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Steven Breckenridge holding the Oregon State
Championship trophy. Photo credit: Lilly Tang.

Back Cover

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Submissions

Submissions of games (PGN format is preferable for
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News Flash: Vignesh Anand Becomes National Master!

Congratulations to Vignesh Anand of Redmond, Washington, who recently became Washington State's newest National Master! Vignesh achieved a US Chess rating of 2202 as a result of scoring 4.0/4 points at the recent Plano Swiss, held in Plano, Texas on Saturday, May 10, 2025.

Congratulations Vignesh!



Meiling Cheng

Reframing the Game of Chess One Photo at a Time

Ken Lee

For anyone in the Pacific Northwest chess community, Meiling Cheng is a familiar face.

With her ready smile, friendly personality and handy phone, Meiling has been providing amazing photography for *Northwest Chess* magazine since 2021.

Meiling's three children—Howard, a sophomore at University of Washington in Bothell; Edward, senior at Garfield High; and Selina, seventh grader at Tillicum Middle School—have been a part of the chess community for many years.

I sat down with Meiling to discuss chess, photography, and her journey as a chess parent.

Ken: When did you first come to Seattle?

Meiling: I moved from Guangdong, China to Seattle in 2003 and had to learn to adapt to a completely new life. My kids were all born here in Seattle.

Ken: What got them interested in chess in initially?

Meiling: They were fortunate to have some great chess experiences as young kids. My sons got involved with chess early on at their elementary school in

South Seattle. FIDE Master (FM) Coach William (Bill) Schill and Steve Ryan from Seattle Chess School were my boys' first coaches at their elementary school. Later, they got involved with Detective Cookie's Chess Club.

Selina first started learning chess from Detective Cookie and Larry Greenawalt at the Detective Cookie Chess Club. She also worked with Coach Bill and Steve from her elementary school chess club. Both Edward and Selina learned a lot from National Master (NM) Coach Matt Fleury online during COVID.

Coach Ray Easterday from Orangutan Chess Academy has also supported my kids since we first met at the Seattle Public Library. Another amazing person has been Coach Valentin Razmov, who we met at a chess tournament. More recently, Woman FIDE Master (WFM) Coach Chouchanik Airapetian has been Selina's coach as well.

Ken: Wow, that's a lot of different coaches! Did you purposely plan to work with so many different coaches over the years?

Meiling: Well, believe it or not, that was unplanned. Fortunately, I had the opportunity to meet so many kind people who have helped us along the way. I figured that if a coach could inspire my kids to

be excited about playing chess, I would like to work with them. What a blessing for my kids to learn from such amazing coaches and friends.

Ken: I guess it pays to be friendly! Why did you want to support your kids' interest in chess?

Meiling: To be honest, it all kind of happened naturally. Even though I don't know much about the actual game of chess, our family felt like it was a great activity for our kids. It was clear to me that chess could help my kids develop and sharpen their strategic thinking, problem solving and decision making skills.

I also thought chess could help my kids learn to be more patient and resilient. Chess also taught them about goal setting and how to achieve those goals through dedication and hard work. Honestly, what I like most about chess is its energy. I think that the energy of chess and the intentionality of chess are good things for kids to experience.

Ken: Can you expand on that idea please?

Meiling: I believe that life is like a chess game. Chess is a journey filled with ups and downs, laughter and tears, joy and sadness, wins and losses. But for me, the most important thing about chess is that it's a boundless opportunity to learn something new, grow, and enjoy the process. Good sportsmanship is always something good for the entire chess community to embrace and promote.

Ken: How have your kids' chess experiences changed over the years?

"The most important thing about chess is that it's a boundless opportunity to learn something new, grow, and enjoy the process."



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Contact Lin S. Shih
(206) 954-0963
lin@linshih.com

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Meiling: It was very challenging for my boys to continue with chess in middle school because most of the elementary school friends quit chess to pursue other sports or interests. Also, there wasn't a chess club in their middle school. It's the same now with Selina. Her current middle school does not have a formal chess club or chess coach. This makes it harder for her to continue playing. But she has adapted and continues to play more online games and compete in tournaments. While one of my boys continues to compete occasionally, the boys' interests have expanded into other areas.

Ken: How did you get involved with becoming a photographer for the chess community?

Meiling: I started taking photos as a volunteer for Detective Cookie and her chess events back in 2016. Then in 2021, I was invited by WCF President NM Josh Sinanan to take photos at various chess tournaments. I've been doing it for years now and I love it!

Ken: What makes a good chess photo?

Meiling: I think a good photo requires the right body posture, facial expression, and movement. It also requires the right chess player on the right board with the best possible chess position. When I am taking photos at a chess tournament, my focus is more on the players than on the board. To me, the board tells about the position in a game, while the players tell the story about what they have been going through in a game or tournament.

I have observed a wide range of emotions from players over the years. They vary from boredom, disappointment, anger, anxiety, stress, and frustration to relaxation, contentment, confidence, joy, surprise, excitement, and pride.

The challenge is that chess players must try to keep their emotions in check and refrain from showing their emotions to their opponents. I think it's an interesting skill set that is unique to chess.

Ken: What makes a perfect chess photo?

Meiling: A perfect chess photo is the one that captures the most critical moment in a match and conveys the story about the game as well as the players involved.

Ken: What else would you like to share with readers after witnessing

thousands of chess tournaments?

Meiling: I would like to take this opportunity to say "thank you" to all the chess players, families, volunteers, organizers and especially my WCF team members for your absolute trust, understanding, consideration and support with my volunteer work.

I really want to give Detective Cookie and WCF President Josh Sinanan a special shout-out in providing me the great opportunity to make my photographic journey possible.

Ken: What do you think is the future of chess?

Meiling: As a volunteer and chess parent, I am glad to see supportive chess coaches and parents always be there for the players whenever they need them. I

am also happy to see the chess players help and support each other. I would highly recommend players, families and coaches to volunteer at tournaments or other events whenever possible.

I would also like to see more players and parents share their experience and stories through *Northwest Chess Magazine*.

Your articles for *Northwest Chess* help bridge the gap between people who are inside and outside the community and are very inspiring to all of us. I will keep on shooting photos! Ken, please keep on writing!



*US Junior Open, Chicago 2024, Meiling Cheng (L) and Selina Cheng.
Photo courtesy of Meiling Cheng.*

Monroe Rapid Knights Challenge

Josh Sinanan

The Monroe Rapid Knights Challenge took place on Saturday, February 1, 2025, at the Monroe Community Senior Center. WCF Co-Vice President Rekha Sagar, a Monroe resident who lives near the playing site, once again organized and ran the event.

The tournament attracted forty-seven players across three sections named in honor of local Pacific Northwest chess community leaders: Orlov Championship, Sankrithi U1300, and Dorfner U700. Georgi Orlov, an International Master and six-time Washington State Champion, is an experienced chess teacher and

organizer based the Seattle area since 1995. Georgi serves as the Executive Director of Chess Mates Foundation, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that runs after-school chess programs throughout the year in Seattle-area schools.

Siva Sankrithi is a chess dad, educator, and organizer based in Lake



Derek Zhang (Front L) vs Vidip Kona alongside Ryan Porter (Rear L) vs Matt Wilber on the top boards of the Orlov Championships section during round three of the Monroe Rapid Knights Challenge. Photo credit: Rekha Sagar.

