



TIGHT LINES

January 2024 Newsletter

of the

Rabun Chapter (522) Trout Unlimited

[CLICK HERE](#)

to visit our Award Winning Website!



The mission of the Rabun Chapter of Trout Unlimited is to conserve, protect, and restore Northeast Georgia's coldwater fisheries and their watersheds.

**No Rabun Chapter Meeting in January.
Instead, come join us at the**

37th Annual Rabun Rendezvous!!

Saturday, January 20

**Dillard House Conference Center,
Dillard, GA**

\$50 per adult, \$25 per youth 15 and under

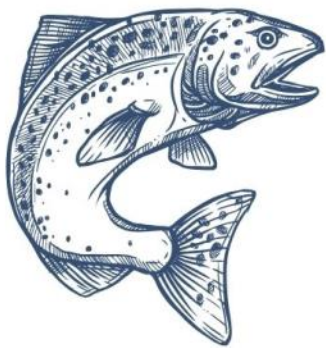
**Doors open at 3:00 pm, pig pickin' starts at 4:30.
Bluegrass music by The Foxfire Boys from 5:00-6:30.
Dinner starts at 6:30.**

Great selection of bucket raffle and silent auction items!

See pages 3-7 for more information.

Important Upcoming Dates Mark Your Calendars Now!

- **There will be no monthly Chapter meeting in January.**
- **Tuesday, Jan 16. Monthly Chapter Board of Directors Meeting.** Rabun Gap Presbyterian Church Fellowship Hall. Starts at 7:00 pm. Anyone can attend. Contact [Tammy Hopton](#) for more information.
- **Saturday, Jan 20. 37th Annual Rabun Rendezvous.** Dillard House Conference Center, Dillard, GA. See pages 3-7 for more information.
- **Friday, Feb 2—Sunday, Feb 4. Atlanta Fly Fishing Show.** Gas South Convention Center, Duluth, GA. [CLICK HERE](#) for more information.
- **Saturday, Feb 3. Chapter 2024 Budget Planning Meeting.** Dillard House Restaurant at 8:00 am. Breakfast will be provided. Anyone can attend, all Chapter Officers and Committee Chairs are expected to attend. Please RSVP to [Tammy Hopton](#) by Feb 1.
- **Tuesday, Feb 20. Monthly Chapter Meeting.** Shady Creek Expeditions, 56 North Main Street, Clayton, GA. Social starts at 6:30 pm, meeting starts at 7:00 pm. Program: “Beginner Fly Tying”, presented by various Chapter fly tyers. All equipment and supplies will be provided. Important: nominations will be taken on Chapter officer vacancies, with a vote to be taken in March. Contact [Tammy Hopton](#) for more information.
- **Tuesday, Feb 27. Monthly Chapter Board of Directors Meeting.** Rabun Gap Presbyterian Church Fellowship Hall. Starts at 7:00 pm. Anyone can attend. Nominations for Chapter vacancies will be discussed. Contact [Tammy Hopton](#) for more information.
- **Friday, March 15. Deadline for Trout Camp Applications.** See page 9 for more information.
- **Saturday, March 16. Conservation Project at Hardman Farms-Chattahoochee River.** Led by the GA Foothills Chapter TU, with Rabun Chapter among others assisting. Contact [Jeff Durniak](#) for more information.
- **Tuesday, March 19. Monthly Chapter Meeting.** Time, place, and program to be announced. Important: a vote on the Chapter vacancies will be held. Contact [Tammy Hopton](#) for more information.
- **Saturday, March 23. Hoot on the Hooch.** Annual fund raising banquet for the GA Foothills Chapter. To be held at Helendorf Inn, Helen, GA. 5:30 pm. The winner of the 2024 Dream Trip Raffle will be announced. Contact GA Foothills Chapter President [Bruce Johnson](#) for more information.
- **Tuesday, March 26. Monthly Chapter Board of Directors Meeting.** Rabun Gap Presbyterian Church Fellowship Hall. Starts at 7:00 pm. Anyone can attend. The selection of the two Trout Campers the Rabun Chapter will sponsor will be done. Contact [Tammy Hopton](#) for more information.



Rabun Rendezvous

37th
Annual

January 20, 2024

Dillard House Conference Center

Get your tickets at the door!



