



Chess Chatter

Newsletter of the Port Huron Chess Club

Editor: Lon Rutkofske April 2018 Vol.37 Number 2

The **Port Huron Chess Club** meets Thursdays, except holidays, from 6:30-10:00 PM, at Palmer Park Recreation Center, 2829 Armour Street, (NE corner of Garfield Street and Gratiot Ave...1 mile North of the Blue Water Bridge) Port Huron, Michigan. Everyone is welcome. All equipment provided. Email: PtHuronChessClub@aol.com or Website: <http://porthuronchessclub.volasite.com>

Chess tournament draws all ages

Bob Gross
Port Huron Times Herald
USA TODAY NETWORK — MICHIGAN

The Port Huron High School cafeteria was filled with students from kindergarten to high school seniors on Saturday preoccupied, not with their cell-phones, but with chess pieces on a chess board.

Lonnie Rutkofske, the founder of the Phil Willard Memorial Chess Tournament and a member of the Port Huron Chess Club, said people shouldn't dismiss the players because of their age.

"The great thing about chess is it's not gender specific or age specific," he said. "The good thing is size doesn't matter and age doesn't matter.

"There are 5-year-olds that can kick your rear."

The tournament is open to students in the Port Huron Schools. Michiganamme Elementary School brought a large contingent of students, about 30 in all, to play in the annual tournament, which started at Port Huron Northern High School in 1996.

Rutkofske said he ran the tournament until 2000 when he retired from education. Jeff Willard, Phil Willard's son, has been the director since.

Rutkofske, who still volunteers as a judge for the tournament, said chess "is exceptional in developing students' skills in problem solving, recognizing patterns, mathematics ...

"There are so many beneficial things that chess has that other sports don't



Students filled the cafeteria at Port Huron High School for the annual Phil Willard Memorial Chess Tournament on Saturday. PHOTOS BY BOB GROSS/TIMES HERALD

have."

Phil Willard was a long-time member of the Port Huron Chess Club, so it's no surprise his son is involved.

"I grew up playing chess," Jeff Willard said. "I feel it's a great lifelong game.

"If I introduce it to the kids now, even if it's something they get away from when life gets busy, it's something they

can come back to."

He said the game's lessons include pattern recognition and good sportsmanship.

"A lot of it is learning to plan ahead, and that is a life lesson," Willard said. "It pays to plan ahead."

Like Rutkofske, he said people shouldn't underestimate the players

just because they're young.

"It's good experience for them," he said. "Most of the young ones might be learning some of the rules (but) some of the kids who started in kindergarten are going to be amazing students."

Contact Bob Gross at (810) 989-6263 or rgross@gannett.com. Follow him on Twitter @RobertGross477.

THETIMESHERALD.COM | SUNDAY, MARCH 25, 2018 | 3A

Daniel Riley, 11, a fifth-grader at Indian Woods Elementary School, watches his opponent move a chess piece during Saturday's match.



Mason Thiede, 9, a third-grader at Michiganamme Elementary School, ponders a move Saturday.

Thank you to Michael Eckert, editor of the Times Herald for permission to use this article!

2018 CHESS TOURNAMENT RESULTS

The Port Huron Schools Phil Willard Memorial Chess Tournament was held on Saturday, March 24, 2018 at Port Huron High School. One hundred and three (103) students participated in the tournament. Each student will receive a certificate of participation.

The 1st place winner in each grade received a trophy, and are as follows:

Kindergarten: Claire Patterson – Indian Woods
1st grade: Josiah Haufschild – Indian Woods
2nd grade: Christine Chen – Indian Woods
3rd grade: Nolan DeLong – Indian Woods
4th grade: Jonathan Haufschild – Indian Woods
5th grade: Nate DePuey - Garfield
6th grade: Luke Maher – Fort Gratiot
7th grade: Stanford Chen - Central
8th grade: Jerimiah McCue – Fort Gratiot
9th grade: Zachary Allen – Port Huron High School
10th grade: Jack Hollingsworth – Port Huron Northern High School
11th grade: Jacob Beerbower – Port Huron Northern High School
12th grade: Adam Nowiski – Port Huron High School

Congratulations to all of the students that participated!

A huge thank you to parents, chess club coordinators, Port Huron Chess Club members, and other volunteers that made the event very successful.

A special thank you to Mr. Jeff Willard from Central Middle School for coordinating the tournament.

Submitted by: Evone Rodrigues on 3/26/18

Once again, a Willard pulls off another upset!

