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TO ALL AND TO ALL A  
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FROM NORTHWEST  
CHESS**



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Merry Christmas from *Northwest Chess*.  
Special cartoon by Brian Berger.

## On the back cover:

Eli Sanders celebrates National Chess Day by making  
chess pieces during classes at Silver Creek Alternative  
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## Chesstoons:

Chess cartoons drawn by local artist Brian Berger,  
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Please see "From The Publisher's Desk" on the next  
page for information about a rate increase scheduled  
to take effect in January. An updated rate table will be  
published online and in the January magazine. The old  
rates will still be accepted until the weekend of January  
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## From The Publisher's Desk

A special holiday greeting to the readers of *Northwest Chess* magazine.

*Northwest Chess* is the official publication of the Washington Chess Federation, the Oregon Chess Federation, and the Idaho Chess Association. Much of your state membership dues goes toward providing you a subscription to the magazine. It is with the power of the subscribers from all three states that *Northwest Chess* can sustain a print publication and qualify for a periodical mailing rate, pay small stipends to the editor, business manager, and games editor/proofreader, and continue to provide our readers with great games, local chess news, event reports, tournament information, and more.

We are proud to be one of the few surviving state chess magazines that publishes monthly, and one of even fewer that is still primarily printed on paper and mailed. We have 70 years of history and a remarkable record of nearly continuous monthly delivery under one name or another: the *Washington Chess Letter*, *Northwest Chess Letter*, and finally simply *Northwest Chess*, the latter for nearly 50 years now.

Where am I going with all of this? The *Northwest Chess* board, comprised of two representatives from each of the three state organizations along with the business manager and the publisher, has voted to increase the subscription price, which means adult membership dues, currently \$25, will increase to \$30 a year. This is the first increase in 15 years and is long overdue.

Perhaps we will eventually need to follow the other state publications into the "online-only route" to reduce costs. But not yet. That may be our only option someday, when mailing and printing costs become too high. Until then, the majority of the board feels that the print-only route is still the way to go. We are an award-winning magazine and the envy of other state chess organizations. Instead of cheapening our product or reducing it to irrelevance like other states have done, let's build a brand. Let's expand and increase the influence of chess in our region; let's expand the opportunities of tournaments, chess clubs, casual play settings, and scholastic participation. Let's support the magazine and make it a big part of a Renaissance of chess in the Northwest.

The dues increase is scheduled to take effect on January 1, 2018. The new rate schedule will be published soon and I am sure there will be opportunities to extend your subscription at the current rate. We hope to see you at the *Northwest Chess* Open, our annual fundraiser for the magazine, coming up on December 16-17 at the Seattle Chess Club.

So until the New Year, "Merry Christmas to all and to all a Good Knight!"

~Duane

# 2017 BCC #15

By Jeffrey Roland

Boise, Idaho—October 8, 2017

The 2017 BCC #15 chess tournament was held Sunday, October 8, 2017 at All About Games on Overland Road in Boise, Idaho. The tournament was a four-round Swiss System event with a time control of Game/30 plus 30 seconds per move and thus the event was dual-rated, affecting both the Regular and Quick US Chess ratings. Entry was free, and there were no financial prizes.

The ages of the players ranged from six to seventy-five, with an average age of 29.84 years old. First prize, as is usual for a Boise Chess Club (BCC) event, was simply to have the winner's photograph taken in honor of winning the tournament. Jeffrey Roland was the Tournament Director.

Mention should be made that this weekend (October 7-8) was originally slated and advertised to be what likely would have been a very significant event, the first-ever CCBSU/BCC Chess Meet which was to be held at BSU in Boise. A lot of planning went into the event, perhaps even too much planning, and efforts were even being made to have a special guest, Buster Bronco—a friend of Chris Herrera's and the school mascot seen at BSU football games—come out and make the first move on the top board in the first round. It would also have been the first time the new BCC was to have a two-day event, owing to the fact that the CCBSU could host the site for two days.

Due to an unexpected and untimely cancellation of the Chess Club at BSU (CCBSU) due to lack of involvement by students who were not attending meetings as well as "organizational-only burn-out" by CCBSU President Chris Herrera (he's still excited about chess as a player), that event plus all the others that were scheduled for the semester were cancelled at least as far as BSU being host was concerned. Soon after the CCBSU club's cancellation, Jameson Tang (formerly the CCBSU club secretary) became the new CCBSU President and plans to run the CCBSU, at least for one semester with Dian-Xiang Xu still serving as faculty advisor.

BCC President and Secretary Jamie Lang and BCC Vice President and Treasurer Jeffrey Roland still wanted to hold an event on the October 7-8 weekend since expectations had been set plus ads had been paid for in *Northwest Chess*. So BCC #15 (originally slated for November 5) was moved up to October 8, BCC #16 (originally slated to be January 7) was moved up to November 5, and BCC #17



James Inman. Photo credit: Jeffrey Roland.

was created and will be held on January 7, keeping the original chess "season" as envisioned and planned by the BCC this past summer still happening and on track. BCC wishes to thank All About Games for being so flexible, willing, and able to host the site of the three BCC chess tournaments on such short notice.

James Inman (1781-1802—4.0/4), Nampa, won the tournament with a perfect score gaining 21 rating points. James is no stranger to the winners circle as this was the fourth time he either won or shared first place in a BCC tournament.

Chris Amen (1746-1763—3.5/4), Boise, and Cody Gorman (1933-1937—3.5/4), Eagle, were tied for second-third places drawing with each other in a very unbalanced and exciting 48-move struggle in the third round.

Andrew Kitterman (926P-1186—3.0/4), Boise, Jamie Lang (1407-1140—3.0/4), and Seth Machakos (1430-1441—3.0/4), Boise, tied for fourth-sixth places, with young Mr. Kitterman gaining the most rating points from his performance of any player in the tournament—260 points!

Tied for seventh-thirteenth places were Raymond Bian (1275-1275—2.0/4), Boise, Tom Booth (1564-1525—2.0/4), Caldwell, Daniel Liu (422P-430P—2.0/4), Boise, James Liu (1356-1348—2.0/4), Boise, Alex Machin (1785-1765—2.0/4), Boise, Paul Smit, the tournament's oldest player at 75 years young (1213-1178—2.0/4), Boise, and Forrest Zeng (1149-1137—2.0/4), Boise.

Hanford Chong, the tournament's youngest player at six years old

(Unrated-500P—1.0/4), Robert Ward (1118P-1134P—1.0/4), Boise, David Zaklan (1472-1416—1.0/4), Twin Falls (traveling 129 miles one-way), and JR Zhao (479-477—1.0/4), Boise, tied for fourteenth through seventeenth places.

Roger Hunter (1092-1074—0.5/4), Nyssa, OR (traveling 47.4 miles one-way), and Heng Hao Chong (Unrated-101P—0.0/4), Boise rounded out the 19-player field.

**David Zaklan (1472) –  
Cody Gorman (1933) [E21]**  
2017 BCC #15 (R2), October 8, 2017  
[Ralph Dubisch]

**1.d4 e6 2.c4 b6 3.Nf3 Bb7 4.Nc3 Bb4  
5.a3**

Probably unnecessary. Continue with development, and when that knight is no longer pinned, the bishop will probably decide to take c3 anyway, so why spend the tempo?

**5...Bxc3+ 6.bxc3 Nf6 7.Bf4**

Seems a bit of a target for the eventual advance of the e-pawn. 7.Bg5!?

**7...0-0 8.e3**

Black is about to start shifting center pawns to the dark squares, a standard but effective strategy after the exchange of the dark-bound bishop.

**8...d6 9.Be2**

9.Bd3

**9...Ne4 10.Qc1**

Too subtle for me. Why not 10.Qc2 directly? Or even 10.Bd3.



10...c5 11.0-0 Nc6 12.h3 Qe7 13.Qc2 Na5 14.Bd3 f5 15.Rfe1 g5 16.Bh2 Qg7 17.Nd2



Position after 17.Nd2

17...Nxd2 18.Qxd2 Nb3?!

The obvious material grab; probably neither player considered alternatives. Instead, the thematic 18...e5! keeps a Black strategic edge.

19.Qc2?

Similarly, White assumes the need to recapture on a1 — and if true, this is a fine square for the queen. But 19.Qb2! Nxa1 20.Bxd6!∞ helps White develop quite a bit of compensation for the exchange. The immediate recapture on a1 is forced after 19.Qc2.

19...Nxa1 20.Rxa1 f4 21.Bf1 e5 22.Rd1 Rad8 23.d5 Bc8 24.Qd3 g4 25.h4 g3 26.fxg3 fxg3 27.Bxg3 Qxg3 28.e4 Qxd3 29.Rxd3 Rf4 30.Rg3+ Rg4 0-1

Robert L. Ward (1118) –  
Raymond Botong Bian (1276) [B20]  
2017 BCC #15 (R4), October 8, 2017  
[Ralph Dubisch]

1.e4 c5 2.g3 Nc6 3.Bg2 e6 4.c3!?

Definitely unusual in this kind of King's Indian Attack position.

4...d5 5.Qe2 Be7 6.d3 Nf6 7.Bg5 b6?!

7...0-0

8.Bxf6 Bxf6

8...gxf6 9.exd5 exd5±

9.exd5 Na5 10.dxe6 Bxe6 11.Bxa8 Qxa8 12.Nf3 0-0 13.0-0 Bg4 14.Nbd2 Re8 15.Qd1 Nc6



Tom Booth—Andrew Kitterman; James Inman—Chris Amen; Alex Machin—Forrest Zeng.  
Photo credit: Jeffrey Roland.



Position after 15...Nc6

16.Kg2?

Up to now White has played well and has a decisive advantage, but it is time to unpin. 16.Qa4 looks good.

16...Ne5 17.Re1?!

17.h3

17...Bg5?!

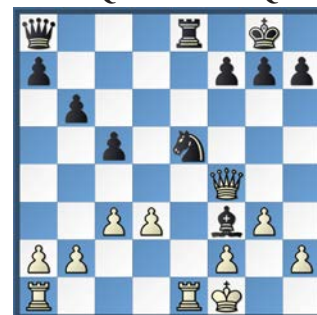
17...Nxd3!∞ 18.Rxe8+ Qxe8 19.Nc4 (19.h3? Bxh3+) 19...Qe4 20.Ncd2 Qe6 (or 20...Qe8 21.Qb3 Qe2 22.Qd5! g6 (22...Qxf2+?? 23.Kh1 with d3 and a8 both hanging.) 23.Rf1∞) 21.Qa4 Bishop-pair

and activity compensate for the exchange.

18.Kf1??

18.d4! still saves the day, forcing the action. 18...Nxf3 (18...Bxd2 19.Rxe5! Rxe5 20.dxe5 and the crisis is over.) 19.Rxe8+ Qxe8 20.Nxf3 Qe4 21.dxc5 bxc5 22.h3

18...Bxd2 19.Qxd2 Bxf3 20.Qf4



Position after 20.Qf4

Now there's a nice king hunt.

20...Bg2+ 21.Kg1 Nf3+ 22.Kxg2 Nxe1+ 23.Kh3 Qg2+ 24.Kg4 h5+ 25.Kg5 Nf3+ 26.Kxh5 Qh3+ 0-1

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# 2017 Eastern Washington Open

By Kevin Korsmo

Spokane, WA — September 30/October 1, 2017

The 2017 installment of the Eastern Washington Open was won by Michael Cambareri, Kairav Joshi, and Steve Merwin. Each scored 3.5/5 in the five round event to best the field of 18 (17 plus one house player). The small size of the event was unusual, as was the concentration of players in the A and B categories; only two entrants were rated below 1599. Another very unusual feature was the score differential by color. In each round, Black outscored White. The final round saw Black go 7.5-.5! The best round for White was the first, when the white player scored 2.5-4.5. In all Black won 24, drew 6, and lost only 6.

