

# HEAVEN'S LANDING

Like no Place on Earth

July 2012

**Rabun Fourth of July**

**Cooling Off**

**The Franks**

**Events**

**Community**

**Trainer**

**H Landing Services**

**Fuel Prices**

## Rabun Fourth of July

Whether you are sitting on Hodgson's Hill on the campus of the Rabun Gap Nacoochee School, eating southern BBQ at the Dillard House, enjoying Dixie Bluegrass, teeing off at the country club, tying on your running shoes, or out on a boat enjoying the lake, Fourth of July Rabun County-style is relaxing, fun, and undeniably spectacular. Nicely this year, the events start many days ahead of time and there are several opportunities to see a great fireworks display and set out on a myriad of adventures.

If you are visiting this weekend or in the next few weeks, check out the [Rabun County Chamber](#) and [Rabun County Visitor's Bureau](#) websites for all the event details. There are road races, golf tournaments, special hikes, concerts, and specialty meals all over the county!



## On the Lake

Both Lake Rabun and Lake Burton prepare months in advance for their fireworks displays. Their shows are not only grand, but have a very intimate feel to them. "I hope every owner, their guests, and visitors to Heaven's Landing has the opportunity to spend the fourth on the lake at some point," comments Heaven's Landing developer Mike Ciochetti, "it is just that breathtaking."

Picture yourself peacefully adrift on the lake with a few hundred boats around you. Just the boats and lights are a sight to behold reflecting off the water. Despite the fact that the lake is bustling with activity, the environment is polite and quite safe. As the sky darkens and the anticipation builds, the first intense rockets fly skyward to the cheers of all. You can choose to be directly under the display with streamers of pyrotechnic light passing just yards above your head or at various distances away on the edge of the flotilla. You will be hard pressed to find a bad view. Plan in advance and contact the local marinas (see the "Our Community" section of the newsletter for additional information.)



Lake Burton Photo credits, top and to the left, courtesy of L. Burton Facebook page.



This year marks the 36th year of the Lake Burton fireworks show, and is held the Saturday before the fourth each year (scheduled June 30 with a rain date July 1). It is a community effort headed up by Lake Burton resident, Hal Rhoad who has been organizing the show for the past 30 years. The pyrotechnic company is [Pyrotecnico](#) from New Castle, PA., who produces the display. This year the community has raised \$35,000 with \$30K going to fireworks! Donations are appreciated and may be made [HERE](#).



### On the Hill

If boating isn't your cup of tea, then perhaps an opportunity to socialize with your neighbors lounging in your lawn chair or blanket is more your speed. A great location is on the grassy green slope of Hodgson's Hill on the Rabun Gap Nacoochee School Campus, directly across from the Dillard House, who sponsors the annual event. Families make it a tradition to gather here year after year, and the kids always seem to have a ball, rolling down the hill and just hanging out with their friends.



We invite our other families, neighbors, and our church family - because on the Fourth, the more the merrier. Junk food, an amazing view, sparklers, and giggling kids make it a perfect evening. The Dillard display lasts about 30 minutes and is always impressive with what seems like *two* fantastic grand finales. Our group usually hangs out at least 30 minutes after the show to launch a few small fireworks and to allow for the huge numbers of motorist to file away. Once the initial rush is gone, it is smooth easy sailing.

### All in the Family!

Mike and Holly Ciochetti love the fourth of July, but each year, they kick it up one more notch.

Can you hear it? It is the sound of the Ciochetti family coming into the North Georgia mountains. This holiday weekend is the annual Ciochetti family reunion. Ciochetti family members come from the Chicago, Miami, New York, and Indiana to boat, raft, fish, hike, shop, and relax in the most beautiful spot in the nation. "We always enjoy the fireworks on Lake Burton and in Dillard," Mike reports, "we eat too much and just have a blast catching up with everyone."

Mike says everyone agreed on this neck of the woods to host the reunion because young and old always have plenty of options for daily activities. Whether it is the great accommodations offered in the county, the get-togethers they have in the Heaven's Landing Clubhouse, or the sightseeing flights they go on throughout the extended family's stay, someone is always doing something. "My family loves the fun and excitement of the daytime, but what makes it so perfect is coming together to share the peace and tranquility, the simple act of relaxing by a bonfire, breathing fresh mountain air, or gazing at the unspoiled night sky."

We would love to hear and see how you spent your fourth of July and summer outings. Please send a picture with a few words whenever you would like to me ([janclay@windstream.net](mailto:janclay@windstream.net)).

## Cooling Off

There are so many places to enjoy a hot afternoon in the cool waters of Rabun County. Luckily, we live in an area with the motto, "Where Spring Spends the Summer," but there are some July and August days that nothing feels more welcome than a refreshing dip!

