

HEAVEN'S LANDING

Like no Place on Earth



July 2013

wannaGOFAST is Back!

Last September, thousands came to Heaven's Landing for a one day event of epic magnitude!

Heaven's Landing is pleased to announce the return of [wannaGOFAST](#) 1/2 Mile Shootout this fall! On **September 14 and 15**, enjoy TWO days of outstanding up-close action on the beautiful 5,069 foot Heaven's Landing runway. Two days filled with camaraderie, speed, industry vendors and experts, and every car imaginable. Join us for a weekend adventure with your friends and family; or maybe, you have plans to be behind the wheel, on the track, living your dream!



**We've learned that registration for drivers has JUST closed!
However, it is not too late to plan your trip and have a great time on the sidelines!**

WannaGOFAST brings all types of participants and spectators together. On the Heaven's Landing airfield, you will find car enthusiasts and experienced drivers. Some will come with their Lamborghini and others with a souped-up Pinto! (There are always surprises!) This year, *125 cars per day* will compete, doubling the action. Hopefully, if you wish to be on the runway, you have already secured your seat behind the wheel and are gearing up to race down the precision timed 1/2 mile field; if not, the good news is there is a [waitlist](#), so get on it FAST.

Over the past year, the wannaGOFAST events have grown both in scope and in word of mouth at each venue. "It is gratifying to see just how quickly wannaGOFAST driver slots sellout," reports wannaGOFAST President Blake Hutchison, "We are growing exponentially—the drivers love it, the spectators love it, and our sponsors love it." Blake explains that the skill and experience of the drivers and make and speed of each car changes with each pass all throughout the day. The drivers can run as many times as the day allows. "Our top finishers are recording amazing times, nearing the 1/2 mile world record of 217.1 mph, (Houston, TX, May 2013)," Blake adds. The top wannaGOFAST time was 214.04 set by Ian Phipps driving a 2009 Nissan GT-R Alpha Omega on June 2, 2013. One of the wannaGOFAST sponsors, [Alpha Performance](#), owns the car.

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WannaGOFAST—continued

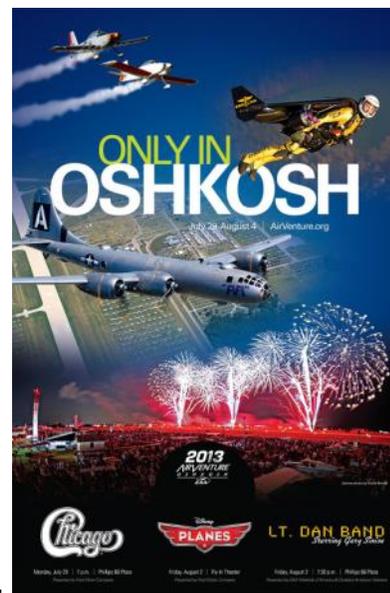


Participants and spectators can expect twelve sponsors from around the southeast region on the Heaven's Landing airfield with booths, product displays, and expert advice. "The layout and feel will be consistent with last year's perfect racing day at Heaven's Landing," notes Blake. "One update—this year, we have a racing 'Christmas' tree. The precision start and speed recording system will give drivers and spectators the racetrack experience they are seeking." "Heaven's Landing is a beautiful venue, and we are so pleased to be returning," Blake states. "Mike Ciochetti is great to work. The Heaven's Landing owners are extremely gracious and gave wonderful enthusiastic feedback last year, and the Rabun County Visitor's Bureau continues to be incredibly helpful in organizing all of the local details."

EAA AirVenture Oshkosh 2013

The Heaven's Landing Team is packed and ready for EAA's AirVenture 2013! "We love to see new and familiar faces at our exhibit in Hangar B in the Exhibition Hall," Mike states, "we are ready for another fantastic show."

