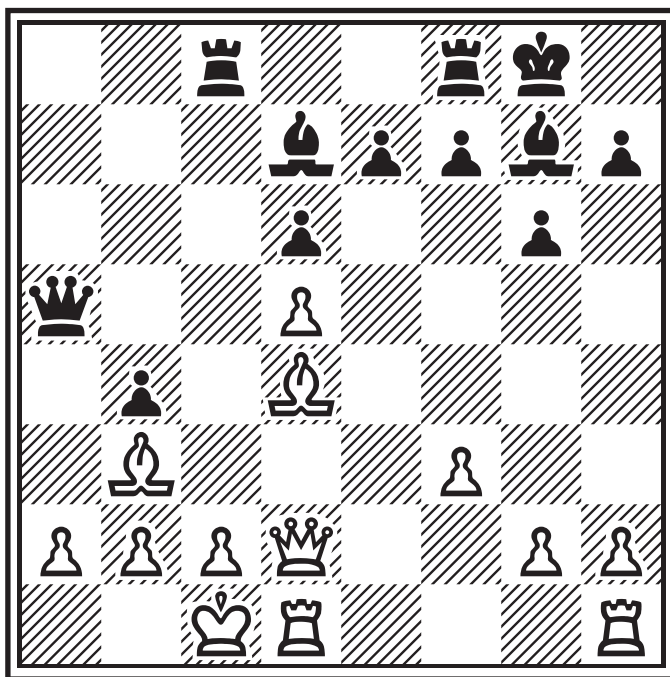


VIRGINIA CHESS

Newsletter

The bimonthly publication of the
Virginia Chess Federation

2009 - #4



What is
Black's
Best Move?

(see p 13)



2009 Virginia State Championship

Sept 5-7 in Richmond

see page 2 for full details — be there!

VIRGINIA CHESS

Newsletter

2009 - Issue #4

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Charlottesville Open

by Rob Getty

The 19th annual Charlottesville Open was held on July 11-12 at the Cavalier Inn in Charlottesville. After several years of approximately 50 players, participation in this year's event soared to 74 entrees. Due to this strong turnout, all prizes were raised and four additional prizes were added to the prize pool: a 4th place, and second U2000, U1600, and U1200 prizes to reflect the higher number of players in those classes.

Going in to the final round, only two perfect scores remained: IM Raymond Kaufman and A-player Craig Saperstein (at 1957, the 16th seed!). Kaufman's win gave him an undefeated weekend and clear 1st place (improving upon his 2008 results of a multi-way tie for 2nd).

Craig Saperstein – Ray Kaufman Sicilian

Notes by Macon Shibut

1 e4 c5 2 Nf3 Nc6 3 Bb5 e6 4 Bxc6 bxc6 5 O-O Ne7 6 Re1 Ng6 7 c3 Be7 8 d4 cxd4 9 cxd4 d5 10 Nc3 O-O 11 Be3 f5 12 e5 Rb8 13 Qc2 f4 14 Bc1 c5 15 dxc5 Qc7 16 c6 Qxc6 17 Nd4 Qc4 18 Qd2 Bc5 19 Nf3 d4 20 Qe2 d3 21 Qe4 Qa6 22 Rd1 Rd8 23 Qa4 Qb6 24 Ne4 Bd7 25 Qc4 Rbc8 26 Nxc5 Rxc5 27 Qb3 Rb5 28 Qa3 Bc6 29 Ne1? [Of course he should play 29 Rxd3 Bxf3 30 Rxd8+ Qxd8 31 Qxf3 although Black remains on top after either 31...Rd5 or 31...Nxe5] 29...Rxe5 30 Nxd3 Rg5 31 Bxf4 [There is no defense any more. If 31 g3 Black has 31...fxg3 32 Bxg5 gxh2+ 33 Kxh2 Rxd3! threatening both the queen and 34..Qxf2+] 31...Rxd3 0-1





73rd Annual

Virginia Closed State Championship†



September 5-7, 2009

Hilton Garden Inn Richmond-Innsbrook

4050 Cox Rd, Glen Allen, VA

Conveniently located just off I-295

Open to VA residents, military stationed in Virginia, and students attending any Virginia school, college or university (must show valid ID or other proof of Fall 2009 enrollment). 6-SS, 30/90, SD/1. \$\$2,350 b/75 paid entries. Two sections, Open and Amateur (U1800). *Open* \$500-300-200, top X & A each \$100, trophy to 1st, top X & A. *Amateur* \$400-200-150, top C, D, U1200, unrated each \$100, trophy to 1st, top C, D, U1200. Additional trophies to top Senior (60+), Junior (U18) & and Woman across the entire event with 1 pt added to Open section scores. Reg Fri Sep 4, 4-7pm, Sat Sep 5, 10:30am-12:30pm. Rds 1- 7, 11-5, 10-3:30. Two ½-pt byes available, must declare before start of rd 2. EF \$55 if received by Sep 1, \$65 thereafter and on site. Re-entry allowed for rd 2 only with ½-pt bye, \$30. Hotel 804-521-2900, mention the tournament & ask for chess rate. (Reserve before 8/15 for chess rate). <http://hiltongardeninn.hilton.com>. W, NS, NC, FIDE. Enter Mike Hoffpauir, ATTN: VA Closed, 405 Hounds Chase, Yorktown, VA 23693. Make checks to "Virginia Chess". Info (no entrees) via phone 757-846-4805, e-mail mhoffpauir@aol.com or online [www.vachess.org/2009closed.htm](http://vachess.org/2009closed.htm).

Friday Night Blitz Tournament September 4

Open to all USCF members, not just VA residents. 4 or 5-DblSS depending on number of entrees. EF \$25 if received by Sep 1, \$35 thereafter and at door. Two sections, Open and Amateur (U1800). \$\$500 b/30 paid entries. Rd 1 at 7:30pm. Address/contacts for entries & info same as for main tournament.

.....
Annual VCF Business Meeting

Saturday Sep 5

10am-12 noon
.....

† Complete list of former champions on page 19



2nd place was earned by Floyd Boudreaux with 4½ points. A 7-way tie at 4-1 split up the 3rd, 4th & U2200/U2000 prizes. In addition to Saperstein, IM Oladapo Adu, experts Rory Wasiolek, Eric Most, Matthew Grinberg, and A class players Bora Yagiz & Philip Chodrow shared the honors.

