

WVCA Chess Bulletin

August 2000 Vol #236
Editor: Tom LaBue

South Charleston to Host the 62nd West Virginia State Championships

This Labor Day weekend, the Charleston Chess Club will host the 2000 West Virginia State Championship which will be held at the Hampton Inn - Southridge Center in South Charleston, WV. Mark Hathaway and Donald Griffith look to defend their piece of the championship.

The weekend's events will begin with the WVCA Business Meeting at 10am. We will surely be discussing the revision of the WVCA Constitution. Also, on the agenda are the election of officers and the vote on where next year's tourney will be.

Round one of the tourney gets underway at 12:30pm on Saturday. Two rounds of chess a day at time controls 40/90, G/1. The Blitz Chess Championship, (WBCA rated) will be held on Saturday night, time to be announced at the site. The Quick Chess (G/10) Championship is scheduled for Sunday night. Lots of time for skittles, bughouse, post-mortems and all the other tourney activities you could hope for.

Make your hotel reservations early as the Sternwheel Regatta festival will be ongoing in Charleston over Labor Day weekend. Most of the hotels in the area tend to fill up quickly. See page two for more details.

Some interesting statistics from the State Championship:

- ▶ Most state Championships won are by Dr. Siegfried Werthammer (Huntington), who won (or shared) 13 titles between 1943 and 1965. From 1943 to 1953, Dr. Werthammer had a stake in 9 of the 11 Championships.
- ▶ Donald Griffith is second with 10 State Titles. He won his first Championship in 1975.
- ▶ The last time the State Championship was held in South Charleston was 1948. It was held at the

Recreation Hall.

- ▶ The WV State Tourney was held in Ohio in 1986. Organizer Randy Bierce had made all the arrangements for the tourney to be held in the Wheeling area, but a steel (or coal) strike occurred. The hotel hosted the negotiations; needless to say, he had to find a new site. The only available site at the late date was in St. Clairsville, OH.
- ▶ The most players entered in the State Championship was 66 at the 1996 Parkersburg events breaking the record of 65 set in Charleston in 1974. Clarksburg (1981) and Athens (1972) each had 62 participants.

West Virginians at the 2000 World Open

Four WV players traveled to Philadelphia to compete in this year's World Open: John Roush, Gary Cummings, Scott Carmichael and Sefus Ellis. John entered the Open Section and finished with a score of 4 out of 9. He won only one game (over Jerry Hanken), *drew six*, and lost two. Most of the draws were to master strength competitors. John's rating is now back over 2100. Gary, Scott and Sefus all entered in the Under 1800 section. Gary fared the best, tying for 11th place (probably just out of the money) with a score of 6½. Sefus finished with a 5½ score and gained about 75 points. Scott lost his first two games, withdrew and then re-entered with byes in the first two rounds. He finished with a mark of 4½.

John Wright at the U.S. Open

Charleston Club member John Wright is currently at the 2000 U. S. Open which is taking place in Minneapolis, Minnesota. He is entered in the Matinee section and has so far scored 2 out of 5. Best of luck to John.

Upcoming Events in West Virginia

August 20, 2000: 8th Parkersburg Homecoming

4-SS, G/60, West Virginia Grand Prix, NS, NC, W.

Sections: Open and Unrated

Site: Parkersburg Municipal Building,

2nd and Market Streets, Parkersburg, WV 26101.

Rated: EF: \$12 by 8/12; \$15 at site;

\$\$: b/entries, Trophy to 1st Place.

Unrated tourney: \$7, Must be under 1200 or Unrated to enter.

Trophies for 1st and 2nd Place

(Trophies donated by Emerson Trophy Shop)

Reg: 9:00-9:45am Rounds: 10-12:45-3-5:15

Info: Pat Kelly, 104 Iroquios Drive, Marietta, OH 45750

Phone: (740) 374-0538 e-mail: pkelly03@sprynet.com

September 2-4, 2000: 62nd WV State Championship

6-SS, 40/90, G/60; NS, NC, W; WV Grand Prix

WVCA membership required. \$7, OSA.

Site: Hampton Inn, Southridge Center,

South Charleston, WV 25303.

EF \$30, \$25 under 18 if received by 8/28,

all \$5 more at site.

\$\$: based on entries; Traveling Trophy to Champion;

Trophies to 1st Junior, 1st Scholastic,

1st in A, B, C, D, E/unrated.

Reg: Sat. 9-12 noon. Rounds: Sat: 12:30-5:30,

Sun: 9:30-2:30, Mon: 9:30-2:30.

WV State Blitz Championship (WBCA-rated) Saturday.

WV State Quick Chess (G/10) Championship Sunday.

WVCA membership meeting 10 AM Saturday.

Hotel rates, 1-4 people \$68, phone (304) 746-4646.

Call, e-mail, or write for Charleston area information.

Reserve hotel early because of Charleston Sternwheel Regatta.

Info and Ent: Jim Olson, 1541 Quarrier St.,

Charleston, WV 25311. 304-342-6472,

e-mail: olson@zoomnet.net

October 7, 2000: Harrison Co. October Open

Sections: Open and Scholastic (K-2, K-5, K-8, K-12)

Open: 4/SS; G/75 (G/70 w/5-sec delay)

EF: \$15 \$\$: b/entries; WV Grand Prix

Check-in: 8:30-9am Rounds: 9:15-11:45-2:15-4:45

Scholastic: 4/SS (5-SS for K-8 & K-5);

G/30 (G/15 for K-2) EF: \$8; \$\$ trophies

Check-in: 9:-9:30am Round 1: 10am

Both: No entries at site. Payment may be made at site. Pre-

registration before 10/4 via mail or through the HCC website:

<http://sites.netscape.net/hcchess/homepage/>

Site: Nutter Fort Elementary School, Rt. 20, Nutter Fort

Entries to: Robert Jordan, 523 Penn. Ave.,

Bridgeport, WV 26330-1232 Phone: (304)842-4771

e-mail: RobAJordan@aol.com

Checks to: Norwood Elementary School Chess Club

November 4, 2000: Harrison Co. November Open

Sections: Open and Scholastic (K-2, K-5, K-8, K-12)

Open: 4/SS; G/75 (G/70 w/5-sec delay)

EF: \$15 \$\$: b/entries; WV Grand Prix

Check-in: 8:30-9am Rounds: 9:15-11:45-2:15-4:45

Scholastic: 4/SS (5-SS for K-8 & K-5);

G/30 (G/15 for K-2) EF: \$8; \$\$ trophies

Check-in: 9:-9:30am Round 1: 10am

Both: No entries at site. Payment may be made at site. Pre-

registration before 11/1 via mail or through the HCC website:

<http://sites.netscape.net/hcchess/homepage/>

Site: Nutter Fort Elementary School, Rt. 20, Nutter Fort

Entries to: Robert Jordan, 523 Penn. Ave.,

Bridgeport, WV 26330-1232 Phone: (304)842-4771

e-mail: RobAJordan@aol.com

Checks to: Norwood Elementary School Chess Club

December 2, 2000: Harrison Co. December Open

Sections: Open and Scholastic (K-2, K-5, K-8, K-12)

Open: 4/SS; G/75 (G/70 w/5-sec delay)

EF: \$15 \$\$: b/entries; WV Grand Prix

Check-in: 8:30-9am Rounds: 9:15-11:45-2:15-4:45

Scholastic: 4/SS (5-SS for K-8 & K-5);

G/30 (G/15 for K-2) EF: \$8; \$\$ trophies

Check-in: 9:-9:30am Round 1: 10am

Both: No entries at site! Payment may be made at site. All

registration by 11/29 via mail or through the HCC website:

http://sites.netscape.net/hcchess/homepage

Site: Nutter Fort Elementary School, Rt. 20, Nutter Fort

Entries to: Robert Jordan, 523 Penn. Ave.,

Bridgeport, WV 26330-1232 Phone: (304)842-4771

e-mail: RobAJordan@aol.com

Checks to: Norwood Elementary School Chess Club

Bob Jordan is instituting a no registration at site policy because of long delays in registering everyone. Please register by the Wednesday before the event via mail or through the HCC website. You may pay the entry fee at the site. The entry fee has been raised for the Open Section so the HCC can distribute bigger prizes to draw some of the more established players to the event.

