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What's in this issue?

Land of the Sky coverage:

It'll take more than a foot of snow to keep the chess players away.

Jeff Jones

- 4 Snowbound: 2010 LOTS Speed Chess Championship Ken Baxter
- 5-6 How I learned to stop worrying and love the snow at Land of the Sky

Jon Achelpohl

- 7-11 Games from Land of the Sky XXIII
- 6 Memorials to Tracy Callis and Howard Hamilton Tom Hales and Chad Eller
- From the editor's desk

Jeff Jones

- North Carolina's Top 100 Listers
- 13 North Carolina Grand Prix Charlie Carerros
- 14 Looking Back: 2009 State Scholastics

Tom Hales

- 15-17 An interview with 2009 Scholastic Champ David High Tom Hales
- 18-20 Games from the 2009 State Scholastics
- 20 Check-ku
- 21 "??": Queen Odds!

Evan Whittington

- 22 Hickory Chess Club vs Queen City Chess Association Charlie Carerros
- 23-26 Tournament Results
- 27 Club Results
- Josh Lawson annotated game.
- 28 Leo

Evan Whittington

- 28 Climbing the Ladder
- 30-31 Upcoming Tournaments
- 32 North Carolina Club Directory

Thank you to those who contributed to this issue of the North Carolina Gambit!

The deadline for the next issue is April 15th. I guess some of you will be filing more than taxes that day. LOL

It'll take more than a foot of snow to keep the chess players away. Jeff Jones

Despite snowfall that left Asheville's infrastructure close, 166 hearty chess-players converged on Asheville for the 23rd annual Land of the Sky tournament January 29th-31st, 2010. Many players left home in advance of the storm, although some were left at the foot of the mountains as Interstates 26 and 40 were closed just hours before the first move. Tournament participants trudged forward through a foot of fresh snow to enjoy North Carolina's largest annual open event.

The Open section saw 33 players, including three Grandmasters, battle for top honors. After the chalk held up on the top board for round one, Georgia's Richard Francisco made the first dent into the triumvirate of GMs by drawing Kentucky's Gregory Kaidanov in round two. The following round say Georgia FM Kazim Gulamali knock off Massachusetts' Alexander Ivanov. This upset left only two perfect scores going into the Sunday session where Gulamali came up short against Connecticut's Sergey Kudrin. Thus the showdown was set between GM Kaidanov, who needed a victory with the white pieces, and GM Kudrin for all the marbles.

Kaidanov and Kudrin played a Sicilian Dragon in which Kudrin stymied Kaidanov's chances to attack his exposed king. Kudrin managed to win an exchange, which he gave back in a timely fashion to achieve a winning endgame. The result netted Kudrin a perfect five out of five to claim first prize.

Ivanov recovered from his third-round defeat to finish in clear second with four points. Kaidanov was joined in a five-way logjam for third by Gulamali, recent NC Invitational winners FM Andrey Chumachenko and Craig Jones, and Alabama NM Bradley Denton.

The largest section, as usual, was the under 2000 Amateur section with sixty participants. Charlotte youngster Tianqi Wang headed into the follow round with the only perfect score, but could only split the point with Georgia's Benjamin Moon. This left the door open for several players with 3½ points to join him in the winner's circle and Gary Hardin and Robert Roszkowiak defeated the Asheboro tandem of Jordan Wood and Jonathon McNeill respectively to stake their claim to the first prize. An undefeated Moon was joined by Georgia's Joseph Couvillion in a tie for fourth with four points each.

54 individuals entered the under 1600 Booster section where Dana Daves and Bruce Rau met on the top board with their perfect scores to see who would become king. There game ended in a draw and Robert Hyzdik was able to take out Matthew Klawonn to join Daves and Rau in a tie for first. Hyzdik was upset in the first round by Ben Rouse, but re-entered with a bye in round one, and went perfect the rest of the way.

The final section was the under 1200 section where 16 players matched wits. Timothy Staley ceded only one draw in round four to James Hodge en route to his victory in this section. Staley was tailed by Yu Wang whose four

points netted clear second. Hodge and David Hill were another half a point behind in third/fourth place.

Wilder Wadford by all accounts put on another fantastic tournament in what has become one of the most respected non-corporate chess tournaments in the nation. National Tournament Directors Henry Sabine and Kevin Hyde presided over the event with assistance from Gerben Hoekstra and Rudy Abate. Ken Baxter directed the annual blitz tournament.

There are many games from Land of the Sky including annotated games by GM Kudrin and FM Chumachenko as well as a narrative from Jon Achelpohl about his first Land of the Sky later in this issue.



Left: Gerben Hoekstra discussing things with organizer Wilder Wadford.

Right: The aftermath of a foot of southern snow.



Snowbound

2010 LOTS Speed Chess Championship

Ken Baxter, Tournament Director

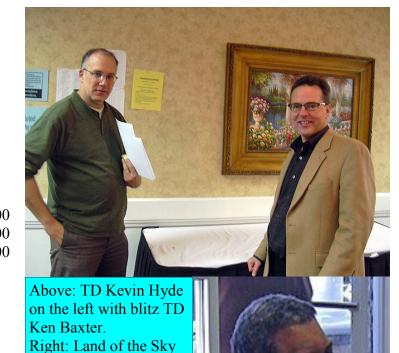
At 3:00 pm on Friday, January 29, 2010, the snow started falling and it did not stop until twelve inches had accumulated and left everyone in Asheville, NC frozen inside. Images of a devastated southeast emanated from every television, and warnings from every weatherperson implored people to stay home. With this backdrop, we still had 19 adventurous souls brave the severe weather and attend the 23rd Annual LOTS Speed Chess Championship.

The 23rd edition to this series did not disappoint the fans that want to see strong players compete at the blitz speed of 5 minutes per player. The field included such Speed Chess luminaries as GM Alex Ivanov (rated 2596), Kazim Gulamali (2418) and Ronald Simpson (2297). Some of our favorites from the past were "snowed out" and did not make the event: SM Miles Ardamen, SM Klaus Pohl, NM Damir Studen, NM Larry Tapper, Alexei Gorbounov and Copeland Blackwell. We hope they can be there next year!

Every year we hold this event for the pure enjoyment of the players. We don't have a profit motive; we give 100% of the entry fees back in the prize fund. This year we added a special incentive for juniors and seniors, 50% discount on the entry fee, only \$10 if you were under 18 or over 60. We expect to continue offering this special discount to encourage more participants. I expect to see all you Juniors playing next year!

This year's battle was an amazing race with the two winners scoring 8 out of 10 points. Ron Simpson had the most rigorous path having to face the two highest rated players in the event: GM Ivanov and SM Gulamali. He was able to nick each of them to split their individual matches. Whereas, the dark-horse, 2020 rated Rene Phillips dominated all the lower rated players, 2-zip, but lost both games to Kazim and he did not have to face GM Ivanov. So Ron Simpson and Rene Phillips split the money and Ron is the Champion on tie-breaks. The following lists the entire group of warriors and their scores:

Ron Simpson	8.0 tied 1st and 2nd @
Rene Phillips	8.0 tied 1st and 2nd
Kazim Gulamali	7.5 Clear third
Alex Ivanov	7.0
Misael Mestres	6.0
Donny Gray	5.5
Marc Jimenez	5.5
Ian Morton	5.5 Clear first under 1800
Andrew deJong	5.0
Gil Holmes	5.0
Mason Wiest	5.0 tied for 2nd-3rd under 1800
Bruce Goodwin	5.0 tied for 2nd-3rd under 1800
Marcel Hamilton	5.0 tied for 2nd-3rd under 1800
Zakir Ahmed	4.5
Bill Taylor	4.5
Anthony Cato	4.0
Charles Carerros	3.0
Cameron Chandler	3.0
Wallace Parker	2.0
@ Champion on tie breaks	



I personally thank all these players for participating and making the Snowbound 2010 a success. And I want to extend a very big THANK YOU to Wilder Wadford for generously making this event possible and for keeping it part of the LOTS tradition for 23 years!

Remember, everyone is invited to put the 2011 Speed Chess Tournament on your "to do" list for next year. If you have any comments or suggestions for making this event even better, please email me at ken_baxter@roadrunner.com and put speed chess in the subject line.

blitz champion FM Ron

Simpson.

How I learned to stop worrying and love the snow at Land of the Sky XXIII Jon Achelpohl

Thursday night after work my friend Jeff Schneider and I loaded up the car for our trip into the mountains. This was going to be one epic road-trip. The weatherman had called for a large snow storm to hit the Asheville area by midday on Friday. The alarms had been sounded in our southern community. Everyone at work thought I was crazy for driving into the mountains with a snow storm heading in to play chess for a weekend. Our other buddy who was going up for the tournament calls us an bails out just as we are about to start out towards the mountains. Now This is when if I was a NC native my alarm bells would be going off saying "maybe we should just stay home this weekend catch the next tournament." But NO No way! I am originally from Chicago and we deal with snow this was nothing. On top of that I am a CHESS PLAYER. there are chess players who would walk through fire to be able to partake in the sport they love. Alcohol drugs, cigarettes got nothing on Chess. Jeff and I got in my small stick shift Kia fired it up (check engine) light and all and headed for our geeks version of fear and loathing in Ashville.

We made it to Asheville without to much of a problem, Lucile (my aggravating red Kia) had climbed the mountains well and we hadn't gotten any of the snow that the weathermen were predicting yet. We found our cheap hotel across town form the four star crown resort plaza were the tournament was taking place. Friday was the day after sleeping in late the two of us made it over to the tournament site around 3:00 for registration, had a short talk with the tournament director about the event and the decided to go back across town to our hotel until the round at 7:00. This may have been the worst idea of the whole weekend. Just as we were leaving crown resort it started to snow. Now this should have been our cue to stay at the site and just burn around for a few hours till the game. You know hang out at the bar eat some food, enjoy being in an upscale classy hotel. But no I decide "I'm from Chicago I can take this little amount of snow with my hands tied behind my back. Let's go back across town watch some TV and get our minds ready for the round. Our originally ten minute drive across town turns into a twenty minute aggravating inconvenience. With no snow plows out clearing the roads. Things were starting to get worse quick. Now this should have been the second hint that things were going to get bad with the weather but we headed up to our room to wait out the snow. Back in our room checking the snow from out window on commercials and breaks from warm up games Jeff and I finally decide that it isn't going to clear up at all and that we should start to head back to the tournament site. Just as we were about to head out Daniel (another player from Raleigh) to let us know that he is not going to make it to the tournament that I-40 is being shut down because of bad conditions and that the hotels main entrance is inaccessible because of the snow and winding hill that leads up to lobby.

Now the only way that I can describe the next hour is total stupidity with a fair amount of terror. between the snow still falling, 4-5 inches that were already down, and the hills that Asheville sits on this was one tough drive. At every hill we came to there were cars sliding backwards due to lack of speed on the approach. The lack of plowing meant that there was know way of knowing where the lanes were and all of us drivers were just kind of guessing and hoping the others would play along with our bluffs. After dodging six other cars in various states of either backsliding down a hill or fishtailing out of control, and about four fishtails ourselves we finally made it to the main road to the hotel. Now looking at what at that moment seemed to be a never-ending series of steep hills and turns cover in snow, we found a two hotel workers changing the marquee our front and fighting a loosing battle against the onslaught of snow with a large push broom and small snow shovel who gave us directions around a back way to get to the hotel. The back way didn't seam to be much better rather than the alps to have to pass through to get to the tournament we only had to drive down a murder-horn sized hill. Two hard fishtails, one puttsish stall out stall out, and grinding 2nd gear all the way up the hill till Lucile started screaming at me later we were at the tournament. Both Jeff and I were playing in the Booster section of the tournament. We quickly found our parings and headed into the tournament room. Inside were 164 other crazy determined and dedicated chess players who had fought the same storm we had to get to the game. Walking in I spotted and older man with an eye patch and pipe and told Jeff "Dude I want to play the Pirate... I don't even care if I lose I want to play the pirate". It turns out that playing the Birds opening that round I would lose but not to a pirate.... just to a nice guy from lower VA. While I was loosing with the Bird there were some real Battles going on in the open section. With two GMs in the tournament there was an inevitable show down on its way minus a real upset. All of the Top 12 players won or drew their first round games so the showdown were looking to start hitting around the third round. Cross tables of the tournament can be found on the NC Chess site.

Heading into the second day the weather was more pleasant the hills of Asheville seamed transformed from being giant peaks to the white hills of a Norman Rockwell painting. Over coffee and dinner food at breakfast the next day Jeff and I talked about the tournament and what problems our last round games had become. After many cups of

bottomless coffee we headed out for the tournament, and back on the road. This time the Plows had gone out and done a fair job of cleaning up the streets. There were still large patches of white death traps but on the whole the path was manageable. The second round lead to some good games for both Jeff and I. He played the Pirate in a Caro Kann game and won. I had an eventful Pirc game, that lead to the coveted knight pawn checkmate (which made my tournament). In the open section there was an interesting Sicilian game on board one. The rest of my games that day were uneventful. We saw Raleigh's own Ron Simpson go up against Sergey Kudrin with little luck. All and all the second day was a hard day of chess with 3 rounds. By the end of the day my brain was about to run out my ears. You could tell that the long time control of the tournament and the intense games were getting to players by the middle of the 3rd round you could walk down the aisle you could see players sipping beer or scotch from the hotel bar between moves to calm their nerves. After the round Jeff and I headed back to our hotel and crashed around 1 in the morning.

The next morning was another breakfast of champions morning with dinner food and lots of coffee before the 10 AM round. We managed to make the trek across town with out much extra effort the last day. Though as we were driving it started to snow a little bit more. Last round I had a hard fought game with Walter High. Jeff had to sit through a last round withdraw. On the top board the Kudrin took Kaidanov to the mat in a long game. By the end most players looked spent. There was a Simo game to take place after the tournament that We didn't stick around for. It sounded like a cool experience getting to play a gm for only 10 bucks with advice on the opening and theory ideas, but the idea of a 4 hour drive home won out.

All in all the Land of Sky Tournament was a great experience, which I hope to be able to play in for years to come. There is a really strong supportive air about the place. Plus the draw of Grandmaster and Master level players is amazing. Drawing in lots of dedicated players from the unrated to the GM that are all striving for that one perfect game. This is one of the tournaments that if you are in the North Carolina area you have to play in. You are going to get strong games no mater what section you are playing in because every one brings their A game to the large prize money tournaments. Also I have to say that this is one of the most affectively ran tournaments in the area, with rounds starting generally on time and resolving any disputes in a professional manor. This player is looking forward to next year.

In honor of our friends whom we will truly miss.

In Memory of Tracy Callis

Tom Hales

I was saddened to hear of the passing of Tracy Callis, an avid chess player known and liked by many in Asheboro and throughout the North Carolina chess community. He was friendly and easygoing, but a fierce competitor over the board. He played in many North Carolina tournaments including: The NC Open, NC Class, LPO, LOTS, The Asheboro Open, Bertucci's (in Charlotte), and even a Two Knights Swiss in Fayetteville (which he won outright!). Tracy had played in a total of three Asheboro Opens, and finished clear 2nd place at The Asheboro Open 32, just behind NM Chris Mabe. Tracy was a strong "Class A" player who had excellent chances to make "Expert."

As a tournament director, I vividly remember Tracy speaking to me between rounds in Asheboro. He told me that he wanted to play more chess, but that spending time with his kids was his top priority. While I did not know him well, he was a likeable fellow whose forays into NC Chess will be missed.

In Memory of Howard Hamilton Chad Eller

After dealing with liver cancer for the past few month's Howard Hamilton passed away this past Friday. Howard was a very colorful character within the chess scene sometimes known for his less than appropriate over the board antics. God forbid his board was near a window, he would wait till the position got complex or he had an advantage and would then go outside to smoke a cigarette, stand at the window and then laugh like a maniac, if you were his opponent and unfortunate enough to look he would point at you and laugh harder. He also loved the serial killing doll from the horror movie Child's Play and would announce "Hi, my name is Chucky, would you like to play with me?" or "Hi Jack, Chuckys back". Im happy to report Howard won one of his last tournaments in Hillsville VA as well as scoring a nearly 400 point upset against Bobby Waddell at the Wilkes Chess Club.

Like many of us chess was a big part of Howard's life and a positive force during some tough times.

Wilder,

Hi. Thank you very much for your hospitality. I enjoy coming to Asheville every year. It is one of my favorites. This year was particular challenging. My flight from Atlanta to Asheville was cancelled and a bunch of people from that flight rented a van and drove to Asheville. We were able to get to the airport but not further (because the highway was shut down) so I had to spend a night at a motel near the airport, I did not expect to do well but actually most of my games were pretty good. I want to discuss my last round game against Kaidanov.