U1800 was shared by William Carroll, Edward Boyers & VCF's own Ernie Schlich. The U1600 1st and 2nd places were split between Vikas Rajasekaran, Abhishek Penumala, Vigne Rajasekaran & Brian Perez-Daple. U1400 and the U1200 prizes were shared at by Abhin Dommalapati, Jonathan Cao, Kiffa Conroy & Andrew Luo. Finally, the unrated prize was won by Charles Ross.

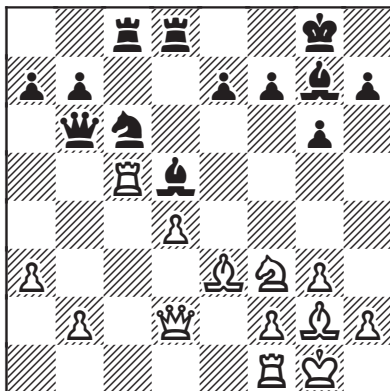
All of the players enjoyed a great weekend of chess. We hope to see everyone back as well as new faces for the 20th Charlottesville Open next year!

Jonathan Cao – Tim Rogalski

King's Indian

1 d4 Nf6 2 Nf3 g6 3 c4 c5 4 g3 Bg7 5 Bg2 O-O 6 e3 cxd4 7 exd4 d5 8 O-O Nc6 9 cxd5 Nxd5 10 Nc3 Be6 11 Nxd5 Bxd5 12 Be3 Rc8 13 Rc1 Qa5 14 a3 Rfd8 15 Rc5 Qb6 16 Qd2

16...Bxf3 17 Bxf3 Qxc5 18 dxc5 Rxd2 19 Bxd2 Bxb2 20 Rb1 Bxa3 21 Rxb7 Bxc5 22 Bh6 Nd4 23 Bg4 Nf5 24 Bg5 f6 25 Be3 Bxe3 26 fxe3 Ra8 27 Bxf5 gxf5 28 Rxe7 a5 29 e4 fxe4 30 Rxe4 a4 31 Re2 a3 32 Ra2 Kf7 33 Kf1 Ke6 34 Ke1 Kd5 35 Kd1 Kc4 36 Kc2 Kb4 37 Kb1 Kb3 38 Rf2 Rc8 39 Rf3+ Rc3 40 Rf1 a2+ 41 Ka1 Rc2 42 Rf3+ Kc4 43 Rf4+ Kb3 44 Rf3+ Rc3 45 Rf1 f5 46 Re1 h5 47 Rf1 Re3 48 Rd1 h4 49 gxh4 f4 50 h5 f3 51 h6 f2 52 h7 Re1 53 Rxe1 fxe1 *Qmate 0-1*



Philip Chowdrow – Oldapo Adu

King's Indian

Notes by Macon Shibut

1 d4 Nf6 2 c4 g6 3 Nc3 Bg7 4 e4 d6 5 Bd3 O-O 6 Nge2 Nc6 7 O-O e5 8 d5 Nb8 9 f3 Nbd7 10 Be3 Nh5 11 Rc1 f5 12 b4 f4 13 Bf2 g5 14 c5 a6 15 b5!? dxc5 16 bxa6 b6 17 a7 Rxa7 18 Nb5 Ra8 19 d6 cxd6 20 Nxd6 h6 21 Nc3 Nhf6 22 Ncb5 Kh7 23 Qb3 Nb8 24 Rfd1 Nc6 25 Bc4 Nd4 26 Bxd4 exd4 27 e5 Nd7 28 Bd5 [White executed a nice strategic breakthrough but he failed to exploit the resulting tactical chances. Here, for instance, he missed 28 Qc2+! Kh8



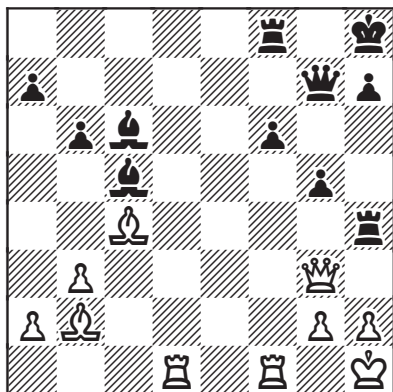
29 Qe4 threatens both Qxa8 and Bd3] 28...Ra5 29 Qd3+ [And here 29 Nxc8 Qxc8 30 Nxd4 would have been stronger. Now Black wrestles away the upper hand.] 29...Kh8 30 Nxc8 Nxe5 31 Qb3 Qxc8 32 Nxd4 c4 33 Bxc4 Nxc4 34 Rxc4 Rc5 35 Rb4 Rc3 36 Qa4 Rd8 37 Rxb6? Rc4 38 Rb4 Rdx4 0-1

Ilya Kremenchugskiy – Justin Karp

Nimzowitsch/Larsen

Notes by Macon Shibut

1 Nf3 d5 2 b3 Nf6 3 Bb2 e6 4 e3 Bd6 5 d4 O-O 6 Bd3 b6 7 O-O Bb7 8 Nbd2 Ne4 9 c4 Nd7 10 Qc2 Ndf6 11 Ne5 c5 12 Nxe4 Nxe4 13 f3 Nf6 14 Qf2 Nd7 15 Rad1 Qc7 16 Qh4 g6 17 Nxd7 Qxd7 18 dxc5 Bxc5 19 Qh6 f6 20 cxd5 exd5 21 Kh1 Rae8 22 e4 Qg7 23 Qh4 g5 24 Qh5 dxe4 25 Bc4+ Kh8 26 fxe4 Rxe4 27 Qh3 Rh4 28 Qg3 Bc6? [Serving up a golden opportunity...]



29 Rd8? [...which White misses! 29 Bxf6! would have forced an elegant win: 29...Rxf6 30 Rd8+ Bf8 (30...Rf8 31 Rdx6+ Bxf8 32 Rxf8+! amounts to the same thing) 31 Rxf6 Qxf6 32 Rxf8+! Qxf8 33 Qe5+ Qg7 34 Qb8+] 29...Rxd8? [Perhaps sensing that dramatic events were afoot, Black plunges ahead into an unsound adventure. 29...Rf4 looks more or less reliable.] 30 Bxf6 Qxf6 31 Rxf6 Rxc4 [This was the point of Black's queen sacrifice. He probably thought his

back rank threat would secure an advantage here, but he overlooked something.] 32 Qe5! [Turning the tables as now a rook check by Black is answered 33 Rf1 check] 32...Kg8 33 Qxg5+ Kh8 34 Qe5 Kg8 1/2-1/2 ? Either there was time trouble or White too was discombobulated by the sudden swings of fortune over the last few moves. 35 Qe6+ Kh8 36 Qxc4 should win as, again, to 36..Rd1+ he has the answer 37 Rf1.



