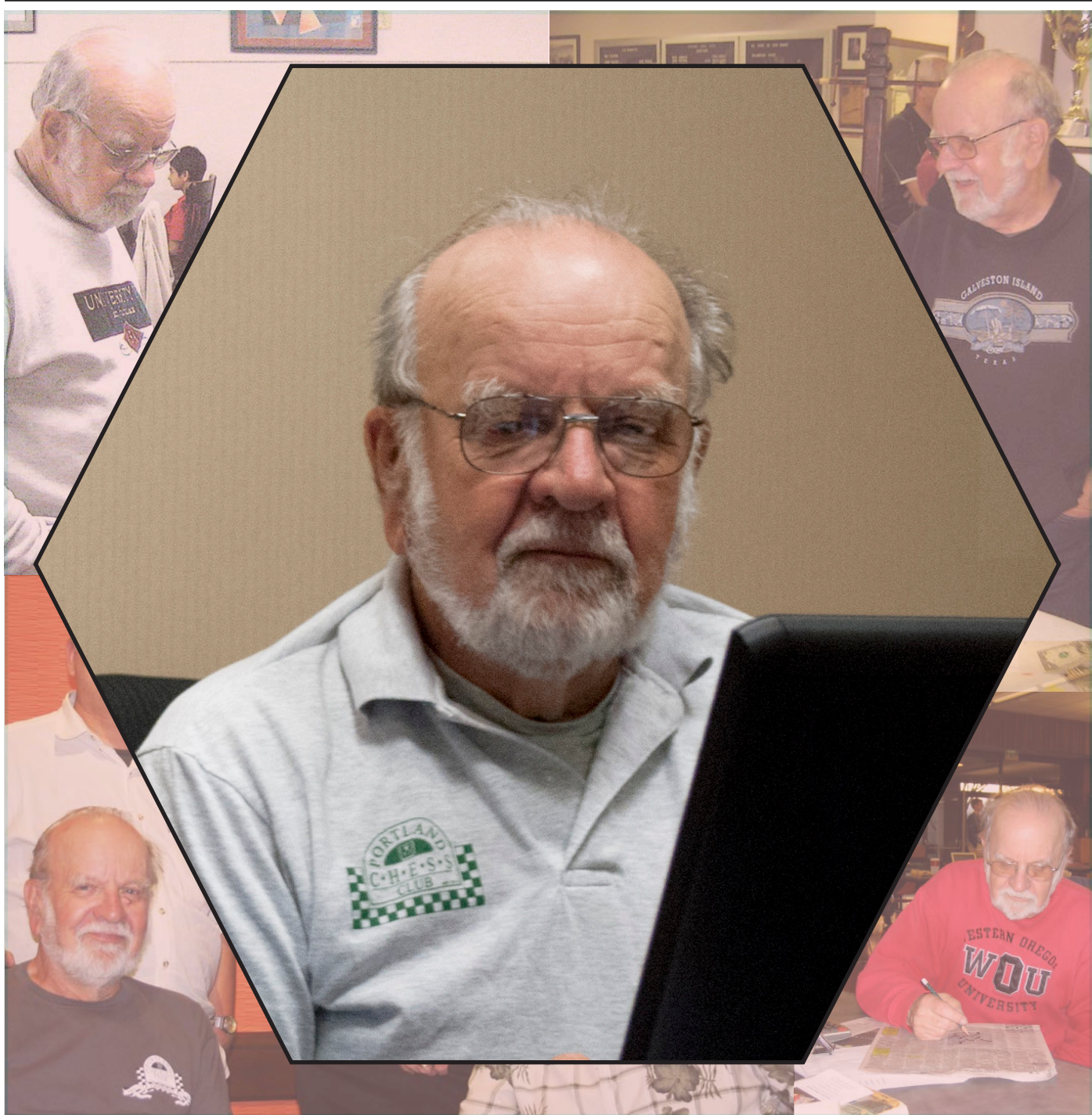




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**February 2017**

**Kornelijis (Neil) Dale**  
**1933-2016**



# Northwest Chess

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## NWC Staff

Editor: Jeffrey Roland,  
[editor@nwchess.com](mailto:editor@nwchess.com)  
Games Editor: Ralph Dubisch,  
[chesscoaching@gmail.com](mailto:chesscoaching@gmail.com)  
Publisher: Duane Polich,  
[publisher@nwchess.com](mailto:publisher@nwchess.com)  
Business Manager: Eric Holcomb,  
[eric@holcomb.com](mailto:eric@holcomb.com)

## Board Representatives

David Yoshinaga, Josh Sinanan, Grisha Alpernas,  
Jeffrey Roland, Adam Porth, Chouchanik Airapetian

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## On the back cover:

Nick Raptis celebrates after winning the Northwest Chess  
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**1514 S. Longmont Ave.**  
**Boise, Idaho 83706-3732**  
or via e-mail to:  
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## Northwest Grand Prix Administrator

Murlin Varner  
13329 208 Ave NE  
Woodinville, WA 98072  
[MEVjr54@outlook.com](mailto:MEVjr54@outlook.com)  
425-882-0102



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# From the Editor's Desk

I recall an episode of "I Dream of Jeannie" (a sit-com that aired on TV originally from 1965-1970) just two minutes into the second episode of the entire series, where Barbara Eden says, "Oh, weather is weather. In ancient Persia we had an old saying, everyone talks about the weather but no one does anything about it." That's always been one of my favorite lines of the series for some reason (even going back to when I was a teenager!), and I always think of that whenever I think about bad weather.

Well we've had some pretty bad weather lately in the Northwest, and nobody has done anything about it either!! In Boise we've set the all-time record for most accumulated snowfall at 14 inches, and it stayed there for a long time before finally melting a little. Then a cold snap hit again, and at the time of this writing, snow is again falling. The experts are saying that we are really only about half-way through this weather.

In Boise the mayor even declared a state of emergency, and I'm pretty sure this has been the case throughout the Northwest. Brian Berger tells me it's been pretty bad in Portland too, and that the city has almost come to a standstill for days at a time. I have not heard specifics from Seattle, but it has indeed been a pretty harsh winter so far that I'm sure is affecting the entire region.

The Neil Dale Memorial originally scheduled for January 7-8 was cancelled due to extreme weather conditions. It will be rescheduled at some point too, but as of the time of this writing it is not known when. Check [www.nwchess.com](http://www.nwchess.com) to stay informed.

Casey Bush tells me in an email that on Thursday, February 23, 2017, at the Portland Chess Club, IM John Donaldson will give a talk on "How the US Team Won Gold at the 2016 Baku Chess Olympiad" from 7:30pm-9:30pm. IM John Donaldson is author of over 30 chess books and has been Director of San Francisco's Mechanics' Institute Chess Club since the 1990s. He has served 12 times as Captain of the US Olympiad team starting in 1986. In this talk, he will provide an inside look at how the US won gold in Baku and go over several games that were important for that victory. You do not need to be a member of the Portland Chess Club to attend. The talk is free and open to the public.

February is a very special month in that State Championships happen in all three Northwest states. Things should be heating up and hopefully some good materials will be coming in from those events to be published in the magazine too. Remember to email [editor@nwchess.com](mailto:editor@nwchess.com) with submissions.



*Jeffrey Roland, selfie, taken January 15, 2017.*

I'll now leave you to explore and enjoy this issue!

# Kornelijis (Neil) Dale

## 1933-2016

### A Remembrance of Kornelijis (Neil) Dale

By Brian Berger

Coming only days before Christmas, word of the passing of Kornelijis (Neil) Dale took many in Portland's chess community by surprise. There had been rumors of possible health problems when Neil, a highly regarded and recognized TD in the Portland area for decades, suddenly gave up directing tournaments with hardly a word as to why.

Many, as did I, thought perhaps he had decided to retire after so many years of organizing, promoting and directing—a combination that can tax the nerves of even the most hardened of this unique breed of dedicated individuals. And “hardened” and “dedicated” would be the key words used to describe what seemed at times to those who would question his dictates, to reflect a person of a somewhat, surly demeanor, when fully engaged in his duties as Chief TD—a peculiarity which I took liberties with whenever Neil was directing a tournament I was later to write about for NW Chess.

But Neil obviously had a sense of humor, as he never protested about the liberties I took when describing his directing style, or of making up the many adventures I had him participating in, to give credence to the perception of him as a man whose path you would want to cross only on tiptoes. And so it was, that when Neil retired from directing, I lost a huge source for introducing humor into my

write-ups, and hurriedly looked for others to take his place.

And to give you a number of examples of what Neil would put up with by allowing me to poke fun at his activities, both during tournaments and on his personal time, I give you some excerpts from a few published pieces (the quotes being in Neil's own voice)—this from a September, 2014 Game 60 at the Portland Chess Club, after Neil had been absent from directing for a period of time—a time I had mentioned in an earlier piece as a sojourn to some of the wildest places on the planet, to ease some of the tension built up during his TD activities:

“Early arrivals found Chief TD Neil Dale, being assisted by Mike Morris,

peace of mind and a balanced equilibrium.

Alas, once the trigger words, ‘I preregistered,’ issued forth from the first unwary player, it was demeanor-schumeanor for Neil, whose pre-sojourn surliness reached stratospheric proportions, in a torrent of testiness; to wit: ‘That don't mean nothin' to me. If I don't see your body and money, you're not registered! Who the \*@## put this jack@\*\* preregistration on line?’ (Note: no young ears were present at this cathartic outburst.)

Neil's outburst at the word “preregistration” was the result of an experiment implemented earlier that year, whereby one could preregister online—an experiment which did not take into account Neil's aversion for the new technology, which this short excerpt from a March, 2014 Game 60 report, points out:

“A mix-up with the new preregistration option, recently available on the Portland Chess Club's website, had Head TD (and the only TD) Neil Dale, hopping mad. ‘They don't tell me anything!’ said Neil (referring to his inability to access the information on the website), a phrase which could be heard many times above the din of the crowd, as Neil dealt with the incoming surge of players...finally all was worked out to the satisfaction of most of the players, at which point, Neil mentioned a pressing need for a vacation. And so, while the smoke from Neil's ears was clearing the room, the games commenced.”

Previous to the above excerpts, I had mentioned in earlier articles, Neil's prowess in taming some of the world's most feared creatures, a direct result of



L-R: Aaron Probst, Neil Dale at PCC March 2014.  
Photo credit: Brian Berger.

busy processing entries. Neil's demeanor, surprisingly upbeat as he acknowledged the slow drift-in of registers, gave hope that his recent sojourn had given him



*Taken at the 2011 Portland Chess Club Centennial tournament. L-R (back row): Jeffrey Roland, Frank Niro, L-R (front row): Neil Dale, Mike Morris. Photo credit: Andrei Botez.*

his years of experience as a no-nonsense TD—a fact I brought to the attention of NW Chess readers in an article covering the December, 2014 Game 60, while Neil was absent for a short spell:

“A notable absentee from the tournament was Neil Dale, who generally is Chief TD at Game 60....It seems that Neil was on his way to an undisclosed area in Africa, to help in controlling a hyena population that has become too aggressive towards the local inhabitants—a task Neil is ideally suited for because of the nature of his TD training, and known crocodile wrestling prowess.”

I followed this with another article in the same issue, that covered the January, 2015 Gresham Open (now known as the Neil Dale Memorial Open), that added further information about Neil’s recent travels to Africa, and what awaited him on his return:

“Having just returned from Africa, where he was called to eradicate roving packs of hyenas that were threatening the lives of villagers, Neil Dale was in fine form to take on the duties of Chief TD.... (but) before I get much further into this report, I want to pass on a request by

Neil...to mention (to NW Chess readers) that Carl Haessler, a notoriously late comer to any tournament, was actually on time for once—an event, by Neil’s estimation, to equal that of the ‘second coming.’ Whether this is entirely true or not, I can’t say; but I am loth to refuse his request, based on his past performances against crocodiles and hyenas.”