Send all tourney announcements, results, and comments:

Tom LaBue, Rt 3, Box 372, Buckhannon, WV 26201

Phone: (304) 472-1682 e-mail: tlabue@msys.net

Proposed Revision of the WVCA Constitution

Here is the proposed revision of the WVCA Constitution that was worked on for the past year by a committee that included: John Homer, Jim Olson, John Roush, Tom Bergquist and myself. Please read this and have questions and comments ready for the WVCA Business Meeting as this will be on the agenda. If you cannot make it to the meeting, please feel free to contact me at: tlabue@msys.net or any of the other committee members. There are many changes to the Constitution including instituting a seven member Board of Directors, separating the WVCA bylaws from the rest of the constitution, and some new wrinkles for the Grand Prix. Hopefully, we have addressed most of the big holes that the constitution had before.

WVCA Constitution

(August 8, 2000 Revision)

ARTICLE I: NAME

The name of this organization shall be the West Virginia Chess Association, known as the WVCA and incorporated under the laws of West Virginia as a non-profit corporation.

ARTICLE II: PURPOSE

Its purpose shall be to promote acquaintance, understanding, and fellowship among chess players of West Virginia. It will also conduct state Chess Championships as well as any other chess events the membership of the Board of Governors select. It shall put out a Bulletin at least twice a year.

ARTICLE III: MEMBERSHIP AND MEETINGS

Section 1. Membership shall consist of all interested in the game of chess.

Section 2. There shall be the following classes of membership:

- a. Honorary Life Members - No dues, full voting privileges.
- b. Regular: one year, full voting privileges
- c. Life Membership: full voting privileges, unending membership

Section 3. Membership dues are payable in advance. Membership may begin at any time during the Fiscal Year.

Section 4. The Fiscal year shall begin on September 1st and end on August 31st.

Section 5. Residence outside the state is not a bar to membership; however, it is a bar to holding the title of State Champion. Military personnel and college students who are home on annual leave or summer vacation are eligible for the title so long as prior to their enlistment or enrollment they were residents of the state.

Section 6. There shall be an annual business meeting held, preferably during the State Championship, for the purpose of electing officers and transacting association business. Members are entitled to vote in person. An option of voting through the WVCA Bulletin is available during the year when it is not practical to convene a business meeting. This can be done at the discretion of the Board of Directors.

Section 7. The quorum for the annual business meeting shall be 10 per cent of the current membership.

ARTICLE IV: OFFICERS AND OTHER POSITIONS

Section 1. Officers of this association shall be the President, Vice-President, Secretary-Treasurer, Bulletin Editor, Webmaster, USCF Delegate and an at-large member duly elected at the annual business meeting. All terms are for one year with the exception of the Treasurer who retains office for 3 years.

WVCA Constitution Revision (Cont.)

Section 2. Only active WVCA members over the age of 17 shall be eligible to hold office or Board memberships. Committee positions can be filled any active member with no requirement on age.

Section 3. The President shall preside at all business meetings. He will appoint committees. He will act as chairman during any meeting of the Board of Directors. He will call special meetings as need arises according to the procedures contained within.

Section 4. The Vice-President shall preside in the absence of the President or act as his designate when requested of him. Shall assume the office if the President if the President resigns or dies, is removed from office for misconduct, or is prevented from executing the duties of that office as a result of disability.

Section 5. The Secretary-Treasurer:

- a. Shall collect the dues and monies owed the association. He will pay all accounts of indebtedness that have been certified for payment by the other board members or himself. He will submit a financial report of the association at the annual business meeting on Labor Day weekend for the fiscal year that just ended August 31st.
- b. Shall keep on file, the minutes of the association's business meetings.
- c. Shall record minutes of all meetings (Business, Board, and Special).
- d. Shall handle correspondence for the association.

Section 6. The Bulletin Editor:

- a. Shall be responsible for publishing the WVCA Bulletin at least twice a year.
- b. Shall publish the Bulletin through private enterprise or donated printing services.
- c. Shall keep a record of the Constitution, and amend it as so ordered by the membership.
- d. Shall work closely with the archivist and the Webmaster.

Section 7. The Webmaster:

- a. Shall be responsible for the upkeep and maintenance of the WVCA Website, which included continued registration of the WVCA domain name: wvchess.org.
- b. Shall work closely with the Bulletin Editor.

Section 8. The USCF Delegate shall try to attend the USCF Delegate meeting which is held during the U. S. Open in August. He shall keep the association informed as to new and ongoing developments at the USCF.

Section 9. The same person may perform the offices of Bulletin Editor and Webmaster. If this happens, this individual will have only one vote on the board and a second at-large member shall be elected by the membership to fill the final slot on the board.

Section 10. The membership will elect Voting Members to the USCF. The number for representatives will be determined by the USCF. Any member age 18 and over is eligible to become Voting Member. A Voting Members duties are to vote in USCF elections. Voting members votes should be distributed to the Secretary-Treasurer so that they may be made public to the WVCA Membership through its media outlets.

Section 11. There are a few positions that shall be selected by the board. These positions shall be WVCA Archivist, Grand Prix Coordinator and the Postal Director. These positions can be held by any active member, elected officers not excluded.

- a. The archivist shall keep the WVCA archives, which includes almost all of the WVCA Bulletins, photos and other publications. The archivist shall work closely with the Bulletin Editor and Webmaster as to help disseminate some of the

WVCA Constitution Revision (Cont.)

historic information contained within. This position length should be for an indefinite period of time.

b. The Grand Prix Coordinator will run the West Virginia Grand Prix cycle. The Coordinator will designate Grand Prix events according to the guidelines set in Appendix X and tabulate points accordingly. The Coordinator will be responsible for the prize allocation. This position should be for a full cycle of the Grand Prix.

c. The Postal Director will organize and direct the West Virginia State Correspondence Championship every two years. The Postal Director will also have the option of organizing other postal tournament and e-mail events as desired. The Postal Director must possess at the minimum a USCF Club Tournament Director certification status in good standing. The term for this office is two years.

ARTICLE V: BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Section 1. The Board of Directors shall consist of the President, Vice-President, Secretary-Treasurer, Postal Director, Bulletin Editor, Webmaster and the USCF Delegate.

Section 2. The Board of Directors shall be charged with the responsibility of running the association meetings. In addition, the Board of Directors shall have authority to:

a. Act on issues concerning the WVCA. If an issue comes before the Board, in lieu of consensus among the members, a vote shall be taken. The results of the vote are to be given to the Secretary-Treasurer, who will record them and then submit them to the Bulletin Editor and Webmaster for publication.

b. Purchase any items it deems necessary if the value of the items does not exceed \$25. Purchase of any items above this limit would require membership approval at a business meeting. The (1) printing and postage cost of the bulletin and (2) sponsorship of the State Championship and the WVCA Grand Prix are the only two exceptions to this prohibition.

c. Warn, suspend, or expel any member for conduct unbecoming a member or harmful to the purposes of the Association. No member may be expelled except by affirmative vote of two-thirds of the members of the Board of Directors present at a special meeting. Before any member is suspended or expelled, written notice of the charges against him, and of the time and place of the meeting of the board at which they are to be considered, shall be mailed to him at his last known address at least twenty days before the meeting. He shall be given an opportunity to defend and the decision of the Board shall be final.

d. Removal of any officer with a two-third vote of the Board of Directors.

This shall be done in accordance with provision (c).

e. Perform any and all other acts necessary for the operation of the WVCA not specifically denied by this Constitution and its Bylaws.

ARTICLE VI: RULES

All applicable United States Chess Federation (USCF) or World Blitz Chess Association (WCBA) rules and current laws of chess shall govern the play at all WVCA tournaments and the issuing of prizes.

ARTICLE VII: AMENDMENTS

Section 1. The Constitution may be amended by a two-thirds vote by the membership at the annual business meeting over Labor Day weekend. There must be enough members to satisfy a quorum present in order to amend the Constitution.

