

VOL. 5 ISSUE 5 · MAY 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 **May 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



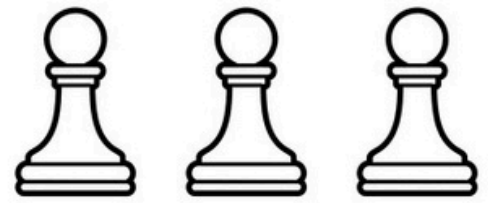
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scottcountychessclub.org



Chess News Highlights

Lakefest 2026

The Scott County Chess Club usually has an information booth set up in the Town of Lake during their annual festival known as Lakefest. Unfortunately, we were unable to participate this year due to schedule conflicts. Hopefully, we expect to return to the event in 2027.



Chess is a ‘Good Thing’

The Scott County Chess Club is lining up another visit to appear on “**Good Things with Rebecca Turner**” on the SuperTalk Mississippi Radio Network in late May. **An airdate has not been finalized, but an announcement will be made on our website and on social media sites.**

We have been blessed with great support from Rebecca’s show in spreading the message of chess across Mississippi. You can hear and view past shows and other appearances through our website at the following address: <https://scottcountychessclub.org/video%2Fmedia-gallery>

“Good Things” airs Mondays through Fridays from 2 until 3 p.m. and can be found at this address: <https://www.supertalk.fm/shows/goodthings/>

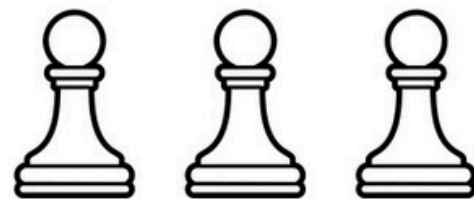


Sponsors

- 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



Chess News Highlights

8 years of Chess growth

The Scott County Chess Club will celebrate eight years of introducing our community to the game during the month of May and we will kick off the celebration with our regular meeting on **May 2**.

During our regular meeting, players who already know the game may play in the main area of the **Forest Public Library** where we usually gather **between 9 and 11 a.m.** Meanwhile, a special orientation program will be held in the library's main meeting room to introduce the game and club to anyone interested in learning chess and getting involved.

All activities are free and open to everyone who wants to participate. All materials will be provided for the event. Just show up and be ready to have fun!



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

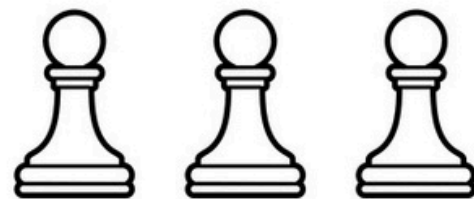
Forest Chess Challenge features Q&B

The Scott County Chess Club will host its third annual Forest Chess Challenge which features Quick and Blitz styles of chess action. We are looking forward to growing this unique way of playing a faster pace of the game. The one-day tournament will be held on August 15 at Penn's restaurant near Interstate 20 in Forest.

The Quick chess style will include 5 rounds and a game time control of 15 minutes with no increments or delays on the clock. The Blitz chess style will include 5 rounds and a game time control of 5 minutes, also no increments or delays. Notation will NOT be used. All games will be rated. The tournament will include two sections for each style - **Open and U1000** - and **regular** USCF ratings will be used for pairing purposes. *The prize fund will come solely from registrations received.*

Entry fees will include early bird rates of **\$20 each** for Quick or Blitz **only** and **\$30** for **both** if you register before 11:59 p.m. on **August 8**. At midnight, August 9, fees will go up to the regular rates of \$25 for Quick or Blitz and \$35 for both. At 6 p.m. on August 14, the late and on-site rates of \$30 for Quick or Blitz and \$40 for both will take effect. No registrations will be accepted after 9:30 a.m. on August 15.

There could be some changes as the final details were still pending at press time. Online registration will be available at the following address: <https://www.kingregistration.com/event/ForestChallenge2026>



Scott County Chess Club sponsored tournament

5th Annual Bienville Chess Classic is a hit

MORTON – Chess players from across Mississippi gathered last month at Roosevelt State Park to compete in the centuries-old game of chess.

