

A MESSAGE TO CENTRAL OREGON CHESSPLAYERS

September 1, 2016

Greetings!

Central Oregon used to be a destination for chess players traveling to attend events like the High Desert Open in Bend. I was one of those players, traveling from the Coast, where I lived then, to play in it at least twice. But for the last decade or so there has been nothing in the chess news about any tournaments being held here. And now that I live in Bend, I am one of those here who would like to see the level of chess tournament activity restarted and increased. But to make that happen, we will need the support and participation of each of you.

We are restarting this from scratch. To get started, we have booked a first event, the Bend Fall Quads, to be held on October 1. Details are given in the flyer enclosed. You will note the optimistic name, including the word, "Fall". That implies that there will be events in other seasons. In fact, we are considering the possibility of maybe four weekend events in the next year and perhaps more the year after. But that would depend on all of you, and whether you show up to support our first efforts.

Assuming this program goes forward, a variety of types of tournaments are possible. Besides a couple of Quads a year, there could be one day four round events, sometimes with a beginner tournament for new tournament players on the side. Or perhaps we could sponsor occasional scholastic tournaments or team tournaments. And of course it would be nice to resume the tradition of the High Desert Opens!

This growth may not all be in Bend. But for us to help bring tournaments to your town, you would have to help by at least booking a site and agreeing to handle local publicity. Beyond that, in the past I have worked with players where hosting tournaments is a new idea for their towns. In a wide variety of situations, I helped with as much or as little of the sponsoring, tournament directing, etc. that was needed to get things started. And then players in those towns were included in running the events held there to eventually be able to take them over locally. Something like that could work in other towns in this area. And then those towns could have teams in a chess league maybe!

We have big dreams for the future of chess here. But it all depends on you turning out on October 1 at the Bend Fall Quads to support the start of these new programs. Please be there! Thanks.

Sincerely,
Paul Shannon, NTD
Vice President, Central Oregon Chess Club