



# Arkansas Flyline

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Monthly Newsletter of the Arkansas Fly Fisher

September 2007

## 17<sup>TH</sup> Annual AFF Fish Fry

By AFF Board



**Mon., Sept. 17, 2007 @ Maumelle Park!**

In lieu of Monday's Meeting, come join us for a 17th Annual Fish Fry! It will be \$15 a person or \$25 per couple.

Adams Catering will be providing catfish fillets, fried shrimp, and chicken tenders with all the trimmings, slaw, tomato relish, hush puppies, tea, etc. Serving will begin at 6:00 pm.

A raffle with will be held with the Grand Prize to be an ADG Titanium 8', 4 piece 3/4 wt rod, matching Orvis Bar Stock reel, and a 4wt Cortland 333HT WF line installed with backing. This will be a separate drawing with tickets being \$5 each or 6 for \$25. We will draw for it last.

## 2007 Conclave Premier Event by Southern Council FFF

By Chris Morris

The Conclave Event is held every year by the Southern Council Federation of Fly Fishers in Mountain Home, Arkansas. This year's event will be held October 4<sup>th</sup> thru October 6<sup>th</sup>, 2007.

What is a conclave? Imagine a single event where you meet fellow fly fishing addicts, legends, and experts. If you're passionate about fly fishing, this event is for you!

Attend the 2007 conclave to learn new fly patterns,

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The regular raffle will have 30+ items. The tickets will be \$2 each or 6 for \$10. Plastic cups will be by each prize for tickets to be placed by each ticket holder. Each item will have a retail value of at least \$10 with many being much more.

The AFF would like to encourage all members and their families to come and enjoy the evening. Good food and fellowship will be had by all. Also please invite your friends and their families.

We will be doing casting for distance and accuracy but will not be a structured event so if you can throw 30ft or 100ft come on and give it a shot.

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fishing tactics, and casting techniques.

Scandinavian Open Fly Tying Competition Winner, Mike George will teach the necessary techniques for tying Deer Hair.

Recognized author, fly tier, and instructor Davy Wotton will share presentation casting techniques to include dry flies, streamers, and nymphs.

Please see *2007 Conclave* on page 8



Arkansas Fly Fishers is a chapter of the Southern Council of the Federation of Fly Fishers



## President's Page

By Gary White

Hello everyone –

Your AFF Board is working hard to meet your needs. How are we doing? Call or email me with your ideas and concerns, or Charlotte Day with your programming ideas.

We are into the hottest part of summer and that means generators running on our tail waters affecting fishing. So we all need to be mindful of rising water. All the rain we had in June and July impacted fishing, at least my fishing. I was staying in Mountain Home in mid-June and trying to fish the White River – 7 to 8 generators running 24/7, and the Norfolk River – erratic running but mostly turned on mid-afternoon. So the challenge was to be on the Norfolk when the water was low. The Norfolk fishing was exacerbated by the White running high and keeping the lower part of the river backed up much of the time. Despite the inconveniences, I had a great time fishing, and I got to log about 13 hours on the water over three days. Slow hits but I got a few on a prince. I most recently fished the St. Joe River in Idaho and the Skykomish River in Washington State. What a change in the weather. And I fished dry flies for the first time. Wow!

I have some sad news, but at the same time it's happy. Brandon Simmons, Board member and **AFF Newsletter editor**, moved to Sweden in August to pursue his Master of International Economics degree. It sure sounds like a wonderful professional opportunity and a great adventure (But Cold!). AFF and the Board will miss him, and I will personally miss his council and wealth of fresh ideas.

We welcome aboard our new editor **Chris Morris** – [cmorris0@gmail.com](mailto:cmorris0@gmail.com). Please forward your articles and ideas to him. We are confident he will ably provide us with a wonderful newsletter and be a



Gary White

great help as a Board member. Thank you, Chris, for taking part.

The **Annual Fish Fry and Casting Games** is scheduled **September 17<sup>th</sup>** at Maumelle Park. Note this is our regular AFF meeting date. Great door prizes and auction items are promised. Contact Annette Hurley or Bob Cheatham. Mark your calendar to attend for a great afternoon.

