

SKIER NEWS

DESTINATION NORTHEAST – BEST of NY & PA

DNE - ATL • VOLUME 3 • NO. 10 • INSERT SECTION FEATURING THE FINEST SKI and SNOWBOARD RESORTS IN NEW YORK, PENNSYLVANIA and VERMONT

ELK – A HISTORY of GREAT SKIING

UNION DALE, PA — It all started in 1959, when a mountain became a new recreation complex for skiing. Elk Mountain, as it was named, started out with only a handful of trails. Today Elk Mountain Ski Resort has evolved into a sprawling 27 trails and some of the most challenging terrain in Pennsylvania. During its opening year, Elk featured a small base lodge (now the picnic lodge), a 2,200-foot T-bar and several slopes. There were also some rope tows and a small warming hut built a few years earlier by the Scranton Ski Club.

The 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 a 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. Now a number of trails are lit for night skiing, including the entire beginner area.

Elk Mountain continued to build on that legacy of great skiing when last season it upgraded its snowmaking ability by adding tower mount snow guns on the Tecumseh trail. Additional guns were also placed on Stomping Grounds Terrain Park. These guns helped to ensure better coverage in the challenging 2007 ski season.

From the upgraded and resurfaced parking lots to the more than 1,000 Norway and White Spruce trees that were planted slopeside, your Elk experience is always a pleasant and environmentally friendly one from arrival to departure.

First-time skiers, established skiers, or snowboarders looking to learn or fine-tune their skills can do so with a lesson from a member of the Elk Mountain Ski School.

The school is a member of the Professional Ski Instructors of America (PSIA) and utilizes the American Teaching System. With a staff of over seventy-five trained instructors, Elk has a program and the staff to meet your individual needs.

Class sizes are limited to provide a quality experience. Lessons may be sold out during busy periods. Details are available at the ski school desk.

The perfect time to learn to ski is while you are young, and the staff wants to make your child's skiing experience fun. They offer programs that allow parents to enjoy themselves while children learn to ski with confidence.

BABY-SITTING

Baby-sitting services are offered at Elk Mountain on an hourly basis. Because availability is limited, reservations are required at least 24 hours in advance. Children must be at least 2 years old and toilet trained.

PRE-SCOUTS, SCOUTS AND RANGERS

Elk Mountain offers a "Scouts" program for children ages 3-12. Scouts enables children to learn to ski with emphasis on fun. Scouts is available through the Ski School. Categories are broken into: Pre-Scouts (Ages 3-4), Scouts (Ages 5-7), and Elk Mountain Rangers (Ages 7-12).

Elk Mountain also offers a racing program, mogul clinics and special Women's Day programs for first time through expert. Seasonal programs are offered for Freestyle, Adult Ski Improvement and Junior Racing.

A Holiday Camp will be held in late December. Additional information is available by calling the Elk Mountain Ski School.

The Elk Mountain Junior Racing Program has produced racers who have excelled at Eastern regional races. The Cruisers Program has produced many excellent young skiers and most continue through to the Junior Racing Program. Most of the coaching staff have USSCA levels I, II or III, PSIA certification levels I, II or III equivalent.

JUNIOR RACING

Elk Mountain's Junior Racing is a program geared for young skiers (8-19) who can comfortably ski the entire mountain, including all black di-

among trails. Offered during Christmas Camp, weekends or as a full season program, this program allows the participants to ski/train with the same coaches over the duration of the program.

This format assures continuity and allows progress to be monitored closely. Training is available at recreational and competitive levels.

For program participants, additional gate training will be available on Tuesday and Thursday nights at an added charge. In addition to skiing skills development, agility drills, racing techniques and course tactics, participants will learn ski tuning, equipment maintenance and take part in various camp activities. Video sessions with critique by the coaches will be integrated into the training.

CRUISERS (JUNIOR RACING DEVELOPMENT)

Elk Mountain Cruisers is a program geared for youngsters ages 6 through 12. Offered as a Christmas Camp, weekend training or full season program, children who ski blue square trails can enjoy a challenging ski experience, improve their technique and build self-confidence. Five hours of supervised skiing and coaching instruction daily promotes learning in an exciting and unhurried environment. Skiing with the same instructors the entire season on a variety of trails allows children to develop their skills while making new friends who share their same interest in skiing.

ADULT SKIING IMPROVEMENT

Adult Skiing Improvement is a learning experience for strong adult skiers. The program is offered on Saturdays and Sundays, from January - through February (excluding holidays); 9 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. (2-1/2 hours per day). This will allow the participants to ski and train with the same coaches over the duration of the entire program, providing continuity and learning in a relaxed, unhurried environment. There are a minimum number of participants required for this program. If minimums are not met, the program may be cancelled.

For more information, please find them online via an easily found link in the Pa. section of the home page of www.skiernews.com or you can log on directly to www.elkskier.com

Please call Elk Mountain at (570) 679-4400.

IT'S EASY TO GET TO ELK

UNION DALE, PA — Elk Mountain Ski Resort is located north of Scranton, Penna, easily accessible from Interstate 81, off Exit 206 (formerly Exit 63).

FROM PHILADELPHIA, ALLENTOWN, SOUTHERN N. J. or DELAWARE:

Use the N.E. Extension (Route 476) to Exit 131 (formerly Exit 39), then I-81 North to Exit 206 (formerly Exit 63) to Route 374 East. The approximate drive time from the Philadelphia area is 2 hours and 20 minutes

FROM N.Y.C. or NORTHERN N. J.:

Use I-80 West to I-380 West to I-81 North to Exit 206 (formerly Exit 63) to Route 374 East. The approximate drive time from Stroudsburg, Penna. is 1 hour and 15 minutes.

FROM BINGHAMTON, NY:

Take I-81 South to Exit 211 (formerly Exit 64) and follow the signs. The approximate drive time from Binghamton, NY is 55 minutes.

PENNSYLVANIA'S BEST SKIING



In 1959 Elk Mountain opened with just a handful of trails. As one of the oldest ski areas in the state, Elk has remained a leader and continues to offer challenging and diverse terrain, quality snow and grooming second to none in the East.

A dedicated staff and ongoing improvements have allowed Elk Mountain to establish itself as a premier mountain.

Share the excitement and discover the magic of 27 slopes and trails – day or night!

Elk Mountain – it's like skiing in Vermont, without the drive.



IT'S LIKE SKIING IN VERMONT...WITHOUT THE DRIVE!

www.elkskier.com

UNION DALE, PA 18470

(570) 679-4400 / TOLL FREE SKI REPORT: 1-800-233-4131