



Chess Chatter

Newsletter of the Port Huron Chess Club

Editor: Lon Rutkofske

May 2026

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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/>

Avdic Annihilates All Adversaries to Capture MI Senior Crown!

Port Huron Chess Club added to its number of Michigan Chess Champions as he managed to wrest the 2026 Michigan Senior Championship trophy from fellow co-champion **Ariel Levy** in a 3-1 tie-break speed play-off match. The duo each scored 3.5/4 points to lead the field in the April 12-13th



weekend tournament hosted in Troy. **Huso** joins the club's Triumvirate of Michigan champions to three with **Alan Gregg** -3: (2015 USCF 65-Older Senior Champ; 2015 – MI Class A; 2010 – MI Senior ;2020 –MI Class A; and Lon Rutkofske -3: (1982-MI Amateur; 1992 -MI Class A; 1993 – MI Class A). Congratulations to Huso on his accomplishment!

Fellow club member and former senior champ, **Alan Gregg** had a respectable performance with 2/4 with two draws and a win against some tough competition. This year's event was again hosted at Twin Knights Gaming in Troy with 13 players in the top division and 55 in all sections. Next Saturday a fund-raising event will be held in memory of Ray Garrison, a long-time Michigan Chess Association member

of the Board of Directors and chess teacher from Lansing.(*Ray Garrison Memorial Chess Tournament Presented by MCA Sat, Apr 18 - Sat, Apr 18 ;9:00 AM - 06:00 PM: Radisson Hotel Southfield-Detroit, 26555 Telegraph Rd., Southfield, MI, 48033, United States. Check online at Michigan Chess.org for details*)

So when are you going to take advantage of our Challenge System?

As club director and chief tournament director, I am still waiting for members of the club to take advantage of our challenge system. Thus-far in the past 15 years, there has been but a single challenge game, and I am eagerly awaiting club members to challenge so they can have an opportunity to improve their rating and take on someone higher up in our ladder system. Additionally, I am waiting to publish more games from our membership in the “**member game section**”, instead of the few Huso continues to generate resulting from his tournament play. For all players to improve, it is essential that they play timed games that are recorded preparing them for tournament play and analyzed either by fellow club members or chess engines assist in pinpointing areas requiring improvement. Active competition provides essential training toward improving one's skill level, not to mention acting as a positive ego builder! If you desire to challenge a fellow club member, please review the information on page 3 to follow or pick up the informational handout on the equipment table. There will also be a place to deposit your score sheets so I am able to take them home, review them, and publish them in **Chess Chatter** for others to review. Of course, you realize when your game gets published, others will learn a great deal about your playing style, your opening choices, strengths and weaknesses. I know that there are many players are reluctant to make their games available for these very reasons, but then many of those are now grand-masters!!!

Providing a 'home anyone may need, at any time'

■ Hunter Hospitality House to host annual Hope Blooms Fundraiser April 30

PORT HURON — Hunter Hospitality House will host Hope Blooms, its annual fundraising dinner, on Thursday, April 30 at the Blue Water Convention Center. The evening begins with optional early entry at 4:30 p.m., followed by dinner from 5:30–7:30 p.m.

Guests will enjoy a delicious dinner, uplifting live music from brothers Jimmy and Joe DeHenau, a \$1,000 cash drawing, exciting raffle opportunities, an impressive silent auction, and more—all in support of a meaningful cause. Proceeds from Hope Blooms ensure that Hunter Hospitality House can continue providing free lodging and abundant amenities in three welcoming homes in Port Huron: two bed-and-breakfast-style residences and one VRBO-style family home, all conveniently located across from the area's hospitals.

The vision of Hunter Hospitality House is that no one should ever have to be concerned about lodging or amenities while caring for themselves or loved ones who are in the midst of a medical crisis, with the understanding that Hunter



Hunter Hospitality House founders Jeff and Tracy Willard along with their dog, Freckles, on the porch of the Hunter Hospitality Family House in 2023. **View file photo**



Hunter Hospitality House will host its annual Hope Blooms Fundraiser on April 30. **Photo courtesy Hunter Hospitality House**

Hospitality House is a home that “anyone may need, at any time,” according to the organization.

