

VOL. 2 ISSUE 4 · MAY 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 **May 20**.

We will be back on regular schedule in June.

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](http://scottcountychessclub.org)



## Chess News Highlights

### Happy Anniversary - We're 5!

It is hard to believe time has flown so fast, but we are closing in on a big milestone in our club's existence. As of May 1, the Scott County Chess Club will have reached five years of operation in bringing chess to and promoting it in our communities.

**In celebration of this milestone, we will host a reception on Tuesday, May 2, at the Forest Public Library (210 S. Raleigh Street) in downtown Forest.**

**The reception will informally begin at 5:30 p.m. with recognition of our partners and sponsors who have supported us through the years. At 6 p.m., there will be opportunities to play and discuss the game we are honoring in our county.**

We encourage our sponsors and partners to send a representative to this reception if possible to receive the recognition and thanks you so richly deserve in supporting us. We will have light refreshments and additional information about our activities and plans for the future.

#### Brief history

When Aaron Baker was in the second grade at Forest Elementary School in February 2018, he learned the game in the WINGS gifted class led by Deanne McCown. Each student made a chess board out of construction paper and was given small plastic chess pieces and was taught how they move and operate.

Aaron came home and asked his father, Chris, to play. Chris responded that he didn't know how so Aaron taught him the game and the hook was set.

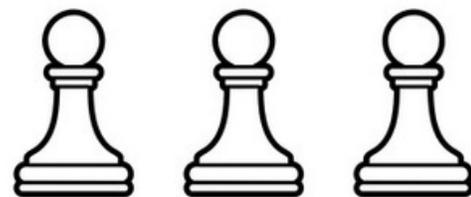
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## Sponsors

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

## 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  
SuperTalk MS  
Forest Chamber of Commerce  
Town of Lake  
City of Morton



## Chess News Highlights

Chris and Aaron wanted to find others in the community to join in the game so Chris contacted Dianne McLaurin at the Forest Public Library to see what could be arranged in starting a club.

Two interest meetings were held, May 1 and May 5, and attracted a good turnout. The Friends of the Library support group purchased five chess sets for use during club meetings and for library patrons to use during their visits.

At first, the club focused on children, but then expanded to all ages. Attendance began to grow over the next two years, including turnouts of 20+ players participating. Anyone who already played the game or wanted to learn was invited.

And then COVID-19 struck. The club was suspended from March 2020 until September 2021 when the library resumed more normal operations. Many of the original players drifted away due to the extended downtime so the club began to rebuild - keeping the door open to past players while welcoming new ones.

The club took another step forward in the fall of 2021 by joining the U.S. Chess Federation as an affiliate club and hosted its first tournament in November. The Roosevelt Chess Classic attracted 46 players from across Mississippi and three other states. Chris was also a guest on the "Good Things with Rebecca Turner" radio show on SuperTalk to promote the game and the club.

Growth continued in 2022 with the addition of another tournament, the Bienville Chess Classic, and Chris became a tournament director. The club also started a newsletter distributed via email. A web site was launched in September 2022 and the club began making regular appearances at community events.

We have also held clinics for Boy Scouts to earn the chess merit badge and we have traveled to other counties to support starting chess efforts in those locations when contacted.

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





# Chess News Highlights

Chris has also been active on the statewide chess scene and in October 2022 was elected to the Board of Directors and named Vice-President of the Mississippi Chess Association. He also plays chess with a club in Pearl on Tuesday evenings when possible.

Scott County Chess Club currently hosts two major tournaments each year - one in the spring and one in the fall - all at Roosevelt State Park in Morton. The Bienville Chess Classic, named for the national forest that covers the county, is held in April and the Roosevelt Chess Classic, named for the state park, is held in November. Through four tournaments held thus far, a combined 192 players have participated, coming from across Mississippi and some from Louisiana, Tennessee, and Alabama.

As we enter our sixth year following the anniversary date, the club looks forward to continuing its programming and expanding to new events and opportunities to bring people to the game of chess. Be sure to visit our website on a regular basis to see what we are doing and what is going on across the state in the game of chess.

[scottcountychessclub.org](http://scottcountychessclub.org)

'Never interrupt your opponent when they are making a mistake.'

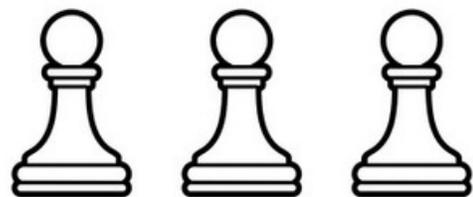




# Chess Club Memories

'A day without chess probably wouldn't kill me. But why risk it?'





