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NWC Staff

Editor: Jeffrey Roland, jeffreyroland9@gmail.com
Games Editor: Ralph Dubisch, chesscoaching@gmail.com
Publisher: Duane Polich, publisher@nwchess.com
Business Manager: businessmanager@nwchess.com

Board Representatives

Aniruddha Barua, Alex Machin, Duane Polich, Ralph Dubisch,
Jeffrey Roland, Josh Sinanan, Wilson Gibbins, Eric Holcomb.

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Isaac Vega (center), Vancouver Open's winner, with WCF
President Josh Sinanan (left) and TD Rekha Sagar (right).
Photo credit: Sridhar Seshadri.

On the back cover:

L-R: John Bueno, Caleb Kircher, Eric Hon at the
2023 ICA Summer Classic. Photo credit: Jeffrey Roland.

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L-R: John Bueno, Caleb Kircher, Eric Hon Jeffrey Roland	Back Cover

Joseph Levine FIDE Internatonal Master

Congratulations to Washington State junior chess player Joseph Levine, who recently achieved the third and final norm required for the FIDE International Master (IM) title, at a tournament in Budapest, Hungary! He achieved the first two required norms last year and earlier this year at events in Los Angeles. Here's a summary of the three events:

Norm #1:

Hollywood Norm Classic #3
Los Angeles, CA
2022/08/03 – 2022/08/07

Norm #2:

1000GM LA GM Norm Invitational
Los Angeles, CA
2023/02/22 – 2023/02/26

Norm #3:

Vezerkepzo 7 days GM
Budapest, Hungary
2023/07/24 – 2023/07/30

[See also: Northwest Chess Blog Post](#)



L-R: Organizer (GM Attila Czebe), Joseph Levine (holding the IM norm certificate), and the arbiter (IA David Bela).
Photo credit: Lisa Levine.

40th! Annual Reno Western States Open

Oct 6-8 or Oct 7-8, 2023, 3 Day or 2 Day Schedule

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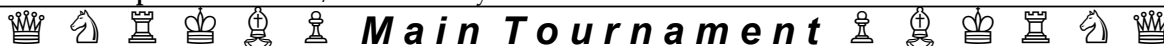
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Saturday 10/7: 3 - 4:30 pm - FREE Game/Position Analysis - GM Nick de Firmian



Registration: Thursday (10/5) 5 - 8 pm. - Friday (10/6) 9 - 10 am. - Saturday (10/7) 9 - 10 am.

Round Times: (3-day Schedule) Friday - 12 Noon - 7 pm; Saturday - 10 am - 6 pm; Sunday - 9 am - 4 pm

2-day Schedule: Sat.- Rd 1 - 10:30 am, Rd 2 - 12:45 pm, Rd 3 - 3 pm, Rd 4 merge with regular schedule - 6 pm

For more information: Call, Write or E-mail Organizer and Chief TD, N.T.D. Jerome (Jerry) Weikel,

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Room Reservation: Call Circus Circus Reno, 1-800-648-5010, Group Reservation Code: SRWC23

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For TLA and to confirm receipt of entry see player list at: www.renochess.org

ENTRY FORM - 40th Annual Western States Open - Reno, Nevada - Oct 6-8 OR Oct 7-8, 2023

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Street Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

USCF ID# _____ Exp. Date _____ All pre-registered players please check in at TD desk on arrival.

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- ☐ \$20 Thu. Simul GM Khachiyani
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Vancouver Open (Vega Triumphs)

Josh Sinanan

The Tenth Annual Vancouver Open was hosted by the Washington Chess Federation July 22-23, 2023, at the Vancouver Hampton Inn & Suites. A strong turnout of 74 players competed in the two-day tournament from throughout the Pacific Northwest, from cities including Portland, Olympia, Sammamish, Bothell, Redmond, Kirkland, Vancouver (WA), Camas, Beaverton, Bellingham, Washougal, Elgin, Mercer Island, Kingston, Bellevue, Eugene, Burnaby (BC), Tacoma, Anacortes, Woodinville, Richland, Edmonds, Fall City, and Medina. Despite the proximity to the Oregon-Washington border, there were only ten Oregon players in attendance, compared to the “chessic” 64 from Washington State! The tournament was directed by WCF co-VP Rekha Sagar

and organized by WCF President Josh Sinanan.

The field was split between two sections, with 47 players in the Open and just 27 in the Reserve U1700. It's interesting to note that of the 47 players in the Open, only 19 were rated above 1700, with 28 ambitious chess warriors opting to play up and seeking the stronger competition.

In the Open section, Isaac “the Penguin” Vega (4.5, 1953 → 1972) from Beaverton emerged victorious with an impressive 4.5 points from five games. Isaac had just returned from two major back-to-back tournaments on the East Coast, the Philadelphia International and the World Open, so he was no doubt well-prepared for a smaller scale event like the Vancouver Open. After a tense draw with

Owen Xu in round two, Isaac won against Gabriel Razmov (1529) in round three to finish the first day with 2.5 points from three games. A no-show in round four meant that he would play White against National Master Aaryan Deshpande on board one in the final round. Vega's opening preparation worked well against Deshpande's Caro-Kann, which ended decisively in a two-knight, rook, and pawn mating net on the edge of the board!

The triple A-Team of Austin Liu (4.0, 2072 → 2069) from Sammamish, Alex Kaelin (4.0, 1863 → 1887) from Mercer Island, and Aiden Leong (4.0, 1862 → 1902) from Burnaby, B.C. shared Second/Third/U2100 honors a half point back. A fun fact that was pointed out by WCF Tournament Coordinator Valentin Razmov post event, if your name starts with an “A”, you had nearly a 50% chance (7 out of 15) of winning a prize at the Vancouver Open!

Three Washington chess wizards, Derek Heath (3.5, 1854 → 1865) from Camas, Valentin Razmov (3.5, 1864 → 1877) from Seattle, and Emerson Wong-Godfrey (3.5, 1751 → 1786) from Seattle, shared the First U1900 prize a half-point back. Medina Chess Queen Michelle Zhang (3.0, 1662 → 1726) was awarded the Best Female Player prize with a tournament performance rating of 2047! Owen Xu (2.5, 1760 → 1785) from Bellevue captured the Best Upset Win prize (583 pts.) when his coach, LM Josh Sinanan, faltered in time-pressure during their first-round G/60 game. The coaching sure seems to be working!

The 27-player Reserve U1700 section consisted of 22 rated players with an average rating of only 885 as well as five unrated players! With today's typical mix of underrated adult “novices” and fast-improving junior players, modern ratings don't mean as much as they used to, and anyone can win against anyone else on any given day. Two junior players



Isaac Vega (L) pondering his move in the round two game.
Photo credit: Rekha Sagar.

were crowned co-Champions of the Reserve U1700 section: Neevan Reddy Saddi (4.5, 1309 → 1336) from Issaquah and Stephen Belgau (4.5, 1040 → 1169) from Olympia. After each starting with a perfect 4-0, the two young leaders Saddi and Belgau met in the final round and split the point to finish the tournament undefeated.

Chess kings Aaron Rausch (4.0, 1172 → 1169) from Richland and Michael Rodney (4.0, 1117 → 1175) from Redmond shared the Third/First U1600 prize a half-point back. Medina chess prince Michael Zhang (3.5, 1086 → 1101) captured the First U1400 prize a half-point back.

The First Place Unrated prize was awarded to Chace Wolfe (3.5, unrated → 1095), who also scored three wins and a draw from the five rounds. A quadruplet of players consisting of a second Triple-A team and Max were awarded the First U1200 prize for their efforts: Aiden Wong (3.0, 1020 → 1028) from Camas, Arihant Chaudhuri (3.0, 766 → 814) from Sammamish, Aiden Zhu (3.0, 977 → 959) from Camas, and Max Cui (3.0, 596 → 816) from Redmond. Kingston chess king Miles King performed royally and earned the Biggest Upset Win prize with a 585-point upset victory in the third round.

Congratulations to the winners, and many thanks to all who contributed to this fun event!

Owen Xu (1760) –

Josh Sinanan (2200) [B00]

Vancouver Open (Open Section)

Vancouver WA (R1), July 22, 2023

[Ralph Dubisch]

1.e4 b6?!

The dubious symbol is not attached here for the chess value of the move per se, but



Pre-game handshake before round one between young talent Owen Xu (L) and his coach LM Josh Sinanan. Photo credit: Haiyong Wang.

rather for tempting fate by playing the Owens Defense against someone named Owen.

2.d4 Bb7 3.Bd3



Position after 3.Bd3

3...e6

The thematic 3...f5, striking at the “pinned” e4–pawn, is essentially a forced loss against a prepared opponent: 4.exf5! Bxg2? 5.Qh5+ g6 6.fgxg6 Bg7 7.gxh7+ Kf8 8.Nh3! Bxh1 (8...Nf6 9.Qg6 Bxh3 (9...Bxh1 10.Bh6 Rxh7 11.Ng5) 10.Rg1 Rxh7 (10...Bg4 11.Rxg4 Nxg4 12.Qxg4 e6 13.Qf3+ — Qxa8) 11.Qg3) 9.Ng5 Nh6 (9...Bd5 10.hxg8Q+ Kxg8 (10...Bxg8 11.Qf3+ Bf6 12.Qxa8) 11.Bh7+ Kf8 12.Nc3 Qe8 13.Qxe8+ Kxe8 14.Nxd5) 10.Nd2 e6 (10...e5 11.Ndf3 exd4 12.Kf1 Nc6 13.Nh4 Ne7 14.Bf4 Bd5 15.Re1 Qe8 16.Ng6+ Nxg6 17.Rxe8+ Rxe8 18.Bxg6) 11.Ndf3 Qe8 12.Bg6 Qe7 13.Nh4 Qf6 14.Bd3 Ke7 15.Ng6+ Kd8 16.Nxh8 Bxh8 17.Qxh6

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4.Nf3 c5 5.c3 Nf6 6.Qe2 Be7 7.0-0 Nc6 8.Bd2?!