One last example should suffice for what Neil was willing to put up with in my tongue-in-cheek takes on his behavior, and that occurred in an article written in May of 2015, covering a March, Game 60, in which Neil was not present, but taking his place was Mike Lilly, who was left on his own to TD a crowd of some 40 players (many younger players than normal for this time control), and could have used the help of Neil to bring some order to a restless throng:

“Although a highly capable TD, Mike Lilly has not yet mastered the art of crowd control, an art form perfected by Neil Dale. Were Neil to have been in charge, the sounds of “Yes sir” and No sir” would have been the extent of any conversation or controversy, as respect for Neil is in direct proportion to the fear

of him—a man known to single-handedly subdue packs of marauding hyenas, piles of Nile crocodiles, and with one or two (lions) thrown in just to keep himself in shape”

Less anyone have trouble believing that Neil’s brand of tournament directing was one of “not suffering fools lightly,” this quote from Clay Kelleher, himself a TD and chess organizer who met Neil in his early days as a TD:

“I can vouch for your characterization of how Neil ran tournaments. As a player in tournaments he directed, I always found him competent and professional; but on those occasions when we were either co-directors or Chief TD and Assistant TD our styles clashed. Where I might have tried to be accommodating to a problem a player encountered, Neil would say to me something like, ‘He’s an adult and should know the rules,’ usually accompanied with an expletive. In such situations, Neil always got his way.”

Humorous as much of the above is, it does not go far enough to ease the sadness of Neil Dale’s passing, who succumbed to colon cancer December 21, 2016, at the age of 83. Born in Riga, Latvia, which

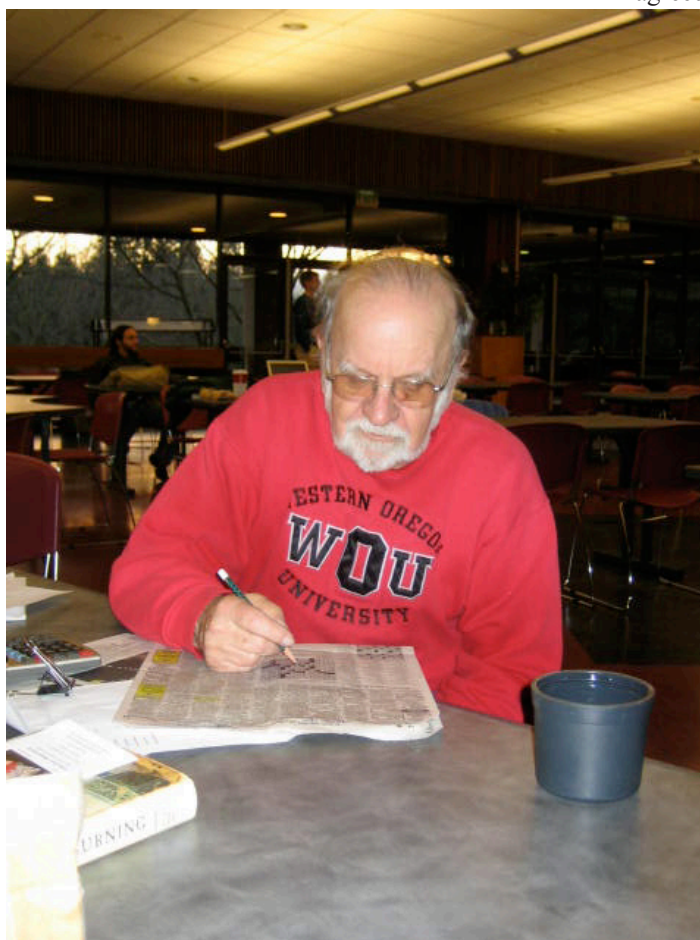


*Neil Dale August 2014 Lloyd Center DoubleTree Hotel. Photo credit: Brian Berger.*

boarders on the Baltic Sea, Neil left his homeland as a teenager of about 18, together with a sister and his parents, Viktors and Karola Dale, heading for a new life in the U.S.

Some dates and places are missing from the biographical material I gathered on Neil, but piecing together what I have had access to (much of his family history being the recollections of his middle daughter, Mara Dale), it is clear that Neil attended college after his arrival in the states, from there to spend some time in the U.S. Army, before resuming his education at the University of San Francisco, where he received his Bachelor and Master degrees, later to move to Oregon, and teach accounting at Mt. Hood Community College, in Gresham.

Aside from the great enjoyment he derived from directing tournaments and playing chess, Neil found cross-country skiing a fun way to stay in shape, and he also enjoyed writing, some of the results of which can be found in many issues of NW Chess. Crossword



*This is the photo that was on the 75th Birthday ad in the February 2009 issue of Northwest Chess. The ad can be found on page 20 at: [http://www.nwchess.com/nwcmag/pdf/NWC\\_200902\\_opt.pdf](http://www.nwchess.com/nwcmag/pdf/NWC_200902_opt.pdf) Photo credit is unknown.*

puzzles too, were a favorite way to pass the time, when Neil took breaks from his TD duties while between rounds at a tournament.

What becomes clear from the people I contacted to write this article, Neil was a character (this word used in an admiring sense) much loved and respected, many of whom wanted to add comments concerning their recollections of the man. And it is in these quotes that the broader picture of who Neil was emerges.

This from Mike Morris, Secretary and Treasurer of the Portland Chess Club, describing some of Neil's TDing background:

“Chess tournaments used to be fairly infrequent events in Portland. Directing was a lot of work (especially in the days when the TD's had to pair by hand) and the TD's usually expected a payment. Neil changed all that when he announced that he would not charge a TD fee when he directed tournaments for the club. This allowed us to support (a) spacious facility. He set a great example for volunteerism; now we have several (TD's) who have agreed to follow the Neil Dale model and not charge for their service to the club and to local chess players.

The US Chess page shows he directed an incredible 359 tournaments since 1991. Most of them were at the Portland Chess Club, but not all. He also directed tournaments in Bend, Coos Bay, and Newport. He ran the Oregon Closed Championship many years. He also was involved with scholastic chess, acting as a director for High School Team Championships and Chess for Success.”

One of the many chess players whom Neil made an impression on was a twelve year old girl, back in 1977, while Neil was directing a tournament. That woman today is WIM Alexey Root, who fondly recalls that meeting, and many subsequent ones:

“I dedicated my book “Science, Math, Checkmate; 32 Chess Activities for Inquiry and Problem Solving” to Neil Dale, writing ‘For Kornelijis (Neil) Dale, respected tournament director, valued friend.’ I first played in a tournament directed by Neil Dale in 1977, when I was 12 years old. His daughter Mara was the same age as me, and we became (and remain) best friends.

***Neil was a great man and a lifelong chess friend. He will be remembered as a true legend of Oregon chess. Player, Promoter, Organizer and Director... he did it all, and he did it so for over 40 years. As Chief TD his kind but firm demeanor was equally effective at the State Championship and at numerous local scholastic events.—Carl Haessler.***

After that 1977, NW Junior Tournament, I always stayed at Neil's home when playing in Portland-area tournaments. After I moved away from the Pacific NW in 1987, Neil kept in touch by letters and remembered my children's birthdays with gifts. Whenever I was in the Portland area, I enjoyed his hospitality, which often included him making Latvian pancakes. He was a gracious host as a tournament director and organizer, just as he was to guests in his home."

Another young player who was also playing back in 1977, is current day International Master John Donaldson, who wrote this to Russell Miller after

hearing of Neil's passing:

I am sad to hear of the passing of Neil Dale....Neil (Kornelijs) Dale was one of several Latvian-born players who settled in the Pacific Northwest after World War (II) and did so much to help develop chess in the area. While Ivars Dahlbers, Viesturs Seglins, Miervaldis Jursevskis, Elmars Zemgalis and Viktors Pupols (still alive and well and playing often!) were all strong players, Neil Dale was an organizer and tournament director of the highest level who directed events in his adopted hometown of Portland for over forty years. I have fond memories of playing in the 1977 Northwest Junior Open in Gresham, which he directed. Neil

Dale was a intelligent and kind man who believed in giving back to the community. He was a good friend of chess."

Life Master Carl Haessler (the player who amazed Neil by actually being on time for one of his tournaments) also fondly recalls that:

"Neil was a great man and a lifelong chess friend. He will be remembered as a true legend of Oregon chess. Player, Promoter, Organizer and Director...he did it all, and he did it so for over 40 years. As Chief TD his kind but firm demeanor was equally effective at the State Championship and at numerous local scholastic events."

In a collaborative effort to acknowledge the contributions Neil had made to the betterment of chess in Oregon, a number of members of the Portland Chess Club (Nick Raptis, Mike Janniro, Grisha Alpernas, Dick Banner and Mike Morris) wrote this tribute to Neil on his 75th birthday:

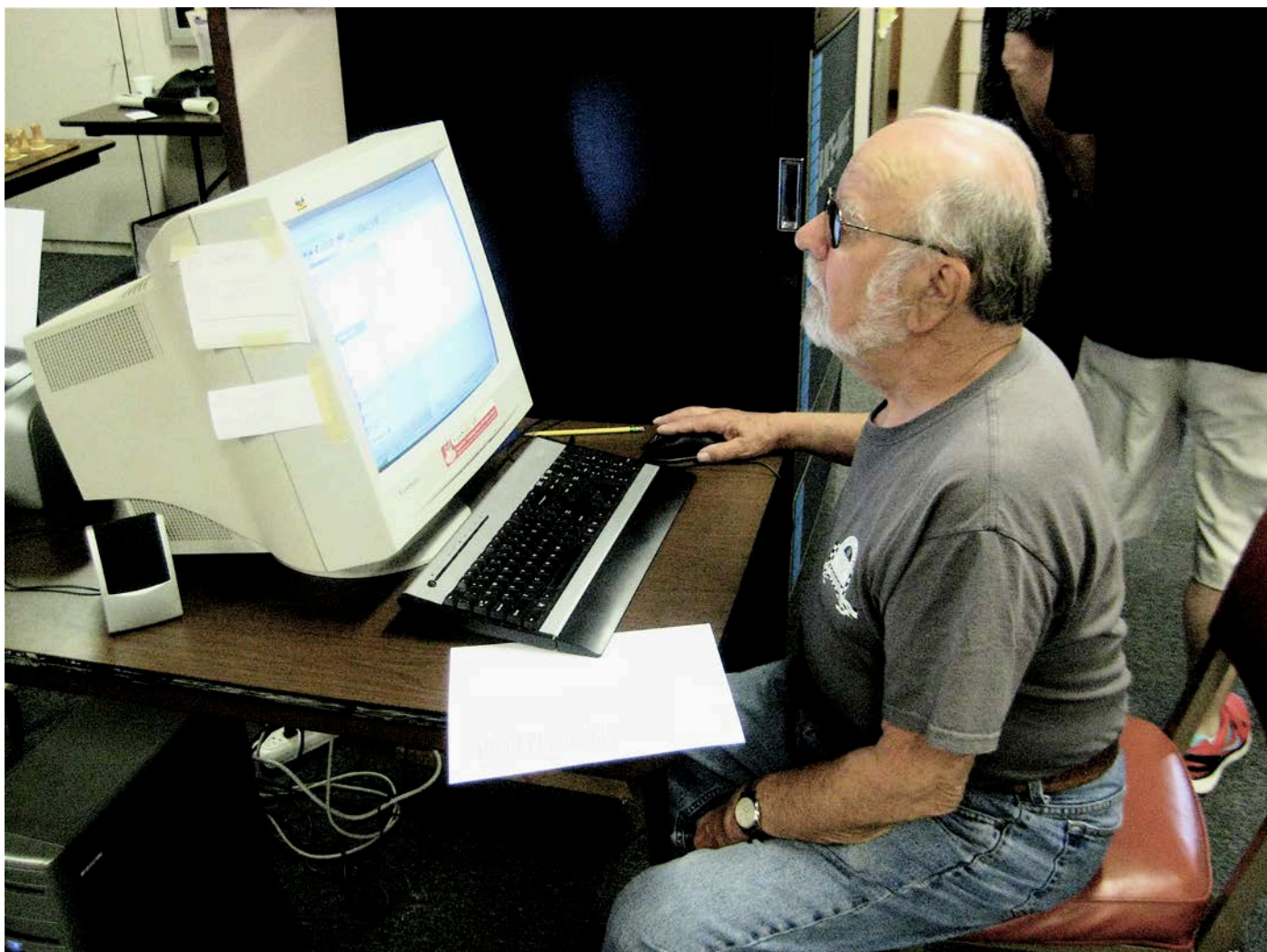
"We want to congratulate Neil Dale on the celebration of his 75th birthday. We also want to publicly express our thanks for all he does for chess in Portland. Most people know him as the chief director of tournaments organized by the Portland Chess Club. He selflessly donates his many weekends so that the rest us may have the opportunity to play.

