

SECTION 21: ROUTE 2 DRIVING RANGE IN BOLTON TO BOLTON VALLEY'S TIMBERLINE LODGE PARKING LOT

SNAPSHOT: This section is now almost entirely on VAST trails so can be icy hard pack depending on when last groomed. It is a lovely mostly downhill descent (if skiing North to South) with elevation change of 1,100 feet. If low snow conditions, it is safer and more enjoyable to ski South to North, and might require skins.

LENGTH: 6.3 miles

DIFFICULTY: Southbound skiing requires intermediate to advanced skills because there are steep downhill stretches and narrow chutes. Northbound is mostly uphill especially for the first and last mile but some other scattered steep uphill as well.

DIRECTIONS TO TRAIL:

The Timberline Lodge parking lot is 3.5 miles up the Bolton Access road. Please park at the far end of the first lot on the right. Look for Catamount Trail parking sign. Then walk behind the 4X4 Center to find the start of the VAST trail on the opposite side of the 4X4 Center. Please be very aware and give any motorized vehicles the right of way on the road and trail.

The Driving Range parking lot is on Rt 2 in Bolton. It is 6 miles west from the Waterbury exit and 1.5 miles east of the Bolton Access road.

ROUTE DESCRIPTION (North to South):

Please park at the far end of the first lot on the right at Bolton Valley's Timberline Lodge. Walk behind the 4X4 Center to find the start of the VAST trail on the opposite side of the 4X4 Center. Please be give any motorized vehicles the right of way on the roads or trail. The first 1/2 mile of the trail is on the 4X4 Center land and may have some snow making equipment, including a 4 way intersection that often has other equipment. From there you head down the VAST trail to cross their new bridge over the Joiner Brook. It is a sweet mostly downhill ski to an open field where you will bear left. It is worth a very short detour to the right where you will see the Joiner Brook bridge washout from the flood of 2024. The concrete that you see on the far side is where the bridge use to be but continued to wash another 100 feet to the East side you will be standing on!

You will soon enter a lovely rolling part of the trail with signs of wildlife if you look carefully. See if you can spot the bear claw marks on one of the Beech trees right on the trail! After a few miles of rolling trail the trail forks and you will want to stay to the left.

After a few miles you will notice the Runamok Maple blue tubing on your left and the Pineo Brook on your right. Closer to the bottom the Runamok groomed

trail/road will bear left and it is important to take the sharp right turn. In spite of multiple blue blazes and arrows folks tend to continue on the main groomed trail. This right hand turn will take you onto the adaptive mountain bike trail area so be watchful of uphill riders (down hill riders are on a different trail). Drop down into the field of solar panels (this downhill pitch can be scratchy and require taking skis off in low snow times), and ski to the mountain side of the solar panels through the field back to the parking lot. Enjoy!

SHUTTLE DIRECTIONS:

Drive North to South

1. From Bolton Valley Timberline Lodge, drive south on the Bolton Valley Access Rd for 3.5 miles.
2. Turn left on RT 2 and drive 1.5 miles.
3. Turn left at the "The Driving Range". Park in the plowed area. Do not block access.

Drive South to North

1. From "The Driving Range" turn right and drive west on Rt 2 for 1.5 miles.
2. Turn right on Bolton Valley Access Rd and drive 3.5 miles to Bolton Valley Timberline Lodge.