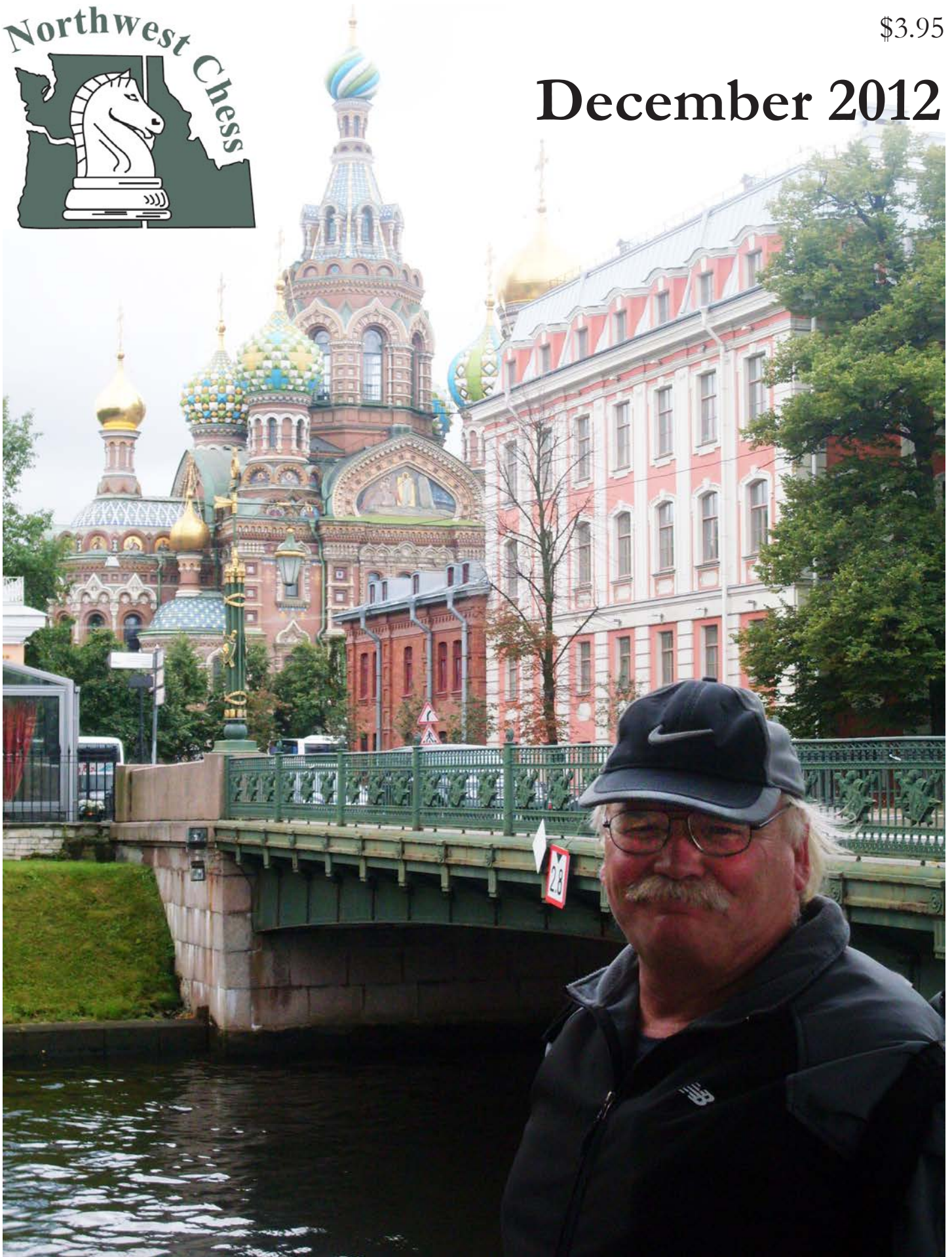




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On the cover:

David G. Rupel of Olympia, Washington at his recent trip to St. Petersburg, Russia to play in the Mikhail Botvinnik Memorial in late August and early September, 2012. See our feature story starting on page 4 for more details.

Behind David is "The Church of Our Savior on the Spilled Blood", so christened after the murder of Czar Alexander II at this site in 1881. During the terrible siege of Leningrad, a German shell landed on a cupola but failed to explode. In 1961, some intrepid souls risked their lives and successfully diffused it. Photo credit: David Rupel as taken by an anonymous passerby.

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The Gresham Open Is Returning!

January 5-6, 2013

Mt. Hood Community College, Vista Room

5-Round Swiss--Time Control for All Rounds: 40 moves in 90 min, sudden death in 30 min, 5 second delay (40/90; SD/30; d5)

Registration: Sat 9-9:45; **Rounds:** Sat 10, 2, ASAP; Sun 10, ASAP

Location: Mt. Hood Community College, Vista Room; 26000 SE Stark, Gresham
Check www.mhcc.edu/maps for directions to playing site

One ½ point bye available for rounds 1-4 if requested at registration.

\$1,500 (Based on 60 entries)

1st \$300; 2nd \$200; 3rd \$125; U2200, U2000, U1800, U1600, U1400: \$100 – \$75

Entry Fee (checks or cash; no credit or debit cards): \$40
\$10 discount to PCC members if registered in advance by January 3

Memberships: USCF and OCF/WCF required (OSA);
NW Grand Prix.

Gresham Open (January 5-6, 2013) Entry Form

Name _____

Address _____

Phone: _____ USCF ID # _____ Exp _____ USCF Rating _____ OCF/WCF Exp _____

Email _____ Bye Round _____

Entries: Payable to Portland Chess Club; mail to Mike Morris, 2344 NE 27th Ave., Portland, OR 97212

Rupel Goes to Russia

by David Rupel

Editor's note: David Rupel, retired, of Olympia is a long time member of the Washington Chess Federation, some 50 years, and according to him has never been on the cover of Northwest Chess until now. I think it's long overdue. He does a lot of travelling and playing in chess tournaments abroad.

It had always been in the back of my mind that I would make it to the Mecca of chess one day, the spawning ground for no less than the likes of Boris Spassky and Viktor Korchnoi.

A posting on the FIDE calendar last spring prompted me to play in the 2012 Botvinnik Memorial Open in St. Petersburg (formerly Leningrad), marking my first venture to Russia.

Over the past 15 years, I have made several trips to Europe where I find tournament conditions on a higher plane. Chess-wise, I confess I am a traditionalist.

Typically, one plays one round per day over nine days or so. There are no gimmicks to increase participation at the expense of quality, such as half-point byes, alternate playing schedules or re-entries. Because pairings normally are available promptly after each round, there is ample opportunity to work with databases in preparation for your opponent.

In Russia, as in many other places nowadays, the usual standard is 40 moves/90 minutes + game/30 minutes with a 30-second increment.

In the Botvinnik Memorial, agreed draws were prohibited prior to move 40, a practice becoming increasingly common in international play.

Of course, one must jump through hoops prior to entering Russia since visas are required. Instructions are occasionally puzzling, but the good news for players from the Northwest is that there is a consulate in Seattle whereby a tourist visa can be had for about \$170. According to their website, a visa application currently must be presented in person.

Irina Sudakova, one of the tourney organizers with the St. Petersburg Chess Club, was particularly gracious in facilitating transportation to the playing site, securing my tourist voucher, and negotiating a reasonable rate at the Hotel Park Krevstoskiy, the playing site. She is also proficient in English, a commodity often in short supply in Russia.

In one of my numerous email exchanges with Ms. Sudakova, I made the comment that I was surprised to encounter so much “red tape” this long after the fall of the Soviet Union. Only later did the double entendre occur to me.



*David Rupel in front of the famed Winter Palace in St. Petersburg.
Photo credit: David Rupel taken by an anonymous person.*

In the early 1970s, I had been introduced to Russian history through my acquaintance with the late Larry Parr, a chess player who was then a teaching assistant at the University of Washington in the Russian Department. Thanks to Larry, I read and absorbed Viktor Kravchenko's book, *I Chose Freedom*, which cured me of any illusions I may have had about the Great Workers Paradise. Following his defection to the US from the Russian embassy staff in D.C. during World War II, Kravchenko described his life and experiences under the Soviet system in haunting detail. Later, I read Alexandr Solzhenitsyn and others.

I recalled Mr. Parr telling me that St. Petersburg was one of the most beautiful cities in the world and my experience certainly validated that. The Church of Our Savior on the Spilled Blood, Winter Palace (aka the Hermitage) and St. Isaac's Cathedral were just the tip of the iceberg. There is something spectacular everywhere one looks!

In preparation for my trip, I got through most of Tolstoy's *War and Peace* for the first time. I also pretty well mastered the Cyrillic alphabet, an investment that proved helpful in recognizing street names and cognates such as “apothecary” and “restaurant.”

After a few days recuperating from delayed baggage, jet lag, as well as a head cold in Helsinki, I arrived in St. Petersburg via rail Aug. 24, in time to play in the blitz event that evening. I managed 5 of 11 points before setting my sights on the tourney which commenced the following day.

In addition to the cultural adjustments one might expect in any foreign country, there were also adjustments to consider from the standpoint of chess. Less than two weeks earlier, I had played the nine-day schedule in the US Open in Vancouver.

In European events, one comes to the table with boards and pieces in place, along with clocks. In Vancouver, I observed Senior Master Yaacov Norowitz on board 2 having to panhandle for a clock at the start of a round.

In Vancouver, pairings typically weren't posted until an hour or so before the start of each round, even for players who opted for the nine-day schedule.

Last but not least, games from the evening's round typically were available on-line instantaneously in St. Petersburg. In Vancouver, the organizers said they "couldn't justify" the expense of a daily bulletin, despite the fact that more than 500 participated. A word of thanks is due Murlin Varner and anyone else who made the effort to load some games post-US Open to a database.

There may still be some old-timers who recall the 1983 US Open in Pasadena where I won first "A" prize. I was billed as "Super A" in one edition of the tourney's bulletin, an appellation that stuck for a long time.

With a score of 4.5-4.5 in St. Petersburg and a performance rating of 2169, I certainly didn't disgrace. In fact, in the last round I was in contention for the senior prize (over 60), but a poor move followed by an embarrassingly bad one forced me to bid the game and the tourney *das veedanya*.

In this one-section open of 223 players, it was truly humbling to find myself paired up in round one against GM Vladimir Fedoseev (2495) on board 39.

I had decent chances of holding a draw in a rook and bishops of opposites ending where my youthful opponent had an extra pawn. But he capitalized on a blunder and the rest is history.

With a final score of 7-2, GM Alexander Areschenko bested seven others in his score group on tiebreak.



*David Rupel in front of St. Isaac's Cathedral in St. Petersburg, Russia.
Photo credit: David Rupel taken by anonymous person.*

Veteran grandmasters including Khalifman, Tiviakov and Epishin were not among the final leaders.

As a class, I found Russian players among the quickest I have ever played. Naturally, it can be intimidating, especially when you find yourself behind on time. My seventh-round opponent, Sergey Dotsenko (2180), was still at the starting block at move 20. Thus, with the 30-second increment, he had taken just 10 minutes for the first 20 moves. Alas, this was one of my missed opportunities for a full point:

Sergey Dotsenko (2188) - David Rupel (2100)
2012 M.Botvinnik Memorial St. Petersburg, Russia
(R7), Aug 31, 2012
[Notes by David Rupel]

1.e4 c6 2.d4 d5 3.Nd2 Qc7!?

An idea I picked from GM Jonathan Speelman. Interestingly, it appears only 11 times in the Chessbase database of more than 5 million games through 2011 and one of them is mine (Roiz Baztan - Rupel, Oviedo 2007.)

4.e5 c5

Varying from 4...Bf5 which I played in my loss in Oviedo.

5.dxc5 Qxe5+ 6.Be2 Qd4 7.Ng3

was played quickly. The logical alternative, 7.Nb3, would save the pawn but would force a trade of queens.

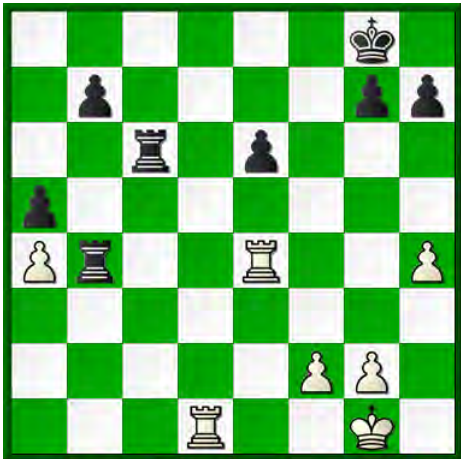
7...Qxc5 8.0-0 Nf6 9.c4 e6 10.Nb3 Qd6 11.cxd5 Nxd5 12.Nbd4 Be7 13.Nb5 Qd8 14.Qd4 a6 15.Nc3 Nxc3 16.Qxc3 Bf6 17.Qb3 Nc6

Black stands better as he has consolidated and White does not have enough for his pawn deficit.

18.Be3 0-0 19.Bb6 Qd5 20.Bc4 Qh5 21.Qc2 e5 22.Rad1 Bf5 23.Qe2 e4 24.Ne1 Qxe2 25.Bxe2 Bxb2+ 26.Nc2 Rfc8 27.Ne3 Be6 28.Nc4 Ne5?

Among several better alternative, Black can play 28...Nb4.

29.Nxb2 Rc2 30.Bd4 Nc6 31.Bc4 Nxd4 32.Rxd4 Rxb2 33.Bxe6 fxe6 34.a4 Rc8 35.Rxe4 Rc6 36.h4 a5 37.Rd1 Rb4??



37...b5 is indicated when Black still retains good chances for the full point.

38.Rd8+ Kf7 39.Rd7+ Kf6 40.Rxb4 axb4 41.Rxb7 Rc4 42.g3 b3 43.a5 Ra4 44.Rb5 b2 45.Kg2 Rxa5 46.Rxb2 Ra3 47.Rb8 h5 48.Rf8+ Ke7

Even without the e-pawn, the position is drawn. But after my 37th, I could hardly blame him for trying!

49.Rf4 g6 50.Rb4 Kf6 51.Rb5 Rc3 52.Ra5 Rb3 53.Ra8 Rc3 54.Rf8+ Kg7 55.Rf4 Ra3 56.Rc4 Ra6 57.Rc5 Ra3 58.Rg5 Kf6 59.Rb5 Rc3 60.Rb4 Ra3 61.Rf4+ Kg7 62.Kf1 Ra2 63.Ke1 Rb2 64.Rf3 Ra2 65.Kf1 Rb2 66.Kg2 Ra2 67.Rb3 Ra4 68.Kf3 Kf6 69.Ke3 Rc4 70.Rb8 Ra4 71.Rf8+ Ke7 72.Rf4 Ra3+ 1/2-1/2

I executed a nice attack in my eighth-round encounter and it was undoubtedly my best game for the tourney. At move five, we were already in uncharted waters.