**Land of the Sky XXIII **GM Gregory Kaidanov (2643) **GM Sergey Kudrin (2560) Asheville. NC 31 January, 2010 Annotated by Sergey Kudrin

My opponent was a half point behind and I expected a sharp fight, I was black. 1. e4 c5. 2.Nf3 d6 3. d4 cxd4 4. Nxd4 Nf6 5. Nc3 g6 6. Be3 Bg7 7. f3 Nc6 8. Qd2 0-0 9. Bc4 Bd7 10. h4 h5 11 0-0-0 Ne5 12 Bb3 Rc8 This is the main line of the Dragon - a very sharp and confusing position arises. I was happy to play it since I have analyzed and played it for many years. On the other hand, it is extremely dangerous and one mistake can lead to an imme-

diate loss. 13. Bg5 Rc5 14. Kb1 Re8 b5 used to be played but Re8 is considered better nowadays 15. Rhe1 another sharp line is g4 here. Qa5 This is the idea behind Re8 - now Nd5 does not lead to anything since pawn is protected on e7. **16. f4** A waiting move a3 was played by Anand against Kasparov and Kasparov made a mistake of b5? Anand played Bf6! and Kasparov had to reply exf6 because Bf6 is now bad because of Nd5 and black queen is hanging and after Qd2 Nf6 white have a better endgame. Qa6 is better than b5. Nc4 17. Bxc4 Rxc4 18. Nb3 Qa6 19. e5 Ng4! A new move, more active then Nh7. 20. exd6 Bc3! 21.bxc3 e6! Now the position is extremely confusing but I believe black is OK. 22. f5 Black was threatening f6. gxf5 23. Be7 f4 Stopping the queen from going to g5. 24. Qd3 Probably a bad move. Instead Rf1 is dangerous - Ne3 Rf4 25. Rxf4 Qe3 26. Rg4 Qh6 leads to unclear position. Now black is doing well. Rec8 25 Re4 Not a good move but now I had to make a choice. I rejected Rc3 since after 26. Qxa6 bxa6 27. Rb4 the rook threatens to go to b7. Nf2 26. Rxc4 Rxc4 (it was possible to take on d3 but I could not quite figure out the position after Rc8 27. Bxc8 Rd3. Now I think black is much better. 27. Qe2 Nxd1 28. Qxd1 If Qh5? Nc3 29. Kc1 Qa3 30. Kd2 e5 and black stops all the threats. **Qxb5 29. Bf6 Qf5 30. Bd4 b6** Black is winning here. My opponent was able to get an exchange back but position was quite clear after that. 31. Qe2! Rc6 32. Nd2 Rxd6 33 Ne4 Rxd4 34. cxd4 Bc6 Here Bb5 is stronger but I was afraid of 35. Qh5, but after Qe4 36. Qb5 Qg2 black is winning. There is no way to stop f4 pawn from advancing. 35 Ng5 Kg7 36 Kc1 b5! I like this move. The position should be winning but I wanted to stop all counterplay with c2 - c4. My plan is to play a6, Bd5, f6 and start pushing white pieces back. My main weapon is the threat of a queen exchange. 37. a3 a6 38. Kd2 Kg6 39. Nf3 f6 40. Ne1 Qe4 41. Qf2 Kf5! This is the endgame. The king should become active. 42. c3 Kg4 43. Qg1 If Nf3 then Qe3 44.Qxe3 fxe3 45. Kxe3 Bf3 46. gxf3 Kh4 wins. Kg3 **44. Qh1 Qe3+ 45. Kc2 Qe2+** and white resigned. If 46. Kb3 then Qd1 47. Kb4 Kf2 wins a knight) **0-1**

**Land of the Sky XXIII FM Andrey Chumachenko (2449) GM Sergey Kudrin(2560) Asheville. NC 30 January, 2010

Annotated by Andrey Chumachenko

1. d4 Nf6 2. c4 g6 3. Nc3 d5 4. Nf3 Bg7 5. Bg5 I started to play this variation in 1997. I lived in one room with 2 International Masters from Uzbekistan. They told me that Uzbecistanian GM Barsov is playing successfully this line for several years. They shown to me some lines and I was very impressed. **Ne4** One of the main responses. Also maybe 5..dxc4 or 5...c5. In case of 5..dxc4 6.e4 c5 7.d5 b5 maybe very sharp line. **6. cxd5 Nxg5 7.**

Nxg5 e6 Also playable are 7...0-0 or 7...c6. last move I played couple times for black as well. 8. Qd2 exd5 Now we have a very long forced line. 9. Qe3+ Kf8 10. Qf4 Bf6 10... Qf6 11. Qxc7 Na6 12. Qg3 Nb4 12... h6 13. Nf3 Qb6 14. Qf4 Qxb2 15. Qc1 Qxc1+ 16. Rxc1 Be6 17. e3 Nb8 18. Rb1 b6 19. Rb5 Barsov-Avrukh,1998 13. Rc1 Bf5 14. e3 Nc2+ 15. Rxc2 Bxc2 16. Nxd5 Qc6 17. Nb4 Qa4 18. Qd6+ Kg8 19. Bc4 Peng-Arahamia, 1997 11. h4 h6 After 11... Kg7 12. e4!? white has a very strong initiative, for example: 12... dxe4 13. Bc4 Rf8 14. O-O-O Nd7 15. Ncxe4 h6 16. g4 Nb6 17. Nxf7 Nxc4 18. Nxd8 Bg5 19. Nxg5 Fang - Chiburdanidze, 1989 12. Nxd5 Alternate move is 12.Nf3 Bxg5 13. Qe5 Rh7 13... f6? 14. Qxc7 Qxc7 14... Qxd5 15. Qxc8+ Kg7 16. Qc7+ Nd7 17. hxg5 15. Nxc7 Bf4 16. Nxa8 Nc6 17. e3 Bd6 18. d5 Nb4 19. Rc1 Kf7 20. a3 Nxd5 21. Rd1 14. hxg5 Nc6 15. Qe4 Bf5 16. Qf3 Nxd4 17. Qa3+ Kg7 18. Ne3 Qxg5 18... hxg5 This move is more popular during the last time. However after 18... Qxg5 black also has a good game. BTW my opponent spent more than 25 minutes for this move. It is a well known move. So, why he spent such a significant amount of time time cotrol was 90 minues for 30 moves? Of course we made almost 2/3 part of control for few minutes. 19. Qc5?! Right now I can identify this option as a mistake. But just prior to the game, doing some preparation, in Mega Base I found a game Nakamura-Sashikiran 2009, where Nakamura played 19.Qc5 and he won quickly. So, I trusted him, that it should be a good move. However, I should play the old line 19.Qc3 Qf6 (19... Rd8 20. Rd1 c5 21. Qxc5 20. O-O-O c5 21. Nxf5+ Nxf5 22. e4 an equal position. Rd8 20. Rd1 Such played Nakamura in that game.

But GM Kudrin now spent another 25-30 minutes and made a very strong move 20...Be4! The computer is also preferring this move than 20...Be6?! which played Sashikiran against Nakamura. So, did I play this game against Rybka? :) Be4 21. Qc3 What else? I calculated 21.Qxc7 but after 21...Bc6 my gueen is off the board... (21. Qxc7 Bc6 and 22...Rd7 is coming c5 22. Rc1 My only hope right now was to use somewhere the pin along the big diagonal. Also GM Kudrin had about 15-20 minutes for the next 9 moves. b6 23. Rh3 If 23.f3 immediately then 23...Qg3+ Rhh8 24. f3 Bb7 25. Kf2 Now I am ready to replace the knight e3 and make a threat of e3. h5! Very good move. And now I decided to play a very unclear move 26.g4!? because my opponent had less than 10 minutes for last 5 moves. 26. g4!? Bc8 (Of course the best move now is 26...hxg4. However that move is following to sharp position. I thought it was only my practical chance to play. 26... hxg4 27. Rg3 Rh2+ 28. Bg2 f5 29. Nf1 Rh4 30. e3 f4! and black of course is winning. However GM Kudrin is playing more positional line 27. Rg3 hxg4 28. Nxg4 Bxg4 29. Rxg4 Of6 30. Bg2 Rhe8 Ok. We are finished the time control. Of course black is up a pawn and has a big chances to win. My goal now was to challenge his play. Unfortunatelly I cant play 31.e3 now:} 31. e4 Forced. Because after 31. e3 Nf5 32. Qxf6+ Kxf6 and how to protect e3 pawn and to prevent Rd2+ a5 32. Rh1 trying to creat some countrplay along the h-file Rh8 33. Rxh8 **Rxh8 34. f4 Rd8 35. a3 Rh8!** Nice. Black is waiting. Although I have a variety of moves, actually white is in zugzwang. 36. Qg3 b5 37. f5 Nc6 38. Qc7 Qxb2+ 39. Kf1 Qc1+ 40. Kf2 Qd2+ 41. Kf1 Qd1+ 42. Kf2 Qxg4 43. Qxc6 Qf4+ 44. Kg1 Rd8 45. f6+ Qxf6 0-1

More games from Land of the Sky XXIII

Land of the Sky XXIII

FM Andrey Chumachenko (2449)

James McGavran (2021)

Asheville. NC 29 January, 2010

1. d4 Nf6 2. c4 g6 3. Nc3 Bg7 4. e4 d6 5. Be2 O-O 6. Bg5 c5 7. d5 h6 8. Bf4 g5 9. Be3 e6 10. dxe6 fxe6 11. h4 gxh4 12. Qd2 Kh7 13. Rxh4 Ng8 14. Bg5 Qd7 15. e5 dxe5 16. Bd3+ Kh8 17. Ne4 Nc6 18. Nxc5 Qf7 19. Nf3 Nd4 20. Nxe5 Bxe5 21. Bxh6 Nxh6 22. Qxh6+ Kg8 23. Bh7+ 1-0

Land of the Sky XXIII

NM Richard Francisco (2222)

FM Andrey Chumachenko (2449)
Asheville. NC 31 January, 2010

1. e4 c5 2. Nf3 Nc6 3. d4 cxd4 4. Nxd4 Nf6 5. Nc3 e6 6. Ndb5 Bb4 7. a3 Bxc3+ 8. Nxc3 d5 9. Bd3 h6 10. O-O O-O 11. exd5 exd5 12. Re1 Bg4 13. f3 Be6 14. Qe2 Qd7 15. Bf4 Bf5 16. Rad1 Rfe8 17. Qd2 Rxe1+ 18. Rxe1 d4 19. Ne4 Nxe4 20. Bxe4 Re8 21. Bxf5 Rxe1+ 22. Qxe1 Qxf5 23. Qe8+ Kh7 24. Qe4 Kg6 25. Kf2 Kf6 26. Qxf5+ Kxf5 27. Bg3 Ke6 28. Ke2 Kd5 29. Kd3 b5 30. f4 Nd8 31. c3 dxc3 32. Kxc3 a5 33. Bf2 f5 34. Bb6 Nc6 35. b3 b4+ 36. axb4 axb4+ 37. Kd3 g6 38. h4 h5 39. g3 Nb8 40. Bf2 Nd7 41. Be1 Nc5+ 42. Kc2 Na6 43. Kd3 1/2-1/2

Land of the Sky XXIII

GM Alexander Ivanov (2603)

W NM Ryan Moon (2244)

Asheville. NC 31 January, 2010

1. e4 c5 2. Nf3 d6 3. d4 cxd4 4. Nxd4 Nf6 5. Nc3 g6 6. Be3 Bg7 7. f3 O-O 8. Qd2 Nc6 9. O-O-O d5 10. exd5 Nxd5 11. Nxc6 bxc6 12. Bd4 e5 13.

Bc5 Be6 14. Ne4 Re8 15. h4 Rb8 16. Bc4 Nf4 17. Bxe6 Nxe6 18. Bxa7 Qxd2+ 19. Rxd2 Ra8 20. Rd7 f5 21. Ng5 Bh6 22. Kb1 Bxg5 23. hxg5 Nxg5 24. Bc5 f4 25. Be7 Nf7 26. b3 g5 27. Kb2 h6 28. a4 Kg7 29. Rc7 Rec8 30. Rxc8 Rxc8 31. b4 Re8 32. Bc5 g4 33. a5 gxf3 34. gxf3 Ng5 35. Rf1 Kf7 36. c4 Ke6 37. a6 h5 38. b5 cxb5 39. cxb5 Kd5 40. Bg1 Kc4 41. b6 Kb5 42. Ra1 Kc6 43. b7 Kc7 1-0

Land of the Sky XXIII

- NM Damir Studen (2230)
- GM Gregory Kaidanov
 Asheville. NC 31 January, 2010

Nxe4 Be7 14. Bxf6 Nxf6 15. Nxf6+ Bxf6 16. Rxe8+ Qxe8 17. Re1 Qd7 18. Qe4 Rd8 19. Ne5 Qe6 20. g3 h6 21. b3 Re8 22. Kg2 Qd6 23. f4 Bd8 24. Qd3 Qd5+ 25. Kh3 Bb6 26. Rd1 Rd8 27. Nf3 Bxd4 28. Nxd4 c5 29.

Land of the Sky XXIII

- NM Donny Gray (2124)
- FM Andrey Chumachenko (2449)
 Asheville. NC 30 January, 2010

Qb5 Qh5+ 0-1

1. e4 c5 2. c3 d6 3. d4 Nf6 4.

Bd3 Nc6 5. Ne2 g6 6. Na3

cxd4 7. Nxd4 Bg7 8. Nxc6

1. d4 d5 2. c4 e6 3. Nc3 c6 4.

cxd5 exd5 5. Nf3 Nf6 6. Bg5

Bf5 7. e3 Nbd7 8. Bd3 Bxd3

11. Rfe1 Re8 12. e4 dxe4 13.

9. Oxd3 Bd6 10. O-O O-O

bxc6 9. O-O O-O 10. h3 Bb7 11. Qe2 Nd7 12. Be3 Ne5 13. Ba6 Qc8 14. Bxb7 Qxb7 15. Rad1 c5 16. Bf4 Nd7 17. Rd2 Nf6 18. f3 Nh5 19. Bh2 Bh6 20. Rc2 Nf4 21. Bxf4 Bxf4 22. Qc4 e6 23. Rd1 Qe7 24. Qf1 Qg5 25. g4 d5 26. exd5 exd5 27. Re2 Rfe8 28. Rde1 Rxe2 29. Rxe2 d4 30. cxd4 cxd4 31. Re4 Rd8 32. Kg2 d3 33. Nc4 d2 34. Qd1 f5 35. h4 Qxh4 36. Rxf4 Qe1 37. Ne3 Qxe3 38. Rc4 Re8 39. Kh3 Qe1 40. Qb3 d1=Q 41. Rc2+ Qe6 0-1

Land of the Sky XXIII

NM Bradley Denton (2214)FM Kazim Gulamali (2416)

Asheville. NC 31 January, 2010

1. d4 d5 2. c4 c6 3. Nf3 Nf6 4. Nc3 e6 5. Bg5 h6 6. Bxf6 Qxf6 7. e3 Nd7 8. Bd3 dxc4 9. Bxc4 g6 10. O-O Bg7 11. b4 O-O 12. a4 Qe7 13. Qb3 a5 14. bxa5 Rxa5 15. Rfd1 e5 16. d5 e4 17. d6 Qe8 18. Nd2 Nf6 19. Rac1 Rg5 20. g3 Re5 21. Be2 Nd5 22. Nc4 Nxc3 23. Qxc3 Rd5 24. Qb4 Be5 25. Rxd5 cxd5 26. Nb6 Qe6 27. Rxc8 Rxc8 28. Nxc8 Qxc8 29. Bb5 Qd8 30. d7 b6 31. Bc6 Bf6 32. Qd6 d4 33. exd4 Qe7 34. Qxe7 Bxe7 35. d5 f5 36. f4 exf3 1/2-1/2

Land of the Sky XXIII

NM Bradley Denton (2214)

Gary Newsom (2054)

Asheville. NC 30 January, 2010

1. d4 d5 2. c4 e6 3. Nf3 Nf6 4. g3 c6 5. Bg2 Bd6 6. Nbd2 O-O 7. O-O Nbd7 8. Qc2 e5 9. cxd5 Nxd5 10. Nc4 Qe7 11. Nxd6 Qxd6 12. Rd1 Qe7 13. dxe5 Nxe5 14. Nxe5 Qxe5 15. e4 Ne7 16. f4 Qa5 17. f5 Rd8 18. Be3 Bd7 19. b4 Qc7 20. Bf4 Qb6+ 21. Qc5 Qxc5+ 22. bxc5 Be8 23. Bc7 Rxd1+ 24. Rxd1 f6 25. Bf1 Rc8 26. Bd6 Rd8 27. Rb1 Nc8 28. Bc4+ Bf7 29. Bxf7+ Kxf7 30. Rxb7+ Kg8 31. Rb8 Re8 32. Bf4 Kf7 33. Kf2 g5 34. Bd2 g4 35. Ke3 Nd6 36. Rxe8 Nxe8 37. Ba5 h5 38. Bd8 Ng7 39. Kf4 Ne8 40. e5 fxe5+ 41. Kxe5 Ng7 42. a4 Ne8 43. f6 a6 44. Kf5 1-0

Land of the Sky XXIII

David Stamper (1892)

Robert Roszkowiak (1839)

Asheville. NC 30 January, 2010

1. d4 Nf6 2. c4 e6 3. Nf3 d5 4. g3 dxc4 5. Qa4+ c6 6. Qxc4 b5 7. Qc2 Bb7 8. Bg2 Be7 9. O-O O-O 10. Rd1 Qb6 11. Ne5 Rc8 12. a4 c5 13. Bxb7 Qxb7 14. Qb3 cxd4 15. Bf4 Rc5 16. Nf3 Nc6 17. Na3 Na5 18. Qb4 Nd5 19. Qxd4 Nb3 20. Qe4 Nxa1 21. Rxa1 bxa4 22. Be5 Qc6 23. Nd4 Rc1+ 24. Kg2 Ne3+ 25. Kf3 Qxe4+ 26. Kxe4 Rxa1 27. fxe3 Bxa3 28. Nc2 f5+ 29. Kf4 Rf1+ 0-1

Land of the Sky XXIII

James McGavran (2021)

NM Maurice Dana (2200)

Asheville. NC 31 January, 2010

1. e4 e5 2. Nf3 Nc6 3. Bb5 a6 4.

