



Chess Chatter

Newsletter of the Port Huron Chess Club

Editor: Lon Rutkofske

March 2026




Vol. 45 Number 3

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 Bhttps://phchess.yolasite.com/ridge) Port Huron, Michigan. Everyone is welcome. All equipment provided.email:PHuronChessClub@aol.com Website: <https://phchess.yolasite.com/>

2026 Phil Willard Memorial/Port Huron Area Schools Chess Tournament is a Record Breaker!!

March 7, 2026 turned out to be a red-letter day for the Annual Phil Willard Memorial Chess Tournament hosted by the Port Huron Area School District, at Port Huron High School. Over 150 students and even more observers from all over the Blue Water Area attended the record-breaking tournament, packing the cafeteria where nary an empty seat could be found! In fact, tournament director Parker Willard (Phil’s grandson) had to delay the first round of event in order to secure additional board, sets and playing spaces for the overwhelming turnout. Numerous volunteers including family members, friends and a trio of Port Huron Chess Club arbiters were on hand to assist in the tournament administration and organization. Thanks go to Kristen McRobie and Mark Hanton from the Port Huron Area School district central office again served as key driving forces behind the event. Thanks to all for a magnificent support for chess and opportunities to compete in a area where age, gender, physical prowess, ethnicity, social, economic, religious or political issues are inconsequential to the fun and excitement generated by what can become a life-long passion. What follows is a photographic record of the event. (*Winners By Grade : Not Pictured - 10th Grade: Christian Karcher- Port Huron High School*)

			
1 st -Donnie Duncan St Eds on the Lake	2 nd -Samuel Coules St Eds on the Lake	3 rd -Enzo Killigan_ Keewahdin	4 th - Esteban Salinas Keewahdin
			
5 th - Jonathan Mang Michigamme	5 th - Daniel Chen New Life Christian Aca.		

					
6 th - Luke Welsler Marysville MS	7 th - Braden Hill Central MS	8 th - Ryker Fallon Marysville MS	9 th - Jonathan Nurnberg Marysville HS	11 th - Mugil Muruganandam Northern Collegiate Voc. Ins.	12 th - Javier Solis PHHS

Other Pictures from the 2026 PHASD Tournament



Marysville MS forms a new chess club

Thanks to the efforts of Marysville Middle School Teacher and club sponsor, Stacy Welser, 30-40 students have an opportunity to experience the wonder and excitement of the world of chess. Mrs. Welser had the foresight and challenge to write a grant for chess equipment (boards, sets, clocks and carrying cases) to accommodate at least 15 eager “chessnuts” but was overwhelmed at the numbers that attended the first meeting, and even this number has increased since then, with some students providing their own sets and boards. Mrs. Welser presently is in the process of scrambling for donations to purchase more equipment to meet the surprising demand!

Additionally, Marysville’s new “Queen of the Royal Game”, is in the process of arranging for her club’s first formal tournament which is on tap for March 16th in the school’s cafeteria beginning at 3:30. A novice herself, she was encouraged by her son, Luke, who has been instrumental in providing “appropriate” incentive for his mom’s vigorous pursuit of upgrading her understanding of the benefits and acquire the extra skills to move her son and her newly created chess organization. She is far from alone in her new endeavor as her husband, Ryan, assisted her efforts by contacting Lon Rutkofske of the PH Chess Club as a “technical advisor” in an effort to provide additional opportunities for her charges! In turn, Lon hopes this partnership might encourage her students to drop by the Port Huron Chess Club in a win-win collaboration! Below are some pictures of a recent simultaneous exhibition on Lon’s first visit to the club on March 3rd. Bravo and welcome to a new Viking chess invasion!!



