



2008 News Archive

12/18- More than a dozen players came out for the final club meeting of 2008. SCCA President David Grimaud dropped by to present the year end awards to our club's over achievers for this year. Ralph Buske picked up the Most Active Player award for the second straight year edging out 3 others by 1 game! He is also our Most Improved Adult Player this year. Daniel Dodds was the Most Improved Player and the Most Improved Jr. Player winning both awards for the second straight year. Steve Boshears is our Rookie of the Year for 2008 and Chris Labrecque is our Jr. Rookie of the Year. Daniel Dodds picked up his third trophy of the evening winning the Jr. Player of the Year award. The final award of the evening went to Keith Eubanks who repeated as Columbia Chess Club Player of the Year edging out Daniel.

This brings a very active and successful 2008 to a close. The club will meet on Jan 1 for casual play. The next tournament will begin on Jan 8 with Ashland VII.

2009 is shaping up to be bigger and better with two SC Scholastic tournaments coming up in Jan, and two more in Feb and the Snowstorm Open also in February. There is also Reverse Angle in Charlotte and Land of the Sky in Asheville, NC in January. So there's is plenty of chess going on to kick off the New Year!

12/11 – A dozen club members including Jared Ott and first time visitor Marsha Teague came out to enjoy a lecture by reigning SC State Champion Philipp Lamby. Philipp spent an enjoyable two hours going over chess studies and analysis of two of his games from this year's State Championships. Some casual battles were fought afterwards.

Next week is the final club meeting of the year and Awards will be presented.

12/4 – Twelve of the Midlands top competitors took a break from the Holiday rush to compete in Ashland Quick 8. This is the club's twenty first

and final scheduled rated event of 2008. New club member Henry Mattison (1999) rolled through the Top Quad posting a perfect 3-0 with wins over Paul Farb (1932), David Williams (1812) and Daniel Dodds (1490). Erik Murrah (1422) and Bob Halliday (1429) tied for first in the Middle Quad with 2 points ahead of Steve Boshears (1397) and Paul Lowry (1346). Ralph “Ironman” Buske (989) was in good form taking the Lower Quad with 2.5 points ahead of Chris Labrecque (1103), Ron Labrecque (1095) and Mike Meekins (624).

The crosstable is [HERE](#).

Next week, Dec 11, 2008 SC State Champion Philipp Lamby will visit the club.

11/20 – Eighteen players competed in Ashland VI with Erik Murrah (1230) finishing in clear first by drawing Ralph Buske (1405) in the final round. Mike Mayfield (1434) scored a final round upset over Paul Farb (1924). Paul Lowry (1337) secured first place in the Amateur Section with a final round win over Mike Meekins (UNR). Birney Blind (1143) was finally able to secure the point over a hard fighting David Gongre (969) to finish tied for second, one point back. Josh Streetman (UNR) scored the full point over quickly improving Chris Labrecque (982) to finish in the second place tie. In the Reserve Section, Ron Labreque (679) finished first followed by Mike Meekins (UNR).

The final crosstable is [HERE](#).

See where you rank in the club by checking the [Member List by Rating](#).

The club WILL NOT meet next Thursday, Nov. 27. Happy Thanksgiving!

Ashland Quick VIII will be Thursday, Dec 4. This is our final scheduled rated event of the year.

11/13 – A low turnout of only eight players for Round 4. In the Open Section, Erik Murrah (1253) ground out the point over Paul Potylicki (1402) to pull even at the top with Steve Boshears who took a bye this round. Paul Lowry (1337) defeated co-leader Birney Blind (1141) and is now in sole possession of first place in the Amateur Section. Chris Labrecque (929)

secured the point from Mike Meekins (UNR) to move into a tie for second. Josh Streetman (UNR) broke into the win column with a victory over David Gongre (969). Ron Labrecque (679) wins the Reserve Section with a perfect 3-0.

The crosstable is [HERE](#).

The final round of Ashland VI will be Thursday, Nov 20.

11/06 – Round 3 of Ashland VI was contested by twelve players as we passed the halfway point. Steve Boshears (1671) was held to a draw by Erik Murrah (1253) and maintains his half point lead in the Open Section. Daniel Dodds (1771) returned to engage in some non physical combat and secured the point from last week's shark, Paul Potylicki (1402). Making a rare appearance at the board, SCCA President David Grimaud (1661) used a "Precision Tuned" game to defeat Paul Farb (1928) in preparation for this weekend's [Folloween Open](#) in Charleston. Birney Blind (1141) outlasted Chris Labrecque (929) and remains tied with Paul Lowry at 2.5 for the lead in the Amateur Section. Ron Labrecque (637) moved to 3-0 with a win over David Gongre (897) and is in control of the Reserve Section. Mike Meekins (UNR) posted a win over Christian Cook (UNR) to move into second, 1 point behind.

The crosstable is [HERE](#).

Round 4 is Thursday, Nov 13.

Good luck to the Columbia players that are invading Charleston this Saturday to compete in the [Folloween Open](#).

10/30 – Twelve players compete in round 2 of Ashland VI. Steve Boshears (UNR) scored his second win and leads the Open Section after taking the point from Pat Cunningham (1622). Erik Murrah (1267) secured the win over Josh Streetman (UNR) and Paul Potylicki (1371) scored an upset win by defeating Paul Farb (1922). The Amateur Section only had one game this evening with Paul Lowry (1337) splitting the point with Chris Labrecque (947). This creates a three way tie between Lowry, Labrecque & Birney Blind, all with 1.5 points. Ron Labrecque (637) took the early lead in the

Reserve Section with a win over Mike Meekins (UNR) and David Gongre (897) got in the win column with a victory over Christian Cook (UNR).

The crosstable is [HERE](#).

Round 3 is Thursday, Nov 6.

