



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 Bridge) Port Huron, Michigan. Everyone is welcome. All equipment provided. Email: PtHuronChessClub@aol.com or Website: <http://porthuronchessclub.yolasite.com>

2024 PHASD/Phil Willard Memorial Tournament : a “chessic” adventure!

Jeff and Parker Willard and family , along with PHCC members **Bill Wingrove and Lon Rutkofske**, teamed up with a host of volunteers from the Port Huron Area School District and Port Huron High School staff to ensure that the 26th edition of its annual county wide chess event was a true success. Port Huron Area School District’s **Kristen McRobie**, Enrichment and Summer Programs Coordinator reported that a total of 76 students participated in this year’s event! Names of the winners are listed below with pictures by Lon Rutkofske.

2024 PHASD/Phil Willard Memorial Chess Tournament Winners:

K - Vivian Anderson - Garfield Elementary; **1st** - Billy Kata - St. Edwards on the Lake; **2nd** - Finn Lloyd - Michigamme Elementary; **3rd** - Addison Jensen - Michigamme Elementary, Jonathan Mang - Michigamme Elementary; Landon Stockwell - Keewahdin Elementary; **4th** - Luke Welse - Gardens Elementary; **5th** - Logan Casey - Keewahdin Elementary; **6th** - Beckett Ciesielski - Fort Gratiot; **7th** - Brock Bertich, Seneca Middle School; **8th** - Carson Huddas - Marysville Middle School; **9th** - Ben Hartman - Port Huron Northern; **10th** - Javier Solis – PHHS; **11th** - Timothy Skrip -Port Huron Northern ;**12th** - had no entry.



Tournament action gets underway!



T.D. Parker Willard officiates at the K- 3 table!



Keewahdin volunteer and PHCC member, Sandi Fisher (top in yellow tee shirt) helps get things organized!



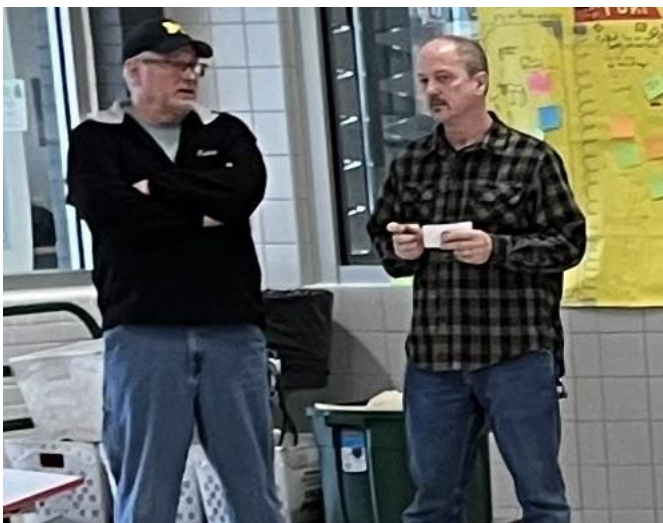
Long time volunteer and PHCC member, Bill Wingrove (Top middle in burgundy shirt) officiates.



The final round begins !



The PHCC tables are ready for play and perusal!



Jeff Willard, Phil's son and tournament organizer (Top right) converses with an observer as the final stages of the event wind down. The Willard family has been intimately involved in keeping this event a priority for the district and for chess enthusiasts, especially focusing on the area's youth! The Willard family has also been instrumental in establishing the "Hunter Hospitality House" that serves area hospitals as a home away from home for people who have hospitalized family members.

2024 Calendar of Events:

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!

Still Want to have a club Championship tournament for 2024? Please let Lon know before we get into the tournament schedule beginning in April. There still is plenty of time to host a championship, but it will need to be in an alternate format. If you have recommendations so that the PHCC will have a champion for the 2024 season so plans can be made with the time limitations already upon us. I am looking into having a Weekend tournament so we might get the event in this year, perhaps in April. It will probably feature a swiss system event depending on numbers but will be open to all members. This probably will be only club rated, and all you will need to have your yearly dues paid in order to participate. Because this might cost us a rental fee, I will probably have to increase the entry fee \$10.00 to compensate. Please let me know your thoughts about participating by the end of March.

April 18th - PHCC Under 1800 Rated Only :Action Quads (or Mini-Swiss depending on registration) G/10 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.)