David Rupel (2100) - Leonid Savinov (2208)
2012 M.Botvinnik Memorial St. Petersburg, Russia

(R8), Sep 1, 2012
[Notes by David Rupel]

1.d4 d5 2.Nf3 Nf6 3.Bf4 Bg4 4.c3 Bxf3 5.exf3 e6 6.Qb3 Qc8 7.Na3 Bd6 8.Bxd6 cxd6 9.Qb4 Ke7 10.Bd3 Nc6 11.Qa4 Re8 12.Nc2 Kf8 13.0-0 Kg8

Although Black has taken four moves to castle by hand, the game is roughly equal as White's pieces are not well posted for the attack.

14.Rfe1 a6 15.Rac1 b5 16.Qa3 Qc7 17.Ne3 Qd7 18.Qb3 Na5 19.Qd1 Nc4 20.Re2 g6 21.b3 Nb6 22.Qd2 Kg7 23.Ng4 Nxf3 24.fxf3 e5 25.f3 e4 26.fxe4 Qxf3 27.Rce1 dxe4 28.Rxe4 Rxe4 29.Rxe4 Qd7 30.Rh4 h5 31.Qg5 Rh8 32.c4 bxc4 33.bxc4 Qc7 34.Rf4 Nd7??



White stands better but Black can fight on with 34...Qd8.

35.Qe7 Rf8 36.Rf6! Nxf6 37.Qxc7 Re8 38.Qxd6

As a point of interest, I observed several Russian players fighting on in similarly hopeless positions.

38...Re1+ 39.Kf2 Rd1 40.Ke2 Rg1 41.Qc6 h4 42.c5 Nh5 43.Be4 h3 44.gxh3 Nf4+ 45.Kd2 Nxf3 46.Qxa6 Rg4 47.Ke3 Ng5 48.Bd5 Rg1 49.Kd3 1-0

Like most folks, I dread seeing my blunders in print, much less writing about them. But in the final round, I had reasonable chances for at least a share of senior honors as the eventual winner lost his last round game to finish 5-4.

Anatoly Donskov (2328) - David Rupel (2100)
2012 M.Botvinnik Memorial 2012 St. Petersburg, Russia

(R9), Sep 2, 2012
[Notes by David Rupel]

1.e4 c6 2.d4 d5 3.e5 g6 4.h4 h5 5.Nf3

(Continued on Page 10)

Washington Challengers' Cup

by Frank Niro



12-year-old Roland Feng at the 2012 WA Challengers' Cup. Photo credit: Frank Niro

Rising young star Roland Feng tied veteran Tian Sang for first place in the Challenger (Open) section of the 2012 Washington Challengers Cup played October 27-28 at the Seattle Chess Club. Both players finished with 3 1/2 points in the four round Swiss-system tournament. Sang was held to a

draw by Curt Collyer in the final game while Feng split his point with Kyle Haining in their second round game. Five USCF-rated masters were among the 27 players in the top section. Collyer tied for third through sixth places with Joshua Sinanan, Nathan Lee and Samuel He.

This was 52-year-old Sang's first tournament since March 2010. Interestingly, the last time Sang played, his young co-winner was rated only 1882. Feng, who turned 12 a few days before the Challengers' Cup, has played 67 rated tournaments since Sang's last chess outing.

There were 32 players in the 5-round Reserve Section for players under-1800 won by Dave Jones and Stuart Rowe. Both players finished with 4 1/2 points. Rowe, rated 1422 at the start, won his first four games and opted for a half point bye in the final round. Jones drew with Sravan Konda in round 3 and was able to grab a share of the top prize by defeating Dan Mathews in round 5.

The 59 entries represented a significant increase over last year despite the wet weather on Puget Sound and snow-fall over the Snoqualmie Pass that welcomed those commuting from the eastern part of the state. In 2011 there were 47 players (25 in the Challenger Section and 22 in the Reserve) after fields of 44 in 2009 and 2010. Of particular note was the abundance of young players including a handful under age 10.

I was able to attend, take the photographs that follow, and collect score sheets while en route to the annual

Halloween party hosted by my friend Delilah. She is the person who invited me to the Pacific Northwest in 2006 and introduced me to my wife, Natasha. This year Delilah surprised her guests by getting married to her longtime boyfriend Paul with no prior announcement. I admit I was a bit suspicious when I found out she was wearing a wedding gown as her costume. In any case, I was able to play three games and cover the tournament, and take photographs at both functions, without anyone noticing my absence from the festivities at either location.

The annual event was organized by the Washington Chess Federation and directed by Fred Kleist who was discharged from the hospital the day before the tournament. Kleist was in good spirits and handled the TD responsibilities without a hitch despite receiving ongoing treatments throughout the weekend. He was ably assisted by Gary Dorfner, Robert Allen and Dan Mathews.

I would like to thank WCF President, Joshua Sinanan, for instituting a policy to collect all the score sheets and to Ralph Dubisch for his excellent notes.

Joshua Sinanan (2248) - Tian Sang (2213)

WA Challengers' Cup Seattle, WA (R3), Oct 28, 2012

[Notes by Ralph Dubisch]

1.d4 f5 2.Nf3 Nf6 3.g3 e6 4.Bg2 d5 5.0-0 Bd6 6.c4 c6 7.Nc3 0-0 8.Qc2 Ne4 9.Rb1 Qe7 10.b4 Nxc3 11.Qxc3 Nd7 12.c5 Bc7 13.Bf4 Bxf4

13...e5 14.Nxe5 Nxe5 15.Bxe5 Bxe5 16.dxe5 f4 17.e4 fxe3 18.Qxe3 Bf5 19.Rb2 and White keeps his extra pawn.

14.gxf4 Nf6 15.a4 a6 16.b5 axb5 17.axb5 Bd7 18.b6 Be8 19.Ra1 Rb8 20.Ne5 Nd7 21.Nd3

21.Nxd7 Qxd7 22.Qh3 and by preventing the bad black bishop from gaining an active role on h5, combined with the advanced outpost on a7, White can claim a clear advantage.

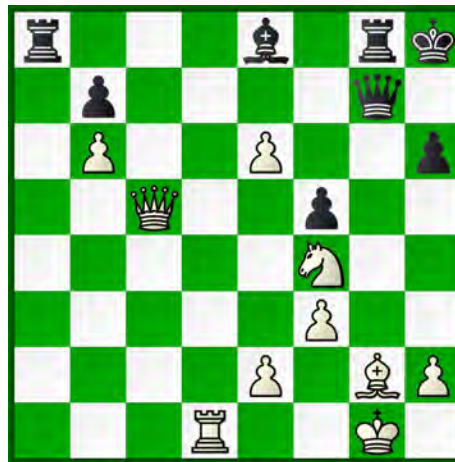
21...Bh5 22.f3 h6 23.Ra7 Kh8 24.Rfa1 Rg8 25.Qd2 g5 26.fxg5 e5 27.dxe5

27.gxh6!? exd4 28.Nf4 Bf7 29.Qxd4+ Kh7 30.Rc1 and White should maintain some extra material.

27...Nxc5 28.g6 Qf8 29.Nf4 Bxg6 30.e6

30.Qc3!?

30...Qf6



31.Nxd5

31.Rc1 Nb3 32.Qc3 Qxc3 33.Rxc3 Nd4 34.e3 Nb5 35.Rb3 Nxa7?! (35...Nd6 36.Kf2 Kg7 with a small edge to White looks safer.) 36.bxa7 Ra8 37.Rxb7 Be8 (37...h5 38.h4 (38.Rb8 Kg7!)) 38.Kf2 Rg7 39.e7 and White appears to be winning.

31...Qg7 32.Nf4

An alternative to the exchange sacrifice was 32.Qc3 cxd5 (32...Nxe6 33.Qxg7+ Rxc7 34.Ra8 Rgg8 35.Rxb8 Rxb8 36.Ne7 is unclear; 32...Qxc3 33.Nxc3 Nxe6 34.Kf2) 33.Qxc5 f4 and Black certainly has enough compensation to recover the pawn e6.

32...Nb3 33.Qe1 Nxa1 34.Rxa1

34.Qxa1!? Qxa1+ 35.Rxa1 Kg7 36.Ra7 Kf6 looks like an interesting endgame.

34...Ra8 35.Rd1!?

Now both of Black's active rooks will participate in the attack. Probably necessary was: 35.Rxa8 The idea is to gain a tempo to play Qb4 before the black bishop has favorably retreated to e8, and incidentally to reduce that g-file battery in the process. 35...Rxa8 36.Qb4 with at least some compensation for the exchange.

35...Be8 36.Qb4 c5! 37.Qxc5?

[Diagram top of next column]

37...Ra4!

And now it's all over.

38.e4 fxe4 39.fxe4 Rxe4 40.Rd2

White resigned without waiting for...40...Qa1+ 0-1

Curt Collyer (2288) - Megan Lee (2128)

WA Challengers' Cup Seattle, WA, (R2), Oct 27, 2012

[Notes by Ralph Dubisch]

1.Nf3 d5 2.b3 Nf6 3.Bb2 c6 4.g3 Bf5 5.Bg2 e6 6.d3 Nbd7 7.Nbd2 Be7 8.h3 h6 9.e3 Qc7 10.Qe2 Bh7 11.0-0 12.e4 dxe4 13.dxe4 e5 14.Ne1 Rfe8 15.Nd3 Bf8 16.Rae1 Nc5 17.f4 Nxd3 18.cxd3 Nd7 19.fxe5 Nxe5 20.d4 Nd7 21.e5 f6 22.Nf3 Kh8 23.Nh4 Bb4 24.Rd1 fxe5 25.Rf7 Re7 26.Rxe7 Bxe7 27.dxe5 Nc5 28.Qg4

28...Bxh4



28...Nd3 29.Ng6+ Bxg6 30.Qxg6 Nxe5 (30...Nxb2?? 31.Be4 Kg8 32.Rf1 mates.) 31.Qf5 (31.Bxe5?! Qxe5 32.Be4 Kg8 33.Rf1 Bf6) 31...Bf6 32.Be4 Kg8 and White has the bishop-pair and aggressively posted pieces for the invested pawn.

1.



2.



3.



4.



5.



6.



7.



8.

9.



1. Josh Sinanan (white) vs. eventual winner Tian Sang (black); 2. Challenger's Cup reserve section (round 4), Front to back (white vs. black): Konstantin Velichko vs. Evan Ruan (elbow only), Max Dixon vs. Brian Chen, Rowan James (away from board) vs. Jim Dixon, Steve Buck, Sergey Cherepennikov vs. Aaryan Despande, Jiangyu Li vs. Andreas Farry, Ravikrishna Yallapragada vs. Terrence Li; 3. WCF Tournament Coordinator Dan Mathews; 4. "Unkle Vik" (Viktors Pupols); 5. Viktors Pupols (left) plays Roland Feng (right); 6. Reserve Section Round 5: Diallo Wilson vs. Naomi Bashkansky, August Piper vs. Breck Haining; 7. Open Section round 3: Josh Sinanan vs. Tian Sang, Viktors Pupols in foreground; 8. Top boards of the open section in round 3: Curt Collyer prepares for his game with Viktors Pupols, Sinanan-Sang is underway; 9. Overview of the playing hall. All pictures taken by Frank Niro at the 2012 Washtington Challengers' Cup.

29.Qxh4 Nd3

29...Ne6!? The blockade square is nearly perfect for the knight, though with the bishop-pair, passed e-pawn, and activity, White can still claim an edge.

30.Bc3

30.Rxd3?! Bxd3 31.e6 Kh7 Although the bishop-pair and a pawn are often thought to provide good compensation for the exchange, here White lacks one key ingredient.

30...Re8 31.Kh2

31...Qe7?!



31...Nxe5? 32.Re1 Qb8 (32...Kg8 33.Bxe5 Rxe5 34.Qc4+ Kh8 35.Qf4; 32...Bg8 33.Qf4) 33.Qd4 is winning for White.; 31...Re7?! 32.Rf1! Nxe5? 33.Rf8+ Bg8 34.Qf4 when White's threats are worth more than the pawn.; 31...b5!?

32.Qxe7 Rxe7 33.Bf1 Nc5 34.Rd8+ Bg8 35.Bb4



35.Bc4 Ne6 36.Rc8 c5 37.b4 b6 38.bxc5 bxc5 and though it's not at all hard for White to score a healthy extra pawn,

the likely opposite-color bishops certainly complicate the technical process of using it to win.

35...Rd7

Relatively best is 35...Rxe5 36.Bxc5 Rxc5 37.Bc4 Rxc4 38.bxc4 Kh7 when White still faces some challenges to convert the material edge.

36.Rxg8+ Kxg8 37.Bc4+ Kh7 38.Bxc5 b6 39.Bd6 b5 40.Bd3+ g6 41.Be4 1-0

Rupel Goes to Russia

(Continued from page 6)

Against this line, the more usual square for this knight is h3.

5...Bg4 6.Be2 e6 7.Nbd2 Be7 8.c3 Nd7 9.g3 Nh6 10.Nf1 Nf5 11.Ne3 Nxe3 12.Bxe3 b5 13.a4 a6 14.b3 c5 15.0-0 c4 16.bxc4 bxc4 17.Ng5 Bf5 18.f3 Qa5 19.Qd2 Rb8 20.g4 hxg4

Better is 20...Bd3 21.Bxd3 cxd3 and if 22.Qxd3 hxg4 and Black stands well.

21.fxg4 Bxg5 22.Bxg5 Be4 23.Ra3 Qb6 24.Ra2 Rh7 25.a5 Qa7 26.Qe3 Qb7 27.Bd1 Qb1 28.Rd2 Qb5 29.h5 gxh5 30.gxh5 Nf8?

I was nervous about my young adversary's advantage on time. But this is too panicky. Grabbing the a-pawn with the queen would have been a better attempt to complicate.

31.Ra2 Qb1??

Overlooking White's obvious reply. I should have admitted my previous move was a mistake and played 31...Nd7 with some survival chances.

32.Ba4+ 1-0

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Washington Chess News

by Russell "Rusty" Miller

U.S. Chess League

Week 8 - Seattle 1.5 vs Carolina 2.5

(Commentary courtesy of Joshua Sinanan) The Sluggers lost a tough match last night (10/24 round 7) against the Carolina Cobras. Despite this loss, we remain in third place behind Dallas and St. Louis, and a full match point ahead of Arizona, which puts us in prime playoff contention.

