

VOL. 4 ISSUE 1 · JANUARY 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 **January 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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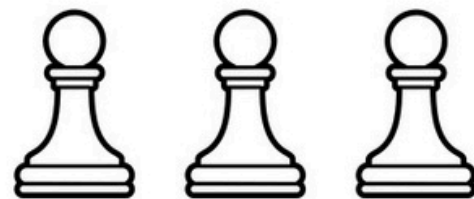
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scottcountychessclub.org



Highlights in Chess

Hall of Fame established

Program will feature special supporters

The Scott County Chess Club established a new program in December to recognize a special group of people who contributed to the club's success and other accomplishments. The Scott County Chess Club Hall of Fame recognizes and features individuals who have gone above and beyond in direct support of our organization and/or contributed significantly to the continuation of chess development in Scott County.

The initial inductees were selected by the club's founder and coordinator, but additional input may be provided for future honorees. The initial inductees are listed below and their biographies can be found on our website at the following address: <https://scottcountychessclub.org/hall-of-fame>



Dianne McLaurin



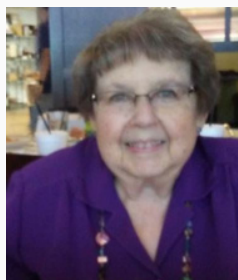
Beth Thrasher



Deanne McCown



Michael Hawkins
(for Randy Richardson)



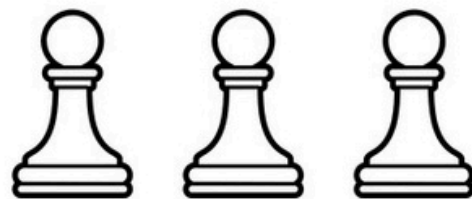
Beverly Jo Bracken Rhodes
(Posthumously)

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
Crown 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



Highlights in Chess

Review and Preview

*We're celebrating our past year's success,
looking forward to a bright future*

Building on the success we celebrated in 2023 with our five year anniversary recognition, the year 2024 saw some significant growth and achievements to carry momentum into the new year.

There is more potential for us to take another step forward in growing chess in Scott County.



*In ancient Roman myth, **Janus** is the god of beginnings, time, transitions, and endings.*

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

We begin by expressing our sincere appreciation and gratitude to the people of Scott County, and others outside the county, who have supported us since our inception. We could not have come this far without the support we have received. We continue to use social media and a website for online publicity. *The Scott County Times* and *The Spirit of Morton* newspapers have remained generous in publishing stories. We have also had a story published in the *Newton County Appeal*. Monthly email blasts are sent to members and others. A club newsletter is distributed monthly via email for members and others interested in our activities. We attend events, use display boards, and distribute flyers for additional publicity.

We received continued support from the business community in supporting our tournaments through sponsorships. We have 10 businesses in Scott County who have helped to fund our events. Donations are first applied toward the prize money for winners. After that, donations are applied toward the trophies and medals. Registrations covered remaining expenses. Remaining funds are kept for use toward the next tournament and any operating expenses.

April - We hosted the third annual Bienville Chess Classic and again saw a record turnout at Roosevelt State Park with 58 players from across the state. A change was made in the options of sections. Starting with this tournament and going forward, events will include the following sections: Open, U1200, U800, U400, and all games will be rated.

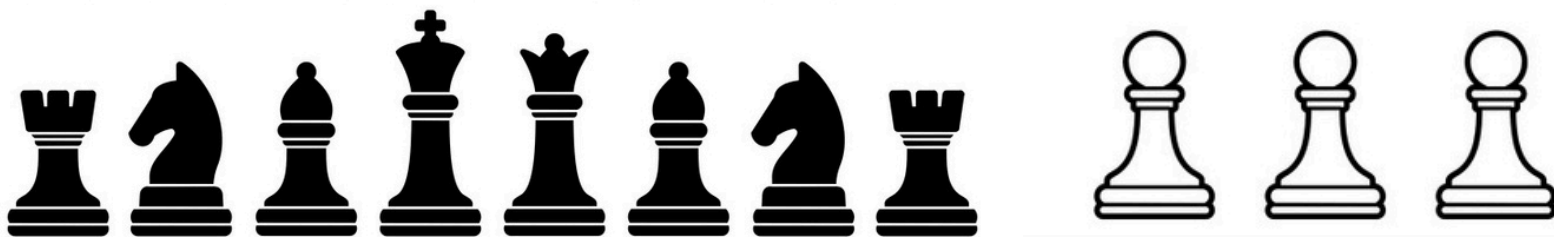
May-July - Club coordinator and Tournament Director Chris Allen Baker received his recertification exam to renew his tournament director license with the U.S. Chess Federation. He completed the exam during the summer and passed to earn another 3-year license as a club level tournament director.

