

VOL. 4 ISSUE 9 · SEPTEMBER 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 **September 6** 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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[scottcountychessclub.org](http://scottcountychessclub.org)



## Chess News Highlights

### Speed chess event grows

*Forest Chess Challenge is now an annual event*

The 2<sup>nd</sup> annual Forest Chess Challenge grew in participation on the first anniversary on August 16 of its debut last year.

The Challenge essentially included two tournaments, one for Quick play and one for Blitz play and most of the players participated in both segments.



The event, held at Penn's restaurant in Forest, attracted 20 registered players this year, five more than its first outing. The Quick tournament ran five Swiss paired rounds with a time control of G/15. The Blitz tournament ran five Swiss paired rounds with a time control of G/5. There were no increments or delays.

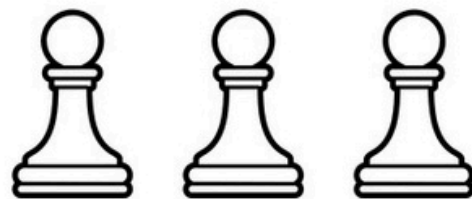
Both sessions included two sections, Open and U1000, and cash prizes were awarded to first and second place winners respectively.

Chris Allen Baker, founder and coordinator of the Scott County Chess Club, said with the success of the sequel, plans are underway to continue the series.

"It was a good day for chess in Scott County and I appreciate everyone who traveled across the state to participate in our event. I am so excited that we saw growth in participation," Baker said. "Everyone said they had a great time and enjoyed the chance to play the game at a faster pace."

The Forest Challenge is different from the two tournaments already offered including the Bienville Classic in the spring and Roosevelt Classic in the Fall, both which use G/45+3.

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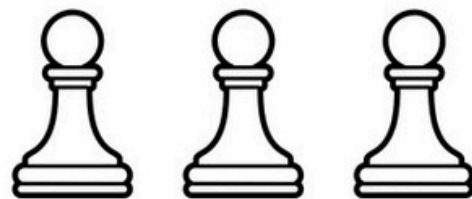
## Sponsors

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

“While looking at last year’s chess calendar, I realized there are very few opportunities for playing Quick and Blitz. We have one of the only two planned events of this nature. Other clubs and groups offer sporadic chances to play Blitz or Quick. I want to offer a set event where players can make plans and count on at least one event like this.”

The first Forest Challenge was a trial run to test the waters, and the result was good enough to continue one more time. The second was even better. “I wasn’t sure at first about hosting this kind of tournament because my own Blitz experience is limited. Watching one other tournament this summer, I realized the strength of the segment of our chess community that enjoys speed chess is significant, so I wanted to give it a try,” Baker said. “Whereas I host other tournaments in Morton, I want to hold an event here in Forest so this is the perfect opportunity.”

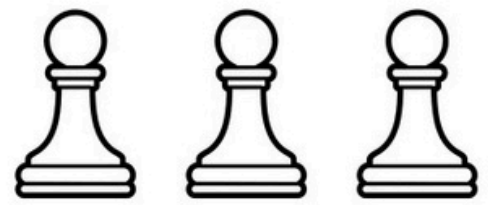
Baker said the Forest Challenge will always be held in August.

For the results, visit [scottcountychessclub.org](http://scottcountychessclub.org)



# Next **Forest Chess** Challenge *August 15, 2026*





## Highlights in Chess

# Wing Dang Doodle is Sept. 27

*The Scott County Chess Club will make its fourth appearance at the annual festival*

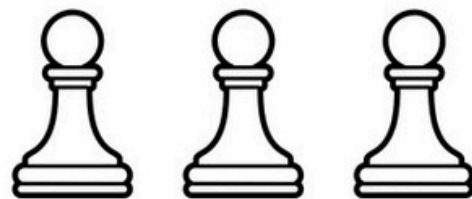
It's that time of year again when fall festivals come around in Scott County and the Scott County Chess Club will be in the thick of the action starting with the Wing Dang Doodle Festival at Gaddis Park in Forest.

Originally known as the Broiler Festival, the event was rebranded to its new name to feature all things poultry and includes fun, fellowship, music, arts and crafts, great food, and more.

