

Where Organized Chess in America Began

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Now more than ever, America's chess organizations need you.

The USCF has an open enrollment process on their web site, but you have to register to vote first on their website. Please do so. Even though USCF doesn't have its national office in New York anymore, the actions of the USCF remain important to New York chess players in a variety of ways.

They will always remain the United States affiliate to FIDE, and New York has more FIDE-rated and titled players than any other state. When the world's chess elite comes to the United States to campaign or find a location for a high-profile international chess match, they start in New York, not in Tennessee. Being a member means being involved.

This issue also contains the NYSCA ballot. Though our State Association has had financial issues in recent years as well, like USCF we seem to have stabilized the ship. We are America's oldest chess organization, with America's longest-running chess championship and a proud history of champions like Capablanca, Marshall, Fischer and Benjamin.

Along with voting, make the commitment to participate in a live USCF and NYSCA sponsored event in the next year. Internet chess simply isn't the same, and while it is a vital link to the chess world for many players, it doesn't replace the excitement of playing in a tournament with a dedicated group of chess fans. Win or lose, a day at a chess tournament is a fun day indeed.

One excellent time to do this is during National Chess Day. This year's annual event is on October 8, at the beginning of the Columbus Day weekend. There will be events all over New York that you can participate in. Be a part of the day!

EMPIRE CHESS

“The magazine of America’s oldest chess organization”
Volume XXXIV, Number 2 – Summer 2011

Cover: Vote button. This issue includes the 2011 NYSCA ballot. Please vote for NYSCA Officers and Directors.

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Please send articles and advertisements in camera-ready format for publication. (TIF file, Adobe Photoshop, 100 lines per inch). Chess games should be in ChessBase, with boards and positions in final form. Articles should be sent via e-mail, in Microsoft Word, Times New Roman font, size 11. **Deadline for the Fall issue is September 15, 2011**, although earlier submissions are appreciated, and will more easily guarantee a space in the next magazine.

Empire State Open Returns to Saratoga, Steve Taylor wins

by Bill Townsend

The 6th Empire State Open was held April 15 to 17 at the Saratoga Hilton in downtown Saratoga Springs. Overall 47 people played in the four sections.

Albany expert Steven Taylor was the clear winner of the Open section with a 4-1 score. Vermont Master David Carter was second with 3½-1½. Matt Slomski, Darwin Nyberg and Al LeCours tied for third with 3-2. Schenectady champion Patrick Chi was all alone in sixth place with 2½-2½. Tied for seventh with 2-3 were: Al Lawrence, Peter Henner and Vance Zuo.

Saratoga's Al LeCours was leading the tournament at the end of round three, having scored upset wins over expert Slomski and master Carter, but he fell apart on the last day losing both his games (to Taylor and Chi) to fall back into a tie for third. A contributing factor may have been his game with Carter, featured below, a marathon that ran for nearly 90 moves.

The Under-1910 section was won by Jarrod Tavares with an undefeated 4½-½ record. Vermont's Gabriel Katz was clear second with 4-1, also undefeated. Tied for third with 3½-1½ were local players Carlos Varela and Alexander Wei. Daniel Allen, David Finnerman and Dilip Aaron tied for fifth with 2½-2½.

There was a logjam at the top of the Under-1610 section as Christopher Selkirk, Cory Northrup and Jane Zhang all scored 4-1 to split the top money. In clear fourth with 3-2 was Albany club member Jason Denham.

Damiano Varvaro won the Under-1310 section with a 4-1 record. Tied for second with 3½-1½ were: Gabe Savercool, Jonathan Zhang and Ben Siegel. Tied for fifth, just out of the money with 3-2 were: John Femia, Philip Thibault and Jeffrey Qu. The turnout for the event was a little disappointing, but tournament director Steve Immitt seemed to feel that there had been a problem with a number of

players not getting mailings for the event.

Steve and I had a somewhat complicated discussion about why this tournament was held and when it might be held again. The tournament was considered a substitution for the adult event that has been held with the state scholastics in late February. However, that tournament had been called the Saratoga Open. When the Empire State Open was held previously it was in Saratoga at the end of December. A few months ago I reported in my column that the Empire State Open had been rechristened as the Empire City Open and was being held in New York City, not Saratoga Springs. However, New York got pounded by snow at the end of December and turnout at that event was dismal (*editor's note: the Editor was in Manhattan for the Pinstripe Bowl four days after the snowstorm and Manhattan was still a mess*). So now the Empire State Open may again be held in Saratoga Springs at its previous time, if for no other reason that upstate residents aren't fazed by massive snowfall.

This also means that there might be two Empire State Opens in 2011, but there were none in 2010. At any rate, anything that brings events to the Capital District is good news as far as we're concerned.

Here is the game that decided first place at the Empire State Open. Steve Taylor is one of the best players in the area, but I don't often publish his games because they can be a little hard to get. A lot of them end with frantic time scrambles and the last moves never get written down. Here I was able to get the complete score by sitting in with the players while they did some post-game analysis, some of which I've included below. Taylor's opponent, by the way, is Al Lawrence, a veteran expert and chess journalist as well as a former executive director of the U.S. Chess Federation. It's rare to see him playing this far upstate.

**Steve Taylor (2150) – Al Lawrence (2001) [A57]
Benko Gambit Empire State Open, round 5
Saratoga Springs, NY, April 17, 2011**

**1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 c5 3.d5 b5 4.cxb5 g6 5.Nc3 a6 6.e4
d6 7.Nf3**

Most often played is 7.b6, a frequently seen idea here. The b5-pawn is a goner, so white gives it up in the way that least compliments Black's development. In fact over the next several moves b5-b6 is White's most frequent choice, but Taylor ignores the idea.

7...Bg7 8.Nd2 0-0 9.bxa6 Bxa6 10.Bxa6 Nxa6

By the way, ever since move three my computer analysis engine, Fritz, has been of the opinion that Black is at a big disadvantage here. Please don't tell the thousands of players who have won games with the Benko that their opening is no good. Seriously, the limits of the computer's horizon effect allow it to only see the fact that Black is a pawn down, and not the long-term threats of his open lines.

11.0-0 Nd7 12.Nc4 Ne5!?

12...Nb6 is Black's most frequent choice here by a wide margin. It seems the best way to respond to white's threat of 13.Ne3.

13.Nxe5 Bxe5 14.Bh6

At this point during the post-game analysis, Taylor remarked that he must have done something wrong because he didn't like his position at all.

14...Re8 15.a4 Qb6 16.Nb5!?

White offers the b-pawn, getting good play on the b-file after 16...Bxb2 17.Rb1.

16...Reb8 17.f4

White now forces the issue about whether or not Black should grab the b-pawn.

17...Bxb2 18.Rb1 Bg7

This seems like a logical way to try to blunt White's attack, but after 18...Bf6 White's bishop on h6 seems to be mainly in the way.

19.Bxg7 Kxg7 20.e5

White presses his attack, but this doesn't seem to be the strongest way to continue. More favorable is 20.f5, but best of all seems to be 20.Kh1, getting the King off the hot square.

20...Nb4 21.exd6 exd6 22.f5 f6?

During a chess game with the clock running, it's hard to figure out when to defend, and when to counterattack. Here the latter seems to be the best course. After the game the players determined that 22...c4+ 23.Kh1 Nd3 was pretty strong for Black because White's attacking options were limited by

his need to defend the f2-square. After the text, however, White seems to have a winning attack.

23.fxg6 hxg6 24.Qg4 Rb7?

After this Black is just lost. Best seems to be 24...Rf8 25.Qd7+ (Allowing this check is not as bad as it appears) 25...Rf7 26.Qxd6 Qxd6 27.Nxd6 Rd7 28.Ne4 Rxd5 29.Nxc5 and White is a solid pawn up, but Black is still a ways from resigning.

**25.Qe6 Qd8 26.Nxd6 Rd7 27.Rxf6! Qxf6
28.Qxd7+ Kh6 29.Nf7+ Kh5??**

Allows a mate in two, but black's position was resignable anyhow.

30.Qh3+ Qh4 31.g4, mate. 1-0

Here is Saratoga's Al LeCours' victory over Vermont master David Carter in round three. This marathon game went for nearly ninety moves and while it left LeCours leading the section with 3-0, this exhausting victory may have planted the seeds for his defeat the following morning. LeCours also had to do some work to reconstruct the game score since at the end he didn't have time to write down the moves.

Unknowingly Carter stumbled into one of his opponent's favorite openings, leaving LeCours with a significant advantage. However, just as this advantage seemed almost gone, LeCours made an interesting sacrifice that wasn't quite correct, but was very hard to refute over the board. When Carter failed to find the right continuation LeCours had a winning advantage, although white's heroic resistance held on for another 60 moves.

**NM David Carter (2229) – Alan LeCours (1918)
[C63] Ruy Lopez -Schliemann
Empire State Open, round 3
Saratoga Springs, NY, April 16, 2011**

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 f5

The Schliemann Gambit, a wild line in the Ruy, is a big favorite of LeCours - he's played it in postal games and even given lectures on it. Carter, being from out of town, couldn't be expected to know that but he probably realized pretty quickly he was in an opening his opponent knew better than he did.

4.exf5

Most popular, and best for White, is to calmly reply with 4.Nc3 and the main line continues: 4...fxe4 5.Nxe4 d5 6.Nxe5 dxe4 7.Nxc6 Qg5 8.Qe2 Nf6 9.f4 Qxf4, etc.

4...e4 5.Bxc6 dxc6 6.Qe2 Qe7 7.Nd4 Qe5 8.Ne6?!

8.Nf3 has done better for the first player, but perhaps he wanted to pass on the implied offer of a draw after 8...Qe7 9.Nd4.

8...Bxe6 9.fxe6 Bd6 10.Nc3 Nf6 11.b3 0-0-0 12.Bb2 Rhe8 13.0-0-0 Qxe6 14.g3 Rd7 15.Rde1 Rde7 16.Nd1 Be5 17.Qe3 Kb8 18.Re2 Nd5 19.Qc5 Bd6 20.Qc4 Qg6 21.Rhe1 Nb6 22.Qc3 Nd5 23.Qd4 Nb4 24.Nc3 Nxc2?!

Black's opening advantage has sort of petered out, so he makes this impulsive sacrifice, which must have really woken up his opponent. If anything it's White who has a small advantage after 24...c5 25.Qc4.

25.Kxc2 e3+ 26.d3?

This is very tricky, but White's clearest path to an advantage seems to be 26.Kd1 c5 27.Qc4 exf2 28.Rxe7 Bxe7 29.Rf1.

26...c5! 27.Qh4?

White's best seems to be 27.Qxe3 Rxe3 28.Rxe3 but ultimately I think Black's Queen is better than White's Rook and Knight.

27...exf2 28.Rxf2 Rxe1

Black is clearly winning: he's up the exchange and a pawn and White's King position is shaky.

29.Ne4 Be7 30.Qf4 Bd6 31.Qf3 a6 32.Bc3 Rg1 33.Re2 Rf8 34.Qe3 Rgf1 35.Nxc5 Bxc5

Better is 35...R1f3 but there are some complicated tactics to swim through: 36.Nd7+ Kc8 37.Nxf8 Rxe3 38.Nxg6 Rxe2+ 39.Kd1 Rxh2, etc.

36.Qxc5 Rd8 37.Qe3 Rff8 38.Qe4 Rfe8?! 39.Qxg6 Rxe2+ 40.Kd1 hxg6 41.Kxe2 Rd7

Finally past the time control at move 40, Black has an ending with a Rook versus a Bishop. As we saw his position promised more, but this still should be winnable.

42.h4?! Kc8

42...g5 43.hxg5 g6 looks strong for the second player.

43.Be5 Re7 44.d4 Kd7 45.Kd3 Ke6 46.Ke4 c6 47.b4 Rd7 48.Bf4 Rd5 49.Bd2 Rd8 50.Bf4 Re8 51.Be5 Kf7 52.Kd3 Re7 53.Kc4 Ke6 54.Kc5 Kd7 55.a4 Rf7 56.Bf4 Rf5+ 57.Kb6 Kc8 58.Ka7?

White's threats against b7 have kept Black from making progress, but now he takes it a bit too far.

58...a5! 59.Bd2 axb4

Even better is 59...Rf2 60.Be1 Re2 61.Bc3 Re3 62.Bd2 Rd3.

60.Bxb4 Rf3 61.Kb6 Rxc3 62.Be7 Rb3+ 63.Kc5 Kd7 64.Bg5 b6+ 65.Kc4 Rb1 66.d5 c5 67.Bd2 Rd1 68.Bc3 Rc1 69.Kb3 Kd6 70.Bxc7 Kxd5

White could resign here, but he was hoping for some sort of time-trouble gift since LeCours was

down to his last five minutes.

71.Bh6 Rb1+ 72.Kc2 Rb4 73.Bd2 Rxa4 74.Bg5 Kc4 75.Bf6 Ra2+ 76.Kb1 Rf2 77.h5 gxh5

White's piece offer is an attempt to cloud the issue, but 77...Rxf6 is winning as well.

78.Bh4 Rg2 79.Bf6 Kb3 80.Kc1 c4 81.Bd4 b5 82.Kb1 c3 83.Kc1 c2 84.Be3 Re2 85.Bd2 Rxd2 86.Kxd2 Kb2 0-1

A few moves away from checkmate, White finally gives up.

Here is a crazy tactical game from Jarrod Tavares, the winner of the Under 1,910 section. The advantage in this game swings wildly back and forth until white finds the problem-like tactical shot 36.Rxdx3! To tell the truth, it isn't "problem-like" since I actually used the position for a problem in the Sunday Gazette. His opponent here, Carlos Varela, is a rapidly improving local player, and a member of the RPI chess team.

Jarrod Tavares (1881) – Carlos Varela (1662)
[B23] Closed Sicilian
Empire State Open U1910, round 3
Saratoga Springs, NY, April 16, 2011

1.e4 c5 2.Nc3 Nc6 3.f4 g6 4.Nf3 Bg7 5.Bc4 d6 6.0-0 Nf6 7.e5?!

A bit premature.

7...dxe5 8.fxe5 Nxe5 9.Bb5+ Nc6 10.d3 0-0 11.Bxc6 bxc6 12.Qe1 Rb8 13.a3 Nd5 14.Ne4 Bxb2 15.Bh6 Bg7?

This seems logical, but it's much better for Black to calmly play 15...Re8 16.Rb1 Bd4+ with a big advantage for him. **16.Qh4!? Bf5**

Now very strong is 16...Bxa1 17.Bxf8 Bd4+ 18.Nxd4 cxd4 19.Bh6 f6!

17.Nfg5 f6?

Again, 17...Bxa1 seems to be close to winning. After the text, White's attack looks unstoppable.

18.Bxc7 fxc7 19.Nxc5 Kxc7 20.Qxh7+?

This looks obvious, but on his scoresheet Tavares indicated that 20.Rxf5! was the killer: 20...Rxf5 21.Ne6+ Kh8 22.Nxd8 Rxd8 and White wins.

20...Kf6 21.h4? Ne3 22.Rf2 Qd4 23.Re1 e5 24.Ne4+ Ke6 25.c3 Qd5 26.Ng5+ Kd6 27.Rxe3 Bxd3 28.Rd2

28.Nf7+! Rxf7 29.Rxf7 with an easy win for White.

28...Rb1+ 29.Kh2 c4 30.Ne4+ Ke6 31.Qxc6+ Ke7 32.Qg5+ Ke6 33.Nf2 Rf1 34.Ng4

Better is 34.Qg4+ Kd6 35.Nxd3.

34...R8f5 35.Qg8+ Kd6?

35...Kd7 avoids what's coming next.

36.Rdxd3!

The other Rook works too.

36...Qxd3

The coolness of White's tactical idea is shown by the following line: 36...cxd3 37.Rxd3 Qxd3 38.Qd8+.

37.Rxd3+ cxd3 38.Qd8+ Ke6 39.Qxd3

Now White is solidly winning, all that's left is the mopping up.

