



Chess Chatter

Newsletter of the Port Huron Chess Club

Editor: Lon Rutkofske

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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:PHurionChessClub@aol.com Website: <https://phchess.yolasite.com/>

Spring is the season where Gregg Cashes in!



Alan Gregg -2026 Michigan Senior 65/Over Champs



Alan Gregg -2026 -2nd Place: Ray Garrison Memorial Tnmt

Multiple club champion, **Alan Gregg** notched dual awards that were no April Fool follies! Gregg's awards coupled with Huso Avdic's trophy at the MI Senior/50-64 championship, gave the PHCC an April trifecta adding to its trophy hardware not to mention its reputation for producing dangerous competitors to Michigan's tournament scene. It appears that May was very productive for Alan as he also bested perennial club champion, Huso Avdic in the May Round robin event as well.

PHCC April 23, 2026 over 1700 DRR

#	Name	Rtg: Pre/Post	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Tot
2	Huso Avdic	2104/2117	WW3	WD4	WW1	5½
4	Alan Gregg	1952/1984	WW1	DL2	WW3	4½
1	Lonnie Rutkofske	1728/1717	LL4	WL3	LL2	1
3	Matthew Morabito	1830/1795	LL2	WL1	LL4	1

2026 PHCC May 7 Junior Quads

#	Name	Rtg:Pre/Post	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Tot
2	Dawson Smith	1300/1310	W3 (w)	W4 (b)	W1 (b)	3
4	William Welser	900/954	W1 (b)	L2 (w)	W3 (b)	2
3	Luke Welser	800/803	L2 (b)	W1 (w)	L4 (w)	1
1	Darren Smith	800/748	L4 (w)	L3 (b)	L2 (w)	0

PHCC G/10 May Round Robin 5-21-26

#	Name	Rtns:Pre/Post	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Rd 5	Tot
1	Alan Gregg	1937/1970	W2 (w)	W4 (b)	W3 (w)	W5 (b)	B--- (-)	5
3	Huso Avdic	2098/2084	B--- (-)	W5 (w)	L1 (b)	W2 (b)	W4 (w)	4
2	Lonnie Rutkofske	1563/1568	L1 (b)	B--- (-)	W4 (b)	L3 (w)	W5 (w)	3
5	Olga Volobeva	1300/1305	W4 (w)	L3 (b)	B--- (-)	L1 (w)	L2 (b)	2
4	Sergi Volobev	1200/1178	L5 (b)	L1 (w)	L2 (w)	B--- (-)	L3 (b)	1

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

Gabbara, Faris (2002) - Gregg, Alan (1876) [D43] Semi-Slav
 2026 Michigan Senior

Champs Troy (1) 11.04.2026

1.c4 c6 2.Nf3 Nf6 3.Nc3 d5
 4.d4 e6 5.Qc2 Bb4 6.Bg5 h6
 7.Bh4 g5 8.Bg3 Ne4 9.a3 Qa5
 10.Rc1 Bxc3+ 11.bxc3 Qd8
 12.e3 Nd7 13.Bd3 Nxc3
 14.hxg3 f5 15.cxd5 cxd5
 16.g4 fxg4 17.Nh2 Nf6
 18.Bg6+ Kf8 19.Qe2 Kg7
 20.Bb1 h5 21.Qd3 Rh6 22.f3
 Qd6 23.Ke2 g3 24.Nf1 Bd7
 25.Rh3 a6 26.Kd2 Bb5 27.Qc2
 Bxf1 28.Rxf1 h4 29.Qb3 b6
 30.Bd3 Rhh8 31.Rb1 Rbh8
 32.a4 b5 33.a5 Rh8 34.Be2
 Rac8 35.Rhh1 Rc7 36.Rbc1 e5
 37.Rhf1 e4 38.f4 g4 39.Qd1
 h3 40.Bxg4 h2 41.Rh1 Qa3
 42.Be2 b4 43.c4 dxc4 44.Qe1
 c3+ 45.Kd1 Qa4+ 46.Rc2 b3
 47.Qxg3+ Kf7 48.Ke1 Qa1+

49.Kf2 Qxh1 50.Rc1 Qxc1
51.f5 h1N# 0-1

Gregg, Alan (1876) - Levi, Ariel
(2069) [B13] Caro-Kann
Exchange Var.

