

VIRGINIA CHESS

Newsletter

The bimonthly publication of the
Virginia Chess Federation

2017 - #3

Grandmaster
Alexei Dreev
wins
5th Cherry Blossom
Classic



US Open in Norfolk! - July 29-August 6

see page 10 for full details

VIRGINIA CHESS

Newsletter

2017 - Issue #3

Editor:

Macon Shibut
8234 Citadel Place
Vienna VA 22180
vcfeditor@cox.net

Circulation:

Georgina Chin
2851 Cherry Branch Lane
Herndon VA 20171
membership@vachess.org



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a non-profit organization for the use of its members. Dues for regular adult membership are \$10/yr. Junior memberships are \$5/yr. President: Adam Chrisney, PO Box 151122, Alexandria, VA 22315

chrisney2@gmail.com Membership Secretary: Georgina Chin, 2851 Cherry Branch Lane, Herndon VA 20171, membership@vachess.org
Treasurer Mike Hoffpauir, 405 Hounds Chase, Yorktown VA 23693, mhoffpauir@aol.com Scholastics Coordinator: Mike Callaham, 8712 Cherokee Road, Richmond VA 23235, waterman2010kir@aol.com
Virginia/Maryland/DC Tournament Clearinghouse: Mike Atkins, matkins2@comcast.net VCF Inc Directors: Mike Hoffpauir, Ernie Schlich, Michael Callaham, Andrew Rea, Adam Chrisney.





Cherry Blossom Classic

THE 5th ANNUAL CHERRY BLOSSOM CLASSIC drew an event record 200 entries to the Clown Plaza in Herndon, Va May 26-29, including half a dozen grandmasters and a staggering 17 players—over half the Open section field—rated above 2300. Former world championship candidate Alexei Dreev, of Russia, finished clear first with a score of 5½-1½. The remaining place prizes were shared by three other grandmasters—Priyadharshan Kannappan, of India, Bryan Smith, & Michael Rohde, plus former (2015) Virginia state champion Jennifer Yu, each with 5 points. Class prize winners in the Open group included Trung Nguyen, Justin Paul and Daniel Leach.

Jason Morefield went 6-1 to win the Under 2200 section outright. Sean Senft was half a point behind for clear 2nd, while Pieter Heesters won 3rd prize. Liran Zhou and Douglas Malcolm claimed class prizes.

The Under 2000 section saw a tie for 1st between Chris Que, David Stoner & Aditya Ponukumati. Matthew Orye, Mark Davis, Sudars Sriniaiyer, Neha Pattanaik and Angela Chen won or shared class prizes.

Frank Huber won the Under 1700 section with an undefeated 6-1. He drew head-to-head games with each of his co-runners up, Zahirr Muhammad & Arnav Gupta. Adamson Steiner, Ted Covey, Pawan Jayakumar & Rithik Puli all had a hand in the class prize pool.

The Under 1400 section ended in clear 1st, 2nd, and 3rd prize winners: John Hanna, Dominic Earle & Rahul Palani, respectively. Heather Fitzimmons, Daniel Long, Alexander Abramenko & Naveen Balakrishnan shared the class prize.

Finally, the Under 1200 Section was topped by Byron Wu. Ya He, Abigail Lee & Jason Northcutt all finished a point behind the leader, and Alan Wang won a class prize.

In our next issue of VIRGINIA CHESS we hope to have an expanded Cherry Blossom Classic report including annotated games by grandmasters Michael Rohde and Alex Lenderman.



Virginia Senior Open

THE VIRGINIA SENIOR OPEN was contested June 2-4 in Alexandria. Forty-two players aged 50 and up entered. Maryland master Larry Gilden ran off 4 straight wins to lead the pack with one round to go. However, in the final round, former state champion Geoff McKenna defeated the leader, which allowed several others to catch up. The result was in a 5-way tie for first place at 4-1 between the aforementioned Gilden & McKenna plus Robert Fischer, Andy Rea and last year's winner William Marcelino.

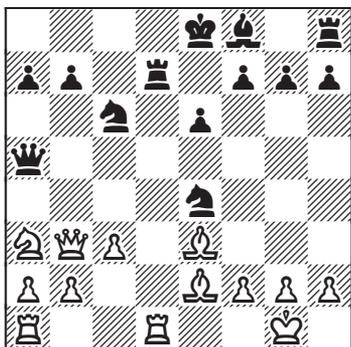
Geoff McKenna - Larry Gilden Sicilian

Notes by Geoff McKenna

1 e4 [I'm mostly a Queenside player, but Larry beat me with a King's Indian Defense last time.] 1...c5 2 c3 d5 3 exd5 Qxd5 4 d4 Nc6?! [Natural and playable but not best. It gives White almost a whole tempo attacking the queen, which cannot retreat to the preferred square c7. Kasparov favored 4...e6] 5 dxc5 [Now Black has an awkward choice: something like a reverse Queen's Gambit Accepted with a tempo missing, or the game line.] 5...Qxc5 6 Be3 [collecting my free bonus] 6...Qa5 7 Na3 [The characteristic weird move of this opening. The pawn on c3 blocks the most natural developing square, and there is a rush to finish developing the queenside before Black plays ...e6 and this move becomes dubious in view of ...Bxa3] 7...Be6!? 8 Nf3 [If I had it to do over again I would probably try 8 Nc4 to get two bishops or maybe anchor the knight with an early a4] 8...Rd8 Qc2 Nf6 10 Be2 [White plays easy developing moves and waits for Black to make choices. Here I wondered about...Nd5] 10...Bd5 11 O-O Be4 12 Qb3 e6 [Wow. I figured I am close to a critical lead in development, but didn't spot anything great.] 13 Nd2 [thinking about answer 13...Bxa3 with 14 Nxe4 followed by Qxb7] 13...Rd7?! 14 Nxe4 Nxe4 15 Rfd1 [15 Nc4 is another way]



Geoff McKenna



15...Nxc3 [I only noticed this after I moved. There are many choices here.] 16 Rxd7 Nxe2+ 17 Kf1 Kxd7 18 Qxb7+ Qc7 19 Qxc7+ [White could dream about 19 Rd1+ Bd6? 20 Rxd6+ Kxd6 21 Nb5+ but 19...Ned4 probably wins.] 19...Kxc7 20 Nb5+ Kb7 21 Kxe2 Be7? [Probably losing. Black should play 21...a6 first.] 22 Rd1 [Now it is too late for 22...a6

because of 23 Rd7+ with threat of Rc7. Also 22...Rd8 leaves the defenders overloaded—White would exchange rooks on d8 and then either take the a-pawn or play Nb5-d6xf7] 22 ... a6?! 23 Rd7+ Kb8? 24 Na7 picking up a piece and a pawn or so 1-0

Mark Your Calendar

Aug 25-27, 2017
Atlantic Open, Arlington, Va.