# Chess Calendar

For more information about all listings:  
see our website at [scottcountychessclub.org](http://scottcountychessclub.org)

*\* Scott County Chess Club will celebrate 5 year anniversary  
Tuesday, May 2, 5:30 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!*

*In case of rain, we will be at the Forest Library for the usual meeting.*

*\* Scott County Chess Club will be at Lakefest*

*Saturday, May 13, Old Train Depot, Lake*

*Come by our booth!*

*\* Outlets Summer Kickoff Special*

*Saturday, May 13, Food Court - Outlet Mall, Pearl*

*Information available on our website in Chess Across Mississippi*

*\* Scott County Chess Club will hold a regular meeting*

*Saturday, May 20, 9-11 am, Public Library, Forest*

*This will be our regular meeting if we are able to attend the Morton event earlier this month.*

*\* 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.'**



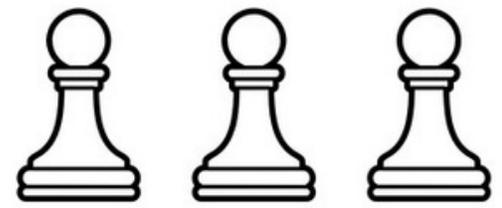
**TOP TO BOTTOM CHESS:**

**\* Memphis Chess Club**

*Weekly chess tournaments on Saturdays*

**\* Mississippi Coast Chess Club**

*Thursdays- Newk's, Gulfport*



## Benefits of playing Chess

- **Improves concentration and memory.** According to studies done at the University of Memphis, playing chess significantly improves children’s visual memory, attention span, and spatial-reasoning ability.
- **Enhances reading and math skills.** With its focus on problem solving and move variables, chess can improve math skills. Studies show that chess improves reading skills as well.
- **Fosters logic, critical thinking, and creativity.** Chess favors the “if-then” thinker. “If I move here, then my opponent may move here, here, or even here.” That’s logic and critical thinking in action! Studies also show that chess boosts creativity, most dramatically in one specific area—originality. Playing chess helps unleash your originality, since it activates the right side of the brain, the side responsible for creativity.
- **Encourages and rewards hard work.** Chess offers immediate feedback. Lose your focus, lose a piece. Practice and study the strategies, win more games. In chess, you control your destiny.
- **Promotes brain growth.** Games like chess that challenge the brain actually stimulate the growth of bodies that send out signals from the brain’s neuron cells. Communication within the brain improves and becomes faster.
- **It exercises both sides of the brain.** A study indicated that when chess players were asked to identify chess positions and geometric shapes, both the left and right hemispheres of the brain became highly active.
- **Raises your IQ.** At least one scientific study has shown that playing the game can actually raise a person’s IQ.
- **Helps prevent Alzheimer’s.** A study found that people over 75 who engage in brain-games like chess are less likely to develop dementia than their non-board-game-playing peers.
- **Increases problem-solving skills.** Chess requires fast thinking and problem-solving on the fly because your opponent is constantly changing the parameters.
- **Teaches planning and foresight.** One of the last parts of the brain to develop during adolescence is the area responsible for judgment, planning and self-control. Chess helps this area’s development and helps teenagers make better decisions in all areas of life.
- **Optimizes memory improvement.** Playing chess improves your memory, mainly because of the complex rules you have to remember, as well as the memory recall needed when trying to avoid previous mistakes or remembering a certain opponent’s playing style. Many chess players have exceptional memory performance and recall.
- **Improves recovery from stroke or disability.** Chess develops fine motor skills in individuals who have disability or have suffered a stroke or other physically debilitating accident. This form of rehabilitation requires the motion of chess pieces in different directions (forward, backward, diagonally forward motion, diagonally backward motion), which can help develop and fine tune a patient’s motor skills, while the mental effort required to play the game can improve cognitive and communication skills. Playing can also stimulate deep concentration and calm, helping to center and relax patients who are experiencing different degrees of anxiety.

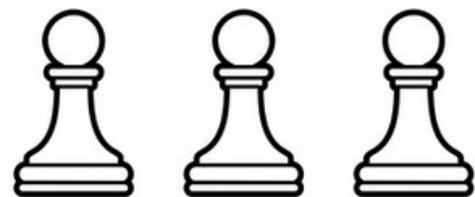
**Most of all - Chess is FUN!**

**'Life is full of important choices.'**

**'In chess, there are no losers.'**

**Either you win or you learn ...**

**sometimes both.'**

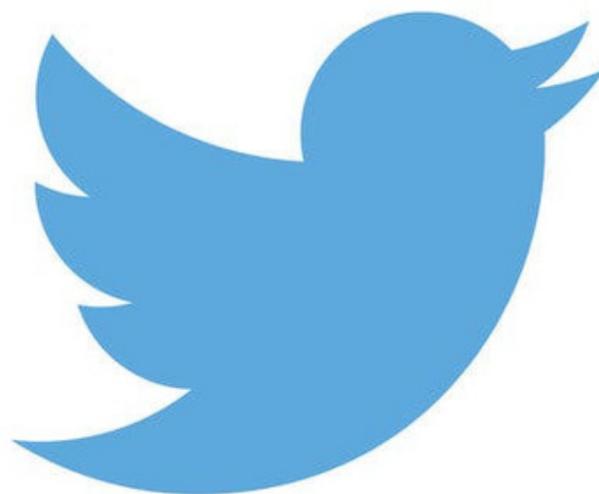


Find Us On Social Media and the World Wide Web



**@scottcountychessclub**

**@scott\_chess**



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

**[scottcountychessclub.org](http://scottcountychessclub.org)**