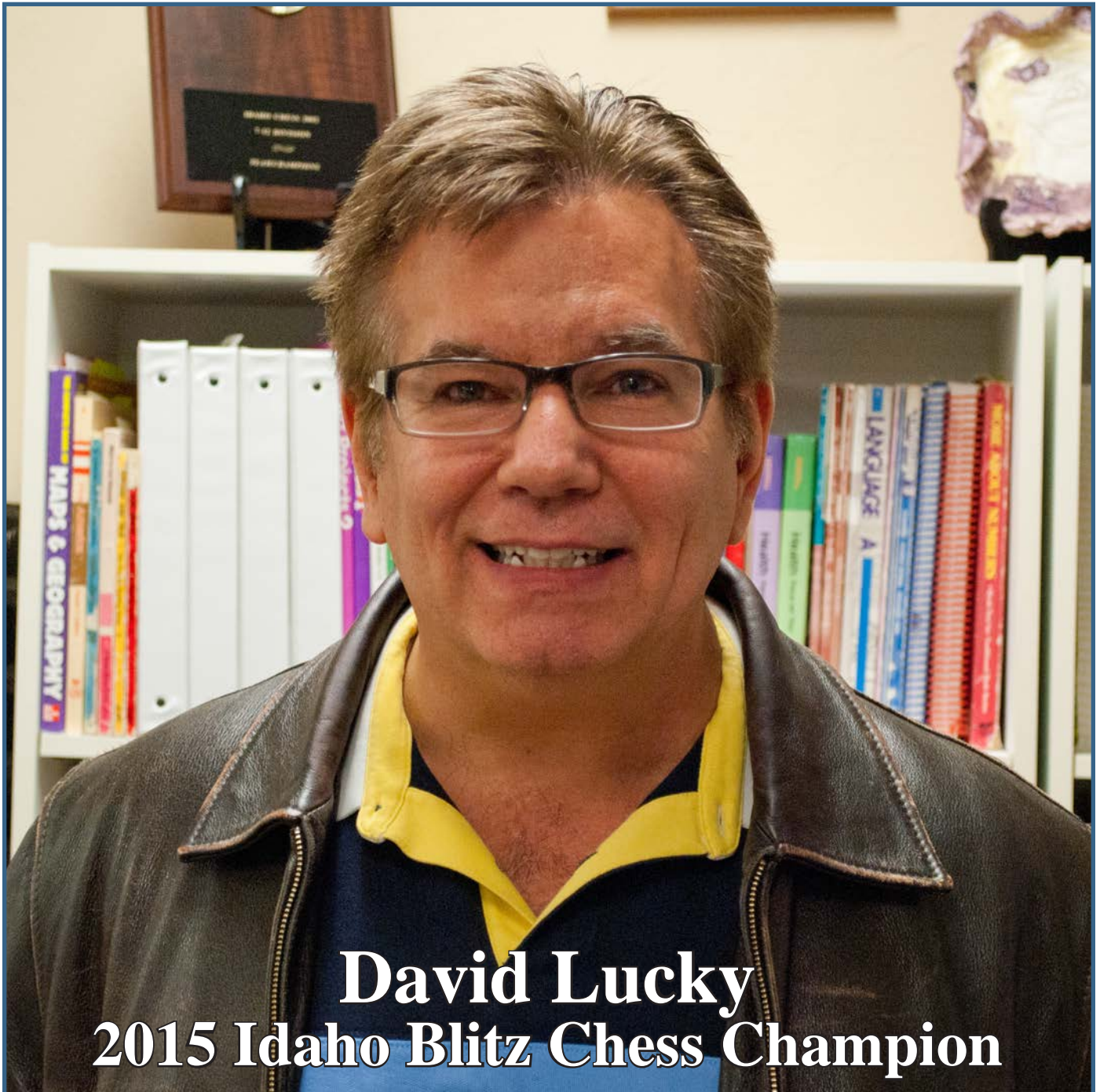




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Selected Best State Magazine/Newsletter in 2014 by Chess Journalists of America!

On the front cover:

A new force has arrived in Idaho chess. FM David Lucky is now a major threat to dominate every event he enters. At the recently revived Idaho Blitz Chess Championship, he scored 23.5/24 to win the title. Photo by Jeffrey Roland

On the back cover:

Matthew Dominick (left) and Jarod Buus taken February 2, 2015 at the Boise Chess Club. Photo by Jeffrey Roland

Chesstoons:

Chess cartoons drawn by local artist Brian Berger, of West Linn, Oregon.

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The 2014 Elena Donaldson Akhmylovskaja Memorial Northwest Chess Grand Prix Final Report

by Murlin Varner, point minister

Winners, Records, and a New Honoree

A host of new records were set in the 2014 edition of the Grand Prix. We had 767 players who made 2660 entries into 85 Grand Prix events, 21 of which had multipliers. All of those are new marks, as well as an average of 31.29 entries per event. The Washington overall winner, Stephen Buck (272.5 points, 38 events), missed Geoff Gale's 2005 personal record by just seven points.

In addition to Buck, the other overall winners were Jeffrey Roland (64 points, 9 events) in Idaho and Mike Hasuik (241.5 points, 29 events) in Oregon. Overall winners receive their class prize plus an additional first place share. Therefore, Buck will receive \$281.60, Hasuik will receive \$117.12, and Roland will receive \$33.50. Below are the rest of the winners:

Idaho		
class	1st-\$16.75	2nd-\$8.38
M/E/A	Brad Bodie	Caleb Kircher
B	Jeffrey Roland	James Inman
C	Ron Weyland	Chris Amen
D	Arlene Hiatt	Jeffrey Jaroski
E and below	Dylan Porth	Daniel Duan
Oregon		
class	1st-\$58.56	2nd-\$29.28
Master	Nick Raptis	Aaron Grabinsky
Expert	Lennart Bjorksten	Jason Cigan
A	Michael Goffe	Dagadu Gaikwad
B	Brian Berger	Gavin Zhang
C	Mike Hasuik	Jake Winkler
D and below	Harry Buerer	Dave Prideaux
Washington		
class	1st-\$140.80	2nd-\$70.40
Master	Viktors Pupols	Roland Feng
Expert	Toshihiro Nagase	Anthony He
A	Stephen Buck	Travis Olson
B	Ralph Anthony	Naomi Bashkansky
C	August Piper	Jerrold Richards
D and below	Alec Beck	Breck Haining

The 2015 edition of the Northwest Chess Grand Prix is going to be named in honor of Elmars Zemgalis. At this moment there are six tournaments in the books, four in Washington and two in Oregon. February will add an additional seven, including the 2x Washington President's Cup and the 3x Dave Collyer Memorial and the first Idaho event of the year. Looking ahead to March, which is appropriate for the March issue, we see another six events on the horizon, in Tacoma, Portland and Seattle. My next column will include our first standings for the 2015 contest. Will you be on the leader board?

Idaho Chess News

Teaching Chess in College—A Memory

By Ken Sanderson

After Bobby Fischer beat Boris Spassky for the World Championship in 1972, America experienced a “Fischer boom” of interest in chess. According to Harold Winston’s article in *Chess Life and Review* (January 1973, p. 16), universities in Pennsylvania, Ohio, Kentucky, and New York were offering courses in chess for college credit. Winston ends by asking “Why not organize a chess course at your college?”

At the time, I was an English professor at Boise State College (as it was then known). Because I had an interest in chess, I convinced my dean to let me teach chess as a “special topics” Humanities course. It turned out to be very popular, and I taught it for several semesters (1973-1976). My best student, Larry Parsons, went on to become 18-time Idaho State Chess Champion (he was already a B player when he took my course: I jokingly tell people that I taught him everything he knows).

Back then, of course, personal computers were almost unheard of. The ones that were around had green monochrome screens with no graphics, and chess programs were primitive (chess “pieces” were constructed from ASCII characters). So my students and I depended on—wait for it—books! The textbooks were Fred Reinfeld’s *Complete Chess Player* (still a good beginner’s book), Reuben Fine’s *Ideas Behind the Chess Openings* (now dated, but clearly written and useful), and *The Golden Treasury of Chess*, ed. I.A. Horowitz (a collection of some 300 classic games by the masters). I later replaced Fine with Irving Chernev’s *The Most Instructive Games of Chess Ever Played*.

Since my own attraction to chess includes its rich cultural history (e.g., consider the range of terms we use, such as *Zugzwang* [German], *en passant* [French], *fianchetto* [Italian]) and its representation in art and literature, I insisted that the course have a literary component. (This probably helped with getting the dean’s approval). We read an excellent collection, *Chess in Literature* edited by Marcello Truzzi (it’s out of print, but you can get very cheap used copies from Amazon)—chess-related stories and poems, some

quite famous, and Vladimir Nabokov’s novel *The Defense* (in addition to being a brilliant novelist, Nabokov also published chess problems).

Some students had never played before, so I had to teach them the absolute basics. Most came in knowing how the pieces moved but not much beyond that. In the first third of the semester, I discussed tactics, basic endgames, middle-game strategy, etc. I had no demonstration board, so I just set up a board on a desk and asked students to gather around. With 25 or more students in each section, this was pretty cumbersome.

In the second third of the semester, students played five games against each other using openings that I specified: Giuoco Piano, Ruy Lopez, French Defense, Sicilian Defense, Queen’s Gambit Declined. For each game, students had to write their own annotations and submit them for me to “correct” (more fun than reading Freshman Comp papers). I would write comments and suggest improvements. No doubt going over hundreds of these annotated student games improved my own over-the-board performance.

The last third was spent discussing chess history, famous players, classic games, the evolution of chess style, and the literary works dealing with chess.

Student grades were based on their annotated games (the care they took with the annotation—not whether they won or lost), several problem sets, and a couple of tests. Students who wanted an “A” grade also had to complete a literary paper (I told them that Fischer himself couldn’t get more than a “B” in the course if he didn’t do the paper.)

In my pile of personal memorabilia, I still have many handouts that I used in my chess class (purple mimeographed sheets, a medium unknown to today’s students). Without serious review, I don’t think I could answer the questions on my own tests now. Someone should offer this course again. I would take it.

Note: Ken Sanderson became Idaho State Chess Champion in 1974 (during this same time period) and defeated 8-time (at the time) State Champion Glen Buckendorf Jr. and 5-time (at the time) State Champion Dick Vandenburg, while drawing with 1966 State Champion



Ken Sanderson taken December 12, 2014 at the recent Western Idaho Open in Boise.
Photo credit: Adam Porth

Bert Germalm...all in succession. As we are in State Championship season in the Northwest, here is one of the games from history that we can reflect upon and appreciate even all these years later.— Editor

Glen Buckendorf Jr. (1907) – Ken Sanderson (1748) [C17]

1974 Idaho Closed State Championship
Twin Falls, ID (R4), February 17, 1974
[Ralph Dubisch]

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.Nc3 Bb4 4.e5 c5 5.Bd2 cxd4 6.Nb5 Bc5 7.b4 Bb6

7...Bf8

8.Nf3

8.Nd6+ Kf8∞

8...Nc6 9.Bg5?!

9.Bf4 Nxb4 10.Nd6+ Kf8∞; 9.a4!?

9...f6 10.Bh4 Nxb4

10...Nh6!?

11.a3?!

11.Nfxd4

11...Nc6 12.exf6?

12.Bd3 Ba5+ 13.Kf1

12...Nxf6+

Or 12...Ba5+ 13.c3 Nxf6+

13.Nbxd4

13.Be2

13...Ba5+ 14.Ke2 Nxd4+

14...e5! 15.Nxc6 bxc6 16.Nxe5? Bc3

15.Nxd4 Bd7 16.f3 0-0 17.Kf2??

17.Be1

17...Ne4+ 18.Kg1 Qxh4 19.g3



Position after 19.g3

19...Nxc3

Strong enough, but simply 19...Qf6 is lights out.

20.hxg3 Qxg3+ 21.Bg2 Bb6 22.Kf1? Bxd4

22...e5!

23.Qxd4 Bb5+

23...Rxf3+! 24.Kg1 (24.Bxf3?? Bb5+ 25.c4 Bxc4+ 26.Qxc4 Qxf3+) 24...Rf4

24.Kg1 Rf4 25.Qe5

25.Qe3 Re4

25...Rxf3 26.Qxe6+ Kh8 27.Rh2??

