

2015 WINTER NEWSLETTER- updated

LOCAL TOURNAMENTS-----

The have been **ICCC rated tournaments** in October and December of 2014. Both were held at the Indian Creek Community Church (ICCC) in Olathe, KS.

The **October 11th ICC** 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 ICC** 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 ICC 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

The **Lindsborg Open** was held December 20th, 2014. There were 17 participants in the USCF rated section. Finishing first by himself was Joshua Fernandes with 3.5 points. There was a four way tie for second with Hyung Ju Nam, Sho Glashausser, Sheena Zeng, and Braden Johnson all finishing with 3 points out of 4. Grandmaster Timar Gareev made an appearance and helped with game analysis. <http://www.uschess.org/msa/XtblMain.php?201412204652>



2014 Lindsborg Open- Hyung Ju Nam in foreground playing unknown player at Karpov Chess School facility



Grandmaster Timur Gareev going over game with Sho Glashausser

The **New Year Bash** was held January 3rd, 2015. It was held at a new facility this year, the Hilton Garden Inn in Olathe, KS. Brian Yang organized and directed the tourney. He had just made it back from Las Vegas where he directed multiple sections for the North American Open.

The New Year Bash was divided into two sections: Open and Reserve (U1600). There were 39 total players: 16 in Open and 23 in Reserve.

In the **Open section** Missouri player Abhishek Mallela finished all by himself with 4 wins in this one day four round event. A surprise second place was Brian Jiang at 3.5 points, partly as a result of upsetting 2014 Kansas Champion Joey Kelly in the last round. In third place was Kansas player Kustabh Nimkar and Missouri player Ron Luther at 3.0 points. Ron Luther lost to Abhishek in the last round.

http://main.uschess.org/assets/msa_joomla/XtblMain.php?201501033922.1



Abhishek Mallela

In the **Reserve section** Ethan Bui finished by himself with 4 wins. His rating went up almost 180 points as a result. There was a four way tie for second at 3 points between Bill Qian, CJ Armenta, Raam Raghunathan, and Gavin Kirchmer.

http://main.uschess.org/assets/msa_joomla/XtblMain.php?201501033922.2



1st Place Reserve player Ethan Bui playing second place player Gavin Kirchmer (Ethan won this game)



Tourney Director Brian Yang in yellow shirt in back by himself. Left to Right CJ Armenta, Bill Qian, Gavin Kirchmer, and Raam Raghunathan (all finished with 3 points) Brian did not play.

Below is a link to look at pictures I took at the 2015 New Year Bash. When I finish analyzing games I will add games to the end of newsletter and make this the 2015 Winter Plains Chess.

<https://picasaweb.google.com/108586918080555793271/2015NewYearBash?authkey=Gv1sRgCLWmgt3rtdOPmgE#>

UPCOMING TOURNAMENTS

There is another **ICCC tourney Saturday February 7th**. See link below. <http://www.kansaschess.org/htdocs/2015ICCCFebruaryFlier.pdf>

Make plans now to play in the **2015 KANSAS OPEN**. It is **July 17th to 19th** at the same location as the 2013 event in Wichita. Link to location below.

<http://www.holidayinn.com/hotels/us/en/wichita/ictks/hoteldetail/directions>

OTHER NEWS-----

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.



Grandmaster Conrad Holt

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>

In the Barber Kiana Hajiarbabi scored 2.5 points out of 6 <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>

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

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).

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