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State Championship

Overall
Champion

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Letters To The Editor

Hi Jeff,

It is always a treat to read John Donaldson's writings in the pages of *Northwest Chess*, and September's three part tale of world champions in the Northwest was no exception. There is, however, one small correction that needs to be made, one probably hundreds of Northwest players are aware of, including John. At the end of part three, John discusses three Northwestern players who have beaten world champions, including Arthur Dake, Yasser Seirawan and James Tarjan. Missing, however, is a well-known piece of Northwest lore, the defeat of a very young Bobby Fischer (12) by our own Viktors Pupols in the 1955 US Junior Chess Championship.

Murlin Varner

P.S. I would not be the least surprised if there are many others who have already beat me to this punch. Viktors has told lots of people that story over the years.

----- I gave John Donaldson the opportunity to answer this one himself. —Jeffrey Roland, Editor -----

Dear Murlin,

Thank you for mentioning Fischer-Pupols, Lincoln 1955, which is game six in my book *Bobby Fischer and His World*.

My original intention was to limit the list to only Northwest players who beat reigning World Champions (Dake and Seirawan). This was necessary as Yasser has beaten a number of World Champions when they no longer held the title, Tal for example four times. However, when I included Tarjan-Kramnik, I opened the door. By the way Jim narrowly missed a win (31.Qa8+) against then World Champion Anatoly Karpov (Skopje 1976) while in terrible time pressure.

John Donaldson

75th Annual Idaho Closed State Championship

Jeffrey Roland

The Idaho Closed State Championship tournament was held in Garden City, Idaho over the Labor Day weekend, September 4-6, 2021. Play was upstairs in the prestigious Riverside Inn. Adam Porth was chief tournament director with Jeff Price as assistant TD. And while he was uncredited in the official US Chess Crosstable, I noticed that Desmond Porth also was helpful when needed; Jay Simonson was also on hand to shake hands for the awards ceremony. Thirty-three players played in the tournament.

A week before the date of the event, only 11 players had pre-registered. All tournament organizers can tell you what the stress of something like that can be like. To his credit, and I applaud him for this, Adam Porth was determined that this event should happen, in Garden City, over-the-board, and it didn't matter if ICA took a financial loss! Without the enthusiastic and stalwart efforts of Adam Porth, there is no doubt in my mind that this event wouldn't have happened this year, certainly not in the Boise area, so we all owe a great deal of thanks to Adam Porth who stuck in there and made it happen the way it should happen. I've always known that one person can make a difference, and Adam sure did that with pulling this event off!

Also, Adam had a new perpetual plaque made up from the official state tree: Western White Pine. The winners from 1947 through 2020 were all engraved and there's room for plenty more!

A strange dynamic was happening this year in the games, and it goes along with what I've known for many years—that ratings don't matter! Ratings merely are an "indicator" (based on past results) and nothing more. What counts is what happens on the chessboard, right here, right now! In this event, due to the way the kids have been playing so much online, it turns out that the lower-rated players were in fact as a rule the better players, and the higher-rated players were usually the worst players (there are some exceptions to this, but that's kind of my opinion in this case) Now this is great! Chess is chess, and the better player should win, even if the better player is rated lower!

Anyway, this year, Larry Parsons won for the 19th time with a score of 5.0/6. His last time as Idaho State Chess Champion was 2013. Here is a complete list of prize winners. Note that last year, it was decided to eliminate the Class A prize... so it is not an omission that there is no class A champion.

Prizes:

- 1st Overall — Larry R. Parsons
- 2nd Overall — Kaustubh Kodihalli
- 3rd Overall — Hunter Holbrook
- 1st Class B — Michael J. Presutti
- 2nd Class B — Jeffrey T. Roland
- 1st Class C — Josh James Price
- 2nd Class C — Finn Belew
- 1st Class D — Niall McKenzie
- 2nd Class D — Nobel Ang
- 1st Class E & Below — Luke Wei
- 2nd Class E & Below — Darren Su
- Top Junior — James Wei
- Top Unrated — Vladislav Nosarev

I met Dimitry Nosarev, who is the ICA's social media coordinator and new on the Board. He was taking photos and video footage. I had no idea he was the father of Top Unrated Player Vladislav Nosarev (but I should have known!)

I want to again thank Adam Porth who put on a most enjoyable event. Jeff Price also did a great job as Assistant Tournament Director. The players were very friendly and the staff at the Riverside



Playing hall during round one. Photo credit: Jeff Price.

Inn were great at keeping the site clean and well stocked.

The tentative plan is to hold the next Idaho Closed over President's Weekend in 2022 somewhere. We shall see if that happens. At any rate, this one now goes into the history books!

Larry R. Parsons (2013) – Kaustubh Kodihalli (1749) [D45]
Idaho Closed Garden City, ID
(R5), September 5, 2021
[Larry Parsons]

Kaustubh Kodihalli was leading the tourney with 4.0/4, while I was in a tie for second with 3.5/4.

1.d4 d5 2.c4 c6 3.Nf3 Nf6 4.Nc3 e6 5.e3 Be7 6.Qc2 Nbd7 7.Bd3 a6

7...a6 is not in my Fritz opening book.

8.cxd5 exd5 9.0-0 0-0 10.Rb1 a5 11.a3 Re8 12.b4 axb4 13.axb4 b5? 14.e4! dxe4 15.Nxe4 Bb7 16.Ne5?

16.Neg5 was much better.

16...Nxe5?

16...Nxe4 was much better.

17.dxe5 Nxe4 18.Bxe4 g6



Position after 18...g6

19.Be3?

Missing 19.e6! winning.

19...Qc7?

19...Bf8 is needed.

20.f4

20.f4 is second-best and again misses 20.e6! winning.

20...Bf8 21.Rfd1 Red8 22.Bc5 Bg7?

22...Rxd1+ was necessary.

23.Qf2 Ra6 24.Bd6 Qd7 25.Rd3 Rda8 26.Rbd1 Ra1 27.Qf3 Qe8 28.g4 R1a2 29.Bc5 h6 30.Rd7 Qc8 31.Qb3 Qe8 32.Bxg6 R8a3 33.Qxf7+ Qxf7 34.Bxf7+ Kh7 35.Bxa2 Rxa2 36.Rxb7 h5 37.Rdd7 hxg4 38.Rxg7+ Kh6 39.Rxg4 Ra1+ 40.Kg2 Ra2+ 41.Kg3 Ra3+ 42.Kg2 Ra2+ 43.Bf2 c5 44.bxc5 b4 45.Rxb4

Ra3 46.Rg3 Ra2 47.Rb8 Kh7 48.Rbg8 Ra6 49.R8g4 Rc6 50.f5 Rh6 51.e6 Rf6 52.Bd4 Rg6 53.Rh4+ Kg8 54.Rh8#

1-0

Hunter Holbrook (1535) – Larry R. Parsons (2013) [B27]
Idaho Closed Garden City, ID
(R6), September 5, 2021
[Larry Parsons]

I only needed a draw in the last round to secure at least a share of the championship, and so offered one after move 20 (the earliest a draw offer was allowed in this tournament). And so, I accepted a draw offer on move 27, although my position was close to winning with best play.

1.e4 c5 2.c3 g6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Qxd4?!

Is not in my Fritz opening book.

4...Nf6 5.e5 Nc6 6.Qf4 Nd5 7.Qe4 Nc7 8.Nf3 Bg7 9.Bc4 d5 10.exd6 Qxd6 11.Qf4 Qxf4 12.Bxf4 e5 13.Be3 Be6 14.Nbd2 0-0 15.0-0-0 Rfd8 16.Bxe6 Nxe6 17.Nc4 Kf8 18.Ng5



Position after 18.Ng5

18...Nxc5?

18...Ke7 is equal, as 19.Nxh7 f6 traps the knight.

19.Bxg5 f6 20.Be3 Ke7 21.Bc5+ Ke6 22.a4 Rd5 23.b4 b6? 24.Rxd5?

Missing 24.Bxb6! winning a pawn.

24...Kxd5 25.Ne3+ Ke6

25...Ke4 is winning.

26.b5 bxc5 27.bxc6

Draw agreed.

½-½

Niall McKenzie (1208) – Josh James Price (1475) [B35]
Idaho Closed Garden City, ID
(R4), September 5, 2021
[Josh Price]

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 g6 5.Be3 Bg7 6.Nc3 Nf6 7.Bc4 0-0 8.Bb3 Re8

This is a bit of a side line, and I happened to forget the exact variation after 9.0-0 9...d6.

9.0-0 d6 10.f3

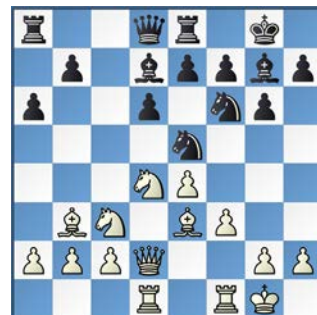
This was the move that threw me, it isn't very common. White normally plays 10.h3 and f4 gaining space with a potential attack.

10...a6 11.Qd2 Bd7 12.Rad1

...Na5 and ...Ne5 are very similar, but I missed the idea of 12...Ne5 13.f4! which gains space with tempo. And it's surprisingly hard to play as black even with the bishop pair.

12...Ne5?

Mistake. ...Na5 was best.



Position after 12...Ne5

13.Nde2?

13.f4 Neg4 14.h3 Nxe3 15.Qxe3 e5 16.fxe5 dxe5 17.Nf3 and White's position is much better because White's pieces are much better.

13...Rc8 14.Bh6 Nc4

The bishop on b3 is very strong and I want to trade it off with an active rook.

15.Bxc4 Rxc4 16.Bxg7 Kxg7 17.Kh1

Avoids any Qb6+ ideas.

17...Qa5 18.Nd4 Rec8

Just improving but it's hard to find a good plan here other than ...b5-b4

19.Nb3 Qd8 20.Rfe1

The idea for White is e5! which is very strong.

20...b5

Since there isn't a good way to stop e5 I have to counter.

21.Re2?

I thought e5 is a bit more natural.

21...b4 22.Nd5 Nxd5 23.exd5 Bb5??

This is a big mistake because White gets all the counter play. 23...Rxc2 is a better idea because the queen is very strong in this position. I of course looked at this but I thought because White's king looked

safe and White got the active open file that this was suicide, but I missed 24.Qxc2 Rxc2 25.Rxc2 Ba4! I looked at this but I still didn't see that it was super good. 26.h3 Qb6 27.Re2 and Black is slightly better because White's pawns are weak along with the king side dark-squared weaknesses. But when I saw this position in my head it didn't seem natural.

24.Rde1 R4c7 25.Re4 Rxc2 26.Qd4+ Kg8

This is very complicated, both sides need

to be careful not to blunder something.

27.Rxe7 R8c7

Trying to keep my pieces active while defending everything.

28.Qb6

On the surface this looks like a good move, but my opponent miscalculated the following variation. 28.Rxc7 Qxc7 was a better continuation for White. But it is still equal.

28...Qxe7!

The rooks are much better because I own the second rank and my king is safer than White's king.

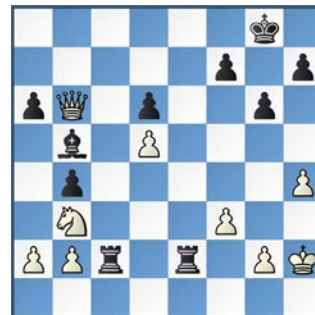
29.Rxe7 Rxe7

Back on move 28 my opponent thought he had Qd8+ forking the rook and king, but I can play ...Re8 which wins!

30.h4

I believe that h3 is much easier to play as a human.

30...Re1+ 31.Kh2 Ree2



Position after 31...Ree2

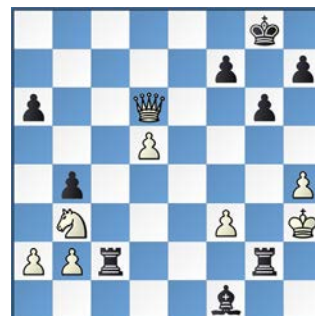
32.Qxd6??

This allows the following variation which wins!

32...Rxc2+ 33.Kh3

33.Kh1 is another option, but it loses because Black is too active and there isn't perpetual. 33...Rge2 34.Qb8+ Kg7 35.Qg3 Rxb2 36.Qg1 Rf2 and Black wins the queen.

33...Bf1!!



Position after 33...Bf1

This is the only move that wins on the spot. The game is over because of the following variations.

34.h5

This leads to mate.

34.Qb8+ Kg7 35.Qe5+ It looks like White has perpetual but: 35...Kh6! 36.Qf4+ Rg5#!!

I calculated this when I played 32...Rxc2.

34...Rg1+! 35.Kh4 g5#

0-1



Niall McKenzie (L), Josh Price. Photo credit: Jeffrey Roland.

Recollections Of A Champion

By Larry Parsons

September 2021

Hi Idaho chess history fans!

Here are my recollections and listings of top Idaho players during my time here, which started in the fall of 1973.

Idaho Closed State Championship Records

Most appearances:

1. Glen Buckendorf. He played in every one from the very first one held in 1947 (when he was 17) until he died in 2011, except for missing only one time!
2. Larry Parsons. I have missed four since my first time in 1974 (at age 19).

Most times champion:

1. Larry Parsons, 19 times.
2. Glen Buckendorf, 10 times.
3. Dick Vandenburg, 6 times.
4. Laverl Kimpton and Stewart Sutton, 4 times each.
5. Joe Kennedy and David Lucky, 3 times each.

Most consecutive times champion:

1. Larry Parsons, 7 times.
2. Laverl Kimpton, 4 times
3. Dick Vandenburg, Joe Kennedy, and David Lucky, 3 times each.

Highest rated player at time:

1. David Lucky (2395)
2. Michael Gold (2320)
3. Joe Kennedy (2260)
4. Larry Parsons (2247)

Highest rated player later:

1. Luke Harmon (2550+)
2. Yge Visser (2533). He is undoubtedly the least known player on this list. He was the 1981 champion as a high school exchange student from the Netherlands and rode a bus from Couer d'Alene to Boise to play in the tournament.

Youngest champion:

1. Kevin Xu (age 13 in 2019)

2. Jacob Nathan (age 15 in 2019) and Greg Perryman (age 15 in 1975).
3. Paul Johnson (age 16 in 1982) and Daniel Taylor (age 16 in 2006)

Oldest champion:

1. C.H. Stewart (age 82 when he tied for title in 1960)
2. Glen Buckendorf (age 71 in 2001) and Hans Morrow (age 71 in 2007)
3. Larry Parsons (age 67 in 2021)

Grandmasters in Idaho:

Tal Shaked was the only GM to live in Idaho. He lived in Boise one summer, working as an intern at Hewlett Packard. Yge Visser became a GM years after returning to the Netherlands.

GM players in Idaho tournaments:

Alex Yermolinsky won a Boise tourney (a Western Idaho Open)

Walter Browne won the 1996 Idaho Open held in Jackpot

Igor Ivanov played in an Eastern Idaho Open

Future GM Yasser Seirawan played in the 1976 and 1977 Idaho Opens (1977 champion) at age 16 and 17.

GM simultaneous exhibitions in Idaho:

Larry Christiansen

Walter Browne

Tal Shaked

Timur Gareyev

Kayden Troff



The new Idaho State Champions plaque made of Western White Pine. Photo credit: Jeffrey Roland.

Washington Shines At U.S. Open Invitationals

By Josh Sinanan

Every year during the middle of summer, five representatives from Washington State travel to the U.S. Open to compete in the National Invitational Tournaments of Champions. This year's U.S. Open took place in Cherry Hill, N.J. from July 31 – August 8 at the Crown Plaza Hotel. The five national invitational events kicked off the festivities from July 31 – Aug 3, each consisting of six games over four days. Congratulations to the five champions who represented Team Washington at the U.S. Open Invitationals this summer!

- **Dominic Colombo**, 3.0/6 in the Arnold Denker Tournament of High School Champions.
- **NM Rushaan Mahajan**, 5.0/6, (2nd Place!) in the Dewain Barber Tournament of Middle School Champions.
- **Sophie Tien**, 4.0/6 in the Ruth Haring National Girls' Tournament of Champions.
- **Erin Bian**, 4.0/6 in the John D. Rockefeller III National Tournament of Elementary School State Champions.
- **FM Ignacio Perez**, 3.5/6 in the John T. Irwin National Senior Tournament of Champions.

Congratulation to Team Washington, who finished in seventh place as a team with 19.5 points!

Please find detailed accounts from Dominic and Erin below.

Dominic Colombo Washington Denker Representative:

My experience at the Denker was memorable. Getting to play in a large tournament over the board again made me realize how much I missed the tournament atmosphere. One of the best parts of the trip was getting to meet Dewain Barber. I talked to him in the bookstore, and

*Dominic Colombo at the Denker National Tournament of High School State Champions.
Photo Credit: Christopher Colombo.*



he signed a book for my dad and I, and also signed a Denker magazine. It was inspiring to talk to someone who has devoted his life to the furtherment of scholastic chess. He told a lot of stories about how he would spread chess to countries he visited around the world.

At the closing ceremony he asked trivia questions and awarded prizes which were treasures he collected from around the world while on his chess trips. I won one of these prizes, which was awesome. Overall, the Denker was a great experience and I'm glad I was able to represent Washington this year.

**Luca Mikulis-Borsoi (1379) –
Dominic Colombo (1960) [A45]**
Denker Tournament of HS Champions
Cherry Hill (R5), August 2, 2021
[Dominic Colombo]

**1.d4 Nf6 2.Bg5 Ne4 3.Bf4 d5 4.f3 Nf6
5.e4 dxe4 6.Nc3 exf3 7.Nxf3 e6**

I had never seen this line before, but I was happy being up a pawn even though I was behind in development.

8.Nb5

This deviates from any previous master games. It seems like a waste of a tempo

because of ...Nd5. I think White should instead develop his light-square bishop and try to put pressure on the f-file.

8...Nd5 9.Bg5 Be7 10.h4 a6 11.Nc3 Nxc3 12.bxc3 h6 13.Bxe7 Qxe7 14.Bd3 Nd7 15.0-0 Qd6

Qd6 is a slight inaccuracy. I wanted to stop d5, control the kingside dark squares and possibly put pressure on the c-pawn. I missed that after d5 ...Qc5+ and Black is winning. 15...b6 16.Be4 Rb8 seems good for Black but looks unnecessary; 15...0-0 Castles would have been better since the king is safer, and ...f5 can be pushed just like in the game but a tempo earlier.

16.Qe2 0-0 17.Nd2



Position after 17.Nd2

17...f5

I spent a lot of time on ...f5. White has a lot of attacking ideas. Qe4 is a threat if I try to develop the bishop through ...b6. Nc4 forces the queen to go back to e7. ...Nf6 is a possibility, but the knight feels misplaced there, and the rook sac forces a draw. ...f5 restricts the movement of the white knight, makes g4 harder to play, and stops ideas of an exchange sac. 17...b6 18.Qe4; 17...Nf6 18.Rxf6 gxf6 19.Qg4+ Kh8 20.Qh5 Kg7 21.Ne4 Qd8 22.Qg4+ Kh8=.