Varuzhan Akobian flew all the way from Kansas to play white on board 1 against the veteran IM Jonathan Schroer. Out of a queen's gambit declined, Varuzhan gained space on the queenside and locked up the position with c5 and b4, to which Schroer responded by opening the a-file and exchanging rooks. Black made the mistake of allowing Varuzhan's queen to take residence on a8, which tied him down to the defense of his weak c6-pawn. Varuzhan converted his advantage nicely, eventually breaking through on the kingside with the queen maneuver a8-a1-f6xh6, after which black quickly capitulated.

Slava faced the underrated FM Kassa Korley on board 2 and transposed to the Tarrasch Defense out of an English Opening. A tactical skirmish occurred on move 15, when Slava's Ne4 fork was answered by 16. Rxc6!, and white has a counter fork of his own. Slava wisely maintained the balance by declining the rook and the game entered an equal rook ending after all of the minor pieces had been swapped. Given the match situation, Slava correctly decided to play for a win and may have over extended with 23...g5, after which Korley was able to trade queens and enter a winning

rook ending.

I suffered my first loss of the season on board 3 against FM Ron Simpson. The game was going well for me out of the opening, as Simpson chose an inferior line of the closed Catalan and ended up with a cramped but solid position. During my mid game pizza and root beer break, I lost track of the position and proceeded to make several dubious pawn moves upon my return to the board! 15. b4 and 20. f4 simply made my position worse as they allowed for queenside counterplay and loosened up my kingside unnecessarily. As Varuzhan pointed out to me after the game, I should have redirected my focus to the weakened black kingside and started an attack over there instead. In time trouble, I missed 22... Nc4!, and allowed Simpson's pieces to penetrate on the queenside, after which I was forced to resign.

Roland faced NM Craig Jones on board 4 and was surprised to see 1. a3, Anderssen's Opening! Roland responded solidly with a queen's indian set-up, and a fierce battle over the c-file ensued. After a huge liquidation, the game entered a B vs. N ending, with Roland having the knight and slightly better chances. Black was able to create an outside passed a-pawn and seemed to be much better, but Jones correctly chose to activate his bishop with 47. d5 and created chances of his own on the kingside. A theoretically drawn position was soon reach that Roland had no trouble holding.

Final score of the match: 2.5-1.5 Cobras

GM Varuzhan Akobian-SEA - IM Jonathan Schroer-CAR

ICC, Oct 24, 2012

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nf3 d5 4.Nc3 Be7 5.Bf4 0-0 6.e3 Nbd7 7.c5 c6 8.h3 b6 9.b4 a5 10.a3 Ba6 11.Bxa6 Rxa6 12.0-0 Qc8 13.Rb1 axb4 14.axb4 Qb7 15.Qc2 Rc8 16.Rfc1 b5 17.Ra1 Rca8 18.Qb2 Bd8 19.Nd2 Bc7 20.Rxa6 Rxa6 21.Bxc7 Qxc7 22.Ra1 Rxa1+ 23.Qxa1 e5 24.Qa8+ Nb8 25.Nf3 exd4 26.Nxd4 Nfd7 27.f4 g6 28.g4 Nf8 29.Nce2 Kg7 30.Kf2 h6 31.h4 g5 32.Nf5+ Kh7 33.Qa1 Ne6 34.Qf6 gxf4 35.Nxf4 d4 36.Qxh6+ Kg8 37.Nxd4 1-0

NM Craig Jones-CAR - NM

Roland Feng-SEA

ICC, Oct 24, 2012

1.a3 Nf6 2.b4 e6 3.Bb2 Be7 4.Nf3 0-0 5.e3 b6 6.c4 Bb7 7.Nc3 d5 8.cxd5 Nxd5 9.Nxd5 Bxd5 10.Rc1 Nd7 11.Bc4 Bxc4 12.Rxc4 c5 13.bxc5 Nxc5 14.d4 Qd5 15.Qc2 Ne4 16.0-0 Nd6 17.Rc7 Rfc8 18.Rc1 Bd8 19.Rc6 h6 20.Ne5 Bf6 21.Nd7 Rxc6 22.Qxc6 Kh7 23.Nxf6+ gxf6 24.Qxd5 exd5 25.Rc7 Rc8 26.Rxc8 Nxc8 27.a4 Nd6 28.Bc3 Nc4 29.Kf1 Kg6 30.Ke2 f5 31.f3 Kf6 32.Be1 Nb2 33.a5 bxa5 34.Bxa5 Nc4 35.Bc3 a5 36.Kd3 a4 37.e4 fxe4+ 38.fxe4 Ke6 39.g4 a3 40.exd5+ Kxd5 41.h4 a2 42.Ba1 f6 43.Bc3 Nd6 44.Ba1 Ne4 45.Ke3 Nd6 46.Kf4 Kc4 47.d5 Kxd5 48.Bxf6 Nb5 49.Ke3 Kc4 50.Ba1 Na3 51.Kd2 Kd5 52.g5 h5 53.Kc3 Ke6 54.g6 Nb5+ 55.Kb3 Nd6 56.Kxa2 Nf5 57.g7 Kf7 58.Bf6 Nh6 59.Bd4 Kg6 60.Kb3 Kf7 61.Kc4 Ke6 62.Kc5 Ng8 63.Kc6 Ne7+ 64.Kc7 Kf7 65.Kd7 Nf5 66.Bf6 Nh6 67.Bc3 Ng4 68.Bd4 Nh2 69.Kd6

Nf3 70.Bf6 Nd2 71.Ke5 Nf3+ 72.Kf5 Nxb4+ 73.Kg5 Ng2 74.Kh6 Kg8 75.Kxh5 Nf4+ 76.Kg5 Ne6+ 77.Kg6 Nxb7 78.Bxb7 1/2-1/2

Week 9 - Seattle (2.5) vs San Francisco (1.5)

(Commentary courtesy of Joshua Sinanan) The Sluggers scored a clutch victory last night against San Francisco to guarantee ourselves a spot in the playoffs! We are again tied for 2nd place in the Western Division with St. Louis with a match record of 5.5-3.5 and remain a point ahead of Arizona.

Varuzhan played a beautiful game on board 1 against GM Vinay Bhat that may well be a top choice for game of the week! Out of an exchange slay, white seemed to gain the upper hand after black chose the somewhat dubious plan of Nc5-e4, leaving himself with a weak pawn on e4. Varuzhan built his position nicely with several accurate and strong moves including 15.b5 and 18.Qc7, and it seemed as though the black queen was misplaced on d5. In a difficult position, Bhat chose to sacrifice two rooks and two bishops for Varuzhan's queen and somewhat open king. Varuzhan correctly accepted the material offerings and began a king hunt of his own by doubling his rooks on the 7th rank. Bhat's desperate attempt for a perpetual on the open white monarch was thwarted by Varuzhan's active bishops, which provided necessary shelter to his king and set up an unstoppable mating net.

Georgi scored his first win of the season in fine style on board 2 as black against GM Jesse Kraai! The usually solid bay area GM tried to mix it up by playing 1.e4 instead of his usual 1.Nf3, and the game entered a Pirc Defense. White tripled on the only open file and seemed to have some initiative out of the opening, but

perhaps this was just an illusion as Georgi simply ignored the queen and expanded on the queenside, gaining the bishop pair in the process. The position became critical when Orlov won white's a-pawn at the expense of letting Kraai double his rooks on the 7th rank and threaten to penetrate on f7. Georgi's defended white's only threat with his queen and created an unstoppable passed b-pawn on the queenside, eventually simplifying with 34...Qe6 to enter a winning queen and bishop ending.

I unfortunately lost for the second time in a row, this time against FM Andy Lee on board 3. Out of a Benko Gambit, I opted for a line in which white trades light square bishops and castles by hand, recommended by GM Larry Kaufman in his new book, *The Kaufman Repertoire for Black and White*. Andy went for a set-up with rook on a6 and queen on a8, and a fairly typical Benko middle game was reached. Black soon had no compensation for the pawn and I sensed that I must be winning but couldn't quite decide on how to convert my advantage. I soon went astray and allowed 27...Be3!, which allows black to trade dark square bishops and obtain equal chances on the queenside. In time trouble, I blundered with 34.f5?, when 34.Rd2 would have held comfortably. Lee showed good technique in converting the pawn up Q+R ending and I soon had to resign.

Roland faced another nationally ranked top junior on board 4, NM Cameron Wheeler. Out of an English opening, Roland played a line that he and Varuzhan had prepped before the game involving an early Bc5. Wheeler responded in normal fashion by going for space in the center and on the queenside, but Roland seemed to have everything under control and began to slowly outplay his rival. The game transitioned into an ending which was much better for

black, as Roland controlled the c-file and proceeded to demolish white's center, winning a pawn in the process. Roland may have missed a chance to score the full point with 53...Nc2?, when 53...Rh1 forces Nf1 and leads to a winning position for black. Instead, an equal R+2P vs. R+2P ending was reached, which good enough to secure the match in our favor!

Final score of the match: 2.5-1.5 Sluggers!



GM Varuzhan Akobian versus GM Vinay Bhat. Photo credit: Dan Mathens

GM Varuzhan Akobian-SEA (2697) - GM Vinay Bhat-SF (2555)

ICC, Oct 29, 2012

[Notes by Ralph Dubisch]

1.d4 d5 2.c4 c6 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.cxd5 cxd5 5.Nf3 Nc6 6.Bf4 Nh5 7.Bd2 Nf6 8.e3 e6 9.Ne5 Nxe5 10.dxe5 Nd7 11.f4 Nc5 12.b4 Ne4 13.Nxe4 dxe4 14.Qc2 Bd7 15.b5 f5 16.exf6 Qxf6 17.Rd1 Qf5 18.Qc7 b6 19.Be2 Qc5 20.Qb7 Qd5 21.Qa6 Rc8 22.Bc3 Qc5 23.Bd4 Qb4+ 24.Kf2 Rc7



24...Rc2! 25.Qxa7 Bxb5 26.Rhe1 Bxe2 27.Qb8+ (27.Rxe2? Rxe2+ 28.Kxe2 Qc4+ 29.Ke1 Bb4+ 30.Kf2 Qc2+ 31.Kg3 Qxd1 and Black has a big material plus -- all he has to do is find some clothes for his naked monarch...) 27...Kf7 28.Qb7+ Ke8 (28...Be7 29.Rxe2 Rxe2+ 30.Kxe2 Qc4+ 31.Ke1 Qxa2 32.Qxe4 b5 is probably equal, though a bit messy.) 29.Qb8+ Kf7 is a nice, clear draw by repetition.



25.Rc1! Bc8 26.Rxc7 Bxa6 27.bxa6 Bd6 28.Rc8+ Kf7 29.Rxh8 Bxf4 30.Rc1 e5 31.Rc7+ Kg6 32.Bc3 Qb1 33.Rg8 Bxe3+ 34.Kxe3 Qc1+ 35.Kxe4 Qc2+ 36.Bd3 Qxg2+ 37.Kxe5+ Kh6 38.Rgxf7 Qxh2+ 39.Kd5 Qh5+ 40.Be5 Qh1+ 41.Kd6 1-0



IM Georgi Orlov versus GM Jesse Kraai. Photo credit: Dan Mathens

GM Jesse Kraai-SF (2567) - IM Georgi Orlov-SEA (2523)

ICC, Oct 29, 2012

[Notes by Ralph Dubisch]

1.e4 d6 2.d4 Nf6 3.Nc3 g6 4.Nf3 Bg7 5.Be2 0-0 6.0-0 c6 7.Re1 Qc7 8.Bf4 Nh5 9.Be3 e5 10.Qd2 Nd7 11.Rad1 b5 12.dxe5 dxe5 13.Qd6 Qb7 14.Nd2 Nf4

[Diagram top of next column]

15.Nb3

15.Bxf4 exf4 16.Qxf4 with perhaps a small advantage for White.

15...Nxe2+ 16.Rxe2 a5

16...b4?! 17.Na5! Qb8 (17...Qa6 18.Qxb4 Rb8 19.Qa4! (19.Qa3 Re8 20.b4 Bf8 when Black has dangerous play for the pawn.) 19...Rxb2?! 20.Red2 Nb6 21.Qa3 and White is winning.) 18.Qxb8 Nxb8 19.Na4± with a significant advantage in development and weaknesses to target; the bishop-pair doesn't look like a big factor here.

17.Red2 Re8 18.Nc5 Nxc5 19.Qxc5 Be6 20.a4 b4 21.Ne2 b3 22.c3 Qa6 23.Bg5 Bf8 24.Qe3 Qc4 25.Bf6 Bg4 26.h3 Bxe2 27.Qxe2 Qxa4 28.Rd7 Qb5 29.Qf3

29.Qxb5 cxb5 30.R1d5 recovering the pawn with rough equality.

29...Qc4 30.Rb7 a4 31.Rdd7



31...a3! 32.bxa3 Rab8! 33.Rxb8 Rxb8 34.Bxe5 Qe6 35.Bxb8 Qxd7 36.c4 b2 37.Qb3 Qd2 0-1

NM Cameron Wheeler-SF (2200) - NM Roland Feng-SEA (2204)
ICC, Oct 29, 2012

1.c4 Nf6 2.g3 e5 3.Bg2 Nc6 4.Nc3 Bc5 5.d3 0-0 6.e3 h6 7.a3 a6 8.Nge2 d6 9.0-0 Ba7 10.b4 Rb8 11.Rb1 Ne7 12.a4 Be6 13.b5 axb5 14.axb5 c6 15.Qb3 Nd7 16.d4 Nb6 17.d5 cxd5 18.cxd5 Bg4 19.f3 Bh5 20.Kh1 Nd7 21.Na4 Nc5 22.Nxc5 Bxc5 23.Nc3 Bg6 24.Ra1 f5 25.Na4 b6 26.Bd2 Bf7 27.Nc3 Qd7 28.e4 fxe4 29.fxe4 Bd4 30.Rae1 Bg6 31.Nb1 Rxf1+ 32.Rxf1 Qg4 33.Qf3 Qxf3 34.Bxf3 Rc8 35.Na3 Bc3 36.Nb1 Bxd2 37.Nxd2 Rc2 38.Rd1 Kf7 39.Be2 Ng8 40.Bd3 Rc3 41.Bb1 Nf6 42.Kg1 Ke7 43.Re1 Rc5 44.Bd3 Nxd5 45.Nc4 Nb4 46.Bf1 Nc2 47.Rb1 Bxe4 48.Nxb6 Nd4 49.Rb2 Rc1 50.Kf2 Kd8 51.Bc4 Kc7 52.Nd5+ Kb7 53.Ne3 Nc2 54.Bd5+ Bxd5 55.Nxd5 Na3 56.Ne7 Rc7 57.Nc6 Nxb5 58.Nxe5 dxe5 59.Rxb5+ Kc6 60.Rxe5 Kd6 61.Re2 Rf7+ 62.Kg2 Rf5 63.g4 Re5 64.Ra2 Ke6 65.Kf3 Kf6 66.h4 Re6 67.Ra5 Re5 68.Ra6+ Re6 69.Ra4 g6 70.Ra7 Rb6 71.Ra4 Rb3+ 72.Kf4 g5+ 73.hxg5+ hxg5+ 74.Ke4 Rb6 75.Kd5 Rb5+ 76.Kd4 Rb6 77.Rc4 Rd6+ 78.Ke4 Re6+ 79.Kf3 Rd6 80.Rc5 1/2-1/2

Week 10 - Los Angeles (2.5) vs Seattle (1.5)

The following recap of the match is by former slugger NM Dereque Kelley:

Monday night's match ended in defeat for the Sluggers: 2.5 – 1.5. Despite a substantial deficit in ELO Average (almost 80 points) the Sluggers appeared to be teetering close to a drawn or even won match at various points during the match.