TD Rob Getty



Kingstowne Chess Club

by Don Millican

KINGSTOWNE QUAD #56/ACTION-PLUS #28 (The Return)

I caught a serious bacterial infection starting in late March requiring the cancellation of Quads 54 and 55 along with their accompanying Action-Pluses 26 and 27. The June 6 event in Alexandria was the first since my illness. I was worried about attendance but not in the way expected. Kingstowne Chess Club was required to use our third and least desirable site choice. Space was severely limited with a playing room less than a third the size of the usual location and no place for skittles. However, the attendance turned out to be manageable: a single four-player Quad and eighteen players for the Action-Plus. Good weather allowed for a skittles *al fresco* on the deck.

The low turnout badly skewed the Quad's rating distribution, with one Class B player and three under 1000. Michael Donovan duly won with a perfect 3-0, taking the gold medal. To the question of who would take the second place bronze, Mr Elo proved accurate as Sun Lee Stechuk, the highest-rated of the under 1000s, scored 2-1.

In what is becoming a regular occurrence, Alex Passov scored a perfect 5-0 to win the Action-Plus. Sicheng Zhao took 2nd with 4-1. Raman Sreenivasan took the Under 1800. Mark Scott & Henry Meizer tied for Under 1400. Robert Smith Jr rounded out the winners, taking the Unrated prize.

KINGSTOWNE QUAD #57/ACTION-PLUS #29 (Dueling Tournaments)

As with so many concepts, competition can be a two-edged sword. Competition in chess tournaments is good. Competition between tournaments is not necessarily good. The 57th Kingstowne Quad and its companion 29th Action-Plus found themselves in conflict with the David Gavin Memorial at nearby Ft Myer. Neither event's organizer knew of the other until too late to change.

Thus it was that only three players signed up for the Quad, and nine for the Action-Plus. Although I had enough to run a round-robin as advertised, no one wanted to play only two games and have a bye, so the three would-be Quad players went to the Action-Plus.

Alex Passov again won with a perfect 5-0 score. Adam Renfro Chrisney & Soroja Erabelli tied for 2nd place and Under 1800. Vishal Erabelli (Saroja's brother) took Under 1400, and newcomer Mohamad Harrif went home with Top Unrated.



Emporia Memories

by Macon Shibut

ONE OF THE LONGEST RUNNING and sweetest traditions of Virginia chess will come to an end this coming October 24–25. That’s when Woody Harris and the Greensville Ruritan Club will host the 25th and final Emporia Open chess tournament.

If you have never played in one of these, you really ought to try to make it for the finale—although be warned: you will probably leave regretting that you missed the other twenty four. The Emporia Open has always been a different breed of tournament, from its bucolic setting (site of the annual Virginia Pork Festival!) to the cornucopia of freed victuals (that’s “vittles” in Beverly Hillbillyspeak) which the Ruritan Women’s Auxillary lays out for the players. We’re not talking just doughnuts and coffee here (although they have those, of course). We’re talking ham biscuits, cheese sticks, sugar-coated peanuts, apples and bananas, cornbread, pizza, rice krispy treats, and every imaginable homemade brownie, sticky bun and cookie, all provided in abundance for darn near the whole duration of the event.

Woody directs the tournament with laidback efficiency, still pairing with cards and maintaining his wallchart by hand—none of that citified computer stuff. Entry fee for unrated players is *free*. (Isn’t that a better idea than offering an unrated prize? Why doesn’t every tournament do it this way?) The playing room is basic country clubhouse: folding chairs and pressboard tables. Simple but comfortable. Well lit. Well ventilated. Count on the Sunday morning paper to be strewn about for reading between rounds. Through the screen door out back they’ve got the largest skittles area in the history of chess, complete with pond, stables, and livestock judging arena.

SO WHY is #25 the end of the line? “I almost packed it in a few years back,” Woody explains. “Just before pulling the plug, a friend from college emailed and said his son had gotten into scholastic chess and they were coming to Emporia. I told him, okay I’ll have it again. ... I decided at that point that I’d go for heritage status [*the USCF designates tournaments that have run for 25 years as “Heritage Events” –ed*] and then call it quits. I mentioned that to a couple of folks this year, but had a hard time getting them to understand it’s not the attendance. Increasingly I’ve gotten away from chess and into magic (the card game, not the rabbits/hats) and then poker. And of course politics is still a huge passion and October is a busy time for that.”





The largest skittles area in the history of chess...

Speaking for myself, I'm going to hate to see this event go. Even though I live in northern Virginia, the tournament works well for me because I can stop over in Richmond and visit my mom on the way home. For this article I decided to select a couple of my most memorable Emporia games, which proved to be a wistful trip down memory lane. My database (which is incomplete) contains 77 Emporia games, which is to say I've attended at least sixteen of the twenty four tournaments. A lot of strong players have passed through, including several IMs (although I don't recall that there was ever a GM entered). In the end I chose one loss and one win, but I could write a fair book of games and stories from just this one venue. I want to thank Woody for all the good times, and I encourage all VIRGINIA CHESS readers to consider turning out in October to give the Emporia Open the grand finale it deserves.

25th Emporia Open — October 24-25, 2009

Greensville Ruritan Club, Ruritan Rd, Emporia, Va (*Off of Hwy 58 West of Emporia*)
 5-SS, game/120. \$\$900, top 3 G, class prizes b/5: \$250-150-100, X (if no X wins top 3), A, B, C each \$75, D, E each \$50. EF \$35 rec'd by 10/21, \$45 site, free to Unrated. Reg 9-9:45am, rds 10-2:30-7, 9-1:30. Significant refreshments provided at no add'l charge. VCF membership req'd (\$10/yr), available at site. W. *Info and entry*
 Woodrow Harris, 1105 West End Dr, Emporia, VA 23847. harrisfw@comcast.net

