



The North Carolina Gambit

The Official Magazine of the North Carolina Chess Association

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Six Pack For Schroer



Photo by
Tom Hales

IM Jonathan Schroer claims his sixth state championship in Greensboro.

NM Chris Mabe wins the 2009 NC Grand Prix in dramatic fashion.

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<p><i>Current Champions:</i></p> <p><i>North Carolina Open:</i> IM Jonathan Schroer</p> <p><i>NC Invitational:</i> NM Craig Jones</p> <p><i>North Carolina Denker Rep:</i> David High</p> <p><i>North Carolina Polgar Reps:</i> Indira Puri Nicole Spencer</p>	<p><u>Article Submission Deadlines</u></p> <table> <tr> <th><u>Issue:</u></th><th><u>Submission Deadline:</u></th></tr> <tr> <td>February/March</td><td>January 15th</td></tr> <tr> <td>April/May</td><td>March 15th</td></tr> <tr> <td>June/July</td><td>May 15th</td></tr> <tr> <td>August/September</td><td>July 15th</td></tr> <tr> <td>October/November</td><td>September 15th</td></tr> <tr> <td>December/January</td><td>November 15th</td></tr> </table> <p>Expected Release Dates will be one week after the deadline. The editor reserves the right to withhold articles for future editions.</p>	<u>Issue:</u>	<u>Submission Deadline:</u>	February/March	January 15th	April/May	March 15th	June/July	May 15th	August/September	July 15th	October/November	September 15th	December/January	November 15th
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Thanks to all of the people who contributed to this issue of the Gambit!

Ken Baxter, Chad Eller, Tom Hales, Walter High, Keith Hooker, Joshua Lawson, Emil Mayev, William Lefew, Bradley Marts, Gary Newsom, Steven Pizzo, Tim Rankin, Gordon Ray, Daniel Solarez, Evan Whittington

Six Pack for Schroer

Keith Hooker

The 2009 NC Open was held in Greensboro from October 30 through November 1. The Clarion Hotel was the host site for 108 players who gathered together to see who would take home the Halloween chess goodies.

In the Open section, IM Jonathan Schroer of Apex earned his NC State Champion title by working his way through remarkably tough competition. In the first round, he faced the tough draw of William Campbell, who proved that, like many kids, his rating does not do justice to his playing abilities. Schroer was able to checkmate his second round opponent, E. David Erb, when both players had only 3 minutes left to reach the first time control. His third round opponent was Rusty Potter. Their draw proved to be a foreshadowing of the final results. Ron Simpson resigned on move 27 in round 4, the shortest game for Schroer in the tournament. Round 5 was the clash between FM Miles Ardaman and Schroer, who barely reached the move 30 time control. At move 46, Ardaman offered a draw, but Schroer declined, and Ardaman resigned 10 moves later.

NM Rusty Potter, of Roanoke, VA shared first place with Schroer, had wins against Dominique Myers, David High, Sam Barsky, and John Michael Curcuru. Ardaman and NM Chris Mabe finished a full point off the pace to tie for third. For Mabe, the performance allowed him to claim the 2009 North Carolina Grand Prix by a very narrow margin over FM Ron Simpson.

In the under 2000 section, A pair of players from the Duke/Durham Chess Club, Bradley Marts and Tim Rankin both reached the final round with $3\frac{1}{2}$ points, and played to a quick draw and a share of first place in the section. Tim set the pace throughout the tournament by defeating Samuel Xin, Zachary High, and Alexei Gorbounov in the first three games. Rankin managed a draw with Nick Spurrier in round four. Meanwhile Marts took a bye in round three while upending Chad Eller, Steven Wang, and Zakir Ahmed in the other rounds.

Gorbounov, Spurrier, and Xin were part of a five-way tie for third with $3\frac{1}{2}$ points. They were joined by young David Stamper and Mike McHale.

In the under 1800 section, Steven Pizzo of Durham, who finished in first place with $4\frac{1}{2}$ points, recorded his only draw of the tournament against David Spencer in round 4. Pizzo defeated the section's top seed Reece Thompson in round one. Later Pizzo would corral Glenn Shelton, Joshua Taylor, and John Brooks to achieve his highest rating ever to go along with the state title. Spencer went on to take second place with 4 points. Joshua Taylor was the only re-entry of the tournament. After losing his first round game on Friday evening, he re-entered the tournament on Saturday morning. This worked well for him, as he was able to win that game and finished with $3\frac{1}{2}$ points, tied with Reece Eric Thompson.

In the under 1600 section, Joseph Micklos of Raleigh led with 4 points after 4 rounds and had an opportunity for clear first place. However, he was unable to stop Dutta Suryabrata or Georgia who tied for first place by defeating Micklos in the final round. William Lefew, the fourth Duke Chess Club member to claim his share of a section title, also shared first place with 4 points by winning against Chad Moody. With a three-way tie for first, this section was unclear until the very end. Jordan Joseph, Chad Moody, and Tony Sanders, Jr. all tied for fourth with three points.

In the under 1400 section, Christopher Prados finished with a perfect score. While he would often arrive noticeably late for the start of the round, his opponents were never able to use the time advantage. Tim Staley followed one point behind for clear second. Sid Evans, Cameron Chandler, and Praveen Suthakaran shared third with $3\frac{1}{2}$ points. Jim Lineberger's victory in round two proved to be the tournament's largest upset, with a 558 point spread.

In the NC Scholastic, Steve (Tianqi) Wang showed why he was rated 1820 going into the tournament, winning all of his games. Maybe we will see him play in the Open soon!

Multi-Time State Champions:

6: IM Jonathan Schroer, SM Randy Kolvick, NM David Steele

5: NM Kit Crittenden

4: NM Larry Tapper, NM Lee Taylor, Henry Woods

3: NM Greg Samsa, William Peters

2: Jerry Fink, Dana Mackenzie, Dan Richman, H.E. Snyder

LOOKING BACK...AND LOOKING FORWARD

NCCA President, Gary Newsom

The year 2009 has been a good one for chess in North Carolina. Some reasons why...

- 1) Thanks to the efforts of Victor Beaman and Tom Hales, we brought back the North Carolina Grand Prix. The inaugural season was a success. We gave away about \$800 in cash prizes and people were in general excited about the event.
- 2) We had a hugely successful Scholastics Championship thanks primarily to the tireless efforts of past president Randy Wheelless,
- 3) The comeback of one of our “major” events, the NC Class, which had been on a hiatus of several years. Thanks to NC Chess supporter Thad Rogers for making that happen.
- 4) Thanks to the past efforts of Neal Harris and Randy Wheelless (and the watchful eye of Gerben Hoekstra!), NC Chess has never been more financially sound.
- 5) Thanks to the efforts of Tom Hales, the NC Gambit made its first appearance in many years

Now let's talk about 2010 and see how we are building on this success:

- 1) The 2010 NC Grand Prix has sponsorship. The current version will likely pay out at least the same amount in cash prizes, probably more, PLUS over \$1000 in merchandise from ChessCentral. Thanks to Janet and Sid Pickard and the folks from ChessCentral for getting on board with the NCCA. Let's do our best to support their business!
- 2) Another “major” event is on the horizon...December 5-6, the Greater Charlotte Championship, with guaranteed prizes and the lowest entry fees you've seen in a weekend event in many years, makes its appearance on the tournament landscape. Thanks to Charlie Carerros, Chris Mabe, and Fabio Hurtado for making that event come life!
- 3) The mantra of this administration is “make the players happy”. With this in mind, we are working on a bidding system to help ensure that the state events are laid out in a way that induces players to participate. If no appropriate bids are received, we'll run them ourselves! Hopefully this will increase participation in adult state run events.
- 4) Last, but not least, thanks to the efforts of Jeff Jones, the Gambit will continue into the coming year. Please give Jeff your support, both moral and material, to keep the publication rolling.

Finally, in the spirit of the Thanksgiving season, I want to say how thankful I am to be involved in this community of friends who have the same interest. To me, chess has become more than just some pieces of wood moved around on a checkered board....for me “chess” is so much more. And a lot of it is the camaraderie... socializing with friends at the chess club or tournament (or the inevitable dinner before or drinks after). Thanks to all who make this experience happen for me. I hope that those of you reading this can boast of similar experiences.

I hope you all have a very successful year, in chess and in life.

Gary Newsom





From the Editor's Desk



First of all I am excited about returning to the position of Gambit Editor. I enjoyed my last stint as editor back in 2001 and am looking forward to watching the Gambit grow over the coming years. I plan on being aggressive and proactive in taking the Gambit to the next level. I will not be afraid to call on you to help build the Gambit into a top-notch state publication. I also welcome any feedback you may have. My goals for the Gambit are as follows:

1. Provide an organized comprehensive review of events for the months leading up to the printing of the Gambit.
2. Provide relevant instructional articles for players in the chess community.
3. Use the Gambit as a promotional tool to woo new players.
4. Use the Gambit as a promotional tool to woo sponsors.
5. Give clubs throughout the state a sounding point to inform the chess public of club events.
6. Profile and recognize individuals who contribute to the chess community in various ways.
7. Provide challenging and entertaining puzzles and games.
8. Maintain an organized catalog of club meetings and future events.
9. Provide an interactive online magazine which allows individuals to play through games or view photo albums.
10. Provide entertaining articles and features that focus on the lighter side of chess.

Some of you have already seen some of the additions to this Gambit. I brought back the "Roadrage" column to show off our games when we travel to other states/countries. The new "Club Focus" will give some of the smaller clubs in North Carolina the opportunity to inform everyone about programs and activities in their areas. Another new feature which I hope to debut in the February/March edition will be called "The Grinders." "The Grinders" will feature some of the more active or longest standing members sharing some of their past chess stories. Evan Whittington, who became a nationally respected web comic, will be contributing his creation "Leo."

Another new feature of this Gambit is the "Milestones" column. This is your opportunity to brag about your accomplishments. I am looking for players who achieve a new rating level for the first time... or pull off a massive upset.... or win their first open section. I also will be offering up some contests from time to time. I will hopefully secure some sponsorship to provide some nice prizes for these little contests.

Of course the traditional coverage of tournaments within our state will continue as well as a good number of games (hopefully with lots of annotations) and pictures. With this being an online magazine, it gives us an opportunity to play through the games. Any time you see a game you can click on the header and a new tab will pop up where you can play through the game. Most pictures you find will lead to photo albums. Just click the picture and you will be directed to an album or scrapbook. Also, when you come to a website or an e-mail address, you can just click on the address and either be directed to the e-mail or the website.

I chose the .PDF format to make the Gambit more printer-friendly. While the .html version is great for quick information, printed copies can still be an importing selling point for our organization. I personally plan on making several copies of the Gambit and having them ready to distribute to people who may be interested in competitive chess. I also think the newer Gambits will make a nice handout for potential sponsors. It's good to be able to present someone a handsome package of information rather than sending him/her to possibly flail around a website. I challenge you to print out a couple of copies yourselves, and distribute them to a local coffee shop, a library, or just to some friends who enjoy chess. We've got a lot of momentum going, and now is the time to take advantage of that momentum. I believe we have a lot of untapped potential which can create a better chess experience for everyone.

Best Regards,
Jeff Jones
Editor, The Gambit



2010 North Carolina Grand Prix

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<http://www.chesscentral.com>

Official Procedures, Rules, and Regulations

The North Carolina Grand Prix (NCGP) is a seasonal competition somewhat similar to the USCF Grand Prix. Points are awarded by playing in and winning games at participating tournaments.

The 2010 Grand Prix begins on November 2, 2009 and continues through the 2010 NC Open.

The North Carolina Grand Prix is open to any NC resident who is a current paid NCCA member. Scholastic players may also participate by paying regular adult dues.

To qualify as a NC resident, one must reside in North Carolina for at least six months of the year. Military and college students who meet this requirement will be considered eligible. Participants who relocate will not forfeit previously earned points if this six month requirement is met.

***Earning NCGP Points:** Points are earned by entering and winning games at participating tournaments. For each game won at a participating tournament the player receives 1 Grand Prix point. (Forfeits do not count). For each game drawn, the player receives ½ point. (Requested byes do not count). For each one day tournament with over 50% of the schedule completed, the player receives one bonus point. For each two/three day event with over 50% of the schedule completed, the player receives 2 bonus points.

The prize fund is generated by a \$1.00 fee per adult player (and per participating scholastic player) at NCGP tournaments. Tournament organizers at participating tournaments are responsible for these fees, which are to be remitted within seven business days to the NCCA treasurer to keep in a special fund.