Sydney Taber, our Heaven's Landing Angel, will be joining Mike and Holly again this year. "Sydney did a fantastic job last year," notes Holly. If you recall, [Sydney, 20](#), found herself flying with Ray Fowler in Jack Roush's P-51, *Gentleman Jim* at the end of the show! Obviously, she has the spunk and energy to represent Heaven's Landing very well.



AirVenture's 5-day show kicks off on July 29. "We look forward to Oshkosh every year," Mike continues, "there is an excitement that is unparalleled during any other show. Many of our current owners come by to visit, join us for a bite to eat, and we have a great time attending the major events together during the show. We also always seem to create lasting new friendships, meeting a lot of our *future* owners during AirVenture!"

Tickets are available from [EAA AirVenture website](#).

Baby Greer!

Father's Day came a week early for the Greer household. Heaven's Landing and it's owners wish to congratulate Renee Whitmire and Shaun Greer on the arrival of their baby girl, **Adrian Renee Greer**, 6 lbs., 12 oz. Adrian joins sisters Kaylan and Mayci at home.

"We are so excited for Renee and Shaun," Holly states, "Adrian is an addition to a beautiful family!"

Shaun is a part of the Heaven's Landing extended family. He owns S&K Specialties, and his company has built several homes in the Heaven's Landing development.



Father's Day and Cookout

Enjoying all the area has to offer, Mike and Holly along with Mike's grown children, Mikie and Ashley spent Father's Day out on Lake Burton. "It was another fantastic day on the lake. Amazing weather and surrounded by my great kids," Mike notes, "I am blessed." After soaking up the sunshine, the family joined the rest of the Ciochetti's extended family for a BBQ at the Heaven's Landing Clubhouse.

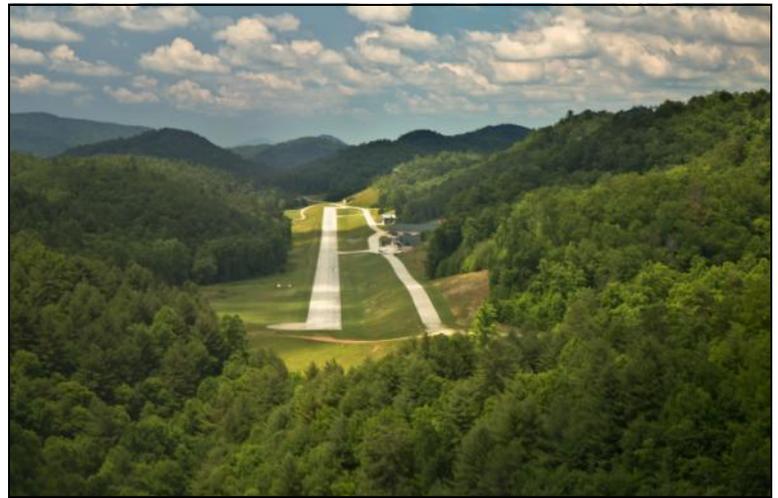


Peter on Cloud 9!

What an awesome combination! What do you get when you take a photographer with a passion for seeking beauty in nature and who knows how to capture perfect lighting to make your heart sing with joy, and a developer with a Cessna 210 and a love of impromptu jaunts in the air? *Lasting beauty.*

Mike Ciochetti took our Heaven's Landing friend and local photographer (extraordinaire), [Peter McIntosh](#) up for an early summer photo shoot. The results are OUTSTANDING as usual.

Thank you so much Peter for sharing these with us! (More of Peter's work on page 6 & 9!!!)



Top Left—Heaven's Landing Runway 5 Approach looking north northeast.

Top Right—Heaven's Landing Runway 23 Approach looking southwest.

Bottom—View of Lake Burton and Waterfall Country Club looking south southwest. (The Hwy 76 bridge is left of center.)

All photos mcintoshmountains.com

Operation 300 June 2013



Aaron and his wife, Kimberly, with new born son, Reagan, 2009.

The Vaughn family has turned tragic loss into lasting joys and smiles to fill a lifetime.

