

Florida **CHESS**

FLORIDA CHESS ASSOCIATION QUARTERLY PUBLICATION

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In this issue

Interview with OAK HALL

Chess Team Coach:

Tim Tusing

Cartoonist: Tony Sullivan

Juan Leon's Brush with Fame



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Alternates: Tim Staley, Krista Alton, George Foote, and Tim Gospodinov

Editor Speaks & President's Message	3
Cover Story: Tim Tusing & Oak Hall Chess	4
Spotlight—Manasota Chess Club	7
A Word with Tony Sullivan	8
Florida Top Players List	10
Games Reviewed by Miguel Ararat	11
Regional Reports, FCA VPs	14
The Chess Wizard's Wayback Machine	17
Collector's Corner	18
Brush with Fame	19
Najdorf Sicilian Survey by NM Bryan Tillis	20
Book Reviews by Miguel Ararat	22
Photo Gallery	26
2022 CFCC Winter Open	28
Board Nomination Announcement	30
Calendar of Events & FCA Florida 2021 Affiliates	31

FCA Membership Dues

Send to the FCA (c/o Treasurer) or online (Memberships/Join FCA)

Regular	— \$20 (for two years)
Scholastic (under 20)	— \$15 (for two years)
Club Affiliate	— \$30 (for two years)
Family	— \$30 (for two years)
Life	— \$200 (10 times Regular Dues)

Florida Chess Association (FCA) is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization devoted exclusively to the promotion of chess in Florida. FCA is the official USCF affiliate for the state of Florida. FCA web site — <http://www.floridachess.org>

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The opinions expressed are those of the contributors and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Florida Chess Association, its Board, or anyone else.

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Editor Speaks



With 2021 in the rearview mirror and 2022 in full view in front of us, I'm optimistic for a year that allows for a full rebound in OTB chess. The National K-12 in Orlando was a step in that direction and I wish everyone (players, directors, & organizers) well as they navigate what may be the new normal going into 2022.

You may have already noticed that I have changed the cover format we have used since the last change back in the year 1997. We have gone to a full color cover and I hope you enjoy the modified look. The previous design will still serve us well as the artwork will continue to be used in the magazine (and within the organization) as we go forward.

Chess Coach, Tim Tusing, is featured in our cover story interview this issue. He shares some of his valuable coaching wisdom with us and we are appreciative. Our scholastic teams in Jacksonville often measure themselves against Tim's teams from the Oak Hall School in Gainesville, as Tim has lead Oak Hall to outstanding results through the years.

Artist/Humorist/Author, Tony Sullivan was also interviewed in this issue. Tony is an Englishman and has been relocated in Australia for many years. I enjoyed connecting with him via a Zoom call down under (it was evening here and the next day in Australia). Technology making life easier...

Speaking of Technology, Miguel Ararat, our book reviewer, gives us some insight to technology in the chess world with his review of "The Silicon Road to Chess Improvement" by Matthew Sadler. On the tail of recent World Championship, he also reviews **Nepomniachtchi Move by Move** by Cyrus Lakdawala and **Magnus Carlsen: A Life in Pictures** by New in Chess

Some of the new features I discussed in last quarter's magazine have been introduced this issue as well. Collector's Corner touches on Russian-American Sculpture Peter Ganine's contribution to the chess world and pop culture. Juan Leon shares with us, his Brush with Fame in the 1969 San Juan International Masters tournament.

Staying with the Tournament theme, The State Scholastic Championship is only weeks away. If you are a scholastic player (or the parent of a scholastic player), this is fantastic tournament to play in. You can sign up at ChessRegister.com. I hope to see you there.

There are also game reviews and tournament reports in this issue to help keep you informed. I am in talks with a National Master/Life Master that may come on board as an additional tournament reporter for floridaCHESS. I'll keep you informed. Enjoy this quarter's issue!

Yours in Chess,

George Foote

Editor, floridaCHESS

from the President's desk

Dear FCA members and friends,

First off, I need to remind scholastic players of the March 11-13th State Scholastic Championship in Orlando Wyndham Resort on International Drive. Pre-Covid, we drew 350, hoping for a similar turnout next month.



As I have done for the last 18 months, I've continued to track chess activity in our state and want to make it official **OTB CHESS IS BACK!** How do I know? Here's what the numbers say in US Chess Rated events.

2019: 426 events (Jan-Dec)

2020: 154 events (100 by MAR 15th, then COVID)

2021: 334 events

2022: 32 events in JAN (432 annualized)

This story's untold part is that post-COVID events often have significantly elevated participation rates. I played in 36 events in 2021 and saw the enthusiasm around the state. I want to thank the organizers for making events available and the players & parents for the turnout.

In this edition, you will see our official announcement for Board Candidate nominations for our next election later this Summer. You can nominate anyone, but all must be vetted based upon our Bylaws to stand for election by voting members of the FCA. Bylaws dictate who can run and who can vote. They are posted for all to see at <https://floridachess.org/By-Laws>.

What are the qualities of influential board members? People who have demonstrated a strong bias toward supporting chess locally, statewide, or nationally. Chess-playing ability is not a requirement compared to people who are willing to sacrifice by investing their time, talent & treasure to grow chess statewide away from the chessboard. They also have to be able to put Florida's needs above personal chess endeavors (play or business/financial) to support the delivery of state programs and initiatives.

Finally, I am looking forward to our 2022 OTB tournament editions, both the Women's and Senior Championship and the next installment of the Harvey Lerman State Championship.

Here's to 2022 being our best chess year ever!

See you **OVER THE BOARD** soon,

Kevin Pryor

Cover Story:

Interview with Coach Tim Tusing, Oak Hall Chess Team

When did you first learn chess and who was instrumental in your chess education?

I learned to play in grade school with some friends. We had no instructor or teacher so we just sort of learned on our own.

Do you have any favorite games in your playing career? I really do not have a “playing career”. I have only played in a handful of rated games. **Favorite players?** Bobby Fischer early on but his “craziness” later on got to be too much for me. Definitely Magnus! For scholastic chess Paul Morphy has the best games for kids to learn to develop plans and learn tactics.

When did you start the Oak Hall program and what were the motivating factors? I started the Oak Hall Chess Club in 1997. My son was in 3rd grade and they were trying to start a chess club. My wife suggested that I go in to help and I sort of inherited it since no one else came into help. I had no knowledge of teaching chess and at the time was no more than a novice player.

How has the program changed through the years? It first started out as a “just for fun” sort of thing with about 8 students. We soon discovered that there were rated tournaments and the kids won a couple of trophies. At that point other kids wanted in on the fun. The club kept growing from meeting one day a week to a couple days a week until finally I was doing it every day. I eventually quit my “real” job and worked on the club full time. I had to keep learning chess myself because the kids quickly became better than me so I had to work hard just to keep one step ahead of them! The club now meets everyday after school. The school and administration has given the club tremendous support and has now incorporated chess as part of the curriculum in the lower grades. My new assistant, Kevin Sevilla, has added new depth to the program and the results are already starting to show!

Do you have an underlying Philosophy that influences your chess teaching? Keep it simple, easy , and fun

Do you incorporate life lessons in your chess teaching? Yes! I teach that each move is a choice that must be considered carefully. I use the example of crossing the street. You can choose to look both ways or not to look both ways. The consequences will be different and you have to learn to live with your choice.

What trends have you observed while teaching chess through 25 years? I have definitely noticed how the internet has become a very important tool for learning chess. A student really does not need a coach any more. They can watch, learn, and analyze their strategies and games themselves.. I use various sites on the web for teaching each day.

What do your student's enjoy most about learning chess? (and what's your favorite part of teaching?) I try to keep the club running as a “team”. So being part of a team is a big key to our success. If we win a championship the kid that only won 1 game is as much a factor as the kid that won every game. Even the kids that do not go to an event are considered part of the team. We help each other everyday and give support and encouragement. Everyone is an ingredient to making all the best players in the club.

What do they enjoy least? 😊 They seem to like most everything about chess. I would say the least would have to be doing notation. I require notation in tournament games and during chess

club each day they must try to complete a full game with notation.

As a group, do you current students favor any specific format (blitz, quick, etc.) Most of the kids LOVE bughouse! I think its a great way for them to learn tactics and develop planning skills. If they complete their work and have a full game of complete notation they get to play 30 minutes of bughouse each day.

Do you incorporate specific books or online training programs? I only use books with puzzles – such as the Jeff Coakley books or Polgar Chess 5334 puzzles or Pandolfini's Chess Challenges 111 winning endgame puzzles. I also use chesskid.com

Can you share one of your favorite stories/experiences with the team? My proudest moment was at the 2019 All Girls Championship in Chicago. By average rating our girls had the 5th best team, 300 points under the top team in the event, so I figured a top 5 finish would be good. In the last round each girl won her game and we jumped the field to first place and won the championship! Another favorite is the first time our students won trophies which happened to be at the 1999 state championship. We didn't think we did very well but to be polite we stayed for the awards ceremony to cheer others on. We were sitting in the back and the person announcing the names kept calling our kids names but we were not recognizing it since we thought he must have meant someone else! Finally we recognized it was us and our excitement instantly grew to pandemonium!

How has the pandemic influenced the way you teach chess? We had to cancel summer chess in 2020. I also have limited the number of players in the room each day since the pandemic. We rotate our days for the club and so everyone still gets to attend. But overall I would say that we have worked around it very well.

Do you have advice for any aspiring coaches out there that might be reading this article? Based on my experience in life with chess, the best advice I can give is this: Find one program/school and try to build that one program. Promote your students accomplishments , not necessarily yours. You can be rated 2500 and win the US Open but if your top student is rated 400 and never placed in an event your job as a coach is not very attractive to prospective customers. When one of your students wins (or does very well) at an event, use them as a “poster child” for your program. KEEP IT SIMPLE, FUN, AND EASY!



Coach Tim Tusing (on right) with is 2021 K-12 Nationals Team

All Championships listed are for OPEN /Championship Sections or Divisions for the Oak Hall School under Coach Tim Tusing

(NO under section or unrated sections are counted or listed)

USCF National Championships

2006- Kindergarten
2007- Kindergarten
2008- Kindergarten
2008- First Grade
2010- Kindergarten
2011- Kindergarten
2011- First Grade
2012- Kindergarten
2013- Kindergarten
2015- Kindergarten
2015- Second Grade
2016- Kindergarten
2017- Kindergarten
2017- Second Grade
2017- Fourth Grade
2018- Kindergarten
2018- U8 All Girls
2021- First Grade

2016 Grade K-3
2017 Grade K-1
2018 Grade K-1
2019 Grade K-1
2019 Grade K-3
2020 Grade K-1

At the recent 2021 USCF Grade K-12 National Championship
(only school in US to have Top 10 teams in each elementary grade)

Kindergarten- 2nd place
First Grade - 1st place
Second Grade- 3rd place
Third Grade- 6th place
Fourth Grade- 5th place
Fifth Grade- 7th place
Ninth Grade - 4th place

FCA/FSCL State Championships

2001 Grade 4
2002 Grade 5
2002 Grade K-1
2003 Grade K-1
2005 Grade K-1
2006 Grade K-3
2007 Grade K-1
2007 Grade K-5
2008 Grade K-1
2008 Grade K-3
2008 Grade K-5
2009 Grade K-1
2009 Grade K-3
2009 Grade K-5
2010 Grade K-1
2011 Grade K-1
2012 Grade K-1
2013 Grade K-1
2014 Grade K-1
2015 Grade K-1
2015 Grade K-3



Coach Tusing reviewing games in between rounds at the San Marco Scholastic (January 2022)
Photo by: Joseph Whale

Oak Hall currently has 23 students on the prospective USCF top 100 list (January)!

