



\$3.95

**December 2015**

**Happy Holidays from  
Northwest Chess!**



# Northwest Chess

December 2015, Volume 69-12 Issue 815

ISSN Publication 0146-6941

Published monthly by the Northwest Chess Board.  
Office of record: c/o Orlov Chess Academy, 2501  
152nd Ave NE STE M16, Redmond, WA 98052-5546.

**POSTMASTER:** Send address changes to:  
Northwest Chess c/o Orlov Chess Academy, 2501  
152nd Ave NE STE M16, Redmond, WA 98052-5546.

Periodicals Postage Paid at Seattle, WA  
USPS periodicals postage permit number (0422-390)

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Ryan Long of Hillsboro, Oregon, concentrates on his next move at the 2015 Oregon All Stars Invitational Tournament at the State Capitol in Salem on October 9, 2015. Photo credit: Jeffrey Dobbins.

### On the back cover:

David Zaklan of Twin Falls, Idaho, at the 2015 Boise Chess Club #11 Chess Tournament in Boise on October 24, 2015. Photo credit: Jeffrey Roland.

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# Are We Losing The Human Side Of Chess?

By Brian Berger

Something like 1500 years have elapsed since the game of chess was first introduced to the world, and in all that time (until very recently) it has been a game mostly played across a board from a flesh and blood opponent. I say mostly, because correspondence chess separated opponents, but was not as widely played as live tournament and casual chess, where the tell-tale signs of an opponent in trouble were visible—e.g. moisture on the brow, a vacant look in the eyes, a clearing of the throat, anxious body movements, etc.

Sometime during the ubiquitous distribution of iPads, iPhones, chess engines and the like, the human side of chess began to take a backseat to the technological wonders of computer apps and the lightning fast analysis of just finished, or still in progress chess games—individual chess moves being evaluated by percentages of plus or minus.

These help-mates, run by modern electronic oracles, have become an addiction for many of the younger generation of chess players (enticing even a fair number of the older wood-pushers), many of whom mostly play online, separated from the physical presence of another human, and anxious to get through their games so that they can put their engines to work ordaining which moves were good, bad, or questionable.

It is not surprising that this should be so, given the fact that almost every aspect of their lives seem governed by some form of electronic marvel—much of which has a stifling effect on imagination, force-feeding as it does the packaged imaginations of programmers in the video games they play, or their ability to search for creative ideas of their own in bettering their approach to chess. And this disconnect from the interpersonal experience to the electronic, also deprives them of key human and esthetic dimensions of the game, those being the psychological and tactile.

Little amount of psychological insight about an opponent can be gained via games over the web, nor a mouse give one the esthetic pleasure of actually seeing and handling the chess pieces—some finely carved sets designed for that very purpose. But it is the lack of an across-

the-board interaction with a live opponent that is the greater loss, eliminating any of the human elements long associated with the game, and robbing one of the direct observation of his opponent, where weaknesses can be observed—both in confidence levels and move choices.

As for-instance, take the recent revisiting of the Fischer vs. Spassky World Championship games, brought to a wide audience by the movie “Pawn Sacrifice.” Here is depicted a supreme example of psychological manipulation of an opponent, where the perceived craziness of Fischer’s demands and actions undermined the normal stoicism of Spassky, causing him to also become somewhat paranoid, and in the process, most likely weakened his game. And although Fischer often denied that psychology played any part in his games, the effects of his actions on opponents at the board were well known and can be summoned up in one word—intimidating!

But this is an extreme example of a behavior that would be little tolerated in world-class play today, yet shows that knowing your opponent’s psychological weaknesses can tip the scales from losing to winning. And lest you think that knowing your opponent’s weaknesses seems an unfair way to win a game, I give you here some quotes from some of the great players of the game:

*For my victory over Capablanca I am indebted primarily to my superiority in the field of psychology. Capablanca played, relying almost exclusively on his rich intuitive talent. But for the chess struggle nowadays one needs a subtle knowledge of human nature, an understanding of the opponent’s psychology.—Alexander Alekhine*

*Nowadays grandmasters no longer study their opponent’s games so much, but they study his character, his behavior and his temperament in the most thorough fashion.—David Bronstein*

*Few things are as psychologically brutal as chess.—Garry Kasparov*

*You can’t overestimate the importance of psychology in chess, and as much as some players try to downplay*

*it, I believe that winning requires a constant and strong psychology not just at the board but in every aspect of your life.—Garry Kasparov*

*There is no doubt that Bronstein’s shrewd understanding of chess psychology was crucial to his success. Without it, his impetuous style and technical flaws might have relegated him to a minor career.—Pal Benko*

*Look at the catastrophic record Vishy Anand has against Garry Kasparov. Kasparov managed to beat him almost everywhere they played, even though Vishy Anand has belonged to the absolute top players in the world for fifteen years. This difference cannot be explained purely in chess terms, there must have been some psychology.—Vladimir Kramnik*

Of course, even those players who prefer the back-lighted solitude of their computer screens, are occasionally forced to play over the board, if they are to be involved in tournament play. It is there they will encounter players who understand the importance of psychology under these circumstances, and will perhaps find that more time spent on this human side of chess, not encountered in their world of isolated computer play, will help to enhance their enjoyment of the game.



Brian Berger at the 2015 Oregon Open.  
Photo credit: Jeffrey Roland.

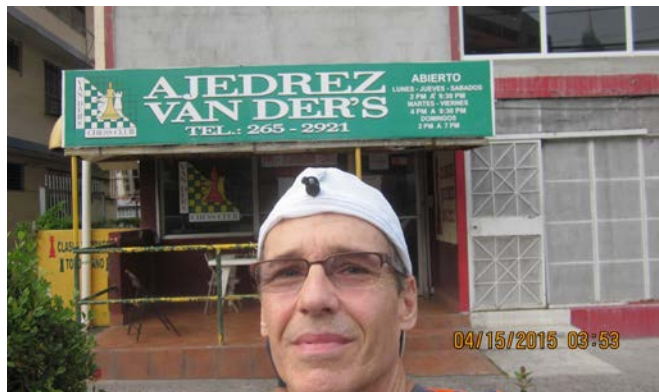
# Chess Notes from Another America

By Dan Bailey

This Walla Wallan is pleased to greet the readers of Northwest Chess from Panama City where I've been living about a year and a half amid my "Family South," the one I married into. Before here it was 24 years in Venezuela, the chess dimension of which appears in *Memories of the Boulevard* (NWC, June 2012). What a relief living now in this imperfect but functioning democracy and growing economy feeling safe on the streets day and night.

Shortly after arrival on the isthmus I went online and after untangling myself from Panama City, Florida, found "Van Der's Chess Club" in a nifty part of downtown. Usually from a dozen to 18 players are on hand out of a total membership of 40. A few more may be getting a bite nearby where you can eat well for \$3.50. Carlos Van Der Hans (Panamanian of Dutch descent), a former professor, manages to keep his comfortable (my wife would say grungy) outside porch and inside two-room club, complete with a tiny canteen in the middle and a hobbit-hallway connecting the two playing spaces (informal chess in one, tournament chess in the other) open six days a week and sometimes seven for an average of seven hours a day. He does this via a pair of trusted lieutenants while he works a graveyard shift at his other job.

Carlos has dug into his own pocket many a time over the last 18 years to keep his club going. But now he may be in the worse straits to date: his landlord recently sent him a letter announcing a more than doubling of the rent, to take effect supposedly even before the expiration of the current contract in March. Carlos puts it this way: "They say love is an island surrounded by a sea of expenses. But I think a chess club is the same."



Dan Bailey (selfy) taken April 15, 2015. Photo credit: Dan Bailey.

A Master who loves our game more selflessly than nearly anyone I have ever met, Carlos is now endeavoring to get another club going in the upland province of Chiriqui abutting Costa Rica, hoping success there can help him here. He speaks excellent English and would also love to partner with a club abroad. He's open to all ideas for interchange certainly including welcoming visitors here. Panama hosts two international opens a year with numerous GMs attending including Judit Polgar in 2013. His position is critical as he and his sister mortgage her house to keep things going. At age 71 when many are more than ready to kick back, all Carlos wants to do is what he's done so long — welcome one and all to a well-run chess club. If any of the NWC readership is interested in checking out lovely Panama (which retirement magazines consistently rank at or near the top of their lists), I'd be happy to help all I can. And happy too to help out Carlos, one of those few individuals who consistently extends himself well beyond his comfort and safety zones for the benefit of others.

To date I've represented Van Der's Chess Club in two annual Panamanian Inter-club Championships, scoring a resounding (not) 50% over nine games.

"It's nice of you to include me," I told him before last year's event. "But are you sure it's all right, me being a foreigner?"

"Don't worry about it," he laughed. "It's not as if you'll be playing in Istanbul with a little Panamanian flag beside your board." He should know; he's captained Panamanian Olympiad teams.

The last Inter-Clubs event concluded a couple of weeks ago. I counted 104 players (five female) from the length and breadth of this country (we're talking a South Carolina-sized area 480 miles long by an average 70 miles wide). An Amerindian team from the semi-autonomous Caribbean area of Guna Yala participated, and in my last game I faced an astonishing and scary rook sacrifice against a Guna player. It

was a long time before my wits sorted themselves out enough to more or less understand the resulting position.

Before my second Inter-Clubs got underway, a high official at our hosting site, the University of Panama, told us that research in the European Union has shown that elementary school children receiving regular chess classes perform 17% better academically than their peers. Three things from chess seem to carry over: controlling impulses, realizing that decisions in the present have consequences in the future, and comparing alternatives according to the criteria that count. In view of these findings, the official told us that Panama would soon be adopting chess into its public elementary mandatory school curriculum nation-wide. But Carlos later told me such talk of chess in the schools has been around for a while. The hang-up is always the same: Where's the money going to come from to pay the chess teachers? So far, there's been no answer.

I thought of offering chess classes myself to disadvantaged kids in a *barrio*, for free, through a foundation. So I bounced the idea off Carlos: who knew the Panamanian chess scene better? To my surprise he told me it was a terrible idea. First, the logistics would be mountainous, judging from his own past experience. I would be expected to provide and transport tables and chairs, sets and clocks, everything necessary. I might even have to scramble for a space to hold class from time to time. Second, the adults connected to the kids would likely view me with suspicion. Who is this gringo *really*? Is his agenda simply chess, or to brainwash our kids into a good opinion of the U.S. and its ulterior and exploitive capitalistic purposes? Is he CIA? Third, Carlos said the kids ought not be distracted from their schoolwork, their only chance of escaping their tough beginnings. As hard as their home conditions may be, he continued, their best hope is to cope and not coat themselves in a cocoon of chess — an addictive activity anyway — with the illusion of making a living from the game. He knew two sad cases of bright boys who threw all aside in a fantasy of becoming self-supporting ultra-young chess instructors, a decision proving blighting to their education. A Cuban Master in Panama once became angry with Carlos about his point of view, but he pointed out to the man that while Cuba has two chess-

related universities to aspire to, Panama has none. For Carlos, chess is to be added to a stable life in which, during youth, the process of general education is protected. Though the lot of many *barrio* kids is grim, grimmer still is fleeing down a road of unrealistic hopes. As things now stand in Panamanian poverty, chess instruction outside school curricula — he would love to see it incorporated — is, in his view, likely to do more harm than good.

One thing I could kiss Carlos for is holding five-round single round-robins each and every month on a Tuesday or Thursday night at G/60 I/30 with all other tournament conditions obtaining. Currently I'm scoring 62% over 58 such games. I'm in chess club heaven! My pride swells over my little clutch of three firsts or equal firsts amid a group of the usual suspects. I've played two guys nine times and another eight.

At first I was unsettled by not knowing a guy's rating before playing him, which is the norm here (though there's a Panamanian scale running about 100 points higher than US Chess). But by now I like having to suss out my opponent's strength over the board. Far too often in the Northwest, I've seen ghosts against "better" players and played too casually against "worse" ones.

Fifty-eight games is a lot of time to sink into an activity, especially when I throw in some 15 other tournament games in addition to 45-minute round-trip bus trips for each game, occasional long waits for buses, and 50-minute round-trip walks (pleasurably varied) between bus stop and club. Yet I've loved chess from age seven on up to the current 64, including the club variety. I hadn't played much of that since the early 1970s when I frequented the storied Tacoma Chess Club on South "I" Street. Fred Kleist and Carol Mayer along with the players on hand graciously fill the need when I make it to the Seattle Chess Club on my too-infrequent visits to the Emerald City.

The game below is a flawed but hard-fought QGD Exchange Variation, my opponent's consistent choice. The next time I face him I mean to generate some kingside play as Black in this line a la I.M. Jeremy Silman's excellent *The Complete Book of Chess Strategy*. Regarding openings, however, may I put in a word of advice to you young players? Don't make my long-lasting mistake of emphasizing openings at the expense of fundamental middlegame and endgame knowledge. Your rare booked-up early kills will be heavily overbalanced by full points and half-points lost due to lack of orientation in the latter two phases. Silman's book, a

jewel of succinctness, can help a lot. In just 397 words, for example, with seven large diagrams, he gives three plans for playing with the hanging pawns (a duo on the fourth rank) and two for combatting them. I should have known this sort of thing decades ago! Likewise, the late NM and Washington State Champion Mike Franett once told me, "If you don't like endings, Dan, learn to." I finally did after I took a marker pen to Yuri Averbakh's *Chess Endings: Essential Knowledge*. From dreading endings I've come to enjoy them, either better or worse. Don't deny yourselves the fascinating resources of the endgame — if you listen carefully right now, you can hear salvageable half-points out there calling your names!

**Mario Perez – Dan Bailey [D36]**

Van Der's Chess Club  
Six-Man Single Round-Robin G60;+30  
Panama City, September 9, 2014  
*[Ralph Dubisch]*

1.d4 d5 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.cxd5 exd5 5.Bg5 Be7 6.e3 c6 7.Bd3 Nbd7 8.Nf3 0-0 9.Qc2 h6 10.Bh4 Re8 11.0-0 Nh5 12.Bxe7 Qxe7 13.a3 Nhf6 14.b4 Ne4 15.b5 Ndf6

15...Nxc3 16.bxc6 (16.Qxc3 c5) 16...Ne4 17.cxd7 Bxd7±

16.bxc6 bxc6 17.Ne5 Bd7 18.Rab1 Rab8?!

18...Nc5 19.Be2 Rac8 20.Rfc1 Qd6 21.Na4 Nxa4 22.Qxa4 Rc7 Black is a bit passive.

19.f3 Nxc3 20.Qxc3 c5



Position after 20...c5

21.Rfe1?

21.Rxb8 Rxb8 22.Qxc5 Qxc5 23.dxc5±

21...cxd4?!

21...c4

22.exd4 Qd6 23.Rb4 Rxb4 24.axb4 Rb8

24...Rc8

25.Ra1

25.Qc5

25...Rb7

25...Qxb4 26.Qxb4 Rxb4 27.Rxa7 Rxd4 28.Ra8+ Be8 29.Bb5 Kf8 30.Bxe8 Nxe8 31.Ra7 Rf4 32.Rd7

26.Qc5 Qxc5?

26...Qb8 27.Nxd7 Rxd7 28.Rc1±

27.bxc5 Be6 28.Ra4 Kf8 29.c6

29.Ra6±

29...Rc7 30.Rb4

30.Ba6 — 31.Bb7

30...Ke7 31.Rb8 Ne8 32.Bb5

32.Kf2

32...Rc8

32...Nd6∞

33.Rb7+ Rc7 34.Kf2 f6

34...Bc8 35.Rb8 Nd6

35.Nd3 Kd6 36.Nc5 Bc8 37.Rb8 f5

38.Na6?