Petty Officer 1st Class Aaron Vaughn was among 22 Navy Seals who perished on August 6, 2011. Vaughn and 37 others were killed that day as their Chinook helicopter crashed when Afghan insurgents struck it. Vaughn, 30, left behind a heart broken family which, included a young wife and two infant children. Two children who would never know their father.

While still deeply grieving, the family sprung to action to give hope and support to the children of fallen heroes. "Our goal is to start a weeklong camp for boys aged 7-16," Aaron's sister Tara Baldwin reported in late 2012. Tara goes on to report that Aaron's son and those of the more than 6,600 other families of KIA service members need to have the bond and friendship of a man as they would have with the father they will never know. The family's mission is to have boys, and eventually girls, attend camp where, not only are skills learned, like fishing, hunting, swimming, and target practice, but life-long experiences and relationships are also formed.



Opening ceremonies for the Vaughn Memorial Frogman Swim.

As the anniversary of Aaron's death nears two years, the family has fully established a meaningful legacy, [Operation 300](#), a non-profit. This proud and strong organization works diligently to raise funds and create the needed foundations to achieve their goals. Recently, Ryan Watley, founder of [Angelfire Foundation](#), an organization devoted to outdoor experiences for wounded veterans, invited Operation 300 to use 400 acres in Stuart, FL for their youth activities scheduled in 2013.

Operation 300 is currently accepting applications for boys 8-16 this summer. The organization accepts monetary [donations](#) and physical supplies which are always needed. (Please see link for the full list.) The Vaughn family chose the name, *Operation 300* inspired by Aaron's love of the ancient Spartan history story of the [Battle of Thermopylae](#) where 300 men fought against all odds.



On June 29, 2013, Operation 300 held the second annual Aaron Vaughn Memorial Frogman Swim fundraiser at Jensen Beach, Florida. Mike and Holly Ciochetti flew to Florida to witness this event and cheer on Holly's sister, Heather Bottger, who participated in the 5K open water race. "Heather is amazing and inspiring," noted Holly, "I'm so proud of her." Heather's husband, Kris, their grown children, her brother and his wife, George and Laurie Wilson, as well as, Holly's oldest children, Vannessa and Taylor, were there shouting their encouragement (all are from Stuart, FL). Heather is a longtime open water swimmer. She has been swimming since she was 10 and has surfed around the world. Heather reports she is slowing down to avoid injury and selectively chooses a race each year. "I'm so glad I did this one. It was incredibly meaningful. Holly and my daughter, Ryann, both said they would join me, in the 1K, next year, so it sounds like we all will be back!"



Holly greets Heather as she enters the beach.



"My eyes are filled with tears," Mike texted during the race. "What a powerful and meaningful event," he added. "Heather is a fish, and the cause could not have been more worthy!"

(More photos on page 10!)



Around the Bend– Gorgeous Gorges

For our pilots, who like to minimize their time in the car, sometimes a drive is well worth the effort—get ready for a beautiful scenic drive and a hike, a little over an hour from Heaven's Landing. Pack up the kids, your friends, your neighbors, and maybe a picnic lunch, because here is a trip worth taking in what *National Geographic Magazine* (2012) named one of the “50 of the World's Last Great Places—Destinations of a Lifetime.” There is something for everyone on this journey—along the way, if you like, checkout the shopping in Highlands and Cashiers, NC, a cozy restaurant tucked out of the way, or a round of golf in Sapphire, NC.

Your final destination is Jocassee Gorges, an area that encompasses the tri-state region of the Georgia, North Carolina, and South Carolina borders. This area is comprised of thousands of acres of preserved land, teeming with rare and endangered flora and fauna and hundreds of waterfalls that will take your breath-away. [Gorges State Park](#) was designated in 1999 and phase one of the park was completed in the fall of 2012 including a beautiful “green” 7,100 sq. ft. welcome center. Currently, the park only has primitive camping, but future RV camping is planned. This is a unique area aptly named as the elevation rises 2,000 feet in 4 miles and gets an unbelievable 91” of rainfall a year—more than anywhere surrounding it.