The most important game of the match turned out to be on board two where the Slugger's FM Marcel Milat

had White against IM Keaton Kiewra. Marcel was able to establish quite a nice position in the King's Indian using the older continuation of 10.g3 in the Bayonet Attack. This choice paid off nicely since by move 15 (15. Bxe4!) White already had the initiative and a pleasant light-squared bind. For a long time, Marcel possessed the bishop pair and a potentially devastating dominance on the light-squares while IM Kiewra appeared to only be looking for some counter play. But with very resourceful and accurate play (27....Rxb7! 28.Qxb7 e4!) the game once again looked very unclear and dangerous for both sides. The players continued to trade accurate moves back and forth (29.Rg3!, 30... Be5!) when finally Marcel made a decisive misstep in the form of 33.Kh3 whereupon 33...e3! was lights out as would have been 33...Rf5!

Instead, had Marcel played 33.Kh1!, analysis shows that it is Black who must play accurately to compensate for his material deficit. Note that the bishop on e5 cannot capture on g3 because of Qg7 mate. The move 33...e3 could, in this case, be dealt with effectively via 34.Rg2 Qf3 35.Qc6 as 34...Qf3 is not check. Instead Black would carefully need to play 33...Qb2! Followed by 34.Rd1 Bxg3 35.hxg3 Rf2 36.Qg7+ Qxg7 37.hxg7+ Kxg7 with an equalized ending.

With this slight misstep, a game which appeared to even having winning chances for the Sluggers ended in defeat and the remaining boards were under pressure to produce a +1 result in order to tie the match, or +2 result (of 3 games) to win the match. But this did not seem too terribly likely. On board one, IM Slava Mikhailuk was defending the Black side of a dangerous looking attack on his kingside arising from the Sicilian. IM Zhanibek Amanov wielded the White pieces and was proceed-

ing down the board, but Slava was remaining alert and gradually finding decent activity for his pieces.

After some back-and-forth mistakes (18...Bb7? was a mistake and should have been met with 19.Qf2! rather than 19.Rf2? for example) Black had just about equalized when he made a critical oversight and played 26... Bxg7? 27.Rxf7 Qe2? Aiming to tie the queen down to e3 so she could not capture on g6. But Amanov quickly revealed a combination which Slava had overlooked: 28.Rxg7+! Kxg7 29.Qe5+ Kg8 30.Bd4 and the mate threats on g7 and h8 were far too much to cope with. Instead, Slava could have played 26...Bd6! whereupon 27.Qh3 (or 27.Qh4) can be met with 27...f5! amazingly solving Black's defensive problems. Thus here too, equality was close at hand just before a tactical mistake spelled defeat for the Sluggers.

This game wrapped up not too long after Marcel's and thus the Sluggers had scored 0/2 where 1/2 or even 1.5/2 had moments ago seemed feasible. But the Sluggers were not to be counted out! NM Josh Sinanan played quite smoothly and cashed in on a couple of inaccuracies (20... c5? in particular) by FM Eugene Yanayt to gain a healthy extra pawn with big winning chances. Still after some back and forth inaccuracies for both sides, FM Yanayt missed an opportunity to nearly equalize the ending with 35...Nh5+ when the check buys just enough time to coordinate the Black forces and avoid conceding any extra material. Instead after 35...Nf5 36.Rd7 White was back on a healthy path to victory and before long had regained his extra pawn, thereby obtaining a pair of protected passed pawns on the queenside. The game ended in checkmate and the Sluggers still had a chance to equalize the match.

It looked like this just might happen as on board three the Slugger's FM Curt Collyer had gained an extra pawn against FM Konstantin Kavutskiy and appeared to have winning chances though it never quite looked like he would be able to break White's resistance. Curt Collyer again sprung his 1...b6 defense and managed to, again, acquire quite a decent position! By move 15 (15...Nb4) it was already clear that White had not managed to gain much of anything out of the opening. The long maneuvering struggle which ensued remained mostly balanced though for a while it appeared that White had modestly better chances. At one point in the game, both players faltered severely, and Black should have ended up down a piece. This occurred after 30...Bb3? when White missed the opportunity to play 31.Qd3! threatening Qb5 and simply planning to meet 31...Bxa4 with 32.Qc4 b5 33.Qxc6. There is no adequate solution to this move and Black could have lost the game. Instead, FM Kavutskiy played the more meek 31.Bc2? and Black had attained full equality. A further serious mistake by Kavutskiy (36. f4?) simply blundered away a pawn and gave Black substantial winning chances. Tragically, Curt missed his chance when he played the quite natural recapture 63...Nxb5 instead of cleverly using the king to capture the pawn with 63...Kb6! 64.Kf2 a3! 65.Nc1 Kxb5 66.Ke3 Kc4 67.Kd2 Nf5 68.Kc2 Nxd4 69.Kb1 Kc3! -+ With the idea of 70.Ka2 Kc2 -+. Instead after 63...Nxb5, the slight loss of time for the king's penetration was enough to allow White to hold the draw. Though he fought to the very last, Curt was unable to finally make anything of his extra pawn and the game was finally drawn.

A disappointing loss for the Sluggers but as the playoff seat had already been secured – the Sluggers will play

on next week! Best of luck Sluggers!

Final score of the match: 2.5-1.5 Los Angeles

FM Konstantin Kavutskiy-LA (2371) - FM Curt Collyer-SEA (2294)

ICC, Nov 5, 2012

1.d4 b6 2.e4 Bb7 3.Nd2 e6 4.Ngf3 d6 5.Bd3 Nd7 6.0-0 g6 7.Qe2 a6 8.a4 Bg7 9.Re1 Ne7 10.Nf1 0-0 11.Ng3 c5 12.c3 Nc6 13.Bg5 Qb8 14.Qe3 cxd4 15.cxd4 Nb4 16.Bb1 Rc8 17.Qd2 a5 18.h4 Rc4 19.Ra3 Qc7 20.Rc3 Rc8 21.Rec1 Rxc3 22.Rxc3 Qb8 23.h5 Rxc3 24.bxc3 Nc6 25.hxg6 hxg6 26.Nh2 Ba6 27.Ng4 Bc4 28.Bh6 Qf8 29.Bxg7 Qxg7 30.Ne3 Bb3 31.Bc2 Bxc2 32.Qxc2 Qh6 33.Qb3 Qg5 34.Qa3 Qe7 35.Qb3 Qd8 36.f4 Qh4 37.Nef1 Qxf4 38.Qc4 Ncb8 39.Qc7 Kf8 40.Qb7 Ke7 41.Ne2 Qg4 42.Kf2 f5 43.exf5 Qxf5+ 44.Kg1 d5 45.Qc8 Qf8 46.Qc7 Qf6 47.Nf4 Na6 48.Qb7 Qxf4 49.Qxa6 Kd6 50.Qd3 Nf6 51.Qb5 Kc7 52.Qe2 Ne4 53.Qc2 Kb7 54.Qb2 Ka7 55.Qc2 g5 56.c4 dxc4 57.Qxc4 g4 58.Qe2 g3 59.Qf3 Qxf3 60.gxf3 Nd6 61.Nxg3 b5 62.axb5 a4 63.Ne2 Nxb5 64.Kf2 a3 65.Nc1 Nxd4 66.Ke3 Nb5 67.Ke4 Kb6 68.Ke5 Kc5 69.Kxe6 Nd4+ 70.Ke5 Nxf3+ 71.Ke4 Ne1 72.Ke3 Kc4 73.Kd2 Nf3+ 74.Kc2 Nd4+ 75.Kb1 Kc3 76.Na2+ Kb3 77.Nc1+ Ka4 78.Nd3 Nb5 79.Kc2 Nd4+ 80.Kb1 Kb3 81.Nc1+ Kc3 82.Na2+ Kd2 83.Nb4 Nb5 84.Nc2 Nc3+ 85.Ka1 a2 86.Nb4 Kc1 87.Nxa2+ 1/2-1/2

NM Joshua Sinanan-SEA (2263) - FM Eugene Yanayt-LA (2339)
ICC, Nov 5, 2012

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.g3 Bg7 4.Bg2 0-0 5.Nc3 d6 6.Nf3 c6 7.0-0 Qa5 8.h3 Qa6 9.b3 b5 10.Nd2 Bb7 11.Qc2 Nbd7 12.Bb2 Rfc8 13.e4 bxc4

14.Nxc4 d5 15.Ne3 dxe4 16.Nxe4 Nxe4 17.Qxe4 e6 18.Nc4 Rd8 19.Rfc1 Rab8 20.Qe1 c5 21.Bxb7 Qxb7 22.dxc5 Bxb2 23.Nxb2 Qd5 24.Qe3 Ne5 25.Rc3 Nc6 26.Rd1 Nd4 27.f4 f6 28.Rcd3 e5 29.fxe5 fxe5 30.Nc4 Qxc5 31.Nxe5 Ne2+ 32.Kf2 Qxe3+ 33.Kxe3 Rxd3+ 34.Rxd3 Nxg3 35.Kf4 Nf5 36.Rd7 a6 37.Ng4 Kh8 38.Nf6 Ng7 39.Ra7 Rb4+ 40.Ke5 Rb5+ 41.Ke4 Rb4+ 42.Kd5 Rb8 43.Rxa6 Rf8 44.Ra7 h5 45.Ke5 g5 46.Rd7 Rb8 47.a4 g4 48.hxg4 hxg4 49.Rd3 Rf8 50.b4 Ra8 51.a5 Rb8 52.a6 Rb5+ 53.Rd5 Rxb4 54.Rd8+ Ne8 55.Rxe8+ Kg7 56.a7 Ra4 57.a8Q Rxa8 58.Rxa8 g3 59.Rg8+ Kh6 60.Kf5 g2 61.Rg6# 1-0

Standings after Week 10:

Western Division

1. Dallas (7.0 - 3.0)
2. St. Louis (6.5 - 3.5)
3. Arizona (5.5 - 4.5)
4. Seattle (5.5 - 4.5)
5. San Francisco (4.0 - 6.0)
6. Los Angeles (3.5 - 6.5)
7. Miami (3.5 - 6.5)
8. Carolina (3.0 - 7.0)

Eastern Division

1. Philadelphia (7.5 - 2.5)
2. Manhattan (6.5 - 3.5)
3. New York (5.5 - 4.5)
4. Baltimore (5.5 - 4.5)
5. New Jersey (5.0 - 5.0)
6. Connecticut (4.5 - 5.5)
7. Boston (4.0 - 6.0)
8. New England (3.0 - 7.0)

Reno Results

Though total attendance was down 25 from the 2011 event, many of the 188 players who did take part in the Western States Open in Reno, October 19-21, 2012, were from the Pacific Northwest. The TD and organizer for the event was Jerry Weikel of Reno.

Northwest players in the event:

Open Section: Finishing at 50% with 3-3 were Nick Raptis of Portland, Ignacio Perez of Renton, and Samir Sen of Vancouver, WA, and at 2.5-3.5, Viktors Pupols of Kingston.

In the Expert Section, Paul Bartron of Tacoma tied for 2nd place with 4.5-1.5. Paul Romero of Portland scored 4-2, Steve Merwin of WA and John Schwarz of Lacey both had 3-3, while Randy Dean of Olympia and Bill Heywood of Portland managed 2.5-3.5.

A Section: With 5-1, Aaron Grabinsky of Coquille OR tied for 1st place. Drayton Harrison and Michael Schemm of Seattle and Randall Smolensky of Oregon all scored 4-2; Joseph Kiuru of Tacoma and Mika Mitchell of WA scored 3-3; Dan Mayers of Sun Valley, Idaho, scored 2-4.

B Section: Lon Brusselback of Newport and Ritchie Duron, OR, were at 4-2; Steven Buck of Tacoma scored 3.5-2.5; Jothi Ramesh of Shoreline, WA, Peter Grant of Jacksonville, OR, Ronald Kirsch of Tacoma, and Kerry Van Veen of Seattle all finished with 3-3; Ewald Hopfenzitz of OR had 2.5-3.5, Richard Golden of Brainbridge Island, WA, and Michael Titus of OR went 2-4; David Wagner of OR finished 1.5-4.5.

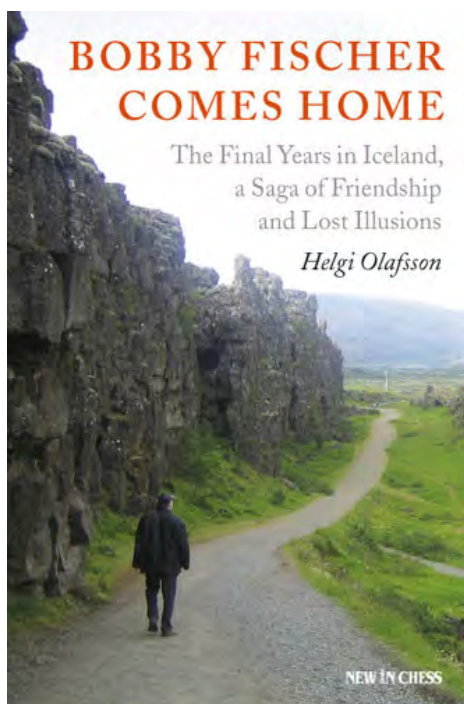
C Section: Seattle's August Piper tied for second with 4.5-1.5; Jim Fety of OR, 4-2; Michael Orr of Indianola, WA, and Michael Mellott of Tacoma ended with 3.5-2.5; Stephen Shook of Bellevue, WA, had 2.5-3.5; Russell Crenshaw and Bernard Spera of OR went 2-4.

D Section: Timothy Sheehan of WA and Joshua Grabinsky of Coquille, OR, both finished with 3-3; Michael Kent of WA posted 2.5-3.5.

The Seattle Chess Club team won the team prize by a mere half point ahead of Reno Chess Club.

