



The Flyin' Solo VanLife on the Highways and Byways of North America

RICK'S ROADS

Ride Along and Enjoy the People, Places, and Who Knows What



BLOG POST: 2022.09.17
Escalante East



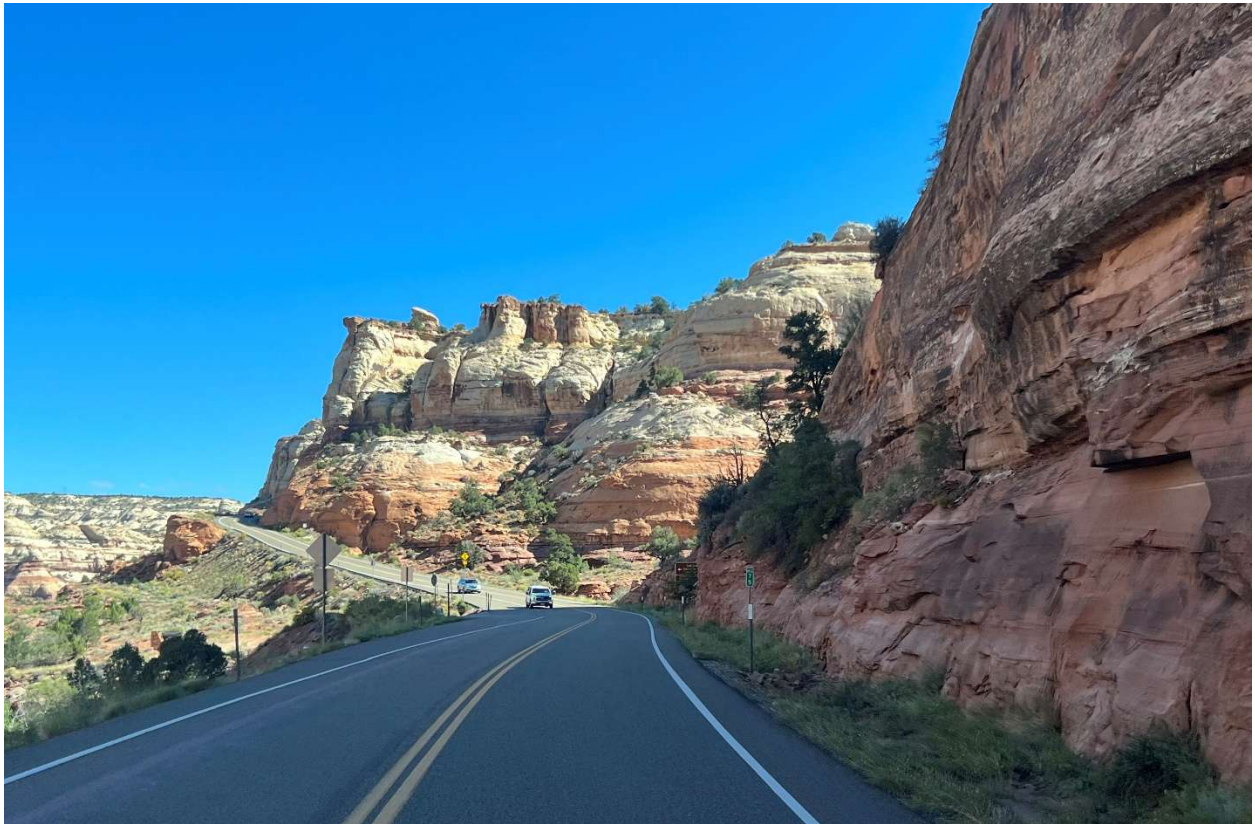
This was another beautiful sunny day. It seems like 100 of the 107 so far have been. Today, there are enough clouds to count as scenery.

I woke up in mid-morning next to that big EGSNM sign, saw the sky and sunshine, and hit the road, for more “Escalanting.” I was about halfway through, and I knew from prior trips that the northern and eastern high grounds were spectacular.

There was a target for this morning, but it was about 30 miles away, and – though I knew the road would be empty and allow for a swift pace – I’d be rolling casually along, and stopping many times to snap some pics and just soak it all in. Here are some of the photos...















It took about 90 minutes to cover that 30 miles and reach the town of Boulder (average 20 MPH). So, shoot me, I was loving life.

Boulder did not have a lot of businesses (see map sign, next page), but it had a gas station, and that was all I was after. Plus water.

Hills Hollows had the usual needs displayed on its face, but the last one made me do a double-take: FILM. People still use that stuff?? Or is that sign just really old?





Welcome to Boulder Town

Boulder takes pride in its rural community lifestyle and scenic beauty -
A gateway to the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument



BOULDER TOWN
invites you to stop
and enjoy the rural
hospitality of the
services in and
around our town.



GAS

Located at 9 & 12

LODGING

Motels: 2, 4 & 7

Guest Ranch: 11

Bed & Breakfast: 4

Cabins: 13, 14

CAMPGROUNDS

Located at 3, 4 & 13

RESTAURANTS

Located at 7, 7 & 8

GROCERIES

Located at 3, 5, 8 & 12

GUIDE SERVICES

Located at 3, 5, 8 & 13

GALLERIES & GIFT SHOPS

Located at 3, 5, 8 & 13

AUTO REPAIR

Located at 1

OTHER SERVICES

Located at 1

You can see by the map that I was at the **You Are Here**, and that I had not yet reached that cluster of red circles that made up “downtown.” In fact, I would not be reaching those dots for hours. I’d be driving that straight stretch of UT-12, but I would be rolling straight ahead at that 90° left turn, eschewing 12 in favor of Burr Trail Road.