One example: the weekend of the the recent Portland Winter Open found Portland paralyzed by a rare snow storm. Many players could not get themselves to the club to finish the second day pairings. But Neil did. Leaving early, he negotiated the treacherous streets, avoiding all the freeway pileups, and held the last rounds with a few other brave souls, proving that 'the show must go on.'

By donating his director fees back to PCC he has enabled the club to generate the revenue necessary to maintain a chess facility in Portland. For all he does we say, THANKS NEIL."

Neil is survived by a long list of relatives, and among those are his wife of 19 years, Lynn Fromme Dale, his daughters, Rasa Keanini, Daina Hardisty, and Mara Dale, and Neil's sister, Sibilla Hershey.

Compiling this article of remembrances and tributes to Neil fleshes out for me a fuller picture of the man I only knew as a feisty tournament director. I will miss him, and not just because he afforded me moments of recordable humor, but because I sensed in Neil some of the qualities expressed by those who knew him much better than I, and I'm only sorry I had not the time to know him better.



Neil Dale, PCC May 2014. Photo credit: Brian Berger.

**The annual state championships  
are this month! The *Northwest  
Chess* website will provide  
coverage and summaries as  
available.**



# December 2016 PCC Quads 45

By Brian Berger

Portland, OR — December 3, 2016

Although predicted to be an overcast and rainy day, the sun's rays reflected brightly from the older two-story, wooden structure that is the Portland Chess Club's home, as I entered to once again try and win a game or two in the monthly Quad 45.

My record for wins at this time control (game 45 with a 15 second delay) has been (of recent times) about as bad as they come, accounting for a huge chunk of my previous 1707 rating disappearing into the cunning-clutches of underrated youngsters and equally cunning oldsters. Perhaps, I thought, the unexpected beauty of the day was an omen of good things to transpire.

WRONG! Why I continue to believe in good omens is a mystery to me, as I can't remember even ONE that foretold a positive outcome—this tournament



(L) Danny Phipps vs Ryan Richardson. Photo credit: Brian Berger.



(L) Kevin Wu vs Ian Fudalla. Photo credit: Brian Berger.

being no exception, with a drawn game being my single accomplishment. And although it was against a 1636 player, my two losses somehow erased any slight gain I might have made, leaving me where I came in that day—a 1500 rated player (1500-1500—0.5/3) trying to get off his floor.

Not to burden you readers with the pain of this encounter much longer, but to give you an instance that pretty much sums up my state of mind during this particular tournament, I will cite my last game against James Tsai (1561-1567-1.5/3), where I made what I thought was an even exchange of a queen and a major piece, only to find myself FOUR moves later wondering what had happened to a knight I thought I was still playing with. Such inattention would be laughable if encountered only once, but seems to be the story of my chess life during the last six-months of 2016.

Those experiencing a better day than me were broken into three quads



**Carl Haessler** Chess Master

503-875-7278 ■ [carl@chessworksNW.com](mailto:carl@chessworksNW.com)  
[chessworksNW.com](http://chessworksNW.com)





*(L) James Tsai vs Michael Moore. Photo credit: Brian Berger.*

and a small Swiss, the Swiss containing the five lowest rated players of the 17 who registered. And overseeing the placement of these better players than myself were Chief TD Micah Smith and Assistant Chief TD Danny Phipps (1973-1979—2.0/3), Phipps choosing to also be a player.

Quad one's results were a bit unusual in that three players tied for first place (brought about by the withdrawal of Isaac Vega (1829-1814—0.0/3) in the last round), with final scores of 2.0/3—Ryan Richardson (2111-2103), Danny Phipps and Ethan Wu (1790-1810)—all going 1-1 against each other. All won a chess book of their choosing, with Wu also taking home a medal as a scholastic player coming in second in his section.

Quad two contained yours truly, as well as Will Holloran III (1636-1628—1.5/3) and the already mentioned James Tsai—the winner being Michael Moore (1677-1695—2.5/3), who won a book and a small trophy for also being a scholastic player, while pushing his rating another 18 points to its all-time high.



*(L) Ethan Wu vs Ryan Richardson. Photo credit: Brian Berger.*

Quad three saw Nicholas Richardson (1476P-1505P—3.0/3) turn in a perfect score, which gained him a nice ratings push, a book, and a big trophy—given to scholastic players who won their section. And for the second time in a row the seven-year-old Abbie Wu (856-849—2.5/3) won her section—this time against the other four players entered in the small Swiss, earning her a book and a small trophy.

Perhaps the New Year will be a turning point for my game, as I am going to wish REAL HARD for it. But seeing that my record up until now has been dismal for depending on good omens and wishes, I'm not holding my breath.

## Film Review: Queen to Play

By Mike Hasuike

December 9, 2016

Helena and her husband struggle to make ends meet on Corsica. The island setting seems to symbolize the isolation from most of life's possibilities. Helena works as a hotel maid and moonlights cleaning houses. She is very adept at doing what others expect of her, unlike her ambitious coworker. Her life seems locked into a trajectory like that of her repressed boss.

The forays of her daughter foreshadows what happens after Helena encounters an elegant couple playing chess on their hotel room balcony. She is enraptured by the game and eventually often studies it late into the night. She enlists brusque Dr. Kroger, whose house she cleans, as a chess tutor and eventually



as an overall mentor. He is by his own lights a very good player and at one point even quotes Nimzovitch. Eventually, amid the village gossip, her platonic bond with Dr. Kroger strains her relationship to her family. The possibility of success smooths things over and the endgame, so to speak, is deliciously left to our imagination.

The several-thousands-strong chess playing community of Corsica was avidly supportive of the production of this 2011 French language film, contributing to its authenticity in representing chess. Then again, one gets the impression that chess is most often decided by mating attacks in complex middlegame positions. I would rate it three stars out of four, largely due to the powerful yet understated performance of Sandrine Bonnaire.

## PCC December Game 60

By Brian Berger

Portland, OR — December 17, 2016

With ice and snow patches still lingering in near 32-degree temperatures after a late afternoon snow storm hit the Willamette Valley on December 14, four days before the Portland Chess Club's monthly Game 60, odds were that the turnout would be rather small for this popular tournament. And as it turned out, only 14 players decided to brave the less than perfect driving conditions.

What snow and ice remained came from the SECOND snowstorm to hit the

area in December, coming within weeks of each other, but this one causing major tie-ups, with commuting times running into the hours for many trying to make their way home, unprepared for the slick road conditions. And although the snow was light in the valley, the freezing temperatures made ice rinks of the roads, the temperature remaining low through the morning of the tournament.

The low turnout, however, drew no parallel to the players' enthusiasm (except mine, perhaps), which seemed high as they entered their first round of four, one-hour per side, five-second delay games. Matched against Alex Kaelin (1401-1415—1.0/4), I, Brian "Just Glad To Be Here" Berger (1568-1553—2.0/4), managed to do what I have been most noted for of late—make a strategic blunder mid-game (this time trading my rook for a knight and a pawn to open up his kingside, which was not well thought out), that allowed HIM, rather than ME, a slight advantage. (translated in chess-speak—"enough to win").

Salvaging what little belief I still had in my ability to play chess, I managed to win my next two games from two 1300+ players, only to be paired in the last round with Andrea Botez (1788-1792—3.0/4), who has been crossing back and forth between the upper 1700s and lower 1800s in recent tournaments, but shows she has the skills to catapult herself into the 1900s, given the right tournament on the right day.

This was not the right tournament, but her skills were enough to make mine



Foreground (L) James Tsai vs David Roshu. Next (L) Cassandra Roshu vs Ian Fudalla.  
Photo credit: Brian Berger.



(L) James Tsai vs Praveer Sharan. Photo credit: Brian Berger.



(L) Cassandra Roshu vs Mike Hasuike. Photo credit: Brian Berger.

look as if I were still learning the proper way to move knights and bishops, and so hopes of not losing some hard won points from the Winter Open were dashed against the wall of her defense and ground underfoot by her offense—leaving me nary the wiser of where I went wrong.

Brother-in-arms, so to speak (we both have trouble in our wars over the chess board, holding on to any gains in rating), and countering my counter-intuitive performance, Jerrold “I Just Want To Reach 1600 Before It’s Over” Richards (1484-1525—2.5/4), apparently had been absorbing some of the chess advice of his always-at-his-side companion, Morgan The Dog. Although having a rocky start with a loss to Andrea Botez in the first round, Richards managed to win his next two games, one of which was against a 1575 rated player that, with a fourth round bye, secured him third place and \$19.50, together with a much welcomed boost of 61-points to his rating—an indication that 1600 might just be a doable number “Before It’s Over.”

Although not a prize winner, Cassandra Roshu (1291-1349—2.0/4) also gained nearly 60-points in her rating, beating a 1500 player in an extra game, and a 1575 player in the fourth round. But a lost game to Ethan Wu (1898-1888—3.0/4) was a telling point in her progress as a chess-player-to-watch, where she took Wu into an exciting, time-troubled endgame position—her two rooks, a bishop and three pawns, against Wu’s queen, rook, and one pawn. And if not for the loss of one of her rooks in the final critical minutes (most likely a time-pressure error), the game might have gone the other direction.

Wu on the other hand, went on to join Andrea Botez and Ian Fudalla (1369-1438—3.0/4) in a three-way tie for second place, in which the U1800 and U1500 prizes were added and portioned out three ways—each receiving \$23.83 (the three cents making it all the sweeter).

Taking the lion’s share of the prize fund was the overall winner, Gavin Zhang (1804-1862—4.0/4), who bested Wu in the last round, giving him \$39 to add to his piggy-bank, or reinvest in the Neil Dale Memorial Open.

As always, a big thanks to our tournament directors, Chief TD Lennart Bjorksten and Assistant Chief TD Mike Hasuike.

## Gavin Zhang Wins in Las Vegas

By Casey Bush

Las Vegas, NV — December 26-29, 2016

Gavin Zhang tied for third place with a score of 5.5/7 in the under 1900 division taking home \$640 at the 25th Annual North American Open. The tournament was held at Bally’s Las Vegas between Christmas and New Years with over 800 participants.

There were 151 players in Gavin’s section and he finished with one draw and a single loss to the division winner, raising his rating to 1926. As the Portland chess community knows, Gavin is an eighth grader who attends the ACCESS Academy. Gavin’s last round win over David Olea went for over five hours but was necessary to put him in the money.

**David Olea (1821) – Gavin Zhang (1862) [B38]**

North American Open  
Las Vegas, NV (R7), December 29, 2016  
*[Gavin Zhang]*

It was the final round. I had 4.5/6, and I needed to win this to bring a check home.

**1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 g6 5.c4 Bg7 6.Be3 Nf6 7.Nc3 0-0 8.Be2 d6**



Gavin Zhang. Photo credit: Kristina Zhang.

### 9.h3

Why h3? I was expecting something like just 0-0. He’s going to play f3 anyways. 9.0-0 is the main line.

**9...Bd7 10.0-0 Nxd4 11.Bxd4 Bc6 12.f3 a6**



Position after 12...a6

I didn’t realize, when I played ...a6, he could play b4-b5 and prevent my ...b5. But after b4, I can play Nh5 and possibly play on the kingside, after he weakened it with f3 and h3.

### 13.Rc1

13.b4 Nh5 14.Bxg7 Kxg7 15.Kh2 e5 16.g3 Qg5 I think I have a lot of play in this position.

