

VOL. 2 ISSUE 2 · MARCH 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 **April 15.***

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

- *Due to our Bienville Chess Classic on the next-first Saturday, April's meeting will be later in the month. The April newsletter may also be delayed.*

**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)



This issue:

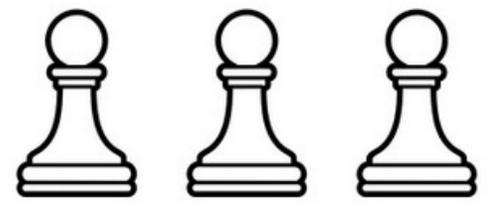
SC visits Noxubee
PAGE 02-04

Bienville Chess Classic
PAGE 05 - 06

Calendar
PAGE 07

Chess Federation
PAGE 08

scottcountychessclub.org



Chess News Highlights

Helping others learn Chess

The Scott County Chess Club was recently requested to help another county start a chess program as we continue to push the game into more areas for people to enjoy.

Chris and Aaron Baker traveled to Noxubee County on Saturday, March 11, to lead an instructional clinic introducing the basics of the game to the community. The event was held at Noxubee County High School where children and adults participated. The event was sponsored by the Brooksville Beautification and Resource Committee.

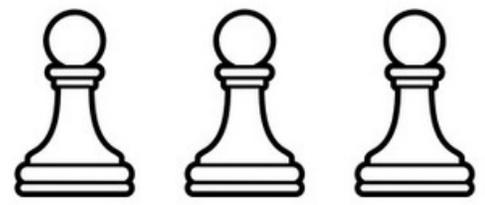
Merrie M. Felder, committee president, said introducing chess to children of all ages will give them a chance to have fun learning a game that also improves their learning skills in other areas of life.

“I believe that learning and playing chess will offer a pathway to analytical skills and thinking of all ages but, in particular to our youth,” Felder said.

Continued Next Page

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





Chess News Highlights

The committee invited the Bakers to lead the program due to their experience in starting a chess club in 2018 and promoting the game in Scott County.

“The game of chess is growing in Mississippi among people of all ages, especially our youth. With recent media focus on the game, we are seeing a resurgence in its popularity as more people realize how much fun it is and how it can benefit people in many ways,” said Chris Baker, who is also vice-president of the Mississippi Chess Association. “I am honored and privileged to have the opportunity to help expand the game into Noxubee County.”

Saturday’s event featured two parts with Chris Baker leading the instruction in the morning session that focused on how the game is played. Aaron Baker led the afternoon part focusing on strategies and participants playing games.

Concluded Next Page

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Chess News Highlights

There was diverse mix of participants from different areas of the community which bodes well for spreading word about the game into different segments of Noxubee County.

“Our children can learn the game quickly and it can become a fun activity for their whole family,” Baker said, noting that his son taught him the game five years ago while in the second grade.

Felder said the Committee may have the same instructional program again in the fall since this one was held at the beginning of spring break and there were other events happening on the same day.

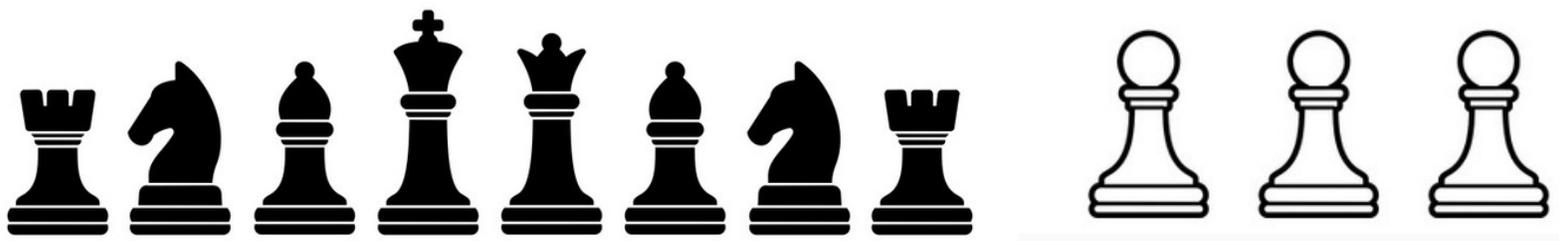
This opportunity in Noxubee County is an example of the potential for the game's growth in Mississippi, Baker said.

"Just as we have taught Boy Scouts the game for their earning the Chess Merit Badge, this is yet another way we can bring more people into the game around the state and Scott County's Chess program is honored to be a part of making that happen," Baker said.

There are also other potential opportunities the Scott County Chess Club will explore in helping communities learn about chess.

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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.

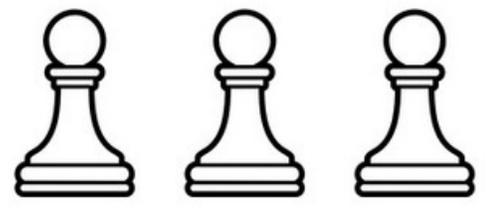
***Awards** - To be presented after all games are completed.*

**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.'

*** Mississippi Girls Scholastic Chess Championship**

Saturday, March 25, Jackson Prep, Flowood

Entry fee \$20

www.mcachess.org

*** 2nd annual Bienville Chess Classic**

Saturday, April 1, Roosevelt State Park, Morton

Entry fee \$30 by March 25; \$40 after March 25

*** See pages 5-6 of this newsletter for more details ***

*** 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.



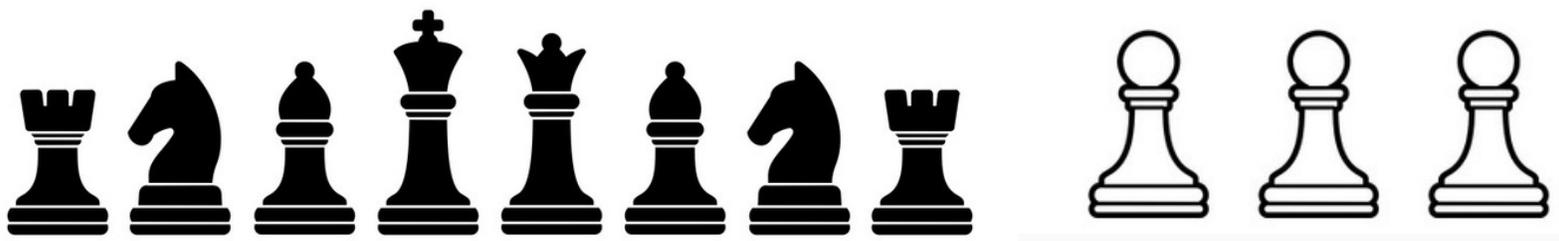
TOP TO BOTTOM CHESS:

*** Memphis Chess Club**

Weekly chess tournaments on Saturdays

*** Mississippi Coast Chess Club**

Thursdays- Newk's, Gulfport



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>