Section 2. The Bylaws may be amended by the following procedure:

a. A proposed change should be sent to the President by July 1.

b. The President will distribute all proposals to all board members by mail or electronic mail.

c. The bulletin editor and Webmaster will post the proposed changes in their respective media. The aim is to inform the membership of the new proposals before the business meeting. Comments can be made to the Board about the proposals.

d. An amendment to the Bylaws must be approved by a majority of the membership at the annual business meeting of the WVCA.

WVCA Constitution Revision (Cont.)

e. There must be enough members to satisfy a quorum present in order to amend the bylaws.

ARTICLE VIII: TRUSTEES

Two trustees are to be elected who will be authorized to sign checks and withdraw funds from WVCA accounts in emergency situations. The term of each trustee is five years. If a trustee must vacate his position before his term expires, a new trustee shall be elected for the rest of the unexpired term at the next business meeting.

ARTICLE IX: SPECIAL MEETINGS

Section 1. Special meetings of the WVCA Board may be called by the President as the need arises with the written agreement of at least two other members of the Board of Directors. All members of the Board of Directors must be notified of the time and place of the meeting in writing at least one week prior to the meeting. The notice of the meeting will clearly set out an agenda for the meeting. No action will be taken at the said meeting that is not related to an idea on said agenda.

Section 2. The Secretary-Treasurer shall take Minutes at all meetings. Copies of the minutes shall be furnished to Bulletin Editor and the Webmaster for public distribution to the membership of the organization.

WVCA Bylaws

The purpose of these Bylaws shall be to define specific policies governing the operation of the West Virginia Chess Association (WVCA) and the tournaments sponsored by the WVCA.

1. The meetings of the Board of Directors of the WVCA shall be open to all members of the club. These attending members shall have the right to taking the floor but may not vote.
2. The fee for a Regular membership to the WVCA is \$7 for one year. The cost of a Life membership is \$140.
3. Annual State Chess Championship conditions of contest:
 - a. The annual State Championship shall be contested over Labor Day weekend.
 - b. The tournament shall be a six round Swiss system event with two rounds each day. There will be one section, open to all players.
 - c. The time control for the annual State Championship shall be conducted at forty (40) moves in ninety (90) minutes, with (SD/1) sudden death in an hour.
 - d. The TD has the discretion to designate how to break ties.
 - e. The organizers of the State Championship are allowed to specify the entry fees.
 - f. Any WVCA member is eligible to win a class trophy, regardless of residency.
 - g. The local organization that is chosen to host the State Championship shall submit all details to WVCA officers four months prior to the latest time the announcements must be in to the USCF. A written contract with the site must be in existence. If this is not done, the President shall have the responsibility and financial authority to select an alternative site and sponsor the tournament.
4. A WVCA Postal Championship shall be held every two years. The format will be decided by the Postal Director. This event should be USCF rated.
5. The WVCA shall conduct a seven (7) round G-30 Action Championship to be held between March 1 and July 1. The K factor is to be determined by the Tournament Director. The bid for the Action tournament is to be separate from that of the State Championship. Bids should be presented at the annual business meeting held before the State Championship. The Action Championship shall be advertised in a timely manner in Chess Life.

WVCA Constitution Revision (Cont.)

6. The WVCA shall also conduct a G-10 Quick Chess Championship on Saturday or Sunday during the State Championship to be advertised in the WVCA Bulletin.

7. The WVCA shall also conduct a G-5 Blitz Chess Championship on Saturday or Sunday during the State Championship to be advertised in the Bulletin. This Championship will be run under the rules of the World Blitz Chess Association (WBCA). Players do not have to be members of the WBCA to participate in the Blitz Championship.

8. The Bidding Process for the right to host the State Championships will be held annually at the WVCA Business Meeting. Bids to host the Action Championship and the State Championship will be accepted separately. If there are multiple bids for an event, then the membership present will vote on the hosting site with a simple majority needed. In case of a tie, the current Moderator will break the tie. If possible, a backup site should also be obtained in case the winning bid cannot fulfill their award. If no bids are received, the Board of Directors will be tasked with finding an appropriate site for the Tournament.

9. The WVCA shall hold a Grand Prix Championship that will be based on performance over a year of events. The Grand Prix guidelines are as follows:

a. **Player Eligibility:** Must be a current WVCA member. A person may purchase WVCA membership at the conclusion of a tournament and have the results of that event count. No points will be accrued for the period that a membership is elapsed. Members that are residents from other states are eligible for all prizes awarded.

b. **Tournament Eligibility:**

1. Must be open to all players. Tournaments with multiple sections (i.e. Open and U1600) that satisfy this rule are eligible. Club Championships and Invitations events are not eligible.
2. Tournaments must be advertised in Chess Life, the WVCA Bulletin and/or the WVCA Website at least one time.
3. Tournaments must be at least four rounds.
4. Time controls must be no faster than G/60. The only exception to this rule is the WV Action Championship. Tourney must be contested in WV with this exception: A WV chess club that holds a tourney in an adjacent state can get a waiver from the Grand Prix Coordinator, though not automatic. (Ex. Parkersburg club holds a tourney in Marietta, OH or Logan County Club in Belfry, KY).
5. The Tournament Director must send official USCF Crosstables to the Grand Prix Coordinator.
6. The tournament should require all West Virginia players to be WVCA members or have a surcharge (i.e. EF: \$20, \$5 discount for WVCA membership). Scholastic players may be exempted from this rule.

c. **Points distribution:** Wins, Forced Bye, Forfeit Win - 1 point;
Draw - 1/2 point; Loss, Forfeit Loss, Voluntary Bye - 0 points

d. **Bonus point Distribution:**

	State Champ.	Regular & Action Champ.	Split Sections (Open and U1600)	National Event (i.e. USAS)
First	12	6	6 (Open Section) 2 (all other sections)	None
Second	8	4	4 (Open Section)	None
Third	4	2	2 (Open Section)	None
Class (A, B, C, D and below)	2	1	1	None

No bonus points awarded for National Events.

Class bonus points will be based upon the pre-tourney rating from the official USCF Crosstable.

WV Action Chess: Winner and still champ, Donald Griffith

Donald Griffith continued his winning ways by capturing the 2000 West Virginia Action Championship. In the past year, he has won the West Virginia State Championship (shared with Mark Hathaway) and the Charleston Chess Club Championship. This was the third Action title for Donald in the five years this event has been held. Donald finished with five wins and two draws (Jerry Skeen and Markle Butcher) for a total of six. Jim Walker was second at 5½. The pivotal game was the Griffith-Walker contest occurring in round 3. This win ascended Donald into the lead, where he proceeded to beat all challengers until the final round, where the draw with Markle clinched the title. Jerry Skeen, Jim Fuller and Markle Butcher tied for third place, each ending the day with 4½ points.

Donald Griffith (X) - Gary Morris (B), Round 1
Modern Defense

1. e4 g6 2. d4 Bg7 3. Nc3 d6 4. Nf3 Bg4 5. Be3 c6 6. h3 Bxf3 7. Qxf3 Qb6 8. O-O-O a5 9. Bc4 e6 10. d5 Qc7 11. dxe6 fxe6 12. Bxe6 Qe7 13. Bxg8 Rxc8 14. Bd4 Rf8 15. Qg3 Be5 16. Bxe5 dxe5 17. Rd2 Nd7 18. Rhd1 O-O-O 19. Qe3 Kb8 20. Rd6 Rf7 21. Na4 Rff8 22. Qd2 b5 23. Nb6 Nxb6 24. Rxd8+ Kc7 25. Rxf8 Qxf8 26. g3 Qf7 27. Qd6+ Kb7 28. b3 Qxf2 29. Qxe5 a4 30. Qd4 Qxg3 31. e5 Qxh3 32. Re1 Qe6 33. Qd6 Qf5 34. e6 Qf6 35. Qe5 Qe7 36. Rf1 Qa3+ 37. Kb1 axb3 38. axb3 Nd5 39. Rf7+ Kb6 40. Qd4+ Black resigns