### 13...Qa5

Here, I decided I’m playing on the queenside. Playing on the kingside was probably fine too. 13...Bh6 14.Rc2 Nh5 15.Bf2 Bf4

### 14.Qd2 b5

[Diagram top of next page]

15.b3 bxc4 16.bxc4



Position after 14...b5

16.Rfd1 or 16.Bxc4 seems better; 16... Rfc8 (16...cxb3 17.Nd5 Qxd2 18.Nxe7+ Kh8 19.Rxd2 Ba4 20.Bc4 White gets plenty of play for the pawn.) 17.Bxc4 Bb5 18.Bd5 Bc6

16...Rab8 17.Rfd1 Rfc8 18.Kh1 Rb7 19.Bxf6



Position after 19.Bxf6

I was sweating at this moment, because I thought I just lost a pawn or go into a bad endgame. But it turns out...

19...exf6 20.Qxd6 Rd7 21.Qf4 Rxd1+ 22.Bxd1 f5 23.Qe3 Bxc3

23...fxe4 works also; 24.fxe4 Bxc3

24.Rxc3

24.Qxc3 Qxc3 25.Rxc3 fxe4 26.fxe4 Bxe4

24...fxe4 25.fxe4 Qxa2

I get the pawn back anyways. All of this was more or less forced for White.

26.Bf3 Qb1+ 27.Kh2 Qb8+ 28.Kg1

28.e5 Bxf3 29.gxf3 f6 30.f4 fxe5 31.Qxe5 Qxe5 32.fxe5 Rc5 This endgame is drawn. I'm winning a pawn, but if he trades the a-pawn for the c-pawn and e-pawn it's completely drawn. 33.Kg3 Kf7 34.Rf3+ Ke7 35.Rb3 Rxc4 36.Rb7+ Ke6 37.Rb6+ Kxe5 38.Rxa6 example line.

28...Qe5

I made this Queen maneuver because I didn't want him to play e5. I also wanted to tie the queen and bishop to defend the e4-pawn.

29.Ra3 a5 30.Qc3

I felt that maybe I should have kept the queens on a little bit more because he's the one who wants to trade queens, but I

didn't want to go into it.

30...Qxc3

30...Qc5+ 31.Qe3 Qb4 32.c5 a4 33.Qc3

31.Rxc3 Kg7 32.Kf2 Kf6



Position after 32...Kf6

33.e5+?

Everything was fine for him until he played this! I don't know why he dropped this pawn. He told me that he thought it was easier to draw, but how?

33...Kxe5 34.Bxc6 Rxc6 35.Ke3 a4 36.Kd3 Ra6 37.Ra3 Kd6 38.Kd4 f5 39.g3 g5 40.c5+ Kc6 41.Kc4 Ra7 42.Kc3

I was thinking he might play 42.Re3 a3 43.Re6+ Kd7 44.Rh6 but just 44...Ra4+ 45.Kb3 a2 wins.

42...Kxc5 43.Kb2 Kd4 44.Kc2 f4 45.gxf4 gxf4 46.Kd2



Position after 46.Kd2

To be totally honest here, at first I didn't know how to approach this endgame! I knew it wasn't a draw but I couldn't find a clear path to a win. This is why I'm shuffling a bit.

46...Kc4 47.Kc2 Kb4 48.Kb2 Re7 49.Rf3 Re4

Finally, I came up with this plan. Keep the rook protecting the two pawns and cut the king off.

50.Kc1 Kc5 51.Kc2 Kd5 52.Kd2 Ke5 53.Ra3 Rb4 54.Ke2 Rd4 55.Rc3 Ke4 56.Ra3 Kd5 57.Rc3 Rc4 58.Ra3 Kc5 59.Kd3 f3

After this, it's easy.

60.Ra1 Rf4 61.Ke3 Rf7 62.Kf2 Kb4 63.Rb1+ Kc3 64.Rb8 a3 65.Ra8 Kb2 66.Rb8+ Ka1 67.Ra8 a2 68.Rb8 Rg7 69.Kxf3 Rg1 70.Kf4 Rb1 71.Ra8 Kb2

72.h4 a1Q 73.Rxa1 Rxa1

I didn't go full into pushing for a win. Maybe I should have played on the kingside if I wanted one so badly. But in the end, I walk out of the tournament hall, exhausted, and pick up a check the next day for \$640.

0-1

## Tiglon, Raptis, and Collyer win Second Seattle Masters

By Josh Sinanan

The second Seattle Chess Masters Tournament took place December 10 at the Seattle Chess Club and attracted 12 players in two sections — six in the Master and six in the Expert. Three FIDE Masters, Bryce Tiglon, Nick Raptis, and Curt Collyer, tied for first in the Master section each with 2.5/3. Aaryan Deshpande, rated just over 2000 US Chess, won the Expert section with a perfect 3.0/3.

Arjun Thomas and Anshul Ahluwalia tied for second with 2.0/3. The tournament was directed by Senior TD Fred Kleist, organized by WCF President Josh Sinanan, and hosted by the Washington Chess Federation.

Mark Smith (1869) –

Aaryan Deshpande (2002) [A05]

Seattle Masters 2 – Expert  
Seattle, WA (R3), December 10, 2016  
[Ralph Dubisch]

1.Nf3 Nf6 2.g3 g6 3.Bg2 Bg7 4.d3 0-0 5.0-0 d6 6.e4 Nbd7 7.Nc3 e5 8.h3 Nc5 9.Be3 Ne6 10.Qd2 Nd7 11.Ng5 Nd4 12.Ne2 Nxe2+ 13.Qxe2 h6 14.Nf3 f5?!



Position after 14...f5

15.Qd2

15.exf5 Rxf5 16.d4±

15...Kh7

15...fxe4 16.dxe4 Kh7

16.Nh2

16.exf5±

16...Nf6 17.f4?!

17.exf5 Bxf5 (17...gxf5!?) 18.f4

17...Nh5! 18.fxe5 dxe5

18...Nxc3 19.Rf3 Nh5 (19...dxe5!?  
20.Rxg3 f4 21.Rf3 fxe3 22.Qxe3 Rxf3  
23.Nxf3 Qd6 24.Rf1 Be6?) 20.exd6 Qxd6

19.exf5 gxf5 20.g4 Ng3

20...Nf4!? 21.Bxf4 exf4 22.Qxf4

21.Rf3 f4



Position after 21...f4

22.Bc5??

22.Rxg3 f3g3 23.Be4+ Kh8 24.Nf3 White has the g3-pawn (eventually), fewer pawn islands, and pleasing centralization for the exchange.

22...Ne4 23.Qb4 Nxc5 24.Qe1

24.Qxc5 e4!

24...Ne6 25.c3 Ng5 26.Rf1 Be6 27.h4 f3  
28.Nxf3 Nxf3+ 29.Bxf3 Qd7 30.Qe4+  
Kh8 31.Be2 Qe7 32.g5 hxg5 33.h5 Qc5+

34.d4 exd4 35.Qxe6 d3+ 36.Kg2 Rae8  
37.Rxf8+ Qxf8 0-1

Nick Raptis (2401) –  
Anthony He (2255) [D85]

Seattle Masters 2 – Master  
Seattle, WA (R1), December 10, 2016  
[Ralph Dubisch]

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 d5 4.cxd5 Nxd5  
5.e4 Nxc3 6.bxc3 Bg7 7.Nf3 0-0 8.Be2  
c5 9.0-0 Nc6 10.Be3 Qa5 11.Qb3 Qc7  
12.d5 Na5 13.Qa3 b6 14.Rac1 e6 15.c4  
f5 16.exf5 exd5



Position after 16...exd5

17.cxd5

17.fxg6!? Nxc4 18.Rxc4! dxc4 19.Bxc4+  
Kh8 20.Ng5 looks like a favorable  
exchange sacrifice.

[Analysis Diagram next column]



Analysis

(#Diagram-analysis after 20.Ng5)

20...hxg6?! a) 20...Bf5 21.Nxh7 Rfe8  
22.Bf7 Re7 23.Ng5; b) 20...Qc6 21.Nxh7  
(21.Nf7+ Rxf7 22.Bxf7 (22.gxf7 Be6  
23.Qb3 Bxc4 24.Qxc4 Qd7 25.a4 Rf8)  
22...hxg6 23.Bg5 Bf5 24.Qg3 Qe4±) 21...  
Bb7 22.f3 Rf5 23.Bd3 Qxg6 24.Bxf5  
Qxf5 25.Ng5±; 21.Bd5 Rb8 22.Qd3 Bf5  
23.Qc4 Bh6 24.Qh4+

17...Bxf5 18.Nd4 Bd7 19.Nc6?!

19.Ne6! Bxe6 20.dxe6 seems more to the  
point.

19...Bxc6

More natural is 19...Nxc6 20.dxc6 Bxc6.  
I see little compensation for a pawn here.

20.dxc6 Nxc6 21.Bf3 Rae8

21...Rxf3 22.gxf3 Rf8 23.Qd3 Ne5  
24.Qd5+ Kh8 25.f4 Rd8

## Washington President's Cup

February 11-12, 2017

**Highest Finishing WA resident in Open section seeded into the 2018 Washington Invitational**

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

**Format:** 5 Round Swiss. **Two Sections:** Open and Reserve (under 1600).

**Time Control:** Rd 1 G/60, d10, Rds 2-5 40/120, SD/30, d10.

USCF February 2017 rating supplement will be used to determine parings and prizes.

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

**Prize Fund:** \$1,760 (based on 60 paid entries).

**Open:** 1st \$340, 2nd \$255, 3rd \$175, 1st U1800 \$90, 1st U1600 \$90

**Reserve:** 1st \$240, 2nd \$180, 3rd \$120, 1st U1400 \$90, 1st U1200 \$90, 1st U1000/Unrated \$90

**Entry Fee:** \$70 if postmarked or online by 02/08, \$80 after 02/08 or at site. Free entry for GMs, IMs, WGMs.

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

**Rounds:** Saturday 10:00 AM, 12:30 PM, 6:30 PM; Sunday 11:00 AM, 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)



**WALTER HAD STUDIED FOR MONTHS, PERFECTING HIS WHITE, d4, OPENING MOVE. UNFORTUNATELY, HE HADN'T A CLUE ABOUT ANY CONTINUANCE.**



See our quarter page ad in the February Issue  
of Chess Life, or visit [www.renochess.org](http://www.renochess.org)

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**Wednesday 4/12:7:00 pm** - GM Sergey Kudrin - Clock Simul. w/ complete analysis of YOUR Game (Only \$30!)

**Thursday 4/13: 6-7:15 pm** - Lecture by IM John Donaldson (FREE)

**7:30 pm** - GM Melikset Khachiyan - Simul. (\$20); Blitz (G/5 d0) Tourney \$25 - 80% entries = Prize Fund

**Saturday 4/15: 3-4:30 pm** - FREE Game/Position Analysis - IM John Donaldson

## ♔♚♛♜♝♞♟♠♡♢♣♤♥♦♧♨♩ Main Tournament ♠♡♢♣♤♥♦♧♨♩

**Registration: Thursday (4/13) 5 - 8 pm. - Friday (4/14) 9 - 10 am. Saturday (4/15) 9 - 10 am.**

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

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**Room Reservations: Call the Sands Regency - 1-866-FUN-STAY • Reserve by April 1st for Chess Rate  
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**For TLA and to confirm receipt of entry see player list at: [www.renochess.org](http://www.renochess.org)**

ENTRY FORM - 6th Annual Larry Evans Memorial - Reno, Nevada - April 14 - 16, 15 - 16, 2017

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

PRINT Name \_\_\_\_\_ Daytime Phone \_\_\_\_\_ USCF/FIDE Rating \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

----- OPEN SECTION -----					"EXPERT"	"A"	"B"	"C"	"D and Under"	UNRATED
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2-Day EF					\$155	\$155	\$155	\$155	\$155	

**FEES ALSO ENCLOSED FOR:**

- Hotel Deposit \$41.58\* (Weekday) or
- Hotel Deposit \$58.60\* (Fri. & Sat.)
- \$30 Wed. Clock Simul. GM Kudrin
- \$20 Thursday-Simul. GM Khachiyan
- \$25 Thursday Blitz (G/5 d0)
- \$10 Discount - Sr. 65+ Age\_\_\_\_\_

**HOTEL INFORMATION:**

- No Room Needed
  - Made By Phone
  - Please Make Me a Reservation\*
  - Arrival Date \_\_\_\_\_
  - Departure Date \_\_\_\_\_
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- \*Send \$41.58 for weekday arrival, \$58.60 for Friday arrival.