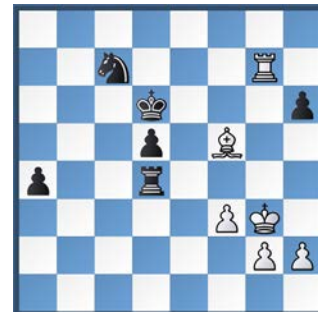
38.Ke3±

38...Bxa6 39.Bxa6 Rxc6 40.Bb5?

40.Bd3

40...Rc2+ 41.Kg3 Nc7 42.Bd3 Rd2

43.Bxf5 Rxd4 44.Rg8 a5 45.Rxg7 a4



Position after 45...a4

46.Rg4??

It's not obvious how White is supposed to save the position after 46.Rg4+ Ke5, but exchanging rooks definitely loses.

46...Rxc4+ 47.fxc4 a3 48.Bb1 Nb5

49.Ba2 Nc3 50.Bb3 a2

50...Ne2+ 51.Kh4 Nc1

51.Bxa2 Nxa2 52.h4 Nc3 53.Kf3 d4

54.Kf4 Ke6 55.g5 hxg5+ 56.hxg5 Kf7

57.Kf3 Kg6 58.Kf2 Kxg5 59.Kf1 Kf4

60.Kf2 Nb5 61.Ke2 Kg3 62.Kd2 Kxg2

63.Kd3 Kf3 64.Kd2 Ke4 65.Ke2 d3+

66.Kd2 Kd4 67.Kd1 0-1

Mario Perez, a friendly confident player in early middle age, leads me 5.5 — 3.5 by virtue of beating me our last three games. That hurts. Here's hoping presenting this game will restore me to a vertical position, dust me off, and fix my mojo to rumble with him next time!

And I hope to see you, my chess friends in the Northwest, over the board and before and after sometime soon.

# Idaho Chess News

## 2015 Eastern Idaho Open Games

The following games are from the 2015 Eastern Idaho Open tournament that were not included in last month's article on the event.

**Michael Rabadan (1107) – Lloyd Landon (1863) [A22]**  
Eastern Idaho Open Pocatello, ID (R4), September 20, 2015  
[Ralph Dubisch]

1.c4 e5 2.Nc3 Nf6 3.g3 d6 4.Bg2 c6 5.Nf3 Be7 6.0-0 Be6 7.b3 h6 8.d4 e4 9.Ne1 d5 10.Nc2 0-0 11.f4



Position after 11.f4

11...exf3 12.Bxf3 dxc4 13.bxc4 Bxc4 14.Re1 Nd5 15.Nxd5 Bxd5 16.e4 Be6 17.a3 Bb3 18.Bb2 Qc7 19.Qd3 Ba4 20.Nb4 Rd8 21.Qc3



Position after 21.Qc3

21...a5??

After 21...Qb6! White definitely has some compensation for the pawn, with strong center and attacking chances, but Black has some distracting tactics, such as 22...Rxd4 23.Qxd4 Bc5, and has escaped the c-pawn pin. Call it unclear.

22.d5?

22.Nd5! wins the exchange due to the threat of Nb6 after a queen retreat. 22...Rxd5 23.exd5± is close to winning for

White.

22...Bf6 23.e5 axb4 24.axb4 Bxe5?

24...Qb6+ 25.Kg2 Nd7 26.exf6 Nxf6∞

25.Rxe5 f6 26.Re6 Qf7?!

26...Nd7!? 27.d6! (27.dxc6 bxc6 28.Bxc6 Bxc6 29.Rxc6∞) 27...Qb6+ 28.Kg2



Analysis

(#Diagram-analysis after 28.Kg2)

28...Qb5 Awkward looking, but this adds protection to both a4 and e5. (28...Ne5? 29.Rxe5! fxe5 30.Rxa4! Rxa4 31.Qxe5 Rd7 32.Qe8+ Kh7 33.Be4+ g6 34.Bxg6#) 29.Re7 Ne5 30.Qe1 (30.Qe3 Qd3! simplifies into likely drawn endings: 31.Qxd3 Nxd3 32.Bc3 Rxd6 33.Rxb7, and though Black has an extra pawn for the moment, the bishop-pair and various weaknesses offer full compensation.) 30...Rxd6 31.Bxe5 fxe5 32.Rxe5 c5 (forced) 33.bxc5 Rf6 34.c6!



Analysis

(#Diagram-analysis after 34.c6)

34...Qb2+ 35.Re2 Qb3 36.Re3 Qc2+ 37.Kg1 bxc6 38.Bd1! Qc5 39.Bb3+! Kh7 40.Qc3 when the a-file pin will eventually pick up the exchange for White, even after the tricky 40...Qf5 41.Qc2! Of course White might not actually be winning after gaining the exchange, but you can't have everything.

27.Rae1

27.Qe3! cxd5 (27...Nd7 28.Re7 Qf8 29.Qe6+ Kh8 30.Rxd7) 28.Re7 Qf8 (28...Qg6 29.Qe6+ Kh8 30.Rxg7!+-) 29.Qe6+ Kh8 30.Rf7 Qe8 31.Rxf6 Qxe6 32.Rxe6 with excellent compensation.

27...cxd5 28.Re7 d4?

28...Qf8 29.Rxb7 Nd7 30.Bxd5+ (30.b5!? intending Ba3.) 30...Kh8±

29.Qc7 Na6 30.Qxb7

30.Qa5! Qb3 31.Qf5! Kh8 (31...Qxb2 32.Qg6) 32.Rxg7! (Or 32.Bc1! aiming to take h6 next.) 32...Kxg7 33.Re7+ with a winning attack.

30...Qf8 31.Bd5+

31.Rxg7+!! Qxg7 32.Re7+, for example 32...Qf8 (32...Qxe7 33.Qxe7 and despite the near parity in material, Black's game is completely hopeless.)



Analysis

(#Diagram-analysis after 32...Qf8)

33.Bd5+ Rxd5 34.Qxd5+ Kh8 35.Qe4 Bc2 36.Rh7+ Kg8 37.Qxc2 Qe8 38.Rb7 Kf8 (38...Qe1+ 39.Kg2 Kf8 40.Qg6 Qe2+ 41.Kh3 Qe6+ 42.Kh4 and Black has run out of checks.) 39.b5! planning Ba3+. 39...Nb4 40.Qc5+ Kg8 41.Qf5 and Black has only a few spite checks.

31...Kh8 32.Rf7 Qxb4 33.Qxb4

33.Ree7±

33...Nxb4 34.Bxa8 Rxa8 35.Ree7?

35.Bxd4 Nc2 36.Re4±

35...Nd5?

35...d3! and the game will quickly end in a repetition: 36.Bc1 (36.Rxg7) 36...Nc6 37.Rc7 Re8 38.Rxg7 Re1+ 39.Kf2 Rxc1 40.Rh7+ Kg8 41.Rhg7+ Kf8 42.Rh7

36.Ra7 Rxa7 37.Rxa7 Bc2 38.Bxd4 Kg8 39.Kf2 Kh7 40.Kf3 Kg6 41.h3

41.Bc5 heading to f8 will cause some problems.

41...h5 42.Rd7 Nb4 43.Bc5 Nd3 44.Bd6 Ne5+ 45.Bxe5 fxe5 46.h4 e4+?!

46...Kf6 is easier to hold.

47.Kf4 Kh6 48.Rd8 g6?

48...Kg6

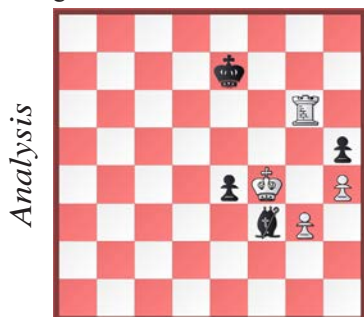
49.Rh8+?

49.Ke5! is winning, as the white king will

reach f6 with mate threats: 49...e3 (49... Kg7 50.Rd7+ Kh6 51.Kf6 Bd3 52.Rd8 Kh7 53.Re8 Bc2 54.Kg5 Bd3 55.Re7+ Kg8 56.Kxg6 e3+ 57.Kxh5 e2 58.Kg4 Kf8 59.Re3 Kf7 60.Kf3 Kf6 61.Rxe2) 50.Kf6 Kh7 51.Re8

**49...Kg7 50.Rc8 Bd3 51.Kg5**

51.Rc7+ Kf6 52.Rc6+ Kf7 53.Rd6 Bc2 54.Kg5 Ke7 55.Rc6 Bd1 56.Kf4 Bf3 57.Rxg6



Analysis

(#Diagram-analysis after 57.Rxg6)

While this looks like progress for White, in fact we've reached an unwinnable position. There are no successful sacrifices of rook for bishop and pawn, as all pawn endings are drawn when Black grabs the opposition. The White king is tied to defending against the advance of the e-pawn, and the rook on its own cannot defeat the black king. If the roles are switched so the white rook blockades the e-pawn, then the white king on its own cannot do anything useful.

**51...e3! 52.Rc7+ Kf8 53.Kf6 Ke8??**

53...Kg8 holds. 54.Rg7+ Kh8! 55.Re7 e2.

**54.Re7+ Kf8 55.Rxe3**

Upset earned. A very nice game.

**1-0**

**Gary Owen (1590) –  
Lloyd Landon (1863) [B93]**  
Eastern Idaho Open Pocatello, ID  
(R2), September 19, 2015  
[Ralph Dubisch]

**1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 a6 6.Be2 g6 7.0-0 Bg7 8.Be3 0-0 9.f4 b5 10.a3 Bb7 11.Bf3 Qc7 12.Qe2 Nbd7 13.Rad1 Nc5**

13...e5 14.Nb3 exf4 15.Bxf4 Ne5

**14.Bf2 Rfe8?!**

14...Rac8 15.Nd5

**15.Bg3?**

15.e5! Nfd7 (15...dxe5 16.fxe5 Bxf3 17.Qxf3 Qxe5 18.Nc6+-) 16.Nd5 Bxd5 (16...Qb8 17.e6) 17.Bxd5 Rac8 18.e6 looks good for White.

**15...Rad8?!**

15...e5

**16.e5 Bxf3?**

16...Nfd7 17.Bxb7 Qxb7 18.b4∞

**17.Qxf3 Nh5**



Position after 17...Nh5

**18.Rfe1?**

18.Nd5! Qb7 19.Bh4 Kh8 (19...dxe5 20.Nc6!!



Analysis

(#Diagram-analysis after 20.Nc6)

**a) 20...Rd7 21.fxe5 e6 22.Nde7+ Rxe7 23.Nxe7+ Rxe7 24.Bxe7 Qxe7 25.g4+-;**

**b) 20...e4 21.Ndxe7+ Kf8 22.Nxd8 exf3 23.Nxb7 Nxb7 (23...fxg2 24.Nxc5 gxf1Q+ 25.Kxf1 g5 26.Bxg5 f6 27.Nf5 fxg5 28.Nxg7 Kxg7 29.fxg5+-) 24.Rxf3 Bxb2 25.Nd5+-;**

**c) 20...Rxd5 21.Qxd5 Ne6 22.fxe5 Nh4 23.Qd7+-; ) 20.Bxe7! dxe5 21.Bxd8 with favorable complications.**

**18...Nxg3 19.Qxg3 e6 20.b4?**

20.exd6 Qb6

**20...dxe5 21.fxe5 Nd7 22.Ne4 Qxe5?**

22...Nxe5 is quite strong.

**23.Nc6 Qxg3 24.hxg3 Rc8 25.Nd6 Rxc6 26.Nxe8 Bc3 27.Re2 Nb6 28.Rd6 Rxd6 29.Nxd6 Kf8 30.Kf1 Ke7 31.Ne4 Bb2 32.Nc5 Bxa3 33.Nxa6 Nd5 34.Re4 Kd6 34...h5**



Position after 34...Kd6

**35.c4?**

35.Rh4 h5 36.Ke2 is probably equal.

**35...bxc4 36.Rxc4?? Ne3+ 37.Ke2 Nxc4 38.Kd3 Ne5+ 39.Kc3 Nd7 40.Kc4 f5 0-1**

## Wood River Weekend Progressive

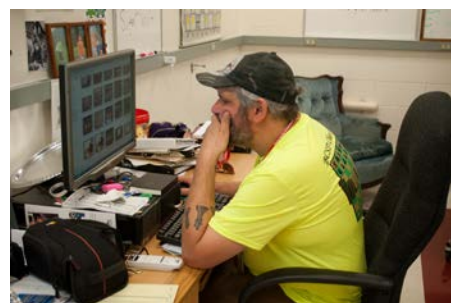
The 2015 Wood River Weekend Progressive Chess Tournament sponsored by the Idaho Chess Association (ICA) and the Blaine County School District (BCSD) Chess Rage on National Chess Day (October 10) in Hailey, Idaho. The tournament was held at Silver Creek High School and played in the classroom of Mr. Adam Porth. Adam Porth was Chief TD and Jeffrey Roland was Assistant TD.

This was the fifth year the event was co-sponsored by the ICA and the seventh consecutive year the event has been held due to the dedication and promotional efforts of Adam Porth. The word "Progressive" in the tournament name is because the time controls start at Game/30;d5 in round one and progress to Game/45;d5 in round two, Game/60;d5 in round three, and finally become Game/90;d5 in the fourth round.

Coffee and popcorn were available for free. A projection system was connected to the computer allowing Adam Porth to quickly and efficiently show pairings and anything else, such as the opening chess video, which was a Disney/Pixar animation short called "Geri's Game."

In a brilliant and popular move, in the spirit of National Chess Day, and by the unanimous consent and agreement of all players as well as the ICA President and Vice President, it was decided on the spot to make the tournament free. So no entry fees were collected and no cash prizes were given out. The Scholastic trophies, however, were still given out in the Scholastic Section.

Between the two sections there were 16 total players. Seven were in the Open Section (four of those traveled from



Chief TD Adam Porth.  
Photo credit: Jeffrey Roland.



The entire Scholastic Section in victory pose after the event. Back Row (L-R): Otto Olson, Jean Mikel Etulain, Darwin Porth, River Shepard, Yahee Tongisiri, Zach McStay, Arthur Escujuri. Front row (L-R): Paxti Etulain, Leam Van Law. Photo credit: Jeffrey Roland.

Boise) and nine were in the Scholastic Section (two of those traveled from Boise). Only the Open Section was rated by U.S. Chess.

Results in the Scholastic Section were River Shepard in first place, Otto Olson in second place, and Jean Mikel Etulain in third place with 3.0 points each but it decided by tie-break (Solkoff, Cumulative, Opponent's Cumulative and Modified Median).

Results in the Open Section were Alex Machin (Boise, 1675) in first place with 3.5 points, Jeffrey Roland (Boise, 1706) in second place with 3.0 points and Drew Machin (Boise, 990) in third place with 2.5 points.

## Boise Chess Club #11 Chess Tournament

Boise Chess Club (BCC) #11 Chess Tournament was held at All About Games in Overland Road in Boise, Idaho on October 24, 2015. Jeffrey Roland was the Tournament Director.

Caleb Paul Kircher (Meridian, 1879) won his third BCC tournament (the others being BCC #7, and BCC #9) Caleb's score was a perfect 4.0. Alex James Machin (Boise, 1675) was second place with 3.0

points and there was a three-way tie for third-fifth place between James Inman (Nampa, 1768), Chris Amen (Boise, 1698), and Justin Siek (Boise, 1217) with 2.5 points each.

