



# HEAVEN'S LANDING

Like no Place on Earth

December 2014

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Party***

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## **Sleigh Bells Ring**

We welcome you this month to Heaven's Landing for the most festive evening of the year on Saturday, December 20th for the annual Heaven's Landing Christmas Party. If you haven't already made your reservations, don't delay. Contact Holly to reserve your seat at 706-982-5245 for this event that sells out each year.

We've had an amazing year filled with shared blessings. Heaven's Landing continues to grow with new owners and wonderful business partnerships. There is no end to the joy in our wonderful community.

Holiday splendor adorns the Heaven's Landing Clubhouse dining room and the finest gourmet meal is being catered by The Waterfall Club. The guest list is filling rapidly with outstanding friends, family, and guests. Santa is on his way, so come prepared with your list. Santa will arrive at 5 pm before dinner to hear your wishes!

## Thanksgiving Fun in the Sun!

One of the perks of living in a “fly-in” community is flexibility to conveniently “fly out”. So why then are they not called “fly-out” communities? We may have the answer!

This year Holly, Bella and Mike Ciochetti decided to “fly out” to Punta Cana for their annual Thanksgiving vacation. Located at the eastern tip of the Dominican Republic, Punta Cana is an internationally-renowned resort area with all of the sun, surf, sand and tropical scenery that one could possibly absorb during a weeklong vacation.

Heaven’s Landing property owners John & Susan Cokinogenis had told The Ciochetti’s about their earlier exploits into Punta Cana, with tantalizing tales of the area and the numerous resorts that are available there. From that point on, it became a goal for the Ciochetti’s to get there. Of course John has a Turbine Lancair IV-P that covers the ground at about 320 knots on a bad day. Making the trip in Mike’s Cessna 210 at 150 knots would be another story.

With a little guidance from a good friend, Jim Parker, who also happens to be the owner of [Caribbean Flying Adventures](#), it was soon made evident that flying the Cessna 210 to Punta Cana was not a big deal. A majority of this beautiful scenic flight was over the island chain of the Bahamas and the Turks and Caicos. The route offers abundant alternate airport options in the event of any need or emergency that may arise. The Ciochetti’s traveled with an eight-man life raft, supplied by HL owner, Peter Serodino, a newly purchased Personal Locator Beacon (PLB), a Satellite Phone, and Revere Life Vests from [Pilot Mall](#). Finally, the Ciochetti family registered with the Electronic Advance Passenger Information System (eAPIS) and filed an international flight plan, fired up the engine, and enjoyed the journey.

The over water part of the flight originated in Palm Beach (KPBI) and included a fuel stop and lunch break in Matthew Town, Great Inagua (MYIG). This would be the longest leg of the trip at roughly 492 nautical miles. The balance of the trip from Matthew Town to Punta Cana (MDPC) would be a comparative short hop of only 333 nautical miles. As forecast, the weather was perfect (aside from a headwind) and total flight time for both legs of the trip was 6.5 hours.

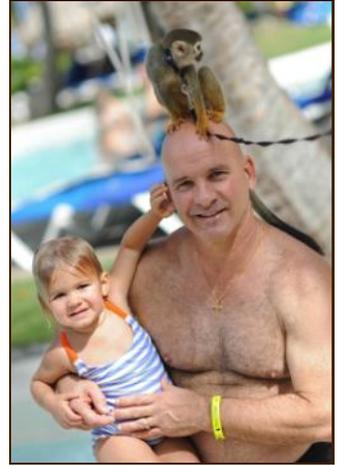


“Once we were in Punta Cana, the relaxation was on!” said Mike. “Holly made me turn off everything electronic for seven days which allowed us to relish our time together with Bella. No cell phone, no iPad, no laptop, nothing, but a camera!”