Position after 8.Bd2

This just gets in the way and costs White a tempo, as the bishop will soon move again to free d2 for the knight. 8.a3 is still theory, both preventing ...Nb4 after some center exchange and possibly preparing b2–b4 with queenside expansion. Therefore 8...Na5 9.Nbd2 c4 10.Bc2 Qc7 11.Re1± looks pretty normal, for example.

8...d5 9.e5 Nd7 10.Bf4 h6 11.Nbd2 g5 12.Be3 Qc7 13.Rac1

13.a4±

13...0-0-0 14.b4 cxb4?

Safer to block things up on the queenside with 14...c4 15.Bc2 f5, when 16.exf6 Bxf6 opens the proper side of the board for Black.

15.cxb4 Bxb4 16.Rc2 Ndb8?

16...Kb8 avoids some of the possible congestion, though White still has good compensation for the pawn.

17.Bb5?!

17.h3

17...a6



Position after 17...a6

18.Bxc6?!

Retracting the bishop still offers more than enough compensation. After 18.Bd3±, White can claim to have provoked the weakening ...a6.

18...Bxc6 19.Rfc1

19.Rb1∞

19...Kb7 20.Rb1 Be7

20...Qe7 21.Rcb2 Bb5 22.Qd1 Ba3

21.Nb3 Ka7 22.a4 a5 23.Nc1 Na6 24.Na2 Qd7 25.Rcb2 Rb8 26.Nc3 Bxa4 27.Ne1 Bc6 28.Rc2 Rbc8 29.Bd2 Bb4

30.Nd3 Bxc3 31.Rxc3 Bb5 32.Rcb3 Bc4 33.R3b2 Qa4 34.Qf3 Bxd3 35.Qxd3 Rc4 36.Qh7 Rb7 37.Qxh6 Rxd4

37...Rc2!+- combines threats to the back rank with attacks on loose pieces.

38.Qxg5 Nc5 39.Qd8 Qd7 40.Qf8

40.Qxd7 Rxd7 41.Be3 Rc4 42.Rxb6 d4.

40...Nd3?!

40...Qc7± supports c5, b6, and a5.

41.Rb3



Position after 41.Rb3

41...Nc5??

The only move that the computer (Stockfish) approves as giving Black an edge here is the rather spectacular 41...Nc1!! For a human, this is very easy to miss. The sequence continues 42.R3b2 Qc7! 43.Qd6 Ne2+ 44.Kh1 (44.Kf1?? Qc4 45.Rb4 (45.Ra1 Ng3+ 46.Kg1 Rxd2 47.Rxd2 Ne4+-) 45...Qa6+-) 44...Rxd2 45.Rxd2 Nc3. Black's pawns are hard to stop, and the white king is far from the action.

42.R3b2??

A major missed opportunity. 42.Rxb6!! smashes through: 42...Rxd2 (42...Rxb6 43.Qxc5 Rdb4 (43...Qc6 44.Qxd4; 43...Qb7 44.Bxa5) 44.Qxa5+ Kb7 45.Rxb4+-) 43.Qxc5+-

42...Nd3?!

As before, 42...Qc7 provides better cement, guarding all the dark-square targets on the queenside.

43.Ra2?!

[Diagram top of next page]

After 43.Rb3!?, Stockfish again suggests 43...Nc1!±, though Black's edge is not huge. (Alternately 43...Qc6 gets a bit difficult after 44.Bxa5! Nc5 45.Bc3! Nxb3 46.Bxd4±.)

43...Nxe5??

The final blunder. 43...Ra4!± solidifies



Round one's games between (L) Bohan Zhang (WA) vs Jeffrey Yan (WA), and Jerry Sherrard (OR) and Aaron Ren (WA). Photo credit: Haiyong Wang.



Position after 43.Ra2

along the a-file, and even offers Black winning chances.

44.Bxa5!! Ra4 45.Rxa4 Qxa4 46.Bc3!

With no way to stop Ra1, Black resigned.

1-0

**Austin Liu (2072) –
Ted Wang (1977) [B33]**

Vancouver Open (Open Section)
Vancouver WA (R5), July 23, 2023
[Ralph Dubisch]

**1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6
5.Nc3 e5 6.Ndb5 d6 7.Nd5**

7.Nd5 is back in fashion at the top levels of chess, providing the most reliable way to change the pawn structure and avoid the main lines of the Schveshnikov (Lasker/Pelikan) variation of the Sicilian that continues 7.Bg5 a6 8.Na3 b5, then either 9.Nd5 (or 9.Bxf6.)

7...Nxd5 8.exd5



Position after 8.exd5

8...Nb8

The other retreat for Black is also playable: 8...Ne7 9.c4 (9.c3 f5 10.Qa4 Kf7) 9...Nf5 10.Bd3 Be7 11.0-0 0-0 looks like a game.

a) or 9...Ng6; Black does need to react against White's threatened Qa4, though.;

b) 9...a6? 10.Qa4 axb5 (10...Bd7?? 11.Nxd6#) 11.Qxa8±

9.Qf3!?

Rare, but with a clear idea. 9.c4 Be7 10.Be2 0-0 11.0-0 a6 12.Nc3 would be a more typical line here.

9...a6 10.Qa3 Be7 11.Bg5!



Position after 11.Bg5

11...f6

11...Bxg5? 12.Nxd6+ Kf8 (12...Kd7 13.Nxf7 Qf8 (13...Qf6 14.Nxh8; 13...Qe7 14.Qa4+ b5 15.Bxb5+ axb5 16.Qxb5+ Kc7 17.d6+) 14.Qxf8 Rxf8 15.Nxg5+-) 13.Nxc8+ Kg8 14.Nd6±; A reasonable alternative is 11...Bf5 12.Be2 (12.Bxe7 Kxe7) 12...axb5 13.Bxe7 Rxa3 14.Bxd8

Washington Women's Championship

September 8 - 10, 2023



Highest finishing WA resident seeded into the Premier section of the 2024 WA State Championship.

Info/Entries: Make checks payable to Washington Chess Federation.

Mail To: Washington Chess Federation
c/o Orlov Chess Academy
4174 148th Ave. NE
Building I, Ste. M
Redmond, WA 98052

Contact: Josh Sinanan,
WCF President, 206-769-3757,
washingtonchessfederation@gmail.com

Online Registration:
nwchess.com/OnlineRegistration

Site: Lakeside Upper School:

14050 1st Ave NE, Seattle, WA 98125

Format: A 5-round Swiss in one section. Open to all female chess players. Maximum of 50 players, please register early. In case of a tie for 1st place, playoff games at a later date will determine the seed for the 2024 Premier.

Time Control: G/90; +30. Late default: 60 min.

Prize Fund: \$750 (based on 25 paid entries).

1st \$200, 2nd \$150, 3rd \$100

1st U1800/U1600/U1400/U1200/U1000: \$60

Byes: Two half-point byes available. If interested, request before end of round 2.

Entry Fee: \$50 if postmarked or online by 9/3, \$60 after or at site. Free entry for WGMs, WIMs, and WFMs.

On-site Registration: Friday 6:00-6:45 PM.

Rounds: Friday 7 PM; Saturday 10 AM, 3 PM; Sunday 10 AM, 3 PM.

Rating: Tri-Rated: FIDE, US Chess, and NWSRS. Highest of September US Chess, FIDE, or current NWSRS rating will be used to determine pairings and prizes. Higher of US Chess or foreign ratings used at TD discretion.

Memberships: US Chess and WCF/OCF/ICA memberships required, other states accepted.

Procedure and Health/Safety Policy: Pairings and standings will be posted before each round near the play area. Face masks optional for players and spectators. If interested, please bring your own mask.

Ra8 15.Bh4

12.Bd2 0-0 13.Bb4 Qd7

The exchange sacrifice 13...axb5 14.Qxa8 Na6 15.Bd2 appears to be sound enough.

14.0-0-0

14.Nxd6? a5 15.Bc5 b6 wins material for Black.

14...Rd8 15.f4 b6 16.fxe5 fxe5 17.Bd2 Qb7 18.Nc3



Position after 18.Nc3

18...Bf5?!

More forcing, and perhaps slightly more accurate, is 18...b5 19.Qb4 Nd7, bringing the knight to c5 or f6 before choosing a development for the c8-bishop. The

position is roughly balanced — and dangerous for both sides.

19.Be2 Nd7 20.g4

Here we see why ...Bf5 might not have been the correct development. White gains time with a kingside pawn advance.

20...Bg6 21.h4 b5 22.Qb4 Nc5 23.h5 Be8 24.g5 a5 25.Qh4 b4 26.Ne4± Bf7 27.Be3 a4 28.Bxc5



Position after 28.Bxc5

28...dxc5?

This obvious (and apparently forced) recapture loses. Black needs to attempt maximum confusion with 28...b3, though White should retain a significant advantage with, for example, 29.cxb3

axb3 30.a3.

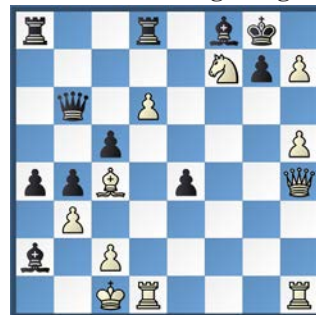
29.d6! Bf8

29...b3 30.dxe7 Rxd1+ 31.Rxd1 Qxe7 32.cxb3 axb3 33.a3+—

30.g6 Bxa2 31.Ng5 e4 32.b3! Qb6

Allows forced mate, but 32...axb3 doesn't offer much better chances. 33.Bc4+ Kh8 34.Nf7+ Qxf7 35.Bxf7 bxc2 36.Kxc2+—

33.Bc4+ Kh8 34.Nf7+ Kg8 35.gxh7+



Position after 35.gxh7+

Black resigns, facing 35.gxh7+ Kxh7 36.Qxe4+ Kg8 37.Ng5+ Kh8 38.Qh7# A very well-played battle; it is difficult to pinpoint Black's losing move or plan.

1-0

Washington G/15 Open

Sunday, September 10th, 2023

Lakeside Upper School

14050 1st Ave NE, Seattle, WA 98125



Contact: Josh Sinanan,
WCF President, 206-769-3757
WashingtonChessFederation@gmail.com

Registration: Online at
nwchess.com/OnlineRegistration.
Online registration and payment
deadline @ 5pm on Saturday,
September 9, or else register at
site.

