

VOL. 4 ISSUE 8 · AUGUST 2025

# CHESS JOURNAL

Official Newsletter of the Scott County Chess Club

## Come join us on first Saturdays!

Our meetings are usually held on the **first Saturdays** of each month so everyone can plan ahead to join us.

The **NEXT regular meeting** will be held on August 2 at the Forest Public Library - 9 to 11 a.m. (210 S. Raleigh St.)

**Everyone is welcome! All ages and skill levels**  
**NO membership fee to participate**



*Players may bring their own chess set if they have one.*  
*We have boards and sets to use.*  
*(provided by Friends of Forest Library group)*



scottcountychessclub



@scott\_chess



Scott County Chess



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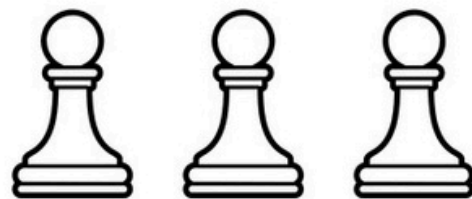
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## Highlights in Chess

### Chess in Park, on airwaves

#### Club returns to Roosevelt State Park

The Scott County Chess Club participated in the annual Independence Day celebration at Roosevelt State Park organized by the Friends of Roosevelt group.

This was the second time for the club to have a display at the 4th of July celebrations at the park and we are looking forward to continuing our participation. We had a great spot for our tent and welcomed several visitors seeking to play or learn the game. One visitor, a park employee, is very skillful and played our coordinator three times, winning two games. He also played other visitors. Another visitor to the tent engaged in chess lessons, learning the game from scratch.

The club appreciates the Friends of Roosevelt for including us in their activities and for all their support in our competitions as a valuable partner.



#### Club returns to 'Good Things' on Super Talk

The Club returned to the airwaves as a guest of "Good Things with Rebecca Turner" on the SuperTalk statewide radio network on July 17. Joining Turner and Chris Allen Baker for our fifth visit was Paul Smith, chess instructor and board member of the Mississippi Chess Association.



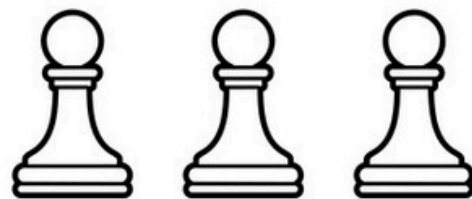
The interview can be found on the club website in the video media gallery.

## Sponsors

Community Bank  
Cox Chevron  
Bank of Commerce (Morton)  
Tom Miles  
Priority One Bank  
French's Pharmacy  
Fountain ACE Hardware  
Bank of Forest  
Jack Batte and Sons Lumber Mill  
Joe McGee Construction

## Partners

Central MS Regional Library System  
Forest Public Library  
Friends of Forest Library  
U.S. Chess Federation  
MS Chess Association  
MS Scholastic Chess Association  
Capital City Chess Club  
Roosevelt State Park  
Forest Baptist Church  
Andrew Jackson Council - BSA  
Community Bank  
SwissSys  
MS Trophy  
Larchwood Designs  
MS Secretary of State  
Go Daddy (web hosting)  
Ingram Printing  
Scott County Times  
The Spirit of Morton  
SuperTalk MS  
WLBT - Studio 3  
Forest Chamber of Commerce  
Town of Lake  
City of Morton  
Town of Sebastopol  
King Registration  
Friends of Roosevelt State Park



## Highlights in Chess

### Club joins larger venues

#### We have a presence on Chess.com

The Scott County Chess Club has created an online presence on Chess.com as we seek to expand our reach to as many potential participants as possible.

It is unclear as to the direction we will take with our Chess.com presence, but for players who use the online chess platform and who may be interested in our club, it can bring opportunities.

“During the COVID shutdown in 2020 and going in to 2021, we were unable to meet due to the library closure and the pandemic itself. This is when many chess players resorted to playing online to keep their skills sharp and many people learned chess for the first time,” said club coordinator Chris Allen Baker. “As much as many people take advantage of online chess, and we recognized that interest, there is really no substitute for over the board participation. We hope to bridge the best of both worlds in chess.”

If you are a member of Chess.com, look us up in the social area of the platform and join us. If we gain enough members online, we can explore opportunities for online events.

'Life  
is full  
of  
important  
choices.'



