

VOL. 2 ISSUE 1 · FEBRUARY 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 meeting will be held on **February 4.**

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)



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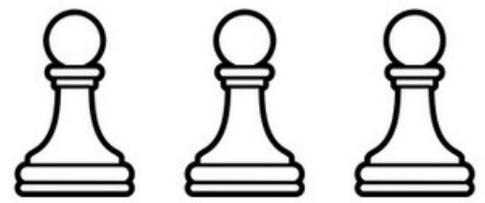
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www.scottcountychessclub.org



Chess News Highlights

A milestone awaits us in '23

The Scott County Chess Club is in a great position to take a leap forward in growth in 2023 as we celebrate a milestone.

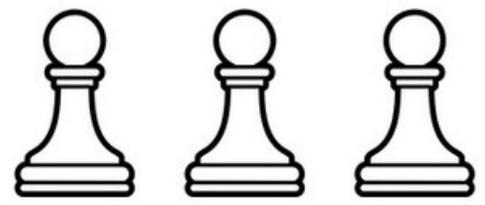
It's hard to believe time has marched on so quickly. In May, we will officially mark five years since we started this mission of promoting the game of chess and making opportunities available for people of all age and skill levels to play the game in Scott County. We will address more details later, but as a quick teaser, here is a glance back.

In May 2018, we approached the Forest Public Library with the idea of starting the chess club that would meet on first Saturdays and hopefully grow from there. We held interest meetings during the first week of May on a Tuesday and a Saturday and saw promising turnout of families interested in participating. We named ourselves as Scott County Chess Club in order to be all inclusive of areas in the county.

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'In chess,
there are no
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Either you
win or you
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sometimes
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Chess News Highlights

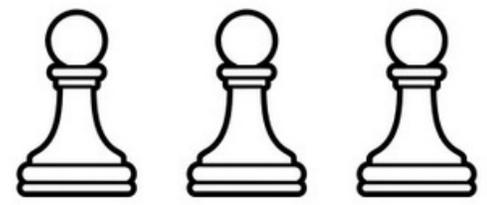
Slowly but steadily, people began to show up at our meetings to play and we were up and running. The Friends of the Library purchased five chess sets for use in the library. By the end of 2019, we were seeing at least 15-20 people, sometimes more, participating in our monthly meetings.

Like so many other activities, COVID cut our legs out from under us in 2020 and when we started back in 2021, we began rebuilding. We have come a long way, now having hosted three major tournaments including 147 players combined, and sponsored other activities.

However, we will never forget the humble beginnings from those interest meetings in May just five years ago. We will remember and keep building.

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Chess News Highlights

Looking to 2023 . . .

As for looking forward to the new year, we will continue with the programs we started, tournaments, Scout events, and more. We will also work toward new programs in bringing more people into the game of chess.

A summary overview

This is just an example of activities. There are more plans.

* Spring tournament - 2nd annual Bienville Chess Classic. This tournament will include competition among some of the highest rated players in the state who have made our tournaments part of their regular routines to participate. In addition to rated sections, an unrated section will help new players interested in tournaments. They will play in the competitive environment without all of the requirements of rated games.

* Interest meetings. This will be a means of introducing people to the game. Activities will include information about the game and our club.

* Boy Scout Merit Badge Clinics. This is our service to Boy Scout Troops across Mississippi to help Scouts earn the chess merit badge through a one day workshop.

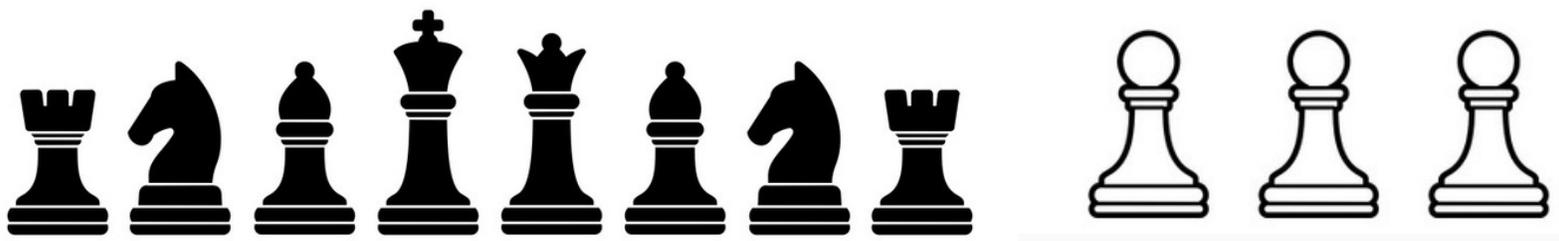
* We are working with local schools to explore opportunities to promote chess participation among local students in the Scott County School District. We hope to also include Forest schools.

