



Chess Chatter

Newsletter of the Port Huron Chess Club

Editor: Lon Rutkofske December 2010 Vol.29. Number 12

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. Website: <http://porthuronchessclub.volasite.com/>

Phil Willard Passes Away:

It is my sad duty to report that long-time chess club member and “all around good guy” **Phil Willard** passed away on the evening of Monday, October 18th. Phil was a credit to his family and the chess community. In addition to being a wonderful friend and benefactor, Phil served the PHCC in many capacities, as a player, greeter, instructor, club officer, event sponsor, and promoter. He will be dearly missed. I included a number of his games in the November issue of **Chess Chatter**. I hope this will represent his passion for the game, his wily, resourceful spirit and his upbeat attitude toward a game he loved so much! The November Game of the Month on the club website and here in the Member’s Games Section showcases Phil’s remarkable 1975 victory against **Jim Marfia**, who would go on to become a well- known Michigan Master.



Mr. Philip Ray Willard, 82, of Port Huron, died Monday, October 18, 2010. Mr. Willard was born September 7, 1928 in Flint to the late Sherman & Berthena Willard. He married L. Jean Harmon on November 5, 1949 in Port Huron. Mr. Willard was a Locomotive Engineer with Grand Trunk/CN Railway for over 48 years. He was a member of Church of Believers in Yale, Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers, and a long standing member of Port Huron Chess Club. He and his wife shared music in area churches and senior homes. He enjoyed playing chess, hunting and spending time with his family. Mr. Willard is survived by his wife of 60 years, Jean; four sons, Kenneth (Kathy) Willard of Yale, Terrance Willard of California, Todd (Sherilyn) Willard of Hastings and Jeffrey (Tracy) Willard of Fort Gratiot; 15 grandchildren; 15 great grandchildren; two sisters, Helen Harmon of Marysville and Frances (Dallas) Avery of Berrien Springs. He is preceded in death by a son, Eldon; a brother, Eldon; and a grandson, Hunter.

Club Champs begin January 6th 2011

The 2011 PHCC championships are due to commence on Thursday, January 6, 2011 at Palmer Park Recreation Center beginning at 7:00 PM. This year’s tournament will consist of a 5 round Swiss System Tournament, with one game to be completed every other week. In light of last year’s turnout, this year’s event will feature one more round, in order to provide a more rigorous road to the crown. Tentatively, rounds will be Jan. 6th & 20th; February 3rd & 17th, with the final round commencing on March 3rd. The awards ceremony will be scheduled for Thursday, March 10th. Details and rules of

play will be posted on the club website and will be forwarded to all those on the mailing list at the beginning of December.

Trip to NYC Provides Endless Chess Opportunities

The first weekend in October is always a treat for me because I am able to attend the Great Literary Conversation hosted by the **NY Times** in New York City. Each year at this time the newspaper selects a panel of their best-selling authors to present at a forum for avid readers. This year's authors were **Ken Follett** (*The Fall of Giants* and *World Without End*), **Julie Orringer** (*The Invisible Bridge*), **David Baldacci** (*Stone Cold* and *Deliver Us From Evil*), **Janet Evanovich** (*Wicked Appetite*), and moderator, **Robert Lipsyte** (*An Accidental Sportswriter*). By far the most hilarious was Janet Evanovich who had the crowd rolling in the aisles as she regaled us with her bawdy exploits at other such venues where she represented the fairer sex in panels of illustrious male counterparts. The guys were good too, don't get me wrong, but Janet...well, she made me want to buy and read one of her books just for her sense of humor!

The benefit that I particularly enjoy most in my travels to the "Big Apple" has to be the excursions to find outlets for my passion for the royal game. Three years ago, I had a wonderful opportunity to visit the Marshall Chess Club in Greenwich Village, and hover over the board of Jay Bonin, many times club champion and always on the USCF Grand Prix roles. I must say though, that although Jay is impressive as a chess player, he comes up a bit short in the wardrobe and personal hygiene departments, appearing in a rumpled, well-used shirt and porous jeans. The Marshall is located in a row of Brownstones, on a quaint, cobblestone street with its 3rd floor serving as a residence. As a turn of the century dwelling, it is rather "chopped up", with a few smallish playing rooms, a skittles room, a book/supply room, kitchen, bathroom and a courtyard, used for chess when the weather permits. It was really nothing like I had envisioned, assuming it would be like the more spacious, but now defunct, Manhattan Chess Club. Nonetheless, it was steeped in chess tradition and an enlightening experience.