One of your Board members wisely checked the Hogs football schedule and discovered that the afternoon of **October 20<sup>th</sup>** is the best date for our **AFF Fly Fishing Seminar** – Fly Fishing 101. Please update your calendars – exact time to be announced. These new skills can be tested on the **Little Red River October 27<sup>th</sup>** – times to be announced. Your help is needed to work with novice fly fishers both days, so contact Kevin Vaughn or Patty Lueken to offer your skills.

The **Annual Banquet** date has been secured on our regular AFF meeting night at Juanita's Restaurant in Little Rock. It is scheduled for **January 21, 2008**, so mark your calendars and plan to attend. AFF officers will be elected. This is going to be a great time!! The door prizes and auctions are going to be the best ever. Contact Drew Kelso if you have donations.

We have other events we are working on. Plan New Years on the **Norfolk River** – about

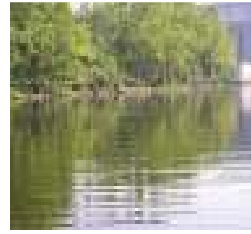
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## A Norfolk Fish Story

By Gary White, Bob Cheatham, and Kevin Vaughn

A few of us went fishing August 4th and 5th on the Norfolk. One of the guys thought it would be interesting if we each wrote a short narrative about the trip for the newsletter. We could see what the different perspectives might be. We agreed, so here they are. – Gary White



*Norfolk Dam*

### Bob Cheatham – Norfolk Trip

Kevin, Gary, and I hit the road about 6:30 Saturday morning heading for the Norfolk area to try our hand at fly fishing for some trout. We stopped in Mt. View and had breakfast because we knew when we got there and the water was down we would go head first in the river to fish before the water would come up and we might not have time for lunch. We got to Wayne and Jeannie's about mid morning got dressed and headed down to the river. Wayne was already on the river he and Porter that lives just downstream from Wayne had put in with a couple of pontoon boats at the Dam and we did not see them until about 4:00. All in all Saturday was a very good day with everyone catching plenty of fish and although there were not any 20 plus fish caught they were all healthy and fat. The most amusing thing to happen was when Wayne and Porter came floating up they did not have a way of getting back up to the dam to get their vehicles. Now I don't know who was in charge of that but when you get a couple of Arkie rednecks together anything can happen. Kevin took them back to the dam to get their vehicles and I stayed and watched the pontoons. It was getting around 5:00 and we had not eaten since that morning so Kevin, Gary, and I called it a day and headed for Mt. Home and Fred's Catfish House. Sunday we followed the same pattern we had on Saturday and went directly to the river with Wayne joining in this time. We fished until about 12:00 and Kevin, Gary, and I then went and had lunch while Wayne stayed and take a short nap. After lunch we came back to Wayne's and planned to fish until 3:00 and then head for home. Kevin and Gary went down to the river but I had gone inside and sat

down where it was cool and I could not make myself get back up and go fish anymore. Just after 3:00 we said by and thanks to Wayne and Jeanie and headed for home and on the way we did managed to make a pit stop for some ice-cream. It was a good weekend and looking forward to my next trip.

### Gary White – Norfolk Trip

I had the opportunity to spend the weekend fishing the Norfolk River with Kevin Vaughn, AFF secretary, and Bob Cheatham, AFF education/webmaster. Wayne Reed joined us as well part of the time. We logged about 13 hours on the river, which was clear and in excellent fishing form. I caught a couple of very nice fish worth remembering, a rainbow and a brown. The generation schedule suited our purpose perfectly, and it was sunny and only 98 degrees. Everyone seemed to be having greater success with the fish than I did this trip. But Bob and Wayne coached me on fly selection, rigging and mending which helped out a lot. I started catching a few. In fact, one time on Saturday Bob was coaching me on mending and every time he threw his line in a fish would immediately hook up. This was a spot where I had been standing for over an hour with limited success. Fish were in there, I could see them. Kevin noted on the way back that I worked my spot pretty thoroughly, meaning I didn't move up and down the river as much as everyone else. And they all moved a lot. I'll do better next time. We fished droppers using sow bugs and egg patterns with mostly black and olive bead head midges below, and strike

Please see *Norfolk Trip* on page 10



## Fly Fishing and Podcasts?

By Chris Morris

So, if you have been hiding under a rock somewhere since the iPod craze, you are probably wondering what is a Podcast?