Ba4 Nf6 5. O-O Be7 6. Re1 b5 7. Bb3 O-O 8. h3 Bb7 9. c3 d6 10. d4 Re8 11. Ng5 Rf8 12. Nf3 Nd7 13. Nbd2 Bf6 14. Nf1 g6 15. Ng3 Bg7 16. Bg5 Ne7 17. Qd2 Kh8 18. Rad1 f6 19. Bh6 Ng8 20. Be3 Qe7 21. Bc2 Rfe8 22. d5 Rf8 23. Rf1 Rf7 24. Nh2 Raf8 25. f4 f5 26. exf5 gxf5 27. Nf3 Bh6 28. Rde1 Nc5 29. Bxc5 Bxf4 30. Qxf4 exf4 31. Bd4+ Nf6 32. Rxe7 fxg3 33. Rxf7 Rxf7 34. Ng5 Rf8 35. Rxf5 1-0

Land of the Sky XXIII

Daniel Gurevich (2131)

Daniel Dodds (1754)

Asheville. NC 30 January, 2010

1. e4 d5 2. exd5 Qxd5 3. Nc3 Qa5 4. d4 Nf6 5. Bc4 Bg4 6. f3 Bh5 7. Bd2 c6 8. Nge2 e6 9. Nf4 Bg6 10. Nxg6 hxg6 11. Qe2 Qc7 12. O-O-O Be7 13. g3 Nbd7 14. Bf4 Qa5 15. Ne4 O-O-O 16. Nd6+ Bxd6 17. Bxd6 Rhe8 18. Rd3 Qh5 19. Ra3 Nb6 20. Be5 Nfd7 21. Rxa7 Nxe5 22. dxe5 Nxc4 23. Qxc4 Qxf3 24. Re1 Qf2 25. Ra8+ Kc7 26. Rxd8 Rxd8 27. Qe2 Qxe2 28. Rxe2 c5 29. Rf2 Rd7 30. c4 g5 31. Kc2 Kc6 32. Kc3 b5 33. cxb5+ Kxb5 34. b3 Kc6 35. a4 Kd5 36. Rd2+ Kc6 37. Rxd7 Kxd7 38. Kc4 Kc6 39. h4 gxh4 40. gxh4 g6 41. a5 1-0

Land of the Sky XXIII

Gary Hardin (1914)

Marcel Hamilton (1615)

Asheville. NC 30 January, 2010

1. e4 c5 2. Nf3 d6 3. d4 cxd4 4. Nxd4 Nf6 5. Nc3 a6 6. Be2 e6 7. g4 h6 8. h4 Be7 9. Be3 Bd7 10. Qd2 Nc6 11. O-O-O Nxd4 12. Bxd4 e5 13. Be3 Nxg4 14. Bxg4 Bxg4 15. Rdg1 h5 16. Nd5 g6 17. Bb6 Qc8 18. Rg3 Bd8 19. Rc3 Qd7 20. Rc7 Bxc7 21. Nf6+ Ke7 22. Nxd7 Kxd7 23. Bxc7 Kxc7 24. f3 Be6 25. Re1 Rac8 26. Re3 Rhd8 27. Rd3 b6 28. a4 a5 29. b4 axb4 30. Qxb4 Rb8 31. Qb5 Rb7 32. a5 bxa5 33. Rc3+ Kb8 34. Qxa5 Rdd7 35. Rc6 Ra7 36. Qb4+ Rab7 37. Qc3 Rdc7 38. Rxc7 Rxc7 39. Qb4+ Kc8 40. Qxd6 Bd7 41. Qxe5 Ba4 42. c3 Bd7 43. Kd2 Be6 44. Ke3 Kd7 45. Kf4 f5 46. Qg7+ Kd6 47. e5+ Kc6 48. Qxg6 Kd5 49. Qf6 Rc4+ 50. Kg5 Rxc3 51. Qd8+ Kxe5 52. Qh8+ 1-0

Land of the Sky XXIII

Jordan Wood (1718)

Michael Kliber (1978)

Asheville. NC 31 January, 2010

1. e4 d6 2. d4 Nf6 3. Bd3 e5 4. c3 d5 5. dxe5 Nxe4 6. Bxe4 dxe4 7. Qxd8+ Kxd8 8. Bg5+ Be7 9.

Bxe7+ Kxe7 10. Nd2 Bf5 11. Ne2 Nd7 12. Ng3 Be6 13. Ndxe4 Nxe5 14. O -O Rhe8 15. f4 Nd7 16. Rae1 Kf8 17. b3 h6 18. Rd1 f5 19. Nf2 Nf6 20. c4 a5 21. Nd3 a4 22. Nc5 axb3 23. axb3 Bc8 24. Rfe1 b6 25. Rxe8+ Kxe8 26. Re1+ Kf7 27. Nd3 g5 28. Ne5+ Kg7 29. fxg5 hxg5 30. Nc6 Ne4 31. Nxe4 fxe4 32. Rxe4 Ra1+ 33. Kf2 Ra2+ 34. Re2 Rxe2+ 35. Kxe2 Bb7 36. Nd4 Kf6 37. g3 Ke5 38. Ke3 g4 39. Nb5 c6 40. Nc3 Ba6 41. Ne4 Bc8 42. Nf2 Bf5 43. b4 Be6 44. Nd3+ Kd6 45. Kd4 Ke7 46. c5 1-0

Land of the Sky XXIII

Joe Gibeault (1678) Robert Mahan (1523)

> 31 January, 2010 Asheville, NC

1. d4 d5 2. c4 Nf6 3. Nc3 e6 4. Bg5 Nbd7 5. e3 c6 6. Bd3 Qa5 7. Bh4 Ne4 8. Qc2 Bb4 9. Ne2 Ndf6 10. O-O Nxc3 11. Nxc3 dxc4 12. Bxc4 Be7 13. e4 e5 14. Be2 Bxe2 18. Oxe2 Rad8 19. d6 Rd7 20. Rd3 Rfd8 21. Rfd1 Qc5 22. Na4 Qb4 23. Qc2 Rxd6 24. Rxd6 Rxd6 25. h3 Rxd1+ 26. Qxd1 Qxe4 27. Nc5 Qd5 28. Oxd5 cxd5 29. Nxb7 Kf8 30. Kf1 Ke7 31. a4 Kd7 32. Nc5+ Kc6 33. b4 a5 34. Nd3 e4 35. b5+ Kb6 36. Nf4 Kc5 37. Ke2 g6 38. g3 Bd8 39. Ke3 Bb6 40. Kd2 Kc4 41. Ng2 d4 42. h4 h6 43. g4 g5 44. h5 Kb4 45. Ne1 Kxa4 46. f3 e3+ 47. Kd3 Kxb5 48. Nc2 Bc5 49. f4 f6 50. fxg5 fxg5 51. Ne1 a4 52. Kc2 Kc4 53. Nd3 Bd6 54. Nb2+ Kb5 55. Nd3 a3 56. Nc1 Kc4 57. Na2 d3+ 58. Kd1 Bb4 0-1

Land of the Sky XXIII

Britney Dewitt (1660)

B J.P. Flynn (1703)

Asheville. NC

30 January, 2010

1. e4 Nc6 2. Nf3 Nf6 3. e5 Ng4 4. d4 d6 5. h3 Nh6 6. exd6 Qxd6 7. Bc4 Bf5 8. O-O a6 9. c3 Qg6 10. Nh4 Qf6 11. Nxf5 Nxf5 12. Ob3 Nd6 13. Bd5 Nd8 14. Nd2 e6 15. Ne4 Qe7 16. Nxd6+ cxd6 17. Bf3 Od7 18. Re1 Be7 19. Oc2 d5 20. Bf4 Nc6 21. a4 O-O 22. Qe2 Bf6 23. b4 Rfc8 24. a5 Na7 25. Rec1 Nb5 26. Qd3 Rc4 27. Be2 Rac8 28. Bd2 R8c7 29. Qg3 R4c6 30. Bxb5 axb5 31. Qd3 Rc4 32. a6 bxa6 33. Rxa6 Bxd4 34. Rca1 Bf6 35. Bf4 Rc8 36. Ra7 Qe8 37. Rb7 Rxc3 38. Qxb5 Qxb5 39. Rxb5 R3c4 40. Ra7 Rxf4 41. Rc7 Rd8 42. Rbb7 Bd4 43. Rd7 Ra8 44. Ra7 Bxa7 0-1



David Spencer (1833)

Joseph Couvillion (1923)

Asheville. NC 31 January, 2010

1. e4 d6 2. d4 g6 3. c3 Nf6 4. Bd3 Bg7 5. h3 O-O 6. Nf3 Nc6 7. O-O e5 8. Re1 Re8 9. Bg5 h6 10. Bh4 g5 11. Bg3 Nh5 12. Bc4 Nxg3 13. fxg3 g4 14. hxg4 Bxg4 15. Rf1 Rf8 16. d5 Ne7 17. Na3 f5 18. Bd3 f4 19. Qe1 Ng6 20. Nc2 Qe7 21. Nh2 Bd7 22. Be2 Qg5 23. Rf3 Rf7 24. gxf4 Nxf4 25. Ne3 Bxf6 Bxf6 15. d5 O-O 16. Rad1 Bg4 17. Raf8 26. Kh1 Nh5 27. g4 Nf6 28. Rf5 Qxe3 0-1

Land of the Sky XXIII

Bill Taylor (1822)

Suryabrata Dutta (1622)

Asheville. NC 31 January, 2010

1. e4 c5 2. b3 Nc6 3. Bb2 d6 4. Nf3 Nf6 5. Nc3 e6 6. d4 cxd4 7. Nxd4 g6 8. Nxc6 bxc6 9. e5 dxe5 10. Qxd8+ Kxd8 11. O-O-O+ Nd7 12. Ne4 Bg7 13. Bc4 Rf8 14. Ba3 Bh6+ 15. Kb1 Rg8 16. Nd6 Rg7 17. Bb2 Ke7 18. Rhe1 f6 19. Ba3 c5 20. Bb5 a6 21. Nxc8+ Rxc8 22. Rxd7+ Kf8 23. Rxg7 Kxg7 24. Bd7 Rd8 25. Bxe6 Re8 26. Bc4 Rc8 27. Rd1 Rc7 28. Rd5 g5 29. Bxc5 Kg6 30. g4 Bg7 31. Be3 h5 32. h3 hxg4 33. hxg4 Rc8 34. Bxa6 Rh8 35. Bd3+ Kf7 36. Bf5 Bf8 37. Kb2 Be7 38. c4 Ra8 39. Rd7 Re8 40. Bc5 Kf8 41. Rxe7 Rxe7 42. Bxe7+ Kxe7 43. c5 Kd8 44. b4 Kc7 45. b5 Kb7 46. a4 Kc7 47, a5 1-0

Land of the Sky XXIII

Stephen Maynard (1736)

Gil Holmes (1819)

31 January, 2010 Asheville, NC

1. e4 c5 2. Nf3 Nc6 3. d4 cxd4 4. c3 dxc3 5. Nxc3 d6 6. Bc4 e6 7. Qe2 Bd7 8. O-O Be7 9. Rd1 a6 10. Bf4 e5 11. Be3 b5 12. Bb3 Nf6 13. Bg5 Ob8 14. Rac1 Na5 15. Bxf6 Nxb3 16. axb3 Bxf6 17. Qd3 Be6 18. Qxd6 Qxd6 19. Rxd6 Bxb3 20. Ra1 Ke7 1/2-1/2

Land of the Sky XXIII

David Spencer

John Brooks

Asheville. NC 30 January, 2010 1. e4 e5 2. Nf3 Nc6 3. Bb5 a6 4. Ba4 Nf6 5. O-O Be7 6. Re1 b5 7. Bb3 O-O 8. c3 d5 9. exd5 Nxd5 10. Nxe5 Nxe5 11. Rxe5 c6 12. d4 Bd6 13. Re1 Qh4 14. g3 Qh3

15. Qd3 Bg4 16. Qf1 Qh5 17. Be3 Rae8 18. Nd2 f5 19. f4 Rf6 20. Qf2 Kh8 21. Bxd5 cxd5 22. Nf1 Rfe6 23. a4 b4 24. a5 R8e7 25. Qd2 b3 26. Od3 Bf3 27. Nd2 Bxf4 28. Bxf4 Rxe1+ 29. Rxe1 Rxe1+ 30. Nf1 Be2 31. Oe3 Rxf1+ 32. Kg2 Of3+ 0-1

Land of the Sky XXIII

Robert Hyzdik (1599)

Shawn Spencer (1457)

Asheville. NC 30 January, 2010 1. c4 Nf6 2. g3 e6 3. Bg2 Bc5 4. Nc3 O-O 5. Nf3 d5 6. cxd5 exd5 7. d4 Bb4 8.Qb3 Bxc3+ 9. Qxc3 Ne4 10. Od3 c6 11. O-O Bf5 12. Nh4 Qd7 13. Nxf5 Qxf5 14. f3

Nd6 15. e4 Qg6 16. Bf4 Nc8 17. Qb3 Nb6 18. a4 N6d7 19. Qxb7 Nb6 20. a5 N8d7 21. axb6 Nxb6 22. Rxa7 Rxa7 23. Qxa7 Nc4 24. b3 Nd6 25. exd5 cxd5 26. Qd7 Nf5 27. Qxd5 1-0

Left: Brittney Dewitt studies her position. photo by Tom Hales





Land of the Sky XXIII

David Philips (1459)

Suryabrata Dutta (1505)

Asheville. NC 30 January, 2010

1. e4 c5 2. Nc3 Nc6 3. g3 e6 4. Bg2 Nf6 5. d3 d5 6. f4 d4 7. Nce2 e5 8. h3 Bd6 9. f5 O-O 10. g4 b5 11. Ng3 c4 12. g5 Nd7 13. Qh5 Bb4+ 14. Ke2 cxd3+ 15. cxd3 Qc7 16. f6 Nd8 17. fxg7 Qc2+ 18. Kf1 Qxd3+ 19. N1e2 Re8 20. Nf5 Nb6 21. Kg1 Rb8 22. Nh6+ Kxg7 23. Ng4 Nd7 24. Nf2 Qc2 25. Ng3 Nc5 26. Qh6+ Kh8 27. Nh5 Rg8 28. Qf6+ Rg7 29. Qxg7# 1-0

Land of the Sky XXIII

Jon Achelpohl (1307)

Ben Blair (1537)

Asheville. NC

30 January, 2010

1. d4 d5 2. e3 Nf6 3. Nf3 Bf5 4. c4 c6 5. cxd5 cxd5 6. Qa4+ Nc6 7. Bb5 Qc7 8. Ne5 Rc8 9. Nc3 e6 10. Bd2 Be7 11. Qxa7 O-O 12. Bxc6 Ra8 13. Qxb7 Qxb7 14. Bxb7 Rab8 15. Bc6 Rxb2 16. a4 Rc8 17. Ke2 Ne4 18. Nxe4 Bxe4 19. f3 Bb4 20. Rad1 f6 21. Bd7 Rcc2 22. Bxe6+ Kf8 23. fxe4 fxe5 24. Bxd5 Bxd2 25. Kf3 exd4 26. exd4 Bh6 27. Rhg1 Rf2+ 28. Kg3 Bf4+ 29. Kh3 Rb6 30. Rdf1 Rh6+ 31. Kg4 Rg6+ 32. Kh3 1/2-1/2

Land of the Sky XXIII

Hassan Hashemloo (1476)

Mark Biernacki (1324)

Asheville. NC

31 January, 2010

1. d4 Nf6 2. c4 e6 3. Nc3 Bb4 4. Nf3 d5 5. Bg5 c5 6. cxd5 Qxd5 7. Bxf6 gxf6 8. e3 cxd4 9. exd4 Nc6 10. Qa4 Qe4+ 11. Be2 Bd7 12. Qd1 O-O-O 13. a3 Bxc3+ 14. bxc3 Rhg8 15. Rg1 e5 16. d5 Na5 17. Rb1 Bg4 18. Kf1 Nc4 19. Rb4 b5 20. a4 Bxf3 21. Bxf3 Qf4 22. g3 Qf5 23. Rxb5 e4 24. Rc5+ Kd7 25. Rxc4 Qxf3 26. Qxf3 exf3 27. Rc6 Rb8 28. Ke1 Rb1+ 29. Kd2 Rxg1 0-1

Land of the Sky XXIII

Ben Rouse (1316)

Michael Meekins (1102)

Asheville. NC

31 January, 2010

1. e4 c5 2. Nf3 d6 3. d4 cxd4 4. Nxd4 Nf6 5. Nc3 a6 6. a4 Nc6 7. Nf3 g6 8. Bc4 Bg7 9. Bd2 O-O 10. O-O Be6 11. Nd5 Nxe4 12. Bc3 Nxc3 13. bxc3 Na5 14. Ba2 Rc8 15. Qd3 Bxd5 16. Bxd5 Rxc3 17. Qe2 e6 18. Ba2 Qc7 19. Rac1 Rc8 20. Bb3 Nxb3 21. Rce1 Rxc2 22. Qd1 d5 23. Ng5 Nd4 24. Qg4 h6 25. Nxe6 Nxe6 26. Rxe6 fxe6 27. Qxe6+ Kh7 28. Qxd5 Rc1 29. h4 Rxf1+ 30. Kxf1 Re8 31. Qd1 Qc4+ 32. Kg1 Qxh4 33. a5 Qe4 34. Kf1 Bc3 35. Od7+ Re7 0-1

Land of the Sky XXIII

Dana Daves (1507)

Hassan Hashemloo (1472)

Asheville. NC 31 January, 2010

1. c4 e5 2. Nc3 Nf6 3. Nf3 Nc6 4. a3 Bc5 5. e3 O-O 6. b4 Be7 7. b5 Nb8 8. Nxe5 c6 9. Be2 cxb5 10. cxb5 Qc7 11. Nf3 Rd8 12. Bb2 d5 13. d4 a6 14. O-O axb5 15. Nxb5 Qb6 16. Qc2 Bd7 17. Nc3 Rc8 18. Qb1 Ra5 19. Ne5 Be8 20. Rc1 Rd8 21. Rc2 Ne4 22. Nxe4 dxe4 23. Nc4 Qa7 24. Nxa5 Qxa5 25. Bc3 Qc7 26. Bb4 Qd7 27. Bxe7 Qxe7 28. Bb5 Bd7 29. Rc7 b6 30. Bxd7 Rxd7 31. Rc8+ Rd8 32. Rxd8+ Qxd8 33. Qxe4 Na6 34. Qb7 Nc7 35. Qxb6 Qe7 36. Qb8+ Ne8 37. Rc1 Kf8 1-0

Land of the Sky XXIII

Cameron Chandler (1302)

Wallace Parker (1044)

Asheville. NC

29 January, 2010

1. e4 e5 2. Nf3 d6 3. Bc4 Be7 4. c3 Bg4 5. d4 exd4 6. cxd4 Nf6 7. Nc3 O-O 8. O-O Qd7 9. h3 Bh5 10. e5 dxe5 11. dxe5 Qxd1 12. Rxd1 Bxf3 13. exf6 Bxd1 14. fxe7 Re8 15. Nd5 Rc8 16. Bf4 c6 17. Nc7 Rxc7 18. Bxc7 Na6 19. Rxd1 Re8 20. Bxa6 Rxe7 21. Rd8+ 1-0



Above: Zachary High dueling with Jessica Martin.
Below: A couple of younger players get their game started.