Manasota Chess Center

Building a Chess Community for Sarasota and Beyond



Since opening in June 2021, the Manasota Chess Center (MCC), a non-profit organization located in Sarasota Florida, has launched a diverse set of programs and activities that go beyond a traditional chess club. The primary focus of the MCC has been to create an environment where chess players can **learn, compete and connect**. The result has been a steady growth in its membership, which now exceeds 50 players and is projected to approach nearly 100 by the end of 2022. For Sarasota, the MCC is also the only “brick-and-mortar” dedicated location for chess, as well as the only active US Chess Federation Affiliate. These attributes, coupled with being open 3 days a week, make the MCC an extremely attractive venue for chess players.

One program that has tapped into a growing demand within the local chess community, is monthly in-person/over-the-board (OTB) chess tournaments. Many OTB tournaments, unfortunately, faded away during the COVID-era. According to **Nick Lewis, Executive Director for the MCC**, “Our monthly face-to-face (or mask-to-mask) Swiss and Quad chess tournaments are attracting more and more players throughout Florida. While most of our tournament competitors live in Sarasota and Manatee counties, because there are still so few OTB chess tournaments in Florida, we also are attracting players from Charlotte, DeSoto, Lee, Hillsborough, Miami-Dade, Duval, and Orange counties.” Going forward in 2022, the MCC plans to expand its competitive chess activities through various initiatives that include scholastic-only tournaments, Grandmaster simuls, chess team leagues, and an MCC member-only match competition ladder.



Beyond its programs for chess competitions, the MCC also is expanding its efforts to provide more opportunities for players to **learn** to become stronger chess players. Currently, the MCC offers in-person private and group chess lessons with its staff of US Chess Federation certified coaches. To expand upon these learning options, in March 2022 the MCC plans to introduce online group chess lessons for beginners, intermediate and advanced players. These online group lessons will be taught by **Grandmaster Akshayraj (Raj) Kore**. A resident of the United States, GM Kore became India's 32nd Grandmaster in 2013. During his college years, he played in the President's Cup (final four of college chess) and beat rising star GM Wesley So (who is currently ranked #8 in the world). In addition to online group lessons, beginning in February the MCC will provide tournament game analysis by **Grandmaster Pascal Charbonneau** on its YouTube and Twitch streaming channels. A 2-time Canadian Chess Champion, GM Charbonneau's victories include his defeat of former World Chess Champion Vishy Anand at the 37th Chess Olympiad in Turin, Italy. It's important to note that all chess players who participate in MCC tournaments are eligible to have one of their games analyzed by GM Charbonneau on the YouTube/Twitch streaming channels.

A few words with Author/Artist/Humorist, Tony Sullivan



What led you to choose chess as a subject for your cartoon book CHESS PEACE?

I was working on a series of cartoons called “The Bottom Line” a pun referring to the punch line at the bottom of a cartoon. I was sending them to a cartoon syndicate in the US. Out of the blue I did one chess cartoon. Wow, I was surprised at just how popular the cartoon became. This got me thinking of doing a brand new single panel cartoon entitled **“Chess Peace: Cartoons by Tony Sullivan.”** So, there I was, with this new idea of an extremely niche market that had not yet been exploited by a cartoonist. And, so, “Chess Peace” was born! I named it ‘Chess Peace’ rather than ‘Chess piece’ as most of the cartoons are based off the chessboard. Over a few days, I did ten cartoons and to my shock, they were all bought by Kingpin chess magazine in the UK!

What is your “chess story...” when and where you learned the game, and other memorable chess events in your life?

When I was young and my siblings were happy just playing checkers, I on the other hand wanted to play with the big boys. I spent many hours watching my dad and uncles and was just fascinated by the game of chess. When I was 8 years old, my dad taught me how to play chess. It wasn't until I was nine years old that I could beat my dad, and still do all these years later, much to his frustration. I started to show a lot of promise in the game but once I reached my early teens and my hormones began to set in, chasing girls and playing soccer became the theme. My 2 most memorable chess events were winning a medal at my first ever competition, aged 12 years. The next most memorable thing and probably the one thing I most proud with is publishing my book of cartoons!



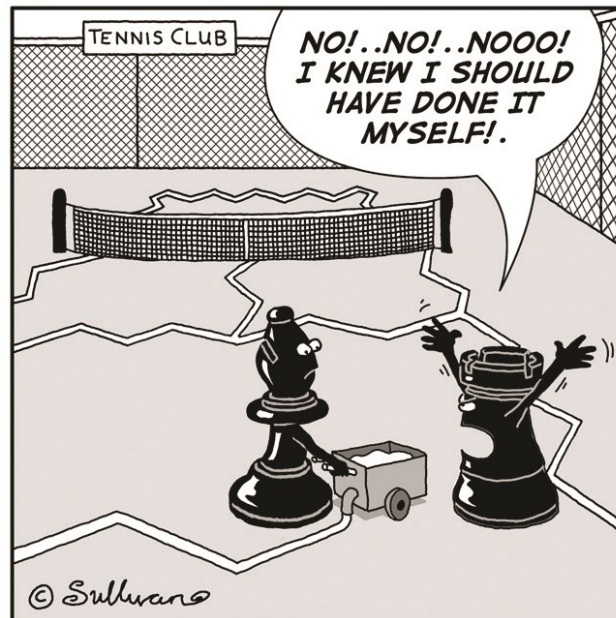
Tony's medal from his first chess competition!

Do you have anymore books, or chess related materials available, or available soon?

I have a shop on **Zazzle.com** selling Chess Peace merchandise, t-shirts, mugs, greeting cards and much more. Just recently I developed a new idea called **“Flag Pawns.”** I put the flag of a country on the base of the pawn whilst the rest of the pawn is colored with the colors of flag. Examples include chess USA, chess GB, chess India, and many more. They are great to wear at your local chess club or in tournaments where you can wear your countries shirt with pride. I'm now working on my second book **“Chess Peace II.”**

Editors Note: Tony has, graciously, agreed to let us publish one of his cartoons in each of our next three issues! We think it will be a hilarious addition to our humor page, “Light on the Right.” Follow him on FB at www.facebook.com/chesspeacecartoons, and on Instagram at www.instagram.com/chesspeacecartoons/. You can also find his book on **Amazon.com**. It's really funny stuff and you're sure to enjoy it!

CHESS PEACE



Cartoons by Tony Sullivan.

CHESS USA



Chess India



Chess England



Chess South Africa



Sullivan

Chess Australia



Chess Espania



Chess Netherlands



Chess Germany

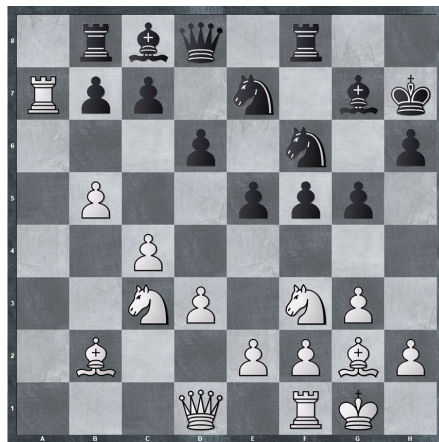


A Sampling of Tony Sullivan's— "Flag Pawns"

FLORIDA'S TOP PLAYERS
(Using Fall 2021 USCF Rating Supplement's "Top 100" Active Player Lists, except for "OVERALL")

Players 18 & Under	Age	Rating	<u>GIRLS U<1900</u>		<u>OVERALL (active masters)</u>
Kumar, Nikhil	17	2442	Amy Xing	18 1555	GM OLEXANDR BORTNYK 2678
Ngo, Bach	13	2302	Shama Yisrael	17 1948	IM DANIEL FERNANDEZ 2521
Venkat, Raghar	17	2285	Jennifer Hoyos	16 1400	ROBERT M PEREZ 2494
Kumar, Namar	14	2201	Gia Burk	15 1127	GM RENIER GONZALEZ 2481
Hernandez, Ron	14	2167	Sisira S Yerrajennu	14 1773	GM RONALD W HENLEY 2456
Chen, Benjamin Lj	17	2164	Alice Wu	13 1797	IM YUNIER LEYVA RIVERA 2454
Gao, Marvin	13	2158	Jolie Huang	12 1720	FM NIKHIL KUMAR 2442
Chakrabarti, Brejesh	11	2155	Elena Anastasia	11 1372	FM COREY ACOR 2371
Stone, Vincent William	15	2091	Coco Yao	10 1100	MarLLa Bortnyk 2352
Yang Jr., Andy	16	2064	Maanya Rao	9 909	FM MARK RITTER 2341
Shukla, Aniket	13	2057	Sophie Li	8 994	ROBERTO ALVAREZ FERREIRO 2330
Gospodinov, Antony	15	2032	Karina Prasad	7 703	FM DALTON PERRINE 2330
Pothuri, Abhiram Sai	12	2012	Eleanor Jang	6 722	BACH NGO 2330
Drum, Robert David	16	2011	<u>SENIORS (65+)</u>		RAGHAV VENKAT 2285
Wang, Alan John	18	2009	Paul H. Fields	65 2264	FM ARNALDO FERRAGUT 2284
Ricci, Nicholas Michael	18	2009	Stephen Stoyko	72 2227	BRYAN TILLIS 2270
Singh, Keshav	16	2002	Javier Antonio Torres	69 2225	DAGOBERTO DIAZ 2268
Ziegler, Nate	12	1957	Sergey Berechenko	74 2200	FM CESAR JOSE VALIDO 2267
Starkman, Elliot	18	1947	William Cornwall	76 2147	TROY E DALY 2267
Shen, Jason	14	1940	Jose Hernandez	66 2134	NICHOLAS ROSENTHAL 2259
Farragut, Cannon	11	1920	<u>WOMEN (active in last year)</u>		FM LUIS BARREDO 2255
Ligotti, John Joseph	15	1907	Mariia Bortnyk	2352	MARTIN HANSEN 2255
Marian, Aaron	11	1823	Yaniet Marrero Lopez	2304	TODD CHARLES BRYANT 2242
Yang, Maxwell	9	1726	Evgenia Hansen	2161	MR. BRITT RYERSON 2241
Roy, Ayush	10	1620	Vladlena Ciubara	2133	CM ANTONIO ARENCIBIA 2234
Petrella, Gerard	10	1457	Amelia Hernandez	2095	ROBERT YORISAN RAMIREZ 2228
Wu, Winston	7	1448	Tianhui (Cindy) Jie	2015	FM JAVIER ANTONIO TORRES 2225
Kaidash, Platon	9	1439	Deborah Alegria Cruz	1984	RYAN EDWARD HAMLEY 2223
Datta, Riyaan	9	1397	Shama Yisrael	1948	PEDRO HERNANDEZ-PEREZ 2221
Jani, Aakash	6	1330	Idara Ramos	1867	CARLOS ANDRETTA 2212
Ratlif, Ryan	7	1194	<u>TOP BLITZ</u>		RAVINDRA WIJESUNDERA 2210
Overlingas, Akeras	8	1169	Julio Becerra	2659	NAMAN KUMAR 2201
Kumar, Ishir	8	1157	Robert M Perez	2496	ERIC COOKE 2200
Thomas, Henry	8	1140	Corey Acor	2452	THEODORE LUKE SLADE 2197
<u>CORRESPONDENCE</u>			<u>TOP QC</u>		HAN SCHUT 2188
Keith Rodriguez	2347		Julio Becerra	2557	ABHIMANYU BANERJEE 2180
Dana Sylvander	2176		Robert M Perez	2387	YANDRI MORALES 2175
Paul B. Ott	2130		Corey Acor	2344	ESTEBAN OQUENDO 2172
Horvath, Michael J	1989		<u>CHESS COACHES</u>		MIGUEL RECIO 2171
			<u>Professional - Level V</u>		RONALD HERNANDEZ 2167
			Mark Ritter		MR. JOSE CABRERA 2166
			<u>National - Level IV</u>		BENJAMIN LJ CHEN 2164
			Tania Kranich-Ritter		OSCAR LUIS MARQUEZ 2157
			Tim Tusing		REYNIER MONTERO 2142
			Miguel Ararat		LEOVEL BARBON 2128
			<u>FIDE Instructor License</u>		MR. EDUARD ZHAKAMUKHOV 2124
			Miguel Ararat		JUAN C POZA 2124

