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**April 2020**

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CHESS CLUB" COULD NOT AGREE ON WHAT "SOCIAL  
DISTANCING" MEANT.





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**On the front cover:**

Chesstoon by Brian Berger. This month it is an oil painting  
with vivid colors! Check it out online at  
<http://www.nwchess.com/>

**On the back cover:**

Luke Wei, First Place Class E at the 2020 Idaho Closed  
State Championship. Photo credit: Jeffrey Roland.

**Chesstoons:**

Chess cartoons drawn by local artist Brian Berger,  
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## Table of Contents

Chesstoon by oil painting Brian Berger .....	Front Cover
Chess During The Pandemic James Stripes .....	3
Idaho Closed State Championship Jeffrey Roland.....	4
Michael Schemm (1947-2019) John Donaldson .....	9
Oregon Chess News Frank Niro .....	10
Singer Hill Sunday Update Brian Berger .....	14
Harmon Memorial Chess Tournament Half-Page Ad Online via Chess.com.....	15
9th Annual Larry Evans Memorial Full-Page Ad Reno, NV Apr 10-12 (Canceled!) .....	16
5th WA Corp and Collegiate Team Full-Page Ad Seattle, WA Apr 18.....	17
Dave Collyer Memorial Kevin Korsmo.....	18
Presidential Scholastic Josh Sinanan .....	20
Washington President's Cup Travis Olson.....	20
Washington Girls Championship Jacob Mayer.....	20
Yermo Annotates MLK Games Alex Yermolinsky .....	20
Washington Senior Championship Half-Page Ad Apr 19-20, online via chess.com.....	23
45th Annual Keres Memorial Half-Page Ad May 16-17, Richmond, BC (Canada) .....	24
Washington Open Full-Page Ad May 23-25, Bellevue, WA .....	25
Chess Vignette "Peter's Story" Karen Schmidt.....	26
Northwest Chess Grand Prix Murlin Varner .....	28
SCC Full-Page Ad.....	30
Upcoming Events .....	31
Luke Wei Jeffrey Roland.....	Back Cover

## Chess During The Pandemic

By James Stripes

Schools are closing, large gatherings are banned, and social distancing is the new norm. COVID-19 is disrupting life as we have known it. What happens to chess?

The day before the March Madness tournament in Spokane, one school canceled the tournament that would follow it two weeks later, the governor ordered all schools closed before Tuesday, and the decision was made to cancel Saturday's tournament. Nonetheless, there had been discussions for several weeks about trying some online competition, and John Dill had run a trial event with students whom he coaches. On Friday, those who had registered for the March Madness tournament were notified both of the cancellation, and of the opportunity to participate in an online event. Sixteen players signed up to play. A four-round event ensued on Saturday.

I paired the event in the usual manner, but from home. Then, I emailed the pairing chart in html to John, and he posted the pairings on a webpage set up for the event. Prior to the event, students registered on Lichess and let us know their user names. A few had accounts of long-standing, but most created new accounts. When the pairings were posted, each player with White sent a challenge to their opponent for an unrated game/30 battle. I followed the games as they were played, as did other coaches. As the games completed, I entered the result in SwissSys and downloaded the game.

There were hiccups. One student created two correspondence games with his opponent before he got the time control correct. Each round, some games were over before others began. Everyone played much too fast. Some players underperformed in the unfamiliar format. Mouseslips and touchpad errors may have affected results. John and I wondered how much we could trust everyone to play without unfair help.

It was not perfect. Social interaction is part of the appeal of youth chess tournaments. The online format tempts those inclined to seek an edge through nefarious assistance. We heard no accusations, but were aware of the possibility. I ran Lichess's Stockfish analysis on games that had surprising results.

Inland Chess Academy plans to host another online tournament March 28. We are holding meetings via Skype and responding to one another's emails as we discuss the way forward. In time, the pandemic will run its course and face-to-face events will resume. In the meantime, we are working to keep children engaged in chess.

Congratulations to Ben Barrett who won all four games. Lucas Mortensen, Justin Clark, Tiernan Waggoner, and Cole Knapton each finished with 3.0/4 (listed in order of tie-breaks). The top three players received trophies.

## Coming Next Month!

**Megan Lee triumphs at Washington State Championship.**

**Look for the full story and games in the next issue of *Northwest Chess*.**

# Idaho Closed State Chess Championship

By Jeffrey Roland

Boise, ID — February 15-17, 2020

The 2020 Idaho Closed was the 74th Annual Idaho State Championship and was held in Boise, Idaho at the Red Lion Riverside Inn over the February 15-17 President's Weekend. Thirty-six players attended this event, which despite the name "Idaho Closed" is open to all chess players who reside in Idaho. Adam Porth was Chief Tournament Director with Jeffrey Roland as Assistant Tournament Director.

Jacob Ari Nathan (1990-1984—5.0/6), 16, was first-place overall, losing only one game to Andrew Kitterman in the third round of the Swiss tournament. This is the second consecutive year Jacob Nathan is Idaho State Chess Champion.

James Wei (pronounced "way") (1816-1833—4.5/6) achieved second-place by tie-break over Seth Daniel Machakos (1662-1749—4.5/6) who was third.

Fourth-place (not a prize for that, but also in the 4.5-point tie group was Kaustubh Kodihalli (1702-1723—4.5/6) who won the first-place Class B prize over Andrew Nicholas Kitterman (1694-1735—4.0/6) who took second-place Class B.

Michael Edward Cambareri (2036-2006—4.0/6), a former Boise resident who later moved to Spokane and who now resides in North Idaho took the Top Expert prize. Michael is also the current North Idaho State Champion.

Brett B. Hamilton (1700-1700—4.0/6) played impressively to capture Top Senior, as too did Michael J. Presutti (1605-1629—4.0/6), who tied with Hamilton and is also officially recognized as Top Senior.

Forrest Zeng (1557-1590—3.5/6) was first-place Class C with Desmond Porth (1480-1534—3.5/6) as second-place Class C. Desmond played a fantastic come-from-behind attack against former Idaho State Chess Champion Alex Machin in the third round, after which Machin withdrew from the tournament.

Temiloluwa (we call her "Temi") Aderogba (1340-1405—3.5/6) was first-place Class D. Second-place Class D was Bryce Leifeste (1432-1421—2.0/6).

Finn Belew (1400-1423—3.0/6) took Top Junior.



(L) Jacob Nathan receives the championship plaque from ICA President Adam Porth.  
Photo credit: Jeffrey Roland.

Luke Wei (1066-1080—2.5/6) was first-place Class E, with Jay L. Simonson (601-630—2.5/6) taking home second-place Class E.

Emma Gao (516-582—2.5/6) was Top Woman.

The tournament proved to be interesting with several upsets. One can always count on players to bring their "A-Game" to the Idaho Closed!

Top board was broadcast over the internet live via the DGT sensory board. But this led to a series of interesting assumptions. For example, at the end of the Parsons vs. Kitterman game

(fourth round ending Saturday night), after the game (but before it was saved), Parsons moved the pieces around doing "analysis" but the resulting position ended in a position that Kitterman could have easily trapped Parsons queen and everyone thought that Kitterman had won that game. In fact, that game was a draw.

The next day, Parsons correctly pointed out that if players are allowed to wear head sets and listen to music, what's to stop them from actually getting instruction from a person watching the game live over the internet. This was a point that resonated well with many and so from the fifth round forward, players



were no longer allowed to wear headsets and listen to music during the games. This will become a new ICA policy for all ICA events going forward, according to Adam Porth.

The hard drive of the Chief Tournament Director crashed after the sixth-round was paired. Jeffrey Roland's laptop was used to reconstruct the tournament to that point, re-inputting everything. So there is still a need for paper after all in the 21st century!

**Desmond Porth (1480) –  
Michael Cambareri (2028) [A10]**  
Idaho Closed Boise, ID  
(R1), February 15, 2020  
[Ralph Dubisch]

1.c4 f5 2.Nc3 Nf6 3.g3 c6 4.Bg2 d5  
5.cxd5 cxd5 6.d4 Nc6 7.Bf4 e6 8.Nf3  
Ne4 9.0–0 g5 10.Be5 Nxe5 11.Nxe5 Bg7  
12.Nxe4 fxe4 13.e3

13.f3!?

13...0–0 14.Qg4 Rf5 15.f4 exf3 16.Nxf3  
e5 17.dxe5 Rxe5 18.Qd4 Re8 19.Qd2  
Bg4 20.Nd4 Qd7 21.Rf2 Rad8 22.Raf1  
Re5 23.Nf3

23.h3 Be6 (23...Bxh3 24.Rf7 Qc8 25.Qf2  
Rde8 (25...Bxg2 26.Rxg7+ Kxg7 27.Qf6+  
Kg8 28.Kxg2+-) 26.Nb5 Bxg2 27.Nd6  
Qc6 28.Nxe8 Rxe8 29.Qxg2±) 24.Nf3  
Rf5 25.g4 Rff8 26.Nxg5±

23...Bxf3 24.Rxf3 g4 25.Rf7 Qxf7

26.Rxf7 Kxf7 27.Qa5 Rd7 28.Qxa7 d4  
29.Qa4 b5 30.Qb3+ Kf8 31.Qb4+ Ree7  
32.exd4 Rxd4 33.Qxb5

33.Qb3

33...Rd1+ 34.Bf1 Ree1 35.Qb4+ Kf7  
36.Qf4+ Bf6



Position after 36...Bf6

37.b4

Not to put too fine a point on it, but the idea is to give lots and lots of checks, while keeping in touch with the g-pawn in case that can be captured with check. 37.Qc4+ Ke7 38.Qb4+ Ke8 39.Qb5+ Kd8 40.Qb6+ Ke7 41.Qb4+ Kf7 42.Qc4+ Kf8 43.Qb4+ (Not 43.Qc5+? Kg7-+.) 43...Kg7 44.Qxg4+ and now White can draw either by continuing the checks or by defending the f1-bishop, since Black's extra piece doesn't win in a bishop + h-pawn ending.

37...Rxf1+ 38.Qxf1 Rxf1+ 39.Kxf1  
Ke6 40.Kg2 Kd5 41.h3 h5 42.hxg4  
hxg4 43.Kf2 Bd4+ 44.Ke2 Be5 45.a4

Bxg3 46.a5 Bc7 47.a6 Bb6 48.Kf1 Ke4  
49.Kg2 Kf4 50.b5 g3 51.Kh1 Kf3 52.a7  
g2+ 53.Kh2 0–1

**James Wei (1816) –  
Jacob Nathan (1990) [B40]**  
Idaho Closed Boise, ID  
(R6), February 17, 2020  
[Ralph Dubisch]

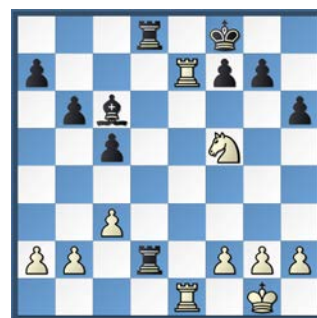
1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 e6 3.Nc3 Nc6 4.Be2 Nf6  
5.0–0 d5 6.exd5 Nxd5 7.Nxd5

7.d4

7...Qxd5 8.d3

8.b3!?

8...Be7 9.Be3 Bf6 10.Qd2 0–0 11.Rfe1  
b6 12.c3 Bb7 13.Bg5 Bxg5 14.Qxg5  
Qxg5 15.Nxg5 e5 16.Bf3 h6 17.Ne4  
Rad8 18.Rad1 Rd7 19.Ng3 Rfd8  
20.Bxc6 Bxc6 21.Nf5 Kf8 22.Rxe5 Rxd3  
23.Rde1 Rd2 24.Re7

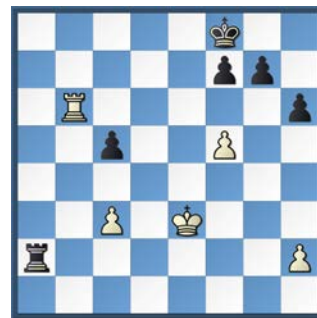


Position after 24.Re7

24...Rxb2

24...Bd7!! 25.g4 (25.Ng3 Be6! 26.Rxa7  
Rd1 27.Kf1 Bc4+ 28.Ne2 R8d2-+;  
25.Nh4 Rxb2) 25...Rxb2-+

25.Rxa7 Re2 26.Rf1 Bb5 27.g4 Re4 28.  
f3 Bxf1 29.fxe4 Bh3 30.Rb7 Bxg4 31.  
Rxb6 Rd1+ 32.Kf2 Bxf5 33.exf5 Rd2+  
34.Ke3 Rxa2



Position after 34...Rxa2

35.h4

35.f6! gxf6 36.Rxf6 Rxh2 37.Rf5 Rh3+  
38.Kd2 c4 39.Rf4 Rd3+ 40.Kc2 Kg7  
41.Rxc4 Rd8 seems a logical sequence  
for both players, and appears to be a  
fairly straightforward theoretical draw.