Cascading Rainbow Falls covers you in light mist from the overlook (top). Turtleback Falls is a steep slide (right).

There are endless possibilities for adventure and recreation, but our spotlight will center on Gorges State Park's [Rainbow Falls Trail](#) on the Horsepasture River (it is located near the visitor's center on the far western boundary of the park which enters Pisgah National Forest). This is a moderate 3 mile hike (lots of uphill on the return), but you can easily choose your own destination and level from the visitor's center's free [maps](#) and kiosk.



If you are brave and careful, the second of three falls along the trail is Turtleback Falls (above center), where we watched people slide and swim. This is extremely steep and witnessing people scurry up the rope was a little nerve-racking. It did look like a lot of fun and in mid-summer weather incredibly refreshing! Swimming is allowed in the National Forest but at your own risk, and one should know how to read whitewater. Always watch your young children closely, especially on wet rocks, which get extremely slick. I'd ask the ranger more questions before taking the plunge, but many families with young children in swim gear were on the trail. Along the trail there are multiple paths to the river, you will easily find calm waters to play in. Dogs are also plentiful on the trail, so if you have a leashed social dog, they will love the trip with you.

The final waterfall on Rainbow Falls Trail is on private property. This is Drift Falls and although you can “ooh” and “ahh” from the trail, you are not allowed to cross the property boundary, and they let you know it! Watch the signs.



From Clayton to Gorges State Park: Go Hwy 441 N to Dillard, GA then take Hwy 106 to Highlands, NC. Continue Hwy 64 for 20 miles. Turn right on NC-281 for one mile. Turn left on Loop Road and you will see the Welcome Center on your right. (There are no fees to enter the park.)

Taking it to the Charlotte Motor Speedway



John looking debonair in his racing pinstripes.

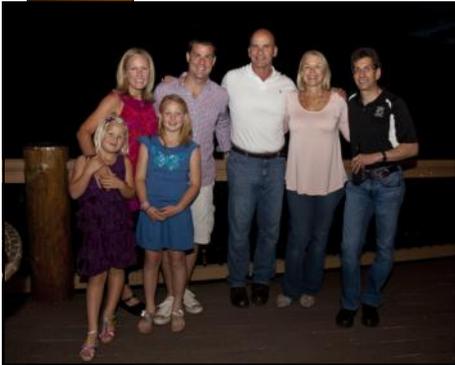
What do Heaven's Landing friends do in their downtime? If you are John Cokinogenis and Mike Ciochetti it isn't ordinary!

The dynamic duo entered the [ChumpCar Series](#) Race in Charlotte on June 22, invited by Mike's long time friend Tommy Powers. The team had four drivers, driving 2 –2.5 hours each. "Basically it is a *run what you brung* endurance race," Mike states.

The car, #555, was a Chevrolet Malibu found in a Daytona junkyard with an \$800 original value. Reportedly, it eventually has a little more under the hood than meets the eye, but the street tires caused some "tight" moments. "I almost hit the wall several times," Mike confides, "This is not for the faint at heart!"

"Our finish was abysmal! It was simply, stupid fun. Maybe one of these days, John and I will grow up, but don't hold your breath!"

Nasser's Home BBQ



Tom and Jan Nasser were at it again this month! On June 1, they chose a fantastic evening with a spectacular sunset to have a BBQ in their Heaven's Landing home. "It was another perfect evening on their back decks," commented Holly, "I love how our community comes together for these backyard parties!"

The Hood family (great friends of Heaven's Landing and the Ciochetti's) were visiting from New Orleans, LA. The Nasser's helped Doug Hood celebrated his 40th Birthday!

More Peter McIntosh photos!

Left top—Delaney, Kara, Aspen, Doug, Mike, Holly, and Tom.

Right Top—Tom and Jan enjoy their balcony with their family.

