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# 37th Annual National Chess Day



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## On the Cover:

The National Chess Day 24-hour celebration group photograph taken between rounds on October 13, 2012 in Boise. Since players could take an unlimited number of half point byes, not all players are shown in the group picture. This was taken from the second level looking downward at the lobby area of the "Library! Plaza Business Mall" at Cole & Ustick in Boise.

The position on the big board is one arising out of the St. George Defense per analysis done by tournament winner Cody Gorman. The 24-hour 8 round Modified Swiss Tournament (meaning it was possible to play the same player twice, but only with colors reversed) was co-sponsored by the Idaho Chess Association and Master's Academy Boise. Clockwise from the bottom Reilly Gorman (not in tournament), Lucas Knoll, Jeffrey Roland, Justin Siek, Chip Ruberry, Kitt Gorman (not in tournament), Cody Gorman, Dominic Romani, Julie Nahlen, Alexander Wood and Rayan Mahin. Photo credit: Frank Niro and Jeff Roland.

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Submissions of games, stories, photos, art, and other **original** chess-related content are encouraged! Multiple submissions are acceptable; please indicate if material is non-exclusive. All submissions are subject to editing or revision. Send via U.S. Mail to:

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# From the Editor's Desk

by Frank Niro

This month we feature the activities around the region on National Chess Day, October 13, 2012. New people were exposed to the world of organized chess and new members joined the USCF and state associations. After all, that's the point isn't it? It is nice to see some more photos of young people in the magazine as they represent the future of the game of chess in America. See inside for more information regarding the exploits of the rising young chess masters from the Northwest, 11-year-old Roland Feng of Washington and 13-year-old Luke Harmon-Vellotti of Idaho.

This is my fourth issue as Editor of *Northwest Chess* and, despite the intermittent typos and unexpected glitches, I am generally pleased with the results. Jeffrey Roland, acting as Assistant Editor, has been a pleasure to work with throughout. And, in my opinion, the willingness of the players and organizers in the region to share material by e-mail, social media, telephone and whatever means available is what makes the magazine so great! So, once again, we renew our call for photos and games, preferably with notes. Please don't hesitate to promote your activities and events as well as tournament successes and interesting chess related adventures.

With respect to the editorial transition, you will recall that our award winning editor, FIDE Master Ralph Dubisch, stepped down last fall due to lack of time. The Publisher, Duane Polich, asked for volunteers to serve on a six-month interim basis to fill in the gap until a qualified permanent editor could be found. Previous editor Fred Kleist was the first to step to the plate and did a great job, as always, turning out a quality magazine each month. I agreed to follow when I returned from my Executive-

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*Eric Holcomb receives USCF Special Services Award from OCF President, David Yoshinaga (award originally accepted on Eric's behalf at the U.S. Open by Rusty Miller). Photo credit: Jeff Roland*

in-Residence appointment at Cornell University this past summer -- but only until Jeffrey Roland became familiar with the new *InDesign* software and ready to step into the role of Editor. My commitment was necessarily limited to "about six months" because I will be returning to Cornell during the spring semester to co-teach a course in *Strategic and Business Planning for Health Care Professionals* along with my wife, Natasha.

The November issue was completely put together by Jeff using the new software and, as you can see, he did an outstanding job. His competence in all aspects of the job is evident and I have offered to turn over the reins as Editor of *Northwest Chess* to him beginning with the December issue. I will stay on as Assistant Editor until I leave for New York and remain as compiler of the Oregon News (about four pages each month) for as long as I am needed in that role.

Finally, I was asked by some of our readers at the U.S. Open in Vancouver if I would share any excerpts from my upcoming memoir in the magazine. My answer was, "only if it is relevant." This month I got my chance. I hope that you find my recollections concerning the first National Chess Day back in 1976 both interesting and historically informative.

See you on the tournament trail.

Best wishes to all,

*Frank*

# Northwest Chess Community Celebrates National Chess Day

by Frank Niro

Established on October 9, 1976 by President Gerald R. Ford “to give special recognition to a game that generates challenge, intellectual stimulation, and enjoyment for citizens of all ages,” organizers from Idaho, Washington and Oregon joined the rest of the country in acknowledging October 13, 2012, as *National Chess Day*.

The first National Chess Day still remains, 36 years later, as one of the more memorable events in my life. So much so, that it fills nearly a full chapter in my upcoming memoir, *All Over the Board*. For more about that, please read on.

In Washington, the Seattle event “Chess in the Park” was cancelled due to bad weather. The Spokane Chess Club luckily opted for an indoor venue as they hosted a festival at Uncle’s Games in the Spokane Valley Mall. There were four different events during the day. The events were an action event of game 30, a game 15, blitz and a three hour simul. Cameron Leslie won both the game 30, and game 15. Mark Havrilla won the blitz. Both Cameron Leslie and James Stripes played in the simul. There was also a fund raiser with several drawings with prizes donated by local businesses.

In Oregon the Portland Chess Club scheduled their Fall Open and Open House, normally held in September, on National Chess Day weekend October 13-14. Nick Raptis of Portland and Brian Esler of Eugene tied for first with 4-1 scores. Jon Strohbahn of Vancouver, WA won the under-1800 section with 4.5 points in five games. 29 players participated -- 14 Open and 15 in second group. Grisha Alpernas of Lake Oswego, assisted by Michael Morris of Portland, shared the TD duties. We have issued a call for game scores from the event, preferably with notes, and will publish the games that we receive in the December issue of *Northwest Chess*.



The Portland Chess Club hosted 29 players for the annual Portland Fall Open held on National Chess Day weekend. Pictured above (in the corner) is co-winner Nick Raptis on Board 1 in the final round against Becca Lampman. The game was drawn giving Nick a tie for first place and Becca clear third place with 3.5 points. On the adjoining board, Brian Esler (facing camera) defeated Matthew Hill (wearing cap) to pull even with Raptis. Roland Eagles defeated Sean O’Connell on Board 3 (to the left of Raptis-Lampman along the wall). Many other NW tournament regulars are also visible in this photo provided courtesy of Sean Tobin.



The Spokane Chess Club (pictured above) meets once per week and sponsors three major weekend tournaments throughout the year. Regular meetings are on Thursday evenings at 7:00 p.m. in Herak Hall (Engineering building) Room 301 at Gonzaga University. All USCF-rated Thursday night events require club membership. You do not need to be a member to engage in casual play (“free play”) or non-rated events. Dues are \$24 for adult membership. Seniors \$12 a year. Juniors (under 18) and Gonzaga students free. Visitors should park in the College Hall (formerly the Administration Building) parking lot, which is located at East 502 Boone Avenue. The lot is conveniently accessed from Sharp Avenue. Herak Hall is about 100 yards south of the Administration Building. Photo courtesy of the Spokane Chess Club, <http://www.spokanechessclub.org>.

In Idaho, there were 17 players in the 8-round 24-hour National Chess Day event including seven new USCF players who never played a rated tournament before. In addition, one player entered his first rated tournament since 2003, and two players purchased ICA Premium memberships with NWC subscriptions included. The tournament was won by Cody Gorman with a 6-2 record including two half point byes, ahead of Jeffrey Roland and Julie Nahlen who finished tied for second place with five points. Chip Ruberry, Frank Niro, Shane Taylor and Lucas Knoll were a half point further back at 4.5 – 3.5. Roland was the only player to play all eight

rounds held three hours apart on the same day, the equivalent of a chess marathon.

Numerous prizes were given to all participants including books, chess boards, an antique analysis set (to the winner), and free memberships. The new players entering their first rated tournament were Rayan Mahin, Noah Peterson, Jolene Fitzwater and Justin Siek of Boise and Dominic Romani, Alexander Wood and Kendyl Winkler of Meridian. The giant chess set outside of the playing hall got a lot of use for skittles games. Between rounds, players found the site a good place for chess related activities such as puzzle solving (see photo below).



24...d5

Here, I sacrificed a pawn to activate my bishop rather than get a passive game. A dangerous decision because going down a pawn against someone like Cody could be fatal.

25.exd5 Rxe1+ 26.Rxe1 cxd5 27.cxd5 Bb4 28.Rd1 Qb2 29.Qb1 Qxb1 30.Nxb1 f5 31.Rd3 Rc8 32.d6 Bxd6 33.Rxd6 Rc1+ 34.Kh2 Rxb1 35.Rxg6 Rb2 36.Rb6 Rxf2 37.a3 f4 38.Rxb7 Ra2 39.Rb4 f3 40.Rg4 Rxa3 41.b4 fxg2 42.Rxg2 Rb3 43.Ra2 Rxb4 1/2-1/2

White: Knoll, Lucas (922)

Black: Longhurst, Corey (1569)

[B50] National Chess Day Boise (Rd. 3), Oct 13, 2012

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.Bc4 Nc6 4.Nc3 a6 5.0-0 e6 6.Re1 b5 7.Bd5 exd5 8.exd5+ Nce7 9.d4 b4 10.Na4 c4 11.a3 Rb8 12.Qd2 a5 13.b3 c3 14.Qd3 Bf5 15.Qxf5 Nf6 16.Bg5 Qd7 17.Qxd7+ Nxd7 18.Bf4 Nf6 19.Re2 Kd7 20.Ng5 Nfxd5 21.Bxd6 Kxd6 22.Nxf7+ Kd7 23.Nxh8 Ke8 24.Rae1 Rd8 25.Nc5 Rc8 26.Nb7 Rc6 27.Re5 Nc7 28.d5 Rb6 29.Nxa5 Rd6 30.axb4 Rxd5 31.Rxd5 Nxd5 32.b5 g6 33.h4 Bg7 34.Nc4 Bxh8 35.b6 Kd7 36.Ra1 Nc6 37.Ra8 Bd4 38.b7 Kc7 39.Na5 Ndb4 40.Rc8+ Kb6 41.Rxc6+ Nxc6 42.Nxc6 Kxb7 43.Nxd4 Kb6 44.Kf1 Kc5 45.Nf3 Kb4 46.Ke2 Ka3 47.Kd3 Kb2 48.Ne1 1-0

After the tournament, the organizers received positive feedback from the players and parents. Many expressed their interest in returning with friends next year. Chip Ruberry, the competitor returning to tournament play after a long absence, provided the following feedback: "That was really one of the coolest tournaments I have participated in. I love the idea of not having to be pres-



Julie Nablen and Dominic Romani go over chess puzzles during the National Chess Day celebration at "Library! Plaza Business Mall" in Boise co-sponsored by Masters Academy and Idaho Chess Association. Photo credit: Jeff Roland

Because of the nature of the tournament with its unlimited byes and around-the-clock schedule, a modified Swiss System pairing system was used whereby players could be matched against each other more than once, but not with the same color. One such double pairing was between Gorman and Roland. Both games resulted in hard fought draws, including the one presented below.

White: Gorman, Cody (1635)

Black: Roland, Jeffrey (1716)

[A01] National Chess Day Boise, (Rd. 7), Oct 13, 2012

[Notes by Jeffrey Roland]

1.b3 e5 2.Bb2 Nc6 3.e3 Nf6 4.Bb5 d6 5.d4 exd4 6.Bxd4 Bd7 7.Nf3 Be7 8.0-0 0-0 9.Bb2 a6 10.Bd3 Re8 11.c4 Bf8 12.Nbd2 Ne5 13.Bc2 Bg4 14.h3 Nxf3+ 15.Nxf3 Bh5 16.Bxf6 Qxf6 17.Qd4 Qe7 18.Nd2 Bg6 19.Bxg6 hxg6 20.Rfe1 Qe5 21.Qd5 c6 22.Qd3 Rad8 23.e4 Qf6 24.Rad1



*National Chess Day in Boise. Photo credit: Frank Niro and Jeff Roland*

ent for all rounds. That is why I have not played a USCF tournament in almost 10 years, because I can rarely make all rounds. I hope there will be more like that. I may even try to conduct my own over the next year if I had some hand holding through the process.”

So, what’s the point of National Chess Day? Originally, it was a way of helping members of the public learn about the benefits of chess. It was done principally by asking chess clubs and players to stage open houses and free events on that day to attract new members and expose casual players to organized chess. The popularity of National Chess Day has been inconsistent over the years. For many years, the day was acknowledged only in certain regions of the country. About ten years ago, the U.S. Chess Federation renewed its efforts to utilize National Chess Day as a way of promoting chess to the masses. Each year since, it seems, more states and local organizers have opted to participate in National Chess day activities.

The first National Chess Day, in 1976, was a big deal since it was the culmination of years of effort by the USCF delegates to get the President of the United States to set aside a day to promote the benefits of chess. Around the same time, a postage stamp depicting Paul Morphy was submitted to the Postal Service but, for some reason, it was never adopted.

I was personally involved in the first National Chess Day when I was sent to Leavenworth Penitentiary in Kansas to stage a simultaneous chess exhibition for the prisoners. So, for those who may be interested in the history, here’s an exclusive excerpt from my upcoming memoir.



*Kendyl Winkler (left) and Justin Siek (right) on front board. Cody Gorman (left) Noah Peterson (right) on second board at Boise National Chess Day event in Boise. Photo credit: Jeff Roland.*

First, without getting into too much of the back story, I grew up in a *mafia* family and, ultimately, my dad (known to his friends as ‘Junior’) landed in federal prison for 15 months for ‘uttering’. He was printing and distributing counterfeit hundred dollar bills. Trust me, none of what you will read below is fiction.

*“Don’t you live in Massachusetts? Why go to Kansas?”* Martin asked.

*“My father is living in the area,”* I said, not wanting to reveal his exact location.

Martin Morrison, Technical Director of the U.S. Chess Federation, was on the phone. I called him in response to a press release announcing that President Ford declared October 9, 1976, as “National Chess Day.” For the first time, a sitting president set aside “a day to give special recognition to a game that generates intellectual stimulation and enjoyment for citizens of all ages.”

The objective of the program was to instigate growth in the popularity of chess by staging as many chess events as possible in schools, libraries, prisons and shopping malls around the country. Leavenworth Penitentiary was on the list of venues that expressed interest in hosting an event.

*“Well, we still need players and not many others have expressed interest in visiting prisons. If you can make it at 5:30 pm on the 9<sup>th</sup>, the gig is yours,”* he said.

*“Playing 15 or 20 simultaneous chess games will be fun,”* I said.

From a chess perspective, my credentials for the

assignment were not especially impressive. I earned my correspondence chess master title the previous year in the old American Postal Chess League and won my section of the most recent New York State Championship. But my over-the-board rating of 1956 was only Class A in the U.S. Chess Federation's hierarchy, two levels below Chess Master. The thought quickly occurred to me that I could go out there and lose all my games! Still, it seemed like the right thing to do.

Later, I was on hold 45 minutes when a familiar voice came on the line.

*"Hello, son, what's wrong?"*

*"Hi Dad, nothing is wrong. I'm coming to visit you on October 9<sup>th</sup>"* I said.

*"You will need to get clearance,"* he said. *"So far, nobody has been allowed to see me."*

*"It's all set up. I'm an invited guest of the Department of Corrections."*

*"Seriously?"*

I gave him the details but couldn't tell whether or not he was pleased.

*"I'll come early so we can talk,"* I said. *"They told me I can have dinner in the mess hall with the inmates."*

*"Okay, we can sit together. I'll introduce you to some of my new friends."*

*"I'll bring you some cigarettes, Dad. Is there anything else you need?"*

*"Yes, I would like a bible. I'm taking a course and want to become an ordained minister,"* he said.

Thoughts of my dad in a cleric's collar pushed aside everything else I had on my mind and, after an uncomfortable pause, I said: *"Hey Dad, do me a favor. Please don't bet any money on me this time."*

*"All right, I won't,"* he promised.

The flight was uneventful, but getting from the gate at the Kansas City airport to the hotel was an ordeal. I lugged a box with two dozen chess books and one bible. My intention was to give a book as a prize to anyone who beat me. It was difficult enough walk to with my cane and leg brace, even without the suitcase and the damn books. Now, standing in the rain waiting

for a cab to the hotel, I cursed my dad for being 1,500 miles from home.

The prison sent a van to pick me up at the Ramada Inn. Once we arrived at the service gate, the driver carried the books to the gym where 16 sets of pieces were neatly arranged on a row of chessboards. There was a poster on the wall that announced, *"New York State Chess Champion to take on all comers."* Underneath someone had written in black magic marker: *"He's Junior's son!"*

I expected to see bars and isolation cells, but the camp was for white collar criminals and resembled a college dormitory. My father, like everyone else, was dressed in a light blue, long sleeve shirt with denim jeans.

*"The maximum security prison is behind the wall,"* he said. *"If anyone misbehaves here, they get shipped over there. Nobody wants that, so things remain calm most of the time."*

*"That's sounds like enough motivation to stay out of trouble,"* I said.

