

**Spring, 2016 Hike Schedule**  
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**Ouachita Mountain Hikers**  
P.O. Box 371, Hot Springs, AR 71902  
[www.omhikers.net](http://www.omhikers.net)

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**President's Message**

As we enter into a New Year and our Winter/Spring hiking season, I hope that you find some fun and interesting hikes and/or events on our schedule that you will be able to take part in. Our Hike Chair, David Tedrahn and his hiking committee have worked very hard to schedule a variety of hiking opportunities that offer something for everyone. We will return to some of our old favorites along with a few new locations.

We have 65 miles of the Ouachita Trail planned for this season, including an overnight trip to Queen Wilhemina for 3 days of hiking the OT in February. If you missed out on our Texas overnight trip last Spring, we will return to the Texas panhandle to hike in Palo Duro Canyon in March. The Upper Buffalo National River area should be beautiful when we visit it in April and don't forget our annual trip to the Great Smoky Mountain National Park in May – this is always a fun and memorable trip.

This year we celebrate the club's 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in March so be on the lookout for upcoming special events to commemorate this great achievement. And, last, but certainly not least, look for some new faces on the trail this season as we have some new volunteers serving in the capacity as "Hike Leader". We appreciate those who have stepped up to volunteer leading a club hike. We appreciate you donating your time and we look forward to joining you on your first hike.

***Hope to see you on the trails!***

***Debbie VanVeghel, President***

## **IMPORTANT REMINDERS**

**ON-LINE SCHEDULE:** The hike schedule may be viewed or down-loaded in Google Calendar ([hikersnews@gmail.com](mailto:hikersnews@gmail.com)) via a link on our web page ([www.omhikers.net](http://www.omhikers.net)). Please review for updates and changes to this printed schedule.

**ALWAYS CONTACT THE HIKE LEADER** by email or phone in advance if you intend to hike. Proper planning requires knowing how many people to expect. As a courtesy, make contact as early in the week as possible. The hike leader may cancel a hike due to weather or an unforeseen circumstances. Cancellation notice will be made only to those who indicate they intend to participate. All phone numbers in the schedule are area code 501 unless indicated otherwise.

**ANNOUNCED TIMES ARE DEPARTURE TIMES:** When meeting for a hike, be courteous to the hike leader and your fellow hikers. Arrive a few minutes early to arrange carpools and organize your gear. Don't get left behind.

**BE PROPERLY EQUIPPED:** Start with plenty of WATER. Good foot wear is of primary importance. Depending on the hike and weather, each hiker should have lunch or trail snacks, foul weather gear, and a first aid kit. The mileage rate for carpool share is currently 7 cents per mile, rounded to the nearest dollar, payable to the driver. Carpool share is announced in the Hike Flash; please bring correct change if possible. Due to a new policy this year a carpool fee will not be charged on trail maintenance days.

**WEEKLY HIKE FLASH:** Current information, including schedule changes is promulgated using the weekly "Hike Flash" message. If you do not receive your weekly email, the Hike Flash is also available in the OMH Club website. If you do NOT use email, you may receive the Hike Flash by providing the Publicity Chairman with stamped self-addressed envelopes.

**PHOTOGRAPHS** taken on hikes may be of interest to others. Please share your photos with the OMH Club webmaster and the club historian (names at the top of this page). Your pictures may also be published in the OMH Club calendar next year.

**DOGS** are welcome on our hikes, but please be courteous and keep your dogs under control at all time.

**FIRST TIME HIKERS:** Please participate in two Saturday hikes before trying the longer, more difficult Thursday hikes.

## **January, 2016**

### **Friday, January 1**

#### **“First Day Hike” (1 to 4 miles, Easy to Moderate)**

*Caddo Bend Trail, Lake Ouachita State Park*

**Hike Leader:** Jim Gifford ([hike.arkansas@gmail.com](mailto:hike.arkansas@gmail.com))

Lake Ouachita State Park participates in the national "First Day Hike" program to emphasize enjoyment of the outdoors and the importance of exercise. Start the New Year right by getting out on the trails at this State Park event. The hike on Caddo Bend Trail will include guided bail out points at 1 and 2 miles, so you can bring your non-hiking friends. The hike will be followed by a bonfire and refreshments.

