



ISPA INFO



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From the President

Dear Skat friends,

I hope things are going well and you are having a great summer. In April, ISPA Canada/USA had its AGM in Montreal. I'm happy to report that our membership in Canada is stable and even slightly improving in the US.

Our executive is very grateful that we have dedicated members in our Skat clubs who are running the weekly Skat nights and the yearly tournaments.

Recruiting of new Skat players is still on the top of the priority list in North America. We all have to help to look for ideas to find and approach potential card game lovers.

Here are a few motions which passed during this year's AGM in Montreal.

Item 227

Motion #1

A written motion was sent by Harald Kroos to no longer gather and keep the statistics of member scores from tournaments and weekly club scores.

Motion made by Harald Kross
Seconded by Ron Link
Carried

Motion #2

A written motion was presented by Ron Link, to promote tournament incentives. Clubs are not regularly sending in their statistics, which were used to determine the ranking of Skat players in North America, and to determine which players would qualify for the East/West Challenge. Since the Challenge Cup is no longer played, these statistics have become obsolete. A round table discussion began using Ron's

suggestions and as a result a motion was passed which states:

- for attending a tournament every player will get one point
- the top ten players in the tournament are awarded points according to their ranking (ie 11, 10, 9... and all other players in the prize money receive an extra a point for placing

Motion #3:

To give the three best players, one from each group, \$100.00 (paid by ISPA) annually as an incentive. This will be a "coupon" to be used towards tournaments

- Group 1: youth and beginners, up to 35 years of age
- Group 2: 36 to 65 years of age
- Group 3: age 66 and up
- Must be an ISPA member and you must meet the age guidelines for that particular year.

Motion made by Heidi Frank
Seconded by Bill Thompson
Carried

Like some of you already know, we moved from Saskatoon, where I lived with my family for the past 33 years, to West-Kelowna, hoping of shortening the winters by a few months.

Do you have something to contribute? All submissions for the next ISPA Info newsletter are greatly welcomed and appreciated. Kindly have anything you wish to have published to me no later than November 15th. H-J.Steinmetz@usask.ca

Hans-Jürgen Steinmetz-President

EDMONTON, Alberta Championship

Edmonton was proud to host again this year the 2015 Alberta Skat Championship.

With players from as far as Texas, Omaha and Winnipeg a total of 48 players participated to make the tournament a success.

First place went to Victor Lavoie with a total of 6531 points, but the real battle was fought for second with Ron Link and Hans-Jürgen Steinmetz both with 6255 points. Second place went to Ron (The player with the most wins over the five lists). Dinah Kunst from Winnipeg was top lady and 4th overall with 6161 points.

Two arrangements of teams were in effect during the tournament.

The overall winning team, SaskWin, with a total 22021 points: Dinah Kunst, Rudi Laprel, Diane Neufeld and H-J. Steinmetz.

The Alberta team Champions, Skatlink.com, with 21264 points: David McLaughlin, Kristina Huisman, Ron Link and Michael Buro.

I would like to take this opportunity to comment and hopefully encourage other clubs to adopt one of my favorite parts of the Edmonton tournament. I am referring to the Calcutta, won this year by Kurt Wehr and his purchase of the "One Hit Wonders" category.

The Calcutta is a great way to add a little fun and ribbing to the tournament. People like to see what category they fit into and also like to compare how much they were auctioned off for. It provides added revenue to the club and gives the bidders a second chance of getting in the money if the cards are not favorable for them that weekend. I would like to thank Ron Link for organizing this and hope to see it implemented at other tournaments.

Once again I would like to thank all our sponsors: the GCAA, Skatlink.com, Tirecraft, Bicoastal Sea Foods and many of our generous members.

Edmonton Spree Asse

Victor Lavoie

ALBERTA Championship Tournament, Edmonton 2015 (48 players)

Team Competition, Overall Standing Winner:

H-J. Steinmetz	SK	6255
Dinah Kunst	WPG	6161
Rudi Laprell	SK	5157
Diane Neufeld	SK	4448
		21,927

Team Competition, Alberta Championship

Ron Link	EDM	6255
Kristina Huisman	EDM	5465
David McLaughlin	EDM	4937
Michael Buro	EDM	4607
		21,264