(L) Desmond Porth vs Michael Cambareri. Photo credit: Adam Porth.



*The Championship Game. (L) James Wei vs Jacob Nathan.  
Photo credit: Jeffrey Roland.*

It would be a much trickier draw if the white c-pawn is removed and the white king is better placed on the g-file, but with the c-pawn White can generate enough distraction to keep the black rook busy while the king improves. Play might continue: 42.Rg4+ Kf6 43.c4 h5 44.Rf4+ Kg6 45.c5 f5 46.c6 Kg5 47.c7 Rc8 48.Rc4 h4 49.Kd1 h3 50.Rc2 h2 51.Rxh2 Rxc7 52.Ke1 Rc1+ 53.Kd2 Ra1 54.Rh8 and there's no way to stop the white king from taking up the ideal defensive position in front of the pawn.

**35...Rh2 36.Rc6 Rh3+ 37.Kd2 Rxh4 38.Rxc5 Rh5 39.Re5?**

This costs White the "check and capture" defense against ...g6. Better, and still holding, is something like 39.c4, when 39...g6 (39...g5 40.f6 Kg8 41.Rf5 Rh2+ 42.Kd3) 40.Rc8+ Ke7 41.fxg6 fxg6 42.Kc3 should still be a theoretical draw.

**39...g6+ 40.c4 Rxf5 41.Re4 h5 42.Ke3 g5 43.Kd4 Rf4 44.Rxf4 gxf4 45.Ke4 f5+ 46.Kxf4 h4 47.Kf3 Ke7 48.Kg2 f4 49.Kh3 f3 50.Kh2 Kd6 51.Kg1 h3**

**52.Kh2 f2 53.Kh1 f1Q+ 54.Kh2 Qg2# 0-1**

**Brett B. Hamilton (1700) –  
Andrew Kitterman (1694) [B13]**  
Idaho Closed Boise, ID  
(R6), February 17, 2020  
*[Ralph Dubisch]*

**1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 c5 3.e3 cxd4 4.exd4 d5 5.Nf3 Nc6 6.Nc3 Bg4 7.Be3 e6 8.Be2 8.c5!?**

**8...dxc4 9.Bxc4 Bb4 10.Rc1 Rc8 11.Be2 0-0 12.0-0 Bxc3**

12...Ba5!/? heading toward b6.

**13.bxc3 Na5**

Black's strategy here is to blockade the hanging pawns, preferably with knights on c4 and d5.

**14.h3**

In order to counter the blockading plan 14.Ne5 Bxe2 15.Qxe2 makes sense, when White can force c3-c4, changing the

dynamic of the pawn structure with rough equality.

**14...Bxf3 15.Bxf3 Nd5 16.Bd2 Nc4 17.Be2 Qa5 18.Be1 Rfd8**

Or 18...b5.

**19.Qb3 b5 20.f4 Qb6 21.Rf3 Qc6 22.Qc2 22.Ra1 a6 23.a4**

**22...g6 23.g4 Rd7 24.Bh4 Rdc7 25.f5?!**



*Position after 25.f5*

Black's positional grip on the c-file and central light squares has been methodically increasing, while White's kingside





Brett Hamilton. Photo credit: Adam Porth.

expansion appears to be mostly creating weaknesses behind the advance. White's desire to lash out is understandable.

**25...exf5 26.gxf5**

26.Bxc4 Qxc4 27.gxf5 Nxc3 isn't going to turn out well for White.

**26...Nde3**

26...Nce3 is a little different, and maybe a little better. If play is similar to the game: 27.Qd3 Nxf5 28.Rxf5 gxf5 and the knight on d5 both attacks c3 and is closer to the kingside action, perhaps supporting ...f4, if not actually jumping onto that square itself. Of course 29.Qxf5 Qg6+ wins for Black.

**27.Qd3 Nxf5 28.Rxf5 gxf5 29.Kh2**

29.Qxf5 Qg2+ (29...Qg6+ 30.Bg4) 30.Kxg2 Ne3+ is very close to winning for Black, but White has a bit more resistance available than in the previous note with the knight on d5.



Position after 29.Kh2

**29...Qe4??**

29...Qd6+ 30.Bg3 f4 31.Bh4 f6 The defense is going very well for Black.

**30.Qg3+ Kf8 31.Rg1?**

White also hurries. 31.Bxc4 first is better: 31...bxc4 (31...Rxc4?? 32.Qd6+ Ke8 33.Rg1+-) 32.Rg1 f6 33.Qg8+ Ke7 34.Qg7+ Ke8 (34...Kd6 35.Qxf6+ Qe6 36.Bg3+ Kd5 37.Qxe6+ Kxe6 38.Re1+ Kd7 39.Bxc7 Rxc7 40.Kg3±) 35.Qxf6 Re7 36.Qxe7+ Qxe7 37.Bxe7 Kxe7 38.Rg7+±

**31...Qxe2+ 32.Rg2 Qxg2+ 33.Qxg2 Ne3 1/2-1/2**

**Desmond Porth (1480) –  
Alex James Machin (1867) [A25]**  
2020 Idaho Closed Boise, ID  
(R3), February 16, 2020  
[Ralph Dubisch]

1.c4 e5 2.Nc3 Nc6 3.g3 f5 4.Bg2 Nf6  
5.Nf3 Bb4 6.0–0 Bxc3 7.bxc3 d6 8.d3 h6

8...0–0 9.Rb1 Qe8 is occasionally seen,  
followed by 10.Ne1 (or 10.c5.)

9.Nd2

9.c5!? 0–0 (9...dxc5 10.Ba3∞) 10.cxd6  
cxd6 11.c4

9...f4 10.Ne4 0–0 11.gxf4?!

11.e3; 11.Rb1

11...exf4 12.Bxf4?? Nxe4+ 13.Bxh6  
Nxc3 14.Qd2 Nxe2+

14...Nd4!?

15.Qxe2 gxf6 16.Bd5+ Kh7 17.Kh1 Qf6  
18.Rae1 Bd7 19.Qh5 Rae8 20.Be4+ Kh8

20...Rxe4 21.Rxe4 Ne5 22.d4 (22.Qe2  
Bh3 (or 22...Bc6-+) 23.Rg1 Nf3 24.Re7+  
Kh8 25.Qe4 Bg2+ 26.Rxg2 (26.Kxg2  
Qg5+ 27.Kf1 Qxg1+ 28.Ke2 Qe1#) 26...  
Qa1+) 22...Bg4 23.Rxg4 Qf3+-+

21.Bg6



Position after 21 Bg6

21...Re7??

21...Qf4! Hard to see when under  
pressure: 22.Bxe8 Bg4!!-+

22.Rxe7 Qxe7 23.Qxh6+ Kg8 24.Bh7+  
Kh8 25.Bf5+ 1–0

**Michael Cambareri (2028) –  
Seth Daniel Machakos (1662) [C42]**  
2020 Idaho Closed Boise, ID  
(R2), February 15, 2020  
[Ralph Dubisch]

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nf6 3.Nxe5 d6 4.Nf3 Nxe4  
5.Nc3

5.d4 d5 6.Bd3 Nc6 7.0–0 Be7 8.c4 is the  
main line, often followed up with 8...  
Nb4 9.Be2 0–0 10.Nc3 Bf5 11.a3 Nxc3  
12.bxc3 Nc6 13.Re1 Re8 14.cxd5 Qxd5  
15.Bf4 Rac8 and now White has at least  
half-a-dozen viable choices.



Cookies were provided throughout the tournament. Photo credit: Jeffrey Roland.

5...Nf6

More common is 5...Nxc3 6.dxc3 Be7  
7.Be3 (or the similar 7.Bf4 Nc6 8.Qd2  
Be6 9.0–0–0 Qd7) 7...Nc6 8.Qd2 Be6  
9.0–0–0 Qd7 10.Kb1 Bf6∞

6.d4 d5

6...Be7 7.Bd3 0–0 8.h3 Re8

7.Bf4

Now we seem to be out of theory. The  
more natural developments 7.Bd3 and;  
7.Bg5 have both been seen here.

7...Bd6 8.Qd2 Bf5

8...0–0

9.0–0–0

9.Qe3+!?

9...0–0 10.Ne5 Nc6 11.f3?!

11.a3

11...Nb4! 12.a3?

12.Nd3 Nxd3+ 13.Bxd3 Bxd3 14.Bxd6  
Qxd6 15.Qxd3

12...Nxc2 13.g4 Na1!–+



Position after 13...Na1

14.gxf5 Nb3+ 15.Kb1 Nxd2+ 16.Rxd2  
c6 17.Rg1 Nh5 18.Be3 f6 19.Nd3 Qc7  
20.Rg4 Rae8 21.Nd1 Re7 22.Rdg2 Qd7  
23.Bd2 Qxf5 24.Ne3 Rxe3 25.Bxe3

Qxf3 26.Nf2 Qxe3 27.Bd3 Rf7 28.Rh4  
Qf3 0–1

After the last game to complete, and  
while Adam Porth was still calculating  
the prizes, Jacob Nathan gave a speech,  
which was actually quite nice.

Next year, the tournament should be  
held in Boise, as it will be the 75th Annual  
Idaho State Championship!

## ICA Annual Business Meeting

By Jeffrey Roland

The annual business meeting took  
place during the Idaho Closed on February  
16, 2020 from 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

For this report, I want to focus mainly  
on the elections. The minutes are posted  
on the Idaho Chess Association's website,  
[www.idahochessassociation.com](http://www.idahochessassociation.com).

Jay Simonson was elected as East  
Regional Trustee for two years. Barry  
Eacker was elected as South Central  
Regional Trustee for two years. Alise  
Pemsler was elected as West Regional  
Trustee. Adam Porth was elected as North  
Regional Trustee. Jeffrey Roland was  
elected as Member-at-large. These are all  
two-year terms.

The following officers still have one  
year to go before their terms expire.

Adam Porth as President. Richard  
Nathan as Vice President. Alise Pemsler  
as Secretary. Jef Leifeste as Member-  
at-large. We currently do not have a  
Treasurer, but one is being sought.

Also, anyone with an ICA check is  
asked to cash those before May 17, after  
which time the account could be closed.



# Michael Schemm (1947-2019)

By John Donaldson

Mike Schemm, one of the great gentlemen of the Northwest chess scene for over half a century, passed away on September 8, 2019 in Bellevue, Washington, at the age of 72.

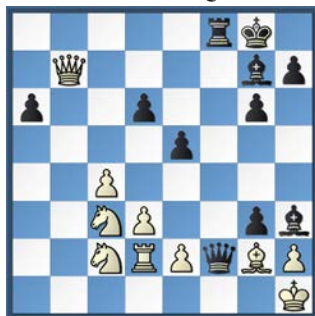
What was to become a lifelong love affair with chess began for Mike as a high school freshman in 1963. He lost every game in his first tournament (the Interstate Open in Portland) that May, but within a few years was among the best players in Oregon and soon became a fixture in the annual state championship. Mike played in every Oregon Closed between 1966 and 1977 (except 1971 when he was serving in the Army), finishing second in 1969 and equal first (with James Bricher) in 1975. This period is when he reached his peak US Chess rating in the mid-2100s.

Although Mike was never a US Chess-rated master, he had wins and draws against a number of strong players including a young Yasser Seirawan when the latter was the reigning Washington state champion.

The following game enabled Mike to win the 1976 Idaho Open.

