

VOL. 1 ISSUE 2 · MARCH 2022

CHESS JOURNAL

Official Newsletter of the Scott County Chess Club

Come join us on first Saturdays!

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

The next meetings will be held in Forest on **March 5** at two locations: **Forest Public Library** - 9 to 11 a.m. (210 S. Raleigh St.)

Foothills - 1 to 3 p.m. (1039 Highway 35 (southbound side))

Everyone at every skill level - beginner and up is welcome to attend either or both meetings!



Players may bring their own chess set and board if they have one. We will have boards and sets to use.



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Chess News Highlights

Spring 2022 is shaping up to be a busy time for chess activities around the state as well as here in Scott County. Here are some highlights of recent developments since our first newsletter:

Big turnout at state championship

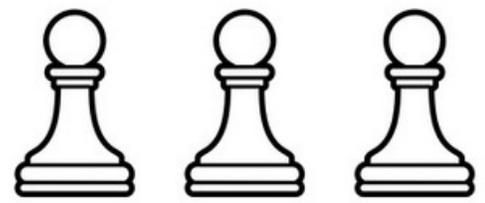
The Mississippi Chess Association sponsored its annual state championship for individual students in grades from kindergarten through 12th grade last weekend, Feb. 26-27 in Ridgeland. There were 92 players in the tournament spread over four divisions grouped according to grade level: K3, K5, 6-8, 9-12. Great chess was played as two divisions went down to the wire. The 9-12 grade division required a tiebreaker playoff to decide the champion and was decided literally in the last second on the clock.

Aaron Baker, a student at Hawkins Middle School in Forest, represented Scott County in the tournament.

Chris Allen Baker of Forest served as an assistant tournament director.



'In chess,
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Chess News Highlights

ECTAG tournament includes majority of Scott County schools

The East Central Talented And Gifted association held its annual chess tournament for students in East Central counties including Scott County School District and Forest Municipal School District on Feb. 18 in Philadelphia.

The WINGS class included about 10 participants from Forest Elementary School and Hawkins Middle School. The 2C Division of HMS won first place and included Aaron Baker, Peyson Barnes, and Lydia Powell. They led the way in which Forest students won honors in each category. Scott County schools also scored high marks in students placing in the final standings.



Club leader attains tournament director status

The U.S. Chess Federation approved Chris Allen Baker as a club tournament director. This allows him to operate local rated tournaments and assist in the regional tournaments around the state.

The license is for three years before renewal is required.

"This will allow me to operate small and large tournaments to help our club grow and provide a means for players across the state to come to Scott County and play with us," Baker said. "I plan to upgrade to a Local Tournament Director Status as soon as possible."



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





Chess News Highlights

Chess interest meeting planned in May

Our May gathering will include an extra feature in the form of an interest meeting for more people to join the club. This is the same kind of meeting we held in 2018 when we were first organizing the club. This is a means to recruit more people who may be interested in joining.

The meeting will be held at the Forest Public Library on May 7 at 9 a.m. in the community meeting room. It will include information about the game and the club for persons who are new to the game and those who have experience and are interested in participating. Tell your friends to come check it out.

SwissSys computer program obtained

The Scott County Chess Club now has a licensed copy of the SwissSys computer program to help in operating tournaments. The program is specially designed for chess events.

Chess activities expand to other areas of Scott County

As we are aptly named to cover all of Scott County, we are always looking for ways to expand beyond Forest. Communication has been established with the library managers in Morton and Lake to see what opportunities may exist to make chess accessible in those areas. Due to the operating hours of those libraries, it is unlikely that we can host one of our meetings there, but other activities may be possible during the hours they are open.

If you live in Morton, Lake, or Sebastopol or in parts in between, talk to your local librarian and let them know you are interested in chess. Our monthly gathering will continue in Forest and everyone is welcome, but we are open to ideas on what could be done in other areas.