18.Nc4 Qc6 19.Rae1 Rf6

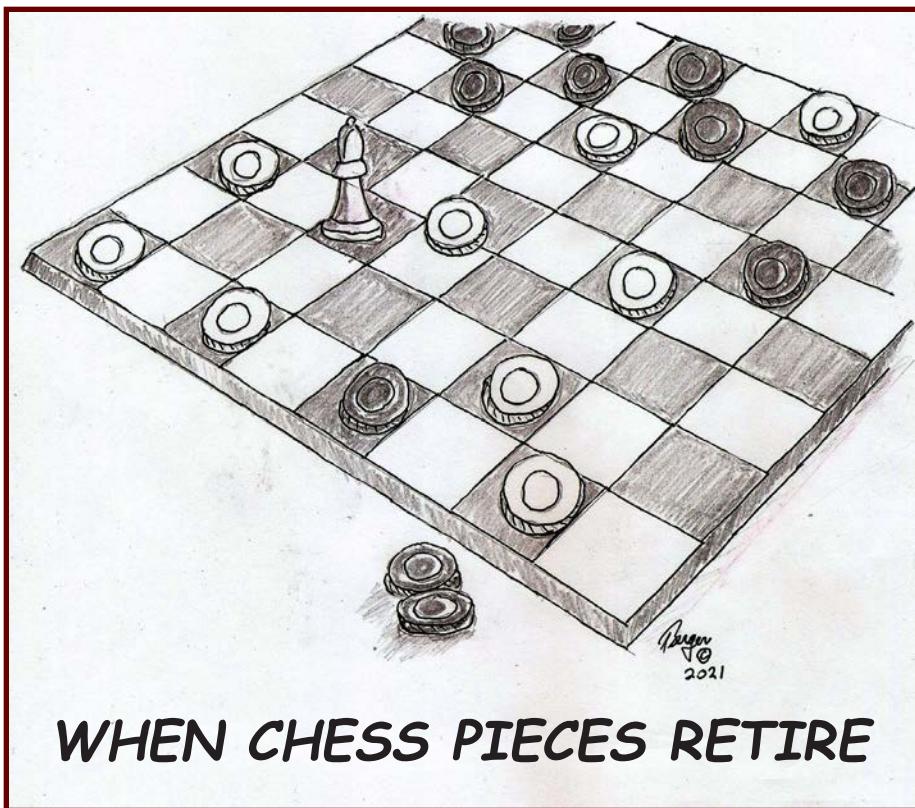
I played ...Rf6 instead of ...Nf6 to prevent Ne5 and allow my bishop to go on the long diagonal after putting my knight on the newly opened f8-square.

20.Qh5 Nf8

I spent a good amount of time figuring out the ...Rf6 ...Nf8 plan, the unfamiliar opening, and the ...f5 idea. I had ten minutes or less at this point and my opponent had somewhere around 55 minutes. I saw g4 as the best move for White, and was unsure of my response, but I needed to move.

21.g4 Bd7 22.g5 Be8 23.Qe2 hxc5 24.Ne5

24.hxc5 Rg6 25.Qd2 Nh7 26.Ne5 Rxc5+ 27.Qxc5 Nxc5 28.Nxc6 Bxc6 is an interesting line that I believe would



WHEN CHESS PIECES RETIRE

have been better for White than what White chose in the game. Black has compensation for the exchange because of the two pawns but Black's compensation is less so than in the game.

24...Qxc3 25.hxc5 Qxd4+ 26.Qe3 Qxe3+ 27.Rxe3 Rf7



Position after 27...Rf7

Black has three pawns for the exchange and is better.

28.Nxf7

...Kxf7 was better although I played ...Bxf7 because it looked safer in time pressure.

28...Bxf7 29.Kg2 Rd8 30.Rb1 b6

I sacked the pawn for compensation although 30...Be8 would have been a good way to activate the Bishop and the King, plus keep the pawn.

31.Bxa6 Rd2+ 32.Re2 Rd4 33.Re3 Rg4+ 34.Rg3 Ra4 35.Be2 e5

The idea behind sacrificing the pawn becomes clear now. White's pieces are misplaced, my bishop is activated, and I can begin to move my pawns.

36.a3 Bd5+ 37.Kf2 Rf4+ 38.Ke3 Ra4 39.Kd2 e4 40.Rb5

40.g6 is an idea White should keep in mind. If g6 is pushed my king will have great trouble supporting the pawns. g6 also makes Rg5 possible and ideas of doubling on the h-file viable.

40...c6 41.Rxb6 Nd7

...Nd7 is a blunder. 41...f4 42.Rc3 Kf7 is better than what happened in the game.

42.Rb7

After this move, the game should be drawn although it is not easy to play. 42.Ra6 Rxa6 (42...Rd4+ 43.Kc3 c5 44.g6 Kf8 45.Rg5 and Black will lose his f-pawn and soon the game.) 43.Bxa6 Here Black is losing. The pawns will be stopped, and the a-pawn will be pushed.

42...Nc5 43.Rb4 Ra8 44.Bc4 Rd8 45.Ke3 Ne6 46.Rg1

Rg1 is losing. This line holds the draw, which is similar to the game but the g1-rook is more active. 46.Bxd5 cxd5 (46...f4+ 47.Kxe4 cxd5+ 48.Ke5 fxg3 49.Kxe6)

47.Ke2 f4 48.Rgb3 Kf7 49.a4 f3+ 50.Kf2 Nxc5.

46...Kf7

46...f4+ 47.Kf2 e3+ 48.Ke1 f3 49.Rf1 f2+ 50.Ke2 Nd4+ 51.Kxe3 Nxc2+ 52.Kxf2 Nxb4 f4 makes it so Black is winning.

47.Bxd5 cxd5 48.Rb7+

My idea was to push f4 with check and move the king to f5 from g6. 48.Rb6 I thought Rb6 here would be annoying since it stopped my idea to bring the king to f5 but the pawns are strong enough to advance without the king's immediate support. 48...f4+ 49.Kd2 f3 50.a4 (50.Ke3 Rc8) 50...d4 51.g6+ Kf6.

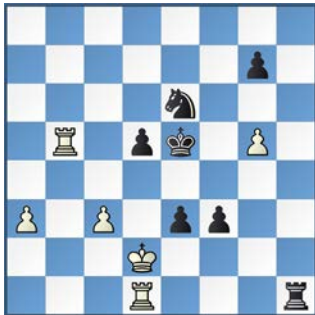
48...Kg6 49.Rb6 f4+ 50.Ke2 Kf5 51.c3 Rh8

Transferring the rook to the open file and to White's second rank.

52.Rb5 Ke5 53.Rd1

Note that c4 fails due to Nd4+. 53.c4 Nd4+.

53...Rh2+ 54.Kf1 Rh1+ 55.Ke2 f3+ 56. Kd2 e3+



Position after 56...e3+

57.Kxe3

Wins the rook. If White tries to play Kc2 to hold onto the rook, then the following happens:

57.Kc2 Rxd1 58.Kxd1 Nf4 59.Rb8 (59. Ke1 Nd3+) 59...f2 60.Re8+ Kd6 and promotion is unstoppable.

57...Rxd1 58.c4 Nxc5 59.cxd5 Rxd5 60.Rb7 Ne6 61.Kxf3

61.Ra7 Nd4 62.Rxc7

61...Rd3+ 62.Kg4 Rxa3

Winning White's last pawn and it is now a very simple win.

63.Rb5+ Kf6 64.Rf5+ Kg6 65.Rb5 Ra4+ 66.Kg3 Kf6 67.Rd5 Kg6 68.Rb5 Ng5 69.Rb6+ Kh5 70.Rb7 g6 71.Rb8 Rg4+ 72.Kf2 Rf4+ 73.Ke3 Kg4 74.Rg8 Rf6 75.Ra8 Kg3 76.Ra1 Re6+ 77.Kd4 Nf3+ 78.Kd5 Re5+ 79.Kc4 g5 80.Kd3 g4 81.Rb1 Re1 82.Rb2 Re8 83.Ra2 Ng5 84.Kd4 Nh3 85.Rb2 Nf2

Building a bridge with the knight so Black's king and pawn can advance.

86.Rb1 Kg2 87.Ra1 g3 88.Ra7 Kh2 89.Ra2 g2 90.Rxf2 Kg3 91.Rf7 g1Q+ 92.Kc4 Rc8+

0-1

Erin Bian Washington Rockefeller Representative:

Having the opportunity to play in the Rockefeller tournament was a great honor for me. However, I was hesitant at

first about whether or not to participate, due to issues such as COVID and the fact that the trip would take over five hours—across the entire country!

In the end I decided to go because this would be my last opportunity to attend Rockefeller, and I wanted to have the chance to meet and play alongside other state representatives all over the country.

In this tournament I met some of the best youths in the US, including Carissa Yip and Awonder Liang as well as some strong players in my own section such as Ryo Chen and Henry Deng.

Overall, it was a great experience as well as a fun trip. Tournament-wise, I



Erin Bian at the Rockefeller National Tournament of Elementary School State Champions. Photo Credit: Qian Liu.

reached my original goal of 4.0/6 despite an unfortunate loss in the 4th round against a lower rated (about 1600) player.

Congrats to the Washington team for the excellent performance! It was amazing how in the final round, all five of the Washington representatives won their respective games.

**Erin Bian (1808) –
Nirav Natha (1387) [B07]**
Rockefeller Cherry Hill
(R5), August 2, 2021
[Erin Bian]

This was the fifth round of the Rockefeller tournament. Having lost the morning round, winning this game was crucial to getting a satisfactory result. Even though my opponent was only 1300, he was extremely underrated and had shown a performance of 1800+ in the previous rounds.

1.e4 d6

This is the Pirc, but it soon transposes to the Modern.

2.d4 Nf6 3.Nc3 g6 4.Be3 c6 5.h3

Preventing ...Bg4 and preparing to castle kingside after developing the remaining minor pieces.

5...Nbd7 6.Nf3 Bg7 7.Bd3 Qc7 8.a4

Preventing ...b5.

8...e5 9.dxe5 dxe5 10.0-0 0-0 11.Qe2

I was debating between Qd2 and Qe2. 11...Re8 after Qd2 could be annoying, though, so I played Qe2 instead. But this move has drawback of allowing Nh5–Nf4 with tempo. I thought 11.Qd2 Rd8 could be kind of annoying.

11...Re8 12.Rfd1 Nf8

Preparing ... Be6.

13.Bc4 Be6 14.Rd2

My idea was to double rooks on the d-file.

14...a5 15.Rad1 Rad8 16.Ng5?!

An interesting idea, but this unfortunately throws away most of White's advantage. 16.Rxd8 Rxd8 17.Rxd8 Qxd8 18.Nxe5 Nxe4?! (18...Qd6 19.Bxe6 Qxe5 20.Bc4 Nxe4 21.Nxe4 Qxe4 22.b3± Computer line—White is better here because he has the bishop pair.) 19.Nxf7 Nxc3 20.Nxd8 Nxe2+ 21.Bxe2+-. I saw most of this but didn't want to risk miscalculating such a sharp line. This was the best option and gives a clear advantage to white though.

16...Rxd2 17.Rxd2



Position after 17.Rxd2

17...Nh5?

A serious mistake and possibly the game-losing one. ...Bxc4 was much better. 17...Bxc4 18.Qxc4 h6 19.Nf3 Ne6= is around equal.

18.Nxe6 Nxe6 19.Bxe6 Rxe6 20.Qd3

The point. Now I have full control over the d-file and am threatening Qd8+ and Bc5. I am also threatening Qd7, which was what happened in the game.

20...Re8 21.Qd7

The point of the last couple of exchanges—the major pieces invade the seventh rank.

21...Qxd7

This leads to a lost position, but playing 21...Qb8 doesn't offer good chances either. 21...Qb8 22.Bb6+-. Black is completely passive and White can now slowly improve his position. Rerouting the knight to c4 is a possible plan.

22.Rxd7 b6

22...Rb8 23.Ba7

23.Rb7

I wanted to avoid 23.Bxb6 Rb8, but it turns out I have two winning ideas here—Rd8+, trading the rooks, and 24.Bc7 Rxb2 25.Rd8+ and Bd6.

23...b5 24.axb5 cxb5 25.Rxb5 Ra8 26.Nd5 Nf6 27.Nxf6+ Bxf6 28.c4 Kf8 29.Rb7

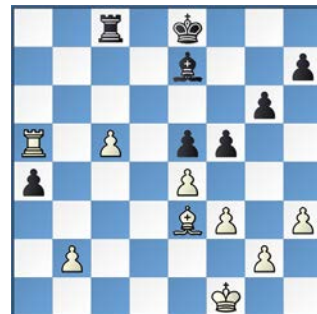
Possibly a bit inaccurate—activating the king was stronger. 29.Kf1 Ke7 30.Ke2+-.

29...Be7 30.c5 Rc8 31.Rb5 a4 32.Ra5 f5 33.f3?!

Inaccurate, as it opens up the a7–g1 diagonal so that I am no longer threatening Rxa4. 33.exf5 gxf5 34.g3+- should be decisive.

33...Ke8 34.Kf1

Stepping away from the diagonal—Rxa4 is on again. 34.Rxa4?! Bxc5 35.Bxc5 (35.Rc4?? Bxe3+ is check!) 35...Rxc5±. White has good chances, but it might be a draw with best play.



Position after 34.Kf1

34...Rb8?

The final mistake. 34...Kd7 35.Ke1 is probably still winning, but it is harder now. (35.Ke2? Rb8!= Now ...Rxb2 comes with check!) 35...f4 36.Bd2! (36.Bf2? for example is an error because of 36...Rb8!=) 36...Bxc5 37.Rxa4±

35.c6 Rxb2 36.Ra8+

1-0

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Rushaan Mahajan takes second place at the Barber National Tournament of Middle School State Champions. Photo Credit: Courtesy of US Chess.

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CHAMPIONS



2021 Seattle Classic Scholastic

By Josh Sinanan

The Seattle Classic Scholastic Chess Tournament was held online via Chess.com August 28-29, 2021. Scholastic chess players participated from throughout the U.S., including Washington, Oregon, and Nebraska. The event was hosted by the Washington Chess Federation and directed by WCF Scholastic Coordinator Jacob Mayer. A total of 75 players competed across six sections: K-3 U900, K-3 Open, 4-12 U1100, 4-12 Open, K-6 Open (two-day), and 7-12 Open (two-day).

In the one-day sections, a special congratulations to Samanvi Kantem from Omaha (NE) and Odbayar Yondon from Redmond, each of whom scored 5.0/5 in their respective K-3 U900 and K-3 Open sections and were the only perfect scores in the entire event! Jonathan Chin, a home-schooled fifth grader from Seattle, won the 4-12 U1100 section with an undefeated 4.5/5 points. Two eighth graders, Mark Wang, from Lake Oswego Junior High School in Oregon, and Edward Cheng, from Washington Middle School in Seattle, emerged victorious in the 4-12 Open section, each with 4.0/5.

The two-day scholastic sections featured a long (by online chess standards) time control of G/75; +30 second increment time control and felt more like a Round-Robin instead of a Swiss due to the smaller fields. In the K-6 Open, talented fifth grader Gabriel Razmov from Jane Addams Middle School emerged as the champion with 4.5/5. Two players tied for second place a full point back at 3.5/5: Darsh Verma, a fourth grader from Woodin Elementary School in Bothell and Lixing Shen, a fifth grader from Christa McAuliffe in Sammamish. In the 7-12 Open, Roosevelt Middle School eighth grader Ian Vo finished in clear first with four points in the cozy seven-player field. Henry Adams, a tenth grader from Garfield High School in Seattle, and Liam Priest, a seventh grader from Spencer Butte Middle School in Springfield (OR) tied for second place with 3.5 points. For their efforts, the two-day Champions Gabriel and Ian will both receive free entry into the 2021 Susan Polgar Foundation National Open for Girls & Boys Oct. 2-3 in Bellevue. Gabriel has kindly annotated a game from the tournament for the *Northwest Chess* readers to enjoy.

Congratulations to all of the amazing chess competitors! Our vibrant chess community continues to thrive in both the online and in-person arenas. Special recognition is due to our Amazon Gift Card and NWC subscription extension prize winners (see table to the right).

**Gabriel Razmov (1480) –
Vijay Nallappa (1484) [B78]**
Seattle Classic Scholastic 2021
Chess.com (R4), August 29, 2021
[Gabriel Razmov]

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 g6 6.Be3 Bg7 7.f3

This move should be played here to avoid knight jumps to g4, as well as to solidify e4 and prepare g2–g4.

7...0–0 8.Bc4 Bd7 9.Qd2 Nc6 10.0–0–0 Rc8 11.Bb3 Ne5 12.Kb1 Nc4

Forcing me to give up one of the bishops. I decided that the e3–bishop would be more important in an upcoming attack.

13.Bxc4 Rxc4 14.g4 a5?!

Standings. Seattle Classic Scholastic 2021 Online: K-3 U900		
#	Name	PRIZE
1	Samanvi Kantem	\$50
2	Sakash Agrawal	\$35
3	Aneesh Vashisht	\$25
4	Udbhav Ramprasad	NWC 1-Yr
5	Ashwath Arunkumar	NWC 6-Mo
Standings. Seattle Classic Scholastic 2021 Online: K-3 Open		
#	Name	PRIZE
1	Odbayar Yondon	\$50
2	Selina Cheng	\$35
3	Alec Edmond	\$25
4	Atharv Rastogi	NWC 1-Yr
5	Ivy Edmond	NWC 6-Mo
Standings. Seattle Classic Scholastic 2021 Online: 4-12 U1100		
#	Name	PRIZE
1	Jonathan Chin	\$50
2	Vihaan Mamtani	\$35
3	Deepak Sri Kartikeya Rao	\$25
4	Savitur Rama	NWC 1-Yr
5	Advait Vangala	NWC 6-Mo
Standings. Seattle Classic Scholastic 2021 Online: 4-12 Open		
#	Name	PRIZE
1	Mark Wang	\$50
2	Edward Cheng	\$35
3	Palash Singhal	\$25
4	David Marcellia	NWC 1-Yr
5	Hunter Choi	NWC 6-Mo
Standings. Seattle Classic Scholastic 2021 Online: K-6		
#	Name	PRIZE
1	Gabriel Razmov	\$50
2	Darsh Verma	\$35
3	Lixing Shen	\$25
4	Nikhil Ramkumar	NWC 1-Yr
5	Vijay Nallappa	NWC 6-Mo
Standings. Seattle Classic Scholastic 2021 Online: 7-12		
#	Name	PRIZE
1	Ian Vo	\$50
2	Henry Adams	\$35
3	Liam Priest	\$25
4	Max Schmidt-Warnecke	NWC 1-Yr
5	Joshua Ehrenberg	NWC 6-Mo

Possibly a mouse-slip, since a good move here is 14...a6 to help make 15...b5 with a queen-side counterattack possible.

15.h4 h5

This is pretty much forced, since otherwise 16.h5! gxf5 17.g5 with 18.Rxf5 coming.

16.gxf5

The only way to keep things open on the king-side.

16...Nxf5



Position after 16...Nxf5

17.Nde2!

A hard move to spot - it took me several minutes to see and calculate it - yet a very intuitive one. This is multi-purpose, with the idea of 17...f5?? 18.Qd5+, which can even occur on future moves.

17...Bxc3?

I will spare a blunder mark here, but a Dragon player should not exchange or give up their dark-squared bishop unless they win at least an exchange and still retain a good position. Black had to think about how to prepare a queen-side expansion involving a5-a4, b7-b5, etc.

