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On the front cover:

(L) Collin Dang vs Jan Buzek play the last game of the
round during the Washington State High School Individual
Championship. Photo credit: Josh Sinanan.

On the back cover:

Future champion: 23-month-old Lisa Xu is anxious to set
up the pieces for her next game while watching her sister,
Sophie Xu, compete in the 2019 Susan Polgar Foundation
Girls' Invitational. It's never too young to get started.
Photo credit: Frank Niro.

Chesstoons:

Chess cartoons drawn by local artist Brian Berger,
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L-R: Duane Polich, Chouchanik Airapetian, Susan Polgar, Josh Sinanan, Frank Niro, Jacob Mayer. Photo credit: Paul Truong.

Susan Polgar Visits Pacific Northwest

GM Susan Polgar visited Washington in December to review potential sites for the Susan Polgar Foundation National Open (SPFNO), previously held in California and other locations. The site selected for the 2020 SPFNO is the Hyatt Regency Bellevue Hotel on Seattle's Eastside, located in Bellevue Square at 900 Bellevue Way NE, Bellevue, WA, which is also the site of the Washington Open in May.

The event will be held in early October. Registration for the 2020 SPFNO will be on the PNWCC sponsored website: uschesshub.com. Further details will be available in the next issue of NWC and online as soon as they are available. It is likely that the 2021 and 2022 SPFNO will be held in the Seattle area as well.

— Frank Niro.

Idaho (+Eastern Oregon) Chess News

South Central Scholastic Results

By Jef Leifeste

Twin Falls—February 1, 2020

Congratulations to Lincoln Whitney for winning the 2020 ICA South Central Regional Scholastic Chess Tournament held at Rrobert Stuart Middle School! Bryce Leifeste came in second and Darren Su third. In addition, nearly 20 other players qualified for State.

The battle for first place was grueling. Lincoln, Bryce and Darren were all tied throughout the five round tournament. At the end, instead of using mathematical tie breaks to determine the outcome, the SCRST used a different, more exciting, tie break method — playoffs! Third place was settled by a double-blitz between Lincoln and Darren. Lincoln prevailed

and went on to the final playoff. Lincoln and Bryce then faced off in a double-blitz. The result was not decisive so a final armageddon match was played. Lincoln got the white pieces and five minutes. Bryce played black with four minutes and draw-odds. Lincoln won the match and the tournament when Bryce completed his last move in an illegal position.

2020 MLK Blitz Championship

By Jef Leifeste

Boise, ID—January 18, 2020

Congratulations Caleb Kircher for taking a clean first place with +12-4=0! James Wei took second and Andrew Kitterman took third, each with 11.5 points. Forrest Zeng got top scholastic honors with 9.5 points.

Thanks to Engineering Consultants Inc for hosting the event. And thank you to Louis Felice for making it all possible. Idaho Chess Association greatly appreciates it!

2020 North Regional Scholastic Tournament & Winter Open

By Adam Porth

Coeur d'Alene, ID—February 1, 2020

The NRST (North Regional Scholastic Tournament) and Winter Open was hosted by the Lakeland High School Chess Club attracted 41 players to the LHS Library to engage in a qualifier for the State Scholastic Championships to be held on March 15 in Boise. To qualify,



Overview of the playing area. Photo credit: Jef Leifeste.

players needed to score 3.0 or above and/or place in the top three for their grade. Most grades were represented however Kindergarten, 8th grade, 11th grade, and 12th grade lacked any participants.

The tournament was an education for some though the battles over the board serious business for most. Players learned how to prevent Scholar's Mate, use clocks, experience touch move, claim draws, understand checkmate and stalemate, and sportsmanship. Parents were even pleased to see the results and improvements as the day progressed and also learned how to read cross tables, pairings, and how to appreciate their players newfound independence.

NM Jim Maki was on hand to lend expert analysis for the players and Inland Chess Academy board members also stopped by to see how the tournament was progressing. ICA (Inland Chess Academy) and ICA (Idaho Chess Association) partnered for this Groundhog Shadowday Tournament. Plans for a scholastic Washington vs. Idaho event were also discussed by tournament organizers.

In the 6-12th grade sections, Alex Brown won first place in 9th grade (and overall) with a perfect tournament score and secured his place among the State qualified players. Gideon Jones scored 4.5 points and won the K-5th grade section.

Qualified players for the state chess championships include:

- Ethan Nuss
- Alex Brown
- James Casteel
- Cole Hanely
- Jack Casteel
- Gabriel Brown
- Clayce Grow
- Allister Smith
- Jack Chase
- Jonas Brown

2020 Rocky Mountain Scholastic Chess Tournament

By Jef Leifeste

On Saturday, February 8, the Rocky Mountain Scholastic Chess Tournament took place at Treasure Valley Community College in Ontario, Oregon. This is the first time this tournament has taken place in several years. William Merkel and his wife Savanna, teachers in Huntington are to be credited with getting this tournament back on its feet. Roger Hunter and Ken Dickey, teachers in Nyssa also helped out. The Huntington School District generously provided funding for trophies and food. It's heartening to see that schools in this rural area of Oregon see the benefits of chess and really support it!



Joshua Ashby.
Photo credit: Jef Leifeste.

There were US Chess rated and unrated sections. In all, over 20 kids took part. Joshua Ashby took first place in the unrated section, followed by Nathan and Jacob Smith. The quality of play in the rated section was very impressive. We hope to see some of these kids p Joshua Ashby lay in rated chess tournaments soon! The competition was fierce in the rated section. Bryce Leifeste finished first with a perfect five games. Temi Aderogba and Josh Price came in second and third. Curtis Barret and Jef Leifeste directed the tournament. We're expecting a larger crowd next year as word gets out that this is once again an annual event.



David Zaklan. Photo credit: Jef Leifeste.



Tenille Smith.
Photo credit: Jef Leifeste.

Washington Junior Open

By Josh Sinanan

The 2020 Washington Junior Open was held on MLK Monday January 20 at Interlake High School in Bellevue. A strong turnout of about 280 players took part in seven sections: K-1 U800, 2-3 U800, K-3 U1400, 4-6 U900, 4-12 U1400, U1600, and Open.

The tournament was hosted by the Washington Chess Federation and directed by WCF Tournament Coordinator Jacob Mayer with assistance from WCF President Josh Sinanan, WCF Women's and Girl's Director Chouchan Airapetian, Member-at-Large Ani Barua, and Floor Chief Derek Zhang.

Three players tied for first place in the Open section with a perfect 4.0/4 score: Joshua Lewis-Sandy, a senior from Bainbridge HS, Vignesh Anand, a Sophomore from Redmond HS, and

young Austin Liu, a 5th grader from Endeavor ES. Joshua won the 3-day 5-minute blitz playoff and earns a seed into the 2020 Washington Premier and 2021 Washington Junior Closed. The US Chess and NW ratings reports will be available shortly. The Championship playoff game between Anand and Lewis-Sandy can be viewed here:

**Vignesh Anand (2076) –
Joshua Lewis-Sandy (2034) [E19]**
2020 Washington Junior Open
Blitz Playoff Bellevue, January 20, 2020

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nf3 b6 4.g3 Bb7
5.Bg2 Be7 6.0-0 0-0 7.Nc3 Ne4 8.Qc2
f5 9.Nd2 Nxc3 10.Bxb7 Nxe2+ 11.Kh1
Nxd4 12.Qd3 Nbc6 13.Bxa8 Qxa8
14.Kg1 Bg5 15.Nf3 Bxc1 16.Raxc1
Nxf3+ 17.Qxf3 e5 18.Qd5+ Kh8 19.Rcd1
d6 20.a3 Qe8 21.b4 Nd4 22.Rfe1 Qg6
23.Qb7 f4 24.Qxc7 Nf3+ 25.Kh1 Qh5
26.h4 fxf3 27.fxf3 Nxe1 28.Qxd6 Qf3+
29.Kh2 Qg2# 0-1

High School State Individual Championship

By Josh Sinanan

The 2020 Washington State High School Individual Championship took place January 24-25 at Lakeside School in Seattle and attracted 68 players in three sections: Championship (NW rating 1500+), Premier (1000-1499), and Reserve (U1000). The tournament was hosted by Lakeside School and organized by Washington Chess Federation. Organizer: WCF President Josh Sinanan. Tournament Director: WCF Tournament Coordinator Jacob Mayer.

Top players taking part in the star-studded Championship section included Nationals Masters Derek Zhang of Interlake HS and Luke Xie of Newport HS. Congratulations to Joshua Lewis-Sandy of Bainbridge HS and Luke Xie of Newport HS, the 2020 Washington

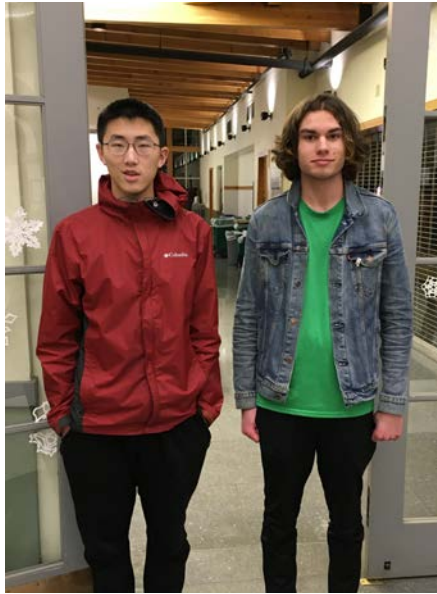


(L) Varnika Jammalamadaka vs Calvin To and other open section players during the first round of the WA Junior Open. Photo credit: Josh Sinanan

State High School Co-Champions! They will have a playoff game at a later date to determine the Washington State representative for the Denker Tournament of High School Champions, which will be held at the US Open in early August.



*Sophie Tien.
Photo credit: Josh Sinanan.*



*(L) Luke Xie and Joshua Lewis-Sandy,
2020 WA State High School Individual Co-
Champions. Photo credit: Jacob Mayer.*



*Austin Jradi.
Photo credit: Josh Sinanan.*



*The playing hall at Lakeside School, host of the High School Individual Championship.
Photo credit: Josh Sinanan*

PNWCC MLK FIDE Open

By Frank Niro

Twenty-five players competed in two sections at the 2020 PNWCC FIDE Open over Martin Luther King weekend, January 17-20, at the Pacific Northwest Chess Center in Kirkland, Washington. The Masters Section featured four Grandmasters: Emilio Cordova of Peru, Ivan Morovic-Fernandez of Chile, Alex Yermolinsky of South Dakota, and James Tarjan of Oregon. GM Cordova is currently attending Webster University in St. Louis and GM Morovic is now living in Cuba.

The tournament was Swiss System training event, modified with permission of FIDE to avoid the top three Grandmasters from being paired against one another. This increases the opportunities for players attempting to climb the FIDE rating ladder to face the toughest possible competition.