39...R5f4 40.Qg6+ Ke7 41.Qg5+ Kf8 42.Qd8+ Kg7 43.Nxe5 Ra4 44.Qd7+ Kg8 45.Qe8+ Rf8 46.Qg6+ Kh8 47.Nf7+ Rxf7 48.Qxf7 Rxh4+ 49.Kg3 Ra4 50.Qe8+ Kg7 51.Qd7+ Kf8 52.Qxc6 Ra5 53.Qc8+ Kf7 54.Qc7+ 1-0

From the Under 1610 section we have this tactical slugfest between two improving Capital District players. Matt Clough is a member of the Schenectady club and Jason Denham plays for Albany B. Both players miss a lot here, but I can hardly blame them, the game is very complicated.

Matt Clough (1570) – Jason Denham (1351)

[C18] French Defense

Empire State Open U1610 section, round 4

Saratoga Springs, NY, April 17, 2011

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.Nc3 Bb4 4.e5 c5 5.a3 Bxc3+ 6.bxc3 Ne7 7.f4 Nbc6 8.Nf3 0-0 9.Bd3 Ng6 10.0-0 Qc7 11.Be3 c4 12.Be2 Nce7 13.g4 Bd7 14.Qe1 f5 15.g5 Kf7 16.h4 Rh8 17.Qg3 Rag8 18.Kf2 h5!

This punishes White for not playing h4-h5 on the last couple of moves.

19.gxh6 gxh6 20.Qh3 Ke8 21.Rg1 Kd8 22.Nh2 Be8 23.a4 Nc6 24.Nf3 Nge7 25.h5 Kc8 26.Rgb1 Rg7 27.Bc1 Rhg8 28.Ba3 b6 29.Qh4 Rg4 30.Qf6 Bxh5 31.Qxe6+ Qd7 32.Qxh6 Be8

Now strong for Black is 32...Ng6! because White loses after 33.Qxh5? Nxf4 34.Qh6 Rg2+ 35.Ke1 Nxe2, etc.

33.a5 R8g6 34.Qh8 Rg8 35.Qh6 R8g6 36.Qh1

Better is 36.Qh2 because Black is now forced to play 36...Rg2+ (36...Nxa5? 37.Ng5) 37.Qxg2 Rxg2+ 38.Kxg2 with a big advantage for the first player.

36...Nxa5 37.e6?! Qc7? 38.Ne5?! Rxf4+ 39.Bf3 Rxe6 40.Kg3?

After being on the attack most of the game, White now gets careless about his own King. He'd still be on top after 40.Bc1.

40...Ng6! 41.Bxd5?

Technically best is 41.Kf2 but Black wins after 41...Rh4.

41...Rg4+?

41...Rxe5! 42.dxe5 Qxe5 and White can resign.

42.Kf2 Rf4+ 43.Ke3? Rxe5+ 44.dxe5 Qxe5+ 45.Kd2 Rf2+ 46.Kc1 Qe2?

Black actually has a forced mate: 46...Qe3+ 47.Kb2 (The White king seems to have escaped, but...) 47...Rxc2+! 48.Kxc2 Ba4+ 49.Rb3 Bxb3+ 50.Kb2 Qd2+ 51.Kb1 Qc2, mate.

47.Be6+ Qxe6 48.Qa8+ Kc7 49.Qxa7+ Nb7 50.Bc5 Rf1+ 51.Kd2 Qd5+ 52.Bd4 Qg2+ 0-1

It's mate next move, so White gives up.

Here is the very last game to finish in the entire event, and it could have been a huge upset, but the advantage traded hands so often here that the game could well have been decided by a coin toss. Instead, it was decided by the clock.

Elias Lanides (1711) – Matt Slomski (2043) [E20]

Nimzo-Indian, Empire State Open, round 5

Saratoga Springs, NY, April 17, 2011

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 Bb4 4.Bd2 0-0 5.a3 Bxc3 6.Bxc3 Ne4 7.Qd3 Nxc3 8.Qxc3 d6 9.Nf3 Qe7 10.g3 b6 11.Bg2 Bb7 12.0-0

It's safe to say that Black has equalized here, or close to it.

12...Nd7 13.Rad1 f5 14.e3 Rad8 15.b4 c5 16.Ne1 Nf6 17.Bxb7 Qxb7 18.f3 Rc8 19.Rc1 Rc7 20.Nd3 cxb4 21.Qxb4 Rd8 22.Rc3 a5 23.Qb5?!

23.Qb3 was better. This allows some tactical monkey business.

23...Nd5! 24.Rb3 Nxe3 25.Nc5 bxc5 26.Rxe3 Qxb5 27.cxb5 Kf7 28.Rfe1 Re8 29.d5 e5 30.f4 e4 31.b6!? Rb7 32.Rb3 a4 33.Rb5 Ra8 34.Kf2 Ra6 35.Reb1 c4 36.Ke3 c3 37.R1b4 Kf6 38.Ke2 g5 39.Kd1 gxf4 40.gxf4 Kg6 41.Kc2 Kh5 42.Kxc3 Kg4 43.Kd2?!

White should start thinking about defending the kingside with 43.Rb1.

43...Kxf4 44.Ke2 Ke5 45.Ke3 f4+ 46.Kf2 h5 47.Ke2 h4 48.Kf2 h3 49.Ke2 Kf5 50.Kf2 Kg4?!

After playing so well, Black starts to lose the thread. The winning idea is 50...Ra8! threatening to bring the Rook around to the Kingside.

51.Ke2 Kf5 52.Kf2 Ke5 53.Ke2 Ra8 54.Rc4 Rab8 54...Rg8! and White is in trouble.

55.Rc6 Rg8

The wrong rook: 55...Rg7 56.Rc7 Rg2+ 57.Kd1 Rbg8 and Black wins.

56.Kd2 Rg2+ 57.Kc3 f3 58.Rc7 Rg7?

Gives away his entire advantage, but I imagine that time was already growing short. Black still wins after 58...f2! 59.Rb1 Rxb6!

59.Rxg7 f2?

59...Rxg7 60.b7 f2 61.b8Q f1Q looks dead even.

60.Rxb7 f1Q 61.Re7+ Kf6 62.Re6+ Kf7 63.Kb4 Qb1+ 64.Kxa4?

64.Ka5 Qc1 65.b7 and White wins.

64...Qc2+ 65.Ka5 Qc3+ 66.Ka6 Qxa3+ 67.Ra5 Qd3+ 68.Ka7 Qd4 69.Rxd6?

White is still better after 69.Rh6.

69...e3?

69...Qb4 is the only move to keep the game balanced.

70.Re6 e2 71.Rxe2 Qb4 72.Ra6 Qc5 73.Rd2 Ke7 74.Rc2??

White drops a rook in time pressure and he still is not lost.

74...Qxc2 75.b7 Qc5+ 76.Ka8 Qxd5 77.Ka7 Qc5+ 78.Ka8 Qb5 79.Ra7 Qc6 80.Kb8 Kd7 0-1

Here White finally lost on time, with Black having only five seconds left. Properly speaking this game should be a draw since bBack has to keep checking White to keep the b-pawn from queening. Notice that White can now play 81.Ra6! with 81...Qxa6 being a stalemate.

Central New York News

by Karl Heck

North Country Expert David Kistler swept the field at the Syracuse University Spring Open held on April 21 with a perfect 4-0 score in the 12-player tournament, half of which were rated between 1897 and 2070 going into the event. Christopher Bradshaw was clear second in the tournament with an undefeated 3 ½ points, and Alan Marks, returning to tournament chess after a 17-year absence, was clear third with a 3-1 score. The 1437-rated Marks lost in the first round to Ken Frieden, and then won three straight to pass several class-A players on the crosstable to win the class prize.

April also brought 16 players to Utica for the quarterly Four Seasons Open there. Rob Drake, a Southern Tier class A player, won the tournament with a perfect 4-0 score, gaining over 50 rating points in the process. Drake won the critical game in the third round against Albany-area player Philip

Sells, who tied for second with Syracuse's Christopher Bradshaw and local favorite Lance Winters.

Both events were organized and directed by Joe Ball.

Cordisco's Chess Center in Binghamton has also been quite active, with monthly tournaments being held in the store, which by day is a convenience store in downtown Binghamton.

The May 30th Binghamton Monthly had 10 players in one section, and Local Expert Daryll Weatherly along with Pennsylvania's Antonio Scalzo tied for first with 3-1 scores, with Scalzo going undefeated. Scalzo defeated Weatherly in their individual encounter in round two, but draws to Binghamton Expert Ed Kelley in round three and Robert Tierney in the last round gave Weatherly the chance to slide back into a tie for the top spot.

The April 29th Binghamton Monthly had 15 players in two section. The Open section was closely contested, with all of the players being Class A or Experts below 2100. Three players tied for first with 3-1 scores, veteran Binghamton Expert Ed Kelley, Pennsylvania Expert Antonio Scalzo and Syracuse's Ken Chamberlain. Chamberlain lost in the first round to David Goguen, but then won three straight, including a victory over front-running Scalzo in the last round, to force the tie. Scalzo beat Kelley in their individual game in round two.

Larry Patterson and the host and TD, John Cordisco, tied for first in the Reserve section with 3-1 scores. Cordisco beat Patterson in round one, but lost in the final round to Thomas Sedore to allow the tie for the top spot.

David Kistler swept to victory in the Watertown Chess Club Spring Round Robin, held one night a week at the club from April 19 to May 24, with a perfect 5-0 score. In a round-robin without draws, all six players were evenly spaced on the table. Adolfo Prieto was second with four points, and Robert Kratzat was third with three points. David Kistler and Don Klug tied for first with 3 ½ points in the Watertown Chess Club's Quick tournament on March 29. Both tournaments were organized by the Watertown Chess Club and directed by Don Klug.

The Central New York Scholastic Tournament schedule continued with a 23-player event at Fayetteville-Manlius's Wellwood Middle School on May 15. Matthew O'Connor, a player from neighboring Jamesville-DeWitt, won the K-12 section on tiebreak over Sam Fragola of Fabius-Pompey and home school favorite Jason Liu after all three players tied with 3-1 scores. Liu went undefeated, conceding first and third-round draws, while Fragola lost in round two, but beat O'Connor in the last round to force the three-way tie. Unlike perfect score ties, this one was not broken by a speed playoff. Fabius-Pompey was the top team.

F-M players Nate Byrne and Josh Lok drew each other, but swept through the rest of the field with 3 ½ points each. Alethia Ieta, a home-schooled student, swept the K-4 section with the tournament's only perfect 4-0 score. Parker Goodrum and Jonathan Mokry, both of Fabius-Pompey, tied for second with 3-1 scores, losing only to the champion. The tournament was organized by Savita Tamjidi and the F-M Chess Club and directed by Bob Nasiff.

April brought the Fabius-Pompey Upstate New York Scholastic Chess Championship to the region. Sixty-five players competed in three sections. In the K-12 section, Fayetteville-Manlius's Langston

Lightcap won the K-12 section in a speed playoff over Buffalo's Joshua Hampton after both players finished the 23-player section with perfect 4-0 scores. Another Buffalo player, Trevor Cohn, tied for third in the tournament with Sam Fragola of Fabius-Pompey and Nick Gaurino of Fayetteville-Manlius, with 3-1 scores. Buffalo's East High Dark Knights won the Top Team trophy with 12 points, besting Fabius-Pompey by half a point.

Skaneateles's Ethan Goldstein completed a perfect sweep of the K-6 section, winning the 20-player event with a perfect 4-0 score. Another Buffalo player, James Lyon, was clear second with 3 ½ points, and four players tied for third with 3-1 scores: Luke Qi of Fayetteville-Manlius, Jonathan Stabile of Skaneateles, Theo Eckert-Budis of Manlius Pebble Hill and Isaac Tenerbaum of the Syracuse Hebrew Day School. Skaneateles won the Top Team Trophy with 10 points.

Owen Gay of Skaneateles won the 22-player K-4 section with its only perfect 4-0 score. Five players tied for second with 3-1 scores: Andrew Dettor of Jamesville-DeWitt, Jonathan Mokry of Fabius-Pompey and Andrew Godberg, Ben Fish and Abby Kambhampaty, all of Manlius Pebble Hill. MPH won the Top Team Trophy with 13 points. The tournament was organized by the Fabius-Pompey Chess Club and directed by Bob Nasiff.

Mid-Hudson (from page 13)

tournaments, and most feature a modest (\$5) entry fee. See our website (www.vassar-chadwick.com) for upcoming events as well as assorted chess-related news on our blog. Print out this report and bring it with you and our club president will provide you with free scoresheets.

Addendum: Free scoresheets are available to anyone who needs them. The winner of the DCC is not allowed to place the clock wherever he wants. The solution to the diagram (and the move Ernie played) is 14. Nb5!, as 14...Qd8 15. Nxd6 Qxd6 16. Ng6 is a double attack on the Queen and Rook.

Queens CC (from page)

(Frumkin-Muwwakkil ½, Drazil-Kopiecki 0-1) and "Young and Dangerous" did the same to "Robot Unicorn" (A Ryba-N Ryba ½, Moy-Wang 1-0).

Since "Young and Dangerous" was the top scoring Under 1700 team, the prizes of \$140 1st, \$70 2nd and \$70 top Under 1700 team ended up with \$70 going to each team shown in bold. John Riddell and Nicholas Ryba split the \$70 Board 1 prize with 3-1 scores, while Ed Kopiecki took the Board 2 prize with 3½-½. Ed Frumkin and Joe Felber directed for the Queens Chess Club.

GM Alexander Ivanov sweeps to victory at the 19th New York State Open

by Bill Townsend

The 19th Annual New York State Open was held May 20 to 22 in Lake George Village, about an hour north of the Capital District. Overall 65 players competed in the three sections, roughly the same turnout as last year's tournament.

The winner in the Open section was Massachusetts GM Alexander Ivanov with 4½-½. Ivanov's sole draw was to last year's winner, New Jersey scholastic player Christopher Wu. The contest was exceptionally hard-fought, and is featured later in the article.

GM Ivanov, who won the 2009 event, out-rated the rest of the field by nearly 400 points. In case my readers are wondering why a Grandmaster would travel so far play in an event where he is much more likely to lose rating points than gain them, the answer, of course, is money. Other than the first place prize money, 600 dollars in this case, there is the national chesslecture.com Grand Prix, run by the U.S. Chess Federation. Players who win tournaments of a certain size score points, and the players with the most points get a big paycheck at the end of the year. In the 2010 Grand Prix GM Ivanov finished second, this year so far he is in first, partially thanks to the 14 points he won at this event.

In second place with a 4-1 score was Florida expert Mike Lucente. Tied for third place with 3½-1½ were: Dale Sharp, Christopher Wu, and Mykyta Panasenko. The first two players split the third-place money while Panasenko won the prize for top player under 2010.

Tied for sixth place with 3-2 were: David Carter, David Slatin, Ernest Johnson, Philip Sells, Chen Qu, Gabriel Katz, Dilip Aaron and Alexander Wei. Johnson, Sells and Qu split the second place prize money for Under-2010 while Katz, Aaron and Wei shared the money for top player Under 1810.

There was a logjam at the top of the Under-1610 section as four players tied for first place with 4-1. They were: Brian Clark, Ansgarius Aylward, Mario Russo and Nate Stevens. In fact, Albany's Stevens could have won the whole section, being the only

player with 4-0 going into the last round, but he lost to Aylward. As it is, he gained 102 rating points from this one tournament.

Tied for fifth place with 3-2 were: Evan Frangakis, *Empire Chess* columnist Zachary Calderon, Timothy Kraft, Ramitha Ravishankar and Peder Olson. Kraft, Ravishankar and Olson split the second-place money for Under-1410, Stevens was first. Tied for tenth with 2½-2½ were Andrew Chasen and Steve Ruzbacki, and they split the prize for best player Under 1210.

A popular feature of this event is the Senior section, open to players under 1910 and over the age of 50. Frequently this section draws players who might expect to do well in the Open section. Three players tied for first with 4-1: Harold Stenger, Walter Stephen and Vermont's Michael Corrigan. Hubert Herring was clear fourth with 3½-1½, and he won the prize for top player under 1,710. Tied for fifth with 3-2 were: Robert Harvey, Antonio Lorenzo and Neil Marcus. Tied for eighth with 2½-2½ were: Kenneth Evans, Kenneth Krug and S. Warren Lohr. The last named player won second prize for players rated under 1710.