Pig Pickin' at 4:30 pm
Dinner, music, and
silent auction following

\$50 per person
\$25 youth under 15



More info at rabuntu.org



Rabun Chapter



The Rabun Chapter of Trout Unlimited proudly presents
A Celebration of Rivers, Streams, Trout, and Trout Fishing!

Please join us for the 37th Annual
RABUN RENDEZVOUS

"The Rendezvous was unlike anything before or since, a gathering of uninhibited men down from the mountains. The event attracted perhaps a hundred mountain men, their Indian wives, and assorted visiting tribesmen. Amusements included gambling, drinking, storytelling – continuing day and night." Quote from [The Mountain Men](#), by George Laycock.

WHEN: Saturday January 20, 2024.

WHERE: The Dillard House Conference Center, located behind the Dillard House Restaurant in Dillard, GA.

WHO: The more the better! Everyone interested in conserving and protecting our cold-water resources, including their families, friends, and all who love cold streams, trout, and trout fishing.

SOCIAL: Doors open at 3:00 pm. Around 4:30 pm folks will start gathering to "pick the pig" and enjoy the rocking chairs on the porch of the Conference Center. Soft drinks and ice will be available. If you want something stronger to drink, BYOB. There will be a nice fire inside to warm your buns.

The Foxfire Boys will again provide their 'down home' style of bluegrass picking and singing for your enjoyment from 5:00 to 6:30 pm. CD's will be available for purchase.

Raffle and silent auction items will be available for your chance of purchase. We welcome donations of raffle and auction items!

DINNER: Fish, chicken, beef, and pork with all the side dishes and desserts that have made the Dillard House famous will be served at 6:30 pm. It is a serve yourself buffet and you will not leave hungry!

COST: \$50 for adults and \$25 for youth age 15 and younger. No advance ticket sales, pay at the door. Cash, check, and all major credit cards accepted.

LODGING: The Dillard House has set special rates for rooms for those that make a reservation and say they are attending the Trout Unlimited Rabun Rendezvous. [Contact Dillard House Here.](#)

TO ALL RABUNITES:

The 37nd Annual Rabun Rendezvous is rapidly approaching. The funds we raise are used to support Trout Unlimited efforts for cold water conservation and education.

Your donations are an integral part of that support! Donations to our event are starting to arrive and we'll continue to update and publicize the list of items every couple of weeks. Hopefully, this will provide our prospective attendees the opportunity to identify some of the items in which they may be most interested.

Please consider a donation to the Rendezvous. Need an idea for what you can donate? Art, crafts (wood working, fishing flies, etc.), a campout with fishing, a day of lake fishing, a day of deer hunting on a lease, a day of wild turkey hunting, vacations, golf packages, raft trips, weekend use of mountain cabins or condos at beach, and goodies from the kitchens of the Rabunites (cakes, breads, baskets with canned veggies, jams, jellies and preserves) have always been popular with our guests.

If you don't have an item to donate, that's alright! Please consider donating your time at the Rendezvous. We need volunteers to help staff the registration table, assist in the bucket raffle and silent auction events, and to meet and greet the folks who come out to support our great chapter.

And you could also consider making a cash donation to the chapter. You can send it to my address or provide it to a Board of Directors member.

Thank you for your support of the Rabun Chapter Trout Unlimited!

Ray King – Rabun Rendezvous Chair
121 Creek Road
Otto, North Carolina 28763-9356

“As always I am looking forward to the Rendezvous, it's like a big old family reunion.”

Garland Stewart

Scenes from the 36th Annual Rabun Rendezvous



“The Rendezvous was unlike anything before or since, a gathering of uninhibited men down from the mountains. The event attracted perhaps a hundred mountain men, their Indian wives, and assorted visiting tribesmen. Amusements included gambling, drinking, storytelling – continuing day and night.”

Quote from [The Mountain Men](#), by George Laycock.

Rendezvous, Oh Rendezvous, That's Where I Long To Be!

By Fox Paw, 1994

I took a trip to the mountains, a Rendezvous to see.
And there I met the Mountain Men; one of them I longed to be.
They had the names of Hawg, Hoover, Dredger, Nugget, and Dances with Trees.
Names from past, but not forgotten times, that brought back memories.

Rendezvous, oh Rendezvous, that's where I long to be.
Up in the mountains where it's free, so free, so free.
They dressed and ate and lived the way that people used to do.
Freedom was their byword; it was the only thing they knew.

