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Jerrold Richards and Morgan the Dog at the Rose City  
Sectionals. Photo credit: Brian Berger.

## On the back cover:

Drew Machin showing his chess tattoo.  
Photo credit: Jeffrey Roland.

## Chesstoons:

Chess cartoons drawn by local artist Brian Berger,  
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## From The Editor's Desk

This is my 70th issue as editor. I tried a little experiment on the front and back cover photos. I think some of you will like it, and others maybe will not. I think most chess players do understand the need to try new things though.

I am very pleased to be able to put in the Washington Closed brilliancy prize games. There were some very fine games and be sure to check out the analysis of Ralph Dubisch on the top brilliancy game from the Championship section.

Aaron Grabinsky achieved his third and final IM norm at the Philadelphia International and provided all nine games to us, with the first six annotated by him.

We have the usual wit of an awe-inspired Brian Berger and his take on the recent perfect score from Jerrold Richards at the Rose City Sectionals.

And there are a host of other things all packed into 32 pages! I hope you all enjoy this issue. As always, it's a little different. But then again, the Northwest Chess community itself is pretty special and different too!

Please don't forget to submit games, articles, photos, etc. to [editor@nwchess.com](mailto:editor@nwchess.com).

— Jeffrey Roland

# ICA Summer Classic

By Jeffrey Roland

The ICA Summer Classic was held July 14, 2018 at the BSU Student Union Building in Boise. Jeffrey Roland was Chief Tournament Director with Alise Pemsler and Adam Porth assisting. The event was rated by U.S. Chess, entry was free, and the time control was Game/45;d5.

Thirty players attended this year's event. A whopping 20 players were scholastic players—that's 2/3 of the playing field. Participation in at least two open ICA tournaments is one way students can qualify to play in the scholastic finals later in the school year.

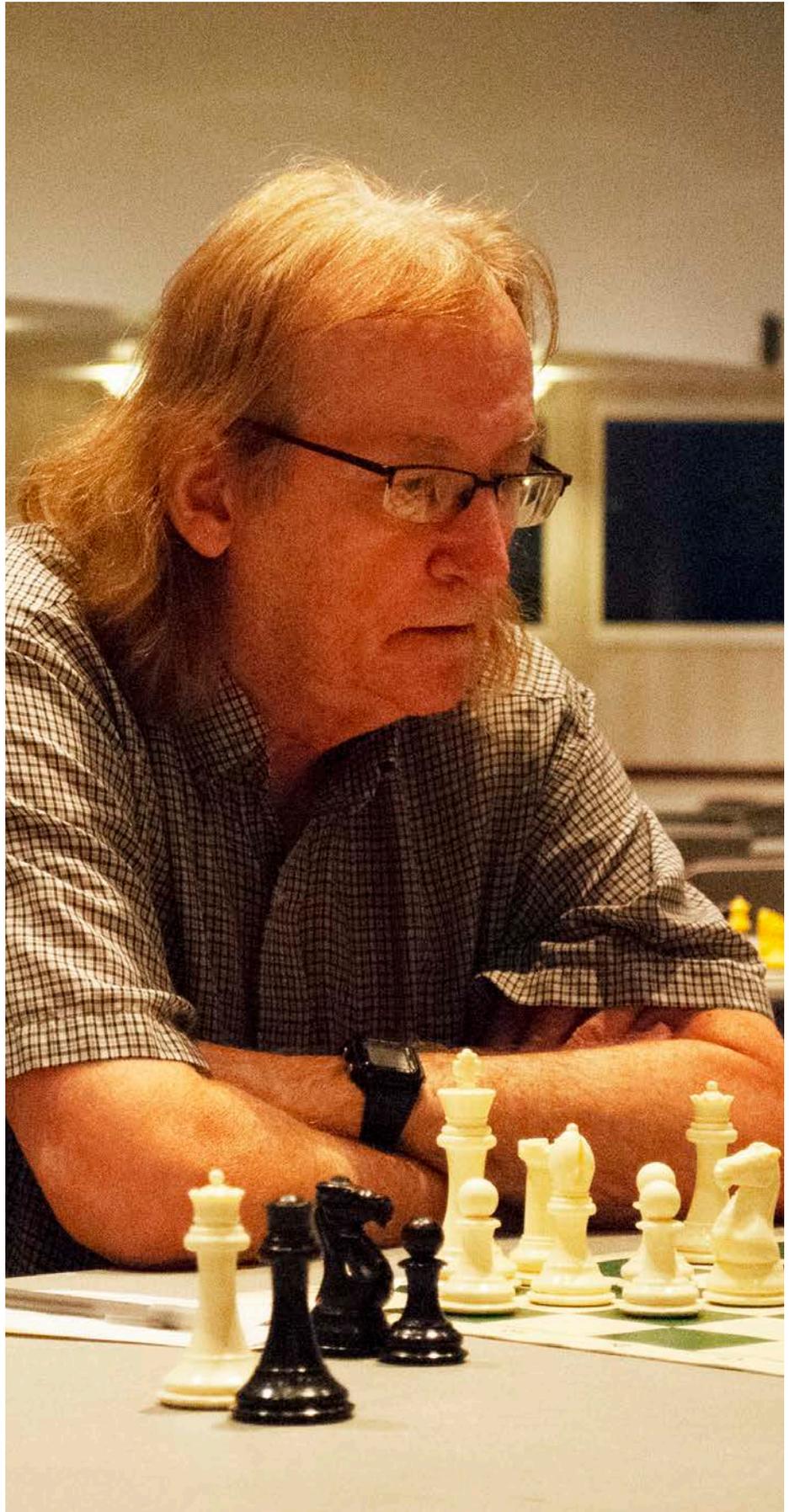
Due to some faulty score sheets that we broke out to use in round three (they didn't produce legible copies), we found a way to scan all the score sheets of every player with the printer/scanner. While this is a common function with most printers in the 21st century, we never thought to actually do this before now. Since Adam Porth was taking the score sheets with him to store in the ICA vault up north at the conclusion of the tournament, we needed these scans to work with the games for the magazine and website.

DeWayne Derryberry (1717-1730—4.0/4) took clear first place, and James Liu (1444-1460—3.0/4), a scholastic player, was second place on tie-breaks. Peter Clark (1379-1396—3.0/4) was third on tie-breaks, and Justin He (1322-1343—3.0/4), won the award for Top Scholastic Player (since James Liu won second place overall, this prize belongs to Justin). Tie-break order was Solkoff, Median, Opponent's Cumulative, and finally Modified Median.

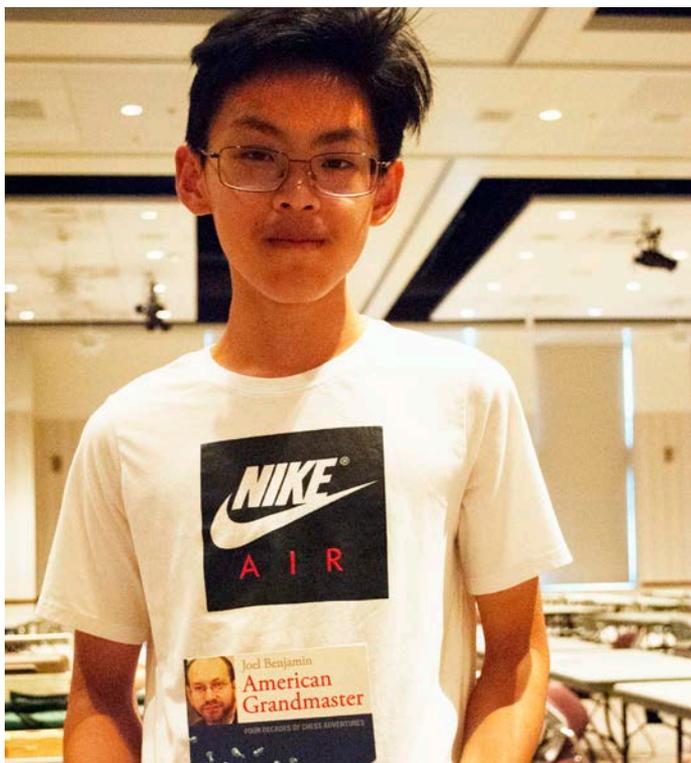
There was a drawing held to determine who would win a digital chess clock that was being raffled out as a special prize too. The winner of the drawing was Brian Lang, but since Brian already owned a chess clock, he graciously donated the clock to another player who didn't have a clock—Joel Jacob was the happy recipient!

I would like to thank the Chess Club at BSU for hosting this event. And while he couldn't attend personally, BSU Chess Club President Jameson Tang did a great job getting the site set up while he was away for summer break across the country.

It was a pleasure to be TD for this event. It was great working with Alise Pemsler and Adam Porth, and I felt a lot of great positive energy coming from the players who very obviously had a great time.



*1st Place - DeWayne Derryberry. Photo credit: Jeffrey Roland.*



2nd Place - James Liu.  
Photo credit: Adam Porth.



3rd Place - Peter Clark.  
Photo credit: Adam Porth.



L-R: Joel Jacob, Brian Lang. Photo credit: Adam Porth.

# 4th Annual Rose City Sectionals

By Brian Berger

Break out the champagne; Rev up the band; declare a holiday in honor of; design a special trophy (gold plated, encrusted with precious gems); supply Wikipedia with biographical background; notify the news networks of a possible story of the century (absolutely not FAKE news); erect a statue to be placed in the Chess Hall of Fame. The impossible dream became partly manifest in the four straight wins that Jerrold “I Just Want To Reach 1600 Before It’s Over” Richards (1320-1528—4.0/4) accomplished during the 4th Annual Rose City Sectionals, held at the Portland Chess Club, over the 7th and 8th of July.

Playing in the U1600 section against a field of 15 opponents, the man who has yearned for so long to prove he **could** improve, took a giant step forward in seeking to be a B-player before the “Grim Reaper” takes notice of his expiration date. That giant step upped his rating 208-points! And it placed him enticingly close to his hoped for goal of 1600, a goal Morgan the Dog has been preparing Richards for, for what seems (to Morgan) an eternity.

More about this momentous happening further on. But first, a bit more background on this tournament, that drew a record crowd of 50 players on a warm, July weekend. Billed as a four-round Swiss in four sections—Open, U1900, U1600, U1300— with a prize fund of \$1500, based on a 50 player field, with a time control of Game 90, increment 30, and overseen by Organizer and Chief TD Micah Smith, together with Assistant Chief TD Lennart Bjorksten, helped further by TD Geoff Kenway, it will be a tournament not soon forgotten by those in attendance.

That 50-player field had a particular significance for Chief TD Micah Smith; it was his first tournament where he oversaw such a large turnout. Certified as a “Local



(L) Cassandra Roshu vs Jerrold Richards. Photo credit: Brian Berger.

TD,” five such tournaments of at least 50-players will give him the opportunity to become a “Senior TD,” allowing him to FIDE rate tournaments, and to oversee much larger tournaments.

Playing up was an option, if you wanted to pay the extra ten dollars to do so, and as I figured that any section 1600 and below was perilous to my rating (which had been fast slipping downward), I, Brian “I’m Just Glad To Be Here” Berger (1500-1500—0.5/4) chose the U1900, that turned out to be as much of a disaster as I had imaged the lower section would be.

The half point I earned on a first round draw against David Roshu (1725-1665—0.5/4) would be my only claim to fame (coincidentally, also Roshu’s, who had such a great result in June’s Game 60—see last month’s issue). Afterwards, although feeling good about my play, I managed to turn two winning positions into lost games, and felt I was fairly

beaten in my fourth against little Abbie Wu (1610-1630—2.0/4), who cleverly found a chink in my armor.

Regarding Jerrold Richards’ sweep of the U1600, it was not a standalone achievement, as David Bannon (1886-1919—4.0/4) racked up a perfect score in the U1900 (earning him the \$160 first place prize), and Lucas Baker (760P-1097P—4.0/4), a provisional player, did likewise in the U1300, giving him \$120 in first place prize money, and upping his rating by 337-points! The added bonus for all of these winners was the \$35 discount earned against next year’s entrance fee to the Sectionals, that given their fine performance this year, all will be anxious to utilize.

Before I return to Jerrold Richards’ momentous achievement, other winners in the above mentioned sections were: Duncan Soiffer (1569-1676—3.0/4), David Murray (1826-1822—2.5/4), Chris Burris (1726-1746—2.5/4), Austin Tang



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*(L) Owen McCoy vs Ryan Richardson. Photo credit: Brian Berger.*

(1491-1570—2.5/4) and Yu-Cheng Liang (1509-1535—2.5/4) of Washington—Soiffer taking second in the U1900, earning \$100 for his two wins and two draws, plus adding 107-points to his rating, and the right to select a trophy as a scholastic player who scored at least 2.5/4. While in the same section, the other four players split third overall and first U1750, each receiving \$32.50 as their cut, with Tang and Liang also receiving trophies.

The U1600 section, as mentioned, had Richards winning, gaining him \$140 in first place prize money, while Neena Feldman (1416-1459—3.0/4) and Patrick Morrissey (1145-1351—3.0/4) split second and third place, each receiving a \$75 payoff (Morrissey gaining 206! points in the process, while Feldman declined to take a trophy). Also splitting prize money were Egan Wong (1429-1416—2.0/4), Nikhil Samudrala (1384-1384—2.0/4) and Geoff Kenway (1334-1345—2.0/4),

for first U1450, working out to \$20 each.

Besides the money won by Lucas Baker for his sweep of the U1300, there was \$67.50 each awarded to Sammy Davis (1187P-1129P—3.0/4) and Tanay Arora (890P-947P—3.0/4) for splitting second and third place (Arora also winning a trophy), and \$27.50 each given to Vimal Adiraju (937P-931—2.0/4) and Arthur Yang (280-304—2.0/4) for splitting first U1150.

**Please remember to keep submitting games, articles, photos, etc. to [editor@nwchess.com](mailto:editor@nwchess.com).**

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(L) Moshe Rachmuth vs Lennart Bjorksten. Photo credit: Brian Berger.

The Open section saw Eugene-based Master Owen McCoy (2200-2213—3.5/4) capture the overall first place prize of \$185, held to a draw in the fourth round by Ryan Richardson (2000-2013—2.5/4), who took first in the U2050 and pocketed \$75. The second and third place prizes were split between Phillip Seitzer (2084-2100—3.0/4) and Konner Feldman (1808-1842—3.0/4), both receiving \$95.

Getting back to Jerrold Richards and Morgan the Dog, no one can appreciate more than this writer the significance of this perfect performance by the duo from Washington, who himself has been struggling in somewhat the same manner to become an A-player, but without the help of a chess savvy companion like Morgan. Morgan's part in this historical, overall win cannot be underestimated, as he has burnt the midnight oil in countless, pre-tournament preparation sessions, trying to prepare Richards for just such a landmark day.

Richards, on the other hand, seems ready to claim the success rests entirely on himself, forgetting the many thousands of hours Morgan has painstakingly given of his knowledge, asking nothing of his companion but an occasional beef-bone, belly rub, and to be taken to meet his legion of fans at the Portland Chess Club—there, also to meet the guy who slips him Wendy's chicken nuggets and french fries.

To prove my point, Richards offered this response when asked for the secret of his winning ways: "For a few years I've been saying that if I could find an

hour or two a week for chess study, I'd improve. Well this year I have indeed been doing this... (by) working on my preferred openings, on tactics, middle game concepts, and endgame concepts."

