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*Chess News and Features from
Idaho, Washington, and Oregon*

**Michael Abron wins
Idaho Open 5.0/5**



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Michael Abron at the 2018 Idaho Open.
Photo credit: Jeffrey Roland.

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Socks purchased at Strands Bookstore in New York by
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Chess cartoons drawn by local artist Brian Berger,
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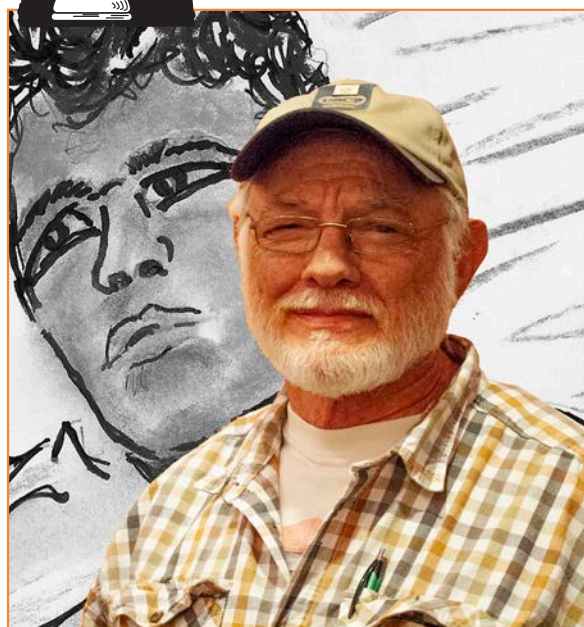
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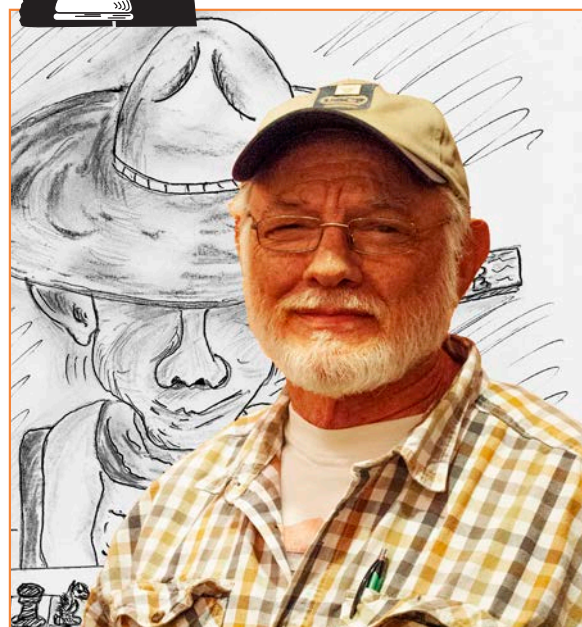
Chesstoons

Drawn by Brian Berger.
Book 1: November 2013-October 2015



Chesstoons

Drawn by Brian Berger.
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Letters to the Editor

Magazine Hard Copy

By Jerrold Richards

April 29, 2018

Dear Editor,

I for one appreciate the hard copy of the magazine. I spend all week staring at my computer, staring at my computer, staring at my computer, to earn dough. If the magazine were online only, I expect it would wither away.

I think there is a delicate synergistic effect here, hard to quantify in budget terms, in that the frankly homegrown quality of the magazine contributes significantly to the gradual healthy growth of chess in the Northwest. Perhaps a donor or donors could be found who appreciate this aspect, to fill in any budget gap.

I like the idea of two separate levels of subscription packages, less cost for those who want internet access only, and more for people who want the magazine. Myself, I'd be fine with paying even more than presently for the magazine, if the budget really requires it. I think you might be surprised how many people would continue to want the hard copy.

I suppose website access could provide simply a PDF of the magazine. At this point, someone might jump in and say ah ha, people who want a hard copy can print it out! Nah, most people will not do so in actual real life. Also, over time the website must be considered a separate publication that overlaps substantially with the magazine but is not the same.

Chess Life Magazine has experience with this two-level concept, and perhaps could suggest best practices.

Moving toward this, the intent would be to implement website features as inexpensively as possible.

For example, It might be possible to perform manually in-house tasks such as new member, subscription change, subscription expiration update, payment processing, password-protected active member website access, and blocking expired member website access. I expect manually is how *Northwest Chess* payment processing is done presently, and it seems to be adequate in its area, though not by itself sufficient.

As a task example, blocking expired member website access could be a somewhat dreary but inexpensive in-house daily manual database update chore managed with in-house spreadsheets, rather than programmed.

But there must be existing software

packages with lots of happy customers for in-house use, and/or reputable third-party services vendors, that could manage such details.

Surely it would help to contact several small to mid-sized magazines that have found ways to deal with the above, and more broadly that have found ways to surf successfully the hard copy – internet matter.

For example, I have subscribed to High Country News www.hcn.org for decades. Their website seems well designed to me. As a feature example, it provides four articles free each month as teaser, and then requires log-in. Clearly this feature cannot be done manually, and must be competently programmed. They're great folks, and I expect they'd be pleased to discuss what works and just as important what does not work, software, service and product vendors they like, how to develop and implement carefully chosen website features, processes and procedures competently, ethically and inexpensively.

A guiding concept is minimum necessary feature set for a well-functioning, attractive, useful website. One can maintain a list of additional features to consider eventually, while keeping firmly in mind that bloatware can happen so easily.

If really necessary, you could have a let's-implement-our-website-properly fund drive to cover initial development costs. Hmmm ... I notice your e-mail address is a .com. I have been assuming this whole thing is 501c3 or similar, so legal structure would have to be reviewed carefully before any fundraising.

Best,

Jerry Richards

Editor's Response:

Jerry, thank you for your letter! I'm glad you like the printed issue of the magazine. I do too. US Chess or in particular their magazine, *Chess Life*, has a lot more members and subscribers and therefore have more options open to them. They are on a completely different scale, and so they can afford to offer the two types without any problem. We, however, are talking somewhere around 1,000 give or take 200 each month. We have to consider the costs more closely as they have to set up the plates and run the print jobs. Actually this phase of the production I don't worry too much about, that's what I have a business manager for, but I know that there is a cost that with

a small publication like ours, and we're getting a pretty good deal too, but we have to be realistic, if our numbers dropped, as they would if we offered the two types, then they couldn't afford to print the job as reasonably as they do now.

If anyone out there thinks, okay, so what if we didn't even have the magazine? To that I would say that I really do believe that the magazine is the "glue that holds the Northwest together." I personally plan to travel to several tournaments in the three states this year. I probably wouldn't do that if not for the fact that I identify with *Northwest Chess* not just as a magazine, but also as a community.

We have seen what happens when other publications go the cheap route and go online-only, it kills their publications, and they turn into nothing. If we offered both, we couldn't afford the print-issue side because we can only afford it because of the volume we have. In my opinion, we should realize our strength and the fact that the rest of the country does appreciate what we have, even if some here don't.

On March 25, 2018, Michael Mulford wrote to me in an email, "I would be ecstatic if we had what you have in the Northwest. Heck, I'd be thrilled with a bimonthly at the quality level of *NWC* and the strong website with all the back issues (I do wish the ones from when I was active in 1975-97 were scanned and the ones from my father's heyday in 53-54 when he was WCF President."

Anyway, I know I'm not wrong in thinking that we are the envy of many around the country, and we should keep doing what we are doing. We have it all, online, teaser, printed issue, web page, blog, and Facebook. We have all this because we have the printed issue!

Jeffrey Roland (Editor)

Business Manager Response:

The Northwest Chess board intends to expand the current tournament online registration system (used mostly for WCF and some scholastic events) to provide full membership and subscription management features, including the ability to renew even if not playing in a tournament. However, significant additional software development is required to do this. Northwest Chess also intends to apply for IRS 501c3 status this year. We will advise all our readers once it's possible to make tax-deductible donations.

“I’ll sit down and play-up!”

By Cleve Johnson

May 11, 2018

Dear Sir,

I wish to echo the sentiments of John P. Christy in his February 19th letter, published in the April 2018 edition of *Northwest Chess*.

Last year’s Washington Open was my first tournament in 21 years. I have played 39 US Chess rated games since my return. All of those games involved extensive expense and travel time to attend, leaving Pasco at 4:30 a.m. on tournament days, and getting home after midnight on Sunday (or Monday) nights. It’s not easy and it’s not cheap, but I do it because I love to play tournament chess, and I’m pursuing a personal life-goal that I put on hold for over 20 years while I raised a family and nurtured a career.

I keep an Excel statistical spreadsheet of my chess results, tracking wins/losses, white results vs black results, opening results, ELO statistics for myself and my opponents, etc. It’s an exhaustive spreadsheet that helps me keep track of “what’s working and what’s not.” In the 39 US Chess rated games I’ve played in the past year, I have a solid plus+ score. I haven’t finished a tournament under .500; I’ve tied for first in my section in two tournaments; I placed “in the money” in an additional two tournaments, and I also won two “senior” prizes. Solid results in almost every tournament since returning.

Yet, today my US Chess rating is 70 points LOWER than when I returned to play last Memorial Day, 2017! How can a guy play US Chess tournaments for a year with above average results and end up losing 70+ rating points? How does that work?!

Mr. Christy’s letter explains how that works. I’ve chosen to call it “rating recession.” Rating recession is the result of the scenario that Mr. Christy describes.

After reading Mr. Christy’s letter I did the same homework for my games that he did for his games. Indeed, if my games and tournament results were rated accordingly, instead of floundering in lower middle-class C, I would very near or into Class B territory by now. With each successful outing my rating seems to sink!

Somewhat jokingly I say, it feels like being robbed! I’m bringing prize money home, but I’m watching my rating plummet! This is a demoralizing prospect for anyone in our shoes.

Were I to remain in the Reserve sections (which are heavily peppered with under-rated NWSRS juniors) I would need to sustain an average scoring percentage of over .750 to make any meaningful progress toward my goal. Sustaining .750 is a tall order in any tournament division, regardless of who you are. (Even then, keep in mind: Mr. Christy had a .750 tournament result, and his rating still went down!!)

Therefore, I have made the decision is to “play up” for 2018 and from now on - even though that will often mean added expenses (to my already high travel expenses) in entry fees. By playing up I don’t expect to see the same scores that I’ve seen so far, but at least I can expect the rating calculations to accurately reflect the results that I do score . . . and I’m good with that.

However, for those choosing to remain in the Reserve sections, something’s clearly out of whack. When I was playing 20 to 35 years ago you didn’t see the rating calculation “discrepancies” then that you see now. Good results saw good progress. A tournament score of .750 was sure to bring some points home, but not today. Mr. Christy’s letter has clearly defined the nature of this discrepancy, and I’ve been able to substantiate his findings reflected in my own.

So, I think Mr. Christy’s letter raises a crucial point for those in the Reserve sections (and sometimes lower down in the Open sections) who routinely face NWSRS rated junior scholastic players. For players in his situation, rating-wise a win is nearly worthless, while a draw or a loss to these under-rated players is heavily penalized. That’s a burden players should be prepared to bear -IF- their opponents ratings accurately reflect their true strength, but not otherwise... as appears to be the case in the current situation.

It’s a situation that needs a remedy. I understand that the Portland Chess Club already uses a NWSRS to US Chess conversion formula. Perhaps that conversion could be adopted for ALL events that fall under NW Chess Federation jurisdiction.

