



The BUTTER

The Newsletter of Buckeye United Fly Fishers, Inc., Cincinnati, OH

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Web site: <http://www.buckeyeflyfishers.com>

February 1, 2026

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President's Letter

Our January meeting enjoyed one of the largest turnouts we've had in many, many years! We almost ran out of seating capacity in the room and if one or two more folks had shown up, we would have run out of food! Cameron Cipponeri, guides with Gates Lodge in MI for fishing the upper Au Sable River, and has his independent business for guiding on the lower end of the Au Sable, close to its terminus in Lake Huron. Cameron did an awesome presentation on fishing for Atlantic Salmon on the Lower AuSable. While many of our members have loved fishing in Michigan for a long time, few of us have experienced fishing these Michigan waters. After hearing and watching Cameron's presentation, I believe a significant number of us may add these waters to our bucket lists!

The past few weeks of cold and snow have presented opportunities for some of us to restock our fly boxes; learn new tying skills, and tie new patterns. We have some incredible tyers in the club (Lane Stocker, Jim Neckers, and others). and the opportunity to learn from these folks in our tying classes, should not be missed! The classes are scheduled and are ongoing. Check the website for the schedule and sign-up.

It's a great time to plan trips for the coming year. While we will continue to have wonderful local club outings, there are a lot of waters within a reasonable drive that provide exceptional opportunities. One opportunity, and one that many of us have enjoyed in the past, is our club trip to the Smokeys. We have one scheduled for April 8th through the 12th. The club will have several cabins, including one for women only. This is a great chance to fish some wonderful waters, spend time with great people, and catch beautiful trout. While these trips are enjoyed equally by anglers of all skill levels, this is a particularly good chance for those who are newer to the sport to get a little help building their fishing skills and learning to read water! If you have questions, contact Harry Pass.

Many thanks to Ken Mandel, Tom Bachey, and the great folks on the fly show team, for the work they have done this year! The work they have done raises the bar each year and has continued to allow the club to produce one of the very best shows in the country! The show is Saturday, February 7th.

Have a great month!

Bob Miller

BUFF February Meeting – Wednesday February 11th

Our monthly meeting at the Oasis Center starts at 6:00 PM with a social hour and cash bar. Dinner will be served at about 6:30 PM, the business meeting and announcements start at about 7:15 PM, and our speaker's presentation at about 7:30 PM. *Please register on the website whether you are having dinner with us or not, so Oasis can set up adequate tables and seating. We appreciate having registration by Friday, February 6th, so we can provide a 'head count' to Oasis for seating and meal preparation. Online registration will close on Sunday, February 8th.*

February Speaker – Joe Clark – “Pennsylvania Trout”

Joe Clark is a fly fishing guide and instructor for Trout Yeah Fly Fishing. Joe has guided for central PA trout and Lake Erie Steelhead for 8 years. He is also the Northeast coach for the United States youth fly-fishing team. With a background in competitive fly fishing, Joe specializes in modern and Euro Nymphing techniques for trout. Joe has been “living the dream,” traveling from stream to stream in a camper van, truly immersing himself in the sport and lifestyle of fly fishing.

Check out the Trout Yeah Fly Fishing Guide Service for information on guided trips, rates, etc., at
<https://www.troutyeah.com/>



February Dinner Menu –

- Caesar Salad (Ranch & Caesar Dressing on the side)
- Garlic Bread Sticks
- Lasagna
- Italian Green Beans
- Italian Roasted Potatoes
- Coffee & Tea

BUFF Library –

From: Dave Smith

Getting on-line access to our library is still in progress. As a reminder Dave is bringing a binder which lists all the library items to the meetings together with a sign-up sheet. Let Dave know what you want, and he'll bring it to the next meeting. You can return items by bringing them to a later meeting as well. Reach out to Dave Smith (dksmith6973@yahoo.com).

New Members in January 2026

From: Harry Pass, BUFF Membership Director

We've gained quite a few new members last month!