27.Rh3



Position after 27.Rh2

27...Rf1+??

Almost throws it all away. 27...Re8-+ is overwhelming.

28.Rxf1 Bxf1



Position after 28...Bxf1

29.Qxd5??

29.Qf5! h6 30.Qxf1 with a piece against three pawns, it's an even battle again. In fact, there are many ways for the game to end quickly. For example 30...Qxa3 31.Rxh6+ gxh6 32.Qf6+ Kg8 33.Bxd5+ Kh7 and White delivers perpetual check.

29...Bxg2 30.Rxg2 Qe1+ 31.Kh2



Position after 31.Kh2

31...Re8?

Right idea, faulty move order. Better is 31...Qh4+ 32.Kg1 Re8 with decisive threats against the exposed white king.

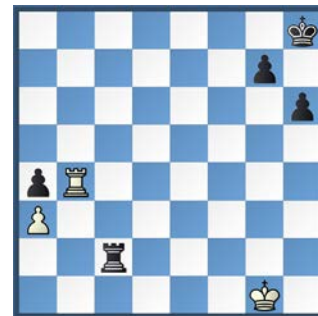
32.Qg5 Qe5+?!

32...Qc3

33.Qxe5 Rxe5 34.Rd2 h6 35.Rd7 Re2+ 36.Kg1 Rxc2?

36...b5! 37.Rxa7 Rxc2 guarantees Black two extra connected passed pawns, and a much easier time in the ending.

37.Rxb7 a5 38.Rb5 a4 39.Rb4



Position after 39.Rb4

39...Rc6?

39...Ra2 40.Rxa4 Kh7 keeps the white king trapped while limiting the white rook activity to play along the a-file.

40.Rxa4 Kg8?

It's not too late to return to the strongest rook placement, behind the passed pawn. 40...Rc2 intending 41.— Ra2

41.Ra8+ Kf7 42.a4

Now is an opportunity to break off the back rank with 42.Kg2

42...Ke6

42...Rc2

43.a5 Kd7?

43...Kd5! 44.a6 Kc5

44.a6?

44.Ra7+! Rc7 45.Ra6! makes it much harder for the black king to approach the a-pawn successfully. 45...Kc8 46.Rg6 makes it clear that the proper piece for kingside defense is the king.

44...Rc7?

44...Rg6+! 45.Kf2 Kc7

45.a7?

The pawn does not want to advance here. 45.Kf2 Kc6 46.Re8! has ideas of sending the white rook to g6 again, and otherwise it's hard for Black to make progress.

45...Kc6 46.Kh2 Kb7 47.Re8 Kxa7 48.Kg3 Kb6 49.Kg4 Kc5 50.Re1 Kd6 51.Kh5 Re7?

51...Rc5+

52.Rg1

52.Rd1+ Ke5 53.Re1+ Kf6 54.Rf1+ Ke6 55.Kg6 Ra7 56.Re1+ Kd5 How can Black break this blockade?

52...Ke6 53.Rf1?

53.Kg6!

53...Ra7?

53...Rf7!

54.Rg1?

54.Kg6!

54...Kf7



Position after 54...Kf7

Now things are back on track for Black.

55.Rf1+ Kg8 56.Rf5 Kh7 57.Kh4 Kg6
58.Rb5 Ra4+ 59.Kg3 h5 60.Rb7 Kh6
61.Rb6+ g6 62.Rc6 h4+ 63.Kh3 Kh5
64.Rc3 g5 65.Rc8 Ra3+ 66.Kh2 Ra2+
67.Kh1 h3 68.Rc1 Kh4 69.Rb1 g4
70.Re1 Kg3 71.Rc1 Rf2 72.Rb1 Kh4
73.Ra1 g3 74.Ra4+ Kg5 75.Ra1 Re2
76.Rb1 Kf4 77.Ra1 Kf3 78.Rb1 Kf2
79.Rf1+ Ke3 80.Ra1 Rd2 81.Ra3+ Rd3
82.Ra1 Ke2 83.Ra2+ Rd2 84.Ra1 Rd1+
85.Rxd1 Kxd1 86.Kg1 Ke2 87.Kh1 g2+
88.Kg1 Kf3 0-1

2015 Idaho Blitz Chess Championship

The Idaho Blitz Chess Championship was held at the "Library! Plaza Business Mall" on Cole & Ustick in Boise, Idaho on January 3, 2015. Jeffrey Roland was the Tournament Director. Alise Pemsler and Adam Porth were Assistant Tournament Directors. 37 players participated in this 12-round double-swiss event in one section. The event was open to players from any state, but the top Idaho placer would be crowned Idaho Blitz Chess Champion. Entry was a low \$10. The time control was Game/5 with no time delay. It was USCF-rated.



Winners of the 2015 Idaho Blitz Chess Championship. L-R: Silas Maclachlan (2nd), David Lucky (1st), Esteban Ruiz Proaño (3rd). Photo credit: Jeffrey Roland

David Lucky (Eagle) won the Idaho Blitz Chess Championship with a score of 23.5/24 points. As he was also the highest placing Idaho player, he was crowned the first official "Idaho Blitz Chess Champion" and won \$75. Silas Maclachlan (Bellingham, WA) was second place with 20/24 and won \$50. Esteban Ruiz Proaño was third place with 18.5/24 points and won \$25.

This was by far the largest blitz tournament ever held in Idaho by the ICA, with 408 ratable games, and at 25 cents/game, it cost \$102.00 to rate the event. For most players, this was their first USCF-Blitz-rated event, and thus the 2377-rated master (by his regular rating), David Lucky, went in "officially" as an unrated player. In fact, only nine of the 37 players had a USCF-Blitz rating going in, the highest being Carmen Pemsler (Eagle) at 1746. With 24 rated games, however, this event alone almost takes everyone out of the provisional status (first 25 games give a provisional rating,) setting the bar and creating a new rating base for our state to move forward with

more blitz events in the future. This event is planned to be an annual event.

Historical Background

Going back to 1964, there was a blitz (or speed) tournament that ran along-side the Idaho Closed State Championship. It was not promoted in advance—it was simply put together on the fly. And while some see this as a "championship," it actually was only a "tournament" with the naming of this side-event being inconsistent year-to-year.

There is a reference in the *Idaho Chess Bulletin* that spoke of "A new innovation this year was a speed tournament and it was won by Glen Buckendorf. Glen took the double elimination event with a last game victory over second place, Eugene Cowan..."

In 1965 the *Idaho Chess Bulletin* said, "Vandenburg just couldn't seem to lose

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At the start of the event, the players had plenty of questions, and Jeffrey Roland had the 6th Edition Official Rules Of Chess and went over the rules. Even veteran players had some very good questions about Blitz rules. Photo credit: Adam Porth

and in the annual speed championship, after the conclusion of regular play, he won all the games for first place. Buckendorf was second, Cowan 3rd, Wennstrom 4th, and Hartwell 5th. Kimpton directed all the play.”

In 1966, the *Idaho Chess Bulletin* said, “The annual Speed Tournament was won by Glen Buckendorf, who bested Germalm, Cowan, and Vandenburg in the finals. Glen has placed consistently high in the speed events.”

The *Idaho Chess Bulletin* of 1967 (a special one-page issue that was produced even after the formal cancellation of the publication in 1966) said, “After the tournament was over, Vandenburg won a handicap speed tournament, played as a six round swiss with 15 entrants.

Lloyd Kimpton placed 2nd. Each player received a time allotment to play the game depending upon his tournament placing over the weekend, starting with Buckendorf at 2 minutes and going down to six minutes for A.J. Lee and Jim Memmott.”

In 1968 there was no Idaho Closed State Championship, but instead the Idaho State Championship was chosen at the Idaho Open that year, and thus, the new annual side-event that was started in 1964 did not happen. There was also not an Idaho Closed in 1969 either, and again that year the State Champion was chosen at the Idaho Open and thus no speed chess side-event.

In 1970, the Idaho Closed State Championship was brought back and

happened every year since, but the Idaho Speed (or Blitz) Championship component did not happen again as a side-event to the Idaho Closed State Championship ever again since the last one in 1967.

In 1982, the Idaho State Speed Championship was held in Boise and was won by Stewart Sutton and Larry Parsons (tied for 1st-2nd place) and Dan Patton, T.W. Robinson, and Les Colin tied for 3rd-5th places. This was a stand-alone event and was held in a downtown Boise business called The Chapter House Book Store. John Letterman directed this event. This event was truly considered a State Speed Chess Championship as it was billed that way in advance and even had a trophy. But it was an isolated event without an annual follow-up, and thus the result was more or less forgotten in time.

In 2004, we find the only other instance of an Idaho State Speed Chess Championship which was won by Dylan Smith, with Bobby Powers second, and Jesse Brent third. It too was a stand-alone event held in its own right, and was played at BSU in Boise, Idaho. Jay Simonson directed that event. No more events until 2015.

This brings us up to today.

It looks good on paper, but...

This year’s event was indeed spectacular and everyone really had a great time. But there were some challenges that should be



Aerial view of the playing hall about to start Round 2. Photo credit: Adam Porth



Clay Lainson of Bellingham, WA. Photo credit: Adam Porth

mentioned here in the interest of sharing some organizational lessons that were learned.

Everything looked great on paper. The event was to start at noon and go until 6:00 p.m. There were to be 12 double-Swiss rounds and 30 minutes was allotted for each round, this meant that there could be two games which could take up to 20 minutes, and have 10 minutes to report the results and for the TD to make pairings... seems pretty straight forward. But there were some problems that didn't show up on paper...this is the difference between what looks good, sounds good, but will it work—versus the real world.

There were no online registrations (however, starting in April 2015, ICA will

have online registrations at its events.) And most people registered as walk-ins. It is very clear to everyone now that ICA has to move into the new century with the very efficient online registration process, and check-in and pairing will go much smoother resulting in prompt beginnings. Some have been saying this for a long time now, but now it is incredibly clear to everyone, especially the tournament director.

The computer couldn't seem to handle the pairings after a certain point (somewhere around round nine, things started going haywire in WinTD). The computer wanted to pair David Lucky with Silas Maclachlan every round even though they had already played, and the same was true with some other players. The Swiss Pairing rules seemed to just be thrown out the window, which caused pairings to have to be done by hand, and without the advantage of even having the information on pairing cards. This was a time-consuming tedious process and sometimes mistakes were made causing further delays in correcting them.

A note to tournament directors, the WinTD program had additional problems in that the file upload process to the USCF system also crashed, causing the tournament director to have to enter the results manually for all 408 games.

In the future, ICA will likely have only eight double-rounds in this annual event.

In the end, the event lasted about three hours longer than it should have ending somewhere around 9:00 p.m., but those who stayed to the end were glad and it was worth it. Those who left early, are not to be faulted for doing so, as it was indeed starting to drag on. Seven players left after round 9, and one had left earlier for other reasons. 29 players stayed to the very end.



