

## **SECTION 28: CRAFTSBURY OUTDOOR CENTER TO LOWELL VILLAGE**

### **SNAPSHOT:**

This tour crosses the Lowell Mountains and travels through many open farm fields, utilizing the historic Bayley-Hazen Rd. for much of the way. There are many wonderful views. The route is part groomed cross-country ski trail (15%), part snowmobile trail (50%), and part ungroomed back-country (35%) trail.

**LENGTH:** 12.9 miles

### **DIFFICULTY:**

This is a long, intermediate-level ski except for the last two miles between Rte. 58 and Carter Rd., which include a short but challenging, steep, narrow, and twisting descent. On the portions of the route that are shared with snowmobiles be alert, ski single file, and stay to the side of the shared trail.

### **DIRECTIONS TO TRAIL**

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

##### **1. Craftsbury Outdoor Center (COC) - Craftsbury**

From Rte. 14 in Craftsbury, follow the signs to the Outdoor Center. (From the Craftsbury Common green, go north on North Craftsbury Rd., and then bear right onto Wylie Hill Rd. Immediately turn right on Mill Village Rd. After it curves left heading into Mill Village, go right on Lost Nation Rd. to the COC.

##### **2. Bayley-Hazen Rd. (at "Breezy Acres") - Albany**

From Rte. 14 just north of the village of Albany, go left (west) on New St. (turns into Larabee Hill Rd.) for approximately one mile. Go right (northwest) on Bayley-Hazen Rd. to where the plowing ends near a white house and red barn ("Breezy Acres"). Do not obstruct farm equipment or the snowplow turn-around with your vehicle.

##### **3. Rte. 58 - Lowell**

From the intersection of Rtes. 100 and 58 in Lowell head east approximately one mile on Rte. 58 and look for a plowed turnoff on the south side of Rte. 58 just before Irish Hill Rd. Limited parking is available. To access the CT southbound, ski down a short hill and into a large field. Look for CT blazes on stakes in the field.

##### **4. Rte. 100 - Lowell**

From the intersection of Rtes. 100 and 58 in the village of Lowell go 1.0 mile north to the Lowell town office on the left (west) side of Rte. 100. Park at the town office or at the Lowell Elementary School, which is immediately south of the town office. To head south on the Catamount Trail, cross Rte. 100 from the town offices and head east just to the south of, and paralleling, Carter Rd.

***NOTE: Rte. 58 through Hazen's Notch (between Lowell and Montgomery) is closed to cars in winter***

### **ROUTE DESCRIPTION:**

From the Craftsbury Outdoor Center (0.0) head west to Little Hosmer Pond on COC Trail 7. Cross the lake, skiing northwest towards a clearing on the west shore of the lake (1.2). Climb the bank and follow the trail north and eventually climb steeply to a large field. Cross the field to a

dirt road. Cross the dirt road leaving the groomed trail at this point. Turn north and shortly join a section of trail shared with VAST Corridor #14 (1.5). Continue north until it intersects the unplowed portion of Wylie Hill Rd. Take the road down the hill (plowing resumes at the bottom), and cross the bridge over the Black River, where VAST #14 departs heading north. Leave the snowmobile trail here and cross to the west side of Rte. 14 (3.0). Enter a field on the south side of a large barn. Circle behind the barn and head west across the fields, staying well away from the horses and alpacas pastured there. Cross a fence line and parallel it north through a hilly and brushy section of trail to a log house and sawmill (4.3). Continue northwest on the lane through the middle of the sawmill. The CT joins the historic Bayley-Hazen Military Rd. (created at the time of the Revolutionary War) at the north end of the sawmill property and begins the ascent of the Lowell Mountain range.

The Trail crosses Rodgers Brook on a 50-foot long steel bridge rebuilt by CTA in 2001 to replace the previous bridge, which was washed away. In the fall of 2007 CTA, VAST, and VASA volunteers repaired and widened the bridge to accommodate snowmobiles and ATVs. The Trail then continues up through a hemlock-lined ravine to a large pasture. Follow the old roadway, lined with stonewalls and maple trees, from the west side of the pasture to the driveway of a dairy farm. Take the driveway and bear left on a plowed road. Follow the road to another intersection and bear right. Continue in fields beside this plowed road to "Breezy Acres Farm" (6.1). Here there is a historic marker for the Bayley-Hazen Rd.

Road plowing ends at the farm. The next stretch of the Bayley-Hazen Rd. is shared with snowmobiles (VAST Corridor #100). The CT climbs 650' through open fields and crests at 2120'. At the height of land, look for CT blazes indicating a sharp turn to the left (south) off of the snowmobile trail. Follow the CT gently downhill through the woods and a large field and then rejoin the snowmobile trail at Irish Hill Rd. (9.0). Cross the road and continue on VAST #100 until you cross Truland Brook (9.5) on a bridge. Look for the CT markers indicating a right hand turn off VAST #100 and up a hill. Follow the markers through the woods, to a field, and then to Rte. 58 (10.7). Cross Rte. 58 and continue into the woods. After climbing and descending gently through the woods and across a power line right of way, the Trail goes steeply down hill and across a brook into an old clear cut. The Trail then heads west, paralleling Carter Rd., as it traverses the clear cut and emerges in a field along Rte. 100 across from the Lowell Town Office (12.9).

**DISTANCE TO LANDMARKS:**

<b>Mileage Northbound</b>	<b>Landmark</b>	<b>Mileage Southbound</b>
0.0	Craftsbury Outdoor Center	12.9
1.2	West shore of lake	11.7
1.5	VAST Corridor #14	11.4
3.0	Rte. 14	9.9
4.3	Sawmill	8.6
6.1	Breezy Acres Farm	6.8
9.0	Irish Hill Rd.	3.9
9.5	Truland Brook Bridge	3.4
10.7	Rte. 58	2.2
12.9	Lowell Town Office (Rte. 100)	0.0

**SIDE TRAILS AND LOOPS:**

The Craftsbury Outdoor Center maintains one of the finest groomed Nordic ski networks in the east, providing the opportunity for many loops and side trail excursions. Snow is very reliable here so many ski events are scheduled throughout the winter.