

MDTTC News



Winter Break Camp 2015. Join us for Winter Break Camp 2015!

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[Archive of Past MDTTC Newsletters](#)

Welcome to the 43rd issue of the MDTTC News! As usual, there's lots of news to report and new and ongoing programs, and we hope to see you at some of them. As usual a special thanks to MDTTC sponsors [Butterfly](#), [Go Table Tennis](#), and [HW Global Foundation](#). Make sure to read my [daily table tennis blog](#) - I often write about MDTTC happenings there. And if you have a nice picture taken at MDTTC, email it to me and it might make the newsletter!

-Editor and Coach [Larry Hodges](#)

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MDTTC December Hours

As in previous years, due to the U.S. Nationals Championships in Las Vegas, **MDTTC will be closed from Monday, December 14 to Sunday, December 20**. There will be no Tuesday or Friday leagues that week.

MDTTC Pro Shop December Discounts: Holiday Specials

Stop by to get all your table tennis needs at the MDTTC Pro Shop. All blades and rubbers are 8% off during the month of December 2015. Regular Individual and Family Members receive an additional 5% off. No other discounts allowed. All sales are final.

MDTTC Winter Break Camp

The annual Christmas Camp will be held Dec. 26-31. Hours are 3-6PM on Dec. 26, 10AM-1PM, 3-6PM on Dec. 27-30, and 10AM-1PM on Dec. 31. The camp is for all levels and ages, though most of the players will be juniors. (If you don't mind training with hard-working kids, adults are welcome!) You can order Chinese food in the morning to be delivered for lunch. For more info, see the [MDTTC Camp Flyer](#).

MDTTC Named an ITTF International Training Network Hot Spot

[Here's the MDTTC article](#). This means we will likely be running national and international junior camps for USATT and ITTF. "The ITTF International Training Centre Network consists of various Training Centers, endorsed by their respective National Associations that are open for national, regional, continental and international participation, working in general support for the sport of table tennis and its growth, quality improvement and promotion. This award is only offered to 12 training centers, worldwide."

Early Success Brings Continued Growth for America's First Full Time Training Center

[Here's the article](#) about MDTTC by former MDTTC junior star Barbara Wei.

MDTTC Welcomes New Coach/Practice Partner/Player

The new coach is Yang XinYang, age 19, a member of the Sichuan Province Team in China. He has a 2661 rating from the 2014 U.S. Open, where he won Under 18 Boys Singles over Chen Ruichao in an all-lefty final.

North American Teams

This team tournament was held over Thanksgiving weekend in Gaylord National Convention Center at the National Harbor in Washington DC. A huge number of MDTTC players took part. Here are [complete results](#) – every match! (Set drop-list at top to "2015 JOOLA NA Teams.")

Two MDTTC teams made the quarterfinals of Division One – MDTTC 10 (Cheng Yinghua, Yang XinYang, and Klaus Wood) and MDTTC A Team (Jeffrey Zeng Xun, Wang "Leon" Qing Liang, Bowen Chen, and Nathan Hsu). Division 6 was an all-MDTTC final between MDTTC Straw Hats (Ronald Chen, Spencer Chen, and George Nie – pictured here) and MDTTC – PPG (Qiu Shi-Yue, He Kun, Yuan Zhe, Dai Weixiang, and Liu Hui-Lung), with the latter defaulting the final, presumably out of exhaustion and the desire to watch the Division One final.



Potomac Open

[Here are results and video](#) from the Potomac Open held Nov. 14-15 at the Potomac Table Tennis Club. Videos are the Open Final (Bowen Chen vs. Jeffrey Zheng; Bowen comes back from down 1-3 to win); Semifinal (Bowen Chen vs. Wang Qing Liang); and Quarterfinal (Bowen Chen vs. Allen Lin).

Capital Area Team League

The [Capital Area League](#) had another meet on Saturday, Nov. 7, from 5-10PM, with all twelve teams (with 73 players on their rosters) playing at least two team matches. (There were a few additional make-up matches.) [Here are the results](#). Here are detailed results for [Division 1](#) and [Division 2](#). (These and previous results are linked from the results page.) The next meeting is Jan. 9 (with December skipped because of the Nationals and busy holiday schedule). There'll be a new season next year – why not join us? It's for all levels and ages.

USA Nationals and Jack Huang to Hall of Fame

The USA Nationals take place Dec. 14-19 in Las Vegas. Here's the [home page](#), including online entering info. This year 29 Marylanders, 7 from Virginia and 3 from DC (and 23 who put down MDTTC as their home club) are making the trip. This year is a bit special as long-time MDTTC coach Jack Huang is being inducted into the USATT Hall of Fame at the Hall of Fame Banquet at the Nationals on Thursday night, Dec. 17. Here's the [USATT news item](#) on this.

