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March 2019



**GM Bu Xiangzhi and IM John Donaldson visited
the brand new Pacific Northwest Chess Center
(PNWCC)**

Northwest Chess

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L-R: GM Emil Anka, IM John Donaldson,
PNWCC Vice President Vijay Sankaran, IM Leslie Leow,
GM Bu Xiangzhi, and PNWCC President Xuhao He.
Photo credit: PNWCC.

On the back cover:

The new 2019 Idaho Blitz Champion James Wei.
Photo credit: Jeffrey Roland.

Chesstoons:

Chess cartoons drawn by local artist Brian Berger,
of West Linn, Oregon.

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Submissions of games (PGN format is preferable for games), stories, photos, art, and other **original** chess-related content are encouraged! Multiple submissions are acceptable; please indicate if material is non-exclusive. All submissions are subject to editing or revision. Send via U.S. Mail to:

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From The Editor's Desk

Well this is the March issue, and I'm finishing this up on February 19 to send off to the printers for production. Since this is the March issue, one would think it's about time for Spring to arrive!! In Boise, which is where I live, this winter has been somewhat mellow for a change. However, in many parts of the country, I think the weather this winter has been what most would call bad! In Washington, the State Championship even had to be delayed by one week.

This is my 76th issue as editor and as always no two issues ever feel the same... all are unique, special, and have their own challenges. February being such a short month, it's about time for me to start working the April issue already too!

Next month's issue should be exciting as no doubt much will be written about the state championships in each of the three states (Washington, Oregon, and Idaho.)

Players are of course invited to submit games to be considered for publication to editor@nwchess.com. That is really how we get most of the material that goes into the magazine.

Anyway, I hope you enjoy this issue.

—Jeffrey Roland, Editor

Eternal Cube

By David Zaklan (a poem written at the 2019 Idaho Closed State Championship)

*Seen from the inside, retrospective
correction and mirror as we grapple
the serrated edges of ignorance and
ability.*

*Like our souls are entwined in our
bodies, chess ensnares our dreams and
drive. The fierce love of a fierce game.*

2019 Idaho Blitz Championship

By Jeffrey Roland

Boise, ID—January 19, 2019

I attended the 101st Annual U.S. Open in Saint Paul, Minnesota in 2001. That year, in addition to winning outright first place, GM Alex Yermolinsky gave a lecture wherein one of the attendees asked him, “What do you think of Blitz chess?” to which he gave a very surprising (to me) answer. He said, “Blitz is bad,” and then proceeded to give reasons why. I took that to heart and thought that was right. Later, I attended another lecture that he gave at the 2012 Western Idaho Open, and his views seemed to have changed about Blitz...and so have mine.

The 2019 MLK Idaho Blitz Championship was played at the Riverside in Garden City (located a few feet from Boise!) on January 19,

time control was game/5;d0. This blitz tournament was definitely not bad! It was expensive to rate through US Chess, at 25 cents per game, 24 players, playing eight “double” rounds, which is like 16 rounds, that worked out to 184 games or \$46.00. It was worth it, though, to see the players having such a good time socializing before the tournament began, between rounds, and even after the tournament. When the players left the playing site at the end of the day, players who had not known each other before the tournament started were actually laughing and carrying on as if they had been best friends for years. It was one of the most pleasant experiences I’ve witnessed in all the years I’ve directed tournaments. Players came from Washington, Wyoming, Utah, and of course Idaho.

The player who scored the most points was Silas Lainson (1901-1955—14.0/16), of Bellingham, Washington, who scored 13 wins, two draws, and one loss. Second place went to Josep Maria Companyo

Pagerolas (1943P-1974—13.0/16), of Jackson, Wyoming, who scored 13 wins, three losses, and no draws. Third place in the tournament went to James Wei (1842-1974—11.5/16), of Boise, Idaho. As the highest placing Idaho player, James wins the title of Idaho Blitz Champion. James is only 12 years old, in the sixth grade, and this is not the first time he has won the Idaho Blitz Championship. He also won the title in 2017!

Another prize winner was Finn Belew (1054-1067—9.0/16), of Boise, Idaho. Finn is also in the sixth grade, and wins the top scholastic player trophy.

We did not record any of the games on video, and thus don’t have any of them to present here. Suffice it to say that those who came, saw, and went, also enjoyed themselves! And I think that’s the main point of chess. It’s a game, and thus should make people happy.

The tournament was directed by Jeffrey Roland.



Clay Lainson. Photo credit: Jeffrey Roland.



(L) Silas Lainson vs Josep Companyo. Photo credit: Jeffrey Roland.



(L) Joseph Hollist vs Miles Hollist.
Photo credit: Jeffrey Roland.



George Daghir. Photo credit: Jeffrey Roland.

ICA Tip Of The Month

Fine articles and more can be found in ICA's official publication *Northwest Chess* magazine. Also, one can and should pre-register for tournaments online to expedite the registration process and make events go smoother on tournament day. Check out our ICA website and the Eventbrite website.

Official Website:

<https://www.idahochessassociation.com/>

Eventbrite Registrations:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/o/idaho-chess-association-16518745426>



PCC January 2019 Game 60

By Brian Berger

Portland, OR—January 26, 2019

After recently attending the Neil Dale Memorial Tournament, where the club's attendance record was broken by an overflow of some 54 players that took up every nook and cranny in the club to accommodate, I was stunned to see perhaps the largest Game 60 crowd that ever attended this event—47 players, with the line going out the club's door during registration. And as was the case during the Neil Dale tournament, many of those attendees were new faces to me.

New faces, I have found, sometimes bring with them deceptive ratings. And this tournament, peopled by many younger players, had deception lurking in many an encounter, my own brush with it putting me flat on my floor of 1500—the only thing saving me from losing even more rating points.

Usually, when faced with the choice of playing higher or lower (and this tournament now is broken into two sections, the low being U1650), I, Brian “I’m Just Glad To Be Here” Berger (1512-



(L) Chad Lykins vs James Nelson. Photo credit: Brian Berger.



Lined up to register. Photo credit: Brian Berger.



(L) Jerry Sherrard vs Kushal Pai. Photo credit: Brian Berger.

1500—1.5/4), have chosen the higher, realizing that the low section is what has kept my rating bouncing like a dribbled basketball when faced by those deceptive encounters. But something prodded me to opt for the lower section this time, to see if I could hold my own against a field of 33 players, three quarters of them lower-rated than myself. The above paragraph account shows that, whatever that something was that prodded me, it did not have me in its best interest.

Not sharing my preference for playing up, but usually in lockstep with my up and down performances, Jerrold “I Just Want To Reach 1600 Before It’s Over” Richards (1470-1445—2.5/4), was also in attendance—famed for having

Morgan the Dog as his companion, who is known worldwide for his unique talent of being perhaps the strongest chess player ever to grace the portals of a chess club (whether on two or four feet) or the elite venues of world class players.

Even with this staunch ally as a teaching aid, the climb towards 1600 has been a struggle for Richards, mostly because of the munchkin-factor, those young players with deceptive ratings who delight in peeling away precious rating points from unwary oldsters. This tournament, although he managed to win his first two games and draw his fourth, losing only to the eventual overall U1650 winner Ryan Lu (1555-1580—3.5/4), those two wins and a draw were against


910, 771 provisional, and 913-rated opponents, which still left him 25 rating points the poorer when all the numbers were crunched. And that is because you are basically fighting NOT to lose substantial points when faced with these low-rated players.

And lest you think that the above complaints are limited to these two old geezers, others of geezer and near geezer status fared just as badly at the lower end—namely Greg Markowski (1559-1497—1.5/4) and Arliss Dietz (1500-1500—1.0/4); Markowski able only to draw against three players substantially lower than he, while suffering a loss in his third round to a player nearly 300 points weaker. And as for Dietz, his floor has been a barrier against further rating erosion (much like mine) that in this tournament protected him from losses to three players hundreds of points his inferior, managing only to outwit a 1022 opponent.

These scenarios are likely to be repeated often, whenever aged players meet the acuteness of the young, who seem to process chess problems at computer speed and rarely second-guess themselves. But place them opposite their peers, or young to middle-age adults, and the playing field becomes level once again. (That’s a lot of words to make my first point—I prefer to play up, so as not to hang my head down when I leave the joint.)

So now we proceed to what this article is supposed to be about—winners, not losers. And heading the Open Section first overall was Zoey Tang (1915-1965—3.5/4), the young lady who has been showing herself to be a threat to even the best of the assembled competition, her rating climbing with every tournament she has lately entered. Just recently, she was a participant in the 10th Annual Golden State Open, held in Concord, California, coming in 23rd in the U2100, 78-player field, her four wins out of seven games good enough to push her 1889 rating to 1915. In this tournament, her three wins and a bye boosted that rating another 50 points, while adding \$94 to her piggy-





Carl Haessler Chess Master

503-875-7278 ■ carl@NWchessworks.com
NWchessworks.com



(L) Greg Markowski, Pierre-Hadrien Beauchet, and Sophie Beauchet, before round one. Photo credit: Brian Berger.

bank. (Do kids still have piggy-banks?)

There was a tie for second overall between Michael Moore (1948-1957—3.0/4) and Will Holloran (1877-1893—3.0/4), their three games each worth \$32 each. And taking the U1850/Unrated in this section was Sean Uan-Zo-Li (1892-1915—3.0/4), who also claimed three wins, and prize money of \$55, his only loss being to Moore.

