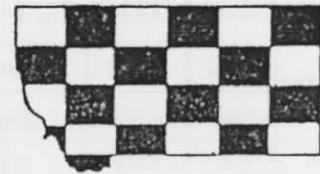


Montana Chess News



Montana Chess Association

84TH MONTANA OPEN

Bozeman
Holiday Inn Express



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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. This year's playing site is the John Bozeman Room in the Holiday Inn Express, Bozeman. Get off I-90 at the 19th Street exit and take the first right.

An unrated scholastic event will be held at the Gallatin Valley Mall Saturday morning, April 6. Check the Montana Chess website or email Dan McCourt for more details. No memberships, no fees, all fun and prizes.

Don't forget, this year's annual meeting will happen 8pm Friday—also in the John Bozeman room at the Holiday Inn Express. Read the meeting agenda on pages 4-5. See you there!



Billings Chess Club

Location:

Starbucks at 9th and Grand

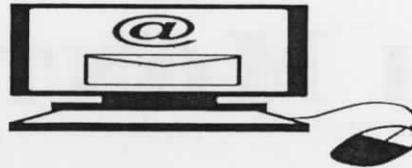
Time: Thursdays 7pm

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 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 mccourtj@charter.net
3 rated games per month, occasional blitz

Helena Chess Club

Location: Lewis and Clark County Library

Time: Thursday 6 – 9 pm

Contact: Murray Strong
murstrong1958@gmail.com



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 Kuehnell; kevin.kuehnell@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.



Greater Great Falls/National Chess Weekend Chinook Open

Uptown with Josh Brown!!

Joshua Brown outplayed five top-flight opponents at the Greater Great Falls National Chess Weekend tournament to finish a full point ahead of the nearest competitors. A performance rating somewhere north of 2200 earned him almost 300 points in ratings gained.

A new arrival to Montana chess, Richard Hobbs, recovered from a 1st round upset to finish at 3.5 and share 2nd place with Jim Skovron, David Duke, and Scott Caldwell. Four upsets over 350 points in round 1 were just the beginning for the weekend. Thomas Walthall landed the biggest (564) in round 4 while Brown snagged 2nd biggest (457) also in round 4. Provisionally rated Ben Miller scored a 557 upset. Chinook attendance doubled over its 2017 return to October Grand Prix play.



Great Falls National Chess Day 2018 Chinook Open



#	Name	Rtng	Post	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Rd 5	Tot
1	BROWN, Joshua	1496	1770	W8	W2	W3	W6	D5	4½
2	SKOVRON, Jim	1789	1802	W17	L1	D4	W11	W8	3½
3	CALDWELL, Scott	1794	1788	W20	W9	L1	D8	W10	3½
4	HOBBS, Richard	1935	1932	L11	W7	D2	W14	W6	3½
5	DUKE, David	1879	1863	L9	W10	W15	W12	D1	3½
6	BODIE, Brad	1953	1933	W15	W14	W12	L1	L4	3
7	STACEY, Darren	1778	1755	D10	L4	D13	W17	W12	3
8	STRICKLAND, Wilton	1860	1826	L1	W18	W9	D3	L2	2½
9	HENNEFORD, John	1514	1561	W5	L3	L8	W13	D14	2½
10	WALTHALL, Thomas	1017	1156	D7	L5	W18	W15	L3	2½
11	DRISCOLL, Jesse	1546	1581	W4	L12	H---	L2	W17	2½
12	MATTSON, Dan	1762	1735	W19	W11	L6	L5	L7	2
13	MILLER, Benjamin	664	823	L16	D17	D7	L9	W18	2
14	MOORE, Sherwood	1733	1710	W18	L6	H---	L4	D9	2
15	MULLER, Mike	1581	1537	L6	W19	L5	L10	H---	1½
16	MCCOURT, Dan	1744	1745	W13	U---	H---	U---	U---	1½
17	BODIE, Arlene	1291	1259	L2	D13	H---	L7	L11	1
18	GILBERT, John Cody	unr.	823	L14	L8	L10	X19	L13	1
19	CARLINO, Daniel	936	934	L12	L15	H---	F18	U---	½
20	SOLOMON, Gary	1451	1445	L3	U---	U---	U---	U---	0



Agenda Items for the 2019 MCA Annual Meeting

2019 MCA Annual Business Meeting Agenda

The regular annual business meeting of the Montana Chess Association will be held Friday, April 5, 2019 at 8pm in the John Bozeman room of the Bozeman Holiday Inn Express.