18.Nxc3 a4 19.Rdg1

This move is also multi-purpose, however there is a small flaw. Although this move prevents 19...Ng3 and moves the rook into the attack, the other rook move was better. 19.Rhg1 does the same things, however now the h-rook is not blocked behind the h-pawn.

19...Qa5?

Another mistake, but my opponent was already in a bad position.

20.Nd5?

A common tactic, which is a mistake here since there is a better move. Can you spot it? 20.Rg5! and Black may resign. 20...Qd8 21.Rxf5! gxf5 22.Rg1+ Kh7 23.Rg5 with 24.Qd5 to follow and an unstoppable attack.

20...Qd8?!

Apparently, it was better to exchange queens and give up the pawn. 20...Qxd2

21.Nxe7+-.

21.Qe2?!

A concrete idea, but the wrong one. 21.Bb6 Qe8 22.Qh6 and the Queen penetrates with tempo.

21...b5 22.f4 Kh7 23.Rg5!

After missing the computer-suggested Rg5 idea for several moves, I finally find it.

23...f5 24.Rxf5+ Kg7

White is up a full piece and winning. From this point on, my conversion was quite sloppy, with several missed opportunities to win in faster ways. For example, here somehow, I forgot the winning 25.Qg2 I had prepared. The text move is also really good, but the engine keeps pointing out faster wins. 24...gxf5?? 25.Qxf5+ Kg7 26.Rg1#

25.Rg5 Rh8 26.Qg2 Rxe4 27.Rxf6+ Kf8 28.Rg1 Be6 29.Qd2?!

29. Rxe6! wins another piece, due to 29...Rxe6 30.Qg7+.

29...Bf7

29...Bxd5? 30.Qxd5 Rxe3?? does not work for Black due to 31.Rg8+.

30.R6g3 Qc8 31.Qc3

Forcing a simplification.

31...Qxc3 32.Nxc3 Rc4 33.Nxb5 Rxf4 34.Nc3 d5 35.Bd2 d4 36.Ne2 Rh2 37.R3g2 Rh3 38.b3 axb3 39.axb3 Rc7 40.Rg3

The goal is to solidify the position and eliminate counterplay by the opponent's active pieces.

40...Rh4 41.Nxd4

1-0

Ignacio Perez Game

Ignacio Perez (2200) –
Richard Parker Hobbs (1866) [B01]
4th Annual Irwin National
Tournament of Senior State Champions
Cherry Hill, NJ (R1), August 16, 2021
[Ralph Dubisch]

1.e4 d5 2.exd5 Nf6 3.d4 Bg4 4.Nf3 Qxd5 5.Nc3 Qh5 6.Be2 Nc6 7.h3 0-0-0 8.Rg1?!

8.Be3

8...Bxf3

8...Nxd4! 9.Nxd4 Bxe2 10.Qxe2 (10.Ncxe2 e5?) 10...Rxd4#

9.Bxf3 Qa5 10.Bxc6 bxc6 11.Qf3 Qb6



David Grimaud (L), Ignacio Perez. Photo Credits David Grimaud.

11...e5!?

12.a4 Nd5

12...Rxd4!?

13.Ne2 Nb4 14.Qb3 e5 15.a5 Qa6 16.Bd2 exd4 17.Bxb4 Re8 18.0-0-0 Bxb4 19.Nxd4 c5 20.Nf3

20.Kb1 Qxa5 21.Nc6 Qb6 22.Nxb4 cxb4 23.Qxf7±

20...Re2 21.Kb1 Rhe8 22.Qa4 Qxa5 23.Qd7+ Kb8 24.Qxf7 Qa4 25.Qc4 a6 26.Rd8+

26.Rge1!?

26...Rxd8

26...Ka7 27.Rgd1 R8e4∞

27.Qxe2 Qb5 28.Qxb5+ axb5 29.c3 Ba5 30.Re1 Kc8 31.Kc2 Bb6 32.Ng5

32.Re7±

32...c4 33.f3

33.f4 h6 34.Nf3 Rf8 35.Re4 Kb7 36.g4

33...h6 34.Nf7 Rf8 35.Ne5 Bf2 36.Re4 Bg3 37.Ng6 Rf6 38.Ne7+ Kb7 39.Nd5 Rf7 40.Rg4 Bd6 41.Re4

41.h4

41...Kc6 42.Ne3 Re7 43.b3

43.Rxe7 Bxe7

43...Rxe4 44.fxe4 cxb3+ 45.Kxb3 Bc5?!

45...Kc5 46.Nf5 Be5

46.Nf5 Bf8 47.Nd4+ Kb6 48.Ne6 Bd6 49.Nxg7 c5 50.c4 b4 51.Nf5 Bf8

51...Bf4 52.g3 Be5 53.g4 Bf4 offers significant drawing chances.

52.e5! Kc7 53.e6! Kd8 54.g4 Be7 55.Nxh6 Ke8 56.Nf5 Kf8 57.h4 Bxh4 58.Nxh4 Ke7 59.Ng6+ Kxe6 60.Nf4+

1-0

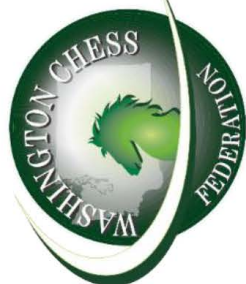




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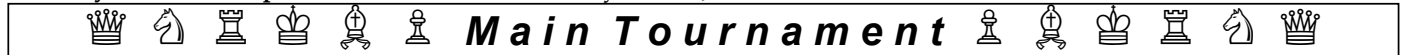
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The King's Gambit

Kaushik Attuluri

(10th grade Tesla STEM student)

"Where am I?" asked Paul Morphy in his soft New Orleans drawl.

The strange man in the white coat looked down at him, his expression one of elation.

"I-I'm Dr. Bill," the man stuttered. "I don't know how to explain this to you... it's going to seem beyond belief, but uh, you've been, uh... well, I'll just say it: revived from the dead."

"WHAT?" Morphy yelled, trying to break free from the bonds which held him in what seemed to be a frozen, cylindrical chamber. "LIAR!"

"Mr. Morphy," said the man, who Paul noticed had an excellent bedside manner. "If you can just calm down, I'll explain."

Morphy was in no mood to be placated, but since his arms and legs were held down, he didn't have much of a choice.

"You see," said this so-called "doctor," "your family was very upset when you died. So much that you used the techniques of Cailletet and Pictet to uh... essentially freeze you."

"Wasn't I cold?"

"You were dead. Anyway, for the past month, I've been filling you with a new synthetic blood. Long story short, we pumped yours out, replaced it, and regenerated your cells. Even your brain's! After that, we just kickstarted your heart."

"Easy for *you* to say!"

"Actually, my research has taken years."

"Why me?" Paul stared up, looking for a sign of madness in the man's kindly face. "Why not—I don't know—Newton or Da Vinci?"

"Well..." Paul thought he noticed a blush. "I've always been a fan. And your body was lying around, so—"

"—you thought you'd just play God?"

"More like Bobby Fischer."

Paul had no idea who this was, but frowned when the doctor leaned down, struggling to unstrap him.

"Let me help you get out of that thing."

"Thanks. I think," Paul growled, trying to rein in his temper. The last thing he remembered was his face twisting and going numb... July 1884. He'd only been forty-seven, and it had seemed completely unfair. Not to mention his family having him practically stuffed...

"I was dead," said Paul, his voice reflecting his certainty. "Now, I see you, and I'm cold, and you're telling me I'm alive."

"Exactly!" said the doctor. "Now, let me untie you."

"You better," Morphy told him, his whole body now shaking. Looking down, he noticed he was wearing his very best Sunday suit.

Good Lord! Is this what they'd buried him in?

His new white-coated "friend" undid his leg straps, then offered a hand to haul him out of this freezing coffin. Paul still mistrusted the fellow. The minute his feet unfroze, he made a run for a narrow window.

"Mr. Morphy!" cried the doctor.

Paul shook the glass panes, but they were firmly shut. Looking out at the street scene before him, he felt more frozen than before.

Very well, he thought, trying to keep his composure. *I see metal contraptions on wheels and they're not colliding... must be the new horse-and-buggy.* He strained to catch sight of buildings, most of their storeys arced toward the sun. *Tall*, he analyzed, *steel. Buildings have gotten much bigger.*

But thoughts weren't enough for what he encountered *next*.

"Would you get an eyeful of *that*?" he asked Bill. *I think it's a young woman, but she's wearing her undergarments outside!*

"Mr. Morphy, it's all right. For *this* time period, she's dressed perfectly fine."

"*This time period!*?" Paul yelled, clutching the edges of his silk vest. "What does that mean exactly, 'Doctor'?"

"Well..." The man at his side looked almost afraid to speak. "Actually, this is the year 2022."

"20-WHAT?"

Paul inhaled sharply as the room began to spin.

"2022. See..." Bill took a step back, looking as if he thought Paul might strike him.

"But...I'm only forty-seven!"

"When you died, you stopped aging, so you still are." Bill lowered his tone. "I know you want to deny this, Mr. Morphy, but I'm telling the truth. In time, you'll realize that."

Paul wasn't in the mood to realize anything. He reached out, grabbed Bill's stethoscope, and hurled it at the man's head.

"*Now, seriously, stop it!*" Bill cried.

Paul tried to throw a chair, but he couldn't. All the fight had gone out of him.

Bill took a few steps back.

"All right, 'Doctor,' any chance we leave this crematorium?"

Bill sighed with relief.

"Of course. Follow me."

They walked out of the nondescript building, Paul at the doctor's heels. Paul turned every which way, arms flapping like a scarecrow. Bill must have noted his unease.

"Why not come to my house?" Bill asked. "It's more like what you're used to. Besides, my wife makes a fried chicken that can bring tears to your eyes."

Paul pointed back at the building.

"Beats *that* frozen wasteland!"

Bill laughed, appreciating Paul's sense of humor.

Paul gave a slight smile. It was gratifying that even in this new world, he was still understood.

They made their way to Bill's house, Paul's head swimming at the sight of this "new" New Orleans: What *were* those streamlined steel tubes hurling by packed with people? And the *noise*: honking horns, gunning engines, people yelling—it was all too much.

He felt a humid relief as Bill stopped before a house done up the Creole style. When he unlocked the door, Paul saw a woman there, beaming.

He bowed as a gentlemen should.

"Pleased to meet you, ma'am," he said, tipping his black Stetson hat. "It is truly my honor."

The woman blushed.

"Mr. Morphy," she said, "it's *my* honor to meet *you*."

As he went in, Paul saw that a steaming plate of fried chicken had been set out on the table, along with whole crawfish and a heaping bowl of mashed potatoes.

Following the sweep of her hand, Paul sat down, fixing a napkin around his neck. He waited for his hosts, then was

served with some buttery green beans.

"Mmm," he said, after sampling a forkful.

But after just one bite of chicken, he clutched his throat with both hands.

"*Call the authorities!*" he yelled, his eyes streaming with tears. "*So much... red pepper!*"

Bill gave a hearty laugh.

"Guess you're not familiar," he said, "with down-home Cajun cooking."

His hostess got up, smiling, and returned with a glass of milk.

"Drink this," she said.

Paul gulped down a mouthful, relieved as the cool drink poured down his scorched throat.

"*Wow!* Does that pack a punch!" He wiped his eyes with a napkin. "So, tell me, Doctor... if I may ask: why is your lovely wife serving me, instead of one of the cooks?"

"Well, we really don't *have* any..."

Paul nodded, trying to take this in. In his day, there were servants galore: one for every room, it seemed. *My, how things had changed!*

Over the course of the meal, he gradually got used to what he guessed was Creole spice. A nice cold ice cream for dessert also made him feel better.

When they all got up from the table, Bill gestured Paul into a comfortable patterned chair.

Paul sighed. Physically, he was content, but his mind was turning somersaults.

"Tell me, sir," he asked, "why'd you happen upon me? Why not bring back a true genius like Newton, or a great man like Washington?"

Bill framed his chin with his fingers.

"Mr. Morphy," he said, "you were America's finest chess player—other than Fischer—and believe me: *no one* wants Fischer to come back."

"Please, call me Paul. And who was this Fischer?"

Now it was Bill's turn to sigh.

"Well, it's kind of a long story..."

Bill reached into his pocket and pulled out a brand-new smart phone.

"What in the world," asked Paul, "is that atrocity of a creation?"

2021 Norman Friedman Memorial Tournament (FIDE Event!)



Date: Friday – Sunday, Oct. 8 – 10, 2021

Round Times: Friday, 7:00 pm, Saturday 9:00 am, 2:00 pm, Sunday 9:00 am, 2:00 pm

Location: Riverside Hotel, 2900 W Chinden Blvd, Garden City, Idaho 83714

Format: 5SS G/90; +30

Sections: Open Section

Registration fee: \$60/non-members, \$50/ICA members, \$40/scholastic.

Requirements: US Chess membership, chess equipment provided but feel free to bring your own.

Prizes: Guaranteed prizes! 1st place (\$300), 2nd place (\$200), 3rd place (\$100). Class prizes: 1st place (\$50) for each Class B, C, D, E, UNR. 1st – 3rd place scholastic player trophies.

Other Info: Mention chess if staying at hotel; (208) 343-1871.

Side Event: Blitz, Saturday, Oct. 9, 7:00 pm, 7 SS, G/5;+3, \$10 for ICA Members, \$15 for non-members, prizes: \$75/1st place, \$50/2nd place, \$25/3rd place. Payment on site only.

THIS IS A FIDE and US CHESS RATED EVENT — US CHESS MEMBERSHIP IS REQUIRED

Sponsored by the Idaho Chess Association

Details or questions: Adam (208) 450-9048 or idahochessassociation@gmail.com

“Uh... Paul,” Bill answered, “this is a new kind of phone, used to call, text, search for things, and watch videos.”

“A *what-e-o*?”

“I guess in your day you might call it ‘moving pictures.’”

“Not likely. I’ve never seen pictures move!”

“My mistake,” said Bill.

“Ok then,” Paul asked, “then what is this ‘texting’?” He bent over Paul’s phone. “Is what you’re writing in English or what?”

“It is. It’s like a letter, but it gets delivered in real time.”

“What? No post office?”

Paul shook his head.

“Nope.”

“I see.” Paul didn’t know if he did, but he didn’t want to look stupid. “What *else* do I have to learn?”

“Well...” Bill rose and started to pace. “Today, most people do their own housework and... segregation belongs in the past.”

“I don’t understand.” Even to himself, Paul thought he sounded distressed. “So,

what you’re saying is that the Old South is gone.”

“Basically, yes.”

Paul watched as Bill circled the room several times, then stopped before a flat screen.

“Paul, I think it’s a good idea to show up some clips—from the South in the 1960’s. This is when things really changed.”

Paul watched as the doctor rummaged through some thin silver discs, then inserted one into some sleek machine. Paul jolted as sound and picture leapt from that screen. He saw things he didn’t like: burly police with their snarling dogs as they turned hoses on peaceful blacks; whites whose faces contorted with hate as they yelled at a small black schoolgirl.

“Please,” Paul whispered, “could you turn that off?”

Bill complied as Paul found he was sweating.

“My Lord,” he finally said, “that violence is so disturbing. There’s nothing worse than hate. The War Between the States proved that.”

Bill exhaled.

“I’m very happy to hear you say that. I hoped you would, since you’re an intelligent man.”

“Thanks,” said Paul, suddenly feeling exhausted. It had been quite a day. “Don’t mean to be rude, but would you mind if I turned in?”

“Of course not,” said Bill, leading him up a polished wood staircase. “If I, were you, I’d have wilted hours ago!”

One year later...

Paul looked around his apartment, still unable to believe it was his. Had it really been a *whole year* since Bill had brought him back?

And what a year it had been! Paul proudly held up his smart phone, now an experienced user who typed “LOL” and “TTYL” with ease. He could chat online with Bill and even watch The History Channel! But that wasn’t the end of the magic! He could now turn on a dishwasher and even program that pesky microwave! As far as learning to drive well, he hadn’t been a chess Grand Master for nothing!

Speaking of chess, he’d been practicing every day with the computer as opponent. That darned thing was *good*: it was pretty hard to beat, but he’d come danged close!

WA CHESS960 (FISCHER RANDOM) FALL OPEN

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 10, 2021

Site: Online via  Chess.com

Format: A 5-Round Swiss in three sections: Open, Premier U2000, Reserve U1400. Sections with <7 players may be combined (except Open section) or else played as RR’s with no half-point byes allowed.

Entry Fee: \$35 before 10/06, \$40 after. Non-members of WCF/OCF/ICA add \$15. \$20 fee to play-up 1 section. Free entry for GMs/IMs/USCF 2400+.

Time Control: G/30; +10 (sec. increment per move)

Rounds: Sun, 10/10 @ 9 AM, 11 AM, 1 PM, 3 PM, 5 PM

Byes: Two half-point byes available; request before end of round 2.

Prize Fund: \$700 (based on 30 paid entries).

Per section prizes:
1st \$100, 2nd \$65, 3rd \$35

Overall prizes:
Best female player (by TPR): \$50
Best NW-region player (by TPR): \$50

Memberships: Working Chess.com and Zoom account required. No US Chess or State membership necessary. Zoom monitoring with webcam required in all sections.

Rating: Unrated. Section eligibility and pairings based on the highest of October 1st NWSRS, US Chess Online, or US Chess rating.

Procedure: Pairings will be released prior to the start of each round. Each round features a different, randomized starting position of the back-rank pieces! Players will have 3 minutes to examine the starting position before clocks start. Then, games will be started automatically by the TD in the [Live Chess](#) area.

Fair Play Policy: All players are required to sign the [WCF Fair Play Agreement](#) prior to the start of the tournament. All players will be monitored by Zoom during the games. WCF’s Fair Play Committee will review any suspicious games on a case-by-case basis. Fair play violators will be haunted for life by the ghost of Bobby Fischer!

Useful Chess960 links:

📖 <https://chess960.net/how-to-play/>

📖 <https://www.chess.com/article/view/chess960-fischer-random-explained>



Info: Josh Sinanan, WCF President

Phone: 206-769-3757

Email:

WashingtonChessFederation@gmail.com

Registration: Online at nwchess.com/OnlineRegistration
Registration & payment deadline Sat, 10/09 @ 5 PM.

One night in October, with the thermometer still hovering around eighty (this was New Orleans, after all), Bill came over to check on him, as he often did.

“Doin’ okay, Paul?” his friend asked, grabbing a beer from the fridge. “Everything under control?”

“Sure” Paul answered, pouring himself a glass of fine wine. “It’s just the apparel I can’t get over—like everyone’s dressed for the beach.”

Bill chuckled.

“Well, it’ll probably take another year for you to get used to *that*.”

Paul smiled. He and Bill shared the same sense of humor.

“Take a load off,” Paul said, gesturing to a small couch. He had hoped to shock Bill with the idiom, and, in fact, he did.

“Wow,” said Bill, plopping down. “Before long, you’ll be rapping...” Paul gave a hearty laugh. “You know, Paul, as far as chess, I think you’re ready to fly to New York. Kuznetsov awaits. I’m hoping that you’re a big enough name so that he might be willing to teach you.”

Paul put down his glass.

“Well, I’ve been reading every chess book that God put on this green earth. Still, it would be refreshing to play another Grand Master.”

This was Bill’s cue to leap up.

“Great! I took the liberty of making reservations. Time to head out.”

Bill stomped over to the hall to reveal a battered old suitcase, then threw it at Paul.

Bill hid the suitcase even before Paul was resurrected.