September 2-4, 2017
Virginia Closed State Championship
 Hilton Garden Inn Innsbruck, Glen Allen Va.
 Blitz tournament on Friday evening, Sept 1.
 VCF General Meeting on Saturday
 morning, Sept 2.



Graduate Student Defeats Criminal

by *Allen Chauvenet*

MY FATHER was Louis Russell (“Russ”) Chauvenet, who was a reasonably strong player in his time, with victories including four Virginia State Championships (1942 & 1946-1948—no tourney was played during 1943-1945), the US Amateur (1959) and the Maryland Open (1963, 1969 & 1976). He was (along with Lisa Lane, the top woman at the 1959 US Amateur) pictured on the cover of the VIRGINIA CHESS (issue #4 of 2012) some nine years after his death! (*see picture below*)

Dad taught me chess when I was 5 years old, beginning with simple checkmates, K+P v K endings, and some general concepts like “protected passed pawns are strong” and “doubled rooks are powerful on a file or rank.” Concerned I might get discouraged with a seemingly infinite string of losses, he gave me odds when we began playing. For starters he gave odds of 2 rooks+2 knight+2 bishops—ie, he began the game with only his pawns, king and queen—and he won! Then it dawned on me that I merely had to take the queen. It didn’t matter if it cost me both rooks plus a bishop as well as my own queen! Armed with this insight, I won our second game.





We adjusted the handicap as I gained experience. The rule was that if I won three in a row, odds would decrease. If he won three in a row, odds would jump back up. This made it impossible for either of us to have an infinite winning streak! Once I had grown too strong for simple knight odds, we did not want to go into pawn odds, so we switched to time odds. That's as far as I ever advanced! I got involved with sailboat racing (which is still my #1 hobby) and dabbled in chess, playing some and drifting along happily as a class A player.

The basement of my childhood home was at times occupied by masters Herbert Avram, Martin Stark, Eliot Hearst, Larry Gilden, and others--including CHOD ("Hugh") Alexander, the British International Master who had worked on the Enigma machine decryption during the Second World War. Ariel Mengarini was a college classmate and life-long friend. My high school team included Larry Kaufman, and my college team (back when no one recruited chess players!) featured John Meyer and Boris Baczynski. Boris and I played too many games (usually 5 or 10 minute) to count, with roughly 50-50 results. I used to say Boris won half of them and lost the other half while I just shoved the pieces around. Most of Boris' games were filled with brilliancies far above my level of chess thinking. However, about half of them had fatal flaws. Otherwise he just left me helpless!

In 1963 my father won the Maryland Open and I (age 16, in my senior year of high school) won the trophy for top junior. I didn't face another junior head to head but finished 4-2. The really neat thing was that the two players who beat me both faced my father in the following round and went down to defeat!

Eventually I became a pediatric oncologist. I look back at chess as a great tool. In chess, one has to analyze possibilities and solve problems. When treating a child with cancer, one has to analyze possibilities and solve problems. I think my introduction to chess taught me many principles that have proven incredibly valuable in my later life.





IN 1970, I began graduate studies in biochemistry, immunology & microbiology at Duke University. In late 1971, my father decided to come down to visit me and play in the Durham Open. I had not played a rated game in several years, but I decided to join him in the event—hoping perhaps for a repeat of our Maryland Open dual triumph. Could history repeat in some way? Answer: No, but my memory is that my father did win the tournament!

I prepped for the event by losing 10-minute games to him on the night before. When we arrived at the tournament, one particular name stood out on the entry list. Norman Tweed Whitaker (1890-1985) was a strong player (eventually awarded the FIDE Master title) who was also a lawyer, civil servant, chess author and criminal. While he was found guilty of many crimes including fraud, auto theft, sending morphine through the mail, and others, his greatest notoriety came from attempted extortion related to the Lindbergh baby kidnapping in 1932. Whitaker spent several stretches of time in Federal Prisons (including Alcatraz), which somewhat interrupted his chess playing career! Prior to 1925, he won or placed very highly in a number of quite strong tournaments. He won the 1st National Chess Federation invitational round robin (6½-1½). Since the NCF was a forerunner of the USCF, Whitaker (never short on self-promotion) always claimed to be a former National Champion! Dr Arpad Elo, developer of the modern rating system, retrospectively assessed Whitaker's rating as 2420, while ChessMetrics assigned him a 2568 rating for 1928 and ranked him #25 in the world for 1918. In 1921 Whitaker was set to play Frank Marshall in a match for the US Championship but failed to show up—perhaps related to his arrest in November 1921 for car theft and extortion. After resuming tournament chess in 1947-48, he still had some impressive results.

My father knew Whitaker and had met him with roughly equal results in a number of tournaments. When I was 6 or 7 years old, Whitaker visited our home. He made flattering comments about me, and offered to take me around the country to play chess. There was no chance of my parents going for that!



Through the 1960s and beyond, Whitaker drove around the country in his VW Beetle playing in as many weak tournaments (largely in the south) as he could find so that he might win them. He was involved in a serious automobile accident in 1961, which killed his traveling companion USCF Expert Glenn Hartleb.

John Hilbert wrote a biography of Whitaker, *Shady Side: The Life and Crimes of Norman T Whitaker, Chess Master*. Published in 2000, it received an award as one of the top chess books of the year. *Shady Side* was a great title as in addition to alluding to Whitaker's criminal life, that was also the name of the Maryland town where he lived for a number of years.

