Like no Place on Earth

December 2010

AOPA Summit 2010

Rounding out an active year of aviation expos, AOPA’s Aviation Summit 2010 left Heaven’s Landing’s Mike and Holly Ciochetti truly excited for the coming year!

The upbeat three day annual Summit was held at the Long Beach Convention Center, in Long Beach California, November 11-13. The show opened with AOPA President Greg Fuller’s address entitled, “Preserving our Future.” He emphasized the importance of helping and supporting new pilots and called for the continued efforts to strengthen the General Aviation community.

This keynote theme was just another reason to feel energized. The fostering of camaraderie among pilots and aviation enthusiasts is exactly what Mike and Holly have worked to establish in the Heaven’s Landing community with a year filled with fly-in Saturdays and events hosted at the Clubhouse.

Despite the Summit being held on the West Coast, Mike reports that it was a great venue to showcase the beauty of the East. “It was a productive show and many prospects visited with us.” Mike states, “We not only are anticipating western visitors to join us for a tour of the property, but we are also thrilled with the notable people we met during the convention.” Holly enjoyed meeting with and extensively talked to a film cinematographer who anticipates seeing our North Georgia Mountains for himself with his wife.

By far, the most personal and memorable contact, was when Mike and Holly met U.S. Marine Sergeant Michael Blair, a veteran who was severely wounded during his second tour of Iraq in 2006. “He is an extraordinary man,” states Mike, “It was such an honor to meet him... Sgt. Blair is a shining example of the heroic men and women who are protecting our freedom. We can’t wait to see him again.”

-Read more about Sgt. Blair on page 2.

Holly and Mike were delighted with a surprise visit from Holly’s Uncle Ted Taylor who lives in the Long Beach area.
Rising Above—Sgt. Michael Blair

Seeking a meaningful way to promote the ‘Fun to Fly’ Remos GX Light Sport Aircraft, AOPA Pilot Magazine Senior Editor David Hirschman developed a brilliant plan. His idea would ultimately touch many lives, as well as, allow for yet another astonishing accomplishment for U.S. Marine Sgt. Michael Blair.

AOPA approached Veterans Airlift Command (VAC) to locate a willing wounded warrior with “zero flight experience,” who would be offered the challenge of LSA flight training in the Remos. VAC founder Walter Fricke, recommended Sgt. Michael “Bulldog” Blair.

In 2006, Michael suffered devastating injuries to both of his legs from an IED during his second tour in Iraq. Since that fateful day, he has endured over sixty surgeries. The steadfast desire to save his legs, beat the odds of recovery, and rise above and beyond for his family are inherent qualities that make Michael an inspiration, a fascinating guest speaker, and the perfect recipient of AOPA’s offer.

Training to become a pilot, Michael reports, was a dream come true and on his “to do list.” Michael stated during an AOPA interview, “I can’t see myself failing, as long as I put the effort into it.” David Hirschman confirms that Michael is truly a “Bulldog” and makes any instructor look good.

This spirit and drive has also allowed him to receive and embrace many other opportunities along his road to recovery. A few of Michael’s current activities include kayaking, scuba, horseback riding, and hand cycling.

After a great checkride in June 2010, Michael can now include “pilot” on his growing list of outstanding achievements. At the AOPA Summit in Long Beach a few weeks ago, he said he looks forward to earning his private license and really enjoys being a part of the flying community—one that he has found to be unique and very friendly.

Heaven’s Landing December Highlights

You are invited! Join us for two great December events.

Mark your calendar for the last “Lunch in Heaven” fly-in of the year on Saturday, December 4th. The barbecue lunch will be begin at 11:30 am. at the Clubhouse.

All Heaven’s Landing owners and their guests are invited to the annual Heaven’s Landing Christmas Party at the Clubhouse on Saturday December 11th at 7 pm. R.S.V.P. today at 800-HEAVEN 2.
Rabun County Business Park—A Successful Venture

Kurt Cannon is the owner of Rabun Builders, Inc, a former candidate for Georgia State Representative, and a past President for the Home Builders Association of Georgia. With his impressive resume, he was a natural choice for chairperson of the Business Development Task Force (BDTF). A group charged with the responsibility to further business development in Rabun County.

Early in 2010, the Rabun County Development Authority asked Kurt to initiate a plan and seek out members for this Task Force. Kurt gathered community leaders with industrial business expertise and those with a true sense of the needs facing Rabun County. In just a few months, the team has made dramatic progress with their proactive approach to business development, as well as, continuing to achieve great successes in securing jobs and establishing future opportunities for the county.

With networking and the collective experience of the team, the first business prospects began to come to the table. It was the skill of meeting companies’ needs, creating a positive economic environment for which to operate, keeping open effective communication, and maintaining negotiations, that lead to some amazing successes in a short amount of time. Finding that several local manufacturers had a need for storage space, and one local company, with 25 years of operations in Rabun, was ready to expand their current operations but also needed the right facility for their future goals, were welcome issues the BDTF faced.