Feeling a sense of excitement, Paul began to pack. After all this time, he’d be able to play someone worthy. The edges of his mouth curved up in a wide grin.

By the time they got to the airport, the sight of all those parked planes sent a tingle through his whole body.

“I’m a bit anxious,” he said to Bill as they entered Louis Armstrong Airport. “The thought of actually flying... and I’m not a bird. It just doesn’t sit right with me.”

“Don’t worry,” Bill assured him, checking in their bags. “I’ll be with you and just remember, there are less accidents in planes than there are in cars.”

“Even so,” Paul sighed, “I prefer my electric Tesla.”

Bill gave him the Tesla for his birthday.

Once they reached the gate, Morphy’s fear didn’t leave him, but he was equally amazed. *Whoa*, he thought, *look at how big those planes are. Each one of them is like a city!*

Some young guy in a long beard sidled up to Paul, reminding him of the cover of a ZZ Top album.

“Dude, get real, are you some guy from the 1800’s?”

Paul tugged at his vest.

“Exactly.”

The young guy sniffed, probably dismissing Paul as a lunatic.

Bill gave his friend a grin.

Once they entered the aircraft cabin, Morphy looked around in a daze. They were seated almost immediately in a spacious row upfront.

“First class,” Bill proclaimed, looking with delight at a soft pillow. “Only the best for *you*.”

“Lan’s sakes.”

Washington G/60 Chess Championship

October 16, 2021

A Northwest Chess Grand Prix Event

Site: Orlov Chess Academy – 7212 Woodlawn Ave. NE Seattle, WA 98115.

Format: A 4-Round Swiss in one section. Maximum of 25 players, please register early to guarantee your spot!

Time Control: G/60; d5.

Entry Fee: \$50 if postmarked or online by 10/9, \$60 after 10/9. 100% preregistered, no on-site registration. Free entry for GMs, IMs, WGMs.

Rounds: Sat. 10 AM, 1 PM, 4 PM, 7 PM.

Prize Fund: \$650 (based on 25 paid entries).
1st \$150, 2nd \$120, 3rd \$80
1st U2000/U1800/U1600/U1400/U1200: \$60

Byes: One half-point bye available, request before end of round 2.

Memberships: Current US Chess and WCF membership/Northwest Chess subscription required. Memberships must be paid at time of registration.

Rating: Dual US Chess and NWSRS Rated. Highest of current US Chess Regular, US Chess Online, or NWSRS rating will be used to determine pairings and prizes.

Health/Safety Protocols: Face masks are required for all players and spectators. Please bring your own mask, limited number available. Chess equipment will be sanitized between rounds. All players and parents (if U18) are required to sign the [WCF Health/Safety Protocols & Waiver of Liability](#) form prior to the start of the tournament.



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

Mail To: Washington Chess Federation
c/o Orlov Chess Academy
4174 148th Ave. NE
Building I, Ste. M

Redmond, WA 98052
Contact: Josh Sinanan, WCF President
Phone: 206-769-3757

Email:
WashingtonChessFederation@gmail.com

Registration: Online at
nwchess.com/OnlineRegistration.
Registration and payment **deadline 5pm on Wednesday, October 13.**

As a comely flight attendant made her final check, she noticed that Paul's seat back was slightly reclined.

"Let me help you with that, sir."

"Thank you, miss," he said.

"Of course, sir. It's my pleasure."

Despite the roomy aisle and pillow, Paul's stomach clenched as the plane began to move. He'd never felt anything like it: the bass throb of twin engines; the explosive push of metal as the plane gathered speed, finally bursting above the runway with a roar that shook his ears. He heard the wheels retract and they were on their way!

"My Lord," Paul whispered, afraid to look out the window. When he finally got up the courage, what he saw were clouds: white, drifting, and they were flying *above* them!

"How far up are we?" he asked Bill in a tight tone.

"Thirty thousand feet, taller than the tallest mountain on earth."

"Unbelievable!"

Later, the same flight attendant came by and served them a dinner of lobster and mashed potatoes, Waldorf salad and

key lime pie. The silver utensils were the highest of quality, exported directly from England.

Paul bowed low, saying, "Thank you for your service, miss."

The flight attendant blushed.

Once she left, Bill told Paul in a joking tone, "So, Paul, one year on and women are already trying to flirt with you."

Paul chuckled. He really didn't think so.

Some two hours later, he snuck a second peek through the window, seeing mainly the dizzying tops of skyscrapers.

"Oh my. I think I'm going to faint!"

Bill patted his hand.

"Paul, calm down, everything's fine."

Soon enough, they landed, and Paul found himself in another airport strangely called "La Guardia."

Once they'd picked up their bags, Bill led Paul outside, where he hailed a yellow cab. As they stumbled their way over, Paul felt a jolt of surprise: how much this city had changed!

"I'm glad not to see slums anymore.

And gangs fighting in the street."

"Wow," shuddered Bill in the back of the cab. "Glad I missed *those* days!"

Paul smiled.

"Here we are," announced Bill as the cab stopped before a massive building. "Paul—with luck, you'll soon get to meet the great Kuznetsov!"

For once in this strange new world, Paul's nerves didn't attack him.

Bill approached a uniformed guard who looked stiff as a soldier to Paul.

"Excuse us," said Bill, "but we're here to see Mr. Kuznetsov."

The guard scowled and rolled his eyes.

"You and what other chess freaks?" he asked in his broad New York accent.

"I don't think you understand."

"Look, Colonel Sanders, I get it. You want an autograph, something. My client doesn't go for it, so you'll be saying goodbye."

"This," Bill said dramatically, "is the great Paul Morphy, chess champion of the U.S., Europe, and the World."

"Is that so?" asked the guard. "Well,

Washington G/15 Chess Championship

October 17, 2021

Site: Orlov Chess Academy – 7212 Woodlawn Ave. NE Seattle, WA 98115.

Format: A 6-Round Swiss in one section. Maximum of 25 players, please register early to reserve your spot!

Time Control: G/15; d10.

Entry Fee: \$50 if postmarked or online by 10/10, \$60 after 10/10. 100% preregistered, no on-site registration. Free entry for GMs, IMs, WGMs.

Rounds: Sun. 10 AM, 11 AM, 12 PM, 1:30 PM, 2:30 PM, 3:30 PM.

Prize Fund: \$650 (based on 25 paid entries).
1st \$150, 2nd \$120, 3rd \$80
1st U2000/U1800/U1600/U1400/U1200: \$60

Memberships: Current US Chess and WCF membership/Northwest Chess subscription required. Memberships must be paid at time of registration.

Rating: US Chess Quick Rated. Highest of current US Chess Regular, US Chess Quick, or NWSRS rating will be used to determine pairings and prizes.

Byes: Two half-point byes available, request before end of round 2.

Health/Safety Protocols: Face masks are required for all players and spectators. Please bring your own mask, limited number available. Chess equipment will be sanitized between rounds. All players and parents (if U18) are required to sign the [WCF Health/Safety Protocols & Waiver of Liability](#) form prior to the start of the tournament.



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

Mail To: Washington Chess Federation
c/o Orlov Chess Academy
4174 148th Ave. NE
Building I, Ste. M
Redmond, WA 98052

Contact: Josh Sinanan, WCF President
Phone: 206-769-3757

Email:
WashingtonChessFederation@gmail.com

Registration: Online at
nwchess.com/OnlineRegistration.

Registration and payment **deadline 5pm on Thursday, October 14.**

I'm the Easter Bunny!"

"It's true," Bill said. "Paul, show him your proof."

Paul, embarrassed by this whole encounter, unzipped a part of his bag. Reaching down, he withdrew a yellowing parchment which bore a fading image: of *him*, standing at the side of Queen Victoria. Below, in flowery script, was written: "Mr. Morphy, it was a pleasure meeting you at the palace today. After your apt demonstration, I can well understand why you have been named 'the best chess player in the world.'"

"Whoa!" said the guard, stepping back. "That broad's the Queen of England, right? Okay, buddy, take the elevator to floor twenty and turn left. It's the second door."

"Thank you, sir," Paul said formally, hurrying through revolving doors before the guard changed his mind.

Bill worked the machine the guard had called an "elevator," then followed his directions. Stopping before the newly painted door, he gave two sharp raps. As the door swung open, Paul saw a short grey-haired man he recognized from photos. Kuznetsov was dressed formally, in a tailored suit and tie.

"May I help you?" the Russian asked, his accent more New York than Moscow.

"Mr. Kuznetsov," said Bill, "I know it's hard to believe, but *this* is... Paul Morphy."

Kuznetsov went slightly pale, surveying Paul for a good five minutes.

"Sir, here is my proof."

Paul presented his royal letter, watching Kuznetsov take it all in.

"Wait. *What!* Paul Morphy! I can't believe it! I've always idolized your game. It's amazing that you're back."

"Mr. Kuznetsov," said Paul, "I've idolized *you* ever since I came back. The way you play is incredible and finest way to play chess. I hope to be able to learn from you."

Kuznetsov just stood there, half amazed and half shocked.

"Well," he said, "we better get started."

Kuznetsov used his cellphone to call the guard and tell him he wouldn't be available for about two to three weeks. No other visitors would be allowed.

The Russian champion gestured Paul into a chair. Paul noticed that his chess

board was professional and no doubt very expensive. He looked around. Kuznetsov had at least three in what must be his office.

First, the two men played a practice game to determine Paul's weak points.

After Kuznetsov won, he said, "Your openings are too old-fashioned, but we can deal with that later. Your endgame skills are meh at best, so let's approach those first."

Paul wasn't the least bit offended: not when the criticism came from a fellow champion.

Bill sat closely by, watching the first few games to ensure Paul didn't go crazy. But Paul was so intrigued by all the tricks he was learning he didn't even notice when the sun went down.

"Uh, Paul," said Bill, "we've been here for six hours! Better let Mr. Kuznetsov get some rest."

"Where are you staying?" asked the Russian.

"Uh..."

Now that he'd mentioned it, Paul didn't have the faintest idea.

"Don't worry about it," said

Washington Blitz Chess Championship

October 17, 2021

Site: Orlov Chess Academy – 7212 Woodlawn Ave. NE Seattle, WA 98115.

Format: A 7-Round Double Swiss in one section. (Play 2 games, one as white and one as black, against each opponent.) Maximum of 25 players, please register early to reserve your spot!

Time Control: G/3; +2 (sec. increment per move).

Entry Fee: \$50 if postmarked or online by 10/10, \$60 after 10/10. 100% preregistered, no on-site registration. Free entry for GMs, IMs, WGMs.

Rounds: Sun. 5 PM, 5:30 PM, 6 PM, 6:30 PM, 7 PM, 7:30 PM, 8 PM.

Prize Fund: \$650 (based on 25 paid entries).
1st \$150, 2nd \$120, 3rd \$80
1st U2000/U1800/U1600/U1400/U1200: \$60

Memberships: Current US Chess and WCF membership/Northwest Chess subscription required. Memberships must be paid at time of registration.

Rating: US Chess Blitz Rated. Highest of current US Chess Regular, US Chess Blitz, or NWSRS rating will be used to determine pairings and prizes.

Byes: Two half-point byes available, request before end of round 2.

Health/Safety Protocols: Face masks are required for all players and spectators. Please bring your own mask, limited number available. Chess equipment will be sanitized between rounds. All players and parents (if U18) are required to sign the [WCF Health/Safety Protocols & Waiver of Liability](#) form prior to the start of the tournament.



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Registration: Online at
nwchess.com/OnlineRegistration.

Registration and payment **deadline 5pm on Thursday, October 14.**

Kuznetsov with a wave of his hand. “Manhattan has great hotels, and I can certainly pay for one.”

“Thanks,” Bill said. “That’s very generous.”

For a week, Paul endured while Kuznetsov endlessly went over endgames. Paul didn’t mind, since he knew that this was the most important part of chess. He also noticed that Bill was fading into the background as Kuznetsov became his constant companion and mentor. It wasn’t that he and Bill ceased to be friends: just that he and his fellow champion had so much more in common.

They spent so much time together that Paul found himself watching subtitled Russian dramas. On the couch one afternoon, he turned to Kuznetsov.

“Don’t tell anyone,” he said, “that Paul Morphy, Southern gentleman, is addicted to Russian soaps.”

Kuznetsov struggled to contain his laughter. With trouble, he dragged Paul away.

“Come on,” he said. “Time to fix your openings.”

Once again, it was back to the board. Paul noticed that Kuznetsov wasn’t so

much a coach anymore as a second who gave him openings that were modern and fit Paul’s style.

Two weeks in, Paul sighed, “Too much theory. Can’t we do something that requires less memorization? It’s interesting, but sometimes, it’s way too hard.”

Kuznetsov laughed.

“I thought that you retired because chess was too easy for you.”

Even Paul gave a grudging smile.

“I suppose.”

“Well then,” said Kuznetsov, “the best players immerse themselves in theory for years. If you want to be the best, you have to do the same. And Paul: learning opening theory is the easiest part of chess. You’ve already gone over the hardest part, which are the endgames.”

Two more weeks, and Paul assumed his coach/opponent thought he was ready to play an exhibition game. It was to be held at the New York Chess Club. When Paul stepped through the door, he was surprised to see an overflow crowd, along with a bevy of flashbulbs going off in his face.

Bill quickly stepped in and shooed

the press away.

None of it bothered Paul. This was like old times when he’d traveled to Europe and won everything in sight. Sitting across a board from Kuznetsov, Paul saw that the Russian was going for a Scheveningen-style Sicilian something of which he was a master. In fact, it was his staple, but Paul had to confess he loved it too due to the space advantage. Kuznetsov, however, liked slowly building an attack.

After a few moves, Morphy said, “This is a win for me, you are slightly too slow, and my pieces are way too active.”

Kuznetsov looked up.

“We’ll see.”

Morphy first pushed his pawn and attacked Kuznetsov’s knight, forcing it away from the king and removing a defender. Then he brought his queen to the party. Kuznetsov tried to attack Morphy’s king, but it was checkmate in three for Morphy. First, Morphy sacrificed a bishop for a pawn and Kuznetsov had to take. Then, Morphy delivered a check to the king with the knight and once the king moved, he placed the queen next to the knight and Kuznetsov resigned.

“Very good,” the Russian told Paul.

WASHINGTON CHALLENGER’S CUP

OCTOBER 23-24, 2021

A NORTHWEST CHESS GRAND PRIX EVENT

Site: Orlov Chess Academy – 7212 Woodlawn Ave NE, Seattle, WA 98115.

Format: A Swiss event in two sections. One section per day. Maximum of 25 players per section – register early! 5 rounds in Reserve/U1700 section (Oct 23), and 4 rounds in Open section (Oct 24).

Entry Fee: Must be paid by 10/20: no late or on-site registrations or payments. \$50 by 10/16, \$60 after 10/16. Free entry for GMs, IMs, WGMs. \$40 play-up fee if rated under 1700 and playing in Open section.

Time Control and Schedule of Rounds:

Reserve: G/50; d5.

Sat. 9 AM, 11 AM, 1:30 PM, 3:30 PM, 5:30 PM

Open: G/75; d10.

Sun. 10 AM, 1 PM, 4 PM, 7 PM

Prize Fund: \$1,300 (based on 50 paid entries total)

Reserve: 1st \$150, 2nd \$100, 3rd \$70

1st U1600/U1400/U1200/U1000: \$60; Biggest Upset: \$30

Open: 1st \$230, 2nd \$160, 3rd \$110

1st U2200/U2000/U1800: \$60; Biggest Upset: \$30

Highest finishing Washington resident in the Open Section is seeded into the 2022 Washington State Championship.

Byes: Two half-point byes available in Reserve/U1700 section. One half-point bye available in Open section. Request before end of round 2.

Memberships: Current US Chess and WCF membership / Northwest Chess subscription required. Memberships must be paid at time of registration.

Rating: US Chess and NWSRS Rated. Higher of current US Chess Regular, US Chess Online, and NWSRS ratings used to determine pairings and prizes. Higher of US Chess and foreign ratings used at TD discretion.

Health/Safety Protocols: Face masks required for all players and spectators. Please bring your own mask, limited number available. Chess equipment sanitized between rounds. All players and parents (if U18) are required to sign the [WCF Health / Safety Protocols & Waiver of Liability](#) form prior to the start of the tournament.



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

Mail To: Washington Chess Federation
c/o Orlov Chess Academy
4174 148th Ave. NE
Building I, Ste. M
Redmond, WA 98052
Contact: Josh Sinanan, WCF President
Phone: 206-769-3757
Email:
WashingtonChessFederation@gmail.com

Registration: Online at nwchess.com/OnlineRegistration
Registration and payment **deadline:**
Wed. 10/20 @ 5pm.

“You were right. Your calculation skills are second only to Fischer who sadly went mental.”

“Can you tell me more?”

Kuznetsov lowered his voice.

“Well, long story short, he was immersed in the game of chess so much so that he lost his sanity. Said downright disgusting stuff, and the U.S. wanted to arrest him. He died in Iceland. A shame, really. In Russia, my generation idolized him.”

The two men stood and shook hands, exiting out a back door. Bill turned to the third FIDE world champion. “Mr. Kuznetsov, I can’t thank you enough for taking the time to teach Paul. But now I think we need to get back to New Orleans.”

Paul felt a twinge of sadness as he waved goodbye to Kuznetsov. He hoped they could stay in touch since he was pretty good with a cellphone. Bill, though, went forward, with a small piece of paper. Shyly handing it over, he had the Russian sign it. Paul noticed that Bill was smiling widely.

“You really wanted his autograph that much?”

“Yes, I have a collection of autographs from different chess players. Kuznetsov and Fischer are the only ones that I’m missing, and Fischer is dead. However, I’ll be looking for your autograph.” Bill answered. “Also, I fooled the press. I told them we were taking off from JFK, but it’s really La Guardia,” he chuckled.

Paul joined his friend in a laugh.

“Never let it be said that we Southerners aren’t smooth.”

However, Bill’s magic seemed to fail once they reached New Orleans. With only one major airport, the city proved Paul’s undoing, and he was swamped by reporters. Used to the press from his past life, he had no problem doing an interview. In fact, he liked them since they made him feel important.

As the interview progressed, Paul felt more and more thankful that he’d been revived due to modern people, their technology, and a new chance to play chess. The press loved him—he assumed not just due to his eye-popping story, but also because he really enjoyed talking to them.

They gave Bill a harder time.

“*Why Morphy?*” they shouted,

in a cacophony of voices. “Why not Einstein, or Mozart, or JFK, or George Washington?”

Bill’s answer was always the same.

“I love chess,” he said simply. “And Paul Morphy was my idol. Plus, as I’ve explained, he happened to be on ice.”

The chorus of questions faded as Bill led Paul to his car. Paul heard a beep and checked his phone. There was a text from Kuznetsov: *I have talked to FIDE (the Federation of Chess), and they agreed to make you a National Master, BUT you have to climb up the ranks before you become a Grand Master.*

Paul felt a tingle of excitement! He was back, and with a vengeance. When he told Bill, the doctor said, “Amazing! We should both be on the lookout for a local tournament.”

The next day, Bill phoned him excitedly: he’d found one, right here in New Orleans! And it was only a month from now!

“Paul,” Bill told him, “time to practice what Kuznetsov taught you.”

“Yes,” said Paul, “I’m starting right away.”