By this time Whitaker was 80 years old and, while still a solid player, was not necessarily any stronger than class A (which is what I was, after dusting off my old rating). But he convinced the TD to assign him a 2200+ rating for pairing purposes, thus assuring a weak first-round opponent. (February 1972 CHESS LIFE listed his rating as 2142).

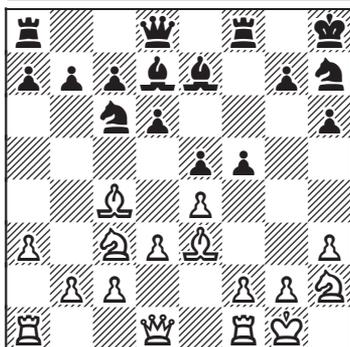
We both won our first-round games. The fates and the TD set us up to meet in the second round. With all the history, I really wanted to win. But I figured my best approach as White would be to make no effort at all to win, but simply to avoid any major errors. Perhaps Whitaker would expect to bluff me into submission and, when that failed, he might play some unsound attacking moves.

Allen Chauvenet - Norman Whitaker

1972 Durham Open

Ruy Lopez

1 e4 e5 2 Nf3 Nc6 3 Bb5 [Always my go-to opening. If it was okay for Bobby Fischer (and still for the 2016 world championship match, where it appeared in a majority of the games), then I should be safe here! Whitaker's reply invites White to play 4 d4, which would have likely been the strongest move.] **3...d6 4 O-O Nf6 5 d3 Be7 6 h3 O-O 7 Be3 Bd7 8 Nc3 h6 9 a3 Nh7 10 Bc4** [Not clear what I was thinking here—such is the fate of the class A player! Again, however, not giving away anything.] **10...Kh8 11 Nh2 f5**



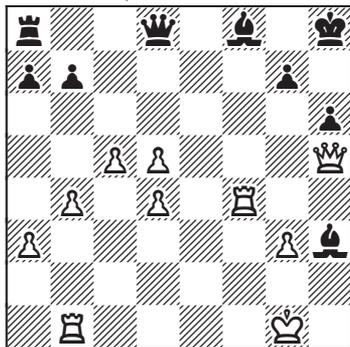
Whitaker gave me a disdainful look to indicate that it was now time for the great master to crush the wood pusher! Fortunately, I had considered 11...f5 prior to my previous move and had my reply already decided. Thus I threw psychology back at him by taking less than 5 seconds to play...

12 f4

Whether or not this is the *best move* is above my rating—but I knew then and now that it was the *best psychological move!*

12...Bf6 13 Bd5 exf4 14 Bxf4 Ne7 15 Rb1 Ng6 16 Ne2 c6? [I don't know whether this was an oversight or a calculated gamble that I would not venture my reply? No matter what the ratings, it's never a good plan to assume your opponent will play weakly!] 17 Bxd6 cxd5 18 Bxf8 Nhx8 19 exd5 Be5 20 Nf3 Bd6 21 c4 Nh4 22 b4 [obeying my father's lesson about the value of passed pawns!] 22...Nxf3+ 23 Rxf3 Ng6 [Looking at ...Nh4 and ...Ne5 but I wasn't bothered by either of these.] 24 c5 Nh4 25 Rf2 Bf8 [Always pleased to see my opponent's pieces return to their original homes! (Yes, I know there are some situations where this can be strong... but this is not one of them!)] 26 g3 Ng6 27 d4 f4? [Perhaps overlooking White's 30th?] 28 Nxf4 Nxf4 29 Rxf4 Bxh3 30 Qh5 (diagram)

After I made this strong move, Whitaker looked up, held out his hand and said, "Good game! Draw now!" Since I thought he would only offer a draw to intimidate me, he likely thought he was lost. Since I not only had the advantage but could see no way I might lose, I immediately said, "declined."



30...Bd7 31 d6 Qg5 [Trading queens seems to lessen the chance that I might blunder, and also of course double his g-pawns. No hesitation at all



in my reply!] 32 Qxg5 hxg5 33 Rf7 Bc6 34 Rbf1 Kg8 [Again as Dad taught me—when you don't know what to do, double your rooks on an open file! When you do know what to do, double your rooks on an open file!! The game is really over now.] 1-0 My recollection (which may be faulty) is that after resigning, Whitaker got into his car and left the tournament. I can't find any record of the event, so I can't be certain of this. In any case, I sort of liked the idea of "Science Graduate Student Defeats Criminal"!



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118th Annual...

US Open Chess Championship

July 29-Aug 6, Aug 1-6, or Aug 3-6, 2017

Sheraton Norfolk Waterside Hotel, 777 Waterside Dr, Norfolk, Va 23510

9-SS, three schedule options: **Traditional** (One round daily at 7pm except final round (8/6) at 3pm). **6-Day Option** (First 6 rounds 8/1 at 7pm., 8/2 noon & 7pm, 8/3 noon & 7pm, 8/4 at noon, then merge into the traditional schedule for round 7 at 7pm on 8/4). **4-Day Option** (First 6 rounds 8/3 at noon, 3pm, 7pm & 10pm, 8/4 noon & 3pm, then merge into the traditional schedule for round 7 at 7pm on 8/4). All schedules merge after rd 6 and compete for the same prizes. Rd 7 at 7pm 8/4, rd 8 at 7pm 8/5, & Rd 9 at 3pm 8/6. **Time Control** 40/120, SD/60, d5, 4-Day Schedule rds 1-6 at G/60 d5, rds 7-9 at 40/120, SD/60, d5. **\$\$\$50,000(projected) b/500 entries, \$40,000 Guaranteed:** \$8000-4000-2000-1500-1000-800-600-500 +\$200 to clear winner; in case of tie, top 2 play 'Armageddon game' (White 5 minutes, Black 3 minutes and gets draw odds) for title and \$200 bonus; top Master (2200-2399) \$2500-1200-800-500; X (2000-2199) \$2500-1200-800-500; A \$2500-1200-800-500, B \$2500-1200-800-500; C \$2000-1000-600-400; D \$1500-700-500-300; E & below \$1500-700-500-300; Unrated \$800-400-200. Mixed Doubles (may be won in addition to a place or class prize) \$600 (ie, \$300 each player); U1800 \$320; Husband & Wife \$300; Mother & Son \$300; Father & Daughter \$300; Brother & Sister \$300 (\$150 each player); Coach & Student \$300 (\$150 each player). **Mixed Double average team rating must be under 2200.** July 2017 rating supplement will be used, unofficial ratings used if otherwise unrated. CCA ratings used if above US Chess. Foreign player ratings usually 100 points added to FIDE or FQE, 200+ added to most foreign national ratings, no points added to CFC. Highest of multiple ratings generally used. $\frac{1}{2}$ **pt byes** up to 3 allowed for rating 2000/up, 2 allowed for 1400-1999, one allowed for Under 1400 or unrated. Limit 1 allowed in last two rounds. All must commit before rd 4. Zero-point byes available in any round. All byes request at least two hours before the round in question. **Enter Online** \$145 by 6/26, \$165 by 7/17, \$185 after 7/17. **By Mail** \$147 postmarked by 6/26, \$167 postmarked by 7/17, \$187 after 7/17; do not mail after 7/24! US Chess Federation, Attn: US Open, PO Box 3967, Crossville, TN 38557. **By Phone** \$150 by 6/26, \$170 by 7/17, \$185 after (800) 903-8723, no phone entries after 7/28 (by the close of business at the Office). Contact backroom@uschess.org with changes or questions about entries. **On Site** \$190. GMs and WGMs play free. All entries must be made at least 2 hours before your first game. July Rating Supplement will be used. Any refunds will be mailed from the US Chess Office following the conclusion of the event. Accelerated pairings may be used. **Hotel** \$114, Call (866) 716-8134, mention "US Chess", reserve by July 7 or rate may increase.

