

CHESS / NBCC BIOGRAPHY OF BILL CAMPBELL

Our club ended the month of April with an honorary event for Bill Campbell. Bill learned the game from his father, played it until his teenage years, and then rediscovered the game as an adult in his 30s, when he thought that he was good at the game. But he was totally wrong! What ended up happening was that his friend Tom Pasim introduced Bill to one of his friends, Charles “Carol” Wojtywaik, who came over Tom’s house and beat both Tom and Bill really bad. Charles showed Bill how much he needed to improve his game, enough to the point where Bill became very serious about playing chess competitively. Carol introduced Bill to the club. So, in 2008, Bill joined our family. It was then, after seeing so many strong players, that Bill realized the NBCC was the place to improve his game. Bill is one of our more active and competitive members. Two of his most memorable moments were when he defeated FM Nelson Castaneda in his simultaneous chess exhibition in 2017 and last month in FM Richard Bauer’s simul, but mostly he is thrilled to meet and make new friends at the NBCC. He also experienced chess action on the grand scene at USATE this past year for the first time, and he was overjoyed with the event, seeing players from around the globe compete in this three-day chess vacation. Bill is a class C chess player who aspires to continue to climb the rankings, attaining class B or higher in his 40s and 50s. He is also a frequent patron of the Friday night informal chess club at Barnes and Noble in Farmington and is always up for a friendly game. Bill is a nice person who is warm and welcoming to all players. Bill favors faster time controls and no delay, so that was the format that he chose for his special event. A complete surprise was when he purchased two cakes for the winners of each section. That was the first time that food was awarded as prizes. Thanks, Bill! FM Nelson Castaneda, who now has forty wins or ties for first place in quick chess events at the club, won the open section. Four members tied for first place in the lower section: Carter Clayton, Dan Golda, Arijit Chakraborty, and Bob Wooster. This was an unrated tournament.