10 Grand Prix points



Macon Shibut - Stanislav Kriventsov

1999 Emporia Open

King's Indian Attack

1 e4 c5 2 Nf3 e6 3 d3 [Like many others, I played this a lot when I was first starting out in chess. You can develop your pieces in an orderly manner without getting mated in the opening. Later one becomes more ambitious with White and the limitations of the variation seem more apparent, so we graduate to other openings. However, during the week before Emporia I was reading something where this variation came up and I had a passing thought: "It's been years since I've played that; I ought to roll it out again for old times' sake."] **3...d5 4 Nbd2 Nf6 5 g3 Nc6 6 Bg2 Bd6 7 0-0 0-0 8 Re1 Bc7 9 c3 dxe4 10 dxe4 e5 11 Qa4** [Played to defend the king pawn in preparation for N-f1-e3-d5/f5. 11 Qc2 would serve the same purpose but I didn't mind provoking ...a6 and ...b5 because my vulnerable spots was d3 and I'd just as soon have Black pawns plugging up the a6-f1 diagonal than seeing him play ...b6 and ...Ba6.] **11...a6 12 Nf1 b5 13 Qc2 Bb7 14 Nh4 Ne7 15 Bg5 Qd6 16 Rad1 Qe6 17 Nf5 Rad8 18 N1e3 h6 19 Nxe7+ Qxe7 20 Nf5 Qe6 21 Be3 Bb6 22 f3** [I wasn't wild about this but the pressure on my e- pawn and the possibility ...Ng4 hampered progress. Now if he leaves me alone for just one turn I might develop a real initiative by Qc1, to sac on h6, or maybe Bh3! I was particularly hoping for 22...Qxa2? 23 Qc1 and the threat Bxh6 is almost winning by force.] **22...c4 23 Qf2 Bxe3 24 Qxe3 Kh7 25 Qc5 Nd7 26 Qd6 Qxd6 27 Rxd6 Nc5 28 Red1 Rxd6** [Not 28...Nd3? 29



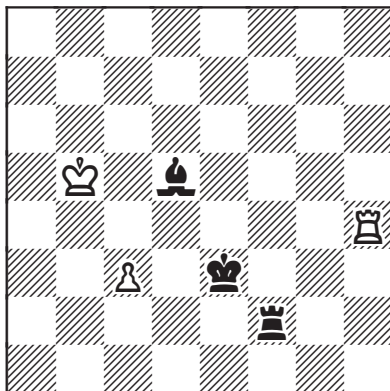
Scene from the 2004 Emporia Open



Rxd8 Rxd8 30 Bf1 and Black will suffer the d-file pin and finally wind up with an overextended pawn.] **29 Rxd6 Na4 30 Rd2 g6 31 Ne3 Kg7 32 Kf2 Nc5 33 Nd1** [My first thought now was 33 Bf1 but I feared 33...Bxe4!? 34 fxe4 Nxe4+ 35 Ke2 Nxd2 36 Kxd2 f5. Next I considered 33 Ng4, hitting e5 and preparing Nf2 to keep him out of d3, but I discovered the refutation 33...h5! (34 Nxe5 f6 35 Nd7 Rd8 36 Bh3 Bc6 etc).] **33...Nd3+ 34 Ke3 f5 3 5Nf2 f4+ 36 Ke2 fxe3 37 hxe3 Nc5 38 Ng4 Re8 39 b4?!** [An oversight one move before time control. 39 Rd6 was better Δ N-e3-d5] **39...cxb3 40 axb3 Bc8!** [I'd missed this. Now 41 b4 Bxg4 looked unpalatable after either 42 fxe4 or 42 bxc5. Better just to give up the pawn and try to get the pieces as active as possible, maneuvering the knight to d5.] **41 Ne3 Nxb3 42 Rd6 Re6 43 Rd8 Rc6 44 Nd5 Be6 45 Kd3 Nc5+ 46 Kd2 Nb7?!** [Unimpressive, and indeed, Black will try to go back right away. 46...Na4 was the obvious try, piling up on c3. But in general Black does not want to take d5 with his bishop since White then gets a passed pawn of his own; and if he's not going to play ...Bxd5, he can't consummate the attack on c3. In short, White's active pieces offer good practical compensation for the lost pawn.] **47 Ra8 Nc5 48 Ra7+ Bf7 49 Bh3 h5 50 Re7 Ne6 51 Bxe6 Rxe6 52 Ra7 g5 53 Ke3 Rd6 54 Nb4 h4 55 gxh4 gxh4 56 Rxa6** [Not 56 Nd3 h3 57 Nxe5 h2 58 Rxf7+ Kg8 wins] **56...Rd1** [Now it's time to deal with the h-pawn. I looked at 57 Nd5 Δ Ra2. My instinct was that after 57...Bxd5 58 exd5 Rxd5 White might have some way to liquidate to a drawn rook ending, but I couldn't find it.] **57 Kf2 Rd2+ 58 Ke3 Rg2 59 Ra1** [59 Nd3! was more accurate. By attacking e5 White sidesteps the ...Bc4 move that causes trouble in the game: 59...h3 60 Ra1 h2 61 Rh1 Kf6 62 Nf2 and if 62...Bc4 63 Rxh2!; or 62...Kg5 63 Ng4] **59...Bc4!** [Watch out for mate!] **60 Nd3 Kf6** [Black returns the favor and passes up 60...Bxd3 61 Kxd3 h3] **61 Nf2 h3 62 Rh1** [Only now did he notice my trick 62...h2 63 Rxh2. Still, by determined effort Stan kept winning chances alive based on the tight quarters of my king and knight.] **62...Be6! 63 Nxe3 Rc2 64 Kd3 Rb2!** [threatening mate in two] **65 f4 Rg2!** [We were fifteen moves into the 'sudden death' time control phase and Kriventsov was doing a great job posing enough problems to drive me behind on the clock. I decided to get rid of his e-pawn, which had been constraining my king for too long. Of course this also lets his king into the attack, so 66 f5!? should be considered.] **66 fxe5+ Kxe5 67 Ng1** [So these pieces have returned to their starting positions. Well not quite—that's the king's rook all right, but the knight began life at b1.] **67...Rg3+ 68 Kd2** [Economizing thinking time, I moved to the color square opposite from his bishop, plus I planned Ne2 next and wanted to have the knight defended. But since this proves unachievable, hindsight sees that 68 Kc2 would have saved a tempo.] **68...Bg4!** [It's amazing how Black's initiate endures with such limited material. Now if 69 Ne2 White is neatly trussed up: 69...Rg2 70 Re1 Kxe4 and Black wins] **69 Kc2 Kxe4 70 Kb3 Be6+ 71 Kb4**



