

Richard W. “Buck” Buchanan



Richard William Buchanan was born on September 28, 1944 in Cincinnati, Ohio. He has 2 brothers and 1 sister.

Buck grew up in Wilmington, Ohio (a small agricultural town near Cincinnati and Dayton) and learned how to play chess from his uncle.

He fell in love with the game during his junior high and high school years when he studied many of the classic chess books by Reinfeld, Chernev, and Horowitz.

Buck played chess at the local Historical Society; there wasn't scholastic chess in Wilmington at the time. As a kid, Buck fondly recalls playing a retired judge, Rolland Carey, and his best friend during those years, Kirk Halliday, who became a regular chess partner as well as a music buddy (playing the guitar and singing) during the 1960s Folk Music era.

Buchanan graduated high school in 1962 and began college in nearby Miami University of Ohio, where he started playing in rated chess tournaments. At age 20, in 1964, Buck achieved his first rating of 1485. During college he beat his first 2000 rated player.

Buck graduated from college in 1966 with a teaching degree from Miami University of Ohio. The following year, he started a lifelong teaching career in Dayton.

The Dayton Chess Club had over 40 members and was a strong club with several Experts and Class A players. Buck thrived with the new competition and soon won the club championship. Buck gave back to chess by being part of the club administration and became editor of *The Dayton Chess Club Review*. It was a monthly publication sent out to about a hundred players and featured many games, something Buck always believed in and made a priority in his many stints as a chess writer and editor. Buck created the magazine with a hand cranked mimeograph machine in his basement.

In 1968, Buck married his wife, Dee. They have two children and four grandchildren.

In the early 1970s, Buck began directing tournaments on a club level and then on weekends.

In 1977, Buck accepted a teaching assignment and moved west to teach at Arapahoe School in Colorado, near the Kansas border. He started a chess club there where 15 of the 30 members became USCF members. He also ran rated events in eastern Colorado, drawing players from nearby Kansas and Nebraska.

Buck also started playing in Colorado tournaments and was a Class A player when he competed in his first Colorado Open in 1977.

Buck continued his college studies and graduated from Adams State in 1981, with a Master's degree in secondary education. It was there in Alamosa that Buck performed in his first theatrical play.

In 1982, Buchanan moved to New Mexico, where he accepted a job teaching math in Cimarron. Here he became editor of the *New Mexico Desert Knight* state chess publication from 1982-1984.

Then in 1984, Buck moved back to Colorado where he taught in La Veta (southern part of the state) for a couple years before moving to Colorado Springs to teach. Buck was also involved in college theater and drama. He has sung 1st Tenor in the Pueblo Choral Society and the Colorado Springs Chorale. He has also sung in the Colorado Opera Festival.

Among Buck's other accomplishments, he is an avid hiker and has climbed the Barr Trail from Manitou Springs to the top of Pikes Peak over 25 times.

Tournament Victories

Buchanan has played well over 2000 rated games in over 500 tournaments.

In rated games he has played GMs Anatoly Lein and Joel Benjamin, who he drew when Joel was a young master. He has beaten Ruben Schocron, a master who Bobby Fischer included in his famous book, "*My 60 Memorable Games*". He has also defeated masters Micheal Mulyar, Dave Jellison, John Siddeek, Jim Burden, and Renard Anderson.

In simul, Buchanan has played against GMs Svetozar Gligoric, Bent Larsen, Arthur Bisguier, and Donald Byrne when was an IM. He won a simul game against Senior Master John Hall.

Buchanan has been an active member of the Colorado Springs Chess Club since 1987. He was Colorado Springs Chess Club Champion in 1992, 2003, and 2012.

Buck broke the coveted 2200 master level by beating Jim Burden in the final round of the 1992 Colorado Springs Championship to achieve his career peak rating of 2204.

Organizing, Directing, and Promoting Chess

Buck is the elder statesman of Colorado Chess and is the only current player with a CSCA Lifetime Membership, awarded by past CSCA President, Mark Kriseler.

When Buck moved to Colorado in 1978, he was a USCF Delegate for both Ohio and Colorado during the meeting at the U.S. Open in Phoenix. Buck has since been a delegate representing Colorado many years at the U.S. Open.

