

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 **December 7** 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

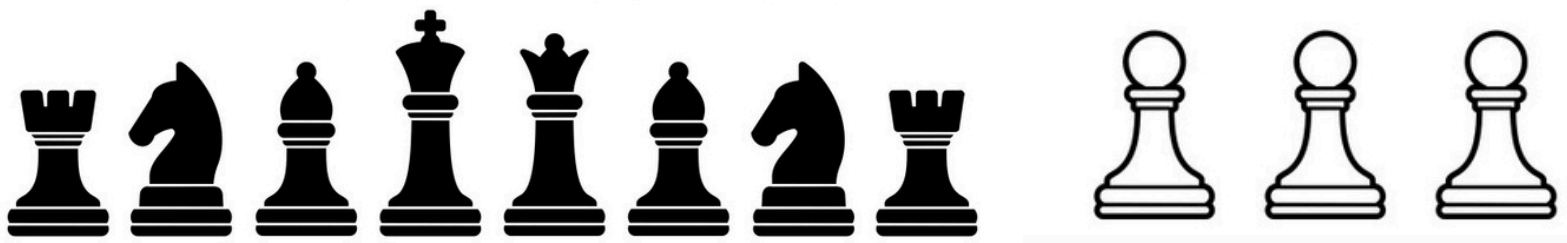


scottcountychess



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Scott County Chess Club sponsored tournament

4th annual Roosevelt Chess Classic - Review

Largest Turnout Ever - includes IM

MORTON – New history was made last month when a record number of chess players from Mississippi and two other states gathered to compete for prizes at Roosevelt State Park in Scott County.

The 4th annual Roosevelt Chess Classic was held Nov. 9 when 75 players battled for prizes, improved ratings, and bragging rights. While most of the players came from across Mississippi, including two from Scott and Newton counties, one player traveled from Alabama and another from New York to participate.

The turnout set a new record for a single chess tournament hosted by the Scott County Chess Club since 2021.

Including the tournament series held in the spring and the new one added in the summer, this Roosevelt event brought the combined turnout over eight tournaments to 399 players who have visited Scott County to play chess.

Chris Allen Baker, club founder and coordinator, said this event is an example of Scott County being an established favorite destination for chess players that is continuing to grow.

“I am immensely proud that so many people who love chess are choosing to play with us each year. Players tell me all the time this is one of their favorite tournaments which is humbling to know we are providing a quality opportunity for them,” Baker said.

A particular distinction this year included the participation of Justin Sarkar of New York who holds the rank of an international master having a U.S. Chess Federation rating of 2351. Sarkar said he learned about the Roosevelt tournament through the Federation website. He is on a mission to play an event in each of the states and Mississippi was his 47th visit, leaving Utah, Alaska, and Hawaii as his remaining planned destinations on his list.

“This is a special place. I haven’t been to a tournament with this kind of scenery,” Sarkar said. “This is a very nice setting and I played some good players. Clayton (Thrasher) is pretty good,” he said, referring to a highly rated Mississippi player from Raymond. “I always have to watch out for kids because they can be really good. I enjoyed the visit overall.”

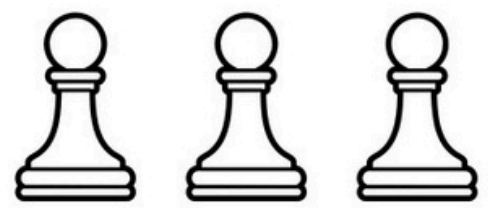
Paul Smith, a chess coach who brought a team from St. Andrews Episcopal School in Ridgeland, said Sarkar’s visit was a rare opportunity for his students to meet a player of that caliber.

“He was very kind and gracious to play one of my students. Justin said after the game that Max (Moore) showed him a variation of strategy that he had never seen before and was impressed,” Smith said.

Continued next page



Justin Sarkar, an International Master with a rating of 2351, flew from New York to participate in the Roosevelt Chess Classic in Mississippi.



2024 Roosevelt Chess Classic - continued

Baker said Sarkar's visit was a special and unexpected honor which means a lot to the chess club.

"I was really blown away when he registered. It is incredible to have someone of his talent and skill to fly from New York to play in our tournament considering the many larger venues he has played," Baker said. "We are no longer building chess opportunities just in Scott County for Mississippians. We are getting noticed on a national level."

