



2009 News Archive

08/06 - Round 3 of Ashland X draws 24 players as **Paul Farb (1872)** moves into the lead by defeating Pat Cunningham (1603). Russell Thurmond (1614) came to peaceful terms with Steve Boshears (1600) as **George Morton (1535)** picked up the full point over Erik Murrah (1469).

Ralph Buske (1408) and Charlie LaMarche (1173) played to a draw and remain co-leaders of the Amateur Section after three rounds. **Chris Labrecque (1313)** scored the win over Matt Wilson (1287) and is a .5 point off the lead along with **Paul Lowry (1288)**, who outlasted Birney Blind (1183) in the evening's longest game, and **Ron Labrecque (939)** who defeated Mike Meekins (960).

The Reserve Section has a tight battle at the top with four players tied and only two rounds to go! **David Gongre (890)** took down Richard Watts (1181) to claim a share of the lead. **Ben Caiello (UNR)** scored his second win defeating Mark Acklie (945) and **Dan Caiello (UNR)** beat Mark Gay (UNR) to join the leaders at the top of the crosstable. **Dan Smith (920)** scored his second straight win taking the point from Marty Anderson (917) and **Cody Kyzer (690)** broke into the win column defeating Erik Anderson (589).

The current crosstable is [HERE](#).

Daniel Dodds turned in a fine performance at Denker Tournament of High School Champions scoring 2.5 points while facing 5 of 6 opponents who were rated higher than him.

The full crosstable is [HERE](#).

Round 4 of Ashland X will be on Thursday, Aug 13. **Registration ends at 7:15!!**. [Email](#), Call or text to register. Round starts at 7:30.

Scholastic players should check out [Chess Adventures](#). They will be having a Scholastic Tournament in Charlotte Aug 15 and there are plans for one in Columbia in September.

Thirty-nine players are registered for the [Columbia Open](#) that will be held Aug 21 - 23 and you can see the entry list [HERE](#).

07/30 - Twenty-two players compete in Round 2 of Ashland X. In the Open Section, **Chris Drake (1959)** scored his second win defeating Pat Cunningham (1603) before the seats were warmed up. **Paul Farb (1872)** kept pace by outlasting Russell Thurmond (1614) and Steve Boshears (1600) battled to a draw with George Morton (1535).

Ralph Buske (1408) scored the win over Birney Blind (1183) to share the lead in the Amateur Section at 2-0 with **Charle LaMarche (1173)** who defeated Ron Labrecque (939). Mike Mayfield (1431) hung tough and held the draw with Matt Wilson (1287). **Chris Labrecque (1313)** secured the point from Mike Meekins (960) and **Paul Lowry (1288)** found the win over Craig Patton (981).

The Reserve Section saw **Richard Watts (1181)** take his second straight win defeating Mark Acklie (945). **Dan Smith (920)** scored the point over Erik Anderson (589) and **Marty Anderson (917)** broke into the win column with a victory over Christian Dunlap (556).

Good Luck to Daniel Dodds who will be competing at the [Denker Tournament of High School Champions](#) in Indianapolis, IN from Aug 1 - 4.

The current crosstable is [HERE](#).

07/23 - Twenty-eight players for Round 1 of Ashland X as **Chris Drake (1959)** successfully defends Board 1 from Steve Boshears (1600) and **Paul Farb (1872)** added to his winning streak by defeating George Morton (1535). **Russell Thurmond (1614)** outlasted Erik Murrah (1469) as **Pat Cunningham (1603)** found the win over Ralph Buske (1408).

In the Amateur Section only **Birney Blind (1183)** was able to avoid the upset defeating Mike Meekins (960). **Charlie LaMarche (1173)** scored the upset win over Chris Labrecque (1313) and **Ron Labrecque (939)** secured the point over Paul Lowry (1288).

The Reserve Section had the largest showing with 14 players competing. **Richard Watts (1181)** scored the point over Erik Anderson (589) and **Craig Patton (981)**

posted the win over Christian Dunlap (556). **Mark Acklie (945)** won over R.B. Webb (365), **David Gongre (890)** picked up the point over Robert Webb (UNR) and **Ben Caiello (UNR)** won his first tournament game by defeating Cody Kyzer (690). **Daniel Caiello (UNR)** also scored his first win by taking the point from Marty Anderson (917) and **Mark Lewis (UNR)** takes a first round win over Dan Smith (920).

The current crosstable is [HERE](#).

Round 2 of Ashland X will be on Thursday, July 30. **Registration ends at 7:15!!**. [Email](#), Call or text to register. Round starts at 7:30.