Health/Safety Protocols: Face
masks optional for players and
spectators. If interested, please
bring your own mask.

Format: A 7-Round Swiss in one section.

Time Control: G/15; +10 sec. increment.

Entry Fee: \$40 if postmarked or online by
9/3, \$50 by 9/9, \$60 at-site. Free entry for
GMs, IMs, WGMs, WIMs.

Schedule: At-site registration: Sun. 9-9:45am.
Rounds: 10am, 11:15, lunch, 1, 2:15, 3:30,
4:45, 6pm. Awards Ceremony: ~ 7:30pm.

Prize Fund: \$550 (based on 25 paid entries).

1st \$110, 2nd \$80, 3rd \$60. 1st Unrated: \$50.

1st U2000/U1800/U1600/U1400/U1200: \$50

Eligibility: Open to all junior + adult
players.

Byes: Two half-point byes available. If
interested, request before end of round 2.

Memberships: Current US Chess and
WCF membership/Northwest Chess
subscription required. Memberships
must be paid at time of registration.

Rating: FIDE Rapid + US Chess Quick
Rated. Highest of September US Chess,
FIDE, or current NWSRS rating will be used
to determine pairings and prizes.



(L) Roman Davis vs Aarush Bhavin Shah at the end of their round two game.
Photo credit: Rekha Sagar.

Washington National Chess Day Blitz Championship



Saturday, October 14th, 2023

Lakeside Upper School - 14050 1st Ave NE, Seattle, WA 98125

Contact: Josh Sinanan,
WCF President, 206-769-3757
WashingtonChessFederation@gmail.com

Registration: Online at
nwchess.com/OnlineRegistration.
Online registration and payment
deadline @ 5pm on Friday,
October 13, or else register at
site.

Health/Safety Protocols: Face
masks optional for players and
spectators. If interested, please
bring your own mask.

Format: A 9-Round single Swiss in one
section.

Time Control: G/5; +3 sec. increment.

Entry Fee: \$20 if postmarked or online by
10/7, \$25 by 10/13, \$30 at-site. Free entry for
GMs, IMs, WGMs, WIMs.

Schedule: At-site registration: Sat. 5-5:45pm.
Rounds: 6 PM, 6:20, 6:40, 7, 7:20, 7:40, 8, 8:20,
8:40 PM. Closing Ceremony ~ 9 PM.

Prize Fund: \$600 (based on 50 paid entries).
1st \$130, 2nd \$100, 3rd \$70. 1st Unrated: \$50.
1st U2000/U1800/U1600/U1400/U1200: \$50

Eligibility: Open to all junior + adult
players.

Byes: Three half-point byes available. If
interested, request before end of round 2.

Memberships: Current US Chess and
WCF membership/Northwest Chess
subscription required. Memberships
must be paid at time of registration.

Rating: US Chess + FIDE Blitz Rated.
Highest of October US Chess, FIDE, or
current NWSRS rating will be used to
determine pairings and prizes.



A view of the playing hall during round four. Photo credit: Rekha Sagar.

Reminder

73rd Oregon Open: September 2-4, 2023

\$13,000 prize fund based on 150 players

REGISTRATION: Online only (no mailed or on-site registrations are allowed). Register online at <https://onlineregistration.cc>; search for "oregon chess federation". Email support@oregonchessfed.org if you encounter any issues trying to register online.

Vancouver Open: Open section

#	Place	Name	Rating	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Rd 5	Total pts	Prize
1	1	Isaac Vega	1965	W43	D24	W31	X28	W5	4.5	1st
2	2-4	Austin Liu	2072	W30	D4	D18	W19	W6	4	=2nd/3rd/1st U2100
3		Alex Kaelin	1838	W35	L5	W30	W22	W12	4	=2nd/3rd/1st U2100
4		Aiden Leong	1811	W36	D2	D23	W29	W14	4	=2nd/3rd/1st U2100
5	5-9	NM Aaryan Deshpande	2143	W25	W3	D6	W12	L1	3.5	
6		Ted Wang	1981	W27	W19	D5	W8	L2	3.5	
7		Derek Heath	1865	D32	W26	W24	D14	H---	3.5	=1st U1900
8		Valentin Razmov	1864	W34	W45	D11	L6	W24	3.5	=1st U1900
9		Emerson Wong-Godfrey	1743	W39	L12	W37	D11	W23	3.5	=1st U1900
10	10-22	LM Josh Sinanan	2200	L24	W43	L29	W39	W25	3	
11		CM Matt Sellers	2118	D26	W38	D8	D9	D17	3	
12		CM Robert Hecht	2072	W20	W9	W15	L5	L3	3	
13		NM Bill Heywood	2042	H---	L31	W27	D33	W32	3	
14		Jeffrey O Yan	1934	W44	W21	H---	D7	L4	3	
15		Jerry D Sherrard	1925	W46	W37	L12	L18	W33	3	
16		David Murray	1810	H---	D32	W21	D25	D20	3	
17		Atharva Joshi	1758	L21	W44	W32	D23	D11	3	
18		Michelle Zhang	1695	H---	W40	D2	W15	U---	3	Best Female Player
19		Phil Long	1665	W22	L6	W45	L2	W35	3	
20		Miles Kuipers	1601	L12	D39	W40	W36	D16	3	
21		Aarav Bharathy Mohan	1278	W17	L14	L16	W34	W29	3	
22		Tom Kolar	1232	L19	B---	W42	L3	W30	3	
23	23-28	Harrison Toppen-Ryan	1936	D31	W33	D4	D17	L9	2.5	
24		Owen Xu	1617	W10*	D1	L7	W31	L8	2.5	Biggest Upset Win*
25		Lorenzo Patton Jr	1613	L5	W47	W41	D16	L10	2.5	
26		Leonardo Wang	1612	D11	L7	L36	W47	W39	2.5	
27		Hung Le	1599	L6	D36	L13	W38	W40	2.5	
28		Rex Fleischer	unr.	W29	W41	H---	F1	U---	2.5	
29	29-37	Sridhar Seshadri	1653	L28	W34	W10	L4	L21	2	
30		Sankalp Koppala	1612	L2	W35	L3	W37	L22	2	
31		Gabriel Razmov	1529	D23	W13	L1	L24	D36	2	
32		Darsh Verma	1469	D7	D16	L17	W45	L13	2	
33		Michael Lin	1446	H---	L23	W38	D13	L15	2	
34		Siddharth Bhaskaran	1434	L8	L29	W44	L21	W42	2	
35		Michael Xiong	1390	L3	L30	B---	W42	L19	2	
36		Jonah Kolar	1348	L4	D27	W26	L20	D31	2	
37		Samarth Bharadwaj	1307	W42	L15	L9	L30	W44	2	
38	38-40	Aaron Nicoski	1653	D40	L11	L33	L27	W45	1.5	
39		Matthew McGrath	1233	L9	D20	W43	L10	L26	1.5	
40		Noah Condit	1215	D38	L18	L20	W43	L27	1.5	
41	41-45	Michael J Hosford	1859	W47	L28	L25	U---	U---	1	
42		Michael McGrath	1800	L37	W46	L22	L35	L34	1	
43		William Dann	1580	L1	L10	L39	L40	W47	1	
44		Bohan Zhang	1524	L14	L17	L34	B---	L37	1	
45		Aditya Karri	912	B---	L8	L19	L32	L38	1	
46	46-47	Aaron Ren	1514	L15	L42	D47	U---	U---	0.5	
47		Kyle L Hopkins	1420	L41	L25	D46	L26	L43	0.5	

Vancouver Open: Reserve (U1700) section

#	Place	Name	Rating	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Rd 5	Total pts	Prize
1	1-2	Neevan Reddy Saddi	1333	W25	W18	W4	W7	D2	4.5	=1st/2nd
2		Stephen Belgau	1040	W24	W17	W5	W12	D1	4.5	=1st/2nd
3	3-4	Aaron Rausch	1172	L14	W20	W19	W21	W7	4	=3rd/1st U1600
4		Michael Rodney	1117	W11	W23	L1	W17	W8	4	=3rd/1st U1600
5	5-6	Michael M Zhang	1102	W20	D6	L2	W23	W12	3.5	1st U1400
6		Chace Wolfe	unr.	W13	D5	L12	W14	W10	3.5	1st Unrated
7	7-11	Venu Koppala	1263	W19	W9	W8	L1	L3	3	
8		Aiden Wong	1071	W21	W14	L7	W15	L4	3	=1st U1200
9		Arihant Chaudhuri	871	W16	L7	L15	W25	W21	3	=1st U1200
10		Aiden Zhu	808	L17	W24	W16	W11	L6	3	=1st U1200
11		Max Cui	596	L4	W22	W18	L10	W19	3	=1st U1200
12	12-17	William Guthrie	927	H---	W15	W6	L2	L5	2.5	
13		Agnivesh Chaudhuri	787	L6	L21	W26	W27	D15	2.5	
14		Miao Zhang	671	W3	L8	D23	L6	W25	2.5	
15		Chen Yuan	557	W22	L12	W9	L8	D13	2.5	
16		Slava Shinkarev	unr.	L9	B---	L10	W18	D17	2.5	
17		Weidong Cui	unr.	W10	L2	W25	L4	D16	2.5	
18	18-21	Mike Tie	1018	W27	L1	L11	L16	W23	2	
19		Varun Prabhu	693	L7	W26	L3	W24	L11	2	
20		Ching Hei Kwong	578	L5	L3	D24	D22	X26	2	
21		Miles King	508	L8	W13	W22*	L3	L9	2	Biggest Upset Win*
22	22-24	Benji Johnson	1093	L15	L11	L21	D20	W27	1.5	
23		Sambhav Koppala	1022	W26	L4	D14	L5	L18	1.5	
24		Kevin Jannsen	488	L2	L10	D20	L19	B---	1.5	
25	25-27	Roman Davis	748	L1	W27	L17	L9	L14	1	
26		William Xiang	unr.	L23	L19	L13	B---	F20	1	
27		Aarush Bhavin Shah	unr.	L18	L25	B---	L13	L22	1	



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NORTHWEST CHESS HALL OF FAME INDUCTEE

RICHARD S. VANDENBURG

JEFFREY ROLAND

Richard S. “Dick” Vandenburg was born January 19, 1930, and passed away on November 7, 2010. I consider Dick one of the best friends I have known my whole life.