Philip Beran, Dayton, OH

Allen Billips, Jefferson, KY

Michael Clark, Portsmouth, OH

Teri Gauvey, Hamilton, OH

Jeff Geraci, Cincinnati, OH

John McGrail, Delaware, OH

Charles Nash, Loveland, OH

Michael Rolfes, Cincinnati, OH

Timothy Rolfes, Loveland, OH

Steve South, Willow Spring, NC

Karen Via, Dayton, OH

Nathan Via, Dayton, OH

Scott Walker, Cincinnati, OH

Welcome to the club. We hope to see you at a meeting or event soon! Check out our activities and programs listed on the BUFF Website and sign up for some!

Welcome New Members

From Bill Krimmer, Membership Engagement Director

Members who have joined BUFF since 2023 will have a dot on their name tag. The dot "color" represents the year you joined BUFF.

2026 = Red

2024 = Green

2025 = Blue

2023 = Yellow

Asking everyone to make a conscience effort to welcome these members by inviting them to participate in trips, events, and volunteer projects.

If you are a newer member, please join us at the 2026 Fly Fishing Show. It is always a great event for opportunities to learn about fly fishing. We have a great slate of speakers who will discuss fly fishing many of our regional waters. We also have great exhibitors and vendors, with several new vendors. Among these are a good number of fly fishing guides from PA, TN, KY, OH, and MI. You can meet them and inquire about getting out to fish some fantastic waters. Guides are generally also good teachers, and fishing with a guide is a great way to learn.

Finally, new members can always help us by volunteering to help at the show. There are plenty of opportunities and areas where we can use help. It is also a great way to get involved in a club activity and meet other club members. If interested in volunteering for the show, contact Kathy LaDow (ladow.k@gmail.com). Kathy is the Fly Show Team member who coordinates our volunteer activities.

Bill Krimmer

Membership Engagement Director

Bill.krimmer@gmail.com or 513-833-6783

2026 Cincinnati Fly Fishing Show – Saturday, February 7th, 2026

By Ken Mandel for the Show Planning Team

**Remember to mark your calendar and attend
the show on Saturday, February 7th.**

Program – Saturday, February 7th

Presentation Schedule for 2026 Cincinnati Fly Fishing Show

| Time | Main Presentation Room | Fly Tying Demonstration Room | Teaching Room | Casting Pond |
|-------|---|--|--------------------|--|
| 10 AM | Josh Miller “ <i>The Insider’s Guide to Euro Nymphing</i> ” | Lance Kekel | | Open Casting |
| 11 AM | Shannon Young “ <i>History of Fly Fishing in the Smokey Mountains</i> ” | Lane Stocker | FF 101 | Open Casting |
| Noon | Jeff Liskay “ <i>Fly Fishing on the Great Lakes</i> ” | Chad Robinson “ <i>Spinning Deer Hair</i> ” | Women’s Open Forum | BUFF Casting Instructors - <i>Casting Demonstration</i> |
| 1 PM | Josh Miller “ <i>Presentation Tips to Catch More Trout</i> ” | JR Jackson | | Mik Rubush Tenkara |
| 2PM | Jim Sauerhaber “ <i>Fly Fishing on the Cumberland River</i> ” | | | Open Casting |
| 3 PM | | | | Open Casting |

The Women's Open Forum at the 2026 Fly Fishing Show

Our topic for this year's Women's Open Forum is "Safety on the Water". It doesn't matter if you fish alone or with friends, you will come away with tips to keep yourself safe. Join our panel at noon and be part of a women-centered conversation. It's an 'open forum', so if we miss something, just ask!

As part of the topic, we will cover solo angling safety tips, overcoming fear, and dealing with awkward or uncomfortable interactions. Preparedness and safety gear will be discussed and on display, including river preparedness, wading staffs, whistles and other communication devices, optional life jackets and 1st-aid kits.

The panel this year will be hosted by Cari Vota, BUFF Director of Women's Programs, Karen Via, MVFF President, and Linda Franklin, NKFF past Women's Outreach Coordinator. It should be, as always, a lively discussion!

Raffles, Raffles, Raffles

We've been selling Show Raffle tickets at our regular meetings since November. We always give our members a 'first chance' to purchase these tickets. Our 2026 Raffle items are –

- **A beautiful, and functional, 7'6" 4-wt bamboo rod** crafted by master rod maker Ron Barch It is a 3-piece rod and comes with an extra tip and a hand-made walnut carrying case. Tickets are \$20 each, with 120 to be sold.
- **An Orvis Pro Waterproof Hip Pack & Orvis Carry-It-All Gear Bag.** Tickets are \$10 each, with 120 to be sold.

