

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA'S PREMIER CHESS MAGAZINE

# RANK & FILE

*SUPERSTATES 2022*  
NM TOMMY WEN WINS



*NEW CHESS PRODIGIES*  
NON-PROFIT RAISES \$16,000+

*TOP CLUB SPOTLIGHT*  
SAN DIEGO CHESS CLUB

*AN ICONIC HISTORY*  
THE STAUNTON CHESS SET



SPRING 2022

# OVER THE BOARD

Cover Courtesy of Shirley Chen

*SCCF's Board Leads  
the Way for Chess in  
Southern California*

## Rank File Staff

Editor in Chief: *Dylan Quercia*

Publisher: *Southern California Chess Federation*

Photography: *Brian C Glover & Shirley Wen*

## Contributors

*Chuck Ensey*

*Tommy Wen*

*Shreyas Sakbarkar*

*Brian C Glover*



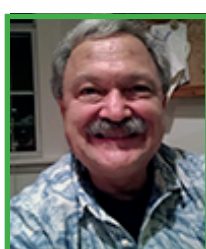
*PRESIDENT*

*STEVE MORFORD*



*VICE PRESIDENT*

*ABHISHEK KYLASA*



*SECRETARY*

*KEITH MARTIN*



*TREASURER*

*POOJA KYLASA*



*MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY*

*JIM MENNELLA*



*BOARD MEMBER*

*CHUCK ENSEY*



*BOARD MEMBER*

*DEWAIN BARBER*



*BOARD MEMBER*

*DYLAN QUERCIA*



*BOARD MEMBER*

*SEAN MANROSS*



*BOARD MEMBER*

*BRIAN GLOVER*



*BOARD MEMBER*

*JONNEY MACHTIG*



*BOARD MEMBER*

*JAMES HARRELL*

## EDITOR'S CORNER

This truly is an exciting time to be a chess player in Southern California. I am elated to announce the formation of Chess Prodigies, the first So Cal based non-profit dedicated solely to fundraising and distribution of scholarships for chess students. This is a labor of love with an all volunteer board and myself as the volunteer-Director. We were able to raise over \$16,000 in funds thus far and have already offered two, \$3000 scholarships at this year's Super States (See the full list of winners later in this issue!). These hard working scholarship winners will be joined by their fellow champions and alternates to represent Southern California at the National Invitationals. This is all happening in beautiful Palm Springs alongside the prestigious 122nd US Open! And, on the local level, the Chess Club of Los Angeles is running weekly chess events and filming wild, gambit-themed blitz every Wednesday on twitch.tv/evergreenchess channel. Chess

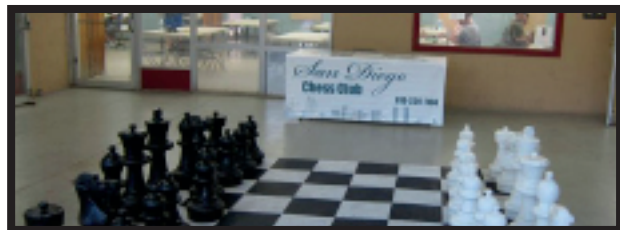
is everywhere and certainly booming! And, have some fun with this puzzle that pushed me over 3000 on my absolutely meaningless chess.com puzzle rating. You can find the answer on Pg 3.





# SPOTLIGHT ON SAN DIEGO

By Chuck Ensey



Chess in San Diego has been experiencing a boom in popularity and no one knows for sure how it all started or how long it will last. It seems likely that the pandemic had something to do with it - everyone stuck at home, looking for something to do and chess popped up on the radar screen for many people. Then the movie "The Queen's Gambit" generated a lot of attention, becoming the most popular show on Netflix. Online chess took off like never before. But people crave to play face to face and so when clubs began to open again, even with masks being mandatory, attendance shot up and the San Diego Chess Club was right there in the thick of it, setting up tournaments (especially the famous Gambito Open) long before most other clubs re-opened. Attendance at the SDCC has never been higher, with the weekly Saturday Gambito Open regularly drawing 40 or more players and often even over 50.

This event has been going on for more than 20 years and has developed a great reputation for good competition for all levels of play, from beginner to Master. We just played #967 in the long running series and look forward to Gambito Open #1,000 early next year. Players come from a long distance to attend; we often get quite a few players that drive all the way down from LA, and even some from Arizona or Nevada. At the Gambito, all the money is returned to the players in prizes except for a small club fee of \$75 and a similar amount to the tournament director (depending on the number of players attending). We are also famous for using the McMahon pairing system on occasion, it is a form of accelerated pairings that helps players compete with someone near their own level instead of having big rating mis-matches in the first round.

