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**Happy Holidays from
Northwest Chess!**



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NWC Staff

Editor: Jeffrey Roland,
editor@nwchess.com

Games Editor: Ralph Dubisch,
chesscoaching@gmail.com

Editorial Consultant: Russell Miller,
russellmiller22@comcast.net

Publisher: Duane Polich,
publisher@nwchess.com

Business Manager: Eric Holcomb,
eric@holcomb.com

Board Representatives

David Yoshinaga, Josh Sinanan,
Grisha Alpernas, Marty Campbell,
Jeffrey Roland, Cameron Leslie

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Business Manager, Northwest Chess
Eric Holcomb
1900 NE 3rd St, STE 106 PMB 361
Bend, OR 97701-3889
Eric@Holcomb.com
www.nwchess.com

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ICA Vice President Adam Porth showing his tattoo. Photo by Jeff Roland...Cover	
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On the cover:

After winning the U1400 section of the 2013 ICA Summer Classic, ICA Vice President Adam Porth went to Devotion Tattoos in Boise to have this tattoo done. Adam moved to Idaho from Wisconsin in 1990. He was the adviser to the Wood River High School chess club in 1998 and in 2006, Adam played in his first tournament, the 2006 Idaho Closed State Championship, so that he could better instruct his students. Since then he has become one of Idaho's most active chess players. All three of his children also play in USCF-rated tournaments. This picture was taken at the Barnes & Noble November Blitz tournament in Twin Falls on November 12, 2013 with a Smartphone. Photo credit: Jeff Roland

Chesstoons:

Chess cartoons drawn by local artist, Brian Berger.

Northwest Chess Knights

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Jeffrey Roland, NWC Editor

1514 S. Longmont Ave.
Boise, Idaho 83706-3732

or via e-mail to:

editor@nwchess.com

Northwest Grand Prix Administrator

Murlin Varner
13329 208 Ave NE
Woodinville, WA 98072
MEVjr54@yahoo.com
425-882-0102

The Gresham Open Is Returning!

Increased Prize Fund!

January 4-5, 2014

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.

\$1,800 (Based on 60 entries)

1st \$350; 2nd \$230; 3rd \$145; U2200, U2000, U1800, U1600, U1400: \$125 – \$90

Entry Fee (checks or cash; no credit or debit cards): \$40

\$10 discount to PCC members if registered in advance by January 2

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

Gresham Open (January 4-5, 2014) 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

Oregon Chess News

Oregon Class Championships

November 2-3, 2013 – Portland, OR

By Brian Berger

Once again the Lloyd Center Double Tree Hotel was chosen as a first rate venue for another great tournament sponsored by the Oregon Chess Federation and the Portland Chess Club. Those who attended were luxuriated in plush seating, games were well lit, rooms were spacious, and amenities were what one would expect at a top hotel.

Under the capable leadership of Chief TD Grisha Alpernas and Chief assistant TD Jonathan Fortune with additional help from Mike Morris and Barbara Fortune, the two-day event ran as smoothly as proverbial clockwork.

Fifty-seven players filled six sections led by a strong field of two Masters and seven Experts. A first round loss by Master Nick Raptis to Expert Steven Deeth saw Raptis withdraw from further games. Spurred by this win, Deeth went on to finish with a 3.5 point score, jumping 52 rating points (from 2090 to 2142) for his fine effort and tying with Master Carl Haessler for 1st-2nd place. It should be noted that Haessler also lost his first round to Expert Richard



Barbara Fortune. Photo credit: Brian Berger

Gutman but managed to regroup and come roaring back. Splitting the 3rd-4th place prize in the M/X class were Experts John Chernoff and Jason Cigan, each ending with 3.0 points.

The class A section saw Micah Smith with

three wins and two draws take 1st place, and in the process, cross the barrier to Expert (from 1984 to 2011). Clear 2nd place fell to Sarah May with a score of 3.5 points, followed closely by Noah Fields, Erik Skalnes and Dillon Murray at 3.0 points, sharing the 3rd-5th place.

In the class B section, David Murray saw his rating shoot-up 107 points (from 1688 to 1795) with a tour-de-force concentrated effort which gave him 1st place with 4.5 points and the largest unshared cash prize of the tournament -- \$280. Tying for 2nd-4th places were Stephen Buck, Aaron Nicoski and Numan Abdul-Mujeeb with 3.0 points, each going home \$70 richer.

Class C player, Dagadu Gaikwad, found himself unopposed for 1st place, and a prize of \$240, with an outstanding 4.5 points followed by the 3.5 point effort of Adam Culbreth, taking 2nd place and \$120. Splitting the 3rd-4th place honors and \$30 each were Pranav Sharan and Brian Berger with 3.0 points each.

Another 4.5 points was achieved by the young Aaron Probst, who took 1st place in the D section and won what I am sure must seem a fortune to the fast-rising boy-wonder of the local chess community--a prize of \$180. And capturing 2nd place was Ari Bluffstone with 4.0 points, followed by 3rd place winner, Harry Buerer, who ended with 3.5 points.



After game analysis between Jason Cigan and Steven Deeth. Photo credit: Brian Berger



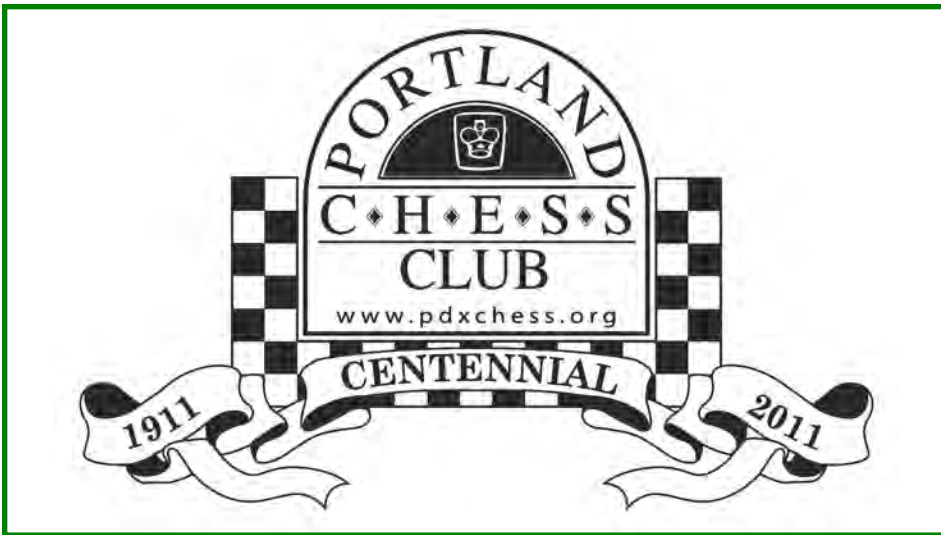
Becca Lampman (white) plays Jason Cigan (black). Photo credit: Brian Berger



*Michael Landolfi (left) versus Adam Culbreth (right).
Photo credit: Brian Berger*



*Christopher Burris (left) and Alexander Barrett (right).
Photo credit: Brian Berger*



Carl Haessler
Chess Master

chess works
NORTHWEST

chessworksNW.com

503-875-7278
carl@chessworksNW.com

PCC October 2013 G/60 Tournament

October 26, 2013 – Portland, OR

By Brian Berger

October's Game 60, at the Portland Chess Club, drew 17 players on a leaf-strewn, fall day. No great upsets ensued, but time trouble in a number of games would become an equalizing and winning force.

As expected, Nick Raptis blew through the field with a perfect 4.0 score, with Lennart Bjorksten and Peter Donchenko close on his heels, splitting 2nd/3rd place with 3.0 points each. And in the U-1800 class, Venkat Doddapaneni, Pranav Sharan and Mike Hasuike, finishing with a respectable 2.5, each took a share of the prize money.

Finally, in the U-1500 group, with two wins each, Mu Lin and Brian Berger split the last of the prize awards, both pocketing a modest, but hard won \$15.

Thanks has to go to TD, Kornelijs (Neil) Dale, for a well run and fun tournament.



Nick Raptis. Photo credit: Brian Berger



Peter Donchenko (left) vs. Jeremy Harlin (right). Photo credit: Brian Berger



Neil Dale. Photo credit: Brian Berger



Mike Hasuike awaiting Mu Lin. Photo credit: Brian Berger

Match Training for World Youth Championship

By Steven Breckenridge

I am going to show a two-game match between Woman's Candidate Master Claudia Munoz and myself. The idea of the match came after she was elected to represent the United States for the World Youth Chess Championship, which will be held in Al-Ain, U.A.E. (where my girlfriend currently lives) mid-December. She asked several players to train with her in a match, and I accepted. Her father, Abed, I have also known for some time via the internet. He is very supportive of his daughter. Claudia, also I have known a while, and she is quite the internet guru. Her website is one of the most viewed for chess in the country, and for her age it is most impressive. She will have much success in her future.

The first game she was white, and I did a little preparation as I normally would for any game. I had an advantage going into the game by knowing her opening and spotting the weakness, and I was able to carry out my plan the way I hoped. Hope you enjoy the game.

**WCM Claudia Munoz (2006) –
FM Steven Breckenridge (2424) [A47]**
Training Game G120+30inc (G1),
October 12, 2013
[Steven Breckenridge]

1.d4 Nf6 2.Bg5 e6 3.e3

A very passive line which I anticipated in my preparation. I would prefer to play e4 as white and just give up my bishop to have a nice center control 3.e4 h6 4.Bxf6 Qxf6 5.Nc3.

3...b6

Aiming for the e4 square and nice diagonal.

4.Bd3 Bb7 5.Nf3 c5

Applying more pressure in the center, capturing the pawn would be a mistake because it would eliminate more center control from White, and allow me to make a developing move while capturing.

6.c3 Be7 7.Nbd2 cxd4

Now that the knight has gone to d2, cx4 and Nc3 would not be available immediately.

8.exd4 d6

My plan is to put my knight on d7, rather than on c6. Also if possible playing for e5 or even bringing my knight to d5, aiming for the f4 square. After castling and Re8, I'll have the option to bring the knight to f8 then g6, which seems to be the best square.

9.0-0 Nbd7 10.Re1 0-0 11.Qc2

I believe this is the first 'small' mistake

of the game. Qe2 would be much more active aiming for a6, rather than h7 which is already protected. Also the queen is now on the same file my rook can go to, which may turn out bad in the future.

11...h6 12.Bxf6

This may have been another mistake, Bh4 or Bf4 seem much more natural. However there are some tactical ideas to actually win a piece with g5-g4, which are quite rare, and positionally bad if it would not work. But my plan was actually to play Nd5 and even trade the bishops, to try and get to f4 and exploit White's king somehow 12.Bh4 g5 13.Bg3 g4 14.Nh4 Nh5 and the knight is trapped (14...Ne8).

12...Nxf6



13.c4

Another mistake...it does stop Nd5, but it gives me more targets 13.Ne4 is what I would have played, aiming to trade the attacking pieces 13...Nd5 14.Qd2 protecting f4, and possibly now c4 can be an idea in the future. This still favors Black, but White is now defending well and has play.

13...d5!

This is an important square for one of my pieces to have, and aiming to leave the d-pawn isolated.

14.c5

This seemed sadly necessary, but still it is not over; White has many hopes to defend her pawn.

14...bxc5 15.dxc5 a5!

Controlling the important b4 to not allow further support.

16.Ne5

16.a3 a4 17.b4 I thought was still best, hoping to get the other knight in play to protect c5 and possibly start pushing the a-pawn, but after 17...axb3 18.Nxb3 Bc6 would then be crushing, heading to a4.

16...Qc7 17.c6 Ba6

My queen is now a nice blockader and attacking piece.

18.Rac1 Bd6 19.Ndf3 Rfb8

Hitting b2, also looking to place my rook on the nice b4 or b6 square.

20.Re2

Seemed a little inactive 20.b3.

20...Rb6 21.Qa4

21.Bxa6 Raxa6 22.Qd3! Ne4 23.Rec2! Black cannot win the knight.

21...Rb4 22.Qc2

Now up a tempo on b4.

22...Bxd3 23.Qxd3 Re4

Very powerful threat, and the game seems close to finished.

24.Qb5?!

A nice find, which is absolutely necessary. Using the principle of offense is the best defense (besides the fact anything else will result of a piece loss). The idea if I win the knight, Qb7 and c7 will then be played.

24...Rb8 25.Qa6 Rb6 26.Qa8+ Kh7 27.Ree1



I thought for a while about taking the knight in this position, which with the help of a computer found it works. However, in the game it seemed quite risky, and though I am a very risky player, I didn't want to have to keep calculating everything out. So I played what made the most sense positionally to secure my win.

27...Rxb2

27...Bxe5 28.Nxe5 Qxe5 29.Rxe4 and now both captures need to be analyzed, but Nxe4 is the most clear 29...Nxe4 (29...dxe4 30.c7 Ng4 31.c8Q (31.g3 Qf5! 32.Rf1 Rxb2 33.c8Q Nxf2 34.Qc4 Qf3 35.Qaxe4+ Qxe4 36.Qxe4+ Nxe4) 31...Qxh2+ 32.Kf1 Qh1+ 33.Ke2 Qxg2 (33...Rxb2+ 34.Rc2 I was most scared of in my calculations, however somehow, I am still winning 34...Qxg2 35.Rxb2? (35.Qa7 Qf3+ 36.Ke1 Qh1+ 37.Kd2 (37.Ke2 Rb1) 37...e3+! 38.Qxe3 (38.fxe3 Rb1) 38...Nxe3 39.Rxb2 Qd5+ 40.Kxe3 Qe5+ 41.Kf3 Qxb2+) 35...Qxf2+ 36.Kd1 Ne3+ 37.Kc1 Qe1#) 34.Qg8+ Kg6 35.Qxf7+ Kxf7 36.Qa7+ Kf6 37.Qxb6 Qf3+ 38.Ke1 e3+ is probably best) 30.c7 Qd4 31.Rf1 Rxb2 32.c8Q Rxf2! and forced mate, with Rf1++ coming no matter what and Qf2.

28.Nd3 Rxa2

The rest of the game, I just start trading down to simplify the won game.

29.Qb7 Rxe1+ 30.Rxe1 Qxb7 31.cxb7 Nd7

Stopping any promotion.

32.Rb1 Ra3 33.Nc1 e5 34.Kf1 Ra4 35.Nd2 Rb4 36.Rxb4 Bxb4 37.Nb1 Kg6 38.Ke2

Steven Breckenridge Simultaneous Chess Exhibition – Hosted by the Cedar Hills Crossing Chess Club!

Saturday Dec 21st 2013 @ 1 PM, Beaverton Oregon:



"The Chess Fellowship" Photo © Sean Tobin

STEVEN BRECKENRIDGE CHESS RESUME:

- FIDE Master title attained September 2013,
- Two time Oregon Champion in 2011 and 2012,
- National Master attained December 2009,
- 2007 Junior High K-9 National Co-Champion
- 2007 K-9 Blitz Champion

Team member of the two time National Champion Texas Tech team, with head coach US Champion GM Alexander Onischuk



EVENT DETAILS:

- Hosted by Cedar Hills Crossing Chess Club
- Limited to first 50 boards! RSVP your spot!
- Suggested \$5 donation per player/participant
- BYO set & board, some extras sets available.
- répondez s'il vous plaît to the following email in.your.face.chess@gmail.com (RSVP!)

Kf5 39.Nd3 Ke6 40.Kd1 Kd6 41.Kc2



41...Kc6?

Oops! Instead of playing Kc7, I wanted to try and hold onto my other pawn in case her king came up. There is a principle in Kotov's "Think Like a Grandmaster" book, which talks about being dizzy due to success, which will overlook something simple, because of lack of interest.