Games from recent events by Miguel Ararat



28...Rd8 29.Ba5 Qc8 30.Bb7 Qd7 31.Bxd8 Qxd8 32.Rd1 Bf8 33.c5 d5 34.Qe6 Bxc5 35.Qxf5+ Kg7 36.Qxe5 Qb6 37.Bxd5 Bxf2+ 38.Kg2 Bc5 39.Be4 [A very instructive game on how little a title player needs to win a chess game and the critical points in the game they pay attention to.]

1-0

(2) Becerra, Julio (2592) - Venkat, Raghav (2295) [B12]

19TH ANNUAL TURKEY BOWL, 14.11.2021

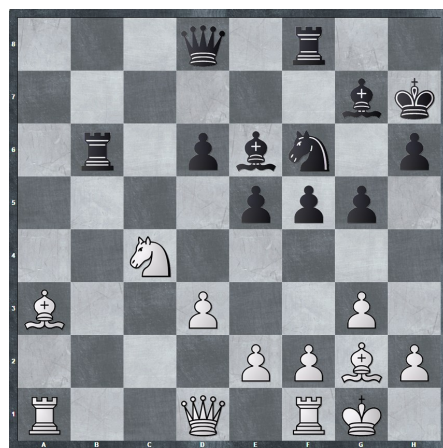
[Ararat, Miguel]

16.Qc2² [16.c5!? Be6 17.b6,,; 16.Qa1!?]

16...Be6 17.Nd2 c6 18.bxc6 Nxc6 [18...bxc6 19.Ba3!±]

19.Raa1 Nd4 20.Qd1!? [queria llegar a un prefinal con una leve ventaja y hacer el juego mas simple (The idea is to reach an endgame with a small but stable advantage without any complications)] [20.Qa4!±]

20...b5 21.Nxb5 Nxb5 22.cxb5 Rxb5 23.Ba3² Rb6?! [[#] dudosa en una posicion incomoda. .. las piezas blancas estan colocadas justo para apretar la debilidad (d6) A dubious move in a difficult position because all the white pieces are in good squares to hit the weak pawn on d6.] [123...Rf7]



24.Nc4! Ra6 25.Bb4 Rxa1 26.Qxa1 Bxc4 27.dxc4 Qc7 28.Qa6!± [[#]]

1.e4 c6 2.d4 d5 3.e5 [A fashionable weapon against the solid Caro Kann "Top players have been increasingly attracted to this line over the past years because there is more of an opportunity to outplay an opponent with creative middlegame play instead of proceeding down long, forcing variations in the main lines beginning with 3.Nc3" James Rizzitano in Modern Chess Openings for White Chapter 10. Gambit Publications 2021.]

3...Bf5 [3...c5 4.dxc5 e6 This variation is also a viable option for Black with active play against white's central pawns. 3...Qc7 is also a playable alternative for Black and the recommendation of Johnsen and Hansen in their book Winning with the Caro Kann reviewed by me in this magazine a few issues back.]

4.Nf3 e6 5.Be2 c5 6.Be3 Qb6!? [A critical moment in the game. Black attacks the b2 pawn and challenge white early in the game.]

7.Nc3 Qxb2 8.Nb5 [this move is not the top choice by the engines, however the resulting position suit Becerra playing style. Please take a look at Areshchenko's game cited below (white sac the queen for dynamic play)]

[8.Qb1 is Bologan's idea and one key theoretical developments in this variation. Becerra and Venkat played this variation a week later in North

(6) Andretta, Gaston - Leyva (MI), Yunier [A26]

Thanksgiving Open (4), 20.11.2021

This game is annotated in Spanish by NM Andretta. I am just going to translate to English and leave the original annotation. Why? because this is the way a master annotates a chess game, in a minimalistic, yet instructive way. 1. Who is the role model to follow to understand the opening or get additional information (move 7) 2. Out of the opening who gets the advantage and why (move 15) 3. Evaluation of the possible transitions to the endgame (move 20) 4. The move that allows the strong side to increase his advantage (move 23) 5. The move that ends the game (Qa6)]

1.c4 g6 2.Nc3 Bg7 3.g3 e5 4.Bg2 d6 5.Nf3 Nc6 6.0-0 f5 7.d3 Nf6 [se plante una variante de la defensa holandesa contra la inglesa, especialidad del GM Browne (The game reaches an English versus Dutch position, a favorite of American GM Walther Brown)]

8.Rb1 a5 9.a3 0-0 10.b4 axb4 11.axb4 h6 12.b5 Ne7 13.Bb2 g5 14.Ra1 Rb8 15.Ra7² Kh7?!N [[#] muy lento, el ataque pierde fuerza, el contrajuego blanco en el flanco dama llega muy rapido y el rey se coloca en una diagonal mala (Black does not follow the tempo of the game and plays a slow move that places his king on a dangerous diagonal)]

Carolina at The US Masters 2021. 8...Qxb1+ 9.Rxb1 c4 10.Rxb7 Nc6 11.Kd2 Nd8 (11...Bb4 12.Rb1 Ba5 13.g4 Bxg4 14.Rxf7 This is Inarkiev (2669) vs Eljanov (2751), 2010, a game that Black on after a tense middlegame. This game is a key game to understand the dynamic resources for both players in this variation of the Caro Kann.) 12.Rb5 Ne7 13.Na4 1/2-1/2 (29) Becerra Rivero, J (2496)-Venkat,R (2136) Charlotte 2021]

8...Na6 [8...c4 This move is a must for black because he needs to keep the center closed (Postny explains this idea in his comments to the game Inarkiev- Eljanov, 2010 cited above. 9.Rb1 Qxa2 10.Nc7+ Kd8 11.Nxa8 Bxc2 12.Rxb7 Bxd1 13.Rxb8+ Kd7 14.Bxd1 1/2-1/2 (44) Areshchenko,A (2702)-Jobava,B (2734) Burgas 2012]

9.dxc5 [White gets a decisive advantage. It is instructive how Becerra converts his advantage with a series of exchanges that enhance the activity of his pieces.]

9...Bxc2 [[#] A valuable lesson from this game. Right after White sacrifices a pawn he exchanges queens which shows that in some position the initiative can be sustained even without queens on the board. In other words, Exchanging your opponents queens does not automatically results in a decrease in his/her initiative.]

10.Qc1 Qxc1+ 11.Rxc1 Ba4 [The problem for Black is that white has many options to keep his advantage without the need of finding only moves. For example, white can play 12.c6 or 12.o-o and the position remains +-]

12.Nd6+ Bxd6 [[#] Time for white to find an only move and black hope of a draw are at hand.]

13.cxd6 [13.exd6?! Nb8 14.Rb1 b6 15.cxb6 axb6 16.Bxb6 Nf6 Black is close to equality.]

13...f6 14.Bxa6 bxa6 15.Rc7 Rd8 16.0 Rd7 17.Rfc1 [White play along open files is a positional feature of this variation.]

17...h5 18.Rc8+ Rd8 19.Rxd8+ Kxd8 20.Rc7 [After the exchange of rooks

black is left with an inactive rook on h8. In contrast, white rook on c7 is very active.]

20...Bd7 21.Rxa7 h4 22.Ra8+ Bc8 23.Bb6+ Kd7 24.Ra7+ [If Kc6 the 25.Rc7+ Kxb6 Rxc8 creates a deadly pin.]

1-0

(3) Becerra,Julio (2592) - Rodriguez,Pedro (2243) [B79]

7TH ANNUAL GULF COAST NEW YEAR'S OPEN (5), 09.01.2022 [Ararat,Miguel]

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 g6 6.Be3 Bg7 7.f3 Nc6 8.Qd2 0-0 9.Bc4 [9.0-0-0 d5 is a major branch in this position.]

9...Bd7 10.h4 [10.0-0-0 Qa5 11.Kb1 Rfc8 12.Bb3 Ne5 looks like in the game, but white can play Qe2 protecting the c4 square blockin black thematic Ne5-c4 idea.]

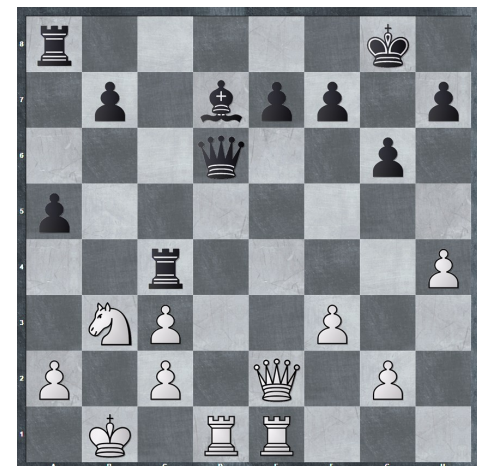
10...Qa5 11.0-0-0 Rfc8 12.Bb3 Ne5 13.Kb1 Nc4 14.Bxc4 Rxc4 15.Nb3 Qe5 [15...Qc7™ seems as the best option for Black in this position and I am going to add the only move symbol. 16.g4 Rc8 17.e5 Ne8 18.Nd5 Qd8 19.c3 Bc6 20.h5 Bxe5 21.hxg6 hxg6 22.Qe2 Bxd5 23.Rxd5 Bg7 24.Qh2 e6 25.Rd3 Kf8 26.Nd2 R4c6 27.Bh6 Bxh6 28.Qxh6+ Ke7 is an epic fight in this variation to the bitter end. 29.f4 Nf6 30.f5 0-1 (67) Arencibia Rodriguez,W (2555)-Gashimov,V (2644) Havana 2007]

16.Bd4+- Qe6 17.Rhe1 [An important moment in the game and one of the reasons I decided to annotate this game. White switches from a thematic all out pawn storm to play in the center. A flexible approach to any position is a hallmark of strong players.]

