



Chess Chatter

Newsletter of the Port Huron Chess Club

Editor: Lon Rutkofske

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

Huso Avdic headed to the US Open : Alan Gregg off to the British Senior in August!

By virtue of his performance in winning the Michigan Senior Championships, club-member and PHCC champion, Huso will be representing Michigan in the upcoming 2026 US Open Senior Championships taking place in Grand Rapids. Not to be out done by his fellow club champion, Alan Gregg is taking his board and set overseas to England for a spot in the British Senior Championships. At this writing, I am sure interested club members will more than likely be able to follow their progress online with games and analyses as well! Good luck and smooth sailing to the eager PHCC warriors who are taking their chess expertise on the road!

PHCC July USCF Rated Quad - 7-23-26

Pre/Post Ratings:

#	Name	USCF	PHCC	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Tot
3	HUSO AVDIC	1836/1903	2084/2096	W1	W2	W4	3
1	MATTHEW MORABITO	1858/1850	1756/1769	L3	W4	D2	1½
2	ALAN GREGG	1836/1832	1970/1957	W4	L3	D1	1½
4	LONNIE RUTKOFKSKE	1702/1671	1568/1553	L2	L1	L3	0

Avdic and Gregg prep for championship play in the July Rated Quads.

Looks like the world's biggest loser was Lon Rutkofske in the only July tournament to be hosted by the Port Huron Chess Club! Not only did the "Bosnian Beast" have a clean sweep of his fellow competitors, but he also rendered invaluable medical aid to Lon after he scraped his arm on one of the sharp door edges of our equipment bins leading to being what seemed like a deluge of blood seeping from the wound. Our resourceful EMT saved the day, by jumping into action retrieving a band-aid from a handy first aid packet in his car to quickly end the trauma, in spite of the fact that it took the pair of club chess club regulars and inordinate amount of time to get the band-aid freed from its wrapper! Despite the brief drama that unfolded, the TD was saved and the tournament was salvaged with Huso emerging as the hero in both instances. Olga Volobeva added some additional support by sharing some tasty chocolate treats to heal the wounded tournament director sharing the remainder with other club members teasing that her sumptuous morsels would be a useful "sugar jolt" for tired brains! Thanks to Olga and Huso for making our evening memorable!

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

FYI – The games that follow were compiled from the July 23, 2026 July USCF rated Quads. Since the Quick time control was Game in 25 minutes with a 3 second time delay and recording was required until either player had 5 minutes or less on their clocks. Consequently, there may be errors, but I think you will get a feeling for each game. Most contests were lost because time limits were over-stepped, hence you most likely will find errors near the end

of the games. Most games were hotly contested, so please keep this in mind. Additionally, the players themselves my make corrections and I will attempt to include the in the August issue of *Chess Chatter*.

2026 PHCC July USCF Rated
Quads 7-23-26

**Gregg,Alan (1836) -
Rutkofske,Lonnie (1702)
[A04] K-I Attack**

2026 PHCC July USCF Rated
Quads Port Huron (1),
23.07.2026

1.Nf3 e6 2.g3 c6 3.Bg2 Nf6
4.c4 Be7 5.0-0 0-0 6.d4 h6
7.Nc3 a5 8.b3 d5 9.Bb2 Nbd7
10.Qc2 Rb8 11.a4 Re8
12.Rfd1 b6 13.Nd2 Bb4 14.e4
Bxc3 15.Bxc3 e5 16.exd5
exd4 17.Bxd4 cxd5 18.cxd5
Bb7 19.d6 Bxg2 20.Kxg2 Re6
21.Nc4 Rb7 22.Re1 Qa8
23.Rxe6 fxe6 24.Qe2 Nc5
25.Bxc5 bxc5 26.f3 Rxb3
27.Qxe6+ Kh8 28.Ne5 1-0