*"Let me introduce you to my new roommate, David Hall. He was the governor of Oklahoma."*

Mr. Hall was a short man with light hair and a firm handshake. He was a bit overweight, but I wouldn't describe him as fat. Convicted of bribery and extortion involving the investment of his state's employee retirement funds, he was transferred to another federal prison in Tucson shortly after I left. According to my father, some associates from his past were brought to Leavenworth. As a result, Governor Hall was moved to a new location to protect his health.

*"Good to meet you, Governor,"* I said.

The governor smiled pleasantly as he looked me in the eye and said, *"Are we fixin' to play some chess tonight?"* It was the first time I ever heard someone use that particular choice of words, but certainly not the last.

My father continued with the introductions. I felt like I was in a receiving line at a shotgun wedding. *"Over there is Julio from the Philippines. He murdered two people and stuffed them in his trunk. And here's my friend, Doc. He works for the Syndicate in Dallas."*

*"Hi,"* I said feeling uneasy. I pulled out a handkerchief to wipe off my forehead and the back of my neck. *"How bizarre,"* I whispered to myself.

*"My son is a C.P.A.,"* Dad said.

“Wonderful,” Doc said. “If you’re ever in Texas, look me up. We can always use someone like you.”

I just nodded.

As I entered the gym the warden announced my name: “This is Frank Niro. He’s here all the way from the east coast.”

“Two peas in a pod,” someone yelled.

“Not really,” I answered, shaking my head vigorously.

The tables were arranged in a semi-circle with my opponents sitting on the same side. I made a move at each board and moved to the next. Two or three of the prisoners jumped from board to board offering advice to the person sitting. It was acceptable for players at a simultaneous exhibition to consult with each other, as long as they made a move when I arrived at their board and didn’t rearrange the pieces while I wasn’t looking.

The first game to end was against the warden. He fell into a standard trap and lost in six moves. When he tipped over his king, the prisoners cheered.

“Let’s play another,” he said quietly.

“Of course; set up the pieces,” I said.

One by one, the games ended quickly. The exception was against a black man about six-foot-five who weighed more than 350 pounds. He played a known line in the Ruy Lopez twenty moves deep.

“What’s your name, sir?” I asked.

“They call me Piledriver,” he answered.

“Have you played much chess before?”

“Yes, I’m rated about 1850; I’m the prison champ.”

I offered him a draw and he responded with a smile and a handshake.

“Good game,” I said.

By then, it was evident that I was not in danger of losing any games, so I decided to give a chess book to Piledriver. I turned around to locate the box. It was gone. Inside a prison and somebody had stolen my books!

“I’m sorry, but...”

Piledriver waved his hand: “Don’t worry none, man. I’ll get

my book.”

A loud bell sounded and the two remaining inmates got up and left the room without saying a word.

“What just happened?” I asked the warden. “Is there some kind of roll call?”

“Nope, that was the bell for the 7 o’clock movie. They don’t actually know how to play chess. They were killing time so they wouldn’t have to go back to their rooms after dinner.”

So, counting the two aborted games as draws, my final record was 14 wins and three draws, all in less than 90 minutes. As I got ready to say goodbye to my dad, he let out a sigh.

“What’s the matter?” I asked. “Did I say something I shouldn’t have?”

“Dammit,” he said. “I didn’t have any money on you. I could’a made a killing.”

Here is my favorite game from the event. I still have the original score sheet signed by my infamous opponent.

**White: Frank Niro**

**Black: David Hall (former governor of Oklahoma)**

**[B96]** Leavenworth Penitentiary, KS  
(simultaneous exhibition) October 9, 1976

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 a6  
6.Bg5 e6 7.f4 Qc7 8.Qf3 b5 9.0–0–0 b4 10.e5 Bb7?!  
11.Qh3 dxe5 12.Ncb5!? axb5 13.fxe5 Ne4



14.Nxe6! fxe6 15.Qxe6+ Be7 16.Bxb5+ Nc6 17.Bxe7  
Qxe7 18.Bxc6+ Kf8 19.Rhf1+ Nf6 20.Qxe7+ Kxe7  
21.exf6+ gxf6 22.Rfe1+ Kf7 23.Bxb7 Black resigned  
1–0



# WASHINGTON CHESS FEDERATION



## Washington Class Championships A NW Grand Prix Event November 23-25, 2012

### Washington Class Championships Entry Fees and Prize Fund \$7,000 based on 170 players

Entry fees listed as: Postmarked by  
Oct 26 / By Nov 16 / At site

**Master (2200+)** EF \$85/\$95/\$105  
Prizes \$500, \$350, \$200, U2300 \$100, \$75

**Expert (2000-2199)** EF \$80/\$90/\$100  
Prizes \$400, \$275, \$175, U2100 \$100, \$75

**Class A (1800-1999)** EF \$75/\$85/\$95  
Prizes \$300, \$200, \$150, U1900 \$100, \$75

**Class B (1600-1799)** EF \$75/\$85/\$95  
Prizes \$300, \$200, \$150, U1700 \$100, \$75

**Class C (1400-1599)** EF \$75/\$85/\$95  
Prizes \$300, \$200, \$150, U1500 \$100, \$75

**Class D (1200-1399)** EF \$75/\$85/\$95  
Prizes \$300, \$200, \$150, U1300 \$100, \$75

**Class E (1000-1199)** EF \$75/\$85/\$95  
Prizes \$300, \$200, \$150, U1100 \$100, \$75

**Under 1000/Unrated** EF \$70/\$80/\$90  
Prizes \$200, \$150, \$125, U800 \$75,  
Unrated \$75

Advance entries must be received by Nov. 16. Reentry 1/2 of your entry fee. Rated players add \$25 to play up one class only (can't play up two classes). Free entry to GMs, IMs, and WGMs. Juniors (U21) may play for medals only for an advance EF of \$30. (Medals awarded for top two in each class.) Canadians may pay C\$ at par (no coins) for entry fee only.

**ALL PRIZES WILL BE MAILED  
starting December 1, 2012.**

### Entries/Information:

Send entries to: Dan Mathews,  
WCF Tournament Coordinator  
930 NE High Street, Unit F412  
Issaquah, WA 98029-7423  
Phone: (425) 218-7529

E-mail: [dthmathews@aol.com](mailto:dthmathews@aol.com)

Make checks payable to  
Washington Chess Federation.

### Redmond Marriott Town Center

7401 164th Avenue NE, Redmond, WA 98052, phone (425) 498-4000

Online Registration at [www.nwchess.com/onlineregistration](http://www.nwchess.com/onlineregistration)  
Pay by credit/debit or PayPal.

**Format:** Eight class sections as shown at left, six round Swiss system. Sections may be combined if less than 12 players in a section. Late registrations may receive half-point byes for first round.

**Rating:** USCF rated. Master/Expert sections also FIDE rated (except G/60 games if applicable). USCF November rating supplement will be used. Higher of USCF or foreign ratings used at TD discretion. Foreign ratings used for players with no USCF rating. Unrated players may only win 1st, 2nd, 3rd prizes in Master section, or unrated prize in Under 1000/Unrated section.

**Registration:** Friday 8:30-9:30 AM for 3-day schedule, or 3:00-3:30 PM if entering with one half-point bye. Saturday 8:00-9:00 AM for 2-day schedule, or 8:30-9:30 AM if entering 3-day schedule with two half-point byes. Two half-point byes available at registration or before end of round 2. Play any two days, if taking two half-point byes.

**Rounds:** 3-day schedule: Fri: 10:30 AM and 5:00 PM, Sat 10:30 AM and 6:00 PM, Sun 9:00 AM and 3:00 PM. 2-day schedule: Sat 9:30 AM, 12:00 noon, 2:30 PM, then join 3-day schedule with round 4 at 6:00 PM.

**Time Controls:** 3-day schedule: 30/90 and SD/1 with 5-second delay. 2-day schedule: G/60 with 5-second delay (rounds 1-3), rounds 4-6 same as 3-day schedule. Please bring tournament chess set, board, and digital clock.

**Miscellaneous:** Current USCF membership and WCF or OCF membership required in all sections. Other States Accepted. Memberships may be paid at time of registration. Dr. Ralph Hall Memorial NW Grand Prix event. Trophies Plus Grand Prix Points: 10. Chess Magnet School JGP. No Smoking. No Computers. Wheelchair accessible.

**Entries/Prizes/Info:** See left column. Please use entry form (available on NWC website) for a list of all discounts and fees, and to indicate schedule, section, side events, and byes requested – or use online registration.

**Hotel Info/Rates:** \$95.00 for single, double, triple, or quad. Reservation link: [www.marriott.com/seamc](http://www.marriott.com/seamc). Group code WACWACA. The cut-off date for reservations at the discount is November 11, 2012.

**Side Event: Washington Class Blitz Championship:** Friday 11/23 at 8:15 PM. Format: 5 round Double Swiss in one section. Registration: 7:30-8:00 PM. Rounds: 8:15, 8:45, 9:15, 9:45 and 10:15 PM. TC: G/5 (no delay). EF: \$25. Prize Fund: \$400 based on 20 entries. 1st \$130, 2nd \$90, 1st U2000 \$60, 1st U1700 \$60, 1st U1400 \$60. Miscellaneous: USCF Quick rated and FIDE Blitz rated. WCF/OCF membership required.

**Washington Class Scholastic (Nov 23):** A separate flyer/entry form/online registration link will be published on the NWC website for this event, or contact: David Hendricks, WCF Scholastic Coordinator, 2439 220th Place NE, Sammamish, WA 98074-6418, phone: (425) 868-3881, e-mail: [DavidCHendricks@comcast.net](mailto:DavidCHendricks@comcast.net).

Rev. 10/22/2012

# Washington Chess News

by Russell "Rusty" Miller

## Neff draws World Champion Anand in simul

National Master Elliott Neff of Bellevue, WA and proprietor of *Chess4Life* took advantage of the rare opportunity to face the reigning World Chess Champion, Viswanathan Anand of India, as part of a 20-board simultaneous exhibition hosted by the Metropolitan Chess Camp in Los Angeles on August 13, 2012. We are pleased that Neff was willing to share his thoughts on the game with *Northwest Chess* readers.

**White: Anand, Viswanathan**

**Black: Neff, Elliott**

[A20] Los Angeles, CA simul, August 13, 2012

[Notes by Elliott Neff]

I was invited to participate in a 20-board simul vs. the world champion. (Big thank-you top Jane Cui for her invitation to me in this regard, as her son Marc Huang also competed in the simul.) Preparation began 1 week before the event. I studied/reviewed about 150 of Anand's games, and two days before I played in the US Open Speed Chess Championship which I treated as warm up, imagining myself already playing Anand. Monday, game day, I woke up at 3:30 am. Coach Roy drove me to the airport. I spent time reading my Bible and praying, and then reading *Delivering Happiness* by Tony Hsieh (Zappos). I landed @ 8:40 am - excitement building... I met up with student Marc Huang and his mom Jane and took the shuttle to the



*From August 9th to 13th, undisputed World Champion Viswanathan Anand along with another eight instructors, coached over 100 youth participants that had flocked to Los Angeles, some from afar, to meet the World Champion at the 2012 Metropolitan Chess Camp. Anand concluded the visit with a 20-board simul where he scored 15 wins, no losses and 5 draws against a field that included several masters. Photo credit: Chris Roberts courtesy Metropolitan Chess, Inc.*

Radisson. First order of business: scout out the playing hall... looking good... I turn around and there he is: Anand, in person. He smiles, we shake hands, and then he is busy with interviews and photos. 9:45am - preparations! Pull out a tactics book and warm up with chess exercises and down a small orange juice. I feel the tension mounting as game time nears. 10:10 am - Time to set up! I re-enter the playing hall and find that all players will be arranged by highest to lowest ratings. I wonder what spot I am. It turns out I'm 3rd highest rated. Good, I won't be the primary target then. 10:20 - I fill out the scoresheet, settle into my chair, and start focusing on the first moves. I pray that God would allow me to do well, perform well, focus, and glorify Him in this match. 10:27

- Anand arrives! He takes a seat at the head table, pours some water, and calmly surveys the room. He is quiet, calm, and confident, the air of a world champion. 10:35, the last couple players arrive, take seats, and Anand rises. Clapping, excitement, energy, and tension in the room.

The games begin! A firm handshake, quiet smile while looking directly in my eyes, and he confidently plays

**1.c4**

English Opening. Ouch! All my hours of prep just went out the window! I had focused on 1.e4 and 1.d4 as the likeliest candidates. Okay, what to do... hmm... I guess that Anand knew he was playing me ahead of time since our names were printed. If he prepped, what games of mine are in his database? I'm thinking back to several-some games I'm not happy with. I think back to 1993-1994 - Aleksandr Betanelli in the Denker tournament of H.S. Champs - nice win against the English. Okay, two choices... e5 or Nf6? Tough choice and I haven't even made one move! Here he comes! I reach and play

**1...e5**

He instantly responds with

**2.g3**

Okay, what style of game? Closed strategy or tactical aggressive? I remember US Olympiad team coach John Donaldson's advice last week when I asked him for 30 seconds of advice on playing Anand. He said, "Two choices--either pick an open-

ing you want to get schooled in or just go for lots of tactics. In a simul tactics is your best chance!” Okay, decision made, I’m going for attack!

**2...Nf6 3.Bg2 c6 4.Nf3 e4**

Thought for a moment about the passive ...d6... nope, I’m going for it!

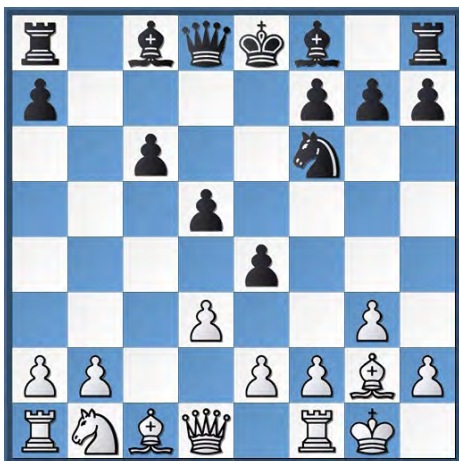
**5.Nd4 d5**

Now, let’s see. In one sense this is a Sicilian reversed - better be careful about imitating the main line of Sicilian since as black I’m behind the tempo!

**6.cxd5**

Here I consider some options such as 6...Qxd5 7.Nb3 Qh5 to attack or 7. Nb3 Nc6 8.Nc3 Qf5 but discard them. e4 pawn is too weak.

**6...cxd5 7.0-0 Nc6 8.Nxc6 bxc6 9.d3**



What will it be, ...Bf5 or ...exd3?

**9...Bf5**

I want to develop and attack! Maybe I can even get in ...Qd7 with a battery and play ...Bh3 at some point!

**10.dxe4**

Okay, I guess he wants to keep it simple. Note, this is the first time he

paused. I wonder what he is looking at.

**10...Bxe4**

I’m happy to trade off white’s fianchettoed Bg2.

**11.Bxe4 Nxe4 12.Qc2**

Hmmm... Intuition says ...Qd7, but can I attack instead? If 12...Bc5 to hit f2, then 13.Nc3. Ouch, if I trade with ...Nxc3, then Qxc3 hits my Bishop on c5 AND g7... what about taking on f2 with ...Bxf2+? Nope, no good - trades my only developed pieces for undeveloped Rook. Maybe...12...Qf6? hmmm... looks reasonable... not so sure though as 13.f3! Nc5... doesn’t feel right... here he comes - have to move. What to do? Ok, intuition wins.

**12...Qd7 13.Nc3**

Hmmm crossroads time! Do we trade or retreat? What’s our plan? What’s his plan? Hanging pawns on d and c files - he wants to blockade on c5, attack c6, maybe even open the center with my king still there! If I go back, Nf6, maybe e4? Na4? Bg5? Rd1? Be3? Here he is already.... I’m not ready! I say “I’ll take a pass” and he moves on to the next board (I am permitted two passes). Okay, if 13...Nxc3 then Qxc3 and he hits g7 and c6 - ouch -don’t like it - can’t develop - besides, if 13...Nf6, then there are ideas... Qh3 plus ...Ng4 to attack! I play

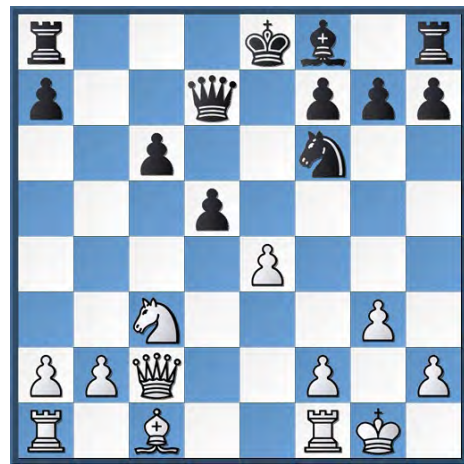
**13...Nf6 14.e4!**

**[Diagram Next Column]**

Okay, here we go! Coming for my king!

