

VIRGINIA CHESS

Newsletter

The bimonthly publication of the
Virginia Chess Federation

2014 - #3

Macon Shibut

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Cherry Blossom Classic

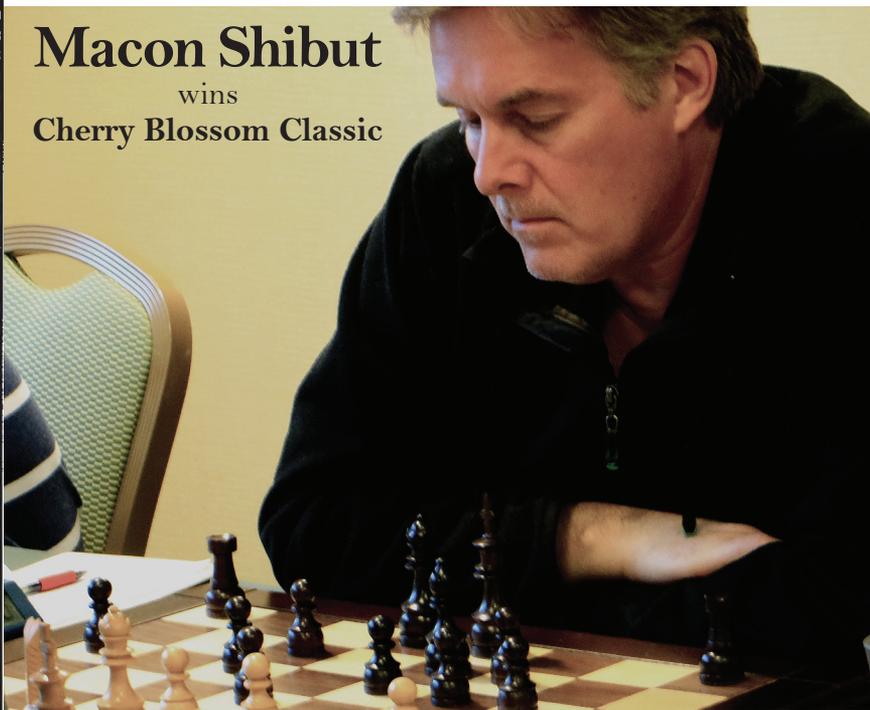


photo by Jonathan Kenny

Also inside...

Virginia Senior Open, Thomas Jefferson HS at the National High School Championships, a book review by old friend Steve Mayer, and more. See page 2 for information about the **2014 Virginia State Championship** coming up soon (Labor Day weekend) in Glen Allen.

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2014 - Issue #3

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Cherry Blossom Classic

FORMER STATE CHAMPION MACON SHIBUT won clear 1st place at the 2nd annual Cherry Blossom Classic, played over Memorial Day weekend at the Dulles Marriot. His 5-1 score came against a schedule that included 2nd prize winner GM Larry Kaufman (4½-½) and two of the players who tied for 3rd place, Boris Privman & Paul Yavari (each 4-2). Andrew Rea, Leif Karrell & Michael Spencer also scored 4 points apiece to join the 3rd place tie. Sahil Sinha, Neal Goldberg & Ryan Xu tied for top under 2100.

The Reserved (under 2000) section saw a tie for 1st place between Jason Carr & Vishal Menon, each 5-1. Daniel Gong followed half a point behind. Andy Huang, Bryant Lohr & Bill Carroll tied for 4th. Andrew Mao, Crecencio Burke, Gregory Revesz & Todd Hammer split the class B prizes.

The Amateur (under 1600) section also ended in a tie for 1st between two players with 5-1 scores: Rachel Naidich & Ashley Xing. Sathya Gnanakumar was clear 3rd with 4½, and Nicholas Naylor, Laszlo Offertaler, Alex Peng & Gideon Lohr shared equal 4th place. Top under 1400 went to Duncan Guthrie with Susheel Vishwa & Ethan Zhou splitting 2nd under 1400. Michael Zelina was top under 1100.

Jonathan Kenny organized the tournament and provided nice wooden boards and sets for the play. Ninety-nine players participated under the direction of Mike Hoffpauir.

Andrew Zheng – Macon Shibut Old Indian

Notes by Macon Shibut

Boris Zisman and I were tied for first place heading into the last round of the 2014 Cherry Blossom Classic. We had gone back and forth following our draw in the 3rd round. We were tied for the lead then, but I edged ahead in the 4th round by beating Jeffrey Chang while Privman just managed to draw Andrew Zheng. He got back level by beating Patrick Sciacca in the 5th round (see that game below) while I managed a draw against Larry Kaufman. I went into this last round with the attitude that a draw would not be the worst thing, as I did not expect Boris to beat Larry and otherwise a draw would assure me at least a tie for first. **1 d4 Nf6 2 c4 d6 3 Nc3 Nbd7 4 e4 e5 5 d5 Nc5 6 f3 a5 7 Be3 Be7** [a cautious approach dictated by circumstances, as I previously explained] **8 Qd2 Nfd7 9 O-O-O h6 10 g3 Bg5 11 f4 Bf6 12 Bd3?!** [This is a positional mistake, albeit not critical at this point. The perfectly good and normal 12 Nf3 was available. His light square bishop is limited by White's own pawn structure, so he reasons it will be okay to allow its exchange for Black's nice knight. However, things will open up sooner or later. Now the long-range potential of the bishop pair assures Black equal chances out of the opening.] **12...Nxd3+ 13 Qxd3 b6 14 Nf3 Ba6 15 f5?! Bg5 16 Nxc5 hxc5 17 Nb5?!** [17 Kb1] **17...Bxb5 18 cxb5 a4!**



78th Virginia Closed State Championship

-- and --

Friday Night Blitz Tournament

At the Hilton Garden Inn Richmond-Innsbrook, Glen Allen, VA

- 4050 Cox Rd, (804) 521-2900. Located just off I-295. **Call them and ask for the "Chess Rate"** and mention the tournament. **RESERVE BY AUG 15th** to get the chess rate!!
- **Call the hotel to reserve your room** at the **chess rate**; or go to <http://hiltongardeninn.hilton.com>

Main Tournament: Saturday - Monday, Aug 30 – Sept 1, 2014

Format: 6-SS, 30/90, SD/1, with time delay of 5 seconds. Two sections, Open and Amateur (U1800).

Rounds: Sat 1 & 7; Sun 11 & 5; Mon 10 & 3:30. **Two ½-point byes available**, declare before start of Rd 2.

Prizes: **\$3,000 based on 85 paid entries**. More if we have over 85 players!

- **Open \$650-375-275**, Top Expert & A \$125 ea. Trophy to 1st, Top Exp & A. **USCF-Rated, USCF Rules**
- **Amateur \$525-325-200**. Top C, D, U1200, Unr \$100 each. Trophy to 1st, Top C, D, U1200.
- Trophies to top Senior (60+), Junior (U18) and Woman with 1pt added to their Open section scores.

