



Section 21: Route 2 to Bolton Valley's Timberline Lodge

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. In low snow conditions, it is safer and more enjoyable to ski South to North, and might require skins.

LENGTH

6.3 miles (10.14 km)

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, with some other scattered steep uphill as well.

TRAIL ACCESS POINTS (south to north)

1. Driving Range - Bolton

From I-89 Exit 10 in Waterbury, drive west on Route 2 for 6 miles and the parking area will be on your right. To access the CT, ski through the field behind the solar panels and look for blue blazes. You will also see signs for the Adaptive Mountain Bike (aMTB) network trails but if you follow the blue blazes you'll see the CT.

2. Timberline Lodge - Bolton

From the bottom of the Bolton Access Road, the Timberline Lodge parking lot is 3.5 miles up. Please park at the far end of the first lot on the right. Look for the Catamount Trail parking sign for the parking area, then walk behind the 4X4 Center to find the start of the VAST trail. Please be very aware that you are on private property and give any motorized vehicles the right of way.

ROUTE DESCRIPTION (south to north)

From the **Driving Range parking area (0.0)**, begin by skiing across the field, curving right to pass behind the solar panels. The CT then enters the woods and joins the **Richmond Mountain Trails (0.3)**. Follow the mountain bike climb trail, also marked with blue blazes, as it switchbacks up the hill.

Where the trail first passes beneath blue sap lines, stay right to reach a T-junction. Although the trail to the right is groomed, turn left here to remain on the CT and join a wide woods road. Follow Pineo Brook over gently ascending terrain for about half a mile. At a Y-intersection, bear left, cross a small plank bridge, and shortly after, veer right to continue on the CT.

At the next intersection, take a left to join the **VAST trail (1.3)** The trail here is mostly rolling, with a few steep uphill climbs. At an intersection at the top of a hill, follow the blue blazes left, where the trail then begins to gently descend. Continue for approximately one mile, until reaching another **Y-intersection (3.0)** marked with VAST trail signage. Stay right on VAST trail 2W and through the forested trail.

The trail winds through wooded terrain, crossing two small bridges over streams. Just after the second bridge, the trail enters an **open field (4.6)**. To continue on the CT stay close to the treeline on the right, then reenter the woods. For a short detour, go straight across the field to follow the old CT route and see where Joiner Brook bridge was washed out during flooding in 2023.

Continue uphill for another mile, then follow the trail as it curves left. Pass over the **Joiner Brook Bridge (5.7)** and follow the blue blazes to the left. Here, the trail enters land owned by the 4x4 center. At a 4-way intersection, continue straight. Snowmaking equipment is often present in this area, so be alert and yield to any motorized vehicles. Stay right to ski behind the 4x4 center, and then reach CT parking at **Timberline Lodge (6.3)**.

DISTANCE TO LANDMARKS

Mileage Northbound	Landmark	Mileage Southbound
0.0	Driving Range Parking Area	6.3
0.3	Richmond Mountain Trails	6.0
1.3	Join VAST Trail	5.0
3.0	Y-intersection	3.3
4.6	Open Field	1.7
5.7	Joiner Brook Bridge	0.6
6.3	Timberline Lodge	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. CTA members receive a coupon for discounted passes in their Membership Rewards Book.

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 Driving Range (north to south)

1. From Bolton Valley's Timberline Lodge (S21 access <2>), drive south on Bolton Valley Access Rd. for 3.2 miles.
2. Turn left on Rte. 2 and go 1.5 miles. The Driving Range parking area (S21 access <1>) will be on your left.

Drive to Timberline Lodge (south to north)

1. From the Driving Range (S21 access <1>), turn right to head west on Rte. 2 for 1.5 miles.
2. Turn right onto Bolton Valley Access Rd. and continue for 3.2 miles. Timberline Lodge parking area (S21 access <2>) will be on your right.