



# First RV Trip - Fall 2018



Some sun shining on the golf course below

## 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 5

Friday

September 28th

On the  
Blue Ridge Parkway  
From  
Mile Post 305  
To  
Great Smokey  
Mountains  
National  
Park

Weather

Cool  
Misty  
Foggy

So I am sending this out today because my campsite last night had no service. So you will actually, maybe, get two newsletters today. It depends how quickly I type. LOL



My intent here was to hike the Chestnut Cove Overlook Trail. The MST also runs along the road here. The sign post at the start of the trail seemed like Chestnut Cove was uphill to the left and MST downhill to the right. After all, why would a trail lead DOWN to an overlook? So I headed left.

After hiking for some time, and counting my steps for awhile, I estimated I had gone about 4/5 of a mile, but I was just going up and down with no ridge in sight. Suddenly I noticed a car in another parking area. Darn, this is the MST. Turn around and head back. On the way I ran into a couple who asked how far it was to the lookout. I had to tell them they were on the wrong trail. They felt it was poorly marked also.



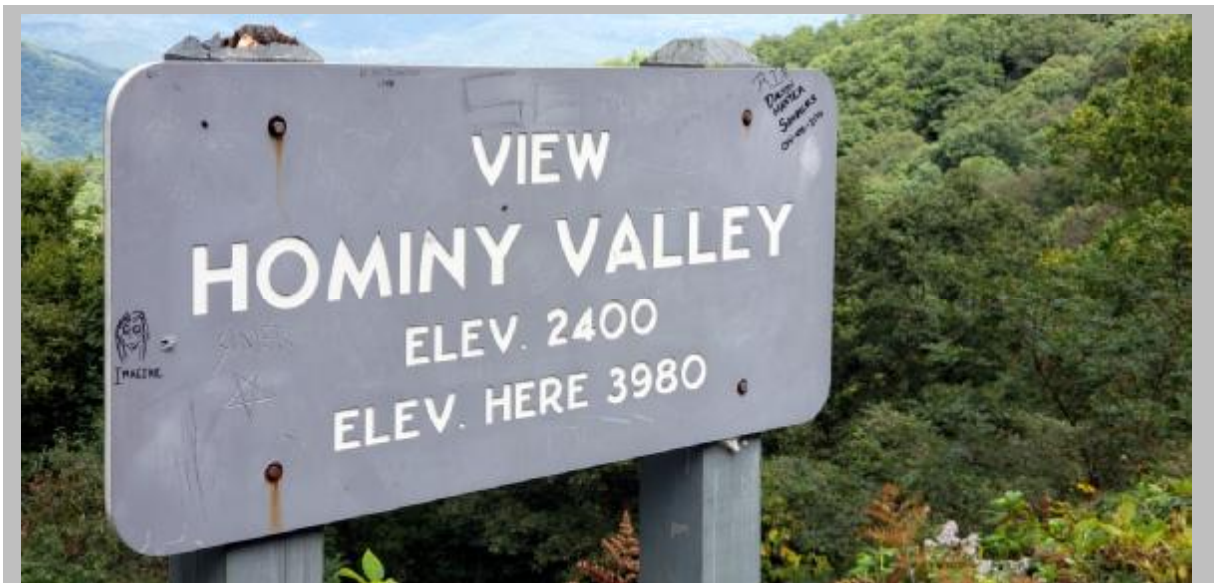
I saw this fungus in the sun on the hike and thought it was kind of unique.



Above is my lunchtime view.

Ok, don't laugh. I finally realized why I seemed to be getting a late start every day. When I usually wake up to use the bathroom, I check the time on my Kindle. I go back to bed, can't sleep, read for awhile. Wake up, check the time, on the Kindle, decide it is still too early, and go back to sleep. Finally around 7:45 – 8:15 I decide to get out of bed. I did not realize that when I changed the time on the Kindle to Eastern, it was still showing central time on the main display. So, 8:15 became 9:15. And so on.

I still cannot get the Kindle to display eastern time on the main display. I will have to call them and get it straightened out.