42.Nxe5+ Kxb7 43.Nxd7 Bd6

Phew! Thankfully I am able to win my piece back, and the other knight cannot support it out.

44.Nc3 Kc6

However, now though I am not lost, I could have easily been. And I have to work more to win the game, when just a few moves ago I was completely winning, but I wanted more.

45.h3 d4 46.Ne2 Kxd7 47.Nxd4 Bc5 48.Nb3 Bb6 49.f3 Kc6 50.Nd2 Kb5 51.Ne4 Bc5 52.Kb2 Bb4 53.Ng3 Kc4 54.Nf5 Kd3 55.Kb3 Bf8 56.Ka4 g6 57.Ng3 f5

Now the knight is actually trapped.

58.Kxa5 Ke3 59.Kb5 Kf2 60.Nxf5 0-1

Second game I played white, and I knew I was going to encounter a French Defense before the game. I didn't prepare anything, or even go over the lines from my repertoire, because of my previous experience in this opening (many games with Raptis), and the ideas and theory I am very familiar with. In the game I played something a little suspicious in the opening which avoided some theory because of the particular line, with the hopes for an early attack, that turned to my favor. Enjoy!

FM Steven Breckenridge (2424) –
WCM Claudia Munoz (2006) [C06]
Training Game G120+30inc (G2),
November 3, 2013
[Steven Breckenridge]

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.Nd2 Nf6 4.e5 Nfd7 5.Bd3 c5 6.c3 Nc6 7.Ne2 Qb6

A popular alternative to exchanging and playing f6, possibly because of Nf4 lines which may be a little uncomfortable for Black. I think it is a good choice for her, and can transpose to the same positions later 7... cxd4 8.cxd4 f6 9.Nf4 Nxd4 10.Qh5+ Ke7 11.exf6+ Nxf6 12.Ng6+ hxg6 13.Qxh8 Kf7 8.Nf3

I considered castling, and going into this gambit I have been studying, and played a few times in some tournaments a while back, which normally arises from 7. Ngf3 Qb6... I believe even Carlsen has tried this line in a tournament 8.0-0 cxd4 9.cxd4 Nxd4 10.Nxd4 Qxd4 11.Nf3 Qb6 12.Qa4 the most common continuation, provoking Qb4 trade and looking to possibly go to g4 for kingside attack (12.Be3 I used to play, which offers another pawn, but is less accurate 12...Bc5 (12...Qxb2 13.Rc1

offering a third pawn! 13...Qxa2 (13...Be7) 14.Rc7 Qa5 15.Qc1 and white continues his attack) 13.Bd2 and play for b4, and in one game I played Morris or Deeth in the State Championship and I sacrificed my queen on c8 in some variation where he didn't castle, after Rc1 and Qc2. I won the game pretty nicely, and actually trapping back Black's queen with my a-pawn) 12...Qb4 13.Qc2 now trying to gain a tempo on the queen with a3.

8...cxd4 9.cxd4 f6 10.Nf4?!

I played this move quite cautiously, calculating certain variations. And I could not find any refutation, so I played it. I have also played this before in some internet games with the same idea, but with less calculation. 10.exf6 Nxf6 of course is the main line, and it would get into much theoretical positions with several ways to play.

10...fxe5 11.Nxe6?!

It looks like White will just lose a piece at first glance 11.dxe5 Ndx5 (11...Bb4+ 12.Kf1 Ndx5 13.Nxe5 Nxe5 14.Be3) 12.Nxe5 Nxe5 13.Qh5+ Nf7 14.0-0 seems to be a more natural way to play.

11...e4 12.Bf4!

Now it looks like black cannot stop the fork.

12...Qb4+

I also couldn't really find a good way for Black to defend when I played Nf4. I was thinking Nf6 may be the best continuation, and after Nc7+ White would still hold a clear advantage. 12...Nde5!± actually defends everything, but it is counter-intuitive 13.Nxe5 Bb4+ 14.Kf1 Bxe6 and Black would be very happy; 12...Nf6 13.Nc7+ Kf7 may be best...however there is Ng5 and Nxe4 with some checkmate ideas on the white diagonal after Kg8, but Black should be able to defend.

13.Kf1 Nf6

13...exf3±; 13...Bd6 would not work, because a3 undermines the queen.

14.Nc7+ Kd8

14...Kf7 15.Ng5+ Kg8 16.Nxe4 again similar idea 16...Nxe4 17.Nxa8+.

15.Ng5

Hoping for two rooks instead of just one!

15...Qe7 16.Nxa8

16.Bd6 would win Black's queen, but at the cost of three of my attacking minor pieces, which would be a terrible trade in this position 16...Qxd6 17.Nf7+ Kxc7 18.Nxd6 Bxd6.

16...h6 17.Nxe4

I wanted to keep bishops for the attack and support of the d-pawn 17.Bxe4 was also very strong 17...dxe4 (17...hgx5? 18.Bc7+ Ke8 19.Bg6+ Kd7 20.Bf5+ Ke8 21.Bxc8) 18.d5 hxg5 19.dxc6+ Ke8 with several easy ways to win.

17...dxe4 18.Bc4 Bd7 19.Rc1 g5

Hoping to develop some kingside pieces.

20.Bc7+

To gain a tempo and have Nc7+ for more initiative.

20...Ke8 21.Bg3 h5

And now I found a forced win 21...Bg4 was Black's last hope of having any play.

22.d5 Na5 23.Nc7+ Kd8 24.Ne6+ Ke8 25.d6 Qh7 26.Nxg5 Qg7 27.Bf7+ Kd8 28.Ne6+ Bxe6 29.Bxe6 Nc6 30.Qb3

Threatening Rxc6 and Qb8#.

30...b6 31.Rxc6 Qb7 32.Qc3 Nd7 33.Bh4+ Ke8 34.Rc8+ Qxc8 35.Qxc8#

Quite an unfortunate game for Black, due to the missing defense in the opening, and it shows that just by one mistake in defense your opponent can get a significant advantage to win the game.

1-0

Wild and Sloppy in Bend

November 7, 2013 — Bend

By Eric Holcomb

Bend, Oregon isn't the chess capitol of the Northwest, and this game illustrates that fact. Nonetheless, it was your Business Manager's 400th USCF-rated game, for whatever that's worth.

Bob Marvos (1081) –

Eric Holcomb (1613) [C27]

Central Oregon Chess Club 2013 G/60 #3

Bend, OR (R1), November 7, 2013

[Eric Holcomb]

Some comments assisted by Chessmaster 10th Edition

1.e4 e5 2.Bc4 Nf6 3.Nc3 Bc5

Ye olde fork trick (3...Nxe4) might be more interesting. Now the Bishop's Opening transposes into a Vienna Game.

4.Nh3

Bob says playing White gives you the opportunity to make the first mistake, and so it is.

4...h6

Preventing Ng5, although castling or c6 is probably stronger.

5.f4

It may be best just to admit the mistake with Ng1, or facilitate development with d3.

5...d6 6.Nf2 Bxf2+

Perhaps it's not worth the bishop to stop White from castling, but it was a G/60 time control, and you have to do something quickly, so what the heck!

7.Kxf2 exf4

Sort of a delayed King's Gambit Accepted, but it allows d4.

8.Rf1 Bg4 9.Qe1 0-0 10.Be2 Qd7

It's possibly better just to trade the bishop and follow up with Nc6, but I didn't want to trade again right away, and I thought this would dissuade my opponent from doing so.

11.d4 g5

The computer prefers the counterattacking Nc6.

12.Kg1

A good idea for King safety!

12...Nc6 13.Bxf4

This is an interesting but probably unsound sacrifice, which I should accept after trading on e2 first. But I wasn't sure, so...

13...Nxd4 14.Bxg5

This works because of the hanging knight on f6, although in the end it isn't really the best. (The computer prefers to defend with Bd1.)

14...Nxe2+ 15.Nxe2 hxg5 16.Rxf6 Qe7

The only move to possibly keep a small advantage for Black.

17.Rf2

Not 17.Rh6 Kg7

17...Qxe4 18.Qf1

Missing the much better 18.Qd2 Qg6 19.Raf1 which creates enough pressure to make it difficult for Black to win with the extra pawn.

18...Rae8 19.Re1

Simply moving the knight was much better. This gets White into a big mess.

19...Qe3 20.Kh1 Re7 21.h3 Bh5 22.g4 Bg6

Chasing the bishop to this square didn't help things at all!

23.Kg1 Rfe8

Declining the immediate gain of the c2-pawn. (The computer is more materialistic!)

24.Rd1

A little better to defend with Rc1, but the game is already lost.

24...Bxc2 25.Rd5 Be4

Now White totally collapses by imagining something that isn't there, but it just makes the end come sooner rather than later. Both players had about 20 minutes remaining on their clocks.

26.Rxg5+ Qxg5 27.Rf5 Bxf5

White obviously had a case of "chess blindness" to the bishop on e4, but even without it there isn't really any serious compensation for the first sacrificed rook.

0-1

Idaho Chess News



Jeff Roland at the start of round two. Photo taken by Jacob Stinar, courtesy of Jeff Roland



Aleksandr Vereshchagin (left) and Victor Vallejo (right). Photo credit: Jeff Roland

Eastern Idaho Open

October 19-20, 2013 — Idaho Falls

The Eastern Idaho Open was played at the Residence Inn by Marriott in Idaho Falls over the October 19-20, 2013 weekend. Jay Simonson was the tournament director, assisted by Jeffrey Roland.

Jeff Roland (Boise) was the only undefeated player, scoring $4\frac{1}{2}$ points and taking clear first place. Jacob Stinar (Eagle) won every game except his round 2 encounter against Roland and earned a clear second place finish. Gary Owen (Evanston, WY), a former winner of this event in 2003, was clear third place with 3 points.

Robert Black (Idaho Falls) won the Reserve U1400 section with $2\frac{1}{2}$ points. Paul Albert Smit (Boise) was second place in the Reserve U1400 section with 2 points, and Christopher Andrew Schweitzer (Jackson, WY) was third place in the Reserve U1400 section with $1\frac{1}{2}$ points.

There were three unrated players which was certainly a high percentage (37.5%). The tournament was paired as one section by unanimous request and consent of all the players. Jacob Stinar, an unrated player, disqualified himself for the U1400 prize by “playing up” into the Open Section before it was known or decided that the tournament would be paired as a single-section event. This decision was further justified when Jacob’s first provisional rating was a very respectable 1640.

Eight players is a bit low in terms of numbers, but the tournament was a huge success in every way that matters. All of the players seemed to have a great time. The chess seemed just as competitive as it would have been if there had been many more players there. It was clear to all that having the event in Idaho Falls was the right decision. The tournament has almost always been held in Pocatello in the past, but the first event in 1958 was also held in Idaho Falls.



Jacob Stinar. Photo credit: Jeff Roland

Barnes & Noble November Blitz Tournament

November 12, 2013 — Twin Falls

Magic Valley Chess Club (MVCC) and the Idaho Chess Union (ICU) co-sponsored a 5-minute blitz tournament at Barnes

& Noble Bookstore in Twin Falls on November 12, 2013 at 6:00 p.m. 18 players participated with the majority coming in a school bus driven by Adam Porth. Barry Eacker was the tournament director.

The MVCC usually holds a blitz tournament like this on the second Tuesday of each month, however there was no such event in August or September. Usually this event is a round robin event, but this time with so many players, it was decided that it would be an 8-round Swiss. Jeffrey Roland (Boise) won with a perfect 8-0 score, followed in second place by Barry Eacker (Twin Falls) with 7 points, and Fred Bartell (Twin Falls) taking third place with 6 points.

Here is a listing and placing of all 18 players: 1. Jeffrey T. Roland 8 points; 2. Barry D. Eacker 7 points; 3. Fred Bartell 6 points; 4. Steve Hinton 5 points; 5. Desmond Porth 5 points; 6. Victor Saldivia 4.5 points; 7. Keegan Crowson 4 points; 8. Gary Dugger 4 points; 9. Andre Murphy 4 points; 10. Adam Porth 4 points; 11. Tyler Avila 3.5 points; 12. Jose Blanco 3 points; Layton Moore 3 points; Darwin Porth 3 points; Quentin Van Law 3 points; Aleksandr Vereshchagin 3 points; 17. Victor Vallejo 2 points; 18. Zac Spor 0 points.



Fred Bartell (left) versus Barry Eacker (right) Steve Hinton is watching the game. Photo credit: Jeff Roland



Jeb Bulmer at the Nampa Chess Club Meeting at the Flying M Coffee Garage in Nampa on October 27, 2013. Photo credit: Jeff Roland



Jarod Buus at the Nampa Chess Club Meeting at the Flying M Coffee Garage in Nampa on October 27, 2013. Photo credit: Jeff Roland

Southern Idaho Open

November 2, 2013 — Twin Falls

This year's event was played at the HUB (formerly Obenchain) Insurance Building in Twin Falls, Idaho on November 2, 2013. Nineteen players came from various towns across southern Idaho to play in this one-day 4-round Game/60;d5 Swiss System tournament. Ironically, Barry Eacker (Twin Falls) was the only local Magic Valley Chess Club player.

Three players "played up" into the Open Section, swelling the number of entrants in that section to ten, and the Reserve (U1400) Section had nine players. Barry Eacker was the Chief Tournament Director, with assistance from Adam Porth (Bellevue), and Jeffrey Roland (Boise). The event was rated by the United States Chess Federation (USCF).

For the third time in four years, Caleb Kircher (Nampa) took first place in this event with 3.5 out of 4 points. In 2011, Kircher shared first place with Fred Bartell (Twin Falls), and in 2010 and 2013 he won first place outright. Cody Gorman (Eagle) took second place with 3 points. Former Idaho State Champion, John Carr (Victor) and Barry Eacker, tied for 3rd-4th place with 2.5 points each. Jarod Buus (Nampa) won the book from the Glen Buckendorf Library entitled *Winning with the Philidor* by Tony Kosten.

In the Reserve (U1400) Section, there was a 4-way tie for first place between Paul Smit (Boise), Adam Porth, Lucas Knoll (Mountain Home AFB), and Andre Murphy (Hailey) with 3 out of 4 points each. Desmond Porth (Bellevue) won the book from the Glen Buckendorf Library entitled *Easy Guide to the Bb5 Sicilian* by Steffen Pederson.

For somewhere around twenty years, this playing site has been home to some very fine chess tournaments. Sadly, this event will be the last one to be held at this venue. The building has been sold and HUB Insurance will be moving to a new location. It is not known whether or not they will have or can provide a playing site to the ICA in the future.

ICA wishes to express sincere thanks to Obenchain/Hub Insurance for the many years they have provided this site to play for free. Barry Eacker deserves a great deal of credit too for his personal attention to the ongoing relationship between HUB (formerly Obenchain) Insurance and the ICA. Some very memorable games have been played at this site. Like the old Rogerson Hotel was to the ICA back in 1947 and on into the 1970's, this building too will be remembered fondly as one of historical importance. Many chess friendships were formed here in this very building. Some



Cody Gorman. Photo credit: Jeff Roland

very competitive and exciting games and memories were had here too.

Thank you, all who played, for coming to this chess tournament and for being part of the chess scene in Idaho. We hope to see a good turnout at the Western Idaho Open in Boise on December 14-15, 2013 too.

**Benjamin Jin –
Jeffrey T. Roland (1735) [D77]**
Southern Idaho Open Twin Falls, ID
(R4), November 2, 2013
[Ralph Dubisch]

**1.Nf3 Nf6 2.g3 g6 3.Bg2 Bg7 4.0-0 0-0
5.d4 d5 6.c4 dxc4 7.Na3 c5 8.Nxc4 Nc6?**

8...cxd4 9.Nxd4 Nd5!?! +=

9.dxc5 Be6 10.Nfe5 Qxd1!?