Twenty-two players are registered for the [Columbia Open](#) that will be held Aug 21 - 23 and you can see the entry list [HERE](#).

07/16 - Nineteen players compete in Ashland Quick XII with **Philipp Lamby (2113)** winning the Championship Quad over Edsel Pena (2013) and James MacDougall (1956). **Paul Farb (1908)** takes the Candidates Section ahead of Pat Cunningham (1578) and Steve Boshears (1507) who both finished with 1.5 points . **George Morton (1422)** posted a perfect 3-0 winning the Amateur Quad as Erik Murrah (1339), Chris Labrecque (1241) and Charlie LaMarche (1238) all tied for second. The Reserve Quad was won by **Richard Watts (1128)** who was able to win the final round game over leader Dan Smith (809) in a wild time scramble. **Robert Webb (UNR)** was a perfect 3-0 to win the Novice Quad ahead of Christian Dunlap (676).

The final crosstable is [HERE](#).

Ashland X will begin Thursday, July 23. **Registration ends at 7:15!!**. [Email](#), Call or text to register. Round starts at 7:30.

James MacDougall's latest [What were they Thinking??!](#) is up and takes an entertaining look at his simul game with GM Kaidanov.

David Gongre has set the club up on [Facebook](#). Stop by next time your on there!

07/09 - **Paul Farb (1872)** posts a perfect 5-0 by defeating Steve Boshears (1600) in the final round winning our largest weekly tournament to date as 34 players competed in Ashland IX!! **James MacDougall (1936)** defeated Chris Labrecque (1313) to finish in second with 4 points. **Keith Eubanks (2040)** ground out the win

over Erik Murrah (1469) as **Russell Thurmond (1610)** secured the point from George Morton (1542). **Mike Mayfield (1447)** took the win over Dan Smith (UNR) and **Pat Cunningham (1603)** returned to the board after a long absence and won over Ralph Buske (1399).

Charlie LaMarche (1173) continued his impressive run winning the Amateur Section with a final round victory over co-leader Craig Patton (981). **Birney Blind (1183)** outlasted Richard Watts (1181) to take the point and finish in second. Christmas in July for **Mike Meekins (995)** who was down a Rook but scored the point over Paul Lowry (1219) proving again that you can't win by resigning!

Mark Acklie (945) won his fourth straight defeating leader Ron Labrecque (939) finishing in a tie for first in the Reserve Section. **Christian Dunlap (576)** posted the win over Cody Kyzer (739) as **Mark Gay (UNR)** scored a final round win over Erik Anderson (587). **David Gongre (880)** used good time management to win over Marty Anderson (951) and **R.B. Webb (365)** returned posting a win over new comer Will Shoemaker (UNR) closing out our largest round ever with 28 players competing this evening!

The final crosstable is [HERE](#).

Ashland Quick XII will be Thursday, July 16. **Registration ends at 7:15!!**. [Email](#), Call or text to register. Round 1 starts at 7:30

James MacDougall's latest [What were they Thinking??!!](#) is up and takes an entertaining look at his simul game with GM Kaidanov.

David Gongre has set the club up on [Facebook](#). Stop by next time your on there!

07/02 - Twenty players compete in the Penultimate Round of Ashland IX. **Paul Farb (1872)** stays perfect with a victory over Chris Labrecque (1313) and leads by 1 point. **James MacDougall (1936)** bounced back scoring the full point over George Morton (1542) and **Steve Boshears (1617)** scored the win over Ron Collins (1124) to stay 1 point off the lead. **Keith Eubanks (2042)** finally broke into the win column by defeating Ralph Buske (1399) to round out the Open Section.

In the Amateur Section, **Charlie LaMarche (1074)** shares the top spot after knocking off leader Birney Blind (1170) and **Craig Patton (981)** claimed a share of the lead by defeating Richard Watts (1196). **Dan Smith (UNR)** posted his first

point of the tournament with a win over Jeb Horton (UNR).

Ron Labrecque (801) stays in control of the Reserve Section by posting a win over Marty Anderson (951). **Mark Acklie (864)** scored his third straight win by defeating Erik Anderson (587) and trails the leader by one point. **Christian Dunlap (576)** scored the point over Mark Gay (UNR).

06/18 - Twenty-six players for Round 3 of Ashland IX as **Paul Farb (1891)** shocked everyone by not playing the Bird and moved into clear first by defeating James MacDougall (1936) on Board 1. **Steve Boshears (1617)** spotted a late game mistake by Erik Murrah (1483) to score the win and **Ron Collins (1124)** secured the point over Russell Thurmond (1610). Keith Eubanks (2042) was held to a draw by Mike Mayfield (1447) and **George Morton (1542)** broke into the win column defeating Ralph Buske (1399).