***Participating tourneys:** The following is the criteria to qualify a participating tourney:

- 1) The tourney must be held in the State of North Carolina.
- 2) It must be open to all adult players.
- 3) It must be USCF rated and follow all rules and guidelines customary for USCF events.
- 4) The organizer must contribute .75 cents to the prize fund for every participating player (see below for participating player criteria).
- 5) Participating tournaments must require NCCA Membership for all NC adult players. Any player nineteen years or older will be considered an adult. If an adult player inadvertently finishes a tournament without paying NCCA dues, this will be deducted from any tournament prize.
- 6) Scholastic players have a choice of whether to participate. Scholastic players who have not remitted NCCA membership dues may do so within 30 days of a win to keep any potential points they would have earned. Thereafter, such points shall expire.
- 7) Weekday tournaments are not eligible for the Grand Prix.
- 8) Each USCF affiliate is allowed 1 NCGP tourney per month.
- 9) The tourney must be advertised on the "Tournaments" page of nc-chess.com for a minimum of 14 days prior to the tournament date.

*** Participating players:** The following is the criteria for a participating player:

- 1) Must be a member in good standing with the USCF and NCCA
- 2) Scholastic players have a choice of whether to participate. Scholastic players who have not remitted NCCA membership dues may do so within 30 days of a win to keep any potential points they would have earned. Thereafter, such points shall expire.

(continued on next page)

***Prize fund:** Prizes are provided by ChessCentral.com and the funding system alluded to above. Prizes for the 2010 North Carolina Grand Prix are as follows:

1st 50% of the prize money + a \$350 Gift Certificate from ChessCentral.com

2nd 25% of the prize money + a \$250 Gift Certificate from ChessCentral.com

3rd 15% of the prize money + a \$100 Gift Certificate from ChessCentral.com

Most Improved 10% of the prize money + a \$50 Gift Certificate from ChessCentral.com

Most active: A wood “Duke” Style chess set from ChessCentral.com (a \$129 value)

In addition to the regular prize fund, ChessCentral.com has agreed to provide an addition \$50 Gift Certificate to each participating club with at least 20 members and a website. This prize will go to the club member with the highest point total in the NCGP. This prize can be won in addition to any prize qualified for above.

Additional Rules and Guidelines:

A. “Most Improved” determined by using as a starting point the player’s regular USCF rating on the November 2009 supplement and calculating the point differential with the post-tournament rating of the 2010 NC Open.

B. “Most Active” determined by adding up the number of games played, regardless of result, in participating NCGP tourneys.

C. “Most Improved” and “Most Active” prizes may be won in addition to a prize for a 1st, 2nd, or 3rd place finish.

D. The cash portion of the prize fund is generated by the .75 cents per game paid by the organizing affiliate, which is matched by .25 cents per player by the NCCA. The other portion of the prize fund is contributed by ChessCentral.com

E. The NCCA President will be responsible for determining and certifying the final standings. The points tally may be maintained by the NCCA President or a designee.

F. Prizes will be awarded within no more than 30 days of the end of each season.

G. Points are provisional until funding is received by the NCCA, and the USCF rating report is up.

H. The NCCA reserves the right to make minor alterations to the procedures, rules, and regulations. The NCCA reserves the right to settle any dispute arising as a result of this series, and their decision will be final.

Chris Mabe wins 2009 North Carolina Chess Grand Prix

Gary Newsom

In an exciting finish that went down to the last game, Charlotte NM Chris Mabe has won the 2009 North Carolina Grand Prix, taking home a check of over \$400! The Grand Prix came down to the final event, the North Carolina Open. Chris needed to place in the points and ahead of Raleigh NM Ron Simpson in order to win. With both players tied at 2½ points going into the final round, Chris scored a victory over Dominique Myers to set the pace. Needing a last round win against Expert David Erb in order to clinch the Grand Prix for himself, Ron fought valiantly to win but David was up to the challenge and held the draw in a complex ending.

1st Overall : NM Chris Mabe

2nd Overall: FM Ron Simpson

U1800: Brian Moore

U1600: Kevin Chen

U1400: William Lefew

A Big Race in Indy!

The U.S. Open is the last true major single section tournament on the American chess scene. One of the few where a class player like myself could have any chance of matching wits with a Grandmaster. In my first opportunity to play in the U.S. Open, I was paired in the middle rounds with GM Joshua Friedel.....

OK, it was 1996, and he was only an eight or nine year old class B player at the time, but the whoopin' he handed me was still a pretty humbling lesson in how the game is played.

This year I came to Indy looking to relax, but hoping to find the elusive matchup with a current Grandmaster. After arriving in town on August 4th and taking public busses across town for an hour and a half (A frugal decision as cab fare was close to \$50 from the airport.), I crashed down at a lower-end hotel a couple of hundred yards down the street from the Marriott where the opening was being held. After checking in and stretching out for a few minutes, I couldn't resist the urge to scope out the sights and take in some of the games from the six-day schedule, so I dashed across the street and up the road.

While there I greeted the High family, who were already there while David playing in the Denker tournament, and flagged down NM John Bidwell, a nine-time TACO winner who moved to western Ohio a couple of years ago. I didn't stay too long as I had an overnight poker session in Cary the night before my flight, and was flat out exhausted. I dozed off about 8:30 that evening.

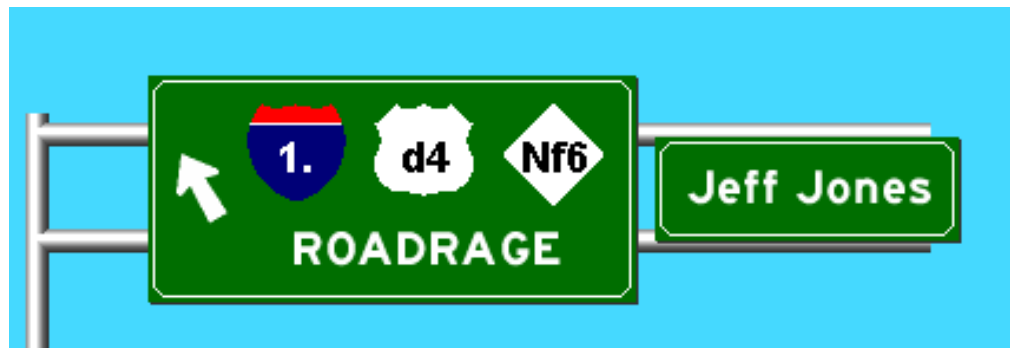
The morning came and after ten hours of sleep, I jumped out of bed *[maybe a little too]* eager to participate in my first big tournament since the 2005 World Open. After a great breakfast at the neighboring Lincoln Square Restaurant next to the Marriott, I stepped into the tournament hall anxiously awaiting the pairings. Once I arrived I saw that I was just about the middle of the top half of the field in the 4-day schedule. Thus if I could avoid a 550-point upset or draw I had a really good shot at getting a seat opposite a Grandmaster. There was even the odd chance that I could play reigning women's world champion Alexandra Kosteniuk!

The game started and I attained a very good position with my trusted Caro-Kann defense. My opponent didn't know the opening well and started loosening his pieces. I started salivating over the possibility of a possible once-in-a-lifetime experience. The I saw an opportunity to claim a pawn. I went for it. One problem though. My bishop on e7 had no defense, and with the white queen bearing down the e-file, my tactical shot got trumped by a zwischenzug. He exploited the pin along the e-file to win my f-pawn. After this he slowly ground me down, and my dreams of a date with Mrs. Kosteniuk, or any other GM went down the tube. Had I won, I would've played GM Mesgen Amanov in round two.

This disaster set the tone for me as I consistently got the better of my openings through all eight of my games. (I took a bye in round nine to catch my flight home.) My porous middlegame play led me to only cash in on the advan-

tages three times. One of those wins was due to a young kid hanging a rook while playing too fast. Throw a draw into the mix and I was stuck with only four out of nine points. I was very disappointed in my play, but really enjoyed the immersion in chess. I had lengthy post mortems with all my opponents, an unusual move for me, but very enjoyable. (Continued on next page)

(left) The U.S. Open Tournament Hall. (Photo by Ken Baxter)



As I mentioned before Walter High and sons David and Zachary of Chapel Hill all participated in their first U.S. Open. David pulled double duty playing in the Arnold Denker Tournament of High School Champions. David scored a respectable 2½ points out of six against a field of the best high school players in the nation. Abby Marshall from Virginia became the first female to claim the championship.

Joining the Highs in the six-day schedule was Greensboro's Matthew Helfst. Matthew secured one of the biggest upsets of the tournament torching Kansas FM Conrad Holt (*see game on bottom right*) Matthew had the best score of the North Carolina representatives with five points out of nine.

Fayetteville's Daniel Kulich joined me as the only other North Carolinian in the four-day schedule, in which our first six games were at Game/60. Kenneth Spencer of Zebulon, an Indiana University graduate did not play in the main event, but did make an appearance in one of the side events.

Ken Baxter of Charlotte, whose wife's family lives not too far from Indianapolis, joined Walter and I to serve as delegates at the USCF delegate meetings. It was one of the most important delegate meetings in USCF history, and thanks to a lot of coordination between then-NCCA President Vic Beaman and the USCF we were able to fully represent North Carolina at the convention.

Bad play notwithstanding I enjoyed the trip to Indianapolis for the USCF. I learned a lot about parliamentary procedure and USCF governance as well. I'm already looking forward to next year's Open in Irvine, CA.

North Carolina's representatives at the 2009 US Open (from left to right) Ken Baxter, David High, Jeff Jones, Walter High, Zachary High, Matt Helfst, Daniel Kulich. (*Ken Spencer not pictured*)



David High examines an endgame during the Arnold Denker tournament of High School Champions. (photo by Walter High)

2009 U.S. Open

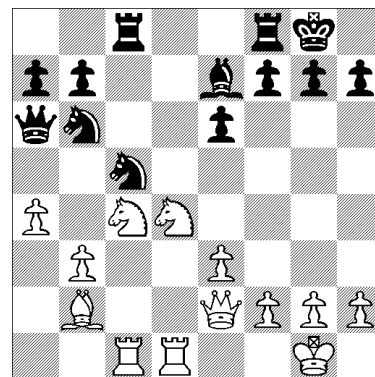
♔: **Matthew Helfst (1830)**

♚: **FM Conrad Holt (2314)**

Indianapolis, IN - 4 August, 2009

Notes by Jeff Jones

1. d4 d5 2. Nf3 Nf6 3. e3 c5 4. b3 Bg4 5. Bb2 e6 6. Be2 cxd4 7. Nxd4 Bb4+ 8. c3 Bxe2 9. Qxe2 Be7 10. O-O O-O 11. Nd2 Nbd7 12. c4 Rc8 13. cxd5 Nxd5 14. Rac1 Qa5 15. Nc4 Qa6 16. a4 Nc5 17. Rfd1 Nb6 (*diagram*)



18. Qg4! f5?? (Bf6 is the only move here but 19.Nc2! Nd5 (*if Bxb2 20.Nb4 traps the queen.*) 20.Nb4!! Nxb4 21.Bxf6 g6 22.Qh4 Nd5 23.Nd6!! Nxf6 24.Nxc8 loses the exchange in black's best line. 19. Nxf5! Rf7 20. Nh6+ 1-0

The Bill Hancock Memorial

Evan Whittington

club



Via
Cappuccino
Chess
Club
*Rocky
Mount*

FOCUS

Most of the chess clubs that you would read about here are, if not well known, at least USCF affiliated. There are, however, a few clubs and meeting places that don't really advertise, but are well worth finding. By my experience, they are among my most enjoyable of chess experiences (yes I am referencing the early days of the Point A Chess Club). In 2001, my career began to heavily interfere with my ability to get out to tournaments. I began playing email chess so I could still get my fix. When I moved to Rocky Mount, I didn't expect things to change much. I was still working most weekends so I had no expectation of being able to get out for tournaments. About 2 years ago, I heard about a group of players that meet at Via Cappuccino, one of the local coffee houses. The club meets on Saturdays with players usually starting to show up around 11am. I showed up not sure if I would find a competitive game, but I'm pleased to say that I was not disappointed. While most of the regulars are Class C/D strength, they do a good job of keeping me honest and there are one or two other players who run .500 against me. Of course, things get really interesting there when 2 of us are there.