* We plan to be visible and participate in community events such as having a booth at festivals and in local Christmas parades.

* Our 3rd annual Roosevelt Chess Classic will include individuals and teams returning for great tournament action.

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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. In our three tournaments combined so far, we have had 147 players participate from Mississippi, Tennessee, Louisiana, and Florida.

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.

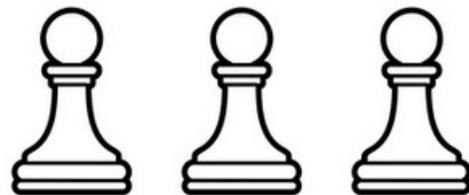
\$30 entry fee through Saturday, March 25, 2023 (after midnight, \$40)

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.

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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.

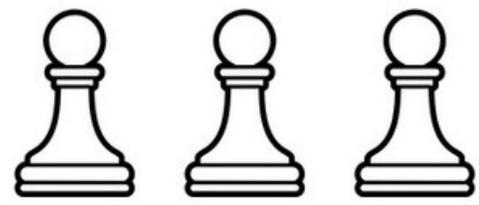
Awards - *To be presented after all games are completed.*

**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.'

*** Pick the Opening Clock Simul with Dave Ross**

Thursday, Feb. 2, Outlets of Mississippi Food Court, Pearl

Entry fee - \$40 (space limited, few spots left)

*** Ole Miss Scholastic Chess Tournament**

Saturday, Feb. 4, University of Mississippi, Oxford

Entry fee - \$15

*** Outlet Special Chess Tournament**

Saturday, Feb. 11, Outlets of Mississippi Food Court, Pearl

Entry fee - \$20 before Feb. 10; \$30 on site

*** St. Augustine Spring Tournament**

Saturday, Feb. 18, Ridgeland, All ages

Entry fee - \$20 before Feb. 1; \$25 after and on site

*** Friendship Oak Classic**

Saturday, Feb. 25, USM Gulf Coast Campus, Long Beach

Entry fee - \$25 before Feb. 22; \$30 on site FOR RATED SECTIONS

Entry fee - \$15 before Feb. 22; \$20 on site FOR UNRATED

*** 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.



TOP TO BOTTOM CHESS:

*** Memphis Chess Club**

Weekly chess tournaments on Saturdays

*** Mississippi Coast Chess Club**

Thursdays- Newk's, Gulfport



Black History Month in Chess

The game of chess is rich throughout history of cultures and civilizations around the world participating in this great game.

We honor and salute them for their contributions.

We recognize African-Americans who contributed and those who still serve to keep the game going to future generations of humanity. More information is on our web site.

'Life
is full
of
important
choices.'



Dr. James McCune Smith (1813) was the first Black American to hold a medical degree, which he earned in Scotland, not being permitted to study medicine in the United States. Smith was a passionate intellectual, a vocal and active abolitionist, a pioneer in modern medicine, and a great chess enthusiast.

Paul Morphy, the so-called Pride and Sorrow of Chess, one of the most celebrated chess players of all time, has some African heritage. This is quite a claim for Black Americans, and all of the Black chess community, as Morphy is arguably the most ingenious chess mind to have ever lived.



Maurice Ashley is a Jamaican-American chess grandmaster, author, and commentator. In 1992, Ashley shared the United States Game/10 chess championship with Maxim Dlugy. In 1999, Ashley became the first Black chess grandmaster.

Darrian Robinson is the highest-rated African American female chess player in the U.S. Chess Federation. Her USCF rating is 2086 and she holds the title of "Candidate Master." Her career became notable in 2006 when she ranked 6th in USCF's girls under 13 ranking. She represented the U.S. in Batumi, Georgia, at the World Youth Chess Championship.

