

# MDTTC News



**Barbara Wei, long-time USA Cadet & Junior Team member and MDTTC student of Coach Jack Huang, gives the induction speech at the Hall of Fame Banquet at the USA Nationals in Las Vegas where Jack was inducted into the USATT Hall of Fame. MDTTC is the only club in the country with three Hall of Fame coaches – Jack Huang, Cheng Yinghua, and Larry Hodges.**

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## **Archive of Past MDTTC Newsletters**

Welcome to the 43<sup>rd</sup> 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](#)

We would like to thank all of our members and friends for your continuing participation and support! We wish you and your families a very happy new year! The entire MDTTC Staff

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## MDTTC Membership Updates

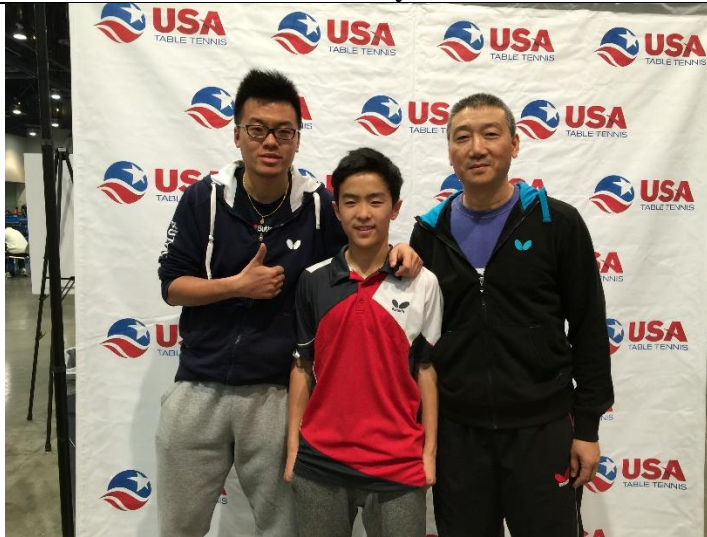
Despite of increases in rent and utility & maintenance costs, MDTTC is keeping its membership fees the same for 2016, except for the Limited Term Membership Fee, which is now \$250 per year (< \$2.5 per visit). To enjoy [all membership benefits](#), please choose our Regular Memberships. [Click here for details](#).

## Group Classes Resume in January 2016 - SIGN UP TODAY!

- [Beginners Level 2 Class for All Ages](#)  
Tuesdays 6 - 7 pm, starting January 5th
- [Beginner & Advanced Beginner Classes \(Age 6 - 15\)](#)  
Sundays 4-5:30 pm, starting January 10th  
Thursdays 6 - 7 pm, starting January 14th
- Ongoing Adult Training
  - [Tuesdays & Fridays: 1 – 2 pm with Coach Jeffrey.](#)
  - [Sundays, 6:30-8:00PM with Coach Larry.](#)

## USA Nationals

### Congrats to new USA Team Members Derek Nie and Ryan Dabbs!



*Derek Nie (center) and coaches Jeffrey and Cheng.  
Derek made the USA National Cadet Boys' Team (top four under age 15), finishing second.*



*Ryan Dabbs (center) and coaches Alex, Bowen, Jeffrey, and Cheng.  
Ryan made the USA National Minicadet Boys' Team (top four under age 13), finishing second.*

About 30 Marylanders, including 25 from MDTTC, went to the Nationals in Las Vegas, Dec. 14-19. Here are some highlights:

Two MDTTC members made the USA National Team at the Trials at the USA Nationals.

- **Derek Nie**, 14, made the USA Cadet Boys' Team (under age 15), finishing second in the Trials. The top four make the team. He went in seeded only ninth, but pulled off four upsets over a Texan and a trio of Californians: #2 seed Victor Liu (CA), #4 Nikhil Kumar (CA), #5 Tianming Xie (TX), and #8 Stephen Gong (CA).
- **Ryan Dabbs**, 12, made the USA Minicadet Boys' Team (under age 13), finishing second at the Trials. The top four make the team. He went in seeded third, but upset #2 seed Aditya Godhawani (CA) 3-0 to make the top two.
- **Roy Ke**, 16, finished second in Under 2400.
- **Klaus Wood**, 14, finished second in Under 2300 and ninth in Cadet Boys.
- **Nathan Hsu**, 19, caused the upset of the tournament in defeating the defending USA Men's Singles Champion, Jim Butler (TX), 4-3 in reaching the final 16 in Men's Singles as well as the quarterfinals of Under 21 Men.
- **MDTTC Coach Jack Huang** was inducted into the USA Table Tennis Hall of Fame at the induction banquet held during the Nationals. He was inducted for his long and successful coaching record.