Besides our Gambito Open event the club plays on Wednesday nights at 7 PM, and there the attendance has

also been great. We currently have over 80 players in the Club Championship event and it seems every week we get a new unrated player or two that want to join in. The club meets at 2225 Sixth Avenue San Diego CA 92101, between Ivy and Juniper in Balboa Park (right on the edge of the park). On Wednesday we play one game a night and usually it is a six-week event, but sometimes 5 weeks or 7 weeks.

The club is also known for sponsoring big weekend events at hotels all over Southern California during many 3-day weekends such as The Southern California Open in September, The Dreaming King Open in January and the Pacific Southwest Open over the 4th of July weekend (see tla in Chess Life online). Smaller events are also held at the club, like the San Diego County Championship and the Senior/Junior Open. Please see the SCCF webpage at [scchess.com](http://scchess.com) for tournament details and a convenient online signup.

Lately our scholastic program has also been taking off, with hundreds of youngsters eager to play under the direction of Irina Nizmutdinova. She was just elected to our board recently and has done a fabulous job getting the new program off the ground after several years of hiatus. The following new club officers were also just elected: President: Chuck Ensey, Vice President: David Saponara, Treasurer: Jim Harrell, Secretary: Joel Batchelor, Sargent-At-Arms: Mark Lawless, Members-At-Large: Jonathan Frye and Irina Nizmutdinova. If you have never been to our club, you really owe it to yourself to come check us out, it is a very nice playing hall and we pride ourselves on creating great playing conditions (quiet, good lighting and good sportsmanship is stressed). We often get players from out of state who are just visiting and looking for a game so we try our best to accommodate whoever drops by, just give us a little advance notice at our club number 619-752-4377 or you can also text Chuck Ensey at 858-432-8006. Also check out our website, at [sandiegochessclub.org](http://sandiegochessclub.org) for a calendar of events and recent tournament results. Jim Harrell is our main Tournament Director and gets help from several other club members who pitch in when needed. The future of chess looks bright and we are all very happy about this!

# SUPERSTATES 2022 A RINGING SUCCESS

By Tommy Wen

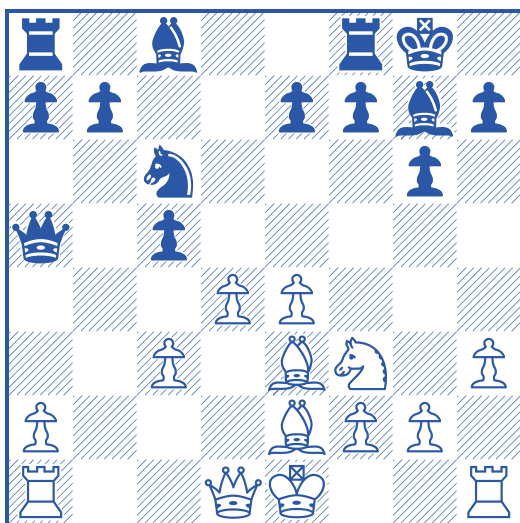


NM Tommy Wen analyzes a game from Super States 2022

**Tommy, Wen (2201) - Brandon, Xie (2215)**  
**SuperStates 2022, 03.26.2022**

**1.d4** This was a crucial round in the event, and I am currently tied for first place with four other players with a perfect 2–0 record. Because the competition's first seed lost in the second round, I knew I needed to win this round to have a chance to win the championship. Since I generally play 1. e4, I decided to surprise my opponent with 1. d4

**1...Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 d5 4.cxd5 Nxd5 5.e4 Nxc3 6.bxc3 Bg7 7.Nf3 c5 8.h3 0–0 9.Be2 Nc6 10.Be3 Qa5?!**