In the end, GM Cordova finished ahead of the pack with 5.5 points in seven rounds. Cordova was held to draws by GM James Tarjan and IMs Craig Hilby and Bryce Tiglon. GMs Yermolinsky and Morovic finished a half-point behind Cordova with 5.0/7 and IM Hilby finished fourth at 4.5/7.

GM Tarjan finished another half-point behind at 4.0/7, but he did not

have the advantage of avoiding the other Grandmasters. In fact, he insisted that he be able to play them all. He won his first-round game and then drew against each of the top four finishers while pacing himself with a pair of half-point byes interspersed among them.

GM Yermolinsky in his remarks after the tournament pointed out that Tarjan was one of the young American stars that emerged during the Fischer boom. By the early 1970s he had become one of the best players in the country. Back in 1984, Tarjan abruptly decided to quit chess to lead a quiet life as a librarian, but he never lost his love for the game. Thirty years later James retired, moved to Oregon and returned to chess.

The under-2100 section produced co-winners Alexander Gross and Davey Jones, who finished with identical 5.0/7 scores. They drew their individual game in round five.

The tournament was organized and hosted by by Xuhao He, the lead member of a four person group of chess parents who have generously contributed their time and money to attracting Grandmaster competition to the area. This reporter was privileged to substitute for Fred Kleist as Chief Arbiter. Below is a selection of games. The ratings shown in the game headings that follow are FIDE ratings rather than US Chess ratings. The full file of games can be downloaded in Chessbase or pgn formats at www.uschesshub.com.

Alex Yermolinsky (2490) – Anthony He (2329) [A34]
PNWCC FIDE MLK Seattle, Washington (R5), January 19, 2020
[Ralph Dubisch]

1.Nf3 Nf6 2.c4 c5 3.Nc3 d5 4.cxd5 Nxd5 5.d4 Nxc3 6.bxc3 g6 7.h4
White usually plays 7.e4; or 7.e3 here.
7...Bg7 8.h5 cxd4 9.cxd4 Nc6 10.Bb2 Qa5+ 11.Qd2 Qxd2+ 12.Kxd2



Position after 12.Kxd2

12...Na5?

While a fork on c4 would be nice, it isn't realistic. Black ignores the center, loses time, and misplaces the knight to the rim. 12...Bg4; 12...Bf5; 12...Be6; and 12...0-0 all seem viable.

13.h6 Bf6 14.e4 0-0 15.Bc3 b6 16.e5 Bh8 17.Bxa5 bxa5 18.Bc4 Bb7 19.Ke3 Rfc8 20.Rhc1 e6 21.Ng5 Rc6 22.Rab1 Rb6



Position after 22...Rb6

23.Nxe6! fxe6 24.Rxb6 axb6 25.Bxe6+ Kf8 26.Rc7 Bxe5 27.Rxb7 Re8 28.Rf7+ Kg8 29.Re7+ 1-0

Ivan Morovic-Fernandez (2511) – Bryce Tiglon (2388) [A09]
PNWCC FIDE MLK Seattle, Washington (R2), January 18, 2020
[Ralph Dubisch]

Annotator's note:

The modern annotator has several advantages over the actual players. First and most obvious is that yes, I can use a chess analysis engine. I move the pieces,



Alex Yermolinsky vs Anthony He. Photo credit: Xuhao He.

and the engine works deeper as we test lines and ideas. A database of quality games allows opinions in even unfamiliar opening territory.

The second advantage is I have no stake in the result. No worries; no personal risk; no tournament standing or rating on the line.

The third advantage — in my opinion the largest — is I get to work backward. In this game, for example, I can see the game ends in a draw. Is it justified? Yes, Black takes a perpetual, and that was a good result. So I work back: Why did White allow the draw? Could he have avoided it? Why didn't he? Where were improvements possible for both sides?

The point is I didn't need to figure this out cold over the board, clock running, with no knowledge of the future. As annotator, I have all the tools I need, all the time I need, and certainty of the actual game path. So I'm going to find tactics that the players missed. I'm going to be able to disagree with strategic choices by players objectively stronger than I, and be pretty sure I'm right. Please don't assume that by pointing out a mistake or suggesting an improvement I'm criticizing the players. Far from it. Humans playing over-the-board games make mistakes. Virtually all humans, in virtually all competitive games. That's just the way it is.

One of the hardest challenges for an annotator to do is to guess what the players were actually thinking. Most of the time it doesn't seem reasonable to even try. You'll see in this game that I've made a couple of attempts, but be aware it can't be much more than speculation.

Annotators, even with all the modern advantages, can also make mistakes. We, too, are human.

1.Nf3 d5 2.c4 d4 3.b4 f6

A good choice. The only move I could find that scores a higher percentage for Black was 3...Bg4, albeit with a much smaller sample.



Grandmaster Alex Yermolinsky, two-time U.S. Champion and four-time World Open winner, adds his name to the list of FIDE titled players who have visited the Pacific Northwest Chess Center since it opened in 2018. Photo credit: Frank Niro.

4.e3 e5 5.c5 a5 6.Qa4+

6.Bc4; and 6.Bb5+ are the moves tried here, though Black does well. Nxe5 sacrifices typically offer complications rather than an advantage for White.

6...Bd7 7.b5 Bxc5 8.Bc4 Ne7 9.exd4 exd4 10.Ba3 Na6 11.0-0 Nb4 12.Re1

12.d3 c6 13.Nbd2; 12.Nc3!? Bf5∞

12...c6 13.Bxb4

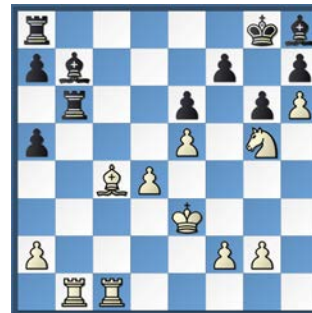
13.Nc3!? dxc3 14.dxc3 Qc8 (14...cxb5 15.Bxb5 Bxf2+ (15...Na6?? 16.Rad1+-) 16.Kxf2 Qb6+ 17.Nd4 Bxb5 18.Qxb5+ Qxb5 19.Nxb5 Nd3+ 20.Kf1 Nxe1 21.Rxe1 0-0 22.Rxe7 looks like an edge to White, with two minors vs rook and pawn.) 15.b6∞ Black's difficulty in finding a safe haven for the king could be

trouble.

13...axb4 14.Qc2 cxb5 15.Bb3 Rc8 16.d3 b6

16...Qb6

17.Qe2 Kf8 18.Nbd2 Bc6 19.Rac1



Position after 19.Rac1

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Now we have an interesting imbalance. Do two extra but tripled pawns, supported by the bishop pair, compensate for the awkward placement of Black's king and difficulty developing the h8-rook?

19...Rc7 20.Ne4 Bd5 21.Nxc5 bxc5

The bishop-pair is gone, and Black chooses to reduce the stack of b-pawns. He almost certainly saw the coming tactic for White — these things are rarely a complete surprise to players at this level — so the decision likely came down to evaluating the different end positions. On this one, Stockfish tends to disagree, giving the recapture with the rook a better chance of reaching equality. 21...Rxc5 22.Bxd5 (22.Rxc5 bxc5 23.Bxd5 Nxd5 24.Qe6 g6∞; 22.Nxd4 Rxc1 23.Rxc1 Bxb3 24.Nxb3 Qd7) 22...Rxd5∞ (or 22...Rxc1 23.Rxc1 Qxd5 24.Rc7∞)

22.Nxd4! Bxb3

22...cxd4?! 23.Rxc7 Qxc7 24.Bxd5±

23.Nxb3 Qd6 24.Qe3 Kf7 25.Nxc5 Rhc8

25...Nd5!?! The only White attempt to retain any advantage is 26.Ne4 (26.Qd4 Rhc8 27.Nb7 Qd7 28.Rxc7 Rxc7 29.Nc5 Qd6 30.Nb3 Re7 31.Rxe7+ Kxe7; 26.Qh3 Rxc5 27.Rxc5 Qxc5 28.Qe6+ Kg6 29.Qg4+ Kf7) 26...Qd7 27.Rxc7 Nxc7 28.Nc5 Qd6 29.h4±

26.d4 Qd5 27.Nb3

27.Nd3! Qd6 (27...Qxa2 28.Nxb4 and White dominates: 28...Qa7 29.Ra1 Qb7 30.Na6 Rc6 31.Nc5 Qc7 32.Qb3+, for example.) 28.Rc5±

27...Qd6

27...Kg8

28.Rc5 Nd5 29.Qf3 Rxc5 30.dxc5 Qd7 31.Rd1

31.Nd4 Rxc5?! 32.Qh5+ Kf8 33.g3 with a serious attack.

31...Rd8

31...Re8!?! 32.h4 Re5

32.g3 g6



Position after 32...g6

33.h4

33.Na5! The threat of c6 is quite difficult to counter. White, however, was probably fixated on this knight as a defender of the pawn on its current square, and on the possibility of returning the knight to the center at some point, so knight to the rim was not under consideration.

33...h5 34.Rd4

Again, 34.Na5! Qc7 35.Rxd5 Qxa5 36.c6 Qc7 37.Rxb5+—

34...Qe6

34...Qc6

35.Kg2

35.Na5!

35...f5 36.Rd2 Rd7 37.Rd4 Kf8

37...Ne7!, rerouting the knight via c6, allows Black equalizing counterplay. e.g., 38.Rxd7 Qxd7 39.Qf4 (39.Qe2 Qd5+ 40.Kg1 Nc6 41.Qxb5 Ne5 42.Qxb4 Qd1+ 43.Kg2 Qf3+ 44.Kg1 Qd1+ 45.Kh2 Nf3+ 46.Kg2 Qd5) 39...Nc6 (39...Qd5+ 40.Qf3 Ke6 41.Qxd5+ Kxd5 42.Kf3 Nc6 43.Kf4 Kc4 44.Kg5 Kc3 45.Kxg6 Kb2 46.Kxf5 Kxa2 47.Nd2 b3 48.g4 b2 49.Kf6 hxg4 50.h5 Na5 51.c6 Nxc6 52.h6 Nd4 53.h7 Nb3 54.h8Q (54.Nb1 Kxb1 55.h8Q is also a draw.) 54...Nxd2 55.Qa8+ Kb3 56.Qg8+ Ka3)

38.Rd3 Qc6?