Forest Park. Siva is the former head of the Lakeside High School Chess Team, where he taught math for many years before ‘retiring’ to raise his two boys Sarang and Vivaan. The late Gary Dorfner (1947-2022) was a long-time chess organizer and promoter based in Tacoma whose career began in the 1960’s. Besides being a major part of the Tacoma Chess Club, he was secretary of the Washington Chess Federation for many years and an active tournament director for many regional tournaments for adults and children.

The 47-player event, co-hosted by the Washington Chess Federation and the Monroe Chess Club, attracted participants ranging from unrated to master and drew from cities throughout the region including Snohomish, Monroe, Sultan, Kirkland, Redmond, Bellevue, Seattle, Bothell, Mill Creek, Shoreline, Mercer Island, Duvall, Marysville, Covington, and Lake Stevens.

Two chess knights of the round table, NM Vidip Kona (2224 → 2226, 4.0) of Duvall and NM Matt Wilber (2204 → 2217, 4.0) of Bellevue, topped the 14-player Orlov Championship section, each with four points from five games. Kona recovered well after a third-round loss against fellow national master Derek Zhang, winning his last two games including the clutch final-round duel with Wilber. Wilber vanquished NMs Ryan Porter and Derek Zhang in rounds three and four, respectively, before being

stopped by Kona to share the title. A pair of chess cowboys shared third/fourth place honors a half-point back: NM Derek Zhang (2295 → 2299, 3.5) of Bellevue and Lakeside High School senior Max Schmidt-Warnecke (1116 → 1203, 3.5) of Mercer Island.

In the 15-player Sankrithi U1300 section, Everett chess enthusiast David Smygov (1141 → 1207, 5.0) emerged victorious with a perfect five points from five games, scoring key victories against his nearest rivals Bondar (986) and Bochner (unrated) in the final two rounds. Redmond chess ranger Dmitriy Bondar (986 → 1078, 4.0) earned the second place prize, recovering well from his loss against Smygov with a fifth-round victory against Bellevue’s Jie Shan. Three up-and-coming chess musketeers shared fourth place honors with three points apiece: Akshayaa Venkataraghavan (1042 → 1004, 3.0) of Bellevue, Anish Reddy Kanchanakuntla (938 → 989, 3.0) of Snohomish, and Kevin Zhang (826 → 842, 3.0) of Bellevue.

Snohomish chess swindler Ryan Kakar (577 → 720, 4.5) pulled off some chess magic tricks to win the 18-player Dorfner U700 with a brilliant 4.5 points from five games, allowing only a single draw against Kruse (502) in the final round to lock in the victory. Two rising chess stars, Dinesh Poka (622 → 709, 4.0) of Monroe and Arush Tumkunta (unrated → 669, 4.0) of Snohomish, captured



Trophies were awarded to the top finishers in the Sankrithi U1300 and Dorfner U700 sections. Photo credit: Rekha Sagar.

second/third place honors a half-point back. Redmond chess wrangler Brian Kruse (502 → 547, 3.5) won the fourth place prize a half-point back with a solid “plus two” score.

In addition to the overall prizes, several “special” prizes were also awarded in each section, for categories including Best Female Player, Best Dressed, Biggest Upset Win, Best Senior Player, Kindness/Spreading Joy, and Best Sportsmanship. Congratulations to the winners.

Monroe Rapid Knights Challenge Prizes

Orlov: 1st – 4th : \$200-150-100-75.
Sankrithi: Trophies awarded on-site to players scoring 3 points or more.
Dorfner: Trophies awarded on-site to players scoring 3 points or more.

Section	1st Place	2nd Place	3rd Place	4th Place
Orlov Championship	Matt Wilber Vidip Kona		Derek Zhang Max Schmidt-Warnecke	
Sankrithi U1300	David Smygov	Dmitriy Bondar	Joshua Bochner	Anish Reddy Kanchanakuntla Kevin Zhang Akshayaa Venkataraghavan
Dorfner U700	Ryan Kakar	Dinesh Poka Arush Tumkunta		Brian Kruse



Section	Best Female Player	Best Dressed	Biggest Upset Win	Best Senior Player	Kindness/Spreading Joy	Best Sportsmanship
Orlov Championship	N/A	Viyaan Bhindi	Max Schmidt-Warnecke	Paul Victor	Adam Kozyra	Mithran Perumalsamy
Sankrithi U1300	Akshayaa Venkataraghavan Aria Ajay	Arnav Appineni	Ajay Sundaresh	Elliot Golan	Tristan Dong Jie Shan	Arnav Masanagi
Dorfner U700	Rhea Prasad	Viraj Bhindi	Sanjay Kaushal Mudragada	Brian Kruse	Abhinav Manikandan	Ishaan Prasad

2025 Presidential Scholastic

Josh Sinanan

The 2025 Presidential Scholastic chess tournament was held on President's Day Monday, February 17, at Chinook Middle School in Bellevue. A fantastic turnout of 242 scholastic chess players in grades K-12 participated in the event from throughout the Pacific Northwest, including the cities of Lake Tapps, Woodinville, Mill Creek, Sammamish, Bothell, Monroe, Redmond, Bellevue, Newcastle, Seattle, Richmond (BC), Everett, Yelm, Black Diamond, Bonney Lake, Olympia, Shoreline, Medina, Mercer Island, Renton, Lynnwood, Covington, Delta (BC), Dublin (California), Clyde Hill, Woodinville, Issaquah, Yarrow Point, Snoqualmie, Snohomish, University Place, Lake Forest Park, North Bend, Milton, and Kenmore!

The event was hosted by the Washington Chess Federation, paired by WCF Co-Vice President Rekha Sagar, and directed by floor TDs Mani Atikankhotchasee, Ani Barua, Allen Messenger, and Josh Sinanan. The five-round Swiss tournament consisted of seven sections parsed by grade level and rating: Kindergarten, 1-2 U700, 3-4 U800, 5-12 U1000, 1-3 Open, 4-6 Open, and 7-12 Open.

Due to the large attendance, the tournament was split between two gymnasiums, with notation required for players in the main gym and notation optional for the younger players taking part in the auxiliary gym. All the games were dual NWSRS and US Chess rated, with US Chess membership required in all sections.

Volunteers and judges included Peter Zou, Gavin Shi, and Nandeesh Yellappa. In addition to the Amazon gift cards awarded to the individual winners, team plaques were awarded to the top five



(L-R) Chouchan Airepetian, Rekha Sagar, and Josh Sinanan pose with winners from the 2025 Presidential Scholastic. Photo credit: Ani Barua.

finishing teams (top four scores from same school comprise team score) across all sections.

The Samantha Smith Elementary Chess Club from Sammamish brought 23 players, the most from any school, and

won an exclusive lesson with yours truly, national master and WCF President Josh Sinanan!

Congratulations to the winners, and thanks to all who contributed to this amazing event!

Team Prizes - Plaques awarded to the top 5 finishing teams (top 4 scores from same school comprise team score) across all sections		
Place	Team (School)	Team Score (pts)
1st	Samantha Smith ES	17
2nd	Kokanee ES	15.5
3rd	Open Window	14.5
4th	Medina ES	13.5
5th	Redmond MS	13.5

Presidential Scholastic Prizes

Individual Prizes - Amazon gift cards (for 1st-5th place) awarded in each section.

1st - 5th: \$70-65-60-55-50.