May - Baker returned as a guest on "Good Things" with Rebecca Turner on the statewide radio network of SuperTalk Mississippi. He was accompanied by Douglas Stewart - a fellow MCA board member, former 4-time state champion and participant at national tournaments. Discussion included history of chess in Mississippi, current trends and growth.

June - Baker met with the superintendents of the two public school districts in Forest and Scott County. We discussed opportunities and plans for potential chess participation in their districts and ways that the game may be promoted, and students participate. It was a great starting point to hopefully increase chess activity among students.

July - Malcolm Johnson, a resident of Newton who commutes to Forest to play with our club, became the first club member to win a divisional championship in a tournament. Malcolm joined the US Chess Federation earlier this year and participated in tournaments. He won the U600 division in the J'Kennethon Memorial Tournament in Pearl.

Continued next page



July - The SC Chess Club participated in the Independence Day celebrations at Roosevelt State Park hosted by the park staff and Friends of the park group. We had a lot of attention paid to our booth with kids and adults stopping to play the game and asked questions about the club. Two players had an intense game that carried over into the darkness.

August - We hosted our first quick and blitz tournament at Penn's Restaurant in Forest, called the Forest Chess Challenge. The participation was low as expected with 15 players, but it was a great start for the new series. It was a great opportunity to provide a different format for players who enjoy that kind of tournament. We plan to make it an annual event in August.

September - We hosted our information booth at the Wing Dang Doodle Festival in Forest and saw a good number of visitors who expressed an interest in the game. Several people played the game on boards we provided in the booth.

October - The club partnered with the Forest Library to host the 2nd annual Randy Richardson Memorial Chess Camp for youth in the community. The camp, aimed at grade school students, included a morning of chess instruction and lessons while the afternoon was spent playing the game in a mock tournament format. The camp included 13 participants ranging in age from seven to 17. Trophies and medals were awarded as prizes.

The club partnered with the Mississippi Chess Association in planning and participating in a display at the Mississippi State Fair in Jackson. Information was available about the game and there was a good response as many people stopped at the display where they had the opportunity to play the game. It was great exposure for the game. This year, we included a small blitz tournament which we plan to continue.

During the Mississippi Chess Association's annual state tournament and business meeting, Baker was re-elected without opposition to the Board of Directors for the MCA and retained his position as vice-president. He also handles secretarial duties for the MCA.

November - We hosted the fourth annual Roosevelt Chess Classic and again saw a tremendous turnout at Roosevelt State Park. We set an all-time record with 75 players from across Mississippi and two other states. Participation included individual and team players. In addition to a player from Alabama, we were blessed with the participation of International Master Justin Sarkar who flew from New York City to play in our tournament. It was a tremendous honor for him to attend.

In addition to Malcolm Johnson who participated as a local club member, we had a second local player to join the USCF and participate. This is an achievement to build upon trying to attract more local participants to our events.

Baker served as an assistant tournament director for the St. Augustine fall chess tournament and loaned some of our boards and equipment for their event. He followed this up by doing the same for the DeSoto County Schools chess tournament that included 600+ players that included schools in Southaven, Hernando, Olive Branch, and Horn Lake.

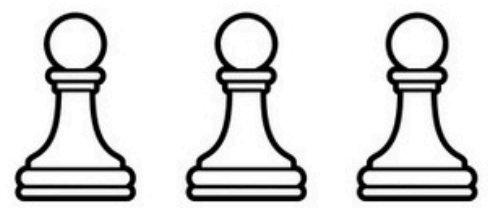
December - Baker represented the club during a retirement reception for Dianne McLaurin who stepped down as branch manager of the Forest Public Library. She was instrumental from the beginning of this club's establishment in providing support for our club's activities.

In our final action of the year, the Scott County Chess Club's Hall of Fame was established to honor and recognize individuals who went above and beyond to support the club and had an impact on chess development in Scott County. The initial inductees include Dianne McLaurin, Beth Thrasher, Michael Hawkins, the late Beverly Jo Bracken Rhodes, and Deanne McCown.

