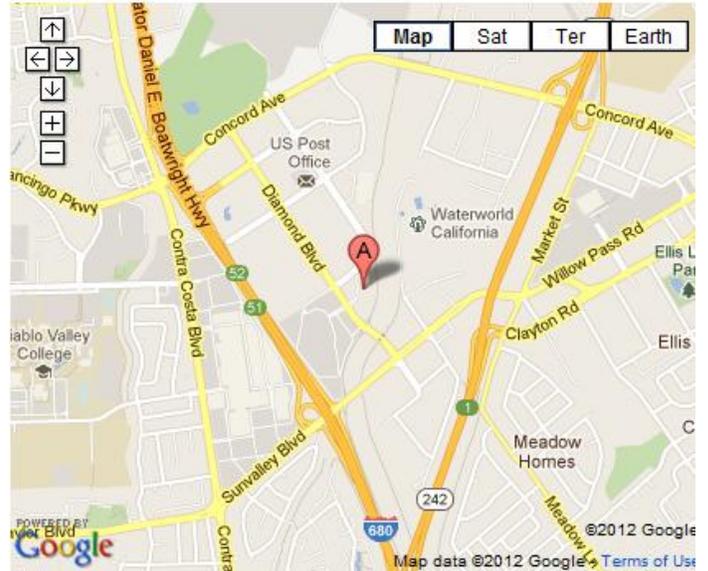


Golden State Open THIS WEEKEND in Concord

January 10, 2012
by Michael Aigner

This weekend's **Golden State Open** is the most exciting annual adult chess tournament in Northern California. Popular national organizer **Bill Goichberg** and his **Continental Chess Association** guarantee a minimum prize fund of \$21K, with a projection of \$30K based on 290 fully paid entries. The past two years saw an average of 250 participants and they hope for a modest increase.

Players may opt to stay at the comfy **Concord Hilton** while commuters benefit from easy access to **I-680 at Willow Pass Road**. Dining options are plentiful: Willows Shopping Center across the street (Claim Jumper, Quiznos and Jamba Juice), **Sun Valley Mall** just off the freeway, and family restaurants in almost every direction.



- Event: **Golden Gate Open**
- Dates: **January 13-16** with 3-day and 2-day schedules (*no Open in 2-day*)
- Location: **1970 Diamond Blvd, Concord CA**
- Format: **7 rounds** in 5 sections (**Open, U2100, U1800, U1500, U1200**)
- Primary Time Control: **40/2, G/1, d/5**
- **4-day schedule**: Reg by Fri 6PM. Rds: Fri night, Sat (2), Sun (2), Mon (2)
- **3-day schedule**: Reg by Sat 10AM. Rds: two G/75, then Sat night, Sun (2), Mon (2)
- **2-day schedule**: Reg by Sat 9:30AM. Rds: four G/40, then Sun night, Mon (2).
- Entry fee: \$150 on site
- Prize fund: **guaranteed \$21,000; projected \$30,000**
- Information: <http://www.chesstour.com/gso12.htm>
- **Advance Entries**: <http://www.chesstour.com/ae-gso12.htm>



No doubt, I would have played in this event. Alas, my long term health issues do not permit it. *Sigh!* However, **I plan to visit for a few hours** on either Sunday or **Monday afternoon**. It would be just my second Bay Area Chess tournament since May 2010. I'm looking forward to seeing lots of old friends and former students! **Please say hi!!**