Bc4 72 Rh4+ Ke3 73 Nh3 [Another study-like disappointment: 73 Rh3? Kf2! 74 Rxc3 Kxc3 and Black will win the knight!] **73...Rg2 74 Nf4 Rf2 75 Nd5+** [I'm not sure how to punctuate this move. On the positive side, it absolutely achieves a theoretically drawn position! Nevertheless, it was probably better to stay in a worse (lost?) ending with chances for a more definitive escape, eg 75 Ng6 Rb2+ 76 Kc5 Rb3? (76...Rd2) 77 Ne5!] **75...Bxd5 76 Kxb5**



The ending with R+B vs R is a draw except for certain positions with the defender's king already trapped in unfavorable circumstances. Even the winning positions are so tricky that an unschooled attacker probably won't know how to finish the job. On the other hand, the defense is also treacherous. In practice this "drawn" ending is always played out and the more knowledgeable player usually gets whichever result he is fighting for. Without the 'sudden death' time control I believe I would have saved the game because I actually had this ending in an adjournment a couple years earlier. The game was from a DC Chess League match, which meant I had a whole week to study the proper technique. Upon resumption my opponent, the strong master John Cline, ground away for the full 50 move limit, but I had learned the ending well and held the draw.

Here versus Kriventsov, however, I had no practical chance of holding. I was way behind on the clock, with less than five minutes left compared to my opponent's twenty. I stopped keeping score. A couple dozen more moves were played. Black rounded up the pawn and drove my king to the edge but I successfully set up the 'triangle' defensive position, a key idea in this ending. Then I maybe messed it up right away, playing at blitz speed. I wasn't sure about the final position we reached; it's possible Black still had not achieved a winning setup, but I resigned with my flag certain to fall. This was the last game to finish and the onlookers rewarded our effort with a smattering of applause. 0-1



Macon Shibut - Chris Mabe

2004 Emporia Open

French

Notes by Macon Shibut

This game was played in the penultimate round when my opponent and I possessed two of the three remaining perfect scores. I'd had a long game the night before, so I was concerned that I would feel tired on Sunday morning. To a degree this fear proved well-founded, but sometimes it works out that you play well despite yourself. Before the round I took a walk in the fresh Emporia country air, considering how to approach the game. I had never played Chris before but noted that he'd defended the Winawer French (1 e4 e6 2 d4 d5 3 Nc3 Bb4) in one of his games earlier in the tournament. French players tend to be devoted to their pet lines, so I reckoned I could get that position if I wanted it. As it happened, I had an interesting anti-Winawer idea that I'd been analyzing, so I considered going this way. However, in the end I was swayed by pleasant memories from the 2000 Emporia Open, when I took a similar stroll through the same pasture behind the Greenville Ruritan Club tournament site, in exactly the same situation: about to face a French Defense player on board 1, second-to-last round. On that occasion my opponent had been South Carolina master Klaus Pohl and I'd elected to sidestep his French, so the game began 1 Nf3 Nf6 2 d4 g6 3 Bf4 Bg7 4 e3, the London System, and I won with surprising ease. Well, if it worked before...

1 d4 [Thus I made a 'mistake' on the very first move—my memory of the earlier game was only that it had been a London, but not that I'd begun with the knight move!] **1...e6** [Of course! Inasmuch as my point had been to avoid Pohl's French Defense, certainly I would have played 1 Nf3. Whereas now I was not assured of reaching my desired London setup in view of the possibility 2 Nf3 c5. After I finished inwardly laughing at myself for being so careless, I thought, "Well, I'd considered attacking the French anyhow. Maybe it was just meant to be..."] **2 e4 d5 3 Nc3 Nf6** [I certainly would have done things differently if I'd known he was going to play this, since I had little experience with this variation and no particular ideas about how to attack it.] **4 Bg5 Bb4 5 e5 h6 6 Bd2 Bxc3 7 bxc3 Ne4 8 Qg4 g6 9 Bd3 Nxd2 10 Kxd2 c5 11 h4 Nc6 12 h5 g5** [My opponent had used basically no time for thinking yet, so I figured it was still a position he'd studied. The move I wanted to play from the first was 13 f4. Clearly things can get very sharp after that, so I tried to make myself calculate some variations. It was hard—Black always has a choice between capturing something in the center or running out with his queen to a5—and I could already feel fatigue undermining my willpower to push analysis to a conclusion. In the end, the real reason I chose to go ahead with 13 f4 was that I simply couldn't find an alternate plan. I managed to work out only one line in depth, but happily, it turned out to be precisely what



happened in the game!]

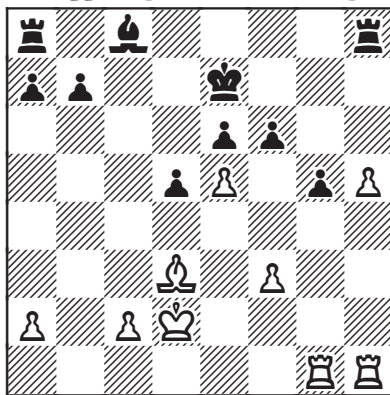
13 f4 cxd4 [13...Qa5 would have been a different game]

14 cxd4 Nxd4? [Black was still moving quickly, which of course filled me with doubts over whether I had miscalculated something in a position that might still be theory. In fact, I learned afterwards that the position was indeed known to my opponent! Chris related how, just a few days beforehand, he'd seen a game where something else got played at this point and he'd wondered, "Why doesn't Black just take that d-pawn?" Fate presented him a chance to find out.]

15 fxg5 Qxg5+ 16 Qxg5 hxg5 17 Nf3! Nxf3+ [The knight and g5 are both attacked. If 17...Nc6 I intended 18 g4 planning next Rae1 to defend e5, and then Nxg5. It's hard for Black to oppose this in view of his laggard queenside and the speed with which my h-pawn can cause trouble.]

18 gxf3 Ke7 [Preparing to defend g5 by ...f6, but I had already calculated a beautiful refutation. Black ought to settle for mere development, 18...Bd7 19 Rag1 0-0-0 20 Rxg5 in which case White has an obvious plus with the passed h-pawn and superior bishop.]

19 Rag1 f6?



20 f4! [Now he sank into a long thought but it's too late. White either recovers the pawn or his pieces pour into Black's undeveloped position in a variation like 20...gxf4 21 Rg7+ Kf8 22 exf6 e5 23 Bg6]

20...g4 [A forlorn choice, giving back the pawn for nothing beyond keeping the position a bit more closed. If 20...fxe5 I would have answered 21 fxe5 Δ Rxg5]

21 Rxg4 f5 22 Rg7+ Kd8 [Obviously Black intends ...Bd7 next, so the first move I examined was 23 Bb5!? and the combination followed easily: 23...a6 24 h6! axb5 25 h7 Bd7 26 Rg8+ Kc7 27 Rxa8 Rxa8 28 h8Q Rxh8 29 Rxh8 with an exchange-ahead ending. But... might Black defend it by hunkering down in a blockade? Well, it's nice to have such a possibility in hand, but merely winning an exchange did seem to let him off easy. So I kept looking until I found a crusher.]