According to Wikipedia, a podcast is “is a digital media file, or a series of such files, that is distributed over the Internet using syndication feeds for playback on portable media players and personal computers.” WHAT? For all of you non techies, think of a podcast as internet radio.

Why do you care about podcasts? What if you could listen to your favorite legend or expert over and over as he discusses his experience developing as a professional fly fisherman! Guess what, you can!

<http://www.flyfishradio.com/>

Fly Fish Radio is the original podcast for fly fishing anglers. My favorite episodes from this site feature Norm Albiston. Mr. Albiston is a well respected Fly Fishing Instructor and guide.

In Episode 1, Norm talks about midges, matching insects underwater, and the biggest mistake fly fish anglers make.

In Episode 5, Norm returns from Episode 1 to finish his thought on the 5 things you can change when fly fishing. “Norm has a talent for taking the complication and technical point of fly fishing and breaking it down so it’s easy to digest.”

In Episode 13, learn how to think like a trout. Norm really goes into how a trout sees, smells, hears, and handles its environment.

In Episodes 28 & 29, if you want to learn how to “Bow Hunt” a trout, listen to these episodes. You will definitely become a predator.



*Chris Morris - Amelia Island (Spanish mackerel)*

<http://www.askaboutflyfishing.com/>

Ask about Fly Fishing Radio Internet Radio “has brought together **The Experts** on fly fishing to tell you in their own words the secrets to their success in both Freshwater and Saltwater!”

My favorites:

Jason Borger, an expert Fly Fishing Instructor and author who discusses “Angling Approaches for Streams”, and “Casting and Presentation Strategies for Trout”

Kelly Galloup, a world renowned author and guide. Kelly discusses the uses of articulated streamers to catch trophy trout.

Check out the above web sites, I hope you will find them as yet another fantastic resource. Beginners, Intermediates, and Experts will learn from these various interviews. I find myself becoming more and more addicted each day.

## Little Red River Fly Shop Fishing Report

By Jed Hollan September 5, '07

The lengthening shadows are a dead giveaway that a changing of the seasons is upon us. This easing of the elements has been reflected in the lighter than average water releases at the Greer's Ferry Power House. Most days, water releases have occurred mid-afternoon lasting only an hour or two. The power produced by our impoundment goes to not-for-profit electric cooperatives such as our own First Electric Cooperative. FYI.

With fall approaching, I can't help but feel excitement about the forthcoming brown trout spawn. The spawn traditionally occurs in October, November and December; however, browns will begin their pre-staging rituals in September. I will update you on this activity in future reports, meanwhile, check your supply of bubble gum egg patterns.

Have you ever used a hopper-dropper? It is a particularly effective fly combination that works well this time of year. Attach a size 10 Dave's Hopper or equivalent to your tippet and use it as a strike indicator. Tie some skinny tippet material (6X fluoro.) to the bend of the hopper hook and a midge fly pattern (size #18-#22) about 18 inches below. The midge is the dropper and your indicator is the hopper. You should get strikes on both your flies during the day. Keep your false casts to a minimum to prevent tangles with this setup. Also, don't use the hopper-dropper in the special regulations areas on the Little Red where only a single hooking point may be legally used.

BWO's, PMD's, Sulphurs and Midges keep hatching in our river every day and the flies that represent these critters are working the best. Try a CDC Baetis dun (#18-#20), CDC PMD dun (#18), Sulphur patterns in orange or yellow (#16-#18) or cream Midges in sizes #22-#24. Productive sub-surface flies include Sowbug (#14-#16 lt. gray or tan), Zebra Midge (#16-#22 in red, olive or black),

Yong Special (#22 red or olive), Copper John (#14-#16 chartreuse or red), Pheasant Tail (#16), Gold Ribbed Hare's Ear (#14-#16), Red Ass (#14-#16) and streamers such as Woolly Buggers (#8-#12 in olive, black or brown). When choosing a fly, I recommend that you use flash and red as a determining factor. If you have a Pheasant Tail and a Flashback Pheasant Tail, choose the Flashback version. If you have a fly with some red color, choose it over a more unremarkable fly.

There is a Little Red River cleanup planned for Saturday, the 8th of September. The Little Red River Action Team chapter 722 of Trout Unlimited is hosting the event beginning at 8:00 AM at the Little Red Fly Shop located at 35 Swinging Bridge Drive in Heber Springs. If you have a boat, please bring it or plan to use it. Trout Unlimited will provide a trash bag and river area assignment for the participants. Bring your collection back to the fly shop by noon and Trout Unlimited will feed you free!