### **Saturday, January 2**

#### **Balboa Spillway Trail (4 miles, Easy)**

*Hot Springs Village*

**Hike Leader:** Susan Holick ([jsholick@suddenlink.net](mailto:jsholick@suddenlink.net))

This is a new part of an expanding trail system in Hot Springs Village. There are great views of Balboa Lake from the dam, and a new view of the spillway waterfall from the bridge.

### **Thursday, January 7**

#### **Ouachita Trail Section 6 (10.4 miles, Moderate)**

*Ouachita National Forest*

**Hike Leader:** Debbie Van Veghel ([dvanveghel@hotmail.com](mailto:dvanveghel@hotmail.com))

This section is 5.2 miles (MM 138.8 - 133.6) but we will be hiking in from Hwy 298 to FR 78N and back out for a total of 10.4 miles.

Always contact the hike leader to participate.

### **Saturday, January 9**

#### **Trail Maintenance**

*Flatside Wilderness*

**Coordinator:** Ralph Butler ([rgbutler39@yahoo.com](mailto:rgbutler39@yahoo.com))

Volunteers help with trail maintenance on our adopted 10 mile 1 section of the Ouachita Trail in the beautiful Flatside Wilderness Area. Tasks include lopping, cleaning debris from the trail, drain repair, and tree removal. Please help with keeping this remarkable trail in good shape for all hikers.

### **Thursday, January 14**

#### **Hot Springs Mountain (6.5 miles, Moderate)**

*Gulpha Gorge Campground*

**Hike Leader:** Bobby Witherington ([bjwither1@att.net](mailto:bjwither1@att.net))

### **Friday, January 15**

#### **Hike Leaders Luncheon (11:30am to 1pm)**

*Taco Mamas*

### **Saturday, January 16**

#### **Greenway Trail (3 miles, Easy)**

*Hot Springs National Park*

**Hike Leader:** Ben Glazer (501-525-9725).

This is an easy urban hike and a chance to socialize over a cup of coffee or lunch after the hike on a cold, January Saturday.

**Thursday, January 21**

**Lake Ouachita Vista Trail (10 miles, Difficult)**

*Ouachita National Park*

**Hike Leader:** Mike Curran (curranho\_8@hotmail.com).

Hiking the Vista Trail from Crystal Springs over Bear Mountain to Brady Trail Head.

**Thursday, January 21**

**Members Meeting, 6-7pm**

*Garland County Library*

**Saturday, January 23**

**Lake Catherine State Park (4.3 miles, Moderate)**

*Lake Catherine State Park*

**Hike Leader:** Theresa Keyser (theresadeano@yahoo.com)

We will hike a combination of the Falls Creek and Horseshoe Mountain Trails. Falls Creek and the waterfall should be flowing nicely and always make for a pretty hike.

**Thursday, January 28**

**Womble Trail (8 miles, Moderate)**

*Ouachita National Forest*

**Hike Leader:** Joe Breshears (breshearsjoe@yahoo.com)

This will be an out and back hike on the Womble Trail starting at Hwy 88 trailhead.

**Saturday, January 30**

**Emerald Park (4.5 miles, Moderate)**

*Emerald Park, North Little Rock*

**Hike Leader:** Tom Calhoun (tom.calhoun3@gmail.com)

Loop hike starting at Riverview Skateboard Park, N Little Rock, with great views from the top of the bluff overlooking the Arkansas River.

**February, 2016**

**Tuesday, February 2 to Thursday, February 4**

**Ouachita Trail Overnight (Section 2)**

*Queen Wilhelmina State Park*

**Hike Leader:** Debbie Van Veghel (dvanveghel@hotmail.com)

Hiking west on the Ouachita Trail from Queen Wilhelmina State Park across the state line to Winding Stair Trailhead in OK. This section will offer hikers a challenge with a couple of good climbs, crossing rock glaciers and the Kiamichi River. This part of the trail is considered difficult and will cover 28 miles in three days (MM 51.6 - 23.7).

**Thursday, February 4**

**Caddo Bend (4 or 8 miles, Moderate)**

*Lake Ouachita State Park*

**Hike Leader:** Tom Cornelius (tomcornelius@cablelynx.com).

Popular club hike around the Caddo Bend loop at Lake Ouachita State Park. Once around is 4 miles, but hikers desiring a longer hike can do the loop in the other direction to double to 8 miles.