The play was uniformly strong, with most games (unsurprisingly with the balanced field) running until late in the time controls. Some individual performances stood out. Tito Tinajero had an excellent tourney and gained 104 rating points while winning two games and drawing one, with but a single loss (and a third round bye). The first day's action left him as the only 2.5 score. The only perfect first day belonged to Kairav Joshi, who marked his return to over the board tournament chess with an excellent outing. Kairav took a fourth round bye, an action that precluded meeting Tinajero on Sunday morning. Instead, both frontrunners ran into the top seed, Cameron Leslie. The expert, who recently returned to the area, had to miss the first day's action. He was seeded in for pairing purposes (but not prizes) at 2.5. He took on Tinajero on board one in round four. Tito sacked a bishop for a draw by repetition. In the fifth round, Joshi and Leslie battled off in one of the last games of the day. Joshi missed a win in a time scramble and then lost his queen on a skewer. By that point, Cambareri and Merwin had already won to force their way into a tie. The final game of the day saw eighth grader Garrett Casey draw Tony Telinbacco after reaching a balanced endgame. Telinbacco (rated 1925), currently living in Colorado, is moving to Spokane soon and decided to check out area chess activity.

The top three shared the first and second prizes, as well as the top prize in class A. The other prize winners were: Garrett Casey and Tony Telinbacco, who tied for second and third in class A with 3.0/5 scores; Tito Tinajero was first in class B with 3.0/5; Jason Cross and Walter van Heemstede Obelt (2.5/5) shared the second and third prizes in

class B; Sam Rainey (2.0/5) topped the class C/under category, while Louis Blair and Bill Rottmayer claimed the second and third prizes. Walter also took the top upset prize with a 367-point upset victory in round four.

**Michael Cambareri (2012) – Steven Merwin (1970) [B01]**

Eastern Washington Open  
Spokane, WA (R3), September 30, 2017  
[Steve Merwin]

**1.e4 d5 2.exd5 Nf6 3.d4 Bg4 4.f3**

Michael chose the much quieter 4.Be2 against Mika Mitchell in round one, a game which ended in a draw. With the equally popular 4.f3, Michael is announcing his intention to duke it out. In return for a weakened kingside, he gains the time needed to hold on to his extra pawn and control the center.

**4...Bf5 5.Bb5+**

5.c4 is another option, and after 5...e6 6.dxe6 Nc6! a wild game is ensured. Michael actually tried this line against me as a youngster (way back in 2001!), but after 7.exf7+ Kxf7 8.Be3 Bb4+ 9.Nc3 Re8 10.Kf2 Rxe3!! Black had a forced win. This line is well known at this point so Black can no longer expect an easy point after the improvement 7.Be3!

**5...Nbd7 6.c4**

6...e6 is the most popular response here, and GM David Smerdon devotes nearly 50 pages to this highly complex variation in Smerdon's Scandinavian. However, I had other ideas.

**6...a6 7.Ba4 b5! 8.cxb5 Nb6?!**

Although one of the "book" moves, it is not Black's best choice. Smerdon recommends 8...axb5 9.Bxb5 Nxd5 with compensation for the pawn, the point being that 10.Bc6 fails to 10...Nb4!

**9.bxa6+ Nxa4 10.Qxa4+ Bd7 11.Qc4**



Position after 11.Qc4

It's time to assess this unusual position. Black is temporarily three pawns down, but has some (if not full) compensation due to his two bishops, the open lines available to his pieces, and White's weakened kingside. He must continue to attack, otherwise White will consolidate and make his extra material count.

**11...e6 12.Nc3 exd5 13.Qd3!? Bc8!? 14.Bg5 Be7 15.Nge2 Bxa6 16.Qc2 0-0 17.0-0 c5!**

Both players have achieved their objectives at this point. White has castled and has developed his pieces to good squares, while Black has recovered two of the three sacrificed pawns and continues to apply pressure.

**18.Rfd1 h6 19.Bxf6 Bxf6 20.dxc5 d4**



Position after 20...d4

We have reached the critical position of the game. White must proceed accurately to bring home the point based on his material advantage, otherwise Black's two well placed bishops and passed center pawn will dominate the board.

**21.Ne4?**

At first glance this move looks reasonable as the attacked knight gets to a good square where it eyes the bishop on f6. However, White needed to prevent the pawn from getting to d3 by taking advantage of the pin on Black's queen with either 21.Nf4 or Nc1, planning to occupy the d3-square himself.

**21...d3 22.Qc1 Be5 23.N2c3**

Better was 23.N2g3 to help protect the king.

**23...f5 24.Nf2 Qh4 25.Nh3**

This sequence has left Black better due to White's very uncomfortable king and the dominant pawn on d3.

**25...g5?**



Position after 25...g5

**26.Nd5?**

With all the kingside pressure, Michael overlooks the queen's ability to check on d4, and now the game is effectively over. A natural continuation but it throws away



the advantage. White can now ask Black what he intends to do after 26.Kh1!, because after 26...g4 27.Nf4 g3 28.Nh3 gxh2 29.a4! (with the idea of Nb5 and picking up the pawn on d3) both sides have chances. With the time pressure I was in, this is probably how the game would have proceeded had White played 26.Kh1, and the tense battle would have continued. Better would have been 25... Rac8, improving my position while White remained tied up.

26...Qd4+ 27.Nf2 Qxd5 28.Rb1 Bd4 29.b4 Bxf2+ 30.Kxf2 Bb5 31.a3 Qd4+ 32.Qe3 Qxe3+ 33.Kxe3 Rfe8+ 34.Kd4 Rad8+ 35.Kc3 d2 36.Rb2 Re3+

White resigns. ...Ba4+ is coming which picks up more material, and mate is on the horizon.

0-1

## Microsoft vs. Amazon 2017 Rivalry Match

By Josh Sinanan

The first ever rivalry chess match between Microsoft and Amazon, two of the Northwest's biggest tech companies, took place on Sunday, July 30th at the Amazon Day 1 building overlooking the Amazon Spheres in the heart of downtown Seattle.

The event featured two sections, both of which were open to active employees of Amazon or Microsoft: a ten v ten rated match (two rounds, G/60 + 30 sec increment) and an unrated open section (four round swiss, G/25 + 10 sec increment). Players in the match section played against the same opponent twice, once as white, once as black, with the home team (Amazon) playing the black pieces in the first round.

The top two boards were played on DGT electronic boards and broadcast live via Chess24.com.

In the end, Microsoft won the match with 7.5 - 2.5 in blitz-tiebreaks after the regular match ended in a 10-10 tie. The Amazonian's were gracious in defeat and congratulated the Microsofties, though they have vowed to reclaim the winner's trophy in years to come!

In the open section, Jovan Jovancevic and Michael Schmidt went through the four rounds without losing a point to claim first place. Jovan Jovancevic won the book-prize in this section after blitz-tiebreaks.

The match was organized by Amazon Chess Club head Florian Helff



amazon

Score



Microsoft

FM Tristan Reeves 2250	0-2	FM Tian Sang 2372
Sankalp Modwal 2171	2-0	NM Fred Garcia 2213
Salar Jahedi 2061	0-2	Alan Bishop 2038
Michael Patraw 2032	1-1	Eugene Rozenfeld 1962
Danny Chen 1898	2-0	Christian Zarate 1854
C. Kadioglu 1809 / A. Gijare 1704	1-1	Greg Prentice 1753
Inchara Shivalingaiah 1680	2-0	Cedric Davies 1667
Jeff Hrebenach 1679	1-1	Isaac Varon 1604
Dan Gregson 1406	1-1	David De La Brena 1498
Chris Pleasants 1374	0-2	Mike Anderson 1476
Total: 10-10		



(Front L) Tristan Reeves vs Tian Sang alongside (Rear L) Fred Garcia vs Sankalp Modwal.  
Photo Credit: Josh Sinanan.

and sponsored by Sarah Worley with Connect@Amazon. Additional chess equipment was provided by Josh Sinanan and the Washington Chess Federation. Special thanks to Oliver Koeller with Chess24, who was broadcasting the event live!

Thanks to everyone who took part for making this a truly awesome event and a great start for Amazon's Chess Tournament History!

**Abhijeet Gijare (1694) – Gregory Prentice (1753) [B23]**  
Amazon vs Microsoft  
(R2), July 30, 2017  
[Gregory Prentice]

1.e4 c5 2.Nc3 Nc6 3.f4 g6 4.Nf3 Bg7 5.Bc4 d6 6.d3 e6 7.0-0 Nge7 8.Qe1 0-0 9.Qh4 a6

The position is basically equal here. 9...d5 would have had the benefit of minimizing the pressure felt on the a2-g8 diagonal, which later caused me problems. 9...d5 10.Bb3 Nd4 11.Nxd4 cxd4

10.f5

I looked at this move briefly and dismissed it as I had plenty of pieces covering the

f5 square. After my opponent moved I spent my current time advantage of 15+ minutes muddling through the lines. My opponent saw something I didn't!

10...exf5

As in the movie Indiana Jones and the Last Crusade — I chose poorly. The move ...gxf5 maintains equality, according to Deep Fritz. Hard move to see as it felt unnatural to me during the game. 10... gxf5= 11.Bh6 b5

11.Bh6?!

Better was 11.Bg5 maintaining an advantage. With the fast time control the board is about to get messy and complications will arise!

11...fxe4??

A blunder on my part of epic proportions! Fritz says I'm now down 3.0 points. We'll see why shortly. 11...b5 is the only move to save Black's position. It was my original plan after playing ...a6 earlier, but the f5 pawn move from my opponent redirected my attention to the kingside. 12.Bb3 c4 13.dxc4 bxc4 14.Bxc4 Qb6+ 15.Kh1 Qxb2

Continued on page 10...







...Continued from page 7

12.Ng5 Bd4+ 13.Kh1 Nf5



Position after 13...Nf5

14.Rxf5!!

Hats off to my opponent; great move! I missed this move and I'm not feeling confident at this point in the game.

14...Bxf5

14...gxf5 leads to even more trouble for Black: 15.Bxf8 Kxf8 16.Bxf7 Bf6 17.Nd5 Bxg5 18.Qxh7 Ne7 19.Qh8+ Kxf7 20.Qxd8, for example.

15.Bxf8 Kxf8 16.Qxh7??

16.dxe4!! This was the move I feared; with the clock becoming a factor my opponent chose the less painful line — for me, that is.

16...Qf6



Position after 16...Qf6

17.Nxf7?

How fast a game in chess can swing from a totally lost position to an almost equal position. The time on the clock is becoming a factor in my favor. 17.dxe4! Bxc3 (17...Bd7 18.Rf1+-) 18.bxc3 Ne5

19.exf5 Nxc4 20.fxc6 Qxc6 (20...Ne5 21.gxf7 Nxf7 22.Nxf7 Qxf7 23.Qh8+ Qg8 24.Qf6+ Qf7 25.Qxd6+) 21.Qh8+ Qg8 22.Nh7+ Ke7 23.Re1+ Ne5 (23...Kd7 24.Nf6+) 24.Qf6+ Kd7 25.Rd1! Nc4 26.Qh4! Qg6 27.Qxc4 Qxh7 and (27...Rh8 28.Qg4+! Qxc4 29.Nf6+) 28.Qd5! wins.

