



2009 News Archive

5/28 - A quick tournament attendance record of 22 players competed in Ashland Quick XI with **James MacDougall (1948)** winning the Championship Quad scoring 2.5 points to finish .5 point ahead of Paul Farb (1906). **Daniel Dodds (1577)** takes the Candidates Quad with a perfect 3-0 and **Ben Playfair (1566)** ran his quick tournament winning streak to 9 straight games posting a perfect 3-0 in the Amateur Quad. **Chris Labrecque (1137)** also posted a perfect 3-0 score as he took top honors in the Reserve Quad. The final section was a six player swiss that saw **Ron Labrecque (995)**, **Mike Meekins (947)**, **Mark Acklie (872)** and new member **James Cook (UNR)** all tie for first with 2 points! The final crosstable is [HERE](#).

[The Most Outrageous Moments in Chess Part II](#) has been posted.

The busy month of June is here!

[IM Dr. Danny Kopec](#) will visit the club on June 25 to give a lecture and simul. The simul is \$10 and limited to 30 players. At this time 24 seats are still available. Contact [Erik Murrah](#) to register for the simul.

[GM Gregory Kaidanov](#) will visit Barnes & Noble on Harbison to give a Lecture, Simul and play a Blindfold game. Full details will be posted soon.

South Carolina's largest tournament, the [SC Open](#), is June 26-28 in Greenville hosted by the [Greenville Chess Club](#).

5/14 - Thirty one players compete in Ashland VIII and **Keith Eubanks (2042)** takes first place with a last round win over a determined Ralph Buske (1399). Paul Farb (1871) was held to a draw by a time troubled Erik Murrah (1501) who held the advantage as time ran down while Steve Boshears (1659) saved the draw against Ron Collins (1133). **John Rogers (1489)** won for the second straight week defeating Mike Mayfield (1444) and **George Morton (1542)** scored his first win at the club by defeating Chris Labrecque (1009). Amateur Section winner **Chris Labrecque** played up in the final round since second place Paul Lowry is still

vacationing in Hawaii. Richard Watts (1266) came to peaceful terms with visiting James Carvell (1307) and **Dan Smith (UNR)** used a nice kingside attack to defeat a stubbornly defending Mike Meekins (1018). **Charlie LaMarche (UNR)** finished off his perfect tournament with a win over Christian Dunlap (598) to claim first place and win free entry into a club tournament. **Sunil Tupale (UNR)** found the win against Meghan LaMarche (UNR) and **Ron Labrecque (828)** scored a last round win over Mark Acklie (896).

The crosstable is [HERE](#).

The latest [Weak Square](#) is now available.

SC Champion Philipp Lamby will visit the club on Casual Night, May 21 to go over a game or two from the [Border Battle](#) and cover the Evan's Gambit. You do not have to be a club member to attend. Come by and visit!

South Carolina's largest tournament, the [SC Open](#), is June 26-28 in Greenville hosted by the [Greenville Chess Club](#).

5/07 - Twenty players competed in the penultimate round of Ashland VIII. **Keith Eubanks (2067)** moves to the top spot by defeating Paul Farb (1871) as **Ron Collins (1133)** defeated Russell Thurmond (1600) to move into a tie for second. Steve Boshears (1659) came to a peaceful decision with Erik Murrah (1501). The Open Section was rounded out with a battle of two new club members as **John Rogers (1489)** defeated George Morton (1542). **Chris Labrecque (1132)** wrapped up the Amateur Section with a victory over Birney Blind (1096) as vacationing co leader Paul Lowry headed to Hawaii. **Mike Meekins (1018)** outlasted Meaghan LaMarche (UNR) in the section's other game. **Charlie LaMarche (UNR)** defeated Dan Smith (UNR) to move to 4-0 and keep control of the Reserve Section. **Mark Acklie (896)** reeled off his third straight win defeating Sunil Tupale (UNR) and moved into a tie for Second with **Ron Labrecque (828)** who ground out a win over Erik Anderson (587). **Marty Anderson (951)** got back on the winning track by defeating Christian Dunlap (598) in section's final match.

