

SECTION 5: KELLEY STAND ROAD TO KENDALL FARM ROAD

SNAPSHOT:

This primarily back-country section lies completely within the Green Mountain National Forest and leads to beautiful Stratton Pond, where there is a shelter for overnight camping, and to Little Pond, another pristine, isolated pond. The section ends with a steep, downhill run on an old logging road before crossing the Winhall River, but this can be avoided by detouring onto the I.P. Rd. (a snowmobile corridor and former CT), adding 2 miles to the overall length of this section.

LENGTH: 10.4 miles

DIFFICULTY:

This easy-to-intermediate section is pleasant and very scenic. There is one mid-way access point in the Stratton Mountain Resort complex, but there is no parking available at that location, so you must arrange a drop-off and/or pick-up if you plan to use the access point. The terrain is gently undulating except for a long, steep (but wide) downhill run on an old logging road to Kendall Farm Rd.

DIRECTIONS TO TRAIL

ACCESS/EXIT POINTS (south to north):

1. Kelley Stand Rd. - Stratton

From Rte. 100 in West Wardsboro, go west on the Stratton/Arlington Rd. The road eventually turns into Kelley Stand Rd. After about six miles (across from Grout Pond Rd. on your left) pass the Kelley Stand Rd. parking area on your right. Proceed by car 0.6 miles to the AT/LT parking lot and VAST trail intersection.

2. Stratton Mountain Resort – Stratton

DROP-OFF and PICK-UP ONLY: NO PARKING

On the Stratton Mt. Access Rd. starting at Rt. 30 in downtown Bondville, go south uphill nearly to the ski area. Turn right on North Brookwood Rd. and ascend the steep winding road to its end at a T. Turn left on West Ridge Rd. to a cul-de-sac. From the end of the cul-de-sac ski into the CT approximately 0.6 miles on an old logging road. **There is no parking available at this location, but you may use it as a drop-off or pick-up point.**

3. Kendall Farm Rd. - Winhall

From the Rte. 11/Rte. 30 intersection near Bromley Mountain, go approximately 6.5 miles south on Rte. 30 and turn right (south) on Kendall Farm Rd. From Bondville, travel 1 mile north on Rte. 30 and turn left (south) on Kendall Farm Rd. Travel 2.2 miles on Kendall Farm Rd. to the end of plowing.

ROUTE DESCRIPTION:

From the **Kelley Stand Rd. parking area (0.0)**, drive west down the plowed Kelley Stand Rd. for about 0.6 miles. Park at the LT/AT plowed lot where the VAST trail rejoins Kelley Stand Rd. Ski uphill (west) on Kelley Stand Rd.--now a snowmobile trail--for .2 miles. At the point where the hill levels off, turn right (north) onto an **old logging road (0.8)**, leaving Kelley Stand Rd. and the snowmobile trail,. Follow the logging road to a **fork (1.7)** and bear left. The Trail follows a wide logging road and encounters the **Stratton Pond Trail (2.8)**, marked with blue paint.

The CT turns right on the Stratton Pond Trail and follows it 1.5 miles to an intersection with the **Long Trail (4.3), which it joins**. From here the Stratton Pond Shelter is about 0.1 mile uphill to the right (south). Located near the southeast end of Stratton Pond, this shelter is a popular winter overnight camping spot. There are no reservations, so camping is on a first-come, first-served

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basis. It is a large three-sided shelter. Bring water and your own stove as wood fires are prohibited. Be prepared to share the shelter with other visitors.

Continuing northbound on the LT/CT, descend a short distance to a **clearing (4.4)** at the east end of Stratton Pond, a beautiful picnic spot. From the clearing go about 100 yards north along the shore to pick up the white painted blazes of the Long Trail. The CT follows the Long Trail north for about 0.1 mile. The CT then leaves the LT, turning northeast (right) and heading uphill on a winding logging road. The logging road traverses a wooded hillside, gradually turning east, and then descends to a **stream crossing (5.0)** on a bridge built in 2014. After passing 2 intermittently active beaver ponds, one with another bridge built in 2014, the CT ascends a hill, where it intersects the International Paper Rd. ("**I.P. Rd.**") (**6.4**). This is a wide, well-maintained logging road and high-use snowmobile trail (and the former route of the CT).

Cross the I.P. Rd. and continue on the logging road, which is now also a secondary snowmobile trail. To leave the CT at Stratton Mountain Resort continue east on this logging road for about 0.6 miles to the West Ridge Rd.

To continue north on the CT, bear left (northeast) about 0.3 miles beyond the I.P. Rd. onto another secondary snowmobile trail. About 200 yards after the Trail starts to descend steeply turn left (northwest) **off the snowmobile trail (7.2)**. After another half a mile, turn right (east) and then after a few hundred yards left (north) to skirt the east end of Little Pond. Little Pond is a remote and scenic spot to take a rest or enjoy a snack, to which there is a blazed side trail on the north side. About 0.6 miles beyond Little Pond, the CT descends gently to intersect the **Pony Hill Trail (8.9)**. The Pony Hill Trail provides a steep, winding descent to the Winhall River and Kendall Farm Rd. For a gentler descent, turn left at the intersection and, after about 0.2 miles, turn right to join the I.P. Rd. northbound. After about 3.5 miles this wide, VAST corridor will bring you back to the CT where it crosses the Winhall River.

To continue north on the CT, turn right (northeast) at the intersection with the Pony Hill Trail and descend steeply 1.2 miles to intersect a secondary snowmobile trail. Turn left (north) onto that trail and go a short distance to a vehicle bridge across the Winhall River. The I.P. Rd. comes in from the left here. Continue north over the vehicle bridge, reaching the end of the plowed section of **Kendall Farm Rd. (10.4)** after about 100 yards. From here Section #6 begins about 300 yards to the right (east).

DISTANCE TO LANDMARKS:

Mileage Northbound	Landmark	Mileage Southbound
0.0	Kelley Stand Rd. parking	10.4
0.6	LT/AT parking lot	9.8
0.8	Old logging road	9.6
1.7	Fork in trail	8.7
2.8	Stratton Pond Trail	7.6
4.3	Long Trail/CT junction	6.1
5.0	Stream crossing	5.4
6.4	I.P. Rd.	4.0
7.2	Left off snowmobile trail	3.2
8.9	Pony Hill Trail	1.5
10.4	Kendall Farm Rd.	0.0

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SIDE TRAILS AND LOOPS:

The beautiful loop around Stratton Pond is approximately two miles long. The I.P. Rd. – Pony Hill Trail Loop is about five miles long, with about 3.5 miles shared with snowmobiles. The I.P. Rd. – Little Pond Loop is about 4.5 miles long, with approximately two miles on a snowmobile corridor and about 0.7 miles on a secondary snowmobile trail.

Instead of turning left off the snowmobile trail at 7.2 mi. northbound, you can continue downhill on this trail, known as Dead Horse Hill Rd., to the bottom of Pony Hill and rejoin the CT just south of the vehicle bridge over the Winhall River. This route could be icy if packed by snowmobiles but is shorter than going around Little Pond and down Pony Hill, and it is a possible uphill alternative going southbound.