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 were available at the time of this printing. Email them to me or give them to me personally if you wish. The majority of analyses is done by Fritz 12, unless otherwise indicated. [This a reminder of the change in policy in the PHCC Challenge rules: # 14 - Games can be rated by the USCF, provided both players are members in good standing with the USCF and agree to have it rated by paying in advance to the TD (Lon Rutkofske, or other club official with a valid TD certification card.) of \$1.50@ to cover rating costs.] Updated Challenge rules will follow below:

Format and rules for PHCC Challenge System

- I. Purpose: to provide club members the opportunity to challenge higher rated players on a regular basis to improve and test their skills in over-the-board non-tournament competition.
- II. Regulations: (Effective 11-8-2018)
 - a. Challenges may be made by any club member on the PHCC rating list under the following circumstances:
 1. Can only be made by a lower rated player only.
 2. Can only be made during club hours and cannot be made after 8:00PM.
 3. Must be played on the same day as the challenge was made, so there can be no advanced challenges.
 4. Both players must be present.
 5. Only one challenge may be made per meeting.
 6. A challenger can only challenge a player that is rated less than 400 points above him on the rating list.
 7. All challenges must be accepted.
 8. No challenge may be made while a participant is involved in a tournament or challenge game.
 9. A clock must be used with the time control of G/60 with 5 second delay; must be recorded by both players and submitted to the rating director upon completion of the game. *(See Sample Score Sheet on page 2)*
 10. All challenge games must comply with current tournament rules of chess as established by the US Chess Federation.
 11. No challenge game may be adjourned, but if an unusual circumstance arises, the club rating director may adjudicate.
 12. No member may be challenged more than one consecutive time by the same challenger. This means that the lower rated player cannot challenge the same player two times in a row. He/she must play another match before this can take place, but this also means that the higher rated player may be challenged by the same rated player consecutively if he has not participated in a match in between challenges within a six- week period. Abuse (I.E: Constant challenges and re-challenges or other annoying or inconsiderate behavior) must be reported to the Director and he has the option of suspending the violator indefinitely from participation in the Challenge system. Disputes will be adjudicated by the ratings director, with the advice of other players as he so wishes.
 13. Challenges can take place on the first Thursday of each month, or at any time there is no other tournament or event scheduled.
 14. **Games can be rated by the USCF**, provided both players are members in good standing with the USCF and agree to have it rated by paying in advance to the TD (*Lon Rutkofske, or other club official with a valid TD certification card.*) of \$1.50@ to cover rating costs. Results will be rated by the PHCC (*Using the USCF rating system.*) using current PHCC ratings posted at the club and will be adjusted as necessary by the club rating director.
 15. Changes will also be posted on the club website. Results will be rated by the PHCC (*Using the USCF rating system.*) using current PHCC ratings posted at the club and will be adjusted as necessary by the club rating director. Changes will also be posted on the club website: <https://phchess.yolasite.com/>

Members' Games from recent tournaments.

Huso's games from the Feb. 21
Canton Tournament

This Canton chess tournament was again very strong. I won two games and lost two. This time I had a problem with timing because I spent a lot of time on variations which is why I ended up in difficult positions.

I especially feel sorry for the game in the second round.

**Avdic,Huso (1980) -
Reeves,Jacob (1655) [A06] QP
Game**
Feb. 2026 Canton Chess
Tournament Canton (1),
21.02.2026
**1.Nf3 d5 2.b3 Nf6 3.d4 Bf5
4.Bb2 h6 5.e3 e6 6.Bd3 Bxd3
7.cxd3 c5 8.dxc5 Bxc5 9.0-0 0-**

**0 10.Nbd2 Nbd7 11.Rc1 Rc8
12.Ne5 Qe7 13.Ndf3 Ba3
14.Qd2 Nxe5 15.Nxe5 Bb4
16.Qe2 Nd7 17.Nxd7 Qxd7
18.Qg4 d4 19.Bxd4 f5 20.Qg6
Ba3 21.Rc4 b5 22.Rxc8 Rxc8
23.Bxg7 Qf7 24.Qxh6 Qd7
25.Bd4 a5 26.h4 Rc2 27.Qh8+
Kf7 28.h5 1-0**

**Tan,Patricia (1825) -
Avdic,Huso (1980) [A02] Bird's
Opening**

Feb. 2026 Canton Chess
Tournament Canton (2),
21.02.2026

1.b3 Nf6 2.Bb2 g6 3.e3 Bg7 4.f4
0-0 5.Nf3 d6 6.Be2 Nc6 7.0-0
e5 8.fxe5 Ng4 9.Nc3 dxe5
10.Ba3 Re8 11.e4 Nd4 12.Bc4
Be6 13.Bxe6 Rxe6 14.h3 Nh6
15.Ne2 f5 16.d3 Nb5 17.Bb2
Qe7 18.Qc1 f4 19.a4 Nd6 20.d4
g5 21.dxe5 Nxe4 22.Ned4 Rg6
23.Re1 Ng3 24.Ba3 c5 25.Ne2
Nhf5 26.Nxg3 fxg3 27.Re4 h5
28.Qf1 b6 29.Rae1 Rd8 30.Bc1
g4 31.hxg4 hxg4 32.Qc4+ Kh7
33.Rxg4 Bh6 34.Rxg6 Kxg6
35.Qg4+ 1-0