The time control for this event was Game/30 plus 30 seconds per move. Entry was free with no club membership to join. The only restriction if it could be called that is that the players had to be U.S. Chess members since the event was rated by U.S. Chess, but otherwise was completely free in every way and open to everyone.

It was an amusing coincidence that there were eleven players in BCC #11. All the players were local except David Zaklan (Twin Falls, 1495) who traveled over 128 miles one-way distance to play and who has played in the last four consecutive BCC events (#8, #9, #10, #11).

The Boise Chess Club would like to thank the players who came and All About Games for hosting the site. BCC #12 will happen on December 5, 2015.

**Caleb Paul Kircher (1879) – Jeffrey T Roland (1706) [A04]**  
2015 BCC #11 Boise, ID  
(R2), October 24, 2015  
[Ralph Dubisch]

1.e4 e6 2.d3 c5 3.Nd2 Nc6 4.g3 g6 5.Bg2

Bg7 6.Ngf3 Nge7 7.0-0 0-0 8.Re1 d6 9.h4 h6 10.Nf1 Bd7 11.c3 e5 12.Ne3 f5 13.Nd5

13.Qb3+ Kh8 14.Qxb7 Na5 15.Qa6 Bc8 16.Qb5 Bd7 17.Qa6 is a quick draw.

13...Kh7 14.Nh2 Nxd5 15.exd5 Ne7 16.f4 Ng8 17.Nf3 Re8 18.Qc2



Position after 18.Qc2

18...e4?!

Alternatives: 18...exf4 19.Bxf4 Nf6!? 20.Bxd6?! (20.Nd2 Qc7 21.Nc4 Bf8 22.a4 Nh5 with obscure complications.) 20...Ba4! 21.Qxa4 Qxd6 regains the pawn and leaves White's kingside looking more than a bit silly in the process: 22.Qf4 (22.Kh2 Rxe1 23.Rxe1 Nh5) 22...Qxf4 23.gxf4 Nxd5 24.Ng5+ hxg5 25.Bxd5 gxh4 26.Bxb7?! Rab8 27.Rxe8 Rxe8 with a very active rook and targets on b2, d3, and f4.; 18...Qc7 19.fxg5 dxe5∞ but perhaps Black is slightly better



coordinated.

**19.dxe4 fxe4 20.Nd2 e3 21.Nf1**

21.Ne4!? Bf5 22.Bxe3 and Black has partial compensation for the pawn.

**21...Bf5 22.Qe2 Nf6 23.Bxe3**

23.Nxe3±

**23...Qd7 24.Qd2 Ne4 25.Bxe4?**

So quick to part with the bishop-pair and leave all those juicy light squares on the kingside virtually unprotected. 25.Qe2 is roughly equal.

**25...Bxe4 26.Rad1 Bf3 27.Rc1 Qf5 28.b3**

28.c4 Qh3 29.Qh2 Qxh2+ 30.Nxh2 Be4 and Black will regain the b-pawn (or the exchange) with a plus. For example: 31.b3 Bb2 32.Rcd1 Bc2 33.Rd2 Bc3+

**28...Bxd5 29.Qh2 Bf3 30.Qf2 Bc6 31.Bd2 Qd5 32.Qh2 Qf3 33.Ne3 Qe4**

33...h5!?

**34.h5 g5 35.Ng4??**

35.fxg5 hxg5+

**35...Qf3 36.Nf2 Re2**

36...gxf4! 37.Bxf4 Rxe1+ 38.Rxe1 Qxc3 39.Rc1 Re8!-+

**37.Rxe2 Qxe2 38.Nh3**



Position after 38.Nh3

**38...Qd3??**

38...Re8! wins: 39.Qxe2

a) 39.Re1 allows the cute 39...Qxe1+ 40.Bxe1 Rxe1+ 41.Kf2 Rh1-+;

b) 39.Qf2? Qg4+ (39...Qxh5 40.Qh2 Kg8 is good as well, (but Black needs to avoid the swindle 40...Re2?? 41.Nxg5+!)); 39...Rxe2+ 40.Be1 (40.Rc2 Be4 41.Rb2 Rg2+ 42.Kf1 Rxg3 43.Nf2 Bg2+ 44.Ke2 g4+ Black's advantage is much larger than the one obvious extra pawn.) 40...Rg2+ 41.Kf1 Rxa2 42.Nf2 gxf4 43.gxf4 Bf3 and White's game is in shambles.

**39.fxg5 Rf8**

39...hxg5 40.Nxg5+ Kg8 is probably all right too.

**40.g6+ Kh8 41.Nf4 Qe4 42.Re1 Qf3 43.Ne6**

43.Rf1



Jeffrey Roland elected to play in addition to directing. Photo credit: Alex Machin.

**43...Re8??**

43...Rf5! forces 44.Nf4, when Black's attack is good enough for at least a draw. In fact, Black could choose the immediate draw with 44...Rxf4 (also 44...Bxc3 45.Bxc3+ Qxc3 46.Qf2) 45.gxf4 (45.Bxf4?? Bxc3-+) 45...Qg4+ and various perpetual checks, or try for more with the more murky 44...Rg5 or 44...Qg4.

**44.Nxg7?!**

44.Rf1 Qe4 45.Nxg7 Kxg7 gives White more options for both attack and defense.

**44...Rxe1+ 45.Bxe1 Kxg7 46.c4 Be4 47.Qh3 Qe3+ 48.Bf2 Qc1+ 49.Qf1 Qxf1+ 50.Kxf1**



Position after 50.Kxf1

Now begins a sequence where both sides seem to believe the queenside pawns are important.

**50...Bb1?**

50...Bf3

**51.b4?**

51.g4!, for example 51...Bxa2 52.Be1 Bxb3? (52...Bb1 53.Bc3+ Kg8 54.Kf2 is only a better choice for Black if his goal is to play more moves before the end.) 53.Bc3+ Kg8 54.g5+-

**51...cxb4 52.Bxa7?**

52.Bd4+!

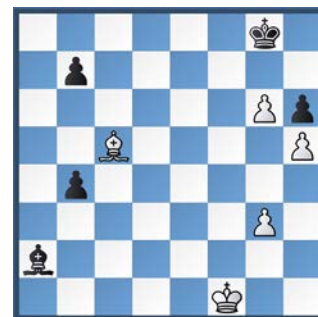
**52...Bxa2??**

52...Bf5!

**53.Bd4+! Kg8 54.c5??**

White's winning plan is to advance g4-g5, then h6-h7. The c-pawn, even lost with check, is not important, as the white king will likely want to support the g-pawn advance anyway. The real loss of time involved with 54.c5, however, should have cost half a point. 54.g4! Bxc4+ 55.Kf2 Bd3 56.Ke3 Bc2 57.Kf4 and Black's game is hopeless. 54.Kf2 (or even 54.Ke2) is also good enough.

**54...dxc5 55.Bxc5**



Position after 55.Bxc5

**55...Bc4+??**

Black must have been thinking he didn't want the bishop to be stuck on a2 when he pushed the b-pawn, missing the fact that the b-pawn is completely irrelevant to this ending. The only winning plan for either side involves White's kingside pawns, and Black has been given the gift of this one chance to eliminate those before the white king closes the gap and defends g4. 55...Be6! 56.Bxb4 Bg4! 57.Bc3 Bxh5

58.g7 is, of course, completely drawn.; Ironically, 55...b3 also draws, as long as Black is willing to part with the advanced b-pawn right away and return to the main theme: 56.Bd4 b2 57.Bxb2 Be6.

**56.Kf2 b3 57.Bd4 Bd5 58.Ke3 Bc6 59.Kf4 Bd7 60.g4 Be6 61.g5 b2 62.Bxb2 hxg5+ 63.Kxg5 Bb3 64.h6 1-0**

**Alex James Machin (1675) – Caleb Paul Kircher (1879) [A40]**  
2015 BCC #11 Boise, ID  
(R1), October 24, 2015  
[Ralph Dubisch]

**1.Nf3 g6 2.d4 Bg7 3.e3 c5 4.c3 d6 5.Be2 Nf6 6.Nbd2 0-0 7.0-0 Nc6 8.Re1 Bg4 9.h3 Bxf3 10.Bxf3 cxd4 11.exd4 d5 12.Nb3 e6 13.Bf4 Rc8 14.Nc5 b6 15.Nd3 Na5 16.Qa4 Qd7 17.Qxd7 Nxd7**



Position after 17...Nxd7

**18.Ne5?!**

White was well-coordinated, centralized, and owned the bishop-pair. Black's minors were primarily scrambling around trying to defend vulnerable squares. So why should White engineer trades leading to equality?

**18...Rfd8 19.Rab1 Nxe5 20.Bxe5 Nc4 21.Bxg7 Kxg7 22.Be2 Nd2 23.Rbd1 Ne4 24.Bd3 Nd6 25.a4 Rc6 26.Ba6 b5 27.axb5 Rb6 28.Ra1**



Position after 28.Ra1

**28...Nxb5?**

**28...Kf6 29.Kf1 Nxb5 30.Bxb5 Rxb5 31.b4±** at most.

**29.Bxb5 Rxb5 30.Rxa7 Rxb2 31.Rc1??**

White would certainly have been more comfortable in the ending if he had found 31.Rxe6±.

**31...Rc8 32.Ra4 Rd2 33.Kf1 Rb8 34.Kg1**



L-R: Alex Machin, Caleb Kircher. Photo credit: Jeffrey Roland.

**Rbb2 35.Rf1 Rbc2 36.Ra3 h5 37.h4 Kf6 38.g3 Rd3 39.Kg2 Rxc3 40.Rxc3 Rxc3 41.Rd1 Kf5 42.f3 f6 43.Rd2 Ra3 44.Kf2 g5 45.hxg5 Kxg5 45...fxg5 46.Kg2 h4 47.gxh4+ Kxh4 48.Re2 Ra6 49.Kf2 Kg5 50.Kg3 Kf5 51.Re3 Ra1 52.Rd3 Ra5 53.Rd2 e5 54.dxe5 fxe5 55.Rd3 d4 56.Rb3 Ra2**

**56...Ke6**

**57.Rd3 Rc2 58.Rd1 Re2 59.Rd3 Ra2 60.Rd1 Ra8**

**60...Re2**

**61.Rd3 Rg8+ 62.Kf2 Kf4 63.Ra3 Rg3 64.Ke2 e4 65.Ra4 d3+ 66.Kd2 Rxf3 0-1**

**Chris Amen (1698) – James Inman (1768) [B12]**  
2015 BCC #11 Boise, ID  
(R4), October 24, 2015  
[Ralph Dubisch]

**1.e4 c6 2.d4 d5 3.e5 Bf5 4.Nc3 e6 5.g4 Bg6 6.Nge2 Ne7 7.h4**

**7.Ng3!?**

**7...h5 8.g5 Nd7 9.Be3 Nf5 10.Nf4 Qb6 11.Na4 Qa5+ 12.c3?!**

**12.Nc3 Bb4±**



Position after 12.c3

**12...Nxe3?!**

**12...b5! 13.Nc5 Bxc5 14.dxc5 Nxe3 15.fxex3 Be4 16.Rg1 b4±**

**13.fxe3 Be4 14.Rg1 b5 15.Nc5 Nxc5?**

**15...Bxc5 16.b4 Bxb4 17.cxb4 Qxb4+ 18.Qd2±**

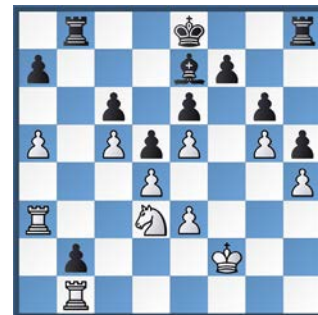
**16.b4 Qa3 17.bxc5 Qxc3+ 18.Kf2 g6 19.a4 b4 20.a5**

**20.Bd3 Bxd3 21.Nxd3** The black queen has gone a little far afield; White should be happy with this position despite the pawn deficit.

**20...b3 21.Bd3 Bxd3?!**

**21...Rb8∞** Black's advanced b-pawn will likely prove to be a bit weak, but it is extra. Allowing White to take on e4 has the benefit of denying the knight access to d3.

**22.Qxd3 Qxd3 23.Nxd3 Rb8 24.Rgb1 Be7 25.Ra3 b2**



Position after 25...b2

**26.Rxb2?**

**26.Ra2! Rb5 (26...Rb3 27.Ke2 Kd7 28.Raxb2 Rxb2+ 29.Rxb2** and White controls the open file, since **29...Kc7 30.Nb4!+-)** **27.Raxb2 a6 28.Rxb5 (28.Nb4 Kd7 29.Nxa6 Ra8 30.Rxb5 cxb5 31.Nb4 Rxa5** doesn't seem like much



L-R: James Inman, Chris Amen. Photo credit: Jeffrey Roland.



Curtis Barrett on October 30, 2015. Photo credit: Jeffrey Roland.

for White.) 28...cxb5 29.Ke2! (29.e4!? dxe4 30.Nb4 Kd7 31.Ke3 Ra8 32.Rf1 Ke8 33.Kxe4 and White is obviously more active, but still must find a winning plan.) 29...0-0 (29...Kd7 30.Rf1 Rf8 31.Nb4 leaves White with a fairly clear path to the whole point.) 30.e4 dxe4 31.Nf2!±

26...Rxb2+ 27.Nxb2 Kd7 28.Rb3 Kc7 29.a6 Rb8 30.Rxb8 Kxb8 31.Nd3 Bd8 32.Nc1 Ba5 33.Nb3 Bc3 34.Ke2 Kc7 35.Nc1 Kd7 36.Nd3 Kc7 37.Nf4 Kd7 38.Ng2 Ba5 39.Kd3 Bd8 40.e4 Ba5 41.Ke3 Bc3 1/2-1/2



Richard Hedden of Kuna, Idaho played his first rated games in BCC #11 tournament. Photo credit: Jeffrey Roland.

## Curtis Barrett Appointed Scholastic Committee Chairman

By ICA President Jeffrey Roland

On October 30, 2015 I was pleased to appoint Curtis Barrett to be Chairman of the ICA Scholastic Committee. Curtis, a 32-year-old resident of Boise, was once himself a competitor in the Idaho Scholastic Chess Championship on several occasions. And of course we owe it all to the late Dick Vandenburg, for it was Dick whose vision and dedication started it all back in 1980, and Dick's influence is still felt in Idaho Scholastic Committee meetings to this day.

Curtis has a passion for the Idaho Scholastic Chess program and has worked for many years as a volunteer at the annual events—quickly and efficiently entering the huge amounts of data and results into the computer in the sometimes (usually) stressful environment of needing to do everything at once... right now... with no mistakes, and by the way, “where’s that report... come on! Let’s get a move on!” In short, Curtis is amazing!

For years now, Curtis has been learning the ropes from the ground level up, attending countless Scholastic Committee meetings, and working hand-in-hand with Craig Barrett and myself

as well as the others in the Scholastic Committee and in the community at large.

Craig Barrett (Curtis’ father), who has been chairman of the committee and Chief TD of the event for many years, as well as serving as Trustee for Scholastic Development on the ICA Board, will still be on the committee but more so in a capacity so as to transition things over to Curtis. It is time for us to make the move of handing the reigns over to the next generation. Thank you, Craig for all you’ve done over the years and for helping in this transition. And thank you, Curtis, for accepting this appointment..

Please join me in support of our new Idaho Scholastic Committee Chairman, and let’s work to make the 2015-2016 scholastic season the best ever for Idaho.

