

CHESS / NBCC BIOGRAPHY OF JOHN NITZ

The club held a quick chess tournament on April 8 and 15 in honor of veteran member John Nitz. This now marks the twentieth tributary tournament the club has held for our members based on their membership longevity. John's history with the NBCC began in 1998. John, like Anthony Diaz and Dennis Himes, whose honorary tournaments were held recently, also brought his son, James, to the club at a very early age. Both have been regular members ever since. Beyond the club, John has been instrumental in developing scholastic chess programs in his hometown of Southington. He has worn multiple hats as a tournament director, coach, and mentor to students enrolled in the chess program at Southington High School. His efforts in enriching this program have had a tremendous influence on scholastic chess in Connecticut. The chess community thanks him for his involvement in encouraging our youth to play this historic mind game. Even though John's busy work schedule prevents him from competing in every club event, he does participate in most of the club's major tournaments. Two cool historical facts about John are that he has won the most club raffles and, on at the annual NBCC Christmas Parties, he always brings his wife's famous, to-die-for nacho cheese dip platter. John is an all-round awesome guy. Oh, did I mention that he is a strong class A player, getting close to 1900! 7 You can always guarantee a battle whenever you face John at the chess board. John, unfortunately, was unable to compete in the first week of his tournament because he was sick with the flu. However, James was able to play both weeks and earned first place in his father's tournament. Because there was a decent turnout, the TDs were able to group players into two sections. Blazing the competition with a perfect score in the reserve section was one of our talented scholastic members, Alexander Ruth.