The U1650 section saw no single first place winner, the first/second being shared between Ryan Lu (mentioned earlier) and Ishaan Rao (1477-1503—3.5/4), whose 3.5 scores scored them \$79 each. And it was the same for the U1450/Unrated and U1250/Unrated prizes, with the monies being split among four players: Jacob Tran (1252-1266—3.0/4), Andrei Stancescu (1303-1325—3.0/4), Ishaan Kodarapu (1268-1360—3.0/4), and Nathan Wonder (1209-1386—3.0/4)—Kodarapu and Wonder gaining hefty additional rating points while collecting their share of the prize fund, amounting to \$26 each.

Chief TD Mike Hasuike and Chief Assistant TD Mike Lilly are to be congratulated on a smooth running

tournament, considering the unexpected crowd of players that gathered to register near the time deadline.



(L) Chief Assistant TD Mike Lilly and Chief TD Mike Hasuike. Photo credit: Brian Berger.



"LET ME SEE IF I UNDERSTAND YOUR PROBLEM CORRECTLY. WHEN WHITE OPENS WITH 1.d4, ALL YOUR PREPARATION GOES OUT THE WINDOW, REDUCING YOU TO A QUIVERING, FRIGHTENED, INERT MANIFESTATION OF YOUR FORMER SELF?"

West Regional Scholastic Tournament

By Jeffrey Roland

Boise, ID—January 26, 2019

The West Regional Scholastic Tournament (WRST) was held in Boise, Idaho at the Riverside Hotel on January 26, 2019. There were five sections in this tournament—kindergarten through second grades (nine players), third through fifth grades (39 players), sixth through eighth grades (21 players), and ninth through twelfth grades (18 players). There were a total of 87 players in the event.

Jeffrey Roland was Chief Tournament Director, with Alise Pemsler and Curtis Barrett as Assistant Tournament Directors. Additional assistance was provided by Gregg Jones, Bart Miller, David Baumann, Crystal Montano, Jef Leifeste, and Alex Machin.

Within each section the students competed for grade-level awards. The top three players in each grade, plus any player who scored three points or better, plus all twelfth graders (or

seniors) qualified to play in the upcoming Idaho Scholastic Championship (often affectionately referred to as “State”) to be held in Jerome, Idaho, on March 2, 2019. There were trophies given out as prizes (top three in each grade) and a blue ribbon if the player qualified for State.

In all, there were 49 players who qualified to play in the Idaho Scholastic Championship (State) for March 2. It should be noted that it is at this “State” tournament where the Idaho representatives to the big national tournaments are chosen, such as the Denker Tournament of High School Champions, the Barber Tournament of K-8 Champions, and National Girls Invitational Tournament.

Format was that within each section, a five-round Swiss tournament was played. The time control was game/30;d0, and the games were played on analog clocks. ICA has most of the clocks, however some of the clocks were borrowed from Western Idaho Scholastic League (WISCL).

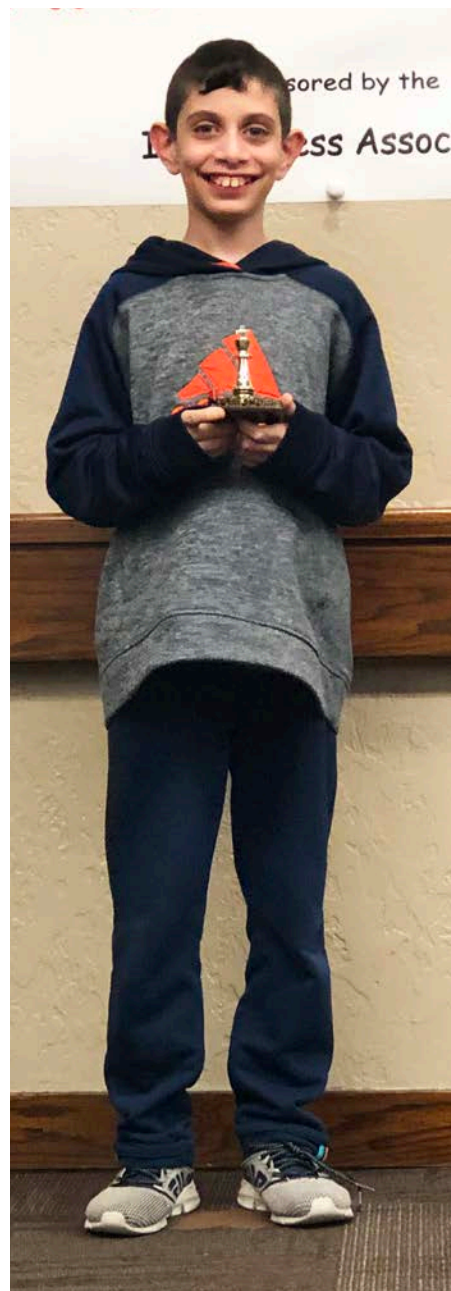
The games were not officially rated. Most games were not recorded either as this was not required in this unrated tournament. There was, however, one very notable exception to this. Recently, ICA purchased a DGT Smart Board

(on sale) that not only automatically recorded the game and clock times, but also broadcast live over the Internet while creating a PGN (portable game notation) of the game. This DGT sensory board was placed on board one for each round. This is the first time we’ve used this in the ICA.

There was a large computer monitor placed outside the playing room and everyone could watch board one play itself out without anyone having to go into the playing room. Plus anyone with a link could watch too, anywhere in the world, even on smart phones. Special thanks to Jef Leifeste who took personal care to make sure that system stayed up and running throughout the tournament.



(L) Josh Nelson, De'zel Cable from round two.
Photo credit: Alex Machin.



George Dagher, 3rd place, 5th grade.
Photo credit: Alex Machin.



(L) Harry Northrop plays Chris Bauman on board one in the final round. Note the DGT Smart Board (and clock) connected to the computer and the hotspot with the cell phone, and the game was broadcast live over the Internet. Photo credit: Alex Machin.



L-R: Alise Pemsler, Jeffrey Roland, Alex Machin, Crystal Montano, Gregg Jones, Bart Miller, David Baumann, Jef Leifeste. Photo credit: Jason Hall. (Spliced on to the end in separate photo, not to scale, is Curtis Barrett. Photo credit: Alex Machin.)

Letter To The Editor

In response to Brian Berger's article about *Northwest Chess*' hard print or online subscription offer [*February 2019 issue page 4, column 3—Editor*], I would like to offer some suggestions.

First, the hard copy has always been something I enjoy when I receive it in the mail but I always contemplate the environmental cost (paper, shipping, etc.) that goes into publishing and distributing it.

Second, the annual subscription cost may be reasonable for some but for many who have difficulty paying local club dues, in addition to tournament costs, it is a financial burden. I was reminded of this several years ago when I traveled from Eastern Washington to Lynnwood to play in the Washington Open only to discover that I had to subscribe to the magazine to play.

My suggestion would be to move the magazine online and offer it digitally. However, for privacy minded individuals like myself, please do not utilize Facebook for this or any other application or web-based server that restricts and/or abuses our privacy. Upload the magazine in PDF format onto your webpage. This will give options for users to view and save the

content to their computers and print it if they desire a hard copy.

Lastly, consider having a donation link or address listed for individuals who want to contribute to *Northwest Chess* but do not make subscribing mandatory to play in regional events.

Thank you,
John Frostad

Editor's Response

John,

Thank you for your letter. This happens to be the big topic of discussion in the meetings that are happening with the Northwest Chess Board lately.

Of course, a few months ago, the Northwest Chess Board shortened the period of waiting time before the "teaser" (which is about half of the pages of an issue) that is available on the nwchess.com website becomes a full-issue where all 32 pages are available free to the public (this used to be three months, now it is one month!) So at the moment you can already download or save the PDF of the full version to any device you want from the "Back-Issues" page (link to that is on the front page of the website). I think you

just right-click and save, or else when the document is open you can find a save icon somewhere when you hover the mouse around, either on the top or bottom of the page...it should pop up to allow that, at least on Windows computers.

We are looking into offering the issues in online format, and perhaps even giving members a choice of which type they prefer (online or printed) and if we do move to the online version, there would likely be a period of time, perhaps a year, where we could phase all this in. We could even offer both methods for a while, or always, or maybe it would go to online-only eventually. We would likely keep the printed option available to those who want it as long as we possibly can, while the numbers work with the "Periodicals Mail" and other business details that I usually let my business manager worry about!

Northwest Chess has been around for over 73 years and by listening to our readers and members, and evolving our product to the standards of the new century will keep us around, I hope for another 73+ years! But definitely stay tuned as developments are happening, meetings are happening, research being conducted.

—Jeffrey Roland, Editor

Washington Senior Championship

April 13-14, 2019

Highest finishing Washington resident receives the title of Washington State Senior Chess Champion, a seed into the Invitational Section of the 2020 WA State Championship, and a \$750 travel stipend from the WCF to attend the 2019 National Senior Tournament of Champions, which will be held August 3-6 in conjunction with the US Open.

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

Format: A 5-Round Swiss in one section. Open to Seniors age 50+ (or reaching age 50 by or before August 3, 2019). US Chess Rated. Playoff round if needed to break tie for 1st place will be resolved later in the year by a G/90 playoff game.

Time Control: G/90, +30.

US Chess April 2019 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: \$750 (based on 25 paid entries).