**Saturday, February 6**

**Trail Maintenance**

*Flatside Wilderness*

**Coordinator:** Ralph Butler ([rgbutler39@yahoo.com](mailto:rgbutler39@yahoo.com))

Volunteers help with trail maintenance on our adopted 10 mile section of the Ouachita Trail in the Flatside Wilderness Area. Tasks include lopping, cleaning debris from the trail, drain repair, and tree removal. Please help with keeping this remarkable trail in good shape for all hikers.

**Thursday, February 11**

**Womble Trail/Round Top (8 miles, Moderate to Difficult)**

*Round Top, Mountain Township*

**Hike Leader:** Joe Breashears ([breashearsjoe@yahoo.com](mailto:breashearsjoe@yahoo.com))

Hiking a loop comprised of the Round Top Trail, Ouachita Trail and Womble Trail. Two steep hills to climb.

**Saturday, February 13**

**Seven Hollows Trail (4.5 miles, Moderate)**

*Petit Jean State Park*

**Hike Leader:** Jerry Harris ([Rox2ie1944@yahoo.com](mailto:Rox2ie1944@yahoo.com))

The main attractions of this trail are the lush ferns, rock fields, overhanging bluff shelters, a natural bridge, a side spur to a waterfall, and a grotto. The uniqueness of the area make this hike a favorite for the Club.

**Thursday, February 18**

**Ouachita Trail (7.3 miles, Moderate)**

*Iron Spring Roadside Park*

**Hike Leader:** David Tedrahn ([omhhikerdt@gmail.com](mailto:omhhikerdt@gmail.com))

In and out hike on the Ouachita Trail on the west side of Hwy 7 from the parking/picnic area one mile north of Iron Springs.

**Saturday, February 20**

**Dawn to Dusk (Flex hike up to 14 miles, Moderate to Difficult)**

*Hot Springs National Park*

**Hike Leader:** Joy Linker ([joyfullymovin@gmail.com](mailto:joyfullymovin@gmail.com))

"Dawn-to-Dusk" in Hot Springs National Park is an annual 14 mile FLEX hike, designed as a single hiking event with something for everyone. Don't forget the party at Rolando's at the end of the hike for fellow hikers, family and friends.

**Thursday, February 25**

**Mount Magazine Trail to Cove Lake (10.0 miles, Moderate)**

*Mount Magazine State Park*

**Hike Leader:** Rick Ericson ([richard.ericson@att.net](mailto:richard.ericson@att.net))

Downhill hike through pine forest from the Mt. Magazine campground and overlook to Cove Lake. On Wednesday evening, some hikers may dine together and stay overnight at the beautiful Mt. Magazine Lodge or its cabins.

**Saturday, February 27**

**Little Blakely North Loop (5.5 miles, Moderate)**

*Lake Ouachita State Park*

**Hike Leader:** Tom Blumenberg ([t.l.blumenberg@gmail.com](mailto:t.l.blumenberg@gmail.com))

Hiking the North Loop of the Little Blakely Trail System near Lake Ouachita State Park.

## **March, 2016**

### **Tuesday, March 1**

#### **Trail Maintenance**

*Flatside Wilderness*

**Leader:** Ralph Butler ([rgbutler39@yahoo.com](mailto:rgbutler39@yahoo.com))

Volunteers help with trail maintenance on our adopted 10 mile section of the Ouachita Trail in the beautiful Flatside Wilderness Area. Tasks include lopping, cleaning debris from the trail, drain repair, and tree removal.

### **Thursday, March 3**

#### **Ouachita Trail Section 5 (11.1 miles, Difficult)**

*Ouachita National Forest*

**Hike Leader:** Joy Linker ([joyfullymovin@gmail.com](mailto:joyfullymovin@gmail.com))

Hiking the Ouachita Trail from Rainey Creek to Big Brushy (MM 94.5 - 105.5). Great views but challenging hike up and over Blowout Mountain. Expect some rocky footing.

### **Saturday, March 5**

#### **DeSoto Spillway Trails (3 miles, Easy)**

*Hot Springs Village*

**Leader:** David Tedrahn ([omhhiikerdt@gmail.com](mailto:omhhiikerdt@gmail.com))

An easy but scenic hike on the last part of the Hernando Trail and up and around the DeSoto Spillway trail system. Arguably the most scenic trail system in the Village.