Photos by Tom Hales





From the Editor's Desk.



Well this issue has had somewhat of an adventure. The original deadline came and passed and I had very little to work with. Then the following week articles starting pouring in and I became ill with bronchitis which drained me and things got put on hold. I didn't feel better until after Land of the Sky so I decided to wait for Land of the Sky info to come in. Then my free time was occupied with prepping for and directing the state scholastics. Couple those with various work commitments and I ended up with too many oars in the water. I apologize for the delay in this issue, but I hope it'll be worth the wait....... Oh, and remember, the next deadline is April 15th....

I am looking forward to wait I hope will be a very busy late April. We will have full coverage of the state scholastics in the May/June issue as well as coverage of the U.S. Masters, which has started as of this weekend. We continue to have a very busy schedule with new events popping up at Camp Lejeune as well as numerous scholastic ventures from Raleigh to Asheville and parts in between.

Unfortunately for this issue, we did not have any submissions for several articles. I had hoped to debut "the Grinders" as well as bring in another club for the "Club Focus" articles. The "Roadrage" article is also idle in this issue. The "??" article has gotten quite a bit of attention as a few of you have sent in some pretty entertaining articles. I will keep some of them in my pocket for the time being and sprinkle them throughout future issues. That doesn't mean I'm not looking for more though.

As for the overall direction of the Gambit. I really would like to see more input from the scholastic community. Our young champions should be recognized just as well as our masters. I know it still tickles my mom to go back and look at some of the Clayton News-Star clippings of my baseball games in middle and high school.

Also a lot was missed during the Gambit's inactive periods of the last few years. You'll note the interview conducted with last year's state scholastics champion, David High that is later in this issue. While I won't include any articles already displayed on the NCCA website, I would love to get games or some tournament memories from a few years ago as well.

Best Regards, Jeff Jones Editor, The Gambit

North Carolina's Top 100 players

According to the USCF February 2010 rating supplement.

Overall: #77 IM Jonathan Schroer (2437)

Women: #90 Jessica Martin (1758)

Correspondence: #17 Dana Daves (2369)

Quick: #28 IM Jonathan Schroer (2411) #69 FM Ronald Simpson (2290) #74 LM Craig Jones (2277)

Quick Women: #75 Sarah Walsh (1394)

Age 18: #48 Peter Giannatos (1982) #57 Thomas Paradis (1941) #58 David High (1928) #100 J.J.Lang (1784)

Age 17: #30 Dominique Myers (2053) #56 Tanner Hogue (1927)

Age 16: #55 Kevin Huang (1969)

Age 15: #53 Samuel Xin (1934) #71 Andrew deJong (1872) #85 David Spencer (1837)

Age 14: #46 Joshua Mu (1920) #88 Robin Yopp (1801)

Age 13: #50 Allan Jiang (1837)

Age 12: #49 Tianqi Wang (1812) #86 Kevin Chen (1676)

Age 11: #20 William Campbell (1888) #85 Joseph Swann (1590)

Age 10: #42 Aaron Balleisen (1627)

Age 9: #46 Chad Moody (1491)

Age 8: #42 Sam Ferguson (1290)

Age 7 and under: #33 Alexander Tong (1140) #77 Christopher Chaves (953)

Girls under 16: #37 Grace Campbell (1721) #47 Brittney deWitt (1666) #93 Indira Puri (1450)

North Carolina Grand Prix Standings

Charlie Carerros

This year's North Carolina Grand Prix sponsored by Chess Central, is off to a great start. Since the NCCA Board has revamped the rules and point structure that will determine the overall winners, everyone now has a fighting chance at the gold, or shall we say money and gift certificates.

NCCA President Gary Newsom was able to lock down sponsorship from Chess Central (www.chesscentral.com) who has provided \$850 in gift certificates as well as a Wood "Duke" Style Chess Set as prizes to supplement the cash prize that accrues as events and games are played. With such great prizes on the line, how can everyone check their standings? Well the answer to that can be found on the newly updated NCCA website (www.ncchess.org/grandprix). Charlie Carerros has been designated as the individual to maintain the current standings and prizes for this event. NCGP tournaments should be reflected on the website within seven days of being USCF rated (tournament directors can help with this time line by notifying Charlie via e-mail after your event is rated.) Last year there was uncertainty in the actual size of the cash prize fund, well this isn't an issue this year. The first chart on the web page identifies the current balance of the cash prize fund which gets updated as the NCCA receives the fees from the event organizers.

As of January 15, over 130 North Carolina chess players have shown up at one of the seven completed NCGP events to fight for points and the prestige of winning these great chess tournaments. These events include three Asheboro Opens, two Triangle Area Chess Opens, one Statesville Skewers and the two day Greater Charlotte Championship (multi-day events gained bonus points for every player). This all adds up to 770.5 Grand Prix points being awarded and over 766 activity game points earned.

The current leaders for the NC Grand Prix include last year's winner Chris Mabe who has scored 26 points after attending five of the Grand Prix events. Closely following him is Norm Pruitt, having attended five events himself, has scored 23 points. Praveen Suthaharan trails with 18 points after four events and Ronald Simpson has scored 14.5 points. Ronald Simpson did very well at the Greater Charlotte Championship and the double point event has allowed him to hold fourth place with only two events.

In a fight for the Most Active Player prize is again, Chris Mabe and Norm Pruitt who have played 19 games each over five events with Walter High trailing by one game after five events. It should be noted that the TACOs and Statesville Skewers offer four games while the Asheboro Open only offers a three game event. To see where you sit in the overall rankings, the updated spreadsheet is posted online.

There are a large number of Grand Prix events running this year with the final event being the NC Open in November. At the conclusion of that event, we will wrap up all the scores and validate the winners. At that time we will also find out who wins the "Most Improved" prize. This will be based upon the difference between the player's November 2009 USCF supplement rating and their rating after the 2010 NC Open.

Good luck to everyone as they fight their way to a top spot. The competition if fierce and with the top two spots held by players with ratings of 2282 and 1326 no one is out of the running.

Standings as of 27 February, 2010

Overall:

- 1. FM Ronald Simpson-38½
- 2. Austin Liu-35
- 3. Josh Taylor-29
- 4. Walter High-28½
- 5. LM Chris Mabe-26
- 6. Praveen Suthaharan-25½ Reynaldo Diaz-25½
- 8 Norm Pruitt-23

Games Played:

- 1. Walter High-38
- 2. Austin Liu-31 Josh Taylor-31
- 4. FM Ronald Simpson-26 Henry Johnston-26
- 6. Anish Kottu-25
- 7. David High-24
- 8. Jeffrey Schneider-22

Looking Back: 2009 State Scholastics

Tom Hales

The CHESS BOOM of 2009 was in full swing last March as The 2009 NC Scholastics Championship shattered previous records with FIVE HUNDRED and SIX competitors! It was an increase of twenty-nine players over 2008, and the first time we had ticked The CHESS BOOM of 2009 was in full swing last March as The 2009 NC Scholastics Championship shattered previous records with FIVE HUNDRED and SIX competitors! It was an increase of twenty-nine players over 2008, and the first time we had ticked past the five-hundred mark. The grand event often broke the sound barrier as well, though not in the playing areas, where dedicated tournament directors kept noise to a minimum and great chess to a maximum.

David High was not one of the top-ranked players in the competition, but perhaps he was the most determined. Indeed, Team High (consisting of father Walter, and sons David and Zachary) had been some of the most active competitors in the state over the previous year, participating in an astounding twenty-seven regular rated events! It brings to mind an old joke that makes a good point. Someone once stopped and asked directions of a street musician in New York: "Sir, how do you get to Carnegie Hall?" Without missing a beat, the musician answered, "Practice!" David's chess regimen also included lessons with IM Jonathon Schroer, who recently won his sixth NC Championship, Such careful preparation was no doubt prudent, helping him to get past the second strongest field of competitors in the last seventeen years. The lineup included Charlotte Experts Dominique Myers and Peter Giannatos, and an eye-popping roster of hungry class A and B players. There weren't any "gimmies," and David's average game lasted nearly fifty moves. Charlotte's Samuel Xin pushed him to the limit in round four with a rook and pawn rodeo lasting eighty-one moves.

In the final round, David's Championship hopes hung by a thread, as he faced Thomas Paradis, a tough competitor who tied for second place in 2008. Paradis found a bold exchange sacrifice on move nineteen that wreaked havoc in the white camp, and led to an immediate blunder by High. The game was essentially in hand for Paradis, but David clawed his way back into the draw margin, challenging his opponent with a two-fold repetition on move fifty-eight. More blunders ensued in the rook vs. two knights duel, with each player possessing menacing passed pawns. Tartakower's truism "The winner is the one who makes the next-to-last blunder" came to mind, as Paradis overlooked a wicked (and not so obvious) pin, allowing his opponent to queen. Audible gasps could be heard as the game ended in one fell swoop.

David High was also a linchpin for the winning K-12 team from East Chapel Hill. Along with fellow team members Tanner Hogue, J.J. Lange, Zachary High, and Ben Blach, the band of chess brothers scored a remarkable six-

teen points, or eighty percent. However, the accomplishments of Durham Academy, with thirteen points, should not be overlooked. Matthew Novak was undefeated, Indira Puri turned in some remarkable upsets, and Elliot Cartee and Carl Ward added solid performances to earn their team clear second in the K-12 team standings.

Last year's record-breaking event would not have been possible without the extraordinary efforts of organizer Randy Wheeless, plus a team of coaches and workers both paid and unpaid. There were also hordes of tireless parents, who sacrificed both convenience and comfort to support their children. Last but not least, hats off to the over five hundred competitors who squared off during the grand competition, hopefully learning some valuable life-lessons along the way. They will no doubt cherish fond memories of this event for years to come.



East Chapel Hill High School's championship team receives it's trophy. *From left to right*. Ben Blach, Zachary High, J.J. Lange, David High, Tanner Hogue, then NCCA president Vic Beaman. *Background* organizer Randy Wheeless

An Interview with 2009 High School Champion David High

Questions by Tom Hales in italics

What is your date of birth? November 7, 1991

How long have you been playing chess? How long have you been serious about chess?

I started playing at age 7 when I was introduced to the game in an after school program at my elementary school. We were fortunate enough to have Bill DeArmey as the person who taught us to play. When I graduated to Phillips Middle School in Chapel Hill, Martin Roper, a 2000 level player, was the teacher and chess club sponsor. Mr. Roper got both Zachary and I to enter tournaments, so I began playing seriously at age 12 (entering my first state championship tournament in 2004, grade 6). After the 2006 state tournament where Zachary and I both had frustrating finishes, my dad got in touch with Jonathan Schroer and worked out a plan for us to receive private lessons from him. We have been working with Mr. Schroer weekly for three years now. Our original goal was to make one or both of us the state champion in the K-12 Open Division

What are your favorite things about chess, and your least favorite things?

One of my most favorite things about chess is that I have been surrounded by so many good teammates. I have always had the best people to learn from and practice against. I have gone to school and been teammates with Adam Holmes, Noah Blach, Yuki Waikura, Tanner Hogue, J. J. Lang, Kirk Vaughan, Dannie Ulshen, and Ben Blach. I have also been fortunate to play against some super players such as Ron Simpson, Maurice Dana, and Chris Mabe, all of whom took the time to go over our games and show me where I made mistakes. I also like the fact that chess is not a game of chance; I get to take full credit for my wins and full responsibility for my losses.

Probably my least favorite thing about chess is that it does not get enough respect in the community. The East Chapel Hill High School team has won or tied for first three of the last four years as well as finishing 11th nationally three straight years (2005 -2007), but the worst athletic team on campus gets far more attention and publicity

from the school.

How would you describe your style of play?

I prefer to play open rather than closed games. I like games that offer complicated positions and the possibility of deep tactical maneuvers with lots of strategy. I suppose closed games could offer the same possibilities, but they just never seem as much fun to play and they don't usually get as wild as an open game can.

Who are your favorite GMs past or present? Who are your chess heroes?

This is an easy one. I have been studying the greatest games of Gary Kasparov for the past several months. I think what I learned from studying Kasparov elevated my level of play to the point where I felt I could contend for the state title. A second chess hero for me, of course, is IM Jonathan Schroer. He has worked with me nearly every week for the past three years and helped me see the flaws in my thinking, and has shown me how to take advantage of my opponent's slightest errors.

Do you prefer bishops or knights in general? To put it another way, do you prefer positions which favor bishops or knights?

I definitely prefer bishops because they are more useful in open games. Of course if I were in a closed game, a knight would probably be better for me.



2009 State Scholastics champion David High, who earned a \$1,500 scholarship and represented North Carolina at the Denker Tournament of High School Champions in Indianapolis in August of last year.

In which part of the game are you most likely to gain an advantage over your opponent? Opening, Middlegame (Tactics), or Endgame? Try to pick one.

That depends upon the strength of my opponent. With someone of equal strength, I am most likely to do well in the middle game. I think one of the strongest aspects of my play is my ability to analyze a position and anticipate my opponents plans. The last 400 rating points I gained came more from eliminating my own blunders and thinking positions through clearly rather than from memorizing opening books or patterns. Against a weaker opponent, I would tend to think my end game would help me the most. This is where weaker opponents tend to blunder, especially under time pressure, and I have been well-drilled by Schroer in many standard endgame patterns.

Do you have other hobbies or pursuits? Do you follow sports, play sports, or have favorite teams?

I like to play ultimate Frisbee because I need to be physically active and most of my close friends also like to play. I have recently purchased a guitar and am learning to play it also. I am not really into collegiate or professional sports as a fan. I enjoy going to an occasional UNC football or basketball game with my dad, but I don't really follow any other teams closely. I don't look for the sports page when I get up in the morning.

What are your favorite subjects in school?

I have enjoyed my business classes the most since I got to high school. I was very interested in the units where we studied the stock markets and learned how they work. We set up personal portfolios and followed them through online tracking systems. I have continued to be interested in some of the companies I followed even more than a year after the class was over. I have no idea where it may lead, but the stock market stuff was definitely fun.

Do you have a college major in mind? Where might you attend?

Right now I am leaning toward a business major. I know that I definitely want to stay in North Carolina for college. The schools that I am looking at seriously right now are Elon, Guilford, UNC Asheville, UNC Wilmington, Campbell, and Appalachian State. Nothing is definite, however

Do you have any games other than the NC State Scholastic 2009 of which you are particularly proud? Any Master scalps?

Wins over John Timmel and Gary Newsom, and draws against FM Ron Simpson and John Timmel are my only significant non-losses to 2000+ level players. Of course my very favorite was a win over Jon Schroer in a simul at States two years ago when he was trying to play a roomful of kids at the same time and I got past him when he missed something!!

Do you think speed chess is useful for training? How useful, and what minimum time controls?

Speed chess has been very useful to me for training. I prefer to play 5/0 games on ICC. It has especially helped my openings because I get to play a lot of games and see where I tend to make mistakes. It develops my instincts for moves and thus helps in the long run with my time management. That sometimes translates into the end game where I have a time advantage over my opponent. It makes me realize that when I only have five minutes left on my clock, I am used to playing entire games in that time span.

Do you have any favorite chess books?

I have been working from Igor Stohl's "Garry Kasparov's greatest chess games" (2 volumes). I think studying Kasparov's games has helped me learn how to think about a position. A second book that I carry around with me at school is Fred Reinfeld's "1001 winning chess sacrifices and combinations." This book has been great for tactical development and sharpness

Do you currently have a girlfriend?

No

What are your ultimate chess goals? Master, NC Champion, GM? Do you foresee chess being a lifelong pursuit?