Section	1st Place	2nd Place	3rd Place	4th Place	5th Place
Kindergarten	Deethya R Sankar, Callie Jiang, Agasthya Konduri \$65/- Each			Pengyu Chen, Liam Zeng, Aishini Reddy \$35/- Each	
1-2 U700	William Zhang \$70/-	Vihaan Ramana, Vihaan Nair, Viraj Gaddam, Ishaan Prasad, Egan Ip \$46/- Each			
3-4 U800	Aaron Liu \$70/-	Cody Lin, Brody Lin, Charan Prasanna, Derek Xu, Ishana Datta \$46/- Each			
5-12 U1000	Abigail Lew \$70/-	Lalith Adithya Tirunagari, Anjalika Mukherjee, Leo Luo, Gabriel Wong, Robert Gridasov, Jethro Xia, Damien Davies \$33/- Each			
1-3 Open	Avyaan Roy Chowdhury \$70/-	Easton Ren, Atul Srinivasan, Jaxon Krogstad, Elina Khudiyev \$58/- Each			
4-6 Open	Aarya Patel \$70/-	Snehil Ghosh, Terrick Evin, Seojoon Oh \$60/- Each			Jinhan Zou, Jake Bravenboer, Jizhou He, Alisa Rachiba \$13/- Each
7-12 Open	Owen Scollon \$70/-	Deepak Sri Kartikeya Rao, Drew Kolenski, Ziliang Ma \$60/- Each			Jeffrey Chien, Atharv Rastogi \$25/- Each

Section	Best Female Player (by TPR)	Best Dressed	Best Sportsmanship	Biggest Upset Win
Kindergarten	Dhanvika Sapaharam	Pengyu Chen	Everett Szeto Rhea Prasad	Pengyu Chen
1-2 U700	Jingyi Pan	Advaith Sairam	Nivaan Anand Bobby Chai	Steven Liu
3-4 U800	Pearl Tulsukchuentanat	Aryan Gaddam	Corvin Gorski	Pratyush Choudhary
5-12 U1000	Clara Dragusanu	Abigail Lew	Sourish Panda Adheesh Meenakshi Sundaram Kevin Chen	Raunak Dinesh
1-3 Open	Felicity Mei Rebecca Li	Vincent Gu	Bihe Liu Jeremy Ge	Pavithran Meenakshi Sundaram
4-6 Open	Triaksha Sadhanala	Alex Ye	Andres Flores Uriegas Scott Liu Sri Jayraj Sampathi Rao Jonathan Lan Sabeer Shaikot	Nirvan Tummuru
7-12 Open	Elena Heider	Nathan Jiang	Vihaan Chaurasia Himank Yadav Rushil Singh Arjun Moghe Guru Harshith Reddy Avula Alex Xu Daniel Polonsky Keshav Deshpande	Anderson Gould



3rd Annual Eastside Open

Josh Sinanan

The Washington Chess Federation (WCF) hosted the third annual Eastside Open on the weekend of March 1-2 at Hotel 116 in Bellevue, a no-nonsense hotel located in the heart of downtown Bellevue just off Interstate 405. Blakely Hall in Issaquah, where the previous two Eastside Opens took place, increased their rentals fees significantly and priced themselves out of the hyper-competitive chess market!

The two-day, five-round Swiss tournament was split into three sections named after prominent Eastside cities: Bellevue Open, Kirkland U1700, and Redmond U1200. Several titled players turned out for the FIDE-rated Bellevue Open, no doubt on the hunt for those coveted FIDE rating points: NM Siddharth M. Sundaram, FM Aziz Degenbaev, FM Megan Lee, FM Ryan Porter, FM Stephen Willy, NM Digesh Malla, NM Vidip Kona, NM Nikash Vemparala, and NM Matthew Wilber.

Chess players from throughout the Pacific Northwest, though with a large concentration from the Eastside, were represented from cities including Auburn, Bothell, Seattle, Bellevue, Sammamish, Bainbridge Island, Redmond, Gig Harbor, Richmond (BC), Monroe, Snohomish, Mill Creek, Brier, Everett, Portland, Tenino, Clyde Hill, Duvall, Lynnwood,

Mercer Island, Renton, Tacoma, Issaquah, Federal Way, Newcastle, University Place, Carbondale (Colorado), Covington, Kirkland, Olympia, Beaverton (Oregon), Fall City, Medina, Vancouver (BC), and Hunts Point. The tournament was directed by FIDE Arbiter Mani Atikankhotchasee with assistance from WCF Member-at-Large Ani Barua, WCF Scholastic Director Allen Messenger, and Chess Dad Extraordinaire Alex Byelashov.

The field was rather top-heavy, with 59 in the Bellevue Open, 35 in the Kirkland U1700, and just 25 in the Redmond U1200 section. Those who were not quite ready for the “chessical” weekend to end concluded the festivities with an action-packed Sunday night blitz tournament!

NM Siddharth M. Sundaram, an Amazon software engineer who was once a promising junior talent when he lived in India, repeated as Champion of the Bellevue Open, scoring an undefeated 4.5 points from five games. Sid’s big victory occurred in round four of the tournament against FM Aziz Degenbaev (2375) when the latter over-pressed.

A solid fifth round draw against reigning Washington State Champion FM Ryan Porter clinched the victory for Sundaram. A quadruplet of chess kings

shared second–fourth place honors with four points apiece: FM Aziz Degenbaev of Seattle, FM Ryan Porter of Bellevue, NM Vidip Kona of Duvall, and soon-to-be master Ananth Gottumukkala of Sammamish! The U2100 prizes were shared between Luca Tessiere of Seattle, Emerson Wong-Godfrey of Seattle, and Leonid Gavrysh of Brier, each with 3.5 points.

A pair of up-and-coming eastside chess ringers, Michael Lin of Sammamish and Akim Pikh of Redmond, shared the U1900 prizes with a solid “plus one” score. Several special prizes including biggest upset win, best female player (by tournament performance rating), and best dressed player were also awarded in each section.

The Bellevue Open section winners were: Akim Pikh (round one, 472 points), Harrison Toppen-Ryan (round two, 346 points), Harrison Toppen-Ryan (round three, 440 points), Aarav B. Mohan (round four, 130 points), and Davey Jones (round five, 211 points); Shuyi Han, the best female player with a TPR of 2070; and the snappy dressers Saahil Gupta (Saturday) and Vidip Kona (Sunday).

Blackwell Elementary fifth grader Ziqian Gao of Sammamish emerged victorious in the 35-player Kirkland

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U1700 section with an impressive 4.5 points from five games, allowing only a single draw against Aiden Chan (1347) in the third round. A clutch final round win against the dangerous Jinmo Nam, who had the only perfect score in the section, secured the victory for Gao. Three Eastside chess musketeers—Jinmo Nam of Issaquah, Shawn Li of Bellevue, and Chen Yuan of Bellevue—shared second-fourth place honors a half-point back.

Sammamish chess stud Alexander Lebedinsky and Everett chess everyman David Smygov split the U1500/U1300 prize with 3.5 points apiece. Seven rising stars shone brightly and earned a share of the second U1500 prize with three points each: Riaan Babbar of Sammamish, Oliver He of Sammamish, Jimmy Yang of Kirkland, Daniel Polonsky of Newcastle, Krishang Gupta of Everett, Vihaan Pai of Sammamish, and Ziliang Ma of Seattle.

