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December on uschess.org

Pan Ams
The holiday season means more chess tournaments, including the continent’s most important college event, the Pan Ams, held this year in Fort Worth, Texas, from December 27-30. Also look for coverage of the major opens during this time period, the Eastern Open (Washington, D.C.) and the North American Open (Las Vegas, Nevada).

Yummy holiday leftovers
Gary Kevin Ware will present some yummy holiday leftovers in the form of problems. Can you solve the mate in five to the right? From Chemnitzer Day Sheet 1925 #5, it is Wolfgang Pauly’s “Triple Indian.” Can you find all three Indians in their wig wam? Go to Chess Life Online for the answer!

Mate in 5

Pan Ams are not sponsored by Pan Am Airways, which went defunct in 1991!

I’m going to Disneyworld!
Look for CLO’s exclusive coverage of the K 12 Grade Nationals in Orlando, Florida from December 12-14, including photos and a report by Elizabeth Vicary.

U.S. Chess League title up for grabs
The Baltimore Kingfishers won in 2005, the San Francisco Mechanics prevailed in 2006, and Dallas proved their Des tiny in 2007. Which team will take the U.S. Chess League team crown in 2008? Check out CLO’s coverage, including a wrap up report by Jonathan Hilton.

U.S. Chess League title up for grabs

December Contributors: Dr. Alexey Root, WIM (“Looks at Books”) is the author of Science, Math, Checkmate: 32 Chess Activities for Inquiry and Problem Solving • FM Mike Klein (“The Grandmaster Diet”) is a frequent contributor to Chess Life • WGM Jennifer Shahade (“Kosteniuk Interview”) is the editor of Chess Life Online at uschess.org • GM Eugene Perelshteyn (“SPICE Cup”) is the co-author (with Lev Alburt and Roman Dzindzichashvili) of Chess Openings for Black, Explained • FM Alex Dunne (“Golden Knights”) is the correspondence chess director for the USCF • C.K. Damrosch (“Kasparov Simul”) is a freelance writer.

The Secret’s Out!!!! The National Open has moved to: The South Point Hotel and Casino Las Vegas, Nevada June 5 – 7 LVCHESSEFESTIVAL.com

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Cover Illustration: Roger Chouinard
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It is always major news when former world champion Garry Kasparov participates in a chess event in the U.S., as he did recently in the Harlem section of New York City.
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**REGULAR USCF MEMBERSHIP RATES**

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**OTHER USCF MEMBERSHIP RATES**

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Frank P. Samford, Jr. Chess Fellowship

For the 23rd consecutive year, the Frank P. Samford, Jr. chess fellowship announces its annual award. Designed to identify and assist the most promising American chess masters under the age of 25, this program was created by the late Frank P. Samford, Jr. of Birmingham, Alabama. It is now guided by Mr. Samford’s son, Frank P. Samford III of Atlanta, Georgia and administered by Barbara DeMaro of the U.S. Chess Trust.

In the past, one new fellow was selected each year to serve a two year term. This year two fellows were chosen; they were intended to represent the 2008 and 2009 winners. However, it has been found possible to add yet another winner for next year and we are therefore seeking applications for a new Samford fellow to begin his or her two year term on July 1, 2009.

The 2009 Samford chess fellow will receive a monthly stipend for living expenses, training by leading chess coaches, a supply of chess books and other study materials, and opportunities to travel and compete in tournaments and/or matches at the highest levels. The total value is approximately $36,000.

The winner will be selected by the Samford chess fellowship committee, consisting of Frank P. Samford III, GM Arthur Bisguier and IM John Donaldson. Each applicant must have been a permanent resident of the U.S. for at least one year prior to June 30, 2009 and must not have reached his or her 25th birthday by that date.

The applicants must be able to demonstrate talent, achievement and commitment to chess. The winner must spend the majority of his time studying and playing chess beginning July 1, 2009, and must make the effort required to become a leading grandmaster and possible world championship challenger.

Applicants must have a chess rating (either USCF or FIDE). For further details and an application form, write to:

Allen Kaufman, Secretary
Samford Chess Fellowship
108 37 71st Avenue, #8G
Forest Hills, NY 11375 4512

Completed applications for the 2009 fellowship must be received no later than January 15, 2009. We expect to announce the winner during April 2009. All decisions are final.

The late Mr. Frank P. Samford, Jr. created the Samford fellowship as a way of making a significant contribution in America to the game he loved. If qualified applicants can be found a new fellow will be selected every year. It is expected that the Samford fellowship will continue to produce very strong players, some of whom will join the elite group of world super grandmasters.

Funding for this program has been provided by the generosity of Mrs. Virginia Donovan, widow of the late Frank P. Samford, Jr., and by Torchmark Corporation.

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Seven Medals for U.S. Team in Argentina

At the Pan American Youth Championships in Villa Carlos Paz, Argentina (June 30 - July 6), the U.S. team took third place overall and earned seven individual medals. Considering only 22 players comprised the U.S. delegation, this was a remarkable performance. *Chess Life* reported on Alec Getz’s gold medal in the October issue; see the rest of the medalists in the box below.

---

**Pan-American Youth Final Standings**

**Girls:**

- **Under 8 girls:** Reva Singh, 5
- **Under 10 girls:**
  - 2nd and Silver Medal— WFM Simone Liao, 7½
  - 3rd and Bronze Medal— Evan Xiang, 6½
- **Under 12 girls:**
  - 2nd and Silver Medal— Sylvia Yang, 7½
  - 4th Ellen Xiang, 6½
  - WCM Claudia Munoz, 4
- **Under 14 girls:**
  - 3rd and Bronze Medal— Alena Kats, 6½
  - Darrian Robinson, 6
- **Under 18 girls:**
  - 3rd and Bronze Medal— Courtney Jamison, 6
  - Nicole Suzanne Maffeo, 5

**Boys:**

- **Under 8 boys:** Stan Liao, 4
- **Under 10 boys:**
  - Jordan Pamatmat, 6½
- **Under 12 boys:**
  - Jarod Pamatmat, 6½
  - Eric Zhang, 5½
- **Under 14 boys:**
  - 2nd and Silver Medal— Vincent Huang, 7
  - Justin Karp, 5
  - Cheston Gunawan, 4
- **Under 16 boys:**
  - 1st and Gold Medal— FM Alec Getz, 7½
  - Stanley Yang, 6
  - Christian Tanaka, 5½
  - Jared Tan, 5
- **Under 18 boys:**
  - 11th CM Robert Lau, 5½

For more reporting of the Pan Am, see “Golden Getz” in the October *Chess Life* and the *Chess Life* Online report at uschess.org, July archives.
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Swift Quads • Four-player, double round-robin format. • 1st-place prize merchandise credit of $30.
• Entry fee: $10
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• Four-player, double round-robin e-mail format tournament with class-level pairings. • 1st-place receives a certificate.
• Entry fee: $7.
Express Tournament
• Seven-player events, one game with each of six opponents. • Prizes: 1st place $30 merchandise credit, 2nd place $20 credit.
• Entry fee: $15.
Please circle event(s) selected.

NOTE: Except for Lightning Matches, Swift Quads, Walter Muir E-Quads, Electronic Knights & Express Tournaments, players will use post office mail, unless opponents agree to use e-mail.
Red Fish, Dead Fish

A provocative look at the role of chess during the cold war.

By Dr. Alexey Root, WIM

If fish is a term for a lesser chess player, then Red Fish, Dead Fish is my jaunty summary of author Daniel Johnson’s thesis. Without using a single chess diagram or notated game, but with detailed descriptions of the matches Fischer Spassky, Karpov Korchnoi, and Kasparov Karpov, Johnson makes the easy case that Fischer and Kasparov are great chess players. They are non fish, and also non Red. Red players, such as Kar pov, are treated less respectfully.

About the matches won by the Communist Karpov over the defector Korchnoi, Johnson wrote, “Korchnoi’s valiant attempts to unseat the seemingly invincible Karpov at Baguio and Mer ano encapsulated the challenge posed to the Soviet system by the dissident movement. It was a trial of strength with the Leviathan, which strained every sinew to crush dissidents who deliberately placed themselves outside its jurisdiction and refused to recognize its legitimacy.”

Although Korchnoi was a product of “the Soviet chess machine, [he] could only achieve his full potential once he had utterly rejected” that machine. Johnson described Karpov’s style as cautious and cold blooded. Perhaps, following John son’s logic, Karpov would have reached his full potential in chess had he also defied communism.

Death was connected with Communist chess. The most important early leader of the Soviet Union’s state support of chess was Nikolai Krylenko, who also “declared that the Red Army’s foremost task was to wage ‘internal war’ and ensure ‘the defence of the Soviet authority.’” In other words, the Red Army that Krylenko had created was to be unleashed against the civilian population of Soviet Russia... The Red Terror killed hundreds of thousands, the civil war millions.” In 1924, Krylenko turned his attention to chess. He was chairman of the All Union Chess Section, edited the chess magazine 64, turned down an invitation to join FIDE, and sent chess problemists, composers, organizers, and players to labor camps or to their deaths. Like many of them, he had a 20 minute trial, followed by prison, where, in 1938, he “was almost certainly shot.”

Though Johnson acknowledges Botvinnik as a strong player, Botvinnik was a Red. Therefore, Johnson finds flaws in Botvin nik’s legacy. Krylenko charged several of Botvinnik’s closest chess rivals. They were subsequently shot, or never heard from again, or escaped the Soviet Union. Paul Keres, described as Botvinnik’s chess equal, had his house confiscated and “was banned from high level chess.” In the meantime, Botvinnik “was treated as a favored son” by the Soviet state.

Soviet discrimination against Jews gets its own chapter. Much of that chapter is about a non professional chess player, Natan Sharansky (born Anatoly Shcharansky). Known for his career accomplishments in math and physics, Sharansky was also a child prodigy at chess and wrote a paper about the endgame of chess. Chess helped Sharansky strate gize a defense when the Soviet state put him on trial for treason. And chess kept him sane during his subsequent imprisonment as a refusenik.

In addition to the many pages about fishy Soviet practices, there are also chapters about the early history of chess (from Bagh dad to St. Petersburg), Russian intellectuals and artists who played chess (such as Tol stoy, Nabokov, Gorky, Pasternak, Prokofiev, Shostakovich, and Patigorsky), non Soviet chess grandmasters, computers and chess, and the post Cold War world.

According to Johnson, defying Commu nism, or its successor (Putin’s and Medvedev’s Russia), is the act of a hero. Defiance can be through chess, politics, or a combination of both. Johnson has updated his 2007 British hardback (Atlantic) in this 2008 American (Houghton Mifflin) paperback edition with recent news about his heroes Fischer and Kasparov. Reflecting after Fischer’s death, he called Fischer as a “flawed hero.” “By proving that the Soviet Union could be defeated by a single individual, he emboldened dissi dents everywhere.” Kasparov is praised for continuing to press for political and elec toral reform, despite risks to his safety and freedom. About the March 2008 elec tion, where Kasparov’s name did not appear on the ballot for the Russian pres idency, Johnson wrote, “Undaunted by an election he had already dismissed as rigged, Kasparov has kept up the pressure.”

Johnson hypothesized that Asia will reclaim its first millen nium supremacy in chess. He cited Anand’s world championship as one indication. Johnson wrote, “If a Norwegian were to be the next world chess champion, however, might it not indicate that there is nothing inevitable about the gradual shift of hege mony from Europe and America toward China and India?” While Johnson states that it is risky to generalize from chess to intellectual life and politics, he takes that risk often in White King and Red Queen. Whether or not you accept his thesis, John son’s book is well written and provocative.
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The Annual “Chess to Enjoy” Quiz

By GM Andy Soltis

You spent all year learning useful things like a new 17th move in the Najdorf. Now’s your chance to show off the really useless stuff you know.

1. Which of these grandmasters did not appear in a TV commercial in 2008?
   (a) Veselin Topalov posing as a bank customer
   (b) Magnus Carlsen using a cell phone
   (c) Viswanathan Anand playing cricket

2. Only two serious chessplayers have appeared on the cover of Sports Illustrated. One was Bobby Fischer. The other was:
   (a) Garry Kasparov
   (b) Judit Polgar
   (c) Lisa Lane
   (d) Shelby Lyman

3. Fabiano Caruana, who was born in Miami and lives in Budapest, is one of many expatriate grandmasters (GMs). Match the following GMs with their current home:
   (a) Yasser Seirawan of U.S.
   (b) Viswanathan Anand of India
   (c) Vladimir Kramnik of Russia
   (d) Levon Aronian of Armenia
   (e) Nigel Short of England
   (f) Joel Lautier of France
   (I) Russia
   (II) Greece
   (III) France
   (IV) Netherlands
   (V) Spain
   (VI) Germany

4. Which great American player died on his 75th birthday?
   (a) Edward Lasker
   (b) Jackson Showalter
   (c) Reuben Fine
   (d) Arnold Denker

5. Many current and recent USCF members are well known in their professions. Match the player with his career:
   (a) Mark Funkhouser
   (b) Dale B. Schenk
   (c) Stephen L. Carter
   (I) Law professor, novelist
   (II) Mayor of Kansas City
   (III) Neurobiologist, Alzheimer’s authority

6. Height may matter. The winner of a famous match was 6 foot 5. His opponent was 5 foot 10. They were:
   (a) Alexander Alekhine and Max Euwe
   (b) Paul Morphy and Louis Paulsen
   (c) Vladimir Kramnik and Peter Leko
   (d) Deep Blue and Garry Kasparov

7. Try to answer this in three minutes or less:
   Suppose we take an empty chess board and use a knife to cut off five of the files. That leaves 24 squares on the remaining three files. On how many of those squares would a bishop have more legal moves than a knight?

8. The first serious chess book that Magnus Carlsen read was:
   (a) My System by Aron Nimzovich
   (b) Find a Plan by Bent Larsen
   (c) Kramnik’s Best Games by Vladimir Kramnik
   (d) My Great Predecessors by Garry Kasparov

9. Complete the quote from José Capa Blanca in A Primer of Chess. A time limit of “between 20 and 30 moves per hour is…”
   (a) “suitable only for beginners.”
   (b) “a fairly slow speed.”
   (c) “much too fast for humans.”
   (d) “way better than bullet.”

10. In the very first Chess Informant (1966), the players who had the most games included were Boris Spassky and Tigran Petrosian. Who was third?
    (a) Bobby Fischer
    (b) Bent Larsen
    (c) Alexander Matanovic
    (d) Svetozar Gligoric

11. When these celebrities met in 2004, they played a game that began 1. e4 e5 2. e4? The players are:
    (a) Moammar Khadafy and Kirsan Ilyumzhinov
    (b) Sting and Garry Kasparov
    (c) Diego Maradona and Anatoly Karpov
    (d) Vladimir Putin and Vladimir Kramnik
2008 Melody Amber

The Melody Amber tournaments, in which grandmasters match wits at blindfold chess as well as rapid play, seemed like an exotic sideshow when they began in the 1990s. But today the Melody Amber is one of the strongest annual events. In the 17th version, held this March in Nice, France, 11 of the world’s 14 top rated players took part and the winner was Levon Aronian. In each of the following six positions you are asked to find the fastest winning line of play. Pay particular care this month to forced mates. And as an added test, try to guess which were speed games and which were played blindfolded. Solutions on page 69.

Problem I
GM Loek van Wely
GM Alexander Morozevich

Problem II
GM Vladimír Kramník
GM Vassily Ivanchuk

Problem III
GM Sergey Karjakin
GM Loek van Wely

12. This is how Mikhail Tal described a former student of the Riga chess school, in How to Get Better at Chess: “One boy was very talented tactically, but he had no idea where to place his pieces! The cure was to have him go over Tigran Petrosian’s and Ulf Andersson’s games, two players with very positional styles. Now he trades queens right away! His name is ...”
(a) Aleksandr Wojtkiewicz
(b) Edmar Mednis
(c) Alexander Shabalov
(d) Arkady Naiditsch

13. Many GMs have warned of computer aided cheating. Who put it this way?
“Your opponent will go. “Oh, excuse me, I have to go to the men’s room.” Suddenly Joe Patzer’s rating goes from 1800 to 2600 ... They will have to frisk the players before the tournament.”
(a) Veselin Topalov in 2003
(b) Joel Benjamin in 1997
(c) Larry Christiansen in 1991
(d) Bobby Fischer in 1975

14. Mikhail Botvinnik became world champion in May 1948. He defended his title in March 1951. How many games did he play in between?
(a) none
(b) Between 0 and 50
(c) Between 50 and 100
(d) More than 100

15. The 2007 world championship tournament was held in Mexico City but only one of the invited players was able to speak Spanish. Curiously, he was also the only player who:
(a) speaks French
(b) doesn’t speak English
(c) doesn’t speak Russian
(d) speaks Chebanenko

16. Who was the chief beneficiary of the $5 million raised for the 1975 Fischer Karpov world championship match?
(a) Fischer
(b) Karpov
(c) Viktor Korchnoi
(d) Muhammad Ali

17. Since the modern U.S. Championship began in 1936, New York has hosted 21 tournaments and California has hosted eight. Which state is the third most frequent host?
(a) Pennsylvania
(b) Colorado
(c) Ohio
(d) Washington

18. Which of these were official rules for the Anand Kramnik world championship match:
(a) The arbiter declares a time forfeiture.
(b) A player will be forfeited if he makes two illegal moves in a game.
(c) The players do not have to write down moves.
(d) The players must recite the FIDE pledge at the opening ceremony.

19. Most of the surviving games of Andre Philidor were played when he was:
(a) Under 25 years old
(b) 25 to 45
(c) 45 to 60
(d) Over 60

And finally:
20. The cover of the November 12, 1971 Life magazine was dominated by a photo of Bobby Fischer (“The Deadly Gamesman”). On the next right hand page there was also a single large photo, of someone that chess players identify with Fischer. Who?

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For most opening gambits the idea is to sacrifice a pawn for development, aggression, and initiative. The attacker hopes the integrated energy from those plusses, and any attendant advantages that may come from the sac, lead to regaining the material with something extra. But some opening sacrifices aim for much more, and to that end entail greater risk. Such an offering is illustrated in an encounter between Daniel Harrwitz and Adolf Anderssen played at Breslau in 1848. In this, the second game of a match, Harrwitz essayed the King's Gambit Accepted (C33) and White was willing to allow an early forfeiture of castling. That should have triggered fireworks, but the usually combative Anderssen defended in pedestrian fashion, and White got his way after 1. e4 e5 2. f4 exf4 3. Bc4 Qh4+. Your starting position

Now make sure you have the above position set up on your chessboard. As you play through the remaining moves in this game, use a piece of paper to cover White’s move on the next line.**

4. Kf1 Par Score: 7

If 4. Ke2, then 4. ... Qg4+ is awkward. One tricky possibility is 4. g3, when 4. ... fxg3 5. Qf3 g2+ 6. Ke2 gxh1=Q runs into 7. Qxh1+ Kd8 8. Qd8 mate. But Black has 5. ... gxh2+ 6. Ke2 hxg1=N+, and that gains a piece.

4. ... Bc5

Black plays a move given by Greco in the 1600s, but mainly as an example of what not to play. Who knows what prompted Anderssen to try it? There are lots of moves Black could have played, such as 4. ... d5, which is more in accord with Anderssen’s spirit.**

5. d4 Par Score: 7

This meets the threat with a move White was intending to play anyway. The main idea of the King’s Gambit, after all, is to get pawn control of the center. White has now done that with a fight.

5. ... Bb6

So Black saves his bishop and keeps d4 under observation. But perhaps he’s hoping for 6. d5?? Qf2 mate, when a suggestion arises that it might be White who should be under observation.**

6. Nf3 Par Score: 7

White develops with tempo. Accept only 5 points part credit for 6. Nc3, which is less menacing than the text.

6. ... Qe7

After 6. ... Qh5, White gets an excellent game with 7. Bxf4, though it was probably more aggressive. Add 1 bonus point if you planned to answer 6. ... Qg4 with 7. Bxf4, when 7. ... Kxf7 loses the queen to 8. Ne5+.**

7. Nc3 Par Score: 7

Accept only 5 points part credit for 7. Bxf4. It’s the old book move, and it intends to answer 7. ... Qxe4 with 8. Bxd7+ Kf8 (8. ... Kxf7? 9. Ng5+) 9. Bg3 Nh6 10. Nc3 Qe7 11. Bb3 c6 12. Qd2 d5 13. Rae1, with the better game. Perhaps Anderssen had an improvement in mind, but Harrwitz’s 7. Nc3 was better.

7. ... Nh6

Add 1 bonus point for expecting to answer 7. ... g5 by 8. h4. If Black answers 8. ... h6, there follows 9. hgx5 hxg5 10. Rxb8. If 8. ... f6, then 9. hxg5 fxg5 10. Ne5, and 10. ... Nh6 is unavailable because of 11. Rxb8. And on 8. ... g4, then 9. Ne5 Nh6 10. Bxf4 d6 11. Nd5 Qh8 (11. ... Qd8 12. Bg5) 12. Nf6+ Ke7 13. Bg5, and the knight will discover check, winning the queen.**

8. e5 Par Score: 7

Receive only 4 points part credit for choosing 8. Bxf4 Nxe4 9. Nxe4 Qxe4 10. Bxf7+, which is actually less forcing than the text.

8. ... Nh5

Black saves the knight and f4 pawn. If 8. ... Qb4, then 9. Bb3 (or 9. Qe2), and the f6 knight must move.**

9. Nd5 Par Score: 7

White centralizes and chases the queen. Add 1 bonus point if you saw it when playing 8. e5.

9. ... Qd8

Once again Black mist play a defensive retreat. Take 1 bonus point for planning to meet 9. ... Qe6? with 10. Nxc7+. In light of what follows, 9. ... Qf8 might have been better, though after 10. Nxf4 the queen interferes with Black’s castling.**

10. g4! Par Score: 8

Increase your score by only 5 points part
These problems are all related to key positions in this month’s game. In each case, Black is to move. The answers can be found in Solutions on page 69.