10/23 – Ashland VI is underway with 14 players competing in the first round. In the Open Section Steve Boshears (UNR) upset Paul Farb (1922) and Ralph Buske (1371) took the point from Paul Potylicki (1371). In a cross-section pairing Erik Murrah (1267) was only able to manage a draw against quickly improving Chris Labrecque (947). In the Amateur Section Paul Lowry (1337) scored a win against new club member Josh Streetman (UNR). Birney Blind (1185) also picked up an early round point by defeating William Cordova (UNR) who returned to the board after taking the summer off. The Reserve Section saw new club member Mike Meekins (UNR) score his first rated win as he defeated David Gongre (897). Ron Labrecque (637) secured the full point over Christian Cook (UNR) to share the early lead in the Reserve Section..

The crosstable is [HERE](#).

Round 2 will be Thursday, Oct 30.

10/16 – Ashland Quick VII had a typical turnout of 12 players competing in three quads. Paul Farb (1927) cruised through the Top Quad posting a perfect 3-0 score over rivals Paul Potylicki (1371) 2 points, Russell Thurmond (1629) 1 point and Jason Arthur (1398). In the Middle Quad, Steve Boshears (UNR) bounced back from his 0-3 performance in the last quick tournament to post a perfect 3-0 and take first place over Richard Watts (1098) 1.5 points, Erik Murrah (1267) 1 point and Chris Labrecque (947). The final Quad saw a third perfect score posted by Ron Labrecque (637) as he upset David Gongre (897) 2 points, Mark Acklie (837) 1 point and Mike Meekins (UNR).

The Crosstable is [HERE](#).

Next week, Oct 23, Ashland VI begins. This tournament will expand to three sections, Open, Amateur (U1400) and Reserve (U1000).

Be sure to check out the Charleston Chess Club's Folloween Open on Nov 8. This was a good tournament last year and a number of club members have already expressed interest in going. Nine Cola Chess members competed last year, will there be a bigger invasion this year?

9/18 – Team Turk leads with one round to go!

The RiPPers trailed Team Turk by one point heading into the penultimate round and looked to pull even. They were off to a good a start as Paul Farb (1938) took down Daniel Dodds (1674) on Board 1. Team Turk bounced back on Board 2 with Gary Fredericks (1434) taking the point over a determined Paul Potylicki (1368). Board 3 couldn't decide the match as Lendel Robinson (1420) could only manage a draw with Richard Watts (1126) with each team settling for a .5 point as Team Turk stayed 1 point ahead of the RiPPers going into the final round.

Team Four bounced back this week taking the point from the Mighty Chickens to move within a .5 point of the leaders Team Turk. Keith Eubanks (2060) took the easy point from James MacDougall in a forfeit win. Steve Boshears (UNR) took the win on Board 2 over substitute player Birney Blind (1214) and Mark Acklie (922) prevented the Chickens from being shut out by defeating Marty Anderson (833) in a back and forth battle.

The final match of the evening was Between a Rook & a Hard Place and the Bad Bishops. Russell Thurmond (1600) positionally outplayed Bob Halliday (1621) to take the point on Board 1. Jason Arthur (1440) escaped with a draw in the Board 2 game with Ralph Buske (1404) and Erik Murrah (1202) salvaged the draw for the Bishops by defeating David Gongre (881) Board 3

The final Round will match the Mighty Chickens vs. Team Turk, Between a Rook & a Hard Place vs. Team Four and the Bad Bishops vs. the RiPPers.

The current crosstable is [HERE](#).

Board Leaders are Eubanks & Farb tied on Board 1 with 3 points, Buske leads Board 2 with 3 points and Robinson leads Board 3 with 3.5 points.

The 69th South Carolina Championships are next weekend here in Columbia. Many Cola Chess players are planning to compete. If you can't play in the tournament it runs Friday evening, Saturday & Sunday so stop by check out our last big tournament of the year.

9/18 – Round 3 was again dominated by the White pieces.

Team Turk took possession of first place by defeating Team Four. Daniel Dodds (1674) was able to take the point from Keith Eubanks (2060) on Board 1. Steve Boshears (UNR) posted the win over Gary Fredericks (1434) on Board 2. Lendel Robinson (1420) anchored the win for Team Turk by defeating Marty Anderson (833) on Board 3. Team Turk wins the match 2-1.

Match 2 saw the RiPPers defeat Between a Rook & Hard Place 2.5-.5 . Paul Farb (1938) secured the point on Board 1 over Russell Thurmond (1600). Ralph Buske (1404) couldn't quite put away Paul Potylicki (1368) on Board 2 and settled for a draw. Richard Watts (1126) nailed down the point on Board 3 defeating David Gongre (881).

The final match of the evening was drawn between the Bad Bishops and the Mighty Chickens. Mike Mayfield (1426) secured the point on Board 2 for the Chickens over Jason Arthur (1440) while Erik Murrah (1202) took the point for the Bishops on Board 3 over Mark Acklie (922).

The White pieces scored seven wins tonight!

Round 4 will see the RiPPers 2 vs. Team Turk 3, Team Four 2 vs. the Mighty Chickens .5 and Between a Rook & a Hard Place 1 vs. the Bad Bishops .5

The current crosstable is [HERE](#).

Board Leaders are Eubanks, Farb & Dodds all tied with 2 points on Board 1. Buske leads Board 2 with 2.5 points and Robinson is in control of Board 3 with 3 points.

9/11 – Round 2 two saw all three matches decided with only one drawn game.

Team Turk scored their second win by defeating Between a Rook & a Hard Place. Daniel Dodds (1674) was able to take the point from Russell Thurmond (1600) on Board 1. Ralph Buske (1404) scored a win on Board 2 over Gary Fredericks (1434) and Lendel Robinson (1420) downed David Gongre (881) on Board 3 securing the win for Team Turk 2-1.