Their friendship was a bounty they freely shared with me.
They made my stay a great one, feeling home like a memory.
Rendezvous, oh Rendezvous, that's where I long to be.
Up in the mountains where it's free, so free, so free.

Their songs at night they sang while 'round the fire we sat,
They sang of things which I knew not, but brought more memories back.
Their songs were of a time when man was free to roam and pack,
When game was here for all to see, to hunt, to fish, and trap.

Rendezvous, oh Rendezvous, that's where I long to be.
Up in the mountains where it's free, so free, so free.
When tipis, tents and lodges the Indians did use
To live their lives in piece with God, his gifts not to abuse.

They traded things like beads and knives and guns and skins and such,
Told stories of the mountains, some true, some stretched a' bit much.
Their word was gold, their honor fine; a handshake was their bond.
And when we left, all vowed return, this life to carry on.

Rendezvous, oh, Rendezvous, now that's the life for me,.
If only a Mountain Man, someday I could really be.
To live like them out in the wild so happy and so free,
With all God's creatures living there in perfect harmony.

Rendezvous, oh Rendezvous, that's where I long to be!
Up in the mountains where it's free, so free, so free.

So You Wanna be a Mountain Man? *Then come to the Rabun Rendezvous!*



How the Rabunite Mountain Man thinks he appears (as drawn by Tom Landreth)



How the Rabunite Mountain Man actually appears!

DREAM TRIP – FLY FISHING FOR TWO!



GRAND PRIZE

John McGarity -
owner and host
of the 2024
Dream Trip

"The 2024 Dream Trip reaches new heights. The opportunity to fish with John McGarity, stay in his fabulous log cabin conveniently located between the Madison River, Yellowstone National Park and the Henry's Fork puts you smack dab in the middle of some of the most famous trout waters in North America. John is the consummate trout angler, fishing almost every day during the 5 or 6 months each year he resides in Idaho. Blue Ribbon Flies in West Yellowstone checks with John for fishing reports. Having been a restaurateur, John is also an excellent cook... you will not go hungry on this trip! TU couldn't ask for a better host and guide for this year's Dream Trip."

—Jimmy Harris, owner, Unicoi Outfitters

• 5 days hosted fishing / 6 nights lodging in Idaho July 21-26, 2024

• \$500 total in travel expenses

- travel arrangements will be the responsibility of the winners.
*Fishing licenses, gratuities, and alcoholic beverages will be the responsibility of the winners during their stay.

• Each winner receives:

A float trip on the Madison River, plus choice of Winston AIR 3 wt. - 6 wt. or BILL-x 4 wt. - 8 wt. fly rod. Fly reel with Scientific Anglers or Winston Energy Fly Line and a fly box and flies for the trip. (approx. 5 - 7 dozen per box)



Tickets \$10

Proceeds Benefit TU Cold Water Conservation and Trout Camp

RUNNER UP PRIZES:

The winner(s) of this sweepstakes are responsible for any tax due on the value of the winnings.

- TFO - Blue Ribbon - 4 wt. 8'9", 4 piece fly rod (perfect trout rod). Donated by The Atlanta Fly Fishing School
- A private fly-casting lesson including digital casting analysis and video analysis (this donation would apply to those having mastered basic casting skills already). Donated by the Atlanta Fly Fishing School for 2024 year.
- Witching Hour (4 hour) Trip for Bass on Lanier or Carp on the Chattahoochee in the summer. Donated by Henry Cowen. Trip must be used from end of May thru Sept. 2024.
- A half-day guided float trip for 2 on the Upper Toccoa River during the delayed harvest season. Value \$350. Donated by David & Becky Hulsey of Blue Ridge Fly Fishing School.
- Unguided half-day fishing at Nacoochee Bend for two anglers. Donated by Unicoi Outfitters.
- \$100 Gift certificate from the Mid-Georgia Chapter.
- \$100 Cabela's gift certificate donated by the Savannah River Chapter.
- Half-day trophy brown trout guided float trip for two on Chattahoochee River, valued at \$350. Donated by Chris Scalley of River Through Atlanta. www.rivertroughatlanta.com
- Full-day guided fly fishing wade trip for 2 people on Noontootla Creek. Donated by Noontootla Creek Farms in Blue Ridge, GA.
- Half-day trip on Warwoman Creek in Rabun County – basic fly fishing skills and introduction techniques – gear included. Donated by Shady Creek Expeditions in Clayton, GA.
- TWO DRAWS for Six Dozen Trout Flies each. Donated by the 12 TU Chapters in Georgia.