The crosstable is [HERE](#).

The Final Round is Thursday, May 14. Due to increased attendance **REGISTRATION WILL END AT 7:15** so we can start on time. Email entries will be accepted and if you are running late just call or text to be paired. To enter or if you need the number to call Email me at rmhalliday@yahoo.com .

Philipp Lamby will visit the club on Casual Night, May 21 to go over a game or two from the [Border Battle](#) and cover the Evan's Gambit.

4/30 - Twenty-two players compete in Round 3 with **Paul Farb (1871)** defeating Steve Boshears (1659) to move to the top of the standings. **Keith Eubanks (2067)** scored the win over Ron Collins (1133) to move into a three way tie for second with Edsel Pena (2009) and Russell Thurmond (1600) who drew their game. In the Amateur Section, Paul Lowry (1296) and Chris Labrecque (1132) remain tied at the top as their game settled peacefully. **Birney Blind (1096)** scored his second win in a row defeating Ben Playfair (1364) and **Richard Watts (1266)** broke into the win column with a victory over Mike Meekins (1018). **Charlie LaMarche (UNR)** took control of the Reserve Section by defeating co leader Sunil Tuppale (UNR). **Mark Acklie (896)** scored the point over Gautham Tuppale (741) as **Ron Labrecque (828)** defeated Marty Anderson (951) creating a three way tie for second. **David Gongre (882)** won over Christian Dunlap (598) and **Daniel Smith (UNR)** defeated new club member Cody Kyzer (739).

The crosstable is [HERE](#).

4/23 - Twenty-four players compete in Round 2 as a very competitive Ashland VIII continues. For the second week in a row, Paul Farb (1871) pulled a “Houdini” this time escaping with a draw with Ron Collins (1133). Edsel Pena (2009) defeated Ralph Buske (1413) and Russell Thurmond (1600) scored the point over Erik Murrah (1501) creating a four way tie at the top of the Open Section with 1.5 points. The longest game of the evening saw Keith Eubanks (2067) come to peaceful terms with Steve Boshears (1659). In the Amateur Section, Paul Lowry (1296) defeated Ben Playfair (1364) as Chris Labrecque (1132) ground out a win over Richard Watts (1266) to share the lead at 2 points. Birney Blind (1096) outlasted Mike Meekins (1018) to break into the win column. The Reserve Section also has a tie at the top on 2 points as Charlie LaMarche (UNR) defeated Ron Labrecque (828) and Sunil Tuppale (UNR) battled back to win over Marty Anderson (951) to share the lead. Mark Acklie (896) chalked up a point with a win over Dan Smith (UNR) and Gautham Tuppale (741) got back on the winning track with a victory over Erik Anderson (587). Christian Dunlap (598) found the path to victory defeating Meaghan LaMarche (UNR) creating a five way tie for third.

The crosstable is [HERE](#). Round 3 is Thursday, April 30.

Due to increased attendance REGISTRATION WILL END AT 7:15 so we can start on time. Email entries will be accepted and if you are running late just call or text to be paired. To enter or if you need the number to call Email me at rmhalliday@yahoo.com .

The Lee Hyder Memorial is This Week, May 1-3 in Aiken hosted by the Aiken County Chess Club. The advance entry list is [HERE](#). It's only an hour away from Columbia. See you there!

