

VOL. 3 ISSUE 4 · MAY 2024

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 4 at the **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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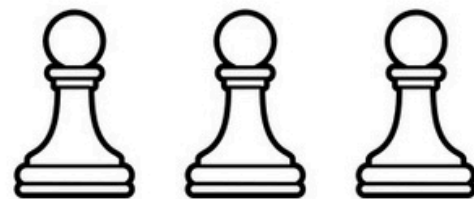
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scottcountychessclub.org



Chess News Highlights

Lakefest 2024

The Scott County Chess Club will have an information booth set up in the Town of Lake during their annual festival known as Lakefest on May 11. Activities begin early at 8 a.m. and continue to 4 p.m. There will be lots of arts, crafts, entertainment, recreation, food, and other activities. The event will be located on the grounds of the Old Depot in the downtown area.

The SC Chess Club will be among the displays offering information about the game of chess, how to get involved in the game, and the activities that are available through chess. We will also have boards set up for visitors to play the game. Come join us in participating in the game, learn about it, and have a great time with all the activities of the festival.



Educators - we're there for you!

The Scott County Chess Club believes in getting everyone involved in the participation of the game and embraces every chance to provide our **information to teachers, principals, administrators and other school leaders** at every opportunity.

The Forest Public Library will celebrate National Teacher Appreciation Day Tuesday, May 7, from 3 until 6 p.m. with a come-and-go reception for educators to thank them for their impact on the lives of children.

We will have a display set up from 5 until 7 p.m. on the tail end of the day's educators' program. The public is welcome to visit with us from 6 until 7 p.m. and we invite everyone to see how chess can be a part of your life.

May the Fourth be With You

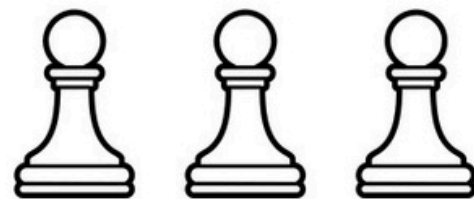
We will also be at the library on Saturday, May 4, from 9 until 11 a.m. and possibly noon with a display set up. Participants in the library's May Fourth program (10:30 a.m.) featuring a Star Wars theme will have an opportunity to learn about chess while they are there for other activities.

Sponsors

Community Bank
Cox Chevron
Bank of Commerce (Morton)
Tom Miles
Priority One Bank
French's Pharmacy
Fountain ACE Hardware
Bank of Forest
Jack Batte and Sons Lumber Mill
Joe McGee Construction

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
Forest Baptist Church
Andrew Jackson Council - BSA
Community Bank
SwissSys
MS Trophy
Larchwood Designs
MS Secretary of State
Go Daddy (web hosting)
Ingram Printing
Scott County Times
The Spirit of Morton
SuperTalk MS
WLBT - Studio 3
Forest Chamber of Commerce
Town of Lake
City of Morton
Town of Sebastopol
King Registration
Friends of Roosevelt State Park



Chess News Highlights

Chess is a ‘Good Thing’

The Scott County Chess Club is lining up another visit to appear on “**Good Things with Rebecca Turner**” on the SuperTalk Mississippi Radio Network in late May. An airdate has not been finalized, but an announcement will be made on our website and on social media sites.

We have been blessed with great support from Rebecca’s show in spreading the message of chess across Mississippi. You can hear and view past shows and other appearances through our website at the following address: <https://scottcountychessclub.org/video%2Fmedia-gallery>

“Good Things” airs Mondays through Fridays from 2 until 3 p.m. and can be found at this address: <https://www.supertalk.fm/shows/goodthings/>



'Chess is like life. There are rewards for good choices, consequences for the bad choices.'

Calling all Tournament Directors!!

US Chess will offer an informative Town Hall for Tournament Directors on **Sunday, May 5, from [7 until 8:30 pm Central Time]**. Panelists will include TDCC Chair Jeff Wiewel, NTD/IA Martha Underwood, NTD/FA Glenn Panner, Executive Board member David Hater, Executive Director Ranae Bartlett, and Safe Play Manager Melinda Matthews.