If you have questions or need more detailed information about anything in this report, please contact me at the Little Red Fly Shop of Heber Springs. My phone numbers are #888-442-4022 toll free or #501-887-9988. My e-mail address is [shop@littleredflyshop.com](mailto:shop@littleredflyshop.com). I'm Jed Hollan, Mgr.



[www.littleredflyshop.com/](http://www.littleredflyshop.com/)



## John Berry Fishing Report

By John Berry August 30, '07

Water levels continue their drop and every impoundment in the White River system is well below power pool. There has been precious little rain in several weeks and the daily high temperatures have hovered in the mid to high nineties. The lake level at Bull Shoals Dam has dropped four tenths of a foot to rest at one and four tenths of a foot below power pool at 654.00 feet. Up stream, Table Rock Lake has dropped eight tenths of a foot to rest at two and three tenths of a foot below power pool. Beaver Lake has dropped six tenths of a foot and is now at four feet below pool. The pattern on the White River has been for low levels of generation or no generation in the morning and then to spike it with up to seven generators in the afternoon and early evening, when there is peak demand for electricity. This has created some excellent wading conditions on the days with no morning generation. Norfolk Lake has dropped seven tenths of a foot and is now two and a half feet below power pool of 552.00 feet. The pattern is to turn the generators off in the morning and to run a full two generators in the afternoon and early evening. This has created some excellent wading opportunities on the Norfolk early in the day. The forecast is for slightly cooler weather. With the existing conditions, I foresee continued heavy afternoon generation on both rivers.

On the Norfolk, the dissolved oxygen levels continue to drop. This is most critical during periods of no generation. Last week, the dissolved oxygen level regularly dropped below two and a half parts per million. There was one instance where it dropped below two parts per million. The oxygen level will be the lowest just below the dam. On the White River the dissolved oxygen has started to drop. There was one instance where it went below five parts per million.



<http://www.berrybrothersguides.com/>

Despite the heat, the White has been fishing extremely well. The section from Wildcat Shoals to Cotter has been a real hot spot. At low levels of generation, zebra midges and small scud patterns have been effective. On high water the hot flies have been brightly colored San Juan worms (red, hot pink, and fire orange) and egg patterns.

The big story has been the grass hopper fishing. It has been spectacular. On low water, particularly in the afternoon hopper patterns have been the ticket. The debate is over which pattern is the most effective Rainey's hopper, Schroeder's hopper, or Dave's hopper. Should it be rubber legs, foam or deer hair? I have been using the Dave's hopper size ten and doing well. Be sure and use at least a 4X tippet and let the fly hit the water with a splash. There is a tendency for most anglers to set the hook too soon with dry flies. Take a deep breath, and make sure the fish has taken the hopper before setting the hook.

Another hot spot, on the White River, has been Rim Shoals. On low water, this section has been very productive. The best flies have been the zebra midge in brown with copper bead and copper wire in size eighteen and partridge and orange soft hackles. The grasshopper has also

Please see *John Berry Fishing Report* on page 8



## Davy Wotton's White River & North Fork River Fishing Report

By Davy Wotton August '07

<http://www.davywotton.com/>

Hello Fly Fishers!

August, brings with it the dog days of summer, heat and humidity are not always conducive for good trout fishing, particularly as we see water temperatures rise. Trout are a cold water species and as a rule prefer optimum temperatures from 50 to 60. High water temperatures reduce the available oxygen content, and that will stress fish, they become lethargic and are reluctant to feed.

Fortunately for us, our rivers, unlike many others are tailwaters and are subject to generation flows that will as a rule maintain both adequate water temperatures and oxygen levels that the fish are comfortable with. Even so you will find that Trout at this time of the year may well cease to feed actively during the heat of the day.

Much of the food base that trout eat will also become non active during periods of high heat and intense light, which in simple terms means the best options to fish will be early and late.

That is not to say you will not be able to locate and catch fish during other times, but to do so you will need to look for comfort zones, and they will include those that create agitation within the water column, such as fast moving water over shallows and riffles. They will also seek out moss beds and cover from the direct effects of light around structure, under overhanging vegetation and places of that nature.