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Chess Calendar

* St. Augustine School - Grade and Rated Divisions

March 5 - 1202 Highland Colony Parkway, Ridgeland

Entry fee - \$20 - Deadline to register: March 1

See page 10 for more information

* Mississippi Girls Scholastic State Chess Championship

March 19-20 - University of Mississippi, Oxford

Entry fee - \$20 - Deadline to register: March 16

See page 11 for more information

* Bienville Chess Classic (sponsored by Scott County Chess)

May 14 - Roosevelt State Park, Morton

Entry fee - \$30 - Deadline to register: March 7

See pages 6-7 for more information

* BLITZ tournaments

2nd and 4th Mondays - Dogmud Tavern, Ridgeland

Entry fee - \$10 - Check in 5:30, games start at 6 p.m.

5 minute games

* Capital City Chess Club

Tuesdays- Food Court - Outlet Mall, Pearl

Free - casual play - 5:30 until 8:30 p.m.

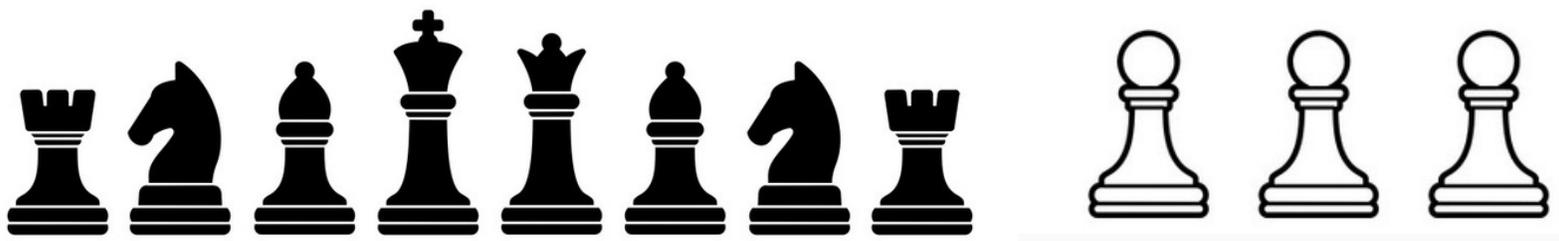
* Roosevelt Chess Classic (sponsored by Scott County Chess)

Nov. 5 - Roosevelt State Park, Morton

More details to come

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





Scott County Chess Club sponsored tournament

Bienville Chess Classic

Saturday, May 14, 2022

Roosevelt State Park, Alfreda-Harris Lodge

2149 MS Highway 13, Morton

(For those outside Scott County, Take Exit 77 off I-20)

4 rounds – Swiss System (*no elimination*) – Game control: 45 minutes with 5 second increments
(*active U.S. Chess Federation membership ID# and notation is required for the 3 rated sections*)

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

U1000 (*Trophy for 1st and medals for 2nd and 3rd*)

U500 (*Trophy for 1st and medals for 2nd and 3rd*)

** To join the U.S. Chess Federation, visit new.uschess.org

Not Rated (*Trophy for 1st and medals for 2nd and 3rd*)

**U.S. Chess Federation membership is NOT required for this section only.*

This section is designed for players to ease into tournament play for first time.

Notation is strongly encouraged.

Registration is open now.

Early Bird rate: \$30 per player through Saturday, May 7

Players' registration received after midnight: \$40 individuals

To Register: Players must provide their **NAME**, **Chess Federation ID#** (*if playing in the rated sections*), desired **SECTION**, and desired **METHOD of PAYMENT** to the following email address:

scottcountychessclub@gmail.com

An email response will be sent in return within 24-48 hours after first contact. Directions for making payment arrangements will be included. The following electronic methods are preferred: Paypal, Venmo, Cash App - although payment will be accepted on site. If initial contact email is sent as directed before deadline, the early bird rate can be applied.



Bienville Chess Classic - continued

On the day of the Tournament

Concessions will be provided by Boy Scout Troop 63 of Forest

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

Welcome and Briefing of Rules - 9:15

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 final round

*Byes due to inability to pair = 1.0 for all

*Requested byes = 0.5 for all

(No requested byes in Round 4; please make requests before start of desired round)

*Tiebreaker information will be provided at the tournament.

Players and accompanying family/coaches are encouraged to bring chairs for lounging.

An outdoor patio will be available.

*A skittles room will be available.

*Masks will be recommended and available as well as sanitizer.

Historical note: This tournament is named in recognition of the Bienville National Forest which includes most of Scott County including the tournament site. In turn, the forest is named for Jean Baptiste Le Moyne de Bienville, a French colonial administrator in New France and was an early governor of French Louisiana.



