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NWC Staff

Editor: Jeffrey Roland,
editor@nwchess.com

Games Editor: Ralph Dubisch,
chesscoaching@gmail.com

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, Jim Berezow, Chouhanik
Airapetian (alternate for Marty Campbell)

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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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Two players looking at a tablet at the Washington State Elementary & Middle School Chess Championships by Antony Chiang.....	Back Cover

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

On the front cover:

Some prize winners at the Washington State Elementary & Middle School Chess Championships. (L-R) Gabe Gustafson, Kara Chiang, and Josh Lubanski holding the tenth place trophy for 1st-3rd grade teams. These are Saint George's School players. James Stripes, TD/Co-Organizer/SGS coach, is in the picture too. Photo credit: Antony Chiang.

On the back cover:

Simon McMynne (right) is looking at the tablet with Kara Chiang at the Washington State Elementary & Middle School Chess Championships. Photo credit: Antony Chiang.

Chesstoons:

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

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

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

Washington Chess News

More Games from Washington Closed

The following games are from the Washington Championship and Premier tournaments that we started covering in the April 2015 issue. The players themselves annotated these games, and we share them here for the readers of Northwest Chess.—Editor

FM William Schill (2215) –
NM Roland Feng (2295) [C10]
WA Championship Seattle, WA
(R7), February 15, 2015
[William Schill]

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.Nc3

Already a surprise is coming, I expected Nf6 next and had prepared for nothing else.

3...dxe4 4.Nxe4 Nd7 5.Bd3 Ngf6 6.Qe2

Moving the Bishop and Queen while leaving the g1-knight at home for now White sets a trap. There is no chance Roland would fall into it, but some of you readers may catch someone with the following variation:

6...Nxe4 7.Bxe4 Nf6 8.Bxb7! Bxb7 9.Qb5+ Nd7 10.Qxb7

6...Be7 7.Nf3 b6

Black's move order is inaccurate and White can play Ne5 planning to cause trouble with Bb5 soon. I just wanted to play a solid opening as early tactics had blown up on me in the previous two rounds.



Position after 7...b6

8.0–0

8.Ne5 Nxe5 (8...Bb7 9.Nxf7 Kxf7 10.Ng5+ Ke8 11.Nxe6 Qc8 12.Nxg7+ Kf7 13.Qe6+ Kxg7 14.Qxe7+ Kg8 15.Bc4+ Nd5 16.Qe6+ Kg7 17.Bh6#) 9.dxe5 Nxe4 10.Bxe4 Rb8 11.Qg4 g5 12.Be3 h5

8...Bb7 9.Bf4 0–0 10.Rad1

White has a small but stable edge. Black's best idea might be to trade some pieces.

10...Nd5

10...Nxe4 11.Bxe4 Bxe4 12.Qxe4 Bd6

11.Bc1

11.Bd2 this would let Black pick off one of the Bishops because the c2-pawn hangs after Nb4 Bc4.

11...Nb4 12.Bc4 Nf6 13.Nxf6+ Bxf6 14.c3 Nd5 15.Rfe1 Ne7?!



Position after 15...Ne7

15...c5 16.dxc5 bxc5 17.Ne5. The computer thinks White is better by some tiny bit, just like anytime during the last half dozen moves.

16.Ng5! Ng6

16...Bxg5? 17.Bxg5 h6 18.Bxe7 Qxe7 19.d5

17.Qh5 Bxg5 18.Bxg5 Qd6 19.Qg4

After the game Roland pointed out a fantastic line: 19.Rd3 Qc6 20.d5 Qxc4 21.Rh3 h6 22.Bxh6 gxh6 23.Qxh6 with an ongoing attack, however 22...Qxd5! and Black wins instantly. 19.Bd3 was one way to keep up the pressure: 19...c5 20.Re3

19...Bd5! 20.Bxd5

20.Bd3 Bxa2 21.h4± I was in no mood to give up even a pawn.

20...exd5 21.Re2

21.h4 h6 22.Bd2 Rfe8 23.h5 Nf8 24.Bf4 Qc6 25.Qg3 Rac8 26.Rxe8 Rxe8 27.Bxc7 Re2 whatever, NO thank you.

21...Rae8 22.Rde1 Rxe2 23.Qxe2 f6 24.Bd2 Qd7 25.b3 c6 26.g3 Kf7 27.Bc1 Re8 28.Qxe8+ Qxe8 29.Rxe8 Kxe8 30.Ba3 Kd7

There is really nothing to do.

½–½

FM William Schill (2215) –
FM Costin Cozianu (2466) [B78]
WA Championship Seattle, WA
(R9), February 16, 2015
[William Schill]

1.e4 c5

I had prepared nothing for the Sicilian.

2.Nf3 d6 3.d4

Might as well play into the Open and find out what is in store for me!

3...cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 g6

No kidding, the Dragon. No reason to worry, HAH. My usual result is to castle queenside and then get my king chased back to g1.

6.Be3 Bg7 7.f3 0–0 8.Qd2 Nc6 9.Bc4 Bd7 10.0–0–0 Rb8 11.Bb3

11.Nxc6 bxc6 12.Bxa7 scores badly after 12...Rb7 13.Be3 Qa5.

11...Na5 12.Bh6 b5



Position after 12...b5

13.h4?

13.Bxg7 Kxg7 14.Nd5 Nc4 15.Bxc4 bxc4 16.Nxf6 exf6 17.Qc3. This line puts great pressure on Black's entire idea, but I did not see it during the game.

13...e5 14.Bxg7 Kxg7 15.Nde2 Nxb3+

15...b4 16.Nd5 Nxb3+

16.cxb3 b4

Black has an edge whatever White tries.

17.Nd5 Nxd5 18.Qxd5 Rb6

To my good fortune my opponent saw a ghost and offered a draw!

½–½

Cameron Leslie (2081) –
Kevin Gafni (2077) [E69]
WA Premier Seattle, WA
(R1), February 7, 2015
[Cameron Leslie]

Very excited and grateful to get the chance to play in this event. I have never

played in such a large round-robin with such strong players. Awesome, kudos Washington Chess Federation.

1.d4 Nf6 2.Nf3 g6 3.g3 Bg7 4.Bg2 0-0 5.0-0 d6 6.c4 e6 7.Nc3 Nbd7 8.e4 e5 9.h3 Re8 10.Re1 Qb6



Position after 10...Qb6

Here was the first moment I didn't really have a clue how to proceed. Obviously Black is putting more pressure on d4 and I need to respond somehow. I thought about playing d5, but then I should have done it last move so my rook would be better placed. d5 is the number one move in my database so it shows how much I know. I chose 11. Rb1 instead. At the time it seemed useful, preparing b4, protecting b2 if the bishop wants to move and stepping off the long diagonal.

11.Rb1 exd4 12.Na4?!

12.Nxd4 Nxe4 13.Nxe4 Bxd4 I couldn't find a convincing follow up here so I rejected 12. Nxd4. In hindsight I'm not sure I need a convincing move, maybe just 14.Bh6 and ask Black what are you going to play now?

12...Qa6

Now Black is clearly better.

13.Nxd4 Qxc4 14.b3 Qb4

But this was inaccurate, my opponent later said he missed Nc2 entirely. After the simple 14...Qa6, Black seems to be just up a pawn.

15.Nc2 Qa5 16.Qxd6

Now it isn't so clear.



Position after 16.Qxd6

16...Nd5!

Wow, what a move. Makes a lot of sense, the knight is coming to c3 and look at

Black's control of the dark squares. Also the threat is Bf8 trapping my queen.

17.Bh6!?

Original idea but probably not good enough; the prosaic Qa3 was better, just regrouping. 17.Qa3 Nc3 18.Nxc3 Qxc3 19.Re2 Interesting position where both sides have some untangling to do. But probably equal.

17...Be5?

Kevin later said he considered 17...Re6 but eventually rejected it. However it was the best move. 17...Re6 18.Qa3 Bxh6 19.exd5 cxd5 20.Rbd1 Nf6 Looks good for Black with bishop pair and extra pawn. 17...Bxh6 18.exd5 Rxe1+ 19.Rxe1 is much better for White as Black has a hard time dealing with his back rank weakness.

18.exd5!

I have to admit I was a little scared to play this but it turns out I was spot on. White gets more than enough for the queen and eventually wins it back.

18...Bxd6 19.Rxe8+ Nf8

Both 19...Nf8 and 19...Bf8 lead to the same thing.

20.Rbe1 Qc7 21.Rxf8+ Bxf8 22.Re8 Qd6

Somewhere in here frankly I was waiting for Kevin to resign but as we will see, you gotta pay attention.

23.dxc6

23.Ne3, with ideas of Nc4 or Ng4-f6, is also very good. I decided instead to break up and win the c6-pawn.

23...bxc6



Position after 23...bxc6

24.Ne3??

On the previous move this was a good idea; now it's a terrible blunder and it's lucky I don't lose on the spot. 24.Rxf8+ Qxf8 25.Bxf8 Kxf8 26.Nc5 leaves White in total control.

24...Bb7

Here I realized what an idiot I had been. Everyone knows how hard it is to recover after letting the win slip.

25.Bxf8 Qd3 26.Rxa8 Bxa8 27.Bh6

Now a tricky endgame has arisen. If I can consolidate I like my chances. It certainly seemed like I wouldn't lose with the bishop-pair and the massive knight on e3 covering everything.

27...Qb1+ 28.Bf1 Bb7 29.Nc3 Qc1 30.Ne4

Now I was having delusions of grandeur with ideas Nf6+ and Ne3-g4-e5-f7 mate! But Black of course won't let that happen.

30...Ba6 31.Bf4?!

31.Kh2 Bxf1 32.Nf6+ Kh8 33.Nf5



Position after 31.Bf4

31...f5?!

Returning the favor. Much better was 31...Bxf1 32.Nxf1 Qb2 33.Nc5 Qxa2 Still hard to see how Black wins though after bishop comes to e3.

32.Nc4 Qa1 33.Kg2

I had planned to play 33. Ned6 but I keep having the bishop on f1 pinned to my king in all my analysis lines so I decided impulsively to fix the problem but...

33...fxe4

He just takes my knight. End of an interesting game. Sadly we didn't get to see more of the endgame.

0-1

**FM Paul Bartron (2120) –
Cameron Leslie (2081) [B10]**
WA Premier Seattle, WA
(R2), February 7, 2015
[Cameron Leslie]

1.e4 c6 2.c4 d5 3.cxd5 cxd5 4.exd5 Nf6 5.Bb5+ Nbd7 6.Nc3 a6

I had prepared this exact line based of a comment Mr. Bartron made in *Northwest Chess* magazine several years ago! It pays to read the magazine.

7.Be2

This move scores well, but I'm not sure why. After 7...b5 Black seems to be doing very well.

7...b5 8.a3 Bb7 9.Bf3 Ne5 10.d4 Nxf3+ 11.Nxf3 Nxd5

[Diagram top of next page]

At this point I thought I was doing very well. Bishop-pair and isolated d-pawn.



Position after 11...Nxd5

12.0-0 Nxc3

I played this being afraid after 12...e6 of 13.Ne4 and Nc5. Turns out there is nothing to be worried about. Although this move doesn't spoil anything. 12...e6 13.Ne4 Nf6 14.Nc5 Bd5.

13.bxc3 e6 14.Re1 Be7 15.a4 0-0 16.Rb1 Bc6?!

This seems to be the start of my troubles, inviting the knight to e5 seems dangerous. 16...Rc8 17.axb5 Rxc3 18.bxa6 Bxa6. Black is definitely for choice.

17.Ne5 Be8

Following in the footsteps of Steinitz!

18.axb5 axb5 19.Qb3 b4!

I am really proud of this move. I get rid of my weakness and break up the position for my bishops!

20.d5?

This is a big mistake that I failed to capitalize on.



Position after 20.d5

20...exd5?

20...Ba4! This move leaves White struggling. 21.Qc4 (21.Qa2 b3; 21.Qb2 Qxd5) 21...exd5.