• Panoramic

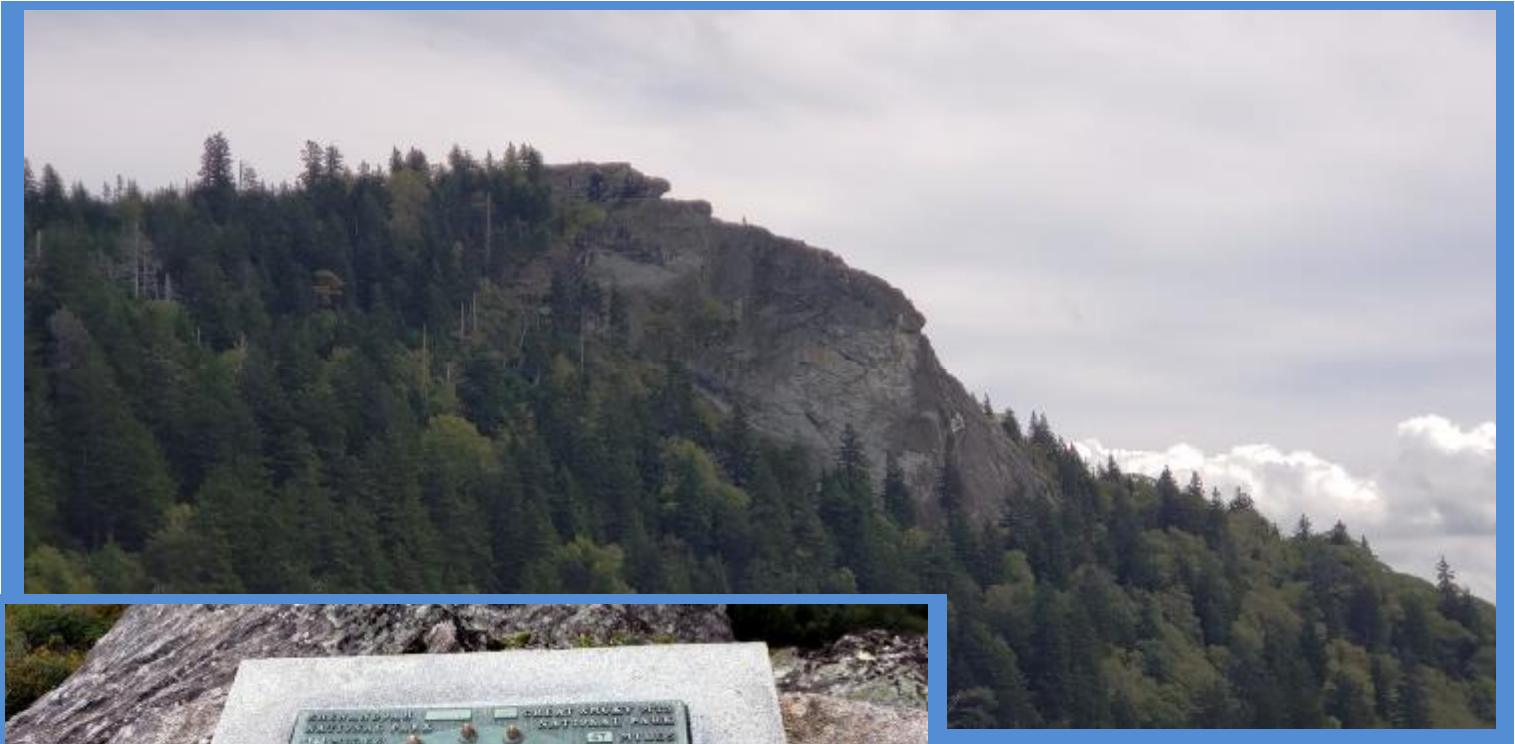


This was a special hike. Very short, only one tenth of a mile or so. You could tell it was little used. The rock you end up on is about 6' x 6', just 20' or so off the main path. But it was fantastic. Awe inspiring. Look at the picture below for what ISN'T there, instead of the view. No houses, no buildings, no roads, no agriculture. Unbroken treetops to the horizon.