Last year, I visited and played some speed games in Bryant Park, taking advantage of a sparkling October day to test my mettle against the 'locals'. Unfortunately, my prowess provided them with less competition than I had hoped and I was on the losing end of every game. Still, it was wonderful to compete and I took some satisfaction in the fact that they realized I wasn't some ordinary patzer... I was a Michigan patzer!!!

This year my compatriots and I booked a hotel close to Washington Park near NYU. Washington Park is usually a hotbed of chess activity on the weekends, but alas, this year found the scenic site in the midst of Greenwich Village awash in construction and renovation equipment, and undergoing what appeared to be a major rejuvenation effort! Nonetheless, I did manage to get a couple of games with a local hustler who went by the name of "Cornbread"! I won the two games (an English and a Benoni) we played, happy to escape by shelling out a couple of bucks before he snookered me into some higher priced stakes!

Next year, I hope to poke around the Brooklyn Chess Club hoping to soak up more of the chess ambiance of the “City That Never Sleeps”!

PHCC Rating List

The following list represents only current members of the Port Huron Chess Club. Current USCF ratings were used for members that had them, in order 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 Rating List as of 10/15/10

<u>Name</u>	<u>Rating</u>
Gregg, Alan	1939
Rutkofske, Lon	1905
Morabito, Matt	1760
Petty, Michael	1740
Broyles, Tom	1736
Fiedler, Robert	1725
Wingrove, Bill	1707
Bedy, Noel	1628
Duncan, Bob	1595
Dean, Joel	1560
Berthen, Dale	1537
Scholfield, Chris	1503
Willard, Mark	1500
Willard, Phil	1486
Jones, G. Avery	1469
Mark Fitchett	1460
Chan, Jaime	1452
Boucher, Dave	1322
Jachcinski, Michael	1016
Tuttle, Aaron	498

USCF Ratings as of 10/15/10

<u>Name</u>	<u>Rating</u>
Gregg, Alan	2000
Rutkofske, Lon	1876
Fiedler, Robert	1769
Broyles, Tom	1737
Morabito, Matt	1725
Petty, Michael	1703
Wingrove, Bill	1694
Jones, G. Avery	1671
Dean, Joel	1615
Willard, Phil	1551
Bedy, Noel	1517
Duncan, Bob	1497
Chan, Jaime	1447
Trombley, Cody	1278
Boucher, Dave	1277
Mireau, Nathan	1050
Jachcinski, Michael	987

PHCC Speed Rating List as of 10/15/10

<u>Name</u>	<u>Rating</u>
Rutkofske, Lon	1949
Petty, Michael	1763
Broyles, Tom	1708
Duncan, Bob	1693
Morabito, Matt	1668
Fiedler, Robert	1640
Wingrove, Bill	1625
Dean, Joel	1592
Jones, G. Avery	1485
Mark Fitchett	1444
Bedy, Noel	1440
Willard, Phil	1379

Members' Games

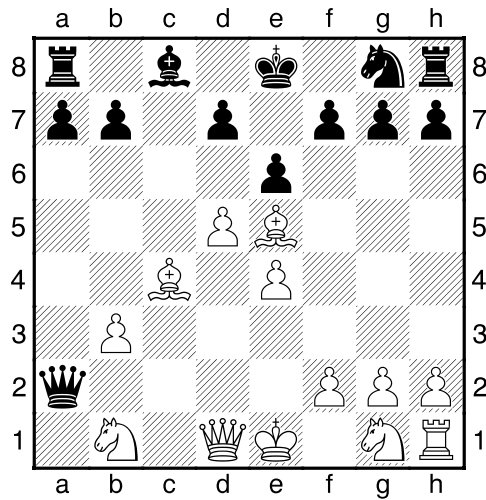
Please send me what you consider your best games, annotated or not, so that I might be able to showcase them. The following games represent contests that have been available at the time of this printing. Email them to me or give them to me personally, if you wish. Majority of analysis done by Fritz 12, unless otherwise indicated.

Willard, Phil (1438) - Marfia, Jim (1947) [B20] Sicilian Defense

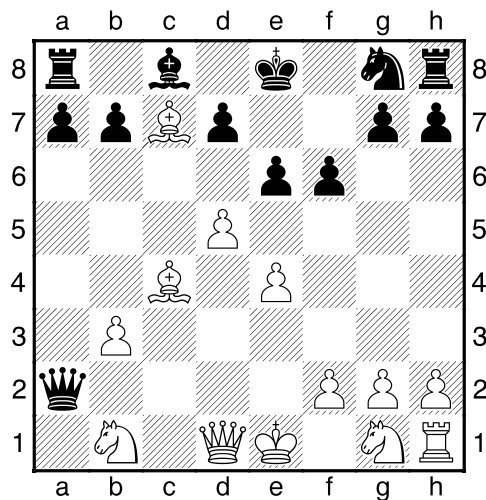
4th Port Huron Open - Port Huron Chess Club (4), 23.11.1975