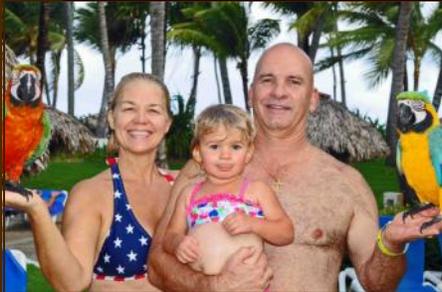
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## Thanksgiving—continued

The Ciochetti family stayed at the Bavaro Princess Resort, which they report, was exquisite and perfectly suited for families as well as couples of any age. Bavaro Princess is located right on a picturesque beach with snow-white powdered sand and features several pools. Reportedly, Bella spent a vast majority of her time perfecting her swimming. “At 23 months, Bella is already quite the fish!”, states Mike. The resort also features an ecological park with free-range tropical animals. Mike describes it filled with hundreds of peacocks, flamingos, herons, ducks, and egrets, numerous friendly rabbits, colorful frogs, and more turtles than one could ever imagine. Around the resort grounds, the personnel also brought macaws, monkeys, and iguanas for guests to enjoy.



“The patrons at the resort were very international, and we met and made several new friends from around the world. I don’t believe that we have ever been among a more eclectic group of people from such diverse nationalities,” Mike reports. The family met people from Germany, Russia, Poland, England, Canada, Brazil, Argentina, Columbia, and even a few from the U.S. Many other guests had children that bonded with Bella, Mike added, and once the children enjoyed one another’s company, it was only natural for the parents to follow suit. “One of my most precious memories will be the nightly mini disco for the kids,” Holly notes, “The children joyfully performed on stage with the resort entertainers. Bella couldn’t get enough of the great music and danced whenever she could even at the restaurants.”



The return flight was much faster (5.3 hour flight time) thanks to a tailwind, and clearing U.S. Customs in Palm Beach was a breeze. After spending a night in Stuart and having a nice dinner with their son, Taylor, and his fiancée, Meghan, the Ciochetti’s made the finally leg of the trip back to Heaven’s Landing on December 1<sup>st</sup>. “The joy of having a great time away is always punctuated most profoundly by being welcomed home to the beauty of Heaven’s Landing,” noted Holly. “There really is no place like home, and when we fly in and touchdown you experience a sense of peace. You reflect on the blessings of general aviation, the freedom to travel, and living in just as beautiful a place as you could ever visit anywhere.”

Therefore you see, the answer lies in that one delights in the flexibility to travel and “fly-out,” but the true gift is the ability to “fly-in” and enjoy! (See more photos page 9).



### Trump This!

Mike and Holly were in excellent company upon arrival at the Palm Beach International Airport (KPBI), sharing the ramp with “The Donald” and his \$100 Million private 757.

To see more of this luxurious private vehicle, you can view these links:

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=i3rKYynvSIs>
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UZq3iCn2y74>

### It's a Wonderful Life

The Ciochetti's trip is a perfect testimony as to the reason why living with your plane and living in the perfect hub of the Southeast, Heaven's Landing, would be anyone's ultimate dream. Hearing their tales of travel, relaxation, and the creation of cherished memories together brings to mind the season of thankfulness and a moment to count our blessings.

It is important to share what matters. Sharing your dreams. Sharing your travels. Sharing your thanksgivings. Know that Heaven's Landing is truly a community, and there is great joy in reading about your experiences or seeing a photo of your family or business. These are gifts one shares. Share with us anytime, any event, any photo. Share you joys and share your burdens. Because whether you are an owner, prospect, or guest, you are part of the family. Submit to [janclay@windstream.net](mailto:janclay@windstream.net).

The newsletter has covered a wide diversity of people who have shared some absolutely amazing stories, hobbies, and interests. We've experienced together weddings, life celebrations, parties, notoriety, fantastic partnerships, exciting events, adventures, and unending beauty.

Taking the above advice, I wish to share with you a little about who brings you the newsletter each month. Many of you have been so gracious and open to tell your stories to me and do me the honor of writing them in the profiles, so it is about time I pipe up and share a little about myself.

My name is Jan Nash, and I have been writing the Heaven's Landing newsletter for the past four years. I love to write about the place I moved to more than 20 years ago, a place I have grown more fond of each year, a place where people care, and a place where you are never far from what you need. I live in the Persimmon Community just a stones throw from the Heaven's Landing Airfield.

What is a "Community"? Well, I'm not technically sure, but I do know there are a number of them in the County. Places where one feels welcomed. Where the fresh air and sense of freedom couples with never traveling the roads without seeing a neighbor wave at you. This is a joy for I was born and raised in the Hollywood Hills of Los Angeles, California where one wouldn't naturally expect it, but I cherished the same values.

