

VOL. 2 ISSUE 11 · DECEMBER 2023

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 December 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



This issue:

3rd Roosevelt Classic
PAGE 02-03

3rd Bienville Classic
PAGE 04-05

Calendar
PAGE 06

Tournament information
PAGE 07

U.S. Chess Federation
PAGE 08

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Chess News Highlights

Roosevelt Classic

was a great SUCCESS

MORTON – The 3rd annual Roosevelt Chess Classic tournament was a great success with clear blue skies as a backdrop to the beautiful scenic environment.

The tournament was held, Nov. 4, at Roosevelt State Park in Morton and featured individuals and teams from across Mississippi battling for cash, trophies, and medals.

In all of our five tournaments combined, we have had 251 players participate from Mississippi, Tennessee, Louisiana, Alabama, and Florida. Many of these are repeat players, but we have gained new players each time.

Before we go any further, recognition goes to our sponsors who generously donated funds to help make all of tournaments successful. Our original sponsors have remained with us and we have added more each year. 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. A list of our sponsors and partners can be found to the right on this page.

We really appreciate the support from the community and the businesses who have helped make these tournaments possible. We are 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.

Winners

In the **Open** section, Clayton Thrasher tied with Johnny (Trey) Hicks for first place and split the cash prize of \$200. The tiebreaker system granted the trophy to Thrasher and the 2nd place medal to Hicks. There was a four-way tie for third place where players split the remaining \$150 in cash prize. They included Jonathan Gray, Burks Rives, Ojash Bhushan, and Mark Nicholas.

In the **U1200** section, Patrick Tabor won first place and received a trophy. Jacoree Walker tied with Timothy Gray for second place. Walker earned the higher spot in the tiebreaker system to receive the second place medal leaving Gray to receive the third place medal.

Sponsors

Community Bank
Cox Chevron
Bank of 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
Bienville National Forest
Forest Baptist Church
Andrew Jackson Council - BSA
Community Bank
SwissSys
MS Trophy
Larchwood Designs
Go Daddy (web hosting)
MS Secretary of State
Billy Freeman Photography
Ingram Printing
Scott County Times
The Spirit of Morton
SuperTalk MS
WLBT - Studio 3
Forest Chamber of Commerce
Town of Lake
City of Morton



Chess News Highlights

Winners (continued)

In the **U800** section, Luke Tabor won the first place trophy. Ellis Smithhart won the second place medal. Caleb Hinton was the highest in the tiebreaker system to receive the third place medal over Suri Le, Makayla Davis, and Hank Bohl.

In the **Team** division, We were blessed to have 10 teams participate in this year's Roosevelt Classic. All three winning teams were from Franklin County. JW and Company won first place and the four representing players included Ellis SmithHart, Jacoree Walker, Timothy Gray, and Jamie Woodard. Each received a medal.

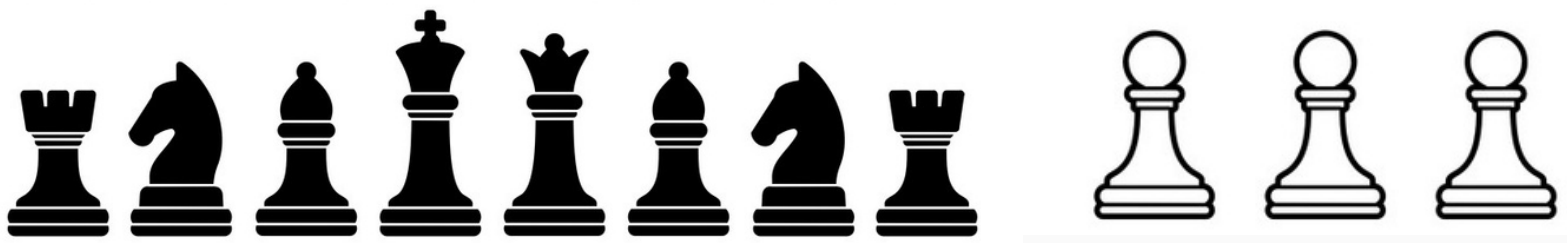
Kayleigh and Company won second place and the four representing players included Kayleigh King, Landon Crum, Ibrahim Elamoun, and Brand Ranches.

Bee's Best won third place and the four representing players included Makayla Davis, Kay'l Jones, Marcellus Carradine, and Tolbert Perry. Other teams included Starkville Knights, Asians and Clayton, Guys N Gals, Wu, Nicholas, and Northwest Rankin Middle School.