Not long after I found the club I discovered that Gordon Ray holds informal tournaments there roughly every other month. The tournaments, sponsored by Liipfert Realty, are unrated five-round G/20s with trophies to 1st, 2nd and the top scholastic (K-12) player. This tournament differs from most in the sense that the 1st round is determined by random draw and that color in all rounds is also random draw (I meant it when I said this was informal). Not long ago, one of the elder club members, Bill Hancock, died of cancer and the tournament was named in his honor. On that note....I had the pleasure of playing against him in the last Via Cappuccino tournament he participated in. Here was the game....*{keep in mind these are quick games. I'll hit the high points and critical positions, but try not to get overly critical}*

Via Cappuccino G/20

♔: Bill Hancock (1300)

♔: Evan Whittington (1725)

Rocky Mount, NC - 15 March, 2008

1.e4 Nf6 2.e5 Nd5 3.d4 d6 4.c4 Nb6 5.f4 dxe5 6.fxe5 Nc6 7.Nf3 e6 8.Be2 Be7 9.O-O O-O 10.Be3 f6 11.a3 f5?! *It's easy to get your thought processes mixed up in 20 minute games. I can only figure that I got worried about the isolated e pawn.* 12.Nc3 Qe8 13.b4 Bd7 14.d5 Nd8 15.dxe6 *I thought Bill let me off the hook, but even though Crafty preferred Nd4, there was still a strong attack here.* 15...Bxe6 16.c5 Nd7 17.Nd5 Rc8 18.Nxe7+ Qxe7 19.Bg5 Qf7 20.Nd4? *I'd already obtained a decently defensible position, but now I'll be able to break out and get counter play. I think time was starting to get short too...* 20...Nxe5 21.Nxe6 Nxe6 22.Bf4 Nxf4 23.Rxf4 Rcd8 24.Qc2 Qf6 25.Raf1 g6 26.g4 Qg5 27.h3 fxg4 28.Rxf8+ Rxf8 29.Qb3+ Kg7 30.Rxf8 gxh3+ 31.Kf2 Qg2+ 32.Ke1 Kxf8 0-1

The November 2009 edition of the Hancock was particularly special. Not only did we have 26 entries almost double our average, but we also had the strongest field including all the clubs B strength players and the tournaments first over 1900 player, Jim Watson. At the start of the tournament, it was pretty much standing room only in the coffee shop and I think some of the other shop regulars were impressed at how much the tournament has grown.

I wish I had more to submit, but with the fast time controls, I am pretty much the only player who notates games and even then, only up until the last 5 minutes where I will put away the scoresheet and just blitz out the remainder of the game.

One of the cool things about this tournament are the number of scholastic players (mostly Gordon's students). Tournaments like this are a great way for them to get comfortable with competitive chess while getting some games against quality opponents. My first round opponent was one of those players. Unrated for now, but would soon be joining the USCF and playing his first tournament and he gave me a very decent game. *(continued on next page.)*

Bill Hancock Memorial

♔: Evan Whittington (1725)

♔: Treyvon Brooks (unrated)

Rocky Mount, NC - 14 November, 2009

1.e4 d6 2.d4 Nc6 3.d5 Nb8?! Ne5 would have been better **4.f4 Nf6 5.Bd3 g6 6.Nf3 Bg4 7.h3** Outside of playing Bg7 first, I think black should have considered developing the knight first since the light square bishop really had no good places to go yet. **7...Bxf3 8.Qxf3 Nbd7 9.O-O Bg7 10.c4 O-O 11.Nc3 c6 12.Bd2?** Typical G/20 oversight. Be3 to prevent checks on the diagonal. Luckily for me, my opponent didn't capitalize. **12...Nc5** (12...Qb6+ 13.Kh1 Qxb2 14.Rfd1 =+) **13.Kh1 Re8 14.Bc2 Qb6 15.Rab1 e6?** further weakens the d pawn and making the e5 push stronger. Also, with the possibility of the f file opening, it was probably best to play Rae8 instead of Rfe8. **16.e5 dxe5 17.fxe5 Nfd7 18.Qxf7+ Kh8 19.dxe6?! ({Crafty-20.14:+3.22} 19.b4 Nxe5 20.bxc5 Qxb1 21.Qxe8+ Rxe8 22.Nxb1 exd5 23.cxd5 cxd5 +/-) 19...Nxe5 20.Qf2 Nxc4 21.b4 Nxd2 (21...Nxe6 -/+) 22.bxc5 Qa5 23.Qxd2 Bxc3?** Qxc3 was a must, all but forcing the queens off the board and preventing me from overrunning the 7th rank. Even though black is down a pawn after 23... Qxc3 **24. Qxc3 Bxc3 25.Rxb7**, the opposite color bishops and rooks make this game very drawish. **24.Qd7 Rad8 25.Qxb7 Qxc5 26.Rf7 Rf8 27.e7 Rde8 28.Rxh7+ Kxh7 (28...Kg8 29.exf8=Q+ Rxf8 30.Bb3+)29.exf8=Q+ Qe7 30.Qbxe7+ Bg7 31.Qexg7# 1-0**

Inevitably, Jim and I did meet and play for first. It was in the final round with both of us surviving the first 4 rounds with perfect scores. I think, between us, Jim ended up getting the tougher draws leading up to round 5 having to play Arthur Lewis and Gordon Ray in rounds 3 and 4.

Bill Hancock Memorial

♔: Evan Whittington (1725)

♔: James Watson (1925)

Rocky Mount, NC - 14 November, 2009

1.e4 g5 Most of the players were surprised and frustrated by Jim's openings. There was even lively discussion after the tournament over weather or not the Grob was a "legit" opening. I had played him before and pretty much knew what to expect. Also, being a former devotee of the Polish, I was familiar with the flank vs center themes. **2.d4 h6 3.Bc4 e6 4.c3 a6 5.f4** I figured my best chance was to take the initiative instead of sitting back and waiting to defend. **5...b5 6.Bd3 Bb7 7.Nd2 gxf4** would have been interesting and I am more than willing to gambit the pawn **7...c5 8.Ne2 cxd4 9.cxd4 Nc6 10.Nf3 g4 11.Ne5 Nxe5 12.fxe5 h5 13.O-O**the reason I played fxe5. Virtually everyone who looked at this game said I should not have castled here, but I saw no problem with it then and Crafty actually prefers it. **13...Nh6 14.Nf4** Be3 would have been better (it will later become a clearly needed preparatory move) and in a longer game I would have realized that, but I felt like my window to prevent castling was closing. **14...h4 15.d5?** The wrong continuation. I was focused on breaking the center and missed this combination. (15.Nh5 Qb6 16.Nf6+ Kd8 +/-) **15...Qb6+ 16.Kh1 Bg7** Be3 mentioned earlier prevents this countershot. It was pretty much down hill from here. **17.Nh5 Bxe5 18.Bxh6 Rxh6 19.Qxg4 O-O-O 20.Rxf7 Qg5** would have given me a chance, but I was low on time. **20...exd5 21.exd5 Bxd5 22.Rc1+ Rc6 23.Rxc6+ Qxc6 24.Qe2 Bxf7 25.Qxe5 Qc1+ 0-1**

The final results from the tournament were: 1st – Jim Watson (5-0) 2nd Evan Whittington {wins 2nd place trophy on tiebreaks}, Arthur Lewis and Rudy Mendez (4-1) and the Top Scholastic prize went to Aaron Atkinson (3-2).

Raleigh Tournament Chess Club Tournament Winners.

RTCC #1 - August 2009

Jon Achelpohl

RTCC#2 - September 2009

Jeff Jones

RTCC#3 - October 2009

Daniel Faries

RTCC#4 - November 2009

Daniel Solarez

Queen City Chess Cub 10 Rating Points Tonight Winners

#10 - 11 August - 8 September

OPEN: **Dominique Myers** U1700: **Charlie Carerros**

#11 - 15 September - 13 October

OPEN: **Michael Kliber** U1800: **Gaurav Gupta**

#12 - 20 October - 17 November

OPEN: **Patrick McCartney, Alain Morais**

U1800: **Drew Holloway**

club champions

A complete list of chess clubs in North Carolina can be found on the back cover.

Duke/Durham Chess Club Winners

September Showdown - 6-20 September, 2009

Jack Glantz, Steven Pizzo, Tim Rankin

Fall Quickdeath - 11 October, 2009

Aaron Balleisen

Blue Devil Duel - 18 Oct.-8 Nov., 2009

Brad Marts

Quick Chess - 15 November, 2009

Steven Pizzo, Tim Rankin

Laurin Keller Memorial Chess Club Winners

Keller Quick #17 - 13 August, 2009

Jonathon McNeill

Keller Quick #18 - 10 September, 2009

Cheng Chu

Keller Action G/20 - 24 September, 2009

Cheng Chu

October Open - 1-29 October, 2009

Dr. Joseph Graves

Keller Quick 20—13 November

Robert Spurrier

Asheboro Chess Club Ricochet Winners

#57 - 13 August

Jonathon McNeill

#58 - 8 September

Jordan Wood

#59 - 29 September

Jordan Wood

#60 - 10 November

Jordan Wood

Greenville Chess Club Winners

August Blitz

John Wehrenberg

August Quick

John Wooten

August G/60

Vic Beaman, Davaughn Dixon

Daniel Thomas, John Wooten

September Blitz

John Wooten

September Quick

John Wehrenberg

September G/60

John Wooten

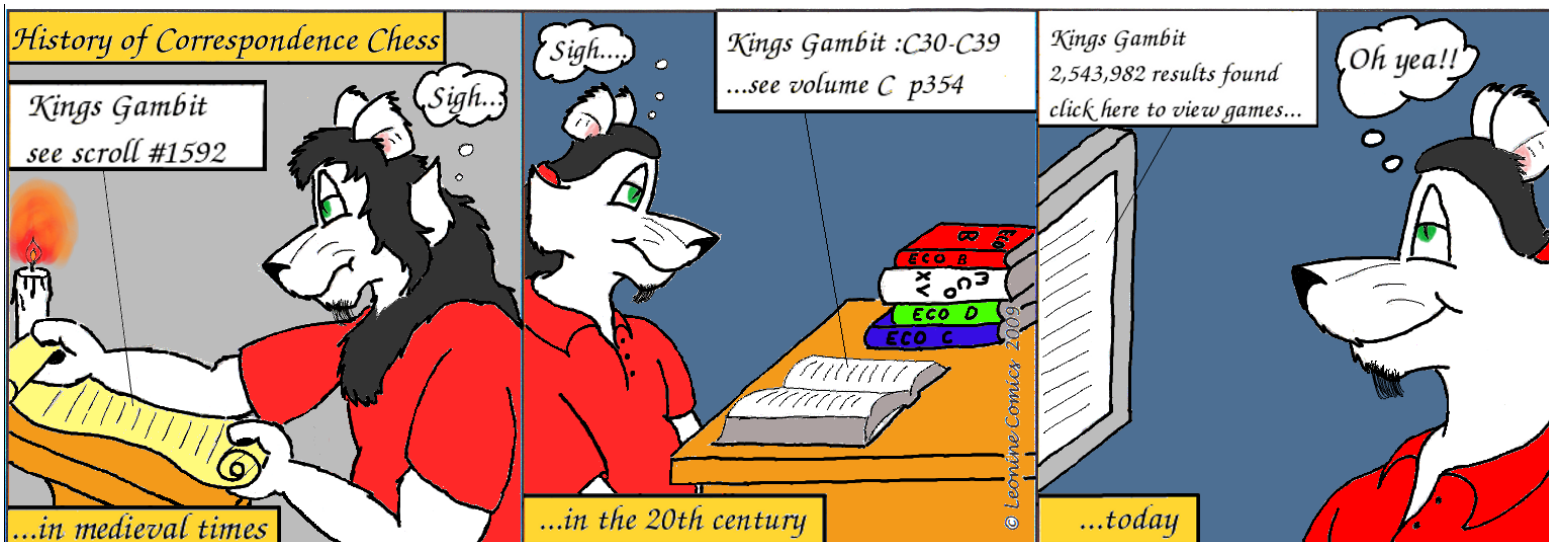
Wilmington Chess Club Winners

WCC #18 - 2-16 July

Yuval Shemesh

WCC#19 3 Sept.-1 Oct.

