

VOL. 2 ISSUE 7 · AUGUST 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 **August 5.**
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



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Library receives huge
donation for chess

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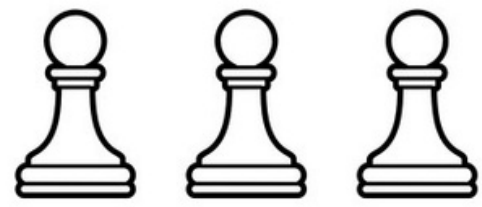
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scottcountychessclub.org



Chess News Highlights

Library receives \$1k donation for Chess programs, supplies

The Scott County Chess Club began five years ago as an activity hosted at the Forest Public Library which was recently gifted a \$1,000 donation to support the game and activities promoting chess education.

Former resident and native retired Lt. Col. Michael Hawkins donated the funds in memory of a former classmate who taught him how to play chess. Hawkins said he wished for the funds to be used to obtain whatever materials the library needed to educate and promote chess in the community, particularly among children.



Richardson

The classmate Hawkins referred to is the late Randy Richardson who, with Hawkins, was a 1960 graduate of Forest High school. Chess was among many activities they were involved in during their school years. Hawkins said he also played with other friends when possible.

“He taught me the game and I just became hooked. I love it so much. We played 24 straight games with him winning all of them before I was able to beat him on the 25th try,” Hawkins said. “It was a great experience. I appreciated the opportunity Randy gave me to learn the game and I still play it whenever I can. When I learned that a chess club was started in Forest, I wanted to help the library any way I could to keep the game going.”

In addition to the funds, Hawkins also sent a set of chess lesson books and a traditional analog game clock.

While the funds were directed to the library, staff members will work with the Scott County Chess Club in planning a strategy in using the funds.

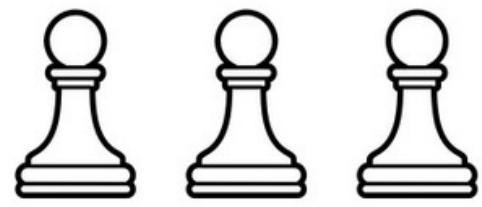
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Sponsors

- 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

“This is an incredible gift that Lt. Col. Hawkins has provided, and we are humbled by his support of the game. The funds will enable the library to acquire items that will be tremendously valuable in our efforts to promote the game and teach more people how to play it,” said Scott County Chess Club Founder and Coordinator Chris Baker. “(Library Manager) Dianne McLaurin and I have mapped out a strategy to take the donation as far as we can.”

Baker said part of the funds will be used to purchase books and other materials that the public can check out and learn the game. Some funds will also be used to purchase additional chess sets to join the five boards originally donated by the Friends of the Library group. The funds will also help support a chess event planned for October 14 to introduce the game to children in the community.

Hawkins, who now lives in Gautier, Miss., said life has been good for him and he wanted to use some of his resources to support the game he learned in school. After graduation, Hawkins earned a doctorate in education psychology and pursued a career in the U.S. Army until retirement. Hawkins said he also plans to participate in chess activities in his current community.

“I never forgot where I came from. I have many fond memories of life in the Moore Tower Road area of Scott County. I just wanted to give something back,” Hawkins said.

Chess Camp is on the way

Children across Scott County will soon have an opportunity to participate in a chess education activity in the fall. The event will be held at the Forest Public Library. The event will be held and named in memory of the late Randy Richardson who was instrumental in teaching chess to a donor of a \$1k gift to the library.

The event will be held October 14. Details are still being worked out and will be announced in an upcoming newsletter and on our website at scottcountychessclub.org.

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





Chess News Highlights

Back to School Bash

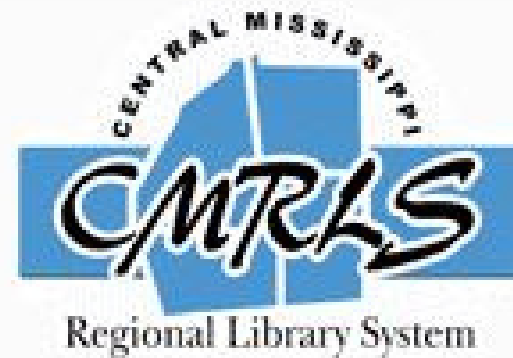
The Forest Public Library will host its annual Back to School Bash for area school children on Saturday, August 5, which will feature a variety of games and other activities.