Team Four posted their second win by defeating the Bad Bishops. Keith Eubanks (2060) dismantled Bob Halliday (1649) on Board 1. Jason Arthur (1440) used an active position to pick up the point on Board 2 over Steve Boshears (UNR). Marty Anderson (833) scored his second straight upset on Board 3, this time over Erik Murrah (1202), and secured the point for Team Four 2-1.

White dominated the first two matches 6-0. The third match between the Might Chickens and the RiPPers broke that trend as Paul Farb (1938) defeated James MacDougall (1963) on Board 1 with the black pieces. Paul Potylicki (1368) settled for a draw with Wes Scott (1469) on Board 2 and Richard Watts (1126) used the black pieces to defeat Mark Acklie (922) on Board 3 to take the win for the RiPPers.

Round Three has Team Turk vs. Team Four, the RiPPers vs. Between a Rook & a Hard Place and the Bad Bishops vs. the Mighty Chickens.

The current crosstable is [HERE](#).

Board Leaders are Keith Eubanks with 2 points on Board 1, Ralph Buske with 2 points on Board 2 and Lendel Robinson & Marty Anderson tied with 2 points on Board 3.

Erik Anderson (476) scored a win over Christian Cook (UNR) in the side tournament.

The Team Challenge continues with Round 3 on Thursday, September 18.

9/4 – The Team Challenge has begun! All three matches were decided tonight with only one game being drawn.

The first match between Team Turk and the Bad Bishops was delayed slightly when Daniel Dodds (1674) was unexpectedly detained and then unable to play this evening. His game with Bob Halliday (1649) has been rescheduled for Oct 9. The outcome of their game won't affect the team standings as Team Turk made the Bishops look bad taking wins on the other two boards. Gary Fredericks (1434) was able to defeat Jason Arthur (1440) on Board 2 and Lendel Robinson (1420) defeated Mark Acklie (922) on Board 3.

The second match between the RiPPers and team Four was an interesting one as the battle on Board 1 between Paul Farb (1938) and Keith Eubanks (2060) was the shortest game on the night with Eubanks taking the point for Team Four. Board 2 was our only draw of the evening as Pat Cunningham (1626) and Paul Potylicki (1368) came to peaceful terms. An upset on Board 3 showed that no game is to be taken for granted as Marty Anderson (833) quickly spotted a blunder by Richard Watts (1126) taking the point and securing the match for Team Four.

The final match of the evening pitted Between a Rook & Hard Place vs. the Mighty Chickens. James MacDougall (1963) took the point from Russell Thurmond (1600) on Board 1 for the Chickens. Ralph Buske (1404) used an aggressive attack against Wes Scott (1469) to even the match by taking the point on Board 2. Birney Blind (1185) looked set take the point and the match on Board 3 for the Chickens but David Gongre (881) created kingside complications and was able to get the Rooks out of a Hard Place and take the match for his team.

Round 2 pairings have Team Turk vs. Between a Rook & Hard Place, Team Four vs. the Bad Bishops and the Mighty Chickens battling the RiPPers. Full pairings are on the [Discussion Board](#).

The only game in the side tournament saw Chris Labrecque (878) win over Erik Anderson (476).

The Team Challenge continues next week with Round 2 on Thursday, September 11.

9/1 – Ashland V Team Tournament starts this week! Pairings are posted on the [Discussion Board](#) . Round 1 will start at 7:30 sharp! Team Turk is the

highest rated team at 1508 followed by the RiPPers (1477), the Mighty Chickens (1444), Bad Bishops (1430), Team Four (1364) and Between a Rook & a Hard Place (1295). Top players on each board are Keith Eubanks (2060) on Board 1, Wes Scott (1469) on Board 2 and Lendel Robinson (1420) on Board 3.

Trophies will be awarded to each player on the Top Team and to the player with the highest score on each board.

Cast your vote for who you think will come out on top!

There will be an Open Section side tournament for players not on teams if you would like to play a rated game. There will be a \$1 a round entry fee for this tournament, no prizes. Registration will end at 7:20 and clocks will start at 7:30. No exceptions.

8/21 – Keith Eubanks (1991) and Paul Farb (1896) tied for first in Top Quad of Ashland Quick VI with 2.5 points!! Twenty players formed 5 quads making this our largest Quick turnout ever! Mason Wiest (1546) and Pat Cunningham (1537) tied for first in Quad 2 with 2.5 points. The Third Quad saw Paul Potylicki (1275) post a perfect 3-0 score as did Ted Gregory (1080) in Quad 4. The Fifth Quad saw three way tie for first as new member David Payne, Jason Robinson (welcome back!) and Phil Fuller all posted 2 points?!

The crosstable is [HERE](#).

Next week, Thursday, Aug 28 is Casual Night.

8/14 – Twenty players competed in Ashland IV with Club Champion Keith Eubanks (2075) defeating Paul Farb (1920) in the final round to secure the tournament win. Russell Thurmond (1613) took the full point from Jason Arthur (1538) to take clear second. Mason Wiest (1609) posted a last win over Ralph Buske (1275) and Pat Cunningham (1626) also scored a final round win by defeating new club member Mike Mayfield (1426).

Erik Murrah (1215) became the third straight (and different!) U14 section winner to post a perfect score when he defeated David Gongre (927). Paul Lowry (1356) posted a final round win over Richard Watts (1162) to take clear second. Marty Anderson (822) defeated Chris Labrecque (UNR) and Mark Acklie (UNR) returned to the win column with a victory over Ron

Labrecque (UNR). Paul Potylicki (1368) took the full point from Erik Anderson (473) and Ted Gregory (1095) defeated Birney Blind (1214).

The final crosstable is [HERE](#).