"I think mainly though I'm benefiting from working on one of my deficiencies, the tendency to get hasty. I'll be working on some brilliant concept over in one corner, all focused on that, and oops, lose a hanging rook waaaay over in the other corner. So now I'm trying before every

single move to review the entire board for hanging pieces, other obvious perils, and simple tactics dangers. I'll say my 4.0...was based on this more consistent approach. In none of the games did I drop a piece from being too hasty and not noticing something obvious."

Is that not a clear example of short-term memory? Did anyone hear the name of Morgan the Dog mentioned in that chest-thumping, self-congratulatory series of remarks? Ah, the work of the weary is so soon forgotten, mid the din of fame and applause. But as I know Richards as a friend, and know how much he loves and respects Morgan, I believe this was but a momentary oversight, his memory clouded in the wake of his stunning success. And that the oversight will be redressed with heaps of praise and a hambone when they reach their abode in the Columbia Gorge.

## Play over- the-board Tournament Chess!



A view of the playing room. Photo credit: Brian Berger.

# US Chess National Senior Invitational

By Michael Presutti

Who says there is no luck in chess?

On June 9, 2018 the Idaho State Chess Association held a Senior Open Chess Tournament at Boise State University to determine who would represent Idaho at the first ever US Chess Senior Invitational Chess Tournament. This prestigious national tournament would be comprised of the qualifying senior tournament winner from each state. As you might expect, the list of participants from the large population states read like a veritable “who’s who” in American chess. The national tournament would be held at the end of July into the first week of August during the US Open, Denker High School Championship, Girls Tournament of Champions and Barber K-8 Champion events in Madison, Wisconsin.

At the Idaho Senior qualifier I finished a disappointing third behind tournament winner, Utah’s Hans Morrow (you can find analysis of my loss to Hans in the August 2018 issue of Northwest Chess). Idaho senior Janos Fucsko finished second on tiebreak, and since Hans was not an Idaho resident Janos would be the Idaho representative.

On July 4, Idaho State Chess Association President Adam Porth phoned to explain that Janos would be out of the country and ask if I might be interested in representing our fair state at the national event. Yes!



Michael Presutti. Photo credit: Adam Porth.

## It’s green in Madison, but the chess players are gray!

This heading is not entirely true. Have you ever been to a national chess tournament? You owe yourself this treat. The majority of players at these events are young, enthusiastic, and dedicated. Their passion for our game is incredible. You’ll definitely not be the “smartest guy in the room,” because the young players, here for their respective championships, are strong! The playing hall is cathedral-like with hundreds of players sitting across from one another gazing at positions and planning. The silence in a room with

hundreds of people engaged in head-to-head competition is amazing.

Forty-two players representing forty-one states played the senior tournament; the host state is allowed two players. The highest-rated player going into the tournament, Alex Fishbein (US Chess 2571) representing New Jersey, won his last round over the number three seed Alonzo Zapata representing Georgia. Alex was in Madison with his son Mitch who was the Denker High School representative for New Jersey. I first met Alex in Colorado when he was 15 years old and playing a simultaneous exhibition to raise money for his trip to the Denker! He won that tournament too, full circle! He hasn’t changed at all, pleasant, knowledgeable; a gentleman. But, now he’s a SENIOR. Whew I feel old!

I started the tournament seeded 38th in the field and finished 24th with three points out of a possible six: two victories, two losses, and two draws. My rating as I began the tournament was 1743, and post tourney was 1830. Shown below is my sixth-round victory over Edward Garner of West Virginia, for which I received the upset award, \$50.00!

I wish to extend a special thank you to our State Association President, Adam Porth, and his family who were there to play in the Barber and Girls tournaments of Champions and the US Open.

This year’s Denker High School Champion and Barber Champions were from Virginia. IM Praveen Balakrishnan has won the Denker tournament two years in a row! The Barber K-8 Champion Andy Huang is a National Master. The Girl’s Champion is out of Oklahoma, Veronika Zilajeva, rated 2078!



The Idaho delegation! L-R: Adam Porth, Michael Presutti, James Liu, Dylan Porth, Kevin Xu, Dewayne Barber. Photo courtesy of Adam Porth.

As I submit this article, they are still playing the US Open!

**Michael Presutti (1760) – Edward Garner (1918) [A80]**  
US Chess Senior Invitational  
Middleton, WI (R6), July 31, 2018  
[Michael Presutti]

I won the sixth round upset prize on this game.

**1.d4 f5 2.Bg5 h6 3.Bh4**

In this offbeat defense against the Dutch Black is willing to sac a piece as early as move six in return for a lasting initiative and a lead in development. After trading errors, I'm rewarded with a quick mate. I hope the reader will enjoy this miniature.

**3...g5 4.e4 Nf6**

There are a couple of branches here for White. Most accurate is the line shown below beginning with 5. e5 (analysis by Houdini). Another line is 5. Bg3.5. Be2 has not been explored much yet. Perhaps it's not playable, but time will tell.

**5.Be2**

5.e5 e6 6.Bg3 f4 7.exf6 Qxf6 8.Qh5+ Kd8 9.Nf3 Nc6 10.c3 e5 11.d5 e4 12.dxc6 fxg3 13.hxg3 exf3 14.Qxf3 Qxf3 15.gxf3 bxc6 16.Nd2 d5 17.0-0 Bd7 18.Bh3 Bd6 19.Nb3 h5 20.Nd4 (0:01:28) 4...Nf6 0.11/22

**5...Bg7 6.e5 Nd5 7.Bh5+ Kf8 8.Bg3 e6**

8...d6 9.c4 Nb6 10.Nc3 Nc6 11.Nge2 dxe5 12.d5 Nd4 13.Bxe5 Bxe5 14.Nxd4 Nxc4 15.Qe2 c5 16.Ne6+ Bxe6 17.dxe6 Bxc3+ 18.bxc3 Qd5 19.Rd1 Qe4 20.Qxe4 fxe4 21.Rd7 Ne5 22.Rxb7 Kg7 (0:02:42) 8.Bg3 -0.17/23

**9.Nf3 f4 10.0-0 Nc6 11.c4 Nde7 12.Nc3 Nf5 13.Qd3**



Position after 13.Qd3

What a crazy position! Black is offered the Bishop on g3 for many moves but declines the offer because he does not wish to open the f-file for White's Rook.

**13...d5 14.cxd5 Nb4 15.Qb5?! Nxd5 16.Nxd5 exd5 17.Rac1**

Not the best choice.

**17...c6 18.Qb3**

Another second-best choice by White and

Black is again better.

**18...Rb8**

An error by Black. 18...Kg8 19.Rce1 Qb6 20.Qc3 Be6 21.Bxf4 gxf4 22.Qd2 Kh7 23.Qxf4 Rhf8 24.Qd2 Qd8 25.g3 Kg8 26.Qd3 Qb6 27.Rc1 Rac8 28.Rc3 a5 29.Re1 Ne7 30.Qd2 a4 31.Rec1 Bf5 (0:01:26) 18.Qb3 -0.91/23

**19.Rxc6 Ne7?**

In tournament play it can be difficult to regroup after protracted defense and then a lapse in judgement.

**20.Rd6 Qc7? 21.Qc3 Qxc3**

[Diagram top of next column]



Position after 21...Qxc3

And Black resigns in light of 22. Rd8#

1-0

## 2018 Players Memorial

By Adam Porth

Mountain Home, ID—July 4, 2018

Mountain Home is the host of the Player's Memorial and three Mountain Home players desired to be the headliners of this four-round, one-day, G/30 tournament. Boise, Hailey, and Pocatello also fielded a number of players to bring a total of 20 players. Chris Pentico, John Glenn, and Nathanael Winchell of Mountain Home played in earnest to achieve the top board for the final round. In the end, Pentico scored a successful win against Gary Hollingsworth, Pocatello, in the final round to secure the Mountain Home win and a perfect 4.0/4 score. Chris sneered that the day was "not that hard" but he wanted to explore the Catalan opening more in the coming weeks.

The tournament began with a moment of silent contemplation of players past and then people were invited to provide names of folks they wanted to remember. Adam Porth offered up Norman Friedman, Dan Mayers, and Dexter Gannon (players from the Sun Valley area). Mike Presutti named legendary master and friend, Michael Valvo. He assisted the Fritz team that first beat a Grandmaster and world champion.

Mike also donated the prize board that he won to the second place scholastic player, Alyssa Montano (shot glass chess donated by Adam Porth). We gave away a tournament board, that first place Chris Pentico chose, a 4th of July board (donated by Duane Sorenson) that second place Gary Hollingsworth chose, and a magnetic chess travel set (donated by Alise Pemsler) was won by the top scholastic player, Bryce Leifeste.



Chris Pentico. Photo credit: Adam Porth.



L-R: Bill Arnold, Melody Arnold, Earl Neeser, Terry Brower, Joe Avila, Owen Buffaloe. Photo credit: Jay Simonson.

## East Idaho Senior Games

By Jay Simonson

On July 12, 2018, six players from Pocatello, Idaho, gathered in a quest for a gold medal in the 2018 East Idaho Senior Games Chess Event. This was a six-player Round Robin tournament. When the dust had all settled, Earl Neeser was the overall winner with a score of 4.5/5.

Bill Arnold, who has played in many Idaho Chess Association (ICA) tournaments, brought his wife, Melody. This was her first chess tournament, and she gave all a run for their money, winning two of the five games. All of the other players, Earl Neeser, Owen Buffaloe, Terry Brower, and Joe Avila, have played in previous East Idaho Senior Games chess events.

All contestants won Gold medals for their age group and level of play. Here is a summary of the age and play divisions with the Gold Medal Winners:

Age Group	Play Level	Name	Medal
55-59	Advanced	Earl Neeser	Gold
60-64	Beginner	Melody Arnold	Gold
65-69	Advanced	Bill Arnold	Gold
70-74	Intermediate	Owen Buffaloe	Gold
	Advanced	Terry Brower	Gold
75-79	Beginner	Joe Avila	Gold

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# July 2018 PCC Game 60

By Brian Berger and Isaac Vega

You might note by the byline this time that I had some help reporting July's Game 60, which took place on July 28. You also might ask yourself why I, Brian "I'm Just Glad To Be Here" Berger, who seems never to have a problem filling blank spaces with actual facts and questionable drivel, would need to have a co-reporter on hand—and the fact of the matter is, that I could not make one of my favorite tournaments because of some insidious intrusion by a cough inducing virus that is still hanging on a bit as I write these words.

But as a believer that the timely dissemination of news makes for a well informed public; and knowing that the large salary I earn, plus the numerous perks (air fare to exotic locations for world chess events; expense account for the incidentals), requires that I give my employer his money's worth, I thus recruited the help of Isaac Vega—a discerning, penguin loving player of pronounced skills, to stand in for me and give me his findings of what took place.

I am pleased to say, Vega came through for me, supplying me with the photos you see, and acting as my-fly-on-the-wall, so to speak, much of which I mined to write this article. Knowing that



(L) Chris Burriss vs Michael Moore. Photo credit: Isaac Vega.

Vega would rather disassociate himself from my sometimes mindless prose meanderings, I alone am responsible for any mistakes and mild digressions, and so he should be considered completely innocent of what I have done to his excellent reporting.

So much for the disclaimer; now on with what took place during the tournament. As luck would have it, even with the work load of information I had asked him to gather, and the photographs I had asked him to take, Isaac Vega (1842-1898—4.0/4) managed to also keep his mind on the four games he

played, becoming the overall winner and \$84 richer by turning in a perfect score. Is this not a man of many talents?

Commenting on his own games, Vega opined that all were intense, but that one game stood out, his match with the very young Zoey Tang (1754-1760—3.0/4) in the third round. "She played a powerful game. I ended up being worse in the opening, and I even had to sacrifice a minor piece in order to allow my king to escape some mating threats and attacks in the center (I didn't get a chance to castle because of her superb play). With little time on my clock, the sacrificed piece



(L) Isaac Vega vs Zoey Tang. Photo credit: Mike Hasuike.



*Some of the players. Photo credit: Isaac Vega.*

exposed her position, while allowing my king to find safety. The intense game ended with her about to get mated. I got really lucky. Zoey should have won.”

As a matter of fact, Zoey Tang did win, in the form of a 5-way tie for 3rd overall/U1800 & Unrated, with Michael Moore (1919-1922—3.0/4), David Murray (1822-1816—3.0/4), Jack Woo McClain (1672-1752—3.0/4), and little Abbie Wu (1630-1657—3.0/4), each player pocketing \$18.25 for some serious mental maneuverings.

Before continuing with the winner’s list, I need to take the time here to mention that once again, Jerrold “I Just Want To Reach 1600 Before It’s Over” Richards (1528-1512—1.5/4) was in attendance with Morgan the Dog, fresh off of his fabulous performance at the 4th Annual Rose City Sectionals, held on the 7th and 8th of July (see this issue’s article covering that tournament), where

Richards took first in the U1600 section by (somehow) winning ALL of his games. It was an inspiring performance, which earned him 208 rating points, the praise of Morgan, and money to stuff in his pockets. And so, great things were again expected of him.

But after managing to obtain only one win and a draw it was rumored that, in the little more than three weeks between these tournaments, there was non-stop partying at Richards’ home in the Columbia Gorge, Richards indulging in the pleasures of the palate—imported Black River Siberian caviar, washed down with Lewis Cellars Cabernet Sauvignon; a prelude to mushroom covered Kobe beef and La Madeline au Truffle for dessert (Morgan’s favorite foods, which also includes Wendy’s chicken nuggets and fries); this followed by all night dancing and howling at the moon—the results of which were a number of visits by the Washington State Police, who were

getting calls about unrestrained, Sybaritic-like activity keeping all the neighbors up (and I understand his nearest neighbors are some 12 miles away).

Such merry-making can take its toll on even the very young, and the results of Richards’ performance this time, compared to his last, would give one pause to consider his dream of becoming a 1600 player might not yet be on firm ground; a judgment perhaps premature, mostly due to the above mentioned activity. One just hopes that Richards realizes that time is running out, and that goal-oriented older men do not cavort in ways that would diminish what stamina or brain-power still lingers. But just in case you throw another one of these parties, Jerrold, just remember your old buddy, Brian “I’m Just Glad To Be Here” Berger.

Now back to the games and winners. “McClain had an interesting game with Ethan Wu (1942-1927—2.5/4),” said Vega. “It got to a point where McClain had a pawn on the 6th rank, with his king on e6, together with an extra f-pawn, and also a pawn on b3; while Wu had his king on e3, and a pawn on f7 as his last move. McClain could have played Kxf7, followed by promoting his pawn, but didn’t.”

And here is the (interesting), if not odd part, as Vega explains it. “McClain said he felt bad for Wu, because (for some reason), he had not slept for two days, so he chose instead to push his own pawn. They both got queens, the game finally ending in a draw, as McClain said he had calculated it would.” It seems altruism can still be found in the “tooth and nail” of the chess world.

Apparently, altruism was not on McClain’s mind when, in the very next round, he was paired against Ryan Richardson (2013-2000—1.5/4), winning against this tough to beat Expert, which helped to push his rating upwards by 80-points!

Kushal Pai’s (1667-1740—3.5/4) wins against David Murray and Brian Lee (1833-1797—2.0/4), were the deciding games that vaulted him to taking 2nd Overall, enhancing his rating with an additional 73-points, and his monetary worth by \$56. While Yu-Cheng Liang (1535-1574—2.5/4) of Washington, who drew a 1724 opponent and beat a 1709 player, took 1st U1500/Unrated, and added \$49 to whatever was in his wallet after he registered.

Thanks must go to Chief TD Mike Hasuike, for overseeing the 29-player field in the professional manner he always exhibits. And a parting thanks must go to Isaac Vega, who gave me something to write about.