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# Oregon Chess News

## Oregon All Stars Scholastic Chess Tournament

by Owen McCoy

The 8th annual Oregon All Stars tournament was held on Friday, October 9, 2015, in the Capitol Building in Salem, Oregon. Organized and coordinated by the OSCF Board, with much volunteer assistance, and directed by Jeffrey Dobbins. Scholastic players from all over the state came to pick up rating points, money, and have a fun time! All players that were at one point in the 2014-2015 school year inside the top 10 in their grade were invited. 129 of the invitees came.

The players were divided into four sections (according to NWSRS ratings): Super Stars (1400+), Bright Stars (1100-1399), Rising Stars (<1100), and Golden Pioneers. (US Chess unrated). These in turn were divided into smaller subsections, as to give more players a chance to win. And win they did.

NM Aaron Grabinsky (2317-2309) came all the way up from Coquille with some of his buddies and reasonable hopes of first place. Indeed he picked up \$45 for his efforts, but could not escape without a loss this time. This loss was delivered by



*Neil Soiffer, volunteer room TD, educates and adjudicates on the finer points of en passant in a game between Zane Moore of Portland and Angelina Morones of Coquille.  
Photo credit: Jeffrey Dobbins.*

the up-and-coming Gavin Zhang (1873-1890), who seems to be on a hot streak. (Continued from Oregon Open.) He also drew against CM Joshua Grabinsky (1935-1930), but then lost against Owen McCoy (1909-1921) in the final round.

Super Stars "B" was no less interesting. The obvious favorite was Abhinav

Brahmarouthu (1847-1847), but he too, could not escape without losing to Valentin Molchanov (1727-1716). Unfortunately, that was the only game he won. Gabriel Skoro (1728-1733) and Colin Liu (1719-1726) both finished with 1.5/3.

The rest of the winners were as follows:

Super Stars "C": Cameron Kocher (1691-1704) / Ethan Allison (1633-1663).

Super Stars "D": Jack Woo McClain (1616-1668).

Super Stars "E": Neal Aditya (1572-1622).

Super Stars "F": Jimmy Tang (1425-1518).

Super Stars "Q": Simon Venter (1487-1586).

Bright Stars "G" saw Kyle Liu (1385-1453) and Corbin Frias (1363-1447) on equal 1st with 3.0/4, both undefeated.

The rest of the Bright Stars winners are listed below:

Bright Stars "H": Carter Lancaster (1335-1441) / Ian Vo (1318-1434)

Bright Stars "J": Rex Zhao (1239-1385)



*Neena Feldman of Portland, Oregon, considers her game. Hailey Albers of Oregon City is in the background at left, and Thomas Schuff of Portland in the foreground at right.  
Photo credit: Jeffrey Dobbins.*

Bright Stars “K”: Aidan Gardner-O’Kearney (1215-1375)

Rising Stars “L” was dominated by Leo Reeves (969-1204) who finished with 4.5/5.

The rest of the Rising Stars winners are listed below.

Rising Stars “M”: Geordyn Allyn (951-1132)

Rising Stars “N”: Robert Chondro (758-900)

Rising Stars “O”: Alexandre Boyce (610-852)

Rising Stars “P”: Eleanor Song (480-692)

Golden Pioneers: Riya Majmudar (719-840)

Complete crosstables can be found at <http://chess.ratingsnw.com/report15-16/OregonAllStars.html>

I have to say, I think All Stars is a great way to kick off the school year, giving all the top players a chance to compete and win. It’s an event that avid scholastic players look forward to every year. They’ll be back in the magazine after the OSCF State Championship in April. Big guys, watch out!

## PCC Fall Open

By Brian Berger

Portland, OR — October 10-11, 2015

Billed as a tournament with a guaranteed prize fund of \$1300 to be held on National Chess Day, and serving also as an Invitational Qualifier for OSA and OCF and as an OSCF State Qualifier, high expectations were held for a good turnout at the Portland Chess Club’s Fall Open event. But unfortunately such was not the case as only 30 players of a hoped-for 50 showed, leaving a fairly large money-gap between income and outgo.

But hey, win some and lose some—chess attendance expectations not being a science. And win some lose some was certainly the order for this two-day tournament, a number of upsets putting an exclamation mark to that order. And first off was the loss by Nick “The Raptor” Raptis (2380-2375) to Seth Talyansky (2041-2103), Talyansky somehow escaping the talons of the Oregon chess community’s deadliest foe, to make it a tie with “The Raptor” for first and second place prizes with a score of 4.0/5—that

when split money-wise, gave each \$250.

Another notable upset in the Open Section occurred between Lennart Bjorksten (2179-2166) and Dagadu Gaikwad (1893-1933), with Gaikwad winning round four from Bjorksten, elevated recently to Master level.

**Dagadu Gaikwad (1893) – Lennart Bjorksten (2179) [D31]**  
PCC Fall Open Portland (R4), October 11, 2015  
*[Ralph Dubisch]*

1.Nf3 d5 2.d4 c6 3.c4 e6 4.Nc3 dxc4 5.a4 Bb4 6.e3 b5 7.Bd2 a5 8.axb5 Bxc3 9.Bxc3 cxb5 10.b3 Bb7 11.bxc4 b4 12.Bb2 Nf6 13.Bd3 0–0 14.0–0 Nbd7 15.c5

15.Nd2!?!±

15...Bc6 16.Bc2 Ne4 17.Ba4 Bd5?!

17...Qc7

18.Qe2 Qe7 19.Rfc1 Rfc8 20.Ne1!



Position after 20.Ne1

20...Nxc5?

This appears to be unsound, but Black apparently doesn’t much like his position. His two connected passed pawns on the queenside are firmly blockaded, while the white central mass is about to prove quite effectively mobile.

21.dxc5 Nxc5 22.Bd1 Rcb8 23.Nd3 Nb3 24.Bxb3 Bxb3 25.Nc5 Bd5 26.e4 Bc6 27.Qg4 e5 28.Nd3 Bd7 29.Qg3 f6 30.f4 exf4 31.Qxf4

31.Nxf4

31...a4 32.e5 a3 33.exf6 Qf8 34.Be5 b3 35.Rxa3

Or 35.Bxb8.

35...Qxa3

35...Rxa3 loses, but avoids immediate mate.

36.Qc4+ Kf8 37.fgx7+ Ke7 38.Qh4+ Kf7 39.Rf1+ Ke6 40.Qc4+ Ke7 41.Qf7+ Kd8 1–0

Apparently Gaikwad’s appetite for bigger game was whetted by another upset in round three, when he also beat a recent transplant from Las Vegas, Expert Gregory Cottle (2037-2008). All told, Gaikwad earned an overall score of 3.0/5, giving him sole access to the U2000 prize of \$150 and a nice increase in his rating.

One other upset in the Open Section is worth noting, and that being the first round loss by Gregory Cottle to Kian Patel (1746-1769). Cottle’s king, cut off by any effort from his queen to intervene, succumbed to Patel’s counter-attack after Cottle won an earlier exchange. Perhaps ruminating on this early loss left Cottle



(L) Chris Burris vs Danny Phipps. Photo credit: Brian Berger.



*Morgan the Dog and Brian Berger discussing possible chess lessons. Photo credit: Jazon Samillano.*

vulnerable to the third round success by Gaikwad. Whatever the reason for this second loss to a lower rated player, I am sure that when Cottle becomes fully acclimatized after the heat of his desert days, he will be better able to “cool down” his future opponents.

Turning to the Reserve Section, Jerrold Richards (1402-1423) showed that his training sessions with Morgan the Dog



*Co-winners of the Reserve Section, (L) Eric Erard and Roland Eagles. Photo credit: Brian Berger.*

are paying off, playing to a draw against Thomas Boyd (1652-1614) and beating Greg Markowski (1534-1505)—no small feat, as Markowski of late has shown a shrewd toughness in his play, which has been reflected in his steadily rising rating. But Morgan the Dog’s chess grooming techniques triumphed over shrewdness and ratings this time, and led to Richards’ 2.5/5 points being good enough to secure the U1400 prize of \$100—and I’m guessing top sirloin for Morgan?

Coming in as the highest rated player in this section, Jazon “The Filipino Phenom” Samillano (1739-1730) seemed poised to take top prize after winning his first two games, given a recent upswing in his tournament play, but had to bow to the chess machinations of Roland “Steamroller” Eagles (1700-1729) and the tricky tactics of the 8-year-old provisionally-rated Eric Erard (1500P-1608P)—Erard ending his last round game with Samillano in record time—12 moves? (I think “The Search for Bobby Fischer” is over!)

With ending scores of 4.0/5 each, Eagles and Erard tied for the first and second place money, taking home a tidy sum of \$175, and having it recorded in a photograph (I’m hoping will accompany this article) which shows chess excellence comes in all sizes.

Somehow, amongst all this chess talent, Brian “Just Glad To Be Here” Berger (1507-1513) managed to take the U1600 prize with a respectable 3.0/5 points—and this without the help of Morgan the Dog, who has offered to help me along in my search for chess enlightenment!—

his only request being that I continue to slip him food on the sly, and maybe a belly-rub now and again. And as for the \$100 I won, I probably will use it for further tries at chess greatness—that is, if I don’t run into Eric Erard anytime soon!

The last of the prizes went to Alejandro McClain (409P-521P), who turned in a final score of 1.5/5 points, enough to take the U1200 category and pocket \$100, and perhaps is thinking that “Hey, this isn’t a bad way to make a living!” (Ah, the hopes and dreams of youth.)

Thanks go to Chief TD Mike Janniro and Chief Assistant TD Lennart Bjorksten for running this fun event.

## October 2015 PCC Quad 45

**By Brian Berger**

Portland, OR — October 17, 2015

As the Portland Chess Club’s Quad 45 is a popular monthly tournament that attracts a good portion of younger players, it wasn’t surprising that a Scholastic tournament taking place the same day as the Quads would somewhat diminish attendance figures. In fact, the 11 players who showed up were about half of what would have been expected.

The difficulty in forming more than one quad from this small gathering was the attendance of three highly rated players, the lowest of whom was Gerald Weaver (1832-1821), and the highest being Jason Cigan (2139-2147). So to not mix such high-rated players with some extremely low ones in an overall Swiss, one player was picked from the low section to act as a fourth for an upper quad—guess who! Yep! About 30 rating points separated me (1513-1503) from the highest player in the lower quad, and over 300 points in the upper—and so the lamb was led to slaughter.

My demise was nearly painless, only one game came close to looking like a possible draw, and that against a guy that just gained 100 rating points in his last tournament—Dagadu Gaikwad (1933-1939), where if I had placed my rook behind an advancing passed-pawn, equality of pieces and position hinted at a draw. But I chose the wrong pawn (one that could not be protected) to place my rook behind, thereby giving him the opportunity to secure his rook behind the passer—and there good folks is how to lose a hard-fought game!

Gaikwad was generous in his comments



Dagadu Gaikwad was little threatened by this reporter. Photo credit: Brian Berger.

about the game, pretty much agreeing that it certainly had draw possibilities, and as a gesture of sympathy, offered to buy me lunch at Subway as a consolation prize—not too proud to accept, I reflected on my near draw while the jalapenos brought tears to my eyes.

Less draw-like were the other two games, the first against Cigan, where I thought I knew what I was doing, but apparently had no clue—how can a guy make one move with a queen and threaten checkmate three

ways? The other game lost was to Weaver, who has a peculiar habit of sighing heavily after his opponent's move, as if to infer that he was hoping that that was the last move he wanted his opponent to make—when in reality it could not have pleased him more. So, after a barrage of sighs the end was in sight (mine, that is), and I too sighed and resigned.

I got to thinking after it was all over and I was zip-for-three that I could have just as easily lost to three lower-rated players,



(L) Jonathan Hurkett vs Robert Bowden. Photo credit: Brian Berger.



Jason Cigan, winner of the Upper Quad. Photo credit: Brian Berger.

dropping more than just ten rating points and feeling much worse about the whole thing. As it was, I could still hold my head high enough (considering the higher ratings of my opponents) to find my way out the door without tripping on something.

The final outcome for the Quad followed the ratings—Jason Cigan first (3.0/3), Dagadu Gaikwad second (2.0/3), Gerald Weaver third (1.0/3), and Brian Berger (0/3) who is thinking seriously about taking up Morgan the Dog's offer to coach him when he is not involved with tutoring Jerrold Richards—which at this point has pretty much occupied most of his time, given the less than malleable nature of the student.

Of the seven players in the Small Swiss, Nathan Wonder (1060-1214) swept the field with (3.0/3) points and improved his rating by 154 points, his closest competitors being Jonathan Hurkett (Unrated-1305P—2.0/3) and Robert Bowden (1244-1218—2.0/3). The four trailing players were Henry Louie (1479-1435—1.5/3), Daniel Anderson (980P-1069P—1.5/3), Kushal Pai (1255-1203—1.0/3) and Carlos Ferrer-Perry (546P-546P—1.0/3). Pai, it would seem, slipped a bit from his recent winning ways, which seemed to promise more to come from this dedicated lad who does not rattle easily, and has a fine tactical sense.

Out of the eleven who attended the Quad 45, only Kushal Pai (1203-1205) and Robert Bowen (1121-1135) stayed to play in the Blitz tournament immediately following the Quads, with Gunther Jacobi (1914-1894) and Chief TD Micah Smith

(2097P-2110) throwing their hats into the ring for ten games of three-minute blitz with a two-second delay—a timeframe which I find not suitable to my more reflective nature, but the young seem to feed on.

Predictably, Smith dominated, winning with 9.5/10, followed by Jacobi's 6.0/10, Pai's 2.5/10, and Bowden's 2.0/10. Aside from the very small return of won points I would gain from such a time control, I would also gain considerably in blood pressure—just another reason for me not subjecting myself to such a (on my part) masochistic endeavor.

## PCC October 2015 Game 60

By Brian Berger

Portland, OR — October 24, 2015

With Mike Morris helping during the registration process, Chief TD Lennart Bjorksten seemed well covered for a sizable turnout for October's Game 60 at the Portland Chess Club. But as the time for registration slipped away, only six players had showed by 9:30.

Nick "The Raptor" Raptis voiced his concern that this would likely be the poorest attendance ever for a Game 60. I realized that Raptis generally comes at the last minute for these meets, and so does not see the mad rush for registration that usually takes place in the last five-



(L) Jake Winkler vs Nick Raptis. Photo credit: Brian Berger.

minutes. I assured him that this would probably be the case this time. And sure enough, at about the deadline for signing up, they came—but not in the hoped for droves; the final count being 18 players, down from the normal high 20s to low 30s.

Of course, one can almost always count on Morgan the Dog to bring Jerrold Richards (1421-1412), whose game of late has shown a bit of an upswing

due to Morgan's conditioning routine specifically designed to strengthen both body and mind. And Richards did look in good form after Morgan the Dog walked him from his home in the Columbia Gorge to Saturday's tournament in Portland, if just a bit winded. But his ruddy cheeks and ready answers seemed to indicate an increased clarity of mind, and I perceived that Morgan was holding high hopes for Richards to do well this time.

Unfortunately, Richards' encounter with Dagadu Gaikwad (1939-1953), and Gunther Jacobi (1960-1941) was a bit much for his reconditioning to overcome as the small turnout threw all players together rather than have them broken into high and low sections (as many times they are). But let it be said he gave his all, showing here and there a growing understanding of the game and a more stoic acceptance of certain limitations, settling finally into good form beating Megan Cheng (895-920) and drawing Nathan Wonder (1214-1273), who has shown he can be tough to beat.