In principle it is bad to exchange pieces when down material, and it is also poor strategy to initiate an exchange that yields control of the file. However, Black is also dealing with a space deficit, and 10...Bd5 is not really much of an improvement. Black is going to suffer for awhile.

11.Rxd1 Bxc4?!?

11...Rfc8 may be preferable, but does not offer compensation for the pawn.

**12.Nxc4 Rad8 13.Bf4 Nh5 14.Bxc6 bxc6
15.Be5 f5 16.Bxg7 Kxg7 17.b4 Nf6 18.Ne5
Rc8 19.a3 a5 20.Rd3 Rc7 21.Rad1 axb4
22.axb4 Rb8 23.Rb3 Ne4 24.Nd3 Rd7
25.Rc1**

25.Ra1 Rc8 26.f3 Nf6

**25...Rd5 26.f3 Nd2 27.Rbc3 Rbd8 28.Kf2
e5 29.Ke3 e4**

Diagram top of next column

30.Nf4?

30.Kxd2 Rb8 31.Rb1 Kf6 32.Kc2 exd3+
33.Rxd3 and White's material edge has grown.



30...Re5 31.Kf2 g5 32.Ng2 Rd4!?

Here and on the next two moves it may be more accurate for Black to first exchange on f3: 32...exf3 33.exf3 when 33...Rd4 34.Re3 Rxe3 35.Kxe3 Nb3 at first glance looks like Black is regaining his pawn. However, 36.b5! breaks through.

33.b5?

33.f4 gxf4 34.gxf4 Re8 35.Ne3 Kf6 Now White has properly prepared the pawn break 36.b5 cxb5 37.c6 which works because the e3-knight is multitasking with pressure on both c4 and f5: 37...b4 (37...Nc4 38.Nxc4) 38.Rc5

33...cxb5

I took a long time to make this move, but I felt I calculated correctly and that I would be fine. However, it was at this point when Jin picked up a queen from the table in a deliberate psychological statement that he was going to queen a pawn. Now the challenge was really on. I noticed that this pawn on b5 acted like an anchor to put something on c4 to block the pawn's promotion. I didn't have time to figure out if my own pawn could promote, and I didn't even try that route.—Roland

33...exf3! 34.exf3 cxb5 35.Re3

Analysis Diagram top of next page

Analysis



35...Nc4 (35...Kf6?! 36.c6! Rc4 37.Rd1!
(37.Rxc4 Nxc4 38.Rxe5 Kxe5 39.c7 Nb6 =)
37...Rc2 38.Rxe5 Kxe5 39.Ne1!

Analysis



White will win the piece, but for two pawns, and with reduced pawn count there are some drawing chances: 39...Ne4+ 40.Kf1 Rxc6 (Or 40...Nxc3+ 41.hxc3 Rxc6) 41.Nd3+ Ke6 42.fxe4 fxe4 43.Nf2 Rc4) 36.Rxc4 Rd2+ 37.Ke1 Red5 38.Rb4 Rxc2 39.Rxb5 Rxh2 =

34.c6?

34.f4! gxf4 35.gxf4 Re8 36.Ne3 Kf6 37.c6 White has Rc5xf5 on tap.

34...Rc4?

34...exf3! 35.exf3 Nc4 36.f4 Rd2+ 37.Kg1 Ree2 38.Ne1 gxf4 Black is at least equal.

35.c7??

35.Ne3! Rxc3 36.Rxc3 Nc4 37.c7 Rc5

Analysis



38.Nxf5+! Now just about the only way to even keep playing is 38...Kh8 since other moves enter the minefield of knight forks:(38...Kf8 39.Nd4! Ke7 40.Nxb5!; 38...Kf7 39.Nd6+! Ke6 40.c8Q+; 38...Kf6 39.Nd6 Rxc7 40.Ne8+ and so on.)

35...Rec5 36.Rxc4 bxc4

And now something totally unexpected, Jin put the Queen back over in the captured pieces, a concession that he now knew it would not queen. I would not have

expected anyone to do that (to put it back). Once picked up, the “bluff” must be maintained!—Roland

37.Rc2

37.Ne3 Rxc7 (37...Kf6? 38.Ke1 c3 39.Rxc3!) 38.Nxf5+ Kf6 39.Ne3 Ke6 should be equal.

37...c3 38.Ne3 Rxc7 39.Nd5??

39.Nxf5+ Kf6 40.Ne3 Ke6 =

39...Rc5 40.Nb6 Nb1 41.Ke3

It is right in here where with less than two minutes on the clock it isn't easy to figure out what to do. Do I attack his knight, or his rook...and then what?! Both of us were short of time, and both of us were really determined to win this game.—Roland

41.fxe4 Na3 42.Na4 Ra5 43.Rxc3 Rxa4 44.Rc7+ Now it is White's turn to battle minus a piece with some drawing chances.

41...Na3 42.Kd4??

42.Rc1 c2 43.fxe4 fxe4 44.Kd2 Rc6 45.Na4 doesn't really offer White much hope on the board... but on the clock may be another matter.

42...Nxc2+ 43.Kxc5 Ne3



And now, I did something I have NEVER done in a game. I picked up a queen and plopped it down on the table (rather loudly, actually) to show that I was the one that was actually going to queen, and I didn't miscalculate!...I felt this was deserved

given he did this earlier. It's just not my style, but I did it, and it was kind of funny. It had the effect of really keeping me zoned in because if I didn't win after doing that... SHAME ON ME!!!—Roland

44.Kd4 c2 45.Kxe3 c1Q+ 46.Kd4 exf3 47.exf3 Qg1+ 48.Kd3 Qxb6 49.f4 g4

And now, White moved his King to d4, which was an illegal move, so instead of 24 seconds, I now had two minutes and 24 seconds, so he resigned. It was a few minutes before my shaky hands calmed down enough to finish up my score sheet. Yes, I was recording the entire time, even when less than a minute on my clock! The game taught me a lot. The beginning of the game was psychologically depressing, being down a pawn and tortured for a long time, and in last place in the tournament in the final round...most players might have withdrawn rather than do this, but if I had withdrawn, I would never have gotten this game. It was around move 15 when I decided I was going to try to win with everything I had, even down a pawn in a very depressing position, and incredibly, I got a good position eventually. I left this tournament super-charged and excited. So the lesson is, don't withdraw...keep playing to the very end. Yes, I lost about 40 rating points for the tournament, but it was worth it!—Roland. 0-1



One last view of the playing hall of the Obenchain/Hub Insurance building.
Photo credit: Jeff Roland



The final second of the tournament. Benjamin Jin (playing White), with less than two minutes on his clock, moves his King into check. This gives Roland (playing Black) two additional minutes — he had only 24 seconds before this. So White resigned. Photo credit: Adam Porth

Ontology Of Chess

By Jacob Stinar

SOURCE: [HTTP://STINARSCYANIDE.WORDPRESS.COM/2013/10/31/ONTOLOGY-OF-CHESS/](http://stinarscyanide.wordpress.com/2013/10/31/ontology-of-chess/)

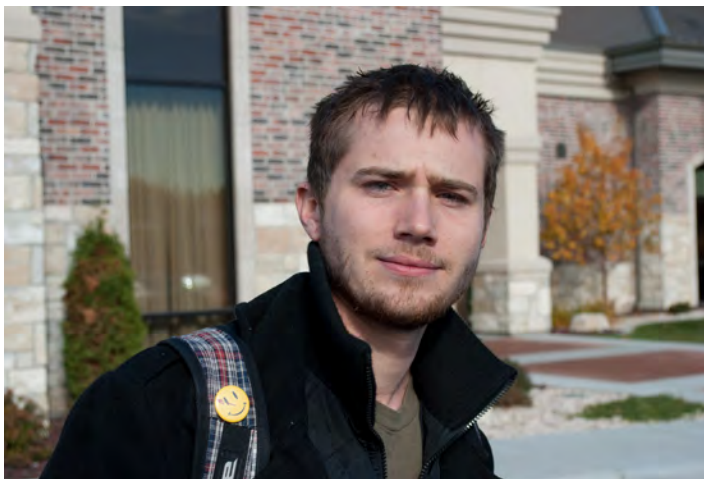
October 31, 2013 by sillysisyphus

“For if you wait for luck to turn up, life becomes very boring” – Mikhail Tal

Man has long been obsessed in watching others compete to achieve a mutually understood goal. There is a wonderfully diverse number of sports; but every game that exists can be summarized to a single achievement. Most popular sports are composed of getting a ball or other object into a particular place in a specific way. A set of rules govern these means, and the laws are enforced by a judge often dressed in black and white. We revel at witnessing an objective goal being attempted by a faction of players. We buy tickets, place bets, pay commentators — all the while, hymning and hawing over who’s the best at doing what.

I am in no way, subtracting the greatness and triumph from these contemporary gladiators. The quarterback is paid millions to learn the physics behind throwing a football, and at every super bowl he demonstrates his education. I am merely noting that every sport is dictated by physical exertion and pre-contractual rules. The games may change, as history has shown us; but the creation of competition has been a tradition since the celebration in Olympia. Whatever the sport, the inevitable question you must answer when describing the game to a newcomer is, what is the goal?

The monolithic instruction of chess is logic, thus is what separates the many



Jacob Stinar. Photo credit: Jeff Roland

different board games that are often stacked upon each other in the family game-room closet that hasn’t been opened since the inception of the Xbox. Superficially, chess is simple and bloody: kill the king. This objective is accomplished through mathematical calculations and military maneuvers. There is no need for a referee, for the game is played out in the black and white rationality of the board itself. To the layman, it may appear like two contenders moving pieces around on a board; perhaps as fun to watch as paint drying. To the contenders, the board is not a board at all, but a 64 square acre battle field where you are not only competing to overthrow the tyrant by exclaiming “check mate”, but also fighting to prove your ideas are superior to your opponents’. To the philosopher, chess is not a hobby, it is the discovery of objectivity in an otherwise murky world. To the mathematician, it is a refuge where heroism and calculus coalesce.

In every sport, it’s not actually about the goal. The ball rolling over a line, or going through the hoop is not spectacular in and of itself, what invokes cheers or tears is how the ball got there. Likewise, chess unfolds with the dispatch of expendable characters- and with each move, the more mentally taxing your responsibility of them becomes. It’s not about the achievement of winning, its about embracing the fear of losing. It’s not about watching the sunrise to your victory, it’s about facing the darkness for when it sets. For I am often times lost in the nexus of this game, and love to hate it. Though every time, like a faithful friend it calls me back. And while it’s quite difficult to explain the relationship, chess has long been coined “The Game of Kings”, but I like to think of it as “The Game of Seekers”. For only when you stop climbing do you not find the next plateau.

Whoever you are, I encourage you to explore this incredible game. When one plays chess, one engages in an intimate psychological conversation about one’s creativity and intelligence. It is easy to become afraid of your contender’s reputation, or perhaps loath him with a fierce anathema—and I often times find myself doing just this. But thanks to a patient and beloved friend

who has not only taught me much about the “sankhya” of chess (to borrow Hindu terminology) but also the “bhakti” of chess as well (all chess playing Swami’s should immensely appreciate that metaphor). His lessons continually help me to not only grow as a chess player, but also as a better person. The emotional investment of the outcome — victory or defeat — comes at a painstaking interest of distress. Thus is enough to make a man go mad. Though, this is not the ontology of chess. Perhaps some chess players never see this and perhaps many grow mad and bitter because of it. But as I seek the next plateau of this black and white mountain, I realize why I’m climbing, and somewhere from the summit, the words of my dear friend reecho; “Above all else, appreciate thy opponent! Love him. For you want nothing less than a smart enemy.”—Jeff Roland

ONE RESPONSE ON “ONTHOLOGY OF CHESS”

November 6, 2013 by Jeffrey Roland

Chess is very much like an interactive mental dance with another person. In a game of chess, our perceptions change constantly move-by-move depending on the psychology of the moment. There is inspiration and appreciation of beauty, all tempered with cold real calculation. One can play the same player over and over in a series of games even at the same sitting, and those games will all be different. Each game teaches us something about chess, ourselves, and our opponent. We then interpret what we’ve learned and are either correct or incorrect about that assessment, which teaches us even more.

There is balance, chaos, experience and learning. There are rules to be followed and rules to be broken! We must sometimes take risks in order to win, yet taking those risks might also be the very reason we lose. Add to this the fact that nobody is perfect. Mistakes are often made. Choices are ALWAYS made, and not always the best ones.

Chess is a dynamic interactive intimate game of the mind that we share with our opponent and that sharpens, teaches, inspires, or maybe it discourages, frustrates, or depresses us. It’s all up to us what we get out of each game. Hopefully, the most important thing we get from chess is to “realize” that it is fun, and to value and cherish our opponent for a well-played, fun, challenging, and exciting game.

Washington Chess News

Seattle Sluggers

by Joshua Sinanan

Week 7: 10-8-2013



The Sluggers drew a nail-biter against the Baltimore Kingfishers in the final inter-division match of the season. The match featured four decisive games, our first time all season, with the Sluggers dominating on the middle boards but faltering on the outer boards. The two Seattle victories featured masterful displays with the bishop pair by FM Costin Cozianu and FM Tian Sang, though in radically different ways.

The match was held at the Orlov Chess Academy in Redmond under the supervision of our guest TD Mark Smith, who was covering for Bert Rutgers. As usual, all games were played on chess.com.

GM Emil Anka made his fifth appearance of the season on board one against the young German GM Niclas Huschenbeth, who came to the U.S. to study at UMBC on a chess scholarship. The game began as an Accelerated Dragon Maroczy Bind, and the players followed theory for 17 moves until Huschenbeth deviated with 18...a3 instead of the previously played Nxd7, which resulted in a draw. After a few exchanges, a roughly equal bishop vs. knight middle game was reached with rooks still on the board. Huschenbeth activated his king via the march g1-f2-f3, and Emil responded well by doubling on the g-file and tickling White's kingside with 27...Rh5, creating a hole on g3. Had Emil found 29...Bh4! followed by Rg5 and penetrating on g3, he could have gained a solid advantage in the kingside and had excellent winning chances. In time pressure, Emil was unfortunately not able to find this resource and lost his valuable f4 pawn, after which Huschenbeth was able to convert the winning rook ending.

On board two, FM Costin Cozianu showed why he is one of the strongest FMs in the league by taking down GM Larry Kaufman, a former World Senior Champion. Costin

2013 Schedule				
Week	Date	Color	Opponent	Result
1	8/27/2013	W	Arizona Scorpions	tie, 2-2
2	9/4/2013	B	Los Angeles Vibe	lost, 1.5-2.5
3	9/10/2013	B	St. Louis Arch Bishops	lost, 1.5-2.5
4	9/17/2013	W	Philadelphia Inventors	lost, 1-3
5	9/24/2013	W	San Francisco Mechanics	won, 3-1
6	10/2/2013	W	Dallas Destiny	won, 2.5-1.5
7	10/8/2013	B	Baltimore Kingfishers	tie, 2-2
8	10/16/2013	W	Los Angeles Vibe	lost, 0.5-3.5
9	10/22/2013	B	Arizona Scorpions	lost, 1-3
10	10/30/2013	B	San Francisco Mechanics	lost, 1-3

played one of his favorite "closings" with the somewhat rare continuation 4...c4 in the Moscow variation of the Sicilian. A same-sides castling Maroczy Bind position was reached with White's light-square bishop developed outside the pawn chain on a4 instead of the more standard location on e2. Kaufman deviated from theory on move 12 with 12...Rb8, which gains a tempo before inserting the c5 pawn advance. Costin went for complications a few moves later with 14...e5, initiating a sequence of captures that left White with the two rabbi's and an extra pawn versus Black's knight and rook,

in addition to a weak pawn on c5. Kaufman wisely broke up White's queenside pawn chain with the advance a6-a5-a4, which left Costin with two passed a-pawns supported by a rook on a1. While the fans were trying to figure out why Costin's rook still hadn't moved well into the game, FM Curt Collyer reminded everyone that rooks belong behind passed pawns! Under time pressure with both players relying on the increment, Costin methodically escorted his a-pawn up the board while Kaufman countered with a rook invasion down the d-file and a well placed knight on f4 attacking



The Seattle Sluggers. L-R: FM Costin Cozianu, FM Curt Collyer, GM Emil Anka, FM Tian Sang, and NM Joshua Sinanan. Photo by Mark Smith.

