

SECTION 11: PATCH BROOK RD/LAKE NINEVAH TO TIN SHANTY

SNAPSHOT:

This is a mostly wilderness section crossing the ridge between Bear Mountain and Round Top as well as Burnt Mountain through hardwood forest. There are many excellent views.

LENGTH: 10.1 miles

DIFFICULTY:

This is a challenging section with several short, difficult stretches, which are steep and narrow. Take climbing skins, particularly for the ascent (and possibly the descent) of Burnt Mountain and the ridge in between Round Top & Bear Mountain.

DIRECTIONS TO TRAIL

ACCESS/EXIT POINTS (south to north):

1. Patch Brook Road - Plymouth

From the Rte. 103/100N junction (northwest of Ludlow) go 3.4 miles northwest on Rte. 103. Just west of Harry's Cafe and Healdville Rd, turn right (north) onto Shunpike Rd. Shunpike Rd. turns sharply left almost immediately. Follow it 0.6 miles west to a fork in the road. Stay on Shunpike Rd. (right fork) another 0.7 miles to the junction with Lake Ninevah Rd. Turn right onto Lake Ninevah Rd. which, after about 2 miles, turns sharply right and becomes Patch Brook Rd. Follow it to the intersection with Townsend Barn/Sawyer Hill Road. Park efficiently to one side of Patch Brook Road leaving a clear lane of travel. Do not block the unplowed portion of Patch Brook Rd. where it continues east towards Plymouth, as it receives significant snowmobile use.

2. Round Top Road - Plymouth

From the intersection of Rtes. 100 and 100A in Plymouth Union go north on Rte. 100 for 0.5 miles and turn left (west) on Round Top Rd., or from the intersection of Rtes. 100 and 4 in West Bridgewater go south 4.8 miles and turn right (west) on Round Top Rd. The junction of Round Top Rd. and unplowed Old Plymouth Rd. is 0.9 miles west of Route 100 at the first hairpin turn. Ski west 1.0 miles on Old Plymouth Rd. to intersect the CT.

3. Old Plymouth Rd. – North Shrewsbury

From North Shrewsbury go NE past the Pierce General Store along the CCC Road until Old Plymouth road veers off to the right. Follow Old Plymouth Rd. east approximately 0.6 miles to the winter parking lot at the end of the plowing. Ski east another 1.9 miles on the unplowed portion of Old Plymouth Rd. (also a snowmobile corridor) to where the snowmobile trail bears left (north) through a large clearing and Old Plymouth Rd. continues straight into the woods. Follow Old Plymouth Rd. another 0.3 miles east to join the CT just west of Great Roaring Brook.

4. Tin Shanty - Shrewsbury

From the former W.E. Pierce Grocery Store in North Shrewsbury take the CCC Rd. north 1.1 miles to a fork in the road. Bear left on Tin Shanty Rd. and continue north another 0.5 miles to the end of the road, here there is very limited parking. Ski north on the now unplowed road 0.3 miles to a trail junction. VAST Corridor 7 heads both north and south from this trail junction. Turn right uphill on VAST 7 S for 0.7 miles before reaching the intersection with the north & southbound CT.

NOTE: *The CCC Rd. between Tin Shanty and Route 100 is not plowed in winter. Sawyer Hill Road is not plowed all the way through from Route 103 to Patch Brook Rd in winter. And Patch Brook Road between Townsend Farm & Dublin Roads is also not plowed in winter.*

ROUTE DESCRIPTION:

From **Sawyer Hill/Patch Brook Rd Jct (0.0)** the CT follows Patch Brook Road West for 0.1 mile before turning north onto a gated logging road. Follow this logging road until it joins the former route of the CT on the unplowed **Unknown Soldier Road (0.8)**. Turn right and follow this road north until the trail branches off to the left and then into the woods. After a short ways the CT crosses a washed out logging

road and bridge just north of **Flying Cloud Camp (1.5)**. The trail then follows the blue-blazed Moose Tracks hiking trail, **crossing Money Brook (3.1)** on one of bridges built with the help of UVM students in 2007. This bridge was rebuilt in 2012 with materials from the 2007 bridge, which had been washed 150' downstream by Tropical Storm Irene. After crossing the bridge the trail climbs up a small rise and soon thereafter bears left off the old CT onto a 2 mile reroute cleared in the summer of 2013. This new route soon turns left onto an old logging road and follows it steadily uphill until turning left into the woods heading up to the **height of land** between Round Top and Bear Mountain (**3.85**). It then descends to several other forest roads, at one point turning left before soon crossing a streambed and later turning right and descending to **Old Plymouth Road (4.8)**. (If you head east/right when reaching Old Plymouth Road, then you will reach Round Top Rd., a good bailout point, in about one mile. Or if you stay left/west on OPR in about 2.2 miles you will reach the snowmobile parking area in North Shrewsbury)

The trail then crosses Great Roaring Brook on a bridge reconstructed by VAST in 2011.

Just past the Great Roaring Brook Bridge the Trail turns sharply right and heads north uphill through an old clear-cut. A short detour with a new bridge was constructed in 2011 to dodge the area being flooded by beavers. The Trail soon joins a logging road, which it follows until it rejoins the Moose Tracks Trail on the southeast slope of Burnt Mountain. The Trail climbs steeply up the east slope of Burnt Mt. (great views) and soon joins a logging road. You will pass the **John Stearns Viewpoint (6.5)** as you begin to descend. Continue following the logging road, descending north and west to a log landing. About a half mile west of the log landing, the CT joins VAST corridor #7 at a second log landing. Continue about 0.3 miles on VAST. When VAST heads north on a broad logging road, head northwest off VAST, following a **narrow old skid road (8.5)** uphill into the woods.

The CT continues west along a gentle grade through open hardwoods, keeping a broad wetland to the southwest. The Trail turns towards northward and gradually ascends about 150 feet. Pass through a stand of conifers and a small open meadow before reaching the **CCC road (9.5)**. The stone chimney of an old caretaker's cabin is a notable nearby landmark. Passing to the east of the chimney, head east about a quarter mile on an old ski trail to VAST #7. Go left (north) on the snowmobile trail. At the next intersection, turn left (west) and climb steeply on the snowmobile trail. Then descend a **short hill to an intersection (10.1)**. Here, Section 12 of the CT leaves the VAST corridor and continues west through hardwoods towards Brewers Corner.

To reach the Tin Shanty trailhead, go left (south) at the intersection and follow the VAST trail 0.7 miles to a T intersection where VAST 7N continues to the right and the access route to Tin Shanty bears off to the left. Continue South 0.3 miles to the parking area.

DISTANCE TO LANDMARKS:

Mileage Northbound	Landmark	Mileage Southbound
0	Townsend Farm/Patch Brook	10.1
0.8	Unknown Soldier Road	9.3
1.5	Flying Cloud Camp	8.6
3.1	Money Brook bridge	7.0
3.85	Height of Land	6.25
4.8	Old Plymouth Rd/GRB bridge	5.3
6.5	John Stearns Viewpoint	3.6
8.5	Narrow Old Skid Road	1.6
9.5	CCC Road	0.6
10.1	Short Hill to Intersection	0.0

SIDE TRAILS AND LOOPS:

The unplowed portions of the CCC Road and Old Plymouth Road as well as various ski and snowmobile trails in this area provide numerous opportunities for loops and side trail explorations.

On Old Plymouth Road, west of the Catamount Trail junction, there is a network of ungroomed trails known as the “Plymsbury” network in the Plymsbury (Plymouth/Shrewsbury) Wildlife Management Area. For more information on these trails, check out the map at http://www.vtstateparks.com/pdfs/coolidge_winter_trails.pdf or call the Rutland office of the Vermont Dept. of Forests, Parks, and Recreation at 802-786-3858.