17...Qg7 18.Qxg7+ Kxg7 19.Nxd6 e3 20.Re1 Ne5

20...Bd7 is better, maintaining equality.

21.Bd5?

This does nothing to deal with the passed e-pawn. Much better: 21.Nxf5+ gxf5 22.Nd5 Nxc4 23.dxc4 Bxb2 24.Rxe3 and White has an extra pawn and a more active rook.

21...Rd8 22.Nde4 b5 23.Bb7

The a6-pawn is immune and given our clocks are running low, I'm able to finish the game decisively!

23...c4! 24.Nd5??

24.dxc4 bxc4 25.Bxa6+ hangs on.

24...cxd3 25.cxd3 Nxd3 26.Rxe3 Bxe3 27.Nxe3 Bxe4

White resigns due to the pending fork on f2. Lessons learned: never give up and never surrender. The difference between winning and losing is only one move away!

0-1

## 2017 Portland Fall Open

By Brian Berger

Portland, OR—October 14-15, 2017

So there I was, still in my pajamas on a Saturday morning in October, not realizing I had wasted so much time reading the newspaper and having a second cup of coffee, that I was going to miss the registration period for playing in the Portland Chess Club's Fall Open if I did not immediately change into street clothes and hit the road.

Now I don't know about the rest of you players, but when you reach nearly 75-years old, presenting a non-scary appearance to the outside world after a restless night in bed takes me more time than it once did when I was younger, and knew the world was mine, and the time left was endless.

I won't bore you with the details of how this transformation is accomplished, but on this day I must have left out a number of salient stages to reaching my optimum world-facing appearance, in the hopes of reaching the club in time—even though I had called ahead to say I would be running a bit late.

But shortness of time was not my only impediment to registration this day, as just as I was about to cross the Terwilliger Boulevard, I-5 overpass, I found it **closed!** I was beginning to think some higher power was trying to tell me something about my wanting to enter this weekend tournament—an omen of its possible outcome (more about this later).

Having no recourse but to get on I-5 and head for Portland, I finally found an exit that I could take to Barbur Boulevard, thence to the Portland Chess Club, where I had hoped to enter the U1800 section. But as I had not mentioned what section I had intended to enter when I had called, they had placed me in the Open section—and this is where this five paragraph, whining lead-in finally ends, and I can now address what the heck took place at this tournament.

With my appearance, the player count became 32 for the two sections—17 in the Open, and 15 in the U1800. TDing this event were Chief TD Mike Janniro, backed by Assistant Chief TD Lennart Bjorksten, with Bjorksten opting to also be a player.

High man on the totem pole rating-wise was NM Matt Zavortink (2243-2239—3.5/5), whose 3.5-points were matched by Owen McCoy (2114-2129—3.5), William Lapham (2109-2121—3.5/5) of Washington, Lennart Bjorksten (2086-2095—3.5/5) and Ethan Wu (1954-1977), making for a five-way



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[NWchessworks.com](http://NWchessworks.com)





(L) Eric Erard vs Ian Fudalla. Photo credit: Brian Berger.

tie in the Open section. This five-way tie consumed all the first place prize money, plus the U2000 and second place monies, that when combined, amounted to a payoff of \$84 for each player.

As for my own accomplishments in this section—Brian “I’m Just Glad To Be Here” Berger (1571-1570—2.0/5)—well, that omen-thing that I mentioned some paragraphs back was not just a feeling, but began to come true in my first two games, where I lost to Brent Baxter (1940-1928—2.0/5) and David Murray (1816-1838—3.0/5), a possible third loss that first day avoided by my earlier opting for a third round bye—a bit of insurance against that omen-thing.

Painful as those losses were, I could rationalize that I was more than a bit out-rated, and had had a good game against Murray—until I didn’t. Consoling myself that I still had two games to prove myself on the following day, I left to lick my wounds and ponder where I had gone wrong.

Next morning, with the sunshine defining the glory of tree-lined streets on the way to the club, I was elevated in spirit, determined to do battle befitting a 74-year old, sometimes B-player, thrown in with a pack of wolves. But my chance to redeem myself was thwarted by a mandatory, full-point bye, when my opponent pulled out at the last minute.

Faced with nearly five hours of waiting time before the last game, I was wondering what I might do to pass the time when, by chance, I wandered over

to photograph the start of a game in the Reserve section, between David “Mystery Opener” Yoshinaga (1761-1719—2.5/5) and Michael “Knows His Openings” Schuff (1166-1350—3.5/5). And what I saw in my viewfinder convinced me that I would soon have a partner to pass the time with, as Yoshinaga’s white king was already surrounded by a lethal force of black pieces, which did not take Yoshinaga’s astute evaluating powers long to process as a loss.



(L) Patrick Morrissey vs Pierre-Hadrien Beauchet. Photo credit: Brian Berger.

Schuff went on to win the U1600 first place prize of \$60, while Yoshinaga and I repaired to reflect on better times while wandering through Powell’s downtown bookstore, sipping ice tea and coffee, catching lunch in Chinatown, then back to start our last game—a game I managed to draw against a much higher rated player (hooray!).

Not so Yoshinaga, who must have still felt dispirited at his earlier quick loss. Faced against the young Zoey Tang (1634-1644—3.5/5), Yoshinaga (a one-time expert player) somehow found himself in trouble once again, later telling me he had used one of his “garbage openings,” which cost him the loss of a pawn. Trying to equalize with tactics that Tang saw coming a mile away only deepened his predicament by the endgame, where he suffered still another defeat.

Thankfully, Yoshinaga does not depend on chess for his livelihood, his expertise being in the realm of rare currency, dating to the time of the Roman Empire—an expertise that has garnered him an international reputation for his deep knowledge of the subject and the quality of his merchandise. And so I pictured him going home after this debacle to soothe himself by swimming through mounds of ancient coins—much like Donald Duck’s Uncle Scrooge.

Before I continue with the other winners in the Reserve section, I must mention that Morgan the Dog was there. Partly motivated by all of the attention directed at him at these gatherings (head pats, belly rubs, chin scratches—and most especially, fries and chicken nuggets from

Wendy's), but also by wanting to see if his companion, Jerrold "I Just Want To Reach 1600 Before It's Over" Richards (1319-1309—2.5/5) will ever put into effective use all the dog-hours he (Morgan) has spent in trying to refine his chess game.

Two things happened: Morgan got his wish for attention, and Wendy's fries and chicken nuggets. But his hope for a gain in Richards' rating was asking too much, Morgan once again needing to console Richards on the long drive back to their home in the Columbia Gorge.

Others in the Reserve section did much better. Besides the already mentioned U1600 winner, Michael Schuff, Havish Sripada (1250-1279—3.0/5) won the U1400 prize of \$60, while Pierre-Hadrien Beauchet (1198-1198—2.0/5) won the same amount for taking first in the U1200.

Top prize winners in this section, each with a finishing score of 4.0-points, were Konner Feldman (1780-1778—4.0/5) and Eric "Mighty Mite" Erard (1533-1608—4.0/5) who tied for first and second place, both receiving one-hundred well-earned dollars, with an added bonus of 75 more rating points for Erard.

## My Dallas Trip

By Abbie Wu (age eight)

Dallas, TX — October 12-15, 2017

It was on a sunny and hot Thursday when my dad and I arrived in Dallas, Texas. We had chosen this day to go because Saturday was National Chess Day, and the Dallas Open was going to take place at the Dallas Chess Club. It would be my first FIDE rated tournament.

My chess coach told me he had played there a couple of times, and it was a quiet club where many of the kids were underrated. There were to be five rounds, but because it would be very late after the third round, my dad wanted me to take a bye for that round.

On the day of the tournament I saw GM Ruifeng Li (2669), as well as Rachael Li (1732) there. In round one I



Abbie Wu. Photo credit: Xintian Wu.

was paired with a kid named Rudransh Rajaram (1966). I lost after I played a positional sacrifice in the endgame to clear up a square for my knight, which he was able to deal with, and I eventually lost by messing up towards the end.

In round two I played with Rachael Li. She is seven-years old and has an official rating of 1732! I was doing fine until the endgame, where I found I was down a pawn and had no idea of what had happened. I still felt I had a drawn position, which I was able to hold for a while, but then messed up again and lost.

After the round three half-point bye, I was paired in round four with Doyle W. Lobaugh (1500). He played like a solid 1500, which was to his credit. I was Black, and he played 1.d4. After a closed middle game fight, we arrived at an endgame where my pieces were much more active—his pawns being weak, also—and I won.

In round five, the last round, I was paired at first with a 1258 player, but then re-paired with Gaurav Darshan (1707). During this game Rachael kept being naughty. For example, she kept playing with my water bottle, and leaving candy wrappers under Gaurav's chair—probably trying to be funny. Because of this she wasn't focused enough, and lost to a 1667 player who appeared very happy.

In my game, I won a pawn in the opening, but opened up some lines to my king, where Darshan almost successfully achieved counter-play against my king. But, luckily for me, he had left the board

and forgot his weak back rank, which I then took advantage of. My dad was very surprised I won.

### Ten things you need to know about the Dallas Chess Club:

There is a park right next to the club.

The players there are very serious about chess.

It is quiet and peaceful there.

There is no pet playing tournament chess there—like our Morgan the Dog.

It is hot and humid when you are outside the club.

They usually play FIDE rated games.

GM Ruifeng Li plays there often.

Seven year old Rachael Li plays there as well.

There are two playing rooms—downstairs and upstairs.

There are usually many more people playing in the Open section, compared to the Reserve section.

### Abbie's Chess Poem

*The knights curve like a knife  
In a Jack-O-Lantern.*

*The pawn seems to take flight  
As it zooms across the board.*

*But the pawns stay in their own little  
hoard,*

*While all the other pieces  
Zip around the board,  
Searching for the enemy lord.*

*The bishop can zap diagonals,  
Just like an electric cord.  
The rook jogs to & fro,  
Attacking the enemy lord.*

*But the queen makes all the  
Other pieces look like hogs,  
As she dances across the board!*

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# WFM Chouchanik Airapetian wins 2017 WA Women's Championship

By Josh Sinanan

A record 23 players took part in the 2017 Washington State Women's Championship, a five-round Swiss held at the Seattle Chess Club September 15-17, 2017. The tournament, which was dual US Chess and FIDE rated, attracted players from throughout the Northwest States including Washington, Oregon, and British Columbia. The chief organizer of the event was WCF President Josh Sinanan and it was directed by Fred Kleist, a US Chess Senior TD and FIDE National Arbiter.

WFM Chouchanik Airapetian won the 2017 Washington Women's Championship with 4.5/5, taking home the \$300 first place prize along with the title of 2017 Washington State Women's Champion! For her victory, Chouchanik will be seeded into the Premier Section of



2017 WA Women's Championship Players: (Rear L-R) Andrea Botez, Anne-Marie Velea, Minda Chen, Jennifer Acon, Carrie Miller, Mary Kuhner, Nithya Subramanian, Chouchanik Airapetian, Yelizaveta Orlova, Cheyenne Zhang, Sophie Velea, Audrey Whitmer, Stephanie Velea (with her dog), Alison Xiao, Kate Jiang.  
(Front L-R) Enkhjin Pagma, Cassandra Roshu, Sophie Tien, Angela Agaian, Melina Li, Sophie Szeto, Felicity Wang. Not pictured: Angela Chen.  
Photo Credit: Josh Sinanan.

the 2018 Washington State Championship. Other winners include:

2nd Place: Andrea Botez, \$200

=3rd/U1800: Minda Chen, Sophie Tien & Anne-Marie Velea, \$60 each

=1st U1600: Melina Li & Sophie Szeto, \$40 each

=1st U1400/U1200: Kate Jiang & Felicity Wang, \$80 each

=1st U1000/Unr: Angela Agaian & Angela Chen, \$40 each

Congratulations to all of the winners!