1st \$150, 2nd \$125, 3rd \$100, 1st U2000 \$75, 1st U1700 \$75, 1st U1400 \$75. 1st Age 70+ \$75, 1st Age 80+ \$75.

There must be at least two eligible players for the age prizes to be given. Only one age-based prize allowed per person, cannot win multiple age-based prizes.

Entry Fee: \$50 by 04/07, \$60 after 04/07 or at site. Free entry for GMs, IMs, WGMs.

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

Rounds: Saturday 10:00 AM, 2:30 PM, 7:00 PM; Sunday 11:00 AM, 4:00 PM.

Byes: Two half-point byes available. Request before end of round 2. US Chess and WCF/OCF/ICA memberships required, other states accepted.

Info/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.

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

See our quarter page ad in the March Issue of Chess Life, or visit www.renochess.org

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Sec. "A" - (1800 - 1999) EF: \$163; \$1800 - 900 - 500 - 300 - 300.

Sec. "B" - (1600 - 1799) EF: \$162; \$1700 - 800 - 400 - 300 - 300.

Sec. "C" - (1400 - 1599) EF: \$161; \$1500 - 700 - 400 - 300 - 300.

Sec. "D" /under - (1399/below) EF:\$155; \$1000 - 500 - 300 - 200, (1199/below) \$300.

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

Wednesday 4/17 7:00 pm - GM Sergey Kudrin - Clock Simul. w/complete analysis of YOUR Game (Only \$30!)

Thursday 4/18 6:00 pm - 7:15 pm - Lecture by IM John Donaldson (FREE)

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

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

Main Tournament

Registration: Thursday (4/18) 5 - 8 pm. Friday (4/19) 9 - 10 am. Saturday (4/20) 9 - 10 am.

Round Ties: (3 Day Sch.): Fri. 4/19 - 12 Noon - 7 pm; Sat. 4/20 - 10 am - 6 pm; Sun. 4/21 - 9:30 am - 4:30 pm

(2 Day Sch.): Sat.4/20 - Rd 1 (10:30 am), Rd 2 (12:45pm), Rd 3 (3:00pm), Rd 4 merge with regular schedule - 6:00 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

or cell (775) 354-8728. (AFTER 4/18/19 please call cell number ONLY). 6578 Valley Wood Dr., Reno, NV 89523 • wackyykl@aol.com

Room Reservations: Call the Sands Regency - 1-866-FUN-STAY • Reserve by April 1, 2019 for Chess Rate

Ask for code: CHESS419

For TLA and to confirm receipt of entry see player list at: www.renochess.org

ENTRY FORM - 8th Annual Sands Regency Larry Evans Memorial Open - Reno, Nevada - April 19 - 21 & April 20 - 21, 2019

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

PRINT Name _____ Daytime Phone _____ USCF/FIDE Rating _____

Street Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

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

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

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| 3-Day EF | Free | \$164 | \$200 | \$300 | \$164 | \$163 | \$162 | \$161 | \$155 | USCF Dues |
| 2-Day EF | NA | NA | NA | NA | \$160 | \$160 | \$160 | \$160 | \$160 | USCF Dues |

FEES ALSO ENCLOSED FOR:

- Hotel Deposit \$52.95* (Weekday) or
- Hotel Deposit \$82.46* (Fri. & Sat.)
- \$30 Wed. Clock Simul. GM Kudrin
- \$20 Thursday-Simul. GM Fidel Corrales Jimenez
- \$25 Thursday Blitz (G / 5 d0)
- \$10 discount - Sr. 65+ Age

HOTEL INFORMATION:

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- Please Make Me a Reservation*
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- Departure Date _____
- One Bed Two Beds S NS

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check / m.o. payable to THE SANDS REGENCY or provide credit card
information and signature. \$5 service charge on credit card entries.

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Introducing Pacific Northwest Chess Center

By Xuhao He, President of PNWCC



Pacific Northwest Chess Center (PNWCC) is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization founded in 2018 by a group of local, dedicated and like-minded people with the goal to promote the educational benefits of chess and improve the general playing conditions for players. The center is conveniently located in Kirkland 405 Corporate Center and is walking distance to restaurants, hotels, and a shopping mall. PNWCC offers a variety of activities aimed at helping players of all levels learn, practice and improve at chess. PNWCC's flagship tournament is the monthly FIDE Open that has strong guest GM players and is usually given a unique theme.

The most recent PNWCC FIDE Open is named *Olympiad Gold* because the two guest players, Super GM Bu Xiangzhi (Elo 2731) and GM James Tarjan both won Chess Olympiad for their countries, team China in 2018 and team USA in 1976, respectively. The age at which GM Bu attained the GM title is



(L) FM Anthony He vs Super GM Bu Xiangzhi at PNWCC FIDE Open — Olympiad Gold, a game that lasted for five hours. Photo credit: PNWCC.

the sixth youngest in history, and in 2017 he grabbed the headline of chess news by defeating World Champion Magnus Carlsen twice with black pieces in the Chess World Cup and later in the World Rapid Chess Championship. Bu won his first PNWCC tournament with 7-0, gaining six Elo points and became the world's number 25 player. Other GMs who played in PNWCC include GM Zhou Jianchao, 2012 World Junior Champion GM Alex Ipatov, GM Francesco Rambaldi, GM Vladimir Belous and GM Andrey Stukopin.

Along with playing in the classic FIDE Open, the guest GMs gave lectures, played timed simul and a fun blitz tournament, making world class chess accessible to northwest players in their own backyard. While offering the high level of chess completion, other events PNWCC has to offer include the five-round G25 Scholastic Open and 4-round

G45 Transformer tournaments which are excellent events for beginners and scholastic players. Every month PNWCC also has a two-day six-round G90 US Chess Open and a one-day G60 Medal event. On Friday nights you can join masters and strong club players in the one section super fun G25 NWSRS and US Chess Quick dual-rated rapid tournament and earn some cash prizes to start your weekends.

All PNWCC events are published on our website <https://www.pnwchesscenter.org> and can be registered for via <http://nwchess.com>, by email, or simply showing up at an event. Most of our tournaments are directed by volunteer TDs that will submit rating reports to US Chess as soon as the event ends. We also use social media such as Google group, Facebook and YouTube to communicate with our players and community. PNWCC employs the latest technology to publish results, pairings and broadcast games online. The entry fees are very competitive with \$25 for one-day events and \$45 for two-day events when you register early online.

Check out our website for our schedule and links to our Facebook page and YouTube channel. We look forward to seeing you all at our next event!

PNWCC Through A Player's Eyes

By Colin Smith

It was a dream come true when I heard that a new chess center was opening in Kirkland.

I have recently started playing chess again and I was looking for places to play. I played a little when I was young, but like most people, as I got older life took priority and I rarely found time for



(R) FM David Bragg, the center's regular and one of the biggest donors, with Super GM Bu Xiangzhi. Photo credit: PNWCC.



*PNWCC regular Colin Smith.
Photo credit: PNWCC.*

chess. Now that I have decided to play again, I have set some ambitious goals for myself. I challenged myself with getting my US Chess rating from 1359 to 1800 in the next 3 years. Because of the frequency and convenience of PNWCC's events, I am moving rapidly towards my goal.

The PNWCC provides a clean, quiet, and organized atmosphere to play some of the strongest players in the northwest. With regulars like FM Anthony He, FM David Bragg, FM Ignacio Perez, NM Jason Yu, NM Alikhan Irgaliyev and many other experienced experts and talented youngsters, there is no shortage of strong players. The PNWCC also frequently hosts strong grandmasters which allows local players the chance to play some of the world's best players in classical, rapid, and blitz. They recently hosted GM Bu Xiangzhi who presented an informative lecture, played a timed simul and played in multiple tournaments put on by PNWCC.



*Advait Vijayakumar at PNWCC.
Photo credit: PNWCC.*

The PNWCC's high quality events have attracted many local players and have provided a venue for passionate players to play and improve.

Many players who have regularly played at PNWCC have benefited greatly and here are some of their recent accomplishments. FM Anthony He has reached a personal high rating of US Chess 2407 and Joseph Levine recently attained his national master title in the PNWCC FIDE Open – Olympiad Gold. NM Jason Yu recently delivered an outstanding result for the Seattle Sluggers in the PRO Chess League match against the San Jose Hackers on 2/6/2019, including winning his game against Super GM Rauf Mamedov. The up-and-coming player Advait Vijayakumar represented

team WA in the 2019 Washington vs. British Columbia match and scored 3.5 out of five against a team of Canadian experts and masters!

PNWCC is constantly coming up with new and exciting ways to energize the chess community in the northwest and whether you are a strong player looking for tough competition or new to the game and looking to learn, PNWCC has something for you. Personally, I can't wait to see what they think of next.

PNWCC's First Master

By Lisa & Charles Levine

Joseph Levine achieved the National Master title after scoring three wins, two draws, and just one loss (to GM Bu Xiangzhi, the 27th ranked player in the world, 2780 USCF) playing in the Pacific Northwest Chess Center's FIDE Open — Olympiad Gold tournament in January. Ending the tournament with a USCF rating of 2213, Joseph is the PNWCC's first NM to earn the title playing in a club event. Joseph began his chess career under the tutelage of LM Leo Stefurak, PhD, who unlocked a passion for chess and encouraged him to play in scholastic tournaments. More recently, Joseph has trained with GM Varuzhan Akobian, who has helped him further develop his attacking style. Joseph credits Seattle's great chess community for helping him achieve this milestone. Joseph is likely the first of many new masters who will emerge from the PNWCC, which is bringing high-level play, monthly tournaments with GMs, and quality chess for all to the Pacific NW.