Birney Blind (1170) moved to the top in the Amateur Section by defeating Mike Meekins (995) as Paul Lowry (1219) and Charlie LaMarche (1074) settled peacefully falling a .5 point off the pace. **Craig Patton (UNR)** scored his second straight win by defeating David Gongre (880) and **Richard Watts (1196)** posted his first point with a victory over Dan Smith (UNR).

In the Reserve Section, **Ron Labrecque (801)** moved into clear first with a win over James Cook (UNR). **Marty Anderson (951)** secured the point over Mark Gay (UNR) and **Mark Acklie (864)** picked up the point over Christian Dunlap (576). **Cody Kyzer (739)** posted the win over Erik Anderson (587) in the section's final game.

Round 4 will be July 2. NO ROUND NEXT WEEK!! IM Danny Kopec visits next week.

The current crosstable is [HERE](#).

Round 4 is Thursday, July 2. **Registration ends at 7:15.** [Email](#), Call or text to register.

[GM Gregory Kaidanov](#) will visit Barnes & Noble on Harbison, Tuesday June 23.

Lecture/Q&A beginning at 6:00 p.m.

Simultaneous Exhibition beginning at 7:00 p.m.

Followed by a four-man Blitz Simul (names drawn from hat)

Followed by a one-man Blindfold Blitz game (name drawn from hat)
\$10 donation to SC Scholastic Chess appreciated.

BARNES & NOBLE Booksellers
278-A Harbison Blvd.
Columbia, SC 29212

Contact: [David Grimaud](#)

[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. You do not have to be a club member to attend or play. Seats are still available for the simul. Contact [Erik Murrah](#) to register for the simul.

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

06/11 - A single round record of 26 players for Round 2 of Ashland IX! James MacDougall (1936) keeps control of Board 1 by defeating Steve Boshears (1617). Paul Farb (1891) was able to secure the point over Ron Collins (1124) and Chris Labrecque (1150) scored a big upset for the second week in a row, this time defeating Keith Eubanks (2042) in a wild time pressure scramble creating a three way tie at the top! Russell Thurmond (1610) broke into the win column scoring the point over Ralph Buske (1399) and Erik Murrah (1483) claimed the point over George Morton (1542). In the Amateur Section, Paul Lowry (1219) and Birney Blind (1170) settled peacefully in the evening's only draw. Pani Wickramasinghe (1388) returned to the board and defeated Mike Meekins (995) while Charlie Lamarche (1074) took advantage of an early miscue by Richard Watts (1196) creating a four way tie at the top with 1.5 points. In a battle of newer club members, Craig Patton (981) defeated Dan Smith (UNR) in the section's final game. It was a good night to have White in The Reserve Section as all Generals in command of the White army were victorious. James Cook (UNR) found his way to victory over Marty Anderson (951) and Ron Labrecque (801) defeated Mark Gay (UNR) to create a two way tie at the top. Mark Acklie (864) was able to outlast Jeb Horton (UNR) and Christian Dunlap (576) defeated Meaghan Lamarche (UNR).

The current crosstable is [HERE](#).

Round 3 is Thursday, June 18. Registration ends at 7:15. Email, Call or text to register

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 Tuppale (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 Tuppale (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 Tupple (741) and Ron Labrecque (828) scored the win over Meghan LaMarche (UNR). Charlie LaMarche (UNR) defeated Mark Acklie (896) and Sunil Tupple (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.

3/26 - Current State Champion **Philipp Lamby (2241)** defeats '04 State Champion and defending Club Champion Keith Eubanks (2067) to win the **2009 Columbia Chess Club Championship!** **Edsel Pena (2038)** scored a final round win over Steve Boshears (1782) and finished tied for second with **James MacDougall (1941)** who, for the second week in a row, showed up well prepared for his opponent's opening and took the point from Paul Farb (1859). **Matt Wilson (1151)** held off Ralph Buske (1421) to finish in a three way tie for **Top U1600** with **Erik Murrah (1425)**, who made the second to last mistake in his game with Birney Blind (1178) and **Paul Potylicki (1425)** who escaped with a draw against Russell Thurmond (1601). Paul Lowry (1309) came to peaceful terms with Richard Watts (1094) as **Mike Mayfield (1471)** snuck by Gautham Tuppale (344). **Charlie Lamarche (UNR)** defeated Jared Ott (954) to claim the Top UNR trophy ahead of **Craig Patton (UNR)** who scored the point over Mark Acklie (896). Chris Labrecque (1009) took down Ron Labrecque (819) in the evening's last game. Congratulations to all the winners!