(L) Sophie Tien vs Chouchanik Airapetian.  
Photo Credit: Josh Sinanan.



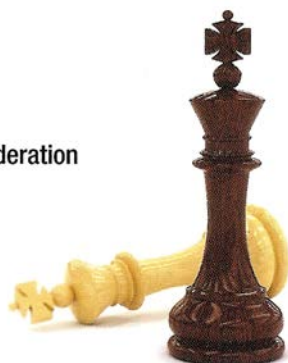
Angela Agaian.  
Photo Credit: Josh Sinanan.

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# September 2017 Seattle Masters

By Josh Sinanan

The first edition of the new Seattle Masters Tournament took place September 9 at the Seattle Chess Club and attracted 20 players in two sections — six in the Masters and 14 in the Challengers! FM Steven Breckenridge from Portland, OR continued his winning ways and won the Masters section with 2.5/3. Breckenridge finished half a point ahead of the young Jason Yu, who won his final two games after losing to Steven in the first round.

Garrett and Braxton Casey, two brothers from Spokane, WA, won the Challengers section each with 2.5/3, taking a draw against each other in the final round. Half a point behind them were a group of three players that rounded out the prize winners: Peter Watts, Brandon Jiang, and Isaac Vega, who also took home the upset prize for defeating a player nearly 200 points above him!

The tournament was directed by Senior TD Fred Kleist, organized by WCF President Josh Sinanan, and hosted by the Seattle Chess Club and Washington Chess Federation.



(L) Jason Yu vs Steven Breckenridge.  
Photo Credit: Josh Sinanan.

## Northwest Chess Open

December 16-17, 2017

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

**Format:** 5 Round Swiss, one section.

**Time Control:** 40/90, SD/30, d0 (No Delay).

**Registration:** 8:30-9:15 a.m. on 12/16 or preregistered.

**Rounds:** Saturday: 9:30, 2:00, 6:30, Sunday 10:00 and 3:00.

**Entry Fee:** \$30 in advance, \$35 at door.

**Prize fund:** \$750 based on 35 entries.

1st \$150, 2nd \$100, 1st U2000 \$100, 1st U1800 \$100, 1st U1600 \$100, 1st U1400 \$100, 1st U1200 \$100.

Prizes Increased if over 40 entries.

Additional books and Northwest Chess magazine subscription prizes as entries permit.

Current USCF Membership is required, available at site or online at [www.uschess.org](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.

**Byes:** One half-point bye available in advance or by the end of Round 1.

Organizer - Duane Polich, Publisher NWC.

**Entries:** Make checks payable to Duane Polich.

**Mail To:** Duane Polich, 17317 Woodcrest Drive NE, Bothell, WA 98011.

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



# 2017 PCC Club Championship

By Brian Berger

Portland, OR — September 26/October 24, 2017

The Tuesday night Quads were set aside for the last Tuesday in September, through the following four Tuesdays in October, to accommodate the playing of the 2017 Portland Chess Club Championship.

Overseen by Chief TD Mike Morris, this five-round tournament was played at a time control of 40 moves in 90 minutes, sudden death 30, with a 5-second delay—a time control which allows time-challenged guys like myself a bit more of a chance against the lightning thought processes of the younger players.

Twenty players opted to try their luck (versus last year's eighteen—at that time considered a record for attendance, since at least 1992) for the glory of holding the title, "Club Champion," which last year was held by Nick "The Raptor" Raptis, who won all five of his games.

The "Raptor" has been conspicuous by his absence this year from tournament play at the club, opening the door for a new champion to emerge. And that champion is NM Jason Cigan (2228-2251—5.0/5), winning \$50 by knocking off all five of his opponents with a perfect score of 5.0/5, while also gaining 23 hard to obtain points, and edging his rating past the 2250 mark.

Second-fourth place became a



(L) Lennart Bjorksten vs Jason Cigan. Photo credit: Brian Berger.

three-way tie, with Lennart Bjorksten (2095-2110—3.5/5), Mike Janniro (2061-2084—3.5/5) and Phillip Seitzer (2056-2063—3.5/5) all coming in with 3.5. While fifth-seventh place also saw a three-way tie, with Steven Deeth (2105-2095—3.0/5), Ryan Richardson (2066-2050—3.0/5) and Karl Cosner (2025-2028—3.0/5) all finishing with 3.0.

In a 20-player field weighted with some heavy hitters, four players with ratings of 1500-1570 tried their

luck against these big boys. One of whom actually held his own against three 1900+ players, playing them to a draw—that being Brian "I'm Just Glad To Be Here" Berger (1570-1626—2.5/5).

How this came about is a mystery to me, as my play of late has been nothing I would brag about. The three draws and a one-point bye (given for an opponent



(L) Sean O'Connell vs Matt Zavortink . Photo credit: Brian Berger.

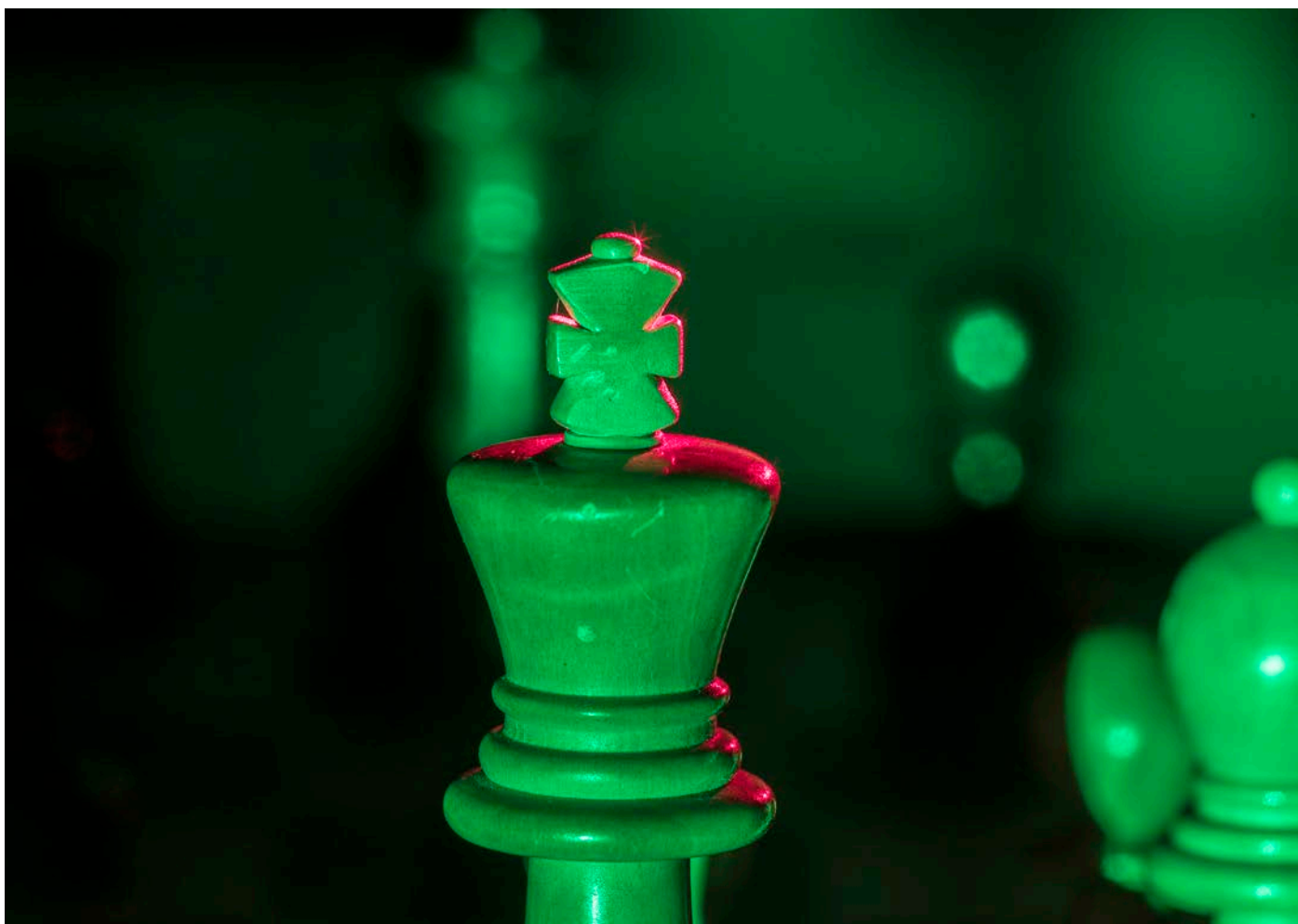


Steve Surak. Photo credit: Brian Berger.









...Continued from page 15

who failed to show), was just enough to secure me a shared, U1800 prize, with a player who was even braver than the 1500 guys, that being Chad Lykins (1126-1237—2.5/5).

Lykins' tie with me was the result of drawing a 1900+ player and beating a 1762 player, together with an added full-point bye in the second round for a forfeit—the same opponent who forfeited his game with me. Our reward for surviving this lion's den amounted to \$12.50 each, with a substantial boost in both our ratings—Lykins' being more substantial than mine, at more than a 100-points.

## PCC October 2017 Game 60

By Brian Berger

Portland, OR — October 28, 2017

It might have been the first time that the monthly Game 60, held at the Portland Chess Club this October, had not drawn some attention from a number of Experts, and maybe a Master or two—the field of 29-players containing only two, mid-level A-players, as the highest competition.

This scenario did not bode well for a player like myself—Brian “I’m Just



(L) Neena Feldman vs Arliss Dietz. Photo credit: Brian Berger.

Glad To Be Here” Berger (1625-1619—3.0/4)—who, due to a rather fortunate outcome during the five-game, Portland Chess Club Championship, had struggled back into the B-class once more. I say once more because, I have been bouncing back and forth between C and B status for a number of years now, due primarily to

tournaments such as this one, where I am faced with a field predominately made up of lower and unrated players.

Given the opportunity, I would prefer to play against higher rated players, and at time controls that afford a great deal more thinking time. This I call a “known,

### Washington Winter Chess Classic

December 27-31, 2017

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

**Format:** 9 Round Swiss. FIDE Rated. **Two Sections:** Championship (1800+) and Challengers (under 1800).

**Time Control:** 40/90, SD/30, +30. US Chess December 2017 rating supplement will be used to determine pairings and prizes.

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

**Prize Fund:** \$7,000 (based on 60 entries).

**Championship:** \$700-525-385 1st-2nd-3rd, \$350-245 1st-2nd U2300/U2150/U2000/U1850, \$175 Top Female, \$175 Top Senior 50+.

**Challengers:** \$420-315-245 1st-2nd-3rd, \$210-140 1st-2nd U1600/U1450/U1300/U1150, \$140 Top Female, \$140 Top Senior 50+.

**Entry Fee:** \$170 if postmarked or online by 12/13, \$200 by 12/20 at 5:00 PM.

Free entry for GMs, IMs, WGMs, WIMs, 2400+USCF.

**Rounds:** Wednesday 12/27: 6:00 PM, Thursday 12/28, Friday 12/29, Saturday 12/30, Sunday 12/31: 10:00 AM, 5:00 PM.

**Closing Ceremony:** Sunday December 31 at 10:00 PM or asap, refreshments available.

**Byes:** Two half-point byes available, request before end of round 2. **Late Default:** 60 minutes.

US Chess and WCF/OCF/ICA memberships required, other states accepted.

