

VOL. 1 ISSUE 11 · DECEMBER 2022

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 meeting will be held on **December 3.**

Forest Public Library - 9 to 11 a.m. (210 S. Raleigh St.)

Everyone at every skill level is welcome!



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)



This issue:

Highlights

PAGE 02-04

Bienville Chess Classic

PAGE 05 - 06

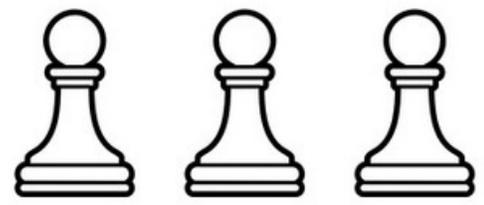
Calendar

PAGE 07

US Chess Federation

PAGE 08

www.scottcountychessclub.org



Chess News Highlights

Tourney sets new record

MORTON – A second-year chess tournament attracted players from across Mississippi and beyond to Scott County recently and increased participation since its first outing.

The 2nd annual Roosevelt Chess Classic was held Nov. 5 at Roosevelt State Park where 69 players from Mississippi and Louisiana battled for prizes, improved ratings, and earned bragging rights. This event brought the turnout total to 147 players who have visited Scott County for chess in the past year. Players braved a rainstorm during their arrivals and settled in for the day-long event at Alfreda-Harris Lodge that crowned champions in three sections over four rounds of action. In addition to individuals, the tournament featured 10 teams that included seven schools sending players to Morton.

Chris Allen Baker, founder and coordinator of the hosting Scott County Chess Club, said the turnout was a significant increase over the past two tournaments. Last year’s Roosevelt event included 46 players and 32 players played in the Bienville event in May.

“This tournament was incredible. We had players from North Mississippi to the coast and across Central Mississippi. It is a sign that Scott County is becoming a popular destination for chess in our state. I heard all day from the players who said they were impressed with the venue,” Baker said. “We are building something really special here.”

Players participated in sections where they are grouped according to their ratings with the U.S. Chess Federation with each round lasting a little more than 45 minutes. In the Open section, considered the most competitive with the highest rated players, the first-place winner received a trophy and \$200 cash.

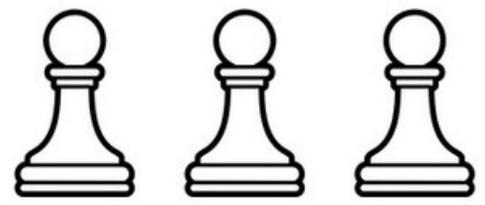
Normally the second place would receive \$100 and third place \$50 and medals for each. A seven-way tie changed the arrangement with players splitting the prize money.

In the U1200 and U800 sections, first place winners won trophies and medals went to the second and third place finishes. The top four players of the winning team received medals.

Continued on page 4

'In chess,
there are no
losers.
Either you
win or you
learn ...
sometimes
both.'





Chess News Highlights

Club members travel to Scout camp to teach game

Just more than a month after hosting our own merit badge clinic to teach chess to Scouts, two of our members traveled to South Mississippi for more teaching duties.

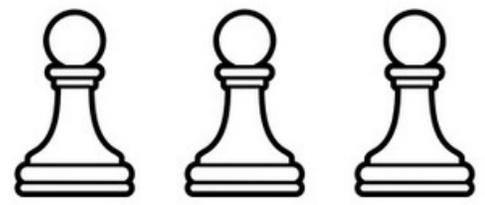
Chris and Aaron Baker spent the weekend of Nov. 19-20 outside Hazelhurst at Hood Scout Reservation where they participated in the BSA Winter Camp. The Bakers' class included 16 Scouts who earned their chess merit badges during a day long instructional session. Chris gave instructions on the game's history and general information while Aaron taught strategy and tactics.

There was another class scheduled for later in the camp. That class included 20 Scouts who received instruction from a player who assisted the Bakers in the first class.

Plans include hosting another clinic in Scott County sometime in 2023.

'In chess,
there are no
losers.
Either you
win or you
learn ...
sometimes
both.'





Chess News Highlights

While only one of the players had local ties, Baker said he hopes this success sets the stage for more players from Scott County to participate in the future.

“I am so excited that so many people from across the state wanted to be a part of what we are doing here. We allowed anyone who wanted to see a tournament like this to come see what it is about, and we did have some spectators,” Baker said. “It would be great to see more local faces around these chess boards. The potential is there.”