The Scott County Chess Club will have an information booth set up where people can stop by for details about how to get involved in chess. There will also be an opportunity to play the game on boards set up under our tent. ***Come by to see us!!***







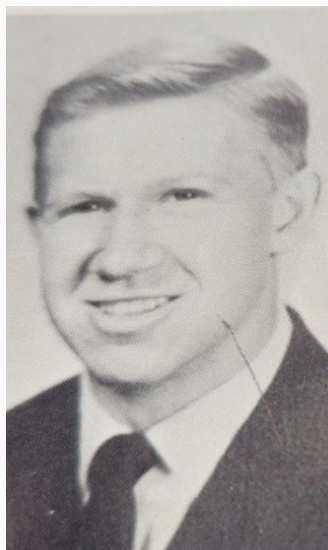
## Highlights in Chess at Roosevelt Park

### Kids chess camp planned

**3rd annual Randy Richardson Memorial Chess Camp is set for October 11**

The Scott County Chess Club is looking forward to its third chess camp designed for youth and children interested in becoming chess players through providing an introduction to the game.

The one day camp will be part of celebrating National Chess Day on Oct. 11 at the Forest Public Library. Participants will have the opportunity to learn the basics of the game and play a small tournament-style event to try their new or existing skills.

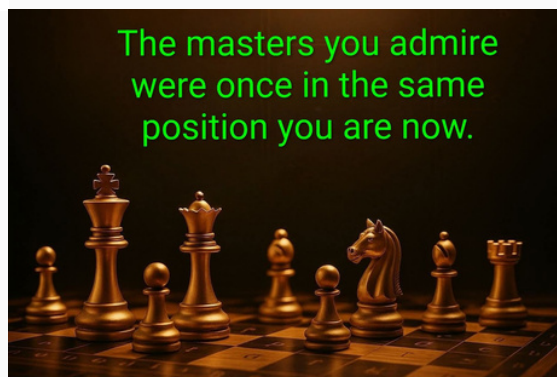


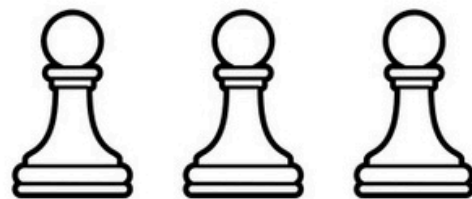
The camp was first made possible through a gifted a \$1,000 donation to support chess and activities promoting chess education. Former Forest resident and native retired Lt. Col. Michael Hawkins donated the funds in memory of a former classmate who taught him how to play chess.

Hawkins said he wished for the funds to be used to obtain whatever materials the library needed to educate and promote chess in the community, particularly among children. The donation was also used to buy chess books and sets.

The classmate Hawkins referred to is the late Randy Richardson who, with Hawkins, was a 1960 graduate of Forest High school. Chess was among many activities they were involved in during their school years.

"He taught me the game and I just became hooked. I love it so much. We played 24 straight games with him winning all of them before I was able to beat him on the 25th try," Hawkins said. "It was a great experience. I appreciated the opportunity Randy gave me to learn the game and I still play it whenever I can."





## 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, September 6, 9-11 am, Public Library, Forest  
Everyone is welcome.

\* **2nd Sunday Chess League**  
Second Sunday, September 14, 2 p.m. - Food Court, Outlets of  
Mississippi, Pearl

\* **Mississippi Women's State Championship**  
Saturday, September 13 - Nissan Training Center, Canton  
(See also page 10 in today's newsletter)

\* **Scholastic Central Jamboree**  
Saturday, September 27 - Jackson Prep, Flowood

\* **Mississippi State Fair chess exhibition**  
Saturday, October 12 - Mississippi Trade Mart, Jackson

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

\* **Roosevelt Chess Classic** - Scott County Chess Club hosting  
Saturday, November 1 - Roosevelt State Park, Morton

\* **Mississippi Chess Festival**  
Saturday-Sunday, November 15-16 - Mississippi College, Clinton

\* **Capital City Chess Club**  
Tuesdays from 5:30 until 8:30 p.m., Scholtzky's, Flowood  
Club tournaments and league games will continue at the Food Court  
at the Outlets of Mississippi mall in Pearl.