When I was picking up the scoresheets at the end of the tournament, I asked director Steve Immitt if anything amusing or newsworthy occurred. He thought for a minute and reported that the tournament had been quiet and nothing "bad, crazy or stupid" had happened. This, of course, is good news for a tournament director who wants an event to run smoothly, but it's bad news for a chess reporter looking for funny stories.

The tournament was directed by Steve Immitt for the New York State Chess Association.

At the New York State Open, GM Alexander Ivanov was a giant among the pygmies, but he did give up one half point on the way to his victory against New Jersey scholastic player Christopher Wu. Playing his favorite Owen Defense, GM Ivanov got a bad position out of the opening, and White seemed close to winning, but the Grandmaster managed to turn the tables, and seemed to be close to victory for most of the rest of the

game. In the final position GM Ivanov still seems to be winning, but his draw offer was no gift: curiously enough if either player tried to win, they would lose.

I'm grateful for Christopher Wu for providing the game and tournament director Steve Immitt transmitting it to me.

Christopher Wu (2150) – GM Alexander Ivanov (2608) [B00] Owen Defense
New York State Open, round 2
Lake George Village, NY, May 21, 2011

1.e4 b6 2.d4 Bb7

GM Ivanov loves to fianchetto his Bishops, so the little-played Owen Defense is a natural choice for him.

3.Nc3 e6 4.f4

A rather uncommon move. 4.Nf3 Bb4 5.Bd3 Nf6 6.Qe2 d5 7.e5 Ne4 8.Bd2 Nxd2 9.Qxd2 was the game Aaron-Ivanov, Philadelphia 2010, a game won in fine style against GM Ivanov by Deepak Aaron.

4...Bb4 5.Bd3 c5!?

Suddenly this makes the game all but unique. Most common here is 5...Nf6 but Black has had the best results with 5...f5.

6.Nf3 c4!?

This probably what GM Ivanov had in mind when he played ...c5.

7.Bxc4 Bxe4 8.0-0 Bxc3 9.bxc3 Nf6 10.Ba3 Qc7 11.Nd2 Bb7 12.Qe2

Another idea is 12.Bd3 preparing to answer 12...d5 with 13.c4! and White is better.

12...d5 13.Bb5+ Bc6 14.Bd3 Bd7 15.c4!

With his King trapped in the center, opening up the game is not good news for Black.

15...Nc6 16.c3 0-0-0 17.c5 Kb8 18.Rab1 Ka8 19.cxb6 axb6 20.Bb5

A better idea seems to be 20.Nf3 because the f-pawn is immune: 20...Qxf4? 21.Ne5 and Black is in big trouble.

20...Na7 21.Bxd7 Rxd7 22.c4 Rb8 23.c5 Qc6 24.Qa6?!

24.Rb3, threatening to double Rooks on the b-file, is a more potent threat.

24...b5 25.Qa5 Ne4 26.Rfe1?!

26.Bb4 followed by 27.Nf3 looks hard for Black to meet.

26...Nxd2 27.Qxd2 Qa6 28.Rb3 Nc6 29.Qd3 Ra7 30.Bb2

With this move, White's advantage just about vanishes. His best play here seems to be to sacrifice a pawn with 30.Bb4 Qxa2 31.Reb1 Ra4 32.Qd1 Ra7 33.Qd3 Ra4 34.Qd1 but neither side can make much progress.

30...g6 31.Ra3 Qc8 32.Rxa7+ Kxa7 33.Bc3 b4 34.Bd2 Qa6 35.Qxa6+

With the exchange of Queens now Black is clearly better, but it's hard to recommend 35.Qb1 Qc4.

35...Kxa6 36.Be3 Rb5 37.Re2 Ra5 38.Kf2 Ra3 39.Rd2 h5 40.h3 Kb5 41.g4 h4 42.Rb2 Kc4 43.Rc2+ Kd3 44.Rb2 Ke4 45.Re2 Kd3

45...Nxd4 actually seems to help White: 46.Bc1+ Nxe2 47.Bxa3 Nd4 48.Bxb4 Kxf4 and Black is still better, but not as much as in the actual game.

46.Rd2+ Kc3 47.Ke2 Kc4 48.Rc2+ Kb5 49.Rb2 Ka4 50.Kf2 Rc3 51.Rd2 Rc1 52.Kg2 Re1

52...Ka3! looks to be the winning idea here. Black is threatening to win the a-pawn with ...Ra1 and there's not much White can do about it: 53.f5 exf5 54.gxf5 Ra1 55.Kf3 Rxa2, etc.

53.Bf2 Ra1 54.Bxh4 Ka3 55.Bf2 Rxa2 56.Rxa2+! Kxa2 57.Be1 b3 58.Bc3 Kb1

Black's last true winning attempt is 58...f6 59.h4 e5 60.dxe5 fxe5 61.h5 d4 62.Bxd4 Nxd4 63.h6 b2 64.h7 b1/Q 65.h8/Q Qe4+ and Black wins, but with both players running short of time this is a risky line to go into.

59.h4 Kc2 60.Ba1 Kb1 61.Bc3 Kc2 62.Ba1 Kb1 1/2-1/2
Here the players agreed to a draw. It definitely seems like Black is winning here, but strangely if he tries to win, he loses: 62...b2? 63.Bxb2 Kxb2 64.h5 and white wins. If the Black Knight runs over to stop the h-pawn from queening, the c-pawn runs. On the other hand, if White stops shuffling his Bishop around and tries to win himself, Black's b-pawn Queens with an easy win for the second player.

Much to my surprise, GM Ivanov turned in nearly all his scoresheets, which was awfully nice of him. Unfortunately I had trouble reading his writing: it was faint, scribbly, and in Russian to boot. However, I've seen worse, and his games are worth the extra effort. In this game his opponent, David Kolb, plays a good game to a point, but his passivity allows black to turn his center pawns into bloodthirsty monsters.

David Kolb (1928) – GM Alexander Ivanov (2608) [A04] Reti
New York State Open, round 3
Lake George Village, NY, May 21, 2011

1.Nf3 g6 2.g3 Bg7 3.Bg2 e5

Since White is being so bashful about taking control of the center, Black grabs it instead.

4.d3 Ne7 5.c4 c6 6.Nc3 d5 7.0-0 d4 8.Ne4 f5 9.Ned2 0-0 10.Rb1 a5 11.a3 a4

Looking at a Black space advantage on the Kingside and the threat of a pawn storm, White tries to get something going on the Queenside, but Black is having none of that.

12.b4 axb3 13.Nxb3 Na6 14.Bd2 h6 15.Qc1 Kh7 16.h4 Qc7 17.Kh2 f4 18.Ng1

Although it looks risky 18.gxf4 exf4 19.Rg1 seems to be a better choice.

18...Nf5 19.Nh3 Bd7

19...Qe7 20.a4.

20.Be4 Nd6 21.h5?!

21.Bf3 seems to be better, but White is getting nibbled to death by ducks here.

21...Nxe4 22.hxg6+ Kxg6 23.dxe4 fxe3+ 24.Kxg3 d3 25.exd3 Bxh3 26.Kxh3 Rf3+ 27.Kh2

White gets significant counterplay after 27.Kg2 Rxd3 28.Rh1 and now Black has to worry about an attack down the h-file.) 27...Kh7 28.Rg1? Rxf2+ 29.Kh1 (29.Rg2 was obligatory. Now Black has a winning attack.)

29...Qf7 30.Rxg7+?

White falls on his sword. 30.Qd1 was the only real defense.

30...Qxg7 31.Qg1 Qf6 32.Qg4 Rg8 33.Qh3 Rf3 0-1

Black has a forced mate, so White gives up.

Who doesn't like a fun miniature? Here Black has some interesting ideas in the opening, but gets a little too rambunctious and winds up getting to have dinner early.

Dale Sharp (2200) – Daniel Johnston (1672) [B34]

**Sicilian Defense, New York State Open, round 3
Lake George Village, NY, May 21, 2011**

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 g6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nc6 5.Nc3 Bg7 6.Be3 Nf6 7.Qd2 Ng4 8.Nxc6 bxc6 9.Bd4 Bh6?!

Black now strays from the safe path. Soon he will have too many pieces he needs to cover.

10.Qe2 e5 11.Bc5 d5?

With his King stuck in the center, opening up the game is just asking for it, and White obliges.

12.exd5 cxd5 13.f3 Nf6?

Black had to cough up the Knight by playing something like 13...Be6. Now the White pieces come crashing in.

14.Qxe5+ Be6 15.Bb5+ 1-0

Black has to cover the check with his Queen or he gets mated: 15...Nd7? 16.Qxh8+ Bf8 17.Qxf8, mate.

Recently Dean Howard has been playing some excellent chess as board one for the Albany A team: so far he's six for six. He didn't do quite so well here, scoring 2½-2½. In the last round he faced Master Dale

Sharp in a MacCutcheon French, and seemed to be doing well, until suddenly he wasn't. I suspect clock problems hastened his demise.

**Dale Sharp (2200) – Dean Howard (2000) [C12]
French Defense, New York State Open, round 5
Lake George Village, NY, May 22, 2011**

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.Bg5 Bb4

The MacCutcheon variation, something one doesn't see too much of these days.

5.e5 h6 6.Bd2 Bxc3 7.bxc3 Ne4 8.Qg4 g6 9.Bd3 Nxd2 10.Kxd2 c5 11.Nf3

All of this looks a little odd, but it is the main line of the MacCutcheon and has been played thousands of times before.

11...Nc6 12.Qf4 Qa5 13.Rhb1

13.h4 is the main line move, but the text has done very well for the first player. Even though the MacCutcheon is rather obscure, it's obvious both players are familiar with it.

13...cxd4

This is most common, but we're starting to run out of opening theory. 13...c4 has done better for Black.

14.Nxd4 Nxd4 15.Qxd4 Qc7 16.a4 Bd7 17.a5 0-0 18.g3

And now, finally, the game is unique. 18.f4 Kg7 19.Ke2 Rfd8 20.Rb3 Bc6 21.g4 Rh8 22.f5 exf5 23.gxf5 Rhe8 24.e6+ Kg8 25.Rf1 is Teverovski-Ziljbershtejn, a German correspondence game from 2010.

18...Bc6 19.h4 Qe7 20.Qg4 Qc5 21.Qf4 Rac8 22.h5 Be8

22...g5?! 23.Qf6 Rc7 24.Ke2 Qxc3 25.f4 and White is better.

23.Rb3 f5?!

This doesn't turn out well for Black, but my computer's suggestion of 23...f6 has its own problems: 24.exf6 g5 25.Qd4 Qxd4 26.cxd4 Rxf6 27.Rxb7 Rxf2+ 28.Ke3 and White is better, but this is a definite improvement over the game.

24.hxg6 Bxg6?

Now Black loses, but you have to see very far ahead to confirm this. Best is 24...Rc7 and Black is still defending.

25.Qxh6 Qxf2+ 26.Be2 Qxg3 27.Rh1 Rc7?

White now has a forced mate in seven, which he executes precisely, though even with best play Black is lost. The fact that the game was actually played out to mate is a sign that Black was probably in time trouble.

28.Qh8+ Kf7 29.Qf6+ Ke8 30.Bb5+ Rc6 31.Bxc6+ bxc6 32.Qxe6+ Kd8 33.Rb8+ Kc7 34.Qd6, mate 1-0

Mid-Hudson Valley Region News by Scott Strattner

The year so far...

Deep Freeze Swiss (January 24 and 31), 2 G/40 games a night. A lucky 13 battled it out in the inaugural event of 2011 (no, blitz doesn't count), and it was won decisively by Ken Evans, with a score of 3.5/4) But since I don't have any of his games from this event and I'm the one writing this update, let's start off with one of my fortunate wins.

Rosa, Dan (1623) - Strattner, Scott (1919) [A40] English Defense

1.d4 e6 2.c4 b6 3.e4 Bb7 4.Nc3 Bb4 5.Bd3 f5 6.Qe2 Nf6 7.Bg5 h6 8.Bxf6 Qxf6 9.Nf3 Nc6 10.exf5 Nxd4 11.Nxd4 Qxd4 12.0-0 0-0-0 13.Nb5 Qf6 14.fxe6

Amazingly, up until this point we were following Gaprindashvili, N. (2318) - Karasev, V. (2465) Elista 2002 (0-1)

14...dxe6 15.a3 Bc5 16.Nxa7+ Kb8 17.Nb5 Rhf8 18.Bb1?

18.b4 Bxf2+ 19.Qxf2 Qxf2+ 20.Rxf2 Rxf2 21.Kxf2 Rxd3=/+

18...Qg5

18...Bxf2+! 19.Kh1 (19.Qxf2 Qxf2+ 20.Rxf2 Rd1+ 21.Rf1 Rdx1#) 19...Bxg2+! 20.Kxg2 Rd2! 21.Bd3 (21.Qxd2 Qf3#) 21...Rxe2 22.Bxe2 Qg6+ 23.Kh3 Qf5+ 24.Bg4 Qd3+ 25.Kg2 Qe4+ 26.Kh3 Rf3+ 27.Kg2 Rg3+ 28.Kxf2 Rg2#

19.g3 Rd2 20.h4? Qxg3# 0-1

Every year in February, the cold oppression of winter gives way, if only for a weekend, to warm and welcoming thoughts of coming together with those who share our passion (chess), traveling with kindred spirits to the promised land (New Jersey), and immersing oneself in a bazaar of indescribable events such as losing to an eight-year old. Of course I speak of the US Amateur Team East. Members of the Vassar-Chadwick club were involved in at least four teams, with the eponymous vassar-chadwick.com (Ernie Johnson, Scott Strattner, Craig Fisher, Ken Evans) leading the way, at least figuratively. One of the great features of the USATE is the chance of playing against a GM or other stratospherically titled players. This year the lucky man was Ernie, who was matched up in Round One against the hardest working man in chess, IM Jay Bonin. Ernie wanted me to say that he softened up Mr. Bonin for Patrick Chi (see Spring issue).

Johnson, Ernie (2012) – IM Bonin, Jay (2461) [E62] King's Indian Defense

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 Bg7 4.Nf3 0-0 5.g3 d6 6.Bg2 c6 7.0-0 Qa5 8.Qd3 e5 9.e4 Nbd7 10.dxe5 dxe5 11.a3 Nc5 12.Qc2 Qc7 13.Be3 Ne6 14.Rad1 Ng4 15.Bc1 f5 16.exf5 gxf5 17.h3 Nh6 18.Ne2 f4 19.gxf4 exf4 20.Bd2 Nf5 21.Bc3 h6 22.Rd2

22.Kh1 Ng5 23.Rg1 Rf7 24.Rde1 Bd7 25.Nxg5 hxg5 26.Be4 Qd6 27.Bxg7 (27.Rxg5 Qh6) 27...Nxg7 28.Rxg5 Qh6 29.Rg6 Qxh3+ 30.Kg1=

22...Ng5 23.Nxg5 hxg5 24.Bf3 Nh4 25.Qd3? Bf5 26.Be4 Rad8 27.Nd4 Bxd4 28.Bxd4 c5 29.Bxf5 Nxf5 0-1

February also saw a new single game (G/60) event in the club calendar, Young vs. Old (or for the math inclined, those who have a rating graph with a positive derivative, and those who don't). In a surprise upset, age triumphed with six out of eight. Then promptly went to sleep at 9 p.m.

The World Series. Super Bowl. World Men's Curling Championship. Every sporting organization holds a pinnacle event, and in March Vassar-Chadwick does the same with the Dutchess County Chess Championship, which drew 34 players. Not officially sanctioned by the county government, but revered nonetheless, with the winner's name going on a handsome trophy and obtaining the privilege of placing the clock on whatever side of the board you want for the rest of the year (one of these things is not true). This year's event was won by Scott Strattner (who swears he planned to write this update prior to the tournament). Other notables:

Second Place:	Justin Warren (Vassar student!)
Class prizes:	
1800-1999:	Rudolf van Dommele
1600-1799:	Corey Sansola
1400-1599:	Michael Mendez
Under 1400:	Courtney Denniston
Unrated:	Ayman Haoula (obtaining a provisional rating of 1909!)