### Club leader joins Chess Journalists of America organization

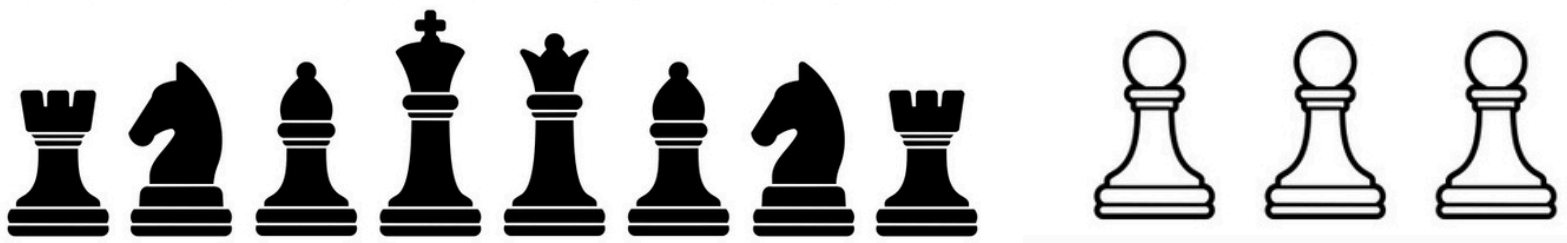
Following our expanded presence on the local and state levels of chess, the Scott County Chess Club has also expanded its footprint on the national scene in multiple venues. In late July, it has done so again. Club founder and coordinator Chris Allen Baker joined the Chess Journalists of America organization ([chessjournalism.org](http://chessjournalism.org)), combining his professional career with his beloved passion for chess.

Baker, who has a degree in journalism from Ole Miss and completed more than 30 years in the newspaper publishing profession before his current position in public relations, is combining that experience with his favorite past time.

“I was looking for something online and came across this organization which seems right up my alley. I contacted them, joined, and advised them of my journalism experience and chess journey so far,” Baker said. “After I study their organization and determine the best manner to participate, I look forward to possibly being a contributor in any way that I can. I have a number of projects in the works that could complement participation in their organization.”

Baker said his attention is solely focused on Scott County Chess having a significant footprint in the chess world and in so doing, showing its members and participants what is possible through the game.

“Just like with appearing on SuperTalk and other media, this is not about me. It is about chess and the opportunities available for personal growth through the game,” Baker said. “I have always believed in being fully involved in activities. I am just along for the ride and enjoying the people I get to meet and chances to play and talk about chess.”



**Scott County Chess Club sponsored tournament**

## Forest Chess Challenge returns for speed chess

FOREST – The 2<sup>nd</sup> annual **Forest Chess Challenge** tournament is set for **Saturday, August 16, 2025**, at Penn's Restaurant in Forest. This event will feature individuals playing rated games in quick and blitz styles of chess.

Our first Forest Chess Challenge in August 2024 attracted 15 players from around Mississippi. It is the third tournament series created by the club and contributed to a current total of 347 players who have participated in nine tournaments held in Scott County.

The tournament will feature five rounds of Quick chess in the morning, which is games played with 15 minute limits, and five rounds of Blitz in the afternoon, which is games played with 5 minute limits. Cash prizes will be offered to winners.

While we continue to appreciate our sponsors who generously donate funds annually to help make our other two tournament series successful, this tournament series is self-supported without sponsor donations. Operation and prize funds are generated solely from registrations received.

Quick and Blitz are unique styles that challenge players' abilities to think even faster and play with greater speed. It has traditionally been a popular style within the chess community. We look forward to providing this opportunity to meet the needs of this segment of the chess family.

**Penn's Restaurant, 1550 MS Highway 35, Forest**

Exit 88 on Interstate 20 east of Jackson

**10 rounds – Swiss System (no elimination)**

**active** U.S. Chess Federation membership **required**

**ALL RATED Sections - Open and U1000**

Notation is *NOT* required; regular ratings from most recent USCF supplement used for pairings.

### **Quick**

**5 rounds** G/15 (no delay or increment)

Registration 8 until 9:30 a.m.

### **Blitz**

**5 rounds** G/5 (no delay or increment)

Registration/check-in 1:30 p.m.

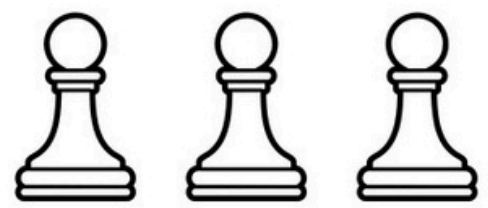
**Prize funds** come from 80 percent of registrations; first and second place awards  
**Registration:** <https://www.kingregistration.com/event/ForestChallenge2025>

**Early Bird Entry Fee:** Quick only - \$25, Blitz only - \$25, Both - \$30

**Deadline:** 11:59 p.m. August 9, fees increase after this deadline.

**Visit [scottcountychessclub.org](http://scottcountychessclub.org) for more information**





# Chess Calendar

For more information about all listings:  
see our website at [scottcountychessclub.org](http://scottcountychessclub.org)

\* **Scott County Chess Club** will hold a regular meeting  
Saturday, August 2, 9-11 am, Public Library, Forest  
This will be our regular meeting - everyone is welcome.