December exercise: Here’s a way to get an overview of an instructive chess book before plunging into its detail. If the book is as good as the writer thinks, there’ll be descriptive paragraphs introducing, driving, and summarizing the essential information. Read these passages through, from start to finish, with little attention to specific lines and variations. By the end of your exploratory journey you’ll have riddled the arc of the writer’s thinking and be able to see how key ideas link together. You’ll also know if the book is worth of a more careful read, or if you need to find another book.

credit for selecting 10. Nxf4 Nxf4 11. Bxf4, since it relaxes the pressure. Black captures and has a game of sorts.

10. ... fxg3

Add 1 bonus point for expecting to answer 10. ... c6 with 11. Nxb6 axb6 12. gxh5. Black has to capture and open the position.**

11. Bg5 Par Score: 7


11. ... f6

If Black tries 11. ... Nf6, his position is hopeless after 12. exf6. White also has the option of playing 12. Nxf6+ gx6 13. Bxf6. Add 1 bonus point for analyzing both possibilities.**

12. exf6 Par Score: 6

White now threatens two discoveries: 13. f7+ (1 bonus point) and 13. fxg7 (also 1 bonus point). Anderssen finds himself out of tune with his spirit. He’s forced to defend.

12. ... gxf6

If 12. ... Nxf6, then 13. Qe2+ (1 bonus point). If 13. ... Qe7, then 14. Qxe7 mate; if instead 13. ... Kf7, then 14. Nxf6+; and if 13. ... Kf8, then 14. Nxf6 Qe7 (or 14. ... gxh5 15. Bh6 mate) 15. Nxe7+ Rxe7 16. Qxe7 mate. With the text move, Anderssen retains his knight, looking to keep the position complicated, giving his partner more chances to go wrong. Still, more concessions seem on the horizon.**

13. Ne5 Par Score: 7

Accept only 5 points part credit for 13. Qe2+. After 13. ... Kf8 14. Nxf6 (14. Bh6+ Ng7), Black can confuse the issue with 14. ... g2+ 15. Kxg2 Nf4+ 16. Bxf4 Qxf6, though this should lose after 17. Be5. In any event, Harrwitz has decided to go for mate. The immediate threat is 14. Qxh5+ Kf8 15. Qf7 mate. Accept 1 bonus point if you’ve already considered it.

13. ... 0-0

Black can’t take either piece. If 13. ... fxg5, then 14. Qxh5+ and mate at f7. If 13. ... fx5, then 14. Qxh5+ Kf8 15. Bh6+ Kg8 16. Nf6 mate. Add 2 bonus points for seeing all of this. By castling, Black threatens to take with check.**

14. Qxh5! Par Score: 8

Accept only 4 points part credit for the tempting 14. Nxf6+ Kg7 15. Qxh5. Black gets counter chances after 15. ... Rxf6+ 16. Bxf6+ Qxf6 17. Kg2 Qf2+ 18. Kh3 d6+ 19. Kh4 g2+ 20. Kg5 Qf6 mate. Okay, that’s a fairy tale, but sometimes they happen. Better is 19. Ng4, and White wins. If 19. ... g2 at that point, then 20. Qxg5+ Kf8 (20. ... Kh8 21. Qg8 mate) 21. Qd8+ Kg7 22. Qg8 mate. Other moves, such as 14. Nxb6+ and 14. Kg2, are probably good enough, but less vigorous and rate only 2 points part credit for the one you’ve selected.

14. ... fxg5+

Receive 1 bonus point for realizing that 14. ... fxg5+ is met by 15. Nf6+ Kg7 16. Qxh7 mate.**

15. ... Nf6+! Par Score: 7

You knew it was coming: discovered check answered by discovered double check.

15. ... Kg7

Add 1 bonus point for seeing that 15. ... Kh8 is eliminated by 16. Qxh7 mate.**

16. Qxh7+ Par Score: 8

The fastest, though 16. Qxg5+ (6 points part credit) also works. After 16. ... Kh8 17. Ng6+ Kg7 (17. ... hxg6 18. Qh6 mate) 18. Nxf8+ Kxf8 (18. ... Kh8 19. Qg8 mate), White has several ways to mate. One way is 19. Nxf7+ Ke8 20. Re1+ Qe7 21. Qxe7 mate; another way is 19. Qg8+ Ke7 20. Qg7+ Kd6 21. Ne4+ Kg6 22. d5 mate.

16. ... Kxf6

Yes, it’s the only legal move.**

17. Ng4 Par Score: 7

mate

Deduct 3 points for 17. Qg6+? allowing 17. ... Ke7+. Anderssen surely preferred being on the winning side. See score box on “Solutions,” page 69.
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The Grandmaster Diet

Look at any tournament hall:
It is filled with discarded candy wrappers, sugared sodas, and bags of salted snacks. If you are a culprit, are you missing out on a simple way of improving your tournament results?

By FM Mike Klein
If the brain could ask for a last meal, it would choose one high in fish oils.

A decade ago I stood in line for a midnight buffet in Las Vegas. My game had just concluded and after five hours of battle I was hungry and weary. I ventured to the closest refilling station where I was joined by the late GM Igor Ivanov, who had just received my capitulation. Having allowed himself a few drinks during the game, Ivanov sauntered over to talk, first greeting me with a rhyming poem about butterflies that he wrote on the back of his score sheet, then grabbing an empty dish. As we moved down the endless line, the white of our plates quickly disappeared. We disregarded any thought of the “nutritiousness” of our meal. For a few voracious minutes, we gorged. I do not know about the grandmaster, but I paid the price the next day. I awoke for my morning game with a bowling ball in my stomach, too fueled to focus.

How often do we experience a similar scene at chess tournaments? Unhealthy eating and inattention to nutrition leads to sluggishness, inability to think clearly and an overall rotten temperament. Dealing with time constraints and trying to answer to our confused and deprived bodies requires a battle plan both before and during a competition—a plan that databases can not provide. Some players discount the benefits of such a strategy, while others, including health professionals and parents, trumpet the merits of a nutritionally sound repertoire.

Before delving into the tricky practical challenges posed by weekend Swisses—where rounds are stacked and meal choices are often based primarily on convenience—a closer look at everyday meal habits can reveal some areas that may increase performance.

Before A Tournament
Eating well is no nutritional novelty. The media bombards us with selective tips for longevity and prevention of certain diseases. Tomatoes fight prostate cancer. Vitamin D prevents osteoporosis. More than anything, chess players require good brain health. A growing consensus suggests certain vitamins and minerals can improve memory recall, concentration, focus and overall optimism.

If the brain could ask for a last meal it would choose one high in fish oils. Nearly all nutritionists cite the benefits of a partial pescetarian diet—suggesting it is not a fly by night phenomenon. One study concluded that the Japanese have slightly higher IQs because of their reliance on fish as a dietary staple. Research in the United Kingdom has shown standardized test scores to rise in line with an increase in fish oils. These oils are not found naturally in the body, but one can derive a great deal of benefit from only a few servings per week.

Heidi Skolnik, the New York Giants team nutritionist, explained that omega 3 and omega 6 fatty acids are the real treasures of foods like salmon and shellfish. She recommends three servings per week. “Consistency is a big issue,” Skolnik said. “If you are inconsistent with your eating, you are more likely to become inconsistent with your concentration.”

It would be a mistake to think of the football players she counsels as lumbering oafs with no need for mental focus. Skolnik explained that her advice helps them in strategy meetings and for memorizing complex plays and formations—the same types of preparations required for chess players. “In football, they have to be alert and able to change at any moment,” she said. She also advises the coaching staff, whose job is more dependent on mental maneuvering rather than physical exertion (one could safely add kickers to the list, too).

“I do recommend fish oils for many reasons,” said Mitzi Dulan, team sports dietitian for the Kansas City Chiefs and Kansas City Royals, adding that mental acuity in the field of sport is “overlooked, but gaining traction.”

If you disdain eating fish, your local drug store will likely have what you need. Steve Wicklum, an amateur hockey player who is also a clerk at a vitamin store, said sales of fish oil supplements that supply omega 3 and omega 6 fatty acids have been “astronomical,” adding, “[They] are one of the most popular gigs in the store.” He explained that these fatty acids replace the bad fat in your body with more necessary and leaner fat, resulting in more useful fuel for the body and perhaps some weight loss, and that omega 3 is crucial for helping people deal with the highs and lows of competition. He also pushed Ginkgo biloba supplements for enhanced memory (studies are inconclusive, but if there is a benefit, supplements are the best method of ingestion, as the amount of Ginkgo in energy drinks is negligible).

The next thorny issue is the balance between proteins and carbohydrates—how much of each to eat and when to eat them. Despite the term “low carb” recently entering the pop culture vernacular, carbs are absolutely necessary for chess success according to health professionals. Carbohydrates are necessary to provide glucose, which is the primary source of brain energy. Lower levels of glucose can cloud thinking and impair judgment—disastrous results for chess players. Nutritional guidelines suggest people should consume between 30-50 percent of their calories from carbohydrates. Physical athletes queue up at the higher end of the spectrum since their regular bursts of short term energy burn off the carbohydrates. How should a mental athlete determine where he falls?

“The food eaten prior to a tournament is as important as dur...
“If there is a round in the morning, I would rather starve to death than eat before a game.”

JOHN FEDOROWICZ

ing,” said Kelly A. Hammer, nutritionist and writer. She suggests a high protein and high carbohydrate meal with at least a 30 minute buffer before a round. “The carbs will help sustain the focus, while the protein will add to the needed nutrients for brain connections,” she explained. “Foods to eat before a long haul would be carbohydrates (veggies, grains, fruits, rice or potatoes) along with some protein—eggs, peanut butter, chicken, nuts, soy and yogurts are good examples. Carbs alone won’t cut it.”

“The tricky thing is not having so much (carbs) that you are sleepy,” Skolnik said.

The carbohydrates Hammer listed are often referred to as “good carbs.” They are high in fiber and they reduce toxins and regulate blood sugar and insulin. The so called “bad carbs” include baked goods, white bread, pasta, potatoes and soft drinks or candy with refined sugar; the calories have little or no nutritional value. These foods have a high glycemic index, leading to insulin resistance and adult onset diabetes. Walter Willett, chairman of nutrition at Harvard’s School of Public Health, once declared, “Eating white potatoes or white bread is just like eating candy, as far as your body knows.”

Nutritionists have some specialized advice for vegetarian chess players. The list includes GMs Viswanathan Anand and Peter Leko (some high profile poker players have even switched to a macrobiotic diet, free of all additives, with leader Cyndy Violette citing a “clarity of mind” that comes with the regimen). No meat in one’s diet means protein consumption must come from other areas. Skolnik is a proponent of tofu, though she cautions that you need much more volume to equal the protein content of a similar portion of chicken. Dulan, who has counseled the Chief’s nine time Pro Bowl tight end Tony Gonzalez as he experimented with veganism and vegetarianism, added that protein deficiencies can be offset by nuts, beans and plant powders.

During a Tournament

A chess player’s intake during and between games is arguably more important than during his training period. Short term factors like blood sugar levels and hydration begin to have a greater impact over brain performance.

As with fish oils, nutritionists are equally unanimous in recommending water as the best source of hydration during a game. Not drinking enough increases the prevalence of fatigue, headaches and low blood pressure, all of which can negatively affect performance.

Hammer, author of the recent book *Brain Food*, is fervently in favor of nature’s hydrator. “I believe in water!” she said. “All our organs, including the brain, need water to function properly and at optimum levels. Sports drinks have their place in the endurance sports. They should not replace water in [chess] events.”

Sports drinks add electrolytes and carbohydrates, but since most chess players do not sweat profusely during matches, and minimal physical activity burns few carbs, those pitchers of water that hotels provide may be as far as players should go for refreshment. Nutritionists recommend sipping water even before one gets thirsty; a dry mouth is an indication that dehydration is beginning. Nutritionists also warn that excessive alcohol can lead to dehydration, amongst other performance reducing side effects.

Dulan, who claimed even working out at moderate levels for 45 minutes does not require a sports drink, does see one benefit for them: “Research shows kids drink more when drinking a sports drink. So, [they may be] good for kids in tournaments to help maintain blood sugar concentrations and mental focus.”

But if a consensus has been reached on water versus sports drinks, there is not even a quorum when it comes to the question of caffeine. Caffeine inhibits the brain’s adenosine receptors, reversing the chemical’s depressive effects. Hammer added that caffeine has the benefit of increasing metabolism, which allows the body to process nutrients faster. She added, “How ever, too much caffeine or caffeine on an empty stomach can cause a sharp increase in activity for a short amount of time, followed by a low—similar to blood sugar levels. I always say, ‘Too much of anything, is still too much.’”

“I think that caffeine is an individual thing but you have to find your own tolerance level,” Skolnik said. “There is a line between enough that is a stimulant and too much that will make you jittery.”

So caffeine may make someone alert and somewhat more chip per, but the relation to focus and especially memory is its most misunderstood aspect. Produce one study that links prolonged caffeine use to poor long term memory, and another will claim that the drug aids when involved in a focused task like taking a test, or perhaps playing chess (there have been no scientific studies on chess ability and caffeine). If benefits do exist, they are almost certainly short term. One study proved rats gained...
one third more dendrites (branches stemming from neurons that conduct electrical stimulation) in their brains after being injected with caffeine, but the neurons returned to their original shape shortly thereafter. In humans, caffeine only remains in the body for three to four hours after consumption. A slower intake that allows time for smaller releases of caffeine may also be key. Matthew Honan wrote in Wired, “For optimal brain gain, regular tea breaks, as favored in the UK, are more effective than a 20 ounce French roast sucked down at Starbucks. To maximize alertness and minimize jitters ... [drink] frequent small doses like a mug of low caffeine tea or half a cup of “joe” rather than a one time blast. Test subjects reported that periodic small shots made them feel clearheaded and calm, both of which enhance mental performance.” He added that a small snack combined with caffeine may be the best one two punch, which brings up the question of what, if anything, to eat during a game.

Nutritionists suggest several snack options to maintain ghcose and blood sugar levels during a game, especially protein rich snacks like nuts, fruit, tuna, cottage cheese, and surprisingly, beef jerky.

“You need to be adequately nourished to have your neuro transmitters firing,” Skolnik said. She advises small bites during a competition to avoid having too much blood lost to digestion but also to avoid becoming famished after a competition, when people are likely to overeat for the next meal.

Physical athletes also seek the same balance between eating and overeating during a competition. At this year’s golfing world’s U.S. Open, former winner turned announcer Johnny Miller saw Tiger Woods eating an energy bar near the end of his Monday playoff. “I’m a little surprised Tiger ate so much between the green and the tee,” he said on air as the playoff went to a 19th hole, golf’s version of an Armageddon match. “It’s not always good to eat in the middle of a round too much ... maybe just one bite or two.”

As it turned out, Woods, perhaps the most focused athlete of his generation, won the hole and with it the championship. He was certainly in tune with what his body needed. In his book, How I Play Golf, Woods writes at length and with specificity about his dietary habits, touting the benefits of vitamin supplements B1, B6 and B12, which are rapidly depleted during periods of tension and stress. Pitiful conditions golfers and chess players share. Woods claims B vitamins have been shown to improve accuracy in pistol shooting competitions, a sport that closely rivals chess in its mental component.

Nutrition for Kids

When Skolnik took her son to a chess tournament, she was shocked at the dearth of healthy food options available. There were no moms feeding orange slices or bananas, just a congregation which sold junk food snacks. Most items like candy were high in refined sugar the potent chemical that will spike a child’s blood sugar and then send it just as quickly into a tailspin. Though she feeds her children much more nutritionally at home, convenience triumphed on that occasion. “I was unaware and got caught off guard,” she said, admitting, “I think he had four doughnuts that day.”

Many scholastic events stack rounds on top of each other so closely that the nearest food stand becomes the default energy provider for the day. As a caregiver, it is easy to reason that any food is better then sending a child into battle on an empty stomach. Parents who have witnessed their child endure the soporific Saturday night round at nationals can attest to the demands placed on their young charges. Ideally, however, parents should devise a plan before the tournament begins.

One chess mom who has made a science out of healthy tournament eating is Amy Taylor Brill, whose 10 year old son Seth has been playing competitively for several years. “Any mother will attest to the impact of certain foods on children,” she said. “I saw that the kids who were eating pizza and pop for lunch and buying candy at the breaks between matches were usually running wild. So I simply did what I did every day, which was to plan and prepare healthy meals for my child.”

Taylor Brill said she is a supporter of the research that links protein consumption to brain activity (according to Dulan, proteins stabilize the blood sugars and therefore keep the brain functioning efficiently and evenly). To that end, she outfits Seth with an array of high protein foods to eat between rounds. Open his lunch box and you will likely see hard boiled eggs or a salmon salad sandwich. To satisfy his sweet tooth, she adds pumpkin bread or a lemon square. “Those are the staples,” she said. “Then I usually add an ethnic flair at lunch just for fun.” Dig a little deeper and you might find edamame and tabbouleh the next. She will also arm Seth with ham, cheese and grape kabobs to take to his board. For out of town tournaments, he leaves with his chess set and a cooler of food.

“There is no question that Seth can play a longer, more focused game if he eats well,” Taylor Brill said.

Dulan suggested equipping a chess playing child with a sandwich of tuna or chicken salad or natural peanut butter on whole grain bread, cheese sticks, fruit and almonds, walnuts, cashews or pistachios.

... a player should be allowed to summon a tournament director as an escort outside the tournament hall for the purpose of grabbing a mid-game snack.
If benefits [of caffeine] do exist, they are almost certainly short-term.

Getting a child to abstain from soda and chips may not be easy at first. One former top junior had to become his own case study before he got the message.

Nelson Lopez II, former Denker Tournament of High Schools champion, grew up eating fruits and avoiding processed foods out of obedience. “My dad would make me eat fairly healthy. I never thought it really helped me,” he explained. “I did it because he made me.”

Then, at a World Open when he was an early teenager, Lopez became the unwitting subject of his own experiment. He began 3 0 and convinced his father to loosen the reins. “I started eating a bunch of Skittles® and soda,” Lopez recalled. “The next day I did horribly. I went to 3 3 just like that.” He said he felt tired and lacked alertness during the losing streak. Since then, Lopez has not needed any prodding. “Ever since that I always eat healthy,” he said, referring to his habits at and away from tournaments. He is now a junior at the University of Texas at Dallas, where you can often find him cooking his own meals rather than eating out.

Besides the nutritional component to Taylor Brill’s painstaking efforts, she also claims several hidden benefits. “To Seth, it is a psychological boost because he feels loved and supported by his parents,” she said, “and because he knows that healthy food will provide his brain the energy it needs to do the hard work of chess. The real advantage to bringing your own food to those major tournaments is that Seth has much more time to rest between matches because they aren’t wasting time hunting around for food and waiting in lines. Rest seems to be the only antidote to the stress they endure and getting that extra rest and relaxation definitely allows Seth to play better in subsequent rounds.”

Taylor Brill added that she would like to see the USCF adopt formal food guidelines in tournaments that they sponsor or sanction. At many scholastic events, players are not permitted to bring food into the tournament hall, nor are they allowed to exit the tournament room while the game is in progress. She suggested that a player should be allowed to summon a tournament director as an escort outside the tournament hall for the purpose of grabbing a mid-game snack.

Nutritionists have also weighed in on some stress busting foods for children that get nervous before or during matches. Skolnik said carbs have serotonin which can relax the body and ease jitters, but over consumption can dim alertness. Foods high in potassium like bananas are thought to be helpful, as well as comfort foods, which can be made healthy. She gave the example of pasta, with shrimp and broccoli added. Skolnik said some researchers suggest vitamin B6 may also help calm a child. In addition, some people take melatonin supplements as a way of getting to sleep after a stressful day of king hunting.

Professional Perspectives

In 1981, German doctor and GM Helmut Pfleger produced research to show that chess players endure similar stresses to other mental sports like shooting and golf. Late last year, Roberto Baglione, head of the Department of Nutrition at the National High Performance Center in Buenos Aires, Argentina, followed up on Pfleger’s research by publishing a study of leading players’ nutritional habits.

Baglione’s research, the first of its kind, included the responses of 72 active grandmasters (GMs) and woman grandmasters (WGMs) from all over the world. He began by discussing breakfast.

“Breakfast is one of the most important meals of the day because of its direct impact on the mental (and physical) performance in the morning,” Baglione said of the often skipped meal. “It has a direct effect on the glucose concentration in the brain and liver, and supplies a number of nutrients which are essential to produce neurotransmitters.”

Fischer Generation Nutrition

Chess players who became so during the Fischer boom of the early 1970s are reaching their golden years. A freshman in high school who watched the PBS broadcasts of Fischer versus Spassky is now eligible for the U.S. Senior Open. In order for those memories to remain vivid and of course to be able to recall all the latest theory this generation is wise to heed some particular nutritional advice.

According to Jean Carper, author of Your Miracle Brain and board member of the American Aging Association, aging brains need more glucose because they become less efficient at metabolizing the brain fuel and therefore have more fluctuation in blood sugar levels. She cites several studies that show those over age 50 scored significantly better on memory tests after consuming a large glass of lemonade spiked with carbohydrates rather than saccharin.

Carper shares the belief that breakfast’s importance cannot be understated and she also champions fish oil, claiming that our earliest ancestors in East Africa increased the size of their brains due to the abundance of freshwater fish in their diet. She warns, however, not to consume more omega 6 fatty acids than omega 3 fatty acids.