*(L) James Tsai vs Sammy Davis. Just behind, (L) Abbie Wu vs Ethan Zhang. Photo credit: Isaac Vega.*

# 2018 Washington State Championship Brilliance Prize

## Championship Section

Judged by Josh Sinanan

### 1st Place

Perez – Truelson (1-0)

A classic attacking game by the Cuban chess wizard! The feisty Truelson grabbed a pawn out of a Slav opening and tried to hang on to it with the queenside pawn lattice c6-b5-c4. This is like waving the flag in front of the bull when playing an attacking player like Ignacio, who cares little for material. White's 17<sup>th</sup> move h4 should have been a warning sign that something was about to happen on the kingside. Instead, Black ignored it and allowed a classic Greek Gift sacrifice, which led to a decisive attack on the exposed black king. To cap it all off, White sacrificed the exchange and then his queen, allowing his king, knights, and pawns to land the knockout blow!

**Ignacio Perez (2258) –**

**Joseph Truelson (2080) [D31]**

Washington Closed Championship  
Redmond (R6), February 17, 2018

[Ralph Dubisch]

The game Josh picked for the Washington Championship brilliancy prize is interesting — exciting to be sure, and complicated. It certainly wouldn't win for most sound sacrifice, or for fewest blunders.

That either side could have won the prize up until the last two moves perhaps adds to the game's cachet. That the elder player was the exuberant attacker with little regard for material probably clinched the deal.

**1.d4 d5 2.c4 c6 3.Nc3 dxc4**

3...Nf6 is by far the most common move here, though; 3...e6 and; 3...e5 are occasional visitors, too.

**4.e4 b5 5.Nf3**

5.a4 is the normal plan against the c6/b5/c4 structure, virtually guaranteeing the recapture of the pawn with at least a slight edge for White: 5...b4 (5...e5 6.Nf3 exd4 7.Qxd4 Qxd4 8.Nxd4 is rare.) 6.Na2 Nf6 7.e5 Nd5 8.Bxc4 is generally accepted.

**5...Bb7 6.Be2 e6 7.0-0 Nf6 8.Bg5 Be7**

8...Nbd7!? 9.e5 h6 10.Bh4 (10.Bxf6 gxf6) 10...g5 11.Bg3 (11.Nxg5? hxg5 12.Bxg5 Qc7! Oops.) 11...Nd5∞ Not a position for the faint of heart.

**9.e5 Nd5 10.Ne4 0-0 11.Rc1 Nd7**

**12.Bxe7 Qxe7 13.b3**

White starts single-mindedly setting up the Greco sacrifice on the b1-h7 diagonal.

**13...cxb3 14.axb3 a5 15.Nd6 N7b6 16.Bd3 a4 17.h4**

Consistent, anyway. 17.bxa4 certainly offers some compensation for one pawn, if only due to the advanced outpost on d6.

**17...axb3**

Black is not yet worried.

**18.Bxh7+**

**18.Qxb3**

**18...Kxh7 19.Ng5+ Kh6 20.Qd2 f5**

**21.Nxe6+**



Position after 21.Nxe6+

**21...Kxg6**

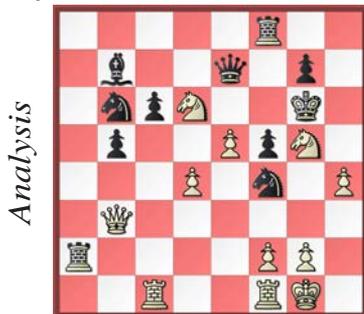
21...f4! 22.Nxf8 (22.Ng5 g6+) 22...Rxf8+

**22.Ng5?**

22.Nxf8+ Rxf8 23.Qd3, possibly threatening Nxf5/g4 ideas, seems to contain enough complications to work with while retaining at least some material.

**22...Ra4?**

22...Ra2! essentially wins. 23.Qd3 (23.Qd1 b2 24.Rb1 Nc4! and White has nothing left in the bank.) 23...Nf4 24.Qxb3



(#Diagram-analysis after 24.Qxb3)

24...Qxg5!! 25.hxg5 (25.g3 Qg4 26.Qxa2 (26.Rce1 Nbd5 27.Nxb7 (27.Qd1 Qh3 28.Qf3 Ra3 29.Re3 Nxe3 30.fxe3 Ra2 31.Rf2 Ra1+ 32.Rf1 Rxf1+ 33.Qxf1 Qxg3+ 34.Kh1 Qxh4+ 35.Kg1 Qg3+ 36.Kh1 Rh8+) 27...Nh3+ 28.Kh2 Nxf2 29.Kg1 Rb2 30.Qa3 Ra8 31.Rxf2 Rxa3) 26...Qf3 27.h5+ (27.gxf4 Qg4+ 28.Kh1

Qxh4+ 29.Kg1 Qg4+ 30.Kh1 Rh8#) 27...Kxh5 28.gxf4 Nd5+) 25...Ne2+ 26.Kh2 Rh8+ 27.Qh3 Rxb3+ 28.Kxh3 Nxc1 29.Rxc1 Ba8, and the extra piece really should be enough.

**23.g4! Nc4 24.Rxc4! bxc4**



Position after 24...bxc4

**25.Kh2??**

25.gxf5+ is the more obvious choice, with the benefit of also being stronger: 25...Rxf5 This is forced... (25...Kh6?? 26.f6! and Black must part with his queen due to the plethora of forks and discoveries.; 25...Kh5?? 26.Qe2+ Kh6 27.Qg4+-) 26.Nxf5



(#Diagram-analysis after 26.Nxf5)

26...Kxf5?! ...but this is not. (Maybe better (and beginning something of a theme of non-recapture, at least in the analysis of this game) 26...Qf8!? 27.Ng3 (27.Nd6 Qf4 28.Qd1 Ne3!?) (28...Bc8!?) Black meets the threats of Qb1+ and Ne6 by offering the bishop for free! 29.Nxc8 Qxh4 30.Ne6 Kf7! 31.Nc5 Qg5+ 32.Kh2 Ra8! 33.Qf3+ Kg8 34.Nd6 Nf4, and despite the piece minus, Black appears to have the better chances due to the advanced passed pawns and White's unsafe king position.; 28...Ra2 29.Ne6) 29.Ne6 (29.Qb1+ Nc2 (29...Nf5 30.Nh3 Qf3 31.Kh2+-) 30.Qd1 Nxd4 31.Qb1+ Nc2 32.Qd1 c5 33.Nxb7 c3 34.Qd6+ Kh5 35.Qd3 Qg4+ (35...Qxh4 should lead to a complicated perpetual check series by White.) 36.Kh2 Qf4+) 29...Qg4+) 27...Qf4 28.Qd1 Qxh4 29.Ne6 Ne7 30.Qb1+ Kf7 31.Nd8+ Kg8 32.Nxb7∞ Black's passed pawns nicely compensate for the piece, and many lines end in repetitions due to the exposed kings.) 27.Qe1! Nc3! 28.Qxc3 c5 29.Qh3+ Kg6 30.Qg4 b2 31.h5+ Kh6 32.f4 Ra3 (32...Ra1? 33.Qf5! Kxh5 (33...Rxf1+ 34.Kxf1 Kxh5 (34...

b1Q+ 35.Qxb1 Kxh5 36.Qf5+-) 35.Qh3+ Kg6 36.Qh7#) 34.Qh7+ Kg4 35.Qh3#) 33.Rb1 (33.Qf5?? Rg3+ 34.Kf2 Rg2+ 35.Ke1 Rxg5 36.fxg5+ Qxg5 37.Qxg5+ Kxg5 38.Kd2 cxd4+-) 33...g6! (33...cxd4 34.Rxb2)



(#Diagram-analysis after 33...g6)

34.Kf2! Getting out of third rank rook check defenses while simultaneously opening a route for the b1-rook to join the fun on the kingside. 34...gxh5 (34...c3 35.hxg6 Kxg6 36.f5+ Kg7 37.f6+) 35.Qf5 h4 (35...c3 36.Nf7+ Qxf7 37.Qxf7 c2 (37...Ra1 38.Qf6+ Kh7 39.f5 Rxb1 40.Qg6+ Kh8 41.f6+-) 38.Qf6+ Kh7 39.Qf5+ Kh6 40.Qg5+ Kh7 41.Qxh5+ Kg7 42.Rg1+) 36.Qg4 h3 37.Rxb2 h2 38.Rb6+ Kg7 39.Ne4+ Kf8 40.Rf6+ Ke8 41.Qg8+ Kd7 42.Nxc5+ Kc7 43.Rf7 Ra2+ 44.Ke3 Ra3+ 45.Kd2 Ra2+ 46.Kc3 Ra3+ 47.Kb2 Rb3+ 48.Ka2+-

25...fxg4 26.Qd1 Kh5 27.Kg3 Rf4 28.f3



Position after 28.f3

28...Ne3??

28...Qd7! 29.Qb1 g6 and while the material count suggests Black is ahead a rook, it isn't even that close. 0-1.; 28...gxf3!, adding possibilities of ...Rg4+, is also game-ending.

29.Kxf4!

Coffeehouse rules!

29...Nxd1??

Black's sense of danger deserts him. He doesn't notice the threat because he doesn't look for it. One attacks the queen, it doesn't move, so of course you take it! What else? 29...Qxg5+!! is necessary, and while extremely complicated, likely saves at least a draw. The variation trees tend to balloon out of control, which tells you how impossible this would be to produce

over the board. Here's a taste; for those willing to wade into it, there's quite a bit of beauty here: 30.hxg5 Nxd1



(#Diagram-analysis after 30...Nxd1)

31.e6!!

a) The natural recapture, 31.Rxd1?, loses. 31...c3 32.Kf5

(32.e6 c5! 33.Nxb7 (33.e7 Bc6) 33...c2 34.e7 Rxd4+ 35.Kg3 cxd1Q 36.e8Q+ Kxg5 37.f4+ (37.Qe5+ introduces the long-winded escape plan for the black king: 37...Kh6 38.Qe6+ Kh7 39.Qf5+ Kg8 40.Qc8+ Kf7 41.Qf5+ Ke7 42.Qe5+ Kd7 43.Nxc5+ (43.Qxg7+ Kc8!; 43.Qe3 Qxf3+ 44.Qxf3 gxf3 45.Nxc5+ Kc6 46.Nxb3 Rd3-+; 43.Qf5+ Kc6-+) 43...Kc6 and Black takes over.) 37...Rxf4! (37...Kf6 also works, eventually, as above.) 38.Qe5+ (38.Qe7+ Kg6 39.Kxf4 Qf3+ 40.Ke5 Qf6+-) 38...Kg6 39.Qxf4 Qf3+ 40.Qxf3 gxf3 41.Nxc5 b2-+)

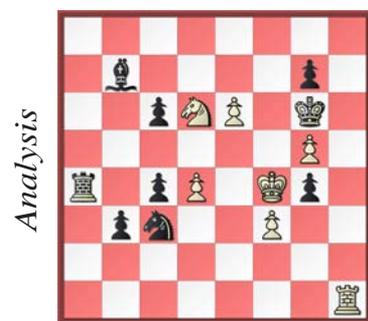


(#Diagram-analysis after 32.Kf5)

32...Bc8+!! 33.Nxc8 Kh4 34.Rh1+ Kg3 35.e6 b2 36.e7 Ra1! 37.Rxa1 (37.e8Q Rxh1 38.Qe5+ Kh3 and ...b1=Q soon.) 37...bxa1Q 38.e8Q Qb1+ 39.Ke6 Qe1+ 40.Kd7 Qxe8+ 41.Kxe8 c2 and the distant extra knight on c8 proves ill-equipped to deal with those advanced passed black pawns.;

b) 31.Rh1+ Kg6 32.e6 and Black has extra options: 32...Nf2!?! (32...Ra8! 33.Nf7 Rf8!-+) 33.Rh8 c5 34.Nxb7 (34.e7 Bc6 35.Rc8 Nd3+ 36.Kg3 Ra7 37.Rxc6 Rxe7 38.Nxc4+ Kxg5 39.dxc5) 34...Nd3+ 35.Kxg4 Ra1! 36.e7 Rg1+ 37.Kh3 Rh1+ 38.Kg2 Rxh8-+; 31...Nc3! (31...Ra8? doesn't work so well here, as White hasn't spent a tempo to drive the black king toward the action. 32.Rxd1!±) 32.Rh1+ Kg6

[Analysis Diagram top of next column]



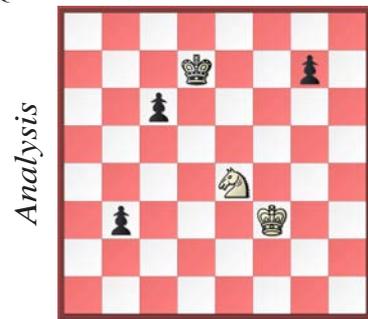
(#Diagram-analysis after 32...Kg6)

33.Nf7! Threatening two checkmates. 33...Nd5+ 34.Kxg4 Nf6+ 35.Kf4 (35.gxf6 Bc8!) 35...Nh5+! 36.Rxh5 c3!! (Again the natural recapture loses. 36...Kxh5?? 37.e7 Ra8 38.Nd8+-) 37.Rh1!! Renewing the mating net. 37...Rxd4+ 38.Kg3 (38.Ke3?? Rd5 39.Nh8+ Kf5 40.e7 Re5+ 41.Kd3 c2 with Black in control.) 38...Rd5! (38...Bc8?? 39.Ne5+ Kf5 40.e7+-) 39.Kg4 Rxg5+! 40.Nxg5 c2 41.f4 Bc8 42.f5+ Kf6 43.Ne4+ Ke7



(#Diagram-analysis after 43...Ke7)

44.Ra1!! Bxe6! 45.Ra7+! Bd7 46.Rxd7+! Ke8 (46...Kxd7 47.Nc5+ Kd6 48.Nxb3 Ke5 leaves no winning chances for either side.; 46...Kf8 47.f6 gxf6 48.Nxf6 c1Q 49.Nh7+ Ke8 50.Nf6+ Kf8) 47.f6! c1Q 48.fxg7 (48.f7+ Kxd7 (48...Kf8 49.Ng5) 49.f8Q Qd1+ (49...b2 50.Qd6+ Kc8 51.Qe6+ Kb7 52.Qe7+ Ka6 53.Qa3+ Kb5 54.Qb3+ Ka6 55.Qa3+ Kb7 56.Qe7+ Kb6 57.Qb4+ etc.) 50.Kg3 Qd3+ 51.Qf3 Qxf3+ 52.Kxf3



(#Diagram-analysis after 52.Kxf3)

Now White draws by switching the defenders, bringing king to the queenside and knight (eventually) to stop the g-pawn, e.g. 52...Ke7 53.Ke3 b2 54.Nd2 g5 55.Kd3 g4 56.Kc2 g3 57.Kxb2 g2 58.Nf3) 48...Kxd7 49.g8Q Qg1+ 50.Ng3



(#Diagram-analysis after 50.Ng3)

Superficially this looks promising for Black, but 50...Qd4+ 51.Kf3 b2 52.Qh7+ gives White just enough to hold, combining a repositioning of the knight to e2 with various blockade and perpetual check ideas. 52...Kc8 53.Ne2 Qb4 54.Qb1 c5 55.Ke3 c4 56.Qf5+ Kb7 57.Qh7+ Ka6 58.Qg6+ Ka5 59.Qf5+ Ka4 60.Qc2+ Ka3 (60...Qb3+ 61.Nc3+ Kb4 62.Qxb3+ Kxb3 63.Kd2) 61.Nc3 Qb3 62.Kd2 shows one typical drawing line.