As one would expect (I seem to start all my sentences about "The Raptor" this way), Nick "The Raptor" Raptis (2367-2368) took all the marbles (or is that chess pieces) and posted a perfect 4.0/4, allowing him to open the vault of the Portland Chess Club and take currency worth \$54 (down a bit due to the low turnout) with which to dance the night away—or do something filling or fun. And Texan Charles Hill IV (1757-1785) came all the way from rattlesnake land, leaving his 100 oil wells in the care of his



(L) Megan Cheng vs Jerrold Richards. Photo credit: Brian Berger.



butler, hung his holstered peacemaker at the front desk, then proceeded to show why, when it comes to the movement of horses, Texans know a thing or two—his final score of 3.5/4 was good enough to take second place prize money amounting to \$36 (a bit of a joke when you realize that is about the amount he tips the washroom attendant.)

A tie for third place fell to the always dangerous David “The Calculator” Murray (1835-1864) and to Dagadu Gaikwad, both reaching 3.0/4, then splitting the already reduced third place prize of \$27 into not-much-to-write-home-about winnings of \$13.50—perhaps using the windfall to invest in mutual funds.

By beating Brian “Just Glad To Be Here” Berger (1503-1528) in the last round, Roland “Steamroller” Eagles (1729-1727) took the U1800 prize of \$31.50—a prize which could have been mine if he wouldn’t have taken so many of my pawns. He must know that reporters don’t make much money (in my case—NONE), and could have given me a fighting chance by leaving a pawn or two on the board.

Lastly, there was a tie for U1500, the \$31.50 prize money being split into payments of \$15.75 each for the 2.0/4 of Jonathan Hurkett (1305P-1534P) and Javkhlantugs Nyamdorj (1437P-1474P)—both players on the rise, with Hurkett showing the most improvement in the three tournament games he has played thus far.

## Portland Chess Club Championship

By Brian Berger

The Portland Chess Club Championship ended after a five-week, five-round Swiss, held every Tuesday night from September 29 thru October 27, governed by a time control of 40/90, SD/30, with a five-second delay.

Sixteen players sought the title of Club Champion that last year was held by three players who tied with 4.0/5 points each: Nick “The Raptor” Raptis (2368-2364), Brian Esler (2160-2163), and Alex Grom (who did not participate this year). And taking their place as the new (and only) winner this year, Chief TD Michael Morris turned in a tour de force, 4.5/5 performance against some heavy competition, which included wins over Lennart Bjorksten (2160-2151—3.0/5) and Nick Raptis (4.0/5), and a draw against Brian Esler (3.5/5).

Of the four players who also had plus



(L) Robert Hamm vs Michael Olson. Photo credit: Brian Berger.

scores of 3.0/5, Roland Eagles (1727-1792) was the U1800 winner, exhibiting some of the earlier chess skills which always made him a formidable opponent (skills not seen for some time, but gradually coming to the forefront in recent tournaments), with wins over Mike Janniro (2003-2000) and Robert Lundin (1869-1856). Others who posted 3.0/5 points were the already mentioned Lennart Bjorksten, Jerry Sherrard (2051-2054) and David Murray (1864-1884), Murray also making it a tough tournament for Janniro by taking round five from him.

Other players in order of their final point count were: Robert Hamm (2062-2035—2.5/5), Michael Olson (1627-1661—2.5/5), Mike Janniro (2.0/5), Robert Lundin (2.0/5), Brian Berger (1528-1552—2.0/5), Numan Abdul-Mujeeb (1633-1600—1.5/5), Michael Moore (1535-1542—1.5/5), Nicholas Brown (1622-1588—1.0/5) and Arliss Dietz (1525-1517—1.0/5).

## Oregon Class Championships

By Brian Berger

Portland, OR — October 31/November 1, 2015

A “perfect storm” of problems dampened the attendance expectations of this year’s Oregon Class Championships, when two-inches of rain fell on the Portland area within a six-hour period the first day

of the tournament (a phenomenon the local weather service said happens only once every 10 to 20 years!) Combine that with the fact that Halloween fell on the very same Saturday, and you can better understand the WHY of the low participation figures—39 this year compared to 62 last year.

Consequently, the advertised prize fund was adjusted accordingly. What would have been \$200, \$100 and \$50 prizes for each class based on at least 10 players, saw a reduction to 70% in the M/X and C Sections, 90% in the A Section, and 60% in the B Section—leaving only the U1400 Section with its 10 players 100% funded. Still, there seemed to be no less interest in getting the first day’s three-round schedule started, allowing up to five-hours of play per game at a time control of 40 moves in 90 minutes with sudden death set at 30 minutes and a delay of five seconds.

The Master-Expert Section saw current Oregon State Champion Nick “The Raptor” Raptis (2364-2379—5.0/5) in his most rapacious form, swooping in for the kill over Seth Talyansky (2103-2078—1.5/5), Jason Cigan (2147-2140—2.5/5) and Carl Haessler (2257-2239—1.0/5). The second day, with the time control upped to 40/120, SD 60, delay five, the carnage continued with (Iowan) Jose Gatica (2147-2140—3.5/5) and Bill Heywood (2042-2048—2.0/5) finding no hiding place from The Raptor’s talons, giving Raptis a perfect score and the \$140 prize.

Although Gatica's and Cigan's losses to "The Raptor" left some wounds, they were superficial, each having the strength to also claim a cash prize—Gatica taking outright second place and \$70 with his 3.5/5 points, and Cigan taking third place and \$35 in winnings with a score of 2.5/5.

The clear winner in the A Section was Brent Baxter (1876-1911) from Washington, his 4.0 points earning him \$180 and state bragging rights. And tying for second and third place were Dagadu Gaikwad (1953-1958) and Moshe Rachmuth (1870-1910) with 3.5/5 points each, the combined prize money giving them \$67.50 to recoup their entrance fee and buy a lunch.

Mu Lin (1689-1800) showed that he was king of the hill in the B Section by winning four of his games and gaining another half-point with a bye in the third round—doubly awarded for his fine performance by pocketing \$120, and also upping his rating by 111 points! And second place was taken by Karl Wallulis (1695-1742) in a 3.5/5 finish, fetching him \$60 and also boosting his rating a rewarding 47 points. Finally, the third place honor fell to Lon Brusselback (1652-1664) who posted 3.0/5 points, and was handed cold-cash in the amount of \$30.

In the C Section, it was another one of those disappointing tournaments for Morgan the Dog's owner, Jerrold "I Just Want To Reach 1600 Before It's Too Late" Richards (1412-1379), who has shown flashes of chess prowess of late under the watchful tutelage of Morgan yet continues to backslide at crucial moments—this tournament being one of them. Ending with a score of 1.5/5 (one of those points being a first round forced bye) he managed seventh place out of a field of seven players, leaving Morgan the Dog to wonder if it might not be better to suggest the fascination of checkers to Richards.

By contrast, Brian "I'm Just Glad To Be Here" Berger (1552-1594) had one of his best results in many moons by fighting



(L) Moshe Rachmuth (R) Dagadu Gaikwad receiving second place prize money from TD Grisha Alpernas. Photo credit: Brian Berger.

his way to 3.5/5 points, enough to win clear second place in the same section, and experiencing the rare sensation of handling currency worth \$70 (at least until his wife finds out he has it). But credit must be paid to Morgan the Dog, who has taken a proprietary interest in Berger (due to the many treats slipped to him during tournaments at the Portland Chess Club), and has been secretly coaching him when not keeping an eye on Richards.

But it was the very young Artjom Menkov (1572-1618) from Washington that took the big money, edging out Berger by a half point (4.0/5) to win first place and \$140. Quick to take advantage of an opponent's weakness, I managed to lose a central pawn to him early on in our game and was never able to equalize, eventually losing a couple more pawns and the game.

Sharing third place money at 3.0/5 points each were Michael Moore (1542-1533) and Sean Zlatnik (1520-1522) raking in \$17.50—that in Zlatnik's case, might just be enough for the gas home to Corvallis.

Action in the U1400 Section ended with the young, always smiling Kushal Pai (1203-1298) plowing through the competition and taking first place, while allowing

only one draw to mar a near perfect score of 4.5/5 points. Waiting for him at tournament's end was \$200, and a 95 point boost in his rating!

Second and third place prize monies were combined to award four players \$37.50 each, for turning in scores of 3.5/5—those being Michael Munsey (1447-1414) from Washington, Sean Uan-Zo-Li (1300-1300), A. George Stewart (1254-1268) and Dave Prideaux (1151-1196).

As has been the case in other tournaments held at this venue, everyone I talked to seemed to find the plush seating, good



Assist. Chief TD Mike Morris. Photo credit: Brian Berger.



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lighting, easy bathroom access and courtesy iced water welcome pluses for these long games—as well as the professionalism of its Chief TD, Grisha Alpernas, and Chief Assistant TD, Mike Morris.

## To PE or not to PE?

By Moshe Rachmuth

Becca Lampman (2090) –  
 Moshe Shai Rachmuth (1886) [D07]  
 2014 Vancouver Open  
 Vancouver, WA (R1), August 9, 2014  
 [Moshe Rachmuth]

1.d4 d5 2.c4 Nc6 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.cxd5 Nxd5  
 5.e4 Nxc3 6.bxc3 e5 7.d5 Nb8 8.Nf3 Bd6  
 9.Be2 0-0 10.0-0 Bg4?!

10...Nd7; 10...f5!?

11.Nd2?!

11.h3

11...Bxe2 12.Qxe2 Nd7 13.Nc4 Bc5

13...Qh4

14.Be3 Qe7 15.Na5 Bb6 16.Nb3 Nc5?!

16...Rad8

17.Nxc5 Bxc5 18.Rab1 Bxe3 19.Qxe3  
 b6 20.c4 f5 21.exf5 Rxf5 22.g3 Raf8  
 23.f3 Qf6 24.Kg2 Qg6 25.Rbc1 Qd6  
 26.Rce1 b5 27.cxb5 Qxd5 28.Rc1 Qxb5  
 29.Rxc7 Qxf1+ 30.Kxf1 Rxf3+ 31.Ke2  
 Rxe3+ 32.Kxe3



Position after 32.Kxe3

To enter a pawn endgame or not? Black can offer the exchange of rooks with 32...Rf7 or go into a drawn rook endgame with 32...a5 33.Rc5 a4 34.Ra5 Rc8 35.Rxa4 Rc2 36.Ke4 Rxh2 37.Kxe5 but this is still double-edged. After a long game when White was always equal or inferior and short on time I thought she would be happy to repeat and played...

32...Rf7??

My thought was “she will not enter an endgame with a pawn down so we will repeat after 33.Rc8+ Rf8 34.Rc7 Rf7.” Unfortunately, this is never the way to think about entering pawn endgames. When deciding whether or not to enter a pawn endgame you must calculate as

many moves forward as you can and not just count pawns. 32...a5 33.Rc5 a4 34.Ra5 Rc8 35.Rxa4 Rc2 36.Ke4 Rxh2 37.Kxe5 Re2+ 38.Kf5 Rf2+ 39.Kg4

33.Rc8+

For a second I considered asking to take my last move back but instead I just swallowed my tears and played on.

33...Rf8 34.Rxf8+ Kxf8 35.Ke4 Ke7

35...Kf7 would not change much, Black’s position is completely lost. 35...Kf7 36.Kxe5 Ke7 37.g4 h6 38.h4 g6 39.g5 h5 40.a4

36.Kxe5 Kd7 37.Kd5



Position after 37.Kd5

This is the critical position. Why is it lost for Black? You can have all kinds of variations but the basic idea is this. Black’s king can go either to the queenside or to the kingside. Whichever way the black king goes the white king marches the other way and is always faster: if the black king goes to the queen-side starting with 37...Kc7 Black will have a queen on a1 in twelve moves while White will have a queen on g8 in nine moves. If the black king goes to the king-side Black will have a queen on g1 in twelve moves while White will have a queen on a8 in nine moves. So Black can only wait and pray for a miracle.

37...g6 38.a4?

And the miracle happens. Now if Black goes to the queenside he will need only ten moves to have a queen on a1 while White will need ten moves to have a queen on h8! This means that White will have to hold the queen-side and the game should end in a draw. For example 38...Kc7 39.c5 Kb7 40.Kb5 h6 41.h3 g5 42.g4 Kc7 43.Ka6 Kb8.

Instead of 38.a4? White had a few winning options. The common idea to most of the winning plans is to make progress on the kingside before moving the pawn to a4. For

example 38.Ke5 Ke7 39.g4 h6 40.h4 Kf7 41.g5 hxg5 42.hxg5 Ke7 43.a4.

38.g4 h6 39.h4 Ke7 40.g5 (40.h5?? 40...gxh5 41.gxh5 Kf6) 40...hxg5 41.hxg5 Kd7 42.a4 a5; 38.Ke5 Ke7 39.a4 (39.g4 h6 (39...g5 40.Kf5 Kf7) 40.h4 g5 (40...Kf7 41.g5 hxg5 42.hxg5 Ke7 43.a4)) 39...a5 40.Kd5

38...h6?

The lesson here is: if you pray for a miracle try not to miss it. After 38...h6 Black is lost again. If White goes to the kingside starting with 39.Ke5 and Black goes to the queenside then White will have a queen on g8 in nine moves while black will have a queen on a1 in ten moves but White starts first so the queen on g8 will take the pawn on a2. Otherwise, if Black defends on the kingside after 39.Ke5 Ke7 then White wins in a similar fashion to what we saw in the notes to White’s 38th move. For example 40.g4 g5 41h3. 38...Kc7 39.Kc5 (39.Ke5 Kb6 40.h4 (40.Kf6 Ka5 41.Kg7 Kxa4 42.Kxh7 a5) 40...Ka5 41.Kf6 Kxa4 42.Kg7 a5 43.Kxh7 Kb5 44.g4 a4 45.h5 gxh5 46.gxh5 a3 47.h6 a2 48.Kg8 a1Q 49.h7) 39...Kb7 40.Kb5 h6 41.h3 g5 42.g4 Kc7 43.Ka6 Kb8

39.h3?

The miracle happens again. Black is given a second chance to go to the queenside. 39.g4 Ke7 (39...h5 40.g5 h4 41.Ke5 Ke7 42.a5 a6 43.h3) 40.Kc6

39...Kc7

And finally Black sees the light.

40.Kc5?!

The position is drawn anyway but White could enter a K+Q+P versus K+Q endgame by going to the kingside. 40.Ke5 Kb6 41.Kf6 Ka5 42.Kxg6 Kxa4 43.Kxh6 Kb4 44.g4 a5 45.g5 a4 46.g6 a3 47.g7 a2 48.g8=Q a1=Q. According to Houdini this is a draw, but White can still give many annoying checks. 40.Ke5 Kb6 41.Kf6 Ka5 42.Kxg6 Kxa4 43.Kxh6 Kb4 44.g4 a5 45.g5 a4 46.g6 a3 47.g7 a2 48.g8Q a1Q

40...g5 41.g4 Kb7 42.Kb5 Kc7 43.a5 Kb7 44.a6+ Kc7 45.Kc5 Kd7 46.Kd5 Kc7 47.Kc5 1/2-1/2



# Washington Chess News

## U.S. Chess League



## Week 1: 8-26-2015

Dallas Destiny vs. Seattle Sluggers

## Seattle Sluggers Open Season with Tough Loss

By Mark Trevor Smith and Curt Collyer

At Chess4Life in Bellevue on Wednesday, August 26, the Seattle Sluggers opened the 2015 season with a tough loss against Dallas. We were out-rated on boards one and two, but not on boards three and four. Despite the even odds, we ended up on

the short end, 1.5 - 2.5, after a win by Tiglon, draw by Cozianu, losses by Golub and Lee.