After a month of hard practice, it was

Oregon Class Championships: November 6-7

Format: 5-round US Chess rated Swiss in six sections, **Master and Expert** (2000+), **Class A** (1800-1999), **Class B** (1600-1799), **Class C** (1400-1599), **Class D** (1200-1399), and **Class E and below** (U1200). Some sections may be combined based on the number of players in a section. The official November US Chess OTB regular ratings are generally used for section eligibility and pairings. Unofficial US Chess OTB regular ratings or alternate ratings (with adjustment if necessary) are generally used for players with no official US Chess OTB regular rating. Players may play up only one class (this means players rated under 1000 cannot play up a section as playing up a class would still put them in the Class E and below section). Up to two half-point byes are available if requested before round one.

Time Control: G/90;d10 (ninety minutes per player with a ten second delay at the start of each move). **PLEASE BRING A DELAY CAPABLE DIGITAL CLOCK AS NONE ARE SUPPLIED** (sets, boards, notation sheets, and pens/pencils are provided).

Schedule: A players meeting is at 9:45am Saturday. The rounds are at 10am, 2pm, and 6pm on Saturday and 10am and 2pm on Sunday (remember to set your clocks back an hour on Sunday morning for the end of daylight savings time).

Entry Fee: \$70. Add \$30 play-up fee if you are playing up a class. Free entry for GM’s and IM’s (up to \$70 is deducted from any prize won). US Chess membership is required for all players. State membership is required for Oregon and Washington residents.

Registration: THIS IS A 100% PRE-REGISTERED EVENT. NO ON-SITE ENTRIES WILL BE ALLOWED. To pre-register, you must put your registration information in online at nwchess.com/onlineregistration and pay the entry fee and any membership fees due either online or by sending a check, payable to the Oregon Chess Federation, to Mike Morris at 2344 N.E. 27th Ave. Portland, OR 97212 (**simply putting your name on the online roster without paying does not register you**). Registration deadline is Friday, November 5 at 7pm.

Prizes: \$3000 based on 75 players (the prize fund is adjusted proportionally if there are a different number of players except \$1500 is guaranteed): Each section has the following overall prizes: 1st-\$250, 2nd-\$150, 3rd-\$100.

Covid Protocols: Masks are required for everyone. Everyone’s temperature will be taken each morning. Anyone with a temperature of at least 100.4°F or is not feeling well will be asked to not play.

Location: Lloyd Center DoubleTree Hotel, 1000 NE Multnomah St, Portland, OR 97232. There is free parking in the hotel parking garage. A limited number of hotel rooms are available at a special chess rate of \$124 plus tax for a single and \$134 plus tax for a double, call 1-800-996-0510. The rate lasts until the block of rooms sell out or until October 20, whichever comes first.

Other: Sponsored by the Oregon Chess Federation; qualifier for the Championship and Challengers sections of the Oregon Closed and qualifier for the OSCF State Championship. Send an email to email@pdxchess.org if you have any questions or need to withdraw during the event.

time to head out to the New Orleans Paul Morphy Chess Club, founded in 1934 on the 50th anniversary of Paul's death. As Paul had expected, the press was in a frenzy and frothing at the mouth to greet him. He of course didn't mind—this just made him more popular.

As flashes went off like a lightning strike before he entered the main hall, Paul sat down with confidence. He faced his opponent—an amateur—and told him, "Good luck."

Once the game began, he became what he'd come to think of as a combo of himself and Kuznetsov: flamboyant, tactical and aggressive. The opening was fairly equal because he was facing a good player—one who clearly knew theory. By the time he got to the middle game, Morphy knew he was unstoppable. The guy who sat opposite was trying to pulverize him, but Morphy, hearing Kuznetsov in his head, thought, "*This is nonsense.*" He used his ability to see twenty moves ahead to stop the attack cold. Then, he got his king to safety, and it was essentially over. Morphy used his tactics—old and new—to reveal every weakness. When his opponent tried to avoid them, he just created more and eventually the whole house of cards fell.

Morphy wasn't that surprised that he won all of his games and made it to the final. He decided to wear out his opponent psychologically and not just with tricks. The opening was the usual, but the middle game was boring, as precise as a computer. When the opponent tried to attack him, Morphy refused to be stopped in his tracks. He actually laughed to himself, "*This is child's play, he won't survive for long.*"

Sure enough, the opponent messed up, leaving Morphy to sacrifice his bishop which led to checkmate. As his foe's structure collapsed, he made way for Morphy's queen to destroy the entire enemy kingdom.

Later, World Champion Michael Larsen said on live TV that he would love to play an exhibition game against the revived Morphy.

"Bring it on," Morphy told news reporters.

Promoters couldn't resist, and it wasn't before long that a game was set up

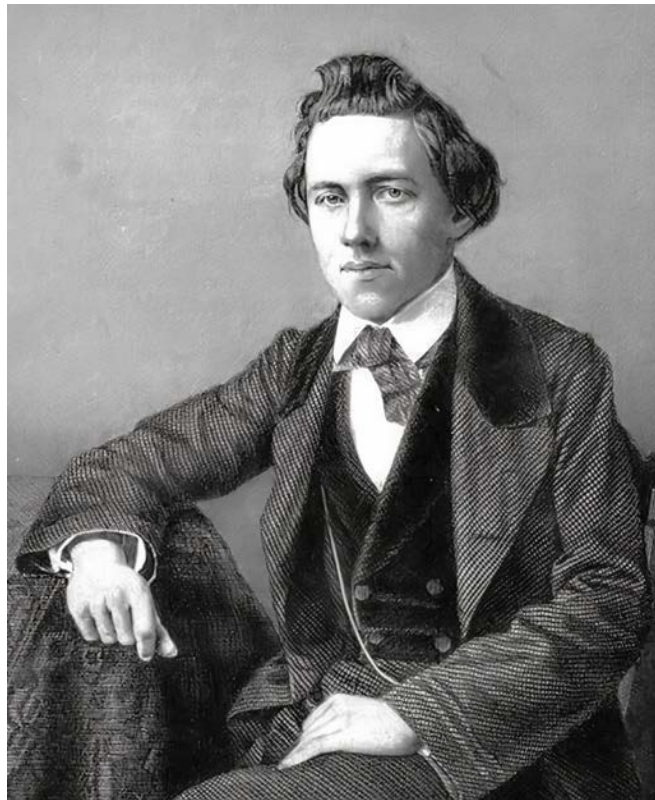
in England at a neutral venue in only two weeks' time! Oddly enough, courtesy of Paul himself...

"Bill," Paul told his friend while he talked on his cell, hammering down some last-minute details from home. "No offense, but you're a doctor and I'm a trained lawyer. Let *me* handle this."

Bill's jaw flew open as Paul seized the phone from his hand.

"Howdy," Paul drawled, "Morphy here. Just one little thing. We're gonna need to be put up in a five-star hotel in London with a car at our disposal, and, of course, a driver."

Paul smiled his best Southern smile as Bill heard protests squeak over the line.



"Yes yes," Paul answered. "I'm sure it *is* expensive. But so is finding another player to take my place."

Bill heard the voice on the line sweeten up like a mint julip.

"Oh, bless your heart!" said Paul. "That'll be just fine."

He hung up, handing the phone back to Bill.

"The Savoy," he told his friend, "and a Rolls-Royce waiting. Sometimes it pays to be a lil' ol country lawyer."

The two of them embarked for London. First-class all the way. Paul spent most of his studying Larsen's game. Good Lord, that Norwegian was good! Paul heaved a sigh of relief when his friend Barry materialized one day. He could sure use the help!

"Now, Paul," said Kuznetsov, sitting across a board from him. "You understand that Michael is number one in the world. I don't think you can beat him, but if you play carefully, you might be able to draw, so let's make that our goal."

Paul pushed himself so hard that he hoped that he wouldn't faint at the game. The press was to be absent at the request of Larsen, but the game would still be livestreamed. When Paul walked into the main hall, Bill and Barry back at the Hilton, he immediately felt the twenty-year age difference between him and Larsen. Once they sat and shook hands, Paul could feel a sort of electric current formed of mutual respect. After wishing each other good luck, Morphy started Larsen's clock.

Very well, Paul thought, *it was on.*

Not surprised in the least, Paul saw that the opening was strictly modern theory. But that was all right since Barry had prepped him well. The middle game, though, was surprising, with Larsen like a brick wall. Morphy punched and punched which failed. Slowly, Larsen kept improving his position and built an almost insurmountable advantage. The endgame was Larsen's area of strength, but Morphy found a beautiful rook sacrifice and then he constantly checked Larsen's king until it was a draw. On TV, the announcers were jumping out of their seats,

"This is unbelievable, the New Orleans native Morphy has pulled off a stunning draw vs the number one player for eleven years—he was down and out but I guess you can never count Morphy out!"

Paul reviewed the game at the Hilton with Barry said, "This man is a master at the new type of chess, very positional and not the attacking chess that I used to play."

Paul knew that he was *so* close to becoming a GM: all he had to do was draw another game with anyone and it would happen. From London, he asked

around for a rated exhibition game. Of course, no one wanted that since they had nothing to gain.

Finally, a young IM from Chicago named Billy Blackledge took him up on his challenge, even agreeing to fly to England!

When Morphy and Barry reviewed some of youngster's games, they were amazed. This guy looked to be the heir to Fischer (though hopefully saner). Not only that, but in his home town, he was considered a chess god.

In the same hall where he'd played Larsen, Paul faced Blackledge's white pieces with a French defense: an opening that was notorious for creating drawish positions. His young opponent played without confrontation, something unusual for a guy who was supposed to be the next Fischer.

Paul asked himself, "*Is my opponent mental? He's playing as White and aiming for a draw.*"

That's when Paul decided to make an unorthodox move. He offered Blackledge a draw, which the youngster accepted. Turned out that both men needed one for that precious GM title.

After that, the promoters couldn't resist, rematching Paul and Larsen for a second exhibition. It was not unlike their first, with Paul in the role of flamboyant attacking wizard and Larsen the brick wall. Still, the Norwegian was a quick learner and pulverized Paul in thirty-five moves. When Paul got back to the Hilton, he turned to Bill and Barry.

"I cannot believe," he began, "the skill of that young man. No wonder he's been world champion for the past eleven years!"

"You shouldn't feel bad, Paul," said Kuznetsov. "If I tried to play him now, he'd smear me across the board. He drew versus me when he was nine!"

"Good Lord!" Paul exclaimed. "Bill, I think it's time we hightailed it back home. I've had enough of these Yankees!"

All three men laughed and, by the next day, were comfortable and quiet in their homes.

That is, until Mardi Gras started. Paul ran into the street to be hoisted on shoulders like the hometown hero he was. Though he didn't overindulge, he could only smile as other celebrants pulled him onto a float from which he merrily passed out beads. A microphone was put to his lips, into which he shouted: "If I beat Larsen, maybe I'll have a net value

greater than the Queen of England!"

He smiled as the people of New Orleans roared their approval. But someone else clearly heard this. From Norway, Larsen made a statement.

"Clearly, he thinks he could beat me. Well, if he wants to embarrass himself in front of an international audience, I'm right here."

When Paul read this, he laughed uproariously.

"Bring it on," he said.

As for himself, Paul knew he wasn't serious, having gained insight into Larsen's personality, *he* probably wasn't either, Paul just felt he needed to give the pesky press some talking points or else they would be at his doorstep. He and Larsen had called each other to make sure there was no misunderstanding. Later, Morphy was invited to the Candidates tournament in Norway.

Blackledge, the prodigy from Chicago, and Kuznetsov told him to come to New York City where they would both help him prepare like never before. They gave him chess puzzles, played games with him, and insisted that Paul work out—*physically*. Chess at his level could be so draining and Paul wanted to be ready.

At the Candidates, where Paul was a wildcard, he was not surprised when he won. That meant he would face his old nemesis Larsen... who would be fighting for his most prized title: *World Champion*.

Paul had just five months to train like a boxer to face the man he'd lost to, drawn against, but never triumphed over. Frankly, he doubted he could do it, but tried to keep a brave face in front of Team Morphy. This grew to include "Vishy" Anand—who'd held the world champ title before Larsen.

Paul would be fighting for his hundred-year-old title. The tournament would be held five months later since the views of the finals would only *increase* the sooner it was played.

In Paul's hotel suite, Kuznetsov laughed when he thought ahead, telling Paul, "They have *no idea* about our secret weapon."

Paul's entourage roared in approval.

Team Morphy arrived in Oslo one week before the big game. Paul spent his time dodging the press and trying to relax. Before he knew it, it was time, and he was shuttled off to a streamlined convention center. Though Bill had given him a

rousing pep talk, once Paul entered the Main Hall, he knew he was on his own.

Paul sat, at least sixty pounds lighter than when he had played during his own "first round." He tried to practice deep breathing, then barely looked up as Larsen came in.

They wished each other good luck: this time, Larsen set Paul's clock. Before he made his first move, Paul examined Larsen's face. The Norwegian gave away nothing: he looked calmer than a spring day viewed from Paul's veranda.

That's alright, Paul told himself. *Let's get crackin'.*

The plan was set. Paul was going to get Larsen out of common openings and play to his, Paul's, own strengths as a tactical genius. Paul was White. He moved his pawn. Larsen gave him a Sicilian defense but Paul played a3: just as Team Paul had planned.

The secret weapon: the Meningari, also known as the delayed wing gambit. Paul saw a look of shock cross his opponent's face, like the World #1 had never seen this in a serious match. *Yes!* Paul felt a jolt of confidence.

Careful, he thought, *this guy is no fool.*

Larsen proved it by playing solidly, adhering to his own strategy. That's when Paul decided to engage him in an imbalanced—and aggressive—middle game. Someone was going to fall, and Paul vowed it wouldn't be him. Larsen had a queenside majority: something Paul had to keep an eye on. Still, Paul hoped to compensate with extreme pressure on the kingside.

Now, he had to make a decision, the most important one of the match.

Should I, he wondered, *go for the minority attack and ruin his structure, or a kingside one that could destroy him now?*

Paul's heart kept time with the chess clock. He took a few minutes, leaned back, focused on nothing and tried to *think*. He was playing the best in the world: a man so good that had he been around during his own heyday, he never would have had to quit chess. He felt admiration mixed in with a fierce desire to win. He wanted to be the best too—not just of his own time, but of this new modern age.

Paul steepled his fingers and sighed. He moved his hand, hovered it over the a-pawn, but, at the last second, firmly gripped the h-pawn.

The minority attack, he'd decided, would've been too slow. And Larsen, being Larsen, could've destroyed it easily.

Now, he looked tense, attacking Paul on the queen side.

Paul's vision blurred slightly. He could hardly believe it.

"That's it," he thought, "I've won."

Paul threw everything at Larsen... including the kitchen sink. He went for the minority attack since the smaller platoon could create a ruckus while the larger one destroyed Larsen. His foe, however, did a good job defending, but his pawns were doubled and isolated, while Paul had four connected passed pawns and another one queenside.

Paul smiled, knowing the end was close. He slowly pushed his pawns and took away Larsen's two, leaving him with a bishop. Paul made sure that Larsen's king wasn't active and promoted his pawn to a queen. *It was over.* Larsen resigned. The two masters shook hands as Paul gave a wide smile.

"Nice win," said Larsen. "Congrats on being #1."

"Thank you," Paul replied. "I've studied your games and they made me a better player."

"Well, analyzing *your* games are a real treat for me."

"What do you say," asked Paul, "we go to the presentation ceremony?"

The two walked out of the main hall where the press was waiting, yelling Paul's name and blinding him with flashes. An official clapped him on the back, then spoke into a microphone.

"The winner and new world number one, PAUL MORPHY!"

Everyone, including Paul's entourage and Larsen, clapped for him as he looked on with pride.

Later, a reporter asked, "What do you have to say after bringing that sort of fight to Larsen?"

"It's always a pleasure to play him," said Paul. "Obviously, it's a big achievement to beat him. I also want to thank Team Morphy—they know who they are. And especially, my friend Bill, who's been with me from the start. It's truly an honor to be here in the modern world, meet amazing people, and see how chess has changed. I promise to do my best to make sure the game becomes more popular using something I never knew about before: social media."

Bill again finessed the press and didn't hesitate to brag about it to Paul.

With that, Paul Charles Morphy went back to an eager crowd waiting for him at his hometown.

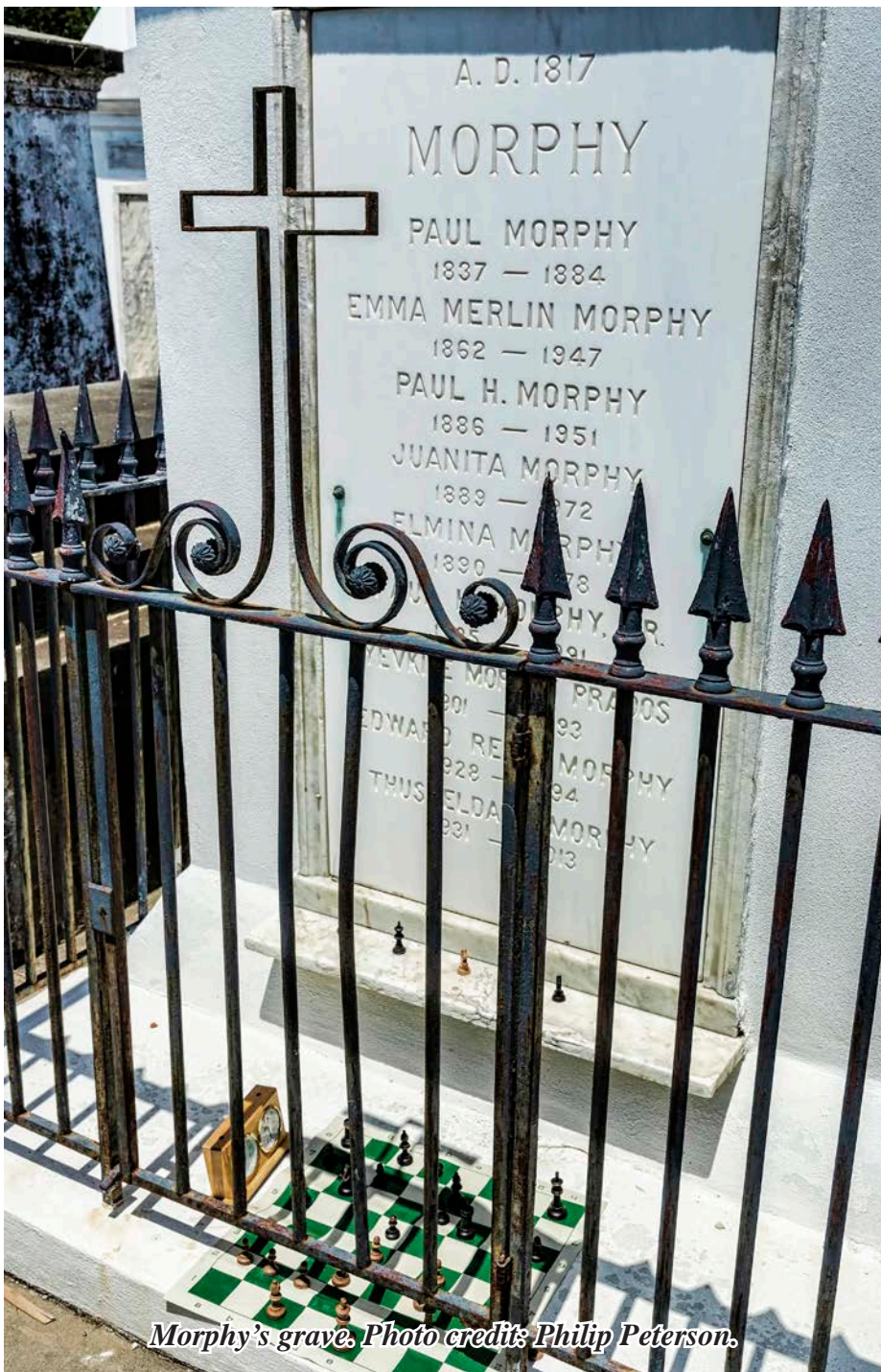
Five Years Later...