Side Events

Weekend Swiss, July 29-30. 5-SS, G/60 d5 \$\$\$1150 G: \$200-100-50, U2200/Unr \$160, U2000 \$150, U1800 \$140, U1600 \$120, U1400 \$100, U1200 \$80, Unrated \$50. EF \$40, Unrated free if paying US Chess dues. On-site reg 10-11:30am Saturday 7/9, Rds noon-3pm Saturday, 10-12:30-3 Sunday.



US Open Bughouse, Sat July 29 G/5 d0. EF \$20 per team. \$\$ 80% of entry fees returned in prizes. Reg ends 10am, rd 1 10:30am.

US Open Scholastic Championships, Sun July 30. Open to all USCF members entering grade 12 and below. 4-SS in 4 Sections: Junior High - High School (open to players entering Kindergarten through the 12th grade in the fall, all ratings), Junior High - High School Under 1200 (open to players entering Kindergarten through the 12th grade in the fall rated below 1200—No Unrated!), Elementary (open to players entering Kindergarten through the 6th grade in the fall, all ratings), Elementary Under 1000 (open to players entering Kindergarten through the 6th grade in the fall rated below 1000—No Unrated!) Large sections may be further split into multiple sections. Trophies to the Top 3 in each section. Additional trophy prizes possible based on the number of entries. Schedule: Noon-1:30-3:00-4:30. Awards Ceremony at 6pm. Time Control Game/30 d5. Online \$25 by 7/10, \$35 after. By mail \$27 postmarked by 7/10; \$37 postmarked by 7/17 Do not mail after 7/17; By phone, \$30 by 7/10, \$40 after until 7/22 by 5pm CDT.

US Open Quads—one day events held Mon, July 30; Wed, Thu, Fri August 2, 3, 4. G/30 d5. EF \$20, reg 9:30-11:30am, Rds noon-1:30-3:00. \$\$ 50 to first in each quad.

Tuesday August 1 US Open Quad G/60 d5. EF \$20, reg 9-10am, rds 10:30-1-3:30. \$\$ 50 to first in each quad.

21st Annual US Open Golf Event, Wed August 2. Contact Michael Wojcio by email: runninghillsandpushups@gmail.com EF \$10 plus green fees.

US Open Tennis Tournament, Saturday August 5

US Open National Blitz Championship, 7-double SS (14 games), G/5 d0. Blitz rated, higher of regular or Blitz rating used. EF \$40, free to Unrated players if paying USCF dues. Reg 9-11:30am, rd 1 begins Noon. \$\$2000G: \$\$400-200-150, U2200 \$200-100, U2000 \$200-100, U1800 \$180-90, U1600/Unrated \$140-70, U1400 \$100, U1200 \$70.

Meetings & Workshops

August 2-4 Workshops & Committee Meetings

Sat August 5 Awards Luncheon

August 5-6 Delegates' Meeting

Other Events

The 2017 Arnold Denker Tournament of High School Champions—annual event held in conjunction with the US Open. 51 high school champions from each state affiliate and District of Columbia compete to determine who will be crowned Denker Champion of Champions. Founded in 1985 by GM Arnold Denker (1914-2005).

The 2017 Dewain Barber Tournament of K-8 Champions—founded in 2011 by Dewain Barber to provide a competition comparable to the Denker tournament for younger students.

The 2017 National Girls' Tournament of Champions—In the model of the Denker and Barber Tournaments for Girl champions from across the United States.

300 US Chess Grand Prix Points — A Heritage Event — US Chess Junior Grand Prix



Two from the US Amateur Team...

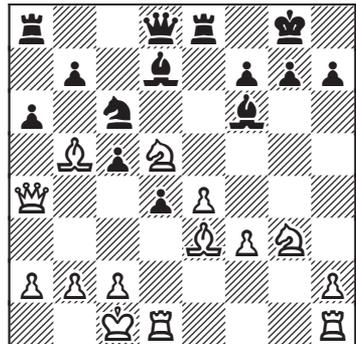


Andrew Samuelson - John Riddell
US Amateur Team East 2017
Pirc

Notes by Andrew Samuelson

This game was played in the last round of the 2017 US Amateur Team East. My team, the Virginia Assassins (Daniel Miller, Justin Lohr and Nathan Lohr were boards 2-4), was the top-rated team (2199.5) but had lost 4-0 in round 5 to drop out of contention. Still, we figured it would be nice to end the tournament on a high note. **1 e4 d6 2 d4 Nf6**