38...Nc7 39.Rxd7 (39.Nd4 Qd5 40.c6 Qxf3+ 41.Kxf3 Rd6) 39...Qxd7±

39.Kh2

Time trouble might have been a factor here, as White's winning move hardly requires electronic assistance to spot. 39.Nd4! Qf6 40.c6 Rd8 41.Nxf5! Qxf5 (41...Qxc6 42.Nd4+ Nf4+ 43.gxf4 Qxf3+ 44.Kxf3, while demonstrating some spectacular discovered attacks, doesn't help Black at all.) 42.Qxf5+ gxf5 43.c7 Rc8 44.Rxd5 Rxc7 45.Rxf5+—

39...Kf7 40.Rd4 Kf8 41.Rd2 Kf7 42.Rd1 Kg8 43.Re1 Re7 44.Rxe7 Nxe7 45.Qf4 Nd5 46.Qb8+ Kf7 47.Qa7+ Qc7

47...Ne7 48.Nd4 Qd5 49.c6 Ke8

48.Qa6 f4 49.Qxb5 Qe5

49...fxg3+ 50.fxg3 Qe5 51.c6 g5! 52.hxg5 h4 53.Qd3 hxg3+ 54.Qxg3 Nf4 Black has enough activity to hold.

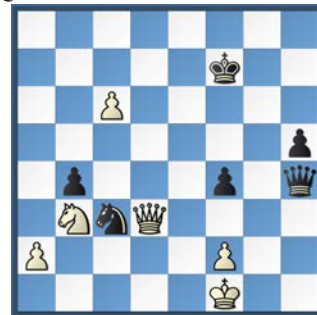
50.Qc4 g5

50...fxg3+ 51.fxg3 g5

51.gxf4 gxf4 52.Kg2 Qe6 53.Qd3 Qg4+ 54.Kf1 Nc3 55.c6

Committing to a strategy of direct c-pawn advance. 55.Nd4 Qxh4 (55...f3 56.Nxf3 Qh3+ 57.Kg1 Qg4+ 58.Kh2 Qf4+ 59.Kh1 is a pattern allowing White to escape checks.) 56.Qh7+ Kf8 leaves White with a wide variety of checks, but no clear path to victory.

55...Qxh4?



Position after 55...Qxh4

This capture is a tempo loss that leaves the black queen unprotected and cedes control of the key f3-square. 55...f3! goes after the

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Visit their website for details:
<http://www.pnwchesscenter.org/tournaments-events>

white king and should draw. Some of the endings are, admittedly, easier to evaluate with computer assistance. 56.c7 (56.Nd4 Qh3+ 57.Ke1 Qh1+ 58.Qf1 (58.Kd2?? Qd1+ 59.Ke3 Nd5+ 60.Ke4 Nf6+ 61.Ke3 Ng4+ and wins.) 58...Qxf1+ 59.Kxf1 Ke7 60.Nxf3 Nxa2 and Black draws rather easily despite the extra white pawn: 61.Ke2 b3 62.Kd3 (62.Kd2 Nb4 63.c7 Kd7 64.Kc3 Nd5+ 65.Kxb3 Nxc7 66.Nd4 Kd6 67.Nf5+ Ke5 68.Ng3 Kf4 69.Nxh5+ Kg4; 62.Nd2 b2 63.c7 Kd7 64.Kd3 Kxc7 65.Kc2 Nb4+ 66.Kxb2 Nd3+ 67.Kc3 Nxf2) 62...Nb4+ 63.Kc3 Nxc6 64.Kxb3 Kf6 65.Kc4 Kf5 66.Nd4+ Nxd4 67.Kxd4 Kg4 68.Ke5 Kxh4) 56...Qg2+ 57.Ke1 Qg1+ 58.Qf1 (58.Kd2 Qxf2+ 59.Kc1 Nxa2+ 60.Kd1 Nc3+ 61.Kc1 (61.Qxc3?? doesn't work: 61...bxc3 62.c8Q Qe2+ 63.Kc1 Qb2+ 64.Kd1 Qxb3+ 65.Ke1 Qe6+)) 58...Qg4 59.Nc5 Others lead to a repetition. 59...Qf4 60.Nb3 Qxc7

56.Qf3 Ke8

56...Ke7 is better, as it allows Black to meet 57.Nc5 with 57...Kd6, although White can still reach the note to move 58.

57.c7

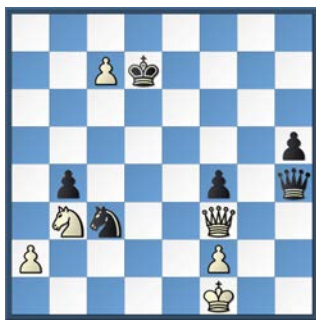
57.Nc5! takes away the d7 square after an advance of the c-pawn, while bringing the knight closer to the action. This proves immediately decisive: 57...Kd8 (57...Qe7 58.Qxh5+ Kd8 59.Na6!; 57...Qg5 58.c7 Qxc5 59.Qa8+ Kf7 60.c8Q) 58.Ne6+ Ke7 59.c7 Kd7 60.c8Q+ Kxc8 61.Qc6+ Kb8 62.Qb6+ Ka8 63.Nc7#

57...Kd7

[Diagram top of next column]

58.Qb7?

White has clearly decided the advanced c-pawn is the key to winning chances, but by preserving the pawn he allows the draw. 58.Na5! is the winner here once again, and it is still easy to overlook. It doesn't guard the key pawn, and it puts the knight on the rim. However, by guarding c6 for possible access by the queen, this move that likely didn't even get close



Position after 57...Kd7

to White's candidate list sacrifices the c-pawn to allow the knight and queen to coordinate against the exposed black king: 58...Kxc7 (58...Qg4 59.c8Q+ Kxc8 60.Qb7+ Kd8 61.Nc6+ Ke8 62.Qe7#; 58...Qe7 59.Qc6+ Kc8 60.Qb7+ Kd7 61.c8Q+ Kd6 62.Nc4#) 59.Qb7+ Kd6 (59...Kd8? 60.Nc6+ Ke8 61.Qc8+ Kf7 62.Ne5+ Kg7 (Other king moves show the drawback of having the black queen on h4: 62...Ke7 63.Ng6+ fork; and 62...Kf6 63.Qd8+ skewer.) 63.Qc7+ Kh6 64.Qd6+ Kh7 65.Qg6+ Kh8 66.Nf7#) 60.Qxb4+ Ke6 61.Qxc3+—

58...Qh3+ 59.Ke1 Qe6+ 60.Kf1 Qh3+

Quite the battle. Despite opportunities, White never managed to slam the door shut, and Black finally grabbed his chance to steal the half point.

1/2-1/2

**David Bragg (2200) –
Michael Lee (2388) [B30]**
PNWCC FIDE MLK Seattle,
Washington (R3), January 18, 2020
[Ralph Dubisch]

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Nc3 e5 4.Bc4 Be7 5.d3 Nf6 6.h3 d6 7.0-0 0-0 8.a3±

White has good control of the potential d5-outpost, can guard d4 with a pawn if necessary, and can play f4 much faster than Black can arrange ...f5.

8...Rb8

I'm not sure what Black's idea might be with this move, especially when

combined with his next.

8...a6; 8...h6

9.Rb1

9.b4!?, since 9...cxb4 10.axb4 Nxb4 11.Rxa7

9...a5

9...a6; 9...Na5, trying to justify the previous move, after 10.Ba2 b5 11.b4± reaches a position that favors White.

10.Bd2 h6 11.Nh2 Be6 12.f4 exf4 13.Bxf4 Nd4 14.Nf3 Qd7 15.Nxd4

15.a4; 15.e5!?

15...cxd4 16.Bb5 Qc7 17.Ne2?!

Allows a little unclear tactical flurry. 17.Na4 suggests the advance of the c-pawn, and should be good for a small advantage.

17...Qc5 18.a4



Position after 18.a4

18...Nxe4 19.Qe1 Ng5 20.Qf2 Bxh3 21.Nxd4 Bg4 22.Rbe1 Bf6

22...Ne6 23.Be3 Nxd4 (23...Qh5) 24.Bxd4 Qg5


23.Nb3

23.c3!?! Black should avoid 23...Bxd4 24.cxd4 Qb6 25.Qg3 Qxd4+ (25...Be6 26.Bxd6 Qxd4+ 27.Rf2±) 26.Be3 Qb4 27.Rf4+—

23...Qxf2+ 24.Rxf2 Rfd8 25.c3 Ne6 26.Bg3 b6?!

26...Ra8 27.Nd2 d5 takes away squares

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from that pesky knight.

27.Nd2 h5 28.Nc4 Be7 29.Ne3 h4 30.Bh2 Bh5 31.Nf5 Rb7 32.d4 d5 33.Bc6 Ra7 34.Nxe7+

Or 34.Ne3±

34...Rxe7 35.Re5

35.c4!?

35...Bd1 36.Bxd5 Bxa4 37.Ba2 Rde8

37...Ra7

38.Rfe2 Kf8



Position after 38...Kf8

39.Rh5

39.d5+-

39...Kg8 40.Rxh4

40.Rhe5!+- Black must pitch a knight

to the threat of d5. 40...Kf8 41.d5 Nd8 42.Rxe7 Rxe7 43.Bd6 doesn't help.

40...Ng5

40...g5!?

41.Re5

41.Be5 Nh7 42.Re3 Bc2 43.Rg3 Rxe5

44.dxe5 Rxe5 45.Rf4±

41...Bd1 42.Bg3 Rxe5 43.Bxe5 a4

44.Bd5 Rd8 45.Bc4

45.Bc6 f6 (45...Rc8 46.d5; 45...Bc2 46.d5

Ne4 47.d6) 46.Bc7 Rc8 47.Bd5+ Nf7

48.Bxb6 Rb8 49.Bc5 Rxb2 50.Re4 Bh5

51.Re7±

45...Bb3 46.Bd3 Ne6 47.Kf2 f6 48.Bg3

Rd5

48...a3 49.bxa3 Rc8

49.Be4 Rb5 50.Bd6 Bc2 51.Ba3 g5

52.Rg4

[Diagram top of next column]

52...f5?!

While this “wins” the exchange, it costs two pawns and leaves White’s bishop-pair on the board. Black has safe equality with 52...Bxe4 53.Rxe4 Kf7

53.Rxg5+ Nxg5 54.Bxc2 Ne4+ 55.Ke3

Nf6 56.Bxa4



Position after 52.Rg4

56.c4 Ra5 57.Bb4 Ra8 58.Bxf5± is an alternative.

56...Nd5+

56...Ra5± seems a bit less precarious.

57.Kf3 Ra5 58.Bb3 Kg7 59.c4 Nf6

59..b5!?! is a tricky tactic. The idea is

60.cxd5?! (60.Bc5 is better: 60...bxc4

61.Bxc4 Nf6±) 60...b4 61.Bxb4 Rb5

60.Kf4 Kg6 61.d5 b5 62.Bb4 Ra8 63.c5

Re8 64.Ba5 Re4+ 65.Kf3 Rd4 66.Bc3

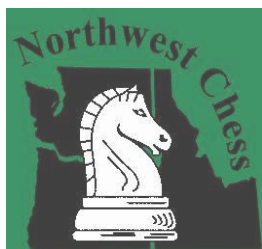
Rd3+ 67.Ke2 Rg3

67...Rxd5 isn't much of an improvement.