White's kingside pawns. Just as it seemed Kaufman had stopped the a-pawn once and for all, Costin uncorked the tricky retreat 39. Bc1, which overloads the black rook and forces White to give back the exchange with Rd1+. Fortunately for Costin, he did not find it and White soon won a rook and with it the game.

FM Tian Sang played his third different opening in three games with the black pieces, this time opting for the Nimzo-Indian Defense against the unpredictable NM Jared Defibaugh. A main line of the Ne2 Rubinstein Variation was reached until move 11 where White went for the novelty 11. Qf3!? in order to force Black to play c6, which blocks his fianchettoed bishop on b7. Tian equalized nicely with the knight transfer Nd7-f8-g6, followed by Bd6, which redeploys his bishop to a stronger diagonal and opens the e-file for his rook. Perhaps unable to formulate a decent plan, Defibaugh erred with Nxc6?, which only sures up Black's kingside defenses and leaves White's d3-bishop biting on granite. On the next move, Tian's position went from good to awesome when White played 17. e4, which loses at least a pawn due to the tactic Bxh2 followed by Qh4+, double-attacking the king and the loose piece in the center of the board. Tian could hardly believe his eyes when he found the crushing queen invasion 19. Qh4 and then 21. Rxe4!!, removing the last defender of White's monarch and setting up a deadly attack on the f1-a6 diagonal. Tian's bishops swooped into their new homes on a6 and f4, prompting immediate resignation from Defibaugh, who was facing mate or heavy losses of material.

FM Curt Collyer played board four for the first time this season, but had a tough pairing against FM Ralph Zimmer, a 7-year league veteran. Out of a Veresov Opening, Curt's new favorite weapon with the white pieces, a typical structure was reached in which White's queen and pair of knights attempted to gain control of the central light squares. Zimmer played the first new move of the game, 10...g6, which logically prepares f5 in the battle to control the e4 square. In an effort to activate his knights, Curt opened the center with 11.e4 and even toyed with the idea of breaking with d5. He was reluctant to carry out this plan because of the thematic reply f5, which would have led to tactical complications favoring Black. While pondering what to do, Curt was sipping a hot chocolate that Josh had delivered special from Starbucks, and the warm milk was making him sleepy. He soon found himself down almost half an hour on the clock with a slightly worse position that would be difficult for anyone to hold in the middle of a warm chocolate coma. When Curt woke up a few moves later, his knights had been pushed back to the starting squares of his bishops and Zimmer had all the positional trumps: a securely outpost knight on d5, a versatile

bishop on d6, rooks doubled on the d-file, and all pawns solidly placed on light-squares. Had Curt found 30. a3 instead of Ne3, he may well have been able to hold the position despite his cramped position and time pressure. Instead, Curt's position collapsed after Black was able to play a3 to undermine the queenside pawn structure and engineer a breakthrough with 34...b4, after which the b-pawn became unstoppable.

Final score of the match: Seattle 2.0 - Baltimore 2.0

GM Niclas Huschenbeth-BAL - GM Emil Anka-SEA [B36]

USCL-Week 7, October 8, 2013

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 g6 5.c4 Nf6 6.Nc3 d6 7.Be2 Nxd4 8.Qxd4 Bg7 9.Be3 0-0 10.Qd2 a5 11.0-0 a4 12.Rad1 Qa5 13.Bd4 Bd7 14.Bxf6 Bxf6 15.Nd5 Qxd2 16.Rxd2 Kg7 17.Nb6 Rad8 18.a3 Bc6 19.f3 Bg5 20.f4 Bf6 21.Bd1 e5 22.Bxa4 Bxa4 23.Nxa4 exf4 24.Kf2 Rfe8 25.Kf3 Re5 26.Nb6 Rde8 27.Re1 Rh5 28.h3 h6 29.Nd5 Be5 30.Nxf4 Bxf4 31.Kxf4 Rc5 32.b3 Re6 33.Rd5 Rc7 34.Red1 Rce7 35.R1d4 Rf6+ 36.Ke3 Rf1 37.Rxd6 Re1+ 38.Kf2 Rb1 39.Rb6 Rb2+ 40.Kf3 f5 41.exf5 gxf5 42.Rdd6 f4 43.Rg6+ Kf7 44.Rxh6 1-0



GM Emil Anka. Photo credit: Joshua Sinanan.

FM Costin Cozianu-SEA - GM Larry Kaufman-BAL [B52]

USCL-Week 7, October 8, 2013

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.Bb5+ Bd7 4.c4 Nc6 5.Nc3 g6 6.d4 cxd4 7.Nxd4 Bg7 8.Be3 Nf6 9.h3 0-0 10.0-0 a6 11.Nxc6 bxc6 12.Ba4 Rb8 13.b3 c5 14.e5 Nh5 15.exd6 Bxc3 16.dxe7 Qxe7 17.Qxd7 Qxd7 18.Bxd7 Bxa1 19.Rxa1 Nf6 20.Bc6 Rfc8 21.Bf3 a5 22.Bd2 a4 23.bxa4 Re8 24.a5 Ne4 25.Be1 f5 26.g4 Red8 27.gxf5 gxf5 28.Bd1 Rd4 29.f3 Ng5 30.h4 Nh3+ 31.Kg2 Nf4+ 32.Kf1 Rbd8 33.Ba4 Rd3 34.Bc6 Ra3 35.Bb7 Nd3 36.Bd2 Ne5 37.Bg5 Rd7 38.a6 Nxf3 39.Bc1 Nd2+ 40.Ke2 Nxc4 41.Bxa3 Re7+ 42.Kf2 Nxa3 43.a7 Re8 44.a8Q Rxa8 45.Bxa8 Kg7 46.Rc1 c4 47.Bc6 Kf6 48.Rc3 Nb1 49.Rxc4 Nd2 50.Rc2 1-0



FM Costin Cozianu. Photo credit: Joshua Sinanan.

NM Jared Defibaugh-BAL - FM Tian Sang-SEA [E46]

USCL-Week 7, October 8, 2013

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 Bb4 4.e3 0-0 5.Nge2 d5 6.a3 Be7 7.Nf4 b6 8.cxd5 exd5 9.Bd3 Bb7 10.0-0 Re8 11.Qf3 c6 12.b4 Nbd7 13.Bb2 Nf8 14.Rac1 Ng6 15.Rfd1 Bd6 16.Nxg6 hxg6 17.e4 dxe4 18.Nxe4 Nxe4 19.Bxe4 Qh4 20.g4 Qxh2+ 21.Kf1 Rxe4 22.Qxe4 Ba6+ 23.Ke1 Bf4 0-1



FM Tian Sang. Photo credit: Joshua Sinanan.

FM Curt Collyer-SEA - FM Ralph Zimmer-BAL [D01]

USCL-Week 7, October 8, 2013

1.d4 Nf6 2.Nc3 d5 3.Bg5 Bf5 4.Bxf6 exf6 5.e3 Bb4 6.Bd3 Qd7 7.Nge2 0-0 8.0-0 c6 9.Ng3 Bxd3 10.Qxd3 g6 11.e4 dxe4 12.Ngxe4 Be7 13.Rad1 Na6 14.Qc4 f5 15.Ng3 Rfd8 16.Nce2 b5 17.Qb3 Nb4 18.c3 Nd5 19.Rd3 a5 20.Rfd1 a4 21.Qc2 Bd6 22.Nf1 Re8 23.Nc1 Re7 24.Rf3 Rae8 25.Nd3 Re2 26.Rd2 Qe7 27.g3 Qe4 28.Rxe2 Qxe2 29.Qxe2 Rxe2 30.Ne3 a3 31.Nxd5 cxd5 32.bxa3 Rxa2 33.Nb4 Rxa3 34.Nxd5 b4 35.Re3 b3 36.Re8+ Kg7 37.Re2 Ra2 38.Re1 b2 0-1



FM Curt Collyer. Photo credit: Joshua Sinanan.

Week 8: 10-16-2013



The Sluggers ran into some very bad luck and lost to the Los Angeles Vibe for the 2nd time this season. Seattle's All-Stars all began seeing stars midway through the match, and the only knockouts the Sluggers landed were unfortunately on themselves! With this result, L.A. leap-frogged us and sits a half-point ahead in 2nd place in the Pacific Division. However, as we proved many times during the playoffs last season, the Sluggers thrive under pressure and are highly capable of rising to the occasion in must-win situations. Our season is not over yet!

The match was held at the Orlov Chess Academy in Greenlake under the supervision of our TD Bert Rutgers. As usual, all games were played on chess.com.

Super GM Timur Gareev made his second appearance on board one for the Sluggers this season against GM Melik Khachiyani, whom Georgi Orlov defeated in week two with a pair of knights against a queen. During a prep session the night before the match at Eddie's house, Timur mentioned that he was 50% sure Melik would play the Slav against him. His prediction came true, and the two GM's entered the 6. Nh4 line, which is the third most popular variation after 6. e3 and 6. Ne5. Melik seemed to be well prepared in this line and confidently retreated his bishop all the way back to c8. The game followed theory until move 13, where Melik improved with 13...Qb6!? instead of the more common Na6, as played by Nakamura against Carlsen in 2009. White won what looked at first to be a clean pawn, but Black was able to liquidate to a pawn-down bishop of opposite color ending that was drawn despite the rooks still being on the board. An interesting alternative for Timur would have been to sacrifice the exchange with 20. Rxa7, gaining two connected passers plus a bishop for the rook. The two GMs shook hands (virtually) on move 38 in a dead equal position.

IM Georgi Orlov played board two against Idaho's strongest player, IM-elect Luke Harmon-Vellotti, who now attends UCLA on a 4-year scholarship despite not being old enough to drive a car. The game began with an Exchange Queen's Gambit Declined and followed the main line until move 11, where Luke deviated with Bxf6, giving away the bishop pair to launch a

quick minority attack on the queenside. Georgi responded aggressively and redeployed his bishop on the b8-h2 diagonal via Be7-d6, declaring his intentions by aiming directly at White's king. It became apparent after only a few more moves that Black's threats on the kingside were far more dangerous than White's minority attack. Luke defended well by transferring his knights to the kingside to block the weakened diagonal, but Georgi piled on more pressure with the rook-lift Re8-e6-h6. White chewed up quite a bit of time trying to figure out how to defend his h2 pawn, but in the end decided to sacrifice it with 18. f4?!, after determining that 18. h3 is just too dangerous because of Bxh3. A critical position was reached in which Georgi had to calculate capturing the pawn and committing to an all-out kingside attack or declining it and playing to improve his position on the queenside. He chose the former and went for the pawn, only to miss a sneaky knight retreat that resulted in his queen getting trapped! Suddenly, Georgi was down by a queen for only a rook, and Luke converted his advantage without too much difficulty.

Board three was a classic battle of youth vs. experience in which NM Roland Feng faced veteran FM Mark Duckworth, who is more than four times his age. Roland tried to put the "duck" into Duckworth by establishing a dominant central pawn wedge and quickly grabbing a lot of space against Black's Czech Benoni set-up. With the center blocked, play began on the wings; Roland advanced his a-pawn to the fifth rank to freeze black's two queenside pawns and Duckworth did the same with his h-pawn. After the somewhat exotic 13...Rh5, Roland lashed out with 14. g4!, opening lines on the kingside and invading with his knight to f5. Black responded well and traded the knight off, after which White's h-pawn was up for grabs. True to his style, Roland played quickly and sacrificed the pawn, after which he was able to castle long and invade with his other knight to b6. A few moves later, Roland opened the position with the well timed break 24. b4!, even at the risk of exposing his own king to attack with the opening of the queenside. A dynamic sequence of exchange sacrifices followed which left a highly unclear position in which both sides had a queen, two bishops, and two connected passed pawns. Given his time advantage and centrally located pawns that could advance with tempo, Roland seemed to have the advantage at this stage in the game. With his clock ticking down, Duckworth made a fatal error on move 35 with Bh3?, after which Roland seemed to be cruising to victory with 36. d6!, setting up a winning attack on the pinned dark-square bishop. In one last desperate attempt, Duckworth forced the trade of light-square bishops and went for a perpetual, which simply wasn't there unless white stepped his king to the wrong square. Unfortunately for Roland

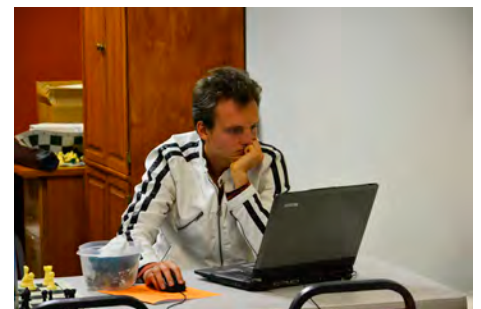
and the Sluggers, he played 38. Kg2??, when all other king moves win easily. The fans were stunned when "Superking" went on his final adventure via Kg2-g3-g4, and got mated on h4, a blow missed by all of the spectators except for Mark Smith and his computer.

Michael Omori played his second match of the season on board four against NM Madiyar Amerkeshev, one of Gareev's buddies from SoCal. This was predicted to be the toughest pairing for the Sluggers since Michael was playing up over 100 points with the black pieces. The game began with a King's Indian Defense 5. Bg5, to which Black replied by playing c5 and entering a Benoni set-up. Michael chose the active 7...Qa5 favored by GMs Kempinski, Timoscenko, and Velimirovic among others, which discourages White from trading bishops on h6 due to the pin on the c3-knight. White's central f4 break was well met by Omori's b5!, and Black gained a strong initiative on the queenside with the advance of the b and c-pawns. Pretty soon, most of White's pieces had retreated to the first rank and Michael seemed to be outplaying his higher-rated opponent, at the cost of using up a lot of time on the clock to navigate the complications. In time pressure, Michael missed some promising continuations that could have secured him a lasting advantage and Amerkeshev was able to wiggle his way out of trouble. An objectively equal position in which only one minor piece had been traded was reached that required careful handling, and Michael was unable to hold it playing only on the 30-second increment. After some maneuvering, Amerkeshev was eventually able to take control of the light squares and exploit the somewhat weakened black king position. He then found the strong invasion 45. Qe6+!, which wins the loose bishop on f6 and with it the game.