Jimmy Harris owner of Unicoi Outfitters



2023 winner Camm Swift with host John McGarity



Scan here to purchase your tickets!

For complete rules and details visit www.georgiatu.org

Do You Know of a Youth That Wants to go to Trout Camp?

Each year the Rabun Chapter sponsors two youth to attend the Georgia Trout Camp. The Trout Camp is run by the Georgia Council of Trout Unlimited with support from all twelve chapters. The 2024 Trout Camp will be held June 2-7 at the Tallulah Falls School, in Tallulah Falls, GA.

Trout Camp is for boys and girls between the ages of 13-15 where they learn and practice the sport of flyfishing, study sound conservation practices, and enjoy a fun and rewarding experience!

For more information on Trout Camp, visit the Georgia Council website [CLICK HERE](#).

To apply to Trout Camp, with the Rabun Chapter as your sponsor, fill out the application on page 10 and mail it to:

Rabun Chapter Trout Unlimited
PO Box 371
Clayton, GA 30525

Applications for the Rabun Chapter sponsorship must be received by March 15, 2024.





Georgia Trout Camp 2024 Application

Please fill out the application below and give it to your local TU Chapter President.

Dates: June 2-7 (Sunday – Friday) Age: 13 – 15 years Fee: \$700.00

Includes room, board, and all activities for the five-day camp. In May, after your signed application and fee have been received, you will be sent a list of what to bring, as well as the required health and release forms. Please make your check payable to the Georgia Council of Trout Unlimited. By submitting this application, the camper, if accepted, is committed to attending camp for the entire session.

Deadline to apply: Set by each Chapter – Check with your local TU Chapter for details.
The application and payment must be in the Camp Coordinator's office by April 15th.

(Please Print)

Name _____

Name you wish to be called by _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Date of Birth _____ Age at time of camp _____ Male _____ Female _____
(Must be within the ages of 13 – 15 at time of camp)

T-Shirt size (adult size only; circle one) S M L XL

I have a friend attending camp and we would like to room together.

His/her name is _____

Yes, my child is interested in conservation and the sport of fly fishing and has reached a level of maturity to enjoy spending 6 days and 5 nights away from home at camp.

Parent or guardian's signature

Print: Parent or guardian's name _____

Home Address _____

City, State Zip _____

Parent's Email _____ Parent's Emergency Phone _____

I am sponsored by: (each camper must be sponsored by one of the 12 TU Chapters in GA)

The _____ Chapter of TU

President/Chapter or Trout Camp Representative

Signature

After completion – the application and fee will be forwarded by the sponsoring Chapter to the Camp Coordinator

Charlie Breithaupt, GA Trout Camp Coordinator 194 Kitchens Lane Clayton, GA 30525

For more information call: (706) 782-6954 or email: knc615@windstream.net

For information on the 12 TU chapters in GA go to www.georgiatu.org

Fishing Reports

The Streak by Nanette O'Hara

My husband Rick and I moved to Rabun County in part because of its great trout fishing opportunities. When we finally got our belongings unpacked, and house renovations and maintenance finished, a year had passed and the only fishing we had done was a trip on the private waters of the Soque and an unproductive trip to the Tallulah. It was time to get serious.

In October 2022 we headed north to the Nantahala Delayed Harvest. We didn't know where to fish, what flies to use or much about drifting and mending, but we still managed to catch a couple. My lone fish of the day was a plump brookie on a dry fly (probably an October caddis I read about in the Tightlines newsletter). It was the first trout I caught on my own, without a guide. From that point on, I was all in on trout.

We next ventured to Smith Creek, and I again caught a fish on top. By the time December rolled around, I had caught another trout on a dry and the idea of The Streak was born. How many months could I get a trout to eat a dry? I decided to give it my best effort.

In January, Rick spotted a fish rising against the far bank at Smith, on a cold but sunny day. I tied on a Blue-Winged Olive and waited till I saw the fish come up again. Managed to get the fly close and, bam! a pretty brookie nabbed it.