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**22.Rfd1**

22.Bxc5!? bxc5 23.Rxc5 Rxf3 (Or 23... Rf6 24.Qa4 Ree6 (24...Rc8 25.Rfc1 Qb6 26.Qb3+±) 25.Bd5 Kh8 26.Bxe6 Rxe6 27.Rfc1 Qe7∞) 24.Qxf3 Re6 25.Rfc1 Qe7 looks obscure.

**22...Ne5 23.Bd5+ Kh8 24.h3 Nc6?**

24...Rd8∞

**25.Bxc5 bxc5 26.Qxc5 Qf4 27.Bxc6 Re6 28.Qxa7 Be5 29.g3**



Position after 29.g3

**29...Qg5?**

29...Qf6 is more compact, keeping the black pieces better protected and putting pressure on c6 and f2. Perhaps he was worried about 30.Rd7, but 30...Rxc6 31.Rxh7+ Kg8 isn't much to worry about. That's looking like a draw after 32.Qg7+ Qxg7 33.Rxg7+ Kxg7 34.Rxc6.

Opposite bishops hurt White's chances here, not so much due to their drawing influence in a simplified endgame, but because f2 comes under even more pressure. For example, 30.Bg2 Re7 31.Qe3 (31.Qc5 Rc7 32.Qe3 Rxc1 33.Rxc1 Bd4)



Analysis

(#Diagram-analysis after 31.Qe3)

31...Bd4! (31...Bb2 32.Rc6!± and White escapes.) 32.Qxd4! Re1+ 33.Rxe1 (33.Kh2 Qxd4 34.Rxd4 Rxc1∞) 33...Qxd4 34.Re2 and while it's possible White has a tiny edge here, it's hard to see how to make anything of it.)

White won on move 60.

**1-0**



Curt Collyer playing the f3 system against Jerry Sherrard's Nimzo-Indian defense. Photo credit: Josh Sinanan.

**Curt Collyer (2294) – Jerry Sherrard (2088) [E24]**

Seattle Masters 2 – Master  
Seattle, WA (R1), December 10, 2016  
[Ralph Dubisch]

**1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 Bb4 4.f3 0-0 5.a3 Bxc3+ 6.bxc3 b6 7.e4 d6 8.Bd3 c5 9.e5 Ne8 10.dxc5?!**

10.f4 Bb7 11.Nf3±



Position after 10...dxc5

**10...bxc5?**

10...Nd7! 11.cxd6 (11.cxb6 axb6 12.exd6 Nxd6 favors Black despite the pawn minus, even in the simplifying line 13.Bxh7+ Kxh7 14.Qxd6 Qh4+ 15.g3 Qxc4) 11...Nxe5 12.Be4 Rb8 13.Bf4 Nd7∞

**11.Be4 d5 12.cxd5 Bb7?**

12...f5 13.exf6 Nxf6 14.Bg5 Bb7 15.Bxh7+ Kxh7 16.Qb1+±



Position after 12...Bb7

**13.dxe6!**

Or 13.Rb1! Bxd5 14.c4!+-

13...Qxd1+ 14.Kxd1 Bxe4 15.e7 Bd3  
16.exf8Q+ Kxf8 17.Be3 Bf1

17...Nd7 18.Nh3+-

18.Bxc5+ Kg8 19.Ra2 Nd7 20.Bd4 Rb8  
21.Kc1 Bd3 22.Rb2 Rxb2 23.Kxb2 Bf1  
24.h4 1-0

Anthony He (2255) –  
Curt Collyer (2294) [C06]  
Seattle Masters 2 – Master  
Seattle, WA (R2), December 10, 2016  
[Ralph Dubisch]

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.Nd2 Nf6 4.e5 Nfd7  
5.Bd3 c5 6.c3 Nc6 7.Ne2 cxd4 8.cxd4  
f6 9.exf6 Qxf6 10.Nf3 h6 11.0-0 Bd6  
12.Ng3 0-0 13.Bc2 Rd8 14.Re1 Nf8  
15.Ne5 Qh4 16.f4 Bd7 17.Be3 Rac8  
18.Qe2

18.Rc1

18...Bxe5 19.dxe5 d4 20.Bc1 Nb4  
21.Bd3 Be8 22.Bd2



Position after 22.Bd2

22...Nc2

22...Nxd3 23.Qxd3 Bg6∞

23.Bxc2

23.f5! Nxa1 24.Rxa1 Bf7 (24...Rd5  
25.fxe6 Ng6 26.Nf5 Rxe5 27.Nxh4 Rxe2  
28.Nxg6 Rxd2 29.Ne7+ Kh8 30.Nxc8  
Rxd3 31.Nd6 Bh5 32.Re1±) 25.Re1 White  
has fine compensation for the exchange.

23...Rxc2 24.Rac1 Rxb2 25.Rc7 Bc6  
26.f5 d3 27.Qf2 Qd4 28.Re3



Position after 28.Re3

28...Rxd2!! 29.Qxd2 Qxe3+!! 30.Qxe3  
d2

This is the ideal time for White to resign.  
31.f6 d1Q+ 32.Nf1 Rd7 33.Rc8 Qd4



(front-rear) Anthony He, Bryce Tiglon, and David Rupel at the second Seattle Masters.  
Photo credit: Josh Sinanan.

34.Kf2 Kf7 35.fxg7 Kxg7 36.Qxd4  
Rxd4 37.Ng3 Nd7 38.Rd8 Rd5 39.Nh5+  
Kf7 40.Rh8 Nxe5 41.Nf4 Nd3+ 42.Nxd3  
Kg7 43.Ra8 Rxd3 44.Rxa7 Rfd2+ 45.Ke3  
Rxc2 46.h4 Rg4 47.h5 Rg5 48.a4 Rxb5  
49.a5 Kf6 50.a6 bxa6 51.Rxa6 Bd5 0-1

Nick Raptis (2401) –  
Ignacio Perez (2238) [E69]  
Seattle Masters 2 – Master  
Seattle, WA (R3), December 10, 2016  
[Ralph Dubisch]

1.d4 Nf6 2.Nf3 g6 3.g3 Bg7 4.Bg2 0-0  
5.0-0 d6 6.c4 Nbd7 7.Nc3 e5 8.e4 exd4  
9.Nxd4 c6 10.h3 Re8 11.Be3 a5 12.Qc2  
Qe7 13.Rfe1 Nc5 14.Rad1 Nfd7 15.f4 a4  
16.Bf2 Nb6 17.b3 axb3 18.axb3 Nbd7  
19.b4 Ne6 20.Nxe6 fxe6 21.Rd3 e5  
22.f5 Qf7 23.Rxd6 Qxc4 24.Bf1 Qxb4  
25.Red1 Nf6 26.g4 Ra3 27.Nb1 Rf3  
28.g5

28.Qc4+ Qxc4 29.Bxc4+ Kh8 30.Rd8  
28...Rxf2 29.Qc4+ Qxc4

[Diagram next column]



Position after 29...Qxc4

29...Nd5 30.Qxb4 (30.exd5 Rxf1+  
31.Qxf1 Qxd6) 30...Rxf1+ 31.Rxf1 Nxb4  
32.f6 Bxf6 33.gxf6 Kf7

30.Bxc4+ Nd5 31.Kxf2 Bf8 32.exd5  
Bxd6 33.dxc6+ Kf8 34.Rxd6 Bxf5  
35.Rf6+ Ke7 36.cxb7 Rb8 37.Nc3 Kd7  
38.h4 Kc7 39.Bd5 Rd8 40.Ke3 1-0



A view of the playing room for the Seattle Masters (L) and Northwest Chess Open (R). Photo credit: Josh Sinanan.



Chouchanik Airapetian. Photo credit: Josh Sinanan.

**Anshul Ahluwalia (1757) –  
Aaryan Deshpande (2002) [E87]**  
Seattle Masters 2 – Expert  
Seattle, WA (R2), December 10, 2016  
[Ralph Dubisch]

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 Bg7 4.e4 d6 5.f3  
0–0 6.Be3 Nbd7 7.Qd2 e5 8.d5 a5 9.Bd3  
Nc5 10.Bc2 Bd7 11.Nge2 b6 12.0–0–0  
Qb8 13.Bh6



Position after 13.Bh6

13...b5! 14.Bxg7 Kxg7 15.cxb5 Bxb5  
16.Nxb5 Qxb5 17.Nc3 Qb4 18.g4?!  
Rfb8μ 19.Bb1 Nfd7 20.h4?! Nb6 21.Rh2  
Nc4 22.Qe2 Na4 23.Nxa4 Qxa4 24.Qd3

[Diagram next column]



Position after 24.Qd3

24...h6

24...Rb4! plans to double on the b-file.  
25.a3 Rb3 26.Bc2 Rab8 27.Bxb3 Rxb3  
28.Qc2 Nxb2 crashes through.

25.Rc2 Nb6 26.a3 Nd7 27.Ba2 Nc5  
28.Qc4 Qxc4 29.Bxc4 f5 30.gxf5 gxf5  
31.Rg2+ Kf6 32.Rd1 fxe4 33.fxe4 Rf8

[Diagram next page]

34.Rg6+?

34.Rf1+ Ke7 35.Rg7+ Ke8 36.Bb5+ and  
Black must give away literally all of his  
pieces to avoid immediate checkmate.



Anshul Ahluwalia playing white against Arjun Thomas. Photo credit: Josh Sinanan.



Position after 33...Rf8

34...Ke7 35.Rxh6 Rf7 36.Bb5 Raf8  
37.b4 axb4 38.axb4 Nd7?  
38...Nxe4 39.Re6+ Kd8 40.Bc6  
39.Re6+ Kd8 40.Bc4  
40.h5 gives White some chances.

40...Rf3 41.Rg7??  
41.Kd2; or 41.Bb5  
41...Rc3+ 42.Kd2 Rxc4 43.Ree7 Nf6  
44.b5 Nxe4+ 45.Kd3 Rc3+ 0-1

## Northwest Chess Open

By Duane Polich

Seattle, WA — December 10-11, 2016

Results are in for the 2016 Northwest Chess Open. Congratulations to Nick Raptis from Oregon who took first place with 4.5/5 points good for \$170. Nick double dipped over the weekend also trying for first in the Masters Series of events which was hosted on Saturday by Josh Sinanan and the Washington Chess

Federation. Nick played simultaneously in both events, but did not have to run far between moves as both events were in the same room at the Seattle Chess Club. Nick was nicked for a draw by up and coming Andreas Farny, rated 1690, who held a rook and pawn endgame even while one pawn down and Nick having pawns on his wings.

Sharing second place and first under 2000 with 4.0/5 points were Mary Kuhner, Eric Zhang and Joseph "Joey" Frantz, good for \$80 each. Frantz had a perfect score of going into the last round, but had the misfortune of having to play Nick, who by that time was able to focus his attention on just the one event.

There was a three-way tie for first in the under 1800 section with Stephen Buck, Minda Chen and Andreas Farny each scoring 3.5/5 points. Even with her new-found riches, Minda Chen didn't have to worry like some rock star bands, because she already was able to get her picture on the cover of *Northwest Chess* (November 2016 issue).

Advaith Vijayakumar, Sophie Velea and Albert Li each picked up \$110 of Christmas spending money by winning the under 1600, under 1400 and under 1200 sections respectfully.

Total of 44 players including yours truly Duane Polich, the tournament organizer who sat in for one round as the house player. The event was a fundraiser for *Northwest Chess* and was able to raise \$300 for the magazine.



Northwest Chess Open tournament director Duane Polich. Photo credit: Josh Sinanan.



(R) James Wade vs. Andrew Borthwick at the Northwest Chess Open.  
Photo credit: Josh Sinanan.

call it unclear here.