Trophies Plus Grand Prix Points: 20. US Chess Junior Grand Prix event. Northwest Chess Grand Prix event. NS. NC. W.

**Info/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).

**Phone:** (206) 769-3757. **E-mail:** [joshsinanan@gmail.com](mailto:joshsinanan@gmail.com).

**Online Registration:** [www.nwchess.com/online-registration](http://www.nwchess.com/online-registration).





(L) Cassandra Roshu vs Jon Strohhenn. Photo credit: Brian Berger.

known,” (to use a rather awkward political phrase) rather than a “known, unknown,” (the other part of that awkward political passage) meaning players who are unrated, provisional, or lower rated—players who have little or no track record, and are mostly, quite young.

These players have been my Achilles’ heel throughout my tournament days, causing me to drop rating points—the number seemingly exceeding the whole of fall leaves from a sturdy oak tree in my front yard. And this tournament had the makings of just such an outcome, as there were not enough players (30) to cause it to be split into two sections—an Upper and a Lower. Because of this, I knew I would most likely be paired against a much lower player in the first round.

And as fate would have it, that is what happened, when I was paired against Mir-Yusef Langroodi (1155P-1264P—2.0/5), a young provisional player who is seldom seen in tournament play, but is a regular at the club’s Wednesday night casual gatherings. And true to form, I found a way to lose, even after forcing his king to

lose its castling privilege, plus, being one pawn ahead!

Faced with the dilemma of losing more of the leaves off that oak tree, I now needed to win all three remaining games to even have a chance of retaining some of my recent hard-earned points; a feat I accomplished, and that led me to tying with Sean Uan-Zo-Li (1662-1663—3.0/4) and Masakazu Shimada (1500-1558—3.0/4) for the third and U1800 prizes, amounting to \$30.33 each.

I pause here to mention one other player in this field, whose struggle to elevate himself to a higher ranking (or even just hold on to hard-to-get rating points) mirrors much of mine—Jerrold “I Just Want To Reach 1600 Before It’s Over” Richards (1309-1300—0.0/4), accompanied (as he always is) by his companion and chess coach, Morgan the Dog.

This day saw Richards’ struggles bear no fruit, and in fact, caused him to once again hit his floor of 1300. It’s somewhat like watching a man caught in quicksand, who somehow manages to

very nearly excavate himself by grabbing nearby bushes and low-lying branches, only to succumb to the terrible pull of the ooze once again.

How long this can go on before Richards finally sinks below the muck is hard to say, but he exhibits the heart of a lion, and a great joy of the game. With those attributes, and the patient persistence of Morgan’s teaching methods, there is still hope that “Before It’s Over,” he will pull himself out of the rate-sucking mire and reach his goal. Now back to those who probably have never known the pull of quicksand.

The U1500 prize was split between Neena Feldman (1260-1365—2.5/4) and Havish Sripada (1250-1335—2.5/4). Besides receiving \$24.50 each for their 2.5/4 points, they also gained substantial rating points—Feldman adding 105, while Sripada gained 85.

The first place prize money (\$84) all went to Michael Moore (1795-1847—4.0/4) for his perfect score, that included beating the second-highest-rated player in the field, Caleb Kircher (1910-1889—2.5/4). While Gavin Zhang (1939-1941—3.5/4), the field’s highest-rated player, had to settle for second place (\$56), after



Masakazu Shimada with his winnings. Photo credit: Brian Berger.



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being held to a draw by Konner Feldman (1777-1777—2.5/4) in the third round.

All of the above excitement was overseen by TDs Lennart Bjorksten and Mike Hasuike, a capable team that made it all run smoothly.

## Hayhurst Halloween K-12 Scholastic Chess Tournament

By Chad Lykins

Portland, OR — October 29, 2017

More than 160 check-or-treaters from 63 schools competed in the first edition of the Hayhurst Halloween K-12 Scholastic Chess Tournament in Portland, Oregon on Sunday, October 29. The event was co-directed by Ed Addis and Chad Lykins.

In fitting with the theme, the entire school was festooned with Halloween decorations. Check-or-treaters collected notation books, ChessKid pens and pencils, Chessmen cookies, magnetic travel sets, and of course lots of candy.

Glow-in-the-dark medals and trophies were in abundance. Best costume awards went to a four-foot taco, a dazzling Cleopatra, a terrifying orange mime, a

historically accurate Staunton chess-piece, and a shimmery Chinese empress.

In the team competition, Jacob Wismer Elementary took first place in the Elite Category, followed by Hope Chinese Charter and La Center High, who travelled from Washington to join the competition. In U900, it was Hope Chinese Charter in first, followed by Findley Elementary and Holy Trinity Catholic. In U600, Hayhurst Elementary took first place, followed by Hope Chinese Charter and Jacob Wismer Elementary in second and third.

In individual awards, Raj Kodithyala of Sunset High School scored 4.5 points, winning the Elite section and boosting his NWSRS rating to a lofty 1709. Austin Tang of Hope Chinese Charter, the youngest player in U1500, scored four points and won his section on tie-breaks. Xander Ridehalgh of Sherwood High School won U1200 with 4.5 points.

The U900 group was split into two sections, with Jay Stone of Mt. Tabor Middle and Svatik Pleva of Sunnyside Elementary winning their sections with perfect scores. The U600 group was also split into two sections, where Annika Lykins of Hayhurst Elementary, the only kindergartner in the tournament, was the surprise winner of Section A, along with Sean Dauch of Mt. Tabor Middle who won Section B.

## October 2017 Seattle Masters

By Josh Sinanan

The October 2017 edition of the new Seattle Masters Tournament took place October 7 at the Seattle Chess Club and attracted 29 players in two sections — ten in the Masters and 19 in the Challengers! FMs Steven Breckenridge from Portland, Oregon, and Anthony He from Sammamish, Washington, won the Masters section each with 2.5/3. The man, myth, and legend Ignacio Perez took third place with a win and two draws. Eric Zhang won the upset prize for his first round draw with Ignacio.

Four players tied for first in the Challengers section with 2.5 points apiece: Peter Watts, Garrett Casey, Joseph Levine, and Cem Kadioglu. Young Matthew Hwang rounded out the prize winners by scoring the biggest upset (186 points) in the last round.

The tournament was directed by Senior TD Fred Kleist, organized by WCF President Josh Sinanan, and hosted by the Seattle Chess Club and Washington Chess Federation.

## 2nd Annual Neil Dale Memorial Open: January 6-7

Five-round Swiss in one section; G/120;d10; one half point bye is available if requested before round 1; US Chess rated; on-site registration runs from 9-9:45am and the rounds are scheduled for 10am, 2:15pm, and 6:30pm on Saturday and 10am and 2:15pm on Sunday (players who have a game go around the full time can request extra time off before the next round)

### Prize Fund: \$1500 based on 50 entries

1<sup>st</sup>-\$300, 2<sup>nd</sup>-\$200, 3<sup>rd</sup>-\$125, U2100, U1900, U1700. U1500, U1300/unrated: 1<sup>st</sup>-\$100, 2<sup>nd</sup>-\$75

upset bonus prize (the win with the greatest established rating difference)-\$50

**Entry Fee:** \$45, \$35 for PCC members. US Chess and OCF/WCF/ICA memberships are required and can be purchased during registration. Pay by cash or check payable to Portland Chess Club.

**Other:** Northwest Chess Grand Prix event; qualifier for the 2019 Oregon Invitational Tournament and 2018 OSCF State Championship; see more information, including information about Neil, at [pdxchess.org](http://pdxchess.org)

**Location:** Portland Chess Club, 8205 SW 24th Ave., Portland, OR 97219



# 2017 BCC #16

By Jeffrey Roland

Boise, Idaho—November 5, 2017

Less than a month since the last installment (see BCC #15 story on pages 4-5 of this issue), the Boise Chess Club held yet another chess tournament on Sunday, November 5, 2017. Set up with the exact same details as BCC #15, BCC #16 was also a four-round Swiss System, time control of Game/30 plus 30 seconds per move, US Chess rated, affected both the Regular and Quick ratings, and was free and open to everyone.

The ages of the players ranged from eight to sixty, with an average age of 25.66 years old. The first prize was to simply have a photograph taken of the winner in victory pose (seen here to the right). The tournament director was Jeffrey Roland, who on this occasion decided to play also.

Eight of the fifteen players in BCC #16 also played in BCC #15. But each tournament is different, even if set up exactly the same, and even if held within a month, and thus the results were quite a bit different.

Chris Amen (1763-1830—4.0/4), Boise, won clear first place with a perfect score gaining 67 rating points. This was Chris Amen's sixth time as a winner of a BCC event, which is two more than the nearest rival, James Inman, who has four BCC tournament victories to his credit.

James Wei (1605-1647—3.0/4), Boise, Cody Gorman (1928-1922—3.0/4), Eagle, and Alex Machin (1765-1753—3.0/4), Boise, all tied for second-fourth places.

James Inman (1823-1814—2.5/4), Nampa, and Jeffrey Roland (1723-1716—2.5/4), Boise, tied for fifth-sixth places, playing an intense game between themselves in round three that had many spectators captivated—the question on everyone's mind probably being, "Can Roland hold this game?" After 67 moves, the answer was yes!

Raymond Bian (1267-1277—2.0/4), Boise, Seth Machakos (1441-1440—2.0/4), Boise, Graeme Faulkner (1579-1558—2.0/4), Boise, and James Liu (1321-1321—2.0/4), Boise, tied for seventh-tenth places.

Andrew Kitterman (1181-1166—1.5/4), Boise, and Alexander Phifer (Unr.-1069P—1.5/4), Meridian, tied for eleventh-twelfth places.

Joetta Faulkner (944-936—1.0/4), Boise, Luke Wei (606P-604—1.0/4), Boise, and William Wang (Unr.-709P—1.0/4), Boise, tied for thirteenth-fifteenth places.



Chris Amen. Photo credit: Jeffrey Roland.

**Alex James Machin (1765) –  
Seth Daniel Machakos (1441) [C87]**  
2017 BCC #16 Boise, ID  
(R4), November 5, 2017  
[Ralph Dubisch]

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Ba4 Nf6  
5.0-0 d6 6.c3



Position after 6.c3

6...b5

6...Bd7 is a main line here.

6...Nxe4!? 7.d4 Bd7 8.Re1 Nf6 (8...f5!?  
9.dxe5 dxe5 10.Nbd2 Nxd2 11.Nxe5 Nxe5  
12.Rxe5+ Be7 13.Bxd2 0-0±) 9.Bxc6  
Bxc6 10.dxe5 dxe5 11.Qxd8+ Kxd8 (11...  
Rxd8 12.Nxe5±, for example 12...Be4  
13.Nd2 Be7 14.Nxe4 Nxe4 15.Bh6 gxh6  
16.Rxe4) 12.Nxe5 Bd5 13.Bg5±

7.Bc2

7.Bb3 Be7 8.Re1 is a transposition to normal lines.

7...Be7 8.h3 0-0 9.Re1 Re8 10.d3 h6  
11.Nbd2 Bf8 12.Nf1 Ne7 13.Ng3 Bb7  
14.d4 exd4

14...Nd7

15.cxd4 g6

15...c5

16.Bf4± g5 17.Bd2 Bg7?!

17...Ng6 does a slightly better job of trying to compete for the dark squares.



Position after 17...Bg7

18.Qe2

18.h4! g4 (18...gxh4 19.Nxh4 Bc8  
20.Nh5+-) 19.Nh2 h5 (19...Ng6 20.h5  
Nh4 21.Qc1+-) 20.Bg5 and Black's





*L-R: Seth Machakos, Alex Machin. Photo credit: Jeffrey Roland.*

house of cards collapses.