The Town Hall will cover: Updates; Recap of TD certification requirements; New rating system and website updates; Safe Play updates including SafeSport training deadlines, Distinctions between US Chess Safe Play and The U.S. Center for SafeSport, How to implement Safe Play at events, Review of Safe Play resources on Safe Play Hub; and a Q&A.

If you have questions regarding these topics or any other TD concerns, please email them to Melinda Matthews at mmatthews@uschess.org. We will answer as many questions as possible within our time frame during the Q&A.

Register for the Town Hall by copying and pasting this url in your browser:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZMtf-ivpzwpHNIHSaDK0V-IaMseuQputsNw>





Scott County Chess Club sponsored tournament

3rd Annual Bienville Chess Classic sets new record

MORTON – A record number of players from across Mississippi gathered Saturday at Roosevelt State Park to compete in the centuries-old game of chess.

The third annual Bienville Chess Classic was held April 20 at the park’s Alfreda-Harris Lodge where 58 players battled for prizes, improved ratings, and earned bragging rights. This is an increase from last year’s 45 players and up from 32 in 2022 in this tournament series, one of two hosted by the Scott County Chess Club.

This event brought the combined turnout to 309 players who have visited Scott County for six chess tournaments since the club started hosting in November 2021, holding one tournament 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 first-time players. One player came from Mobile, Ala., to participate.

“We were blessed to have a wonderful turnout and decent weather to allow chess players across Mississippi and beyond to enjoy a great experience at one of our nation’s best state parks,” Baker said. “It is another sign that Scott County is a popular destination for chess in our state. We are building something special here.”

The event had support from the business community which donated funds toward prizes and resources. Five businesses contributed to Saturday’s tournament as sponsors, and five others regularly support the club’s Roosevelt Chess Classic in the fall. Partners provide additional support for both events.

“We could not do this without the support of our sponsors and partners. I appreciate every business who stepped up to help us make all our tournaments possible,” Baker said. The club appreciated assistance from the Friends of Roosevelt State Park who provided food for the players and spectators as a fundraiser for their own activities that support the park. “Their partnership and contributions provided lunch, so players did not have to leave the park to find something to eat between rounds. It was great food and by all accounts available was much appreciated,” Baker said. “It was a win-win situation for our players and the Friends group, and we look forward to working with them for future tournaments.”

The tournament also featured a new online system, King Registration, that allowed for easy and efficient recruitment of players. “This system is a God-send tool that improved our tournament’s management and organizational activities. It’s no surprise why many of our chess tournaments around the state are using it now,” Baker said.

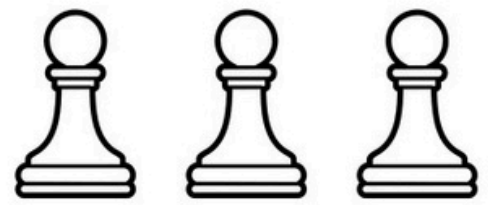
Champions were announced after four rounds during the day-long event. Four rated sections included the Open, U1200, U800 and U400.



The Scott County Chess Club hosted 58 players Saturday for the 3rd annual Bienville Chess Classic tournament held at Alfreda-Harris Lodge at Roosevelt State Park in Morton. The turnout is the largest in this tournament series’ history and the second largest overall among all six tournaments the club has hosted. Players from across Mississippi competed for trophies, medals, and cash prizes.



Vincent Sun, of Flowood, received the championship plaque in the 3rd annual Bienville Chess Classic tournament. Sun tied with Ojash Bhushan, score-wise, but won the title on the tiebreaker. The award is named for the late Beverly Jo Rhodes, a gifted class teacher who started the WINGS program at Forest High School, and supported chess activities.



Bienville Chess Classic - Continued

Players were 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. 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 activities. Other first, second, and third place winners received trophies and medals for their achievements.