Steven Morales



IM Schroer Clinches his title with this victory over Miles Ardaman

2009 North Carolina Open

♔: FM Miles Ardaman (2314)

♚: IM Jonathan Schroer (2429)

Greensboro, North Carolina -

1 November, 2009

1. b3 e5 2. Bb2 Nc6 3. e3 d5 4. Bb5 Bd6 5. f4 Qh4+ 6. g3 Qe7 7. Nf3 f6 8. Nc3 Be6 9. Qe2 Nh6 10. fxe5 fxe5 11. e4 dxe4 12. Bxc6+ bxc6 13. Qxe4 O-O 14. O-O-O Bg4 15. Rhf1 Kh8 16. h4 Bf5 17. Qxc6 Bd7 18. Qe4 Bf5 19. Qe3 Bh3 20. Rg1 Bc5 21. d4 Nf5 22. Qxe5 Qxe5 23. Nxe5 Bxd4 24. Rge1 Bf2 25. Rh1 Bg2 26. Rh2 Bxg3 27. Ng6+ hxg6 28. Rxc2 Bf4+ 29. Kb1 Ne3 30. Rxc6 Nxd1 31. Nxd1 Rf7 32. a4 Re8 33. Rg1 Be5 34. Nc3 Ref8 35. Rg5 Rf1+ 36. Ka2 Bf6 37. Rc5 Rf3 38. h5 a6 39. b4 Rb8 40. b5 axb5 41. axb5 Rh3 42. Ne2 Bxb2 43. Kxb2 c6 44. Nf4 Rf3 45. Ng6+ Kh7 46. c4 cxb5 47. cxb5 Re8 48. Rc3 Rf5 49. Rb3 Rb8 50. b6 Rf6 51. b7 Rf7 52. Rd3 Rfxb7+ 53. Kc2 Rb2+ 54. Kc1 Rh2 55. Nf4 Ra8 56. Kb1 Rf8 0-1

2009 North Carolina Open

♔: NM Rusty Potter (2204)

♚: IM Jonathan Schroer (2429)

Greensboro, North Carolina -

31 October, 2009

1. d4 Nf6 2. c4 g6 3. Nc3 Bg7 4. e4 d6 5. f3 O-O 6. Be3 c5 7. dxc5 dxc5 8. Bxc5 Nc6 9. Be3 Qa5 10. Ne2 Rd8 11. Qc1 Nd7 12. Kf2 Nc5 13. Nf4 Ne5 14. Ncd5 Ne6 15. Be2 Nxf4 16. Bxf4 e6 17. Nc3 Nxc4 18. Bxc4 Qc5+ 19. Be3 Qxc4 20. Rd1 Bd7 21. Qd2 Qc7 22. Bf4 Qb6+ 23. Be3 Qc7 24. Qd6 Qxd6 25. Rxd6 Bc6 26. Rad1 Rxd6 27. Rxd6 h5 28. Rd1 Kf8 29. Bd4 Bxd4+ 30. Rxd4 e5 31. Rd2 a5 32. Ke3 f6 33. Nd5 Kf7 34. a4 Ra6 35. b3 b5 36. axb5 Bxb5 37. Ra2 a4 38. bxa4 Rxa4 39. Rxa4 Bxa4 40. h4 Bc6 ½-½

Schroer also had to dodge the stiff challenge from a very talented youngster in the opening round. The finish of this one is quite unique.

2009 North Carolina Open

♔: William Campbell (1905)

♚: IM Jonathan Schroer (2429)

Greensboro, North Carolina - 30 October, 2009

1. d4 Nf6 2. c4 g6 3. g3 Bg7 4. Bg2 O-O 5. Nc3 d6 6. e4 Nc6 7. Nge2 e5 8. d5 Nd4 9. O-O c5 10. dxc6 Nxe2+ 11. Qxe2 bxc6 12. Rd1 Qc7 13. h3 a5 14. Be3 Ba6 15. b3 Rfe8 16. Qc2 Nd7 17. Rd2 Nf8 18. Ne2 Ne6 19. Rad1 c5 20. Nc3 Nd4 21. Bxd4 cxd4 22. Nd5 Qc5 23. a4 Bb7 24. g4 Bxd5 25. exd5 Bh6 26. Re2 Rab8 27. Be4 Rb4 28. Rb1 Reb8 29. Qd1 R8b6 30. Kh1 Qc8 31. Qd3 Qb8 32. Reb2 Rxa4 33. bxa4 Rxb2 34. Rxb2 Qxb2 35. Qc2 Qa3 36. Kg2 Bf4 37. Qd1 Kf8 38. Qc2 Ke7 39. Qd1 Kd7 40. Qb1 Qb4 41. Qxb4 axb4 42. Bc2 Kc7 43. Kf3 Kb6 44. Ke2 Bg5 45. f3 Kc5 46. Bb3 Bd8 47. Kd3 f5 48. Ba2 e4+ 49. fxe4 fxg4 50. hxg4 h5 51. gxh5 gxh5 52. Bb3 h4 53. Bd1 h3 54. Bg4 h2 55. Bf3 b3 56. Bh1 Ba5 57. Bg2 Bc3 58. Bf3 b2 59. Kc2 d3+ 60. Kb1 d2 61. Kc2 b1=Q+ 62. Kxb1 d1=Q+ 0-1

NM Chris Mabe wins the 2009 Grand Prix thanks to this final round victory over Dominique Myers

2009 North Carolina Open

♔: NM Chris Mabe (2292)

♚: Dominique Myers (2038)

Greensboro, North Carolina -

1 November, 2009

1. e4 e5 2. Nf3 Nc6 3. Bb5 a6 4. Ba4 Nf6 5. Qe2 b5 6. Bb3 Bc5 7. d3 d6 8. c3 Bg4 9. h3 Bh5 10. Nbd2 Bb6 11. Nf1 Bg6 12. Be3 Rb8 13. Nh4 Ne7 14. Ng3 c5 15. Bg5 h6 16. Bxf6 gxf6 17. O-O Rg8 18. Qf3 Nc6 19. Ngf5 Rh8 20. Qg4 h5 21. Ng7+ Kf8 22. Ne6+ fxe6 23. Nxc6+ Kg7 24. Qg3 Qe8 25. Nxe5+ Kh7 26. Nxc6 Rc8 27. Qf3 Rf8 28. Ne7 Qxe7 29. Qxh5+ Kg7 30. c4 f5 31. f4 Qf6 32. Rf3 Rg8 33. Rg3+ Kf8 34. Rxc8+ Kxc8 35. exf5 exf5 36. Kh1 b4 37. Re1 Rf8 38. Bd1 Bd8 39. Bf3 Kg7 40. Bd5 Qxb2 41. Qf3 Bf6 42. Qg3+ Kh8 43. Qg6 1-0

Steven Pizzo opens his quest for the under 1800 title with this victory over the section's top-rated player.

2009 North Carolina Open

♔: Steven Pizzo (1727)

♚: Eric Reece Thompson (1795)

Greensboro, North Carolina - 30 October, 2009

1. Nf3 d5 2. d4 Nf6 3. c4 e6 4. Nc3 Be7 5. Bg5 O-O 6. e3 b6 7. Rc1 Bb7 8. cxd5 Nxd5 9. Bxe7 Qxe7 10. Bd3 c5 11. O-O Nd7 12. Nxd5 exd5 13. dxc5 bxc5 14. Qc2 h6 15. Bf5 Rac8 16. Qa4 Rc7 17. Bxd7 Rxd7 18. Rxc5 Qxc5 19. Qxd7 Bc6 20. Qc7 Qb6 21. Qxb6 axb6 22. Nd4 Bb7 23. Rc1 Rc8 24. Rxc8+ Bxc8 25. Kf1 Kf8 26. Ke1 Bd7 27. Kd2 Ke7 28. Kc3 Kd6 29. Kb4 g5 30. a4 f5 31. f4 gxf4 32. exf4 Bc8 33. Kc3 Ke7 34. b4 Kd6 35. Nb3 Ba6 36. Kd4 Bc4 37. Nd2 Be2 38. Nb1 Bc4 39. Nc3 Ke6 40. a5 bxa5 41. bxa5 Kd6 42. Nd1 Ba6 43. Ne3 Bc8 44. Nxd5 Bb7 45. Ne3 Bc8 46. g3 h5 47. Nc4+ Kc6 48. Ke5 Ba6 49. Nd6 Be2 50. Nxf5 Kb5 51. Nd4+ 1-0

2009 North Carolina Open

♔: Alexei Gorbounov (1933)

♔: Tim Rankin (1854)

Greensboro, North Carolina - 31 October, 2009

Notes by Tim Rankin

1. e4 e6 2. d4 d5 3. Nc3 Nc6 The strange-looking Hecht-Reefschlager variation of the French Defense. Black often attacks White's pawn chain with ...f6 early in this opening and fights for control over e5. **4. Be3 Bb4 5. e5 Qe7** The immediate 5...f6 is more common, but I thought this was a flexible move which would allow ...Qf7 in response to any checks on h5 and would enable me to castle queenside quickly if desired. **6. a3 Bxc3+ 7. bxc3 Na5 8. Nf3 b6** I preferred having the bishop on b7 rather than d7 since the d5 pawn might be traded off eventually. **9. Nd2 Bb7** Here I would reply to 10. Nb3 with 10...Nc4. **10. Bd3 f6 11. Qh5+ Qf7 12. Qh3 f5** I felt this was a sensible move here, cutting off the scope of White's queen and d3-bishop. The drawback, of course, is that White's e5 pawn is now rock solid. **13. Nf3 Ne7 14. Ng5 Qg8 15. Qh5+ Kd7** With the center closed, the king is just as safe here as anywhere else. **16. f4 h6 17. Nh3 Nc4 18. Bc1 a5 19. a4** Freeing the a3 square for the bishop before Black can stop this with ...a4. **Ba6 20. Nf2 c6** With the possibility of an eventual ...b5 push in mind. **21. g4 g6 22. Qh4 h5 23. gxf5 Nxf5 24. Qh3 Qf7 25. Rg1 Rag8 26. Rb1 Kc7 27. Bxc4 Bxc4 28. Nd3 Qe7** Temporarily keeping the bishop out of a3, and also considering the possibility of trading queens with ...Qh4+. **29. Rg5** I found this move, which plugs up the kingside, to be really annoying. I considered the possibility of eventually challenging the rook by ...h4 and ...Rh5 but never ended up playing it. **Bxd3** An impatient move played near the end of the time control. I had the possibility of a good knight versus bad bishop ending in mind, but the bishop kept White's rook off b3 (to guard a3) and was more active than White's knight at the moment. It would probably have been better to leave these pieces on for now. **30. Qxd3 Kb7 31. Rb3** Threatening Ba3 followed by Bc5. **Ka7 32. Ba3 Qf7 33. c4** At first this move looked strong since taking on c4 (otherwise 34. c5 is crushing) seemed to give White play on the queenside. However, Black is still fine thanks to the new ability to use the d5 square. **dx4 34. Qxc4 Qd7 35. c3?** This natural move reinforcing d4 turns out to be a mistake since the pawn no longer guards the b3 rook and White's light squares are weakened. Here 35...Qd5 would force a trade of queens, but Black has something much better. **Ne3! 36. Qe2 Qd5** Suddenly Black's queen and knight have sprung to life. The b3 rook is threatened as well as ...Qh1+. **37. Rb1?** Missing the skewer on the first rank, but White was in trouble no matter what he played. If instead 37. Rb2, 37... Nc4 is strong. One sample continuation would be 38. Ra2 Qh1+ 29. Qf1 Qe4+ 30. Qe2 Qb1+ 31. Kf2 Nxa3 32. Rxa3 Qc1, threatening both the a3 rook and ...Qxf4+. According to Fritz, White best move was 37. c4, jettisoning the c-pawn but hanging on after 37...Nxc4 38. Bc1. **Qh1+ 38. Kd2 Qxb1 39. Kxe3 Qb3 40. Qb2** Here I had the choice of winning a pawn with 40...Qxa4, or trading queens while I had the chance, simplifying to a seemingly winning endgame up an exchange. **Qxb2** Without a doubt this was the wrong choice. The endgame turned out to be far less straightforward than I had hoped. **41. Bxb2 b5 42. Ba3 Kb7 43. h4** Another idea for White would be axb5 followed by d5, aiming for play with the newly passed e-pawn and against Black's 5th rank pawns. **Kc7** Black should free one of the rooks with 43...Rh7. **44. Rg2 Kd7? 45. Bd6** The king has wandered too far from the queenside. Now it is evident that White can grab the b-file since the king cannot guard the b-pawn from a6 and the rooks cannot move to b8. Fritz calls this position equal, just after everything was seemingly going Black's way. **bx4** Here I was very afraid of 46. Rb2, claiming the b-file and penetrating my position while the bishop stops my a-pawns from moving. At this point I had only 8 minutes to complete the rest of the game. **46. Ra2?** This was a huge relief. Losing the a4 pawn is no big deal, but this move allowed me to consolidate and grab the b-file myself. **Ra8 47. Rxa4 Ra7 48. Bc5 Ra6 49. c4** If the bishop had returned to d6, I would have played Rha8, allowing one of the rooks to come to the b-file next. Now I can take the file immediately. **Rb8 50. Ke4 Rb1 51. Ra3 a4 52. d5 Rb3** I now have 2 minutes left on my clock to finish the game. I decided my best bet would be to rush the a-pawn forward as fast as I could. **53. dxe6+ Kxe6 54. Ra2 a3 55. Bd4 Ra4 56. Rg2 a2?** The first of three consecutive mistakes in time pressure, this move allows White too much play. After 56...Rxc4 Black would be winning easily. **57. Rxc6+ Kd7?** I played this natural move to guard the c-pawn, but it would have been better not to allow e6 with check. **58. e6+ Ke8??** Fritz gives Kd6 with equality as the best move. The move I played turns out to be the worst one. **59. Bf6??** This move threatens mate in one, but I was glad to see this move since I saw the only defense. After 59. Kf5!, White actually would have been winning, e.g. 59...Rxc4 60. Rg8+ Ke7 61. Bf6+ Kd6 62. Be5+ Ke7 63. Rg7+. **Rxc4+ 60. Kf5 Rb5+** Now White has no choice but to block the check with the bishop, allowing Black to queen. **61. Be5 Rxe5+ 0-1**