Jim Walker (X) - Donald Griffith (X), Round 3
Queen's Gambit, Exchange Slav

1. d4 d5 2. Nf3 Nf6 3. c4 c6 4. cxd5 exd5 5. Nc3 Nc6 6. Bf4 a6 7. e3 Bf5 8. Rc1 e6 9. Be2 Bd6 10. Bxd6 Qxd6 11. O-O O-O 12. Nh4 Rac8 13. g4 Bg6 14. Nxc6 hxg6 15. f4 b5 16. g5 Ne4 17. Bd3 Nb4 18. Bxe4 dxe4 19. a3 Nd3 20. Nxe4 Rxc1 21. Nxd6 Rxd1 22. Rxd1 Nxb2 23. Rc1 Rd8 24. Rc2 Rxd6 25. Rxb2 Rc6 26. Rb3 Rc2 27. Rd3 Kf8 28. h3 Ke7 29. Kf1 Kd6 30. e4 a5 31. d5 exd5 32. Rxd5+ Kc6 33. a4 b4 34. Rxa5 b3 35. Ra6+ Kb7 36. Ra5 b2 37. Rb5+ Kc6 38. White resigns

Jim Fuller (B) - Jerry Skeen (B), Round 4
King's Indian Attack

1. Nf3 g6 2. g3 Bg7 3. Bg2 Nf6 4. O-O O-O 5. d3 Nc6 6. c3 b6 7. e4 d6 8. h3 Bb7 9. Be3 e5 10. Nbd2 Re8 11. Qc2 d5 12. exd5 Nxd5 13. Rfe1 Nxe3 14. Rxe3 Qd7 15. Nh2 Na5 16. Bxb7 Nxb7 17. Rae1 Qxh3 18. d4

Qd7 19. dxe5 Nc5 20. b4 Ne6 21. Nh3 Rad8 22. Kg2 c5 23. a3 Qc6 24. Kg1 Bh6 25. Rd3 Rxd3 26. Qxd3 Rd8 27. Qc2 cxb4 28. axb4 Ng5 29. Nxc6 Bxc6 30. f4 Be7 31. Re2 Rc8 32. Qa2 Qxc3 33. Qxa7 Qd4+ 34. Kg2 Qxb4 35. Ne4 h5 36. Nf6+ Bxf6 37. exf6 Qb5 38. Qe7 Qd5+ 39. Kh2 b5 40. Qb4 h4 41. gxh4 Qh5 42. Qe1 Kh7 43. Re8 Qg4 44. Rxc8 Qxc8 45. h5 Qc5 46. hxg6+ Kxc6 47. Qg1+ Kxf6 48. Qa1+ Kg6 49. Kg3 Qe3+ 50. Kg4 Qe2+ 51. Kg3 Qe3+ 52. Kg4 f5+ 53. Kh4 Qxf4+ 54. Kh3 Qf3+ 55. Kh2 Qe2+ 56. Kh3 b4 57. Qa4 Qe3+ 58. Kg2 Qe4+ 59. Kf2 Kg5 0-1

Jim Walker (X) - Jim Kirkpatrick (A), Round 4
Nimzo-Indian Defense

1. d4 d5 2. Nf3 Nf6 3. c4 e6 4. Nc3 Bb4 5. Bg5 Bxc3+ 6. bxc3 c6 7. e3 Nbd7 8. Qc2 h6 9. Bh4 g5 10. Bg3 Ne4 11. Bd3 f5 12. Bxe4 dxe4 13. Ne5 Nxe5 14. Bxe5 O-O 15. Rb1 b6 16. Qb3 Qe7 17. Qb4 c5 18. Qa3 f4 19. O-O f3 20. g4 h5 21. gxh5 g4 22. Kh1 Qh4 23. Qa4 Qh3 24. Rg1 Qh4 25. Rg3 Qxh5 26. Rbg1 Black resigns

Gary Cummings (B) - Markle Butcher (B), Round 4
French Defense

1. e4 e6 2. d3 d5 3. Nd2 dxe4 4. Nxe4 Nf6 5. Nxf6+ Qxf6 6. Nf3 Bd6 7. g3 Nc6 8. Bg2 O-O 9. O-O h6 10. c3 Rb8 11. Re1 Ne5 12. Nxe5 Bxe5 13. Qe2 Bd6 14. Be3 b6 15. Bd4 Qe7 16. Rad1 c5 17. Be3 Bb7 18. Bxb7 Rxb7 19. d4 cxd4 20. Bxd4 Bc5 21. Qe5 Bxd4 22. Rxd4 Qc5 23. Qe4 Re7 24. Qd3 Qc7 25. Rd1 Rc8 26. Rd7 Rxd7 27. Qxd7 Qxd7 28. Rxd7 a5 29. Rd6 b5 30. Ra6 b4 31. cxb4 axb4 32. Rb6 Ra8 33. Rxb4 Rxa2 34. Rb7 g5 35. Kg2 Kg7 36. Kf3 Kf6 37. Rb6 Kf5 38. Draw

Bill Salmon (E) - Richard Shaver (E), Round 5
Modern Defense

1. d4 Nf6 2. Nc3 g6 3. e4 Bg7 4. Bg5 O-O 5. Qd2 d5 6. Bh6 Nxe4 7. Nxe4 dxe4 8. Bxg7 Kxg7 9. f3 exf3 10. Nxf3 Nc6 11. c3 Re8 12. Bc4 e5 13. O-O exd4 14. cxd4 Bg4 15. Ng5 Be6 16. Nxf7 Qxd4+ 17. Qxd4+ Nxd4 18. Bxe6 Nxe6 19. Rad1 Rf8 20. Rd7 Ng5 21. Nxc6+ Kh6 22. Nf7+ Kg7 23. Ng5+ Kh6 24. h4 Black resigns

Joe Meadows (C) - Jim Olson (D), Round 6
Scandinavian Defense

1. e4 d5 2. exd5 Nf6 3. d4 Bg4 4. Be2 Bxe2 5. Nxe2

WV Action Chess: Winner and still champ, Donald Griffith

Qxd5 6. O-O Nc6 7. c3 O-O-O 8. Qb3 Qxb3 9. axb3
e5 10. dxe5 Nxe5 11. Rxa7 Kb8 12. Ra2 Bd6 13. Na3
Rhe8 14. Nd4 Bxa3 15. Rxa3 Nc6 16. Nxc6+ bxc6 17.
Be3 Re6 18. Rfa1 Rxe3 19. fxe3 Rd2 20. Ra8+ Kb7
21. c4 c5 22. Rf8 Rxb2 23. Rxf7 Rxb3 24. Rxc7 Rxe3
25. Rf1 Ne4 26. Rxh7 Nd2 27. Rd1 Nxc4 28. Rdd7
Re5 29. Rxc7+ Kb6 30. Rce7 Rd5 31. h4 Nd6 32. h5
Nf5 33. Re6+ Kb5 34. g4 Nh4 35. h6 c4 36. Rhe7 Rd4
37. h7 Rxc4+ 38. Kh1 Ng6 39. Rxc6 Rxc6 40. h8=Q
Black resigns

defeated Michael Malutich, Joe Barker and Stephen Malutich in the final three rounds to finish his slate with a perfect 4-0 mark. This marked the second straight Harrison County event where Joe Barker was stunned by a lower rated player. Michael and Shih-Houng's son, Jason tied for second place with 3-1 scores. In the Scholastic events, Hari Seshadri, from Pennsylvania went 4-0 to win the K-8 section. Victor Sivaneri triumphed in the K-5 section, also with a 4-0 mark. Jon Stutler won the K-2 section with an undefeated 4-0.

Shih-Houng Young takes Harrison May Open
Shih-Houng Young bested three players with higher ratings to win the Harrison County May Open. He

Look for more Harrison County to be held this fall at Nutter Fort. For more details, see the Upcoming Events on page two.