Cleve Johnson

P.S. To those who would say, “Don’t worry about your rating, just shut up, sit-down, and play.” I would answer: Why keep score then?

Ratings are there for a reason: they provide (for me) a goal, and a way to measure progress and achievement. It’s one way we keep score. It’s that way for a reason. I like it that way. So if you don’t mind, I’ll speak up! Then I’ll sit-down and play-up!

Editor’s Response:

Cleve, for the benefit of those who might not know, NWSRS stands for Northwest Scholastic Rating System and is at the website <http://ratingsnw.com/>.

First I would like to thank you for your letter. I know you feel passionately about this subject and did a lot of research before sending and sharing this with the *Northwest Chess* community.

I also think you have come to the right solution. In order for your rating to go up to where it belongs, you must play up! I don’t know his personal story (yet!), but I’m sure that at some point players like Roland Feng must have at some point realized that they must play up.

I guess anytime anyone wants to really improve in anything, and to be recognized for it (such as a higher rating) they must push themselves to go to that next level.

As you discovered in your research when you were considering writing an article instead of this letter, the Northwest is unique in the country. What is true everywhere else is not true here!

There will always be over-rated and under-rated players. Chess is so incredible as to provide us a lifetime of enjoyment as we struggle and play, achieving victory and defeat along the way, hopefully becoming better people in the process. I certainly have made a lot of friends playing chess.

I wish you the best of luck playing up. I’m glad you have come back to playing in tournaments after so many years being gone.

Jeffrey Roland (Editor)

From the Business Manager

The Northwest Chess Forum (bulletin board for chess-related discussions) at <http://www.nwchess.com/nwchessforum/> has fallen into disuse for about the past three years, is difficult to properly administer (for example, due to spammers), and will be removed by the end of June. Please download and save any discussions, games, etc., posted in this forum if you don’t want to lose them. As an alternative, persons with interesting chess-related content to share can request an author account on our blog at <http://www.nwchess.com/blog/>. All requests should be made to the Business Manager, and should include a sample of the type of content you intend to share.

2018 Idaho Open

By Jay Simonson

The 2018 Idaho Open Chess Championship, held at the Pocatello Red Lion Inn, April 14-15, 2018, saw a field of 27 players from four states compete for the title of Idaho Open Champion. Michael Abron, currently from Youngstown, Ohio, won the tournament, the title, and \$180 with a perfect score of 5.0/5. Defending Champion ICA Vice President Alex Machin gave him a run for his money in round two, but Michael ended up the victor. Michael is on a quest to become the first black person to play

in a US Chess-rated tournament in all 50 states. His stop in Idaho marked state number 34. After he left Idaho, he was headed for Oregon and California. Then he planned on finding tournaments in Wyoming and Montana. Good luck to him as he continues his journey.

Dewayne Derryberry, Idaho State University (ISU) Professor from Pocatello, won second place and \$90 with a score of 4.0/5. Former Idaho Chess Association (ICA) President and Northwest Chess Editor Jeffrey Roland, of Boise, and Gary Owen, formerly of Wyoming, now from Preston, Idaho, tied for third-fourth place, splitting the \$75 prize, with the score 3.5/5.

There were also a number of class prizes. The top prize in each class was \$50. Bill Arnold of Chubbuck, Idaho, won top under 1800. Dusty Mason of Rexburg, Idaho won top under 1600. David Zaklan, Twin Falls, Idaho; Andrew Kitterman, Boise, Idaho; and Adam Porth and River Sheppard, Bellevue, Idaho; tied for top under 1400. Five players tied for top under 1200/under 1000. They are Idaho residents: Talor Robinson and Finn Belew, Boise; Darwin Porth, Bellevue; and John Eisenmenger and Brandon Mason, Idaho Falls.

This was an excellent, well-attended, strong tournament, attracting several notable individuals. The Tournament Director (TD) was ICA Treasurer and Eastern Idaho Regional Trustee Jay Simonson. Apparently, according to Dan McCourt, this was Jay's 100th US Chess-rated tournament as Chief TD. ICA President Adam Porth and ICA Vice President Alex Machin both played in the tournament. Former Idaho Open winner Hans Morrow, currently of Farmington, Utah, and Montana Chess Association President Daniel McCourt from Missoula, Montana also played in the tournament.



Michael Abron. Photo credit: Adam Porth.

**Michael Abron (1504) –
Jeffrey T. Roland (1716) [D03]**
Idaho Open Pocatello, ID
(R3), April 14, 2018
[Jeffrey Roland]

I had just witnessed my opponent beat Alex Machin in grand style in round two, so I knew what to expect. In fact, by this time, everyone in the tournament pretty much knew the strong attacking style of Michael Abron. It was fun to see him win all five of his games in the tournament!

1.d4 d5 2.Nf3 Nf6 3.Bg5 e6 4.e3 Be7 5.Bd3 Ne4±
5...h6=; 5...0-0=
6.Bf4 Nd7 7.Nbd2 Ndf6
7...g5 8.Be5 f6 9.Bg3 h5 10.h3 Nxg3 11.fxg3=
8.c3 0-0 9.Qc2 Nxd2 10.Nxd2 h6 11.h3 c5 12.g4 c4 13.Be2 Bd7 14.h4



Position after 14.h4

14...Qa5?

I felt if I didn't attack him, I would just roll over and be crushed. This was purely a psychological error on my part. The truth is that there is nothing I can really attack on the queenside so I shouldn't have wasted time. All this move really does is take defense away from my king. It's easy to see after the game. It was a decision that turned out to be wrong. Chess is a great teacher.

14...e5 15.dxe5 Nxg4 occurred to me over-the-board, and is what I should have done, but I just didn't like the idea of giving him an open g-file to add to his attack on me. The problem is that he has things to worry about too in this line. I merely looked at open g-file and looked no further.

15.g5+- Ba4 16.Qb1

The moment he played this move, I knew I was going to lose this game. What really can I attack now? What can I do to defend against his attack now?

16...Ne4 17.gxh6 f5 18.f3 Nxd2 19.Kxd2 g6 20.Qg1 Kh7 21.Qg3 Rg8 22.Be5

At the time when he played this move, I knew it was not his best move. I felt a great relief, however, I also knew it wasn't bad enough to change the fact that White was still going to win this game!

22...Kxh6



Position after 22...Kxh6

23.Qf4+

The computer sees a mate in five here. 23.Qg5+ Kh7 (23...Bxg5 24.hxg5+ Kxg5 25.Rag1#) 24.Qxe7+ Kh6 25.Bf4+ g5 26.hxg5+ Kg6 27.Rh6#

23...Kh7 24.Rag1 Qd8 25.Rg5 Bf6 26.Bxf6 Qxf6 27.h5 Rg7 28.hxg6+ Kg8 29.Qh4

I really liked my opponent and his playing style was refreshing. After he demolished me in this game, I sincerely wished him success in the remaining games.

1-0

Gary Owen (1541) – Jeffrey T. Roland (1716) [C42]
Idaho Open Pocatello, ID (R5), April 15, 2018
[Jeffrey Roland]



Gary Owen (L) vs. Jeffrey Roland. Photo credit: Adam Porth.

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nf6 3.Nxe5 d6 4.Nf3 Nxe4 5.d4 d5 6.Bd3 Be7 7.0-0 0-0 8.Nbd2 Nf6 9.Re1 Nc6 10.c3 Bg4 11.h3 Bh5 12.Nf1

I was more afraid of 12.Qb3 followed by 13.Ne5.

12...Bg6 13.Bf4 Nh5 14.Bh2 Bd6 15.Ne5 Re8 16.Bxg6 hxg6 17.Nxc6 Bxh2+ 18.Nxh2 Rxe1+ 19.Qxe1 bxc6 20.Qe5

A strong centralized Queen. Hmmm. This actually gave me the idea how I could do this to White!

20...Qd7 21.Re1 Nf6 22.Qg5 Rb8 23.b4 Re8 24.Rxe8+ Qxe8 25.Qd2 Qe4=

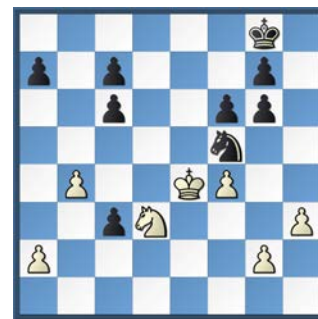


Position after 25...Qe4

Objectively in hindsight, this is probably an equal position, however, at the time, I felt like I was winning as I had ways to attack vulnerable weak pawns (like c3, a2, f2,) and the Knight might come into the game via e4 too soon. I felt great about this position.

26.Nf3 Qb1+ 27.Kh2 Ne4 28.Qe2 Qc1 29.c4 Qxc4 30.Qxc4 dxc4+ 31.Ne5 c3

32.Nd3 Nd6 33.Kg1 Nb5 34.f4 Nxd4 35.Kf2 f6 36.Ke3 Nf5+ 37.Ke4



Position after 37.Ke4

White offered a draw, and I had more than an hour left on my clock still. I knew I was winning, I could feel it, and yet could not figure it out over the board. The more I looked at the position the more I was missing the point. And a win here would have given me a tie for second place overall instead of third place. I should have kept playing and probing. I kept trying to figure out how to ram the c3-pawn down to queen, and I couldn't see a way to do it. So after a while, I accepted the draw offer. But there were other possibilities. The computer suggests many ways for Black to win, here's one: 37...Kf7 38.Ne1 Ke6 39.Kd3 Kd5 40.Nc2 Ne7 41.Nd4 Kd6 42.Kc4 Nd5 43.Ne2 Ne3+ 44.Kxc3 Nxg2 and it's still decisive for Black. I just couldn't see all this, and I was missing the idea of moving my knight to e7.

1/2-1/2



Post mortem analysis after round two game completed. L-R: Brandon Mason, Michael Abron, Dusty Mason, Jeffrey Roland, Alex Machin.
Photo credit: Adam Porth.

Alex James Machin (1838) – Michael Abron (1509) [B01]
Idaho Open Pocatello, ID
(R2), April 14, 2018
[Alex Machin]

1.e4 d5 2.exd5 Nf6 3.c4 e6 4.dxe6 Bxe6
5.Nf3 Bd6 6.Be2 0-0 7.0-0 c6 8.Nc3
Qc7 9.d4 Nbd7 10.h3 Rad8 11.Be3 h6
12.Rc1 Qb8 13.Qc2 Bf4 14.Bxf4 Qxf4
15.Rfd1 g5



Position after 15...g5

It was clear that Black wanted to open the g-file and attack my king. Aside from

having an extra pawn, I wasn't sure how to react. I considered 16.Ne5 with the idea of sacking back a pawn to in order to counter the g4 threat as well as open up the d-file for counter play. I didn't go for it because I didn't want to let go of the material advantage and risk the position being equal. Now that I look at it, I see that if Black wins a pawn back, his open king and over extended pawns could be used as an object of attack.

16.Qd2 Nh5 17.Qxf4

17.d5 Bf5 18.g4 Never considered this variation. It appears to win a piece.

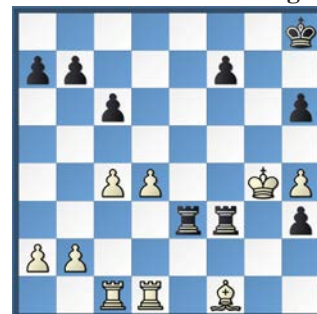
17...Nxf4 18.Bf1 g4 19.Nh4 gxh3 20.g3 Ng6 21.Kh2 Nf6 22.f3 Nxh4 23.gxh4 Nh5 24.Ne2 Rfe8 25.Re1 Bf5 26.Red1

26.Bxh3?? Bxh3 27.Kxh3 Rxe2 28.Rxe2 Nf4+

26...Re3 27.Ng3 Nxc3 28.Kxc3 Kh8 29.Kf4

Michael missed this move, but he still has play after I win his bishop.

