

Varuzhan Akobian - Yury Shulman match

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A fantastic event is coming up this month with California's #1 GM [Varuzhan Akobian](#) meeting the U.S. Champion GM [Yury Shulman](#) in a four day rapid match with a blitz finale. The two great tacticians of the chess board, both members of the [2008 Olympic bronze medalist team](#), will meet in the *California's First GrandMaster Invitational World Class Chess Event* which will be held April 22nd-25th 2009 in Lake County, California.

Organizer of this event is Thomas Southerland and the venue is Robinson Rancheria Resort and Casino. The match will be live on the official site www.chessmastered.com and on the pages of www.chessdom.com

Schedule

Heavyweight chess match in Lake County, California

Day 1: Two rapid games (G30) starting at 11:00 and 12:30

Day 2: Two rapid games (G30) starting at 11:00 and 12:30

Day 3: Two rapid games (G30) starting at 11:00 and 12:30

Day 4: Ten blitz games (5 min) starting at 12:00

With average rating over 2630 ELO, Akobian and Shulman are surely among the most popular chess players in the USA. They enjoy the status of celebrities both in and away from the chess board.

GM Yury Shulman

Yury was born in Belarus (former USSR) in 1975. His first formal chess lesson was at age 6 with coach Tamara Golovey. He started lessons with I.M. Albert Kapengut at 12, and subsequently studied under Boris Gelfand.

During the development of his chess career, Yury attended the Belarus State Politechnical Academy and completed his undergraduate studies at the State Academy of Sports, Belarus. He is a graduate of the University of Texas at Dallas with a Bachelor's degree in Computer Science and an M.B.A. specializing in Finance.

Since 1994, Yury has authored numerous articles on chess for publications including New in Chess, Chess Life, and Chess Informant.

Yury is the founder of the Yury Shulman Chess Without Borders not-for-profit organization. Yury and his volunteer community are privileged to use chess as a medium for philanthropic causes. Since 2005 this included volunteer visits and book drives for Chicago public schools and contributions of a portion of tournament and chess camp proceeds to non-profit entities locally and worldwide.

How to arrive at Lake Country?

From San Francisco or San Jose: Take U.S Highway 101 north to Ukiah. Then exit right onto CA-20 east toward Upper Lake/Williams. Robinson Rancheria will be on your left just before NICE, CA. An alternate from U.S. Highway 101, is to take Hwy. 175 in Hopland, proceed to Hwy. 29 and turn left. At CA-20 in Upper Lake, turn right and continue until you see Robinson Rancheria on the left.

From Oakland: Take I-580 west or U.S. Highway 880 toward San Francisco (Portions toll). Merge onto US-101 north through San Francisco, cross Golden Gate Bridge. Continue on US-101 past Ukiah. Take CA-20 east toward Upper Lake/Williams. Robinson Rancheria will be on your left. An alternate route through the wine country is to take U.S. Highway 80 to Vallejo, exit Columbus Parkway and cross over freeway to Hwy 37/Hwy 29. Follow Hwy. 29 to CA-20.

Note: If you take Hwy 29 to the Lucerne Cutoff be sure to turn left at Hwy. 20.

From Sacramento: Take I-5 north towards Williams/Redding. Take the CA-20 exit west toward Clear Lake. Stay on CA-20 passing through Clearlake Oaks, Glenhaven, Lucerne and after passing through Nice, CA, Robinson Rancheria is on your right. From Redding: Take I-5 South toward Sacramento. Take the CA-20 exit west toward Clear Lake. Stay on CA-20 passing through, Clearlake Oaks, Glenhaven, Lucerne and Nice, CA. Robinson Rancheria will be on your right.