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



### TOP TO BOTTOM CHESS:

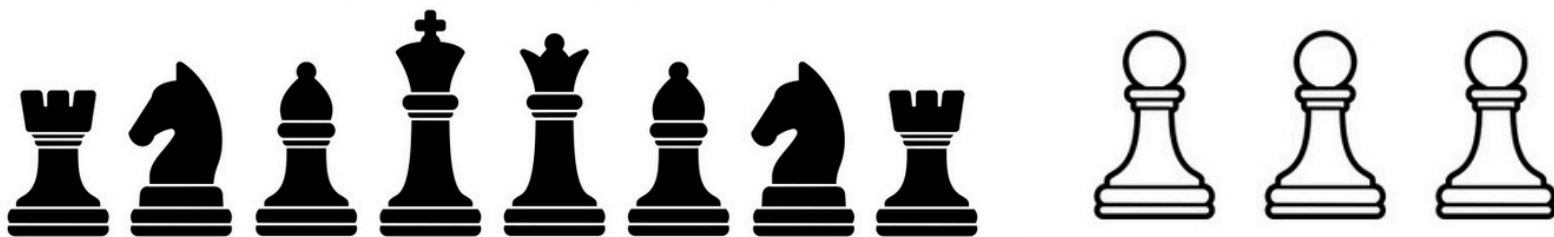
\* **Memphis Chess Club**

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 457 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 are now final.

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.

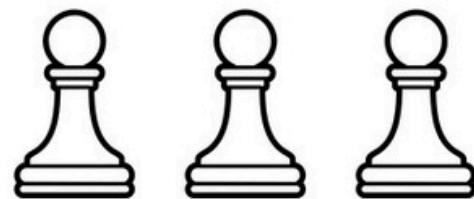
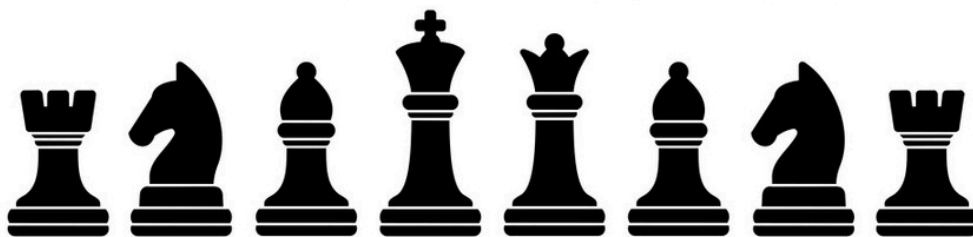
**Each team player will compete in their respective section according to their rating, or play up.**

**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

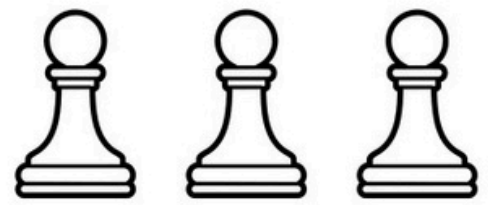
Requested byes = 0.5 (make requests before start of round)

*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)

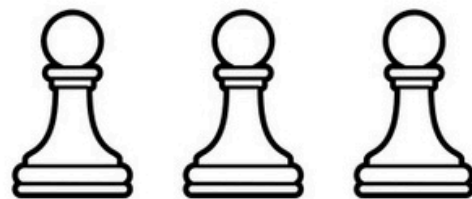
**Send questions or requests via email to** [scottcountychessclub@gmail.com](mailto:scottcountychessclub@gmail.com)



## 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.



## Highlights in Chess

### Women's State Championship

*The second state event just for women's chess  
is set for September 13*

The Mississippi Chess Association is hosting its first state championship event solely designated for women on Sept. 13 at Nissan Training Center (300 Nissan Drive, Gate 1) in Canton.

The tournament is open to players from all states, but only Mississippi residents may win titles/trophies. Prize funds will be split in the case of ties. Plaque and titles will be settled by tiebreaks if required.

The tournament will feature **four rounds** of Swiss format with game time control of **45+15**.

The entry fee of \$25. Payment accepted on site (Cash or Check) before Check In.

All chess equipment will be provided. All players are required to take manual notation using scoresheets provided by the tournament director.