**11.0-0 Bd6 12.a3 0-0 13.b4**

And this may be too slow to claim any advantage from the opening. 13.Nc3 Bd7 14.Be3 Rac8 (14...Qxb2 15.Na4+-) 15.Rc1 Be8 16.Qd2 Qd8 17.h3 Bh5= 18.Ng5 Qd7 19.g4 Bg6 20.Bxg6 hxg6 21.Qd3 Nh7 22.Qxg6 Nxg5 23.Qxg5 Qf7 24.Qh4 e5 25.Nb5 Be7 26.Bg5 Nxd4 27.Nxd4 Rxc1 28.Bxe7 Rxf1+ 29.Kxf1 exd4 30.Bxf8 Qxf8=

**13...e5=**

Given the stamp of approval by both computer programs. In general, if Black solves the problem of the backward e-pawn and gets the queen bishop developed, Black will have a very good game.

**14.dxe5**

14.Qb3 Kh8

**14...Nxe5**



Position after 14...Nxe5

**15.Nxe5?!**

This exchange just increases Black's attacking chances before White can react with a defense. 15.Nfd4 and White had to try this for equal chances.

**15...Bxe5 16.Rb1?+-**

And here, Komodo and Stockfish are in agreement, Black is now winning. 16.Ra2 Ng4 17.Ng3 Bd4 18.Nh1 Qd6 19.g3 Qb6 20.Rd2 Kh8μ (-0.78) Stockfish evaluation, it looks quite bad for White with that poor knight on h1.

**16...Ng4+-**

As there is too much pressure on f2 and

and only a slight edge to White.

**7.Ne2 Qb6**

7...Be7 8.0-0 b6 9.f4 g6 10.a3 a5 11.Nf3 0-0 12.c4 dxc4 13.Bxc4 Ba6 14.Bxa6 Rxa6 15.Be3. Is it slight edge to White (Komodo) or equal (Stockfish) here?

**8.Nf3 cxd4 9.cxd4 f6 10.exf6 Nxf6**



Position after 10...Nxf6

And now equal (Komodo) or some advantage to White (Stockfish)? From the tournament player standpoint, we'll just

**Mary K. Kuhner (1956) –  
Advaith Vijayakumar (1380) [C06]**  
Northwest Chess Open  
Seattle, WA (R1), December 10, 2016  
[Advaith Vijayakumar]

**1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.Nd2**

The Tarrasch variation 3.Nd2 aims to avoid the Classical 3.Nc3 Nf6 and the Winawer 3.Nc3 Bb4 variations.

**3...Nf6**

3...dxe4 4.Nxe4 Bd7 5.Nf3 Bc6 6.Bd3 Bxe4 7.Bxe4 c6 8.0-0 Nf6 9.Bd3 Nbd7 The Fort Knox Variation is possible.; 3...c5 is very playable here too.; 3...Nc6 4.Ngf3 Nf6 5.e5 Nd7 and the Guimard Variation is worth a try too.

**4.e5 Nfd7 5.Bd3 c5 6.c3 Nc6**

6...b6 7.Ne2 Ba6 8.Bxa6 Nxa6 9.f4 Be7 10.0-0 0-0 11.Nf3 Nc7 12.Be3 f5= 13.exf6 Nxf6 14.Ng3 Qe8± (0.43) Komodo evaluation is some advantage to White while Stockfish says equal (0.21)

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h2 for White to be able to defend.

**17.Ng3**

17.Qe1 Bxh2+ 18.Kh1 Bf5 19.Bxf5 Rxf5  
20.Rb3 Re8-+ and this is no improvement  
for White.

**17...Bxg3 18.hxg3 Nxf2**

18...Rxf2 This is very decisive, Black  
threatens mate in two, Komodo and  
Stockfish agree that this was Black's  
best move here. 19.Kh1 Qd6 20.Qe1 Bf5  
21.Rxf2 Qxg3 22.Bf4 Nxf2+ 23.Kg1  
Nh3+ 24.Kh1 Qxf4 25.Bxf5 Qxf5-+ and  
Black wins easily from here.

**19.Bxh7+**

19.Rxf2 Rxf2 20.Kh2 Bf5 21.Bxf5  
Rxf5-+ also winning for Black.

**19...Kxh7 20.Qh5+ Kg8 21.Bf4**

21.Qxd5+ Be6 22.Qc5 Qxc5 23.bxc5  
Nd3-+ and Black is a piece up.

**21...Nh3+ 22.Kh2 Nxf4 23.gxf4 Qh6  
24.Qxh6 gxh6-+**

and with a bishop up, Black only needs  
some simple technique to win from here.

**25.Rbc1 Rf7 26.Rc5 Be6 27.Re1 Re8  
28.Rxd5 Rxf4 29.Rd6 Rf6 30.a4 Kf7  
31.b5 Re7 32.Rd4 Bb3 33.Rxe7+  
Kxe7-+**

(-3.68) Komodo

**34.g3 Rd6 35.Rh4 Kd7 36.Rb4 Bd5  
37.a5 Kc7**

and Black is staying solid and consolidates  
the advantage.

**38.Rg4 Bf3 39.Rg7+ Rd7 40.Rg6 h5  
41.b6+ axb6 42.axb6+ Kd8 43.Kg1 Rf7  
44.Rh6 Bg4 45.Rg6 Kd7 46.Rh6 Re7  
47.Kf2 Re2+ 48.Kf1 Re6**

and as Black builds the bridge across the  
sixth rank, White has no play left and  
resigns.

0-1

**Nick Raptis (2411) –  
Joey Frantz (1811) [E01]**  
Northwest Chess Open  
Seattle, WA (R5), December 10, 2016  
*[Joey Frantz]*

**1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nf3 d5 4.g3 c6 5.Bg2  
Nbd7 6.Qc2 b6 7.0-0 Bd6 8.cxd5**



*Position after 8.cxd5*



*Northwest Chess Open second place finisher Joey Frantz after his last round game.  
Photo credit: Josh Sinanan.*

I panicked a bit here, realizing that I  
might already be losing material due to  
sheer cluelessness. Then I realized that  
after White's fork with Qc6, I can trap  
his queen if he captures my rook. After  
the game, Nick implied that he knew all  
this beforehand and knew it led to a better  
position for White.

**8...cxd5 9.Qc6 Qc7 10.Qxa8 0-0 11.Nc3  
Ba6 12.Qxf8+ Kxf8 13.Bd2**

It is over the next several moves that  
I work my way into a completely lost  
position.

**13...b5 14.Rfc1 Qb8 15.e3**

[Diagram next column]

**15...h5**

Wrongly thinking that I can mount a  
kingside attack. I anticipated that he



*Position after 15.e3*

would attack my b5-pawn, but clung to  
the idea that I could pull something off on  
the b8-h2 diagonal.

**16.Bf1 e5**

One takeaway from this game is  
that you shouldn't make a move just

because it vaguely looks like it should be threatening. My opponent is actually accomplishing the goal of winning my b5-pawn. My attempt to storm g3 can only be attributed to the fact that I always prefer to attack my opponent's king even when the position doesn't even remotely call for that.

**17.a4 e4 18.Nh4 g5 19.Nf5**

I simply missed that this knight protects g3 and is extremely hard to remove.

**19...Bc7**

Saving my bishop for an attack that never happens.

**20.Nxb5 Bxb5 21.Bxb5 Nb6**

Hoping to start something with Nc4.

**22.Rc6 a6**

This was the only move where I managed to make my opponent think. My goal was to somehow get my queen into White's queenside, where I might be able to create forks or threaten checkmate or (more realistically) perpetual check. But if I played 22...Nc4, 23. Bb4+ would allow White to win the knight on f6 for nothing.

**23.Bxa6 Nc4 24.Bc3**

White stays calm and simply stops my queen from doing what she wants to do. I no longer have realistic chances to avoid loss.

**24...Ng8 25.Bb5 h4**

Don't ask.

**26.Bb4+ Ne7 27.Bxe7+ Kg8 28.Bxg5 hxg3 29.hxg3 Nd2 30.Kg2 Nf3 31.Bf6**

Although my embarrassingly 25th move made my opponent's win easier, my biggest error this game was that I didn't adopt a middlegame plan that had some chance of working. If I wanted to play for a win, perhaps I should have made my king secure with h6 and Kg8 (to avoid tactics involving a check), then opened the position with pawn advances so that my queen's forking power could have become relevant. Hey, at least it's an idea.

0-1

## FM Bryce Tignon wins Third Seattle Masters

By Josh Sinanan

The third Seattle Chess Masters Tournament took place January 7 at the Seattle Chess Club and attracted five players in two sections — three in the Master and two in the Expert. FIDE Master Bryce Tignon repeated as champion of the Master section with 2.0/2, defeating both LM Viktors Pupols

and FM Ignacio Perez.

Class A Players Mark Smith and Anshul Ahluwalia scared off all the experts and played a two-game match in the Expert section, each winning with the white pieces. The tournament was directed by Senior TD Fred Kleist, organized by WCF President Josh Sinanan, and hosted by the Washington Chess Federation.

**Mark Smith (1882) –  
Anshul Ahluwalia (1859) [A07]**  
Seattle Masters 3 – Expert  
Seattle, WA (R2), January 7, 2017  
*[Mark Smith]*

I needed to win this game to even up my score against Anshul (about same rating as me) after I lost to him in the morning. I can't remember the last time I played a game this satisfying, but usually when I ask the engines after a satisfying game, they find serious mistakes. This time Stockfish 8 approved of all my decisions, although of course it did find a few sharper lines.

**1.Nf3 Nf6 2.g3 d5 3.Bg2 c6 4.0-0 Bf5 5.d3 e6 6.Nh4 Bg6**

6...Bg4 7.h3 Bh5 8.Qe1 Be7 9.f4 (9.e4 may be better 9...Nfd7 10.Nf3 Bxf3 11.Bxf3) 9...Nfd7 10.Nf3 Bxf3 11.Bxf3

**7.Nd2 Be7 8.c4 Nbd7 9.a3 a5 10.Rb1 a4**

# 11th Annual Grand Pacific Open

**\$5000 GUARANTEED Prize Fund; FIDE rated**

**Easter: April 14-17, 2017**

**Location:** Hotel Grand Pacific, 463 Belleville St, Victoria, BC.

**Round Times:** Friday 6:00pm, Sat. 12:00 / 6:00pm, Sun. 12:00 / 6:00pm, Monday 10:00am.

**Sections:** Premier (FIDE and CFC rated); U2000; U1700; U1200; (all CFC rated).

**Entry Fees:** \$80 by Mar. 6, \$90 by April 10, \$100 on site. Discount \$20 if in U1200 section.

**Prizes:** over \$5000 guaranteed.

**Registration:** on line at [www.grandpacificopen.pbworks.com](http://www.grandpacificopen.pbworks.com) or by cheque payable to Victoria Chess. Mail to Paul Leblanc, 1012 Spiritwood Place, Victoria, BC V8Y 1C6.

**Transportation:** Clipper jet boat from Seattle and Coho ferry from Port Angeles both dock across the street from the playing site. Round times are set up to match the sailing schedule.

**Misc:** All equipment provided. \$105 room rate at Hotel Grand Pacific 1-800-663-7550 (rate code "APRIL17CHESS") See website for further details and side events.