"Bad Wolf" Adam Porth. Photo credit: Jeffrey Roland



L-R: David Zaklan, Richard Mussler-Wright, Quentin Van Law, Jeffrey Roland. "Pairings are posted!" Photo credit: Adam Porth

Prize Listing - Tie Breaks

##	Player	Residence	Rating	Score	Solk	MMed	CumOp	Cum
1	David Lucky	Eagle	Unr.	23½	167½	148½	1139	151
2	Silas Maclachlan	Bellingham, WA	Unr.	20	177	155½	1190½	125
3	Esteban Ruiz Proaño	Caldwell	Unr.	18½	176	155	1183½	119
4	Elijah Andrew Hill	Boise	Unr.	16	177½	156½	1179½	115
5	Caleb Paul Kircher	Nampa	Unr.	16	171½	157½	1138½	112
6	Cody Austin Gorman	Eagle	Unr.	15	178½	156½	1170	101
7	Shane Taylor	Boise	Unr.	14½	174½	154	1164½	97
8	Chris Amen	Boise	Unr.	13½	156½	138½	1043½	85½
9	Brett B Hamilton	Eagle	Unr.	13	180	159	1198	92
10	Jarod N Buus	Nampa	Unr.	12½	164½	144	1092½	89
11	Sebastian Milo Chao	Meridian	Unr.	12½	149	128	940½	79½
12	Desmond Porth	Bellevue	1362	12½	146	126	960	81½
13	Justin Siek	Boise	772	12½	133	117	843½	72½
14	James Wei	Boise	Unr.	12	156½	139	1036½	84
15	David Allen Zaklan	Twin Falls	Unr.	12	132½	119½	866	78
16	Winter Royal Stevens	Ketchum	Unr.	12	117	108	746	67
17	Dylan Porth	Bellevue	857	12	108	105	681	63
18	Wesley M Brimstein	Hailey	815	11½	143½	123½	895	74½
19	Adam Porth	Bellevue	1235	11½	135½	118	874½	74
20	Matthew William White	Boise	Unr.	11½	116½	107½	737	64
21	Clay Lainson	Bellingham, WA	Unr.	11	172	152	1131	86
22	Daniel Francisco Fernandez	Boise	745	11	148	148½	1139½	151½
23	Levi Catangcatang	Hailey	544	11	119½	116½	774½	67
24	Quentin Van Law	Bellevue	Unr.	11	116½	113½	739½	61
25	Journey Iverson	Hailey	Unr.	11	106	103	705½	64
26	Andre R Murphy	Bellevue	1003	10½	147½	127½	970½	76½
27	Spencer Alan Gauderau	Hailey	Unr.	10	124½	112½	796	64
28	Fred Bartell	Twin Falls	Unr.	10	117½	117½	755	80
29	Nedzad Imamovic	Twin Falls	Unr.	8	115½	115½	733	74½
30	Darwin Albert Porth	Bellevue	Unr.	8	106	103	640½	53
31	Jamie Lang	Meridian	Unr.	8	104	104	657	70
32	Richard Mussler-Wright	Boise	Unr.	8	100	100	641½	68½
33	Carmen Pemsler	Eagle	1746	6½	78½	78½	527½	65
34	Marlee Syringa Zimmer	Boise	Unr.	6	91	55½	567	45
35	Amelia Mussler-Wright	Boise	Unr.	5½	79	55½	482	40
36	Kaiden Ray Cross	Bellevue	Unr.	4	112½	84½	689	30
37	August Ralph Mussler-Wright	Boise	Unr.	4	74½	50	449½	29

Oregon Chess News

GM Jim Tarjan

By Brian Berger

Portland, OR — January 14, 2015

It was a very cold Wednesday night in January, and I had decided to spend a few hours playing chess at the Portland Chess Club. I arrived about a half-hour early, and noticed another car in the parking lot, from which a bearded man of medium height was just emerging. He introduced himself as Jim, and I told him he was lucky that I had arrived early, as the club normally is not open until 7:00 pm.

Escorting him in, I turned the lights and furnace on, and we exchanged some small talk. It turned out that he had grown up in southern California, as I had, and knew many of the same places familiar to me. I mentioned the game of chess had really caught my attention back in 1987, when Portland hosted the US Open, and I had been hooked ever since. He offered that he had played some chess for a time himself, upon which I asked if he would like to play a game.

He then said that he had a meeting to attend at 7:00, which I found odd, because I had assumed he had dropped in to play some casual chess, and it was already twenty to 7:00. I said we could make it a ten minute game, and so he said okay. I had told him earlier that I only played over-the-board chess, because I

found computers eliminated, what was to me, an important aspect of the game, its psychological component. And so, while still rambling on about this and that about the game—including my fearsome 1500 rating—I set up the pieces.

It was somewhere between the time that Mike Morris, Nick Raptis, Lennart Bjorksten, Steven Deeth, Chuck Schulien, Karl Schoffstoll, Pete Prochaska, Brian Esler, Phillip Seitzer, Jason Cigan and Carl Haessler (a who's who of many of the area's elite players) began to come through the front door, and the total shambles my game had fallen into, that a light came on in my brain—the 7:00 meeting my opponent had been referring to was to take place here; and the man I was playing was the reason why—GM Jim Tarjan!

I had heard that a GM had moved into the area, and had vaguely recalled that Mike Morris had mentioned his name, but had not associated that information with the man across from me; the meeting that

night being a chance to introduce him to the above mentioned players, and to discuss the possibility of forming a team to play in the (internet) US Chess League.

To a man, Jim Tarjan's suggestion was greeted with enthusiasm, and Mike Morris agreed to act as team manager and submit the application form to the league. Also agreed upon was the suggestion that there would be a better chance of being accepted into the league, if they were able to interest another GM in playing for the team—possible candidates being contacted as this article is being written.

Coming across as rather humble, and just a nice guy, the 62-year-old Tarjan has had an interesting go at life. Most active in international tournaments during the 70's and 80's, he has sat across from some of the top players of his time, and still feels the chess-fire burning after a 30-year hiatus from professional play—having left the chess world in 1984 to become a librarian. His recent article in Chess Life details his reappearance on

Errata

There was an error on the caption of the photo at the top of page 6 in the printed version of the February 2015 issue. It incorrectly said, “(L) Alex Yeo vs Jeff Austin. Photo credit: Brian Berger.”, but should be: “(L) Nicholas Brown vs Jeff Austin. Photo credit: Brian Berger.”

This error will be corrected for the online color version that is available three months after the printed version is received.



(L) GM James Tarjan playing blitz games vs. FM Nick Raptis. Photo credit: Mike Lilly



(L) GM James Tarjan playing blitz vs. FM Nick Raptis. Photo credit: Mike Morris

the professional chess scene, and how he readied himself to compete in a chess world now dominated by young players, who have been nurtured by computer nannies (not a bad thing, as Tarjan encourages the use of them) and look on anyone over the age of 40 as past their prime.

Reading the *Chess Life* article, one gathers that Jim Tarjan still considers himself a force to be reckoned with, and with a little more polishing, what rust that might have accumulated during his long departure from professional chess, will soon be unnoticeable. And who can quibble with him on that prediction—especially after his bravura performance in the U.S. Open in Orlando, Florida, this past August, where he finished with a 7.0/9 score—a mere a half a point separating him from a six-way tie for first place!

And as is wont when chess players of the caliber that gathered that evening brush shoulders, a friendly challenge is oft-times thrown out—this time for a little blitz between the reigning Oregon Chess Champion, Master Nick Raptis, and the GM that has stared into the eyes of some of the chess world's past notables. No score was kept (though I can't be sure of that), but when all was said and done after a number of games (that were so over my head that I could never comment on them), it was apparent that GM in front of your name means something extraordinary, and that Nick Raptis is also someone no player should take lightly.

January 2015 PCC Quad 45

By Brian Berger

Portland, OR — January 17, 2015

Through the fog and drizzle of a January Saturday they came, 18 anxious players, prepared to push the wood (plastic) for

three rounds of Game 45. Becoming a popular time control for those who have a hard time sitting still for longer games (especially some of the younger players), and those who just want to get in some rated chess without giving up their entire day to the rigor of prolonged concentration, Chief TD Micah Smith and Assistant TD Mike Lilly, have put together a Portland Chess Club tournament that is slowly gaining momentum, and might ultimately draw numbers equal to the monthly Game 60, held at the same venue.

The TDs, having noted that this time control has drawn many younger players who are transitioning into the USCF rated games, opted to make this a dual-rated tournament, acknowledging both USCF and Scholastic players. Because the number of players exceeded those required for an even number of quads, it was decided to run a small Swiss for the six lowest rated, allowing for three quads.

Dominating the upper quad was Salem's Douglas Thigpen (2101-2106), whose nearest competition was Carl Stump (1714-1671), rating-wise; but it was Andrea Botez (1675-1714) who showed herself to be the real threat (she of the recent wins over two 1800-plus players and an Expert at the Winter Open), coming in 2nd with wins over Jazon Samillano (1611-1617) and Karl Stump.

The number 2 quad had a tie for first, with Colin Liu (1548-1595) and Brian Berger (1504-1536), finishing with 2.5 points each (Lui taking home a medal), in a game



(L) Erin Cheng vs Andrew Matteson. Photo credit: Brian Berger



(L) Connor Kelly vs Avril Gauthier. Photo credit: Brian Berger

in which I was fighting to control two rooks with a queen and Liu was in dire time trouble, resulting finally in an agreed upon draw. Needing mention here was the game Megan Cheng (1153p-1134p) and I played, in which she had a passed pawn near the end that I could not have caught, if it hadn't been for her misjudgment about which pawn was the most important to guard in a last-minute swapping of pawns. I was very lucky against a very young and competent player.

Outright winner in quad 3 was Connor Kelly (1085-1187), with across the board wins. And coming in 2nd was Konner Feldman (unrated-1144p), managing two wins in his first USCF tournament. This brings us to the small Swiss, where Erin Cheng (804p-824p) dominated the field of six players, turning in a perfect 3.0 points, and was awarded a small trophy for her efforts.

Kudos' to Micah Smith and Mike Lilly for a smoothly-run tournament, and



(L) Jazon Samillano vs Andrea Botez. Photo credit: Brian Berger



Assist. TD Mike Lilly registering players.
Photo credit: Brian Berger

for promoting a time control that is fun to play and does not require a full day commitment.

PCC January G60

By Brian Berger

Portland, OR — January 31, 2015

For once, in what seemed a very long while, the sun shot its nearly blinding rays through an almost clear blue sky, on the day of the Portland Chess Club's Game 60. Only a hint of stratus clouds provided an indication that the forecast for rain, later that evening, could be a possibility.

On hand to officiate was the renowned tamer of wild animals and errant chess players, Chief TD Neil Dale, and his able (and there to be a civilizing influence) Assistant TD Mike Lilly. Together, they made one whole (play it by the rules, yet empathetic) TD.

Also on hand, and conspicuous by his short stature, outgoing personality, floppy ears, fur and tail, was (all together now) MORGAN The DOG, delighting his fans with sloppy kisses, while casing the joint for new players who might pose a threat to his owner's (Jerrold Richards) game. After satisfying himself that he had pinpointed the competition, he had to break the bad news to Richards—"It don't look good, boss! You have about as much of a chance as a mosquito caught in tree sap!"

Startled by Morgan the Dog's ominous declaration, Richards asked Morgan to hurriedly go over some of the openings they had recently been practicing.



(L) Nick Raptis vs Praveer Sharan. Photo credit: Brian Berger

Humoring him, Morgan refreshed Richards' memory of the Ruy Lopez, but felt it was time wasted from getting his head patted and his chin scratched.

When the final number of entrants was tallied, it came to 31—enough to up the prize money a notch or two. A few late arrivals and a number of last minute phone calls by others to say they were coming caused a bit of a delay in the starting time, but hardly enough to complain about. As the din died down, an almost equal number of young and older players hit their clocks, hoping for fame and fortune—or perhaps, just not to embarrass themselves.

Nick Raptis (2389-2390), carrying a 310 point rating advantage over his nearest competitor, Micah Smith (2079-2048), was the “King Kong” in the room, leaving the rest of the competitors feeling a bit like Fay Wray, bound and left as a snack for the monster. And so it was, Raptis snacking his way through the sacrificial lambs, ending with a perfect score and

\$93 for some quick work.

Tying for 2nd and 3rd with 3 1/2 points, Seth Talyansky (1988-2022) and Alan Hartley (1779-1850) claimed their \$54.25 winnings, probably sighing in relief that they did not have to meet the monster. And coming in best U-1800 with 3.0 points each were Roland Eagles, Christopher Burris and Danny Phipps, that after deducting from their entrance fee, managed a profit of \$3 from their \$18 winnings. But then, money isn't everything—and in this case, almost nothing.


Finally, we come to the most watched category of the tournament—the best U-1500. This elite division produced four

players with 2.0 points—Egan Wong (679-782), Greg Markowski (1468-1481), Aaron Probst (1436-1434), and yours truly, Brian Berger (1568-1560). At least one of us is contemplating how best to use the \$13.50 windfall, given its potential spending and earning power. I have given thought to investment in a blue-chip stock, or possibly a short term goal of a Big Mac and fries (with an apple pie

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*Morgan the Dog attempting to help Jerrold Richards with an opening.
Photo credit: Brian Berger*

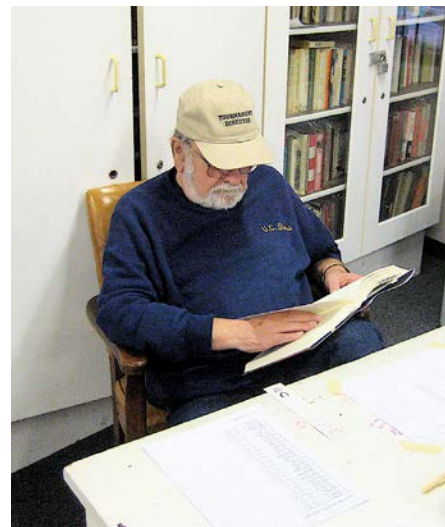
thrown in for dessert), and will probably opt for the immediate gratification of a hot meal, and not take undue risks on the vagaries of the marketplace.