Avdic,Huso (1890) - Guo,Miah
(1631) [D05] Colle System

Feb. 2026 Canton Chess
Tournament Canton (3),
21.02.2026

1.Nf3 Nf6 2.b3 e6 3.Bb2 b6
4.d4 Bb7 5.Nbd2 c5 6.e3 d5
7.Bd3 Nbd7 8.0-0 Be7 9.Ne5
0-0 10.f4 Ne4 11.Rf3 cxd4
12.exd4 Bb4 13.Nf1 Rc8
14.Rh3 Ndf6 15.g4 Nc3 16.Qf3
Nfe4 17.a3 Be7 18.g5 Bxg5
19.Qh5 Bh6 20.Ng4 Kh8
21.Nxh6 gxh6 22.Bxc3 Rg8+
23.Ng3 Rxc3 24.Qxh6 Rg7
25.Re1 Qg8 26.Re3 Rg6
27.Qh5 f5 28.Kf1 Ba6 29.Qe2
Bxd3 30.Rxd3 Nxg3+ 31.hxg3
Rxd3 32.Qxd3 Rf6 33.Qe2 Rg6
34.Qe5+ Rg7 35.Rh6 Qf7
36.Rxe6 Qb7 37.Re8# 1-0

Arshad,Shahzad (1878) -
Avdic,Huso (1980) [B50]
Sicilian Defense

Feb. 2026 Canton Chess
Tournament (4), 21.02.2026

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.g3 g6
4.Bg2 Bg7 5.0-0 Nf6 6.Re1 d6
7.c3 0-0 8.h3 e5 9.Na3 d5
10.exd5 Nxd5 11.Nc4 Re8
12.a4 e4 13.Nh2 f5 14.d3 Nf6
15.dxe4 Nxe4 16.Be3 Be6
17.Nd2 Qc7 18.Nxe4 fxe4
19.Bf4 Qf7 20.Rxe4 Rad8
21.Qe2 Bf5 22.Rxe8+ Rxe8
23.Qb5 Bf8 24.Nf1 a6 25.Qb6
Be4 26.Ne3 Bxg2 27.Kxg2 h6
28.Rd1 g5 29.Bd6 Ne5 30.Bxe5
Rxe5 31.Ng4 Re6 32.Qd8 Kg7
33.Rd7 Re7 34.Rxe7 Bxe7
35.Qd7 Bf8 36.Qd3 Qg6
37.Qd7+ Qf7 38.Qxf7+ Kxf7
39.Kf3 Ke6 40.Ke4 b5 41.axb5
axb5 42.f4 gxf4 43.gxf4 Bg7
44.f5+ Kd6 45.f6 Bf8 46.Kf5 h5
47.Ne3 b4 48.c4 b3 1-0