4/16 - Twenty-two players competed in Round 1 with another six taking first round byes as Ashland VIII got under way. Paul Farb (1871) pulled a “Houdini” and escaped with the full point over a time troubled Paul Potylicki (1425) to take the early lead with Ron Collins (1133), who returned to rated play and ground out the win over Erik Murrah (1501). Russell Thurmond (1600) and Ralph Buske (1413) came to peaceful terms in the Open Section's other game. In the Amateur Section, Ben Playfair (1364) scored a first round win over Richard Watts (1266) to move to the top of the standings. Paul Lowry (1296) was able to convert an early advantage into a win over Mike Meekins (1018) and Chris Labrecque (1132) outlasted Birney Blind (1096) to share the early lead with Ben. The Reserve Section was the largest of the evening with 10 players competing. In a battle of the very “Young Guns” Marty Anderson (951) was able to secure the point over Gautham Tuppale (741) and Ron Labrecque (828) scored the win over Meghan LaMarche (UNR). Charlie LaMarche (UNR) defeated Mark Acklie (896) and Sunil Tuppale (UNR) was victorious in his first rated game defeating Christian Dunlap (598). Erik Anderson (587) played to a soft hearted draw with new club member Dan Smith (UNR) in section's final game.

The crosstable is [HERE](#). Round 2 is Thursday, April 23.

Due to increased attendance REGISTRATION WILL END AT 7:15 so we can start on time. Email entries will be accepted and if you are running late just call or text to be paired. To enter or if you need the number to call Email me at rmhalliday@yahoo.com .

The Border Battle is in Asheboro this weekend with Nine Cola Chess members defending our State's honor! SC State Champion Philip Lamby, High School Champion Daniel Dodds, Steve Boshears, Richard Watts, Lendel Robinson, Birney Blind, Geoff Grimaud, Keith Eubanks and James MacDougall will all be doing battle this weekend. The Lamby - Simpson match will be broadcast live on the SCCA site. Good Luck to everyone!

The Lee Hyder Memorial is May 1-3 in Aiken hosted by the Aiken County Chess Club. It's only an hour away from Columbia.

4/09 - James MacDougall (1905) wins Ashland Quick X with a perfect score! Keith Eubanks (1989) finishes second, followed by Paul Farb (1906) and Mason Weist (1706). Ben Playfair (1420) also posted a perfect score to win the Candidates Section with 3 points! Russell Thurmond (1604) and Steve Boshears (1506) tied for second followed by Paul Lowry (1305). Charlie LaMarche (1300) scored a last round win over Mike Meekins (721) to claim a share of first place, both finishing with 2 points ahead of Richard Watts (1188) and Gautham Tuppale (743). Mark Acklie (729) avoided a last round upset to finish in clear first with 2.5 points in the Reserve Section. Christian Dunlap (534) took second ahead of Anthony LaMarche (471) and Meghan LaMarche (UNR).

The final crosstable is [HERE](#). Ashland VIII begins next week, Thursday, April 16.

Due to increased attendance REGISTRATION WILL END AT 7:15 so we can start on time. Email entries will be accepted and if you are running late just call to be paired. To enter or if you need the number to call Email me at rmhalliday@yahoo.com .

The Lee Hyder Memorial is May 1-3 in Aiken hosted by the Aiken County Chess Club. It's only an hour away from Columbia.

3/05 - Twenty four players compete in Round 2 of the 2009 Columbia Chess Club Championship setting a new high for this year! An ailing Philipp Lamby took a bye this evening and **Edsel Pena (2038)** successfully defended Board 1 from Russell Thurmond (1601) to stay in contention for the Championship with two points. **Paul Farb (1859)** kept pace scoring the win over Erik Murrah (1425) on Board 2 and **Daniel Dodds (1799)** created a three way tie by defeating Ralph Buske (1421) on Board 3. 2008 Club Champ **Keith Eubanks (2067)** returned to the board and scored a second round win over Gautham Tuppale (344) and trails the leaders by a .5 point. **Steve Boshears (1782)** picked up the point from Jared Ott (954) bringing the 1.5 score group total to six. Paul Lowry (1309) was held to a draw by new club member Craig Patton (UNR). **Birney Blind (1178)** was able to secure the point from David Gongre (882) and **Matt Wilson (1151)** moved into the win column with a victory over Christian Dunlap (UNR). **Richard Watts (1094)** found the right plan to defeat Ron Labrecque (819) as **Chris Labrecque (1009)** ground out the win over new member Mike Huncharek (UNR). **Mike Meekins**

(929) found his way to victory over Anthony LaMarche (UNR) and **Charlie LaMarche (UNR)** scored the final point of the evening with a win over Mark Acklie (896).