21.cxb4 f6 22.Nf3 Bb5??

Simply losing.

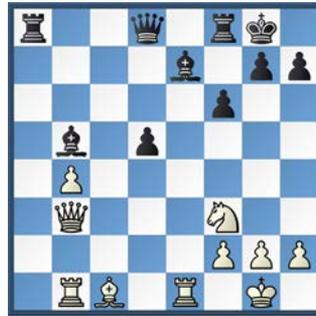
[Diagram top of next column]

23.Rxe7!

Great tactical vision. Not too hard to see when it says White to play and win, but during a game is a different story.

23...Qxe7

23...Bc4 24.Qe3



Position after 22...Bb5

24.Qxd5+ Kh8 25.Qxb5 Rfb8 26.Qc4 Rc8 27.Qb3 g5

Desperation.

28.Be3 Rab8 29.Nxg5

And I had enough. Very disappointed to have lost from two very promising positions to start the tournament.

1-0

Cameron Leslie (2081) – Kyle Haining (2090) [A39]
WA Premier Seattle, WA (R3), February 8, 2015
[Cameron Leslie]

I had played Kyle before and lost, so I was definitely looking for some revenge in this game.

1.d4 g6 2.Nf3 Bg7 3.g3 Nf6 4.Bg2 0-0 5.0-0 c5 6.c4 cxd4 7.Nxd4 Nc6 8.Nc3 Ng4

I've actually seen this move before in another game in which I also went down in flames, maybe it's time to study this... The position isn't exactly the same, but here it is. Cameron Leslie - John Julian 2012 1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 c5 3.Nf3 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nc6 5.Nc3 g6 6.g3 Bg7 7.Bg2 Ng4 8.e3 Nge5 9.b3 Qa5 10.Bb2 Nxd4 11.Qxd4 Nf3+ 0-1. So I already had some idea how dangerous these early Ng4 ideas could be.

9.e3 d6

My young opponent had played these moves very quickly so I should have known that he wasn't just hanging a pawn...



Position after 9...d6

10.Nxc6

10.b3 Much more circumspect.

10...bxc6 11.Bxc6? Rb8

Already my position is difficult. Ne5 is threatened and there really isn't a good way to stop it. I went for drastic measures.

12.f4 Bxc3

The only real way to claim an advantage. Still a brave move.

13.bxc3 Qb6 14.Qf3

I almost went in for 14.Bf3 Nxe3 15.Bxe3 Qxe3+ 16.Rf2 Qxc3 17.Qe1 This may have been better than what happened in the game, although having a bunch of weaknesses, open king and down a pawn doesn't sound like much fun.

14...Qa5 15.Bd2 Rb2 16.Rad1 Qxa2

Pretty much one way traffic from here on out.

17.Qe2



Position after 17.Qe2

17...Nf6!

I don't care what computers say this is a great move. Bring the knight back and free the bishop to enter.

18.Ra1 Qb3 19.Qd3 Be6 20.Bb5?

The real problem in this position is there really isn't a way to "bail out" into any tenable position. Either try and hold everything and lose or enter into lost endgames.

20...Bf5 21.Qd4 Qc2 22.Rf2



Position after 22.Rf2

22...e5!

Really the move of the game. The tactics all work and White is busted. Great find by Kyle.

23.fx5 dxe5 24.Qh4 Ne4 25.Ba4 Qd3

26.Rxf5 Qxd2

A real demoralizing loss. I never even had a chance to get anything going. After three straight losses the lights were pretty dim heading into the fourth round.

0-1

James Colasurdo (2059) – Cameron Leslie (2081) [E11]
WA Premier Seattle, WA
(R4), February 8, 2015
[Cameron Leslie]

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nf3 Bb4+ 4.Bd2 Qe7
5.Qc2 Bxd2+ 6.Nbxd2 d6 7.e4 e5 8.d5
a5 9.g3 0-0 10.Bg2 Na6

Already it seems as though my position is much more pleasant to play. I think this is a result of the odd move 5.Qc2.

11.0-0 Bg4 12.h3 Bxf3 13.Bxf3 Nc5
14.Bg2 g6

Here I decided to try a theory I had read about, making moves that don't ruin anything and see if the opponent will do some work for you. The other idea is 14...c6 putting pressure on the center.

15.g4 g5

I was proud of this move during the game, cementing the f4-square for my knight and planning to use the g7-square for my other knight to prevent Nf5.

16.b3 Ra7 17.a3 Rfa8

To prevent c5 for the time being.

18.Qc3 Ncd7 19.Rfc1 b6 20.Rab1 Nf8
21.Qe3 Ne8 22.Nf1 Ng6 23.Ng3 Ng7
24.Rb2 Nf4 25.f3

Around here I was really liking my position, but the problem is what to do now?



Position after 25.f3

25...Qf6 26.Bf1 Kf8

I went back to the old strategy of see what he will do for me.

27.Rh2 Ke7 28.Ne2 h5

I like this move a lot, preparing to open the h-file when I want and trying to slow his advance of h4.

29.Nc3 Ng6 30.Nb5 Rb7 31.b4 axb4
32.axb4 Qf4 33.Qxf4 exf4 34.Rhc2 Ne5
35.Kf2 hxg4 36.hxg4 Ne8 37.Be2 Ra4

38.Rb2 Rb8 39.c5

White is finally breaking on the queenside.

39...bxc5 40.bxc5 Rba8

And it looks like I have everything covered here except...

41.Nxc7! Nxc7 42.cxd6+ Kxd6 43.Rb6+
Kd7 44.Rb7 Rc8 45.Bb5+ Kd8 46.Bxa4
Nd3+ 47.Kf1?!

This is the move that lets me off the hook, if I take advantage of it. Much better was 47.Ke2 Nxc1+ 48.Kd2 Na2 49.d6 f6 50.Bb3 Na6 51.Rf7

47...Nxc1 48.d6



Position after 48.d6

And here I made the biggest blunder of all by resigning. I figured the position had to be lost. I didn't even bother to look, I was still reeling from Nxc7 and the three earlier losses. But in fact it's a draw... maybe even better for Black.

48...Nd3 49.dxc7+ Rxc7 50.Rb5 Rc5
51.Rxc5 Nxc5

The computer says this position is equal, but try an interesting test. Play it out with the comp, far easier to play black. Best is probably to keep the rooks on, then most likely drawn. So basically while I had a great time playing in the first weekend, the results certainly didn't match my enthusiasm. I'm hoping to rally next weekend but since the competition remains the same, I'm going to need all the luck I can get.

1-0

FM Paul Bartron (2120) – Kyle Haining (2090) [B08]
WA Premier Seattle, WA
(R7), February 15, 2015
[Kyle Haining]

1.e4 g6 2.d4 Bg7 3.Nf3 d6 4.Bc4 Nf6
5.Qe2 0-0 6.Nc3 Bg4

[Diagram top of next column]

7.h3?!

Black's position is fun to play after this. A better continuation is 7.e5 dxe5 8.dxe5 Nfd7 9.e6 Ne5 10.exf7+ Kh8.

7...Bxf3 8.Qxf3 Nfd7

Black gets pressure on the d4-pawn.



Position after 6...Bg4

9.Ne2 c5 10.dxc5 Qa5+ 11.Bd2 Qxc5
12.Qb3 Qc7 13.Bd3 Nc5 14.Qa3 Nxd3+
15.cxd3 Qc2 16.Rc1

16.Bc1?! holds onto the pawn, but White's pieces are a mess 16...Nd7 17.Qb3 (17.h4 Nc5 18.Rh3 Rfc8+) 17...Rfc8

16...Bxb2 17.Rxc2 Bxa3 18.Rc7



Position after 18.Rc7

18...Na6!

18...Nc6 was my original plan, but after 19.0-0 (19.Rxb7?! Rfb8!) 19...Rfc8 20.Rxb7= White is doing okay.

19.Rxe7

19.Rxb7? Nc5 20.Rxe7 Nxd3+ 21.Kf1 d5+

19...Rfc8 20.Nf4 Rc2 21.Nd5 Bc1
22.Be3 Bxe3

Only move for Black to keep his advantage.

23.Nxe3 Rc1+ 24.Nd1



Position after 24.Nd1

24...Nc5

24...Rb1! 25.0-0 Kf8 26.Rd7 Rb6 27.e5 White has to give up material to free his trapped rook 27...dxe5

25.Kd2?

25.0-0! Kf8 26.Rc7 Nxd3 27.Rxc1 Nxc1
28.Nc3

25...Ra1-+

White's position falls apart.

26.d4 Kf8 27.Rc7 Rxa2+ 28.Ke3 Ra3+
29.Ke2 Nxe4 30.Rxb7 Re8!

White does not have any good ways to get out of the discovery.

0-1

Washington State Elementary & Middle School Chess Championships

By James Stripes

There were 991 competitors playing chess in sixteen sections of three events on Saturday, April 25 at the Spokane Convention Center. The central event was the 2015 Washington State Elementary Chess Championships consisting of seven grade-level sections. The elementary championships have had grade level sections since 2003.

The Spokane Convention Center easily accommodates the elementary championships and allied events on one level with room for growth. There were 875 players in the elementary championships in 2015, compared to 999 the last time the



James Stripes. Photo credit: Antony Chiang



Players in the playing hall. Photo credit: Antony Chiang

event was in Spokane in 2009. Spokane's numbers are slightly larger than in Pasco in 2012 (769 players). When the event has been in western Washington, it has drawn in excess of one thousand participants every year since 2004.

Both the Friday bughouse and the I Love Chess Too events also were smaller than six years ago, but remained significant elements of the event. I Love Chess Too and Bughouse were first added to the state championship in 2007. ILC2 is for players who did not qualify for the championship, or who are too old, or who live outside Washington. This year the Washington State Middle School Championship was an integral part of the event. The three MS sections drew 68 players, 30 in the two-day Open section.

The event grew in other ways. U.S. Women's Champion GM Irina Krush joined the event, transforming the one- and two-day championships into a three-day chess festival.

GM Krush kicked off the weekend with a well-attended lecture at the Spokane Chess Club on Thursday night. She then played in that evening's blitz tournament, which she won 8-0. Friday afternoon, she offered a chess camp. The room was packed with young players of a wide range of skill levels. After the camp,

Krush played a twenty-board simul. On Saturday, during the championships, she analyzed young players' games all day. After the awards, she took on a group of children in a blindfold exhibition. Her grace, charm, and smile were still evident at dinner at 10:00 p.m. Saturday night.

Although the overall size of the state championships is smaller than in the late 1990s (2008 was the peak year with 1414 players), the number of participants from eastern Washington has grown substantially. After more than a decade of growth in the Tri-Cities, the support of Pasco School District for youth chess brought 125 players to the event from its schools. Pasco's Virgie Robinson Elementary took home two team trophies: 19th in 1-3, and 22nd in 4-6. This was also the first year that brought players from Republic in north central Washington.

Growth within Spokane was also evident at the tournament. In 2009, most of Spokane's participants were from three schools. Two of those, Arcadia in Deer Park and Saint George's School, have had

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GM Irina Krush about to give a simul. Photo credit: Antony Chiang

teams present for more than a dozen years. However, the bulk of Spokane's players are from new programs that have come about due to coaching services offered by the Inland Chess Academy. Both Pioneer School (16th) and Saint George's (10th) won team trophies in 1-3. The Libby Center in Spokane won 16th in 4-6.

The Inland Chess Academy did not exist in 2009. This year, it was a host organization, joining the Gary Younker Foundation and Spokane Sports Commission, the organizations that brought the event to Spokane in 2009. Inland Chess Academy was responsible for bringing Irina Krush to Spokane.

Congratulations are due to all participants, especially to state champions and those who finished close behind.

