

# J.C.'s Loop Hike

**5.2 Mile Loop - Strenuous - Elevation Gain 1533 Feet**

**A moderately steep and dry climb to Round Knob**

**followed by a descent on the Davis Creek Trail.**

**There are about ten crossings of Davis Creek, some of which may have to be waded when the water level is high.**

**Hiked June 23, 2012**

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*Directions to Trailhead:* Leave Greeneville on McKee Street which becomes The Jones Bridge Road. Drive approximately 5 miles from town, cross the Nolichucky River, until you reach the intersection with Highway 107 at the Crossroads Service Station and Hardware. Drive straight through the intersection on the Greystone Road and follow signs to the Margarett Falls Trailhead. Continue on Shelton Mission Road past the Margarett Falls Trailhead for one mile to the Davis Creek Trailhead which is difficult to find. Look for an old swimming pool foundation on the left just past a white house in a curve. The Davis Creek Trailhead is just across the road and a sign is present. There is a small parking space for one or two cars. In the warmer weather, the parking area is usually overgrown. The white house across the road is owned by Barney Hensley and he will usually give you permission to park beside their driveway.

Follow the trail from the trailhead moderately uphill and straight for a little over a tenth of a mile and reach the junction with the Davis Creek Trail which turns sharply to the right. For this hike continue straight on the JC's Loop Trail. After covering a total of about 2/3 of a mile you will reach a power line corridor going steeply, straight up the mountainside. Turn right and follow the corridor uphill about a tenth of a mile then exit the corridor following the trail to the left. At this point you will start to climb the hillside, passing an unnamed trail coming in from the left at mile .84. Continue to climb steeply and circle the hill for nearly a mile until the singletrack trail ends at a road junction where a log cabin was under construction at the time of this hike. Some parts of this singletrack section are exposed to the elements and can be hot in the summer. It was full of delicious blueberries the third week of June.

When you reach the log cabin, take the road to the right uphill for about a quarter mile, then turn left where another road enters from the right. Continue uphill for a short distance and pass another road coming downhill from the right. Continue straight on a wide USFS road and follow it nearly a mile, then leave the road on an unnamed spur trail steeply downhill. Watch carefully because this trail may be difficult to find but there were ribbons on the opposite side of the road marking the trail. Follow this spur trail about a half mile until the Junction of the Davis Creek Trail is reached.

Be very careful here as the trail to the right is not evident because it follows the very rocky creekbed for a short distance and the blazing here is faint. If you start to climb at any point on the spur trail, you have missed the turn and you need to turn around. The Artie Hollow Trail intersects with Davis Creek just below the spur trail junction on the opposite side but is difficult to recognize. You will continue to the right and downhill on Davis Creek which is very well maintained, crossing the creek about ten times. Some of these crossings may have to be waded.

After covering a total of 4.3 miles, you will leave the creek at a small signpost, turn right and climb over the hillside for about three quarters of a mile to reach the JC's Loop Junction and on further to the Davis Creek Trailhead. This final section is dry and open but susceptible to blowdowns due to the Southern Pine Beetle. At the time of this hike, this sections was in excellent condition and full of blueberries.

## SYNOPSIS OF HIKE

| Mile | Elevation | Description   |
|------|-----------|---|
| 0    | 1880      | Davis Creek Trailhead                                     |
| .15  | 1903      | JCT Davis Creek Trail and JC's Loop Trail. Take the left. |
| .64  | 2201      | Enter Powerline Corridor. Take the right.                 |
| .71  | 2271      | Exit Powerline Corridor. Take the Left.                   |
| .84  | 2350      | JCT Unnamed Trail enters from left. Continue straight.    |
| 1.56 | 2943      | JCT with Road and Log Cabin. Take Road to right.          |
| 1.84 | 3048      | JCT with Road from right. Continue left.                  |
| 1.88 | 3059      | JCT with Road from right. Continue straight.              |
| 2.62 | 2889      | Exit road to the right on unnamed spur trail.             |
| 3.28 | 2362      | JCT with Davis Creek Trail. Take the right.               |
| 4.36 | 2034      | Sign Post. Take the right.                                |
| 5.04 | 1903      | JCT with JC's Loop Trail. Take the left to Trailhead.     |
| 5.20 | 1880      | Davis Creek Trailhead.                                    |