My husband and I with our two teenaged sons live in a creaky little farm house built about 75 years ago. We own enough land to walk for hours for which we love and cherish. We spend our free time hiking, whitewater boating, and enjoying the natural beauty of the county along with the ability to pop down to Atlanta for any additional entertainment that we desire.

I have been, among many other things, a teacher, a volunteer fight fighter, Director of Emergency Communication for the county, and involved in many, many, service organizations. I have two degrees from the University of Georgia (a degree in Journalism and a Masters in Middle School Education), and I wear too many hats to go into detail, so I'll spare you.

Before I married, I wondered how I would find my place in these mountains. Coming from a "West Coast" city lifestyle and surroundings, to the rural mountains of Northeast Georgia, but I did so flawlessly. Rabun County simply is unique in what it offers, and each time I drive down into my scenic valley or each time I take a moment to reflect on where I am, I delight that I'm among the joyful transplants that found such an amazing place to call home.

Know when you are here that you are home. You are never far from great beauty, great cultural events, even great luxuries people travel far to see. It truly is a wonderful life. Relish it when you are here. Rejoice when you return.



## Four Perfect Seasons

We are in the month for most of us to settle in, stoke the fire, (turn up the thermostat), and bundle up for the brief moments we venture outside. However, in and around Heaven's Landing we enjoy four rather perfect seasons with mild temperatures and an excitement that comes with each one's arrival. Winter in our neck of the woods is sprinkled with 60+ degree days that can be enjoyed like springtime. Yes, the 40's are plentiful but don't let the lower temperatures keep you at home. These are often sun-filled days well suited for outdoor and high activity. With a little layering of clothing, you will be very comfortable.

Winter hiking is a favorite for many, but having the right equipment is helpful. I would recommend good full-leather shoes with wool socks (even in summer), a sturdy reusable water bottle, and a set of good quality hiking/walking poles (all good Christmas list items). Winter hiking will offer you the best views of the year (and parking spots). It will keep the winter doldrums at bay and keep your cardiovascular system (and waistline) in top form.

### ***Crossing the Line***

This month's outing, we headed to Sumter National Forest, South Carolina. A scenic drive about 30 miles from Heaven's Landing and a great location for a lot of year round activity in and around the East Fork and Chattooga Rivers. We visited the Historic Russell House grounds, Burrell's Ford Campground, King Creek Falls, and Whitewater Falls on a leisurely afternoon. This area is located right on the Rabun County, Georgia and Oconee County, South Carolina border (the state line is the Chattooga River). There are so many things you can do around this area, so feel free to choose-your-own-adventure based on your party's interests. We hope to explore more of the area in the coming months.

*The Russell Farm Historic Site— (About 17 miles from Clayton).* At first glance, this may not look like an awesome stop, and if you have a teen with you, you might get a hesitation and rolling of the eyes, but, take a moment and be rewarded with a wealth of history. The Forest Service is actively working to reclaim the homestead area, and as they progress, they have discovered and begun to uncover, what was long before, a Cherokee settlement (perhaps we can explore more of this in the near future). Winter is definitely the time to visit with no fear of slithery residents or thick or poisonous vegetation. The farm's outbuildings still stand, to a degree, but the Russell House, built in the 1880's was lost to arson in 1988. The home served as an Inn for travelers who headed to their summer retreats in Highlands, North Carolina at the turn of the previous century. Many wealthy South Carolinians journeyed by rail to Walhalla, SC only then to endure two days on the stage coach over remote terrain to retreat to the cool summers in Highlands. The Russell House found itself in the perfect location (in the middle of nowhere) to provided much needed accommodations.



*Burrells Ford Campground—*A great spot for anglers, a picnic, hiking, and for those who enjoy primitive camping. After parking in the parking lot there is a ¼ miles walk into the campground. There are many great sites. Many are nicely wooded and private. The most sought after are along the Chattooga River. The sites are free and open year round. (For those who enjoy more camp amenities, see [Cherry Hill Campground](#) a few miles away.)