Three teams have formed for the Team Tournament that starts on Sept 4. The registration deadline for teams is Sept 1. If we do not have four teams registered by then the tournament will use our normal format. Check the [Message Board](#). Casual night is Aug 28. This would be a good night form any last minute teams.

Next week, Thursday, Aug 21 is [Ashland Quick VI](#).

8/7 – Twenty two players compete in the penultimate round of Ashland IV. Keith Eubanks (2075) took the full point from Russell Thurmond (1613) to move into clear first by .5 point. Paul Farb (1920) defeated Mason Wiest (1609) to move into second place. Erik Walker (1984) posted his second straight win with a victory over Jason Arthur (1538). James MacDougall (1963) outlasted Ralph Buske (1275) and new club member Steve Boshears (UNR) scored the win over Pat Cunningham (1626).

Erik Murrah (1215) continued his march through the U14 section with a win over Chris Labrecque (UNR). David Gongre (927) survived to score the point over Marty Anderson (822). Paul Lowry (1356) posted a win over Ted Gregory (1095). Richard Watts (1162) scored the point over Erik Anderson (473) and Paul Potylicki (1368) picked up the point over Mark Acklie (UNR)

The crosstable is [HERE](#).

The final round will be contested on Thursday, Aug 14.

7/31 – Round 3 of Ashland IV saw sixteen competitors battle it out. In the Open Section, Keith Eubanks (2075) secured the full point over Bob Halliday (1599) to pull even at 2.5 points with Russell Thurmond who took a bye this round. Paul Farb (1920) moved closer to the top of the standings with a win over Paul David (901) and Jason Arthur (1538) took the point from Ralph Buske (1275). In the section's final game, Erik Walker (1984) returned to the board and defeated Pat Cunningham (1626).

Erik Murrah (1215) remained in control of the U14 section by defeating Richard Watts (1162). David Gongre (927) found the win over Ron Labrecque (UNR) to move into a tie for second with Chris Labrecque (UNR) who was able to draw Paul Lowry (1356). Ted Gregory (1095) returned to the club after a long hiatus and was able to pick up the full point from Mark Acklie (UNR).

The crosstable is [HERE](#).

The penultimate round will be Thursday, August 7.

Former SC State Champ Dennis Fish visited the club again this week.

Maybe if all these former state champs happen to make it out on the same night we could have a Quick Battle of Champions?!

7/24 – Seventeen players again for Round 2 of Ashland IV. Russell Thurmond (1613) found the win over Ralph Buske (1275) to move into clear first in the Open Section with two points. Paul David (901??!) posted a win over Jason Arthur (1538) to lift himself into the three way tie for second. Paul Farb (1920) got on the winning track with a victory over Pat Cunningham (1626) who returned to the board after taking a few months off. In the section's final game Mason Wiest (1609) outlasted Lendel Robinson to get into the win column.

Erik Murrah (1215) was able to defeat Marty Anderson (822) to pick up his second point and move into clear first in the U14 Section. Richard Watts (1162) was held to a draw by Chris Labrecque (UNR) and Mark Acklie (UNR) came to peaceful terms with the rapidly improving Erik Anderson (473). Finally, Ron Labrecque (UNR) was able to finally secure the full point over a determined Phil Fuller (UNR).

The crosstable is [HERE](#).

Round 3 of Ashland IV will be Thursday, July 31.

The club was visited by two former South Carolina Champions, 2002 Champion Alexander Guetchkov and Multi-Champion Klaus Pohl!

Teams are forming for Ashland V Team Challenge. Check the [Message Board](#) for the latest information.

7/01 – South Carolina’s busiest week of chess ended with the SC Open having a big increase in attendance over 2007 with 90 players competing! This made it possible for the Greenville Chess Club to RAISE the prize fund to 145% of the advertised!! Ten Cola Chess Members competed. Top club performers in the Open Section were Kevin Kane (1906) who scored 3.5 points and raised his rating 83 points! Paul Farb (1914) scored 3 points increasing his rating 24 points! In the U1800 section Daniel Dodds (1621) and Bob Halliday (1589) both scored 4 points to finish in a tie for second place!

The crosstable is [HERE](#).

Ashland III concluded on Thursday, June 26 with 18 players contesting the final round. This was our largest weekly tournament to date with a total of 30 players competing! David Williams (1904) was held to a draw by Ralph Buske (1287) but that was enough to secure first place for the tournament. Mason Wiest (1618) outlasted Russell Thurmond (1601) in the evening’s longest game to claim the second place prize. Bob Halliday (1601) and Lendel Robinson (1327) came to a peaceful conclusion in their battle and Paul Farb (1880) picked up the final point over Pani Wickramasinghe (1407).

In the Lower Section Birney Blind (1158) finished with a perfect 5-0 score by defeating Jared Ott (975). Richard Watts (1058) took second place with his final round win over Mark Acklie (UNR). Chris Labrecque (UNR) was able to secure the full point over Marty Anderson (656) and David Gongre (927) defeated Mike Jumper (417). In the final game of the Lower Section Krista Williams (682) and Erik Anderson (422) split the point.

The final crosstable is [HERE](#).

On Tuesday GM Lubomir Ftacnik took on 22 challengers and James MacDougall was able to defeat him! Paul Farb and Phillip Lamby were both able to score draws with the GM. Thanks to SCCA President David Grimaud, Precision Tune Auto Care and Dutch Square Mall for making this simul possible again. Also thanks to Game Stop in Dutch Square for providing prizes.

That’s all that went on last week! If you missed it, be sure to mark your calendar for next year.

A library has been put together for the club thanks to a donation of DVD's and books. The list of titles will be posted soon.

This week is a Casual Chess night. Come out for some stress free chess! Ashland Quick V will be July 10.