### **Sunday, March 6, to Wednesday, March 9**

#### **Palo Duro Canyon, Texas Overnight Trip**

*Palo Duro Canyon State Park, Texas*

**Hike & Trip Leader:** Rick Ericson ([richard.ericson@att.net](mailto:richard.ericson@att.net))

This is a five day mini-trip to Palo Duro State Park, a half-hour drive south of Amarillo in panhandle Texas. It's an 11-hour drive to get there, but participants will then spend three full days trekking trails of choice in the nation's second largest canyon...a stunning mix of desert and mountain environments. Hikes will be moderate in both difficulty and length. Hikers may choose to camp or RV in the park, or join those who lodge in south Amarillo. For additional information about the park and hiking contact Rick or visit: [www.tpwd.state.tx.us/parks](http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/parks), or search on Palo Duro State Park, Texas.

### **Thursday, March 10**

#### **Hickory Nut Mountain (6 or 8 miles, Moderate)**

*Hickory Nut Mountain Road*

**Hike Leader:** Phil Simpson ([philhappy@suddenlink.net](mailto:philhappy@suddenlink.net))

Hike a portion of the Vista Trail from Pollard Creek Trail to the top of Hickory Nut Mountain and return (6 miles). Hike may be extended another 1 mile (outbound and return) to make 8 miles total.

### **Saturday, March 12**

#### **Mt. Nebo (4 miles, Moderate)**

*Mount Nebo State Park, Dardanelle, AR*

**Hike Leader:** Susan Holick ([jsholick@suddenlink.net](mailto:jsholick@suddenlink.net))

The Rim Trail offers spectacular panoramic views of the Arkansas River Valley and surrounding mountain ridges with many geological formations long the trail. Hikers need to be aware that there is rocky footing in some places along the route.

**Thursday, March 17**

**Little Blakely (Trail TBD, 8-9 miles, Moderate)**

*Lake Ouachita State Park*

**Hike Leader:** Marie Michalets ([go.marie@yahoo.com](mailto:go.marie@yahoo.com))

We will hike two loops on the Little Blakely Trail system for a total of 8-9 miles.

**Thursday, March 17**

**Members Meeting, 6 - 7pm**

*Garland County Library*

**Saturday, March 19**

**West Mountain (4 miles, Moderate)**

*Hot Springs National Park*

**Hike Leader:** Debbie VanVeghel ([dvanveghel@hotmail.com](mailto:dvanveghel@hotmail.com))

In commemoration of OMH's 30th Anniversary we will hike West Mountain as it was the club's first "official" hike after its inception on March 6, 1986.

**Thursday, March 24**

**Sam's Throne (3 miles, Difficult)**

*Jasper, AR*

**Hike Leader:** Jeannie Eichler ([jeannie.eichler@gmail.com](mailto:jeannie.eichler@gmail.com))

This is a long drive for a difficult short hike but it is spectacular. It includes rock formations to explore, towering bluffs with scenic vistas and drop offs and the actual Sam's Throne which we can attempt to climb.

**Saturday, March 26**

**Trail Maintenance**

*Hot Springs National Park*

**Coordinator:** TBD

The club will join in a Hot Springs National Park trail maintenance day

**Thursday, March 31**

**Womble Trail West (7.6 miles, Moderate)**

*Ouachita National Forest*

**Hike Leader:** Tom Calhoun ([tom.calhoun3@gmail.com](mailto:tom.calhoun3@gmail.com))

We will be hiking from North Fork Lake, the southern terminus of the trail, to FR 922. There should be good views from the ridge tops.

**April, 2016**

**Saturday, April 2**

**Hunt's Loop (4 miles, Moderate)**

*Ouachita National Forest*

**Hike Leader:** Linda Branim ([liluze@aol.com](mailto:liluze@aol.com))

A circular loop hike from Iron Springs Roadside Park on Hwy 7, north of Jessieville. A club favorite with nice views from the top of the hill.

## **Tuesday, April 5**

### **Trail Maintenance**

*Flatside Wilderness*

**Coordinator:** Ralph Butler ([rgbutler39@yahoo.com](mailto:rgbutler39@yahoo.com))

Volunteers help with trail maintenance on our adopted 10 mile section of the Ouachita Trail in the beautiful Flatside Wilderness Area. Tasks include lopping, cleaning debris from the trail, drain repair, and tree removal.