Looking ahead to 2025

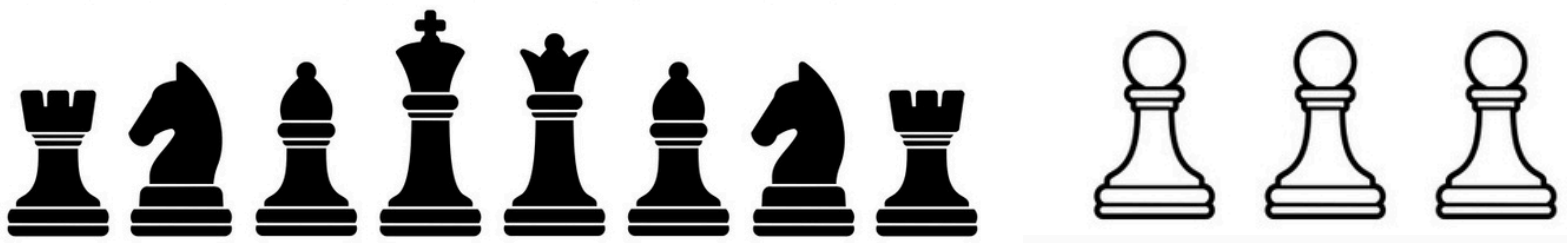
We expect to continue the annual events established including the Bienville Chess Classic in April, the new Forest Chess Challenge in August, and the Roosevelt Chess Classic in November. We will also have the 3rd annual Randy Richardson Memorial Chess Camp in October as well as participate with the MCA with chess at the state fair. We will also plan to have an informational booth at the Wing Dang Doodle Festival in September. We have had some activities in the past that we were unable to do in 2024, but we hope to bring them back when the opportunity is available.

We will place a stronger focus in 2025 on developing more chess opportunities in the local schools and taking advantage of any new opportunities to grow chess in Scott County. We will also utilize social media more often.



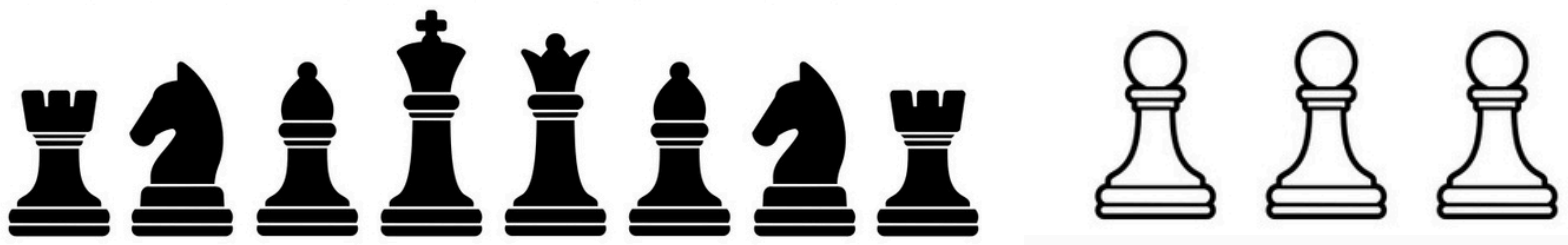
Scenes in Chess - 2024





Scenes in Chess - 2024

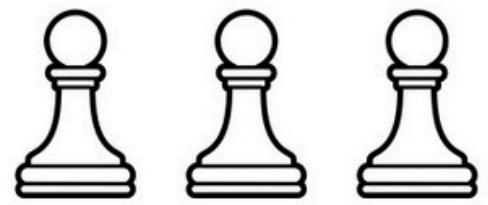




Scenes in Chess - 2024



... And that is a wrap - 2024



Chess Calendar

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

* **Scott County Chess Club** will hold a regular meeting
Saturday, January 4, 9-11 am, Public Library, Forest
Everyone is welcome.

* **Capital City Chess Club New Year's Bash**
Saturday, January 4 - Food Court, Outlet Mall, Pearl

* **Capital City Chess Club New Year's Bughouse**
Sunday, January 5 - Food Court, Outlet Mall, Pearl

* **Wildcat Clash III Chess Tournament**
Saturday, January 11 - Meridian High School, Meridian

* **Itawamba Chess Tournament**
Saturday, January 11 - Itawamba Agricultural High School, Fulton

* **Scholastic - Individual State Championships**
Saturday-Sunday, January 18-19 - St. Andrews School, Ridgeland

* **Scholastic - Ole Miss Chess Tournament**
Saturday, January 25 - University of Mississippi, Oxford

* **Capital City Chess Club**
Tuesdays from 5:30 until 8:30 p.m., Scholtzky's, Flowood
Club tournaments and league games will continue at the Food Court
at the Outlets of Mississippi mall in Pearl.

