

Updated Nov. 17, 2019

Meet Director Notes

Southwest U.S. Orienteering Championships & Ultralong – aka ,Texas Stampede XI

Dec. 14-15, 2019

Welcome (back) to the friendly confines of Clements Scout Ranch in the piney woods near Athens, Texas.

Clements Scout Ranch is operated by the Circle Ten Council of the Boy Scouts of America. The property includes 3,300 acres of pine/hardwood forest and ranchland. The ranch is divided into two camps: Camp Trevor Rees-Jones and Camp Meisenbach.

SOUTHWESTERN US ORIENTEERING CHAMPIONSHIPS

This two-day event will feature races at each camp:

Day 1: Camp Trevor Rees-Jones

This camp is the area one first enters from the main entrance, with two lakes. Drive straight ahead. Our assembly area will be at the HQ building. Please follow parking attendants' directions and park only where directed to do so.

Day 2: Camp Meisenbach

The area is reached by hanging a left at the first fork past the main entrance. The road leading to Meisenbach has been repaved but is re-acquiring potholes and is subject to flooding. Drive with care. Follow signage to reach the parking area. Assembly area is in the pavilion at the camping area north of the parking lot.

The winner of each class will be determined by combined finish times from both days. Note: You're welcome to sign up for just one day – Saturday or Sunday – to do for fun, but you won't be eligible for awards.

Registration info:

- Online registration will remain open until Thursday, Dec. 12, at 6 p.m.

- Starts will not be pre-assigned for this event:
 - **White and Yellow** course runners will receive start times EACH DAY at Registration. First come, first served.
 - **Advanced courses (e-punch: Orange/Brown, Green, Red):** You have an open, walk-up start. After Registration, you can go directly to the start

line (first start: 10:00 a.m. Sat or 9:00 a.m. Sun) and begin when you're ready, at one-minute intervals per course.

- **Note:** Please remember to Clear/Check your e-punch and to punch the Star tbox. Failure to comply will result in disqualification. You will still carry a punch-card to use ONLY in case of e-box failure. But it won't matter if you don't punch the Start box.
- **Recreational Runners:** You'll follow the same Registration and start time-assignment process as everyone else. But, you can work together and it's a cheaper entry fee (no medals, just fun).

ULTRA-LONG

The ultra-long race will start and finish at the Camp Trevor Rees-Jones assembly area and range over both camps. Mass start is at 9:00 a.m. Please assemble by 8:45 a.m. for instructions and map distribution. The time limit is 6 hours, i.e., be BACK at finish by 3:00 pm. This part is key: Please check in at the finish, even if you decide to stop earlier. And, please don't share your map with Southwest Championship competitors, as it includes controls they'll visit on Sunday.

Electronic scoring: We will once again be using e-punch for this race. This will enable you to compare splits and trash talk after the race with actual data to back it up. You'll learn how to use it at the race briefing, if unfamiliar.

If you have your own e-punch, you can use it. Others will receive one to borrow at no cost. **We will require you to leave a drivers license/keys for borrowed devices.** Everyone needs to report to the e-punch station after Registration to register their e-punch number or get their assigned one.

WATCHOUTS: THINGS TO AVOID

- **Disturbing other visitors:** We may not have the camp to ourselves. Please do not run through obviously occupied campsites if you encounter them. Go around. Be polite.
- **Shooting range:** It could be in use. There's a big fence around this area, so you cannot wander into it by accident. Do not wander into it on purpose, either.
- **COPE equipment area:** If people are using the ropes course, do not run through their activity. Go around. It may be marked as out of bounds anyway.
- **Running near horses/riders:** Riders may be present on trails in either camp. Do not run in the vicinity of horses and riders.

- If your paths cross, step aside and let the riders by. For safety reasons, they always have the right of way.
- If you are approaching from the rear and must pass, announce yourself from a distance, slow to a walk and pass by giving them a wide berth. Do not squeeze by on the trail; the horse could spook or you could be kicked. It's better to approach from the front, if possible.
- If you do have an encounter, please let me know when you get back to the finish.

SATURDAY EVENING ACTIVITY: COURSE REVIEW

Two-day event participants are invited to join fellow competitors for an informal course review from 8:00 p.m.-9:00 p.m. on Saturday evening, at the Holiday Inn Express, 1119 E Tyler St, Athens, TX 75751. (Roughly across the street from Jalapeno Tree.) You may bring non-alcoholic beverages. We'll be meeting in the breakfast area past the lobby. Bring your map, splits and best excuses!

That's all – have fun out there!

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