

VOL. 4 ISSUE 4 · APRIL 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 ****April 19**** at the **Forest Public Library - 9 to 11 a.m. (210 S. Raleigh St.)**
**** This month's meeting is re-scheduled to later in April due to library closure on usual first Saturday.*

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:

Chess in Noxubee
PAGE 02

Honoring Beverly Rhodes
PAGE 03

Bienville Chess Classic
PAGE 04-05

Calendar
PAGE 06

Chess Tips
PAGE 07

Tournament Action
PAGE 08

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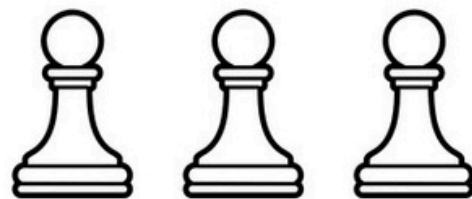
Chess News Highlights

SC Chess returns to Noxubee

Two years ago, Scott County Chess Club founder and coordinator Chris Allen Baker and his son, Aaron, were invited to Noxubee County to help introduce chess to a group of youth and adults in that community. The program was a great success in bringing a significant number of new players into the game while reinforcing skills of players there already involved.

This year, we were invited to return to provide another chess orientation for another group of youth and parents. Aaron was unable to participate this time, but Chris gave basic chess instructions for 20-30 persons interested in learning the game.

Plans are already underway to return next year to make it an annual visit. For more information, see the Chess Education page on our website at scottcountychessclub.org.



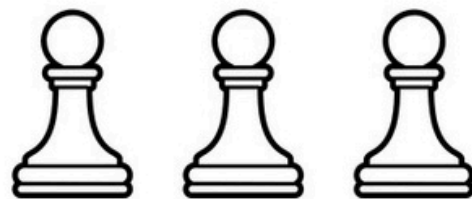
Sponsors

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
Mississippi Secretary of State
Go Daddy (web hosting)
Billy Freeman Photography
Ingram Printing
The 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

Championship honors Rhodes

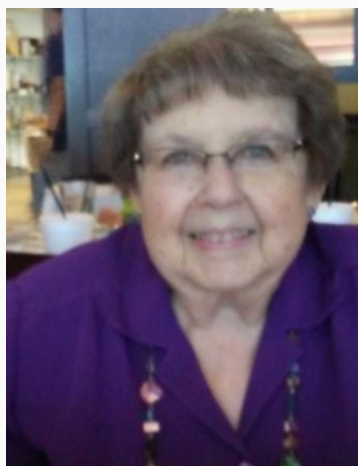
The first-place winner in the Open section of the annual Bienville Chess Classic receives a plaque commemorating the Beverly Jo Rhodes Memorial Award, named for a former gifted teacher who started the WINGS program at Forest High School and supported chess among class activities.

Beverly Jo Bracken Rhodes, 80, of Forest, died November 27, 2019. She was a native of Newton. As a young child, she was taught to read by her grandfather, Mr. A.L. Myers, and read constantly throughout her life.

She was a Cum Laude graduate of Millsaps College in Jackson where she attended classes from 8 to 12 and worked at the Jackson YWCA from 1 to 9, riding a street bus to and from campus.

She was on the Dean's and President's List and was a member of the Purple and White Staff, Eta Sigma (scholastic honorary) and Eta Sigma Phi (classical languages honorary).

In 1981 she initiated the WINGS Class for gifted students at Forest high School. Her students excelled in numerous activities including Creative Writing, Quiz Bowl, Art Competitions, **Chess**, Future Problem Solving, Odyssey of the Mind, Stock Market Competition and Mississippi Economics Counsel Competitions. They won state and national awards, and many received college scholarships in part due to their WINGS class activities. She named the class WINGS and often said, "I hope to give them wings, and let them fly."