Prior to the second round, during the annual meeting, incumbent president and perennial TD Michael O'Connor was presented with a plaque to honor his years of essential service to the club. It also served as a bribe to try to convince him to stay on as president for another year (it worked!).

To make up for the loss published above, here is Dan

holding his higher-rated opponent to a draw, and even having the better of it towards the end of the game.

Van Dommele, Rudolf (1901) - Rosa, Dan (1638)
[D45] Queen's Gambit Declined

1. d4 d5 2. c4 c6 3. Nc3 Nf6 4. e3 e6 5. Nf3 Bd6 6. Bd3 O-O 7. c5 Bc7 8. b4 Nbd7 9. Bb2 e5 10. Nxe5 Nxe5 11. dxe5 Bxe5 12. Qc2 Re8 13. Ne2 Bxb2 14. Qxb2 Bg4 15. Nd4 a6 16. O-O Qe7 17. h3 Bd7 18. Rfe1 Ne4 19. f3 Ng3 20. Qf2 Nh5 21. g4 Nf6 22. Bf5 g6 23. Bd3 h5 24. g5 Nh7 25. h4 Nf8 26. f4 Ne6

26... a5 27. Rac1 axb4

27. Nf3 Ng7 28. Ne5 Bf5 29. e4 Bxe4 30. Bxe4 dxe4 31. Rxe4

The computer insists this is equal, or even a little bit better for Black, but doesn't White have a space advantage and more active pieces?

31...a5 32. Rd1

32. Ng4! Qxe4 33. Nf6+ Kf8 34. Nxe4 Rxe4 35. bxa5 Ne6 Black is holding on

32... Red8 33. Rde1 Qc7 34. a3 Nf5 35. Nf3 axb4 36. axb4 Qd7 37. R4e2 Ra3 38. Rd2 Rd3 39. Rxd3 Qxd3 40. Qe2

40... Qa3 41. Rb1 Rd3 and Black is dominating

40...Kf8 Draw agreed 1/2-1/2

April is the month for another major tournament, the Memorial held at Marist College. This event (a one day 4 round G/45) is a labor of love for the TD, Dr. Craig Fisher. He offers discounts for students and holds an unrated section to lure in newcomers. Twenty-one players entered the rated section, and when all was said and done Ernie Johnson ended up the winner on tie-breaks, with 3.5 out of 4.

Memorial trophy winners, from left to right: Ken Evans (Class A), Ernie Johnson (first place), Dharshan Ram (Class D), Corey Sansola (Class B).

Antonucci, David (1851) - Johnson, Ernie (1986)
[D11] Queen's Pawn Game

1.d4 d5 2.g3 Nf6 3.Bg2 Bf5 4.Nf3 h6 5.c4 e6 6.Nc3 c6 7.cxd5 exd5 8.0-0 Be7 9.Ne5 0-0 10.a3 Nbd7 11.g4!? 11.Qb3 Qb6 12.Qxb6 axb6 13.Nxd7 Nxd7 14.f3 b5 15.e4 dxe4 16.fxe4 Bh7 17.Bf4 Nb6

11...Nxc4 12.Nxd7 Qxd7 13.e4

13.f3 Nf6 14.e4 dxe4 15.fxe4 Bh3 16.Be3 provides at least a little compensation for the pawn.

13...dxe4 14.Nxe4 Nf6 15.Ng3 Bg6 16.Bf4 Rad8 17.Qb3 Qxd4 18.Be3 Qd7 19.Bxa7 b5 20.Bb6 Rb8 21.Rad1 Qb7 22.Bd4 Rfd8 23.Be5 Rbc8 24.a4 b4 25.Bxf6 Bxf6 26.Ne4 Be7 27.Rxd8+ Rxd8 28.Qc4

Qb6 29.Ng3? Bd3 30.Qxc6 Qxc6 31.Bxc6 Bxf1 32.Kxf1 Rd1+ 33.Ke2 Rb1 34.Nf5 Rxb2+ 35.Kd3 Bc5 36.Kc4 Bxf2 37.Ne7+ Kf8 38.Nd5 Be1

38...Rc2+ 39.Kb5 b3 (Or 39...Rc5+ 40.Kb6 Rxd5+.

39.Kb5 Rxh2 40.a5 b3 41.Nf4 b2 42.Be4 b1Q+ 43.Bxb1 Rb2+ 44.Ka6 Rxb1 45.Ne6+ fxe6 White resigns 0-1

April was kind to Ernie, as he also rolled to victory in the double quad (G/30) event. Sixteen players competed in 4 sections, with the top section having an average rating of 1937. I think FIDE would consider that a category -13, but for an area bereft of Masters and low on Experts that is fairly impressive. Note to any Masters who may be reading this report – come to Poughkeepsie, it is beautiful this time of year, and you're pretty much guaranteed a trophy.

Tactics time! Can you find the best move in this position? Taken from the double quad event (Ernie Johnson 1997 vs. Peter Barkman 1912), it is White to move.

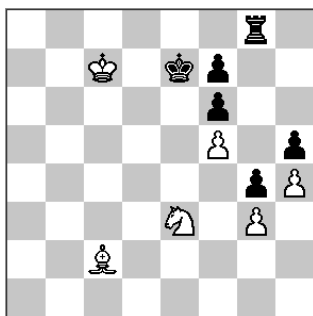
We had a great turnout on Saturday, March 12 for the Woodcrest Chess Challenge, a scholastic event directed by Brother John Mcmanus with assistance from the Woodcrest Community faculty and many coaches and parents. There were 139 players in four sections. The winners were all 5-0: Jonathan D'Alonzo of Saratoga in K-2, Jax Mautone of Mount Marion (Saugerties) in Grades 3-4, Roland Lipscomb of Rhinecliff's Rockin' Rooks in Grades 5-7, and David Zimmerman of Woodcrest Community in Grades 8-12. There were others who were undefeated but had draws: Andrew Nachamkin of Haldane (Cold Spring) in Grades 3-4, Joseph D'Alonzo (Saratoga) and Joseph Garozzo (St. Joseph's Mighty Pawns) both in the Grades 5-7 section. The top schools in the team competition included Woodcrest first, followed by St. Joseph's, the Rhinecliff Rockin' Rooks and Haldane. The action took place despite a threat that floods would seal off the main entrance to Woodcrest, which is close to the > Wallkill River in Rifton, neat the intersection of Routes 32 and 213, each of which had been closed during the previous 24 hours (report by Ken Evans).

May has arrived and the chess club is wrapping up its seasonal Vassar campus lodging – in June play moves to Marist College, which will be our Monday night home until Labor Day. We do not require membership dues; everyone is welcome to play in our weekly

The Scholastic Column: Two Pieces Versus A Rook

By Zachary Caledron

Let's say you were given the following position below.



Which color would you rather be? White or Black? Let's look at the pros and cons of both positions. White has two minor pieces (a Bishop and a Knight), while Black has one major piece (a Rook). Plus, Black is up a pawn, right? So isn't Black better? Using the traditional "point count" method, both sides have six points (Rook:5, Bishop and Knight:3, pawn:1).

Most beginning players always prefer the rook over two pieces. And who can blame them? I would have done the same thing when I was first starting out. But, let's look at the position a little more closely and analyze more than just material count. What is the Rook doing? It has to be one of the most inactive pieces ever! It has no future back there, guarding its own pawns with no offensive positioning.

All of the pieces in this case are on one side of the board. Generally speaking, the Knight is more effective in this environment as it can reach a greater percentage of the squares in a smaller area, as well as squares of both colors. In a longer-range environment, the Bishop is generally more effective than the Knight. Having the Bishop and the Knight working together offers maximum short-range attacking force as well as long-range attacking potential.

While Black has an extra pawn, it is doubled and the doubled pawns cannot be defended by its neighboring pawn, which has already advanced to the fifth rank. Therefore both f-pawns are susceptible to attack.

The White King is so much more active than the Black

one. Already, with White to move, White is threatening

1. Nd5+

Giving check and attacking the f6 pawn which cannot be defended by the King.

1...Kf8

1...Ke8? 2. Nxf6+ winning the Rook.

2. Nxf6

Now the Rook only has two places to go. Let's say, for the moment, he plays

2...Rh8,

as 2...Rg7 leaves the pawn hanging. Can you start to grasp how the pieces are dominating the board? After

3. Kd8.

Black can hardly even move.

3...Kg7+ 4. Ke7.

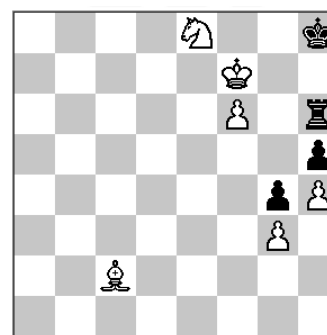
The Black rook is "freed" but still can't really move due to the hanging h-pawn. Where does Black move? The King and Knight and pawns are restraining the entire Black army. Now the Bishop enters the position with decisive effect.

4...Rf6 5. Ne8+ Ke8 6. f6.

Now the Black Rook can't move at all. The King couldn't have taken the pawn earlier because the Black Rook can check and leave its cave. But now when the King moves (the only move), the pawn can be taken freely and with the pawn on f6 supporting g7, the Knight can block safely. Plus the bishop controls the checking square, h7.

6...Kh8 7. Kxf7.

Now Black is in zugzwang (though he must avoid the last trick, which is 7...Rxf6 8.Kxf6. 8.Nxf6 is stalemate), and cannot move anywhere without losing the Rook, 1-0, as the space and force advantages the two pieces created lead to a decisive material advantage. The final position is shown below.



I want to show you a game that I played recently.

Zach Calderon (1536) – Gordon Magat (2014)
Sicilian Defense

1.e4 c5 2. c4 Nc6 3. Nc3 e6 4. g3 Nf6 5. d3 d5 6. Bg2

d4 7. Nce2 e5 8. f4 Bd6 9. Nf3 0-0 10. 0-0 Bg4 11. h3 Bxf3 12. Rxf3 Nh5 13. Kh2 f5?

This was a mistake, trying to open the position too soon. He didn't calculate it out fully. After some consideration I played

14. exf5! exf4 15. g4!

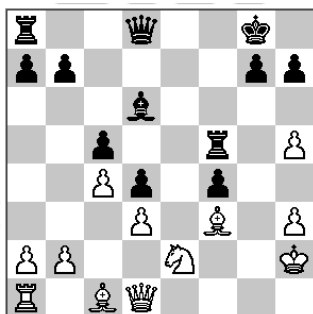
The move he missed. White is undoubtedly better now.

15...Ne5?

Offering me the two pieces for my Rook, which I gladly accepted.

16. gxh4! Nxf3 16. Bxf3 Rxf5.

Materialistically speaking we are even, however, the position does not suggest that.



White has doubled isolated pawns on the Kingside, and the King would normally be exposed here. However, the pawns are helping out a great deal on the Kingside, seeing Black's lack of minor pieces. He has no way to effectively attack the pesky h5 pawn since he has no light-squared Bishop. The only way to is to play ...g6, but that would expose Black's King too much, seeing as White still has his Rook and Queen ready for action on the g-file.

Though generally not a good blockading piece, White's light-squared Bishop is a very effective blockade and defensive piece in this position. It defends the h5 pawn that blunts Black's attacking chances, it blocks Black's passed f-pawn, and cannot be easily removed because Black neither has a Knight nor a light-squared Bishop to attack it. Black's f-pawn is advanced, but actually gets in the way of his other pieces.

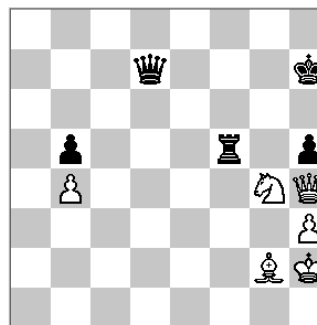
The other pieces can help also. If the pawn moves to h4, the Knight can play Ng1-h3-g5 and join the attack. Also, b4 can be played at any time to try to undermine Black's center, and h5-h6 is always lingering, threatening to rip open his position. Also, if White can get his King off the same diagonal as the Bishop, the light-squared Bishop can join the fight, and if the f4 pawn ever moved then the dark-squared Bishop is in

on the party.

17. Qg1 Rg5 18. Qf2 Qc7

At this point the game finished in a time scramble, but White has the initiative and positioned his pieces to attack the Black King. 18...Qc7 adds another piece to a blocked diagonal, and does nothing to expand the attack.

Let me show you one more example with Sokolov-Petrov. The position from their game is shown below.



Here White is dominating the position. Black played here

1...Qc7+ 2. Qg3

offering the trade of Queens, but Black declines it.

2...Qe7 3. Qd3 Qg5 4. Qxf5+!

And Black resigned, since

4...Qxf5 5. Be4 Qxe4 6. Nf6+

and the Queen is lost.

Positional strengths in this case end up creating tactical strengths. As White's position has few weaknesses, there simply aren't many ways for Black's Queen and Rook to create an attack. It is much easier for White to overload an attack on Black's pawns or create a fork which leaves him a piece up with the rest of the pieces gone.

That just shows you how the two pieces will dominate a lone Rook just about any day. Their combined flexibility and ability to get in and out of places will easily out-manuever a Rook. So, basically, if you are faced with the choice to take the rook for the two pieces, don't do it! The two pieces are a lot better.

Western New York Chess News

The 5th Annual Mayor's Cup Chess Championship is now in the books, having been held in the Queen City on June 3rd through 5th. Fourteen players participated in the FIDE-rated Open section for the Mayor's Cup Trophy. Visiting players from Nevada and Illinois came to join in the summer festival kickoff in Buffalo, the gateway to international chess.

Despite the strong out-of-town presence, it was local IM Dr. Kenneth Regan that won the section with a 6-1 score, along with fellow New York IM Mladen Vucic. Regan beat Vucic in their individual game in the third round, but then conceded a draw in round five to Expert Kevin Gafni and he took a half-point sixth-round bye. Sam Copeland, another area player, was clear third with 4 ½ points in the seven-round event. He lost only to both IM's, and had a draw with the Nevada-based Gafni. Long-time Buffalo Expert Marijan Procyk and Harish Srinivasan tied for fourth with 4-3 scores in the closely-contested event.

The Jeff White Under 1500 Memorial was held alongside the main tournament, and the eight-player section was won by James Paul with an undefeated 4-1 score. Paul won his first three games, and then drew second-place finisher Ryan Palmisano in the fourth round and fourth-place finisher James Davis to end the tournament top of the table by half a point.

The tournaments were organized by the Arcangel 8 Chess Academy and directed by Michael McDuffie.

The results from the 2011 Bill Zachary Memorial Classic, held on Armed Forces Day, May 21, are as follows.

In the Zachary Open section, where 12 players participated has a new Champion, Expert Barry Davis takes the new crown by himself with 3 ½ points, drawing second-place finisher NM Lionel Davis in the third round. Lionel Davis drew the third-prize winner Sam Copeland in the last round to drop out of the first-place tie. Under 1900 winners were Thomas Warner and Justin Craddock, both of whom finished in the third-place tie with Copeland at 2 ½ points.

The results of the Urban Queens section playing in honor of Armed Forces Day, had eight players participate. The Champion was Ruby Soudant, with

Corey K. Spencer placing second,, Alexis Schlaak finishing third . Highlights from tournament play was Kindergartener Alexis Schlaak defeated Champion Soudant with a discovered check move and also won her Queen.

In the Zachary K-12 section had seven players participate. The results are undefeated Champion Karl White with a perfect 5-0 score. Kevin Roulhac was clear second with 4-1, losing only to White. James Lyon, and James Hampton tied for third with 3-2 scores. The Zachary Under 1500 section had six players, with James Davis sweeping the section with a 4-0 score and gaining enough rating points to get over 1500. James Paul was clear second with 2 ½ points.

We want to give a special thanks to the volunteer parents who helped with lunch and taking pictures for our chess archives.