If not for Dick Vandenburg, I would likely not be playing chess today. And I’m sure many people could say that too. Dick would tell you that he only got into chess because of C.H. “Charles” Stewart, who inspired him!

When Dick was a senior in high school in 1947, he went with C.H. Stewart to Twin Falls to play in the first-ever Idaho State Chess Championship in Twin Falls, which C.H. Stewart won and who was also elected the first-ever ICA

President. Soon after this, Dick went off to college out of state for about four years before returning to Idaho, but it was then that he joined the Correspondence Chess League of America (CCLA) so he could keep playing the game he now loved in addition to his studies.

At some point in his life, Dick became President of the CCLA, and over the years he inspired many people, me included, to join CCLA and play correspondence chess. He was captain many times for the Idaho Mountaineers team. Dick made a great captain as he inspired everyone on the team.

In the 1950’s, Dick also started directing chess tournaments, and in 1955, he became the Idaho State Chess Champion for the first of six times in what he describes as “kind of a fluke.” Other years he was State Champion were 1958, 1963, 1964, 1965, and 1977. According to Dick, he and Glen Buckendorf won most of the Idaho State Chess Championship titles between the two of them during the 1954-1970 era.

In 1958, the Idaho Open of that year was one of Dick’s favorites because Peter Lapiken (Missoula), Viesturs Seglins (Seattle), Jim McCormick (Seattle) tied for first-third with 4.0/5, Viktors Pupols (Seattle) Dr. David Groenig (Spokane) tied for fourth-fifth with 3.5/5, Ben Greenwald (Salt Lake City) and Duane Meador (Vancouver) tied for sixth-seventh with 3.0/5.

Dick Vandenburg was eighth (tied with Glen Buckendorf (Buhl) and A.B. Ellis (Nampa) all with 2.5/5 (but Dick’s tie-break was best), so he was eighth place

and the highest Idaho finisher, and the tournament director too! Over 50 years later, Dick still told me how exciting and special that tournament was. He spoke about it like it was yesterday, his memory was incredibly detailed and passionate.

He told me that Viktors Pupols drove straight from his job in Seattle on Friday, played in the two-day event, and then drove all the way back to Seattle, going to work on Monday without taking any days off!

Dick was once a regional Vice President for the United State Chess Federation too. Yet with all this, Dick found time to do so much else with his family, for the community, in the 4H club, and in playing Bridge. He was also in a big band formed by Gig Hochstrasser (Kings of Swing).

I remember one time, I was with him in his car. He was showing me (while the car was running and in his driveway) how he played the drums! The whole car was bouncing around on the shocks, I was a bit nervous... what if he demonstrated using his foot for the bass drum and it turned out to be the gas! But Dick was just having a ball telling me how he would play the drums and how fun it was.

In 1956, Dick produced the *Idaho Chess Bulletin* (later called *Idaho Chess Quarterly*), and for ten years with his manual typewriter, stencil and a mimeograph machine, produced this publication for Idaho until 1966 when he encouraged Idaho to report their news and events in *Northwest Chess*. But even then, he did still do little newsletters through 1968 that he would mail out—usually



one-page typewritten reports, so when one counts that, it was twelve years that he published the news for Idaho.

In 1956, Dick became President of the ICA, but after that, he was Secretary/Treasurer for the next 32 consecutive years from 1957-1988. I think Dick figured he could run the state chess association better as Secretary/Treasurer than as President, and he was right! Dick inspired many by being the rock that held Idaho Chess together for a quarter of a century, no doubt about it.

When *The Idaho Statesman* wrote about the 1972 Fischer-Spassky match, they consulted and quoted Dick Vandenburg as the expert to tell the readers what was happening.

In 1980, Dick's daughter gave me this flyer of the first-ever Idaho Scholastic Championship (for the first one it was called Idaho High School Championship, but after that the name became officially Idaho Scholastic Championship) that her father was putting on and asked me if I wanted to play in this. She thought I would like it and gave me the flyer that got me involved in Idaho chess from then on. The whole idea to do scholastic chess in Idaho

was Dick's. And two years after this first 1980 event, Dick recruited me to help and inspire kids at the 1982 event, and ever since then, I had something to do with every Idaho Scholastic Championship, except maybe two or three of them. Dick was so passionate about scholastic chess, that he never stopped promoting that the rest of his life. He was Idaho Scholastic director for many consecutive years from 1980 to sometime in the mid-1990s.

Over the years while I was ICA President, I had many occasions to work with Dick. In 2005, as ICA President, I re-appointed Dick to be Idaho Scholastic Director, a title and job he held until he died.

There was a time when the school district started charging way too much money for use of their facilities to hold chess tournaments, and Dick contacted someone he knew on the school board and all of a sudden, poof, we could hold the event! For many years, Dick was able to get sponsorship for the Idaho Open through Continental Life and have at the time record-breaking prize funds that even attracted the likes of Yasser Seirawan (twice) and Viktor's Pupols and many others to attend.

Dick was like Mr. Holland in the movie *Mr. Holland's Opus*, or like Chips in *Goodbye Mr. Chips*. Through the years, person by person Dick has managed to influence almost everyone in a profound and personal way to love and play chess. And chess was only one facet of his rich and diverse life.

There were many moments I had with Dick over the years both as a friend and as President of the ICA. We would usually meet at the Twin Dragon, a Chinese restaurant a few blocks from where he lived



(which now is no longer in business), where we had many lunches, discussed many things—historic things now in hindsight, as we planned out many chess events. I am strongly influenced by Dick's ability to stick with things *forever*, and I try to do that too in my life, being a rock, someone who is always there and that you can always count on, like Dick was. I have stayed active and involved in Idaho Chess for over 43 years now and counting and Dick's example is a big reason why I stick with it.

When Dick died in 2010, I went to the funeral, and I just couldn't believe how many people came to the ceremony. The church looked like a royal palace; it was very impressive to me. It was the First United Methodist Church Cathedral of the Rockies. It seemed to me that half the town was there, it was like what I would expect royalty would have, and I think that is fitting as he influenced so many people with his life.

Dick clearly deserves to be in the *Northwest Chess Hall of Fame*, and I am happy, but daunted, to write this article. I am sure I left many things out. But he's already in the Hall of Fame now, so this is not a letter of recommendation, this is an article reporting the fact—Dick is one of the first six inductees to the *Northwest Chess Hall of Fame*.

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Co-hosted by VA Puget Sound Medical Center & WA Chess Federation

Inaugural Veteran's Day Open

**Veteran's Day Saturday
November 11th, 2023**



VA Puget Sound Medical Campus – Building 101 1660 S Columbian Way, Seattle, WA 98108

Format: A 5-round Swiss tournament in three sections: Open, Reserve U1400, and Rising (unrated.)

Entry fee: Open to all adults 18+. Adult non-Veterans: \$35. College students: \$20. Free entry for Veterans! Maximum of 100 players, please register early to reserve your spot!

Schedule: Registration & Check-in: 9:00 - 9:45am. Round s (5) :10 am, 11:15am, Lunch Break, 1:15pm, 2:30pm, 3:45 pm. Closing Ceremony ~ 5:00 pm or asap.

Time Control: G/15; +10 sec.. increment per move starting from move 1.

Rating: NW Rated. Open section also US Chess Rated. Higher of current NW or November 2023 US Chess Regular Rating will be used to determine section, pairings, and prizes.

Memberships: US Chess membership required for Open section ;no memberships required for Reserve or Rising sections.

Prize Fund: \$4,000 (based on 80 entries)

Open: 1st \$400 2nd \$300 3rd \$140, 1st U1700/U1500: \$160

Reserve U1 400: 1st \$300 2nd \$240 3rd \$200, 1st U1300/U1100 : \$160

Rising (unrated): 1st \$300 2nd \$240 3rd \$200, 4th \$160, 5th \$120.

Special Prizes (per section): Top three scoring veterans: 1st – Premium Custom Wood Board, 2nd – Chess Set, 3rd – Chess Set. Courtesy of [ChessHouse.com](https://www.chesshouse.com).

Biggest Upset Win: \$80, Best Female Player (by TPR): \$80, Best Dressed: 1st \$40, 2nd \$20.

Byes: Up to 2 half - point byes available if requested before the end of round 2.

Registration: Online at nwchess.com/OnlineRegistration **Online registration + payment deadline: Fri , Nov 10 @ 5pm.** Unpaid players will be removed from the roster after the deadline, and players from the waitlist will be offered a spot. At-site registration: 9:00 - 9:45am . On-site payment available by cash, check made out to "WCF", PayPal to [PayPal.me/WACHess](https://www.paypal.com/paypalme/WACHess) , or Venmo (@WACHess).



Co-hosted by VA Puget Sound Medical Center & WA Chess Federation

Inaugural Veteran's Day Open

Veteran's Day Saturday
November 11th, 2023



Free Blitz Tournament: Time: 5-7pm (after rd. 5 of main tournament). Format: A 7-Round Swiss in one section, 2 half-point byes available. US Chess Blitz rated. TC: G/5; +0. On-site registration: 4:00-4:45pm. Rds. @ 5pm, 5:15, 5:30, 5:45, 6, 6:15, 6:30. Closing Ceremony ~ 6:45pm or asap. Current US Chess membership required. Higher of Nov 2023 US Chess Blitz or Regular ratings used to determine pairings and prizes.

Prize Fund: **\$700 Gtd.** 1st \$160, 2nd \$120, 3rd \$80, 1st U1900/U1700/U1500/U1300/U1100/Unrated: \$50, Biggest upset win: \$40.

Free Parking: Available next to building 101. Take the bus – the 50-line arrives directly at building 101.

Health/Safety Protocols: Face masks optional for players and spectators. If interested, please bring your own masks.