Surprisingly, the grandmasters in Baglione’s survey may be served well by the chocolate they eat, at least in the long term. The antioxidants contained in dark chocolate (white chocolate has none) contain phenols that have twice the antioxidant capabilities of those found in red wine. The phenols help cleanse the body of free radicals (molecules with an extra electron which act like ravaging bishops in the body and have been linked to various diseases like Alzheimer’s). Harvard researchers have gone as far to conclude gourmands of cocoa live on average one year longer.

A French study of nearly 4,000 people over age 65 said red wine drinkers were five times less likely to suffer from severe intellectual decline such as dementia. Carper’s other high antioxidant foods include spinach, strawberries and blueberries.

Carper’s research also produced a strong link between the B vitamin folic acid and brain health. She said a great majority of people with clinical depression lack proper levels of folic acid, and that the vitamin has also been linked in numerous studies to poor attention and memory loss. She lists other vitamins shown to slow memory loss, like vitamins A, B6, B12, C and E. ~M.K.
Of the sample pool, more than one third of the players claimed they regularly passed on breakfast. GM John Fedorowicz, who was not interviewed for the study, often finds himself in that wisdom. His experience offers a rebuke to the conventional wisdom that breakfast is the most important meal of the day.

"If there is a round in the morning, I would rather starve to death than eat before a game," he said. "It always worked out well for me."

Fedorowicz makes a concerted effort to get eight or nine hours of sleep per night during tournaments. He won't eat a meal if he cannot complete it at least two hours before a game (according to Fedorowicz, GM Walter Browne used to advertise a free steak dinner to his opponent, with the caveat it had to be eaten right before the round). When a morning round is involved, sleep trumps food.

The same goes for Scott Hagwood, the only American Grand Master of Memory (he is a past United States National Memory Champion). Despite his ability to memorize more than 800 numbers in sequence in one hour, Hagwood said he does not follow any dietary guidelines before or during competitions. Like Fedorowicz, he focuses more on getting a good night's sleep.

Fedorowicz always alms food during games as well, though he did confess to eating a piece of cheese during a seven hour round at a U.S. Championship several years ago. He also does not mind his opponent eating, as long as it is not distracting. While at home, a more leisurely schedule gives him time to be attentive to eating well. He said he prepares lots of salads with toppings like grilled chicken and light Italian dressing.

"I try to eat healthy when I am at home because when I go on the road I know it's going to be a problem," he said. Fedorowicz also cooks, but only as a hobby. His stint at a New York City culinary institute only lasted a week. "My knife skills were terrible," he said, "and chess players need their fingers."

Baglione's test group did not reveal a high level of health consciousness with many of their answers. Few took supplements. No GMs responded that they took fish oils or vitamin B12 and only one took ginseng (though Skolnik said research is inconclusive as to its mental benefits). Less than one third said they took other vitamins, minerals or protein supplements. Only two sought professional nutrition advice. One in seven smoked cigarettes and the most popular mid game snack was chocolate. Most focused on not overeating before games.

GM Gregory Serper offered a few interesting anecdotes to explain his approach to meals at chess tournaments, which is more superstitious than nutritious.

"I must confess, I like Chinese restaurants and the dragons on the walls," he said, adding that if you play two games in one day, you will need the quick service that Chinese restaurants provide. "The problem is the fortune cookie. The good news is that you know your future. The bad news is that you cannot change it."

Playing in his first tournament in America in 1996, his father announced, "Whatever you do you are going to be a winner." Shortly thereafter, GM Alex Ivanov blundered against him in a dead drawn position. Two years later he ate Chinese before the final round of the World Open. His cookie ominously read, "Time will heal your wounds" with the title on the line, he erred against GM Alex Shabalov. The "healing" came the next year. In 1999, he graced the cover of this magazine after winning the World Open. During the tournament, he had revisited the same Chinese restaurant, where his tiny scroll correctly promised, "It's time for a raise."

"Those fortune cookies are killers," Serper said. "I collected them at some point because they never lie, never." GM Valery Salov might not share Serper's belief in portentous meals. In 1988, Salov won four straight games after visiting an Italian restaurant. He was asked why he did not continue to go back and he replied that he did not particularly like Italian food.

"It just proves if you want to win a tournament you have to make a sacrifice," joked Serper, who does not share Salov's aversion to marinara. "It's a tasty sacrifice."

Serper said his choice of where to eat at a tournament is based mainly on time constraints. When he is forced to eat fast food, he has noticed strange anomalies in his games. Once, after eating at McDonald's, he formed a very rare version of "Alekhine's Gun," where he placed his two queens and rook on the same file. He won a Continental Open once by eating every meal under the golden arches, but he warns, "Don't trust all the commercials with the funny clowns or cute Chihuahuas ... I got sick to my stomach."

As a child, Serper overheard future GM Evgeny Bareev give some strange advice. "He said, 'It is a very good idea to be hungry before a game,'" Serper recalled. "'Your head is really clear, you can calculate variations and you are aggressive.' I tried this experiment for an adjourned game. You can't calculate. All you can think of is food. Don't listen to all this baloney."

In some cases, food is as much about replenishment as nourishment. Reports following the Anatoly Karpov Viktor Korchnoi match in 1978 indicated the world champion may have lost as much as 30 pounds while defending his title, suggesting his famed in game blueberry yogurt was as important for its calories as any other mystifying meaning.

Despite all the intended benefits of a nutritious lifestyle, dietitians and chess players alike agree that food is not a performance panacea.

"If somebody doesn't have the skill and the talent, nutrition isn't going to all of a sudden make them have that skill and talent," Skolnik said.

Serper put it more bluntly: "If you want to get better at chess, spend one hour studying Kasparov's games. You will do more than spending one month changing your diet."

But if you cannot stomach broccoli, and your rating has reached a plateau, why not give competitive eating a try? First prize at the Nathan's International July Fourth Hot Dog Eating Contest $10,000. ■

Before making any dietary changes you should consult with a physician.
GM Alexandra Kosteniuk is Women's World Champ

Miami, Florida may now be home to the latest American to claim a world championship, as GM Alexandra Kosteniuk of Russia contemplates a permanent switch to the American federation.

At the World Women's Championship in Nalchik, Russia, two sensational stars met in the final: 14 year old WGM Yifan Hou of China and 24 year old GM Alexandra Kosteniuk of Russia. Kosteniuk coined the title of "vice champion" after her own teenage run to the finals in 2001. This time Alexandra removed the vice. After defeating WIM Atousa Pourkashiyan (Iran), IM Tatiana Kosintseva (Russia), IM Anna Ushenina (Ukraine), and GM Pia Cramling (Sweden), Kosteniuk won her first game against Hou in the four game final and didn't look back. When she's not traveling, Alexandra splits her time between Moscow and Miami (where she is considering taking up permanent residence), always keeping up with her website kosteniuk.com, podcasts, photo shoots and interviews, like the following one with Chess Life Online editor and former U.S. women's champion Jennifer Shahade.
Jennifer Shahade: “Congrats” on behalf of Chess Life! It seems to me you played the best chess in Nalchik and deserved the title. Is there any single move that you were most proud of finding through your 12 games?

Alexandra Kosteniuk: Many people told me that my games looked easy and I seemed to be in control at all times. I can assure you it was not the case; it was a very tough championship. [Particularly tough were] the series of 11 very difficult moves (including the move 34. Qc1) in the last game against Hou, where any deviation could have led to defeat.

Deviation equals defeat
GM Alexandra Kosteniuk (FIDE 2510)
WGM Yifan Hou (FIDE 2557)
2008 Women’s World Ch. (6), Game 4

In response to Hou’s ... Nd5, with a double attack on the White queen, Alex found 34. Qc1! Good for Black are, 34. Qg5? Bxh4 35. Qxh4 Qf2 or 34. Qd2? Bxh4 35. Bxf8 Ne3! (After 34. Qc1 Bxh4 35. Bxf8 Ne3 doesn’t work anymore because of 36. Bc5!)

Is there any move that you felt particularly annoyed to miss?
I missed Ke5 which would have immediately won in my first game against Tatiana Kosintseva ...

Missing the sure win
GM Alexandra Kosteniuk (FIDE 2510)
IM Tatiana Kosintseva (FIDE 2511)
2008 Women’s World Ch. (3), Game 1

In your interview with Jerry Hanken (Chess Life Online, uschess.org, September 2008 archives), you mention Yifan Hou as a potential women’s world champion. Do you think she has any chance for the overall world championship or to join Judit Polgar in the world top ten?
Yifan Hou, at only 14 years of age, has exceptional talent and she has the potential to go very far. Since Hou is from China, she will benefit from the very good intensive chess schools there, and so if she works hard, she should reach new highs, possibly one day challenging the world top 10.

In the controversial round 1 Armageddon battle (Black advances on a draw) between IM Monika Socko (Poland) and WGM Sabina Francesca-Foisar (Romania), do you think it was ethical for Socko to claim a win with knight vs. knight? (Black lost on time with only a knight each on the board. The game was at first declared a draw but Socko’s appeal based on FIDE rules and the possibility of checkmate overturned the result to a win in her favor. In USCF rules, knight vs. knight is a draw.) This FIDE rule has been in effect for many years. I remember playing (and winning) the European blitz championship in 2001, and we were all wondering why they had that crazy rule which allows you to play in senseless positions. I would gladly vote in favor of changing that rule. Now that I have been admitted to the FIDE presidential board, I will try to push for a change in that area. As for the concrete situation with Socko, since those were the rules in effect, she had the right to claim a win.

In your daily regimen of six hours of chess study a day, how do you split your analysis time between board and pieces and a computer?
When I study chess, I use a chess set with wooden pieces, and always take them along when I go to a tournament. Even when I use the computer, I always move the pieces on the board at the same time; that helps me remember the variations. I do not use Fritz.

In an interview several years ago, you said to me that you didn’t have a lot of female friends in the chess world (perhaps they were jealous of your simultaneous achievements in modeling and chess.) The situation seems to have changed ...
You are right ... I have a best friend in [IM] Almira Skripchenko; we are very close; our daughters were born only three months apart. I am also friends with several other chess playing young mothers, like [WGM] Natalia Zhukova.

Many people thought that because I was well known I was unreachable, but that’s not true, and now that I take on a chess organizer’s role I [was] captain of my team at the 1st World Mind Games in China), I am becoming friends with more and more women players. My video podcasts, chess is cool and chess killer tips also show what kind of person I am ... that’s why I like to record them; I get a lot of positive feedback.

Speaking of Skripchenko, I saw Almira few months ago at a nearby table at the Ladies World Series of Poker. Do you play any other games besides chess?
I don’t like poker. I much prefer chess. Chess is a fair game. It gives back to you what you have invested in it. In poker, you can lose easily just due to bad luck. The only games I play besides chess are with my baby Francesca.

Did you read my book, Chess Bitch and if so, what did you think of it?
To be frank, I only read the parts where you wrote about me. It’s good you wrote about the subject of women in chess; you helped take down one barrier of ignorance of the subject and you started a healthy debate about it which may have attracted more women to chess. However, I must say I do not like the title. How will I be able to explain to my child what the title means?
You are no stranger to pushing the envelope in your many glamour photo shoots on kosteniuk.com. Can you share a particularly memorable experience from your modeling/acting career?
I loved being an actress in the movie Bless the Woman by director Stanislav Govorukhin. (However, there was an) interminable wait for the lighting crew to set up the scenes properly. I had just come from intensive tournaments and training and was looking forward to working 12 hours per day for the movie. Well it turned out that at least 10 hours were spent waiting for the scene to be ready. While everybody there thought it was normal I had a very hard time waiting. Luckily I had brought along a chess book, 555 studies miniatures by [Genrikh] Kasparian, and I had time to read it. OK, so readers should remember to bring a chess book next time they star in a movie! Thanks for the interview and good luck with all your efforts in chess and the media. The chess world is lucky to have a world women’s champion who we can rest assured, will promote chess tirelessly through her reign. ■

Kosteniuk annotated her first match game against Hou for Chess Life, but space does not allow us to print it. Go to Chess Life Online, December section, at uschess.org to see this game.
This September I was privileged to play in the strongest 10 person round robin tournament in the history of the United States. The 2nd SPICE Cup invitational grew from category 12 last year to a whopping category 15, with an average rating of 2605! As the winner of last year’s event, I was invited to defend my title. Not an easy task when you’re the lowest rated player.

The tournament is the brainchild of Susan Polgar and Paul Truong and hosted by Texas Tech University in Lubbock, Texas. Susan and Paul are superb organizers. Not only did they manage to raise the level of competition this year, but they plan to raise it even higher for 2009. Imagine a small Texas town, known as the home of Buddy Holly and the infamous basketball coach Bobby Knight, transforming into the American Wijk aan Zee. Next year the tournament is planned to be category 16/17 with a B event, and it is only a matter of time before we have Ivanchuks running around Texas in cowboy boots. There is a bright future for American chess.

This year’s tournament saw a lot of young stars: GM Pentala Harikrishna from India, GM Kamil Miton from Poland, GM Leonid Kritz from Germany, now studying in the U.S., and GM Varuzhan Akobian from Los Angeles. They were complemented by experience: GM Hannes Stefansson 10 time Icelandic champion, GMs Alexander Onischuk, Gregory Kaidanov, and Julio Becerra from the U.S., GM Victor Mikhalevski from Israel, and me, a semi professional with a full time job. This combination produced a lot of fighting games, yet the atmosphere of the tournament was friendly and fun.

The competition was stiff, and going into the last round there was a possibility for a six way tie for first! In the end it was a four way tie between Harikrishna, Onischuk, Kritz and Akobian on 5½ of 9. First and second tiebreak points didn’t reveal the sole winner, and only after the third tiebreak Harikrishna emerged as the champion. Yet it is only fair to call all four players co champions. Fifth was Becerra with five, who had a solid tournament with no losses and broke over the 2600 ELO mark! Sixth was Mikhalevski with 4½. I came in seventh with four points, which is not bad considering that I was minus three going into round seven. My 113 move win against Stefansson gave me the needed confidence to finish strong. I beat Mikhalevski in the last round, spoiling his chance to tie for first. Kaidanov, Miton, and Stefansson fought hard in all their games, yet the combination of bad form and bad luck prevented them from placing much higher.

The games were of high quality, despite the 30/90 time control. Here are some gems from the tournament:

**Icelander on ice**

**GM Hannes Stefansson (2566)**

**GM Vladimir Akobian (2610)**

**SPICE Cup Lubbock USA (6), 09.25.2008**

After 31. Bd3

31. ... Qh4!!

A beautiful combination.

32. Bxc2 Qxg4+ 33. Kf1

33. Kh1 Qf3+ 34. Kg1 Bh3.

33. ... Qf3 34. Qa5 Nb6!

This quiet move is the key, blocking the queen and taking control over the c4 square. 34. ... Bg4? 35. Qd8+ Kg7 36. Kg1 Bh3 37. Qg5.

35. Ke1


35. ... Nc4 36. Qd8+ Kg7 37. Qg5

Loses on the spot, but even after 37. R3a2 Bg4 38. Bd3 Rb3! Black’s attack is
unstoppable. For example: 39. Bf1 Nxc3 40. fxe3 Rxe3+ with mate.
37. ... Bg4, White resigned.

Casting the net
GM Gregory Kaidanov (2605)
GM Victor Mikhalevski (2592)
SPICE Cup Lubbock USA (4), 09.22.2008

Here’s a nice miniature from Mikhalevski from the first round.
13. b3 has been the main choice since the match Topalov Kramnik, 2006.
13. ... 0-0
13. ... Qc7 was seen in Kramnik Shirov in a recent Tal Memorial.
14. b3 Ba6 15. Re1 Bb5
The position looks balanced, however pay attention to how Mikhalevski methodically improves his pieces and unleashes a dangerous attack.
The queen is heading to g5.
27. ... Rc7?
Passive defense doesn’t help, yet the position is already difficult. 27. ... Kh8 28. Bxc6 Bxc6 29. Qxc6 Nf6.
28. Qg5 g6 29. Re7! Qd8 30. Rae1 Kh8 31. Nd6 Kg8 32. Ne8, Black resigned.

English Symmetrical (A30)
GM Eugene Perelshteyn (2555)
GM Victor Mikhalevski (2592)
SPICE Cup Lubbock USA (9), 09.28.2008

This is my best game of the tournament. I managed to beat one of the leaders in a convincing style after he went astray in the middlegame.
1. Nf3 Nf6 2. c4 c5 3. Nc3 d5 4. cxd5 Nxd5 5. g3 Nc6 6. Bg2 Nc7 7. d3 e5
We’ve reached a typical setup from the Maroczy bind with reversed colors where I am a tempo up. White’s plan is to put pressure on the black center with Nd2 c4 and f2=f4.
8. 0-0 Be7 9. Nd2 Bd7
9. ... 0 0 allows a possibility of 10. Bxc6 bxc6 11. Nc4 and Black is faced with
chronic weaknesses on the queenside.

10. Nc4 f6


11. f4 b5 12. Ne3 Rc8

So far all theory. Black maintains space advantage, while White plays to undermine the bind and secure the key outposts.

13. a4! b4


15. ... Rxc7 16. gxf4 Be6 17. b3 Nd4?!


18. Nc4 Bg4 19. Ra2!

White’s army is perfectly coordinated and I’m ready to finish development with Bb2.

24. ... g6 25. Bb2Bg7

(see diagram top of next column)

26. d4!

The march of the d pawn puts Black’s army in complete disarray.

26. ... cxd4 27. exd4 Nd8 28. d5 Nf7 29. d6 Rcc8 30. Ne3!

Opening up a second front.

44. ... b3 45. Ng5 Rc1+ 46. Kf2 Kh5 47. Kg3 with mate.

45. Rxa7 g5 46. hxg5+ Kg6 47. Ra5 Rc1+ 48. Kf2 Bf5 49. Rb5

Black is completely hopeless now.

49. ... Rc5 50. Rb6+ Kg7 51. Nd6 Rc2+ 52. Kg3 Bd3, Black resigns.

Susan, Paul, and TTU made the players feel welcome. We received a beautiful souvenir package with lots of goodies. In particular, the cowboy hat came in handy in the Texas sun, and now I’m looking for ward to dressing up as a cowboy on Halloween. During the free day we were invited to the beautiful International Cultural Center at TTU. After lunch we played in a friendly blitz tournament, won by Onischuk and Stefanosn.

The trip to a real Texas ranch was also quite memorable. We were greeted by pheasants strolling through the grounds and oil pumps working in the back ground. With the price of oil these days, it is no wonder that we wanted to fill a few barrels, but couldn’t find any in the vicinity. After visiting the ranch, Harikrishna, Miton, Kritz, and I went out to see a TTU football game. It was quite an experience to watch college football in Texas, with over fifty thousand fans, all cheering and dancing in a sea of red. TTU routed UMass 56 14; I guess they mean it when they say, “Don’t mess with Texas.”

The tournament finished with a great party at Susan’s home. Besides great food and company, there was a lot of ping pong, guitar hero, basketball, and of course ch ... salsa dancing!

On behalf of all the players, I would like to thank Susan and Paul for their great vision and Texas Tech for their support of chess.

See more reporting of the SPICE Cup at the following web sites: Chess Life Online, September archives (uschess.org); monroi.com/2008 spice cup blog.html (including a number of “video impressions”); monroi.com/2008 spice cup games.html; and susanpolgar.blogspot.com.

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**Chess Life Online**

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**2008 SPICE Cup: September 19-28, 2008; Texas Tech University, Lubbock, Texas**

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On January 3, 1998 the first section of the 1998 Golden Knights went out. In it was two time champion Robert Keating. Over the rest of the year 105 other sections would be assigned totaling 742 aspirants to the title of 1998 Golden Knights champion.

The field of 742 consisted of 52 masters and 133 experts (many of these were repeat entries, however). Among the hopefuls were some other familiar names: 1978 Golden Knights champion Richard Aiken; John Burton, who finished second in 1997; the notorious murderer, Claude Bloodgood; future USCF President Steven Doyle; future IMs Corky Schakel, James Skeels, Robert Rizzo and Edgardo Limayo. Also fighting were Richard McLaughlin, Kenneth Poole (highest rated at 2472), Don Maddox (past editor of *Chess Life*), past ICCF Secretary Robert Karch, Peter Hardman (1983 Golden Squires winner), Peter Cullen, Chuck Cullum, William Jempty, Abe Wilson, and Robert Ilderton (1994 Golden Knights winner). The names were illustrious, but there were no hints that this was to be one of the most hotly contested and close cut Golden Knights ever.

By the end of round one, the perfect scores emerged. It does not require a perfect score in the preliminary round to win a Golden Knights championship, but it certainly helps! After the first round there were 10 masters and 15 experts with 6-0 scores. There were also 13 class A players who brought in the magic 6-0 score, and one lone class B player, Chuck Cullum. Two unrated players rounded out the perfect scores at the end of round one. Out of a possible 106 perfect scores, only 41 were made.

In the very first round the past met the present. The 1978 Golden Knights Champion Richard Aiken (no relation to the Richard Aiken who won the 1946 event) met Corky Schakel, who would win the USCF Absolute championship ten years in the future.

The latest Golden Knights winners include a man who has now won both premier USCF correspondence chess (CC) events and a retired Hawaiian who only picked up *Bobby Fischer Teaches Chess* a mere 13 years before the event started.

By FM Alex Dunne

1998 Golden Knights

On January 3, 1998 the first section of the 1998 Golden Knights went out. In it was two time champion Robert Keating. Over the rest of the year 105 other sections would be assigned totaling 742 aspirants to the title of 1998 Golden Knights champion. The field of 742 consisted of 52 masters and 133 experts (many of these were repeat entries, however). Among the hopefuls were some other familiar names: 1978 Golden Knights champion Richard Aiken; John Burton, who finished second in 1997; the notorious murderer, Claude Bloodgood; future USCF President Steven Doyle; future IMs Corky Schakel, James Skeels, Robert Rizzo and Edgardo Limayo. Also fighting were Richard McLaughlin, Kenneth Poole (highest rated at 2472), Don Maddox (past editor of *Chess Life*), past ICCF Secretary Robert Karch, Peter Hardman (1983 Golden Squires winner), Peter Cullen, Chuck Cullum, William Jempty, Abe Wilson, and Robert Ilderton (1994 Golden Knights winner). The names were illustrious, but there were no hints that this was to be one of the most hotly contested and close cut Golden Knights ever.