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



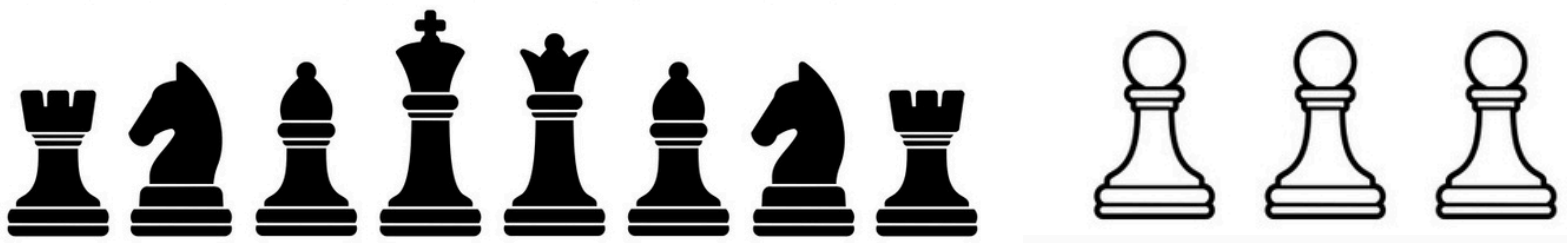
TOP TO BOTTOM CHESS:

* **Memphis Chess Club**

Weekly chess tournaments on Saturdays

* **Mississippi Coast Chess Club**

Thursdays- Newk's, Gulfport



Scott County Chess Club sponsored tournament

4th annual Bienville Chess Classic

MORTON – The 4th annual **Bienville Chess Classic tournament** is set for **Saturday, April 12, 2025**, at Roosevelt State Park in Morton. This event will feature only individuals playing rated and unrated games. **Registration is open!** Our first Bienville Classic in May 2022 attracted 32 players from around Mississippi and we had players come from Louisiana and Florida. The player from Florida won the grand championship after driving 17 hours to play. In 2023, we attracted 45 players. Our 2024 Bienville tournament set a new record with 58 players participating. This brought our Bienville overall total to 135 players - returning and first timers. Our combined turnout for all eight tournaments held (including Roosevelt Chess Classic in the fall and Forest Chess Challenge in August) is now 399 players.

Before we go any further, recognition goes to our past sponsors who generously donated funds to help make our tournaments possible. 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.

2025 Individuals Tournament

Roosevelt State Park, Alfreda-Harris Lodge, 2149 MS Highway 13, Morton

Exit 77 on Interstate 20

4 rounds – Swiss System – Game control: 45+3

active U.S. Chess Federation membership and notation required for rated games

RATED - Open (Cash - \$200 & plaque for 1st, \$100 & medal for 2nd; \$50 & medal for 3rd)

RATED - U1200 (Trophy and \$50 for 1st; medals for 2nd and 3rd)

RATED - U800 (Trophy and \$50 for 1st; medals for 2nd and 3rd)

RATED - U400 (Trophy and \$50 for 1st; medals for 2nd and 3rd)

REGISTRATION

\$35 early bird entry fee through **Saturday, April 5**

(at midnight April 6, **\$40 regular rate**)

(6 p.m. April 11 and thereafter, **\$45 late and on-site**)

To Register Online: Visit kingregistration.com/event/Bienville2025 (preferred).

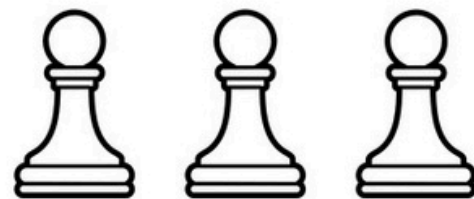
*This method allows immediate registration using **PayPal, Venmo**, and other credit card options.*

To Register via email: Send information to scottcountychessclub@gmail.com

Provide Name, U.S. Chess Federation ID Number, Desired section, and Desired method of Payment

(PayPal, Venmo, CashApp) **Email response will be sent upon receipt.**

On site payment is also available if necessary - **cash or check only** - we do not have debit card payment access at this time.



Schedule

Registration and Check-in 8 a.m. until 9 a.m.