Registration: **Fri Aug 29, 3-6:00PM** and **Sat Aug 30, 8:00AM to 12-noon**. Current USCF and VCF memberships required. Renew your USCF online at www.uschess.org, or update both memberships on site.

Who can Play in the Main Event: Virginia residents, military stationed in VA, and students attending any VA school, College or University (must show valid ID or other proof of Fall 2014 VA school enrollment).

Entry:

- **\$65 until Thursday, Aug 28**, \$80 thereafter and on site. Drop it in the mail by Tuesday Aug 26th!!
- Re-entry allowed for Rd.2 only at \$30 with 1/2 pt bye.
- **Mail payment to Mike Hoffpauir, ATTN: VA Closed, 405 Hounds Chase, Yorktown, VA 23693.**
- Checks payable to "VCF"

Blitz Tournament: Friday Night, August 29th, 2014

Who can Play: **ANY USCF Member**. You do NOT have to be a Virginia Resident to play Blitz.

Format: 4 or 5 Rounds, Double-Swiss, G/5. Two sections, Open and Amateur (U1800). **Open is USCF Rated**.

Rounds: Blitz **Round 1 at 6:30PM** Friday evening, later rounds will start as soon as possible.

Prizes: **\$400 based on 30 paid entries**, more if we have additional players. Cash prizes only, no trophies.

Registration: Send by mail by Aug 26th, on-site Fri Aug 29, 3-6:00PM. **Registration closes at 6:00 PM!!**

On-site entries received after 6PM may not be paired for Round 1.

Entry: **\$25 until Thursday, Aug 28**, \$35 thereafter and on site.

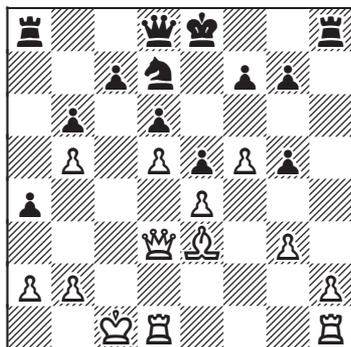
- See Main Event Entry information above for where to send your payment
- Current USCF membership required, VCF membership IS NOT REQUIRED for Blitz.

Tournament Entry Form (use this form to enter either or both events)

Last Name: _____		First Name: _____		MI: _____
USCF Member: YES NO		<u>If Yes</u> , write your USCF ID Here: _____		
Street Address: _____			Email: _____	
			Phone: _____	
City: _____, VA		Zip: _____	Birth Date: _____	
<u>Main Tournament</u> (Saturday-Monday, Aug 30-Sept 1, 2014). Entry Fee \$65 by mail, \$80 at the door.				
Section you are entering (circle one): OPEN AMATEUR (U1800); Byes (up to 2): Rd __, Rd __				
<u>Blitz Tournament</u> (Friday night, Aug 29, 2014). Entry Fee \$25 by mail, \$35 at the door.				
Section you are entering (circle one): OPEN AMATEUR (U1800); No Byes in Blitz				

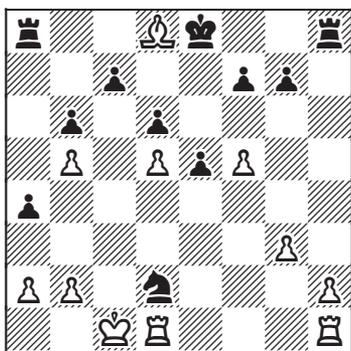
Version 1.5, June 2, 2014





I was doubly happy at this point. Not only had White's rash 15th and 17th moves handed me a promising position, but Privman had fallen into an unfortunate opening line and by now he was clearly struggling versus Kaufman. The reason for optimism about my own position is that White has no compensation for his pawn weaknesses at h2, e4 and b5—b5 is a particular cause for concern since it's hard to see how to defend it against just a simple plan like Nc5, Qd7 and Ra5 etc.

19 Qd2 Nc5 20 Bxg5 [As I said, 20 Bxc5 bxc5 practically leads to a pawn-down ending by force. But the text may be even worse. Every now and then things just work out to a perfect union of objective and subjective factors. Objectively the position is just good for Black, although I still need to demonstrate some technique to claim the full point. Subjectively there is a dose of real poison in it because the next few moves will offer several obvious and advantageous choices for Black—ideal camouflage for the *even better* possibilities that are also hiding there. Here is the first case in point: 20...f6 21 Be3 Nxe4 is perhaps what White expected. That would be good enough for Black. However, after...] **20...Nxe4!** [...White's queen and bishop are both hanging, so he must continue...] **21 Bxd8 Nxd2** (*diagram*)



Now White's relatively best chance would have been 22 Kxd2 Kxd8 23 Kc3 (hustling up to defend against R-a5xb5) Rh3 with excellent winning chances. The base plan would be ...Ke7 and ...Rah8, which is hard enough to defend against (if White plays his queen rook to the second rank to cover h2, there will be ...Rxc3 etc), but also there could come penetration via ...Kf6 *and* that b5 pawn is still out there as a future target. All in in it's grim enough for White that Zheng may have been in a mood to grasp alternatives without investigating them fully. And so he played...

22 Bxc7? [...probably assuming I would reply with the obvious pin 22...Rc8. After 23 Rxd2 Rxc7+ 24 Rc2 Rxc2+ 25 Kxc2 Ke7 Black recovers the pawn and has a much better rook ending with ...Kf6 and ...R-c8-c5 etc. Okay, "much better"—but still a "rook ending", which at least one authority said means there could be a draw in it somewhere.] **22...Nc4!** [I had foreseen this when I took the e-pawn two turns before, but the physical flinch it elicited from Zheng indicated he'd overlooked it.] **23 b3?** [One oversight often breeds another. His bishop was



trapped so he automatically hit back at my knight. However, 23 Rd3! was a far better try. Then after 23...Rc8 24 Rc3 Rxc7 25 b3 there is even a trap for Black to avoid: 25...axb3 26 axb3 Ra7? 27 Rxc4 Ra1+ is nice but then 28 Kd2 Rxh1 29 Rc8+ White does the same thing right back at him and after 29...Ke7 30 Rxh8 it's just equal. Instead Black could play 25...Kd7! 26 Rxc4 Rxc4+ 27 bxc4 Rc8 recovering the pawn with the same sort of endgame advantage that might have arisen in the variations discussed in the note to White's 22nd move.] **23...axb3** [A cold shower for White. Now if 24 axb3 of course Black plays not 24...Rc8 but 24...Ra1+ 25 Kc2 Ne3+, eg 26 Kd2 Rxd1+ 27 Rxd1 Nxd1 28 Kxd1 Kd7 29 Bxb6 Rxh2. While he was thinking what to do, I had a chance to catch up on events in Privman-Kaufman and saw that Privman's position was getting really desperate. So the way clear first place had suddenly come open.] **24 Kb1 Rxa2 0-1** ...Na3 threatening ...Rc2 $mate$ will be too much.