Young Jordan Szeto of Richmond (BC) scored an impressive three points and took the second U1300 prize with him back to Canada. The Kirkland U1700 special prizes were awarded to Sky Cui (round one, 219 points), Jizhou He (round two, 144 points), Anyi Li (round three, 222 points), Sky Cui (round four, 272 points), and Aditi Sembium (round five, 260 points); Kruti Thanikonda for the best female player (TPR: 1424), and the two fashionistas Andra Marinescu (Saturday) and Alisa Rachiba (Sunday).

The 25-player Redmond U1200 section, which had an eclectic mix of unrated adults and underrated juniors, was topped by newcomer Laurentiu Pavel, who was playing in his first ever OTB chess tournament. No doubt Pavel had some online experience that led him to a perfect 5.0/5 score, which became evident when he remarked to one of the tournament directors that the kids in his



*Aziz Degenbaev (front L) vs Siddarth M. Sundaram alongside Ryan Porter vs Harrison Toppen-Ryan and other top boards during round four of the Eastside Open.
Photo credit: Meiling Cheng.*

section had no idea how to counter his Catalan opening.

Two rising chess stars—Hanish Tallapaneni of Covington and Joyce Gui of Bellevue—split second/third place honors a full-point back. A quintuplet of chess questers shared the fourth place prize, each with three points from five games: Martina Szeto of Richmond, Elina Khudiyev of Sammamish, Matthew McKendry of Tacoma, Clora Huang of Bellevue, and Ananya Sabarish of Redmond.

Former ship captain Peter Zou of Sammamish and his two first mates

Saahan Chadha of Sammamish and Eason Chen of Bellevue claimed the U1000 prizes with three points apiece for their seaworthy efforts. Open Window School third grader Alice Li captured the first U800 prize with two points while Rose Hill Elementary first grader Suryen C. Vinu earned the second U800 prize with one point.

The Redmond U1200 special prizes were distributed as follows: Shane Groff (round one, 243 points), Alice Li (round two, 310 points), Kyle Jiang (round three, 100 points), Saahan Chadha (round four, 126 points), and Sofia Byelashova (round five, 110 points); Joyce Gui for best

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female player (TPR: 1369), and Martina Szeto (Saturday) and Emma Ge (Sunday) strolled down the catwalk.

Just after the final round of the Eastside Open, a 34-player, seven-round, US Chess Blitz rated speed tournament took place to allow the players to blow off some steam after a weekend of intense concentration. Two intrepid blitz warriors, FM Aziz Degenbaev of Seattle and NM Vidip Kona of Duvall, emerged victorious with an impressive 6.5 from seven games after drawing against each other in the fifth round and winning all their other games.

Four Eastside chess masters shared third place honors with five points apiece: NM Matt Wilber of Bellevue, NM Sid M. Sundaram of Bellevue, NM Digesh Mall of Sammamish, and FM Ted Wang of Medina. Redmond High School Junior Varin Nallabothula of Redmond and WCF Vice President Duane Polich of Bothell split the U1900 prize, each with 4.5 points. Three emerging speed chess superstars split the U1700/U1500/U1300 prize with a solid “plus one” score: Snehil Ghosh of Redmond, Owen Scollon of Bellingham, and Ziqian Gao of Sammamish.

A pair of chess jousts, Jinhan Zou of Sammamish and Joshua Van Gorkam of Olympia, split the U1100 prize with two points apiece. Unrated adult ringer Laurentiu Pavel was at it again and took home the first unrated prize for his efforts.

The biggest upset wins were achieved by “Wild Man” Dann Merriman (rounds one+two, 689 + 531 points, respectively), Snehil Ghosh (round three, 652 points), David Smygov (round four, 743 points), Ziliang Ma (round five, 413 points), Jinhan Zou (round six, 812 points), and Joshua Van Gorkom (Rd. 7, 896 points). Congratulations to the winners, and many

thanks to all who contributed to this fantastic event!

**Ted Wang (2263) –
Harrison Toppen-Ryan (1914) [B30]**
Eastside Open Bellevue, WA
(R2), March 1, 2025
[Harrison Toppen-Ryan]

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5

Sicilian Rossolimo Variation. When playing lower rated players, I typically see the Alapin (2.c3 or 2.Nf3 3.c3) variation in order to avoid theory. The Rossolimo becomes more popular once you play the WA State masters and 1800+ rated players.

3...Nf6!?

The fourth most popular move, but one that gets interesting positions. 3...Nf6 is a fighting choice with bringing out a piece and attacking the e-pawn right away! In this case, White does not have time to build up with c3 and d4 like in typical Rossolimo positions.

4.Bxc6

Other variations White could play are 4.d3, 4.Nc3 and 4.e5.

4...dxc6 5.d3 Bg4

it's important to play this move before White gets a chance to play h2–h3. Black's most difficult piece to develop is usually the light-squared bishop—getting it on g4 where it could go to h5 and g6/f7 is a small win for Black.

6.Nbd2 Nd7!?

Black wants to play ...f6 and ...e5 here in order to have more control over the center, alongside giving his king flexibility on where to castle.

7.h3 Bh5 8.b3 e5 9.Bb2 f6 10.Nc4 Qc7 11.g4 Bf7



Position after 11...Bf7

Black's dark-squared bishop is now a fine piece. ...Bxc4 is now an option if I don't believe that the light-squared bishop will have any future.

12.Nh4 0-0-0!? **13.Qf3 g6**

Stopping Nf5 ideas but also weakening the f6–pawn.

14.a4 Be7

14...Bg7 was probably slightly better—getting the bishop on the longer diagonal and defending the e-pawn.

15.Ng2 Bxc4

15...Nf8? 16.Bxe5 fxe5 17.Qxf7 allows White to win a pawn.

16.bxc4 Nf8

Now there's no lose f7-bishop for White to tactually take advantage of. Black's idea is to improve their worst piece by re-manuevering the knight to f8–e6–d4/f4 where it will be a strong piece.

17.g5?!

I was and still am a bit confused on what White's idea was here, I tried to look to see if ...Qf7 or ...Qg4 ideas were dangerous for me, but couldn't see anything concrete. This move just simply gives up a pawn if anything.

17...fxg5 18.Ne3

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18.Qg4+ Kb8 19.h4 gxh4 20.Nxh4 Bf6
21.f4 h5 22.Qg2 Qd6 23.fxe5 Bxe5

18...Ne6 19.Qg4 Qd6 20.h4?!

Another weird pawn move on the kingside. I decided to not grab the other pawn and instead go for more activity.

20...h5

20...gxh4 is still good for Black, but I wanted more.

21.Qg3 Nd4 22.c3?



Position after 22.c3

This move makes White's position unplayable. White needs to rest the strong knight on d4 and keep the d3-pawn defended. This is a great exercise if you want to cover up the rest of the game and try and solve for Black's best move.

22...Ne2!!

"A bolt from the blue!" as Fischer would describe it. The knight is heading to f4 with an attack on White's queen. When your opponent's king has not castled, try to find ways open up the center. Here this reveals the batter on White's now weak d3-pawn. 22...Ne6 is also good for Black if they want to go for a more positional approach.

23.Qh3+

23.Kxe2 is no better due to 23...Qxd3+

24.Kf3 Rhf8+ 25.Kg2 Qxe4+ 26.Kg1 Rf3 27.Qg2 Rd2→ Black would have an irresistible attack.

23...g4!

In-between move.

24.Qf1

24.Nxg4? is not working for White thanks to 24...Nf4! in-between move again 25.Qg3 Qxd3!! threatening mate on e2 26.Qxd3 Nxg4++ Everything is hanging in the white camp.