Book Review

by IM John Donaldson



Since the death of Bobby Fischer in 2008 there have been several excellent books on his life with Frank Brady's masterful *Endgame* and Joseph Ponterotto's insightful *A Psychobiography Of Bobby Fischer* topping the list. Now a third must read for fans of the late World Champion has appeared.



Drawing by David Miller, American Postal Chess Tournaments

Icelandic Grandmaster Helgi Olafsson's *Bobby Fischer Comes Home* (New in Chess 2012, www.newinchess.com, 143 pages, paperback, \$19.95) is more narrowly focused than the two previously mentioned works but it sheds important new light on the last years of Fischer's life with a portrait that is both sympathetic and honest.

Like many others who started to play chess in the early 1970s, Olafsson was strongly influenced by the 1972 match between Fischer and Spassky in Reykjavik. *Bobby Fischer Comes Home* begins with Olafsson recounting the start of his chess career and how it coincided with Bobby's rise to World Champion. Here the Icelandic GM recounts the first of many interesting stories, mentioning how Fischer's first trip to Iceland in 1972 was not for the match but earlier, in February, when the location for the World Championship match had not yet been decided. During his visit the 5th Reykjavik international chess tournament was in progress and Bobby came one day to check out the action only to be disappointed when Raymond

Keene, then an IM, agreed to a draw against the great Leonid Stein in a position Fischer thought winning for the Englishman.

Soon after Fischer wins the World Championship the story quickly moves from 1972 to 2005 when Fischer is rescued from jail in Japan by the country he helped put on the map. The last 80 pages offer a glimpse of Fischer seldom seen before. Olafsson, who became one of Fischer's inner circle, presents his subject warts and all but in a respectful manner not a kiss and tell story.

Bobby could be difficult,

sometimes very difficult for even his closest friends and the author is not immune from Fischer flying off the handle in his presence. Olafsson includes an e-mail he received from Boris Spassky in which the latter writes, "...It was funny for me to see how you deal with Bobby. He can torture everybody." Everybody included Bobby who was often his own worst enemy.

While there are sad moments in *Bobby Fischer Comes Home* there are happy ones as well and Olafsson recounts many episodes of Bobby that are sure to please anyone that wished Fischer well. These include domestic scenes with his long-time companion Miyoko Watai, going on a weekend fishing trip in the wilds of Iceland, spending time with Viswanathan Anand and even meeting up with the Godmother of Punk Patti Smith who shared with Bobby a love of early rock and roll.

Bobby Fischer Comes Home is a book to be read with pleasure by all Bobby Fischer fans.

Highly Recommended



IM John Donaldson at 2006 Chess Olympiad.
Photo courtesy of John Donaldson.

Idaho Chess News

by Jeffrey Roland

Southern Idaho Open Chess Tournament

Eighteen players came from three states to play in the 2012 Southern Idaho Open chess tournament on November 3, 2012 at the Hub International (formerly Obenchain) Insurance building at 260 South Main Street, Twin Falls, Idaho. This year's event was a one-day, 4 Round Swiss System with a Game/60;d5 time control.

Several students from the University of Utah chess team took this opportunity to play Idaho players in preparation for the 2012 Pan American Intercollegiate Championship coming at the end of December. Six of the eighteen players at this year's event were from out of state – 12 players from Idaho, 5 players from Utah, and 1 player from California. The weather was perfect for travel and chess (about 70 degrees). There were many fun and exciting games, but it was not always possible for every player to record every move due to the fast time control.

A young player, Eladio Arizmendi (Eagle, ID) made his tournament debut here as an unrated player playing in his first USCF tournament.

Playing were two former Idaho State Champions, Michael Henderson of Eagle, (Champion in 1993) and John Carr, Victor, ID (Champion in 1995). And of course many veteran chess players who are regulars at ICA chess tournaments, including such notable players as Dan Looney (Meridian, ID), Barry Eacker (Twin Falls), Fred Bartell (Twin Falls), Jeff Roland (Boise), Tom Booth (Caldwell), and Adam Porth (Bellevue, ID). Also playing



Tournament winner, Bryan Leano glances at the game on the next board during his first round game with Cody Gorman. Photo credit: Jeff Roland

was the up and coming 17-year-old player, Cody Gorman (Eagle) who recently won the 2012 Eastern Idaho Open in Pocatello, and the 2012 National Chess Day tournament in Boise.

The event was very enjoyable for everyone. Kim Barney of Kaysville, UT brought homemade bracelets as gifts for everyone that he handed out at the start of the tournament. Many players wore those throughout the tournament.

Good sportsmanship was exhibited throughout the event by every player. And the overall feel of the tournament was very pleasant.

The tournament was combined into one playing section due to the number of players in the Reserve Section. One player (Cody Gorman) elected to play up and was therefore not be eligible for the Reserve prize money.

In the Open Section, Bryan Leano (Draper, UT) was 1st with a perfect 4

points, followed by Petro Gretchanei (Draper, UT) and Fred Bartell (Twin Falls, ID) tied for 2nd-3rd with 3 points each. There was a tie for 4th-6th place between Mark Ayers (Ontario, CA), Jeff Roland (Boise), and Abhinav Mathur (Salt Lake City) each with 2½ points.



Barry Eacker, Chief TD, Organizer and Player. Barry has been organizing tournaments in southern Idaho since 1990. Photo credit: Jeff Roland

In the Reserve Section, there was a tie for 1st-2nd place between Adam Porth (Bellevue, ID) and Vahan Kardzhyan (Sandy, UT) each with 1½ points, and a tie for 3rd-4th place between Cindy Hanson (Idaho Falls, ID) and Dylan Porth (Bellevue, ID) each with 1 point.

**Cindy Hanson (1058) -
Cody Gorman (1383)**

Southern Idaho Open Twin Falls, ID
(R2), Nov 3, 2012

1.e4 e6 2.d4 b6 3.Nf3 Bb7 4.Nc3 Bb4 5.Bd2 Bxc3 6.Bxc3 Bxe4 7.Bd2 Nc6 8.Bc3 Nf6 9.Ng5 Bg6 10.Bc4 h6 11.Nf3 d5 12.Bb5 Qd6 13.Ne5 Bh5 14.f3 0-0 15.Nxc6 a6 16.Bb4 Qf4 17.Bd2 Qh4+ 18.g3 Qh3 19.Bf1 Qf5 20.Ne7+ Kh8 21.Nxf5 exf5

[Diagram top of next column]



22.Be3 Rfe8 23.Qd3 Bxf3 24.Rg1 Ng4 25.Kd2 Nxe2 26.Qxf5 Be4 27.Qh5 Nf3+ 28.Kc3 c5 29.Bd3 cxd4+ 30.Bxd4 Rec8+ 31.Kb4 Nxd4 32.Ka3 Nb5+ 33.Kb4 Nd4 34.Rac1 b5 35.b3 a5+ 36.Ka3 b4+ 37.Kb2 a4 38.Bxe4 axb3 39.cxb3 Re8 40.Rc7 Rxe4 41.Rg2 Nb5 42.Rc6 Nc3 43.Rxe6+

gxe6 44.Qxe6+ Kg8 45.Kc2 Rxa2+ 46.Kd3 Rxe2 47.Qg5+ Kf8 48.Qd8+ Re8 49.Qd6+ Kg7 50.Qxb4 Rxe3+ 51.Kd2 Re2+ 0-1

**Petro Gretchanei (1692) -
Bryan Leano (1752)**

Southern Idaho Open Twin Falls, ID
(R3), Nov 3, 2012

1.e4 c5 2.Nc3 g6 3.f4 Bg7 4.Nf3 Nc6 5.a4 e6 6.Nb5 d5 7.e5 Nge7 8.Nd6+ Kf8 9.Ng5 f6 10.Ngf7 Qc7 11.Nb5 Qb8 12.Nxe8 fxe5 13.Nxe6+ Nxe6 14.Be2 exf4 15.0-0 Kg8 16.Bh5 e5 17.c4 d4 18.d3 Nb4 19.Qe2 Bf5 20.Rd1 Qd8 21.Bf3 Qe7 22.Be4 Bxe4 23.Qxe4 Nc2 24.Rb1 Kh8 25.Bd2 Rg8 26.Rf1 Bh6 27.Rf2 Qg7 28.Nd6 Ne3 29.Qxb7 Qxb7 30.Nxb7 Nh4 31.Nxc5 Ng4 32.Re2 f3 33.Bxe6 fxe2 34.Bd2 Ne3 35.Ne4 Rxe2+ 36.Kh1 Nf3 0-1

2012 Southern Idaho Open Crosstable

Open & Reserve Sections Combined for Pairing									
##	Player	Residence	Rating	1	2	3	4	Score	Prize\$
1	Bryan B. Leano	Draper, UT	1752	W8	W9	W2	W3	4	\$90.00
2	Petro Gretchanei	Draper, UT	1692	W16	W4	L1	W7	3	\$67.50
3	Fred Bartell	Twin Falls, ID	1675	W17	W11	W5	L1	3	\$67.50
4	Mark Ayers	Ontario, CA	1873	W6	L2	D10	W9	2½	\$15.00
5	Jeffrey T. Roland	Boise, ID	1700	W14	W7	L3	D6	2½	\$15.00
6	Abhinav Mathur	Salt Lake City, UT	1579	L4	W12	W14	D5	2½	\$15.00
7	John B. Carr	Victor, ID	1717	W13	L5	W8	L2	2	
8	Cody Gorman*	Eagle, ID	1383	L1	W16	L7	W12	2	
9	Kim Barney	Kaysville, UT	1623	W18	L1	W13	L4	2	
10	Barry D. Eacker	Twin Falls, ID	1619	-H-	W15	D4	-N-	2	
11	Michael Henderson	Eagle, ID	1856	D12	L3	L15	W17	1½	
12	Tom R. Booth	Caldwell, ID	1554	D11	L6	W16	L8	1½	
13	Adam Porth	Bellevue, ID	1333	L7	W17	L9	D14	1½	\$52.50
14	Vahan Kardzhyan	Sandy, UT	1099	L5	W18	L6	D13	1½	\$52.50
15	Daniel S. Looney	Meridian, ID	1615	-H-	L10	W11	-N-	1½	
16	Cindy Hanson	Idaho Falls, ID	1058	L2	L8	L12	W18	1	\$15.00
17	Dylan Porth	Bellevue, ID	483	L3	L13	W18	L11	1	\$15.00
18	Eladio Arizmendi	Eagle, ID	Unr.	L9	L14	L17	L16	0	

* Note: Cody Gorman elected to play up into the Open Section. The tournament was combined into one section for pairing purposes only. It was understood that Cody would not be eligible for the Reserve Section prizes.

A Conversation with Frank Niro – Part III (Conclusion)

Editor's note: Part I of this interview was presented in the August issue, Part II in the September issue, and we conclude now with Part III. More information and additional interviews of Frank Niro in *Northwest Chess* and *Chess Life* can be found at <http://www.idahochessassociation.org/otherresults-frankniro-20120822.asp>.

Jeff Roland: Earlier we were discussing the 2004 Women's Olympiad team that won the Silver Medal for the U.S. in Mallorca. Who were the members of the training squad for that team?

Frank Niro: Anna Zatonskih, Rusa Goleiani, Susan Polgar, Jennifer Shahade and Irina Krush.

Jeff Roland: So how did you get involved with the U.S.C.F. office?

Frank Niro: I started playing chess in the late 1960s as a hospital patient. The game helped my recovery in many ways besides just passing the time. It distracted me from my pain, assuaged my competitive instincts, gave me goals to pursue, provided mental exercise, and it taught me to plan ahead and deal with the consequences of my actions -- all the good stuff that chess players already know about.

In 1997, after I suffered a stroke, chess again became a part of my therapy. I had to give up hospital administration

because I could no longer handle the long hours, the travel and the stress. By January of 2000, I had thought about returning to work and applied for the USCF Executive Director's job when Mike Cavallo left, but at the time it was clear that I wasn't yet physically ready to do the job. The Executive Board was impressed with my ideas and asked me to stay involved. I became President of the U.S. Chess Trust with the encouragement of its founder, Harold Dondis.

As mentioned earlier, I started working on a Ph.D. in chess in education at the University of Texas at Dallas on Dr. Tim Redman's recommendation. Tim made me aware that George DeFeis had resigned from the USCF and suggested that I try it on an interim, voluntary basis. So I agreed to take the job until the 2002 U.S. Open at Cherry Hill, NJ.

Jeff Roland: But you stayed longer, didn't you?

Frank Niro: Yes, I did, and it was a mistake. My primary goals when I started were to increase memberships, improve internal systems and controls at the USCF office and develop a Strategic Plan for the organization. As a result of the strategic planning process, it became apparent that significant operating expense savings could be realized by changes in the workflow and supporting systems at the USCF headquarters in New Windsor, NY. At the same time, a potential buyer came forward prepared to pay fair market value for the existing property. With

and closest friends, to stay on until the relocation of the office.

Jeff Roland: So you sold the old building and implemented your plans in the new one, right?

Frank Niro: I wish it had been that simple. As you know, membership processing and ratings, the most visible side of the operation to USCF members, was system dependent. I wanted members and tournament directors to be able to look up tournament cross tables within 24 hours of processing, get immediate ratings, search for specific players, and download and print the results at home. Internal systems to better automate ratings and membership processing had to include pre-assignment of member ID numbers. The order entry system utilized by our sales staff was in dire need of streamlining for faster processing of orders. The USCF website had to be more functional, user friendly and current. Online processing of membership renewals and tournament reports needed to be quick and easy. It's hard to imagine that these things that are now taken for granted didn't exist ten years ago, but they did not.

There was no way we could accomplish all of these things within the constraints of the old building and computer system in NY. The books and equipment operation, bolstered by our special tax status and our affinity relationship with members, gave us a competitive advantage in the marketplace and represented \$3,000,000 in annual revenue to the USCF. This was a critical factor, in my opinion, in my plans to proceed forward. We couldn't make such a move until we figured out what was needed to revitalize our books and equipment operation. Finding someplace centrally located was one way to decrease shipping costs. As a minimum, we needed to operate more efficiently, expand the range of products in our catalog without expanding inventory in the warehouse, eliminate unprofitable concession

this in mind, I began exploring relocation options, locally and elsewhere, that would provide the opportunity for potential savings to be realized. I decided, against the recommendation of my doctor

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commitments at national tournaments, strengthen our partnerships, automate the processing of credit cards, reassign duties among staff, improve the web store appearance and functionality, reduce back orders, and develop favorable credit and payment terms with suppliers. Our new quarters had to be designed with these considerations in mind, so we couldn't just run out and lease space somewhere.

Jeff Roland: As a result the office then moved to Crossville, TN?