*Note: All dollar amounts are in Canadian dollars.*



11.Nxg6 hxg6 12.d4=  
 12.b4 axb3 13.Rxb3 Nc5 14.Rb1=  
 12...0-0 13.e4  
 13.b3; 13.b4  
 13...dxe4 14.Nxe4 Nxe4 15.Bxe4 Nf6  
 16.Bg2  
 16.Bf3 Qc7  
 16...Qc7 17.Qe2 Rfd8 18.Be3 Rd7  
 19.Rfd1 Rad8 20.Bf3= Ne8 21.Qc2  
 21.b4 axb3 22.Rxb3  
 21...Qa5  
 fork alert  
 22.b4  
 Finally  
 22...axb3 23.Rxb3



Position after 23.Rxb3

23...Bf6?±  
 23...Bg5=  
 24.d5! cxd5  
 worst of three choices 24...b5 25.Bd2  
 Qa4 26.dxe6 fxe6 27.cxb5 Rxd2 28.Rxd2  
 Rxd2 29.Qxd2 Qxb3 30.Bxc6  
 25.Bb6+-  
 fork achieved  
 25...Qa4 26.Bxd8  
 analyzed for a long time; equally good  
 was 26.cxd5 e5 27.Bxd8 Rxd8  
 26...dxc4 27.Rc3  
 27.Rxd7 even better but a bit tricky 27...  
 cxb3 28.Qd1 b2 29.Qxa4 b1Q+ 30.Rd1  
 27...Rxd1+ 28.Bxd1 Qxc2 29.Rxc2  
 Bxd8 30.Rxc4  
 +1.3  
 30...Nd6 31.Rd4 Be7 32.a4 Kf8 33.Bf3  
 Nf5 34.Rd7  
 34.Rc4! Nd6 35.Rb4 and b-pawn falls  
 34...b6 35.Bc6 Bc5 36.Bb5 Nd6 37.Kg2  
 37.h4 Ne4 38.Kg2 Nxf2? 39.Rc7 Ne4  
 40.Bd3  
 37...e5 38.f3 f6 39.g4 g5 40.Bd3 Kg8  
 41.Bg6  
 41.Rc7 e4 42.Bxe4 Be3  
 41...Kf8 42.Rd8+ Ke7 43.Rg8 Nc4



(W) Anshul Ahluwalia vs. Mark Smith in the first game of their mini-match.  
 Photo credit: Josh Sinanan.

44.Rxg7+ Kd6 45.Kf1  
 45.Bf5 Ne3+ 46.Kg3  
 45...Nb2 46.Be8  
 46.Rf7 Nxa4 47.Rxf6+ Kd7 48.Rf5 Be7  
 49.Rxe5  
 46...Ke6 47.Ke2 Be7



Position after 47...Be7

48.Bb5  
 N is trapped  
 48...Bc5 49.Kd2 Kd5 50.Rd7+ Ke6  
 51.Rd8  
 51.Kc3  
 51...Bd4 52.Rxd4  
 52.Kc2 Nxa4 53.Bxa4 Bc5 54.Kd3  
 52...exd4 53.Kc2 Nxa4 54.Bxa4 Ke5  
 55.Kd3 Kd5 56.Bb3+  
 56.f4 gxf4 57.Bb3+ Kd6 58.Kxd4  
 56...Ke5 57.Bc4 f5 58.h3 Kf4 59.Bd5  
 59.Kxd4 fvg4 60.fvg4  
 59...Ke5 60.Bc6 1-0

Viktors Pupols (2200) –  
 Bryce Tiglon (2408) [D77]  
 Seattle Masters 3 – Master  
 Seattle (R1), January 7, 2017  
 [Ralph Dubisch]

1.d4 Nf6 2.Nf3 g6 3.g3 Bg7 4.Bg2 0-0  
 5.0-0 d5 6.c4 dxc4 7.Na3 c3 8.bxc3  
 c5 9.Nc4 Nc6 10.Bb2 Qc7 11.Rc1 Be6  
 12.Nfe5 Bd5 13.Bxd5 Nxd5 14.Nxc6

14.Nd3∞

14...Qxc6 15.e4

15.Qb3!?

15...Nb6 16.Nd2 Na4 17.Ba1 c4 18.Rc2  
 b5 19.Qe2

19.f4!?

19...e5 20.d5 Qd6 21.Bb2 f5 22.Nb1 a5  
 23.Ba3 b4

[Diagram next column]

24.cxb4?

Ceding a passed c-pawn. Tougher is  
 24.Bc1∞

24...axb4 25.Bc1 c3 26.f3 f4 27.Kg2 g5



Position after 23...b4

28.g4?!

28.a3!? b3 29.Rxc3 Nxc3 30.Nxc3 Qa6∞  
 31.Qd1 (31.Qxa6 Rxa6 32.a4 Rc8 33.Bb2  
 Bf8) 31...Qc4 32.Bb2 White's fortress  
 attempt is quite precarious.

28...Rfb8 29.Qc4 Ra7 30.Rd1 Rc7  
 31.Qe2 Bf8 32.Qe1 Be7 33.Qf1 Rcc8  
 34.Qe2 Bd8 35.Qe1 h6 36.Qe2 Be7  
 37.h3 Rc7 38.Kh2 Rb6 39.Kg2 Qd7  
 40.Qd3 Bd6 41.Re2

[Diagram next column]



Position after 41 Re2

41...Qb5 42.Rc2 b3 43.axb3 Qxd3  
 44.Rxd3 Rxb3 45.Nd2 cxd2 46.Rdx2  
 Nc5 47.Rd1 Nd3 48.Rxc7 Bxc7 49.Bd2  
 Kg7 50.Kf1 Nc5 51.Rc1 Bd6 52.Rc3  
 Rb1+ 53.Ke2 Nb3 54.Be1

54.Kd3 Nd4+

[Diagram top of next page]

54...Rxe1+ 0-1



(R) Viktors Pupols vs. Bryce Tiglon during round one of the third Seattle Masters. Photo credit: Josh Sinanan.



Position after 54.Be1

**Ignacio Perez (2288) –  
Viktors Pupols (2200) [D45]**  
Seattle Masters 3 – Master  
Seattle, WA (R2), January 7, 2017  
[Ralph Dubisch]

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.a3 d5 4.Nc3 Nbd7  
5.e3 c6 6.Nf3 Bd6 7.Bd3 0-0 8.cxd5  
exd5 9.0-0 Re8 10.Qc2 Nf8



Position after 10...Nf8

11.e4 dxe4 12.Nxe4 Nxe4 13.Bxe4 f6  
14.Be3 Be6 15.Rad1 Qd7 16.Ne5 Qe7  
17.Nc4 Rad8 18.Nxd6 Rxd6 19.d5 Bxd5  
20.Bxd5+ Rxd5



Position after 20...Rxd5



Ignacio Perez at Seattle Masters 3. Photo credit: Josh Sinanan.



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submitting articles,  
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21.Bxa7

21.Rxd5 cxd5 22.Bxa7∞

21...Rxd1 22.Qxd1 Rd8 23.Qb3+ Qf7  
24.Qb4 Ng6 25.Be3 Ne5 26.h3 Rd5  
27.a4 Qd7 28.Kh2 h6 29.Qb3 Kh7  
30.Qc2+ g6 31.Kg1 Nf7 32.b4 Ng5  
33.Rb1



Position after 33.Rb1

33...Nxb3+?

33...Ne6

34.gxh3 Qxh3 35.Qe4 Qd7

35...Re5 36.Qc4 Kg7±

36.b5 f5?

36...cxb5 37.Rxb5 Rxb5 38.axb5 f5±

37.bxc6 fxe4

37...bxc6

38.cxd7 Rxd7 39.Rb4 Kg7 40.Rxe4 Kf6  
41.Rb4

41.Bxh6 g5 42.Bf8

41...g5 42.Rb6+ Kg7 43.Kg2 Re7 44.Kf3  
Kh7 45.Kg4 Re4+ 46.Kf5 Re7

46...Rxa4 47.Rxb7+ Kg8 48.Kg6 Kf8  
49.Kxh6



Position after 46...Re7

47.Rxh6+ 1-0

**Bryce Tiglon (2408) –  
Ignacio Perez (2288) [B27]**

Seattle Masters 3 – Master  
Seattle, WA (R3), January 7, 2017  
[Ralph Dubisch]

1.e4 g6 2.d4 Bg7 3.Nf3 c5 4.dxc5 Nc6  
5.c3 Nf6 6.Bd3

6.Bc4!?

6...0-0 7.Bf4

7.0-0

7...b6!

Making a proper gambit of it.

8.cxb6 d5 9.Nbd2 axb6?

9...Qxb6 10.Qb3 Rd8 11.0-0 dxe4  
12.Bxe4 Nxe4 13.Nxe4 Be6 with  
compensation for the pawn.

10.0-0 Bb7 11.Qe2 Ra4 12.Bb5 Ra5



Position after 12...Ra5

13.e5 Nh5 14.Bg5 h6 15.Be3 Nxe5  
16.Nxe5 Bxe5 17.Bxh6 Qd6 18.Nf3  
Bh7?

18...Bg7 19.Bxg7 Kxg7 20.a4 Nf4  
21.Qe5+ Qxe5 22.Nxe5±

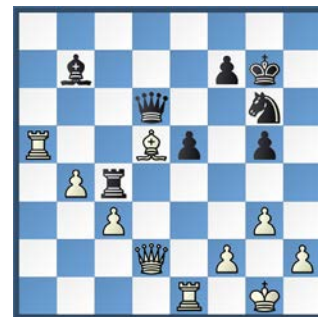
Analysis



(#Diagram-analysis after 22.Nxe5)

and White can keep the extra pawn in  
the complications, e.g. 22...d4 (22...  
f6 23.Nc6 (23.Nd7?! Rd8 24.Nxb6 Rd6  
25.Nd7 Rxb5∞) 23...Bxc6 24.Bxc6) 23.f3  
dxc3 24.bxc3 Ne2+ 25.Kf2 Nxc3 26.Nc4  
Ra7 27.Nxb6

19.Bxf8 Kxf8 20.a4 Nf4 21.Qe3 Bf6  
22.Rfe1 g5 23.Bf1 Kg7 24.Nd4 e6 25.g3  
Ng6 26.b4 Ra8 27.a5 bxa5 28.Rxa5  
Bxd4 29.Qxd4+ e5 30.Qd2 Rc8 31.Bg2  
Rc4 32.Bxd5



Position after 32.Bxd5

32...Nf4

32...Qd7 33.Rd1

33.gxf4 Rxf4 34.Rd1 Rg4+ 35.Kh1 Bc8  
36.Bf3 Qf6 37.Qe3 Rf4 38.Bg2 Bg4  
39.Re1 e4 40.Qd4 1-0

**Anshul Ahluwalia (1859) –  
Mark Smith (1882) [A57]**

Seattle Masters 3 – Expert  
Seattle, WA (R1), January 7, 2017  
[Ralph Dubisch]

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 Bg7 4.e4 d6 5.f3  
0-0 6.Be3 c5 7.d5 a6 8.Qd2



Position after 8.Qd2

8...b5



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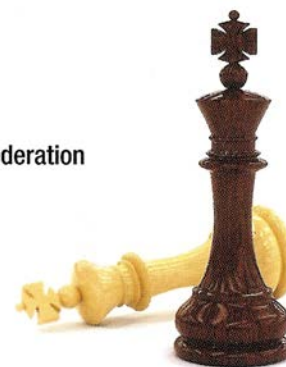
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neilsalmon@gmail.com

**Joshua C. Sinanan**

National Master  
President, Washington Chess Federation

3610 218th St. SW  
Brier, WA 98036

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



In this game, at least, Black never managed to generate any compensation for this gambit pawn.

**9.cxb5 axb5**

9...Qa5!?!±

**10.Bxb5 Ba6 11.Nge2 Qa5 12.a4 Nbd7 13.0-0 Ne5 14.b3 c4 15.Nd4 Rfc8**

15...Bxb5 16.Ncxb5 Qxd2 17.Bxd2 cxb3 18.Nxb3 Rfb8±

**16.Rfc1 cxb3 17.Nxb3 Qd8 18.Nd4 Bxb5 19.axb5 Nc4 20.Qe2 Rxa1 21.Rxa1 Nxe3 22.Qxe3 Qb6 23.Ra6 Nxd5 24.Rxb6 Nxe3 25.Nc6 Bf6?**

It is necessary to bring the king closer to the passed b-pawn: 25...Kf8 26.Nd5 Nxd5 27.exd5 e6 28.dxe6 fxe6 29.Rb7±

**26.Nd5 Nxd5 27.exd5 e6**



*Position after 27...e6*

**28.Kf1 exd5 29.Rb8 Rxb8 30.Nxb8+**

Here we can clearly see why Black needed to start the king earlier.