2009 North Carolina Open

♔: Tim Rankin (1854)

♚: Zachary High (1688)

Greensboro, North Carolina -

31 October, 2009

Notes by Tim Rankin

1. d4 d5 2. c4 e6 3. Nc3 Nf6 4. Bg5 Nbd7 5. e3 c6 6. Nf3 Qa5 7. Nd2 Bb4 8. Qc2 Ne4 This move surprised me, but it is playable. Black typically breaks with ...e5 shortly after the exchange on e4. 9. Ndxe4 dxe4 10. Bh4 0-0 11. Be2 f5 12. 0-0 Nf6 13. Bg3 Eyeing Black's weak central dark squares. Bd7 14. a3 Bxc3 15. Qxc3 Qxc3 16. bxc3 With his dark-squared bishop exchanged off, Black needs to be careful not to let his dark squares become too weak. He should probably aim for a ...c5 break, perhaps supported by ...b6. a6? This move weakens Black's dark squares even further, leaves the b-pawn backward on an open file, and allows White to set up a bind. Black's idea was most likely to prepare ...b5, but this break will be stopped once White plays c5. 17. Bd6 Rf7 18. c5 Re8 19. Rab1 Bc8 20. c4 Even though this pawn could get in the way of my light-squared bishop, I decided it was worth playing c4 to keep the black knight out of d5. Rd8 21. Rfd1 This move and the next few moves by both sides are inaccuracies. Black should take advantage of the fact that the c5 pawn is tied to the d6 bishop to free himself a little with ...b5, and White should prevent this by playing Be5. Kh8 22. Rd2 Rfd7 23. Bd1 Ne8 24. Be5 Now White's bind on the dark squares is crippling, and Black will have a hard time finding any counterplay. My plan now is to break with f3 and attack on the kingside. Nf6 25. Bc2 Kg8 26. f3 exf3 27. gxf3 Kh8 28. Rg2 Rf8 29. Kf2 Ne8 30. Rbg1 Rg8 31. e4 Another possible idea is to continue the attack by running the h-pawn up the board. f4 Now this pawn becomes a target. Guarding the f-pawn by 31...Rf7 would have been better. 32. Rg4 Rf7? Forgetting that this rook's attack on the d4 pawn was what prevented me from taking on f4 with the bishop last move. 32...Rf8 would have held the pawn, though White's position is still far superior. 33. Rxf4 Rxf4 34. Bxf4 Rf8 35. Be5 Rf7 36. Ke3 Kg8 37. d5 Time to create a passed pawn. exd5 38. cxd5 cxd5 39. exd5 Bd7 40. Rb1 Bh3 41. d6 h6 Missing White's next move, but the game is lost for Black anyway. 42. Bb3 1-0

2009 North Carolina Open

♔: Zakir Ahmed (1872) ♚: Brad Marts (1875)

Greensboro, North Carolina - 1 November, 2009

Notes by Brad Marts

1. c4 Nf6 2. Nc3 d5 A Grunfeld like approach to the English. 3. cxd5 Nxd5 4. Nf3 g6 5. g3 Bg7 6. Bg2 O-O 7. O-O c6 8. e4 Nxc3 9. dxc3 Qb6 10. Qb3 Be6 11. Qxb6 axb6 12. a3 Nd7 13. Be3 Nc5 14. Bxc5 bxc5 15. Rfd1 Rfd8 16. Kf1 Bb3 This bishop will give black more control of the only open file. 17. Rxd8+ Rxd8 18. Ke1 Rd3 19. Nd2 Ba4 20. Ke2 Rd8 21. Ke3 Bh6+ 22. f4 e5 23. Nf3 I thought Nc4 was a better square for the knight. exf4+ 24. gxf4 Bb3 25. Re1 Bc2 Threatening both Rd3+ and Re8, so Rc1 or Re2 is probably necessary. 26. Bf1 Re8 27. e5 Bf5 The king and knight are tied down to the defense of the f and e pawns. Black will play ... f6 to attack the pinned e-pawn. (27... f6 28. Kd2 Bf5 29. exf6 Bxf4+ 30. Kd1 Rd8+ 31. Ke2 Bg4) 28. Nh4 Rxe5+ 29. Kf2 Rxe1 30. Kxe1 Be4 Black needs to avoid the opposite color bishop ending, create a passed pawn, and push it home. 31. Ng2 g5 Giving scope to the bishop and creating a passed pawn. 32. fxe5 Bxe5 33. Kd1 Bd5 34. c4 Be4 35. Ne1 Bf6 36. Kc1 Be5 37. h3 Bf4+ 38. Kd1 f5 39. Nd3 Bd6 40. Nf2 Bf3+ 41. Kc2 Kf7 42. Nd3 Kf6 43. b4 cxb4 44. axb4 b6 45. Ne1 Be4+ 46. Kb3 f4 47. Bg2 Bxe2 48. Nxe2 Kf5 The king will help the pawn, forcing white to trade the knight for it or allow a promotion. 49. b5 cxb5 50. cxb5 Ke4 51. Kc3 f3 White resigned as there is no way to stop the f-pawn. 0-1

2009 North Carolina Open

♔: William Lefew (1695) ♚: Miki Yasuoka (1482)

Greensboro, North Carolina - 31 October, 2009

Notes by William LeFew

1. e4 c5 2. Nc3 Nc6 3. f4 g6 4. Nf3 Bg7 5. Bb5 Nd4 6. O-O Nxb5 7. Nxb5 Nf6 The main move here is d5 so I am now in new territory. 8. d3 e5 looks like a better option. O-O 9. Qe1 planning Qh4 with an attack. d5 10. e5 10... Ne8 11. Qh4 Bd7 12. c4 Not as good as Nc3, but black seems to have a slight advantage either way. dxc4 13. dxc4 a6 Let's white reposition the knight for free. 14. Nc3 Bc6 Freeing the knight or pushing f6 look better to me. 15. Be3 White now has the edge. b6 16. Rad1 Qc7 17. Qh3 Nd5 was a better choice. Qb7 18. Rd2 Nc7 19. Rfd1 I continue to play my idea and ignore the f5 push. The position is now basically equal. e6 20. Kf2 This allows black counterplay. f6 21. exf6 Bxf6 I prefer Rxf6 here. Now I spend a long think looking at Rd7. I was unable to see it through, but my post analysis shows it to be winning. For instance 22. Rd7 Bxd7 23. Rxd7 h5 24. Qg3 Rf7 25. Qxg6+ Rg7 26. Rxe7 Bxe7 27. Ng5! (the move I couldn't see) 22. Qh6 Bg7 23. Qh4 e5 This gives up the d5 square, so... 24. Nd5 Nxd5 25. cxd5 exf4 26. Bxf4 Bb5 27. Kg3? This is not the best choice. Pushing d6 seems to be the best try, but white has issues. Bf6 28. Bg5 Bg7 29. Bf4 Bf6 30. Bg5 Bg7 getting to 30 moves. 31. a4 Bd7 32. Qc4 Making the king a bit safer with Kf2 was likely better, but I wanted to stay active. Rae8! I missed this move. Now I seem to be in trouble. 33. b3 Qc8 Black misses h6! 34. Re2 Rxe2 35. Qxe2 Re8 6. Be7 A creative try at holding on. 36... Bg4?! This gives away most of black's advantage. 37. d6 Qd7 38. Qxa6! White now pushes for the win. Bxf3 39. Qc4+ Kh8 40. gxf3 h5 41. Qf7 ! Re1 also looks good in retrospect, but I felt this was the most commanding choice. 41... Be5+ 42. Kg2 + 1-0

Games from TACO 50!!

Winner of the most entertaining game prize. \$25

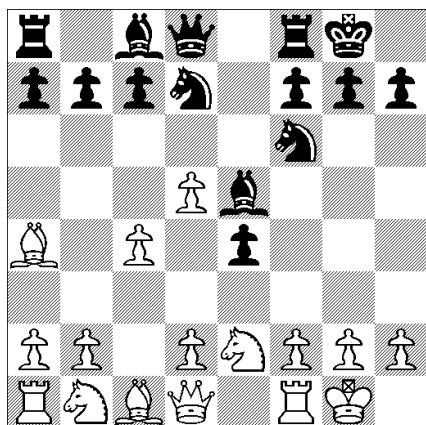
TACO 50

♔: Nicholas Butts (1735)

♚: Alexei Gorbounov (1997)

Raleigh, North Carolina -
25 April, 2009

1. e4 e5 2. Nf3 d5 3. exd5 Bd6 4.
Bb5+ Nd7 5. O-O Nf6 6. c4 O-O 7.
Ba4 e4 8. Nd4 Be5 (diagram)



9. Ne2 Bxh2+ 10. Kxh2 Ng4+ 11.
Kg3 Ndf6 12. Rh1 Qd6+ 13. f4
exf3+ 14. Kxf3 Ne5+ 15. Kf2
Nfg4+ 16. Kf1 Qf6+ 17. Nf4 Qxf4+
0-1

Runner up for the most entertaining
game prize. \$15

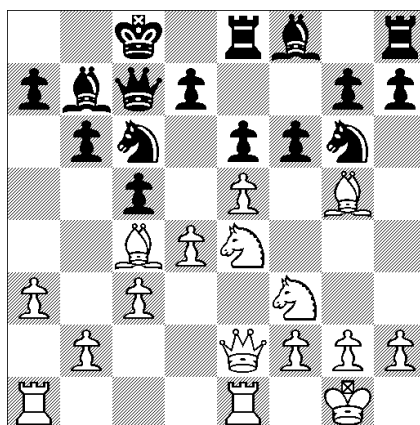
TACO 50

♔: LM Klaus Pohl (2236)

♚: Adam Holmes (2005)

Raleigh, North Carolina - 25 April, 2009

1. e4 c5 2. Nf3 e6 3. c3 Nf6 4. e5 Nd5 5.
Bc4 Nf4 6. O-O Nc6 7. d4 Ng6 8. Re1
Qc7 9. Nbd2 b6 10. Qe2 Bb7 11. Ne4 O-
O-O 12. Bg5 Re8 13. a3 f6 (diagram)



14. exf6 d5 15. fxg7 Bxg7 16. dxc5 dxe4
17. Nd2 bxc5 18. Nxe4 h6 19. Be3 Nce5
20. Ba6 Bf8 21. Bxb7+ Qxb7 22. Nxc5
Bxc5 23. Bxc5 Nf4 24. Qe4 Ned3 25. Re3
Rhg8 26. Bd6 Rxxg2+ 27. Kh1 Nxf2# 0-1

3rd place: most entertaining
game prize. \$10

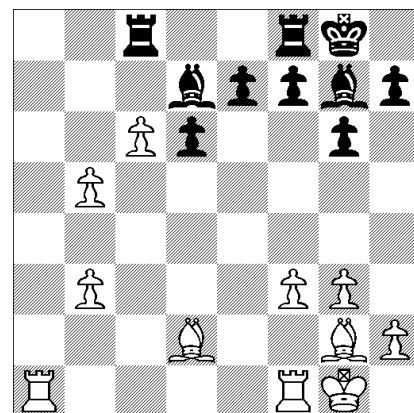
TACO 50

♔: John Timmel (2072)

♚: NM Chris Mabe (2250)

Raleigh, North Carolina -
25 April, 2009

1. e4 c5 2. Nc3 a6 3. Nf3 d6 4. g3
Nf6 5. Bg2 g6 6. O-O Bg7 7. d4
cxd4 8. Nxd4 O-O 9. a4 Bg4 10. f3
Bd7 11. Be3 Nc6 12. Qd2 Ne5 13.
b3 Rc8 14. Nd5 Nxd5 15. exd5 Qc7
16. c4 b5 17. axb5 axb5 18. cxb5
Qc3 19. Nc6 Qxd2 20. Bxd2 Nxc6
21. dxc6 (diagram)



Bxa1 22. Rxa1 Be6 23. f4 d5 24.
Ba5 Ra8 25. b4 Rfb8 26. Bf1 Kg7
27. Rc1 h5 28. b6 h4 29. Kf2
hxxg3+ 30. hxxg3 Rh8 31. b7 Ra7 32.
Ke3 1-0