3 Nc3 c6 4 f3 [This probably isn't the most ambitious way to proceed, but I wanted to be careful and solidify my center, especially after losing a promising position in the prior round.] **4...e5 5 Be3** [5 dxe5 dxe5 6 Qxd8+ Kxd8 7 Bc4 might give White a small edge, but a long, drawn out technical affair wasn't really the sort of thing I was in the mood for at this point.] **5...Be7 6 Nge2 O-O 7 g4 Re8 8 Ng3** [8 dxe5 dxe5 9 Qxd8 Rxd8 10 Ng3 is about equal, but again, not terribly exciting.] **8...exd4 9 Qxd4 d5 10 g5** [Going for complications, but Black should be okay as White hasn't castled and has some awkwardly placed pieces.] **10...c5 11 Qa4 d4?** [11...Bd7 12 Bb5 Nxe4 13 fxe4 d4 is an improved version of the fork from the game and Black may be able to claim an edge, eg 14 O-O-O Nc6 15 Kb1 dxe3 16 h4 Qc8] **12 gxf6 Bxf6** [12...dxc3 loses a piece: 13 fxe7 Qxe7 14 O-O-O; so does 12...dxe3 (threatening Qd2mate!) 13 Rd1 Bd7 14 fxe7] **13 O-O-O Bd7 14 Bb5** [This is basically forced, but White keeps a big edge.] **14...Nc6** [14...dxe3 and 14...dxc3 both lose to Bxd7] **15 Nd5** [The pieces remain forked, so I kept moving forward to try and exploit my development.] **15...a6** (*diagram*)





16 Nh5

Objectively this move is a mistake, but I calculated the combination that follows at this point and the refutation was not easy to see. 16...Bg5 worried me during the game, but in fact White is okay in that line. The computer's move 16...Be5, on the other hand, would have shifted the edge heavily to Black—but I don't think either of us seriously considered it during the game. Of course, if he'd played either 16...Be5 or 16...Bg5 the readers would have missed out on some nice tactics! Anyway, for the record White could have been clearly better with an extra pawn by playing 16 Bf1 Nb8 17 Qa3 dxe3 18 Qxc5 Be6 19 Nh5 Bxd5 20 Rxd5 Qe7 21 Qxe3

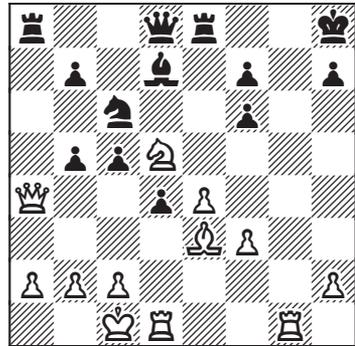
16...axb5

As noted, the refutation was 16...Be5! Black winds up much better with an extra pawn and the bishop pair after 17 Bxc6 bxc6 18 Ndf6+ Bxf6 19 Bf4 g6 20 Rhg1 Be6

My concern 16...Bg5 is probably about equal but still rather complicated, eg 17 Bxc6 Bxc6 18 Qa3 Bxd5 19 Bd2 Bxd2+ 20 Rxd2 Re5

17 Nhx6+ [It's important to use this knight and keep e7 covered.]

17...gxf6 [The losing move, although the following attack was not easy to see through to the end. The computer's cold-blooded suggestion 17...Kh8 seems to still be more or less okay for Black! 18 Qxb5 gxf6 19 Bf2 Be6 20 Qxc5 Ra5 21 Qc4 Bxd5 22 exd5 Rxd5 23 f4 White might be a little better, but it's not much.] **18 Rhg1+** [definitely the better rook, as the other one still has things to do on the d-file] **18...Kh8**



The first point was 18...Kf8 19 Bh6mate where covering e7 is crucial. 18...Bg4 could be tried, but doesn't really change anything.

19 Bh6!! [It turns out White doesn't need the queen! Still, seeing the whole sequence in advance was not easy.] **19...Rxa4**

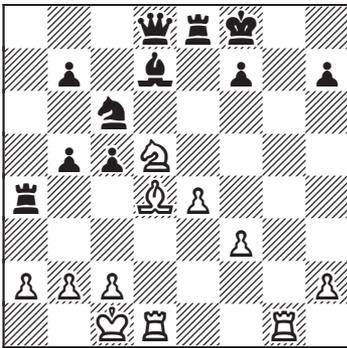
I also considered 19...Rg8 back when playing 16 Nh5, and after 20 Rxxg8+:



i) 20...Qxg8 21 Qxa8! Qxa8 22 Rg1 Qd8 (22...Qg8 23 Rxg8+ Kxg8 24 Nxf6+ Kh8 25 Nxd7 the fork is another nice point—White ends up with an extra piece) 23 Bg7+ Kg8 24 Bxf6+ Kf8 25 Bxd8 Nxd8 White will win the ending with an extra exchange.

ii) 20...Kxg8 21 Rg1+ Kh8 22 Bg7+ Kg8 23 Qxa8! Black can't avoid mate, as in the comical sequence 23...Nb8 24 Qxb8 Bc8 25 Qxc8 Qxc8 26 Nxf6 *mate*

20 Bg7+ Kg8 [This move was accompanied by a draw offer. Apparently my opponent thought it was just a perpetual, but this time I had seen further.] **21 Bxf6+ Kf8** [21...Bg4 is no improvement 22 Rxg4+ Kf8 23 Rdg1 Ne7 24 Bxe7+ Qxe7 25 Rg8 *mate*] **22 Bg7+ Kg8 23 Bxd4+ Kf8**



Now 24 Bg7+ Kg8 25 Nf6+ Qxf6 26 Bxf6+ Bg4 27 Rxg4+ may win,

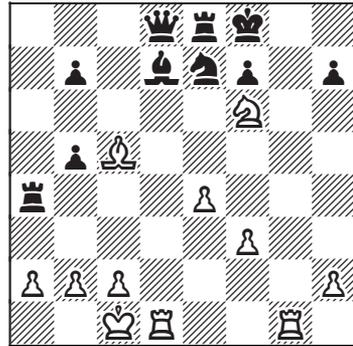
but it's not as clear and certainly not as spectacular as what I played.

24 Bxc5+!

Now it becomes apparent that Black will be mated after Re7 or Ne7. I had foreseen this nice point several moves earlier. Unfortunately, my opponent now saw it as well, with the result that the main point of the combination is relegated to the annotations.