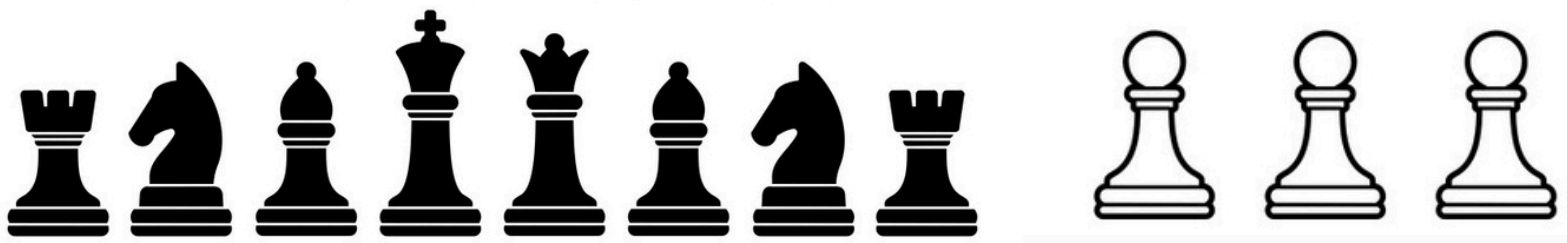
Special note regarding next meeting

The Forest Public Library will be closed on Saturday, April 5, due to a library operations necessity. Therefore, the **Scott County Chess Club's April meeting will be moved to Saturday, April 19**, at the usual time of 9 a.m. to 11 a.m.

We would also like to welcome the Forest Library's new branch manager Jenn Moorman to Forest. We look forward to working with her.

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





Scott County Chess Club sponsored tournament

4th annual Bienville Chess Classic is set

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 Individual 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**)

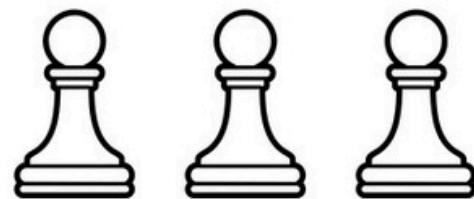
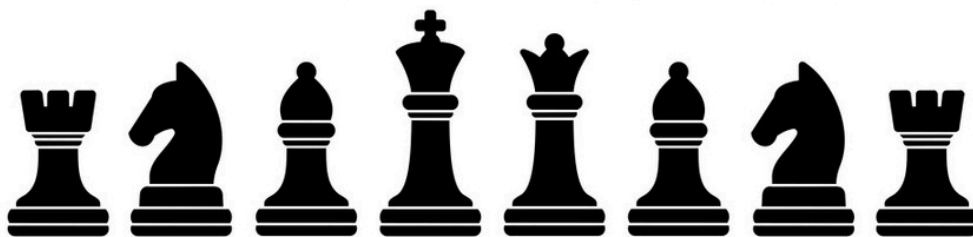
Register Online: Visit kingregistration.com/event/Bienville2025 (preferred)

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

To Register via email if necessary: 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.



2025 Bienville Chess Classic - continued

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.

**Park \$2 entry fee is waived. Tell the gatekeeper at entrance that you are attending the chess tournament.*

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.

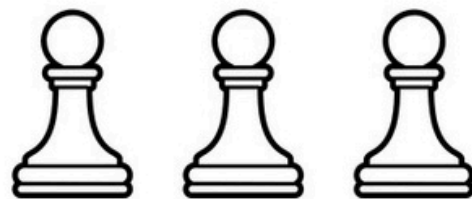
Computer tiebreakers will determine trophy and medal recipients.

Important Tournament Notes

- 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 (Paypal, Venmo, CashApp) accepted
- Skittles rooms will be available.
- Spectators allowed to watch tournament for no charge.
- Touch move is in effect.
- 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



Chess Calendar

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

*** Jackson Prep Charity Chess Tournament**

Saturday, April 5, Jackson Preparatory School - Flowood

*** Senior State Chess Tournament**

For players age 50 and above

Saturday, April 5-6 - Canton

*** Bienville Chess Classic *** Sponsored by Scott County Chess**

Saturday, April 12 - Morton (Details on pages 3-4 in this edition)