The most obvious parcel of real estate in Rabun County for the Task Force to pursue was the empty Fruit of the Loom plant off Kelly’s Creek Road in Rabun Gap (3 miles NE from Heaven’s Landing). Within months, through skillful negotiations, a lot of hard work, and the sale of 16 million dollars in bonds, the Rabun County Business Park began to take shape.

On November 17, the Business Park held an open house and ground breaking ceremony. Over 300 attended the event and toured the facility. The 971,905 square foot complex will soon be 27% occupied. An aggressive refurbish and renovation plan is underway, and the facility will be completed with local contractors and craftsman by April 2011.

The newest tenant is Gap Partners, Inc., a sheet metal fabricator. Their move to the Park will allow the company to expand with a new product line along with additional equipment. It was the combination of the right incentives and space that allowed the company to make this move and develop a clear plan for their future growth. Gap Partners currently has fifty employees and anticipates adding forty new positions in the next few years. They join the Parks existing tenants, Parkdale, Multitrade, and Gibbs Int’l.

The BDTF have met their initial goals and have clearly outlined strategies for the continued success in attracting businesses to Rabun. They report that as many as 5 new prospects are being courted. For additional information on opportunities at the Rabun Business Park, please contact Sean Brady the Development Executive Officer at info@rabunbusinesspark.com.

[The Rabun Business Park] represents a 971,905 square-foot multi-company park all under one roof, with an additional 20,000 square feet of office space and 96 acres available on its campus for future expansion. Each company enjoys its own independent location, with parking, shipping, and office areas along with full access control to its space. Rents can be significantly discounted at the Development Authority’s discretion based on a company’s creation of new full-time jobs and/or investment in equipment.
What's Happening in Heaven...

Around the Bend– Area Performing Arts

Although the Southern Blue Ridge Mountains are hundreds of miles from Broadway, it is home to a remarkable selection of performing arts. From Shakespeare in Asheville, North Carolina to dinner theater in Helen, Georgia, you will not go wrong choosing among the talent-filled productions generated in these hills. The heart and passion of local performances must spur from the dedication of the volunteers. They are people who have day jobs, but feel so ardent about performing, they devote countless hours for rehearsal and behind the scene planning, creating and designing.

The two closest theater companies are Rabun County’s own North Georgia Community Players (NGCP) and Franklin, North Carolina’s Overlook Theatre Company (OTC). The two groups share similar modest beginnings. Overlook began in 1996, performing in the Franklin High School Auditorium, and NGCP began as a Drama Ministry at Clayton First United Methodist Church in 2000. Both troupes worked tirelessly to fund raise in order to support their aspiring missions. Over the years, they have been supported by those who witness their talent and share the passion for great theater. With props and costumes collected along the way, it was the goal to find a permanent location to call home that became the significant turning point for the companies.

The NGCP found a mutually beneficial venue at the Dillard City Hall—great for the City and great for the players. The old schoolhouse building has a wonderful auditorium completely renovated by NGCP through grants and donations. The OTC moved to a state of the art facility, the Smoky Mountain Center for the Performing Arts, where they exclusively perform.

Productions run the entire spectrum of the arts and both groups average about 3-5 a year. Auditions are open to anyone with aspirations and back stage volunteers are always welcome. Heaven’s Landing’s Mike Ciochetti Sr. has performed in community theater since the sixties and for the NGCP since the year it began. With the decades of varied experiences and with a wide range of parts, Mike Sr. recalls playing the ballet instructor in NGCP’s You Can’t Take it with You as the “most fun!” Mike has no plans to give up auditions, so you might find stiff competition for parts! Rest assured that with any endeavor, talent will get you “in,” but simply joining the fun by being involved is another surefire way to “work your way to the top.”

Other area performing arts:

- Rabun Gap Nacoochee Cirque, Rabun Gap, GA (Each Feb.)
- Habersham Community Theater, Clarksville, GA
- Highlands Cashiers Players, Highlands, NC
- Montford Park Players, Asheville, NC

**Editor’s note:** I had the pleasure to attend a production from each company during November, and they were outstanding. The OTC’s Jekyll and Hyde was so well polished we could not believe they were not a touring group with high dollar production materials, and NGCP’s annual children’s play, Jungle Book, left everyone smiling and overjoyed with the area’s young talent.
**Upcoming Events**

**Heaven’s Landing Events:**

**Heaven’s Landing Fly-Ins**

You do not want to miss our last fly-in of 2010 on Saturday December 4th. Join us. Tours are available all day with food served from 11:30 a.m. until 2 p.m. RSVP today at **800-HEAVEN 2**. In the event of rain, fly-ins will be rescheduled the following day (Sunday).