23 h6! Bd7 24 h7 Kc7 25 Rh6! [And this was it. Neither 25 Bb5 nor 25 Bxf5 exf5 26 e6 accomplish anything after ...Rad8. However, Black has no good defense to the text. At the very least his e-pawn drops for nothing.]

25...Rae8 26 Bb5 Rd8 27 Rxe6 Kc8 28 Bxd7+ Rxd7 29 Ree7 1-0

After 29...Rxe7 30 Rxe7 there's nothing to be done about R-g7-g8+



Dragon's Lair

by Tim Rogalski



The Sicilian Dragon is experiencing resurgence at the highest levels. Commenting on his 1958 game versus Bent Larsen, Fischer called Larsen “one of the diehards who refused to abandon the Dragon,” and further remarked that “White’s [Yugoslav] attack almost plays itself ... weak players even beat Grandmasters with it. ... Will Black succeed in reinforcing the variation? Time will tell.”

Well, it was a couple of generations ago when Fischer unleashed his fire hose upon the beast. Yet the immortal Dragon continues to proudly flap its wings and breathe fire.

The following king hunt must have brought great satisfaction to Polish WGM Beata Kadziolka, whether or not her brilliant 16th move was found at the board. The higher-rated Indian GM withered in the inferno of the Dragon’s scorching breath.

Tejas Bakre - Beata Kadziolka

Pardubice 2004

Sicilian

1 e4 c5 2 Nf3 d6 3 d4 cxd4 4 Nxd4 Nf6 5 Nc3 g6 6 Be3 Bg7 7 f3 O-O 8 Qd2 Nc6 9 Bc4 [Unless the variation is strengthened, I believe that 9 O-O-O will eventually surpass this bishop move as the main line. Black normally plays a knight to c4, where White’s light-squared bishop exchanges it off. Why play Bf1-c4-b3xc4, when one can play Bf1xc4 directly, without wasting tempi?] **9... Bd7 10 O-O-O Rc8 11 Bb3 Nxd4** [An interesting alternative to either the more common 11...Ne5 or the more recent 11...a6] **12 Bxd4 b5!?** [Black wastes no time with the attack.] **13 Bxa7?** [Played like a thief stealing a goblet from the dragon’s lair. But slashing swordplay with 13 h4 a5 14 h5! a4 15 Bxf6! would have been promising — the f6 knight is a critical defender and its demise presages a difficult defense for Black.] **13...b4 14 Nd5 Nxd5 15 exd5** [Suddenly White is forced to play best moves just to maintain an equal game. If 15 Qxd5? Be6 16 Qd3 Qa5 17 Be3 Qe5 18 Bd4 Qg5+ 19 Be3 Qxg2! he is uncomfortably thrown on the defensive; even worse, 15 Bxd5? Ba4 16 b3 Qc7 17 Be3 Bb5 would land him in a losing position due to the dual threats of 18...e6 and the tactically spectacular 18...Bc3 19 Qf2 Qa5 20 Kb1 Qa3 21 Bc1 Qxa2+! forcing mate. Very pretty!] **15...Qa5 16 Bd4** *Our Cover Diagram from this issue — What is Black’s best move here?*



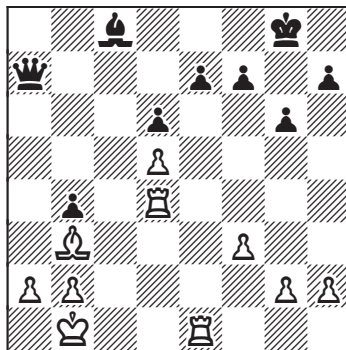
16...Rxc2+!!

Wow! Where did this explosive shot come from? Black sacrifices an entire rook to open lines with the hope of ensnaring White's king within a mating net. With correct play this brilliancy only forces a perpetual, but before then White is faced with enormous practical problems.

17 Bxc2

After 17 Qxc2 Rc8 18 Qxc8+ (18 Bc4 Bf5 19 Qb3 Bh6+ 20 Rd2 Qxd5 is too strong) Bxc8 19 Rhe1 Qc7+ 20 Kb1 Bxd4 21 Rxd4 Qa7...

Gambling that his passed pawns will trump Black's rampaging Rybka-queen after 22 Rxb4?! Qf2 might work, but only against an error-prone human. (World-class computers do not panic; instead they wreak havoc by causing frail humans to panic.) Objectively, then, 22 Rd2 is right, and after 22...Ba6 the position may presently be equal—but White would still find it difficult to generate play without allowing Black's queen to infiltrate.

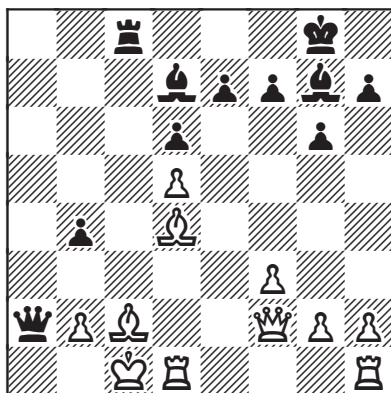


21...Qa7 (analysis)

17...Qxa2 18 Qf2?!

18 Qe3! could defend successfully, eg 18...Rc8 19 Kd2 Rxc2+! (if 19...Qc4?! 20 Bb3 Qxd4+ 21 Qxd4 Bxd4 22 Rb1 Bf5 23 Rhc1! I prefer the extra exchange) 20 Kxc2 Qc4+ 21 Kd2 Bxd4 22 Qxe7 Bf5 23 Ke1 Bxb2 24 Qe2 Bc3+ 25 Kf1 Qf4 26 g3 Bh3+ 27 Kf2 Bd4+ 28 Ke1 Bc3+ Black must settle for a perpetual.