Order of Business:

1. Executive Board reports

2. Election of officers

Dan McCourt is willing to accept a nomination not including that for President.

Dan Mattson is willing to accept a nomination not including that for President.

Gary Solomon is willing to accept a nomination not including that for President or Secretary.

Nominations & Elections: (Nominations do not need to be seconded.)

President

Executive Vice-President

Western Vice-President

Eastern Vice-President

Secretary/Treasurer

3. Old Business: no old business

4. New Business

4.1 Montana Chess News Newsletter:

The constitution states: "The Board will appoint an individual to serve as MCN editor. If not already an officer, this person will be a member of the Board without vote."

Shall we do this?

Are there other options for the future newsletters?

Dan McCourt would like to be the editor. Possibly mail only two newsletters with others being handed out at tournaments to save \$25-\$30 postage each time. One newsletter to be mailed before the Open and one after the Closed with those results and a reminder of upcoming events beginning in September.

4.2 2019 Montana Closed:

When shall we hold this year's Closed?

Any good locations/venues available?

Shall we have a "Closed Seeds" meeting at the end of the Open to select a time & location for the Closed? Would need to calculate final Grand Prix points quickly and possibly try to contact non-present seeds by phone to settle all the details.

4.3 Need for more Tournament Directors & Incentive Proposal:

We have six possible TDs and eight events this season. Can we get more people to help as Tournament Directors?

Tournament Director Incentive Proposal:

The MCA will fund the TD Incentive.

It is available to the Chief TD of any MCA event (sponsored or sanctioned).

A card/coupon would be given to the TD at their event with an expiration date of one year.



It is good for one entry fee to any MCA event.

For an MCA sponsored event, it just gets logged into the accounting for that event.

For an MCA sanctioned event, the event organizer submits it to the Treasurer for reimbursement. (Usually there are MCA memberships that get sent to the Treasurer, so adjusting for the TD coupon reimbursement would be straightforward.)

The maximum annual TD Incentive funding would be \$210. (Estimated from an average of \$30 entry fees times seven events).

Shall we do this?

Dan McCourt recommends, if approved, to give it a one-year trial and revisit under old business at the 2020 meeting.

4.4 Byes in MCA events:

To clarify: One 1/2-point bye per 5-round tournament. House player may accrue multiple 1/2-point byes for pairing purposes but may not participate in prizes or Grand Prix points.

5. Members items

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

6. Good and Welfare



MCA 2018-2019 Grand Prix	Big Sky Country	Chinook Open	Turkey Open	January Thaw	St. Patrick's Open	Total
Jim Skovron	6.3	8.1	6.0	14.0	15.2	49.6
Scott Caldwell	5.0	13.6	8.2		10.6	37.43
Darren Stacey	10.1	7.4	4.8	6.3	8.8	37.41
Daniel Mattson	15.8		7.2	14.0		37.0
Richard Hobbs		13.6	10.9			24.5
Joshua Brown	6.3	17.0				23.3
Wilton Strickland			8.2	11.2		19.4
Michael Muller			6.0	11.2		17.2
David Duke		9.3			5.3	14.6
Jesse Driscoll	10.1		3.6			13.7
Daniel McCourt					10.6	10.6
Benjamin Vogel					10.3	10.3
Dorje McPherron			10.2			10.2
Dean Drake	10.1					10.1
Dustin Sneed					9.1	9.1
Christian Fink			7.2			7.2



Big Sky Country Open

The Big Sky Country Open tournament launched the Montana Grand Prix season with a firecracker start September 15-16. Twenty-four participants and tough competition established this tournament as a great success.

Included in the event was a six-player round-robin junior contest which brought in two new Montana players from Bozeman and two new faces from Idaho. "Old timer" Thomas Walthall topped the game/30 scholastic with a 4.5 score. Thomas and two of the Idaho juniors also moved on to play in the Open taking half-point byes for missing round one.

Brad Bodie of Coeur d'Alene brought his 1898 rating over to Butte for top billing and he played accordingly, knocking off all comers to finish at 5-0. Lots of Montana players now have him on their "short list".

Dan Mattson also scored big, coming in at 4-1 for a clear second. A resurgent Darren Stacey came third on tie-breaks at 3.5 losing only to equally resurgent Scott Caldwell.