Paul Morphy is now a social media star who keeps promoting chess. More and more people are motivated to play the game. New Orleans and not New York

has become the world chess capital. Paul and Larsen still compete for the #1 spot. Kuznetsov comments on politics, but now focuses on coaching young kids.

As for Dr. Bill, he was awarded the Nobel Prize for Medicine. However, he destroyed the tools that brought Paul back, not wanting the world to be filled with famous dead people.

And so ends Morphy's road to #1.



Morphy's grave. Photo credits: Philip Peterson.

A Northwest Chess Grand Prix Event



Washington Class Championships

Fri-Sun, November 26-28, 2021

\$10,000 Prize Fund
(based on 150 paid entries)

Format: A 6-round Swiss event across 7 class sections. Sections may be combined if less than 12 players in a section.

Per-Section Entry Fees (by Oct 29 / Nov 12 / on-site) **and Prizes:**

- **Master (2200+)** EF \$150 / \$160 / \$170
Prizes: \$700, \$450, \$350; U2300 \$250, \$200
- **Expert (2000-2199)** EF \$140 / \$150 / \$160
Prizes: \$600, \$350, \$250; U2100 \$200, \$150
- **Class A (1800-1999)** EF \$130 / \$140 / \$150
Prizes: \$500, \$300, \$200; U1900 \$150, \$100
- **Class B (1600-1799)** EF \$130 / \$140 / \$150
Prizes: \$500, \$300, \$200; U1700 \$150, \$100
- **Class C (1400-1599)** EF \$130 / \$140 / \$150
Prizes: \$500, \$300, \$200; U1500 \$150, \$100
- **Class D (1200-1399)** EF \$130 / \$140 / \$150
Prizes: \$500, \$300, \$200; U1300 \$150, \$100
- **Class E (1199 & Under)** EF \$130 / \$140 / \$150
Prizes: \$500, \$300, \$200; U1000 \$150, \$100; U800 \$100, \$50; Unrated \$100

Special Female Prize:

Top female (in each class) \$50
Awarded to the highest finishing female per class who does not win any other cash prize. Requires min 3 qualifying players per class for the prize to be awarded.

Medal-Only Entry Fees and Prizes: EF \$80 / \$90 / \$100
(for Juniors under age 21 or Seniors age 50+)
Prizes: Medals awarded to top-2 finishers in each class.

Rated players add \$85 if wanting to play up one class only. (Playing up two classes is not permitted.)

Free entry to GMs, IMs, and WGMs.
Reentry for ½ of original entry fee.
Canadians may pay C\$ at par for entry fee.

Health/Safety Protocols: Face masks required for all participants and supporters. Please bring your own mask, limited number available. Chess equipment sanitized between rounds. All players and parents (if U18) are required to sign the [WCF Health / Safety Protocols & Waiver of Liability](#) form prior to the start of the tournament.

Hilton Bellevue

300 112th Ave SE, Bellevue, WA 98004

Phone: (425) 455-1300

Information/Entries:

Info - Josh Sinanan, WCF President, (206) 769-3757, WashingtonChessFederation@gmail.com

Entries - Valentin Razmov, WCF Tournament Coordinator, (206) 985-2277, VRazmov@gmail.com

Main Event:

Note: You can play in the main event *and* take part in several side events with minimum half-point byes!

Registration & Payment:

* **Before event:** nwchess.com/OnlineRegistration/ (pay by credit/debit/PayPal) or make checks payable to Washington Chess Federation.

* **On-site:** Fri 9-10 AM for 3-day schedule, or 4-5 PM if entering with 1 half-point bye. Sat 8-8:30 AM for 2-day schedule, or 9-10 AM if entering 3-day schedule with 2 half-point byes. *Late registrations may receive a half-point bye for first round.* Two half-point byes available; request before end of round 2. Play any two days, if taking 2 half-point byes.

Rating: Dual rated US Chess and NWSRS. Master/Expert/Class A/Class B sections also FIDE rated (except G/60 games). Higher of US Chess, FIDE, and NWSRS ratings used to determine class sections, pairings, and prizes. Higher of US Chess and foreign ratings used at TD discretion; foreign ratings used for players with no US Chess rating. Unrated players may only win 1st / 2nd / 3rd prizes in Master section or unrated prize in Class E section. Medal-only registered players may not win cash prizes, including the special female prize.

Rounds: 3-day schedule: Fri 11 AM & 6 PM, Sat 11 AM & 6 PM, Sun 9 AM & 3:30 PM.
2-day schedule: Sat 9 AM, 11:45 AM, 2:30 PM, then join 3-day schedule from round 4 at 6 PM.

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

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

Hotel Info/Rates: Hilton Bellevue, \$89 one King or two Queen Beds, single or double occupancy. Call (425) 455-1300 to request the Washington Chess Federation block. Group Code: WACFCL. Cut-off date for [discounted reservations](#) is Nov 8, 2021 at 5 PM PST.

Fun Side Events:

Washington Class Puzzle Solving Championship: Fri, 11/26 at 5 PM. Format: Solve 15 chess puzzles in 45 minutes. Solutions to be written on paper. Evaluation based on both accuracy and completeness. Registration: 4-4:45 PM. EF: \$10. Medals awarded to top-3 finishers overall and to the best puzzle solver in each class: U2000, U1700, U1400, and Unrated. No memberships required.

Washington Class 2nd Chess Workshop for Girls & Women: Fri, 11/26 at 6 PM. Details in [this flyer](#).

Washington Class Chess960 (Fischer Random) Championship: Sat, 11/27 at 5 PM. Format: 4-round Swiss in one section. Registration: 4:30-4:45 PM. Rounds: 5 PM, 6:30 PM, 8 PM, 9:30 PM. TC: G/30; d5. 1 half-point bye available; request by end of round 2. EF: \$25 online by 11/26 (or \$30 on-site). Prize Fund: \$400/b20. 1st \$110, 2nd \$80, 3rd \$60, 1st U2000 \$50, 1st U1700 \$50, 1st U1400/Unrated \$50. Unrated. No memberships required.

Washington Class G/45 Championship: Sun, 11/28 at 2 PM. Format: 4-round Swiss in one section. Registration: 1-1:45 PM. Rounds: 2 PM, 3:45 PM, 5:30 PM, 7:15 PM. TC: G/45; d5. 1 half-point bye available; request by end of round 2. EF: \$25 online by 11/27 (or \$30 on-site). Prize Fund: \$400/b20. 1st \$110, 2nd \$80, 3rd \$60, 1st U2000 \$50, 1st U1700 \$50, 1st U1400/Unrated \$50. Dual rated US Chess and NWSRS. Current US Chess and WCF/OCF/ICA memberships required.

Washington Class "Knight Time" Blitz: Sun, 11/28 at 8:45 PM. Format: 7-round Swiss in one section. Registration: 8-8:30 PM. Rounds: 8:45 PM, 9 PM, 9:15 PM, 9:30 PM, 9:45 PM, 10 PM, 10:15 PM. TC: G/5; d0. 2 half-point byes available; request by end of round 2. EF: \$25 online by 11/27 (or \$30 on-site). Prize Fund: \$400/b20. 1st \$110, 2nd \$80, 3rd \$60, 1st U2000 \$50, 1st U1700 \$50, 1st U1400/Unrated \$50. US Chess Blitz rated. Current US Chess and WCF/OCF/ICA memberships required.

GM Mikhailovskii at the SCC

By Fred Kleist

On Monday, August 9th, GM Victor Mikhailovskii visited the Seattle Chess Club. He discussed two of his games as White versus GM Zurab Azmaiparashvili and versus GM Yakov Murey. The former game, which appears at the end of this article, greatly angered Garry Kasparov, as it was played in a team event and Azmaiparashvili was on Kasparov's team. The game featured a cute final position, three connected passed pawns on the seventh! No wonder Garry was appalled!

Mikhailovskii also gave a fourteen-board simultaneous exhibition, winning every game. Our two heroes were Chad Boey and Henry Louie. Chad helped his teammates by employing a rare gambit in the Philidor Defense. Mikhailovskii had to figure out what to do in an unfamiliar position in the opening, which allowed the other competitors more time to think. Henry nabbed a pawn in the middlegame but was unable to prosecute his advantage as his fellows began resigning to the GM, eventually leaving him all alone! Indeed,



GM Victor Mikhailovskii ponders his next move versus SCC board member Austin Cluff. Photo Credit: Josh Sinanan.

two of the top three boards did not see move 21.

The SCC has now been open nearly three months and we are consistently having a full house, 18 to 20 players, for

our Friday night US Chess-rated games as well as 14 to 18 on casual Mondays. In addition, we've held two Saturday Quad events, each of which attracted 16 participants, and one Sunday Tornado with 12 attendees.

A NORTHWEST CHESS GRAND PRIX EVENT

NORTHWEST CHESS WINTER OPEN

*In honor of Rusty
Miller, 1942-2020.*

DECEMBER 11, 2021

Site: Online via 

Format: A 5-Round Swiss in one section. This is a fundraising tournament for Northwest Chess magazine.

Entry Fee: \$25 by 12/8, \$30 after. Free entry for GMs, IMs, WGMs, or US Chess 2400+.

Time Control: G/30;+5.

Rounds: Sat. 9 AM, 10:30 AM, 12 PM, 1:30 PM, 3 PM.

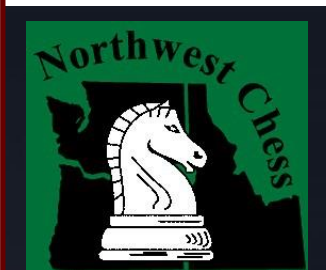
Prizes: Northwest Chess subscription extensions (includes WCF membership for WA residents):
1st: 3-yr ext., 2nd: 2-yr ext., 3rd: 1-yr ext.,
1stU1900/U1700/U1500/U1300/U1100/U900/U700: 1-yr ext. 1st Unrated: 1-yr ext. Biggest Upset: 1-yr ext.
Annotated Brilliance Prize Competition: Annotated your best game for Northwest Chess magazine. A panel of judges will select the winners. 1st: 2-yr ext., 2nd: 1-yr ext.

Memberships: Current US Chess and WCF membership/Northwest Chess subscription required. Memberships must be paid at time of registration. A Chess.com and Zoom account are required.

Rating: US Chess Online Rated and NWSRS Rated. Highest of current US Chess regular, US Chess online, or NWSRS rating will be used to determine pairings and prizes.

Procedure: Pairings will be released prior to the start of each round. Games will be started automatically by the TD in the [Live Chess](#) area.

Fair Play Policy: All players and parents (if U18) are required to sign the [WCF Fair Play Agreement](#) prior to the start of the tournament. All players will be monitored by Zoom during the games. WCF's Fair Play Committee will review any suspicious games on a case-by-case basis. Fair play standards strictly enforced.



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

Mail To: Washington Chess Federation
c/o Orlov Chess Academy
4174 148th Ave. NE
Building I, Ste. M
Redmond, WA 98052

Contact: Josh Sinanan, WCF President
Phone: 206-769-3757

Email:
WashingtonChessFederation@gmail.com

Registration: Online at [nwchess.com/OnlineRegistration](#).
Registration **deadline Fri. 12/10 @ 5pm.**
\$15 Late Fee for payments accepted after the deadline. Unpaid players will receive a zero-point bye for round 1.



GM Mikhalevski versus SCC Outreach Coordinator John Selsky and others. Photo Credits Josh Sinanan.

In the following game, Azmaiparashvili wastes a considerable number of moves to affect an exchange of light-squared Bishops and Queens (4...Bg4, 5...Qc8, 6...Bh3, 9...Qxh3, 10...Qh5, and 11...Nxh5), while misplacing his knight and allowing Mikhalevski a broad and unchallenged center. Mikhalevski also pointed to 24...Rxa2 as overly optimistic, since the potential ramifications of 26.f5! were not fully appreciated.

**Victor Mikhalevski –
Zurab Azmaiparashvili [A41]
European Club Ch. Ljubljana,
November 30, 1995**

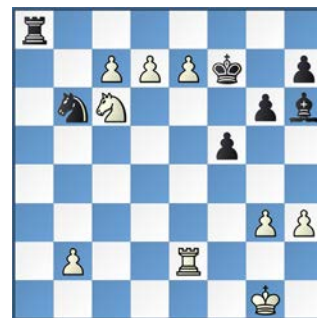
1.d4 g6 2.c4 Bg7 3.Nf3 d6 4.Nc3 Bg4
5.g3 Qc8 6.Bg2 Bh3 7.0-0 Nf6 8.e4 0-0
9.Bxh3 Qxh3 10.Ng5 Qh5 11.Qxh5
Nxh5 12.Be3 Nc6 13.Rad1 a6 14.f4 Nf6
15.h3 Bh6 16.Nf3 b5 17.e5 Nd7 18.Nd5
Rfc8 19.cxb5 axb5 20.Rc1 Nb6 21.Nxb6
cxb6 22.Rc3 Nb4 23.Rb3 Nd5 24.Bd2
Rxa2 25.exd6 e6 26.f5!



Position after 26.f5

26...Bxd2 27.fxe6 Bh6 28.e7 Ra7 29.Re1
Re8 30.Rxb5 Nf6 31.Rxb6 Nd7 32.Rc6
f6 33.d5 Kf7 34.Rc7 Rxc7 35.dxc7
Bg7 36.d6 Nb6 37.Nd4 Bh6 38.Re2 f5
39.Nc6 Ra8 40.d7

Diagram top of next column



Position after 40.d7

1-0

SEATTLE CHESS CLUB – SUMMER SIMUL WITH GM VICTOR MIKHALEVSKI
August 9, 2021

Board #	White	result	Black	result
1	Victor Mikhalevski 2631*	✓	Henry Yan 1673*	1673*
2	"	✓	Austin Cluff 1726	5 8
3	"	✓	Jack Eggleston unr	3 30
4	"	✓	Rohan Dalvi 1420 o.l.	4 0
5	"	✓	Michael Socha unr	4 0
6	"	✓	Henry Louie 1428	3 0
7	"	✓	Chad Boey 1496	3 0
8	"	✓	Nicholas Liotta 1358	3 0
9	"	✓	David Smygov unr	4 0
10	"	✓	Renny Herbert unr	3 0
11	"	✓	Evan Chowdury unr	4 0
12	"	✓	Jeff Keurian unr	4 0
13	"	✓	Charles Clayton unr	4 0
14	"	✓	Casey Cing unr	4 0
15	"	✓	Sridhar Seshadri 1600	
16	"			
17	"			

* USCF regular rating

WASHINGTON WINTER CLASSIC

DECEMBER 26-27, 2021

A NORTHWEST CHESS GRAND PRIX EVENT

Site: Online via Chess.com

Format: An 8-Round Swiss in two sections: Open and Reserve (U1500).

Entry Fee: \$45 by 12/19, \$55 after. Free entry for GMs, IMs, WGMs, or US Chess 2400+. \$40 play-up fee if rated under 1500 playing in Open section.

Time Control: G/45;+5.

Rounds: Sun/Mon. 10 AM, 12:30 PM, 3 PM, 5:30 PM.

Prize Fund: \$1,500 (based on 60 paid entries).

Open: 1st \$240, 2nd \$180, 3rd \$140
1st U2000/U1800/U1600: \$75

Reserve: 1st \$125, 2nd \$100, 3rd \$75
1st U1400/U1200/U1000: \$65, 1st Unrated: \$65

Special Prizes: Best NW Player* (by TPR): \$65, Best Female Player* (by TPR): \$65, Biggest Upset: \$25.

*Maximum of 1 prize awarded per player; cannot win multiple prizes.

Byes: Three half-point byes available, request before end of round 3.

Memberships: Current US Chess and WCF membership/Northwest Chess subscription required. Memberships must be paid at time of registration. A Chess.com and Zoom account are required.

Rating: US Chess Online and NWSRS Rated. Highest of current US Chess regular, US Chess Online, and NWSRS rating will be used to determine section, pairings, and prizes.

Procedure: Pairings will be released prior to the start of each round. Games will be started automatically by the TD in the [Live Chess](#) area.

Fair Play Policy: All players and parents (if U18) are required to sign the [WCF Fair Play Agreement](#) prior to the start of the tournament. All players will be monitored by Zoom during the games. WCF's Fair Play Committee will review any suspicious games on a case-by-case basis. Fair play standards strictly enforced.

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Contact: Josh Sinanan, WCF President
Phone: 206-769-3757
Email: WashingtonChessFederation@gmail.com

Registration: Online at [nwchess.com/OnlineRegistration](#).
Registration **deadline Sat. 12/25 @ 5pm.** \$15 Late Fee for payments accepted after the deadline. Unpaid players will receive a zero-point bye for round 1.

Tactics vs. Patience: The Power Of Time

By Siva and Sarang Sankrithi

Over Labor Day weekend, the Sankrithi family took a vacation to Portland from their home in Seattle. This time, however, they were going to compete in the 71st Annual Oregon Open Chess Championship! For Sarang (NWSRS 1452), age seven, it would be his first over-the-board (OTB) US Chess-rated tournament, after numerous online NWSRS events, a few online US Chess events, and a few recent small invitational NWSRS over the board events.

For Siva (US Chess 1564), Sarang's dad, it would be his first Oregon Open after many years playing, coaching, and organizing events. They would both be competing in the two-day U1600 section, featuring three rounds of game in 50 minutes with a 15 second per move increment, then three rounds of game in 100 minutes with a 30 second per move increment. This event did a brilliant job catering to both the young pandemic time tacticians, as well as the more experienced, patient over the board veterans.

In the first two rounds, Sarang beat two adults with his tactically sharp play out of a Benko gambit and Slav. At the end of each game, he found himself ahead twenty to thirty minutes as well. In round three, the last at the faster time control, Sarang was at 2.0/2, and was playing the other 2.0/2 player, adult, and eventual 6.0/6 champion, Michael Rabadan. Sarang won a knight with some sharp middlegame tactics and entered a better endgame, once again up a half hour on the clock. Then patience came into play. Over an hour into the game, Michael methodically improved his position and ultimately won the piece back. Though Sarang was up time, he struggled to use his time effectively, being his first

experience at a longer control. Michael then prevailed in a two-hour+ marathon, the last game to finish that round, complimented Sarang on his excellent play, and suggested that Sarang use his time more effectively, especially in the endgame, a valuable takeaway moving forward.

Meanwhile, Siva struggled in the G50/15 time control, much faster than his usual 40/2, SD/1 time control. Each game he found himself well behind on time and subjected to clever tactics from his younger opponents. He finished the G50/15 games 0.0/3 but excited his boy was having so much fun, playing well, and learning so much. The emotional support Dad empowering the growth mindset suited him well. Heading into the longer time control, Siva was fresh and ready to have time on his clock and Sarang was tired, physically and mentally, after three long rounds for him. Looking at the tournament as a whole, the young tacticians were performing brilliantly at the shorter time control, scoring several "upsets" over significantly higher rated players. Curiously, I think the concept of OTB rating advantages needs to be rethought a bit in these pandemic times given the wealth of resources, coaching, learning, and play opportunities available online.