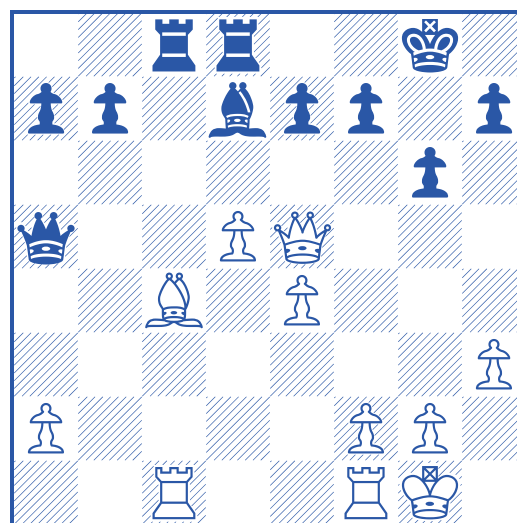
This move does not appeal to me; I believe Qa5 is mostly intended to force a queen trade after 11. Qd2

cx d4 12. cxd4 Qxd2+. White, on the other hand, is not obligated to play Qd2 in this position. 10...cx d4 11.cxd4 f5 I believe this thematic pawn break is the most accurate continuation for Black, trying to break White's perfect central pawns. (Editor's Note: 11...Qa5+ seems to work now with dynamic equality 11...Qa5+ 12.Bd2 Qa3 13.d5 Ne5 14.Rb1 Nxf3+ 15.Bxf3 Qxa2)

**11.0–0! Rd8** If Black tries to win a pawn with 11...Qxc3?! 12.Rc1 Qa5 13.Rxc5 Qxa2 14.d5 Ne5 15.Nd4 I would have a huge positional initiative, as White is threatening f4 and Rc7. **12.d5!** White keeps his central supremacy by surrendering a pawn, and White can quickly reclaim the pawn because Black's c5 pawn lacks support. **12...Bxc3 13.Rc1 Nd4!** Black's best option. If Black tries to hold on to the pawn with 13...b6? Then White has a nice little trick: 14.Rxc3! Qxc3 15.Bd2 Qf6 16.dxc6

**14.Nxd4 Bxd4 15.Bxd4 cxd4 16.Qxd4 Bd7 17.Bc4?!** 17.Qb2 I should have used my development advantage right away and launched an attack on the kingside with h4–h5–h6. 17...b6 18.h4 Rac8 19.h5 Rxc1 20.Rxc1 Rc8 21.Rxc8+ Bxc8 22.h6 f6 23.Qc1 Qc5 24.Qxc5 bxc5 25.f4! Editor's Note: To the untrained eye this ending seems equal but the h7–pawn is fixed on a light square and the d-pawn will soon become a passed pawn +

**17...Rac8 18.Qe5**





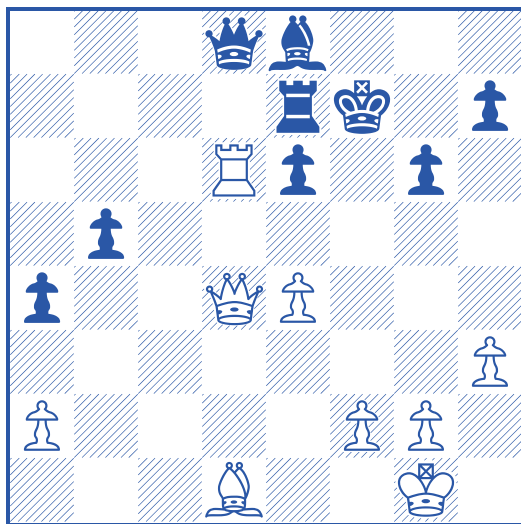
Trying to bait out ...e6

**18...e6?** It would be better to protect the pawn on e7 with 18...Qa3= And now I have to consider...b5, which threatens to win a piece.

**19.Qf6 Re8?** My advantage becomes evident after this move, as Black is left with an isolated pawn on e6 and a weakened kingside. 19...Qb6 is better, meeting dxe6 with Bxe6

**20.dxe6 fxe6 [20...Bxe6?? 21.Bxe6 fxe6 22.Rxc8 21.Rfd1 Qd8 22.Qd4 b5 23.Bb3 Rxc1 24.Rxc1 a5 25.Rd1 Re7 26.Qa7?!** At first this move may seem normal, pinning the bishop and preventing the queen from escaping the pin by attacking the a5 pawn. White also threatens Bxe6 winning a pawn. However I overlooked Black's reply...