29...Rde8 30.Kxf5 Rxf3+ 31.Kg4 Ree3



Position after 31...Ree3

32.Bxh3

Being in serious time pressure, I decided to sac the bishop for his passed pawn to make the position easier to play.

32...Rg3+ 33.Kh5 Rxh3 34.Re1 Reg3 35.d5 Rg5+ 36.Kxh6 Rg6+ 37.Kh5 Kh7 38.Rcd1 Rhg3

Threatening Rh6# Seeing no good way to prevent it, I resigned.

0-1

DeWayne Derryberry (1696) –
 Alex James Machin (1838) [D05]
 Idaho Open Pocatello, ID
 (R5), April 15, 2018
 [Alex Machin]

1.d4 Nf6 2.Nf3 e6 3.e3 c5 4.Bd3 d5 5.b3
 Be7 6.0–0 Nbd7 7.Bb2 b6 8.Nbd2 Bb7
 9.Ne5



Position after 9.Ne5

Derryberry pointed out in the post mortem that it's better for Black to develop his pieces while controlling e5 in order to prevent this move. I should have developed my bishop to d6, the knight to c6 and queen to c7 if needed.

9...Nxe5 10.dxe5 Nd7 11.f4

Foreseeing an eventual rook lift, I decide that castling queenside is safer for my king.

11...Qc7 12.Rc1 0–0–0 13.Qe2 f5 14.c4

My chess engine (komodo 11.3) suggests 14.d4. Tactically, White can't win a pawn. More importantly, the move does a number of wonderful things: closes the c-file to shut out the c1 rook, blunts the bishop on b2 and opens up my bishop on b7.



Position after 14.c4

14...g5

I had a fantasy of locking up the center and only then going for this break. Unfortunately, I didn't see 14...d4! 15.exd4 (If... 15.e4 Then... 15...g6) 15... cxd4 16.Bxd4?? Nc5 17.Bxc5 Bxc5+ 18.Kh1 Qd7 Black is winning. White can't defend both minor pieces.

15.cxd5 Bxd5

15...exd5? 16.e6

16.e4

Countering my wing attack with the
 Northwest Chess



DeWayne Derryberry.
 Photo credit: Adam Porth.

logical central break. From here on out, my pieces get tied up and I fall apart.

16...fxe4 17.Bxe4 gxf4

17...Bxe4 I wanted to prevent f5 by playing gxf4. White was able to prevent this tactically. 18.Nxe4 gxf4 19.Nd6+ Bxd6 (19...Kb8 20.Nf7) 20.exd6

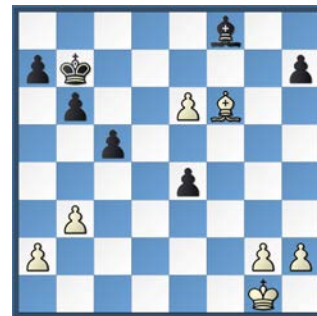
18.Bxd5 exd5 19.e6 Nf6 20.Be5 Qc6 21.Qa6+ Qb7 22.Qxb7+ Kxb7 23.Rxf4 Rhf8 24.Rcf1 Ne4??

Loses by force. 24...Ng8 The only move to continue the game.

25.Rxf8 Rxf8

25...Bxf8 26.Nxe4 dxe4 27.Rf7+ Kc6 28.e7

26.Rxf8 Bxf8 27.Nxe4 dxe4 28.Bf6



Position after 28.Bf6

This quiet move secures the win. I play on in momentum but the game is lost for Black.

28...Kc6 29.e7 Bxe7 30.Bxe7 Kb5 31.a3 c4 32.a4+ Ka5 33.bxc4 Kxa4 34.Kf2 Kb3 35.c5 bxc5 36.Bxc5 a6 37.Ke3 Kc4 38.Bd4 Kd5 39.g4 a5 40.h4 a4 41.g5 1–0

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Montana Chess Association President Dan McCourt. Photo credit: Jeffrey Roland.

Oregon Senior Open

By Brian Berger

Portland, OR—April 7-8, 2018

Oregon's Eighth Annual, Oregon Senior Open, was held on April 7-8 at the Portland Chess Club. The tournament was originally started in 2011 by an important figure in Oregon chess, and US Chess in general, Frank Niro.

Niro was at one time the editor of Chess Horizons and was also the Executive Director of the US Chess Federation (2002-2003). The passing of Dr. Ralph Hall, who organized the bringing of the 1987 US Open to Portland, and who ran the Oregon City Chess Club started by him in 1976, was the catalyst for Niro wanting to remember him with a memorial tournament.

Thus was the beginning of the Oregon Senior Championship that, in addition to money prizes, also has a perpetual trophy (the Dr. Ralph Hall Memorial Award) engraved with the names of each year's winner/winners, to be seen on permanent display at the Portland Chess Club.

First to win that honor back in 2011 were co-winners Mike Janniro and Steven Deeth, followed by co-winners Michael Morris and David Rupel in 2012, LM Viktors Pupols in 2013, LM Carl Haessler in 2014, 2015 and 2016, Michael Pendergast and Steven Deeth in 2017, and once again, LM Carl Haessler (2219-2230—4.5/5) in 2018.

It was a welcome sight to see 22 participants this year, two more than were on hand last year—possibly because of the new schedule. Although this tournament has been traditionally held in August each year, it was decided to hold it earlier this year so as not to conflict with other local tournament schedules nor be too close to the Vancouver Open that same month, and the Oregon Open in September.

Once again I, Brian "I'm Just Glad To Be Here" Berger (1641-1644—2.0/5), was delighted to be playing in this event, an event of "known knowns," as opposed to "known unknowns," descriptions I use to speak of players with ratings one can believe in, as opposed to younger opponents (the Senior Open requires you to be at least 50 to be a player), who can be any rating they want on any given day.

As my wife was off to the coast for the weekend, I was in charge of our dog, Mitzi, an 11-year old sheltie of super-sweet disposition, whom I had brought to the Portland Chess Club before—there to meet the most famous chess-playing dog in the world, "Morgan the Dog," who was once again in attendance with his companion, Jerrold "I Just Want To Reach 1600 Before It's Over" Richards (1331-1352—2.0/5).

As had happened the first time they met, Morgan was not impressed with this female interloper into what he imagined to be HIS territory. Not only that, but on their first meeting Mitzi was given a lot of attention by some of the younger players, which meant fewer belly-rubs and back-scratches for Morgan, two of his favorite reasons for coming to the Portland Chess Club.

Morgan had no fear of that this day, as this was a crowd of adults (read proto-geezers, and those who had been full-blown geezers for some time), who were more interested in proving they could still see a move or two ahead without falling asleep, and could stay up past their 8:00 pm bedtime.



(L) Carl Haessler vs David Yoshinaga. Photo credit: Brian Berger.



(L) Marc Braverman vs Greg Markowski. Photo credit: Brian Berger.

As was the case at the last Senior Open, I was paired in the first round with my good friend, Carl Koontz (1935-1926—2.5/5). When last we played, I somehow managed to throw the game away in the first few opening moves, mistakenly placing my hand on my king, thinking it was my queen. Faced with having to move it, I had the choice of only one square, which led to an immediate checkmate.

This time, with better vision than I had last year (I recently had cataract surgery), I was able to tell my queen from my king, and with some luck and better clock management, I was able to hold my opponent to a draw—quite a coup for me. Emboldened by this good fortune, I went into my next game fully expecting to give an equal or better performance against an opponent known to make opening moves only a mother could love—David “f4” Yoshinaga (1700-1700—1.0/5).

Having lost his first game, Yoshinaga, as White, managed to find an opening that actually had a known line, and played as if he might know it. Stunned by the normalcy of his play, I proceeded to drop pawns, enough of them to lose. Only then did he go back to experimenting with his other opponents, the result of which lost him the balance of his games, leaving him in last place.

Fortunately for me, I had opted to take a bye in the third round, and with a good night’s sleep, managed to come back with a win and a draw on the second day—the win against a 1948 player, and the draw against a 1610 player, enough to

tie with Dale Wentz (1543-1562—2.0/4), for part of the U1600 second place prize money (\$14).

As was mentioned above, Carl Haessler was once again the lone winner of the first place prize (\$110), making it four times that he has had his name engraved on the Memorial Award trophy. And coming in a full point behind were five who tied for second/third place prize money, that when split, amounted to \$17



(L) Carl Koontz vs Dale Wentz. Photo credit: Brian Berger.

each: Mike Janniro (2124-2120—3.5/5), Steven Deeth (2046-2054—3.5/5), Michael Morris (2045-2049—3.5/5), Mark Braverman (1936-1943—3.5/5), and David Bannon (1858-1886—3.5/5).

Deeth and Braverman also split up some of the over 60 prize fund, each earning an additional \$14, while Morris captured the over 70 prize, and \$41 more dollars to stuff in his wallet.

One other player managed to generate a 3.5 score, Greg Markowski (1502-1588), but he was given the U1800 + over 60 money, amounting to \$55; while Chris Burris (1691-1704—2.5/5) and James Nelson (1628-1623—2.5/5), tied for the U1800 second place prize money of \$14 each.

The U1600/unrated prize of \$55 was won by Ian Fudalla (1465-1490—3.0/5), while Jerrold Richards, with the help of Morgan the Dog, was able to capture the U1400 prize, and for once in a long while gain some rating points (21) toward his 1600 goal, and also put some food on the table, for both he and Morgan, with the \$55 that came with the win.

Lastly, the over 80 prize of \$28 was awarded to William Gagnon (1603-1600—2.0/5), and Tony Midson (1308-1340—1.5/5) also won the same amount for coming in second in the U1400.

All three TDs, who were also players, are to be congratulated on a smoothly run tournament, those being: Chief TD Mike Morris, Chief Assistant TD Mike Janniro, and helping TD David Yoshinaga.

2018 OSCF State Championship

By Owen McCoy

The 13th Annual OSCF State Championship took place in Seaside, Oregon, starting on Friday the 13th of April. As you can imagine, this resulted in unprecedented chaos and buffoonery. The full extent of the happenings at this tournament cannot be captured in one article, but I will do my best to include all of the most interesting features. Stay tuned for a tale of evacuation, lots of blitz tiebreaks, and good sportsmanship all around.

Let's start with the weather. Throughout that weekend, Western Oregon was doused with rain and battered with wind in what was about as close to a hurricane as you ever see in these parts. Nancy Keller even reported a mudslide on highway 101! Despite the inherent dangers of driving on mountain roads in such nasty weather, 338 players (plus families, friends, and coaches) arrived at Seaside unscathed and ready to play some chess.

The High School Elite and Middle School Elite sections started playing on the morning of Friday the 13th. And sure enough, something peculiar happened. In the middle of the first round, the fire alarm rang. The 55 Elite players evacuated the building for 15 minutes while the fire department arrived to investigate the fire that turned out not to be a real fire. (My opponent offered a draw as we left the room, which I declined upon our return.) As TD Jim Grehan said when addressing the players, "Now you all have an experience that you'll remember for the rest of your lives." There was a lot of speculation as to the event that triggered the alarm, but what I heard was that the weather was once again the culprit. Apparently the Seaside convention center has a vent that lets smoke from the kitchen out of the building. Normally, this creates no problems. The trouble was, the blasted wind pushed the smoke from the kitchen vent *back into the vent and back into the*



McKayla Truong, a third-grader at Scouters Mountain Elementary School, competed in the Elementary School Copper Section. Photo credit: Kristina Zhang.

kitchen. This in turn triggered the smoke alarm.

