

**NATS**  
**Southern Region Conference and Auditions**  
**Hotel Information for Nights of November 11-12-13, 2009**

Updated by Arthur Shearin on Tuesday, October 20, 2009

This is the final posting for this document.

I am pleased to report that Searcy has an adequate number of fairly-priced hotels and eating places to accommodate our NATS conference. The La Quinta opened earlier this month, and the Microtel will be open by October 26—both hotels in time for Harding's homecoming. Except for the Heritage Inn, and to guide those who use GPS, all of the hotels listed below are located at the intersection of Highway 67 and exit 46 (Race Street) in Searcy.

There are no blocked rooms as of this date. Also, now is the time to finalize your housing plans and cancel whatever rooms you won't need. Be sure to mention NATS when you call. Confirm the cancellation deadline of 6:00 p.m. for your day of arrival. All prices are listed with 13% tax included, so what you see below is what you'll pay.

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**The Heritage Inn (on the Harding campus)**  
**Telephone 501.279.4700**

In fairness to and support of Harding University, I offer and endorse our on-campus property.

The **Heritage Inn** is the on-campus conference center located 10 walking minutes from the Reynolds Center. It is fine for those who want to park once for the entire conference; it won't work if you have students to house and cart around. The Heritage Center is a beautiful building that will be the site of our chapter breakfasts and conference banquet. Rooms are attractive and well-maintained. Parking is close by. There is a limited number of four-person rooms. All rooms are non-smoking. The open-kitchen cafeteria and student center fast-food outlets are housed under the same roof. The Inn provides coffee and muffins for breakfast. One queen--\$90.40; one queen and one twin--\$90.40; two doubles--\$90.40; one king--\$97.18; two queens--\$101.70; suite (kitchenette, one queen, and sofa bed)--\$126.56. In my opinion, this is a convenient property with fair value for the money. Again, the number of four-person rooms is somewhat limited. Tel. 501.279.4700.

**Shinn Hotel Group**

**Best Western of Searcy; Comfort Inn and Suites; Holiday Inn Express and Suites**

Searcy is home to three hotels owned by the Shinn family of south Arkansas. My friend Don Starks handles marketing. I recommend all three hotels without reservation. All are relatively new properties. Unless otherwise noted, all feature the following: inside (hallway) entrances; clean and spacious rooms; all queen or king beds; a generally quiet atmosphere; indoor pools; exercise rooms; laundry rooms; hot breakfasts; free wifi in-room; limited and segregated smoking rooms; coffee pot, iron, and ironing board; flat-screen TVs

The **Best Western of Searcy (Tel. 501.279.9191)** (the former Holiday Inn Express, but now the Best Western of Searcy) is located on the northwest side of the Highway 67/exit 46 interchange.

It is newly renovated. Rooms are \$90.40, including 13% tax. It's a nice property and a safe choice, but has less lobby/dining room space compared to the other Shinn properties.

The **Comfort Inn and Suites (Tel. 501.278.9922)** is located on the southwest side of the 67/46 interchange, down the street and behind the Orr Toyota dealership and Dixie Cafe. This is an all-suites hotel. It has a large lobby. The big advantage to this property is that the sofa provides additional bed space (bedding under the cushions) for two; thus total room capacity for a two-bed room is six persons. This is an entirely non-smoking property. The TV is conventional tube—not flat screen (bummer!). The price is \$101.70, including tax. Remember that all of this hotel's rooms are suites; you get a hide-a-bed. Therefore the kings can be four-person rooms, and doubles can be six-person rooms.

The **Holiday Inn Express and Suites (Tel. 501.279.9991)** is Searcy's finest hotel, and it's brand new. It's on the northeast side of the interchange. Everything here is larger and grander (and of course, a bit more expensive). Still, it's priced reasonably. There is an in-house store (Charge items to your room if you like.) and a four-station business center. The pool and spa are outdoors. The cost is \$129.94, including tax. Also, there are larger suite/type rooms if you like to live large.