\* **2nd Sunday Chess League**  
Second Sunday, August 10, 2 p.m. - Food Court, Outlets of  
Mississippi, Pearl

\* **Forest Chess Challenge (Quick and Blitz)**  
Saturday, August 16 - Penn's, Forest (**Scott County Chess Club** hosting)

\* **Third annual J'Kennethon Smith Memorial Chess Tournament**  
Saturday, August 23, 10 a.m. - Food Court, Outlets, Pearl

\* **SW Mississippi K-12 Jamboree**  
Saturday, September 6 - Copiah-Lincoln CC, Wesson

\* **Mississippi Women's State Championship**  
Saturday, September 13 - Nissan Training Center, Canton

\* **Eagle Chess Challenge II**  
Saturday, September 20 - Resurrection Catholic Elem. School,  
Pascagoula

\* **Chessmate Live Tournament**  
Saturday, September 20 - Starkville

\* **Central MS K-12 Jamboree**  
Saturday, September 27 - Jackson Prep, Flowood

\* **MSCA Scholastic Individual Grade Level Championships**  
Saturday, October 4 - Children's Museum, Jackson

\* **Mississippi State Championship**  
Saturday-Sunday, October 18-19 - Nissan Training Center, Canton

'I'm here  
because I  
was told  
there would  
be chess.'



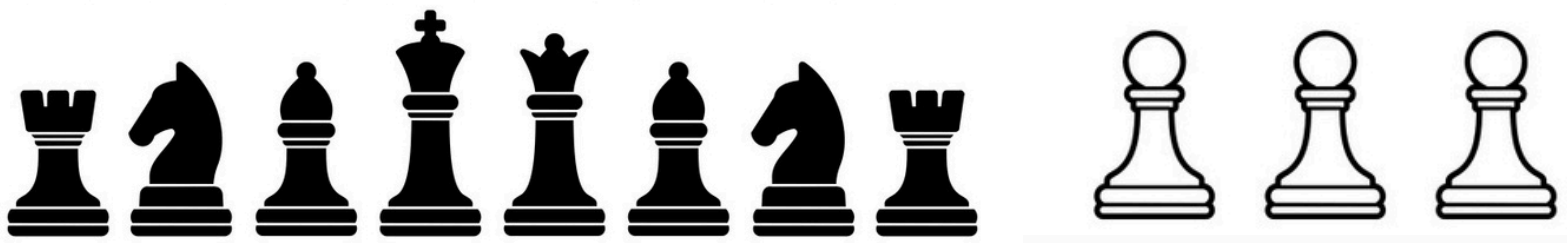
## TOP TO BOTTOM CHESS:

\* **Memphis Chess Club**

Weekly chess tournaments on Saturdays

\* **Mississippi Coast Chess Club**

Thursdays- Newk's, Gulfport



**Scott County Chess Club sponsored tournament**

## 5th annual Roosevelt Chess Classic

MORTON – The 5th annual **Roosevelt Chess Classic tournament** is set for **Saturday, November 1, 2025**, at Roosevelt State Park in Morton. This event will feature individuals and teams playing rated games.

Our first Roosevelt Classic in November 2021 attracted nearly 50 players from around Mississippi and we had players come from Louisiana, Tennessee, and Florida. In 2022, the tournament included 69 players from Mississippi and Louisiana. We had 59 players in 2023 and we set a new record last year with 75 players. Our combined turnout for all tournaments is now 347 players, including those returning and new players.

**Registration is open!** The listing is on King Registration with initial information which may have some changes. All details will be final after July 1.

Before we go any further, recognition goes to our past sponsors who generously donated funds to help make our tournaments successful. Most of, if not all, of them have expressed an interest to continue this year and we may even have some new sponsors added. This is a tremendous benefit because their contributions help keep the registration fees and expenses as low as possible which means funds left over after all bills are paid can be carried over to the next event. We really appreciate the support from the community and the businesses who have helped make these tournaments possible.