**Yasser Seirawan (2328) –  
Michael Schemm (2102) [A36]**  
1976 Idaho Open Boise, ID  
(R5), May 2, 1976

1.c4 c5 2.Nc3 Nc6 3.g3 g6 4.Bg2 Bg7  
5.Rb1 Nf6 6.a3 0-0 7.b4 cxb4 8.axb4 d6  
9.d3 Qd7 10.Bd2 Nd8 11.Nf3 e5 12.0-0  
Ne6 13.Ra1 Ne8 14.Ra3 f5 15.Qb3 N8c7  
16.Qa2 a6 17.b5 Nc5 18.bxa6 Rxa6  
19.Ne1 f4 20.Nc2 Qg4 21.Bf3 Qh3  
22.Rxa6 bxa6 23.Qa5 Nb3 24.Qxc7  
Nxd2 25.Bg2 Qf5 26.Rd1 fxc3 27.Rxd2  
Qxf2+ 28.Kh1 Bh3 29.Qb7



*Position after 29.Qb7*

29...Qf1+ 0-1

Mike continued to play strong chess into his 60s. When he retired from his job



*Mike Schemm looking up from the board in a tournament held in the early 1980s.*

as a CPA in Seattle in the late 2000s, he moved to Bali and played in tournaments all over the world with a number of fine results. He beat two masters and drew another enroute to tying for third in the 2009 U.S. Senior, a half point ahead of Grandmaster Boris Gulko. The following year he placed in the top 25 in the World Senior Championship despite being seeded in the middle of the 223-player field. His score of 7-4 included a last round win over Jude Acers.

A practical player – definitely not a theoretician — Mike had one claim to opening fame. If you search in Mega Database for the position after 1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Bb5!?

you will find some earlier games than his, but few players who used it more frequently or successfully. Among the strong masters he drew with it were Jonathan Berry and Viktors Pupols, both in 1972.

Mike's greatest chess thrill, which he loved to relate, was how Bobby Fischer, checking out a round of the 1972 American Open in Santa Monica, spent at least 15 seconds looking at one of his games. This so inspired Mike he came from behind to win from a losing position!

Generous to a fault, Mike will be remembered by his many friends for his love of life and sense of adventure. He will be sorely missed.

# Oregon Chess News

By Frank Niro

## Oregon Closed Championship

Portland, OR—February 8-17, 2020

Fifteen-year-old high school student Joshua Grabinsky finished in a tie for first place with veteran FM Nick Raptis in the 2020 Edition of the Oregon Closed Championship. Both players finished with eight points out of nine in the ten-player round-robin Championship section. The event was complicated by

the withdrawal of one of the players after four rounds. Grabinsky and Raptis were declared co-champions, the sixth Oregon championship title for Raptis.

Grabinsky's draw with top seed Shunkai Peng in round three seemed promising. However, Shungkai withdrew before the halfway point of the tournament. According to FIDE rules, all of the withdrawn players' games were changed to full point byes. Grabinsky beat second seed Nick Raptis in round four. Raptis kept pace by sweeping the

rest of the field to earn his sixth Oregon Closed title.

Joshua yielded a draw in round six to NM Matt Zavortink who finished clear third with 7.0/9. Grabinsky said after the game that he was satisfied with the draw. A positional error put him into a difficult position before a perpetual check saved him from a loss. Grabinsky secured his title with a final round fighting draw with five-time Champion Carl Haessler.

Joshua Grabinsky is the younger brother of IM Aaron Grabinsky, who is now in his fourth year at Webster University in St. Louis.

In the Challengers Section, Mike Janniro (8.0/9) finished two full points ahead of second place finisher Ryan Lu. Janniro had six victories and a pair of draws against Lu and Steven Deeth. By virtue of his victory, Janniro qualifies for the 2021 Oregon Closed Championship Section.

**Andrew Lebovitz (2049) –  
Joshua Grabinsky (2187) [E05]**  
OR Closed Ch Portland, Oregon  
(R8), February 16, 2020  
*[Ralph Dubisch]*

**1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.g3 d5 4.Bg2 Be7  
5.Nf3 0-0 6.0-0 dxc4 7.Qc2 a6 8.a4 Bd7  
9.Qxc4 Bc6 10.Bg5 Nbd7**

More commonly seen: 10...Bd5 11.Qd3  
(or 11.Qc2 Be4 12.Qc1 h6) 11...c5.

**11.Nc3 h6 12.Bxf6 Nxf6 13.Qd3  
13.a5!?**

**13...Bb4 14.Rfe1 Bxc3 15.Qxc3 Qe7  
16.a5± Rac8 17.Rec1 Rfd8 18.e3 Ne4**



Position after 18...Ne4

**19.Qc2**

19.Qd3! Nc5 (19...Nd6 20.Rxc6! gives White both material and positional advantage.) 20.Qa3 Qf6 21.Nd2 (21.Ne5

ch-Oregon 2020 Portland, OR USA Sat 8th Feb 2020 - Mon 17th Feb 2020 Leading Final Round 9 Standings:				
Rk	Name	Rtg	Pts	Perf
1	Raptis, Nick	2376	8	2389
2	Grabinsky, Joshua	2285	8	2315
3	Zavortink, Matt	2249	7	2271
4	Haessler, Carl A	2240	4.5	2222
5	Bjorksten, Lennart	2145	4.5	2150
6	Tang, Zoey	2067	4	2074
7	Cosner, Karl	2046	3.5	2048
8	Lebovitz, Andrew Evan	2171	3	2139
9	Richardson, Ryan	2105	1.5	2074
WD	Peng, Shunkai	2420	2.5	2411
10 players				

The adjusted final standings of the 2020 Oregon Closed Championship Section.

ch-Oregon 2020 Portland, OR USA Sat 8th Feb 2020 - Mon 17th Feb 2020. Category: None. Ave: (2080)																
Rk	Name	Title	FED	Elo	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	Pts	TPR
1	Grabinsky, Joshua	CM	USA	2182	#	1	=	=	1	1	1	=	1	1	7.5	2342
2	Raptis, Nick	FM	USA	2204	0	#	1	1	1	1	1		1	1	7	2367
3	Zavortink, Matt		USA	2166	=	0	#	1	1	1	=	=	1	1	6.5	2236
4	Haessler, Carl		USA	2016	=	0	0	#	0	1	=		=	1	3.5	2012
5	Bjorksten, Lennart		USA	2028	0	0	0	1	#	1	0		1	=	3.5	2011
6	Tang, Zoey		USA	1807	0	0	0	0	0	#	1		1	1	3	1994
7	Lebovitz, Andrew E		USA	2049	0	0	=	=	1	0	#	=	0	0	2.5	1917
8	Peng, Shunkai	FM	USA	2343	=							#		1	2.5	2200
9	Cosner, Karl		USA	1981	0	0	0	=	0	0	1		#	1	2.5	1918
10	Richardson, Ryan		USA	2023	0	0	0	0	=	0	1	0	0	#	1.5	1813

The complete crosstable, including the games of Shunkai Peng, who withdrew after four rounds. All of the games were US Chess and FIDE rated.



Bxg2 22.Rxc5±) 21...Bxg2 22.Kxg2 (22.Rxc5?! Bc6) 22...Nd7 23.Qb3 is awkward for Black.

19...Nd6 20.Ne5 Bxg2 21.Kxg2 Nb5 22.Qe4 Rd5 23.Nd3 Nd6 24.Qf3 Rf5 25.Qe2 Rb5 26.Rc5 Rxc5 27.Nxc5 e5 28.d5 e4 29.Rd1 Qe5 30.b4 f5?!

The e6-square becomes a permanent outpost for the white knight, while Black's kingside expansion is still rather nebulous.

31.h4 g6 32.Rd4 Kf7 33.Nd7 Qe8 34.Nc5 Qb5 35.Qb2 b6?!

35...Qe8 36.Ne6 Qh8!? attempts to neutralize the long diagonal, though White likely still has an edge with the advanced outpost.

36.axb6 cxb6 37.Ne6 Ne8 38.d6 Qd7 39.Nf4 Nf6 40.Qa2+ Kg7 41.Qxa6± g5



Position after 41...g5

42.hxg5??

Such a natural move, yet such a huge mistake. White cashes in his big plus with 42.Nd5! Nxd5 a) 42...Rc6 43.Qa1 Nxd5 44.Rxd5+ Kg6 45.h5+ Kf7 (45...Kxh5 46.Qf6 with mating net and promotion plans.) 46.Qh8+-; b) 42...f4 43.exf4 gxf4 44.Nxf6 f3+ 45.Kh2 Kxf6 46.Qa1; 43.Rxd5 Rc6 44.Qa1+ Kf7 45.hxg5 hxg5 46.Qh8 Rxd6 47.Qh7+ Ke8 48.Og8+ Ke7 49.Qxg5+-

42...hxg5 43.Nd5?

43.Nh3 salvages something: 43...Rh8 (43...Kg6 44.Qxb6±) 44.Nxg5 Ng4 45.Qc4! Kf6 (45...Rh2+ 46.Kg1 Rxf2 47.Qf7+! Qxf7 48.Nxf7 Ra2 49.d7+-) 46.Nxe4+ fxe4 47.Rxe4 Ne5 48.Rf4+ Kg7 49.Qd5 when the four pawns should be a bit better than the knight.

43...f4! 44.exf4?

44.Qf1 Rh8 (or 44...f3+ 45.Kg1) 45.Kg1, and Stockfish claims White can still defend this rather precarious-appearing position with complete equality.

44...Rh8!-+

And here's the explanation of why White's move 42 was so unfortunate. Open h-file means mate threats.

45.f5 Qxf5 46.Qb7+ Nd7 47.Nf4 gxf4 48.Qxe4 f3+ 49.Qxf3 Rh2+ 0-1

Karl Cosner (1981) –  
Joshua Grabinsky (2187) [C00]  
OR Closed Ch Portland, Oregon  
(R7), February 16, 2020  
[Ralph Dubisch]

1.e4 e6 2.Bb5



Position after 2.Bb5

Well, we're out of book... on move two. Impressive. Not the move, mind you, which really has little to recommend it, but simply that it's possible.

2...a6 3.Ba4 b5 4.Bb3 Bb7 5.Qe2 c5 6.d3 Nc6 7.Nf3 g6

Maybe a few too many pawn moves, and thus weaknesses to cover. The alternative is development, such as 7...Qc7 8.0-0 Nf6; or 7...d6 8.0-0 Be7.

8.c4?!

Apparently White really doesn't like his light-square bishop. 8.Bg5 Qb6 9.c3 and White's position begins to look normal, while Black's will require maintenance of the air-conditioning.

8...b4

8...Bg7 9.0-0 Qb6 10.Nc3 Nge7

9.Be3 e5 10.Nbd2 d6 11.a4?!

Things sometimes get weird in the last round of a long event.

11...Bg7 12.g4 Nge7 13.0-0-0 Bc8 14.g5 Bd7 15.Bc2 b3 16.Nxb3 Nb4



Position after 16...Nb4

17.Nxc5?

I'm actually not terribly happy with giving this move the blunder mark. Yes, it's unsound, but it's also time to mix things up a bit. The strategy of entombing the light bishop wasn't working too well, either.

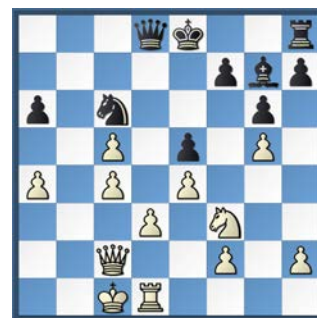
17...dxc5 18.Bxc5 Nxc2 19.Qxc2 Bg4 20.Nd2

The self-pin 20.Qe2 Nc6 is certainly not an improvement.

20...Bxd1 21.Rxd1

Now it's a rook. The Bill McGeary "never" rule states, "never, ever, ever, give up a rook for pawns, because a rook can mate." While it's a bit of a reckless generalization, there's a germ of truth in there somewhere. Of course, a rook can also chop off a piece to make life easier...

21...Rc8 22.b4 Rxc5 23.bxc5 Nc6 24.Nf3



Position after 24.Nf3

24...Nd4

Black need not rush to exchange things. 24...0-0 and the house of cards is close to collapse. Underdefended pieces and squares abound.

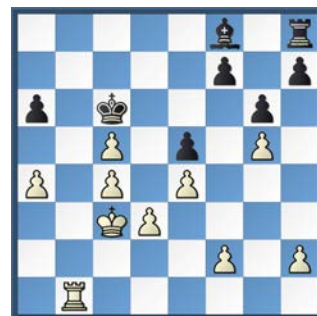
25.Nxd4 Qxd4 26.Qb2 Qxb2+ 27.Kxb2 Kd7

27...Bf8

28.Kc3 Kc6

Control of the b-file is more critical here: 28...Kc7 29.Rb1 Rb8.

29.Rb1 Bf8



Position after 29...Bf8

30.Rb6+



Championship section competitors (L-R) Back row: Joshua Grabinsky, Matt Zavortink, Carl Cosner, Lennart Bjorksten, Andrew Lebovitz; Front row: Ryan Richardson, Nick Raptis, Zoey Tang, Carl Haessler. Photo credit: Frank Niro.