Final score of the match: Los Angeles 3.5 - Seattle 0.5

**GM Timur Gareev-SEA –
GM Melikset Khachiyani-LA [D17]
USCL-Week 8, October 16, 2013**

**1.d4 d5 2.c4 c6 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.Nf3 dxc4
5.a4 Bf5 6.Nh4 Bc8 7.e3 e5 8.Bxc4 exd4
9.exd4 Be7 10.0-0 0-0 11.Re1 Nd5 12.Nf3
Be6 13.Qb3 Qb6 14.Nxd5 cxd5 15.Bxd5
Qxb3 16.Bxb3 Bxb3 17.Rxe7 Bd5 18.Be3**



*GM Timur Gareev
Photo credit: Jeff Omori*

Nc6 19.Rxb7 Nxd4 20.Rd7 Nxf3+ 21.gxf3 Bc6 22.Rc7 Rfc8 23.Rxc8+ Rxc8 24.Bxa7 Ra8 25.Rc1 Bxa4 26.b4 f6 27.Rc7 Rd8 28.Kg2 Rd7 29.Rc8+ Kf7 30.Bc5 Bb5 31.Rb8 Bc6 32.b5 Bb7 33.b6 Ke6 34.Be3 g5 35.Kg3 Kf5 36.h3 h5 37.Rh8 h4+ 38.Kg2 1/2-1/2

IM Luke Harmon-Vellotti-LA –
IM Georgi Orlov-SEA [D36]
USCL-Week 8, October 16, 2013

1.d4 d5 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.cxd5 exd5 5.Bg5 Nbd7 6.e3 c6 7.Bd3 Be7 8.Nge2 0-0 9.0-0 Re8 10.Qc2 Nf8 11.Bxf6 Bxf6 12.b4 a6 13.a4 Be7 14.Rab1 Bd6 15.b5 Qh4 16.Ng3 Re6 17.Nce2 Rh6 18.f4 axb5 19.axb5 Qxh2+ 20.Kf2 Bh3 21.Rg1 g5 22.Nf1 Qxg1+ 23.Kxg1 Bd7 24.bxc6 bxc6 25.fxg5 Rh5 26.Neg3 Rxg5 27.Nf5 Bxf5 28.Bxf5 Ra6 29.Bc8 Ra5 30.Qxc6 Ra2 31.Bh3 Be7 32.Nh2 Re2 33.Nf3 Rg6 34.Qxd5 Rxe3 35.Ne5 Rg7 36.Rf1 Ng6 37.Nxf7 Rxh3 38.Nh6+ Kh8 39.Qa8+ 1-0



IM Georgi Orlov.
Photo credit: Jeff Omori

NM Roland Feng-SEA –
FM Mark Duckworth-LA [A56]
USCL-Week 8, October 16, 2013

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 c5 3.d5 e5 4.Nc3 d6 5.e4 Nbd7 6.h3 h5 7.Be2 a6 8.a4 Be7 9.Be3 Nf8 10.Bd3 h4 11.Nge2 Ng6 12.Qd2 Nd7 13.a5 Rh5 14.g4 hxg3 15.Nxg3 Rh7 16.Nf5 Nh4 17.Nxh4 Rxh4 18.f3 Nf8 19.Na4 Rxh3 20.Rxh3 Bxh3 21.0-0-0 Rb8 22.Rh1 b5 23.Nb6 Bd7 24.b4 Ng6 25.Rg1 Kf8 26.bxc5 dxc5 27.Qb2 b4 28.Rxg6 fxg6 29.Qxe5 Rxb6 30.axb6 Qxb6 31.Bf4 Kf7 32.Qc7 Qf6 33.Kd2 Qb2+ 34.Ke3 Qd4+ 35.Ke2 Bh3 36.d6 Bf1+ 37.Kxf1 Qxd3+ 38.Kg2 Qe2+ 39.Kg3 Qe1+ 40.Kg4 Qh4# 0-1



NM Roland Feng
Photo credit: Jeff Omori

NM Madiyar Amerkeshev-LA –
Michael Omori-SEA [E70]
USCL-Week 8, October 16, 2013

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 Bg7 4.e4 d6 5.Bg5 0-0 6.Qd2 c5 7.d5 Qa5 8.Bd3 Re8 9.Nge2 a6 10.0-0 Nbd7 11.f4 b5 12.cxb5 axb5 13.Ng3 c4 14.Bc2 Ng4 15.Kh1 Qb6 16.Nd1 b4 17.h3 Ngf6 18.Ne3 Ba6 19.Rfe1 h6 20.Bh4 Nh7 21.Nd1 c3 22.bxc3 bxc3 23.Qc1 Bc4 24.a4 Nc5 25.Ne2 Qa5 26.Bf2 Rec8 27.Nd4 e6 28.dxe6 Nxe6 29.Nxe6 Bxe6 30.Ne3 Nf6 31.f5 Bd7 32.fxg6 fxg6 33.e5 dxe5 34.Bxg6 e4 35.Bh4 Qe5 36.Rf1 Ra6 37.Qc2 Rb8 38.Qe2 Rc6 39.Rad1 Be6 40.Bxf6 Bxf6 41.Ng4 Bxg4 42.Qxg4 Qg5 43.Qxe4 Rbc8 44.Be8 R6c7 45.Qe6+ Kh8 46.Rxf6 c2 47.Rxh6+ Rh7 48.Rxh7+ Kxh7 49.Qf7+ Kh8 50.Qf8+ Qg8 51.Qxg8+ Kxg8 52.Rc1 Rxe8 53.Rxc2 Re1+ 54.Kh2 Ra1 55.Rc4 1-0



Michael Omori
Photo credit: Jeff Omori

Week 9: 10-22-2013



The Sluggers came up short in a tight match against the Arizona Scorpions that could have easily gone our way. All of the games were extremely hard fought and featured quite interesting battles, especially Megan Lee and Emil Anka's games with the white pieces. Unfortunately, our result combined with L.A.'s win over San Francisco means that we have been eliminated from postseason contention this time around.

The match was held at the Orlov Chess Academy in Redmond under the supervision of our TD Bert Rutgers. As usual, all games were played on chess.com.

GM Timur Gareev played Black for the first time all season on board one against the strong IM Mac Molner, who GM Varuzhan Akobian defeated twice last year in critical games. Molner opened with 1.d4 instead of his usual king's pawn, and the

game entered a main line of the Queen's Indian Defense. Gareev's preparation with 5... c5 was met sharply by Molner's reply 6. e4, and the game followed high-level theory until move 11 where Timur deviated with the somewhat inaccurate 11...Be7?!. Instead, he could have tried 11...Bc5! with the idea of 12.a3 Ne3!, which wins the bishop pair and obtain's a slight advantage for Black. After Timur's misstep, Mac gained space on both wings and soon initiated a forcing sequence of trades in which queens, both knights, and light square bishops were traded. After the smoke had cleared, White seemed to hold a small advantage with a protected passed c-pawn on the fifth rank and black was saddled with two sets of doubled pawns. Timur reacted actively, doubling his rooks on the d-file and going for counterplay against the weakened white king. Black's aggressive maneuvers, astronomically high rating, and time advantage on the clock were plenty of reasons for Molner to accept Gareev's draw offer on move 28.

GM Emil Anka was paired against IM Levon Altounian on board two, in what was easily the deepest strategic game of the match. As Emil predicted, Altounian played his pet line of the Philidor Defense, and the two of them followed theory for 17 moves. Emil improved on the previous try 18. Ne3 and moved his knight to Na3 instead, which secures the b5 square and prepares the invasion Nc3-b5, followed by c3 and Black's knight on b4 is simply stranded. Instead of retreating the stranded knight to safety, Altounian decided to sacrifice it and go for play in the center with 21...d5?!, a challenge Emil was ready to accept. For the knight, Black obtained two pawns, a strong bishop posted along the h1-a8 diagonal, and the initiative. Despite having the extra piece, Emil was forced to defend against Lev's constant threats on the kingside without any attack of his own. In time pressure, a dynamically equal position was reached in which neither side could make any progress without great risk, so a draw was agreed.

On board three, FM Tian Sang faced off against FM Robby Adamson, who coaches the Catalina Foothills High School team in Arizona. Robby surprised Tian by playing the Italian Opening instead of his usual Ruy Lopez, for which Tian was well prepared. Tian went for the solid 4...Qe7, and the two FM's followed theory for 4 more moves until Robby uncorked the novelty 8. Na3!? instead of advancing his d-pawn. A few moves later, White gave away the bishop pair to damage Black's pawn structure, and the resulting position was more or less even. The queens were soon exchanged on c4 and it seemed that this game also was heading for a draw. Unfortunately for Tian, he missed 19. Be3! and soon lost a pawn, for which he had some compensation due to the superior activity of his pieces. Adamson was unable to find the best way to



The Seattle Sluggers. L-R: FM Tian Sang, WIM Megan Lee, Manager Eddie Chang, TD Bert Rutgers, GM Emil Anka, GM Timur Gareev, NM Joshua Sinanan. Photo Credit: Mark Smith

continue as time pressure approached, and Tian soon won the pawn back with 31. Rd5, obtaining a slight advantage in space at the same time! In level position, Tian tried to active the king with 38...Ke5??, which runs into 39.Ra5!, threatening numerous knight forks and winning the pawn back again. Robby did not give Tian a second chance to get back in the game and converted the extra pawn without too much difficulty.

In the first all-female game of the season, WIM Megan Lee played against WFM Amanda Mateer, who runs chesskid.com and is married to IM Molner. Megan went for the Fianchetto line against Amanda's Kan Sicilian, and the two ladies followed theory for 13 moves. Megan deviated with 14.f5! to open the f-file instead of the more routine attack along the h-file with 14. Qh5 or 14.Rf3. Mateer responded logically by placing a knight on the newly available e5 square and redeploying her dark-square bishop on the h8-a1 diagonal, and Megan soon had to shed her b-pawn to try and drum up an attack on the kingside. On move 24, a unique position was reached in which Black's double-fianchettoed bishops were both attacked by White's knights on a5 and h5, and it was clear that Megan needed to do something quickly before Amanda consolidated her position. Megan got her chance a few moves later after Mateer's blunder 27...Rad8??, which loses to 28. Qf4!, and the f7 pawn will be captured with devastating effect. Unfortunately for Megan and the Sluggers, she was in time

pressure and missed her chance, instead playing 28. Qe5+ and allowing black to escape. Amanda soon converted her advantage on the queenside and simplified down to a winning ending.

Final score of the match: Arizona 3.0 - Seattle 1.0

**FM Robby Adamson-ARZ –
FM Tian Sang-SEA [C53]
USCL-Week 9, October 22, 2013**

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4 Bc5 4.c3 Qe7 5.0-0 d6 6.h3 Nf6 7.Re1 Bb6 8.Na3 0-0 9.d4 h6 10.Bd5 Re8 11.Bxc6 bxc6 12.dxe5 dxe5 13.Qa4 Bb7 14.Nc4 Qc5 15.Ne3 Rad8 16.Qc4 Qxc4 17.Nxc4 Ba6 18.Nxe5 Nxe4 19.Be3 f5 20.Nxc6 Rd6 21.Bxb6 axb6 22.Ncd4 g6 23.a4 Kf8 24.Nb5 Bxb5 25.axb5 Nc5 26.Rxe8+ Kxe8 27.Re1+ Kf7 28.Nd4 Ne6 29.Nf3 Kf6 30.Ne5 Nf4 31.Kf1 Rd5 32.Nc4 Rxb5 33.h4 Rd5 34.g3 Ne6 35.Ke2 b5 36.Ne3 Rd6 37.Ra1 h5 38.Ra7 Ke5 39.Ra5 Kf6 40.Rxb5 c6 41.Rb6 Nc5 42.Nc2 Re6+ 43.Kf1 Nd7 44.Ra6 Nc5 45.Rb6 Nd7 46.Rb7 Nc5 47.Rc7 Nd3 48.b4 g5 49.hxg5+ Kxg5 50.Rd7 Nb2 51.Nd4 Rh6 52.Rg7+ Kf6 53.Rc7 Ke5 54.Re7+ Kd5 55.Nxf5 Rf6 56.Ne3+ Kd6 57.Rh7 Nd3 58.f4 c5 59.Rxh5 Kc6 60.Rd5 Nxf4 61.Rxc5+ 1-0

**GM Emil Anka-SEA –
IM Levon Altounian-ARZ [C41]
USCL-Week 9, October 22, 2013**

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 exd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 Be7 6.Be2 0-0 7.0-0 Re8 8.f4 Bf8 9.Bf3 c5 10.Nb3 Nc6 11.Re1 a5 12.a4 Nb4 13.Be3 Be6 14.Bf2 Qb6 15.Nd2 Rad8 16.f5 Bd7 17.Nc4 Qa6 18.Na3 Bc6 19.Bh4 Be7 20.Ncb5 Qb6 21.c3 d5 22.e5 Ne4 23.f6 Bf8 24.Kh1 Rxe5 25.cxb4 axb4 26.Bxe4 Rxe4 27.fxg7 Rxh4 28.gxf8Q+ Kxf8 29.Nc2 d4 30.Qe2 Re8 31.Qf2 Rg4 32.Rxe8+ Bxe8 33.Ne1 Qh6 34.Nf3 Bc6 35.Rf1 Rf4 36.Qg3 Qf6 37.h3 d3 38.Qf2 b6 39.Qe3 Bxf3 40.gxf3 Rh4 41.f4 c4 42.Rf2 Qf5 43.Kh2 Rh6 44.Nd4 Qd5 45.Rd2 Rd6 46.Nb5 Re6 47.Qf2 Re4 48.Kg3 1/2-1/2

**IM Mackenzie Molner-ARZ –
GM Timur Gareev-SEA [E15]
USCL-Week 9, October 22, 2013**

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nf3 b6 4.g3 Ba6 5.Nbd2 c5 6.e4 cxd4 7.e5 Ng4 8.h3 Nh6 9.Bg2 Nc6 10.0-0 Nf5 11.Re1 Be7 12.a3 0-0 13.b4 Bb7 14.Nb3 d6 15.g4 Nh4 16.Nxh4 Bxh4 17.b5 Na5 18.Nxa5 Bxg2 19.Kxg2 bxa5 20.Qxd4 dxe5 21.Qxd8 Rfxd8 22.Be3 Be7 23.c5 Rd5 24.Rec1 f5 25.f3 Rd3 26.Bg1 e4 27.fxe4 Rd2+ 28.Kh1 Rad8 1/2-1/2

**WIM Megan Lee-SEA –
WFM Amanda Mateer-ARZ [B43]
USCL-Week 9, October 22, 2013**

1.e4 c5 2.Nc3 e6 3.Nf3 a6 4.d4 cxd4 5.Nxd4 Qc7 6.g3 Bb4 7.Bd2 Nf6 8.Bg2 Nc6 9.Nb3 0-0 10.0-0 Be7 11.f4 d6 12.g4 Re8 13.g5 Nd7 14.f5 Nde5 15.f6

Bf8 16.fxg7 Bxg7 17.Kh1 b5 18.Ne2 Nc4 19.Ng3 Nxb2 20.Qe2 Nc4 21.Rad1 Nxd2 22.Qxd2 Ne5 23.Nh5 Bb7 24.Na5 Nc4 25.Nxc4 Qxc4 26.Nxg7 Kxg7 27.Qxd6 Rad8 28.Qe5+ Kg8 29.Qf6 Qc7 30.Rde1 Rd2 31.Re3 Rxc2 32.Rg3 Rc1 33.Rh3 Rxf1+ 34.Qxf1 Rd8 35.Re3 Rd2 36.h4 Rxa2 37.Qd1 Rc2 38.Qf1 b4 39.h5 Rc1 40.Re1 Rxe1 41.Qxe1 b3 42.Qa1 Qc2 43.Qe5 b2 0-1

Week 10: 10-30-2013



The Sluggers went out with a bang against the San Francisco Mechanics, who recently became the Pacific Division Champions. White held the advantage in all of the games for the duration of the match, but only the Mechanics were able to cleanly convert. The highlight of the match was definitely FM Curt Collyer's brilliant mating attack against Yian Liou on board two, which featured a queen sacrifice and won the weekly upset prize.

The match was held at the Orlov Chess Academy in Redmond under the supervision of our TD Bert Rutgers. As usual, all games were played on chess.com.