**18...Nd7?!**

Again 18...Ng6 offers more hope.

**19.Rad1 c5 20.Be3**

Or 20.dxc5.

**20...Qc7 21.Nh2**

21.h4!

**21...Rac8**

21...Nf6 22.f3 first looks useful.

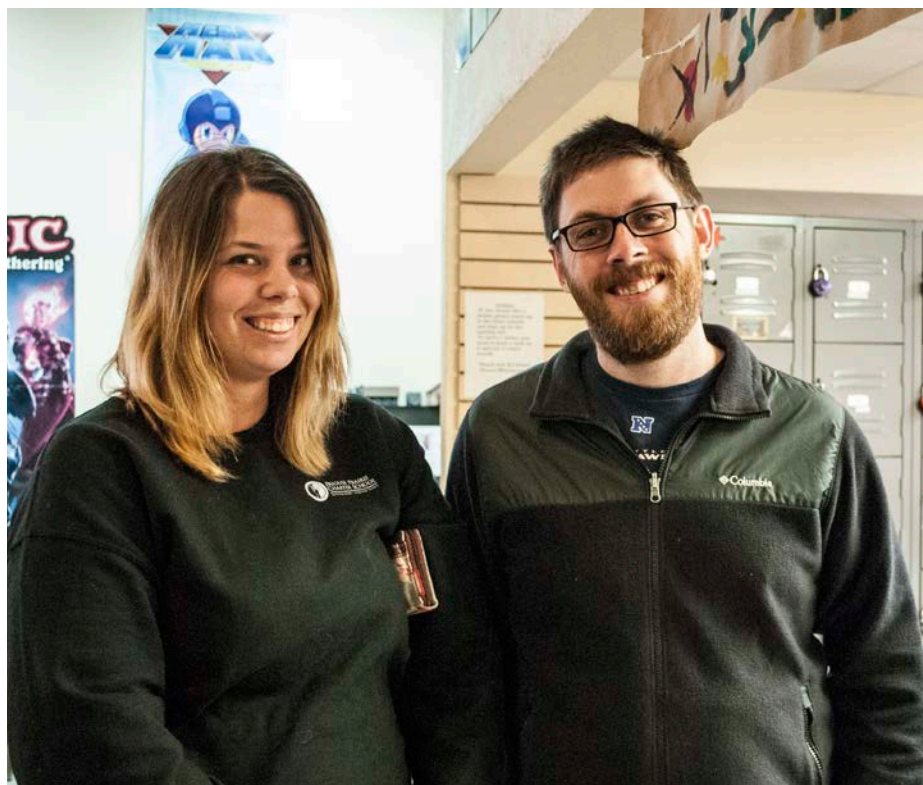
**22.Bb1**

22.dxc5

**22...cxd4 23.Bxd4 Ne5 24.Nh5 Bh8  
25.Ng4 Nxg4 26.Qxg4 Nc6?**

26...Bxd4 27.Rxd4 looks very hard to defend, but after the game move the destruction is complete.

**27.Bxh8 Kxh8 28.Qf5 Re5 29.Qf6+ 1-0**



*Visiting from Pullman, Washington, Katie Sorenson (left), the original BCC Secretary, and Peter Olsoy (right), the original BCC President stopped by to check the action out.  
Photo credit: Jeffrey Roland.*

**A subscription to  
Northwest Chess makes a  
great gift!**



**Jeffrey T. Roland (1723) –  
James Inman (1802) [D10]**  
2017 BCC #16 Boise, ID  
(R3), November 5, 2017  
*[Jeffrey Roland]*

This is certainly not a perfect game. Time control of Game/30 plus 30 seconds per move, but it was an interesting one not only to the players, but also to the spectators.

**1.d4 d5 2.c4 c6 3.Nc3 dxc4 4.a4 e5 5.e3**

5.Nf3 avoids the Isolated Queen's Pawn and is probably better in hindsight.

**5...exd4 6.exd4 Be6 7.Nf3 Nd7**



*Position after 7...Nd7*

**8.d5?**

This is not very good play. 8.Be2 simply developing is better. After the text move, White struggles to catch up the whole game.

**8...cxd5 9.Nxd5 Ngf6 10.Nf4 Bb4+ 11.Bd2 Qe7 12.Nxe6 Qxe6+ 13.Be2 Bxd2+ 14.Nxd2 Ne5 15.0-0 0-0 16.Re1 Rfd8 17.Qc2 Nd3 18.Bxd3 cxd3 19.Qc7 Qc6 20.Rec1 Qxc7 21.Rxc7 b6 22.Rd1 Nd5 23.Rc4 a5 24.Nf3 Nb4 25.h3 f6 26.Rd2 Rac8 27.Rd4 Rxd4 28.Nxd4 Rc1+ 29.Kh2 Rc4 30.Nb3**



*Position after 30.Nb3*

At this point, I was under a minute on my clock, and James was also low. The nice thing was every move we got to add 30 seconds, but still, we both struggled. The computer evaluation here is decisively won for Black, which it's been for a while... and during the game, I felt James was winning too, but I did think I could get my king over to the isolated passed black d-pawn... so I was feeling like I had a chance. Even having a "decisive advantage" does not guarantee a win.



*L-R: James Inman, Jeffrey Roland. Photo credit: Alex Machin.*

**30...Rc2 31.Kg3 Kf7 32.Kf3 Ke7 33.Ke3 Kd6 34.Nd4 Nd5+**



*Position after 34...Nd5+*

The computer evaluation just went from a decisive win for Black to only very slight favor to Black after this move.

**35.Kxd3 Nb4+**

And now it's even.

**36.Ke2 Rxd2+ 37.Kxd2 Ke5 38.Kc3 Nd5+ 39.Kc4 Nf4 40.Nc6+ Kd6 41.Kb5 Kc7 42.Nd4**

42.Ne7 Nxg2 43.Nd5+ Kb7 44.Nxb6 looks pretty interesting, but probably still equal.

**42...g5 43.b3 Nxg2 44.Ne6+ Kb7 45.Nf8 Nf4 46.Nxh7 Nxh3 47.f3 Ng1 48.Nxf6 Nxf3 49.Kc4**

49.b4 is much simpler. It's good to exchange pawns so that even if Black ends up a knight ahead, if the last pawn can be caught, it would still then be a draw.

**49...Kc6 50.Ng4 Nd2+ 51.Kc3 Ne4+ 52.Kd4 Ne5 53.Ne5+ Kc7 54.Kc4 Nd7 55.Ng4 Kd6 56.Kb5 Kd5 57.Nf2 Kd4 58.Kc6 Ne5 59.Kxb6 Nxb3 60.Kb5 Kc3 61.Ng4+ Kf4 62.Nh6 Ke3 63.Kc4 Nd4**

**64.Kc3 Ke4 65.Kc4 Nc6 66.Kb5 Kd5 67.Ng4 Kd6 ½-½**

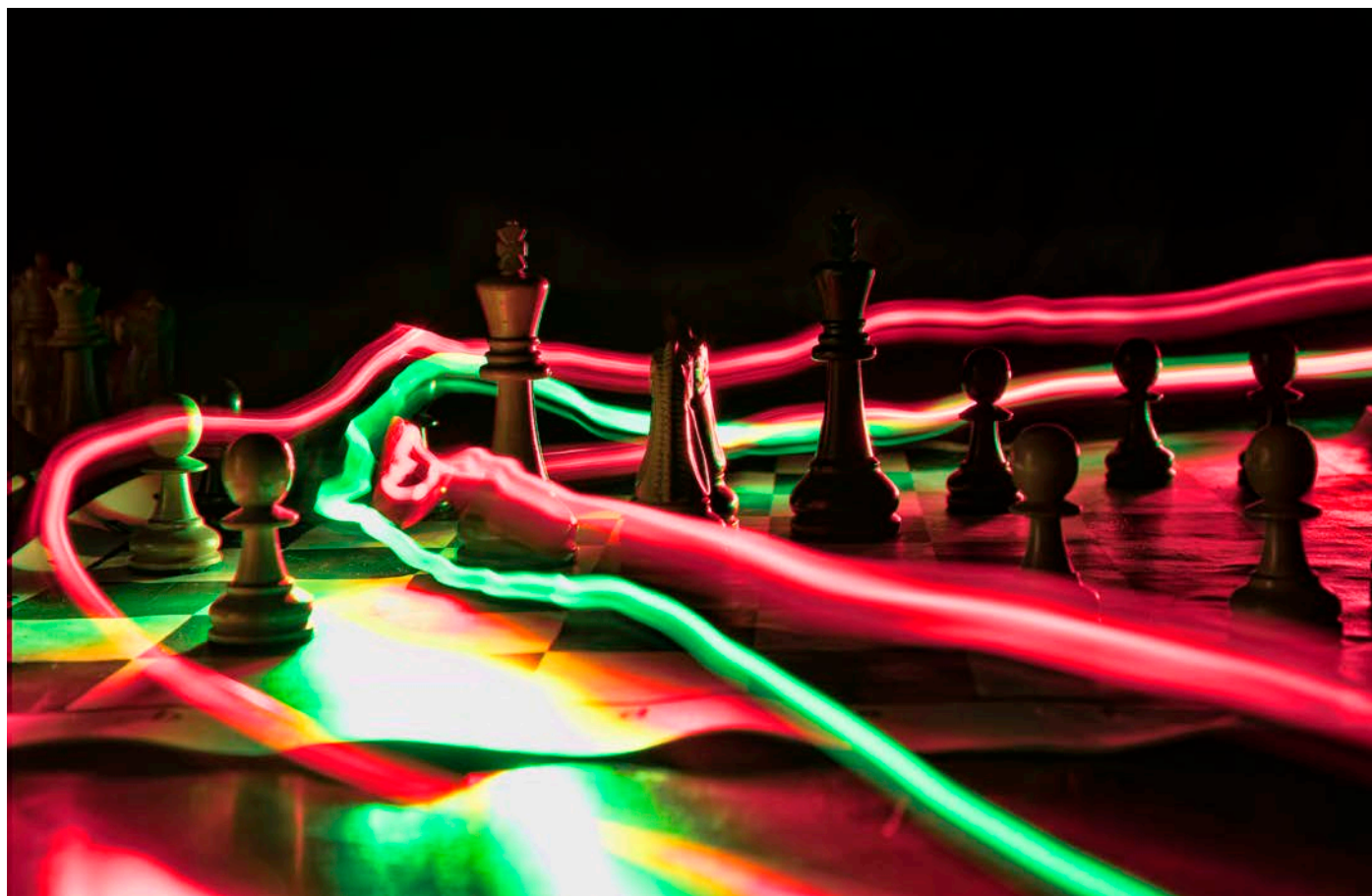


*James Wei pictured here in a game he won against 2017 Idaho Open Champion Alex Machin. Photo credit: Jeffrey Roland.*











# 2017 WA G/60 + Blitz Championship

By Josh Sinanan

The 2017 WA G/60 and Blitz Championships were held at Seattle Chess Club on October 14 in celebration of National Chess Day. The tournaments were hosted by the Washington Chess Federation, organized by Dan Mathews and Josh Sinanan, and directed by Jacob Mayer. 46 players took part in one large open section, which was down slightly from last year.