6/19 – Round 4 set club tournament highs again with 24 players competing in this round and the total number of players rising to 29! David Williams (1904) continues to lead our largest weekly club tournament by eventually defeating a determined Lendel Robinson (1327). Daniel Dodds (1624) and Russell Thurmond (1601) settled on a draw and both trail our leader by 1 point. Bill Taylor (1628) defeated Andy Moeller (1155) and Mason Wiest (1618) took the point from Gary Fredericks (1346). Bob Halliday (1601) and Ralph Buske (1287) came to peaceful terms giving Ralph his fourth straight draw of the tournament against higher rated opponents?! Paul Farb (1880) secured the point from Jason Arthur (1538) and Gerald Battaglia (1513) made it a clean sweep for the Aiken Boys by defeating Pani Wickramasinghe (1407).

In the Lower Section, Birney Blind (1158) continued his perfect run with a win over Richard Watts (1058). Jared Ott (975) trails by one point after picking up the point from Matthew Dodds (744). Marty Anderson (656) defeated Mark Acklie (UNR) and Mike Jumper (417) scored the win over Erik Anderson (422). In the evening's final game Chris Labrecque (UNR) was able to defeat Krista Williams (682) who returned to the board after a long absence.

The crosstable is [HERE](#).

Ashland III concludes on Thursday, June 26.

Phillip Lamby (2186) wins Midlands Masters scoring a final round win over Keith Eubanks (2072) and posting a perfect 3-0 score!!

6/12 – Round 3 of Ashland III saw the total number of players competing rise to 28 which sets a new high for our weekly tournaments! Twenty one players competed this week and David Williams (1904) still has claim to the top spot despite settling for a draw with Russell Thurmond (1601). Lendel Robinson (1327) and Ralph Buske (1287) came to peaceful terms creating a jam in second only .5 point behind with Daniel, Russell and Lendel. In a

showing of fine sportsmanship Dennis Fish (1900) offered a draw to Bob Halliday (1601) when Dennis could have easily won on the clock. This brought their long, hard battle to a peaceful conclusion. Jay King (1710) visited the club for the first time in quite a while and posted a win over new club member Pani Wickramasinghe (1407) who returned to the board after a long absence. Bill Taylor (1628) broke into the win column by scoring the point over Erik Murrah (1227) and Mason Wiest (1618) used a strong attack to secure the point over Jason Arthur (1538).

Birney Blind (1158) defeated co-leader Mark Acklie (UNR) to post his third straight win maintaining his position at the top in the Lower Section. Richard Watts (1058) defeated Marty Anderson (656) to remain in second a .5 point behind. Jared Ott (975) scored the point over Erik Anderson (422) and Chris Lebrecque (UNR) defeated new club member Phil Fuller (UNR).

Midlands Masters continued with the second round and an interesting game from Phillip Lamby (2186) and James MacDougall (1970). Phillip won the game by checkmating James in the middle of the board but unfortunately the final moves were not recorded due to a time scramble where both players were under 20 seconds. Check out the game in the club database. Keith Eubanks (2072) won over Paul Farb (1880) in the other game. This sets up a final game between Phillip (2 points) and Keith (1.5 points). Final round pairings Phillip (white) versus Keith and James (white) versus Paul.

The crosstable is [HERE](#).

The battles continue next Thursday, June 19.

Jay King has a chess class starting on Monday, June 16. Here are the details:

KING CHESS ACADEMY
Summer Chess Class
Columbia Jewish Community Center
306 Flora Dr.
Mondays, 4:30-5:30
June 16-August 18
cost is \$130 for non-members and \$120 for members
Jay at 331-9800 or Brenna at 787-2023

6/05 – Twenty players compete again in Round 2 of Ashland III bringing the total number competing to 24. David Williams (1904) patiently dismantled Bob Halliday (1601) to move into clear first with 2 points. Daniel Dodds (1624) broke into the win column scoring the point over Andy Moeller (1155) while Russell Thurmond (1601) and Lendel Robinson (1327) fought to bare Kings before calling it a night. Paul Potylicki (1358) returned to tournament play and scored a tough point over Richard Watts (1058). Gary Fredericks (1346) picked up the full point over Jason Arthur (1538) and former SC Champion Dennis Fish (1900) returned to the board and was held to a draw by Ralph Buske (1287).

In the Lower Section Birney Blind (1158) scored his second win by defeating Matthew Dodds (744) and Mark Acklie (UNR) kept pace by picking up the point over Jared Ott (975). David Gongre (927) got back on the winning track picking up the point over Erik Anderson (422) while Marty Anderson (656) scored the full point over Mike Jumper (417). Midlands Masters got underway with Philipp Lamby (2186) taking the early lead by scoring the win over Paul Farb (1880). Keith Eubanks (2072) and James MacDougall (1970) came to peaceful terms and both trail by .5 point.

The crosstable is [HERE](#).

The action continues next Thursday, June 12.

5/29 – Twenty players compete in Round 1 of Ashland III. In the Top Section, David Williams (1904) picked up the full point over ACCC's Gerald Battaglia (1513). Russell Thurmond (1601) continued his winning ways with a victory over Erik Murrah (1227). Lendel Robinson (1327) posted an early round win over SCCA Secretary Bill Taylor (1628) and Bob Halliday (1601) outlasted Jason Arthur (1538). Daniel Dodds (1624) and Ralph Buske (1287) came to peaceful terms. The Lower Section saw our newest member Mark Acklie (UNR) scoring the win over David Gongre (927) while Jared Ott (975) returned to the board and took the full point from Mike Jumper (417). Matthew Dodds (744) scored an early round win over Chris Labrecque (UNR) and Birney Blind (1158) took the point from Marty Anderson (656). In the section's final game last tournament's section winner Richard Watts' (1058) winning streak came to an end as Erik Anderson (422) held him to a draw.