**30...Bd4 31.Nd7 f6 32.b6 Kf7 33.b7 Ba7 34.b8Q Bxb8 35.Nxb8 Ke6 36.Nc6 h5 37.Ke2 g5 38.Ke3 Kf5 39.g3 Ke6 40.Kd4 h4 41.g4 f5 42.Nb4 fxe4 43.fxe4 Kf6 44.Kxd5 Ke7 45.Ke4 Kf6 46.Nd5+ Ke6 47.Ne3 Kf6 48.Kd5 Ke7 49.Nf5+ Kf6 50.Kxd6 Kg6 51.Ke6 h3 52.Ne7+ Kg7 53.Kf5 Kh6 54.Ng8+ Kg7 55.Kxg5 1-0**

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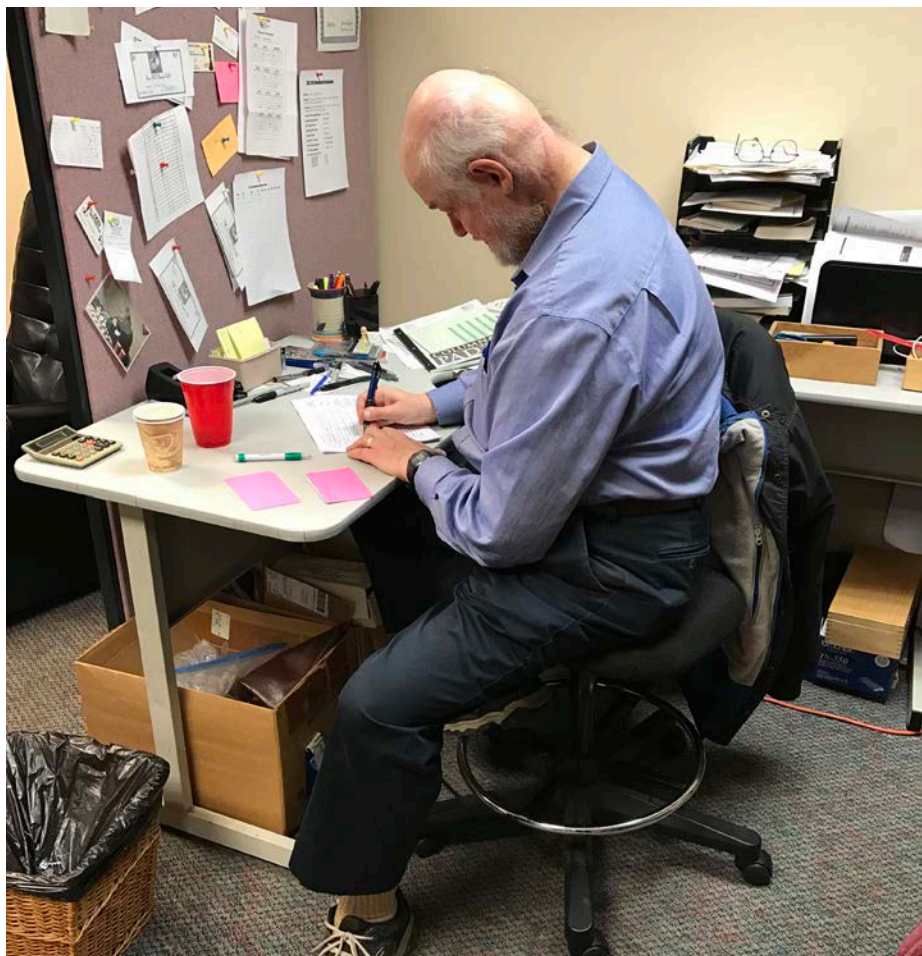
Also, check out [nwchess.com/blog/](http://nwchess.com/blog/)

## 2016 Washington G/60 Championship

By Josh Sinanan

The 2016 Washington G/60 Championship was held at Seattle Chess Club over winter break December 27-28. The tournament was hosted by the Washington Chess Federation and directed by Fred Kleist. Fifty players took part in one large open section, up slightly from last year. FM Ignacio Perez repeated as the clear winner with an impressive 6.0/6, claiming the \$300 first place prize.

Life Master Viktors Pupols and a new unrated player named Jinfei Sun tied for second, each with 5.0/6. Canadian Shin Yuan Tian, rated only 1461 US Chess, captured clear third with 4.5/6, losing only to Perez in the final round. Travis Elisara, WCF Scholastic Director David Hendricks, Stephen Buck, and Dan Kramlich split U1800 honors with 4.0/6. Bellevue's Andy Tien won the U1600 prize with a cool 4.0/6 points. The youngest Velea sister, Sophie, took home U1400 honors with 3.5/6 points.



*Tournament director Fred Kleist still pairs many of his tournaments by hand.  
Photo credit: Josh Sinanan.*

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 SCC Tnmt Dir  
 2420 S 137 St  
 Seattle WA 98168

**Feb. 4, Mar. 4** **Seattle Masters #4, #5**  
**Format:** 3-SS, 2 sec-- Master & Expert, FIDE-rated. **TC:** G/90; i30.  
**EF:** \$75 by 5 p.m., 12/9, afterwards \$90. **Prizes (b/15):** \$450-325-225-125.  
**Reg:** 9-9:45 a.m. **Rds:** 10-2:30-7. **Misc:** US Chess, WCF/OCF/ICA memb. req'd, OSA. NS, NC. **More details:** see [www.nwchess.com](http://www.nwchess.com) or contact [joshsinanan@gmail.com](mailto:joshsinanan@gmail.com) or call 206-769-3757

♣ **Feb. 5, Mar. 5** **Sunday Tornado** ♣  
**Format:** 4-SS. **TC:** G/60; d5. **EF:** \$18 (+\$7 fee for non-SCC). **Prizes:** 1st 35%, 2nd 27%, Bottom Half 1st 22%, 2nd 16% (\$10 from each EF goes to prize fund). **Reg:** 10:30-11:15 a.m. **Rds:** 11:30-1:50-4:10-6:30.  
**Misc:** US Chess, WCF/OCF/ICA memb. req'd, OSA. NS, NC.

♣ **Feb. 25, Mar. 25** **Saturday Quads** ♣  
**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.

**April 23** **New Date** **SCC Novice**  
**Format:** 4-SS. Open to U1200 and UNR. **TC:** G/75; d5. **EF:** \$11 by 4/19, \$16 at site. (-\$2 SCC mem., -\$1 mem. 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.

## 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.

## 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!

**Cabin Fever:** 2/3, 10, 17, 24.

**Close Ratings:** 3/3, 10, 17, 24, 31.

## Seattle Spring Open

March 17-19 or 18-19

A two-section Swiss (4 rounds – Open, 5 rounds – Reserve) with a time control of 40/120 and SD/60 with a 5-second delay (two-day Reserve schedule – Round 1, G/60; d5). The prize fund of \$1000 is based on 52 paid entries, 6 per prize group.

*a Northwest Grand Prix event*

Open		Reserve (U1950)	
<b>First</b>	<b>\$220</b>	<b>First</b>	<b>\$120</b>
<b>Second</b>	<b>\$160</b>	<b>Second</b>	<b>\$80</b>
<b>U2100</b>	<b>\$100</b>	<b>U1750</b>	<b>\$70</b>
		<b>U1550</b>	<b>\$60</b>
		<b>U1350</b>	<b>\$50</b>
		<b>Unrated</b>	<b>\$20</b>

**Plus Score Pool – \$120**

**Entry Fees:** \$36 if rec'd by 3/15 (\$26 SCC memb., \$31 memb. of other dues-required CCs in the NW), \$45 at site (\$35 SCC memb., \$40 memb. of other dues-required CCs in the NW). **Unrated**—Free with purchase of 1-yr US Chess & 1-yr WCF. **Add \$1 to any EF for 2-day schedule.**

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

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

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

**Miscellaneous:** US Chess & WCF membership req'd. No smoking.

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# Upcoming Events

☞ denotes 2017 Northwest Grand Prix event; for Seattle Chess Club events see page 30

☞ **Feb 4** Portland CC Quad 45, **Portland, OR.** Portland Chess Club, 8205 SW 24th Ave., Portland, OR. 3-round quads, G/45;d15. 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, 12:15pm, and 2:30pm. 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, \$5 discount for each additional family member who lives in the same household, 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. Scholastic awards: trophy for winning section with 3 points; smaller trophy for winning or tie for first with 2.5; medal for winning or tie for first with 2 or 1.5. OSCF State Qualifier. <http://pdxchess.org/>

☞ **Feb 11-12** Washington President’s Cup, **Seattle, WA.** (See half-page ad on page 15)

☞ **Feb 25/Mar 25** Portland CC Game in 60, **Portland, OR.** Portland Chess Club, 8205 SW 24th Ave., Portland, OR. 4SS, G/60;d5. If 30 or more entries the field will be divided into 2 sections by ratings. EF: \$20, \$5 discount for PCC Members. US Chess rated; 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. Players who have a game go around the full time can request extra time off before the next round. Prizes: If one section (\$200/b20) \$60-\$40-\$30; U1800, U1500/unrated \$35 each. If two sections - upper section \$75-50-25 (b/15); lower section \$65-35; U1400/unrated \$50 (b/15). No tiebreakers (prizes split). OSCF State Qualifier. Info: [email@pdxchess.org](mailto:email@pdxchess.org), phone 503-246-2978, <http://pdxchess.org/>

☞ **Feb 25-26** The 25th Dave Collyer Memorial, **Spokane, WA.** Site: Millwood Presbyterian Church Community Center, 3223 N. Marguerite, Spokane Valley, WA 99212. Format: 5 Round Swiss. TC: Rd. 1: G/90 d/5; Rds. 2-5: G/115 d/5. Round Times: 11/2:30/7; 9/1:30. Prizes: \$2,500 100% Guaranteed. \$500 \$300 \$200. Class prizes based on at least five per class; classes may be reconfigured if less. Only one prize per player (excluding biggest upset). Expert: \$100; A;B;C;D;E/unr: \$125, \$75; Biggest upsets (non-provisional): \$50 each round, additional \$50 for overall largest; \$100 best performance by provisionally rated player. Byes: One 1/2 point bye available; request by 2/25. Entry Fees: \$27 by 2/24; \$35 at door; Under 19 \$5 less. Cash, checks only. Free advance entry to all rated over 2199. Entries To: Spokane Chess Club, 9923 N. Moore St., Spokane, WA 99208. Telephone: Kevin Korsmo (509) 270-1772. On-site Reg: 9:30-10:30 a.m. 2/25. Directions to site: I-90 exit 287. North on Argonne Road one mile. Left at light on Euclid, two blocks to site. Official Web Site: <http://spokanechessclub.org>. Side Events: Feb 24: John Donaldson lecture & simul; Blitz Tourney. NS, NC, W.

☞ **Mar 4-5** Portland Spring 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 & 6:30; Sunday 10:00 & 2:15. Players who have a game go around the full time can request extra time off before the next round. 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.

☞ **Mar 11** Tacoma CC Northwest Open Tornado, **Tacoma, WA.** Format: 5 round Swiss. Time Control: G/30; d5. Entry Fee: Advance \$25, At the door \$30; Club members: Advance \$22, At the door \$27. Price fund: 1st \$25, 2nd \$20; Top half & Bottom half. Rounds: 10:00, 11:15, 12:30, 2:00, 3:30. US Chess & state memberships required. W NS NC. One half-point bye available. Entries/Info: Gary J. Dorfner, 8423 E. B St., Tacoma, WA 98445. Phone (253) 535-2536 or email [ggarychess@aol.com](mailto:ggarychess@aol.com).

☞ **Mar 18** Portland CC Quad 45, **Portland, OR.** (Note changes beginning in March are bolded and highlighted below.) Portland Chess Club, 8205 SW 24th Ave., Portland, OR. 3-round quads, **G/45;inc15**. 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, **12:30pm, and 3:00pm**. 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, \$5 discount for each additional family member who lives in the same household, 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. Scholastic awards: trophy for winning section with 3 points; smaller trophy for winning or tie for first with 2.5; medal for winning or tie for first with 2 or 1.5. OSCF State Qualifier. <http://pdxchess.org/>

**Apr 14-16** Larry Evans Memorial, **Reno, NV.** (See full-page ad on page 17)

**Apr 14-17** 11th Annual Grand Pacific Open, **Victoria, BC (Canada).** (See half-page ad on page 24)

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