**14...Be7**

Better safe than sorry - I want to be



able to castle.

**15.e5**

That move was played fast. Maybe I should have thought more.

**15...Ng4 16.Re1**

Interesting. So now he threatens 17. h3 Nh6 18. Bxh6 gxh6 messing up my pawns - but that could be good for opening some lines - no, I don’t like the pawn structure - too compromising to risk that against a very strong positional player like Anand. Let’s see. Targets on h2 and f2. What about ...Bc5? Moving the bishop again but puts on pressure - then Nd1 Bd4 with the idea of controlling the center. Even... c5 at some point. Maybe even ...Nxe5 with tactics (have to watch out for the pin though). I like it - not passing! So

**16...Bc5!**

He pauses to think.

**17.Nd1 Bd4 18.Bf4**

Okay, what is next? ...h5-h4? ...0-0? ...h5 - oops! e6! Then ...fxe6 Qg6! + Ouch! Can’t allow that! ...0-0? Nope - then 17. h3 Nh6 (g5?! Bxg5 Nxe5 Kg2 and my king is too open) Bxh6 gxh6 (again I don’t like it). So... okay...

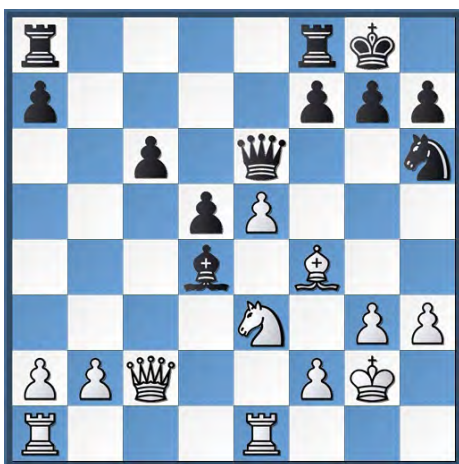
### 18...Qe6

At least I cover c6 and h6, block e5-e6 pawn push, allow Nh6 with recapture by my queen, AND pressure e5 some more - only trouble? Now Re1 lines up with my Queen AND King! Better be careful.

### 19.h3

Let's see - can I get away with ...g5 now? Bxg5 Nxe5 Kg2! And I'm stuck in a nasty pin.

### 19...Nh6 20.Kg2 0-0 21.Ne3



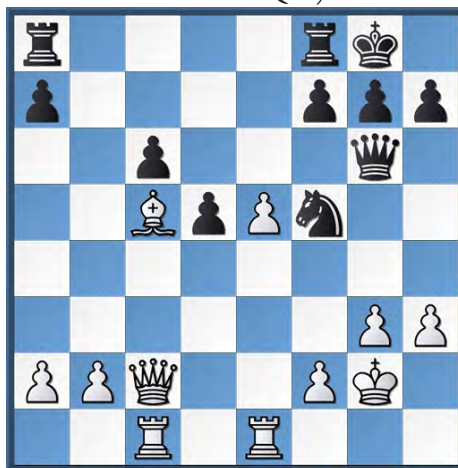
Now what? ...Bxe5? Nope! That would allow Nf1! f6 Bxh6! gxh6 f4! and wins a piece. Hmmm... ... c6 maybe? Feels too committal... but my knight on h6 is stuck now - would like to play ...f6 but then Bxh6... maybe... ...f5? Nope... Ouch - here he comes... What to do... maybe just eliminate the pesky e3 Knight so my Knight can return? Have to move!

### 21...Bxe3 22.Bxe3

And at least we are trading and I'm not afraid of playing an endgame - just don't like him having a Bishop vs Knight with pawns on both sides AND my having three pawn islands to his two.

### 22...Nf5 23.Bc5 Qg6 24.Rac1

(Of course not 24.Bxf8 since then 24...Nh4+ wins the Qc2)



### 24...Rfe8

Can't do much about it, but I see a painful endgame coming where white has a good edge.

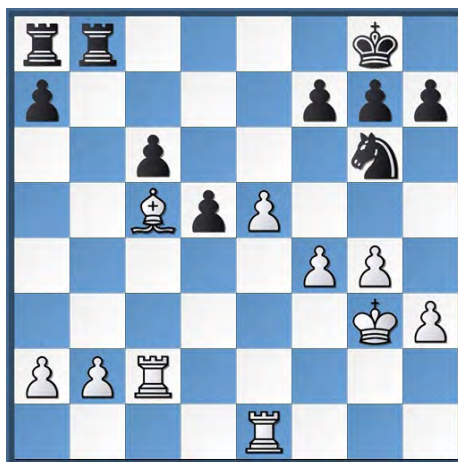
### 25.g4 Nh4+ 26.Kg3

I think for a minute about 26...Qh6 but discard it quickly.

### 26...Qxc2 27.Rxc2 Ng6

Again I consider ...g5 but discard it - putting another pawn on a dark square, weakening, K, etc. etc. I'll just have to suffer... hopefully I can get some activity later on the Q - side or pull off ...f6. I'm already thinking of lines where I give up the c6 pawn by playing ...Ng6-f8, Bxf8, Rxc6, ...Rb8... doesn't look good but no choice here.

### 28.f4 Reb8



Only hope - counterplay!

### 29.f5 Nf8

Now if he takes Bxf8 I have play against b2.

### 30.Bd6

Hmm - maybe trying to get a Rook of mine off the back rank to then try e6, e7 and back rank me... Well - have to get counterplay!

### 30...Rb6 31.b3

Safe, but I think too slow.

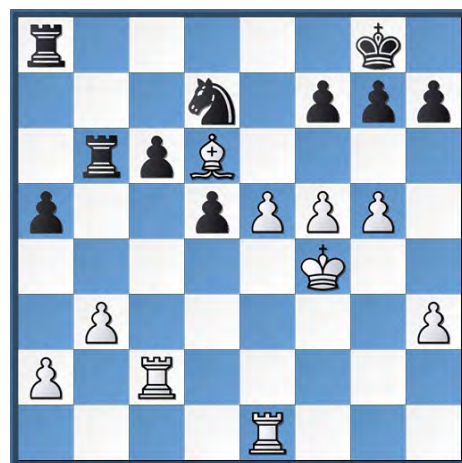
### 31...Nd7 32.Kf4

Really? I was expecting perhaps Bc7 Ra6 33. a4 keeping my Rook inactive, then perhaps try to get me to push my center pawns opening up for white's king to enter... Maybe... c5? Bxc5 Rc6 (pin) followed by a5? hmm... need the pawn on a5 first!!

### 32...a5!

Let's get going! Activate my rooks!

### 33.g5



Also not expected - I can see value but feels slow... and... cool.

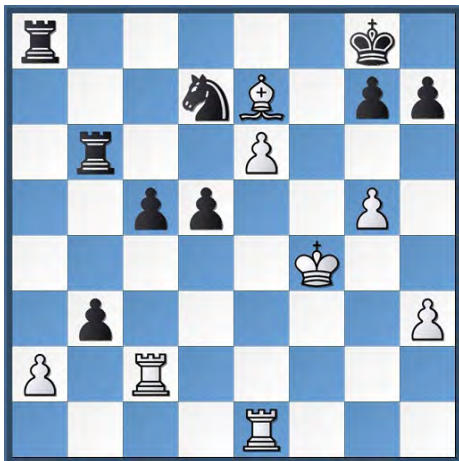
### 33...c5!

The pawn is immune and this also stops e6 for now.

34.Be7 a4!

Trying to open lines for my rooks and get rid of pawns as quickly as possible.

35.e6 fxe6 36.fxe6 axb3!



Idea - 37.exd7 bxc2 38.d8=Q Rxd8 39.Bxd8 Rb1 w/advantage! Many interesting lines here: 38.Rc1! Rc4+ 39.Ke5 Re4+ 40.Kd6 Re2! 41.d8=Q+ Rxd8 42. Bxd8 d4!

37.axb3 Nf8

37...Rb4+ 38.Kf3 Rxb3+ 39.Kg2! Nf8 40.Bxf8 Kxf8 41.e7+ Ke8 42.Rf2! - hmm, doesn't quite feel right, but don't have time to figure it out - perhaps I can hold... And now if Bxf8 Rxf8 + Ke5 Rxe6+!! Kxe6 Re8+ Kxd5 Rxe1 Kxc5 Re3.

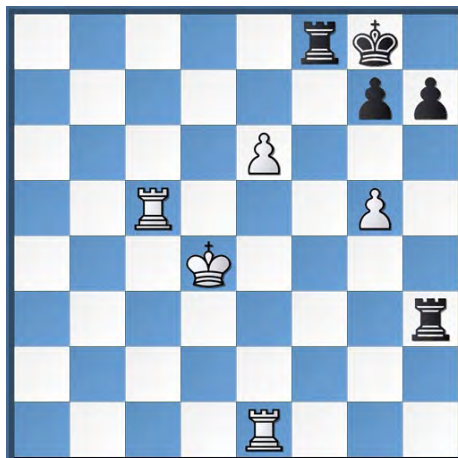
38.Bxf8 Rxf8+ 39.Ke5

Okay, should I do it? Rook sac? hmm - he would still have an outside passed 'b' pawn - I can probably win the g-pawn - then it becomes a race as I will have to sac my Rook for b-pawn... hmm. Not so sure now... maybe just take the b-pawn... then if I can put my rook on e8 Kf7 Rf3 to stop R checks on f-file(?), I think I can hold... okay - have to move - I prefer less committed and keep both rooks on.

39...Rxb3 40.Rxc5

Perhaps he is planning to play Kd6! behind my d-pawn so I can't check from behind him, then e7 becomes a major threat.

40...d4! 41.Kxd4 Rxb3



Two pawns left. Hope I can hold the position.

42.Ke5 Rd3

Hoping for 43.Rd5 Rxd5+ 44.Kxd5 Ra8! with draw.

43.e7

Uh oh. I see a plan... Ke6 stopping my Rf7 idea - Then Rook from c5 maneuver to d7 - if trade, Kxd7 wins because e8=Q is coming. What to do... Ahh... lateral checks!

43...Ra8 44.Ke6 Rd2

Holding pattern and stay far away for checking purposes.

45.Rc6

Now some more danger... Rd6 coming - I need to trade more pawns - need to ensure I can get my King to f7 - but not easy - Okay if trades. I'm almost in zugzwang.

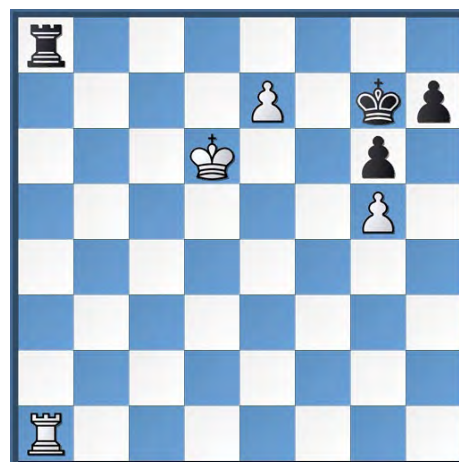
45...g6



*Pictured above is NM Elliott Neff at US Open in Vancouver, WA. Photo credit: Russell "Rusty" Miller.*

Now I can do tempos with Kg7, g8, f7.

46.Rd6 Rxd6+ 47.Kxd6 Kf7 48.Rf1+ Kg7 49.Ra1!



Whoa, didn't see that coming! No choice, here comes a Q vs R end-game... but I think I can hold because of getting my rook to f7.

49...Rxa1 50.e8Q Ra6+ 51.Kc7 Ra7+ 52.Kc6 Rf7 53.Qe5+ Kg8

Stay calm, just keep the rook on f7.

54.Kd6 Rf5 55.Qe6+ Rf7 56.Qc4 Kg7 57.Ke6 Kf8 58.Qc5+ Kg8

Okay only position I have to avoid:

white Ke7 and then Qf6!!

**59.Qd5 Kg7 60.Qd8 Rf5 61.Qc7+ Kg8 62.Qb8+ Kg7 ½-½**

I look up into his eyes - mutual understanding - he smiles and we shake hands.

I suddenly realize - last game going nearly 3.5 hours, and I've just had a draw with the world champion! I breathe a thank you, God! To You be the glory!

## Seattle Chess Club

In events held Oct 5-13 at the Seattle Chess Club the victors were Roland Feng of Seattle in a match, 2-0 over Viktors Pupols of Kingston, Quad A Samuel He of Redmond 2.5-.5, Quad B Gabriel Zlavog of WA and Ralph Anthony of TN 2-1. Quad C August Piper of Seattle 3-0 and the 6 player Mini-Swiss Sujalha Chalasani of Bothell with 2.5-.5. Fred Kleist handled the TD tasks.

There was a two way tie for first in the Seattle CC October Tornado held Oct 7. Marcell Sabo of Seattle and Masayuki Nagase of Redmond both scored 3.5-.5. 19 players took part under the direction of Fred Kleist.

The Seattle Chess Club held their annual Fall Open at the club meeting rooms on Sept 21-23. 30 players took part in the Open Section, Dereque Kelley of Seattle topped the 30 players with 4.5-.5. The draw game was with young Roland Feng of Seattle. Joth Ramesh of Shoreline won the Reserve Section in which 29 players took part. He scored also 4.5-.5. His draw was with Jan Buzek of Seattle. Fred and Carol Kleist were the tournament directors.

Last month we reported on the

Washington Sr. Adult Championship held at Seattle CC and won by Paul Bartron. Here is the deciding game between the winner and Mark Trevor Smith.

**White: Bartron, Paul  
Black: Smith, Mark**

**[B08]** WA Sr. Adult Championship, September 8, 2012

**1.e4 g6 2.d4 Bg7 3.Nf3 d6 4.Nc3 c6 5.Bc4 Nf6 6.Bb3 0-0 7.0-0 Bg4 8.h3 Bxf3 9.Qxf3 e5 10.dxe5 dxe5 11.Bg5 Nbd7 12.Rad1 Qc7 13.Rd2 h6 14.Bh4 g5 15.Bg3 Nc5 16.Qf5 Nh5 17.Bc4 b5 18.Be2 Nf4 19.Bxf4 exf4 20.Qxc5 f3 21.Bxf3 Qf4 22.Qe3 Qh4 23.Bg4 1-0**

## Tacoma Chess Club

The Autumn Equinox Open was held at the Tacoma CC on Sept 29. **Eric Woodlief** won 3-0 in the 6 player event. Eric had not played any USCF rated chess since 2007. **Gary Dorfner** was the TD.

## Yasser Update: GMs Akobian and Ramirez helping Seirawan in Saint Louis

Grandmaster Yasser Seirawan has returned to Amsterdam for an extended hiatus, but he will return to the Chess Club and Scholastic Center of Saint Louis (CCSCSL) on November 20. While he is away, two GMs who have extensive knowledge of Saint Louis and the Chess Club will fill in during his absence. From October 16 through October 22, and then again from October 30 through November 8, GM Varuzhan Akobian will serve as the CCSCSL's Acting Resident Grand-



*Pictured above are Seattle CC stalwarts, Fred Kleist and Carol Mayer Kleist. Photo credits: Russell "Rusty" Miller.*

master. GM Alejandro Ramirez, who will be in town competing in the SPICE Cup, will fill in October 21 through October 28.

Rotating Resident GM Schedule:

GM Varuzhan Akobian: October 16-22 and October 30-November 8

GM Alejandro Ramirez: October 21-28

GM Yasser Seirawan: November 20-December 20

Akobian has participated in all four of the U.S. Championships that were held at the CCSCSL and has been back numerous times for lectures and other special events. GM Alejandro Ramirez previously has filled in as Acting Resident Grandmaster and has played in major tournaments at the Chess Club includ-

ing the 2012 U.S. Championship. He has also served as a Grandmaster instructor for the Chess Club's Summer Camp program.

## Two NW players on 2013 All-America Team

USCF has announced the 2013 All-America Team sponsored by Trophies Plus. Two Northwest players, Luke Harmon-Vellotti of Idaho (age 13, minimum peak rating 2250) and Roland Feng of Washington (age 11, minimum peak rating 2150) were among those named to the team. Team members will receive their Team Jackets and plaques at the 2012 National K-12 Grade Championship to be held this November in Orlando, FL.