2026 Michigan Senior
Champs Troy (2), 11.04.2026

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.c3 Nf6
 4.e5 Nd5 5.d4 cxd4 6.cxd4 d6
 7.exd6 Qxd6 8.Nc3 Bg4 9.Be2
 e6 10.0-0 Be7 11.h3 Bh5
 12.Ne4 Qc7 13.Bg5 Rd8
 14.Bxe7 Ndx7 15.Ng3 Bxf3
 16.Bxf3 Nxd4 17.Qa4+ b5
 18.Qd1 0-0 19.Be4 g6 20.Rc1
 Qf4 21.Qg4 Qh6 22.Bb1 f5
 23.Qd1 Rd7 24.Qe1 Qg7
 25.Ne2 Nec6 26.a3 Kh8 27.f4
 Rfd8 28.Kh1 Qf6 29.Ba2 e5
 30.fxe5 Nxe5 31.Nxd4 Rxd4
 32.Qe3 f4 33.Qb3 f3 34.Rf2
 Nd3 35.Rxf3 Nxc1 36.Rxf6
 Nxb3 37.Bxb3 Rd2 0-1

Pentescu, Srephen (1754) -
Gregg, Alan (1876) [E13]
Queen's Indian Defense

2026 Michigan Senior
Champs (3), 12.04.2026

1.d4 Nf6 2.Nf3 e6 3.c4 b6
 4.Nc3 Bb4 5.Bg5 h6 6.Bh4
 Bb7 7.a3 Bxc3+ 8.bxc3 d6
 9.e3 Nbd7 10.Bd3 g5 11.Bg3
 Ne4 12.Qc2 f5 13.0-0-0 Qe7
 14.Ne1 0-0-0 15.f3 Nxc3
 16.hxg3 d5 17.Qb3 Nf6
 18.Rd2 c5 19.Nc2 Qc7 20.f4
 Ne4 21.Bxe4 fxe4 22.a4 Ba6
 23.cxd5 exd5 24.Kb2 Bc4
 25.Qa3 Qc6 26.Na1 Rhg8
 27.dxc5 bxc5 28.Nb3 Bxb3
 29.Qxb3 Rg7 30.Kc2 d4
 31.Rb1 Rb7 32.Qc4 Rxb1
 33.Kxb1 d3 34.Qa6+ Qb7+
 35.Qxb7+ Kxb7 36.c4 Rg8
 37.f5 g4 38.Rf2 Kc6 39.f6 Kd6
 40.Rf4 Rf8 41.Rxe4 Rxf6 ½-½

Gregg, Alan (1876) – Williams, Ronald (1835) [A01] Larsen-Nimzovich Opening

2026 Michigan Senior Champs Troy (4), 12.04.2026

1.b3 e5 2.Bb2 Nc6 3.e3 Nf6
4.Bb5 d6 5.Nf3 Bd7 6.d4 e4
7.Nfd2 a6 8.Be2 d5 9.c4 Bb4
10.a3 Bxd2+ 11.Nxd2 Ne7
12.0–0 c6 13.a4 0–0 14.Ba3
Re8 15.a5 Ng6 16.Bc5 Qc8
17.cxd5 cxd5 18.Rc1 Bg4
19.Bxg4 Nxg4 20.h3 Nh6
21.Qh5 Qf5 22.Qxf5 Nxf5
23.Rc3 Re6 24.Rfc1 Rc6
25.Bb4 Rac8 26.Rxc6 Rxc6
27.Rxc6 bxc6 28.Nb1 Nfe7
29.Nc3 Kf8 30.Na4 Ke8
31.Nc5 Kd8 32.Nxa6 Kc8
33.Bd6 Nf5 34.Bh2 Kb7
35.Nc5+ Ka7 36.Bc7 Nfe7
37.g3 Nc8 38.h4 Nf8 39.Be5
g6 40.Kg2 Ne6 41.Nxe6 fxe6
42.g4 Ka6 43.Bc7 Kb7 44.Bd8
Nd6 45.Bf6 h6 [there are
more moves but my king had
no way through ended in a
draw] ½–½

**Traverse City Open : May 31.
2026**

I won 2.5 points out of four
games, but finally learned a
lesson that you can't play a
tournament if you're tired
and drove a car for 4 hours
before a tournament!!!!

I barely drew the first game
against a player (Enayat
Ahmad Fana) with a rating of
1523, and should have lost to
her!! I won the second game

only because my opponent
was afraid of my rating
points!?? The third game I
played against Greg Bailey,
got into a winning position,
only to find the worst possible
moves and lost!

I won the last game against
Mayer because of a mistake
and relatively fast play!

Warmest regards

Huso Avdic

**Masek,Adam (1992) -
Avdic,Huso (1987) [B20]
Sicilian Defense**

*2026 Traverse City Open
Traverse City (2), 31.05.2026*

1.e4 c5 2.b4 b6 3.bxc5 bxc5
4.Nf3 d6 5.Bb5+ Bd7 6.a4 Nf6
7.Nc3 e5 8.d3 Be7 9.Bg5 0–0
10.Bxf6 Bxf6 11.Nd5 Be6
12.Bc4 Nc6 13.0–0 Bg4 14.h3
Be6 15.Qd2 g6 16.Rfb1 Bg7
17.a5 h6 18.Rb7 f5 19.Rc7
Rc8 20.Ne7+ Nxe7 21.Bxe6+
Kh8 22.Rxa7 Ra8 23.Rb7 Nc6
24.a6 fxe4 25.dxe4 Nd4
26.Nxd4 exd4 27.Bd5 c4
28.Ra2 c3 29.Qd3 Qf6 30.f3
Qf4 31.Rb1 Be5 32.Kf1 Qh2
33.Qd1 Bg3 34.Ke2 Qxg2+
35.Kd3 Rac8 36.Kxd4 Be5+
37.Ke3 Rxf3+ 38.Qxf3 Qd2#
0–1

