

HEAVEN'S LANDING



Like no Place on Earth

January 2015

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Another Spectacular Year

Closing out the year fills us all with joyful reflections as we count the blessing of the past and look forward to an even brighter future.

It is not an easy task to pinpoint or highlight what makes our community continue to grow and prosper year after year, but we have a sense that it is about a beautiful balance. It is one with the perfect combination of natural beauty, a hard working team of dedicated partners, and the innate desire to be free...to be airborne even when your feet are on the ground. This describes the essence of Heaven's Landing, and why it has been another year of welcoming new owners, new opportunities, and rejoicing in continued success.

"May All Your Christmases Be Merry and Bright!"



*The guests were dressed
in their holiday best.
Awaiting Santa to fly in
And take a well deserved rest.*



*The red cheeked gent strode in with great mirth
Greeted by young and old in celebration of Christ's birth.
All good souls made his list without a doubt
Great family photos were taken and whispered dreams all sorted out.*



*The gourmet feast was delectably exquisite
With a choice of glazed turkey or roasted brisket.
What a truly marvelous catered affair
Prepared by chefs at The Waterfall Club with impeccable flair.*



*All through the eve, under garland donned rafters
Stories were shared with great hearty laughter.
We delighted in friendships some old and some new
And finally parted with wishes of blessings and skies of clear blue.*



*Merry Christmastide
from our family to yours!*

Bright Futures—December Military Graduates



Parents Steve and Michelle Black are overjoyed to announce the graduation of their oldest son, **Thaddeus "Tadd" Black** from the University of North Georgia (Dahlonega, Georgia) at the commencement ceremony held December 13, 2014. Tadd graduated as a Distinguished Honor Graduate in International Affairs with a concentration in the Middle East. The DHG is awarded to the top 20% of cadets in the country.



On the previous day, December 12, Tadd was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant in the United States Army by Marine Major Carlos Cruanes, a dear friend of the Black family. Tadd's extended family and girlfriend, Chrissy Crockett watched as Tadd was sworn in and took the oath to serve. His mother Michelle and Chrissy pinned on Tadd's shoulder boards. The honored tradition of First Salute was performed by Tadd's grandfather, Mike Ciochetti, Sr. The First Salute is often commemorated by presenting a silver dollar as a remembrance. Tadd selected two silver dollars dated 1991, the year of his birth, to present to his grandfather and to his father Steve.



On January 24, Tadd will be stationed at Ft. Huachuca, Arizona for 4 months.



Jori Walan, daughter of Mary Jo Walan and the late Joseph Walan, graduated Cum Laude from Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University, Florida with a bachelor's degree in Research Meteorology on December 15, 2014. Jori has also been named Cadet of the Year and Superior Performer for AFROTC. She is the cousin of Mike Ciochetti, Jr.



Jori's commission ceremony was held at Ponce De Leon Inlet Lighthouse on December 14, and she was sworn in by Major Todd Tracy. "The lighthouse is dear to me and my family," noted Jori, "We shared many great vacations there together as I grew up." Jori's loving family witnessed and were honored participants in the commissioning ceremony. For the First Salute, Jori selected her brother, Army Private Joseph Walan. She presented Joseph with a silver dollar dated 2014 to commemorate the year of her commission. Jori's shoulder bars were pinned by her two 1/2 brothers, Jeffery and Jason Kozik and her brother Joseph Walan.



Jori is to report to Kessler Air Force Base in Biloxi, Mississippi by March 5, 2015 where she will attend Weather Officer Training for six months. Jori will then be stationed at Shaw Air Force Base in Sumter, South Carolina. After which, Jori hopes to attend Jump School for weather support.



Heaven's Landing extends our deepest appreciation and gratitude for these two absolutely extraordinary young people who have committed their lives and careers in service to our country.

Celebrating Birthdays

Out and about celebrating your birthday? Share your photos! Whether you are in town or on another continent, send a photo of your special day to janclay@windstream.net.

Holly Ciochetti celebrated her birthday on December 8, with an incredible meal at [Fortify Kitchen and Bar](#) after spending the day with family!