The current crosstable is [HERE](#).

Round 3 is Thursday, March 12.

The Viewer problems with James MacDougall's new page, *[What were they thinking?!](#)* have been corrected.

2/26 - Twenty two players compete in Round 1 of the 2009 Columbia Chess Club Championship! The top players all took care of business in the opening round starting with **Phillip Lamby (2241)** taking the full point from Ben Playfair (1364) on Board 1. **Edsel Pena (2038)** secured the point over Birney Blind (1178) and **James MacDougall (1941)** ground out the win over Matt Wilson (1151). **Paul Farb (1859)** triumphed over a determined Richard Watts (1094) as Cola Chess's #1 Jr Player **Daniel Dodds (1799)** defeated #2 Jr Player Chris Labrecque (1009). **Russell Thurmond (1601)** posted a first round win over Mike Meekins (929) while **Mike Mayfield (1471)** kept the favorites on the winning path by defeating Mark Acklie (896). **Paul Potylicki (1425)** returned to the board and scored the win over young upstart Christian Dunlap (UNR) and **Erik Murrah (1425)** secured the point from Anthony LaMarche (UNR). **Ralph Buske (1421)** was pushed hard by Charlie LaMarche (UNR) but was able to secure the point. The only upset of the night was pulled off by late arrival **Gautham Tupale (344)** who defeated Ron Labrecque (819).

There are now five trophies up for grabs, Champion, Runner-Up, Top U1600, Top Jr. and Top Unrated.

The current crosstable is [HERE](#).

Round 2 is Thursday, March 5.

The latest *[Weak Square](#)* is now available.

Be sure to check out James MacDougall's new page, *[What were they thinking?!](#)* That focuses on human analysis.

2/19 - Twenty players competed in Ashland Quick IX tying the club record for largest Quick Tournament!! When the dust settled **Henry Mattison (2072)** & **Edsel Pena (1994)** tied for first in the Top Quad after agreeing to a draw in their third round game. We experienced some difficulties with the live broadcast in round 2 and again at the end of the round 3 game so unfortunately those games were not broadcast in their entirety. **Russell Thurmond (1608)** cruised through the second quad scoring 2.5 points on his way to clear first. In the third quad, new club member **Ben Playfair (1364)** posted a perfect 3-0 taking clear first! Quad four saw **Chris Labrecque (986)** take clear first as he gets ready for the State Scholastic Championships coming up next weekend. Our final quad of the evening was won by **Charlie LaMarche (UNR)** who posted the evening's second perfect score winning all three games!

The final crosstable is [HERE](#).

Next week the Columbia Chess Club Championship begins.

The [White Knoll Scholastic Open](#) is this weekend at White Knoll High School. This will be good practice for area players for the upcoming [Scholastic Championships](#) next weekend.

If you play on [Chess.com](#) there is a group for [SC Players](#). Check it out!

2/12 - Over twenty players came out to enjoy an evening of casual, stress free chess. While most of the players engaged in friendly blitz games or socialized the relaxation was apparently too much for some as a Blitz tournament broke out between 10 of the players this evening lead by James MacDougall. This was Unrated, so it was open to anyone here this evening that wished to jump in. The pool was very deep as this field included such players as Phillip Lamby (2241), Keith Eubanks (2067) and Edsel Pena (2038). Incredibly the first round saw THREE upsets as Lamby lost to **Farb (1859)**, Eubanks lost to **Dodds (1799)** and George Williams (1611) needed a round to knock the rust off as he lost to **Gautham Tuppale (219)**. The blitz clock can be very cruel! When the dust settled after the five rounds **Eubanks** was able to recover to finish tied for first with **MacDougall**. Third through fifth was shared by Lamby, Pena and Dodds. Looks like Blitz may be returning to casual night after a year's absence.

The final crosstable is [HERE](#).