Remaining tickets will be sold at the show and the prize winners announced at the end of the day. The raffle sales booth is Booth # 5 – in the front row across from the B.U.F.F. Information Booth. If you've been waiting to jump into the raffle, this is the last chance.

We thank Ron Barch and the Kenwood Orvis store for their support.

We also thank the members of the 2026 Show Planning Team who have worked diligently since last April to put this event together - Tom Bachey (co-chair), Ken Mandel (co-chair), Tom Agin, Scott Biser, David Fraley, Sam Hanna, Kathy LaDow, Bob Miller, Haruko Mizoguchi, Jim Neckers, Kathy Newsom, Lane Stocker, Cari Vota, Jim Vota, Tim Williamson, Craig Wilson.

2026 BUFF Banquet, Wednesday, March 11th, 2026

From Bryan Tudor & the Banquet Planning Team

The 2026 BUFF Banquet is scheduled for Wednesday, March 11th at the Oasis Conference Center. This annual event is a wonderful opportunity to bring a spouse, family member, and/or friends for an

enjoyable evening of dinner, socializing, and bidding on a wide selection of great prizes. As always, prizes will include both fly-fishing gear and a variety of non-fishing items, making the evening fun for anglers and non-anglers alike.

Why the Banquet Matters

Each year, the banquet allows us to recognize our members who made significant contributions to BUFF, as well as the volunteers who supported our 2025 programs. It is also our primary fundraiser. Funds raised at the Banquet allow BUFF to continue to support important activities such as:

- Teaching children to fish at local pond events.
- **Casting for Recovery**, which provides no-cost fly-fishing retreats for women who have or have had breast cancer.
- **Reel Recovery**, which offers men in cancer recovery the healing benefits of fly-fishing.
- Regional conservation organizations, including the Little Miami Conservancy, Rivers Unlimited, Three Rivers Conservation Trust, Izaak Walton League, Anglers of the Au Sable, Mad River Chapter of Trout Unlimited, Ohio River Foundation, and the Mill Creek Alliance.
- Assisting with Butler and Clermont County River Clean-Up Days.



Registration & Tickets –

Registration is now open on the **BUFF website**, where you can purchase the meal and raffle tickets. *Attending requires purchase of the meal.*

- **Meal Tickets:** \$55 per person (includes appetizers, buffet dinner & dessert)
- **Grand Prize Raffle Tickets:** \$10 each
- **General Raffle Tickets:** \$5 each

Dinner Menu (Buffet Style)

| | |
|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Appetizers – Cheese & Crackers & BBQ Meatballs• Dinner Rolls & Butter• House Salad with dressings• Caribbean Sliced Pork Loin with pineapple-mango glaze and Jamaican jerk seasoning | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Grilled Salmon with Kentucky bourbon glaze• Tuscan Mashed Potatoes with parmesan• California Blend Vegetables• Double Chocolate Cake & Cheesecake• Coffee & Tea |
|---|---|

A cash bar will also be available. **We look forward to seeing you there!**

Registration deadline is March 3rd, You must pre-register to attend the banquet to attend. We need to provide Oasis with number of meals for their preparation before the event, and cannot accept walk-in registrations on the day of the event

2026 BUFF Banquet Donation Request

From Bryan Tudor

The Banquet Team is seeking donations of both fishing and non-fishing items as fundraiser raffle items at the Banquet.

Some great non-fishing donation ideas can include, but are not limited to -

- Store, Restaurant Gift Cards
- Museum or Theater Tickets
- Gift Certificates for Cooking, Craft, and/or Art Classes
- Home Décor Items
- Jewelry
- Artwork
- Lodging Certificates

Donations can be brought to the next general meeting (Wednesday, February 11th), or you can contact me (Bryan Tudor) at 513-827-5437 to arrange a convenient drop-off time and location.

Thank you, and I look forward to seeing you at the Banquet.

BUFF Fly Tying Classes

From Lane Stocker

I plan to change things a bit for our winter fly tying classes. All classes will be at the Springdale Community Center, starting at 6 PM and running until 8 – 8:30 PM

Final general topic class – Tuesday, February 3rd

- **Dry Flies** – my favorite fishing; there's nothing like watching a fish rise to and take a. fly you tied.