In the three longer rounds that followed at G100/30, Sarang struggled going 0.0/3 and Siva thrived going 3.0/3. While it could be related to Sarang being seven playing all adults in a large OTB event for the first time, the reality is every one of the opponents he lost to highlighted how sharp he was tactically, how he was better in the middle game, and how he should have used much more time to calculate in the late middle game and endgame. In fact, in all three games, he ended with more time than he started with, meaning he was using less than 30 seconds/move! The patience will undoubtedly come with time and age but in addition to the challenge of developing

positional assessment, the ability to assess which positions to invest more thought into seems pivotal at these longer controls. Siva, on the other hand, played three younger opponents who were assuredly tactically sharper than him. That said, despite getting into slightly worse middlegame positions consistently, with the extra time in hand, he out patience-d his opponents, with two-hour+ games consistently entering roughly even endgames and methodical winning from there.

Overall, the Oregon Open was an incredible learning experience for both Sarang and Siva. The opportunity to play in the same section as your son/dad was incredible and unforgettable and will no doubt happen again, hopefully sooner rather than later. Neither Sarang nor Siva has been hyper focused on results but rather strive for a growth mindset and finding joy in every experience. Their major takeaways are as follows:


1. Chess vacations are amazing!
2. Young, tactically sharp, scholastic players like Sarang, can thrive in G50/15 time controls, even though they are significantly longer than traditional G30 rapid scholastic events.
3. Events like the Oregon Open provide a safe, welcoming environment for young scholastic players to channel their anxieties of playing adults into excitement and further passion for future study.
4. The combination of G50/15 and G100/30 in the same event offers ample variety to cater to different styles of players, including the patient veterans and tactically sharp scholastic players.
5. The chess community is lovely.

Supporting and promoting chess related activities
throughout Washington State since 1946.



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Email: SSeshadri@srichessacademy.com

Every player Sarang and Siva met was super encouraging, positive, and supportive. Every game Sarang lost, his adult opponent complimented him on his fine play and thoughtfully advised him to take more time next time and pick his spots to calculate more deeply.

6. The quality of games at these longer time controls OTB is very high for young scholastic players and there is much to learn and grow from via analysis. Sarang was so excited to show Siva and his coach Josh his games, win or lose, and eager to analyze each and every pivotal position.
7. Trying new things is thrilling and every new experience, whatever the result, is an opportunity to enjoy and learn, and being able to facilitate these new experiences and learning opportunities for young people is truly the ultimate joy.

Detective Cookie Pop-Up Chess Park

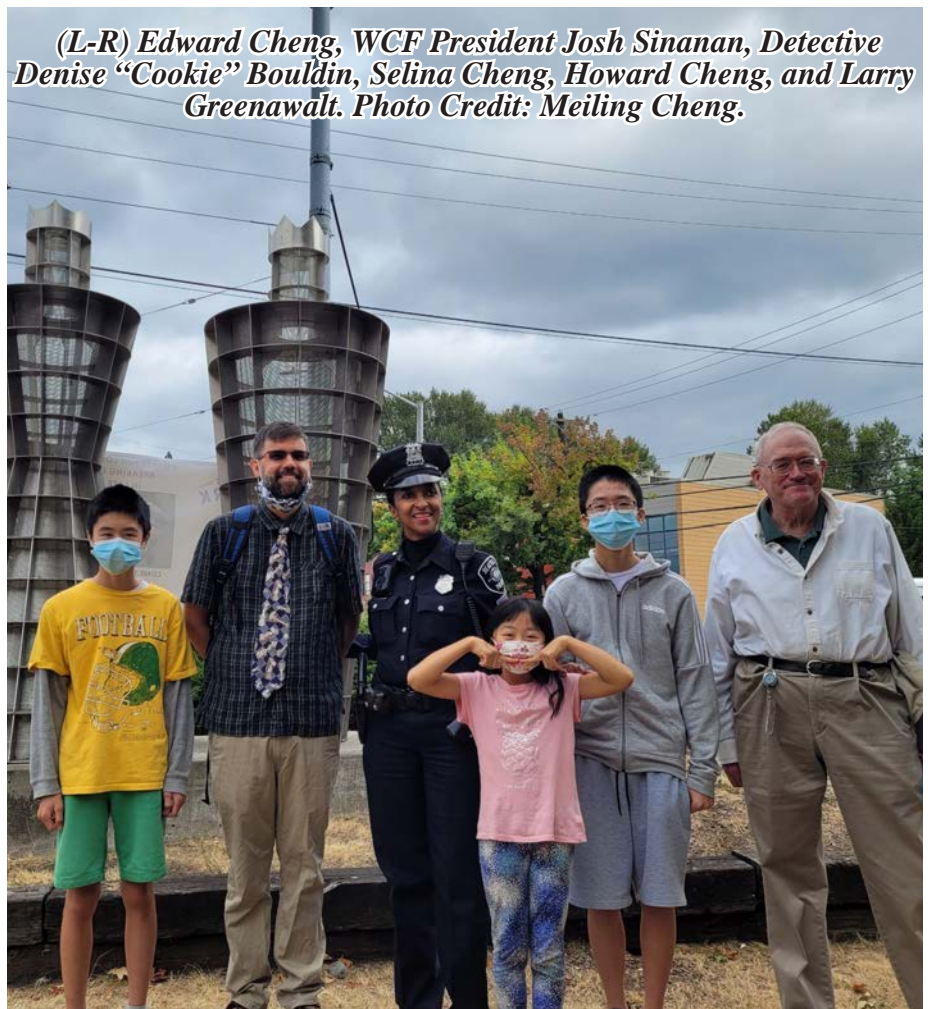
By Josh Sinanan

On Saturday August 21, chess players gathered on the corner of South Barton Place and Rainier Avenue in South Seattle from 1-3 PM to play chess outdoors near the site of the future Detective Cookie Chess Park! Seattle Police Detective Denise “Cookie” Bouldin runs a chess club for Rainier Beach Youth and is currently assigned as a Youth Outreach and Community Relations Detective. Detective Cookie and WCF President Josh Sinanan have partnered to offer more opportunities for budding scholastic chess players and to enhance the lives of children and families through the game of chess. During the fun-filled sunny afternoon, about 30 chess players gathered to enjoy free pizza, games, and music. Detective Cookie and Josh were on-site to support the event and were interviewed by several local news outlets in between casual games with several of the kids, including local chess stars Selina and Edward Cheng. The event was sponsored by the City of Seattle, 4 Culture, and Seattle Parks Foundation.

Featured in the photos are Detective Denise (Cookie) Bouldin, Larry Greenawalt, WCF President Josh Sinanan, and local chess stars Selina and Edward Cheng!



(L) Edward Cheng vs Josh Sinanan. The game ended in a draw. Photo Credit: Meiling Cheng.



(L-R) Edward Cheng, WCF President Josh Sinanan, Detective Denise “Cookie” Bouldin, Selina Cheng, Howard Cheng, and Larry Greenawalt. Photo Credit: Meiling Cheng.

Fifth Annual Seattle Chess Classic

Josh Sinanan

The Fifth Annual Seattle Chess Classic was held online via Chess.com August 13-15, 2021. Chess players from multiple geographic locations, including parts of Washington, Oregon, New Jersey, Canada (B.C. + Ontario), Belarus, and India were represented in the 31-player field! The event was hosted by the Washington Chess Federation under the direction of WCF Adult Chess Director and online chess TD extraordinaire Rekha Sagar. The field was split between the Open (11 players) and Reserve U1800 (20 players) sections. Several ambitious souls opted to “play-up” into the Open, which featured four titled players—one GM, one IM, one FM, and one NM!

Canadian chess stud FM Rohan Talukdar from Windsor, Ontario won the Open section by two points with an astounding 8.0/9 score, defeating his nearest rivals IM Dhulipalla and GM Aleksandrov in rounds three and four! GM Aleksei Aleksandrov from Minsk, Belarus captured second place with six points, taking three half-point byes along the way to accommodate his busy travel schedule to Tashkent. IM Bala Chandra Prasad Dhulipalla from India finished in third place with 5.5/9 by virtue of being the only Open section player to score a win in the final round! Luca Tessiore, a fifth grader from Decatur Elementary in Seattle, won the U2200 prize with an impressive five points. Mudit Johar, a high school player from Sammamish, won the U2000 prize with an even 4.5/9 score. Aaron Nicoski from Vancouver, Washington, won the best NW Region Player prize with a tournament performance rating of 2050! FM Talukdar has kindly annotated his win over GM Aleksandrov for *Northwest Chess* readers to enjoy!

Shoreline chess star David Xiao, an up-and-coming fourth grader, emerged victorious in the Reserve U1800 section with an impressive 8.0/9! David was perfect through seven rounds before his streak was ended by the unrated dark horse Rodriguez-Melendez from Oregon. Xiao bounced back in the final round with a win over Seattle’s Wade “The Doctor”

Suess to finish a clear point ahead of the field. Paras Shah, a sixth grader from Redmond, captured second place with seven points, losing only a single game to Xiao, winning six, and drawing two. Newcomer Mauricio Rodriguez-Melendez from Hillsboro (Oregon), won his last five games in a row to finish with 6.5 points and was awarded free entry into a future WCF tournament of his choosing by the organizers! Two players shared U1600 honors with five points each: Vijay Nallappa from Redmond and John P Christy from Anacortes. Don Hack, the Chess King of Surrey, B.C., won the U1400 prize also with five points. Nikhil Ramkumar, and third grader from Ruby Bridges Elementary in Bothell, earned the U1200 prize for his five-point finish. Young Gabriel Veiga, a fourth grader from Einstein Elementary School in Redmond, won the U1000 prize with four points. Paras Shah won the upset prize with a 313-point upset victory! Reserve section winner David Xiao annotated two of his wins with the black pieces against Shah and Bloom.

**GM Aleksei Aleksandrov (2708) –
Rohan Talukdar (2424) [A40]**
5th Annual Seattle Chess Classic
Chess.com (R4), August 14, 2021
[Rohan Talukdar]

1.Nf3 c5 2.e3 g6 3.d4 Bg7 4.dxc5

This is a rare sideline but White’s idea is to slowly kick back Black’s pieces with a3, b4, c4 as Black grabs back the pawn.

4...Qa5+ 5.Nbd2 Qxc5 6.Be2 Qc7!



Position after 6...Qc7

This is a really accurate move order since I am delaying ...Nf6 so that my opponent can’t play a3 b4 easily. 6...Nf6 While preparing for the game, I saw that my opponent reached a similar position against Nick Raptis 7.a3 0–0 8.b4 Qc7 9.Bb2 a5 10.c4 d6 11.0–0 with a different move order, this has reached Raptis-Aleksandrov and I think White is quite comfortable here.

7.0–0 Nc6 8.c4

Now that my opponent has committed c4 it is time to play ...Nf6 since White will not have enough time for a3 b4.

8...Nf6 9.Nb1!

A logical regrouping that my opponent played quite fast. 9.a3 is too slow 9...0–0 10.b4 Ne4!

9...0–0 10.Nc3 d6 11.Bd2

11.e4 In the beginning, I thought my opponent wanted a Maroczy Bind but this seems like a bad version with the knight on f3 11...Nd7 12.Qc2 Nc5 13.Rd1 f5 ♗ is quite interesting here.

11...Bf5



Position after 11...Bf5

If Black can achieve ...Ne4 then Black’s bishops will be quite active. 11...Nd7!?

12.Nd5?!

This is a positional mistake. 12.Rc1 seems logical 12...Ne4 13.Nxe4 Bxe4 14.Bc3 Bxc3 15.Rxc3 Rfd8 and Black should be fine once d5 is achieved.

12...Nxd5 13.cxd5

The structure that has arisen gives White slightly more space but the since I can

trade off two pairs of minor pieces, I have quite a comfortable position. My bishops are much more active than my opponent's.

13...Ne5 14.Nd4 Bd3

Trading off White's important light-squared bishop allows the knight on e5 to be stronger. 14...Be4 was tempting but White has the cool 15.Nb5 Qb6 (15...Qc5 16.Rc1) 16.Bc3 and d5 is safe.

15.Rc1 Qb6 16.Bc3 Qa6!

A nice move to play which secures my knight a good square on d3.

17.Bxd3 Nxd3 18.Rc2 Rfc8 19.a4?!

This move tries to accomplish Nb5 but this is way too slow. 19.f4!? is interesting trying to start a counterattack but I have a nice way of playing which is shown by the computer 19...Nc5 20.Qf3 f5 21.g4 fxg4 22.Qxg4 Qd3 23.Re2 Kh8 and e4 is a very big hole in White's position.

19...Nc5 20.b3?

20.a5 Ne4 and I have all the pressure here.

20...Nxb3!



Position after 20...Nxb3

My opponent clearly did not expect this move.

21.Nf5!?

Trying to complicate things.

21...Bxc3

I figured that the two pieces should be more than enough for the rook after a long think. 21...Rxc3 22.Rxc3 Bxc3 23.Qxb3 Bf6 24.Nh6+ Kf8 25.Ng4 Bg7 is also winning.

22.Nxe7+ Kf8

22...Kg7!?

23.Nxc8 Rxc8 24.Qg4 Qc4

24...Rc5 is more accurate.

25.Qd7

Frankly, I missed this counterplay option. 25.Qxc4 Rxc4 26.Rb1 Nc5 the rooks cannot create too much counterplay so Black should be able to convert with ease.

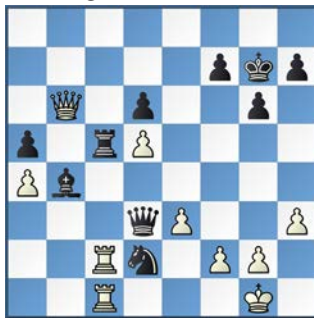
25...Kg7

Logical prophylaxis.

26.Qxb7 Rc5 27.Rb1 Nd2 28.Rbc1 Qd3

I just tried to make sure that everything was in a close vicinity so that I don't blunder.

29.h3 a5 30.Qb6 Bb4!



Position after 30...Bb4

Now with my passed c-pawn this should be easy.

31.Rxc5 dxc5 32.Qd6 Qf5

32...Qe4 more accurate; 32...c4 is also winning 33.Qe5+ Kg8 34.Qb8+ Bf8.

33.Qc6 c4 34.Rxc4

I think d6 was a better practical choice. 34.d6 Qf6 is the simplest (34...Ne4 35.d7 (35.Rc2 Nxd6) 35...Qxf2+ 36.Kh1 Qxe3 this should lead to mate 37.Rc2 (37.d8Q Qxc1+ 38.Kh2 Qf4+ 39.Kg1 Qe3+ 40.Kh2 Bc5) 37...Be7-+) 35.Rd1 Bxd6-+.

34...Nxc4 35.Qxc4

Here I realized that I need to not allow White to get the setup with Kg2, g3, h4.

35...Qb1+ 36.Kh2 Qb2

Now it is awkward to defend f2.

37.Kg1

37.Qf4 Qf6; 37.f4 Qd2

37...Qa1+ 38.Kh2 Qxa4 39.Qd4+ Kg8

My king is completely safe, and d6 does not work due to Qd7.

40.f4 Qb5 41.e4 Qc5 42.Qd3 Qf2

With my queen active White cannot protect everything so it is game over.

0-1

Paras Shah (1431) –
David Xiao (1585) [D02]
5th Annual Seattle Chess Classic
Chess.com (R4), August 14, 2021
[David Xiao]

1.d4 d5 2.Nf3 Nc6?!

This disallows c5. 2...Nf6

3.Bf4 Bf5!?

I don't know this opening, so both moves are inaccurate. 3...Bg4

4.e3 Nf6 5.c3?!

This disallows his knight hopping into c3.

5...e6 6.Bd3 Bg6 7.c4?!

He just played c3, and now pushes c4, moving his pawn twice.

7...Ne4?!

dx4 is best, but I don't want to lose my central pawn.

8.cxd5 exd5?!

8...Bb4+

9.Nc3 Bb4 10.Rc1 0-0 11.0-0 Bxc3 12.bxc3 Re8 13.c4?! Nb4 14.Bb1 c6?

Securing my central pawn, but it is a Mistake. (See move 16.)

15.Qb3 a5 16.a3?

16.c5 locks up the position, threatening a3 Qxb7 16...b5 17.cxb6 Qxb6 18.a3 c5 19.Rxc5 Nxc5 20.dxc5 Qxc5 21.axb4 Qxb4 and two minor vs rook is losing for me.

16...dxc4 17.Qxc4 Nd5 18.Bg3 b5 19.Qb3

19.Qxc6 Re6 20.Qxb5 Ndc3 Despite down two pawns, Black is better. 21.Qb2 Rb6 22.Qa1 Nng3 and White has no space.

19...b4 20.Bxe4 Bxe4 21.Ne5 a4 22.Qb2 b3

Grabbing space.

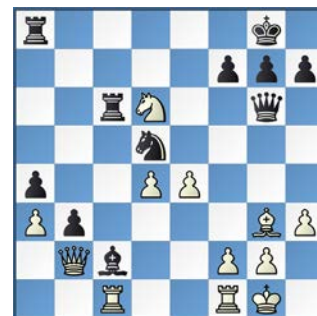
23.Nxc6?

Sacrificing my backward (weak) pawn to get more development.

23...Qb6 24.Ne5 Rec8 25.Nc4 Qg6 26.h3 Bc2 27.Nd6

An invasion.

27...Rc6 28.e4



Position after 28.e4

28...Nc3?!

My intuition was wrong. Just backing up with Ne2 was good. I didn't really think this through.

29.Rxc2 Nd1

29...bxc2 if I played this, then... 30.Qxc2 h6 31.Be5 Raa6 32.Nf5! forces my queen onto e6 32...Qe6 33.d5 Qxe5 34.dxc6 Rxc6 and at the end, White is up a pawn, with Black having no compensation. At least I still have the b-pawn with 29...Nd1.

30.Rxd1 Rxc2

Two minor vs rook. and I'm down a pawn.

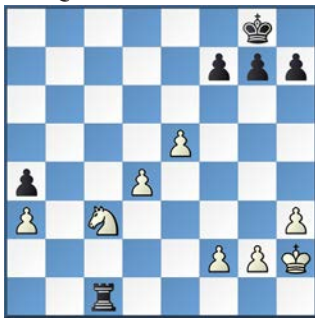
31.Qb1 Qh5 32.e5 Rb2 33.Qxb2??

This is a BIG mistake. Trading off pieces only makes me better because of my b-pawn.

33...Qxd1+ 34.Kh2 Qc2

He must trade, and now my b(c) pawn wins.

35.Qxc2 bxc2 36.Bf4 Rb8 37.Ne4 Rb1 38.Nc3 c1Q 39.Bxc1 Rxc1∞



Position after 39...Rxc1

Knight and two pawns versus Rook. An unclear position, Black is probably better.

40.Nxa4 Rd1 41.Kg3 Rxd4 42.Nb2 Kf8 43.f4 Ke7 44.Kf3 Ke6 45.Ke3 Kd5 46.g3 Re4+ 47.Kd3 g5

Breaking his pawn structure.