24...Nf4

d3 is now a massive weakness.

25.d4

Desperation. No better is 25.0-0-0 Rhf8+

25...cxd4 26.Ba3

26.0-0-0 d3 27.Rd2 Rhf8 28.Kb1 Qe6 29.a5 Bc5 30.a6 b6 31.Bc1 Bxe3

26...Qe6



Position after 26...Qe6

27.Nd5

Pure desperation!

27...Bxa3 28.Rxa3 cxd5 29.cxd5 Qb6 30.Qc4+ Kb8 31.Rb3 Rc8!

White resigned. Black trades down the queens by force and will be a piece and a pawn up in a better position. White can't

even go for any counterplay in the center with: 32.Qxc8+ Rxc8 33.Rxb6 axb6 34.cxd4?? because Black wins a rook with: 34...Rc1+. Conclusion: 1.) Find ways to improve badly placed pieces. Black's 6.Nd7 followed by the knight going to ...f8-e6-d4 was a textbook example of improving bad pieces. 2.) If your opponent's king is not castled yet, *open* up the position using *forcing* moves. Black would not have won this game as quickly with his ...22.Ne2 resource.

0-1

Harrison Toppen-Ryan (1914) – Megan Lee (2334) [D85]
Eastside Open Bellevue, WA
(R3), March 1, 2025
[Harrison Toppen-Ryan]

Before the game, I had gone to the park and took a walk with my wife during the sunset. I believe that helped me with my play and performance that you're about to dive into.

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 d5!?

My opponent typically doesn't play the Grünfeld Defense. I was still ready for the challenge since this opening is known for being one of Black's best responses to 1.d4 openings.

4.cxd5 Nxd5 5.Bd2!?

Instead of pushing the pawn on e4 right away, White prepares this move with the intention to capture with the bishop. From here it will challenge Black's strong bishop on g7. The pawn formation on d5 and e4 will also restrict the rest of Black's minor pieces and hinder their development. 5.e4 Nxc3 6.bxc3 Bg7 7.Nf3 c5 is the main line.

5...Bg7

A sparing game I played against fellow



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Washington State Expert Kai Pisan went 5...c5!? 6.dxc5! Bg7 7.Qb3!? Nc7? (7...Be6 is best, giving up the b-pawn) 8.e4 Nc6 9.Be3 0-0 10.Rd1 Bd7 11.Nf3 Qc8 12.Be2 and Black didn't have enough compensation for the pawn.

6.e4 Nxc3 7.Bxc3 c5 8.d5 Bxc3+

8...0-0 is considered a more accurate move order, although not by much.

9.bxc3 e6 10.Bc4 exd5 11.Bxd5

11.exd5?! is not good because after 11...0-0 12.Ne2 Nd7 13.0-0 Nb6 and White will lose their c4-bishop in worse conditions than in the game. White's passed d-pawn is not as impressive as it could have been.

11...Nd7!?

This and 11.O-O seem to be the strongest continuation. 11...Qf6 12.Qd2 0-0 13.Ne2!?!?

12.Qb3 0-0 13.Ne2!?

I've given this move this annotation not for the move itself but for the context behind it. After this move was made, the knight landed awkwardly on the e2-square. I adjusted the piece after I had already hit my clock. My opponent then correctly informed me that I was not allowed to adjust pieces after I've completed my move by hitting the clock. I was not aware of this rule and felt slightly embarrassed. This is now something that I will remember in the future.

13...Nb6

13...Nf6 was also playable with a similar idea.

14.0-0 Qc7

14...Nxd5

15.c4 Nxd5 16.cxd5



Position after 16.cxd5

We have an interesting imbalance. White has a connected passed d-pawn while Black has a connected passed c-pawn

and a three versus one majority on the queenside. Black also has a light-squared bishop against a kingside knight. Here are the standard plans for both colors in these types of positions: White: Get the passed d-pawn to d6 and the e-pawn to e5, push f2-f4 to reinforce the center, try to improve the f3-knight by putting it on e4 or d5 where it could potentially take advantage of Black's weak dark-squares around her king. Black: Find a way to blockade White's passed d-pawn. This is harder to do with rooks/bishops than with pawns/knights, however. Get the queenside pawns rolling with moves like b7-b5 and c5-c4. A king and pawn endgame with Black's king on d6 would be a win for Black since her three versus one majority on the queenside would be enough for a win.

16...Bg4

16...Re8 17.Nc3 and Black cannot play ...f7-f5 yet due to d5-d6+ ideas.

17.f3

It's in White's best interest to not continue trading pieces since I wanted to get my knight centralized in this semi-closed position. 17.Nc3 may be even better since it gets the knight in a more active square and stops b7-b5 ideas for now.

17...Bd7

Here I felt White was slightly better due to my impressive center. That feeling began to fade after...

18.Rac1!?

18.a4! delays ...b7-b5 ideas for Black. 18...a6 19.a5! Bb5 20.Rfe1 White would have a bind on the b6-square and the center.

18...b5!??

I should have respected this idea by Black more. My opponent now executes the correct plan and now chances are unclear.

19.Qc3 Rac8 20.e5 b4 21.Qe3 Bb5

This move improves a bad piece and threatens c5-c4. Even stronger is the immediate: 21...c4! 22.Ng3 (22.Nd4? Qc5) 22...c3 23.Nh5!? gxh5 24.Qg5+ is a perpetual.

22.f4 Rfe8 23.Rfd1

White also improves a piece.

23...f6?

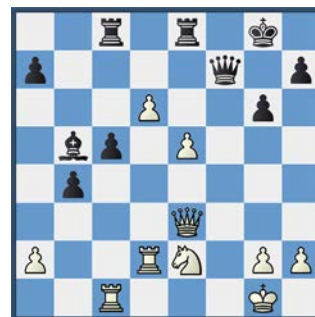
Black begins a change of plans and ties to fight against White's center. But Black needs to stick to the plan that she

had already committed to and go for complications on the queenside. 23...c4 24.Ng3 is extremely unclear.

24.d6 Qf7 25.Rd2?

I was scared about the Black queen eyeing my a-pawn. If I let it be captured, White would have three (!) connected passed pawns on the queenside. But White still has play with their strong center. 25.Ng3! fxe5 26.fxe5 c4 (26...Qxa2? 27.Ne4!?) 27.Qd4 and Ne4 follows with a strong initiative.

25...fxe5 26.fxe5



Position after 26.fxe5

26...Qf5??

This is the move where things began to go wrong for Black. The queen attacks the e5-pawn but does so on an awkward square that will come with consequences later. 26...Qe6 Sets up a bit of a blockade, but after 27.Rxc5 Rxc5 28.Qxc5 Qxe5 29.Qxe5 Rxe5 30.Nf4 this position looks slightly better for White as the passed d-pawn is still a threat. However, Black will still easily defend with a draw as the likely result.

27.Rd5!

Attacking c5, defending e5, and improving (centralizing) a piece all at once!

27...Bd7 28.Ng3

The knight hits the queen with tempo, showing to downside of Black's previous 26.Qf5 move. Once again, the knight landed awkwardly but this time on the g3-square. I almost adjusted the piece after hitting my clock, but caught this and stopped myself at the last possible moment. Not least of all before making the awkward movement with my right arm. This kingside knight is cursed!

28...Qf7 29.Ne4!