Dean Drake essayed the biggest return-to-chess story with super-solid play and zero losses on his way to a 3.5 finish. Jesse Driscoll's come-back 3.5 points in the final four rounds earned him 4th on tie-breaks, just ahead of Drake, along with an event best 77 point rating gain.

Thomas Walthall followed his junior triumph with another finish in the money landing a 539 point biggest upset. This upset was somewhat unusual as it came in round 5 instead of the more typical 1st or 2nd round.

Michael Abron of Ohio scored 2.5 as he added Montana to an epic 50-state odyssey. Exiting Montana with only Wyoming, Alaska, and South Dakota remaining, Michael is well-set to become the first Afro-American to notch rated events in all fifty of the United States.

Thanks to Mr. Abron and the five Idaho players who also traveled great distances to play chess with us and give us a nice boost in attendance and camaraderie.

Special thanks to Gary Solomon and Dan Mattson for enthusiastically promoting Butte as a chess destination with an extra tip of the MCA hat to Gary for "above and beyond" organizing efforts.

Venue? Stellar!!

Player friendly? Most excellent!!

Preparation?? Superior!!

And so began the 2018-2019 Grand Prix!

2018 Big Sky Country Open

PL	Name	Rtng	Post	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Rd 5	Total
1	Bodie, Brad R	1898	1963	W16	W2	W6	W9	W10	5
2	Mattson, Daniel R	1747	1763	W18	L1	W13	W1	W6	4
3	Stacey, Darren C	1768	1778	W4	W22	D9	L6	W11	3½
4	Driscoll, Jesse	1469	1565	L3	W23	D11	W12	W14	3½
5	Drake, Dean D	1626	1697	W24	D7	H	D10	W9	3½
6	Caldwell, Scott R	1794	1795	W21	W14	L1	W3	L2	3
7	Skovron, James J	1781	1788	W8	D5	D10	W14	U	3
8	Brown, Joshua	1499	1500	L7	W24	L14	W13	W16	3
9	Strickland, Wilton	1887	1860	W11	W12	D3	L1	L5	2½
10	McCourt, Daniel	1755	1745	H	W19	D7	D5	L1	2½
11	Abron, Michael	1528	1533	L9	W17	D4	W18	L3	2½
12	McLaughlin, Edward	1700	1673	W17	L9	H	L4	W15	2½
13	Walthall, Thomas K	808	920	H	W20	L2	L8	W18	2½
14	Geyman, Jonathan P	1638	1612	W15	L6	W8	L7	L4	2
15	Leifeste, Bryce	1276	1305	L14	W21	W19	L2	L12	2
16	Eddy, Zachary	1538	1488	L1	L18	W20	W23	L8	2
17	Chamberlin, Bill	1330	1279	L12	L11	L23	W24	W19	2
18	Bodie, Arlene	1347	1322	L2	W16	H	L11	L13	1½
19	Geyman, Josiah	724	735	H	L10	L15	W20	L17	1½
20	Qiu, Steven	516	576	H	L13	L16	L19	W23	1½
21	Solomon, Gary	1488	1451	L6	L15	W24	H	U	1½
22	Muller, Michael	1591	1582	W23	L3	H	U	U	1½
23	Gerbrandt, Butch	unr.	913	L22	L4	W17	L16	L20	1
24	Leifeste, Jef	428	427	L5	L8	L21	L17	B	1



Duke – McPherron – Strickland

Montana State Co-Champions 2018

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 in Butte. 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.



2018 Montana Closed Championship



#	Place	Name	Total	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Rd 5	TBRK
1	1-3	David Duke	3.5	W6	W4	D5	W3	L2	7.25
2		Dorje McPherron	3.5	L4	W5	D3	W6	W1	6.75
3		Wilton Strickland	3.5	W5	W6	D2	L1	W4	6.25
4	4	Antonius Raelund	3.0	W2	L1	W6	W5	L3	5
5	5	Daniel Mattson	1.5	L3	L2	D1	L4	W6	1.75
6	6	James Skovron	0.0	L1	L3	L4	L2	L5	0



Benjamin Vogel wins 2018 Turkey Open

Benjamin Vogel, who recently moved to Montana from Maryland, won clear 1st in this year's Turkey Open. Dorje McPherron of Missoula came 2nd. Scott Caldwell of Missoula and Jonathan Geyman of Bonner's Ferry, ID shared the "B" prize. Michael Muller of Bozeman snared the "C" prize, while young Christian Fink of Billings garnered both the "D/E" prize and Biggest Upset prize (a monster 712 point differential!).