**Roosevelt State Park, Alfreda-Harris Lodge, 2149 MS Highway 13, Morton**

Exit 77 on Interstate 20

**4 rounds – Swiss System – Game control: 45+3**

**active** U.S. Chess Federation membership and notation **required; All games are rated**

**All Rated Sections - Open, U1200, U800, U400**

### INDIVIDUALS

**Open** (Cash - \$200 & trophy for 1st, \$100 & medal for 2nd; \$50 & medal for 3rd)

**U1200** (Cash \$50 and trophy for 1st; medals for 2nd and 3rd)

**U800** (Cash \$50 and trophy for 1st; medals for 2nd and 3rd)

**U400** (Cash \$50 and trophy for 1st; medals for 2nd and 3rd)

### TEAMS

Players may form teams with any number of players above the minimum of four.

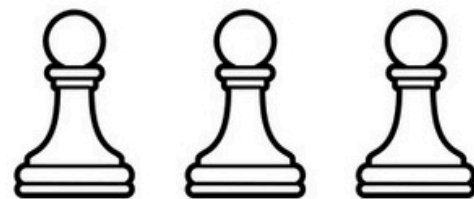
**Each team player will compete in their respective section according to their rating, or play up.**

**The four players with the best scores among their team members are used to calculate their team score.**

*The first place team will win championship and those four members will receive medals and \$100 collectively.*

School sponsored and independent teams are welcome.

**\*\* Please check your membership status with the U.S. Chess Federation to make sure your status is active and renew if necessary before registering. \*\***



## 2025 Roosevelt Chess Classic - continued

**REGISTRATION Online: <https://www.kingregistration.com/event/Roosevelt2025>**

### **Early Bird Discount: \$35 per player**

*Discount expires at 11:59 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 25. **Regular rate: \$40 per player begins***

*Late and Onsite Registration: **\$45 per player begins 6 p.m. Friday, Oct. 31***

***No registrations accepted after 9 a.m. Nov. 1***

### **TEAM REGISTRATION**

Players wishing to form teams should designate a team captain who will register members together in one transaction.

**School teams - Coaches should register players in same transaction**

**All teams should be registered by noon, Friday, October 31;**

**Individuals' final deadline is 9 a.m. Nov. 1**

*King Registration utilizes **PayPal, Venmo, and credit/debit card payment methods**. King Registration is preferred, but if different payment method is needed, please contact tournament director via email at [scottcountychessclub@gmail.com](mailto:scottcountychessclub@gmail.com). In email, provide name, active USCF #, desired section, desired payment method, Other electronic options include CashApp and Zelle. Paper check and cash on site methods are available. Make checks payable to the Scott County Chess Club.*

### **Schedule**

**Registration and Check-in** 8 a.m. until 9 a.m.

*All players must arrive by 9 a.m. so tournament can start on time.*

**Welcome and Briefing of Rules** 9:15 a.m.

Round 1 – 9:30 a.m.

Round 2 – 11:30 a.m.

Round 3 - 2 p.m.

Round 4 - 3:30 p.m.

*Awards – To be presented after final round*

*(Please try to plan to stay for awards if possible)*

Byes due to inability to pair = 1.0

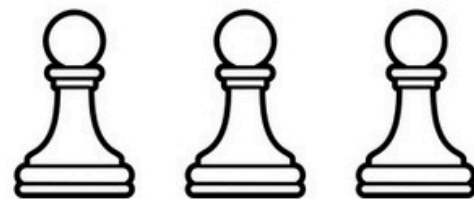
Requested byes = 0.5 (make requests before start of round)

*Players who have byes in the same round may request to play extra rated game.*

Tiebreakers Ties will be settled by SwissSys computer program. Cash prizes will be split per USCF rules.

Computer tiebreakers will determine trophy and medal recipients.





2025 Roosevelt Chess Classic - concluded

## Important Tournament Notes

**The park entry fee is already handled. Advise gate personnel that you are participating in the chess tournament.**

- Registered players will receive a pre-event email on Wednesday prior to tournament including important last minute details.
- Everyone is encouraged to bring chairs for lounging between rounds, lobby seating is limited; an outdoor patio is available.
- Concession food options will be available on site. Cash and electronic payments (CashApp) accepted
- Skittles rooms will be available.
- Please submit any requests for change of section by 6 p.m. Friday, Oct. 31.

**More information is available on our website** [scottcountychessclub.org](http://scottcountychessclub.org)

**Send questions or requests via email to** [scottcountychessclub@gmail.com](mailto:scottcountychessclub@gmail.com)



## International Master

We were blessed in November 2024 with the participation of an international chess master during our 4<sup>th</sup> edition of the Roosevelt Chess Classic tournament.

