



VOL. 4 ISSUE 5 · MAY 2025

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 3 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



Scott County Chess



This issue:

Lakefest & Good Things
PAGE 02

7 years meeting & Forest
Chess Challenge
PAGE 03

Bienville Results
PAGE 04-06

Calendar
PAGE 07

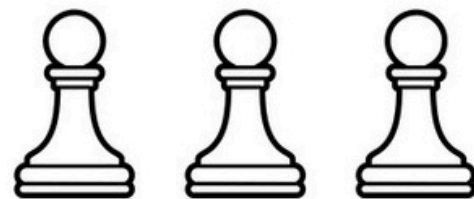
Benefits of Chess
PAGE 08

scottcountychessclub.org



Chess News Highlights

Lakefest 2025



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

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 10. 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.



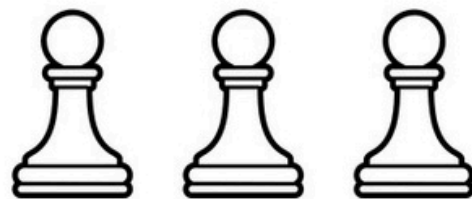
Chess is a 'Good Thing'

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 News Highlights

7 years of Chess growth

The Scott County Chess Club will celebrate seven years of introducing our community to the game during the month of May and we will kick off the celebration with our anniversary orientation meeting on **May 3**.

During our regular meeting, players who already know the game may play in the main area of the **Forest Public Library** where we usually gather **between 9 and 11 a.m.** Meanwhile, a special orientation program will be held in the library's main meeting room to introduce the game and club to anyone interested in learning chess and getting involved.

All activities are free and open to everyone who wants to participate. All materials will be provided for the event. Just show up and be ready to have fun!

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



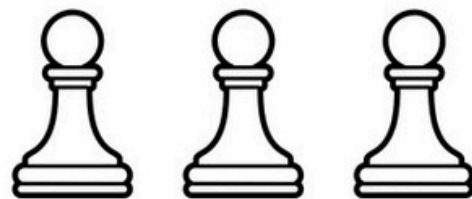
Forest Chess Challenge features Q&B

The Scott County Chess Club will host its second annual Forest Chess Challenge which features Quick and Blitz styles of chess action. We are looking forward to growing this unique way of playing a faster pace of the game. The one-day tournament will be held on August 16 at Penn's restaurant near Interstate 20 in Forest.

The Quick chess style will include 5 rounds and a game time control of 15 minutes with no increments or delays on the clock. The Blitz chess style will include 5 rounds and a game time control of 5 minutes, also no increments or delays. Notation will NOT be used. All games will be rated. The tournament will include two sections for each style - **Open and U1000** - and **regular** USCF ratings will be used for pairing purposes. *The prize fund will come solely from registrations received.* In each section, cash prizes will include \$75 for first place and \$50 for second place winners.

Entry fees will include early bird rates of \$25 each for Quick or Blitz only and \$35 for both if you register before 11:59 p.m. on August 9. At midnight, August 10, fees will go up to the regular rates of \$30 for Quick or Blitz and \$35 for both. At 6 p.m. on August 15, the late and on-site rates of \$35 for Quick or Blitz and \$40 for both will take effect. No registrations will be accepted after 10 a.m. on August 16.

There could be some changes as the final details were still pending at press time. Online registration will be available at the following address: <https://www.kingregistration.com/event/ForestChallenge2025>



Scott County Chess Club sponsored tournament

4th Annual Bienville Chess Classic is a hit

MORTON – Chess players from across Mississippi gathered last month at Roosevelt State Park to compete in the centuries-old game of chess.

The fourth annual Bienville Chess Classic was held April 12 at the park’s Alfreda-Harris Lodge where 38 players battled for prizes, improved ratings, and earned bragging rights.

This event brought the combined turnout to 347 players who have visited Scott County for nine chess tournaments since the club started hosting in November 2021, holding one tournament in the spring, one in the fall, and added one in the summer last year.

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 Bay Minette, 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 this year’s spring tournament as sponsors, and five others regularly support the club’s Roosevelt Chess Classic in the fall. Partners provide additional support for both events.

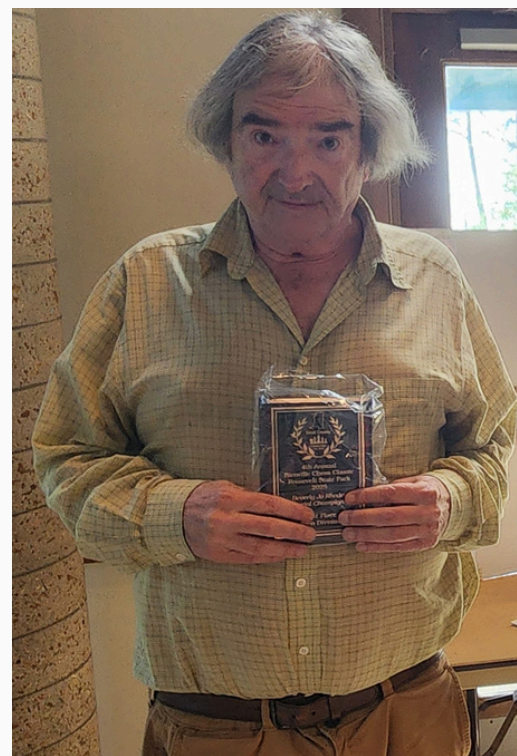
“We could not do this without the support of our sponsors and partners. I appreciate every business who stepped up to help us make all our tournaments possible,” Baker said. The club appreciated assistance from the Friends of Roosevelt State Park who again provided food for the players and spectators 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.”

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



The Scott County Chess Club hosted 38 players Saturday for the 4th annual Bienville Chess Classic tournament held at Roosevelt State Park in Morton.