30.fgx4+ Kh6 31.Nf5+

32.h5# looms.

1-0

## Other games:

**Lee, Megan – Lee, Michael (1-0)**

Megan's knights outplay Michael's bishops in the battle of the IM Lee siblings.

**Megan Lee (2298) –**

**Michael Lee (2500) [B30]**

Washington Closed Championship  
Redmond (R8), February 18, 2018

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 e6 4.Bxc6 bxc6  
5.e5 Ba6 6.d3 d5 7.exd6 Bxd6 8.Nbd2  
Nf6 9.b3 Qc7 10.Bb2 0-0 11.0-0 e5  
12.Re1 Rfe8 13.Qe2 Nd5 14.Ne4 Bf8



Position after 14...Bf8

15.c4?! Nf4 16.Qe3 f6 17.Rad1 Ne6  
18.Qc1 Bc8 19.h3 a5 20.Nc3 Rd8 21.Na4  
Ra6 22.Qc3 Qf7 23.Bc1 Qg6 24.Kf1  
Qh5 25.Qc2 g5 26.Qe2 Qf7 27.Be3 h5  
28.Nd2 Nd4 29.Bxd4 cxd4 30.c5 Be6  
31.Ne4

[Diagram top of next column]

31...Be7? 32.Nxg5! fxx5 33.Qxe5 Bxb3  
34.axb3 Ra7 35.Qe6 Rb7 36.Qxc6 Rxb3  
37.Nb6 Rb2 38.f3 g4 39.hxx4 hxx4



Position after 31.Ne4

40.Nc4 Rc2 41.Ne5 Qf5 42.Nxx4 Qh5  
43.Qe6+ Kh8 44.Qe5+ Qxe5 45.Nxe5  
1-0

**Perez – Feng (0-1)**

Trying to attack the State Champ's king is easier said than done, especially when he is up a piece!

**Ignacio Perez (2258) –**

**Roland Feng (2481) [C13]**

Washington Closed Championship  
Redmond (R1), February 10, 2018  
*[Ralph Dubisch]*

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.Bg5 dxe4  
5.Nxe4 Be7 6.Bxf6 gxf6 7.Bc4

7.Nf3 is far more common here, when Black will usually continue 7...f5 (or 7...b6)

7...f5 8.Ng3 Qd6 9.Bb3 Nc6

9...h5!?, since 10.Nxh5?! c5 gives Black a lead.

10.Nf3 Bd7 11.0-0 0-0-0 12.d5 Ne5  
13.Nxe5?!

13.Re1! seems desirable, quickly developing with tempo. Perez goes his own way, planning a material offer.

13...Qxe5 14.Re1 Qxb2 15.Rb1 Qf6  
16.Qf3 c6?

16...e5!? Possibly Feng chose to avoid this due to complications arising from 17.d6 Bxd6 when White can choose from a variety of discoveries, such as (It looks like a forced draw after 17...e4 18.Bd5! exf3 (18...Bc6? 19.Nxe4! fxe4 (or 19...Bxd5 20.Nxf6 Bxf3 21.dxe7) 20.Qh3+-) 19.Bxb7+ and repeats.) 18.Bxf7. However, Black appears to be doing well here, e.g. 18...Bc6 19.Qxf5+ Qxf5 20.Nxf5 Rhf8 21.Nxd6+ cxd6 22.Be6+ Kb8

17.dxe6 fxe6 18.Qe3! f4 19.Qxa7 fxx3  
20.hxx3 Qc3 21.Bxe6 b5

[Diagram top of next column]

Obviously White can take a perpetual check here. The question is, does he have more?

22.a4? Bc5! 23.Qa6+ Kc7 24.Bxd7

Definitely going downhill now. 24.axb5 Bxf2+ 25.Kxf2 Qc5+ 26.Ke2 Bxe6 also clearly favors Black.

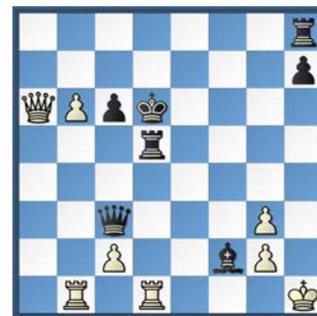


Position after 21...b5

24...Bxf2+! 25.Kh1 Rxd7 26.axb5 Rd5  
27.b6+

27.Re4 Rh5+ 28.Rh4 Rxb5 29.Rf1  
Qxc2+-

27...Kd6 28.Red1



Position after 28.Red1

28...Bd4

Black misses the cute 28...Qe1+!! 29.Kh2 (29.Rxe1 Rh5#) 29...Bg1+ 30.Kh3 (30.Kh1 Bd4+ 31.Kh2 Rh5#) 30...Qe6+ 31.g4 Qh6+ 32.Kg3 Qe3+ 33.Kh4 Bf2+ 34.g3 Qxx3#

29.Qe2 Qxx3 30.Rb3 Qe5 31.Qf1 Qe4  
32.Rh3 Bxb6??

It's tricky to see, but this nearly throws away the win by lining up a potential skewer along the sixth rank.

32...Re8



Position after 32...Bxb6

33.Re1??

33.Rxd5+ cxd5 (33...Kxd5 34.Qf7+ Kc5 (34...Qe6 35.Qf3+ Kd6 36.Qg3+ Ke7 37.Qg7+ Qf7 38.Qe5+ Qe6 39.Qg7+) 35.Rh5+ Kd6 36.Rh6+ Kc5 37.Rh5+) 34.Qf6+ Qe6 (34...Kc7? 35.Qg7+ Kc6 36.Rh6+ Kc5 37.Qc3+ Qc4 38.Qa3+ Qb4 39.Rc6+±) 35.Qxe6+ Kxe6 36.Rh6+ Ke5 37.Rxb6 Rc8, when these gladiators

can test their rook and pawn endgame technique.

33...Rf5 34.Rd1+ Kc7 35.Qa6 Rg5 36.Rh2 Rd8 37.Rb1 Rb5 38.Rf1 Rd7 39.Rh3 Ra5 0-1

**Sang – Pupols (1-0)**

General Pupols' French army was no match for Commander Sang's forces, who crashed through in style on the kingside!

(See April 2018 issue, page 22 for game annotated by Tian Sang.)

**Schill – Perez (1-0)**

Who said pigs need to be on the seventh rank? Schill's were even better on the eighth!

**William Schill (2231) –**

**Ignacio Perez (2258) [B28]**

Washington Closed Championship Redmond (R2), February 10, 2018

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 a6 3.c3 Nf6 4.e5 Nd5 5.Bc4 Nc7 6.0-0 d5 7.exd6 Qxd6 8.d4 e6 9.Nbd2 cxd4 10.Nxd4 Be7 11.Ne4 Qd8 12.Qg4 0-0 13.Bh6 Ne8 14.Rad1 Qc7 15.Bb3 e5 16.Nf5 Bxf5 17.Qxf5 gxf6 18.Bc2 f6 19.Ng5 Bd6 20.Ne6 Qe7 21.Nxf8 Kxf8 22.Rd3 Nc6 23.Rh3 Qg7 24.Rg3 Ne7 25.Qh5 Ng6 26.Bxg6 hxg6 27.Rxg6 Qf7 28.Qxh6+ Ke7 29.Re1 Kd8 30.a3 Kc7 31.Rg3 Rd8 32.Rd3 Rd7 33.Red1 Re7 34.b4 Qe6 35.c4 e4 36.Rd5 e3 37.Qxe3 Qxe3 38.fxe3 Rxe3 39.c5 Be5 40.a4 Kc6 41.Rd8 Bc7 42.Rc8 Re4 43.Rdd8 Rxb4 44.Rxe8 Rb1+ 45.Kf2 Kd7 46.Rh8 Bxh2 47.Rhd8+ Ke7 48.Rd2 Bf4 49.Rd3 Rb4 50.Rh8 Rxa4 51.Rh7+ Ke6 52.Rxb7 a5 53.Kf3 Be5 54.Rb6+ Kf5 55.Ra6 Rf4+ 56.Ke2 Rg4 57.Kf1 a4 58.Rf3+ Kg5 59.Ra3 Rf4+ 60.Ke2 Rg4 61.g3 Re4+ 62.Kf3 Rc4 63.c6 Bd6 64.R3xa4 Rc3+ 65.Ke4 Bxg3 66.Ra3 Rc4+ 67.Kd5 Rg4 68.Rxg3 Rxg3 69.c7 Rd3+ 70.Kc4 Rd1 71.Rc6 1-0

Honorable mentions:

**Lee, Michael – Pupols (1-0)**

A smooth positional game from the talented IM, who skillfully pushes his passed d-pawn to victory.

(See April 2018 issue, page 24 for game annotated by Michael Lee.)

**Feng – Haining (1-0)**

Haining's adventurous bride circles the board on her honeymoon, only to miss her return flight home!

**Roland Feng (2481) –**

**Kyle Haining (2262) [A71]**

Washington Closed Championship Redmond (R6), February 17, 2018

1.d4 g6 2.c4 Bg7 3.Nf3 Nf6 4.Nc3 0-0 5.Bg5 h6 6.Bh4 c5 7.d5 d6 8.Nd2 e6 9.e4 exd5 10.cxd5 Re8 11.Be2 a6 12.a4 Nbd7 13.0-0 Qc7 14.Bg3 Ne5 15.f4

Ned7 16.Qc2 Rb8 17.h3 c4 18.Nxc4 b5 19.axb5 axb5 20.Nxd6 b4 21.Nxe8 Nxe8 22.e5 bxc3 23.Qxc3 Qd8 24.Qa5 Qe7 25.Bf3 Bb7 26.d6 Qe6 27.Bg4 Qb3 28.Qc3 Qd5 29.Bf3 Qb5 30.Ra5 Qb6+ 31.Bf2 Qd8 32.Bxb7 Rxb7 33.Qc6 Rxb2 34.Ra7 Nf8 35.d7 Nxd7 36.Rxd7 Qb8 37.Qd5 Qb3 38.Qxb3 Rxb3 39.Rd8 1-0

**Premier Section**

Here are the notes from Curt Collyer, who judged the Premier:

“For the Premier, the Brilliancy Prize goes to Dereque Kelley for his win over Brendan Zhang in Round 8. Kelley - Zhang (1-0) Dereque, as White, sac'd the exchange for pressure and then finished off with precise tactics.”

**Dereque Kelley (2162) –**

**Brendan Zhang (2116) [D46]**

Washington Closed Premier Redmond (R8), February 18, 2018

[Ralph Dubisch]

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nf3 d5 4.Nc3 c6 5.e3 Nbd7 6.Qc2 Bd6 7.Bd3 0-0 8.0-0 dxc4 9.Bxc4 b5 10.Be2 Bb7 11.Rd1 Qc7 12.e4 e5 13.Bg5 exd4 14.Rxd4 b4

14...Ne5 15.Bxf6 gxf6 16.g3 Nxf3+ 17.Bxf3 Be5 has been seen, and is typically drawn, though a few more practical tests would not be out of order.

**15.Rad1**

15.Bxf6 Nxf6 16.Na4 is another idea.

**15...Bc5**



Position after 15...Bc5

**16.Rxd7! Nxd7 17.Na4 Bb6 18.Be7 Rfe8 19.Bd6**

White has good compensation for the exchange.

**19...Qc8 20.e5**

20.Bc4!?

**20...c5**

White's move 21 in the game proves very strong, so perhaps this is the time to prevent the idea with 20...h6

**21.Ng5! g6 22.Qc4 Nxe5 23.Bxe5 Qf5**

[Diagram top of next column]

**24.Nxf7!! Qxf7 25.Rd7 Bd5**



Position after 23...Qf5

25...Qxc4 26.Bxc4+ Kf8 27.Bg7#

**26.Rxf7 Rxe5 27.Re7! Rd8 28.Rxe5**

Or 28.Qh4!

**28...Bxc4 29.Bxc4+ Kg7 30.g3 Rd4 31.b3 Kf6 32.Re6+ Kf5 33.Nxb6 axb6 34.Rxb6 Rd1+ 35.Kg2 Rd2 36.Rc6 1-0**

**Invitational Section**

Jacob Mayer judged the Invitational section and awarded Joseph Frantz the prize for his win over Joseph Levine. Levine - Frantz (0-1) According to Jacob, Frantz made use of an incredible exchange sac and fearless king play!

**Joseph Levine (1976) –**

**Joseph Frantz (1947) [B78]**

Washington Closed Invitational Redmond (R7), February 18, 2018

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 g6 6.Be3 Bg7 7.f3 0-0 8.Qd2 Nc6 9.Bc4 Bd7 10.0-0-0 Rc8 11.Bb3 Ne5 12.Kb1 Nc4 13.Bxc4 Rxc4 14.g4 b5 15.h4 b4 16.Nd5 Nxd5 17.exd5 Qa5 18.Nb3 Qb5



Position after 18...Qb5

**19.h5 Rfc8 20.Rc1 a5 21.hxg6 fxg6 22.Qh2 h5 23.Nd2 Qxd5 24.Nxc4 Qxc4 25.Qd2 hxg4 26.fxg4 Bxg4 27.Rh4 Qe6 28.Bd4 Bf5 29.Bxg7 Kxg7 30.Qh6+ Kf7 31.Rhh1 b3 32.axb3 Qxb3 33.Rhf1 Qc4 34.Qg5 Ke8 35.Rf2 Qc5 36.Qg3 Kd7 37.Re2 Qb5 38.Rce1 e5 39.Rd2 Ke6 40.Red1 Rc6 41.Rd3 a4 42.R3d2 Qb3 43.Qf2 Qb4 44.Ka2 Rb6 45.c3 Qb3+ 46.Ka1 a3 47.Rc1 axb2+ 48.Rxb2 Qa3+ 49.Ra2 Qxc1# 0-1**

# Aaron Grabinsky Third IM Norm In Philadelphia

On July 2, 2018 at 5:28 PM, Aaron Grabinsky posted the following to Facebook:

“Just finished the Philadelphia International with 5.5/9, good enough for +45 FIDE rating and most importantly, my third (and final!) IM norm (with a performance rating of 2481)! :) :) I got crushed the last game, but fortunately I'd already secured it with one round to spare so there wasn't a lot of pressure. Now all I need is 32 more points...”

Subsequently, Aaron provided those games to *Northwest Chess*, six of them with notes! Congratulations Aaron, and thanks for sharing your games with our readers.—Jeffrey Roland, Editor.

**Aaron Grabinsky (2296) –  
Bora Yagiz (1877) [C41]**  
Philadelphia International  
(R1), June 28, 2018  
[Aaron Grabinsky]

**1.e4 d6 2.d4 Nf6 3.Nc3 e5 4.Nf3 Nbd7  
5.Bc4 Be7 6.0–0 Nb6?!**

I wasn't sure about this move during the game as the knight seemed misplaced here.

**7.Be2**

7.Bb3 exd4 8.Qxd4 c5 9.Qd3 is also possible.

**7...exd4 8.Nxd4 0–0 9.a4 a5 10.Be3 Re8  
11.Nf3 Nfd7 12.b3 c6**

12...Bf6 13.Bd4

**13.Nd4**

At this stage, I wasn't really sure what to do with my pieces as you can probably tell...

**13...Nc5**

13...Nf6

**14.f4**



Position after 14.f4

**14...Bf8**

14...d5 15.e5 f6!? concerned me during the game.

**15.Bf3 f5?!**

15...d5! I was definitely more afraid of this move. 16.Nde2 this was what I was going to play but it should be just equal. (16.e5 f6 and I'm losing a pawn I think.) 16...dxe4 17.Qxd8 Rxd8 18.Nxe4 Nxe4 19.Bxb6 Re8=

**16.Nxf5 Bxf5 17.Bxc5!**

I'm pretty sure my opponent just missed this simple in-between move.