Tactically improving the knight once again with tempo. The knight will soon penetrate decisively on the dark squares.

29...Kh8

29...Qxd5 30.Nf6+ is a family fork.

30.Qd2

I knew I didn't need to rush here. Nothing wrong with improving more of your pieces when in a better, closed position like this one. 30.Nf6?? Qxf6!-+ the e-pawn is pinned.

30...c4 31.Rf1



Position after 31.Rf1

31...Qg7

I had worried that 31...c3 was strong for Black. But after looking deeper I saw that this move was crushed by: 31...c3 32.Rxf7 cxd2 33.Nf6! Rc1+ 34.Kf2

d1N+ 35.Rxd1 Rxd1 36.Rxh7# mate.

32.Nf6 Rf8 33.Qxb4

Now Black's counterplay is gone.

33...Rb8 34.Qc3 Bf5 35.Rc5

Rook's belong on open files.

35...Bd3 36.Re1 Rb7 37.e6!!

The farther passed pawns are down the board, the more valuable they are! Here White can part with his f6-knight in order to promote one of his pawns.

37...Qxf6

37...Rxf6 38.Rc8+ Rf8 39.Rxf8#

38.Qxf6+ Rxf6 39.d7 Rb8 40.Rc8+ Rf8 41.Rxf8+

Black resigned. It's hopeless after 41...Rxf8 42.e7 Rb8 43.e8R+. The pawns promote. Conclusion: 1.) At tournaments, take walks in between rounds if you have the time. It makes your mind relaxed and less stressed out for the next game. 2.) Understand to *not* adjust pieces when it's not your move. Only adjust when it's your turn. 3.) Passed pawns involve knowing when to trade and when not to. If you're the only player with a passed pawn, *trade* minor pieces. If both sides have passed

pawns, try to evaluate whose minor pieces will be better-placed later on in the game. 4.) Find ways to *improve* your *worst*-placed pieces. Moves like 21.Bb5 by Black, 27.Rd5 and 28.Ng3 followed by 29.Ne4 by White are all examples of improving bad pieces. 5.) Be *careful* when deciding to mix/change plans. Black began to deviate from her original plan with the queenside pawn steamroller with 23...f6 and 24...Qf7, which is when problems for her position began. Staying committed to the queenside pawns would have lead to a more unclear position, but with better chances for Black. 6.) The *further* a passed pawn is advanced up the board, the more *valuable* it is. 37.e6 proves this point by departing with White's f6-knight but promoting in return. This is one of the most memorable games of chess I have or most likely ever will play. I hope that it made an impression on you, and it did to me.

1-0



Vancouver Open

July 19 - 20, 2025

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

Mail To: Washington Chess Federation, c/o Orlov Chess Academy-

4174 148th Ave. NE
Building I, Ste. M
Redmond, WA 98052

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

Registration: Online at
nwchess.com/OnlineRegistration.

Site: Hampton Inn & Suites, 315 SE Olympia Drive, Vancouver, WA 98684. (360) 891-3000.

HR: \$185 Standard King/Double Queen Room. Cut-off date June 26, 2025. Book online [here](#).

Format: A 5-round, US Chess Rated Swiss in two sections: Lewis Open and Clark U1700. Maximum of 70 players, please register early.

Time Control: Rd. 1: G/60; +10,
Rds. 2-5: 40/120, SD/30; +10.

Prize Fund: \$2,500 (based on 60 paid entries).

Lewis Open: 1st - 3rd: \$400, 300, 200.
1st U2000/U1800: \$120

Clark U1700: 1st - 3rd: \$300, 200, 150.
1st U1600/U1400/U1200: \$120, 1st Unrated: \$90.

Special Prizes (per section): Biggest Upset win: \$25, Best Female Player (by TPR): \$25, Best Dressed: \$15/day (may not win repeatedly).

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

Entry Fee: \$75 if postmarked or online by 7/12, \$90 by 7/18, \$100 at site. \$45 play-up fee if rated U1700 USCF and playing in Lewis Open. Free entry for GMs, IMs, WGMs, WIMs.

At-site registration: Saturday 9 - 9:30 AM.

Rounds: Saturday 10 AM, 12:30 PM, 6 PM
Sunday 10 AM, 3:30 PM.

Rating: US Chess Rated. US Chess July 2025 rating supplement will be used to determine pairings and prizes. Foreign ratings used for players with no US Chess rating. Higher of US Chess or foreign ratings used at TD discretion.

Memberships: US Chess and WCF/OCF/ICA membership required, other states accepted.

2025 Washington Spring Fling Rapid Scholastic Cup

Josh Sinanan

The 2025 Washington Spring Fling Rapid Scholastic Cup was held on Saturday, March 1 at Hotel 116 in Bellevue alongside the Eastside Open. The purpose of the event was to provide Northwest junior players with an opportunity to face strong competition and build up endurance in preparation for state and national competitions.

Chess players from throughout the Pacific Northwest were represented in the 37-player field from locales including Woodinville, Redmond, Kirkland, Bellevue, Seattle, Bellingham, Black Diamond, Bothell, Snoqualmie, Olympia, Mill Creek, Monroe, Beaverton, and Sammamish!

The event was hosted by Washington Chess Federation and directed by WCF Scholastic Director Allen Messenger. The marathon one-day, seven-round Swiss was split between two sections parsed by rating: the Grischuk U1400 and the Dubov U800. Due to low attendance, the Murzin Championship section was cancelled, with most of the stronger juniors opting to play in the parallel Eastside Open instead.

All games were dual NWSRS + US Chess rated and played at a rapid time control of G/25; +5, which made for fun and exciting battles in each round. The sections were named in honor of Russian Grandmasters Alexander Grischuk and Daniil Dubov, both of whom are known for their brilliant and original attacking chess.

Washington Spring Fling Rapid Scholastic Cup: Grischuk U1400 (Standings (no tiebrk))

#	Place	Name	Rating	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Rd 5	Rd 6	Rd 7	Total
1	1-2	Rian Raja	1507	U---	W22	W5	W14	W2	W7	W4	6
2		Sai Navaneeth Satish Kumar	821	W6	W3	W14	W7	L1	W8	W10	6
3	3	Deepak Sri Kartikeya Rao	1137	W16	L2	W19	L4	W11	W9	B---	5
4	4-5	Eliot Amalo	925	W20	W21	L7	W3	D8	W5	L1	4.5
5		Kevin Zhang	771	W17	W8	L1	W6	D7	L4	W12	4.5
6	6-11	Aiden Zhu	1350	L2	W16	W15	L5	D10	W13	H---	4
7		Weg Shukla	1279	W15	W9	W4	L2	D5	L1	D8	4
8		Vyom Joshi	1003	W13	L5	W20	W9	D4	L2	D7	4
9		Saarth Bhargava	894	W18	L7	W11	L8	W15	L3	W17	4
10		Alex Ye	858	W21	L20	D18	W17	D6	W14	L2	4
11		Vuong Tien Tinh Nguyen	unr.	W12	L14	L9	W19	L3	W16	W15	4
12	12-13	Skyler Qin	848	L11	L19	D13	W21	W22	W18	L5	3.5
13		Blaise Fredette	688	L8	D17	D12	D22	W19	L6	W20	3.5
14	14-16	Sriharsh Gokulakrishnan	932	W19	W11	L2	L1	W16	L10	U---	3
15		Lakshmanan Nachiappan	777	L7	B---	L6	W18	L9	W20	L11	3
16		Rohit Sreraman	760	L3	L6	W21	W20	L14	L11	W22	3
17	17-18	Rudran Srimurugan	1161	L5	D13	W22	L10	L18	W19	L9	2.5
18		Rahul Sreraman	536	L9	B---	D10	L15	W17	L12	L21	2.5
19	19-21	Patrick Zhang	601	L14	W12	L3	L11	L13	L17	B---	2
20		Tavishna Nandeesh	560	L4	W10	L8	L16	W21	L15	L13	2
21		Aarav Bhandari	unr.	L10	L4	L16	L12	L20	W22	W18	2
22	22	Samarth Swain	505	B---	L1	L17	D13	L12	L21	L16	1.5