Mention must be made of fellow \$13.50 windfall receiver, the very young Egan Wong. Barely able to see over the top of the tables—leaving his opponents to wonder if he was still in the room—this newcomer to the USCF tournament scene faced some stiff competition, exhibiting the poise of a much older player. In his

games against Jazon Samillano (1617-1605), and Danny Phipps (1562-1595), his opening and middle game development said much about his future potential. So good was his endgame position against Samillano that, for a moment, Samillano was contemplating resigning, the only thing saving him from doing so being a last-minute blunder by Wong in deciding which piece to move in clinching the deal.

As was prophesied by Morgan the Dog, Jerrold Richards (1481-1471) fared none

too well. But with Morgan the Dog's continued patience with his friend and house companion, Richards should again rise from the ashes, armed with enough of Morgan the Dog's wisdom and chess lessons, to give a fair accounting of himself. And just maybe I can coax Morgan into giving me a few lessons for the whole of my \$13.50, or maybe with just a pat on the head and a scratch under the chin.



*Chief TD Neil Dale reading "How to Win Friends and Influence People."
Photo credit: Brian Berger*

Oregon Closed State Championship

by Grisha Alpernas

We received all the entry fee deposits and conducted the drawing of the starting numbers. The final list of players is:

1	Jason Cigan	2159
2	Aaron Grabinsky	2316
3	FM Corey J. Russell	2237
4	FM Nick Raptis	2389
5	Carl A. Haessler	2213
6	Phillip Seitzer	2178
7	Lennart Bjorksten	2147
8	Brian John Esler	2194
9	Yogi Saputra	2113
10	Steven B. Deeth	2109

Alternate: Jerry Dean Sherrard. He will replace a player that withdraws from the tournament before the start of round 3 (if it happens).

Note: Results of the Oregon Closed State Championship will be covered in the April 2015 issue.—Editor.



(L) Moshe Rachmuth vs Aaron Probst. Photo credit: Brian Berger

2015 Oregon Closed State Championship Contestants



2015 Oregon Championship contestants. Sitting (left to right): Phillip Seitzer, Carl Haessler, Yogi Saputra, Steven Deeth. Standing (left to right): Aaron Grabinsky, FM Corey Russell, FM Nick Raptis, Jason Cigan, Lennart Bjorksten, Brian Esler. Photo credit: Grisha Alpernas.

Errata

The Oregon Chess Federation will begin holding a separate 10-player invitational round robin section as part of its annual state championship in 2016, as the Washington Chess Federation has done for many years. For more information, and to find out how you could qualify (if you're an Oregon resident), please see http://www.oregonchessfed.org/Oregon_Invitational_Details.pdf.

It was incorrectly reported on page 29 in the printed version of the February issue that this event would begin in 2015 instead of 2016. We regret the mistake. The future online and teaser versions are corrected.



Carl Haessler Chess Master

503-875-7278 ■ carl@chessworksNW.com
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Ninth Annual Clark Harmon Memorial Open April 11-12, 2015 \$2,000 Guaranteed!

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5-round Swiss: One open section **Qualifier for OCF Oregon Invitational**

Time Control: Saturday 40/90, SD/30, d5; Sunday 40/120, SD/60, d5.

Registration: Saturday 9-9:45 am. Registration is limited to first 50 entrants.

Advance registration is strongly encouraged.

Rounds: Saturday 10:00; 2:15 & 7:00; Sunday 9:30 & 4:30 or ASAP.

Location: Portland Chess Club, 8205 SW 24th.

Information: check www.pdxchess.org for info and directions.

Byes: 1 half-point bye available if requested before 1st round.

1st \$525 2nd \$325 3rd \$175
U2000, U1700, U1400/unr each 1st \$200, 2nd \$125

Entry: \$50; \$45 for PCC members.

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

This is the **Ninth Annual Harmon Memorial**. We hope players will join in this tribute to one of the Northwest's premier players and ambassadors of the game. The prize fund is underwritten through the generosity of contributors to the Harmon Memorial Fund.

Name _____

Address _____ City and Zip _____

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

Email _____ Bye Rd _____

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

See our quarter page ad in the March issue
of Chess Life, or visit www.renochess.org

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150 Grand Prix Pts. ♦ **April 3-4-5, 2015** ♦ F.I.D.E. Rated

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Open Section (2000 & above) EF: \$149, (1999 & below = \$200) (GMs & IMs free but must enter by (3/1) or pay late fee at door). Guaranteed (Prizes 1-10 in Open Section Gtd. plus ½ of all other prizes).

\$2,000 -1300 -1000 - 700 - 500 - 400 - 300 - 300 - 300 - 200, (2399/below) - \$1,000, (2299/below) - \$1,000, (2199/below) - \$1200 - 800 - 500 - 400 (2099/below) - \$1000 (If a tie for 1st then a playoff for \$100 out of prize fund plus trophy).

Sec."A"- (1800-1999) EF: \$148; \$1,500-800-500-300-200.

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Top Senior (65+) - \$200; Club Champ. - \$800-400.

Wednesday 4/1: 7:00 pm - GM Sergey Kudrin - Clock Simul. w/ complete analysis of YOUR Game (Only \$30!)

Thursday 4/2: 6-7:15 pm - Lecture by IM John Donaldson (FREE)

7:30 pm - GM TBA - Simul. (\$20) ; Blitz (G/5 d0) Tourney \$20 - 80% entries = Prize Fund

Saturday 4/4: 3-4:30 pm - FREE Game/Position Analysis - IM John Donaldson

 **Main Tournament** 

Registration: Thursday (4/2) (5 - 8 pm.) - Friday (4/3) - (9 - 10 am.)

Round Times: Fri.- 12 Noon - 7 pm, Sat.-10 am - 6 pm, Sun.- 9:30 am - 4:30 pm

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**Room Reservations: Call the Sands Regency - 1-866-FUN-STAY • Reserve by March 15 for Chess Rate
Ask for code: CHESS0415**

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

ENTRY FORM - 4th Annual Larry Evans Memorial (formerly Far West Open) - Reno, Nevada - April 3 - 5, 2015

Mail to: Sands Regency Casino Hotel - 345 N. Arlington Avenue - Reno NV 89501

PRINT Name _____ Daytime Phone _____ USCF/FIDE Rating _____
Street Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

USCF I.D. Number _____ Exp. Date _____ **All pre-registered players please check in at tournament desk on arrival.**

ENTRY FEE ENCLOSED: (CIRCLE SECTION AND FEE BELOW) BYE(S) REQUESTED FOR ROUND(S): (CIRCLE) 1 2 3 4 5 6

----- OPEN SECTION -----		"A"	"B"	"C"	"D and Under"	UNRATED
GM/IM	Masters/Experts	1999-Below	1800-1999	1600-1799	1400-1599	1200-1399
Free	\$149	\$200	\$148	\$147	\$146	\$145

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☐ \$30 Wed. Clock Simul. GM Kudrin
☐ \$20 Thursday-Simul. GM TBA
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Arrival Date _____
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Washington Chess News

Washington Junior Open

By Josh Sinanan

The 2015 WA Junior Open was held on MLK Monday at Somerset Elementary in Bellevue. A record 246 players took part in 7 sections: K-1U800, 2-3U800, K-3U1400, 4-6U900, 4-12U1400, U1600, and Open. The tournament was directed by David Hendricks with assistance from Josh Sinanan, Dan Mathews, Chouchan Airapetian, Roland Feng, and Evan Ruan.

Anath Gottumukkala, a recent graduate of International Community School in Kirkland, won the Open section with 4/4! Anath, like many young players throughout the Northwest States, is grossly underrated at only 1278 USCF (1634 NW). His opening expertise was key to his success as demonstrated by his last round win in only six moves. For his victory, Anath is seeded into the Premier section of the 2015 WA State Championship and the 2016 WA Junior Closed. This was only Anath's 8th USCF-rated event. Along the way, he defeated Fred Davis (1850), Arjun Thomas (1781), Quentin Chi (1952), and Toshihiro Nagase (1987) for a performance rating of 2387.

**Ananth Gottumukkala (1278) –
Frederick A. Davis (1869) [A00]**
Washington Junior Open
(R2), January 19, 2015
[Ralph Dubisch]

1.g3 Nf6 2.Bg2 g6 3.d3 Bg7 4.Nd2 0-0
5.e4 d6 6.Ne2 c5 7.Nc4 Nc6 8.c3 e5
9.Ne3 Re8 10.0-0 Rb8 11.Nc2 b5 12.Bg5
Qb6 13.Qd2 Bb7 14.Kh1 Nd7 15.Bh6
a5 16.Bxg7 Kxg7 17.f4 f6 18.Ne3 Qd8
19.f5 g5 20.Ng1 Rh8 21.h4 h6 22.Bf3
Nb6 23.Bh5 d5 24.Qe2 Ne7 25.Ng4 Qd6
26.Kh2



Position after 26.Kh2

26...Ng8?



Ananth Gottumukkala.
Photo credit: Josh Sinanan

26...c4!?∞

27.Nf3 Nd7 28.Rae1 d4

28...Ne7 29.d4! cxd4 30.cxd4 dxe4



(#Diagram-analysis after 30...dxe4)

31.dxe5! fxe5 (31...exf3 32.exf6+!+-)
32.Nxg5! hxg5 33.f6+ Kg8 34.fxe7 Rxh5
(34...Qxe7 35.Rf7 Qe6 36.Rd1+-)



(#Diagram-analysis after 34...Rxh5)

35.Rd1! Qxe7 (35...Bd5 36.Ne3 Rh7
37.Nxd5+-) 36.Rxd7!+-

29.Kh3 Bc6 30.Nd2±

30.cxd4 cxd4 31.a3±

30...Nb6 31.cxd4 cxd4 32.Nf3 Be8
33.Bxe8 Rxe8 34.h5 Ne7??

34...Nd7±



Position after 34...Ne7

35.Nfxe5! fxe5

35...Rhf8 36.Qd2! (36.Ng6? Nxg6
37.hxg6 (37.fxg6 f5) 37...h5 38.Nf2 Nd5!)
36...b4 (36...Nd7 37.Ng6 Nxg6 38.fxg6±)
37.Ng6 Nxg6 38.fxg6 Nd7±

36.f6+



Position after 36.f6+

36...Kf7

36...Kh7 37.f7! (37.fxe7 Nd7 38.Rf7+
Kg8 39.Ref1 Rxe7 40.Qf3 is also very
strong.) 37...Rc8 (37...Ref8 38.Rf6! Qc5



(#Diagram-analysis after 38...Qc5)

39.Qf1! Nd7 40.Rc1! Qb4 41.Rc7!+-)

38.Rf6 Qc5 39.Ref1! Kg7 40.Nxh6 Kf8 41.Qg4+-

37.fxe7+ Kxe7 38.Rf6 Qxf6

38...Qd8 39.Qf2 Rhf8 40.Qf5 Qd7 (40...Rxf6 41.Qxf6+ Kd7 42.Nxe5+) 41.Qxe5+ Kd8 42.Rxf8 Rxf8 43.Qb8+ Nc8 44.Rc1 Rf7 45.Rc5 Qe6 46.Qxb5+-

39.Nxf6 Kxf6 40.Qg4

Or 40.Rc1 Rc8 41.Rxc8 Rxc8 42.Qf2+ Ke7 43.Qf5

40...Ke7 41.Qf5 Rhf8 42.Qxe5+ Kd7 43.Qxd4+ Kc7 44.Rc1+ Kb7 45.Qg7+ Ka6 46.Rc7 Ra8 47.Ra7+ Rxa7 48.Qxf8 a4 49.Qxh6 Ka5 50.b4+ axb3 51.axb3 1-0

Arjun Thomas (1804) –
Ananth Gottumukkala (1278) [B07]
Washington Junior Open
(R1), January 19, 2015
[Ralph Dubisch]

1.e4 d6 2.d4 Nf6 3.Nc3 g6 4.Be3 Bg7 5.Qd2 0-0 6.Be2 e5 7.dxe5 dxe5 8.Qxd8 Rxd8 9.Nf3 a6 10.0-0 Nc6 11.Rad1 Be6 12.h3 h6 13.a3



Position after 13.a3

13...Ne7?