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.

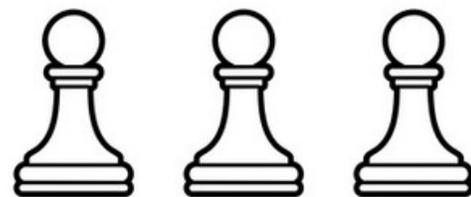
Some players enjoy just playing in a random tournament for fun and experiencing the opportunity to learn and grow. Other players are more competitive and really get into tournaments, seeking to win and advance as far as they can go. They may have aspirations for earning master, grandmaster status within 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.

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Grow through chess tournaments

Clocks and notation

When getting into playing tournaments, two major differences a player will find as opposed from casual play is the use of a **clock** and chess **notation**. These are adjustments that a player needs to bring into his participation, but they are not impossible to incorporate.

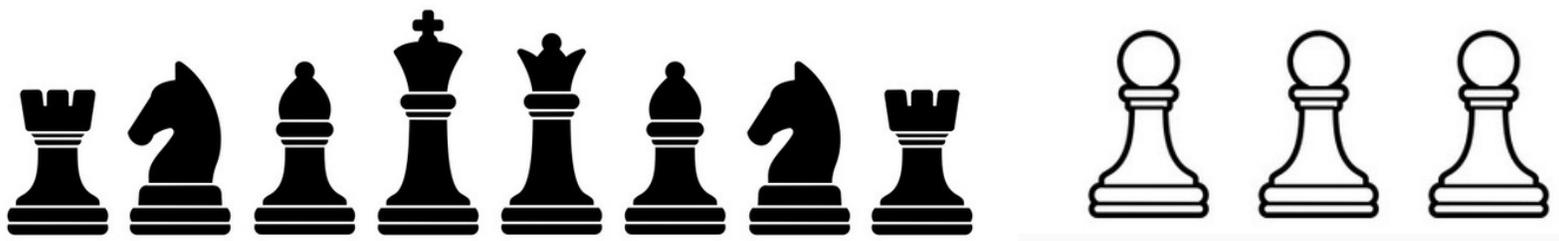
The clock simply keeps games from lasting forever and allows tournaments to run smoothly on schedule. It also teaches players the value of making decisions in a reasonable amount of time. While some traditional settings may use analog clocks for nostalgia purposes, most clocks using in modern tournaments are digital.

Notation is a means of players writing down their moves and those of their opponents using algebraic symbols and abbreviations. Notation allows players to keep track of their moves so if there is a question or dispute over the legality of a move during a tournament, a decision can be made by a tournament director. In most cases, notation is required when playing rated games.

Even more valuable, notation allows players to keep their games for purposes of reviewing them later to see what mistakes may have been made. Chess teachers use notations with students in helping them improve. Notation also allows more experienced players to make their games available to other players to help them improve. It is widely used in chess publications where games are shared.

'Life is full of important choices.'





St. Augustine School - Grade and Rated Divisions

The St. Augustine Spring Chess Tournament will include grade and rated divisions. Students from all schools, and homeschools, all levels, all grades, are welcome.

All registrations are due no later than March 1 so it is too late to enter as of this newsletter going out. However, this is a good opportunity to see what a chess tournament looks like.

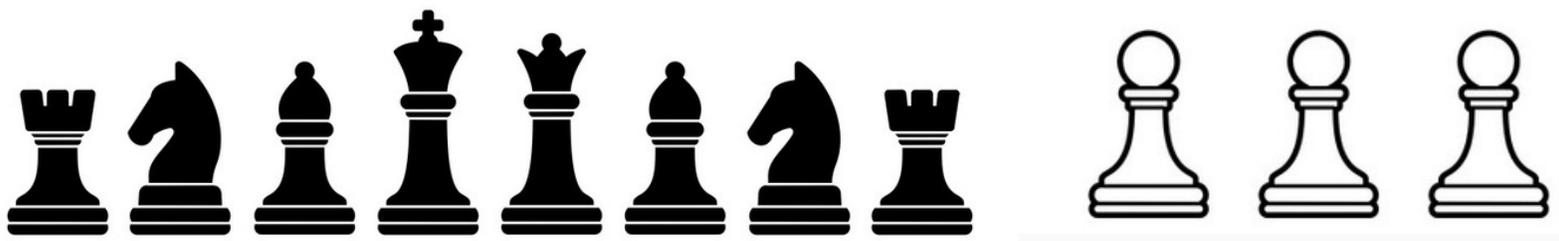
Grade Divisions will include K3, K5, K8, K12