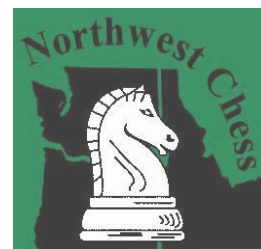
68.Kf1??

Throwing away a well-deserved win.

68.d6! b4 (68...Rxg2+ 69.Kf3+-)



Northwest Chess Open



In Memory of Mike Neeley, NWCF editor 1993-1994.

March 7-8, 2020

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

Format: 6-Round Swiss in one section. This is a fundraising tournament for Northwest Chess magazine.

Organizer: Washington Chess Federation, on behalf of Northwest Chess Foundation.

Time Control: G/90, d10.

Registration: 9:00-9:45 AM on March 7 or preregistered.

Rounds: Saturday: 10 AM, 2 PM, 6 PM, Sunday 10 AM, 2 PM, 6 PM.

Entry Fee: \$35 by March 4, \$40 after or at site. Free entry for GMs, IMs, WGMs, & WIMs.

Byes: Two half-point byes available in advance or by the end of Round 2. Northwest Chess Grand Prix event.

Prizes: Northwest Chess subscription extensions (includes WCF membership for WA residents): 1st: 3-yr ext., 2nd: 2-yr ext., 3rd 1-yr ext., 1st U1800/U1600/U1400/U1200/UNR: 1-yr ext.

Rating: US Chess Rated, US Chess March 2020 rating supplement will be used to determine pairings and prizes. Current US Chess membership and Northwest Chess subscription required.

Entries: Make checks payable to Northwest Chess.

Mail To: Josh Sinanan, 3610 218th St. SW Brier, WA 98036.

Phone: (206) 769-3757, **Email:** joshsinanan@gmail.com.

Registration: <https://nwchess.com/OnlineRegistration/>

69.Bxf6 Kxf6 70.Bd5 (or 70.c6 Rxb3 71.c7 Rxb2+ 72.Kd3 Rb3+ 73.Kc4 Rc3+ 74.Kxb4+-) 70...Ke5 (70...Rg4 71.c6 Rd4 72.c7+-) 71.d7

68...b4! 69.Bxf6 Kxf6 70.Bc4 Rg4



Position after 70...Rg4

71.Bb5??

White overlooks the importance of keeping the d-pawn under guard. 71.Bb3

71...Rd4+-

And suddenly Black is winning.

72.d6 Rd5 73.d7

73.c6 Rxd6 74.c7 Rd1+ 75.Ke2 Rc1+-

73...Ke7 74.c6

74.Ke2 Rxc5 75.Ba4 Re5+ 76.Kd2 (76. Kf3 Ra5 77.b3 (77.Bc6 b3+-) 77...

Rxa4+-) 76...Re4 77.Bc6 Rc4 78.Ba4 Rg4 79.Bc6 Rg6 and White must relinquish the d-pawn just to reach a hopeless ending.

74...Rxb5 0-1

Megan Lee (2151) –
Aba Nassif (2092) [B24]
PNWCC FIDE MLK Seattle,
Washington (R2), January 18, 2020
[Ralph Dubisch]

1.e4 c5 2.Nc3 Nc6 3.Nge2 g6 4.g3 Bg7
5.Bg2 d6 6.d3 Rb8 7.Be3 Nd4

7...b5!?

8.0-0 h5 9.h3 h4 10.g4 Bxg4!? 11.hxg4
h3 12.Bh1 h2+ 13.Kg2 e5 14.Ng3 Qh4
15.f3 Bf6?!

With 15...Ne7 Black has plenty of compensation for the piece.

16.Kf2 Qh3?

16...Ne7 is still better.

17.Bg2 Qh7 18.Bxd4?

18.g5 Bd8 19.Nd5 White is untangling, and it's getting harder to see where Black's play will come from.

18...cxd4 19.Nce2 Bg5 20.Rh1 Qh4

21.Kf1 Ne7 22.Qe1



Position after 22.Qe1

22...0-0?

A fatal mistake, weakening the h-file and misplacing the black king. Instead, Black has compensation for the material with 22...Rc8 23.c3 Be3, and if White continues as in the game, with 24.Nc1 Qg5 25.Nge2, then perhaps 25...f5 26.Qg3 f4 27.Qe1 when it's very hard to see any way for White to escape the bind.

23.c3 Be3 24.Nc1 Rbc8 25.Nge2 Qh6
26.Qg3 dxc3 27.bxc3 Rc6 28.Rxh2 Qg7
29.Rb1 Rc7 30.c4 a6 31.a4 Rb8 32.Na2
b5 33.Nac3 b4 34.Nd1 Bg5 35.Kf2 Nc6
36.Ne3 Nd8 37.Nd5 Rcb7 38.Qh3 b3
39.Rbh1 f6

39...Bf6 40.g5!

Harmon Memorial

April 4-5, 2020

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

Two Sections: Open (FIDE Rated) and Reserve (U1800).

Open: 4-Round Swiss. **Time Control:** 40/120, SD/30, d10.

Reserve: 5-Round Swiss. **Time Control:** Saturday 30/90, SD/30, d10; Sunday 40/120, SD/30, d10.

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

Rounds: Open: Saturday 10:00 AM, 4:00 PM; Sunday 11:00 AM, 5:00 PM. Reserve: Saturday 10:00 AM, 2:30 PM, 7:00 PM; Sunday 11:00 AM, 5:00 PM.

Entry Fee: \$60 if postmarked or online by 3/28, \$70 after or at site. Free entry for GMs, IMs, WGMs. \$40 play-up fee if rated under 1800 playing in Open section.

Rating: US Chess April 2020 rating supplement will be used to determine pairings and prizes. Foreign ratings used for players with no US Chess rating. Higher of US Chess or foreign ratings used at TD discretion.

Prize Fund: \$2,000 (based on 60 paid entries).

Open: 1st \$450, 2nd \$350, 1st U2100 \$150, 1st U1900 \$150.

Reserve: 1st \$320, 2nd \$220, 1st U1600 \$120, 1st U1400 \$120, 1st U1200/Unrated \$120.

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 membership/Northwest Chess subscription required. US Chess Grand Prix Points: 6. 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: Jacob Mayer, 9502 44th Avenue NE, Seattle, WA 98115-2610. **Phone:** (206) 697-5625.

Email: Jacob.Mayerchess@gmail.com.

Online Registration: nwchess.com/onlineregistration

40.Qh8+ Qxh8 41.Rxh8+ Kf7 42.R1h7+ 1-0

Alexander Gross (1844) –
Bertrand Wan (1706) [E93]
PNWCC FIDE MLK Seattle,
Washington (R1), January 17, 2020
[Ralph Dubisch]

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 Bg7 4.e4 d6

5.Nf3 0-0 6.Be2 e5 7.d5 Nbd7 8.Be3 Nc5 9.Nd2 a5 10.b3

This is a logical slow build-up of b3, a3, b4, avoiding any chance of ...a4 crippling the pawn mass after a3. 10.a3 is actually fine here, though, as 10...a4 11.Bxc5 dxc5 12.Nxa4 b6 13.Nc3 is good for White.; 10.0-0 has also been played here, and generally favors White. Black's structure is a bit rigid, and it takes time shifting the

f6-knight around to start kingside pawn play.

10...Ne8 11.a3 f5 12.f3?!

12.0-0 f4 13.Bxc5 dxc5 14.Bg4± or better for White. Black is left with weird pawns and a bad bishop.

12...f4

Black has a tactical opportunity to grab some black squares or improve his buried bishop dramatically. 12...Bh6! 13.Bxh6 (13.Bxc5 dxc5 14.h4 Nd6±; 13.Bf2? Qg5± is a fork.) 13...Qh4+ 14.g3 Qxh6± is the kind of position KID players dream of reaching.

13.Bf2 Nd7 14.Nb5 Ndf6 15.Rb1

Again conservative preparation for the push of the b-pawn. There isn't always extra time for all these preparatory moves. 15.b4± seems fine.

15...Rf7 16.b4 axb4 17.axb4 Bf8 18.c5

I actually suspect going back with 18.Nc3; or 18.Ra1 may be best. Black isn't making much progress with a kingside attack.

18...c6

18...dxc5 19.bxc5 c6 20.dxc6 bxc6 21.Nc3 (21.Nd6 Nxd6 22.cxd6 Qxd6 23.0-0∞) 21...Qa5 22.Rc1 Be6 23.Nc4 with complications. One unnecessarily long and obscure example: 23...Qb4 24.Nxe5 Nxe4! 25.fxe4 Bg7 26.Bd4 Bxe5 27.Bxe5 Rd7 28.Qc2 Ra2 29.Rb1 Qxc5 30.Qc1 Qxe5 31.Nxa2 Bxa2 32.Rb4.

19.Nc3

19.dxc6 bxc6 20.Nxd6 Nxd6 21.cxd6 Be6 (21...Qxd6 22.Bc5 Qd8 23.Bc4) 22.Nc4 Rd7 23.Qc2 (Or 23.Nxe5!? Rxd6 24.Qc1.) 23...Bxd6 24.0-0±

19...cx5

19...dxc5 20.bxc5 Qa5 poses some problems.

20.ex5

20.Nxd5 Nxd5 21.ex5 Bf5 22.Rc1±

20...dxc5 21.bxc5 Qa5 22.0-0!?

22.Nb5 e4! (22...Nxd5?! 23.0-0 Be6 24.Nc4±) 23.fxe4 Nxe4 24.d6 Bh6 (24...Bf5 25.Bc4 Nxd2 26.Qxd2 Bxb1 27.Qxa5 Rxa5 28.d7 Ra8 29.0-0 Bf5 30.dxe8Q Rxe8 31.Nd6 Bxd6 32.cxd6) 25.Bc4 Bg4! is a tactical melee.

22...Qxc3

22...Bxc5 23.Nb5 Bxf2+ 24.Rxf2 Bf5 25.Nc4 Qd8 26.Ra1 Rxa1 27.Qxa1 Nxd5 28.Nxe5 Re7 29.Bc4 Nef6±

23.Nc4

23.Rb3 Qa5 24.d6 Be6 25.Bc4∞



Fourth place finisher International Master Craig Hilby of California analyzes his game in the skittles room. Photo credit: Alex Yermolinsky.



(L) Emilio Cordova vs. Megan Lee, Round One match-up on Board One.
Photo credit: Frank Niro.

23...Bf5 24.Rc1 Qb4 25.Nxe5 Re7
26.Nd3 Qa4 27.Qd2?