1.e4 c5 2.Bc4 Nc6 3.c3 e6 4.d4 cxd4 5.cxd4 Bb4+ 6.Bd2 Qb6 7.d5! [This move challenges Black's intentions to push the liberating 7...d5!!-LWR] **Ne5 8.b3 Qd4?**[A bit too ambitious for the situation, but Marfia needs to keep pace with Fred Lindsay if he hopes to win the tournament, and against a much lower rated

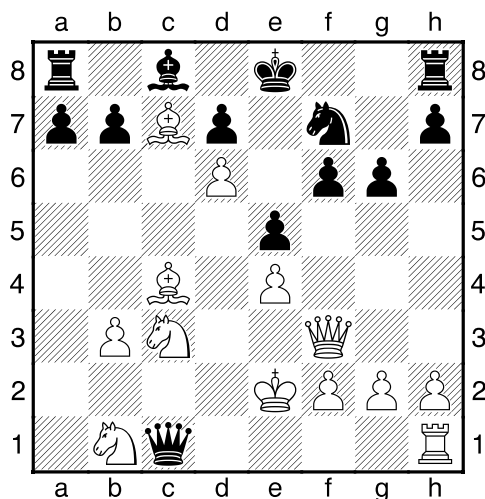
player sometimes calculated risk is essential. - LWR.] **9.Bxb4 Qxa1 10.Bc3!** [Black is in a bind here, while he snags the dormant Rook, he pays the price in development, losing both of his developed pieces for the R and a-pawn! Phil's assessment is keenly astute as he senses his highly rated nemesis has made a questionable choice!-LWR] **Qxa2** [Fritz 12: 1) 10...Qxa2 11.Bxe5 Nf6 12.Nc3 Qa5 13.Nge2 Ng4 14.Bd6 Qb6 15.Qd4 Qxd6 16.Qxg7 Qe5 17.Qxg4 h5 18.Qf4 Qxf4 3.17/17 **11.Bxe5** Diagram



[It appears that the Marf has stepped into the proverbial hornet's nest! It's pretty obvious that he has grossly underestimated Phil, and will eventually pay the piper. This kind of play is indicative of Phil when he has time to think. He ended up playing the top two players in the tournament Jim Marfia and Fred Lindsay, a pair of Michigan icons!-LWR] **11...f6** [Fritz 12: 1) 11...Nf6 12.Nc3 Qa5 13.Nge2 a6 14.0-0 b5 15.Bd3 Bb7 16.Qc1 0-0 17.Qg5 h6 18.Qg3 Nh5 19.Qg4 f6 [20.Bd6! is decisive-LWR] 3.13/17 ; Fritz 12: 2) 11...Ne7 12.Nf3 exd5 13.exd5 b5 14.Bxb5 Qa5+ 15.Nc3 f6 16.Bd4 Nxd5 17.0-0 Nxc3 18.Qe1+ Kf7 19.Bc4+ d5 20.Bxc3 Qc5 21.Bb4 3.14/17 ; Fritz 12: 3) 11...f6 12.Bc7 Qb2 13.Ne2 Nh6 14.Nbc3 Nf7 15.dxe6 dxe6 16.Bb5+ Kf8 17.0-0 a6 18.Bd6+ Nxd6 19.Qxd6+ Kf7 20.Qc7+ Kg6 21.Nf4+ Kh6 22.Qf7 Kg5 3.60/16 ; Fritz 12: 4) 11...exd5 12.Nc3 Qa5 13.Qxd5 Qxd5 14.Nxd5 f6 15.Nc7+ Kd8 16.Bf4 Rb8 17.Nd5 d6 18.Bxd6 Ra8 19.Nf3 Nh6 20.Nd4 4.58/16 ; Fritz 12: 5) 11...h5 12.Bxg7 Rh7 13.Bd4 Qa5+ 14.Nc3 d6 15.dxe6 fxe6 16.Nge2 Ne7 17.0-0 Bd7 18.Qd3 e5 19.Be3 0-0-0 20.Qxd6 4.80/16] **12.Bc7!** Diagram



[This was a spectacular, yet subtle move at the same time. Not only does it cut the Black Q off from key escape squares, but will eventually jeopardize Black's future development.- LWR] **12...e5 13.Ne2 Nh6 14.Nec3 Qb2 15.Qh5+ Nf7 16.d6 g6 17.Qf3 Qc1+ 18.Ke2!!** Diagram



[Here Phil offers his second Rook...but his position is superior and Black has few options left.-LWR] **18...Qc2+ 19.Nd2 Ng5??** [An out and out blunder, ending the contest immediately!- LWR] **20.Qxf6 1-0 A well deserved triumph for the “Willardore!”**

Calendar of Coming Events:

Registration for all events begins at 6:30 PM or via email, first round begins at 7:00 PM.

