

VOL. 2 ISSUE 3 · APRIL 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**.

The **May meeting** will be held on **May 20**.

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)



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scottcountychessclub.org



Chess News Highlights

Bienville sets new record

Blue skies and a record turnout of players from across Mississippi combined recently to make for a great chess experience at Roosevelt State Park in Morton.

The second annual Bienville Chess Classic was held April 1 at the park's Alfreda-Harris Lodge where 45 players battled for prizes, improved ratings, and earned bragging rights. This is an increase from last year's 32 players in this tournament series, one of two series hosted by the Scott County Chess Club.

This event brought the turnout total to 192 players who have visited Scott County for four chess tournaments since the club started hosting in November 2021, holding one in the spring and one in the fall.

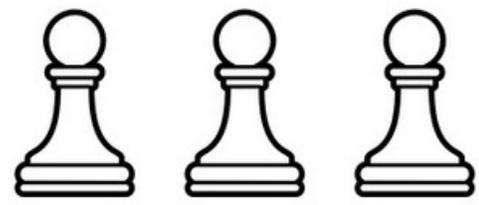
Chris Allen Baker, club founder and coordinator, said players reported having a great experience as many of them have played in the club's past tournaments but there were new faces.

"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 a popular destination for chess in our state," Baker said. "We are continuing to build something really special here."

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Chess News Highlights

The event had additional support from the business community which donated funds toward the prizes and resources for the tournament itself.

“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.”

Champions were crowned in four sections over four rounds during the day-long event. Three rated sections included the Open, U1200 and U800. Players are grouped according to their skill levels reflected through ratings issued by the U.S. Chess Federation. The Open section is considered the most competitive of the divisions in any chess tournament.

A particular feature of this tournament, the Beverly Jo Rhodes Memorial Award plaque goes to the first-place winner of the Open section. Rhodes was a gifted class teacher who started the WINGS program at Forest and supported chess among the class’ activities.



Beverly Rhodes

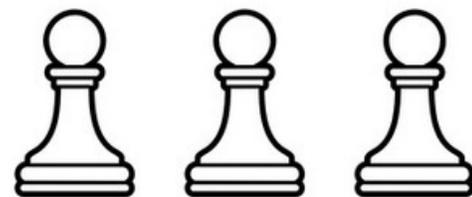
The tournament included an unrated section for players just starting out, giving the experience of playing in a tournament without the pressures of ratings and U.S. Chess Federation membership.

“We offered this section last year, but everyone registered for the rated sections. I was thrilled to see registrations for the section this time around,” Baker said. “It is a sign that not only are more people getting into chess as a whole, but more players are also seeking out opportunities to be competitive and learn how our tournaments work.”

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Chess News Highlights

As in the past tournaments the Club has hosted, at least one player has local ties to Scott County. Cody Batte won third place in the U1200 section this year after having captured the same award last year following two tie-break games.



Cody Batte

Baker said he hopes Batte’s success sets the stage for more players from Scott County to participate in the future.

With students in local schools having participated in scholastic chess competition earlier this year, they are welcome to compete in the two tournaments held locally.

“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, and the invitation is extended.”



Open Section Winners

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Chess News Highlights



U1200 Section Winners

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

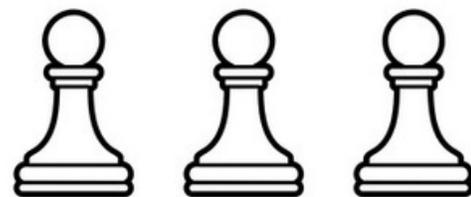


U800 Section Winners



Unrated Section Winners





Chess Calendar

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

** Scott County Chess Club will celebrate 5 year anniversary
Tuesday, May 2, 6 p.m., Forest Public Library , Forest*

** Scott County Chess Club will be at Morton Day in Park
Saturday, May 6, Farris Park, Morton
Come by our booth!*

** Scott County Chess Club will be at Lakefest
Saturday, May 13, Old Train Depot, Lake
Come by our booth!*

** 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.*

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



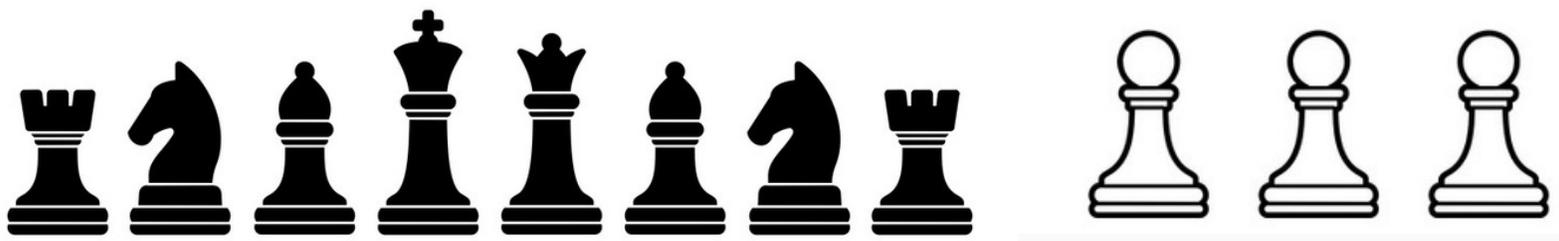
TOP TO BOTTOM CHESS:

*** 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

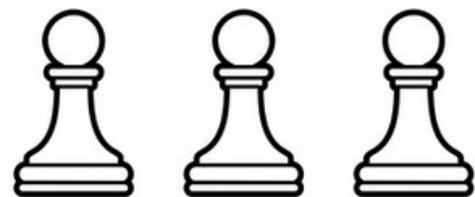
- Expand the educational, social, recreational and rehabilitative applications of chess.
- Increase the visibility of chess on mainstream communications channels.
- Develop the depth and breadth of our partnerships.
- Use chess to increase opportunities for under-represented segments of society.
- Continuously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

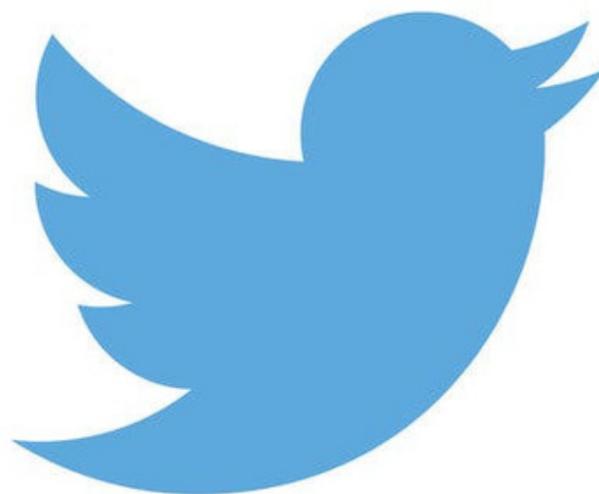


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send request and other questions to: scottcountychessclub@gmail.com

www.scottcountychessclub.org