VA Puget Sound Medical Campus
Building 101 1660 S Columbian Way, Seattle, WA 98108

Questions – Olin Martin, Organizer, 206-552-3228, Olin.Martin@va.gov

2023 ICA Summer Classic

Jeffrey Roland

The 2023 ICA Summer Classic was played at the Nampa Public Library in Nampa, Idaho on July 29, 2023. The 37-player field included eight players who were unrated going in (that's like 22% were unrated). The Chief Tournament Director was Jeff Roland with Kyra Schoenwald as Assistant TD. Jeff Price was also on hand and helped with the printer.

Entry was free, parking was free, ICA Membership was not required for this event, and yet we still gave out cash prizes for first and second place (\$45 each for Caleb Kircher and Eric Hon who tied and split first-second place with 4.0/4 points). Third place was a one-year ICA Membership won by John T. Bueno (3.5/4 points).

The time control was Game/30;d5

and was dual-rated, meaning both regular and quick US Chess ratings were affected. There was a total of 71 rated games.

Daniel Francisco Fernandez (1154) – John T. Bueno T (380) [C62]
2023 ICA Summer Classic
Nampa, ID (R1), July 29, 2023
[Ralph Dubisch]

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 d6 4.h3 Bd7 5.0-0 Nf6 6.d3 a6 7.Ba4

Another idea is 7.Bxc6 Bxc6 8.c4±, clamping down on the d5-square and limiting Black's dark-square bishop.

7...b5 8.Bb3 Be7 9.Nc3 0-0 10.Bg5 h6 11.Bxf6 Bxf6 12.Nd5 Nd4?!

12...Na5

13.Nxd4 exd4 14.c3?!

The pawn structure after an eventual (when forced by ...c6) Nxf6 and f2-f4 favors White slightly, so White shouldn't be in a hurry to repair Black's doubled d-pawns. 14.a4 c6 15.Nxf6+ Qxf6 16.f4 Be6 17.Bxe6 Qxe6±

14...c6 15.Nxf6+ Qxf6 16.c4 Qg5

16...Rfb8∞

17.Qf3?!

17.f4

17...c5 18.cxb5 axb5 19.Bd5 Rac8

19...Ra7 may keep some pressure along the a-file.

20.b3 Be6

Although the white bishop is technically "bad," with all those white pawns on white squares, it is also active—in other words, it is outside the pawn chain, not stuck behind the pawns. So, exchanging bishops is entirely reasonable for Black here.

21.Rac1?

21.a4! A remote passed pawn makes a useful distraction.

21...Bxd5 22.exd5 Ra8

22...b4! ties down the a2-pawn.

23.Rc2 Rfe8 24.b4 cxb4 25.Rc6?

25.Rb1±



Position after 25.Rc6

25...Qe5?!

25...Rxa2! 26.Rb1 (26.Rxd6 b3 27.Rd7



L-R: Daniel Fernandez, John Bueno. Photo credit: Jeffrey Roland.

Rf8 looks winning, with a little care.) 26...b3 27.Rc7 (27.Rxb3 Re1+ 28.Kh2 Qe5+ 29.g3 (29.Qg3 Qxd5) 29...Rf1+, with one quick example showing how much trouble White faces: 30.Kg2 Qxd5!! 31.Qxd5 Rxf2#) Now almost any reasonable defense against Qxf7+ should win for Black: 27...Re7 28.Rxe7 Qxe7 29.Rxb3 Qe1+ 30.Kh2 Rxf2

26.Rb1

26.Rc2 may be White's best chance to hold, but 26...Ra3 still gives Black good prospects.

26...Rxa2! 27.g3 b3



Position after 27...b3

28.Rxb3?

28.Rb6 Qe2 29.Kg2 Qxf3+ 30.Kxf3 Ree2 31.Rf1 Rac2 32.Rxb5 b2+ From here, slow and steady—kingside expansion and king centralization—wins the race for Black.; 28.Rc7 Qf6 29.Qxf6 gxf6 is a unique pawn formation for Black, especially after ...f6–f5, but that monster on b3 combined with potentially doubling on the second rank means Black is winning.

28...Ra1+ 29.Kg2 Qe1 30.h4 Qh1#

Both players acquitted themselves pretty well. It is clear that three-digit rating isn't going to last long.

0–1

Jacob Douglas O'Coyné (101) – Anthony Kenji Nakashima (1126)
[E01] 2023 ICA Summer Classic
Nampa, ID (R1), July 29, 2023
[Ralph Dubisch]

1.d4 d5 2.g3 Nf6 3.Bg2 e6 4.Nf3 c5 5.c4 Nc6 6.cxd5 Nxd5 7.e4

Very aggressive play in the center, but perhaps a bit premature. 7.0-0 is solid and maintains a small advantage for White. The problem piece here is the c8 bishop.

7...Nf6

7...Nb6 gets the knight out of the way and allows counterplay against the white central pawns.

8.d5?!

Definitely aggressive. White can gain space with tempo by advancing the e-pawn instead: 8.e5

8...exd5 9.exd5 Nxd5 10.0-0 Ndb4

Black needs to develop and cover the king along the e-file, so the most obvious choice is 10...Be7.

11.Qxd8+

11.Qe2+ Be7 (11...Qe7 12.Be3∞) 12.Rd1 accelerates White's development, with compensation.

11...Nxd8 12.Nc3 Be6 13.a3

13.Nb5! Nd5 (13...Rc8 14.Nxa7) 14.Ng5 poses questions.

13...Nc2 14.Rb1 Be7 15.Bf4 a6

Black needs activity. 15...Bf5 16.Rbd1 Ne6∞

16.Rbc1 Nd4 17.Nxd4 cxd4 18.Ne4

18.Nd5±

18...0-0 19.Rfd1 Nc6 20.Bd6 Rfe8

21.Bxe7 Rxe7 22.Nc5 Rd8 23.Bxc6

23.b4!?

23...bxc6 24.Nxa6 Bg4 25.Rd2



Position after 25.Rd2

25...d3?!

There are several paths to equality. My first impulse is 25...Bf3, trying to control the white king and suggest checkmating patterns, though of course White is not obliged to allow any back-rank checkmates. 26.Nc5 g5 looks messy, but fairly balanced.; One way that could lead to a quick draw by repetition is 25...Re2, when 26.Rcd1 is forced. (26.Rxe2?? instead would lose a piece. 26...Bxe2 27.Nc5 d3-+) Now a retreat such as 26...Ree8 again hits the d1 rook.

26.Nb4± Bf5 27.Nxc6 Red???

Facing a fork, Black panics. Necessary is 27...Rc7, pinning the knight to the loose rook on c1. White still ends with an extra pawn: 28.Rc3 (The point is 28.Nxd8?? Rxc1+ 29.Kg2 Rc2 30.Rd1 Be4+ 31.Kh3 Rxf2, when the d-pawn will force White to part with the rook.) 28...Re8 (There are still tactics! Not 28...Rdc8?? 29.Rdxd3!! Bxd3 30.Ne7+ Kf8 31.Nxc8+-) 29.f3±

28.Nxd8

Now it's all over.

28...Rxd8 29.b4 Be4 30.Rc4 Bd5? 31.Rd4 Rd7 32.R2xd3 Rc7 33.Rxd5 Rc1+ 34.Kg2 h6 35.a4 Rc4 36.Rb3 f6 37.a5 Kf7 38.a6 Ke6 39.Rc5 Rd4 40.a7 Rd8 41.Ra5 Ra8 42.b5 Kd7 43.b6 Kc6 44.b7 Rd8 45.b8Q Rxb8 46.axb8Q f5 47.Qd8 g5 48.Rc3+ Kb7 49.Rb5+ Ka6 50.Rcc5 Ka7 51.Qa5#

Demonstrated tactics and technique strongly contradict White's rating.

1–0

Corey Kenneth Longhurst (1423) – Luke Hendricks (755) [E00]
2023 ICA Summer Classic
Nampa, ID (R1), July 29, 2023
[Ralph Dubisch]

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.g3

Somewhat rare. 3.Nf3; and 3.Nc3 are far more popular choices on move three.

3...b6

Even rarer. 3...d5, 3...Bb4+, and 3...c5 can lead to three quite different types of position: Catalan, Nimzo/Bogo-Indian, and Benoni.

4.Bg2 c6

4...d5 helps to control e4.

5.Nf3

5.e4!± Space. Central space.

5...Bb4+ 6.Nbd2 0-0 7.0-0 h6

7...d5

8.Nb3?!

8.e4±

8...Be7 9.Ne5 Bb7 10.Bd2 Qc7 11.Rc1

11.c5! helps secure White's knight in the center. 11...bxc5? (11...d6 12.cxd6 Bxd6 13.Nc4±) 12.Ba5! Qc8 13.dxc5±

11...d6 12.Nd3 c5! 13.dxc5 Bxg2?!

13...dxc5±

[Diagram top of next page]



Position after 13...Bxg2

14.Kxg2

White missed the zwischenzug, or in-between move, 14.cxd6! when 14...Bxd6 (14...Qb7? 15.dxe7 Re8 16.Re1± Black's bishop must scurry away to avoid being trapped, and White already has a material edge.) 15.Kxg2± is a healthy extra pawn.

14...dxc5

The white knights are poorly placed.

15.Kg1 Nc6 16.a3 a5

16...e5

17.e3?

17.Bc3

17...Ne4

17...a4! 18.Na1 Rfd8 19.Bc3 Qd6 20.Nf4 Ne4 Black is positionally winning, with control of the d-file and better pieces. If 21.Qxd6 Nxd6 strikes at the c-pawn.

18.Bc3 Nxc3

18...Rfd8

19.Rxc3 Bf6 20.Rc2 Rad8 21.Qe2 e5 22.Nbc1

22.Nd2 aiming for Ne4.

22...Qd7

22...e4!? 23.Nf4 Ne5

23.Qf3 Ne7

23...Be7 intending ...f5

24.Rd2

24.b4!?

24...Qc6

24...Qe6 25.Qe4 Nf5 and with ...Nd6, the c-pawn is again a target.

25.Qxc6 Nxc6 26.Rfd1?