Joshua Grabinsky holding the Oregon Closed rotating trophy. Photo credit: Nancy Keller.

30.Rb8! and, remarkably, White can keep Black bottled up. 30...Bg7 (30...Kxc5 31.Rc8+ Kb6 (31...Kd6 32.c5+ Kd7 33.Ra8) 32.c5+ Kb7 33.Re8 Bg7 34.Re7+ Kc6 35.Rxf7 Bf8 36.Rf6+ Kxc5 37.Rxa6) 31.Rb6+ Kxc5 32.Rxa6 h6 33.h4 hxg5 34.hxg5 . Active rook and pawn potential.

30...Kc7 31.Kb4 Be7 32.Ka5 Bxc5 33.Rf6 Rf8 34.h4 Bd4 35.Kxa6 Ra8+ 36.Kb5 Rb8+ 37.Ka6 Rb6+ 38.Rxb6 Bxb6 0-1

**Zoey Tang (1807) –  
Nick Raptis (2204) [A44]**  
OR Closed Ch Portland, Oregon  
(R7), February 16, 2020  
[Ralph Dubisch]

1.d4 c5 2.d5 e5 3.c4 d6 4.Nc3 g6 5.e4 Bg7 6.g3 Ne7 7.Bg2 0-0 8.Nge2 f5 9.0-0 Nd7 10.f4 exf4 11.Nxf4 Ne5 12.exf5 Nxf5 13.Ne6 Bxe6 14.dxe6 Rb8

14...Nd4∞

**15.Bf4**

15.Nd5!? — White's threat is 16.e7 Nxe7 17.Bg5.

**15...Kh8 16.Bd5 h6 17.Qd2 Ng4 18.Ne2?!**

Missing Black's idea. 18.h3 seems reasonable, and White should still be pretty happy with the position.

**18...g5! 19.Bf3 Ne5**

19...Nxh2! 20.Kxh2 gxf4 21.Nxf4 Qg5∞ It's getting very hard to find a reasonable defense for White here.

**20.Bxe5 Bxe5 21.Bd5 Qe7 22.Qc2**

22.Qd3 Nd4 23.Nxd4 Bxd4+ 24.Kg2 and White is fine.

**22...Ne3 23.Rxf8+ Rxf8**



Position after 23...Rxf8

**24.Qd2**

24.Qg6 Rf6 (24...Qf6 25.Qxf6+ Bxf6 26.Nc3∞; 24...Nf5? allows a strong queen sacrifice: 25.Rf1 Rf6 26.Qxf5 Rxf5 27.Rxf5 Bf6 28.g4+-) 25.Qe4

**24...Nxd5 25.cxd5 Qf6 26.Nc3 Kg7 27.Re1? a6?**

The tactic 27...Bd4+ 28.Kh1 (28.Kg2 Qf3+ 29.Kh3 g4+ 30.Kh4 Bf6+) 28...Bf2 wins the exchange and the game.

**28.a4?**

Stockfish suggests 28.Qd1, which to a human eye looks like leaving the white king completely exposed.

**28...g4**

28...Bd4+ still works.

**29.Qe2 Qg6 30.Ne4 Rf3**

30...Rf5

**31.Kh1**

31.e7 Qe8 (31...Bd4+ 32.Kh1 Re3 33.Qxe3 Bxe3 34.Rxe3+-) 32.Nd2 Rf6 33.Qxg4+

**31...Qf5**



Position after 31...Qf5

**32.Nxc5??**

32.e7! Qf7 33.Nxd6! Qxe7 34.Qxe5+++

**32...Rf2 33.Qe3 Rf1+ 34.Kg2 Rxe1 35.Qxe1 Qf3+ 0-1**



**Zoey Tang (1807) –  
Joshua Grabinsky (2187) [A44]**  
OR Closed Ch Portland, Oregon  
(R1), February 8, 2020  
[Ralph Dubisch]

1.d4 c5 2.d5 e5 3.c4 d6 4.Nc3 g6 5.e4  
Bg7 6.Nf3 Ne7 7.Be2 0-0 8.0-0 f5 9.exf5  
Nxf5 10.Bg5 Qb6 11.a4 a6 12.Ne4 h6  
13.Bd2 a5 14.Qc1

14.g4!? Nd4 (14...Ne7 15.g5 h5 16.Nh4  
Bf5 17.Ng3±) 15.Nxd4 (or 15.Nh4) 15...  
exd4 16.Bd3±

14...Kh7 15.Ra3 Nd7 16.g4 Ne7 17.Ne1  
Nf6 18.Nxf6+ Rxf6 19.g5

19.Rh3

19...Rf7 20.gxh6 Bf6 21.Nf3 Nf5

21...e4 22.Ng5+ Bxg5 23.Bxg5 Nf5±

22.Bd3 Bd7 23.Bg5 Raf8



Position after 23...Raf8

24.h4

24.Bxf5 Bxf5 (24...gxf5 25.Bxf6 Rxf6  
26.Ng5+ Kh8 27.f4 Rxh6 28.Rg3 Black's  
queen is out of play, and the white rooks  
become super-active along the g-file.)  
25.Bxf6 Rxf6 26.Ng5+ Kh8 27.f4

24...Kh8 25.Bxf5 gxf5 26.Kh1 Qd8  
27.Rg1 f4 28.Qc2 Rg8

28...Bxg5 29.Nxg5 Bf5 30.Qe2 (30.  
Nxf7+? Rxf7 intending 31.— Qxh4+)  
30...Re7∞



Challengers group photo (L to R): Raj Kodithyala, Steven Deeth, Sean Tobin, David Yoshinaga, Mike Janniro, Ryan Lu, Havish Sripada, Robert Hamm, Jerry Sherrard. Photo credit: Frank Niro.

29.Raa1 Qc8

29...Rff8∞

30.h7 Rgf8 31.Bxf6+

31.Qg6! threatening Bxf6+ and Qg7#.  
31...Bxg5 (31...Qd8 32.Bxf6+ Qxf6  
33.Qg8+; 31...Bg7 32.Qxd6 Qe8  
33.Rae1 e4 34.Bh6 Bxh6 35.Rg8+ Rxg8  
36.hxg8Q+ Kxg8 37.Qxh6+-) 32.Rxg5  
Now the threats are Qxd6 and Rag1. 32...  
Bf5 33.Qxd6 Bxh7 34.Nxe5+-

31...Rxf6 32.Ng5

White needs rooks. 32.Rg5 Bf5 33.Qc3  
Qc7 34.Rag1 Qxh7 35.R1g2∞

32...Bf5 33.Qe2 Qe8

33...Rh6! and the h-pawn can't be  
defended. 34.Rg2 (34.h5 Bg6-+) 34...  
Rxh4+ 35.Rh2 Rxh2+ 36.Kxh2 Qe8+

34.Rg2 Rh6 35.Rh2 Bxh7 36.Nxh7  
36.Rg1

36...Rxh7 37.b3 f3!-+ 38.Qe3 Rf4  
39.Kg1 Qg6+ 40.Kf1 Rg7 0-1

## 2020 Oregon Closed Challengers Section Crosstable.

Place	Name	ID	Rtng	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Rd 5	Rd 6	Rd 7	Rd 8	Rd 9	Tot
1	MIKE JANNIRO	10482569	2029	D2	W5	D6	W9	W10	W8	W4	W3	W7	8.0
2	RYAN LU	16571178	1905	D1	D8	D4	L3	W7	W10	W5	D6	W9	6.0
3-5	ISAAC VEGA	14490451	2039	L4	W10	L7	W2	D5	W6	W9	L1	D8	5.0
	ROBERT HAMM	10877121	1919	W3	D7	D2	W5	D6	W9	L1	D8	L10	5.0
	SEAN TOBIN	12601265	1941	W9	L1	W8	L4	D3	W7	L2	W10	D6	5.0
6	STEVEN DEETH	12421422	2082	W10	L9	D1	D8	D4	L3	W7	D2	D5	4.5
7-8	HAVISH SRIPADA	16033981	1919	D8	D4	W3	W10	L2	L5	L6	W9	L1	4.0
	RAJ KODITHYALA	15232385	1881	D7	D2	L5	D6	D9	L1	W10	D4	D3	4.0
9	JERRY SHERRARD	12925821	1901	L5	W6	W10	L1	D8	L4	L3	L7	L2	2.5
10	DAVID YOSHINAGA	10406901	1700	L6	L3	L9	L7	L1	L2	L8	L5	W4	1.0



# Singer Hill Sunday Update

By Brian Berger

Howdy! Singer Hill fans,

If you have been following the news about the virus—and who hasn't?—you know that day-by-day the information we are getting sounds grimmer and grimmer. Therefore, Carl and the Old Man have decided that our decision to “watch and wait” will continue until we can be assured that this pandemic is under control. Only then will we be certain that our meetings will not cause harm to our members.

Carl and the Old Man will miss all of you, as you have become like a second family. But keeping our family safe is our number one priority, so for the foreseeable future, we will remain closed.

Attached are some older photos of fun times and friendly members. Stay safe, and we hope this virus will soon be under control. Brian & Carl



*Yuri Kamsha. Photo credit: Brian Berger.*



*(L-R): Nick Raptis, Pahlychai, and Patrick Morrissey. Photo credit: Brian Berger.*





(L, F-B) Carl Koontz, Tshee, and David Yoshinaga.

(R, F-B) Pierre-Hadrien Beauchet (Pierre has appeared in your magazine many times) Floyd Stretch and Pahlychai. Photo credit: Brian Berger.

# Harmon Memorial Chess Tournament

## April 4-5, 2020

**Site:** Chess.com: All games will be played online via Chess.com due to the Coronavirus COVID-19 situation. Join "Washington Chess Federation Club" on Chess.com.

**Format:** A 6-Round Swiss in two sections, Open and Reserve (U1800). Pairings will be sent to all players before the start of each round. Players will challenge their opponent manually via the WCF Club area. All players will be monitored via Zoom and observe fair-play rules.

**Time Control:** G/90, inc. 30.

**Rounds:** Sat./Sun. @ 10:00 AM, 2:00 PM, & 6:00 PM.

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

**Rating:** Unrated. 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:** Two half-point byes available. Request before end of round 2. US Chess and WCF membership/Northwest Chess subscription required.

**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](mailto:Jacob.Mayerchess@gmail.com).

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

# 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

150 GPP (Enhanced)

**\$27,500!!**  
*(b/275)*

**\$17,000!!**  
*(Guaranteed)*

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, (2399/1999)

(if a tie for 1st then a playoff for \$100 out of pocket)

Sec. Expert - (2000 - 2199) EF: \$250

Sec. "A" - (1800 - 1999) EF: \$169

Sec. "B"

**Cancelled!!**

What is the...  
The...  
Saturday...  
Registration...  
Round 1...  
(2 Day Sch...  
**PLUS! Complimentary Coffee and Coffee Cakes!**

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

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# 5th Washington Corporate and Collegiate Team Chess Tournament

When:	Saturday April 18 <sup>th</sup> , 2020	
Where:	Amazon Houdini North (399 Fairview Ave N, Seattle, WA 98109) Free Parking at Amazon Dawson building (345 Boren Ave N, Seattle, WA 98109)	
Mode:	5 Round Swiss System – unrated – G/25 + 10 spm delay Two Sections: Team and Individual	
Team rules:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 4-player teams and up to 4 teams per company/university</li> <li>• Order of players in a team has to be in order of their ratings</li> <li>• Scoring is done by team points (board points on tiebreaks)</li> </ul>	
Eligibility:	<p>Team Section: Active employees* (corporate team) or full-time enrolled students (collegiate) team</p> <p>Individual Section: Active or retired employees* and immediate relatives of players in the team section. Must have a corporate or university team in order to have players in individual section.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">* includes contractors and interns</p>	
Prizes:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bragging rights for the best corporate team (and yes there is a lot of bragging)</li> </ul>	
Schedule:	09:00am – 09:30am	Sign in
	09:30am – 10:45am	Round 1
	11:00am – 12:15pm	Round 2
	12:30pm – 01:30pm	Lunch break
	01:30pm – 02:45pm	Round 3
	03:00pm – 04:15pm	Round 4
	04:30pm – 05:45pm	Round 5
	Winner Ceremony immediately following the last game. Players will gather at a local restaurant for dinner after completion of the event	
Registration:	Please send your team or individual registration to Florian Helff <b>by Wednesday April 15<sup>th</sup>, 2020.</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Please include a USCF/FIDE ID and chess.com/lichess.com login for a player if existing to allow better pairing.</li> </ul>	
Contact:	Amazon Chess Club: Florian Helff – <a href="mailto:chess-na@amazon.com">chess-na@amazon.com</a>	



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# Dave Collyer Memorial

By Kevin Korsmo

Spokane, WA—February 22-23, 2020

The 28th Dave Collyer Memorial tournament drew 71 players this year, the second highest total in history and just four short of the previous year's record. Four former winners shared the top prizes: John Donaldson, Nick Raptis, Jim Maki (the top three seeds) and Dave Rowles all finished at 4.5/5 to share the top three prizes and the class A first place. The trophy-maker is going to have a tough time squeezing four names on to the Collyer Memorial plaque this year, but at least all of the names are already on it!