Mark Your Calendars: *The 4th annual Roosevelt Chess Classic is scheduled for Nov. 9, 2024. For more information, visit our website.*

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





Scott County Chess Club sponsored tournament

3rd Annual Bienville Chess Classic is set

MORTON – The 3rd annual **Bienville Chess Classic tournament** is set for **Saturday, April 20, 2024**, at Roosevelt State Park in Morton. This event will feature only individuals playing rated and unrated games. **Registration will open December 1, 2023.**

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. Last year's tournament attracted 45 players. Our combined turnout for all five tournaments held is now 251 players, including those returning and new players each time.

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.

2024 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**

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

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

RATED - 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.

REGISTRATION

\$30 entry fee through **Saturday, April 13**. (at midnight and thereafter, **\$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.



2024 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 - We do not have the ability to accept debit cards.

****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.

**The park charges \$2 per person for entry to the park at the gatehouse.*

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.

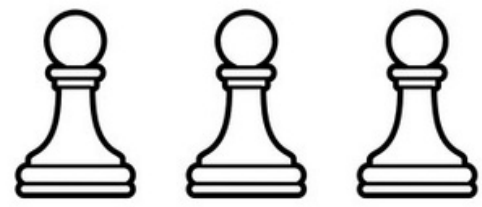
***Awards** - To be presented after all games are completed.*

**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** will hold a regular meeting
Saturday, December 2, 9-11 am, Public Library, Forest
This will be our regular meeting - everyone is welcome.

*** Chess for Charity Tournament**
Saturday, Dec. 2, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. - Reservoir Area in Brandon
All ages are welcome. Entry fee \$27 - Proceeds to YMCA Food and
Child Nutrition Program.

*** MCA Quick and Blitz Tournament**
Saturday, Dec. 2, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. - Canton
Entry fee \$20 - USCF membership required; MCA membership \$10
required for Mississippi residents 18+.

*** St. Augustine Fall Chess Tournament**
Ridgeland, Dec. 9 - All Ages and Scholastic

*** Gautier High School Tournament**
Gautier - Dec. 9 - All Ages

*** Capital City Chess Club**
Food Court - Outlet Mall, Pearl
Tuesdays - casual play - 5:30 until 8 p.m.

*** Stone County Chess Club**
Pizza Inn, Wiggins
Wednesdays - 4:30 until 6:30 p.m.

*** Picayune Chess Club**
IHOP, Picayune
Mondays - 6 until 9 p.m.



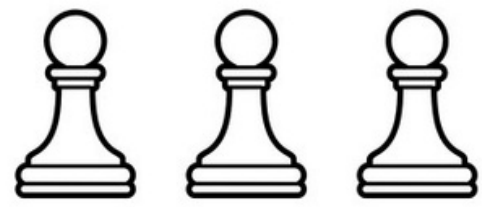
TOP TO BOTTOM CHESS:

*** Memphis Chess Club**

Weekly chess tournaments on Saturdays

*** Mississippi Coast Chess Club**

Thursdays- Newk's, Gulfport



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.

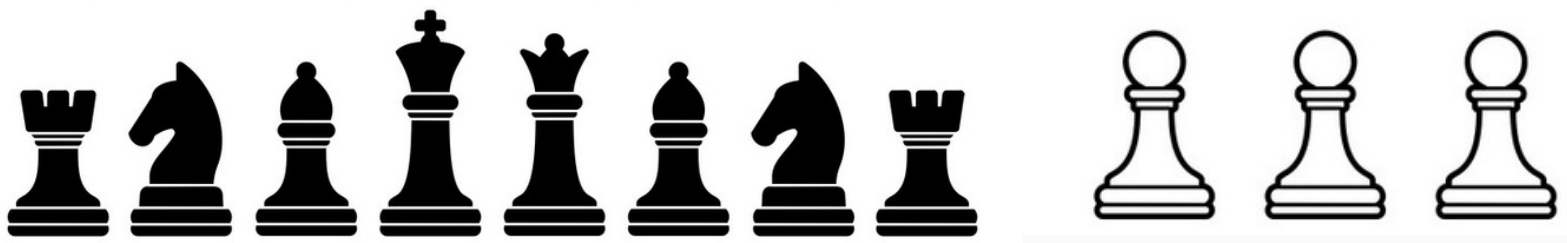
Tournaments usually include registration fees and players choose what sections they wish to participate in, based on their skill level as determined by their U.S. Chess Federation rating. Tournaments may also include team play where individual players' scores are combined and calculated for overall scores. Prizes may include cash, trophies, plaques, medals, ribbons, and certificates.

See calendar on page 7 and our website for more information!

scottcountychessclub.org

'A day without chess probably wouldn't kill you, but why risk it?'





U.S. Chess Federation

The U.S. Chess Federation, now based in St. Louis, Missouri, 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 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>

USCF Membership makes for a great Christmas gift!!