This time it is **Jeff Willard**, son of that illustrious, even notorious proponent of the aptly re-named Willardor Defence, that has carved his name into the annals of PHCC and PHASD lore in directing yet another successful Port Huron Area School District event - the 21st Phil Willard Memorial Chess Tournament open to all district students. This year's event exceeded last year's turnout touting even more female entries than ever! All hail to the ladies, who once again smashed the glass ceiling as **Christine Chen** captured the 2nd grade trophy. Many thanks go to *Times Herald* reporter **Bob Gross**, **Evon Rodriques**, **Jennifer Alan**, **Mark Hanton**, members of the Port Huron Chess Club (**Stu Wilkinson**, **Avery Jones**, **Bill Wingrove**, **Alan Gregg** and **Lon Rutkofske**), parents and adult chess supporters and of course Jeff and members of his tournament crew for ensuring yet another successful year for district youngsters!

The PHCC is looking forward to having some excited young chess enthusiasts, fresh off of the tournament circuit, drop by the PHCC in the near future to hopefully improve their skills at the "Royal Game" and bring an enthusiastic core of young chess players interested in exploring the intricacies and mysteries inherent in the "Game of Kings"!



L-R: Arbiters - Bill Wingrove;Stu Wilkinson;Avery Jones and Lon Rutkofske.



A very tough problem - goes unsolved!



12th grade champ-Adam Nowiski (foreground)!



Chess pieces can also be transformed into marvelous feats of engineering !



Youngsters demonstrate some very vertically creative combinations!



PHCC volunteer Stew Wilkinson oversees the young guns!



Port Huron Chess Club Volunteer Bill Wingrove "aggressively" monitors the action after Jeff Willard announces commencement of play!

Simul vs Champ goes south!

"To the victor belongs the spoils of war!" or so the saying goes, but in Alan Gregg's first outing as the 2018 Club Champion, you might rephrase this as "The victor is despoiled by PHCC warriors!" In an attempt to build club camaraderie and renew the fighting spirit of those he vanquished in the tournament, newly crowned champion **Alan Gregg**, succeeded in both! In offering a sort of "revenge" opportunity Gregg hosted a simultaneous exhibition with a prize of \$5 to anyone that defeated him. Well...it appears that his gauntlet was seized by a host of club avengers, rendering the recently anointed "club king" a ringing setback costing him \$15 from his championship purse as he was soundly trounced by **Stu Wilkinson**, **Avery Jones** and **Noel Bedy** salvaging a lone draw to **Bill Wingrove** and defeating only the two lowest rated



players in the challenging cohort - inspiring another well known phrase regarding "the best laid plans of Mice and Men!...that being:"the road to hell is paved with good intentions!"

2018 Club Champion

Alan Gregg

The Loyal Opposition



L-R Gerrit Beneker;Stu Wilkinson;Avery Jones; and Bill Wingrove.



L-R: Alan Gregg; Avery Jones; Bill Wingrove; Josh Muir; and Noel Bedy.

Fabiano Caruana 1st American since Bobby Fischer to reach World Chess Championship

In what's being billed as a historic result for American chess, 25-year-old Fabiano Caruana has emerged after an 18-day competition in Berlin, Germany, as the next challenger for the World Championship title. He will face off against reigning World Champion Magnus Carlsen of Norway in November in a 12-game one-on-one match.

A U.S. grandmaster hasn't won the title of undisputed champion since 1972, when Bobby Fischer defeated Boris Spassky of the USSR.

The qualifying tournament was close, with two rounds left and five of the eight players able to come out on top. It wasn't until Caruana's crucial win against Armenia's Levon Aronian in the penultimate round that put him half a point ahead of his closest rivals.

"Congratulations to Fabiano Caruana, who wins the [#Candidates2018](#) in style, by a full point!" the U.S. Chess Federation tweeted.

"It is a great honor to represent my home country," Caruana said in a statement. "The Candidates Tournament win is the culmination of months of hard work, and I'm elated -- simply without words."

Carlsen, the current World Champion, has been a grandmaster since age 13. He has held the world title since 2013 and [defended it in 2016](#) in New York City.

"We think that Fabiano is the single most dangerous challenger that Magnus could face," Yasser Seirawan, a four-time U.S. champion and chess grandmaster, told CBS News. The two have met on numerous occasions before, and while Caruana has claimed a handful of victories, Carlsen has won almost twice as many of their match-ups. "He has tasted the blood," said Seirawan.

Caruana said, "I look forward to going back to St. Louis to prepare for dethroning Magnus."