**Avdic,Huso (1987) -
Bailey,Gregory (1954) [B08]
Classical Pirc Defense**

*2026 Traverse City Open (3),
31.05.2026*

1.Nf3 g6 2.e4 d6 3.Nc3 Bg7
4.Bc4 Nf6 5.d4 c6 6.0–0 b5

7.Bb3 b4 8.e5 dxe5 9.dxe5
Qxd1 10.Nxd1 Ng4 11.Bf4 0–
0 12.h3 Nh6 13.a3 Na6
14.axb4 Nxb4 15.Ne3 Nf5
16.Ra4 Nxe3 17.Bxe3 Nd5
18.Bxa7 e6 19.Bc5 Rxa4
20.Bxa4 Rd8 21.Bxc6 Ba6
22.Ra1 Be2 23.Bd6 Nb6
24.Ra7 Nc4 25.Bc7 Rd1+
26.Kh2 h5 27.b3 Bxf3 28.Bxf3
Rd7 29.g3 Nxe5 30.Kg2 Nxf3
31.Kxf3 Rd2 32.Ra8+ Kh7
33.Ra2 Bd4 34.Ke4 f5+ 35.Kf4
Rxf2+ 36.Kg5 Kg7 37.Bd8
Be3+ 38.Kh4 Rd2 39.Bg5
Rd4+ 40.g4 Bf2# 0–1

**Mayer,Joseph (1623) -
Avdic,Huso (1987) [B24]
Closed Sicilian**

*2026 Traverse City Open (4),
31.05.2026*

1.e4 c5 2.Nc3 Nc6 3.g3 g6
4.Bg2 Bg7 5.d3 e6 6.Nce2
Nge7 7.c3 d5 8.f4 b6 9.e5 Bb7
10.Be3 Nf5 11.Bf2 h5 12.Nf3
d4 13.Ng5 dxc3 14.bxc3 Bxe5
15.Nxf7 Bxc3+ 16.Nxc3 Kxf7
17.Ne4 Qd7 18.0–0 Rad8
19.Ng5+ Kg7 20.Qb3 Ncd4
21.Qb2 Bxg2 22.Kxg2 Qd5+
23.Kg1 h4 24.g4 h3 25.Bxd4+
Nxd4 26.Rae1 Kg8 27.Re5
Qc6 28.Rfe1 Rh4 29.R1e4
Rxf4+ 30.Kf1 Rf8 31.Qd2
Rxf4+ 32.Rxf4 Qh1+ 33.Kf2
0–1

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: June 4th – See announcement above!**
- **June 18th - 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 5/7/26

<u>Name</u>	<u>Rating</u>
Avdic, Huso	2117
Gregg, Alan	1984
Urlick, Ryan	1802
Morabito, Matt	1795
Klaty, Braeden	1760
Rutkofske, Lon	1717
Klaty, Trenton	1526
Jackson, LaFonce	1500
Wingrove, Bill	1499
Ledsworth, Brian	1400
Klaty, Brad	1380
Smith, Dawson	1310
Volobeva, Olga	1300
Volobev, Sergi	1200
Ross, Mark	1010
Mang, Johnny	1000
Welser, William	954
Ross, Linkyn	900
Welser, Luke	803
Chen, Christine	800
Smith, Darren	748
Muruganandam, Mugil	638
Bussone, Stephen	630
Chen, Daniel	600
Ross, Logynn	600

PHCC Blitz/Quick Ratings as of 5/21/26

<u>Name</u>	<u>Rating</u>
Avdic, Huso	2084
Gregg, Alan	1970
Urlick, Ryan	1871
Klaty, Braeden	1792
Morabito, Matt	1756
Klaty, Trenton	1586
Rutkofske, Lon	1568
Wingrove, Bill	1522
Jackson, LaFonce	1472
Klaty, Brad	1456
Volobeva, Olga	1305
Ledsworth, Brian	1317
Smith, Dawson	1295
Muruganandam, Mugil	1256
Volobev, Sergi	1178
Bussone, Stephen	1083
Ross, Mark	1010
Mang, Johnny	988
Chen, Daniel	976
Chen, Christine	975
Ross, Linkyn	959
Smith, Darren	956
Welser, William	900
Welser, Luke	627
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
Welser, Luke	460

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.