The d5-square does not need overprotection, and this knight simply returns to c6 in three moves. Worse, the e-pawn is hanging, despite the similarity to other lines where Black can regain material with long-diagonal discovery tactics. 13...b5 makes sense here.

14.Nd2?

14.Nxe5! Nxe4 15.Nxg6! fxg6 16.Nxe4 with too many black pawns vulnerable (b7, c7, h6) for Black to recover his missing unit with ...Bxb2.

14...b5 15.Nb3 Bxb3 16.cxb3 Nc6 17.f3 Nd4 18.b4 c6 19.Bd3 Nh5 20.Bxd4 exd4?!

20...Rxd4±

21.Ne2± a5 22.bxa5 Rxa5 23.g4

23.Rc1±

23...Nf6 24.Rc1

24.e5!?

24...Nd7!± 25.Ra1?!

25.Rfd1 c5

25...Rda8?!

25...c5! 26.b4 Raa8 27.bxc5 Nxc5 28.Rad1 (28.Bxb5? d3-+; 28.Rfd1 b4! 29.a4 b3) 28...Rdb8±

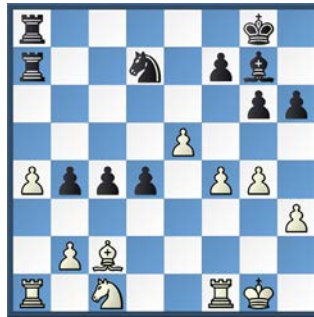
26.Nc1 R5a7 27.Bc2?

27.Nb3 is the best try to limit Black's mobile pawns by pressuring c5 and d4. 27...Ne5 28.Rad1 Rc8 29.f4 Nxd3 30.Rxd3 c5 31.Rd2 d3! 32.e5 Rd7±

27...c5 28.f4 b4! 29.a4

29.Bd3 bxa3 30.bxa3 Rxa3 31.Rb1 Rc8

29...c4 30.e5



Position after 30.e5

30...b3?!

30...Nc5 first controls e4 and limits White's activity to virtually nothing. 31.Bd1 Rd8 32.Bf3 d3-+

31.Be4! Rb8

31...Rxa4!?

32.Bd5

32.Ne2!? with complications.

32...Nb6± 33.Bc6 Rc8 34.Bb5 Rc5?!

34...d3!

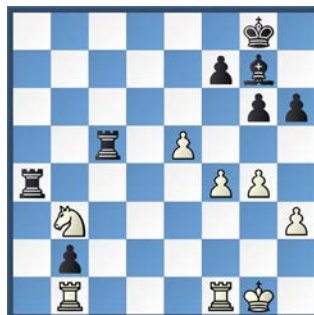
35.Ne2 c3 36.Nxd4

36.Ra3 Rxb5!! 37.axb5 Rxa3 38.bxa3 Bf8!!-+

36...cxb2 37.Rab1

37.Ra3 Rc3 38.Rxb3 (Or 38.a5 Nd5) 38...Rxb3 39.Nxb3 Nxa4 40.Bxa4 Rxa4 41.Rb1 Rxf4 42.Rxb2 Bxe5±, though White has distinct drawing chances with all the pawns on one side of the board.

37...Nxa4 38.Bxa4 Rxa4 39.Nxb3



Position after 39.Nxb3

39...Rb5?

Black should choose one of the following: 39...Rc3 40.Rxb2 Rb4 41.Kg2 Rxb3 42.Rxb3 Rxb3 with an extra piece but some technical difficulties; or, 39...Rc2 40.Rf2 Rxf2 41.Kxf2 Rxf4+ 42.Ke3 Bxe5 43.Rxb2 Rxb4 44.hxg4 Bxb2 with two extra pawns... and some technical challenges.

40.Nd2?

40.Rxb2! Rab4 41.Rf3 g5 42.fxg5 hxg5 43.Kg2 and we're probably heading for a draw, since 43...Bxe5 44.Re2 isn't getting anywhere, for example 44...Bf4 45.Nd2 Rb2 46.Rd3 Rc2 47.Rf2 Rbb2 48.Ne4

40...Bf8 41.Rf3 Bc5+ 42.Kg2 Rab4 43.Kg3 Bd4 44.Rd3 Kg7

44...g5!

45.Kf3 g5 46.fxg5 hxg5 47.Ne4 Rxe5

47...Bxe5

48.Ng3 Kg6 49.Nf5 Bc5 50.Rd2 Rf4+

50...Rb3+ 51.Kg2 Ba3

51.Kg2

51.Kg3 Ba3 52.Rdxb2!? Bxb2 53.Rxb2 is another way to struggle on.

51...Ba3 52.Ng3 Rc5 53.Ne2?

53.Rdxb2 Bxb2 54.Rxb2 Rfc4 55.Rf2 Rc2 56.Ne2! sets some traps, e.g. 56...f5 57.gxf5+ Rxf5? 58.Nf4+!

53...Rfc4

53...Rb4! 54.Rd3 (54.Rdd1 Rc2 55.Kf1 Re4 56.Ng3 (56.Re1 Bb4) 56...Re3) 54...Rc1 55.Nxc1 bxc1Q 56.Rxc1 Bxc1

54.Rd6+

54.Rdxb2 Bxb2 55.Rxb2 Rc2 56.Rxc2 Rxc2 57.Kf3 offers White significantly less than some of the previous analysis positions with more rooks on the board.

54...Kg7 55.Rdd1 Rc2 56.Kf2?

56.Kf3, though of course Black is still winning.

56...Re5 57.Re1 Bb4 58.Red1 Rxe2+ 59.Kf1 Rf2+ 60.Kg1 Bc5 0-1

Quentin Chi (1952) –
Ananth Gottumukkala (1278) [B07]
Washington Junior Open
(R3), January 19, 2015
[Ralph Dubisch]

1.e4 d6 2.d4 Nf6 3.Nc3 g6 4.f3 Bg7 5.Be3 0-0 6.Qd2 e5 7.0-0 exd4 8.Bxd4 Be6 9.Kb1 Nc6 10.Be3 Re8 11.g4 Rb8 12.Bd3?!

12.h4

12...Ne5 13.Rf1?

[Diagram top of next page]

Removes the rook from a key half-open file and costs a tempo. 13.g5

13...b5!

Pictures from WA Junior Open



Position after 13.Rf1

Or 13...d5!?

14.g5 Nfd7 15.f4 Nc4 16.Bxc4 Bxc4
17.Nge2 b4 18.Nd1 Rxe4 19.Ng3 Re8
20.Rf2 c5 21.f5



Position after 21.f5

21...Qa5! 22.b3 Bc3!-+ 23.Nxc3 bxc3
24.Qc1 Rb6 25.fxg6 hxg6 26.Rf4 Ra6
27.a4 d5 28.Re1 Rb8 29.Qa3 Rab6
30.Ka2 Rb4

Or 30...Rxb3 31.exb3 Rxb3 32.Qxb3
Qxa4+

0-1

**Ananth Gottumukkala (1278) –
Toshihiro Nagase (2019) [A06]**
Washington Junior Open
(R4), January 19, 2015
[Ralph Dubisch]

1.b3 d5 2.Bb2 c5 3.e3 Nc6 4.Bb5 e6
5.Nf3



Position after 5.Nf3

5...Bd6??

5...Nf6

6.Bxg7 1-0



The playing hall. Photo credit: Josh Sinanan



2-3 U800 section winners. Photo credit: Chouchanik Airapetian



Photo credit: Chouchanik Airapetian



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- Five rounds - six player round robin
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- Sections based on grade/age and rating
- Trophies to top two in each section

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\$15 early / \$20 late

- April 24 6:30 - 9:00 pm
- Four rounds - two games per round Game/5
- Sections: K-2, K-4, K-6, K-12
- Teams are placed in the section according to the player in the higher grade.
- Late Registration (Bughouse only) 4:00 pm
- Trophies for top teams in each section

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Washington High School Individual Championship Denker Qualifer

By Siva Sankrithi

State Individual 2015 took place at Lakeside School in Seattle January 23-24. Over 90 players competed, with approximately 20 in the Championship, 20 in the Premier (U1600), and 50 in the Reserve (U1200).

The Reserve section, a field filled with Seattle Prep players, nearly 20 of them, saw lots of terrific games and new learning opportunities for players. Michael Patrick of Seattle Prep prevailed with a perfect 5/5!

The Premier section was very tightly contested with lots of draws and several close battles that eventually proved decisive one way or the other. Ultimately it was Aidan O'Neill of Lakeside and Will Rianda of Ferndale who emerged at the top with 4/5 apiece (3 wins and 2 draws each, including 1 draw with each other). This brought us to the greatest spectacle in WA State Chess, the 3 minute 2 second delay speed playoff! Even that game was

neck and neck until Aidan prevailed to take the title.

The Championship section, with a ticket to the Denker Tournament of High School Champions on the line, was one of the strongest fields we've ever seen, with two Master players, and several Experts headlining the field. Master sophomore twins Daniel He and Samuel He stayed on boards 1 and 2 for the majority of the tournament, demonstrating their strong play consistently. In round 3, Expert freshman Noah Fields, from Charles Wright Academy in Tacoma, scored the upset on board 1 against Daniel! Entering round 4, Noah and Samuel were the only two perfect scores, and Noah scored the upset again on board 1 against Samuel! In the final round, Noah faced senior Expert James Colasurdo of Olympia, a game which ended in a draw, securing the title of WA State High School Champion for Noah Fields with 4.5/5! The Master brothers tied for second with four points apiece. Kudos to all on a job well done.

Noah Dennis Fields (2047) – Daniel He (2254) [B06]

WA High School Individual Championship (R3), January 24, 2015
[Noah Fields]

1.e4 g6 2.d4 Bg7 3.Nf3 d6 4.Be3 c6 5.Nc3 Qc7 6.Qd2 b5 7.a3 a6 8.Be2 Nd7 9.0-0



Position after 9.0-0

9...Nb6?

This is a slow move that leaves Daniel's pieces undeveloped while White is developed. 9...Ngf6 10.Bf4 0-0

10.e5 d5 11.Nh4

Nh4 was an attempt to go 12.f4...and then 13.f5

11...Nc4 12.Bxc4 bxc4 13.Na4

13.b3 cxb3 14.cxb3 further Rac1, Na4, Black is in trouble on the Queenside, weak c-pawn.

13...f6 14.exf6?

Better would have been 14.Rfe1! fxe5 15.dxe5 Rb8 16.h3

14...Nxf6 15.Bf4 Qd8

15...Ne4! 16.Bxc7 (16.Qe3 Qa7 17.Nf3 0-0) 16...Nxd2 17.Rfd1 Bh6

16.Nc5 Ne4 17.Nxe4 dxe4 18.Rfe1 Bf5 19.g4 Bxg4 20.Rxe4 Qd5

20...0-0! 21.Bg5 Bh5 22.Bxe7 Qd5

21.Rae1 0-0 22.Bh6 Qh5 23.Bxg7 Kxg7 24.Rxe7+ Kg8 25.Ng2 Bf3 26.R1e5 Qh3 27.Qg5



Position after 27.Qg5

27...Bd5?

27...Rad8

28.Rxd5 Qf3

I thought I was about to lose at this point until I saw Qh4 which would seal the victory.

29.Qh4 Qd1+ 30.Ne1 Rf7 31.Rde5 Raf8 32.Rxf7 Rxf7 33.h3 Qd2 34.Qg3 Kf8 35.Qxf3 1-0



Noah Fields. Photo credit: Duane Polich



The directing and organizational team (L-R): Siva Sankrithi, Josh Sinanan, Dan Mathews, and Ben Radin. Photo credit: Duane Polich

State Championships

By Josh Sinanan

Here are this year's pairings for the Championship, Premier, and Invitational sections of the Washington State Championships as of 2/6/2015.