Champions, second, and third place winners were crowned among individuals and teams at the Alfreda-Harris Lodge in four sections over four rounds of action. The tournament hosted 10 teams that included four schools sending players to Morton. Prizes included trophies, medals, and cash.

Players were grouped among four sections according to their ratings with the Federation. This tournament was also unique in the sections were unusually even in numbers of players ranging from two sections with 16 and 17 respectively, and two sections with 21 players. Each round lasted a little more than 45 minutes and players had a wide diversity of ratings reflecting some of the best players in the state.

There was also an increase in the number of local players including Malcolm Johnson, of Newton who plays regularly at the club's meetings, and Sufyan Mahdi of Forest who has participated in the club's annual chess camps.

"I am excited that so many people want to be part of what we are doing in Scott County. I hope this sets the stage for seeing more local faces in our tournaments as our club grows and players choose to participate in these major events," Baker said.

The club receives support from 10 businesses across the county who contribute to the tournaments each year.

"We greatly appreciate the support they provide, and we couldn't do any of this without them. Their proceeds fund the prizes for the winners first, and then other expenses. We welcome anyone looking to invest in chess that provides many opportunities for the community," Baker said.

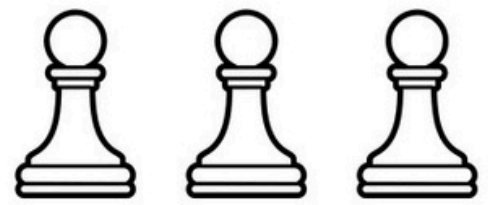


Malcolm Johnson of Newton, right, a Scott County Chess Club member, was among the tournament players.



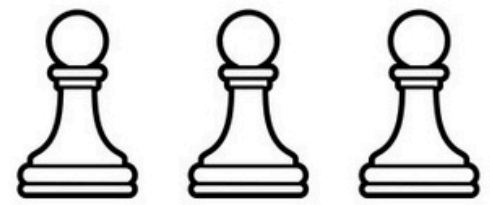
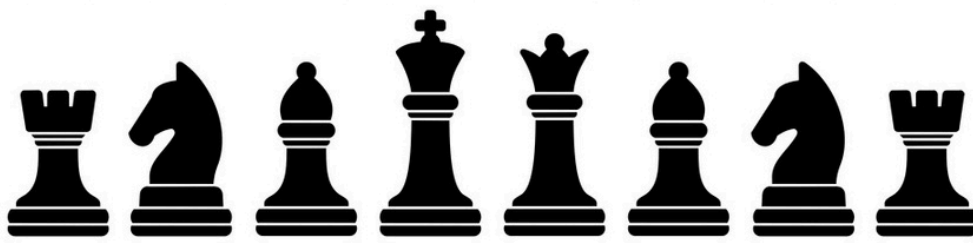
Pictured at left, Sufyan Mahdi of Forest, right, a two-time past player in the Randy Richardson Memorial Chess Camp, participated in his first chess tournament as a new member of the US Chess Federation. Pictured at right: Jack Love, left, of the Capital City Chess Club makes his move.





Scenes from the 2024 Roosevelt Chess Classic - concluded





Highlights in Chess

Assisting other tournaments

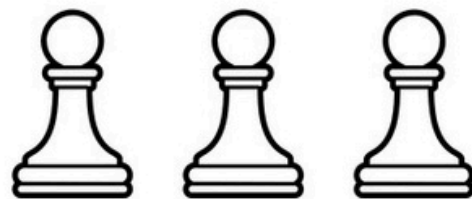
Scott County Chess traveled to Ridgeland and Southaven to lend a hand to other events

When called upon and if the scheduling allows, Scott County's Chess Club is willing to lend assistance to other clubs and organizations sponsoring tournaments.

On November 16, Scott County assisted the St. Augustine Fall Chess Tournament in Ridgeland where we provided boards, clocks, and tournament director assistance for the event. The tournament attracted a great crowd and Neil Witherow and Beth Thrasher provided great direction of the event that included rated and unrated games for players of all ages.

'Life
is full
of
important
choices.'





Highlights in Chess

On November 19, Scott County traveled to Southaven to provide clocks and director assistance for a scholastic tournament including students in the DeSoto County School District. The event included more than 600 students from Hernando, Southaven, Olive Branch, and other locations in the area. It was a great opportunity to see so much chess action by young players on such a massive scale. The event was sponsored by the Mississippi Scholastic Chess Association.