All players must arrive by 9 a.m. so tournament can start on time.

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 – 3:45 p.m.

Awards – To be presented after final round

(Please try to plan to stay for awards if possible)

Byes due to inability to pair = 1.0

Requested byes = 0.5 (make requests before start of round)

Players who have byes in the same round may request to play extra rated game.

Tiebreakers Ties will be settled by SwissSys computer program. Cash prizes will be split per USCF rules.

Computer tiebreakers will determine trophy and medal recipients.

Important Tournament Notes

Roosevelt State Park enforces a daily admission fee for persons entering the park and this will apply to those attending our tournament. *Visitors will be given a hang tag to place on your rear view mirror. This will allow re-entry during the same day.*

The park admission fee is \$2 per person.

Children age 5 and under are allowed free.

- Registered players will receive a pre-event email on Wednesday or Thursday prior to tournament including important last minute details.
- Everyone is encouraged to bring chairs for lounging between rounds, lobby seating is limited; an outdoor patio is available.
- Concession food options will be available on site. Cash and electronic payments (CashApp) accepted
- Skittles rooms will be available.
- If possible, please submit any requests for change of section by 6 p.m. Friday, April 11.

More information is available on our website scottcountychessclub.org

Send questions or requests via email to scottcountychessclub@gmail.com



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.

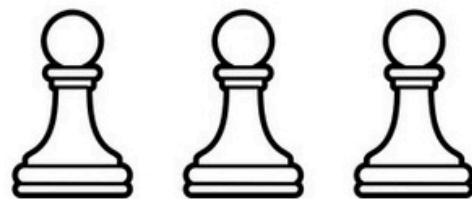
Some players enjoy just playing in a random tournament for fun and experiencing the opportunity to learn and grow. Other players are more competitive and really get into tournaments, seeking to win and advance as far as they can go. They may have aspirations for earning master, grandmaster status within 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.

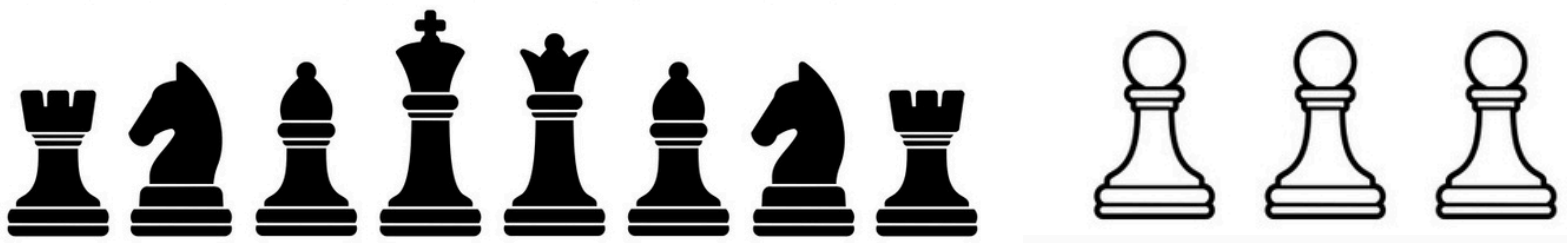
See calendar on page 8 and our website for more information!

scottcountychessclub.org



**'A day
without chess
probably
wouldn't kill
you,
but
why risk
it?'**



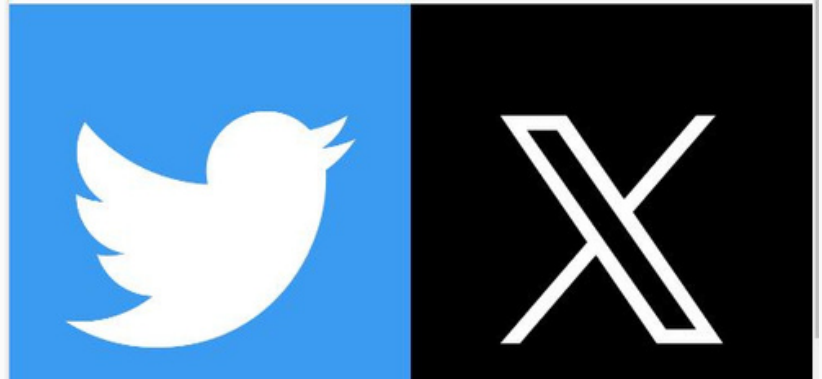


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Sign up for **GroupMe** for instant texts,
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