

SECTION 12: TIN SHANTY TO ROUTE 4

SNAPSHOT:

This section follows a moderately used snowmobile route to reach the CT. It 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.

LENGTH: 13.3 miles

DIFFICULTY:

The trail from Tin Shanty to Brewers Corner is long, isolated, and very steep in places. The trail is ungroomed, often unbroken, and is very challenging with some steep downhill stretches. 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 and another from Brewers Corner to Route 4.

DIRECTIONS TO TRAIL

ACCESS/EXIT POINTS (south to north):

1. Tin Shanty - Shrewsbury

From Pierce's 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, 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 Rd. - Shrewsbury

From the fire station in North Shrewsbury take Upper Cold River Rd. northwest approximately 2.3 miles. Turn right (north) on Gilman Rd. (Town Rd. 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 Rtes. 4 and 100 in Killington, go 5.7 miles west on Rte. 4 and turn left (south) onto Wheelerville Rd. Follow Wheelerville Rd. 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 heading south (toward Tin Shanty), go south on the logging road from Brewers Corner; if heading north (toward Rte. 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. Brewers Corner can also be reached from the south with some difficulty. Consult the DeLorme "Vermont Atlas and Gazetteer" or another detailed map source.

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

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

ROUTE DESCRIPTION:

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

At the VAST snowmobile trail intersection 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)**. (This is a possible bail out point. Follow the AT/LT South to the VAST Corridor, and Gilman Road, Access #2.) 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)**. (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 another **bridge (6.4)**, 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. Rejoin the **VAST corridor (6.7)** and continue following the CT blazes to **Brewers Corner (8.2)**, a small parking area on Wheelerville Rd., and another possible exit point. This is a good place to divide Section 12 into two separate day tours. The CT passes about 100 yards east of Brewers Corner by cutting across to the Bucklin Trail just before reaching Wheelerville Rd.

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/CT parking area (13.3) on Rte. 4**.

DISTANCE TO LANDMARKS:

Mileage Northbound	Landmark	Mileage Southbound
0.0	Snowmobile Intersection	13.3
1.7	Sargent Brook Bridge	11.6
2.3	AT/LT Crossing	11.0
4.7	Birch Glade/Viewpoint	8.6
5.3	cross VAST corridor	8.0
6.4	VYCC 2010 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	Rte. 4 AT/LT/CT parking	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.