Qualified guests include families of hospitalized patients, individuals undergoing daily outpatient treatment, and those needing a place to stay before surgery. When space allows, hospital staff and loved ones of patients at other nearby facilities,

including Blue Water Hospice Home and Marwood Nursing and Rehabilitation, are also welcome.

Hunter Hospitality House was founded in memory of Hunter Eldon Willard, a premature baby born in 1991. Founders Jeff and Tracy Willard operate the homes alongside Administrative Manager Toni Forstner and a dedicated team of volunteers. Since opening in 2011, the organization has served thousands of guests, providing many thousands of nights of free

lodging. Even in life’s most difficult moments, hope truly blooms for those who walk through their doors.

Tickets for Hope Blooms are \$70 and can be purchased online or by mailing a check to Hunter Hospitality House at 1010 Lincoln Avenue, Port Huron, MI 48060. Seating is limited, and sponsorship opportunities are still available. For tickets, sponsorship details, or raffle information, visit hunterhospitalityhouse.com.

— Casey Johnson



The Willard family has always been an integral part of the **Port Huron Chess Club** history as father, **Phil Willard** was one of its founders, literally and figuratively, since 1969. As some of you probably are aware of the Annual Port Huron Area Schools country-wide chess tournament was renamed after him. Phil’s family has continually taken on the mantle of running the event every year after Lon Rutkofske (the tournament’s original organizer) left the district to work in Plymouth – Canton in 2000. **Jeff** and wife, **Tracy** as well as his son, **Parker** have been instrumental in keeping the event a viable and valued chess venue especially for local junior chess enthusiasts. As you can tell from the above article, the Willards are actively involved in other areas of public service, you can help assist in their community outreach by taking the time to donate or support their efforts on April 30th. **Many thanks to the St. Clair Area View Newspaper group and most especially Casey Johnson who authored this article.** — Lon Rutkofske

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 of the handout**)
 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

Hi Guys

I won the Michigan Senior championship 2026!! After four rounds, Ariel Levi and I were tied with 3.5 points! We

played a 4-game blitz playoff, and I won 3:1!

I had a lot of luck in this tournament...and I had solid

opponents but the favorites played worse. My game against Stephen Pentescu was my

worst in the last ten years...I just can't explain it!! - Huso

Advic,Huso (1985) -

Aldrich,Jeffery (1900) [D04]

Colle Opening

2026 Michigan Senior Champs
Troy (4), 12.04.2026

1.Nf3 d5 2.b3 Nf6 3.d4 c6 4.e3 Bg4 5.Be2 e6 6.0-0 Bd6 7.Bb2 Nbd7 8.Ne5 Bf5 9.Nd2 Qe7 10.a4 Ne4 11.Bd3 Qh4 12.Ndf3 Qh6 13.Nxd7 Kxd7 14.Ne5+ Ke8 15.f4 g5 16.Bxe4 Bxe4 17.Nxf7 Qf8 18.Nxg5 Bf5 19.Qh5+ Bg6 20.Qe2 Qe7 21.c4 Rg8 22.g3 a6 23.e4 h6 24.Nxe6 Bxe4 25.cxd5 cxd5 26.Qh5+ Kd7 27.Nc5+ Bxc5 28.dxc5 Qxc5+ 29.Rf2 Raf8 30.Ba3 Qd4 31.Rd1 Bg6 32.Rxd4 Bxh5 33.Bxf8 Rxf8 34.Rxd5+

Levi,Ariel (2044) - Avdic,Huso (1985) [E17] Queen's Indian Defense

2026 Michigan Senior Champs
Troy (3), 12.04.2026

1.c4 Nf6 2.g3 e6 3.Bg2 d5 4.Nf3 Be7 5.0-0 0-0 6.b3 b6 7.Bb2 Bb7 8.cxd5 exd5 9.d4 Ne4

