

# MDTTC News

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## Archive of past [MDTTC Newsletters](#)

Welcome to the seventh 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 [James Wu/Llewellyn realtor](#). Make sure to read my daily table tennis blog - I often write about MDTTC happenings there.

-Editor and Coach [Larry Hodges](#)

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### [MDTTC December Hours](#)

MDTTC will be closed Dec. 18-23 (during USA Nationals), and on Christmas and New Year's Day. The club will be open the rest of the holiday season.

### **Beginning Junior Classes December Schedule**

There will be no classes the weekends of Dec. 22-23 (the coaches will be at the USA Nationals) and Dec. 29-30 (during the Christmas Camp).

### **Great Holiday Gifts for Families and Friends:**

- "\$50 For 10 Unlimited Ping Pong Passes (\$100 Value)" at MDTTC  
<http://www.doubletakedeals.com/deal/23040/Maryland-Table-Tennis-Center-in-Gaithersburg-50-For-10-Unlimited-Ping-Pong-Passes-100-Value>

#### • **Table & Robot Sales for Christmas**

Looking for a great Christmas present for a table tennis player, or to keep your friends and family entertained for hours? Take a look at the MDTTC pro shop! Better still, consider buying a used Butterfly table or a ball machine from Butterfly or Newgy. If interested, contact Wen Hsu at [marylandttc@gmail.com](mailto:marylandttc@gmail.com).

### **MDTTC Christmas/ Winter Break Camp**

For the 21st consecutive year, MDTTC will hold its annual Christmas camp, Dec. 26-31. The camp is for all levels and ages, though most of the players will be juniors. Schedule is as follows:

Dec. 26: 3-6PM

Dec. 27-30: 10AM-1PM, 3-6 PM

Dec. 31: 10AM-1PM

For more info, see the [MDTTC Camp Page](#).

## Ongoing Programs

- **Beginning Junior Class.** This is for beginning juniors ages 6-13, with Coach Larry Hodges (with Raghu Nadmichettu assisting), and are held Saturdays 10:30AM-Noon and Sundays 4:30-6:00 PM. (We get more players on Sundays, so both Raghu and John Hsu assists.) See the [Group Training page](#).  
NOTE - There will be no classes the weekends of Dec. 22-23 (the coaches will be at the USA Nationals) and Dec. 29-30 (during the Christmas Camp).
- **Group Sessions.** While this is primarily for juniors, all ages are welcome - it's about 1/3 adults. They meet on Sat & Sun, 4:30-6:30. The first 30 minutes is practice/warm-up, then 90 minutes of matches. See the [Group Training page](#).
- **Private Coaching,** by Coaches Cheng Yinghua, Jack Huang, or Larry Hodges. Coaching is also available from Wang Qing Liang, Chen Bo Wen, and Raghu Nadmichettu. See [Private Coaching page](#).
- **Leagues.** MDTTC runs four different leagues. Take your pick! They are the [Tuesday and Friday Leagues](#) (for all ages and levels); and the [Elite League](#).
- **Christmas Camp,** Dec. 26-31. See the [Training Camp page](#) for more info.

## 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.

## MDTTC Videos

Here are two videos that came out this month that feature MDTTC and MDTTC players.

- "[He's the One](#)" by the band [E.D. Sedgwick](#) (4:02). This video features MDTTC's Derek Nie, 11, the U.S. Open 11 & Under Boys' Singles Champion. They had been planning this video for some time, and were originally going to use a regular actor to play the kid, and put the ball in via computer afterwards, but then they saw this [Washington Post video](#) (3:26) in August on the Maryland Table Tennis Center, which featured our juniors, including Derek - and thought he'd be perfect for the role. All the action scenes where you see one player playing Larry Hodges is feeding multiball to the player, both to Derek and to the members of the band.
- [TT-ism \(in Slow Motion\)](#) by Richard Heo (2:13). This was his entry to the ITTF Video World Cup. (Results aren't out yet.) Parts of the video were filmed at MDTTC, with MDTTC players Wang Qing Liang, Timmy La, Chen Bo Wen, Raghu Nadmichettu, and Larry Hodges.

## Ray Chen

Ray Chen: I am sad to report that Ray Chen, a longtime Maryland player and a lifetime member of USATT, passed away on November 14th. He was 79.

## TIP OF THE MONTH: Complex or Simple Tactics?

By Larry Hodges

Far too often players don't think tactically, believing the game is too complex for them to play and think at the same time. And it's true that you shouldn't be doing any conscious thinking during a point. But between points a smart player does think tactically. The key is to keep it simple.

"Tactics isn't about finding complex strategies to defeat an opponent. Tactics is about sifting through all the zillions of possible tactics and finding a few simple ones that work, and developing reflexive tactics to cover other situations." (That's the opening of my upcoming book, "Table Tennis Tactics for Thinkers.") What does this mean?

The first part means you don't need to fry your brain working out complex patterns or finding ten ways to beat someone. Find two or three simple ones, and that'll usually suffice. Be flexible in adjusting these tactics if they stop working or trying out new ones, but keep it simple.

The second part means you should develop the habit of thinking tactically, and your subconscious will get the idea. It'll soon become automatic - you'll develop reflexive tactics to cover most situations. If you tactically tell yourself to play certain shots in a certain way to a certain spot against a certain player, it soon becomes automatic both against him and against similar players, and you can focus on just two or three other tactics instead. To any experienced observer, you'll be playing a very smart tactical game, but in reality you're only aware of two or three aspects of it. You should be no more consciously aware of most of your tactical play than you would the angle of your racket when blocking loop - not aware at all. You just do it.

Most tactics should become second nature, allowing you to focus on just two or three things in any given match. And yet you'll be playing many more tactics without even thinking about it, because they will have become ingrained on your subconscious. You'll be tactically placing your shots side to side and in and out, varying the speed and spin, and doing all the tactics necessary to win - and you'll barely even notice you are doing it. What a smart player you are!