Justin Sarkar flew from New York to participate in our event and left as the Open champion. It was also our largest turnout ever among our events.





## Tournament action is all around

Many chess players are content to just play casually whenever the opportunity arises. This may include accepting a spontaneous invitation from a fellow chess player or attending a local chess club. However, there is another level to the game of chess - tournaments.

Tournaments are great ways to see how much progress a player is making in learning and growing in the game by discovering how they stack up against other players. It is also an opportunity to learn from other players in seeing a variety of strategies and styles of play. Like any other competitive activity, it is good to keep a healthy attitude and perspective, but playing in tournaments can reap many rewards.

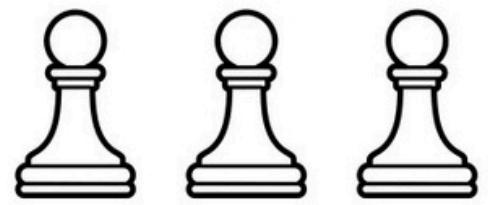
Some players enjoy just playing in a random tournament for fun and experiencing the opportunity to learn and grow. Other players are more competitive and really get into tournaments, seeking to win and advance as far as they can go. They may have aspirations for earning master, grandmaster status within the U.S. Chess Federation through their rating. It is up to each individual to determine what kind of chess life they wish to have.

In Mississippi, there are many opportunities to participate in tournaments. The Mississippi Chess Association sponsors a state tournament each fall for adults and youth. Youth may also participate in the annual scholastic tournaments. These events are precursors to representing the state on the national level at many events.

Tournaments usually include registration fees and players choose what sections they wish to participate in, based on their skill level as determined by their U.S. Chess Federation rating. Tournaments may also include team play where individual players' scores are combined and calculated for overall scores. Prizes may include cash, trophies, plaques, medals, ribbons, and certificates.

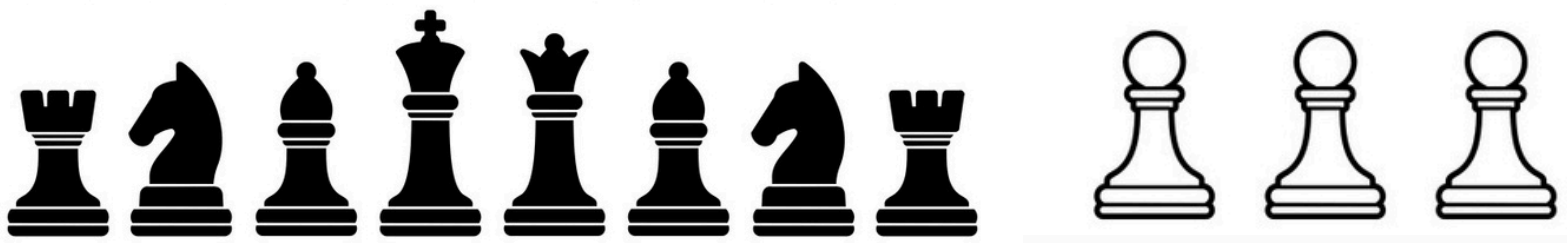
**See calendar on page 5 and our website for more information!**

**[scottcountychessclub.org](http://scottcountychessclub.org)**



**'A day  
without chess  
probably  
wouldn't kill  
you,  
but  
why risk  
it?'**



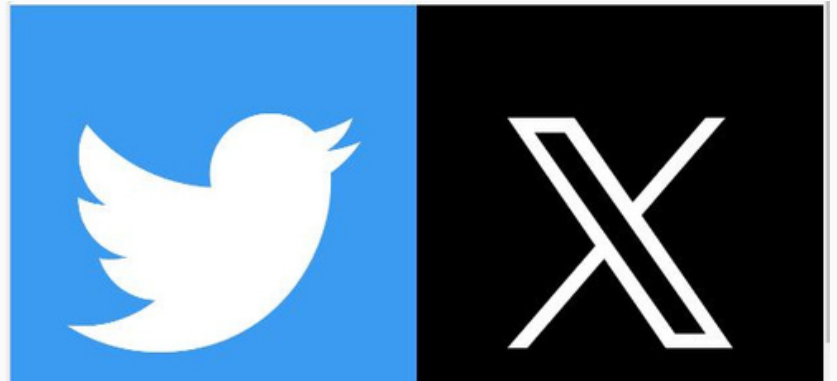


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**Scott County Chess**

**[scottcountychessclub.org](http://scottcountychessclub.org)**

send request and other questions to: [scottcountychessclub@gmail.com](mailto:scottcountychessclub@gmail.com)