Beginners Fly Tying – Tuesdays, February 17th – March 10th

I'm going to change things up a bit with our beginning classes. I'm going to open the classes to everyone. Beginners will be tying larger sized flies, while those with more experience will have smaller sizes with "extras". Trust me; I'll make it challenging for the experienced tyer. For example, if we are tying an Adams, beginners will tie it in size 10, and those with experience, may be doing an 18 or 20! As usual, the more experienced tiers will be available to coach and help our beginner tiers.

Additional Classes -

Tuesday, Mar 17th **Articulated Flies** – Articulated flies look alive and are extremely effective for picky fish. We will be learning how to use shanks and mono/wire methods.

Tuesday, Mar 24th **Flies for White Bass Fishing** – This will get folks ready, and fly boxes stocked up for the white bass trips to Indiana. White with some weight gets you most of the way, but we will be adding some colors and flash to really get them biting.

Tuesday, April 14th **Flies for Bluegill & Bass** – Spawning season for bluegill and bass will be just around the corner, and this class will get you ready for them. Bully spiders and various other top water flies will be on the schedule.

Please register for individual classes on the BUFF Website. As always, all classes are free for BUFF members. I look forward to seeing you at the classes.

Regional Fly Fishing Shows

From: Ken Mandel

Following the Cincinnati Show on February 7th, there is another regional fly fishing show which occurs in early March. The Northern Ohio Fly Fishing Expo, hosted by North Coast Fly Fishers is on Saturday, March 7th, 2026 from 9:00 AM – 3:00 PM. Location is Lakeland Community College, 7700 Clocktower Dr., Kirkland, OH 44094. The program will include tying demonstrations from Lance Kekel and Gary Begley, and seminar presentations by Jeff Liskay (“Roadmap to Success on Steelhead Alley”), Kevin Ramsey (“Secrets of Northern Ohio’s Diverse Fishery”), Gregg Elefterin (“Euro Nymphing”), and Jerry Darkes (“Essential Flies for the Great Lakes Region”). More information on the show can be found at the North Coast Fly Fishers website – www.northcoastflyfishers.com.

BUFF will be present at the Cleveland show. We will have an exhibitor’s booth and a few members to share information and do tying demonstrations. The OH FFI chapter will also be at the shows. If you are interested in possibly attending as a BUFF volunteer, reach out to me, and someone will get back to you (Ken Mandel, kengmandel@gmail.com)

Vetted External Trips

From: Hugh O’Donnell

BUFF offers many trips for fly fishing. However, trips organized by organizations can offer even more opportunities for BUFF members to travel and fish together. The key to this opportunity is to find vetted trips, and select a common date for BUFF to attend. With this note, we are starting this process.

We are fortunate in that one of our members (and past NKFF president), Tim Guilfoile, has created trips to Wyoming and Michigan via negotiations with local boy scout councils. A good number of BUFF members have attended these trips in the past, and continue to do so. Another trip, announced last year, is an opportunity to fish in Montana on a trip organized by Western Kentucky University. For all these trips, sponsors have booths at the Fly Show in February. They can answer many questions for you. One thing I can add, is that all of these trips are quite affordable for the location and fishing opportunities.

As a club, we are selecting weeks to recommend for BUFF travel. These weeks do not conflict with BUFF trips. Below are the recommended weeks:

- **Week of May 26th** - Michigan Anglers' Base Camp is in Claire, Michigan. This is a scout facility with modern lodging and full food service. The location allows for a 30 to 75 minute drive to many classic and top-rated trout streams. For more information including costs and what is included in the week of fishing see the website - <https://michiganscouting.org/anglers-basecamp/>
- **Week of July 26th** – Wyoming Anglers' Base Camp near Cody, Wyoming. This is a primitive scout facility with full food service and transportation to local fishing streams. At this time, there are only 6 spots open. So, for a large group, the week of August 2nd may be more suitable. For more information including costs and what is included in the week of fishing see the website - <https://www.anglersbasecamp.org/>
- **Week of September 20th** – The WKU-hosted Montana trip is based in Missoula, MT. Lodging is local hotels. Fishing for four days via guided float trips is included in the package. Limited fishing experience is required. wku.edu/flyfishing/
- **October tbd** – Western Michigan Angler's Salmon Trip will be offered. Location regarding lodging and details, and dates will be announced later in the year.