Honorable Mention

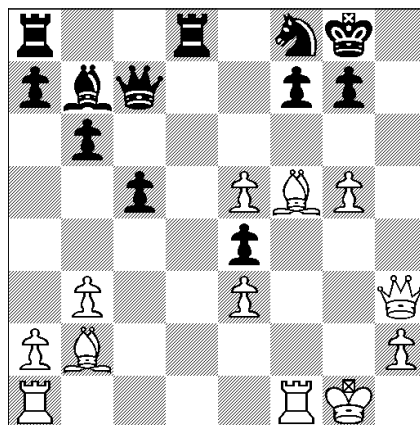
TACO 50

♔: NM Chris Mabe (2250)

♚: Alexei Gorbounov (1997)

Raleigh, North Carolina - 25 April, 2009

1. Nf3 d5 2. d4 c6 3. c4 Nf6 4. e3 e6 5. Bd3
Nbd7 6. b3 Bd6 7. Bb2 O-O 8. O-O b6 9.
Ne5 Bb7 10. cxd5 exd5 11. Nd2 h6 12. f4 c5
13. Qf3 Qc8 14. Bf5 Qc7 15. Qh3 Rfd8 16.
g4 Nf8 17. g5 hxxg5 18. fxg5 Bxe5 19. dxe5
Ne4 20. Nxe4 dxe4 (diagram) 21. e6 Rd5 22. exf7+ Qxf7 23. Bh7+ Nxxh7 24.
Rxf7 Rxxg5+ 25. Kh1 Bc8 26. Qf1 Be6 27. Rxxg7+ Rxxg7 28. Bxxg7 Kxxg7 29.
Qg2+ Kf7 30. Rf1+ 1-0



Most entertaining game
prizes were sponsored by Jeff Jones
as well as a \$5 TACO Trivia door-
prize. The question was "Name the
person other than Jeff Jones and Vic
Beaman who organized the TACO." Burnice Bullock knew the first name
of Mark and Josh Taylor finished off
the name with Brodie. The room
erupted in laughter when they
agreed to a draw on the answer and
split the prize. **Only in a chess
tournament!**

TACO 50

♔: John Timmel (2072)

♔: FM Ron Simpson (2319)

Raleigh, North Carolina - 25 April, 2009

1. c4 e5 2. Nc3 Nf6 3. g3 Bc5 4. Bg2 O-O 5. e3 Nc6 6. a3 d6 7. Nge2 Bg4 8. b4 Bb6 9. d3 Qd7 10. h3 Bh5 11. Qc2 Rfe8 12. g4 Bg6 13. e4 Nd4 14. Nxd4 Bxd4 15. Be3 c6 16. O-O Bxc3 17. Qxc3 d5 18. Bg5 h5 19. Bxf6 gxf6 20. f3 Rad8 21. cxd5 cxd5 22. Rac1 Rc8 23. Qb2 Qb5 24. Rfd1 Kg7 25. Bf1 hxg4 26. hxg4 Qb6+ 27. Qf2 d4 28. Rc4 Qa6 29. Qa2 b5 30. Rxc8 Rxc8 31. Rd2 Rc3 32. Rh2 Qxa3 33. Qd2 Qc1 34. Qxc1 Rxc1 35. Ra2 Rb1 36. Rxa7 Rxb4 37. Kf2 Kh6 38. Ra1 Kg5 39. Ra6 Rb1 40. Be2 b4 41. Rb6 b3 42. Bf1 Bh7 43. Be2 f5 44. gxf5 f6 45. Rb7 b2 46. Rxh7 Rf1+ 47. Kxf1 b1=Q+ 48. Kf2 Qc1 49. Rg7+ Kh6 50. Rg6+ Kh7 51. Rxf6 Qe3+ 52. Kf1 Kg7 53. Rg6+ Kf7 54. Re6 Qc1+ 55. Kf2 1/2-1/2

TACO 50

♔: David High (1910)

♔: NM Maurice Dana (2200)

Raleigh, North Carolina - 25 April, 2009

1. e4 e5 2. Nf3 Nc6 3. Bb5 a6 4. Bxc6 dxc6 5. d4 exd4 6. Qxd4 Qxd4 7. Nxd4 Bd7 8. O-O O-O-O 9. Be3 Re8 10. Nd2 Nf6 11. f3 h5 12. h4 Nd5 13. exd5 Rxe3 14. dxc6 bxc6 15. Ne4 f5 16. Kf2 f4 17. Rad1 c5 18. Nb3 Bc6 19. Nbxc5 Be7 20. g3 Bxc5 21. Nxc5 Rxf3+ 22. Ke2 Re8+ 23. Kd2 fxg3 24. Rxf3 Bxf3 25. Re1 Rxe1 26. Kxe1 g5 27. hxg5 h4 28. g6 h3 29. g7 Bd5 30. Ne4 g2 31. Kf2 h2 32. Kxg2 Bxe4+ 33. Kxh2 Bh7 34. c3 Kd7 35. Kg3 Bg8 36. b3 Ke6 37. Kf4 Kf6 38. Ke4 Kxg7 39. Kd4 Kf6 40. Kc5 Ke7 41. Kc6 Kd8 42. c4 Kc8 43. a3 Bh7 44. b4 Be4+ 45. Kc5 Kb7 46. a4 Bc2 47. a5 Ba4 48. b5 Kc8 49. Kb4 Bd1 50. Kc5 Bf3 51. Kb4 Kb7 52. Kc5 Bg2 53. Kb4 Kc8 54. Kc5 Kd7 55. Kb4 Kd6 56. c5+ Kd7 57. b6 c6 58. Kc4 Bh3 59. Kd4 Kd8 60. Ke5 Bc8 61. Kd6 Bb7 62. Ke6 Ke8 63. Kd6 Kd8 64. Ke6 Kc8 65. Kd6 1/2-1/2

More Games!!!

Reverse Angle

♔: Scott Baldwin (1836)

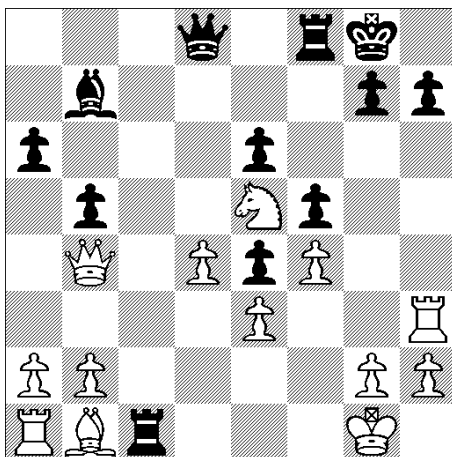
♔: Daniel Solarez (1865)

Charlotte, North Carolina - 10 October, 2009

Notes by Jeff Jones

1. d4 d5 2. Nf3 c6 3. c4 Nf6 4. Nc3 a6 5. e3 b5 6. cxd5 cxd5 7. Ne5 e6 8. Bd3 Bd6 9. f4 Bb7 10. O-O Nc6 11. Bd2 O-O 12. Qe1 Rc8 13. Rf3 Nb4 14. Bb1 Ne4 15. Rh3 f5!??? When Daniel and I reviewed this game at RTCC, I was stunned by this move. It looks like it just drops a piece, but it turns out to be an interesting gambit. This becomes evident a few moves down the road. 16. Nxe4 dxe4 17. Bxb4 Bxb4 18. Qxb4 Rc1+ (diagram)

Scott's queenside pieces are tied up here, and his king's rook is out of play. He must proceed cautiously. 19. Kf2 Qc7 20. Qd2 Rc8 21. Qe2 Qa5 22. Nd7 Bd5 23. a3 Bc4 24. b4 Bxe2 25. bxa5 Bd3 26. Ba2 Rxa1 27. Bxe6+ Kh8 28. Nc5 Rf8 29. Nd7 Rc8 30. Nc5 1/2-1/2 A wild game that left both players gasping for air. Daniel is up the exchange, but facing passed pawn problems, it's a reasonable draw.



Charlotte Tuesday Night FIDE

♔: Gary Newsom (2019)

♔: Chad Eller (1740)

Charlotte, North Carolina - 8 July, 2008

Notes by Chad Eller

1. d4 Nf6 2. c4 g6 3. Nc3 Bg7 4. e4 d6 5. h3 O-O 6. Bg5 Nbd7 7. Bd3 e5 8. d5 c6 9. Nge2 Nc5 10. Bc2 Qb6 11. Rb1 Qb4 (11... cxd5 12. Bxf6 Bxf6 13. Nxd5 Qd8 14. Nec3 with equal chances in a quiet position.) 12. dxc6? (12. a3 Qb6 (12... Qxc4? 13. Bxf6 Bxf6 14. b4 and black has to give up the knight as Bd3 is coming and the queen is lost) 13. b4 Ncd7 14. O-O and white has a slight advantage.) 12... Nfxe4 (12... Ncxe4 Rybka has this as more correct 13. Bxf6 Nxf6 14. cxb7 Bxb7 15. O-O Rac8) 13. Bd2 (13. Be7) 13... Nxd2 14. Qxd2 bxc6 15. Qxd6 Bb7 (15... Ba6 16. O-O (16. Qxc6? Rac8 17. Qd5 Rfd8 18. Qf3 e4) 16... Rfd8 17. Qxc6 Rac8 18. Qf3 Bxc4 Black now has a moderate advantage.) 16. O-O Rad8 17. Qe7 Rfe8 18. Qh4 Rd2 19. Rfc1 (19. a3 Qb6 20. b4 Ne6 21. c5 Qc7 22. Bb3 equal chances) 19... Ne6 (19... Ba6 is also good) 20. Kf1 Nd4 21. Be4? (21. Bb3) 21... f5 (21... Qxc4) 22. Qg5 Nxe2 23. Qxd2 Nxc1 24. Bc2 Nxa2 25. Qd7 Re7 26. Qd8+ Kf7 27. Nxa2 Qxc4+ 28. Qd3 Qxd3+ (28... Ba6) 29. Bxd3 Rd7 30. Nb4 Rxd3 31. Nxd3 Ba6 32. Ke2 e4 33. Kd2 Bxd3 34. Ra1 a6 35. Ra2 Ke6 36. f3 Kd5 37. g4 Ke5 38. fxe4 fxe4 39. Ke3 Bh6+ 40. Kf2 e3+ 41. Ke1 Bf4 0-1

Raleigh Tournament Chess Club

♔: Jeffrey Jones (1895)

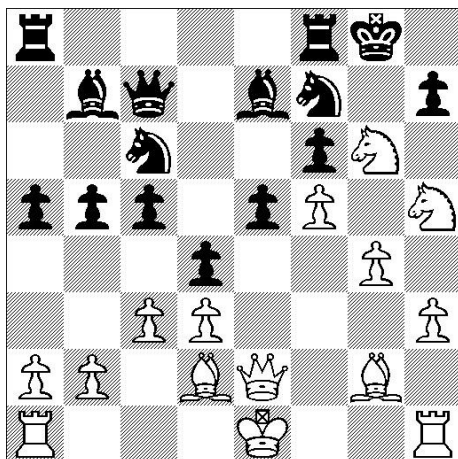
♚: Emil Mayev (1651)

Raleigh, North Carolina - 15 July, 2009

Notes by Jeff Jones

1. e4 c5 2. Nc3 I don't like sifting through the tons of theory on the Sicilian Defense so I tend to play closed Sicilians from the white side. If I had better work ethic I'd adopt a better system. Nc6 3. g3 d6 4. Bg2 Nf6 5. d3 e6 6. f4 Be7 7. Nf3 O-O 8. Ne2 OK, Let's start this race now. d5 9. e5 Ng4?! I know the engines give this move the green light, but I'm not convinced. The knight just ends up on a bad square on h6. I think it is more functional retreating to d7 where it can play a solid defensive role after Re8 and Nf8 or it can join the impending attack on my queenside. 10. h3 Nh6 11. c3 b5 12. g4 f6 13. exf6 gxf6 14. Ng3 e5 15. f5 Nf7 16. Qe2 Qc7 17. Nh5 d4 18. Bd2 a5 19. Nh4 Bb7 20. Ng6! (diagram)

This knight creates all kinds of havoc on the kingside. He can't really allow it to stay there, but taking forces his knight off f7 and strips his pawn defenses. hxf6 21. fxf6 Ng5 22. Bxg5



22. Bd5+ is more efficient since it gives my queen cover on the long diagonal and pushes the king to h8 to allow the fork on g7. The next step is then to bump the knight with h4. so that my queen can safely post on e4. Nd8 He correctly addresses the strong bishop. 23. Bh6 Ne6 24. O-O-O Bxg2 25. Qxg2 Rfd8 26. h4 c4 27. g5 dxc3 . 28. gxf6 cxb2+ 29. Kb1 Ba3 30. f7+ Kh8 31. g7+ Sometimes it is easy to get fixated on a theme. A couple of weeks before this game I was looking around on chessgames.com and came across MacDonnell-Bird London 1874. In that game Henry Bird promoted pawns to knights on consecutive moves on his way to a beautiful victory. With that game fresh in my mind, I started salivating over this possibility and missed that 21. Bg7+ Nxf7 22. Qg5 leads to mate in seven. Luckily I didn't throw away the game in doing so, but the finish would have been very treacherous with only three minutes left on my clock and him having the potential for a queenside assault. Kh7 32. Nf6+ Kxh6 33. g8=N+ Rxg8 34. fxf8=N+ Rxg8 35. Nxf8+ Emil resigned here but couldn't help but laugh at the ending. 1-0

Tournament Results

Asheboro Opens

#49 - 19 September

OPEN: 1st-2nd: NM Chris Mabe, Zachary High

CANDIDATES: 1st: Grace Campbell

2nd-4th: Derek Chen, Jordan Joseph, Mark Stout

#50 - 3 October

OPEN: 1st-2nd: FM Ron Simpson, John Timmel

CANDIDATES: 1st: Grace Campbell

2nd-3rd: Michael Brown, Kevin Chen

CLUB: 1st: David Blair

2nd-4th: Phillip Barbour, Derek Chen, Tony Sanders, Jr.