Dec. 9th G/5 -Jingle Bells Double Round Robin - EF: A: \$2.00, Under19:\$1.00

Jan. 6th PHCC Championships – 5 Rd. Swiss – G/90 - EF: A: \$5.00, Under19: \$2.00 Game every other Thursday

Blasts from the Past

*As a teacher, I have been approached numerous times at club activities, chess events, and in casual play with an array of questions from players and parents of youngsters interested in strengthening their chess abilities. In the March 1980 issue of **Chess Chatter**, I penned an article exploring what I perceived to be some of the key elements to chess improvement. As I did then, I still now don't claim to be prophetic, prolific, nor a professional in my experiences, study and approach to the game. While I tend to take myself and my musing with a grain of salt, I do think a lifetime of observations have some merit worth consideration, and while their value may be to some degree suspect to some, I hope my perspective may, at the very least, elicit a certain measure of humor and perhaps, even introspection.*

Challenge Chess by Lon Rutkofske (As written in 1980, but I trust my “style” has become a “smidgin” more sophisticated since then.)

Many players in the club have asked me, “How can I improve?”, or, “What am I doing wrong?” I have asked the same question myself many times, and after considerable reflection, it is

apparent that the answer lies in a few very basic principles. As a Category II (*USCF 1731 in 1980-ed.*) player, I realize that my musings are certainly less profound and carry less weight than if they were enunciated from “on high” by a leading grandmaster, but winning chess games is not a great deal different than winning at anything. Certain fundamental rules hold true:

First: You MUST “hate to lose”! While this might appear to be a rather negative approach, each time you play, you must certainly believe you can win. There is no substitute for a positive attitude. This kind of “strength of will”, not to be confused with over-confidence, is a psychological tool in itself and intimidation is certainly a key factor in all human endeavor. But if you hate to lose, you will do anything in your power to insure a successful outcome. While this does not mean that you must necessarily be a bad loser, it shows that you must take time to study, especially your weaknesses, for therein lay the roadblocks to victory.

Second: Don’t beat yourself! The mark of all great champions is that they force their opponents to err. Know what must be done to achieve victory, and do it in the shortest way possible. How many times have you lost a won game because you tried to “get cute”?

Third: Learn from your mistakes. I have always held that a fool “makes the same mistake twice”! Capablanca once said:

*There have been times in my life when I came near thinking
That I could not lose even a single game. Then I would be beaten,
and the lost game would bring me back from dreamland to earth.
Nothing is so healthy as a thrashing at the proper time. From few
won games have I learned as much as I have from most of my defeats.*

Always seek out the best competition, for you will learn a great deal, even if it does come through osmosis.

Fourth: Don’t limit your chess to the mere movement of the pieces! Most good players develop some sort of psychological weapon as effective as any opening trap or tactical ploy. Phil Willard is a master of deceit. Beware! Especially when Phil tells you, “I know that you’ve got me crushed, but I’ll just make one more move, after all, it’s just a game!” (*Recently, Phil had employed another tactic, by humming a few bars of the “Warsaw Concerto” as he perused his next move.- ed.*) John Haacke used to light up a cigar and spew billows of smoke in your direction to cloud your thinking, if not to suffocate you as well! Bob Wilson used to “tap incessantly as well as chain smoke, nervously twitching as he puffed to the last possible millimeter of each white cylinder. (*Way back then, smoking was permitted without prohibition.- ed.*) Bob Fiedler has the unnerving capacity to aggravate his opponents into a frenzied condition of temporary insanity, inevitably followed by chess blindness, by making glib, condescending comments about the hopelessness of their position. Harley Atcheson’s tactic is to arrive at the board with a shopping bag full of goodies, (pop, candy, gum, jelly beans, etc...) and casually consume them as his hapless opponent’s concentration is devastated each time he “pops” a jelly bean into his mouth. (*I recall playing James Jackson at the East Detroit Chess Club. He was a very heavy man, and was nearly blind, his nose almost touching his pieces on the board, and breathing so hard , I always expected him to keel over from heart failure!-ed*) Myself?? My ploy is to jiggle my leg so as to vibrate the table causing my opponent’s coffee to lap over the sides of his cup thereby soaking his score sheet!

