



Chess Club Observer

Newsletter of the Springfield Chess Club

Winter 2018-- Vol. 21, No. 1

President: Leonard Ferguson
Vice President: Tom Knoedler
Secretary: Garald Bumgardner

Treasurer: David Long
Publicity Director: Jimmie Cecil
<http://www.springfieldchessclub.com>

Next Tournament March 3 at Church

Our next tournament will be held Saturday, March 3 at Douglas United Methodist Church in Springfield. Registration ends at 9:45; the four rounds will be played at 10, 12:45, 3, and 5:15, with a lunch break at 12. Time limit is G/60. Entry fee is \$17 in advance, \$20 at the door, with a \$2 discount for club members. Prize fund is \$400 based on a turnout of 30.

Proposals for Chess at the Library

At the board meeting on November 29, the club had a visit from Will O'Hearn, director of Lincoln Library. The club is currently discussing proposals for chess club events to be held at the library. There is already some informal play there; this might be an opportunity for the club to get some exposure and expand its membership. Here is a list of current proposals (note that none of these have been implemented as of January 16.)

- A regular club meeting one Monday evening every month. This would provide an alternative time and place for people who find the Wednesday meetings at the mall, or the Friday meetings at Barnes and Noble, inconvenient.
- Basic strategy classes and lectures, aimed at novices who already know how to play.
- An event where a club member plays all comers for an hour or two, with several games going on simultaneously.
- Unrated tournaments, so long as there are no entry fees or membership requirements (per library regulations).

If you have any input on this topic, we would like your opinion! The club has opened a discussion thread on the club forum, under the "Chess Club" sub-forum. The direct link is: <http://www.springfieldchessclub.com/phpBB3/viewtopic.php?f=3&t=145>

You will need a forum account to post – these are free, and club membership is not required. If you are a first-time registrant, the forum may ask you for a passcode; this is intended to screen out spammers and bots. The current passcode is (redacted).

The library has been renovated recently and there is now a small meeting room on the second floor and some spots out in the open that could be used for chess, in addition to the Carnegie rooms that the club has previously used on occasion for small tournaments.

Thanks

...to James Barnes and David Shane for their recent donations to the SCC.

Board Members Renominated

The SCC's five board members were renominated without opposition to another term, and were elected by acclamation at the meeting on November 29.

Additionally, the club amended its bylaws to place the annual business meeting that includes, at minimum, nominations for the following year's Board in the first Wednesday night meeting after Thanksgiving.

Welcome New Members

Jacob Beard, of Springfield, has joined the SCC. Membership now stands at 18.

2017: The Year In Review

Useless Statistics

Membership: **18**. Membership at end of 2016: **21**. Percent change: **-14%**. Renewal rate: **71%**

Average tournament attendance: **17** (2 tournaments).

Average attendance in 2016 (1 tournament): **26** Percent change: **-35%**

Average rating in 2017 tournaments: **1549**

Average in 2016: **1374** Percent change: **+12.7%**

Tournament Winners

March: Adam Chambers (4-0)

October: Bernard Parham (4-0)

Come join us! The Springfield Chess Club meets weekly on Wednesday evenings, from 6:30 to 9:00 p.m., at the White Oaks Mall food court. We also meet on the second and fourth Friday of each month, at the café section of Barnes and Noble. Both locations are near the corner of Route 4 and Wabash Ave.

SCC memberships expire on December 31 (regular) or June 30 (scholastic). If your membership is expiring (check your mailing label), please renew today! To renew, return this stub and a check payable to Springfield Chess Club to:
Springfield Chess Club, c/o David Long, 401 S. Illinois St., Springfield, Ill. 62704.

New members, please use the full page forms available at: www.springfieldchessclub.com/join.htm.

Name: _____ \$8 Regular \$5 Scholastic

Write any changes to your contact information below. If no changes since last year, check here →