The tournament competed with a bout of spring-like weather over the weekend of February 22-23, making it tempting to

spend the time outdoors. But the players concentrated on chess as if it was cold outside, turning up the heat with lots of lengthy games running to the end of each round. Unlike previous years, the upsets were slow to mount, with only a single upset draw in the first round. In round two, several class B players upended their class A opponents, returning the event to the level of competition typical of most Collyer tournaments.

The second day began with a bang away from the playing site when Antonius Raelund was the victim of a car accident that sent him to the hospital to be checked out. Subsequent reports indicate he came through the incident all right, but he was not able to play the second day. The final round started with a thud when the tournament director became the victim of a bad fall on a wet floor that left him on the sidelines for most of the round with a badly bruised hip and sore back muscles. James Stripes and Tito Tinajero promptly

agreed to a draw in their game (after both tried resigning) and stepped up as de facto directors, with James patrolling the games and Tito marshalling his forces to take down the playing site.

The first day's action had resulted in four perfect scores and eight others just 1/2 point back. Round Four whittled those numbers in half. The two perfect scores heading into the final round belonged to Donaldson and Raptis, while four others sat at 3.5. Board one rapidly reached an agreed draw after 13 moves, leaving boards two and three to battle late into the afternoon to determine if anyone would join Donaldson and Raptis in the victor's circle. Maki and Rowles both won to create the four-way tie.

There were plenty of other winners. Rob Fiset and Cam Leslie each scored 4.0 to share the Expert class prize. The second class A prize was shared by Wilton Strickland, Jerry Sherrard, and



(L-R): Nick Raptis, John Donaldson. Photo credit: Adam Porth.





Craig Moore. Photo credit: Adam Porth.

Lily Deng. The class B prizes were shared by Jeremy Burnett, Griffin Herr, and Jeremy Younker, each of whom scored 3.5/5. Class C likewise saw a three-way split at 2.5/5 between Grace Deng, Jesse Driscoll, and Adam Porth. The class D prizes were won by Patrick Kirlin and Jeremy Wohl with scores of 3.0/5. Darwin Porth won class E prize with a score of 2.5/5, while Brandon Arnold scored 2.0/5 to claim the second prize in the section. The Jim Waugh biggest upset prize was claimed by young Tiernan Waggoner, while Darwin Porth claimed the second largest prize.

As typical, Montana players came out in great numbers (14 this year) to swell the turnout. Included in the Big Sky contingent were several youngsters who seemed intent on bringing Spokane rating points back home, a role reversal from many earlier occasions where it was the Spokane youngsters heading to Montana to seek their fortunes! The youthful players were a nice addition to the Collyer tradition.

As always, the event was sponsored by the Spokane Chess Club and the Gary Younker Foundation in memory of Dave Collyer and Gary Younker. The efforts of James, Tito, Ted Baker, Stan Soderberg (who even followed my car home and unloaded all of the equipment) and many, many others to smoothly take over administrative duties when I went down is entirely in keeping with the

sportsmanship and volunteer spirit that motivated Dave and Gary and epitomizes the comradery of the chess community of eastern Washington, north Idaho, and Montana. Thank you all for your efforts!

**Robert Fisette (2110) –  
John Donaldson (2416), D30**

David Collyer Memorial  
(R4) February 23, 2020  
[John Donaldson]

**1.d4 e6 2.c4 d5 3.Nf3**

Robert is fond of the Catalan, hence the text as opposed to 3.Nc3.

**3...a6**

This move has recently become popular.

**4.g3**

4.cxd5 exd5 5.Nc3 c6 6.Qc2 Bd6 7.Bg5 Ne7 shows the flexibility of Black's third move which enables him to adopt the more aggressive setup ...Bd6 and ...Ne7, instead of the traditional ...Nf6 and ...Be7.

4.Nc3 dxc4 is another idea behind 3...a6.

**4...dxc4 5.Bg2 b5 6.Ne5**

White pretty much has to play this.

**6...c6 7.Nxc6 Qb6 8.Na5?**

White should have played 8.Nxb8 although after 8...Rxb8 Black chances are no worse. The text is thematic in certain Catalan positions, but here it loses material.

**8...Ra7**

The text is possible thanks to 3...a6.

**9.Bd2**



Position after 9.Bd2

**9...c3! 10.Bxc3 b4 11.Nc4 Qb5?!**

Robert pointed out after the game that 11...Qc7 was better and he is right. Stockfish gives the line 12.Qb3 bxc3 13.Nxc3 Nf6 14.0-0 Bb7 15.e4 Be7 16.Rac1 0-0 17.Rfd1 Nbd7 when White has some compensation for the piece, but not quite enough.

**12.Ne5**

12.b3 bxc3 13.Nxc3 Qd7 14.0-0 Nf6 15.Rc1 Bb7 16.e4 Bb4 17.d5 0-0 18.Qd4 is Stockfish's main line and offers both sides chances in a sharp position.

**12...bxc3 13.Nxc3 Qa5 14.Bc6+?!**

This is tricky, but 14.0-0 Nf6 15.Rc1 is probably stronger.

**14...Nd7**

14...Nxc6 15.Nxc6 Qb6 16.Nxa7 Qxa7 17.0-0 Nf6 18.Rc1 Bd7 is roughly equal. The text is stronger.

**15.d5**

15.0-0 offered better chances.

**15...Ngf6 16.Nxf7**

White goes all in as after 16.0-0 Bb4 Black is ready to castle and will soon consolidate his material advantage.

**16...Kxf7 17.dxe6+ Kxe6 18.Qb3+ Ke7 19.0-0**



Position after 19.0-0

Black's king is exposed, but White does not have enough firepower to exploit this.

**19...Ne5 20.Bd5 g6 21.Qb8 Qc7 22.Qb4+ Ke8 23.Qf4 Bg7 24.Rac1 Qe7 25.Bb3 Rc7 26.Qa4+ Kf8 27.Nd5 Nxd5 28.Bxd5 Bf6 29.Qa5 Rxc1 30.Rxc1 Kg7 31.Rc7 Nd7 32.Bc6 Qe5 33.Qb6 Bd8 34.Rxd7+ Bxd7 35.Qa7 Qc7 0-1**



Michael Cambareri.  
Photo credit: Adam Porth.

# Presidential Scholastic

By Josh Sinanan

The 2020 Presidential Scholastic Chess Tournament took place on Saturday February 15 of President's Day weekend at Chinook Middle School in Bellevue. The event attracted 136 players in 5 sections: K-1 U800, 2-3 U800, K-3 Open, 4-7 U900, and 4-12 Open. Ted Shi, a 3rd grader from Spiritridge Elementary in Bellevue, won the 4-12 Open section with a perfect 5/5. Congratulations to all the players for taking part and making this a wonderful event!

## Washington President's Cup

By Travis Olson

Thanks to everyone who came out and played this year! We had a grand total of 59 players (60 if you count the extra game), making this a very successful turnout. Compare that to the 37 who played last year.

The winners in each section were as follows:

### Open Section:

First: Valentin Razmov, 4.5/5, \$400  
Also becomes the seed into the 2021 Washington Invitational!

Second-third tied: Daniel Qian and Sophie Tien, 4.0/5, \$250 each

First U2000 (everyone in the section was U2000, so essentially this is fourth place): Mudit Johar, 3.5/5, \$150

First U1800 Varnika Jammalamadaka, 3.5/5, \$150

### U1600 Section:

First-third tied: Rishi Lakshminarayanan, Kylie Zhang, and Andrew Fletcher, 4.0/5, \$234 each

First U1400 — First U1200 Tied: Jalen Wang, Iris Zhang, and Michelle Williamson, 3.5/5, \$100 each

## Washington Girls Championship

By Jacob Mayer

The Washington State Girl's Championship was held February 22-23

at the Seattle Chess Club. Sixteen players competed in two sections: Championship and Reserve U1600.

Congratulations to Anne-Marie Velea and Sophie Tien on finishing tied for first place with 4.5/5. They will play in a match later in the year to determine who will represent Washington State this year at the WIM Ruth Haring National Girls Tournament of Champions. Minda Chen and Varnika Jammalamadaka finishes tied for third with 3.0/5. Thanks to all of the girls for participating and making this such a wonderful event!

## Yermo Annotates MLK Games

*The following games were sent in by GM Yermolinsky via Frank Niro "for exclusive use by Northwest Chess in case we have space." These are from January's PNWCC FIDE MLK tournament held in Seattle.—Editor.*

Michael Lee (2388) –  
Emilio Cordova (2588) [A34]  
PNWCC FIDE MLK Seattle, WA  
(R4), January 19, 2020  
[Alex Yermolinsky]

1.Nf3 c5 2.c4 b6 3.Nc3 Bb7 4.e4 d6 5.d4 cxd4 6.Nxd4 Nf6 7.f3 Nbd7 8.Be2 Rc8 9.Be3 a6 10.Rc1 e6 11.0-0 Be7 12.Qd2 0-0 13.b3 Qc7



Position after 13...Qc7

Here, in a standard Hedgehog position, Michael goes forward.

14.g4!? h6 15.Kh1 Ne5 16.g5 hxg5 17.Bxg5 Nh7 18.Be3 Qd7 19.f4 Ng6 20.f5 Ne5 21.Nf3 Nxf3?!

Both 21...Nf6; and 21...Bf6 seemed more reliable.

22.Bxf3 b5 23.Rg1 Bf6 24.Bd4 Qe7 25.cxb5?

White would have been better off not getting distracted from his plans. 25.Rg2 Bxd4 26.Qxd4 f6 and here, possibly, continue with (26...Ng5 27.f6 Qxf6 28.Qxf6 gxf6 29.h4) 27.h4

25...axb5 26.fxe6?

This really hands it over to Black.

26...fxe6 27.Rcf1 Bxd4 28.Qxd4 Rc5 29.Bg2 Rf6!

Beautiful execution by the top rated player.

30.Ne2?

30.Rxf6 Nxf6+ 31.Bf3 e5 32.Qd3 b4

30...Rh6+ 31.Qf2 Rch5 32.Bf3 Rxb2+ 33.Qxh2 Rxb2+ 34.Kxh2 Bxe4 35.Ng3 Bxf3 36.Rxf3 Qh4+ 37.Kg2 Ng5 38.Re3 d5 39.Rc3 Qh3+ 40.Kf2 e5 1-0

Eugene Yanayt (2234) –  
Ivan Morovic-Fernandez (2511) [E01]  
PNWCC FIDE MLK Seattle, WA  
(R3), January 18, 2020  
[Alex Yermolinsky]

1.Nf3 d5 2.d4 Nf6 3.c4 c6 4.Nc3 e6 5.g3!?

A modern trend of transposing into a Catalan from the Queens Gambit move order.

5...dxc4 6.a4

A standard scenario to follow is 6.Bg2 b5 7.Ne5 a6 8.0-0 Bb7 where White often goes for 9.b3!? leading to great complications after 9...b4 10.Na4 c3

6...c5!

A timely strike in the center. The fact that the c-pawn took two moves to reach c5 is rather irrelevant here. White's extra move a2-a4 quite useless in most Catalan positions with open center.

7.e4?!

Much more solid is 7.Bg2 Nc6 8.dxc5 Qxd1+ 9.Nxd1 Bxc5 10.Be3 Bb4+ 11.Bd2 Bd7 12.Ne3 Rc8 13.Nxc4 Ke7=

7...Nc6 8.d5 exd5 9.exd5 Bg4!?



Position after 9...Bg4

Ivan goes for the sharpest option.

9...Na5 was possible, but it was unlikely Black could have kept his extra pawn.

10.h3?



