Prize fund expanded if possible.

Biggest Upset: \$25 (both non-prov)

Entry: \$30, Juniors \$15. Checks
payable to MT Chess Association.
Phone and email entries OK but
must be paid to be paired.

Entries and Info: 712 Mountain
Meadow Rd, Kalispell MT 59901,
406-253-3883
mca@montanachess.org.

Misc: One 1/2 point bye if requested
before preceding round. Sunday byes must
be requested before the end of round 3.
Note 8:30am start time for Rd 4, Sunday

Side Events:

5 round Junior section
5 round Non-rated section

Northern Rockies Chess Championship



Saturday, September 29

Location: Thunderbird Motel

1009 East Broadway, Missoula (406) 543-7251

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, 2:30, 4:00, 5:20

Prizes Guaranteed: \$30, 25, 20, 18, 16, 12, 10, 5

Top Junior \$10 Top Newcomers \$8, \$5

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
Higgins, 7:30-8:30pm, Mondays and Thursdays.

Misc: No time delay or insufficient losing chances rule.

Eastern Washington Open September 29-30

Jepson Center, Rooms 108-109, Gonzaga University, Spokane
One block southwest from St. Al's church.

!! \$630 Prize Fund Based on 30 Entries Northwest Grand Prix Points !!

Five Rounds, Swiss Pairings, Game/120 (d5)

Reg: 8:30-9:30 Saturday

Rds: 10am, 2:30pm, 7pm; 9am and 1:30pm

Entry Fee: \$21 by 9/28, \$26 at the door, \$5 less for U/18

Prizes: 1st—\$125 2nd—\$75

Class Prizes: \$65 first, \$30 second: A; B; C; D/E/unrated Biggest upset: \$50 (both non-prov)

Additional info and entries: Spokane Chess Club, c/o 9923 N. Moore St., Spokane WA 99208.
509-270-1772. www.spokanechessclub.org

2018 Turkey Open

Date:

Saturday-Sunday
November 3-4

MCA Grand Prix Event

Site: Best Western, Grant Creek Inn, 5280 Grant Creek Rd Missoula, MT (Exit #101 off I-90)

HR: \$109 by Oct. 19, hotel phone 406-543-0700 mention chess

Format: 5 rounds, Swiss
Time Controls: G/105, d5

Registration:

8:00-8:30m Saturday.

Rounds: 9am, 1:30pm, 6:30, 8:30am, and 12:30pm or ASAP
Guaranteed 45 minute break after completion of Round 4.

Entry: \$25, Juniors \$15, by 11/02. \$5 more at site.
Checks payable to UCCC.
Phone and email entries accepted—

Must be paid to be paired!

Memberships: USCF and State affiliate (MCA is \$15), OSA, Free MCA to unrated Montana residents.

Prizes:

\$\$b/25 adult entries:

1st—\$100, 2nd—\$75

Class B,C,D/E—\$50

Biggest Upset, \$50 (each must be rated, non-provisional)

Entries to: Dan McCourt,
608 West Central, Missoula,
MT, 59801. Ph. 406-274-0465
49mccourty@gmail.com

www.montanachess.org

Great Falls Chinook



National Chess Day October 13-14 Montana Grand Prix

Location: Holiday Inn, 1100 5th St South, Great Falls, MT, 406-727-7200, Room discount if reserved by September 28, mention chess.

Format: 5 Rd, SS.

Time Control: Game 105, d5

Registration: 8:00-8:30 Sat. **Rounds:** 9:00am, 1:30 pm, 6:30pm, and Sun at 8:30am, 12:30pm or ASAP.

Phone/email entries accepted—**must be paid to be paired**

Prizes: (based on 25 entries):

1st—\$75, 2nd—\$50, 3rd—\$25.

Biggest Upset—\$50 (both must be non-prov)

Entry Fee: By Oct 12—Adults \$25, Juniors at \$13
\$5 more at site

Entries payable to: Jim Skovron, 1312 Camas Drive, Great Falls, MT 59405

Misc Info: USCF and MCA (\$15) required. OSA.

MCA free to unrated Montana players.

Byes—Rds 1-3 before pairings are posted.

Rds 4-5 by close of day 1.

Contact: Jim Skovron, 1312 Camas Drive, Great Falls, MT 59404, skovron5@hotmail.com, 406-781-7898

www.montanachess.org

January Thaw

Bad Roads, Cold Temps, Deep Snow, Good Chess

January 2019

Details TBA



Helena's Premier Chess Event



Dan McCourt
608 West Central
Missoula, MT 59801



59901\$8440 R003



Montana Chess Association

Montana Chess

UPCOMING EVENTS

- | | | |
|----------------------------------|-------------|-----------------|
| • Big Sky Country Open | Butte | September 15-16 |
| • Eastern Washington Open | Spokane | September 29-30 |
| • Northern Rockies Chess Champ. | Missoula | September 29 |
| • Great Falls/National Chess Day | Great Falls | October 13-14 |
| • Turkey Open | Missoula | November 3-4 |
| • MIS Scholastic | Missoula | November 17 |