Copeland Conquers Sardinia

In his first time in Sardinia, expert Sam Copeland (2088) won all three games in a strong field to win the Sardinia tournament last Saturday. Sam defeated Ryan Madden, Don Hoak, and Chris Darling, who had upset Pat Patterson in round one. There were 15 players in this tournament, of which seven were rated over 1700! This was the strongest tournament ever held in Sardinia. Madden, Patterson, Darling, Garrett Thompson and newcomer Drew Tuck all tied for second with 2-1 scores.

In the nine-player round-robin Scholastic section, Wes Darling won six games to take the trophy. Max Tell finished second with five wins. Tom Warner directed the monthly event for the Sardinia Chess Club.

DARK KNIGHTS WIN 2ND NATIONAL SCHOLASTIC HS TEAM TROPHY



The East High School Dark Knights Chess team were successful and earned their second National High School Championship Under 800 Trophy. The Dark

Knights finished 20th in the nation out of 37 teams, only the Top 25 teams earn a trophy.

The five team members results were as follows; James Hampton finished with 3 ½ points, Karl D. White finished with 3 points in the Under 1200 section, Joshua Hampton finished with 3 points, Jonathan Boone finished with 3 points, and Justin Arrington finished with 2 points. The USCF staff interviewed all the Dark Knights and invited them to visit the National Office before heading back to Buffalo.

The picture below shows Michael McDuffie with Susan Houston and former Empire Chess editor Alan Kantor at the National High School. Pictures are courtesy of Buffalo Niagara Chess Corner.



Meanwhile in Rochester, the normal cycle of chess continues. The Rochester Chess Center, the center of the chess community in the Flower City for over 20 years, continues all year with its series of lessons, camps, tournaments and other chess activities.

FM Igor Nikolayev, a mainstay of the Center, won the 14-player June 4th weekly tournament with a perfect 3-0 score. Five players tied for second in the closely-contested event: Expert Matt Slomski, Meghesh Pansari, Joshua Rorano, John Manning and Doug Spencer. Api Tharmalingam won the Youth section in the Ron Lohrman directed tournament with four points. The 14-player May 28 event was won by Stephen Dygert and Abraham Glasser with 2 ½ points. They drew in the last round after winning the first two games. Matt Slomski, Derek Linton, Meghesh Pansari, Keith Kerrigan and Peter Agoe all tied for second with 2-1 scores. Api Tharmalingam won the Youth section with five points. Ron Lohrman directed.

Abraham Glasser won the May 21 tournament with 2 ½ points. Glasser's victory in the 10-player Open section was unusual in that he gave up a draw to last-place finisher Richard Motroni in the first round, and then won two straight while other players were beating each other in the tournament. Rochester veteran player Sherman Cunningham, John Manning and Joshua Rofrano tied for second with two points. Glasser beat Rofrano in the final round to leapfrog into first. Anoop Sunkara swept the Youth section with three points in the Ron Lohrman directed event.

Along with the regular weekly tournaments, the Chess Center also hosts monthly Jenifer Woods Memorial Grand Prix events. It is possible to earn a Grand Prix class prize playing primarily out of Western New York.

In an upset in the June 11 event, Expert Stephen Dygert swept the field with a 4-0 score, upsetting FM Igor Nikolayev in the third round. Nikolayev was clear second in the 10-player Grand Prix section with a 3-1 score, and Derek Linton was clear third with 2 ½ points in the four-round event.

The May 9 tournament was won by FM Igor Nikolayev with 3 ½ points, with a draw to FM Isay Golyak in the last round being the only nick on the FM's record. Golyak, Derek Linton and Ryan Madden all tied for second with 3-1 scores in the 14-player Open section, with Golyak going undefeated. Api Tharmalingam and Agathya Visveswaran tied for first in the Youth section with two points in the Mike Lioni directed event.

Nikolayev also won the April 9 tournament with 3 ½ points, drawing FM and former World Senior Champion Isay Golyak in the third round. While Golyak took a half-point bye to end the tournament, Nikolayev beat Keith Kerrigan to win the title outright. Ben Dean-Kawamura and Golyak tied for second with three points in the 12-player Open section. Ethan Yung was the top class finisher with two points.

Wendell Lambert won the eight-player Youth section with a 3-1 score, losing to Leonid Solodov in the third round. Ethan Celli and Solodov tied for second with 2-2 scores in the closely-contested event that was directed by Ron Lohrman with assistance from Mike Lioni.

News from the Marshall (including the New York International)

The Marshall Chess Club was the organizer of June's New York International at St. John's University, the strongest chess tournament held in New York City in several years. In its fourth year, the event was held at the TriBeCa campus of St. John's in Manhattan. The tournament drew 163 players for its nine-round, five-day format, including 69 in the Championship.

IM Robert Hungaski of Connecticut (2550) won the tournament and \$5,000 in impressive fashion with an undefeated 8-1 score, besting New York GM Jaan Ehlvest by 1 ½ points and earning his second GM norm in the process. Hungaski only conceded draws in the fifth round to New York IM Salvijus Bercys and in round six to Ehlvest. The march to the title included victories over Uzbek GM Timur Gareyev in round 3, former U.S. Champions Sergey Kudrin in round 7, and Alexander Shabalov in round 9. With the tournament and GM norm clinched, Hungaski beat SM Parker Zhao in the last round.

In a world where ratings generally move very slowly, Hungaski gained 72 USCF rating points, from 2550 to 2622, in this one event. The expected FIDE jump is 35 points. In his warm-up tournament earlier in June, Hungaski went 3-2 in the Fairfield County Masters (though one of the losses was to GM Joel Benjamin). This burst was simply unexpected, with the only other time Hungaski had gained 72 points in one event being the US Open in 2001. It looks like a star was born on the world's largest stage. Here is one of Hungaski's wins, courtesy of Chess Life Online:

New York International, St. John's University
Round Eight
White: Hungaski, Robert
Black: Shabalov, Alexander
King's Indian Defense

**#1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nf3 Bg7 4.g3 O-O 5.Bg2 d6 6.O-O
Nc6 7.Nc3 Bf5 8.d5 Na5 9.Nd2 c5 10.e4 Bd7 11.Qc2 e5
12.b3 Ng4 13.h3 Nh6 14.Bb2 f5 15.f4 exf4 16.Rxf4 Bd4+
17.Kh1 g5 18.Rff1 g4 19.Ne2 gxh3 20.Bxh3 f4
21.Nxd4 cxd4 22.Qd3 Bxh3 23.Qxd4 Qg5
24.Qh8+ Kf7 25.Rxf4+ Ke7 26.Qxh7+ Ke8 27.Nf3 Qh5
28.Rxf8+ Kxf8 29.Nh4 Ke8 30.Bf6 1-0**

GM Ehlvest was clear second with 6 ½ points, and was undefeated for the tournament with four wins and five draws, winning \$2,500 in the process. The rating reward for his effort, including a 3-2 score against top-eight players? Five USCF points. They are tough to come by above 2600. Ehlvest's one win against the top eight, an eighth-round victory over IM Bercys, was the catalyst to a clear second place in a very difficult event. Ten players tied for third with 6-3 scores: GM Gareyev, GM Shabalov, GM Kurdin, IM Bercys, IM Yury Lapshun, Indian GM Kidambi Sundararajan, Texas FM Darwin Yang, French IM Colomban Vitoux, IM Mackenzie Molner and SM Parker Zhao. Zhao, at 2452 entering the tournament, was the lowest-rated of this group, and a draw with Hungaski in the last round would have propelled him to the second spot. Vitoux was undefeated, though he took two half-point byes during the event, concluding his played games with three wins and four draws.

IM Dean Ippolito of New Jersey headed a group of four with 5 ½ points which also included Bulgarian IM Vladimir Romanenko, New York junior player NM Kassa Korley, who earned his first IM norm, and NM Steve Barrett. New York scholastic star Aleksandr Ostrovskiy also earned his first IM norm with a 5-4 score. Ostrovskiy defeated last year's champions, Indian GM Pantela Harikrishna, in the first round (FIDE 2666) and followed that up with a victory over IM Yury Lapshun in round two, a very impressive performance.

New York Expert Andras Erdei won the Under 2200 section with a 7 ½-1 ½ score, going undefeated by winning his first six games and drawing the last three. Erdei returned to the Master class with the victory. Five players tied for second with 6 ½ points. Oscar Tan, a long-time New York Master who recently fell to the Expert class, had the most interesting trip with two straight losses in the third and fourth rounds leaving him at 2-2. Four straight wins, followed by a last-round draw, brought him into the second group. Jake Miller, Payam Parhami and Jason Margiotta of New York, along with Maryland Expert Curtis Winter, completed the group. Eigen Wang, Benjamin Katz and Pennsylvania Expert Jessica Regam tied for seventh with 6-3 scores. Sixty-two players participated in the section.

Oleg Shevelenko won the 40-player Under 1800 section with an impressive 8 ½ points, only conceding a last-round draw to long-time New York chess coach

Jabari McGreen to secure his \$2,000 prize. Shevelenko gained 130 points in the tournament, not only breaking 1800 but skipping the 1800 class altogether with a post-rating of 1916. Maryland's David Steinberg and New Jersey's Meanu Abaskharoun tied for second with 6 ½-2 ½ scores, drawing in the last round against each other. McGreen (who also became an A-player), Aigboje Aregbeyen and Nowell Sheinwald tied for fourth with 6-3. McGreen notably drew the three players ahead of him.

The New York International was organized by the Marshall Chess Club, and Dr. Frank Brady's long-time connection with St. John's University paid major dividends in the running of the New York International. The tournament was directed by Dr. Marcus Fenner with assistance from Matthew Morales.

While the New York International was going on, the Marshall also managed to contest the June edition of the Marshall Masters as regularly scheduled. Among the 18 participants, several of them were also participants in the International, proof that it simply isn't possible to get enough chess. Georgian GM Tamaz Gelashvili won the Masters with 3 ½ points, drawing fellow Georgian GM Mikheil Kekelidze in the third round. Memphis IM Jake Kleiman, the indefatigable IM Jay Bonin and Maryland SM Alex Barnett tied for second with three points. Barnett touched the 2400 level for the first time with his result. Kleiman and Bonin were undefeated. James Frawley directed for the Marshall.

Gelashvili also tied for first the 22-player May Marshall Masters, held on May 17th at the world-famous club with 3 ½ points. This month's draw was to a different Georgian GM, Giorgi Kacheishvili, in the last round of the tournament, allowing both players to share top honors. New Jersey GM Alexander Stripunsky, IM Irina Krush and GM Mikheil Kekelidze tied for third with 3-1 scores. Stripunsky and Krush lost to Gelashvili. James Frawley directed for the Marshall.

IM Irina Krush put the crush on the opposition with a perfect 4-0 score in the April 12 version of the Marshall Masters. GM's Tamaz Gelashvili and Mikheil Kekelidze and IM Vladimir Romanenko tied for second with 3-1 scores. Krush's defeat of Gelashvili in round two turned out to be decisive. The other two players were undefeated, with two wins and two draws. James Frawley directed for the Marshall.

Capital Region News

by Bill Townsend

In the Spring, chess in the Capital District is primarily about two things, the Capital District League, and the free Scholastic tournaments. However, before I get to those, I have a little unfinished business.

In my last report I had the results of the championships of the three major clubs, but Saratoga wasn't quite finished yet. Now I have the complete results. In the eight-player round robin, Steve Taylor scored a perfect 7-0. Bill Little and Jonathan Feinberg tied for second with 5½-1½, Gary Farrell and Alan LeCours tied for fourth with 3½-3½. Lee Battes and Jeff Hrebenach tied for sixth with 2-5, and David Connors was eighth with 1-6.

Running alongside the Schenectady Chess Club Championship finals was the Consolation Swiss which was open to all the players not in the final section. The eight-player tournament concluded on March 24 with new club member David Finnerman totally dominating the field with a perfect 5-0 score. Cory Northrup was clear second with 4-1. Matt Clough was clear third with 3-2, also winning the prize for best player under 1400. Jeff Capitummino and Michael Klein tied for fourth with 2½-1½.

As the local club championships drew to a close, the Capital District Chess League matches began. Just like last year there are eight teams: two from Saratoga, two from Schenectady, two from Albany and two from Troy: the Uncle Sam Chess Club and RPI. This year the league had some quite surprising twists and turns, with the outcome in doubt right up to the very last match, which has yet to be played, as of this writing.

With the reformation of the Albany Area Chess Club, last year's "Guilderland" team became Albany B. They played their first match, the first of the entire season, on February 14 when they faced the Uncle Sam Club in Troy. Although missing a member, Uncle Sam put up a good fight, with Phil Thomas managing to score an upset win on board one. The players, with Albany B on the left:

1. John Morse 0, Phil Thomas 1
2. Peter Henner 1, Elihue Hill 0
3. Arthur Alowitz 1, Sylvester Canty 0

4. Kenneth Rossman 1, forfeit 0

For the third year in a row the Engineers of RPI are fielding a team. Things are a little more difficult for them than for other teams: they have a definite deadline. Their matches have to be finished by the time finals begin in May. Happily, they completed all their matches in very short order. They played their first match on February 28 when they faced fellow Trojans the Uncle Sam Club at home, losing 3-1. Again there was another first board upset as RPI's Carlos Varela managed to topple Odunayo Ogundipe. The results, with Uncle Sam on the left:

1. Odunayo Ogundipe 0, Carlos Varela 1
2. Phil Thomas 1, Brian Furtado 0
3. Elihue Hill 1, Maximilian Katz 0
4. Sylvester Canty 1, Ronald Adomako 0

For the last few years the second team from the Schenectady Chess Club, recognizing their wide experience over the chessboard, have called themselves the Schenectady Geezers. They played their first match on March 10 at home against RPI, winning 3½-½. The individual scores, with the Geezers on the left:

1. Mike Mockler 1, Carlos Varela 0
2. John Phillips 1, Brian Furtado 0
3. Richard Chu ½, Maximilian Katz ½
4. William Montross 1, Ronald Adomako 0

Throughout the 21-year history of the league the winning team has always been the stronger team of one of the three big clubs: Saratoga, Albany and Schenectady, and nearly always these teams take the top three spots. However, none of these teams are invincible, as was proved on March 22 when the Saratoga A team suffered an upset draw against the Uncle Sam club, 2-2. The board by board results, with Uncle Sam on the left:

1. Odunayo Ogundipe 1, Gordon Magat 0
2. Phil Thomas 1, Gary Farrell 0
3. Elihue Hill 0, Alan LeCours 1
4. Sylvester Canty 0, Yakov Dadashev 1

The Albany A team, the most frequent league champion, played its first match at home against RPI on March 23, and they whitewashed the Engineers, 4-0. The players, with Albany on the left:

1. Dean Howard 1, Carlos Varela 0
2. Tim Wright 1, Brian Furtado 0
3. Jonathan Lack 1, Maximilian Katz 0

4. Glen Perry 1, Ronald Adomako 0

On March 27 the Saratoga team, a perennial league leader, barely squeaked by against tailender RPI, 2½-1½. The highlight for the engineers was the stunning upset on board two with Brian Furtado (1556) beating Gordon Magat (2001). The players, with Saratoga A on the left:

1. Jonathan Feinberg ½, Carlos Varela ½
2. Gordon Magat 0, Brian Furtado 1
3. Gary Farrell 1, Maximilian Katz 0
4. Alan LeCours 1, Ronald Adomako 0

Speaking of upsets, the previous week Troy's Uncle Sam club hit Saratoga A for an upset draw, and on March 29 they did the same to defending league champions Schenectady A. Both the Saratoga and Schenectady A teams being nicked for draws is nothing but good news for the Albany A team. The board by board results with Uncle Sam on the left:

1. Phil Ferguson ½, Philip Sells ½
2. Phil Thomas ½, John Barnes ½
3. Elihue Hill 0, Bill Townsend 1
4. Sylvester Canty 1, Dilip Aaron 0

The following day the Albany B team had a close call against RPI, winning by the slimmest of margins, 2½-1½. The individual games, with Albany B on the left:

1. Peter Henner 1, Carlos Varela 0
2. Art Alowitz 1, Brian Furtado 0
3. Jared Gonzalez ½, Maximilian Katz ½
4. Kenneth Rossman 0, Yonatan Naamad 1

The RPI team has been playing their matches as quickly as possible to avoid conflicts with vacations and finals, so they played a match the following day against Schenectady A, losing this one 4-0. The players, with home team Schenectady A on the left:

1. Patrick Chi 1, Carlos Varela 0
2. Philip Sells 1, Brian Furtado 0
3. John Barnes 1, Maximilian Katz 0
4. Bill Townsend 1, Ronald Adomako 0

At the same time, and in the same place, the Uncle Sam club played against the Schenectady Geezers team. The Troy team lost 3-1, not helped by the fact that their first board was missing. The results, with the Geezers on the left:

1. Mike Mockler 1, forfeit 0
2. John Phillips 1, Phil Thomas 0
3. Richard Chu 1, Elihue Hill 0
4. William Montross 0, Sylvester Canty 1

So far every team has played at least one match, with one exception: Saratoga B. The team was having a little crisis of leadership: last year's captain, Peter Sparagna, was not available to do the job this year, and was unable to inform the league director until the league was well under way. This left the team in limbo, until Schenectady's David Finnerman offered to take over the job. Finnerman was looking to play on a team, but there didn't seem to be any open spots so he resourcefully made his own. He then staffed the team with other players in a similar position, making a team that had players from all three of the large local clubs. While lower-rated, these players were generally young and hungry, bringing a fighting element to the league. Finnerman was also aggressive about getting his matches played: all seven of them were completed in a little over a month.