**Our #1
rule in
Chess is to
HAVE FUN!!**



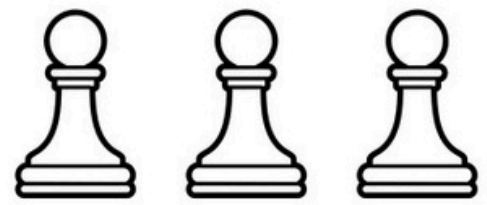
Changes coming to newsletter

With the completion of three volumes of newsletters in our history, there will be a slight adjustment of the numbering of the newsletters.

We started the newsletter in February 2022 as a means to shorten our monthly email blasts to members and other players around the state who participate in our events. The newsletter provides a means to distribute information about our club's activities without making the monthly emails too long and unattractive to read and digest. You have the option of clicking the attached newsletter to read beyond the general highlights of the email.

We originally planned to start it in January therefore the volume dates are a little off. While we are adjusting our fiscal year to coincide with the calendar year, the same will be done for the newsletter. This will require the ending of volume three in December with 11 issues so we can pick up in January with issue 1 for volume four and return to 12 issue count by the end of the calendar year and so on.

It is more of a technicality and the newsletter will be more streamlined and consistent with other operations within the club. There will be some content features added in the new year. We are planning to include occasional chess puzzles and other graphics to "spruce up" the newsletter.



Chess Camp Scenes

THANK YOU!! To our great supporters

As we close out this volume of the newsletter, the Scott County Chess Club wishes to salute and say Thank You!! to our wonderful and great sponsors, partners, and supporters for all of the contributions they have provided in the past year. **We could not do near as much or anything without your help.**

Our sponsors provide funding to support our prize money and other expenses of our tournaments.

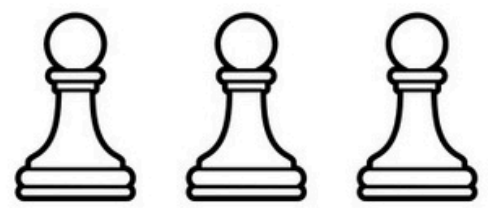
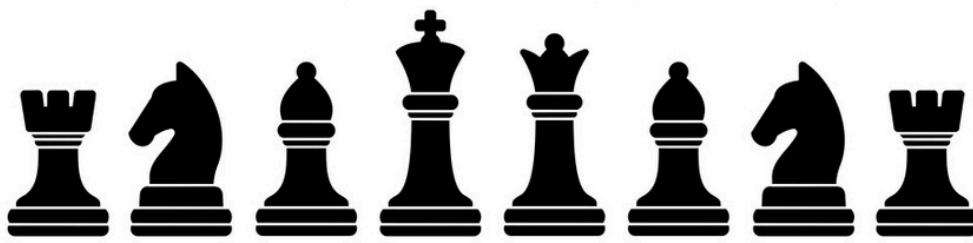
Our partners provide a wide variety of assistance and support for many other activities.

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	MS Secretary of State
Forest Public Library	Go Daddy (web hosting)
Friends of Forest Library	Ingram Printing
U.S. Chess Federation	Scott County Times
MS Chess Association	The Spirit of Morton
MS Scholastic Chess Association	SuperTalk MS
Capital City Chess Club	WLBT - Studio 3
Roosevelt State Park	Forest Chamber of Commerce
Forest Baptist Church	Town of Lake
Andrew Jackson Council - BSA	City of Morton
Community Bank	Town of Sebastopol
SwissSys	King Registration
MS Trophy	Friends of Roosevelt State Park
Larchwood Designs	Crown Trophy



Chess Calendar

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

* **Scott County Chess Club** will hold a regular meeting
Saturday, Dec. 7, from 9 to 11 am, Public Library, Forest
This will be our regular meeting - everyone is welcome.