Next week is Ashland Quick IX.

The Club Championship begins on Feb 26. Details are on the [Tournament Page](#). 2008 Champion Keith Eubanks is expected to defend his title against what is shaping up to be a strong field of challengers.

2/05 - Twenty three players competed in Ashland VII. **Paul Farb (1859)** scored a final round victory over Russell Thurmond (1601) to share first place with **Henry Mattison (1999)** who was upset by **Daniel Dodds (1760)** this evening. **Erik Murrah (1314)** finished in third place taking the last round point from Ralph Buske (1421). **Steve Boshears (1782)** returned to the win column by grinding out the point over Birney Blind (1178). **Richard Watts (1094)** finished his march through the Amateur Section with a hard fought win over Marty Anderson (984) and finished in clear first with 4.5 points. **Paul Lowry (1346)** pulled himself into second place by securing the point from new club member Charlie LaMarche (UNR). **Matt Wilson (1151)** scored a final round win by defeating Chris Labrecque (986). In the Reserve Section, **Erik Anderson (533)** chalked up his second straight win by defeating Christian Dunlap (UNR) and **Mike Meekins (961)** returned to the board picking up the point over Roger Dodds (UNR). **Marty Anderson & Ron Labrecque** shared first place with 3 points.

The final crosstable is [HERE](#).

Welcome to new club members, Charlie LaMarche, Ben Playfair, Gautham & Sunil Tupale!

Good luck to all the Cola Chess members heading to Charleston for the Snowstorm this weekend!

Next week is Casual Night. Come out for an evening of "*Stress Free*" chess!

1/29- Twenty seven players came out tonight with 18 competing in round 4 of Ashland VII. **Henry Mattison (1999)** moved to 4-0 and continues to lead the Open Section after getting by a determined Steve Boshears (1782). **Paul Farb (1859)** remains in second with 3 points by defeating Erik Murrah (1314). **Russell Thurmond (1601)** scored the win over Daniel Dodds (1760) and Mike Mayfield (1471) settled peacefully with Ralph Buske (1421). In the Amateur Section, **Richard Watts (1094)** was able to secure the point after being pushed hard by Matt Wilson (1151) and maintains his lead over Chris Labrecque. **Paul Lowry (1346)** picked up the point over Birney Blind (1178) as time ran out on the Black army. The Reserve Section continues to gain players and we now have a tie

at the top. **Ron Labrecque (819)** was able to defeat Roger Dodds (UNR) as **Christian Dunlap (UNR)** took down leader Marty Anderson (984) creating a tie for the lead with one round to go. **Erik Anderson (533)** broke into the win column by defeating Christian Cook (176).

The final round will be Thursday, Feb 5. The crosstable is [HERE](#).

Another Unrated quick quad was held with Chris Labrecque posting a perfect 3-0 score defeating Charlie LaMarche (2 points), David Gongre (1 point) and Anthony Lamarche.

The crosstable is [HERE](#).

2008 SC State Champion Philip Lamby (2234), 2004 State Champion Keith Eubanks (2060), Expert Edsel Pena (2038) and former SCCA President James MacDougall (1941) all came to play some blitz this evening.

The latest *Weak Square* is now available.

1/22 - 22 Players came out to make this our busiest night of the year! Eighteen players competed in Round 4 of Ashland VII with **Henry Mattison (1999)** cruising to his third straight win and taking control of the Open Section by handing Erik Murrah (1314) his first defeat in a dozen games. **Paul Farb (1859)** bounced back and moved into second with a win over Daniel Dodds (1760). **Chris Drake (1958)** had a successful outing in his first club game defeating Ralph Buske (1421). The final two games of the Open Section ended peacefully as Steve Boshears (1782) and Russell Thurmond (1601) fought to a draw and Mike Mayfield (1471) and Paul Lowry (1346) came to a friendly conclusion. In the Amateur Section, **Richard Watts (1094)** wrestled the top spot away from Chris Labrecque (986) to lead by a half point. **Matt Wilson (1151)** defeated Birney Blind (1178) in what may have been the most tense game of the night as both players hovered near checkmate for most of the game. **Marty Anderson (984)** remains in control of the Reserve Section as he defeated Erik Anderson (533) in a hard fought battle. **Ron Labrecque (819)** defeated new club member Christian Dunlap (UNR).