WV Action Championship; March 25, 2000; Charleston, WV

#	Name	ST	Pre	Post	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Total
1	Don Griffith	WV	2101	2099	W---6	D---5	W---2	W---8	W---7	W---3	D---4	6.0
2	Jim Walker	WV	2034	2037	H----	W---4	L---1	W--11	W---5	W---8	W---7	5.5
3	James Fuller	WV	1655	1673	W--14	W---7	D---8	L---5	W---6	L---1	W--10	4.5
4	Markle Butcher	WV	1653	1676	D--13	L---2	W--14	W---9	D---8	W---5	D---1	4.5
5	Jerry Skeen	WV	1639	1680	W--12	D---1	W--11	W---3	L---2	L---4	W---8	4.5
6	Gary Morris	WV	1645	1619	L---1	W--14	W---9	L---7	L---3	W--12	W--13	4.0
7	Joe Meadows	WV	1599	1611	W--11	L---3	W--10	W---6	L---1	W---9	L---2	4.0
8	Gary Cummings	WV	1810	1764	W---9	W--10	D---3	L---1	D---4	L---2	L---5	3.0
9	Jim Olson	WV	1333	1346	L---8	W--12	L---6	L---4	W--13	L---7	W--11	3.0
10	Bill Salmon	WV	969	1001	B----	L---8	L---7	L--12	W--14	W--13	L---3	3.0
11	Jim Kirkpatrick	WV	1830	1747	L---7	W--13	L---5	L---2	W--12	H----	L---9	2.5
12	David Holmes	TN	1125	1131	L---5	L---9	W--13	W--10	L--11	L---6	U----	2.0
13	Andy Skeen	WV	1105	1084	D---4	L--11	L--12	W--14	L---9	L--10	L---6	1.5
14	Richard Shaver	WV	1117	1074	L---3	L---6	L---4	L--13	L--10	B----	U----	1.0

Harrison County May Open; May 6, 2000; Nutter Fort, WV

#	Name	ST	Pre	Post	1	2	3	4	Total
1	Shih-Houng Young	WV	1191/09	1387/13	W--13	W---2	W---4	W---5	4.0
2	Mike Malutich	WV	1489	1481	W---9	L---1	W---3	W---7	3.0
3	Jason Young	WV	1253	1284	W--14	W---5	L---2	W---6	3.0
4	Joe Barker	WV	2095	2064	W---8	W--10	L---1	U----	2.0
5	Stephen Malutich	WV	1337	1312	W--11	L---3	W---8	L---1	2.0
6	Dale Halterman	WV	1293	1268	L---7	W--12	W--10	L---3	2.0
7	Jeremy Green	WV	1161	1166	W---6	L---8	W---9	L---2	2.0
8	Dallas Connolly	WV	980/07	1108/11	L---4	W---7	L---5	W--12	2.0
9	Terry Wassell	WV	834/04	906/08	L---2	W--13	L---7	W--14	2.0
10	Mark Tomsho	WV	Unrated	1229/04	W--12	L---4	L---6	W--11	2.0
11	Chad Reedy	WV	827/08	809/12	L---5	W--14	L--12	L--10	1.0
12	Sean Butler	WV	733	745	L--10	L---6	W--11	W---8	1.0
13	John Hoxie	WV	723/16	697/19	L---1	L---9	L--14	B----	1.0
14	Alex Lubman	WV	356/02	588/06	L---3	L--11	W--13	L---9	1.0

U.S. Amateur Championship, South Regional, Games from Mark Hathaway by Mark Hathaway

Co-state champion Mark Hathaway ties for first at the 2000 US Amateur South with David Saville and Ruixin Yang. Mark was kind enough to send on his thoughts on some of his games. - TLB

Mark Hathaway (X) - Dave Olson (B), Round 1
Sicilian Defense, Najdorf Variation,
Opocensky Variation

1. e4 c5 2. Nf3 d6 3. d4 cxd4 4. Nxd4 Nf6 5. Nc3 a6 6. Be2 e5 7. Nb3 Be7 8. O-O 8. Be3 is the older variation Karpov popularized. White threatens invasion at b6 and often would use a2-a4-a5 to secure it. White would fight for control of d5 and attempt to apply pressure, eventually, to Pd6. 8...O-O 9. f4 This newer approach allows for e5xf4 when White can recapture in one move with Bc1, rather than Rf1xf4. 9...exf4?! 9...b5 Possibly best is to pressure Pe4 by Bc8-b7. 10. Bxf4 Be6 11. Qe1 With Bf4 already bearing down on Pd6 it's only natural to place Qg3 and Rd1 to add more pressure. With Qg3 White can also contemplate attacks at g7. 11...Nc6 12. Qg3 Ne5 This blocks the direct threat and offers a pawn (perhaps poison). 13. Rad1 I briefly looked at Bxe5 and declined to become immersed in any complications related to that. I made this decision more on principle than on review of concrete variations. 13...Qc7 14. Kh1 Preparing Nb3-d4 while avoiding problems stemming from Qc7-b6. 14...Rfd8 After this he's ready to play Ne5-g6 to chase Bf4 away. 15. Nd4 Rac8? 15...Ng6 or 15...Bc4 16. Bxc4 Qxc4 17. Nf5 Bf8 18. Bg5. 16. Nxe6 fxe6 17. Qh3 Now Black has no convenient way to defend Pe6. 17...Nc4 17...Qd7?? 18. Bxe5+-. 17...Kf7 is simply scary to contemplate; despite there being no immediate forced win in sight. 18. Qxe6+ Kh8 19. Bxc4 White chooses to simplify to an endgame. Nc4 is quite good and there isn't any other direct attack on Kh8 which is forceful enough to distract Black from his queen-side probing. 19...Qxc4 20. Qxc4 Rxc4 21. e5 21. Rfe1? Ng4 and Black gets his pieces very well organized. 21...dxe5 22. Rxd8+ Bxd8 23. Bxe5 This is the position I envisioned when I proceeded with 19. Bxc4. White's bishop is better than Bd8 and White has an extra pawn. 23...Kg8 24. Rd1 Be7 25. h3 The beginning of a plan to keep Nf6 restrained, if not to chase it to worse squares. It also gives Kh1 air. 25...Rc6 This is the correct decision. Black must wait without weakening his position further. 26. g4 Re6 27.

Bd4 Ne8 28. Kg2 Nd6 29. Kf3 White can now consider b2-b3, Rd1-d2-e2 to simplify further. 29...Bg5 30. b3 Rh6 31. Kg3 Bh4+ 32. Kg2 Re6 33. Rd2 Re8 34. Re2 Rd8 35. Be5 White's bishop isn't doing much immediately, but it maintains the best diagonal and restrains Black while White marshals all his forces. 35...Nf7 36. Bf4 Black has finally chased the bishop out of the center, but in so doing has Bh4 & Nf7 oddly placed. White is still well in control. 36...g6 36...Bf6 37. Ne4 Be7 38. Rd2. 37. Ne4 Rd4 38. c3 Rd8 38...Rd7 39. Nc5 doesn't help much. 39. c4 Kf8 40. Nc5+- Rd1 41. Nxb7 Rd4 42. Nc5 Nd8 42...Rxf4 43. Ne6+ 43. Bc7 It's always a bit odd when one seeks to trade a bishop for knight, but in this situation I felt further simplification was called for and it was easier than fighting through his pieces (to advance pawns). 43...Kf7 44. Bxd8 Rxd8 45. Nxa6 Rd3 46. Nc5 Rg3+ 47. Kh2 Rc3 48. Ne4 Rc1 49. c5 Be7 50. b4 Rc4 51. a3 Rc1 52. Kg3 Who'd have guessed White could march his king (on the dark squares no less) all the way to e5 uncontested. 52...Ke6 53. Kf4 Kd7 54. Ke5 Kc6 55. a4 Rc4 56. b5+ Kc7 57. Kd5 Rxa4?? There is no perfect defense, but this move overlooks a tactic which hastens the end. 58. Nc3 Threatening both Ra4 & Be7! 58...Rb4 58...Ra3 59. Rxe7+ Kd8 60. Re3 59. Rxe7+ Black resigns