### Capital Area Team League

The [Capital Area League](#) has two meets coming up in January. (Normally there's one each month, but they skipped December due to the Nationals and holidays.)

- Saturday, Jan. 9, 5-10 PM, at the Washington DC TTC
- Saturday, Jan. 30, 5-10 PM, at MDTTC

This season had 12 teams and 73 players. Schedule for the next season will come out soon – make sure to join us! It's for all levels and ages.

### Ongoing Programs

- **Thursday or Sunday Beginning Junior Classes.** The next sessions start on Jan. 10 (Sundays 4:00-5:30 PM, ten weeks), and on Jan. 14 (Thursdays 6 - 7PM, six weeks). These are for beginners to advanced beginners, ages 6-14, with Coach Larry and John, and others assisting. For more info, see the [Junior Group Training Page](#). (If you join in mid-season, your fee will be pro-rated.)
- **Tuesday Beginning Level 2 Class for All Ages.** 6 - 7PM with Coach John Hsu. The next session starts on Jan. 5. This class is for players with USATT level from 500-1200. Limited to eight players per session. For more info see the [Group Training page](#).
- **Friday Junior Girls Intermediate & Advanced Training.** 5 – 7 PM. For more info, contact Jack directly at 301-519-8580.
- **Saturday Junior Boys Intermediate & Advanced Training.** 4:30-6:30 PM, with Coach Cheng, for junior rated roughly 1500-2250. For more info, contact Cheng directly at 301-519-8580.
- **Tuesday or Friday Lunch Break Training.** 1 - 2 PM, for all levels, with Coach Jeffrey.
- **Sunday Adult Training.** 6:30-8:00PM, for all levels. (Complete beginners are required to take at least one hour of private coaching in advance.) Coach Larry Hodges, assisted by Coach/Practice Partner Raghu Nadmichettu. [email](#) Coach Larry for questions.
- **Afterschool Program.** [Here's the info flyer.](#)
- **Private Coaching.** See [Private Coaching page](#).
- **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 and Rental Space for Corporate and Private Events

MDTTC offers space rental for special corporate and private events. 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: Use Equipment that Matches the Way You Want to Play**

By Larry Hodges

Should one search for the perfect equipment that matches his game, or adjust his game to match his equipment? This is never an easy question, but here is the main factor to consider. Once you are beyond the beginning stage it's time to think long-term, and think about what your ultimate style of play will be. Once you decide that, look at some of the top players who play that style. What equipment are they using? If you want to play like them and hit shots like them, it's helpful to have similar equipment. So once you are past the beginning stage, it's time to adjust your equipment to *the way you want to play*.

The comparison isn't exact; they play at a much higher level and train full-time (including physical training), so depending on your level, you might want something slower, though not too much so. For example, if their sponge is too fast, you might want a slower version.

One other thing to take into consideration is that if your game is centered around looping – as nearly all players at the higher levels are – then you do want something extra bouncy, that allows you to loop nearly anything, in particular one of the tensored sponges.

## **BONUS TIP OF THE MONTH: Use Simple No-Spin Serves in Doubles**

By Larry Hodges

In singles, you can serve to all parts of the table. This means you can usually force your opponent to receive from his weaker side, whether it's forehand or backhand. Not so in doubles! Now your opponent can choose his stronger side to receive. If you serve long, he'll probably attack it, usually by looping. If you serve short sidespin or topspin, he'll probably attack it as well with a flip. If you serve backspin, he can drop it short, push heavy, or flip it to a corner. What is a server to do?

Surprisingly, the answer is often a very short, very low no-spin serve. At the world-class level, it's the most common serve in doubles, and often in singles. Why is this? A short no-spin serve is tricky to push - it's easy to pop up, and you can't put as much backspin on it, since you don't have a ball's spin to rebound off your racket - you have to create all your own spin. It's also not as easy to flip aggressively as a ball with spin since you can't use the spin of an incoming ball to help your flip. A topspin or sidespin ball rebounds out with topspin when struck properly. A backspin ball can be aggressively flipped, and the backspin continues, except now as topspin. (Often the receiver can put great topspin on this ball, especially with a backhand banana flip.) But a no-spin ball doesn't rebound out, and you can't use its non-existent spin. Plus, it's easy to keep a no-spin ball low. (A slightly high no-spin ball is easy to attack, so beware.) This doesn't mean you should serve all no-spin. But it can be the primary serve, with other serves used as variations, especially short, heavy backspin.