* **Rooks 'N Reindeer Chess Tournament**
Friday, Dec. 6 - MS Children's Museum, Jackson
Scholastic only

* **Mississippi Quick and Blitz**
Saturday, Dec. 7 - Nissan Training Center, Canton *All Ages

* **2024 South Mississippi Championship**
Saturday, Dec. 14 - Copiah-Lincoln Community College, Wesson

* **New Year's Bash G/60 d10**
Saturday, January 4 - Outlets of Mississippi Food Court, Pearl

* **New Year's Bughouse**
Sunday, January 5 - Outlets of Mississippi Food Court, Pearl

* **Capital City Chess Club**
Tuesdays from 5:30 until 8:30 p.m., Scholtzky's, Flowood

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



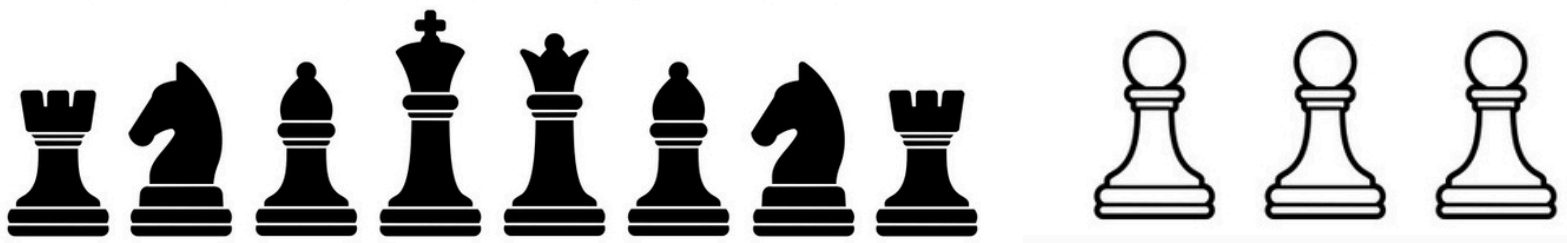
TOP TO BOTTOM CHESS:

* **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.

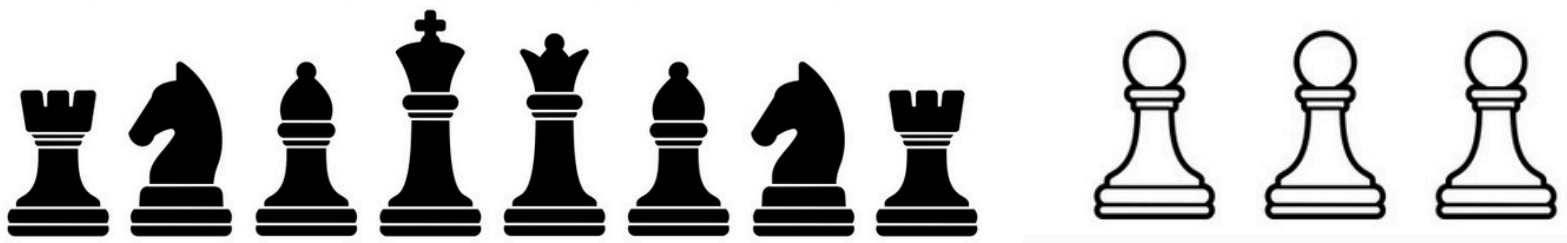
US Chess Core Values

- **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>

USCF Membership makes for a great Birthday gift!!

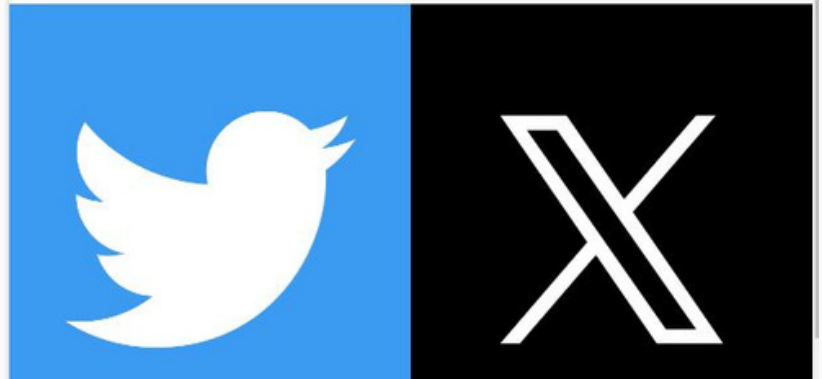


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Sign up for **GroupMe** for instant texts,
send request and other questions to: scottcountychessclub@gmail.com

scottcountychessclub.org