FM Costin Cozianu was paired on board one against GM Jesse Kraai, author of the new chess novel *Lisa*. Despite the 3-year break that Kraai took from competitive play to write *Lisa*, he has been able to find his form and recently won the Western States Open in Reno. Trying to get Kraai out of his book early, Costin employed the Romanian Accelerated Dragon against Jesse's Maroczy Bind set-up. Kraai was content to play classical developing moves while Costin was busy setting up a double-fianchetto in hyper-modern style. In somewhat risky fashion, Costin tried to establish a dark square blockade in the center, to which Kraai responded by invading with his knight on the queenside. The game soon became critical when Kraai invaded with his knight to b5, and Costin had to rely on his pressure along the h1-a8 diagonal to compensate for his lag in development and awkwardly placed pieces. Kraai soon gained the bishop pair and had strong pressure in the center and on the queenside, and it was clear that Black's risky strategy was not working. In time pressure, Costin could have tried 29...Nd5, which gives Black counterplay along the long diagonal and requires accurate defense by White despite the extra material. Instead, Costin went for the

less critical 29...Bf3 and soon found his position collapse.

FM Curt Collyer played board two against FM Yian Liou, who is rated nearly 2500 USCF. Out of a Nimzo-Larsen Attack, the players soon transposed to the Reti opening and Curt set up a double fianchetto against Liou's solid Slav formation. Curt was channeling Smyslov for much of the game and expanded with the smooth and logical pawn break 12.e4, taking over more space in the center. Black seemed a bit uncomfortable in the position and attempted to trade off a set of knights with 15...Nfd7, which Curt correctly refused. Though no pieces were exchanged until move 27, White stood clearly better due to his space advantage, and soon broke through with the thematic pawn break 27. g4. The storm clouds were soon gathering around Black's king, as all 7 of White pieces participated in the kingside offensive compared with only 3 defenders for Black. Starting on move 32, Curt unleashed a series of tactical blows in which he sacrificed a knight followed by a queen to rip open the black king and deliver a deadly attack. With his lone king being assailed by five pieces, Liou resigned a few moves later facing a forced mate in three!

On board three, NM Roland Feng faced one of his personal rivals, NM Vignesh Panchanatham, who he played at the Barber Tournament of K-8 Champions last August. The game began as a Tarrasch French, and Roland went for the solid approach with 13...0-0 instead of Qxb2, which had landed him in some trouble in the past. Theory continued for a few more moves until Panchatham deviated with the novelty 15.b4, which allows a simplifying exchange in the center. Roland went for it and played 15...Nxd4 followed by e5, regaining the piece with a pawn fork. Despite these simplifications, White still had some tricks and tried the interesting sacrifice 18.Bc4, offering to swap all minor pieces and head for a level heavy piece ending after 18...Qxc4 19.Nxf6 Rxf6 20.Qxd7. Roland decided to play for the win instead and avoided this sequence, perhaps underestimating his opponents chances in the resulting position. For his sacrificed pawn, Roland gained what looked like a strong passed d-pawn and centralized his rooks, but it was just not enough compensation. Panchatham steered the game into a better rooking ending and converted his advantage without too much difficulty.

Eddie Chang made his Sluggers debut as a player instead of a manager on board four against NM Kesav Viswanadha, who Megan drew in week 5. Since the Sluggers had already been eliminated from postseason contention, Eddie was granted special permission to play by the league commissioner Greg Shahade. Despite Eddie's humble rating of only 1824, he played a phenomenal game and clearly

showed that he can hang with master level opposition. Eddie began with the flexible 1. Nf3, and the game soon moved into the waters of the Nimzo-English. After obtaining the bishop pair and control of the a1-h8 diagonal, Eddie was clearly better and soon had his young opponent tied up with little chances for counterplay. White soon had taken control of the d-file and re-routed his light-square bishop with the strong sortie Be2-d1-a4-c6, fixing Black's c-pawn and restricting the movement of his minor pieces. Watching this game, you would have thought that White was the master and Black the class A player! Eddie was in the middle of squeezing Viswanadha when he prematurely grabbed the e-pawn with 31.Bxf6 and Bxe4, missing 32...c5!, after which White loses a piece. Instead, Eddie should have played b5 first to freeze the c-pawn and then proceed with his plan, and Black is most likely lost. Despite losing the piece, Eddie still had drawing chances with two pawns vs. a bishop. In the end, Black was able to activate his king to stop the pawns, and the extra bishop was simply too much for White to handle.

Final score of the match: San Francisco 3.0 - Seattle 1.0

**GM Jesse Kraai-SF –
FM Costin Cozianu-SEA [B39]
USCL-Week 10, October 30, 2013**

1.Nf3 g6 2.e4 c5 3.c4 Bg7 4.d4 cxd4 5.Nxd4 Nc6 6.Be3 Nf6 7.Nc3 Ng4 8.Qxg4 Nxd4 9.Qd1 Ne6 10.Rc1 b6 11.Be2 Bb7 12.f3 Qb8 13.Qd2 Qe5 14.0-0 g5 15.Rfd1 Rd8 16.Nb5 g4 17.f4 Qxe4 18.Bd3 Qc6 19.Nxa7 Qc7 20.Nb5 Qc6 21.b4 h5 22.f5 Nc7 23.Nc3 Bxc3 24.Rxc3 h4 25.Bd4 f6 26.b5 Qd6 27.Qe3 h3 28.g3 Ra8 29.Rd2 Bf3 30.Be4 Bxe4 31.Qxe4 Qb4 32.Bxf6 Rf8 33.Be5 d5 34.Qxg4 Rxa2 35.Qg6+ Rf7 36.Qc6+ Kf8 37.Qh6+ Ke8 38.Rxa2 Qb1+ 39.Qc1 Qxa2 40.Rc2 1-0

**FM Curt Collyer-SEA –
FM Yian Liou-SF [A06]
USCL-Week 10, October 30, 2013
[Curt Collyer]**

1.Nf3 d5 2.b3 Bg4 3.e3

I decided to keep my position fluid and avoid any doubled pawns, leaving Black with a kind of reversed Torre Attack.

3...Nd7 4.Bb2 Ngf6

4...e5 5.h3! Bxf3 6.Qxf3 Ngf6 would lead to a structure where White has two bishops and flexible pawns, but Black controls the center. The play would be equal or slightly better for White.

5.h3 Bh5 6.d3

Now that e 4 is controlled, my opponent was concerned I might next play 7.g4 and 8.Nh4 to "trap" his bishop.

6...h6

Creating an escape square for the bishop. 6...e5? 7.g4 would lose a pawn.



FM Curt Collyer. Photo credit: Joshua Sinanan

7.Nbd2 Bg6 8.g3 c6 9.Bg2 e6 10.0-0 Be7 11.Qe2

I decided to play this kind of Hippo / King's Indian Attack structure. Black's position is very rigid, so White has more options.

11...0-0

I was expecting 11...Qc7 12.e4 dxe4 13.dxe4 e5 which would have granted him more central space. In the game, Black never managed to gain control of e5.

12.e4 Nc5?!

This might be the first small inaccuracy. Eventually these accumulated into a large advantage for White.

13.Ne5!

Gaining a tempo on the bishop.

13...Bh7 14.Rae1

Nearly a year ago to the day, I played a similar structure against Megan Lee: October 27, 2012, Challengers Cup, Round 2: Collyer-Lee: 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 0-0 12.e4 de 13.de e5 14. Ne1 Rfe8 15.Nd3 Bf8 16.Rae1 Nc5 17.f4 Nxd3 18.cxd3 Nd7

19.fe Nxe5 20.d4 Nd7 21. e5 f6 22.Nf3 Kh8 23.Nh4 Bb4 24.Rd1 fe 25.Rf7 Re7 26.Rxe7 Bxe7 27.de Nc5 28.Qg4 Bxh4 29.Qxh4 Nd3 30.Bc3 Re8 31.Kh2 Qe7 32.Qxe7 Rxe7 33.Bf1 Nc5 34.Rd8+ Bg8 35. Bb4 Rd7 36.Rxg8+ Kxg8 37.Bc4+ Kh7 38.Bxc5 b6 39.Bd6 b5 40.Bd3+ g6 41.Be4 1-0. In the current game, Black seeks equality through exchanges, trying to remove White's strong knight on e5.

14...Nfd7 15.Ng4!

This keeps the tension in the position. Now White is showing good potential on the kingside and Black's knights look inappropriate.

15...Re8

Something like 15...a5? might lose a pawn to 16.exd5 cxd5 17.Bxd5 exd5 18.Qxe7

16.Kh1

This is prophylaxis against any Qb6+ tactics; it also clears g1 for the rook, if needed.

16...Bf8

Now Black is likely planning to trade on e4, followed by advancing his pawn e6-e5,

when he reaches a desirable structure. But White is in time to prevent him.

17.f4! f5?!

Black begins to panic in the face of White's kingside buildup, and this leads to a cramped position.

18.Nf2

18.Ne3 was also tempting, planning to close the position with e4-e5, similar to the game.

18...a5 19.a3 Bg6 20.Nd1

Making Black suffer a little by postponing the clarification of the pawn structure. This extracted a further concession from Black.

20...Nf6?! 21.e5!

Gaining another tempo.

21...Nfd7

Black's Stonewall-like position is looking unpleasant as his knights are awkwardly placed and he has no obvious means of counterplay.

22.Ne3

White would like to break with g4, so the

knight is well-placed here.

22...Nb6 23.Qf2 Be7

Planning to meet g4 with Bh4, but White's rooks carefully sidestep this.

24.Rg1! Rf8 25.Ref1! Kh8 26.Bf3 Bh7 27.g4

The consistent follow-up to White's maneuvers.

27...fxg4

The very first exchange of the game! However, 27...g6!? was perhaps better, trying to maintain a blockade.

28.Bxg4 Qd7 29.Qg3

Making Black worry about threats to g7.

29...Rg8 30.Nf3

Bringing the knight to d4 to steadily increase the pressure.

30...Na6 31.Nd4 Nc7 32.f5!



I played the next few moves quickly to further pressure my opponent who was in time trouble.

32...c5

Black has to try something active, so he attacks the knight. 32...exf5? 33.Ndxf5 Ne6 34.Nd4 wins the pinned knight.; 32...exf5? 33.Ndxf5 Bxf5 34.Bxf5 (threatening Qg6) 34...Qe8 35.e6+-

33.f6!?

Taking on e6 appeared objectively better, but this looked more fun.

33...cxd4 34.Bxd4!

Calmly recapturing, and now hitting the knight on b6 as well.

34...h5?

Black tries a tactical counterblow, but he lacks time to calculate it fully, and his position refuses to support it. 34...Nc8 was what I was expecting, when I was considering either 35.f7 Rf8 36.Bf5 or; 34...Nc8 35.Bh5 attacking g7 and meeting 35...gxf6 with the attractive 36.exf6! Rxg3 37.f7+ Rg7 38.Bxg7#; 34...Bf8 35.Bxb6 (or 35.f7 trapping the rook.); 34...Bxa3 35.Bxb6 and with equal material, Black's kingside problems remain.

35.Bxh5 gxf6

Diagram top of next column

36.exf6!

Possibly this move, which offers the queen



sacrifice. is what he had missed.

36...Be4+

It's now necessary for Black to clear a square for his king. 36...Rxg3? 37.f7+ is just forced mate.

37.dxe4 Rxg3 38.fxe7+ Kh7 39.Rf7+

Another strong intermezzo, driving the king further up the board before recapturing the black rook.

39...Kh6 40.Rxg3

On the kingside, Black is trailing by 18 points.

40...Qc6

40...Kxh5 41.Rh7#; 40...Rh8 41.Bxh8

41.Ng4+



Black resigned as 41...Kxh5 42.Nf6+ Kh4 43.Rg4+ Kxh3 44.Rh7# would be one possible finish and 41...Kg5 42.Ne5+ Kh4 43.Rg4+ Kxh3 44. Rf3# is another. 1-0

NM Vignesh Panchanatham-SF –

NM Roland Feng-SEA [C06]

USCL-Week 10, October 30, 2013

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.Nd2 Nf6 4.e5 Nfd7 5.Bd3 c5 6.c3 Nc6 7.Ndf3 Qb6 8.Ne2 cxd4 9.cxd4 f6 10.exf6 Nxf6 11.0-0 Bd6 12.Bf4 Bxf4 13.Nxf4 0-0 14.Rb1 Bd7 15.b4 Nxd4 16.Nxd4 e5 17.Nxd5 Qxd4 18.Bc4 Kh8 19.Qxd4 exd4 20.Rfd1 Nxd5 21.Bxd5 Bf5 22.Rbc1 d3 23.Bxb7 Rad8 24.Rd2 Rfe8 25.f3 h6 26.Kf2 Rd6 27.Rc6 Rd4 28.a3 Red8 29.Rc5 Bh7 30.Rc3 g5 31.Be4 Bxe4 32.fxe4 Rxe4 33.Rxd3 Rxd3 34.Rxd3 Re7 35.Kf3 Kg7 36.Kg4 Re4+ 37.Kf5 Rf4+ 38.Ke6 Kg6 39.g3 Rf2 40.h4 g4 41.Ke5 Rf3 42.Ke4 Rf6 43.b5 Rb6 44.a4 Re6+ 45.Kf4 h5 46.Rc3 Rf6+ 47.Ke4 Re6+ 48.Kd4 Re1 49.a5 Rd1+ 50.Kc4 Kf5 51.b6 axb6 52.axb6 Ke6 53.b7 Rd8 54.Rb3 Rb8 55.Kc5 Kd7 56.Kb6 Rf8 57.Ka7 Kc7 58.b8Q+ Rxb8 59.Rxb8 1-0



NM Roland Feng
Photo credit: Joshua Sinanan

Eddie Chang-SEA –
NM Kesav Viswanadha-SF [E32]
USCL-Week 10, October 30, 2013

1.Nf3 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 Bb4 4.Qc2 0-0 5.a3 Bxc3 6.Qxc3 d6 7.d4 Nbd7 8.b4 Qe7 9.Bb2 Re8 10.e3 e5 11.dxe5 dxe5 12.Be2 e4 13.Nd4 Ne5 14.0-0 Bd7 15.Rfd1 Rad8 16.Rd2 Ng6 17.Rad1 h5 18.h3 Bc8 19.Nb3 Nf8 20.Nc5 Rxd2 21.Rxd2 b6 22.Nb3 Ne6 23.Nd4 Nxd4 24.Qxd4 h4 25.Bd1 Bf5 26.Ba4 Rc8 27.Bc6 Kh7 28.Qe5 Qxe5 29.Bxe5 Kg6 30.Rd4 Rh8 31.Bxf6 Kxf6 32.Bxe4 c5 33.bxc5 bxc5 34.Rd5 Bxe4 35.Rxc5 Rd8 36.f3 Bf5 37.Ra5 Rd7 38.e4 Be6 39.c5 Rc7 40.f4 g5 41.f5 Bc8 42.Kf2 Ke5 43.Ke3 a6 44.c6+ Kd6 45.f6 Rxc6 46.Rxg5 Ke6 47.Rh5 Rc3+ 48.Kf4 Kxf6 49.Rxh4 Rxa3 50.Rh6+ Kg7 51.Rc6 Be6 52.h4 Ra1 53.Rc5 a5 54.Rg5+ Kh6 55.g4 a4 56.Rh5+ Kg7 57.Rg5+ Kf8 58.Ra5 a3 59.g5 a2 60.Ke5 Rf1 0-1



Eddie Chang
Photo credit: Joshua Sinanan

Washington Challengers' Cup

By Gary Dorfner

The Washington Challengers' Cup was held Oct. 26-27 at the Seattle Chess Club. There were in all, 33 players in the Open and 33 players in the Reserve. The winners were: Open Section 1st Curt Collyer 3.5 \$255.00 (he will be seeded into the state championship); 2nd Josh Sinanan, Dereque Kelley, David Bragg, Harley Greninger and Bryce Tiglon 3.0 \$32.00 each; 1st U2100 Jofrel Landingin 2.5 \$125.00; 1st U1900 Nicolo Gelb 2.5 \$125.00. Reserve Section 1st-2nd Robert Allen and Vikram Ramasamy 4.5 \$157.50 each; 1st U1600 Breck Haining and Zuberi Wilson 3.0 \$47.50 each; 1st U1400 Eugene Chin 2.0 \$95.00; 1st U1200 Cheyenne Zhang and Augustus Herbst 1.5 \$47.50 each. TD for this event was Fred Kleist.