January-April saw us spending a lot of time at Fires Creek, where I somehow managed to keep the streak alive though the winter. By the time April arrived, it was much easier. I was catching lots of surface-sippers on Yellow Sallies and Light Cahills. Our trout education also took a big leap forward thanks to advice from Rabun TU members, the wonderful fishing tips on the RabunTU.org website, and especially the generosity and patience of the Jedi Troutmaster, aka Dredger, a walking encyclopedia of all things trout and the best resource a newbie could find.

We discovered the Chattooga in April and continued to fish it, the Nantahala and Fires Creek in May and early June. I had Fires Creek dialed in by then and could regularly catch a dozen or more on dries, unless there was the rare big hatch occurring – in which case nothing I tied on interested those fish but the real thing.

July found us switching our game as water temps rose, finding success in fishing for bright wild trout in small streams in the GSMNP, using black ant patterns and tiny elk hair caddis. We also fished the Tallulah, as water temps allowed. Go-to flies there were Chubby Chernobyls and Stimulators.

Cont. next page

September would have been a slam dunk – we were bound for a week of fishing in Wyoming. But three days before our departure, my appendix ruptured. I wound up at Northeast Georgia Hospital in Gainesville, with surgeons telling me a CT scan had revealed a potential bigger problem. Sure enough, I woke up to them telling me they removed a small tumor and surrounding tissue from my colon, in addition to my appendix. I had always had my colonoscopies right on schedule, and there was no history of colon cancer in my family, so I could not have been more shocked. I do believe God was looking out for me, though, because the doctors said the appendix was totally unrelated to the cancer. Had it not erupted, I might not have experienced any colon cancer symptoms for quite a while. My angry appendix may have saved my life.

So The Streak came to an end in September, one month shy of a full year of dry fly success. No trip to Wyoming, a big abdominal surgery and on October 3, I started chemotherapy for 6 months. But the story doesn't end here.

By the end of October I was back on the Tallulah, slowly wading in at the easiest spot on the whole river and catching holdover brown trout on the trusty orange stimulator. I never thought about cancer for one minute. Instead, I felt total joy that I could still get outdoors, breathe fresh mountain air and connect with a wriggly trout. Dredger joined us on the Tallulah, on Smith, and on the Nantahala in November and December. I have a new dry fly streak going and I am halfway through my chemo treatments. Each fishing trip has been a gift beyond measure, and even if I can't keep it up as I head into my chemotherapy homestretch, I know there will be more trout in my future.

In case you haven't figured it out yet, the moral of this story is that we are only limited by our own fear. My best fishing buddies are my husband, who has a disability called foot drop that requires him to wear a leg brace, and Dredger, who has a bad back that caused him to forego fishing entirely for almost a year.

And then there is me, with colon cancer and the "chemo brain" that goes with it. Our bodies may be imperfect, but our determination is so much stronger than our deficiencies.

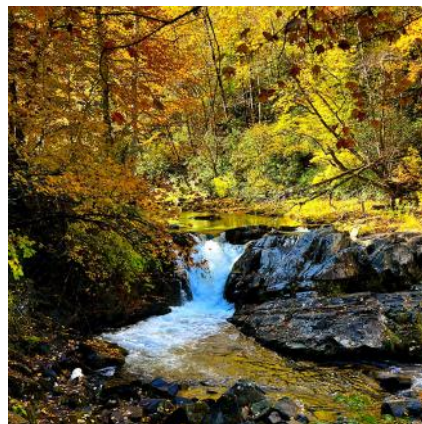
So what are YOU waiting for? Get out there and start your own fishing streak!



My first trout after surgery



Orange stimulator does it again



Nantahala River in the fall

January Hatch Chart

<u>The Bugs</u>	<u>Time of Month</u>	<u>Time of Day</u>	<u>Suggested Flies</u>
Blue Wing Olive and Blue Quill	All month	Late am to Mid pm	16-18 BWO, Blue Quill, Adams Parachute 16 BWO Nymph, Pheasant Tail
Midges	All month	All day	18-22 Griffiths Gnat 18-22 Midge Pupa
None at all	All month	All day	Dredging Nymphs: 12-16 Prince, Hare's Ear, Zugbug, Pheasant Tail

Fly of the Month

By Terry Rivers

Parachute Blue Wing Olive

HOOK: #14-22 Dry Fly

TAIL: Dun/Gray Hackle Feathers

BODY: Olive Dubbing

TPARACHUTE: Antron or White Calf Body Hair

WING : Dun/Gray Hackle



Great fly to have when things slow down during the winter months. On warm afternoons a hatch will usually come off. Size does matter!