**17...Bxe4**

17...dxc5 18.exf5

**18.Nxe4 dxc5 19.Qxd8 Raxd8 20.c4!±**

Here I felt pretty confident about my prospects. The black knight's position is anything but good, and the black pawn structure is bad, as well.

**20...Rd3 21.Rab1 Red8 22.Rfe1 R8d4  
23.Kf2**

Probably not the best, but I was hoping for Be2... :)

**23...Rd8 24.Bg4**

24.Ng5 is maybe better.

**24...Be7 25.Kg1 Kf8 26.g3 Na8?!**

This seems too slow, but it's hard to play with Black in any case.

**27.Ng5!**

Here I realized that the black king is actually quite exposed after an exchange on g5.

**27...Bxg5 28.fxg5±**

my opponent collapsed pretty quickly.

**28...g6 29.Re5 Nc7 30.Rf1+ Kg8 31.Re7  
Ne8?**

It was already lost though with Rff7 coming...

**32.Be6+ 1–0**

**Julio Catalino Sadorra (2546) –  
Aaron Grabinsky (2296) [A07]**  
Philadelphia International  
(R2), June 29, 2018  
[Aaron Grabinsky]

**1.Nf3 Nf6 2.g3 d5 3.Bg2 Bf5 4.d3 h6  
5.0–0 e6 6.Nbd2 Be7 7.b3 0–0 8.Bb2  
Bh7 9.Qe1 a5 10.a3 Nfd7**

A typical idea to exchange the dark-squared bishops.

**11.e4 Bf6 12.e5?!**

12.Bxf6 Nxf6 13.e5 Nfd7 14.Nd4 is probably a better version, as later in the game, White's dark-squared bishop became very poor.

**12...Be7 13.Nd4 c5 14.Nb5 a4!**

I felt pretty good about my chances here.

**15.bxa4 Rxa4 16.Qe2 Qb6**

During the game, I already felt that White's position was rather difficult to play.

**17.c4**

17.Nc3? Qxb2! 18.Nxa4 Qxc2 19.Qd1 Bxd3 20.Qxc2 (20.Re1? Qxd1 21.Rexd1 Bc2+) 20...Bxc2 21.Nc3 Nxe5+

**17...Bxd3**

17...dxc4!? 18.dxc4 Nc6 was also a good option.

**18.Qxd3 dxc4 19.Qf3 Qxb5 20.Qxb7  
Qxb7 21.Bxb7 Nb6 22.Rfc1 Rd8 23.Rc2  
Nd5!**

I was very happy to find this idea, as the light-squared bishop is probably White's strongest piece. I felt it was important to exchange it.

**24.Nxc4 Ra7!**

The point.

**25.Bxd5**



Position after 25.Bxd5

Here my opponent offered a draw, but I already felt that my center pawns gave me better prospects.

**25...exd5± 26.Ne3 d4 27.Nc4**

The blockade on c4 is only temporary. I will be able to exchange the strong knight quite easily.

**27...Nc6 28.Rd1 Na5?!**

28...f6! with the idea of running the king to d5 was probably stronger. I can always play Na5...

**29.Nxa5 Rxa5 30.Kf1 Rb8?!**



Position after 30...Rb8

30...f6! It is important to involve the

black king here. If it gets to d5, Black will be completely winning.

### 31.Ke2 f5

A little bit late here...

### 32.exf6 Bxf6 33.Bc1 Kf7?

This maneuver should have been played a long time ago. Of course, now I play it at the worst possible moment giving away most of my advantage...

### 34.Bd2!

Duh... I completely forgot that my c5 pawn is not sufficiently protected.

### 34...d3+?!

This may not be the best, but I already felt that my advantage had pretty much disintegrated into nothing. 34...Rab5 35.a4 And c5 falls heavily.; 34...Rxa3!? 35.Rxc5 Rb2

### 35.Kxd3 Rxa3+ 36.Ke2 Bd4 37.Be3 Bxe3 1/2-1/2

**Aaron Grabinsky (2296) – Daniel Gurevich (2462) [D00]**  
Philadelphia International  
(R3), June 29, 2018  
[Aaron Grabinsky]

### 1.d4 d5 2.Bf4 c5 3.e3 Nc6 4.c3 Nf6 5.Nd2 cxd4 6.exd4 Bf5 7.Ngf3 e6 8.Be2

8.Qb3 is more standard here.

### 8...Bd6 9.Bxd6 Qxd6 10.Nh4 Be4!? 11.Nxe4 dxe4 12.g3 0-0-0!

Here I kind of regretted my Nh4 plan. I felt I had already mixed up ideas in the opening and wasn't looking forward to this opposite sides castling position...

### 13.Qc2 e5!

Otherwise, I will happily castle long.

### 14.dxe5 Qxe5 15.0-0 g5

Here come the pawns...

### 16.Ng2 h5



Position after 16...h6

This was what I was scared of. I thought that Black would just checkmate me during the game, but it actually turns out, things aren't that simple.

### 17.Rad1 Nd5

Black obviously wants f5-f4 and I can

probably resign. 17...h4 18.Rxd8+ Rxd8 19.Rd1. I think if I can get all the rooks off, I'll survive the attack and maybe Black's pawns will even be weak.

### 18.Bb5 Nde7 19.Bxc6

I thought the more trades the better here.

### 19...Nxc6 20.Rxd8+ Rxd8 21.Rd1

I wasn't so scared anymore at this point. Black's firepower has been greatly reduced.

### 21...Qe6 22.Rxd8+ Nxd8

For the first time in the whole game, I not only wasn't scared of getting mated, I was actually getting rather excited as Black's pawns started to look very over-extended to me. Maybe I can actually play for a win here?!

### 23.Ne3 Nc6 24.Qd1 g4 25.Qd5 Ne5



Position after 25...Ne5

25...Qxd5? 26.Nxd5 and all of Black's king-side pawns are in a bad way. Nf6 is my next move...

### 26.Qc5+ Kb8 27.Nd5

Now Black's king is starting to feel uncomfortable.

### 27...a6

The big problem for Black is that endgames are just bad for him due to the weak king-side pawns. So he not only has to defend against an attack, but he can't really afford to trade queens either. A tough situation...

### 28.Qc7+ Ka7 29.Ne7 Nf3+ 30.Kg2 h4??

Panic or maybe just despair. Black actually still had a draw! 30...e3! 31.fxe3 Qe4=

### 31.Nc8+ Ka8 32.Nd6

Ouch! If Qd5, there is Qd8+ Ka7 Nc8+, winning the queen.

### 1-0

**Brandon Jacobson (2303) – Aaron Grabinsky (2296) [E11]**  
Philadelphia International  
(R4), June 30, 2018  
[Aaron Grabinsky]

### 1.d4 e6 2.Nf3 Nf6 3.c4 Bb4+ 4.Nbd2 0-0 5.a3 Be7 6.e4 d6!?

6...d5 is more standard here with a lot of theory.

### 7.Be2 Nbd7 8.Qc2 e5

I also considered 8...c5 here.

### 9.Nb1 a5

So I figured (correctly) we would soon reach a position typical of many KIDS when Black exchanges exd4.

### 10.Nc3 exd4 11.Nxd4 Nc5 12.b3 Re8 13.f3 c6

A very interesting structure, however, it is also one in which I'm not terribly experienced.

### 14.0-0 Qb6 15.Be3 Bf8 16.Rfd1 d5!

This worked out well in the game, but it was very difficult to play, as there is a lot to calculate. I think I missed something later, but the move itself is sound.

### 17.cxd5 cxd5



Position after 17...cxd5

### 18.Ndb5!

The critical move.

### 18...dxe4 19.Na4 Qc6!

This is the key resource. Without it, Black just loses a piece for nothing.

### 20.Bxc5 b6?

20...exf3! During the game, I saw none

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of the following variations. It's all very complicated. 21.Bd3 (21.Bxf3 Qxb5) 21...Ng4 22.gxf3 Bxc5+ 23.Nxc5 (23.Qxc5 Qxf3) 23...Ne3=

### 21.Nd4?

21.Nd6!± This I missed. White is clearly better.

### 21...Bxc5

Now Black is completely fine.

### 22.Kh1 Qd6 23.Nb5 Qe5 24.Nxc5 bxc5 25.Nd6 Re7 26.fxe4

White has managed to win his, or the pawn back, but Black's structure is slightly better, I thought.

### 26...Ng4 27.Bxg4 Bxg4 28.Nf5!

The only move, but sufficient.

### 28...Rd7 29.Rf1

29.Rdc1? Rad8! And I didn't manage to find a good defense for White to Rd2 and Bf3/h3 ideas. I thought it was winning. 30.h3? Bxh3!+ for example.

### 29...Rad8 30.Rae1 Rd2 31.Qc4 Bh3?!



Position after 31...Bh3

Cute, but maybe not so effective. 31...h6!+ simply asking White to find a move, may be much stronger. It's extremely unpleasant at least.

### 32.Ne3

32.Nh4? Be6 33.Qb5 Qg5! And White continues to have problems...

### 32...Be6 33.Qb5 Qxe4 34.Qxc5 Bxb3 35.Qxa5 Be6

I was fairly optimistic here as I knew a3 would probably fall soon...

### 36.Qg5 h6 37.Qg3 R8d3

Optically, Black is dominating.

### 38.Rf3 Kh7 39.h3 Ra2??

Pure carelessness. Losing all of my advantage. 39...Qd4! 40.Kh2 Rxa3 41.Rd1 Rxd1 42.Nxd1 Rxf3 43.Qxf3 and I can press and squeeze for another 50 moves. White's defense is difficult.

### 40.Nf5!

I almost had a heart attack... Sadly, I didn't manage to find the best route to equality here.

### 40...Qxe1+?!

40...Qxf5! would have been a better way to secure the draw. 41.Rxd3 Bd5 42.Rg1 (42.Rxd5 Qxd5 43.Rf1=) 42...Rxc2! 43.Rxc2 Qf1+ 44.Kh2 Bxc2 and Black will never lose this.

### 41.Qxe1 Rxf3

I offered a draw which was thankfully accepted. White can try, but it is very difficult and he was rather low on time. 1/2-1/2

Aaron Grabinsky (2296) –  
Christian Pedersen (2426) [D02]  
Philadelphia International  
(R5), June 30, 2018  
[Aaron Grabinsky]

### 1.d4 Nf6 2.Nf3?!

I chose not to play 2. Bf4 as he had played KID against the London before and lately, he's been playing 2... e6 going into Nimzo / Queen's Indian positions. So I was trying to coax him into playing that way... :) Since I really hate it when people play KID against me.

### 2...e6

and it worked! I was very happy to see this and not g6.

### 3.Bf4 c5 4.e3 Nc6 5.c3 d5 6.Nbd2 Bd6 7.Bg3 0-0 8.Bd3 Re8!?

8...Qe7 9.Ne5 Nd7 is more standard when after 10.Nxd7!? (10.f4) 10...Qxd7! (10...Bxd7? is a well-known trap. 11.Bxd6 Qxd6 12.dxc5 Qxc5 13.Bxh7+! Kxh7 14.Qh5+

Kg8 15.Ne4+- and the complications turn out in White's favor.) 11.Bxd6 Qxd6 12.dxc5 Qxc5 13.Bxh7+ Kxh7 14.Qh5+ Kg8 15.Ne4 g6!=. The key difference is Black's bishop is not hanging on d7 so White can't bail out into a two-pawn up endgame with Nxc5 etc... 16.Qg5 Qe7 17.Nf6+ Kg7 18.Nh5+ and it's perpetual check.

### 9.Ne5!

Otherwise, Black breaks with e5! and has no problems.

### 9...Ne7 10.f4 b6 11.0-0

I was fairly happy at this point with the type of position we reached out of the opening.

### 11...Bb7 12.Bf2!?

Maybe hinting at g4 ideas in the near future... Also, I just wanted to kill time and see what plan he chooses.

### 12...Ne4?!

Exactly what I was waiting for! A (what I thought was) dubious move. :) )

### 13.Nxe4 dxe4 14.Bb5 Rf8 15.dxc5

After Ne4, all the moves up to this point were pretty forced. But I liked the way the game was heading here, so I still think Ne4?! was a little premature.

### 15...Bxe5

Probably best. 15...Bxc5? 16.Nd7±; 15...bxc5?! 16.Nd7! is also awkward to meet. Maybe Ba6!? here is best, but it's unpleasant I think.

### 16.fxe5 bxc5?!

16...Qc7! = During the game, I thought this would be most challenging. If Qd6, there is Qxc5.

### 17.Qxd8! Raxd8?!

Simply inexcusable. I have no idea how an IM could miss the next move. 17...Rfxd8! 18.Bh4 Kf8 is the not too difficult defense. Black may still be a little worse, but definitely far from lost!

### 18.Bh4!+-

Now Black is simply lost. After this, there's not much need to comment.

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18...f6 19.exf6 gxf6 20.Bxf6 Rf7 21.Bxe7 Rxe7 22.Rad1 Rd5 23.Bc4 Rxd1

23...Rg5? 24.Rd7! was a nice touch I had prepared.; 23...Re5 just looks dreadful.

24.Rxd1 Kf7 25.Rd6 Kf6 26.Bb5!

The bishop endgame is a simple win, so — trade rooks! Makes life easy. :)

26...Bd5 27.c4 Bb7 28.Rd7 a6 29.Rxe7 Kxe7

Here, I was 110% sure I was going to win. White is basically two(!) pawns up...

30.Ba4 Kf6 31.Kf2 a5 32.Ke2 Ke5 33.Kd2 Kd6 34.Kc3 h6 35.a3 Bc8 36.Bc2 Bb7 37.Bd1 Bc6 38.Bh5 Bd7 39.Bg6 Bc6 40.b4 axb4+ 41.axb4 Bb7 42.b5 Kd7 43.Kb3 Kc7 44.Ka4 Kb6 45.h4 e5 46.g4 Kc7 47.Ka5 Bc8 48.Bf5

Finally, he had enough torture.

1-0

Aleksandr Lenderman (2615) – Aaron Grabinsky (2296) [E16] Philadelphia International (R6), July 1, 2018 [Aaron Grabinsky]

1.d4 e6 2.g3 Nf6 3.Bg2 d5

Believe it or not, this is already a position that I had never played before in my whole life! 3...Be7 4.Nf3 b6 5.Ne5 c6 I usually do something like this, but it's not very good.

4.c4 Bb4+ 5.Nd2 0-0 6.Ngf3 b6 7.0-0 Bb7 8.b3 c5 9.dxc5 Bxc5 10.Bb2 dxc4 11.Nxc4 Na6

11...Qxd1 12.Rfxd1 and White is only slightly better.

12.Qb1!

A strong move and one that made me regret not trading queens...

12...Re8

12...Bd5 was maybe better.

13.Ng5! Bxg2 14.Bxf6 Qxf6 15.Qxh7+ Kf8 16.Qh5!

[Diagram top of next column]



Position after 16.Qh5

I missed this. Nh7+ is a small problem.

16...g6 17.Qh4 Qd4!

from a practical standpoint, this is my only chance. I need to inflict some damage on his pawn structure.

18.Kxg2

18.Qxd4? Bxd4±

18...Qxh4 19.gxh4 b5

Here I was thinking, “well it’s not that bad.” I was ready to make it as hard for him as I possibly could.

20.Nd2 Ba3!

Taking control over the c-file must be useful.