The crosstable is [HERE](#).

Five other players made it out for casual play and a Quad has been formed between Phillip Lamby (2186) Keith Eubanks (2080), James MacDougall (1970) and Paul Farb (1920). The three round, Game 90 battle will be fought out over three weeks starting Thursday, June 5.

5/15 – Ten players competed in Ashland Quick IV this evening. In the Top Section Age & Wisdom defeated Youth & Exuberance as Russell Thurmond (1651) posted a perfect 3-0 in the field of six. Lendel Robinson (1304) finished second with 2 points. The opposite was true in the Lower Section as youngster Chris Lebrecque (UNR) scored 2.5 to finish clear first against his more experienced opponents. The crosstable is [HERE](#).

Next week is Casual Night so come out for an evening of “stress free” chess!

5/08 – It’s been one year since the first meeting of Cola Chess and it was celebrated with the lowest attendance of the year?! Eight players made it out this evening with six competing in the final round of Ashland II. Jason Arthur (UNR) defeated Ralph Buske (1274) to finish tied for first in the Top Section with Russell Thurmond (1600) at 3 points. Richard Watts (1103) completed his run to perfection with a final round win over Erik Anderson (346). Marty Anderson (651) ground out a win over Birney Blind (1065) to finish clear second and win the Top Jr. Player trophy. The crosstable is [HERE](#).

Next week will be Ashland Quick IV.

In the year since 13 players met at Shoney’s that first evening over 100 players have visited the club with 78 of them joining. The club has held 7 five round weekly tournaments, 5 three round quick tournaments, 3 blitz tournaments, 6 dual rated quads and 1 three round weekly tournament and 1 four round Saturday tournament. We have grown to the largest and most active club in SC! Thanks to everyone that has supported the club!

5/01 - A normal turnout of 12 players for round 4 of Ashland II. In the Top Section, Russell Thurmond (1600) moved back into sole possession of first with a win over co-leader Jason Arthur (UNR). Lendel Robinson (1303) benefitted from a quick resignation by Josh Chapman (1188) and moved into second place. Daniel Dodds (1525) returned and posted a win over Ralph Buske (1274). Richard Watts (1103) wrapped up the Lower Section with a win over Andy Moeller (969). Marty Anderson (651) scored the win over

Matthew Dodds (654) to move into a tie for second. New member Chris Labrecque (UNR) scored his first win by defeating Erik Anderson (346).

The final round will be Thursday, May 8.

The crosstable is [HERE](#).

4/24 –Members from the [Aiken County Chess Club](#) visited this round and boosting attendance to a high of sixteen players. In the Top Section Bill Taylor (1628) from Aiken took down leader Russell Thurmond (1600). Jason Arthur (UNR) found the draw with Lendel Robinson (1303) and now shares the lead at 2 points. Ralph Buske (1274) ground out a win over Augusta's Josh Chapman (1188) and reigning Club Champion Keith Eubanks (2094) took down Aiken's Kevin Kane (1948). In the Lower Section, Richard Watts (1103) continued a run at perfection with a win over Marty Anderson (651). Birney Blind (1065) bounced back this week with a win over Andy Moeller (969). Erik Anderson (346) scored the full point over Elijah Eubanks (553) and Mason Wiest (UNR) from Aiken won over David Gongre (736).

Thanks to the Aiken Club for visiting us! We'll return the favor in the near future.

Round 4 will be Thursday, May 1. The crosstable is [HERE](#).

4/17 – Ten players again for the second round of Ashland II. In the Open Section Russell Thurmond (1600) posted the win over Ron Tims (1369) and moves to 2-0 alone at the top of the standings. New club member Jason Arthur (UNR) moved into second place after taking the full point from Erik Murrah (1213). Lendel Robinson (1303) moved into the win column with a victory over Ralph Buske (1274). Richard Watts (1103) moved into sole possession of first place in the Lower Section with a win over Birney Blind (1065). New club member Andy Moeller (969) picked up the full point from Mike Jumper (455). Round 3 will be Thursday, April 24. The crosstable is [HERE](#).

George Williams visited the club this evening and played some blitz with James MacDougall and David Grimaud. George was very active in the chess community several years ago regularly directing tournaments and helping players improve their game. It was great to see him again and we hope he'll visit again soon.

The club will no longer officially meet at Woodland Park due to lack of participation. The room is still available for those that would like to meet for casual chess on Sat afternoons.

4/10 – Ashland II begins with a small turnout of only 10 players. Russell Thurmond (1600) defeated Lendel Robinson (1303) to take the early lead in the Top Section. Ron Tims (1369) and Ralph Buske (1274) came to peaceful terms to share second place. The Lower Section saw Richard Watts (1103) pick up the full point over Elijah Eubanks (553). Birney Blind (1065) secured the point over Erik Anderson (346) and Marty Anderson (651) ground out the win over Mike Jumper (455). The second round will be next Thursday, April 17. The crosstable is [HERE](#).

Russell is still bringing some sets from his massive collection out each week. Be sure to check them out! Cola Chess Champion Keith Eubanks entertained new arrival [Philipp Lamby](#) from Germany this evening. Philipp brings a strong game to the Midlands and we hope he'll become an active part of the chess community.

Woodland Quads VII will be this Saturday, April 12. Come out and get in THREE rated games for only \$1 entry!

4/03 – Casual night saw a dozen players come out for an evening of stress free chess. Early arrivals were treated to analysis of two games by SC State Champion Timur Aliyev and five players participated in a simul afterwards. Timur won all five games but was pushed to the limit by Daniel Dodds. Timur will be representing SC in the [Border Battle](#) that begins Saturday against NC Champion Chris Mabe. Game 1 will be Saturday at 1:00 and can be followed LIVE [Here](#). Game 2 will be Sunday at 1:00 and can be followed [Here](#). Our [Discussion Board](#) has a Chat feature that can be used during the game.

