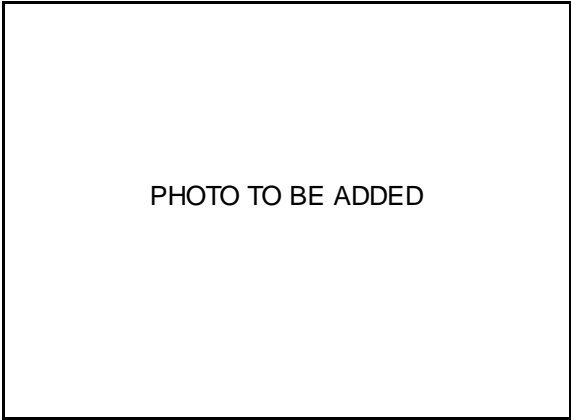


CHIMNEY TOP from LAUREL VALLEY ACCESS (Foothill Trial A4..A3)

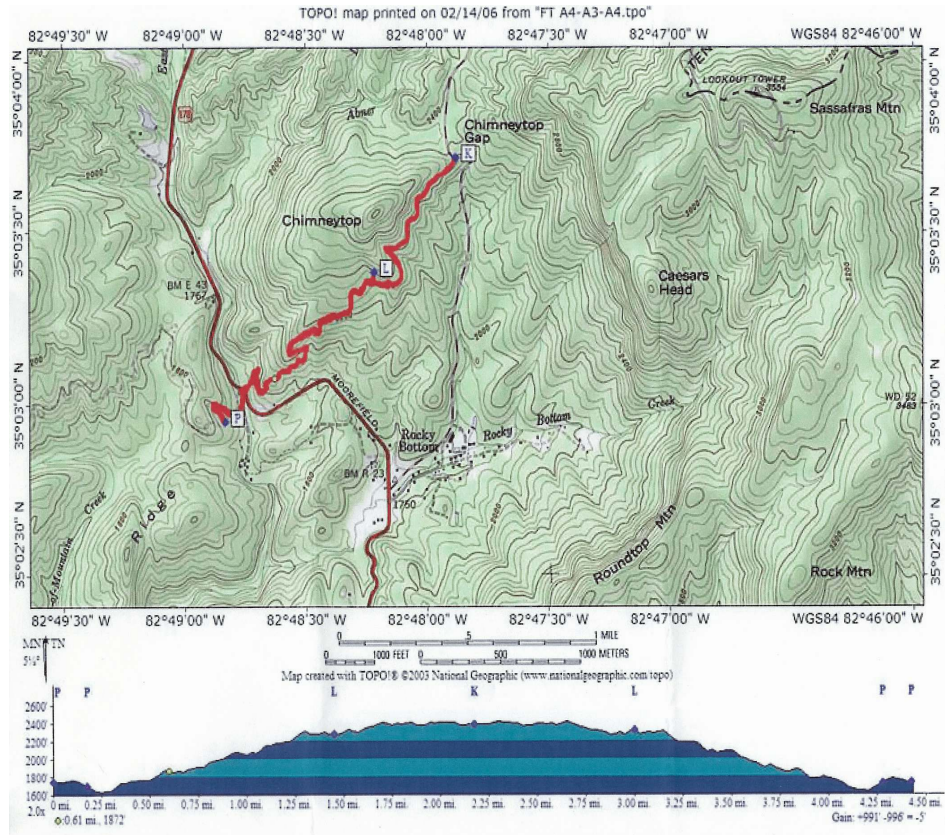


DESCRIPTION: Not recently hiked, the detail for this easy/moderate 4.6 mile (round trip) deserves updating. However, as part of the Foothills Trail (FT) it is maintained, developed, marked, and well described in FTC guides.

Begin at the FT Laurel Valley Access north of Rocky Bottom and follow the access road back down to a bridge at Rocky Bottom. Cross US178 and a small stream, on into a rhododendron glade and begin the 700ft climb to Chimney top. At about 0.5 mi, there's a large rock outcrop north of the trail and nice groupings of laurel, galax, Christmas fern, and hemlock. The trail continues, level along the ridge skirting the Chimney Top 2800ft summit, and ends at the kiosk on Sassafras Mtn/VanClayton Rd. Look for a lunch spot about half way back, near the ridge end and start of the downhill.

DIRECTIONS: (GPS: 35.049189, -82.813975)

Gather at Holly Springs Mart (US11 & SC178) for a 915AM departure. This requires leaving KKEPA by 845 OR Walhalla by 830. From Holly go 8 miles north on US178 through Rocky Bottom. Just over the bridge across Eastatoe Creek, turn sharp left/south onto Laurel Valley Rd. Immediately bear right following the graveled Horsepasture Rd uphill another 0.2mi to the FT parking area. There are no fees and no facilities after Holly.



UPDATED Jul 2017