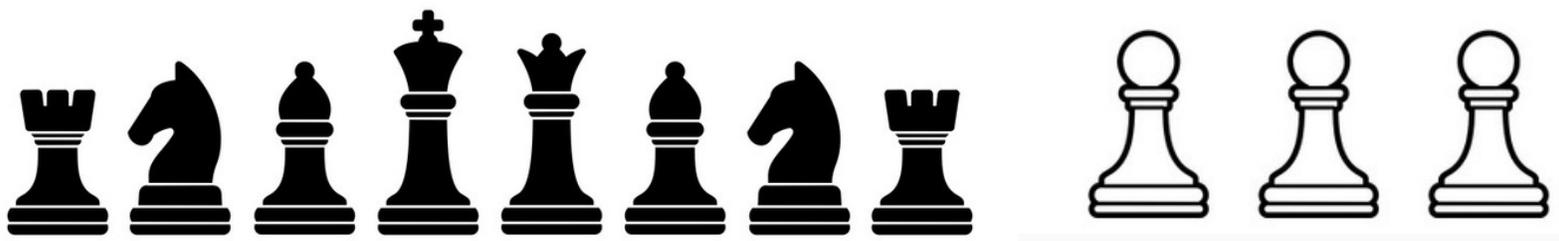
The event also saw additional support from the business community which donated funds toward the prizes.

“We could not do this without the support of our sponsors and partners. We appreciate their contributions and this year added more to the roster,” Baker said. “We appreciate every business who stepped up to help us.”

Tournament Sponsors: *Community Bank, Cox Chevron, Bank of Morton, Tom Miles - State Representative, French's Pharmacy*

'In chess,
there are no
losers.
Either you
win or you
learn ...
sometimes
both.'





Scott County Chess Club sponsored tournament

2nd Annual Bienville Chess Classic is set

MORTON – The first anniversary of our second tournament is set for **April 1, 2023** - the 2nd annual **Bienville Chess Classic tournament**. Like the first one, this event will feature only individuals.

Our first Bienville Classic in May 2022 attracted 32 players from around Mississippi and we had players come from Louisiana and Florida. The player from Florida won the grand championship after driving 17 hours to play. We are holding the next tournament in April which is our idea plan each ye

Before we go any further, recognition goes to our past sponsors who generously donated funds to help make our first three 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. We are getting noticed around the state with strong showings of players visiting Scott County to play this great game. There is so much potential to make our community a chess destination in Mississippi.

2023 Individual Tournament

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

Exit 77 on Interstate 20

4 rounds – Swiss System – Game control: 45+5

active U.S. Chess Federation membership and notation **required for rated games**

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

U1200 (Trophy for 1st and medals for 2nd and\ 3rd)

U800 (Trophy for 1st and medals for 2nd and\ 3rd)

Unrated (Trophy for 1st and medals for 2nd and\ 3rd)

Federation membership is **not required** for this section only.

This section is designed for players just starting out in tournament participation.

Results will not be sent to Federation but will be posted on our website.

Clocks will be used and notation is strongly encouraged.

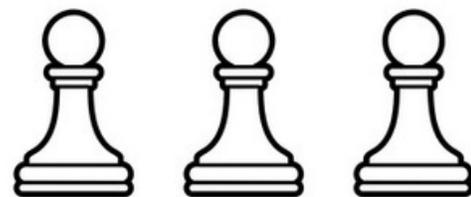
\$30 entry fee through Saturday, March 25, 2023 (after midnight, \$40)

To Register: Players must provide their NAME, Active Chess Federation ID#, desired SECTION, and desired METHOD of PAYMENT

to the following email address: scottcountychessclub@gmail.com

An email response will be sent within 24-48 hours after first contact to finalize registration and make payment arrangements.

Continued to next page



2023 Bienville Chess Classic - continued

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

These payment methods are strongly preferred in advance:

PayPal, Venmo, CashApp

but cash or check can be accepted on site

**Skittles rooms will be available for casual play between rounds.*

Everyone is encouraged to bring chairs for lounging.

Updates will be provided by email during the final month leading up to the event.

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

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

Round 1 - 9:30 a.m.

Round 2 - 11:30 a.m.

Round 3 - 1:30 p.m.

Round 4 - 3:30 p.m.