But I can assure you that the rest of the day passed without emergencies. The competitors lived to see an evening of blitz and bughouse. One thing of interest was that the top blitz quad consisted of a record three masters (FM Shunkai Peng, CM/NM Josh Grabinsky, and NM myself). Ethan Wu, the fourth player, held his own to finish with 3/6 and share second with Josh, while I won with 3.5 points — a narrow margin because there was fierce competition! If you don't think it could get any closer, just wait till I tell you about what happened the next day.

Meanwhile, I will move on to the bughouse report. Normally, this is when most of the buffoonery happens. But this weekend, there was buffoonery everywhere, all the time. And speaking of which, a bughouse team under the name of "Compulsive Chess Buffoonery" was gearing up to try to take top honors. This team consisted of Josh Grabinsky and myself, both of us newly minted National Masters with a combined rating of about

4400. Interestingly enough, some of our opponents had horrible injustices done to their names because of character count. Gavin Zhang and Konner Feldman, whose bughouse name consisted of a string of 32 E's, got five E's chopped off the end of their name because it turned out that the character limit was 27, rather than the assumed 32. Colin Liu and Duncan Soiffer had it even worse. Their "Ran Out Of Letters To Finish Nam" was shortened to "Ran OO Letters To Finish" (which makes absolutely no sense at all). Other prize-winning names consisted of brilliant chess puns that as a journalist I should have written down.

But before we could start, we had to feast our eyes on a number of CRAZY hats. The winners of this contest are determined by loudest applause, and in this case there was an undisputed winner: a hat so crazy that I can't really describe it and have included a picture to compensate for my insufficient vocabulary. This hat was homemade by the Scher family and proudly sported by Marston Scher, a sixth grader from Eugene. Then, being the favorites by rating, Josh and I indeed won



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Marston Scher from Eugene was the lucky winner of the Crazy Hat Contest. Photo credit: Kristina Zhang.




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the cool bughouse trophies, although not without having to go to tiebreaks against Gavin Zhang and Konner Feldman.

And after a good night's sleep with rain and wind battering all windows in town, sun rose on Saturday to give way to another day of fun and competition with the number of competitors now up to 338! And while we all tried to focus on our tournament games, there were a number of activities to divert our attention. In addition to a giant chess set and intramural chess (a fancy term for bughouse between rounds), there was also a puzzle scavenger hunt and the usual lucky chess. The puzzle scavenger hunt involved actually finding the location of the puzzles and then solving them. (I struggled with the first part; what good is a 3300 tactics rating if you can't even find the puzzles?) And at the end of the day, the traditional lucky chess (where the emcee rolls a die to determine which pieces can move) was there to captivate whomever had finished their rounds.

The lucky chess, led by OSCF Board Member Phil Schapker, must have entailed quite a lot of buffoonery, but I was unable to report on it. I was busy trying to break through Gavin Zhang's position in the last round of the tournament. This reminds me that at some point I should cover the main event, and so I will!

The four age divisions were High School (9-12), Middle School (6-8), Elementary School (3-5), and Primary (K-2). And in a stroke of genius, I have figured out how to cover the grand championships for two of them in one paragraph. As it happened, siblings Zoey Tang and Austin Tang gave the chess community the one-two punch and won the Elementary and Primary championships (respectively). These two have been racking up consistently strong performances at Portland Chess Club, and their co-domination of this tournament was a great way to wrap up the school year.

Also notable was the way FM Shunkai Peng swept the Middle School Championship with a perfect 5.0/5, 1.5



The four co-champions of the High School Elite section played in a dramatic four-way blitz tiebreak to determine the nominee for the Denker Tournament.

L-R: Owen McCoy, Andrea Botez, Gavin Zhang, Joshua Grabinsky.

Photo credit: Kristina Zhang.

points ahead of the second place winner. A seventh grader who recently moved to Portland, Peng has pushed his rating near the towering 2400 mark. Alas, five wins was only enough to bear a one-point rating gain. Being the undisputed winner, he is offered the nomination of Oregon's representative to the Barber Tournament of K-8 Champions. As the previous representative, I wish my successor the best of luck.

And of course, the High School Championship will get the most coverage because that's where I was situated for the entirety of the weekend. In the unexpected absence of NM Seth Talyansky, there were only two masters playing (Josh Grabinsky and myself). Still, that was a first because there has never been more than one before (well, I'm almost positive about that!) But this section was not as clear-cut as the others. As early as round two, third ranked Ethan Wu fell to the hands of Raj Kodithyala. Then Raj drew against fourth ranked Gavin Zhang

the next round. And despite being top seed, I was held to a draw by Michael Moore. This put Josh Grabinsky in clear first going into round four. However, I beat Josh in round four, and Gavin beat Michael, so that Gavin and I would play the decisive game. But the game was not, in fact, decisive at all. We actually drew, and since Josh and Andrea Botez had both racked up four wins, **there resulted an unprecedented four-way-tie for first.**

And I have just run out of room so I will leave out the part where Josh Grabinsky won the blitz tiebreaks and the Denker nomination. (That's why I went into so much detail about bughouse names!) Alas, as a journalist I must present *all of the facts*, lest my name forever be filed under "FAKE NEWS." Anyway, the four-way-tie resulted in the largest, most intense blitz-off that Seaside had ever seen, consisting of Josh, Gavin, Andrea, and myself. Despite the request of the players for a round-robin, the OSCF bylaws included a single-elimination



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The Seaside Fire Department made an unexpected appearance during Round 1 of the Middle School and High School Elite sections on Friday. Photo credit: Kristina Zhang.

procedure for this circumstance where #1 plays #3 and #2 plays #4 in two games, with an armageddon game played in case of a tie. Josh and I eliminated Andrea and Gavin (respectively) after the first two games, and then took a quick break before facing off against each other for the third time that weekend.

And so it was the moment everyone had been waiting for. The ultimate blitz-off between two blitz experts (we're both 2300 in online blitz). Before we started, I asked if they would count the results from the blitz tournament the day before towards the blitz tiebreaks (I beat Josh 1.5-0.5), but sadly, my appeal was declined. Having black in the first

round, I opted for my usual Sicilian and walked right into his preparation. As is his nature, Josh skillfully swerved from the beaten path with 1.e4 c5 2. Nf3 d6 3. e5!? after which I didn't quite know what to do. I ended up with an isolated pawn position that was defendable but unpleasant, especially in blitz. It was excellent judgment by Josh, as he arrived at a position where he couldn't lose and might win. Sure enough, though I hung on until the very end, Josh managed to apply enough pressure to win the endgame. Score: 1-0.

That put me in a must-win situation going into the second game with white. I played an opening variation that I knew

was very good for White, but I couldn't press my advantage and my position drifted to the point of even being worse. But towards the end of the game, the tide once again turned in my favor as I managed to get an attack on his king. I went up material, but Josh was able to simplify into an opposite-colored bishops endgame and hold the draw without much trouble. However, I realized a few days later that I might've missed a mate in two! And that is how chess can be very annoying sometimes. (Also how Josh Grabsinsky became the Denker nominee.)

During the awards ceremony minutes later, my thoughts drifted to a presentation that I had to give the following week. But



The Green Room was full of excitement all day on Saturday as the Primary and Elementary contenders vied for the taffy-filled trophies. Photo credit: Kristina Zhang.



The four co-champions received their trophies according to computer tiebreaks after a very suspenseful day!
Photo credit: Kristina Zhang.

when I heard *Josh Grabinsky* called up to receive second place, I was very confused.



The winning hat, entered by *Marston Scher*, was displayed by the front entrance all day on Saturday.
Photo credit: Kristina Zhang.

I tried to insist that Josh had in fact won the blitz tiebreaks. (*Darn conscience! What was I thinking?*) But it turned out that trophies were given out in order of *computer tiebreaks*, and the blitz-off only determined the Denker nomination.

In this unusual situation, I received the biggest trophy, while Josh will represent Oregon at the Denker Tournament of High School Champions. But officially, Josh, Gavin, Andrea and I were all proclaimed co-champions. One thing is for certain: between Josh, Shunkai, and whoever the NGTOC nominee turns out to be, Oregon will have a very strong contingent headed to Wisconsin this summer! Michael Moore received the fifth place trophy by scoring 3.0/5 and edging out no fewer than **nine** other competitors on tiebreaks. Four of these, (Raj Kodithyala, Colin Liu, Torrey Gage-Tomlinson, and Jack McClain) received honorable mentions.

Nic Richardson didn't receive an honorable mention award, but his name was mentioned honorably at the awards ceremony. One of Nic's opponents had a medical issue during the round, *causing the fire department to return to the venue*. And for pausing the clock despite being in a worse position (and indeed going on to lose), Nic was nominated by the TD

for the Kathryn Rose Taylor Order of the Knight, to which he was then inducted.

But wait! I almost forgot! What about the OSCF board, who volunteer more time and energy than I've ever seen in my life every year? What about the parents and coaches who came all the way to Seaside after training and supporting their kids? What about the parents and coaches who volunteered at the tournament to make it run smoothly (despite the record number of visits from the fire department)? I suppose this tournament couldn't run without them. All of these people work to keep the forces of chaos and buffoonery in check (pun intended). Luckily, next year's tournament (the 14th annual) is scheduled for April 12-13, 2019. April 13th next year is not a Friday, but that probably won't be enough to keep us from breaking records next year.



The Bughouse trophies are particularly popular! Photo credit: Kristina Zhang.

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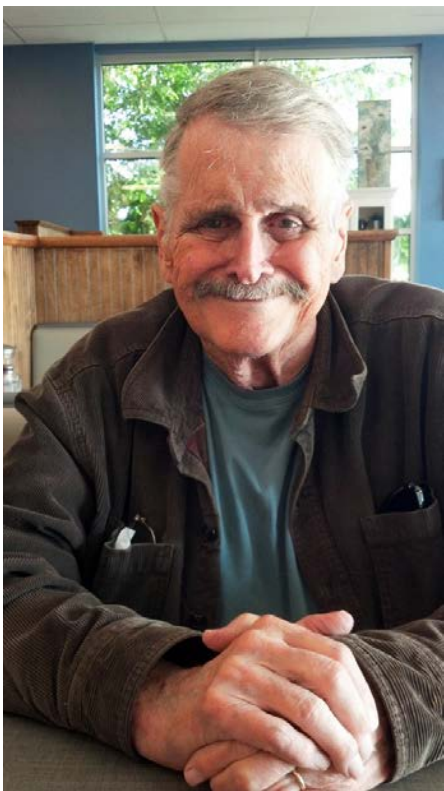
Jack Schrader (1935-2018)

By Russell “Rusty” Miller

In Memoriam. Jack Arthur Schrader of Vancouver, Washington, and originally from Oregon, passed away on April 18, 2018 at the age of 82.

He is survived by his wife, a son and daughter, five grandchildren and two great granddaughters. Jack was a man of many talents, of which chess was one, playing at a respectable amateur level.

A number of his cartoons have appeared in *Northwest Chess*.



Jack Schrader at Biscuits restaurant.
Photo courtesy of Esther Schrader.