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Ponziani Opening (C44)

Correspondence Chess

Notes by Schakel


This is a known second best move; ... Bd7 gives Black a solid position.

8. 0-0 0-0 9. Bxc6 bxc6 10. f3 f6

Again a known second best move. Better is 10... Ng5.

11. fxe4 fxes 12. Rxf8+ Qxf8 13. Be3 exd4


Black has the bishop vs. knight for the endgame, but his pawn structure is just too weak to hold the draw.


The semifinal round was naturally much rougher. Six zip results would be as scarce as fool’s mates. Corky Schakel managed the sweep in the first semifinal in a field of four masters and three experts. Class A player Humberto Cruz (soon to be master) did the same trick in his section consisting of two class A players, one master and four experts. Expert Ivica Mikic faced five experts and a 1999 player in equalling Schakel’s and Cruz’s feat. And expert Ivica Mikic faced five experts and a 1999 player. Roy Tate was the fourth and last class A player, who was the lowest rated player by 200 points in his section of three masters and three experts.

These four had to be considered favorites going into the final round, but early perfect scores do not necessarily make a champion. The final rounds are the real test.

Sicilian Defense (B20)

Mike Decker (2307)

Edgardo Limayo (2319)

1998 Golden Knights semifinal

1. e4 c5 2. g3 d5 3. exd5 Qxd5 4. Nf3

Emanuel Lasker recommended 4. Qc2? here, but such an early exchange of queens didn’t have many adherents.

4 ... Bg4 5. Bg2 Qe6 6. Kf1 Nc6 7. h3 Bh5 8. Nc3 Nf6

Players often play 8... Qd7 here with fair results for White. Limayo has an entirely different idea for this game.

9. d3 0-0-0

Both positions look awkward here Black’s queen looks like a target and his king is airy. White’s king obstructs his own kingside development.

10. g4

Worth investigating is a plan of Be3 and Kg1 h2.

10 ... Bg6 11. Be3 h5!

Of course! The white king’s wing has been compromised by g3 g4 and Black looks to open it up.

12. g5 Nd7 13. Nh4 Qd6

After 13... Nd4 White would continue 14. b4! with chances for both sides. Limayo’s plan is to safeguard both king and queen before continuing his king side action.


Pawn hunting here looks like the wrong idea and Limayo quickly proves it is.


After 20. f4 g6 21. Be2 Nf7 Black has compensation for his material in the fragile shielding around White’s king.


White stands three pawns ahead but his a1 rook and knight couldn’t be farther from their king. White has had his day; now it is Black’s turn.


Black is doing well after 28. Nc4 Rxc4! 29. dxc4 Re8.


Dutch Defense (A80)

James Fisher (2322)

Corky Schakel (2337)

1998 Golden Knights semifinal


Fisher chooses to leave the books early with this advance. His plan is intriguing: he intends to sacrifice a pawn for a dangerous passed b pawn.

6 ... Be7 7. 0-0-0

Schakel immediately begins a counterattack on the White queenside claim. If left alone, Fisher will back up his c5 pawn with advantage.

8. b4 a5

Rightfully so. Black’s plan has the appearance of taking advantage of White’s c5 advance as White cannot maintain his c5 pawn but Fisher has another goal.

9. Qa4+ Bd7 10. b5! bxc5 11. dxc5 Bxc5 12. Bb2 c6

Schakel eliminates his one weakness the backward c pawn and we get to see the strengths and weaknesses of Fisher’s plan more clearly.


White is down a pawn, and both sides have a protected passed pawn, but White’s b pawn is free to advance while the c4 pawn is thoroughly blockaded. White’s rooks have power, but Black’s only have defense. But ultimately in analyzing this position, Black has the advantage in the center where he has a mobile pawn mass. It is a game made for a championship confusing, complicated, and challenging with a winner take all attitude.

18 ... Ne4 19. b6 Qb7 20. Nxe4 fx4 21. Ne5 Nc6 22. Nxc6 Bxc6

The game revolves about the e5 square whoever wins that square will dominate the play.

23. Bg4

Capturing the a5 pawn leads nowhere for White 23. Qd2 Bc5 24. Bxa5 Qa6 25. Bc3 Bxb6 and the dangerous b pawn is gone.

Fireworks fail! 27. Qe5 Bxa4 28. Rxa4 Qxa4 29. Bxe6+ Kh8 30. b7 Rab8 31. Qxd5 c3 and the c pawn is decisive.

27. ... Qd6 28. Rd2 Rad8 29. Ra2 e5

And so the Black pawn mass begins to move and will sweep all away before it.

30. Qc3 Qc5 31. b7 Rb8 32. Bc8 Re7 33. Rd2 b4 34. exd4 exd4 35. Qg3 Qe5 36. Qxe5 Rxe5 37. Rb6 Rc5

Everything holds together and White is powerless against the black pawns. The rest is just careful shepherding of the passed pawns to their goal by Schakel.

38. Be6+ Kf8 39. Rxc6 Rxc6 40. Bd5 Rd6 41. Rxe4 d3 42. Kf1 c4 43. h4 Rb8 44. f3 Rd7 45. f4...

... Black has two problems here: the b4 pawn and the e7 pawn. These would be fatal if it were not for the bishop on b3 being bad. White is better, but strong play by Black will hold the ending.

29. Qxd4 Qb7 20. h4 Rc7 21. h5 Qxb4

Black has no interest in an endgame, but Black is quite equal here.

30. Qc3 Qc5 31. b7 Rb8 32. Bc8 Re7 33. Rd2 Rfe8 34. Bc4 Bd7 35. f4... White chooses simplification toward an endgame, but Black is quite equal here.

31. ... d6 32. Be6+ Kh8 33. b7 Rb8 34. Bd5 Rd6 35. c4+ Kf8, Draw agreed.

White has no forced breakthrough.

The final results were brutal there. Section 1 had Corky Schakel, John Burton, Bleys Rose and Bert Kuiper, all rated above 2300. Two other masters, Michael DuBoy and Christopher Reeves added to the strength, and Dale Crutchley at 1874 would not be easy.

Section 2 saw five masters: Roy Tate (yes, his rating had gone up 296 points since the preliminaries), Fred Aversa, Jeff Snedeger, John Burton (again) and Edgardo Limayo. Two experts, Ivica Mikic and Humberto Cruz (a 127 point increase) rounded out section 2.

Section 3 found six masters: Robert Rizzo, Chuck Cullum, John Burton (again!), Patrick Ryan, Lars Pedersen, and Gerald Weiner crossing swords. The lone expert was Faraday Strock.

Section 4 had five masters, an expert and a class A player. Unfortunately this was the unlucky section. Master Gardner Johnson and class A player John Mese died during the final. Jim Musumeci had to withdraw. That left Peter Cullen, Ray mond Smith, John Burton (again!) and Douglas Werner to fight it out for a top spot.

Section 5 completed the finals with six masters and an expert. Robert Keating (the defending champion), James Fisher, Gardner Johnson (did not complete a game), Abe Wilson, Barry Endsay, Jim Skeels, and expert Christopher Ward rounded out the event. John Burton was not in this section.

Sicilian Defense,
Yugoslav Attack (B78)

John Burton (2468)
Peter Cullen (2364)
1998 Golden Knights final

The final results were brutal there were no prefect scores. Peter Cullen finished in third place money with an overall score of 15½ 2½ (37.85 in weighted totals), John Burton had another remark able tournament finishing second, third, fourth, and seventh, but as he was eligible for only one money prize, John took second place (41.25 best weighted total). The winner added to his considerable resume, Corky Schakel with two perfect rounds and 5 1 in the final for a 17 1 overall (41.70) and the first prize money and title of 1998 Golden Knights champion.

As a historical note, though this was Corky Schakel’s tournament, John Burton’s achievements were for the record books. John entered four sections of the 1998 Golden Knights and scored 6 0, 5½ ½ and 6 0 in the preliminary rounds, 4 2 (one loss, highest score in section), 5½ ½, 5 1 (one loss) and 5½ ½ in his semifinal sections, and undefeated in the finals, he finished 4½ 1½, 5½ ½, 5 1, and 5 1 for an aggregate score of 63½ 8½.

The winner of the 1998 Golden Knights has now won both of the USCF’s most prestigious CC titles, the Golden Knights and the Absolute Championship. Corky Schakel, of Lakeland, Minnesota, born June 30, 1944, finished third in the 1992 Golden Knights, and tied for first in the 2003 Absolute (with Wesley Brandhorst). He has received his International Correspondence Chess Master (ICCM) title, and has become the U.S. secretary for the International Correspondence Chess Federation. After these successes, Corky just went on to score more: He finished first all alone in the 2004 Absolute and now first place in the 1998 Golden Knights. Congratulations, Corky!

2000 Golden Knights

The 2000 Golden Knights was not as large or as strong as the 1998 event, but it was just as ferociously contested. There were 546 entries rated from 2403 to unrated. There were thirty masters competing (no duplicate entries counted) and among these masters were players who were used to winning. In alphabetical order some of the contestants were Walter Brower, who would show his great strength in the 2006 Absolute; John Burton, who had finished first or second in the last three Golden Knights, rated at 2403, had to be considered the favorite again this year; Gordon Evertt, who dur ing the course of this event would play in five USCF Absolute tournaments; Gardner Johnson, the Pennsylvania state correspondence champion of 1990; Robert Keating, who had won back to back Golden Knights in 1995 and 1996; Michael Mays, a member of the winning 1992 USCF team championship Carson’s 4; Corky Schakel who had finished third in 1992 and first in 1998, and who would garner Absolute titles in 2003 and 2004 along with an ICCM title, had to be considered a strong favorite.

Among the non masters at the starting line were a number of players who would make their mark on the correspondence
Correspondence Chess

chess pages. Among them was Claude Bloodgood. Bloodgood died early during the course of the tournament (August 4, 2001). Claude was convicted of murdering his mother, sentenced to death, later had his sentence reduced to life imprisonment, gained permission to attend a chess tournament while in prison, escaped, and was later recaptured. Back in prison Claude continued to play chess, both over the board (OTB) and postal. A further controversy arose when Claude played many, many tournament games against fellow inmates at Powhatan prison. With a closed system, and Claude the strongest player, his USCF OTB rating soared to 2712, second only to Gata Kamsky’s 2789. In the USCF postal world Bloodgood’s rating was a more realistic 2028. Since then the USCF has taken measures to prevent closed system rating inflation.

Starting in the 2000 Golden Knights was also a 1600 player, William Jempty, Jr. William would be the first player to break the 1,000 rated games mark on the new (at that time) computerized rating system. His 1,000th CC game came in mid 2008, meaning William was averaging 120 finished games a year during the course of the 2000 Golden Knights and pushed his rating from 1600 to over 2200. Unfortunately, William had to withdraw from the chess battles this year to turn his attention to his battle with cancer. I speak for the correspondence chess community, many of whom have played Bill, to wish him a successful fight.

On January 12, 2000, the postcards started moving. The 2000 Golden Knights would prove very tough to the established masters. Of the 30 masters who started the tournament, only nine managed a perfect 6 scores. These nine, in rating order, were Bleys Rose, Del McClure, Bruce Johnson, Thomas Green, Karl Diebler, Mark Larzelere, Wesley Gales, Terry Tuohy, and Dana Daves. In the group of perfect scores, Glenn Ruiz (1941) was the only entrant to make the score twice. He was one of seven class A players to accomplish the feat (a 6 0 score), but the record was held by Sautchay Chareunsack with a 1496 rating.

Closely following with 5½ ½ scores were some illustrious names Abe Wilson, Gordon Everitt, John Burton, James Fisher, John Blood, Robert Keating, and Gardner Johnson (who also had a 6 0 result) and, oh yes Corky Schakel who had a draw with William Jempty.

King’s Indian Defense,
Fianchetto Variation (E68)
William Jempty (1608)
John Burton (2403)
2000 Golden Knights preliminary


After 17. ... f6

Burton’s strategy is akin to the hedgehog here find good squares for his pieces and let White overextend. That is what happens on Jempty’s next move. Reasonable now is 18. Qd2 with the idea of pressuring d6 with equality.


Black’s position is quite safe while White has problems on the kingside and the queenside.

20. Kh2 a3 21. b3

White had to take the a3 pawn that now is but two squares from queening.

21. ... Ne6 22. Be3 f5

Problems on the kingside, problems on the queenside, and now problems in the center. Burton masters the whole board.


The culmination of Black’s strategy White’s queenside falls apart.


The semifinal consisted of 22 sections, but only five players, John Burton, Dana Daves, Wayne Pressnall, James Wood, and Gardner Johnson would make perfect scores. That left three players leading the pack with 12 0: Dana Daves, James Wood and Gardner Johnson. There was a healthy crowd of 5½ ½ scores in this round to keep the players in contention.

Gardner Johnson had two such results, (Gardner and Javy Gwaltney III both qualified three times to the final. No one else made it even twice.) Closely following them were Chuck Cullum, John Blood, Tom Green, Wesley Gales, Robert Keating, Brian Stewart, Guido Stueber, and Abe Wilson.

Some of the muscle got cut when Larzelere, Everitt, Schakel, and Tuohy all ended up in the same section with three strong experts, and no one made better than a 4½ ½ score.

TWO NEW US CC TITLISTS!

At the September 2008 International Correspondence Chess Federation (ICCF) Congress in Pleven, Bulgaria, the ICCF bestowed international titles upon two Americans. Michael Proof of Riverside, California for his performance on board 3 at the Ninth Panamerican Team Championship was granted both the international master (IM) and senior international master (SIM) title. Michael exceeded the norm for the SIM title a week after his IM confirmation came through.

Joining a select group of seven other Americans (four native born, three adopted citizens) who have earned the title, Dan Fleetwood of Brentwood, Tennessee has become the eighth to claim the title of international correspondence grandmaster. Dan earned his title by playing on boards three and one in the 14th and 15th International Correspondence Chess Olympiads respectively during the last five years. He also finished tied for seventh in the finals of the 18th World Championship.

Reti Opening (A0S)
Steven Brosnan (1670)
Gary Adams (2267)
2000 Golden Knights semifinal

1. Nf3 Nf6 2. g3 g6 3. b4

What to call this opening? Santasiere’s Folly Deferred is one name. ECO’s name is probably best: A05. If this is an attempt to get the well booked Gary Adams into unfamiliar territory, it doesn’t work.

3. ... Bg7 4. Bb2 0-0 5. Bg2 d6 6. 0-0 e5 7. d3 Nbd7 8. Nbd2 Re8 9. c4 c6 10. Qc2 a5 11. a3 d5

Adams makes a bid for center play here. Previously played has been 11. ... Qb6 12. Bc3 axb4 13. axb4 Rxa1 14. Rxa1 d5 as in Morzov Minakev, USSR 1991, which led to an equal game for Black.

12. e4 dxe4 13. dxe4 b6 14. c5!

White has an ambitious plan but he overextends his position.

14. ... Bxc5 15. Nc4 Ba6 16. Nfxe5?

White needed to try the ugly 16. bxa5 here, but Black is better.
The final round of the 2000 Golden Knights had six sections, five of the six had an average rating in the 2200s the sixth had four masters, two experts and one of the two surviving class A players for a 2161 average. The finals lasted from September 2005 to June 2008 when the last game finished. In any event that lasts nearly ten years, there are always some losses. Gardner Johnson, Jr. died during the finals. Both Dana Daves and James Wood faltered at the end with Daves losing to John Burton and James Wood dropping two to Gary Adams and Wayne Pressnall. That left the field open to the best finisher, and that was Abe Wilson whose 6 0 score was scored against three masters, two experts, and the other remaining class A player.

Abe L. Wilson was born August 6, 1947 in Hawaii. While attending the University of Hawaii, he joined the Hawaiian Telephone Company and remained with them until he retired at age 55 in 2002 with almost 37 years of service. Abe notes that after retiring at an early age was a blessing as he now enjoys very much spending all his time with his wife Chie (a retired jeweler), attending daily mass, working on his chess, practicing tai chi, and helping his wife with her Internet used book business.

Wilson just can’t give his pieces away fast enough, but the knight is taboo as 31. Qxd6 Bxd5 leaves too many threats. How ever, 31. Nxd5 appears to hold. 31. Bc4 Bxf5 32. Rf1 Qc2 33. Bxa6 d3 34. Kg1 Qb2 35. g4 Be4 36. Rf2 Qa1+ 37. Kg2 Bxf3+ 38. Rxf3 Re2+ 39. Rxf2 Qa3+ 40. Ke1 g5 41. Kf2 Qf3+ 42. Kg3 Qe2+ 43. Kh4 Qg4+ 44. Kf2 Qe2+ 45. Kg1 Qa1+ 46. Kg2 d2 47. Qxd6 g6 48. Qb8+ Kg7 49. Qb2+ Kh6 50. Qd4 d1=Q, White resigned.

The top ten finishers in order of their finish are Abe Wilson, John Burton, Gary Adams, 4th 5th tie Wesley Gales, Guido Stueber, Robert Keating, Javy Gwaltney, Gerald Weiner, Chuck Cullum and James Wood. [ ]

Download a .pgn file of all the games in this issue at uschess.org.

**ABE WILSON 2000 GOLDEN KNIGHTS CHAMPION**

Abe L. Wilson was born August 6, 1947 in Hawaii. While attending the University of Hawaii, he joined the Hawaiian Telephone Company and remained with them until he retired at age 55 in 2002 with almost 37 years of service. Abe notes that after retiring at an early age was a blessing as he now enjoys very much spending all his time with his wife Chie (a retired jeweler), attending daily mass, working on his chess, practicing tai chi, and helping his wife with her Internet used book business.

Abe was very taken with chess as a child. After learning the moves, he proceeded to lose almost every game he played with the neighbor kids and his older brother. Growing up, he would hear once in awhile about this fascinating idea of playing chess long distance, either by mail or as some did then by ham radio. This was it, he thought, one day he would like to try this!

In 1987 his wife Chie encouraged him to get involved with USCF correspondence chess (CC), and he did. After carefully studying *Bobby Fischer Teaches Chess*, Abe enrolled in the 1987 Golden Knights. Despite a few losses, he continued to play, enrolling in one section of each year’s Golden Knights tournament. Continually progressing, he finished fifth in the 1995 Golden Knights, and fifth again in the 1996 tournament, and became a correspondence master in 1999.

Abe believes that chess is more than a game, it is a way of life, a lifelong pursuit. He likes to think he plays chess with the Aloha Spirit, loving the game and the people, giving both the best he can give. Abe is a true chess “specialist”! He never plays over the board, but thinks he should as it would probably improve his game. Some opponents have asked him how to become a master, and he tells them “Keep on playing, keep on studying, learn from your mistakes, and never give up!”

Those ambitious CC players wishing to emulate Abe and his 2000 Golden Knights victory might note that he scored 5½ ½ in the preliminary round, 5½ ½ in the semifinal round and then really turned on the Pacific heat in the final round with a 6 0 sweep which would be a 2700 performance rating.

After Abe’s outstanding victory in the 2000 Golden Knights he has expanded his play to both the USCF Absolute and international play. I am sure you will hear more about Abe Wilson and his islands in the future. ~AD
The Sixth Annual All-Girls Open National Championships
April 24 – 26, 2009 – Dallas, Texas

Awards
The University of Texas at Dallas, www.utdallas.edu, has established an Academic Distinction Scholarship to the winner of the 18-years-old and younger section. The scholarship is valued at $80,000 for an out-of-state student.

Trophies to top 15 individuals and top 3 teams in each section. 3 or more players from the same school to make a team (top 3 scores added to give team final standings). Every player receives a souvenir medal.

Special Appearance by Anna Zatonskih
Reigning U.S. Women’s Champion,
WGM Anna Zatonskih is two-time U.S. Women’s Champion, Member of US Olympiad Women’s team since 2004, Silver medalist of the 2004 World Chess Olympiad.

Main Event
Saturday, April 25
9:00 AM–Opening Ceremony
Rounds 1–4:
9:30–11:30 AM; 12:00–2:00 PM;
3:00–5:00 PM; 5:30–7:30 PM

Sunday, April 26
Rounds 5–6:
9:00–11:00 AM;
11:30 AM–1:30 PM;
2:30 PM–Closing Ceremony

Entry Fee
$45 if postmarked by March 25th,
$70 on-site. USCF membership required.
All events will be hosted at Hyatt Regency Dallas at Reunion Blvd.

Side Events
Friday, April 24
3:00 PM–Blitz Tournament (G/5)
$15 if postmarked by March 25,
$25 on-site.
5:00 PM Bughouse Tournament,
$25 per team.
7:00 PM–Simultaneous Exhibition by
WGM Anna Zatonskih.
Please bring clocks for all the events.
Chess sets and score sheets provided for the Main and Side Events.

6-SS, G/60, Sections
• 8-years-old and younger
• 10-years-old and younger
• 12-years-old and younger
• 14-years-old and younger
• 16-years-old and younger
• 18-years-old and younger

Entry & Info
Make check payable to:
Dallas Chess Club
Attn: Barbara Swafford
2709 Longhorn Trail
Crowley, TX 76036
Tel: (214) 632-9000

Online registration
www.active.com/event_detail.cfm?event_id=1643715
www.kasparovchessfoundation.org

Hotel
Hyatt Regency Dallas at Reunion Blvd.
300 Reunion Blvd., Dallas, TX 75207
Hotel Chess Rate: $109
(up to 4 people per room)
if reserved by April 1, 2009
Hotel Reservations: Please call
(800) 233-1234 or (214) 651-1234
Kasparov Chess Foundation’s mission is to bring the many educational benefits of chess throughout the United States by providing a complete chess curriculum and enrichment programs.