These are the primary places to concentrate your fishing efforts.

Days that reduce the effects of direct light influence, with cloud cover will be as a rule good days on the river.

Given the above information a good course of action will amount to this.



Fish the known zones both with dead drift nymph style fly patterns. You may have to also reduce your tippet to 5x or less, and fish smaller flies before the fish will take your offering. During the periods of the day when things are slow. At others times, early and late, as a rule the fish will be hungry and many other methods may be used, larger flies and flies that are worked such as soft hackles, wet flies and streamers.

This time of the year is also a good time to prospect with surface fished flies. There are many terrestrials that find themselves trapped on the water surface, hoppers, ants, leaf hoppers and many others. Fish will be found often very close to shore lines at this time looking for those bugs. Ants and hoppers are favorite to use at this time.

In fact two evening ago I fished at Rim doing just this, working within inches of the shore line with various flies, which accounted for 7 lovely Browns and a bunch of Bows.

Please see *Davy Wotton Fishing Report* on page 9

*2007 Conclave from page 1*

Expert casters Bruce Richards and Chuck Easterling will offer continued education for FFF Master and Certified Casting Instructors.

Scott Professional Casting Demonstrator, Mark Sedotti will share his long distance casting skills in a three hour long class.

Simply put, you will find numerous workshops, casting games, demonstrations, and many other

activities to make this trip worth your while. To learn more about the 2007 Conclave, go to the following link:

[www.southerncouncilfff.org/conclave/conclave.php](http://www.southerncouncilfff.org/conclave/conclave.php)

*President's Page from page 2*

December 29<sup>th</sup> to January 1<sup>st</sup>. Usually a party is involved. Presidents Day in February plan to fish the **San Juan River**, New Mexico for 3 days. We caravan by car/truck. A new AFF outing being explored is a July '08 trip to the **Boundary Waters** caravanning to Minnesota. There will be more local fishing as we plan 2008. Contact me or Bob Cheatham for more information on any of these trips. Remember,

contact me or Charlotte Day with your event ideas for '08. Good fishing everyone and hope to see you riverside.

- Gary White

*John Berry's Fishing Report from page 6*

reigned supreme here. The Norfolk is not fishing as well as the White. On the days when they are running water on the White, the Norfolk can get pretty crowded, particularly on the weekends. The overcrowding has been worsened by the closing of McClellan's. Small midges are still the best bet. Hot patterns are the black zebra midge with silver wire and silver bead, brown zebra midge with copper wire and copper bead, and the Norfolk bead head in olive. All are most effective in size twenty or smaller. The partridge and orange has been the hot soft hackle. Grass hoppers have also been quite effective here.

Dry Run Creek is still the place to introduce children to trout fishing. If you have not visited there you need to check it out. There are trout as big as your leg all over the place. This is what Catch and Release could all be about. The best way to fish it is by high sticking sowbugs (the dominate food source on Dry Run Creek), San Juan worms, or egg patterns. Don't forget to take the largest net you can lay your hands on and a camera. This is where memories are made.

Always practice water safety and check conditions before you leave home.

The Mid South Fly Fishers is celebrating its thirty year anniversary with a homecoming event September 4, 2007. All are invited for free pizza and a program highlighting the clubs history.



*Davy Wotton Fishing Report from page 7*

You may well find that the period after the sun has dropped out to ward dusk time, that there will be a great deal of surface activity all over the river, as a rule the fish are not that fussy, so far as the fly you use, but you have to be able to fish the fly within the zone of vision the fish are looking at.

In this situation you can go with generic dry flies, soft hackles and wet flies. The deal is to give the fish in the zone you are fishing plenty of time to see your fly and rise to take it. Soft hackles and wet flies are best worked with a very slow retrieve, dry flies dead drift in the area of activity.

Midge emergence also at this time may be large, and here I would suggest you use soft hackles, 16s to 18s that are black and silver combinations, simple black thread bodies with a flat silver rib and a few turns of black hen hackle, this fly can be and is a killer at this time.

Want to nail a trophy Brown, this is the time of the year to go for it, if you are able to stay out on the river and fish. Those big fish know that fall is on the way, and that is the time they will start to move upstream to the known spawning zones, it is as if a trigger tells them to feed hard during this period before the food base starts to decline, before they are more so interested in the rituals of the spawn.