Buck has also served on the USCF Ethics Committee for many years and was the USCF Vice-President for Region IX in August of 1995.

Buchanan was CSCA President from 1991 to September 2002.

In 1991, as CSCA President, defense attorney and fellow chess player Walter Gerash called Buck as a witness during the one of the most publicized robbery and murder trials in Denver history to testify that Jim King was an active chess player and answer chess questions. King was a long-time Denver chess player accused and found innocent of the Father's Day Bank Massacre and Robbery that took place on June 16, 1991 in Downtown Denver.

Buchanan was the editor of the *Colorado Chess Informant* from October 1984 to July 1994.

Buck has directed hundreds of tournaments and is an Associate National Tournament Director (ANTD).

He was head tournament director for the Colorado Open in 1985, 1992-94, 1996-2002, 2008-2011, 2013-2016, and 2019. Buchanan also directed Colorado Closed from 2000-2002, 2013-2014, 2016, 2017, 2019, and 2022, the Denver Open in 2013, and the Colorado State Scholastic Championships in 2003.

He organized and directed Winter Springs Open, Colorado Springs Open, and Pikes Peak Open each year in Colorado Springs from about 1992 to 2020.

Buck is a member and has held board positions in Colorado Springs Chess Club over the years.

Buchanan received a USCF Longtime Service Award signed by form USCF Past-President, Harold Winston.

Larkspur hosts a *Renaissance Festival* every summer for eight weekends during June and July. Starting in 1985, Buck dressed up as a monk at the *Festival* playing chess against all comers. Most of the time Buck played 2 boards at the same time. Opponents paid \$1 to play.

He has also played in a chess booth at the Memorial Day *Territory Days Festival* in the Old Colorado City neighborhood of Colorado Springs.



1980



1977 Colorado Open



1978 U.S. Open



1970



Buck the Monk at Renaissance Festival



Buck with Paul Anderson



2019 Denver Open



Dressed for the Opera, Lucia di Lammermoor, circa 1995



2018 Colorado Open



2018 Colorado Open

Buck's first win against a high rated player.

[Event "Queen City Open"]

[Site "Cincinnati, Ohio"]

[Date "December 4, 1966"]

[Round "2"]

[White "Bert Edwards (2088)"]

[Black "Richard Buchanan (1538)"]

[Result "0-1"]

1. d4 e6 2. e4 b6 3. c4 d5 4. cxd5 exd5 5. e5 c5 6. Bb5+ Bd7 7. Bxd7+ Qxd7
8. Nc3 Ne6 9. Be3 Nge7 10. Nf3 Rd8 11. O-O Nf5 12. Bg5 Be7 13. Bxe7 Nfxe7
14. Re1 O-O 15. dxc5 bxc5 16. Qe2 Rfe8 17. e6 fxe6 18. Qxe6+ Qxe6 19. Rxe6
h6 20. Nb5 Rd7 21. Rael Rb8 22. a4 a6 23. Nd6 Rxb2 24. Nf5 Nxf5 25. Rxc6 c4
26. g4 Ne7 27. Rxa6 c3 28. Ra8+ Kh7 29. Kg2 e2 30. Nd4 Re7 31. Re1 Rc4
32. Ne2 d4 33. Rd8 Nc6 34. Rd6 Rb1 35. Kf1 Nb4 0-1



Position after 27. Rxa6

Joel Benjamin was the youngest ever chess master at this time (a record previously held by Bobby Fischer) and went on to become a three-time U.S. Champion.