The tournament was again held at the Grant Creek Best Western and well attended with 33 players from various locations around Washington, Idaho and Montana providing for a good variety of opponents. Thanks to everyone who traveled; it made for a very nice tournament.

Youth was served in this edition of the Turkey Open as there were quite few upsets, and corresponding long faces, instigated by new, young players. (Now we just need to gift our Spokane friends with them for a tournament or two!) Congratulations to all of the prize winners and to those who left with rating gains of over 100 points.

Romie Carpenter directed with much appreciated assistance from Dan McCourt.



Turkey Open 2018 Standings

#	Place	Name	Total	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Rd 5	TB[M]	TB[S]	TB[C]	TB[O]	Rtng	St
1	1	VOGEL, Benjamin	4½	W25 (b)	W3 (w)	W8 (b)	D2 (w)	W5 (w)	14	15.5	14	47	1797	MD
2	2	MCPHERRON, Dorje	4	H--- (-)	W23 (b)	W10 (w)	D1 (b)	W9 (w)	12.5	12.5	11	38.5	2013	MT
3	3-7	GEYMAN, Jonathan	3½	W4 (w)	L1 (b)	W21 (w)	W8 (w)	D6 (b)	14.5	16.5	10.5	50	1612	ID
4		BODIE, Brad	3½	L3 (b)	W30 (w)	W12 (b)	W20 (w)	D7 (b)	12	13	9.5	39	1922	ID
5		CALDWELL, Scott	3½	W22 (w)	W16 (b)	H--- (-)	W14 (w)	L1 (b)	12	12	12	37.5	1789	MT
6		HOBBS, Richard	3½	W17 (w)	L9 (b)	W28 (w)	W15 (b)	D3 (w)	11.5	13	10.5	42	1932	MT
7		STRICKLAND, Wilton	3½	W26 (b)	W15 (w)	H--- (-)	D9 (b)	D4 (w)	10.5	10.5	11.5	32	1827	MT
8	8-14	CASEY, Garrett	3	W11 (w)	W12 (b)	L1 (w)	L3 (b)	W20 (w)	14	16	10	48.5	1864	WA
9		STACEY, Darren	3	W19 (b)	W6 (w)	H--- (-)	D7 (w)	L2 (b)	13.5	13.5	11	37	1755	MT
10		MULLER, Michael	3	W27 (b)	D29 (w)	L2 (b)	W16 (w)	D13 (b)	12	13.5	9.5	36	1537	MT
11		DRISCOLL, Jesse	3	L8 (b)	W19 (w)	D29 (b)	W18 (w)	D14 (b)	11	13.5	8	35	1569	MT
12		MATTSON, Daniel	3	W23 (b)	L8 (w)	L4 (w)	W27 (b)	W21 (w)	10.5	12	8	32.5	1735	MT
13		SKOVRON, James	3	W30 (w)	D20 (b)	L14 (b)	W22 (w)	D10 (w)	10	11	9.5	35	1802	MT
14		FINK, Christian	3	H--- (-)	W31 (b)	W13 (w)	L5 (b)	D11 (w)	10	10	9.5	31.5	1090	MT
15	15-19	BROWN, Joshua	2½	W24 (w)	L7 (b)	W17 (w)	L6 (w)	D33 (b)	8.5	14	8.5	31.5	1752	MT
16		RAJALA, Robert	2½	W21 (w)	L5 (w)	H--- (-)	L10 (b)	W22 (b)	7	10.5	7	34.5	1564	MT
17		KORSMO, Kevin	2½	L6 (b)	W24 (w)	L15 (b)	W23 (w)	H--- (-)	6.5	10	6	26	1673	WA
18		NORDQUIST-PALMER, Gabriel	2½	L20 (b)	W26 (w)	H--- (-)	L11 (b)	W25 (b)	5	8	6	22.5	unr.	MT
19		BODIE, Arlene	2½	L9 (w)	L11 (b)	H--- (-)	W31 (b)	W26 (w)	5	8	4	24	1239	ID
20	20-24	MOORE, Sherwood	2	W18 (w)	D13 (w)	H--- (-)	L4 (b)	L8 (b)	8.5	12	8	35	1709	MT
21		KUEHNEL, Kevin	2	L16 (b)	W25 (w)	L3 (b)	W28 (w)	L12 (b)	8.5	12	6	35	1860	MT
22		EDDY, Zachary	2	L5 (b)	W27 (w)	W32 (b)	L13 (b)	L16 (w)	7.5	11	7	33.5	1384	MT
23		RYCHENER, Paul	2	L12 (w)	L2 (w)	W30 (b)	L17 (b)	W32 (b)	7	11	4	28	919	NM
24		WALTHALL, Thomas	2	L15 (b)	L17 (b)	L25 (w)	W30 (b)	W28 (w)	6.5	9	3	25	1123	MT
25	25-29	BURNEY, James	1½	L1 (w)	L21 (b)	W24 (b)	H--- (-)	L18 (w)	6.5	11	3.5	29	1319	WA
26		BAKER, Ted	1½	L7 (w)	L18 (b)	H--- (-)	W32 (w)	L19 (b)	5.5	9	3	23.5	1426	WA
27		JENSEN, J Michael	1½	L10 (w)	L22 (b)	W31 (w)	L12 (w)	H--- (-)	5.5	8.5	3	26.5	1843	MT
28		GEYMAN, Josiah	1½	H--- (-)	W32 (b)	L6 (b)	L21 (b)	L24 (b)	4.5	8	6	21.5	732	ID
29		MCCOURT, Daniel	1½	H--- (-)	D10 (b)	D11 (w)	U--- (-)	U--- (-)	3	6	5.5	17.5	1745	MT
30	30	MILLER JR, Frank	1	L13 (b)	L4 (b)	L23 (w)	L24 (w)	W31 (w)	7.5	11	1	28	1423	MT
31	31-33	GILBERT, John Cody	½	H--- (-)	L14 (w)	L27 (b)	L19 (w)	L30 (b)	5	8	2	17.5	378	MT
32		QUIRK, Colton	½	H--- (-)	L28 (w)	L22 (w)	L26 (b)	L23 (w)	5	7	2	20	1223	MT
33		BLAIR, Louis	½	U--- (-)	U--- (-)	U--- (-)	U--- (-)	D15 (w)	0	2.5	0.5	8.5	1505	WA



