

SECTION 20: CAMEL'S HUMP ROAD TO DUXBURY ROAD

SNAPSHOT:

Section 20 provides a variety of ungroomed skiing along moderately steep terrain in Camel's Hump State Park. It connects to the groomed trail system of the Camel's Hump Nordic Ski Area (CHNSA). The Trail from the CHNSA trail system north to Duxbury Rd. (River Rd.) provides an exhilarating downhill ski along the popular Honey Hollow Trail. The CT is coincident with Camel's Hump Challenge Trail for 2.8 miles where there are several glade skiing opportunities along the way. Ungroomed side trails offer attractive alternate routes.

LENGTH: 9.4 miles

DIFFICULTY:

There are no road crossings between the bridge at the north end of Section 19 and the north end of Section 20 at Duxbury Road. However, the CT crosses the Burrows Connector, Forest City and Burrows hiking trails and intersects with CHNSA Saddle and Stage Coach ski trails for mid-section access. Heading north the trail climbs 1000 feet in 1.7 miles to a saddle at 2800 feet between Camel's Hump and Bald Hill and from there the trail descends 2400 feet to the Winooski River in about 7 miles. Headed north or south the long (ungroomed) downhill runs include side slopes, steep descents, and narrow chutes. Climbing skins and a CHNSA trail map are recommended.

DIRECTIONS TO TRAIL

ACCESS/EXIT POINTS (south to north):

1. Camel's Hump Rd. – Huntington

From Beaudry's General Store in the village of Huntington, go 2.5 miles south on Main Road to Huntington Center. Turn left on Camel's Hump Road and go 3.4 miles to the Camel's Hump Road Parking Area. This is the parking lot for the popular Burrows Trail which ascends Camel's Hump from the west and is likely to be full by mid-morning. The CT may be accessed by hiking or skiing down steeply 0.2 miles from this parking lot across the main branch of Brush Brook to the Forest City Trail. From the Forest City Trail the CT heads southwest about 1 mile to the northern end of Section 19. To head south look for the start of the CT on the south side of the Forest City Trail just past a bridge across the southern branch of Brush Brook. The CT heads north from the northern side of the Forest City Trail a short distance east of that bridge.

Alternately, the intersection of the CT and the Forest City Trail can be reached from the Forest City Trail Parking lot on Camel's Hump Road 2.7 miles from Huntington Center. From this parking lot ski or hike east along the Forest City Trail about 0.6 miles to the intersection of the Forest City Trail and the CT described above.

The mid-section of Section 20 may be reached by skiing north from Fielder Road which branches north from Camel's Hump Road 1.9 miles from Huntington Center. To reach the CT look for side-trail markers heading into the woods about 75 yards along Fielder Road on the right. There is no parking at this access point except with permission of the landowner. Parking is available at Brewster Pierce Elementary School located on Camel's Hump Road 1/4 mile from the intersection of Camel's Hump Rd. and Main Rd. in Huntington or at the lot behind the Huntington Fire Department. A two-mile road walk up Camel's Hump Rd. is required to reach the Fielder Road trailhead.

2. Camel's Hump Skiers Association (CHSA) - Huntington

From the Main Road in the village of Huntington, take East Street Uphill. Bear right at all forks until staying straight at the intersection with Taft Road. East Street becomes Bert White Road along the way. You will reach the top of Bert White Rd. 2.7 miles from Huntington. The CHNSA with a warming hut is on the left with a marked CT side trail leading 0.4 miles to the CT. The sign in hut has maps of the trail system showing access the CT. Please pay the CHSA trail fee.

3. Honey Hollow Parking Area - Bolton

From Route 2 in Jonesville take Cochran Road across the Winooski River and immediately turn left (east) on Duxbury (River) Road. The Honey Hollow parking area is located 2.2 miles east on Duxbury Road, a short distance beyond (east) of Honey Hollow Road.

ROUTE DESCRIPTION (south to north):

From the bridge at the intersection between Sections 19 and 20 the CT heads in a northeast direction climbs gradually about 200 feet in 0.7 miles and then descends 100 feet more steeply for 0.2 miles to the Forest City hiking trail. Turn right (east) on the Forest City trail and cross a bridge spanning the southern branch of Brush Brook. Continue on the Forest City trail a few feet past the intersection with the trail the Burrows Trailhead and find the CT to the left (north).

From the Forest City Trail the CT climbs 800 feet in 1.2 miles up the western side of Camel's Hump. It follows an old logging road through a northern hardwood forest and features a glimpse of Camel's Hump through the trees. The CT turns northwest at the intersection with the Camel's Hump Challenge trail. The Challenge Trail which circumnavigates Camel's Hump in a clockwise direction connects to the CHNSA with a "lollypop" stem.