The first of them took place on April 3, with the Saratoga B team losing to the Saratoga B team, 3-1. The players, with Saratoga A on the left:

1. Jonathan Feinberg 1, David Finnerman 0
2. Gordon Magat 1, David Connors 0
3. Gary Farrell 1, Cory Northrup 0
4. Alan LeCours 0, Jason Denham 1

On April 5 the Albany A team travelled to Troy to play the Uncle Sam club, emerging victorious 3-1. The board by board results with Albany A on the left:

1. Dean Howard 1, Odunayo Ogundipe 0
2. Jon Leisner 1, Phil Thomas 0
3. Tim Wright 1, Elihue Hill 0
4. Jonathan Lack 0, Sylvester Canty 1

On April 10, Albany B traveled to play the Saratoga A team, and were overwhelmed, 3½-½. The individual games, with Saratoga A on the left:

1. Steve Taylor 1, John Morse 0
2. Jonathan Feinberg ½, Peter Henner ½
3. Gordon Magat 1, Kenneth Rossman 0
4. Gary Farrell 1, Charles Eson 0

The Uncle Sam club played its last match of the season

when it hosted Saratoga B team on April 12, with the Troy players winning, 3-1. The sole bright spot for Saratoga B was Matt Clough's win on board two. The players, with Uncle Sam on the left:

1. Odunayo Ogundipe 1, David Finnerman 0
2. Phil Thomas 0, Matthew Clough 1
3. Elihue Hill 1, Jason Denham 0
4. Sylvester Canty 1, Bill Greenleaf 0

Saratoga B and RPI played on April 13, and the result was a 2-2 tie, which finally put both teams above zero match wins. The results, with Saratoga B on the left:

1. David Finnerman 0, Carlos Varela 1
2. Matthew Clough 0, Brian Furtado 1
3. Cory Northrup 1, Maximilian Katz 0
4. Jason Denham 1, Yonatan Naamad 0

The following day Saratoga A travelled to play the Schenectady A team, losing 3½-½, although team captain Finnerman managed to steal a half point from Schenectady champion Patrick Chi. The individual games, with Schenectady on the left:

1. Patrick Chi ½, David Finnerman ½
2. Philip Sells 1, Matthew Clough 0
3. John Barnes 1, Cory Northrup 0
4. Dilip Aaron 1, Jason Denham 0

Having directed the league for a number of years I'm used to seeing the matches develop in a fairly predictable pattern. The primary teams from Albany, Schenectady and Saratoga take the first three places, with Schenectady B (called the "Geezers") nearly always coming in fourth. This year, however, things have taken a surprising twist, and for the first time in 20 years another team may finish on top of the leaderboard.

Another predictable phenomenon: for some reason, the top three teams seem to save their matches with each other until the end. It could be mutual respect, or fear, or the fact that players are busy with club championships until later in the Spring.

The intrepid Saratoga B team traveled to play Albany A on April 20, with Albany finishing on top, 3½-½. The players, with Albany A on the left:

1. Dean Howard 1, David Finnerman 0
2. Timothy Wright 1, Matt Clough 0
3. Jon Lack 1, Cory Northrup 0

4. Glen Perry ½, Jason Denham ½
 A week later they made the trip again, this time to play the Albany B team. Once again Jason Denham was the only bright spot for Saratoga team, which lost 3-1. The individual games, with Albany B on the left:

1. John Morse 1, David Finnerman 0
2. Peter Henner 1, Matt Clough 0
3. Arthur Alowitz 1, Cory Northrup 0
4. Kenneth Rossman 0, Jason Denham 1

Now comes the shocker. Defending champions Schenectady A played the Schenectady Geezers on April 28, and suffered an upset loss, 2½-1½. Board three was quickly decided for the Geezers in a very short game, then Patrick Chi won on first board, evening up the match again. Philip Sells was clearly winning against John Phillips, who is looking more and more like a problem opponent for him. Sells was unable to pull off his usual time trouble magic and had to be content with a draw. All eyes then turned to the game on board four, a see-saw, knock down, drag out fight, eventually won by the Geezers. For the full story see below. The results, with the Geezers on the left:

1. Michael Mockler 0, Patrick Chi 1
2. John Phillips ½, Philip Sells ½
3. Bill Little 1, John Barnes 0
4. Richard Chu 1, Dilip Aaron 0

Dilip Aaron, the junior member of the Schenectady A team, is a rapidly improving scholastic player with chess in his blood: his brother Deepak is a former New York State High School Champion, his father is an expert and his grandfather, Manuel Aaron, was the first titled chess player (International Master) in all of Asia. Richard Chu, on the other hand, has been president of the Schenectady Chess Club for over 20 years, and has had widely varying results. I've seen him make some terrible moves, but he is a player of great resourcefulness – even in a very bad position he is always looking for a way to turn the tables and win. He also plays rather fast so in long games he is nearly always ahead on the clock, and that serves him well here.

Dilip Aaron (1726) – Richard Chu (1652) [B06] Pirc/Modern Capital District League Schenectady A vs. Schenectady Geezers, board 4 Schenectady, NY, April 28, 2011

1.e4 d6 2.d4 g6

The Pirc/Modern Defense. Richard isn't a player who concentrates on the openings, so I think he plays whatever he feels like at the moment. Recently he's been favoring the Sicilian, so this is something of a surprise. In fact, looking back at my records, the only other game of his I have with this opening was played back in 1995.

3.Nf3 Bg7 4.Be3 Nd7 5.Nc3 Ngf6 6.Qd2

The move order that the players are using is a little odd. White usually plays 6.h3 first to avoid the awkwardness of 6...Ng4. Richard's ...Nd7 is not often seen in this opening either.

6...0-0 7.h3 e5

Not a bad move exactly, but I don't think Black shutting in his dark squared Bishop is in the spirit of the variation. Most often seen here is 7...c6.

8.d5 b6 9.g4 Nc5 10.Bxc5 bxc5 11.g5?!

Loosening, and it drives the Knight to the fine outpost at f4.

11...Nh5 12.0-0-0 a5 13.Be2 Ba6?!

Trading light-squared bishops only favors White.

14.Bxa6 Rxa6 15.Qe2?! Rb6 16.a4 f5! 17.gxf6 Qxf6 18.Nd2 Qxf2 19.Qxf2 Rxf2 20.Nc4 Ra6?

An awkward way to defend the a-pawn since it puts the Rook out of play. Better is 20...Bh6+ 21.Kb1 Rb4 22.Nxa5 Ng3.

21.Rdf1 Rxf1+ 22.Rxf1 Nf4 23.Nb5 c6 24.dxc6 Rxc6 25.Nbxd6 Bh6 26.Kb1?

White misses the cute tactical play 26.Nf7! Bg7 (26...Kxf7? 27.Nxe5+ loses) 27.Ncxe5 Rf6 28.Kb1 with complex play, but White is a pawn up.

26...Bg5? 27.Rh1?

It's much better to keep the Rook active with 27.Rf3.

27...Bd8 28.Nb7 Bf6 29.Nbxa5 Ra6 30.b3 Kf7 31.Nb7 Ne6 32.Rf1

Better is 32.Rd1 with the idea of Rd5.

32...Ke7 33.Nbd6 Rc6 34.Nf7!

Very clever. The knight is immune because 34...Kxf7? loses to 35.Nxe5.*

34...Ng5 35.Nxg5 Bxg5 36.Nxe5 Re6

White is now two pawns ahead, so the game seems like a slam dunk for him, but here is where we start to see Richard's real strength: he never gives up.

37.Nd3 c4 38.Nc5 Rb6 39.Rd1 cxb3 40.Nxb3 Rb4 41.Re1?

Again, White de-activates his rook. Of course better is 41.Rd4. This essentially puts Black back in the game.

41...Rxa4 42.Kb2 Rc4 43.c3 Bf4 44.Re2 Be5 45.Re3 g5 46.Kc2 h5!

When I saw this I thought "Uh oh...". Making a passed pawn is a natural idea for Black, and surprisingly effective. Probably 46.Nc2 would have been a better

idea for White.

47.Nd2 Ra4 48.Kb3 Ra1 49.Rd3 Rc1 50.Nf3 Bf4 51.Rd5 g4 52.hxg4

Better is 52.Ne5 and now Black has to find 52...Rb1+ 53.Kc2 Rc1+ 54.Kb2 Rf1 55.hxg4 hxg4 56.Nxg4 and he has some drawing chances, but things don't look good for him.

52...hxg4 53.Nh4?

53.Ne5 is better.

53...Ke6! 54.Nf5 Be5 55.Rd3 Rg1 56.Kc4 g3 57.Nxg3?

Of course White is right to be nervous about the g-pawn, but this is going too far. Instead after 57.Nd4+! the game is probably drawn, but Black has to play carefully. 57...Bxd4 58.Kxd4 Kf6 (Even 58...g2 seems to draw after 59.Rd2) 59.Ke3, etc.

57...Bxg3 58.Rd8 Be1 59.Rd1 Ke5 60.Rd4 Bf2 61.Rd2 Bb6 62.Re2 Rg8 63.Kb5 Rb8 64.c4 Bd4+ 65.Kc6 Ke6 66.Rd2 Rb6+?

This should allow White to force a draw.

67.Kc7 Bc5 68.Rd5 Be3 69.c5?

White can simply force a draw here by chasing the Bishop around forever: 69.Rd3 Bf2 70.Rd2, etc.

69...Rb3 70.c6??

A time-trouble blunder that should lose on the spot. The game is drawn after 70.Rd6+ Ke7 71.Rd5, etc.

70...Bf4+ 71.e5 Bxe5+?

White can resign after 71...Kxd5.

72.Rxe5+ Kxe5 73.Kd8 Rd3+ 74.Ke7 Rh3 75.c7 Rh7+ 76.Kd8 Kd6 77.c8/N+

This really should be drawn, but the fact that White's King is up against the edge of the board makes it harder for him, not to mention the fact he has almost no time left.

77...Kc6 78.Ne7+ Kd6 79.Nc8+ Ke6 80.Nb6 Rb7 81.Nc4?

81.Nc8 Rd7+ 82.Ke8 and White is still fighting. Basically once the Knight moves away from the King, White runs into trouble.

81...Rb5?

Black, also short of time, lets the Knight slip away again: 81...Rb3 82.Na5 Rb5 83.Nc6 Kd6 wins for him.

82.Kc7??

The last straw. 82.Ne3 saves the piece, but White may well lose on time.

82...Rc5+ 0-1

To add to the air of unreality, on May 4 the Albany A team, perennial champions, were upended by their own B team, 3-1. What seems to have made the difference for Albany B was the addition of Kavana Mallanna on board three. As hard as this may be to believe, I'm

pretty sure that Ms. Mallanna is the first woman to play in the League since its founding in 1991. It's not like women are excluded: this area just seems to have a dearth of female players. The board by board results, with Albany B on the left:

1. John Morse 0, Dean Howard 1
2. Peter Henner 1, Tim Wright 0
3. Kavana Mallanna 1, Jon Lack 0
4. Arthur Alowitz 1, Robert Kemp 0

Here is a table showing the league standings, using only the results reported here so far. The Uncle Sam and RPI teams have finished their schedule, Saratoga B has one match left, while the "A" teams of Albany, Schenectady and Saratoga all have three outstanding matches. The first number after the team name is number of match points, the second is number of games won, which is the first tiebreak.

1. Albany B 4, 12
2. Saratoga A 3½, 11
3. Uncle Sam 3, 13
4. Albany A 3, 11½
5. Schenectady Geezers 3, 9
6. Schenectady A 2½, 11
7. RPI ½, 6½
8. Saratoga B ½, 6

Growing in popularity are the monthly Make the Right Move free scholastic tournaments run by Brother John McManus. Not only are more youngsters showing up to play in these events, but there is now a sizable adult contingent in the "All Welcome" section.

The third Make the Right Move Tournament of 2011, the 51st overall, was held on March 5 at the Martin Luther King Magnet School on Stanley Street in Schenectady. Overall 86 players competed in the seven sections, many of them playing in their first tournament. The "All Welcome" section, open to players of all ages and ratings, was won by Carlos Varela with a perfect 4-0 record. In second and third place with 3-1 were Norman Randolph and Millard Roscoe. Fourth through seventh with 2-2 were: Zachary Calderon, Paul Wilson, William Matters and Frank Munroe.

The top-rated scholastic section also featured a perfect score at the top as Koushik Pernati won all four of his games. George Ladouceur was clear second with 3-1. Third through fifth with 2-2 were: Sai Chilukoori,

Nitin Obla and Anvesh Mateti. Vermont's Nova Wang won the section for players rated under 900, also with a perfect 4-0 score. Vignesh Pernati and Jonathan D'Alonzo were second and third with 3-1. Adam Carr was clear fourth with 2½-1½ and Kyle Matters was fifth with 2-2.

There was yet another perfect score atop the Under-600 section as Mariel Calderon went 4-0. Second through fourth with 3-1 were: Shreyas Raman, Josh Sigsby and Deepti Aaron. In clear fifth was Maxfield Lindner with 2½-1½. The top unrated section was won by Keeshwan Persaud with 3½-½. Second through fourth with 3-1 were: Kumarie Persaud, Nasiah Trantham and Curtis Farmer. Incidentally, Trantham was the only player to draw section winner Keeshwan Persaud, and was the only other undefeated player in the section.

As usual the unrated section for grades three through five was the largest, and that was won by Philip Anderson with a perfect 4-0 score. Keeshma Singh was clear second with 3½-½. Third through fifth with 3-1 were: Narra Saathvik, Dylan Lonergan and Sandeep Alampalli. Sixth through eighth with 2½-1½ were: Varshar Persaud, Alexander Wyche and Mierre Henderson. Finally the unrated section for players in grades two and below was won by Stelin Poola with a 3½-½ score. Second through fourth with 3-1 were: Atharv Agashe, McCready Kearney and Goran Cabuhat.

Unsurprisingly, the top team by a large margin was Martin Luther King Magnet School, the host school, with 13½ points. Second and third with 9 were Menands and East Greenbush.

The 52nd Make the Right Move free scholastic chess tournament was held on April 2 at the New York State Museum in Albany. Overall 122 players competed in the seven sections, which I believe is a new record for these events.

In the "All Welcome" section Bill Matters was the surprise winner with 3½-½, beating out several higher-rated players. Second through fourth with 3-1 were: Ernest Johnson, Ken Evans and Koushik Pernati. Fifth through seventh with 2½-1½ were: John Scanlon, Carlos Varela and Zachary Calderon.

Here is the game that was played on board one in the final round. This draw between Ernie Johnson and

Kingston's Ken Evans allowed Bill Matters to clinch first place by winning his game.