Frank Niro: Once again, it wasn't so simple. My first recommendation was to move to Miami, FL, in space next to the World Chess Hall of Fame and Museum on property owned by Excalibur Electronics. The President of Excalibur, Shane Samole, was a member of the U.S. Chess Trust Board and a principal benefactor of the Hall of Fame. The building, as envisioned, would be newly constructed on two floors, with one floor designed to our specifications and attached to the Hall of Fame. If needed, additional warehouse space was available. The total lease cost of \$96,000 annually was set as a target since it was felt that more than \$100,000 per year in operating cost savings could readily be achieved with such a move. In other words, the savings was more than the rental expense. This assumption was fundamental to the decision to relocate. Additionally, Mr. Samole agreed to handle the financing for the project. There was synergy in having the USCF office housed on the same campus as the World Chess Hall of Fame.

Relocation of the USCF headquarters to Miami was incorporated into the USCF strategic plan, which was accepted by acclamation at the 2002 delegates' meeting in Cherry Hill. But politics intervened and one of the delegates demanded that we look at Palm Beach Gardens, FL, shamefully suggesting that perhaps Mr. Samole, our biggest benefactor at the time, had a conflict of interest.

Jeff Roland: OK, but how did Tennessee get in the picture?

Frank Niro: By allowing all USCF members to suggest a new location. The Palm Beach Gardens effort was coordinated by a local organizing committee which was co-chaired by two USCF members including incoming Executive Board members Don Schultz and Joel Channing. A proposal was presented to the Executive Board for consideration at its meeting in Boca Raton in November 2002. The proposal contained a number of attractive elements including: (1) a new building in a desirable location, (2) 8,000 sq. ft. at \$11.75 per square foot under a ten-year lease, (3) a limited option to buy, and (4) substantial community financial support.

Since the Executive Board was entertaining a proposal other than Miami, it was recommended by some USCF delegates that a notice be put in *Chess Life* notifying our members that we were seeking proposals for possible new headquarters. Subsequently, we received inquiries from more than 20 communities, including the following:

Trenton, NJ; Mobile, AL; Kansas City, MO; Minot, ND; Cortland, NY; Bloomington, MN; Providence, RI; Lindsborg, KS; Atlanta, GA; San Francisco, CA; Portland, OR; Moab, UT; Rockford, IL; Dallas, TX; Salt Lake City, UT; Leesburg, VA; Durango, CO; Toms River, NJ; Crossville, TN; St. Louis, MO; Chandler, AZ; Indianapolis, IN; Louisville, KY; Lexington, KY; Newark, DE; San Diego, CA; Spokane, WA.

Jeff Roland: Really, all those places were considered, including some in the Northwest?

Frank Niro: Yes, the list is from the 2003 USCF Delegates' Call. I either visited or talked to a sponsor on the phone for every one of those locations. With respect to Spokane, for example, I spoke at length with Erik Anderson,

founder of America's Foundation for Chess (AF4C) in Kirkland, WA, who was a well known organizer of multiple U.S. Championships in the Seattle area and later in San Diego. He wanted the USCF to move to his hometown of Spokane. I was impressed by his presentation and still looking forward to seeing the city when I visited there for the Washington state championship in 2009. The location was problematic in regard to reducing shipping costs for books and equipment. So, after a few months, no further consideration was given to the potential site in Spokane. I realize from my discussions over the years that very few people are aware that Spokane and Portland were both considered as possible sites for the U.S.C.F.

Jeff Roland: What happened after that?

Frank Niro: Of the initial contacts, Crossville, Toms River, San Diego and Lindsborg provided special considerations that were comparable to Miami or Palm Beach Gardens. These were pursued further and Crossville was designated as a feasible back-up location in case the others fell through.

With respect to Palm Beach Gardens, we requested an option to buy at a specified price during the ten-year lease period. The developer responded that a future purchase would be at the current appraised value of the property at the time of purchase and could not be based on a previously agreed upon price. It would be a limited option in the sense that the developer would be free to sell to a third party at any time prior to the exercise of the option by the USCF, and USCF would be given an opportunity to bid prior to sale to another party. To me, that seemed like no option at all.

Of course, remaining in New Windsor was also an option. However, we had inadequate parking, poor layout, extensive future repair costs and antiquated systems. By not moving, the USCF would have saved relocation or sev-

erance costs for employees, retooling expenses and down time. It was estimated that it would cost approximately \$150,000 to orchestrate the move. Some of this (perhaps half) would be necessary to implement new systems even if we stayed in New Windsor. Nevertheless, I was able to demonstrate that a minimum of \$100,000 per year could be saved on an annual basis upon relocation. I felt, and the executive Board agreed, that if we can find a good business opportunity, we should cash out of our existing property and reinvest in a more suitable physical location.

What I failed to consider was that certain valuable records might be destroyed or tossed out during the move and that if we dragged our feet making a decision, we might lose our potential buyer, a local developer by the name of Nicholas Cardaropoli.

In January 2003, the Executive Board voted on the USCF move of the national office to the proposed site in Palm Beach Gardens, Florida, subject to the satisfactory sale of the property in New Windsor and that all the details of the Palm Beach Garden location be worked out by the Executive Director with oversight from a sub-committee appointed by the Executive Board.

The details of the PBG location included a 10-year lease, initial rent of \$11.75 per sq. ft., 3% maximum annual increase, evidence of assurance that the \$250,000 of local fundraising will be raised in the form of initiation of an active fundraising campaign, and

a reasonable amount of signed contingent pledges or actual donations demonstrating the achievability of the fundraising goal. Most importantly, a suitable 'Option to Buy' which would enable the USCF to eventually own the building at an affordable price and, if necessary, an option to get a renewable lease beyond the first 10-year period at comparable rental rates to the initial period.

During my meetings with developers in Florida, I made it clear that the section of the preliminary agreement relating to an option to buy was unacceptable since it did not meet two critical goals for the USCF. We wanted to own our property at some point in the future and not get to the end of our lease term with zero equity and no place to move, and we needed protection against both a huge rent expense increase after the tenth year and the sale of the building to a third party who may not be an acceptable landlord to us. The absence was a potential deal breaker. I stated it as such from the outset of our discussions.

In the meantime, proponents of the move to Miami withdrew their offer upon hearing of the vote to move to PBG. The main shortcoming of the Miami proposal was that the building would be physically attached to the Excalibur Electronics corporate headquarters and, therefore, a future purchase was not legally feasible.

We reviewed the proposals previously received to determine suitability for a back-up site if the details of the

PBG arrangement could not ultimately be resolved. The best of these was from Crossville, TN, and sponsored by Harry Sabine. It involved a donation from the City of three acres of property upon

which a new building could be constructed. The land would be used as a down payment on a mortgage so that the stream of payments made over 15 years would accrue equity and result in ownership. An intriguing proposal was also received from Island Heights, NJ, in which the office would be housed in an historical building overlooking the Atlantic Ocean and the mouth of the Tom's River. Ownership, however, was not a possibility in New Jersey.

After the May Executive Board meeting, I traveled to Florida to attempt to resolve the impasse with the Palm Beach Gardens developer and find out whether a Miami option was still viable and could potentially be resurrected. After that, I returned to Crossville to meet with bankers and other local officials to determine whether financing was available on affordable terms. In addition, I reviewed all other options on the table. The resulting travel caused the blood clots in my legs that resulted in my earlier stroke to recur.

I met with the PBG developer in his office on May 30, 2003. Don Schultz also attended the meeting as a member of the local organizing committee. The meeting was cordial but the developer made it clear that our expectation of an option to buy the property at a specified price could not be met. Furthermore, there would be no assurances regarding lease payments beyond the first ten years. I expressed our reluctance to place the USCF in jeopardy of getting ten years down the road with no equity and no affordable place to operate. We agreed that there could be no meeting of the minds and, therefore, the original deal conditionally approved by the EB was off the table.

Meanwhile, at my request, Shane Samole and Al Lawrence contacted the owner of the property adjacent to the World Chess Hall of Fame & Museum. The principal downside to the earlier Miami proposal was the lack of an ownership option. By building

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on property that we could own, the Miami alternative would be more desirable. On June 2, 2003, we learned that the property was committed for a proposed condominium development and, therefore, was no longer available to us.

I returned to Crossville on June 4, 2003. While there, I met with Harry Sabine and three local banks. I negotiated an agreement in writing to temporarily lease vacant property free of charge, including utilities, during the period prior to completion of our new building providing an important and economical staging opportunity to simplify the relocation process. I also signed a preliminary agreement with an architect that ultimately became a critical factor in the final decision to move to Crossville. The Crossville City Council voted to transfer three acres of land on O'Brien Avenue, without restrictions, to the USCF. The Governor, also a chess player, welcomed me to his office in Nashville and the Mayor of Crossville presented me with the Key to the City which, by the way, is now hanging on the wall of the Portland Chess Club.

All three banks were very receptive. All agreed that the land value was between \$150,000 and \$200,000 and could be used to fulfill the down payment requirement. Two of the three banks gave verbal approvals for construction loans and permanent mortgages before I left on June 7.

I concurred with the Executive Committee's vote on June 9, 2003 (5-1-1) to relocate the USCF headquarters in Crossville, Tennessee, contingent on the sale of the existing property in New Windsor, New York, and subject to approval by the LMA Committee to utilize the proceeds of the sale in connection with the move.

Jeff Roland: So that was the end of the discussion?

Frank Niro: Sadly, it wasn't, but we

don't have space to go into it here. The new Executive Board seated at Los Angeles in 2003, and led by Don Schultz and Joel Channing, reopened the Palm Beach Garden discussions forcing the resignations of John McCrary and Frank Camaratta from the E.B.. By that time, following a heart attack and a pulmonary embolism in July, I had resigned my position as U.S.C.F Executive Director. Mr. Cardaropoli walked away from the deal because he felt the USCF had acted in bad faith and, ironically, the new Board decided to outsource books and equipment despite the fact that the new office was to be located across the street from the post office, a site that I picked to facilitate future shipping from the USCF to its members.

Jeff Roland: In your 2002 *Chess Life* interview, you said that you try to get people to work together for the benefit of chess. One of the questions you asked me within ten minutes of our first meeting was "How do you feel about Idaho joining Northwest Chess?" And I said, "I'm all for it!" And then we made it happen! How did you come to see this as even a possibility? Why was there so much support for this idea when I addressed the Northwest Chess Board back in August 2011?

Frank Niro: At one time, late seventies I think, I was playing Robert Karch (WA) and Dick Vandenburg (ID) in correspondence chess at the same time, so I learned about chess in the Northwest long before I ever visited here for the first time. Karch sent me the article on his match against 12-year-old Yasser Seirawan and we became pen pals, more or less. He was anti-USCF and outspoken on a variety of subjects. At one point, and I don't recall the specifics, he mentioned Idaho leaving Northwest Chess while he was editor of the magazine and I asked Vandenburg about it. Once again, I don't remember the details, but I was unhappy that what seemed from a distance to be a petty feud should affect whether or

not the players in the region received such a good magazine.

So when I moved to Oregon in 2007 I asked some players why Idaho was not part of NWC and nobody seemed to know. Eric Holcomb told me he would love to see Idaho back in the organization. Then when I moved to Idaho I decided to ask you the same question and I called you initially for exactly that reason. Fortunately, you were willing to take the time to meet me for lunch at Rembrandt's in Eagle. Once you gave a positive response, I placed you on the agenda for the next NWC Board meeting even though I wasn't on the Board myself. I walked into the meeting, introduced you to everyone around the table, suggested that the three states get together and walked out of the room. What happened after that was on you, and I am pleased that it all worked out.

Jeff Roland: Over the years you have been a tournament director, an organizer, a national leader, a catalyst for change, a journalist, a coach and an ambassador for chess. How would you like to be remembered by the chess community?

Frank Niro: Actually, I wish to be remembered as an average chess player who was a friend to everyone who loved the game. To be honest, I'm learning as I grow older that none of that other stuff really matters.

Jeff Roland: Well, in that case, do you have a few favorite games that can share?

Frank Niro: Of course! I'll wrap it up with these, and you can cut me off when you run out of space.

The first is from the 1988 U.S. Open in Boston. It was a win with the black pieces against Expert Paul Ascolese from New York. The game pushed my rating over 2000 for the first time and it was published in the *Boston Globe* under the heading "Niro Doesn't Fiddle". Shortly afterwards I defeated National

Master David Vigorito, but the Ascolese game is still my favorite.

Paul Ascolese (2154) -

Frank Niro (1983)

[A10] US Open, Boston, MA,
(R6), Aug 12, 1988

1.c4 f5 2.g3 Nf6 3.Bg2 d6 4.Nc3 g6
5.e3 Bg7 6.d4 0-0 7.Nge2 c6 8.0-0
e5! 9.b3 10.Bb2 Nh5 11.Qd2 f4!?
12.exf4 exf4 13.gxf4 Bh6! 14.Qd3
Ndf6 15.Ne4 Nxe4 16.Bxe4 Qh4
17.Bc1 Bh3 18.Bg2



18...Bxg2! 19.Kxg2 Bxf4 20.Bxf4
Rxf4 21.Qe3 Re4! White resigns 0-1

In my early years I was mostly a postal chess player carrying as many as 150 games at a time. The following correspondence game was published in *Chess Life* by Alex Dunne and was played before the advent of strong computer chess engines. It is short and ends with a queen sac.

Frank Niro (MA) -

Mike Foust (FL)

APCT corr. ended Dec 10, 1983

1.e4 d5 2.exd5 Nf6 3.d4 Nxd5 4.Nf3
Bg4 5.Be2 Nc6 6.c4 Nb6 7.0-0 e6
8.Nc3 Be7 9.d5 exd5 10.cxd5 Nb4
11.Qd4 Bxf3 12.Bxf3 Nc2 13.Qxg7
Bf6 14.Qg4 Nxa1 15.Re1+ Be7
16.Bg5 Rg8 17.Bxe7 Rxe4 18.Bc5+
Kd7 19.Bxg4+ f5 20.Bxf5# 1-0

This final game falls under the category of my most interesting game. It

was played after my 1997 stroke and was only a draw. But it was against International Master Ronald Burnett of Tennessee. The game caught a lot of attention and was annotated by GMs Lubomir Ftacnik, Pal Benko and Lev Alburt. It was published both online and in a book by GM Alburt and Al Lawrence under the heading, "Hoisting the Hippopotamus." One reason it received so much attention is because I offered a draw in a winning position. The tactics weren't that easy to see though, at least not for me.