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## Seasons—continued

**King Creek Falls**—Signs in Burrells Ford Campground will direct you to King Creek Falls (off the [Foothills Trail](#)). The Rhododendron lined trail is only .5 miles and is an easy excursion with a spectacular waterfall at the end.



There is so much more you can do here including [Ellicott's Rock](#), [Spoonauger Falls](#), [Walhalla State Fish Hatchery](#), and [Pigpen and Licklog Falls](#).

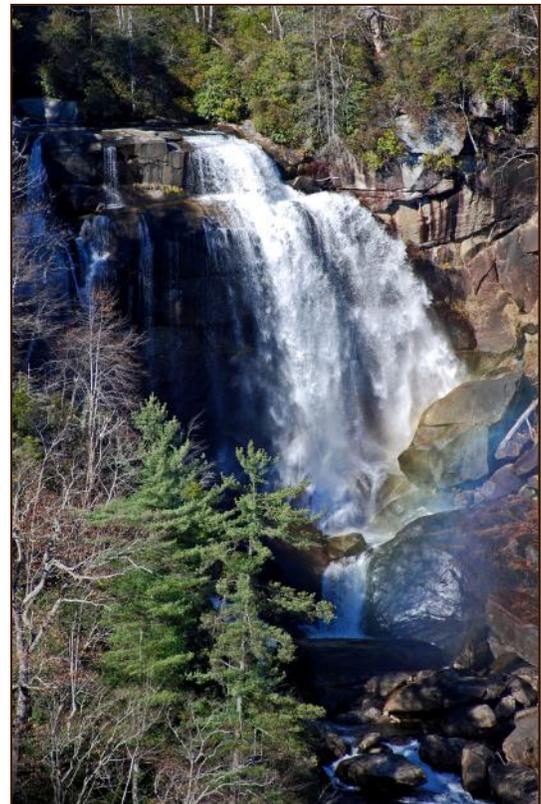
**Whitewater Falls**— This stunning fall is the highest waterfall east of the Rockies at 811 feet! And it will not disappoint. Take a winter picnic for the parking area, toss a ball or Frisbee before walking up the 1/4 mile paved trail. There are two viewing areas. The first is at the end of the pavement and the second is down several flights of stairs. (\$2 parking fee.)

### Getting there from Clayton, GA

**Russell Site:** Take Warwoman Road (beside Ingles Market) about 14 miles. Turn right on to SC Hwy 28. Continue another 3 miles and the site and marker is on the right. There is a parking area on either side of the road.

**Burrells Ford:** From the Russell Farm *back track* on Hwy 28 for about two miles. Turn right onto FS Road 646 which will become Burrells Ford Road. Continue about 6 miles until you see the Burrells Ford Campground Parking Lot.

**Whitewater Falls:** Continue northeast up Burrells Ford Road for about 3 miles. Turn left on State Road 107 and continue for 4 miles. Turn right on State Road 37-413 for 2.2 miles and turn left onto SC State Road 130/Whitewater Falls Road for 1 miles. There is very good signage. The parking lot is on the right.



**This is just the upper portion of the falls at 411 feet. You have the full view of the entire 811 foot falls at the lookout.**

## ~ Holiday Events ~

### **Tallulah Falls Tree Lighting ~ December 5**

Enjoy a festive Friday evening in Tallulah Falls. Bring an item for the potluck held at the Town Hall starting at 6pm. Then enjoy a hayride, a visit with Santa and a bonfire. Tallulah Falls has the only "floating" tree—anywhere!

### **Toys for Tots ~ December**

Toys for Tots are actively collecting new unwrapped toys for area children. Volunteer or donate by following this [link](#). The Franklin, North Carolina Chapter covers Rabun County, GA. Or you can drop your donations by the Charity Lane route or in area stores with displays.

### **Charity Lane and Christmas Store~ December 5, 6 & 7 ; 12, 13, & 14**

A wonderful idea started three years ago, Charity Lane is a festive drive along Wolfork Valley in Mtn. City. Donations of \$10 or more are asked per car at the start and the proceeds go to numerous local charities. You'll enjoy 7 miles of light displays open for two weekends 5:30-11:30 pm. Remember your Toys for Tots donation. The Christmas Store at Dillard United Methodist Church will be open Dec. 5 & 6 and 12 & 13 from 5:30-9:00 pm.