[Event "1977 U.S. Open"]

[Site "Columbus, Ohio"]

[Date "August 12, 1977"]

[Round "6"]

[White "Richard Buchanan (1916)"]

[Black "Joel Benjamin"]

[Result "1/2-1/2"]

1. d4 Nf6 2. e4 e6 3. Nf3 b6 4. g3 Bb4+ 5. Bd2 a5 6. Bg2 Bb7 7. Nc3 O-O 8. O-O d6
9. Bf4 Bxc3 10. bxc3 Nbd7 11. Re1 Re8 12. Nd2 Bxg2 13. Kxg2 e5 14. Be3 Ng4
15. Nf1 Qe7 16. h3 Ngf6 17. Bd2 exd4 18. cxd4 Qe4+ 19. f3 Qxd4 20. Qc2 Qc5
21. Rac1 Ne5 22. e4 Nc6 23. Ne3 Ne7 24. Qb3 Qe5 25. Nd5 Nxd5 26. cxd5 Qe7
27. Rc6 Rec8 28. Rec1 Ne8 29. Be3 Rd8 30. h4 Rd7 31. Qc3 Qd8 32. Bd4 f6 33. Qc4
Rf7 34. Re1 Qd7 35. f4 Rd8 36. Qc2 Re7 37. Qc4 Kh8 38. Re2 Qg4 39. Re3 Qd1
40. Be3 Qg4 41. Qe2 Qxe2+ 42. Rxe2 Kg8 43. Kf3 Kf7 44. g4 g6 45. a4 Rdd7
46. Re4 Rd8 47. Rc6 h6 48. Rc4 Rdd7 49. Rd4 Kf8 50. Rd1 Rf7 51. f5 g5 52. h5
1/2-1/2



Position after 32. Bd4

Dave Jellison had a peak rating in the 2300s and was the 1989 Colorado Closed Champion and the Denver Open Champion in 1986 and 1988.

[Event "1977 Queen City Bonanza"]

[Site "Denver, Colorado"]

[Date "December 10, 1977"]

[Round "1"]

[White "David Jellison (2067)"]

[Black "Richard Buchanan (1803)"]

[Result "0-1"]

1. Nf3 e6 2. g3 Nf6 3. Bg2 d5 4. d4 e5 5. dxc5 Bxc5 6. c4 Nc6 7. cxd5 Qxd5
8. Nbd2 O-O 9. O-O Qh5 10. a3 e5 11. Qc2 Bb6 12. Nc4 e4 13. Nxb6 axb6
14. Nd2 Nd4 15. Qd1 Nxe2+ 16. Kh1 Ng4 17. h4 Nxf2+ 18. Rxf2 Nxf3+
19. Kh2 Qxd1 20. Nxe4 Nxe4 21. Bxe4 Ra4 22. Rf4 Qe2+ 23. Bg2 Rxf4
24. Bxf4 Bd7 0-1



Position after 16. Kh1

Buck tied for 4th place with this victory over fellow Colorado Hall of Fame member Brian Wall.

[Event "Al Wallace Memorial"]

[Site "Denver, Colorado"]

[Date "March 9, 1980"]

[Round "4"]

[White "Richard Buchanan (1940)"]

[Black "Brian Wall (2045)"]

[Result "1-0"]

1. d4 a6 2. e4 e6 3. Be3 Nf6 4. Nd2 d5 5. e5 Nfd7 6. Ngf3 f5 7. Ng5 Qe7 8. Bd3 g6 9. g4 e5 10. c3 h6 11. Nh3 Nc6 12. gxf5 gxf5 13. Qh5+ Qf7 14. Be2 Qxh5 15. Bxh5+ Kd8 16. Nf4 cxd4 17. cxd4 Nb6 18. Rc1 Kc7 19. Bf7 Kd8 20. Bxe6 Bxe6 21. Nxe6+ Kd7 22. Nxf8+ Raxf8 23. Nb3 Nc4 24. Nc5+ Ke7 25. b3 Nxe3 26. fxe3 Nb4 27. a3 Nc6 28. Nxb7 Rb8 29. Rxc6 Rxb7 30. Rg1 Rh7 31. Rxa6 Rf7 32. b4 Rc7 33. Kd2 Kf8 34. b5 f4 35. exf4 Rxf4 36. Rf6+ Rxf6 37. exf6 Ra7 38. Rg3 Ra4 39. b6 Rxd4+ 40. Rd3 Re4 1-0



Position after 24...Ke7

Jim Hamblin had a peak rating in the 2300s and was the 2003 Colorado Open Champion. He won the Denver Open in 1972, 1976, and 1990. Buck won his last round game against Paul Sharpe to tie for first place in the tournament with Joe Eversole, Gerald Georges, and Randy Canney.