Caruana moved to St. Louis, a hotspot for chess, after relocating from his hometown in Miami. He leads the American team in the chess olympiads as the first board and with his guidance the team won gold for the first time since 1976.

"This is one of the most significant and historical achievements for American chess in years," Rex Sinquefeld, founder of the [Saint Louis Chess Club](#), said. "To have an American play for the World Championship will help elevate chess to levels it has not seen since the early 1970s."

The match will take place November 9-28 in London, but St. Louis is rumored to be launching a bid to bring the match home, a move which could include a prize pot far in excess of the \$1 million being offered in London.

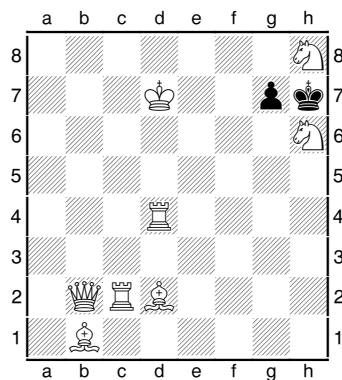
"I wouldn't want to speculate," said Seirawan, "but suffice to say that it would be significantly higher."

CBS News' ["60 Minutes" first met Carlsen in 2012](#) where he explained the nickname he acquired in his prodigy days: The Mozart of Chess.

"But was Mozart ever asked how he does this?" Carlsen asked "60 Minutes" correspondent Bob Simon during the interview. "I would be very impressed if he had a good answer to that because I think he would say ... just -- it comes natural to me. It's what I do."

"60 Minutes" writes that chess comes so easily to Carlsen that, like a musician, he can compose in his head. As Bob Simon reported, Carlsen could simultaneously compete against 10 players -- without looking at the boards. He was able to blindly keep track of the 320 pieces and the infinite number of moves. (Courtesy of CBS News Website)

2018 PHASD Tournament Problem: White to play and mate in two moves.



F. Gamage

The Falkirk Herald

1941

From

The American Two-Move Chess Problem

By Kenneth S. Howard

Solution on last page

Josh Muir to teach summer chess classes at the PH Library



Josh Muir

One of the PHCC's younger players will be teaching a summer chess class at the Port Huron Library. Final details will be forthcoming in future issues of **Chess Chatter**, as well as the PH Recreation Department's summer catalogue, but it looks like Josh will be offering 5 class sessions for between 20-25 students, 12 or younger in the afternoon.

As the effervescent mentor for these future grand masters, Josh appears to be a perfect fit, to inspire and instruct these young charges in the mysteries and marvels of chess. Of the many recent newcomers to the PHCC, Josh has demonstrated his love and dedication to the game and his willingness to go the extra mile to enhance his own skills and knowledge, but additionally he is willing to share his enthusiasm for the noble game with others.

Josh can certainly count on support from the PHCC and the PH recreation department in this challenging effort!

Members' Games

Please send me what you consider your best games, annotated or not, so that I might be able to showcase them. The following games represent contests that have been available at the time of this printing. Email them to me or give them to me personally, if you wish. Majority of analyses is done by Fritz 12, unless otherwise indicated.

Gregg, Alan (1948) - Bedy, Noel (1504) [A47] London System



Simultaneous Exhibition Port Huron, 08.03.2018

1.d4 Nf6 2.Nf3 e6 3.Bf4 c5 4.e3 b6 5.c3 Bb7 6.Be2 cxd4
7.exd4 d6 8.Nbd2 Be7 9.0-0 0-0 10.Re1 a6 11.h3 b5
12.Bf1 h6 13.Rc1 Nbd7 14.a4 bxa4 15.Qxa4 Re8 16.b4
Nb6 17.Qa5 Nbd5 18.Qxd8 Rxd8 19.Be3 Rac8 20.Nb1
Ne4 21.Bd2 Nxd2 22.Nfxd2 Rc7 23.b5 axb5 24.Bxb5
Rdc8 25.c4 Nf4 26.Rc3 Nxc2 27.Rec1 Nf4 28.c5 dxc5
29.dxc5 Rxc5 30.Rxc5 Rxc5 31.Rxc5 Bxc5 32.Bf1 Nd5
33.Bg2 Kf8 34.Nb3 Bb4 35.N1d2 Bxd2 36.Nxd2 Ke7
37.Nc4 Ba6 38.Ne5 f6 39.Nc6+ Kd6 40.Nd4 Nf4 41.Kh2
Nxc2 42.Kxc2 Kd5 43.Nf3 g5 44.Nh2 h5 45.Kf3 Ke5
46.Ke3 f5 47.Nf3+ Kf6 48.h4 f4+ 49.Kd4 g4 50.Ng5 e5+
51.Kc3 Bb7 52.Kd2 Kf5 53.Ke2 Bd5 54.Kf1 e4 55.Ke2

