



## *Annual Report - 2025*

The Scott County Chess Club was created in 2018 to promote the game of Chess in Scott County and Mississippi – providing opportunities for persons of all ages and skill levels to learn and play the game. My son, Aaron, and I organized it after he taught me how to play the game.

We began publishing annual reports in 2022 to the community on our progress. Originally, we observed a fiscal year of July 1 to June 30. We now use the calendar year as our fiscal year. This report covers activities from January 1 until December 31, 2025.

We begin by expressing our sincere appreciation and gratitude to the people of Scott County, and others outside the county, who have supported us since our inception. We could not have come this far without the support we have received.

We continue to use social media and a website for online publicity. *The Scott County Times* and *The Spirit of Morton* newspapers have remained generous in publishing stories. I send monthly email blasts to members and others. A club newsletter is produced and distributed monthly via email for members and others interested in our activities. We attend events and use display boards as well as distribute flyers for additional publicity.

We have received continued support from the business community in supporting our tournaments through sponsorships. We have 10 businesses in Scott County who have helped to fund our events. Donations are first applied toward the prize money for winners. After that, donations are applied toward the trophies and medals. Registrations have been covering remaining expenses. Remaining funds after all bills are paid are kept for use toward the next tournament and any operating expenses.

In March 2025, I returned to Noxubee County to help teach the game to a group of students and some adults as hired by a grassroots community organization.

In April 2025, we hosted the fourth annual Bienville Chess Classic and again saw a strong turnout at Roosevelt State Park with 38 players from across the state and continued support from our sponsoring businesses. Participation included individual players only.

In May 2025, we attempted to sponsor a booth at the Lakefest event in Lake to promote the game to the public and raise awareness about chess and our club. However, heavy rain canceled the first date and rains returned to ruin the day on a second attempt.

In May and June 2025, we hosted introductory meetings for recruiting new players to the game.

On June 1, I represented the club and the Mississippi Chess Association when the Franklin Chess Center in Meadville celebrated its 10th anniversary with a special event. The celebration was attended by past and present players and focused on promoting the game for all ages.

In June 2025, I returned as a guest on “Good Things” with Rebecca Turner on the statewide radio network of SuperTalk Mississippi. This time, I was accompanied by Paul Smith - a fellow MCA board member and chess coach at St. Andrews Episcopal School in Ridgeland. Discussion included chess in Mississippi schools.

Also in June 2025, I represented the club in a new tournament as part of the State Games of Mississippi program in Meridian.

On July 4, 2025, we again hosted a booth at the Independence Day celebration at Roosevelt State Park to promote the game of chess and recruit players. Many kids and some adults visited the booth for information and played on boards set up for demonstrations.

In late July 2025, I again served as a tournament director for the Mississippi Chess Association Team State Championship held at Jackson Prep in Flowood.

In August 2025, we held the second annual Forest Chess Challenge which features Quick and Blitz games, also known as “speed chess.” The event was held at Penn’s restaurant in Forest and attracted 20 players from across Mississippi. The Swiss format tournament included five Quick rounds with time control of 15 minutes in the morning. The afternoon session included five rounds of 5 minutes. Increments were eliminated this year. Both sessions included two sections: Open and U1000. Cash prizes were awarded to first and second place.

In September 2025, the club again had a booth at the Wing Dang Doodle Festival in Forest to promote the game to the public and raise awareness about chess and our Club. Several people visited the booth and participated in games using demonstration boards.

In October 2025, we again partnered with the Forest Library to host the fourth Randy Richardson Memorial Chess Camp for youth in the community. Due to the library availability schedule, we had to change the format to split the camp over two days. On the first date, the camp included a morning of chess instruction and lessons. On the second date, in November, the camp featured a mock tournament format. The camp included 13 participants.

Also in October 2025, the club partnered with the Mississippi Chess Association again in planning and participating in a display at the Mississippi State Fair in Jackson. Information was available about the game and there was a tremendous response as many people stopped at the display where they had the opportunity to play the game. This year MCA President Mark Nicholas played all participating players in a simultaneous round of chess.

In November 2025, we hosted the fifth annual Roosevelt Chess Classic at Roosevelt State Park with 50 players and continued support from our sponsoring businesses. Participation included individual and team players with most of them from Mississippi and adjoining states. We had several schools participating in the team competition.

Finally, in November 15, I visited the first-ever Mississippi Chess Festival at Mississippi College in Clinton where five masters including a grandmaster participated. I did not play but took photos and interviewed the titled players. The event was very successful.

This concludes the club’s annual report for FY 2025.

More information can be found on our website at [scottcountychessclub.org](http://scottcountychessclub.org).

Sincerely,

*Chris Allen Baker*

Club co-founder and Coordinator  
Tournament Director