Skovron tops field at January Thaw



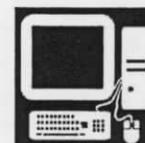
The 2019 January Thaw drew 16 participants to the warm confines of Helena's Colonial Inn. Jim Skovron's 4 points edged out the 3.5 scores of Dan Mattson, Wilton Strickland, and Mike Muller. Muller also scored the weekend's biggest upset with a 1st round win good for a 191 point differential. Though provisionally rated, Adam Grill's 3rd round win came at the expense of an opponent rated 600 points higher.

The three players who entered at provisional/unrated definitely proved competitive and are expected to provide tough competition in tournaments to come. Thanks and a tip of the MCA hat to Murray Strong for another well-organized tournament.

2019 January Thaw Standings

#	Name	Rtng	Post	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Rd 5	Tot
1	Skovron, James	1769	1825	W15	W11	H---	W3	D2	4
2	Mattson, Daniel	1745	1776	W10	L3	W4	W5	D1	3½
3	Strickland, Wilton	1843	1847	W14	W2	D5	L1	W9	3½
4	Muller, Michael	1597	1682	W6	W13	L2	W9	D5	3½
5	Stacey, Darren	1778	1779	W9	W7	D3	L2	D4	3
6	Caldwell, Scott	1788	1741	L4	W8	L10	D14	W12	2½
7	McCourt, Daniel	1733	1722	W16	L5	H---	W10	U---	2½
8	Strong, Murray	1467	1472	H---	L6	H---	H---	W10	2½
9	Nordquist-Palmer, Gabriel	1516	1524	L5	W16	W11	L4	L3	2
10	Grill, Adam	1188	1321	L2	W14	W6	L7	L8	2
11	Mostad, Thomas	1709	1684	W12	L1	L9	W13	U---	2
12	Bendenbender, Brandon	unr.	1329	L11	D15	L13	W16	L6	1½
13	Petrak, Dennis	1527	1513	H---	L4	W12	L11	U---	1½
14	Moore, Sherwood	1702	1662	L3	L10	H---	D6	U---	1
15	Miller, Frank	1396	1389	L1	D12	H---	U---	U---	1
16	Walthall, Thomas	1151	1131	L7	L9	H---	L12	U---	½