Pat Sciacca - Boris Privman
King's Gambit

Notes by Macon Shibut

North Carolina player Patrick Sciacca had the ultimate 'up and down' tournament. On Saturday he won both his games. He took Sunday off altogether (two half-point byes) and came back Monday morning to find that was still good enough to leave him tied for the leading score. But then on the final day he lost both of his games and wound up outside the prizewinners' circle. **1 e4 d6 2 Nc3 e5 3 f4 exf4 4 Nf3 g5 5 h4** [An unusual transposition led to a King's Gambit that is normal its general contours but rather rare in its particulars—it is unusual for White's queen knight to be out so early in such positions. Watching from the adjacent board, I had the sense neither player wanted to play this opening but events just sucked them into it turn by turn.] **5...g4 6 Ng5 h6 7 Nxf7 Kxf7 8 Bc4+ Ke8 9 O-O?** [9 d4 is much better. For instance, 9...Nc6 10 Bxf4 Bg7 11 Be3 and while I always find these attacks unconvincing, a further Qd3 and 0-0-0 will give White some compensation for the piece—remember, Black's king has moved already so he cannot hope to castle!] **9...**

f3 10 Qe1 Be7 11 e5 Bxh4 12 g3 d5! [A very nice resource that keeps the e-file closed and clarifies just who is in the driver's seat.] **13 Nxd5 Ne7! 14 Ne3** [Black's point is that on 14 Nxe7 he can play 14...Qxe7! (14...Qd4+ is also good) because if then 15 gxh4 Qc5+ From here on it's just White struggling to show something for his unsuccessful sacrifice.] **14...Bg5 15 c3 Bxe3+ 16 Qxe3 Nf5 17 Qe4 Qg5 18 Kf2 Qh5 19 Rg1 Rf8! 20 e6 Nc6 21 d4 Qh2+ 22 Kf1 Nxc3+ 23 Rxc3 Qxc3 24 Qg6+ Kd8 25 Qc2 Qh3+ 0-1**

Boris Privman (photo by Jonathan Kenny)





Michael Spencer - Andrew Rea

Queen's Gambit Declined

Notes by Andrew Rea

With two players at 4-1 going to the last round, the five players who trailed at 3½-1½ were keen to win—much more upside. **1 d4 Nf6 2 c4 e6 3 Nc3 d5** [White blitzed out his first few, indicating he is geared to fight the Nimzo. The Black repertoire has some other arrows...]

4 cxd5 exd5 5 Bg5 Be7 6 e3 h6 7 Bh4 [Interestingly White spent 10 minutes on this standard move. If he is trying to lull me, it will not work. Seeing as how he was one of the two players I tied for first at the 2013 Northern Virginia Open, I know White is dangerous!]

7...O-O 8 Bd3 b6 9 Nf3 Bb7 10 O-O [Seems 10 Qc2 is more accurate, but then this story would be quite different. I do not claim perfect stellar foolproof play by either player!]

10...Ne4 11 Bxe7 Qxe7 12 Qb3 Nxc3 [Right, this evacuation of e4 could be questionable.]

13 Qxc3



Andy Rea (photo by Jonathan Kenny)

c5 [Fine, White doesn't capture toward the center but at least I don't let c7 stay backward on an open file. In fact Black manages to get some space.]

14 Rac1 c4 15 Bb1 Nd7 16 Qc2 g6 [Maybe too cautious, but cheesing up light squares with ...f5 when that can be done later did not seem correct.]

17 Rfe1 b5 18 Qd2 Kg7 [But here ...f5 really deserved more consideration as ...e3-e4 doesn't have too much impact on h6 after ...Qe7-g7]

19 Qa5 Bc6 20 Qc7 Rfc8 21 Qg3 Re8 [Is White really ready to toss in his attack with Qg3-c7?!]

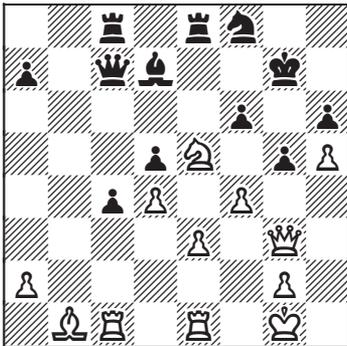
22 b3 Rac8 23 bxc4 bxc4 24 h4 [Of course White is not falling for 24 Nh4 Qg5]

24...Qd8 [Off the potential pins on the e-file; Re8 is more effective there while the queen has just

enough time to get to the more aggressive c7 square.]

25 h5 Qc7 26 Qh3 Nf8 27 Ne5 Bd7 28 Qg3 [Darn, White isn't selling out his attack for a less than a completely effective bishop pair.]

28...g5 29 f4 f6 (diagram)



On a bad day, I get mated as he lets Ne5 get captured. It is close—maybe we both miscalculated?

30 Ng6 [The idea of annoying me with Ng6, trying to get rid of a strong defensive piece, also seemed like a fine practical decision!]

30...Rb8



[Finally a glimmer of counterattack—now Kf2 to hit the h-file is not all roses because I have ...Rb2+, and meanwhile Black gains the possibility of ...Rb6 to help the third rank.] **31 Qf3 Rb5?!** [Probably 31...Be6 is better, directly defending d5 and f7, thus avoiding some awkwardness in the event of a2-a4.] **32 fxg5 hxg5 33 h6+** [Ouch! I really have to take that—ugh. At least it's messy...] **33...Kxh6 34 Qxf6 Rb6** [Black finds a visual shot: if now 35 Qf7 Nxg6 36 Kf2 Rb2+ 37 Kf3 Bg4+] **35 Qh8+ Nh7 36 Nf8 Bf5** [Suddenly it's a favorable R+P ending! White spent 15 minutes on his next move, calming down from the shock; he really had missed the double defense Bd7-f5. Also time well spent realizing that he can hold the ending.] **37 Bxf5 Rxf8 38 Qxh7+ Qxh7 39 Bxh7 Kxh7 40 Re2 Kg6** [Try as I might, I could not find a way to queen the c-pawn or win the a-pawn by force. So let's get the king involved somewhat, off the seventh rank, see what happens...] **41 e4** [breaking up the protected passed pawn construction] **41...Rf4** [I try to tempt him with having his own protected passer, but he isn't buying. Dang.] **42 exd5 Rxd4 43 Rec2** [Now its fizzing, so I decide to take some more chances, not wanting to statically protect c4] **43...Rxd5 44 Rxc4 Ra5 45 a4 Rf6** [Inviting Rc6 hasn't worked, but can having a better king do something? Nahhhh, but as I am not losing, I can still see if White will stumble.] **46 Rb1 Rd5 47 Rc7 a5 48 Rb5** [The end is nigh and it has draw written on it. There is one more liberty to take...] **48...Rxb5 49 axb5 Kf5 50 Ra7 Rd6 51 Rxa5 Rd1+ 52 Kh2 Rb1 53 b6+ Kg4 54 Ra6 Rb3 55 Ra4+ Kf5** [Neither player has any further reasonable winning chances now.] **56 Ra5+ Kg4 57 Ra4+ ½-½**