The All-America Team was created in 1987 to honor the very best players ages 18 and under. The team, one of the highest national honors attainable by a young chess player, is selected on the basis of age, rating, and activities during that year, similar to the selection process of "all conference" sports teams. This year's candidates were selected based on their age as of January 1, 2012, and their peak post-tournament rating from July 1, 2011 through June 30, 2012. Since this award is a "post-season" selection, the minimum rating limits in each age group are reviewed annually by the USCF staff and the USCF Scholastic Council.

## U.S. Chess League

Week 4 - Baltimore (1.5) vs Seattle (2.5) Seattle wins. Bd 1: GM Giorgi Margvelashvili (BAL) vs FM Costin Cozianu (SEA) 1-0; Bd. 2: FM Slava Mikhailuk (SEA) vs IM Nazi Paikidze (BAL) 1-0; Bd. 3: NM

Adithya Balasubramanian (BAL) vs FM Curt Collyer (SEA) 1/2-1/2; Bd. 4: NM Joshua Sinanan (SEA) vs NM Ricky Selzler (BAL) 1-0.

White: Mikhailuk-SEA (2415)  
Black: Paikidze-BAL (2444)

[A07] ICC, Sept 24, 2012

1.Nf3 d5 2.g3 Nf6 3.Bg2 c6 4.0-0 Bf5 5.d3 e6 6.Nfd2 Bg6 7.e4 Nbd7 8.f4 dxe4 9.dxe4 Bc5+ 10.Kh1 0-0 11.Qe2 Qe7 12.Nc3 Bb4 13.Nd1 Bxd2 14.Bxd2 Bh5 15.Qe3 Qc5 16.Qxc5 Nxc5 17.Nf2 Rfd8 18.Be3 Na4 19.h3 Be2 20.Rfe1 Ba6 21.Nd1 b5 22.b3 Nb6 23.Nb2 Bb7 24.a4 Nc8 25.Nd3 Nd7 26.e5 bxa4 27.Rxa4 Ncb6 28.Ra5 Nd5 29.Bxa7 Ne7 30.b4 Nb8 31.Rea1 Nd7 32.Kh2 Nd5 33.c4 Ne7 34.Bc5 Nf5 35.g4Nh4 36.Be4 Rxa5 37.Rxa5 f5 38.Bh1 Nf8 39.Bd6 fxe4 40.hxe4 h5 41.Kg3 Nhg6 42.Ra7 h4+ 43.Kh3 Ra8 44.Rxa8 Bxa8 45.f5 Nh8 46.c5 Nf7 47.b5 Nd8 48.Be7  
Black resigns 1-0

White: Adithya-BAL (2345)  
Black: Collyer-SEA (2294)

[B00] ICC, Sept 24, 2012

1.e4 b6 2.d4 Bb7 3.Bd3 Nf6 4.Qe2 Nc6 5.c3 e5 6.Nf3 d6 7.Nbd2 Nd7 8.Nc4 Be7 9.Ne3 exd4 10.cxd4 Nb4 11.Bb1 0-0 12.a3 Nc6 13.0-0 Re8 14.Ba2 Bf6 15.Qc4 Rf8 16.Nd5 Rc8 17.Re1 Ne7 18.Nxf6+ Nxf6 19.e5 Ne4 20.Qd3 d5 21.Ng5 Nxe5 22.Bxe5 Qd7 23.Bb1 Ng6 24.Qf3 Rce8 25.Bf5 Qb5 26.b4 h6 27.Bd3 Qd7 28.Bd2 c5 29.Bf5 Qc7 30.bxc5 Nh4 31.Qg4 Nxf5 32.Qxf5 bxc5 33.Rac1 Re6 34.Rxc5 Qb6 35.Rb1 Qa6 36.Rc7 Bc8 37.Bb4 Rc6 38.Rxc6 Qxc6 39.Qf4 Re8 40.Rc1 Qb6 41.h3 Be6 42.Rc5

Rc8 43.Qe3 Rxc5 44.dxc5 Qc6 45.f4 Bc8 46.Kh2 a6 47.Qd3 Bb7 48.Qd4 Bc8 49.Bc3 Qe6 50.g4 h5 51.f5 Qd7 52.Kg3 hxe4 53.hxe4 Kf8 54.Bb4 Qc6 55.Kf4 Qh6+ 56.Kg3 Qc6 57.Qf4 Kg8 58.f6 Qb5 59.Qd4 Be6 60.Kf2 Qa4 61.Qc3 Qc6 62.Qc1 gxf6 63.exf6 Kf8 64.Qf4 Ke8 65.Qb8+ Kd7 66.Qe5 a5 67.Bd2 Qxc5+ 68.Be3 Qxa3 69.g5 Qd3 70.Qb2 Qa6 71.Qa3 Qd6 72.Qa4+ Qc6 73.Qxa5 Qc2+ 74.Bd2 Qf5+ 75.Ke2 Qe4+ 76.Kd1 Qb1+ 77.Bc1 Qd3+ 78.Ke1 Qe4+ 79.Kd2 Qd4+ 80.Ke1 Qe4+ 81.Kf2 Qf5+ 82.Ke1 Qe4+ 83.Kf2 Qf5+ 84.Ke1 Qe4+ 85.Kf2 Game drawn by repetition 1/2-1/2

White: Sinanan-SEA (2263)  
Black: Selzler-BAL (2242)

[D46] ICC, Sept 24, 2012

1.d4 d5 2.c4 c6 3.Nf3 Nf6 4.Nc3 e6 5.e3 Nbd7 6.Qc2 Bd6 7.Bd3 dxc4 8.Bxc4 b5 9.Be2 Bb7 10.0-0 0-0 11.Rd1 Qe7 12.e4 e5 13.Bg5 b4 14.dxe5 Nxe5 15.Nd4 Bc5 16.Na4 Bxd4 17.Rxd4 h6 18.Bxf6 Qxf6 19.Rxb4 Bc8 20.Rd1 Qg6 21.Qc3 Re8 22.Qg3 Qf6 23.Rbd4 Ng6 24.Bc4 Be6 25.Rd6 Nf4 26.Nc3 Rab8 27.b3 Qe5 28.Bf1 c5 29.Qe3 Qg5 30.Kh1 Bg4 31.f3 Bh5 32.g3 Ne6 33.f4 Qe7 34.Rd7 Qf8 35.R1d5 Bg4 36.h3 Nxf4 37.Qxf4 Bxd7 38.Rxd7 Rbd8 39.Rxa7 Re7 40.Rxe7 Qxe7 41.Nd5 Qa7 42.a4 Qa5 43.Bc4 Qe1+ 44.Kg2 Kh8 45.h4 Re8 46.Ne3 f6 47.Bd5 Qd2+ 48.Qf2 Qc3 49.Nf5 c4 50.Qa7 Qc2+ 51.Kh3 Black resigns 1-0

Week 5 - St. Louis (3) vs. Seattle (1). St. Louis wins. Bd.1: GM Ben Finegold (STL) vs FM Costin Cozianu (SEA) 1-0; Bd. 2: FM Slava Mikhailuk (SEA) vs IM Priyadharshan Kannappan (STL) 0-1; Bd. 3:

IM Levan Bregadze (STL) vs FM Curt Collyer (SEA) 1-0; Bd. 4: NM Joshua Sinanan (SEA) vs Matthew Larson (SEA) 1-0

**White: Sinanan-SEA**

**Black: Larson-STL**

[D76] ICC, Oct 4, 2012

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.g3 Bg2 4.Bg2 d5 5.cxd5 Nxd5 6.Nf3 Nb6 7.Nc3 Nc6 8.e3 0-0 9.0-0 Re8 10.Re1 a5 11.Qe2 e5 12.Nxe5 Nxe5 13.dxe5 Bxe5 14.e4 Be6 15.f4 Bxc3 16.bxc3 Bd5 17.Qf2 Bc6 18.Ba3 Nc4 19.Rad1 Qf6 20.Bc5 Rad8 21.Bd4 Qe6 22.f5 Qd6 23.g4 Ne5 24.Qf4 Nc4 25.Qh6 Qf8 26.Qh4 Qd6 27.Rd3 f6 28.Rh3 Rd7 29.fxg6 Ne5 30.gxh7+ Kh8 31.Rf1 Re6 32.Qh6 Rg7 33.Qxg7+ 1-0

Week 6 (commentary courtesy of Joshua Sinanan) – Seattle (2) vs Manhattan (2). Bd 1: FM Costin Cozianu (SEA) vs GM Vladimir Romanenko (MAN) 1/2-1/2; IM Dmitry Schneider (MAN) vs FM Marcel Milat (SEA) 1/2-1/2; NM Joshua Sinanan (SEA) vs NM Andrew Shvartsman (MAN) 1-0; NM Alex King (MAN) vs NM Peter Lessler (SEA) 1-0

The Sluggers drew a close match in the final week of inter-division play against the Manhattan Apple-sauce. Costin found himself on the white side of the Stonewall Dutch this time against GM Romanenko. Black exchanged dark square bishops early and Costin gained a slight advantage which he was able to carry into the endgame. A classic good knight vs. bad bishop endgame resulted, but Costin was not able to make progress and Romanenko held the draw comfortably. Marcel brought out his favorite Alekhine's Defense against IM

Schneider on board 2. White chose to sac a bishop for 3 pawns on the king side, which caught Marcel by surprise and seemed to give black a solid advantage. Marcel increased his advantage by finding a few nice computer moves like 17...Qg6 and 19...Bxd4!+, but unfortunately blundered with 34...d5?, which left him worse despite being up the exchange. Marcel correctly gave material back to enter a theoretically drawn rook and pawn ending.

Josh played the fianchetto line against NM Shvartsman's King's Indian on board 3. They followed Carlsen v. The World for 10 moves, until black deviated with 10...cxd5. A typical middle game emerged, with black breaking with f5 and white attacking on the queenside. Fortunately for Josh, Shvartsman never quite got his attack going and Josh was able to maneuver my knights into the weakened squares b5 and c6, which prompted black to part with the light-square bishop. After a few exchanges, black sacrificed a pawn for to activity but quickly lost two more and the resulting position was untenable.

Peter was black against 2300-rated NM King on board 4, this time employing the Benko himself after facing it in week 1 with white. He wisely avoided the Rb1 line with 9...Nfd7 and a typical Benko middle game ensued. Peter went astray with 19...c4, which allowed the strong reply of 20. a5 followed by b4, which gave King two connected pawns on the queenside. Black tried to best he could

to drum up some counter play, but white's position was too solid and he was able to eventually penetrate with his queen on the kingside. A queen v. 2 rooks ending resulted, with white's extra pawns eventually deciding the game in his favor.

**White: Cozianu-SEA**

**Black: Romanenko-MAN**

[A90] ICC, Oct 11, 2012

1.d4 f5 2.g3 Nf6 3.Bg2 e6 4.Nf3 d5 5.c4 Bb4+ 6.Bd2 Bxd2+ 7.Nbxd2 0-0 8.Rc1 Nc6 9.e3 Qd6 10.a3 a5 11.0-0 Ne4 12.Qc2 Bd7 13.Ne5 Nxe5 14.dxe5 Qxe5 15.cxd5 exd5 16.Qxc7 Qxc7 17.Rxc7 Bc6 18.Nf3 Rfc8 19.Rxc8+ Rxc8 20.Rc1 Kf7 21.Nd4 Bd7 22.Rxc8 Bxc8 23.f4 Ke7 24.Bxe4 dxe4 25.Kf2 Kd6 26.Ke2 Kc5 27.Kd2 Kc4 28.b3+ Kc5 29.Kc3 Bd7 30.Nc2 b6 31.Nd4 g6 32.b4+ axb4+ 33.axb4+ Kd5 34.Kb3 h6 35.h4 h5 36.Ne2 Bb5 37.Nc3+ Kc6 38.Ka3 Bc4 39.Kb2 Bd3 40.Kb3 b5 41.Kb2 Kd6 42.Kc1 Kc6 43.Kd2 Bc4 44.Ke1 Kd6 45.Kd2 Kc6 46.Nd1 Kd5 47.Nc3+ Kc6 48.Nd1 Kd5 49.Nc3+ Kc6 50.Nd1 Kd5 51.Nc3+ Kc6 1/2-1/2

**White: Schneider-MAN**

**Black: Milat-SEA**

[B03] ICC, Oct 11, 2012

1.e4 Nf6 2.e5 Nd5 3.d4 d6 4.c4 Nb6 5.exd6 exd6 6.Nc3 Be7

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7.Bd3 0-0 8.Nge2 Nc6 9.b3 Bg4  
 10.Qc2 Nb4 11.Bxh7+ Kh8 12.Qb1  
 g6 13.Bxg6 fxe6 14.Qxg6 Qe8  
 15.Qh6+ Kg8 16.0-0 Bf6 17.Qd2  
 Qg6 18.f3 Bh3 19.Nf4 Bxd4+  
 20.Qxd4 Rxf4 21.Qf2 Rf7 22.Ne4  
 Nd3 23.Qg3 Qxg3 24.Nxg3 Bd7  
 25.Be3 Re8 26.Bd4 c5 27.Rad1  
 Nf4 28.Ba1 Ne2+ 29.Kf2 Nxg3  
 30.hxg3 Rfe7 31.Rd2 Bc6 32.Rc1  
 Re6 33.g4 R8e7 34.Rcd1 d5  
 35.cxd5 Nxd5 36.Rxd5 Re2+  
 37.Kg3 Bxd5 38.Rxd5 Rxa2  
 39.Bf6 Ree2 40.Rd7 Rxg2+  
 41.Kf4 Ra6 42.g5 Rxf6+ 43.gxf6  
 b5 44.Rxa7 c4 45.bxc4 bxc4  
 46.Rc7 Rf2 47.Ke3 Rc2 48.Ke4  
 Rf2 49.f4 c3 50.Rxc3 Kf7 51.Kf5  
 Ra2 52.Rc7+ Kf8 53.Rb7 Ra1  
 54.Re7 Ra2 55.Rh7 Ra1 56.Rd7  
 Ra2 57.Rd5 Kf7 58.Rb5 Ra7  
 59.Kg5 Rc7 60.Re5 Rc1 61.Re7+  
 Kf8 62.Ra7 Rb1 63.Kf5 Rb2  
 64.Ke5 Re2+ 65.Kf5 Rb2 66.Rh7  
 Ra2 67.Rb7 Ra1 68.Rd7 Ra2 69.f7  
 Ra6 70.Ke5 Rb6 71.f5 Ra6 72.Rb7  
 Rc6 73.Kf4 Rc1 74.Kg5 Rg1+  
 75.Kf6 Rg6+ 76.fxe6 1/2-1/2

White: Sinanan-SEA  
 Black: Shvartsman-MAN

[E62] ICC, Oct 11, 2012

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.g3 Bg7 4.Bg2  
 0-0 5.Nc3 d6 6.Nf3 Nc6 7.0-0  
 e5 8.d5 Ne7 9.e4 c6 10.a4 cxd5  
 11.cxd5 Ne8 12.Ne1 f5 13.Nd3  
 Nf6 14.f3 Bd7 15.Qb3 Rb8 16.Be3  
 b6 17.Nb5 Nc8 18.Nb4 Rb7  
 19.Nc6 Bxc6 20.dxc6+ Rbf7  
 21.Bh3 a6 22.Nc3 d5 23.Nxd5  
 Nxd5 24.Qxd5 Qxd5 25.exd5  
 Rd8 26.Rfd1 Bf8 27.Bf1 f4 28.gxf4  
 exf4 29.Bf2 a5 30.Rac1 Bd6  
 31.Bh3 Re7 32.Kf1 Re5 33.Bxc8  
 Rxc8 34.Bxb6 Rh5 35.Rc2 Kf7  
 36.Bxa5 Ra8 37.c7 Rc8 38.b4 Ke7  
 39.b5 Kd7 40.b6 Re5 41.b7 Rxc7  
 42.b8Q 1-0

White: King-MAN  
 Black: Lessler-SEA

[A58] ICC, Oct 11, 2012

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 c5 3.d5 b5 4.cxb5  
 a6 5.bxa6 g6 6.Nc3 Bxa6 7.g3  
 Bg7 8.Bg2 d6 9.Nf3 Nfd7 10.h4  
 h6 11.Bd2 Nb6 12.b3 0-0 13.Qc1  
 h5 14.Bh6 N8d7 15.Bxg7 Kxg7  
 16.0-0 Ra7 17.Qb2 Kg8 18.a4  
 Qa8 19.Rfd1 c4 20.a5 Nc8 21.b4  
 Rb7 22.Nd4 Na7 23.Rab1 Nb5  
 24.Nc6 Re8 25.Rdc1 e6 26.dxe6  
 fxe6 27.Nxb5 Bxb5 28.Nd4 d5  
 29.e4 Ne5 30.Nxb5 Nd3 31.Qf6  
 Rxb5 32.Qxg6+ Kf8 33.exd5  
 Nxc1 34.Rxc1 exd5 35.Rxc4  
 dxc4 36.Bxa8 Rxa8 37.Qf6+  
 Kg8 38.Qe6+ Kg7 39.Qxc4 Rab8  
 40.a6 Rxb4 41.a7 1-0

