

**Upper Creek's Upper Falls and More**

By Wally Wersching

Last Tuesday, I decided to take a ride up to the mountains. My plan was to ride up Rt 18 to Morganton then Rt 181 to The Parkway and take The Parkway to Rt 226 and take Rt 226 back home to Shelby. That was the plan. I always have a rough plan before I start. I change it along the way as the mood suits me.



I actually rode north on Rt 226 at about 7:00AM. I stopped for gas in Polkville, NC before turning onto Rt 10. I enjoyed the ride on Rt 10 because I hadn't been on it for some time. The only time I had to slow was when I rode through the small town of Casar, NC.

Before I knew it, I turned left onto Rt 18 and passed Green's Cycles on the left. He wasn't open yet. I stayed on Rt 18 as I rode into Morganton. After going through the center of town, I followed the signs to Rt 181. After I was on Rt 181, I enjoyed the sweeping turns and elevation changes as it wound its way up the mountain.

As I rode, I noticed the mile markers on the side of the road. I knew that Upper Creek was just after mile marker 22 on the right. I hadn't been there for a long time. I decided to stop and hike to the upper falls. The road to the parking



lot is gravel and deeply rutted. I had to be careful because Miss Vickie rides very low. I made it with no problems.

Once on the trail, I ate a granola bar because I knew that I'd need my energy for the hike back up. As I stepped down, I twisted my left ankle on a root. It hurt but I didn't think I did any real damage. I was just more careful after that.

Before I knew it, I was on the steps going down to the creek. The water was rushing between the rocks and made a peaceful, relaxing sound. I thought about walking across on the rocks but they were wet, and I really didn't want to get wet or fall over the falls. I went to the other side once, and hiked down to the base of the falls. It is beautiful with a small swimming hole at the base.

I didn't know it at the time but the Saturday before; a young man (22) fell over the falls and died. There have been a few deaths at the upper falls on Upper Creek over the years.

I walked back up to the bike and the whole hike took about a half hour. I was pretty dry because it was hot and I was sweating. I wanted something cold to drink so I continued up Rt 181 until The Parkway intersection. I stopped at Christa's Deli. She has coolers full of cold drinks. I bought an ice cold bottle of root beer and it tasted great.



Christa and I talked for a short time. She was busy getting ready for the lunch crowd. She was baking her own bread and buns for the deli sandwiches. I'll have to stop in for lunch one day. I'll bet that her food tastes great.

I got onto The Parkway and headed south toward Rt 226. Instead, I turned off at Rt 221, and took it all the way to Marion where I stayed on Rt 226 all the way home.

The ride was almost as planned with a few variations. I'll have to do it again real soon!



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