*** Capital City Chess Club Chess League**

Saturday - April 13, Food Court, Outlets of Mississippi - Pearl

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

Saturday, April 19, from 9-11 am, Public Library, Forest

*Rescheduled due to library access

*** Quads for Cash rated games**

Saturday - April 26, Colvard Student Union, Miss. State - Starkville

*Rescheduled from March 15 due to weather

Regular Blitz to follow

*** MSCA Individual and Team Scholastic Championship Cup**

Saturday - April 26, Colvard Student Union, Miss. State - Starkville

*Rescheduled from March 15 due to weather

*** MSCA Scholastic Rated Championship**

Saturday - May 3, RC Cook Student Union, USM - Hattiesburg

*** Dogmud Chess Camp**

June 9-12, Dogmud Tavern - Ridgeland

*** State Games of Mississippi Chess Tournament**

Saturday - June 21, Meridian Community College - Meridian

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



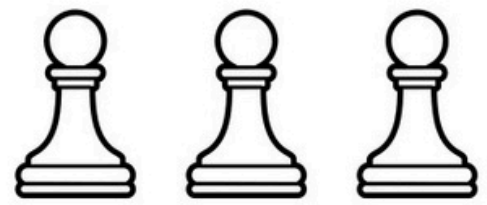
TOP TO BOTTOM CHESS:

*** Memphis Chess Club**

Weekly chess tournaments on Saturdays

*** Mississippi Coast Chess Club**

Thursdays- Newk's, Gulfport



Chess tips

By Daniel Redford, *The Chess Blueprint*

Ever felt your mind freeze during a crucial game? Or maybe you've made a move you instantly regretted — not because you didn't know better, but because nerves, frustration, or time pressure got the best of you.

You're not alone. Chess isn't just about moves—it's about mindset.

Magnus Carlsen, the greatest player of our time, is known for his ability to stay calm under extreme pressure and find the best moves when it matters most. The good news? You don't have to be a grandmaster to develop that same mental strength.

How to Stay Calm and Think Clearly in Chess

Here are three simple techniques to improve your decision-making, reduce blunders, and outplay opponents who crack under pressure:

*** Slow Down Your Thinking Process.** Rushed moves lead to regret.

Before making any move, ask yourself: What does my opponent want to do? What threats exist on the board? Can I improve my position without taking risks? The habit of pausing for just five extra seconds before playing can eliminate 90 percent of avoidable blunders.

***Control Your Emotions — Like a Grandmaster.** The worst enemy in chess? Your own frustration.

Losing streaks (tilt) can make you play recklessly, while an early lead might make you overconfident. Carlsen's secret? He treats every game as if the score is 0-0. Next time you feel frustrated after a blunder, step away, take three deep breaths, and reset your focus.

***Master the Art of Handling Time Pressure.**

Scrambling in the last minutes of a game? Try this:

- Play faster in simpler positions to save time for complex moments.
- Use pre-move and increment wisely if playing online.
- If low on time, prioritize safe, solid moves over risky calculations.

The ability to stay cool when others panic is what separates strong players from everyone else.

Try This in Your Next Game

Pick one of these techniques and apply it in your next game. See if it helps you think clearer, make better decisions, and avoid blunders.

*Daniel Redford is the pen name of a passionate chess enthusiast dedicated to helping players of all levels improve their skills, win more games, and enjoy the beauty of chess. He is the author of **The Chess Blueprint**. With years of experience studying strategy, tactics, and the psychology of the game, Daniel has made it his mission to break down complex chess concepts into easy-to-follow, practical lessons.*

'Never
interrupt your
opponent
when they
are making
a mistake'





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.

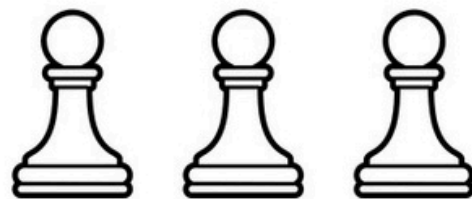
Some players enjoy just playing in a tournament for fun and experiencing the opportunity to learn and grow by competing against a variety of people. Some players are more competitive and really get into tournaments, seeking to win and advance as far as they can go. They may have aspirations for earning 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. Clubs around the state regularly host tournament events. 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 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 include teams 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 6 and our website for more information!

scottcountychessclub.org



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a mistake'**