21.Ndf3 Nc5 22.Nd4

22.Ne5? f6 23.Nxg6+ Kg7±

22...a6 23.Rab1

Nc2 is looming...

23...f6 24.Ngf3

24.Nc2?! fxg5 25.Nxa3 gxh4 and I’m totally fine.

24...Bb4

I have to get the bishop out of there.

25.Nc2 Bc3 26.Ne3

I was rather pleased with my line of king-side pawns restricting his knights so well... :)

26...Rac8 27.Rfd1 Ke7 28.Rbc1 Ne4

I was hoping for Bb4 and maybe Nc3 ideas.

29.Rc2 Rc5

29...Bb4? 30.Rd4+ (30.Rdc1? Nc3= This is the kind of activity I was hoping for. 31.Nd1? Ba3!±)

30.Nf1 Rec8

Hoping to seize the file after my bishop retreats.

31.Ng3 Nd6

31...Nxg3 32.hxg3 is obviously not what I want to do.

32.a3!

A very classy move by my opponent. I felt it was very strong during the game as Bb4 was my plan, with a very active position.

32...f5

Maybe not best, but I was running out of active ideas.

33.h5

Of course, he takes his chance to rid himself of the doubled pawns.

33...gxh5 34.Nxh5 e5↑

I was still being annoying though. :)

35.e3 Rh8 36.Ng3 e4 37.Ng1 Rhc8 38.N1e2 Be5 39.Rcd2 Ke6!

Side-stepping the tactics. 39...Rc2? 40.Rxd6+ would be unfortunate.

40.h4 Rh8 41.Nf4+ Bxf4 42.exf4 Nf7±

Here I was just trying to survive, but to my surprise, even here, White’s task is far from easy despite the extra pawn.

43.h5 Rg8

Rg4 suddenly looked like maybe some counterplay...

44.h6?

44.Rd7! not too difficult to find. 44...Rg4 45.Ra7+ and my position is probably just gone. Fortunately Lenderman seemed to be having an off-day. :)

44...Rh8 45.Rd7 Rxh6

Things still aren’t great, but hey, I won my pawn back! I was pretty excited about that.

46.Ra7 Rc6

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A very creative sixth-rank defense...

**47.Rdd7 Nd6 48.Re7+**



Position after 48.Re7+

**48...Kf6??**

48...Kd5!= I seriously considered this, but ultimately decided that I should stay closer to my pawns. Turns out, that was a horrible choice.

**49.Rec7?**

Missing a golden chance. 49.Ne2! and I pretty much just lose immediately. 49...Rg6+ (49...Nc8 50.Rf7+ Kg6 51.Rg7+ Kf6 52.Raf7+ Ke6 53.Nd4+-) 50.Kf1 Nc8 51.Rf7+ Ke6 52.Nd4+-

**49...Rxc7 50.Rxc7 Rg6**

Here I suspected the worst was past. I'm not down material, and I'm very close to stabilizing the position.

**51.Kf1 Ke6 52.Ke2**

52.Rc6 e3 53.Rxa6 exf2 54.Kxf2 Kd5± and this didn't look too bad for Black.

**52...Rg8 53.Ke3**

I knew I was close to a draw, but it was annoying because White still has better placed pieces and a nagging edge.

**53...Kd5?! 54.Re7!**

Here, I got a little scared.

**54...Rd8**

54...Rf8 55.Re5+ Kc6 56.Kd4 and it looked like White was making steady progress...

**55.Re5+ Kc6 56.Ke2?**

56.Nxf5! Nxf5+ 57.Rxf5 Rd3+ 58.Kxe4 Rxb3 59.Rf6+- but I wasn't really sure how to evaluate this during the game.

**56...Rh8 57.Kd2**

57.Nxf5 Nxf5 58.Rxf5 Rh3=

**57...a5 58.Ne2 a4 59.Nd4+ Kc7 60.Rc5+ Kd7 61.bxa4**

61.Nxb5?! Nxb5 62.Rxb5 axb3 63.Rxb3 Rh4=

**61...bxa4 62.Rd5 Ke7 63.Kc3**

63.Nxf5+ Nxf5 64.Rxf5 Rh3 65.Re5+ Kf6 66.Rxe4 Rxa3=

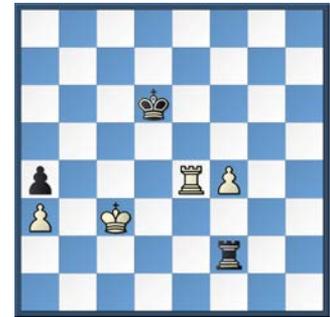
**63...Rh2 64.Nxf5+ Nxf5 65.Rxf5 Rxf2**

I could already taste the draw. I felt sooo close!

**66.Re5+ Kd6**

Not losing, but with little time, my mistake came soon enough... 66...Kf6! is maybe easier. 67.Rxe4 Kf5 68.Rxa4 Rf3+! 69.Kd2 (69.Kb4 Rxf4+ 70.Kb5 Rxa4 71.Kxa4 Ke6 72.Kb5 Kd7= Black reaches c8 in the nick of time.) 69...Rxf4=

**67.Rxe4**



Position after 67.Rxe4

**67...Kc5??**

Having only 5 minutes for the rest of the game is no excuse. This is just ridiculous. Maybe I was tired after six hours, but still. There's no logic behind this move. If only I spent a few extra minutes... 67...Rf3+! was still a draw! and not that hard to find either. :( 68.Kb2 (68.Kb4 Kd5 69.Re5+ (69.Rc4 Rb3+-) 69...Kd6 70.Rf5 Ke6=

## Washington Women's Championship

September 14-16, 2018

**Highest finishing Washington resident seeded into the Premier Section of the 2019 Washington State Championship.**

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

**Format:** A one-section 5-Round Swiss. Dual US Chess & FIDE rated.

**Time Control:** Game in 90 minutes with a 30-second increment added after each move.  
US Chess September 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:** \$1,000 (based on 25 paid entries).

1st \$300, 2nd \$200, 3rd \$100, 1st U1800 \$80, 1st U1600 \$80, 1st U1400 \$80, 1st U1200 \$80, 1st U1000/Unr \$80.

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

**Registration:** Friday 6:00 - 6:45 PM.

**Rounds:** Friday 7:00 PM; Saturday 11:00 AM, 5:00 PM; Sunday 11:00 AM, 5:00 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: 6. US Chess Junior Grand Prix event. NS. NC. W.

**Entries:** Make checks payable to Washington Chess Federation.  
**Mail To:** Josh Sinanan, 3610 218th Street SW, Brier, WA 98036.  
**Phone:** (206) 769-3757. **Email:** [joshsinanan@gmail.com](mailto:joshsinanan@gmail.com).  
**Online Registration:** [www.nwchess.com/onlineregistration](http://www.nwchess.com/onlineregistration).

and Black is simply too active.) 68...Rf2+ 69.Kc1 Rf3 70.Rxa4 Kc6= and Black has just enough time to take the f4 pawn and run back to the a-pawn.

68.Rxa4+-

Well, that was an unfortunate slip. Now I'm just done.

68...Rf3+ 69.Kd2 Kb5 70.Ke2 Rh3 71.Ra8 Kc5 72.a4 Kd5 73.a5 Kc6

I played another twenty or so moves and got into a queen vs. rook endgame after my opponent got a little unnecessarily fancy... :) But when all you've got is a 10 second delay and you're defending with two seconds to your opponent's two minutes, needless to say, I didn't last long...

1-0

*These last three games are presented without notes for the historical record.— Jeffrey Roland, Editor*

Aaron Grabinsky (2296) –  
Victor Mikhalevski (2581) [B38]  
Philadelphia International  
(R7), July 1, 2018

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.f3 g6 6.c4 Bg7 7.Nc3 0-0 8.Be3 Nc6 9.Be2 Bd7 10.Qd2 Nxd4 11.Bxd4 Bc6

12.0-0 a5 13.Rac1 a4 14.Nd5 Nd7 15.Bxg7 Kxg7 16.f4 e6 17.Nc3 Nf6 18.Bf3 e5 19.f5 gxf5 20.exf5 e4 21.Be2 Qb6+ 22.Kh1 e3 23.Qe1 h6 24.Bf3 Qc5 25.Bxc6 bxc6 26.Rf3 Rfe8 27.Qg3+ Kh7 28.Re1 Rg8 29.Qh4 Ng4 30.Ne4 Qe5 31.Rex3 Qxb2 32.h3 d5 33.hxg4 dxe4 34.Rh3 Qg7 35.Rxe4 Qg5 36.Qe1 Ra7 37.Rh5 Qf6 38.Qd2 Rb7 39.Rd4 a3 40.Qf4 Rg5 41.Rh3 Kg7 42.Kh2 Rb1 43.Rxa3 Rf1 44.Rf3 Re1 45.a4 c5 46.Rd5 Qa1 47.f6+ Kh7 48.Rxg5 Rh1+ 49.Kg3 Qe1+ 50.Rf2 hxg5 51.Qxg5 Qc3+ 52.Rf3 Qe1+ 53.Kf4 Qd2+ 54.Re3 Rf1+ 55.Kg3 Rxf6 56.Qxf6 Qxe3+ 57.Kh4 Qe1+ 58.Kh5 Kg8 59.Qg5+ Kh7 60.Qxc5 Qh1+ 61.Kg5 Qxg2 62.Qd5 Qe2 63.Qxf7+ Kh8 64.Qf6+ Kg8 65.Qd8+ Kh7 66.Qd7+ Kh8 67.Kf6 Qf3+ 68.Kg6 Qe4+ 69.Kf6 Qf3+ 70.Ke7 Qe3+ 71.Kd8 Qb6+ 72.Ke8 Qe3+ 73.Qe7 Qd4 74.g5 Qg4 75.Qf6+ Kg8 76.Ke7 Qg1 77.Qf8+ Kh7 78.g6+ Qxg6 79.Qf7+ Kh8 80.Qe8+ 1-0

Peng Chen (2297) –  
Aaron Grabinsky (2296) [C07]  
Philadelphia International  
(R8), July 2, 2018

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.Nd2 c5 4.exd5 Qxd5 5.Ngf3 cxd4 6.Be4 Qd7 7.0-0 Nc6 8.Nb3 Nf6 9.Nbx4 Nxd4 10.Qxd4

Qxd4 11.Nxd4 a6 12.Bf4 b5 13.Be2 Bb7 14.Rfc1 Rc8 15.a4 b4 16.Nb3 Ra8 17.Be3 Be7 18.Nc5 Bxc5 19.Bxc5 Nd5 20.Bf3 a5 21.c4 bxc3 22.bxc3 Bc6 23.c4 Ne7 24.Bxc6+ Nxc6 25.Rab1 Kd8 26.Rb7 Kc8 27.Rcb1 Rb8 28.Rxb8+ Nxb8 29.Bd6 Nc6 30.Rb6 Kd7 31.c5 e5 32.Rb7+ Ke6 33.Rc7 Rb8 34.g3 Rb1+ 35.Kg2 Kd5 36.Rxf7 g5 37.Rxh7 Rb4 38.h4 gxh4 39.Rxh4 Nd4 40.Rh5 Nc6 41.Bxe5 Rxa4 42.Bc3+ Ke6 43.Rh6+ Kd5 44.Bg7 Rg4 45.Bf8 Rg8 46.Rd6+ Kxc5 47.Rf6+ Kd5 48.f3 a4 49.Ba3 Rc8 50.g4 Kc4 51.f4 Kb3 52.Bd6 a3 53.Bxa3 Kxa3 54.g5 Kb4 55.Kg3 Kc5 56.Kg4 Kd5 57.g6 Nd4 1/2-1/2

Evgeny Shtembuliak (2506) –  
Aaron Grabinsky (2296) [B16]  
Philadelphia International  
(R9), July 2, 2018

1.e4 c6 2.Nc3 d5 3.Nf3 dxe4 4.Nxe4 Nf6 5.Nxf6+ gxf6 6.d4 Bg4 7.Be2 e6 8.0-0 Bd6 9.c4 Qa5 10.c5 Be7 11.Bf4 Qd8 12.Qb3 Qc8 13.Rfe1 Nd7 14.Nd2 Bxe2 15.Rxe2 f5 16.Nc4 Nf6 17.Be5 Qd7 18.Nd6+ Kf8 19.d5 cxd5 20.Qc3 Qd8 21.Nxb7 d4 22.Bxd4 Qd5 23.Bxf6 Rg8 24.g3 Qxb7 25.c6 Qb5 26.Rc2 Rg4 27.c7 Rc8 28.Rd1 Qe8 29.Bxe7+ Qxe7 30.Qc6 Rb4 31.Rd7 Rb6 32.Rxe7 Rxc6 33.Rxf7+ 1-0

# Washington Game/60 Championship

## October 13-14, 2018

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

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

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

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

US Chess October 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 regular/quick or foreign ratings used at TD discretion.

**Prize Fund:** \$2,500 (based on 60 paid entries).

1st \$650, 2nd \$500, 3rd \$300, 1st U2200 \$150, 1st U2000 \$150, 1st U1800 \$150, 1st U1600 \$150, 1st U1400 \$150, 1st U1200, 1st U1000/Unrated \$150.

**Entry Fee:** \$70 if postmarked or online by 10/07, \$80 after 10/07 or at site. Free entry for GMs, IMs, WGMs.

**Registration:** 10:00 - 10:45 AM.

**Rounds:** Saturday 11:00 AM, 2:00 PM, 5:00 PM  
Sunday 11:00 AM, 2:00 PM, 5:00 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: 10. 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 or **Josh Sinanan:** (206) 769-3757.

**Email:** [danomathews01@gmail.com](mailto:danomathews01@gmail.com) or [wcf.tournaments@gmail.com](mailto:wcf.tournaments@gmail.com).

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

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

# 36th Reno - Western States Open

October 19 - 21 & October 20 - 21, 2018 • 3 Day or 2 Day Schedule

US Chess  
120 GPP (Enhanced)

**\$25,500!!**  
(b/275)

**\$15,500!!**  
(Guaranteed)

F.I.D.E. Rated

6 Round Swiss • 6 Sections • 40/2 - G/55 min - d5 • 2 Day (Rds 1-3) G/1-d5

**Rooms: \$58.61 / \$88.12 !!**

**Open Section (2200 & above) EF:\$159, (2000-2199) \$200, (1999/below) \$300**

**(GMs & IMs free but must enter by 9/19 or pay late fee at door).**

Guaranteed (Prizes 1-7 in Open Section Gtd. plus 1/2 of all other prizes).

\$2,000 - 1000 - 800 - 600 - 500 - 300 - 300, (2399/below) \$1,000 - 500, (2299/below) \$1,000 - 500  
(if a tie for 1st then a playoff for \$100 out of prize fund plus trophy).