If you have any questions, please ask (odonnellhj@gmail.com).

Leader Needed for 2026 After Work Outings

For the last few months we have put a notification in the newsletter seeking a club member to take over the role of organizing and leading the monthly 'After Work Fishing Outings'. Cari Vota, who has led this program for several years has stepped down. These are enjoyable and well-attended early-evening fishing events on local streams and ponds. They are easy to set up and lead.

These outings usually begin in April or May and continue into October (weather permitting). The club is still seeking a person or two to become the 'trip leader' for the outings. If no one steps up, they will not happen, and the club will lose a series of excellent local fishing events.

If anyone is potentially interested, they should contact Cari Vota (vota@zoomtown.com). Cari can answer any questions you may have and explain in detail what is involved.

BUFF on the Radio !

Back in November, Bob Miller, Donna Summers, and Ken Mandel recorded a promoting BUFF and the upcoming Cincinnati Fly Fishing Show. The program aired on WMKV-FM's "Spotlight", a local program covering topics of public interest in our area, on Friday, January 2nd. It re-aired last week as well. The program is now uploaded as a podcast which can be found on the station's website - www.WMKVFM.org. Click on

"Programs". On the drop-down menu click "WMKV Podcasts". Scroll down the screen to find "Spotlight", and click on the appropriate program date (January 2, 2026) to listen to the show.

On Friday, January 30th, Cari Vota will be doing a live program at WMKV. Cari will talk about fly fishing and the show with Carol Munday on "Outdoor Life". This airs at 1 PM on Friday, January 30th. It also is recorded and will be available as a podcast.



Fish Stocking News – or Lack Thereof

From: Ken Mandel

I've been looking at the Ohio DNR website. They list a spring schedule for rainbow trout stocking in regional lakes. These are adult (10 – 13") fish and are stocked for harvest. Stocking starts once ice is gone from the lakes, and this is usually by early-to-mid March. However, the DNR has not yet posted locations and stocking dates. Hopefully we will know this for next month's BUFFER.

Similarly, the KY Department of Fish & Wildlife Resources has not yet posted 2026 stocking dates either. This is due to the very cold and snowy weather we have been experiencing. They will post a schedule once weather improves to allow stocking.

Fall Stocking in Michigan

This past fall, the Michigan Department of Natural Resources worked hard to stock fish in waters across the state. The fall effort stocked seven different species at 76 locations throughout the state; with a total of almost 650,000 fingerling-size fish. The species stocked this fall included Atlantic salmon, brook trout, brown trout, lake trout, rainbow trout (Eagle Lake and steelhead strains), walleye and muskellunge.

Six state and three cooperative fish hatcheries work together to produce the species, strains and sizes of fish needed for stocking. The number and type of fish stocked vary by hatchery, as each facility's ability to rear fish differs due to water supply and temperature. In general, fish are reared in Michigan's state fish hatcheries anywhere from one month to 1.5 years before they are stocked. Most fish are stocked in

the spring. Fish stocked in the fall require less time and fewer resources to rear in hatcheries, and may adjust better to new environments as they are younger and more adaptable to change.

Numbers of fish by species were almost 165,000 rainbow trout, over 28,000 brook trout and 17,000 brown trout, over 41,000 walleye, almost 400,000 steelhead and about 3,000 muskellunge. The fish were placed in a range of rivers and lakes across the state. The photo is of a walleye fingerling.



Other Things of Interest

Roll Casting Technique

While few of us are likely to be fishing locally, unless one enjoys ice fishing, it is not too early to start working on and thinking about casting techniques. Here are two short videos, one from the Gink & Gasoline blog and another from the Orvis teaching pages that demonstrate and discuss the roll cast. The roll cast is essentially a forward cast made without doing a standard back cast. It is very, very useful and an critical cast to have in one's casting arsenal as it allows us to cast when there are obstructions behind us, so that a back cast is impossible. This is a situation we often find ourselves in when on a river or stream. We teach and practice this regularly in our fly casting classes and at our Wednesday AM casting gatherings. Even when one can do a back cast, a roll cast is sometimes easier to perform. An example may be when fishing with a guide from a boat, it can sometimes, even often, be easier to do a roll cast than working to bring your line over the boat and perhaps between yourself and the guide or another angler.