Joseph Jurjevich, of Bay Minette, Ala., received the championship plaque in the 4th annual Bienville Chess Classic tournament with a clean sweep. 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.



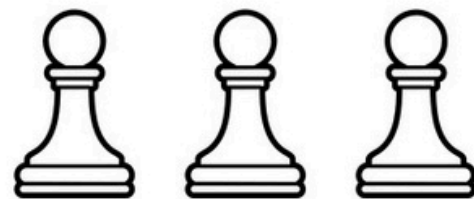
Bienville Chess Classic - Continued

There were some local faces among the faces of players who live in Scott County or have a connection to the community.

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.

Cody Batte, of Forest, (right) participated in the 4th annual Bienville Chess Classic tournament. Batte was a returning player who has won in past tournaments in Scott County.



The Scott County Chess Club would like to thank our business sponsors and partners for supporting our chess tournament April 12

Community Bank
Priority One Bank
Bank of Forest

Jack Batte & Sons Lumber Mill

Fountain ACE Hardware

The Scott County Times

Roosevelt State Park

Mississippi Trophy

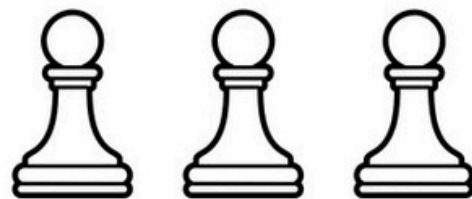
Larchwood Designs

Friends of Roosevelt State Park

For more information, visit our website

scottcountychessclub.org





Bienville Chess Classic - Concluded



OPEN Section Winners

The outright champion of the Open Section was Joseph Jurjevich, of Bay Minette, Ala. (left). Legend Gavin (center) took second place and third place went to James Dove (right). The prize money was split between the second third place winners due to tiebreaks.



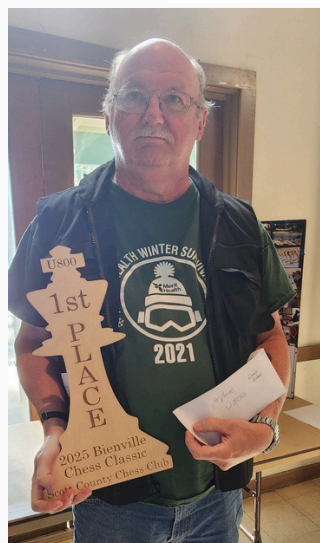
U400 Winners

The Champion of the U400 Section was Patrick Bergin, left; second place went to Norah Young, center; and third place to Hunter Wallace.



U1200 Section Winners

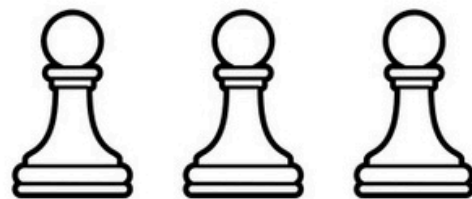
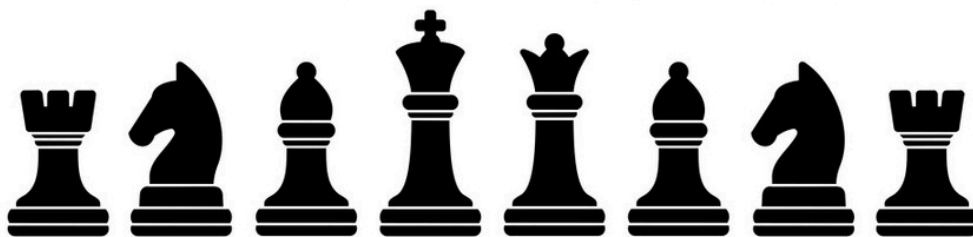
The Champion of the U1200 Section who received the trophy was Colton H. McKnight (left). Michael Touchstone (center) took second place. Third place went to Aadhyanth Sivaraman (right).



U800 Section Winners

The Champion of the U800 Section who won outright was Robert Pridgen (left). Robin Strickland (right) took second place. Third place went to Bobby Carnage who left before awards were presented.

Join us November 1!! for the 5th 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 3, 9-11 am, Public Library, Forest

This will be our regular meeting - everyone is welcome.

* **MSCA Scholastic Rated Championship**

Saturday, May 3 - Hattiesburg - R.C. Cook Student Union, USM

* **Pawns 'N Pajamas**

Thursday, May 8 - Canton Academy

* **Random/Fischer 960 Chess Tournament and Blitz**

Saturday, May 10 - Pearl - Food Court, Outlets of Mississippi

* **Dogmud Chess Camp**

June 9-12 - Ridgeland - Dogmud Tavern

* **Mississippi G/60 Championship Tournament**

Saturday, June 14 - Flowood - Jackson Prep school

* **State Games of Mississippi Chess Tournament**

Saturday, June 21 - Meridian - Meridian Community College

* **Chess Camp**

Tuesday-Thursday, June 24-26 - Canton - Canton Academy

* **J'Kennethon Memorial Chess Tournament**

Saturday, July 12 (tentative) - Pearl - Food Court, Outlets of Miss.

* **Capital City Chess Club regular meetings**

Tuesdays 5:30 until 8 p.m. - Flowood - Schlotzky's restaurant

* **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.'



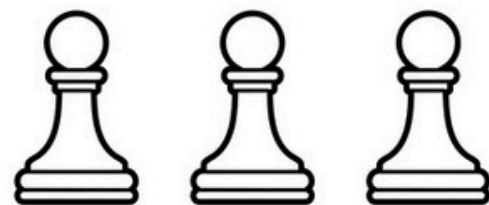
TOP TO BOTTOM CHESS:

* **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.'