Michael Lee, who received the international master title a year ago, returned to the Sluggers to play the black pieces on first board. Before the match started, he was greeted by a photo from 2008, when he was on the team with GMs Nakamura and Serper. Costin Cozianu had already arrived early to familiarize himself with his opponent, who, it turned out later, was planning to surprise him with the French instead of the Sicilian. David Golub, whose legendary 7.5/8 on board four last season has become a part of his name (remember “grey-eyed Athena” and “pious Aeneas” and “wily Odysseus”?) on the level of “6-time U.S. champ Walter Browne” and “5-time world champ Anand,” took over board three. New team member Bryce Tiglon, who is still under-rated even after soaring above 2300, carried bright prospects to board four.

As the match got underway, spectators continued to arrive until we had about a dozen, including masters Josh Sinanan (team manager instead of player this year), Elliott Neff, and Curt Collyer.



Costin Cozianu. Photo credit: Josh Sinanan.

As expected, Golub’s game grew exciting quickly, with some of us lower-rated players thinking he was winning, while wiser heads worried for his king’s safety. Vaidya’s 12 Qc1 implied precise preparation, for two other moves (Be5 and Bxb8) are much more popular but apparently not as strong. During a tactical flurry beginning with 13 a3, our master-spectators debated vigorously, but the players found most of the moves recommended by the engines, which declared near equality after 18 Kc1. Black’s startling 20...Ke7 !?!, though, got us all worried, as white pieces salivated over a fat, juicy target. The fatal error was 22...Qxd4? (Instead, ...Qb6 gave Black the best chances of survival.) The last few moves were painful to watch as the lonely black king was strafed (in a mixed metaphor) by White’s queen, bishop, rook, and sacrificed knight. This game has been nominated for game of the week.

Cozianu played a modest version of the Advance against Ri’s surprising French, but after Ri sacked a pawn with 16...d4 to activate his French bishop from b7 to d5, White had only a slight edge. Cozianu wanted to keep pressing, but he agreed to a draw because he feared that his low clock time might give him some problems.

Michael Lee, playing Black against phenom Jeffrey Xiang’s English, had to contend with the 8th most popular



David Golub. Photo credit: Josh Sinanan.



Bryce Tiglon. Photo credit: Josh Sinanan.

second move (1 c4 e5 2 a3). A few moves later, theory was jettisoned completely. On move 17, Lee decided on ...gxf6 to preserve his e-pawn (the engines evaluate ...gxf6 about the same as the more pawn-structure-conscious ...Qf6), and equality set in for many moves. The tide turned sharply in White's favor after 32...Raxa3? (more solid was ...Rb8 or ...Rd8 or even ...Rbx3). White's queen, bishop, and rook flooded in on Black's poorly protected king. When White's other rook joined the fun, White had simply to make sure he didn't fall for a corridor mate-in-one, and it was all over.

Tiglon maintained a solid position all the way through the tried and trusted Cambridge Springs variation of the QGD (credited to Emmanuel Lasker), especially



Michael Lee. Photo credit: Josh Sinanan.

after Malhotra chose 10...Qd5 instead of the much more popular 10...Qc7. The spectators muttered and marveled at the quiet 15...h6 and 16 h3. Were both players trying to pass? Creating Luft? Out of ideas? The engines assessed equality for most of the game, but after Malhotra did not claim the threefold repetition draw at move 61, his clock gave us reason to hope for a victory. While the masters in the spectator room debated the best plan for Bryce to pursue, Stockfish and Houdini insisted again and again on "0.00," but the evaluation began to creep up bit by bit: 0.8, 1.2, 1.6, 2.6, higher. We applauded Bryce's triumphant emergence from the playing room. Thanks, Bryce, for this harmonious note at the end of an otherwise dissonant evening.

**Final score of the match: Dallas 2.5 - Seattle 1.5**

**Jeffery Xiong (2616) – Michael Lee (2503) [A20]**  
USCL Week 1 Internet Chess Club  
(Board 1), August 26, 2015

1.c4 e5 2.a3 Nf6 3.e3 Nc6 4.b4 d5 5.cxd5 Qxd5 6.Bb2 Be6 7.Nf3 e4 8.Nc3 Qd7 9.b5 Na5 10.Nd4 Bc5 11.Nxe6 Qxe6 12.Qc2 0-0 13.Ne2 Bb6 14.Rd1 Rac8 15.Nf4 Qf5 16.Be2 c6 17.Bxf6 gxf6 18.bxc6 Rxc6 19.Qb1 Bc7 20.Nh5 Rb6 21.Qc2 Rc8 22.Qa4 Nb3 23.Ng3 Bxg3 24.hxg3 Nc5 25.Qxa7 Rb2 26.0-0 Qd5 27.Qa5 Rb3 28.Rc1 b6 29.Qa7 Ra8 30.Qc7 Ne6 31.Qe7 Qe5 32.Qb7



Position after 32.Qb7

32...Raxa3 33.Rc8+ Kg7 34.Bc4 Rb2 35.Bxe6 Qxe6 36.Qb8 f5 37.Rfc1 Rxd2 38.R1c6 Ra1+ 39.Kh2 Rdd1 40.Rg8+ Kf6 41.Rxe6+ fxe6 42.g4 1-0

**Costin Cozianu (2451) – Ruifeng Li (2502) [C02]**  
USCL Week 1 Internet Chess Club  
(Board 2), August 26, 2015

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.e5 c5 4.c3 Nc6 5.Nf3 Nge7 6.Be2 Nf5 7.dxc5 Bxc5 8.b4 Be7 9.b5 Na5 10.0-0 b6 11.Nbd2 Bb7 12.Nd4 Rc8 13.Nxf5 exf5 14.Nf3 0-0 15.Qd3 g6 16.Be3

[Diagram top of next column]

16...d4 17.Bxd4 Nc4 18.Nd2 Bd5



Position after 16.Be3

19.Rfe1 Qd7 20.a4 Rfd8 21.Nxc4 Bxc4 22.Qe3 Qe6 23.a5 Bxe2 24.Rxe2 Rd5 1/2-1/2

**Atulya Vaidya (2271) – David Golub (2321) [E35]**  
USCL Week 1 Internet Chess Club  
(Board 3), August 26, 2015

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 Bb4 4.Qc2 d5 5.cxd5 exd5 6.Bg5 h6 7.Bh4 c5 8.dxc5 g5 9.Bg3 Ne4 10.e3 Qa5 11.Nge2 Bf5 12.Qc1 Nc6 13.a3 Nxc5 14.axb4 Nd3+ 15.Kd2 Qxb4 16.Qb1 Nxf2 17.Qxf5 Nxb1 18.Kc1 Qc5 19.Nd4 Nxb3 20.hxg3



Position after 20.hxg3

20...Ke7 21.Kb1 Nxd4 22.exd4 Qxd4 23.Ra4 Qg7 24.Nxd5+ Kd6 25.Nf6 Ke7 26.Qc5+ Ke6 27.Bc4+ Kxf6 28.Qd6+ 1-0

**Bryce Tiglon (2305) – Akshay Malhotra (2255) [D52]**  
USCL Week 1 Internet Chess Club  
(Board 4), August 26, 2015

1.Nf3 Nf6 2.c4 c6 3.Nc3 d5 4.d4 e6 5.Bg5 Nbd7 6.e3 Qa5 7.Nd2 Bb4 8.Qc2 dxc4 9.Bxf6 Nxf6 10.Nxc4 Qd5



Position after 10...Qd5

11.a3 Bxc3+ 12.Qxc3 0-0 13.Ne5 Nd7

14.Nd3 Re8 15.Rd1 h6 16.h3 a5 17.Ne5 Rd8 18.Nf3 b6 19.Bc4 Qd6 20.0-0 Bb7 21.Qb3 Qc7 22.Be2 c5 23.Rc1 Bd5 24.Qc3 Qb7 25.b4 cxb4 26.axb4 Rdc8 27.Qa3 axb4 28.Qxb4 Ra2 29.Bc4 Bxc4 30.Rxc4 Rc2 31.Rxc2 Rxc2 32.Ra1 Nf6 33.Qb1 Rc8 34.Ne5 b5 35.Nd3 Ne4 36.Qb2 Qc6 37.Rc1 Nc3 38.Rc2 Qc4 39.Ne5 Qc7 40.Qb4 g6 41.Nd3 Qc4 42.Qxc4 Rxc4 43.Kf1 Ne4 44.Rb2 Nd6 45.Ke2 Kf8 46.f3 Ke7 47.Nb4 Rc3 48.e4 Nc4 49.Ra2 Re3+ 50.Kf2 Rb3 51.Ra7+ Kf8 52.Nc6 Rb2+ 53.Ke1 Rxc2 54.Nd8 b4 55.Rb7 Ne3 56.Nxf7 Nc2+ 57.Kf1 Ne3+ 58.Ke1 Nc2+ 59.Kf1 Ne3+ 60.Ke1 Nc2+ 61.Kf1 Rd2 62.Ne5 Ne3+ 63.Ke1 Rxd4 64.Nxg6+ Kg8 65.Ke2 Nc2 66.Ne5 Rd6 67.Nf7 Rc6 68.Nxh6+ Kf8 69.Ng4 Rc3 70.Kd2 Rc5 71.Nf6 Rc6 72.h4 Nd4 73.Ke3 Nc2+ 74.Kf4 Rc3 75.h5 Ne1 76.h6 Rxf3+ 77.Kg5 Rg3+ 78.Ng4 Kg8 79.h7+ Kh8 80.Kh6 Rh3+ 81.Kg6 1-0

## Miscellaneous Games

Brad Bodie (1922) –  
Travis Miller (1672) [A80]  
Spokane Fall Championship  
(R2), September 24, 2015  
[Travis Miller]

1.d4 e6 2.Bf4 b6 3.Nf3 Bb7 4.e3 f5 5.Be2 Nf6 6.Bg5 Be7 7.Bxf6

White eliminates the knight to loosen Black's grip on e4. On the other hand, he used three moves to do so (Bf4-Bg5-Bxf6) and it gives Black the bishop pair. Black is at least equal in my opinion.

7...Bxf6 8.0-0 0-0 9.Nbd2 d6



Position after 9...d6

Here my plan is to play e5 and follow it up with either e4 playing for a kingside onslaught, or to play c5 at some point, prying open the center for my two bishops.

10.Rb1?

Rb1 is an odd move. I was not sure what my opponent had in mind, apart from playing b4, but it is not clear what this accomplishes.

10...e5

Continuing with my plan.

11.c3 Qe7

A flexible developing move, eyeballing the c5 pawn break and if I go e4 at some point, I can follow it up with f4 as e4 will be protected.

12.b4

My opponent didn't like the possibility of ...c5, so he rules it out while keeping the position closed for his knights.

12...Nd7 13.Qb3+ Kh8 14.Rfc1 Rae8 15.Qa4

Tickling the a7 pawn, a good move at first sight but it turns out I don't need to worry about that pawn. 15.Bf1? e4 16.Ne1 f4 17.exf4 e3 wins a piece, as e2 is coming.

15...e4 16.Ne1 f4



Position after 16...f4

Full steam ahead.

17.Nf1

If 17.exf4 then 17...e3 wins for Black. 18.fxe3 (18.Qxa7 exd2) 18...Qxe3+; 17.Qxa7 fxe3 18.fxe3 Bg5 19.Nc2 (19.Qxb7 Is horrible for white as after 19...Bxe3+ 20.Kh1 Bxd2 Blacks pieces are

invading, e3 is a monster, and the white queen could be in danger.) 19...Bc6 Is just better for Black, and if White tries the tempting 20.Qxc7 Rc8 21.Qa7 Ra8 22.Qc7 Rfc8 snags the queen.; 17.Bg4? loses to the following: 17...fxe3 18.fxe3 (18.Bxd7 exd2 19.Rd1 dxe1Q+ 20.Rxe1 Rd8) 18...Bg5 19.Nc2 Nf6 20.Be2 Nd5; 17.Bb5 was best, and after 17...Bg5 18.Nc2 Qf7 19.Bxd7 Rd8 20.Bc6 Bxc6 21.Qxc6 fxe3 22.fxe3 Qf2+ 23.Kh1 Qxd2 White is still worse, but not as bad as the game's continuation.

17...Bg5 18.Bb5

White tries to get counterplay by attacking the knight. 18.Nc2 was better, but it is more of a pick your poison type of position. 18...f3 gives Black a strong attack, White can quickly get mated if he is not careful. For example: 19.gxf3 exf3 20.Bd3 Bh4 21.Ng3 Nf6 22.Qxa7? Be4 23.Bxe4 Nxe4 24.Rf1? Bxg3 25.hxg3 Qg5 Black will transfer the queen to h3 and a rook to h6.

18...fxe3!



Position after 18...f3

19.Nxe3

19.fxe3 Rxf1+ 20.Kxf1 Qf7+ 21.Ke2 (21.Kg1 Bxe3+ 22.Kh1 Black wins with the same motif as in the game.) 21...c6 22.Bxc6 Qc4+ wins a piece.; 19.Bxd7 exf2+ everything is falling apart.

19...Qf7!! 20.Rc2?

After this White either loses a piece or gets mated.

20...Bxe3 21.fxe3

[Diagram top of next page]

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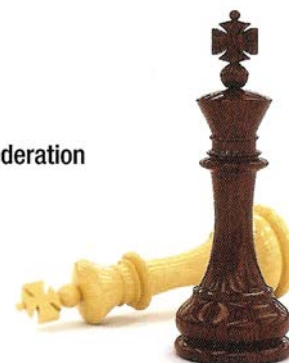


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Position after 21.fxe3

21.Bxd7 Bxf2+ 22.Kh1 Bxe1 23.Rxe1 Qf1+ 24.Rxf1 Rxf1#

**21...a6!**

The blow, the bishop cannot keep control of f1, if it goes to e2 then White gets mated on the back rank. The rest is easy.

**22.Rbb2**

22.Bxa6 Ra8 wins the bishop; 22.Be2 Qf2+ 23.Kh1 Qf1+ 24.Bxf1 Rxf1#

22...axb5 23.Qxb5 c6 24.Qe2 d5 25.Rc1 Ra8 26.Nc2 Ba6 27.Qe1 Bc4 28.a3 b5 29.Ra1 Nb6 30.Rbb1 Rae8 31.h3 Re6 32.Qg3 Rf6 33.Re1 Na4 34.Rac1 Nxc3 0-1

**Michael Cambereri (2043) – Travis Miller (1684) [C14]**  
Spokane Fall Championship (R5), October 15, 2015  
[Travis Miller]

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.Bg5 Be7 5.e5 Nfd7 6.Bxe7 Qxe7 7.f4 0-0

If 7...c5 then 8.Nb5 is horrible for Black as he will lose the right to castle.; 7...a6 is the other move, preparing c5 and holding off on castling.

8.Nf3 c5 9.Bd3 f6

[Diagram top of next column]

An important move, preventing Bxh7 tricks and breaking down White's center. 9...Nc6 10.Bxh7+ Kxh7 11.Ng5+ Kg6 is simply unplayable for Black.

10.exf6 Qxf6



Position after 9...f6

Provoking g3 and in turn light square weaknesses.

11.g3 Nc6 12.dxc5 Nxc5 13.Qe2

The queen is slightly misplaced here. It would rather be on d2 so the bishop would have the option of dropping back at some point.