David Bragg (WA) (2200) – Sangeeta Dhingra (WA) (1799) [C13]
Challengers' Cup Seattle, WA (R1),
October 26, 2013
[Ralph Dubisch]

1.d4 Nf6 2.Nc3 d5 3.Bg5 e6 4.e4 dxe4 5.Nxe4 Be7 6.Bxf6 Bxf6 7.Nf3 b6 8.c3 Bb7 9.Bd3 Nd7 10.Qc2 Qe7 11.0-0-0 12.Rhe1 Kb8 13.Kb1 c5 14.Bb5 cxd4



15.Nxd4

15.cxd4 is an alternative, trying to restrain the d7-knight. 15...Qb4 (Or 15...Rc8 16.Qa4 Rhd8 17.Rd3) 16.Qc4 Qxc4 17.Bxc4 is equal. White can liquidate the isolated pawn and regain the bishop pair, but there's not much left after that.

15...Bxd4 16.Rxd4

16.cxd4 Nf6 17.f3 =+

16...Nc5 17.Nxc5 Qxc5 18.Bd7 Qc7

18...Bxg2!? 19.Rg1 Bd5 looks like a clear advantage to Black.

19.Red1 Qxh2 20.f3 Qe5 21.Qd3 h5 22.b4 h4 23.f4 Qf6 24.Rd2 Rh5 25.c4 Rf5 26.Qe3 Qg6?!

Black has played extremely well to this point, but this is not the most direct path. Worse, having chosen ...Qf6-g6 here will make it harder to admit later that f6 was the better square. So on moves 27, 28, and 29, Black misses the opportunity to win and draw with the retreat. 26...g5!

27.fxg5 Rxc7 28.Rxh4? Rxc2 29.Rxc2 Qf1+! 30.Qc1 Forced. 30...Qxg2 31.Qf4+ Ka8 and now 32.Qxf7?? (32.Ba4 is a little better, with complications, though Black has material and the initiative.) 32...Be4+ 33.Ka1 Qc2 is game over.

27.Kb2 Bxg2?



27...Qf6 aims to return to lines similar to the last note.

28.c5?

Missing — or avoiding — the drawing tactic 28.Bc6! Rxd4 29.Qxd4 Bxc6 30.Qd8+ Kb7 31.Rd7+ Bxd7 32.Qxd7+ with perpetual check.

28...h3?

28...Qf6! guards d8 and introduces an awkward pin on the rook d4: 29.Qc3 Rxf4 30.Rxf4 Qxf4 31.Rxc2 Rxd7 and Black should win the ending.

29.cxb6 axb6??



Necessary is 29...Qf6 when 30.bxa7+ Ka8 31.Kb3 Bb7 32.Bc6! leaves a likely draw: 32...Rxd4 33.Bxb7+ Kxb7 34.Rxd4 Rd5 35.Rxd5 exd5 36.Qxh3 Qxf4 37.Qd7+ Ka8 38.Qxd5+ Kxa7

30.Rd6 Qf6+ 31.Ka3

Or 31.Kb3 protecting the c3 square and giving White the option of Qxb6. 31...Bb7 32.Qxb6 Qe7 33.Bc6! Rxd6 34.Rxd6 Rd5 35.Bxd5 exd5 36.Rd8+ Qxd8 37.Qxd8+

31...Bb7 32.Rxb6



32...Rxf4

32...Kc7 33.Rdd6!! with the not-too-subtle threat of 34.Qc1+. 33...Qa1 (33...Rxd7 34.Qc1+ Kd8 35.Rxd7+ Kxd7 36.Rxb7+ Kd6 37.Rc7! forces mate shortly.) 34.Rxb7+ Kxd6 35.Ba4 and it's getting pretty hard to defend all of the devastating queen checks.

33.Bc6 Rfd4

No different is 33...Rxd2 34.Rxb7+ Kc8 35.Qxd2 Qd4 (35...Rd4 36.Qc3 Compare the actual game final position.) 36.Qxd4 Rxd4 37.Rxf7 when White wins mundanely.

34.Rxb7+ Kc8 35.Rxd4

35.Bh1! is cute.

35...Rxd4

35...Qxd4 36.Qxd4 Rxd4 37.Rxf7

36.Qc3 1-0

Nicolo R Gelb (WA) (1941) – Dereque Kelley (WA) (2221) [C99]
Challengers' Cup Seattle, WA (R1),
October 26, 2013
[Ralph Dubisch]

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Ba4 Nf6 5.0-0 Be7 6.Re1 b5 7.Bb3 d6 8.c3 0-0 9.h3 Na5 10.Bc2 c5 11.d4 Qc7 12.Nbd2 cxd4 13.cxd4 Nc6 14.d5 Nb4 15.Bb1 a5 16.Nf1 Bd7 17.N3h2 Rac8 18.Ne3 g6 19.Qf3 Nh5 20.a3 Na6



21.Nhg4

21.Nf5!? gxf5 22.Qxh5 Qxc1! (22...fxe4 23.Bh6 f5 24.Re3) 23.Rxc1 Rxc1+ 24.Nf1 f4! should also be good for Black.

21...Bg5

21...Nf4?!

22.h4

22.g3 unclear.

22...Bf4 23.g3

23.Bd2 Nc5 24.Bc2 =+

23...Bxg4 24.Qxg4 Nxg3! 25.fxg3

Diagram top of next page

The lesser evil is 25.Bd2 Nh5

25...Qxc1! 26.Rxc1 Bxe3+ 27.Kf1 Rxc1+ 28.Ke2 Bh6

Also strong is 28...Bd4 29.Qd7 Nc5 30.Qxb5 a4 31.Qb4 Nb3

29.Qd7 Nc5 30.Qxb5 a4 31.g4 Bf4 32.b4



Nb3 33.Qxa4 Nxa1 34.Bd3 Rc3 35.Ba6 Nb3 36.b5 Nc5 37.Qb4 Rb3 38.Qa5 Rb2+ 39.Kf3 Nd3 40.g5



40...Rf2+

Slightly faster: 40...f5 41.exf5 (41.gxf6 Rf2+ 42.Kg4 h5+ 43.Kh3 Rh2#; 41.Qb6 Ne1#) 41...gxf5 threatening ...Rf2# and ...e4#.

41.Kg4 h5+ 42.gxh6 f5+ 43.exf5 gxf5+ 44.Kh5 Bd2 45.h7+ Kh8 46.Qc7 Nf4+ 47.Kh6 Rf6+ 48.Kg5 Nh5+ 49.Kxh5 Rh6# 0-1

Boas Lee (WA) (1749) –

Robert Allen (WA) (1714) [A34]
Challengers' Cup Seattle, WA (R4),
October 27, 2013
[Ralph Dubisch]

1.c4 Nf6 2.Nc3 g6 3.g3 d5 4.cxd5 Nxd5 5.Bg2 Nxc3 6.bxc3 Bg7 7.Nf3 0-0 8.0-0 c5 9.Rb1 Nc6 10.e3 Rb8 11.d4 cxd4 12.cxd4 b6 13.Ba3 Bg4 14.Qa4 Bd7 15.Qa6 Bc8 16.Qe2 Bb7 17.Rfd1 Rc8 18.d5 Na5

Diagram top of next column

19.d6

19.Nd4! Bxd4 (19...Bxd5 20.Nf5! (20.Nb3 Bc4 seems less clear.) 20...gxf5 21.Rxd5 with a solid White plus.) 20.Rxd4 The



bishop-pair and pawn center give White a significant edge.

19...exd6 20.Bxd6 Re8 21.Be5 Qe7 22.Bd6 Qf6 23.Bf4 Be4 24.Rbc1 Rc6 25.Rxc6

25.Nd4!? Rxc1 26.Rxc1 Bxg2 27.Kxg2 is a bit better for White, since 27...Qxd4?? 28.exd4 Rxe2 29.Rc8+ Bf8 30.Bh6 is mate.

25...Qxc6



26.Nd4?

But now it's definitely a mistake. 26.Ne1 give Black only a small edge.

26...Bxd4 27.Bxe4?

27.f3 limits the material damage: 27... Bxe3+ 28.Qxe3 Nc4 (28...Bc2 29.Rd6 Rxe3 30.Rxc6 Nxc6 31.Bxe3) 29.Qf2 Bd5 when White can claim the bishop-pair as consolation, if not actual compensation, for the pawn.

27...Qxe4 28.Rxd4 Qxd4 0-1

Washington G/60 Championship

By Gary Dorfner

The Washington G/60 tournament was held at the Tacoma CC on November 9.

Seven players showed up for this event. The winners were: 1st Viktors Pupols 4.0 \$40.00, 2nd Ralph Anthony 3.0 \$30.00, U1600 Richard Sewell 2.0 \$25.00, U1400 Ronald Purbaugh 1.0 \$25.00. TD for this event was Gary Dorfner. There was one upset when Ralph Anthony (1716) defeated Paul Bartron (2138).

Tri-Cities Open

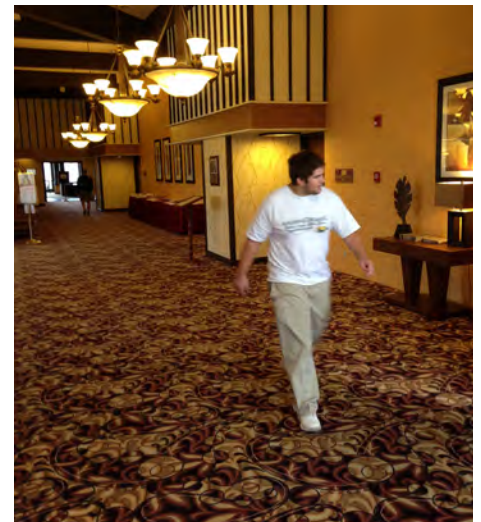
By Russell Miller

Washington Chess Federation reported on Facebook:

FM David Bragg and NM Josh Sinanan tied for first place at the Tri-Cities Open with 4/5 points. 20 players took part. The tournament was run by WCF officers Josh Sinanan, Dan Mathews, Duane Polich, and Robert Allen.

Report by WCF Secretary Gary Dorfner:

The Tri-Cities Open was held in Richland, Washington. There were 20 players in all. They came from California, Oregon, Washington and Idaho. The winners were: 1st-2nd Josh Sinanan and David Bragg 4.0 \$75.00 each, U2000 Mark Havrilla, Steve Fabian and Michael Hosford 3.0 \$16.75 each, U1700 Dan Mathews and Olga Cherepakhin 3.0 \$25.00 each, U1400 Alden Ortolano and Donald Shoemaker 2.0 \$25.00 each. TD's for this event were Dan Mathews and Robert Allen.



Dan Mathews. Photo courtesy of Washington Chess Federation

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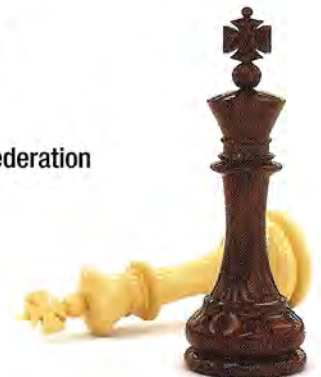


Joshua C. Sinanan

National Master
President, Washington Chess Federation

3610 218th St. SW
Brier, WA 98036

Cell: (206) 769-3757
joshsinanan@gmail.com



Eastern Washington Open

By Kevin Korsmo

Cameron Leslie scored a perfect 5.0 in winning the 2013 Eastern Washington Open played at Gonzaga University October 12-13. He defeated fellow Moscow resident Nicholas Wolff (3.5) in their fifth round encounter on board one to claim the title for the second consecutive year.

The tourney kicked off with three first round upsets in the top eight boards. Order was restored in round two, and the final round of Saturday's action featured five perfect scores in action. That number was trimmed to two after the contests on the top three boards. Michael Cambareri defeated top seed John Julian for the first time in recent memory to join Leslie atop the leader board at the start of Sunday's action.

Leslie won the round four encounter with Cambareri on Sunday morning, while Wolff (who had to take a first round bye due to other obligations) emerged as the top challenger with the only 3.5 score

after defeating Jeremy Krasin on board two. With no other player closer than a point back, the Wolff-Leslie encounter was guaranteed to settle the event.

There was a lengthy list of prize winners once the dust had settled. Second place (4.0) was shared by John Julian and Nikolay Bulakh; Nikolay's score also won the class A first prize. Second prize in class A went to Jeremy Krasin (3.5). Nicholas Wolff won class B (3.5) after falling to Leslie, while second in the class (3.0) was shared by John Dill, Kevin Korsmo, and Walter Van Heemstede Obelt. Ted Baker and Dave Griffin (3.0) won the class C prizes. Pullman high school sophomore Peter Schumaker (3.5) easily won the class D/under prize, while second place in that category went to another rapidly improving newcomer, David Dussome (2.5). Steve Wallace and Harold Wetmur (2.0) tied for the third prize in that class. Arlene Hiatt pulled off the biggest upset, a win over an opponent with a 569 point rating differential, in the final round.

There were 29 players competing this year in addition to two house players. Loyd Willaford directed the event once again.



Schoenberg Building on GU campus. Photo credit: Annette Weyland



L-R: John Julian, John Dill. Photo credit: Annette Weyland



*Second round action. Brad Bodie standing and watching near; Rory Peterson standing and watching in the background.
Photo credit: Annette Weyland*



Ron Weyland. Photo credit: Annette Weyland



*Peter Schumaker from Pullman as white against Jeremy Krasin
Photo credit: Annette Weyland*



*David Griffin playing white vs Arlene Hiatt while Walter van Heemstede is on next board as black against Steve Wallace.
Photo credit: Annette Weyland*



*Nikolay Bulakh white against Mark Anderson.
Photo credit: Annette Weyland*



*Ron Weyland white against Kevin Korsmo.
Photo credit: Annette Weyland*



*Jim Waugh.
Photo credit: Annette Weyland*

NORTHWEST CHESS OPEN December 14-15, 2013

A Northwest Chess fundraising event.
USCF-rated, NWC Grand Prix.
State membership optional.

Format: 5 Round Swiss; TC 40/90, SD/30, no delay.

Playing site: Seattle Chess Club, 2150 N 107th St, Seattle, WA. Registration 8:30-9:15 a.m.

Entry: Entry Fee \$25.00 in advance, \$30.00 at door. Make checks payable to Duane Polich and send to 17317 Woodcrest Drive NE, Bothell, WA 98011, or enter online at www.nwchess.com/online-registration.

Prizes: Prize fund \$550 based on 25 entries; 1st \$125, 2nd \$75, under 2000, \$75, under 1800 \$75, under 1600 \$75, under 1400 \$75, under 1200 \$50. Additional books and Northwest Chess magazine subscription prizes as entries permit.

For more information and details:

Go to: <http://www.nwchess.com/>

MATCH & SIMUL December 13-15, 2013

Featuring ...

FM Ignacio Perez and NM Roland Feng

Playing site: Seattle Chess Club, 2150 N 107th St, Seattle, WA.

Friday, December 13:

Opening Ceremony at 6:00 p.m. followed by a special simultaneous exhibition for fans and spectators! Free online registration for simul, maximum of 25 players.

Saturday, December 14:

Classical Games at 11:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m.

Sunday, December 15:

Rapid Games: 2 games at 11:00 a.m. and ASAP.

Blitz Games: 10 games starting at 5:00 p.m.

Interviews and Closing Ceremony at 8:30 p.m.

For more information and details:

Go to: <http://www.nwchess.com/>

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George and Bernard were patient players.