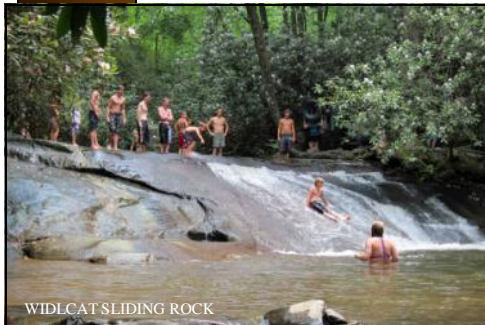
Depending on your wants and spirit of adventure, where you head will have to be up to you. Here are some of our favorite suggested spots, many of which I have profiled before. As always, prepare and use caution whenever venturing out especially around waterfalls. There are so many places to choose from in Rabun County, so if you have a favorite I need to check out, please let [me](#) know!



### Hike and Swim:

**Tallulah River/Colman River Trail**— This destination is nice and close to Heaven's Landing, and if you chose not to hike, you have lots of choices along the beautiful Tallulah River. From Heaven's Landing take a right on Devil's Branch Road and continue onto Persimmon Creek Road, turn right on Mellie Keener Road and a left on Persimmon Road. Go a mile and turn right on Tallulah River Road, continue and park in any designated areas. For Colman River Trail, travel 1.6 miles on Tallulah River Road. You'll see the trailhead and parking area at a new bridge. Colman has several nice small pools you can hike down to. Take care going off trail. This will be very cool water. Fee free.

**Hemlock Falls**— This is always a nice trail and very pretty anytime of the year. Take Hwy 76 W 11 miles from Clayton, turn left on to GA 197, go 3.7 miles and turn right at the Hemlock Falls sign. Travel down the Forest Service road for .5 miles to the parking area and trailhead. Hemlock Falls is about a mile in, and you'll find a great pool that is nice and deep to swim in. Fee free.



**Lake Burton WMA Wildcat Sliding Rock**— Nice little drive up Wildcat Creek (past the damage from last year's tornado) you'll find a very popular swimming and sliding hole. As with the directions to Hemlock Falls take GA 197 3.9 miles to Forest Service Road 26, West Wildcat Creek Road continue up the road until you find the designated parking area and see the sliding rock and pool. Fee free.

**Tallulah Gorge Bridal Veil Falls**— If you are lucky to get a Gorge Floor permit, then you will be well rewarded for your 2.5 miles of difficult bouldering in the Gorge. Get your permit at the Jane Hurt Yarn Center. They give 100 a day and are going fast. Check Youtube for slide videos! Park fees apply.

### Lake Beaches:

**Lake Burton**— Timpson Cove Beach is a great little afternoon get-away for the entire family. The water is always a nice temperature. The small beach is filled with great white sand for building castles and wiggling your toes in. There are two swim areas marked by buoys, charcoal grills and picnic tables for first come first serve use, and recently renovated bathrooms. Take Hwy 76W 7 miles from Clayton, turn left on Charlie Mtn. Road. Continue .7 miles and park on the left. Free parking.

**Lake Rabun**— This is a National Forest camp and beach facility. This site has lots of picnic tables, grills, and restrooms. The scenery is outstanding. The water can be cool since this beach is closer to the dam, but feels good. The swim area also has a floating dock that kids love to jump from. Take 441 S 5.4 miles to Wiley Connector on your right, turn left onto GA 15 (Historic 441S). Continue 1.4 miles and turn on Lake Rabun Road. Continue for 5 miles. You will see the beach on the right and campground on the left. This is a day fee area.



**Lake Seed**— Takes a while to get to this remote beach on the narrow and cool Lake Seed, the remoteness is appealing. Like the other lake beaches it has similar facilities. This is also a primitive campground. Follow directions to Lake Rabun continue L. Rabun Rd. 1.1 miles turn on to Bear Gap/Low Gap Road. Continue on Low Gap that turns into Crow Creek Road for about 2.5 miles. Beach will be on the right.

**Tallulah Lake**— This is a nice large beach to play on and picnic area. This is the Terrors Day Use Area with walking trails and fishing access. Turn right into the Terrors Day Use Area after passing the light in Tallulah Falls. This is a day fee area.

## Shelia and Dr. Jim Frank

Without a doubt, Heaven's Landing is a community of the extraordinary. No matter what your profession is, what your pastimes are, or who you know, our owners are open, friendly and welcoming. "Jim Frank and his wife Sheila are the nicest folks you would ever wish to meet," Mike told me as we prepared for the July newsletter, "you will really enjoy talking to them." Of course, I wasn't disappointed as Jim and I spoke about his family, his work, his planes, and how he fell in love with Heaven's Landing a few years ago.