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Schoessler, Sneed, Skovron lead the way at St Patrick's Open

#	Name	Rating	Post	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Rd 5	Tot
1	SCHOESSLER,TIMOTHY	1951	1972	W12	W9	W2	H---	D3	4
2	SNEEDEN,DUSTIN	1924	1934	W22	W13	L1	W9	W5	4
3	SKOVRON,JAMES J	1806	1842	W20	W16	H---	W6	D1	4
4	VOGEL,BENJAMIN	1873	1858	L16	W18	D5	W10	W7	3½
5	DUKE,DAVID	1863	1847	D10	W17	D4	W13	L2	3
6	STACEY,DARREN	1779	1766	W18	W11	H---	L3	D8	3
7	CALDWELL,SCOTT	1788	1761	L11	W14	W10	W12	L4	3
8	MCCOURT,DANIEL	1733	1735	W14	H---	U---	W17	D6	3
9	WITTNAM,CHARLES A	1696	1688	W19	L1	W16	L2	D13	2½
10	BEDENBENDER,BRANDON	1317	1424	D5	W15	L7	L4	W18	2½
11	WALTHALL,THOMAS K	1131	1300	W7	L6	L12	W20	D15	2½
12	MOORE,SHERWOOD	1671	1656	L1	W19	W11	L7	H---	2½
13	MULLER,MICHAEL	1686	1673	W21	L2	W20	L5	D9	2½
14	TROYER,MICHAEL	725	860	L8	L7	H---	W19	W17	2½
15	MATTSON,DANIEL R	1745	1692	D17	L10	H---	W16	D11	2½
16	ROBINSON,CHAD QUI	1367	1428	W4	L3	L9	L15	W20	2
17	EISENMENGER,JOHN	978	1027	D15	L5	W22	L8	L14	1½
18	FINK,CHRISTIAN	1129	1100	L6	L4	D19	W21	L10	1½
19	FICK,BRADLEY	682	693	L9	L12	D18	L14	W21	1½
20	CHAMBERLIN,BILL H	1279	1239	L3	W21	L13	L11	L16	1
21	HASH,THEODORE W	unr.	287	L13	L20	H---	L18	L19	½
22	GRILL,ADAM MATHEW	1372	1328	L2	H---	L17	U---	U---	½

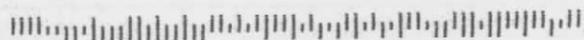
The first annual St. Patrick's Open launched quite successfully with 22 entries and a highly competitive lineup. Tim Schoessler, Dustin Sneed, and Jim Skovron each finished with 4 points and a share of 1st place. Ben Vogel trailed just slightly at 3.5. Thomas Walthall collected his third biggest upset prize of the Grand Prix season with a 1st round upending of an opponent rated 657 points higher. Provisionally rated players also intruded on the comfort of the higher rateds. Chad Robinson and Brandon Bedenbender defeated players rated 506 and 428 points higher respectively while John Eisenmenger and Michael Troyer also scored solid upset victories. Christian Fink still holds the year's biggest upset at 712 points but found himself on the shorter end of that stick in this event yielding a 3rd round draw to Bradley Fick—a 223 point differential.

Charlie Wittnam and Dan Mattson played big roles in organizing Billings first Grand Prix event in many years. The tournament was held in the Mary Alice Fortin conference room generously provided by Billings Clinic Hospital. Bill Lynch provided Pepperidge Farms Chessmen cookies and David Duke arranged for unseasonably warm weather. 

Dan McCourt
608 West Central
Missoula, MT 59801



5990188440 R003



Montana Chess Association

Montana Chess

UPCOMING EVENTS

- | | | |
|---------------------------|----------|-----------|
| • 84th Montana Open | Bozeman | April 6-7 |
| • Western Montana Unrated | Missoula | May 11 |
| • Inland Empire Open | Spokane | May 18-19 |
| • MIS Scholastic | Missoula | May 18 |

2019 Inland Empire Open

Date:

Saturday Sunday
May 18-19

Site: Jepson Center, Rm 109
Gonzaga University

Registration: 8:30 to 9:30am

Format: 5 rds, SS, G/120 d5.