26.Rc2 still leaves Black firmly in control, though.

26...Rd7?!

26...e4 27.Nf4 Bxb2! is a small tactical

shot. The pin of the d2-rook to the d1-rook along the d-file is an unusual feature.; 26...a4 is a positional way to keep the pressure, locking in the queenside weaknesses.

27.Ne1 Rxd2 28.Rxd2 Rd8

28...a4

29.Rxd8+ Bxd8 30.Kf1

30.e4, giving the d4-outpost, but obtaining d5 and fixing the black pawns on dark squares to restrict the bishop.

30...Bf6

30...e4!??

31.Ke2?! g5

31...e4 32.b3 a4 (32...Bb2 33.Na2 Bxa3?! 34.Nc3 with counterplay against b6.) 33.bxa4 Na5

32.Kd2

32.e4

32...a4?

32...e4



Position after 32...a4

33.Ne2

33.e4, followed by Na2-c3xa4, is now good for White!

33...e4! 34.Nc3 Bxc3+ 35.Kxc3 Kf8

Perhaps 35...Ne5 36.h3 first, to control against the break in the next note.

36.Nc2

36.f4!? exf3 37.Nxf3 must still favor Black, but would be the first activity this knight has seen in years.

36...Ke7 37.h3 f5 38.Ne1 Ke6 39.Ng2 Ke5 40.h4?

Opens a route for the black king, as noted below. 40.Ne1 is a stiffer defense.

40...Kd6 41.Kd2 Ke5 42.Ke2?

Hanging the c-pawn. After 42.hxg5 hxg5 43.Ne1 Black still needs to prove the win by running the king to attack the

pawns: ...Kf6-g6-h5-g4-h3-h2-g1.

42...Na5 43.hxg5 hxg5 44.Kd2 Nxc4+ 45.Kc3 Na5

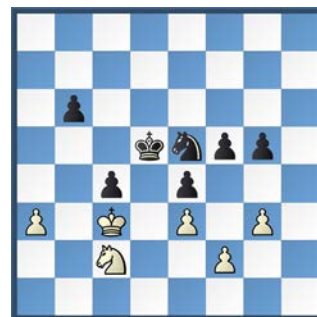
45...Kd5

46.Ne1 Kd5 47.Nc2 Nc6 48.b3 axb3 49.Kxb3 c4+?!

49...b5!-+ blocks out the king, planning ... Ne5-g4xf2.

50.Kc3 Ne5?!

50...b5



Position after 50...Ne5

51.Nb4+

White can seriously complicate matters with 51.Kb4! Nd3+ 52.Kb5 Nxf2 (52...c3 53.a4 Nb2 54.Nb4+ Kd6 55.Nc2 and Black still needs to come up with a winning plan.) 53.Kxb6 Nd1 54.a4 Nxe3!! 55.Nxe3+ Kd4 56.Nxf5+ Kd3 57.a5 e3! (Less favorable is the confusing 57...c3?! 58.a6 c2 59.a7 c1Q 60.a8Q. White is up a piece, but it's Black's move with queens on an open board. After 60...Qb2+ 61.Kc6 Qf6+ 62.Nd6 e3, is either player really expecting to win here?) 58.Nxe3 (58.a6? e2 59.a7 e1Q 60.a8Q Qf2+ looks like a fairly easily winning queen ending for Black.) 58...Kxe3 59.a6 c3 60.a7 c2 61.a8Q c1Q and Black is the only player with winning chances.

51...Kc5 52.Na6+?!

52.Nc2, but still winning for Black.

52...Kd5

52...Kb5 53.Nc7+ Ka4 is more efficient.

53.Nc7+ Kd6 54.Ne8+ Ke6 55.Kd4 Nd3 56.Kxc4 Nxf2 57.Kb5 Ke5 58.Kxb6 f4 59.a4 fxe3 60.a5 e2

0-1



Facing a Hedgehog

By Glen O'Harra

*My pawn entered, into king four,
Share of center, I'd grab and more!
He pushed a pawn, one measly square,
Of move, not fond, I must beware!*

*His infantry paced, stealthy and slow,
Like sentries staid, they stood in a row.
Position soon grew, cramped and closed,
Trick tactics few, for me were posed!*

*Somethin' 'bout this game seemed strange,
Pieces were placed, but no exchange!
My brain grew muddled, in murky fog,
Facing I knew, the huddled, hedgehog!*

*In vain, I searched for counter play,
His painful bishop, now barred my way!
On priest, I leaped, with my piece bold,
With a shriek, his soul was sold!*

*We had a skirmish, when dust had cleared,
Felt queasy and squeamish, just as I feared!*

*To my sad dismay, and despair, I spied,
His steed that day, to outpost tied!*

*For move, I scoured and in due course,
Traded my tower, for that trusty horse.
On my pony pale, his queen bore down,
I gazed on scene, with a woeful frown!*

*My hapless knight, hobbled and pinned,
Majesty, highness, now forced to defend!
I pondered and saw, a poor, weak square,
With wonder and awe, became aware!*

*Keen hope like fire, flared thru my veins,
My queen and friar, took fatal aim!
No time to spare, my empress swept,
On one weak square, she deftly leapt!*

*Opponent's face, showed his chagrin,
He met his fate; it was the end!!!*

Supporting and promoting chess related activities
throughout Washington State since 1946.



Josh Sinanan
President
joshsinanan@gmail.com

(206) 769-3757
4174 148th Ave NE, Building I, Suite M, Redmond, WA 98052

Ojas A. Kandhare

(425) 623-0692
ojaskandy@gmail.com

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Washington Annual Chess960 and Summer Bughouse Championships

Josh Sinanan

The Washington Annual Chess960 (Fischer Random) and Summer Bughouse Championships took place at Lakeside School in Seattle on Sunday, July 16, 2023. The cottage-sized tournaments, eight in the Chess960 and 14 in the Bughouse, attracted players from throughout the United States, including the cities of Shoreline, Portland, Bellevue, Seattle, Lynnwood, Redmond, Corvallis, Bothell, Issaquah, Lake Forest Park, Sammamish, Seatac, and Princeton (NJ)! As a mid-summer alternative to regular chess, two local chess aficionados, Valentin Razmov and Siva Sankrithi, suggested that WCF run some “fun” events featuring two popular chess variants, Chess960 and Bughouse. Thus, the idea was born to host the Annual Washington Chess960 Championship during the day followed by the Washington Summer Bughouse Championship in the evening. The one-two punch of Chess960 followed by Bughouse no doubt attracted some colorful characters who favor these slightly unorthodox chess variants. WCF Member-at-Large Ani Barua directed the Chess960 Championship with assistance from WCF Tournament Coordinator Valentin Razmov. WCF co-VP Rekha Sagar and Ani Barua co-directed the bughouse tournament, which took place in the evening after a short break following the Chess960.

Washington Chess960 (Fischer Random) Championship

The Annual Washington Chess960 Championship kicked off a fun-filled day with the first round beginning at 9am. WIM Megan Lee, a two-time Washington State Champion, was a surprise last-minute addition and raised the class of the

tournament. Due to a modest turnout of only eight players, the Championship and Premier (U1500) sections were combined into a single Championship section, which was run as a G/30;+5, five-round Swiss. The field featured a mature mix of five adults and three ambitious junior players.

US Chess Experts Vignesh Anand from Redmond and Bertrand Wan from Bellevue emerged victorious, each with four points from five games! After each starting with two out of two, the two young gentlemen faced off in the third round, in which Anand earned the full point after a complicated struggle. However, Anand lost his fourth-round game to the dangerous WIM Megan Lee, which allowed Wan to catch up. Heading into the final round, Lee led the field with 3.5/5, with Anand and Wan each trailing by half-a-point. Wan came through in the clutch with a big final round victory against Lee, which allowed him to keep pace with Anand, who downed the luckless unrated newcomer Michoma in the fifth round. Lee finished in third place a half-point back with 3.5 points. The biggest upset win was awarded to the defending Washington State Chess960 Champion, Gabriel Razmov, for winning against his father Valentin in the final round. Congratulations to the winners!

Washington Summer Bughouse Championship

The Washington Summer Bughouse Championship was held during the evening of July 16, just after the conclusion of the Chess960 event. Bughouse is doubles chess in which teams of two players compete against each other on two chess boards, with each team playing white on one board and black on the other. When a piece is captured, it is passed to one's teammate and goes into their pool. On your turn, you may either play a move as normal on your board or place a piece from your pool onto an empty square on your board, except for placing pawns on the first or last rank since they cannot naturally occur there. A total of seven two-player teams, with players ranging from unrated to master, competed in the six-round, G/5;+0 double Swiss tournament. The sections, originally planned as K-6 and Open, were combined into a single Open section due to low attendance. Rounds were held every half-hour, with each match consisting of two bughouse games, with optional color switching after the first game.

Longtime friends and bughouse partners WIM Megan Lee and Boas Lee (not related) as well as star Lakeside

Washington Annual Chess960 Championship									
#	Place	Name	Rating	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Rd 5	Total pts
1	1-2	CM Vignesh Anand	2163	B---	W6	W2	L3	W8	4
2	1-2	Bertrand Wan	2009	W5	W4	L1	W7	W3	4
3	3	WIM Megan Lee	2351	H---	W5	W6	W1	L2	3.5
4	4-5	Gabriel Razmov	1704	X8	L2	D7	L5	W6	2.5
5	4-5	Odbayar Yondon	1689	L2	L3	W8	W4	D7	2.5
6	6-7	Valentin Razmov	1899	W7	L1	L3	W8	L4	2
7	6-7	James Hamlett	1499	L6	W8	D4	L2	D5	2
8	8	Jeremy Morara Michoma	unr.	F4	L7	L5	L6	L1	0



(L) Balbir Singh & Vignesh Anand vs (R) Megan Lee & Boas Lee during one of their bughouse encounters.
Photo credit: Rekha Sagar.