## **Thursday, April 7**

### **Ouachita Trail Section 4 (10.8 miles, Difficult)**

*Ouachita National Forest*

**Hike Leader:** Debbie Van Veghel ([dvanveghel@hotmail.com](mailto:dvanveghel@hotmail.com))

FR 76W to Tan-a-Hill Gap (MM 74.2 - 85.0 + 1 mile walk-out). A challenging section with numerous up & downs over Fourche Mountain.

## **Saturday, April 9**

### **Garvan Gardens (3 miles, Easy)**

*Garvan Woodland Gardens*

**Hike Leader:** Jim Davis ([jamdav@cablelynx.com](mailto:jamdav@cablelynx.com))

Spring flowers should be in bloom making for a pleasant stroll around Garvan Gardens. Admission fee of \$15 required for non-members of the Gardens.

## **Tuesday, April 12 to Thursday, April 14**

### **Buffalo River Overnight**

*Buffalo River, AR*

**Trip Coordinator:** TBD

**Hike Leader:** Brent Alexander ([alexander111@windstream.net](mailto:alexander111@windstream.net))

Three days of hiking in the Buffalo River area is always a popular trip with the club.

## **Thursday, April 14**

### **Lake Ouachita Vista Trail (11.5 miles, Moderate)**

*Ouachita National Forest*

**Hike Leader:** Wally Marroy ([wallyam@cablelynx.com](mailto:wallyam@cablelynx.com))

Hiking from the Joplin Trailhead to Crystal Springs on a beautiful spring day. Bailout at Pipe Springs would shorten the hike to 9.5 miles

## **Saturday, April 16**

### **Lake Catherine SP (4.3 miles, Moderate)**

*Lake Catherine State Park*

**Hike Leader:** David Tedrahn ([omhhikerdt@gmail.com](mailto:omhhikerdt@gmail.com))

We will hike a combination of the Falls Creek and Horseshoe Mountain Trails for a total of 4.3 miles. Should be plenty of water in the creek making for nice views of waterfalls as we walk along Falls Creek.

## **Thursday, April 21**

### **Buckeye Trail (9.4 miles, Difficult)**

*Buckeye Mountain, Jackson Township, AR*

**Hike Leader:** Anita Moore ([anitamoore409@gmail.com](mailto:anitamoore409@gmail.com))

This beautiful hike is in the Caney Creek Wilderness. Hikers should expect steep climbs and creek crossings rewarded by broad vistas, beautiful forest, creeks, and a visit to the Katy Waterfall. It is planned to do this as a loop including some of the Caney Creek Trail and walking down a dirt road from the trail's end back to the cars at the trail head.



**Saturday, April 23**

**Hillary Hollow (5 miles, Moderate)**

*Ouachita National Forest*

**Hike Leader:** Jim Collins (jimchsv@gmail.com)

This beautiful hike into and out of Hilary Hollow in the Ouachita National Forest mostly follows a small creek. It is a good wildflower area during Spring, and you often see moss and ferns. It is referred to by Tim Ernst as the 'prettiest" section of the Ouachita Trail.

**Thursday, April 28, 2016**

**HSV Dam to Dam (10 miles, Moderate)**

*Hot Springs Village*

**Hike Leader:** Jim Gifford (hike.arkansas@gmail.com).

We will hike from DeSoto Spillway to the Balboa Spillway on the Hernando Trail in Hot Springs Village. Easy walking on well maintained trails, but a good 10 miles from start to finish.

**Saturday, April 30**

**Caddo River Float Trip**

*Caddo River, Caddo, AR*

**Trip Coordinator:** Jerry Harris (rox2ie1944@yahoo.com)

Something different on a warm, spring day. Floating on the Caddo River with perhaps a dip in the cool water.

**May, 2016**

**Tuesday, May 3**

**Trail Maintenance**

*Flatside Wilderness*

**Coordinator:** Ralph Butler (rbutler39@yahoo.com)

Volunteers help with trail maintenance on our adopted 10 mile section of the Ouachita Trail in the beautiful Flatside Wilderness Area. Tasks include lopping, cleaning debris from the trail, drain repair, and tree removal.