27.Qxa4 Rxa4 28.Bd1 Ra6 29.d6 Bxd3
30.dxe7 Bxe7 31.Bb3+ Kf8 32.Rfd1±

27...Qa5

27...Nxd5 and White is just down a piece.
28.Nxf4 Nxf4 29.Bc4+ Ne6 30.g4 Bb1
31.Bxe6+ Rxe6 32.Rxb1 Qc6+

28.Qxa5 Rxa5 29.Nxf4 Bh6 30.Bc4 Bxf4
31.d6+ Rf7 32.Rce1 Kg7 33.Bxf7 Kxf7

Now we head into the realm of the weird material imbalance, with the swarm of three minor pieces vs rook and two passed connected pawns.

34.Re7+ Kg8 35.Rxb7 Ra8 36.Rd1 Bd7



Position after 36...Bd7

37.g3

37.Bd4 Ra4 38.Rxd7 Nxd7 39.c6 Nf8
40.d7 Ra8 41.Bb6 (41.Ra1 Rd8 42.dxe8Q
Rxe8±) 41...Ne6

42...Bd5 43.Rbf2 Bg7 44.Be3 Ra3
45.Re1 Ra1

45...Nef6

46.Rxa1 Bxa1 47.Rc2 Ne5

47...Bc6

48.c6

There's still work to be done after either 48.d7 Nxd7 49.c6 Ndf6 50.c7 Nd6 51.c8Q+ Nxc8 52.Rxc8+ Kf7±; or 48.Rc1 Bb2 49.Rc2 Nf3+ 50.Kf2 Bf6 51.d7 Nc7 52.c6 Bd8 53.h4 Ne5 54.Bg5 Nf7 55.Bf4 Kf8±

48...Nxd6 49.Rc5 Bxc6



Position after 49...Bxc6

50.Rc1 Bd4

The swarm triumphs.

0-1



James Tarjan vs Emilio Cordova. Photo credit: Alex Yermolinsky.



Arthur Dake Memorial Open: April 4-5, 2020

Location: Portland Chess Center, 2025 Lloyd Center, Portland, OR 97232

A Northwest Grand Prix Event

Format: 5-round Swiss in one section. Official US Chess regular ratings are generally used. Unofficial ratings based on at least four games generally used for those with no official rating. One half point bye is available if requested before round one. Players may start in round 2 with a half point bye in round 1.

Time Control: Round 1: G/60;d10; rounds 2-5: G/120;d10. Bring a digital clock. Some digital clocks are provided at this tournament but please do not always rely on the club to provide a digital clock (boards, pieces, notation sheets, and pens/pencils are provided). Clocks without delay capability are set for the same base time.

Schedule: On-site registration runs from 9-9:45am. The rounds are scheduled for 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.

Entry Fee: \$55, \$45 for PCC members. Pay with cash or check payable to Portland Chess Club. For convenience of the players (and to save time on the day of the event) registration via PayPal can be made until midnight April 3 under the tab Arthur Dake Memorial at www.uschesshub.com or transferred directly to the Portland Chess Center PayPal account.

Rated: US Chess regular rated. US Chess membership is required and can be purchased during registration. The OSCF is currently offering discounted regular memberships for any player under age 21.

OCF Membership: Players from Oregon are required to have state membership and this can be purchased during registration. Annual rates are \$10 for adults, \$5 for juniors (those under the age of 19 at expiration of their membership), and \$15 for families (good for all those in the same household). A \$2 tournament membership which is good just for a single tournament is also available. Note: OCF membership no longer includes a subscription to the *Northwest Chess* magazine. Separate NWC annual subscriptions may be purchased at the tournament, but are not required.

Prizes: Regular prizes: \$1000 based on 40 paid entries (adjusted proportionally if there are a different number of players, \$500 is guaranteed). 1st-\$225, 2nd-\$175, 1st U2100-\$140, 1st U1900-\$130, 1st U1700-\$120, 1st U1500-\$110, 1st U1300-\$100. Unrated players are eligible for all of the regular prizes. Each player is eligible to win only one regular prize. Upset bonus prize (the player with an established rating who beats a higher rated player by the largest rating difference)-\$50 guaranteed. Prizes are combined and split if there is a tie based on formula outlined in the USCF rulebook.

Qualifiers: This tournament is a qualifier for the Challengers section of the 2021 Oregon Closed and qualifier for the 2020 OSCF State Championship.

9th Annual Larry Evans Memorial Open

Chess Tournament

April 10 - 12 & April 11 - 12, 2020

3 Day or 2 Day Schedule

F.I.D.E. Rated

US Chess

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(b/275)

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6 Round Swiss • 6 Sections • 40/2 - G/55 min - d5 • 2 Day (Rds 1-3) G/1-d5
Rooms: \$53.95 / \$89.13

Open Section (2200 & above) EF:\$169, (2000-2199) \$250, (1999/below) \$300
(GMs & IMs free but must enter by 9/18 or pay late fee at door).

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

\$2,000 - 1000 - 900 - 800 - 700 - 600 - 500, (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: \$169; \$2000 - 1000 - 500 - 300 - 300.

Sec. "A" - (1800 - 1999) EF: \$168; \$1800 - 900 - 500 - 300 - 300.

Sec. "B" - (1600 - 1799) EF: \$167; \$1700 - 800 - 400 - 300 - 300.

Sec. "C" - (1400 - 1599) EF: \$166; \$1500 - 700 - 400 - 300 - 300.

Sec. "D" /under - (1399/below) EF:\$160; \$1000 - 500 - 300 - 200, (1199/below) \$300.

2-Day EF: \$165 (No Open Section) Top Senior (65+) - \$200; Club Champ - \$600 - 300.

Wednesday 4/8 7:00 pm - GM Sergey Kudrin - Clock Simul. w/complete analysis of YOUR Game (Only \$30!)

Thursday 4/9 6:00 pm - 7:15 pm - Lecture by IM John Donaldson (FREE)

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

Saturday 4/11 3:00 pm - 4:30 pm - FREE Game / Position Analysis - IM John Donaldson

Main Tournament

Registration: Thursday (4/9) 5 - 8 pm. Friday (4/10) 9 - 10 am. Saturday (4/11) 9 - 10 am.

Round Times: (3 Day Sch.): Fri. 4/10 - 12 Noon - 7 pm; Sat. 4/11 - 10 am - 6 pm; Sun. 4/12 - 9:30 am - 4:30 pm

(2 Day Sch.): Sat. 4/11 - 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

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Room Reservations: Call the Sands Regency - 1-866-FUN-STAY • Reserve by April 1, 2020 for Chess Rate

Ask for code: CHESS42020

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

ENTRY FORM - 9th Annual Larry Evans Memorial Open Chess Tournament - Reno, Nevada - April 10 - 12, April 11 - 12, 2020

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

----- 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

3-Day EF	Free	\$169	\$250	\$300	\$169	\$168	\$167	\$166	\$160	USCF Dues
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2-Day EF	\$165	\$165	\$165	\$165	\$165	USCF Dues
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FEES ALSO ENCLOSED FOR:

- Hotel Deposit \$53.95* (Weekday) or
- Hotel Deposit \$89.13* (Fri. & Sat.)
- \$30 Wed. Clock Simul. GM Kudrin
- \$20 Thursday-Simul. GM Sevillano
- \$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 March 13, 2020

Add \$11 after 3/13. Do not mail after 4/3. \$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 \$53.95 for weekday arrival, \$89.13 for Friday arrival.



Oregon Chess News

By Frank Niro

Oregon Amateur

The 2020 Oregon Amateur Championship was held February 8-9 at the Portland Chess Center. Twenty players competed in one section for those rated under-2000 at the start of the tournament. The convincing winner was Anthony Gross who swept all four games. Sean O'Connell took second place with 3.5/4. Class winners were under-1800 Pierre-Hadrien Beauchet with 2.5/4, Jon Strohbahn (U-1600), Geoff Kenway (U-1400) and Dillon Rivera (U-1200). Frank Niro and Lilly Zhang shared the TD duties.

Friday Nights At PCC

Friday Casual Night at PCC, focused on attracting new members to PCC and new players to US Chess, continues to be a popular experiment. Doors open every Friday at 5:00 PM. Rated play begins at 7:00 PM. PCC is located at 2025 Lloyd Center in Portland. Free Parking.

Following are the quad and mini-Swiss winners during the most recent PCC Friday Night Casual Nights:



Matt Zavortink (white pieces) and Zoey Tang (black pieces) perform a post mortem following their game at a recent Portland Chess Center tournament as Sean Tobin offers his suggestions for improvements. Photo courtesy of the Portland Chess Center.

January 24 – Mini-Swiss #8: Won by Bob Liu (3.0/3) over Nicholas Richardson & HH Ward (2.0/3)

January 31 – Mini-Swiss #9: Won by Gunther Jacobi & David Murray (2.5/3) over Frank Niro (2.0/3)

February 7 – Mini-Swiss #10: Won by Gunther Jacobi (3.0/3) over Bob Liu (2.0/3)

February 14 – Valentine's Day Action: Won by David Murray & Gunther Jacobi (2.5/3)

Sundays At Singer Hill

The Oregon City Chess Group continues to meet on Sunday afternoons at the Singer Hill Café. The club is conducted by Brian Berger and Carl Koontz in the tradition of club founder Dr. Ralph Hall as a welcoming chess club for players of all levels and ages. Brian sends this report of a recent Sunday afternoon high above the banks of the Willamette River.

“Another big turnout kept the Loft as busy as a beehive all day, with 16 of us immersed in pinning, forking, sacrificing, gambiting — and in this old man's case — just plain losing. The Lancaster boys, Carter and Liam, together with their sister,



Storefront view of the new Portland Chess Center location in the Lloyd Center Mall. Photo courtesy of the Portland Chess Center.



Singer Hill CC member Greg Markowski (R) shows some winning ideas to club visitors. Photo credit: Brian Berger.



(L-R) Anthony Gross, Carl Koontz, and Pierre Beauchet (all facing camera) contemplate their next moves. Photo credit: Brian Berger.

surprised us by coming early and by the fact that we haven't seen them in a long while. other things have occupied them but they have been active online, as Carter (who seems a foot taller than I last saw him) proved by beating the old man three games without breaking a sweat. Preston Polasek, who was introduced to the club just recently, returned to humble the old man, plus a few others. Also on hand was Greg Markowski, anxious to get in some games before a later eye appointment. His eyesight seems fine to me as he has lately had no trouble in finding and taking my pieces off the board. Joining at various times during the afternoon were Patrick Morrissey, recently crowned Oregon Amateur Champion Anthony Gross, Pierre Beauchet, Vince Roux, John Hoffman and Rosa Walker with her boys Matias and Tomas. A new visitor, Richard Basi, dropped in to see what the club is all about, staying for a time and playing a few games with Pierre, He said he enjoyed himself and will return."

Whatever the weather as we wind through the remaining portion of Winter 2020, it will be a perfect day each Sunday



Sunday afternoon at the Singer Hill CC in Oregon City. Photo credit: Brian Berger.

afternoon to spend indoors in the warm confines of Singer Hill's Loft area, where chess lovers have the chance to have fun and improve their chess skills among friends. As a bonus, Brian reminds us that "our hosts have an extensive menu of good things to eat and drink." Sounds inviting!