Everyone is welcome to compete in the tournaments and participate in other club activities. "I am so excited that so many people from across the state regularly want to be a part of what we are doing here," Baker said. "It would be great to see more local faces around these chess boards. The potential is there, and the invitation is extended. It is never too late to learn chess."

The Bienville Chess Classic is named for the national forest that covers much of Scott County and the fall tournament is named for the state park.

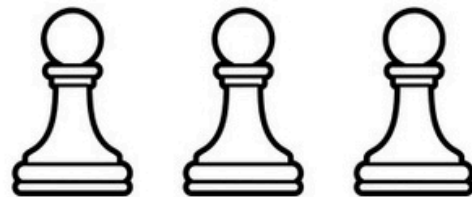
THANK YOU!!!
We would like to thank our sponsors and partners for supporting our **Bienville Chess Classic tournament**
Community Bank
Fountain Ace Hardware - Forest
Priority One Bank
Jack Batte and Sons Lumber Mill
Bank of Forest
Roosevelt State Park
The Scott County Times
Friends of Roosevelt State Park

For more information visit our website at scottcountychessclub.org



Malcolm Johnson, of Newton, (right) participated in the 3rd annual Bienville Chess Classic tournament. Johnson is a regular chess participant in the Scott County Chess Club in Forest. This was his second tournament to participate in with his first being in Kemper County earlier this year.





Bienville Chess Classic - Concluded



OPEN Section Winners

The Champion of the Open Section who received the plaque in the tie breaker was Vincent Sun of Flowood. Ojash Bhushan (second from right) took second place. Third place was split between Clayton Thrasher (right), James Dove (second from left), Jared C. Davis (left), and Parker Myers (third from left). Thrasher won the tiebreaker to receive the third place medal. The prize money was split between the winners.



U400 Winners

The Champion of the U400 Section was John Tyra, left; second place went to Landon Booker, center; and third place to Lisa Zheng.



U1200 Section Winners

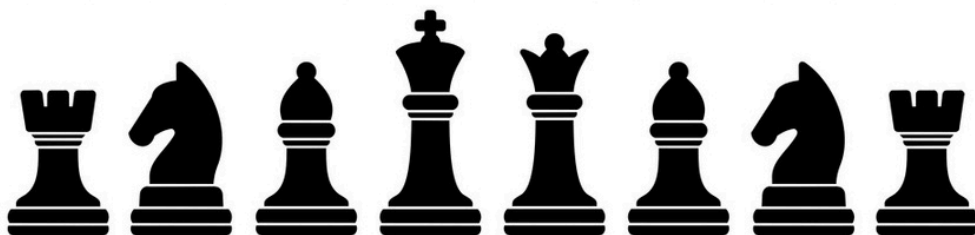
The Champion of the U1200 Section who received the trophy in the tie breaker was Sameer Sharma (left). Surya Hari (right center) took second place. Third place went to Caleb Hinton (left center) who won the medal in a tiebreaker with Aiden Timmons (right).



U800 Section Winners

The Champion of the U800 Section who received the trophy in the tie breaker was Brandon Lee Ranches (left center). Makayla Davis (right center) took second place. Third place went to Harrison Melton (right) who won the medal in a tiebreaker with Vincent Chen (left).

Join us November 9!! for the 4th annual Roosevelt Chess Classic



Chess Calendar

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

* **Scott County Chess Club** will hold a regular meeting
Saturday, May 4, 9-11 am, Public Library, Forest
This will be our regular meeting - everyone is welcome.

* **MSCA Rated Scholastic Championship**
Saturday, May 4 - Hattiesburg - University of Southern Miss.