Jeffrey Chang – Macon Shibut Nimzowitsch

Notes by Macon Shibut

1 e4 Nc6 [An old friend. It frequently leads to unusual pawn constellations in the center. A case in point, I fondly recall the game Uesugi – Shibut from the 2006 Delaune Memorial: 2 d4 d5 3 e5 f6 4 f4 Nh6 5 Nf3 Bf5 6 Bd3 Qd7 7 c3 O-O-O 8 O-O Be4 9 Re1 f5 10 Ng5 e6 11 b4 Nf7 12 Nxe4 dxe4 13 Bc4 Ne7 14 Bb3 h6 15 a3 g5 16 Qh5 Nd5 17 Qg6 Re8 18 c4 (18 fxg5 hxg5 19 Bxg5 Nxb5 20 Qxg5 Bh6 21 Qg3 Reg8 22 Qf2 Nf4 winning) 18...Nxf4 19 Bxf4 gxf4 20 Rd1 f3 21 Nc3 fxg2 22 Ba4 c6 23 h4 (to stop ...Ng5; instead 23 d5 Nxe5 24 dxc6 Qxd1+ 25 Rxd1 Nxb6 26 cxb7+ Kxb7 27 Bxe8 Bc5+! 28 bxc5 Rxe8 29 Kxg2 Kc6) 23...Re7 24 b5 Nd8 25 bxc6 bxc6 26 d5 Rg7 27 Qf6 Be7! 28 dxe6 Bc5+! 29 Kh2 g1Q+! 30 Rxb1 Qd2+ 31 Kh1 Rxb1+ 32 Rxb1 Bxb1 0-1] **2 Nf3 d6 3 d4 Nf6 4 Nc3 Bg4 5 Bb5 a6 6 Bxc6+ bxc6 7 Qd3 e6 8 h3 Bh5 9 g4 Bg6 10 Nh4 d5** [10...Be7] **11 Nxb6 hxg6 12 Bg5 Be7 13 Bxf6 gxf6** [I have played 13...Bxf6 in similar positions (maybe even this exact position!) but the text is better, transforming the inert g7 pawn into a full fledged participant in the battle for center squares. The dark square bishop still has enough activity.] **14 O-O-O Qd6!** [Remarkably strong, especially for

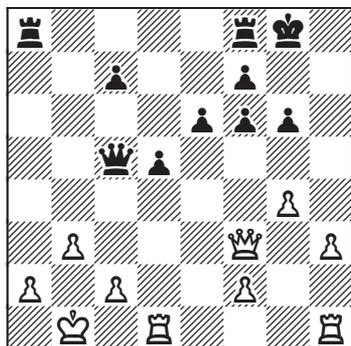


a move I did not foresee until the position was actually on the board. The queen exerts influence on both flanks. For instance, 15 h4 fails to 15...Qf4+; or if 15 Kb1 there is 15...Qb4!? although in truth I probably would have chosen 15...Rb8!?

Δ 16 Qxa6 Kd7 with attacking chances, eg 17 Qd3 Qa3 18 b3 Bb4] 15 exd5 [to free his knight from defending e4 in order to play the maneuver N-a4-c5] 15... cxd5 16 Na4 Rb8 17 Nc5 Qf4+ 18 Kb1 Bxc5 19 dxc5 Qb4! [19...Qxf2 20 Rdf1 Qxc5 21 Rxf6 would allow counter chances] 20 b3 [if 20 Qb3 Kd7 and Black will pick on weaknesses c5, f2 & h3] 20...Qxc5 21 Qxa6 O-O 22 Qe2 [22 Qd3 was a little better] 22...Ra8 23 Qf3 (diagram)

White intends, after eg 23...Qa3, to defend a1 by 24 Qxf6 Qxa2+ 25 Kc1 etc, and maybe get his own attack (h3-4-5) if Black doesn't force an ending. But there is a problem...

23...Rxa2! 24 Kxa2 Qxc2+ 25 Ka3 Ra8+ 26 Kb4 Rb8+ 27 Ka3 c5 0-1

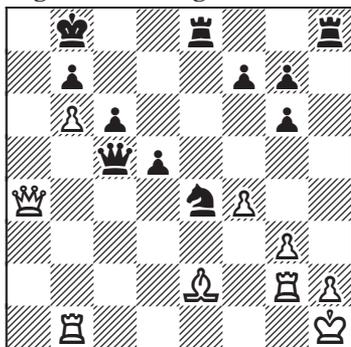


Laszlos Offertaler - Gideon Lohr

Réti

1 Nf3 d5 2 e3 Nf6 3 c4 c6 4 b3 Bf5 5 d3 e6 6 Nh4 Bg6 7 Nxc6 hxg6 8 Bd2 Nbd7 9 Bc3 Bd6 10 g3 Qc7 11 Nd2 Nh5 12 Rg1 Nhf6 13 Rg2 Ne5 14 Be2 O-O-O 15 d4 Ned7 16 a4 e5 17 Rc1 Kb8 18 c5 Be7 19 b4 exd4 20 Bxd4 Ne5 21 b5 Rc8 22 b6 axb6 23 cxb6 Qd6 24 Bc5 Qd7 25 Bxe7 Qxe7 26 f4 Ned7 27 a5 Qxe3 28 Rb1 Nc5 29 Nb3 Rce8 30 Nxc5 Qxc5 31 Kf1 Qxa5 32 Kg1 Qc5+ 33 Kh1 Ne4 34 Qa4 (diagram)

34...Nxc3+ 35 Rxc3 Rxh2+ 36 Kxh2 Qf2+ 37 Kh3 Rh8+ 38 Kg4 f5+ 0-1



Black to move & win





Virginia Senior Open

Larry Gilden, Srdjan Darmanovic, William Marcelino & Leif Karell each scored 4-1 to tie for first at the 2014 Virginia Senior Open. They were all undefeated!—the ‘minus’ points all coming via draws (or in Marcelino’s case a draw plus a half-point bye).

Former winner and four-time state champion Geoff McKenna finished with Paul Yavari, Raymond Duchesne & William Pursel half a point behind the co-winners. Pursel claimed the under 2000 prize. Gary McMullin, Ted Covey & Frank Huber split top under 1800. William Wilson was top under 1600. Sy Samet’s 3-2 score won the prize for the top player age 80 or older.

The event attracted 40 entries, up from 32 each of the last two years. (Gilden and Marcelino also tied for first last year, along with Harry Cohen.) VCF President Adam Chrisney directed and the Lincolnia Senior Center in Alexandria again served as the venue. For the first time, the tournament was associated with the new Chess 4 Seniors regional competition in which prizes are awarded for best performance in a series of senior tournaments in Kentucky, Tennessee, West Virginia, Virginia, North & South Carolina.

