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Shawn Camp *Fireball* (Skeeterbit) As you may or may not know, I've been a gigging/recording roots-rocker for about 10 years or so, so I don't cotton to weak-ass country or half-baked heartache story songs. **Mr. Camp** is a dude I'd share the stage with any day of the week: former backing musician (fiddle, guitar, mandolin) with Trisha Yearwood, Alan Jackson, and Shelby Lynne and then a session ace for Guy Clark, Nanci Griffith, and John Prine after getting dumped by Reprise in the mid '90s, he's also written songs for Kenny Chesney, Tracy Byrd, and Randy Travis. *Fireball* isn't a masterpiece -- I'll reserve that for the masters (Waylon, Willie, Johnny, even Dwight) -- but this is one of the best releases I've heard out of Nashville in quite some time. The guitars snarl and twang, the backbeat drops like it's hot, and his vocals sit out front and clearly defined. "Fireball" starts things off just right, scootin' 'cross the dance floor. "Hotwired," "Would You Go with Me," and "Drank" are three more outstanding retro-forward tracks from a disc that boasts not a clunker in the lot.

Dusty Wright