Ashland II begins next week, Thursday, April 10. Woodland Park Quad VII will be Saturday, April 12.

3/27 – Daniel Dodds (1458) wins Ashland Quick III with a final round upset over Keith Eubanks (2007)! Keith tied for second with Russell Thurmond (1654) with 2 points. Six players competed in the Quick Rated Game 20 Swiss. The crosstable is [HERE](#). A handful of players also engaged in casual combat.

Next week is casual night with informal play all evening. Come out and play!

3/20 – Keith Eubanks (2074) wins the Club Championship with a final round victory over Russell Thurmond (1600)! Keith takes home the big trophy and receives a one year club membership for his winning performance. James MacDougall (1975) also posted a last round win picking up the full point from Daniel Dodds (1553) who finished second 1.5 points behind. Gary Fredericks (1324) posted a final win over Jonathan Hyndman (UNR) to complete his perfect 5-0 performance and win the Candidates Section. Gary also takes a home a trophy and receives a one year club membership. A total of 20 members competed in this year's championship.

Woodland Park I continued with Ron Tims (1369) and Lendel Robinson (1323) playing to a hard fought draw and both share the lead heading into the final round. Round 3 will be Saturday, March 29. Round starts at 1:30.

3/15 – Woodland Park I is under way. This is a three round tournament with one game a week. If you missed the first round you can still join in. Ron Tims (1369) returned to the board and scored a first round win over Mike Jumper (455). Lendel Robinson (1323) defeated Paul Heebner (498) to share the early lead.

Round 2 will be Saturday, March 22.

3/13 - Round 4 saw Keith Eubanks (2074) move one step closer to the Championship with a win over Ralph Buske (1264). Daniel Dodds (1553) stayed a .5 point behind by scoring the full point over Russell Thurmond (1600) in an exciting game. Lendel Robinson (1323) returned from his bye week to post a win over Erik Murrah (1212).

Gary Fredericks (1324) scored his fourth straight win to remain in control of the Candidates Section with a win over Drew Miller (UNR). Birney Blind (1065) stayed one point behind by outlasting Matthew Dodds (719).

Richard Watts (1102) escaped with a draw against a determined Marty Anderson (651) in a game that ended in stalemate and was the longest game of the evening. Other round 4 winners include Jonathan Hyndman (UNR) and Elijah Eubanks (553).

Russell Thurmond brought out a couple more sets from his collection.

The final round will be Thursday, March 20.

The crosstable is [HERE](#).

3/6 – Round three saw 16 players compete in the Championship. Keith Eubanks (2074) took the full point from James MacDougall (1975) and moved into clear first to lead the Championship with 2.5 points. Daniel Dodds (1553) defeated Pat Cunningham (1625) and Ralph Buske (1264) scored a third round win over Erik Murrah (1212) to create a tie for second at 2 points.

Gary Fredericks (1324) took control of the Candidates section with a third round win over co-leader Matthew Dodds (719). David Gongre (736) posted a win over Richard Watts (1102) and Birney Blind (1065) bounced back to take the full point over Jonathan Hyndman (UNR). New club member Drew Miller (UNR) posted his second straight win by defeating Marty Anderson (651) creating a four way tie for second with Birney, David and Matthew. Paul Heebner (498) broke into the win column scoring a victory over Mike Jumper (455).

Russell Thurmond has been bringing some of the sets from his massive collection to show and tell each week. Be sure to check them out!

The crosstable is [HERE](#).

The penultimate round will be this Thursday, March 13.

Woodland Park I will begin this Saturday, March 15. This will be a three round, one round a week Game 75 Open Swiss. Full details are on the [Tournament Page](#).

3/1 – The Columbia Chess Club hosted the Spring Valley Warm Up at Woodland Park today. Five of the area's top players got in a little work to prepare for next weekend's [Scholastic Championship](#) that will be held here in Columbia. Spring Valley High School Chess Club President Joseph Austin (UNR) won the three round Swiss with a perfect 3-0. He was able to score a final round upset over Daniel Dodds (1553) who finished second with 2 points. Matthew Dodds (719), Ali Yazdi (UNR) and Kyunghwan Kim (UNR) rounded out the field. The crosstable can be found [HERE](#).

2/28 – Round 2 saw nineteen players come out to compete in the Club Championship. In the Championship Section Keith Eubanks (2074) could only manage a draw defending board 1 from Pat Cunningham (1625) creating a three way tie for the top spot with James MacDougall (1975) who took a bye this evening. Daniel Dodds (1553) broke into the win column stopping Erik Murrah's (1212) winning streak at five and moves to .5 point behind the leaders. Russell Thurmond (1600) came to peaceful terms with

Lendel Robinson (1283) to round out the Championship Section. In the Candidates Section, Gary Fredericks (1324) posted a win over Birney Blind (1065) and shares the lead with Matthew Dodds (719) who scored the win over Elijah Eubanks (553). Richard Watts (1102) and Jonathan Hyndman (UNR) played to a draw and trail by .5 point. David Gongre (736), Marty Anderson (651) and Drew Miller (UNR) also posted second round wins.

The crosstable is [HERE](#).

Round 3 will be Thursday, March 6.

2/21 – The Club Championship has begun with eighteen players competing in Round 1! Keith Eubanks (2074) successfully defended board 1 from Daniel Dodds (1553) and James MacDougall (1975) returned to competition with a successful start to his title chase by posting a win over Lendel Robinson (1283). Patrick Cunningham (1625) secured a first round win over Ralph Buske (1264) and Erik Murrah (1212) scored the first upset with a win over Russell Thurmond (1600) to round out the Championship Section. In the Candidates Section, Gary Fredericks (1324) picked up the early round point over Marty Anderson (651) and Richard Watts (1102) grabbed a share of the early lead with a win over Paul Heebner (498), Birney Blind (1065) scored the point over Erik Anderson (346) while Gamecock Chess Club President Jonathan Hyndman (UNR) pulled a Houdini on David Gongre (736) to escape with the win and Matthew Dodds (528) welcomed new member Drew Miller (UNR) to the club.