Week 7 – Miami (1) vs. Seattle (3).  
 Seattle wins. Bd.1: GM Julio Becerra  
 (MIA) vs IM Georgi Orlov (SEA)  
 1/2-1/2; Bd. 2: FM Costin Cozianu  
 (SEA) vs SM Robert Perez (MIA)  
 1/2-1/2; Bd. 3: FM Eric Rodriguez  
 (MIA) vs FM Curt Collyer (SEA)  
 0-1; Bd. 4: Michael Omori (SEA) vs  
 Nicholas Rosenthal (MIA) 1-0

White: Rodriguez-MIA (2383)  
 Black: Collyer-SEA (2294)

[A40] ICC, Oct 15, 2012

1.d4 b6 2.c4 c5 3.d5 e5 4.Nc3  
 d6 5.g3 Nf6 6.Bg2 g6 7.e4 Bg7  
 8.Nge2 0-0 9.0-0 Ne8 10.f4 exf4  
 11.gxf4 a6 12.a4  
 Ra7 13.Ra3  
 f5 14.Kh1 Re7  
 15.Ng3 Kh8  
 16.Rb3 Bd4  
 17.Nce2 Bf6  
 18.Nc3 Ng7  
 19.e5 dxe5  
 20.fxe5 Bxe5  
 21.Bg5 Bf6  
 22.Bxf6 Rxf6

23.Nce4 Rxe4 24.Bxe4 fxe4  
 25.Rxf6 Qxf6 26.Nxe4 Qe5  
 27.Qf3 Bf5 28.Re3 Qd4 29.Nd6  
 Nd7 30.Nf7+ Kg8 31.Nh6+ Kf8  
 32.Qg3 Qd1+ 33.Kg2 Qd2+  
 34.Kg1 Qd1+ 35.Kf2 Qd2+ 36.Kf1  
 Qd1+ 37.Kg2 Qd2+ 38.Qf2  
 Qxf2+ 39.Kxf2 Bc2 40.Rc3 Bd1  
 41.Rd3 Bc2 42.Rc3 Bd1 43.Ke1  
 Bh5 44.a5 Ne8 45.Re3 bxa5  
 46.Re6 Nef6 47.h3 Kg7 48.Ng4  
 Nxg4 49.hxg4 Bxg4 50.Rxa6 Kf7  
 51.Kd2 h5 52.Rxa5 h4 53.Ke3 g5  
 54.Ra1 Bf5 55.Rf1 Kf6 56.b4 cxb4  
 57.Kd4 b3 58.Rf2 g4 59.c5 g3  
 60.Re2 Nxc5 61.Kxc5 h3 White  
 resigns 0-1

Note: ICC=Internet Chess Club

Standings after 7 weeks:

Eastern Division	W	L	Game Points	Opps Avg Rating
Philadelphia	4.5	2.5	15.5/28 (55%)	2395
New York	4.0	3.0	15.0/28 (54%)	2410
Baltimore	4.0	3.0	14.0/28 (50%)	2413
New Jersey	4.0	3.0	13.5/28 (48%)	2381
Manhattan	3.5	3.5	14.0/28 (50%)	2424
Connecticut	3.5	3.5	14.0/28 (50%)	2387
Boston	3.0	4.0	14.0/28 (50%)	2409
New England	3.0	4.0	14.0/28 (50%)	2388

Western Division	W	L	Game Points	Opps Avg Rating
Dallas	5.0	2.0	18.0/28 (64%)	2384
St. Louis	4.5	2.5	17.5/28 (63%)	2404
Seattle	4.5	2.5	14.0/28 (50%)	2398
Arizona	3.5	3.5	14.5/28 (52%)	2398
Miami	3.0	4.0	11.5/28 (41%)	2396
Carolina	2.0	5.0	12.0/28 (43%)	2399
San Francisco	2.0	5.0	11.5/28 (41%)	2394
Los Angeles	2.0	5.0	11.0/28 (39%)	2394

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# Idaho Chess News

by Jeffrey Roland

## Cody Gorman Wins Eastern Idaho Open with perfect 5-0 score

Initially ranked 5th by USCF rating (1383), 16-year-old Cody Gorman, of Eagle, ID, swept the field with a perfect 5-0 score at the 2012 Eastern Idaho Open in Pocatello, ID over the September 22-23 weekend. Nobody has been able to achieve a perfect score in this event since Ed Garner of Glendale, AZ did it back in 1975, and this is the 15th Eastern Idaho Open since then. What makes this achievement even more spectacular is that Cody is completely self taught and has been playing in chess tournaments for less than a year. Jay Simonson was the Tournament Director.



*Cody Gorman in Round 2 of the Eastern Idaho Open. Photo credit: Jeffrey Roland*

In the Open group, former Idaho State Champion, Hans Morrow, who now resides in Farmington, UT was second place (1½ points behind Cody Gorman) with 3½ points, and there was a 3-way tie for 3rd-5th place between Gary Owen (Evanston, WY), Michael Corrigan (Whiting, VT), and Jeff Roland (Boise), each with 3 points.

In the Reserve group Gary Hollingsworth (Pocatello) and Adam Porth (Bellevue, ID) tied for 1st-2nd place each with 3 points, followed by a tie for 3rd-4th between Joe Avila (Pocatello) and Lloyd Blake (Boise) each with 2 points.

Jay Simonson, Tournament Director, combined the two sections into one for pairing purposes. Four states were represented. One player came all the way from Vermont (on

his way to Montana), one player from Utah, one player from Wyoming, and the other 11 players came from Idaho. The turnout was light possibly due to the bad air quality conditions caused by the forest fires in the Northwest. It was so bad that people were advised to stay indoors.

**White: Gorman, Cody (1383)**

**Black: Owen, Gary (1587)**

[A01] Eastern Idaho Open  
Pocatello, ID, R5, Sept 23, 2012

[Notes by Cody Gorman]

**1.b3 Nf6 2.Bb2 e6**

I was expecting 2...g6 in which he would go into a King's Indian Defense. On this move, I figured black was delaying his d5 push until he was sure of what I was planning.

**3.Nf3 d5 4.e3 Be7 5.Be2 0-0 6.0-0 c5 7.Ne5**

This prepares 8.f4 and a possible kingside attack later in the game.

**7...Nc6**

I was expecting 7...Nbd7 in which I would have continued 8.f4 and in the event black plays 8...Nxe5 9.fxe5, I would have an open f file and my e5 pawn would cramp black's position.

**8.Nxc6**

I could have still played 8.f4, but I like doubling the c pawns. It is not a bad weakness, but the pawns can be weak in the endgame.

**8...bxc6 9.f4 a5 10.d3 Qb6 11.Nd2 c4!?**



This is an interesting move by black. I did not see black getting any kind of advantage after I either defended e3 or took on c4.

**12.d4**

As I look back on it, I do not think this was a good move for me. This solidifies the pawn chain and weakens the light squares. Even after fifteen minutes of thinking, I was uncertain of taking on c4. Now, I believe that 12.dxc4! would have been the best option. The line would continue: 12...Qxe3+ 13.Kh1 and no matter what black played, I would play 14.Rf3 with tempo followed by 15.Bd3, and

black's kingside is vulnerable to a bishop sacrifice on h7 followed by bringing the rook and queen to the h file with a decisive attack.

**12...cxb3 13.cxb3 Ba6**

Getting rid of black's bad bishop.

**14.Bxa6 Rxa6 15.Qc1**

Prepares 16.Ba3

**15...Ng4 16.Re1 c5 17.Ba3 Rc8 18.Qc3 Ra7**

This avoids the loss of the c5 pawn.

**19.h3 Nf6 20.dxc5 Bxc5 21.Bxc5 Rxc5 22.Qd4 Rac7 23.Rac1!**

Due to the pin on the c5 rook and the lack of loft for the black king, taking on c1 is not a good idea. This allows me to challenge black's superior heavy pieces.

**23...Qb4 24.Rxc5 Qxc5 25.Nf3 Ne4 26.Qxc5 Rxc5 27.Nd4**

This prevents black from getting a great position with Rc2.

**Nd6 28.Rb1 g6!?**

Black should have begun to bring his king to the center.

**29.Rb2 Rc1+ 30.Kf2 Ne4+ 31.Ke2 Rg1 32.Kf3 Rf1+ 33.Kg4 h5+ 34.Kh4**

I expected every move black made since 29.Rb2. There was no checkmate, and I felt that I could now advance my queenside majority.

**34...Rc1 35.Rc2 Rxc2 36.Nxc2 Nc3 37.a3 f6**

Defends the dark squares from my king.

**38.Kg3**

My king now begins his journey to the queenside.

**38...e5 39.Kf2 Kf7 40.Ke1 Ke6 41.Kd2 Nb5 42.a4!**

This forces the black knight back.

**42...Nd6 43.b4 Nc4+ 44.Kc3**

Black's knight is on a bad square and I will have a great passed rook pawn.

## 2012 Eastern Idaho Open Crosstable

	Player	Residence	USCF	1	2	3	4	5	Score
1	Cody Gorman	Eagle	1383	W8	W5	W4	W2	W3	5
2	Hans Morrow	Farmington, UT	1900	W13	D3	W6	L1	W4	3½
3	Gary Owen	Evanston, WY	1587	W11	D2	W5	D7	L1	3
4	Gary Hollingsworth	Pocatello	1365	W10	W7	L1	W8	L2	3
5	Michael Corrigan	Whiting, VT	1767	W9	L1	L3	W12	W8	3
6	Adam Porth	Bellevue	1304	W14	D13	L2	W11	D7	3
7	Jeffrey T. Roland	Boise	1700	W12	L4	W10	D3	D6	3
8	Joe L. Avila	Pocatello	655	L1	-B-	W9	L4	L5	2
9	Lloyd Blake	Boise	1061	L5	W12	L8	D10	D11	2
10	Jacob Nathan	Idaho Falls	665	L4	W11	L7	D9	L12	1½
11	Isaac Blake	Boise	752	L3	L10	W12	L6	D9	1½
12	Kerry Shirts	Idaho Falls	789	L7	L9	L11	L5	W10	1
13	Carmen Pemsler	Eagle	1226	L2	D6	---	---	---	½
14	Brian Curtis	Pocatello	Unr.	L6	---	---	---	---	0

44...Kd6 45.bxa5 Nxa5 46.Kb4  
Nc4 47.Kb5 g5

Trying to have counter play on the kingside.

48.fxg5 fxg5 49.e4!

The black knight's outpost on c4 does not look safe anymore. Now, black must move his knight far away from the a pawn.

49...Nd2 50.exd5

I could have still won by playing 50.a5, but I wanted to play it safe without worry from black's e pawn.

50...Kxd5 51.Ne3+

51.a5 would still win here.

51...Kd4

Another option would have been 51...Kd6 52.a5 Kc7.

52.Nf5+

I wanted to keep my knight on the board. I am going to promote, but I wanted the rest of the game after the promotion to be easy.

52...Kd5 53.a5 Nb3 54.a6 Ke4  
55.Ng3+ Kd3 56.a7 Nd4+ 57.Kb6  
h4 58.Nh5 e4 59.a8Q e3 60.Qa3+  
Kd2 61.Qa5+ Kd3 62.Qxg5 Kd2  
63.Qxh4 Nc2 64.Nf4 1-0

The knight I kept alive wins the game.

**White: Owen, Gary (1587)**  
**Black: Morrow, Hans M. (1900)**

[B54] Eastern Idaho Open  
Pocatello, ID, R2, Sept 22, 2012

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.Nc3 Nc6 4.d4  
cxd4 5.Nxd4 a6 6.Be2 e5 7.Nb3  
Nf6 8.0-0 Be6 9.Be3 Be7 10.Kh1  
0-0 11.f4 exf4 12.Bxf4 Ne5 13.Nd4  
Qc8 14.Qe1 Ng6 15.Bg5 Qc5



Gary Owen (left) and Hans Morrow (right) both former winners of the EIO play to a 55 move draw. Photo credit: Jeffrey Roland

16.Nf5 Qc7 17.Rd1 Rad8 18.Qg3  
Ne8 19.Nxe7+ Nxe7 20.Nd5  
Bxd5 21.exd5 f6

**White: Pemsler, Carmen (1484)**  
**Black: Porth, Adam (1304)**

[A22] Eastern Idaho Open  
Pocatello, ID (R2), Sept 22, 2012



22.Qh3 Ng6 23.Qe6+ Qf7 24.Bg4  
Nc7 25.Qxf7+ Rxf7 26.Be3 Ne5  
27.Bh3 Kf8 28.Bf4 g5 29.Bxe5 fxe5  
30.c4 b6 31.Rxf7+ Kxf7 32.Rf1+  
Ke7 33.Rf5 h6 34.Bg4 Rf8 35.Kg1  
Rxf5 36.Bxf5 Kf6 37.g4 a5 38.Kf2  
Ne8 39.h3 Ng7 40.Be4 Ke7 41.b3  
Kd8 42.a3 Ne8 43.Ke3 Kc7 44.b4  
axb4 45.axb4 Nf6 46.b5 Kd8  
47.Bg6 Ke7 48.Kd3 Nd7 49.Ke3  
Kf6 50.Bf5 Nc5 51.Bc2 Nb7  
52.Bd3 Na5 53.Ke4 Nb3 54.Ke3  
Nc5 55.Bc2 1/2-1/2

1.c4 Nf6 2.Nc3 e5 3.e4 c6 4.d3  
Bb4 5.Nge2 Qb6 6.h3 d5 7.Bd2  
Bc5 8.Be3 d4 9.Na4 Qa5+  
10.Bd2 Bb4 11.b3 Be6 12.a3  
Bxd2+ 13.Qxd2 Qxd2+ 14.Kxd2  
Nbd7 15.Ng3 b5 16.Nb2 Nc5  
17.Kc2 Rb8 18.b4 Ncd7 19.c5 0-0  
20.Be2 Ra8 21.Rhc1 a5 22.Bd1  
axb4 23.axb4 Ra2 24.Rxa2 Bxa2  
25.Ra1 Ra8 26.Kd2 Ra3 27.Ne2  
Nb8 28.Nc1 Na6 29.Rxa2 Rxa2  
30.Nxa2 g5 31.Kc2 h5 32.g4 h4  
33.Kb3 Nc7 34.Nc1 Ne6 35.Ne2  
Nh7 36.Ka3 Nh8 37.Bb3 Ng7  
38.Ng1 Ng6 39.Ne2 Kf8 40.Nd1  
Ke7 41.f3 Kf6 42.Nf2 Ne8 43.Ba2  
Kg7 44.Nc1 Nc7 45.Nb3 Ne7  
46.Na5 Kf8 47.Nb7 f6 48.Nd6  
Ng6 49.Nb7 Ke7 50.Nd6 Nf4  
51.Nf5+ Kf8 52.Bb3 Na6 53.Nh6  
Ne2 54.Ng8 Kg7 55.Ne7 Nb8  
56.Nf5+ Kf8 57.Bd1 Na6 58.Nd6  
Nf4 59.Bb3 Ke7 60.Bf7 Nb8 1/2-1/2

## 2012 Wood River Weekend Progressive

The 2012 Wood River Weekend Progressive chess tournament was held Saturday, October 6 in Hailey, ID. The tournament director (TD) was Jeff Roland with Adam Porth as Assistant TD. Twelve players attended this year's event.

90-year-old Dan Mayers (Sun Valley) participated in his first ever ICA tournament and likely his first ever chess tournament of any kind in Idaho. He did participate in a Simultaneous Exhibition given by Garrett Reynolds a few years ago in Hailey, but that was not a tournament and that to my knowledge is the only other time Dan Mayers played any chess in Idaho. Dan often plays in large national tournaments and travels quite a lot to go to chess tournaments all over the United States. He used to play at the Manhattan Chess Club in the 1950's and even beat Bobby Fischer when Fischer was about 10. As an honored guest in this event, Dan Mayers was given board 1 throughout the entire tournament.

In the Open Section Caleb Kircher (Nampa, ID) and David Sawyer (Boise) tied for 1<sup>st</sup>-2<sup>nd</sup> Place with 3 ½ points each and Cody Gorman (Eagle) was 3<sup>rd</sup> Place with 3 points.