April 2018 PCC Game 60

By Brian Berger

Portland, OR—April 28, 2018

Still on a high from my recent increases in rating, I was looking forward to making April’s Game 60, held at the Portland Chess Club, the final breachable barrier to push my rating into 1700’s once again—a number I have not been at for about a year-and-a-half.

As the playing field grew during registration, finally reaching 35 attendees, I was even more eager to enter the fray knowing I would probably be paired in the Main Section rather than the Reserve (two sections are required if there are more than 30 players), thus escaping the wrath of the unrated and underrated—where I would constantly be defending myself against loss of rating points, instead of involved in possibly gaining some.

As it was, I, Brian “I’m Just Glad To Be Here” Berger (1643-1595—1.0/4), barely squeezed into that upper section (17-players), as they were using posted, and not live ratings—my posted rating still showing 1504. Little did I suspect at the time that, what seemed to be good fortune, would prove disastrous to my expectations of further gains, starting with my loss in the first round to Ari Bluffstone (1725-1743—2.0/4), where I had played on fairly even terms coming into the endgame, only to drop a knight with no compensation, thus sealing my fate.

As I was the lowest-rated of the Main Section, and there was an uneven number of players, I found I was the recipient of a mandatory one-point bye in the second round, which dampened further my expectation of gaining additional rating points.

So as not to dwell too long on my misfortune, and to quickly get to those people who know how to play chess and



(L) Moshe Rachmuth vs Ari Bluffstone. Photo credit: Brian Berger.

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were the eventual winners, I will bring this episode to its grisly end—consisting of a loss to Zoey Tang (1722-1724—2.0/4), by giving away yet another piece (this time a rook), and then a final loss to Jacob Hoglund (1581-1582—2.0/4), who just outplayed me—the end result of my high expectations being 48-points **deducted**, rather than my hoped for **addition to**.

Before getting to the winners, I want to mention that the man who most resembles myself in his quest to reach a hoped-for chess goal, Jerrold “I Just Want To Reach 1600 Before It’s Over” Richards (1352-1344—3.0/4), was once again in attendance with his famous canine companion, Morgan the Dog. Entered in the Reserve Section, his three wins and one loss to a higher-rated player looked good enough for a prize, and the possibility of some additional rating points.

But alas, it was not to be, as his three wins were over low-rated provisional players, resulting in a loss of eight rating points. (I’ll never figure out this rating system—three wins, a loss to a higher rated player, equals an eight-point loss? Morgan couldn’t figure it out either.)

Unlike my dreams of glory being thwarted by losing every game, NM Matt Zavortink (2210-2219—4.0/4), plowed through the Main Section for an uncontested first place, turning in a perfect score, that when calculated by the number of players present, resulted in \$79.50 being added to his wallet. And with one



(L) Raj Kodithyala vs Isaac Vega. Photo credit: Brian Berger.

less win separating them from the overall winner, Jai Dayal (1952-1968—3.0/4), Moshe Rachmuth (1918-1923—3.0/4) and William Holloran III (1824-1845—3.0/4), all tied for second-fourth overall, the prize money being split into easily handled packets of \$15.25 each.

Last in this section to claim a prize was Raj Kodithyala (1733-1770—2.5/4),

whose two wins and a draw were good enough to take first place in the U1800, and make his billfold \$45.50 heavier.

In the Reserve Section, that also contained 17 players (Sophie Beauchet—272P-214P—0/0 offered to be a house player, which made the player count 35), the overall winner was Michael Kim (1506-1558—4.0/4), a recent member of the Portland Chess Club, and still a provisional player with 18 games under his belt. His perfect score entitled him to dip into the club’s coffer and pull out \$79.50 with which to line his pockets.

Havish Sripada (1394-1430—3.5/4) took second place overall, earning \$45.50 in cold cash (I wonder why cash temperature is always cold? And how cold is that?), and added 36-points to his rating. While the U1200 prize was split five-ways, Egan Wong (1209-1208—2.0/4), Ishaan Kodarapu (811P-896—2.0/4), Zachary Song (736P-824P—2.0), Anisha Sripada (295P-411P—2.0), and Mikhail Arturov (821P-977P—2.0), all turning in 2.0 scores, and going home with \$9.25 in spare change.

Although my initial high on entering this tournament was somewhat diminished by my poor performance (could it get any poorer?), I still felt that I played well—until I didn’t—and that the next tournament would confirm that I still have it in me to play good chess. We’ll see.

A big thank you to both Chief TD Micah Smith and Chief Assistant TD Mike Hasuike for a smoothly run tournament.



TD Mike Hasuike doing the pairings. Photo credit: Brian Berger.

US National Junior Congress 2018

By Vijay Sankaran, Igor Shubin, and Stephan Jiang

San Jose, CA—March 10-11, 2018

The US National Junior Congress was held at Basis Independent Silicon Valley School, San Jose, California from March 10-11. Washington kids participated in U12, U10, and U8 sections representing the Seattle Chess Club. In a tightly contested tournament, all the players who were part of Seattle Chess Club team performed amazingly well with quite a bit of long games. Seattle Chess Club team was declared the clear winner in the U12 section convincingly with 11.5 points.

Daniel Shubin won the U12 section with a score of (4.5/5), with four wins and one draw and was declared a clear National Champion for U12 Section. Congratulations Daniel!

Also, contributing to the team's score in the U12 section were Advait Vijayakumar (4.0/5), tied for second place, and Anirudh Rajesh (3.0/5).

In the U10 section, Brandon Jiang scored 4.0/5 and tied for second place. Sayali Gijare finished the tournament with 2.0/5 and won some good games.

In the U8 section Mobius Williamson scored 3.0/5. This was his first national tournament and he played extremely well.

It was a great effort from the players of Washington. The team trophy will be located at the Seattle Chess Club.

**Aghilan Nachiappan (1832) –
Brandon Jiang (1836) [C50]**

US Junior Chess Congress
San Jose, CA (R4), March 11, 2018
[Ralph Dubisch]

**1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Nc3 g6 4.d4 exd4
5.Nxd4 Bg7 6.Be3 d6 7.Bc4?!**

7.Qd2 Nf6 8.f3 0-0 9.0-0-0±

7...Nf6



Position after 7...Nf6

8.0-0

Normal would be 8.f3 to prevent ...Ng4 and ...Nxe4 tactics, then 8...0-0 9.Qd2 Ne5 hits the bishop. 10.Be2 d5 and Black is certainly not worse.

The alternative 10.Bb3, trying to keep control of d5, meets 10...c5, forcing White into unfavorable complications to avoid serious material loss: 11.Nde2 c4 12.f4 and Black has a pleasant selection between putting one of his knights on g4 or taking b3, e.g. 12...Nfg4 (12...cxb3 13.fxe5 Ng4 is likely the same thing.; Or 12...Neg4 13.Bxc4 Re8!?∞) 13.fxe5 Nxe3 14.Qxe3 cxb3 15.axb3 dxe5

8...Bd7

8...0-0

9.f3 Qe7?!

On e7, the queen may be exposed to attack by Nd5 or play on the e-file.

10.a3?!

The point of this move is probably to retreat to a2 if attacked by ...Na5, but it's likely better to develop with 10.Qd2

10...0-0 11.Qd2 Rfd8?!

11...Nxd4 12.Bxd4 Be6, perhaps... but the game move proves to have some bite as well. See the note to Black's 14th.

12.Nde2

12.Rae1

12...Be6 13.Ba2?

While this might have made some sense if the bishop was attacked by a knight, here it guarantees White's recapturing piece on a2 will be misplaced — and control of d5 is lost, too. 13.Bxe6 fxe6 14.Bg5

13...Bxa2 14.Rxa2

[Diagram top of next page]

14...Ne5

14...d5!! and that odd rook move to d8 turns out to be brilliant. The tactical justification is 15.exd5? Nxd5! 16.Nxd5 (16.Ne4 Nc3! 17.Qe1 Nxa2; 16.Bd4 Nxd4 17.Nxd4 Ne3; 16.Bg5 Qc5+ 17.Kh1 Nxc3 18.Bxd8 Rxd8) 16...Rxd5! 17.Qxd5 Qxe3+ 18.Rf2? Rd8 skewering the queen to a mate on d1.



L-R: Daniel Shubin, Anirudh Rajesh, and Advait Vijayakumar.
Photo credit: Vijay Sankaran.



Position after 14.Rxa2

15.Bg5 c6 16.b3 Qf8

16...d5!?

17.Raa1 h6 18.Bf4 Kh7 19.Bxe5?

Opening the d-file for Black. The bad g7-bishop will activate via h6.

19...dxe5 20.Qe3 h5 21.a4 Bh6



Position after 21...Bh6

22.f4?

Panic. While 22.Qf2 Rd2 23.Rac1 does look pretty passive, Black still will need to prove the win.

22...Ng4 23.Qg3 Qc5+ 24.Kh1 Ne3

Or 24...exf4 25.Nxf4 Ne3

25.fxe5 Nxf1 26.Rxf1 Rd7 27.h4 Rad8

27...Re8

28.e6 fxe6 29.Rf6 Rg8 30.Rxe6 Rf7

30...Rd2

31.Re5



Position after 31.Re5

31...Qa3!

A great idea, heading for a1, that brings the game to a swift conclusion.

32.Qe1 Rgf8 33.Ng3 Bf4

33...Qd6!

34.Re6 Qc5 35.Nge2 Be5 36.Ng3 0-1

Advaith Vijayakumar (1847) –
Matt Bhattacharya (1669) [D91]

US Junior Congress 2018
San Jose, CA (R5), March 12, 2018
[Ralph Dubisch]

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 d5 4.Nf3 Bg7
5.Bg5

5.Qb3 dxc4 (5...c6 6.cxd5 cxd5 (6...Nxd5 7.e4 Nb6 8.Be3 Be6 9.Qc2 Bc4 has been seen a few times, but the knight on b6 feels misplaced.) 7.Bg5 Nc6 8.e3 and 8...e6 looks forced, which must make White happy.) 6.Qxc4 0-0 7.e4 Black has a wide range of possibilities here, and the game promises to be interesting for both players.

5...c6

5...Ne4 is the main move here, introducing early complications.

6.e3 0-0 7.Be2 Bf5 8.cxd5 cxd5 9.Qb3



Position after 9.Qb3

9...Be6?

This doesn't save the pawn, a tempo is wasted, and the bishop is passively placed for the coming gambit play. 9...Nbd7 is a better way to offer the gambit. 10.0-0 is the safe and sane choice.(10.Nxd5 Be6 11.Bxf6 exf6∞ White has some difficulties dealing with the pin.; 10.Qxb7 Rb8 11.Qxa7 Rxb2 at least offers more compensation than the game line.)

10.Qxb7 Nbd7 11.Bf4 Rc8 12.0-0 Nh5
13.Bg3 Nxg3 14.hxg3 Rb8 15.Qxa7
Rxb2 16.Rab1 Qb8



Position after 16...Qb8

17.Qa3! Rxb1 18.Rxb1 Qa8 19.Qxe7?
Rc8 20.Qb4 Rb8 21.Bb5 Bf5 22.Rb3
Bf8 23.Qa4 Qxa4 24.Bxa4 Rc8 25.Nxd5

Nb8 26.Rc3 Rd8 27.Bb3 Be4 28.Nf6+
Kg7 29.Nxe4 1-0

2018 Washington State Middle School Chess Champion

By Mahalakshmi Arasu

Pasco, WA—April 21, 2018

Congratulations to eighth grade Odle Middle School student Thiruvassagam Thirunavukkarasu for his win at the Washington State Chess Tournament, held on April 21 in Pasco, Washington. In addition to being named the 2018 Washington State Middle School Chess Champion, he was also awarded \$100 by the Washington Elementary Chess Championship (WECC) program.