Individual Standing, Alberta Championship

	Name	Club	Total
1	LAVOIE, Victor	EDM	6531
2	LINK, Ron	EDM	6255
3	STEINMETZ, H.-J.	SK	6255
4	KUNST, Dinah	WPG	6161
5	LUZ, Bernd	CAL	5783
6	RIDDER, Danny	EDM	5760
7	SCHMIDT, Gerhard	EDM	5626
8	KRETSCHMER, Rudy	EDM	5492
9	HUISMAN, Kristina	EDM	5465
10	RIDDER, Peter	EDM	5397
11	LUZ, Eric	CAL	5342
12	ROHRER, Joe	RD	5203

Winners of the Rounds (Seriensieger)

1	Gerhard Schmidt	EDM	2153
2	Ron Link	EDM	1801
3	Klaus Huckfeld	EDM	1673
4	Dinah Kunst	WPG	1520
5	Victor Lavoie	EDM	1581



The winners from left: Dinah Kunst (best Lady), H-J. Steinmetz, Victor Lavoie and Ron Link.



The winners of the Series from left: Gerhard Schmidt, Ron Link, Dinah Kunst, Klaus Huckfeld and Victor Lavoie.



The Alberta team Champions from left: David McLaughlin, Ron Link and Michael Buro.



The overall winning team from left: Dinah Kunst, Rudi Laprell, Diane Neufeld and H-J. Steinmetz.

RED Deer Tournament 2015 (30 players)

The Red Deer Skat Club would like to thank everyone that attended our annual tournament, which was held this year from Tuesday June 2- Thursday June 4th.

All of our club had a great time and we hope all those attending did as well. It was great to see all the players from other clubs again. Thanks to those who travelled from the USA, B.C. and Saskatchewan to come visit us and play this year.

We had 30 players this year with the top score of 6397 points, going to Ron Link. This is the fourth year for our revived tournament and we have had a different champion each year.

Our top lady was Diane Neufeld from Saskatoon and our top team was the Lions of Africa. The team consisted of Bernd Luz, Eric Luz, Ron Knipschild and Horst Gonschorek.

Congrats to all winners and a special thank-you to all our members that volunteered with bartending, cooking, cleaning and organizing. It helped to make our tournament run smoothly and an overall great success.

We look forward to hosting once again next year. Don't forget, we play one round every Monday at 7 pm at the German Canadian Club of Red Deer, so if you are travelling by, stop in.

Until next time - Gut Blatt!

John Moldovan

Individual Standing, Red Deer Tournament

	Name	Club	Total
1	LINK, Ron	EDM	6397
2	KNIPSCHILD, R	CAL	5885
3	LUZ, Eric	CAL	5883
4	RIDDER, Peter	EDM	5859
5	RIDDER, Danny	EDM	5585
6	GONSCHOREK, Horst	KEL	5543
7	SOMMER, Michael	EDM	5214
8	LEISSNER, James	TX	5193

Team Competition Winner:

Ron Knipschild	CAL	5885
Eric Luz	CAL	5883
Horst Gonschorek	KEL	5543
Bernd Luz	CAL	4978
		22,289

Winners of the Rounds (Seriensieger)

1	Walter Widder	EDM	1437
2	Peter Ridder	EDM	1508
3	Ron Link	EDM	1939
4	Diane Neufeld	SK	1782
5	Danny Ridder	EDM	1480



The winners from left: Michael Sommer (3), Ron Knipschild (2) and Ron Link (1).

CALGARY Tournament 2015 (32 players)

The Skat Klub in Calgary now has it's new home in the German Canadian Club at 218 37th ave. NE. Calgary, Alberta.

We were proud to host our 1st Tournament in our new home. We had 32 players and everyone had a great time.

Our Skat friend from Texas Jim Leissner had a great Sunday and won with 6432, Horst Gonschorek from Kelowna was only 16 points behind at 6416, and Michael Sommer from Edmonton with 5973 points rounds out the top 3.

The winning team was Kaum Zu Glauben. The team consisted of Ron Knipschild, Michael Sommer, Horst Gonschorek and Dieter Werner (absent from picture). Their point total was 21255.

Our Seiren Siegers were Bernd Luz 1st round with 1934, Heidi Luz in 2nd round with 2038, (her 1st time with 2000 list), Horst Gonschorek in 3rd round with 1596, Jim Leissner in 4th round with 2109, (highest round), and the 5th round was Walter Widder with 1585 points.

I would like to thank my family and my members for their help and donations, without help this would be impossible to do.

I would also like to remind everyone that we play Skat in our club every Wednesday at 7pm and at noon on each 2nd Saturday of the month.