A wild game from the tournament is included below (see next page).



NM Jason Yu, Seattle Slugger's super board four who just beat super GM Rauf Mamedov in PCL February 6, 2019. Photo credit: PNWCC.

Joseh Levine (2186) –
 Kyle Haining (2270) [B08]
 PNWCC Masters (R3), January 19, 2019
 [Joseph Levine]

1.e4 g6 2.d4 Bg7 3.Nc3 d6 4.Nf3 Nf6
 5.Bd3 0–0 6.Bg5 h6 7.Bf4 c5



Position after 7...c5

Already, I was somewhat confused as to what was happening, but I thought that I was better.

8.dxc5 dxc5 9.Qd2 Kh7 10.e5 Nh5



Position after 10...Nh5

11.Be3

Here, he is already struggling due to his underdevelopment and his strange knight.

11...Nc6 12.0–0–0

Threatening Bg6+ in some lines.

12...Qa5 13.Be4

I completely miscalculated this, which was a big problem.

13...Nxe5 14.Nxe5 Bxe5 15.Qd5 Bxc3
 16.Qxh5



Position after 16.Qxh5

16...Bg7

He also had Bxb2+ followed by Qb4+, winning my bishop and being up a pawn.

17.Qxc5 Qxa2 18.Qa3

I had to offer a trade of queens or I was completely losing.

18...Qc4?



Position after 18...Qc4

This was very confusing as now we are even as he has horrible development.

19.Bd3 Qc7 20.h4 Kh8 21.h5 g5 22.Qb4



Position after 22.Qb4

Stopping development of his c8 bishop. If Be6, then Qe4, f5, and Qxe6. If b6, then Qe4, f5, and Qxa8. If Bd7, then Qxe7.

22...a5 23.Qa4 f5

Stopping Qe4 tricks but weakening the position.

24.Rhe1 Bd7

He would have been doing fine here but for some reason, he took 20 minutes on this move when I had 23 minutes and he had 21. Time pressure was a major problem for him here.

25.Qa3 e5 26.f3 Rac8 27.Bd2 b6

He's just trying to make any move as he has one minute. There is 30 second increment and we gain 30 minutes after 40 moves but he is a long way off from that.

28.Bc3 Rfe8 29.Ba6 Ra8 30.Qd6

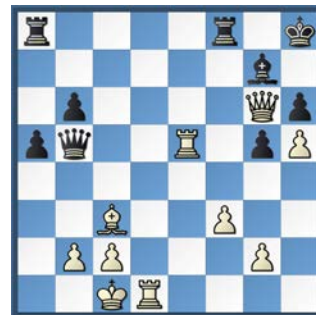


Position after 30.Qd6

30...Qa7

He should have traded queens and bishops, then played the worse endgame.

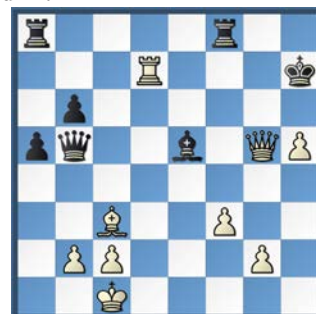
31.Qxd7 Qxa6 32.Qxf5 Rf8 33.Qg6
 Qb5 34.Rxe5



Position after 34.Rxe5

Here, there are so many ways to win but this one is probably the cleanest and fastest.

34...Bxe5 35.Qxh6+ Kg8 36.Qxg5+ Kh7
 37.Rd7+!



Position after 37.Rd7+

Just taking the bishop was crushing as well but this is just gorgeous. I sacked one rook, so I had to sac the other.

37...Qxd7 38.Qg6+

Mate in 3.

1–0



12-year old Joseph Levine achieved National Master title at PNWCC FIDE Open – Olympiad Gold, with only one loss to super GM Bu Xiangzhi (Elo 2725).
 Photo credit: PNWCC.

The 2019 TBD Memorial Standings

Murlin Varner, Administrator

mevjr54@outlook.com

Early in the year, there are not enough completed tournaments to post a full set of standings. Therefore, I won't. I gave you winners from 2018 last month, with prizes for Washington and Oregon. Idaho remains "on hold," so maybe next month. There were seven events through the first weekend of February, and three players attended four each (see chart below). Due to state championships in Washington and Oregon, February usually has low activity; we'll see if this year holds true to form. The largest event in February is almost always the Collyer Memorial, drawing players from at least five states and Canada.

Since the Seattle Chess Club Quads are already included in these stats, there remained six events for the month, in Portland (two), Seattle (two), Spokane Valley, and Twin Falls. The President's Cup in Seattle, moved from February 9-10 to February 16-17 due to snow, and the above mentioned Dave Collyer Memorial in Spokane Valley both offered multipliers of 3x. That gives us four for the year thus far.

In March, we have eight events, in Seattle (four), Portland (three) and Tacoma. Only the Seattle Spring Open will have a GP multiplier of 2x. All other events offer unenhanced points. If you want to be a Grand Prix contender, then do what I am doing (yes, that IS my name in those standings below). I have made it my goal to make it to at least two tournaments per month, with at least one being a multiplier event. In January, I played in the Neil Dale Memorial in Portland and a Tornado in Seattle. February, I played in a Seattle Chess Club quad to begin the month and then finished with the Dave Collyer Memorial in Spokane. Look for me in March at a tournament near you. If I stick to my plan, I will be at the Seattle Spring Open. The second event is yet to be determined.

Here are the top 20 players thus far in 2019, without regard to state or rating class (all data current through February 4.)

2019 Grand Prix leaders as of February 4.

| | last | first | state | rating | # events | points |
|----|--------------|----------------|-------|--------|----------|--------|
| 1 | Buck | Stephen J | WA | 1743 | 4 | 24.5 |
| 2 | Pupols | Viktors | WA | 2200 | 4 | 19.5 |
| 3 | Holloran | William T, III | OR | 1889 | 3 | 19.0 |
| 4 | Sripada | Havish | OR | 1744 | 3 | 18.0 |
| 5 | Tang | Zoey | OR | 1897 | 2 | 17.5 |
| 6 | Anthony | Ralph J | WA | 1579 | 3 | 17.0 |
| 6 | Varner | Murlin E | WA | 1500 | 3 | 17.0 |
| 8 | Roddy | John P | WA | 1316 | 3 | 16.0 |
| 8 | Uan-Zo-Li | Sean A | OR | 1892 | 2 | 16.0 |
| 10 | Vega | Isaac | OR | 1849 | 2 | 15.0 |
| 11 | Liang | Yu-Cheng | WA | 1710 | 2 | 14.5 |
| 11 | Piper | August | WA | 1500 | 4 | 14.5 |
| 11 | Richards | Jerrold | WA | 1470 | 2 | 14.5 |
| 11 | Sripada | Anisha | OR | 890 | 3 | 14.5 |
| 15 | Breckenridge | Steven J | WA | 2346 | 1 | 14.0 |
| 15 | Diego | Victor M | OR | 1152 | 3 | 14.0 |
| 15 | Wang | Felicity | WA | 1570 | 2 | 14.0 |
| 18 | Burris | Christopher E | OR | 1701 | 2 | 13.5 |
| 18 | McClain | Jack W | OR | 1818 | 2 | 13.5 |
| 18 | Pai | Kushal | OR | 1717 | 2 | 13.5 |



Team BC Edges out Team Washington

Third time lucky

By Paul Leblanc

The third annual BC vs Washington match took place at the Comfort Inn and Suites in Victoria on the weekend of January 18-20, 2019. In past matches, the two teams were divided into four groups of five and faced off in a Scheveningen format where each player played against the five players on the opposing team. This year the format was changed to a one section Swiss with a stipulation that team mates would not be paired. I believe it was more popular with the players as it felt more like everyone was on one team and the Swiss format allowed some of the juniors to get experience against stronger players.

On paper, BC was clearly the stronger team but quickly found themselves in a close fight. Led by a strong performance by FM Curt Collyer, the Washington team, although out-rated by almost two hundred points, kept the match close the entire way, finally surrendering 26-24. The previous two matches had been won by Washington.

The Team BC leader turned out to be BC Senior Champion Arpak Worya, who recently arrived in Vancouver from Kurdistan, and who hopes to become a permanent resident.

Collyer and Worya both finished undefeated with 4-1 scores.

The match was sponsored by the Washington Chess Federation, the BC Chess Federation, the Victoria Chess Club, and Victoria Chess. TD was Mark Dutton, IA, assisted by Christine Dutton.



(L) WA vs B.C. Match Chief Organizer Paul Leblanc and Tournament Director IA Mark Dutton.
Photo Credit: Wendy Matsubuchi.



(L) Sherry Tian (B.C.) vs Sridhar Seshadri (WA) alongside their teammates during the first round. Photo Credit: Wendy Matsubuchi.



(L) IA Mark Dutton greets WCF President Josh Sinanan.
Photo Credit: Wendy Matsubuchi.



Top boards of the Victoria Open, which was held alongside the WA vs B.C. Match.
Photo Credit: Wendy Matsubuchi.