**Ernest Johnson (1995) – Ken Evans (1813) [A26]
English Opening
Make the Right Move #52, round 4
Albany, NY, April 2, 2011**

**1.c4 Nf6 2.Nc3 g6 3.g3 Bg7 4.Bg2 d6 5.Nf3 e5 6.d3
Nc6 7.Rb1 0-0 8.b4 Nd4 9.e3 Nxf3+ 10.Bxf3 c6 11.0-0
Ne8 12.b5 Bd7 13.a4 f5 14.Qc2 Rc8 15.Bd2 Nf6
16.bxc6 bxc6 17.Rb7 Rc7 18.Rfb1 Bc8 19.Rb8 Qe7
20.Ne2 d5 21.Bb4 c5 22.Ba5 Rd7 23.cxd5 e4 24.dxe4
fxe4 25.Bg2 Rxd5 26.Nf4 Rd6 27.Bc3 ½-½**

Here the players agreed to a draw. There is still plenty of play left in the position, but since both players were down to less than five minutes, they wanted to avoid the game being decided by a blunder. I would say that White is a little better in the final position, but Black has 27...g5!, which looks pretty strong.

George Ladouceur won the top rated section with a perfect 4-0 score. Sumanth Gajjala was second with 3-1 while Michael Zhou and Nova Wang were third and fourth with 2-2. There was a traffic jam atop the section for players rated under 900 with four players finishing with 3-1. In tiebreak order they were: Jonathan D'Alonzo, Nitin Obla, Joseph D'Alonzo and Mauricio Hollis. Adam Carr was clear fifth with 2½-1½.

Joshua Venezia-Kamen was the clear winner in the Under-600 rated section with a perfect 4-0 score. Gowtham Puviararsu was clear second with 3½-½. Third through sixth with 3-1 were: Sherwood Ludwig, Antonio Lacy, Killian Whyte and Srikanth Tumati. The top unrated section was won by Sarah Dennis with a perfect 4-0 score. Second through fourth with 3-1 were: Nasir Mayfield, Curtis Farmer and Greg Roe. Terina Johnson was clear fifth with 2½-1½.

The unrated section for players in grades three through five is usually the biggest and this one was enormous, but Diego Hollis was the only player with a perfect 4-0 score. Second and third with 3½-½ were Brian Stewart and Michael Armonious. Fourth through ninth with 3-1 were: Sandeep Alampalli, Adam Aleksic, Jonathan Robles, Christopher Lasher, Alex Lomasney, and Rowan Jones. Finally, in the unrated section for players in grades two and below there was another perfect score as Vincent Lembo swept the field, 4-0. Second and third with 3-1 were: McCready Kearney and Bella Besuud. Eitan Neustadt and Catalina Varela

were fourth and fifth with 2½-1½.

The New York State Museum is a wonderful venue for a tournament like this and Brother John wants to thank Albert Gnidica, the Visitor Services Assistant at the museum for helping to make it possible.

The 53rd Make the Right Move free scholastic tournament was held on May 7 at LaSalle School in Albany. The turnout was disappointing: only 47 players competed in the six sections. The reason for the sudden drop after last month's record turnout: the tournament site had to be changed from Loudonville with only about a week's notice. The fact that the Albany Tulip Festival was happening at the same time didn't help matters either.

George Ladouceur won the unrated All Welcome section with a score of 3½-½. East Greenbush's Bill Matters was second with 2½-1½. Third through sixth with 2-2 were: Sreenivas Alampalli, Brian Osgood, Bill Roe and Michael Strich. The top rated section was won by Nova Wang with a perfect 4-0 score. Sai Chilukoori and Anvesh Mateti were second and third with 3-1.

The section for players rated under 900 was actually two sections combined. Vignesh Pernati and Kyle Matters were first and second with 3½-½. Killian Whyte was third with 2½-1½. Sherwood Ludwig and Glen Roe were fourth and fifth with 2-2. Just taking the players rated Under 600, Killian Whyte was first, Sherwood Ludwig was second and Greg Roe was third.

The unrated section for players in grades six and above was won by Santino Sierra with a perfect 4-0 score. John Mosher and Aaron Salisbury were second and third with 3-1. The unrated section for players in grades three through five was won by Sandeep Alampalli with 3½-½. Adam Aleksic was clear second with 2½-1½. Finally, the unrated section for players in grades two and below was won by Bella Besud with 3-1.

Top team was East Greenbush with 12 points. In second place with 11 points was the Boys and Girls Clubs of Southern Rensselaer County, mercifully shortened to "RBG." This is an excellent result for a team attending for the first time. Menands School was third with 10½.

The last Make the Right Move free scholastic

tournament of the 2010-11 season, the 54th overall, was held on June 4 at Menands School. Overall 66 players competed in the seven sections. The "Awe" section was the largest, and the surprise winner was Dilip Aaron with a perfect 4-0 score. He defeated former Schenectady Champion Philip Sells in the last round, causing Sells to sigh and say: "I'm glad this isn't rated." Second through fifth with 3-1 were: Sells, Zachary Calderon, Bill Matters and Gordon Magat. Zach also scored a notable upset by beating Magat, and that game is featured later in the column. All alone in sixth place was Michael Strich with 2½-1½. Incidentally, "Awe" stands for "All Welcome" but also "Awesome," according to Brother John.

The top rated scholastic section was won by Nitin Obla with a perfect 4-0 score. Sai Chilukoori was second with 2½-1½. The Under-1000 section had a three-way tie at the top with the places determined by tiebreaks. Vignesh Pernati, Daniel Magat and Kyle Matters all scored 3-1. There was another three-way tie at the top of the Under-600 section with Killian Whyte, Manthan Vasavada and Heath Glasgow all scoring 3-1. The unrated section for players in grades six and above had two perfect 4-0 scores at the top, with places determined by tiebreak. Aaron Salisbury was first and Abhinev Gudapati was second.

There was yet another tie on top of the unrated section for players in grades three to five, this one a four-way tie. The reason that places are determined by tiebreaks at these events is that the prizes here are trophies that can't be split. This was especially unfortunate here because there were four winning scores but only three trophies. First through fourth were: Sandeep Alampalli, Narra Saathvik, Dennis Howard and Eric Hartnagle. Mara Strich was fifth with 2½-1½. Silas Strich was the clear winner in the unrated section for grades two and below with a perfect 4-0 score. Catalina Varela was second with 3-1.

The race for top team was incredibly tight with two schools scoring 12½ points and their places determined by how the next player in line did after the first four scores were added together. Host school Menands was first with East Greenbush in second, although this is a case of losing a battle but winning the war since East Greenbush is probably going to be top team for the year. Albany Academy was third with 11½, Southgate was fourth with 11.

Here is one of the shocking upsets from the latest

Make the Right Move tournament. Here scholastic C-player Zach Calderon and *Empire Chess* columnist manages to topple expert Gordon Magat. This seems to be a case of the stronger player not taking his opponent seriously enough. Magat gave his young opponent opportunities to go wrong which he just didn't take. Toward the end of the game Black was struggling with the clock as well as his deteriorating position. While I watched, Zach went over the game with expert Ashok Aaron, who provided some valuable insights, some of which I've included below.

Zachary Calderon (1536) – Gordon Magat (2014)
[B20] Sicilian Defense
Make the Right Move #54, round 1
Menands, NY, June 4, 2011

1.e4 c5 2.c4

I used to play this line back in the day, and Zach plays it for the same reason I did: to avoid the mountains of analysis surrounding the Open Sicilian after 2.Nf3. I also chose this line to frustrate Sicilian mavens: if they wanted something open and tactical, I'd give them something closed and positional. In fact, they aren't playing a Sicilian at all, rather an English Opening. I eventually gave it up because I didn't like the positions I kept getting with it, and my results were poor.

2...Nc6 3.Nc3 e6 4.g3 Nf6 5.d3

This move seems perfectly reasonable, until Black's next move upsets the apple cart. Most common is 5.Bg2 d5 6.exd5 exd5 with a tiny advantage to Black, but more attractive is 5.f4 d5 6.e5 d4 7.exf6 dxc3 8.dxc3 and White seems to be a little better.

5...d5 6.Bg2 d4

This is cramping and annoying, but Black has had much better results with 6...dxc4 7.dxc4 Qxd1+ 8.Nxd1 Bd7.

7.Nce2 e5 8.f4

This makes the game all but unique, but it may not be good. There isn't much theory here anyhow.

8...Bd6

8...Ng4! seems more vexing to White.

9.Nf3 0-0 10.0-0 Bg4 11.h3 Bxf3 12.Rxf3 Nh5 13.Kh2 f5

Black has decided that he is going to open up the center, even if it isn't in his best interests, because he probably figures he can outplay his lower-rated opponent in the complications that follow.

14.exf5 exf4 15.g4

White is also better after 15.Nxf4 Nxf4 16.Bxf4 Rxf5 17.Bxd6 Rxf3 18.Qxf3 Qxd6.

15...Ne5 16.gxh5 Nxf3+ 17.Bxf3 Rxf5

White has two pieces for a rook and a pawn. It's difficult to see who has the better of the bargain, but I would tend to think White is better once he gets his pieces straightened out.

18.Qg1 Rg5 19.Qf2 Qc7

Going over this game afterwards with Zach and Ashok Aaron, 19...Qf6 was Ashok's suggestion of a more active way for Black to play.

20.Bd2 Rf8 21.Rg1 Rxc1 22.Qxc1 Kh8 23.b4!

Opening up a second front is not good news for Black. Taking on b4 is out of the question because of Nxd4.

23...b6 24.Qg4 Be5

Fiddling while white continues to improve his position. Black's problem, as Aaron stated, is that his Bishop is essentially a "big pawn" with no scope.

25.bxc5 bxc5 26.Be1 Qb8 27.Bh4 Bd6 28.h6!

Beginning the final assault. Black is in trouble.

28...g6??

This loses quickly. Ashok's suggestion of 28...gxh6 gives White more chances to go wrong, but he seems to be winning here too: 29.Qe6 Kg7 30.Be7 Bxe7 31.Qxe7+ Rf7 32.Qxc5. My computer suggests 28...Qc7 which seems to be best, but White has a win here as well: 29.Qe6 Be5 30.Qe7! Qxe7 31.Bxe7 Rc8 32.Nc1 and black's c-pawn eventually falls.

29.Qe6! Be5 30.Be7 Re8?

Falls into a mate, but Black's position is crumbling: 30...Rf5 31.Bxc5 Qg8 32.Qxg8+ Kxg8 33.Bd5+ Kh8 34.Nxd4 f3+ 35.Kg1 f2+ 36.Kf1, etc.

31.Bf6+ 1-0

It's mate in two, so Black gives up. 1-0

Tracking scholastic chess can be difficult because often the schools don't communicate with me (or each other) about what they're doing. For example, recently news came to me of a scholastic event held in the early Spring that had 96 players competing, and this was just from one school district. The Saratoga Scholastic Championships were held on March 26, in three sections.

The top section, for High School and Middle School, was won by Ian Starnes with 4½-½. Second through fourth with 4-1 were: Theresa Starnes, Valentine Starnes and David Ackerman. Top school was Maple Street School.

The section for players in grades three through five had a two way tie at the top with perfect 5-0 scores. By tiebreaks, Joseph D'Alonzo was first and Jakob Wiegand was second. Third through sixth with 4-1 were: Michael Masten, Alan Read, Ezra Ruggles and

Braden Flanders. Top school here was Dorothy Nolan. In the section for players in grades two and below Jonathan D'Alonzo was clear first with a perfect 5-0 score. Julia Wilk was second with 4-1 and Stephen Verral was third with 3½-1½. Division Street School was the top team in this section.

The tournament was directed by Alan LeCours, who provided me with the results. Again, I find this large turnout from just one school district astonishing, and the organizers obviously deserve a lot of credit. Saratoga is represented at the Make the Right Tournaments by the "Saratoga Travel Team," which at best has half a dozen enthusiastic players.

Last, but not least, I have the notable news that former Schenectady and New York State Scholastic Champion Deepak Aaron is going to be playing in the World Junior Championship, held in the first two weeks in August in Chennai, India. Although Deepak will be one of two players representing the United States, he was actually born in Chennai, so he also has the "home court advantage." It goes without saying that Deepak is the first player from this area to compete at such a high level.

Now I have a special treat, former Schenectady and New York State Scholastic Champion Deepak Aaron annotating one of his own games. Not only that, the game is a win over a grandmaster, former U.S. Champion Nick De Firmian.

In the last year, Deepak has been participating in big tournaments all over the country in Massachusetts, Wisconsin and California, even playing in the championship of the venerable Marshall Chess Club. In mid-April he played in the Philadelphia Open, scoring a creditable 5½-3½ tying for 16th place and pushing his USCF rating to a lifetime high of 2343.

In this game Deepak gets a good position out of the opening, which is especially noteworthy since De Firmian is one of the authors of Modern Chess Openings. The grandmaster's position did not improve, and as time grew short it reached a crisis point, but White had no thinking time left. A curious fact that Deepak pointed out: "This game was my fourth game with Nick De Firmian, and I still have yet to play him with White."

**GM Nick De Firmian (2546) – Deepak Aaron (2253)
[C78] Ruy Lopez**

Philadelphia International, round 5 Philadelphia, PA, April 23, 2011

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Ba4 Nf6 5.0-0 b5 6.Bb3 Bc5 7.a4 Rb8

Aaron: Last time I played ..Bb7 and got a better position, he showed up a little late to the game so I wasn't sure if he was prepping during that time, and I had just looked at some of the lines and was comfortable playing either ...Rb8 or ..Bb7.

8.c3 d6 9.d4 Bb6 10.Na3 Bg4 11.axb5 axb5 12.Nxb5

Aaron: "I was very comfortable in this position, and knew I had compensation for the pawn."

12...0-0 13.d5 Ne7 14.Bc2 Qd7

Aaron: "I played Qd7 to prevent any ideas of h3. With Qd7 I planned on sacking if he played h3. 14...Qe8 A more popular continuation which the Indian Grandmaster Ganguly has played lines in." Deepak now quotes the game Kunte-Ganguly, Sri Lanka 2001 which continued: 15.c4 Nxe4 16.Bxe4 f5 17.Bd3 e4 18.Be2 exf3 19.Bxf3 Ng6 20.b3 Nh4 21.Bxg4 fxe4 22.Bg5 Qh5 and although White appears better here, lack eventually outplayed him and won.) 15.Na3 Ng6 16.Qd3 (Aaron: "16.h3 Believe it or not this move is actually sound and winning. 16...Bxh3 17.gxh3 Qxh3 18.Ng5 Qg3+ 19.Kh1 Qh4+ 20.Kg2 Nf4+ (20...Ng4; 20...h6 21.Nh3 Nxe4 22.Qf3) 21.Bxf4 exf4 22.Nh3 g5 23.Rh1 with a plus to the first player."

16...Nh5 17.Nc4 Nhf4 18.Nxb6 Rxb6 19.Bxf4 Nxf4 20.Qe3 Rxb2

Aaron: "At this point I felt I was better, I had got my pawn back, my pieces are positioned in great squares, and I still have strong attacking chances."

21.Ba4 Qd8

Aaron: "Maybe Qc8, my plan was to play Qg5 if he played Nd2 and after that I think I'm just winning,

22.Bd1

Aaron: "Regardless this is somewhat of a dream position for Black. I have gotten back my pawn and still have retained my attack. All of my pieces are excellently placed and once I play f5 I will bring in my other rook."

22...f5 23.exf5 Bxf5 24.Qc1 Rb8 25.c4 Qf6 26.Ne1 Qg6 27.Kh1 Bd3 28.Rg1 Qe4 29.c5?

Aaron: "At this point he was in very bad time pressure 29.Qe3 A better line than what he played, I still maintain a slight advantage but a win would not be so clear 29...Qxc4 (29...Rb2 30.Bf3) 30.Ra4."

29...Nh3 30.Nxd3 Nxe1

Aaron: "30...Qxd3 This is actually the best line. 31.gxh3 Rxf2 32.Rg3 (32.Qg5 Qxd5+ 33.Bf3 Qxf3+ 34.Rg2 Rxe2 35.Qxe2 Qxe2+ 36.Kxe2 Rb5 37.cxd6

*cx*d6)

31.Bc2 Nh3 32.f3 Rxf3

Aaron: "He had seconds left to make it to 40 moves, and I somewhat fell into the trap of playing a little too quickly. *Qxd5* was a better continuation as opposed to *Rxf3* - 32...*Qxd5* 33.*gxh3 Qxf3+* 34.*Kg1 Rf6* 35.*Nb2 e4*.