INDIVIDUALS

Sixth Grade

Champion Revanth Pothukuchi 5.0
 2nd-3rd Freya Gulamali and Naomi Bashkansky 4.5
 Twelve players with 4.0

Fifth Grade

Champions Garrett Casey, George

Michailov, and William Nichols 5.0
 4th Kyle Zhang 4.5

Eighteen players with 4.0

Fourth Grade

Champions Jacob Zarzhevskiy and Jason Zhang 5.0

3rd-4th Jack Little and Rishi Hazra 4.5

Twenty-two players with 4.0

Third Grade

Champions Anirudh Rajesh and Jeffrey Tso 5.0

Seventeen players with 4.0

Second Grade

Champions Joseph Levine, Matthew Hwang, and Angela Chen 5.0

Twelve players with 4.0

First Grade

Champions Owen Xuan and Mythreya Dharani 5.0

Ten players with 4.0

Kindergarten

Champion Sophie Velea

Seven players with 4.0

Middle School

Champion Zachary T. Zhang 4.5

2nd-4th Addison Lee, Joshua Lewis-Sandy, and Artjom Menkov

Middle School U/1300 (four rounds)

Caden Deutscher and Isidro Larios 4.0

Middle School U/1000

Thomas Short 5.0

I Love Chess Too

K-1 Brandon Teh 5.0

K-2 Sophia Gochoel, Roan Krishnamurthy, and Denver Brown 4.0

K-3 Peter Sweeney 4.5

K-7 Alan Jiang 5.0

K-8 Gerardo Villacana 5.0

Open Sridar Seshadri 4.5

TEAMS

Grades 1-3 (118 Teams)

APP @ Lincoln Elementary School, Seattle 18.0

Seattle Country Day 16.0

Grades 4-6 (149 Teams)

Odle Middle School, Bellevue 17.0

APP @ Lincoln 16.0

Bear Creek, Woodinville 16.0

Washington at National Junior High Championship

By Breck Haining

Dear Northwest Chess,

I write with a news tip.

Three Seattle Chess Club members, Kyle and Karen Haining and Vikram Ramasamy, played in the National Junior High Chess Championships in Louisville, Kentucky, April 24-26, 2015. In the National K-9 Bughouse Championship tournament Kyle and Vikram teamed up and won 3rd place. Karen and a boy from Detroit teamed up and won 24th place. 42 teams competed in the bughouse tournament. In the National K-9 Blitz Championship tournament Kyle won 1st place and Vikram tied for 8th place and won 15th place on tie breaks. 181 students competed in the blitz tournament. In the National K-9 Chess Championship tournament, Kyle won 5th place in the K-9 Championship section, Vikram tied for 20th place and won 24th place on tie breaks in the K-8 Championship section, and Karen tied for 5th place and won 13th place on tie breaks in the K-9 Under 1250 section.

Over 900 players from across the nation participated in the chess championship tournament. 140 students competed in the K-9 Championship section. Of these, at least 5 were National Masters, and another 8 had expert ratings. 216 students competed in the K-8 Championship section. Of these, at least 4 were National Masters, and 15 more had expert ratings. 159 students competed in the K-9 Under 1250 section. 169 students competed in the K-8 Under 1000 section. 183 students competed in the K-8 Under 750 section. 50 students competed in the K-9 Unrated section.

Additional details about the National Junior High School Chess Championships



Kyle Haining with his trophies. Photo credit: Breck Haining.

may be found at: <http://www.uschess.org/tournaments/2015/jhs/>.

Regards,

Breck Haining

Additional Report

By Breck Haining

Over 900 students from across the nation participated in the National Junior High Chess Championship tournament in Louisville, Kentucky April 24-26, 2015. Eight were from Washington state. Their results were as follows:

National K-9 Bughouse Championship Tournament

3rd Place: Kyle Haining & Vikram Ramasamy (9 out of 12 points)

24th Place: (partner from MI) & Karen Haining (6 out of 12 points)

National K-9 Blitz Championship Tournament

1st Place: Kyle Haining (11 out of 12 points)

15th Place: Vikram Ramasamy (9 out of 12 points)

National Junior High Chess Championship Tournament

K-9 Championship Section:

5th Place: Kyle Haining (5.5 out of 7 points)

140th Place: Siddharth Chandrasekar (0 out of 1 point)*

K-8 Championship Section:

24th Place: Vikram Ramasamy (5 out of 7 points)

111th Place: Surya Gorantla (3.5 out of 7 points)

148th Place: Jed Cohen (3 out of 7 points)

172nd Place Brandon Hitchcock (2.5 out of 7 points)

173rd Place: Siddharth Chandrasekar (2.5 out of 6 points)*

179th Place: Ben Scherzer (2.5 out of 7 points)

K-9 Under 1250 Section:

13th Place: Karen Haining (5.5 out of 7 points)

* According to Siddharth, he played one game in the K-9 Championship section and 6 games in the K-8 Championship section.

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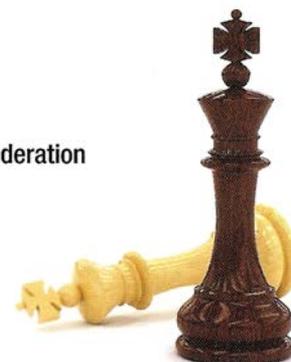


Joshua C. Sinanan

National Master
President, Washington Chess Federation

3610 218th St. SW
Brier, WA 98036

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



Idaho Chess News

Chess Saved My Life

By David Zaklan

The Doctor standing over me held up a gallon-size plastic bag packed with stew meat-size parts of my leg to the operating lamp and shrieked, “What do they think I am, Doctor Frankenstein?” I wanted him to put it all back in my leg. He set the bag aside.

I was 17 when I left my family home in California to make my way in the world. I was a mountaineer and didn't like the new popularity of backpacking in the High Sierras in California...all my favorite places were crowded.

I graduated from high school a half-year early and obtained a job with my climbing buddy on a dude ranch to climb Wyoming's Teton Mountains on our days off. We were planning to start a climbing guide service.

We got to the ranch, ate, stowed our gear and hopped on Ed's motorcycle for a full moon ride. He drove us down the narrow mountain road for about an hour and came to a sharp blind corner. Two cars came towards us side-by-side, one over the double yellow line...20 feet away. My soul buckled; Ed veered right towards the cliff edge. The sports car hit us, catching his foot and crushing my left leg between the car and motorcycle. I flew 10 feet up, doing somersaults, showering the road with my blood and flesh and then fell 200 feet down the cliff.

I dove fist-first into the gravel slope at the bottom. My breath was knocked out of me. I thought, “that was close,” then looked at my left leg. It hung unresponsive and motionless in the shards of my Levi's. My femur formed a bright blue cross in the moonlight. Blood was forming a black pool around it on the gravel. Blitz conclusion, a tourniquet and I might live.

I applied a tourniquet made out of my red bandanna and a pen just below my hip. I yelled for help, no answer again and again. The drunk driver of the sports car that hit us was the first one to get to me. “I'm sorry man, I didn't see you man, what do you want me to do?”

“Hold this tourniquet tight I'm feeling weak.”

“Okay.”

As soon as he grabbed hold of the pen he dropped it. I rewound it, he redropped it again.

I wound it and held it myself. Fortunately a park worker got there next, “What do you want me to do?” I had him make a better tourniquet out of his belt and a stick. As he held it in place I was relieved. The drunk stood up and bellowed, “You have to let that go every ten seconds for five seconds or he'll lose his leg.”

The park worker seemed convinced and looked at me.

“It's my life, my leg, keep it on.”

After a long time, I heard the ambulance coming. The sound echoed a long ways in the quiet mountain night. It got closer and then whizzed by, driving 17 miles to the nearest little town and back. The ambulance driver got to where I was and asked, “What do you want me to do?”

“Hold the tourniquet tight and get me to a hospital.”

On the 76-mile drive to Jackson Hole, I saw the stars through the back window, they seemed welcoming. I begged and pleaded for water unsuccessfully. They finally yielded and put a few drops on a

cotton-ball for me to suck. I took it fiercely.

During the 7-hour surgery I asked, “How much of my leg can you save?”

“Looks like all of it...call this kid's folks he's got ten minutes to live.”

I was above a plainer energy field that spread out forever in all directions. I was just stepping into it and becoming part of it, telling myself that I was tired and going to take a rest. The feeling was ecstatic.

When I heard those words I realized how long of a rest was involved, I became one single kernel of thought, I'm going to live.

Very much to the surprise of the medical staff, I made it. In three months I weighed 73 pounds from 179, had survived fungal pneumonia twice, numerous surgeries and a momentary thought of suicide—but, why die after all this? I spent the next year and a half in the hospital and another year and a half at home in a body-cast. Finally, bed-baths were replaced by a real bath.

The following years were hard, but I was glad to be done with trauma in my life. I forged ahead, finished two BS degrees and began a Masters in Human Factors at the University of Idaho. On a weekend, my wife and I headed out of town. I



David Zaklan taken at the 2015 Idaho Closed State Championship on February 15, 2015 in Twin Falls, Idaho. Photo credit: Jeffrey Roland.

pulled over to let her drive, as I saw two roads where I knew there was only one.

The Doctor said, “You either have a brain tumor or MS.” No tumor. That was 1990, I began experimental treatment and have survived relatively well.

In my studies, I have always marveled at the human brain. And though MS attacks the brain, my determination for a good life has me swimming distance and playing endless chess to retrain the remaining neurons and escape chronic pain.

In the 2015 Idaho Closed State Championship, I took second-place in Class C. Small news for the chess world, but for me it was Mount Everest.

**Adam Porth (1352) –
David Allen Zaklan (1483) [D05]**
Idaho Closed Twin Falls, ID
(R6), February 16, 2015
[Ralph Dubisch]

**1.d4 c6 2.Nf3 d5 3.e3 Nf6 4.Bd3 e6
5.Nbd2 Be7 6.c3 0–0 7.0–0 Nbd7 8.Qc2
c5 9.Ng5 g6**

Or 9...h6, as White has insufficient force on the kingside to make serious threats.

10.e4 c4 11.Be2 Ne8 12.Ngf3 Ng7?!

It is not yet clear where this knight belongs based on the pawn structure, and Black spends a valuable move. 12...b5

13.b3 b5 14.Re1?!

14.exd5 exd5 15.a4± breaks up Black’s pawn chain before it can be defended with ...a6 (after ...Bb7, for example).

14...a6

Both players apparently overlook a tactic, though whether it was actually good is still in doubt. 14...Bb7 avoids the potential complications, when the position remains about equal. 15.e5 Nb6

15.exd5 exd5



Position after 15...exd5

16.Bf1

16.bxc4 bxc4 17.Bxc4!? dxc4 18.Qe4 is a double attack, regaining the piece and remaining a pawn ahead, though with White’s bad bishop, Black’s bishop-pair, and the over-extended white rook about

to appear on e7, there is compensation. For example, 18...Nb6 19.Qxe7 Qxe7 20.Rxe7 Ne6 21.Ba3 Nd5 22.Rxe6 Bxe6 23.Bxf8 Kxf8 24.Nxc4 Nxc3 25.Ne3 Bxa2 doesn’t do anything for White.

**16...Bb7 17.g3 Nf6 18.Ne5 Nf5 19.Ndf3
Ne4 20.Nd2 Nfd6?!**

20...cxb3



Position after 20...Nfd6

21.Bg2?!

Better to enter the complications of 21.Nxe4 dxe4 (21...Nxe4? 22.bxc4 bxc4 23.Bh6 Re8 24.Rxe4!! dxe4 25.Bxc4 Bd5 26.Qb3 Rb8 27.Bxd5!! Rxb3 28.Bxf7+ Kh8 29.Bxb3 and White is definitely picking up another exchange at least, leaving eventually rook, minor, and two pawns versus queen — a material plus — as well as maintaining some initiative. It might be even better to recapture on b3 with the a-pawn.) 22.Bh6 Re8 23.bxc4 f6 24.c5 fxe5 25.cxd6 Qxd6, which is a bit murky, but probably favors White a little.

**21...Bf6 22.Nxe4 dxe4 23.Bf4 Re8
24.f3?!**

24.Ng4

24...g5! 25.Be3 Bxe5

25...exf3

26.dxe5 Rxe5?!