David Friedman (A) - Mark Hathaway (X), Round 2
Reti System

1. Nf3 Nf6 2. g3 d5 3. Bg2 c6 White will think twice before playing c2-c4, not knowing whether White's d5xc4 is possible. In any event Black intends to control the light squares solidly, to blunt Bg2. Black plays this quite like a Torre Attack Reversed. 4. d3 Bg4 5. Nbd2 e6 5...Nbd7 to prevent Nf3-e5, was also considered. 6. O-O Nbd7 7. c4 Be7 7...Bd6 isn't preferred because it would only aim at Pg3 (granite). From e7, it might transfer later to f6, hitting White's queen-side. A cost of Be7 is that in some cases that's a better square for Black's queen. 8. Rb1 a5 9. b3 Slightly dubious since he's already spent a tempo on Ra1-b1. After 9. a3, Black probably wouldn't play 9...a4?!. Preferable would be 9...O-O 10. b4 axb4, when Be7 guards square b4, forcing White to either gambit the pawn or recapture with 11. axb4 leaving Black on the open a-file and the

Hathaway at the 2000 USAS (cont)

b-file still blocked (though White can play b4-b5 to pry open some light squares). In light of 10. b4!, since 10...axb3 11. Rxb3 still gives White good play against Pb7, while Pa3 is pretty secure. 9...O-O 10. Bb2 Qc7 Preparing Rf8-b8, b7-b5, a5-a4 to fight where White has left himself a little awkward. I already had the germ of an idea to play Rf8-b8, Qc7-d8-f8, Be7-a3 attempting to trade-off White's better bishop. 11. Qc2 Rfc8 Leaving open the question of whether Qc7 will have to move. I also liked the idea of aligning Rc8 with his Qc2; especially since he had so few alternative squares for his queen. 12. Rfe1 b5 13. e4 Qd8 13...a4 14. e5? In my opinion this is very bad. It blocks Bb2 and takes pressure off the light squares, so Bg2 will remain blocked. Better is 14. Ne5 Nxe5 15. Bxe5 Nd7 16. Bb2 dxc4 17. dxc4 Nc5 18. f3 Bh5 19. Rbd1. 14...Ne8 The knight is definitely awkward at e8, but the position has "slowed" and that means Black has time to reorganize. 15. Nf1 Bf5 16. Ne3 Bg6 17. cxd5 cxd5 18. Qe2 Nc5 18...a4 19. Rbd1 b4 Both securing c3 for a piece to occupy and blocking Pb3, so that a5-a4xb3 will make Pb3 a target as well as helping ensure the a-file opens for a rook. 19...a4 20. b4 20. h4 20. d4 Ne4 20...a4 21. Nd4 Uncovering the threat to play h4-h5, winning Bg6. 21...axb3 22. Nxb3 22. axb3 Ra2 -/+ 22...h6 Since Pa2 is already exposed to attack there's no rush to capture it. Black gives his bishop an escape square first. 22...Rxa2?? 23. Nc1 securing Pd3 and threatening (chasing away) Ra2, so h4-h5 would be a hammer blow. 23. h5 Bh7 24. Nxc5 Rxc5 25. Bd4 Rca5 26. Rd2 Nc7 Probably best was to bring the queen to the a-file first. I was concerned, however, that the position was becoming "faster" and that Ne8 might be a problem piece. 26...Qc8. 27. Bb6 More or less forcing Ra5 off the 5th rank, where it supported Pd5, as well as attacked Pa2. 27...R5a6 28. Bxc7 Qxc7 Now White has a chance to "blast open" the position to gain some piece activity. 29. Nxd5 exd5 30. Bxd5 Rd8 Black has to change direction quickly. Pa2 is defended sufficiently and Pd3 might become a threat to advance. 31. Bc4 Rc6 Holding up the advance of Pd3. 32. Rc2 Possibly planning Bc4xf7+ and Qe2-f3+ to win Rc6. 32...Bc5 33. Rec1 Now the tactics are a bit murkier, but Black has to hold back Pd3 and White tries to "unleash" his pieces in a furious attack. 33...Qe7 Seeing no way to prevent White from forcing events I move to a defensive and slightly counter-attacking posture. 34. Qf3 34.

Bxf7+ Qxf7 35. Rxc5 Rxc5 36. Rxc5 Bxd3. 34...Rc7 35. Re2? More or less capitulation because Black uses the time to improve Bh7 and put a halt to all of White's offensive possibilities. 35. Bxf7+ Qxf7 36. Qxf7+ Kxf7 37. Rxc5 Rxc5 38. Rxc5 Bxd3 39. Rc7+ Kf8 40. Rb7. 35...Qg5 36. Rce1 Bf5 37. e6 Now or never. 37...fxe6 Simply 37...Bxe6 makes it easy for Black. However, I was hoping to threaten Bf5-g4xh5 and didn't want to offer a bishop trade so soon. 38. Re5! Out of the blue there's this great tactical shot and I have to squirm more than I'd expected. Fortunately there's a defense. 38...Rf8 39. Rxf5 Qxf5 40. Bxe6+ Qxe6 41. Qxf8+ Bxf8 42. Rxe6 Rc1+ I hoped to confuse my opponent into letting me win Pa2, rather than just Pf2. Simplest is 42...Rc2 43. Ra6 Bc5. 43. Kg2 Rd1 44. Kf3 I'd hoped to persuade my opponent to defend Pd3 by 44. Re3 when 44...Rd2 allows me to win Pa2. 44. Rd6? Bxd6 -. Instead he just gives me Pd3 (as he had to do). 44...Rxd3+ 45. Ke4?? And then, when he does blunder... 45. Kg2 is safer. 45...Rd2? I passed by the opportunity and go back after Pa2 the wrong way. His Ke4 got in the way of Re6-e2, but I didn't quite grasp that. Instead I was looking at Rd2 as threatening two pawns and the Rd2-e2+. It was nonsense. Rd3-a3 was much better. 45...Ra3! 46. Ke3?? And, to make matters worse, he blunders again and lets me have Pa2 after all. 46. Ra6. 46...Rxa2 47. Re8 Ra7 Threatening Ra7-e7+. 48. Rb8 Kf7 49. f4 Ra3+ 50. Kf2 Rc3 51. g4 Be7 In some time pressure my play became much worse. Be7 doesn't prevent g4-g5 because it must continue defending Pb4. 51...Bd6 52. Rb7+ Rc7 53. Rb5 Bc5+ 54. Ke2 Ke6 55. Kd3 Kd5 56. Rb8 Rf7 57. f5 Ra7 58. Rd8+ Bd6 59. Kc2 Ra3. 51...b3 frees Bf8 to move as needed 51...Rc4. 52. g5 hxg5 53. fxg5 b3 54. g6+ Kf6 White's position is desperate. If he allows Kf6-g5 and Be7-f6 he won't get his pawns past the dark squares. 55. h6 gxh6 56. Rb6+ Kg7 Rc3 has the duty of defending Pb3, so the king goes back. That's not to say this is the only way to win. Black could preserve his bishop and trade Pb3 for Pg6, winning by advancing Ph6, eventually. However, the dark square bishop doesn't help to advance the pawn to h1, so there's some risk of White holding a draw. Best, in my opinion, was to give the bishop for Pg6, simplifying to an ending with two pawns which could advance. This is nearly always a winning situation. 57. Rb7 Kxg6 58. Rxe7 b2 59. Rb7 Rc2+ White's rook is almost completely bound to the b-

Hathaway at the 2000 USAS (cont)

file. After this my thoughts become organized and I carry out the winning plan quickly. 60. Kg3 60. Ke3 h5 61. Kd3 Rh2 62. Kc3 h4 63. Rb6+ (63. Rb3 hoping for Kc3-b4-a3-a2, freeing Rb3 to fight Black's king, doesn't work. 63...Rh3+ 64. Kxb2 Rxb3+ 65. Kxb3 h3) 63...Kg5 64. Rb8 Rf2 65. Rg8+ Kf4 66. Rf8+ Kg3 67. Rg8+ Kf3 68. Rf8+ Kg2 69. Rg8+ Kf1 70. Rb8 h3 71. Rb7 h2 winning easily. 60...Kf5 61. Rb4 Ke5 62. Kf3 Kd5 63. Ke3 Kc5 64. Rb8 Kc4 65. Rb6 Rh2 Both protecting Rh6 and clearing the way for Kc4-c1. 66. Rb8 Kc3 67. Rc8+ Kb3 68. Rb8+ Kc2 69. Rc8+ Kd1 70. Rb8 Kc1 71. Rc8+ Rc2 72. Rg8 Rc3+ Simplest is 72...b1=Q. 73. Kd4 Rh3 74. Rg1+ Kc2 75. Rg2+ Kb3 76. Rg8 b1=Q 77. White resigns

