



## Mount Tom Quest

Woodstock Ski Touring Center, Woodstock, Vermont

**Difficulty:** Medium

**Equipment Needed:** Cross country skis.

**Estimated Time:** 1 – 1.5 hours

Open Winter Solstice through Vernal Equinox

**How to get there:** From the Woodstock Ski Touring Center located on Route 106 South in Woodstock, exit right, go .6 mile and turn right again on Route 4, then quickly left at Route 12 just past the Village Green. Follow Route 12 for 3.3 miles; turn left on Prosper Road following sign to West Woodstock. Follow road for .7 mile. The parking lot appears in pine stand on left.

### Clues:

Wherefore Montague, why Capulet?  
Star-crossed lovers we shan't forget,  
As you climb Mount Tom,  
Gliding up and gliding on,  
Were I one to hedge a bet,  
That's the best clue you will get

Whose woods are these? Well, now they're ours  
These sacred groves long lent their powers  
To former folks who made their mark,  
And left to us a nation's park,  
Their years of caring evident here.  
On this day your route is clear.

From the start by Welcome's board,  
Climb through Scotch pine orange toward  
Civil War era's McKenzie Place.  
Locust and foundations leave but a trace  
Of former folks who send you left  
Up a half-mile rise, then best be deft.

Right, down through spruce, control your speed,  
A right hand corner reveals a need.  
And should you lack a skill or two,  
You might do better to snowshoe.  
Sit a while for a sunny break  
On Pogue Hole's shore, once bog, now lake.

Veer left or farther right 'round run,  
Getting there is half the fun –  
Around the ice go these two courses.  
Head east from dam to a trough for horses.  
Corner south between two fields,  
At uphill bend it's you who yield.

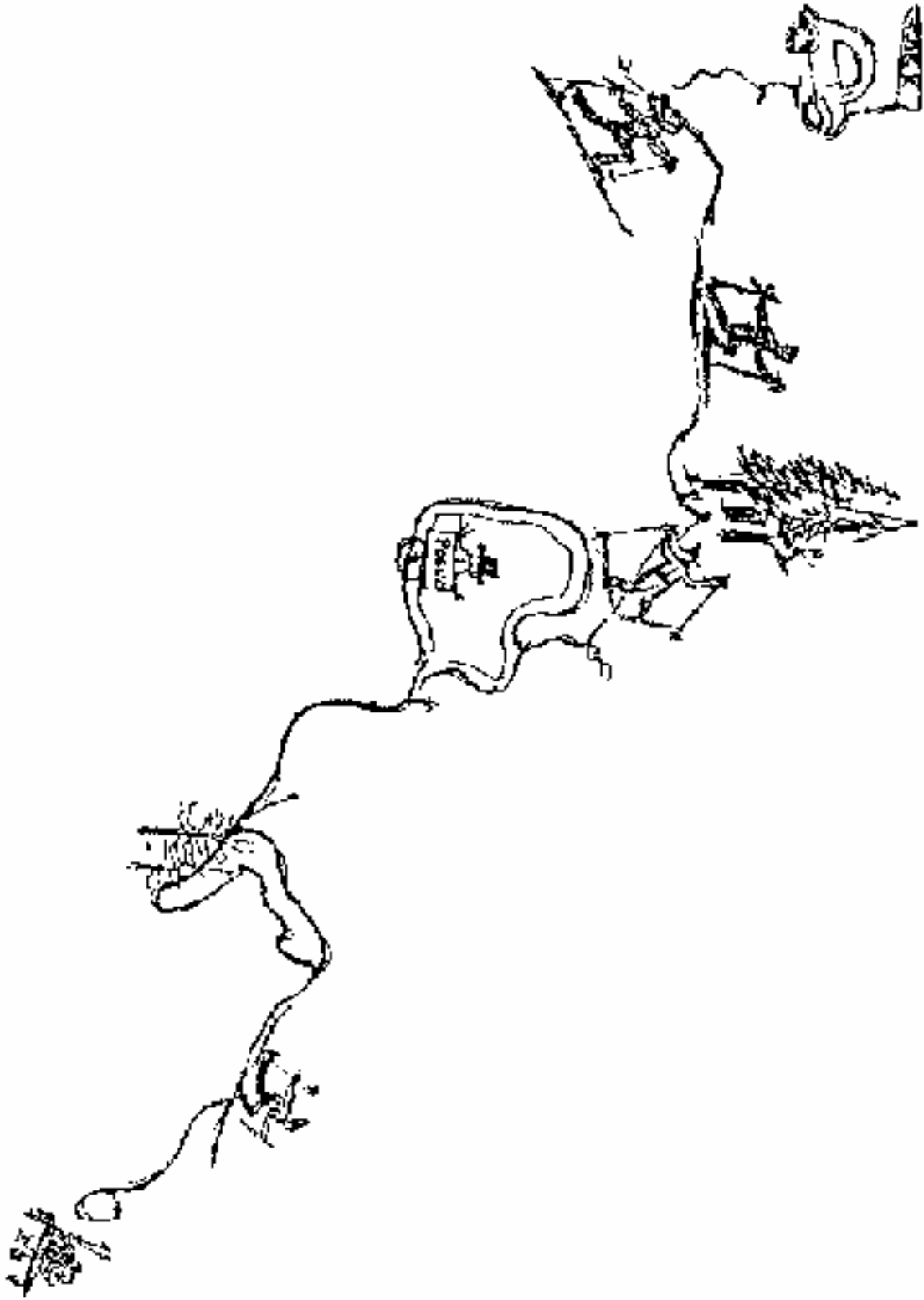
Snake on, again through forest floor,  
Quick choice of trails, take either or,  
Right to November's yellow wood  
Or left through evergreens, just as good.  
They merge again after a spell  
Try each one – they both ski well.

You're closing in – the last downhill.  
Atop stone causeway avoid a spill,  
Then scratchy pitch 'neath hemlock bough,  
The return for some, walk or snowplow,  
Opens up with Woodstock far below.  
Now for your quest – where should you go?

Not far from the trail that circles 'round,  
What you're seeking can be found.  
Easy to see but for snowy drift,  
Back to verse one your thoughts should shift.  
On holidays your goal's aglow,  
Star-crossed like Juliet and her Romeo.

This Quest created by John Wiggin, Director, Woodstock Ski Touring Center, in collaboration with Betsy Rhodes, and Joanna Rudge Long.

This Quest is part of the Ski Vermont Nordic Quest Program. For more information and other Quests, please go to their website: <http://www.skivermont.com/kidzone/nordic.php>.



Valley Quest, a program of Vital Communities  
104 Railroad Row, White River Junction, VT 05001 (802) 291-9100 ext 102 or 107  
For more online quests go to [www.vitalcommunities.org](http://www.vitalcommunities.org) and click on Valley Quest