The Chess Store Affiliate Program

Northwest Chess is pleased to announce that it has joined the affiliate program of The Chess Store, Inc. Located in Hillsboro, Oregon, The Chess Store describes itself as “the world’s leading chess retailer specializing in fine Staunton wood chess sets along with thousands of other chess products. Our exclusive chess set designs, large selection of high quality products, unmatched value, and excellent customer service are our trademark.” The Chess Store offers frequent discounts, often 10% with a coupon code, and *Northwest Chess* will be featuring some of those discounts on its homepage (nwchess.com) and links page. If you shop The Chess Store, be sure to use the banner link on the NWC website, as NWC receives a portion of each sale via the affiliate program. However, you can also browse The Chess Store directly at thechessstore.com. If you also play backgammon, consider visiting thebackgammonstore.com. Now go do some holiday chess shopping!

The 2013 Elena Donaldson Akhmylovskaja Memorial Northwest Chess Grand Prix

Murlin Varner, GP guy

There are so many very close races for the money in the Grand Prix that every tournament is going to be important. Take a look at the standings and you will see that as little as a half point separate players in some classes. In a few cases there are five or more people still easily in reach of the top spot in their class. The good news is you will still have many opportunities to add to your totals. The bad news is, if you didn't play in Lynnwood, WA Thanksgiving weekend, the best opportunity just passed you by. (The other good news is that there is a good chance you received this before Thanksgiving, in which case you can still go to the Washington Class in Lynnwood! Wouldn't that be wonderful?)

There were ten tournaments in November, of which three are included in the statistics below. One of those was the 2x Oregon Class Championships. Of the remaining six, two have multipliers, the SCC Extravaganza (2x) and the Washington Class Championships with a big 4x! December has another nine events, located in Boise, Portland (2), Seattle (4) and Tacoma (2). That gives you a chance to add to your totals every weekend, but not too rapidly, as none of them carries a multiplier. We will end the year with 17 events with multipliers, beating 2009 for the GP record!

Ratings will be updated one more time in December, so there is still a chance to move up a class. (This is sometimes a good thing and sometimes not so much, depending on the scores of the leaders in you new class.) Once all the payments are in from the organizers, we tally up the final results and checks will go out in February. By then, you should be collecting points for your 2014 contest, which starts right out January 4-5 with the Gresham Open, a 2x event.

Standings below are current through November 3rd.

Northwest Chess Grand Prix Standings

Idaho			Oregon			Washington		
last	first	pts.	last	first	pts.	last	first	pts.
			Masters					
			1 Raptis	Nick	145	1 Pupols	Viktors	161
			2 Haessler	Carl A	66	2 He	Daniel M	109
			3 Russell	Corey J	42	3 Bragg	David R	86
			4 Gay	Daniel Z	34	4 Feng	Roland	74
			5 Prochaska	Peter	18	5 Sinanan	Joshua C	65.5
M/X/Class A			Experts					
1 Leslie	Cameron D	71.5	1 Cigan	Jason	84	1 Nagase	Masayuki	121.5
2 Kircher	Caleb P	41	2 Bjorksten	Lennart	79.5	2 Haining	Kyle	108.5
3 Havrilla	Mark A	29.5	3 Sun	Maxwell S	78	3 Lampman	Becca	99
4 Parsons	Larry R	7	4 Sherrard	Jerry	77.5	4 Bartron	Paul R	98.5
			5 Tezcan	Yaman	72.5	5 He	Samuel F	97
Class B			Class A					
1 Roland	Jeffrey T	121.5	1 Goffe	Michael P	61	1 Smith	Micah	107.5
2 Gorman	Cody A	36.5	2 Yoshinaga	David K	58	2 He	Anthony B	105.5
3 Bodie	Brad	28.5	3 Trattner	Andrew L	54.5	3 Nagase	Toshihiro	103.5
4 Machin	Alex J	25	4 Eagles	Roland	42.5	4 Davis	Frederick A	102
5 Griggs	Glenn	22	5 Deng	Clemen	42	5 Fields	Noah D	86

Idaho			Oregon			Washington					
Class C			Class B								
1	Weyland	Ronald M	31	1	Berger	Brian F	100.5	1	Anthony	Ralph J	251
2	Harris	Hank	14.5	2	Burriss	Christopher E	92	2	Buck	Stephen J	166.5
3	Gallivan	Ryan O	13	3	Culbreth	Adam	84.5	3	Piper	August	133
4	Imamovic	Nedzad	6	4	Doddapaneni	Venkat S	73.5	4	Chowdhury	Neil	92
5	Hollingsworth	Gary M	5	5	Shimada	Masakazu	68	5	Nicoski	Aaron M	73.5
Class D			Class C								
1	Porth	Adam	33.5	1	Hasuike	Mike L	114	1	Richards	Jerrold	128.5
2	Porth	Desmond	32	2	Markowski	Gregory A	68	2	Zhang	Eric M	104.5
3	Lang	Jamie	21	3	Wu	Ethan	67	3	Sehgal	Rahul	92.5
3	Smit	Paul A	21	4	Sharan	Praveer	65.5	4	Haining	Breck	86.5
5	Roberts	Zane A	18.5	5	Botez	Andrea C C	63.5	5	Chalasan	Sujatha D	71.5
Class E and Below			Class D and Below								
1	Wetmur	Harold R	28.5	1	Buerer	Harry F	81.5	1	Gulamali	Freya	88.5
2	Blake	Isaac R	20	2	Jacobsen	Jason	50	2	Chen	Brian	58
3	Hiatt	Arlene	19.5	3	Prideaux	Dave	49	3	Ruan	Evan	52.5
4	Schwab	Kyle J	18	4	Bluffstone	Ari J	43.5	4	Dixon	Max L	49
5	Pemsler	Alise B	16	5	Two tied at		26	4	Pothukuchi	Revanth V	49
Overall Leaders, by State											
1	Roland	Jeffrey T	121.5	1	Raptis	Nick	145	1	Anthony	Ralph J	251
2	Leslie	Cameron D	71.5	2	Hasuike	Mike L	114	2	Buck	Stephen J	166.5
3	Kircher	Caleb P	41	3	Berger	Brian F	100.5	3	Pupols	Viktors	161
4	Gorman	Cody A	36.5	4	Burriss	Christopher E	92	4	Piper	August	133
5	Porth	Adam	33.5	5	Culbreth	Adam	84.5	5	Richards	Jerrold	128.5
6	Porth	Desmond	32	6	Cigan	Jason	84	6	Nagase	Masayuki	121.5
7	Weyland	Ronald M	31	7	Buerer	Harry F	81.5	7	He	Daniel M	109
8	Havrilla	Mark A	29.5	8	Bjorksten	Lennart	79.5	8	Haining	Kyle	108.5
9	Bodie	Brad	28.5	9	Sun	Maxwell S	78	9	Smith	Micah	107.5
9	Wetmur	Harold R	28.5	10	Sherrard	Jerry	77.5	10	He	Anthony B	105.5
11	Machin	Alex J	25	11	Doddapaneni	Venkat S	73.5	11	Zhang	Eric M	104.5
12	Griggs	Glenn	22	12	Tezcan	Yaman	72.5	12	Nagase	Toshihiro	103.5

*Be sure to like 'Northwest Chess' on
Facebook!*

Also, check out nwchess.com/blog/

Seattle Chess Club Tournaments



Address
 → 2150 N 107 St, B85 ←
 Seattle WA 98133


Infoline
 206-417-5405
 www.seattlechess.org
 kleistcf@aol.com
Address for Entries
 SCC Tnmt Dir
 2420 S 137 St
 Seattle WA 98168



How to Find the SCC

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

Attendance at 2012's events

3-Day Wknd Tnmts (6)–ave. 44.3; *Tornados* (13)–ave. 19.2; *Quads* (10)–ave. 16.6;
 2-Day Wknd Tnmts (2)–11.5; *Octagonals* (1)–9; *Novice* (4)–ave. 7.

Attendance at 2013's events

G/15 Ch. (3/1)–12; *Novice* (1/19)–2, (4/7)–6, (7/13)–6; *Quads* (1/26)–11, (2/23)–26, (3/16)–20, (4/13)–16, (5/11)–25, (6/8)–16, (7/6)–16, (8/10)–19, (9/14)–20, (10/5)–24, (11/2)–7; *Tornados* (1/6)–25, (2/3)–10, (3/3)–32, (4/14)–19, (5/5)–21, (6/2)–18, (6/30)–29, (8/11)–30, (10/13)–23; **Seattle City Championship** (1/11-13)–30; **Seattle Spring Open** (3/22-24)–60; **Adult Swiss** (4/21-22)–13; **Emerald City Open** (6/14-16)–44; **SeaFair Open** (7/19-21)–81; **Seattle Fall Open** (9/20-22)–74.

SCC 2014 Weekend Schedule

Novice: Jan 5, Apr 27, July 6, Oct 25.

Quads: Jan 4, Feb 1, Mar 1 & 29, Apr 26, May 17, June 7, July 5, Aug 9, Sept 6, Oct 4, Nov 1, Dec 6.

Tornado: Jan 19, Feb 23, Mar 16, Apr 13, May 4, Jun 1 & 29, Jul 27, Aug 24, Sep 28, Oct 25, Nov 23, Dec 21.

Seattle City Championship 10-12 January. **Seattle Spring Open** 21-23 March.

SCC Adult Swiss 5-6 April. **Emerald City Open** 20-22 June.

Seafair Open 18-20 July. **Seattle Fall Open** 19-21 September.

SCC Extravaganza 7-9 November.

Dec. 7, Jan. 4

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

Saturday Quads

Dec. 8, 29, Jan. 19

Format: 4-SS. **TC:** G/60; d5 (or G/64; d0). **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 memb. req'd, OSA. NS, NC.

Sunday Tornado

Jan. 5

Format: 4-SS. Open to U1200 and UNR. **TC:** G/75; d5. **EF:** \$11 by 1/1, \$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

Jan. 10-12 Seattle City Championship

Format: 2-sec., 5-rd. Swiss. **TC:** 40/2, SD/1 (Rd.1 2-day option – G/60); d5. **EF:** *Championship* \$42 (\$33 for SCC mem., \$38 for mem. of other NW dues-req'd CCs) by 1/8, \$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 1/8, \$42 (\$33, \$38) at site. **Unrateds** free w/ purch. 1-yr USCF & WCF. **Add** \$1 for 2-day schedule (Rd 1–Sat. 10 a.m., G/64). **Prize Fund:** \$\$1000 (b/52, 5/prz gp). **Prizes:** *Championship* \$225-140, X 90, A 70; **Reserve (U1800)** \$125-80, C 60, D 50, E & under 40, Unr. 20. **Reg:** Fri. 7-7:45 p.m. or Sat. 9-9:45 a.m. **Rds:** Fri. 8, Sat. (10 @ G/64)-12:30-6:30, Sun. 11-5. **Byes:** 2 available. Rounds 4 or 5 must commit at registration. **Misc:** USCF, WCF/OCF memb. req'd, OSA. NS, NC.

SCC Fridays

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

C.B. Bagley Memorial: Dec. 6, 13, 20.

Patzers' Challenge: Dec. 27.

January Thaw: Jan. 3, 10, 17, 24.

SCC G/15 Championship: Jan. 31.

Upcoming Events

♣ denotes 2013 Northwest Grand Prix event; for Seattle Chess Club events see page 31

♣ **Dec 14-15 Western Idaho Open, Boise, ID.** 5SS, Time Control: G/120;d5. 2 Sections: Open and Reserve (U1400). Site: Boise State University, Student Union Bldg., 1910 University Dr., Boise, ID. USCF mem req., ICA Mem req. OSA. EF by 12/9 \$30 (U18 & 60+ \$25), Special family rate \$60. \$5 more for all if after 12/9. BSU Chess Club Students enter for free even if not pre-registered. Email entries OK to lock in lower rate. Register & check in: 8-8:45am 12/14. Rd times: Sat 9am, 1:30pm, 6pm; Sun 9am, 1:30pm. 1/2 pt bye avail: Max 1, any round. Must commit before Rd 2 pairing. Players arriving for round 2 may take a retroactive R1 1/2 pt bye. Prize \$\$ (Based on 30 non-BSU entries) Open: \$200-100-75. Reserve: \$100-75-50. ENT/INFO: ICA, Contact: Jeff Roland, 1514 S. Longmont Ave., Boise, ID 83706, jroland@cableone.net, www.idahocheessassociation.org. NC, NS, W.

♣ **Dec 14-15 Northwest Chess Open, Seattle Chess Club, 2150 N 107th St, Seattle, WA.** 5 Rd Swiss: TC = 40/90 SD 30 No Delay. Registration 8:30-9:15 A.M. 12/14 or preregistered. Rounds Saturday: 9:30, 2:00, 6:30, Sunday 10:00 and 3:00. Entry Fee: \$25.00 in advance, \$30.00 at door. Prize fund \$550 based on 25 entries; 1st 125, 2nd 75, under 2000, \$75.00, under 1800 \$75.00 under 1600 \$75.00 under 1400 \$75.00. Under 1200 \$ 50.00. Additional books and Northwest Chess magazine subscription prizes as entries permit. Current USCF Membership is required, available at site or online at www.uschess.org. State membership not required, but of course we want to sign you up. This is a fund raising event for Northwest Chess magazine. 1/2 point bye available in advance and by end of Rd1. TD - Duane Polich, Publisher NWC. Make checks payable to Duane Polich and send to 17317 Woodcrest Drive NE, Bothell, WA 98011, or enter online at www.nwchess.com/onlineregistration. (See also half-page ad on page 27.)

♣ **Dec 14-15 Portland Winter Open, Portland, OR.** (Details tentative based on Spring Open.) Site: Portland Chess Club, 8205 SW 24th Ave, Portland, OR. This USCF-rated, two-day tournament is played in two sections (Open and U1800), 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 21 Christmas Congress, Tacoma, WA.** Site: Tacoma Chess Club in the DTI Soccer Store Building on the second floor at 409 Puyallup Ave across the street from Alfred's Cafe. Registration: 9 - 9:45. Format: 4 round Swiss in 1 section. Time Control: G/60; d5. Entry Fee: \$25.00, Prize Fund: 60% of entry fees, 1st 25%; 2nd 15%; U2000, U1700, U1400 20% each. Rounds: 10:00, 12:30, 2:30, 4:30 or A.S.A.P. Byes: one half-point bye available. USCF and state membership required. NS NC NW. Entries/Info: Gary J. Dorfner, 8423 E. B St., Tacoma, WA 98445, (253) 535-2536, ggarychess@aol.com.

♣ **Dec 28 Tacoma CC Mini After Christmas Swiss, Tacoma, WA.** Site: Tacoma Chess Club, 409 Puyallup Ave E., Tacoma, located in the DTI Soccer Store Building across the street from Alfred's Café and four blocks down from the Tacoma Dome. Format: 3 round Swiss. Time Control: G90 (5 second delay). Entry Fee: \$25, Prize Fund: B16 Top Half: 1st \$50 2nd \$25, Bottom half: 1st \$50, 2nd \$25. Registration: 9:00 - 9:45. Entries/Information: Gary Dorfner, 8423 E B ST, Tacoma, WA, (253) 535-2536, email ggarychess@aol.com or see Gary at the club.

♣ **Dec 28/Jan 25 Portland CC Game in 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 4-5 Gresham Open Gresham, OR.** See full-page ad on page 3

♣ **Jan 16 to Feb 13 Spokane Winter Championship, Spokane, WA.** Site: Gonzaga University (Herak Rm 121). Registration: 6:30-7:15, Jan. 16. Rounds: 1/16-2/13 (one per week). E.F. \$16. USCF rated. Format: 5 round Swiss. Time Control: G/120 (with 5 second delay). Contact: David Griffin, dbgrffn@hotmail.com.