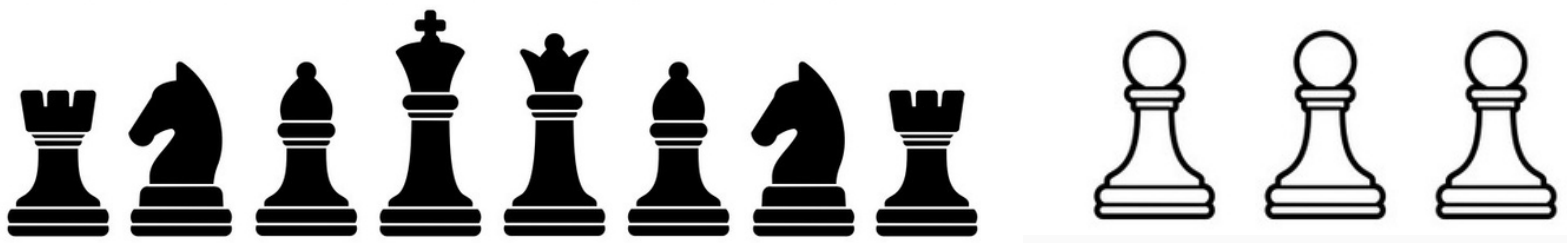
Among them, the Scott County Chess Club will be there with a display to offer information about the game of chess and how to get involved. The event will coincide with the club's regular meeting. The event is planned for 9 a.m. until noon.



'A day without chess is probably not fatal.'

But why risk it?'





Scott County Chess Club sponsored tournament

3rd Annual Roosevelt Chess Classic is set

MORTON – The next anniversary of our first tournament series is set for **November 4, 2023** - the 3rd annual **Roosevelt Chess Classic tournament**. Like the first one, this event will feature individuals and teams.

Our first Roosevelt Classic in November 2021 attracted 50 players from around Mississippi and neighboring states. Our second Roosevelt Classic attracted 69 players from across Mississippi and from Louisiana. Combined with our spring Bienville classic series, in our four tournaments so far, we have had 192 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 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. 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 Individuals and Teams 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)

Teams may have any desired number of players.

The top 4 players' scores will determine team score

(Medals awarded to the top four players of the winning team)

\$30 entry fee through Saturday, October 28, 11:59 p.m. (midnight and after - \$40)

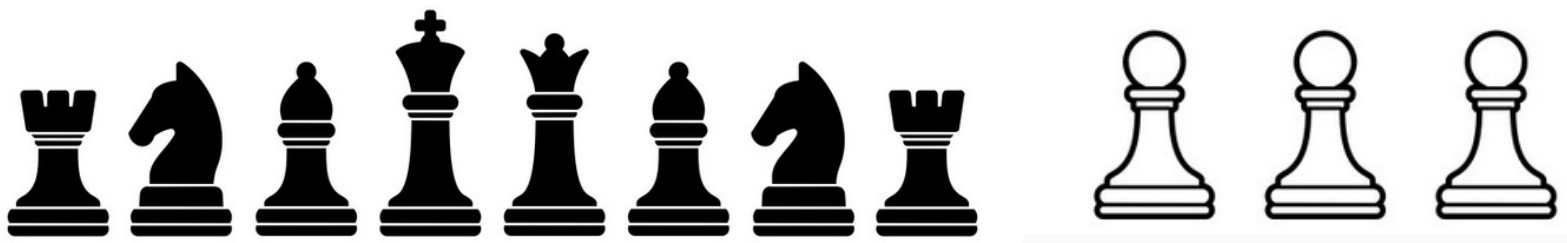
To Register: Players must provide their NAME, Active Chess Federation ID#, desired SECTION, and desired METHOD of PAYMENT

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.

Please send email with information BEFORE making any payment

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2023 Roosevelt Chess Classic - continued

*****Please advise if participating with a team or organizing a team.**
Leaders should provide team name and members' names with **active ID#s**

**** 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 week leading up to the event, other times when necessary, and posted on our website.

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 - 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.'

*** Back to School Bash**

Forest Public Library - Forest

Saturday, August 5, Free - Check out the game

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

Saturday, August 5, 9-11 am, Public Library, Forest

This will be our regular meeting - everyone is welcome.

*** Two-Person Chess Team Tournament (Partner Showdown)**

Saturday, August 12 - Food Court - Outlet Mall, Pearl

*\$24 entry fee before Friday, July 11, 11:59 p.m.; \$36 day of event
game time control 45+5 - 10:30 a.m. first round*

*** Second Sunday League Chess Tournament**

Food Court - Outlet Mall, Pearl

Sunday, August 13, 2 p.m. - Must be pre-registered.

*** Capital City Chess Club**

Food Court - Outlet Mall, Pearl

Tuesdays - casual play - 5:30 until 8 p.m.

*** Vicksburg Chess Club**

Thursdays- Newk's Eatery, Vicksburg

Free - casual play - 6 until 8 p.m.



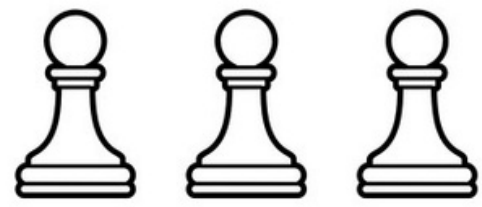
TOP TO BOTTOM CHESS:

*** Memphis Chess Club**

Weekly chess tournaments on Saturdays

*** Mississippi Coast Chess Club**

Thursdays- Newk's, Gulfport



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?'