Jim and Sheila live fulltime with their children in Buckhead, Georgia in a fantastic community very near the Georgia Governor's Mansion. They met over a decade ago in their shared apartment complex. "My whole life I looked for the girl of my dreams at the airport," Jim laughs, "but there she was not far from my door step!" Sheila is a homemaker and juggles every role imaginable, as an incredibly active mom to their six year old son and four year old twin girls. Jim is a doctor of Ophthalmology, specializing in vitreo-retinal disease. He is a physician at [Eye Consultants of Atlanta](#) where he has been enhancing the sight of his patients since 1996. The family also owns two commercial farms in Illinois and most recently in Arkansas which Sheila also oversees.



I actually first talked to Jim in February 2011, just following the completion of his second home built plane, a Lancair Legacy. At the time fellow HL owner and Lancair extraordinaire, John Cokinogenis ran Jim's new homebuilt through the initial test flights (see *Legacy's First Flight*, HL Newsletter, March 2011). Jim cites this event to exemplify what the HL community of owners means to him; owners for whom he feels complete admiration. "Mike and John, in the *typical Heaven's Landing spirit of brotherhood*, flew down to Peachtree DeKalb Airport for John to do the first flight," recalls Jim. "It was an amazing day. John is certainly an example of the caliber of people and talent this community attracts."

Many of Heaven's Landing owners, learned about the airpark through various media or from trade shows, but Jim's first encounter was seeing its beauty from the air. "We take monthly trips from Georgia to Illinois, visiting family and managing our rice farm. Several times I was routed over Northeast Georgia," Jim recalls. "As I looked down, and I was so intrigued by that 5,000 foot, white concrete runway, seen from miles away."

The Heaven's Landing lure was strong, and it didn't take long for Jim to fully check it out. Taking an afternoon, he landed, met with Mike, returned home, and he brought Sheila to see the property the next weekend. "I've been around the country and have looked at aviation communities since I was a kid. I have always dreamt of living in an aviation community, so I know what is out there. I knew this was an amazing place, something I have never seen before...it is so peaceful and refined." The Franks flew home that weekend owning the lot they "fell in love with."

The Franks anticipate building in Heaven's Landing in a roughly a year and a half. It is too soon to report any specific details, but they know their future home will be suitable for the mountain setting with an Adirondack feel. For now, they enjoy quick breaks from city life and enjoy spending afternoons in the cooler mountain air, relaxing and simply playing games with the kids. "We come up and it is so peaceful, away from the hustle and bustle of Atlanta life."

Both Sheila and Jim come from families of aviation enthusiasts, and it appears to be either hereditary or contagious. From a young age, Jim and his brothers were encouraged to pursue aviation for a good dose of technical education. Jim didn't hold back and has obtained his Air Transport Pilot (ATP) certification, the highest rating available along with several categories including private helicopter, sea plane, and glider. Sheila's parents and two sisters are pilots; and although Sheila has had some pilot training, she wishes to defer any further decisions to train until the kids are older. However, their six year old son might beat Sheila to becoming the family's next pilot. "He is airplane crazy," Jim says with a smile. He loves our Piper Super Cub." Jim and his son often take off together for an afternoon to visit friends. "Of all the ratings and aircraft I've experienced, I find the glider the most fun," and Jim excitedly adds that his now young son will be able to fly a glider solo by age 14. "If he continues to show signs of maturity and the level of excitement and interest in aviation he has now, I'll get him started in gliding!"



# Upcoming Events

## Heaven's Landing Expo Schedule:

Look for Mike and Holly at these major aviation fly-ins and events:

- [EAA AirVenture Oshkosh July 23-29 in Oshkosh, Wisconsin.](#)
- [Citation Jet Pilots Association \(CJP\) September 12-16 in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho.](#)
- [Aircraft Owners & Pilots Association \(AOPA\) October 11-13 in Palm Springs, California.](#)
- [National Business Aviation Association \(NBAA\) October 30– November 1 in Orlando, Florida.](#)

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## Area Events:

### **July Fourth Events**

**[Tiger Mountain Vineyard](#)**- Come out to the Red Barn Café for a July 4th cookout. We'll be serving sliders with our unique Norton BBQ sauce, plus fresh watermelon, and of course Norton wine. \$10 per person. 1 to 4 p.m.

**[Dillard House BBQ and Fireworks Show](#)**— Join us July 4th for our annual celebration with an outdoor BBQ cookout, live music and fireworks. Music starts at 4:30, BBQ at 5:30 and fireworks at dusk.