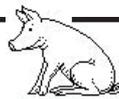
Mike Callaham - Harry Cohen
2014 Virginia Senior Open
Reversed Philidor

Notes by Mike Callaham

I don’t get a chance to play across the board as often as I’d like and for this tournament I was probably more fatigued than I’d ever been. The two things I noticed most was it became more and more difficult to correctly attack with knights, and I had to calculate variations again and again because I could not correctly

29th Emporia Open

Oct 25-26, 2014



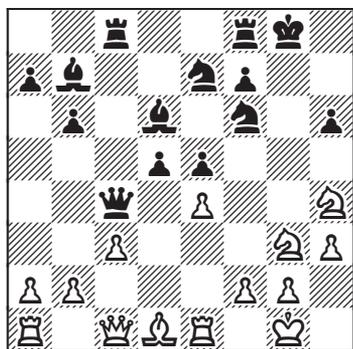
Holiday Inn Express, 1350 W Atlantic St, Emporia, Va

5-SS, rd 1 game/90, d/5; rds 2-5 game/120, d/5. \$\$810G, more if over 35 players: \$325-225-125, top U1700/unrated \$90, top U1200 \$80, top Jr \$70. EF \$45 if rec’d by 10/22, \$55 afterwards and on site. Reg Fri night 7-9pm, Sat morning 7:30-9:15. Rds 10-2:30-7, 9:30-2:30. One ½pt bye allowed if req by 2 pm Oct 25. USCF and VCF memb req’d for Virginia residents, avail at site; other state memberships honored. Hotel rooms and other info www.vachess.org or email mhoffpauir@aol.com *Enter:* Online at www.vachess.org or mail to Mike Hoffpauir, ATTN: Emporia Open, 405 Hounds Chase, Yorktown, Va 23693. Checks payable to VCF; PayPal an option for online entries.

A Heritage Event! Chess Magnet School JGP and VCF Cup Tour points



assess the positions in my head even when I was sure of where everything was. I'm most proud of this, my third round game. It took me nearly 30 minutes to see the combination at move 16 and it's master level in my opinion, in the true nature of the Philidor attack. Even though rust in my calculation gears made it unrealistic for me to finish my opponent off before the time control, I'm glad that I played a courageous move at the board instead of wimping out. **1 Nf3 c5 2 c3 Nf6 3 d3 d5 4 Nbd2 Nc6 5 e4 e5 6 Be2 Bd6 7 O-O O-O 8 Qc2 b6 9 Re1 h6 10 Nf1 Bb7 11 h3 Ne7 12 Ng3 Rc8 13 Bd1 Qc7 14 Nh4 c4 15 dxc4 Qxc4** [I had expected 15...dxe4. I immediately plunged deep into thought. My original idea was to attack the bishop on d6 leading to a knight fork of the queen and rook. How can I gain time for that? Then I started looking at 16 Bh6!! Once the piece is taken, if my opponent tries to protect the h-pawn by ...Kh7 then the double knight entry at f5 will threaten mate to gain the time. Every one in my camp gets into the attack. I could just tell that with all that I should be able to get more material than I could shake a stick at—or maybe even a mate if he slipped. My opponent never saw this coming. Fritz takes more than three minutes to put 16 Bh6!! at the top of its move list. If the machine can't see it, your opponent will usually miss it as well! **16 Bxh6!! gxf6** [If he declines by 16...Bc5 White gets a strong attack anyway, eg 17 Bxg7 Kxg7 18 Qd2 Kh8 19 Bb3 Qb5 20 exd5 Rg8 21 c4 Qb4 22 Qh6+ Nh7 23 Bc2 f5 24 Ngxf5; or 17 Qd2 gxf6 18 Bb3 Qa6 19 Qxh6

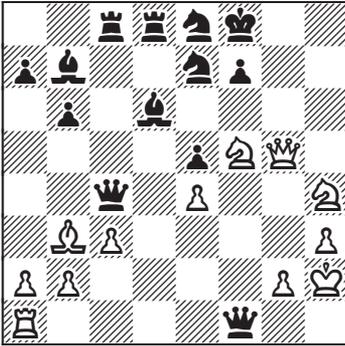


b5 20 Ngf5 Nxf5 21 Nxf5 Ne8 22 Bxd5 etc] **17 Qc1** [17 Qd2 was also possible with similar attacking ideas, eg 17...Qc6 18 Qxh6 Bc5 19 Qg5+ Ng6 20 Ngf5 Nh7 21 Qg3] (*diagram*)

17...Rfd8 [17...Kh7? would be wrong—18 Ngf5 Neg8 19 Nxd6 etc. But Black might have tried 17...Nxe4: then 18 Rxe4! (my knights are more useful than my rook in this position) dxe4 19 Qxh6 e3 20 Qg5+ Ng6 21 Nxg6 exf2+ 22 Kh2 f1N+ 23 Nxf1 e4+ 24 Ne5+ Kh7 with a draw] **18 Qxh6 Ne8 19 Re3 d4 20 Ngf5?**

[For some reason I thought 20 Rf3 would be answered by 20...Bf3(!) Like I said, I was very tired and now very short on time as well! But indeed 20 Rf3! could lead to a winning attack after 20...Qe6 21 Qg5+ Kf8 22 Bb3] **20...dxe3 21 Qg5+ Kf8 22 Bb3** [Still trying. Of course the draw was available immediately by 22 Qh6+] **22...exf2+ 23 Kh2 f1Q** [23...f1N+ would simply force me to play the correct move 24 Rxf1—see next note] (*diagram next page*)





24 Qh6+?

24 Rxf1! was probably winning since 24... Qxf1?? fails to the tactic 25 Ng6+!! Nxg6 26 Qh6+ Kg8 27 Qxg6+ Kh8 28 Qh5+ Kg8 29 Qxf7+ Kh8 30 Qh5mate. So Black would have to find 24...Bxe4!! to keep going although White is still better, eg, 25 Qh6+ Kg8 26 Bxc4 Rxc4 27 Qg5+ Kf8 28 Ng6+ Nxg6 29 Qxd8 Bxf5 30 Rxf5 e4+ 31 g3 Rc7 32.Qg5—but it would take way more than 15 minutes to finish this off!

24...Kg8 [not 24...Ng7? 25 Rxf1] 25 Qg5+ Kf8 Here my opponent offered a draw. I could still try Rxf1! but with less than 15 minutes left and him having over 35 minutes, I took the draw. ½–½

National High School Championships

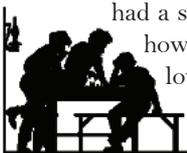
by Jeevan Karamsetty and Ashley Xue

On Thursday, April 3rd, the Thomas Jefferson HS chess team went to San Diego, California to compete in the 2014 National High School Chess Championships. The team consisted of twelve players. Going into the tournament, our major goal was to get the first place team trophy in both the blitz and main event.

Historically speaking, Thomas Jefferson usually places in the top ten but had never actually won the National title—until this year, that is! Seven players on the team departed early to San Diego to participate in the Blitz tournament later that would occur later that same evening. After a tiring, but rewarding twelve games of chess, TJ came out on top for the first time in history. We had beaten the competition by a margin of ½ a point to win the National High School Blitz Championship.

The next day, the remaining five members of the team joined in preparation for the main event. We had a team breakfast and a small pep talk before heading down to the convention center where the tournament was to be held. The first of seven rounds began shortly after an opening ceremony.

