

Blue Ridge Ramblers Spoonauger & King Creek Falls Hike, Tuesday, October 2, 2018

Fellow hiking friends and kids, I did another hike today. (And, so far, the knee is still doing OK!)

I hiked with the Blue Ridge Ramblers today (Tuesday, October 2nd) along the Chattooga River in SC.

Here's their hike plan description from the web site:

“From the kiosk at Burrell’s Ford parking area, head back up Burrell’s Ford Road about 50 yards to the Foothills Trail and its white blazed path. Wind uphill left for 0.6 miles to the Chattooga Trail junction. Follow its green blazes, looping above then across the unnamed source of Spoonauger Falls. Continue on down to the Chattooga River. Turn left and follow the main trail (FT again), south and downstream, paralleling the river. Watch for the sign and spur on the left to Spoonauger. After visiting the falls, continuing hugging the river down to the Burrell’s Ford campground...nice for lunch. Then continue southeast across Burrell’s Ford Road. Follow, and cross King Creek to the falls. On return, continue straight after crossing the King Creek bridge, winding up and back to the Burrell’s Ford parking lot. The hike is less than 5 miles total with only a few climbs of a few hundred feet each, and one 400 foot descent...easy to moderate overall.”

Twenty-seven of us did this beautiful hike! The hike took probably an hour longer than usual due to a serious run-in with %&*&# Yellow Jackets!! At Spoonauger Falls, several of the hikers received multiple stings, and one lady was “nailed” around 25 times! Plus, much time was spent trying to retrieve a backpack from the swarm of attackers, not to mention treating stings.

I was one of the lucky ones – no stings. But I did kill one attacker.

ACTUAL STATS:

Distance: 4.8 miles according to Michael’s GPS

Hike Start: 9:53 AM

Hike End: 1:11 PM

Elapsed Time: 03:18:12 (hour/min/sec) according to my Suunto altimeter watch

Starting/Ending Elevation: ~2,150’

Total Elevation Gain/Loss: ~680’

Net Altitude Change: 0.0’

Starting Temp: 65°

Ending Temp: 73°



Rhéal

I took some photos – here’s a few below:

This was our starting point – The parking lot at Burrell's Ford a couple miles off of SC Route 107.



We had a LOT of hikers today!



I'm glad I didn't wear shorts today....



Crossing a small creek on a “one person at a time” bridge.



Our first view of Spoonauger Falls...



...and the full, and beautiful view!



Well, the Yellow Jackets didn't like our intrusion I guess. Sting victims being treated.



A downstream view of the beautiful Chattooga River as we hiked downstream...



...to our lunch spot at the Burrell's Ford campground.