Frank Niro (1700) -

Ronald Burnett (2420)

Greenwich, CT, Jun 12, 2000

1.e4 g6 2.d4 Bg7 3.Nc3 d6 4.f4 a6
5.Nf3 b5 6.Bd3 Bb7 7.e5 Nh6 8.0-0
0-0 9.Qe2 c5 10.dxc5 dxc5 11.Be4
Bxe4 12.Qxe4 Ra7 13.Be3 Rc7
14.Rad1 Qe8 15.Nd5 Qc6 16.Ng5
Rb7 17.Kh1 Nf5 18.g4 Nxe3 19.Nxe3
h6 20.Qxc6 Nxc6 21.Ne4 c4 22.Nc5
Rc7 23.e6!? Bxb2 24.exf7+ Rxf7
25.Ne6 Rc8 26.Rd7 Ba3 27.Rfd1 Kh7

28.Nd5 c3 29.g5! hxg5 30.Nxg5+
Kg7 31.Nxf7 Kxf7 32.Nxc3 Nb8
33.R7d3+- Draw agreed 1/2-1/2



Jeff Roland: Thanks for taking the time to share your chess insights and for all you have done to support chess in the Northwest.

Frank Niro: You're welcome. I wish you a long and successful tenure as Editor of *Northwest Chess*.



Frank Niro. Photo credit: Jami Anson

Oregon Chess News

by Frank Niro

Portland CC Championship

FIDE Master Nick Raptis won the 2012 Portland Chess Club Championship with a perfect 5-0 score, a full point ahead of last year's co-champ Steven Deeth and two points ahead of the rest of the 14-player field. Third through sixth places were shared by Lennart Bjorksten, Michael Morris, Mike Janniro and Jerry Sherrard. Raptis won the club championship for the fifth time, dating back to his first victory in 1998. It was the 44th tournament of the year for Raptis.

The tournament was played at the club between October 2nd and October 30th. Grisha Alpernis handled the TD duties, assisted by Michael Morris.

Sean O'Connell (1822) -

Jason Cigan (1915)

PCC Championship Portland

(R1), Oct 2, 2012

[Notes by Jason Cigan]

1.b3

Sean had beaten me with a double fianchetto earlier in the year. I had seized the centre classically with ...d5, ...c5, ...Nc6, ...Nf6 that time, which is exactly what players who play hypermodern systems usually want! This time I decided to mix things up.

1...g6

A quirky response. 1... e5 and 1... d5 are the solid choices.

2.Bb2 Nf6 3.e4

3.Bxf6 looks principled.

3...Bg7 4.e5 Nd5 5.c4 Nb6 6.f4

At the board I feared 6.c5 Nd5 7.Bc4, but Black is doing fine after 7... Nf4 8.g3 Ne6 , as 9.Bxe6 dxe6 is no problem.

6...d6 7.d4

Chess is full of surprises. Here we are in the Four Pawns Attack of Alekhine's Defense, but with both dark-squared bishops already fianchettoed! This favors Black, as his counterplay against White's center is now greatly enhanced.

7...dxe5 8.fxe5 c5

The most incisive.

9.d5 e6!

The point of Black's play--d5 is hanging and the queen has her sights on h4.

10.Nf3

One of several ways to lose a pawn.

10...exd5 11.cxd5 Nxd5 12.Nbd2 Nc6 13.Nc4 0-0 14.Qd2

The knight will never get to the d6 square, as 14.Nd6 Nxe5 loses.

14...Bg4 15.Be2 Ndb4 16.0-0 Qxd2 17.Ncxd2 Nxe5

This was the principled way to play, but now White will develop a nagging initiative for the two pawns. This seems to be a recurring theme in my games...

18.Bxe5 Bxe5 19.Nxe5 Bxe2 20.Rf2 Bb5 21.Ne4 b6 22.Nd6 Nd3 23.Nxd3

23.Rxf7! looked best to me. Now White gets a pawn back and still will keep better-placed pieces. Black is better but there is a lot of work to do.

23...Bxd3 24.Rd1 Ba6 25.Re1

I am not sure if White had anything



Drawing by David Miller, American Postal Chess Tournaments

better. Here it seems that his temporary initiative has dried up, and Black can consolidate.

25...Rad8 26.Ne4 f5 27.Ng5 Rfe8

Black has a won position. I was in mild time-pressure still, with about fifteen minutes left now, so some focus was still needed.

28.Rc1 h6 29.Nf3 Re2 30.h4 Rde8 31.Rd1 Rxf2 32.Kxf2 Re2+ 33.Kg3 Bb5 34.Rd8+ Kf7 35.Rh8 Rxa2 36.Kf4

36.Rxh6? Kg7 and White must resign.

36...Kg7 37.Ra8 Kf6 38.Rf8+ Kg7 39.Rc8 Rxc7 40.Rc7+ Kf6

I have made the time control.

41.Ne1 g5+ 42.hxg5+ hxg5+ 43.Kf3 Re2 44.Ng2 Rb2 45.Ne3 g4+ 46.Nxc4+

At this point I triumphantly played Be2+. After a pause, Sean politely pointed out that my king was in check. Fortunately time was no longer an issue, and touchmove did not apply, as the bishop cannot move (I am in check, you see!).

46...fxg4+ 47.Kxc4 Rxb3

The rest is straightforward.

48.Rxa7 Be2+ 49.Kf4 c4 50.Rc7 c3 51.Rc6+ Ke7 52.Ke3 Kd7 53.Rh6 c2+ 54.Kd2 Bd1 0-1

Cedar Hills Crossing Chess Club

I would like to thank Sean Tobin for his valuable contributions.

The Cedar Hills Crossing Chess Club

in Beaverton has two meetings a week - Mondays and Fridays plus a club blog (<http://www.ptownchess.blogspot.com/>).

The "TGIF G90 +30" events are month long events except for the November and December events which are combined because of the Holidays.

The Sunday Slam events are one day events, however the first one was a two day event. The CHC Quick Blitz and Cedar Hills Crossing Quick tournaments are one day events that alternate on Monday meetings.

The Cedar Hills Crossing Chess Club Quick Tournaments #005 and #006 were dominated by Nick Raptis. The first of these two events was held on October 1st when Raptis swept all six games in the 7-player field to finish two points ahead of Brian Esler. Raptis continued his winning ways on November 5th going 4-0 to top a field of nine. Matthew Sellers and Steven Witt tied for second at 2.5-1.5. Both events were directed by Sean Tobin.

Nick Raptis also won the CHC QUICK BLITZ #2 held October 29,



Steven Witt (Black pieces) vs James Bean (White pieces). This photo was also from the "TGIF" - G90 +30 #002, round two held on Friday the 9th of November. Photo credit: Sean Tobin



Brian Esler (White pieces) vs Mike Goffe (Black pieces) from round 2 of the "TGIF G90 +30 #002" held on the 9th of November. This event is ongoing and will conclude by the end of December. Photo credit: Sean Tobin

2012. He won all 16 of his games (8 rounds of two games against each opponent). Brian Esler was second with 10 pts in this event which featured 10 players.

The October "TGIF G90 +30 #001" had two co-winners: Mike Janniro and Daniel Gay. Following are some games from that event provided courtesy of the organizer and tournament director, Sean Tobin.

Daniel Gay (2198) - Robert Herrera (2069)

TGIF G90 +30 #001,

Beaverton, OR (R2), Oct 12, 2012

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nf3 d5 4.Nc3 Bb4 5.Qa4+ Nc6 6.e3 0-0 7.Bd2 a6 8.a3 Bd6 9.Qc2 dxc4 10.Bxc4 e5 11.d5 Ne7 12.e4 Ng6 13.0-0 Bc5 14.Rac1 Ba7 15.Ne2 Bg4 16.Qd3 b5 17.Ba2 c5 18.Bb1 Ne8 19.h3 Bd7 20.Ng3 Nd6 21.h4 Nc8 22.h5 Nh4 23.Bc3 Re8 24.Nd2 Nd6 25.Kh1 b4 26.axb4 Bb5 27.Qc2 Bxf1 28.Rxf1 cxb4 29.Bxb4 Nb5 30.Nc4 Rc8 31.Qd3 Qg5 32.Bd2 Qg4 33.Bc2 f6 34.Ba4 g6 35.Bxb5 axb5 36.Nd6 Red8 37.Nxc8 Rxc8 38.Qxb5 Rb8 39.Qc6 Bxf2 40.Rxf2 Qxc3 41.Qxf6 gxh5 42.Qf7+ Kh8 43.Qf6+ Kg8 44.Bh6 1-0

Yaman Tezcan (1997) -
Mike Janniro (2025)

TGIF G90 +30 #001,
Beaverton, OR (R3), Oct 19, 2012

1.d4 Nf6 2.Nf3 g6 3.c4 c5 4.e3
cxd4 5.exd4 Bg7 6.g3 0-0 7.Bg2
d5 8.cxd5 Nxd5 9.h3 b6 10.0-0
Bb7 11.Nc3 Nd7 12.Qb3 N7f6
13.Bg5 Rc8 14.Rac1 Nxc3 15.bxc3
h6 16.Bd2 Ne4 17.Bf4 g5 18.Be3
Ba6 19.Rfe1 Bc4 20.Qa3 Nd6
21.Ne5 Qc7 22.Nc6 a5 23.Nxe7+
Qxe7 24.Bf4 Qxe1+ 25.Rxe1 Nb5
26.Qb2 gxf4 27.a4 Nc7 28.Qxb6
fxg3 29.fxg3 Nd5 30.Qxa5 Ra8
31.Qc5 Rfc8 32.Qd6 Rd8 33.Qc6
Rac8 34.Qb7 Nxc3 35.a5 Bxd4+
36.Kh2 Bd5 37.Bxd5 Nxd5 38.Rd1
Ne3 39.Rb1 Rc2+ 40.Kh1 Nf5
41.Qf3 Rf2 42.Qd3 Re8 43.g4 Re2
44.Qxe2 Ng3+ 0-1

Mike Janniro (2025) -
Matthew Sellers, M (2109)

TGIF G90 +30 #001,
Beaverton, OR (R4), Oct 25, 2012

1.c4 Nf6 2.Nf3 g6 3.d4 Bg7 4.Nc3
c5 5.d5 e6 6.e4 exd5 7.cxd5 d6 8.h3
0-0 9.Bd3 Na6 10.0-0 Bd7 11.Bf4

Ne8 12.Rc1 f6 13.Qd2 Nac7 14.Bh6
b5 15.Bxg7 Nxc7 16.Nh2 b4 17.Nd1
f5 18.f4 Qe7 19.Nf2 Rae8 20.Rce1
Qf6 21.e5 dxe5 22.d6 Nb5 23.fxe5
Rxe5 24.Nfg4 fxg4 25.Rxf6 Rxe1+
26.Qxe1 Rxf6 27.Bxb5 Bxb5 28.Qe7
Rf7 29.Qe5 Rf5 30.Qe7 g3 31.Nf3
Rd5 32.Qe1 Rxd6 33.Qxg3 Nf5
34.Qe5 Rd1+ 35.Kh2 Bc4 36.Qb8+
Kg7 37.Qxa7+ Kh6 38.g4 1-0

Matthew Stevens (1575) -
Yaman Tezcan (2041)

TGIF G90 +30 #001,
Beaverton, OR (R4), Oct 26, 2012

1.d4 c5 2.d5 e5 3.c4 d6 4.Nc3 Be7
5.Nf3 f5 6.e4 f4 7.Be2 Nf6 8.Rb1
0-0 9.0-0 Kh8 10.b4 cxb4 11.Rxb4
Na6 12.Rb1 Nc5 13.Qc2 h6 14.Nd2
g5 15.a4 Rg8 16.Nb3 b6 17.Bd2 g4
18.f3 g3 19.a5 gxh2+ 20.Kxh2 Qe8
21.Rh1 Qg6 22.Bf1 Nh5 23.Nb5
Ng3 24.Nxc5 Qh5+ [24...Nxf1+
25.Kg1 Qxg2#] 25.Kg1 Qxh1+
26.Kf2 Nxf1 0-1

Northwest Players on the Road

In between the two tourneys in Beaverton, Raptis traveled to Auburn, CA, where his last round draw with GM Walter Browne brought him into a tie for second place behind GM-elect Enrico Sevillano in a tournament at the Auburn CC contested by 78 players in 5 sections. It was the second tournament in a row where Raptis held the well known GM to a draw. Raptis and Browne faced each other a few weeks earlier in the Western States Open in Reno, NV. See Rusty Miller's Washington Chess News column (page 15) for a full report on the 2012 Reno event.

The final ChessCo *Thinkers Press* Fall Classic held in Davenport, IA, by Bob Long was attended by Barbara and Jonathan Fortune of Oregon and George Lundy III of Idaho.



l. to r. George Lundy, Jonathan Fortune, Barbara Fortune, IM Andrew Martin taken in Davenport, IA, October 2012. Photo courtesy of Barbara Fortune.

In keeping with his longstanding tradition of presenting learning opportunities combined with the gathering together of old friends and a chance to sell some books and equipment, Long put together an impressive slate of titled chess players to assist with the festivities. GM Karsten Mueller, broadcasting direct from Germany via Playchess.com and Skype, focused on the endgame which is his area of particular expertise. GM Mueller was able to hear the participants ask questions at the well attended two hour session. He answered them as he went along. IM Andrew Martin from England and National Master Andy Rea from the United States both attended in person.

I am saddened to learn that this one-of-a-kind chess "convention" is coming to an end. The enthusiastic chess entrepreneur Mr. Long recently penned these words on his blog: "I've had enough...there will be no more festivals, clinics, soirees or combinations. If I do anything it will be to invite 5-6 guys to my place in the future, for one day and one night - or to Las Vegas or something like that. Doing all these wonderful marketing programs and dealing with the really great troopers who help make it happen has been a great experience for me."

Carl Haessler
Chess Master

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New Location for Chess Sponsor

The Geezer Gallery, a strong supporter of chess in the Portland area, celebrated the grand opening of its newly relocated art gallery on November 1 at 600 NW Naito Parkway, Suite E in Portland. Consider visiting the gallery. Further details can be found on their web site: www.geezergallery.com.