Championship

2. FM Costin Cozianu 2466, Everett
4. FM Tian Sang 2350, Bellevue
10. FM Curt Collyer 2313, Seattle
3. FM David Bragg 2200, Bothell
9. NM Roland Feng 2295, Seattle
1. NM Bryce Tiglon 2258, Redmond
7. NM Samuel He 2233, Redmond
6. NM Daniel He 2227, Redmond
8. FM William Schill 2215, Seattle
5. LM Viktors Pupols 2202, Kingston

Avg Rating: 2276

Prize Fund: \$2500 (increased by donation from Erik Anderson!)

Premier

1. James Colasurdo 2059, Olympia
6. NM David Levine 2200, Seattle
3. NM Michael MacGregor 2188, Tacoma
5. NM Harley Greninger 2158, Hoquiam
8. FM Paul Bartron 2120, Tacoma
9. Kyle Haining 2090, Lake Forest Park
4. Cameron Leslie 2081, Seattle
7. Kevin Gafni 2077, Seattle
2. Derek Zhang 2061, Bellevue
10. Anath Gottumukkala 1278, Sammamish

Avg Rating: 2031

Prize Fund: \$1000

Invitational

10. Travis Olson 1860, Mukilteo
1. Badamkhand Norovsambuu 2056, Bellevue
4. Chouchanik Airapetian 2017, Mercer Island
5. Alan Bishop 2000, Tacoma
6. David Arganian 2000, Seattle
2. Anthony He 1974, Sammamish
7. Michael Hosford 1954, Bellevue
9. Neo Olin 1910, Renton
3. Joseph Kiiru 1891, Tacoma
8. Vikram Ramasamy 1880, Kirkland

Avg Rating: 1954

Prize Fund: \$500

Alternates

- 1st: David Dussome 1861
- 2nd: Mark Smith 1860
- 3rd: Frederick Davis 1850
- 4th: Ryan Ackerman 1842
- 5th: Mary Kuhner 1816

Site: Seattle Chess Club, 2150 N 107 St.
Seattle, WA 98133

Schedule: Rounds 1-8: Feb. 7, 8, 14,
15 at 10am and 5pm. Round 9: Feb. 16
(President's Day) at 5pm.

Player Bios

These are presented in random order and most are written by the players themselves.

Some of the photos were provided by the players and it is not known who took some of them.—Editor

LM Viktors Pupols

I first played in the Washington State Championship in 1954. I have played in 22 states e.g., Escanaba, Muskogee and Fond-du-Lac, and 3 foreign countries. In 1996 I played in my native Latvia when Mikhail Tal had just died. His apartment was being cleared and two Czech crystal vases which he had won were put up as prizes. I won one of them; Deborah keeps it on the windowsill for flowers.

FM Paul Bartron

We didn't get a bio, but we did get a photo.



Paul Bartron. Photo credit: Vivi Bartron

Cameron Leslie

Cameron Leslie is a life long chess player. He learned to play from his father at age 5, and grew up in the relative chess backwater of Anchorage, AK. He is one of the highest rated players ever born in AK. He won the upset prize at the

2001 National Open with a 600+ point upset. He was the High School State Champion in 2003 before he moved to the lower 48. He has continued to play, winning several tournaments in Idaho and Montana before relocating to Seattle for his girlfriend's medical schooling. He is an avid powerlifter, rock climber and outdoorsman. He is just as likely to be out doing active things at any given time as he is playing chess. He would also like to take this opportunity to give his thanks to all the people he has ever had the privilege of playing chess against, and all the people he has met in his many chess journeys.



Cameron Leslie. Photo credit: Mark Havrilla

NM Roland Feng

I started playing chess at the age of 5. One day my mother had come home with a strange box with weird symbols on it. She opened the box and instantly I was intrigued by all the different pieces, the different moves, the different possibilities. Soon after I learned the basics, I took some lessons from Siva Narayanan and tied for first at the 2008 K-1 Nationals with a perfect 7-0 sweep. I proceeded to take lessons from Josh after bringing home my 4 foot trophy (almost taller than me at the time). During my many years working with Josh, I picked up the K-3 Nationals title and gained a whopping 1000 points (Thanks Josh!) and improved up to a rating of 2176, at which point I started (and still am currently) working with GM Akobian, during which I have won the K-6 national title and crossed 2300.



Roland Feng. Courtesy of Roland Feng.

FM William Schill

I began playing chess competitions at Juanita High School. In the years following the famous Spassky – Fischer World Chess Championship match chess was booming in Washington State. My team won the High School Team championship in 1975. I went on to compete in the Washington State Chess Championship (adult) finishing as high as second in 1979. Playing in numerous US Open tourneys earned me the master title in short order.

Drifting away from chess I won the Washington State and Northwest Backgammon championships. Top flight Backgammon tournaments success included a second place finish in the World Cup of Backgammon held at the Tropicana in 1982.

Another switch of interest followed in the late 80s and early 90s. State championship titles in multiple forms of poker followed. Despite the money won something was missing, my first love, chess!

Returning to the Washington chess scene after at least a decade long sabbatical I finished in the middle of the pack in 1999. But, I was just warming up and won outright in 2000 and won again with Harley Greninger as co-champion in 2001. In each of the next four years I finished second! Playing well true, but a little frustrated. At this time I was awarded the FIDE Master title and travelled to Hungary to play in an international event in Budapest and a Grandmaster event in Paks.

Since 2001 I have been teaching chess in Seattle areas schools and after school programs. Summer camps for students and private lessons for adults round out my chess activity.

Kevin Gafni

Kevin Gafni is a recent addition to the Seattle chess scene, having lived in

Chicago and Reno, NV prior. His most notable tournament results are tying for 1st place in the 2006 National Open U1800 and winning the 2007 Western States Open U2000 section. More recently he tied for 2nd place at the 2014 Vancouver Open.



Kevin Gafni.

Travis Olson

Travis Olson first learned how to play chess around age 6 when his dad taught him how to move the pieces. He played Battle Chess, Chessmaster and Lego Chess on the computer as a kid and joined the Chess Club at Fairmount Elementary in 5th grade, where he eventually beat the teacher!

After not playing for almost 5 years, Travis was inspired to join the Chess Team at Kamiak High School in 11th grade, after a friend brought a chess set into his Physics class to play with the previous June, and after finding out his math teacher was also the chess coach. The following year, 2010, he went 5-0 in the WESCO league, helping his team win the league. He also won 4th/44 in the High School State Individual U1300 section with 4/5, and won clear 1st in the WESCO tournament 4-0.

Since his high school years, Travis has been playing, promoting, and teaching chess avidly. He organized and came up with the idea to hold a yearly tournament at his high school, complete with an engraved trophy! He became president of the Chess Club at the University of Washington for one year in 2011, and at UW Bothell after transferring in 2012. He organized and directed the Pioneer Square Chess Tournament in August 2011

in Occidental Park, and used his own software he wrote to do the pairings and standings!

Travis currently offers private lessons to lower-rated or beginner students, which he has been teaching for over 2.5 years. He has also coached in schools, classes, and camps for about 2 years now. He recently began volunteering with the Seattle Chess Club and the Washington Chess Federation to help improve chess for everyone.

Travis prides himself on being entirely self-taught, having never taken lessons, and for having paid for all of his chess expenses on his own ever since he started playing. Some other accomplishments of his include achieving a rating of 1900, winning the 2013 Washington Class B section with 5.5/6, winning the 2014 June 1st Tornado with 4/4, and defeating both Elliott Neff and Roland Feng in simultaneous exhibitions.

He hopes to continue promoting chess in any way he can, and believes that chess is a game all people can benefit from and enjoy, not just those who regularly play in tournaments. He feels very grateful to be accepted into this year's Washington Invitational as an alternate.



Travis Olson.

Derek Zhang

I started playing chess in kindergarten as an after-school activity, and during my first chess game in a real tournament, I was Scholar's mated, but in the next round, I Scholar's mated my opponent! By 2nd grade I had started to take chess seriously, and I improved quickly. My

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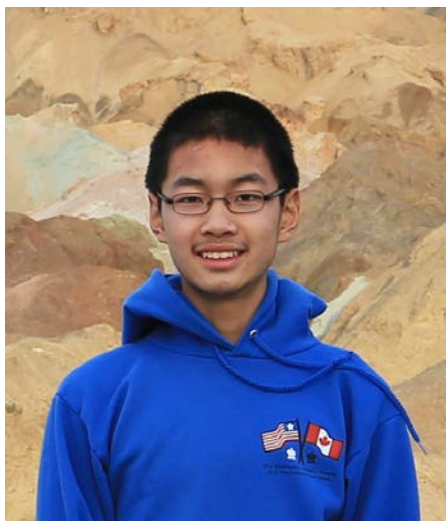
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greatest chess accomplishments to date have been winning the U1800 section at the 2012 American Open, and then 2 years later, winning the U2000 section of the 2014 American Open. Besides playing chess, I enjoy soccer, watching the Seattle Seahawks play, and school (I am a 7th grader at Odle Middle School in Bellevue).



Derek Zhang.

NM Bryce Tiglon

Bryce played in his first scholastic chess tournaments in the first grade. In third and fourth grade, Bryce won the WA State Elementary Chess Championships and three national blitz titles. He became the fifth grade National Champion in 2012 which earned him the right to attend the 2012 World Youth Chess Championships (WYCC) in Slovenia. Bryce studied with GM Emil Anka for several months leading up to the 2012 WYCC, and he finished 21st in his division. In 2013, Bryce won the K-6 Blitz Championship at Supnationals with a perfect score. He also became a National Master in December, 2013 at the age of 12. In 2014, Bryce again competed in the World Youth Chess Championships, this time in South

Africa, where he tied for 6th place in the U14 division. Bryce is currently in the 8th grade gifted program at Redmond Middle School. When not independently studying chess, he plays competitive soccer and baseball.



Bryce Tiglon.

FM Tian Sang

I started my chess journey completely accidentally. That day, I went to register for the Go class, but it was too crowded, and then somehow I was attracted by a chess coach who eagerly wanted to fill in his empty chess class. Despite chess was barely known decades ago in China, I received excellent free training and playing opportunities at my hometown Chengdu. With constant efforts and progress, I became one of the top junior players, winning national prizes; consequently, I was recruited to the national team to train and play with top professionals. It was very challenging to balance chess and school when I had to miss months of school. Eventually I decided not to pursue the professional route and retired from chess. However, I

always love the game by heart and after a long break I found myself playing chess tournaments again, totally for fun. I played the past two seasons for Seattle Sluggers in the US chess league and I have been contributing to the Lakeside high school chess team for many years.



Tian Sang.

Kyle Haining

Kyle Haining is a 9th grader at Kenmore Junior High School. He enjoys school and takes all of the honors classes he can. His first class of the day, Mandarin Chinese, however, is taken at Inglemoor High School. Kyle's mother teaches the class. Kyle plays the cello for the school orchestra and plays the piano at home. In the fall, and sometimes in the spring, Kyle plays soccer on a recreational team. Kyle was once invited to join a select soccer team, but told his father, "I like soccer, but not that much."

Kyle became interested in chess in 1st grade when he saw a couple of classmates playing the game. Kyle wanted to learn how to play, so Kyle's father purchased a plastic chess set for \$3 and then armed with a copy of Susan Polgar's "Chess Tactics for Champions" began to teach Kyle to play. Kyle caught on quickly and dad soon realized that Kyle needed to play against players who were better at the game than he was, so in 2008 he signed Kyle up as a member of the Seattle Chess Club.

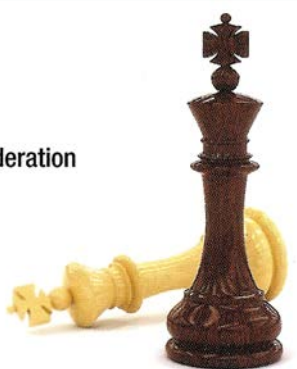
In a scholastic tournament Elena Donaldson once commented to Kyle's father that Kyle played weird chess openings. Kyle's dad realized this was because he hadn't taught Kyle anything about openings, which was because he didn't know anything about openings. Everything that Kyle was playing he had to make up himself, so dad went back to the bookstore to find a good book on chess openings, but was overwhelmed by the number of opening books one could buy. He had no idea where to begin. That year Kyle did so well in the 2nd grade State Championship tournament that dad decided Kyle needed to study

Joshua C. Sinanan

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with someone who actually knew how to play the game. NM Matt Fleury was Kyle's first chess coach. He taught Kyle for 3 years. Kyle took lessons from FM Ignacio Perez for a time. He now studies with GM Emil Anka.



