

VOL. 5 ISSUE 4 · APRIL 2026

# 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 **April 4** 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)

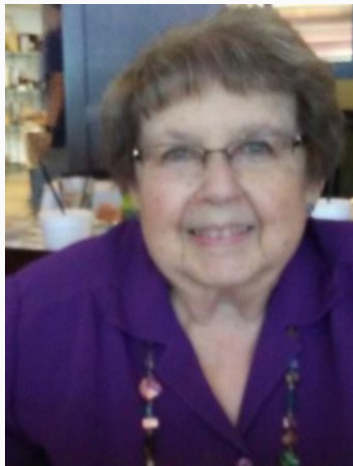


# Chess News Highlights

## Championship honors Rhodes

The first-place winner in the Open section of the annual Bienville Chess Classic receives a plaque commemorating the Beverly Jo Rhodes Memorial Award, named for a former gifted teacher who started the WINGS program at Forest High School and supported chess among class activities.

Beverly Jo Bracken Rhodes, 80, of Forest, died November 27, 2019. She was a native of Newton. As a young child, she was taught to read by her grandfather, Mr. A.L. Myers, and read constantly throughout her life.



She was a Cum Laude graduate of Millsaps College in Jackson where she attended classes from 8 to 12 and worked at the Jackson YWCA from 1 to 9, riding a street bus to and from campus.

She was on the Dean’s and President’s List and was a member of the Purple and White Staff, Eta Sigma (scholastic honorary) and Eta Sigma Phi (classical languages honorary).

In 1981 she initiated the WINGS Class for gifted students at Forest high School. Her students excelled in numerous activities including Creative Writing, Quiz Bowl, Art Competitions, **Chess**, Future Problem Solving, Odyssey of the Mind, Stock Market Competition and Mississippi Economics Counsel Competitions. They won state and national awards, and many received college scholarships in part due to their WINGS class activities. She named the class WINGS and often said, “I hope to give them wings, and let them fly.”

The Scott County Chess Club is proud to honor the memory of Ms. Rhodes and all that she did for chess in Scott County during her teaching career.

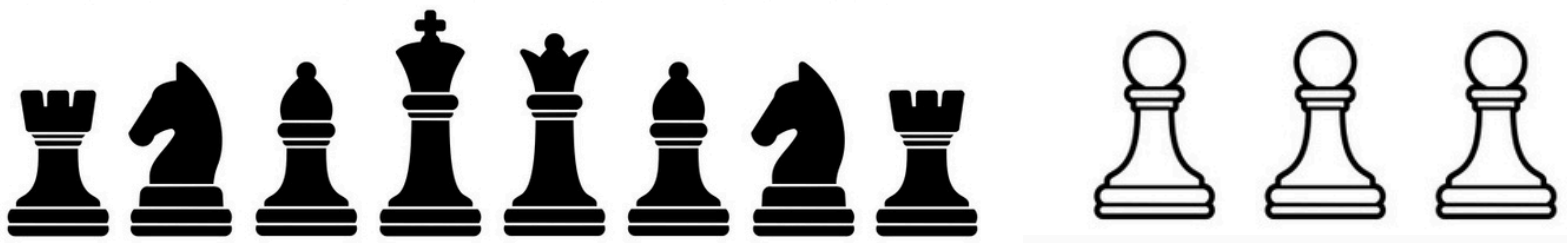


# Sponsors

- 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
- Mississippi Secretary of State
- Go Daddy (web hosting)
- Billy Freeman Photography
- Ingram Printing
- The 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



**Scott County Chess Club sponsored tournament**

## 5th annual Bienville Chess Classic

MORTON – The 4th annual **Bienville Chess Classic tournament** is set for **Saturday, April 18, 2026**, at Roosevelt State Park in Morton. This event will feature only individuals playing rated and unrated games. **Registration is open!** Our first Bienville Classic in May 2022 attracted 32 players from Mississippi and we had players come from Louisiana and Florida. The player from Florida won the grand championship after driving 17 hours. In 2023, we attracted 45 players; 2024 Bienville tournament set a new record with 58 players; last year we had 38 players. This brought our Bienville overall total to 173 players - returning and first timers. Our combined turnout for all 11 tournaments held (including Roosevelt Chess Classic in the fall and Forest Chess Challenge in August) is now 507 players.

Recognition goes to our past sponsors who generously donated funds to help make our tournaments possible. 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.