[Event "1980 Pueblo Open"]

[Site "Pueblo, Colorado"]

[Date "October 26, 1980"]

[Round "3"]

[White "James E Hamblin (2106)"]

[Black "Richard Buchanan (1974)"]

[Result "0-1"]

1. e4 e5 2. f4 exf4 3. Nf3 g5 4. Bc4 Bg7 5. O-O g4 6. Ne1 Bd4+ 7. Kh1 d5 8. exd5 Qh4 9. Rxf4 Bc5 10. d4 Bd6 11. Re4+ Kd8 12. Bf4 Nf6 13. Re5 Bxe5 14. dxe5 Ne4 15. Qc1 g3 16. Nf3 Nf2+ 17. Kg1 gxh2+ 18. Nxe2 Rg8 19. Kf1 Ng4 20. Nxe4 Rxe4 21. Be3 Qh1+ 0-1



Position after 16.Nf3

Joe Abbott was one of the stronger active players in Colorado in the late 1980s where he eventually achieved a master rating.

[Event "1987 Northern Colorado Open"]

[Site "Greeley, Colorado"]

[Date "May 2, 1987"]

[Round "2"]

[White "Joe Abbott (2198)"]

[Black "Richard Buchanan (2120)"]

[Result "0-1"]

1. e4 e5 2. Nf3 Nc6 3. Bb5 a6 4. Ba4 d6 5. O-O Bg4 6. h3 h5 7. d3 Qf6 8. Nbd2 Ne7 9. c3 b5 10. Bc2 Ng6 11. d4 Nf4 12. Re1 Bxh3 13. dxe5 dxe5 14. Nxe5 Nxe5 15. Nf3 Rd8 16. Bxf4 Rxd1 17. Bxe5 Rxe1+ 18. Rxe1 Qg6 19. Nh4 Qg5 20. Bg3 Bc5 21. Kh2 Qd2 0-1



Position after 12.Re1

With this last round victory, Buck finished in clear second behind Jim Burden.

[Event "Denver Chess Marathon III"]

[Site "Denver, Colorado"]

[Date "April 28, 1991"]

[Round "5"]

[White "Richard Buchanan (2100)"]

[Black "Jim Hamblin (2162)"]

[Result "1-0"]

1. e4 e5 2. Nf3 Nc6 3. Bb5 a6 4. Ba4 d6 5. Bxc6+ bxc6 6. d4 f6 7. Nc3 Bg4 8. h3 Bh5 9. Be3 Rb8 10. Qd3 Qc8 11. b3 g5 12. dxe5 dxe5 13. Rd1 h6 14. Na4 Rh7 15. Qc4 Ne7 16. Nc5 Ra8 17. Nd7 Bg7 18. Qe6 Bxf3 19. gxf3 Bh8 20. Be5 1-0



Position after 14...Rh7

This victory against the recent Colorado Open Champion and fellow Colorado Chess Hall of Fame member Michael Mulyar guaranteed Buck a tie for second place in the tournament.

[Event "Weld County Open"]
 [Site "Greeley, Colorado"]
 [Date "October 25, 1992"]
 [Round "4"]
 [White "Richard Buchanan (2110)"]
 [Black "Micheal Mulyar (2347)"]
 [Result "1-0"]