26...exf3

27.f4

27.Bd4±



Position after 27.f4

27...gxf4

27...Rd5 28.fxg5 Rd3

28.Bxf4 Re6

28...Rd5±

29.Rad1 Qb6+ 30.Be3

30.Qf2

30...Qc7 31.Qf2 Ne8?!

31...cxb3 32.axb3 Qxc3±

32.Bf4?!

Risky to abandon the blockade square. 32.Bh3±

32...Qc8



Position after 32...Qc8

33.Bh3 Qc6 34.Bxe6??

34.Qe3. Black’s e6-rook is a bit uncomfortable, and with active bishops and the e-pawn once again under lock and key, White can claim more than adequate compensation for the pawn.

34...e3! 35.Bxf7+ Kf8! 36.Bxe3??

36.Bd5 is necessary, but ultimately not enough. 36...exf2+ 37.Kxf2 Qb6+ 38.Be3 Qf6+ 39.Ke2 Bxd5 40.Rf1 Kg8 41.Rxf6 Nxf6 42.Bg5 (42.Bd4 Ng4) 42...Ne4 43.Rxd5?? (43.Ke3 Nxc3) 43...Nxc3+

36...Qh1# 0–1

Idaho Scholastic Girls Championship

By Adam Porth

Hailey, Idaho — April 4, 2015

It almost didn’t happen, but members of the Idaho Chess Association board of directors banded together to put on a special event for the girls of Idaho — the Idaho Scholastic Girls Championship. The ICA hosts the Triple Crown for novices, Scholastic K-12, and the Girls Championship (affectionately referred to as Girls State by the late Dick Vandenburg, scholastic director for many years). This year, the ICA scholastic committee decided to forgo the Girls Championship and select Idaho’s female representative from a combined girls and boys section. Enthusiastic members of the chess community decided to help organize the girls tournament instead.

The Idaho Scholastic Girls Champion for 2015 is Temiloluwa Aderogba (Temi).

The winner of the championship gets first choice to represent Idaho at the Susan Polgar Foundation Girls Invitational and the National Girls Championship (NGIT). On hand to defend her title was 2014 Champion Carmen Pemsler and during Round five she met Temi and succumbed in an endgame of pawns and kings. Other players commented on Temi's proficient endgame tactics and strategy. Temi recently moved to Idaho from England where she began playing chess. She is also a 5th grader!

All sections were combined into one unrated open section, though players competed for prizes in their own sections. In another intense game during Round five, Celeste Hollist and Darci DeAngelis (both in 5th grade) continued a rivalry that began in the final game at the Idaho Scholastic State Championship in February. This time, Celeste won.

Organizers Alise Pemsler and Adam Porth created many side-events for entertainment and education. Chess movies were shown in the theater



Temiloluwa Aderogba. Photo credit: Adam Porth

(“Searching for Bobby Fischer”, “Brooklyn Castle”, and “Knights of the Bronx”), the Blaine County Recreation

District provided passes for their workout rooms, giant chess, simuls, and more.

Levi Catangcatang played participants, parents, and friends in a simultaneous exhibition for a school project. He played for nearly six hours and won six out of 12 games. Fred Bartell from the Magic Valley Chess Club was on hand to help participants learn from games, as well.



The games in action. Photo credit: Adam Porth

Prizes:

K-12 Overall

- 1st place Temiloluwa Aderogba
- 2nd place Carmen Pemsler
- 3rd place Dylan Porth

6-8th grade Overall

- 1st place Amelia Mussler-Wright
- 2nd place Katlyn Genta
- 3rd place Heidi Mungall

4-5th grade Overall

- 1st place Celeste Hollist
- 2nd place Darci DeAngelis
- 3rd place Alex Schrader

K-3rd grade Overall

- 1st place Mechitas Fernandez
- 2nd place Sara Hollist
- 3rd place Veronica Richmond

1st place grade level prizes:

- 12th grade Abby Shiner
- 4th grade Daniela Valencia
- 2nd grade Simone Williams
- 1st grade Audrey Richmond



Temiloluwa Aderogba with the first place overall trophy at the Idaho Scholastic Girls Championship. Chief Tournament Director Alise Pemsler in the background. Photo credit: Adam Porth

ICA Spring Open

The ICA Spring Open was held April 18, 2015 at the Idaho State University (ISU) Student Union Building in Pocatello, Idaho. Jay Simonson was the Tournament Director. This was a one-day Saturday-only tournament with Game/60;d5 in the first two rounds and Game/90;d5 in the third and fourth rounds.

While turnout in this event might seem low by some standards, it is actually quite normal for eastern Idaho in recent years. The event drew players from three different states—nine from Idaho, one from Wyoming, and one from Nevada—11 players total. This number and makeup is reminiscent of the early days of the Idaho Chess Association (ICA) which was founded in 1947.

The Open and Reserve (U1400) sections were combined for pairing purposes only (but not for prize purposes.) Thus, the player who took clear first place in the combined section actually received less prize money than players who tied for 2nd-4th in the combined section, but who tied for 1st-3rd in the “Open Section” since the Reserve prizes were actually less than the Open prizes.

Andrea Chimenton (Boise, unrated) won clear first place Reserve (U1400) and first place overall in the combined section “for results-purposes” and his initial provisional USCF post-rating was 1901.

Jarod N. Buus (Nampa, 1669), Barry D. Eacker (Twin Falls, 1641), and Fred Bartell (Twin Falls, 1604) tied for 1st-3rd in the Open Section (and as mentioned, 2nd-4th place tie “for results-purposes”.)

Oliver Eli Nathan (Idaho Falls, 407) won second place in the Reserve (U1400) section.

**Jacob Ari Nathan (1396) –
DeWayne R. Derryberry (1750) [B50]**
ICA Spring Open Pocatello, ID
(R2), April 18, 2015
[Ralph Dubisch]

**1.e4 Nf6 2.Nc3 d6 3.Bc4 c5 4.d3 g6
5.Bg5 Bg7 6.Nf3 0-0 7.0-0 Bg4 8.h3
Bxf3 9.Qxf3 Nc6 10.Qe3 Nd4 11.Rac1
a6 12.a3 b5 13.Ba2 Qa5 14.Ne2**

14.Bxf6! Bxf6 15.Nd5 and Nxf6+

14...h6

14...Nxe2+ 15.Qxe2 e6 is at most a tiny edge to White.

15.Nxd4 cxd4 16.Qd2 Qxd2 17.Bxd2

Rac8 18.f4 e6



Position after 18...e6

**19.f5! gxf5 20.exf5 e5 21.g4 d5 22.g5
hgx5 23.Bxg5 Rcd8 24.Rce1 Rfe8
25.Rf2 e4 26.Rg2 Kh7 27.dxe4**



Position after 27.dxe4

27...dxe4?

27...Rd7± 28.e5 Ne4 29.Bxd5!? (29.e6 fxe6 30.fxe6 Rxe6 31.Bf4±) 29...Nxcg5 30.Bc6

Analysis



(#Diagram-analysis after 30.Bc6)

30...Rxe5! (30...Nxcg3+? 31.Kf1! (31.Kh2? Rxe5!) 31...Nf4 32.Rh2+ Kg8 33.Bxd7 Rxe5 34.Rxe5 Bxe5 35.Rh6+→) 31.Rxe5

Analysis



(#Diagram-analysis after 31.Rxe5)

31...Nf3+! 32.Bxf3 (32.Kf2 Nxe5 33.Bxd7 Nxd7→) 32...Bxe5 33.Be4 f6± Although White has an extra pawn, the opposite-color bishops are a drawing factor that will be hard to overcome.

28.Bxf7 Re7

28...Rh8!?, though White is probably winning there as well.

29.Bg6+

29.Be6 has merit.

29...Kh8 30.h4 Rc7 31.h5 Rdc8 32.h6 Rxc2 33.hxg7+ Kxg7 34.Bxf6+ Kxf6 35.Rxc2

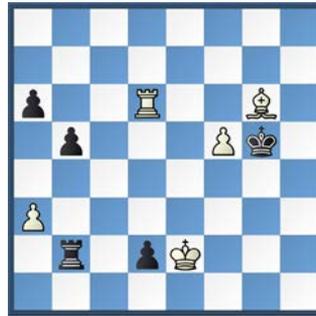
35.Rxe4 directly seems a little more accurate. 35...Rxc2+ 36.Kxc2 Rc2+ 37.Kf3 and the white king may be better placed than in the game line.

35...Rxc2 36.Rxe4 d3 37.Re6+ Kg5 38.Rd6 d2 39.Kf1 Rxb2 40.Ke2

[Diagram top of next column]

40...—

Apparently Black resigned here (or perhaps lost on time?), but despite the extra white piece, Black can still put up formidable resistance. The key points are the reduced number of pawns (R+B vs R is a theoretical draw), Black's advanced passer, and the difficulty White will have finding a way to advance the f-pawn. 40...Ra2 41.Rxa6 Probably best, though the



Position after 40.Ke2

alternatives are worth examining:

a) 41.Be8!? Kxf5 42.Rxa6 b4 43.Ra5+ Ke6 44.axb4 Rb2 45.Rb5 Kd6 46.Kd1 Kc7 is still a technical challenge.

b) 41.Bh7!? Rxa3 42.Rg6+ (42.f6? d1Q+ 43.Kxd1 Rf3) 42...Kh5 43.Kxd2 is another interesting position.

41...b4 42.Rb6 Rxa3 43.Rxb4 d1Q+ (43...Rd3 44.Kd1 followed by Rb2, with a very similar position.) 44.Kxd1 Ra2 and White makes slow progress — with some technical issues still waiting in the wings.

1–0

Andrea Chimenton –
Barry D. Eacker (1641) [E94]
ICA Spring Open Pocatello, ID
(R2), April 18, 2015
[Ralph Dubisch]

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 Bg7 4.e4 d6 5.Nf3 0–0 6.Be2 Nbd7 7.0–0 e5 8.d5 Nc5 9.Qc2 a5 10.Ne1



Position after 10.Ne1

10...Bg4?!

Dubious for a couple of reasons. First, does Black really want to exchange White's bad bishop? Second, when all the black pawns rush forward on the kingside, White will play h3 to slow them down. Black's attack needs the light-square bishop to support ...g4 and perhaps to smash through sacrificially on h3.

11.Bxg4 Nxc4 12.f3 Nh6 13.Nd3 Nxd3 14.Qxd3 f5 15.Be3?!

15.Bd2 fxe4 16.fxe4

15...f4

15...fxe4!? 16.Nxe4 (16.fxe4 Ng4) 16...Nf5∞

16.Bf2 b6 17.a3?!

Better is the methodical 17.b3±

17...g5

17...a4!

18.h3 Qd7 19.b4±

Now White's queenside play runs smoothly.

19...axb4 20.axb4 Nf7 21.c5 bxc5 22.bxc5 Rfb8 23.Rxa8 Rxa8 24.c6 Qc8 25.Rb1



Position after 25.Rb1

25...Rb8?

Black has problems dealing with White's initiative, but this should prove a fatal mistake.

26.Rxb8 Qxb8 27.Qb5

27.Qa6! Qb2 28.Nb5+—

27...Qa8 28.Qa4! Qb8

28...Qxa4 29.Nxa4 Bf6 30.Bb6 Bd8 31.Ba5 It will take White only two moves to add the knight to the attack on c7, but it would take Black five moves to add a defender.

29.Qa7

29.Nb5; or 29.Qa6 again.

29...Qb2

29...Qxa7 30.Bxa7 Bf6 31.Nb5 Bd8 32.Bb8



Position after 29...Qb2

30.Na4?

30.Qxc7! White overlooks this promotion tactic here and again on move 32. 30...Qxc3 31.Qb8+ Bf8 32.c7+—

30...Qa1+ 31.Kh2 Bf6 32.Qb8+?

32.Qxc7!

32...Bd8 33.Nb6 Qf1 34.Bg1

34...g4

Stockfish suggests 34...h5!? with perhaps a small edge for Black!

