

NEWS RELEASE



ELK MOUNTAIN
SKI RESORT, INC.

RR 2, BOX 3328

UNION DALE, PA

18470-9528

(570) 679-4400

FAX: (570) 679-4409

CONTACTS:

www.elkskier.com

Elk Mountain: A History of Unparalleled Skiing

Elk Mountain's history dates back to 1959, when Elk became one of Pennsylvania's first commercial ski areas.

During its opening year Elk featured a small lodge (now the picnic lodge), a 2,200 foot T-bar and several slopes, as well as some rope tows and a small warming hut built a few years earlier by the Scranton Ski Club.

The mountain's first Hall double chairlift was installed in 1961, heralding the development of five expert trails and various intermediate trails from the top. Elk's first expert trail, completed before the chairlift itself, was host to the 1960 Pennsylvania State Championships. Enthusiastic competitors and gatekeepers actually walked to the summit from the top of the T-bar to run the race.

A year later in 1962, snowmaking was installed and a new A-frame base lodge was built. Skiing at Elk got a lift - quite literally - with the installation of beginners J-bar in 1964 and a double chairlift from the lower parking lot to the top of the mountain in 1965. The original T-bar was replaced with a chairlift in 1969, and the J-bar was retired for a double chairlift in 1973.

Skiers saw Elk in a whole new light when, in 1966, lighting was installed on the East and West slopes for night skiing. Lighting was installed along three summit trails in 1972.

The 1980's saw a flurry of activity, beginning with the construction of the ski shop/ski school building in 1981. The base lodge was remodeled and expanded in 1982 to include a two-level restaurant and increased cafeteria seating. That same year the Lehigh and Delaware Trails were rerouted, and the Tuscarora Trail was completed.

Elk's expanded operations led to the construction of a new maintenance facility and the expansion of snowmaking capabilities, both in 1984. A wastewater treatment plant was built in 1988.

During the 1986 - 1987 ski season, Elk's ambitious tree planting program gained momentum. More than 13,000 trees - most of them Norway Spruce - have been planted since the mid '80's along the edge of the ski trails.

A rapidly growing base of skiers gave rise to the construction of seven new trails and the lengthening of two trails between 1990 and 1996. The new Mohawk, Iroquois, Wissahickon, Hiawatha, Snow Bowl, Chippewa and Tecumseh Trails gave skiers more choices than ever before. With these new trails came enhanced snowmaking capabilities, complete with a new snowmaking pump house (1992) and the addition or upgrading of over 50,000 feet of snowmaking pipe.

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As Quad chairlifts gained popularity, Elk responded with a 4,000-foot Quad lift of its own. The Quad chairlift's 1994 completion added yet another new dimension to the mountain.

Since 1994 the snowmaking system has been fine tuned even further. A fleet of new snow guns were added in 1998 and the Chippewa, Wyalusing and Tioga trails were lengthened and re-routed. Elk Mountain now boasts of 27 slopes and trails with great variety and the most challenging terrain in Pennsylvania.

In January 1999, Elk lost its compressor building in an early morning blaze. In less than 72 hours, however, the resort recovered and was once again -- making snow. During the summer of 1999 a new compressor building was constructed. The improvements continued in 2001 with the purchase of two new grooming tractors and during the summer of 2002 snowmaking was added to the Chippewa and Wyalusing trails. An additional air compressor and water pump were also installed during the summer of 2002 to further increase Elk Mountain's snowmaking capabilities.

Elk Mountain remains the proven leader for quality skiing and riding in Pennsylvania.

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