We also have a beginner group that is always looking for new players. Should you have any questions, please feel free to call me at 403-861-4644.

President Skat Klub Calgary Jungs.

Eric Luz

Individual Standing, Red Deer Tournament

	Name	Club	Total
1	LEISSNER, Jim	USA-TX	6432
2	GONSCHOREK, Horst	KEL	6416
3	SOMMER, Michael	EDM	5973
4	LINK, Ron	EDM	5687
5	LUSIGNAN, Erika	CAL	5453
6	WERNER, Dieter	CAL	5092
7	WIDDER, Walter	EDM	5067
8	LUZ, Bernd	CAL	4933



Team Competition Winner:

Horst Gonschorek	KEL	6416
Michael Sommer	EDM	5973
Dieter Werner	CAL	5092
Ron Knipschild	CAL	3774
		21,255



Winners of the Rounds (Seriensieger)

1	Bernd Luz	CAL	1934
2	Heidi Luz	CAL	2038
3	Horst Gonschorek	KEL	1569
4	Jim Leissner	TX	2109
5	Walter Widder	EDM	1585



Western Skat Report

Twelve people participated in all 3 tournaments Saskatoon, Red Deer, and Calgary. Each tournament had approximately 30 players entered.

In Saskatoon 2 people received their Bronze pins and 10\$. Diane Neufeld from Saskatoon who has just been playing for a few years and a long time player Walter Widder finally achieved his pin.

There were no pins achieved in Red Deer.

In Calgary a long time player and well known traveler from Texas Jim Leissner achieved his first gold pin and 30\$.

Player of the year for all 3 tournaments was Michael Sommer 3rd with 16,785pts, 2nd was Peter Ridder with

16,858pts and Ron Link with 17,165pts became once again the player of the year for his 8th time in his Skat career.

The team of the year that participated in all 3 tournaments consisted of: Walter Schultz, Ron Knipschild, Michael Sommer and Danny Ridder / Marianne Litwiniuk.



With over a 3000pt lead over the second place team. We had no Pin winners in Winnipeg.

Ron Link

Delaware Saenger Bund 5th annual Skat Turnier

On March 8th, this year, 30 skat players participated in this very popular Tournament.

The 2 rounds played on Sunday were competitive and enjoyed by all participants. Stefan Weiss was the clear winner and could not be caught. Karl-Ludwig Schultz almost made the podium, but finished a very respectable 5th place.

Breakfast and a warm Lunch was again free of charge, compliments of the DSB Spitzbuben. All well prepared by Heinz and Erika Ambrosch with help from daughter Janette and son in law Donald.

Other notables in the field: Shaun Snyder, 2217 points and Joe Fellner at 1690 points.

Peter Menzian

Individual Standing, Delaware Tournament

	Name	Club	Total
1	Stefan Weiss		2705
2	Peter Menzian		2406
3	Hans Walter		2260
4	Karl Bolte		2259
5	Karl-Ludwig Schultz		2236
6	Shaun Snyder		2217

30th annual Catskill Mountain Skat Weekend Round Top, N.Y.

For 30 years now, this most popular tournament east of the Mississippi river is being held in the beautiful Catskill Mountains of New York state.

Under the expert guidance of Joe Fellner the tournament is attracting young and experienced players all over the east coast. A total of 44 players came in from Cleveland, Boston, New York, to Philadelphia to Delaware and Baltimore.

Newcomer Kevin Thompson had a super 3rd round of 1993 points and finished 3rd. Joe Fellner won again, he has lost count of how many times he has won.

Already on Friday the warm up games began at the cozy lounge at Crystal Brook. The turnier of 3 full rounds was played on Saturday at the Mountain Brauhaus, just a few steps from the main lodge.

As always Wendy made sure everyone was taken care of and the food, family style, was great and plentiful.

Tournament management is considering playing 4 rounds next year.

