



Section 28: Craftsbury Outdoor Center to Lowell Village

SNAPSHOT

This tour crosses the Lowell Mountains and travels through many open farm fields, offering wonderful views. The route is part groomed cross-country ski trail, part snowmobile trail, and part ungroomed backcountry trail. For much of the way it utilizes the historic Bayley-Hazen Military Road, created at the time of the Revolutionary War.

The 50-foot long steel bridge over Rodgers Brook was 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.

LENGTH

12.9 miles (20.76 km)

DIFFICULTY

This is a long, intermediate-level ski except for the last two miles between Route 58 and Carter Road, which contains a short, steep, narrow, 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.

TRAIL ACCESS POINTS (south to north)

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

1. Craftsbury Outdoor Center (COC) - Craftsbury

From the Craftsbury Common green, go north on North Craftsbury Road, and then continue straight to stay on Wylie Hill Road. Immediately turn right on Mill Village Road and follow it for about a mile. Turn right onto Lost Nation road and go 0.5 miles to the Nordic Center.

2. Bayley-Hazen Road (at "Breezy Acres") - Albany

From Route 14 just north of the village of Albany, go left (west) on New Street (turns into Larabee Hill Road) for approximately one mile. Go right (northwest) on Bayley-Hazen Road 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. Route 58 - Lowell

From the intersection of Routes 100 and 58 in Lowell, head east approximately one mile on Route 58. Look for a plowed turnoff on the south side of the road just before Irish Hill Road. Limited parking is available here. 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. Route 100 - Lowell

From the intersection of Routes 100 and 58 in the village of Lowell, go 1.0 mile north to the Lowell town office on the left (west) side of Route 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 Route 100 from the town offices and head east, paralleling Carter Road.

ROUTE DESCRIPTION (south to north)

NOTE: Please remember to check in at Craftsbury Outdoor Center and purchase a trail pass if you are utilizing the CT within their trail system. CTA members receive a coupon for a discounted trail pass in their Membership Rewards Book.

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, eventually climbing steeply to a large field. Cross the field to a dirt road.

Cross the dirt road and leave the groomed COC trail. 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 Road. 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 **Route 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 Road at the north end of the sawmill property and begins the ascent of the Lowell Mountain range.

The CT crosses Rodgers Brook on a steel bridge. The trail then continues up through a hemlock-lined ravine to a large pasture. Follow the old roadway, lined with stone walls 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 Road. Road plowing ends at the farm.

BAIL OUT POINT: *There is limited parking at the end of plowing at Breezy Acres Farm which can serve as an intermediate bail out point.*

The next stretch of the Bayley-Hazen Road 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 Road (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 **Route 58 (10.7)**.

Cross Route 58 and continue into the woods. After climbing and descending gently through the woods and across a power line right of way, the CT goes steeply down hill and across a brook into an old clear cut. The CT then heads west, paralleling Carter Road, as it traverses the clear cut and emerges in a field along Route 100 across from the **Lowell Town Office (12.9)**.

DISTANCE TO LANDMARKS

| Mileage Northbound | Landmark | Mileage Southbound |
|---------------------------|--------------------------------|---------------------------|
| 0.0 | Craftsbury Outdoor Center | 12.9 |
| 1.2 | West Shore of Lake | 11.7 |
| 1.5 | VAST Corridor #14 | 11.4 |
| 3.0 | Route 14 | 9.9 |
| 4.3 | Sawmill | 8.6 |
| 6.1 | Breezy Acres Farm | 6.8 |
| 9.0 | Irish Hill Road | 3.9 |
| 9.5 | Truland Brook Bridge | 3.4 |
| 10.7 | Route 58 | 2.2 |
| 12.9 | Lowell Town Office (Route 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 and many ski events are scheduled throughout the winter. Be sure to check in at the nordic center and purchase a trail pass.

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 Lowell Town Office (north to south)

1. From Craftsbury Outdoor Center at 535 Lost Nation Rd. (S28 access <1>) (turn left onto Lost Nation Rd. and continue for 0.5 miles.
2. Turn left onto Mill Village Rd. and go 1.1 miles. (there is a pronounced right bend at about 0.7 miles).
3. Turn left on Wylie Hill Rd. and drive 0.1 miles, then take a right on North Craftsbury Rd.
4. Follow North Craftsbury Road 1.5 miles to the intersection with VT-14.
5. Take a right on VT-14 and continue north for 12.3 miles.
6. Turn left onto VT-58 and drive west for 8.3 miles.
7. Turn right onto Route 100 and the Lowell Town office (S28 access <4>) will be on your left after 0.5 miles.

Drive to Craftsbury Outdoor Center (south to north)

1. From the Lowell Town Office at 2170 Rte. 100 (S28 access <4>), turn right to go south 0.5 miles on Rte. 100.
2. Turn left on VT-58 and continue for 8.3 miles
3. Turn right on VT-14. Follow VT-14 south 12.3 miles to North Craftsbury Rd.
4. Turn left on North Craftsbury Rd. and follow it 1.4 miles to Wylie Hill Rd.
5. Turn left on Wylie Hill Rd. and drive for about 0.1 mile, then turn right on Mill Village Rd.
6. Follow Mill Village Rd. for 1.1 miles (there is a pronounced left bend at about 0.4 miles).
7. Turn right onto Lost Nation Rd. and Craftsbury Outdoor Center (S28 access <1>) will be on your right after 0.5 miles.