

DETAILED PRESIDENT'S REPORT of the FY 2008-2009 of the RVCC.

(Given on 09-19-09 by club President Russell Potter.)

I } MISC. ISSUES .

a) Walter Muir Fund Grant Renewal Made.

The Board of Directors of the Roanoke Valley Chess Club was pleased to announce that the Foundation for the Roanoke Valley renewed its annual grant of \$500.00 to the club for the purpose of promoting the playing of chess in the community, with its attendant educational, social and recreational benefits. The club was notified by the Foundation of the renewal on September 20, 2009. This funding is made possible through a grant made to the club by noted chess player, philanthropist and RVCC member, the late Walter Muir of Salem, Va. He established this fund almost a decade ago through the Foundation, who administers the fund. Its formal title is The Dorothy S. and Walter Muir Memorial Fund.

We appreciate the efforts of both the Foundation and its Director, Mr. Alan Ronk, for their support of the Roanoke Valley Chess Club and its work in the promotion of chess and its many benefits to residents of the Roanoke Valley.

The club holds an annual event in honor of the memory of Mr. Muir.

b) Web Page. Our current Web Master is Martin Cooperson. Currently, we are very pleased with our Web Page. It has a streamlined look, with a smooth navigation system in place. Board member Josh Lilly designed the new format and has been of invaluable help in co-coordinating all aspects of it with the folks doing the work. Rusty Potter has been co-coordinating content updating of the page. Thanks to all of these guys for a great Web Page effort !

c) Local chess players e-mail Contact List Updating. We now have a list of over 220 contacts within a 1.5 hour drive of the club. This has been due in large part to the creation of a new R.V.C.C. Database Contacts List based on the Microsoft program ACCESS. This effort was spearheaded by Rusty Potter, with technical assistance being given by both Martin Cooperson and Josh Lilly.

II } ACTIVITIES

a) 2008 Chess Club Picnic & Speed Tournament Report Saturday, October 25.

The chess club held a combination PICNIC and informal SPEED tournament in the Pavilion at Fallon Park. Vice President Donnie Doyle was in charge of the picnic, while club Treasurer Josh Lilly ran the speed tournament. The event started at 12 noon and lasted into the evening. A number of club members attended both the picnic and the speed tournament.

There were also a good number of passers-by that stopped by or sat in on the festivities. A jolly good time was had by one and all!

b) 2008 Frank Creasey Memorial Saturday, November 8.

The Roanoke Valley Chess Club, as part of its series of Grand Prix tournaments honoring members key to its existence and success, put on a memorial tournament for former member Frank Creasey. Frank directed many tournaments for the club during the 1970's and 1980's and ultimately donated most of his chess library to the club. We also spoke with Frank's widow Sharon, who was moved by the ceremony. Frank's good nature and infectious sense of humor is sorely missed.

This tournament was held on in the Fellowship Hall of the Virginia Heights Baptist Church, Roanoke, Virginia. The tournament consisted of two sections, played in three rounds. The time control was Game in 90 Minutes with a 5 second delay. The on-site Tournament Director was RVCC President Russell Potter. Chris Moore served as Assistant T.D.

c) 2009 Tons of Fun. Saturday, Feb. 7.

This annual event is sponsored by the Roanoke County Dept. of Recreation. It was held at Tanglewood Mall. It is aimed at children under 12 and features a number of games, displays and misc. fun-filled activities, such as finger and face-painting, balloon - blowing, talking to clowns, etc. etc. The club set up chess tables here and played many passers-by. The great majority of chess playing participants were older family members of the young children who were participating in kiddie activities. We passed out a number of club cards. The event was we think, a modest success as a membership builder.

d) Winter Seasonal Special. Saturday, February 21st.

This Grand Prix tournament was held on in the Fellowship Hall of the Virginia Heights Baptist Church in Roanoke, Virginia. The Championship Section came with a value of 6 USCF Grand Prix points, with ALL MONEY GUARANTEED! The tournament consisted of two sections, played in three rounds. The time control was Game in 90 Minutes with a 5 second delay. The on-site Tournament Director was Robert Steinmetz. Mike Huff served as Assistant T.D.

e) March Saturday Seasonal Special. Saturday, March 14.

This Game in 20 minutes Quick Chess tournament was a round-Robin event, with ALL entries being returned as prizes !

f) April Saturday Seasonal Special. Saturday, April 11.