Arthur Dake Memorial Announced

The late Arthur Dake is the only Grandmaster born and raised in Portland, Oregon. He was born April 8, 1910, and started playing chess at the Portland Downtown YMCA in April 1927, shortly

after his 17th birthday.

In order to commemorate GM Dake's chess accomplishments, the Portland Chess Center has announced a new tournament known as the Arthur Dake Memorial Open to be held April 4-5, 2020 at PCC. A prize fund of \$1,000 based on 40 players has been established. Details on the pdxchess.org web site and in this issue (see full-page ad page 16).

Alexandra Botez featured on NBC News Feed

WFM Alexandra Botez (US Chess rated 2062) of Happy Valley, Oregon, was recently featured on the NBC news feed

in a piece entitled, "Chess is being revived by online players and e-sport streamers." For copyright reasons, we are unable to present the details here, but NWC readers are invited to watch the 5-minute news clip on <https://www.nbcnews.com/tech/video-games/fast-loose-culture-esports-upending-once-staid-world-chess-n1137111>. For chess lovers, fans of Alexandra and chess streamers alike, the piece is entertaining and gives a fresh look to a relatively new phenomenon in the chess community.

2020 Oregon Closed Championships

As we go to press, the Oregon Closed Championships have just concluded. In the Championship section, co-champions were crowned as FM Nick Raptis and 10th grader Joshua Grabinsky each finished with eight points out of nine games. Raptis lost his individual encounter to Grabinsky while the youngster surrendered draws to Matt Zavortink and Carl Haessler.

In the Challengers Section, Mike Janniro finished two full points ahead of the field with 8.0/9. Following is the deciding game between Joshua Grabinsky and Nick Raptis, shown without notes. Further details and game scores, with annotations, will be presented next month.

**Joshua Grabinsky (2285) –
Nick Raptis (2376) [B17]**
OR Closed Ch Portland, Oregon (Rd.4),
February 9, 2020

1.e4 c6 2.d4 d5 3.Nc3 dxe4 4.Nxe4 Nd7 5.Nf3 Ngf6 6.Nxf6+ Nxf6 7.Bd3 Bg4 8.c3 e6 9.h3 Bh5 10.Qe2 Bd6 11.Bg5 Qc7 12.Bxf6 gxf6 13.g4 Bg6 14.Nd2 0-0-0 15.0-0-0 c5 16.Bxg6 hxg6 17.Nb3 cxd4 18.Rxd4 Kb8 19.Qf3 f5 20.Rhd1 e5 21.Rd5 e4 22.Qe2 Rxh3 23.gxf5 gxf5 24.Kb1 Be7 25.Rxd8+ Bxd8 26.Qb5 Rd3 27.Rxd3 exd3 28.Qxd3 Qe7 29.Qxf5 Bb6 30.Qf4+ Ka8 31.Nd4 a6 32.Qe3 Qf6 33.a4 Qd6 34.Qe4 Qd7 35.b3 Ka7 36.f4 Qd6 37.Kb2 Qh6 38.Nc2 Qh2 39.b4 Qd2 40.f5 Bf2 41.Qc4 Be3 42.Qf1 Bf2 43.Qg2 f6 44.Qe4 Ka8 45.Qe6 Ka7 46.Qxf6 Be3 47.c4 Qc1+ 48.Kb3 Bd2 49.b5 Ba5 50.Qa1 Qg5 51.Qd4+ Kb8 52.b6 Bxb6 53.Qxb6 Qxf5 54.Qd8+ Ka7 55.Qd4+ Ka8 56.Nb4 Qb1+ 57.Qb2 Qd1+ 58.Qc2 Qf3+ 59.Qd3 Qf4 60.Nd5 Qc1 61.a5 Qa1 62.Qc3 Qb1+ 63.Ka3 Kb8 64.Nb6 Ka7 65.c5 Qb5 66.c6 bxc6 67.Qg7+ Kb8 68.Qf8+ Kc7 69.Qe7+ Kb8 70.Qd8+ Kb7 71.Qc8+ Ka7 72.Qc7# 1-0

Team BC Prevails In 2020 BC vs. Washington Match

Annual series now tied 2-2

Courtesy of the BCCF Bulletin,
Stephen Wright, Editor.

Led by outstanding 5.0-0.0 performances from IM Ray Kaufman and FM Javier Cortes, Team BC cruised to a 32.0-18.0 victory against Washington State at the Comfort Inn in Victoria over the weekend of 17-19 January. This was the fourth annual match-up; Washington was victorious in the first two years then BC won in 2019 and 2020. Besides the Kaufman/Cortes factor, Team BC was able to field stronger players on the lower boards.

An interesting contrast between the teams was FIDE flags. Team Washington was homogeneously American; Team BC featured players with FIDE flags from Chile, Iraq, Estonia and Canada as well as Ray Kaufman, a recent arrival from the USA. Another team member, Zulfikar Sali (FIDE flag United Kingdom), had to be replaced at the last minute by

Reza Sardari. Zulfikar was in Manila for Christmas and could not get a flight home to Victoria due to a volcanic eruption. Team BC's "imports" finished in the top four spots individually.

The event was organized as a five-round Swiss, with all twenty players in one section but team mates were blocked from playing each other.

The prize fund was \$2,200. Generous sponsorship was received by the BC Chess Federation and the Washington Chess Federation.

In addition, an individual sponsor with a great love for chess contributed a significant sum to the prize fund. Sridhar Seshadri is the president and founder of Sri Chess Academy, training about forty young children to qualify for events in Washington State. He has a track record of winning the Larry Evans Western State Open 1800 section and winning simulms against Michael Lee, Washington State champion, Wesley So, US number two, and Melik Khachiyan, Captain of the US School Olympiad chess team. He frequently plays in Canada and Iceland. The event was organized by Paul Leblanc of Victoria Chess and directed by Nigel Hanrahan.

Victoria Open

The fifth annual Victoria Open took place 17-19 January at the Comfort Inn Victoria. Seventy-five players competed in two sections (Premier and U1600). The format was a five-round Swiss with one game Friday evening, two games on Saturday and two games on Sunday. The annual BC vs Washington match was held in the same playing hall and provided some interesting chess for the players in the Victoria Open to watch between moves.

Victoria was struck with a significant snow storm the week prior to the event and this may have prevented an even larger turnout. In the end, the usual mild weather returned in time for all travellers to reach the tournament in plenty of time.

Tristan Taylor won the Premier section with a score of 4.5, half a point ahead of second place Louis Cheng. The decisive game came mid-way through the tournament when Tristan defeated Cheng in Round 3. Ross Richardson took clear third with 3.5. In the U1600 Section Harleen Singh Jaspal and Berry de Groot tied for first and split the cash prize. The trophy went to Harleen on tie-break. The tournament was directed by Nigel Hanrahan, report by Paul Leblanc.



(L) Josh Sinanan (WA) vs Jason Kenney (BC) during round three of the WA vs B.C. Challenge Match. Photo credit: Rachna Soneji.



WA vs B.C. Match group photo: (Rear L-R) Sloan Setiadikurnia, Reza Sardari, Howard Wu, Jason Kenney, Callum Lehingrat, Curt Collyer, Arpak Qanee, Dan Abramson, Roger Patterson, Javier Orihuela, Sridhar Seshadri, Raymond Kaufman. (Middle L-R) Patrick Huang, Stephanie Velea, Arbiter Nigel Hanrahan, Organizer Paul Leblanc, Josh Sinanan, Valeria Gansvind, Anne-Marie Velea. (Front L-R) Advait Vijayakumar, Rushaan Mahajan, Sophie Velea. Photo credit: Rachna Soneji.

14th Annual Grand Pacific Open

C\$6000 GUARANTEED Prize Fund; FIDE rated

Easter: April 10-April 13, 2020

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 2, \$90 by April 6, \$105 onsite. Discount \$20 if U1200 section

Prizes: C\$6000 guaranteed.

Registration: online 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\$119 room rate at Hotel Grand Pacific 1-800-663-7550 (rate code "APRIL20CHESS"). See website for further details and side events.



(L) Ray Kaufman (BC) vs Rushaan Mahajan (WA).
Photo credit: Rachna Soneji.

Washington Senior Championship

April 18-19, 2020

Highest finishing Washington resident receives the title of Washington State Senior Chess Champion, a seed into the Invitational Section of the 2021 Washington State Championship, and a \$750 travel stipend from the WCF to attend the 2020 National Tournament of Senior State Champions, which will be held August 8-11, 2020 in conjunction with the 2020 US Open.

Site: Tacoma Chess Club, 1721 E 56th St., Tacoma, WA 98404.

Format: A 5-Round Swiss in one section. Open to Seniors age 50+ (or reaching age 50 by or before August 8, 2020). 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, d10.

US Chess April 2020 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 04/11, \$60 after 04/11 or at site. Free entry for GMs, IMs, WGMs.

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

Rounds: Saturday 10:00 AM, 2:00 PM, 6:00 PM; Sunday 11:00 AM, 3:00 PM.

Byes: Two half-point byes available. Request before end of round 2. US Chess and WCF membership/Northwest Chess subscription required, other states accepted. NS. NC. W.

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

Mail To: Gary Dorfner, 8423 East B Street, Tacoma, WA 98445.

Phone: (253) 535-2536. **Email:** GGarychess@aol.com.

Online Registration: nwchess.com/OnlineRegistration/.

Chess Vignette “Randy’s Story”

By Karen Schmidt

In junior high school I would often play chess in the lunchroom, and most of the players were Asian Americans. Everyone would shout out moves and be noisy, until I made a move that they did not understand. I like to play “Sacrificial Chess,” with greater risk and rewards ratios. Good moves quiet the room. I didn’t play much in high school. After high school (Franklin) I was working and there wasn’t much available time, or chess partners. So from the ages of twenty to forty there wasn’t a lot of opportunity. At about forty, I moved to the western most address in Seattle, next to the lighthouse at Alki. I had two dogs and walking them was not always easy. Alki is full of bicycles and joggers and strollers and walkers, so I would go to Myrtle Edward’s Park near Pier 91. It was empty during the week with plenty of room for my dogs. After the walk I would stop at Starbucks at Pioneer Square before getting on the Columbia entrance to 99. While at this Starbucks, there were a couple of old guys playing chess, and after a while I asked if I could play. They

said yes, and I never looked back. Almost every morning between six and ten I would play — the neighborhood was full of men because of the missions and services in the area. At first I didn’t have a chess set, but my new friend did. I noticed his hands and fingers were swollen and his board was small, which made it hard for him to move the pieces. After about a week I went to the game store and bought a tournament set, mat, and chess clock in a nice black bag. My friend was able to move them with ease. I started to collect chess sets and would give them to my buddies, who could then play chess with others; then I would meet them and have new chess buddies! The nice workers at Starbucks were always happy to see us play, because we drank a lot of coffee and were quiet. In the summer I started playing in Occidental Park, which was a whole different world.