17...a5 18.e5 Nd5 19.exd6 Nxc3+ 20.Bxc3 Bxc3 21.bxc3 Qxd6 [[#] The second teaching moment in this game. Black is busted, however white has to find an only move to maintain the advantage. A second, third and fourth hallmarks of strong chess players, are both, the ability to pose their opponents problems and positional

traps in the conversion of the advantage, as well as the ability to convert winning position despite stiff resistance.]

22.Qe2 [22.Qxd6? An attractive move to lower rated players to trade off queens as a way to release the tension in the position or "convert the advantage" 22...exd6 23.Rxd6 Ba4?]



22...Qc6 23.Rxd7 [The black rook on c4 hangs after Qxd7.]

23...a4 24.Qxe7 [24.-- Black is short one move as inserting a null move in this position drops white advantage to +/-]

24...Rf8 25.Rd8 Rxd8 26.Qxd8+ Kg7 27.Re8 Qb5 [Black fights to the end in the last round clash for top place at the tournament standings.]

28.Rg8+ Kh6 [[#]]

29.g4 [A nice touch. White culminates his central play strategy with a flank attack than ends in force checkmate.]

1-0

(4) Bach,Ngo (2353) - MIKHAIL,ZLOTNIKOV (2200) [E12]

7TH ANNUAL GULF COAST NEW YEAR'S OPEN (5), 09.01.2022 [Ararat,Miguel]

1.Nf3 Nf6 [A flexible response that keep the options open to play other opening beside a QGD.]

[1...d5 is a main alternative against

1.Nf3, however this commit the second player to play a QGD.]

2.c4 [This move order allows white to play an English ruling out 1.e5 by black.]

2...e6 3.d4 b6 [A flexible move that allows black to take on white's more popular alternatives.]

4.Nc3 [4.g3 Ba6; 4.a3 Ba6]

4...Bb7 5.e3 [5.g3 Bb4 6.Bd2 Bxc3 7.Bxc3 Ne4 8.Rc1 0-0 9.Bg2 d6 10.0-0 Nxc3 11.Rxc3 Nd7 12.d5 Nf6 13.Ne1 exd5 14.cxd5 Re8 15.Nc2 Qd7 16.Ne3 Re7 17.Qc2 g6 18.Rc1 Rc8 19.Qd3 Ng4 20.Nxg4 Qxg4 21.e3 Qd7 22.Qd4 f5 23.h4 Qe8 24.e4 fxe4 25.Bh3 c5 26.dxc6 Rxc6 27.Qd5+ 1-0 (27) Carlsen,M (2882)-Mamedyarov,S (2764) Saint Louis 2019]

5...d5 [5...Bb4 is an interesting alternative for black in this position. 6.Bd3 0-0 7.0-0 c5 8.Na4 cxd4 9.exd4 Re8 10.a3 Bf8 11.Bf4 Bxf3 12.Qxf3 Nc6 13.d5 exd5 14.cxd5 Ne5 15.Qd1 Nxd3 16.Qxd3 Re4 0-1 (16) Yu,Y (2736)-Carlsen,M (2834) Doha 2015 CBM 170 [Sagar Shah/CB Website]]

6.cxd5 Nxd5 7.Bb5+ c6 8.Bd3 Be7 [So far black follows a safe path and put all the weight of the game in the middlegame.]

9.0-0 0-0 10.a3 [10.e4 This move looks more active than 10.a3 and is one of the top choices of the chess engine. However,after a few move the pawn stucture will resemble a Grunfeld. White has a central dominance and has to press forward and black has a queenside pawn majority tha give him winning chances if white central play do not materialize in a tangible advantage. 10...Nxc3 11.bxc3 c5 12.Be3 cxd4 13.cxd4 [#]]

10...c5 11.Bd2 cxd4 12.Nxd4 Nd7 13.Nxd5 Bxd5 14.Rc1 Rc8= [The position is equal, yet with the next natural move white gives black a chance to seize the initiative. It is instructive how the open c file can play a crucial role in this symetrical pawn structure.]

15.b4 Rxc1 16.Bxc1 [16.Qxc1?! Ne5 17.Be2 Qa8 18.f3 Rc8f; 16.Bxc1]

16...Qa8 [#] This move wins a valuable tempo attacking the pawn on g2 and clears the path for the black rook to c8.]



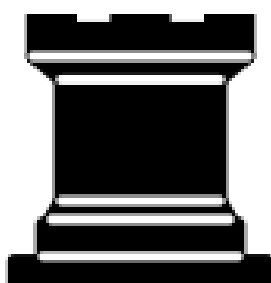
17.f3 a5 [17...Ne5³ 18.Be2 a5 19.Bd2 Nc4f]

18.Bb5 Nf6 [=]

[18...Ne5 19.Bd2 runs into a double attack. 19...Bc4 20.Bxc4 Nxc4 black is clearly better.]

19.Bd2 axb4 20.axb4 Qa3 21.e4 Ba8 22.Qb3 Qxb3 23.Nxb3 Bb7 24.Ra1 Ra8 25.Rxa8+ Bxa8 [The game ends in a draw, however the reader can learn valuable lessons from the move orders in the opening and the critical role of open files in symmetric pawn structures. Importantly, how winning moves with doubles attacks speed up the conquer of an open file.]

½-½



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West Regional Report

by Timotey Gospodinov W RVP



Chess continues to grow in West Florida. In this article I will talk about chess in two cities in West Florida- Saint Petersburg and Sarasota, which I think are the most active chess areas. The Saint Petersburg Chess Club is Open every Friday just for members from 6:00 pm to about 11:00 pm. We always have more than 15 players every Friday night. We have at least two tournaments per month -Swiss & Quad, and even a blitz tournament after the quad tournament beginning at 4:00 pm. I want to Congratulate the 2021 Saint Petersburg Chess Club Open Champion Gunnar Andersen, and also the 2021 Saint Petersburg Chess Club Scholastic Champion Antony Gospodinov. Their names are already on the plaque on the Chess Club wall, and will stay there for others to see forever! The Saint Petersburg Chess Club is also open every Sunday from 2:00 pm to 4:00 pm for group chess lessons. For more information about chess activities at SPCC you can visit our website <https://chessclubjoy.webs.com/>, email timotey_gospodinov@yahoo.com, or call (727)776-5583



South Regional Report

By Jon Haskel S RVP

The **Annual Turkey Bowl** took place, once again, in the South Region (for the 19th time). Once again, Grandmaster Julio Becerra was the winner.

The **US Amateur Team Championship South** returned to South Florida for the first time since 2013. The winning team was "Action Chess" whose players were, in board order, Raghav Venkat, Yan Miellier, Ryan Hamley and Ezra Etzel. We were pleasantly surprised to see Grandmaster Becerra on one of the teams. He had not participated in this tournament for many years and we were very happy to see him there.

Palm Beach Chess is continuing to run a quad tournament and a blitz tournament each month in northern Palm Beach County. The email address for more information is nmbtillis@gmail.com.

In Fort Lauderdale, the **Fireman's Cove Chess Club** is currently meeting on Wednesdays and Sundays at the Panera Bread on Federal Highway in Fort Lauderdale. The club's email address is FortLauderdaleChess@gmail.com.

The **South Miami Chess Club** is continuing to run monthly tournaments at Evelyn Greer Park, 8200 SW 124th Street, Pinecrest, FL 33156. For more information send an email to southmiamicc@gmail.com.

The **Boca Raton Chess Club** has been running the **South Florida Grand Prix** (in its twelfth year). This grand prix is for students only. These tournaments take place at the Franklin Academy in Cooper City. The Boca Raton Chess Club has also been running one-day tournaments at the Ramada Hotel in West Palm Beach. For more information on either of these you can send an email to jon@bocachess.com.

Central Regional Report

by Paul Leggett C RVP



For all practical purposes, Chess is back in full swing in Central Florida, with the Central Florida Chess Club and Orlando Chess and Games both returning to their regular offerings. COVID protocols are still in effect, and updated with

changing conditions, but it has become an accepted reality amongst OTB players.

Orlando Chess and Games has restarted their 1-Day Quick Chess Tournaments, with recent events in November and December. FM Alex Zelner tells me he is preparing to roll out a monthly series of events, but the dates are not yet set at the time I write this. Future events will be posted on ChessRegister.com and details on [Upcoming Events – Monthly USCF Tournaments – Orlando Chess & Games Center](#).

The Central Florida Chess Club has also reinstituted their popular weekend tournaments, with the most recent being the 2022 Winter Open, which was won by IM Alvaro Valdes Escobar. It was held at the Holiday Inn Lake Buena Vista, which is a new venue for Chess. The location was successful and well-attended, and I have just been informed that they will hold another tournament (The Summer Open) at the same location on June 3-5, 2022. We are also happy to report that the 27th Space Coast Open is back on the schedule, to be held April 22-24, 2022.

There are a variety of upcoming events, details of which can be found at the USCF Tournament Life Announcement section of their website, and also at hessregister.com. There are two big events that should be singled out:

The 2022 Florida Scholastic State Championship sponsored by the FCA, March 11-13th at the Wyndham Resort in Orlando. The Southern Class Championship sponsored by the Continental Chess Association, March 18-20th, also at the Wyndham Resort in Orlando.

North West Regional Report

By Daaim Shabazz NW RVP



Chess in Tallahassee has been slowed tremendously by the pandemic, but Saturday afternoon remains the meet-up day as it has been for decades. Rocco Ferraro has been keeping his Florida State Chess Club involved.

Black Dog Cafe is where the general chess community meets from 2-5pm on Saturdays. Florida's Capital City has always had a small chess community and its northernmost location makes it a long trip for most Floridians, but this Spring and Summer, Tallahassee hopes to run small tournaments.

In 2018, Brandon McCovery, a history teacher at Tallahassee Math & Science, hosted an event with Banghao & Benjamin Chen of BB Chess Club. Both have mentioned the slowdown due meeting COVID restrictions. McCovery is hopeful of hosting another tournament, states that the school is now having guests on campus once again.

According to Facebook posting, Panama City Chess had seven players January 30th at Books-a-Million. They meet Sundays from 2-4pm.

Pensacola Chess Club meets Thursdays from 6-8 and Sundays from 2-6 at Books-a-Million on 9 mile Road.