Since the March event Game / 20 event was well-received, it was followed by a Game / 30 minutes event held in April. This tournament was also a Round-Robin event, with ALL entries being returned as prizes ! A number of the players recorded their moves in order to get some training practice for the MUIR MEMORIAL Grand Prix tournament, which was held on May 16.

g) Club Challenge Ladder. April 25 – August 8.

In late April, the club decided to resurrect our Club Challenge Ladder. The Ladder Director was Richard White, who has expressed interest in continuing in that role. Richard has been assisted generally by Mike Huff. Russell Potter has directed the ladder events on the second Saturday of each month. The ladder winners were posted on the club's web page. Both cash prizes as well as trophies to the winners of the Summer Ladder were awarded by Richard White at the Bill Bochman Memorial on August 15. The Ladder Games were played every Saturday at the club's regular headquarters at the Roanoke Natural Foods Coffee Shop from 1:00 - 6:00 pm.

Prizes were being offered for the following :

First Place, Second Place, Third Place, Top Amateur, Top Upset and Most Games Played. Entry into the Ladder was only : \$13.00 for Non-Club members and only \$10.00 for Club members and kids under 13 years old.

h) Festival in the Park. Saturday, May 24 and Sunday, May 25.

Festival this year was well-attended, and was visited by more than 500 people over two days. Approx. 12 people's names were added to the club e-mail events list. Special thanks are due to Donnie and Daryl Doyle, Richard White, Mike Huff and others for their help setting up. National Master Russell Potter once again did the Beat the Master contest in the park for us this year at no charge. This year, Festival was held over the Memorial Day weekend. As always, the Chess Club was featured at the top of the picturesque hill in historic Elmwood Park. Elmwood Park is at the corner of Jefferson Street and Elm Ave. in downtown Roanoke. This event was part of the Roanoke Valley Chess Club's ongoing commitment to promote chess in the region, and was open to the public free of charge.

i) Grandin Village Block Party. Sunday, May 31.

From 2:00 pm until 5:00 pm, the Roanoke Valley Chess Club participated in the Grandin Village Block Party. This annual event is sponsored jointly by the Raleigh Court Civic League, and merchants and organizations in and around the Grandin Village area. This event is a one-day, fun-filled, public celebration of the organizations, neighbors and businesses of the Grandin Village area and their friends and supporters.

The event was held on Grandin Road, between Memorial Ave. and Westover Ave. SW. This long block was blocked off from traffic so that the participants would have a safe area in which to celebrate.

The club had several tables for chess playing by the general public set up in the middle of the block. We also passed out basic information club cards at these tables. These tables saw a lot of activity!

j) Vinton 4th of July Celebration. Saturday, July 4.

The club celebrated the 4th of July at the Vinton War Memorial park. Many people came out to the heart of Vinton for the evening festivities. There were nice bright lights on so that we didn't have to play in the dark ! In addition to having fun at the busy chess tables, we all soaked up a lot of great holiday atmosphere. There was a live band that really rocked, there were Civil War re-enactors that filled the air with musket smoke, there was the tangy and inviting smell of barbecued chicken cooking on the grille and of course, the night sky was lit up with really spectacular fireworks !

k) **Commonwealth Games.** Saturday, July 18 and Sunday, July 19.

As we do annually, the club distributed flyers to our members promoting this tournament. We also promoted it with two publicity mailings via our e-mail events list. We also promoted both the Adult and Youth sections on the club's Web Page. The event is organized by Coventry Commonwealth Games, Inc. Once again, a two-day tournament was held at the Tanglewood Holiday Inn. The Youth section was held on July 18th and the Adult section was held on July 19th. We continue to strongly urge Valley chess players to play in the chess tournament part of the State Games. This event offers chess players an exciting way to hone their skills in a prestigious chess event.

l) **Bill Bochman Memorial.** Saturday, August 15.

This Grand Prix tournament was held on Saturday, August 15th at the St. John's Lutheran Church in Roanoke, Virginia. The on-site Tournament Director was Joshua B. Lilly. NM Russell Potter served as Assistant T.D.

The Roanoke Valley Chess Club sincerely appreciates everyone who participated. This was our second event at St. John's Lutheran Church, and we would also like to extend our gratitude to the church. They've been very welcoming and gracious, and the accommodations are excellent.

(This concludes the DETAILED President's Report for the 2008 – 2009 club fiscal year.)