This led to one of the highlights that the BLM guides had told me about yesterday: Long Canyon. Given yesterday’s washboarding, I was cautious in my approach to this long wilderness road, but it turned out to be excellent! It was paved or well-graded throughout, and Long Canyon was tall and narrow and classic Utah.

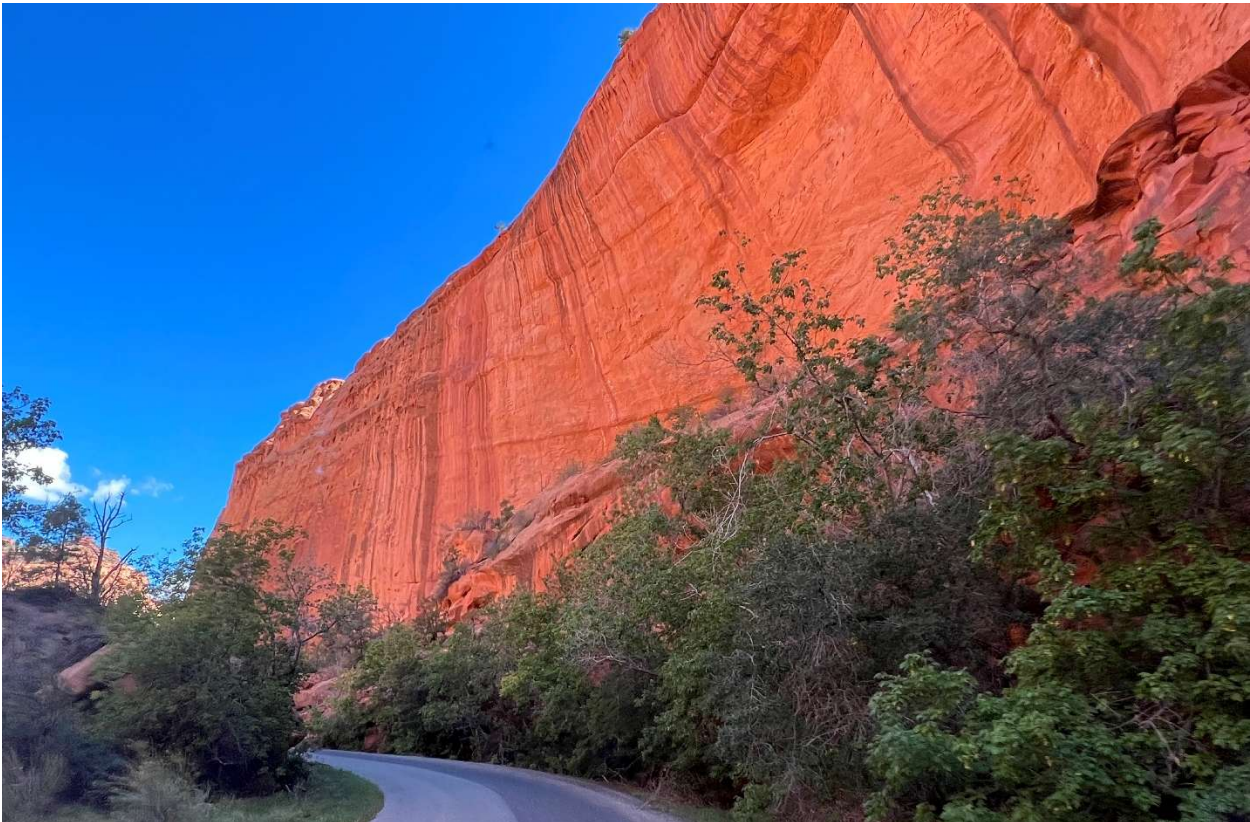


Burr Trail Road was long, and Maxx was the only vehicle on it. Excellent. BTR had nice scenery of its own, but I knew the best was up ahead, and I was eager for it.

The BLM girl had said that “there’s no sign; it’s just right there.” She had also said that about Devil’s Garden (which I never did find) so, again, I was wary.

Then the road reached a bluff and turned hard right, but the view to the left halted me: a long and deep cut in the vermillion landscape, with a paved road at the bottom, ran off and out of sight. Ohh, I had found Long Canyon, all right. This was gonna be goooooo!











And then, boom, the cliffs stopped, and the wide desert plain opened up. This called for a lunch break and a good, lengthy gawk session.







I had been in the driver's seat all morning, so, after chowing a delicious Chicken Salad Salad – that's a salad with chicken salad on it – I decided this would be a great place to get out and walk around some.

There was not a lot of stroll-around terrain, but I was able to get to the far side of the gully rim and take in the full view of the hill, with Maxx parked halfway up, looking really small (photo, previous page).

The coloring of the mountain could be better appreciated from over here too. It was red for the bottom 75% and beige for the next 20% and deep brown for the crowning 5%.

Just ahead of where I was parked, there was a fence and a gate. It was open, but it gave me pause about what the road ahead might be turning into. There certainly did not appear to be anything out there but wild desert. The basic BLM map that I had was no help, and I had no phone signal out here (duh), so I could not consult GooGirl.

I made the decision to retrace my route back through Long Canyon and out to Boulder. It was a sure thing, and I might even get some great reverse angle photos. So, with a nod and a “see ya next time” wave, I turned Blue Maxx about and headed back. I had **no** problem with getting another look at this canyon!



The ride to Capitol Reef was better than I remembered: long-range scenic overlooks, winding smooth roads, and – ahhhh, yesss -- Aspens galore.



I do LOVE those white-trunked trees! And there were miles and miles of them!





It was mid-afternoon when I got within sight of Capitol Reef. That unique National Park would be extra dramatic under that lowering sun.