* **Summer Camps including Chess**
May 28-31; June 17-21; July 8-12; and July 22-26 - Ridgeland -
The Club at the Township

* **Mississippi G/60 Championship Tournament**
Saturday, June 15 - Flowood - Jackson Prep school

* **Mississippi Team Championship**
Saturday, July 20 - Flowood - Jackson Prep school

* **Mississippi State Fair Chess Challenge** (blitz and regular)
October 6 or October 13 - State Fairgrounds Trade Mart - Jackson

* **Mississippi State Chess Championship**
Saturday-Sunday, Oct. 19-20 - Ridgeland - C-Spire Corporate HQ

* **Roosevelt Chess Classic** ** **SC Chess Club** host
Saturday, Nov. 9 - Morton - Roosevelt State Park

* **Capital City Chess Club regular meetings**
Tuesdays 5:30 until 8 p.m. - Pearl - Outlets of Mississippi Food
Court

* **Stone County Chess Club**
Wednesdays 4:30-6:30 p.m. - Wiggins - Pizza Inn

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



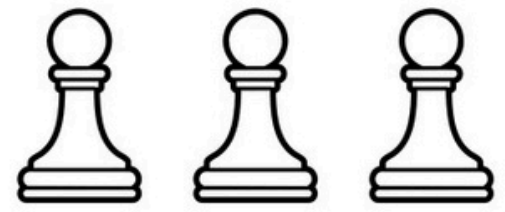
TOP TO BOTTOM CHESS:

* **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.

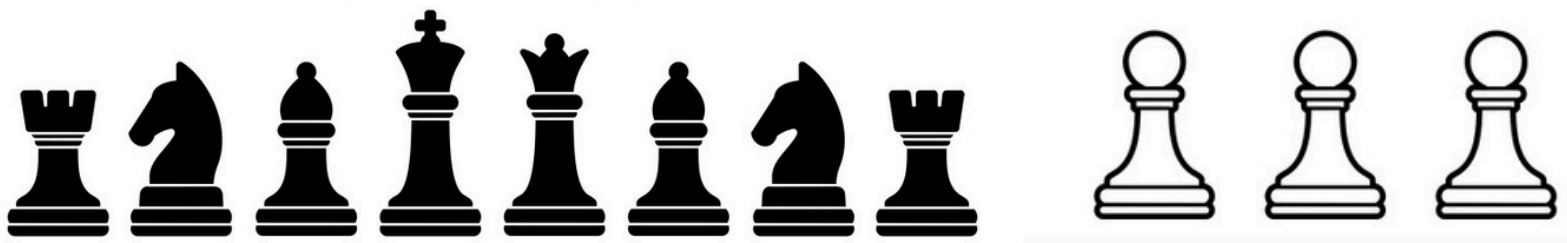
Most of all - Chess is FUN!

'Life is full of important choices.'

'In chess, there are no losers.'

Either you win or you learn ...

sometimes both.'



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.

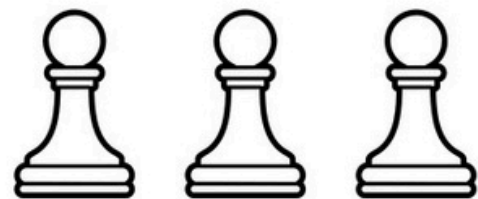
US Chess Core Values

- **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>

USCF Membership makes for a great Birthday gift!!

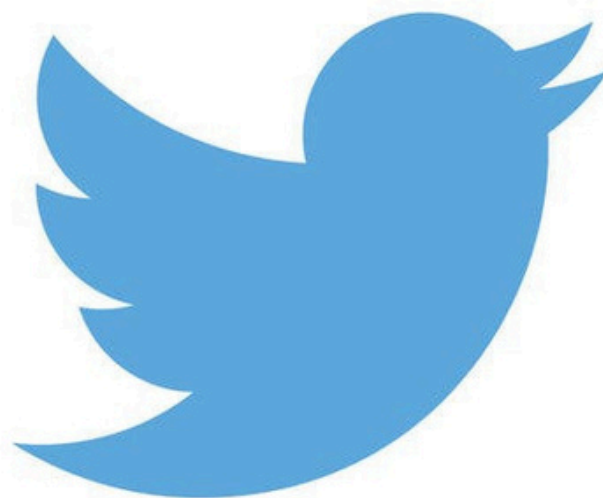


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