Rounds: 10am, 2:30pm, 7pm,
9am and 1:30pm or ASAP

Prizes Fund: \$630

1st Overall: \$140 2nd Overall: \$100

Class prizes: A; B;C;D/E/unrated

Based on at least five

per section. 1st: \$60 2nd: \$25

Biggest Upset: \$50 (both non-prov)

Entry: \$23 by 5/17, \$28 at the door
\$5 less for U/19.

Telephone entries accepted

Entries and Info:

Spokane Chess Club,

c/o Kevin Korsmo, 9923 N. Moore,

Spokane, WA 99208

Ph. 509-270-1772

www.spokanechessclub.org

Misc: One 1/2 point bye if requested
before proceeding round. Sunday byes
must be requested before the end of Rd 3.
Director reserves right to use class
pairings in the final round.

Cookies and coffee provided!

Western Montana Unrated Chess Championship



Saturday, May 11

Location: Meeting room, Thunderbird Motel
1009 East Broadway, Missoula, MT

Format: 4 rounds, Swiss pairings, Unrated.

Time Control: G/30

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: 1pm, 2:30, 4:00, 5:20

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

Top Junior \$10 Top Newcomer \$\$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 & Broadway, 7:00-8:00pm, Mon & Thurs

Misc: No time delay or insufficient losing chances rule.

SCHOLASTIC CHESS TOURNAMENT

Missoula International School

100 Harrison Street

Open to students in grades 1-12

Must be familiar with basic chess rules

5 Rounds Starts at 11:00

Entry \$5 Door prizes and Awards

More details: www.montanachess.org

Saturday, May 18

Missoula

Contact: Dan McCourt

406-274-0465

49mccourty@gmail.com

84th MONTANA OPEN

MCA Grand Prix Event

April 6-7

5 round swiss Game/105-d5
Registration: 8:00 - 8:30am

Pairings, introductions, and
explanations: 8:50am

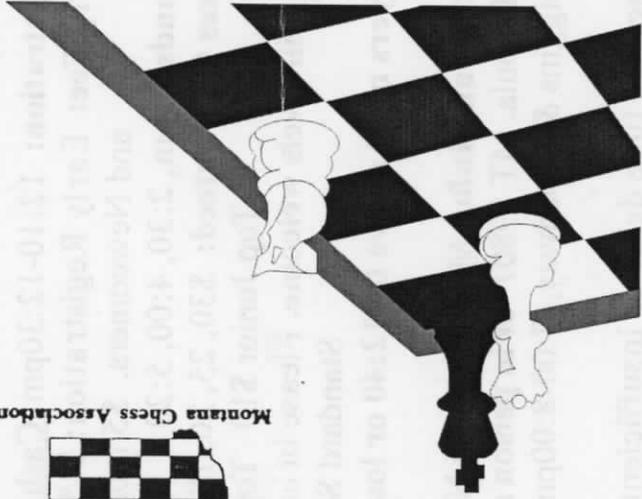
Rds: 9:00am, 1:30pm, 6:30pm
Sunday 8:30am and 12:30pm

\$\$\$ based on 30 paid adults
1st-\$200, 2nd-\$120, 3rd-\$80

Biggest upset-\$40(both non-prov)
Combined Classes: B/C-\$40,
D/E-\$35 Prov/unrated-\$30

Director reserves right to use class
pairings in final round.
Classes reconfigured if fewer than 5
entries in a group.
One prize per player except for
biggest upset.

Montana Chess Association



Holiday Inn Express
2305 Catron Street, Bozeman, MT
406-582-4995

HR: \$89 if booked by Mar 31, mention "chess block"

MCA Business Meeting - Friday, April 5, 8pm, John Bozeman Room

Info/updates: www.montanachess.org, facebook.com/montanachess USCF Online TLA

Entry Fees: \$30, Jrs \$15 by Thursday,
Apr 4. \$5 more at site
Checks payable to: MCA
Entries and Info:
Dan McCourt
608 West Central
Missoula, MT 59801
Phone entries—Dan McCourt
406-274-0465
Email entries-49mccourt@gmail.com
All entries must be paid by 8:30am Sat

MCA membership required, OSA.
(MT—\$15—\$6 for Juniors)
Unrated MT residents--free 1-year MCA

BYES: One 1/2-pt bye available. Rds 4-5
must be declared before TD leaves Sat
night.