**[STARS & STRIPES FOREVER starring Linda Gentile and The American Big Band](#)**— Performed at 2:30 pm at the Smoky Mtn Center for the Performing Arts in Franklin, NC. One of the most popular parts of this musical spectacular is Gentile's patriotic tribute to Veterans of the Armed Forces. A fantastic show to celebrate the 4th of July with the whole family!

### **Foxfire Folkfest**

Premier folk artist will showcase and sell their wares in an Appalachian village setting. Join us July 6th and 7th for Art, Music, Food and Fun at the very first Foxfire's Folkfest. Foxfire Village, Mtn City, Georgia. Call 1-706-746-5828 for additional information.

**July 6-7**

### **Lake Burton Fun Run**

Walk or run along one of the most scenic places in Georgia. The run begins at 9 am at Moccasin Creek State Park and finishes at LaPrade's Marina. Prizes, music, and awards. Stay for the Duck Tape Regatta at noon! See Active.com for registration.

**July 7**

### **The Miss Firecracker Contest**

Expect an amazing performance from the [North Georgia Community Players](#). The Miss Firecracker Contests is written by Beth Henley. Carnelle Scott believes winning the Miss Firecracker Contest in her small Mississippi town will restore her soiled reputation, until her cousin, the former Miss Firecracker, unexpectedly arrives!

**July 13, 14, 15, & 20, 21, 22**

### **[Rabun Music Festival](#)**

*The Return*—the music of the Beatles. Experience all the fun and excitement of "Beatlemania." The show begins at 4 pm at the Readen Theater on the campus of Rabun Gap Nacoochee School. This is part of the Rabun Music Festival series.

**July 15**

### **Annual Rabun Crawl**

Crawl all over downtown Clayton, Georgia to sample fabulous food from local restaurants. Stop by the Rock House and at Veterans Park to be in the center of the festivities. Main Street is blocked off for this event so that you can enjoy several musical groups while you sample food and wine from our local eateries and vineyards. Enjoy the mountain view while you while away the evening! [www.claytoncrawl.org](http://www.claytoncrawl.org).

**July 21**

### **[Dillard Bluegrass and BBQ](#)**

Celebrate all things BBQ and bluegrass during the 16th annual event. Food, music, and crafts. Held on the Dillard City Hall grounds next to the Dillard House.

**August 3-4**

### **Atlanta Symphony Orchestra**

ASO comes to Rabun County during the annual [Rabun Music Festival](#). This is an amazing opportunity. Ticket prices are \$31 and up for other concerts. See Festival website for details. Show begins at 4 pm at the Readen Theatre at Rabun Gap Nacoochee School.

**August 5**

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## Our Community



- **Weather Link.** Stay up to date on the Clayton, GA weather conditions and forecast from NOAA. <http://forecast.weather.gov/>



- **Wi-Fi** is 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](mailto: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](mailto:sales@heavenslanding.com) and make sure we have your latest email address, so you will stay informed.



- **Stay in Touch.** "Like" us on [Facebook](#), "[Heaven's Landing Residential Airpark.](#)"



- **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.

- Fish year round and enjoy our local lakes. When in Rabun go boating! We wish to remind all owners and visitors to take advantage of our area lakes and plan ahead for July 4th. Rentals are available at [Anchorage Boat Rentals](#) at 706-212-0534 or [LaPrades Marina](#) at 706-947-0010.

## Personal Trainer—Elisa Hopkins



Heaven's Landing welcomes Elisa Hopkins. Elisa is a certified Personal Trainer and tailors training for men and women to the individual's interest and goals. Elisa currently conducts five classes ranging in aerobic, kick-boxing, dance aerobics, and strength training at the dance studio at Rabun Gap Nacoochee School. She has offered to conduct classes and specialized instruction for Heaven's Landing owners and their guests in the Clubhouse fitness room.



Contact Elisa at 706-982-2302.

## Heaven's Landing Services

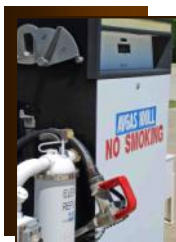
### Heaven's Landing Concierge Service

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](mailto:sales@heavenslanding.com).



*"Work with someone you know and trust."*

## Our Current Fuel Prices



### Self Serve Pumps

|        |              |
|--------|--------------|
| AV GAS | \$5.95/ gal* |
| JET A  | \$5.30/gal*  |



*\*Prices Subject to Change. Prices as of July 1, 2012*

Thank you for being a part of Heaven's Landing. For an archived electronic library of our Heaven's Landing Newsletter showcasing the year's local and aviation events as well as the amazing beauty of Heaven's Landing and surrounding areas, please see [www.heavenslanding.com](http://www.heavenslanding.com) and "[newsletter](#)" link.

For questions or comments regarding the newsletter please contact Jan at [janclay@windstream.net](mailto:janclay@windstream.net).



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