g3 56.fxg3 fxg3 57.Nh7 Bb7 0-1

Wilkinson, Stewart (1873) - Rutkofske, Lonnie (1867) [C08] French Defense

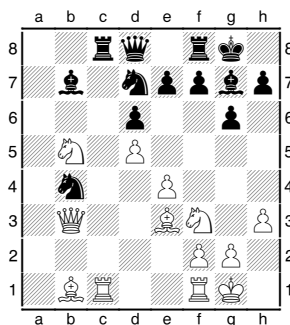
2016 PHCC Rated April Quad Port Huron (1), 25.04.2016

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.Nd2 c5 4.exd5 exd5 5.Ng3 Nf6 6.Bb5+ Bd7 7.Bxd7+ Qxd7 8.0-0 Be7 9.dxc5 0-0 10.Nb3 Ne4 11.Be3 Nc6 12.c3 Rfd8 13.Qc2 Rac8 14.Rad1 Qc7 15.Bd4 Qf4 16.Be3 Qc7 17.Qb1 Ne5 18.Nxe5 Qxe5 19.Bd4 Qh5 20.Rd3 g6 21.Qd1 Qf5 22.Qf3 Qxf3 23.Rxf3 Bxc5 24.Bxc5 Nxc5 25.Nxc5 Rxc5 26.Rd3 Re8 27.Rfd1 Re2 28.R3d2 Rxd2 29.Rxd2 f6 30.Kf1 Kf7 31.Ke2 Ke6 ½-½

Wingrove, William (1606) - Morabito, Matthew (1859) [B22] Sicilian Defense

2016 PHCC Championships Port Huron (1), 14.01.2016 [Gregg, Alan]

1.e4 c5 2.c3 g6 3.d4 cxd4 4.cxd4 Bg7 5.Nf3 d6 6.Nc3 a6 7.Be3 Nf6 8.h3 0-0 9.Be2 b5 10.a3 Bb7 11.d5 Nbd7 12.Rc1 Rc8 13.0-0 Nc5 14.Bd3 Nfd7 15.Bb1 a5 16.b4 axb4 17.axb4 Na6 18.Nxb5 [18.Qb3 ...is better, keeping White in charge.] 18...Nxb4 19.Qb3 Diagram



19.Qa4! 19...Qa5 20.Nbd4 Nc5 21.Qd1 Ba6 22.Re1 Ncd3 23.Rxc8 Rxc8 24.Bxd3 Nxd3 25.Re2 Nc5 26.Rc2 Nxe4 27.Rxc8+ Bxc8 28.Nc6 [28.Qc2 Nc5 29.Nc6 Qa1+ 30.Kh2 Bf8 31.Bxc5 dxc5 32.Qxc5 Qf6 33.Nxe7+ Qxe7 34.Qxc8 Qd6+ 35.g3 Qxd5 36.Kg2] 28...Qc7 29.Qa4 Nc3 30.Qc4 Bb7 31.Nfd4 Nxd5 32.Qxd5 Bxd4 [32...e5 Winning!] 33.Nxe7+ Qxe7 34.Qxd4 Qe4 White has a centralized Q, and some nasty threats on the black squares with Bd2 and eventually Bc3, so Black decides to see if his opponent is paying attention to the cheap shot against g2! [LWR] **35.Qxe4 Bxe4 36.f3 Bc6 37.Kf2 f6 38.g3 Kf7 39.f4 Ke6 40.Ke2 Kd5 41.Bb6 Ke4 42.Kf2 d5 43.Ba5 Bd7 44.h4 Bg4 45.Bb4 d4 46.Bc5 Kd3 47.Ba7 Kc4 48.Bb6 Kd3 49.Ba7 Ke4 50.Bb6 Kd3 51.Ba7 Kc3 52.Ke1 d3 53.Be3 f5 54.Bd2+ Kd4 55.Kf2 ½-½**