10.Nc3 Nxc3 11.Bxc3 Nd7 12.Rc1 Bd6 13.Ne5 Re8 14.Nxd7 Qxd7 15.Qd2 a5 16.e3 g6 17.Rfd1 Qe7 18.a4 f5 ½-½

Manion,Thomas (1700) -

Avdic,Huso (1985) [A05] Reti Opening

2026 Michigan Senior Champs
Troy (2), 11.04.2026

1.Nf3 Nf6 2.g3 g6 3.Bg2 Bg7 4.d3 d6 5.0-0 0-0 6.e4 e5 7.Nbd2 c5 8.a4 Nc6 9.Nc4 Rb8 10.c3 a6 11.a5 Be6 12.Nfd2 d5 13.exd5 Bxd5 14.f3 Nd7 15.Ne3 Be6 16.Ndc4 Qc7 17.Bd2 Rbd8 18.Qe2 Rfe8 19.Rfd1 f5 20.b4 Bf7 21.Rac1 f4 22.Nf1 cxb4 23.cxb4 Nd4 24.Qf2 Qb8 25.Kh1 Nf8 26.Bc3 Nfe6 27.Rb1 Nb5 28.Ba1 Ned4 29.Bh3 Nxf3 30.gxf4 exf4 31.Bxg7 Kxg7 32.Qb2+ Nfd4 33.Rd2 Bd5+ 34.Bg2 f3 35.Bh3 Re2 36.Ng3 Rde8 37.Rf1 Kg8 38.Kg1 Re1 39.Rdf2 Qf4 40.Qd2 Rxf1+ 41.Bxf1 Qg4 42.Ne3 Qg5 43.Nc4 Qf6

44.Ne3 Bc6 45.Ng4 Qg7 46.Nh6+ Kh8 47.Ng4 h5 48.Ne3 Nd6 49.Qb2 Rxe3 0-1

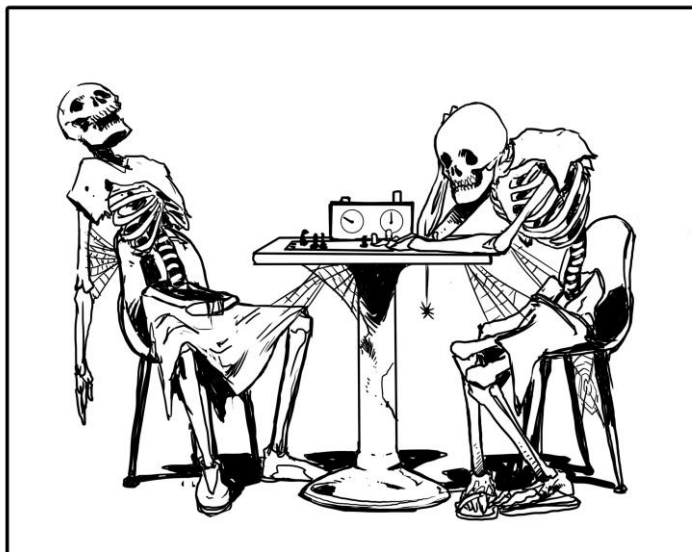
Avdic,Huso (1985) -

Pentescu,Stephen (1754)

