

2015 WINTER NEWSLETTER

RENAISSANCE FESTIVAL

The Renaissance Festival has come and gone. It runs seven weekends in the fall, starting Labor Day weekend and running until Columbus Day weekend. It is the number one fund raiser of the Kansas Chess Association and does quite a bit to promote chess in Kansas. For those unfamiliar with the Renaissance Festival, check out their site <http://www.kcrenfest.com/> There are some fixed expenses we have to deal with before the Renaissance Festival begins. Right up front we have to pay \$180 in Liability Insurance. Then, the city of Bonner Springs taxes the booth \$55 to allow it to operate in Bonner Springs (yes, the Renaissance Festival is within the city limit of Bonner Springs. It is very close to Kansas City, Kansas, but not within that city.) For those that know the area it is not far from the Kansas Speedway and Legends Mall.

I (Laurence Coker) was in charge of the renfest again this year. I have run the booth every year from 2005 until 2014, except for years 2011 and 2012 when Rick Hodges ran it.

This year the booth had a preliminary total income of \$1280 of which \$156 was from donations from our donation boxes. This total is minus a 15% that the Renaissance Festival gets out of all our gross receipts (excluding money in our donation box). Thus, after our expenses are taken out (booth maintenance –new mulch, Bonner Springs Tax, and Liability insurance) this gives us \$1022 made by our booth.

Special thanks are given to all who worked. The Westport Chess Club (Dave Kearns and Raymond Birt) worked two weekends. Joe and Spencer Conklin worked much of the Labor Day weekend, and then Spencer worked two additional days. Kyle Camarda worked a full weekend, as did Duane Johnson, Tom Martin and Tom Moloney. Bob Spies helped out immensely working four individual days. Hyung Ju Nam worked two days. Working one day each were Gabriel and Matthew Maurer, Joey Kelly, Ben Gradsky, CJ Armenta, Sho Glashausser, Bill Quinlan, Abhishek Mallela, Shakti Shimpi, Logan Camarda, Monahar Kyathsandra, and Rick Hodges. Rick drove all the way up from Austin, Texas to work. The day he worked was our biggest money maker of the year. I hope I did not leave off any names out. Oh Yes; I worked four total weekends and one extra day in addition to handling all the scheduling, finances, and booth maintenance.

I have pictures from the renfest at the end of this newsletter. Unfortunately I didn't bring my camera out every weekend and some of the pictures I have were actually sent to me (not taken with my camera).

CONRAD HOLT

Our Grandmaster from Kansas has been in the news this year (Kansas Chess Champion in 2011 and 2013). He finished tied for first place in the **World Open** in July with Ilya Smirin and Illya Nyzhnyk. All three tied with a score of 7 and 2. All earned \$9,891. Only the top two on tiebreaks qualified for a playoff to play for 1st place leaving Conrad out. Ilya Smirin won the playoff with Illya Nyzhnyk.

<http://www.uschess.org/content/view/12715/141/>

Then, Conrad Holt won the **US Open** July 26th to 3rd in Orlando, Florida. Actually, there was a 6 way tie at 7.5 points out of 9 possible. This time Conrad finished on top on the tiebreaks and played Michael Mulyar from Colorado in a playoff. He won becoming the new US Open Champion. <http://www.uschess.org/content/view/12752/772/>

At this link there is a nice video of the playoff game, Conrad having 5 minutes with white and Mulyar getting 3 minutes with black. Because of his victory in the US Open Conrad qualifies to play in the 2015 US Championship.

US OPEN- Denker, Barber, All-girls Championship

Also going on at the same time as the US Open were tournaments for the scholastic players. Funds from the Kansas Chess Association (\$200 each) helped some in paying for participation. In the Denker event Zach Schuh scored 2 points in a very high rated event (6 rounds) <http://www.uschess.org/results/14/usopen/?page=STANDINGS&xsection=denker>

[page=STANDINGS&xsection=denker](http://www.uschess.org/results/14/usopen/?page=STANDINGS&xsection=denker)

In the Barber Kiana Hajiarbabi scored 2.5 points out of 6

<http://www.uschess.org/results/14/usopen/?page=STANDINGS&xsection=barber>

[page=STANDINGS&xsection=barber](http://www.uschess.org/results/14/usopen/?page=STANDINGS&xsection=barber)

In the National Girls Invitational, Shahrzad Hajairbabi scored 2.0 points out of 6 possible.

<http://www.uschess.org/results/14/usopen/?page=STANDINGS&xsection=ngit>

[page=STANDINGS&xsection=ngit](http://www.uschess.org/results/14/usopen/?page=STANDINGS&xsection=ngit)

K-12 Championships- Jack Easton

Jack Richard Easton scored big at the K-12 Nationals in Orlando December 12th to 14th. In the 8th grade section he scored 6.5 points out of 7 possible to finish by himself at that score. There were 113 in his section. (Time control was game in 90 with 5 second delay). For his effort his rating will go up to 2045 with the next rating period making him a new Kansas Chess playing expert. Hopefully, he can play in the Kansas Open in July and compete to be our 2015 Kansas Champion.

http://www.uschess.org/assets/msa_joomla/XtblMain.php?201412147542.5-13242201

LOCAL TOURNAMENTS

There have been **ICCC rated tournaments** in October and December. Both were held at the Indian Creek Community Church (ICCC) in Olathe, KS.

The **October 11th ICCC** tournament had 16 players. Tim Steiner finished by himself with 4 points possible out of 4 points with 4 straight wins. There was a 4 way tie for second at 3 points by Abhishek Mallella, Jason Wawrzaszek, Luke Majeske, and Sho Glashausser. http://main.uschess.org/assets/msa_joomla/XtblMain.php?201410112352

The **December 6th ICCC** tournament had 18 players. Sam Un finished by himself with 4 points out of 4. Joey Kelly and William Dunlap finished next with 3 points.

http://main.uschess.org/assets/msa_joomla/XtblMain.php?201412063982

New for the ICCC tournaments in October and December was the option for scholastic players to play for non-cash prizes. They received a lower entry fee and did not compete for money prizes. This is important for scholastic players to be able to compete for non-cash prizes at Kansas tournaments during the school year. That way they remain eligible for the scholastic state championship, this year held in Wichita March 14th

UPCOMING TOURNAMENTS

Don't forget about the **New Year Bash tournament** January 3rd to be held in Olathe, Kansas. Note this is a new site for tournament.

<http://www.kansaschess.org/htdocs/2015NewYearBashFlier.pdf>

PICTURES FROM RENFEST



Kyle Camarda, Laurence Coker, and Rick Hodges at chess booth



Duane Johnson with visitor to booth



Manohar Kyathsandra, Tom Martin, Laurence Coker, and Shakti Shimpi and child



Sho Glashausser and Hyung Ju Nam