

Somehow, amidst the waves of rain, the High Country held the 4th of July. While emergency crews still responded to areas of flooding on roadways, trees down, and all of us reacted to flash flood warnings, there were still a parade or two, bands played—albeit under shelter—and folks turned out. The Boone parade had an amazing attendance in spite of periodic downpours with moments of almost sunshine as the clouds occasionally separated. Much of the afternoon saw fireworks of a meteorological variety, as thunderstorms raced through the area, raking the area with heavy downpours. Still, there were some folks adding the noise of their own fireworks to the displays. Today, there are fewer of the bands of rain racing south to north, dumping Gulf and Atlantic moisture—the pattern we've been in over a week now—and by tomorrow, we may actually start to come out from under the constant waves of deluge—maybe in time to save some Independence weekend festivities, especially tonight with the Tams in Newland and tomorrow in Blowing Rock. We'll see. But now the task begins to work on the damaged roads—especially Avery County Roads, washed over, washed out, some places crumbling after the 8 or 9 days of deluges. Places like Elk River Road—Blevins Creek, Three Mile, the Heaton Church area, Mullen Hill, and areas of Ashe on NC 88 east, Warrensville, Lansing, NC 194. Flooded homes, stranded vehicles—the assessment may lead to some disaster consideration by the state or federal government.