Students will play 5 games in Swiss format with Game Control 15 minutes with increments of 5 seconds. Games will run from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. with check in time at 9:30 a.m. and players meeting at 9:45 a.m.

Rated Division: Adults are welcome.

Players will play 3 games Quad of Game Control 40 minutes with 10 second increments. Games will run from 9 until 3 p.m. with check in time at 8:30 am.





MS Girls Scholastic State Chess Championship

Location: University of Mississippi Center for Math and Science Education,
1111 Suite Q, Jackson Ave. Classroom Q-24, Oxford

Dates: March 19 and 20, 2022

Check In: No later than 8:30 am on March 19th.

Mississippi Residents Only – The Mississippi Girls State Chess Championship is an officially rated US Chess tournament. US Chess membership is required and student membership is available at uschess.org.

Entry Fee: \$20 - Deadline for registration is Wednesday March 16th at midnight. There will not be any on site registration.

Contact Scott County Chess Club for registration form.

Payment accepted on site (Cash or Check) before Check In.

Venmo payment is also accepted @Jason-Mitchell-244 up until 6:00 PM on Friday March 18th. Please Call or preferably Text 601-569-4812 prior to making a Venmo payment, leave a message if calling. If paying by check on site, checks should be made payable to the Mississippi Chess Association.

Registrants will be posted at www.mcachess.org on Friday March 18.

All chess equipment will be provided. Players have the option to use their own equipment within regulation if desired. All players are required to take manual notation using scoresheets provided by the tournament director.

The Swiss System tournament will be comprised of one Section, K-12.

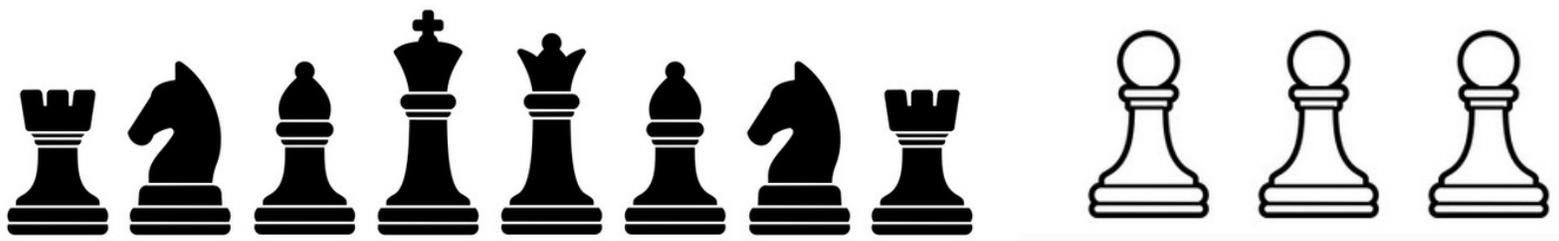
Schedule: 5 Rounds no elimination. The first two rounds will be played at the time control game in 60 with a 30 second increment to the players clock added after each move. The last three rounds will be played at the time control game in 90 with a 30 second increment. In the event of a low turnout, the format will default to a round robin and fewer rounds will be played.

Saturday: 9 am G/60 inc/30; 1 pm G/60 inc/30; 4 pm G/90 inc/30

Sunday: 9 am G/90 inc/30; 2 pm G/90 inc/30

One half-point bye only is available for the first four rounds and must be requested before the start of the previous round. Only zero point byes available for the final round.

