

SECTION 5: KELLEY STAND ROAD TO KENDALL FARM ROAD

SNAPSHOT:

This primarily back-country section lies completely within the Green Mountain National Forest and leads to beautiful Stratton Pond, where there is a shelter for overnight camping, and to Little Pond, another pristine, isolated pond. The section ends with a steep, downhill run on an old logging road before crossing the Winhall River, but this can be avoided by detouring onto the I.P. Rd. (a snowmobile corridor and former CT), adding 2 miles to the overall length of this section.

LENGTH: 10.4 miles

DIFFICULTY:

This easy-to-intermediate section is pleasant and very scenic. There is one mid-way access point in the Stratton Mountain Resort complex. The terrain is gently undulating except for a long, steep (but wide) downhill run on an old logging road to Kendall Farm Rd.

DIRECTIONS TO TRAIL

ACCESS/EXIT POINTS (south to north):

1. Kelley Stand Rd. - Stratton

From Rte. 100 in West Wardsboro, go west on the Stratton/Arlington Rd. The road eventually turns into Kelley Stand Rd. After about six miles, look for a parking lot entrance on your right. Park along the edge of this lot rather than in the middle - the middle is reserved for snowmobile trailers - or proceed by car to the VAST trail intersection.

2. Stratton Mountain Resort - Stratton

On the Stratton Mt. Access Rd. starting at Rt. 30 in downtown Bondville, go south uphill nearly to the ski area. Turn right on North Brookwood Rd. and ascend the steep winding road to its end at a T. Turn left on West Ridge Rd. and park along the road well before you reach the cul-de-sac (a "no parking" area). From the end of the cul-de-sac ski into the CT approximately 0.25 miles on an old logging road.

3. Kendall Farm Rd. - Winhall

From the Rte. 11/Rte. 30 intersection near Bromley Mountain, go approximately 6.5 miles south on Rte. 30 and turn right (south) on Kendall Farm Rd. From Bondville, travel 1 mile north on Rte. 30 and turn left (south) on Kendall Farm Rd. Travel 2.2 miles on Kendall Farm Rd. to the end of plowing.

ROUTE DESCRIPTION:

From the Kelley Stand Rd. parking area (0.0), follow unplowed Kelley Stand Rd. west and downhill for about 0.75 miles. At an old unplowed parking area (wide spot in the road) the VAST trail rejoins Kelley Stand Rd. Go uphill for a quarter of a mile and at the point where the hill levels off (0.8), turn right (north), leaving Kelley Stand Rd. and the snowmobile trail, onto an old logging road. Follow the logging road to a fork (1.7) and bear left. The Trail follows a wide logging road and encounters the Stratton Pond Trail (2.8), marked with blue paint.

The CT turns right on the Stratton Pond Trail and follows it 1.5 miles to an intersection with the Long Trail (4.3). From here the Stratton Pond Shelter is about 0.1 mile to the right (south). Located near the southeast end of Stratton Pond, this shelter is a popular winter overnight camping spot. There are no reservations, so camping is on a first-come, first-serve basis. It is a

large three-sided shelter. Bring water and your own stove as wood fires are prohibited. Be prepared to share the shelter with other visitors.

Continuing northbound on the LT/CT, descend a short distance to a clearing (4.4) at the east end of Stratton Pond, a beautiful picnic spot. From the clearing go about 100 yards north along the shore to pick up the white painted blazes of the Long Trail. The CT follows the Long Trail north for about 0.1 mile. The CT then leaves the LT, turning northeast (right) and heading uphill on a winding logging road. The logging road traverses a wooded hillside, gradually turning east, and then descends to a stream crossing (5.0). After crossing another stream, the CT ascends a hill, where it intersects the International Paper Rd. ("I.P. Rd.") (6.4). This is a wide, well-maintained logging road and high-use snowmobile trail (and the former route of the CT).

Cross the I.P. Rd. on a logging road that is also a secondary snowmobile trail. To leave the CT at Stratton Mountain Resort continue east on this logging road for about one mile to the West Ridge Rd.

To continue north on the CT, bear left (northeast) about 0.3 miles beyond the I.P. Rd. on a secondary snowmobile trail. After the Trail turns north and starts to go down hill turn left (northwest) leaving the snowmobile trail. After another half a mile turn right (east) and then after a few hundred yards left (north) to skirt the east end of Little Pond. Little Pond is a remote and scenic spot to take a rest or enjoy a snack. It's best to access it from the north side. About 0.6 miles beyond Little Pond, the CT descends gently to intersect the Pony Hill Trail (8.9). The Pony Hill Trail provides a steep, winding descent to the Winhall River and Kendall Farm Rd. For a gentler descent, turn left on the Pony Hill Trail and, after about 0.2 miles, turn right to join the I.P. Rd. northbound. After about 3.5 miles this wide, VAST corridor will bring you back to the CT where it crosses the Winhall River.

To continue north on the CT from Little Pond, turn right (northeast) at the intersection with the Pony Hill Trail and descend steeply 1.2 miles to intersect a secondary snowmobile trail. Turn left (north) and go a short distance to a bridge across the Winhall River. The I.P. Rd. (former CT) comes in from the left here. Continue north over a vehicle bridge, reaching the end of the plowed section of Kendall Farm Rd. (10.4) after about 100 yards.

DISTANCE TO LANDMARKS:

Mileage Northbound	Landmark	Mileage Southbound
0.0	Kelley Stand Rd. parking	10.4
0.8	Old logging road	9.6
1.7	Fork in trail	8.7
2.8	Stratton Pond Trail	7.6
4.3	Long Trail/CT junction	6.1
5.0	Stream crossing	5.4
6.4	I.P. Rd.	4.0
7.2	Left off snowmobile trail	3.2
8.9	Pony Hill Trail	1.5
10.4	Kendall Farm Rd.	0.0

SIDE TRAILS AND LOOPS:

The beautiful loop around Stratton Pond is approximately two miles long. The I.P. Rd. – Pony Hill Trail Loop is about five miles long, with about 3.5 miles shared with snowmobiles. The I.P. Rd. – Little Pond Loop is about 4.5 miles long, with approximately two miles on a snowmobile corridor and about 0.7 miles on a secondary snowmobile trail.