Bottom—Always an amazing view off the Nasser's decks!



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Special Request from Teka Earnhardt—Nik Wallenda!

After [Nik Wallenda's Sky Walk](#) across the Grand Canyon area last week, Nik Wallenda asked fans to tweet where they want him to walk next!! 2015 will be the 35th Anniversary of his Great Grandfather's, [Karl Wallenda](#), walk across the Tallulah Gorge in Rabun County at the Tallulah Gorge State Park. Join the [Visitor's Bureau](#) in tweeting Nik at: [@NikWallenda](#) to let him know that we want him in here!

What an awesome historic event. Let's get Nik to Rabun County.



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Upcoming Events

Area Events:

First Friday Fest

Enjoy free concerts in the park sponsored by the merchants of Clayton. Enjoy great music at the Rock House on Main Street, 6-9 pm.

First Friday through October

Featured Farmer Thursdays

Lake Rabun Hotel & Restaurant, 6-10pm Come enjoy a freshly prepared meal by Chef Jamie with featured food grown from one of our local farms. Learn more about the local farmer and their methods of farming. Dinner is served from 6-10pm. For more information go to www.lakerabunhotel.com or call 706-782-4946.

Every Thursday May through Nov.

Foxfire's "Folk on the Mountain"

Two days celebrating the rich imagination and varied styles of Folk Art created around the southeastern U.S. Painting, pottery, found-materials sculpture, and everything else you can imagine- and likely a few you can't imagine, too. There will be music throughout both days. For a list of folk artists who will be participating, go to www.foxfire.org or call 706-746-5828.

July 5-6

Habitat for Humanity Hoedown

Dillard House Conference Center, 6 p.m. to 10 p.m. Tickets include the infamous Dillard House BBQ meal with all the trimmings, music and live and silent auction! All proceeds benefit Rabun County Habitat for Humanity. Please Barbara Cantrell for more information – 706-490-1707.

July 11

Art at the Lake

The Lake Rabun Pavilion will become a colorful gallery of art. Sip complimentary wine or lemonade while you browse local artists' original works including oil, watercolor, acrylic and pastel paintings; photography and fine art prints; pottery, ceramics and clay art; kudzu, pine needle and traditional hand-woven baskets; textiles and fiber art; jewelry; folk art; fractured pottery, glass and tile mosaics; stained glass; turned wood vessels; handmade pens; and more. For more information, email Kathy Ford at ford5050@windstream.net.

July 13

Clayton Crawl

Crawl all over downtown Clayton, Georgia to sample fabulous food from local restaurants. Get your food tickets at the Rock House then head down Main Street, which is blocked off for this event, so that you can celebrate the evening filled with food, wine and several musical groups. www.claytoncrawl.org.

July 20

Sweet Potato Pie

Sweet Potato Pie has been entertaining audiences for over a decade with their classy blend of Americana, Bluegrass, Country and Gospel music mixed together in a style they call "sweetgrass". The group is proudly sponsored by the North Carolina Sweet Potato Growers. See them live at Rabun Gap Nacoochee's Rearden Theater, 4-6 pm. For more information about Sweet Potato Pie go to www.sweet-potato-pie.com and for more information about tickets to this performance and others in this series go to www.rabunmusicfestival.com.

July 21

Dillard Bar-B-Que & Bluegrass Festival

Each year people come from across the nation to compete in this great tasting and smelling event! Listen to real Bluegrass music played by numerous bands from all over, and to savor the mouth-watering smells and sights of smoking meats of all kinds. The cooking rigs are a remarkable sight, and vendors serve foods and delicacies that are some of the best in the world. One-day pass – \$10 per person, 2-day pass – \$15.00 per person, Children 12 & younger – free. For more information www.dillardbbq.org

August 2-3

Sky Valley Country Club

[North Georgia Golf Tour](http://www.northgeorgiagolftour.com) began on April 27th at Achasta in the beautiful town of Dahlonega! The Tour has made its way thru scenic North Georgia hosting a tournament every other weekend. Members can play in as many or as few of the tournaments as they like but must play in a minimum of 4 events to be eligible for the Tour Championship at Waterfall. Please review the website for Tour Rules and FAQ or email at info@northgeorgiagolftour.com.

