



Section 4: Somerset Reservoir to Kelley Stand

SNAPSHOT

This is an un-groomed wilderness section offering views of Somerset Reservoir, Grout Pond, Stratton Mountain, and Mount Snow. The Trail briefly shares a snowmobile trail at the south end, and follows a road, sometimes plowed, for 0.5 miles at the north end.

LENGTH

9.1 miles (14.65 km)

DIFFICULTY

The terrain is easy but this is a very remote section with access points only at the south and north ends. Ninety percent of this section is un-groomed. At times winds coming across the frozen reservoir can create challenging snow drifts. Cell phone service is very poor on most of this section.

TRAIL ACCESS POINTS (south to north)

1. Somerset Dam - Somerset

From Wilmington, go approximately 5 miles west on Route 9. Turn right (north) onto Somerset Road. Drive 9.1 miles and park at a small plowed area on the right, just before the road reaches the base of Somerset Dam. Do not park at the maintenance shack, where plowing ends. To access the CT northbound, walk and then ski 0.8 miles along the road to the trailhead.

2. Kelley Stand Parking Area (1246 Stratton-Arlington Road) - Stratton

From Route 100 in West Wardsboro, go west on the Stratton-Arlington Road. After 6.2 miles, look for a parking lot on your right (across from Grout Pond Road on your left). Park along the edge of this lot rather than in the middle - the middle is reserved for snowmobile trailers. Parking for one or two cars may also be available on Grout Pond Road if it is plowed. Drive 0.5 miles to where the CT leaves the road, and park single file.

ROUTE DESCRIPTION (south to north)

From the parking area on the west side of **Somerset Dam (0.0)**, follow the road for 0.3 miles along the base of the dam to a maintenance shack where plowing ends. Continue straight on an unplowed road used by snowmobiles, past the trailhead for CT Section 3 (southbound), up past the top of the dam, and to a parking area and the **trailhead (0.8)** on the south shore of the reservoir. The northbound CT enters the woods by the lake. Soon you will cross a small plank bridge, followed by a larger bridge where you may need to remove your skis to cross the steps.

The trail then runs along the lakeshore, sometimes making short detours into the woods to avoid rough ground. After crossing **Moon Brook (3.0)**, continue on for about a quarter mile. At this point you will reach a **snowmobile trail intersection (3.2)**.

BAIL OUT POINT: *Turning left at this intersection will take you down to the reservoir, while turning right will take you to a large groomed VAST snowmobile trail, which can loop back to the Somerset Dam Parking Area by continuing right.*

To continue northbound on the CT, cross the trail at the snowmobile intersection and continue along the reservoir. A **large bridge (4.1)** takes you across the outlet of Blueberry Swamp.

As you approach Grout Pond, other trail networks will intersect the Catamount Trail. The Grout Pond trails are marked with plain blue diamonds as opposed to the CT blazes. Continue straight to stay on the CT as you approach **East Loop (6.3)**, the first Grout Pond system side trail. At an intersection with a sign for **Pond Loop Trail (6.7)**, turn right and follow the CT blazes around the east shore of Grout Pond. You will ski past the eastern intersection with **Camp Loop (7.5)**, which leads to the Grout Pond Hut.

Shortly after passing the west intersection with Camp Loop, turn right onto a spur trail for **East Loop Trail (8.2)** heading north. At a small **junction (8.6)** where East Trail bears right, continue straight and ski about 50 yards to Grout Pond Road, an often plowed road. Go 0.5 miles to reach **Kelley Stand Parking Area (9.1)** on Stratton Arlington Road.

DISTANCE TO LANDMARKS

Mileage Northbound	Landmark	Mileage Southbound
0.0	Somerset Dam Parking Area	9.1
0.8	Small Plank Bridge	8.3
3.0	Moon Brook	6.1
3.2	Snowmobile Trail Intersection	5.9
4.1	Large Bridge	5.0
6.3	East Loop Intersection	2.8
6.7	Pond Loop Intersection	2.4
7.5	Camp Loop Intersection	1.6
8.2	Join East Loop Trail	0.9
8.6	Junction	0.5
9.1	Kelley Stand Road	0.0

SIDE TRAILS AND LOOPS

A five-mile loop can be made starting from the Somerset Dam parking lot. Ski north on either the CT or the snowmobile trail to where the two trails meet again north of Moon Brook. Return south on the other trail. Use caution when skiing on the snowmobile trail.

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 Somerset Dam (north to south)

1. From the Kelley Stand parking area at 1246 Stratton-Arlington Rd., (S4 access point <2>) travel east 6.2 miles.
2. Turn right on Rte. 100 and travel about 14 miles. (Past the Mt. Snow Ski Area after about 5 miles)
3. Turn right on Rte. 9 and go 5.2 miles.
4. Turn right on Somerset Rd. and go 9.1 miles (S4 access point <1>). There is limited parking at a pullout marked by a CT trail marker on the right (east) side of the road about 30 yards before the road approaches the dam. Do not park at the maintenance shack, where plowing ends.

Drive to Kelley Stand Parking Area (south to north)

1. From the Somerset Dam (S4 access point <1>) travel south on Somerset Rd. for 9.1 miles.
2. Turn left on Rte. 9 and go 5.2 miles.
3. Turn left on Rte. 100 and travel about 14 miles.
4. Turn left on Stratton-Arlington Rd. and travel 6.2 miles to the Kelley Stand parking area on the right (S4 access point <2>).