35.hxg4 Qe1 36.Kh1 Qh4+ 37.Bh2 Qe1+ 1/2-1/2

Idaho at National High School Championships

by Adam Porth

The Northwest was represented by only two teams this year at the National High School Chess Championships held in Columbus, Ohio during the second weekend in April. Lakeside High School, Seattle, Washington and Silver Creek High School (SCHS), Hailey, Idaho. Lakeside actually had one team in the Championship Section and in the U1600 section. SCHS included a team of 4 in the U1200 Section and 1 player in the U1600 section. The two schools actually met in the U1600 section with a match between Molly-Rose Clarfeld (Lakeside) and Desmond Porth (Silver Creek). The game was wild with tactics and exchanges that were a surprise and potential tactics and exchanges missed after analysis. The game ended with Molly-Rose winning the match. The SCHS team included Desmond Porth (U1600), Dylan Porth (U1200), Andre Murphy (U1200), Wesley Brimstein (U1200), and Levi Catangcatang (U1200).

Scholastic Chess is very exciting and competitive and the players contribute emotions that span the gamut. The entire hall vibrates at a high pitch between rounds with players running to-and-fro, having loud conversations about games and rivals, developing friendships, and generally including the high energy that characterizes youth. During the matches, however, this descends to a low frequency rumble that mixes with the air conditioners and shuffling sounds of pacing parents and coaches, and the rustle of players adjusting in their seats. Overall, National tournaments are an event not to miss!

The main event begins Friday afternoon, but two side events are offered for teams arriving early on Thursday — Blitz and Bughouse. The Silver Creek team played in both events and almost won a trophy in the Blitz tournament (22nd Place). Only the top 20 earned awards and the SCHS team was one point away from 18th place. Interestingly, SCHS should have had two additional points. Wesley Brimstein was



(L-R) Dylan Porth, Desmond Porth, Levi Catangcatang, Andre Murphy, Wesley Brimstein after driving through the mountains at 2 am to meet a 5:30 am flight. This is what they looked like after landing in Columbus. Photo credit: Adam Porth.

battling a young man in the 5th round and his opponent cheated. This would have been an automatic win for both Wesley's games against the unscrupulous player. With a slight of hand, his opponent picked up a bishop, snagged Wesley's rook that was one square diagonal, and he then dropped the bishop back on the original square! Andre caught his player actually move one of Andre's pawns backwards! That one was an automatic win.

This wasn't the only instance of cheating. In the main event, upon analysis of one of Levi Catangcatang's games, Levi had opened up the kingside and was ready for a mating attack (mate in three), but his opponent moved their knight up two and over two checking his king and forcing a reverse mating net! Levi did not catch this as he was focused on his own pieces. Fatigue can be a huge factor for scholastic

players. After all, they begin playing at 8 am and finish at 11 pm for four days in a row.

In a National tournament there is a lot of pressure on the players and this provides the growth necessary for players to advance their skills. We ended the tournament with an exciting 5.0 points in the last round. All our players won their games in Round 7! This was a goal — to have a perfect round. As we were neck-in-neck with other teams, and on the edge of winning an award, this round catapulted us into 21st place. SCHS was 20th place last year. "This tournament, however, included a record turnout in every section," said Frank Guadalupe, USCF Director of Events, to me in an informal interview. I guess this means that SCHS is truly one of the top 20 teams.



(L-R) Dylan Porth, Levi Catangcatang get some practice in. Photo credit: Adam Porth.



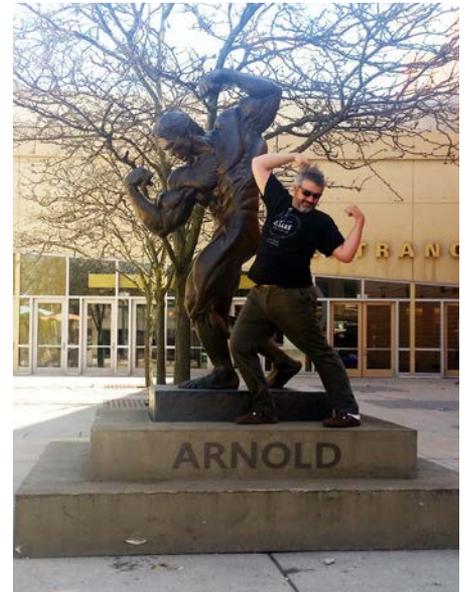
Trophies, lots of trophies! Photo credit: Adam Porth.



*A view from the venue, the Columbus Exhibition Hall in Columbus, Ohio.
Photo credit: Adam Porth.*

Lastly, after the tournament and the awards, many players and teams leave, but some linger for an additional day. This allows players to relax, sightsee, and find friends from country. The SCHS team found the Marshall High School team from Chicago and they scored 20th place! The players mingled and began playing blitz, long games, and bughouse games until about 3 am! As Dylan said, "aw, I wish we could play tomorrow too!"

Footnote: The Marshall High School team will be playing a tournament with SCHS on the ICC soon because of their camaraderie.



*Adam Porth posing with statue of Arnold.
Photo credit: Dylan Porth.*



This Petrof piano was in the hotel. Photo credit: Adam Porth.

Julie Nahlen, Program Director

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The playing hall. Photo credit: Adam Porth.



(L-R) Wesley Brimstein, Levi Catangcatang, Desmond Porth, Dylan Porth, and Andre Murphy holding 21st place team trophy. Photo credit: Adam Porth.

Oregon Chess News

Another Game from the Oregon Closed

Jason Cigan (2159) –
 NM Steven Deeth (2109) [B42]
 Oregon Closed Portland, OR
 (R9), February 16, 2015
[Jason Cigan]

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 e6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 a6
 5.Bd3 Bc5 6.Nb3 Be7 7.Qg4 g6 8.Qe2
 d6 9.0–0 Nd7 10.Nc3



Position after 10.Nc3

A new system I have learned. I have played the Black side of this Kan system, and my personal opinion is that most lines give White somewhat more space and maybe easier play, but that the game should always be a mess with best play from Black!

10...b6 11.Bd2 Ngf6

Daring White to move the dark-squared bishop a second time — something White should just about always be willing to do in these Kan positions to stop Black from safely castling. 11...Bb7 12.Rae1 Qc7 13.f4 starts a standard theoretical discussion. Black has to choose between the provocative 13...Ngf6 (13...h5 or this standard Kan resource, which keeps Black's king's options open and hints at ideas of kingside aggression.) 14.e5 with complications.

12.Bh6 Bf8

12...Ne5 is a more active way to try to stop the bishop from causing trouble, with ideas of ...Ng4, but 13.f4 Nxd3 14.cxd3 here leads to a clear White advantage with the strong center and c-file to play down. Black's two bishops are not terribly relevant, as the strongest bishop on the board belongs to White and the d3-e4 central formation makes Black's light-square bishop rather weak on its natural b7-square.

13.Bxf8 Kxf8 14.f4 Qc7 15.e5 Ne8

16.Rae1 Bb7 17.Ne4 Kg7



Position after 17...Kg7

18.Ng5!!

A move that I spent over fifty minutes assessing. Its complications are fascinating, and I ultimately lost the thread. But with best play, White should now be winning by force.

18...h6

The obvious try, forcing White's hand. 18...b5 or some other non-responsive move would meet a crushing end in the form of 19.f5! gxf5 20.Bxf5! exf5 21.Rxf5 Qb6+ 22.Kh1 Nxe5 23.Nxf7! Nxf7 24.Qg4+ Kf8 25.Nd4+— with a decisive attack. I spent a good deal of time working out this and other lines.

19.Nxe6+! fxe6



Position after 19...fxe6

20.exd6?

Tragic. 20.Qg4! was the way to go: 20...Nf8 21.f5! crashes through. I had seen this, but didn't realize just how crushing my initiative would be after 21...exf5 22.Rxf5 Bc8 (22...Qd7 23.e6! Nxe6 24.Rff1 Nf8 25.Qxd7+ Nxd7 26.Re7+ Kg8 27.Rxd7 with an absolutely winning initiative is one sample line) 23.e6 Bxe6 24.Nd4! Bxf5 25.Nxf5+— Kg8 26.Bc4+ Kh7 27.Re7+ illustrates the hopelessness of Black's defensive task. His pieces are simply uncoordinated.

20...Qxd6

Black has weathered the storm, though complications remain.

21.Qg4?

21.f5! was a much better try to inject life back into the attack: 21...Rf8 22.fxe6 Rxf1+ 23.Qxf1. White does not have enough for the piece, but Black must remain alert.

21...Nf8

I had somehow missed that Black has ...Nf6 regardless of White's next move.

22.Bxg6??



Position after 22.Bxg6

Desperation. I wanted to play for tricks rather than die a slow death, but White is still hanging in there in a surely losing position after 22.Qg3 or some other move. The tricks didn't justify investing another full piece!

22...Nf6 23.Qh3 Nxg6 24.Rxe6 Qd5

24...Bxg2! was the quickest killer that I saw.

25.f5!

Against all odds, White is getting some counter-chances in this dead lost game.

25...Rhe8 26.Rxf6

An aggressive try in my time pressure, but Black easily defends. Other White moves lead to a Black ...Qxg2+, giving back a piece with a decisive simplification.

26...Kxf6 27.fxg6+ Kxg6 28.Qg3+ Qg5 29.Qd6+ Kg7 30.Qc7+ Re7 31.Qc3+ Kg8 32.Rf2 Rae8 33.Nd2 Re1+ 34.Nf1 Rxf1+

The rest is not hard to work out. A tough one to lose, but attacking chess can be hard to conduct properly at the board!

0–1

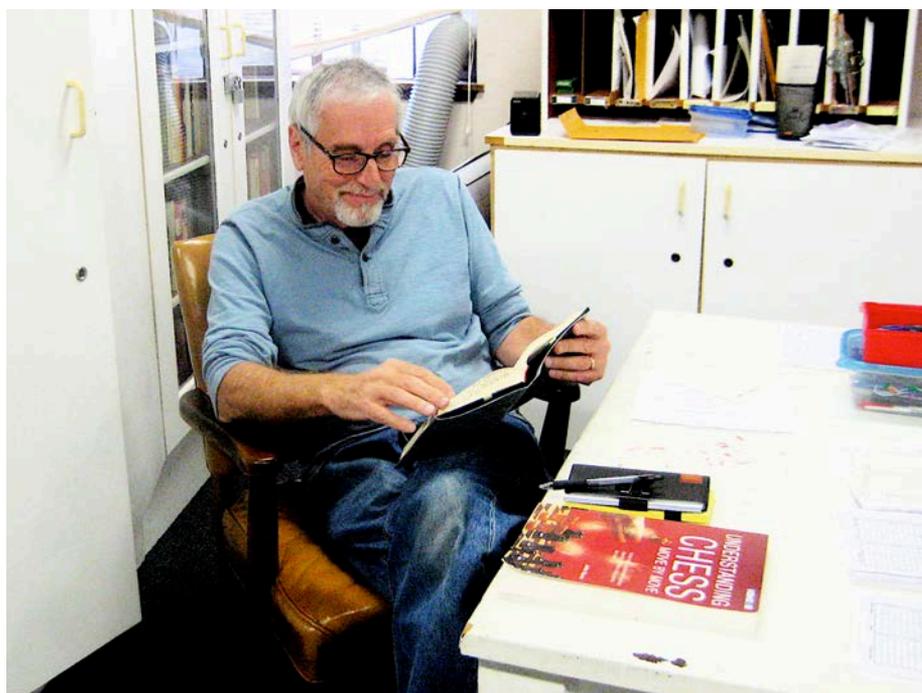
Note: Oregon players need to submit more annotated games for consideration to be published in the magazine. This month we only had one. Email editor@nwchess.com. (See page 2.) PGN format is preferred.— Editor.