**Sec. Expert** - (2000 - 2199) EF: \$159; \$2000 - \$800 - \$400 - \$300 - \$200.

**Sec. "A"** - (1800 - 1999) EF: \$158; \$1800 - \$700 - \$400 - \$300 - \$300.

**Sec. "B"** - (1600 - 1799) EF: \$157; \$1700 - \$700 - \$400 - \$300 - \$300.

**Sec. "C"** - (1400 - 1599) EF: \$156; \$1500 - \$600 - \$400 - \$300 - \$300.

**Sec. "D" /under** - (1399/below) EF:\$150; \$1000 - \$400 - \$300 - \$200, (1199/below) \$300.

**Top Senior (65+)** - \$200; **Club Champ** - \$600 - \$300.

**Wednesday 10/17 7:00 pm** - GM Sergey Kudrin - Clock Simul. w/complete analysis of YOUR Game (Only \$30!)

**Thursday 10/18 6:00 pm** - 7:15 pm - Lecture by IM John Donaldson (FREE)

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

**Saturday 10/20 3:00 pm - 4:30 pm** - FREE Game / Position Analysis - IM John Donaldson

## **Main Tournament**

**Registration: Thursday (10/18) 5 - 8 pm. Friday (10/19) 9 - 10 am. Saturday (10/20) 9 - 10 am.**

**Round Times: (3 Day Sch.): Fri. - 12 Noon - 7 pm; Sat. - 10 am - 7 pm; Sun. - 9:30 am - 4:30 pm**

**(2 Day Sch.): Sat. - Rd 1 - 11:00 am; Rd 2 - 1:15 pm; Rd 3 - 3:45 pm, Rd 4 merge with regular schedule - 7:00 pm**

**PLUS! Complimentary Coffee and Coffee Cakes!**

**For more information: Call, Write or E-mail Organizer and Chief TD, N.T.D. Jerome (Jerry) Weikel, (775) 747-1405  
6578 Valley Wood Dr., Reno, NV 89523 • wackyykl@aol.com**

**Room Reservations: Call the Sands Regency - 1-866-FUN-STAY • Reserve by October 1st for Chess Rate  
Ask for code: CHESS1018. For TLA and to confirm receipt of entry see player list at: [www.renochess.org](http://www.renochess.org)**

**ENTRY FORM - 36th Annual Western States Open - Reno, Nevada - October 19 - 21 & October 20 - 21, 2018**

Mail to: Sands Regency Casino Hotel - 345 N. Arlington Avenue - Reno NV 89521

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

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

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

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

----- OPEN SECTION -----				"EXPERT"	"A"	"B"	"C"	"D and Under"	UNRATED	
GM / IM	Masters	2000-2199	1999-BELOW	2000-2199	1800-1999	1600-1799	1400-1599	1399-Below	Free With	
<b>3-Day EF</b>	Free	\$159	\$200	\$300	\$159	\$158	\$157	\$156	\$150	USCF Dues
<b>2-Day EF</b>		\$155	\$155	\$155	\$155	\$155	\$155	\$155	\$155	USCF Dues

**FEES ALSO ENCLOSED FOR:**

- Hotel Deposit \$58.61\* (Weekday) or
- Hotel Deposit \$88.12\* (Fri. & Sat.)
- \$30 Wed. Clock Simul. GM Kudrin
- \$20 Thursday-Simul. GM Khachiyani
- \$25 Thursday Blitz (G / 5 d0)
- \$10 discount - Sr. 65+ Age

**HOTEL INFORMATION:**

- No Room Needed
- Made By Phone
- Please Make Me a Reservation\*  
Arrival Date \_\_\_\_\_  
Departure Date \_\_\_\_\_
- One Bed  Two Beds  S  NS

**POSTMARK by September 19, 2018**

**Add \$11 after 9/19. Do not mail after 10/12. \$22 on site.  
check / m.o. payable to THE SANDS REGENCY or provide credit card  
information and signature. \$5 service charge on credit card entries.**

Visa  Master Card  Am. Exp.

Card Number AND Expiration Date \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

CHECK ENCLOSED  
 CHARGE MY CARD  
**TOTAL FEES: \$**

\*Send \$58.61 for weekday arrival, \$88.12 for Friday arrival.



2014, 2015, 2016, and 2017 Best State Magazine awards that were made up and on display at the annual Chess Journalists of America Meeting that was held along-side the U.S. Open. Photo credit: Adam Porth.

# Washington Challenger's Cup

## October 27-28, 2018

**Highest finishing Washington resident in the Open Section seeded into the 2019 Washington State Championship**

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

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

**Two Sections:** Open (FIDE Rated) and Reserve (under 1800).  
**Open:** 4 Round Swiss. **Time Control:** 40/120, SD/30, d10.  
**Reserve:** 5 Round Swiss. **Time Control:** Round 1 G/60, d10, Rounds 2-5 40/120, SD/30, d10.

**Rounds:** Open: Saturday 10:00 AM, 4:00 PM; Sunday 11:00 AM, 5:00 PM. Reserve: Saturday 10:00 AM, 12:30 PM, 6:00 PM; Sunday 11:00 AM, 5:00 PM.

US Chess October 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.

**Byes:** One half-point bye available (Open Section), two half-point byes available (Reserve Section). Request before end of round 2. US Chess and WCF/OCF/ICA memberships required, other states accepted. US Chess Grand Prix Points: 10. US Chess Junior Grand Prix event. Northwest Chess Grand Prix event. NS. NC. W.

**Prize Fund:** \$2,500 (based on 60 paid entries).  
**Open:** 1st \$600, 2nd \$400, 1st U2100 \$200, 1st U1900 \$200.  
**Reserve:** 1st \$400, 2nd \$250, 1st U1600 \$150, 1st U1400 \$150, 1st U1200/Unrated \$150.

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

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

**Phone:** (425) 218-7529 or **Josh Sinanan:** (206) 769-3757.

**Entry Fee:** \$75 if postmarked or online by 10/21, \$85 after 10/21 or at site. Free entry for GMs, IMs, WGMs.

**Email:** [danomathews01@gmail.com](mailto:danomathews01@gmail.com) or [wcf.tournaments@gmail.com](mailto:wcf.tournaments@gmail.com).

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

# Washington Class Championships

## A NW Grand Prix Event

### November 23-25, 2018

#### \$10,000 Guaranteed Prize Fund

Entry fees listed as: Postmarked  
By Oct 28 / By Nov 14 / At site

**Master (2200+)** EF \$150 / \$160 / \$170  
Prizes \$700, \$500, \$400 U2300 \$250, \$150

**Expert (2000-2199)** EF \$140 / \$150 / \$160  
Prizes \$600, \$375, \$300, U2100 \$200, \$125

**Class A (1800-1999)** EF \$130 / \$140 / \$150  
Prizes \$450, \$300, \$200 U1900 \$150, \$100

**Class B (1600-1799)** EF \$130 / \$140 / \$150  
Prizes \$450, \$300, \$200 U1700 \$150, \$100

**Class C (1400-1599)** EF \$130 / \$140 / \$150  
Prizes \$450, \$300, \$200 U1500 \$150, \$100

**Class D (1200-1399)** EF \$130 / \$140 / \$150  
Prizes \$450, \$300, \$200 U1300 \$150, \$100

**Class E (1199 & Under)** EF \$120 / \$130 / \$140  
Prizes \$350, \$200, \$150, U1000 \$100, U800/Unrated \$100

#### Special Prizes

Top female (each class) \$50  
Top senior 50+ (each class) \$50

**Medal Only** EF \$80 / \$90 / \$100  
(Juniors Under age 21 only)

Medals awarded to top two in each class.

Rated players add \$65 to play up one class only (can't play up two classes).

Free entry to GMs, IMs, and WGMs.

Reentry for 1/2 of your original entry fee.

Canadians may pay C\$ at par (no coins) for entry fee only.

#### Entries/Information:

Send entries to: Dan Mathews  
WCF Tournament Coordinator  
749 Somerset Lane  
Edmonds, WA 98020-2646

Phone: (425) 218-7529

E-mail: [danomathews01@gmail.com](mailto:danomathews01@gmail.com)

Joshua Sinanan

Phone: (206) 769-3757

E-mail: [wcf.tournaments@gmail.com](mailto:wcf.tournaments@gmail.com)

Make checks payable to  
Washington Chess Federation.

Embassy Suites Seattle North/Lynnwood

20610 44th Avenue West

Lynnwood, WA 98036-7701, Phone (425) 775-2500

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

Pay by credit/debit or PayPal.

**Format:** Seven class sections as shown at left, six round Swiss system. Sections may be combined if less than 12 players in a section. *Late registrations may receive half-point byes for first round.*

**Rating:** US Chess rated. Master/Expert/Class A/Class B sections also FIDE rated (except G/60 games). US Chess November 2018 rating supplement will be used to determine class sections. Higher of US Chess or foreign ratings used at TD discretion. Higher of US Chess or FIDE rating used for pairings and prizes in Master, Expert, Class A, Class B sections. Foreign ratings used for players with no US Chess rating. Unrated players may only win 1st, 2nd, 3rd prizes in Master section, or unrated prize in Class E. Medal Only may not win any cash prizes.

**Registration:** Friday 9:00-10:00 AM for 3-day schedule, or 3:00-3:30 PM if entering with one half-point bye. Saturday 8:00-8:30 AM for 2-day schedule, or 8:30-9:30 AM if entering 3-day schedule with two half-point byes. Two half-point byes available at registration or before end of round 2. Play any two days, if taking two half-point byes.

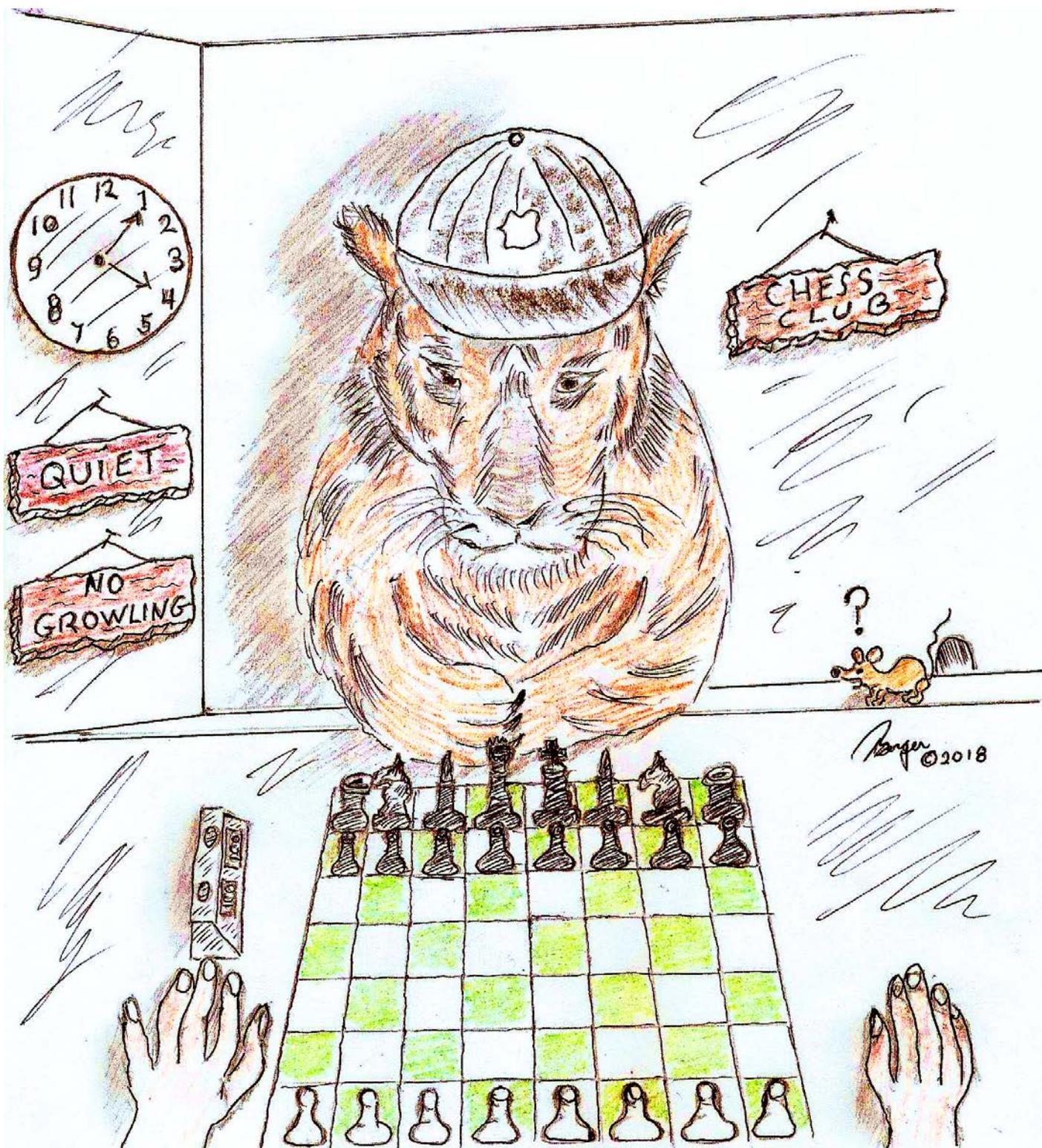
**Rounds:** 3-day schedule: Fri: 11:00 AM and 5:30 PM, Sat 11:00 AM and 5:30 PM, Sun 9:30 AM and 3:30 PM. 2-day schedule: Sat 9:00 AM, 11:45 AM, 2:30 PM, then join 3-day schedule with round 4 at 5:30 PM.

**Time Controls:** 3-day schedule: 40/120 and SD/30 with 10-second delay. 2-day schedule: G/60 with 10-second delay (rounds 1-3), rounds 4-6 same as 3-day schedule. Please bring tournament chess set, board, and digital clock.

**Miscellaneous:** Current US Chess membership and WCF/OCF/ICA membership required in all sections. Other States Accepted. Memberships may be paid at time of registration. NW Grand Prix event. US Chess Grand Prix Points: 40. US Chess Junior Grand Prix. No Smoking. No Computers. Wheelchair accessible.

**Hotel Info/Rates:** \$129 King, \$139 Double, single or double occupancy. Call (425) 775-2500, request the Washington Chess Federation block. Group ID: 396412. Cut-off date for reservations at the discount is November 10, 2018 at 5:00 PM PST.

**Washington Class Blitz Championship:** Sat 11/24 at 9:00 PM. Format: 5 round Double Swiss in one section. Registration: 8:00-8:45 PM. Rounds: 9:00, 9:30, 10:00, 10:30 and 11:00 PM. TC: G/5; d0. EF: \$25. Prize Fund: \$400/b20. 1st \$130, 2nd \$90, 1st U2000 \$60, 1st U1700 \$60, 1st U1400/Unrated \$60. US Chess Blitz rated. Current US Chess and WCF/OCF/ICA memberships required.



MEETING HIS OPPONENT FOR THE FIRST TIME, FELIX COULD NOT HELP NOTICING THAT THE OLD MAN HAD A HUNGRY, MEAN LOOK ABOUT HIM—SUGGESTIVE OF AN AGGRESSIVE DEMEANOR.

# The 2018 John Braley Memorial Northwest Chess Grand Prix

Murlin Varner, Administrator (mevjr54@outlook.com)

Summer is moving along well. Turnout has been good at most events, considering the time of year. Changes in our standings sheet reflect this. Idaho had only one event during July, and has the fewest changes as a result. If you don't feel like running through the standings yourself, here are the changes. Dewayne Derryberry appeared in fifth for Class B. Two new names appeared in Class D, with Andrew Kitterman and Forrest Zeng moving into fourth and fifth places. Finally, in Class E and Below, Darwin Porth moved from third to a tie for second, and Darren Su took over fifth place. That's it, everything else remained static.

There were three events each in Portland and Seattle, with one 2x event in each location. For Oregon, the changes were fairly plentiful. At the top, Owen McCoy moved ahead of Steven Breckenridge for first among the Masters. Gavin Zhang took over fifth in the Expert Class. In Class A, Isaac Vega assumed first place by a tiny half point, while William Holloran took his place at fifth. Austin Tang moved up a class, going from second in Class C to first in Class B. Havish Sripada also made that move, but didn't have enough points to maintain a position on the leader board. As a result, others in Class C shifted upward, allowing Egan Wang and Dale Wentz to move into fourth and fifth. Two new names jumped into fourth and fifth in Class D and Below, Lucas Baker and Vimal Adiraju.