48.fgx5 Rxe5 49.h4 Re1 50.Na4 Ra1 51.Nc3+ Ke5 52.a4 Kf5 53.Kc4 Kg4 54.Kb5 Kxg3 55.a5

I was nervous because I see no way to stop his pawn. Then I realized that I have to sacrifice my rook for his pawn at the right moment.

55...Kxh4 56.a6 Kxg5 57.Na4 Rb1+ 58.Kc5 Rb8 59.Nb6 h5 60.a7 Rd8 61.Kc6 f5 62.Kc7 Rg8 63.Nc8

The moment have come...

63...Rg7+ 64.Kb8 Rxa7+ 65.Kxa7 h4

And his knight is unable to defend the pawns. Overall, this was a wild game where both of us got chances, but my opponent was not successful in using them, and I came out on top.

0-1

Corey Bloom (1780) – David Xiao (1585) [A03]
5th Annual Seattle Chess Classic
Chess.com (R6), August 14, 2021
[David Xiao]

1.f4

The Bird Opening.

1...d5 2.Nf3 Nc6?!

This disallows c5. 2...c5 3.e3 Nc6 4.d4 Nf6 White forms a “stonewall” pawn structure. 5.c3.

3.e3 Nf6 4.b3 Bf5?!

4...g6 5.Bb2 Bg7 6.Bb5 0-0. His dark-squared bishop has no root.

5.Bb5 e6?!

5...a6

6.Ne5?!

Nd4 is better (I disagree with the engine, which suggests Ne5.) 6.Nd4

6...Bd6 7.Bb2?!

Now he can't take my knight on c6. 7.Nxc6 bxc6 8.Bxc6+ Kf8

7...Bxe5 8.fxe5 Nd7 9.0-0 Qg5 10.Bxc6?!

10.Nc3 Ndx5 11.Nxd5 exd5 12.Bxe5

10...bxc6



Position after 10...bxc6

11.d4??

He spent ten minutes on this move but still blundered a pawn. I didn't know the thinking behind it, so I just took.

11...Qxe3+ 12.Rf2 Qg5? 13.Nd2 0-0 14.Nf3 Qe3 15.Bc1?!

Loses control over c3. 15.Qf1 Bxc2 16.Qa6 and White hangs on.

15...Qc3 16.Bd2 Qxc2 17.Qxc2 Bxc2

Now I'm up two pawns, but the discovered attack Bb4 wins my bishop.

18.Bb4 Rfb8 19.Ba5??

19.Rxc2 trading is better, because then 19...Rxb4 20.Rxc6 and White is more active while Black is defending.

19...Be4 20.Bxc7 Rc8 21.Bd6 Nf8??

I was thinking to play ...Ng6, but this is actually a bad move. 21...c5 22.Ng5 Bf5.

22.Rc1 Ng6 23.Ng5 Bf5 24.Nxf7?

One pawn is not enough. That just helps me trade pieces. 24.h3

24...Kxf7 25.g4 Nh4 26.gxf5 Nxf5

Good knight vs bad bishop.

27.Bc5 g5

Starting a pawn storm on the queenside.

28.Kf1 Kg6 29.Ke2 h5 30.Kd3 g4 31.Bb4 h4 32.Rg1 Kh5 33.Rfg2 Rg8 34.Bd2 g3 35.hxg3 Rxc3+ 36.Rxc3 hxg3 37.Be3 Rg8

Kg4 is simpler. 37...Kg4

38.Ke2 g2 39.Bf2 Ng3+ 40.Kf3 Nf5 41.Rxc2 Rxc2 42.Kxc2 Kg4

Classic good knight vs bad bishop.

43.Kf1 Kf3 44.Ke1 Ke4 45.Kd2 Nxd4 46.Kc3 c5 47.b4 Nb5+ 48.Kb3 c4+ 49.Kc2 Kxe5?!

49...d4

50.a4 a6!

Only move to win! 50...Nd4+ 51.Kc3 Ne2+

51.axb5 axb5 52.Kd2 d4 53.Be1 Ke4 54.Ke2 c3 55.Bg3 d3+ 56.Kd1 c2+?!

56...Kc3

57.Kd2 Kd4 58.Bf4 Kc4

My plan was to take his b pawn and go to a2.

59.Bd6 e5??=

I blundered. 59...Kb3

60.Bxe5 Kxb4 61.Kc1??-+

And... he blundered back. 61.Bb2 Kb3 62.Bc1=

61...Kc4??=

Oops.

62.Ba1??-+

Ok he blundered again. 62.Kb2

62...Kb3 63.Bc3 b4 64.Bd2 Ka3 65.Be1 b3 66.Bc3 Ka2 67.Bd4 d2+

White resigns. Overall, this was a wild game where we blundered a lot, especially in the endgame.

0-1



A Day In The Life Of Chess In Downtown Seattle

Karen Schmidt

On a Sunday morning, four of us chess friends met up at our new Pioneer Square (olde downtown Seattle) coffee shop, Caffe Umbria. I arrived first around 10 AM, so I enjoyed a great cup of coffee and a chocolate chip cookie while reading one of the cafe's *New Yorker* magazines. After two chess friends, Ali and Gilbert, arrived, I let them play on my pink board. They are both strong players, and I firmly believe in learning by watching as well as by playing.

A third friend, Wendy, arrived; she and I alternated between catching up on the sidelines and watching the guys' games. A couple hours later, Ali, Gilbert, and I walked the few blocks north—and up a big Seattle hill—to Westlake Park.

Westlake is the “Grand Central” of outdoor chess in Seattle. The three of us split up to find new opponents. The Parks Department has recently purchased a new “big board” which attracts lots of players, and many guys bring their own sets and play at the blue and green (Seattle sports team colors) cafe tables and picnic tables.

On this day I had a very diverse, friendly and skilled group of opponents. First, I played a young red-headed college student who attends Gonzaga University, near Spokane in Eastern Washington. He was in Seattle for the weekend with friends who were not chess players...so they were off doing other things. He and I had a good game which I managed to win.

Waiting in the wings to play winner was Barack, with an accent I did not recognize. We had some great conversations in between and after our two games. He told me that he plays online on [chess.com](https://www.chess.com), and so do I. Our [chess.com](https://www.chess.com) ratings are within a few points of each other. We had two good games, which he won, but they were close.

At some point I asked him where he was from. It turned out that he was from Israel and was actually here in the United States on a two-month honeymoon with his wife. She is not a chess player but did appear later. They had flown into Los Angeles, where they borrowed a Volvo from his cousin, and they have been

touring the western United States and tent camping at national and state parks. Barack told me they only had two more days in Seattle and then were heading for San Francisco.

We had an animated discussion about how Barack had played chess as a youngster in Israel, including playing in club tournaments all over the country. Then chess fell by the wayside for about 15 years, until he was inspired to take up the game again after watching the wildly popular Netflix series, *The Queen's Gambit*. He was very impressed with the series, as was I, including the realistic chess scenes. We chatted about how Garry Kasparov had consulted with the director on the chess scenes; Barack said Kasparov had been his chess idol as a boy.

I gave the couple a link to the review of *The Queen's Gambit* which I wrote for *The Seattle Times* (November 30, 2020 online and December 4, 2020 in print).

I heartily recommended that they drive the fantastically beautiful Oregon coast. Barack said they were planning to do that after seeing San Francisco. So, I recommended several beaches and beach towns I had been to in the last few years, on three “antiquing” trips with a good friend and her Mom. He enthusiastically had me type the locations into his iPhone

for future reference. (Cannon Beach, Seaside, Rockaway Beach, Lincoln City, etc.)

I often find that a love of chess opens many doors to interesting people and personal experiences. I felt quite a connection with this couple and wished them safe travels and a wonderful remainder of their honeymoon. I won't be surprised if I receive an email from Barack down the road. My Gmail address was included in the byline of my published review of *The Queen's Gambit*; at the time the review ran in the newspaper, I was amazed to receive a couple dozen fan emails from readers.

Lastly, I played a man named Todd, whom I had beaten rather soundly a few weeks earlier. I think he was out for blood this time around, and he did win both of our close games. I see him a lot at Westlake, so next time my goal will be at least one win.

If you find yourself in Seattle, be sure to come play at Westlake Park downtown. It is a great place to meet diverse and interesting people, and of course to play and watch good chess games. I have forged many friendships with guys I met at Westlake. I continue to be the only female player there... but you never know! That could change.



Caffe Umbria. Photo credit: Karen Schmidt.

Chandra Alexis New Venue In Boise

By Michael Presutti

Chess loving Boise residents and visitors have a new venue where they can exercise their passion. The Chandra Alexis Chess Club, club name does honor to the daughter of founder, president and manager George Lundy's daughter, Chandra Alexis, meets Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays for casual play with weekends reserved for tournaments.

George, a longtime chess lover and promoter with roots in Wyoming and Colorado has rented space in a building with a little bit of Idaho history, the address was an early (startup) home of Micron!

There is no charge to club visitors and members so come visit us!

Chandra Alexis Chess Club

7337 W Northview Street, Suite 4,
Boise, Idaho, 83704 - downstairs.

Hours: W-F 11 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Sat & Sun: 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. or after the final tournament round of the day ends.

Information can be found on George Lundy's website:

<https://www.chandraalexischessclub.org>

Or, to communicate with George directly:

chandraalexischessclub@gmail.com

Club President: George Lundy. Life Member, US Chess Senior TD, FIDE National Arbiter for the United States. **1 (208) 375-1211 evenings**

George runs weekly US Chess-rated weekend tournaments. Tournament entries are on a first come first served basis as seating is limited to 12 players. Request a seat by contacting George.

Tournaments with four or more FIDE players who are registered by the posted closing day and time (see website) will be rated by the World Chess Federation.

No minimum FIDE rating is needed to compete. FIDE *titled* players compete for free and take home 100% of their prize money.

Time control: 40/90, SD/30;+30

Four Round Swiss

EF: \$25

Prizes: \$200 based on 10 players. The prize fund for fewer than 10 players is 80% (\$20) of every entry fee. US Chess prize breakdowns based on 10 players is Top half: \$40, \$30, \$15, \$10, \$5. The

bottom half is the same.

There is an extra \$100 for a qualifying international section: \$50, \$30, \$20, specifically for FIDE players.

Total prize fund for a FIDE rated event is \$300 based on 10 players.

In addition to weekly tournaments, the club offers lessons and free pickup games and an annual ladder for walk-ins. Top finishers in the eight ladder categories and the overall winner will receive a free entry into one of our tournaments.

We have over 150 upcoming US Chess rated tournaments listed on our website.

The Chandra Alexis Chess Club provides, boards, sets, scoresheets and FIDE-approved clocks. Please bring a pen.

Pickup and ladder games offer a range of time controls, including classical, blitz, bullet and byo-yomi.

In addition to classical chess, The Club enjoys Fischer Random, 3D chess, Quadra Chess, and Quadra Chess Fischer Random.

Ladder game wins are used to determine the Annual Club Ladder and specialized game winners. See the Ladder tab on our website.



Michael Presutti. Photo credit: Jeffrey Roland.

Seattle Chess Club Tournaments

→ Address ↙
 → 7212 Woodlawn Ave NE ←
 Seattle WA 98115
 ↗ Info ↘
www.seattlechess.club
Addresses for Entries
 SCC Tnmt Dir
 2420 S 137 St
 Seattle WA 98168
 ---or---
www.seattlechess.club

Also coming in November

The return of the Henry Yan-sponsored **Adult Swiss**. A **\$350 prize fund** with no entry fee for members (\$15 for non-members). Four rounds with a time control of **G/120 + 30 seconds per move**. For further details, see next issue or the SCC website.

♣ **October 9** 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; OSA. NS, NC.

October 10 SCC Novice
Format: 4-SS. Open to U1200 and UNR. **TC:** G/75; d5. **EF:** \$15 by 10/7, \$20 at site. (-\$2 SCC mem., -\$1 mem. other NW dues-req'd CCs). **Prizes:** SCC membership(s). **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.

♣ **October 30** Hi-Roller Octagonals ♣
Format: 3-SS, 8-plyr sec. by rtg. **TC:** G/90;+10. **EF:** \$28 (+\$10 fee for non-SCC). **Prizes:** \$100-50 (b/8). **Reg:** 9-9:45 a.m. **Rds:** 10-2-6. **Byes:** 1 (Rd 3—commit at reg.). **Misc:** US Chess, WCF; OSA. NS, NC.

♣ **October 31** Spooky Tornado ♣
Format: 4-SS. **TC:** G/55; +5. **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; OSA. NS, NC.

SCC Fridays

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

Autumn Leaves:	10/1, 8, 15, 22, 29.
Close Ratings II:	11/5, 12, 19.
Closed (Go to WA Class!):	11/26.
Package Express (G/50, inc.10):	12/3, 10, 17.
Closed (Trim the tree!):	12/24.
Insanity?!:	12/31.

12th SCC Extravaganza!!

November 6-7, 2021

A seven-round Swiss with a time control of **G/75; +5**. The prize fund of **\$500** is based on **20**.

**\$150-80, U2100 60, U1900 55, U1700 50,
U1500 45, U1300 40, UNR 20**

Entry Fee: \$48 by 11/3 (\$35 for SCC members, \$40 for members of other dues-required CCs), \$60 11/4 and after (\$45 SCC, \$50 other dues-required CCs). Registration: 9-9:45 a.m. Rounds: Saturday 10-1-4-7, Sunday 11-2-5. Byes: 3 available; 1 in rounds 5-7, must commit before round 3. Miscellaneous: US Chess & WCF membership required. OSA. NC, NS.

The 2021 Russell "Rusty" Miller Memorial Northwest Grand Prix

Murlin Varner, Personally Pointless

Four events in August caused a bit of a shuffle in the standings. Among Washington players, ratings increases caused a number of changes as players moved into new, higher ratings classes. (Please remember, we are now using the peak rating from both regular OTB and regular online.)

Joseph Levine moved from #2 in the Expert category to #2 among the Masters. Harry Bell did the same, moving from Class A to Expert. Aaron Nicoski moved from first in Class B to first in Class A, while Ryan Ackerman took over the #2 spot in Class A. Nikash Vemparala moved up a class, too, but fell out of a money spot, going from second in B to third in A. With the top two in B moving up, two new players, Francisco Lopez and Sofie Szeto, are now the leaders in Class B. In Class C, Wade Suess took over the #2 spot. Class D and Under is the only group to have the same leaders as in the previous month.

Fewer changes occurred among the "Others," with Canadian Richard Ingraham, once sole player in Class B, now #2 in Class A. Due to the Vancouver Open, however, we have four new players populating Class B, With Hung Le of Oregon taking to top spot. Three other "Others" moved into the #2 spots in their classes, including Canadian Rohan Talukdar in the Master class, Zoey Tang of Oregon in the Expert group and fellow Oregonian Tomasz Krzykowski in Class D and Below.

Last month I speculated that I might have a vacation in September. Such was not the case, as there were three events held, all OTB and all at the Seattle Chess Club/Orlov Chess Academy. For October, there are going to be at least two more events, also in Seattle, both run by the Washington Chess Federation. On the 16th, there will be the Washington G/60 Championships and on the 23rd and 24th the Challengers' Cup will be held. The latter is a 2x event, meaning all points earned will be doubled. Both October events are going to be in person. I do not know if any further online events are planned, a circumstance that will greatly diminish the activities of the "Others."

All data is current through August 31.



Washington				Other Places			
last	first	pts.	last	first	state	pts.	
Masters				Masters			
1	Perez	Ignacio	41.5	1	Guha	Mitrabha	IND 83.0
2	Levine	Joseph	31.0	2	Talukdar	Rohan	CAN 70.0
3	Porter	Ryan	26.0	3	Lenderman	Aleksandr	NY 51.0
				4	Kulkarni	Ojas	CA 42.0
				5	Shahinyan	David	ARM 30.5
Experts				Experts			
1	Vijayakumar	Advaith	32.0	1	Jorajuria Mendoza	Algol	MEX 22.0
2	Bell	Harry	31.0	2	Tang	Zoey	OR 13.0
3	Chang	Eddie	22.0	3	Guha	Eshan	NJ 11.0
4	Whale	Nicholas	20.0	4	Andryscio	Marc	OR 10.0
5	Smith	Micah	12.0	5	Tripodi	Matthew	NJ 8.0
Class A				Class A			
1	Nicoski	Aaron M	78.0	1	Vega	Isaac	OR 41.0
2	Ackerman	Ryan	42.0	2	Ingram	Richard	CAN 38.0
3	Razmov	Valentin N	37.0	3	Murray	David E	OR 18.0
3	Vemparala	Nikash	37.0	4	Tang	Austin	OR 12.0
5	Lee	Brian	31.0	5	Hosford	Michael J	OR 11.0
Class B				Class B			
1	Lopez	Francisco J	23.5	1	Le	Hung	OR 10.0
2	Szeto	Sophie	22.0	2	Beauchet	Pierre-Hadrien	OR 9.0
3	Zhou	Leonardo	21.5	2	Korda	Christopher J	FL 9.0
4	Lu	Yiding	21.0	2	Walquist	Elaine	OR 9.0
5	Lakshminarayanan	Rishi	20.0				
Class C				Class C			
1	Cheng	Edward	58.5	1	Vasey	Daniel	OR 35.0
2	Suess	Wade	42.0	2	Wei	Brian	OR 13.0
3	Karthikeyan	Harishkumar	39.0	3	Kypriotakis	Kyriakos	OR 11.0
4	Zhu	Jamie Z	28.0	4	Gordon	Ross	CA 10.0
5	Hamlett	James M	27.5	4	Nobles	William	OR 10.0
Class D and below				Class D and below			
1	Cheng	Selina	59.0	1	Hack	Don	CAN 53.5
2	Ruff	Lois A	53.5	2	Krzykowski	Tomasz	OR 20.0
3	Razmov	Gabriel	52.5	3	Rodriguez-Melendez	Mauricio	OR 17.0
4	Devadithya	Hiruna	46.0	4	Priest	Liam H	OR 14.0
5	Kamel	Yaseen	36.0	5		Two Tied at	4.0
Overall standings							
1	Nicoski	Aaron M	78.0	1	Guha	Mitrabha	IND 83.0
2	Cheng	Selina	59.0	2	Talukdar	Rohan	CAN 70.0
3	Cheng	Edward	58.5	3	Hack	Don	CAN 53.5
4	Ruff	Lois A	53.5	4	Lenderman	Aleksandr	NY 51.0
5	Razmov	Gabriel	52.5	5	Kulkarni	Ojas	CA 42.0
6	Devadithya	Hiruna	46.0	6	Vega	Isaac	OR 41.0
7	Ackerman	Ryan	42.0	7	Ingram	Richard	CAN 38.0
7	Suess	Wade	42.0	8	Vasey	Daniel	OR 35.0
9	Perez	Ignacio	41.5	9	Shahinyan	David	ARM 30.5
10	Karthikeyan	Harishkumar	39.0	10	Bernadskiy	Vitaliy	UKR 23.0
11	Razmov	Valentin N	37.0	10	Dhulipalla	Bala C P	IND 23.0
11	Vemparala	Nikash	37.0	12	Jorajuria Mendoza	Algol	MEX 22.0
13	Kamel	Yaseen	36.0	12	Sharikov	Alexander	RUS 22.0
14	Vijayakumar	Advaith	32.0	14	Aleksandrov	Aleksej	BLR 21.5
15		Four tied at	31.0	15	Krzykowski	Tomasz	OR 20.0

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Seattle, WA

*“...it felt good
to be out of
the rain...”*