**Avdic,Huso (1836) -
Morabito,Matthew (1858)
[A48] London System**

2026 PHCC July USCF Rated
Quads Port Huron (1),
27.07.2026

1.Nf3 Nf6 2.b3 g6 3.Bb2 Bg7
4.d4 0-0 5.e3 c5 6.Bd3 Nc6
7.0-0 b6 8.a3 Bb7 9.Nbd2
Qc7 10.c4 cxd4 11.exd4 d5
12.Rc1 e6 13.Ne5 Nxe5
14.dxe5 Nd7 15.cxd5 Qb8
16.dxe6 Nxe5 17.exf7+ Rxf7
18.Bxe5 Bxe5 19.Bc4 Bxh2+
20.Kh1 Bf4 21.Bxf7+ Kxf7
22.Rc3 Qd8 23.Nf3 Qe7
24.Rd3 Ba6 25.Rd7 1-0

**Morabito,Matthew (1858) -
Rutkofske,Lonnie (1702)
[A05] Reti Opening**

2026 PHCC July USCF Rated
Quads Port Huron (2),
23.07.2026

1.Nf3 Nf6 2.g3 Nc6 3.Bg2 e5
4.d3 h6 5.b3 d5 6.Bb2 Be6
7.0-0 Bd6 8.Nc3 Qc8 9.Nb5
Bh3 10.Nxd6+ cxd6 11.e4
Bxg2 12.Kxg2 dxe4 13.dxe4
0-0 14.Re1 Rd8 15.c4 a5
16.Nh4 Ne7 17.Qd2 Qc6
18.Qe2 g5 19.Nf3 Rac8 20.h3
a4 21.Qd3 Ng6 22.h4 g4
23.Nh2 Kg7 24.Bc1 Rh8 25.f4
gxf3+ 26.Qxf3 Qd7 27.Be3 h5
28.Bg5 Qe6 29.Rf1 Nd7
30.Rf2 f6 31.Bd2 Rcf8 32.Bb4
b6 33.Rd1 f5 34.Rxd6 fxe4
35.Rxe6 exf3+ 36.Nxf3 Rf7 1-0

**Gregg,Alan (1836) -
Avdic,Huso (1836) [E65] K-I
Defense**

2026 PHCC July USCF Rated
Quads Port Huron (2),
23.07.2026

1.Nf3 Nf6 2.g3 g6 3.Bg2 Bg7
4.c4 d6 5.Nc3 0-0 6.0-0 c5
7.d4 Nbd7 8.d5 a6 9.a4 Rb8
10.a5 b5 11.axb6 Nxb6
12.Qd3 e5 13.dxe6 Bxe6
14.Nd2 d5 15.cxd5 Nbx d5
16.Nxd5 Nxd5 17.Qxa6 Bxb2
18.Bxb2 Rxb2 19.Ne4 Qe7
20.Qa3 Rb4 21.Rac1 Rc8
22.Nc3 Nb6 23.Ne4 Nd5
24.Nc3 Nf6 25.h3 h5 26.Kh2
Rb3 27.Qa6 Rcb8 28.e4 R8b6
29.Qa8+ Rb8 30.Qa6 R3b6
31.Qa3 Rb3 32.Qa6 h4
33.Nd5 Bxd5 34.exd5 hxg3+
35.fxg3 Nh5 36.d6 Qe5

**37.Qc4 Qxg3+ 38.Kh1 Rf8
39.d7 Rb2 40.Qxf7+ Rxf7
0-1**

**Gregg,Alan (1836) -
Morabito,Matthew (1858)
[C50] Giuoco Piano**

2026 PHCC July USCF Rated
Quads Port Huron (3),
23.07.2026

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Nc3 Nf6
4.d4 exd4 5.Nxd4 d6 6.Bc4
Be7 7.Nxc6 bxc6 8.e5 dxe5
9.Qxd8+ Bxd8 10.0-0 0-0
11.Re1 Re8 12.b3 Bf5 13.Re2
Nd7 14.Bb2 Bf6 15.Ne4 Bxe4
16.Rxe4 Nb6 17.Bd3 g6
18.Rae1 Nd7 19.f4 Nc5
20.R4e3 Nxd3 21.cxd3 Rad8
22.fxe5 Be7 23.Kf2 Rd5 24.d4
c5 25.Re4 Red8 26.Rd1 f5
27.exf6 Bxf6 28.Ke2 Bxd4
29.Bxd4 cxd4 30.Kd3 c5
31.Rde1 R8d7 32.Re5 Kf7
33.Rf1+ Kg7 34.Rfe1 a5 35.g4
h6 36.h4 a4 37.Re7+ Rxe7
38.Rxe7+ Kf6 ½-½