In the Reserve Section Adam Porth (Bellevue) and Jay Simonson (Idaho Falls, ID) tied for 1<sup>st</sup>-2<sup>nd</sup> with 2 points each followed by Matthew Reidy (Sun Valley) in third place with 1 point.

There was also three prizes given out to the top students in the Reserve Section. Jacob Nathan (Idaho Falls) was 1st Place with 1 point, followed by Matthew Reidy (Sun Valley) in 2<sup>nd</sup> Place with 1 point, and in 3<sup>rd</sup> Place was Paul Sawyer (Boise).

The format of this tournament was "progressive" which means that the time control got progressively longer round by round. The time control in round one was Game/30 with 5 second delay, round two was Game/45 with 5 second delay, round three was Game/60 with 5 second delay, and round four was Game/90 with 5 second delay. This made for some interesting chess. Here are two examples.

**White: Gorman,Cody (1383)**

**Black: Kircher,Caleb (1816)**

**[A01]** Wood River Weekend  
Hailey, ID, R2, October 6, 2012

**Game/45;d5 1.b3 d5 2.Bb2 c5 3.e3 Nf6 4.Nf3 Bg4 5.h3 Bxf3 6.Qxf3 Nbd7 7.g4 e5 8.g5 Ne4 9.d3 Nxc5 10.Qxd5 Qc7 11.Be2 Ne6 12.Bg4 0-0-0 13.Bxe6 fxe6 14.Qxe6 Bd6 15.Nd2 Rde8 16.Qg4 Rhf8 17.Qxc7 Re7 18.Qg2 Nf6 19.Ne4 Nxe4 20.Qxe4 Qa5+ 21.Ke2 Kb8 22.a3 Rxf2+ 23.Kxf2 Qd2+ 24.Kf3 Rf7+ 25.Kg4 Qe2+ 26.Kg5 Be7+ 27.Kh6 Rf6+ 28.Kg7 Rg6+ 29.Kf7 Qf2+ 30.Kxe7 Qf6+ 31.Ke8 Rg8+ 32.Kd7 Rd8# 0-1**

**White: Kircher,Caleb (1816)**

**Black: Roland,Jeffrey T. (1716)**

**[A03]** Wood River Weekend  
Hailey, ID, R3, October 6, 2012

**Game/60;d5 1.f4 Nf6 2.b3 g6 3.Bb2 Bg7 4.Nf3 0-0 5.e3 d5 6.Be2 c5 7.0-0 Nc6 8.Bb5 a6 9.Bxc6 bxc6 10.Ne5 Qc7 11.Qc1 Nd7 12.Nxd7 Bxd7 13.Bxc7 Kxc7 14.d3 e5 15.Nd2 Rae8 16.Qb2 f6 17.fxe5 Rxe5 18.e4 Kg8 19.Rae1 d4 20.Nc4 Rh5 21.g3 Be6 22.Rf2 f5 23.Ref1 Bxc4 24.dxc4 Qe5**

## 2012 Wood River Weekend Progressive Crosstable

	Player	Residence	USCF	1	2	3	4	Score
1	Caleb Paul Kircher	Nampa	1816	W10	W3	W9	D2	3½
2	David L. Sawyer	Boise	1925	W6	W9	W5	D1	3½
3	Cody Austin Gorman	Eagle	1383	W12	L1	W7	W5	3
4	Frank A. Niro III	Meridian	1700	W11	L5	W6	D9	2½
5	Dan E. Mayers	Sun Valley	1841	W7	W4	L2	L3	2
6	Shane Taylor	Boise	1381	L2	W8	L4	W11	2
7	Adam Porth	Bellevue	1304	L5	W11	L3	W10	2
8	Jay L. Simonson	Idaho Falls	627	L9	L6	W10	W12	2
9	Jeffrey T. Roland	Boise	1716	W8	L2	L1	D4	1½
10	Jacob Ari Nathan	Idaho Falls	663	L1	W12	L8	L7	1
11	Matthew Carl Reidy	Sun Valley	562	L4	L7	W12	L6	1
12	Paul Sawyer	Boise	134	L3	L10	L11	L8	0

25.exf5 Qe3 26.Qc1 Qxc1 27.Rxc1 Rhx5 28.Rcf1 Rxf2 29.Rxf2 Re8 30.Kf1 Re6 31.Re2 Rf6+ 32.Ke1 Kf7 33.Rf2 Rxf2 34.Kxf2 Kf6 35.Kf3 Ke5 36.Ke2 Ke4 37.h3 h6 38.h4 h5 39.a3 a5 40.a4 Ke5 41.Kd3 Kf5 42.Ke2 Ke4 43.Kf2 d3 44.c3 d2 45.Ke2 d1Q+ 46.Kxd1 Kf3 47.b4 1-0

## Errata

In last month's issue, on page 33, we inadvertently left out moves 29 to 35 of the Harmon-Vellotti vs. Ramirez game. Here is the game in its entirety but this time with the added bonus of having notes by Luke Harmon-Vellotti.

**White: Harmon-Vellotti, Luke**  
**Black: Ramirez, Alejandro**

[A42] World Open, Philadelphia  
2012

[Notes by Luke Harmon-Vellotti]

### 1.d4

I had recently started playing d4, and this was only my third tournament game ever with d4. When Ramirez got to the board, he looked surprised when he saw that I had played d4, which was one of the reasons that I switched to d4 in the first place.

1...g6 2.c4 Bg7 3.Nc3 d6 4.e4 e5

I had never seen this move before, and so I did not know what to play here. The main move here is Nge2, and White is fine. The move I played, Be3, is also fine.

5.Be3 exd4 6.Bxd4 Nf6 7.f3 Nc6 8.Be3 O-O 9.Nge2 Ne5 10.Nd4 a6 11.Be2 c5

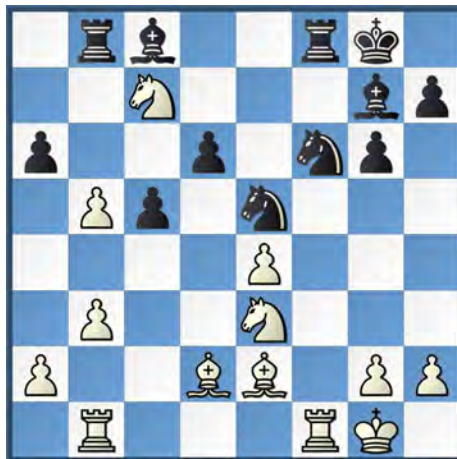
This move surprised me, as I did not think that he would want to weaken his d5 square. I think that he did this because he wanted to

push my knight away from its powerful post on d4.

12.Nc2 Be6 13.b3 Ne8 14.Qd2 Qa5 15.Nd5 Qxd2+ 16.Bxd2 b5 17.O-O Rb8 18.Rab1 f5 19.Nce3 fxe4 20.fxe4 Nf6

Originally, in this position, I had been planning to play Nxf6+ and accept that I had a slightly worse position. However, once I saw that I could play Nc7, I knew I would play it, because it gives him more chances to mess up.

21.Nc7 Bc8 22.cxb5



22...Nxe4??

This move is actually a blunder! This move allows me to get a practically winning endgame by force. His best move was 22...axb5 23.Bxb5 Bb7 24.Rbd1 Nxe4 25.Rxf8+ and now the position is approximately equal, but still very complicated. Bxf8 26.Be1.

23.Rxf8+ Bxf8 24.bxa6 Nxd2

In this position, Ramirez offered me a draw. However, I did not accept this draw because I knew that usually when a higher rated player offers a draw, it means that they have a bad position.

25.a7 Ra8 26.Nxa8 Nxb1 27.Nb6

Bb7 28.Ba6 Nc6 29.Bxb7 Nxa7 30.a4 Na3 31.Nbd5 Kf7 32.Kf1 Ke6 33.Ke2 Bg7 34.Kd3 Kd7 35.Ng4 h5 36.Ngf6+ Ke6

Once again, Ramirez offered me a draw here, and once again, I declined the draw offer, because I knew that I was winning here.

37.Ne4 Be5 38.g3 Kd7 39.Nf4 Nc6 40.Bxc6+ Kxc6 41.Nxg6 Bd4 42.Nf4 d5 43.Nd2 h4 44.gxh4 Be5 45.Ng6 Bxh2 46.h5 Bc7 47.h6 Bd8 48.Ne5+ Kc7 49.Ng4 1-0

Here, Ramirez resigned because he cannot stop my h-pawn from queening. I was very happy, as this was my first ever win with d4!

## Luke Harmon-Vellotti

### #1 Under 14 for both FIDE & USCF

Idaho's Luke Harmon-Vellotti, age 13, is now recognized as the best player in the United States under the age of 14. He has recently obtained the title of FIDE Master and has a USCF rating of 2411, FIDE rating of 2320, and Blitz of 2236.

Sources: [www.sponsorluke.com](http://www.sponsorluke.com) and <http://susanpolgar.blogspot.com/>

## A Conversation with the Editor, Frank Niro – Part III (Con- clusion)

Part I was in the August issue, part II was in the September issue. Due to so much recent activity, great stories, and limited space, the conclusion of this interview will regrettably have to wait until the December issue.

# Oregon Chess News

by Frank Niro

The Portland Chess Club game in 60 tournament for September was held on the 29th. 19 players took part including three unrated players. FIDE Master Nick Raptis won with 4-0. Raptis defeated Yaman Tezcan in the final round to complete the sweep. Tezcan tied with Roland Eagles, Marcus Robinson and Steven Witt for 2nd through 5th places. Mu Lin, Matthew Eheler and Henry Romero all played in their first US-CF-rated event. The TD was Gri-sha Alpernas.

The Annual Portland Chess Club Championship began on October 2 with 14 players participating. After three rounds, Nick Raptis is alone atop the leader board with a perfect 3-0 score. More about this and other PCC events can be found on the club web site at <http://www.pdxchess.org>.

Note that the Portland CC Tuesday Quads were temporarily suspended in October due to the club championship. The quads will resume on November 13 at 7:30 pm. Doors open around 7 pm. Visitors and

spectators are welcome. The format is the substantially the same every month:

**4 Player Round-Robin:** If there are enough players for more than 1 section, players are grouped based on rating (so that you play others who are rated approximately the same). Sometimes can run as 5-6 players Round-Robin or Swiss, depending on number of players and number of Tuesdays in a month.

**Time Control:** 40 moves in 90 minutes, and additional 30 minutes to end the game (40/90 SD/30).

**Entry Fee:** \$15; \$10 club members.

**Membership:** USCF is required and can be purchased/renewed at registration.

**Registration:** 7-7:30 PM; players may pre-register by sending an email with "Tuesday Quads Registration" as the subject line, and you name and USCF ID in the body of the email to [portlandchessclub@gmail.com](mailto:portlandchessclub@gmail.com). Please note that a player must still show up in time for regis-

tration in order to pay the entry fee to the TD.

**Rounds:** Begin each Tuesday @ 7:30 PM,

**Prizes:** Each 4 person section gets a "free entry" (i.e. \$10 worth of discount for entry fee) as a 1st place prize, which can be applied towards entry fee in Tuesday or Saturday Quads tournaments during the next 3 months. No cash substitution and no compensation for unused credit. No tiebreakers used, prizes split between players with the same results.

Speaking of Tuesday nights, the Oregon City-West Linn Chess Club continues to meet every week at 7:30 pm as it has since 1976. Guests, including scholastic players, are always welcome. The playing site is wheelchair accessible and located the lower level of the Pioneer Community Center in Oregon City. Entry is on the Washington Street side of the building. Contact Brian Berger at [susanbrianberger@gmail.com](mailto:susanbrianberger@gmail.com) for more information. Note that this is a new e-mail ad-



*The Cedar Hills Chess Club is a new club in the area that meets Mondays from 5 to 9 pm on the open tables by GNC at Cedar Hills Crossing, 3205 SW Cedar Hills Blvd., Beaverton, OR 97005. Both photos courtesy of Sean Tobin.*



dress for Brian. A complete list of chess clubs in Oregon, Washington and Idaho can be found on the nwchess.com web site. Please report any changes in times, locations, contacts or meeting dates to Eric Holcomb, contact info on page 2.

A Quick Chess tournament (G25;d3) was held on October 1 at Cedar Hills Crossing in Beaverton. Once again, the winner was Nick Raptis with a perfect 6-0 score. Second in the 7-player event was Brian Esler. On the day before, 14 players competed in the Sunday Chess Slam at the same venue. Brian Esler and Yaman Tezcan tied for first with 3.5 points out of 4. Sean Tobin directed both events.

The previous Quick Chess tournament in Beaverton was held on September 10 and won by Robert Herrera with 3.5/4. Herrera upset FM Charles Schulien in Round 1 of the Game 25 plus 3-second delay event. Sean Tobin directed assisted by Sean O'Connell. Twelve players took part.

Alexandra Botez of Happy Valley was featured in an article published in the October 9th Edition of the *Portland Tribune*. Botez, who is a citizen of US and Canada, competed for Canada in the 2012 World Chess

Olympiad from Aug. 27 – Sept. 10 in Istanbul, Turkey as well as the Arnold Denker Tournament of High School Champions in Vancouver, WA, this past August. A link to the article mentioned above can be found on the home page of the nwchess.com web site.

Last month I ran out of space near the end of my report concerning Steven Breckenridge and his move to Lubbock, TX, to attend Texas Tech University. As a result, I cut short his notes, especially those in his fine game with Carl Haessler in the 2012 Oregon Closed Championship. With apologies to the players and our readers, I am reprinting the game this month with full notes and diagrams, as well as Steven's concluding remarks. Enjoy!

**White: Haessler, Carl (2200)**  
**Black: Breckenridge, Steven (2349)**

[C24] Oregon Closed Championship Round 6, Feb 18, 2012  
 [Notes by Steven Breckenridge]

**1.e4 e5 2.Bc4 Nf6 3.d3 c6 4.Nf3 d5 5.exd5 cxd5 6.Bb3 Bd6 7.0-0 e4!?**

Very unorthodox of me, I think. 7...0-0 I would be playing a more

boring line. 8.Bg5 d4 9.Nbd2 Nc6 10.Re1 h6 11.Bh4 Rb8 12.h3 Re8 13.Nc4 b5 14.Nxd6 Qxd6.

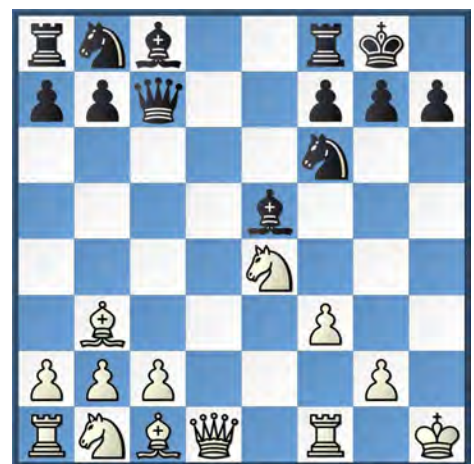
**8.dxe4 dxe4 9.Ng5 0-0 10.f3?**

I understand his intention, but that was a bad decision in this position. He needs to just develop and win the e-pawn, where I'll get to trade for the h-pawn with the tactic Bxh2+ followed by Qh4+. 10.Nc3 Nc6 11.Ncxe4 Nxe4 12.Nxe4 Bxh2+ 13.Kxh2 Qh4+ 14.Kg1 Qxe4 15.Re1 Qg6 16.c3 Bf5 and it seems to be pretty equal, and may be a long battle for one to gain an advantage.

**10...Qc7**

10...exf3 11.Qxf3 Nc6 was also good.

**11.Nxe4 Bxh2+ 12.Kh1 Be5**



12...Nxe4 13.fxe4 Be5 14.Nc3 transposes to game.

**13.Nbc3 Nxe4 14.fxe4 Qe7**

14...Nc6 15.Nd5 Qd6 another idea.

**15.Qe1**

15.Qh5 Bxc3 16.bxc3 Be6 17.a4 Bxb3 18.Ba3 Qe6 19.Bxf8 Bc4 20.Rfd1 Nc6 21.Ba3 Qxe4 is interesting 22.Rd7 b6 23.Qf3 Qxf3 24.gxf3 Ne5 25.Rd4 Be2 26.f4 Nc6



27.Rd2 Bf3+ 28.Kh2 Re8.

**15...Bxc3**

15...Nc6 16.Nd5 Qd6 17.Bf4 Bxf4  
18.Nxf4 Bg4 19.Qg3 Ne5 20.Nd3  
Qh6+ 21.Kg1 Nxd3 22.cxd3 Qb6+  
23.Kh1 Be6 24.Bxe6 Qxe6 with  
some advantage.

