



Section 12: Tin Shanty to Route 4

SNAPSHOT

This section is accessed by skiing a moderately used snowmobile route to reach the CT. The CT then continues as a remote backcountry ski along the undulating flanks of Shrewsbury, Little Killington, and Mendon Peaks, before entering the Rutland City Forest. It is mostly at elevations of 2000' feet or more, so good early/late snow is often available.

The bridge at mile 6.4 was built by the Vermont Youth Conservation Corps in July 2010 and restored by Catamount Trail Association volunteers after Tropical Storm Irene dumped the north end in the creek bed.

LENGTH

13.3 miles (21.40 km)

DIFFICULTY

The trail from Tin Shanty to Route 4 is long, isolated, and very steep in places. The trail is ungroomed and often unbroken. This section is suitable for advanced, properly equipped skiers only. A group of three or more skiers is recommended for safety purposes. Only very fit and competent skiers should attempt to ski the full length of this section in one day.

We recommend splitting this section into two tours, one from Tin Shanty to Brewers Corner (Section 12 South) and another from Brewers Corner to Route 4 (Section 12 North).

TRAIL ACCESS POINTS (south to north)

1. Tin Shanty - Shrewsbury

From Pierce's Groceries store in North Shrewsbury take the CCC Road north 1.1 miles to a fork in the road. Bear left on Tin Shanty Road and continue north another 0.5 miles to the end of the road, where there is very limited parking. Ski north on the now unplowed road 0.3 miles to a trail junction. The CT and VAST Corridor 7 head both north and south from this trail junction.

2. Long Trail via Upper Cold River Road - Shrewsbury

From the fire station in North Shrewsbury take Upper Cold River Road northwest approximately 2.3 miles. Turn right (north) on Gilman Road (Town Road 12). After approximately half a mile, bear right, following the access road to the Green Mountain Club's Clement Shelter to the end of plowing. Follow the Long Trail (white painted blazes) until it crosses the CT.

3. Brewers Corner - Mendon

From the intersection of Routes 4 and 100 in Killington, go 5.7 miles west on Route 4 and turn left (south) onto Wheelerville Road. Follow Wheelerville Road for 4.0 miles to a right-angle turn, which is Brewers Corner. There is limited off-road parking. To reach the CT from Brewers Corner: if southbound (toward Tin Shanty), go south on the logging road from Brewers Corner; if northbound (toward Route 4), go east on the other logging road (also the Bucklin hiking trail). In either direction, you should encounter CT blazes within 100 yards or so.

4. Route 4 Appalachian Trail/Long Trail/CT Parking Area - Mendon

This ample parking area is located 2.5 miles west of the intersection of Routes 4 and 100 in Killington on the south side of Route 4. Proceed west from the parking area 100 yards to the trail.

ROUTE DESCRIPTION (south to north)

To access the CT from Tin Shanty trailhead, ski 0.03 miles north from the parking area. Turn right and ski 0.7 miles northeast on the VAST snowmobile trail to a junction with the CT.

At the **VAST intersection (0.0)** the CT leaves the snowmobile corridor and heads northwest through hardwoods on the flanks of Shrewsbury Peak before descending gradually and then more steeply to **Sargent Brook (1.7)**. Cross the Sargent Brook Bridge and climb northwest to a junction with the **AT/LT (2.3)**.

BAIL OUT POINT: *Follow the AT/LT South to the VAST Corridor, which then joins the access road to the Green Mountain Club's Clement Shelter. Stay left to follow the access road to the start of plowing and the available parking area.*

To stay on the CT, continue northwesterly on rolling terrain to an **old birch glade (4.7)** with good southerly views. From the birch glade, the trail begins a 900' descent, which is quite steep in places. Use caution crossing the **VAST corridor (5.3)**.

NOTE: You may follow the snowmobile trail north and downhill from this point if you would like to avoid more steep descents. You will rejoin the CT about 1 mile downhill

Continue descending on the CT through a wide glade, and then through more dense forest. You will join an old skid road and eventually reach a VYCC **bridge (6.4)**.

Rejoin the VAST corridor (6.7) and continue following the CT blazes to **Brewers Corner (8.2)**, a small parking area on Wheelerville Road.