The first round went relatively smoothly since all but one of us played down. We had a strong start of four points out of four as a team. From then on, however, results became less predictable. Some of us lost or drew to lower rated players while others consistently beat or drew those rated above them. Each game was hard fought, making each round more meaningful as we exerted all our energy into each game.





After each game, we gathered to analyze, eat and prepare for the next round. It was exhausting but we enjoyed the challenge. By the time of the next-to-last round, we realized that we had a very legitimate chance to win first place. We helped each other train harder and hoped for a miraculous 4/4 finish to push our team to the top. Unfortunately, most of our players wound up in long and difficult games against higher rated opponents and we only came up with 2½ points in the last round.

In the end, we finished in fifth place with a score of 18½ points, just 1½ away from first. Overall we had a good tournament and worked extremely well as a team. Hopefully when it's time for the next National High School Championships a year from now, we can walk away with *two* first place trophies and make history for our school once again.

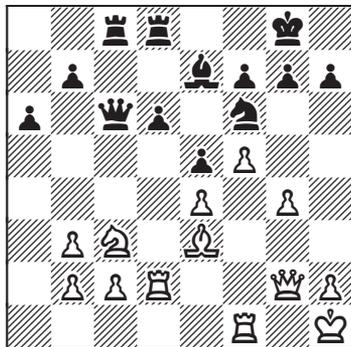
The team would like to thank VCF for their support in helping fun of the trip, which allowed us to send our best players across the country for a rather successful event!

Jeevan Karamsetty - Kai Kronberg

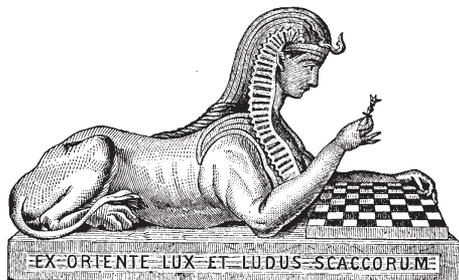
Sicilian

1 e4 c5 2 Nf3 d6 3 d4 cxd4 4 Nxd4 Nf6 5 Nc3 a6 6 Be2 e5 7 Nb3 Be6 8 O-O Be7 [Just a common set of moves played so far.] 9 Kh1 O-O 10 f4 Nc6 11 f5 Bxb3 12 axb3 Nd4 13 Be3 Nxe2 14 Qxe2 Rc8 [Perhaps 14...d5 was a better move in order to free the bad bishop before Rad1] 15 Rad1 Qc7 16 Rd2 Rfd8 17 g4 Qc6 18 Qg2

(diagram)



18...Kh8 [Black should probably keep his king on g8 so that the f7 pawn is still protected after White plays g5, f6, and fxg7] 19 g5 Nd7 20 f6 gxf6 21 Nd5 Re8 22 gxf6 Rg8 [Forced since if 22...Bf8 23 Rg1] 23 Qf3 Bf8 24 Rg1 [Black cannot trade rooks as White can line up his rook and queen on g-file afterwards with forced checkmate.] 24...Rg6 25 Rdg2 a5 26 h4 Bh6 27 h5 Bxe3 28 hxg6 Bxg1 29 g7+ Kg8 30 Ne7mate 1-0





Book Review

POSITIONAL ATTACKS by Joel Johnson
Lulu Publishing 2014, paperback, 500 pages, \$39.95 list

by Steve Mayer

Over the last few years, USCF Life Master Joel Johnson of Phoenix has embarked on a three-volume series of books devoted to a variety of methods for attacking the king. Some idea of how successful he has been as a chess author was demonstrated when his second volume, *FORMATION ATTACK STRATEGIES*, went all the way to number 1 on the prestigious *New in Chess* bestseller list.

Johnson's latest book is entitled *POSITIONAL ATTACKS*. I want to make clear immediately that this is another expansion of Johnson's series on attacking the king. In other words, you won't find chapters on the Minority Attack in the QGD or the best method of utilizing an outpost on an open file in the ending. When such things as pawn weakness are covered, they're in the context of attacking the king.

Some of Johnson's attack methods are probably well known to the typical adult tournament player, but Johnson also emphasizes methods that have received less attention even in attacking manuals that are recognized classics. Johnson has been the most influential in popularizing so-called "fishing pole" attacks where, for example, a piece on g5 is threatened with ...h7-h6 but the attacker hasn't castled yet and so is in a position to replay with h2-h4. The idea is that capturing the "bait" will give him an enduring initiative (or even an immediate win) after h4xg5.

Among the better known attacking concepts that Johnson covers are pawn storms, "Local Force" (think of Tal's sacrificial games) and "Separation of Forces" (games where the defender is possibly ahead a HUGE amount of material but an advanced attacking outpost (eg, a knight embedded at e6 (e3)) effectively isolates the majority of potential defenders away from their king.

Johnson's selection of illustrative games is remarkable in that they range from contests between relatively low-rated class players all the way up to the vaunted Super-GM level. Likewise time controls range from *very* fast blitz games to 'slow play' national championship and grandmaster invitationals. Well over 500 games are included in *POSITIONAL ATTACKS*' 500 pages and I can practically guarantee you that that you'll have seen very few of them before. This is true of the entire book series and brings a welcome freshness to the topic of attacking chess.

Johnson gives you x-ray insight of what an all-out attacker looks for. Are all of these games 100% 'sound'? I doubt even Johnson would say so; but with increasingly faster time controls featured even in "serious" tournaments, there's no doubt that seizing the initiative and going for a mating attack can itself convey a practical advantage. Ultimately, Johnson's series aims to awaken or improve the inner Tal that chess players of all ages and ability levels have.

POSITIONAL ATTACKS retails for \$39.95 and is available from a variety of outlets including lulu.com, amazon.com, uschess.org, and some European vendors such as chessbooksfromeurope.com and newinchess.com.





Andrew Samuelson - William Marcelino
DC Chess League 2014
Sicilian

Notes by Andrew Samuelson

This game was played in the first round of the 2014 summer season of the DC Chess League. My team, the Arlington Argyles, was playing the Forever Young Knights. Our opponents are a new team for the summer season, and their roster includes a few of our regular players. My opponent in this game has been my teammate for many matches over the past few years.

1 e4 c5 2 Nf3 Nc6 3 d4 cxd4 4 Nxd4 Nf6 5 Nc3 e5 6 Ndb5 d6 7 Bg5 a6 8 Na3 b5 [The usual move,

but I had another recent DC Chess League game where my opponent played Be6 instead.] **9 Nd5 Be7 10 Bxf6 Bxf6 11 c3 O-O 12 Nc2 Bg5 13 a4 bxa4 14 Rxa4 a5 15 Bc4 Be6** [According to my database, 15...Rb8 is by far the most popular move here, while 15...Bd7 and 15...Kh8 have also been seen at the elite level. The move played in the game, while not rare, does not seem to have been tried at the highest level.] **16 O-O Kh8 17 Nce3 Rb8 18 Qe2** [This is apparently the first new move of the game. I thought it made sense to avoid playing b3 or Ra2, which would be the typical moves in response to Rb8 in the main line. The fact that my knight has moved from c2 allows me this extra option.] **18...g6 19 Bb5!?** [I'm



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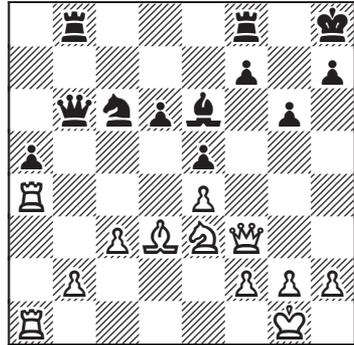
Mike Callaham

waterman2010kir@aol.com.