Northeast Regional Report

By Ray Ratliff NEVP

As the VP of the NE Region of Florida for the FCA, I have the pleasure of meeting many up and coming chess players. This article highlights a few that are working hard at their game and just as hard at giving back to their community through chess coaching, volunteering to act as USCF tournament directors, and inspiring all of us to do more.



First, from Amelia Island, is **Luke Lyle**. Luke was 11 years old when he discovered chess and immediately fell in love with the competition, social aspect of the game and of course, winning. Now 17, he has competed in tournaments all over Florida and like the other people in this article, felt the need to spread the love he has for chess to other kids in his **Amelia Island Chess Club**. Most recently, Luke hosted a free unrated tournament to teach kids the rules of tournament play. He also coaches chess and volunteers to fill in as tournament director for other clubs when he can. Thank you Luke for all that you do!



In the Nocatee area, I had the pleasure of meeting **Aryaman Bansal**. At 17, Aryaman runs the **Nocatee Chess Club** and is the founder (2021) and Vice President of the **Neese High school Chess Club**. Aryaman started playing chess with his Dad at 4 years old and like many others, fell in love with the game. He now hosts free online chess classes, in person meet ups at a park near his house and even does free financial instruction through his website. *Thank you Aryaman for all that you do!



At the age of 6 years old, **Brooks Chandler** started his chess journey and hasn't turned back. If you are in the St. Johns area, then you probably know Brooks because now at 14, he may be the youngest tournament director in Florida! Every Tuesday night Brooks volunteers to TD for **Jax Chess Club** at the Panera in Bartram Park overseeing 20 plus players. He fell in love with chess because of the competition, the friendships he made and the learning aspect of the game and wants to share that joy and excitement for chess with others. Thank you Brooks for all that you do!

Advait Nair also started playing chess at the age of 6 and like the others, fell in love with the competition, friendships, and excitement of chess. Advait is already a well known chess player in the Jacksonville area and at the age of 13, volunteers to assist with the Under 1000 classes for the **Jax Scholastic Chess Academy**. One of his goals in coaching is to create opening material for kids so that they don't struggle like he said he did with openings as a child. Students also hope to emulate his ratings journey. Starting at 101, Advait has climbed to a recent high of 1950. Thank you Advait for all that you do!



Last but certainly not least are **Joseph and Jonathan Cagle**, lovingly referred to as the “Cagle Brothers”. Although new to the area from Virginia, they have already made a massive impact on chess in the region. Joseph 18 and Jonathan 15 have been playing chess since 4 years old and along with their own chess journey, they have found time to volunteer in both coaching and tournament directing. Joseph volunteers as an advanced/intermediate chess instructor for **Chess for Charity Jax** every Wednesday night and also volunteers for a **homeschool beginner chess group** twice a month with nearly 50 students. Jonathan has volunteered as a tournament director and recently obtained the certification of Local TD. Again, probably one of if not the youngest Local Tournament Director in the state. Thank you Jonathan and Joseph for all that you do!



There are definitely others in our region doing the same good work as Brooks, Luke, Aryaman, Advait, Joseph and Jonathan and to those that I wasn't able to mention here we all say THANK YOU!!! Along with teaching, hosting tournaments and volunteering, this next generation of chess players are making an impact on the lives of the kids (and adults) they come in touch with every day. We will benefit from the efforts of this generation for generations to come. Thank you and we are happy to know the future of chess in Northeast Florida is in good hands!

The Chess Wizard's Wayback Machine (circa 1995)



Florida's A.J. Steigman and Cindy Tsai. U.S. representatives at the 1995 World Youth Chess Festival in Brazil

Collectors' CORNER

Ganine Chess Sets - by George Foote

Peter Ganine, born Pierre Ganine in Tiflis Russia in 1900, was a Russian-American Sculptor. He is known for his designs of very popular floating duck and whale toys in the 1950s (and many notable sculptures). I was introduced to Ganine's work while researching a chess set for my collection. I was always a fan of both chess and Star Trek, so it follows that I would want the chess set used in several Star Trek, The Original Series (TOS), episodes. The Ganine "**Classic**" set is the one that resonates most in my memory, but his "**Gothic**" set was also used*. In searching for these sets I came across the "**Conqueror**" set as well. All three were plastic chess sets from the late 50's to early 60s and there are many variations of the Gothic and Conqueror versions. I'm also keen on tracking down a "**Cavalier**" set. Pricing for these sets runs from a low of \$25 to over \$2,000 depending on the specific set, condition, and the current market. I was very happy to add these sets to my collection, the next challenge will be finding a "Tri-dimensional" chess board, or having one fabricated. That's an endeavor, and a story, for another day. Do you own one of these sets or one of the variations? Or maybe you have the Tri-Dimensional chessboard... If you do, I would love to hear about your experiences relating to the sets and the board.

*a third, non-Ganine set was also used.

The sets were used directly and/or as background props in the following Star Trek episodes;

TOS 2: "Where No Man Has Gone Before"

TOS 7: "A Naked Time"

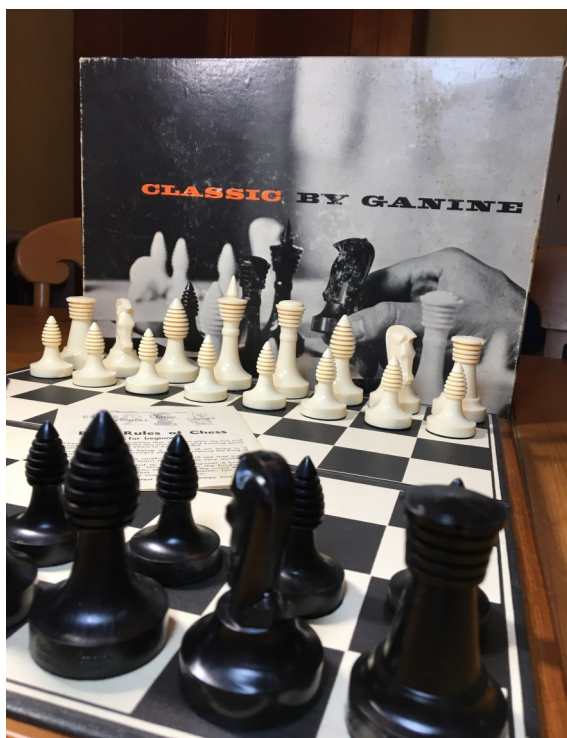
TOS 20: "The Alternative Factor"

TOS 44 "Journey to Babel"

TOS 57 "Elaan of Troyius"

TOS 58 "The Paradise Syndrome"

TOS 66 "Day of the Dove"



Juan Leon: My Brush with Fame San Juan International Masters' Tournament October 1969



Juan Leon, second from left, during the Spassky v. Larsen match. (1969)

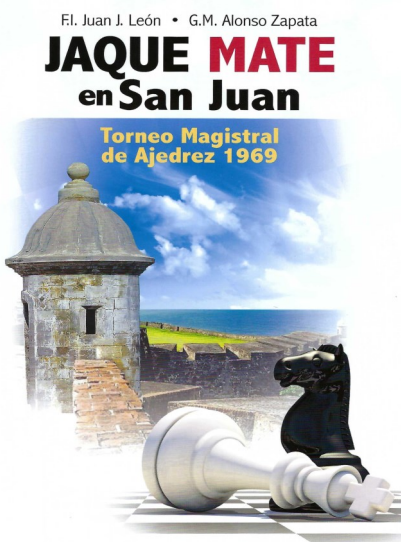
As a young player, I was diligent enough in my study of the game to be among the top juniors in Puerto Rico and finished 4th in the US High School Championship. I was also active in organizing events for the Puerto Rico Chess Federation. As a result, when the Federation was awarded the sponsorship of the 40th FIDE World Congress, we also set the goal of organizing a world-class round robin. In October 1969, ten of the world's top grandmasters convened in Puerto Rico for a fifteen-round event. Recently crowned World Champion Boris Spassky was the pre-tournament favorite. From Europe, well known stars like Bent Larsen, Lubosh Kavalek, still a Czech citizen, and Lothar Schmid were among the players. International Master

Walter Browne, who was representing Australia at the time, not only played extremely well but earned his Grand Master title at this event.

My participation had two key components. I wrote the daily bulletin, narrating the action, and publishing the game scores. I was also one of the assistant tournament directors and sat next to the boards of these incredible players, recording their moves and trying to gain a deeper understanding of their approach to the game. I'm pictured above, the second one from the left, during the encounter between Spassky and Larsen.

This was undoubtedly the most spectacular event of my life-long love for chess. Fifty years later, I decided to write a book about my experiences. I co-authored the book Jaque Mate en San Juan with Grand Master Alonso Zapata, since detailed, high-quality analysis of the games was also a priority.

The book was recently published in Mexico. For the time being, it is only in Spanish. With so many Spanish speakers in Florida, copies of this book are available. Please contact me at jjleon@att.net if you wish to purchase a copy. The book is priced at \$27 plus shipping. Here is a copy of the front and back cover:



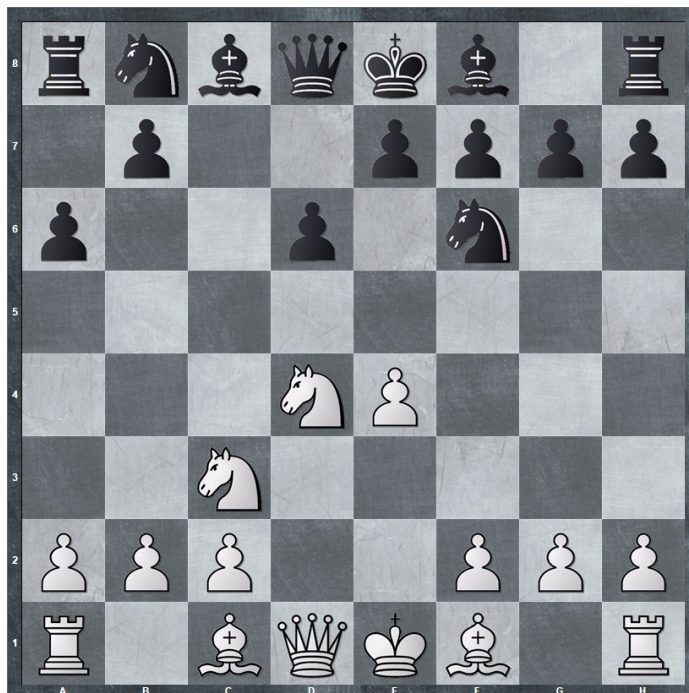
Najdorf Sicilian Survey by NM Bryan Tillis

(5)Hansen,Eric (2807) - Golubovskis,Maksims (2453) [B92]

Clean Najdorf System Chess.com INT (1), 02.04.2019

Every now and then a game comes along that really grabs the attention. In this game, Chessbrah GM Eric Hansen plays a very solid line against the aggressive Najdorf Sicilian and makes it look easy killing counterplay. Hopefully you enjoy this odd opening idea survey for floridaCHESS.] -

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 a6 [[#] The characteristic move of the Najdorf, the most popular response to 1.e4.]