2019 WA vs B.C. Match Group Photo: (rear L-R) Sridhar Seshadri, Sloan Setiadikurnia, Louis Cheng, Jason Kenney, Callum Lehingrat, Josh Sinanan, William Bremner, Curt Collyer, Keith MacKinnon. (middle) Anne-Marie Velea, Dan Abramson, Arpak Worya, Tanraj Sohal, Howard Wu, Sherry Tian. (front) Mark Dutton, Advait Vijayakumar, Sophie Velea, Stephanie Velea, Daniel Shubin, Paul Leblanc. Photo Credit: Wendy Matsubuchi.

**Josh Sinanan (2283) –
Callum Lehingrat (2067) [A33]**
WA-BC Victoria (R1), January 18, 2019
[Ralph Dubisch]
1.Nf3 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 c5 4.g3 Nc6
5.Bg2 Be7 6.0-0 0-0 7.d4 cxd4
7...d5
8.Nxd4 a6 9.e4



Position after 9.e4

Unusual, but by no means bad. 9.b3 and 9.Bf4 have both been played here more frequently with very good results for White.

9...Qc7 10.Nb3?!

If this knight withdraws, isn't c2 the normal plan, likely heading from there to e3 to defend c4 and add pressure to the d5-square? The only idea I see associated

with 10.Nb3 is the advance c4-c5, which appears adequately countered by 10...d6. 10.b3±

10...Ne5?



Position after 10...Ne5

Ah, it seems Nb3 set a positional trap! Something about Black's play clued in the poker-player in Josh that the c-pawn bait would be hard to resist.

10...d6 was the safe and sane continuation.

11.e5! Bxc5 12.Nxc5 Qxc5 13.Be3 Qe7 14.Qb3?!

This feels slightly off-task. White's compensation for the pawn is clear enough: the bishop-pair, space, dark-square control, development, open c- and d-lines.

A more incisive route here is 14.f4!

Neg4 15.Bb6 d6 (15...Qb4 offers White a pleasant choice on move 16.— (16. Bd4 d6 17.a3; 16.Qd4 Qxd4+ 17.Bxd4 d6 18.h3 e5 19.Bb6 Nd7 20.Nd5; 16.Qb3!? Qxb3 17.axb3)) 16.h3 Nd7 17.Bc7 Ne3 18.Bxd6 Qd8 (18...Nxd1 19.Bxe7 Ne3 (19...Re8 20.Rfxd1 Rxe7 21.e5± looks close to won for White, as Black is hard-pressed to avoid material loss against the plan Rac1, Ne4, Nd6.) 20.Bxf8 Nxf1 21.Bxg7 Nxc3 (21...Ne3 22.Bd4 Nxc2 23.Kxg2±. White is up a pawn.) 22.Bh6 leaves Black an awkward mess, with g-file play pending.) 19.Qd4 Nc2 (19...Nxf1 20.Bxf8 (20.Rxf1!? Re8 21.Na4∞ seems an unnecessary investment.) 20...e5 21.Qf2 Nxf8 22.Rxf1±) 20.Qf2 Nxa1 21.Bxf8 Nxf8 22.Rxa1±

14...d6

14...b5 tries to break out of some part of the dark-square bind: 15.Bf4 d6 16.a4 and White certainly still has compensation for the pawn... but it's hard to speak yet of a clear advantage.

15.h3?!

Unnecessary. 15.a4.

15...Bd7

15...b5 first, then 16.a4 Bd7 17.axb5 axb5∞ and Black at least no longer needs to worry about being behind in

mechanically-counted development.

16.f4 Nc6

16...Ng6!?

17.a4



Position after 17.a4

17.Rad1! If White can pile up on the d-pawn, Black will have no compensation for the space and bishop-pair. 17...Rfc8 Now White can switch to the calm plan of regaining the pawn and heading to a favorable endgame: (17...b5? 18.e5! dxe5 19.fxe5 Nxe5 20.Bxa8 Rxa8 (20...Nc4? 21.Ne4! Rxa8 (21...Nxe4 22.Bxe4+-) 22.Bc5 Qd8 (22...Qe8 23.Rxf6!) 23.Rxf6! gxf6 24.Rxd7!+-) 21.Bd4± Black temporarily has superficial material equality, two pawns for the exchange, but the kingside is about to be ripped apart and pieces are vulnerable on the d-file. 21...b4 (21...Qd6 22.Rxf6! gxf6 23.Ne4 Qe7

24.Bxe5 fxe5 25.Rxd7+) 22.Bxe5 bxc3 23.Bxf6 gxf6 24.Qxc3. Things no longer look materially rosy for Black.) 18.Qa3 b5 19.Qxd6 Qxd6 20.Rxd6. White has to be pretty pleased with this.

17...Rfc8 18.a5

The loose bishop on e3 could cause problems. 18.Rfe1; or 18.Bb6 reduces the risk of Black's central break.

18...Be8?



Position after 18...Be8

18...d5! seems right: 19.e5 (19.Rfd1 Qb4; 19.exd5 exd5∞ gains a tempo on that e3-bishop.) 19...Ne8 and while Black is passive and cramped, he is also rock-solid.

19.Rfd1 Rab8

Black, running out of ideas, defends the b-pawn. Which, of course, White had no

intention of grabbing in the first place.

20.Qa3 Rd8 21.Bb6 Rd7 22.Rd3

22.Rac1

22...e5

22...d5 23.Bc5 Qd8 24.e5±

23.Nd5

23.Rad1!?

23...Nxd5 24.Rxd5 exf4 25.gxf4 Qf6

26.Rf1 Ne7 27.Rd3 Ng6 28.Qc3

28.Rg3

28...Qe7?



Position after 28...Qe7

28...Qxc3 29.Rxc3 is quite unclear.

29.Rd4?

No need to tiptoe: 29.f5! Ne5 30.f6!±

29...Nh4

13th Annual Grand Pacific Open

CS\$6000 GUARANTEED Prize Fund; FIDE rated

Easter: April 19-April 22, 2019

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

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

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

Entry Fees (C\$): \$80 by March 11, \$90 by April 15, \$105 on site. Discount \$20 if in U1200 section.

Prizes: C\$6000 guaranteed.

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

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

Misc: All equipment provided. C\$115 room rate at Hotel Grand Pacific 1-800-663-7550 (rate code "APRIL19GPO") See website for further details and side events.

29...f5!?∞
30.Bh1 Ng6 31.Rc4
 31.Qg3
31...h6
 31...Qh4!? 32.Qe3 Re7 33.Rd4 Bb5
 34.Rf2 Rd7∞
32.Kh2 Kh7 33.Qd2 Nf8
 33...f6
34.Bf3
 34.f5
34...Ne6 35.Bg4 g5??+–



Position after 35...g5

Opening the f-file is definitely not right.
 35...f6 is better, though still good for White.

36.Bf5+ Kh8 37.fxg5 Nxc5 38.h4 Nh7
39.Qxh6 f6 40.Rg1 d5
 40...Qf8 41.Qf4
41.Bxh7 Qe5+
 41...Qd6+ 42.e5! Rxc7 (42...Qxe5+
 43.Kh1) 43.Qxh7+ Kxh7 44.exd6 dxc4
 45.Re1+–
42.Kh1 Qh5 43.Rg8# 1–0

Tanraj S. Sohal (2387) –
Sloan Setiadikurnia (2101) [D43]
 WA-BC Victoria (R1), January 18, 2019
[Ralph Dubisch]

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nf3 d5 4.Nc3 c6
5.Qb3

5.e3 and; 5.Bg5 are much more common, and no doubt objectively stronger, which also means there's mountains of theory to study in order to survive the opening.

5...Nbd7

A natural attempt to take advantage of the early queen development might look something like 5...dxc4 6.Qxc4 b5, starting the normal queenside pawn expansion.

6.Bg5

Or 6.Bf4.
6...h6 7.Bh4 dxc4
 7...Be7 8.e3 0–0
8.Qxc4 Qb6 9.0–0–0 Qb4 10.e3
 10.Qd3!?!; 10.e4 Qxc4 11.Bxc4 b5;
 10.Qxb4 Bxb4 11.e3
10...a6
 10...Qxc4 11.Bxc4 b5 12.Bd3
11.Nd2
 11.Qd3
11...a5



Position after 11...a5

11...c5!? 12.dxc5 (12.Qxb4 cxb4 13.Nce4
 Nxe4 14.Nxe4 f5 15.Nd2 Be7∞) 12...Qxc5
12.Be2 Qxc4 13.Nxc4 b5 14.Nd2



Victoria Open players.
 Photo Credit: Wendy Matsubuchi.

14.Ne5 Bb7 15.Bxf6 gxf6 (15...Nxf6
16.Bf3 Nd5 17.Ne4?) 16.Nxd7 Kxd7
17.Ne4∞

14...Bb7

14...a4!?

15.Kb1 Be7 16.Bf3 Nd5 17.Nxd5 cxd5
18.Bg3 Nb6 19.Be2



Position after 19.Be2

19.Rc1 suggests an interesting exchange sacrifice: 19...Nc4 (Black can avoid the sacrifice with 19...Ba6, perhaps, but being first on the c-file should offer White something. Maybe 20.Bc7, since 20...Nc4 21.Nxc4 bxc4 22.Bxa5±) 20.Nxc4 bxc4 21.Rxc4 dxc4 22.Bxb7 Ra7 23.Bc6+ Kf8 24.Rc1 which is starting to look good for White.