Kyle Haining.



Believing in the oft heard adage, "No guts, no glory," Gerald added 30 pounds more to his already substantial girth.

Washington Junior Closed

Played at the Seattle Chess Club, January 9-11, 2015

Tournament Director: David Hendricks

#	Name	ID	Rtng	Team	Grd	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Rd 5	Tot
1	Daniel He	13978473	2227	RED	10	W6	W5	D2	D3	W4	4.0
2	Ethan Bashkansky	13871356	2151	NPR	11	D4	D6	D1	W5	W3	3.5
3	Samuel He	13978467	2233	RED	10	D5	W4	L6	D1	L2	2.0
4	Badamkhand Norovsambuu	14681055	2056	ADU	13	D2	L3	D5	W6	L1	2.0
5	Kyle Haining	13869267	2090	KJH	9	D3	L1	D4	L2	W6	2.0
6	Bryce Tiglon	14230627	2258	REJ	8	L1	D2	W3	L4	L5	1.5

By David Hendricks

Congratulations to Daniel He for winning the WA Junior Closed 2 years in a row! Here are the final standings: SwissSys Standings. WA Junior Closed: Closed

Prize Funds as follows:

Daniel He, 1st place, \$200
 Ethan Bashkansky, 2nd place, \$160
 Samuel He, Tied 3rd place, \$46.67
 Badamkhand Norovsambuu, Tied 3rd place, \$46.67
 Kyle Haining, Tied 3rd place, \$46.67

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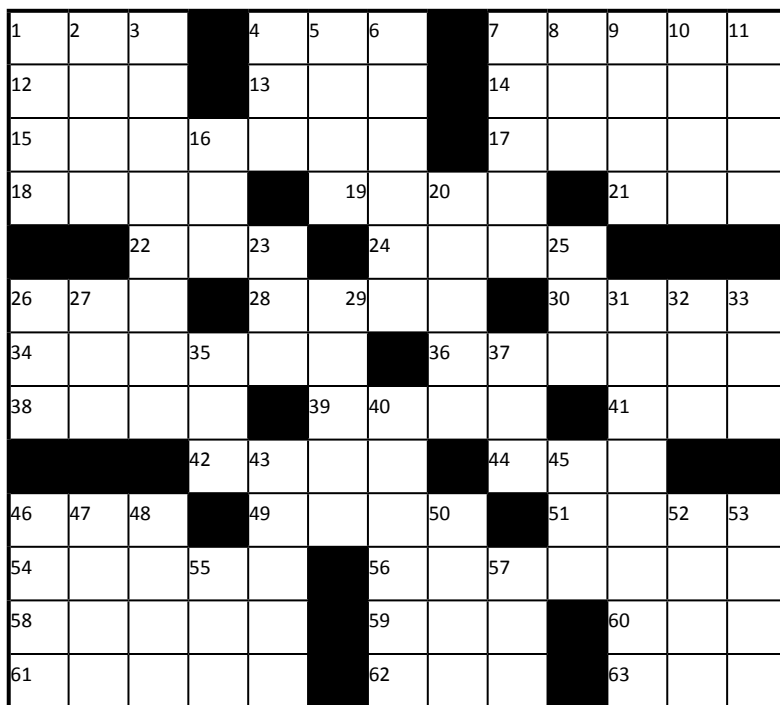
The Game of Chess is the Clue to Success

Crossword Puzzle No. 2

by Carol Kleist

Across

1. The ---lani: pro or con?
4. Female tournaments: all for ---.
7. The chess board is this according to Thomas Huxley.
12. The Queen is feminine, but the pieces are referred to as chess----
13. Inventor of an early computer chess program in the 70's which was named Chaos.
14. How beautiful is the moment when the tournament hall is suddenly hushed and quiet, and the round begins. One might find the Modern Greek word for lovely, beautiful, to be appropriate.
15. Fischer tells us he never beat a _____.
17. At the Millionaire Tnmt in Las Vegas is where it is.
18. Famous chess-piece design found in the Hebrides. Sometimes called Lewis design.
19. Chess events are held in Balboa Park, home of the famous California Zoo. No, the apes do not play chess, but the people in the chess facility do. Ck. out the various events in this city.
21. New opening moves.
22. The Spanish speaking player says or thinks "Quiero _____" (together with 28 across) for sympathy (tough tnmt), or just wants to make her proud.
24. One of our internal exclamations when we can't believe we didn't see it!
26. Bring your own. None furnished.
28. See 22 across.
30. No computers allowed to aid and ____ a player.
34. In the style of Harding, prolific chess book author.
36. In my duty as TD, I check Eva's membership in USCF and WCF at registration.
38. Marshall plays Qg3 vs. Levits- key at Breslau 1912, and the spec- tators shower his board with this.
39. Chess title above FM, but not as high as GM, plus the first master title.
41. This form of hand chess set is no longer popular, aka dinosaur, but only a little baby one.
42. If we asked one of these, he might tell us prophetically whether the Millionaire Tnmt will begin to achieve its objective of turning chess into a high stakes, poker-like spectator adventure.
44. The one you hope he or she is thinking of while you are out of town for your chess tnmt.
46. The move your opponent makes one move before forced heavy material loss or mate.
49. Laszlo Polgar's *Chess* is a book that could be called one.
51. A most necessary organiza-tion for players and affiliates.
54. This gigantic chain store is no competition for USCF or Chess House in furnishing players with chess books and equipment.
56. Chess opera (or musical if you will) where the librettist, Tim Rice, lets his chess champ tell us in recitative, (or rap rhythm if you will), "one town is very like another, when your head's down over your pieces, _____".
58. "My kingdom for a _____" vs. my opponent's bad Bishop
59. Not my favorite quote, but Bobby Fischer reportedly said, "I like the moment I break another man's _____".
60. Last name initial of these players included on FIDE's Top 100 in Oct. 2014: Pavel 2719 UKR, no. 30, Aleksey (just barely making it as one of three no.100s) 2654 RUS, and Viswanathan 2785 IND., no.6. The list is topped, of course, by Magnus C at 2863.
61. The Chess Quartet in recent history: Judit, Sophia, Susan, _____.
62. This word means raw or rough in German. In England, these three letters stand for the magni-



ficient location of opera, and where World Ballet Day will be celebrated in October, as will National Chess Day In the U.S.A.
63. The official ISO code, or abbrev. of E. Lasker's native land, in his native tongue

Down

1. If W.Steinitz were alive today, would he earn this FIDE title, or would he be a GM?
2. We'll castle queenside, and our King will _____ shelter in the center.
3. No one but Mikhail could come up with this win.
4. No special tournaments reserved for these, but there may be someday, if the women keep getting better.
5. The classic and romantic, just as in literature and the other arts, have passed.
6. A different arrangement of the pieces in this Fischer variant.
7. The World Championship, in knockout format, originally sched-uled for Oct., 2014 (and now postponed) for the best of these folk.
8. The Italian word for the gift Marshall received in 37 across
9. I have never known a chess player to do this after he wins
10. Even a flourishing chess club cannot earn enough to buy a building. On the bright side, the club will not be subject to one of these on the property if the economy dives down.
11. Indeed there will be time for chess, and as T.S. Elliott says, "time for all the works and _____ of hands that lift and drop a question on your plate."
16. The well- dressed player could wear one, in case the USCF has another US Open in Hawaii.
20. Attack it at its base!
23. A friendly game with mon _____ in France or Quebec.
25. This chess board and pieces from walnut and _____, or plastic ?
26. Sometime after midnight at the chess club, the parents begin to _____, while their elementary school offspring fight on with determination at the chess board.

27. A system invented by a Hungarian born American physicist, adopted by USCF in 1960, and used today in a modified version.
29. Another game with a friend, only south of the border.
31. Passed pawns must _____.
32. Now that USCF has tax free 501© 3 status, are we on the _____ of great things?
33. A two man simul, such as the Lee siblings, FM Michael and WIM Megan put on for the fundraising benefit of the SCC.
35. The ones who make the concept of the chess tnmt a reality.
37. "_____ prophetic soul! He's better in the endgame.
40. Yes, dear newcomer, you need to be one with USCF and also the state Federation.
43. Instead of the customary US Sr. Open in this year of 2014, a group of some 30 Srs. are cruising on a casino ship, leaving some of us on land completely _____.
45. Some T.D.s might rule that if your cell goes off 3 times, that's it!
46. Nonprofit organization focus-ing on basic education for under-privileged children in India which sponsors chess tnmts.
47. Not too many GMs names in these lights; more for actors.
48. Some like to play chess here with a giant chess set.
50. While playing chess to the best of one's ability, one might well agree with Descartes and his "cogito _____ sum".
52. In the opening, the hyper-modern player is willing to do this to space in the center.
53. WIM, and 4 times national women's champion of Germany, _____ Friedl Rinder (1905-2001).
55. When you want an answer, but not too formally.
57. What some spectators may have uttered in astonished admiration as Marshall played his 38 across move.

Answers coming in the April 2015 issue.

Chess Groovies

By NM Daniel He and NM Samuel He

Hello readers! This month's focus will be on Magnus Carlsen, the current World Champion. With a FIDE rating of 2850+, Carlsen is considered by most to be the best player of today. What makes his playing style unique is his superior understanding of chess to his competitors and his ambition to win every game. In the recent Tata Steel, when strong GM Ivanchuk played for and got a draw as white against Carlsen, the World Champion said "This is **not** chess, this is just nonsense," expressing his anger for winning streak being ended in such a way.

As Carlsen has superior understanding of chess in general, he occasionally uses it to his advantage by playing rare or even dubious openings to get his opponents out of theory so that the game will be decided by who is stronger, not who can memorize more theory!

Magnus Carlsen (2816) –

Hikaru Nakamura (2769) [B32]

Tata Steel 2013 (R10), January 11, 2013
[Samuel He]

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 e5 5.Nb5 d6 6.g3!?

This move has rarely been played before, and never at the top level. The move looks like a decent alternate to the main moves N1c3 or c4.

6...h5?!

Nakamura is a very aggressive player, and must've thought that the "rare" move g3 cannot possibly work, and decided to go for a direct attack. However, this idea is not fully accurate as the center is still very open, making such h-pawn attacks dubious.

7.N1c3 a6 8.Na3 b5 9.Nd5

Here, it is evident that the move g3 was not bad at all, and h5 simply did nothing but weaken the black kingside.

9...Nge7 10.Bg2 Bg4?



Position after 10...Bg4

The purpose of this move is unclear as White's position isn't even weak after f3.

11.f3 Be6 12.c3!

This move defends the key squares of b4 and d4. Now, Black's position is very cramped as the bishop on f8 can never move, and as a result of that, he cannot castle kingside, nor do anything on the kingside.

12...h4

Desperately trying to get some counterplay on the kingside, but as long as Carlsen doesn't play any weakening moves himself on that area of the board, Black would remain without counterplay.

13.Nc2 Bxd5

While trading off pieces when behind in space is generally a good idea, in this case, the exchange gives White full control of the center of the board, while the black knights remain completely passive.

14.exd5 Na5 15.f4!



Position after 15.f4

Carlsen correctly opens up the board in the area where he is strongest: the center. Black soon found it very hard to deal with the opening of the center with his passive pieces.

15...Nf5

Is Black getting counterplay??

16.g4!

Forcing the knight back. While this move does weaken the kingside, Black's pieces are in no position to take advantage of it.

16...h3!

Best try for some play. ...Ne7 h3 and Black is completely lost.

17.Be4 Nh4

17...Qh4+ looks scary, but really, there are no threats at all.

18.0-0 g6 19.Kh1!

Sensing some potential ...Rg8+ threats,

White moves his king to a safer square.

19...Bg7 20.f5!

Otherwise, the bishop can become active if ...exf4 is allowed.