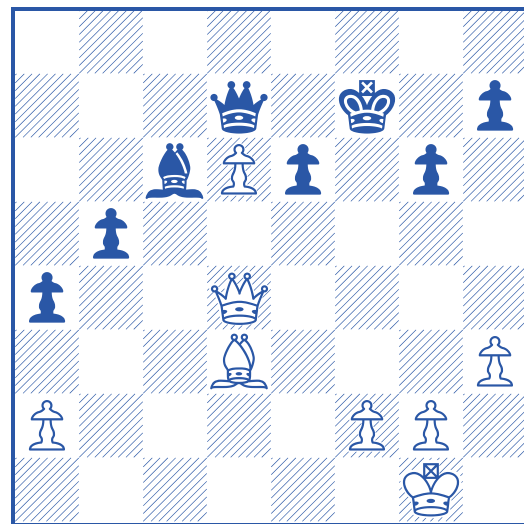
**26...Kf7!** Defending against Bxe6+. **27.Rd6?!** 27.Qd4 Surprisingly this strange queen retreat is the best option for White, since Black was planning to break free from the pin with Bc6 **27...a4 28.Bd1 Be8 29.Qd4**



**29...Rd7??** In my opinion the mistake that cost Black the game. After, 29...Qc7 Black would be close to equality.

**30.e5 Rxd6 31.exd6** Now White has a newly created advantage in the form of the d6 passed pawn.

**31...Bc6 32.Be2 Qd7 33.Bd3?**



Seemingly a normal move, threatening h4–h5 to attack the g6 pawn, but Black now has the opportunity for a counterattack

**33...Kg8?** 33...e5!! 34.Qxe5 Qe6 35.Qh8 (35.Qxe6+? Kxe6) 35...Qxd6 36.Qxh7+ Kf8 37.Qxg6 Qxg6 38.Bxg6 b4 39.Bc2 Bd5= A three-pawn endgame against a bishop arises, but my pawns are still in the first and second ranks, giving Black time to defend against them. Editor's Note: 33.Qe5 was necessary to block the e-pawn.

**34.h4 Bd5 35.Qc5 Qc6 36.Qb4 36.Qxb5 Qxd6 37.Qxa4 Bxg2= 36...Bc4?** Losing immediately, however other options would not have saved Black. 36...Bxa2 37.Bxb5 Qc1+ 38.Kh2 Qc8 39.d7 Qd8 40.Qf4 Threatening Qg5 and Black cannot stop White's pawn from promoting. **37.Bxc4 bxc4 38.Qb8+ Kf7 39.Qc7+** Black resigned, after ...Qxc7 40. dxc7 White's pawn promotes faster. **1–0**

Six seats on the SCCF Executive Board are up for election this summer. If you are interested in serving on the Executive Board, please write the Elections Board at: 4892 Silver Spur Lane, Yorba Linda, CA 92886 or e-mail garden909@aol.com The call for nominations will close May 20, 2022.

*Puzzle Rating 3000 Answer from Editor's Corner -*  
**1.Qa8+ Kd7 2.Bb5+ c6 3.Bxc6+! bxc6 4.Qxc6#**





# THE ICONIC STAUNTON SET

By Brian C Glover

In the long history of chess there have been innumerable designs of the sets used to play the game. Some were quite beautiful, some incredibly ornate and expensive. Others were confusing and difficult to discern one piece from the other. Many sets were unwieldy or fragile. These many problems were resolved in 1849 with the collaboration of Nathaniel Cooke, Howard Staunton and John Jaques. The result being a set with instantly recognizable pieces that handled well, were durable and relatively inexpensive.

Nathaniel Cooke was the editor of the Illustrated London News and a publisher with Ingram, Cooke & Company. Cooke's design of the new set was probably influenced by the neo classical architecture in London with Greek and Roman Designs. The knight was similar to the stallions seen in Greek Marbles. The deep bishops mitre, the kings crown, the queens coronet the castle with six crenallations and the pawns were designs familiar to contemporary Victorians.



*John Jaques used Staunton's fame to promote his new set*

John Jaques and Sons was founded in 1795 and is the oldest games company in existence for six generations from father to sons. After manufacturing the new chess set in 1849 they were famous for their popular croquet game.

Howard Staunton was then, since his victory over French Champion Pierre de St. Amant in a 1843 match, considered to be the world champion and was the most famous player in the world. John Jaques wisely used the Staunton Name to promote his new set and



*The Full set of Staunton Chess Pieces in all its glory*

Staunton did his part with sixteen weekly columns in the Illustrated London News starting in September 1849. "In the simplicity and elegance of their form, combining apparent lightness with real solidity, in the nicety of their proportions one with another, so that in the most intricate positions every piece stands out distinctively, neither hidden nor overshadowed by its fellows. The Staunton Chessmen are incomparably superior to any others we have ever seen." Whew, Staunton wrote over fourteen hundred ILN columns and a three volume twenty four hundred page series on Shakespeare.