Here are links to the videos -

<https://www.ginkandgasoline.com/trout-fishing/make-better-roll-cast-video/>

<https://howtoflyfish.orvis.com/video-lessons/fly-casting/238-fly-fishing-roll-cast>

Change in Wyoming Fishing Rules for 2026

I also found this in the MidCurrent blog. As of January 1 of this year, Wyoming's Game and Fish Department is requiring all angling on North Platte River tailwaters to be limited to barbless hooks. The agency has been surveying fish in the region for hook damage. Over 20% of trout and over 70% of all fish surveyed show signs of damage from being previously hooked. Many of the fish showed damage that was considered potentially lethal. The increase in fishing pressure in the region almost assures that

all fish inhabiting the region are being caught multiple times. More detailed information is on their website at -

https://midcurrent.com/2026/01/18/77179/?utm_source=Klaviyo&utm_medium=email&_kx=0BaUBI6WvxFdAKcXjLtxwwRDXGvt-RQ6J96VaRlwEg.XGV5ju

Low Snowpack in the Rockies

Another article on this blog site discusses the potential impact that low snow levels in many western regions will have on fishing rivers in 2026. Satellite mapping data, indicate mid-January snow cover in many western regions was at its lowest levels since data began being recorded in 2001. It is not drought; there has been plenty of rain, but warm temperatures have meant that it has been rain, which enters and drains from the rivers. The usually expected snow pack acts as a reservoir to gradually supply water, as the snow pack melts, into the streams, and this is not happening. The central and southern Rockies are the most impacted by these conditions. The full article can be found at -

https://midcurrent.com/2026/01/15/what-the-2026-snow-drought-means-for-your-summer-fly-fishing/?utm_source=Klaviyo&utm_medium=email&_kx=0BaUBI6WvxFdAKcXjLtxwwRDXGvt-RQ6J96VaRlwEg.XGV5ju

Upcoming BUFF Activities

In-person activities require registration (online on club Website). Activities on water require signing our liability waiver

| <u>Trip/Activity & Location</u> | <u>Dates</u> | <u>Trip /Activity Coordinator</u> |
|---|--|-----------------------------------|
| Fly Tying Class “Dry Flies” Springdale Community Center Springdale, OH | Tuesday, February 3 rd 6:00 PM – 8:30 PM <i>Register on Website</i> | Lane Stocker |
| Greater Cincinnati Fly Fishing Show Oasis Conference Center Loveland, OH | Saturday, February 7 th 9:00 AM – 4:00 PM | Ken Mandel Tom Bachey |
| Ties, Lies & Pints The Monkey Bar & Grille Maineville, OH | Monday, February 9 th 6:30 PM – 9:00 PM | |

| <u>Trip/Activity & Location</u> | <u>Dates</u> | <u>Trip /Activity Coordinator</u> |
|---|---|-----------------------------------|
| BUFF Monthly Meeting Oasis Conference Center Loveland, OH | Wednesday, February 11 th 6:00 PM – 9:00 PM | Bob Miller |
| Beginners Fly Tying – Session 1 Springdale Community Center Springdale, OH | Tuesday, February 17 th 6:00 PM – 8:30 PM <i>Register on Website</i> | Lane Stocker |
| BUFF Board Meeting Springdale Community Center Springdale, OH | Wednesday, February 18 th 6:00 PM – 7:30 PM | Bob Miller |
| Ohio Fly Tying Guild | Friday, February 20 th 6:30 PM – 8:00 PM On line -Zoom Link | Gary Begley |
| Beginners Fly Tying – Session 2 Springdale Community Center Springdale, OH | Tuesday, February 24 rd 6:00 PM – 8:30 PM <i>Register on Website</i> | Lane Stocker |
| Beginners Fly Tying – Session 3 Springdale Community Center Springdale, OH | Tuesday, March 3 rd 6:00 PM – 8:30 PM <i>Register on Website</i> | Lane Stocker |

Directions to Oasis -

Take I-275 and exit at Wards Corner Road (Exit 54). Make the first right onto Loveland-Miamiville Road and follow this. The Oasis golf course will be on your left. At the Paxton Guinea Road crossing, turn left. The clubhouse/conference center and parking lot for the Oasis facility are on the left.