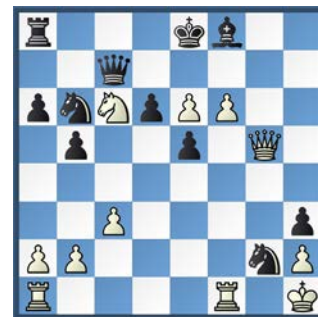
20...gxf5 21.gxf5 Ng2

Where is that knight headed?

22.f6 Bf8 23.Qf3

With all of Black's pieces on passive squares, White easily won the game afterwards.

23...Qc7 24.Nb4 Nb7 25.Nc6 Nc5 26.Bf5 Nd7 27.Bg5 Rg8 28.Qh5 Nb6 29.Be6 Rxc5 30.Qxc5 fxe6 31.dxe6 1-0



Position after 31.dxe6

This game highlights Carlsen's superior understanding of chess. By playing a rare opening, he tricks Nakamura into thinking the opening is bad, and goes for a quick attack, which Carlsen correctly punishes by proving that the quick attack is dubious.

Baduur Jobava (2727) –

Magnus Carlsen (2862) [A01]

Tata Steel 2015 (R8), January 18, 2015
[Samuel He]

1.b3 g6 2.Bb2 Nf6 3.Nc3!?

Just one of many unusual openings involving the move Nc3 by Jobava! 3.e4 and 3.Bxf6 are more logical.

3...Bg7 4.d4 c5!

It is clear that White's pieces are awkwardly placed, and Carlsen accurately decides to open up the position as early as possible to take advantage of it.

5.e3 cxd4 6.exd4 d5

Black is already slightly better now. White's b2-bishop is already useless, and with the half-open c-file for Black, an attack by White seems very unlikely.

7.Qd2 Nc6 8.f3 h5!

Normally, this move would be dubious as it gives White the g5-square for free.

However, White's blocked up bishop on b2 is in no position to take advantage of this move. Black may later play ...Bh6, activating the bishop, or simply play ...Bf5 without having to worry about g4.

9.Bb5 Qd6

Carlsen foresees that White wants to trade off the bishop for the knight, giving White a nice c5-square for the knight. In addition, without the half-open c-file, a later 0-0-0 may be fine for White.

10.Nge2 Bh6 11.Qd1 Bf5



Position after 11...Bf5

So far, Carlsen's moves have been very logical and simple, and is already clearly better against a strong GM!

12.Bc1!

Jobava sees that his b2-bishop is doing nothing on b2 and that the h6-bishop is very active. Logically, he decides to trade them off.

12...Bxc1

Carlsen would like to keep his active bishop. Unfortunately, if his bishop retreats, White's bishop could go to the active square f4, attacking the queen. For this reason, Carlsen is forced to make a small concession.

13.Rxc1 Rc8 14.Qd2 0-0 15.Bxc6 bxc6!?



Position after 15...bxc6

While ...Rxc6 and ...Qxc6 are both fine moves, Carlsen has another plan in mind. While good control of the c-file would be good for Black, ...bxc6 threatens to open up the center instead with ...e5!, and in some cases, ...c5!

16.Na4 Rfe8

With ...c5 stopped, Carlsen focuses his

attention on trying to play ...e5.

17.0-0 e5 18.c3!?

The idea behind this move is that if Black carelessly decides to play ...exd4, then after cxd4, White is actually much better. White would have good control of the c-file and the c5-square for his knight. On the other hand, f3 nicely defends any of the black pieces to get to e4, stopping any kind of play on the file altogether.

18...h4

Preventing the knight from getting to g3, and gaining space in general.

19.dxe5 Rxe5 20.b4!



Position after 20.b4

This move strongly gives White two strong knight outposts on c5 and d4. White would be better if it weren't for the active rooks on the e-file.

20...Rce8 21.Nd4 h3!

This move forces White to weaken his kingside one way or another. As it turns out, this move was critical to giving Carlsen the win.

22.g3 Bc8 23.Nc5 Nd7 24.Nd3 R5e7

An interesting position has been reached. Jobava has played very accurately and is only slightly worse now. Carlsen has strong control of the e-file, but none of the squares on the files are weak, so White is fine. In contrast, White's knights are on strong outposts, but neither are particularly threatening, so Black is fine.

25.Rfe1 c5 26.bxc5 Nxc5 27.Nf4 Rxe1+ 28.Rxe1 Rxe1+ 29.Qxe1



Position after 29.Qxe1

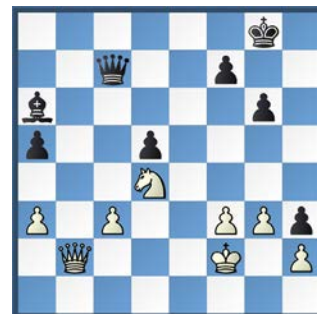
When I first saw this game, I thought White was better. White had the strong knight vs. a "bad" bishop. This would

be true — if Black's h3-pawn was on h7. However, with the pawn on h3 with queens on the board, White's pieces are forced to stay passive as not to get mated.

29...Ne6 30.Nfxe6 Bxe6 31.Kf2 Bd7 32.Qb1 Qc7 33.Qb3 Bc8

Carlsen's last few moves were an attempt to find the best square for his pieces. Since White's king is open, Black has the time to move around freely without much risk.

34.a3 a5 35.Qb2 Ba6!



Position after 35...Ba6

The bishop finds the most active square! In some lines, Black can even try ...Qc4 and ...Qf1+, with a winning position.

36.Nc2 Qa7+ 37.Ne3 Bc4 38.f4 Kh7 39.g4!?

White is tired of having to play passively, and decides to get rid of the h3-pawn. But this move also weakens the h4-square, a great penetration point for the queen.

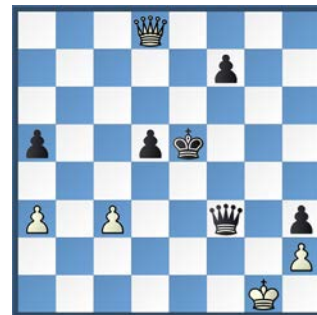
39...Qe7 40.Qc1 Qe4

Carlsen's queen is on the most active square on the whole board, meaning that the win will come very soon.

41.f5 Qf4+ 42.Kg1 gxf5 43.gxf5 Bd3 44.Qe1 Bxf5

One of the White pawns have been lost, and with the annoying h3-pawn still present, White's position has not gotten any easier to play.

45.Nxf5 Qxf5 46.Qg3 Kh6 47.Qb8 Qf3 48.Qh8+ Kg6 49.Qg8+ Kf6 50.Qd8+ Ke5



Position after 50...Ke5

Black's king will eventually run away from all the checks. Anticipating this, Jobava resigns.

0-1

Seattle Chess Club Tournaments

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February 21

See www.chesssport.com for details.

GM Emil Anka Simul

Feb. 22, Mar. 15

Sunday Tornado

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

Feb. 28, Mar. 28

Saturday Quads

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

April 11

SCC Novice

Format: 4-SS. Open to U1200 and UNR. **TC:** G/75;d5. **EF:** \$11 by 4/8, \$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..

Seattle Spring Open

March 20-22 or 21-22

A two-section Swiss (4 rounds – Open, 5 rounds – Reserve) with a time control of 40/120 and SD/60 with a 5 second delay (two-day Reserve schedule – Round 1, G/60; d5). The prize fund of \$950 is based on 52 paid entries, 6 per prize group.

a Northwest Grand Prix event

Open		Reserve (U1950)	
First	\$200	First	\$120
Second	\$150	Second	\$80
U2100	\$100	U1750	\$65
		U1550	\$55
		U1350	\$45
		Unrated	\$15

Plus Score Pool — \$120

Entry Fees: \$33 if rec'd by 3/18 (\$24 SCC memb., \$29 memb. of other dues-required CCs in the NW), \$42 at site (\$33 SCC memb., \$38 memb. of other dues-required CCs in the NW). **Unrated**—Free with purchase of 1-yr USCF & 1-yr WCF. **Add \$1 to any EF for 2-day schedule.**

Registration: **Open**—Sat. 11- noon; **Reserve**—Fri. 7-7:45pm, Sat. 9-9:45am.

Rounds: **Open**—Sat. 12:30-6:45, Sun. 11-5; **Reserve**—Fri. 8, Sat. (10 @ G/64)-12:30-6:45, Sun. 11-5.

Byes: 1 in Open, 2 in Reserve (Sunday rounds, commit at registration).

Miscellaneous: USCF & WCF membership req'd. No smoking.

The Hotel
 Nexus on Northgate Way
 less than a block from the club is offering
 a \$109 chess rate (1 king or 2 queens) during
 the winter months. Includes complimentary hot
 breakfast and free shuttle to downtown/U-
 District.

**Congratulations
 to Marcell Szabo for
 achieving the National
 Master title at the SCC
 January Tornado!**

How to Find the SCC

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

Upcoming Events

♞ denotes 2014 Northwest Grand Prix event; for Seattle Chess Club events see page 30

♞ **Mar 7 Northwest Open, Tacoma, WA.** Site: Metro Parks Community Center, 3513 Portland Ave, Tacoma, WA. Format: 3 round quads. Time Control: G/90; d5. Entry Fee: \$25, \$22 for Tacoma Chess Club members. Prize Fund: 1st \$40 each quad. Registration: 9 to 9:45. Rounds: 10:00, 1:30, 4:45. Byes: one half point bye available. USCF and state membership required. NS NC. Wheelchair accessible. Entries/Info: Gary J. Dorfner, 8423 B St., Tacoma, WA 98445, (253) 535-2536, email ggarychess@aol.com.

♞ **Mar 14-15 Portland Spring Open, Portland, OR.** 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 10:00, 2:30 and 7:00 on Saturday, 10:00 and 2:30 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.

♞ **Mar 28/Apr 25 Portland CC Game in 60. Portland, OR.** 4SS, G/60;d5. TD may switch to 5SS and G/45;d5 if more than 25 entries. Portland Chess Club, 8205 SW 24th Ave., Portland, OR. EF: \$20, \$5 discount for PCC Members. OCF/WCF/ICA and USCF membership required, 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 email@pdxchess.org, phone 503-246-2978, website www.pdxchess.org.

Apr 3-5 4th Annual Larry Evans Memorial, Reno, NV (see full-page ad on page 17)

Apr 3-6 Grand Pacific Open (FIDE Rated), Victoria, BC <http://grandpacificopen.pbworks.com/w/page/15387541/FrontPage>

♞ **Apr 4 Daffodil Open, Tacoma, WA.** Site: Metro Parks Community Center, 3513 Portland Ave., Tacoma, WA. Format: 3 round Quads. Time Control: G/90; d5. Entry Fee: \$25, \$22 for Tacoma Chess Club members. Prize Fund: 1st \$40 each Quad. Reg. 9:00-9:45 am. Rounds: 10:00, 1:30, 4:45. Byes: one half point bye available. USCF and state membership required. NS NC. Wheelchair Accessible. Entries/Info: Gary J. Dorfner, 8423 E. B St., Tacoma, WA 98445, (253) 535-2536, email ggarychess@aol.com.

♞ **Apr 11-12 9th Annual Clark Harmon Memorial, Portland, OR.** (see full page ad on page 16)

♞ **Apr 18 ICA Spring Open, Pocatello, ID.** 4SS, G/60;d5 rnds 1 & 2, G/90;d5 rnds 3 & 4. 2 Sections: Open and Reserve (U1400) (may be combined for pairing purposes if low turnout.) Site: ISU, Student Union Bldg., Bear River Room, 1065 S. 8th St., Pocatello, Idaho. USCF mem req., ICA mem req., OSA. EF:\$30 (U18 & 60+ \$25), by 4/15/15, \$35 (all) after. Reg & Ck in: 7:30-8:30 AM 04/18. If not ckd in & pd by 8:30, may not be paired in 1st rnd. RNDs: 9, 11:15, 2, 5:15. ½ pt byes: Max 1, Rd 1-3 only. Request 1st rnd byes before 1st round is paired. All others commit by end of rd 2. Prizes: \$\$ b/30; Open: \$200-100-75; Reserve: \$75-50-25. HR/ENT/INFO: ICA % Jay Simonson, 391 Carol Ave. Idaho Falls, ID, 83401, 208-206-7667, rooknjay@yahoo.com, <http://www.idahochessassociation.org>, NC, NS, W.

Apr 24-26 Washington State Elementary & Middle School Chess Championships Spokane, WA. (see full-page ad on page 21)

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