Losing more time seems too much. It was high time for White to think development: 10.Bxc4 Nd4 and here both 11.Be2 (and 11.Bb5+ Nxb5 12.axb5 Bd6 13.h3 Bf5 14.Qe2+) 11...Nxe2 12.Qxe2+ Qe7 13.Be3 0-0-0 14.h3 Bh5 15.Rd1 would give him playable positions.

**10...Bxf3 11.Qxf3 Nd4 12.Qd1 Nxd5 13.Be3?**

Last chance to keep things within reason was 13.Bxc4 Nb4 14.0-0

**13...Nxc3 14.bxc3 Qd5+ 15.Bxd4 cxd4 16.Qxd4 Qxh1 17.Rd1 Be7 18.Qxg7 Qe4+ 19.Be2 Rf8 20.Rd4 Qg6 21.Qe5 Qg5 22.Qe4 Qc1+ 23.Rd1 Qxc3+ 24.Kf1 Rd8 25.Rxd8+ Kxd8 26.Qxb7 Qb4 27.Qd5+ Bd6 28.Bxc4 Kc7 29.Bb5 f5 30.Qe6 Qb1+ 31.Ke2 Qe4+ 0-1**

**Craig Hilby (2434) –  
Bryce Tiglon (2388) [D00]**  
PNWCC FIDE MLK Seattle, WA  
(R4), January 19, 2020  
[Alex Yermolinsky]

**1.d4 Nf6 2.Bg5 d5 3.Nd2 c5 4.Bxf6 gxf6 5.dxc5 e6!?**

This natural move might be inaccurate. Sharper is 5...Na6 6.e4 Nxc5 7.Qh5 Qb6 8.0-0-0 and here Black can try 8...f5!? (instead of 8...dxe4 Nabaty-Shimanov, 2013)

**6.e4 Bxc5 7.Qh5 Qa5**

I'm not sure this is helping but 7...Nc6 8.0-0-0 Bxf2 9.Ngf3 sees Black dangerously falling behind in development.

**8.0-0-0!?**

Hilby chooses the most complicated line. There wasn't anything wrong with the simple 8.c3±

**8...Qxa2 9.Nb3 Bxf2 10.Qf3 Bh4 11.Nh3**



Position after 11.Nh3

I'm not sure what to make of this crazy position.

**11...f5**

11...a5!? 12.exd5 a4 13.Bb5+ Kf8 14.Qc3 axb3 15.Qb4+ Kg7 16.Qg4+ is one of

numerous computer lines that tend to end in a draw.

**12.exf5**

12.Qc3 can be answered by 12...0-0 13.exd5 Nd7; Perhaps White can throw in 12.Bb5+ Bd7 before capturing the pawn. After 13.exf5 Bf6 14.c3 Ke7 15.fxe6 fxe6 16.Kc2 the black queen is trapped, but there's 16...Na6!! to the rescue!

**12...Bf6 13.c3 Qxb3**

13...Ke7! and Black stands to take over the initiative.

**14.fxe6 Ke7 15.exf7**



Position after 15.exf7

**15...Bxh3?**

Tiglon's task wasn't easy, but parting with the bishop seriously aggravated it. ♠15...Be6 16.Nf4 Bg5 (16...d4!? with more complications.) 17.h4 Bxf4+ 18.Qxf4 Rf8 19.Rd4 Rxf7 20.Qg5+ Kf8 21.Qh6+ Ke7 could be another draw by perpetual.

**16.gxh3 Nc6 17.Rxd5 Nb4?**

The final mistake. I doubt Black can hold after 17...Ne5 but it had to be played.

**18.f8Q+!**

A brilliant shot, leading to forced mate. I'll let the reader discover the rest.

**1-0**

**Anthony He (2329) –  
Eugene Yanayt (2234) [B90]**  
PNWCC FIDE MLK Seattle, WA  
(R2), January 18, 2020  
[Alex Yermolinsky]

**1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 a6 6.h3 Nc6**

Responding with a Classical Sicilian setup is one of Black's options.

**7.g4 Qb6 8.Nb3 e6 9.Qe2!**

One advantage of the h3 line over the standard English Attack is the ability to choose a different square for the queen, instead of the standard Qd2.

**9...Qc7 10.f4 b5 11.g5 Nd7 12.Be3 Be7**

**13.0-0-0**



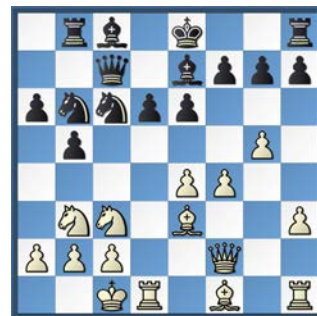
Position after 13.0-0-0

Now Black has to choose his plan of campaign.

**13...Nb6**

In reply to 13...Na5 White's best is a typical 14.Kb1 (Allowing Black to open the b-files, as in 14.Nxa5 Qxa5 15.a3 b4 16.axb4 Qxb4 can be tolerated: 17.Rd4 Qb7 18.h4 Rb8 19.b3 but Black does get a bit a freedom of developing his pieces after 19...Nc5 20.h5 Bd7; The immediate 14.Bd4 allows some counterplay after 14...b4 15.Na4 Qc6 16.Nxa5 Qxa4 17.Nc4 e5) 14...Nc4 (14...b4 15.Na4 Rb8 16.Nxa5 Qxa5 17.b3 Bb7 18.Bg2 Bc6 19.Nb2 is very comfortable for White. With the center and Q-side secured, the attack with h4-h5 is looming large.) 15.Bd4 Now Black doesn't have b5-b4, and without that push he cannot even think of e6-e5. What's left is 15...0-0 where 16.f5 Nde5 17.f6 gxf6 18.Qh5 gives White excellent attacking chances.

**14.Qf2 Rb8**



Position after 14...Rb8

14...Nc4 just drops a pawn to 15.Bxc4 bxc4 16.Bb6 Qb7 17.Nd2; Naturally, 14...Na4 comes into consideration, but after 15.Nxa4 bxa4 16.Bb6! Qb7 17.Na5 Nxa5 18.Bxa5 the bishop is about to settle on an excellent c3-square, effectively ending Black's attempts at counterplay.

**15.Bxb5!?**

15.Kb1 Nc4 16.Bc1 would be a calmer course of events.

**15...axb5 16.Nxb5 Qb7 17.Bxb6 0-0!**

Excellent reply from Eugene Yanayt. No doubt Anthony counted on some advantage in the endgame after 17...Qxb6 18.Qxb6 Rxb6 19.Nxd6+ Bxd6 20.Rxd6 Ke7 21.e5 Rd8 22.Rhd1

18.Bc7 Qxb5 19.Bxb8 Qxb8



Position after 19...Qxb8

A very much double-edged position.

20.h4 Bb7?!

It seems that bishop belong in the back to keep the e6-pawn protected. 20...f5 21.exf5 Rxf5 22.Qe3 d5 might as well favor Black.

21.a3 f5 22.exf5 Rxf5 23.Qe3 e5

Opening center files for the white rooks feels wrong, but clearly Yanayt didn't want to go back with the bishop.

24.fxe5 Rxe5 25.Qc3 Re4 26.Kb1 Ne5 27.Nd4±

Black's main problem is the lack of constructive ideas. The passive Be7 being the culprit.

27...Kh8 28.Nf5 Bf8 29.Rhf1 Ba6 30.Rfe1

○30.Rf2

30...Rf4

[Diagram top of next column]

31.Nd4

It seems like White isn't making any progress. 31.Nxd6 Bxd6 32.Rxe5 Bxe5 33.Qxe5 Rf8 34.Qxb8 Rxb8 35.b4 was a viable option.



Position after 30...Rf4

31...Rxb4 32.Rh1

32.b3!

32...Rxb1 33.Rxb1 Be7

Critical was to bring the bishop into play 33...Bc4! to have the option to protect the h-pawn with Bg8.

34.Qh3 Qg8 35.Nf5 Bxg5 36.Nxd6 h6 37.Re1 Qd5??

A terrible blunder in time trouble. Instead, 37...Be7 would keep Black in the game.

38.Rxe5 Qxd6 39.Re8+ Kh7 40.Qf5+ Qg6 41.Rh8+ Kxh8 42.Qxg6 1-0

James Tarjan (2373) –  
Alex Yermolinsky (2490) [D85]  
PNWCC FIDE MLK Seattle, WA  
(R2), January 18, 2020  
[Alex Yermolinsky]

1.c4 Nf6 2.Nc3 g6 3.d4 d5 4.cxd5 Nxd5 5.e3 Nxc3

I wanted to avoid bring positions that arise after 5...Bg7 6.Nxd5 Qxd5 7.Ne2 0-0 8.Nc3 Qd6 9.Be2 c6 10.0-0 Nd7 11.Ne4 (11.f4 f5 12.a4 Nf6 13.b3 Be6 14.Ba3 Qd7 15.Bc4) 11...Qc7 12.Bd2 Nf6 13.Nxf6+ Bxf6

6.bxc3 Bg7 7.h4!? h6?

Certainly, an overreaction. Better is to ignore White's show of force, and proceed in a usual Grunfeld fashion: 7...c5 8.h5 Nc6 9.Rb1 0-0 10.Nf3 b6 etc.

8.Bc4! c5 9.Ne2

The best setup. White can now probe the weakness on g6.

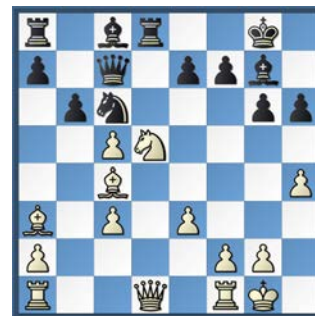
9...Nc6 10.0-0 0-0 11.Ba3 b6!?

A principled move, but Black's path to equality is wrought with danger. Interesting was 11...Qa5!? 12.Qb3 Qc7

12.dxc5 Qc7

I was spending inordinate amounts of time on every move. Giving up a ton of material, 12...Ne5!? 13.Bd5 Ba6 14.Bxa8 Qxa8 15.cxb6 Rd8 16.Nd4 axb6 17.Bxe7 Rd7 18.Bb4 was enticing, but I couldn't convince myself it would work out for Black.

13.Nf4 Rd8 14.Nd5



Position after 14.Nd5

14...Qb7??

However, this one was a real lemon. In case of 14...Qe5 I feared 15.f4 (15.Qf3 can be adequately met with 15...Bf5) 15...Qe4 16.Qa4 the like James indicated as well in our post-mortem. I guess, both of us missed the defense, 16...Be6! (16...Bb7? 17.Nf6+ Bxf6 18.Bxf7+ is the point.) 17.Qxc6 and here Black should play 17...Qxc4! (avoiding the unpleasant endgame after 17...Bxd5 18.Bxd5 Qxd5 19.Qxd5 Rxd5 20.Rad1 Rxd1 21.Rxd1±) 18.Nxe7+ Kh7 19.h5 gxh5 where he may fight on equal terms in the ensuing complications.

15.Qa4!

Now Black is in serious trouble.

15...e6

I saw no other way out. A few lines

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to illustrate the extent of it: 15...Kh8  
16.Rad1 Ne5 17.Nxb6; 15...Ne5 16.c6+-;  
15...Bd7 16.Ba6 Qb8 17.Bb5

16.Bb5 exd5 17.Bxc6 Qa6 18.Qxa6  
Bxa6 19.Bxa8 Bxf1



Position after 19...Bxf1

20.Bb7!?

In the post-mortem we agreed that a technical solution, 20.Kxf1 Rxa8 21.Rd1 Bxc3 22.Rxd5 Rc8 23.Ke2 was preferable.

20...Bc4 21.c6

On the face of it White looks to be winning soon, but even I was surprised how resilient Black's defenses turned out.

21...Be5 22.f4 Bc7 23.Be7 Re8 24.Bf6  
Kf8 25.Rd1?

Blunder One, with more to come. 25.a4  
Re6 26.Bd4 represented a gradual way to  
proceed.

25...Re6?

Neither player saw that after 25...Rxe3  
26.Be5? Bxe5 27.fxe5 Rxc3 28.c7 Be2!  
Black suddenly emerges up a pawn and  
near winning.

26.Be5 Re7 27.Bf6? Re6?

Again, 27...Rxe3

28.Be5 Re7 29.h5 gxh5 30.Kf2 Bxe5  
31.fxe5 Rc7 32.e4!?