See you on The River! Terry

"Parachute flies have several advantages. First you don't need the higher-grade hackle to construct the fly. A #3 dry fly neck will do about as well as a #1, which will cost much more. The fact that the hackles radiate outward from the hook means they will better support the fly on the surface. I personally feel that parachute flies give a more realistic impression of an insect to the fish that views the fly, since the hackles are in the same position as the insect's legs. And when tied with brightly colored hackles, these flies are easier to see on the float. A final advantage is that in rough water, a parachute-hackled dry fly will float longer and better than a conventional one."

From: "Advanced Fly Fishing Techniques" by Lefty Kreh

Click on the Images and Visit the Websites of our Sponsors



*Thank you, Sponsors! We appreciate your support of the Rabun Chapter!
All donations to Rabun TU (a Federal Tax Exempt 501(c)3 non-profit) are tax deductible.*

Rabun Chapter Leadership Contacts

Voting Leaders

[Tammy Hopton](#)

[Trey McFalls](#)

[Peter Croes](#)

[David Ruth](#)

[Jeff Durniak](#)

[Ray King](#)

[Kent Wilson](#)

[Steve Perry](#)

[Mike Anderson](#)

[Rick O'Hara](#)

Chapter President
Chapter Vice President
Treasurer
Secretary
Past President
Rendezvous Chair
Director thru 03/24
Director thru 03/25
Director thru 03/26
Director thru 03/27

Non-Voting Leaders

[Michele Crawford](#)

[Jerry McFalls](#)

[Pat Hopton](#)

Vacant

Women's Outreach
Scouts Liaison
Tight Lines Editor
Memorials

You are Invited to Join Trout Unlimited!

[CLICK HERE](#) to go to the membership page of Trout Unlimited. Once you join, TU will assign you to the nearest Chapter according to your Zip Code. If you wish to be a member of the Rabun Chapter regardless of your Zip Code, specify Chapter 522 in your application.

If you have any questions, contact the Chapter Prez [Tammy Hopton](#).

We look forward to having you in our Chapter!

Rabun Chapter Membership Update

No new members this month.

Current Chapter membership: 164 adult members and 4 youth members.

Prez Notes

Happy New Year! I hope all is well with everyone.

We are on the final countdown to the 37th Annual Rabun Rendezvous. If you don't already know, this is the Rabun Chapter's yearly fundraising event. It provides the money we need for all the good works we plan to do this upcoming year. So it's very important that we do this and do it well!

We use this money to fund all of our educational activities and conservation efforts. We would not be able to provide monetary support to Casting for Recovery, Project Healing Waters, and so many other worthy causes without the money raised from the Rendezvous.

During the Rendezvous we raise money through raffles and auctions of donated items. So you can help by collecting donations of items from local businesses or you can come up with your own donation. Be creative: baked goods, hosted trips, and hand made items are always popular. Either give the donated items to Ray or I ahead of time or bring them with you on the day of the Rendezvous. And finally, you can always make a monetary donation to the Chapter.

There may be other opportunities to help during the Rendezvous. Just ask Ray King, our Rendezvous Director, of ways you can help. Remember, the Rabun Chapter is made up of people volunteering their time and energy for the purpose of enhancing, preserving, and protecting the cold water resources of Northeast Georgia. What could be a better use of your time?

So please come to the rendezvous, and bring a friend or two. I can just about guarantee you'll have a good time.

Looking ahead, we have some exciting, new monthly Chapter meetings and other events coming up in the new year. Please check our calendar on page 2 of Tightlines, the website, and through FaceBook. You will not want to miss any of the fun stuff coming up in 2024.

And don't forget: Trout Camp will soon be here. The dates for this year will be June 2nd through June 7th. The Rabun Chapter will again sponsor 2 Trout Campers. That means we will pay for most of their tuition cost. If you have someone in mind, a boy or girl between the ages of 13 and 15, that would like to attend, please have them send their application in to us by March 15th.

Warm weather will be here before you know it. Until then, see you at the Rendezvous!! Yay!

Prez Tammy