**Heaven’s Landing Christmas Party**

All Heaven Landing’s owners and their guests are invited for a wonderful holiday party at the Clubhouse; 7 p.m.

**Heaven’s Landing New Years Party**

Ring in the New Year with the community at the Heaven’s Landing Clubhouse.

**Area Events:**

**Piedmont College 22nd Lessons and Carols**

Service begins at 7:30 pm both days at the Piedmont College Chapel in Demorest, Ga.

**Rabun County Christmas Parade**

Downtown Clayton 5-7 pm.

**“It’s a Wonderful Life”**


**Rabun County Christmas Tour of Homes**

All proceeds for this event benefit the Rabun United Christmas Fund. This year’s tour features six stops with refreshments and silent auction. Contact Rabun County Board of Realtors for tickets, 706-782-7751.

**Clayton First United Methodist Church**

All are welcome to join our beautiful Cantata, “Canticle of Joy” at the 11 o’clock service.


Raffle tickets cost $100 which includes one entry to the reverse raffle worth up to $10,000, steak dinners for two, drawing for door prizes, and live entertainment. Join local builders and subcontractors for this fun filled Christmas party at the Kingwood Golf Club and Resort.

**Oak Ridge Boys**

Smoky Mountain Center for the Performing Arts. Tickets are $25 available at [www.greatmountainmusic.com](http://www.greatmountainmusic.com).

**Other Christmas Events in Rabun:**

Dec. 3

- The Hometown of Tallulah Falls presents a holiday celebration. Floating tree lighting, Santa, and hayrides. Bring a covered dish to share! 5–7 pm.
- Dillard Christmas Tree Lighting from 5-7 pm. Caroling, Santa, door prizes, and food and refreshments.
- Smoky Mountain Christmas Concert with Archie Walkins. Smoky Mountain Center for the Performing Arts at 7:30 pm; $15.

Dec. 3-5

- Nutcracker Ballet 2010 performed by Betsy’s School of Dance and the Rabun Gap Dancers. Adults $10, children 12 and under $5; 828-369-7209.

Dec. 4

- Christmas in Tallulah Gorge. Starting at 1 pm at the Jane Yarn Hurt Interpretive Center. Join the fun with Santa, activity stations, story time, music, and snacks.

Dec. 11

- Christmas Tree Lighting at Vogel State Park. Activities begin at 4:30 pm with hayrides, caroling, Santa, bonfires, a toy drive, and hot chocolate and cider!
What's Happening in Heaven...

Heaven's Landing newsletter readers are invited to take advantage of the following discount offer:

**AVIATIONAUTOGRAPHS.COM OFFERS 20 PERCENT DISCOUNT TO EAAERS**

Aviationautographs.com is offering an exclusive **20 percent discount** on all items to EAA members. Simply enter "EAA" in the Coupon Code field on the checkout page, click apply, and the 20 percent discount is applied to all items in your shopping cart.

The discount also applies to special sale items, including signed limited edition numbered prints, such as Ray Waddy's *Double Trouble* and Harley Copic's *Into the Unknown* and others - in effect providing a 40 percent discount.

Go to [http://www.aviationautographs.com](http://www.aviationautographs.com) for all your holiday needs.

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**Our Community**

- **Wi-Fi** is now available at the Clubhouse. Stay connected with your personal devices as you enjoy the amenities.
- **What’s New with You?** Share photos and stories of what is new in your flying circles. Please send submissions to janclay@windstream.net. (All submissions are subject to editing and the evaluation of content.)
- **Go Green!** Please update your contact information with our office at 706.212.0017 or sales@heavenslanding.com and make sure we have your latest email address, so you will stay informed.
- **Stay in Touch.** Join us on Facebook, “Heaven’s Landing”.
- **Let us Know About Your Aviation Groups.** Give the office a call and share what groups and organizations you belong to, the website address, and the organization’s contact information. (800) HEAVEN 2.

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**Heaven’s Landing Services**

**Private Pilates Instruction**

Our very own Holly Macaulay is now offering private instruction in Pilates, the exercise program that builds flexibility, strength, and endurance without adding bulk. With over two years of instruction experience, Holly specializes in beginner and intermediate levels. Call her at 706.982.5245 to set up an appointment to work out in our beautiful Clubhouse.

**Heaven’s Landing Concierge Service**

We offer the finest, personalized, and professional services to meet your needs. Whether it's scheduling a trustworthy service to clean your home, picking up groceries, or keeping up with routine maintenance, Heaven’s Landing Concierge Service will maintain your property, so you can fully enjoy your Heaven’s Landing home. Please contact our office for an estimate: 706.212.0017 or sales@heavenslanding.com.

*Work with someone you know and trust.*

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**Our Current Fuel Prices**

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*Prices Subject to Change. Prices as of October 1, 2010*
Heaven's Landing

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