#51 - 7 November

OPEN: 1st: NM Chris Mabe

2nd-3rd: Joshua Lawson, Jonathon McNeill

CANDIDATES: 1st: Charlie Carerros

2nd-3rd: Norm Pruitt, Praveen Suthaharan

Triangle Area Chess Opens

#54 - 19 September, 2009

OPEN: 1st: FM Ron Simpson

2nd-3rd: Ivan Kuznetsov, David Noden

#55 - 17 October, 2009

OPEN: 1st: NM Maurice Dane

2nd: FM Ron Simpson

U1500: 1st: Michael Tedder

2nd: Anders Janson

#56 - 21 November, 2009

OPEN: 1st-2nd: FM Ron Simpson, NM Chris Mabe

U1400: 1st: Norm Pruitt

2nd-3rd: Walter High, Henry Johnston

Reverse Angle 10

10 October, 2009

OPEN: 1st: NM Chris Mabe

2nd-4th: Ken Baxter, Patrick McCartney, David Spencer

U1800: 1st: Clarke Brosi

2nd: Chang Sun

U1600: 1st: Jonathan Sarasu

2nd-5th: Anthony Cato, Lucas Hausrath

Supardeep Madduri, Morgan Wang

U1100: 1st: Will Farmer

2nd: Ronald Futerman

Waynesville Championships

10 October, 2009

1st: Bruce Goodwin

2nd: Harry Sellards

Hungry for victory..... or was it just the smell or barbecue?

Jeff Jones

For many Labor Day is the last weekend of summer. People go out to the beach or their local park, gather their picnic supplies, and hold a big feast while enjoying the scant few days of warmth. For eighteen of central North Carolina's chess players, it was a time to mix their enjoyment of the southern tradition called a "Pig Pickin'" with their favorite pastime of chess. Pawn Pickin' V was held at the Caraleigh Fellowship Hall in South Raleigh on Saturday, September 7th.

Enticed by the promise of pulled pork, ribs, beef brisket, and about a dozen sides prepared by organizer Jeff Jones, eighteen players battled through a five-round Game/35 event, with the winner to receive the infamous "Pig and Chicken" trophy. The Pig and Chicken trophy, seen on the right, is one of the more interesting trophies in all of chess. Although light-hearted in nature, the trophy has inspired some very serious competition, and everyone who has finished in first place at the Pawn Pickin' is at least a National Master.

Emerging from the field to claim this trophy was NM John Smithwick, also on the right, of Henderson, whose 4½-point tally left him half of a point ahead of Fayetteville's Paul King for second place. Husband and wife team of Larry and Theresa Williams of Fayetteville also took home two of the eight trophies presented to the winners. Larry for third overall and Theresa gaining the Top under 1600 prize.

Durham's Steve Pizzo nicked Smithwick for his only draw on his way to lassoing the under 1800 prize. Clayton's Jon Achelpohl scored a couple of nice upsets en route to the under 1400 trophy. Mark Knight, a student in Gordon Ray's program in Wilson secured the under 1200 award, and David Rojas-Holmquist, an NC State student, received some hardware in his first tournament, claiming the top unrated prize.

The tournament was not all fun and game as there was some serious purpose as well. Pawn Pickin' V generated \$198 which was donated to the USCF Legal Defense Fund.



Milestones

The following milestones have been achieved since the LPO.

2000

Cheng Chu

Columbia Open

August 21-23

Yuval Shemesh

LPO

July 24-26

1900

William Campbell

Asheboro Open 48

August 8th

Jeff Jones

RTCC Preview

July 1st-29th

1800

Steven Pizzo

North Carolina Open

October 30th - November 1st

David Spencer

CMSCA Junior Open

November 14th

1700

Davaughn Dixon

Greenville September Open

September 16th - 30th

William Lefew

Master Trek XXIII

September 26th

Derek Zhang

N. C. Class Championships

September 11th-13th

First open section win:

Zachary High used a combined upset of 852 points to share first during Asheboro 49 on September 19th.

Pawn Pickin' V

♔: NM John Smithwick (2000)

♔: Jeff Jones (1885)

Raleigh, North Carolina - 7 September, 2009

1. d4 d5 2. e3 c6 3. Bd3 Nf6 4. Nd2 e6 5. f4 c5 6. c3 Nc6 7. Ngf3 Bd6 8. Ne5 Qc7 9. O-O b6 10. Nxc6 Qxc6 11. a4 c4 12. Bc2 h5 13. h3 h4 14. Qf3 Bb7 15. a5 b5 16. a6 Bxa6 17. e4 dxe4 18. Nxe4 Nd5 19. f5 e5 20. Nxd6+ Qxd6 21. Rxa6 Qxa6 22. Qxd5 Rd8 23. Qxe5+ Kf8 24. f6 g6 25. Qe7+ 1-0



2009 Carolina Cobras

IM Jonathan Schroer
FM Mike Klein
NM Carlito Agner

FM Oleg Zaikov
NM Chris Mabe
NM Udayan Bapat
David High

FM Ron Simpson
NM Craig Jones
John Timmel

2009 Results

2 Sept.	L	Baltimore Kingfishers	0+2=2-
9 Sept.	L	Boston Blitz	0+1=3-
14 Sept.	L	New Jersey Knockouts	1+0=3-
23 Sept.	L	Queens Pioneers	1+1=2-
28 Sept.	L	Miami Sharks	1+1=2-
7 Oct.	L	Boston Blitz	0+0=4-
12 Oct.	W	Dallas Destiny	2+2=0-
21 Oct.	D	New York Knights	1+2=1-
26 Oct.	D	Queens Pioneers	1+2=1-
4 Nov.	L	Philadelphia Inventors	1+0=3-

Match Record: 1+2=7-
Game Scores: 8+11=21-

Cobras Struggle in Defense of Conference Title

Jeff Jones

2008 was a breakthrough year for the Carolina Cobras as they surprise all of the prognosticators by claiming their first conference title en route to the team's best finish in the four year history of the United States Chess League. In the time between their narrow loss to a powerful Boston Blitz team and the start of the 2009 season the Cobras had a huge void to fill as GM-elect Lev Milman graduated from Duke and returned to New York to join the Queens Pioneers.

IM Jonathan Schroer answered the call to fill in Milman's shoes as the rest of the team's core, Duke senior FM Oleg Zaikov, Raleigh's FM Ron Simpson, and Chapel Hill's NM Craig Jones returned from the successful campaign hoping once again to topple the giants of the chess world and defend their regular season title.

Gathering at the Duke University campus each week the Cobras struggled to find their form and fell into a huge hole losing their first six matches. The seventh week saw the Cobras finally break the ice with a win over the defending league champion Dallas Destiny, but that was the only win they could muster. Over the last four weeks however the Cobras played .500 chess which hopefully will signify a change in momentum for next year's campaign.

There wasn't all doom and gloom for the Cobras, who played the league's second toughest schedule and the 8th toughest in league history, as there were some bright spots as FM Mike Klein scored an impressive win against IM Alejandro Moreno Roman in his USCL debut. NM Carlito Agner sealed the match with Dallas by defeating former North Carolina state champion Nelson Lopez in his debut. IM Schroer fought valiantly against exceptionally strong competition and claimed the top upset from round one. And FM Zaikov went on a tear winning his last four games and claiming Game of the Week honors with his fiercely entertaining win over IM Daniel Fernandez in round seven.

The league championship will be played between the Miami Sharks, led by former Charlotte resident GM Julio Becerra, and the New York Knights on Monday December 7th. The games can be viewed on the Internet Chess Club.

Team History

2008 - 7/10 Eastern Conference Champions

Lost in semi-finals to Boston

2007 - 4½/10 5th in Western Conference

No Playoffs

2006 - 4/10 3rd in Eastern Conference

Lost in Wild Card Round to New York

2005 - 3/10 4th in Western Conference

No Playoffs

Historical Superlatives:

All Stars:

2006:

FM Oleg Zaikov - 1st Team Board 3

NM Craig Jones - 2nd Team Board 4

2005:

IM Lev Milman - 1st Team Board 2

Games of the Week:

2009, Week 7: FM Oleg Zaikov

2008, Week 4: IM Lev Milman

2008, League Semis: FM Oleg Zaikov

2007, Week 1: IM Lev Milman

2007, Week 5: IM Jonathan Schroer



Cobras Games

State champion Jonathan Schroer started the campaign by winning top upset honors for round one.

US Chess League Rd. 1

♔: IM Jonathan Schroer (CAR, 2429)

♚: GM Leonid Kritz (BAL, 2654)

Internet - 2 September, 2009

1. d4 Nf6 2. c4 c6 3. Nc3 d5 4. Nf3 a6 5. cxd5 cxd5 6. Bf4 Nc6 7. Rc1 Nh5 8. Be5 f6 9. Bg3 e5 10. e3 Nxc3 11. hxc3 Be6 12. Qb3 Qd7 13. a3 Rd8 14. Na4 Bg4 15. Be2 e4 16. Ng1 Bxe2 17. Nxe2 Na5 18. Qc2 Nc4 19. Nf4 b5 20. Nc3 Nb6 21. Ng6 Rg8 22. Nxf8 Kxf8 23. Rxh7 Kf7 24. Qe2 Rc8 25. Qh5+ Kf8 26. Ne2 Rxc1+ 27. Nxc1 Qc8 28. Qd1 Nc4 29. Qc2 Kf7 30. Ne2 Rh8 31. Rxh8 Qxh8 32. Nf4 Qh1+ 33. Ke2 g5 34. Nxd5 Qxg2 35. b3 Qf3+ 36. Ke1 Qh1+ 37. Ke2 Qh5+ 38. Ke1 Qh1+ 39. Ke2 Qf3+ 40. Ke1 Qh1+ 1/2-1/2

Craig Jones secured the Cobras first victory by sacking two pawns to attack white's king.

US Chess League Rd. 3

♔: Arthur Shen (NJ, 2107)

♚: NM Craig Jones (CAR, 2275)

Internet - 16 September, 2009

1. e4 e6 2. d4 d5 3. Nc3 Nf6 4. e5 Nfd7 5. f4 c5 6. Nf3 Nc6 7. Be3 cxd4 8. Nxd4 Bc5 9. Qd2 O-O 10. O-O-O a6 11. Nb3 Qe7 12. Qf2 Bb4 13. Na4 b5 14. Nb6 Nxb6 15. Bxb6 Qb7 16. Bc5 Bxc5 17. Qxc5 Bd7 18. Bd3 a5 19. Qe3 b4 20. Nc5 Qa7 21. Qh3 g6 22. Nxd7 Qxd7 23. Bb5 Rfc8 24. Ba4 Qc7 25. g4 Rab8 26. Rd2 b3 27. axb3 Nb4 28. c3 Na6 29. Qe3 Nc5 30. Rc2 Qb6 31. Re1 Nxa4 32. bxa4 Qb3 33. f5 d4 34. Qxd4 Rd8 35. f6 Rxd4 36. cxd4 Qxa4 37. Kb1 Qxd4 38. g5 h6 39. gxh6 a4 40. Ka2 Qd5+ 0-1

After an 0-4 start, the Cobras called down to Charlotte to shake things up. Mike Klein made a triumphant debut ripping up his IM opponent's castled position and cashing in up the exchange.