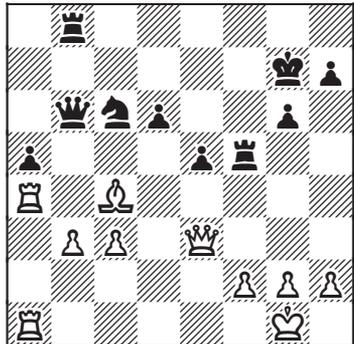
intending to put my bishop on d3, where it helps to restrain the f5 pawn break, but on the way I knock his knight offside with tempo. Taking the bishop away from c4 does lessen my control over d5. However, I felt that my knights could handle the task of occupying and controlling d5 without the bishop's support.] **19...Na7 20 Bd3** [20 Bc4 would repeat the position, but that wasn't my intention.] **20...Nc6 21 Rfa1 Bxe3 22 Nxe3** [This is the best way to recapture, not allowing Black to capture on d5 when White has to capture with a pawn and lose the outpost.] **22...Qb6 23 Qf3?!** [23 Rb1 Ne7 24 Nc4 Bxc4 25 Rxc4 is probably stronger than the game continuation. White is probably a little better.] (diagram)

23...Qd8?! [Apparently the variation 23...Qxb2 24 Qf6+ Kg8 25 Nf5 scared my opponent away from playing Qxb2. Then 25...Bxf5 is the only move (if 25...gxf5 26 exf5 and the rook comes across from a4) but it looks okay for Black. For example, the computer suggests the wild



continuation 26 exf5 Qd2 27 Bc4 d5 28 R4a2 Qxc3 (28...Rb2 29 fxg6 dxc4 30 Rxb2 Qxb2 31 gxh7+ Kxh7 32 Qf5+ Kh8 33 Qh5+ is also a draw) 29 fxg6 hxg6 30 Ra3 Rb1+ 31 Bf1 Qxa1 32 Rxa1 Rxa1 33 Qxc6 Rb8 34 g3 Rbb1 35 Qe8+ Kg7 36 Qxe5+ with a perpetual.] **24 Nc4 Kg7 25 Qe2 Bxc4 26 Bxc4 Qb6 27 b3 f5!** [Black correctly aims for counterplay on the f-file. White should still be slightly better since the a5 and d6 pawns are weak and the knight doesn't have an outpost to occupy.] **28 exf5 Rxf5 29 Qe3!?** [It may have been better to play 29 R4a2 Qc5 30 Rd2 Ne7 31 Qe3 Qc7 32 Rad1 White maintains a slight edge but it won't be easy to break through.] (diagram)

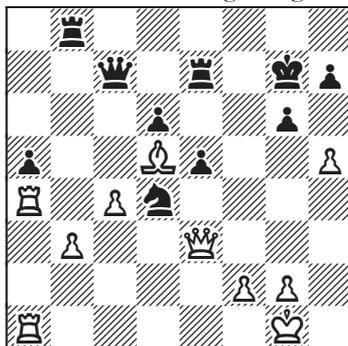
29...Qc7?! [Black could have tried 29...e4 30 Rd1 Ne7 31 Be6 Qxe3 32 fxe3 Rf6 33 Rxd6 Rxb3 34 Bxb3 Rxd6 35 Rxa5 Nf5 36 Bd5 Nxe3 37 Bxe4 White's a little better here thanks to the extra c-pawn. Alternatively, Black can play 29...Qxe3 30 fxe3 e4 31 Rd1 Rf6 32 h3 Ne7 33 Rxa5 d5 34 Bxd5 Nxd5 35 Ra7+ Rf7 36 Rxf7+ Kxf7 37 Rxd5 Rxb3 38 Re5 Rxc3 39 Rxe4 and this rook ending should probably be a draw.] **30 Bd5 Ne7** [We made the time control and I felt like I was a little better. The match outcome was still up in the air at this



point as well, but it seemed likely I would need to win.] **31 Be4 Rf7** [31...Rxb3!? is an interesting try to hang on for a draw, eg 32 Bxf5 Nxf5 33 Qe2 Qxc3 34 Rxa5 White's has an exchange for just one pawn but Black's active pieces and the fact that all White pawns are on one side of the board could make this very



difficult to win.] **32 c4!** [This controls d5 again and is probably the only move to keep an advantage.] **32...Nc6** [The Black knight heads for an outpost on the newly unguarded d4 square.] **33 Bd5 Re7** [Black could also have tried 33...Nb4 34 Bxf7 Nc2 35 Qh3 Nxa1 36 Bxg6 hxg6 37 Rxa1 Rb4 where it will be hard for White to convert the extra pawn. I don't have a passed pawn and Black can pressure b3.] **34 h4!** [I wasn't totally sure about this move during the game, but it looked good. It makes luft so that I don't fall into a back rank tactic and plans to start an attack on the kingside. The computer likes it too!] **34...Nd4** [The pawn sacrifice 34...Qb6 35 Bxc6 Qxc6 36 Rxa5 was worth considering, though White's edge is larger than it was in some earlier variations. The game continuation was more dangerous for Black.] **35 h5** (*diagram*)





Chess Clubs

Please send additions / corrections to the Editor:

■ **Alexandria:** Kingstowne Chess Club, Kingstowne South Center, 6080 Kingstowne Village Parkway, Tuesdays 7-9:30pm, info Gary McMullin, gary.at.kcc@gmail.com, (571) 295-5463 ■ **Arlington:** Arlington Chess Club, Arlington Forest United Methodist Church, 4701 Arlington Blvd, Fridays 7:30pm. Registration for rated Ladder and Action events ends 8pm. Blitz/Quick tourney first Friday of each month. Info John Campbell (703) 534-6232 ▲ **Arlington Seniors Chess Club,** Madison Community Center, 3829 N Stafford St, Mondays, 9:45am, info (703) 228-5285 ■ **Ashburn:** Ashburn Chess Club, Sakasa Tea and Coffee House, 44927 George Washington Blvd, Suite 125. Tuesdays 5pm, Saturdays 3pm. Bring board and set. Info www.meetup.com/Ashburn-Chess-Club/ or Scott Knoke, 703-433-2146 ■ **Blacksburg:** Chess Club of Virginia Tech, GB Johnson Student Center, Rm 102, Virginia Tech, Wednesdays 7-9pm ■ **Charlottesville:** Charlottesville Chess Club, St Mark Lutheran Church, Rt 250 & Alderman Rd, Monday evenings ▲ Senior Center, 1180 Pepsi Place, 6-8pm on Thursdays. Info 434-244-2977 ■ **Chesapeake:** Zero's Sub Shop, 3116 Western Branch Blvd (Rt 17), (Poplar Hill Plaza near Taylor Rd intersection), Mondays 6pm to closing ▲ Great Bridge United Methodist Church, corner of Battlefield Blvd & Stadium Dr, Tuesdays, 6:30-10pm, info 686-0822 ■ **Culpeper:** Culpeper Chess Club, Culpeper County Public Library, Rt 29 Business (near Safeway). Chess players casually drop by on Wednesday nights starting at 6:30pm ■ **Danville:** Danville Chess Club, Danville YMCA, 810 Main Street. Mondays 6:30-9:30 pm. Info John Thompson 434-799-8898 ■ **Fort Eustis:** contact Sorel Utsey 878-4448 ■ **Fredericksburg:** Fredericksburg/Spotsylvania area chess players get together every Friday evening 6-10pm on the second floor of Wegman's in Central Park. ■ **Glenns:** Rappahannock Community College - Glenns Campus Chess Club, Glenns Campus Library, Tuesdays 8-10pm in the student lounge, info Zack Loesch 758-5324(x208) ■ **Gloucester:** Gloucester Chess Club, Gloucester Library (main branch), Tuesdays 5-8pm, www.co.gloucester.va.us/lib/clubschess.html ■ **Harrisonburg:** Shenandoah Valley Chess Club, Trinity Presbyterian Church, corner of S High (rt 42) & Maryland Ave (Port Republic Rd), Fridays 7:30pm ■ **McLean:** Booz Allen Hamilton CC, Hamilton Bldg, Rm 2032, 8283 Greensboro Dr. Thursdays, info Thomas Thompson, 703-902-5418, thompson_thomas@bah.com ■ **Mechanicsville:** Mechanicsville Chess Club, Mechanicsville Branch Library (meeting room), 7461 Sherwood Crossing Pl, Mechanicsville, Va 23111. First & third Thursday of each month, 6-8:30. www.mechcns.com/chess ▲ Stonewall Library, Stonewall Pkwy, Mondays 6:30-9pm 730-8944 ■ **Norfolk:** Tidewater Chess Club, Beth Messiah Synagogue, 7130 Granby St, Norfolk. Tuesdays, 7-10 pm, Ernie Schlich (757) 853-5296, eschlich@verizon.net ▲ Larchmont Public Library, 6525 Hampton Blvd, Wednesday 6-9pm ▲ ODU Chess Club, Webb Univ Ctr, Old Dominion University, info www.odu.edu/~chess ■ **Reston:** Reston Community Ctr Hunters Woods, 2310 Colts Neck Rd, Thursdays 6:30-9:30 pm. Limited number of sets & boards available, or bring your own. No fee, but you must sign-in at each meeting ■ **Richmond:** One-Eyed Jacques, 3104 W Cary St, Saturdays 5-10pm. ▲ Huguenot Chess Knights, Bon Air Library Community Room, 1st & 3rd Friday of each month, 7-11pm, info Walter Chester 276-5662 ▲ Starbucks, 5802 Grove Ave, Richmond, VA 23226, Wednesdays 5-8pm. For more info contact Christopher Yarger at www.facebook.com/RichmondChess ■ **Roanoke:** Roanoke Valley Chess Club, Saturday afternoons 1-6 pm in the coffee shop of the Roanoke Natural Foods Co-Op, 1319 Grandin Road SW. For more information www.roanokechess.com or write PO Box 14143, Roanoke, Va 24038, (540) 725-9525 ■ **Stafford:** Bella Cafe Chess Nights, 3869 Jefferson Davis Hwy, Suite 103, Stafford, VA 22554. Tuesdays & Thursdays 7pm -10, sets & boards on site, frequent tournneys. Contact Will at 703-445-8855 or bellabagelcafe@yahoo.com ■ **Virginia Beach:** Tidewater Community Chess Club, Bldg D ("Kempsville") Cafeteria, Tidewater Community College Va Beach Campus, 1700 College Crescent Rd. Mondays 7-10pm ■ **Waynesboro:** Augusta Chess Club, Books-A-Million, 801 Town Center Dr, every Saturday 10am-noon. Contact Alex Patterson (540) 405-1111 or AugustaChessClub@gmail.com ■ **Williamsburg:** Williamsburg CC, The Williamsburg Landing, 5700 Williamsburg Landing Drive. 2nd floor Game Room. Tuesdays 7-10pm. Don Woolfolk 757-229-8774 or Tom Landvogt 757-565-5792 ■ **Winchester:** Winchester Chess Club, Westminster-Canterbury Home for the Elderly, Tuesdays 7pm ■ **Woodbridge:** Prince William Chess Club, Tuesdays 7-9pm at Borders Books and Music, 2904 Prince William Parkway, Woodbridge, VA 22192. Contact Dick Stableford, 703-670-5887 or o6usmc@comcast.net



From the Editor..



First a brief note regarding the **Chess Club list** that appears on the opposite page. Providing a forum for *publicity*—publicity for the benefit both of chess players seeking opportunities to play and organizers looking to get the word out about their club or event—is high up on the (unwritten) Mission Statement of *Virginia Chess*. A directory of chess clubs around the state seems like an intrinsic feature for the official publication of the Virginia Chess Federation. That said, we can only provide the latest and most accurate information that is available to us. If a club in Kilmarnock shuts down, its entry doesn't somehow magically vanish from our list. So two points: 1) please don't get mad at the Editor if you drive 50 miles to a club you've seen listed here only to find that it doesn't exist any more. I appreciate you letting me know, and the update you provide will save others in inconvenience that you suffered. And I'm sorry you wasted your time and gasoline for nothing. But just so we're clear: *Virginia Chess* is in no position to offer any guarantee regarding the currency of the information on that list. 2) If you are an organizer, or if you are just a guy who knows what's what with your local club, please *please* send me updates if you find that any of our information is out of date. *Thank you all!*

Second, we've sort of slipped **an issue behind**. It's July and normally we've put out four issues by this time of the year, whereas you'll note at the top of this page that this is in fact just issue #2014/3. The cause for this is a combination of derth of material and some non-chess distractions in the Editor's life. But we will get back on track. Issue 2014/4 will appear in September, as soon after the Labor Day state championship tournament as the Editor can possibly put it together. Issues 2014/5 and 2014/6 will appear in the October–November–December time frame. Promise! *However...* for them to be good, interesting issues, I'll need material! If you've ever considered writing something for *Virginia Chess*, now would be a great time to start. If you've contributed in the past but 'gone dark' lately, the Editor would love to hear from you again. If you're an organizer, why wouldn't you want to raise the profile of your events by publishing Tournament Announcements prior to them and then Tournament Reports after all is said and done?

So again, in advance for those who will write, *thank you all!*



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