Feb21-2026-SS: OPEN -- Standings

#	Place	Name	ID	Rating	Team	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Total
1	1	Patricia Tan	15670757	1825		W26	W11	W14	W3	4.0
2	2	Aaban Mogal	31793940	1931		W18	D20	W12	W9	3.5
3	3-6	Olivia Lin	30174920	1671		W5	W4	W7	L1	3.0
4		Manmohan Das	12664593	1907	AD	W24	L3	W16	W15	3.0
5		Waleed Yassine	12859685	2122		L3	W24	W21	W14	3.0
6		Shahzad Arshad	30827228	1877	AR	L23	W27	W13	W11	3.0
7	7-10	Rohit Ramaswamy	14856853	1937		W16	W15	L3	D8	2.5
8		Donald M Mason	10301670	1800		D10	D13	W23	D7	2.5
9		Daut Yakupov	16055761	1869		W22	D21	W20	L2	2.5
10		Thomas Valenzuela	16847083	1543		D8	L12	W22	W20	2.5
11	11-19	Huso Avdic	12786740	1980		W17	L1	W18	L8	2.0
12		Nicolas Casey	16022191	1804		D13	W10	L2	D17	2.0
13		Jeffrey Guilfoyle	12275620	1600		D12	D8	L6	W24	2.0
14		Ayush Das	13990485	1880	AD	W27	W23	L1	L5	2.0
15		Theodore Bielski	30042749	1711		W25	L7	W19	L4	2.0
16		Nicholas G Houser	30955050	1632		L7	W25	L4	W21	2.0
17		Jacob Reeves	31356737	1655		L11	D22	W27	D12	2.0
18		Miah Guo	30034737	1631		L2	W26	L11	W25	2.0
19		Aaron Fawcett	31818431	1513		L20	B---	L15	W23	2.0
20	20-22	Robert F Wydryck	12551479	1702	BU	W19	D2	L9	L10	1.5
21		Dhruv Duruvasan	17021506	1416		B---	D9	L5	L16	1.5
22		Mihir Kapoor	30523887	1605		L9	D17	L10	W27	1.5
23	23-26	John Raymon Bieda	30319757	1607		W6	L14	L8	L19	1.0
24		Nodirbek Aminov	31794222	1612		L4	L5	W26	L13	1.0
25		Shiraz Arshad	30829774	1527	AR	L15	L16	B---	L18	1.0
26		J Timothy Burke	12552545	1600	BU	L1	L18	L24	B---	1.0
27	27-32	Olaf Haakonstad	12406916	1609	BU	L14	L6	L17	L22	0.0
28		Inba Sundara Rajan	16487601	2053		U---	U---	U---	U---	0.0
29		Tejas Puram	30618297	1862		U---	U---	U---	U---	0.0
30		Darius Amar Piper	17113332	1737		U---	U---	U---	U---	0.0
31		Gus Lejia Guan	31084835	1695		U---	U---	U---	U---	0.0
32		Gracie Ge Yan	30363150	1596		U---	U---	U---	U---	0.0

Tentative Calendar of Events for 2026:

First Thursday of Each Month: Free Chess Clinics – 6:30 to 7:00 PM; **Private Lessons** can be arranged @ \$15/person per hour; **Open play**: 7:00 until 10:00 PM. 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**. **Monthly Tournaments** will be held, **usually** on the third Thursday of the month - See the events schedule below for specifics! Additional learning opportunities are offered by the club with periodic lectures from 7:00 – 8:00 on the second meeting of each month.

PHCC Monthly Quads: 3-RR Sections of 4 by rating and unrated all are welcome regardless of strength; **Registration** 6.30-6.45 pm on the day early registration by email or text; Round 1 Starts at 7 pm; **Time Control:** G/25 PLUS 5 SEC DELAY; **Entry fee** :\$5/person (no fee for club members who have paid up memberships); **Prize:** \$15 each section; **Contact:** Alan Gregg, cell: [810-357-8984](tel:810-357-8984); email: alan1144@gmail.com, Website: <https://phchess.yolasite.com>

- **March 26th - PHCC Under 1800 Rated Only** :Action Quads (or Mini-Swiss depending on registration) G/10; non- PHCC member 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.)
- **Monthly Quads: April 2nd – See announcement above!**
- **April 23rd - PHCC over 1700 Rated Only** :Action Quads (or Mini-Swiss depending on registration) G/10; non- PHCC member 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.)
- **Monthly Quads: May 7th – See announcement above!**
- **May 21st - PHCC Rated** Action Quads (or Mini-Swiss depending on registration) G/10 ; non- PHCC member 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.)
- **Monthly Quads: June 4th – See announcement above!**
- **June 20th- PHCC Under 1800 Rated Only**: Action Quads (or Mini-Swiss depending on registration) G/10 ; non- PHCC member 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.)
- **Monthly Quads: July 2nd – See announcement above!**
- **July 23rd - USCF/PHCC Rated** Action Quads (or Mini-Swiss depending on registration) G/25 with 3 sec. delay ; non- PHCC member 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.)
- **Monthly Quads: August 6th – See announcement above!**
- **August 13, 20, 27 – USCF/PHCC Rated** Mini-Swiss (or Quads based on entries) 3 Round- USCF Rated Mini-Swiss. Game/90 minutes with/5 sec. delay. USCF and PHCC membership required. One game per night (August 13,20,27)! Play will begin at 7:00PM. ; non- PHCC member EF: \$5.00 Play will begin at 7:00PM. A minimum of 4 participants are required. Prizes: based on entries. Please register in advance by contacting Lon Rutkofske by August 4th so he can determine if there are enough entries to hold the event.
- **Monthly Quads: September 3rd – See announcement above!**
- **September 24th – PHCC Rated** Thematic tournament: 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; non- PHCC member EF: \$5.00 - 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.) Players with the white pieces will be playing a game with a predetermined opening sequence such as the Ruy Lopez, or KI Attack based on one of the openings drawn at random by the TD. The game will begin from that opening position.

