

# HEAVEN'S LANDING

Like no Place on Earth

December 2011

**Christmas  
in Heaven**

## 'Tis the Season

There is a wonderful sense of belonging the moment you enter the Heaven's Landing Clubhouse during any time of the year, but as you step inside the welcoming entry today, the sights and smells of Christmas will surround you.



**Aero Club  
Meeting**

**Super Bowl  
46 in Heaven**

The Clubhouse is the ideal location for any event year round. But as you enter to see the banisters dressed in greens and lights, and the angels adorning the Christmas trees, it is magically transformed for the season. You can't help but know you've come home.



**Farm Fresh  
Trees**

In just another week the dining room, lounges, and bar stools will be filled with our wonderful community and extended family and friends for the Annual Heaven's Landing Christmas Party on **Saturday, December 10**. All the preparations are falling into place for you, your guests, and our jolly visitor for the North to spend the evening enveloped by warmth, laughter and friendship. Holly Ciochetti and her crew of helpers are preparing the final touches for the Christmas dinner and activities. Children and grandchildren will visit with Santa who will have a special gift for each child. There is no better way to share the joys of the season than to come home to the mountains. If you have not already RSVP'd, we don't want you to miss this special evening, but you must call Holly for availability at **706.982.5245**.



**Currahee**

**Cruising**

**Events**

**Community**

Christmas doesn't mark an end for us at Heaven's Landing, but rather it ushers in the start of a year of celebration. Get ready for the Super Bowl blowout (page 2), and our annual St. Patrick's Day celebration among other great community events.

**Trainer**

**H Landing  
Services**

*May you, your family, and loved ones  
be safe and joyful through the season.*

**Fuel Prices**

*Merry Christmas to all!  
From Heaven's Landing.*



**Special Invitation -Atlanta Aero Club**



Craig Fuller, President and CEO of the Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association visits the Atlanta Aero Club to share his perspective on the state of general aviation. Fuller is a passionate pilot and aircraft owner, a Washington insider, and the leader of AOPA, the world's largest aviation association.

In addition to his extensive experience in association leadership, Fuller has held high level positions in public affairs and the federal government, including eight years of service in the White House from 1981 to 1989. The California native earned his private pilot certificate in a Cessna 150 at the age of 17. A longtime aircraft owner with instrument and multi-engine ratings, Fuller and his wife, Karen, now fly their 2003 Beechcraft Bonanza A36 and numerous other aircraft more than 200 hours a year on personal and business trips.



**~ See you at the Atlanta Aero Club ~**

Date: **Thursday, December 8th.** Time: **12 p.m.**  
 Where: **Grand Ballroom of the Capital City Club, 7 Harris St., Atlanta.**  
 Cost: **\$40 for members and \$45 for non-members includes lunch.**  
 A networking hour: **11:00 am with check in at 11:30 am.**  
 Reservations: online [www.atlantaaeroclub.org](http://www.atlantaaeroclub.org), phone 800-878-7555 or email [cc@atlantaaeroclub.org](mailto:cc@atlantaaeroclub.org)



**YOU ARE INVITED!!**

**The 46th Annual NFL Super Bowl is headed to Heaven's Landing!**

**February 5th starting at 4 pm** until after the game, you are gonna have a blast at the Heaven's Landing Clubhouse for our annual Super Bowl Party.



Bring a pot luck dish to share and get ready to celebrate your favorite team. Rivalries and friendships can coincide when you are in Heaven!

No extreme cold, no waiting in traffic, or pushy crowds in Indianapolis! AND, no \$2300+ tickets!! Enjoy the warmth of the Heaven's Landing Clubhouse with pure free fun with your Heaven's Landing family. Fly-in, have a great time, and celebrate in the mountains.

**Farm Fresh Christmas Trees**



Photo by [www.macon.com](http://www.macon.com)

North Georgia is the best place for your Christmas tree. There are road side stands with beautiful locally grown Frazer, Norwegian, and Douglas Fir and at least one pick and cut your own just minutes from Clayton.

See Billingsley Nursery and Osage Farms off on Hwy 441 North just south of Rabun Gap for roadside farm fresh trees or take Hwy 246 toward Highlands from Dillard and follow the signs to Osage Farms Tree Farm 1604 Hale Ridge Road, Scaly Mtn., NC.