US Chess League Rd. 5

♔: IM Alejandro Moreno-Roman (MIA, 2331)

♚: FM Mike Klein (CAR, 2304)

Internet - 30 September, 2009

1. Nf3 g6 2. g3 Bg7 3. Bg2 d6 4. O-O Nf6 5. c4 O-O 6. Nc3 e5 7. d3 Nh5 8. Rb1 f5 9. Bd2 Nd7 10. b4 Kh8 11. b5 Nc5 12. Na4 Ne6 13. Bc3 Qe7 14. e3 Rb8 15. d4 e4 16. Nd2 b6 17. Nb3 Bd7 18. Bb4 f4 19. exf4 Nxf4 20. gxf4 Nxf4 21. Bd2 Nxc2 22. Kxc2 Qh4 23. f4 exf3+ 24. Rxf3 Bg4 25. Rxf8+ Rxf8 26. Qe1 Bf3+ 27. Kg1 Qg4+ 28. Qg3 Bxd4+ 29. Nxd4 Qxd4+ 30. Qf2 Qxf2+ 31. Kxf2 Be4+ 32. Ke3 Bxb1 33. Nc3 Bf5 34. Nd5 Rf7 35. Bc3+ Kg8 0-1

Wait, who plays for us here? Carlito Agner, who recently moved to the Triangle from Michigan, made his inaugural appearance against Youngsville's Nelson Lopez, who is currently attending the University of Texas-Dallas.

US Chess League Rd. 7

♔: NM Nelson Lopez II (DAL, 2218)

♚: NM Carlito Agner (CAR, 2220)

Internet - 12 October, 2009

1. e4 c5 2. Nf3 Nc6 3. Bb5 e6 4. O-O Nge7 5. b3 a6 6. Bxc6 Nxc6 7. Bb2 b5 8. c4 Bb7 9. Re1 d6 10. d4 cxd4 11. cxb5 axb5 12. Nxd4 Qa5 13. a3 Nxd4 14. b4 Qa6 15. Qxd4 Rc8 16. Qd3 Qc6 17. Nc3 Qc4 18. Qd2 Qc6 19. Qe2 Qc4 20. Nxb5 Qxe2 21. Rxe2 Ba6 22. a4 Be7 23. Bxg7 Rg8 24. Bd4 Rc4 25. Be3 Kd7 26. Bd2 Bf6 27. Ra2 Rb8 28. Na3 Rxb4 29. Bxb4 Bxe2 30. Be1 Bd3 31. f3 Rb3 32. Nc2 Bb2 33. Ne3 Bd4 34. Bd2 Bb1 0-1

This year's team MVP had to be Oleg Zaikov on second board. The following slugfest took Game of the Week honors for week seven. This started a run of four straight victories to close out Zaikov's season.

US Chess League Rd. 7

♔: IM Daniel Fernandez (DAL, 2468)

♚: FM Oleg Zaikov (CAR, 2388)

Internet - 12 October, 2009

1. e4 c5 2. Nf3 d6 3. d4 cxd4 4. Nxd4 Nf6 5. Nc3 a6 6. Bg5 e6 7. f4 Nbd7 8. Qf3 Qc7 9. O-O-O b5 10. Bd3 Bb7 11. Rhe1 Be7 12. Qg3 b4 13. Nd5 exd5 14. exd5 Kd8 15. Qe3 Nb6 16. Nf5 Nbx5 17. Qd4 Bf8 18. Be4 Kc8 19. Nxc7 Nxe4 20. Ne8 Qc5 21. Qxh8 Ne3 22. Re2 Nc3 23. bxc3 bxc3 24. Nxd6+ Kc7 25. Nc4 Nxc4 26. Qxc3 Qa3+ 27. Qxa3 Bxa3+ 28. Kb1 Bf3 29. Rd8 Ra7 30. Re7+ Bxe7 31. Bxe7 Bxg2 32. Rd4 Kb6 33. Bb4 Kb5 34. c3 Rc7 0-1

Lenoir Open Section Winners

14 November, 2009

Randy Lovelace, Steven Sauer,

Luis Gonzalez

Team: West Caldwell HS

Upcoming Tournaments!!

OPEN TO ALL PLAYERS

December 5th, 2009 Asheboro

Asheboro Open 52: 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>

December 5th, 2009 Durham

Master Trek 26: 3-SS G/60. Durham Academy Middle School (Taylor Hall), 3116 Academy Rd., Durham, NC 27707-2669. EF:\$30. Tournament is a side event for a scholastic tournament and is open only to players rated 1400 and above. Prizes: \$150-\$100 GTD. 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>

December 5th, 2009 Lenoir

Hibriten Chess Open: 3-SS G/40. Hibriten High School, 1350 Panther Trail, Lenoir, NC 28645. EF: \$5. **8 player sections based on ratings.** Reg.: 9am-9:45am. Rds.: 10am-12pm-1:30pm. Medals to top two individuals in each section. Trophies to top three scholastic teams. Contact: John Thomas (828)757-3733 * tjohnboom@bellsouth.net or Mr. Ron Taliana (828)758-7376. * Website: <http://www.main.nc.us/bcsc/2009Hibriten.pdf>

December 5th-6th, 2009 Charlotte

Greater Charlotte Championships: 5-SS G/120. UNC-Charlotte, 9021 University City. Blvd., Charlotte, NC. EF:\$59 on site. **Open:** \$500-\$250-\$125 *u2000*: \$100 **U1800:** \$400-\$200-\$100 *u1600*: \$100 **U1400:** \$300-\$150-\$100 *u1200*: \$75. Reg.: 8am-8:45am (Sat.) Rds. 9:30am-2:30pm-7:30pm , 9am-2pm. ENT: Charlie Carerros, 2209-I Summit Green Ave., Charlotte, NC 28203. * Website: <http://www.ncchess.org/tournaments/GreaterCharlotte.htm>

December 19th, 2009 Raleigh

Triangle Area Chess Open 57: 4-SS G/60. Caraleigh Fellowship Hall, 118 Summit Ave., Raleigh, NC. EF \$30 (if paid by 12/17)/\$35 on site. Sections: **OPEN, U1800, U1400:** \$120-\$60 b/8 in each section. Reg.: 9am-9:45am Rds.:10am-12:45pm-3:15pm-6pm. Contact: Emil Mayev (919)995-2902 * emilmayev@gmail.com * Website: <http://www.eastcarolinachess.com/2009taco.htm>

December 19th, 2009 Statesville

Statesville Skewer: 4-SS G/65. Shiloh United Methodist Church, 742 Shiloh Rd., Statesville, NC 28677. EF: \$30 Prizes: \$\$600 b/24, \$300 GTD. **OPEN:** \$120-\$60 *u1900, u1700* \$60 ea. **U1500:** \$120-\$60 *u1300, u1100* \$60 ea. **U1000 side event (4-SS G/30)** EF: \$15 Trophies to 1st-4th, *u700, u400*, unrated. Reg.: 9am-9:50am. Rds.: 10am-1pm-3:15pm-5:30pm (10am-1115am-1pm-2:15pm in U1000) ENT: Mike Williams, 107 Grandview Dr., Statesville, NC 28677, (704)528-7150 * statesville.chess@gmail.com * Website: <http://www.ncchess.org/Statesville%20Skewer%20Dec%202009.pdf>

January 16th, 2009 Raleigh

Triangle Area Chess Open 58: 3-SS G/90. **NOTE NEW FORMAT AND CONTACT!** 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 * kwyjibo924@aol.com * Website: <http://raleighchess.freewebspages.org/taco.html>

January 23th, 2009 Charlotte

Reverse Angle Information forthcoming. Check <http://www.queencitychess.com> for details

January 29th-31st, 2009 Asheville

LAND OF THE SKY Information forthcoming

MARCH 13th-21st Hendersonville **A USCF NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP EVENT**

US MASTERS CHAMPIONSHIP: 9-SS 40/120 SD/30. Quality Inn and Suites, 201 Sugarloaf Rd., Hendersonville, NC 28792. Hotel Info: \$60-\$68 (800)581-4745 * <http://www.qualityinn-suiteshvl.com/> **OPEN to all player who have been rated over 2200, juniors rated over 2000, or any foreign FIDE Rated players.** EF: \$150 (by 2/13)/\$160 (by 3/9)/\$170 on site. Re-entry:\$30 **PRIZES:** 5000 Based on 50 players. \$1500-\$900-\$300-\$200-\$200-\$200-\$200-\$200 *U2300*: \$300-\$200-\$200-\$200-\$200 . Schedules: (2 schedules merge round 5) **2-Weekend schedule:** Sat 12, 7 Sun 12, **7-Day schedule:** Mon 7 Tue 7 Wed 7 Thurs 7 **Post Merger:** Fri 7 Sat 12, 7 Sun 12, 7. Byes: Four requested byes available rounds 1-5. ENT: Kevin Hyde, 705 Old Mountain Page Rd, Saluda NC 28773.



SCHOLASTIC TOURNAMENTS

December 5th, 2009

Durham

Master Trek 26: 3-SS G/60 for top 3 sections. Others are 3-SS G/30. Durham Academy Middle School (Taylor Hall), 3116 Academy Rd., Durham, NC 27707-2669. EF:\$20. **8-player sections b/ rating.** Trophy to 1st in each section and second in each section of 8 or more. Ribbons to all. Tournament starts at 8:30am. Contact: Craig Jones at home (919) 370-9552 or by cell (919)389-4012 * carbide@nc.rr.com * Website: <http://www.ncchess.org/Durham08.htm>

December 5th, 2009

Charlotte

QCCA Winter Scholastic: 4-SS G/45. UNC-Charlotte, 9021 University City. Blvd., Charlotte, NC. EF:\$15. **Sections: K-12, K-4** Trophies to 1st-5th, Medals to 6th-10th in both sections. Reg.: 8am-9am. Rds.: 9:30am-12pm-2pm-4pm. ENT: QCCA c/o Fabio Hurtado, 2269 Elendil Lane, Charlotte, NC 28269. * Website: <http://www.queencitychess.com>.

December 11-13th, 2009

Charlotte

22nd Annual Southern Scholastics: 5-SS G/90 (G/60 for K-3). West Charlotte High School, 2219 Senior Dr., Charlotte, NC 28216. EF: \$20 (rec'd by 12/11)/\$35 on site. **Sections: K-12, K-8, K-5, K3.** Reg.: 8am-9am Sat. Rds.: Sat. 10am-1:30pm-4:45pm-Sun. 9am-12:30pm (K-3 Rds.: Sat.10am-1pm-3:30pm-Sun. 9am-12pm. Trophies to top five teams and fifteen individuals in each section. Contact: Dr. Tim Champion * tchampion@jcsu.edu or Lori Holcombe * ldh4duke@bellsouth.net. * Website: <http://www.cmsca.org/>

December 13th, 2009

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/>

January 9th, 2010

Asheville

Pawndemonium XXI: K-12, K-8/u1000: 5S G/40. **K-5/u900, K-3/u800:** 6-SS G/20. Montford Center, Pearson Dr. Asheville, NC. EF: \$10 (by 1/6)/\$15 on site. (See website for higher EF for non-USCF members. Reg.:8:30am-9am on 1/3. Tournament start at 9:30am. Trophies to top 10 individuals, top 2 teams in each section. Contact: Ned Cabaniss * buned@main.nc.us * Website: http://www.main.nc.us/bcsc/flyer_2010_internet.htm

January 9th, 2010

Charlotte

CMSCA Grade Championships: Information forthcoming on <http://www.cmsca.org>

January 10th, 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/>

January 16th, 2010

Charlotte

Myers Park Scholastic: Information forthcoming.

January 25th, 2010

Charlotte

Young Master Chess Winter Tournament: Contact: Mike Klein * charlottechess@gmail.com

February 6th, 2010

Charlotte

Mountain Island Open: Information forthcoming.

February 6th, 2010

Winston-Salem

WSSCA Scholastic: Website: <http://www.wscca.org>

February 7th, 2010

Raleigh

Wake County Scholastic Championships: 4-SS G/30. Montessori School of Raleigh, 7005 Lead Mine Rd., Raleigh, NC 27615. EF: \$20/player. **Sections: K-8, K-5, K-3, K-1.** Rds. 12:45pm-2pm-3:05pm-4:10pm. 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/>

North Carolina's Chess Clubs

Clubs in blue have recently updated information.

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 Rankin * 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@embarqmail.com

Hendersonville Chess Club: Thursdays 6pm-9pm. First Presbyterian 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-11pm. Explore! Learning Center, 6801 Falls of Neuse Rd., Raleigh, NC 27615. 4 or 5-round USCF rated Game/75 tournament depending on the number of Wednesdays in the month. One game per week. \$3/game with 75% returned for prizes. Contact: Jeff Jones (919)270-9948 * kwyjibo924@aol.com or Jon Achepohl (740)466-8995 rtcchess@gmail.com * Website: <http://raleighchess.freewebsites.org>

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>