My first chess goal was to become state champion in the K-12 Open section. Beyond that, I have always wanted to reach the expert (2000) level. I did not know if I had the ability to progress beyond that level, but now that I have attained the first and am at least close to the second, I can look further out for goals. I think the NM level (2200) might be within reach and winning the NC Open might also be attainable if I continue to work hard at it. As far as GM goes, I

doubt that is in the cards. I would have had to get a much faster start at age 7 and be a lot further along than I am now. I can easily see myself playing chess as a lifelong pursuit, but not as a profession. I like the quote: "The goal is to pursue perfection, not to achieve it."

How tall are you currently? Right or left handed?

I am 5' 9' and left-handed. My dad thinks both Zachary and I will be close to six feet tall because his side of the family women who are taller than that. Although Zachary is right-handed, there are lots of lefties in our family. My grandfather and his two sisters are left-handed; my dad and his two siblings are left-handed, and I have two cousins who are left-handed.

Are there any chess openings or defenses that you DARE your opponents to play?

I try to respect most openings because Schroer has shown me that almost any opening can present difficult challenges if played correctly and with some imagination. The first step toward defeat is taking your opponent's opening lightly.

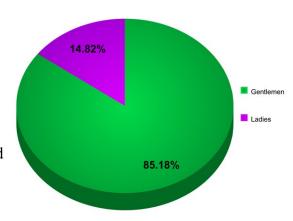
Any last thoughts?

We would really like to get our entire team to the Super Nationals this year in Nashville. It was such a great feeling at States to see my teammates doing so well, and the competition with Durham Academy drove us to our best performances ever. It was as if the sight of all the East kids on the top boards made us play better. By round 4 we had Boards 1, 2, 3. Tanner Hogue, J.J. Lang, Zachary, Ben Blach, and myself have been together as chess teammates since early middle school. We always wanted one of us to be state champion, but we never dreamed of a sweep of the first three places. Durham Academy's kids are all friends of ours and they occasionally ride to tournaments with us. They pushed us to the very end as the team title was not decided until the last 10 minutes of the last round. Zachary's last round draw put us up 1/2 a point, and J.J.'s win sealed the team victory.

This One's for the Girls.

The chess scene was once a virtual boy's club, especially in the United States, but stereotypes have given way to a new reality in recent years. Thanks to work by pioneers like Lisa Lane, and most recently Susan Polgar, chess has become increasingly popular among women, who are proving that they can compete side-by-side with their male counterparts.

North Carolina scholastic chess has certainly missed the likes of Laura Lee, and sisters Amelia and Colette Wheeless. However, a new generation have been proving themselves, led by players like Grace Campbell, Brittney Dewitt, and Indira Puri. Indeed, Durham Academy's Indira Puri did quite well at last year's scholastic, competing in the top K-12 Section. She managed some remarkable upsets despite one of the strongest fields ever, and finished with 3½ points, which was 8th by tie-break. You can see some of her handy-work in the games collection further on.



Of our 506 scholastic competitors last year, there were 75 ladies, and 431 gentlemen.

North Carolina State Scholastic High School Champions * Denker Champions in bold.

2010-William Campell 2009-David High 2008-Jonathon McNeill 2007-Frank Mu **2006-Nelson Lopez II** 2005-Nelson Lopez II 2004-Daniel Tapia 2003-Daniel Tapia 2002-Justin Daniel, Kaustubh Pimputkar, Daniel Tapia 2001-Justin Daniel 2000-Matthew Hoekstra, Dan McCready 1999-Diego Ubiera

1998-Matthew Hoekstra, Daniel Wong 1997-Mike Klein 1996-Mike Klein 1995-Mike Klein 1994-Garth Conrad, Kevin Dupuis, Mike Klein 1993-Kevin Dupuis, Mike Klein 1992-Ryan Deering 1991-Frankie Newton, Gillian Sharer 1990-Frankie Newton, Derek Stepp 1989-Russell Meter, Carlos Reina, Sam Shah 1988-Nathan Kahl, David Schmidt 1987-Kevin Kirby 1986-David Schmidt 1985-John Kirby 1984-Mark Seawell 1983-John Kirby, Mark Seawell 1982-Mark Seawell 1981-Matthew Noble 1980-Brian Gurley, Arnold Tharrington 1979-Nathan Hunt 1978-Brooks Pearce 1977-Bob Dunn 1976-Allen Cooley 1975-Allen Cooley, Mike McCann, Jun Ludwinski 1974-Rex Demers 1973-Greg Samsa

Games of the 2009

State Scholastics

2009 North Carolina State Scholastics

a David High (1884)

Robert Jackson (1464)

Charlotte. NC

7 March, 2009

1. e4 e6 2. d4 d5 3. Nd2 Nf6 4. e5 Nfd7 5. c3 c5 6. Bd3 Nc6 7. Ne2 cxd4 8. cxd4 f6 9. Nf4 Nxd4 10. Qh5+ Ke7 11. exf6+ Nxf6 12. Ng6+ Kd7 13. Qh4 hxg6 14. Qxh8 g5 15. O-O Kc7 16. Nb3 Nxb3 17. axb3 g4 18. Bf4+ Kd7 19. Rac1 Ke8 20. Rc7 Nd7 21. Bg6+ 1-0

2009 North Carolina State Scholastics

Stephen Wang (1655)

David High (1884)

Charlotte. NC

7 March, 2009

1. d4 Nf6 2. c4 c5 3. Nf3 cxd4 4. Nxd4 e5 5. Nf3 Nc6 6. Bg5 Qa5+ 7. Bd2 Qb6 8. Qc2 e4 9. Be3 Bc5 10. Bxc5 Qxc5 11. Nfd2 Nd4 12. Qc3 O-O 13. e3 Nc6 14. Be2 Qg5 15. O-O d6 16. Kh1 Ne5 17. f4 exf3 18. Nxf3 Nxf3 19. Rxf3 Ne4 20. Qd3 Bf5 21. Qd5 g6 22. Nd2 Qh4 23. Raf1 Rae8 24. g3 Qh6 25. Rf4 Nxg3+ 26. Kg1 Nxe2+ 27. Kh1 Nxf4 28. exf4 Re2 29. Nf3 Be4 30. Qg5 Qxh2# 0-1

2009 North Carolina State Scholastics

David High (1884)

Peter Giannatos (2042)

Charlotte. NC 7 March, 2009

1. e4 Nf6 2. e5 Nd5 3. d4 d6 4.Nf3 dxe5 5. dxe5 Bg4 6. c4 Nb4 7. Qxd8+ Kxd8 8. Nd4 c5 9. a3 cxd4 10.axb4 Nc6 11. Bf4 Nxb4 12. Na3 e6 13. Kd2 Bc5 14. Nb5 Ke7 15. Nd6 Bxd6 16. exd6+ Kd7 17. c5 f6 18. Bb5+ Nc6 19. f3 Bf5 20. Rac1 e5 21. Bg3 g5 22. Rhe1 Rae8 23. Bf2 Be6 24. Kd3 Bb3 25. h4 h6 26. Ke4 Ke6 27. Bc4+ Bxc4 28. Rxc4 f5+ 29. Kd3 Kd5 30. Rcc1 e4+ 31. fxe4+ fxe4+ 32. Ke2 Nb4 33. Red1 e3 34. Be1 d3+ 35. Rxd3+ Nxd3 36. Kxd3 Rhf8 37. hxg5 hxg5 38. Rc2 Rf4 39. Ke2 Rc4 40. Rxc4 Kxc4 41. Ba5 Rf8 42. d7 b6 43. Bxb6! axb6 44. c6 Kd4 45. c7 Rf2+ 46. Ke1 1-0

2009 North Carolina State Scholastics

Samuel Zin (1984)

2 David High (1884)

Charlotte. NC

8 March, 2009

1. e4 c5 2. Nf3 e6 3. d4 cxd4 4. Nxd4 Nf6 5. Nc3 Nc6 6. Be3 Bb4 7. f3 d5 8. Bd3 e5 9. Nxc6 bxc6 10. Bd2 O-O 11. a3 Ba5 12. O-O Rb8 13. b4 Bb6+ 14. Kh1 c5 15. exd5 cxb4 16. axb4 Nxd5 17. Nxd5 Qxd5 18. Bc3 Bd4 19. Rb1 Rd8 20. Qd2 Be6 21. Rfd1 Rbc8 22. Bxd4 Qxd4 23. Qg5 Kh8 24. Re1 f6 25. Qh5 Bg8 26. Re4 Qd7 27. Rbe1 Bf7 28. Qh4 Bg6 29. R4e3 Qd4 30. Qxd4 Rxd4 31. Bxg6 hxg6 32. Ra3 Rxb4 33. c3 Rb7 34. Kg1 Rb2 35. Re4 g5 36. c4 Rc2 37. Rxa7 R8xc4 38. Rxc4 Rxc4 39. Kf2 Kh7 40. Rb7 Kg6 41. g4 Rf4 42. Re7 Kh6 43. Kg3 Ra4 44. Re6 Ra7 45. Rb6 Kg6 46. Rc6 Kf7 47. h4 gxh4+ 48. Kxh4 Ra3 49. Kg3 e4 50. Kf4 exf3 51. Kg3 Kg6 52. Rb6 Kg5 53. Rb5+ Kg6 54. Rb8 55. Rb7+ Kg6 56. Rb8 f2+! 57. Kxf2 Kg5 58. Rb4 g6 59. Rc4 Kh4 60. Rc6 Kg5 61. Rc4 Rh3 62. Kg2 Re3 63. Kf2 Rd3 64. Rb4 Rd6 65. Kf3 Rd1 66. Ra4 Rg1 67. Kg3 Rg1+ 68. Kf3 Kh4 69. Rb4 Rg3+ 70. Kf2 Rxg4 71. Rb6 Kg5 72. Rb5+ f5 73. Ra5 Rb4 74. Kf3 Rb3+ 75. Kf2 Kg4 76. Ra4+ f4 77. Ra6 g5 78. Ra4 Rb2+ 79. Kf1 Kg3 80. Ra3+ f3 81. Ra1 Rh2 0 - 1

2009 North Carolina State Scholastics

David High (1884)

Thomas Paradis (1918)

Charlotte. NC 8 March, 2009

1. e4 e6 2. d4 d5 3. Nd2 Nf6 4. e5 Nfd7 5. c3 c5 6. Bd3 Nc6 7. Ne2 cxd4 8. cxd4 Qb6 9. Nf3 f6 10. exf6 Nxf6 11. Nc3 Bd7 12. a3 a6 13. Bf4 Be7 14. O-O O-O 15. Qd2 Nh5 16. Be5 Bf6 17. Na4 Qd8 18. Nc5 Bxe5 19. dxe5 Rxf3 20. Nxd7 Rxd3 21. Qxd3 Qxd7 22. f4 g6 23. Rad1 Rf8 24. g3 Qe7 25. Qc3 Ng7 26. g4 Qh4 27. Qg3 Qxg3+28. hxg3 h5 29. gxh5 gxh5 30. Kh2 Nf5 31. Rfe1 Kf7 32. Rd3 Rc8 33. Rc1 Ke7 34. Kg2 Kd7 35. Rh1 Ng7 36. g4 Rg8 37. g5 Ne7 38. Rb3 b5 39. a4 Kc6 40. axb5+ axb5 41. Rc1+ Kb6 42. Rbc3 Ngf5 43. Rc7 Rg7 44. b4 Ne3 continued on next page

High-Paradis continued

45. Kh3 Nc4 46. Rd7 Nf5 47. Rxg7 Nxg7 48. Ra1 Ne3 49. Kg3 Nc2 50. Rb1 d4 51. Kf2 Kc6 52. Ke2 Kd5 53. Kd3 Ne3 54. Rc1 Nc4 55. Ra1 Nb2+ 56. Kc2 Na4 57. Kd3 Nb2+ 58. Kc2 Nc4 59. Ra7 Nf5 60. Kd3 Nb2+ 61. Kc2 Nc4 62. Kd3 h4 63. Rd7+ Kc6 64. Rh7 Nb6 65. g6 Nd5 66. g7 Nde7 67. Ke4 Kd7 68. g8=Q 1-0

2009 North Carolina State Scholastics

Dominique Myers (2018)

Elliot Cartee (1628)

Charlotte. NC 7 March, 2009

1. e4 c5 2. d4 cxd4 3. Nf3 d6 4. Nxd4 Nf6 5. Nc3 g6 6. Be3 Bg7 7. Qd2 O-O 8. f3 Nc6 9. O-O-O Bd7 10. g4 Rc8 11. h4 Ne5 12. h5 Qa5 13. hxg6 fxg6 14. Bh6 Bxh6 15. Rxh6 Nc4 16. Bxc4+ Rxc4 17. Rdh1 Rf7 18. Nb3 Qc7 19. Kb1 b5 20. Qh2 Rxc3 21. Rxg6+ Kf8 22. bxc3 hxg6 23. Nd4 Rh7 24. Qg2 Rxh1+ 25. Qxh1 Qxc3 26. Qh8+ Kf7 27. Nb3 Qxf3 28. g5 Qh5 29. Qa8 Qxg5 30. Qxa7 Qf4 31. Qg1 Qxe4 32. Qf2 Qf5 33. Qe3 Qe4 34. Qf2 Be6 35. Nd4 Qd5 36. c3 Bf5+ 37. Kb2 Qc5 38. Qh4 b4 39. Ne2 Bd3 40. Qd4 Bxe2 41. Qxb4 Qxb4+ 42. cxb4 Nd5 43. Kb3 0-1

2009 North Carolina State Scholastics

Dominique Myers (2018)

Charlotte. NC

7 March, 2009

1. e4 e6 2. d4 d5 3. Nc3 Nf6 4. Bg5 Be7 5. Bxf6 Bxf6 6. e5 Be7 7. Qg4 g6 8. h4 h5 9. Qf4 g5 10. Qf3 g4 11. Qg3 b6 12. f3 Rg8 13. O-O-O Kd7 14. fxg4 Rxg4 15. Qf3 Ke8 16. Rg7 17. Nge2 c6 18. Qxh5 Kd7 19. Bh3 Kc7 20. Rhf1 Qg8 21. Rf2 Bd7 22. Rdf1 Be8 23. Qf3 Nd7 24. Rg2 f5 25. exf6 Nxf6 26. Nf4 Bf7 27. Qe2 Rxg3 28. Rxg3 Qxg3 29. Qe5+ Kb7 30. Bxe6 Bxe6 31. Qxe6 Re8 32. Nh5 Qg4 33. Qxg4 Nxg4 34. Rf7 Kc8 35. Ng7 Rh836. Rxe7 Rxh4 1-0

2009 North Carolina State Scholastics

Peter Giannatos (2029)

Tianqi Wang (1804)

Charlotte. NC 8 March, 2009

1. e4 c6 2. d4 d5 3. Nc3 dxe4 4. Nxe4 Bf5 5. Ng3 Bg6 6. h4 h6 7. Nh3 Nd7 8. Nf4 Bh7 9. Bc4 e6 10. Qe2 Ngf6 11. Bxe6 fxe6 12. Nxe6 Qe7 13. Nc7+ Kf7 14. Nxa8 Qxe2+ 15. Nxe2 Bd6 16. c3 Rxa8 17. Be3 Nd5 18. O-O Re8 19. Rae1 Bd3 20. g3 Kg8 21. Bf4 Rxe2 22. Bxd6 Rxb2 23. c4 Bxf1 24. cxd5 Nf6 25. Kxf1 cxd5 26. Re7 Rxa2 27. Rxb7 Ne4 28. Bf4 Rxf2+ 29. Ke1 g5 30. hxg5 hxg5 31. Bxg5 Rf3 32. Bf4 Nxg3 33. Be5 Rf7 34. Rb8+ Rf8 35. Rb7 Rf7 36. Rb8+ and the game continued to a draw. 1/2-1/2

2009 North Carolina State Scholastics

Zachary High (1589)

Jacob Parrish (1980)

Charlotte. NC 7 March, 2009

1. e4 c5 2. Nf3 d6 3. d4 cxd4 4. Nxd4 Nf6 5. Nc3 a6 6. Be3 e5 7. Nb3 Be6 8. Be2 Be7 9. O-O O-O 10. f3 Qc7 11. Qd2 Rd8 12. Nd5 Bxd5 13. exd5 Nbd7 14. Rac1 a5 15. a4 Nb6 16. c4 Nxa4 17. Ra1 Qd7 18. Nxa5 Rdb8 19. Qb4 Nc5 20. Nb3 Qc7 21. Ra3 Rxa3 22. Qxa3 b5 23. Nxc5 dxc5 24. b3 Bd6 25. Ra1 bxc4 26. bxc4 h5 27. Qa7 Rb1+ 28. Bf1 Rxa1 29. Qxa1 e4 30. fxe4 Ng4 31. Qe1 Bxh2+ 32. Kh1 Bg3 33. Qd2 Bf2 34. Bf4 Qe7 35. Bg5 Qe5 36. Bf4 Qa1 37. Qc1 Qxc1 38. Bxc1 Bg3 39. Be2 Nf2+ 40. Kg1 g6 41. Bf3 Nd3 42. Bg5 Be5 43. Be7 Kg7 44. d6 Bxd6 45. Bxd6 Kf6 46. Be2 Nc1 47. Bf3 Nd3 48. Kf1 Ke6 1-0

2009 North Carolina State Scholastics

Will Campbell (1816)

Britt McDaniel (1649)