13...Bd7 14.0-0



Position after 14.0-0

The opening phase is pretty much complete. Here Black has a few possible plans: Play for a queenside expansion, exchange off White's bishop and bring the d7-bishop into the game via the e8-h5 diagonal, or to prepare e6-e5 via transferring the bishop to f7 a rook to e8 and the c-knight to d7. White's plan should be to bring the rooks to the center and plant his knight on e5, while possibly playing Bd3-Bb5-Bxc6.

14...a6

A flexible move with many purposes: It prepares b7-b5, it takes away the possibility of White playing Bd3-Bb5-Bxc6, and if Black ever plays d4, he won't be bothered by Nb5 anymore.

**15.Rfe1 Rac8**

Anticipating 16.Ne5 Be8 17.Nxc6 Rxc6 when Black can either play for e5 or exchange off the bishop on d3 and bring out the e8-bishop

16.Rad1 Be8 17.Ng5



Position after 17.Ng5

It turns out my opponent would rather try to win my e-pawn than occupy e5.

17...Nxd3

A good time to exchange off the bishop.

18.Rxd3 Bg6 19.Re3

19.Nxe6 had to be played. During the game I thought 19...Rfe8 20.Rxd5 Bf5 would be good for me, but according to the computer it is roughly equal after 21.Rd6 Nd4 22.Nxd4 Qxd6 23.Qxe8+ Rxe8 24.Rxe8+ Kf7 25.Nxf5 Qc5+.

19...Nd4 20.Qf2



Position after 20.Qf2

20.Qd2 Bf5

20...Qxg5!

Simplifying into an ending in which Black would have a strong passed d-pawn.



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21.fxg5 Rxf2 22.Kxf2 Nxc2 23.Rxe6 Nxe1 24.Rxe1?

24.Kxe1 keeping the rook active, had to be played. But after 24...d4 25.Ne2 Rc2 26.Rb6 d3 27.Nf4 Be4 I still prefer Black.

24...d4+



Position after 24...d4

25.Nd1 Rc2+ 26.Kg2

26.Kf3 is the only practical move, but Black would still be winning.

26...d3 27.Nf2 d2 28.Rd1 Rc1 29.Kg2

White resigned in view of 29...Rxd1 30.Nxd1 Bc2

0-1

## Rasmussen Blackmar Diemer Accepted Theme Tournament

By Michael Murray

Five years ago, Port Townsend chess players held a theme tournament in honor of Ernst Rasmussen's 85th birthday. Ernst has specialized in the wild and woolly Blackmar-Diemer Gambit for over fifty



Ernst Rasmussen. Photo credit: Bill Rogers.



One of the rounds in action. Photo credit: Bill Rogers.

years, so naturally, games were restricted to that opening. It went so well that we did it again on October 24 of this year, for his 90th. The word must have gotten out in the interim, and this year's event was quite strong. One International Master, three National (Life) Masters, four US Chess Experts, and four "A" players were among the twenty-two competitors.

We tried a novel twist this year, leaving the choice of opening up to the player but awarding prizes based on final score plus bonuses for those who committed to offering the gambit as White or accepting it as Black. Turns out, this didn't make much difference. Nearly all the competitors opted to both offer and accept the gambit.

IM Ray Kaufman cruised to first and \$225 with a 4-0 sweep. Alone in second place was NM David Bragg whose three wins and a strategic draw garnered him \$175. Tied for third, each taking home \$137.50, were NM Carl Haessler and Mike Murray, each with three wins and a loss to Kaufman. Rounding out the prize winners was Dave Merriken, winning \$125 for best Under 1700. (Merriken also tied for third, but had fewer BDG bonus points).

The local Port Townsend / Sequim / Port Angeles players turned out in force and acquitted themselves rather well. Arik Miller earned his two points (and a 2211 Event Performance) against a very tough schedule, scoring an upset over NM and many time Washington Champion Vik Pupols, losing only to Haessler and Murray. Merriken's EPR of 2160 was a thousand points above his US Chess (no, he's not 10 years old — somewhere between 25 and 30, I'd guess). And Ernst was in there sacrificing pawns with the best of 'em at 90!

## NORTHWEST CHESS OPEN December 12-13, 2015

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

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

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

**Entry:** Entry Fee \$25.00 in advance, \$30.00 at door. Make checks payable to Duane Polich and send to 17317 Woodcrest Drive NE, Bothell, WA 98011, or enter online at [nwchess.com/onlineregistration](http://nwchess.com/onlineregistration).

**Prizes:** Prize fund \$550 based on 25 entries; 1st \$125, 2nd \$75, under 2000, \$75, under 1800 \$75, under 1600 \$75, under 1400 \$75, under 1200 \$50. Prizes increased if over 35 entries. Additional books and NWC magazine subscription prizes as entries permit.

**For more information and details:**

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





*Seated L-R: Greg Freeze, Jason Esposito, Mark Saarenas, Ernst Rasmussen, David Bragg, Steve Buck, Richard Golden.  
 Standing L-R: H.G. Pitre, Jeff Gale, Gilbert Lomboy, Mike Murray, Arik Miller, David Merriken, David Gladwin, Jack Anderson, Brian Sullivan, Paul Bartron, Carl Haessler. Missing from the photo was Jerome Buroker, Ray Kaufman, Viktors Pupols, and Dennis McGuire.  
 Photo credit: Bill Rogers.*

## Washington Women's Championship

December 12-13, 2015

### Highest finishing Washington resident seeded into the Invitational Section of the 2016 Washington State Championship

**Site:** Seattle Chess Club, 2150 North 107th Street, Seattle, WA 98133.

**Format:** 4 Round Swiss. One Section.

**Time Control:** 30/90, SD/30, d10.

Foreign ratings used for players with no USCF rating.  
 Higher of USCF or foreign ratings used at TD discretion.

**Prize Fund:** \$975 (based on 25 paid entries).

1st \$300, 2nd \$200, 3rd \$100, 1st U1800 \$75, 1st U1600 \$75, 1st U1400 \$75, 1st U1200 \$75, 1st U1000/Unr \$75.

**Entry Fee:** \$50 if postmarked or online by 12/09, \$60 after 12/09 or at site. Free entry for WGMs.

**Registration:** Saturday 9:00 - 9:45 AM.

**Rounds:** Saturday 11:00 AM, 5:00 PM; Sunday 11:00 AM, 5:00 PM.

**Byes:** One half-point byes available. Request before end of round 2.  
 USCF and WCF/OCF/ICA memberships required, other states accepted.  
 NS. NC. W.

**Entries:** Make checks payable to Washington Chess Federation.

**Mail To:** Dan Mathews, 749 Somerset Lane, Edmonds, WA 98020-2646.

**Phone:** (425) 218-7529. **E-mail:** [danomathews01@gmail.com](mailto:danomathews01@gmail.com).

**Online Registration:** [www.nwchess.com/onlineregistration](http://www.nwchess.com/onlineregistration).

The event was unrated, Game 60, delay five, with a guaranteed prize fund and a ten buck entry fee, sponsored by the Friends of Ernst Rasmussen. Mike Murray directed the event, his first TD assignment since 1965.

We didn't force players to record their games or to turn in the score if they did, so many of the top games are unavailable at present.

**Arik Miller (1744) –  
Viktors Pupols (2222) [D00]**  
Rasmussen BDG (R2), October 24, 2015  
[Ralph Dubisch]

1.d4 d5 2.e4 dxe4 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.f3 exf3  
5.Nxf3 c6 6.Bc4 b5 7.Bb3 b4 8.Ne5 e6  
9.Na4 Bd6 10.Nc4 Be7 11.0-0 Nbd7  
12.Qf3



Position after 12.Qf3

**12...Bb7**

12...Ba6! 13.Qxc6 Qc8 White is sending too many pieces to the queenside, and Black is now prepared to put some real pressure on that pinned knight. 14.Qf3 (14.Nd6+ Bxd6 15.Qxd6 Bxf1 16.Kxf1 Qb8±) 14...0-0 15.Qd3 Nd5±

**13.Bf4 Nf8??**

13...0-0

**14.Rad1**

Even better: 14.Nc5! Qxd4+ (14...Qc8 15.Ba4 Black is busted.) 15.Be3 and White wins material.

**14...Ng6 15.Nc5 Qc8?**

15...Nxf4 16.Qxf4 Qb8 17.Na5 Qxf4 18.Rxf4 Bc8 19.Nxc6 Bd6±



Position after 15...Qc8

**16.Bd6**

16.Nd6+! Bxd6 17.Bxd6 White is already winning. With the black king stuck in the center and all of the white pieces well-placed, it's just a question of arranging the decisive breakthrough.

**16...Ba6 17.Nxa6 Qxa6 18.Bxe7 Kxe7 19.Ne5 Rhe8 20.g4 h6 21.Rde1 Kf8?!**

21...Qb6±

**22.Nxg6+**

Or 22.Nd7+ Kg8 23.Nxf6+ gxf6 24.Qxf6 Qb7 25.Bxe6+—

**22...fxg6 23.h4**

23.g5 hxg5 24.Bxe6 also looks winning for White.

**23...Kg8 24.g5 Nd5 25.gxh6 Rf8**



Position after 25...Rf8

**26.Qxf8+!?**

**Washington G/60 Chess Championship**

December 28-29, 2015

**Site:** Seattle Chess Club, 2150 North 107th Street, Seattle, WA 98133. (206) 417-5405.

**Format:** 6 Round Swiss. One Section.

**Time Control:** G/60, d5.

**Dual Rated:** Regular and Quick Chess rated.

Foreign ratings used for players with no USCF rating.  
Higher of USCF or foreign ratings used at TD discretion.

**Prize Fund:** \$700 (based on 40 paid entries).

1st \$180, 2nd \$120, 1st U2000 \$80, 1st U1800 \$80, 1st U1600 \$80, 1st U1400 \$80, 1st U1200/Unrated \$80.

**Entry Fee:** \$35 if postmarked or online by 12/25, \$40 after 12/25 or at site.  
Free entry for GMs, IMs, WGMs.

**Registration:** Monday 11:00 - 11:45 AM.

**Rounds:** Monday 12:00 PM, 2:30 PM, 5:00 PM; Tuesday 12:00 PM, 2:30 PM, 5:00 PM.

**Byes:** Two half-point byes available. Request before end of round 2.  
USCF and WCF/OCF/ICA memberships required, other states accepted.  
Northwest Chess Grand Prix event. NS. NC. W.

**Entries:** Make checks payable to Washington Chess Federation.

**Mail To:** Dan Mathews, 749 Somerset Lane, Edmonds, WA 98020-2646.

**Phone:** (425) 218-7529. **E-mail:** [danomathews01@gmail.com](mailto:danomathews01@gmail.com).

**Online Registration:** [www.nwchess.com/onlineregistration](http://www.nwchess.com/onlineregistration).

26.Qe4! continues the crushing attack.

26...Rxf8 27.Rxf8+ Kxf8??

27...Kh7, while probably still favoring White, is far less clear.

28.h7 Qb6 29.h8Q+ Kf7 30.Rf1+ Nf6 31.Rxf6+

31.c3

31...gxf6 32.Qh7+ Kf8 33.c3 bxc3 34.bxc3 c5 35.Qxg6 Ke7 36.Qg7+ Ke8 37.Qxf6

37.Ba4+ Kd8 38.Qd7#

37...c4 38.Ba4+

That'll do it.

1-0

**IM Ray Kaufman (2350) –**

**Mike Murray (2022) [D00]**

Rasmussen BDG (R3), October 24, 2015  
[Ralph Dubisch]

1.d4 d5 2.Nc3 Nf6 3.e4 dxe4 4.f3 exf3 5.Nxf3 Bf5 6.Bc4 e6 7.Qe2 Be7 8.Bg5 0-0 9.0-0-0 c6 10.Ne5



Position after 10.Ne5

10...Nbd7?!

10...b5; or 10...Nfd7!?

11.g4!

Since all of the next seven moves for Black seem reasonable, maybe even best, and at the end of those moves he is essentially lost, we probably have to conclude that Black's tenth move is a losing blunder.

11...Bg6 12.h4 Nxe5 13.dxe5 Nd5 14.Bxe7 Nxc3 15.bxc3 Qxe7 16.h5 b5 17.Bb3 a5 18.hxg6



Position after 18.hxg6

18...a4?

18...Qg5+ 19.Rd2 Qxg6± is the best chance, though that's probably being a bit generous. 20.Qd3! and again 20...a4?? doesn't work: (20...Qxd3 21.cxd3) 21.Qxg6 fxe6 (21...hxg6 22.Rdh2 mates.) 22.Bxe6+, when 22...Kh8 23.Rxh7+ Kxh7 24.Rh2#

19.Rxh7 Qg5+ 20.Kb1 Qxg6 21.Rh5 axb3 22.axb3 Rfc8 23.Rd7 Ra3 24.Qh2 Rxb3+ 25.Kc1 Qxh5 26.Qxh5 g6 27.Qg5 Rxc3 28.Rxf7 Kxf7 29.Qf6+ Ke8 30.Qxe6+ Kd8 31.Qd6+ Ke8 32.Qxg6+ Kd8 33.Qd6+ Ke8 34.e6 Rd8 35.Qc7 1-0

Standings - Rasmussen BDG						
Place	Name	Rtg	Score	M-Buch.	Buch.	Progr.
1	Kaufman, Ray	2350	4	5.0	9.5	10.0
2	Bragg, David	2200	3.5	4.5	9.5	9.5
3-5	Haessler, Carl	2257	3	4.5	9.5	9.0
	Murray, Mike	2022	3	4.0	9.0	8.0
	Merriken, David	1196	3	4.0	9.0	8.0
6-8	Bartron, Paul	2018	2.5	5.0	9.5	6.5
	Lomboy, Gilbert	1770	2.5	4.0	6.5	5.5
	Pupols, Viktors	2222	2.5	3.5	7.5	6.0
9-15	Miller, Arik	1744	2	5.5	10.5	7.0
	Gladwin, David	1849	2	5.0	8.0	6.0
	Anderson, Jack	1801	2	4.0	8.0	3.0
	Buck, Steve	1748	2	4.0	7.5	4.5
	Freeze, Greg	2056	2	4.0	7.5	4.0
	Pitre, Hanneign	1908	2	3.5	8.0	5.0
	Rasmussen, Ernst	1709	2	2.0	4.5	3.0
16-17	Gale, Jeff	2000	1.5	4.5	8.5	5.0
	Saarenas, Mark	1906	1.5	4.5	8.5	4.0
18-20	Golden, Richard	1770	1	4.5	8.5	3.0
	Buroker, Jerome	1734	1	3.5	7.5	2.0
	Esposito, Jason	1401	1	2.0	4.0	1.0
21-22	Sullivan, Brian	1709	0	4.0	8.0	0.0
	McGuire, Dennis	1195	0	4.0	7.0	0.0



GERALD NEVER BELIEVED IN SANTA, UNTIL FACING THE JOLLY MAN'S TWO ROOKS ON THE SEVENTH RANK!

# The 2015 Elmars Zemgalis Memorial Northwest Chess Grand Prix

By Murlin Varner, Administrator

Changes in the standings below were brought to you by the Seattle Chess Club Quads, Wood River Progressive, Portland Fall Open (3x), Portland Chess Club Game/60, Seattle Chess Club Tornado, Seattle Chess Club Quads (again), and the Oregon Class Championships (2x). Changes that have happened since I wrote this but before you read it were brought to you by the Washington Challengers' Cup (2x), Seattle Chess Club Extravaganza! (2x), Southern Idaho Open, Portland Chess Club Game/60, Seattle Chess Club Tornado, and the Washington Class Championships (4x). That leaves just six more events until the end of the 2015 Grand Prix, including the Seattle Chess Club Quads, Portland Winter Open, Northwest Chess Open, Christmas Congress, Seattle Chess Club Tornado, and the Portland Chess Club Game/60. And, even though none of those six events carry multipliers, they still could have an impact on some of our closer contests. With five to seven points possible in each event, this is no time to rest on your laurels or any other shrubbery.