**16.Qxc3 Nc6 17.Bf4 Be6 18.Qg3**



**18...Qf6!**

Unexpected I think. Though I  
missed Bxb3 line with a small ad-  
vantage, this is still good. 18...Bxb3  
19.Bd6 (19.Bh6? Qe5--+) 19...Qe6  
20.Bxf8 (20.axb3 Rfe8 21.Rae1 Qg6  
22.Qxg6 hxg6 23.e5) 20...Qh6+  
21.Kg1 Bc4 22.Bc5 Bxf1 23.Rxf1  
Qe6.

**19.Bd6**

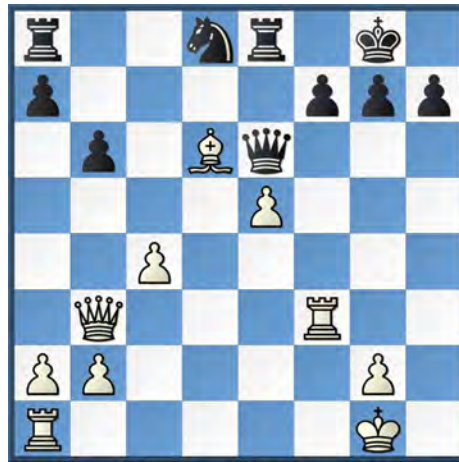
19.Bd5 Rfe8 20.c3 Rad8 21.Rad1  
Rd7 22.Be3 Qe7 23.Bg5 Qf8=

**19...Qh6+ 20.Kg1 Rfe8**

20...Bxb3 21.axb3 (21.Bxf8 Bc4)  
21...Rfe8; 20...Nd4 21.Qd3 Bxb3  
22.Qxd4 (22.Bxf8 Qb6 23.Bxg7 Kxg7  
24.Kh1 Bxc2 25.Qg3+ Kf8 26.Rxf7+  
Kxf7 27.Rf1+ Ke6 28.Qe4+ Kd6  
29.Rf6+ Kc5 30.Qh5+ Kc4 31.Qf7+  
Kd3 32.Rxb6 axb6 33.e5 Ke3 34.e6 Bg6  
35.Qxb7 Ra5 36.Qxb6 Rh5+ 37.Kg1  
Re5=) 22...Rfd8 23.e5 Bxc2 24.Rxf7

Kxf7 25.Qd5+ Kg6 26.Qe6+ Kh5  
27.Qh3+ Kg6 28.Qe6+ Kh5=.

**21.e5 Bxb3 22.Qxb3 Nd8 23.Rf3  
Qe6 24.c4 b6**



My knight should become much  
better, with the f6 idea, and Nf7. If  
24...Nc6, I calculated that this line  
ends in a draw 25.Qxb7 Na5 26.Qc7  
Nxc4 27.Raf1! Nxe5! (27...Nd2?  
28.Rxf7+-) 28.Bxe5 Re7 29.Qd6  
Qxe5 30.Qxe5 Rxe5 31.Rxf7=.

**25.Qc3 Rc8 26.b3 f6 27.Re1 Nf7  
28.Rfe3 Qd7 29.Rd3**

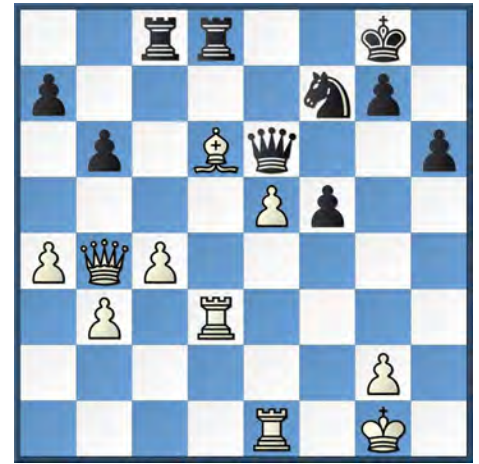
29.e6 Qxd6 30.exf7+ Kxf7 31.Rxe8  
Rxe8 32.Rxe8 Kxe8 33.Qf3 he could  
hopefully draw; 29.Qd4 computer  
line 29...Qc6 30.c5! bxc5 31.Qc4  
a6 32.Rg3 Qb7 33.Rf1 (33.Rd1 fxe5  
34.Rf1 Rcd8 35.Bxc5 Qd5 36.Qc2 e4)  
33...Qb4 34.Rxf6 Qxc4 35.bxc4 a5  
36.Kh2 a4 37.a3 Rc6 38.Rf5 Nxd6  
39.exd6 Rd8 40.Re3 h6 41.Re7  
Rdxd6 42.Ra7 Rd2 43.Kg1 Rg6  
44.Rf2 Rd1+ 45.Rf1 Rd4 46.Rxa4  
Kh7 47.Rf2 Rd1+ 48.Kh2 Rc1  
49.Ra8 Rxc4 50.a4 Rb4.

**29...Qe6 30.Rde3 Red8 31.Qb4 f5  
32.Rd3 h6 33.a4**

[Diagram Next Column]

**33...Rc5?!**

Kind of a weird move played as a

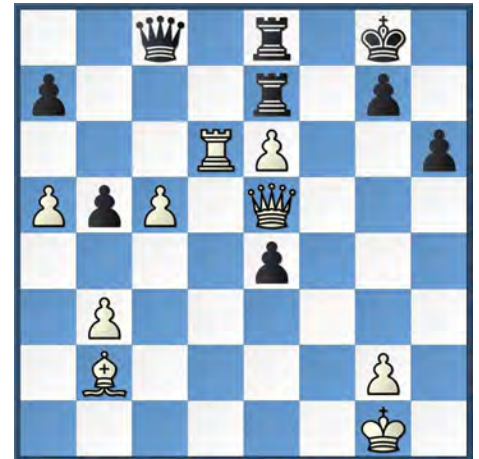


result of his time pressure.

**34.Qc3 Rc6 35.Ba3 Re8 36.Bb2  
Ng5 37.a5 b5 38.c5 Ne4 39.Rxe4!**

Very strong and precise sacrifice.

**39...fxe4 40.Rd6!**



Good find by Carl, and now I use  
up all my time before move 40, cal-  
culating Rxd6 (seems to lose), and  
what happens after Qc8 e6.

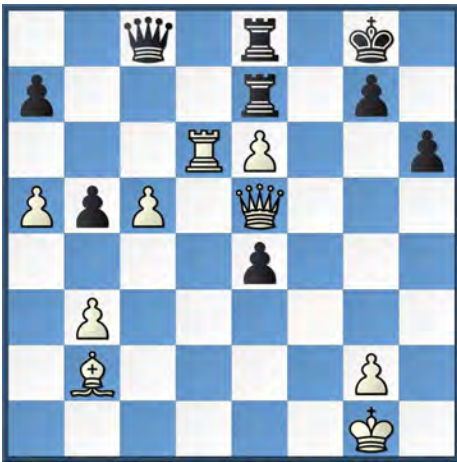
**40...Qc8 41.e6 Rc7 42.Qe5**

42.Qd4, as pointed out in analysis is



a forced draw 42...Rce7 43.Rd7! Qc6 a)43...e3 44.Qxg7+ Rxc7=; b)43... Kh8 I get out of Qxg7+ but white now has 44.Qd6 with many interesting lines, that all end in draws 44... Rxe6 45.Qd5 (b)45.Rxc7 is drawn 45...Rxd6 and rook anywhere up g-file 46.Rg6+ Kh7 47.Rg7+ Kh8 48.Rg5+ Kh7=; b) 45.Bxc7+ Kg8 46.Qd5 Qc6 47.Qd4 e3 48.Bxh6 R6e7 49.Qg4+ Kh7 50.Rxe7+ Rxe7 51.Bf8 Rd7 52.Qh3+ Kg8 53.Bd6 Rg7 54.Qe6+ Kh7 55.Qh3+ Kg8=) 45...Qc6 46.Qxc6 Rxc6 47.Rxc7 Rce6 48.Rxa7+ Kg8 49.Rg7+ Kf8 50.Rb7 e3 51.Kf1 b4 52.Rb6 Ke8 53.Bd4 Kd7 54.a6 Rc7 55.Ke2 Ra7 56.Rxb4 Rxa6 57.Bxe3 Ra2+ 58.Kf3 Rc2 59.Bd4=; 44.Qxg7+ Rxc7 45.Rxc7+ Kf8 46.Rf7+ Kg8 47.Rg7+ Kf8=.

#### 42...Rce7



#### 43.b4

43.Qd4 again with Rd7 is a forced draw still 43...Kh8 44.Rd7 Qc6 45.Rd6=.

#### 43...e3! 44.g4??

44.Bc3 e2 45.Qd4 and computer calculates a draw 45...Kh8 (45... e1Q+ 46.Bxe1 Rxe6 47.Bc3=) 46.Rd7 a6 47.Rd6 Rf8 48.Qe4 Rf1+ 49.Kh2 Rd1! 50.Rb6 Rc1 51.Bd2 Rf1 52.Bc3 e1Q 53.Bxe1 Rf6 54.Bg3 Rfxe6 55.Qf5 Re8 56.Qf7=;

44.Kf1? Rf8+ 45.Kg1 (45.Ke1 Qe8 46.Qxe3 Qg6-+) 45...Rf6 46.Qxe3 Rfxe6 47.Qb3 Kf8 48.Qf3+ Rf7 49.Qd5 Rxd6 50.cxd6 a6-+.

#### 44...e2 45.Bc3 e1Q+ 46.Bxe1 Rxe6 47.Qd5 Kh8 48.Bc3?

48.Rxe6 Qxe6 49.Qxe6 Rxe6 50.Kf1 Re4-+.

#### 48...Rxd6 0-1

A good game, with not many mistakes, except in the end where Carl seemed to be tired and lost focus.

Steven added the following conclusion which I omitted last month due to space constraints. Once again, I apologize.

*“First I want to thank my Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, and I want to thank Daniel Gay for the fellowship and encouragement in between our rounds, and nice study and lunch together after our game. He and his mom and family, have been really wonderful support as well. Whenever his mom would see me, she would always run up to bug me, as we’ve become friends.*

*A special thanks to my dear friend, Mikeal Davis, who though he couldn’t make it, would send me scriptures before my rounds during the tournament, when I really needed to hear them, as I started to feel a little fearful in playing just to win so others may see. The first verse was Colossians 3:23, which says in whatever I do, I am to do it heartily unto the Lord, and not to men. And the second verse was in Joshua 1:8-9 which says, to be strong and of good courage, and not to be afraid, for God is with me wherever*

*I go, and I shall meditate on His word, day and night, which is exactly what I needed to hear, and it kept me focused on just playing to honor God, win, lose, or draw. Thanks and God bless everyone!*

*Finally, I just want to give a great big thanks to really one of the most loving and gracious families, that I had the privilege of staying with for every day of the U.S. Open: the May family, in Vancouver. The only chaos you would find with them is their cats doing something crazy. They all have a great sense of humor, and warm gentleness, and Christ-likeness to them. I really learned a lot from staying with them, and I made a joke to Mrs. May, about how I hope she doesn’t mind me taking notes on the way they do things at their house, because I was really impressed! I want my house and hopefully my future kids (if I have any) to be in that order, except I don’t know about Andy, lol.*

*And another, really big thanks to Nancy and Dale Tubbs, from my home church, Trinity Church in Portland. After taking me to my simul exhibition in Portland, OR, Dale took me to my first round of the chess tournament, and then they came to watch me play every round after that! Dale is really fascinated by the game, and really a great encouragement and friend. They love to take people out to eat, I would definitely encourage people to go to Trinity and maybe see them, it’s really the most loving place on the planet, and I really miss them.”*

### Julie Nahlen, Program Director

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Current USCF Membership is required, available at site or online at [www.uschess.org](http://www.uschess.org)

Both sections USCF Rated. Open Section is also FIDE rated!

Idaho Chess Association (ICA) membership required. OSA (Other States Accepted).

Make all checks payable to Idaho Chess Association.

**Register & check in:** 8:00 - 8:45 a.m. Saturday, December 8, 2012 Those not paid and checked in by 8:30 a.m. may not be paired in first round. Players arriving for round 2 (even if not known in advance) may take a retroactive first round bye as long as they arrive before the 2nd round starts (1:30 p.m.).

**Round Times: Saturday: 9am, 1:30pm, 6pm; Sunday: 9am, 1:30pm**

**1/2 point bye** (Maximum 1), in any Round. Must notify TD before round 2 is paired. Players may arrive for round 2 and take a retroactive first round half point bye if arrive before 1:30 p.m. on Saturday.

**Prizes (Guaranteed!):** Open: \$500, \$250, \$100. Open section will be separated into two halves for prize payout only (not for pairing purposes). First place in lower half receives \$100 and 2nd place in lower half will receive \$50. Reserve: \$200, \$100, \$50.

**Entries:** Jeff Roland, 1514 S. Longmont Ave., Boise, ID 83706, E-mail: [jroland@cablone.net](mailto:jroland@cablone.net), [www.idahocheessassociation.org](http://www.idahocheessassociation.org)

**No Computers, No Smoking, Wheelchair access**

# The 2012 Ralph Hall Northwest Chess Grand Prix!

## Murlin Varner, keeper of the spreadsheet

In the past, the standings in my column have used the peak official rating of the year through the month of publication. I was able to do this because the USCF published the official ratings for each month on the first Friday of the previous month, always a few days before my deadline. This will no longer be the case, because the USCF has changed its schedule. They will henceforth be publishing the official ratings for each month on the third Friday of the previous month, well past my deadline for the magazine. So, when you see the standings here and in the future, the rating classes will only be current through the previous month. If you are hoping the leader in your class will be moving up, raising your status as a result, or you are looking over your shoulder at a player in the next lower class who just might be moving up to supplant you at the top of your class, you are just going to have to wait an extra month, or go on-line to uschess.com and check it out for yourself.

The standings below, using peak ratings through October, include all events played through October 7<sup>th</sup>. This includes four different events held on that weekend involving a total of 82 players. Looking ahead to the rest of October, four other events will have concluded before you get to read my scintillating prose, including the Washington Challengers' Cup with its 2x multiplier. More important to you, the eager reader, are the events still ahead where you can earn more points. These include nine events which can be found in Portland, Redmond (WA), Seattle (3), Spokane, Tacoma, Twin Falls, and Wenatchee. For sheer quantities of GP points, the Washington Class Championships in Redmond, WA on November 23-25 offers a six round event with a 4x multiplier. A 2x multiplier can be found at the Seattle Chess Club Extravaganza!! on November 2-4, a seven round event. And then there is the Spokane G/10 championship which doesn't carry a multiplier, but is played in a large number of rounds. It is being held on November 17<sup>th</sup>. That particular weekend has four one-day events, so there should be no excuse for not gaining some points, somewhere.

With nine events in November and another six scheduled for December, our total number of Grand Prix tournaments will pass the 80 event record this year. We can thank the addition of Idaho to our Grand Prix for helping to beat that mark.