### **Hampton Inn**

The **Hampton Inn** is an older property that still is in good condition. The rooms provide a variety of combinations of beds and sofas. Some rooms have inside (hallway) entrances; these have full beds. The ones with queen beds have outside entrances. There is more evidence of smoking here than at the properties listed above, if this is a concern for you. It's a good property, but not in the same category quality and value-wise as the Shinn properties listed above. The Hampton is located on the northwest side of the interchange. The cost is \$101.70, tax included. Tel. 501.268.0654.

### **Microtel**

The **Microtel (501.268.1555)** opens on October 26. It is located on the northeast side of highway 67 and exit 46, next to the Holiday Inn Express and Suites. It's an excellent property. The hotel contains 71 rooms—16 singles, doubles (42), and suites, with all queen beds. Amenities include: Dream Well bedding, irons, ironing boards, hair dryers, coffee makers, safes (\$1.50), 32" flat-panel TVs, microwave and refrigerator in suites only, free local and long distance calls and wifi, hot expanded continental breakfast, fitness center, laundry (\$1.50), business center, interior corridors. No pool. A portion of the fourth (top) floor is smoking. Go to [microtelinn.com](http://microtelinn.com) to view a new and virtually identical Microtel in Columbus, GA. Prices with 13% tax are as follows: singles (1-2 persons) are \$79.10; doubles (3-4 persons) are \$90.40; suites (1 bed and full sofa sleeper) are \$101.70. You may reserve rooms now by calling and either speaking to or leaving a message with Betty, the local manager, at 501.268.1555. Don't call the national reservation number until October 26.

### **La Quinta**

The La Quinta is open and located on the northwest side of the 67/Race Street intersection and across the street from the Best Western. This is a smoke-free hotel. Amenities include: pool and hot tub (with restrooms) and large fitness room; refrigerator, microwave, wifi, 32" flat-screen TV; iron, hair dryer, coffee maker; laundry facilities on each floor. All beds have pillow-top mattresses. The rooms are as follows: 32 doubles (two queens); 19 king regulars (one king); 14 king deluxe (king plus sofa bed); and 6 king suites (includes a sofa bed in a separate area). They also have a limited number of two-room suites (king bedroom plus separate sofa bed living room) with shared large bath. The flat rate, including 13% tax, for all of these rooms is \$107.35. I recommend this property; I especially like the flat-rate approach and the variety of room choices. The best way to make a reservation today is to call the manager on his cell phone at 318.780.6655 on M-F between 9 and 5. The hotel number is 501.278.4200.

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Other hotels are close by just off Race Street or at exit 45; these include a Super 8, Rodeway Inn, and the Honeytree Inn. They aren't equal in quality and value to the ones listed above, but they would do in a pinch. If you don't act quickly, you might just wind up in one of these!

### **Restaurants**

There are numerous places to eat at Exit 46. Also, as you travel west from Exit 46 on Race headed toward campus, you'll find even more places. And from Exit 45 headed west toward campus on Beebe-Capps Expressway, Restaurants also are located along the south edge of campus as one heads west toward campus from exit 45.

### **Getting from Your Hotel to Campus**

While Race Street and Beebe-Capps Expressway (not really an expressway) are the principal routes from your hotel to campus, there are alternate and more stress-free routes to campus.

- From the Comfort Inn and Suites, hang a right onto S. Poplar, proceed to Park, and turn right. The Reynolds Center will be on your left just past Ganus Athletic Center.
- From the Hampton, Best Western, and La Quinta: Proceed south on Poplar through the light at Race and Poplar; continue south past Orr Toyota and the Comfort Inn to Park; turn right onto park and proceed to campus. The Reynolds Center will be on your left just past Ganus Athletic Center.
- From the Holiday Inn Express and Suites and the Microtel: Proceed south on Evans St. through the light at McDonald's; continue between Lowe's and Wal-Mart to East Line Road; turn right on East Line and proceed past the cemetery to the four-way stop at Park; turn right onto Park and proceed to campus. The Reynolds Center will be on your left just past Ganus Athletic Center.