24...Qe7

If 24...Ne7 25 Nf6!!



After 25 Nf6 (analysis)

Black's king is smothered! The extra queen is of no use. 25...Bg4 26 Rxg4 Qxd1+ 27 Kxd1 Rd8+ 28 Ke1 and White mates on g8!

24...Re7 25 Nf6!! also leads to mate.

25 Nxe7 [25 Bxe7+ Nxe7 26 Nf6 Ng6 27 Nxd7+ should also win eventually with the two extra pawns, but the text



is the stronger capture. Black resigned in view of fairly simple variations. 25...Nxe7 (25...Rxe7 26 Rxd7 Ke8 27 Rd5 is also very strong) 26 Rxd7 Rxa2 27 Rg5

White will collect some more material thanks to the pin and weak Black pawns. We won the match 4-0 and the top Virginia team prize with 4½-1½] 1-0

Chris Potts – Macon Shibut
US Amateur Team East 2017
King's Indian

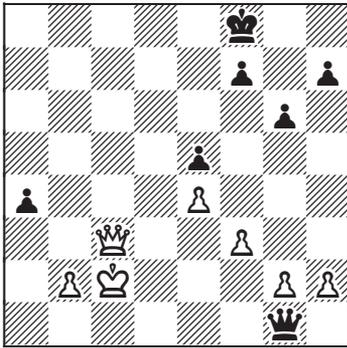
Notes by Macon Shibut

1 d4 Nf6 2 c4 d6 3 Nf3 g6 4 Nc3 Bg7 5 e4 Bg4 6 Be2 O-O 7 Be3 Nfd7 8 Qd2 e5 9 O-O-O Nc6 10 dxe5 dxe5 11 Ng5 Bxe2 12 Nxe2 Nd4 13 Nf3 Nxe2+ [This game was played in the same round as Andy's pyrotechnical demonstration above, but I'm afraid this one was much more the "long, drawn out technical affair" he mentioned he had no stomach for. I could have preserved a more interesting middlegame by 13...c5!? but I did not foresee White's 17th move at this point and thought I could exploit the weak d4 without having to grant a reciprocal weakness on d5] **14 Qxe2 Qe7 15 Rd3 Rfd8 16 Rhd1 Nf8 17 Bc5!** [Thanks to the simple tactic 17...Qxc5? 18 Rxd8 he eliminates my knight before it can reach d4] **17... Qe8 18 Bxf8 Kxf8** [18...Bxf8? would set a trap 19 Rxd8 Rxd8 20 Rxd8 Qxd8 21 Nxe5? Qg5+

but in fact Black traps himself because White doesn't need the preliminary rook exchanges, just 19 Nxe5! and if 19...Rxd3 20 Nxd3] **19 Rxd8 Rxd8 20 Rxd8 Qxd8 21 Kc2 c6 22 Qd3 Qe7 23 Kc3 Bf6** [multipurpose: keeps his knight out of g5, clears a secure nest for my king at g7, and envisions a future B-d8-b6/a5] **24 Qd2 a5** [In a blitz game I play 24...Kg7 but having time to think left me depressed about my real chances of winning and anxious to engage as quickly as possible, before it occurred to White to evacuate his king—K-d3-e2] **25 a3?!** [25 Kd3! =] **25... a4 26 Qe3** [Had he attacked my a-pawn by 26 Qc2 I would have counterattacked f2 by 26...Qc5, another reason his king really should be over there! So 26 Kd3! was still safest.] **26...Qd6** [Sort of a pawn sacrifice, since 27 Qa7 attacks both b7 and a5, but in



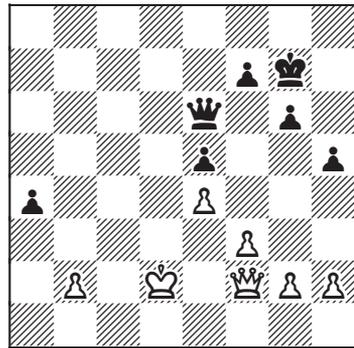
fact Black runs no risks and gets the opportunity he's seeking to harass the king, eg 27...Qd1 28 Qxb7 Qc1+ 29 Kd3 Qf1+ 30 Ke3 Qxc4] **27 Kc2 b5 28 cxb5 cxb5 29 Nd2** [a good idea—N-b1-c3-d5!—just in time to maintain the balance] **29...Bd8 30 Qc3 Bb6 31 f3 Bc5 32 Nb1 b4 33 axb4 Bxb4 34 Qd3 Qc5+ 35 Nc3 Bxc3 36 Qxc3 Qg1**



attacking two pawns

37 Qc8+? [Gaining a tempo to defend his pawns—and giving me new hope. White had a direct path to the draw in 37 Qxe5 not fearing 37...Qxg2+ 38 Kb1 Qxf3 because 39 Qh8+ Ke7 40 Qe5+ etc] **37... Kg7 38 Qh3 Qf2+** [White's queen is slightly out of play, but is that enough?] **39 Kc1 Qf1+ 40 Kc2 Qc4+ 41 Kd2 Qa2 42 Kc1 Qc4+ 43 Kd2 h5! 44 Qg3 Qe6!** [Here psychology played a role in my decision. Normally

I would probe with a few more checks, but of course they don't lead anywhere if White exercises minimal care. I understood that the point of White's last move was to bring his queen back into his backfield by Qf2, and I saw a way to make that a mistake. I decided the best bait was not to check around—and get him back into thinking mode—but offer the opportunity straightaway, when he might just proceed 'according to plan'.] **45 Qf2?** [A losing move. He should put his king back close to the b-pawn.]