For more information about Kasparov Chess Foundation’s programs, please visit us at www.KasparovChessFoundation.org

Or email us at info@kasparovchessfoundation.org

Kasparov Chess Foundation is a not-for-profit 501 (c) (3) educational organization Supported by charitable donations from concerned individuals, private foundations and corporate sponsors.
From Russian jail cell to a simul in New York City, Kasparov continues to live a life of epic proportions.

Act I

I'm standing in a doorway, seeking refuge from a rain that leaves the Harlem street dark and foreboding. A man approaches, his hands reaching to his overcoat, proudly revealing ... a vintage K vs. K (Karpov vs. Kasparov) World Championship t-shirt? Yes, Garry Kasparov is in town. Inside the Harlem Children's Zone, the boards and pieces are all laid out. Balloons festoon the tables, overlooked by a glassed skittles room not unlike a surgical theater. But where is the surgeon?

Outside, I feel like a paparazzi as local New York chess celebrities arrive. Park blitz legend "J. P. Morgan," aka Morgan ski, aka Morganov, aka whatever Slavicised name Morgan has thought up that week.

"Ever meet Kasparov?" I ask.

"Yes, in '92 and again in '94."
The previous exposure doesn’t appear to have dampened Morgan’s enthusiasm; he positions his tall frame in a key spot so that he will miss nothing of the upcoming chess hostilities.

Chess Life contributor Elizabeth Vicary makes the scene. IM Yury Lapshun uses his frame to its advantage as well, staking out a few square feet at the entrance to the gymnasium.

Proud parent Derek Bryant is doing double duty, preparing the staff and facility for a long day of chess, while also preparing his twin boys, Nigel and Jehron, for their upcoming match with Kasparov.

“The kids are over the moon. A lot of these kids just got back from the girls’ nationals, where they did extraordinarily well. They are ready.”

Just in case, Jerald Times, the chess coach of the Harlem Children’s Zone, made sure the students knew what they were getting into. “I’ll tell you, this guy, I told them that while Fischer probably had the best hardware in terms of brain power, Kasparov had the best software, the way he prepared himself to play.”

Times fills us in on chess at the Harlem Children’s Zone. “Our program in Harlem is a community based program; we cover a 100 block area in Harlem. We use chess to teach life skills; our proudest achievement has been lifting many of our students from title I schools to gifted and talented programs.”

“My program in Harlem is a community based program; we cover a 100 block area in Harlem. We use chess to teach life skills; our proudest achievement has been lifting many of our students from title I schools to gifted and talented programs.”

“Today,” Times went on, “we are proud to partner with the Kasparov Foundation to have what we call a chess festival—a ‘party for chess.’”

Indeed, it is a festive, loud crowd. Crossgen Chess founder Renee Yarzig runs up to me, “He’s already here!” I hurry down and join Yury, who attempts to catch me up on 1,000 years of Russian history in preparation for my anticipated interview with Kasparov. He’s only gotten to maybe Boris Yeltsin when suddenly a presidential blue suited former world champion strides into the room.

Bursting into applause, the room parts for Garry Kasparov as he strides towards the ring of chess tables, flanked by Kasparov Chess Foundation (KCF) President Michael Khodorkovsky and real estate tycoon Stanley Druckenmiller, sponsors of the day’s festivities.

An introduction from Harlem Children’s Zone President Geofrey Canada points out that the Clintons had spoken here, that Prince Charles had spoken here, but “never a more world famous person than Garry Kasparov.”

Kasparov takes the microphone and addresses the children seated at their chess boards.

“Years ago when I was a child your age, I also had a chance to play in a simul with a world champion [Botvinnik]. I am now quite a bit older, but I still remember that day like it was yesterday. I hope that you too will have fond memories of this event, and maybe we have a future world champion in our midst.”

While asking the students to “enjoy the game,” Kasparov’s look and voice turn grave: “but don’t expect an easy round.”

Indeed, Kasparov’s transformation from smiling, good natured man to “chess assassin” is still remarkable after all these years, all these games. As he adjusts each piece meticulously, the eyebrows seem to sprout, the eyes beneath dance along with the first pawns, alternating d4 and e4.

Now I’ve had the good luck to play in simuls against Susan Polgar, Maurice Ashley, and Irina Krush in the last year. This simul was remarkable in the care, the time Kasparov spent on each game. While the others are listed in the order they polished off 30 games, from Polgar’s zippy two hours to Krush’s three, Kasparov spent over four hours on these 20 games!

And serious. No chit chat. Hair pulls, dramatic slouches, puzzled astonishment— all the classic Kasparov humanity that first inspired the world during the K vs. K days. The chess players in the room are crowding the boards, trying to catch a glimpse of the games as security tries to keep them back.

I get a chance to thank Druckenmiller for his financial support of the event. “Don’t thank me, thank Garry!”

A defeated twin (Jehron), leaves the circle. “How was it?” I ask sympathetically.

“Kasparov: “A lot of damage has been done to democracy in Russia. But I am hopeful!”

PHOTOS: C. K. DAMROSCH

“I’ll tell you, this guy, I told them that while Fischer probably had the best hardware in terms of brain power, Kasparov had the best software ...”

— JERALD TIMES

uschess.org
Mr. Mustard in the library with the lead pipe?

I’m waiting for Garry Kasparov in the library. I have selected a chair that allows me control of the central table. My steno pad and pen are at the ready. The board and pieces are imaginary, but the world’s highest rated chess player is not as he bursts through the double doors. Michael Khodorkovsky introduces me, and Kasparov sits down at the chair next to me.

“Yes, please Mr. Kasparov, have a seat; you’ve had a long day!” I offer. The simul has lasted over four hours.

“I’ve had longer days,” Kasparov states with a world weary irony.

“Especially lately…”

“Yes!” Kasparov admits with a warmer smile, “especially lately.”

Just weeks earlier, the great world champion was imprisoned in his native Russia, effectively ending his bid to challenge Vladimir Putin for the presidency.

I push over a photo and ask, “Have you seen this picture before?”

“No.” Garry peers at the photo. “What is it?”

“It’s an Associated Press photo of a chess club that was partially destroyed in Georgia during the recent Russian invasion.”

Kasparov’s face hardens.

“Do you have a reaction to it?”

The characteristic screwing of the face, the tension of the chess board returns.

“It’s a psychological shock,” Garry admits. “We are used to images of war from Baghdad, Fellujah ... but this, this is not ‘just somewhere.’

“No, and the chess players in the photo picking up the pieces seem like the players at anyone’s local club. I feel like I know them.” I add.

“Yes, I know them too.” He pauses, reminiscing. “You know I played there in the 70’s. I became junior national champion in Tbilisi [capital of Georgia]. No, this is not ‘just somewhere.’ This is not a war you just see in the newspapers; it is a horrible situation. I hate to say ‘I told you so,’ but this is Vladimir Putin’s Russia showing its true colors.”

Indeed Kasparov has been warning anyone who would listen about the state of the state of Russia, ruled by a man Kasparov describes as a mere “KGB Lieutenant Colonel.”

“The situation in Russia,” Garry continues, “increasingly resembles Munich in ’38.”

“Is it really that grave?” I ask.

“No. No. It’s not that bad. But the idea of appeasement applies here as it did then. A lot of damage has been done to democracy in Russia. But I am hopeful! Eventually we will build this back into Russian society; it’s not too late.”

In my research, I am amazed at the lengths pro Putin forces went to embarrass Kasparov. The most glaring and juvenile (but not for juveniles) example can be found on a search engine by typing “Kasparov Flying Robotic.”

“I’m just an American, but I lived through the Cold War, and it seems to me that the government in Russia was doing everything they could in a classic, KGB style way to get you off your game, put you on tilt, humiliate you. My question is, surely if these dirty tricks are apparent to an American, does n’t Russian society instantly recognize these tactics and their origins? They don’t care if people know. It’s all ‘risk assessment’ to them. Russia is making an enormous amount of money, and will do what it takes to protect it. That is actually the good news! They have no ideological leanings. In the old ideological days, it was tanks, guns, and missiles. Now in today’s Russia, it’s oil, gas, and cash.”

The other Russians in the room grunt in agreement.

“Moving on to some chess. I grew up playing nothing but the

Kasparov

“Hard.”

“Scary hard, or fun hard?”

He smiles, “Fun hard.”

One game in particular is drawing 10 minute thinks. After the simul concluded (20 0), Kasparov admitted this was the most interesting game.

“It is hard in a event like this if you want to go undefeated with no draws, so I felt the need to be very careful. Also, I wanted to allow the students to share the spotlight, but the game with this young lady was fascinating.”

The young lady in question was 13 year old Rochelle Ballantyne. Confident and unyielding under the penetrating stare of the world champion, Ballantyne, fresh off her own championship of the under 14 class of the KCF All Girl’s National Championshp (see August Chess Life), showed us all how its done.

Act II

Getting an interview with Kasparov is like a cold war spy drama. His consigliere though, beckons me over.

“Meet us in the library in five minutes.”

As I ascend the empty industrial staircase to a tiny room, I feel like I am in a game not of chess, but of Clue; is it to be mean?
little primitive chess computers that came out in the late 70’s, early 80’s. I used to get them from that old catalog, DAK Industries.”

Gary groans. “Yes, I remember.”

“Now, at that time, you were the face of computer chess. You were sponsored for a while by Saitek, and for a time it seemed like every chess computer was a Kasparov model. Cut to now, 30 years later, and you’ve become the symbol of man’s resistance to computers, as a result of the Deep Blue matches. Do you ever sit back and think of that arc and are you comfortable in your role as defender of humanity against the machine?”

“I see chess and computers as a natural development. It’s a climate change, a new environment. I have no animosity towards their development.”

“Plus,” I add, “it will always be fun for two humans to sit down and play a game of chess.”

“Of course. Now IBM totally abused that situation, but if it was done in a different manner, man vs. machine might actually be a very interesting event.”

“I sense some regret in some of your statements that you weren’t able to unify the world chess championship title.”

Kasparov’s face darkens. “I’m a bit upset. I’m upset I wasn’t able to put the right players together to unify the title. But you know, it’s a vicious circle. An event like that needs proper sponsorship, commercial sponsorship, and this was never able to be procured. I hear noises that the top players are still frustrated by the lack of corporate sponsorship. In this way, nothing has changed in 20 years. It is frustrating.

“Even the upcoming Kramnik/Anand match,” Gary continues, “there is no commercial money sponsoring that match. Instead, the money ‘smells.’ Chess will never get bigger until it is funded from commercial sources.”

“As for dividing the title, I take responsibility for my ‘wrong moves.’ But after twenty frustrating years of struggle ...”

“... you’ve done your part,” I finish.

“I did what I could do.”

“Finally Mr. Kasparov, I would like to say as an attacking player myself, I’ve always admired your statement that in the beginning of your career you attacked because it was all you knew, but that later you attacked because you knew it was the best approach. Now everyone likes to make very tortured chess analogies between your political campaign and chess, but don’t you worry that taking your chessic personality into politics neglects your own safety?”

“No that is wrong. It is not about "attacking” anyone, it is about fixing Russia.”

“But Garry, it is not a game!” I interrupt.

“You’re right, it is more than a game. We are in survival mode now in Russia. But people keep saying we are losing this game ...”

“It seems like you only have a pawn right now ...”

“No! We are NOT dead meat. I admit the Georgian catastrophe is disheartening. But the game is not that dire. For one thing, I am a very public figure, anything like that would only reinforce their negative image. The West has a history of bipartisan support for Putin, that needs to end.”

Garry draws himself up and pronounces, “The regime will not stop until it is stopped.”

With a dismissive wave of the hand, the interview is over. I can’t help a final, genuine note of concern.

“Play safe out there, OK?”

Garry smiles and shakes my hand, “Don’t worry, I will.”
Volunteer of the Month: Shane Samole

Shane Samole is the founder of the Sidney Samole Chess Museum, named after his father, which serves as the home of the magnificent World Chess Hall of Fame, located at 13755 SW 119th Avenue in Miami, Florida.

Games have been synonymous with the Samole family for years. His late father, Sidney, was credited with inventing the first commercial electronic chess game in the 1970s after watching an episode of the show Star Trek. This has turned into a business venture. Sidney Samole founded Fidelity Electronics, which produced the Chess Challenger computer until he sold the company in the late 1980s.

Shane earned a business degree from the University of Miami School of Business. He later completed graduate level coursework in business and marketing while attending Harvard University.

He chose to follow his father’s footsteps. Today, Shane is the president of Excalibur Electronics in Miami, Florida, a company which he founded in 1992 with a $25,000 loan from his father. Since then, the company has grown to become the world’s largest manufacturer of electronic chess products.

In 2005, he received the prestigious Entrepreneur of the Year award for the category of manufacturing and distribution from Ernst & Young.

Excalibur Electronics currently markets over 500 different affordable consumer products at just about every major retail outlet in North America.

Even with big success in business, Shane’s passion for chess remains. Not only does he love to play the game, he has also been one of the most generous patrons to the game we love. This is evident by the World Chess Hall of Fame and the Sidney Samole Chess Museum, and so much more. Shane has served for a number of years on the U.S. Chess Trust board. He is currently its president.

For his commitment and generosity to chess, I am proud to name my friend Shane Samole as the USCF Volunteer of the Month for December. On behalf of our chess community, thank you Shane for all your contributions to chess!

~GM Susan Polgar

Call for Nominations

The U.S. Chess Federation (USCF) will hold an election in 2009 for four at large positions on the USCF executive board. Each position is for a period of four years.

Any current USCF member who is not a current USCF employee or designated contractor (see the USCF bylaws for those definitions) can be nominated as a candidate for election to the USCF executive board.

Nominations must be by petitions containing the signatures of 30 or more voting members of the USCF and by a filing fee of $250 payable to the U.S. Chess Federation. The petition to nominate a candidate and the filing fee must be received at the USCF office in Tennessee by Monday, January 12, 2009. (Send nominations and the filing fee to Cheryle Bruce, U.S. Chess Federation, P.O. Box 3967, Crossville, TN 38557 3967.)

The nomination petitions must contain the dated signatures, printed names and USCF IDs of each voting member, and should contain the following text: We, the undersigned, being voting members of the U.S. Chess Federation, nominate (candidate name goes here) as a candidate for election to the USCF executive board in the 2009 election. We also consent to having our names and USCF IDs published as having signed this petition. A sample nomination form will be made available on the USCF website.

Candidates must consent to be on the ballot, either by signing their own nominating petition or by a separate notice to the USCF.

A voting member for this election is any current USCF member whose membership ship as of April 30, 2009, expires on or after June 30, 2009, and who will be age 16 or older by June 30, 2009.

Ballots will be distributed to voting members around June 1st and will be counted in July. The terms will begin at the conclusion of the 2009 delegates’ meeting and will run through the conclusion of the 2013 delegates’ meeting. For further information, see the USCF website, uschess.org.

~Mike Nolan, USCF election committee

The USCF Mission

USCF is a not-for-profit membership organization devoted to extending the role of chess in American society. USCF promotes the study and knowledge of the game of chess, for its own sake as an art and enjoyment, but also as a means for the improvement of society. It informs, educates, and fosters the development of players (professional and amateur) and potential players. It encourages the development of a network of institutions devoted to enhancing the growth of chess, from local clubs to state and regional associations, and it promotes chess in American society. To these ends, USCF offers a monthly magazine, as well as targeted publications to its members and others. It supervises the organization of the U.S. Chess Championship, an open tournament held every summer, and other national events. It offers a wide range of books and services to its members and others at prices consistent with the benefits of its members. USCF serves as the governing body for chess in the United States and as a participant in international chess organizations and projects. It is structured to ensure effective democratic procedures in accord with its bylaws and laws of the state of Illinois.
Ending the adult member decline

A major USCF problem has long been declining adult membership. With the rise of the Internet in the 1990s, we lost players to online play and magazine readers to websites. Adult membership peaked 8/1/95 at 33,075, but dropped steadily to 25,415 on 1/1/03. Dues were unwisely raised from $40 to $49 effective 1/03, and in 14 months, Adult memberships plummeted to 22,070. A special rate for new and long expired members was instituted March 2004 and slowed the decline, but by 8/06 when Youth membership was renamed Young Adult and its age limit changed from Under 20 to Under 25, we were down to 20,000.

In June 2006, our website was redesigned and improved. It became not just a USCF info site, but also an interesting place for games, analysis and recent American chess news, presented by WGM Jennifer Shahade. The paper Chess Life was also improved and a free online version offered, later restricted to members. And since October 2006, the cost of Adult dues has been well below $49 if paid online.

These changes appear to have stopped the Adult membership decline. On 10/31/08 we had 18,924 Adult members, 1,076 less than 8/1/06, but considering the redefined age limit, we have actually gained age 25/over adults in the past two years. And in the last six months (May through October), a slow season in which Adults usually decline by at least 400, we lost only 10 Adult members, the best result for this period since 1994.

Overall membership has also stabilized. When all dues were raised effective 1/1/03, USCF had 94,937 members, but by 10/31/05 had dropped to 80,519, a decline of over 15%. On 10/31/08 the total was 80,799, a slight gain over three years. The past year has shown a decline of 1,353—though these are mostly high school players; maybe the economy is hurting support for high school chess programs. Chess Life for Kids began in 2006, is our best scholastic publication ever, helping membership totals with younger kids.

Financial problems

Our fiscal year begins June 1, and the seasonally worst months are June through September, so early each year we report several hundred thousand in losses, and cries of “bankruptcy” appear on Internet discussion groups. As the year progresses, our finances improve and there is no disaster. In fiscal 2006 7, various posters predicted losses of $200,000 to $300,000, but we wound up with a small profit.

In 2007 8 we again heard forecasts of doom, but this time due to extraordinary circumstances the best we could do was a loss of $74,000. Most of this deficit can be attributed to unusually high legal expenses, auditor fees (to update the employees’ profit sharing plan; it was found that contributions were needed for 1999 and 2002), and losses on Life Member Asset Committe investments.

Legal cases are expensive

USCF has incurred substantial legal expense related to the issue of whether a current executive board member made defamatory and obscene anonymous postings, impersonating a former board member and others, on an Internet newsgroup. USCF, most of its executive board, and others have also been sued for libel, slander and defamation for $25,000,000 by a different current executive board member. In my opinion, this lawsuit has no factual basis. For information regarding all USCF lawsuits, see http://www.kronenbergerlaw.com/case documents.html

New membership categories

Even without unusual expenses, USCF was struggling to break even, so we raised dues for memberships with magazine by $1 for adults, $6 to $8 for most other categories. We have also initiated lower cost categories without a paper magazine to appeal to the cost sensitive.

Memberships with a paper magazine are called “Premium,” those without one “Regular.” The latter includes a password to read the magazine online, plus a 16 page paper bulletin including TLAs (bimonthly for Adult, Young Adult or Youth, each four months for Scholastic). Regular Adult costs $29 online, $36 by mail or phone. Regular Young Adult is $24, Regular Youth $20, Regular Scholastic $16.

USCF expects to receive a large bequest this fiscal year or next, probably in the $200,000 to $300,000 range. We must not use its expectation to make operating losses acceptable!

Executive director contract extended

The executive board has extended the contract of Executive Director Bill Hall for another two years. Bill has done a good job of holding down office expenses and finding sponsorship. He’s also an active tournament player and rated expert.

New national tournament sponsors

Thanks to the Chess Club and Scholastic Center of Saint Louis for its outstanding sponsorship! The 2009 U.S. Championship will be held at the club in May with a prize fund of at least $100,000, and they will also sponsor the U.S. Women’s Championship with $65,000 in prizes, largest in its history! Other new sponsors this year include World Chess Live, funding the Grand Prix with larger prizes than before plus the new Junior Grand Prix, and the Gaylord Opryland Hotel, providing schol arship prizes good at any college for the 2009 SuperNationals and several future national elementary championships.

Member input welcome

A good place to discuss ideas is the USCF Forums at www.uschess.org/forums, often read by board members, delegates, and committee members. There are forums for discussing tournaments, clubs, and general USCF issues.

See your membership options on page 5 or on uschess.org.
The winner of this month’s award, Jack Stillman, submitted a remarkable game played long ago and good notes. We’ll see winning the queen turned bad and a Houdini like escape. As usual, my comments are in italics. Writes Mr. Stillman:

I am 83 years old and still playing chess. I enjoy playing against my Mephisto computer even though it beats me most of the time. I’m unrated after 1975, I didn’t play chess for many years. Thirty seven years ago, when I was a member of the Downey Chess Club, I played a game against Mr. Bicknell, an expert. I don’t remember his first name. After so many years, I don’t remember my exact rating, but I believe it was in the 1500 1600 range.

I selected the following game because of the mistakes made by both players resulting in a surprising finish. I had the white pieces; my opponent played Alekhine’s Defense.

Alekhine’s Defense,
Four Pawns Attack (B03)
Jack Stillman
Mr. Bicknell
Downey Chess Club, 1971

1. e4 Nf6 2. e5 Nd5 3. c4 Nb6 4. d4 d6 5. f4

I played the Four Pawns Attack, thinking that it was the most aggressive variation.

The Four Pawns Attack indeed is very aggressive. On the negative side (for White), Black has a choice of a dozen defenses, all very sharp, at least two or three leading to dynamic equality. Thus, most players prefer to play 3. d4 d6 4. Nf3 (after 1. e4 Nf6 2. e5 Nd5), a so called classical line, with a small edge for White.

5. ... dxe5 6. fxe5 Nc6

(see diagram top of next column)

7. Be3

9. ... Be7

If Black wanted to castle long, he should have done it without playing 9. ... Be7, but rather 9. ... Qd7 and 10. ... 0 0 0.