19...Ba6

19...Nc4

20.Bc7 Bd8 21.Bxd8 Kxd8 22.Nb3 b4
23.Bf3

23.Bxa6 Rxa6 24.Nc5 (24.Rc1 Nc4 25.e4)
24...Ra8

23...Nc4

23...Bb5; or 23...a4!?

24.Nc5

24.e4!?

24...Bb5 25.Rhe1 Kc7

25...Ke7

26.Be2 Nd6

26...Rhc8

27.Bf3?!

27.Bxb5 Nxb5 28.Rc1±

27...Rhc8 28.Rc1 Kb6 29.Rc2

29.a4!?

29...Rc7

29...Nb7 30.Nxb7 Kxb7±

30.Rec1 Rac8 31.h3

31.a4

31...Ka7

31...a4

32.Ka1?

32.a4

32...Nb7 33.Bd1 --?



Position after 33.Bd1

Black's evaluation hasn't caught up with the position, and a draw probably seemed like a good result based on ratings. After 33...Nxc5!, however, Black has all the winning chances. 34.Rxc5 (34.dxc5 Bd3 35.Rd2 Rxc5 36.Rxc5 Rxc5 and Black is up a pawn with positional advantage to boot.) 34...Rxc5 35.dxc5 (35.Rxc5 Rxc5 36.dxc5 Kb7 and again the pawn falls right away.) 35...a4 White's prospects are poor: the c-pawn is a static target; the white king



(L) Tanraj Sohal vs Sloan Setiadikurnia and other top boards of the WA vs B.C. match during round one.
Photo Credit: Wendy Matsubuchi.

is virtually trapped in the corner; Black's center pawns are potentially mobile, and Black leads in both space and activity.

½-½

**William Bremner (2125) –
Curt Collyer (2294) [A96]**

WA-BC Victoria (R1), January 18, 2019
[Ralph Dubisch]

1.d4 e6 2.c4 f5 3.g3 Nf6 4.Bg2 Be7 5.Nf3
0-0 6.0-0 d6 7.Nc3 Nc6 8.d5 Ne5 9.b3
Nxf3+ 10.exf3 e5 11.f4 exf4 12.Bxf4
Ng4 13.Bc1 Bf6 14.Bb2 f4 15.Qd2 ffg3
16.fgg3 Bg5 17.Qe2



Position after 17.Qe2

Now White is overrun. He can avoid disaster by reducing Black's control of f2:

17.Rxf8+ Kxf8 18.Rf1+ Kg8 19.Qe2, and at least the threat of ...Be3+ and ...Nf2+ holds no terrors.

17...Be3+ 18.Kh1 Nf2+ 19.Kg1 Nd1+
20.Kh1 Rxf1+ 21.Bxf1 Bg4 22.Qe1
Nf2+ 23.Kg1 Bb6 24.Qb1 Bf3 25.Bg2
Bxg2 26.Kxg2 Qd7 27.Qc2 Qh3+
28.Kg1 Ng4+ 29.Kh1 Bf2 0-1

**Stephanie Velea (1710) –
Tanraj S. Sohal (2387) [B40]**

WA-BC Victoria (R4), January 20, 2019
[Ralph Dubisch]

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 e6 3.g3 Nc6 4.Bg2 Nf6
5.Qe2 e5 6.0-0 d6 7.Na3 Be7

7...g6

8.c3 Bg4 9.h3 Bh5 10.g4?!

10.d3, followed by Nc4 or Nc2 and eventually Ne3, is less immediately committal.

10...Bg6 11.Nh4

11.d3 h5 12.g5 Nh7 13.h4 0-0 (alternately 13...Nf8!? 14.Nc4 Ne6; or 13...f6) 14.Nc4 contains risks for both players.

11...0-0±

[Diagram top of next column]



Position after 11...0-0

11...Bxe4 12.Bxe4 Nxe4 13.Nf5 Ng5
14.d4! introduces unclear complications:
14...- a) 14...cxd4 15.Bxg5 Bxg5
16.Nxg7+ Kf8 17.Nh5; b) 14...g6
15.Nxe7 Qxe7 (15...Nxf3+ 16.Kg2 Qxe7
17.Kxh3 h5 18.g5 cxd4∞) 16.Bxg5 (16.
h4 Nh3+ (16...Ne6 17.d5 Ncd4! 18.cxd4
Nxd4 19.Qd1 Qxh4 20.Kg2 0-0-0∞)
17.Kg2 Nf4+ 18.Bxf4 exf4) 16...Qxg5
17.f4; c) 14...Nxf3+ 15.Kg2 g6 (15...
Nf4+ 16.Bxf4 exf4 17.dxc5) 16.Nxe7
Qxe7 17.Kxh3 is the same as the previous
line starting with 14...g6.

12.d3 Ne8 13.Nf5

White could also consider 13.Nxg6 ffg6
14.f4



Daniel Shubin ponders his first move.
Photo Credit: Wendy Matsubuchi.



Tournament Director Mark Dutton sets a clock. Photo Credit: Wendy Matsubuchi.

13...Nc7

13...Bxf5 14.exf5 (14.gxf5 Bg5 15.Nc2 Bxc1 16.Raxc1 Qh4) 14...d5 15.f4±

14.f4 Bxf5 15.exf5

With the pawn on f4, 15.gxf5 looks interesting.

15...exf4 16.Bxf4 Bg5 17.Qd2 Bxf4 18.Qxf4 f6 19.Rae1

19.Rfe1; 19.Nc2

19...d5 20.Nc2 Ne5 21.Qg3 Qd7 22.d4 cxd4 23.cxd4

23..Nxd4±

23...Nc6

23...Nc4!?

24.Re2

24.h4!? intending g5 at some point.

24...Rad8 25.Rfe1 Qd6 26.Qxd6 Rxd6 27.Kf2 g6

[Diagram top of next column]



Position after 27...g6

This is a major decision point. White has several possible plans. Two other ideas that seem promising: 1) defend the d-pawn with a rook, swing the knight to e3 and the other rook to the c-file to put extra pressure on d5; 2) lift a rook along the third rank to attack the queenside pawns.

28.Ke3

Allowing the exchange of one set of rooks.

28...Re8+ 29.Kf4

29.Kd3, freeing up the c2-knight. One line: 29...Rxe2 30.Rxe2 gxf5 31.gxf5 Rd7 32.a3 Rg7 33.Ne3 Rg3.

29...Rxe2 30.Rxe2 Kf7 31.h4 Rd8 32.Bf3

32.Re3!?

32...Rg8 33.Rg2

White is willing to settle for the rook exchange and clear equality, rather than allow the black rook any activity. 33.Re3 gxf5 34.gxf5 (34.Kxf5?? Ne7+ 35.Kf4 Ne6+ 36.Kg3 Nf5+ is not what White has been aiming for.) 34...Rg1, and things are getting confusing.

33...Re8

Suddenly Black is feeling frisky. The simple draw is 33...gxf5 34.gxf5 (34.Kxf5?? Ne6 35.g5 (35.Bxd5 Ne7+ 36.Ke4 Nxd5 37.Kxd5 Nf4+) 35...Ne7+ 36.Kg4 fxe5) 34...Rxe2 35.Bxe2

34.Re2 Rd8

34...Rxe2

35.Rg2 Nb5 36.Rd2

36.Ne3 Nbx4 37.Bxd5+ Kg7 38.Rd2

36...a6 37.Ke3

37.a4 Nc7 38.Ne3

37...Ke7 38.Kf4

38.fxe6 hxe6 39.h5!?

38...Kd6 39.a4 Nc7 40.b4 Rc8 41.Re2 Ne7 42.Ne3 Rg8 43.Nc2 b6 44.Rg2 Rc8 45.Na3

Sending the knight to the rim is an unnecessary risk. 45.Re2

45...b5 46.a5?!

46.axb5 axb5 47.Nc2

46...Kd7



Position after 46...Kd7

46...Ne8! 47.Rc2 Rb8 leaves Black a little better coordinated, with threats of ...Ng7 to force fxe6, when Black can slowly expand with ...Ne6.

47.Re2 Ne8 48.Rc2 Nc7 49.Re2 Rg8 50.Nc2 Nc6 51.Rg2 Kd6 52.Re2?

52.Ke3; 52.Rd2 gxf5 53.gxf5 Rg1 54.Rd1; 52.Rh2 gxf5 53.gxf5 Rg1 54.Rh1

52...Rc8?

What is Black playing on for, if not 52...gxf5 53.gxf5 Rg1 threatening ...Rb1 to do some real damage?

53.Rg2 Ne7 54.Ne3 Rg8 55.Nc2 h6 56.Re2 g5+ 57.hxe6 hxe6+ 58.Kg3 Rh8 59.Rh2 Rxh2 60.Kxh2 Nc6 61.Kg2 Ne8 62.Kf2 Nc7 63.Ke3 Ne8 64.Kd2 Nc7 1/2-1/2



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(L) Sophie Velea vs Jason Kenney.
Photo Credit: Wendy Matsubuchi.

**Josh Sinanan (2283) –
Keith MacKinnon (2279) [A05]**
WA-BC Victoria (R3), January 19, 2019
[Ralph Dubisch]

1.Nf3 Nf6 2.g3 b5 3.Bg2 Bb7 4.d3

4.0–0 e6 5.d3 Be7 6.e4 is more or less “normal” here, though of course 4.d3 can transpose...