Growing up in Seattle...Seattle Parks Department literally saved Occidental Park by adding tables and chairs and oversized games like ping-pong and chess, with knee high pieces. On nice days I would go play in the park and found that there was a different dynamic to playing such a conspicuous venue with absolute strangers. I called it “Felony Chess,” because that is the neighborhood where —



Randy. Photo credit: Karen Schmidt.

45th Annual Keres Memorial

C\$7000 GUARANTEED Prize Fund, FIDE rated

Victoria Day Weekend, May 16-18, 2020

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 13, \$100 by May 11, \$115 on site. **U1100** \$60 by April 13, \$70 by May 11, \$85 on site. CFC tournament or regular membership required.

Prizes: C\$7000 Guaranteed

Registration: online at www.keresmemorial.pbworks.com

Misc: All equipment provided. \$189 room rate at the Executive Plaza 1-800-663-2878 (rate code “Keres Memorial Chess Tournament”. See website for further details.

when you are released from prison — you must check in at the Emergency Service Center. I found that men who had been in prison played chess well, since they had a plethora of extra hours to devote to the game. I discovered that some of these men played an intimidating game. I had to make a rule at first that when playing strangers with my chess set, I would not give up my board. I would play all the games, win or lose, on my own board. I made the rule after I played a man and he won; then his friend asked to play winner, and I didn't see why not... until I got a phone call to come home right away. I went to collect my bag and board and one of the men looked at me menacingly and said, "We gonna finish the game." I had to wait around a half hour then they left. Lesson learned.

Dominican Priests invented the game of Dominoes using floor tiles, while maintaining their vow of silence and building a church.

Chess in its many incarnations has been with us for thousands of years, if you deconstruct it. The best of all the other games slowly merged into one. Many of the greatest minds contributed to the game of chess. Some interesting mathematical formulas and equations

seem to related particularly well to the game of chess. For example: $8 \times 8 = 64$ (the number of squares on each rank and column of the chess board)... $6 + 4 = 10$ (the total of the two integers in the number of chess squares)... $1, 0$ is the digital binary code for computers... (the two integers in the number 10 as seen in previous example)... And a last musing on this topic: the chessboard is half empty and half full in perfect balance until you make a move.

I asked Randy who was the most interesting person he met through the world of chess. He had a very intriguing reply.

"For some reason, I have had contact with several Seattle mayors. Until recently, I would see and have small-talk with Mayor Royer, who walks his little dog around Pioneer Square, where I have walked mine, for many years now. I would also often see Mayor Nichols when I lived in West Seattle; he would do a lot of laundry at the same Laundromat where I used the super big machines. (We also have the same birthday but he's a year older.) I met and spoke with Mayor Murray at the opening ceremony for the Seattle chess sculptures near the Rainier Beach Library. Detective Cookie

(the SPD officer who has had a free chess program for central area children for over 20 years) was in attendance. I briefly met with several other mayors, except for current Mayor Durkin. I spent a night in jail with one of the mayors, but I'm not saying which one."

Detective Cookie Rainier Beach Library 3pm Tuesday and Saturday at noon. For the last twenty years. Full uniform every time I have been there.



(L) Ali from Morocco, (R) Randy.
Photo credit: Karen Schmidt.

Washington Open

May 23-25, 2020

\$12,000 Guaranteed Prize Fund!

Highest finishing Washington resident seeded into the 2021 Washington State Championship.

New Site: Hyatt Regency Bellevue
900 Bellevue Way NE, Bellevue, WA 98004-4206
Phone (425) 698-4250

Format: 6-Round Swiss in three sections:
Open, Reserve U1800, and Booster U1400.
Open section Dual US Chess & FIDE rated.

The 2020 Mike Neeley Memorial Northwest Grand Prix

Murlin Varner, Administrator

The new year is underway and we have a former Northwest Chess editor as our honoree. James Michael (Mike) Neeley was editor for 21 issues during 1993 and 1994. Mike, a former Tacoma Police officer, passed away in October of 2019. A more detailed obituary is provided on the facing page.

There have been five events thus far in the year, four in Washington and one in Oregon. Two had 2x multipliers applied, the Neil Dale Memorial (39 players) and the Seattle City Championship (26 players). February offered five events, the first of which is already in my stats (SCC Quads, Feb. 1, 11 players). Still to come at this writing are two 3x events, The WCF President's Cup in Seattle and the Dave Collyer Memorial in Spokane. Additionally, there were the Idaho Closed in Boise, and a Tornado in Seattle. Coming up in March, we currently have the Northwest Open in Seattle (March 7-8), an SCC Tornado (March 15), the Seattle Spring Open (March 20-22), and an SCC Quads (March 28).

After those five completed events mentioned above have given 83 players Grand Prix points. Not enough to construct my usual chart yet, especially since none are from Idaho. However, after the Idaho Closed and the Collyer Memorial, there should be plenty of Idaho players come next month. Oregon has had one event that participated in the Grand Prix, and I am told that there will be others, although none are on my calendar at this time. From that first event, four Oregon players have 12 Grand Prix points: Lennart Bjorksten, Alan Rhodes, Zoey Tang and Ethan Wu. The top Washington players at this early juncture are Balaji Pranav (20 points), Viktors Pupols (19.5), Silas Lainson (19), Frank Fagundes (16.5), and Sarah Lawrence and Lois Ruff (15 each). Yours truly is pointless right now (wait, does that sound right?), but with a planned trip to Spokane for the Collyer Memorial, I should be on the list come next month.

Well, that's it for this month. I hope you all have a chance to get out and play. Frequently.



Mike and Tanya Neeley. Photos on this and the next page courtesy of Tanya Neeley.

Mike Neeley

By Ralph Dubisch

James Michael "Mike" Neeley — editor of Northwest Chess from February 1993 through October 1994, ex-Tacoma motorcycle cop, and all-around character — died from a brain tumor October 2. He had reinvented himself as a computer networking technician in the late 1990s, and every couple of years he would send me an email to reconnect, though our correspondences never lasted too long.

With his wife, Tanya, Mike had three children, Chris, Alicia, and Rick, 14 grandchildren, and four great-grandchildren. He loved chess, motorcycles, horses, fast cars. He raced little G jet cars. Whatever he did in life, he gave it 100%.

Mike was a giant of a man, standing at least 6' 4" before his motorcycle crash, and perhaps an inch or two shorter after he had some vertebrae removed. When I knew him, he must have weighed around 400 lbs. He was also a giant personality, almost arrogantly self-effacing and contradictory in other ways, too. He would pull himself up the staircase at the old house that first served as the Inside Chess offices, plop down in a chair in my space, and argue for hours about chess, religion, politics, and anything else that caught his attention.

One of his favorite claims was that the bible was the literal word of God. When I pointed out some contradiction in the text (and there are plenty), he would say, "Well, ya gotta understand..." followed by an explanation about the times and people of the era, or some criticism of the translation — and of course he claimed to have read the original Greek and done a better job.

"But Mike, it's either the literal word of God, or it isn't."

"It is."

"So, how do you explain the errors and contradictions?"

"Well, ya gotta understand..." and away we go. Many of our other discussions became circular equally quickly. One of the signs that he was about to stubbornly defend the indefensible was when he took on a country-boy accent and started to claim to be ignorant, though how that lined up with reading the bible in Greek or Aramaic he never did explain. Mike was many things, but ignorant wasn't really one of them. He argued, of course, for the love of arguing, not to actually win. What would he ever have done if he had persuaded me of one of his positions? We'll never know, but I'm sure he would have been disappointed.

His ability to skewer other people, and especially other people with strong religious beliefs that didn't match his own, was without peer. "Sharp as a marble" was one of his favorite putdowns, followed by, "not the brightest crayon in the box." He enjoyed railing against "long-haired hippy freaks," although I was never quite sure if he included me among them, and I am quite sure he got along just fine with several. He told Philip Peterson an off-color self-putdown about the difference between cowboy boots and motorcycle cop boots. With cowboy boots, the B.S. is on the outside.

Mike, known in Tacoma Police circles by the nickname "Lurch," after the tall character from "The Addams Family," told outsize stories as well. There was a confessional involving dynamite and a motorcycle gang headquarters; stories about shooting a flying bird with a pistol from a galloping horse — with a single perfect shot. One of my favorites was his tale of getting rid of an aggressive neighborhood dog ("Self-defense... as long as it was still coming toward me. Had to act fast before it changed its mind...").

Were these stories the literal truth, or might there have been some exaggeration involved? "Well, ya gotta understand..." That was Mike.



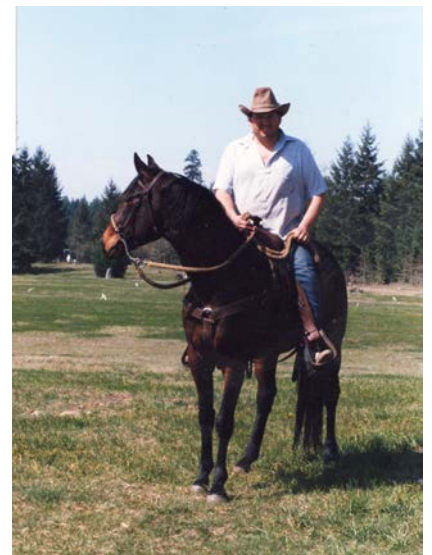
Mike in the 90's.