Charlotte. NC 7 March, 2009

1. d4 Nf6 2. c4 c5 \$11 3. Nf3 g6 4. Nc3 Bg7 5. d5 O-O 6. e4 d6 7. Bd3 e6 8. O-O exd5 9. Nxd5 Nxd5 10. exd5 Bg4 11. h3 Bxf3 12. Qxf3 Nd7 13. Rb1 Ne5 14. Qg3 Nxd3 15. Qxd3 Bd4 16. Be3 Bxe3 17. fxe3 Qe7 18. a3 Rae8 19. Rfe1 Qe4 20. Qc3 Re7 21. Rbd1 Rfe8 22. b4 b6 23. Qd3 Qxd3 24. Rxd3 Re4 25. Rc3 f5 26. g3 f4 27. gxf4 Rxf4 28. Rf1 Rh4 29. Rf6 Rxh3 30. Rxd6 Rhxe3 31. Rxe3 Rxe3 32. bxc5 bxc5 33. Rd8+ Kf7 34. Rc8 Rxa3 35. Rxc5 Ke7 36. Kf2 Kd7 37. Ke2 h5 38. Rc6 Rg3 39. Ra6 h4 40. c5 Rg5 41. Rxa7+ Kd8 42. Ra8+ Kc7 43. d6+ Kc6 44. Ra6+ Kd7 45. Ra7+ Ke8 46. c6 Rd5 47. d7+ Kd8 48. Ra8+ Kc7 49. Rc8+ 1-0

2009 North Carolina State Scholastics

Kevin Huang (1953)

Indira Puri (1398)

Charlotte. NC 7 March, 2009

1. c4 e5 2. Nc3 c6 3. Nf3 Bd6 4. d4 exd4 5. Nxd4 Bc5 6. Ne4 Bb4+ 7. Bd2 Bxd2+ 8. Qxd2 d5 9. cxd5 cxd5 10. Nc3 Nf6 11. g3 Nc6 12. Bg2 O-O 13. O-O Be6 14. Rfd1 Qb6 15. Na4 Qc7 16. Rac1 Rac8 17. Nc5 Qe7 18. b4 Rfd8 19. a4 Ne4 20. Nxc6 bxc6 21. Qc2 Nxc5 22. Qxc5 Qb7 23. e4 g6 24. Qc3 h6 25. Rd4 a6 26. Rcd1 Rd7 27. Qc5 Rcd8 28. h4 h5 29. Bf3 Kg7 30. Qc3 Kg8 31. Bg2 f5 32. exf5 Bxf5 33. Rc1 Rd6 34. Bf1 Be4 35. Bd3 Bxd3 36. Qxd3 Rf6 37. Qc3 Rdf8 38. Rf1 Rf3 39. Rd3 R3f6 40. Rd4 Qb6 41. Qd3 Kh7 42. Kg2 Rf3 43. Qxf3 Rxf3 44. Kxf3 Qxd4 0-1

2009 North Carolina State Scholastics

Jacob Parrish (1994)

Ben Blach (1463)
Charlotte, NC

e. NC 7 March, 2009

1. e4 d5 2. exd5 Qxd5 3. d4 Nf6 4. Nf3 Bf5 5. c4 Qd8 6. Nc3 e6 7. Bd3 Bxd3 8. Qxd3 Nc6 9. O-O Qd7 10. Bg5 h6 11. Bh4 g5 12. Bg3 O-O-O 13. Nb5 Ne8 14. d5 Nb4 15. Qd4 Bg7 16. Qxa7 Qe7 17. dxe6 Qxe6 18. Rad1 Rxd1 19. Rxd1 1-0

2009 North Carolina State Scholastics

Samuel Xin (1984)

Will Campbell (1816)

Charlotte. NC

7 March, 2009

1. e4 e6 2. d4 d5 3. Nc3 Bb4 4. e5 c5 5. Bd2 Nc6 6. Nb5 Bxd2+ 7. Qxd2 cxd4 8. f4 \$14 Nh6 9. Nf3 Nf5 10. Nbxd4 Ncxd4 11. Nxd4 Nxd4 12. Qxd4 Qa5+ 13. c3 Bd7 14. Bd3 Bc6 15. O-O Qb6 16. Qxb6 axb6 17. a3 Ke7 18. Rfe1 h6 19. Rad1 Rhc8 20. Be2 g5 21. fxg5 hxg5 22. Rd4 Ra4 23. Red1 Rca8 24. Kf2 Rxd4 25. Rxd4 Ra4 26. Ke3 Rxd4 27. cxd4 f5 28. g3 Kf7 29. h4 g4 30. Kf4 Kg6 31. Bd3 Bd7 32. Bc2 Kh6 33. Bd1 Kh5 34. Be2 1/2-1/2

2009 North Carolina State Scholastics

Matthew Novak (1660)

Peter Giannatos (2029)

Charlotte. NC 8 March, 2009

1. e4 Nf6 2. e5 \$14 Nd5 3. c4 Nb6 4. c5 Nd5 5. Nc3 c6 6. d4 d6 7. Nxd5 cxd5 8. cxd6 exd6 9. exd6 Bxd6 10. Nf3 O-O 11. Be2 Nc6 12. O-O Bf5 13. Bd3 Be4 14. Ng5 Qc7 15. g3 Rae8 16. Re1 Bxd3 17. Rxe8 Rxe8 18. Qxd3 Re1+ 19. Kg2 Nb4 20. Qxh7+ Kf8 21. Qh8+ Ke7 22. Qxg7 23. Qg8+ Bf8 24. Bf4 Qe7 25. Rxe1 1-0

2009 North Carolina State Scholastics

Grace Campbell (1561)

Wevin Huang (1953)

Charlotte. NC 8 March, 2009

1. c4 Nf6 2. d4 d5 3. Nc3 c6 4. Bf4 dxc4 5. a4 Nd5 6. Bd2 e6 7. e3 Nxc3 8. Bxc3 b5 9. axb5 cxb5 10. Ba5 Qd7 11. b3 Nc6 12. Bd2 cxb3 13. Qxb3 b4 14. Bb5 a5 15. Nf3 Bd6 16. d5 exd5 17. Qxd5 Bb7 18. Nd4 Be5 19. Bxc6 Bxc6 20. Qxe5+ Kf8 21. Qc5+ 1-0



We hope you enjoyed the coverage of last year's State Scholastics. We will have full coverage of this year's event in the May/June issue of the Gambit. In the meantime, during this year's event we had a quick creative writing contest called "Check-ku". This was a chess related haiku contest. These haikus will be sprinkled into the next few issues of the Gambit. The winners of the "Check-ku" contest at this year's Scholastics are:

Grades 9-12: Roberto Martinez Harding University High School, Charlotte

Game of strategy.
Wisdom dashes against strength.
The knights pave the way.

Grades 6-8: Aninda Manocha Guy B. Phillips Middle School, Chapel Hill

The white queen attacks
As it glides across the board.
The king's in danger.

Grades 4-5: Brooke Bauman Rashkis Elementary School, Durham

The game has started.
Pieces fly across the board
As they fight bravely.

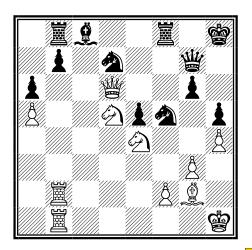
Grades K-3: Ji-yound Park Rashkis Elementary School, Durham

I took a deep breath.
I carefully moved a piece.
Checkmate is coming.

Queen Odds! Evan Whittington

When Jeff told me he was starting a column for those not-so-brilliant moments, I said that I could probably submit literally dozens of my USCF games for the readers to enjoy and laugh at. The sad truth is that we can all say that. Weather it was a horrendous move or an undesirable action or statement, we have all done crazy things at tournaments.

As I got ready to write this article, I remembered reading an article on mistakes that had been made by GM's. I think the article was in Chess Life, but I'm not entirely sure. I could not find that article, but the Internet being the wonderful tool it is, it didn't take long for me to find probably the "best" worst move ever made. The infamous Petrosian-Bronstien match at the 1956 Candidates Tournament in Amsterdam.



Bronstien has just played 35... Nf5 See diagram at left and Petrosian managed to overlook the hanging queen answering 36.Ng5??. Players overlook the obvious for many reasons and in some cases we see the obvious and still fail to respond properly. It's true that all chess players strive to play like Grandmasters. And while I can say that I did emulate Petrosian in the game I'm about to show, it is not exactly how I'd hoped to "play like a GM".

One of the Point A Chess Club's traditions was to drive up to Jersey every February for the US Amateur Team East. In 1999, we had 5 players and I agreed to try and find another team to play on instead of being an alternate on the Point A team (as an Alternate one of us would have been sitting out every round). I was placed on a team who had a player back out at the last minute. I was board 2 on this team and our round one opponents were a very low rated scholastic team. I can only imagine how much my team were second guessing adding me as they watched this train wreck...

1999 US Amateur Team East

Evan Whittington

Kenny Ng

Parsippany, NJ

February 1999

1.d4 d5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.c4 Nf6 4.Bg5 Bf5 5.e3 Nb4 6.Qa4+ c6? 7.Qxb4 h6 8.Bf4 e6 {OK, I'd just won a knight and was figuring to coast to a win. What happened here was something that Gordon and I discussed just last week at Via Cappuccino....the problem of looking ahead and making the 2nd move 1st. I had figured on taking b7, but started thinking about what I wanted to do next. Apparently...that was developing the Knight. 9.Nbd2?? Bxb4 I came close to resigning, but ultimately decided to play on. I couldn't look worse after all, so what do I have to lose. At this point though...I had resolved to mobilize and attack as soon as possible and to do so with absolute and complete reckless abandon.} **10.Be2 Bg4 11.O-O?** ...the reckless abandon plan would have fallen flat if my opponent had seen Bxd2. There were a multitude of ways to win this game, or even just to hold off any attack I manage to work up, but this combination was noteworthy. 11...Bxf3?! 12.Nxf3 O-O 13.Kh1 Ne4 14.Bd3 Nd2 15.Nxd2 Bxd2 16.g4 b6 My opponent suddenly stated making very passive moves at this point. Throughout the game, his team mates had been eagerly watching this game. Of course, they were being ripped apart by my team mates and this game was essentially meaningless in the context of the tournament (we were still going to win the match). They definitely saw this as a moral victory though and probably couldn't wait to show this game to their coach. 17.Rg1 c5 18.g5 hxg5 19.Bxg5 Qd7?? This was the tipping point. Crafty analysis went from -7 to +0.2 on this move. I think I should still ultimately lose, but at least according to Crafty, I now have the advantage despite being down a queen vs bishop. 19... f6 pretty much seals the deal. When his team mates saw Bf6, there moods changed noticeably. They knew what was coming and that it was almost too late to stop it. 20.Bf6 Qb7?? 20... g6 was the last chance to stay in the game. 21.Rxg7+ Kh8 22.Rh7+ Kg8 23.Rg1# 1-0

I'm not proud of the fact that I won this game. In reality, it wasn't really mine to win after move 9. I needed my opponent to get complacent and overconfident and that was, more or less, exactly what happened. There aren't too many players out there who can say that they survived and won the worst game they ever played..... I can.

"Chess is a game of blunder and counter-blunder" -- Jeff Jones

Hickory Chess Club vs Queen City Chess Association

Charlie Carreros

On January 9th, a group of seven QCCA players traveled to Hickory to do battle against the Hickory Chess Club. Even with a 200 rating point difference between the two club teams, a number of very tough and hard fought games were had at every level of competition. More important than the games, however was every player enjoyed the event. The post game analysis outside the playing room was very informative and pleasant. In the end, I think that many new friendships were started and will continue to grow into the future.

The following players represented the clubs:

Queen City Chess Association									
Dominique Myers	2053	Daniel Liu	2000	Fabio Hurtado	1808	Mike Eberhardinger	1751		
Charles Carerros	1582	Copeland Blackwell	1229	Drew Hayes	547	_			
Hickory Chess Club									
Randy Lovelace	1837	Mark Gragg	1789	John Shaw	1700	Supradeep Madduri	1183		
Vaughn Dagenhart	1241	Lawrence Robinson	871	Lee Robbins	646	Salil Bhende	UNR		
Reginald Logcrier	UNR								

Like most team events, the players were ordered by ratings and assign a board number and were to play two games, one as white and one as black, against a single opponent. When a team has additional players, they substitute the players where they best fit on the second round so that everyone gets a chance to play.

On the top board, Randy Lovelace was able to give Dominique Myers a run for his money in both games. Their first game was a draw while the second game was hard fought. At one point Randy had a huge lead and looked like he was going to have the upset of the match but Dominique was able to hold out and in the end, pull out a win.

The hard fought games at the first board were mimicked throughout the event. On the second and third boards, the higher rated QCCA players Dan Liu and Fabio Hurtado were only able to pull draws against their opponents Mark Gragg and John Shaw. Rating points mean little when it comes time to push pieces.

Mike Eberhardinger, out rating his opponent by around 500 points found some stiff resistances from Supradeep Madduri. After losing the first game, Supradeep was able to dig deep and find moves that the typically Class D player may find difficult to identify. In this second game Supradeep was able to manage a draw, creating the largest upset on the day. Good job Supradeep.

After the two rounds, the top four players of the QCCA were only able to score 2 wins and 6 draws against their Hickory counterparts. In my book, this is a victory for the Hickory club who were out-rated by an average of 276 points per board.

Charles Carerros moved ahead of Vaughn Dagenhart quickly in both of their games on board five, however both times Vaughn was able to create very strong counter attacks that had to be carefully defended against. The first game saw Charlie winning an endgame with a few extra pawns and the second was won by Charlie with a cheap mating attack.

Copeland Blackwell met Lawrence Robinson in the first game on board six. In this game, Lawrence quickly went down a piece and Copeland found himself fighting to turn that piece advantage to a win. Copeland's second game against the unrated Reginald Longcrier did not go as well for him. In the end Reginald won his first ever USCF rated game and scored a point for the HCC.

Drew Hayes, the only provisional player that the QCCA fielded, won his first game against Lee Robbins with a Fried Liver attack. After the game, Drew was excited to point out that after all his studying of the opening this was the first time he had the chance to play that attack over the board. Similar to Copeland, Drew competed against the other unrated Hickory player, Salil Bhende. And again, the Hickory player was able to score a win in his first ever USCF game.

The Hickory Chess Club did an amazing job hosting this event. They selected a great playing location and provided lunch for both clubs. Vaughn Dagenhart, Mike Eberhardinger and Jack Shaver should all be given credit for getting this match together and pulling it off. I hear there are talks about a rematch of these two teams but that will have to wait as the QCCA has already accepted their next team match against the Laurin Keller Memorial Chess Club.

SIMPSON AND MABE SHARE GREATER CHARLOTTE CHAMPIONSHIP

Gary Newsom

A grand total of 77 players braved the early winter chill and converged on the campus of UNCC Charlotte to compete in the Greater Charlotte Championship, held on December 4-5. Four masters were present to compete for the guaranteed \$2400 prize fund, headed by FM Ron Simpson of Raleigh. He was joined by NM Chris Mabe of Charlotte, NM Phillip Lamby of Columbia, SC, and NM Klaus Pohl of Greeneville, SC.

The Open Section was won by FM Simpson and NM Mabe who came in with 4-1 scores. Third place was won by Charlotte high schooler Dominique Myers, whose 3.5 score included sending Mabe to his only defeat of the event. The U2000 prize was won by Patrick McCartney with 3 points. Also noteworthy was the performance of Mladen Pauler, a Charlottean by way of Bosnia, who just last week played his first USCF rated game at the Queen City Chess Club. He also came in with 3 points.

In the U1800 section, Charlotte's JP Flynn and Greensboro's Reynaldo Diaz agreed to a hard fought last round draw and tied for 1st with 4-1. Third place was shared between two Charlotte youth; Ken Chu and Joe Biernacki. The Under 1600 prize was a tie with Ben Blair and Jonathan Sarasua sharing the honors.

The U1400 Section saw the only clear winner with Norm Pruitt continuing his recent winning ways by cruising to a 4.5 score. Second place was a tie between Praveen Suthaharan of Greensboro and Windy Gatlin of Charlotte. Michael Boone won the U1200 prize with a 3.5 score. All the adult sections were directed by the tag team of Senior TD Tim Champion and Club TD Wing Chu.

In the scholastics section, Lloyd Liu won the K-12 division and Eddie Lancaster prevailed in the K-4 section. The scholastic was directed by LOCAL TD Fabio Hurtado.

As advertised the tournament paid out the guaranteed \$2400 prize fund plus gave out 10 nice trophies in the scholastics section. The numbers didn't allow us to break even, but we at Queen City Chess were very proud of the event and will be happy to put it on again next year. It combined great playing conditions, fantastic competition, and a high level of sportsmanship and camaraderie. And that is what amateur chess is all about.

In addition, this event accomplished something that was envisioned when the QCCA began. A system has been put in place to determine an official yearly champion of the Charlotte metro area. Six players qualified from this event to compete in a round robin for the title of "Greater Charlotte Champion". The players were NM Chris Mabe, Dominique Myers, Gary Newsom, Patrick McCartney, Mladen Pauler, and Dan Liu. This event will be contested on consecutive Tuesday nights in February at the Queen City Chess Club's weekly meeting.

Thanks from the QCCA for all who participated.

Congratulations to our State Scholastics Champions!!!