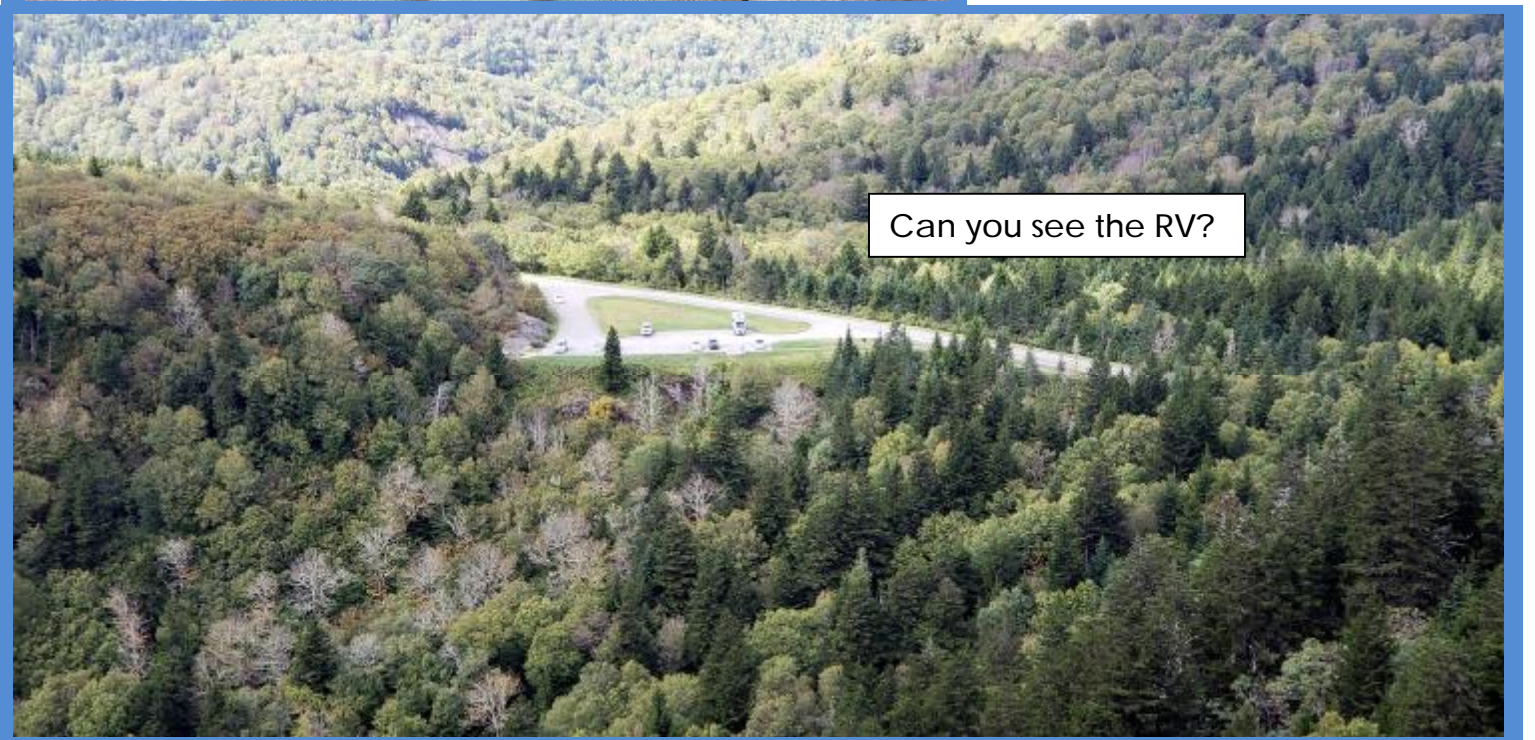
Just imagine you are Daniel Boone in the 1700's and you just arrived at this rock. You see two distant mountain peaks as far away as possible and make that the point where you want to cross that mountain range. Then you look at the peaks and valleys and forests and creeks between you and your goal. What a daunting task it was to explore America.