Washington Spring Fling Rapid Scholastic Cup: Dubov U800 (Standings (no tiebrk))

#	Place	Name	Rating	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Rd 5	Rd 6	Rd 7	Total
1	1	Madhav Mavila	445	W4	W2	W12	W7	W5	D3	W10	6.5
2	2	Mukund Mavila	105	W14	L1	D9	W13	W12	W7	D5	5
3	3-5	Tapasya Nandeesh	265	W13	L5	W8	W6	L7	D1	W11	4.5
4		Emily Cai	170	L1	B---	L6	W11	W10	D12	W7	4.5
5		Sanjay Kaushal Mudragada	102	B---	W3	L7	W9	L1	W6	D2	4.5
6	6-8	Hridik Sarkar	235	L10	W15	W4	L3	W8	L5	W12	4
7		Nolan Yin	229	W15	W10	W5	L1	W3	L2	L4	4
8		Shanyu Nandigam	unr.	W9	L12	L3	W14	L6	B---	W13	4
9	9-10	Swayam Senapati	204	L8	W11	D2	L5	W13	L10	W15	3.5
10		Joshua He	unr.	W6	L7	W14	D12	L4	W9	L1	3.5
11	11-12	Satvik Verma	449	L12	L9	W15	L4	B---	W14	L3	3
12		Ridhima Suram	186	W11	W8	L1	D10	L2	D4	L6	3
13	13	Gabriel Zarate	103	L3	B---	H---	L2	L9	W15	L8	2.5
14	14	Navika Koul	308	L2	B---	L10	L8	W15	L11	U---	2
15	15	Arjun Nandigam	unr.	L7	L6	L11	B---	L14	L13	L9	1

Washington Father's Day Open



June 14-15, 2025

Hotel 116 Bellevue

625 116th Ave NE, Bellevue, WA 98004

Format: A 5-round Swiss in three sections: **Skywalker Open**, **Kenobi U1800**, and **Solo U1400**.

Entry fee: \$100 by 6/7, \$120 after. \$50 play-up fee if rated 1600-1799 or 1200-1399 in both NWSRS and USCF and playing up in Skywalker Open or Kenobi U1800, respectively. Free entry for chess Jedis rated 2200+ USCF. Open to all junior + adult players. Maximum of 190 players, please register early to reserve your spot!

Schedule: Arrival: 8-8:45am. Rounds: Saturday @ 9am, 2pm, 7pm. Sunday @ 10am, 3pm.

Closing Ceremony + Blitz Tournament: ~ 7pm or asap.

Time Control: G/90; +30. Late default: 30 minutes.

Rating: Dual NWSRS + US Chess Rated. Skywalker Open + Kenobi U1800 are also FIDE rated. Higher of current NWSRS or June 2025 US Chess rating will be used to determine section, pairings, and prizes.

Memberships: US Chess and WCF/OCF/ICA memberships required; must be paid at the time of registration.

Prize Fund: \$5,000 based on 100 paid entries.

Skywalker Open: 1st-4th: \$450-\$350-\$250-\$200, 1st-2nd U2200: \$150-\$125, 1st-2nd U2000: \$150-\$125.

Kenobi U1800: 1st-4th: \$400-\$300-\$200-\$150, 1st-2nd U1700: \$125-\$100, 1st-2nd U1500: \$125-\$100.

Solo U1400: 1st-4th: \$300-\$225-\$175-\$125, 1st-2nd U1200: \$100-\$75, 1st-2nd U1000: \$100-\$75.

Special Prizes (per section):

Biggest Upset Win: \$20/rd., Best Female Player (by TPR): \$25, Best Dressed: \$20/day, Best Dad Player (by TPR): \$25, Best Parent/Child Team (by avg. TPR): \$25.

Byes: Up to 2 half-point byes available if requested before the end of round 2.

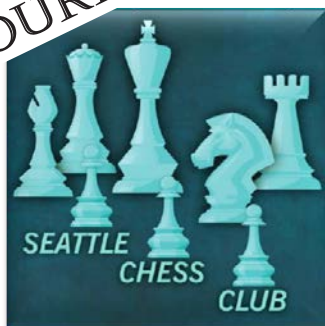
Registration: Online at nwchess.com/OnlineRegistration. Pay by Credit/Debit, PayPal/Zelle (ID: washingtonchessfederation@gmail.com), Venmo (@WACHess), SettleKing (Washington Chess Federation), or write a check to Washington Chess Federation. **Payment due upon registration; players listed as unpaid for more than 3 days after registering will be withdrawn from the tournament. Registration + payment deadline: Fri, June 13 @ 5pm.** Unpaid players will be removed from the roster after the deadline.

Father's Day Blitz: Sunday 7-9pm (after rd. 5 of main tournament). **Entry Fee:** \$25. **Format:** A 9-Round Single Swiss in one section, 2 half-point byes available. Dual US Chess Blitz + FIDE Blitz rated. **TC:** G/3; +2. **On-site registration:** 6:00-6:45pm. Rds. Sun @ 7pm, 7:15, 7:30, 7:45, 8, 8:15, 8:30, 8:45, 9pm. Closing Ceremony ~ 9:15pm or asap. Current US Chess membership required. Higher of June 2025 US Chess Blitz or Regular rating used to determine pairings and prizes. **Prize Fund: \$700** (based on 50 paid entries)

1st - 3rd: \$150-100-80, 1st U2000/U1800/U1600/U1400/U1200/U1000/Unrated: \$40. Biggest upset win: \$10/rd.

Questions - Josh Sinanan, WCF President, 206-769-3757, washingtonchessfederation@gmail.com

TOURNAMENTS



Venue

**7212 Woodlawn Avenue NE
Seattle, WA 98115**

info & events calendar
www.seattlechess.club

tournament signups & inquiries
contact@seattlechess.club

– or –

SCC Tournament Director
same address as above

*Wednesdays are for
casual play. It's free!
Come anytime 7-11pm.*

June 7

3-round round-robin. 4-player sections by close rating. **Time control:** Game/85 + 10 sec. increment. **Entry fee:** \$15 (+\$10 day membership for non-SCC). **Prizes:** winner of each 4-player quad wins free entry to next Quads played within 3 months. **Registration:** 9:15-9:45am. **Rounds:** 10am, 2 & 6pm. **Byes:** 0 – must play all 3 rounds! US Chess membership req'd.

June Quads

June 21-22

See below.

Emerald City Open

June 6, 13, 20, 27

It's Summertime

One US Chess-rated round per Friday night, 4 rounds per month, at 7:30pm (arrive by 7:15). **Time control:** 40 moves in 90 minutes + 10 sec. increment, followed by sudden death 60 minutes + 10 sec. increment. Free for SCC members, \$5/night others. Drop in for any round!

