



Javier Sanchez Medina

## ITSolves ITSelf

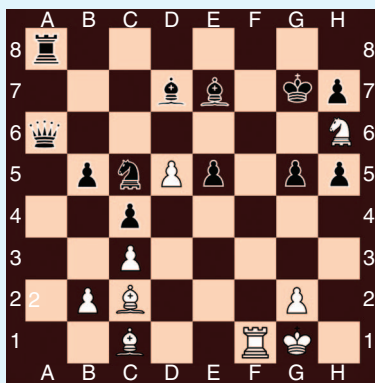
### Engineers Jokes

- Traffic is always heavy in both directions. There are just as many people trying to get to whatever you're trying to get away from.
- What do you write on a dead car's tombstone? Rust In Peace.
- London Underground announcement: "Ladies & Gentleman, upon departing the train may I remind you to take your rubbish with you. Despite the fact that you are in something that is metal, fairly round, filthy and smells, this is a tube train for public transport and not a bin on wheels."

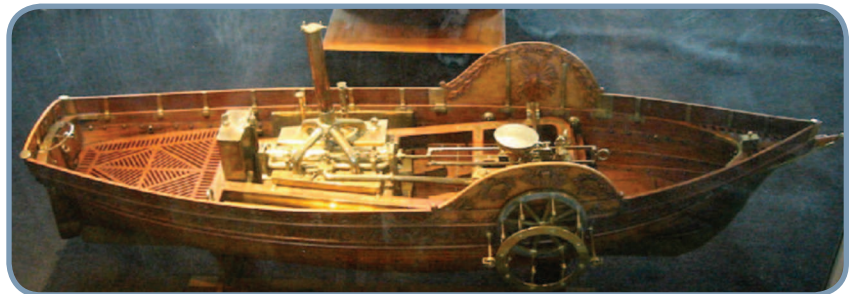
### Chess Puzzle

At 13 years old, Carlsen (white) is only two moves away from a check mate.

Carlsen vs Hans K Harestad,  
Copenhagen, 2003



White Moves and Wins in Two Moves



Pyroscaphe model at the National Maritime Museum in Paris. (Source: <http://commons.wikimedia.org/>.)

He will be challenging current World Champion Anand soon. (Source: <http://www.chessdailynews.com/>)  
Solution at page 78.

### Amazing Fact

The NASA's Mars Science Laboratory mission put the Curiosity rover on the Mars surface last August 6, 2012, at 05:17 UTC. To do so, they used a three phases landing procedure. For the first one they used a supersonic parachute. That parachute was the biggest ever built for an extraterrestrial flight, with a diameter of 16 meters (51 feet), and was able to be deployed at Match 2.2 (2695 Km/h, 1675 mph) in the thin Martian atmosphere, generating a drag force of 29483.48 Kg (65000lbs). Source: <http://mars.jpl.nasa.gov>.

### Big Person Quotation

*Both optimists and pessimists contribute to our society. The optimist invents the airplane and the pessimist the parachute.*

—G.B. Stern (British novelist)

### Transportation Engineering and Science History Episode

If we think about paddle steamer ships, perhaps it will pull some strings to some Uncle Sam scenes with a peaceful paddle wheeler transiting the Mississippi river in the background. Today we can still see paddle wheelers propelled by diesel engines, but the sound of them is not the same.

That rhythmic sound of the classic movies was first heard at the other corner of the World, from a ship called Palmipède (palmiped), that was designed and built in France by Marquis Claude de Jouffroy and his colleagues. It sailed the Doubs River only from June to July of 1776.

In 1783 de Jouffroy created a new paddle steamer called Pyroscaphe (steamship), that was only able to steamed up the river Saône for fifteen minutes before the engine failed. Just like it's happening with the upsurging unmanned prototype vehicles, legislation was too rigid for his inventions, and de Jouffroy had to give up. Of course, the French Revolution did not help very much either.