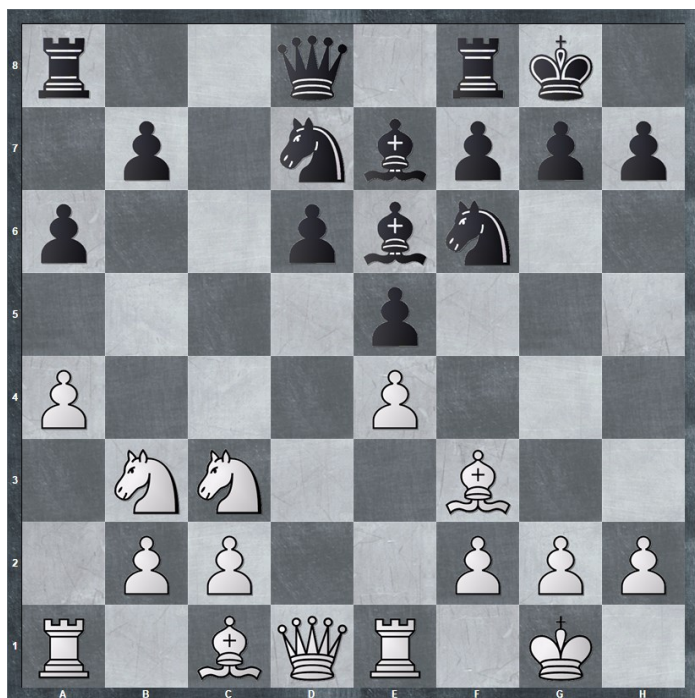
6.Be2 [The classical system, a favorite of Karpov before he made the natural switch later in his career to 1. d4.]

6...e5 7.Nb3 Be6 8.0-0 Be7 [8...Nbd7 9.Bf3 Will transpose without much difficulty.]

9.Bf3 [So far everything has been very straight forward. Now, the plan begins to come to fruition. White aims to kill the standard break (d5) . It is instructive to see the GM kill counterplay starting from this odd move keeping more control over the d5-square.]

9...Nbd7 [9...b5 Is an interesting attempt for Black. 10.a4 b4 11.Nd5 White is unafraid to change the structure. The plan following this exchange is instructive. Black is obliged to capture otherwise we will take on e7 leaving Black with a weak pawn on d6 for the rest of the game. 11...Bxd5 12.exd5 0-0 13.a5 Nbd7 14.Ra4 The b-pawn is hung out to dry. 14...Rb8 15.Bd2 e4 16.Be2 Nxd5 17.Bxa6 White created a passed pawn and went on to win following 1-0 (34) Valerga,D (2447)-Strgacich,A (1878) Villa Martelli 2016.]

10.a4 0-0 [An equal position according to the machine. In practice White scores roughly 55%]



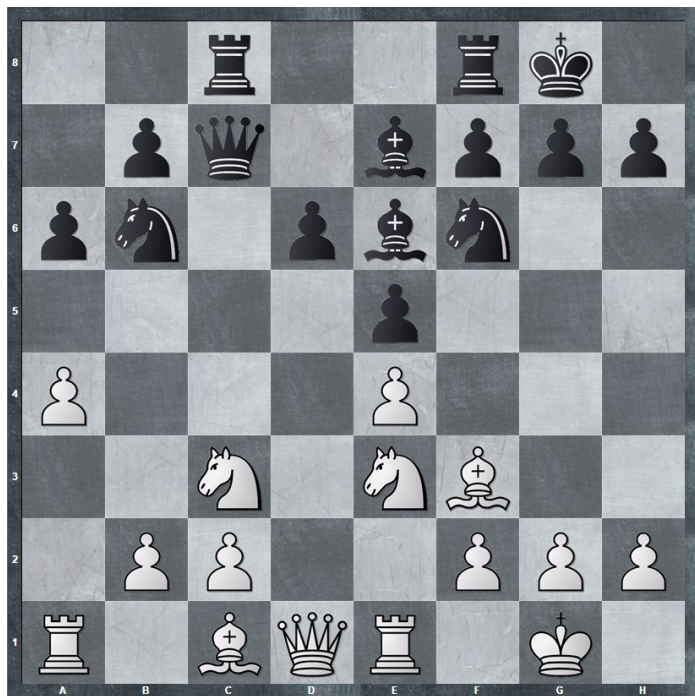
11.Re1 [#]

[11.Be3 Nb6 12.Nd2 Rc8 13.a5 Nc4 14.Nxc4 Rxc4 15.Na4 A logical improvement on 1-0 (48) Caruana,F (2819)-Vachier Lagrave,M (2775) Paris 2019. 15...Rc6 (15...Qxa5 16.Nb6) 16.Nb6 Nd7 17.b3 With the follow-up of c4 and a clamp on the critical squares.]

11...Rc8 [11...Nb6 12.Nd2 Will transpose to the main game]

12.Nd2 Nb6 13.Nf1 Qc7 [13...Nc4 Will slow down our plan but will not stop it. 14.b3 Na5 15.Bb2 Nc6 16.Ne3 The Knights eye the critical d5 square and White camp is in harmony. 16...Nd4 17.Be2 Nxe2+ 18.Qxe2 Qa5 19.Qd3 Rfd8 A balanced position but again it feels like White is on the better part of equality with h3.]

14.Ne3 [#] White is fully in control over the critical square and the game will soon be over.]



14...Rfd8 15.a5 [The Knight has limited options.]

15...Nc4 16.Ned5 Bxd5 17.Nxd5 Nxd5 18.Qxd5 [An important theme in the Sicilian. Notice that White captured with the Queen instead of the pawn. This now leaves a one-sided struggle of Black defending the d-pawn.]

18...b5 19.axb6 Nxb6 20.Qb3 [20.Qa5 May very well be even stronger with the pin and the pressure on the a-pawn.]

20...a5 21.c3 [Killing counterplay stopping the attack on the c-file.]

21...Nc4 22.Ra4 Qc5 23.Qa2 Ra8 24.Qxc4 [The blunder seals the deal. Hopefully you enjoyed this restrained approach to playing White in the Najdorf Sicilian. If you are interested in more related content check out the Palm Beach Chess YouTube channel - <https://www.youtube.com/c/PalmBeachChess> .]

1-0





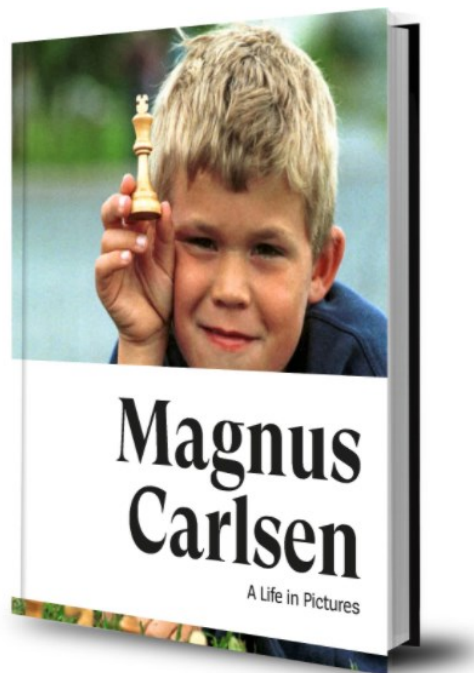
This quarter we have a lot going on in the chess world! For starters, the World Chess Championship 2021 between Carlsen and Nepo, the publication of the saga of the book **Game Changer**, aka **The Silicon Road to Chess Improvement** by

Matthew Sadler and a plethora of chess resources that can help any chess player to fulfill his/her new year's resolutions.



Nepomniachtchi Move by Move by Cyrus Lakdawala and **Magnus Carlsen: A Life in Pictures** by New in Chess are two recently published books about the players involved in the recent 2021 Chess World Championship. Both books portrait the challenger and the world chess champion in different ways. Lakdawala's book offers the reader a sixty one chess games played by the challenger Ian Nepomniachtchi, from the period 2003 to 2021 in the popular move by move format. The games are annotated in a didactic manner and completed with three hundred and fifty-eight diagrams. The author also included 52 puzzles presented and

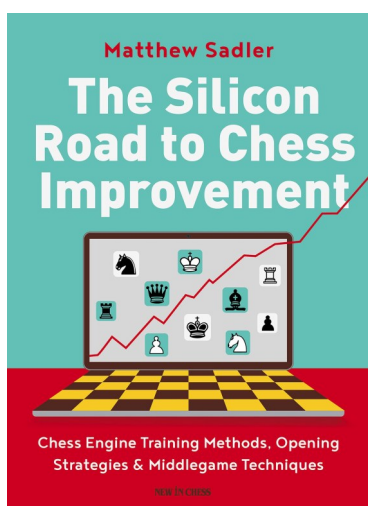
explained with the help of seventy-sixteen additional diagram, making the book an enlightening reading.



Magnus Carlsen: A Life in Pictures by New in Chess is an insight into the life of the chess world champion, Magnus Carlsen through a series of photographs. The book stimulates the reader's mind to travel through time without requiring words, and creates touching scenes of Carlsen at various stages of his life and career. **Magnus Carlsen: A Life in Pictures** show Carlsen's path from his early years until he become the undisputed number one chess player in the world. **Magnus Carlsen: A Life in Pictures** is a great book for everyone to enjoy regardless of age or skill level. Alongside the adults, the book offers the rare opportunity for very young players/chess fans to get to know Carlsen's life without having to be able to read.

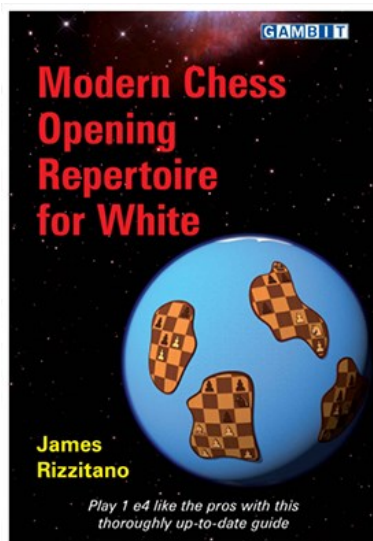
The Silicon Road to Chess Improvement by Matthew Sadler was the second event in chess, behind the world chess championship 2021 (in my opinion). Saddler wrote a manual on how to use the latest chess engines to improve at chess with a series of well explained and easy to execute activities. There is no need for the reader to invest in sophisticated software or hardware to implement the author's suggestions. I consider

The Silicon Road to Chess Improvement the saga to the author's previous book, *Game Changer* (coauthored with Natasha Katherine Regan). The book is well researched, written, and the topic(s) and chess improvements methods discussed by Sadler are of great interest to players of all levels. This book is an absolute must for tournament players and chess coaches. **The Silicon Road to Chess Improvement** helps chess players and coaches to establish a more productive interaction with chess engines in their quest for better results in chess. **The Silicon Road to Chess Improvement**, is a strong candidate for the book of the year.



