

CHESS/NBCC BIOGRAPHY OF MATT FAILLE

Our first member who the club honored in 2020 for his longevity with the club was Matt Faille. Matt started going to the NBCC in the early-to-mid 2000s. His father, Mark Faille, had introduced him to both the game and the NBCC. Mark Wilkin and his friend Ilya Gofman, along with member Joe Hricko, were the first to take turns beating on Matt over the chess board. Until the NBCC, Matt had only been limited to playing at the Barnes & Noble in Waterbury, at the library chess club in Waterbury, and in the Townsend Cup at Wesleyan University in Middletown. A few years after that, Matt met member Will Torres in high school, and then they started going to New Britain together to maraud the countryside. It was not until later that they learned that they had the same initial chess coach, Julius Fuster, for many years without the knowledge of each other! The NBCC had been the single most influential group of people in helping Matt improve his chess strength and giving him a sense of brotherhood. He could not possibly mention all of the names of chess players who meant so very much to him. At one point, USCF NM Derek Meredith had allowed Matt to sit in with several of his studies at the mall and at Panera Bread to formally improve his chess strength. In addition, Jimmy Wilkin and Mark would always show Matt why unorthodox chess openings and aggressive practical play were viable at almost all levels. Preparing for the New Britain's slow tournaments week after week gave Matt insight into how to prepare for such things and absolutely garnered him a spike in opening preparation ability. Even though he currently resides in Rhode Island, if anyone asks him, USCF Expert Matt still calls the NBCC his home club. His fondest memory of tournaments at the club had to have been the team tournaments, where New Britain always did well. All in all, Matt is extremely grateful to be part of such a wonderful club with rich history and dedicated officers. And we are so grateful to have Matt as our friend in our thriving chess community. To make this tournament a friendly one for students, Matt opted to have his tournament unrated with games of various time controls gradually starting at G/15 and ending at G/1. A special prize (a club chess set) was also awarded to the top scoring student, which ended up being member Nakul Ramaswamy. FM and member Nelson Castaneda took home the gold with a first-place score. Matt's event was held on February 18.