### **Rabun County Christmas Parade ~ December 6**

Main Street Clayton is shining bright with holiday cheer. Bring the entire family for the annual Christmas Parade, "My Hometown Christmas". Find a spot anywhere along Main Street and enjoy the over 35 entries. Begins about 5pm.



# Merry Christmas

### **Battle for Black Rock ~ December 6**

Challenge yourself to run off that Thanksgiving turkey high over Clayton, GA! This is a 12 or 36 mile race in and around Black Rock State Park held after the park closes for the winter. A head lamp is required with race starts right before a spectacular sunrise. Race times are 6 am (36 miles) and 8 am (12 miles). See [Run Bum Tours](#) for details.

### **Christmas in the Mountains Variety Show~ December 13 & 14**

Come get that Christmas spirit on December 13 at 7 pm & 14 at 3pm at the Dillard Playhouse. Adults are \$10 and children under 12 are \$5. Presented by the [North Georgia Community Players](#).

### **Once Upon a Christmast~ December 19 & 20**

Once Upon a Christmas is a musical celebration of song, dance and story which brings to life many of the traditions of the joyous holiday season. Held at the [Smoky Mountain Center for the Performing Arts](#) with over 100 performers and crew, this live stage show will remind us all that the true spirit of Christmas comes from faith, family and the wonderful memories of years past. Presented by Betsy's School of Dance and the Overlook Theatre Company. The show begins at 7 pm. Tickets are \$10.

See [ExploreRabun.com](#) for complete details of all local events.

## Heaven's Landing Concierge Services

**Heaven's Landing Concierge Services** is on call for our truly unique and mobile owners. The Heaven's Landing staff is pleased to provide clients with a vast array of services.

Please call the office at **706-212-0017** for pricing information and other consultations. Please note that due to offering a vast array of services to our owners, all requests for assistance will be billed at a pre-arranged fee.



Some of our commonly requested services include the following:

- |                                    |                                 |
|------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Interior Cleaning                  | Receiving Packages              |
| Holding Postal Mail                | Scheduling Party Staff          |
| Receiving Service Personnel        | Scheduling Maintenance Services |
| Receiving Furniture and Appliances | Landscaping                     |
| Lot and Yard Maintenance           | Tree Removal                    |
| Shopping                           | Window Washing                  |
| Pressure Washing                   | Gutter Cleaning                 |
| Alarm/Security Checks              | Transportation Needs            |



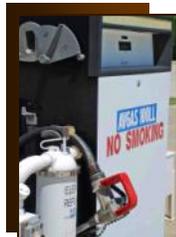
## Building Resources

- [The Engineer/Designer](#)—Ken Risley; Specializing in Hanger Homes. Enjoy his [blog](#) on Heaven's Landing.
- [Montana Log Homes](#)— One of the nation's best know and premier hand-crafted log home manufactures. Builder of Tom and Jan Nasser's fantastic Heaven's Landing home.
- [Pioneer Log Homes](#)— Enjoy a fun new series, [Timber Kings](#), on The Discovery Channel featuring Pioneer Log Homes, out of British Columbia, Canada in action. Saturday's at 10 pm (E/T).

## Quick Links

- **Weather Link.** Stay up to date on the Clayton, GA weather conditions and forecast from [NOAA](#).
- **Heaven's Landing Facebook Page:** ["Heaven's Landing Residential Airpark."](#)
- **Marina and Boating Information:** [Anchorage Boat Rentals](#) at 706-212-0534 or [LaPrades Marina](#) at 706-947-0010.
- **Local Events and Information:** [Rabun County Chamber of Commerce](#) and [Rabun County Visitors Bureau](#).
- **Facebook "Likes"** - Exploring the back woods: [Waterfall of Western North Carolina](#), [Waterfall and Back Roads of North Georgia](#), and [The Wayward Traveler](#).

## Airfield Fuel Prices



### Self Serve Pumps

AV GAS	\$6.15/ gal*
JET A	\$5.30/gal*

\*Prices Subject to Change.



Prices as of December 1, 2014





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