USCF member Stephen Pettengill, a class C player from West Linn, shown here with GM Susan Polgar and some of his hand sculpted giant chess pieces has “failing eyesight and magnificent hands.” Pettengill was involved in the formative stages of development of the *Geezer Gallery*. The landscape artist is a maker of giant chess sets including a full 32-piece set from Port Orford Cedar, a rare type of Cedar native to Japan and Southern Oregon. His work can be seen at:

www.thenatureofthingstocome.com



l-r: Susan Polgar and Stephen Pettengill taken at 2011 PCC Centennial. Photo credit: Frank Niro

2012 Portland Chess Club Championship Crosstable

#	Name	Rating	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Rd 5	Total
1	Nick Raptis	2324	W7	W4	W2	W3	W5	5
2	Steven Deeth	2099	W13	W5	L1	W8	W7	4
3	Lennart Bjorksten	2123	W6	D11	D8	L1	W9	3
4	Michael Morris	2054	W14	L1	W11	L5	W10	3
5	Mike Janniro	2025	W10	L2	W12	W4	L1	3
6	Jerry Sherrard	1959	L3	W9	W10	L7	W8	3
7	Yaman Tezcan	1991	L1	D8	W13	W6	L2	2.5
8	Jason Cigan	1915	W12	D7	D3	L2	L6	2
9	Mike Hasuike	1500	L11	L6	W14	W13	L3	2
10	Bob Jabczynski	1043	L5	W13	L6	X12	L4	2
11	Sean Tobin	2071	W9	D3	L4	U---	U---	1.5
12	Sean O'Connell	1822	L8	W14	L5	F10	U---	1
13	Arliss Dietz	1553	L2	L10	L7	L9	W14	1
14	Harry Buerer	1101	L4	L12	L9	B---	L13	1

NW Players at recent National Events

One NW player won 1st place in a section of the US National G/60 Championships held in Pleasanton CA on Oct 28. There were 251 players in 10 Sections. 600-799 section was won by Joshua Grabinsky of Coquille OR with 3.5-.5.

Several NW players tied or won 1st place in their section of the US National G/30 Championships held in Pleasanton CA on Oct 27. There were 204 players in 8 Sections. 1300-1599 Section had Arjun Thomas of Shoreline WA tie for 1st with 4.5-.5. 1000-1299 Section was won by Josiah Perkins of Oregon with 5-0. 600-799 section was won by Joshua Grabinsky of Coquille OR with 4.5-.5.

Northwest Players in World Youth Championships

Five Northwest players were invited by the USCF to represent the United States in the World Youth Championships held in Maribor,

the second largest city in the republic of Slovenia located in the former Soviet Union. This prestigious event is attended by approximately 1,500 players from around the world. The tournament began November 7th and will be contested through November 19th. Here are the results after 10 rounds:

Roland Feng (Seattle CC) Under-12 Open – 7 points

Bryce Tiglon (Seattle CC) Under-12 Open – 7 points

Anthony He (Seattle CC) Under-8 Open – 5.5 points

Becca Lampman (Portland CC) Under-16 Girls – 5 points

Naomi Bashkansky (Seattle CC) Under-10 Girls – 4.5 points



The 2012 Ralph Hall Northwest Chess Grand Prix!

by Murlin Varner, ten-key wizard

Two months to go, and many tight races to win the cash!

In Washington, there are close races for the top spot in Class B (4.5 points between Jothi Ramesh and Toshiro Nagase) and Class C (where August Piper leads Davey Jones by just five points). And even where the first place player has a comfortable lead, a challenger for second lurks, as in the Expert class and in Class D.

In Oregon, Jerry Sherrard leads Jason Cigan by 9.5 points in Class A, Takuma Sato-Duncan trails Dagadu Gaikwad by seven in Class B and Venkat Doddapaneni holds a 4.5 point lead on Arliss Dietz. We can also see that Master Carl Haessler, Experts Yaman Tezcan and Mike Janniro, Class A David Bannon, Class C Matthew Stevens, and Class D and below players Neal Aditya, Scott Svetal and Leonardo Sun all linger within 10 points of second place.

Idaho players have fewer opportunities and therefore fewer points. Thus a small margin is the norm. We see this in almost every class, such as in the Master/Expert/A Class where Cameron Leslie leads Mark Havrilla by eight. In Class B Jeff Roland has 5.5 points on Brad Bodie, Class D where Adam Porth holds second over Kevin Patterson by 4.5, and Class E and below, where all five leaders are within just five points. Only in Class C, which has just five players, do we see large margins. Ron Weyland is running away from Nicholas Brown, who, in turn, has a substantial lead over the rest of the class. Idaho is the only of our three states where the overall leader is really in question, as the top five are all within seven points.

Big events with big multipliers can do a lot to change the standings. In our near future we have two, one of which will probably be over by the time you read this column. That event would be the **Washington Class Championships** in Redmond, WA over the Thanksgiving weekend. With a \$3500 guaranteed prize fund, the event carries a 4x multiplier and historically has had a big impact on deciding who eventually wins many class prizes. This year, there is another late event which will have a strong impact on the standings, primarily those for the State of Idaho. That would be the **Western Idaho Open** in Boise on December 8 and 9. With a guaranteed prize fund of \$1300, this event gets a 3x multiplier and could vault people far up the Idaho leader boards with a good result. I wish I could be there, but I'll be busy reprising my role as Herr Drosselmeyer in a local adaptation of 'The Nutcracker. (No, I don't dance.) December also offers six additional events in Seattle (3), Portland (2) and Tacoma. Before you know it, it'll be 2013 and the Gresham Open will be upon us, the first Grand Prix event of the new year, and one with a multiplier, too!

The standings below use the peak rating as of November and all events through November 4.

Idaho			Oregon			Washington					
last	first	pts.	last	first	pts.	last	first	pts.			
Masters											
			1	Raptis	Nick	158	1	Feng	Roland	113.5	
			2	Gay	Daniel Z	35.5	2	Pupols	Viktors	91	
			3	Haessler	Carl A	26	3	Bragg	David R	64	
			3	Movsisyan	Movses	24	4	Sinanan	Joshua C	59	
			5	Prochaska	Peter	4.5	5	Collyer	Curt D	45	
M/X/Class A			Experts								
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	56.5	2	Lee	Nathan Y	80
3	Joshi	Kairav	27.5	3	Tezcan	Yaman	50	3	He	Samuel F	75.5
4	Kircher	Caleb P	21	4	Janniro	Mike E	47.5	4	Lee	Megan	62
5	three tied at		5.5	5	Heywood	Bill	44	5	He	Daniel M	58.5

Class B				Class A							
1	Roland	Jeffrey T	44	1	Sherrard	Jerry	61	1	Buck	Stephen J	180
2	Bodie	Brad	39.5	2	Cigan	Jason	51.5	2	Szabo	Marcell	146.5
3	Gorman	Cody A	29	3	Bannon	David T	44	3	Nagase	Masayuki	102
4	Williams	Richard R	22	4	Sun	Maxwell S	37	4	Lampman	Becca	89
5	Niro	Frank A	17.5	5	Wen	David	32	5	Krasin	Jeremy	79.5
Class C				Class B							
1	Weyland	Ronald M	43.5	1	Gaikwad	Dagadu B	80.5	1	Ramesh	Jothi N	116
2	Brown	Nicholas R	22	2	Sato-Duncan	Takuma	73.5	2	Nagase	Toshihiro	111.5
3	Bruck	Nick J	8.5	3	Hasuike	Mike L	39	3	Zhang	Derek	98.5
4	Pemsler	Carmen	4.5	4	Burris	Christopher E	37.5	4	Dutton	Carl	89
5	Myers	Hugh	3.5	5	Mueller-Warrant	Alexander G	34	5	Wang	James	88.5
Class D				Class C							
1	Jaroski	Jeffrey A	38	1	Doddapaneni	Venkat S	53	1	Piper	August	93
2	Porth	Adam	19	2	Dietz	Arliss	48.5	2	Jones	Davey V	88
3	Patterson	Kevin R	14.5	3	Stevens	Matthew	45	3	Bashkansky	Naomi	71
4	Hollingsworth	Gary M	9.5	4	Murphy	Dmitri M	38	4	Deshpande	Aaryan H	58
5	Lang	Jamie	6	5	Brahmarouthu	Abhinav	37.5	4	Thomas	Arjun	58
Class E and Below				Class D and Below							
1	Blake	Lloyd	18	1	Buerer	Harry F	54.5	1	Richards	Jerrold	88
2	Blake	Isaac R	15	2	Wu	Ethan	32	2	Chalasanani	Sujatha D	66.5
3	Wetmur	Harold R	14	3	Aditya	Neal	28	3	Thakur	Asher	57.5
4	Hiatt	Arlene	13.5	4	Svetal	Scott M	25.5	4	Thakur	Eamon	55.5
5	Naccarato	Savanna	13	5	Sun	Leonardo S	23	5	Haining	Breck	54.5
Overall Leaders, by State											
1	Leslie	Cameron D	45	1	Raptis	Nick	158	1	Buck	Stephen J	180
2	Roland	Jeffrey T	44	2	Saputra	Yogi	87.5	2	Szabo	Marcell	146.5
3	Weyland	Ronald M	43.5	3	Gaikwad	Dagadu B	80.5	3	Bartron	Paul R	118.5
4	Bodie	Brad	39.5	4	Sato-Duncan	Takuma	73.5	4	Ramesh	Jothi N	116
5	Jaroski	Jeffrey A	38	5	Sherrard	Jerry	61	5	Feng	Roland	113.5
6	Havrilla	Mark A	33	6	Esler	Brian J	56.5	6	Nagase	Toshihiro	111.5
7	Gorman	Cody A	29	7	Buerer	Harry F	54.5	7	Nagase	Masayuki	102
8	Joshi	Kairav	27.5	8	Doddapaneni	Venkat S	53	8	Zhang	Derek	98.5
9	Williams	Richard R	22	9	Cigan	Jason	51.5	9	Piper	August	93
9	Brown	Nicholas R	22	10	Tezcan	Yaman	50	10	Pupols	Viktors	91
11	Kircher	Caleb P	21	11	Dietz	Arliss	48.5	11	Lampman	Becca	89
12	Porth	Adam	19	12	Janniro	Mike E	47.5	11	Dutton	Carl	89

Players in GP Database: 2012					
class	Idaho	Oregon	Washington	Other	totals
Master	0	5	14	3	22
Expert	0	16	34	4	54
Class A	9	26	55	11	101
Class B	21	26	74	11	132
Class C	5	29	44	9	87
Class D-below*	32	38	104	7	181
	67	140	325	45	577

* in Idaho, 8 participants are in Class D and 24 are in Class E & below.

Current year GP statistics	
players	577
entries	1705
entries/player	2.955
points awarded	12747.5
points/entry	7.477
events completed	68
events with multipliers	12

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

☞ **Dec 8-9 Western Idaho Open, Boise, ID.** See PDF ad/flyer on back cover

☞ **Dec 8-9 Christmas Congress, Tacoma, WA.** Site: Tacoma Chess Club, 409 Puyallup Ave. E., 2nd 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 Round Swiss. 1 Section. Time Control: 40/90, SD/60 +5 second delay. Entry Fee: Adults: \$25.00 advanced, \$30.00 at the door, Jr.'s \$20.00. Registration: 9:00-9:45 a.m., Rounds: Sat. 10:00, 4:00, Sun. 10:00, 4:00. Prize Fund: 60% of entry fees. 1st 25%, 2nd 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.

☞ **Dec 29 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, phone 503-246-2978, website www.pdxchess.com.

☞ **Jan 5-6 Gresham Open, Gresham, OR.** See full page flyer and registration form on page 3.

☞ **Jan 17-Feb 14 Spokane Winter Championship, Spokane, WA.** 5SS, G/120. Spokane Chess Club, which meets at 7:00 p.m. in Herak Hall (Engineering building) Room 301 at Gonzaga University, Spokane, WA. EF: \$16, USCF memb req'd. Rounds: Jan 17, 24, 31, Feb 7, 14. Info: Email: dbgrffn@hotmail.com www.spokanechessclub.org. NC.

☞ **Jan 26 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, phone 503-246-2978, website www.pdxchess.com.

A subscription to *Northwest Chess* would
make a great gift.

Seattle Chess Club Tournaments

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 Infoline
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 www.seattlechess.org
 kleistcf@aol.com
 Address for Entries
 SCC Tnmt Dir
 2420 S 137 St
 Seattle WA 98168

Dec. 16, Jan. 6

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.

Sunday Tornado

Dec. 29, Jan. 26

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.

Saturday Quads

January 19

Format: 4-SS. Open to U1200 and unrated. **TC:** G/75;d5. **EF:** \$11 by 1/16, \$16 at site. (-\$2 for SCC mem., -\$1 for mem. of other NW dues-req'd CCs). **Prizes:** Memb (SCC, WCF, USCF). **Reg:** 9-9:45a.m. **Rds:** 10-12:45-3:30-6. **Byes:** 1 (Rd 3/4—commit at reg.). **Misc:** USCF memb. req'd. NS, NC.

SCC Novice

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.

Seattle City Championship

January 11-13 or January 12-13

A two-section, five-round Swiss with time controls of 40/120 and SD/60 with five-second delay (Two-day schedule – Round 1, G/60; d5). The prize fund of \$1000 is based on 52 paid entries, 6 per prize group.

a Northwest Grand Prix event

Championship

First	\$225
Second	\$140
Expert	\$90
Class A	\$70

Reserve (U1800)

First	\$125
U1600	\$80
Class C	\$60
Class D	\$50
Class E & Under	\$40
Unrated	\$20

EF: *Championship* \$42 (\$33 for SCC mem., \$38 for mem. of other NW dues-req'd CCs) by 1/9, \$50 (\$39, \$44) at site; GMs, IMs, WGMs free. *Reserve (U1800)* \$33 (\$24 for SCC mem., \$29 for mem. of other NW dues-req'd CCs) by 1/9, \$42 (\$33, \$38) at site. *Unrateds* free w/purch. 1-yr USCF & WCF. **Both Sections:** Add \$1 to any EF for 2-day schedule.

Registration: Fri. 7-7:45pm, Sat. 9-9:45am. **Rounds:** Fri. 8, Sat. (10 @ G/64)-12:30-6:45, Sun. 11-5. **Byes:** 2 (Sunday rounds, commit at reg.). **Misc.:** USCF & WCF memb. req'd. No smoking. No computers.



\$1350 Guaranteed Prize Fund
FIDE Rated
USCF Grand Prix / N.W. Chess Grand Prix

***** Special side-event: FREE Simultaneous Exhibition by Washington Master Josh Sinanan starting at 5:00 p.m. going to 9:00 p.m. on Friday, December 7, 2012 also at BSU Student Union Building (Hatch Ballroom) in Boise. Email jroland@cableone.net to sign up. *****

Format: 5 Round Swiss System

Time Control: Game/120;d5

2 Sections: OPEN and U1400 Reserve

Site: Boise State University, Student Union Building, 1910 University Drive, Boise, Idaho 83706.

Entry Fee: \$30 (\$25 if Under 18 or 60+ years old, BSU Chess Club members entry \$10) if registered by December 3, 2012. Special Family Rate of \$60. \$5 more for all if received after December 3, 2012. FM's IM's, GM's, and WGM's enter for free (no deduction from winnings). E-mail entry will lock in advance entry rate.

Current USCF Membership is required, available at site or online at 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@cableone.net, www.idahochessassociation.org

No Computers, No Smoking, Wheelchair access