

NBCC / CHESS BIOGRAPHY OF MARK BOURQUE

Since September 2010, our organization has held events in honor of our members based on total years of membership. The next person to have his own tributary event hosted by the club was veteran member Mark Bourque. Mark, a USCF expert, joined the NBCC around 2001, and he has been a frequent competitor in our club's events for over a decade. Specifically, Mark has played in sixty rated events in the last six years alone, which ranks him as the ninth most active member during this span. Mark is also one of our many members who enjoys the variety of activities that our club offers. Even though he prefers the long time-controlled events, Mark really gets excited about getting out of his comfort zone by playing in the club's quick, blitz, and bullet chess events. Interestingly, Mark is one of the few members who belongs to the UConn Chess Club, where he usually plays on Thursdays. Besides being a deeply committed chess player, Mark is a highly respected member in our chess community and a dear friend to many. Twenty-four players competed in the five-round, two-section tournament for Mr. Bourque on April 26, and Norman Burtness and FM Richard Bauer tied for first place in the open section. According to the club records, Norman has broken the barrier for becoming the lowest-rated class player to win or tie for first place in an open section of a NBCC quick chess tournament. Joseph Mansigian, one of our club's longest-standing members, with a membership since the early 1970s, tied for first place with Alexander Ruth, one of our organization's youngest talented superstars, in the U1700 section. A very special thanks to Alexander's father, Anthony, one of our club's newest tournament directors, for the excellent job that he did in directing the event and to Luis Delgado for assisting Anthony during the registration process.