**Thursday, May 5**

**Ouachita Trail Section 4 (9.5 miles, Moderate)**

*Ouachita National Forest*

**Hike Leader:** Joy Linker (501-915-8066 / joyfullymovin@gmail.com)

We will be hiking the OT from Big Brushy to FR 76W (MM 85.0 - 94.5).

**Saturday, May 7**

**HSV "Neighborhood Invasion"**

*Hot Springs Village*

**Hike Leader:** Susan Holick (jsholick@suddenlink.net)

The hike will follow unpaved roads in the Village for most of the time, with several areas when we walk on the street in a neighborhood. If we are lucky we may see one moving vehicle, but otherwise will have some nice views of lakes and mountains.

**Sunday, May 8 to Saturday, May 14**

**Great Smokey Mountains Overnight**

*Townsend, TN*

**Trip Coordinator:** Jom Gifford (hike.arkansas@gmail.com)

Jim will be leading hikes on this popular trip in the Smokey Mountains of Tennessee, including an overnight in the famous Le Conte Lodge.

**Thursday, May 12**

**Sugar Creek (7 miles, Moderate)**

*Ouachita National Forest*

**Hike Leader:** Marilyn Hall (mjhall74@gmail.com)

The hike will begin at the Hwy 7 OT trail head (mm160.4), we will hike to Sugar Creek (mm 163.9) and to the rock outcroppings beyond, then return. There will be some up & down hills along the way. Expect to see large old oak trees and, given the time of year, possibly some wild flowers.

**Saturday, May 14**

**Cedar Creek Trail (3 miles, Easy)**

*Hot Springs Village*

**Hike Leader:** Glen Wortham (theworthams@suddenlink.net)

Cedar Creek Trail is a beautiful hike through the woods on mostly level terrain. The trail is a good spot for wildflowers and bird watching. This is an especially good first hike for someone who wants to try out hiking with the club and for anyone who just likes to be outside.

**Thursday, May 19**

**Little Blakely South Loop (5.7 miles, Moderate)**

*NW of Lake Ouachita State Park*

**Hike Leader:** Anita Moore (anitamoore409@gmail.com)

This loop of the Little Blakely Trail system has good views of the lake on the south rim. The trail does not have a lot of steep climbs, but there is some up-and-down. There may be wild flowers blooming this time of year.

**Thursday, May 19**

**Members Meeting (6 to 7pm)**

*Garland County Library*

**Saturday, May 21**

**Tree Identification Hike (3 miles, Easy)**

*Location TBD*

**Hike Leaders:** Donna & Darrel Hill (drrhill@yahoo.com)

This will be a slow hike for a hot May day, with frequent stops along the way to admire and learn about trees in our area.

**Thursday, May 26**

**Heber Springs (3-4 miles, Easy)**

*Heber Springs, AR*

**Hike Leaders:** Bill & Christina Lammers (bclammers84@gmail.com)

We will hike one or more of the short trails in the Heber Springs area

**Saturday, May 28**

**DeSoto Spillway Hike & Swim (3 miles, Easy)**

*Hot Springs Village*

**Hike Leader:** Becky Gifford (rjgiffordar@gmail.com)

An easy hike around the scenic DeSoto Spillway followed by a dip in Lake DeSoto to cool down. What better way to spend a May Saturday morning.

## **June, 2016**

### **Thursday, June 2**

#### **Petit Jean Cedar Creek (5 miles, Moderate)**

*Petit Jean State Park*

**Hike Leader:** Vanessa Edgar ([lilypind455@yahoo.com](mailto:lilypind455@yahoo.com))

Always a lovely hike down to the falls and along Cedar Creek. One long climb back to the lodge, but overall a pleasant hike on a hot spring day.

### **Saturday, June 4**

#### **National Trails Day**

*Location TBD*

**Coordinator:** Jim Gifford ([hike.arkansas@gmail.com](mailto:hike.arkansas@gmail.com))

This is a national event with locations of hikes to be determined

### **Thursday, June 9**

#### **End of Year Picnic**

*Cortez Pavilion, Hot Springs Village*

Our last event of the season will be a picnic at the Lake Cortez Pavilion in Hot Springs Village

Main dish provided by the club with member sharing sides and deserts.