1. d4 d5 2. c4 Nc6 3. exd5 Qxd5 4. Nf3 Bg4 5. Ne3 Qh5 6. Bf4 Bxf3 7. gxf3 O-O 8. Be3 Nxd4 9. Bxd4 e5 10. Qa4 exd4 11. Nb5 a6 12. Nxd4 Be5 13. Nb3 Bd6 14. O-O-O Nf6 15. h4 Rhe8 16. Bh3+ Kb8 17. Bg4 Qe5 18. e3 h5 19. Bh3 e5 20. Bg2 Qe6 21. Na5 Bc7 22. f4 Ne4 23. Bxe4 Qxe4 24. Qxe4 Rxe4 25. Nb3 Ke8 26. Rxd8+ Bxd8 27. Kd2 b6 28. Nc1 Bf6 29. b3 Kc7 30. Ne2 g6 31. Nc3 Re6 32. Nd5+ Ke6 33. Nxf6 Rxf6 34. Kc2 b5 35. Rd1 Rd6 36. Rg1 e4 37. bxc4 bxc4 38. f5 Rf6 39. fxc6 Rxc6 40. Rd1 Rg2 41. Rd2 Rh2 42. Kc3 Rxc4 43. f4 Rh3 44. Kd4 h4 45. Rc2 Kb5 46. Rxc4 Rh1 47. Rc2 h3 48. Ke5 Re1 49. e4 a5 50. f5 Kb4 51. Rh2 Re3 52. Kf6 Ka3 53. Kxf7 Rxe4 54. f6 Rf4 55. Ke7 Re4+ 56. Kf8 a4 57. f7 Re1 58. Rf2 Rb1 59. Kg8 Rb8+ 60. f8=Q+ Rxf8+ 61. Kxf8 1-0



Position after 20...Qe6

This victory over Jim Burden put Buck's rating over 2200. Burden was the Colorado Springs Chess Club Champion from 1989-1991.

[Event "1992 Colorado Springs Championship"]
 [Site "Colorado Springs, Colorado"]
 [Date "November 16, 1992"]
 [Round "5"]
 [White "Jim Burden (2230)"]
 [Black "Richard Buchanan (2181)"]
 [Result "0-1"]

1. e4 c6 2. d4 d5 3. e5 Bf5 4. Nc3 e6 5. g4 Bg6 6. Nge2 c5 7. h4 h6 8. Be3 exd4 9. Nxd4 Bb4 10. Bb5+ Nd7 11. f4 Bxc3+ 12. bxc3 Be4 13. Rh2 Ne7 14. Rb1 a6 15. Bd3 Qc7 16. Bxe4 dxe4 17. Bd2 Nd5 18. Ne2 b5 19. Kf1 Rd8 20. Qc1 Nc5 21. Qa3 Na4 22. Kg2 Ndb6 23. Nd4 Ne4 24. Qc1 Nxd2 25. Qxd2 Qxc3 26. Qxc3 Nxc3 27. Rh3 Rxd4 28. Rxc3 O-O 29. Rh1 Rfd8 30. Kf2 Ra4 31. a3 Rd2+ 32. Ke3 Rg2 33. Rc8+ Kh7 34. g5 Rg3+ 35. Kf2 Rxa3 36. gxh6 gxh6 37. h5 Raf3+ 38. Ke2 Rg2+ 39. Ke1 Rxf4 40. Rh3 Rf5 41. c4 bxc4 42. Rxc4 Rxe5 43. Kf1 Rgg5 44. Kf2 Rxh5 45. Rg3 e3+ 46. Ke2 Rh2+ 47. Ke1 e2 48. Rg1 Rg5 49. Rxc4 hxc4 50. Ra4 Kg6 51. Rxa6 g4 52. Ra3 f5 53. Re3 Kf6 54. Kd2 f4 0-1



Position after 23.Nd4

Renard Anderson was the 1998 Colorado Open Champion, had a peak rating in the 2400s, and has lots of experience playing in large national tournaments.

[Event "2000 Boulder Open"]
 [Site "Boulder, Colorado"]
 [Date "April 16, 2000"]
 [Round "3"]
 [White "Richard Buchanan (2110)"]
 [Black "Renard Anderson (2205)"]
 [Result "1-0"]

1. d4 Nf6 2. c4 e5 3. d5 b5 4. b3 bxc4 5. bxc4 g6 6. Bb2 Bg7 7. Nf3 O-O 8. Nbd2 d6 9. e4 Qa5 10. Qc2 Nxe4 11. Bxg7 Nxd2 12. Be3 Nxf3+ 13. gxf3 Qd8 14. Bd3 Nd7 15. h4 Ne5 16. h5 Nxd3+ 17. Qxd3 e5 18. dxe6 Qe7 19. Kd2 Qxe6 20. Rae1 Qf5 21. Qe3 Ba6 22. hxg6 fxc6 23. Rxh7 1-0



Position after 22...fxg6