45...Qa2! 46 Qb6 [The pawn must be defended of course, and if 46 Kc1 a3 the pin on the 7th rank—White's undefended queen!—decides. Black plays ...Q-a1xb2 next. Neither do 46 Ke1 Qb1+ 47 Ke2 Qxb2+; nor 46 Kc3 Qb3+ 47 Kd2 Qxb2 work.] **46...a3! 47 Kc2** [The best try; if 47 Kc1



Qa1+ 48 Kc2 a2! etc; and if 47 Kc3 Qb1! now the pin is along the rank and ...a2 comes next] 47...Qc4+ 48 Kb1 Qf1+ 49 Ka2 Qxg2 50 Kxa3 Qxh2! [Much clearer than 50...Qxf3+ 51 b3 Qxe4. After the text, play is all one straight line because with e5 defended Black's king is completely safe and White has no choices whatsoever. Both sides get another queen but Black checks first and White's king is

wide open.] 51 b4 h4 52 b5 h3 53 Qc7 Qg3 54 b6 h2 55 b7 h1Q 56 b8Q Qhxf3+ 0-1 He actually set his queen on b3 where I could simply take it and mate, but at the very least Black was going to be able to trade a set of queens, capture White's last pawn, and proceed three pawns ahead in a queen ending with my king still sheltered from any possible counterplay.

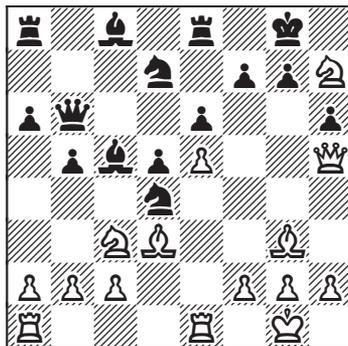


Pick N Play – The Surfer's French

by Mike Callaham

Mike Callaham continues his series derived from Lazlo Polgars' 5334 PROBLEMS, COMBINATIONS AND GAMES. —ed

THANK YOU for joining me again in our Pick N Play Academy. This time we are examining position #4493 from the Polgar book, which I call "The Surfer's French". [For those interested in looking up the introductory moves, the game was Zilberstein-Tskitishvili, USSR 1977—ed]



White to Play



This example continues to explore the murky choice between taking a relatively static exchange or going ‘all in’ for the king. The defenses presented are alternately dubious, interesting, and dynamic. Each one will have moves that tickle your blind spots and drop your jaw.

As usual, to get the most from this Pick n Play, find a partner and take turns playing the position from each side. I suggest that you use a time control of 10–15 minutes. If you instead play blitz, your games will keep being decided by time when there are still mating nets all over the place! Just when you think the attack is dying out, another one of equal or greater intensity begins! Only when you think you have exhausted all there is in the position should you read on to the analysis. It’s so complicated that even after you go through the analysis, you won’t remember how to win the game!

1 Nf6+! g7xf6?

Considering the nature of the book, I don’t think Polgar had time or room for analysis of 1...Kg8-f8, but you must make every attempt to refuse these types of sacrifices if that is what will make your opponent have to really earn the point. Over the board, White must have considered Black refusing the sacrifice—and most of my analysis here will concern this move that wasn’t played!

At first glance it looks like White has simply got at least the exchange, but in fact 2 Nxex8?! would be a major cop out when there’s so much more to go after. 2...Kxe8 3 a4 b4 4 a5 Qc6 5 Na4

Ba7 6 Qg4 Kf8. there’s tons of play here. The way I look at it, there must be other factors before I declare that having an exchange means winning! Black has no reason to be depressed in this position!

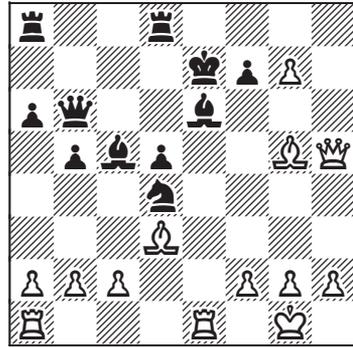
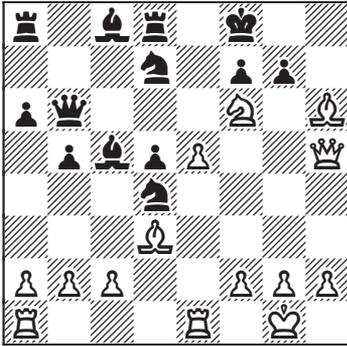
Instead of taking the rook, why not 2 Bf4! This move finds both human and computer blind spots. The engine thinks there are six moves better than Bf4, but every single one of White’s pieces are at their full potential now.

a) 2...Nf5? 3 Bxf5 Bxf2+ 4 Kf1 Bxe1 5 Rxe1 Qd4+- (5...Rd8? 6 Ncxd5! Nxf6 7 exf6 exd5 8 fxg7+ Kg8 9 Re7+- Qf6 10 Rxf7 Qxf7 11 Bh7+ Kxg7 12 Qxh6+ Kh8 13 Bg6+ Kg8 14 Bxf7+ wins) 6 B e3 Nxf6 7 exf6



Qxf6 8 Ncxd5! exd5 9 Bc5+ Re7 10 Bxe7+ Qxe7 11 Re7 Kxe7 12 Bxc8 Rxc8 13 Qxd5+-;

b) 2...Rd8?! 3 Ncxd5! exd5 4 Bxh6!



- i) 4...Ne6 5 Nxd5 Bxf2+ 6 Kh1 Qc5 7 Bxg7+ Ke8 8.Qh8+ Nf8 9 Nf6+;
- ii) 4...Nxe5 5 Rxe5 Be6 6 Nh7+ Ke7 7 Bg7 Nc6 8 Re2 winning;
- iii) 4...Nxf6 5 exf6 Be6 (5...Ne6 6 fxf6+ Ke7 7 Re2 wins) 6 fxf6+ Ke7 7 Bg5+

7...Kd7 (7...f6 8 Bh4! Kd7 {8... Rg8 9 c3 Rxc7 10 cxd4 Bb4 11 Bf5 Bxe1 12 Rxe1 Rag8 13 g3 Rf8 14 Bh3 Rfg8 15 Qf5 Rg4 16 Bxg4 Rxc4 17 Qxc4+-} 9 c3 Nc6 10 Rxe6 Kxe6 11 Qf5+ Kd6 12 Qxf6+ Kc7 13 Qxd8+ Rxd8 14 Bxd8+ Nxd8 15 g8Q+-) 8 Bxd8 Rxd8 9 Rxe6 Qxe6 10 c3 Kc7 11 cd4 Bxd4 12 Rc1+ Kb7 13 Qh7 Qg4 14 Qh6 Qe6 15 Qh4 Qf6 16 Qg3+- Bb6 17 g8Q;