Two sections: Open and Reserve. All players are eligible to play in the Open section. The Reserve section is open only to players with ratings under 600. A one half point bye is available for all but last round. Must declare before the start of the 2nd round.

**Schedule: 9 am, 11:15 am, 2:15 pm, 4:30 pm**

Awards Ceremony to follow last round or tiebreaks. Plaques or trophies will be given for the top 3 finishers in each section.

For more **information** and to **register online** at

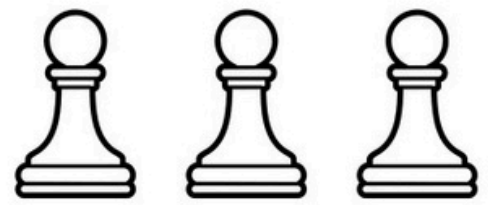
<https://www.kingregistration.com/register/2025MSWomens>

'The Queen is  
powerful.  
and  
so are we!'

'I am a Queen  
with a plan.'







## State Fair Chess

**Sunday, October 12, 2025**

Mississippi Trade Mart

State Fairgrounds, Jackson

Take High Street Exit from Interstate 55

**Come play MCA President Mark Nicholas**

in a simultaneous game with other players  
2 p.m.

MCA officers will be on hand to answer questions about chess  
for new and prospective players

Boards will be available for the general public to play the game **Free of Charge!**

We invite experienced players to come and play to help showcase the game

Information will be available about what is going on in chess  
across Mississippi

**It's NEVER too late to learn CHESS!!**

*Sponsored by the Mississippi Chess Association*

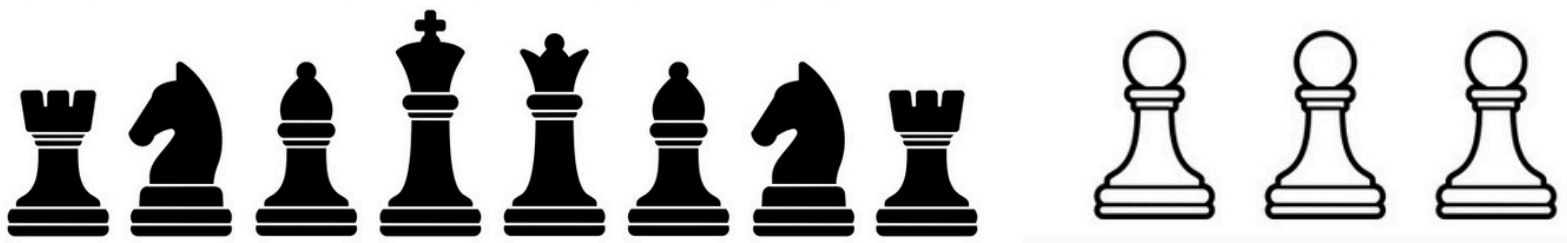
**There is an admission fee to enter the State Fair**

For more information about the State Fair, visit <https://www.msstatefair.com/>

For more information about chess, email [chris@mcachess.org](mailto:chris@mcachess.org)

**'Chess is like  
life.  
There are  
rewards for  
good choices,  
consequences  
for the bad  
choices.'**



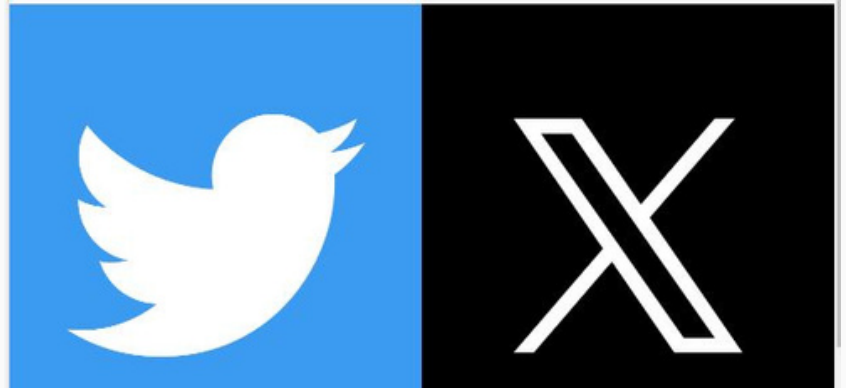


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**Scott County Chess**

send request and other questions to:  
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