4...d5 5.Nbd2 d4?!

Black takes advantage of the loose g2-bishop to over-extend his center. 5...e6

6.c3 c5

6...dxc3 7.bxc3 e6 8.Rb1 a6 9.a4±

7.0–0

7.cxd4 cxd4 8.0–0

7...dxc3 8.bxc3 a6 9.a4 e6 10.Qb3

10.axb5 axb5 11.Rxa8 Bxa8 12.Qb3 b4 13.cxb4 cxb4 14.Bb2± is a different approach.

10...b4 11.a5 Be7 12.Nc4 0–0 13.Bd2



Position after 13.Bd2

13.Nb6 Ra7 14.cxb4 cxb4 15.Bd2 Nc6 16.Rfc1 invites complications: 16...Nxa5 17.Qa4 b3 (17...Qxb6 18.Be3 Bc6 (18...Qb5 19.Bxa7 Qxa4 20.Rxa4 Nc6 21.Ne5) 19.Bxb6 Bxa4 20.Nd2!+) 18.Rab1 Qxb6 19.Be3 Qb4 20.Qxb4 Bxb4 21.Bxa7±

13...Nc6 14.Rfb1 Ra7?!

14...Rb8∞

15.cxb4 Nxb4 16.Rc1 Nfd5 17.Rab1 Nc6 18.Qa4 Qd7

18...Ba8

19.Nb6 Qd6 20.Nxd5 exd5 21.Be3 d4 22.Bf4 Qe6 23.Ng5 Bxg5 24.Bxg5 Nxa5?

Missing White’s move 26, but 24...h6 25.Rxc5 (Or 25.Bf4 Nd8 26.Rxc5 Bxg2

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Email: SSheshadri@srichessacademy.com



Arpak Worya.
Photo Credit: Wendy Matsubuchi.

27.Kxg2 Qxe2 28.Rc2 Qe6 (28...Qxd3 29.Bd6) 29.Qxd4±) 25...hxg5 26.Bxc6 Bxc6 27.Rxc6 Qxe2 28.Qxd4 is still tough to defend.

25.Qxa5 Bxg2 26.Qxc5 Ba8 27.Qxa7 Qd5 28.f3 1-0

Stephanie Velea (1710) – Louis Cheng (2127) [B51]
WA-BC Victoria (R1), January 18, 2019
[Ralph Dubisch]

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.Bb5+ Nc6 4.0-0 e6 4...Bd7 5.Re1 Nf6 6.c3 a6 7.Bf1 is the main line here.

5.Re1 Nge7?! 6.c3 Qc7?!

Black doesn't seem to sense any danger here. 6...a6

7.d4 a6 8.Bf1 Bd7? 9.d5±



Position after 9.d5

9...Ne5?

9...Na7 10.e5 Nxd5? 11.Qxd5!

10.Nxe5 dxe5 11.d6+- Qc6 12.dxe7 Bxe7 13.Qg4 0-0-0 14.Nd2 f5 15.Qe2 Bf6 16.Nc4 b5 17.Na5 Qc7 18.b4 f4 19.Nb3 Be7 20.bxc5 Bxc5 21.Nxc5 Qxc5 22.a4 Kb7 23.Qb2 Rc8 24.Bd2 Rhd8 25.c4 g5 26.Rec1 Qd4 27.Qxd4 exd4 28.axb5 axb5 29.exb5 Rxc1 30.Bxc1 Rc8 31.Ba3 g4 32.Bd6 f3 33.Be5 Rd8 34.Rd1 Be8 35.Rxd4 Rc8 36.Rc4 Rd8 37.Rc1 Bg6 38.Rc7+ Kb6 39.Rc6+ Kb7 40.gxf3 gxf3 41.Rxe6 Bxe4 42.Re7+ Ka8 43.b6 Rd1

43...Bb7 44.h4 Rc8 45.Ba6!

44.Ra7# 1-0

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*Keith McKinnon.
Photo Credit: Wendy Matsubuchi.*



*Callum Lehingrat.
Photo Credit: Wendy Matsubuchi.*

44th Annual Keres Memorial

C\$6000 GUARANTEED Prize Fund, FIDE rated

Victoria Day Weekend, May 18-20, 2019

Location: Executive Plaza Hotel, 7311 Westminster Hwy, Richmond, BC

Round Times: Sat. 12:00 noon / 5:00, Sun. 10:00 / 5:00, Monday 10:00 / 3:00

Sections: Premier (CFC & FIDE rated), U2000, U1600, U1100 (CFC rated)

Time Control: Game in 90 minutes plus 30 second per move increment.

Entry Fees (C\$): Premier, U2000 & U1600: \$90 by April 15, \$100 by May 13, \$115 on site.
U1100 \$60 by April 15, \$70 by May 13, \$85 on site. CFC tournament or regular membership required.

Prizes: C\$6000 Guaranteed

Registration: on line at www.keresmemorial.pbworks.com

Misc: All equipment provided. C\$179 room rate at the Executive Plaza 1-800-663-2878 (rate code "Keres Memorial Chess Tournament.") See website for further details.



*William Bremner.
Photo Credit: Wendy Matsubuchi.*



*Howard Wu.
Photo Credit: Wendy Matsubuchi.*

Washington Open

May 25-27, 2019

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Regular Tournaments (Masters with USCF 2200+ play for free!)

- **Friday Night Rapids 7:00PM @ 3/1, 3/15, 3/22, 3/29, 4/5, 4/19, 4/26**
Format: 4-SS TC: G/25;d3 EF: \$25 Prize: Top prize only \$150 b/o 30 PE
- **USCF and NWSRS Dual Rated Scholastic Open 9:30AM @ 3/2, 4/20**
Format: 5-SS TC: G/25;d5 EF: \$25 Prize: Generous trophies
- **G45 Transformers 11:00AM @ 3/17 & 4/21**
Format: 4-SS TC: G/45;d5 EF: \$25 adult free Prize: By points (\$40/4.0,\$20/3.5,\$15/3.0,\$5/2.0)
- **G60 Medal 10:00AM@3/3, 12:00PM @ 4/7**
Format: 4-SS TC: G/60;d5 EF: \$25 Prize: Top prize only \$200 b/o 40 PE
- **USCF Open 10:00AM @ 3/23-3/24 and 4/27-2/28**
Format: 6-SS TC: G/90;d10 EF: \$45 Prize: \$320-\$220-\$120-\$80-\$40 b/o 40 PE

PNWCC FIDE Open – Anniversary 3/8 - 3/10, 2019

A 3-section, USCF and FIDE rated 5-round Swiss tournament with time control of 40/90, SD 30 with 30-second increment from move one, featuring **GM David Berczes** and **GM Pavlo Vorontsov** that will not play each other so to give local chess players more strong games. Tournament detail and register at <http://nwchess.com/OnlineRegistration/>

Masters (2100+)

\$125 by 2/21, \$150 afterwards, \$175 on site
\$700gtd-\$500gtd-\$300-\$200-\$125 B/O 20 PE

Challenger (U2100)

\$60 by 2/21, \$80 afterwards, \$100 on site
\$180-\$120-\$90-\$60-\$30 B/O 20 PE

Prodigies Section (U1600)

\$60 by 2/21, \$80 afterwards, \$100 on site
\$180-\$120-\$90-\$60-\$30 B/O 20 PE

PNWCC FIDE Open – Skagit Tulips 4/11 - 4/14, 2019

A 2-section, USCF and FIDE rated 7-round Swiss tournament with time control of 40/90, SD 30; +30, featuring **GM Aleksandr Lenderman** and **GM Andrey Gorovets** that will not play each other so to give local chess players more strong games. Tournament detail and register at <http://nwchess.com/OnlineRegistration/>

Masters (2100+)

\$165 by 3/21, \$190 afterwards, \$215 on site
\$1,000gtd-\$600gtd-\$400gtd-\$300-\$200 B/O 20 PE

Challenger (1600-2099)

\$85 by 3/21, \$110 afterwards, \$135 on site
\$350-\$200-\$125-\$100-\$75 B/O 20 PE

Tournament dates and details are subject to changes. Visit our website for most recent updates or email us and we will respond promptly.

Seattle Chess Club Tournaments

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 Seattle WA 98133 ←
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 206-417-5405 ↘
 seattlechess.club
 kleistcf@aol.com
Address for Entries



SCC Tnmt Dir
 2420 S 137 St
 Seattle WA 98168

The SCC online registration system is still inoperative. To register for the **Spring Open** in advance, you may have to use the U.S. Postal Service.

*SCC G/15 Championship March 29

A 5-round Swiss (or Round Robin, depending on entries). \$8 from each entry goes to the prize fund.

First 62%
(8+ players: 1st 35% & 2nd 27%)

First in bottom half 38%
(8+ players: 1 BH 22% & 2 BH 16%)

EF: \$10 for SCC mem., \$15 others.
 Reg: 7-7:45 p.m. 1st Rd: 8:00. Byes: 1 (Rd 3/4—commit at reg.). Misc: US Chess memb. req'd.

How to Find the SCC

Look for the Northway Square East Building, just across I-5 from Northgate Mall, with a large sign proclaiming "Northwest Kidney Centers." The main entrance is reached by turning east on N. 107th Street from Meridian Ave. N. The club is on the lower level.

Mar 2, Mar 30, Apr 27

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.