In addition to computer-aided chess training, classical methods of learning directly from more experienced players still valid today and cannot be underestimated. Good examples of traditional training DVDs are, **Grandmaster's Thinking Blueprint** by GM Misa Pap, **Logic and Psychology in Chess** by IM Boroljub Zlatanovic and **Pressuring Your Opponent Like a Grandmaster** with GM Jesper Thybo. The three titles come from The chess world Company and are designed to help the public improve their thinking process. In GM Misa Pap's **Grandmaster's Thinking Blueprint**, we have a seasoned player explaining how his thinking process works during his chess games. The author clearly explains how he makes decisions based on the actual situation on the stage (or playing against the pieces philosophy). In contrast, Zlatanovic in **Logic and Psychology in Chess** considers the

psychological and logical factors that influence the decision making process in a chess game. The author is very passionate as he presents the material, and provides scenarios that are common in amateur chess games. For example, to play a given chess position dynamically for an attack or to play statically? What elements are the beacon(s) to make such a critical decision in a chess game? Finally, in **Pressuring Your Opponent Like a Grandmaster**, Danish GM Jesper Thybo explains his thinking process in games that aim to put long-term pressure on his opponent's position. Although this idea is not new, Thybo demonstrates how to pressurize your opponent with the white and black pieces. For instance, in a game you see the author squeezing his opponent on the White side of a Catalan and in the next game defending the Black side of a Catalan and aiming to pressurize his opponent! Importantly the examples presented in this DVD are not error free games which makes the material closer to what the audience experiences in tournament chess. In addition to video presentation, all three DVD's have pgn files with games as well as practice material files. As far as materials for studying chess openings are concerned, this issue contains two recommendations based on dynamic play.



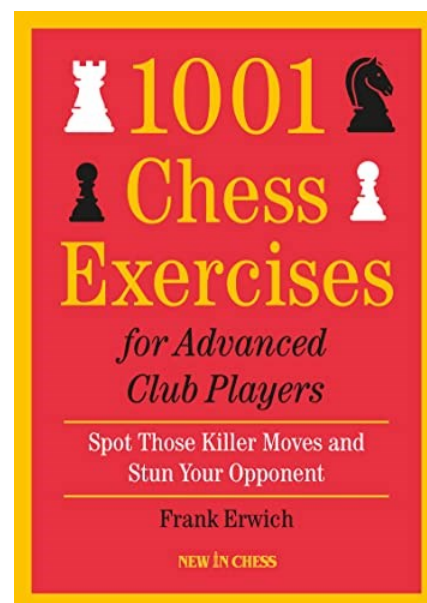
For 1.e4 players **Modern Chess Opening repertoire for White** by James Rizzitano is a new repertoire book with a lot of punch and minimal maintenance. In this repertoire book the author proposes a series of variations that are

amateur friendly, without being unsound, forcing or that requires tons of hours to master. After 1.e5 e5 Rizzitano proposes the bishop opening 1.e4 e5 2.Bc4 to bypass the solid Petroff and the treacherous main lines of the Marshall Gambit against the Ruy Lopez. The practical value and quality of this repertoire is startling. For instance, two recent matches in the Caro Kann Advance variant played by Florida state champion Julio Becerra can be explained in light of Rizzitanos' suggestions against this opening (see my book review column in this issue). Players defending against 1.d4 looking for a dynamic, long term and trainable opening repertoire may consider **The Aggressive Queens Gambit Declined** by NM Bryan Tillis. The author uses the Janowsky variation of the Queens Gambit Declined (1.d4 d5 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 a6) as corner stone of his dynamic repertoire. The book content is delivered as trainable Chessable book and a minimal familiarity with this chess platform is required. The main features that make **The Aggressive Queens Gambit Declined** an efficient chess improving resource are the following.



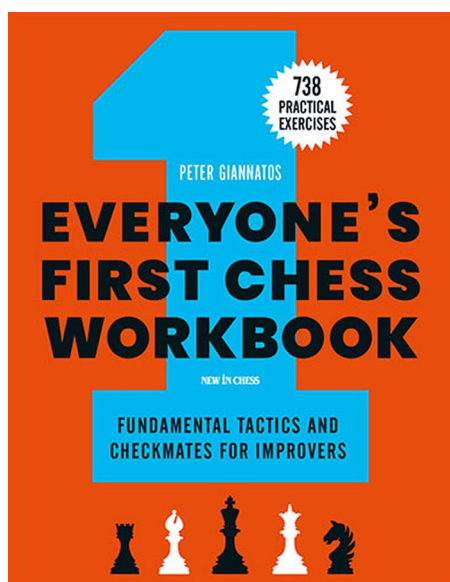
This chessable book has high quality content explained with the help of video and words. In addition, Chessable provides the user the opportunity to incorporate the latest technological tools to master the material with space repetition. The author is a great presenter and the numerous memory markers he mentions in the videos will help you to find the right ideas

during training and over the board play. The author suggests a particular order to work on this book, however, if you already play the QGD then you can start with the quick start guide, then learn the Janowski, followed by studying the model games. Then you may consider to study the variation that gives you more trouble. Maybe London system or Catalan perhaps? NM Tillis made a great job delivering to black players the QGD in a dynamic form. However, the student needs to make an effort to master the material and commit to a long term study plan.



Tactical training materials in this article are represented by **1001 Chess Exercises for Advanced Club Players** by Frank Erwich and **Everyone's First Chess Workbook** by Peter Giannatos. The first book is a collection of tactical puzzles for USCF-rated Class A and Expert players. The author introduces the reader to more advanced tactics than those in his previous books in this series. In addition to tactical puzzles, this book presents a series of tactical thinking techniques such as in-between move, traps and calculations and move order considerations. **1001 Chess Exercises for Advanced Club Players** is a good resource aimed at players working to reach chess ratings starting with a two. **Everyone's First Chess Workbook** by Peter Giannatos is an unusual chess workbook because the

conception makes learning easier to very young players.



For example, this book has large size diagrams, quality content and the material is presented in a structured way. The author manages to put everything a chess beginner needs to work on to move up in the chess skill ladder in a single book. I want to stress the importance of the large chess diagrams in **Everyone's First Chess Workbook** which makes the book friendly to very young chess players and chess teachers alike. Importantly, the content of **Everyone Chess Workbook** introduces the new chess player to the wonderful world of chess tactics systemically.

The games collection in this article is represented by Chess Buccaneer **Chess Buccaneer The Life and Games of Manuel Bosboom** by Peter Boel & Merijn van Delft. This book was the right read for me before the end of 2021 because it remind me, that the life of chess players can be, instructive, inspiring and entraining. Sometimes I get caught in the motion of only reading technical chess books. Yet, time to time among the pack of books to review I find the opportunity to enjoy a well written piece about a fellow chess player from a distant country.

Chess Buccaneer reads like a novel. You can see the main character, Manuel Bosboom

evolving from a vicious 1.e4 player at the beginning of the book to a more positional player with a myriad of stories, events and chess persona Lia in the background. After thirty nine well annotated games by the authors our hero is finally winning in a positionally style against a solid player on the white side of a Catalan (Bosboom- Raetsky, 1997). Then Bosboom hit a plateau, just to comeback in game sixty with a fantastic positional win with white against Peter Leko. Then the Covid lockdown makes the life of Bosboom difficult, but we see him coming to other side of the pandemic eager to play over the board chess. Now as in every story, I am waiting for the final twist, the grand finale. Peter Boel & Merijn van Delft do not disappoint me and uncork a match between Bosboom and Michael Basman. **Buccaneer** versus **Buccaneer**. The game started 1.c4 g5...well if you want to know how this game ends go and buy the book and enjoy chess through **The Life and Games of Manuel Bosboom**. This is one of my best winter reads in a long time and a nice break from reading technical chess.

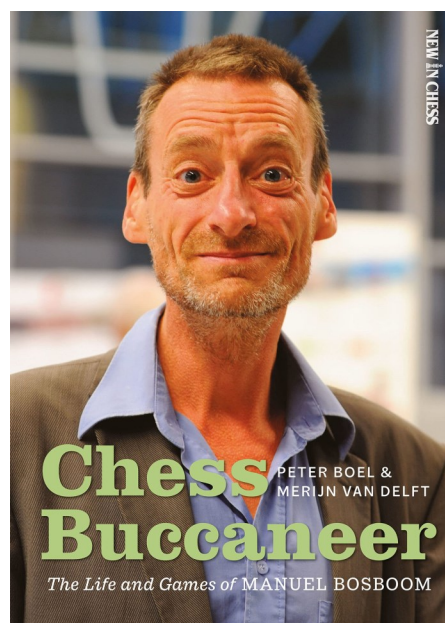


PHOTO GALLERY

(Want to see your event here? Send a few photos from the event to George@floridachess.org)

St. Petersburg Chess Club



Antony Gospodinov
2021 SPCC Scholastic



Gunnar Andersen
2021 SPCC Open Champion

AMATEUR TEAM SOUTH



Top u2000 Team



Championship Team



Final Round - Top 2 Teams



Top Senior vs. Top Female Team

San Marco Scholastic

Photos by Joseph Whale



24th Annual Jax Scholastic Championship



Jacksonville Chess Club - TNQ



2022 CFCC Winter Open

The Central Florida Chess Club held its 2022 Winter Open Tournament from January 21-23. It was the first major 3-day CFCC event since the 2020 Winter Open held approximately two years ago. The tournament was held at the Holiday Inn Resort in Lake Buena Vista. This was the first-time venue for a CFCC tournament with more tournaments planned here for the future. Over 140 players in 5 sections participated in the tournament, choosing between a 2 and 3-day schedule. It was great to see many players and acquaintances I had not seen since the start of the pandemic, after a two-year hiatus.

When I arrived to set up at 5pm on Friday I was greeted by several players who had arrived early eager to compete! The 3-day schedule began as planned on Friday night at 7pm with two International Masters competing in the Open section and players spread out in the playing hall. In the premier section, youngster Nate Ziegler (1908) held a nice draw against IM John Ludwig (2446). Things went smoothly and the round finished just before 11:30pm. I took some time to prepare the playing hall and then retired to my room to rest up for what promised to be an action-packed Saturday of chess.

Saturday morning began with an interesting lecture given by NM Alex Zelner (2344) on tactics in the Scotch Opening. Alex and Catherine Zelner also ran the chess shop that was open throughout the weekend, offering a wide range of chess books, as well as clocks, sets, scorebooks and other chess equipment. I would have liked to hear more of the master lecture, but a small crowd of players had come to ask questions and register for both the main tournament, and the blitz event on Saturday night. Saturday turned out to be an overwhelmingly busy day, and it had been some time since I had directed a larger multi section tournament. Thankfully, I had the help of our experienced floor TD, Charles Hatherhill (ANTD). Charles worked tirelessly on the floor keeping things running smoothly and ensuring pairings and time controls were correct, which made my job easier.