Harmon Memorial

By Brian Berger

The 9th annual Clark Harmon Memorial Open Tournament held on the 11th and 12th of April had a change of venue this year. Held previously in Portland (2013) at the DoubleTree Hotel near Lloyd Center where the accommodations were plush and inviting, it became clear that the cost of such a venue was taxing the coffers of the hosting Portland Chess Club. So it was decided this year to move it to the club-house site. Although less plush, the accommodations were nonetheless adequate to the task, a second bathroom being recently added—an addition that has lowered the anxiety-factor heretofore attributable to the jumping-up-and-down factor when the use of the one bathroom was in high demand.

As many of the players pre-registered for this tournament, the registration process seemed to go quite smoothly, handled nicely by Chief TD Mike Janniro and Assistant TD Mike Morris. Because the Portland Chess Club's playing space could not match that of the DoubleTree, registration was limited to the first 50 entrants. Perhaps because of the change of venue, or just other priorities



Assistant TD Mike Morris holding what is known as a book among the older generation.
Photo credit: Brian Berger

needing attention, attendance figures fell somewhat from the previous tournament, coming in this year at 35—a good number, allowing for a bit more elbow room.

One prominent member of the club (and now an international chess celebrity, rumored to be on *Time Magazine's* cover list for “Dog of the year” recognition), Morgan the Dog was also on hand. It is



Some of the playing field. Photo credit: Brian Berger



(L) Adam Culbreth vs Michael Groves. Photo credit: Brian Berger

nice to know that fame and fortune have not gone to Morgan the Dog's head. And he remembers all the little people who helped him along the way—especially his companion, Jerrold Richards, who has been instrumental in bringing Morgan the Dog's life story to the attention of thousands of adoring fans—including Magnus Carlsen, who had invited Morgan to stay with him this same weekend and hobnob with some of the elite of the chess world, but was turned down by Morgan because he never wants to miss a chance to attend a Portland Chess Club tournament where he knows that his belly will be rubbed, his chin scratched, his head patted; and where, when Jerrold Richards is not looking, he will get a treat from this reporter.

Getting to the games, there were a number of upsets—perhaps the most talked about one being the third-round loss by Nick (the Lion) Raptis (2393-2384) to Yogi Saputra (2099-2106), who managed not to be outmaneuvered by the master-of-misdirection. Yet another was Danny Phipps' (1681-1826) wins over Jason Cigan (2149-2151) and Michael Goffe (1947-1943), and a draw against Steven (no detail overlooked) Deeth (2111-2087), which sent his rating soaring into the low-1800's—gaining him 143 points, and placing him first in the U1700 with winnings of \$200!

Also causing a couple of upsets was Nathan Jewell (1242-1362), whose 4th round win over Jerrold Richards (1486-1446) made for some concern on the part of Morgan the Dog, who has tried to keep

Richards focused on middle and endgame improvement, but who had to witness a diminishment of Richards' recent gains—his companion suffering four losses and only one win this tournament. Jewell's other win came in the 5th round, against Pranav Sharan (1621-1578), and that, with a 1/2 point bye in the second round, earned him 2 1/2 points and gave him a clear 1st in the U1400/unrated category—plus 200 smackers to boot!



(L) Steve Fabian vs Becca Lampman. Photo credit: Brian Berger

One other “upsetter,” who also fell into the above category, was unrated Jimmy Tang, who found a way to beat Jazon Samillano (1558-1575), and draw Mike Hasuike (1500-1500), giving him 1.5 points, making him one of three players to tie for the 2nd place prize money—his share amounting to \$41.67. The other two players were Michael Moore (1755p-1629p) and Michael Munsey (1358-1342). And although Moore seems not to fit into this winning group by his high provisional rating, TD Mike Morris assured me that the rating used for this tournament was that of the USCF (unrated), and that his provisional rating is not a factor.

Newly titled Master Lennart Bjorksten (2173-2185) managed a nearly perfect score of 4.5 points, giving up the half point to Becca Lampman, who herself tied for 2nd with Nick Raptis and Jason Cigan, all coming in with 4.0's, giving them \$166.67 each. But it was Bjorksten who raked in the biggest bundle, earning \$525.00 for his 1st place win—and not afraid to take the lion's share out from under the Lion's nose!

In the U2000, Jason Yu (1844-1865) and Mike Goffe (1947-1943) tied for 1st with 3.5 points each, both going home \$162.50 richer for two days of fun. And lastly, tying for 2nd in the U1700, were Adam Culbreth (1628-1685), Liam Booth (1570-1592), Brian Berger (1545-1571) and Jazon Samillano (1558-1575) with scores of 2.5 points, and prize money totaling \$31.25 each.

April PCC Quad 45

By Brian Berger

Portland, Oregon — April 18, 2015

April's Quad 45 at the Portland Chess Club drew an enthusiastic crowd of 20 players, peopled with a few new faces. As has been the case from this popular tournament's beginnings, the highly efficient team of Mike & Mike (Micah Smith and Mike Lilly) were on hand to share TD duties.

A plus side to this middle of the month gathering has been the Blitz tournament held immediately after the close of Quad 45—10 rounds of chess at a blistering pace, definitely not for the faint-of heart or the "Let me mull this over crowd!" As it is, Game 45 with a 10 second delay is still, by duffers' standards, a fast pace, and takes some real concentration to not lose on time or on the board.

As has been mentioned previously in other articles, this tournament draws a fair portion of younger players, who find this time control just fine for their quick and aggressive moves—chess pieces taking on an audible "Take that!" sound, as they are confidently slammed from square to square. My own experience with this oozing-with-confidence form of playing came in the 2nd round when, the winner of Quad 3, Patrick Le (1415-1468), seemingly without paying much attention to the board (I noticed him looking at all of the boards around us), slammed his pieces until I had been slammed into submission! "What?!! Hey, what happened?!" or similar thoughts crossed my mind.

I wish I could say this was an anomaly (I was the highest rated player in this quad by nearly a couple of hundred points), but two more anomalies later I had not won a game, posting an 87 point drop in my rating! So beware, older players, approach Game 45 with caution!



Mike Lilly registering. Photo credit: Brian Berger

As was the case at last month's Quad 45, the quads included a small Swiss, consisting of mostly the lowest rated and unrated players, or a player not wishing to play a family member. High player on the totem pole in this Swiss was Kyle Liu (1001-1032), winning all three of his games and taking home a trophy for his dominate performance. Sharing 2nd place in the same Swiss were Erin Cheng (856p-858), Neeraj Javadekar (390p-501p) and Geordyn Allyn (474-593), each posting 2.0 points and taking home medals to prove it.

Quad 1 saw Colin Liu (1635-1728) take 1st with two wins and a draw, entitling him to a medal and bragging rights. Closest to him were Aaryan Deshpande (1789-1784) and Robert Allyn (1719-1726), each with 1.5 points. And in Quad 2 Liam Booth (1591-1611) and Jazon Samillano (1575-1600) tied

for 1st with 2.0 points each, (which also earned a medal for Booth), their nearest competitor being Karl Stump (1629-1622), who finished with 1.5 points.

And in Quad 3 (which I have already touched on in my 0 for 3 performance) Patrick Le (1415-1468) took most of the marbles with his 2.5 points (also winning a medal), and only Benjamin Tan (1272p-1348p) came close to giving him any competition, posting 2.0 points.

So there it is, youth against age—a competition? I don't think so!

Rounding out the day was the Blitz tournament, that drew eight players wanting to cram in as much chess in one day as the body can stand—the winner being



(L) Steven Witt vs Colin Liu. Photo credit: Brian Berger





(L) Karl Stump vs Jon Strohhahn at the April PCC Quad 45. Photo credit: Brian Berger

Steven Witt (1792p-1846p), who posted 8.5 points out of a possible 10, followed by Chris Wade (1759p-1741p) with 7.0, and Gerald Weaver (1895p-1817p) with 6.5 points.

PCC April 2015 G60

By Brian Berger

Portland, OR — April 25, 2015

Just when you think the alignment of the planets are just right, the solar wind is but a light breeze, the freshness of the air and a morning slant of sunlight portends a fine day with the promise of a sizable turnout for April's Game 60 at the Portland Chess Club, your prognostications' (turnout-wise) fall desperately short of your expectations.

A much smaller than normal attendance signaled that, for some, there must have been (on this day) something out there that trumped the lure of chess—a thought totally aberrant to “The True Believer” of the game (those of us who live and breathe it), that there never is a better time than the present, nor a better reason not to play. And so it was that only a small contingent of 17 dyed-in-the-wool players showed to fight the good fight—some testing the boundaries of marriage, others, of just how long they could put off doing their homework.

Of course, one can generally count on Morgan the Dog to bring his companion, Jerrold Richards, with him. This game 60

was no exception, as Morgan energetically entered and led Richards to the registration desk, then made his rounds amongst the players—sniffing out treats, enjoying the attention of an admiring audience, and in general, just basking in the warm limelight of his celebrity (Morgan's most recent honor being chosen as “Dog of the Year” by Time Magazine).

As if all of this attention was not enough for a previously world-wandering-dog (see the Morgan the Dog interview

in the May issue of *Northwest Chess*), Morgan has been booked for a global tour of some of the most notable chess clubs, each having scheduled him to play simulms against a select field of their best players—a task Morgan the Dog accepted with some hesitation, as he hates to miss weekend tournaments at the Portland Chess Club.

It will come as no surprise that Nick Raptis (2384-2387) shook-off his recent loss to Yogi Saputra, and once again looked to be in fine form (fully confirming his apex-predator status), winning top prize of \$51 (substantially reduced because of the low turnout), and reinvesting it in entering the 1st Annual Rose City Sectionals, [May 2nd-3rd](#), at the Portland Chess Club (results of which appear in this issue of *Northwest Chess*).

Not many high ranking players showed for this tournament, Jason Cigan (2151-2132) and Mike Janniro (2000-2000) being the two players who seemed to have the best chance of pulling off an upset against Raptis. Janniro was in fact not scheduled to play, as he was serving as Chief TD, and sharing his duties with Assistant Chief TD Michael Lilly (who was also helping Lennart Bjorksten to become proficient in learning TD duties), but stood-in to even-out the pairings.

As for Jason Cigan, not only did he lose to Raptis in the 3rd round, but faced an upset by Chris Wade (1759-1805) in round 4, dropping a piece in a hard fought endgame, in which time was fast running out. The win gave Wade the 3.0 points



(L) Nick Raptis playing a pre-tournament blitz game with Jason Cigan. Photo credit: Brian Berger

Rose City Sectionals

By Brian Berger

Portland, OR — May 2-3, 2015

Leave it to the team of Mike & Mike (Chief TD Micah Smith & Chief Assist. TD Michael Lilly) to come up with another great tournament (this time an annual one)—the 1st Annual Rose City Sectionals. Billed as a 2-day, 4-round Swiss in 5 sections, with a time control of 120 with a 10-second delay, with \$1100 in cash prizes based on 40 players, the reality became a 3 section Swiss due to a lower than expected turnout (25 players).

The initial plan called for sections to be within 200 rating-points of each other—Open, U1900, U1700, U1500, and U1300, but were combined due to the lower participation to form a three section—Open/U1900, U1700, U1500/1300 format. Prizes were also adjusted accordingly. Even this change had to be juggled around a bit due to byes, leaving some players having to play much higher and much lower rated opponents.

As one might expect, Morgan the Dog was not one of the no-shows, proudly entering the tournament room with his companion (Jerrold Richards) in tow. The *Northwest Chess* May issue must have pleased Morgan (he was on the cover), as he was seen prancing around and glad-pawing everyone in sight as if to say, “Yep, it’s me!” Even Richards seemed more spry than usual, the antics of Morgan encouraging him to be more vocal (not that he is ever quiet for long)



(L) Assist. TD Mike Lilly with Chief TD Micah Smith. Photo credit: Brian Berger

about this and about that, and about the other thing.

Word has it that, because of all the recent press on Morgan the Dog, the Hollywood crowd has taken notice, and there is a rumor in the wind that a movie contract might be in the offering—the title to be “Morgan the Wonder Dog,” a biographical epic to equal “Lawrence of Arabia.” So you can understand the elation Morgan the Dog and Richards are feeling at the moment, as they envision rubbing elbows with the tinsel-town crowd.

