

Dear Tournament Players:

This is an email blast to address some details before we gather on Saturday.

We are so excited to have so many players register for our event. I am pleased to report that as of this moment, I have 61 registrations. A few more could trickle in as walk-ins. This is an increase over the 45 players we had for this tournament in April 2023.

We are so grateful, and I thank you so much for participating in what has become a popular event.

### **Location**

For those who have not played in our previous tournaments and/or have never visited **Roosevelt State Park**, it is easy to find. It is just off exit 77 of Interstate 20 east of Jackson.

For GPS purposes, the address is [2149 Mississippi Highway 13, Morton.](#)

Take the exit onto Highway 13 and head north - following the signs advertising the park. The park entrance is at the top of the hill on the left. There is a gas station with a McDonalds directly across from the entrance.

***\*\* There is now an entrance fee of \$2 per person payable at the gatehouse. This has not been an issue for us in the past until November 2023 when they started enforcing it. I was unable to get it waived for this event.***

Drive the winding road and keep to the right past the gatehouse. The Alfreda-Harris Lodge is around the curve to the right and on the left side. You will see a flagpole out front and there is plenty of parking.

### **Weather**

I have been watching the weather forecasts closely for the past couple weeks.

They are forecasting rain for the weekend, but latest reports indicate a chance of spotted showers in the area. Reports say that most of any rain we get will be later in the day and evening, possibly and hopefully likely after we are done. There are no severe thunderstorms expected.

Forecasts by the National Weather Service reported a 40-50 percent chance of showers of possibly less than a tenth of an inch, mainly after 1 p.m. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 78. The facility has a beautiful patio area overlooking the lake for everyone to sit outside. There is limited seating in the facility lobby, but you can bring your own folding chairs if desired. There is patio furniture, but you may bring lawn chairs if you like to enjoy the serenity of Roosevelt State Park - rated one of the best parks in the nation.

## Schedule of day

Registration for new players and check-in for pre-registered players begins at 8 a.m. and CLOSES at 9 a.m.

**I do not have a credit/debit card reader** so anyone who plans to pay on site should bring cash or a check. Make checks payable to the Scott County Chess Club.

You can also use a phone app to pay on site electronically via PayPal, Venmo, or CashApp. You can still pre-register online through [Kingregistration.com/event/Bienville2024](https://kingregistration.com/event/Bienville2024).

Players who are en route to the tournament may call me ahead of arrival to check in. If you are running late, and it appears you may not make it in time for the first round, **PLEASE CALL 601-507-2772** so a decision can be made on requesting a first-round bye. Otherwise, you will be paired with an opponent and the clock will start at the assigned time.

There will be a rules meeting as close to 9:15 as possible. Hopefully we can get through that quickly and get everyone seated to start on time.

**The game control time will be 45 minutes with 5 second increments.** For new players, this means each player will have 45 minutes to play. Each time you tap the clock, you will receive 5 seconds back. This allows for notation which is required.

The first round is scheduled to start at 9:30 a.m. and the second round at 11:30 a.m. The 3<sup>rd</sup> round will start at 2 p.m. and the final round at 3:30 p.m. Awards will be presented after the final round is completed.

I realize that many of you will be traveling significant distances and will want to leave as soon as the tournament ends, and I much appreciate this effort to play with us.

If you feel that you are in good contention to win or place, please try to stick around so we can include everyone in photos among winners.

This also aids in making sure all winners receive their prizes on site.

If you must leave before awards are presented and your result nets a prize, please make sure that I have your contact information to reach you later.

## Sections

We will have four sections – Open, U1200, U800, and U400. All players should be in the section according to their rating or choice. Players may play up to a higher level, but not down.

Due to an insufficient number of players choosing the option, the unrated section was cancelled. It was replaced with an U400 rated section.

There is a large discrepancy between players' ratings in the U800 section with some 600s and 700s possibly being paired with 100s and 200s. Creating the U400 section will give better alignment of players with each other according to skill level.