The start of Saturday mornings' round saw everyone in the tournament playing hall together for the first time. Two and 3-day schedules began at 11am, with Rd. 2 for the 2-day schedule starting seamlessly at 1pm. By the start of Round 3 at 5pm on Saturday evening, the 2&3-day sections were successfully merged into one big section for the duration of the tournament. The final two rounds were held on Sunday 10am & 2:30pm and when the smoke cleared, several winners in each section were announced and prizes were distributed.

Congratulations to Chilean IM Alvaro Valdes (2508), the tournament's overall winner in the Premier Section with a score of 4.5 points and the first-place prize of \$800. IM Valdes drew IM John Ludwig in the anticipated round 5 game between the tournaments two top rated players. The two IMs were the section's only undefeated player (Ludwig had 3 draws and 2 wins). Up and coming youngster, Abihiram Pothuri (2004) had an impressive comeback performance. After losing his first game, Abihiram rattled off four wins in a row to finish with 4 points finishing in clear second place and winning the \$500 second place prize. This left only 3 players with 3.5 points in a very competitive section. Congratulations to FM Yans Girones Barrios (2489) and IM John Ludwig who tied for second place and received \$150 each and to Arav Patel (1854) who took home the \$200 best U2000 prize.

The U2000 Section interestingly had no players above 1900 and it was clear that there were some talented under-rated young players in the section. Congratulations to Arbor Kurbanov (1745) for winning the U2000 section and the \$700 prize. Arbor was also one of two players in the entire tournament to finish with a perfect score of 5 points. Three players with 4 points tied for the 2nd/3rd & U1800 prizes. Congratulations to Kyle Knapp (1630), Jacob Guisto (1511) and Agrim Kumar (1506) who all received a prize check of \$308.

Congrats to Talha Ozsoy (1483) who finished with 4.5 points to win clear first place in the U1700 section and a \$700 payday. Talha's lone draw came in the final round against Chloe Min(1607). Chloe along with Brian Bird (1664) and Aaron Marian (1654) would tie for 2nd/3rd place with a score of 4 points. Each player won \$242 for

their efforts. Tristan Elvers (1489), Anmay Chadhury (1452) and William Lacey (528) shared the \$200 U1500 prize with 3.5 points.

Kevin Harrilal (1314) won the U1400 section and was the only other player to score a perfect 5 points. Congrats to Kevin who took home a prize of \$700. William Hardison (1225) finished in clear second place with a score of 4.5 netting him \$500. Four players; Santiago Lopez (1357), Zach Douglas (1163), Joe Libretto (1143) and Alison Solik (1066) all finished with a score of 4 points to tie for 3rd place/U1200 prize of \$100 each.

The U1200/Scholastic Section is usually the largest section in the tournament, but this time around there were just 23 participants. Only the Premier Section had fewer players (21). Possibly the pandemic has had the greatest impact on scholastic chess. Many after-school chess programs and local scholastic tournaments, important outlets for young players to learn fundamentals, gain experience and improve at chess, have stalled during the pandemic and are just now getting back into gear. Nonetheless, it was great to see so many younger players in attendance. As a chess coach, this is often my favorite section to oversee. As a director, it affords me the opportunity to help young players get familiarized with the rules and etiquette involved with rated tournaments and help ensure that their introduction to chess tournaments and/or their earliest chess experiences are a positive one. Congratulations to Ethan Shephard (888) and Cole Osieger (699) shared first place honors with 4 points earning them each a prize of \$162.50. Alex Rodriguez, Tristan Squire, Grace Yang, and Arham Shah all tied for third place and walked away with \$17.50 each. The U800 prize was won by Sonam Jani (798) who had 3 points.

A blitz tournament was held on Saturday night at 9:30pm. A group of 30 players competed in the four double-round event where each player plays one game with white and one game with black. When a player unexpectedly didn't show up for the first round it presented me with an opportunity to jump in as a house player at the last minute. After losing with the white pieces to an impressive youngster, I figured he got lucky and was able to refocus and win my second game as black getting the 1/1 split. Afterward I looked more closely at the pairings, and realized that perhaps it was I who was lucky to score a win against overall tournament second place finished Abhiram Pothuri. It was nice to be able to let loose and play a few blitz games after a long and busy day. And while my performance of 2/4 wasn't noteworthy, Blitz tournament winner, Vincent Stone, put on an impressive display. He handily won first place with 7/8, defeating IM Alvaro Valdes twice and losing only one game to FM Yans Girones Barrios in the process. This netted him the \$200 first place cash prize for winning the side event. In a tough field, Abhiram Pothuri gave another second-place performance along with Jeffrey Tobergte, both finishing with a commendable 6.5/8. I was very impressed that these three younger players were able to shut out two FMs and an IM from the top three places after a long day of chess at a blitz tournament that ended just shy of 11pm!

The Central Florida Chess club would like to thank all who participated in the 2022 Winter Open to help make it a successful event. I talked to players who traveled from as far as New York, Idaho and California to Orlando to play in the tournament. On a personal level it was gratifying to be back directing a 3-day hotel tournament after such a long pause. It was also nice to see so many familiar faces as well see several new ones. The CFCC's next 3-day event, The Summer Open, will be at the same venue, June 3-5. Our next event will be the CFCC Club Championship at Orlando Chess and Games March 26th and 27th. We look forward to seeing you there!

-Steven Vigil
Chief TD

Serving Students in Northeast Florida



ScholasticChess.Org

Empowering students one move at a time.

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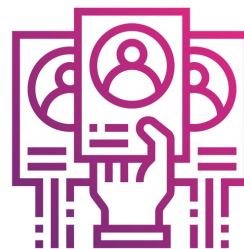
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- Senior: Jon Haskel, Members
- E.B. Nominations Committee: Daaim Shabazz
- States & Affiliates: Bryan Tillis, Member
- Life Member Asset Trust: Peter Dyson, Member
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Other Organizations

ACP : American Chess Promotions	(478)973-9389
BRCC: Boca Raton Chess Club	(561)302-4377
CACC: Castle Chess Camp	(404)314-3142
CCA : Continental Chess Association	(914)496-9658
CFCC : Central Florida Chess Club	(407)629-6946
CFCJ : Chess for Charity Jax	(904)677-1445
FSCL : Florida Scholastic Chess League	(786)444-2467
HCA : Hanley Chess Academy	(714)925-3195
JAXCC: The Jacksonville Chess Club	(904)607-9111
VILLC: The Villages Chess	(407)497-2261
KCF : Kasparov Chess Foundation	(773)844-0701
MCC : Manasota Chess Center	
OCC : Orlando Chess Club	(407)721-4262
OCG : Orlando Chess & Game Center	(407)248-0818
PBC : Palm Beach Chess	
SCO : ScholasticChess.Org	(904)304-1639
SCF : Space Coast Chess Foundation	(321)431-3060
TCC : Tallahassee Chess Club	(850)345-7838
USCF : US Chess Federation	(800)903-8723
VCCC: Volusia County Chess Club	(386)316-3700

Call For Nominations



Per our Bylaws, we are requesting FCA members nominate themselves or other current members to run for the upcoming elections for the FCA Board of Directors in July. We are always looking for leaders, not just chess players, who will make time to further chess in our state. Please email Elections@floridachess.org or go to www.floridachess.org Governance Tab to the Election Headquarter page for details.

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CHESS CALENDAR

Florida Chess Tournaments Clearing House

Paul Leggett

clearinghouse@FloridaChess.org

Date	Event	Location	Contact
2022			
Mar 5	South Florida Grand Prix	Cooper City, FL	BRCC
Mar 11-13	FCA Scholastic State Championship	Wyndham International Resort - Orlando	FCA
Mar 19	Checkmate at the Cummer Museum	Cummer Museum - Jacksonville	CFCJ
Mar 26	Jax Senior Open (+50 Y.O.)	11083 Nursery Fields Drive. Jacksonville	JAXCC
Mar 26	Ramada Hotel Tournament	West Palm Beach	BRCC
Mar 26-27	CFCC 34th Annual Club Championship	Orlando Chess & Games	CFCC
Apr 22-24	27th Space Coast Open	Holiday Inn, Viera, Florida	SFC
Apr 23	Scholastic Team Extravaganza	Aspire Church - Jacksonville	SCO
Apr 24	Monthly Super Swiss	Crossings at Siesta Key 3501 S. Tamiami Trail	MCC
Apr 26	End of the month PBC Rapid (G/15)	North Palm Beach	PBC
Apr 30	Palm Beach Chess Quads	North Palm Beach	PBC
May 7	Queen's Cup (girls & women only)	Jacksonville	JAXCC
May 21-22	FCA Senior's State Championship	The Villages	FCA
May 29	Monthly Super Swiss	Crossings at Siesta Key 3501 S. Tamiami Trail	MCC

*Additional Tournament info at FloridaChess.org and ChessRegister.com

FCA Florida 2022 Affiliates

Academy Prep Center of Lakeland
Alton Academy 4 Chess
Auburn Chess Club
Archimedean Middle Conservatory Chess Club
B & B Chess Club
Boca Raton Chess Club
Bortnik's School of Chess LLC
Capablanca Chess Academy
Chess Club Bobby Fischer
Chess Club Joy
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Daytona Beach Chess Club
Florida College Chess Foundation
Florida Scholastic Chess League
Jacksonville Chess Club

Manasota Chess Center of Sarasota
Ocala Chess Club
Palm Beach Chess
Paradise Chess Club
ScholasticChess.Org
Space Coast Chess Foundation, Inc.
Statz Chess Academy of Tampa
The Stormont Kings Chess Program
Strong Chess of Tampa
SW Florida Chess Club
Villages Chess Club
Volusia County Chess Club
Scott Campbell
Richard Francis
Shang Shu Jiang
Maggie O'Hara
Zahina Porto (affiliate)
Michael Sheroff

Organizers: Please contact the clearing house when scheduling a tournament.

Florida Chess Association, Inc.
14260 Newberry Rd. #236
Newberry, FL 32669

THIS MONTH! **2022 Florida State Scholastic Championship!!!**

March 11,12,13 at the Wyndham Orlando Resort International Drive
8001 International Drive, Orlando, FL 32819
Full Details at FloridaChess.org

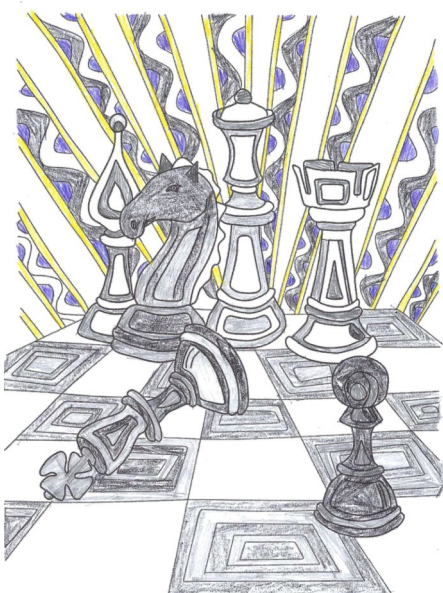


FALL 2021 Art Contest Winners!

1st Place - Oliver Holland



2nd Place - Pam Heberer



3rd Place - Oakley Holland