10. Be2 Qd7

Now, the best for Black was 10. ... 0 0, followed by 11. ... f6, with equality.

11. 0-0 0-0-0

(see diagram top of next column)

Castling queenside tells me that he’ll attack on the kingside. I should attack on the queenside.

12. a4

13. ... a5 13. Qb3

An interesting plan. Ernst Grunfeld long ago recommended 12. d5 here, with an edge.

12. ... Nb4 14. Ne1 b6 15. Rd1 Qc6

Castling queenside tells me that he’ll attack on the kingside. I should attack on the queenside.

12. a4

16. c5
Because winning the queen, as in the game, isn’t so good for White as it initially appears (and the same is true for 16. d5, winning the Exchange for a pawn), perhaps White should have prepared the trap by playing first, for instance, 16. Rd2 after which c4 c5, followed by Be2 b5, gains in strength.

16. \ldots N6d5 17. Bb5!

I trapped his queen, but the game isn’t over.

17. \ldots Nxe3 18. Bxc6 Nxc6

Now Black gets two Exchanges.

20. Qb5 Bxd1 21. Nxd1 Nxf1 22. Kxf1 Nxd4
23. Nxd4 Rxd4

Bxc5+ was the correct move.

32. Nd4 Rd5

At this point, I thought I had a lost game. Black had a definite material advantage and sounder position. However, after searching further I discovered that I could draw by perpetual check.

33. Nxc6+ bxc6 34. Qb6+ Kc8 35. Qxc6+ Kd8 36. Qa8+ draw.

My opponent, the better player, should have won this game. Overlooking just one move can be disastrous. I was fortunate to get a draw.

Send in your games!

If you are unrated or were rated 1799 or below on your Chess Life label, then GM Lev Alburt invites you to send your instructive games with notes to:

Back to Basics, c/o Chess Life
PO Box 3967 Crossville, TN 38557

Or e-mail your material to backtobasics@uschess.org

GM Alburt will select the “most instructive” game and Chess Life will award an autographed copy of Lev’s newest book, Chess Openings for White, Explained (by Lev Alburt, Roman Dzindzichashvili, and Eugene Perelshteyn) to the person submitting the most instructive game and annotations.

Do not send games with only a few notes, as they are of little instructive value and can’t be used. Writing skills are a plus, but instructiveness is a must! Make sure your game (or part of it) and your notes will be of interest to other readers.
The first time the U.S. sent a team to an Olympiad was 80 years ago at The Hague in the Netherlands. It was a successful debut: Hungary 44, USA 39½, Poland 37. There were 17 participating teams from around the world.

The event was connected to the “main” Olympic games that year, so the event’s organizers advised that only players with amateur status could play, effectively barring Frank Marshall, Geza Maroczy and Akiba Rubinstein from competition. Never again was there such a rule at a chess Olympiad a rule which only decreased the level of competition.

The Americans were led by Isaac Kashdan who scored 86 percent, the best individual result of the Olympiad. The rest of the team members’ scores were (as percentages): Herman Steiner 65.6, Samuel Factor 59, Erling Tholfsen 50, and Milton Hanauer 33.

Our team defeated the eventually victorious Hungarian team. Here are some interesting endgames from this event.

**Weak or strong pawn?**
**Isaac Kashdan (USA)**
**Endre Steiner (Hungary)**
**The Hague (Olympiad), 1928**

25. ... f6

Black is obviously better because of the weak and under fire c2 pawn, so he avoids the continuation 25. ... Ne3 26. Rb2 Na4 which could have forced a draw. But the win is not at all guaranteed since after 25. ... Rac8, 26. Bd2 saves.

26. Kg2 Rb8

If 26. ... Rac8, then 27. Rc1 Nc3 28. Rb2 Ne2 29. Re1 Rxc2 30. Rxc2.


White is liberated by this mistake. The right course was 34. ... Rxb3 35. cxb3 Rac8 36. Kf2 Nc3 37. Rb2 Nxe2 38. Re1 Rxc2 39. Rxe7 with equality keeping the edge.

35. c4 Rd1+ 36. Kg2 Rb8

If 35. ... Rac8, then 36. Rc1 Nc3 37. b4 a4 (37. ... axb4 38. axb4 Rxb4 39. Ra7 with equality) saving.


White is liberated by this mistake. The right course was 34. ... Rxb3 35. cxb3 Rac8 36. Kf2 Nc3 37. Rb2 Nxe2 38. Re1 Rxc2 39. Rxe7 with equality keeping the edge.

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White is liberated by this mistake. The right course was 34. ... Rxb3 35. cxb3 Rac8 36. Kf2 Nc3 37. Rb2 Nxe2 38. Re1 Rxc2 39. Rxe7 with equality keeping the edge.
White had time for this, but here (or even later) 51. a4! had to be tried so that after 51. ... Kg7 52. Rc8 Kh7 53. c6 Rc5 54. Ke4! Rxc4+ 55. Kd5 the white king could be involved in the battle. The other alternative of 51. h4!? gxh4 52. Rf6 Rxc5 53. Rxf4 h3 would have been a less effective try.

51. ... Kg7 52. c6
Also not enough for White to win is 52. Rb8 Rxc5 53. Rb5 Rxc4 54. Rxg5+ Kh6 55. Rxa5 Rc3+.

52. ... Rc5 53. h4 gxh4 54. Kxf4 Rxc4+ 55. Kf3 Rc3+ 56. Kg2 Rxa3 57. c7 Rc3 58. f4 a4 59. f5 a3 60. f6+ Kf7 61. Ra8
Too late is an attempt to win with 61. Rh8.

61. ... Rxc7 62. Rxa3 Kxf6, Draw.

Kashdan, who won 12 games, lost only one in an unfortunate game.

Pawn down
Kazimierz Makarczyk (Poland)
Isaac Kashdan (USA)
The Hague (Olympiad), 1928

Black to play

Black would have been slightly better after the simple 17. ... a6 but he was ready to attack:

17. ... Nh4! 18. gxh4 Qxh4 19. f4 Rd5
Stronger is 19. ... Qh5 so that White is prevented from pawn hunting since after


Another alternative was 21. ... Qg4+ 22. Kh5 Rf2 (23. Qxc6 Rxf2+ would lead to perpetual check) 23. ... Qg3 to snare the e3 pawn. The reader can now see that Black must prove that there is enough compensation for the pawn.

22. Ra1 g5 23. Kg4 Qxg4 24. Kxh5 Kf7 25. Qe5+ Kg7 26. Rh1 Qe5 27. Kg5 Kg7 28. Qg3 Qxg3 29. Rxg3 Kf6 30. f3 Ke5 31. f4 Kd5 32. Qg5+ Ke4 33. Qxg4+ Kf4 34. Qxg4 Qxg4 35. Rxe5 Rd3
Keeping the pressure either by 33. ... f6 or by 33. ... Kg6 (which looks better since it avoids a queen trade).

34. Qd4 Qxg4 35. Rfxe5 Qxe5+ 36. Rxg5+ Kg6 37. Rc5

37. ... Re2?!
Despite being a pawn down, the rook ending is salvageable but 37. ... Rd3 or 37. ... Ke6 were simpler.

38. a4 Rd2 39. a5 e3 40. Re5 Rd3
Here 40. ... a5! and the newly born, passed d pawn could have yielded counter chances. Time trouble perhaps?

41. Kg2 Rxb3 42. Kf3 Ra3 43. h4 Kg7 44. Rg5+ Kh6 45. Rc5 Rd3?
A crucial mistake when Black still had chances to save the game by simply keeping the status quo. Thus 45. ... Kg7 46. h5 f6 etc.

46. a6 Rxd4 47. Ra5!
The rook behind the passed pawn decides the struggle.

47. ... Rd8 48. a7 Ra8 49. baxa5 c5 50. Ke4 Kg6 51. Kd5 Kh5 52. Kxc5 Kxh4 53. Kxb6 Kg4 54. Kb7 Rxa7+ 55. Rxa7 f5 56. Kc6, Black resigned.

Finally, something for the sunny side.

Mate
Ladislav Prokeš (Czechoslovakia)
János Balogh (Romania)
The Hague (Olympiad), 1928

Black to play

The game should be drawn. The black king is in front of the passed pawn.

64. ... Rd1 65. Kb3 Rd1+ 66. Kc3 Rc1+ 67. Kb2 Kb5??
Black tries to win the pawn back, but Prokeš, an endgame composer, wouldn’t miss the funny end.

68. Ra5+ Kxb4 69. Rxa3!
Black saw the upcoming 70. R3a4 mate and therefore resigned. One rash move may lead to a sure loss in an endgame.

See p. 5 for all of your new membership options. Become a premium member and continue to receive a printed Chess Life!
As the World Turns
By GM Larry Evans

Tournaments still thriving

It’s comforting to sit across the board from a real opponent instead of wondering if we are facing a computer online. Despite countless games played every day on the Internet, over the board tournaments are still thriving around the world. This roundup from recent events ranges from Argentina to Scotland. Solutions on page 69.

Readers are invited to send their positions in for possible consideration in this column. Send to whatsthebestmove@uschess.org or mail to Chess Life, c/o What’s The Best Move, PO Box 3967, Crossville, TN 38557.

1. White moves
   (a) Rxg6+ (b) Qh5 (c) Qxf6+

2. White moves
   (a) Re2 (b) Rf1 (c) Nf3

3. Black moves
   (a) Ne2+ (b) Ra5 (c) R8c7

4. Black moves
   (a) Rf4 (b) f6 (c) Rf6

Thank You, U.S. Chess Trust!

The World Chess Hall of Fame in Miami thanks the U.S. Chess Trust for funding both the travel and hotel expenses of all three 2008 U.S. Chess Hall of Fame inductees and their wives. The U.S. Chess Trust’s support made possible the recent public celebration of the careers of GMs Joel Benjamin, Larry Christiansen, and Nick de Firmian.

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Saturday-Sunday:
12 noon - 5 p.m.
Welcome, USCF Members!

Welcome to World Chess Live (WCL), a new family-friendly service with special benefits for USCF members. WCL is pleased to sponsor USCF’s 2008 Grand Prix (GP) and 2008 Junior Grand Prix. We’re providing prize funds of $20,000 and $7,500 (in cash, merchandise, and memberships), and will also be running online grand prize satellite events throughout the year.

This month, Grand Prix hopeful IM Alex Lenderman locked in crucial point gains in three tournaments, bringing his total tournament count to an astonishing 21 and clearing his potential. Perhaps we’ll see a spectacular upset in this race before the competition draws to a close.

IM Lenderman still has slightly more than 30 points’ worth of ground to cover before he can make Grand Prix predictions be known! What’s your take on the current Grand Prix standings? I’d like to encourage readers to write their own opinions in to the World Chess Live Newsletter at KindlyCoach@gmail.com. The best “Letters to the Editor” may be published in the weekly WCL Newsletter, so let your Grand Prix predictions be known!

~Jonathan Hilton

CATEGORIES AND PRIZES

$12,000 IN CASH PRIZES!

FIRST PRIZE: $5,000!

1st: $2,500  2nd: $1,000  3rd: $800  4th: $600  5th: $500  6th: $400  7th: $300  8th: $200  9th: $150  10th: $100

$4,000 IN MERCHANDISE PRIZES!

11th: $200  12th: $200  13th: $200  14th: $150  15th: $100  16th: $50  17th: $50  18th: $50

Top 20 non titled players: 1 year WCL membership worth $50. (FIDE titled players are always free on WCL)

2008 WORLD CHESS LIVE GRAND PRIX SUMMARY

Welcome to World Chess Live (WCL), a new family-friendly service with special benefits for USCF members. WCL is pleased to sponsor USCF’s 2008 Grand Prix (GP) and 2008 Junior Grand Prix. We’re providing prize funds of $20,000 and $7,500 (in cash, merchandise, and memberships), and will also be running online grand prize satellite events throughout the year.

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### 2008 World Chess Live Junior Grand Prix Top Overall Standings

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A new family-friendly online chess service from the Internet Chess Club, is pleased to welcome our friends from the U.S. Chess Federation.

To celebrate its launch, this year WCL will be:

- Sponsoring the USCF’s 2008 Grand Prix and Junior Grand Prix
- Running weekly and monthly Online Grand Prix tournaments
- Giving every USCF member a free six-month subscription to WCL
- And more...

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Tournaments do not use them for pairing or prize purposes. If you would otherwise pose of unofficial ratings is to inform you of your progress; however, most the USCF website at www.uschess.org also frequently lists unofficial ratings. The pur- be used for all tournaments beginning in that month, unless otherwise announced in
to be used for all tournaments beginning in that month, unless otherwise announced in
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Bids on the following tournaments are past deadline and will be considered immediately:
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2009 U.S. Senior Open
2009 U.S. Junior Open & Closed

Bids due by Dec. 15, 2008:
2010 U.S. Open*
Bids due by June 15, 2009:
2011 U.S. Open*
Bidding Deadlines
Please contact the National Office if you are interested in bidding for a National Event. The USCF recommends that bids be submitted according to the following schedule. However, bids may be considered prior to these dates.

Tournament memberships not valid for National events
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Junior Tournament Membership (JMT) program, which allows players the option of joining for only one event at a greatly reduced rate, has been modified. Junior TMs for age 24 or below may be purchased from USCF affiliates and are now available to them for $7 online with rating report submissions. They include one issue of Chess Life or Chess Life for Kids, and $5 of this fee may be applied to a full membership within 60 days. JMTs not valid for National events. Many scholastic tournaments exist that are not USCF rated, and the USCF is concerned that the reason is that organizers fear losing players unwilling or unable to pay entry fee plus dues of $17 (Scholastic), $19 (Youth), or $25 (Young Adult). The availability of a $7 option should cause some of these events to switch to being USCF rated, promoting membership. The idea behind the TMs is not to sign up a lot of them, but rather to cause more USCF rated tournaments to be held. For more details on uschess.org.

All tournaments listed in Tournament Life are USCF rated. Tournament Life is Fide Rated but uses USCF rules. Junior Tournament Memberships (JMTs) Available
Junior Tournament Membership (JMT) program, which allows players the option of joining for only one event at a greatly reduced rate, has been modified. Junior TMs for age 24 or below may be purchased from USCF affiliates and are now available to them for $7 online with rating report submissions. They include one issue of Chess Life or Chess Life for Kids, and $5 of this fee may be applied to a full membership within 60 days. JMTs not valid for National events. Many scholastic tournaments exist that are not USCF rated, and the USCF is concerned that the reason is that organizers fear losing players unwilling or unable to pay entry fee plus dues of $17 (Scholastic), $19 (Youth), or $25 (Young Adult). The availability of a $7 option should cause some of these events to switch to being USCF rated, promoting membership. The idea behind the TMs is not to sign up a lot of them, but rather to cause more USCF rated tournaments to be held. For more details on uschess.org.

The Tournament Announcements on the following pages are provided for the convenience of USCF members and for informational purposes only. Unless expressly indicated otherwise, neither the U.S. Chess Federation nor Chess Life warrants the accuracy of anything contained in these Tournament Announcements. Those interested in additional information about or having questions concerning any of these tournaments are directed to contact the organizer listed. Chess Life will exercise all due diligence in providing accurate typesetting of non-camera-ready copy but assumes no responsibility for errors made in such work.

SUBMISSIONS: If possible e-mail your TLA to: tla@uschess.org (Alan DuBois). For e-mail deadline schedule, formatting help and Grand Prix information see October 2008 pg. 52-53 or check www.uschess.org/files/grandprixfundclickonavWCLGPSum-
ary. Payment can be done online through the TD/affiliate area or sent to: U.S. Chess, TLA Dept., PO Box 3967, Crossville, TN 38557.
SuperNationals IV

$50,000 in cash scholarships to be awarded!

www.SuperNationalsIV.com
for tournament information and registration.

Gaylord Opryland Resort and Convention Center
2802 Opryland Drive
Nashville, TN 37214
(615) 883-2211
Chess Rate: $139.00 Single – Quad

ENTRIES TO:
US Chess Federation
Attn: SuperNationals
P. O. Box 3967
Crossville, TN 38557

Questions and Team Rooms: Cheryle Bruce – cbruce@uschess.org 931-787-1234 ext. 147
On site entries after 10 a.m., Friday 4/3/2009 will receive a 1/2-point bye for the first round.

See TLA this issue (Nationals section) for detailed tournament information.
Two sections: Open and Scholastic (Saturday only) 355, 30, 50, 60;
50/20-43/55, G/60. On-site registration Fri., April 24 at 7:00 P.M.
Under 1400: $30 if received by 12/11, $40 at door. EF: $30 if received by 12/11, $40 at door. EF: $30 if received by 12/11, $40 at door. EF: $30 if received by 12/11, $40 at door.
USCF membership is required (may be paid with entry).
1st round 9:00 am. Next rounds ASAP. Byes must be submitted before the start of Round 2.
If you have any questions: call Alan Crooks at 1-888-GO-CHESS.
COME CELEBRATE THE ‘60s WITH THE MOST ENTHUSIASTIC PLAYERS IN THE WORLD!

Best Team Costume and Best Team Name awards, along with surprises and give-aways each round, make this a three day experience you won’t want to miss.

See our TLA for complete details and prizes.

Clock awards supplied by Excalibur.

Boards are supplied, but you’ll need to bring a set and a clock—and THREE friends!

Need help in forming a team? Want to be on a team?

Contact Steve Doyle at esdoyle@aol.com.

Your hosts are the USCF and the New Jersey State Chess Federation.
Tournament Life

Dec. 26-29 or 27-29, Nevada
World Chess Live Grand Prix Points: 200 (enhanced)

18th annual North American Open
675, 40/2, 35/1 (3-day option, 1-1/4/0), Boulder's Casino Resort, 3645 Las Vegas Blvd S, Las Vegas, NV 89121. $500.00 based on 750 paid entries (50% entry costs); $200.00 based on 750 paid entries (50% entry costs). See online at chesslife.com or call 800-602-7696, use AWD #657653. For more info, contact Barbara Swafford, 214-632-9000, info@dallaschess.com or contact Barbara Swafford, 214-632-9000, info@dallaschess.com

Dec. 27, Oklahoma
World Chess Live Grand Prix Points: 10 (enhanced)

18th Holiday Open 2008
45/5, 05/1, 05/1 (3-day entry), 12/25-26, 10 am-12 noon.

Dec. 28, New York
World Chess Live Grand Prix Points: 6

18th summer Marquee Open

Dec. 29, 30, Texas
World Chess Live Grand Prix Points: 20

2nd Annual Carolina Chess Open
4 Round, 55/15, Timeline control. Entry fee: $45. Prizes: $1,000, 2nd $500, 3rd $250, 4th $150, 5th $100. Entry cost: $30.00. Mail will not be checked after 12/18.

18th annual Benjamin M. Dreyfus Cup
1 Round, 55/15, Timeline control. Entry fee: $45. Prizes: $1,000, 2nd $500, 3rd $250, 4th $150, 5th $100. Entry cost: $30.00. Mail will not be checked after 12/18.

18th annual Benjamin M. Dreyfus Cup
1 Round, 55/15, Timeline control. Entry fee: $45. Prizes: $1,000, 2nd $500, 3rd $250, 4th $150, 5th $100. Entry cost: $30.00. Mail will not be checked after 12/18.

18th annual Benjamin M. Dreyfus Cup
1 Round, 55/15, Timeline control. Entry fee: $45. Prizes: $1,000, 2nd $500, 3rd $250, 4th $150, 5th $100. Entry cost: $30.00. Mail will not be checked after 12/18.
late entry: All Site Reg. Any time during tournament and 12/29 until 11:00 PM. Rds will start 10:15 pm promptly and successive rounds posted as soon as they are ready. One bye allowed for two 1/2 point prizes. One bye for late entry. Regular UCF ratings used for pairings, and a variance of the new ratings will be used (post) at site. Make check payable and send to: Michael Atkins, PO Box 161405, Alexandria, VA 22315, membership@chesscenter.com/tournaments/office@WVC.txt.

Dec. 29, Nevada
World Chess Live Grand Prix Points: 30 (enhanced)
North American Blitz (OC)
5-5, 6-5 (double round robin games), Batu’s Las Vegas (see North American Open). $500 buy-in, top 150-100-50. U1500: $250-100, U1200: $225, U1000: $200-100-50-25, U800: $100-50, U1250: $75-50. No computer or site at any site only. All ratings are used for pairing. $250 entry = one prize in every section. U1250 entry = one prize in every section. U1000 entry = one prize in every section. U800 entry = one prize in every section. U600 entry = one prize in every section. U400 entry = one prize in every section. U200 entry = one prize in every section. U100 entry = one prize in every section. U50 entry = one prize in every section. U25 entry = one prize in every section. U10 entry = one prize in every section. U5 entry = one prize in every section. U2 entry = one prize in every section. U1 entry = one prize in every section. U0.5 entry = one prize in every section. U0.25 entry = one prize in every section. U0.1 entry = one prize in every section. U0.05 entry = one prize in every section. U0.01 entry = one prize in every section. U0.005 entry = one prize in every section. U0.001 entry = one prize in every section. U0.0005 entry = one prize in every section. U0.0001 entry = one prize in every section. U0.00005 entry = one prize in every section. U0.00001 entry = one prize in every section. U0.000005 entry = one prize in every section. U0.000001 entry = one prize in every section. U0.0000005 entry = one prize in every section. U0.0000001 entry = one prize in every section. U0.00000005 entry = one prize in every section. U0.00000001 entry = one prize in every section. U0.000000005 entry = one prize in every section. U0.000000001 entry = one prize in every section. U0.0000000005 entry = one prize in every section. U0.0000000001 entry = one prize in every section.