*I do not want anyone coming away from the tournament with a bad experience in wins/losses if I can prevent it by having sufficient sections offered for a fair playing field.*

You can go online and see the field of registered players, ratings, and chosen sections at [kingregistration.com/entrylist/Bienville2024](http://kingregistration.com/entrylist/Bienville2024).

If you want to change sections, please let me know as soon as possible by email by 6 p.m. Friday.

I would prefer not to make changes Saturday morning, if possible, for pre-registered players.

### **Lunch**

We are very blessed to have the Friends of Roosevelt State Park support group provide food for purchase during the tournament.

Proceeds from these sales go back into supporting activities at the park.

**The group does not have a credit/debit card reader so please bring cash to purchase refreshments.** Plate lunches will be available for \$12 each (chicken strips and loaded baked beans, mac and cheese are among menu items) and there will be assorted items of chips, candy bars, cookies; drinks including water, Coke, Sprite, Dr. Pepper, and Diet Coke.

I will meet with the group Thursday night and if there are any changes, I will let everyone know Saturday morning during the pre-event briefing.

You may bring your own snacks. Although I encourage supporting the Roosevelt Park group, there is a McDonalds on the highway across from the park entrance and a Subway near the interstate exit. If you leave the park, please be back before the next round starts. The gatehouse will provide a hangtag for you to keep visible and be readmitted back into the park without further charges.

### **Quiet**

The Lodge is a great venue for chess, but sound travels fast in the building and the big door you will see that separates the main floor from the lobby area will not close.

I must ask that everyone **keep their voices low at all times** in the lobby area while rounds are underway. There is very little I can do to mitigate the sound impact so I will need everyone's cooperation.

### **Skittles**

I have rented the entire building. The games will be played on the main floor and there is a room upstairs adjacent to the lobby and one downstairs just across the breezeway from the main floor. These rooms are for players to congregate. Still try to keep noise to minimum in these rooms and please keep the doors to these rooms CLOSED at all times, except when entering and leaving to limit sound traveling to the playing area.

### **Personal boards**

We are blessed to have our own boards and clocks which are brand new. If you bring drinks to the playing area, please be careful.

If you have a personal board/set and clock, you are welcome to bring it for playing casually with others between rounds.

### **Scoresheets**

Notation is required for rated games. While many players use their own booklets or other style of keeping score of their games, there will be score sheets available for notation if needed. Players may keep score sheets provided by the tournament.

### **Ratings report**

I plan to file my ratings report with the tournament results to the US Chess Federation Saturday night if possible. Everyone's USCF membership to this point has been confirmed active which greatly aids me in this effort. Hopefully there will be no other hiccups. I will also file results on my website and with the events at SwissSys.com.

### **Refunds/Withdrawals**

I pray that everyone who has registered will join us. If something comes up, please notify me by email **ASAP** of any cancellations.

Any player who has already paid their entry fee who requests to withdraw after 9 a.m. Friday, April 19, but before 9 a.m. Saturday can receive a partial refund (half) of their entry fee.

Refunds will be issued no sooner than Sunday.

Any withdrawals after 9 a.m. Saturday when pairings will be set will not be eligible for a refund. Anyone who wishes to withdraw during the tournament, please notify me before the start of the next round.

### **Finally speaking...**

I am sure that I am forgetting something, but these are the high points. If you have any questions, please feel free to email me. If there is something you think needs addressing in the rules meeting before the tournament, please suggest it.

We have a website [scottcountychessclub.org](http://scottcountychessclub.org) that includes much information about our club operations. Be especially sure to check it after Saturday's tournament for continuous coverage and for announcements of the next two tournaments which have already been set.

We will host the 4th annual Bienville Chess Classic on April 12, 2025, at Roosevelt State Park.

We will host the 4th annual Roosevelt Chess Classic on November 9, 2024, at Roosevelt State Park. This will include individual and team competition.

The 5<sup>th</sup> Roosevelt Chess Classic is scheduled for November 1, 2025.

I will also send a post-event email to everyone as a follow up.

Thank you again for your support and participation. See you on Saturday!!!