Four players split first place each with 3.5/4 points and took home \$225: IM Michael Lee, FM Steven Breckenridge, IM Ray Kaufman, and untitled phenom Addison Lee. Advait Vijayakumar captured first place U1800 with a clutch last round win over FM Ignacio Perez, last year's winner. WCM Sophie Velea, the youngest of her chess-playing family, won first place U1600 with 2.5 points. Johan Kurakayil took home the U1400 prize with two points while new comers Gurumurthy Swaminathan and Enkhjin Pagma shared unrated honors.

The Blitz Championship, which followed immediately after the G/60 tournament, featured many strong players, including three IMs, three FMs, and one NM. A total of 27 players competed in the seven-round double swiss, for a total of 14 games!

After the dust settled, FM Anthony He emerged the clear winner with 10.5

points and took home the first place prize of \$150. He finished half a point ahead of IM Bryce Tiglon and Jason Yu, who split second and third place prizes. Lakeside Middle School student Brandon Peng won clear first U1800 and Sophie Velea completed her sweep of the U1600 category by winning the U1600 prize. Tommy Rodgers won the U1400 prize with five points and Colin Smith won the U1200/unr. prize with four points.

**Michael Lee (2527) –  
Ignacio Perez (2239) [E67]**  
WA G60 Championship Seattle, WA  
(R3), October 14, 2017  
[Ralph Dubisch]

1.c4 Nf6 2.Nc3 g6 3.Nf3 Bg7 4.g3 0-0  
5.Bg2 d6 6.0-0 c6 7.d4 Nbd7 8.h3 e5  
9.dxe5 dxe5 10.Be3 Qe7 11.Qc1 Re8  
12.Rd1 Nc5 13.Bh6 Bh8 14.Qe3 a5  
15.Bg5 h5 16.Bh4 Bf5 17.Ng5 Qf8  
18.Rd2 Nh7 19.Nce4 Nxe4 20.Bxe4 Bc8  
21.Nxh7 Kxh7 22.Kg2 Be6 23.g4?!



Position after 23.g4

23...hxg4?



Top boards of the WA Blitz Championship.  
Photo Credit: Josh Sinanan.



Michael Lee.  
Photo Credit: Josh Sinanan.

Black has defended really well, but after the over-ambitious 23.g4 the last thing he needs to do is open the h-file! With 23...f5! the attack is repulsed and White will need to prove his defensive skills.

24.hxg4 Kg8 25.Rh1 Bg7 26.Bg5 f5  
27.gxf5 gxf5 28.Qh3! fxe4 29.Qh7+  
Kf7 30.Rh6! Qe7 31.Bxe7 Rxe7 32.Rd6  
Bxc4 33.Rhf6+ Ke8 34.Qg6+ 1-0

**Ignacio Perez (2239) –  
Advait Vijayakumar (1816) [C00]**  
WA G60 Championship Seattle, WA  
(R4), October 14, 2017  
[Advait Vijayakumar]

1.e4 e6 2.d3

The Kings Indian attack against the French defense

2...d5 3.Nd2 Nf6

There are several good choices for Black to defend and this...Nf6 is a good developing move.

4.Ngf3 c5 5.g3 Nc6 6.Bg2 Be7 7.0-0 0-0  
8.Re1 b5 9.e5 Nd7

In this pawn structure, White will try for a kingside attack using the extra space afforded by the e5-pawn, Black will try for a queenside expansion with the extra space on that side.

10.Nf1 Bb7 11.h4 Nb6 12.N1h2 Qc7  
13.Bf4 Rfd8=

13...d4 this pawn to...d4 is strongly recommended for Black as it opens the diagonal for the bishop and gives the d5-square to the black knight. Eventually Black does play this anyway.

14.h5

Now after pawn to h5, pawn to...h6 is the



correct response not allowing white to get pawn to h6 in.

**14...d4 15.Ng4 Nd5= 16.Bc1?!±**

Backing up usually loses the initiative. 16.h6 Nxf4 17.gxf4 Nb4= a rather unclear position.

**16...a5**

16...h6 to prevent white's h6 is considered best.

**17.Ng5 Bf8?!**

17...h6!? 18.Ne4 Re8=

**18.Be4=**

18.h6!? g6 19.Bxd5 exd5 (19...Rxd5 20.Nf6+-) 20.Bf4+-

**18...h6!?=**

And finally the correct defense, pushing the knight away from g5.

**19.Nh7= Nxe5?!**

19...a4 20.a3 Ra7 21.Qe2 Nce7=



*Position after 19...Nxe5*

**20.Nxf8**

20.Nxe5!? Qxe5 21.Bf4 Nxf4 22.Bxb7 Qb8 23.Bxa8 Qxa8 24.Nf6+!? Kh8 25.Ne4 Nd5± and so White missed this

opportunity.

**20...Kxf8±**

And now Black is just much better.

**21.Nxh6?**

An unsound sacrifice made to confuse with the fast time control. 21.Nxe5 Qxe5 22.Bd2 Qc7± and Black is just a solid pawn up.

**21...gxh6 22.Bxh6+ Ke7± 23.Qe2 Nd7 24.Bg7 N7f6 25.Bg2 Qb6±**

Black's extra piece is far stronger than White's one extra pawn.

**26.h6 Ne8 27.Be5 f6 28.h7 Nec7**

Very solid, Black is consolidating the position.

**29.Qg4?!**

Another piece sacrifice just won't work here.

**29...fxe5-+ 30.Qg7+ Kd6 31.Qxe5+ Kd7**

Black is solid here.

**32.c4 dxc3 33.bxc3 Qd6-+**

Very good strategy, seek equal trades when ahead in material.

**34.Qh5 Qe7 35.c4 Nf6**

Nice tempo hit on the queen.

**36.Qh6 Bxg2 37.Kxg2 Nxh7-+**

Two knights up is easily winning.

**38.cxb5 Nxb5 39.Rac1 Rh8 40.Qf4 Qd6 41.Qf7+ Qe7 42.Qf3-+**

White is desperate for any checks.

**42...Ng5 43.Qb7+ Nc7**

Knight's are excellent in protecting close quarter checks.

**44.d4??**

White forgets about his queen getting trapped, these things happen in these fast time control games.

**44...Rhb8** and white resigns as the queen is lost. 0-1

**Anne-Marie Velea (1871) – Patrick Van Dyke (2133) [B31]**  
WA G60 Championship Seattle, WA (4)  
(R4), October 14, 2017  
[Ralph Dubisch]

**1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 g6 4.c3 e5 5.Bxc6 dxc6 6.Nxe5 Qe7**

**6...Qg5!?**

**7.d4 f6 8.Nf3 Qxe4+ 9.Be3**



*Position after 9.Be3*

**9...Bg4**

9...cxd4 seems necessary here.

**10.Nbd2 Qe6 11.0-0 0-0-0 12.Qa4 Bxf3 13.Nxf3 Kb8 14.dxc5 Ne7 15.Rad1 Bg7 16.Nd4 Qc8 17.Bf4+ Ka8 18.Bd6 Nf5 19.Nxf5 Qxf5 20.Rd4 Qe6**



*Position after 20...Qe6*

**21.Qxa7+ 1-0**



(L) Gary Dorfner vs Erik Hanberg.  
Photo Credit: Josh Sinanan.

**Please remember to  
keep submitting games,  
articles, and photos to  
editor@nwchess.com.**

# The 2017 Neil Dale Memorial Northwest Chess Grand Prix

Murlin Varner, Administrator

mevjr54@outlook.com

Not everything goes according to plan. A recent Sunday, I awoke to a rather heavy snowfall (heavy for the Seattle area, that is.) This is not something you expect to see when you live in Western Washington, especially in early November. It's one of the selling points, not having to drive in snow often. But, there it was, big, wet, heavy flakes, not piling up too much on the ground, but bending the vine maples over and bringing branches down off the cottonwoods. (To be fair, a moderate gust of wind or a stern look can bring branches down off of a cottonwood.)

Shortly thereafter, I fired up my computer to begin working on the data for this report, and found an email from a concerned reader, informing me that the November column looked awfully similar to the October one. Identical, even. I checked, and there it was, a rerun. My bad, I didn't notice in the pre-publication releases, and out it went. To complete my wonderful Sunday, I had to go bowling, and while the driving wasn't difficult (I did learn to drive in Wenatchee the winter of 1969-70), good bowling was not my fate that day. And then the Seahawks lost. A Sunday not to remember.

Our editor came up with a great solution for the missing column, which was to insert the intended column into the on-line version of the November magazine. This was good, because I kind of liked what I had written and hated to think it lost and unread. So, if you want to see what I wrote about one of our local chess masters and his meteoric climb up the Grand Prix standings, check it out on the Northwest Chess website at [www.nwchess.com](http://www.nwchess.com).

The end of the year is near. Many contests are still very close (see below). Many events are yet to be played, including a 5x multiplier event in Lynnwood, WA, the Washington Class. That event will be the 22nd multiplier event of the year, a new Grand Prix record. 2017 started off slow, but the second half of the year has been going gangbusters, catching up in many categories. By the end of December, this may not be the only record set, especially if you (and I) go out and play some more. I plan to be at the Washington Class in Lynnwood Thanksgiving weekend, hope to see many of you there.

All data below is current through November 6.

## Northwest Grand Prix Standings

Idaho			Oregon			Washington		
last	first	pts.	last	first	pts.	last	first	pts.
			<b>Masters</b>					
			1 Breckenridge	Steven J	229	1 Perez	Ignacio	148.5
			2 Cigan	Jason D	162	2 Pupols	Viktors	128.5
			3 Zavortink	Matt	144.5	3 Sinanan	Joshua C	88
			4 Tarjan	James	42	4 Zhang	Derek	86.5
			5 Haessler	Carl A	36.5	5 Feng	Roland	80
<b>M/X/Class A</b>			<b>Experts</b>					
1 Inman	James	45	1 Rachmuth	Moshe S	108	1 Yu	Jason	176
2 Cambareri	Michael E	43	2 Seitzer	Phillip	94.5	2 Shubin	Daniel	167.5
3 Dagher	Gaby	36	3 Gatica	Jose M	80.5	3 Zhang	Brendan	164
4 Nathan	Jacob A	33	4 Bjorksten	Lennart	79.5	4 Truelson	Joseph	143.5
5 Havrilla	Mark A	31	5 Cosner	Karl	70	5 Bashkansky	Naomi	128
<b>Class B</b>			<b>Class A</b>					
1 Wei	James	54.5	1 Moore	Michael	146.5	1 Levine	Joseph R	187
2 Machin	Alex J	53.5	2 Vega	Isaac	131.5	2 Jiang	Brandon	184
3 Xu	Kevin	48	3 Wu	Ethan	97.5	3 Lewis-Sandy	Joshua M	173.5
4 Roland	Jeffrey T	42.5	4 Holloran	William T, III	96	4 Velea	Anne-Marie	144.5
5 Derryberry	Dewayne R	19.5	5 Murray	David E	80	5 Tien	Sophie J	140