Dec. 25, New York
World Chess Live Grand Prix Points: 6
56th Nassau Action
4-0-SS, 30/90, SD/1, Chess Center at the Marshall Club, 23 West 10 St, between 5-6 Ave, 56th Nassau Action, 40/2, SD/1 (3-day option, rds. 1-2 G/75; Rds. 3-4: G/30, Chess Center at the Marshall Club, 23 W 10 St, bet. 5th-6th Ave., 40/2, SD/1, Chess Center at the Marshall Club, 23 W 10 St, bet. 5th-6th Ave., 40/2, SD/1). (516) 598-5775. Chess Life—December 2008 57

Dec. 29, New York
World Chess Live Grand Prix Points: 20 (enhanced)

Dec. 31, New York
World Chess Live Grand Prix Points: 10 (enhanced)
4th Annual Liberty Bell Open
Jan. 1, New York
World Chess Live Grand Prix Points: 10 (enhanced)
New Year’s Open
Jan. 1, Pennsylvania
Hershey Chess Club
Jan. 1, Tennessee
World Chess Live Grand Prix Points: 50 (enhanced)
JG’s Old-Fashioned Hamburgers Texas Masters
Jan. 1, Texas
World Chess Live Grand Prix Points: 30 (enhanced)
Central Florida Class Championships
Jan. 2-3, New York
4-Day Schedule: Fri 6 PM to 10 PM, Sat 10 AM to 4 PM, Sun 10 AM to 4 PM. $1000-400-200-100. Under 1500 $275-150-100-50. Under 1300 $250-150-100-50. Under 1100 $200-100-50. Under 900 $100. Under 700 $50. Under 500 $25. Under 300 $10. Under 100 $5. Under 50 $2. Under 25 $1. Under 10 $0.50. Under 5 $0.25. Under 1 $0.10. Under 0.5 $0.05. Under 0.25 $0.025. Under 0.1 $0.01. Under 0.05 $0.005. Under 0.01 $0.001. Under 0.005 $0.0005. Under 0.0005 $0.00005. Under 0.0001 $0.00001. Under 0.00005 $0.000005. Under 0.00001 $0.000001. Under 0.000005 $0.0000005. Under 0.000001 $0.0000001. Under 0.0000005 $0.00000005. Under 0.0000001 $0.00000001. Under 0.00000005 $0.000000005. Under 0.00000001 $0.000000001.

Jan. 2, Washington
World Chess Live Grand Prix Points: 5
Greater NW Scholastic Chess Summit

Jan. 2-3, Wisconsin
World Chess Live Grand Prix Points: 20
Wisconsin Open

Jan. 3, New York
World Chess Live Grand Prix Points: 20 (enhanced)
Janus Chess Open

Jan. 3-4, New York
World Chess Live Grand Prix Points: 10 (enhanced)
Magnet Masters

Jan. 4-5, 99, 2009, 50/50, 5/30, 1/15, 1/10, 1/5. $400 with 12-60 entries, minimum half prize each.
A State Championship Event! Jan. 17-18, New Orleans
World Chess Live Grand Prix Points: 6
Michigan Master/Expert & Championship
Richardson Hotel Lancing, 12141. Grand Ave. From East: 3-490 to Grand Ave (Exit 7A), Right on Grand Ave. From West: 4-73 to Pine/Walnut Streets (Exit 6), Left on Grand Ave. HR: $75-$50-$40, X120, U1000 X100, Class A: $150-$125-$100, Class B: $150-$125-$100, Class C: $100-$75-$60, Class D: $75-$65-$50, U800: $50-$35-$25. Sat: 9:30-11:30, Sun. 9-11 a.m. Free entry ($5 deducted from winnings of $100 or more). $10 service charge on online entries paid in.) One discount per player. Visa & MasterCard Accepted. (all sections except Under 1200 rated S. CA residents. No checks or credit cards at site. Half point byes: limit 5 available for any one round if requested at or before registration. Free entry available at TNChess.Org. Info questions: (603) 399-4533 or 301-220-4828, On-line entry: No online entry. Free Parking lots on the SW corner of Santa Monica & Purdue, or in the building's basement ($3).

Reg. ends Sun 9 am, rds 10-12-4-6, 10-4. Under 2400 must provide 2-5 points of proof. Under 2200 must provide 2-3 points of proof. Under 2000 must provide 2-2 points of proof. Under 1800 must provide 1-1 points of proof. Under 1600 must provide 1 point of proof. Under 1400 must provide 1 point of proof. Under 1200 must provide 1 point of proof. Under 1000 must provide 1 point of proof. Under 800 must provide 1 point of proof. Under 600 must provide 1 point of proof. Under 400 must provide 1 point of proof. Under 200 must provide 1 point of proof. Under 100 must provide 1 point of proof. Under 50 must provide 1 point of proof. Under 10 must provide 1 point of proof. Under 5 must provide 1 point of proof. Under 1 must provide 1 point of proof. Under 3 must provide 1 point of proof. Under 2 must provide 1 point of proof. Under 1 must provide 1 point of proof. Under 0 must provide 1 point of proof. Under 5 must provide 1 point of proof. Under 1 must provide 1 point of proof. Under 3 must provide 1 point of proof. Under 2 must provide 1 point of proof. Under 1 must provide 1 point of proof. Under 0 must provide 1 point of proof. Under 5 must provide 1 point of proof. Under 1 must provide 1 point of proof. Under 3 must provide 1 point of proof. Under 2 must provide 1 point of proof. Under 1 must provide 1 point of proof. Under 0 must provide 1 point of proof. Under 5 must provide 1 point of proof. Under 1 must provide 1 point of proof. Under 3 must provide 1 point of proof. Under 2 must provide 1 point of proof. Under 1 must provide 1 point of proof. Under 0 must provide 1 point of proof. Under 5 must provide 1 point of proof. Under 1 must provide 1 point of proof. Under 3 must provide 1 point of proof. Under 2 must provide 1 point of proof. Under 1 must provide 1 point of proof. Under 0 must provide 1 point of proof. Under 5 must provide 1 point of proof. Under 1 must provide 1 point of proof. Under 3 must provide 1 point of proof. Under 2 must provide 1 point of proof. Under 1 must provide 1 point of proof. Under 0 must provide 1 point of proof. Under 5 must provide 1 point of proof. Under 1 must provide 1 point of proof. Under 3 must provide 1 point of proof. Under 2 must provide 1 point of proof. Under 1 must provide 1 point of proof. Under 0 must provide 1 point of proof. Under 5 must provide 1 point of proof. Under 1 must provide 1 point of proof. Under 3 must provide 1 point of proof. Under 2 must provide 1 point of proof. Under 1 must provide 1 point of proof. Under 0 must provide 1 point of proof. Under 5 must provide 1 point of proof. Under 1 must provide 1 point of proof. Under 3 must provide 1 point of proof. Under 2 must provide 1 point of proof. Under 1 must provide 1 point of proof. Under 0 must provide 1 point of proof. Under 5 must provide 1 point of proof. Under 1 must provide 1 point of proof. Under 3 must provide 1 point of proof. Under 2 must provide 1 point of proof. Under 1 must provide 1 point of proof. Under 0 must provide 1 point of proof.
Feb. 6-8, South Carolina

World Chess Live Grand Prix Points: 6
30th Annual South Carolina Invitational Chess Festival
South Carolina State Fairgrounds
Feb. 6-8, 2009
Sikes, 45/1, 25/2, 1/2; Rd. 4-6, 4/2; 3rd Wisconsin Room, Memorial Union, 800 Langdon St., Madison, WI; EVE: $35 if received by Feb. 4; $45 at site; $55 after Feb. 4; Top 30 FIDE-rated; Voted by 2½ at site; $800 1st ($750 Gtd.); $500 2nd ($400 Gtd.); $400 3rd; $350 4th; $250 5th; $200 6th; $150 7th; $100 8th; $80 9th; $70 10th; $60 11th; $50 12th; $40 13th; $35 14th; $30 15th; $25 16th; $20 17th; $15 18th; $10 19th; $8 20th; $7 21st; $6 22nd; $5 23rd; $4 24th; $3 25th; $2 26th; $1 27th; $300 top under age 16. All FCA members earn points towards $2050 Florida mem as of Dec 31) to Club Champion, U2200, U2000, U1800, U1600, U1400, U1200. Top 6 sections EF: deducted from prize. Sets provided, bring clock. Fairmont Southampton 1-845-549-4971. “chess tournament” rates ($299 +). More info contact: Nigel Freeman caldiy@northrock.bm or IA Carol Jarecki carjarecki@hotmail.com. NC WNC at a WCA Tour Event. WCL JGP.

Feb. 7, New Jersey

World Chess Live Grand Prix Points: 10
WCL Grand Prix 2009 Open Championship
Bergen Academy, 200 Hackensack Ave, Hackensack NJ 07601. Open To All Ages With Rating $400-200-150-100. World Chess Federation Member Ship Required. Prize Fund ($3440) 1st - $300; $250; $200; $150; $100; $50. Best Under 13 Years Old $75; Under 15 Years Old $75. Prize Fund Will Be Reduced Below 70%. Reg Ends at 1/31. EF: $25 1/20/2/3. Reserves allowed. Entry: mail: WCL JGP. Intern. Chess Academy, 2727 Arapahoe Ave, Boulder CO 80304. $35 entry to WCL JGP. For info: Nigel Freeman caldiy@northrock.bm or IA Carol Jarecki carjarecki@hotmail.com. NC WNC at a WCA Tour Event. WCL JGP.

Feb. 8, New York

World Chess Live Grand Prix Points: 10
11th Annual Open Championship
Bergen Academy, 200 Hackensack Ave, Hackensack NJ 07601. Open To All Ages With Rating $400-200-150-100. World Chess Federation Member Ship Required. Prize Fund ($3440) 1st - $300; $250; $200; $150; $100; $50. Best Under 13 Years Old $75; Under 15 Years Old $75. Prize Fund Will Be Reduced Below 70%. Reg Ends at 1/31. EF: $25 1/20/2/3. Reserves allowed. Entry: mail: WCL JGP. Intern. Chess Academy, 2727 Arapahoe Ave, Boulder CO 80304. $35 entry to WCL JGP. For info: Nigel Freeman caldiy@northrock.bm or IA Carol Jarecki carjarecki@hotmail.com. NC WNC at a WCA Tour Event. WCL JGP.

Feb. 9-11, Virginia

Kingstree Chess Festival
Kingstree Senior Citizen Center, 440 S. Van Dorn St., Alexandria, VA 22305. 4-SS, 35/2, 25/1, 20/1, 15/1. Sections: Open To All Ages; Under 2300; Under 2100; Under 1900; Under 1800/Unrated. EF: $180-100-70. U1600-U1400-unrated each $50. No unrated may win more than $140.

Feb. 14-15, Virginia

Kingstree Chess Festival
Kingstree Senior Citizen Center, 440 S. Van Dorn St., Alexandria, VA 22305. 4-SS, 35/2, 25/1, 20/1, 15/1. Sections: Open To All Ages; Under 2300; Under 2100; Under 1900; Under 1800/Unrated. EF: $180-100-70. U1600-U1400-unrated each $50. No unrated may win more than $140.

Feb. 17, New Jersey

World Chess Live Grand Prix Points: 10
(world Chess Live Grand Prix 10 Grand Prix Points Tonight!
Bergen Academy, 200 Hackensack Ave, Hackensack NJ 07601. Open To All Ages With Rating $400-200-150-100. World Chess Federation Member Ship Required. Prize Fund ($3440) 1st - $300; $250; $200; $150; $100; $50. Best Under 13 Years Old $75; Under 15 Years Old $75. Prize Fund Will Be Reduced Below 70%. Reg Ends at 1/31. EF: $25 1/20/2/3. Reserves allowed. Entry: mail: WCL JGP. Intern. Chess Academy, 2727 Arapahoe Ave, Boulder CO 80304. $35 entry to WCL JGP. For info: Nigel Freeman caldiy@northrock.bm or IA Carol Jarecki carjarecki@hotmail.com. NC WNC at a WCA Tour Event. WCL JGP.

Feb. 26-28, New York

World Chess Live Grand Prix Points: 15
Enhanced World Chess Live Grand Prix
Saratoga Springs, NY. Saratoga Springs Convention Center, 101 Congress St, Saratoga Springs NY 12866. Free parking. $500 1000. In 2 sections: Open Under 2500, Under 2200. Prize Fund ($8800) 1st - $3000; $2500; $2000; $1500; $1000; $500. Best Under 13 Years Old $75; Under 15 Years Old $75. Prize Fund Will Be Reduced Below 70%. Reg Ends at 1/31. EF: $25 1/20/2/3. Reserves allowed. Entry: mail: WCL JGP. Intern. Chess Academy, 2727 Arapahoe Ave, Boulder CO 80304. $35 entry to WCL JGP. For info: Nigel Freeman caldiy@northrock.bm or IA Carol Jarecki carjarecki@hotmail.com. NC WNC at a WCA Tour Event. WCL JGP.
Tournament Life

Max: 6-4 or 7-4, Massachusetts
World Chess Live Grand Prix Points: 80 (enhanced)
18th annual Eastern Classic Championships
555, 405, 410 (2-day options), rds 1-4 (7/27), Crowne Plaza Hotel St. Louis - Clayton, 7750 Lindbergh Blvd., St. Louis MO 63105, use AWD #D657633 or reserve car online at chesstour.com. Avis, 800-331-1600, use AWD #D657633 or reserve car online through chessstour.com. Ent: Continental Chess, Box 249, Salisbury Mills NY 12577. Questions: 845-496-9688. Advance entries posted at chessstour.com. $15 service charge for refunds. WCLJEP.

Max: 13-15 or 14-15, Missouri
13th Annual Mid-America Open
555, 405, 410 (2-day options), rds 1-2 (6/9), Crowne Plaza Hotel St. Louis - Clayton, 7750 Lindbergh Blvd., St. Louis MO 63105, res. 1-800-331-1600, use AWD #D657633 or reserve car online at chesstour.com. Avis, 800-331-1600, use AWD #D657633 or reserve car online through chessstour.com. Ent: Continental Chess, Box 249, Salisbury Mills NY 12577. Questions: 845-496-9688. Advance entries posted at chessstour.com. $15 service charge for refunds. WCLJEP.

$60 Chess Life — December 2008

The Secrets Out: The National Open has moved to: The South Point Hotel and Casino Las Vegas, Nevada June 5-8
LVCHESSFESTIVAL.com

The National Open moved to the South Point Hotel and Casino in Las Vegas, Nevada for June 5-8, 2009. The move was part of a larger restructuring of the tournament, which will now be held annually in Las Vegas. The move is expected to bring in more participants and spectators to the event, which has been a popular destination for chess players in the United States. The tournament will feature a variety of events, including the US Chess Championship and the Women’s Chess Championship, as well as a variety of age groups and skill levels. The move is expected to have a positive impact on the tournament’s popularity and overall success.
switching section

1200: $600-500, top U1700 $2000-1000.


credit cards OK.

free; counted. 2) Players with official rating more than 30 points over section max-
mits:
most foreign, no pts added to CFC. Most foreign ratings other than CFC or FQE
800-331-1600, AWD #D657633, or reserve car online through chesstour .com.

Radisson Plaza Warwick, 215-735-6000, $93-93.

2000, may sell out about 5/31, two night minimum 7/3-4. Backup hotel: and have under 2 pts.

900/Unr schedule: Guaranteed.
by other GMs 9 am 7/3 & 7/4.

37th Annual World Open
An American Classic!
in U900, $600 U1300, $1000 U1500, $1300 U1700, $1600 U1900 or $2000 U2100. prize limit $1500. 3) Unrated (0-3 lifetime games rated) cannot win over $100 prize. WGMs $100; another $100 deducted from prize.

$217 mailed by 5/13; all $250 at site. No checks at site, credit cards OK. $24 if mailed by 5/13, $25 online at chesstour .com by 5/19, $30

nois residents.

Rds. Sun 10-12:30-2:30-4:30-7, Mon. 10-12:30-2:30.

day schedule:

800-937-8461, 847-777-6500, reserve by 5/9 or rate may increase.

Foreign player ratings:

Usually 100 points added to FIDE to 100, FIDE ratings not used. Unofficial uschess.org ratings based on 4 or more games usually used instead of FIDE. Special rules: 1) Players must submit a search for electronic devices if requested by Director. In round 4 or after players with scores over 801 and their opponents may not use headsets, headphones, cellphones or go to a different floor of the hotel of unschre.org Chess Life — December 2008 61

37th Annual World Open
955, 402-251-4443 (4-day option) or 417-554-0068 (5-day option). Under 900 LIve session plays 3 games only, schedule 6/4.

Sheraton City Center Hotel, 17th & Race Sts., Philadelphia. Parking for 900 guests paid for by Continental Chess. Continental Chess will cover all meals, many recipies, stores, restaurants within a few blocks. Prizes $500,000,000 guaranteed (Free analysis of your games by GM Sam Palatnik; free lectures)

by 2/6; $25 after . Registration closes 6:00pm.

2/13 7:15pm. EF: $25 by 2/6; $30 after . Reg-

Susan Polgar 64

2009 Scholastic Section:

($15, scholastic $10) required for rated Illi-

...Continental Chess, Box 249, Salisbury Mills, NY 12577.

Questions? c/o Roger Inglis, 49 A Mara Rd., Lake Hawiatha, NJ 07034 973 263 8696, rmwj@yahoo.com

www.nyscfc.org

New York State Chess Association
c/o Karl Heck, 5426 Wright Street, Route 67, East Durandy, NY 12423, 518 966 8523, sladhr@ny.net

www.nyscfc.org

North American Chess Federation
2510 Wanaque Road, Suite 28, Glenview, IL 60025 888 80 CHESS

info@chess.org

www.chess.org

SPICE
Box 45080, Lubbock, TX 79409 806 742 7742

www.SPCIE.org

www.SusanPolgarFoundation.org

1 888 CHESS 35

1 888 80 CHESS

www.PolgarFoundation.org

Tri-State Chess
288 Third Ave, Brooklyn, NY 11215 212 748 9584

www.PolgarFoundation.org

Unity Chess Club
3975 E Sheila Blvd, Suite 100, Office 136, Scottsdale, AZ 85260 480 949 5406 (KING)

info@unitychess.com

www.unitychess.com

SILVER AFFILIATES

Michigan Chess Association www.michchess.org

Kansas City Chess Association www.OKchess.org

Orange Crush Chess (IN) akakarpoligonwv@gmail.com

Chicago Chess Club
7230 Chadbourne Drive New Orleans, LA 70126 504 208 9596, cajenchess@yahoo.com

www.chessclub.com

Contingential Chess Association PO Box 249, Salisbury Mills, NY 12577
chetto@aol.com, www.chesstour.com

DC Chess Association 2520 Tenth St. NE, Suite 28, Washington, DC 20001 202 506 2927

www.dccs.org

New Jersey State Chess Federation c/o RJ Polgar, 49 A Mara Rd., Lake Hawiatha, NJ 07034 973 263 8696, rmwj@yahoo.com

www.njchess.org

Regional Alabama
B’ham C. U. 6, Sat 11 & 6, Sun 10 & 5.

2000, $20 fee for switching section after 5/4. 5-day schedule: Reg. ends Sun 11 am, Sat 10 am & 4 pm.

2:30, 1:30. 5/5 & 1/2 day schedule: Meet & compete for same prizes. Under 900 LIve schedule plays 3 games only, schedule 6/4. Sherron City Center

Hotel, 17th & Race Sts., Philadelphia. Parking for 900 guests paid for by Continental Chess. Continental Chess will cover all meals, many recipies, stores, restaurants within a few blocks. Prizes $500,000,000 guaranteed (Free analysis of your games by GM Sam Palatnik; free lectures)
Florida

Palm Beach Gardens Chess Club
Rated tournaments and skittles games every Saturday, 9 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. www.palmbeachchessclub.info, (561) 762-3377

South Florida Chess Club

Boca Raton Chess Club
Friday nights, game tournament, one game a week for 4 weeks. www.bocachess.com, 561-883-2917. WCL JUC

Dec. 12-14, 2008 National Scholastic K-12 Championship See Nationals.

Dec. 13, 5th OCCC Game/45 Open
555/4, 60+ Scholarship Room, 1101 N. Atlantic Ave, Daytona Beach, FL 32117, 2 sections: Open 1-5, $60/$30/$15/$5, Top 10/5/3/$1, 11/2/6/3. Info: mcallister@charter.net. WCL JUC

Hotel Biscayne, 17475 NE 26th Ave, Miami, FL 33160. 4-Sections: Ages 6-12, 7-12, 12-16, 13-17. Entry: $15.00 will guarantee all players a team in a 10-player tournament. Prizes: Top 3 teams, top 10 players. Info: http://www.chessinmiami.com. WCL JUC

Dec. 19, 2009 Florida National Chess Championship
WCL JUC

Dec. 17-18, 2009 Southern California Scholastic Chess Championship
LA CHESS CLUB * www.LaChessClub.com

Dec. 20-21, 2009 Central Florida Open
LACC - 2009 New Year's Day Open
WCL JUC

Dec. 26-27, 2009 18th annual National Open (NV)
See Grand Prix.

Jan. 1, LACC - 2009 New Year's Day Open
See Grand Prix.

Jan. 13, 2009 16th annual Western Classic Championships
See Grand Prix.


Jan. 3-4, Tim Just's Winter Open/Reserve XXXII
See Grand Prix.

Jan. 10, Peoria Winter Tornado
Lakemere Lake, 1125 W. Lake Ave, Peoria, IL 61614. 2 sections: Open; 4 Rds., Swiss, $30 with 5 second delay, Entry Fee: $57 if received by 1/21/09, 3rd at site, $2 discount to GDPF members, Free to Masters. Prize fund: $500 guaranteed, L1st: $150, 2nd $80, 3rd $50 or below.

Jan. 11, St. Louis Chess Club Open
Box 8035, Louisville, KY 40257.