The date is set for the weekend of June 3rd

Individual Standing, Top 10 finishers

	Name	Club	Total
1	Joe Fellner		4176
2	Heinrich Wagner		3973
3	Kevin Thompson		3627
4	Peter Eckstein		3559
5	Shaun Snyder		3493
6	Joachim Schultz		3468
7	Mike Meyer		3455
8	Stefan Weiss		3327
9	Chriss Vogler		3316
10	Uwe Dreyhaupt		3090



WINNIPEG Tournament 2015 (28 players)

The Winnipeg Skat Club held its annual tournament on June 27th and 28th. There were 28 players in attendance from all parts of the US, namely Minnesota, Wisconsin, Nebraska, Iowa, Indiana, Texas, and Nevada, as well as Canadian players from Winnipeg, Saskatoon and Edmonton. The Canadians were just about outnumbered. A power outage occurred at the German Club during the second round because of some severe weather that was passing through, so most of the second round had to be played by candlelight. I don't know, but this may have been a first – a Skat tournament by candlelight. Also, a first, I think, was that the third round of the tournament had to be moved to a different location, namely at Stephan Jantz' and Hans Wieland's homes (they just so happen live on the same street). Seven tables were set up at Stephan's home and the last at Hans'. To wind up the evening, Stephan, Hans and their better parts went all out and put on an awesome B.B.Q. It was good fun. Thanks guys.

Despite all the commotion, the scores ended up being real high, as you'll note by the standings. Ron Link won the tournament (first time ever in Winnipeg) with 6,616 points, runners up were Joe Schmitt with 6,580 points and George Maxwell with 6,028 points, and best lady was Kristina Huisman with 5,823 points. The best team was "4 US States" (Fred Klasen, George Maxwell, Bob Maxwell and Joe Schmitt) with 23,593 points. Series winners were Ron Link with 1,962 points, Werner Roewekamp with 1,567 points, Fred Klasen with 1,626 points, Jim Leissner with 1,683 points and Joe Schmitt with 1,789 points. The Winnipeg Skat Club would like to thank everyone for their support.

Individual Standing, Winnipeg Tournament

1	LINK, Ron	EDM	6616
2	SCHMITT, Joe	USA-TX	6580
3	MAXWELL, George	USA	6028
4	HUISMAN, Kristina	EDM	5823
5	KLASEN, Fred	USA	5791
6	JANTZ, Stephan	WPG	5645
7	RASING, Hans	WPG	5600
8	LEISSNER, Jim	USA	5414



Winners of the Rounds (Seriensieger)

1	Ron Link	EDM	1962
2	Werner Roewekamp	EDM	1567
3	Fred Klassen	USA	1626
4	Jim Leissner	USA-TX	1683
5	Joe Schmitt	USA-TX	1789



Team Competition Winner:

Joe Schmitt	USA-TX	6580
George Maxwell	USA-TX	6028
Fred Klasen	USA	5791
Robert Maxwell	USA-TX	5194
		23,593



ON YOUR BIRTHDAY, WE WISH YOU
MANY MORE YEARS OF GOOD
HEALTH AND NATURALLY ALWAYS
"GOOD CARDS".

ZUM GEBURTSTAG WÜNSCHEN WIR
DIR RECHT VIELE JAHRE IN GUTER
GESUNDHEIT UND IMMER EIN
"GUT BLATT".



**WIR TRAUERN UM UNSEREN SKATFREUND -
WE MOURN THE LOSS OF OUR SKATFRIEND**

Russel Krueger
Texas Skat League

November 22, 1921 - June 8, 2015

News from MLA Ottawa:

Once again we had a very successful tournament in Ottawa this past April. Thank you to everyone who participated. We had a total of 43 players and prizes were awarded to the following:

- 1st Scott McCormick (Ott)
 - 2nd Frank Heuvelmanns (Ott)
 - 3rd John Kretschmann (Mont)
 - Best Lady Marianne Litwiniuk (Cal)
 - Best Team "Hagen Champions" (Horst Hagen, Jutta Khalil, Scott McCormick and Thomas Lang).
- Congratulations to all the winners.

A special congratulations goes out to the new Canadian Championship Team "Elfi's Boys" who just managed to squeak by and claim the title. As many of you may know Elfi Ridder has not been well. This was a very special tribute to her. I hope to see you again at our tournament next year when we will be hosting the 2016 North American Championship.