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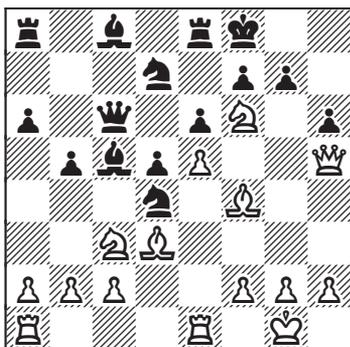
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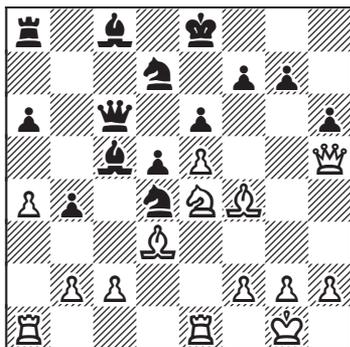



c) 2...Nxc2? 3 Bxh6 Rd8 (3...Bxf2+ 4 Kf1 Bxe1 5 Bxg7+ Ke7 6 Nfxd5+ exd5 7 Nxd5+ Kd8 8 Qg5+ f6 9 Bxf6+ Qxf6+ 10 exf6 Ne3+ 11 Nxe3 Re5 12 Qg8+ Kc7 13 Rxe1+-) 4 Nfxd5 Bxf2+ 5 Kf1 exd5 6 Bxg7+ Kxg7 7 Qh7+ Kf8 8 Nxd5 Nf6 9 Qh6+ Ke8 10 Qh8+ Kd7 11 Nxb6+ Bxb6 12 Qxf6+-;

d) 2...Qc6! Best! This is the only move that will force White to take the material and run. As long as there is a chance for a fork on d7 winning the queen, the Nf6 doesn't have to leave! Wow!! So now...



3 Nxe8 Ke8 4 a4 b4 5 Ne4!



A cross road.

5...Nf5 6 Nd6+ Nxd6 7 exd6 Nf6 8 Qh4 Bd7 9 Rad1 Bxd6 10 Bxh6 gxh6 11 Qxf6 Qc7 12 Qh8+ Bf8 13 Be2 Qd6 14 Bh5

For my tastes, I'm not willing to put up with the penetration of the knight at d6. I'd rather force the queen back home and make them start all over again, eg 5...dxe4 6 Bxe4 Qb6 7 Bxa8 Nxc2 8 Qe2 b3 9 Rad1 Nxe1 10 Qxe1 g5

But now back to the game after Black just took the knight.

2 exf6 Bf8

If 2...Nxf6 3 Qxh6 Be7 (or 3...Bf8 4 Qg5+ Bg7 5 Be5 Qd8 6 Re3 Nh5 7 Qxh5 Bxe5 8 Rxe5 Nf5 9 Bxf5 exf5 10 Rxe8+ Qxe8 11 Qg5+ Kf8 12 Qh6+ Kg8 13 Nxd5+-) 4 Be5

3 Bh7+ Kxh7 4 Qxf7+ Kh8 5 Nxd5 Qc5 6 Nf4 Qf5 7 Ng6+ and Black resigned—after having let White off way too easy! This is one of the most complicated games I have ever seen. You have to learn something here!



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 www.arlingtonchessclub.com or email chrisney2@gmail.com ♣ *Arlington Seniors Chess Club*, Madison Community Center, 3829 N Stafford St, Mondays, 9:30am, 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 ♣ *Centreville:* DMV Rated Ladder, 13810 Braddock Rd. Rated games (time control 30/90, SD/30, d5) Mondays 6pm, PRE-REGISTRATION REQUIRED via email (dmvchess@gmail.com) or text message (703-415-6600). ♣ *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:* 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, 271 Southgate Shopping Center, Culpeper, VA 22701. Wednesdays 6:30-8:30pm 540-727-0695 ♣ *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, various times and locations—see www.mechanicsvillechessclub.org for up-to-date details ♣ Stonewall Library, Stonewall Pkwy, Mondays 6:30-9pm 730-8944 ♣ *Norfolk:* Larchmont Public Library, 6525 Hampton Blvd, Wednesday 6-9pm ♣ ODU Chess Club, Webb Univ Ctr, Old Dominion University, info www.odu.edu/~chess ♣ *Orange County:* Wilderness Branch Library Chess Club, 6421 Flat Run Rd, Locust Grove VA 22508 most 1st and 3rd Tuesdays 6:30-8:30pm 540-854-5310 ♣ *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:* Henrico Chess Club, Virginia Center Commons food court, 10101 Brook Rd, Glen Allen, Va, Wednesdays & Fridays 6-9, www.henricochessclub.com, 443-823-5530 ♣ Huguenot Chess Knights, The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, 10660 Duryea Drive, Richmond, Va 23235-2107, 1st & 3rd Friday of each month, 7-11pm, info Walter Chester 804-276-5662 ♣ Panera Bread Chess, Panera Bread-Ridge Shopping Center, 1517 N Parham Rd, Richmond, Va 23229. Thursdays 6-10 pm, casual games, blitz, rapid or no clock. Lots of tables and room to play, heated outdoor patio. ♣ *Roanoke:* Roanoke Valley Chess Club, Saturday afternoons 1-6pm 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, 3846 Jeff Davis Highway, Stafford VA 703-291-5690 very chess friendly - games most days - more show up Tuesdays 6-9pm ♣ *Virginia Beach:* Tidewater Community Chess Club, Bldg D ("Kempsville") Cafeteria, Tidewater Community College Va Beach Campus, 1700 College Crescent Rd. Mondays 7-10pm ♣ *Warrenton:* Warrenton Chess Club, St James Episcopal Church, 73 Culpeper Street, Warrenton VA 20186, Thursdays 6:40pm info <http://warrentonchessclub.com/> or email jonathan@maxwellchess.com Occasionally the church is unavailable and the club meets 1 mile away at the Warrenton Community Center, 430 East Shirley Avenue, Warrenton VA 20186—check web page for announcements. ♣ *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 ♣ *Winchester:* Winchester Chess Club, Westminster-Canterbury Home for the Elderly, Tuesdays 7pm

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