On-hand also for information on the tournament and chess players in general was a SW Portland Post freelancer, Lee



Steven Witt receiving his winnings from Mike Janniuro. Photo credit: Brian Berger

he needed to secure the U1800 prize of \$29.75

Steven Witt (1792-1814) also posted 3.0 points to claim 2nd place prize money of \$34, upsetting Marc Braverman (1965-1936) in the process, with one loss to Jason Cigan. And sharing 3rd place prize money were Mike Janniuro, Roland Eagles (1724-1745), and Danny Phipps (1826-1829), who, when \$25.50 was split three ways, pocketed \$8.50 each—enough to lure all of them back to claim greater fortunes.

Lastly, the protege of Morgan the Dog, Jerrold Richards (1446-1453) seems to be absorbing some of the lessons, learned from Morgan’s astounding knowledge of chess, acquiring one of his 2.0 points from yours truly (1484-1462), by somehow turning what I had thought was a lost position on his part, to a desperate and eventually lost one on my part—the 2.0 points earned giving him the U1500 prize of \$29.75. Was that a smile I saw on Morgan the Dog’s face?



Danny Phipps trying not to drop the \$8.50 wad of winnings handed out by TD Mike Janniuro. Photo credit: Brian Berger



(L) David Murray vs Roland Eagles. Photo credit: Brian Berger



Trophies and other TD essentials. Photo credit: Brian Berger



Gavin Zhang receives his U1700 1st place trophy from Assist.TD Mike Lilly. Photo credit: Brian Berger

Braymen-Cleary. She had read up a little about the chess world, and has found what she has read fascinating, and so had shown up to get a first-hand look at this exciting game, and some of us who make up this fascinating world. But she was not prepared for Morgan the Dog, who approached her with his usual casual greeting of licking tongue and inquiring manner. Most of all, she found the prospect of a chess-playing dog outside any of the information she had read, and gave Morgan some special attention—more photos and a talk with Jerrold Richards about this amazing canine.

The Open/U1900 section saw Nick (eat'm alive) Raptis (2387-2380) drop a game to Jason (The Argonaut) Cigan (2132-2145), setting up a 3-way tie for 1st-3rd place with Lennart Bjorksten (2188-2197), all three coming in at 3.0 points and sharing the prize-fund to the tune of \$56.25 each. And the U1900 prize went to Chris Burris (1682-1783) for his three wins, besting the always tough David Murray (1880-1877), Danny Phipps (1829-1803), and Roland Eagles (1745-1742), a feat that earned him 101 rating points, placing him into the high 1700's and bulging his

points each, which gave them \$20 after the prize fund was divided three ways.

In the U1700 section, Gavin Zhang (1647-1689) was the clear winner, drawing only one of his games, and posting 3.5 points, taking home not only a trophy, but \$84.50 in cash. And with the ongoing help of Morgan the Dog, who has coached him from nearly the week they had met, Jerrold Richards (1453-1471) showed that he has listened closely to what his companion has tried to teach him, which garnered him 2nd place for his 2.5 points, and \$53.25—have a wild night on the town money.

Other ties occurred in the U1500/U1300 section, with Aaron Probst (1485-1484) and Rakesh Rapolu (1370p-1340p) each earning 2.0 points in the U1500, and awards of a trophy and \$62.50 in prize

wallet with \$90.63 in 1st place winnings!

Coming in tied for 2nd-4th place were Ethan Wu (1721-1720), David Murray (1880-1877), and Dagadu Gaikwad (1800-1807) with 2.0

money. Then in a gesture of helping to fund future tournament prizes, Rapolu kindly donated his cash winnings back to the club, but took home his trophy.

Nathan Lee (1182p-1346p) was the sole winner of the U1300 section, a performance that saw him tack on 164 points to his rating! It also placed in his pocket \$68.75, and in his hand, a shiny trophy. And lastly, the 2nd-3rd place winners were a brother and sister, Wesley Trieu (1133p-1107p) and Grace Trieu (883p-1009p) who saw their 2.0 points turn in to a trophy and \$18.75 in (candy?) cash.

This was a fun tournament, and the hope for next year is that it will be better attended and able to offer an elevated prize fund. Thank you Mike & Mike for all your organizing and TD efforts.

The Chess Butler is represented out West by
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Chess Groovies

By NM Daniel He and NM Samuel He

Robert Fischer

Hello everyone! The Player of the Month for June will be Robert Fischer, the 11th World Champion and arguably one of the strongest players ever. Fischer was very ambitious, and with lots of hard work and dedication to chess as a teenager, he improved very quickly and became a Grandmaster at the young age of 15! Fischer was known to be play very aggressively, and almost always played 1. e4 as white, and Sicilian and Kings Indian as black, some of the most aggressive openings in chess.

Robert James Fischer (2785) – Boris V Spassky (2660) [D59]
World Championship Reykjavik (R6), July 23, 1972
[Samuel He]

While Fischer did play 1.e4 almost all of the time, it also made it easy for his opponents to prepare for him. As this was a World Championship match, it made sense for Fischer to hope to surprise his opponent.

1.c4! e6 2.Nf3 d5 3.d4 Nf6 4.Nc3 Be7 5.Bg5 0-0



Position after 5...0-0

Today, theory has shown that the setup Bd3 + Nge2 gives White more of an advantage than with an early Nf3. However, Fischer's aggressive style allowed him to gain a huge advantage later in the game, despite equality!

6.e3 h6 7.Bh4 b6 8.cxd5 Nxd5

Spassky happily goes for an opportunity to trade pieces, knowing that a draw is an acceptable result with black against such a strong opponent as Fischer!

9.Bxe7 Qxe7 10.Nxd5 exd5 11.Rc1

[Diagram top of next column]

At first glance, it looks like the game will lead to a draw. However, Fischer has strong control over the c-file, and the



Position after 11.Rc1

better bishop. While these positions may be drawish, Black has almost no chances for a win.

11...Be6 12.Qa4 c5 13.Qa3!

This pin on the black queen is very annoying to deal with. Not only is it impossible for Spassky to move the c-pawn, but he also must fear losing it!

13...Rc8 14.Bb5!

Fischer sees that Spassky has a difficult time developing due to the annoying pin, and adds more pressure to the position. For example, if Black plays a developing move like ...Nd7, Fischer could consider Bxd7!, leaving Black with a bad bishop vs. a superior knight.

14...a6 15.dxc5 bxc5 16.0-0



Position after 16.0-0

Note that Fischer does not even have to move the bishop! If Spassky allows White to get his other rook to d1, his position will be very difficult to defend.

16...Ra7!

A good move by Spassky. ...Ra7 forces White to move his bishop while developing the rook to potentially better squares.

17.Be2 Nd7

Has Spassky equalized?

18.Nd4!

[Diagram top of next column]



Position after 18.Nd4

This creative move by Fischer can only be found with good observation. Seeing that the queen is undefended, Fischer begins an attack! This is a good example of why Fischer was considered one of the best attackers ever. While many players would automatically play a natural move like Rd1 (myself included!) and hope for a small advantage, Fischer makes use of every opportunity he gets. Don't see the attack? It will become clear soon enough.

18...Qf8

With all these annoying pins going everywhere, Spassky decides to get rid of it all by stopping all the pins with one move. But it turns out that Fischer had more planned than just to annoy Spassky with pins.

19.Nxe6 fxe6 20.e4!!



Position after 20.e4

This can be considered the winning move! However Black wants to react to this move, White's bishop will become very active, supporting a future attack on the black king.

20...d4?!

Spassky gives Fischer a great c4 square for the bishop right away! However, his alternatives would also eventually give Fischer an active bishop one way or another.

21.f4! Qe7 22.e5!

Compare this position to a few moves

ago. White's bishop is clearly superior to the black knight, which just got the f6 square taken away. This is a very important theme to understand: In order to gain an advantage in such positions, you must play moves that support your minor piece and restrict your opponent's.

22...Rb8 23.Bc4 Kh8 24.Qh3

Fischer's plan should be fairly straightforward: Put pieces on active squares, advance the e- and f- pawns, and attack!



Position after 24.Qh3

24...Nf8 25.b3 a5

Desperately trying for some "counterplay".

26.f5 exf5 27.Rxf5 Nh7 28.Rcf1

At this point, Fischer's moves are natural and strong.

28...Qd8 29.Qg3 Re7 30.h4!

Fischer still has in mind the idea of restricting the opponent's minor pieces! The knight may try to get to g5, and h4 stops that completely. The next few moves are fairly simple and do not need annotations.

30...Rbb7 31.e6 Rbc7 32.Qe5 Qe8 33.a4 Qd8 34.R1f2 Qe8 35.R2f3 Qd8 36.Bd3 Qe8 37.Qe4 Nf6 38.Rxf6!

Strong sacrifice to win the game.



Position after 38.Rxf6

38...gxf6 39.Rxf6 Kg8 40.Bc4 Kh8 41.Qf4

While the attacking part of the game is fairly easy to understand, the most important lesson to learn from the game is how to create attacking chances. With careful analysis of this game, I hope you gain more knowledge on how to create

attacks, even in more simple positions than in this game!

1-0

Rene Letelier Martner – Robert James Fischer [E70]
Leipzig Olympiad Prelim (R8), October 24, 1960
[Samuel He]

In the next game, Fischer uses the King's Indian and gets a huge attack on his opponent, ending with a brilliant queen sacrifice!

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 Bg7 4.e4 0-0!?

The normal move is 4.d6. While this often transposes back to the main lines, Black allows White to play 5.e5, and it's debatable on who is better there.

5.e5 Ne8 6.f4



Position after 6.f4

With this line, White hopes to gain a large advantage with his space. Meanwhile, Black tries to open up the position as quickly as possible as White is behind in development.

6...d6 7.Be3 c5!

Although it may be difficult to calculate all the lines with this move, the idea behind it is very logical. As it is very hard to attack the pawn-center with pieces, such moves may be played even if it gives up a pawn in return for lots of counterplay.

8.dxc5 Nc6!

Fischer chooses to sacrifice a pawn for a big lead in development. This sacrifice is very correct as White has severely weakened his position with f4 and c4, which is almost never a good combination when the center of the board is open.

9.cxd6 exd6 10.Ne4!?

[Diagram top of next column]

White decides to be sneaky and hope to trade queens, when he can develop later on without too much danger to his king. However, moving a piece twice in the opening, especially in such an open position, is at least a little dubious, and Fischer takes advantage of it.

10...Bf5 11.Ng3 Be6 12.Nf3 Qc7!

If White is given the time he needs,



Position after 10.Ne4

he will develop and castle as quickly as possible. With this in mind, Fischer creates annoying threats to White, making it impossible to develop calmly without losing material.

13.Qb1?



Position after 13.Qb1

Faced with a difficult position, Martner goes for a creative idea to close up the position, thus making it easier for him to develop calmly. But evidently, this move looks very ridiculous.

13...dxe5 14.f5 e4!

After looking through some of Fischer's games, I have learned that a good strategy in creating attacking positions is to always put your threats above your opponent's in importance. Here, for example, White threatens to attack the bishop on e6, but Fischer decides his threat of attacking the Knight on f3 is stronger, which keeps the initiative.

15.fxe6 exf3 16.gxf3 f5!!



Position after 16...f5

The "normal recapture" would be ...fxe6, opening up the f-file for an attack. While this move is also strong, ...f5!! creates immediate and stronger threats. Note that White is never given the opportunity to

develop with Be2 as here, ...f4 is being threatened.

17.f4 Nf6 18.Be2 Rfe8

Here, White is finally given the opportunity to castle, but it isn't even a good decision because Black will have more threats coming with the doubled rooks on the e-file.

19.Kf2 Rxe6 20.Re1 Rae8 21.Bf3



Position after 21.Bf3

White has stopped all of Black's threats, has a very solid position, and is at least equal here. I'm just kidding! Can you find the win?

21...Rxe3! 22.Rxe3 Rxe3 23.Kxe3 Qxf4+!!