Coming up in July & August:

- **July Quads** – Saturday July 5 confirmed.
- **Seattle Seafair Open** – July 12-13 confirmed. 5-round Swiss, 2 sections, 150+ player capacity, Bellevue location.
- **Summer Adult Swiss** – July 26-27, tentative to be confirmed. 4-round Swiss, 48 player capacity.
- **August Quads** – Saturday August 2, tentative to be confirmed.

Check our events calendar periodically for confirmed dates.

Entry fees

We accept Venmo, Paypal, cash and check for tournament entry fees. No credit cards.

Paypal: <https://paypal.me/seattlechess>

Venmo: <https://www.venmo.com/u/SeattleChessClub>

EMERALD CITY OPEN

JUNE 21 - 22, 2025

A 5-round Swiss in 1 section with time control of Game/90 with 15-second increment.

Prize fund: \$800 based on 24 paid entries, 3 per prize group.

FIRST	\$280	SECOND	\$180	U1800	\$ 90
U1600	\$ 80	U1400	\$ 70	U1200/UNR	\$ 60
BIGGEST UPSET WIN, RDS 1-4				\$10	

- ❖ **Entry fees** by 6/16: SCC members \$50, others \$75. After 6/16 add \$10. Unrated – free with purchase of 1-year US Chess & 1-year SCC memberships. Must pay entry fee by 6/19 to hold your seat.
- ❖ **Schedule:** Arrival 9:15-9:45am. **Rounds:** Saturday 10am, 2 & 6pm; Sunday 11am & 3pm.
- ❖ **Byes:** 2 half-point byes available. Commit at registration for Sunday rounds.
- ❖ **Location:** Seattle Chess Club, 7212 Woodlawn Ave. NE 98115. 26 players max.
- ❖ **Sign up:** email contact@seattlechess.club. US Chess membership required.

Seattle Seafair Open



July 12-13, 2025

Hotel 116 Bellevue

625 116th Ave NE, Bellevue, WA 98004



Co-hosted by Seattle Chess Club and Washington Chess Federation

Format: A 5-round, dual US Chess + FIDE Rated Swiss in two sections: **Open and Premier U1600.**

Entry fee: \$100 by 7/5, \$120 after. \$30 discount for SCC members. \$50 play-up fee if rated 1400-1599 USCF and playing in Open section. Free entry for all Seafairers rated 2200+ USCF. Open to all junior + adult players. Maximum of 190 players, please register early!

Schedule: Arrival: 9-9:45am. Rounds: Saturday: 10am, 2pm, 6pm. Sunday: 10am, 2pm.
Closing Ceremony + Seafair Blitz: ~ 6pm or asap.

Time Control: G/75; +30. Late default: 30 minutes.

Rating: Dual-Rated in US Chess and FIDE. July 2025 US Chess rating will be used to determine section, pairings, and prizes. Accelerated pairings may be used to reduce the number of potential perfect scores.

Memberships: US Chess and WCF/OCF/ICA memberships required; must be paid at the time of registration.

Prize Fund: \$4,500 based on 100 paid entries.

Open: 1st– 4th: \$600-500-400-300, 1st U2100/U1900/U1700: \$160.

Premier U1600: 1st– 4th: \$400-300-230-180, 1st U1500/U1300/U1100: \$160. 1st Unrated: \$100.

Special Prizes (per section):

Biggest Upset Win: \$20/rd. **Best Female Player** (by TPR): \$25. **Best Senior Player** (50+, by TPR): \$25. **Best Dressed:** \$20/day. **Best Annotated game:** 1st \$50, 2nd \$25. Minimum of 3 qualifying players required per section in contention for each best female/senior prize to be awarded.

Byes: Up to 2 half-point byes available; if interested, requested before the end of round 2.

Registration: Online at nwchess.com/OnlineRegistration. Pay by Credit/Debit, PayPal/Zelle (ID: washingtonchessfederation@gmail.com), Venmo (@WACHess), SettleKing (Washington Chess Federation), or write a check to Washington Chess Federation. **Payment due upon registration; players listed as unpaid for more than 3 days after registering will be withdrawn from the tournament. Registration + payment deadline: Fri, July 11 @ 5pm.** Unpaid players will be removed from the roster after the deadline.

Seafair Blitz: Sunday 6-9pm (after rd. 5 of main tournament). **Entry Fee:** \$25. **Format:** A 9-Round Single Swiss in one section, 2 half-point byes available. Dual US Chess Blitz + FIDE Blitz rated. **TC:** G/5; +3. **On-site registration:** 5:00-5:45pm. Rds. Sun @ 6pm, 6:20, 6:40, 7, 7:20, 7:40, 8, 8:20, 8:40pm. Closing Ceremony ~ 9pm or asap. Current US Chess membership required. Higher of July 2025 US Chess Blitz or Regular rating used to determine pairings and prizes. **Prize Fund: \$800** (based on 60 paid entries)

1st – 3rd: \$200-130-100, 1st U2000/U1800/U1600/U1400/U1200/U1000/Unrated: \$40. Biggest upset win: \$10/rd.

Questions – Josh Sinanan, WCF President, 206-769-3757, washingtonchessfederation@gmail.com
John Selsky, SCC President, contact@seattlechess.club



US CHESS 888.512.4377 (CHESS) **OFFICIAL SCORE SHEET**
www.USCFSales.com

EVENT: 7th Buckland Senior DATE: May 18, 2025
ROUND: 4 BOARD: 1 SECTION: 1 PAIRING NO. 1-0

WHITE: Paris Gabbard BLACK: Chris Pentico

	WHITE	BLACK	WHITE	BLACK
1	P-Q4	N-K3	P-K5	P-P
2	N-Q3	P-K3	P-P	P-P
3	P-K4	P-Q3	P-Q6	K-B1
4	P-Q4	B-K2	N-Q4	E-B3
5	B-KN5	P-QB4	N-K4	E-N3
6	P-Q5	Q-Q	P-K6	B-N1
7	P-Q6	Q-Q	P-K7	
8	B-P	KD-Q2		
9	B-K2	N-Q4		
10	P-Q3	P-Q3		
11	P-Q4	P-QN3		
12	N-KB3	Q-N2		
13	N-Q2	B-N2		
14	O-O	P-B5		
15	P-KB4	N-Q6		
16	N-BP	N-QN5		
17	Q-Q2	Q-QN4		
18	P-P	P-P		
19	N-K3	N-B4		
20	R-R	R-R		
21	N-KB5	Q-B3		
22	Q-Q4	Q-Q		
23	N-Q	B-K1		
24	R-NP	R-K2		
25	N-B5	R-B3		
26	N-P	B-B3		
27	B-P	N-B4		
28	B-QN4	R-Q2		

WHITE WENT: 1-0 BLACK WON

10423905 EXP DATE: 2025-11-20

OTHER DUES \$ _____ OTHER FEES \$ _____

TOTAL \$ _____

NAME: Steven Wlodex

ADDRESS: Coase ID 83706

USCF ID No: 31212918 EXP DATE: 2026-05-31

ENTRY FEES \$ 40 OTHER DUES \$ _____ OTHER FEES \$ _____

TOTAL \$ _____

NAME: Christopher Pentico

ADDRESS: _____

USCF ID No: 12513987 EXP DATE: 2025

ENTRY FEES \$ 30 OTHER DUES \$ _____ OTHER FEES \$ _____

TOTAL \$ _____