BAIL OUT POINT: *The CT passes about 100 yards east of Brewers Corner by cutting across to the Bucklin Trail just before reaching the parking area at Wheelerville Road. This is a good place to divide Section 12 into two separate day tours.*

To continue to Route 4, head east on the Bucklin Trail and cross **Brewers Brook Bridge (8.4)**. Shortly after the bridge, turn sharply left (north) and ascend an old logging road. From here the CT proceeds generally north through hardwood forest on a series of logging and skid roads connected by narrower winding trails. There are a number of brook crossings with bridges and much up and down although the route stays fairly close to 2,000 feet of elevation.

The CT turns sharply right (east) off the logging road onto an **old skid road (10.8)**. It heads uphill to a **height of land (12.9)** and skirts a knoll. This is a nice scenic spot to enjoy a last snack before the long descent northeast to the **AT/LT parking area (13.3)** on Route 4.

DISTANCE TO LANDMARKS

| Mileage Northbound | Landmark | Mileage Southbound |
|--------------------|---------------------------|--------------------|
| 0.0 | VAST Intersection | 13.3 |
| 1.7 | Sargent Brook Bridge | 11.6 |
| 2.3 | AT/LT Crossing | 11.0 |
| 4.7 | Birch Glade | 8.6 |
| 5.3 | VAST Corridor crossing | 8.0 |
| 6.4 | VYCC Bridge | 6.9 |
| 6.7 | Rejoin VAST Corridor | 6.6 |
| 8.2 | Brewers Corner | 5.1 |
| 8.4 | Brewers Brook Bridge | 4.9 |
| 10.8 | Old skid road | 2.5 |
| 12.9 | Height of land | 0.4 |
| 13.3 | Route 4 AT/LT Parking lot | 0.0 |

SIDE TRAILS AND LOOPS

While the CT intersects several hiking trails in this area (Long Trail, Shrewsbury Peak, Bucklin Trail), these trails are not recommended for skiing but may be navigable on snowshoes. Contact the Green Mountain Club for more information.

SHUTTLE DIRECTIONS

Please use caution and common sense when using these directions. Some roads may not have signs. After a heavy snow it may be difficult to locate the trailhead or end-of-plowing. Your GPS will not replicate all of these routes and may direct you to a road that is not plowed, closed and impassable. When in doubt, follow someone familiar with the local area.

Look for blue blazes (Catamount Trail), yellow blazes (Catamount Trail Side Trail) or CT parking signs which may be present. If the road seems impassible, park and explore on foot. Always park clear of access roads and gates. Leave room for others to park including snowmobile trailers. Do not park in snowplow turnarounds.

The location of the Catamount Trail on these maps is approximate. Temporary reroutes are not displayed. Always visit the Catamount Trail Association website for the latest trail information and maps. www.catamounttrail.org

Drive to Brewers Corner from Tin Shanty (south to north)

1. From the parking area at Tin Shanty Rd. (S12 access <1>) head south for 1.0 miles, then merge onto the old CCC Rd. and continue for 1.1 miles.
2. Continue onto Northam Rd., then bear left onto Eastham Rd. and go 2.5 miles. At the intersection, turn left to stay on Eastham Rd. for another 1.1 miles.
3. Turn right onto Mt. Holly Rd., which turns to Hortonville Rd./Town Hwy 1 and continue for 1.9 miles.
4. Turn left onto Shunpike Rd. and go 1.5 miles.
5. Turn left onto Freeman Brook Rd. and go 1.5 miles.
6. Turn right onto Rte. 103 and go 4.7 miles.
7. Turn right onto E Clarendon Rd. for 3.1 miles.
8. Take a right onto N Shrewsbury Rd. and go 0.1 miles, then turn left onto Cold River Rd., which turns into Stratton Rd., and continue for 2.9 miles.
9. Take a right onto Killington Ave. for 1.0 miles.
10. Turn right onto Notch Rd. and go 1.8 miles.
11. Turn left onto Wheelerville Rd. and go 3.1 miles to the parking area at Brewers Corner. (S12 access <3>).

Drive to Brewers Corner from Route 4 (north to south)

12. Start out from the AT/LT parking lot at 167 US-4 in Mendon (S12 access <4>) and go southwest on US-4 for 3.25 miles.
13. Turn left onto Wheelerville Rd. and go 4 miles to Brewer's Corner (S12 access <3>).