Mark Hathaway (X) - Ruixin Yang (X), Round 3
Sicilian Defense, Rossolimo Attack

1. e4 e5 2. Nf3 Nc6 3. Bb5 a6 4. Ba4 Nf6 5. d3 I have used this for several years, to avoid both the Open Variation and the Marshall Gambit. It produces a slow maneuvering game where Black isn't in much danger if he knows how to play such positions. 5...b5 6. Bb3 d6 7. c3 After Black has defended Pe5 he threatens Nc6-a5xb3, so I give Bb3 room to retreat, and it might help prepare d3-d4 for some later time. 7...Be7 8. Nbd2 Be6 I hadn't faced this against a human opponent. It's quite effective. 9. Nf1 O-O 10. Ng3 Na5 11. Bxe6 11. Bc2 11...fxe6 12. O-O White hopes for Nf3-g5 and f2-f4 to begin opening lines toward Kg8. Black isn't prepared to counterattack in the center, so he must defend a bit first. 12...h6! 12...c5 planning Na5-c6 (to defend Pe5) and d6-d5. 13. d4 exd4 14. cxd4 cxd4 15. e5 Nd5 16. Nxd4 might favor White, though Nd5 is very good at restricting Bc1. 13. d4 Forcing another way for Pf2 to be uncovered (made mobile). 13. Nh4 Nxe4 14. Ng6 Nxe3 15. Nxf8 Nxf1 16. Nxe6 Qd7 17. Qxf1 (17. Nc5? dxc5 18. Qxf1 Rd8) 17...Qxe6. 13...exd4 14. Nxd4 Qd7 15. f4 Nc6 16. f5 Nxd4 17. Qxd4 In retrospect it might have been better to keep Qd1 on the path to g4 & h5. 17. cxd4 exf5 18. exf5 c5 but, I wanted to keep my pawns back further from his. This would mean he'd have to advance further (using time) before being able to force any gain on the queen-side. 17...e5 18. Qd1 c6 19. Qe2 Rfe8 20. Nh5 It's unfortunate I had to help him free Be7, but I saw no better approach. Perhaps just to wait with 20. Bd2 would have given him the opportunity to go wrong with Be7-f8, but that wasn't so likely. He

could have easily aimed for 20...d5 21. Rad1 Bc5+ 22. Kh1 a5. 20...d5 21. Nxf6+ Bxf6 Still, Bf6 is blocked by Pe5; and White isn't going to play e4xd5 to "help" him open lines further. 22. Qg4 Qa7+ 22...d4 23. Bxh6 dxc3 24. bxc3 Qa7+ 25. Kh1 Rad8. 23. Kh1 Kh8 24. Qg6 Threatening Bxh6. 24...Rf8 He's suddenly playing very passive, so White has a slight initiative, if only psychological. This could change quickly. 25. Bd2 I didn't want to use Rf1-f3-h3 because that would leave f2 weak for a possible Black counter-attack. I intended Ra1-e1-e3-h3, with Bd2 holding together the queen-side. 25...Qf7 26. Qg4 Rad8 After this move it appeared he might play d5-d4, taking away square e3 from my rook, so I changed directions a bit - trying to bring Ra1 into play another way. 27. a4 dxe4 28. Be3 Qc4 29. axb5 axb5 30. Rfe1 This very passive looking move seemed necessary to stem Black's counter-attack possibilities. I was worried I had misjudged the position, and that I might be losing. But, there were enough intangibles to make it unclear. 30...Qb3 is safe enough, but if Qb3xb2 then the queen is two moves from returning to defend Kh8. 31. Rad1 Rfd8 32. Qh5 Now that Black has ventured away from his purely defensive stance I can renew the threat of Bxh6!. 32...Rxd1 33. Rxd1 Rf8 34. h3 Qb3 35. Rd7 Kg8 36. Bxh6 Rf7 Again he plays a solid defensive move. However, in the simplification it allows White should be better, since Black has doubled e-file pawns. 37. Rxf7 Qxf7 38. Qxf7+ Kxf7 39. Be3 Bh4 40. Kg1 40. g4? Kf6 and Black blockades the dark squares. 41. Kg2 Be1=. 40...Bg3 40...Kf6 41. g4 Bg3 42. b3 Be1 (42...Bf4? 43. Bb6 Ke7 44. Kf2 +/-) 43. c4 Bc3 44. Kf1 Bd4 =. 41. Bg5 Draw agreed White is better here, but it's not so easy to win when both players are in time pressure. He had planned 41...Bf4 and I was considering 42. h4, preventing Bf4-c1 (or d2) and keeping Black's king at bay. If I could have forced a favorable bishop trade it would be a win. Unfortunately, I didn't have sufficient time to work out all the subtleties. This game came back to haunt me (in a way), as my opponent survived to tie for first (with David Saville and me) and then went on to beat me in the final tie-break speed chess games, to win the title.

Hopefully, we will see Mark in South Charleston over Labor Day weekend to try and defend his West Virginia State Title.

Ruixin Yang Outlasts Hathaway and Saville at the USAS; Ricky Durbin Reserve Champion

Ruixin Yang, a student from Arlington, Virginia was the winner of this year's United States Amateur Championship, Southern Regionals. The past winners of the USAS contested in Charleston were John Roush (WV) in 1997, William Surlow (PA) in 1998 and Russ Wilson (OH) last year.

After the five rounds of play, Ruixin, Mark Hathaway and David Saville were tied with a score of 4-1. They played a round-robin blitz series to break the ties. In the first game, Mark takes Ruixin's last pawn just before his flag fell - a draw. Then both Yang and Hathaway defeat Saville. Ruixin then defeated Mark in a best-of-three match to determine the champion. Class winners were Jeff McAleer (A) and West Virginian's Gary Morris (B) and Walt Rueckert (C).

You can find some of Mark Hathaway's games earlier in this edition.

Walt Rueckert (C) - Jeff McAleer (A), Round 1
 1. d4 Nf6 2. e3 g6 3. f4 d6 4. Nf3 Bg7 5. Be2 O-O 6. O-O Nbd7 7. c3 c5 8. Qe1 Nb6 9. h3 cxd4 10. exd4 h5 11. Nh2 Qc7 12. Nd2 e5 13. fxe5 dxe5 14. Qg3 Nfd5 15. Nb3 exd4 16. Qxc7 Nxc7 17. Nxd4 Ne6 18. Nxe6 Bxe6 19. Bf3 Bd5 20. Bxd5 Nxd5 21. Bg5 f6 22. Bh4 Ne3 23. Rf3 Nc4 24. b3 Ne5 25. Rff1 Rad8 26. Rad1
Drawn

David Saville (X) - Donald Griffith (X), Round 4
 Slav Defense
 1. d4 d5 2. c4 c6 3. Nc3 Nf6 4. e3 e6 5. Bd3 dxc4 6. Bxc4 b5 7. Bb3 a6 8. Nf3 Bb7 9. O-O c5 10. a3 Nc6 11. Re1 Be7 12. d5 exd5 13. Nxd5 Nxd5 14. Bxd5 O-O 15. e4 Qc7 16. Be3 Rad8 17. Qc2 c4 18. b3 Na5 19. b4 Bxd5 20. bxa5 Bc6 21. Bb6 Qf4 22. Bxd8 Rxd8 23. a4 g5 24. axb5 Bxb5 25. Rad1 Rd3 26. Nd4 Bb4 27. Rxd3 Bxe1 28. Rf3 Qe5 29. Qd1 Bxa5 30. Rf5 Qb8 31. Rxc5+ Kf8 32. Qh5 Bd7 33. Qd1 Qb4 34. Nc2 Qa4 35. Qd6+ Ke8 36. Rg8

