



First RV Trip - Fall 2018



Oh well, looks like another misty day

Hello to Family

Hit the road a little earlier today hoping to spend more time hiking. The best laid plans..... Rainy and misty and foggy. It was still raining when I arrived at the Linville Gorge Visitor Center. I decided to go in and take a look around. I found the lighter weight rain jacket you see me in further below. I also saw many folks older than I am coming in and asking for the trail to the falls. I decided I could not wimp out because of a little rain, so I donned my new rain jacket, grabbed my hat and my hiking poles, and away I went. The rain stopped about 100 yards past the visitor center.



Day 4

Thursday

September 27th

On the
Blue Ridge Parkway
From
Mile Post 305
To
Asheville, NC

Weather

Cool
Misty
Foggy
Rain



Crossing the bridge behind the Visitor Center the river looks so peaceful





Far above – Some interesting roots

Above – Panoramic view of the Linville Gorge

Right – The next photos are of a longer distance view, called Erwin's View, of the Linville Falls, but after seeing the view from the lower overlook, I like this one the best. It seems strange, but I could swear the sound of the water was louder up here than it was below.







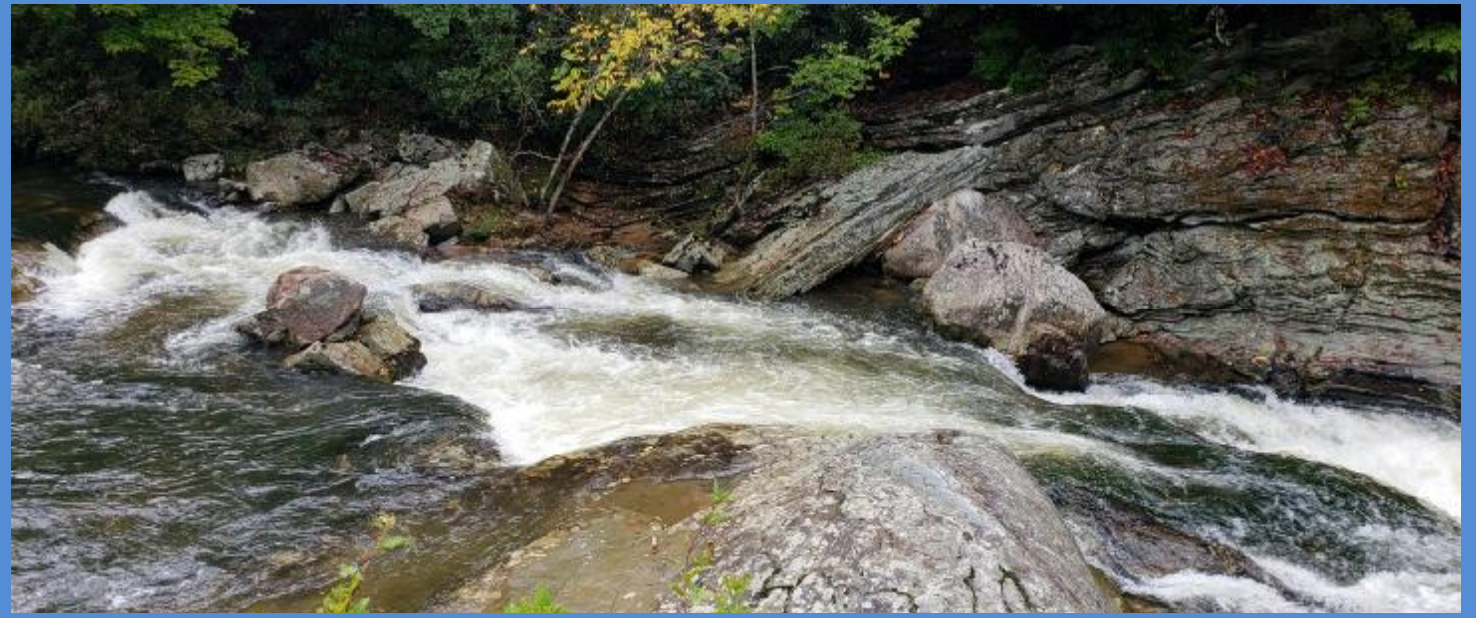
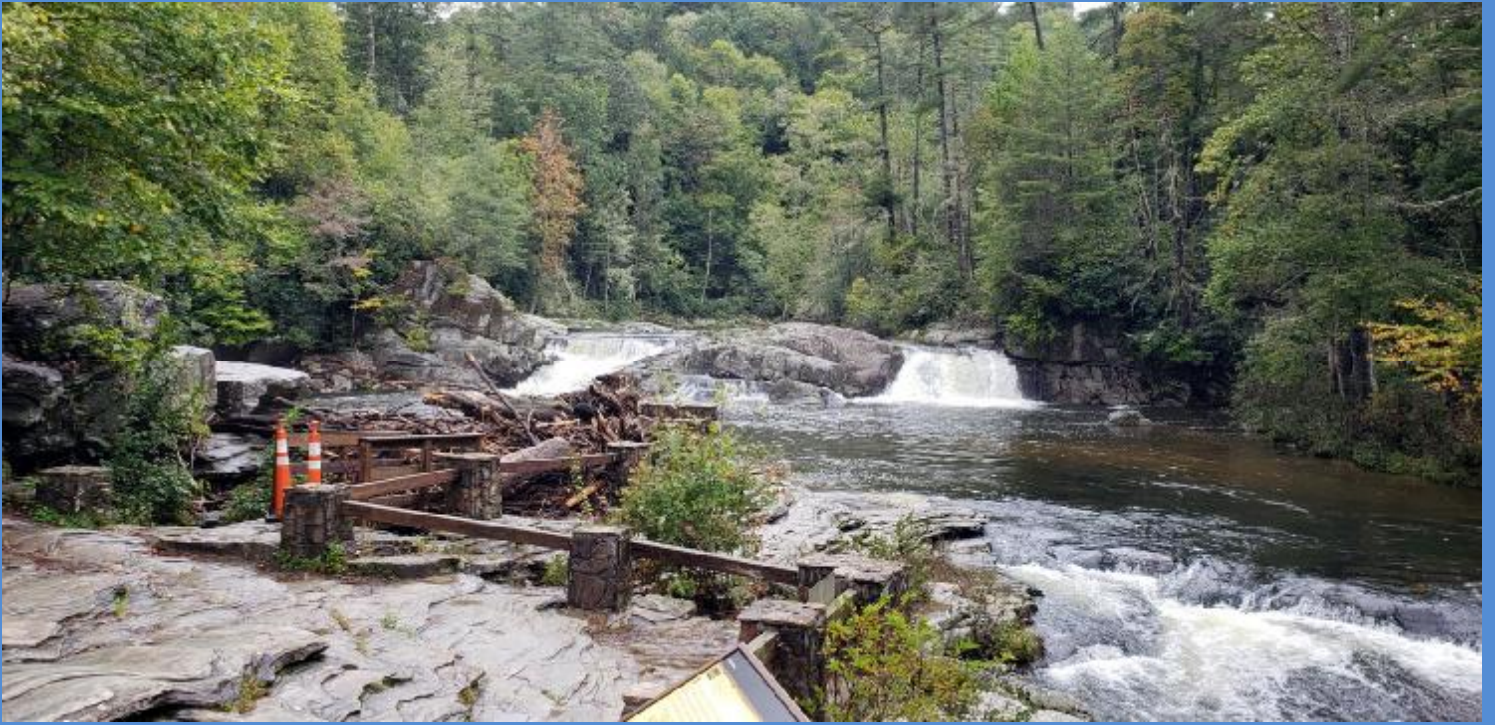
The next pictures are from the Chimney View Overlook, as I mentioned above.