FREE Club T-Shirt for MDTTC Regular Members

Starting November 1, 2015, if you have joined our club as REGULAR Adult, Junior or Family Members or renew your membership as REGULAR Adult, Junior or Family members, we have a FREE MDTTC Club Shirt to give you. Thank you for your support!

Want to Make Your Table Tennis Shirts Last?

You've just bought a highly-valued MDTTC, Butterfly, or some other table tennis shirt, and you want it to last. But inevitably it's going to fade, especially any lettering or other designs. But there's a way to make them last longer – turn them inside-out before laundering. This exposes the inside to the extra friction from the washing machine, rather than the outside. Here's an [article on this](#).

Ongoing Programs (partial list; find out more program by visiting www.mdttc.com)

- [Tuesday Beginning Level 2 Class for All Ages. \(6:00 – 7:00 PM\) Next 10-Week Session begins on January 5th, 2016.](#) This class is for serious players with USATT rating from 500-900, and the class is limited to nine players per session. For details and registration form, [click here](#) or check out. If you have any questions, please email [Coach John Hsu](#), ITTF & USATT Certified Coach.
- [Thursday & Sunday Beginning & Advanced Beginners Junior Classes.](#) The next sessions start on Sunday, January 10 (4:00-5:30 PM, ten weeks), and on Thursday, January 14 (6-7PM, 2 consecutive winter sessions, each 5 weeks). These classes are for ages 6-14, with Coach Larry, Coach John and others assisting. (If you join in mid-season, your fee will be pro-rated.)
- [Tuesday and/or Friday Lunch Group Training \(1:00-2:00 PM\) for all levels.](#) This class is intended for adult players who would like to improve their table tennis skills while getting great physical and mental exercises. Every player will get one-on-one playing time with Coach Jeffrey Zeng (2550+ rating), one of the top players in the U.S. and an experienced coach Jeffrey Zeng.
- [Sunday Adult Training \(6:30-8:00PM\) for all levels.](#) NOTE: Our last session for the year will be Sunday, Dec. 6, and then we start up again in January. (Complete beginners are required to take at least one hour of private coaching in advance.) This is primarily for adults, but minimum age is 13, or permission of instructor. Running the sessions is Coach Larry Hodges, assisted by Coach/Practice Partner Raghu Nadmichettu. We expect players from beginners to advanced, and players will generally be paired with players of roughly the same level, with players taking turns hitting with Raghu.
- **Leagues.** MDTTC runs three different leagues. Take your pick! They are the [Tuesday and Friday Leagues](#) (for all ages and levels), and the [Elite League](#).

MDTTC Birthday Parties & Rental Space for Corporate and Private Events

MDTTC offers space rental for special corporate and private events, and we run many birthday parties. Here is [Facility Rental Information](#), and here is info on [Birthday Party Packages](#).

[MDTTC Web and Facebook Pages](#)

Don't forget to see the regularly updated [MDTTC Facebook page](#), and make sure to "like" it! Stop by and see all the photos, read the latest news, or post your own comments. Also see the [MDTTC web page](#) for regularly updated info.

TIP OF THE MONTH: When Playing an Unfamiliar Player, Focus on Serve & Receive

By Larry Hodges

When you face a new and unknown opponent, you aren't sure yet how the rallies are going to go. But you can control how the rallies start. Learn to use serve & receive to start rallies the way you want them to go, and so rather than you adjusting to your opponent, he has to adjust to you. It doesn't matter if the opponent plays very orthodox or has an unusual or weird style, you should be able to at least start the type of rally that favors you. A few examples:

- If you are good at attacking backspin, then a short, heavy, and very low backspin serve often forces a backspin return that you can attack.
- A short and low no-spin serve, as a variation to spin serves (especially backspin serves), is hard to either attack or push heavy, often giving you an easy ball to attack.
- If you serve a lot of short backspin serves and your opponent keeps pushing them back heavy, throw in short side-top serves and you'll likely get pop-ups.
- If you are good in fast topspin rallies, then a topspin or sidespin-topspin serve often forces a topspin return that you can attack. Mix them up with big breaking side-top serves as well as short ones.
- Fast & deep serves, strategically placed, often get you into a fast exchange, and can back players slightly off the table, giving you time to set up your attack. Forehand loopers are often forced out of position by these serves. Focus especially on side-top serves that break away from the receiver, fast no-spin at the elbow, and sudden quick ones down the line.
- Slow but deep sidespin serves, against an opponent who doesn't loop, sets you up for all sorts of attacks.
- If your opponent keeps attacking your short serve with his backhand, serve from the middle or forehand side so you have an angle to serve into his forehand, and force him to receive forehand.