### 2026 Individuals Tournament

**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 for rated games**

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

**RATED - U1200** (Trophy and \$50 for 1st; medals for 2nd and 3rd)

**RATED - U800** (Trophy and \$50 for 1st; medals for 2nd and 3rd)

**RATED - U400** (Trophy and \$50 for 1st; medals for 2nd and 3rd)

#### REGISTRATION

**\$35 early bird** entry fee through **Saturday, April 11**

(at midnight April 12, **\$40 regular rate**)

(6 p.m. April 17 and thereafter, **\$45 late and on-site**)

**To Register Online: Visit [kingregistration.com/event/Bienville2026](https://kingregistration.com/event/Bienville2026) (preferred)**

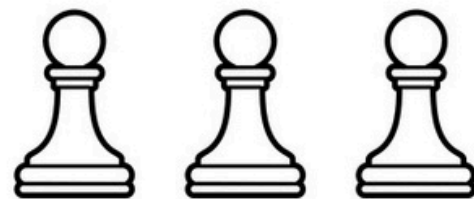
*This method allows immediate registration using **PayPal, Venmo**, and other credit card options.*

**To Register via email:** Send information to [scottcountychessclub@gmail.com](mailto:scottcountychessclub@gmail.com)

*Provide Name, U.S. Chess Federation ID Number, Desired section, and Desired method of Payment*

*(PayPal, Venmo, CashApp) **Email response will be sent upon receipt.***

*On site payment is also available if necessary - **cash or check only** - we do not have debit card payment access at this time.*



## 2026 Bienville Chess Classic - continued

### 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.

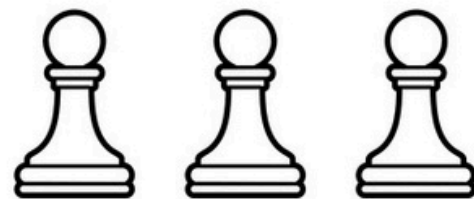
## Important Tournament Notes

**Roosevelt State Park's daily admission fee is waived for those attending our tournament.** *Players should tell the gate officer they are here for the tournament.*

- Registered players will receive a pre-event email on Wednesday or Thursday 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.
- Food options will be available on site. Cash and electronic payments accepted
- Skittles rooms will be available.
- Please submit any requests for change of section by 6 p.m. Friday, April 17.

**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)



# Chess Calendar

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

**\* Kenneth Stokes Inaugural Chess Tournament**

Saturday, April 4, Medgar Evers Library - Jackson

**\* Scott County Chess Club will hold a regular meeting**

Saturday, April 11, from 9-11 am, Public Library, Forest

*\*Rescheduled due to library access*

**\* Senior State Chess Tournament**

For players age 50 and above

Saturday, April 11-12 - Nissan, Canton

**\* Mississippi Children's Museum Chess Tournament**

Saturday - April 11, Children's Museum - Jackson

**\* Capital City Chess Club Chess League**

Saturday - April 14, Food Court, Outlets of Mississippi - Pearl

**\* Bienville Chess Classic \*\*\* Sponsored by Scott County Chess**

Saturday, April 18 - Morton (Details on pages 3-4 in this edition)

**\* Mississippi Children's Museum Chess Tournament**

Saturday - April 25, Children's Museum - Meridian

**\* MCA Quick and Blitz**

Saturday - May 2, Nissan - Canton

*\*Rescheduled from March 15 due to weather*

**\* MSCA Scholastic Rated Championship**

Saturday - May 9, RC Cook Student Union, USM - Hattiesburg

**\* Quads for Cash**

Saturday - May 9, RC Cook Student Union, USM - Hattiesburg

'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



# Chess tips

By Daniel Redford, *The Chess Blueprint*

Ever felt your mind freeze during a crucial game? Or maybe you've made a move you instantly regretted — not because you didn't know better, but because nerves, frustration, or time pressure got the best of you.

You're not alone. Chess isn't just about moves—it's about mindset.

Magnus Carlsen, the greatest player of our time, is known for his ability to stay calm under extreme pressure and find the best moves when it matters most. The good news? You don't have to be a grandmaster to develop that same mental strength.

## How to Stay Calm and Think Clearly in Chess

Here are three simple techniques to improve your decision-making, reduce blunders, and outplay opponents who crack under pressure:

**\* Slow Down Your Thinking Process.** Rushed moves lead to regret.

Before making any move, ask yourself: What does my opponent want to do? What threats exist on the board? Can I improve my position without taking risks? The habit of pausing for just five extra seconds before playing can eliminate 90 percent of avoidable blunders.

**\*Control Your Emotions — Like a Grandmaster.** The worst enemy in chess? Your own frustration.

Losing streaks (tilt) can make you play recklessly, while an early lead might make you overconfident. Carlsen's secret? He treats every game as if the score is 0-0. Next time you feel frustrated after a blunder, step away, take three deep breaths, and reset your focus.

**\*Master the Art of Handling Time Pressure.**

Scrambling in the last minutes of a game? Try this:

- Play faster in simpler positions to save time for complex moments.
- Use pre-move and increment wisely if playing online.
- If low on time, prioritize safe, solid moves over risky calculations.

The ability to stay cool when others panic is what separates strong players from everyone else.

## Try This in Your Next Game

Pick one of these techniques and apply it in your next game. See if it helps you think clearer, make better decisions, and avoid blunders.

*Daniel Redford is the pen name of a passionate chess enthusiast dedicated to helping players of all levels improve their skills, win more games, and enjoy the beauty of chess. He is the author of **The Chess Blueprint**. With years of experience studying strategy, tactics, and the psychology of the game, Daniel has made it his mission to break down complex chess concepts into easy-to-follow, practical lessons.*

# 'Never interrupt your opponent when they are making a mistake'