Jon Karraker (A) - Dave Olson (B), Round 5
 Sicilian Defense
 1. e4 c5 2. Nc3 d6 3. g3 Nc6 4. Bg2 g6 5. d3 Bg7 6. Be3 Nf6 7. h3 e5 8. Qd2 Be6 9. Bh6 Bxh6 10. Qxh6 Qe7 11. Qd2 O-O-O 12. Nd5 Bxd5 13. exd5 Nb4 14. Ne2 Nbx5 15. O-O h5 16. c4 Nc7 17. Qa5 Kb8 18. b4 cxb4 19. Rfb1 Na6 20. a3 b3 21. Rxb3 Nc5 22. Rb5 Rd7 23. d4 Nd3 24. Rab1 Rc8 25. Rxb7+ Rxb7 26. Rxb7+ Qxb7 27. Bxb7 Kxb7 28. Qc3 Nxf2 29. Qb4+ Kc6 30. Kxf2 **Black resigns**

In the final round matchup between Ruixin Yang and Jim Walker, Yang traded his queen for three pieces and a wild game ensued. Yang won the game with both players in some time pressure, so I don't have the whole score, but here it what we have:

Open Section Prizewinners:

1 st : Ruixin Yang	1 st B: Gary Morris
2 nd : Mark Hathaway	2 nd B: Gary Cummings
3 rd : David Saville	3 rd B: Joel Harrison
4 th : Roderick Brown	4 th B: David J. Olson
5 th : John Roush	1 st C: Walter Rueckert
6 th : David Friedman	2 nd C: Michael Spencer
1 st A: Jeffrey McAleer	3 rd C: David Hundley
2 nd A: Jon Karraker	4 th C: Tommy Bass
3 rd A: Robert Canary	Upset Prize: David Hundley
4 th A: Peter Andreas	

Reserve Section Prizewinners:

1 st : Ricky Durbin	1 st E: Shih-Houng Young
2 nd : Daniel O'Connor	2 nd E: Kevin Bethoud
3 rd : Charles Waugh	3 rd E: Elias Stewart
4 th : Michael Booth	1 st U1000: Bryan McMeem
5 th : Jeremy Scott Davis	2 nd U1000: Terry Wassell
6 th : Ken Samuel	3 rd U1000: Trevor McGraw
1 st C: Joe Meadows	4 th U1000: Bill Salmon
2 nd C: Benjamin Blair	Junior Prize: Kent Berthoud
3 rd C: Eric Berthoud	Scholastic: Quaitemes Williams
4 th C: Jim Cummings	Under 13: Jamie Karraker
1 st D: Jason Young	Upset Prize: Kent Berthoud
2 nd D: Galen Miller	
3 rd D: Samuel Rhodes	
4 th D: Jim Olson	

Ruixin Yang Outlasts Hathaway and Saville at the USAS; Ricky Durbin Reserve Champion

Jim Walker (X) - Ruixin Yang (X), Round 5
Slav Defense

1. d4 d5 2. Nf3 Bf5 3. c4 c6 4. cxd5 cxd5 5. Nc3 e6 6. Qb3 Qc8 7. Bf4 Na6 8. e4 dxe4 9. Bb5+ Kd8 10. Ne5 Ke7 11. Bg5+ f6 12. Qa3+ Nc5 13. Bd7 Qc7 14. Nb5 Qxe5 15. dxe5 Kxd7 16. O-O fxe5 17. Nd6 Bxd6 18. Rfd1 Nd3 19. Qxd6+ Ke8 20. Qc7 Ne7 21. Qxb7 Kf7 22. Qa6 Rbh8 23. b3 Rb6 24. Qa5 Nc6 25. Qc3 Nxe5 26. Qc7+ Kf6 27. h3 Rb5 28. Rd2 Rc5 29. Qb7 Rce8 30. Kh2 a5 31. Qb5 Rc5 32. Qb6 Rac8 33. Rad1 h5 34. a3 h4 35. b4 axb4 36. axb4 R5c6 37. Qa5 g4 38. Qa1 Nxb4 39. Rd7 Rc3 40. Rd8 g3+ 41. Kg1 gxf2+ 42. Kxf2 Rc2+ 43. Kg1 Nd5 44. Rxc8 Rxc8 with Black winning in a time scramble.

In the Reserve Section, KY's Ricky Durbin finished the two days with four wins and a draw clinching sole possession of first place. Mike Booth, Chuck Waugh (WV) and Daniel O'Connor were only ½ point off the leader. West Virginian's placed well in the class prizes as Joe Meadows (C), along with vastly improving father and son combo Shih-Houng (E) and Jason Young (D): PA's Bryan McMeem won the U1000 trophy.

Jim Kirkpatrick (B) - Ricky Durbin (C), Round 2
Sicilian Defense

1. e4 c5 2. d4 cxd4 3. Nf3 d6 4. Nxd4 Nf6 5. Nc3 a6 6. Be2 e6 7. Be3 Be7 8. Qd2 b5 9. Nb3 Nbd7 10. a3 Bb7 11. f3 Qc7 12. O-O O-O 13. g4 Ne5 14. g5 Nfd7 15. f4 Nc4 16. Bxc4 Qxc4 17. Na5 Qc7 18. Nxb7 Qxb7 19. f5 exf5 20. Nd5 Ne5 21. Nb6 Rad8 22. Qd5 Qa7 23. exf5 Ng4 24. Qd4 Nxe3 25. Qxe3 Rfe8 26. Rae1 Rb8 27. f6

Qxb6 28. Qxb6 Rxb6 29. Rxe7 Kf8 30. Rfe1 Rxe7 31. fxg7+ Kxg7 32. Rxe7 Rc6 33. c3 Rc5 34. h4 Rc4 35. Rd7 Rxh4 36. Rxd6 Rg4+ 37. Kf2 Rxe5 38. Rxa6 h5 39. Ra5 h4 40. c4 h3 41. Rxb5 f5 42. Rb3 Rg2+ 43. Kf1 Kf6 44. Rxh3 Rxb2 45. Rc3 Ke6 46. c5 Kd7 47. c6+ Kc7 48. a4 Rb4 49. a5 Drawn

Jason Young (D) - Benjamin Blair (C), Round 2
Sicilian Defense, Dragon Variation

1. e4 c5 2. Nf3 Nc6 3. d4 cxd4 4. Nxd4 g6 5. Nc3 Bg7 6. Be3 Nf6 7. Bd3 O-O 8. O-O d5 9. exd5 Nxd5 10. Nxd5 Qxd5 11. Nxc6 Qxc6 12. c3 Be6 13. Qc2 Bd5 14. f3 Qe6 15. Rfe1 Bxa2 16. Bxa7 Bb3 17. Qd2 Qd6 18. Qe2 Rfd8 19. Be4 Rd7 20. Qb5 Bd5 21. Red1 b6 22. Rxd5 Rdxa7 23. Rxa7 Black resigns

Michael Booth (B) - Jason Young (D), Round 5
Blackmar-Diemer Gambit

1. d4 d5 2. e4 dxe4 3. Nc3 f5 4. Bc4 Nf6 5. Bf4 Bd7 6. f3 e6 7. fxe4 fxe4 8. Qe2 Bb4 9. Nh3 Nc6 10. Rd1 Qe7 11. Bxc7 e5 12. dxe5 Nxe5 13. Bb5 Nc6 14. Nf2 a6 15. Bxc6 Bxc6 16. Bf4 O-O 17. O-O Bxc3 18. bxc3 Qe6 19. c4 b5 20. Rd6 Qe8 21. Rfd1 Qc8 22. Be5 Bd7 23. Bxf6 Rxf6 24. Rxd7 bxc4 25. Qxe4 Qf8 26. Qxc4+ Kh8 27. Qd4 Qg8 28. Ng4 Rff8 29. Nh6 Qe6 30. Qxg7 mate

The tourney was directed by Rev. John Kay and was held at the Holiday Inn in downtown Charleston. John told me that there was not as many as last year, but it was close.

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