No matter how large a fly you use a large Brown can eat it. I frequently use flies that are anything from 4 to 6ins in length. They are not weighted as such but flies that contain elements of light weight fly tying material. Marabou, streamer hackles and muddler heads.

Easy to cast flies. which really is something you need when fishing during the dark hours.

As a rule I will go with a dry line most time, and on occasions a intermediate. Big fish will see the fly regardless of its position within the water column,

they can also sense movement.

The deal is not to let the fish know you are there, so careless wading and splashing around, flash lights and all else is not a good approach to start with.

Running a boat during darkness on these rivers can be also very productive, but make very sure you know where you are, as often as not heavy fog may well descend and you can become very disorientated if you are not familiar with the surroundings.

High water flows may also float large logs and debris, and that is not something you wish to run into either.

It is not something I would recommend unless you are well experienced, as you can become totally lost, and worse still you sink the boat.

The same also applies if you are wade fishing, make very sure you know where you are and how to return from whence you came.

Generation schedules have been up and down, so you will need to check in for what is going on for the reports at 870 431 5311 for the current status.

OK, guys, that's about all for the fishing report this month. I myself will be fishing the rivers in MT this month, and will be back here in AR ready for the fall season, which can provide us here with some of the best fishing of the year.

Tight lines.

Davy.

American International Schools of Fly Fishing



*Norfolk Trip* from page 3

indicators. I even threw in a prince and a red fox squirrel nymph once in a while, and they caught fish. Kevin had great success with egg patterns and his micro jigs. He gave me a jig which I caught my nice rainbow on, but the fish rewarded me by leaving the size 14 hook deeply buried in my left thumb. I couldn't back it out, so Wayne used his magic and a piece of 3x line. Very little blood, so it was a good weekend. I'm ready to go again. And yes, my tetanus shot is up to date.

### **Kevin Vaughn – Norfolk Trip**

My first trip to the Norfolk; we drove up from Little Rock on Saturday morning picking up Bob Cheatham and Gary White. It's not a bad trip but right at the edge of what I would consider a reasonable day trip. Fortunately we were staying overnight. We had access to the river at Wayne Reed's place (thanks again Wayne).

My first impression of the river was "Wow this is all wadeable water". Everything I could see up and down stream appeared to good wading. Like any fisherman I had asked advice on what to fish but I forgot everything as soon as I saw the river. So I tied on an egg pattern and spied an area where I saw some water speed up then slow down again. That was my spot, I headed towards it spooling out line and making a few false casts and yep you got it a Birds Nest. Cut and retie. Take two. The spot turned out to be a little rapid emptying into a four-foot deep pool with rocks and a bunch of fish.

I fished that spot and a few others the rest of the day with Egg patterns and ended up with 24 fish for the day, mostly rainbows but a few browns. Good first day fishing. Now it was time to head to the famous Y cabins. I'd heard about them for several years usually with descriptions like "not fancy but inexpensive". Just to let you know the Y cabins lived up to their reputation.

Fishing day two: It was a beautiful morning; Fog on the river and biting fish. I decided not to use an Egg today

and experimented until the fish told me they wanted a white or green micro jig. I fished about a half mile of river up and down from where we walked in and almost every 20 yards offered a different type of fishing. Some water fast and shallow some slow and deeper. Some spots gravel, some rock and others deeper channels cut out of the rock. It was a lot of fun trying to adjust your fishing to that many different types of water, especially since they all seemed to hold fish. Best fish of the trip, a pretty 18+ inch Brown, came by casting almost to the shore line over a little channel cut through the rock. Total of 36 fish for the day.

This was my first trip to the Norfolk but it surely won't be my last.

*17<sup>th</sup> Annual AFF Fish Fry* from page 1

The park is located off of Hwy #10 (Cantrell Rd.)/Pinnacle Valley Rd, a few minutes west of I-430 in west Little Rock. Highway signs direct you to turn right onto the park road just west of the Kroger store shopping center. After the right turn, follow Pinnacle Valley Road, cross over the railroad tracks and a bridge, and then turn left after the bridge. You'll see a big white house at this intersection. Follow the road directly into the park and look for Pavilion #5. We'll be looking for you!



**Arkansas Flyline**  
A Weight Forward Production

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