The crosstable is [HERE](#).

The chase for the Title continues on Thursday, Feb 28.

2/07 – Twelve players made up three quads and competed in Ashland Quick II this evening. In the Top Quad, Keith Eubanks (2013) claimed the top spot by a .5 point over Pat Cunningham (1478). Gary Fredericks (1283) posted a perfect 3-0 in the Middle Quad, his second straight Quad sweep! The Lower Quad had a log jam for the top spot when time ran out on Birney in the final round in a winning position. This created a three way tie for first with Birney Blind (1077), Ralph Buske (1053) and William Cordova (UNR) all scoring 2 points! The crosstable is [HERE](#).

Next week is Casual Night. The Cola Club Championship will begin on Feb 21. Woodland Park Quad VI will be Feb 23.

1/31 - Ashland I concluded with sixteen players competing in the final round making this our second largest tournament with a total of 26 players competing! Cola Club 2007 Player of Year Keith Eubanks (2074) scored the full point in a tough game with Bob Halliday (1605) to finish in a tie for first with Pat Cunningham in the Top Section. Pat (1608) was able to score the win over Lendel Robinson (1207) to claim a share of first place. Daniel Dodds (1414) returned from his strong showing at LotS last weekend and posted a win over Gary Fredericks (1286) Richard Watts (1222) came to peaceful terms with Ralph "Drawmaster" Buske (1148). In the Lower Section Erik Murrah (UNR) finished in first place with 4.5 points! Jared Ott (809) finished second with a final round win over Eric Cheng (703). Richard Cheng (UNR) scored his first win by defeating Mike Jumper (UNR) and newest member USC Chess Club President Jonathan Hyndman (UNR) found the win over Matthew Dodds (512). The Crosstable is [HERE](#).

Gary Fredericks (1286) wins Woodland Park Quad V with a perfect 3-0! Crosstable is [HERE](#). Regular rated play will be starting at Woodland park soon.

Ashland Quick II will be on Thursday, Feb 7.

1/24 – Fifteen players made it out for round 4 of Ashland I. In the Top Section, Keith Eubanks (2074) posted the win over leader Patrick Cunningham (1608) to move into a tie for second. Bob Halliday (1605) received a gift point from Russell Thurmond (1600) and moved into first by a half point. Lendel Robinson (1207) posted his second straight win scoring the point over Richard Watts (1222) and Gary Fredericks (1286) settled peacefully with Ralph Buske (1148). Erik Murrah (UNR) continued his charge though the Lower Section posting his fourth straight win scoring the full point over Eric Cheng (703). Jared Ott (809) picked up the win over Birney Blind (1160) as time ran out. David Gongre (UNR) took home the full point with a win over Mike Jumper (UNR).

1/17 – Fourteen players braved the cold to compete in round 3 of Ashland I. In the Top Section, Pat Cunningham (1608) held onto first place by drawing Russell Thurmond (1600). Bob Halliday (1605) moved into a tie for second with a win over Ralph Buske (1148). Daniel Dodds (1414) found the win in a hard fought battle with Richard Watts (1222) and Lendel Robinson (1207) ambushed SCCA President David Grimaud (1677). In the Lower Section Erik Murrah (UNR) defeated co-leader Jared Ott (809) to move into clear

first at 3-0. Birney Blind (1160) scored the point over Richard Cheng (UNR) to climb into a tie for second. Eric Cheng (703) returned to the board and picked up the win over Matthew Dodds (512). The crosstable is [HERE](#).

1/10 – Fourteen players made it out for round 2 of Ashland I. Patrick Cunningham (1608) squeezed the win out over Bob Halliday (1605) to take sole possession of first place. Russell Thurmond (1600) posted the win over Gary Fredericks (1286) and moved into second place with 1.5 points. Ralph Buske (1148) continued his drawing streak by ending peacefully with Lendel Robinson (1207). In the Lower Section Jared Ott (809) scored the win over David Gongre (UNR) and is now tied for first with Erik Murrah (UNR) who picked up the point over Birney Blind (1160). Kerry Williams (1055) won over Samuel Williams (544) and Mike Jumper (UNR) scored the point over Robert Williams (460). The crosstable is [HERE](#).
Woodland Park Quad V is underway. Gary Fredericks (1286) escaped with a win over William Cordova (UNR) and Mike Windham (UNR) picked up the point over Tom Haggard (1146) The crosstable is [HERE](#). Two spots are still open for the G/30 [WP Quad VI](#).

1/03 – Ashland I kicked off tonight with our largest round to date! Twenty players competed in the two sections. In the top section Keith Eubanks (2074) scored the win over Ron Tims (1400). Patrick Cunningham (1608) picked up the point over Richard Watts (1222) and Bob Halliday (1605) ground out a point over Lendel Robinson (1207). Adrian Polit (1710) and Gary Fredericks (1286) came to peaceful terms as did Daniel Dodds (1414) and Ralph Buske (1148). In the lower section all games were decided. Birney Blind (1160) picked up the point over John Williams (397). Jared Ott (809) posted the win over Mike Jumper (UNR). Other winners were Erik Murrah (UNR), Mike Windham (UNR) and David Gongre (UNR). Round two will be Thursday, Jan 10. Round starts at 7:30. The crosstable is [HERE](#).
Woodland Park Quad V begins Sat, Jan 5. Entries are being accepted for Woodland Park Quad VI, G30.