Northwest Chess



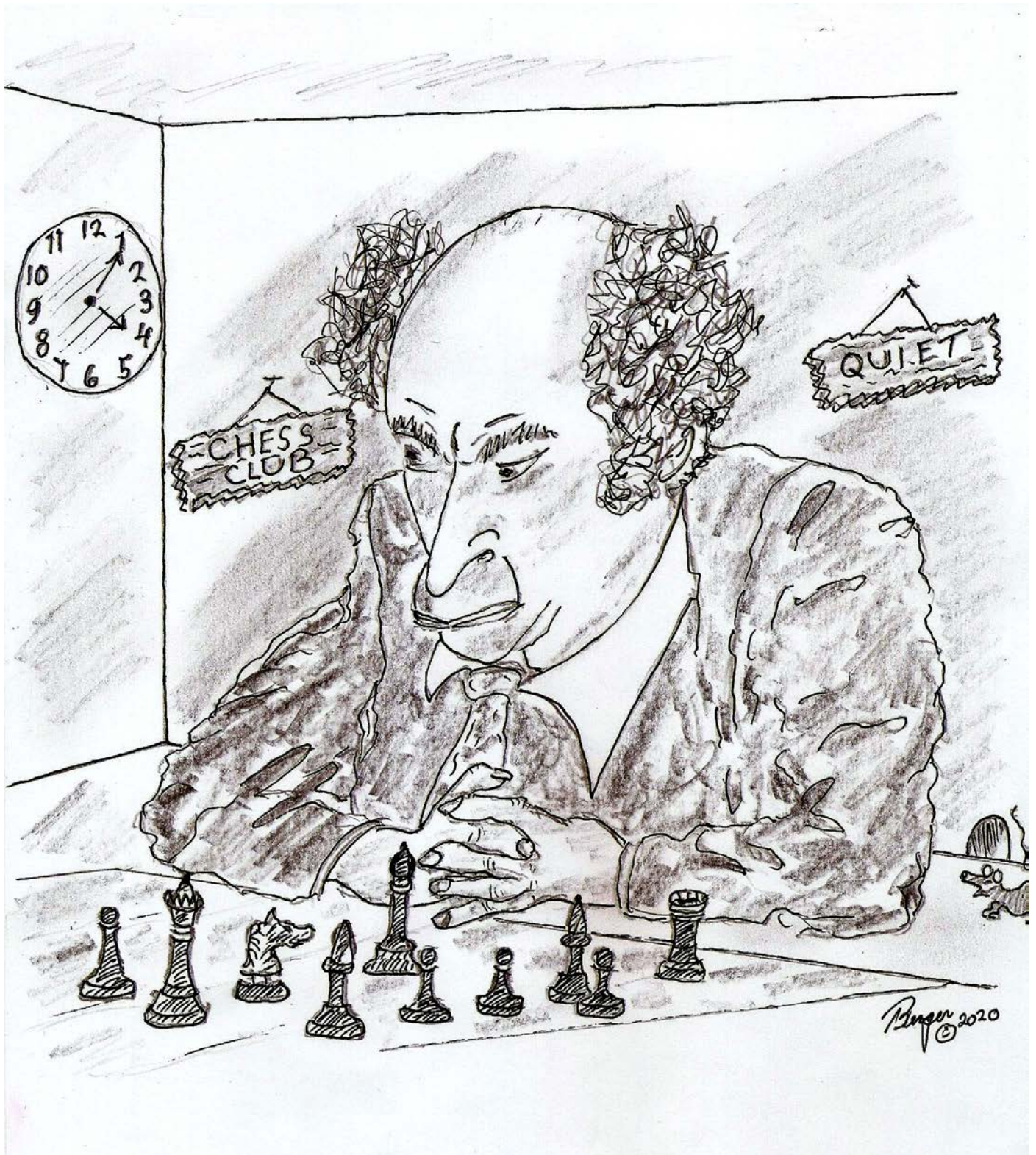
"Lurch" on the job.

March 2020

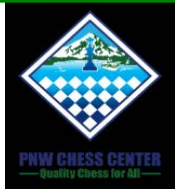


Cowboy Mike.

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SEEKING RECOGNITION, BUT NOT KNOWING A WHIT ABOUT CHESS AFTER 20 YEARS, HENRY UNDERWENT PLASTIC SURGERY, THEN CHANGED HIS NAME TO MIKHAIL FISHERBRONSTEINALEKHINESPASSKYLASKERSTINITZBOTVINNIKCAPBLANCAKARPOVKAMSKYCARLSEN TAL II



Pacific Northwest Chess Center PNWCC)

12020 113th Ave NE #C-200, Kirkland, WA 98034
pnwcctd@gmail.com pnwchesscenter@gmail.com
<https://www.pnwchesscenter.org/>



All PNWCC Events will be registered through USChessHub –
<https://www.uschesshub.com/>
created and maintained by Xu hao He and FM Anthon He



Friday Night Events

Dates	Description	Rounds and Fees
Every Friday Except the week of FIDE Open	G/45;d5 Duel/G/25;d3 Rapids 3/6, 3/20,3/27, 4/3, 4/10	2/3 (with accelerated pairing)

Scholastic and Beginner Event

Dates	Description	Rounds
March 7 th	Transformers G45;d5	4
April 11 th	Transformer G45;d5	4

One-Day Tournament

Dates	Description	Rounds
March 1st	G60 – Adults and USCF 2000+ play for free	4
April 12 th	G60 – Adults and USCF 2000+ play for free	4

PNWCC Monthly USCF Open

Dates	Description	Rounds
3/28 – 3/29, 2020	6-round G90;d10	6
4/10 – 4/12, 2020	7-round G90;d5 Super USCF Open - National Simulation	7

PNWCC FIDE Tournaments

Dates	Theme	Featured GM's	Rounds
March 12 – 15	Anniversary II	GM Prohaszka and GM Hakobyan	7
April 16 – 19	Skagit Tulips II	GM Shabalov and GM Yermolinsky	7
May 21 st – 25 th	Glacier Peak	Many GM's with norm possible	9
Jul 28 th – Aug 2 nd	Summer of Seattle	Many GM's with norm possible	9
Sept 3 rd – 7 th	Artist Point (AP I)	Many GM's with norm possible	9

PNWCC Camps

Dates	Coaches	Levels	Days
Apr 6 – 10	GM Emil Anka	Intermediate	5
April 13 – 16	GM Shabalov & Yermolinsky	Intermediate & Advanced	4
Jun 29 th – Jul 3 rd	GM Yermolinsky and Anak	Intermediate & Advanced	5
Jul 6 th – Jul 10 th	Double GM	Intermediate & Advanced	5
Jul 13 th - Jul 17 th	Double GM	Intermediate & Advanced	5
Jul 20 th - Jul 24 th	Double GM	Intermediate & Advanced	5
Aug 3 rd – Aug 7 th	GM Lenderman	1800+	5
Aug 10 th – 14 th	Double GM	Intermediate & Advanced	

Tournament dates and details are subject to changes. Visit our website for most recent updates.

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



The SCC online registration system is now open at www.seattlechess.club.

♠ **Mar 28, Apr 25** **Saturday Quads** ♠
Format: 3-RR, 4-plyr sec. by rtg. **TC:** G/120;d5. **EF:** \$9 (+\$7 fee for non-SCC). **Prizes:** Free entry for next quad. **Reg:** 9-9:45 a.m. **Rds:** 10:00-2:15-6:30. **Misc:** US Chess, WCF/ICA memb. req'd, OSA. NS, NC.

♠ **Mar 15, May 4** **Sunday Tornado** ♠
Format: 4-SS. **TC:** G/60; d5. **EF:** \$18 (+\$7 fee for non-SCC). **Prizes:** 1st 35%, 2nd 27%, Bottom Half 1st 22%, 2nd 16% (\$10 per EF 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/ICA memb. req'd, OSA. NS, NC.

Mar 29 **SCC Novice**
Format: 4-SS. Open to U1200 and UNR. **TC:** G/75; d5. **EF:** \$11 by 1/1, \$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.

WCF @ the SCC

NWC Open

Mar. 7-8

Harmon Memorial

Apr. 4-5

SCC Adult Swiss

February 29-March 1

A 4-round Swiss open to those born before 3/2/1999 with guaranteed prizes of \$190 (5 per prize group).

First	\$60
Second	\$30
U2000	\$25
U1800	\$25
U1600	\$25
U1400/Unr	\$25

Time Control: G/120; +30.

Entry Fees: Free for SCC members. Others — \$10.

Registration: Sat. 10-10:45 a.m. **Rounds:** 11-4:30, 11-4:30.

Byes: 1 (Sunday rounds, commit at registration).

Miscellaneous: US Chess & WCF/ICA membership req'd (OSA). No smoking. No computers.

Seattle Spring Open

March 20-22 or 21-22

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 54 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 3/18 (\$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 2020 Northwest Grand Prix event.

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

♣ **Mar 7-8 Northwest Chess Open, Seattle, WA.** Half-Page Ad page 12.

Mar 7 Bellingham Knights Chess Club March Open, Bellingham, WA. Time Control: G120;d5. Site: Bellingham Youth Chess, 4120 Meridian St #270, Bellingham, WA. Active US Chess membership is required for this rated event. Sections: 1 Open section. Rounds: 3SS. 1st round @ 8:00 AM, 2nd @ 12:15 PM, 3rd @ 4:30 PM. Registration: Register online for \$20 at <http://www.bellinghamchess.com/>; or on-site (7:30-8:00 AM) for \$25. Prizes: 1st Place \$60, 2nd Place \$30.

♣ **Mar 28-29 Idaho Open, Pocatello, ID.** Location: Red Lion Pocatello, 1555 Pocatello Creek Rd. Format: 5SS, TC: Game/120;d5. EF: \$30, \$40 at the door. Prizes (based on 30): Overall \$200-100-50. \$25 class prizes: A, B, C, D, E, and Unrated. Registration and check in: 7:30 to 8:30 a.m., March 28. RT: 28 Mar: 9 a.m., 1:30 p.m., 6 p.m.; 29 Mar: 9 a.m., 1:30 p.m. One half-point bye available rounds 1-4. Zero-point bye round 5. Must declare before the round is paired. Info: <https://www.idahocheessassociation.com/>.

♣ **Apr 4-5 Harmon Memorial, Seattle, WA.** Half-Page Ad page 13.

♣ **Apr 4-5 Arthur Dake Memorial Open, Portland, OR.** Full-Page Ad page 16.

Apr 10-12 9th Annual Larry Evans Memorial Open, Reno, NV. Full-Page Ad page 17.

Apr 10-13 14th Annual Grand Pacific Open, Victoria, BC (Canada). Half-Page Ad page 22.

Apr 18-19 Washington Senior Championship, Tacoma, WA. Half-Page ad page 23.

♣ **Apr 25-26 Inland Empire Open, Spokane, WA.** Site: Gonzaga University (Jepson Center), Room 109, Spokane, WA. Format: Five Round Swiss System. Registration: Sat. 8:30-9:30 a.m. Rounds: Sat. 10:00-2:30-7:00, Sun: 9:00-1:30 or ASAP. Time Control: G/120 (with 5 second delay). E.F. \$23 if received by 4/24, \$28 at the door; 18 and under \$5 less. Telephone entries accepted. \$630 prize fund based on 30. Class prizes based on at least five per section. Only one prize per person (excluding biggest upset). NS, NC, W. One ½ point bye if requested before proceeding round. Sunday byes must be requested before the end of round 3. Director reserves the right to use class pairings in the final round. Prizes: 1st Overall \$140, 2nd Overall \$100. Class Prizes: 1st (A; B; C; D/E/unrated) \$60, 2nd (A; B; C; D/E/unrated) \$25, Biggest Upset: \$50 (non-provisional ratings). Entries: Spokane CC c/o Kevin Korsmo, 9923 N. Moore, Spokane, WA 99208. For information call (509) 270-1772, or visit www.spokanechessclub.org.

May 16-18 45th Annual Keres Memorial, Richmond, BC (Canada). Half-Page Ad page 24.

♣ **May 23-25 Washington Open, Bellevue, WA.** Half-Page Ad page 25.



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