33.Nxe5 Qxe5 34.gxf3 Ng5 35.Qe1 Qf6

Aaron: "Nick De Firmian had one second left for the next 5 moves. It is unbelievably hard to play with that kind of pressure. My experiences of being in time

pressure are ones I wish to forget. One time when I was in time pressure I actually missed a mate in two against another Grandmaster, and not only that I played the only losing move in the seemingly flawless position."

36.Rb1??

The inevitable blunder. White falls into a mate in two.

36..Qxf3+ 0-1

Four-Way Tie at 11th Queens Team by Ed Frumkin

Déjà vu! Once again this event was hampered by site unavailability in Round 2, this time on a mere 30 hours notice (the dreaded rummage sale, this time actually held). Instead of playing May 6-27, the last round was played on June 3. We started with 12 teams and ended up with 14. With my partner for the past two years (Mitch Drobbin) unavailable for health reasons, I recruited Ed Kopiecki early on, giving us the natural name "Two Eds are Better than One". Joe Felber teamed with Henry Milerski as "Senior Moments", conveniently for the Ed's since Hank provides our ride. A new pair to us was father and son team John (2200) and Connor Riddell (1546) from Westchester.

The Kopec Expert study group provided two more teams: "Solid Aggression" with Bill Arluck (2082) and Nicholas Cravotta (1830) and "the Deadly Duo" with Jack Edelson (1993) and Ira Cohen (1758) with matching orange tees. "Robot Unicorn" with Andrew Ryba (2146) and Shaoxiang Wang (1542) were last year known as "the Guthwinators". Last year's "Cruz Control" was this year's "Deep Sugar" although Ken Cruz (1815) and Zoltan Sugar (1742) had changed places rating-wise. Louis Lima (1933) and Paul McCormick (1660) were "Zen Passant",

Mulazim Muwwakkil (1724) and Frank Drazil (1580) were designated as "Doctor Frank" when they didn't furnish a name of their own choosing, Carrie Goldstein (1400) and Phyllis Benjamin (1219) were "Girls' Knight Out" for a second consecutive year, Ruth Arluck (1235) recruited Maryam Vulis (960) to form "Queens Gals" and Mindy Conyers (1391) brought husband Michael into his first rated tournament.

Nicholas Ryba (2088) and Dustin Moy (859/15) came in as "Young & Dangerous" in Round 2 (college prep exams on May 7), as did Al Bucknor (1693) and Suriyan Nathan (1610) as "Pleased to Meet You", since they had never met before.

The first round matches were all sweeps: "Two Eds" over "Deep Sugar", "Solid Aggression" over "Senior Moments", "Riddell Me This" over "Girls' Knight Out", "Robot Unicorn" over "Queens Gals" and "Zen Passant" over "Conyers, Inc." The shocker was "Doctor Frank" wiping out "the Deadly Duo", matching shirts and all. The much-delayed second round saw "Two Eds" sweep "Zen Passant", "Solid Aggression" draw with "Robot Unicorn" (A Ryba-W Arluck 0-1, Cravotta-Wang 0-1), "Riddell Me This" slip by "Doctor Frank" 1½-½ as Muwwakkil drew with Papa Riddell, "Young and Dangerous" defeated "Pleased to Meet You" by the same score as Moy held Nathan to a draw, "The Deadly Duo" barely topped "Girls' Knight Out" 1½-½ as Cohen was fortunate to find a stalemate trap against Benjamin, "Senior Moments" split with "Queens Gals" as Maryam Vulis beat Milerski in a big upset, and "Deep Sugar" swept the Conyerses.

The last two perfect team scores met in Round 3 with "Riddell Me This" beating "Two Eds" 1½-½ with Frumkin getting crushed by John Riddell and Kopiecki gratefully accepting a draw offer from young Connor. "Solid Aggression" drew with "Young and Dangerous" (N Ryba-W Arluck 1-0, Cravotta-Moy 1-0) while "The Deadly Duo" split with "Robot Unicorn" (Edelson-A Ryba 0-1, Wang-Cohen 0-1). The final round saw one 3-0 team and five with 2-1. "Solid Aggression" brought "Riddell Me This" back to the pack with a 1½-½ victory (Arluck-Riddell ½, Riddell-Cravotta 0-1) while "Two Eds" squeezed past "Doctor Frank."

Upcoming New York State Major Tournaments

September 2-5, 3-5, and 4-5. The 133rd New York State Chess Championship, Albany, NY: See back cover for full information.

August 17-21, 18-21, 19-21 or 20-21: Manhattan Open: New Yorker Hotel, 481 Eighth Ave at 34th St. Across from Penn Station, New York 10001. Open Section, Aug 17-21: 9-SS, 40/2, SD/1. GM & IM norms possible. Other sections, Aug 18-21, 19-21 or 20-21: 6SS, 40/2, SD/1 (2-day option, rounds. 1-3 G/50). Open and Under 2300 Sections (except rounds 1-3 of Under 2300 2-day) are FIDE rated. Prizes \$100,000 based on 650 paid entries (unrated in U1200 or U1500, seniors, re-entries, GMs, WGMs, foreign IMs count as half entries), else proportional, minimum \$70,000 (70% of each prize) guaranteed. In 7 sections, not 6 sections: Open: \$10000-5000-2500-1500-1000-800-600-500-400-400, clear or tiebreak first \$200 bonus, FIDE Under 2500/Unr \$3000-1500. Under 2300, Under 2100, Under 1900: each \$5000-2500-1500-1000-700-600-500-400-300-300. Under 1700: \$4500-2200-1300-1000-700-600-500-400-300-300. Under 1500: \$4000-2000-1000-800-700-600-500-400-300-300, top Under 1300 \$1000-500. Under 1200: \$3000-1500-1000-800-600-500-400-400-300-300, top Under 1000 \$1000-500. Entries: Continental Chess, Box 249, Salisbury Mills, NY 12577. Questions: 845-496-9658. Full information at www.chesstour.com

The second Saturday of every month. Jennifer Woods Grand Prix: 4-SS, rounds 1 & 2 G/60, rounds 3 & 4 G/90 @Rochester Chess Center, 221 Norris Drive, Rochester. Guaranteed Prizes: \$150-90-60 class \$80. Reg: 8:30-9:15. Rounds. 9:30-12-2:15-5:30 EF: \$30 Advanced Entries/Info: Rochester Chess Center, 221 Norris Drive, Rochester, NY 14610. (585)442-2430.

Most third Saturdays of month there will be the Monthly Buffalo Grand Prix Events at the Main Place Mall in Buffalo.4-SS, TL: Rounds 1 & 2,G/45, Rounds 3 & 4 G/60 Prizes: 1st-2nd Guaranteed \$250-150-100, Class \$75. Reg.: 8:30-9:15 a.m., Rounds.: 9:30-11:20-1:10-3:30 EF: \$50. U1600 EF: \$35, \$150-90-60, ALL PRIZES EXCEPT 1st & 2nd in OPEN, BASED ON 20 ENTRIES. Scholastic EF: \$15, Trophies for 1st, 2nd and 3rd Place. Adv. Entries/Info: Archangel 8 Chess Academy, arcangel8chess@yahoo.com, 60F Guilford Lane, Buffalo, NY 14221. See www.buffalochess.blogspot.com for future dates and details.

Third Tuesday of each month. Marshall Masters at the Marshall Chess Club. 4-SS, G/30. 23 W. 10th St., NYC. 212-477-3716. Open to players rated over 2100 (plus all players scoring 2 ½ or more from CCNY at the Marshall's Thursday Night Action) EF: \$40, members \$30, GMs \$10 (returned on completion of tournament). Top three prizes guaranteed. \$\$Guaranteed 250-150-100. Top Under 2400 and Top Under 2300 prizes. Special prize for biggest upset. Reg.: 6:15-6:45. Rounds.: 7-8:15-9:30-10:45 p.m. One bye available, rounds 1 or 4 only.

Practically every Thursday night at the Marshall Chess Club...Four Rated Games Tonight (10 Grand Prix Points Tonight the last Thursday of the month)! 4-SS, G/30, Chess Center at Marshall Club, 23 W 10th St, NYC: 212-477-3716. May be limited to 1st 36 entries. EF \$30, Club membs \$20, specified Greater NY Scholastic prizewinners free. \$\$ (480 b/32 paid): 150-100-50, Top U2200/unrated \$95, U2000 \$85. Limit 2 byes (1 bye if U2000), commit by 8:15. Re-entry \$15, counts half. Reg. ends 10 min. before game. Rds. 7-8:15-9:30-10:45 pm. Phone entry often impossible! \$5 extra if entering under 10 min. before game. Check www.marshallchessclub.org for additional information.

New York State Updated Chess Club Directory

Western New York

Rochester Chess Center

221 Norris Drive
Rochester, NY 14610
Ron Lohrman, 585-442-2430
Monday and Wednesday: 7:30-10 p.m.
Saturday: 10 a.m-10 p.m.
www.nychess.org

Niagara CC Chess Club

Building G, Room 244
Wednesday, 6:30-10:30 p.m.
Harish Srinivasan
harish.srinivasan@gmail.com

University of Buffalo CC

Student Union Room 145
Friday, 5-7 p.m.
Tom Kessler
Kessler5@buffalo.edu

Lakeshore Chess Club

Lake Shore Library
Route 5, Hamburg
Mondays, 5-8 p.m.
Tom Warner
warner689@cs.com

Villa Maria College

Pine Ridge Rd., Cheektowaga
Friday, 7:30 p.m.
Peg@ex-webit.com

Jamestown Chess Club

Chautauqua Chess Assoc.
111 W. 2nd St., Suite 210,
Jamestown
Mark Clark, 716-763-6825
Thu., 6-9 pm, Sat. 10:30-3.

buffalo chess.blogspot.com

for additional information.

Southern Tier

Hornell Chess Club

Hornell Intermediate School
Park Street, Hornell
(Summer: Arkport Community Room) Fred Harris, 607-295-9858
Fharris3@stny.rr.com
Thursday, 6:30 p.m.

Elmira/Corning Chess Club

Manos Diner, Monday
118 College Ave. Elmira
Raynesford Taylor Bacorn
607-734-8602
Monday, 6:30 p.m.
Thu. Barnes & Noble, 821 CR 64,
Big Flats

Cornell Univ. Chess Club

Goldwin Smith Hall, Room 164
Monday & Wednesday, 5 p.m.
rso.cornell.edu/chess

Central New York

Seymour Library Chess Club

Seymour Public Library
176 West Genesee Street,
Auburn
Second Saturday of the Month, 1-4 p.m.
Tom McKellop
315-252-3789
tom_mckellop@hotmail.com

Watertown Chess Club

HSBC Building
120 Washington Street
Watertown
Tuesdays, 7-11 p.m.
Don Klug
315-408-1850

Sullivan Chess Club

707 Legion Drive, Chittenango
Mondays, 6:00 p.m.
John Wolf, 315-687-3356

Capital Region

For Capital Region and Hudson Valley clubs, go to:
www.enyca.org

East Greenbush Chess Club

Sunshine Day Care, across from
Greenbush Reformed Church,
East Greenbush
14 Hayes Road
Wednesdays 6:30-10 p.m.
Bill Matters, 518-477-2820

Greenwich Chess Club

Greenwich Free Library,
Greenwich
Thursday, 7 p.m.
John Hartnett,
jhartnet@twcap.rr.com

Saratoga Staunton Chess Club

Saratoga Springs United
Methodist Church
(5th Avenue and Hennings Road)
Sunday, 6:00 p.m.
Lee Battles
lee_battles@aol.com
Alan LeCours, 518-583-0400

Schenectady Chess Club

Niskayuna Community Center
2682 Aqueduct Rd., Niskayuna
Thursday, 7:30 p.m.
Bill Townsend, 518-346-6595
wtownsen@nycap.rr.com

Hudson Valley

King's Knight CC

Rosendale Café
435 Main St., Rosendale
Ken Evans, 845-331-8186
Wednesday, 7 p.m.

Margaretville Chess Club

Methodist Church, Margaretville
Tuesday, 7 p.m.
Tom Delehanty,
tdelehanty@catskill.net

Middletown Chess Club

Walkill Comm. Center
Route 211, E. Middletown
Lonnie Kwartler, 845-469-4451
Wednesday, 7:30 p.m.

Vassar-Chadwick CC

Vassar College, Poughkeepsie
Monday 7 pm
Craig Fisher, 845-462-5630
Craig.fisher@marist.edu
www.vassar-chadwick.com

Walden Chess Club

Josephine-Louise Public Library
5 Schofield St, Walden, 10am-
2pm, 845-778-7621

New York City/Westchester

The Bob Peretz Chess Club

(Formerly The Bronx-Yonkers
Chess Club)
White Plains YMCA
250 Mamaroneck Ave.
White Plains, NY 10601
914-831-3707 Alan Abrams –
Treasurer
TheBobPeretzChessClub.blogspot
.com
Mondays 7:45PM – Midnight

Westchester Chess Club

Trinity Lutheran Church
25 Crane Road, Scarsdale
Wednesday, 7:30-10:50 p.m.
John Marino
914-723-7363

jdmarino@alumni.princeton.edu
www.weschesterchessclub.com

Brooklyn College CC

2900 Bedford Ave.
Tue. & Thurs. 1:30-3:30
Contact: Fedor Khrapatin,
frkn81@aol.com
cell: 646-239-0783
<http://bccchess.tripod.com>

Marshall Chess Club

23 W 10 St, NYC
Jim Frawley, Manager
212-477-3716
Weekdays, 1:00-12:00 pm
Weekends, noon – midnight
Marshallchessclub.org

Polgar Chess Club

103-10 Queens Boulevard, Forest
Hills, Queens
Susan Polgar, 718-897-4600
M-F 4:30-9:30 p.m., Sat 12-8
p.m., Sun. 12-7 p.m.
www.susanpolgar.com

Queens Chess Club

All Saints Lutheran Church
164-02 Goethals Avenue, Jamaica
(w) Friday, 7:30 pm to Sat 12:30
am; events start at 8:15 pm
Ed Frumkin, 212-677-3224
Efrumkin@nyc.rr.com
www.queens-chess.com

Staten Island Chess Club

Holy Child Forum
Lew Fraser, 718-948-2284
LewFraser@si.rr.com
Tuesday, 7 pm

Max Pavey Chess Club

Recreation Center
48 Macy Rd., Briarcliff
Sal Catalfamo
Friday, 7 p.m.

Long Island

Neal Bellon
Long Island Chess Club

United Methodist Church
470 East Meadow Ave.
East Meadow, NY 11554
Thursdays, 6:45 – 10:30 PM
www.lichessclub.com

Huntington Chess Club

Huntington Library
338 Main Street
718-829-7770
Saturday, 10-5, (informal)

Long Island Chess Nuts

Old County Rd., Garden City
Margarita Lanides
mlanides@chessnuts.org
516-739-3907
Thu. & Fri., 4-6 pm
Many Scholastic locations

Nassau Chess Club

1st Presbyterian Church of
Mineola
Main & First Sts. Mineola
Harold Stenzel,
631-218-4440
captahal@optonline.net
Monday, 7 - 11:30 p.m.

Syosset Chess Mates

Walt Whitman Elem. School
Woodbury, NY 11797
Randi Gertler / Marc Berger
(516) 381-1755
Gertler@aol.com

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4-day schedule: Reg. ends Fri 6:30 pm, rounds. Fri 7 pm, Sat 6 pm, Sun 11 & 6, Mon 10 & 4:15.

2-day schedule: Reg. ends Sun. 10:30 am, rounds Sun 11, 1:30, 3:30 & 6, Mon 10 & 4:15, no 2-day schedule in Open.

Bye: all, limit 2, Open must commit before round 2, others before round 4.

Hotel rates: \$97-97, 800-443-8952, 518-458-8444, reserve by 8/24 or rate may increase.

Car rental: Avis, 800-331-1600, AWD D657633, or reserve car online through chesstour.com.

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