Heading northeast gradually uphill the Challenge Trail crosses the Borrowers Hiking Trail in 0.2 miles and reaches the saddle between Camel's Hump and Bald Hill in another 0.3 miles. At 2800 feet this is one of the highest points along the CT. From here the combined trail continues to the northwest for 1.1 miles to an intersection with the CHNSA Saddle Trail. This trail connects to the CHNSA parking lot with a 2.3 mile downhill run on groomed trails. The combined CT and Challenge Trail continue to descend another 0.4 miles to where the Challenge trail intersects the northern branch of its "lollipop" loop around Camel's Hump and then continues for another 0.7 miles to where the CT descends into Honey Hollow. The Challenge Trail descent from the Bald Hill saddle is mostly gradual but the terrain often slopes steeply to the north and east. Intersections with trails and old logging roads should be carefully navigated as a descent in the wrong drainage can leave you far from you parked car. Along the way there are several obvious glades descending northward.

The ungroomed Honey Hollow Trail descends through a series of chutes and traverses that end on a woods road. At the bottom of a fairly steep schuss, bear right and uphill through a gate on another logging road. Just beyond the top of the hill the road ends and the CT enters the woods. The Trail follows a gentle downhill descent northwest until merging into another logging road. Turn right (north) at this junction and enjoy a long, moderate, twisting descent to the Honey Hollow trailhead parking area on Duxbury Road maintained by VT FP&R.

NOTE: The CT does not cross the Winooski River. **DO NOT ATTEMPT TO CROSS ON THE ICE.** To continue north on the CT drive the approximately seven miles between the Honey Hollow Trailhead on the south side of the river and the CT trailhead on Rte. 2 on the north side of the river. From the Honey Hollow Trailhead parking area drive 2.2 miles west on Duxbury Rd. Turn right

(north) on Cochran Rd. and cross the Winooski River on the Jonesville Bridge. Turn right (east) on Rte. 2 and drive to the start of Section 21 on your left. Alternately, you can cross the Winooski River on the Long Trail foot bridge which is located about 1 mile west of the Honey Hollow Trailhead along Duxbury Road.

DISTANCE TO LANDMARKS:

Northbound - Altitude		Southbound
0.0 - 1630	Bridge between Sections 19 and 20.	9.4
0.9 - 1750	Forest City Hiking Trail	8.5
2.0 - 2560	Camel's Hump Challenge Trail	7.4
2.2 - 2650	Burrows Hiking Trail	7.2
2.5 - 2800	Bald Hill Height of Land	6.9
3.6 - 2400	CHNSA Saddle Trail	5.8
4.1 - 2100	Challenge Trail "lollipop" loop	5.3
4.8 - 1900	Honey Hollow height of land	3.6
6.5 - 1050	VT FP&R Gate	2.9
9.4 - 350	Duxbury Rd.	0.0

SIDE TRAILS AND LOOPS:

The extensive network of groomed trails at the Camel's Hump Skiers' Association provides many opportunities for loops of various lengths, many of which offer beautiful views of Camel's Hump and the Huntington Valley. For more information on the CHNSA, visit their website

www.camelshumpskiers.com.

Side Trail from Camel's Hump Road to the CHNSA and the CT:

From the fork on Camel's Hump Road 1.9 miles up from Main Road, bear left and walk 75 yards up Fielder Road (0.0). Look for CT side trail markers on the right heading into the woods. The Trail heads northeast up a short, steep hill through the woods and comes out to the edge of a large fenced field. Keeping the fence on your left, ski around to the north side of the field where you can enjoy a beautiful panorama of the Huntington Valley. Above the field, the Trail turns right (north) and enters the woods. This stretch is relatively flat with a few short climbs and descents. Be sure to stay on the blazed CT side trail and do not venture onto any of the side trails here as you are on private property. Farther along, on State land, there are several steep chutes that can be tricky in poor snow conditions. Just beyond a bridge constructed by UVM freshmen in 2005, the trail intersects the Camel's Hump Skiers Association groomed Dead River Run trail. Turn left on Dead River Run and ski downhill to the intersection with the Skunk Brook Trail (1.5). To reach Windekind Farm (lodging) from the Dead River Run/Skunk Brook Trail intersection, continue straight (west) and ski down through the woods and across the field. To continue north, turn right and ski northwest on the Skunk Brook Trail. From an intersection with the Cobble Hill Trail either continue on the Skunk Brook Trail to find the CHNSA parking lot or turn right (north) on the Cobble Hill Trail to continue north to the CT. Climb up and over the cobble, enjoy the view. From the intersection of The Cobble Trail and Big Baldy, turn right (east) on Big Baldy. It is possible to follow Big Baldy and Saddle Road climbing east about 700 feet in 1.6 miles all the way to the CT. After approximately 0.1 miles the marked side trail turns left (north) into the woods onto an un-groomed stretch. Cross a small stream and climb east and north to reach Stage Coach near the Crow's Nest Yurt (lodging). Continue north along Stage Coach into the Huntington Town Forest

and then into Camel's Hump State Park to the intersection with CT at the top of Honey Hollow (4.2).

NOTE: Due to limited parking on Camel's Hump Road, starting or ending a tour at this point can be challenging. A popular tour of this area begins at the end of plowing on Trapp Road. (Section 19) and can end at the Burrows Trailhead or the CHNSA parking area. This scenic and varied tour offers a combination of the steep climbs and challenging descents. See Section 19 for a route description between Trapp Road and the south end of Section 20 at a bridge.