Boucher, David (1467) - Bedy, Noel (1610) [B01] Scandinavian Defense

2015 PHCC Championships St. Clair (2), 17.01.2015

1.e4 d5 2.exd5 Qxd5 3.d4 Nf6 4.Nc3 Qd6 5.Nf3 c6 6.Bg5 Bg4 7.Be2 e6 8.Qd2 Qc7 9.Bf4 Bd6 10.Ne5 Bxe2 11.Qxe2 Nbd7 12.Bg3 0-0 13.0-0-0 Nd5 14.Nxd5 cxd5 15.Rd3 Bxe5 16.Bxe5 Nxe5 17.Qxe5 Qa5 18.Ra3 Qb4 19.Rb3 Qe7 20.g4 Rfc8 21.Qe3 Rc4 22.Rd1 Rac8 23.Rd2 Qc7 24.Qd3 g6 25.f3 b6 26.Rf2 Qf4+ 27.Rd2 Qg5 28.c3 Qf4 29.Kb1 Qd6 30.Rc2 a5 31.Ra3 Qc7 32.h4 b5 33.b3 Rc6 34.Qxb5 Rxc3 35.Rxc3 Qxc3 36.Qf1 Qd2 37.h5 Qb4 38.Ra4 Qd2 39.h6 f6 40.f4 e5 41.fxe5 fxe5 42.dxe5 d4 43.e6 Rf8 44.Qg1 Qd3+ 45.Kb2 Qe2+ 46.Ka3 d3 47.Qd4 1-0

Dues News:

While dues are not required for anyone interested in playing at the club, they are required for those competing in tournament play. Annual Dues are \$20.00 for adults and \$10.00 for those under 19. Dues funds are used to offset miscellaneous expenses not funded by the Recreation Department. United States Chess Federation memberships are available through the club.

Calendar of Events: [Note the change for the First Thursday of Each Month](#)

First Thursday of Each Month - Chess Clinics- 6:30 to 7:00 PM - \$7.50 per person. From 7:00 until 10:00. Players wishing to play Challenge matches with longer time controls of G/60 with 5 sec delay can choose to play match games if they so desire. Participants will be required to follow the rules and regulations for **Challenge Play** (As outlined in Chess Chatter, our website under "Club Member Ratings Lists", or posted at the club.) and colors will be selected by lot. PHCC club ratings will be used. Players should turn their game scores into Lon, so he can adjust ratings appropriately and showcase the games in *Chess Chatter*.

2018 Events Schedule:

April 19th; May,17th; June 21st - USCF/PHCC Rated Action Quads (or Mini-Swiss depending on registration) G/25 with 3 sec. delay EF: \$5.00 ...Prizes based on entries. A minimum of 4 participants will be necessary to hold the event. Please contact Lon via phone or email if you plan to register. Onsite registration 6:30-7:00PM - Play begins at 7:00 PM. Prizes: if Quad: 1st = \$15; if Mini-Swiss: Based on entries! (Recording games is optional, for players that wish to keep score, neither player is required to keep score if either has 5 minutes or less on their clock.)

PHCC Rating Lists

The following list represents only current members of the Port Huron Chess Club. Current USCF ratings were used for members that had them, in order to establish the initial club rating list. The USCF rating format is used as the basis for calculating our club rating list. Members that had no USCF ratings are given a provisional rating based on their performances against regular club members who had USCF ratings. Club rated events will use these ratings for pairing purposes.

PHCC Rating List as of 3/3/18

<u>Name</u>	<u>Rating</u>
Morris, Jason	2041
Gregg, Alan	1987
Rutkofske, Lon	1878
Wilkinson, Stu	1866
Morabito, Matt	1859
Jones, G. Avery	1782
Urick, Ryan	1700
Wingrove, Bill	1641
Muir, Josh	1567
Boucher, Dave	1565
Bedy, Noel	1518
Beneker, Gerrit	1380
Carey, Jay	1000

USCF Ratings as of 3/9/18

<u>Name</u>	<u>Rating</u>
Morris, Jason	2041
Gregg, Alan	1974
Wilkinson, Stu	1844
Rutkofske, Lon	1820
Morabito, Matt	1794
Jones, G.Avery	1673
Wingrove, Bill	1593
Muir, Joshua	1564P14
Bedy, Noel	1452
Boucher, Dave	1406

PHCC Speed Ratings as of 3/3/18

<u>Name</u>	<u>Rating</u>
Morris, Jason	2070
Gregg, Alan	1968
Wilkinson, Stu	1938
Urick, Ryan	1874
Rutkofske, Lon	1775
Morabito, Matt	1794
Muir, Josh	1599
Jones, G. Avery	1587
Wingrove, Bill	1548
Bedy, Noel	1529
Beneker Gerrit	1287
Carey, Jay	1000

Solution: to Problem 150 : 1.Rf4