Bella Ciochetti celebrated her 2nd birthday on December 11, with a party at the Heaven's Landing Clubhouse with wonderful friends and family.



Locally Grown



Did you know that winter is another great growing season in Georgia? Your access to locally grown organic vegetables, herbs, grains, meats, and honey, as well as products like breads, pastries, soaps, and seeds is just a click away.



The [Northeast Georgia Locally Grown Market](#) is just that—an online market where you can shop and browse the available goods all weekend before placing your order. The Market is open all winter from Friday night starting at 9 pm until close Monday 9 pm. The website allows anyone to see what is available each week, but to order you must create an account. Creating an account is easy. The user-friendly website takes you through this process. There is an annual membership fee of \$20. Orders are compiled and available for pickup each Wednesday from 5 - 6:30 pm at 63 Mill Gap Lane at Mill Gap Farms in Tiger, GA (2 miles south of Clayton off of South Main Street).



Winter Hiking II—Get Out and Feel Alive this Winter

If you haven't discovered it already, just about any day is a perfect day for a hike when you have the appropriate gear, and the Heaven's Landing area is teeming with amazing trails. There is always something different to see and the payback is great (my top two are, you get a cardio workout while not even knowing it and you spend amazing quality time with friends and loved ones).



Backing this premise is the fact that the weather pattern this winter has been amazingly pleasant with day time temperatures around 50 degrees with plenty of beautiful sunshine. The National Weather Service forecast shows no noticeable weather patterns to disrupt this trend. Grab your boots, water bottle, hiking stick, and appropriate synthetic clothing layers and load up the car with your good neighbors and head for the woods. No matter your age or your ability, there is a trail out there that will suit you, so no excuses, get ready for adventure. A little [research online](#) will find a trail for you, this link gives you the freedom to search by trail name, county, city, etc. There are plenty of hikes within minutes from Heaven's Landing that are "easy" if you are just starting out or strenuous if you are a serious hiker. Trails are ranked by difficulty in guide books and on most website descriptions. Ratings are based on trail length, grade change, elevation, and obstacles.

Hiking is "in" and it isn't surprising to find that [America's State Parks](#) offer hundreds of New Year's Day hikes, called First Day Hikes, which are ranger lead all across the county. If you missed starting the New Year out "right", rest assured area State Parks offer great trail guides year round with very helpful eager rangers to make suggestions. Check out the website above for State Parks found around Heaven's Landing or where ever you spend your time.



Hiking Gear Resources:

[Reeve's Hardware](#), Downtown, Clayton, GA. (Local; inventory might be seasonal)

[Sierra Trading Post](#) (Great coupons offered all the time. See [retailmenot.com](#).)

[R.E.I.](#) (Almost as much fun shopping online as it is in the stores. Closest store locations to Heaven's Landing are Greenville, SC, Asheville, NC, and Buford, GA.)

Trail Must Haves (What you should have gotten for Christmas):

1. Comfortable Boots—Nice to go to a brick and mortar store to at least try on shoes before you decide. Read this link to learn [how to choose?](#)
2. Light Daypack— A book bag will do nicely, for trail food, water bottle and your camera, but if you want "bells and whistles" checkout the outdoor outfitter stores.
3. Reusable Water Bottle— Get one that holds at least 20 oz. and is light weight.
4. Trekking Poles— Read descriptions to find the ones that are sized for you. Some are very compact with shock cord or telescoping closures. Provide great support for any path but especially steeper terrain.

CAUTION ADVISED: Know your limits. No matter the time of year use good judgment and planning for your time out hiking. Know the weather forecast 24 hours beyond your hiking timeframe. Research the area you hike and be acquainted with known dangers. Inform someone, not in your party, where you are going and your itinerary. Many trails in the region have limited, to no, cell phone service.



Great Family Time

On December 27, Holly and her sisters enjoyed a day out at [High Shoals Falls Trail](#) near Helen, GA. This 2.7 mile roundtrip hike is an easy to moderate trail with two great waterfalls.