Saturday Quads

Mar 24, Apr 14

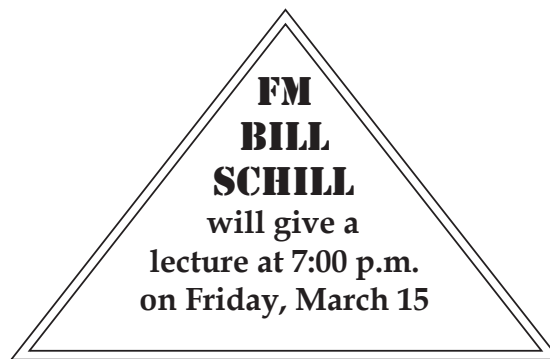
Format: 4-SS. **TC:** G/60; d5. **EF:** \$18 (+\$7 fee for non-SCC). **Prizes:** 1st 35%, 2nd 27%, Bottom Half 1st 22%, 2nd 16% (\$10 per EF goes to prize fund). **Reg:** 10:30-11:15 a.m. **Rds:** 11:30-1:50-4:10-6:30. **Byes:** 1 (Rd 3/4—commit at reg.). **Misc:** US Chess, WCF/OCF/ICA memb. req'd,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

Sunday Tornado

Mar 31

Format: 4-SS. Open to U1200 and UNR. **TC:** G/75; d5. **EF:** \$11 by 3/27, \$16 at site. (-\$2 SCC mem., -\$1 mem. other NW dues-req'd CCs). **Prizes:** SCC membership. **Reg:** 9-9:45a.m. **Rds:** 10-12:45-3:30-6. **Byes:** 1 (Rd 3/4—commit at reg.). **Misc:** US Chess memb. req'd. NS, NC.

SCC Novice



Seattle Spring Open

March 15-17 or 16-17

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

a Northwest Grand Prix event

Open

First \$220
Second \$160
U2100 \$100

Reserve (U1950)

First \$120
Second \$80
U1750 \$70
U1550 \$60
U1350 \$50
Unrated \$20

Plus Score Pool — \$120

Entry Fees: \$38 if rec'd by 3/13 (\$26 SCC memb., \$32 memb. of other dues-required CCs in the NW), \$48 at site (\$36 SCC memb., \$42 memb. of other dues-required CCs in the NW). **Unrated**—Free with purchase of 1-yr US Chess & 1-yr WCF. **Add \$1 to any EF for 2-day schedule.**

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

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

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

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

Upcoming Events

♣ denotes 2019 Northwest Grand Prix event.

Pacific Northwest Chess Center events see page 29. Seattle Chess Club events see page 30

♣ **Mar 2 Northwest Open, Tacoma, WA.** Site: Eastside Community Center, 1721 E. 56th & Portland Ave. Format: 1 section, 3 round Swiss. Time Control: G/90; d5. Round times: 10:00, 1:30, 4:45. Entry Fee: Advance \$25.00, At Site \$30.00. Prize fund: \$420 B/16, 1st \$50, 2nd \$45, 3rd \$40, Top Half & Bottom Half. Misc.: NC W NS. Byes: 1 half-point bye available. Entries/Info: Gary J. Dorfner, 8423 E. B St., Tacoma, WA 98445. Phone (253)535-2536 or email ggarychess@aol.com.

March 8-10 9th Annual Oregon Senior Open, Portland, OR. Site: Portland Chess Club, 8205 SW 24th Ave, Portland, OR 97219. Open to all, including those out-of-state, who will be at least 50 years old on Aug 3, 2019. One section, 5-round Swiss, choice of a 3-day or 2-day schedule, up to two half-point byes are available if requested before round four, US Chess rated. TC: G/90;inc30, round one of the 2-day is G/30;inc30. Schedule: 3-day: reg: Fri 7-7:15pm, rds: Fri-7:30pm, Sat-12:45pm & 5:30pm, Sun-10am & 2:45pm. 2-day: reg: Sat 9:30-9:45am, rds: Sat 10am, then merges with 3-day. EF: \$35 (pay by cash or check payable to Oregon Chess Federation). US Chess and OCF/WCF/ICA memberships are required and can be purchased during registration (OSA). Players in the 3-day may withdraw and re-enter into the 2-day by paying \$35. Prizes: (\$750 b/30). 1st-\$175, free entry into next year's Oregon Senior Open, and name engraved on the Dr. Ralph Hall memorial perpetual trophy, 2nd-\$125, 1st U2000, 1st U1800, 1st U1600, 1st U1400/unrated-\$75. Bonus prizes (only one bonus prize allowed): age 60 & over-\$60; age 70 & over-\$50; age 80 & over-\$40. Qualifier for the National Senior Tournament of Champions and Challengers section of the OR Closed. More info. at pdxchess.org, (503) 246-2978.

♣ **Mar 17/Apr 28 Portland CC Sunday Quads, Portland, OR.** Site: Portland Chess Club, 8205 SW 24th Ave., Portland, OR - Map. 3-round quads. Some or all the sections may run as a 3-round Swiss with more than four players. The "live" US Chess regular ratings are usually used for section placement and pairings. G/50;inc15, US Chess and NWSRS rated. On-site reg: 9-9:45am, Rds: 10am, 12:30pm, 3pm. Rounds 2 and 3 can be started earlier if both players agree. Players who have a game go long can request extra time off before the next round. EF: \$15, PCC members \$10, \$5 discount for each additional family member who lives in the same household (pay by cash or check payable to Portland Chess Club), free entry for players who are playing in their first US Chess rated tournament. US Chess membership is required and can be purchased during registration. Winner of each section receives \$10 discount on the entry fee to one of the next three PCC Sunday or Tuesday Quads. If there is a six or seven player Swiss, the runner-up receives \$5 discount. Bonus scholastic awards: trophy for winning section with 3 points; smaller trophy for winning or tying for first with 2.5; medal for winning or tying for first with 2 or 1.5. OSCF State qualifier. More info. at pdxchess.org. Phone: (503) 246-2978.

♣ **Mar 23-24 Portland Spring Open, Portland, OR.** Site: Portland Chess Club, 8205 SW 24th Ave, Portland, OR 97219. Two sections-Open and Reserve (U1800), 4-round Swiss, G/90;inc30, one half point bye is available if requested before round one, US Chess rated. On-site reg: 9-9:45am, Rds: 10am and 2:45pm each day. Rounds 2 and 4 can be started earlier if both players agree. Players who have a game go long can request extra time off before the next round. EF: \$35, \$25 for PCC members (pay by cash or check payable to Portland Chess Club). US Chess and OCF/WCF/ICA memberships are required and can be purchased during registration (OSA). Prizes (\$650 b/40): Open: 1st-\$150, 2nd-\$100, 1st U2000-\$75; Reserve: 1st-\$100, 2nd-\$75, 1st 1600, 1st U1400, 1st U1200/unrated-\$50 each. Qualifier for the Challengers section of the Oregon Closed and qualifier for the OSCF State Championship. More info. at pdxchess.org, (503) 246-2978.

♣ **Mar 30/Apr 20 Portland CC Game in 60, Portland, OR.** Site: Portland Chess Club, 8205 SW 24th Ave., Portland, OR. Two sections-Open and U1650, 4-round Swiss, G/60;inc5, one half point bye is available if requested before round one, US Chess rated. On-site reg: 9-9:45 am. Rds: 10am, 12:30pm, 2:45pm, 5pm. 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 (Add \$5 play-up fee if play up. 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 (\$300 b/30) (any play-up fees are added to the prize fund). Open section: 1st-\$60, 2nd-\$40, 1st U1850/unrated-\$35; U1650 section: 1st-\$60, 2nd-\$40, 1st U1450/unrated-\$35, 1st U1250/unrated-\$30. OSCF State qualifier. More info at pdxchess.org. Phone: (503) 246-2978.

♣ **Apr 6-7 13th Annual Clark Harmon Memorial Open, Portland, OR.** Site: Portland Chess Club, 8205 SW 24th Ave, Portland, OR 97219. One section, 5-round Swiss, round 1: G/60;d10, rounds 2-5: G/120;d10, one half point bye is available if requested before round one, US Chess rated. On-site reg: 9-9:45am, Rds: 10am, 12:45pm, and 5:30pm on Saturday and 10am and 2:45pm on Sunday. Rounds 2, 3 and 5 can be started earlier if both players agree. Players who have a game go long can request extra time off before the next round. EF: \$45, \$35 for PCC members (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 (\$1500 b/50): 1st-\$300, 2nd-\$200, 3rd-\$125, U2100, U1900, U1700, U1500, U1300/Unrated: 1st-\$100, 2nd-\$75. Upset bonus prize (the player with an established rating who beats a higher rated player by the largest rating difference)-\$50. Qualifier for the Challengers section of the Oregon Closed. More info., including info. about Clark, at pdxchess.org, (503) 246-2978.

Apr 13-14 Washington Senior Championship, Seattle, WA. (See Half-Page AD page 12)

Apr 19-21 8th Annual Reno Larry Evans Memorial Open, Reno, NV. (see Full-Page Ad page 13)

Apr 19-22 13th Annual Grand Pacific Open, Victoria, BC (Canada). (see Half-Page Ad page 20)

May 18-20 44th Annual Keres Memorial, Richmond, BC (Canada). (see Half-Page Ad page 27)

♣ **May 25-27 Washington Open, Lynnwood, WA. (see Half-Page Ad page 28)**

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