May 16th- PHCC Rated Action Quads (or Mini-Swiss depending on registration) G/10 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.)

June 20th- PHCC Under 1800 Rated Only: Action Quads (or Mini-Swiss depending on registration) G/10 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.)

July 18th - 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.)

August 8, 15, 22 – 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 8, 15, 22)! Play will begin at 7:00PM. 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 19th – 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 - 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 17th PHCC Speed Championships - The Port Huron Chess Club's 41st Annual Speed Championship Tournament will be held on Thursday, October 19th 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 16th – PHCC Rated Quick Tournament DRR Game/15 **PHCC Rated** Action Quads (or Mini-Swiss depending on registration) 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.)

December 12 – Bughouse Christmas Tournament – Partners based on club ratings (ie: must be at least 400 rating points between them.)

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. 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.
 15. 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.

Ratings:

The following list represents 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 *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 Ratings as of 3/17/24

Name	Rating
Bruziewicz, Andy	2118
Avdic, Huso	2101
West, Tony	1976
Gregg, Alan	1930
Urlick, Ryan	1844
Morabito, Matt	1830
Rood Eric	1822
Rutkofske, Lon	1763
Klaty, Braeden	1731
Webb, Austin	1729
Young, William	1640
Oriel, Paul	1569
Wingrove, Bill	1497
Kuhn, Timothy	1478
Klaty, Trenton	1444
Malburg, Drew	1400
Ledsworth, Brian	1400
Beneker, Gerrit	1380
Klaty, Brad	1332
Bryne, Brandon	1294
Schmidt, Mark	1216
Fisher, Sandi	1156
DePuey, Nathan	Unr
Douglas, Cameron	Unr
Gibson, William	Unr

PHCC Blitz Ratings as of 3/17/24

Name	Rating
Bruziewicz, Andy	2241
Avdic, Huso	2167
Gregg, Alan	1951
Urlick, Ryan	1900
Rood Eric	1810
Morabito, Matt	1804
West, Tony	1774
Klaty, Braeden	1761
Webb, Austin	1729
Rutkofske, Lon	1686
Young, William	1640
Blunt, Stuart	1606
Wingrove, Bill	1519
Kuhn, Timothy	1500
Klaty, Trenton	1402
Bryne, Brandon	1365
Klaty, Brad	1361
Beneker, Gerrit	1354
Ledsworth, Brian	1317
Schmidt, Mark	1216
Malburg, Drew	1021
Fisher, Sandi	1000
DePuey, Nathan	Unr
Douglas, Cameron	Unr

USCF Ratings as of 3/17/24

Name	Rating
Bruziewicz, Andy	2054
Avdic, Huso	1944
West, Tony	1901
Alan Gregg	1893
Rutkofske, Lon	1800
Morabito, Matt	1780
Webb, Austin	1692
Rood, Eric	1577
Kuhn, Timothy	1500
Ledsworth, Brian	1308
Malburg, Drew	1274/P17
Fisher, Sandi	781/P12

USCF Quick/Action Ratings as of 3/17/24

Name	Rating
Bruziewicz, Andy	2027
Avdic, Huso	1968
Morabito, Matt	1908/P
Gregg, Alan	1852
Rutkofske, Lon	1775
West, Tony	1774
Kuhn, Timothy	1494
Webb, Austin	1363
Rood, Eric	1321
Ledsworth, Brian	1058
Fisher, Sandi	Unr

USCF Blitz Ratings as of 3/17/24

Name	Rating
Bruziewicz, Andy	2152
Avdic, Huso	2035
Gregg, Alan	1837
Morabito, Matt	1732
Rutkofske, Lon	1612
Rood, Eric	1579
Kuhn, Timothy	1545
Ledsworth, Brian	1317
Malburg, Drew	120
West, Tony	Unr
Fisher, Sandi	Unr

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. **Memberships expiring in October 2023:** Beneker, Gerrit; Urlick, Ryan; **Memberships expiring in November 2023:** Bryne, Brandon; Klaty, Braeden; Klaty, Brad; Klaty, Trenton; Schmidt, Mark. **January 2024:** Fisher, Sandi; Gregg, Alan; Kuhn, Tim; Malburg, Drew; Morabito, Matt; Rood, Eric; Rutkofske, Lon; West, Tony; Wingrove, Bill.