Seventeen middle school players around Washington participated in four rounds of intense G90 dual rated chess games against players rated as high as 2000. Thiruvassagam won all his games including his win against the highest rated player.

Teddy Roberts (1707) –
Thiruvassagam Thirunavukkarasu
(1663) [A00]

WA Elementary CC (Middle School)
(R4), April 21, 2018

[Thiruvassagam Thirunavukkarasu]

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.exd5 exd5 4.c4

Inaccuracy, better move was 4.Nf3 because 4.c4 allows 4...Bb4+.

4...Nf6 5.Nc3 Bb4 6.Bd3 Be6 7.cxd5
Nxd5 8.Nge2 Nc6 9.0-0 Qd7

Inaccuracy, better move was 9...0-0.

10.Bb5



Position after 10.Bb5

This is a mistake because it is moving the bishop twice and not doing much because it can be kicked with ...a6 and then ...Nb6.

10...a6 11.Ba4 Nb6

This kicks the annoying bishop on a5.

12.Be3 0-0-0 13.a3 Bxc3 14.bxc3

Better move is Bxc6.



Thiruvasagam Thirunavukkarasu. Photo credit: James Stripes.

14...Rhe8 15.Re1 Bg4 16.h3 Bh5 17.Qb3 f6 18.Nf4 Bf7 19.Qd1 Nxa4 20.Qxa4 g5 21.Nd3!

Forcing a trade which simplifies the position.

21...Ne5 22.Qxd7+ Nxd7 23.Bd2 Nb6 24.Nb2 Nc4 25.Nxc4 Bxc4

Black chooses to trade off knights because he plays better in games with less pieces.

26.Rxe8 Rxe8

Again, trading off rooks to get a bishop and pawns endgame.

27.Re1 Rxe1+ 28.Bxe1 Kd7 29.g3 f5 30.Bd2 g4 31.hxg4 fxg4 32.Bf4 Kc6 33.Kg2 Be2



Position after 33...Be2

Trapping the white king on the four squares of g1, g2, h1, and h2. The only way to escape is to sac the f-pawn.

34.Bg5

Better move was 34.f3 sacrificing the f-pawn.

34...Kb5

The black king is planning on going to b3 and attacking both the a-pawn and the c-pawn and the only way for White to defend is to move the bishop to b4 which ends up being kicked with Black's a-pawn.

35.Be7 Kc4 36.Bb4 b6 37.Be7

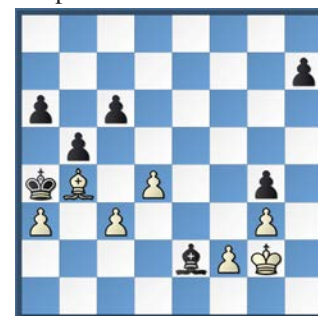
Planning on going to d8 and attacking Black's c- and b-pawns.

37...c6 38.Bd8 b5?

Let's the white bishop go to a5 and then b4. This weakens the position because the white bishop is on the black squares and b5 weakens the black squares.

39.Ba5 Kb3 40.Bb4 Ka4

Planning on moving ...a5 to kick the white bishop and moving ...Kb3 to get one of the white pawns.



Position after 40...Ka4

41.Kg1??

This is a blunder because this allows Black to kick the white bishop. Better move was 41.Bc5 because the only way for Black to get one of these pawns is to go ...Kb3, to which White will move Bb4. If Black goes 41...a5, White goes Bb6 which trades the a3-pawn for the a5-pawn.

41...a5 42.Bc5 Kb3 43.Bb6 a4 44.Bc5 Kxc3 45.f4 gxf3 46.Kf2 Kd3 47.Ke1



Position after 47.Ke1

47...Ke4

Good catch by Black because if 47...Ke3?? White can go 48.d5+ which ends in a draw.

48.Kd2 Kf5??

Blunder because White can recover and mostly likely end the game as a draw.

49.Ke3 Kg4 50.Kf2 h5 51.Be7 Kh3 52.Bh4??



Position after 52.Bh4

52.Bd6 is necessary because Black wants to go ...b4 and 52.Bd6 blocks this from happening. Black thinks that he can move ...h4 and trade off the pawns but Black cannot kick White's king from blocking the f-pawn.

52...b4 53.axb4

Now, Black wins by promoting the a-pawn and checkmating the white king.

53...Kg4 54.d5 cxd5 55.Bf6 a3 56.Be5 Kf5 57.Bc3 Ke4 58.Ba1 d4 59.b5 Bxb5 60.Bc3??

Speeds up Black's win.

60...dxc3 61.Kg1 a2 62.Kf2

White is thinking that a1=Q is a stalemate.

62...Be2 63.g4 a1Q 64.gxh5 Qf1+ 65.Kg3 Qg2+ 66.Kh4 f2 67.h6 Qg4# 0-1

Grand Pacific Open

**If you can't beat them,
confuse them**

By Naomi Bashkansky

Victoria, BC—March 30-April 2

From handling a live tarantula in the Bug Zoo to overloading my phone with pictures of the Butchart Gardens, I've always found things to do in Victoria when playing in the Grand Pacific Open. Chess just makes it more special. As I've played in the tournament four different times, my growing scores have a funny way of tracking my own growth as a chess player. This year, I ended with a bang, facing the highest rated player of the tournament himself: FM Jason Cao.

Going into the game, a saying from when I used to do debate popped in mind—if you can't beat them, confuse them—and although I've never heard the exact saying used in a chess context, it applies particularly well when facing someone much higher rated. When you



The Butchart Gardens. Photo credit: Guy Bashkansky.

play stronger opponents, you can't expect to beat them by doing nothing; slowly, they'll just outplay you. Instead, you have to complicate the position. Make them think twice and thrice in every position in fear of losing or drawing to someone much weaker.

It's a lottery where the odds are surely stacked against you. If you bet \$1,000 one dollar at a time, you'll almost definitely lose at least some money. If, however, you bet \$1,000 all at once, it might just be your lucky day.

With that mindset, I dived into the game.

**WIM Naomi Bashkansky (2080) –
FM Jason Cao (2423) [E48]
Grand Pacific Open
(R6), April 2, 2018
[Naomi Bashkansky]**

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 Bb4 4.e3 0-0 5.Bd3 d5 6.cxd5 exd5 7.Nge2 Re8 8.0-0 b6

A slight diversion of the usual response in the opening, but still playable.

9.f3 Bb7 10.g4

When the bishop is on c8, I take time to prepare this move. Here, there's no reason to waste time.

10...c5

Also not a very common idea—usually, Black moves the bishop to d6 or f8 before playing c5. Still, it's not bad.

11.a3 Bxc3 12.bxc3 Ba6

I played 12.bxc3 without thinking twice about it, figuring if he plays 12...Ba6 I'd respond with 13.Bb1, but now I realized that 13...cxd4 would have led to an awkward pawn structure and a not-so-good position.

13.Bxa6 Nxa6 14.Ng3

With both of his bishops gone, I planned to push my pawns to g5 and f6.

14...h6 15.h4 Qc7

Again, he plans to take on d4. It might've been better to continue with my attack, but I didn't want to give any compensation.

16.Ne2 Qd6 17.Qd3 Ne7 18.g5 Nd7



Position after 18...Nd7

18...Nh5 would've been better.

19.e4!?

Hurray for complications!

19...dxe4 20.fxe4 hxg5 21.hxg5 cxd4 22.cxd4 Qg6 23.Nc3 Rad8 24.Ra2 Ne5 25.Qe3 Nc6 26.Qg3

I probably should've played 26.Rh2 to keep on the attack, but I was scared to ruin what I saw would be a pretty decent endgame.

26...Qd6 27.Qxd6 Rxd6 28.Bf4 Rd7 29.d5 Ne5 30.Rd2 Na6 31.Bxe5 Rxe5 32.Rf5 Re8 33.g6!?

A spur of the moment decision that wouldn't have done much if he'd ignored it.

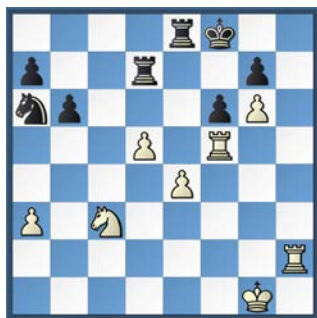
33...f6?

Now, I had a real advantage.

34.Rh2 Kf8??

[Diagram top of next page]

Finally, after tiring him out throughout



Position after 34...Kf8

the game, I got the blunder I was hoping for.

35.d6!! Rxd6 36.Nd5 Rxd5 37.Rh8+ Ke7 38.Rxe8+ Kxe8 39.exd5 Nc7 40.Kf2 Ke7 41.Ke3 a5 42.a4?!

Not the best decision in a winning endgame to push pawns, but not the worst.

42...Kd6 43.Ke4 Ke7 44.Rf2 b5 45.d6+! Kxd6 46.Rxf6+? Ne6

I'd been looking into the d6 and Rf6+ combo for many moves. Thinking that I was so clever and that I'd be able to win the g7 pawn, I completely missed that Ne6 stops my plan. If I play 47.Kf5, he can take 47...gxf6 and his knight's close enough to stop my g-pawn from promoting. Instead, I should've first played 46.axb5.

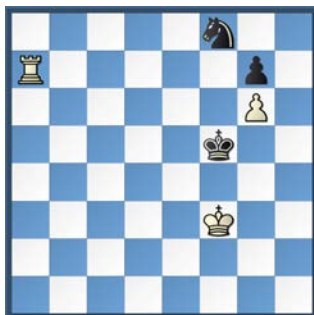
47.Rf5 bxa4?? 48.Rxa5 Nc5+

With his mistake, I should've had a pretty easy win after 49. Kf5! and going after the g-pawn. However, low on time, I slowly lost my win.

49.Ke3 Kd5 50.Ra7 Ne6 51.Rxa4??

Allowing 51...Ke5 was my final mistake. Now, it was an easy draw.

51...Ke5 52.Ra5+ Kf6 53.Ra6 Kf5 54.Kf3 Nf8 55.Ra7



Position after 55.Ra7

55...Nxb6?!

He said after the game that he took with the knight because he was confident he could draw, but if he'd taken with the king, I probably would've just saved everyone the trouble and taken on g7 anyways.

56.Rxg7 Ne5+

Since there was no way for me to lose and we both were playing on the 30-second increment, I decided to test him on his endgame skills for a while longer.

57.Ke3 Ng4+ 58.Kd4 Nf6 59.Rf7 Ke6 60.Ra7 Kf5 61.Ra5+ Ke6 62.Rb5 Nd7 63.Ke4 Nf6+ 64.Kf4 Nd5+ 65.Kg5 Ke5 66.Ra5 Ke4 67.Ra1 Ke5 68.Re1+ Kd4 69.Re8 Ne3 70.Kf4 Nd5+ 71.Kf5 Ne3+ 72.Ke6 Nc4 73.Rd8+ Ke4 74.Rh8 Kd4 75.Rh7 Kc5 76.Rd7 Nb6 77.Rd6 Nc4 78.Rd5+ Kc6 79.Rh5 Nb6 80.Rh8 Kc5 81.Rh7 Nc4 82.Rb7 Kd4 83.Rc7

and I offered a draw.

