

Wyomissing Chess Club

www.wyomissingchess.com

Summer 2005

Stay in Touch

Be sure to visit the club web site regularly at wyomissingchess.com for updated news, many interesting links & photos of last year's state championship tournament.

Playing Chess over the Summer

A great way to improve is to play chess over the summer. Until Chess Club meets again next school year, you have several options.

Go to a summer chess camp! See the other article.

Play against each other by getting another chess club member's phone number or email address and meeting at someone's home.

Play against a computer program or a web site. There are lots of relatively inexpensive chess programs that you install on your home computer (visit Best Buy) or you can play online (see the Links page at wyomissingchess.com).

Play other people online for free at web sites such as instantchess.com. If you have a username for one of those sites, let your fellow Wyo chess club members know so we can play against you online.

Gift Ideas

Remind your parents that a great gift idea is a membership in the United States Chess Federation (USCF). Membership is \$17-23 depending on your age and includes a subscription to Chess Life magazine and a national chess rating that is used to rank and seed players at tournaments. About 17 Wyomissing chess team members are currently in the USCF. Other gift ideas are a board & bag (\$20-\$50), a chess clock (\$25-100), a handheld chess computer game (\$20-40), chess computer software (\$10-\$80), and a chess game logbook (\$5). These items can be purchased at chessusa.com, thechessstore.com, & uscfsales.com.

Outlook for Next Year

After a fun year of playing chess in 2004-05, we are looking forward to an even more exciting one in 2005-06. Again, there will be opportunity for casual chess play, but hopefully more of us will be studying tactics to improve their game. With average attendance of 30 two days a week and over 70 students being on the chess ladder, there are lots of people to play and you can easily improve your game while having fun!

After taking second place to Exeter last year in the Berks County Chess League, it will be take a lot of work and good play to win the League next year. And after finishing sixth place in the state last year, we have lots of potential to do better since most of our team was made up of ninth graders. Again next year, the trip to the weekend state championship will be paid for at least the top 9 players.



Summer Chess Camp

The premier chess camp in the state is the Castle Chess Camp in State College from July 10-17. Grandmaster Joel Benjamin, a three-time US Champion, is the featured instructor though many grandmasters and masters will be teaching. The camp is about \$700 (including room & board).

There are a few other day camps in the Pottstown, Harrisburg, & Philadelphia area. See chesscamp.com for details on these one-week camps that cost around \$250.

See the Links area of our web site for links to these camps and more.

Learn Flash Animation

Mr. Minich will be teaching a one-week workshop on Aug 1-5 for 9-12 graders at the Penn State Berks campus on Flash Animation.

Flash is the multimedia software that is used to make lots of cool web site animations and games. It's a lot more powerful and interesting than PowerPoint.

See Mr. Minich, call 1-800-BERKS-CE or visit <http://www.bk.psu.edu/ce/template.asp?page=instance&instanceId=172> for more details. The 5-day workshop is \$250.