Idaho			Oregon			Washington					
last	first	pts.	last	first	pts.	last	first	pts.			
Class C			Class B								
1	Geyman	Jonathan P	25.5	1	Tang	Zoey	137	1	Mayer	Jacob V	148
2	Weyland	Ron	25	2	Feldman	Konner	131.5	2	Beck	Alec W	147.5
3	Porth	Adam	21	3	Berger	Brian F	129	3	Reeves	Jasen	136
4	Machakos	Seth D	19	4	Hasuike	Mike L	111.5	4	Velea	Sophie	125.5
5	Zaklan	David A	18.5	5	Nair	Roshen S	106	5	Velea	Stephanie	125
Class D			Class C								
1	Liu	James	22	1	Wu	Abbie	172	1	Piper	August	192
2	Merry	William A F	20	2	Dietz	Arliss	108	2	Richards	Jerrold	156.5
3	Porth	Dylan	19	3	Fudalla	Ian	93	3	Li	Melina	150
4	Bian	Raymond B	17	4	Kodithyala	Raj	80.5	4	Gupta	Anand	140
5	Zeng	Forrest	16.5	5	Roshu	Cassandra M	79	5	Tien	Andy C	115.5
Class E and Below			Class D and Below								
1	Wei	Luke B	34.5	1	Tang	Austin	117	1	Goktepe	Derin	124
2	Kitterman	Andrew N	26	2	Beauchet	Pierre-Hadrien	104	2	Min	Ryan	119.5
3	Shepard	River	20	3	Zhang	Ethan Y	93.5	3	Hotani	Kabir	107.5
4	Porth	Darwin A	18	4	Roshu	David L	91.5	4	Ruff	Lois	101.5
5	Callen	Gregory D	17	4	Feldman	Neena	91.5	5	Goktepe	Yasemin E	93.5
Overall Leaders, by State											
1	Wei	James	54.5	1	Breckenridge	Steven J	229	1	Piper	August	192
2	Machin	Alex J	53.5	2	Wu	Abbie	172	2	Levine	Joseph R	187
3	Xu	Kevin	48	3	Cigan	Jason D	162	3	Jiang	Brandon	184
4	Inman	James	45	4	Moore	Michael	146.5	4	Yu	Jason	176
5	Cambareri	Michael E	43	5	Zavortink	Matt	144.5	5	Lewis-Sandy	Joshua M	173.5
6	Roland	Jeffrey T	42.5	6	Tang	Zoey	137	6	Shubin	Daniel	167.5
7	Dagher	Gaby	36	7	Vega	Isaac	131.5	7	Zhang	Brendan	164
8	Wei	Luke B	34.5	7	Feldman	Konner	131.5	8	Richards	Jerrold	156.5
9	Nathan	Jacob A	33	9	Berger	Brian F	129	9	Li	Melina	150
10	Havrilla	Mark A	31	10	Tang	Austin	117	10	Perez	Ignacio	148.5
11	Buus	Jarod N	29.5	11	Hasuike	Mike L	111.5	11	Mayer	Jacob V	148
12	Maki	James J	26	12	Dietz	Arliss	108	12	Beck	Alec W	147.5

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**Kirkland, WA, [www.chesssport.com](http://www.chesssport.com) (360-255-9392)**

# 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

☞ Jan. 12-14 **Seattle City Champ.**☞  
**Format:** 2-sec., 5-rd. Swiss. **TC:** 40/120, SD/60 (Rd.1 2-day option – G/60); d5. **EF:** *Championship* \$45 (\$35 for SCC mem., \$40 for mem. of other NW dues-req'd CCs) by 1/10, \$53 (\$41, \$46) at site; GMs, IMs, WGMs free. **Reserve (U1800)** \$36 (\$26 for SCC mem., \$31 for mem. of other NW dues-req'd CCs) by 1/11, \$45 (\$35, \$40) 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 (U1800)* \$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.

## 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.

## ☞ Dec 2 New Date, Jan 20

**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 3, Jan 7

**Format:** 4-SS. **TC:** G/60; d5. **EF:** \$18 (+\$7 fee for non-SCC). **Prizes:** 1st 35%, 2nd 27%, Bottom Half 1st 22%, 2nd 16% (\$10 from each EF goes to prize fund). **Reg:** 10:30-11:15 a.m. **Rds:** 11:30-1:50-4:10-6:30. **Byes:** 1 (Rd 3/4–commit at reg.). **Misc:** US Chess, WCF/OCF/ICA memb. req'd, OSA, NS, NC.

## Dec 31–Jan 1 Cancelled

## Jan 21

**Format:** 4-SS. Open to U1200 and UNR. **TC:** G/75; d5. **EF:** \$11 by 10/11, \$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.

## SCC Insanity

## SCC Novice

## WooHoo!!

You can now register  
 online for full-weekend  
 SCC tournaments and  
 make your tax-deductable  
 donations at  
[www.seattlechess.club](http://www.seattlechess.club)

## WCF @ the SCC

Seattle Masters Series Dec. 9, Jan. 6

Northwest Chess Open Dec. 16-17

Seattle Winter Classic Dec. 27-31

## Tentative SCC 2018 Weekend Schedule

**Masters:** Jan 6, Feb 3, Mar 3, Apr 7, May 5, Jun 2, Jul 7.

**Novice:** Jan 21, Apr 22, July 8, Oct 7.

**Quads:** Jan 20, Feb 24, Mar 24, Apr 21, May 19, June 9&30, July 28, Aug 25, Sep 29, Oct 27, Nov 17, Dec 8.

**Tornado:** Jan 7, Feb 4, Mar 4, Apr 8, May 6, Jun 3, Jul 1&29, Aug 19, Sep 16, Oct 21, Nov 18, Dec 16.

**Seattle City Championship** 12-14 Jan.

**Seattle Spring Open**

16-18 March

**SCC Adult Swiss** 12-13 May

**Emerald City Open**

15-17 June

**Seafair Open** 20-22 July

**Seattle Fall Open**

21-23 Sept.

**SCC Extravaganza** 9-11 Nov.



# Upcoming Events

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

**Dec 2 Bend Holiday Quads & Novice Tourney, Bend, OR.** Site: Whispering Winds, 2920 N.E. Conners Ave., Bend, OR 97701. Format: Open Quads sections (U.S. Chess rated, 3-RR or bottom section may be 3-SS) and Novice (not rated, limited to unrated or U800 who have never won a prize in a previous Novice Tourney, 4-SS, one ½-pt. bye available). TC: G/60; d5. Entry Fee: \$15 (Open), \$10 (Novice). Reg.: 8:30–9:00. Rounds: 9:30, 12:30, 3:00, 5:30 (Novice only). Prizes (Open): \$40 first place in each section. U.S. Chess membership prize(s) available in Novice section. Entries/Info: Paul Shannon, NTD, 60958 Targee Dr, Bend, OR 97702, email countdune@netscape.net. Misc: U.S. Chess memb. req'd. in Open Quads sections, W, NS, NC. Lunch available at site for \$10.

☞ **Dec 9 Western Idaho Open, Boise, ID.** 4SS, Time Control: G/45; d5. Section: Open. Site: BSU Student Union Building, Boise. US Chess mem req. ICA Mem req. OSA. EF: \$25 (U18 & 60+ \$20, >80, IM,FM,GM free), family rate \$40. Register Online. Late fee \$5 onsite. Check in: 9:00-9:30 a.m. Rd. times: continuous starting at 10:00 a.m. (Rds 2-4 will start ASAP). Byes: Max. one half-point bye, Rounds 1-3, commit by round 2. 0-point bye round 4. \$\$ (based on 30): 1st - 3rd place \$100, \$75, \$50 & 1st place (\$50) for U1800, U1600, U1400, U1200, U1000, Unr. Sponsored by ICA, www.idahochessassociation.com. Register Online at <http://www.idahochessassociation.com/register-online>. Online registration preferred. Online Registration closes 24 hours before event start time. TD: Alise Pemsler & Adam Porth.

☞ **Dec 9-10 Portland Winter Open, Portland, OR.** Site: Portland Chess Club, 8205 SW 24th Ave, Portland, OR 97219. Two sections-Open and Reserve (U1800), 5-round Swiss, 40/90,SD/30;d10, two half point byes available if requested before round one, US Chess rated. On-site reg: 9-9:45am, Rds: Sat 10am, 2:15pm, 6:30pm; Sun 10am, 2:15pm. Players who have a game go around the full time can request extra time off before the next round. EF: \$35, \$25 for PCC members (pay by cash or check payable to Portland Chess Club). US Chess and OCF/WCF/ICA memberships are required and can be purchased during registration (OSA). Prizes (\$650 b/40): Open: 1st-\$150, 2nd-\$100, 1st U2000-\$75; Reserve: 1st-\$100, 2nd-\$75, 1st 1600, 1st U1400, 1st U1200/unrated-\$50 each. OCF Invitational Tournament and OSCF State qualifier. More info. at [pdxchess.org](http://pdxchess.org), (503) 246-2978. Note: Details also valid for 2018 Portland Spring and Summer Opens.

☞ **Dec 16-17 Northwest Chess Open, Seattle, WA.** (See half-page ad page 14)

☞ **Dec 17/Jan 21 Portland CC Sunday Quads, Portland, OR.** Site: Portland Chess Club, 8205 SW 24th Ave., Portland, OR. 3-round quads. Some or all the sections may run as a 3-round Swiss with more than four players. The “live” US Chess regular ratings are usually used for section placement and pairings. G/45;inc15, US Chess and NWSRS rated. On-site reg: 9-9:45am, Rds: 10am, 12:30pm, 3pm. 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 (pay by cash or check payable to Portland Chess Club), free entry for players who are playing in their first US Chess rated tournament. US Chess membership is required and can be purchased during registration. Winner of each section receives \$10 discount on the entry fee to one of the next three PCC Sunday or Tuesday Quads. If there is a six or seven player Swiss, the runner-up receives \$5 discount. Bonus scholastic awards: trophy for winning section with 3 points; smaller trophy for winning or tying for first with 2.5; medal for winning or tying for first with 2 or 1.5. OSCF State qualifier. More info. at [pdxchess.org](http://pdxchess.org). Phone: (503) 246-2978.

☞ **Dec 27-31 Washington Winter Chess Classic, Seattle, WA.** (See half-page ad page 18)

☞ **Dec 30/Jan 27 Portland CC Game in 60, Portland, OR.** Site: Portland Chess Club, 8205 SW 24th Ave., Portland, OR. 4-round Swiss. If there are less than thirty players it's played in one section. If there are at least thirty players it's split into two sections at the mid-point of the field based on rating except that both sections will start with an even number of players if possible. G/60;inc5, one half point bye available if requested before round 1, US Chess rated. On-site reg: 9-9:45 am. Rds: 10am, 12:30pm, 2:30pm, 4:30pm. Players who have a game go around the full time can request extra time off before the next round. EF: \$20, \$15 for PCC members (pay by cash or check payable to Portland Chess Club). US Chess and OCF/WCF/ICA memberships are required and can be purchased during registration (OSA). Prizes: If one section (\$200/b20): 1st-\$60, 2nd-\$40, 3rd-\$30; 1st U1800/unrated, 1st U1500/unrated-\$35 each. If two sections, upper section (\$150/b15): 1st-\$70, 2nd-\$40, 1st U1800/unrated-\$40; lower section (\$150/b15): 1st-\$70, 2nd-\$40, 1st U1200/unrated-\$40. OSCF State qualifier. More info at [pdxchess.org](http://pdxchess.org). Phone: (503) 246-2978.

☞ **Jan 6-7 2nd Annual Neil Dale Memorial Open, Portland, OR.** (See half-page ad page 20)

**Jan 7 Boise Chess Club #17, Boise, ID.** Site: All About Games, 7079 W. Overland Road, Boise, Idaho 83709. 4SS, US Chess Rated, Game/30 + 30 second time increment per move. Jeffrey Roland will be Chief TD. Please register by e-mailing [jroland@cableone.net](mailto:jroland@cableone.net). Email pre-registration is appreciated to speed up registration. Doors open at 8:30 a.m. Registration will be from 8:30-9:00 a.m. First round “should”/“could”/probably will start promptly at 9:00 a.m. Those coming late may get a first-round half-point bye. 90-minute break for lunch taken after round 2. Estimated time for end of tournament is 7:30 p.m. Entry is Free!

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