The final crosstable can be found [HERE](#).

The [State Champion of Champions](#) tournament starts this weekend to decide the final slot for the [US Championships](#). New Club Champion Philipp Lamby is qualified to compete in this tournament.

A handful of new players made it out tonight and an Unrated Quick Quad was held with **Sean Miller** scoring 2.5 points to finish first ahead of Christian Dunlap (2 Points), Daniel Smith (1.5 points) and Jeb Horton.

The latest installment of [The Weak Square](#) is now available as well as the latest

What were they thinking?!

Next week, April 2, is Casual Night so come out for an evening of *Stress Free* chess!!

Good Luck to all Cola Club members competing at the Sr. & Adult Open and the Reverse Angle tournaments this weekend!

Thank you Everyone!! -BH

3/19 - Philipp Lamby (2241) takes the lead with one round to go by defeating leader Paul Farb (1859)! There is now a six way tie for second led by **Keith Eubanks (2067)** who defeated Erik Murrah (1425) and trails by a .5 point. **Edsel Pena (2038)** bounced back with a win over Ralph Buske (1421) and **James MacDougall (1941)** used a little home preparation to take the point from Paul Lowry (1309). **Daniel Dodds (1799)** pulled a "Houdini" to escape with the point over a hard fighting Matt Wilson (1151) and **Steve Boshears (1782)** outlasted Birney Blind (1178) to round out the second place tie. **Russell Thurmond (1601)** secured the point over Gautham Tuppale (344) while **Paul Potylicki (1425)** survived against David Gongre (882). **Richard Watts (1094)** found the path to victory over Mark Acklie (896) as Chris Labrecque (1009) and Charlie LaMarche (UNR) came to peaceful terms in the evening's only draw. **Mike Meekins (929)** threw everything, including the kitchen sink at Craig Patton (UNR) and was able to secure the full point in the end. **Jason Arthur (1381)** returned to the board after a long hiatus and defeated Anthony LaMarche (UNR) and **Jared Ott (954)** scored the win over Christian Dunlap (UNR).

Twenty six players competed in Round 4 making it our largest round to date! The **Thirty** players competing in the Championship ties our largest tournament!

With one round to go the chase for the trophies looks like this:

1st - Philipp Lamby - 3.5 points

2nd - Eubanks, Pena, MacDougall, Farb, Dodds & Boshears - 3 points

Top U1600 - Paul Potylicki - 2.5 points

Top Jr. - Daniel Dodds - 3 points

Top UNR - Charlie LaMarche - 1.5 points.

3/12 - Paul Farb (1859) wrestled Board 1 away from co-leader Edsel Pena (2038) and now stands alone at the top with 3 points! **Philipp Lamby (2241)** moved into

clear second with 2.5 points by defeating Daniel Dodds (1799) on Board 2. **Eleven** players are now tied for third with 2 points! A late arriving Keith Eubanks (2067) was held to a draw by James MacDougall (1941) as Steve Boshears (1782) lost his way under time pressure against a stubbornly defending Russell Thurmond (1601) who salvaged the .5 point. **Erik Murrah (1425)** converted an opening advantage into a full point by defeating Chris Labrecque (1009). **Ralph Buske (1421)** ground out a win over Richard Watts (1094) and **Paul Lowry (1309)** secured the point from Mike Meekins (929). **Birney Blind (1178)** scored his second straight win with a victory over Craig Patton (UNR). **Matt Wilson (1151)** was the last one standing in a see-saw battle with Charlie LaMarche (UNR) and **Gautham Tuppale (344)** joined the two point score group with a win over Jared Ott (954). **Mark Acklie (896)** broke into the win column picking up the point from Christian Dunlap (UNR) and **David Gongre (882)** took the full point from Ron Labrecque (819).

After three rounds the chase for the trophies looks like this:

1st - Paul Farb - 3 points

2nd - Philipp Lamby - 2.5 points

Top U1600 - Erik Murrah, Ralph Buske, Paul Lowry, Birney Blind, Matt Wilson & Gautham Tuppale tied with 2 points.

Top Jr. - Daniel Dodds & Gautham Tuppale tied with 2 points.

Top UNR - Charlie LaMarche & Craig Patton tied with 1 point.

The current crosstable is [HERE](#).

The Penultimate Round is Thursday, March 12.

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 Tuppale (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.