K-12: William Cambpell, Laurel Hill Academy, Statesville
K-12 (u1300): Zehan Duan, NC Science and Math, Durham
K-8: Ken Chu, Southwest Middle School, Charlotte
K-8 (u1000): Reid Herrera, Cannon School, Concord
K-5: Emmanuel Carter, Porter Ridge Elementary, Charlotte
K-3: Alexander Tong, Villa Heights Elementary, Charlotte
K-1: Michael Ferguson, Morrisville Elementary, Morrisville

Complete coverage of this event will appear in the May/June issue.

TACO LVIII: En fuego

Jeff Jones

Forty-four players from all over eastern North Carolina converged on Raleigh for the 58th Triangle Area Chess Open on January 16th, 2010. The Triangle's first tournament over the year marked a new day as the recently formed Raleigh Tournament Chess Club, took the reigns from East Carolina Chess in organizing the event. Along with the change of organizer came a change of format. The three-round Game/90 format gave players more time to discern their moves.

Sixteen individuals filled the "En fuego" or Open section including two masters. Three players entered the final round with two points including FM Ron Simpson and LM Maurice Dana, who dueled into a pawn race which was won by Simpson. The other perfect score was defending champion David Noden, who toppled Allen Jiang to claimed his share of first prize. The titles were the sixteenth for Simpson, who is now seven titles clear of LM John Bidwell for the most TACOs won, and Noden's third.

David's son Eric Noden won a wild tactical foray against Daniel Faries to finish in third, half a point behind the winners.

The "Spicy" or under 1800 section saw fourteen players battle with Gary Maltzman outlasting Joshua Taylor for a perfect score and the top prize. Taylor was joined by Stephen Morales, Dana Daves, John Wehrenberg, and Henry Johnston for a big tie for second place with two points each.

The "Mild" section saw four of the fourteen participants enter the final round with perfect scores. Austin Liu dispatched of Jon Achelpohl fairly quickly to head to the clubhouse with three points. Liu had to wait for Praveen Suthaharan and Jeff Schneider to hammer away at each other to find out if he was going to be in clear first or just sharing the prize. Suthaharan and Schneider battled back and forth in the last game to finish before agreeing to a draw.

Eight unrated players dotted the field including Victor Rocha, who scored an impressive 2 points in the "En Fuego" section, Sebastien Fengler, who netter a one and a half point score in the "Spicy" section, and William Scott and Dan Stemen, who scored two points in their first tournament as well.

The tournament was directed by Jeff Jones, who was assisted by Jon Achelpohl. The next TACO will be on February 20th. Details can be found at http://www.ncchess.org/rtcc/taco.html.

TACO LIX: Simpson's seventeenth

Jeff Jones

Raleigh FM Master Ron Simpson continues to rack up Grand Prix points as he claimed his seventeenth TACO title on February 20th, 2010. Ron defeated Houston, Texas resident Michael Flewelling in round one, before parrying a stiff challenge from Fayetteville's Paul King, and Chapel Hill's David High to claim his first prize. High, Allen Jiang, and Stephen Forest all ended up one point of the pace in the ten-player "En Fuego" section.

Durham's William LeFew stuck his flag in the elevenplayer "Spicy" section with a perfect score. LeFew survived a scare from Raleigh's Jon Achelpohl before dispatching Cary's Anish Kottu, and Chapel Hill's Henry Johnston. Jeff Schneider of Cary had an opportunity to join LeFew in first place, but was only able to secure a draw in the last round from Buies Creek's Joshua Taylor.

The "Mild" section saw half of the field playing in their first tournament. One of the four debuting players, Pittsboro's Eric Lindauer, swept the field in his inaugural event. Columbia, SC's John Southerland, also cashed in his first event while joining Chapel Hill's Walter High and Durham's Nathan Kundtz in a tie for second with two points.

USCF Senior Tournament Director Jeff Jones officiated the event on behalf of the Raleigh Tournament Chess Club with Jon Achelpohl serving as assistant director.



More Tournament Results

Asheboro Open 52

December 5th, 2009-Tom Hales, Director

CHAMPIONSHIP:

1st-2nd Robert Spurrier, Tanner Hogue

CANDIDATES:

1st-2nd Joshua Taylor, Grace Campbell

CLUB:

1st: Yimo Chen 2nd: Robert King

Asheboro Open 53

January 9th, 2010-Tom Hales, Diector

CHAMPIONSHIP:

1st-2nd NM Chris Mabe, Patrick McCartney

CANDIDATES:

1st-2nd Reynaldo Diaz, Dayl Gordon

CLUB:

1st: Philip Billings 2nd-3rd: Yu Wang, Derek Chen

Asheboro Open 54

February 13th, 2010-Tom Hales, Director

CHAMPIONSHIP:

1st: Reynaldo Diaz 2nd: Allen Jiang

CANDIDATES:

1st: Joseph Graves 2nd: Austin Liu

CLUB:

1st-2nd: Lucas Hausrath, Sean Pollock

Asheboro Open 55

March 6th, 2010-Tom Hales, Director

CHAMPIONSHIP:

1st-2nd: Jonathan Munnell, Reynaldo Diaz

CANDIDATES:

1st-2nd Matt Embler, Henry Johnston

CLUB:

1st: Michael Timmons

2nd: Walter High, Philip Billings, Daniel Stemen

TACO LVII

December 19th, 2009-Emil Mayev, Director

OPEN:

1st: David Noden

2nd-4th: Adam Holmes, Allan Jiang, Emil Mayev

U1500:

1st: Kevin Tie

2nd-5th: Indira Puri, John Wherenberg Austin Liu, Anders Janson

Southern Scholastics

December 12-13th, 2009-Sr. TD Tim Champion, Director

K-12:

1st-2nd: David Spencer, Robin Yopp 3rd-8th: Dominique Myers, Joshua Mu, Joseph Biernacki, Seth Taylor-Brill, Jim Fan, Ben Hinson

K-8:

1st: Tianqi Wang 2nd: Justin Yang

3rd-9th: Derek Zhang, Kevin Wang, Mark Biernacki Cameron Chandler, Veronica Skoczek, Suraj Madiraju, Emannuel Carter

K-5:

1st: Alexander Tong 2nd-4th: Joshua Holcombe, Lloyd Liu, Christopher Pfuhl

K-3:

1st: Alex Chu

2nd-3rd: Emery Tran, Ethan Yen

Pawndemonium XXI

January 9th, 2010-NTD Kevin Hyde, Director

K-12: 1st: Matt Embler 2nd-4th: Andrew Simonsen,

Gordon Zhang, Josh McMenemy

K-8 u1000: 1st: Mowei Tang 2nd: Zach Wyman 3rd: Joyce Wei

K-5 u900: 1st-5th: Cole Evered, Ryan Button,

Connor Reilly, Erik Hobson, Syon Chand

K-3 u800: 1st: Dylen Roberts 2nd: Mason Gempe 3rd-4th: David Snider, Logan Boeshore

Statesville Skewer

January 2nd, 2010-Mike Williams, Director

OPEN: 1st: Gary Newsom 2nd: NM Chris Mabe

U1500: 1st: Austin Liu 2nd: Kevin Tie, Anish Kottu, Claudio Jimeez

U1000: 1st: Rajeswaru Kottu 2nd: Cameron Crosby

Master Trek XXVII

December 5th, 2009-NM Craig Jones, Director

SECTION I:

NM Carlito Agner

SECTION II:

Anish Kottu

SECTION III:

Ryan White, Cheri Agner, Claire Burdick

SECTION IV:

Kenan Balkas

SECTION V:

Jesse Tymas

Master Trek XXVIII

January 23rd, 2010-NM Craig Jones, Director

SECTION I:

FM Ron Simpson

SECTION II:

Bradley Marts

SECTION III:

Matthew Novak, Ivan Kuznetsov

SECTION IV:

John Wehrenberg, Austin Liu

SECTION V:

Praveen Suthaharan

SECTION VI:

Bernard Amaldoss

SECTION VII:

Viktor Zenkov

SECTION VIII:

Bowen Li, Daniel Yu

SECTION IX:

Morgan Chu

Master Trek XXIX

February 6th, 2010-NM Craig Jones, Director

SECTION I:

FM Ron Simpson

SECTION II:

Austin Liu

SECTION III:

Sam Ferguson

SECTION IV:

Aaron deJong, Bowen Li

SECTION V:

Wesley Caplan

BEAT WRITERS NEEDED!!!

Durham Academy Winter Scholastics

February 20th, 2010-NM Craig Jones, Director

OPEN QUAD:

James Novak

K-12 OPEN:

1st: Ralph Hunt

2nd-3rd: Daniel Su, Aidan Burdick

K-12 u1000:

1st Iyin B attle

2nd-4th: Kevin Mellendorf, Kyle Mellendorf, Yue Paul

K-5:

1st-2nd: Akash Krishna, John Heaney

3rd-5th: Zachary Hunter, Robert Hellinga, Elias Tymas

K-3:

1st: Christopher Chaves

2nd-7th: Michael Ferguson, Akshay Pramod, ANand Bhatt, Aneesha Manocha, Sravya Kuchibhotla, Felix Zhou

K-1:

1st: Theodore Kim

2nd-7th: Kevin Rogers, Finnigan Stevens, Nathan Wang, Luke Henderson, Max deArmey. Valentina Kelley

CMSCA Grade Champions

January 9th, 2010-Sr. TD Tim Champion, Director

12th Grade:

Michael Lauria

11th Grade:

Shengtang Li

10th Grade:

Zachary Templeton

9th Grade:

J.P. Flynn

8th Grade:

Benedict Liu

7th Grade:

Suraj Madiraju

6th Grade:

Cameron Chandler, John Xia, Daniel Lee

Andrew Whitlock, Cameron Crosby

5th Grade:

Lorenzo Carter

4th Grade:

Emmanuel Carter, Sahil Patel

3rd Grade:

Emery Tran, Suhas Madiraju

2nd Grade:

Samuel Kio

Kindergarten/1st Grade:

Daniel Kirkley

If you are interested in becoming a beat writer for events in your area please e-mail Jeff Jones. RaleighChess@yahoo.com

GIUD RESUMS

Raleigh Tournament Chess Club

RTCC #5 December 2009

1st-2nd: Jon Achelpohl, Jeffrey Jones

RTCC#6 January 2010

1st: Daniel Solarez

2nd-3rd: Jon Achelpohl, James Lineberger

RTCC#7 February 2010

1st: Daniel Solarez 2nd: Jeffrey Jones

Laurin Keller Memorial Chess Club

Keller Quick #21 10 December, 2009

1st: Reynaldo Diaz 2nd: Dr. Joseph Graves

Keller Quick #22 14 January, 2010

1st-2nd: Zakir Ahmed, John Cole

Keller Quick #23 28 January, 2010

1st: Jacob Parrish 2nd: Zakir Ahmed

Asheboro Chess Club

Ricochet #61 8 December, 2009

1st-2nd: Tom Hales, Ricky Upchurch

Ricochet #62 12 January, 2010

1st: Jordan Wood 2nd: Ricky Upchurch

Ricochet #63 3 February, 2010

1st: FM Andrey Chumachenko 2nd: Tom Hales

Greenville Chess Club

December Quick

1st: Miles O'Brien 2nd: Daniel Thomas

Wilmington Chess Club

WCC #20 5-26 November, 2009

1st-3rd: Eugene Davenport, Ulf Hellsten, Stephen Morales

Queen City Chess Association

10 Rating Points Tonight #13
23 November-22 December 2009

UPPER:

1st: Alain Morais 2nd: Gary Newsom

LOWER:

1st: Charles Carreros 2nd: Winfred Gatlin

Duke Chess Club Snow Devil

24 January-19 February, 2010

1st: Peter Heisler

2nd-3rd: Steven Pizzo, Tim Rankin



RTCC action photos by Jon Achelpohl

Above: Bruce Morris (left) battles Jeff Schnider Below: Daniel Solarez (right) plots his next move

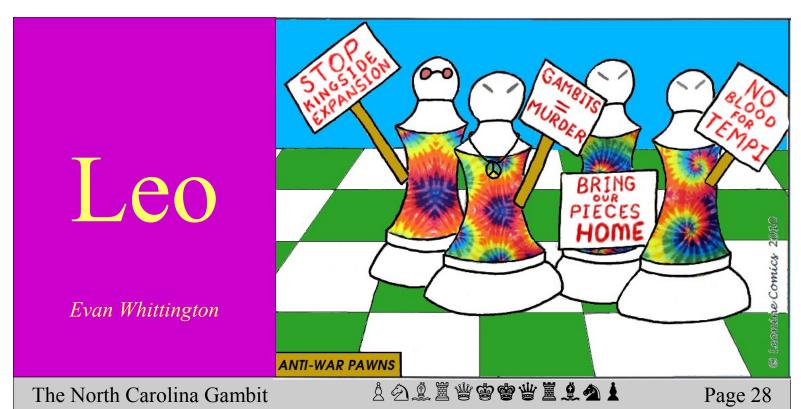
against Jeff Jones.



Asheboro Open 51 John Timmel (2123) Josh Lawson (1982) Asheboro, NC 7 November, 2009 Annotated by Josh Lawson

Hey guys. In my final Round game of Asheboro 51, I had to face strong Expert John Timmel. John is a powerhouse Expert who has been defeating Masters recently, so I had to step up my game and rise to the challenge. 1. e4 c5 I was iffy about playing the Sicilian against such a strong player, but figured that my tactics were going to be the only chance I had. 2. Nc3 Nc6 3. Nge2 I was expecting the normal Nf3, but I knew his plan was to play g3,

Bg2 and 0-0, which he did in the game. Nf6 4. g3 d5 5. exd5 Nxd5 6. Bg2 e6 This gave white the advantage. I should have played Nxc3. My light squared bishop is doing nothing. It would be better if it were placed on g4 or f5. 7.O-O Be7 8. d3 White missed a good opportunity of Nxd5 O-O 9. a3 Still missing Nxd5. a6 10. Re1 Bf6 This was the most crucial move of the game on my part. White could have seized a great winning chance by playing Nxd5! 11. Ne4 Be7 12. Rb1 e5 Critical moment. I had to find a way to activate my pieces. e5 does many things, such as activating my light squared Bishop, soon having my Rooks connected and playing a possible f5 push to develop some sort of Kingside attack. 13. f4 Giving the advantage away. He should have played N2c3. 13... Bg4 14. N4c3 exf4 My Fischer style tactics are now in full force as I smell the blood from my opponents King!:) 15. Nxd5 f3 Uh oh . . . 16. Nxe7+ Qxe7 Nxe7!? only gives back the advantage. 17. Nc3 fxg2 Not f2+?? which will lead to a devastating loss for Black, which will go like Kxf2 Bxd1 Rxe7 Bxc2 Bxc6!. 18. Qd2 Qd7 Now having a slight advantage, I had to find the correct moves for the remainder of the game. 19. Qxg2 Nd4 This move was a bone in my opponents throat. The King has no good squares. What to do? 20. Rf1 Be3 may have been a little better, but still drops the exchange. Bh3 21. Qf2 Bxf1 22. Kxf1 Rae8 Not a good decision. Rfe8 was much better as I found out in a few moves why this move was so bad. 23. Be3 Nxc2 A little passive. Even though this sack is sound, the position doesn't call for it. 24. Bxc5 Re5 25. Bxf8 Rybka thought Kg1 was better, but I can't say that what my opponent played was terrible. Rf5 26. Bc5 Rxf2+ 27. Bxf2 Qc6 Seeing my time winding down, I succumb to the time pressure. For some reason I didn't like the idea of Qxd3+ cause I was worried about a possible back rank mate by Rd1. Time pressure does make you think crazy things. Also, Nxa3! would have been good as well. 28. d4 Nxa3 Qh1+ was better. 29. bxa3 Qxc3 30. Rxb7 Qc1+ Trying to figure out a way to fork the King and Rook!? g6 was better, and then trying to attack would have been more sufficient. 31. Ke2 Qc2+ 32. Kf1 Qd1+ Qc4+ was better 33. Kg2 h5 34. Re7 g5 Trying to get some sort of an attack going, but this only helps white out in securing a draw. 35. Re5 f6 36. Re6 Kf7 Worrying about my pawn I forget what my initial plan was. I should have played h4! threatening to play h3+! 37. Re3 g4 {Obviously not Qxd4?? Which allows for Re7+ winning the Queen and eventually the game. Even in time pressure I see these things!!;) 38. Rc3 f5 39. Rc7+ Kg6 40. Rc6+ Here I stopped taking notations since I was severely low on time. The game ended in another 15-20 move time scramble draw to secure a second place finish. Even though I didn't pull out a win, I was very happy with my performance during this game. This game illustrates how to improve your position and turn your opponents mistakes into your advantage. John Timmel is an extremely nice guy and great chessplayer, and I feel that im going to have much more intense battles with him over the board in the future. ½-½







NM Chris Mabe LM Chris Mabe

Jeff Jones

The Statesville Skewer proved to be a historic moment in the chess career of Charlotte's Chris Mabe as he played his 300th consecutive game as a rated master. As a result Chris's rating floor will be 2200 and he now becomes a Life Master.

Chris first became a master at the Reverse Angle 2 tournament in Charlotte on April 7th, 2007 when he toppled NM Wayne Christensen in the final round to vault over the 2200 plateau. He ceded a few points over the next couple of tournaments before jumping in the master class for good during the next month's Reverse Angle.

Chris then went on a tear, winning the under 2200 section of the World Open, and then sharing first in the 39th Atlantic Open in August with IM (now GM) Ben Finegold, IM Mikhail Zlotnikov, and FM Anton del Mundo. This was also a landmark tournament for Chris as he claimed his first IM scalp upending IM (now GM) Lawrence Kaufmann in the penultimate round.

