



## **STATE CHAMPION OF CHAMPIONS EVENT**

### **50 State Champions, 1 U.S. Championship Qualifier**

**Seattle – November 10, 2005** – The America’s Foundation for Chess and Internet Chess Club are again pleased to announce the running of the second State ‘Champion of Champions’ event, the winner of which will win through to a guaranteed spot in the 64-player field battling it out for the \$250,000 U.S. Chess Championship to be held next March at the NTC Promenade in San Diego.

The U.S. Chess Championships was first held in 1845, and is rightly regarded as one of the world’s most famous national titles. Now, with our online partners at the ICC, state champions from Alaska through California to Hawaii and from Maine through to New York and Florida will come together as one over the internet for a unique online event that will run 19-20 November at [www.chessclub.com](http://www.chessclub.com), with four qualifying zone winners going forward to the knockout finals held 3-4 December.

“Chess is the ultimate mind sport and the Internet is the ideal medium for chess,” said AF4C President and co-founder Erik J. Anderson. “We have always looked at ways to bring all of American Chess together to feel part of the U.S Championship experience – and thanks to this perfect symbiosis with our online partners at the ICC, the State Champion of Champions event helps us work towards that goal.”

This innovative event demonstrates that online chess and over-the-board (o.t.b.) chess can indeed be a perfect mix – even for one of the world’s most famous national championships. First, each player in the tournament had to prove themselves o.t.b. by winning their relevant state championship to be invited, then they have to play online on the ICC (both double-round all-play-all Blitz in the 4 zonal groups, and then Game 60 in the finals), with the player being crowned State Champion of Champions going forward to the U.S. Championship next March in San Diego.

“The Internet Chess Club has long been the icon for reliability and service in the continually growing world of online chess,” added Joel M. Berez, President and CEO of the ICC. “For 10 years, we have run thousands of tournaments in a club house that never closes its doors – and thanks to the partnership between the ICC and AF4C, we

can now offer a unique chance for a state champion to play for a spot in the U.S. Chess Championship.”

All the rules and regulations for this U.S. Championship Qualifying event can be found at [www.uschesschampionship.com](http://www.uschesschampionship.com), and at the ICC site [www.chessclub.com](http://www.chessclub.com). For more information about the U.S. Chess Championships or the events surrounding the 2006 games, please visit [www.uschesschampionship.com](http://www.uschesschampionship.com)

### **America's Foundation for Chess**

*Founded on the hope of making chess a subject taught in every school in the United States, AF4C, [www.af4c.org](http://www.af4c.org) a nonprofit organization, is committed to making chess a larger part of America's cultural fabric — accessible in schools and in popular culture. AF4C hopes to elevate the profile of chess in America so that it will soon become a regular part of every child's classroom experience.*

### **Internet Chess Club**

Founded in 1995 in Pittsburgh, the for-profit ICC ([www.chessclub.com](http://www.chessclub.com)) is one of the first premium sites on the Internet with a club house that's open 24/7. Now in its 11<sup>th</sup> year, the ICC is regarded as the premier online chess service, with over 30,000 members, 1,600 Grandmasters, more volunteers, and more loyalty from its members than any other classical game service on the Internet.

### **About NTC Foundation**

*The NTC Foundation, a 501[c][3] nonprofit organization, is responsible for the renovation of the 26 historic buildings on 28 acres at the former San Diego Naval Training Center in Point Loma into a new arts, civic and cultural district called NTC Promenade. NTC Promenade will be the permanent home for the U.S. Chess Championship.*

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