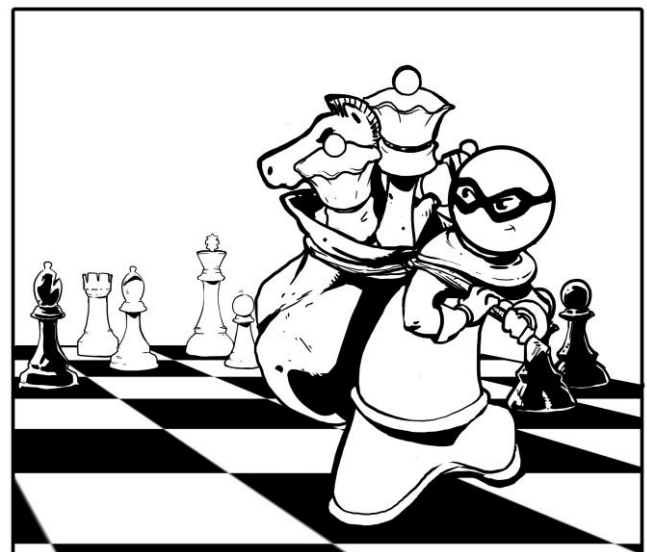
[D66] QGD

2026 Michigan Senior Champs
Troy (1), 11.04.2026

1.Nf3 Nf6 2.c4 c6 3.Nc3 d5 4.d4 e6 5.Bg5 h6 6.Bh4 Be7 7.e3 Nbd7 8.Rc1 0-0 9.Bd3 Ne4 10.Bxe7 Nxc3 11.Bxd8 Nxd1 12.Be7 Nxb2 13.Bc2 Re8 14.Bh4 Nxc4 15.0-0 Nf8 16.e4 dxe4 17.Bxe4 Nd6 18.Bd3 Nf5 19.Bxf5 exf5 20.Bg3 Be6 21.a3 Bd5 22.Rc3 Ne6 23.h4 Bxf3 24.Rxf3 Nxd4 25.Rd3 Ne2+ 26.Kh1 Nxg3+ 27.Rxg3 Re4 28.Rb3 Rxh4+ 29.Kg1 b6 30.Rd1 Re8 31.g3 Rhe4 32.Rd7 R4e7 33.Rd6 Re6 34.Rd7 R8e7 35.Rd8+ Kh7 36.Rbd3 c5 37.Rc8 Kg6 38.Kg2 Rc7 39.Rxc7 1-0



"When a player, upon system, consumes hours over moves when minutes might suffice and depends, not upon out-maneuvering, but out-sitting his antagonist, patience ceases to be a virtue." - Staunton



"The passed Pawn is a criminal, who should be kept under lock and key. Mild measures, such as police surveillance, are not sufficient." - Nimzovich

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>

- **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 4/15/26

<u>Name</u>	<u>Rating</u>
Avdic, Huso	2104
Gregg, Alan	1952
Morabito, Matt	1830
Urick, Ryan	1802
Klaty, Braeden	1760
Rutkofske, Lon	1728
Klaty, Trenton	1526
Jackson, LaFonce	1500
Wingrove, Bill	1499
Ledsworth, Brian	1400
Klaty, Brad	1380
Smith, Dawson	1300
Volobeva, Olga	1300
Volobev, Sergi	1200
Ross, Mark	1010
Smith, Darren	1000
Mang, Johnny	1000
Ross, Linkyn	900
Chen, Christine	800
Muruganandam, Mugil	638
Bussone, Stephen	630
Chen, Daniel	600
Ross, Logynn	600

PHCC Blitz/Quick Ratings as of 4/15/26

<u>Name</u>	<u>Rating</u>
Avdic, Huso	2098
Gregg, Alan	1937
Urick, Ryan	1871
Klaty, Braeden	1792
Morabito, Matt	1756
Klaty, Trenton	1586
Rutkofske, Lon	1563
Wingrove, Bill	1522
Jackson, LaFonce	1472
Klaty, Brad	1456
Volobeva, Olga	1300
Ledsworth, Brian	1317
Smith, Dawson	1295
Muruganandam, Mugil	1256
Volobev, Sergi	1200
Bussone, Stephen	1083
Ross, Mark	1010
Mang, Johnny	988
Chen, Daniel	976
Chen, Christine	975
Ross, Linkyn	959
Smith, Darren	956
Ross, Logynn	487

USCF Ratings as of 4/15/26

<u>Name</u>	<u>Rating</u>
Avdic, Huso	2008
Alan Gregg	1876
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

<u>Name</u>	<u>Rating</u>
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

<u>Name</u>	<u>Rating</u>
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.