Round 4 will be Thursday, Jan 29. The current crosstable is [HERE](#).

Continuing the night of new faces we held our first Unrated tournament as four new visitors engaged in a "friendly" quick quad. **Charlie LaMarche** posted a

perfect 3-0 score as he defeated second place finisher Tyler Hamilton (2-1), daughter Meghan (1-2) and Amos Fields (0-3).

The crosstable is [HERE](#).

Welcome to all the first time visitors to the Columbia Chess Club!

1/15 – Fourteen players competed in round 2 of Ashland VII with **Henry Mattison (1999)** taking possession of first place by defeating Paul Farb (1859) on Board 1. **Daniel Dodds (1760)** made his first outing of 2009 and was able to take the point from Steve Boshears (1782). Russell Thurmond (1601) and Ralph Buske (1421) settled peacefully in the evening's only draw. **Erik Murrah (1314)** turned in another solid performance defeating Mike Mayfield (1471) to move into second place with 1.5 points. **Chris Labrecque (986)** continues to lead the Amateur Section by defeating Paul Lowry (1346) for his second straight win. **Richard Watts (1094)** secured the point from Birney Blind (1178) to move into second place with 1.5 points. In the Reserve Section, **Ron Labrecque (819)** bounced back with a win over Erik Anderson (533) in the section's only game this evening.

Round 3 will be Thursday, Jan. 22. The current crosstable is [HERE](#).

This is a busy weekend of chess in SC with three tournaments being held. The [Charleston Chess Club](#) is hosting the [Pat Hart Memorial Scholastic](#) in Charleston on Sat and the GSSM January Open is in Hartsville, also on Saturday. On Sunday, the [Aiken County Chess Club](#) is holding its [One Day Quick Chess Championship](#) in Aiken. There's plenty of activity so get out and play!

The second installment of [“The Weak Square”](#) is now available.

1/8 – Fourteen of the Midlands' best minds returned to the board for round 1 of our first tournament of 2009. In the Open Section, **Henry Mattison (1999)** defeated Russell Thurmond (1601) in the first game broadcast live from the club. We plan to broadcast Board 1 each Thursday beginning at 7:30 so if you can't make it out you can follow the action here. **Paul Farb (1859)** took the point from Ralph Buske (1421) to share the early lead. In the section's final game, Steve Boshears (1782) and Erik Murrah (1314) ended peacefully. **Chris Labrecque (986)** defeated Birney Blind (1178) to grab the early lead in the Amateur Section. Paul Lowry (1346) and Richard Watts (1094) settled for a draw in the section's other game. In the Reserve Section, **Marty Anderson (984)** scored the full point over Ron Labrecque (819) and shares the lead with **David Gongre (882)** who defeated Erik Anderson (533).

Round 2 will be Thursday, Jan. 15. The current crosstable is [HERE](#).

Be sure to take a look around the website as a few new items have been added. **Board 1 will be broadcast Live each week**, the link is at the top of the page. One club game will be spotlighted each week located below this article and perhaps the most entertaining addition is **“The Weak Square”** by Erik Murrah. His first column, “My First Year Playing Chess”, we can all relate too!

A few new things for 2009:

1. New Club Members will receive free entry into their first club tournament.
2. Current club members can earn a \$2 credit towards their club renewal with each new member they refer. There's no limit, so refer 5 new members and your renewal is free!
3. Club Members with a floor of 1800 get free entry into our weekly tournament (not quick tournaments). \$10 will be deducted from any prize won.
4. The [USCF](#) has added membership options. If you choose not to receive the printed Chess Life magazine a 1 yr. Adult Membership is \$29 instead of \$42.