Washington had the greatest number of changes, beginning with Anthony He occupying fourth in the Master Class. Joseph Levine moved from second in Class A to first in the Expert Class. Jason Yu managed to hold on to second place by jumping over Rushaan Mahajan. Alec Beck moved into a cash spot filling in for Levine in Class A, while Joshua Lewis-Sandy jumped ahead of Vignesh Anand for third and Sophie Tien took fifth place honors. Class B has a new leader, as Stephen Buck moved into first place, and Ryan Min joined the Class B list at third, moving up from second in Class C. Most of the leaders from last month's Class D are now Class C players, with Jerrold Richards taking second and Richard Tang taking fifth. Aiden Chen also made the trip from D to C, but didn't make the leader board. With all these shifts, Class D is almost new. Edward Li is the new owner of first place, and Jeffrey Kou, Emma Li and Lois Ruff fill out the list.

September has the potential to make more changes, mainly because of the Oregon Open on Labor Day weekend. This has always been a good event for drawing players from Idaho, and any who do will make a huge leap ahead of their rivals because of its 6x multiplier. (Remember to finish your schedule with no F or U entries to get the bonus, which is worth 12 points with this multiplier.) There is also the 2x Seattle Fall Open, the usual monthlies in Portland and Seattle, and the venerable Eastern Washington Open in Spokane. If life is good, I might find myself playing in one or two of these. Say hello if you see me.

All data is current as of July 31.

## 2018 Memorial Northwest Grand Prix Standings

Idaho			Oregon			Washington		
last	first	pts.	last	first	pts.	last	first	pts.
<b>Masters</b>								
			1	McCoy Owen	26.5	1	Perez Ignacio	114.5
			2	Breckenridge Steven J	25.5	2	Pupols Viktors	94.5
			3	Haessler Carl A	14.5	3	Bragg David R	61.0
			4	Grabinsky Joshua	13.0	4	He Anthony B	56.0
			5	Two tied at	12.0	5	Schill William J	47.5
<b>Experts</b>								
			1	Richardson Ryan	65.0	1	Levine Joseph R	115.0
			2	Gatica Jose M	37.5	2	Yu Jason	81.5
			3	Cosner Karl	28.0	3	Mahajan Rushaan	76.5
			4	Bjorksten Lennart	25.5	4	Deshpande Aaryan H	66.5
			5	Zhang Gavin	22.0	5	Arganian David G	66.0
<b>Class A</b>								
			1	Vega Isaac	96.0	1	Fagundes Frank	122.5
			2	Moore Michael	95.5	2	Beck Alec W	94.0
			3	Nair Roshen S	82.0	3	Lewis-Sandy Joshua M	93.0
			4	Rachmuth Moshe S	47.0	4	Anand Vignesh	83.0
			5	Holloran William T, III	44.5	5	Tien Sophie J	77.5
<b>M/X/Class A</b>								
1	Cambareri Michael E	65.0						
2	Machin Alex J	45.5						
3	Inman James	37.0						
4	Nathan Jacob A	8.0						
5	Kircher Caleb P	7.0						
<b>Class B</b>								
1	Roland Jeffrey T	35.5						
1	Wei James	35.5						
3	Rainey Samuel W	24.0						
4	Geyman Jonathan P	23.5						
5	Derryberry Dewayne R	17.5						

Idaho			Oregon			Washington					
last	first	pts.	last	first	pts.	last	first	pts.			
<b>Class C</b>			<b>Class B</b>								
1	Weyland	Ron	13.5	1	Tang	Austin	110.0	1	Buck	Stephen J	92.5
2	Mason	Dusty G	9.5	2	Tang	Zoey	105.5	2	Gupta	Anand	91.0
3	Pentico	Chrisopher	6.0	3	Kodithyala	Raj	70.5	3	Min	Ryan	89.5
4	Owen	Gary	5.5	4	Wu	Abbie	59.5	4	Hua	Anthony	80.5
4	Looney	Daniel S	5.5	5	Berger	Brian F	44.5	5	Kaelin	Alex	69.0
<b>Class D</b>			<b>Class C</b>								
1	Merry	William A F	20.0	1	Beauchet	Pierre-Hadrien	111.0	1	Piper	August	95.5
2	Porth	Adam	16.5	2	Dietz	Arliss	64.5	2	Richards	Jerrold	82.0
3	Shepard	River C	13.5	3	Roshu	Cassandra M	43.5	3	Goktepe	Derin	78.0
4	Kitterman	Andrew N	10.0	4	Wong	Egan	41.0	4	Xiao	Alison	72.0
5	Zeng	Forrest	8.5	5	Wentz	Dale R	19.5	5	Tang	Richard O	71.5
<b>Class E and Below</b>			<b>Class D and Below</b>								
1	Wei	Luke B	25.0	1	Morrissey	Patrick W	42.0	1	Li	Edward	71.0
2	Porth	Darwin A	15.0	2	Kenway	Geoffrey W	34.0	2	Kou	Jeffrey	64.5
2	Geyman	Josiah B	15.0	3	Kodarapu	Ishaan K	25.5	3	Li	Emma	58.0
4	Olson	Otto W	11.5	4	Baker	Lucas	24.0	4	Ruff	Lois A	56.0
5	Su	Darren	11.0	5	Adiraju	Vimal	22.5	5	Two tied at		55.5
<b>Overall Leaders, by State</b>											
1	Cambareri	Michael E	65.0	1	Beauchet	Pierre-Hadrien	111.0	1	Fagundes	Frank	122.5
2	Machin	Alex J	45.5	2	Tang	Austin	110.0	2	Levine	Joseph R	115.0
3	Inman	James	37.0	3	Tang	Zoey	105.5	3	Perez	Ignacio	114.5
4	Roland	Jeffrey T	35.5	4	Vega	Isaac	96.0	4	Piper	August	95.5
4	Wei	James	35.5	5	Moore	Michael	95.5	5	Pupols	Viktors	94.5
6	Wei	Luke B	25.0	6	Nair	Roshen S	82.0	6	Beck	Alec W	94.0
7	Rainey	Samuel W	24.0	7	Kodithyala	Raj	70.5	7	Lewis-Sandy	Joshua M	93.0
8	Geyman	Jonathan P	23.5	8	Richardson	Ryan	65.0	8	Buck	Stephen J	92.5
9	Merry	William A F	20.0	9	Dietz	Arliss	64.5	9	Gupta	Anand	91.0
10	Derryberry	Dewayne R	17.5	10	Wu	Abbie	59.5	10	Min	Ryan	89.5
11	Martonick	Nick	16.5	11	Rachmuth	Moshe S	47.0	11	Anand	Vignesh	83.0
11	Porth	Adam	16.5	12	Two Tied At		44.5	12	Richards	Jerrold	82.0

## Upcoming Events (Continued from Page 31)

☞ **Oct 13-14** National Chess Day-Portland Fall 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: \$40, \$30 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 (\$1000 b/40): Open: 1st-\$250, 2nd-\$175, 1st U2000-\$100; Reserve: 1st-\$150, 2nd-\$100, 1st 1600, 1st U1400, 1st U1200/unrated-\$75 each. OCF Invitational Tournament and OSCF State qualifier. More info. at pdxchess.org, (503) 246-2978.

☞ **Oct 13-14** Washington G/60 Championship, **Seattle, WA**. (Half-page Ad page 23)

**Oct 19-21** Western States Open, **Reno, NV**. (Full-page Ad page 24)

☞ **Oct 27-28** Washington Challengers Cup, **Seattle, WA**. (Half-page Ad page 25)

☞ **Nov 23-25** Washington Class Championships, **Lynnwood, WA**. (Full-page Ad page 26)

# 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

Wednes-  
 days are for casual play, from 7:00  
 pm to 11:00 pm

## SCC Championship

Sept. 7, 14, 28; Oct. 5, 12, 26; Nov. 2

**Format:** 7-rd Swiss held on Friday evenings. **TC:** 35/100 and 25/60. **EF:** \$32 if rec'd by 9/5, \$40 thereafter. SCC memb. req'd—\$30 special tnmt memb.  
**Prize fund:** 75% of EFs. **Prizes:** 23%-16%, U2000 9%, U1800 8%, U1600 7%, U1400 6%, Unrated 3%, Endurance 3%.  
**Reg:** Fri. 7-7:45 p.m. **Rds:** Fridays 8 p.m.  
**Make-up Games for Rds 1-4:** G/75;d5 make-ups may be scheduled for any Wednesday 9/12 through 10/11. **Byes:** 4 (1 in rds 5-7, commit by 10/14). **Misc:** SCC/US Chess memb. req'd. NS. NC.

Sept 9 **New Date**, Oct 14

**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.

Sept 29, Oct 13

**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.

Oct 7

**Format:** 4-SS. Open to U1200 and UNR. **TC:** G/75; d5. **EF:** \$11 by 10/3, \$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.

Sunday Tornado

Saturday Quads

SCC Novice

## WCF @ the SCC

Seattle Chess Classic	Aug. 15-19
WA Women's Champ.	Sept. 14-16

## 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!

<b>Close Ratings 3:</b>	9/7, 14, 21, 28.
<b>Autumn Leaves:</b>	10/5, 12, 19, 26.
<b>November Rains:</b>	11/2, 9, 16.
<b>Package Express:</b>	11/30, 12/7, 14, 21.

## Seattle Fall Open

### September 21-23 or September 22-23

A 2-section, 5-round Swiss chess tournament with a time control of 40/120 & SD/60 and a 5-second delay (except Rd 1 of 2-day option — G/60;d5) with a prize fund of \$1000 based on 62 paid entries, 6 per prize group.

*A Northwest Grand Prix event*

Open: **\$180 gtd-\$120 gtd, U2200 \$100, U2000 \$95, U1800 \$90**

Reserve (U1700): **\$110-\$80, U1550 \$70, U1450 \$65, U1350 \$60, UNR \$30**

**Entry Fees:** \$35 by 9/19, \$45 at site. SCC members—subtract \$10. Members of other dues-req'd CCs in BC, OR, & WA—subtract \$5. Unrated players FREE with purchase of 1-yr US Chess & WCF. **Add \$1 for 2-day option.** Make checks payable to SCC.

**Registration:** Fri. 7-7:45 pm or Sat. 9-9:45 am. **Rounds:** Fri. 8 pm, Sat. (10@G/60;d5)-12:30-6:45, Sun. 11-5.

**Byes:** 2 available. Rounds 4 or 5 must commit at registration. **Misc.:** US Chess & WCF required. NS. NC.

# Upcoming Events

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

☞ **Sep 1-3** 68th Annual Oregon Oopen, **Portland, OR.** (<http://www.nwchess.com/calendar/TA.htm>)

☞ **Sep 9/Oct 21** 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](http://pdxchess.org). Phone: (503) 246-2978.

**Sep 14-16** Washington Women's Championship, **Seattle, WA.** (Half-Page Ad page 22)

**Sep 14-16 and 22-23** Oregon State Championship and Invitational (rescheduled), **Portland, OR.**

☞ **Sept. 15** Eastern Idaho Open, **Pocatello, ID.** 4SS, Time Control: G/60; d5. Section: Open. Site: ISU, SUB, Salmon River Suites, Pocatello, ID. US Chess & ICA/OCF/WCF mem req. EF: \$30 per player. Discount for online registration. Check in: 9:00-9:30am. Rd. times: 10:00am, 1:00 pm, 3:00 pm, 5:00 pm. 1/2 pt bye avail: Max 1, Notify TD before Rd. 2 is paired. \$\$ (based on 30) 1st - 3rd place Overall \$100, \$75, \$50. \$50/class: U1800, U1600, U1400, U1200, U1000, unr. Details: [idahochessassociation@gmail.com](mailto:idahochessassociation@gmail.com), Online registration at [www.idahochessassociation.com](http://www.idahochessassociation.com), (208)450-9048.

☞ **Sep 29/Oct 27** 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, 2:45pm, 5:00pm. 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.

☞ **Sep 29-30** Eastern Washington Open, **Spokane, WA.** Location: Jepson Center, Rooms 108-109, Gonzaga University. Format: 5-round Swiss System, directed by Ted Baker. Registration: 8:30-9:30, Sept. 29. Rounds: 10-2:30-7; 9-1:30. Time control: Game/120 (d5). Entry fee: \$21 if received by 9/28, \$26 at the door; under 18 \$5 less. \$630 prize fund based on 30 entries. Additional classes and class prizes may be created if entries exceed 30 players. Class prizes based on at least 5 per class; classes (and class prizes) may be reconfigured if less than five class entries. Only one prize per player (except biggest upset). NS, NC, W. One 1/2-point bye available if requested by end of previous round; Sunday bye must be requested by end of round 3. Director reserves right to use class pairings in final round. Prizes: FIRST \$125, SECOND \$ 75; Class Prizes: \$65 first, \$30 second: A; B; C; D/E/unrated. Biggest Upset (non-provisional) - \$50. Entries: Spokane Chess Club, c/o 9923 N. Moore St., Spokane, WA 99208. For information please call (509) 270-1772 (cell). Club website: [www.spokanechessclub.org](http://www.spokanechessclub.org).

**Oct 2, 9, 16, 23, 30** Portland Chess Club Championship, **Portland, OR.** Site: Portland Chess Club, 8205 SW 24th Ave, Portland, OR 97219. One section, 5-round Swiss with one round each Tuesday at 7:30pm. By agreement players may schedule their game at another day and/or time if it's scheduled by the Sunday before the next round. One half point bye is available if requested before round one. 40/90,\$D/30;d10, US Chess rated. On-site reg: 7:15-7:30pm. EF and Memberships: \$10 and US Chess and PCC memberships through October are required and can be paid for during registration with cash or check payable to Portland Chess Club. Prizes: 1st-\$50 and name inscribed on club champions plaque (all those who tie for first are co-champions and get their name inscribed on champions plaque), 1st U1800/unrated-\$25. OSCF State qualifier. More info. at [pdxchess.org](http://pdxchess.org), (503) 246-2978.

☞ **Oct. 12-14** Norman Friedman Memorial & National Chess Day Tournament, **Boise, ID.** 5 SS, TC: G/120; d5. Site: The Riverside Hotel, 2900 W Chinden Blvd, Boise, ID 83714. US Chess and ICA membership req'd, Other states acceptable. One Section: Open, US Chess rated. EF: \$30 per player (\$10 blitz only) Discount for online registration. Check-in: 9:30 - 10 am. US Chess & ICA/OCF/WCF mem req., can be purchased at reg. Opening Cer. 9 am, Rd times: 10/13 10 am, 2 pm, 7 pm, 10/14 9 am, 1 pm. Byes: Rd 1-4. Prizes: \$1200 guaranteed! 1st - 3rd place Overall \$250, \$200, 150 U1800, U1600, U1400, U1200, U1000, Unr each: \$50/class. Side Events: Blitz 10/12, Scholastic Chess 10/13, Blitz prizes: 1st - 3rd overall, \$150, \$100, \$75. Scholastic Prizes: 1st - 3rd overall trophies, 1st place K-3rd grade. Contact: [idahochessassociation@gmail.com](mailto:idahochessassociation@gmail.com), [www.idahochessassociation.com](http://www.idahochessassociation.com), 208-450-9048.

**Oct 13** National Chess Day James Tarjan Simultaneous Exhibition, Vancouver Mall, **Vancouver, WA.** (<http://www.nwchess.com/calendar/TA.htm>)

(Continued on Page 29)

**Northwest Chess**  
c/o Orlov Chess Academy  
4174 148th Ave NE, Building I, Suite M  
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