If you are not in town, see this link for a choose and cut near you:  
<http://find.mapmuse.com/map/xmas-trees>



## “3 Miles Up, 3 Miles Down” - Historic Currahee Mountain & Camp Toccoa

The mountain is dramatic, rising 900 feet above the surrounding topography, it does so with great presence standing as a sentinel over the valley below. It is the last of the Blue Ridge Mountains with a summit of exposed granite, but it is not just another rolling hill. This one stands out. It is stunning, it commands your attention, and for those who have walked these hollowed grounds before, the mountain will always be remembered and honored. If you are a student of history, a military family, or a veteran, you will know its name—*Currahee*— along with all the significance this Cherokee derived-word meaning, “stand alone,” conjures.



Located south southeast from Heaven’s Landing in Stephens County, Georgia near the small town of Toccoa, Currahee is situated in a sleepy community with rolling hills that saw post-revolutionary growth by the railroad and has continued with an active industry. Although Stephens County is tucked away from the main arteries between big cities, this is where people from around the world come to visit. With so much natural beauty found in the Northeast Georgia mountains, this stop must be added onto your “must see list.”



Lying to the Northwest side of Currahee Mountain punctuated by a few memorial markers is the former location of Camp Toccoa with one lone remaining building. First started by the National Guard, the US Army took over the camp in 1942, and the site served as the initial stage in the call for paratrooper training (1942-1945) as looming threats escalated around the world. Camp Toccoa became the foundation for the World War II elite 101st Airborne division, “Screaming Eagles” Paratrooper Infantry Regiments (PIR) of the 506th (*Currahees*), 501st (*Geronimo*), 511th (*Strength from Above*) and the 517th (*Attack*) in that order. The camp accommodated one regiment at a time with a short overlap as one moved in and the other literally marched out.



In the early 40’s, civilian men rose to the call of duty and the allure of post-depression opportunity coming to Camp Toccoa with no previous military training and found themselves immersed in months of grueling training exercises with unparalleled “arduous” discipline. From the Camp at the base of Currahee, trainees ran “three miles up, three miles down” the steep mountain at the orders of their commander several times a week in all types of weather. These men became the “best,” and they had to be. It wasn’t long before those who had the endurance were fully trained at Ft. Benning, GA and Camp Mackall, NC. These are the advance troops who were dropped into Normandy, Holland, Africa, New Guinea, Philippines, Japan, and France.

Continued page 4...

## Currahee Mountain & Camp Toccoa, Continued.

By November 1943, the 506th and 501st PIR were in England where they trained and awaited orders for Operation Overlord. During the last few hours of June 5 into the morning of June 6, in groups of 15-18, these heroic men boarded C-47's, flew over Normandy and



dropped under fire in the dead of night with poor weather conditions.

The results were that few hit the drop zones. Despite many casualties, these men completed their vitally important missions as the Allies stormed the beaches.

The 506th PIR, 2nd Division, Easy Company were immortalized further by the novel, the *Band of Brothers* by Stephen Ambrose well-known for the detailed research and interviews with veterans. The book was adapted by producers Stephen Spielberg and Tom Hanks for HBO in 2001 of the television mini-series of the same name. An acclaimed powerful production visually telling the story of both the troops and the momentous events. Although some say the film took too much "creative license" with the retelling, many agree that it allows a new generation to catch a glimpse of this time in our nation's past.

Today, visitors come from the world over, stand on Currahee Mountain, remembering where it all began. [Stephen Ambrose](#) has complete tour packages that retrace the steps of these men and their place in history. Ray Ward, former head of the Stephens County Historical Society, reports that these tours are extremely popular coming to Toccoa two times a year. "It is just amazing to me that a man from *Australia*, stands on Currahee overlooking the valley and the first thing he does is use his cell phone and you hear, 'Guess where I am!?' People from all over the world know the significance of this place."



D-Day Paratroopers.

The Historical Society hosts the Currahee Military Weekend the first weekend in October every year. Ward announced they recently purchased 6 acres of the camp land. "The possibilities are endless for what we might do on site," he suggests.

Visit Toccoa. Visit Currahee Mountain—venture up on foot or by car on the Col. Robert Sink Memorial Trail that was dedicated in Nov. 2000 to Col. Sink who was the first commanding officer of the 506th. And, you must visit the Historical Society's Currahee Military Museum (*to be featured in our January issue*). The outing is perfect for a winter's day. The view from Currahee is outstanding and no doubt the sunrise or sunset over the valley below is breath-taking.