Chess alum Michael Omori and former Lakeside Chess Coordinator Siva Sankrithi were crowned as co-Champions, each with an impressive 11 points from 12 games. The two powerhouses met in the second round and split their mini-match 1-1 before going on to trounce the rest of the competition 8-0. The team of Balbir Singh and Vignesh Anand finished in third place of the Open section teams with seven points. Due to the sections being combined, separate K-6 prizes were awarded to the teams consisting of scholastic players. Finishing in first place among the K-6 teams with seven points was the dynamic duo of Sarang Sankrithi and Odbayar Yondon, who are best chess buddies and chess variant experts. The team of Nehanraj Ramesh and Neevan Reddy Saddi finished in second place a full-point back. Young chess prodigies Seshasayee Shreeraam and Kanav Shah rounded out the prize winners with a superb four points to capture the third place K-6 prize.

Congratulations to the winners!

WA Summer Bughouse Championship Prizes

K-6

1st	Sarang Sankrithi & Odbayar Yondon	\$40 each	Total: \$ 80
2nd	Nehanraj Ramesh & Neevan Reddy Saddi	\$30 each	Total: \$ 60
3rd	Seshasayee Shreeraam & Kanav Shah	\$18 each	Total: \$ 36

Open

1st	Megan Lee & Boas Lee, Michael Omori & Siva Sankrithi	\$35 each	Total: \$140
2nd			
3rd	Balbir Singh & Vignesh Anand	\$18 each	Total: \$ 36

WASHINGTON CHALLENGER'S CUP



SAT-SUN, OCTOBER 28-29, 2023

LAKE SIDE UPPER SCHOOL

14050 1ST AVE NE, SEATTLE, WA 98125

Highest finishing Washington residents in the Open and Reserve sections seeded into the 2024 Washington State Championship + Challengers sections, respectively.

Dual Format: A 5-round Swiss in two sections:

Open: NWSRS, US Chess & FIDE Tri-Rated.

Reserve U1700: NWSRS & US Chess Dual-Rated.

In case of a tie for 1st place, a follow-up playoff match at a later date will determine the seed for the Championship or Challengers section of the 2024 Washington State Championship.

Schedule: Saturday 10 AM, 2 PM, 6 PM; Sunday 10 AM, 2 PM. Closing Ceremony: Sunday ~ 6pm or asap. Players whose games run long may request a late start for the next round.

Time Control: G/90; +30. Late default: 60 min.

Byes: Two half-point byes available. If interested, request before end of round 2.

Prize Fund: \$2,300 (based on 60 paid entries)

Open: 1st \$400, 2nd \$280, 3rd \$200
1st U2100/U1900: \$120

Reserve: 1st \$280, 2nd \$200, 3rd \$120
1st U1500/U1300/U1100: \$100; 1st Unrated: \$100

Special Prizes (per section): Biggest Upset Win: \$40, Best Female Player (by TPR): \$40, Best Dressed: \$10/day.

Entry Fee: \$70 by 10/21, \$80 after. Free entry for GMs, IMs, WGMs & WIMs. \$40 play-up fee if rated under 1700 and playing in Open section. Maximum of 125 players – please register early to guarantee your spot.

Memberships: Current US Chess and WCF membership/Northwest Chess subscription required. Memberships must be paid at time of registration.

Rating: US Chess and NWSRS Rated. Open section is also FIDE Rated. Higher of October US Chess Regular or current NWSRS rating used to determine section, pairings, and prizes. Higher of US Chess and foreign ratings used at TD discretion.

Info/Entries: Make checks payable to Washington Chess Federation.

Mail To: Washington Chess Federation
c/o Orlov Chess Academy, 4174 148th Ave. NE,
Building I, Ste. M, Redmond, WA 98052

Contact: Josh Sinanan, WCF President

Phone: 206-769-3757

Email: WashingtonChessFederation@gmail.com

Registration: Online at
nwchess.com/OnlineRegistration

Registration and payment **deadline: Fri. 10/27 @ 5pm.** Payment via Zelle/PayPal (ID: WashingtonChessFederation@gmail.com) or Venmo (ID: @WACheSS) also available.

Health/Safety Protocols: Face masks optional for players and spectators. If interested, please bring your own mask.

Seattle Honored: 2023 Chess City of the Year

Josh Sinanan

Seattle, Washington has experienced tremendous growth in chess interest in recent years. From the grand opening of the Detective Cookie Chess Park last summer to hosting the 2023 Pan Ams in early 2023, the thriving Seattle chess scene provides opportunities for chess aficionados of all ages and experience levels to interact and build community through the game of chess.

Social chess gatherings offered by multiple bars and pubs throughout the city have seen a huge surge in activity, and they attract players from beginner to master level on a weekly basis.

Several new chess clubs have started up in the greater Seattle area to accommodate the influx of new players, many of whom have just started playing competitive chess this year. Through the efforts of the Amazon Chess Club, Seattle has established itself as a hub for corporate and collegiate chess events on a global scale.

Seattle is delighted to accept the Chess City of the Year honor and will continue to support and promote chess in the years to come!

The City of Seattle



Seattle is the largest city in Washington State and in the Pacific Northwest with a population of 735,000. Originally founded as a major seaport city in 1869, Seattle was nicknamed the “Emerald City” and is recognized as one of the most livable American cities. Seattle is world-renowned as a leader in technological innovation, culture, music, and the arts. Seattle is home to the Seattle Chess Club, Detective Cookie Chess Park, Amazon Chess Club, and several other organizations that support and promote chess activity throughout the region. For more information, please visit: <https://www.seattle.gov/>

The US Chess Federation



The United States Chess Federation (also known as US Chess) is the official governing body for chess competition

in the United States. US Chess was founded and incorporated in Illinois in 1939 from the merger of two older chess organizations. It is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization headquartered in St. Louis, Missouri. Its membership at of 2023 recently surpassed 100,000 members. For more information, please visit:

<https://new.uschess.org/>

Contact

To learn more about the other US Chess award recipients, please contact WCF President Josh Sinanan below, or visit: <https://new.uschess.org/2023-us-chess-annual-awards-recipients>

Josh Sinanan

President, Washington Chess Federation
washingtonchessfederation@gmail.com



*Josh Sinanan accepts the Chess City of the Year award on behalf of Seattle at the US Open in Grand Rapids, MI.
Photo credit: David Grimaud.*



Seattle Chess Club

GM Vinay Bhat Simul

John Selsky and Fred Kleist

The intrepid warriors of the Seattle Chess Club clashed swords with GM Vinay Bhat in a 16-person simul on July 9. SCC Tournament Director Fred Kleist gave a pre-game pep talk to the SCC challengers, then the battles commenced.

The result: Bhat 14.5, Team SCC 1.5. Expert Yiding Lu (2093) had the only win against Vinay, and Henry Louie (1300) secured a decisive draw. Below, Yiding annotates his game.

Prior to the simul, Vinay gave an engaging and lively lecture in which he reviewed a game against Guillermo Rey from a San Francisco tournament in which Vinay made his final GM (or, perhaps, IM) norm.

The opening was a King's Indian Attack versus Rey's French Defense. The two main general lessons to be drawn from the game were the need to think, even in an opening with which one is very familiar (the K.I.A. was a staple of Bhat's early career) and the need to avoid transposing into or, at least, to spend time figuring out the salient features of an unfamiliar position.

The game can be found in Bhat's recently published book, *How I Became a Chess Grandmaster* (Quality Chess, 2023). The Seattle Chess Club plans to host other simuls in the future.

GM Vinay Bhat –
Yiding Lu (2093) [E45]

Vinay Bhat Simul
Seattle Chess Club, July 9, 2023
[Yiding Lu]

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 Bb4 4.e3 b6
5.Nge2 Ba6 6.a3 Bxc3+ 7.Nxc3 d5 8.b3
0-0 9.Be2

I didn't really know this line.

9...Nbd7?!

9...Nc6! is the theory 10.0-0 dxc4 11.bxc4 Na5 12.Qa4 Rc8

10.0-0 Rc8



Position after 10...Rc8

Idea is ...c6/...c5

11.Nb5!±

I missed this nasty idea.

11...c6 12.Nd6 Ra8

I prepared ...c5 and realized his knight would go back to b5 which would target my a7-pawn, so I put my rook on a8. 12...Rb8 13.a4 c5 14.Ba3 Qe7 15.Nb5

13.a4 c5 14.Ba3 Qe7 15.Nb5 Bb7

Rerouting my bishop.

16.dxc5?!

16.Qc2± preserving the advantage.

16...bxc5

16...Nxc5 17.b4± which I didn't like.

17.Bf3? Ne5! 18.Be2 Rfd8

I wanted to maybe play ...d4 soon. 18...a6 was also considered, but I didn't like 19.Nc3.



Yiding Lu (L) and Chad Boey face GM Vinay Bhat (standing center), while Jacob Gulotta (standing left) observes and Jeff Keurian (R) contemplates his next move.

Photo credit: Xavier Palathingal.

19.cxd5?!

19.Qd4! was his best try: 19...cxd4
20.Bxe7 d3 21.Bd1 Rd7 22.Bxf6 gxf6
though I am still better.

19...Nxd5!?

Gaining initiative on kingside

20.Qc1!

20.Qc2? Qg5 21.g3 Nxe3! 22.fxe3 Qxe3+
23.Rf2 Rd2-+

20...Qg5 21.g3 Qf5



Position after 21...Qf5

22.f3!

This shuts out my attack, which I overlooked. 22.Qxc5 my plan was:

22...Nf3+ 23.Bxf3 Qxf3 24.Nd6 Qg2+!!
25.Kxg2 Nf4+ 26.Kg1 Nh3#

22...Nd3

22...Qh3 23.e4±

23.Bxd3 Qxd3 24.e4

24.Bxc5 a6 25.Nd6 Nc3 was my plan.

24...Ne3 25.Rf2 Qxb3 26.Rb1

I didn't consider this move. I expected
26.Rb2 Qd3 27.Bxc5 Nc4.

26...Qd3

26...Rd1+ 27.Qxd1 Qxd1+ 28.Rxd1
Nxd1 29.Rd2 looked bad to me.

27.Bxc5 Rac8!



Position after 27...Rac8

The e3-knight somehow cannot be captured!

28.Ra1?

28.Rfb2! would be more tenacious, and I was still struggling to find out what to play, but I am still better.; 28.Qxe3 Qxb1+-; 28.Bxe3 Rxc1+-.