Marsha Clarke-MLA President



Winners of the Rounds (Seriensieger)

1	Norbert Wolter	SM	1876
2	Gunter Pauly	SM	1805
3	Fritz Binsfeld	SF	1635
4	Erwin Fritz	SF	1667
5	Bill Thompson	OH	1752

Santa Monica Tournament (34 players)

Individual Standing, Santa Monica

	Name	Club	Total
1	Gunter Pauly	SM	6724
2	Bill Thompson	OH	6409
3	Arno Konrad	SF	5876
4	Hans Stewin	SEA	5616
5	Helmut Brinkmann	SM	5562
6	Richard Morlock	SF	5346
7	Joerg Hummel	LA	5301
8	Norbert Wolter	SF	5227



Message from the ISPA USA President

ISPA USA RESUMES INDEPENDENT OPERATION IN 2016

Greetings to all our Skat players in ISPA USA! Just a quick note to let you know of an important development in our section. ISPA USA has incorporated as a non-profit organization as of March 2015. Beginning January 1, 2016, ISPA USA membership and administration will no longer be handled by ISPA Canada. Going forward, ISPA USA will once again be handling its own membership and administrative duties. We will still share the website and newsletter [ISPA Info](#) with our Canadian friends, whom we thank for supporting our section these many years. But when you wish to join ISPA (or rejoin) in January of 2016, please make sure you download the new ISPA USA application form from www.skatcanada.ca and send your application and dues to our ISPA USA Treasurer, Barbara Mingo, in North Olmsted, Ohio at the address indicated there.

Gut Blatt,
Bill

ISPA USA HOSTS 1. US OPEN SKAT CHAMPIONSHIP IN OMAHA

The German American SKAT club of Omaha, Nebraska will be hosting the first ISPA United States Open Skat Championship on Friday, Saturday and Sunday, Oct 2-4, 2015. The US Open Skat Championship will be an annual major tournament played at a different site each year going forward. Any ISPA player, regardless of their citizenship, may earn the title of the US Open Champion. A special trophy will be awarded to the champion and the top 3 finishers.

Three rounds will be played on Saturday at 9:00 AM and two rounds will be played on Sunday a 9 AM. The entry fee for Saturday and Sunday is \$80.00. All entry fees will be paid out in prizes, ensuring that 25% of the participants will receive prize money. A \$500 first place prize is guaranteed. Team fees are \$40 per four-player team. Players may choose to enter an optional special side pool to try for more prize money. The optional side pool costs \$40 and will pay the top three finishers in the pool 50%-30%-20%.

On Friday evening, two warm up rounds will be played beginning at 6:30 PM. The entry fee is \$10/round and another \$10 for the combined scores. Players may opt to play one round, or the other, or both.

The first three lost games in each round are \$1 each. The fourth and subsequent lost games in each round are \$2 each.

Players may enjoy a dinner and dance on Saturday evening in the main hall. A delicious meal will be

available for our SKAT players after the completion of the tournament at a reasonable price. The club would appreciate a head count on Friday evening of those planning to participate in the Saturday evening meal. Omaha is renowned for its many fine restaurants and interesting attractions. In addition to Boys Town, Old Market and the Henry Doorly Zoo, you may not want to miss three casinos located just a few miles away in Council Bluffs.

On behalf of ISPA USA, we welcome all SKAT players to our inaugural US Open. Please come to Omaha and visit the club, enjoy the many attractions in and around the city and, most of all, enjoy the company of good friends over a great game of Skat. We appreciate your support of our new major Championship.

More details may be found here:

<http://skatcanada.ca/canada/einladung/2015%20Omaha.pdf>

Skat Tournament 2016 California Hotel , Las Vegas

**Sat 9, Jan 2016 - 9:00 am - 11:30 am 1st Round
12:30 pm - 2:45 pm 2nd Round
3:15 pm - 5:30 pm 3rd Round**

**Sun 10, Jan 2016 - 9:00 am - 11:30 am 4th Round
12:00 pm - 2:30 pm 5th Round**

Entrance Fee : \$80

optional- \$40 Team (4 players)

Fri 8, Jan 2016 Pretournament - 2 Rounds starting 6:30 pm

Entrance Fee : \$40

Registration 5:00 pm - 6:00pm

2 rounds of 36 games (3 players)

Reservations to be made under Group Name: German Skat 2016 ,Group Code: A6FGERM

Phone (800) 634-6255 , ROOM RATE: \$45 plus tax for FRI and SAT, \$33 other days

or On-Line at www.thecal.com/groups

Rooms have been reserved for 1/5 thru 1/12/2016

Please make your reservation early to guarantee Non-Smoking Rooms.

International Skat Order Rules

IMPORTANT:CUT- OFF DATE for this rate is 12/6/2015

Registration for the Tournament requested until Tue 5, Jan 2016

All entrance fees due by Fri 8, Jan 2016 evening to ensure a timely start on Saturday.

Registration with Guenter Pauly E-Mail guenterdorisp@sbcglobal.net

Phone: (818) 889-8906