I referenced the excellent catalog from the World Chess Hall of Fame's 2018 exhibition *The Staunton Standard, Evolution Of The Modern Chess Set* with a fine essay by Jon Crumiller. Crumiller provided sets from his collection for that exhibition. I also relied on Alan Fersht's superb *Jaques and British Chess Company Chess Sets* and Gareth Williams fine book *Master Pieces*.



*The "Lasker" knight circa 1880 Jaques Set*

# FIRST PERSON PERSPECTIVE

By Shreyas Sakharkar

SuperStates this year was a blast! I love playing chess, and SuperStates offers me a chance to play with people that are much stronger than me. Even though it was online this year, I learned a lot from playing those with more experience, and I also had fun with friends reviewing our games from the tournament. I did very well for my section (K-12 Championship), and ended up drawing and even winning against several people much stronger than me. In Round 3, I was playing against Elbert Zhang, who is rated about 400 rating points higher than me. I blundered in a rook and pawn endgame with a fatal miscalculation, leaving me with three isolated passed pawns each halfway down the board. But, I had a major problem; I couldn't prevent him from promoting his lone pawn into a Queen. With ten minutes on the clock, I formulated a plan to exchange rooks and try to draw the losing Queen vs three pawns endgame. Elbert played accurately, but at one point, he blundered by allowing me to move my king to the corner... And, with a bishop pawn, I secured a draw. This was probably my most exciting game of the tournament. Meanwhile, from my losses, I learned that I still have much to improve on. I plan to work a lot harder for next year, when SuperStates will be in person!

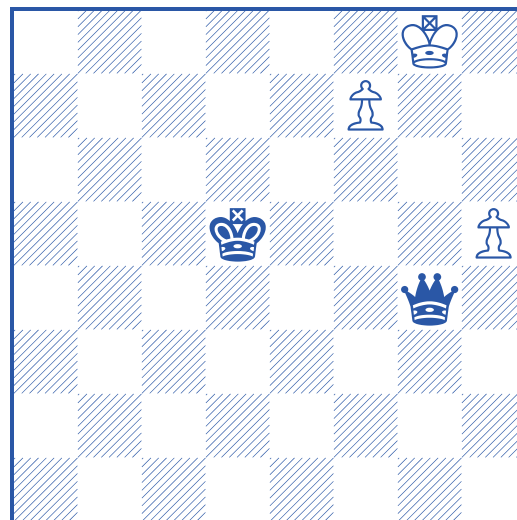
**Sakharkar, Shreyas (1820) - Zhang, Elbert (2218)**  
**Chess.com, 03.26.2022**

1.d4 Nf6 2.Bf4 g6 3.Nc3 Bg7 4.e4 d6 5.Qd2 a6 6.Bh6 0-0 7.0-0-0 b5 8.Bxg7 Kxg7 9.h4 h5 10.f3 Nc6 11.Nd5 e5 12.Ne2 Nxd5 13.exd5 Nxd4 14.Nxd4 exd4 15.Qxd4+ Qf6 16.c4 b4 17.b3 Re8 18.Qxf6+ Kxf6 19.Bd3 Bf5 20.Kd2 Ke5 21.g3 Kd4 22.Bxf5 gxf5 23.Rhe1 Re5 24.Kc2+ Kc5 25.Rxe5 dxe5 26.Kd3 a5 27.Rg1 a4 28.g4 axb3 29.axb3 hxg4 30.fxg4 Ra3 31.gxf5 Rxb3+ 32.Ke4 f6

33.Rg6 33.Rg7! Kd6 34.Rf7

33...Rc3 34.Rxf6 b3 35.Kxe5 b2 36.Rc6+ Kb4 37.Rxc7 Rb3 38.Rb7+ Kxc4 39.Rxb3 Kxb3 40.f6 b1Q 41.h5 Kc4 42.f7 Qb8+ 43.Kf6 Qf8 44.d6 Kd5 45.d7 Qd8+?? 45...Kd6-+