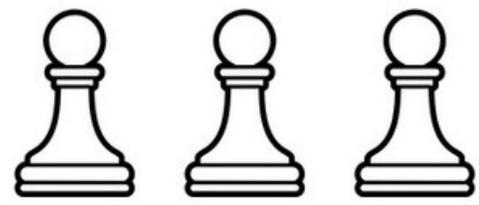
Awards - *To be presented after all games are completed.*

**Byes due to inability to pair = 1.0 *Requested byes = 0.5*

Please make requests before start of desired round.

No requested byes in final round

For more information, visit scottcountychessclub.org



Chess Calendar

For more information about all listings:
see our website at scottcountychessclub.org

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

*** Scott County Chess Club meeting**

Saturday, Dec. 3 - Forest Public Library, Forest
9 a.m. until 11 a.m.

*** Mississippi G60 Open - MS Chess Association**

Saturday, Dec. 3 - Nissan, Canton
Entry fee - \$40
G/90+30 - 2 sections: Open, U1600, U1000/unrated;

*** MHS Wildcat Clash Chess Tournament**

Saturday, Dec. 3, Meridian High School Library, Meridian
Entry fee - \$15 in advance - \$20 on site

*** St. Augustine Winter Chess Tournament**

Saturday, Dec. 10, St. Augustine School, Ridgeland
Entry fee - \$20 in advance - \$25 on site

*** Capital City Chess Club**

Tuesdays- Food Court - Outlet Mall, Pearl
Free - casual play - 5:30 until 8 p.m.

*** Vicksburg Chess Club**

Thursdays- Newk's Eatery, Vicksburg
Free - casual play - 6 until 8 p.m.

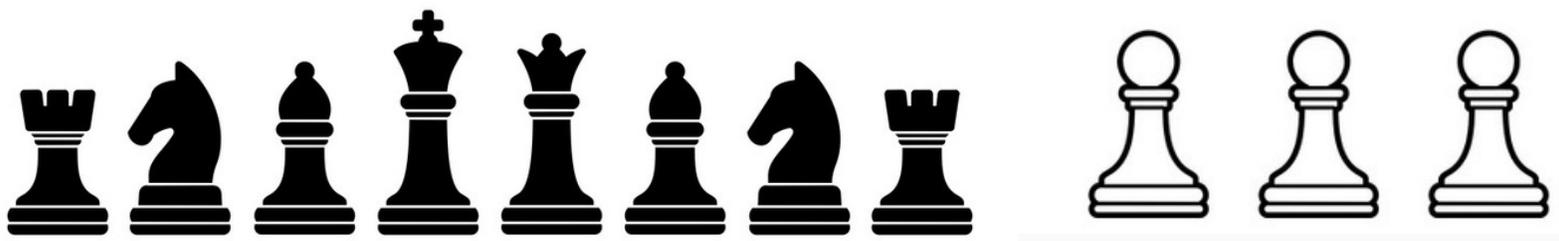
*** Mississippi Coast Chess Club**

Thursdays- Newk's, Gulfport



*** Memphis Chess Club**

Weekly chess tournaments on Saturdays



U.S. Chess Federation

The U.S. Chess Federation regulates and governs the game in the United States. It sanctions tournaments and officials as well as oversees the ratings system that measures players' skills.

Chess is recognized as an essential tool that promotes inclusiveness and benefits education, rehabilitation, recreation, and friendly competition.

US Chess 2022 Goals

- Expand the educational, social, recreational and rehabilitative applications of chess.
- Increase the visibility of chess on mainstream communications channels.
- Develop the depth and breadth of our partnerships.
- Use chess to increase opportunities for under-represented segments of society.
- Continuously improve internal operations and member services.

US Chess Core Values

- **Education.** We promote the transformative power of chess for lifelong personal growth.
- **Customer Service.** We endeavor to be responsive, adaptive and proactive in providing services to our customers.
- **Excellence.** We strive to be the best we can be as an organization and in service to the game.
- **Integrity.** We honor, preserve and promote fair play.
- **Inclusion.** We believe everyone has a seat at the chess table.
- **Love of the Game.** We embrace chess as a historic and iconic game, and we celebrate its history, growth and evolution in our activities and services.

Players must join the Federation to obtain a membership number which is required when registering for rated tournaments and other rated events. Tournament directors submit results to the Federation which impacts a player's rating.

For more information and to join, visit <https://new.uschess.org/join-us-chess>