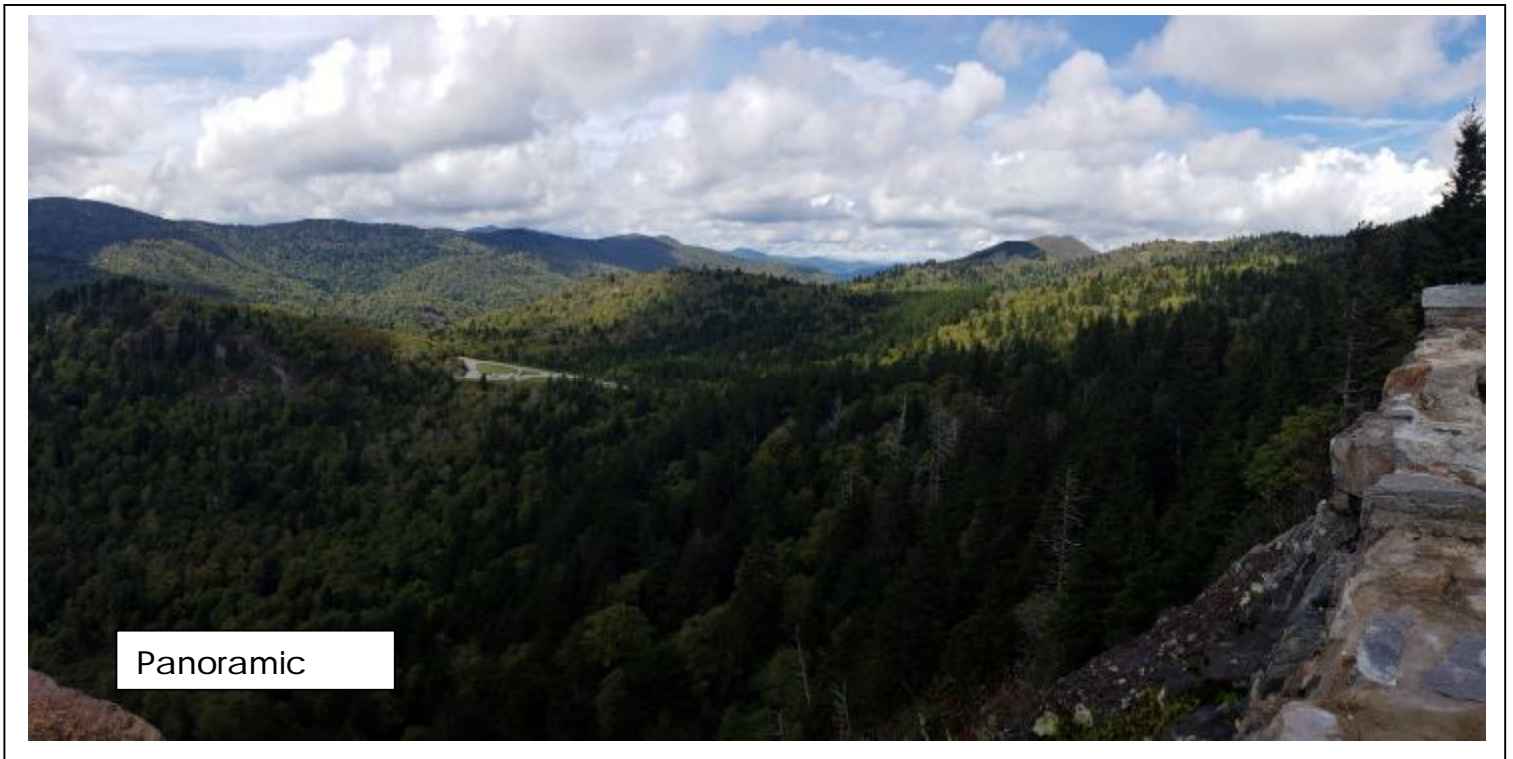
This was another good hike. Unfortunately, the first 50% was paved with asphalt. I have come to find out that hiking on pitched asphalt is more difficult than a rock and root strewn trail. Your feet are always at an angle where the rocks and roots offer a level placement for your foot