- **Monthly Quads: October 1st – See announcement above!**
- **October 15th PHCC Speed Championships** - The Port Huron Chess Club's 41st Annual Speed Championship Tournament will be held on Thursday, October 15th beginning at 7:00 PM. Registrations will determine the number of rounds and prizes. PHCC membership required. Entry fee will be \$5.00. Please contact Lon if you plan to play. There will be no registrations on-site. If you intend to play, contact Lon before October 14th. (Will be USCF rated if all entrants are USCF members.)
- **Monthly Quads: November 5th – See announcement above!**
- **November 19th – PHCC Rated Quick Tournament DRR Game/15 PHCC Rated Action Quads** (or Mini-Swiss depending on registration) ; non- PHCC member 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.)

Ratings:

The following lists represent only current members of the Port Huron Chess Club. Current USCF ratings were used for members that had them, 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 assigned a provisional rating based on their performances against regular club members with USCF ratings. Club rated events will use these ratings for pairing purposes.

PHCC Ratings as of 12/22/25

Name	Rating
Avdic, Huso	2104
Gregg, Alan	1952
Morabito, Matt	1830
Urlick, Ryan	1802
Klaty, Braeden	1760
Rutkofske, Lon	1728
Klaty, Trenton	1526
Jackson, LaFonce	1500
Wingrove, Bill	1499
Ledsworth, Brian	1400
Klaty, Brad	1380
Mang, Johnny	1000
Chen, Christine	800
Muruganandam, Mugil	638
Bussone, Stephen	630
Chen, Daniel	600

PHCC Blitz Ratings as of 12/22/25

Name	Rating
Avdic, Huso	2098
Gregg, Alan	1937
Urlick, Ryan	1871
Klaty, Braeden	1792
Morabito, Matt	1756
Klaty, Trenton	1586
Rutkofske, Lon	1563
Wingrove, Bill	1522
Jackson, LaFonce	1476
Klaty, Brad	1456
Ledsworth, Brian	1317
Muruganandam, Mugil	1256
Bussone, Stephen	1083
Chen, Christine	975
Mang, Johnny	988
Chen, Daniel	976

USCF Ratings as of 3/13/26

Name	Rating
Avdic, Huso	1992
Alan Gregg	1879
Rutkofske, Lon	1800
Morabito, Matt	1758
Klaty, Braeden	1583
Klaty, Brad	1352
Ledsworth, Brian	1314
Klaty, Trenton	1170
Muruganandam, Mugil	706

USCF Quick/Action Ratings as of 3/13/26

Name	Rating
Avdic, Huso	1902
Morabito, Matt	1858
Gregg, Alan	1851
Rutkofske, Lon	1702
Wingrove, Bill	1510
Klaty, Braeden	1468
Klaty, Brad	1365
Klaty, Trenton	1141
Ledsworth, Brian	1087
Muruganandam, Mugil	678

USCF Blitz Ratings as of 3/13/26

Name	Rating
Avdic, Huso	1997
Gregg, Alan	1835
Morabito, Matt	1730
Rutkofske, Lon	1620
Klaty, Braeden	1561
Klaty, Trenton	1341
Ledsworth, Brian	1317
Klaty, Brad	1289
Muruganandam, Mugil	477

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 \$30.00 for adults and \$15.00 for those under 19. Dues will cover the yearly entry fees for any club-rated event. Family rates available upon request. Dues funds are used to offset miscellaneous expenses not funded by the Recreation Department. United States Chess Federation memberships are available through the club.