

## **SECTION 13: ROUTE 4 TO MOUNTAIN TOP**

### **SNAPSHOT:**

This section of the CT follows ungroomed trails, groomed snowmobile trails, and the excellent groomed trails of Mt. Top Ski Center. It features wonderful views of Chittenden Reservoir. You may have to walk the plowed section of Wildcat Rd. (approximately one mile).

**LENGTH:** 10.2 miles

### **DIFFICULTY:**

This section is generally of intermediate difficulty. There are a few steep climbs and descents between Rte. 4 and Old Turnpike Rd. and between Lefferts Pond and the Chittenden Dam.

### **DIRECTIONS TO TRAIL**

#### **ACCESS POINTS (south to north):**

##### **1. Rte. 4 Appalachian Trail/Long Trail/CT Parking Area - Mendon**

This ample parking area is located on the south side of Rte. 4, 0.9 miles west of Sherburne Pass. To ski north on the CT cross Rte. 4 and enter the woods on the combined AT/LT/CT.

##### **2. Wildcat Rd. - Chittenden**

From the village of Chittenden, take Dam Rd. east approximately 1.5 miles to a fork in the road. Take the right fork, Wildcat Rd., and go 1.5 miles, passing Leffert's Pond on the left, to the VAST / CT trail junction on the left (north) side of the road. (A VAST signboard will be on the south side.) The CT / VAST Trails follow the unplowed section of Wildcat Rd. southeast toward Rte. 4. Northbound the CT/VAST Trails leave Wildcat Rd. and skirt the east side of Leffert's Pond.

##### **3. Mountain Top Ski Center - Chittenden**

From Rte. 7, about 3 miles south of Pittsford turn east onto Sangamon Rd. Follow Sangamon Rd. all the way to the end and turn left onto Main St. Follow Main St. until just past the fire station. Turn left and immediately bear to the right of the Civil War monument onto Mountain Top Rd. Mountain Top Inn & Resort is 2 miles up this road on your right. If you plan to park overnight at the ski center, let the staff know so they won't launch a search at the end of the day.

### **ROUTE DESCRIPTION:**

From the Rte. 4 AT/LT/CT Parking Area (0.0), cross to the opposite side of Rte. 4 and head north into the woods on the AT/LT/CT. At the AT/LT junction with the CT (0.2) the Catamount Trail turns left (west) leaving the AT/LT. The CT heads west through the woods, and after several steep ups and downs, joins a logging road. The CT follows the logging road west for a while and then slabs uphill to the right (northwest) through the woods to another logging road, where it turns right (north) and heads steeply uphill. This is a challenging climb -- climbing skins are helpful here. The CT reaches a height-of-land, descends sharply, then turns west and reaches a T junction with unplowed Old Turnpike Rd. (also VAST Corridor #7) (1.4).

Turn right (north) on Old Turnpike Rd. and go to a log landing (2.5). Turn left (west) onto Wildcat Rd. Wildcat Rd. is usually unplowed for approximately 1.5 miles, and then plowed for about 1.0 mile (It is often possible to ski on the snow-covered road or beside the road on snowmobile tracks.) The CT and VAST Corridor 7 leave Wildcat Rd. and head north on a logging road (4.9).

Follow the logging road north to a junction with the Mountain Top Inn's Round Robin XC ski trail (6.0). Turn left (west) here, leaving the VAST Trail, and follow Round Robin (generally broken but ungroomed) between Leffert's Pond on your left (south) and Chittenden Reservoir on your right (north). A steep climb and descent before reaching the parking area at the east end of Chittenden Dam (8.0) may require herringboning or climbing skins. Remove your skis and walk across the dam. (Alternate: From the east side of the dam, follow the road from the parking area south for several hundred yards to a T intersection with Dam Rd. Turn right and head north to the west end of the dam.)

From the west end of the dam, ski along the shore past several summer cottages and join Mountain Top's Reservoir Run X-C trail. At a major trail intersection at a gravel pit, turn right (north) on VAST Corridor #4. After about 1/4 mile turn left off the snowmobile trail onto an ungroomed trail through an evergreen grove. Follow this trail up hill to join Mountain Top's Bounder Trail at the edge of a large field just below Mountain Top Inn. Turn left (west) and ski uphill on Bounder. Cross the Inn road (9.7) and ski north across a parking area and open fields to the ski touring center (10.2).

**DISTANCE TO LANDMARKS:**

| <b>Mileage<br/>Northbound</b> | <b>Landmark</b>              | <b>Mileage<br/>Southbound</b> |
|-------------------------------|------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 0.0                           | Rte. 4 AT/LT/CT Parking Area | 10.2                          |
| 0.2                           | AT/LT junction w/ CT         | 10.0                          |
| 1.4                           | Old Turnpike Rd.             | 8.8                           |
| 2.5                           | Log landing                  | 7.7                           |
| 4.9                           | Logging road junction        | 5.3                           |
| 6.0                           | Round Robin Ski Trail        | 4.2                           |
| 8.0                           | Chittenden Dam               | 2.2                           |
| 9.7                           | Mountain Top Rd.             | 0.5                           |
| 10.2                          | Mountain Top Touring Center  | 0.0                           |

**SIDE TRAILS AND LOOPS:**

The extensive network of groomed trails at Mountain Top Inn Ski Touring Center provides many opportunities for loops and side excursions. Stop in at the Ski Touring Center for a map and to pay the appropriate fee.