Rds.: 6-6:25pm.
EF: $27, $17 BCC members.
Note: No list sent (all BCC members are entered.)

Jan. 12, The Secret’s Out!!!
The International Open has moved to: The South Point Hotel and Casino Las Vegas, Nevada June 5. LVCHESSTIVAL.com

Jan. 16, On-Site Entry Fee: $40 per player at the tournament On-site registration ENDS 9:15 AM.

Jan. 17, 2009 Kentucky Chess Championship
See Grand Prix.

Jan. 20, Lakeview Museum Chess Tournament
Lakeview Museum, 1125 W. Lake Ave, Peoria, IL 61614. 2 sections: Open; 4 Rds., Swiss, $30 with 5 second delay, Entry Fee: $37 if received by 1/9/09, 3rd at site, $2 discount to GDPF members, Free to Masters. Prize fund: $500 guaranteed, L1st: $150, 2nd $80, 3rd $50 or below.

Jan. 24, 2009 Grand Prix Chess Tournament
Greater Mid-Alantic Elementary Championship
5-5/30, open to all grades K-6. Hilton Pikesville, 1276 Reisterstown Road, Baltimore, MD 21208. 2 sections: Junior High Varsity, open to all EF: $30 posted by 1/10/09. Trophies to the top scoring players and the 4 top-scoring schools, the top rated under 1200, and the top 3 Unrated. Junior High School rating rated under 1200 or Class C. Free to tournament (Grades K-3), 4-5, 6-8, High school & Adults.

Jan. 25, 2009 Kasparov Chess Foundation presents Greater Mid-Alantic Junior High School Championship!
5-5/30, open to all grades K-6. Hilton Pikesville, 1276 Reisterstown Road, Baltimore, MD 21208. 2 sections: Junior High Varsity, open to all EF: $30 posted by 1/10/09. Trophies to the top scoring players and the 4 top-scoring schools, the top rated under 1200, and the top 3 Unrated. Junior High School rating rated under 1200 or Class C. Free to tournament (Grades K-3), 4-5, 6-8, High school & Adults.

Jan. 26, 2009 Kasparov Chess Foundation presents the 43rd Annual Greater New York Primary School Championship See Grand Prix.

Jan. 27, Legends of Chess: Mikhail Chigorin
455, 4th St. Building 1.C.2 2408 Elm St, Suite B9, Somerville, MA 02144. EF: $25, $15 BCC members; Prizes to top 4 entries. Any player who scores 4 or more points and doesn't win a trophy will receive a medal. The top 4 players in each section also win free entrance into Chess Pro weekly tournaments — a savings of hundreds of dollars!! All entry fees $5 per player or $4 or more from same school mailed together in SAME ENVELOPE. Envelope Requires: 10 service charge for each player refund. Trophies to the top scoring individuals also win free entrance into Chess Pro weekly chess camps — a savings of hundreds of dollars!! All entry fees $5 per player or $4 or more from same school mailed together in SAME ENVELOPE

Jan. 28, 2009 Massachusetts
See New York.

Jan. 29-30, 2009 Kasparov Chess Foundation presents Greater Mid-Alantic High School Championship!
5-5/30, open to all grades K-6. Hilton Pikesville, 1276 Reisterstown Road, Baltimore, MD 21208. 2 sections: High School Varsity, open to all EF: $30 posted by 1/10/09. Trophies to the top scoring players and the 4 top-scoring schools, the top rated under 1200, and the top 3 Unrated. High School School rating rated under 1200 or Class C. Free to tournament (Grades K-3), 4-5, 6-8, High school & Adults.


Feb. 1, 2009 Kasparov Chess Foundation presents the 43rd Annual Greater New York High School Championship See Grand Prix.
Jan. 4, 19. Westfield Quads 3 RR Game; 45 Full 4, 220 Clift St, Westfield, NJ. Prizes: $50 & Top 1 each; A Quads $20 or $30. Reg: 10 am-11 am; Rds: 12:30-2:30 pm; Info: Steve Beason 908-763-9645. New Jersey High School Championships A State Championship Event! New Jersey High School Championships A State Championship Event!

Michigan

Dec. 20, Saint Louis Swiss 4S, 4S, Chess Club & Scholastic Center; 45th, Maryland Ave., St. Louis, Mo. NS, NC, W. Tel. 314-966-6767. $20 Entry; $15 Members. Rds: 3:30-4:20-6:10 pm. Info: info@stlouischessclub.org or www.stlouischessclub.org. NS, NC, W.

Dec. 25, 1st Year Quick Cash (OC) The Kansas City Chess Club, 2512 NW Vivion Rd., Riverside, MO 64150. Sections: Open and Reserve. Reg: Online or 6:30-7:00 pm onsite. 4SS – G29 USCF Quick Tournaments are open to grades K-12. Free game analysis by a National or International Master at each tournament. We have players of all skill levels compete in our tournaments, from beginners to regular chess players. Check out one of the highest-rated scholastic players in the state. To see a list of dates and locations, see our website at www.silverknightschess.com. Phone: 610-446-0618. Email: chess@silverknightschess.com. See Grand Prix.

Silver Knights Chess Tournaments Three tournaments per month we run scholastic USCF-rated tournaments throughout the Philadelphia area. Tournament locations are at Philadelphia, Mt. Laurel, NJ, Bryn Mawr, Horsham, Collegville, and more. Tournaments are open to grades K-12. Free game analysis by a National or International Master at each tournament. We have players of all skill levels compete in our tournaments, from beginner to regular chess players. Check out one of the highest-rated scholastic players in the state. To see a list of dates and locations, see our website at www.silverknightschess.com. Phone: 610-446-0618. Email: chess@silverknightschess.com.

Wisards of the Mind Chess School 15 Center Street, Springfield, NJ - Lessons on Wednesdays and Saturdays for beginners, intermediate and advanced students. Scholastic USCF-rated tournaments. For schedule and information visit www.wisardsofthemind.com or email wisardsofthemind.com or call 973-262-1395.

Jan. 17, Kansas City New Year Open 3S, 4S, The Kansas City Chess Club; 2512 NW Vivion Rd., Riverside, MO 64150. Sections: Open & USCF. Prizes: $100 each to 1st-3, $50 members. Reg: 10 am-11 am; Rds: 12:30-2:30 pm. Online Chess Life, 845-853-7929; email: chessclub@powerpawn.net. See Grand Prix.

Jan. 24, St. Louis Open 15S, Chess Club & Scholastic Center; 45th, Maryland Ave., St. Louis, Mo. NS, NC, W. Tel. 314-966-6767. Directions: From I-70 exit 126, south on Providence, east on Rollins, north on Hill St. Rds: 10:30-11:30. Info: Charles Ward, 314-446-6648, chess1960@transplant.net. W.


Nevada


Dec. 29, Las Vegas USCF Booster Quads 3S, 4S, Boulder (see North American Open), $30. 1st prize each: choice of 2 year USCF Adult membership with Chess Life, 4 year USCF Young Adult Membership with Chess Life, or $40. Reg: 10 am-12 noon; Rds: 12:30-1:30-2:30-3:30. In site only, no checks.


Jan. 16-18, 17-19 or 17-18, 16th annual Western Class Championships (CA-8) See Grand Prix.
New Mexico

Jan. 17–18, 2009 Memorial/Senior Championship 45-50, G/90. Days Inn, 2125 Menaul NW. Albuquerque. 305-984-5050. Prize fund $3000/900 (top 40 entries). EF $30, Club Members $20. Free entry to all NM State residents. Reg. $110 after 9:00 am, half-off entry fee for main event. NO FREE ENTRIES!! FTO: 732-259-3881, hsprechman@uschess.org. NMCHess.org. Free entry to all NM Chess Center tmts. except quads thru 6/1/09 to 1st, thru 7/1/09 to 2nd, thru 8/1/09 to 3rd. Mail entries $5 less per player if 4 or more from same school in SAME ENROLLMENT. All testimonials from advance entry list charged late fee $5 extra to any section after 1/26. AB: EF $7 extra paid only after 12/15/08. Call to enter. No phone entry after 1/26.


Jan. 30, 2nd Queens January Open 4-SS. Brandeis H.S., 145 W. 84th St., 10024 (near Columbus Ave, Manhattan). EF $30, Club Members $20, specified Greater NY Scholastic prizewinners free. $$ (480 b/32 paid): 150-100-50 Top U1700 $60. Limit 2 byes, commit by 2pm. Reg. ends 7pm each Mon. FAX: 212-477-3716.
Tourism Life

Feb. 1, Kasparov Chess Foundation presents the 43rd Annual Greater NY Elementary Championship—USCF’s Longest-Running Tournament Life!

All EF $10 more.

Youth Chess Life — December 2008 uschess.org

See Grand Prix.

A State Championship Event!
Feb. 28-Mar. 1, New York State Scholastic Championships

See Grand Prix.

Feb. 7, 22nd Annual Super Saturday Game 4/5 Deferred! See Grand Prix.

Feb. 8, NEW Sunday Sliding Scale Quads!

Rds. 11:15-12:30-1:30-2:15 pm. Questions, credit card entries, team rooms: (406) 896-2191, 24 hours, entries only or chesscenter@aol.com. (Jan 30-31 only: 212-972-0101). Bring sets, clocks, boards—NONE SUPPLIED!

Feb. 3, Marshall Chess New York Events

On-site entry fee: $55 by credit card thru 1/24 online. On-site entry fee must be paid at site. No phone or on-line entry after 1/26. On-site entry fee: $65. On-site reg. ends 9:30 am, rds. 10-10:30-11:30-12:30 pm. Questions, credit card entries, team rooms: 845-569-9969 (or 406-896-2191), 24 hours, entries only or chesscenter@aol.com. See Grand Prix.

Feb. 6-7, Marshall Chess CC Under-2000 Wednesday Swiss

Rds. 11:15-12:30-1:30-2:15 pm. Questions, credit card entries, team rooms: 845-569-9969 (or 406-896-2191), 24 hours, entries only or chesscenter@aol.com. All EF $5 more per player if 4 or more from same school in SAME ENVELOPE! All substitutions from advance entry list charged late fee. $15 extra to switch sections. $15 charge for each refund. All players scoring 4 or more who don’t win a trophy will receive a medal worth 30% free entry, except for 1st team each section, 4 weeks free, except, to 2nd team (top 4 scores from same school — team score). Speed playoff for 5-0. Limit 2 byes (rds. 4-5 confirm before rd. 3). Mail entries: list name, rating, ID# (proof of current USCF membership required, enclose dues if necessary), school, grade, birthdate, address. Checks to (specify section): Chess Center of NY, PO Box 4013, New Windsor, NY 12553. To confirm receipt, enclose SASE. No mail postmarked after 1/26. Phone entries: $59 by credit card thru 1/26. Online entries at www.chesscenter.com: $54 by 1/27, $59 by 1/31, $64 by 2/5 at site. No phone or on-line entry after 1/26. On-site entry fee: $65. On-site reg. ends 9:30 am, rds. 10-10:30-11:30-12:30 pm. Questions, credit card entries, team rooms: 845-569-9969 (or 406-896-2191), 24 hours, entries only or chesscenter@aol.com. See Grand Prix.

Feb. 6, NY February Under 1800!

Rds. 10, 1, 4, & 7. Free entry to all Chess Center tmts. except quads thru 6/1/09 to 1st, thru 5/1 to 2nd, thru 4/1 to 3rd. Questions: chess@silverknightschess.com. In 6 sections, each is a 6SS, G/65 except K-1 is 5SS, G/30 playing Mar 1st Class A, B,C,D/Under $40, 1st U1600 $50. $30 Perfect Score, else $25 1st. Questions: chess@silverknightschess.com. In 6 sections, each is a 6SS, G/65 except K-1 is 5SS, G/30 playing Mar 1st Class A, B,C,D/Under $40, 1st U1600 $50. $30 Perfect Score, else $25 1st. Questions: chess@silverknightschess.com. In 6 sections, each is a 6SS, G/65 except K-1 is 5SS, G/30 playing Mar 1st Class A, B,C,D/Under $40, 1st U1600 $50. $30 Perfect Score, else $25 1st. Questions: chess@silverknightschess.com. In 6 sections, each is a 6SS, G/65 except K-1 is 5SS, G/30 playing Mar 1st Class A, B,C,D/Under $40, 1st U1600 $50. $30 Perfect Score, else $25 1st. Questions: chess@silverknightschess.com.
Golf

Jan. 3, 2009 LCCG Scholastic K-12 Championship — SS, G/15, $100. Contact: John Selig, 855-910-4352, info@dallasschess.com. All registrations and fees due prior to 12/15.

Jan. 10, 2009 LCCG Scholastic K-3 Championship — SS, G/15, $100. Contact: John Selig, 855-910-4352, info@dallasschess.com. All registrations and fees due prior to 12/15.

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Chess to Enjoy

Problem I.
1. ... Qx3+! mates (2. Rxf3 Rxh2+ 3. Qxh2 Qxh2 mate).

Problem II.
White drew after 1. Rxf7+? Kg8 2. Rg7+ Kf8. But 1. g5! wins with its threat of 2. Rg6+ and 3. Rxf6+, 4. Rh8 mate, e.g. 1. ... hxg5 2. Rxg5+ and 3. Rxg3 wins.

Problem III.
After 1. d6! the minor threat is 2. Bxd8. The major one is 2. Qc1 and 3. Qf7 mate, e.g. 1. ... Bc6 2. Qc4 Ra7 3. d7! and mates.

Problem IV.
1. ... Qf3! 2. cxb7+ Kf5 and mates after 3. ... Rh1+ (or after 3. Bxf3 gxf3).

Problem V.
1. ... Ng4! threatens 2. ... Nf2+ or 2. ... Rf2, e.g. 2. hxg4 Qh4+ 3. Kg1 Nxg4 threatens 4. ... Qh2 mate. White resigned soon after 2. Kg1 Rf2 3. Qxf2. No better is 3. Qe1 Qh4, intending 4. ... Qg3 or 4. ... Nf3+ and mates.

Problem VI.

Problems I and V were blindfold games.

TRIVA ANSWERS:
1. b
2. c
3. a-II, b-V, c-III, d-VI, e-II, f-I
4. a-IV, b-V, c-I

Endgame Lab – Benko’s Bafflers
Problem I.
1. Rg7
   a. e6? Kh6 2. Rf6+ Bf6 is equal.
   1. ... Bf6
   1. ... Bf6 2. Rg5 Bd3 3. Nh4 wins.
   2. Re7+
   2. ... Kd5
   2. ... Bc6 3. e6 Kd6 4. Ra7 Bf6 5. Ra6 will win.
   3. Rd7+ Kd6
   White stands better on 3. ... Kc6 4. e6 while 3. ... Kxe5 4. Rb6+ Kxe5
   4. ... Ke5 5. Nh4 is better for White; 4. ... Kf5 5. Rf6+ Ke7 6. Nh4 is also good for White.

10. ... Ke4 11. Rb4, Black resigns.

Problem I.
1. Kd4 1. ... e4? Kd3 is even; 1. ... Kd6 Ke2 2. Kd7 d5 is equal.
1. ... Kc2
1. ... e3 2. fxe3 Kxe2 3. Ke5 Kd3 4. e4 wins.
3. Kd5? Kd3! (Zugzwang) is even.
3. ... Kd4 2. Kc5!

Solitaire Chess – ABCs of Chess

Problem I.
Fork: Black’s winning fork is set up by 1. ... Bxf2+, when 2. Kx2 is answered by 2. ... Nh4-+.

Problem II.

Problem III.
Discovery: The discovery and double check 1. ... Ne2+ wins after 2. Kh1 Ne3+ 3. hxe3 Qh8 mate.

Problem IV.
Mating net: Black ends it with 1. ... Nh2+ 2. Kd1 Ne4 mate.

Problem V.
Mating net: It takes two moves: 1. ... Ng3+ 2. Kf1 f2 mate.

Problem VI.
Mating net: Black ends it mercilessly, 1. ... Qxe2+ 2. Kxf3 Ng5 mate.

“Solitaire Chess” scores:
Total your score to determine your approximate rating below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total Score</th>
<th>Approx. Rating</th>
</tr>
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<tr>
<td>95+</td>
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<td>0-05</td>
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</table>

Chess Life — December 2008

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Tata Steel: 2008: 8:16

Uschess.org Chess Life — December 2008
11th annual FOXWOODS OPEN
April 8-12 (Open), April 9-12 or 10-12 (lower sections), 2009

Open: 9 rounds, GM & IM norms possible! Lower sections: 7 rounds
Easter weekend at the elegant, ultra modern FOXWOODS RESORT CASINO
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Open Section: 9 SS, 40/2, SD/4, GM & IM norms possible. Other Sections: 7 SS, 40/2, SD/1 (3-day option rds 1-4 G/50).
In 7 sections. Prizes based on 650 entries, else proportional; 70% each prize guaranteed. Seniors count 3/4 entry, re-entries, U1000 Section, re-entries, GMs, foreign IMs, WGMs count 1/2 entry toward prize fund.

PRIZE LIMITS: 1) Players with under 26 lifetime games played as of 4/09 list may not win over $500 U1000, $1500 U1300 or $2500 U1500. Games rated too late for 4/09 list not counted. 2) If more than 30 pts over section maximum on any USCF list 4/08-3/09, prize limit $1500. 3) Unrated cannot win over $300 in U1000, $600 U1300, $1000 U1500, $1300 U1700, $1600 U1900, or $2000 U2100. 4) Balance of any limited prize goes to next player(s) in line.
ANTI-CHEATING RULES: See Tournament Life announcement.

ENTRY FEE: 5-day (Open only) $205, 4-day $204, 3-day $203 mailed by 1/10, 5-day $225, 4-day $224, 3-day $223 mailed by 3/31, all $250 at site. Mailed EF $4 less to CSCA mem. No checks at site, credit cards OK. ONLINE ENTRY FEE at chesstour.com: All $207 by 1/10, $227 1/11-4/6, $250 4/7 to 2 hours before round 1.
SPECIAL ENTRY FEE: Seniors over 65 in U1300 or above, $70 less. Re-entry $100, no Open to Open re-entry. GMs, foreign IMs free; $150 deducted from prize. WGMs $100, another $100 deducted from prize. FREE TO UNRATED in U1000 or U1300 sections.
U1000 SECTION ENTRY FEE: 4-day $104, 3-day $103 mailed by 3/31, all $107 at chesstour.com by 4/6, $110 phoned by 4/6, $120 at site.
SPECIAL USCF DUES if paid with entry: see Tournament Life.
SCHEDULES: 5-DAY (OPEN ONLY): Late reg. ends Wed. 6 pm, rds Wed 7 pm, Thu 12 & 7, Fri/Sat 11 & 6, Sun 10 & 4:30. 4-DAY (NO OPEN): Late reg. ends Thu 6 pm, rds. Thu 7 pm, Fri/Sat 11 & 6, Sun 10 & 4:30. 3-DAY (NO OPEN): Late reg. ends Fri 7 pm, rds. Fri 8, Sat 10, 12, 3:30, 6, Sun 10 & 4:30. HALF POINT BYES available all rounds, limit 4 (limit 2 in last 4 rds.); must commit before rd 3, having under 2 points when requesting bye.
4-DAY & 3-DAY SCHEDULES MERGE & compete for same prizes.
HOTEL RATES: Grand Pequot Tower (tournament site, very luxurious) $132-132, Great Cedar Hotel (connected building) $118-118, Two Trees Inn (15 minute walk; free shuttle) $108-108, 1-800-FOXWOOD, you must reserve by 3/26 or you will have to stay at least 3 miles away.
CAR REPAIR: Avis, 800-331-1600, use AVD #D657633.
REFUNDS: $15 service charge, must give notice by 1 hr before rd 1.

Continental Chess Association entry form- use for any CCA tournament- photocopy if desired

Name________________________ Section________ No. Days____ Rating_____ Entry fee_____ Memb. dues_____ USCF ID____ Address________________________

Tournament________________________

Send to Continental Chess, PO Box 249, Salisbury Mills, NY 12577. Checks payable to same. Use of form is optional- you can enter any CCA event by sending name, tournament, section, number of days, USCF ID, rating, & fee.
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If you have a multiprocessor machine then get Deep Rybka 3 for even faster results. With a standard dual core computer Deep Rybka 3 is significantly faster and stronger than Rybka 3.

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Multiprocessor version

The Rybka 3 opening book is a high-class compilation of opening theory and maximizes the program’s playing strength. The choice of variations in the book is well suited to the style of the program, and the book has been fine-tuned and checked in thousands of games.

Rybka 3 Book € 24.99 / US $ 40

Pocket Fritz 3 – Chess un the move
– A powerful opponent on the move.
Now with 12 hours of audio lessons!
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- Pocket Fritz 3 is the ultimate mobile chess companion, ready to play anywhere, anytime.
- A brand-new chess engine, developed by Mark Uliack of Hiarcs fame with a well-balanced positional style and first-class tactical strength.
- Direct access to the new high-speed online database with over four million games.
- Enhanced analysis mode with search depth, evaluation, main line and multiple Lines.
- Improved usability with choice of piece sets, multiple screen layouts, improved move entry and comments, display of opening names.
- Help from the built-in chess coach.
- An integrated training system for openings, tactics and endgames
- The icing on the cake: twelve hours of chess training audio from GM Daniel King and IM Andrew Martin.

System requirements: PocketFritz 3 runs on Pocket PCs with Windows Mobile 2003 for Pocket PC, up to Mobile 6.1. Requires a Windows computer with a DVD drive for program installation.

PocketFritz 3 € 49.99 / US $ 65

System requirements for ChessBase 10/Rybka 3:
Recommended: PC Intel Core 2 Duo, 2.4 GHz, 4 GB RAM, Windows Vista 64, Windows Media Player 11, DVD ROM drive.