Chris would claim the 2007 State Championship and would carry his momentum into 2008 where at the Liberty Bell Open he would knock off IM Rusudan Goletiani en route to settling into the 2300s for the first time.

Chris's play leveled off a bit but he remained steady winning numerous Reverse Angles and Asheboro Opens. At Reverse Angle 9 on August 9th, 2008 he got to the midway point in his quest for the Life Master title by defeating Ken Baxter in the first round.

Chris never faltered and never was threatened with falling below 2200 as he trekked through the rest of 2008 and all of 2009 with the new moniker in sight. Had it not been for the snowstorm on December 16th which caused the postponement of the Statesville Skewer, he would've completed his tasked before the start of the new year at the Eastern Open.

There must've been some fate involved though as he arrived in Statesville on the new date and achieved his new milestone here in his home state. With the Life Master title now a given, he competed in the Statesville Skewer and with his third round victory over Tennessee's Dr. John Simonsen, cemented himself forever as a master of the game of chess.

I'm sure I speak for everyone in the chess community in North Carolina when I say congratulations Chris!

Alain Morais Breaks 2000!!!!

Charlie Carreros

Alain Morais, one of the rising stars of the Queen City Chess Association, broke 2000 as of the January supplement this year. This is a great accomplishment for any chess player but not the only one that he can boast.

As many know it isn't uncommon for a player to go undefeated in a tournament but what is uncommon is that in the last 12 tournaments that Alain has played in, his rating as gone up. In fact, he has only played in two tournaments where he has lost rating points (and both were when he was provisionally rated). I'm sure that this will not be the only milestone that Alain breaks as his rating and level of play continues to increase. Keep up the good work Alain!!!

Jonathan McNeill officially climbed over the 2000 level in late January.

While sharing first at the Southern Scholastics, Robin Yopp conquered the 1800 level.

Allen Jiang broke the 1800 mark at TACO LVII in December.

Grace Campbell surpassed 1700 at The 52nd Asheboro Open.

Nick Spurrier defeated his first master edging LM Maurica Dana at the 52nd Asheboro Open as well.

DON'T BE LEFT OUT!!

If you reached a new high water mark in your chess career let us know about it. You can e-mail Jeff Jones at RaleighChess@yahoo.com.



OPEN TO ALL PLAYERS

March 20th, 2010 Raleigh

Triangle Area Chess Open 60: 3-SS G/90.Caraleigh Fellowship Hall, 118 Summit Ave., Raleigh, NC. EF \$21 (if paid by 2/14)/\$25 on site. \$\$640 b/40. **OPEN:** \$120-\$60 *u2000* \$60 , **U1800:** \$100-\$50 *u1600:* \$50, **U1400:** \$100-\$50, *u1200* \$50. Reg.: 9am-9:45am. Rds.: 10am-1:45pm-5pm. Contact: Jeff Jones (919)270-9948 * Raleigh-Chess@yahoo.com * Website: http://www.ncchess.org/rtcc/taco.html

March 27th, 2010 Durham

Master Trek: 3-RR G/60. Durham Academy Middle School (Taylor Hall), 3116 Academy Rd., Durham, NC 27707-2669. Top section EF: \$30 1st Place: \$75. All other quads EF: \$20 Trophy to 1st. (Winner in section section also earns \$40. Rds.: 8:30am-11am-1:30pm. Contact: Craig Jones at home (919)370-9552 or by cell (919)389-4012 * carbide@nc.rr.com * Website: http://www.ncchess.org/Durham07.htm

March 27th, 2010 Camp Lejeune

Lejeune Chess: 3-SS G/60 (USCF rated section.) 3-SS G/30 (Unrated section). Single Marine Program Headquarters. Dept. of Defense ID required. Reg.: 10-1045. Rds. (USCF rated) 11-1330-1530, (unrated) 11-12-1330. Contact: Sara Walsh (919)451-0084 * walshsr@usmc-mccs.org

March 27th, 2010 Charlotte

5 NCGP Points Today!: 4-SS G/65. Asian Herald Library, 1339 Baxter St., Charlotte, NC 28204. EF: \$5 (\$1 for QCCA members). Reg.: 9-930. Rds.: 945-1215-245-515. Sections: OPEN, U1500. No prizes. * info@queencitychess.com * Website: http://www.queencitychess.com.

April 3rd, 2010 Asheboro

Asheboro Open 57: 3-SS G/75. Randolph Mall Community Room, 1437 East Dixie Dr. (US 64), Asheboro, NC 27203. EF: \$25 cash or check/ \$26 PayPal. **Flex sections based on ratings.** Reg.: 8:55am-9:45am. Rds. 10am-1:15pm-4pm. Contact: Tom Hales (336)327-9701 * chess@triad.rr.com * Website: http://asheborochess.com/TAOnow.htm

April 10th, 2010 Durham

Master Trek: 3-RR G/60. Durham Academy Middle School (Taylor Hall), 3116 Academy Rd., Durham, NC 27707-2669. Top section EF: \$30 1st Place: \$75. All other quads EF: \$20 Trophy to 1st. (Winner in section section also earns \$40. Rds.: 8:30am-11am-1:30pm. Contact: Craig Jones at home (919)370-9552 or by cell (919)389-4012 * carbide@nc.rr.com * Website: http://www.ncchess.org/Durham07.htm

April 10th, 2010 Camp Lejeune

Lejeune Chess: 3-SS G/60 (USCF rated section.) 3-SS G/30 (Unrated section). Courthouse Bay. Dept. of Defense ID required. Reg.: 10-1045. Rds. (USCF rated) 11-1330-1530, (unrated) 11-12-1330. Contact: Sara Walsh (919)451-0084 * walshsr@usmc-mccs.org

April 24th, 2010 Raleigh

Triangle Area Chess Open 61: 3-SS G/90.Caraleigh Fellowship Hall, 118 Summit Ave., Raleigh, NC. EF \$21 (if paid by 2/14)/\$25 on site. \$\$640 b/40. **OPEN:** \$125-\$75-\$40 **U1800:** \$1\$110-60-30 **U1400:** \$110-60-30 Reg.: 9am-9:45am. Rds.: 10am-1:45pm-5pm. Contact: Jeff Jones (919)270-9948 * RaleighChess@yahoo.com * Website: http://www.ncchess.org/rtcc/taco.html

May 1st, 2010 Charlotte

Reverse Angle 16: 3-SS G/90. UNC-Charlotte Cone Center, 9201 University Dr., Charlotte, NC. EF \$20 (if paid by 4/27)\$25 on site. **\$\$700 GTD.!!**. **OPEN:** \$125-\$50 *u2000:* \$35 **U1800:** \$125-\$50 *u1600:* \$35 **U1400:** \$125-\$50 *u1200:* \$35 U1100: \$100-35 Reg.: 9:15am-9:50am. Rds.: 10am-1:45pm-5pm. Contact: PreRegistration@queencitychess.com

May 1st, 2010 Durham

Master Trek: 3-RR G/60. Durham Academy Middle School (Taylor Hall), 3116 Academy Rd., Durham, NC 27707-2669. Top section EF: \$30 1st Place: \$75. All other quads EF: \$20 Trophy to 1st. (Winner in section section also earns \$40. Rds.: 8:30am-11am-1:30pm. Contact: Craig Jones at home (919)370-9552 or by cell (919)389-4012 * carbide@nc.rr.com * Website: http://www.ncchess.org/Durham07.htm

May 8th, 2010 Asheboro

Asheboro Open 58: 3-SS G/75. Randolph Mall Community Room, 1437 East Dixie Dr. (US 64), Asheboro, NC 27203. EF: \$25 cash or check/ \$26 PayPal. **Flex sections based on ratings.** Reg.: 8:55am-9:45am. Rds. 10am-1:15pm-4pm. Contact: Tom Hales (336)327-9701 * chess@triad.rr.com * Website: http://asheborochess.com/TAOnow.htm



March 20th, 2010 Raleigh

Znaika Scholastic: 3-RR G/30. Westover United Methodist Church, 300 Powell Dr., Raleigh, NC 27602. EF:\$13 (\$6 if you are a resident of Nash, Wilson, Edgecombe, Pitt, Wayne, or Greene counties. Free EF if you are entering the NC Grils Championship the following week.) Trophies to all players winning or sharing first in their sections. Reg.: 1-130 Rds. 145-ASAP-ASAP. Award around 5PM. Contact: Gary Maltzman * borderschess@trianglechess.org * Website: http://www.trianglechess.org/RRS/RRS6.html

March 27th, 2010 Charlotte

2010 North Carolina Girls State Championship: 4-SS G/45. Myers Park Traditional School, 2132 Radcliffe Ave., Charlotte, NC 28207. Open to girls born between March 20th, 1991 and March 20th, 2006. EF: \$20 (by Mar. 20th)/\$30 on site. Rds.: 9-11-1-3. Sections: **OPEN:** \$\$500 scholarship to 1st. **U600:.** Trophies to top 8, medals to 9th and 10th, ribbons to all in each section. Contact: Jessica Martin * jmartin@overthechessboard.com * Website: http://www.overthechessboard.com.

April 11th, 2010 Charlotte

CYCC Class Championships: Details forthcoming at http://www.cmsca.org

April 18th, 2010 Raleigh

Raleigh Chess Academy K-5 Team Tournament: 3-SS G/30. Montessori School of Raleigh, 7005 Lead Mine Rd., Raleigh, NC 27615. EF: \$60/team. Rds. 1:30pm-2:35pm-3:40pm. Teams of 3 to 5 players with only up to 4 scores counting toward team score. Contact: Bill Clausen * info@raleighchessacademy.com. *

Website: http://raleighchessacademy.com/tournaments/

April 24th, 2010 Arden

Buncombe County Scholastics IV: 4-SS G/45 (3-SS G/60 in K-12). Avery's Creek Elementary School, 15 Park South Blvd., Arden, NC 28704. EF: \$12 (by 4/19)/ \$15 afterwards. Reg.: 8-9 Rds. 930-11-1-230 (930-12-215 in K-12). Sections: K-12, K-8, K-5, K-3, K-1. Trophies to top 5 in each section. ENT: ACES PTO Chess Masters c/o Mike Gempe, 53 Winding Oak Dr., Arden, NC 28704. (828)712-9229 * chessmasters@gempe.com

May 8th, 2010 Winston-Salem

WSCCA Scholastics: Details forthcoming at http://www.wschess.org

May 9th, 2010 Raleigh

Raleigh Chess Academy Round-Robin Quads: 3-RR G/30. Montessori School of Raleigh, 7005 Lead Mine Rd., Raleigh, NC 27615. EF: \$20 (by 1/3)/ \$25 after. Rds. 1:30pm-2:35pm-3:40pm. Round-Robin Quads based on rating. Contact: Bill Clausen * info@raleighchessacademy.com. * Website: http://raleighchessacademy.com/tournaments/

North Carolina's Chess Clubs

Asheboro Chess Club: Tuesdays 6pm-9pm. Asheboro Public Library, 201 Worth Street, Asheboro, NC USCF quick rated tournaments on the 2nd Tuesday of each month. Contact: Tom Hales (336)327-9071 * chess@triad.rr.com. * Website: http://www.asheborochess.com

Asheville Chess Club: Wednesdays 6:30pm-10:30pm. North Asheville Community Center, 37 Larchmont Lane, Asheville, NC 28804. Contact: Tom Brown (828)225-4195 * Website: http://www.wncchess.org

Borders Chess Club (Cary): Saturdays 2pm-6pm. Borders Books, corner of Walnut St. and Buck Jones Rd. Cary, NC 27511. Contact: Gary Maltzman * BordersChess@TriangleChess.org * Website: http://www.borderschess.org

Queen City Chess Club (Charlotte): Tuesdays starts at 6:30pm. Asian Library, 1339 Baxter St. Charlotte, NC. USCF-rated Game/90 tournament games each week. Pairings at 7:15pm. Round starts at 7:30pm. Five-round perpetual tournaments. Consult the website for more details. Contact: Gary Newsom: (704)618-1259 if you are running a few minutes behind and wish to be paired. * info@queencitychess.com for general information. * Website: http://www.queencitychess.com

Girls Chess Academy (Charlotte): Once a month. Borders Bookstore, SouthPark area of Charlotte. Contact: Jessica Martin * jmartin@9queens.org * Website: http://www.9queens.org or http://www.overthechessboard.com.

North Durham Chess Club: Saturdays 2pm-4:30pm. North Durham Regional Library, 221 Milton Rd., Durham, NC. Contact: Conrad Conero (919)479-7020

Duke/Durham Chess Club: Sundays at 6:30PM. Bryan Center, Duke University's west campus. USCF-rated tournaments. Contact: Tim Ran-kin * tdr10@duke.edu * Website: http://www.duke.edu/web/dukechess

Elon University Chess Club (Elon College/Burlington): Tuesdays 7pm-9:30pm. Belk Library-room 102. Meets only during the school year (February through the first week of May and September through the first week of December). Contacts: Aaron Peeks (336)278-6445 or Parker McAllister

Fayetteville Chess Club: Mondays 7:30pm. Village Coffee Shop by Winsong Theater. Contacts: Gary Morris (910)484-7355 * g.l.morris@att.net

Greenville Chess Club: Wednesdays 7pm-10pm. Barnes and Noble on Greenville Blvd. and Evans St. Contact: Vic Beaman * vbeaman248@gmail.com * Website: http://www.eastcarolinachess.com

Laurin Keller Memorial Chess Club (Greensboro): Thursdays 6pm-10pm. Folk Teen Center, 3910 Clifton Rd. Greensboro, NC. USCF-rated tournaments. Causal play for non-USCF members. Contact: Josh Lawson (619)788-4299 * Jlawson1185@yahoo.com * Website: http://www.freewebs.com/greensborochess

Henderson/Vance County Chess Club: Thursdays 6pm-9pm. United Methodist Church, Henderson, NC. Contact: Rudolph Abate (252)738-0375 * chessclub@embargmail.com

Hendersonville Chess Club: Thursdays 6pm-9pm. First Presbytarian Church, corner of King and 6th. Monthly rated tournaments. Contact: Neal Harris * rajkipling@yahoo.com

High Point/Greensboro Chess Club: Wednesdays 6pm-10pm. Barnes and Noble, Oak Hollow Mall. Contact:HPChessClub@triad.rr.com * Website: http://home.triad.rr.com/hrchess

Hickory Chess Club: Contact: Jack Shaver * Jack_Shaver@hotmail.com * Website: http://www.hickorychessclub.com **Jacksonville Chess Club:** Contact: Sara Walsh * princesschess@gmail.com * Website: http://www.jacksonvillechess.org

Kernersville Chess Club: Tuesdays 6:30pm-9pm. Panera Bread, 970 S. Main St., Kernersville, NC. Contact: Keith Hooker (336)817-6739 * Website: http://www.geocities.com/kvillechess/Kernersville Chess.html

Kings and Queens Chess Club (Lumberton): Wednesdays 6pm-8pm. Parkview Activity Center, Inman Rd., Lumberton, NC. Contact: Al Floyd (910)474-2336

Mars Hill Chess Club: Third Friday of each month 6:30pm-8:30pm. Mars Hill Elementary School. Contact: Roger Price

Mayberry Chess Club (Mt. Airy): Saturdays starting at 3pm. Moby's Coffee, 2123 Rockford St. (US 601), Mt. Airy, NC. Contact: John Claxton * Website: http://www.networkessentials.com/mayberrychess/

New Bern Chess Club: Mondays starting at 7pm. Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, 308 Meadow St., New Bern, NC. Contact: Roger Sample (252)288-4145 * rlsample@suddenlink.net

North Wilkesboro Chess Club: Thursdays 5pm-7:30pm. Wilkes County Public Library, 215 10th St., North Wilkesboro, NC. Contact: John Owens (828)404-6037

Pilot Mountain Chess Club: Tuesdays. Charles H. Stone Memorial Library. Contact: Scott Baldwin (336)351-5339

Raleigh Chess Club: Fridays starts at 7:30pm. Kiwanis Park Community Center, 2526 Noble Rd., Raleigh. Contact: Luis Guzman * raleighchess@bellsouth.net

Raleigh Tournament Chess Club: Wednesdays 7pm-late. Explore! Learning Center, 6801 Falls of Neuse Rd., Raleigh, NC 27615. USCF rated Game/75 ladder tournament. One game per week. \$1/game. Contact: Jeff Jones (919)270-9948 * RaleighChess@yahoo.com or Jon Achepohl (740)466-8995 rtcchess@gmail.com * Website: http://www.ncchess.org/rtcc.

Rocky Mount Chess Club: Saturdays 10am-6pm. Via Capuccino, 3002 Sunset Ave., Rocky Mount, NC. Contact: Billy Harrell (252)446-4121

Washington Chess Club: Mondays 7pm-10pm. Oakdale Cemetary Recreational Center. Contact: John Wehrenberg (252)946-4419

Waynesville Chess Club: Thursdays 1pm-3pm. Old Armory Rec Center. Contact: Bruce Goodwin (828)648-5739

Wilmington Chess Club: Website: http://www.wilmingtonchess.com

Seahawk Chess Club (UNC-Wilmington): Website: http://www.freewebs.com/seahawkchess/

Forsyth Tech Chess Club (Winston-Salem): Every weekday 4pm-6pm. The Learning Center in the Ardmore Building on campus. Contact: Cirius White (336)997-2114

Winston-Salem Chess Association: Thursdays 6pm-11pm. Borders Books, Thruway Shopping Center on Stratford Rd. *

Website: http://winstonsalemchess.blogspot.com