46.Kg7 Qxd7 47.Kg8 Qg4+



48.Kh7! Qf5+ 49.Kg7 Qg5+ 50.Kh7 Qf6 51.Kg8 Qg5+ 52.Kh7 Qxh5+ 53.Kg8 Qg6+ 54.Kh8

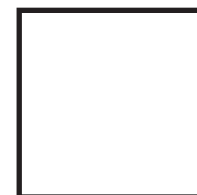
Game drawn by agreement 1/2-1/2

## Full List of SupersStates 2022 Winners

- \$3,000 Chess Prodigies Scholarship - NM Tommy Wen
- \$3,000 Chess Prodigies Scholarship - Ellie Zhang
- K-12 Champion: Tommy Wen, Arcadia, Grade 9
- 2nd Place (Alt): Brandon Xie, Chino Hills Grade 10
- Top Girls in K-12: Ellie Zhang, Highland Hills, Grade 9
- 2nd Place (Alt): Avery Yu, Woodland Hills, Grade 7
- K-8 Champion: Suren Mikoyan, Santa Clarita, Grade 8
- 2nd Place (Alternate): Sihan Tao, Irvine, Grade 7
- K-5 Champion: Benjamin B. Tang, San Diego, Grade 5
- 2nd Place (Alternate): Oliver Hsiao
- K-3 Champion: Jacob Wang, Diamond Bar, Grade 2
- K-1 Champion: Andrew Chang, S. Pasadena, Grade 1
- K-12 JV Winner: Gagik Gary Grigoryan
- K-8 JV Winner: Gavin Tjpto
- K-6 JV Winner: Kellen Lee
- K-3 JV Winners in tiebreak order:
  - 1st: Luco Kashper
  - 2nd: Jiashuo Wang
  - 3rd: Peter Wardlow



SCCF  
4892 SILVER SPUR LN.  
YORBA LINDA CA 92886



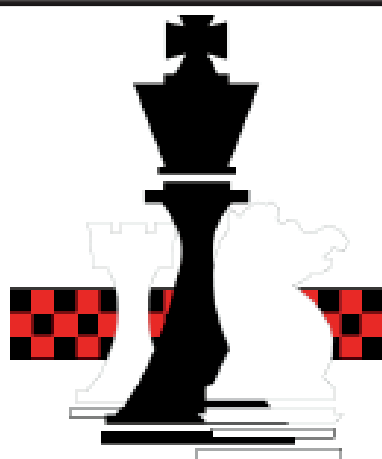
2022 Lina Grumette

# Memorial Day Classic

May 28-30, 2022

## \$10,000 Prize Fund!

(based on 200 players, 50% of each prize guaranteed)



### Open

1st: \$1700 + T  
2nd-5th: \$750-\$400-\$300-\$200  
U2400: \$400  
U2200: \$700-\$300-\$200

### Premier

(Under 2000)  
\$750-\$300-\$200-\$100

### Amateur

(Under 1800)  
\$750-\$300-\$200-\$100

### Reserve

(Under 1600)  
\$750-\$300-\$200-\$100

### Booster

(U1400/unr)  
U1400 \$400-\$200-\$100  
U1200 \$150 Unrated \$150

### TownePlace Suites Marriott

10336 Richardson Street, Loma Linda, CA 92354

Six Rounds — Swiss System

3-day schedule 40/100, SD/60, d/10

2-day schedule rounds 1-3 G/60, d/2

### Entry Fees:

\$90 if received by 5/23, \$100 after 5/23

Booster (U1400/unr): \$75 by 5/23, \$85 after 5/23

On-line entry: [www.sccchess.com](http://www.sccchess.com)

SCCF membership required (Adults \$20, Under 18 - \$15)

### Sold Out!

~~HR: \$169 TownePlace Suites Marriott, comp breakfast or~~

~~\$159 Holiday Inn, comp breakfast (909) 796-1001~~

~~Request MDC Rate, reserve 5/17, FREE Parking / Wifi~~

**On-Site Registration:** ends 9:30 a.m. 5-28 (3-day),  
ends 8:30 a.m. 5-29 (2-day)

**Rounds:** 3-day 10-5 Sat. & Sun, 9:30-4:30 Mon; 2-day  
9-11:30-2 Sunday (G/60, d/2), then merge with 3-day at 5

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

Rating \_\_\_\_\_ USCF ID# \_\_\_\_\_ USCF Exp \_\_\_\_\_

Byes: (max 1 w/ half pt) ☐ 01 ☐ 02 ☐ 03 ☐ 04 ☐ 05 ☐ 06

Schedule: ☐ 03-day ☐ 02-day

Section: ☐ Open (\$88) ☐ Action Swiss (\$20)  
☐ Premier (\$88) ☐ Hexes (\$21)  
☐ Amateur (\$88) ☐ Scholastic K12 Open(\$16)  
☐ Reserve (\$88) ☐ Scholastic K6/U1000(\$16)

Amount Enclosed: Entry Fees \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
USCF Dues \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
SCCF Dues \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Make checks payable to: Southern California Chess Federation, 4892 Silver Spur Lane, Yorba Linda, CA 92886**