Opossum Creek Trail— Difficult

[Opossum Creek Trail](#) on the Chattooga River is a fantastic winter hike for the active family. The trail offers wonders all year round and alternate routes and destinations can be chosen based on how much adventure you are up for once you make it to the river.

Opossum Creek Trail is located near Long Creek, South Carolina, and is a 2.8 mile (one way) in and out trail that will have you hiking down into the Chattooga River gorge. The trail is easy to drive to with ample parking and not very far from Clayton.

Most guide books rank the Opossum Creek Trail as “difficult”. Difficulty is somewhat in the eye of the beholder, so read the trail descriptions on guides before you head out. Overall if you are in generally good health and have any regular physical workout, this trail should be enjoyable. As with many trails in the Northeast Georgia area, (and into a gorge) the Opossum Creek Trail undulates down and the journey out is mostly uphill. Nicely the first mile of the trail (and thus the last) is rather gentle. Just take it slow and steady.

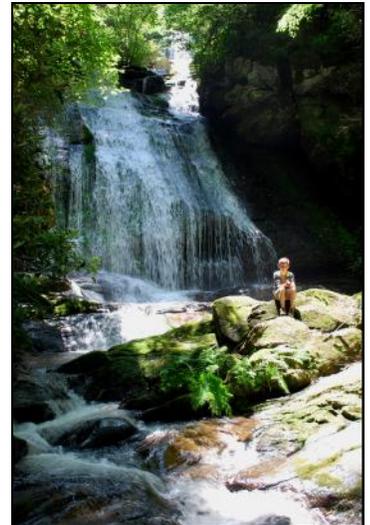


Photo taken July 2014.



Photos left to right: Photos taken December 27, 2014. Opossum Creek Trail, Milkweed seed pod, Partridge Berry and fern, and Opossum Creek Beach on the Chattooga River.

Description:

Be cautious to not make the mistake and head out on the wrong trail. After parking, walk a few yards back from which you came until you will see the trail sign*. It sits just off the road but tends to blend in a bit with the surroundings. The trail is fairly gentle and you will always find evergreen ground cover and other winter items to marvel at and photograph. Along the trail there are a few felled trees that you will have to maneuver around. The second mile is steeper, but you will be greeted by a flowing creek (not Opossum) and eventually you will hear the rush of the Chattooga. At the base of the trail, you will end up in a rustic campsite. *(The trail will lead you right to this spot unless you choose to boulder upstream of the Chattooga veering to the primitive path on the right. If you go to the right, this leads you up river the Chattooga River to Five Falls. This excursion is not recommended unless you are with an experienced person familiar with this area. Use extreme caution if you choose this .5 mile (one way) trek up river. Your party must have good shoes and should stay on the primitive trail the best you can avoiding getting close to the river's edge. These falls are deceptively dangerous with deadly potholes and strainers. Those who fall in at any stretch of Five Falls are likely not to survive without proper rescue equipment. Many private boaters, anglers, and hikers have lost their lives along this section.)*

From the campsite you will see the “Opossum Creek Trail” marker off to the left. The falls are about .5 miles from this location. Once you arrive, the falls are breath-taking. You will likely be tempted to walk closer by traversing the rocks. Use extreme caution whenever nearing rushing water and slippery rocks especially in the winter. [Hypothermia](#) is always a danger and people are easily injured or worse by wishing to get just a little closer to falls.

Directions from Clayton, GA:

Take Highway 76 East from Clayton 10.6 miles and turn right on State Road 37-538. Continue for 2.4 miles and turn right on Battle Creek Road. Stay on Battle Creek for 1.4 miles and turn right on Turkey Ridge Road (FS 755, a gravel road) and drive 2.2 miles until you see the parking area*.

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 |



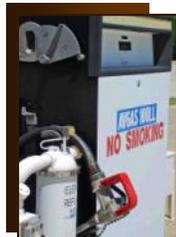
Building Resources

- [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	\$5.30/ gal*
JET A	\$4.80/ gal*

*Prices Subject to Change.



Prices as of January 1, 2015



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