

## **SECTION 21: ROUTE 2 TO BOLTON VALLEY NORDIC CENTER**

### **SNAPSHOT:**

This section starts with a long uphill climb on a trail shared with snowmobiles and ends on the beautiful groomed trails of the Bolton Valley Nordic Center. There are beautiful rock faces and boulders here and there along the Trail.

**LENGTH:** 7.3 miles

### **DIFFICULTY:**

The change in elevation from the Rte. 2 trailhead on the Winooski River to the Bolton Valley Nordic Center is 2000 feet. Northbound this section requires almost continual climbing. Southbound the portion between the Bolton Access Rd. and Rte. 2 requires intermediate to advanced skills because there are steep downhill stretches and narrow chutes. Snowmobile traffic, particularly on weekends, increases the difficulty level. Bring climbing skins to help with icy sections.

### **DIRECTIONS TO TRAIL**

#### **ACCESS/EXIT POINTS (south to north):**

##### **1. Rte. 2 (Pinneo Brook Rd.) - Bolton**

From the Bolton Valley Access Road on Rte. 2 go approximately 1.8 miles east to Pinneo Brook Rd. on the north side of Rte. 2. (4.9 miles west of the Route 100/2 junction in Waterbury) Turn left (north) on Pinneo Brook Rd. and park ONLY where there are CTA parking signs, approximately 1/8 mile in from the intersection with Rte. 2. The landowner has kindly agreed to plow a small parking area so do not block his driveway, gates, vehicles, etc. If you meet him, please be sure to thank him for plowing.

##### **2. Bolton Valley Access Rd. - Bolton**

From Rte. 2 in the village of Bolton go north on the Bolton Access Rd. approximately 2.9 miles. Before the big S turn in the road there is a wide spot in the plowing on the west (left) side of the road large enough for one or two cars. The CT crosses the Access Rd. from southeast to northwest at this point.

##### **3. Bolton Valley Nordic Center - Bolton**

From Rte. 2 in the village of Bolton go north on the Bolton Access Rd. approximately 4.5 miles to the Bolton Valley Resort. The Nordic Center is located on the west side of the resort's main parking lot. Check in to get a trail map and pay the trail-use fee.

### **ROUTE DESCRIPTION:**

From **Rte. 2 (0.0)** head north to the end of Pinneo Brook Rd. and pick up a secondary snowmobile trail that climbs alongside Pinneo Brook to the intersection with **VAST Corridor #2 (1.2)**. The CT shares VAST Corridor #2 heading west and steeply uphill for about half a mile. The terrain becomes less steep as the CT/snowmobile trail swings northwest. At VAST intersection WN 74 (3.2) do not turn left and go downhill, but bear right and stay on VAST Corridor #2. Eventually the CT and VAST trails descend to cross the **Joiner Brook Bridge (4.4)**. CT blazes tend to disappear along this stretch of CT. However, once you join VAST Corridor #2, just stay with it until you cross the bridge over Joiner Brook.

Just beyond the Joiner Brook bridge the ski and snowmobile trails diverge, with the CT heading north (right) to head up hill and cross the **Bolton Valley Access Rd. (5.0)**. Cross the road, and

continue climbing northwest. Stay to the right of a gravel pit and a leach field. The CT joins Bolton Valley Ski Touring Center's groomed **Broadway Trail (5.8)** near the old Bolton Lodge. Follow Broadway, climbing gently uphill and northeast to the intersection with the World Cup Trail. The CT northbound heads up World Cup. To reach the **Bolton Valley Nordic Center (7.3)** and exit the CT, continue on Broadway across a bridge and along side the tennis courts.

**DISTANCE TO LANDMARKS:**

<b>Mileage Northbound</b>	<b>Landmark</b>	<b>Mileage Southbound</b>
0.0	Rte. 2	7.3
1.2	VAST Corridor #2	6.1
3.2	VAST intersection WN 74	4.1
4.4	Joiner Brook Bridge	2.9
5.0	Bolton Valley Access Rd.	2.3
5.8	Broadway Trail	1.5
7.3	Bolton Valley Nordic Center	0.0

**SIDE TRAILS AND LOOPS:**

Bolton Valley offers an extensive network of cross-country ski trails both groomed and ungroomed. It is one of the best locations in the eastern U.S. for back-country skiing because of its high elevation (reliable snowfall) and exciting terrain. Be sure to stop in at the Nordic center to pay the trail fee and pick up a trail map. Occasionally, trail users without maps have gotten lost in the backcountry resulting in expensive search and rescue efforts.