With three multiplier events in Washington during November, that state stands to be the most likely to have leadership changes, but many races in all three states are still up in the air. This is especially true in Idaho, where a person willing to do some travel could easily rack up the points needed to pull ahead. As it stands now, the leaders in all three states are the same as last month, but with leads of eight points (ID), 29.5 points (OR), and 50 points (WA), they could still be overtaken (if they suddenly decided to stay home for the rest of the year). Michael Munsey's 50 point lead in Washington is probably the most secure and Jeremy Krasin's eight point lead in Idaho will require someone to leave that state to overtake him. Nick Raptis will still need a few more tournaments to secure his victory in Oregon, because Mike Hasuike doesn't look ready to quit chasing him. Add in the various class leaders and the race will go down to the final few weeks in many places.

The end of the 2015 contest is a clear signal that the 2016 contest is about to begin. Traditionally, our year has kicked off with the Gresham Open in Oregon, a multiplier event. At the moment, that event is not listed on the Northwest Chess website, but if it doesn't start off our new year, it just means some other event will. Regardless, keep playing for fun and profit, and I'll keep doling out the points.

Standings below are current through November 1.

## Northwest Grand Prix Standings

Idaho			Oregon			Washington					
last	first	pts.	last	first	pts.	last	first	pts.			
<b>Masters</b>											
			1	Raptis	Nick	222.5	1	Pupols	Viktors	124.5	
			2	Bjorksten	Lennart	90.5	2	Schill	William J	118	
			3	Grabinsky	Aaron	64	3	Haining	Kyle	100.5	
			4	Haessler	Carl A	41	4	Tiglon	Bryce	58.5	
			5	Prochaska	Peter	31	5	Feng	Roland	56	
<b>Experts</b>											
<b>M/X/Class A</b>											
1	Krasin	Jeremy A	53	1	Cigan	Jason	103	1	He	Anthony B	152.5
2	Bodie	Brad	36	2	Talyansky	Seth D	87	2	Yu	Jason	125
3	Lucky	David	15	3	Saputra	Yogi	71	3	Nagase	Toshihiro	79
4	Inman	James	12.5	4	Heywood	Bill	68	4	Lampman	Becca	68.5
5		Two Tied At	11	5	Sherrard	Jerry D	59	5	Zhang	Brendan	62.5
<b>Class A</b>											
<b>Class B</b>											
1	Miller	Travis J	45	1	Murray	David E	120	1	Baxter	Brent L	135.5
2	Roland	Jeffrey T	30	2	Phipps	Danny	106	2	Kuhner	Mary K	87.5
3	Naccarato	Savanna	27.5	3	Zhang	Gavin	101.5	3	Bashkansky	Naomi	87
4	Griggs	Glenn	18	4	Gaikwad	Dagadu B	85	4	Zhang	Eric M	83
5	Machin	Alex J	16.5	5	Goffe	Michael P	74	5	Lee	Addison	80

Idaho			Oregon			Washington					
last	first	pts.	last	first	pts.	last	first	pts.			
<b>Class C</b>			<b>Class B</b>			<b>Class C</b>					
1	Weyland	Ron	38.5	1	Hasuike	Mike L	193	1	Buck	Stephen J	86.5
2	Jaroski	Jeffrey A	27.5	2	Eagles	Roland	125	2	Anthony	Ralph J	81
3	Lombardi	George	13.5	3	Samillano	Jazon	107	3	Puri	Ishaan	76
4	Zaklan	David A	12.5	4	McClain	Jack W	72.5	4	Stump	Karl	71.5
5	Nathan	Jacob A	8.5	5	Wu	Ethan	62.5	5	Kannan	Aditya	70
<b>Class D</b>			<b>Class C</b>			<b>Class D and Below</b>					
1	Porth	Desmond	9	1	Berger	Brian F	131	1	Munsey	Michael R	202.5
2	Porth	Adam	8	2	Dietz	Arliss	70.5	2	Richards	Jerrold	136
3	Dominick	Matthew T	3	3	Kenway	Geoffrey W	53	3	Piper	August	129
3	Nyblade	Wesley, III	3	4	Hansen	James J	46	4	Anand	Vignesh	114
<b>Class E and Below</b>			<b>Class D and Below</b>			<b>Class D and Below</b>					
1	Hiatt	Arlene	19	1	Buerer	Harry F	39	1	Tien	Sophie	61
2	Naccarato	Chris D	12.5	2	Uan-Zo-Li	Sean A	32	2	Huang	Andy	53
3	Fister	Joel S	9	3	Pai	Kushal	30	3	Zhang	Kyle	49
4	Porth	Dylan	8	4	Gupta	Rohit	27	4	Haining	Breck	48.5
5	Nathan	Oliver E	5	5	Two tied at		23	5	Jiang	Brandon	47.5
<b>Overall Leaders, by State</b>											
1	Krasin	Jeremy A	53	1	Raptis	Nick	222.5	1	Munsey	Michael R	202.5
2	Miller	Travis J	45	2	Hasuike	Mike L	193	2	He	Anthony B	152.5
3	Weyland	Ron	38.5	3	Berger	Brian F	131	3	Richards	Jerrold	136
4	Bodie	Brad	36	4	Eagles	Roland	125	4	Baxter	Brent L	135.5
5	Roland	Jeffrey T	30	5	Murray	David E	120	5	Piper	August	129
6	Naccarato	Savanna	27.5	6	Samillano	Jazon	107	6	Yu	Jason	125
6	Jaroski	Jeffrey A	27.5	7	Phipps	Danny	106	7	Pupols	Viktors	124.5
8	Hiatt	Arlene	19	8	Cigan	Jason	103	8	Schill	William J	118
9	Griggs	Glenn	18	9	Zhang	Gavin	101.5	9	Anand	Vignesh	114
10	Machin	Alex J	16.5	10	Bjorksten	Lennart	90.5	10	Haining	Kyle	100.5
11	Hawkins	Nicholas B	16	11	Talyansky	Seth D	87	11	Xuan	Owen	98.5
12	Lucky	David	15	12	Gaikwad	Dagadu B	85	12	Kuhner	Mary K	87.5

Be sure to like 'Northwest Chess' on Facebook.

Also, check out [nwchess.com/blog/](http://nwchess.com/blog/)

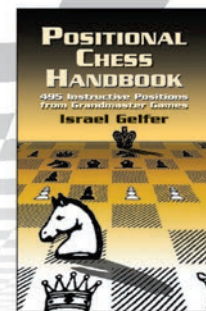
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# Seattle Chess Club Tournaments

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

## How to Find the SCC

Look for the Northway Square East Building, just across I-5 from Northgate Mall, with 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.

### Attendance at 2015's events

3-Day Wknd Tnmts (5)—ave. 56.8;  
 Tornados (9)—ave. 21.7; Quads  
 (11)—ave. 19.4; 2-Day Wknd Tnmts  
 (1)—15; Novice (4)—ave. 6.7.

### January 3

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

### Dec. 5; Jan. 2, 30

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

### Dec. 20, Jan. 24

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

### Jan. 15-17

**Format:** 2-sec., 5-rd. Swiss. **TC:** 40/120, SD/60 (Rd.1 2-day option – G/60); d5. **EF:** *Championship* \$42 (\$33 for SCC mem., \$38 for mem. of other NW dues-req'd CCs) by 1/13, \$50 (\$39, \$44) at site; GMs, IMs, WGMs free. *Reserve (UI800)* \$33 (\$24 for SCC mem., \$29 for mem. of other NW dues-req'd CCs) by 1/13, \$42 (\$33, \$38) at site. *Unrateds* free w/purch. 1-yr US Chess & WCF. *Add* \$1 for 2-day schedule (Rd 1–Sat. 10 a.m., G/64). **Prize Fund:** \$1010 (b/52, 5/prz gp). **Prizes:** *Championship* \$250-150, X 100, A 80; *Reserve (UI800)* \$140-90, C 70, D 60, E & under 50, Unr. 20. **Reg:** Fri. 7-7:45 p.m. or Sat. 9-9:45 a.m. **Rds:** Fri. 8, Sat. (10 @ G/64)-12:30-6:30, Sun. 11-5. **Byes:** 2 available. Rounds 4 or 5 must commit at registration. **Misc:** US Chess, WCF/OCF/ICA memb. req'd, OSA. NS, NC.

### SCC Novice

### Saturday Quads

### Sunday Tornado

### Seattle City Championship

## Music-Playing Chess Kids Alert

Concert planning has begun! Please contact kleistcf@aol.com if you are an elementary through college student and willing to share your instrument, i.e., play in the concert. Date and venue to be decided.

## SCC Fridays

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

**C.B. Bagley Mem.:** 12/4, 11, 18.

**CLOSED (Christmas Day):** 12/25.

**January Thaw:** 1/1, 8, 15, 22, 29.

## SCC 2016 Weekend Schedule

**Novice:** Jan 3, Apr 3, July 10, Oct 8.

**Quads:** Jan 2 & 30, Feb 27, Apr 2, May 7, June 4, July 9, Aug 13, Sep 17, Oct 22, Nov 19, Dec 17.

**Tornado:** Jan 24, Feb 21, Mar 13, Apr 17, May 15, Jun 5, Jul 17, Aug 14, Sep 11, Oct 9, Nov 6, Dec 4.

**Seattle City Championship** 15-17 January.

**Seattle Spring Open**

18-20 March.

**SCC Adult Swiss** 23-24 April.

**Emerald City Open**

10-12 June.

**Seafair Open** 22-24 July.

**Seattle Fall Open**

23-25 September.

**SCC Extravaganza** 11-13 Nov.

**SCC Insanity**

31 Dec.-1 Jan.

# Upcoming Events

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

♣ **Dec 12-13 Northwest Chess Open, Seattle, WA.** Site: Seattle Chess Club, 2150 N 107th St, Seattle, WA. 5 Rd Swiss: TC = 40/90, SD/30, No Delay. Registration 8:30-9:15 a.m. 12/13 or preregistered. Rounds Saturday: 9:30, 2:00, 6:30, Sunday 10:00 and 3:00. Entry Fee: \$25.00 in advance, \$30.00 at door. Prize fund \$550 based on 25 entries; 1st 125, 2nd 75, under 2000, \$75.00, under 1800 \$75.00 under 1600 \$75.00 under 1400 \$75.00. Under 1200 \$ 50.00. Prizes Increased if Over 35 Entries. Additional books and *Northwest Chess* magazine subscription prizes as entries permit. Current US Chess Membership is required, available at site or online at [www.uschess.org](http://www.uschess.org). State membership not required, but of course we want to sign you up. This is a fund raising event for *Northwest Chess* magazine. ½ point bye available in advance or by the end of Round 1. TD - Duane Polich, Publisher NWC. Make checks payable to Duane Polich and send to 17317 Woodcrest Drive NE, Bothell, WA 98011, or enter online at [www.nwchess.com/onlineregistration](http://www.nwchess.com/onlineregistration) (when available). (Quarter-page ad on page 24)

**Dec 12-13 Washington Women's Championship, Seattle, WA.** See Half-page ad on page 25.

♣ **Dec 12-13 Portland Winter Open, Portland, OR.** Site: Portland Chess Club, 8205 SW 24th Ave, Portland, OR. Format: US Chess rated, two days, two sections (Open and U1800), 5-round Swiss. Time Control: 40/90, SD/30, d5. Byes: 2 half-point byes available if requested before 1st round. Entry fee: \$35, \$10 discount to PCC members. Registration: 9:00-9:45 a.m. on Saturday. Limited to first 50 entrants. Rounds: Saturday 10:00, 2:15 & 7:00; Sunday 10:00 & 2:15. Prizes: \$650 based on 40 total entries. Open: 1st \$150, 2nd \$100, U2000 \$75; Reserve: 1st \$100, 2nd \$75; U1600, U1400, U1200/unrated each \$50. No tiebreakers used, prizes split between players with the same results. Memberships: US Chess and OCF/WCF/ICA required and can be purchased or renewed at registration, OSA. OCF Invitational Qualifier. OSCF State Qualifier.

♣ **Dec 19 Christmas Congress, Tacoma, WA.** Place: 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: 9:00-9:45 a.m. Rounds: 10:00, 1:30, 4:45. Byes: 1 half-point bye available. US Chess 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](mailto:ggarychess@aol.com), web: [www.tacomachess.org](http://www.tacomachess.org).

♣ **Dec 26/Jan 30 Portland CC Game in 60, Portland, OR.** 4SS, G/60;d5. Portland Chess Club, 8205 SW 24th Ave., Portland, OR. If 30 or more entries the field will be divided into 2 sections by ratings. EF: \$20, \$5 discount for PCC Members. OCF/WCF/ICA and US Chess membership required, OSA. No advance entries. Reg: 9:00-9:45 a.m. Byes: 1/2 point bye if requested at reg. Prizes: If one section (\$200/b20) \$60-\$40-\$30; U1800, U1500 \$35 each. If two sections - upper section \$75-50-25 (b/15); lower section \$65-35; U1400 \$50 (b/15). No tiebreakers (prizes split). OSCF State Qualifier. Info: e-mail [email@pdxchess.org](mailto:email@pdxchess.org), phone 503-246-2978, website [www.pdxchess.org](http://www.pdxchess.org).

♣ **Dec 28-29 Washington G/60 Chess Championship, Seattle, WA.** See Half-page ad on page 26.

♣ **Jan 16 Portland CC Quad 45, Portland, OR.** 3-round quads, G/45;d10. Some/all sections may run as a 3-round Swiss with more than four players. The most current ("live") US Chess regular ratings are usually used for section placement. On-site registration runs from 9-9:45am. Rounds are scheduled for 10am, 12pm, and 2pm. Rounds 2 and 3 can be started earlier if both players agree. Players who have a game go long can request extra time off before the next round. EF: \$15, PCC members \$10, free entry for players who are unrated in US Chess. US chess and NWSRS rated. US Chess membership is required and can be purchased during on-site registration. Winner of each section receives \$10 discount on the entry fee for one of the next three PCC Quad 45 or Tuesday Quads. If there is a six or seven player Swiss, the runner-up receives \$5 discount. Any scholastic player who wins their section with a perfect score will also receive a trophy or a medal if they win or tie for first in their section without a perfect score. OSCF State Qualifier. Optional blitz tournament afterwards. Portland Chess Club, 8205 SW 24th Ave, Portland, OR. [pdxchess.org](http://pdxchess.org).

♣ **Jan 21, 28 and Feb 4, 11, 18 Spokane Winter Championship, Spokane, WA.** Site: Gonzaga University (Herak Rm 121). Registration: 6:30-7:15, Jan. 21. Rounds start by 7:30 each week, 1/21 to 2/18. E.F. \$16. US Chess rated. Format: 5 round Swiss. Time Control: G/120 (with 5 second delay). Contact: David Griffin, [dbgrffn@hotmail.com](mailto:dbgrffn@hotmail.com).

## From the Business Manager

Progress is being made on some of the old Northwest Chess magazine scans. By the time you receive this magazine, all 12 of the interesting 1974 issues should be available, and the total number of back issues you can read online will exceed one for every day of the year! See the magazine section of the website at <http://www.nwchess.com/nwcmag/index.htm>.

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