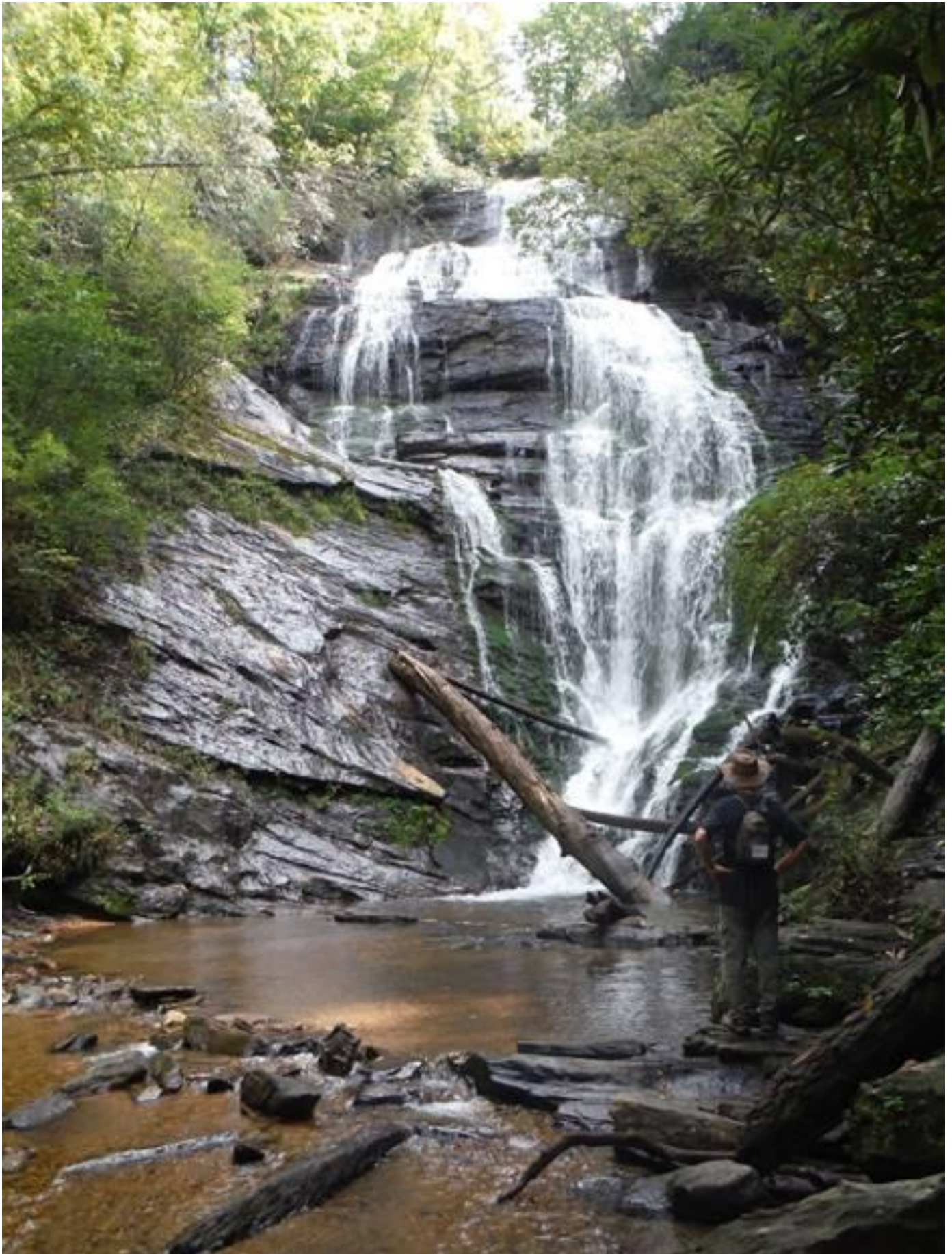


Our hikers enjoying lunch in the shade. We spent much time here waiting for hikers trying to retrieve their hiking gear from the Yellow Jackets.





Next, many of us hiked to beautiful King Creek Falls.



A different view...



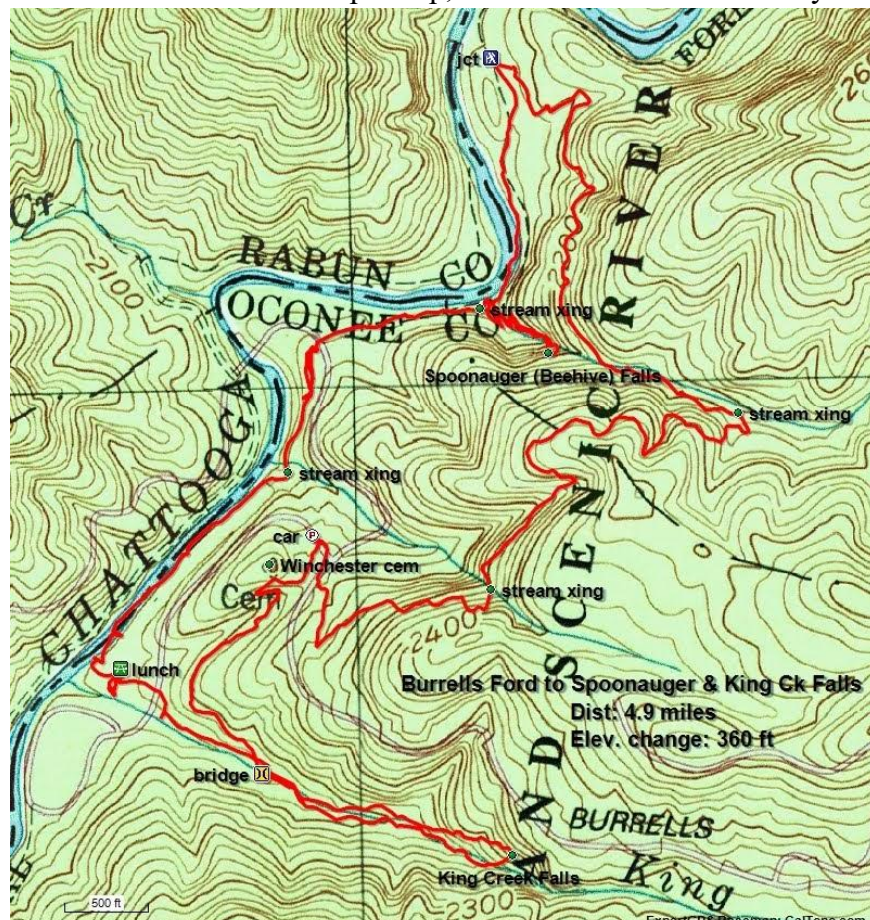
...and the viewers!



And a shot of me crossing the log, from the Blue Ridge website, compliments of Donna....



...and here's the hike topo map, from Donna's Photo Gallery.



For comparison, here's a King's Creek Falls photo I took on Nov 27, 1999. Note: SAME big log!



After viewing the falls, we crossed over King Creek and hiked back to the Burrell's Ford parking lot.
End of hike!