Very energetic, but White may not be  
able to reach his goals. 32.a4 Ke7 33.Kf3  
Ke6 34.Kf4 f6 35.exf6 Kxf6 36.Rd4 Ke6  
37.e4 Bb3 isn't very convincing either.

32...dxe4 33.Ke3 Bxa2 34.Kxe4 Be6?

Blunder number... I already lost count.  
34...a5

35.Rd8+?

35.Ra1 h4 36.Rxa7 h3 37.gxh3 Bxh3  
38.Ra2 h5 39.Kd4! Ke7 40.Ra6 Bg2  
41.Rxb6 h4 42.Kc5 h3 43.Rb1 h2 44.Kb6  
was the winning line.

35...Ke7 36.Ra8 a5?

[Diagram top of next column]



Position after 36...a5

36...Bc4 37.Rxa7 Bb5=

37.g3?

Still, 37.Kd4 h4 38.c4 h3 39.gxh3 Bxh3  
40.c5 b5 41.Rxa5 Bg2 42.Rxb5 would  
retain excellent winning chances.

37...Bh3!

Suddenly, it's Black who should be  
playing for a win.

38.Kf3 Bf1 39.Rh8 a4 40.Rxh6 a3?

I guess I couldn't quite believe my  
luck. 40...Bb5 41.Ke3 a3 42.Rxh5 Bxc6  
43.Bxc6 Rxc6 44.Kd4 a2 45.Rh1 Rh6+

41.Rh8

The time control had been reached, and  
only some elementary accuracy from

# 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:** Chess.com: All games will be played online via Chess.com due to the Coronavirus COVID-19 situation. Join "Washington Chess Federation Club" on Chess.com.

**Format:** A 5-Round Unrated Swiss in one section. Open to Seniors age 50+ (or reaching age 50 by or before August 8, 2020). Playoff round if needed to break tie for 1st place will be resolved later in the year by a G/90 playoff game. Pairings will be sent to all players before the start of each round. Players will challenge their opponent manually via the WCF Club area. All players will be monitored via Zoom and observe fair-play rules.

**Time Control:** G/90, inc. 30. 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. Free entry for GMs, IMs, WGMs.

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

**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](mailto:GGarychess@aol.com).

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

White was required to reach a draw.

41...Bb5 42.Ra8 Bxc6+ 43.Bxc6 Rxc6  
44.Rxa3 Ke6 45.Rb3 Kxe5 46.Rb5+  
Ke6 47.c4 f6 48.Ke3 f5 49.Kf3 Kf6  
50.Ke3 Kg6 51.Kf2 1/2-1/2



Alex Yermolinsky. Photo credit: Xuhao He



Alex Yermolinsky. Photo credit: Xuhao He

## 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 / 3:00

**Sections:** Premier (CFC & FIDE)

**Time Control:** G/30

**Entry:** \$115 on site, May 11, \$115 on site.

**UI:** \$115 on site, May 11, \$115 on site. Payment or regular membership required.

**Prize:**

**Regis:** [www.keresmemorial.pbworks.com](http://www.keresmemorial.pbworks.com)

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

**Canceled!!**





# Washington Open A NW Grand Prix Event May 23-25, 2020

Highest finishing Washington resident in the Open Section seeded into the 2021 Washington State Championship

**\$12,000 Guaranteed Prize Fund!**

Entry fees listed as: Postmarked  
By April 19 / By May 13 / At site

Open EF \$150 / \$175 / \$185  
Reserve (U1800) EF \$135 / \$160 / \$170  
Booster (U1400) EF \$120 / \$145 / \$155

Medal Only EF (Juniors under age 21 &  
Seniors age 50+) EF \$ 80 / \$105 / \$115  
Play-up Fee: \$40 if U1800 playing in Open  
Section

	Open	Reserve	Booster
1st	\$1,200	\$ 900	\$ 600
2nd	\$ 900	\$ 700	\$ 500
3rd	\$ 700	\$ 550	\$ 400
4th	\$ 500	\$ 400	\$ 300
5th	\$ 350	\$ 300	\$ 250
	<b>U2100</b>	<b>U1650</b>	<b>U1200</b>
1st	\$ 300	\$ 250	\$ 200
2nd	\$ 250	\$ 200	\$ 150
	<b>U1900</b>	<b>U1500</b>	<b>U1000/Unr</b>
1st	\$ 300	\$ 250	\$ 200
2nd	\$ 250	\$ 200	\$ 150
	<b>Upset Prize</b>		
1st	\$ 150	\$ 150	\$ 150
2nd	\$ 100	\$ 100	\$ 100
3rd	NWC membership extension		

Medals awarded to top four in each section.  
(Juniors under 21 & Seniors 50+ only)

Free entry to GMs, IMs, and WGMs.

Reentry for 1/2 of your original entry fee.

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

#### Entries/Information:

Make checks payable to  
Washington Chess Federation.

Send entries to: Jacob Mayer  
9502 44th Avenue NE  
Seattle, WA 98115-2610  
Phone: (206) 697-5625

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

Joshua Sinanan  
Phone: (206) 769-3757

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

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

Online Registration at [www.nwchess.com/onlineregistration](http://www.nwchess.com/onlineregistration)  
Pay by credit/debit or PayPal.

**Format:** A six-round Swiss system tournament in three sections, as shown at left.

**Rating:** US Chess rated. Open Section also FIDE rated (except G/60 games which are US Chess dual rated only). US Chess May 2020 rating supplement will be used to determine section eligibility. Higher of US Chess or foreign ratings used at TD discretion. Higher of US Chess or FIDE rating used for pairings and prizes in Open Section. Foreign ratings used for players with no US Chess rating. Unrated players may only win top four prizes in the Open Section or unrated prizes in Booster Section. Medal Only players are ineligible to win any cash prizes.

**Registration:** Saturday 9:00-10:00 AM for 3-day schedule. Sunday 8:00-8:30 AM for 2-day schedule. Two half-point byes available at registration or before end of round 2. Play any two days, if taking two half-point byes. Late registrations after 10:00 AM Saturday or 8:30 AM Sunday may receive half-point byes for first round. **Check-in required for everyone marked as unpaid on the online registration. Failure to show up during check-in for those not pre-paid will be given a zero point bye for round 1.**

**Rounds:** 3-day schedule: Sat 11:00 AM and 6:00 PM, Sun 11:00 AM and 6:00 PM, Mon 9:30 AM and 3:30 PM. 2-day schedule: Sun 9:00 AM, 11:45 AM, 2:30 PM, then join 3-day schedule with round 4 at 6:00 PM. WCF annual meeting and elections at 2:00 PM Monday, May 25, 2020.

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

**Miscellaneous:** Current US Chess membership and WCF membership/Northwest Chess subscription required in all sections. Other States Accepted. Memberships may be paid at time of registration. NW Grand Prix event. US Chess Grand Prix Points: 60. US Chess Junior Grand Prix. No Smoking. No Computers. Wheelchair accessible.

**Hotel Info/Rates:** \$149 single, \$149 double, \$174 triple, \$199 quad. Call (425) 698-4250, request the Washington Chess Federation block, or reserve online: <https://www.hyatt.com/en-US/group-booking/BELLE/G-WACF> (valid until 04/23/20). Cut-off date for reservations at the discount is April 23, 2020.

**Washington Open Blitz Championship:** Sun 05/24 at 9:30 PM. Format: 5 round Double Swiss in one section. Registration: 8:30-9:15 PM. Rounds: 9:30, 9:55, 10:20, 10:45 and 11:10 PM. TC: G/5, d0. EF: \$25. Prize Fund: \$400/b20. 1st \$130, 2nd \$90, 1st U2000 \$60, 1st U1700/Unrated \$60, 1st U1400 \$60. US Chess Blitz rated. Current US Chess and WCF/OCF/ICA memberships required.

**Washington Open G/45 Championship:** Mon 05/25 at 11:30 AM. Format: 4 round Swiss in one section. Registration: 10:30-11:15 AM. Rounds: 11:30, 1:30, 3:30, and 5:30 PM. TC: G/45 d0. EF: \$20. Prize Fund: \$240/b15. 1st \$80, 2nd \$55, 1st U2000 \$35, 1st U1700/Unrated \$35, 1st U1400 \$35. US Chess Dual rated. Current US Chess and WCF/OCF/ICA memberships required.

# Chess Vignette “Peter’s Story”

By Karen Schmidt

Technically, these stories are about interesting people I have met through the world of chess. And technically, I didn’t MEET my son through chess...but he has a very interesting chess and life story. And I taught him to play chess. So I decided he qualifies to be the subject for this month’s story.

Peter was a very bright and active child, gregarious and outgoing, with many skills. As of kindergarten age he started taking karate lessons, and also took up the clarinet in fourth grade. Even before I learned that Green Lake Elementary had a chess club, I began teaching my son to play chess in about the third grade. Within a year he could beat me. (A rather mortifying development... but in my defense, I had not played since I was 13 years old!)

At that point I could see his potential, and I hired a private chess coach. He had a private lesson at home every Friday evening for many years, and I sat in on those lessons and vicariously improved my own game. I also enrolled Peter in chess club at school. The school coach was a volunteer parent who happened to be a UW Business School professor, and who had a son in the chess club, and I became the volunteer assistant. Chess club met weekly after school, and my main job was “crowd control.” Fun but exhausting. Soon we started the “scholastic chess circuit” and Peter was competing in weekend scholastic tournaments and winning trophies. At about this time we watched my favorite movie of all time, “Searching for Bobby Fischer.” (For any chess player who has not seen this movie, please go check it out at the library or watch it on Netflix immediately.)



Peter Schmidt. Photo credit: Karen Schmidt.

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- Monthly GM events such as simul and lectures
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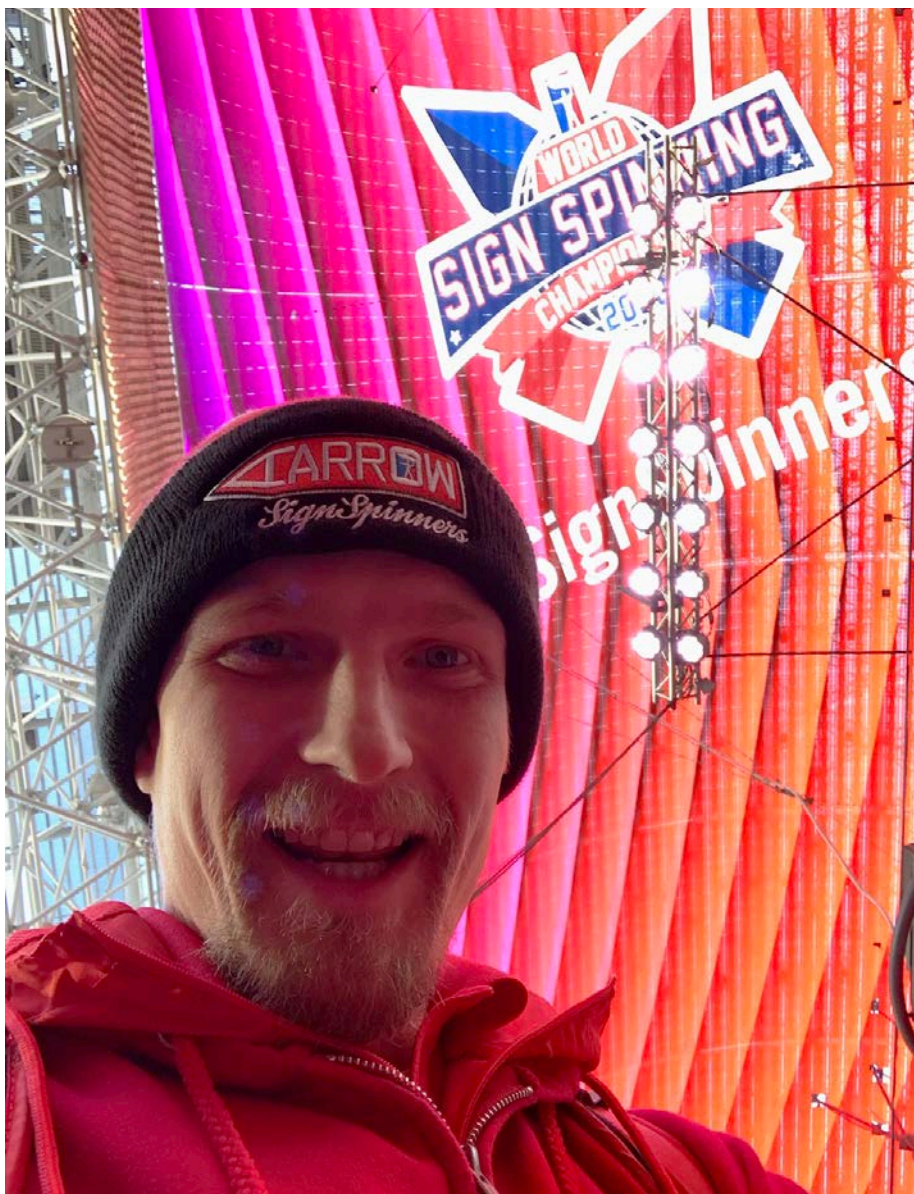


The row of trophies on the mantel began to grow. Peter and I also played the occasional Novice Tournament at the Seattle Chess Club. I loved being a chess Mom. Once we even took Peter to the Scholastic Chess Nationals in Tucson. It was solid chess with a million little kids (mostly boys) for several days — with breaks in the hotel swimming pool.