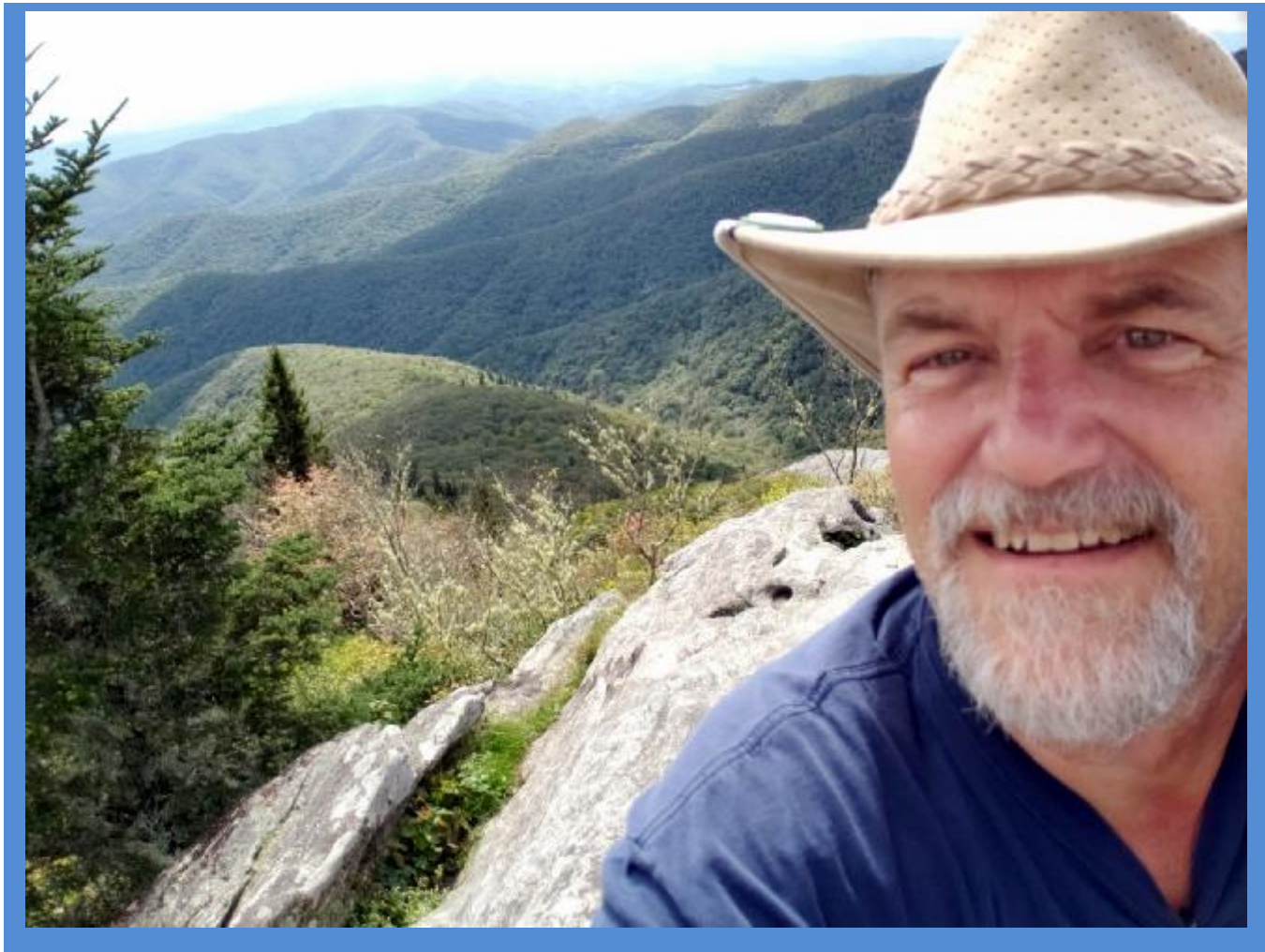
That is the end of the hike up there



Can you see the RV?