18...Rc8

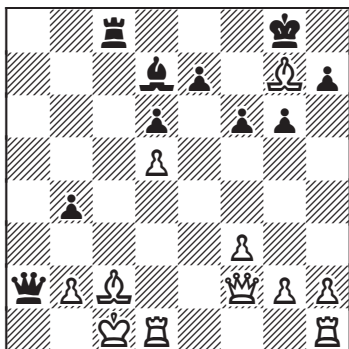




19 Kd2??

Played one move too early, and losing decisively. The longer I spent analyzing this position, the more complicated it became. The Indian GM must have used gobs of time deciding between Kd2 and Bxg7 and, probably unable to reach a firm conclusion, his intuition led him to the wrong choice. The only saving possibility was in fact 19 Bxg7! Be forewarned: the resulting variations are ripe with fantastic computer moves, brilliant shots, and obscure 'only' moves, all well beyond the event horizon of human scope. Is this the future of chess?

To begin with, after 19 Bxg7 Black resists an automatic recapture (which would expose his king to a timely queen check), instead uncorking the insidious 19...f6! (19...Bf5 looks good initially, but after 20 Bd4 b3 21 Kd2! Rxc2+ 22 Ke3 Rxf2 23 Kxf2 and White can resist due to the bishops of opposite color with a fortress-like position) and now:



Insidious

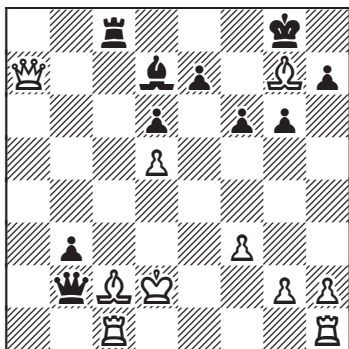
i) 20 Bxf6 exf6 is losing for White in all lines. Ironically, the White king becomes too exposed while the Black king remains untouchable.

ii) 20 Qe3? b3 21 Kd2 Rxc2+ 22 Ke1 Qa5+ 23 Kf1 Rxb2! White is up a full piece, yet Black is winning because of the passed b-pawn, exposed White king, and undeveloped h1-rook. Play might continue 24 h4 Qb5+ 25 Kg1 Re2! 26 Qh6 Qc5+ 27 Kh2 Qf2 28 Rhg1 Qxf3! (threatening 29...Qh3mate) 29 Kh1 Rxc2 30 Rxc2 Qxd1+ 31 Kh2 Qxd5 and the g7-bishop is a goner.

iii) 20 Kd2! (better now!) Qxb2 21 Rc1 b3. Now White is up two pieces and might be able to miraculously hold! But he will have to find the narrow-path solution over the board with his clock continually ticking away precious seconds. The first step is to abandon his king to its fate by 22 Qa7! (see diagram next page)

Now the first move that most players would analyze is the forcing 22...Rxc2+ 23 Rxc2 bxc2 but after 24 Rc1 Qb4+ 25 Kxc2 Ba4+ 26 Kd3 Qa3+ 27 Kd4 Qxc1 28 Qxe7 Black has nothing more than checks.

22...Bb5 perhaps? In that case White sidesteps the bullets by entering the Matrix with 23 Ke3! Rxc2 24 Rxc2 bxc2 25 Qa1 Qb3+ 26 Kf2 Kxg7 and after 27 Re1 the bullets harmlessly drop to the ground! Here Rybka considers the esoteric retreat 27...Be8!? as leading to 0.00 equality after 28 Rxe7+ Bf7 29 Qa7 Qxd5 30 Qc7.

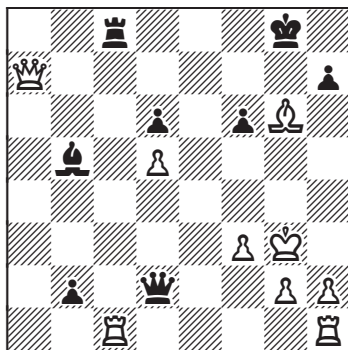


Abandon the king to his fate —
22 Qa7! (analysis)



But there is another possibility: 22... Qc3+! and then 23 Ke2 Bb5+ 24 Kf2 Qd2+ 25 Kg3 b2! continuing to spurn material. (How many GMs would be able to see this far, and provide an accurate assessment?) 26 Bxf6 exf6 (26...bxc1Q 27 Rxc1 exf6 will transpose) 27 Bxg6!!

Another amazing product of bionic analysis! White leaves the rook *en prise* and defends tactically by threatening mate. In fact, Black has only one response to maintain her edge and avoid a forced mate: 27...Qg5+! 28 Kf2 Qh4+ 29 Ke3! (29 g3? bxc1Q! 30 Rxc1 Qxh2+ 31 Ke3 Rc3+! 32 Rxc3 Qe2+ forces another pretty mate: 33 Kf4 Qe5+ 34 Kg4 Qg5+ 35 Kh3 Bf1+ —it was for this check that we diverted White's rook off the first rank—36 Kh2 Qd2+ 37 Kg1 Qg2mate) 29...bxc1Q+ 30 Rxc1. Now 30... Qh6+?! 31 f4 Rxc1 32 Qf7+ yields a perpetual, but instead Black can press on with the extravagant 30...Rf8!?, eg, 31 Qb7 Ba4 32 Bf5 Qg5+ 33 Ke4 Re8+ 34 Be6+ Kh8 35 Rc8 Bc2+! 36 Rxc2 Qg6+ 37 Kf4 Qxc2 38 Kg3 Qg6+ 39 Kf2 and while White has practical chances to save the game, he is still facing a Rybka-queen.



27 Bxg6!! (analysis)

All these Rybka-generated variations are highly impressive but excessively complicated for mere mortal men. In the game the red-blooded GM disappointingly cracked under pressure before plunging the fight into a better destiny among the immensely complex 19 Bxg7 f6 lines.

19...Rxc2+! 20 Kxc2 Qc4+ 21 Kd2 Bxd4 [The bishops dominate the rooks, which are clumsy defenders, especially when they cannot activate themselves on open files. There seems to be a synergy in play here when the sacrificer has the initiative. A second exchange sacrifice can create conditions where the combined compensation is greater than the sum of either exchange sacrifice alone. That is, an exchange sacrifice that might be insufficient by itself can have its compensation amplified by a second exchange sacrifice. I have never seen this formulated before



in print, but another good example is the recent Yeager-Shibut game. {VIRGINIA CHESS 2009-1, pages 5-8} **22 Qe2** [22 Rc1 Qxd5! is devastating, and it's fun to work out all the crushing lines.] **22...Bc3+!** **23 Ke3** [23 bxc3? Qxc3mate] **23...Qc5+** **24 Ke4 Bf5+** **25 Kf4 Be5+** **26 Kg5 f6+** **27 Kh4 g5+** with an unavoidable mate in 4. Fischer's vaunted Yugoslav Attack was only a dripping garden hose in this game. **0-1**

Postscript: Comments about this analysis are welcome. Over the years I have received many compliments about my articles, and I thank you. Now it is time for others to step up to the plate. I am challenging everyone to contribute material to VIRGINIA CHESS, which has hundreds of readers yet only a dozen or so contributors. I've heard countless interesting chess stories that have never seen print, and everyone has played fascinating games. If you feel that you cannot contribute an annotated game, then why not consider contributing a human-interest story? Macon is an excellent editor who can help you put a sparkle onto any rough diamond submitted for publication.