Position after 23...Qxf4+

If White takes it, ...Bh6#. If not, then Black's pieces will easily defeat the white king, which is clearly outnumbered.

0-1

Robert J. Fischer

March 9, 1943 – January 17, 2008

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FORGETTING WHICH COLOR HE HAD BEEN PLAYING, GERALD GRABBED HIS OPPONENT'S QUEEN AND CHECKMATED HIMSELF!

The 2015 Elmars Zemgalis Memorial Northwest Chess Grand Prix

By Murlin Varner, Administrator

Another month in the bag. As of the end of April, we have had 350 players participate in one or more Grand Prix events. This includes 200 Washington residents, 94 from Oregon, 41 Idahoans and 15 from various other places. These people have been a part of twenty-five tournaments across our three states during the first third of the year. In May, there will have been six more, including the annual Washington Open, a 4x multiplier event. The Washington standings will have been greatly affected by this event, and, to a lesser extent, the Oregon standings too. The main impact on Idaho standings in May will have been the Inland Empire Open in Spokane.

Looking forward, June offers seven events, including two with multipliers, but you are only going to be able to attend one of them because they are unfortunately both on the same weekend. June 12-14, the Emerald City Open will be held in Seattle, offering a \$1000 based-on prize fund and double Grand Prix points. Meanwhile on the beautiful Oregon coastline, the Newport June Open (June 13-14) will be offering a \$1500 prize fund with 80% guaranteed, and triple Grand Prix points. In addition to these two large events, there will be the Idaho Open in Boise (June 20-21), the Evergreen Empire Open in Tacoma (June 6) and our three usual monthly events at the Seattle and Portland Chess Clubs.

As for our data below, Savanna Naccarato continues to hold a slim one point lead over Jeffrey Jaroski and Ronald Weyland in Idaho. In Oregon, Nick Raptis has moved ahead of Mike Hasuike by 7.5-point margin. Washington is still being led by Michael Munsey, who has opened up a significant 14-point lead over new second place holder, Anthony He. One significant move in the leader boards is that of Oregonian, Danny Phipps, who leapt from 5th place in Class B to 1st in Class A over the month of April. Good work Danny!

In early April, my long time computer decided to fry its hard drive. After many attempts to revive it, even a visit to a local PC repair shop, it was pronounced dead. A few moments of panic ensued, until I remembered that I had been backing it up weekly on an external terabyte drive. As a result, I have been able to reclaim all my Grand Prix stuff, my important family documents, and those novels that I will never finish. All that is left now is to obtain an updated Chess Assistant package and see if I can recover all of my chess games and those I have been doing as the WCF games editor. My advice to all of you, if there is anything on your computer that you would hate to lose, back it up. These external drives are tiny, inexpensive, and can save your digital life!

The data below are current through May 1st.

Northwest Grand Prix Standings

Idaho			Oregon			Washington		
last	first	pts.	last	first	pts.	last	first	pts.
Masters								
			1 Raptis	Nick	66.5	1 Pupols	Viktors	39.5
			2 Grabinsky	Aaron	12	2 Schill	William J	26
			3 Haessler	Carl A	11	3 Bragg	David R	18
			3 Prochaska	Peter	11	4 Feng	Roland	12
			3 Seitzer	Phillip	11	5 Szabo	Marcell	11.5
Experts								
			1 Bjorksten	Lennart	44.5	1 He	Anthony B	56.5
			2 Talyansky	Seth D	41	2 Haining	Kyle	26.5
			3 Cigan	Jason	38.5	3 Lampman	Becca	24
			4 Saputra	Yogi	34	4 Bishop	Alan	22.5
			5 Heywood	Bill	28	5 Moroney	Timothy M	21.5
Class A								
			1 Phipps	Danny	45.5	1 Yu	Jason	51.5
			2 Murray	David E	39	2 O'Gorman	Peter J	32.5
			3 Goffe	Michael P	35	3 Dussome	David E	27
			4 Tenesaca	Santiago F	20	4 Russell	Darren	26.5
			5 Gaikwad	Dagadu B	19.5	5 Zhang	Eric M	24.5
M/X/Class A								
1 Bodie	Brad	8.5						
2 Lucky	David	8						
3 Kircher	Caleb P	6.5						
3 Inman	James	6.5						
5 Maki	James J	6						
Class B								
1 Griggs	Glenn	13.5						
2 Buus	Jarod N	10						
3 Bartell	Fred	9						
3 Derryberry	De Wayne R	9						
5 Eacker	Barry D	7						

Idaho			Oregon			Washington					
last	first	pts.	last	first	pts.	last	first	pts.			
Class C						Class B					
1	Naccarato	Savanna	16.5	1	Hasuike	Mike L	59	1	Anthony	Ralph J	52
2	Weyland	Ronald M	15.5	2	Eagles	Roland	50.5	2	Fabian	Steve	33
3	Lombardi	George	13.5	3	Samillano	Jazon	46	3	Puri	Ishaan	29.5
4	Nathan	Jacob A	8.5	4	Zhang	Gavin	30	4	Deshpande	Aaryan H	24
4	Zaklan	David A	8.5	5	Wu	Ethan	27.5	5	Yang	Richard	23
Class D						Class C					
1	Jaroski	Jeffrey A	15.5	1	Berger	Brian F	45.5	1	Piper	August	53
2	Porth	Desmond	5	2	Kenway	Geoffrey W	29	2	Richards	Jerrold	35
3	Porth	Adam	4	3	Dietz	Arliss	23	3	Petrov	Oscar	25.5
4	Dominick	Matthew T	3	4	Booth	Liam K	18	4	Frostad	John C	22
			5	Tang	Jimmy	14	5	Zhang	Cheyenne	21	
Class E and Below						Class D and Below					
1	Fister	Joel S	9	1	Jewell	Nathan	18	1	Munsey	Michael R	70.5
2	Naccarato	Chris D	7.5	2	Gupta	Rohit	11	2	Anand	Vignesh	26.5
3	Chimenton	Andrea	5.5	3	Frias	Corbin M	8	3	Burney	James L	15
4	Hiatt	Arlene	5	3	Wong	Egan	8	3	Casey	Garrett W	15
4	Nathan	Oliver E	5	5	Wong	Byron	7	5	Valeriotte	Cecelia A	14.5
Overall Leaders, by State											
1	Naccarato	Savanna	16.5	1	Raptis	Nick	66.5	1	Munsey	Michael R	70.5
2	Jaroski	Jeffrey A	15.5	2	Hasuike	Mike L	59	2	He	Anthony B	56.5
2	Weyland	Ronald M	15.5	3	Eagles	Roland	50.5	3	Piper	August	53
4	Griggs	Glenn	13.5	4	Samillano	Jazon	46	4	Anthony	Ralph J	52
4	Lombardi	George	13.5	5	Berger	Brian F	45.5	5	Yu	Jason	51.5
6	Buus	Jarod N	10	5	Phipps	Danny	45.5	6	Pupols	Viktors	39.5
7	Bartell	Fred	9	7	Bjorksten	Lennart	44.5	7	Richards	Jerrold	35
7	Derryberry	De Wayne R	9	8	Talyansky	Seth D	41	8	Fabian	Steve	33
7	Fister	Joel S	9	9	Murray	David E	39	9	O'Gorman	Peter J	32.5
10	Bodie	Brad	8.5	10	Cigan	Jason	38.5	10	Puri	Ishaan	29.5
10	Nathan	Jacob A	8.5	11	Goffe	Michael P	35	11	Dussome	David E	27
10	Zaklan	David A	8.5	12	Saputra	Yogi	34	12	Anand	Vignesh	26.5



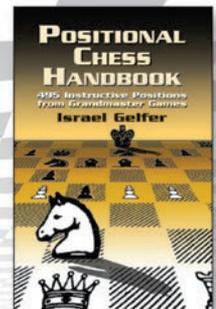
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 2420 S 137 St
 Seattle WA 98168

May 17, June 7

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.

Sunday Tornado

May 30, June 27

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.

Saturday Quads

July 19

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.

SCC Novice

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!

Close Ratings: 5/1, 8, 15, 22, 29.

It's Summertime: 6/5, 12, 19, 26.

Fireworks Quads (G/21): 7/3.

Hot as Hades: 7/10, 17, 24, 31.

Emerald City Open

June 12-14

A two-section, five-round Swiss with a time control of 40/120 & SD/60;d5 (Rd 1 of 2-day schedule – G/60;d5). The prize fund of \$1000 is based on fifty-six entries.

a Northwest Grand Prix event

Open		Reserve (U1700)	
First	\$250	First	\$175
Second	\$160	Second	\$110
U1950	\$120	U1450	\$80
		Unr	\$25

Upset (rds 1-4) \$20

Entry Fees: \$33 if rec'd by 6/10, \$42 at site. SCC members—subtract \$9. Members of other dues-required CCs in BC, ID, OR, and WA—subtract \$4. Unr—free with purchase of 1-year USCF and WCF. Add \$1 to any EF for 2-day schedule.

Registration: Fri. 7-7:45 p.m., Sat. 9-9:45 a.m.

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

Byes: 2 (for Sunday rounds, commit at registration).

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

Your contribution to the SCC is now tax-deductible! That's right, what you give to the Seattle Chess Club can lower your federal income tax bill!

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.

**Visit our new website,
www.seattlechess.club**

Upcoming Events

♣ denotes 2015 Northwest Grand Prix event; for Seattle Chess Club events see page 30

Jun 6 Boise Chess Festival, **Boise, ID.** (<http://www.mastersacademyboise.com/2015-boise-chess-festival.html>)

♣ **Jun 6** Evergreen Empire 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 \$40.00 each Quad. Reg. 9:00-9:45 a.m. Rounds: 10:00, 1:30, 4:45. Byes: 1 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. Ph. 253-535-2536, email Ggarychess@aol.com.

♣ **Jun 13-14** Newport June Open, **Newport, OR.** (http://www.nwchess.com/calendar/Newport_June_Open_2015.pdf)

♣ **Jun 20-21** Idaho Open, **Boise, ID.** 5SS, Time Control: G/120,d5. 2 Sections: Open and Reserve (U1400). Site: La Quinta Inn & Suites, 7965 W. Emerald St., Boise, ID 83704. USCF mem req., EF by 6/15 \$30 (U18 & 60+ \$25), Special Family Rate of \$60. \$5 more for all if received after 6/15. Email entries OK. Register & check in: 8-8:45 am 6/20. Rd times: Sat 9 am, 1:30 pm, 6 pm; Sun 9 am, 1:30 pm. 1/2 pt byes: Max 1, any round. Must commit before Rd 2 pairing. Players arriving for round 2 may take a retroactive R1 1/2 pt bye as long as they arrive by 1:15 pm. Prizes: \$\$ b/30; Open: \$200-100-75; Reserve: \$100-75-50. HR/ENT/INFO: ICA, www.idahocheessassociation.org. Contact: Jeffrey Roland, 1514 S. Longmont Ave., Boise, ID 83706. jroland@cableone.net. NC, NS, W.

♣ **Jun 27/Jul 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 Map. EF: \$20, \$5 discount for PCC Members. OCF/WCF/ICA and USCF membership required, OSA. No advance entries. Reg: 9:00-9:30 a.m. Byes: 1/2 point bye if requested at reg. Prizes: (\$200/b20) \$60-\$40-\$30; U1800, U1500 \$35 each. No tiebreakers (prizes split). OSCF State Qualifier. Info: e-mail email@pdxchess.org, phone 503-246-2978, website www.pdxchess.org.

♣ **Jul 11** Puget Sound Open, **Tacoma, WA.** Site: Metro Parks Community Center, 3513 Portland Ave., Tacoma. 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 a.m. Rounds: 10:00, 1:30, 4:45. Byes: 1 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, ph. 253-535-2536, email Ggarychess@aol.com, website www.tacomachess.org.

♣ **Jul 11-12** Portland Summer 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. OCF Invitational Qualifier. OSCF State Qualifier.

From Our Business Manager

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