Idaho				Oregon				Washington			
	last	first	pts.		last	first	pts.		last	first	pts.
<b>Masters</b>											
				1	Raptis	Nick	152	1	Feng	Roland	85.5
				2	Gay	Daniel Z	35.5	2	Pupols	Viktors	71
				3	Breckenridge	Steven J	26	3	Bragg	David R	50
				3	Haessler	Carl A	26	4	Sinanan	Joshua C	49
				5	Movsisyan	Movses	24	5	Collyer	Curt D	35
<b>M/X/Class A</b>				<b>Experts</b>							
1	Leslie	Cameron D	45	1	Saputra	Yogi	87.5	1	Bartron	Paul R	118.5
2	Havrilla	Mark A	33	2	Esler	Brian J	50.5	2	Lee	Nathan Y	70
3	Joshi	Kairav	27.5	3	Janniro	Mike E	45	3	Lessler	Peter	54.5
4	Kircher	Caleb P	21	4	Heywood	Bill	40	4	Lee	Megan	54
5	three tied at		5.5	5	Herrera	Robert	39	5	Ummel	Igor	50
<b>Class B</b>				<b>Class A</b>							
1	Roland	Jeffrey T	39.5	1	Sherrard	Jerry	56	1	Buck	Stephen J	150.5
1	Bodie	Brad	39.5	2	Cigan	Jason	51.5	2	Szabo	Marcell	125.5
3	Williams	Richard R	22	3	Bannon	David T	44	3	Lampman	Becca	83.5
4	Jiang	Nathan	10.5	4	Tezcan	Yaman	39	4	Krasin	Jeremy	79.5
5	Olsoy	Peter J	9.5	5	Sun	Maxwell S	37	5	Bulakh	Nikolay I	75
<b>Class C</b>				<b>Class B</b>							
1	Weyland	Ronald M	43.5	1	Gaikwad	Dagadu B	80.5	1	Ramesh	Jothi N	113
2	Brown	Nicholas R	22	2	Sato-Duncan	Takuma	67.5	2	Nagase	Toshihiro	100.5
3	Bruck	Nick J	8.5	3	Hasuike	Mike L	39	3	Nagase	Masayuki	93
4	Pemsler	Carmen	4.5	4	Burris	Christopher E	37.5	4	Zhang	Derek	89.5
5	Myers	Hugh	3.5	5	Dalthorp	Dan	33	5	Wang	James	81.5

Class D				Class C							
1	Jaroski	Jeffrey A	38	1	Doddapaneni	Venkat S	53	1	Jones	Davey V	75
2	Gorman	Cody A	25	2	Stevens	Matthew	45	2	Piper	August	71
3	Porth	Adam	15.5	3	Dietz	Arliss	43.5	3	Bashkansky	Naomi	61
4	Patterson	Kevin R	14.5	4	Brahmarouthu	Abhinav	37.5	4	Thomas	Arjun	58
5	Hollingsworth	Gary M	9.5	5	Sharan	Praveer	35	5	He	Anthony B	50.5
Class E and Below				Class D and Below							
1	Blake	Lloyd	18	1	Buerer	Harry F	50.5	1	Richards	Jerrold	79.5
2	Blake	Isaac R	15	2	Aditya	Neal	28	2	Nicoski	Rick	51
3	Wetmur	Harold R	14	3	Svetal	Scott M	25.5	3	Deshpande	Aaryan H	47
4	Hiatt	Arlene	13.5	4	Sun	Leonardo S	23	3	Dixon	Max L	47
5	Naccarato	Savanna	13	5	Wu	Ethan	22.5	5	two tied at		46.5
Overall Leaders, by State											
1	Leslie	Cameron D	45	1	Raptis	Nick	152	1	Buck	Stephen J	150.5
2	Weyland	Ronald M	43.5	2	Saputra	Yogi	87.5	2	Szabo	Marcell	125.5
3	Roland	Jeffrey T	39.5	3	Gaikwad	Dagadu B	80.5	3	Bartron	Paul R	118.5
3	Bodie	Brad	39.5	4	Sato-Duncan	Takuma	67.5	4	Ramesh	Jothi N	113
5	Jaroski	Jeffrey A	38	5	Sherrard	Jerry	56	5	Nagase	Toshihiro	100.5
6	Havrilla	Mark A	33	6	Doddapaneni	Venkat S	53	6	Nagase	Masayuki	93
7	Joshi	Kairav	27.5	7	Cigan	Jason	51.5	7	Zhang	Derek	89.5
8	Gorman	Cody A	25	8	Esler	Brian J	50.5	8	Feng	Roland	85.5
9	Williams	Richard R	22	8	Buerer	Harry F	50.5	9	Lampman	Becca	83.5
9	Brown	Nicholas R	22	10	Janniro	Mike E	45	10	Wang	James	81.5
11	Kircher	Caleb P	21	10	Stevens	Matthew	45	11	Krasin	Jeremy	79.5
12	Blake	Lloyd	18	12	Bannon	David T	44	11	Richards	Jerrold	79.5

Most active GP players				
Last	First	State	Rtg	events
Buck	Stephen J	WA	1828	25
Szabo	Marcell	WA	1942	19
Ramesh	Jothi N	WA	1737	18
Nagase	Toshihiro	WA	1784	17
Piper	August	WA	1548	17
Nagase	Masayuki	WA	1779	15
O'Gorman	Peter J	WA	1870	15
Raptis	Nick	OR	2335	15
Three tied at				13

Players in Database: 2012					
class	Idaho	Oregon	Washington	Other	totals
Master	0	6	11	2	19
Expert	0	13	34	5	52
Class A	8	27	55	8	98
Class B	18	26	70	9	123
Class C	5	29	42	7	83
Class D-below	30	36	102	6	174
	61	137	314	37	549

**Carl Haessler**  
Chess Master



**chessworks**  
NORTHWEST

[chessworksNW.com](http://chessworksNW.com)

■ ■ ■

503-875-7278  
[carl@chessworksNW.com](mailto:carl@chessworksNW.com)

## Upcoming Events

{continued from page 32}

- ☞ **Nov 23-25** Washington Class Championships, **Redmond, WA.** – see full page ad on page 11
- ☞ **Dec 8-9** Western Idaho Open, **Boise, ID.** – see full page ad on page 27
- ☞ **Dec 8-9** Christmas Congress, **Tacoma, WA.** Site: Tacoma Chess Club, 409 Puyallup Ave. E., 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Room 11 in the DTI Soccer Store Building across from Alfred's Café & 2 blocks down the hill from the Tacoma Dome. Format: 4 SS. 1 Section. Time Control: 40/90, SD/60 + 5 second delay. Entry Fee: Adults \$25 Advanced, \$30 at the door, Jr.'s \$20. Registration: 9:00-9:45 am, Rounds: Sat. 10:00, 4:00, Sun. 10:00, 4:00. Prize Fund: 60% of entry fees. 1<sup>st</sup> 25%, 2<sup>nd</sup> 15%, U2000, U1700, U1400 20%. Byes: 2 half point byes available. USCF/WCF Memberships required. NS NC NW. Entries/Info: Gary J. Dorfner, 8423 E. B St., Tacoma, WA 98445, (253) 535-2536, ggarychess@aol.com
- ☞ **Dec 15-16** Portland Winter Open, **Portland, OR.** – Site: Portland Chess Club, 8205 SW 24th Ave, Portland, OR. This USCF-rated, two-day tournament is played in two sections, has five rounds, and offers long time controls and lots of cash prizes: Time Control: 40/90 SD/30, 5 second delay if clock allows. Two half point byes available for Rounds 1-4 if requested at registration. Entry Fee: \$35; members of the Club get \$10 discount. Memberships: USCF and OCF/WCF required and can be purchased/renewed at registration (other state memberships OK for out-of-area players). Registration: 9:00-9:45am on Saturday. Rounds at 10, 2 and ASAP on Saturday, 10 and ASAP on Sunday. Prizes: based on 40 entries and adjusted proportionally if different number of players, total prize fund is \$650 (each section's prize fund \$325). Open section: 1st place - \$150, 2nd place - \$100, best result for rated under 2000 - \$75. Reserve section: 1st place - \$100, 2nd place - \$75, best results for rated under 1600, under 1400, and under 1200 or unrated - \$50 each. No tiebreakers used, prizes split between players with the same results.
- ☞ **Jan 5-6** Gresham Open, **Gresham, OR.** – Site: Mount Hood Community College.
- Feb 16-18** Idaho Closed State Championship, **Twin Falls, ID.** – Open to Idaho residents only.
- Mar 16** Idaho Scholastic Championship, **Boise, ID.** – Open to Idaho students only K-12.
- ☞ **Mar 16-17** Portland Spring Open, **Portland, OR.** – Site: Portland CC.



Read the new Northwest Chess Blog at:

<http://www.nwchess.com/blog/>

Visit the Northwest Chess logo store on Cafe-Press to order shirts and other merchandise:

<http://www.cafepress.com/northwestchesslogo>

# Seattle Chess Club Tournaments

Address  
 → 2150 N 107 St, B85 ←  
 Seattle WA 98133  
 Infoline  
 ↗ 206-417-5405 ↖  
 www.seattlechess.org  
 kleistcf@aol.com  
 Address for Entries  
 SCC Tnmt Dir  
 2420 S 137 St  
 Seattle WA 98168

## How to Find the SCC

Look for the Northway Square East Building, just across I-5 from Northgate Mall, with large signs proclaiming "Northwest Kidney Centers" and "City University." The main entrance is reached by turning east on N. 107th Street from Meridian Ave. N. The club is on the lower level.

## Attendance at 2012's events

*G/15 Ch.* (3/2)–6; *Insanity* (12/31-1/1)–7; *Novice* (1/21)–9, (3/18)–5, (7/21)–10, (10/14)–4; *Octagonals* (9/9)–13; *Quads* (1/28)–14, (2/25)–19, (3/17)–23, (5/14)–19, (6/9)–14, (7/7)–22, (8/18)–8, (10-13)–18; *Tornados* (1/8)–14, (2/5)–5, (3/4)–14, (4/1)–14, (4/30)–14, (5/19)–19, (6/17)–20, (7/15)–34, (8/26)–18, (9/31)–35, (10/7)–17; **Seattle City Championship** (1/13-15)–30; **Seattle Spring Open** (3/23-25)–51; **SCC Team in Reno** (4/6-8)–6; **SCC Adult Swiss** (5/5-6)–9; **Emerald City Open** (6/22-24)–37; **Seafair Open** (7/27-29)–57; **Seattle Fall Open** (9/22-24)–65.

## SCC 2013 Weekend Schedule

**Novice:** Jan 19, Apr 14, July 13, Oct 12.

**Quads:** Jan 26, Feb 23, Mar 16, Apr 13, May 11, June 8, July 6, Aug 10, Sept 7, Oct 5, Nov 2, Dec 7.

**Tomado:** Jan 6, Feb 3, Mar 3, Apr 7, May 5, June 2 & 30, Aug 11, Sept 15, Oct 13, Nov 10, Dec 8 & 29.

**Seattle City Championship** 11-13 January.      **Seattle Spring Open** 22-24 March.

**SCC Adult Swiss** 20-21 April.      **Emerald City Open** 14-16 June.

**Seafair Open** 19-21 July.      **Seattle Fall Open** 20-22 September.

**SCC Extravaganza** 15-17 November.

## Nov. 10, Dec. 29

**Format:** 3-RR, 4-plyr sections by rating. **TC:** G/120;d5. **EF:** \$9 (+\$7 fee for non-SCC). **Prizes:** Free entry for future quad. **Reg:** 9:00-9:45 a.m. **Rds:** 10-2:15-6:30 **Misc:** USCF, WCF/OCF/ICA memb. req'd, OSA. NS, NC.

## Nov 18 corrected date, Dec 16

## Sunday Tornado

**Format:** 4-SS. **TC:** G/64;d0 or G/60;d5. **EF:** \$18 (+\$7 fee for non-SCC). **Prizes:** 1st 35%, 2nd 27%, Bottom Half 1st 22%, 2nd 16% (\$10 from each EF goes to prize fund). **Reg:** 10:30-11:15 a.m. **Rds:** 11:30-1:50-4:10-6:30. **Misc:** USCF, WCF/OCF/ICA memb. req'd, OSA. NS, NC.

## Dec. 1-2 New Event!

## Rain City Plus-Score Swiss

**Format:** 4-SS. **TC:** G/125;d5. **EF:** \$28 by 11/28, \$35 at site. (\$6 discount for SCC members, \$3 discount for members of other dues-req'd CCs in BC, ID, OR, and WA). **Prizes:** 4-0 score-\$100, 3.5-\$60, 3.0-\$35, 2.5-\$18. **Reg:** 10:30-11:15 a.m. **Rds:** 11:30-4, 11:30-4. **Misc:** USCF, WCF/OCF/ICA memb. req'd, OSA. NS, NC.

## SCC Fridays

Typical Friday fare is one round of an ongoing tournament (free to SCC members, no prizes) played at a rate of 40/90;d0 followed by 30/60;d0. Drop in for any round!

**November Rains:** Nov. 2, 9, 16.

**CB Bagley Mem:** Nov. 30; Dec. 7, 14.

**Package Express (G/12):** December 21.

**Patzer's Challenge:** December 28.

**January Thaw:** Jan. 4, 11, 18, 25.

**Cabin Fever:** Feb. 1, 8, 15, 22.

**SCC G/15 Championship:** Mar. 1.

## Upcoming Events

☞ denotes 2012 Ralph Hall Memorial Northwest Grand Prix event - see pages 28-29 for details; for Seattle Chess Club events, see page 31

☞ **Nov 2-4** 7th Seattle CC Extravaganza **Seattle, WA**. See [www.seattlechess.org](http://www.seattlechess.org) for details.

☞ **Nov 3** Southern Idaho Open, **Twin Falls, ID**. USCF membership required. 4SS, G/60;d5. In two sections Open/U1400. Obenchain Insurance Building, Community Room – rear entrance, 260 South Main, Twin Falls, ID. EF: \$30; \$25-Junior/Senior by 10/28. \$5 more for EVERYONE at site. Reg.: 8 am-8:30 am. Rds.: 9 am, 11 am, 2 pm, 4 pm. Prizes (based on 30): Open: \$150, \$125, \$100, \$75. U 1400: \$100, \$75, \$50. (1) half point bye for rounds 1-3 only. Must commit before Round 2. Notify TD before round is paired. Info: Barry Eacker, 208 733-6186 [mol@q.com](mailto:mol@q.com), or [www.idahochoessassociation.org](http://www.idahochoessassociation.org) NC, NS, W

☞ **Nov 10-11** Wenatchee Valley Open, **Wenatchee, WA**. 5SS, 40/90, SD/30, D/5. Wenatchee Convention Center, 121 North Wenatchee Avenue, Wenatchee, WA 98801. \$\$750/b30: \$200-150-100, Class A \$75, Class B \$75, Class C \$75, Class D/Under \$75. Foreign ratings used for players with no USCF rating. EF: \$50 if postmarked or online by 11/7. \$60 at site. Special Medal Only EF: \$25 Juniors U21. Free entry for GMs, IMs, WGMs. Registration: 9-9:45am. Rds.: Sat. 10am, 2:30pm, 7pm, Sun. 10am & 3pm. Bye: limit 2, request before end of Rd. 2. Memb. Req'd: \$25 (\$17 juniors). OSA. ENT: Checks payable to Washington Chess Federation. Mail to: Dan Mathews, 930 NE High Street, Unit F412, Issaquah, WA 98029-7423. Info: [dthmathews@aol.com](mailto:dthmathews@aol.com), 425-218-7529. Enter online: [www.nwchess.com/OnlineRegistration](http://www.nwchess.com/OnlineRegistration). NS. NC. W. Chess Magnet School JGP. Note: The host hotel is the Coast Wenatchee Center Hotel, 201 N Wenatchee Ave., Wenatchee, WA 98801, ph. (509) 662-1234. Check for event hotel rates at <http://www.coast-promos.com/axx>. The hotel is connected by sky bridge to the Wenatchee Convention Center.

☞ **Nov 17** Portland CC G/60, **Portland, OR**. 4SS, G/60. TD may switch to 5SS and G/45 if more than 25 entries. Portland Chess Club, 8205 SW 24th Ave., Portland, OR. EF: \$20, \$5 discount for PCC Members. OCF/WCF and USCF memb req'd, OSA. No advance entries. Reg: 9-9:30. Byes: 1/2 point bye if requested at reg. Prizes: (\$200/b20) \$60-\$40-\$30 U1800, U1500 \$35 each. Info: e-mail [portlandchessclub@gmail.com](mailto:portlandchessclub@gmail.com), phone 503-246-2978, website [www.pdxchess.com](http://www.pdxchess.com).

☞ **Nov 17** Spokane G/10, **Spokane, WA**. Site: Spokane Valley Library, E. 12004 E. Main, Spokane, WA 99206. Reg: Sat 8:30-9:45. E.F. \$11. T/C: G/10. Format: round-robin (single or double depends on entries). Prizes: \$100 added to prize fund with at least 10 players competing. (Section and other prizes TBD.) USCF membership required, n/c, USCF rated and NWGP event. Ent/Info: Dave Griffin, P.O. Box 631, Spokane Valley, WA 99037, (509) 994-9739, Email: [dbgrffn@hotmail.com](mailto:dbgrffn@hotmail.com), website [www.spokanechessclub.org](http://www.spokanechessclub.org).

☞ **Nov 17** Washington G/60 Championship, **Tacoma, WA**. Site: Tacoma Chess Club, 409 Puyallup Ave., across the street from Alfred's Café & 2 blocks down the hill from the Tacoma Dome. Format: 4SS. Time control: G/60 + 5 second delay. Reg. 9:00-9:45 am. Rounds: 10:00, 12:30, 3:00, 5:30 or A.S.A.P. Entry Fee: \$30. Prize Fund: \$290 b/16, 1<sup>st</sup> \$75, 2<sup>nd</sup> \$65, U1800, 1600, 1400 \$50. 1 half point bye available. NS, NW, NC. Entries/Info: Gary J. Dorfner, 8423 E. B St., Tacoma, WA 98445, (253) 535-2536, [ggarychess@aol.com](mailto:ggarychess@aol.com). Make checks payable to Gary J. Dorfner. USCF/WCF Memberships required.

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