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Virginia State Championship, Sept 5-7 — *see p 2*
25th (and final) Emporia Open, Oct 24-25 — *see p 7*



14th Annual

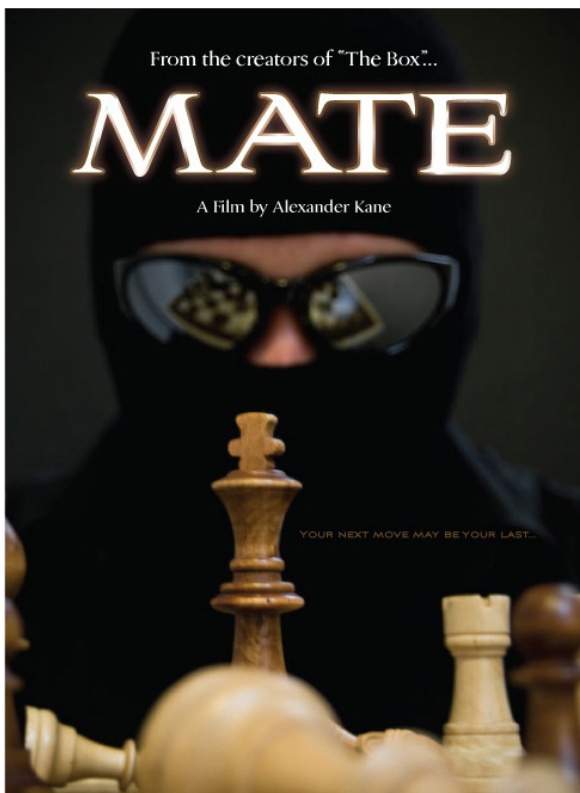
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20 Grand Prix points





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1937	W W Gibbs	1976	Charles Powell
1938	W F O'Hara	1977	Alan Ruffy
1939	W W Gibbs	1978	Donald Barr
1940	John N Buck	1979	Donald Barr
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1947	L Russell Chauvenet	1983	Edward Kitces
1948	L Russell Chauvenet	1984	Errol Liebowitz
1949	Leonard Helman	1985	Richard Delaune
1950	Leonard Helman	1986	Edward Kitces
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	Walter Bass	1988	Geoff McKenna
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1953	Herbert Avram	1990	Eugene Meyer
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1965	Charles Powell	2002	Macon Shibut
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1967	Charles Powell	2004	Daniel Miller
1968	R S Callaghan Jr	2005	Daniel Miller
1969	Rusty Potter	2006	Andrew Samuelson
1970	Ed Kitces	2007	Edward Lu
1971	Charles Powell	2008	Adithya Balasubramanian
1972	Charles Powell	2009	?? - find out Sept 7

notes: * no tournament was held during war years 1943-5

† co-champions recognized in 1951 as part of shift from open to closed championship



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 Rob McKinney, robcmckinney@aol.com, (703) 924-5883 ■ Arlington: Arlington Chess Club, Lyon Village Community House, 1920 N Highland St (at Lee Hwy), Fridays 7:30pm. Registration for rated Ladder and Action events ends 8pm. Blitz/Quick tourney first Friday of each month. Info www.wizard.net/~matkins or John Campbell (703) 534-6232 ■ Arlington Seniors Chess Club, Madison Community Center, 3829 N Stafford St, Mondays, 9:45am, info (703) 228-5285 ■ 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 ■ 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). Adults meet Tuesdays 6:30-8:45pm, juniors Thursdays 6:30-8:45pm. Info John Clark 540-829-6606 ■ Fort Eustis: contact Sorel Utsey 878-4448 ■ Danville: Danville Chess Club, Danville YMCA, 810 Main Street. Mondays 6:30-9:30 pm. Info John Thompson 434-799-8898 ■ Fredericksburg: Spotsylvania Chess, Lutheran Church Rte West 4.7 miles from Exit 130 on I-95. Every Tuesday 6-9pm, info Mike Cornell 785-8614 ■ Glenss: Rappahannock Community College - Glenss Campus Chess Club, Glenss Campus Library, Tuesdays 8-10pm in the student lounge, info Zack Loesch 758-5324(x208) ■ Harrisonburg: Shenandoah Valley Chess Club, Trinity Presbyterian Church, corner of S High (rt 42) & Maryland Ave (Port Republic Rd), Fridays 7:30pm, <http://cep.jmu.edu/huffinacj/svcc/svcchome.html> ■ McLean: Booz Allen Hamilton CC, Hamilton Bldg, Rm 2032, 8283 Greensboro Dr. Thursdays, info Thomas Thompson, 703-902-5418, thompson_thomas@bah.com ■ Mechanicsville: 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: The Kaissa Chess Club, Willow Lawn Shopping Center, in the food court, Thursdays 6-9pm. info Gary Black (804) 741-1666 ■ The Side Pocket, Cross Roads Shopping Center, Staples Mill Rd. A billiards parlor with chess tables set up any hour, every day ■ Huguenot Chess Knights, Bon Air Library Community Room, 1st & 3rd Friday of each month, 7-11pm, info Walter Chester 276-5662 ■ Roanoke: Roanoke Valley Chess Club, Grandin Ct Rec Ctr, Corner of Lofton & Barham Rd SW, Fridays 7:00-11:00pm, Info Brian Roark (540) 378-1316 or brian.roark@acterna.com ■ Stafford: Bella Cafe Chess Nights, 3869 Jefferson Davis Hwy, Suite 103, Stafford, VA 22554. Tuesdays & Thursdays 7pm -10, sets and boards on site, frequent tourneys. 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 ■ 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 the Game Parlor, Prince William Square, 14400 Smoketown Road. Contact Dick Stableford, 703-670-5887 or o6usmc@comcast.net

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