**Rutkofske,Lonnie (1702) -
Avdic,Huso (1836) [B30]
Sicilian Defense**

2026 PHCC July USCF Rated
Quads Port Huron (3),
23.07.2026

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4 Nf6
4.d3 e6 5.0-0 d5 6.exd5 exd5
7.Re1+ Be7 8.Bb5 0-0 9.d4
Bg4 10.Bxc6 bxc6 11.Qd3
Bxf3 12.Qxf3 cxd4 13.Bg5 h6
14.Bd2 Ne4 15.Bf4 Bc5
16.Nd2 f5 17.Nb3 Bb6 18.Be5
c5 19.Qh5 Qe7 20.f4 Kh7

21.Rf1 g6	22.Qd1 Rae8	23.Rf3	39.Nf4	Qg4	40.Ne6	Rg8
Qh4	24.g3 Qh5	25.Kg2 Ng5	41.Nf8+	Rxf8	42.Qxf8	Bxe5
26.Rf2	Qh3+	27.Kh1 Ne4	43.Re1	Bg7	44.Qc5	Rd1
28.Rg2	d3	29.cxd3 Nf6	45.Qf2	Bd4	46.Qf1	Rd3
c4	31.Nc5 Ng4	32.Qa4 Nxe5	47.Qf4	Rd1	48.Qf1	Rd3
33.fxe5	Re7	34.Nd7 Rfe8	49.Qf4	h5	50.Qxg4	fxg4
35.Nf6+	Kg7	36.Qc6 Bxd4	51.Re7+	Kh6	0–1	
37.Nxd5	Rd7	38.Qf6+	Kh7			

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: Will be canceled due to the lack of participants for the remainder of the year.

- **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.
- **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.
- **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.*)
- **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 6/7/26

<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
Smith, David	1000
Welser, William	954
Ross, Linkyn	900
Welser, Luke	803
Phetsouphan, Isaiah	800
Chen, Christine	800
Smith, Darren	748
Muruganandam, Mugil	638
Bussone, Stephen	630
Chen, Daniel	600
Ross, Logynn	600

PHCC Blitz/Quick Ratings as of 7/24/26

<u>Name</u>	<u>Rating</u>
Avdic, Huso	2096
Gregg, Alan	1957
Urlick, Ryan	1871
Klaty, Braeden	1792
Morabito, Matt	1769
Klaty, Trenton	1586
Rutkofske, Lon	1553
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
Smith, David	1000
Mang, Johnny	988
Chen, Daniel	976
Chen, Christine	975
Ross, Linkyn	959
Smith, Darren	956
Welser, William	900
Phetsouphan, Isaiah	800
Welser, Luke	627
Ross, Logynn	487

USCF Ratings as of 6/7/26

<u>Name</u>	<u>Rating</u>
Avdic, Huso	2005
Alan Gregg	1863
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 7/24/26

<u>Name</u>	<u>Rating</u>
Avdic, Huso	1903
Morabito, Matt	1850
Gregg, Alan	1832
Rutkofske, Lon	1671
Wingrove, Bill	1510
Klaty, Braeden	1468
Klaty, Brad	1365
Klaty, Trenton	1141
Ledsworth, Brian	1087

USCF Blitz Ratings as of 6/7/26

<u>Name</u>	<u>Rating</u>
Avdic, Huso	2018
Gregg, Alan	1835
Morabito, Matt	1730
Rutkofske, Lon	1620
Klaty, Braeden	1561
Klaty, Trenton	1341
Ledsworth, Brian	1317
Klaty, Brad	1289
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. Membership expiring in August: Heinrich, Charles