This is the gorge again

In the photo below, make note of the 2 orange cones and the person, just above the center. That is my next destination.







The photos below are of sections of the normal guardrail around the upper section of the overlook, the section behind the orange cones. Look at the amount of debris piled up, compared to the 4' railings. Then, imagine the water behind being high enough to cause that debris pile. The waterfall must have been quite a sight with all that water rushing through





Yesterday, as I was leaving the Moses Cone Estate, I passed a couple families. I was not sure at the time if they were English or Australian, but as I pulled onto the road there were 2 RV's parked on the side. I determined it must have been a couple families taking the Blue Ridge Parkway as their vacation this year. I remember back in Canyonlands National Park, I think it was, that an Australian family pulled up at my campsite and asked if they could fill their water tank. They informed me that they did the same thing every year - rent an RV and tour the American West for a month.

So today, as I was getting my hat and hiking poles, I noticed the same 2 RV's parked next to mine. They're from Australia, seems like 2 families, and they were admiring my RV. We talked a little then went our separate ways. We wound up leaving the parking lot at the same time, our own little caravan, but I pulled over shortly thereafter to eat lunch. I passed them at the Rock Museum. We will probably cross paths again tomorrow.





Pulled over here because you can just see some clearing on the other side of that cloud bank and some sun on the fields below in the last shot.





About 3:00 p.m. it started coming down hard. I drove for a little while then pulled over at the Bald Mountain Overlook to wait it out. I played sudoku on my phone, until the rain stopped and I began to plan my next hike. It was then I realized my diesel was getting low. It was still 30 miles to Asheville, and a search for a closer station turned up negative. Fortunately, Bald Mountain is right near Mount Mitchell. Erin, you remember Mount Mitchell. Mount Mitchell is the highest point in the Blue Ridge Mountains, so I was pretty sure it was all downhill from there to Asheville.

But, did it get foggy. Visibility of only 100-200 yards on the road ahead. I had to keep one eye on the double yellow line to make sure I stayed in my lane; one eye on the GPS so I could see the curves coming in the road ahead; and one eye on the low hanging branches so I could swerve across the yellow line and avoid them. I was going cross-eyed.

When the low fuel light goes on in the RV the tank is at about $\frac{1}{4}$. I think this is because it's diesel and it may take longer to find a station. On my way south I determined that there was about 84 miles left in the tank when the low fuel light goes on. My fourth eye was on the mileage and fuel gauge.

Twisting and turning, mostly downhill, 8 miles of my 84 left, then my GPS (the RV GPS kind of sucks so I have been using my phone GPS. I have it mounted right on the dash) told me to "turn right ahead". I almost shouted out "Homer, what are you doing? We still have 7.3 miles to go." before remembering that Homer has nothing to do with it anymore.

So, I followed the instructions and with 1.5 of my 84 miles left, arrived at a diesel station in Asheville. Filled the tank with only 24 gallons. It holds 26.2. I had another 26 miles in the tank.

I tried a Walmart, but the sign said no overnight RV parking. Then tried a Camping World – gate locked. Decided to eat dinner out for the first time since leaving home – Waffle House. And am now parked at a truck stop where the constant rumble of diesel engines will lull me to sleep.

Good Night!