The fifth annual Bienville Chess Classic was held April 18 at the park’s Alfreda-Harris Lodge where 25 players battled for prizes, improved ratings, and earned bragging rights.

This event brought the combined turnout to 532 players who have visited Scott County for 12 chess tournaments since the club started hosting in November 2021, holding one tournament in the spring, one in the fall, and added one in the summer in 2024.

Chris Allen Baker, club founder and coordinator, said players reported having a great experience as many of them have played in the club’s past tournaments, but there were new first-time players.

“We were blessed to have a wonderful turnout and decent weather to allow chess players across Mississippi and beyond to enjoy a great experience at one of our nation’s best state parks,” Baker said. “It is another sign that Scott County is a popular destination for chess in our state. We are building something special here.”

The event had support from the business community which donated funds toward prizes and resources. Five businesses contributed to this year’s spring tournament as sponsors, and five others regularly support the club’s Roosevelt Chess Classic in the fall. Partners provide additional support for both events.

“We could not do this without the support of our sponsors and partners. I appreciate every business who stepped up to help us make all our tournaments possible,” Baker said. The club appreciated assistance from Sam’s Diner who provided food for the players and spectators.

“Their partnership and contributions provided lunch, so players did not have to leave the park to find something to eat between rounds. It was great food and by all accounts available was much appreciated,” Baker said. “It was a win-win situation and we look forward to working with them for future tournaments.”

Champions were announced after four rounds during the day-long event. Four rated sections included the Open, U1200, U800 and U400. Players were grouped according to their skill levels reflected through ratings issued by the U.S. Chess Federation. The Open section is considered the most competitive of the divisions.

The Beverly Jo Rhodes Memorial Award plaque goes to the first-place winner of the Open section. Rhodes was a gifted class teacher who started the WINGS program at Forest, and supported chess activities. Other first, second, and third place winners received trophies and medals for their achievements. Cash prizes went to the Open winners and first place winners in the other sections.



The Scott County Chess Club hosted 38 players Saturday for the 5th annual Bienville Chess Classic tournament held at Roosevelt State Park in Morton.



James Dove, received the championship plaque in the 5th annual Bienville Chess Classic tournament. Dove is a regular participant in our tournaments. The award is named for the late Beverly Jo Rhodes, a gifted class teacher who started the WINGS program at Forest High School, and supported chess activities.



Bienville Chess Classic - Continued

The Scott County Chess Club would like to thank our business sponsors and partners for supporting our chess tournament April 12

Community Bank

Priority One Bank

Bank of Forest

Jack Batte & Sons Lumber Mill

Fountain ACE Hardware

The Scott County Times

Roosevelt State Park

Mississippi Trophy

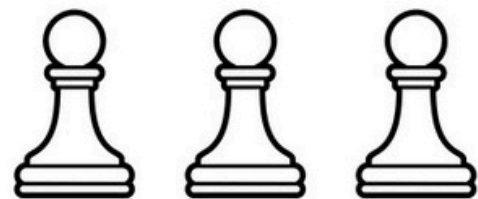
Larchwood Designs

Friends of Roosevelt State Park

For more information, visit our website

scottcountychessclub.org





Bienville Chess Classic - Concluded



OPEN Section Winners

The outright champion of the Open Section was James Dove, (left). Jack Calder (center) took second place and third place went to Legend Gavin (right). Dove received a plaque and \$200 cash. Calder and Gavin received medals and cash.



U400 Winners

The Champion of the U400 Section was Caden Andrew Manes, left; second place went to Connor Jackson Haydis, center; and third place to Nikhil Karthikeyan.



U1200 Section Winners

The Champion of the U1200 Section who received the trophy was Griffin Lee Turner (left). He also received a cash prize. James Gauthier (center) took second place. Third place went to Max Moore (right). Gauthier and Moore received medals.



U800 Section Winners

The Champion of the U800 Section who won outright was Connor Scanlon (left). He received a trophy and cash. Second place medal went to John Keifer Freeman (center); and the third place medal went to Sridin Dinesh (right)

Join us November 7!! for the 6th annual Roosevelt Chess Classic