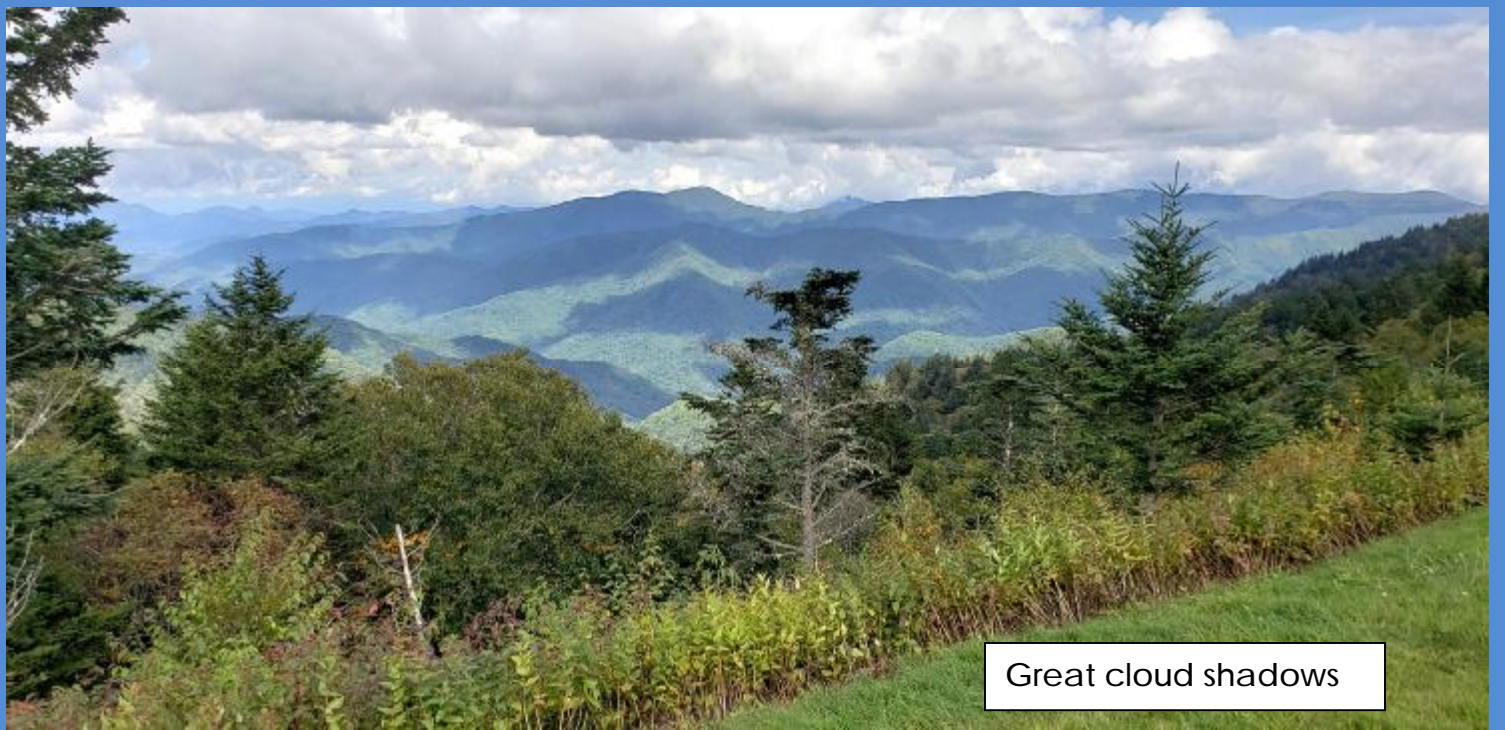


Panoramic





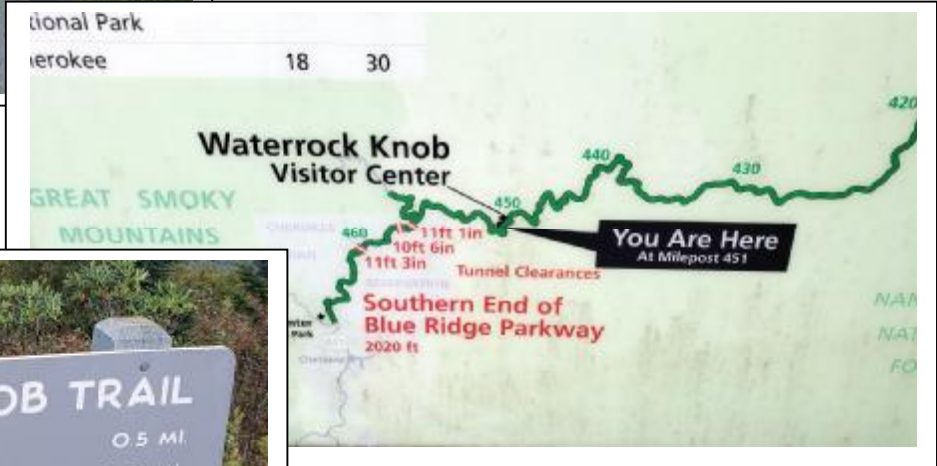
I did not see any falcons or nests, unfortunately.



Great cloud shadows







I started up this trail when the sun was shining. About  $\frac{3}{4}$  of the way up I looked around me and saw nothing but clouds. Hmmmm.....I have seen enough clouds over the last 4 days to hold me for awhile, so I turned around. Took the parking lot shot from about the halfway point.





I will skip the story where the RV almost took out a Siberian Husky. We both survived.

When I left the Richard Balsam Overlook I had about 18 miles to the end of the Parkway. I got off to get gas and the quickest route took me right back on. I was in a bit of a hurry because the Visitor Center closes at 6:00 and I was set to arrive around 5:47.

YOWSA!!! Yelich just hit another homer, Brewers lead 6-5.

AS I dove up the main road to the visitor center I noticed cars parked all over the place and orange cones out. Great, I am not going to make it.

Low and behold, it was a herd of Elk traffic jam. Needless to say I did stop for a couple pictures, but I did make it to the visitor center in time.

Enjoy the pics. I spent the night at a campground just inside the park entrance.