Fifth: LUCK!!! Despite the seemingly cut and dried nature of the game, with all its volumes on every conceivable phase of play, luck has its place in chess as well! As in other areas of the human experience, there is no substitute for that uncontrollable factor - “Good

Fortune"! This is not to say that you should leave everything to chance, don't!! But one thing usually holds true - "Good Players sometimes make their own luck!"

Now all of this may sound hollow, senseless and conveniently non-specific, but it is not my intent to give hard, fast rules – both because I am far from being an authority on the game and because such rules inevitably have their exceptions. For the most part, nothing succeeds like success and the way to winning chess is over the long, hard road of intense study and keen competition.

Within the ranks of Port Huron's own chess club stands a player that exemplifies what intensive study and the will to succeed can do to improve the caliber of their game. Bob Fiedler came to the PHCC in 1972 entering the standings as a low class B player (PHCC ratings). Today he stands as the club co-champion and is at the top of the rating ladder. Here are three of his games which represent different stages of chess growth. Each game shows a distinct phase of Bob's game, and if you follow them closely, you will find an increase in both sophistication and understanding that could only have been accomplished by serious study.

Rutkofske,Lonnie (694) - Fiedler,Bob (678) [C65] Ruy Lopez: Berlin Defense

PHCC 30/30 Tournament/ PHCC club ratings used, 29.04.1973

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 Nf6 4.0-0 Bd6 5.Re1 0-0 6.c3 b6 7.Ba4 Bb7 8.Bc2 Ne7 9.d4 exd4 10.e5 Bxe5 11.Rxe5 d6 12.Re1 Qd7 13.Bg5 dxc3 14.Nxc3 Nfd5 15.Nxd5 Nxd5 16.Qd3 g6 17.a3 Rfe8 18.Bb3 Ne7 19.Re3 Bxf3 20.Rxf3 Nf5 21.g4 Re5 22.gxf5 Rae8 23.Re3 Rxe3 24.Bxe3 gxf5 25.Bh6 f4 26.Kh1 Re5 27.Rg1+ Kh8 28.Bg7+ Kg8 29.Bxe5+ Kf8 30.Bg7+ Ke8 31.Bf6 Qc6+ 32.Bd5 1-0

Rutkofske,Lonnie (863) - Fiedler,Bob (508) [C87]Closed Ruy Lopez Steinitz

1973 PHCC Championships/ PHCC club ratings used, 04.10.1973

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Ba4 Nf6 5.0-0 Be7 6.Re1 0-0 7.c3 b5 8.Bc2 Bb7 9.d4 exd4 10.e5 Nd5 11.Qd3 g6 12.Nxd4 Nxd4 13.Qxd4 Re8 14.Bh6 Bf8 15.Bxf8 Rxf8 16.b4 Re8 17.Bb3 Ne7 18.g4 Nc6 19.Qf4 Re7 20.Nd2 Qe8 21.Nf3 Nd8 22.Rad1 Rc8 ½-½

Heikamp,Jack (642) - Fiedler,Bob (507) [E20] Nimzo-Indian

1976 PHCC Champs /PHCC ratings used, 19.02.1976

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 Bb4 4.Bd2 Nc6 5.e3 0-0 6.Nf3 b6 7.Bd3 Bb7 8.0-0 d5 9.Ne5 Bxc3 10.Bxc3 Nxe5 11.dxe5 Ne4 12.Qc2 c5 13.b3 Qh4 14.Be1 Qh6 15.f4 f6 16.Rf3 fxe5 17.Rh3 Qg6 18.Bxe4 dxe4 19.fxe5 Rf5 20.Rg3 Qf7 21.Bc3 Rf8 22.Qe2 Rf2 23.Qe1 Ba6 24.h3 b5 25.Kh2 bxc4 26.Rg4 cxb3 27.Rf4 Rxf4 28.exf4 Qxf4+ 29.Qg3 Qxg3+ 30.Kxg3 e3 31.axb3 Bd3 32.Rxa7 e2 33.Be1 Rf1 34.Ra1 Bc2 35.Ra8+ Kf7 36.Ra7+ Kg6 37.Ra1 Bd1 38.Bc3 Kf5 39.Kh2 Bxb3 40.Re1 Rxe1 41.Bxe1 Kxe5 42.Kg3 Ke4 43.Kf2 Bc4 44.Bc3 Kd3 45.Be1 e5 46.g4 e4 47.Ba5 Be6 48.Ke1 c4 0-1

Dues News The Port Huron Chess Club will begin to collect dues for the coming year. 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 \$2.00 for adults and \$1.00 for those under 19. Dues funds are used to offset miscellaneous expenses not funded by the Recreation Department.