Col. Robert Sink

Remember *Currahee*. Know the significance the name carries for those men of the 1940's and the 101st Airborne today and into the future. [Please take time to view the YouTube video from 2010, on the role this single word, spoken by former Commander of the 101st Airborne, General David Petraeus, played for wounded Afghan veteran, Captain Brian Brennan.](#)

**Panoramic view from Currahee Mountain. Unfortunately, transmission towers litter the summit.**



### Cruising Friends

With a break from the trade shows, Mike and Holly Ciochetti got a little time off before Thanksgiving. Joining them were their great friends and Heaven's Landing owners, John and Susan Cokinogenis for a relaxing 7 night Western Caribbean Cruise.

The Cokinogenis', when not in Heaven's Landing live in Deland, Florida. Mike and Holly flew down and the couples departed on Royal Caribbean's *Freedom of the Seas* from Port Canaveral on Sunday, November 13th.

Their excursions included a high speed boat ride, fantastic snorkeling, zip lining, tubing, and scuba diving. Plenty of lasting memories and new friends.



# Upcoming Events

## Heaven's Landing:

### **Heaven's Landing Christmas Dinner & Visit with Santa** **December 10**

Join us at the Heaven's Landing Clubhouse for a holiday celebration. Call for availability. Let us know your children's names and ages. Call [Holly](tel:7069825245) at 706-982-5245.



## Area Events:



### **Georgia's Winter Wine Highway**

**December 2-4**

Hosted by the Winegrowers Association of Georgia. This year we will feature a "Barrel Tasting" at each of the 10 participating affiliate members who will have their own unique open house. \$25 per person. Visit [www.georgiawine.org](http://www.georgiawine.org) for more information and details.

### **Charity Lane Festival of Lights**

**December 2-4; 9-11**

Enjoy seven miles of beautiful holiday lights adorning Wolfork Valley in Rabun Gap from 5:30-11 pm each evening. Organized by local charities. Begins at Don's Mobile Gas Station on Hwy 441. \$10 donation per car and Christmas store at the RGNS Alumni House.

### **Rabun County Christmas Parade**

**December 3**

An annual event that lights up Clayton. Find a place along Downtown Clayton's Main Street; begins at 5 pm and hosted by the Rabun County Chamber of Commerce. This year's theme is "Caroling In the County."

### **Christmas at the Gorge**

**December 3**

Tallulah Gorge State Park is all things Christmas from 1-4pm on Saturday. Enjoy kids activities, music, and a visit with Mr. and Mrs. Claus!

### **NGCP's Audition**

**December 10 & 11**

Let the actor shine through at the Dillard Playhouse. Auditions from 1-3pm for the new comedy *The Red Velvet Cake* by Jessie James, Nicholas Hope, and Jamie Wooten. See [www.ngcommunityplayers.com](http://www.ngcommunityplayers.com) for details.



### **Georgia Mountain Home Builders Raffle**

**December 13**

The [Georgia Mountain Home Builders](http://www.gmhba.org) is proud to conduct their second annual reverse raffle. Do to the enormous success last year, this year's event will be held at the Rabun County Civic Center starting at 6 pm. For a \$100 raffle ticket enjoy a delicious dinner for two, entry into the \$10,000 drawing, and door prizes. Proceeds benefit the Habitat for Humanity and GMHBA. Winners do not need to be present to win.



### **Ricky Skaggs Family Christmas**

**December 17**

Enjoy an evening of traditional and contemporary seasonal hits from a music legend. Performing for one night at the [Smoky Mountain Center for the Performing Arts](http://www.smokycenter.org). Show starts at 7:30 pm and tickets cost \$35.

### **Golden Memories Auction**

**December 31**

One of Golden Memories largest auctions of the year starting at 10 am in Mtn. City, GA. Celebrate the last day of 2011 with deals found at our area's largest auction companies. Visit the site for photos and details and other upcoming events.

### **Beechwood Inn New Year's Weekend**

**December 30- January 1**

A wonderful romantic New Year's weekend is in store at the Beechwood Inn Bed and Breakfast. Enjoy Tuscan foods, Italian wines and live music. See the [website](http://www.beechwoodinn.com) for all the scheduled events and gourmet menu.



## 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".



- **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. It is always time to go boating! We wish to remind all owners and visitors to take advantage of our area lakes. 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	\$5.65/ gal*
JET A	\$4.95/ gal*



*\*Prices Subject to Change. Prices as of December 1, 2011*

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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