Tiebreaks for first place will be determined by two G/10 inc/5 quick games to be played at the end of the 5th round. In the event of a tie with three or four players, a single round robin of G/10 inc/5 will be played. In the event of a tie from the quick games, an Armegeddon match(es) of G/10 will be played at draw odds for black determined by bid. If necessary, tie break for third place to determine award recipient will be determined using the following system(s): 1. Modified Mean 2. Solkoff 3. Cumulative 4. Cumulative Opponent's Score



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

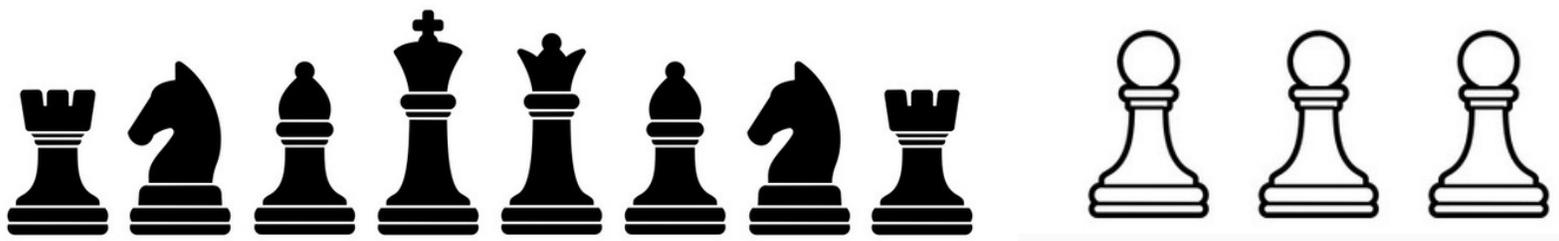
- Expand the educational, social, recreational and rehabilitative applications of chess.
- Increase the visibility of chess on mainstream communications channels.
- Develop the depth and breadth of our partnerships.
- Use chess to increase opportunities for under-represented segments of society.
- Continuously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

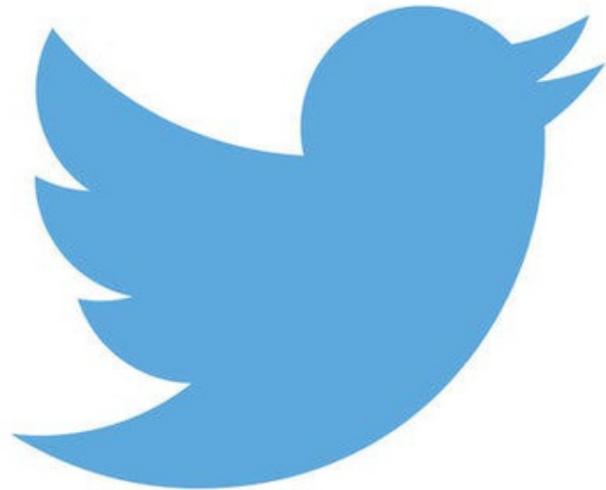


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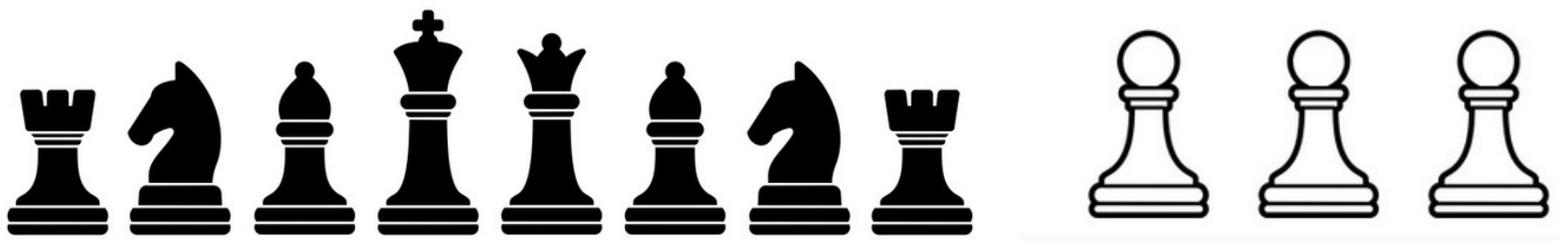


@scottcountychessclub

@scott_chess



Sign up for **GroupMe** for instant texts,
send request and other questions to:
scottcountychessclub@gmail.com



The #1 rule in chess - HAVE FUN!

Chess Scenes in Scott County