1/2-1/2

Though my attempts to confuse him were successful, I couldn't outplay him in the end.

You'd think that would've been my favorite part of the tournament—my almost-win against a FIDE Master. However, truth be told, my favorite part was a mere hour later, during the prize ceremony. I'd gotten prizes from the Grand Pacific Open before, but I'd always left early and received the prize by check.

Imagine my surprise when I realized that Canadian money was quite a bit more colorful than American money.

Washington vs. Oregon Challenge Match



July 13-15, 2018

Seattle Chess Club



Format: Two 5-round Scheveningen team matches. All games will be dual US Chess and FIDE rated.

Sections:

- WA vs. OR A (2000+)
- WA vs. OR B (1600-1999)

Register: nwchess.com/OnlineRegistration

Each team will be comprised of the top 10 highest rated players (US Chess June supplement) from WA + OR who confirm by the deadline of June 30th.

Organizers: Josh Sinanan on behalf of WA, Isaac Vega on behalf of OR.

TD: Fred Kleist, Senior TD, FIDE NA

Questions? Josh Sinanan, (206) 769-3757, joshsinanan@gmail.com



Left to right, front: Kate Jiang, WIM Agnieszka Matras-Clement, NM Valeria Gansvind, WIM Naomi Bashkansky, missing Anna Van; back: Brian Raymer (organizer), Paul Leblanc (organizer), Elliot Raymer (TD). Photo credit: Guy Bashkansky.

Vancouver Open

August 11-12, 2018

Site: Hampton Inn & Suites, 315 SE Olympia Drive, Vancouver, WA 98684. 360-891-3000.

HR: \$169 Standard King/Double Queen.

Format: A 5-round Swiss in two sections: Open and Reserve (under 1800).

Time Control: Rd 1: G/60, d10, Rds 2-5: 40/120, SD/30, d10. US Chess August 2018 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: \$2,500 (based on 60 paid entries).

Open: 1st \$400, 2nd \$300, 3rd 250
1st U2200/U2000: \$150, Biggest Upset: \$75

Reserve: 1st \$300, 2nd \$200, 3rd \$150
1st U1600/U1400/U1200: \$150, Biggest Upset: \$75

Entry Fee: \$75 if postmarked or online by 8/5, \$85 after 8/5 or at site. Free entry for GMs, IMs, WGMs.

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

Rounds: Saturday 10:00 AM, 12:30 PM, 6:00 PM; Sunday 10:00 AM, 3:30 PM.

Byes: Two half-point byes available, request before end of round 2. US Chess and WCF/OCF/ICA memberships required, other states accepted. US Chess Grand Prix Points: 12. US Chess Junior Grand Prix event. Northwest Chess Grand Prix event.

Entries: Make checks payable to Washington Chess Federation.

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

Phone: 425-218-7529. **Email:** danomathews01@gmail.com.

Online Registration: www.nwchess.com/online-registration.

2nd Annual Seattle Chess Classic

August 15-19, 2018



Seattle Chess Club

2150 North 107th Street, Seattle, WA 98133

A 9-round Swiss in two sections: Open and Reserve (U2000)

Entry fees:

Open:

Rating	Entry Fee before 8/8	After 8/8 or at site
US Chess Rating 2400+ or GM/IM/WGM/WIM	Free entry	\$100
2000-2399	\$200	\$250
1999 and below	\$400	\$450

Reserve: \$150 by 8/8, \$175 after or at site.

Schedule:

Wednesday 8/15	Check-in & Round 1	6:45pm & 7pm
Thursday 8/16	Round 2 & 3	11am & 6pm
Friday 8/17	Round 4 & 5	11am & 6pm
Saturday 8/18	Round 6 & 7	11am & 6pm
Sunday 8/19	Round 8 & 9	11am & 6pm
Sunday 8/19	Closing Ceremony + Blitz Tournament	~10pm & ASAP

Time Control: 100 minutes for the first 40 moves followed by 30 minutes for the rest of the game with an addition of 30 seconds per move starting from move one. Late Default: 60 minutes.

Rating: Higher of US Chess August 2018 supplement or foreign ratings used at TD discretion. Both sections US Chess rated, Open section also FIDE rated. Maximum capacity of 60 players.

Prizes: (based on 60 paid entries)

Open: 1st \$1000, 2nd \$750, 3rd \$550, U2400/U2250/U2100: 1st \$500, 2nd \$350

Reserve: 1st \$600, 2nd \$450, 3rd \$350, U1900/U1750/U1600/U1450: 1st \$300, 2nd \$200

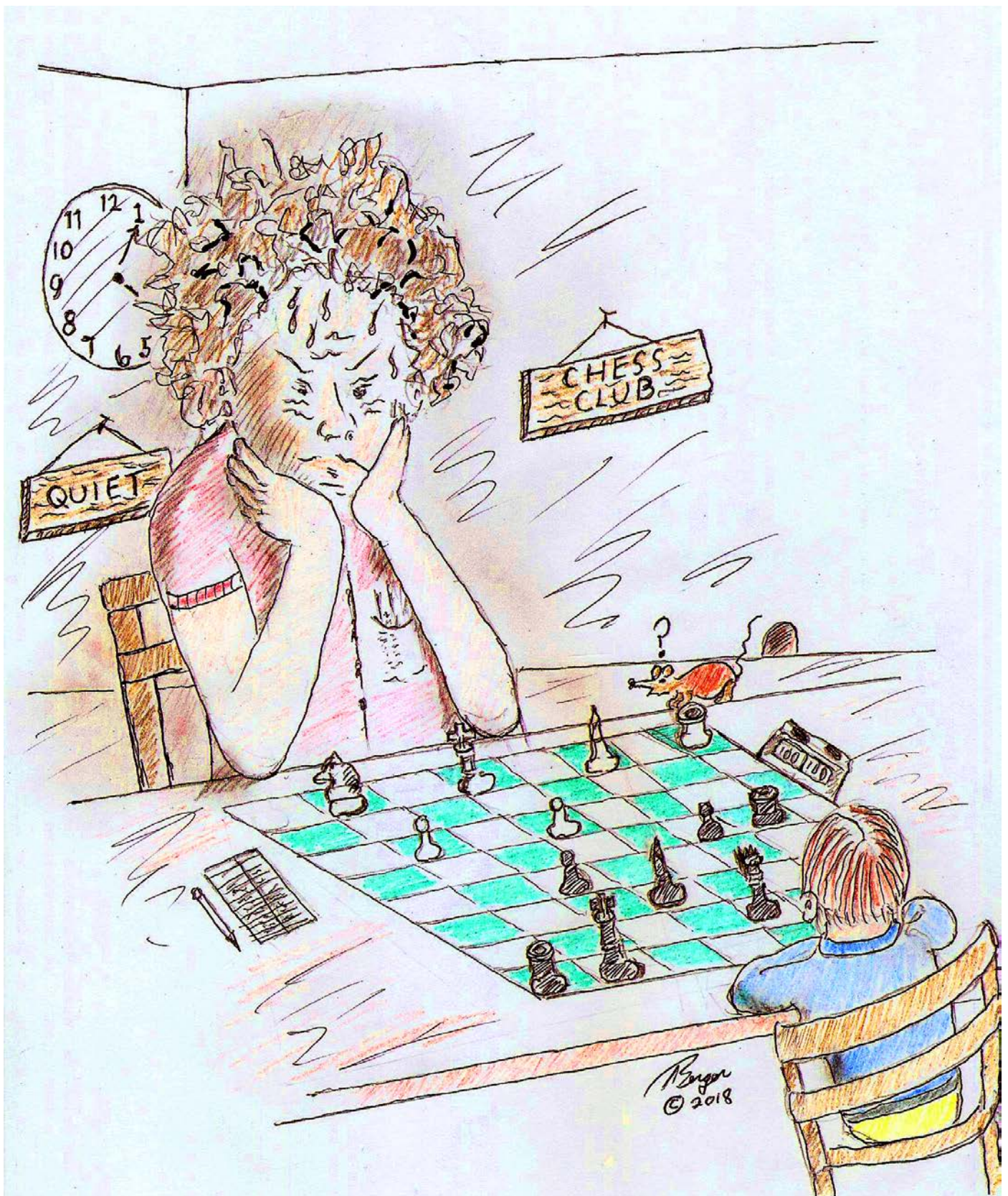
Special prizes: Top Female & Top Senior: \$150 per section, Biggest upset & Best game: \$50 per round
Best dress for man, woman & junior (under 18 years old): \$25 per day.

Byes: 2 half-point byes available for rounds 1-9 if announced before the start of round 2.

Registration: Please register online at <http://nwchess.com/OnlineRegistration/>. The deadline to register is Tuesday 8/14.

Chief Organizer: Josh Sinanan, WCF President, 206-769-3757, joshsinanan@gmail.com

Tournament Director: Fred Kleist, US Chess Senior TD, National FIDE Arbiter



**HAVING REACHED THE LEVEL OF A B-PLAYER,
HERBERT NOW FACED HIS MOST FEARED OPPONENT,
UNRATED "LITTLE" JOHNNY.**

The 2018 John Braley Memorial Northwest Chess Grand Prix

Murlin Varner, Administrator

mevjr54@outlook.com

Oregon's Master list includes two brand new masters, Owen McCoy and Joshua Grabinsky. Welcome to the top group guys. Meanwhile, we are up to three active masters in Washington. I expect that to change the end of May with the 6x, \$10,000 guaranteed prize fund Washington Open in Lynnwood Memorial Day weekend. April added seven events to our total, including two multipliers. May adds seven more, including the intriguingly named Penguin Extravaganza. The above mentioned Washington Open is the only event in May carrying a multiplier. A very nice multiplier, at that. Looking ahead, June has only six Grand Prix events, three in Portland and three in Seattle, with the 2x Emerald City Open at the Seattle Chess Club the only multiplier event. If you can make your way to the west coast, there is an event or two every weekend in a month with five. Come play.

Every month I update all the ratings for all the players in my Grand Prix database, as class prizes are determined by the peak rating in a year. When doing this, I learn other things about our players. This month I learned that H. G. Pitre now calls California his home. I also learned that sometime in the recent past we lost constant player James Waugh. Waugh was a reliable player for the Spokane Chess Club. I know nothing of when he died, or the circumstances thereof, but I see that his last tournament was two years ago this month (May) at the Inland Empire Open. His tournament history shows 466 rated events since 1991. James was a very busy chess player, and must be missed. For every player we honor with this Grand Prix, there are always many others who pass with less notice. I am sure there are more names in my database who have passed away, but US Chess never learned of it as the players' memberships had lapsed. If you know of someone who has died, and US Chess is unaware of it, please let me know. I will pass the word along.

Frequently, we get players from outside the three state area visiting at some of our tournaments. Most of these visitors hail from Montana and Canada. Recently, Michael Abron of Ohio played in three of our events, the Idaho Open in Pocatello, the PCC Quads in Portland, and the Clark Harmon Memorial in Seattle. In doing so, Abron gained 22 Grand Prix points, and can add three states to his chess tour. Many players have made it their goal to play in every state (I have 21 so far), I am only guessing that Mr. Abron may be one of us.

All data current through May 4.