28...Rxc5!-+

A nice combination.

29.Qxc5 Qd1+ 30.Rf1



Position after 30.Rf1

30...Qe2!

The key move.

0-1

Washington G/60 Championship

Sunday, October 15th, 2023

Lakeside Upper School

14050 1st Ave NE, Seattle, WA 98125



Contact: Josh Sinanan,
WCF President, 206-769-3757
WashingtonChessFederation@gmail.com

Registration: Online at
nwchess.com/OnlineRegistration.
Online registration and payment
deadline @ 5pm on Saturday,
October 14, or else register at
site.

Health/Safety Protocols: Face
masks optional for players and
spectators. If interested, please bring
your own mask.

Format: A 4-Round Swiss in one section.

Time Control: G/60; +5 sec. increment.

Entry Fee: \$40 if postmarked or online by
10/8, \$50 by 10/14, \$60 at-site. Free entry for
GMs, IMs, WGMs, WIMs.

Schedule: At-site registration: Sun. 8-8:45am.
Rounds: 9 AM, 12 PM, 2:30 PM, 5 PM.
Closing Ceremony ~ 7:30 PM or asap.

Prize Fund: \$1,200 (based on 50 paid entries).
1st \$260, 2nd \$200, 3rd \$140. 1st Unrated: \$100
1st U2000/U1800/U1600/U1400/U1200: \$100

Eligibility: Open to all junior + adult
players.

Byes: One half-point bye available. If
interested, request before end of round 2.

Memberships: Current US Chess and
WCF membership/Northwest Chess
subscription required. Memberships
must be paid at time of registration.

Rating: Dual NWSRS + US Chess Rated.
Highest of October US Chess Regular or
current NWSRS rating will be used to
determine pairings and prizes.

Washington Summer Sizzler

Josh Sinanan

The Washington Summer Sizzler chess tournament took place on Saturday, July 15, at Lakeside Upper School in Seattle. Intrepid chess warriors in grades K-12 competed across four sections parsed by grade level and rating: K-3 U700, K-8 U1000, K-12 U1300, and K-12 Open.

Instead of the usual five rounds that are customary for most Northwest scholastic tournaments, the event featured a marathon seven-round, G/25;+5 Swiss

format for the K-3 U700, K-8 U1000, and K-12 U1300 sections over the course of ten hours! The K-12 Open section was run as a four-round, G/60;+5 Swiss.

Despite the typical summer lull in scholastic chess activity, the event attracted a whopping 93 players, no doubt an indication of the ongoing chess boom! The easily accessible north Seattle location enabled players from throughout the region to compete in the all-day chess extravaganza, though many Eastside

folks found it challenging to navigate the journey west due to ongoing summer construction and freeway closers.

Players from far and wide braved the summer heat and made the journey to the beautiful Lakeside School campus. With the Seattle summer in full swing, many folks brought their lawn chairs and picnic blankets to enjoy the sunny weather outside in the field between rounds. Players from cities including Bellevue, Mill Creek, Snoqualmie, Sammamish, Lake Forest Park, Seattle, Ocean Shores, Redmond, Issaquah, Everett, Joint Base Lewis McChord, Kirkland, Kingston, Bothell, Yarrow Point, Mercer Island, Eatonville, Bainbridge Island, Newcastle, Woodinville, Tacoma, Marysville, and Ravensdale.

The tournament was hosted by the Washington Chess Federation, organized by WCF President Josh Sinanan, and directed by WCF co-Vice President Rekha Sagar with assistance from UTD chess stud Vignesh Anand, and WCF Member-at-Large Ani Barua. WCF Director of Women's and Girls Chess Chouchan Airapetian ran the concessions booth with help from her mother and daughter.

Many thanks to the wonderful volunteers who helped with setup and take down. We hope to make the Washington Summer Sizzler an annual mid-summer tradition to which players look forward in the years to come! Congratulations to the winners:

Special Prizes - Medals for first-timers (awarded at-site), best female player (by TPR), and biggest upset win.

Section	Best Female Player	Biggest Upset Win
K-3 U700	Siana Razmov	Nirvan Tummuru
K-8 U1000	Alisa Rachiba	Isaac Friedenson
K-12 U1300	Aarya Patel	Atreya Naik
K-12 Open	Laya Mohan & Deeksha Shankaranand	Varun Prabhu



Hamsini Ramanathan during her first round game in the K-12 U1300 section.
Photo Credit: Rekha Sagar.

Washington Summer Sizzler Prizes

Individual Prizes - Amazon Gift cards awarded in each section.

1st \$70, 2nd \$60, 3rd \$50, 4th \$40, 5th \$30.

Section	1st Place	2nd Place	3rd Place	4th Place	5th Place
K-3 U700	Naveen Chenicheri	James Pearce Ullrich	Jethro Xia Joshua Shagas	Shaurya Bhende Ronen Nagpal	
K-8 U1000	Ravi Pillai Emmett Robison		Bihe Liu Bowen Zhang	Vindhya Seshadri Austin Devlin	
K-12 U1300	Leonid Zandanov Daniel Polonsky		Yang Xu Lucas Ma	Imai Maharaja William Guthrie	
K-12 Open	Bertrand Wan	Zane Wirkkala	Blessington Moses Benjamin Frederick Alix Ogier Nathan Tan Rafael Palathingal Rishi Ramaswamy Alan Cheng		

Washington Bullet Championship



Sunday, October 15th, 2023

Lakeside Upper School

14050 1st Ave NE, Seattle, WA 98125

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WashingtonChessFederation@gmail.com

Registration: Online at
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Online registration and
payment **deadline @ 5pm on**
Saturday, October 14, or else
register at site.

Health/Safety Protocols: Face
masks optional for players and
spectators. If interested, please
bring your own mask.

Format: A 7-Round Double Swiss in one section.
Play 2 games – 1 as white and 1 as black – against each
opponent.

Time Control: G/2; +1 sec. increment.

Entry Fee: \$20 if postmarked or online by 10/8, \$25 by
10/14, \$30 at-site. Free entry for GMs, IMs, WGMs, WIMs.

Schedule: At-site registration: Sun. 7-7:45pm.
Rounds: 8 PM, 8:15, 8:30, 8:45, 9, 9:15, 9:30 PM.
Closing Ceremony ~ 9:45 PM or asap.

Prize Fund: \$300 (based on 25 paid entries).
1st \$65, 2nd \$50, 3rd \$35. 1st Unrated: \$25.
1st U2000/U1800/U1600/U1400/U1200: \$25

Eligibility: Open to all junior +
adult players.

Byes: Two half-point byes
available. If interested, request
before end of round 2.

Memberships: No
memberships required.

Rating: Unrated. Highest of
October US Chess Blitz, US
Chess Regular, or current
NWSRS rating will be used to
determine pairings and prizes.

We are proud of our little magazine!

Ten consecutive years as the Best State Magazine/ Newsletter (2014-2023)... and still counting!



Seattle Chess Club Tournaments

→ Address ←
 → 7212 Woodlawn Ave NE ←
 → Seattle WA 98115 ←
 → Info ←
 → www.seattlechess.club ←
Addresses for Entries
 SCC Tnmt Dir
 2420 S 137 St
 Seattle WA 98168
 —or—
contact@seattlechess.club

Mondays are for casual play

Oct 1

G/20 Hexes

Format: 5-RR in 6- or 5-player sections. **TC:** G/20;+8. **EF:** \$12 (+\$6 fee for non-SCC). **Prize Fund:** \$554 b/6. **Prizes:** \$36-18. **Reg:** 12-12:45 p.m. **Time Frame:** 1 to ~6:30 p.m. **Byes:** 0. **Misc:** US Chess memb. req'd. NS, NC.

Sept 2 & 30

Saturday Quads

Format: 3-RR, 4-plyr sec. by rtg. **TC:** G/100;+15. **EF:** \$9 (+\$7 fee for non-SCC). **Prizes:** Free quad entry. **Reg:** 9-9:45 a.m. **Rds:** 10:00-2:15-6:30. **Misc:** US Chess memb. req'd. NS, NC.

Sept 3

SCC Novice

Format: 4-SS. Open to U1200 and UNR. **TC:** G/60;+15. **EF:** \$20 (-\$2 SCC members). **Prizes:** SCC membership(s). **Reg:** 9-9:45a.m. **Rds:** 10-12:45-3:30-6. **Byes:** 1 (Rd 3/4—commit at reg.). **Misc:** US Chess memb. req'd. NS, NC.

Sept 10, Oct 8

Sunday Tornado

Format: 4-SS. **TC:** G/50;+10. **EF:** \$18 (+\$7 fee for non-SCC). **Prizes:** 1st 35%, 2nd 27%, Bottom Half 1st 22%, 2nd 16% (\$10 per EF to prize fund). **Reg:** 10:30-11:15 a.m. **Rds:** 11:30-1:50-4:10-6:30. **Byes:** 1 (Rd 3/4—commit at reg.). **Misc:** US Chess memb. req'd. NS, NC.

SCC Fridays

One US Chess-rated round per night (free to SCC members, \$5 per night for others) normally played at a rate of 40/90 followed by 30/60. Drop in for any round!

September Close Ratings: 9/8, 15, 22, 29.

Autumn Leaves: 10/6, 13, 20, 27.

Seattle Fall Open

September 23-24, 2023

A 4-round Swiss chess tournament with a time control of 40/90 & SD/30 with a 30-second increment. The prize fund of **\$500 is based on 26** paid entries, 6 per prize group.

First	\$150	U1600	\$60
Second	\$100	U1400	\$40
U2000	\$60	U1200/UNR	\$30
U1800	\$60		

Entry Fees: \$36 if paid by 9/18, \$48 at site. SCC members –subtract \$11. Unrated players FREE with purchase of 1-yr US Chess & WCF. **Registration:** Sat. 9:30-10:15 am.

Rounds: Sat. 10:30-4:30, Sun. 10-4. **Half-Point Bye:** 1 available. Rounds 3 or 4 must commit at registration. **Misc.:** US Chess membership required. NS. NC.

