

BURRELL'S FORD to SPOONAUGER and KING CREEK FALLS, UPPER CHATTOOGA



DESCRIPTION: Burrell's Ford is the start and/or end point for three different hikes: ELLICOTT ROCK BF, MEDLIN MOUNTAIN, and BIG BEND NORTH. It also serves as a base for two loop hikes to the near-by Spoonauger Falls...up river...and King Creek Falls...down river; both on tributaries of the CHATTOOGA. Both are well worth the short climbs on spurs from the main trail. King Creek is a special delight with splash pool and surrounding rockery. It is possible, stick aided, to cross King Creek Falls at its base, using a fallen log as a slippery bridge (CAUTION!). The crossing affords additional views and closer encounter with the showy falls. Spoonauger is tall and narrow with limited room for viewing, but also a good show. The adjacent rockery can become a dazzling ice castle in winter.

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

DIRECTIONS (GPS: 34.971314, -83.114447)

Gather, pool, and depart as usual from KKEPA at 830AM and/or Walhalla at 9. From there go 8mi NW on SC28, 10 N on SC107, then 2.3 E (left) on Burrell's Ford (a mostly gravel road).

There are facilities at BF and no fees. Expect to return by 3PM.

UPDATED Jun 2017