August 4

Visit explorerabun.com for in-depth details of local events!!!



Stay Informed



- **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. (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 always 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! Rentals are available at [Anchorage Boat Rentals](#) at 706-212-0534 or [LaPrades Marina](#) at 706-947-0010.

Personal Trainer—Elisa Hopkins

Elisa Hopkins is a certified Personal Trainer and tailors training for men and women to the individual's interest and goals. Elisa currently conducts classes ranging in aerobic, kick-boxing, dance aerobics, and strength training at a new studio in Tiger, GA, [Studio e.](#)

Join Elisa and the four other instructors in feeling more energetic and healthier this year. There are over 20 classes to choose from.

Contact Elisa at 706-982-2302.



Heaven's Landing Services

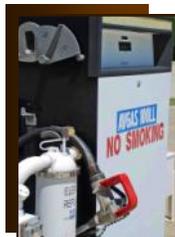
Heaven's Landing Concierge Service

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 information: 706.212.0017 or 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, 2013*

~And More McIntosh Mountain Photographs ~

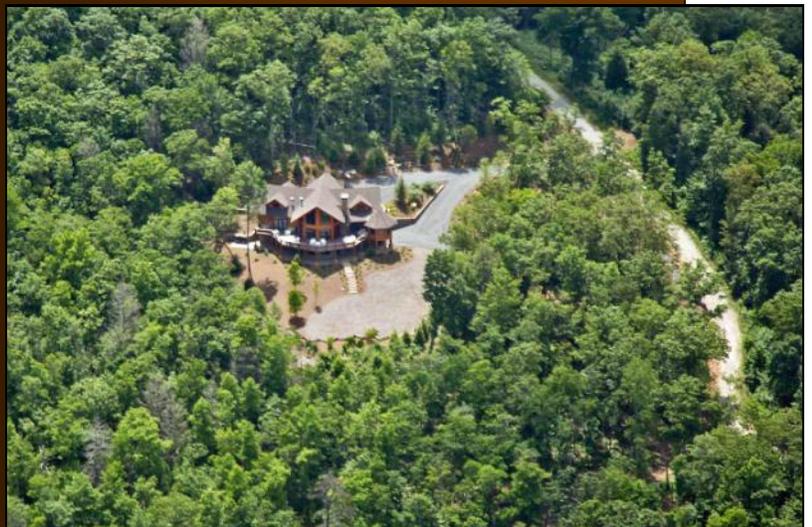
Left—Wing tip view of Lake Burton.

Center left—Barbara and Mike Connolly come home to Heaven's Landing.

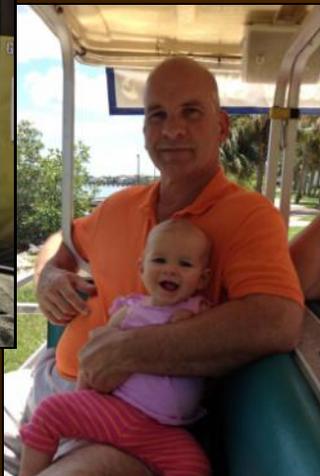
Center Right—Majestic view of Lake Rabun

Bottom Left—flying over the Rabun County Industrial Park Complex

Bottom Right—"Tooth Acres" Heaven's Landing home of Tom and Jan Nasser



Ciochetti Florida Trip



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

Send us your summer photos to share.

For questions or comments regarding the newsletter please contact Jan at janclay@windstream.net.



**1271 Little Creek Road
Clayton, GA 30525**

PHONE:
(706) 212-0017

FAX:
(706) 212-0000

E-MAIL:
sales@heavenslanding.com