Peter kept on with private lessons and tournament play through middle school and into high school. He is thirty years old now and still plays casual chess. He and some buddies have a great “chess and waffles” event sometimes on a Sunday morning. The guys sit around at one of their homes and eat waffles and play chess. What better way to spend a Sunday morning? I am saving his 30 or 40 chess trophies for him, for when he has a mantel of his own.

Peter is now working two part time jobs in Tacoma, and also has taken up jiu jitsu classes. He is an interesting example of the fact that chess players also tend to be musical, and to have an aptitude for math. Eventually after starting with clarinet, he played three saxophones, guitar and didgeridoo. He took karate for many years and is a fourth degree brown belt. He was always great at math. One of his jobs is “sign spinning.” (I had to Google it when he started.) His five hour sign spinning shifts use his martial arts talent, and keep him in excellent physical condition. Interestingly, jiu jitsu is known as “the human chess game.” It embodies the same principles as chess: focus, concentration, tactics, strategy, seeing all your opponent’s potential moves, and planning your own next moves.

My own casual chess at Westlake and at the 1st and Yesler Starbucks has improved my own game immensely over the past few years. When my son and I get together these days, we often have lunch at a favorite Thai or Japanese restaurant. We also ask if it is ok that we hang out and play chess afterwards. They always




*Peter Schmidt sign spinning selfie.*

say ok. Sometimes if we play two games, I can get a draw in one game. Sometimes we each come away with a win! I am

grateful that Peter and I share a love of chess and will have that special bond for the rest of our days.

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# The 2020 Mike Neeley Memorial Northwest Grand Prix

Murlin Varner, Administrator (mevjr54@outlook.com)

Only three events to report on from February, all well attended. Two had large prize funds and received 3x multipliers. These were the WCF President's Cup in Seattle, with 59 entrants and the 28th Annual Dave Collyer Memorial Open in Spokane, with 71 entrants (14 from Montana!). The third event was the annual Idaho Closed in Boise, with 36 players. This has given me enough data to resume the standings chart this month. Oddly enough, Idaho is well represented in all classes except Class D, where there are none. A category begging for a leader, who will step up? Maybe the Idaho Open in Pocatello on March 28-29 will provide an answer.

Four other events were held in March, all in Seattle at the Seattle Chess Club. They included the (almost) monthly Tornado and Quads, the Northwest Chess Open fundraiser, and the Seattle Spring Open. The latter has a 2x multiplier due to its prize fund of \$1000 based on 54 entries. No Oregon Grand Prix events were planned for March.

Looking ahead, April provides us with four events, but on only two weekends. The first weekend of the month offers a choice between the Arthur Dake Memorial Open in Portland (2x multiplier) and the Clark Harmon Memorial Open in Seattle (3x multiplier). The final weekend of the month provides the Inland Empire Open in Spokane and the SCC Quads in Seattle. In between, you could go Reno for the Larry Evans Memorial or Victoria, BC for the Grand Pacific Open. Also on the same weekend, and no Grand Prix points from me, but great tournaments, anyway. Maybe this is the year I make it to Victoria, if I remember where I put my passport.

Results below are current through March 1.

## 2020 Memorial Northwest Grand Prix Standings

Idaho			Oregon			Washington					
last	first	pts.	last	first	pts.	last	first	pts.			
<b>Masters</b>											
			1	Raptis	Nick	19.5	1	Pupols	Viktors	19.5	
			2	Lebovitz	Andrew E	11.0	2	Levine	David	5.5	
<b>Experts</b>											
<b>M/X/Class A</b>			1	Bjorksten	Lennart	12.0	1	Fisette	Robert	18.0	
1	Cambareri	Michael E	21.0	1	Tang	Zoey	12.0	1	Leslie	Cameron	18.0
2	Maki	James J	19.5	1	Wu	Ethan	12.0	3	Jiang	Brandon	8.0
3	Erickson	Kenneth	15.0	4	Vega	Isaac	6.0	4	Vijayakumar	Advaith	3.5
4	Nathan	Jacob A	7.0					5	Khazanov	Mikhail	2.5
5	Wei	James	6.5								
<b>Class B</b>			<b>Class A</b>								
1	Machakos	Seth D	21.5	1	Sherrard	Jerry	18.0	1	Razmov	Valentin N	32.5
2	Herr	Griffin G	16.5	2	Mamaril	Jonathan	15.0	2	Baxter	Brent L	28.0
3	Martonick	Nick	15.0	3	Duron	Ritchie	13.5	3	Rowles	David	19.5
4	Rainey	Samuel W	12.0	4	Rhoades	Alan	12.0	4	Three Tied at		18.0
5	Kodihalli	Kaustubh	6.5	5	Three Tied at		11.0				



Idaho			Oregon			Washington		
last	first	pts.	last	first	pts.	last	first	pts.
<b>Class C</b>			<b>Class B</b>					
1	Porth Adam	18.5	1	Erard Eric C	10.0	1	Lainson Silas	34.0
2	Zeng Forrest	5.5	1	Li Andrey	10.0	2	Oliver George	27.0
2	Porth Desmond	5.5	1	Zhang Ethan Y	10.0	3	Johar Mudit	25.5
2	Aderogba Temiloluwa D	5.5	1	Liu Bob	10.0	4	Kirsch Ronald B	25.0
5	Four Tied at	5.0	5	Two Tied at	9.0	5	Balaji Pranav	20.0
<b>Class D</b>			<b>Class C</b>					
1	Samudrala Nikhil	9.0	1	Li Emma	20.0	1	Yang Arnold T	81.0
1	Markowski Greory A	9.0	1	Singh Saket	20.0	2	Morrissey Patrick W	39.0
1	Lykins Pace	8.0	3	Fletcher Andrew J	18.0	3	Lykins Chad	30.0
4	Houston Noah	8.0	3	Lakshminarayanan Rishi	18.0	4	Mok Gillian	24.0
4	Buckner Moises H	8.0	5	Jammalamadaka Varnika	16.5	5	Buckner Moises H	15.0
<b>Class E and Below</b>			<b>Class D And Below</b>					
1	Porth Darwin A	13.5	1	Wang Jalen	16.5	1	Zhang Kylie	29.5
2	Brown Alexander J	10.5	2	Wang Jeremy	12.0	2	Ruff` Lois	25.5
3	Wei Luke	4.5	3	Midson Tony	8.0	3	Lawrence Sarah	21.0
3	Gao Emma	4.5	3	Sripada Anisha	8.0	4	Zhang Iris	20.5
5	Three Tied at	4.0	5	Kenway Geoffrey	7.0	5	Richards Jerrold	19.5
<b>Overall Leaders, by State</b>								
1	Machakos Seth D	21.5	1	Raptis Nick	19.5	1	Lainson Silas	34.0
2	Cambareri Michael E	21.0	2	Sherrard Jerry	18.0	2	Razmov Valentin N	32.5
3	Maki James J	19.5	3	Wang Jalen	16.5	3	Zhang Kylie	29.5
4	Porth Adam	18.5	4	Mamaril Jonathan	15.0	4	Baxter Brent L	28.0
5	Herr Griffin G	16.5	5	Duron Ritchie	13.5	5	Oliver George	27.0
6	Erickson Kenneth	15.0	6	Bjorksten Lennart	12.0	6	Johar Mudit	25.5
6	Martonick Nick	15.0	6	Tang Zoey	12.0	6	Ruff` Lois	25.5
8	Porth Darwin A	13.5	6	Wu Ethan	12.0	8	Kirsch Ronald B	25.0
9	Rainey Samuel W	12.0	6	Rhoades Alan	12.0	9	Lawrence Sarah	21.0
10	Brown Alexander J	10.5	6	Wang Jeremy	12.0	10	Zhang Iris	20.5
11	Nathan Jacob A	7.0	11	Lebovitz Andrew E	11.0	11	Balaji Pranav	20.0
12	Wei James	6.5	11	Sripada Havish	11.0	11	Li Emma	20.0
12	Kodihalli Kaustubh	6.5	11	Ravn William	11.0	11	Singh Saket	20.0
			<b>11</b>	<b>O'Connell Sean</b>	<b>11.0</b>			

### Coronavirus COVID-19 Update:

As of this writing, March 16, 2020, it is unclear which, if any, of the events from March or April will actually be held. The restrictions on gatherings in the State of Washington appear to bar chess tournaments. Check the schedule at the back of this issue and keep an eye on the calendar on the NWC website. It is likely that we will have very few, if any, tournaments before May. What may happen after that is anyone's guess. Meanwhile, stay safe, stay home if possible, and limit your exposure. Lets all get through this safely to the other side. The Grand Prix will still be here when life returns to normal. Now, if the national press would just quit calling me "elderly."

# Seattle Chess Club Tournaments

Address ↙  
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 Seattle WA 98133

↗ Info ↖  
 206-417-5405

www.seattlechess.club  
 kleistcf@aol.com

Addresses for Entries  
 SCC Tnmt Dir  
 2420 S 137 St  
 Seattle WA 98168  
 www.seattlechess.club

☞ **Apr 25, May 23** **Saturday Quads** ☞  
**Format:** 3-RR, 4-plyr sec. by rtg. **TC:** G/120;d5. **EF:** \$9 (+\$7 fee for non-SCC). **Prizes:** Free quad entry. **Reg:** 9-9:45 a.m. **Rds:** 10:00-2:15-6:30. **Misc:** US Chess, WCF/ICA memb. req'd, OSA. NS, NC.

☞ **May 4, Jun 7** **Sunday Tornado** ☞  
**Format:** 4-SS. **TC:** G/60; d5. **EF:** \$18 (+\$8 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.

**July 12** **SCC Novice**  
**Format:** 4-SS. Open to U1200 and UNR. **TC:** G/75; d5. **EF:** \$13 by 7/8, \$18 at site. (-\$4 SCC mem., -\$2 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 Fridays

One round per night (free to SCC members, \$5 per night for others) played at a rate of 40/90 followed by 30/60. Drop in for any round!

**April Showers:** 4/3, 10, 17, 24  
**Close Ratings II:** 5/1, 8, 15, 22, 29.  
**It's Summertime!:** 6/5, 12, 19, 26.

## SCC Annual Meeting, Fri. May 1

*Come elect the SCC Board of Directors for the next twelve months!!*

**WCF @ the SCC**  
**Harmon Memorial** Apr. 4-5

# Emerald City Open

June 21-23 or 22-23

A two-section, five-round Swiss with a time control of 40/90 & SD/30;+30 (Rd 1 of 2-day schedule – G/60;d5). The prize fund of \$700 is based on thirty-five entries.

## a Northwest Grand Prix event

<b>Open</b>	<b>Reserve (U1700)</b>
<b>First \$180</b>	<b>First \$130</b>
<b>Second \$120</b>	<b>Second \$90</b>
<b>U1900 \$75</b>	<b>U1400 \$50</b>
	<b>Unr \$15</b>

**Upset (rds 1-4) \$10**

**Entry Fees:** \$42 if rec'd by 6/19, \$55 at site. *SCC members*—subtract \$12. Members of other dues-required CCs in WA—subtract \$6. *Unr*—free with purchase (at SCC) of 1-year US Chess and WCF. **Add \$10 for U1600 playing in Open Section. Add \$1 to any EF for 2-day schedule.** **Registration:** Fri. 7-7:45 p.m., Sat. 9-9:45 a.m. **Rounds:** Fri. 8, Sat. (10 @ G/60;d5)-12:30-6:30, Sun. 11-4:30. **Byes:** 2 (for Sunday rounds, commit at registration). **Miscellaneous:** US Chess & WCF/ICA membership req'd. No smoking. No computers.





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