2018 Memorial Northwest Grand Prix Standings

Idaho			Oregon			Washington		
last	first	pts.	last	first	pts.	last	first	pts.
			Masters					
			1 Breckenridge	Steven J	18	1 Perez	Ignacio	61.5
			2 Grabinsky	Joshua	13	2 Pupols	Viktors	46.5
			3 Zavortink	Matt	12	3 Sang	Tian	16.5
			4 McCoy	Owen	11			
			5 Cigan	Jason D	7			
M/X/Class A			Experts					
1 Inman	James	37	1 Kelley	Dereque D	20	1 Mahajan	Rushaan	38.5
2 Cambareri	Michael E	29	2 Donnell	Brian G	15	2 Lee	Addison	36
3 Machin	Alex J	12.5	2 Richardson	Ryan	15	3 Yu	Jason	30.5
4 Nathan	Jacob A	8	4 Cosner	Karl	14	4 Arganian	David G	21
5 Kircher	Caleb P	7	5 Bjorksten	Lennart	12	5 Julian	John	18
Class B			Class A					
1 Martonick	Nick	16.5	1 Nair	Roshen S	35	1 Fagundes	Frank	62.5
2 Derryberry	Dewayne R	11.5	2 Moore	Michael	34.5	2 Levine	Joseph R	47.5
2 Roland	Jeffrey T	11.5	3 Vega	Isaac	33	3 Beck	Alec W	46
4 Machakos	Seth D	11	4 Rachmuth	Moshe S	31.5	4 Tien	Sophie J	42.5
5 Saltaga	Samir	7	5 Botez	Andrea C C	24.5	5 Anand	Vignesh	38

Idaho			Oregon			Washington						
last	first	pts.	last	first	pts.	last	first	pts.				
Class C			Class B									
1	Rainey	Samuel W	24	1	Tang	Zoey	36.5	1	Levy	Avi	42	
2	Geyman	Jonathan P	23.5	2	Wu	Abbie	31	2	Kaelin	Alex	30	
3	Weyland	Ron	13.5	3	Berger	Brian F	28.5	3	Van Heemstede	Obelt	Walter F	25
4	Mason	Dusty G	9.5	4	Erard	Eric C	26.5	4	Three Tied at		22.5	
5	Two Tied at		5.5	5	Yeo	Austin S	24					
Class D			Class C									
1	Merry	William A F	20	1	Beauchet	Pierre-Hadrien	38.5	1	Piper	August	61	
2	Porth	Adam	10.5	2	Tang	Austin	37.5	2	Goktepe	Derin	47	
2	Shepard	River C	10.5	3	Dietz	Arliss	31	3	Gupta	Anand	44.5	
4	Zaklan	David A	7	4	Sripada	Havish	25.5	4	Raffel	Brian	41	
4	Kitterman	Andrew N	5	5	Roshu	David L	21	4	Min	Ryan	40.5	
Class E and Below			Class D and Below									
1	Geyman	Josiah B	15	1	Kenway	Geoffrey W	21.5	1	Henderson	Doug	40.5	
2	Mason	Brandon	9	2	Morrissey	Patrick W	19	2	Ruff	Lois	36	
2	Porth	Darwin A	9	3	Schuff	Thomas	15	3	Richards	Jerrold	33.5	
2	Wetmur	Harold R	9	4	Kong	John	12	4	Eswar	Ritesh	25.5	
5	Olson	Otto W	7.5	4	Lykins	Pace	12	5	Two Tied At		22.5	
Overall Leaders, by State												
1	Inman	James	37	1	Beauchet	Pierre-Hadrien	38.5	1	Fagundes	Frank	62.5	
2	Cambareri	Michael E	29	2	Tang	Austin	37.5	2	Perez	Ignacio	61.5	
3	Rainey	Samuel W	24	3	Tang	Zoey	36.5	3	Piper	August	61	
4	Geyman	Jonathan P	23.5	4	Nair	Roshen S	35.0	4	Levine	Joseph R	47.5	
5	Merry	William A F	20	5	Moore	Michael	34.5	5	Goktepe	Derin	47	
6	Martonick	Nick	16.5	6	Vega	Isaac	33.0	6	Pupols	Viktors	46.5	
7	Geyman	Josiah B	15	7	Rachmuth	Moshe S	31.5	7	Beck	Alec W	46	
8	Weyland	Ron	13.5	8	Dietz	Arliss	31.0	8	Gupta	Anand	44.5	
9	Machin	Alex J	12.5	8	Wu	Abbie	31.0	9	Tien	Sophie J	42.5	
10	Derryberry	Dewayne R	11.5	10	Berger	Brian F	28.5	10	Levy	Avi	42	
10	Roland	Jeffrey T	11.5	11	Erard	Eric C	26.5	11	Raffel	Brian	41	
12	Machakos	Seth D	11	12	Sripada	Havish	25.5	12	Henderson	Doug	40.5	

*Supporting and promoting chess related activities
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WCF @ the SCC

Seattle Masters Series	June 2, July 7
GM Summer Camp 1	June 25-29
Kings vs Princes 6	June 30-July 1
GM Summer Camp 2	July 9-13
OR vs. WA Match	July 13-15
GM Summer Camp 3	Aug. 6-10
Seattle Classic	Aug. 15-19

SCC Fridays

Typical Friday fare is one round of an ongoing tournament (free to SCC members, \$5 per night for others; no prizes) played at a rate of 40/90 followed by 30/60. Drop in for any round!

It's Summertime!: 6/1, 8, 15, 22, 29.
Hot as Hades: 7/6, 13, 20, 27.
Dog Days: 8/3, 10, 17, 24, 31.

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.

☞ **June 3, July 8 New Date** **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. **Byes:** 1 (Rd 3/4-commit at reg.). **Misc:** US Chess, WCF/OCF/ICA memb. req'd, OSA, NS, NC.

☞ **June 9, July 21 New Date** **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.

July 22 New Date **SCC Novice**
Format: 4-SS. Open to U1200 and UNR. **TC:** G/75; d5. **EF:** \$11 by 7/18, \$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.

WooHoo!!
 You can now register online for full-weekend SCC tournaments and make your tax-deductable donations at www.seattlechess.club

Emerald City Open

June 15-17 or June 16-17

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

a Northwest Grand Prix event

	Open		Reserve (U1700)
First	\$250	First	\$175
Second	\$160	Second	\$110
U1950	\$120	U1450	\$80
		Unr	\$25
		Upset (rds 1-4) \$20	

Entry Fees: \$36 if rec'd by 6/13, \$45 at site. **SCC members**—subtract \$10. Members of other dues-required CCs in BC, ID, OR, and WA—subtract \$5. **Unr**—free with purchase of 1-year US Chess and WCF. **Add \$1 to any EF for 2-day schedule.**

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

Rounds: Fri. 8, Sat. (10 @ G/60;d5)-12:30-6:45, Sun. 11-5.

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

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

Upcoming Events

♣ denotes 2018 Northwest Grand Prix event; for Seattle Chess Club events see page 30

♣ **Jun 9-10** Portland Summer Open, **Portland, OR**. Site: Portland Chess Club, 8205 SW 24th Ave, Portland, OR 97219. Two sections—Open and Reserve (U1800), 4-round Swiss, G/90;inc30, one half point bye is available if requested before round one, US Chess rated. On-site reg: 9-9:45am, Rds: 10am and 2:45pm each day. Rounds 2 and 4 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: \$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, (503) 246-2978. Note: Same details are valid for Spring, Summer and Winter Opens unless otherwise announced.

Jun 24 Boise Chess Club #19, **Boise, ID**. 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. 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. Donations gladly accepted!

♣ **Jun 24/Jul 15** Portland CC Sunday Quads, **Portland, OR**. Site: Portland Chess Club, 8205 SW 24th Ave., Portland, OR - Map. 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/50;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. Phone: (503) 246-2978.

Jun 25-29, Jul 9-13, Jul 30-Aug 3, Aug 6-10 Seattle GM Summer Camps, **Seattle, WA**. (Full-Page Ad page 17)

♣ **Jun 30** ICA Player’s Memorial, **Mountain Home, ID**. 4SS, Time Control: G/30; d0. Sections: Open. Site: Mountain Home Public Library, 790 N 10th E St, Mountain Home, Idaho. US Chess Rated, ICA Membership req’d. EF: Free Pre-registration! \$10 at door. Check in: 9-9:30 am. Rd. times: 10am continuous until 5 pm. 1/2 pt bye avail: Max 1, Rds. 1-3 only. Request before Rd. is paired. Prizes: 1st-3rd prizes & Top Scholastic chess equipment. Details: idahochessassociation@gmail.com, Online registration at www.idahochessassociation.com, (208) 450-9048.

♣ **Jun 30/Jul 28** Portland CC Game in 60, **Portland, OR**. Site: Portland Chess Club, 8205 SW 24th Ave., Portland, OR - Map. 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. Phone: (503) 246-2978.

♣ **Jul 7-8** 4th Annual Rose City Sectionals, **Portland, OR**. Site: Portland Chess Club, 8205 SW 24th Ave, Portland, OR 97219. 4-round Swiss in four sections, Open, U1900, U1600, U1300. The “live” US Chess regular ratings are usually used for section eligibility, pairings, and prize eligibility. If there are multiple players with a full point bye, these players will be paired together for a rated game which counts for tournament score purposes for the player in the higher section. TC: G/90;inc30. One half point bye is available if requested before round one. US Chess and NWSRS rated. On-site reg: 9-9:45am. Rds: 10am and 2:45pm each day. Rounds 2 and 4 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: \$45, \$35 for PCC members. Add \$10 for each section you play up. Pay by cash or check payable to Portland Chess Club. US Chess membership is required and can be purchased during registration. Prizes (\$1500 b/50): Open: 1st-\$185, 2nd-\$115, 3rd-\$75, 1st U2050-\$75; U1900: 1st-\$160, 2nd-\$100, 3rd-\$65, 1st U1750-\$65; U1600: 1st-\$140, 2nd-\$90, 3rd-\$60, 1st U1450-\$60; U1300: 1st-\$120, 2nd-\$80, 3rd-\$55, 1st U1150-\$55. Unrated players are eligible for all of the prizes. Bonus prizes: Any player who goes 4-0 will receive a \$35 discount on the entry fee into next year’s Rose City Sectionals. Any scholastic player who scores at least 2.5 will be able to select a trophy. OSCF State qualifier. More info. at pdxchess.org, (503) 246-2978.

Jul 13-15 Washington vs. Oregon Challenge Match, **Seattle, WA**. (Half-Page Ad page 24)

♣ **Jul 14** ICA Summer Classic, **Boise, ID**. 4SS, Time Control: G/45; d5. Sections: Open (USChess rated). Site: Simplot Ballroom, Student Union Bldg. Boise State University, 1910 University Dr., Boise, Idaho 83725. US Chess and ICA membership req’d, Other states acceptable. EF: Free for pre-registration! \$10 at door. Check in: 9-9:30 am. Rd. times: 10am, continuous until 6pm. Maximum one half-point bye, Rounds 1-3, commit before round is paired. 0-point bye round 4. Prizes: 1st - 3rd place prizes. Top Scholastic & Raffle prize!! Tie-break Order: Solkoff, Median, Opponent’s Cumulative, Modified Median. Chess Sets & clocks not provided. No Insufficient Losing Chances rule. TD: Jeffrey Roland & Alise Pemsler. Details: idahochessassociation@gmail.com, Online registration at www.idahochessassociation.com.

♣ **Aug 11-12** Vancouver Open, Vancouver, WA. (Half-Page Ad page 25)

♣ **Aug 15-19** 2nd Annual Seattle Chess Classic, **Seattle, WA**. (Full-Page Ad page 26)

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