

VERMONT IS SHINY and NEW FOR 2008-09

MONTPELIER, VT – Amongst the diversity of improvements at Vermont's Alpine resorts, a certain theme rings clear. Each ski area listens to its patrons and is building the best possible experience for its extended family of snowsports enthusiasts to cultivate further the love of the sport.

ASCUTNEY

Ascutney Mountain Resort announced that the resort received town approval for its master development plan for the base of the ski area. When construction is complete, Ascutney will have new slope-side real estate as well as an all new day lodge, ski school, ticket outlets, food and beverage and retail outlets, and a new ski shop, rental and tuning facilities. Ascutney is building the first new single-family home development in the area in many years and plans to begin offering these lots in the fall. Please visit www.ascutney.com for more details.

BOLTON VALLEY

'It's all about the snow and the equipment you use to enjoy it.' That has been the mantra at Bolton Valley since local ownership assumed control of one of Vermont's favorite local mountains last season. This summer they invested heavily in new snowmaking and grooming equipment, along with an entire new inventory of rental equipment and new resort amenities.

Bolton installed new snowmaking lines on the main mountain and will be installing new energy efficient snow guns and fan guns. This gives a little more help for Mother Nature, who already blankets the resort with more than 300 inches of snow. The new state-of-the-art Prinoth Bison snowcat/groomer will join the three groomers already in the Bolton Valley fleet.

An entirely new inventory of rental skis, boots and poles from Rossignol are available this season. The new ski equipment complements the latest Burton Snowboard equipment in the Bolton Valley-Burton Learn To Ride Center.

BROMLEY

Bromley is justifiably proud of its long reputation for a top-quality product. Extensive snowmaking and four-season trail grooming began in the late 1930s, and Bromley aims to keep that reputation intact. Hence its \$1-million investment in capital improvements for this season, the bulk of which is going toward an arsenal of HKD sv10 tower snow guns. These guns will increase Bromley's already impressive snowmaking capacity by an additional 30 percent and will allow for more man made snow at moderate temperatures. That translates into more open early-season terrain and fast recovery after poor weather. Bromley will be throwing much more snow, so it is no surprise that a new Prinoth BR350 groomer – the ultimate grooming and snow-moving system – will be added to the fleet.

JAY PEAK

The biggest Jay Peak news for this season will be the sale of mountain by MSS1 to a group of local investors led by the Resort's long time President and COO, Bill Stenger. Not much will change in the way of immediate plans. Jay Peak is working on the construction of a new 58-suite Hotel at the Tram base, which will also include updated facilities for skier/rider services, but other projects should get underway sooner than originally planned.

KILLINGTON

The largest ski and snowboard resort in eastern North America, Killington celebrates its 50th birthday on Dec. 13, 2008, with more than \$8.4 million in on-mountain improvements, including the new Skye Peak Express, ski trails, efficiency upgrades to one of the world's most extensive snowmaking system and expanded environmental programs.

In addition to the new Skye Peak Express and new trails, Killington debuts The Burton Stash, an all-natural terrain park with 34 features, located off the shoulder of Skye Peak, accessible by the Skye Peak Express. In addition, a new 500-foot Magic Carpet at Snowshed improves the uphill learning experience for beginner skiers and riders in the Killington Ski and Snowboard School and Burton Learn to Ride Programs. A new beginner and more advanced trail off Skye Peak also debut for the 2008-09 season.

MAD RIVER GLEN

After a great year, Mad River had extra dollars. What did they do? If you the iconoclastic, skier-owned mountain, you are going to renovate the bathrooms. "I guess no one will ever accuse us of spending like drunken sailors," quips Mad River Glen's President Jamey Wimble.

Since the inception of the Co-op in 1995, they have invested nearly \$4 million in capital improvements. Unlike other ski areas, Mad River's goal is to preserve the experience rather than overhaul or upgrade it. Both the skier-owners and the management understand that skiers come to Mad River for the unique combination of legendary terrain, sense of community, low skier density and intimate atmosphere.

MAGIC MOUNTAIN

Magic Mountain continues to improve the snowmaking with increased efficiency through overhauled snowmaking lines and increased capacity. They continue to improve glade skiing through increased thinning of off-trail areas, mountain wide. Adventurous skiers can follow the numerous tracks leading into the woods to find great tree skiing in Southern Vermont.

The Magic Card offers discounts for skiers all season long for only \$39. The Magic Card gives holders \$25 midweek lift tickets and \$10 off weekends and holidays all season long.

MOUNT SNOW

When the lifts start turning for the 2008-09 season, Mount Snow will have the newest-technology fan guns in all of North America. After adding 150 new guns last summer, most of its major trails will be covered by these energy efficient machines.

OKEMO

For "What's New?" at Okemo this year please see the related article on page two, or visit www.okemo.com or call 1-800-786-5366.

PICO MOUNTAIN

Pico Mountain enters its 71st season as one of New England's classic family ski areas featuring a unique ambiance and heritage rooted in ski racing, family recreation and the birth of skiing in North America.

Recent upgrades at Pico Mountain include major snowmaking infrastructure replacement to increase operational efficiency. Add to that a fresh look throughout the base area with numerous improvement projects from remodeled restrooms to new paint for lifts and lift terminals, and a new deck outside the base lodge. The Pico Sports Center also features new strength and aerobic equipment and remodeled locker rooms.

STOWE MOUNTAIN RESORT

The addition of a new slope-side luxury hotel and spa, a new base area, an inter-mountain transfer gondola, new trails, a new beginner area, two new high-speed detachable quads, fully-automated snowmaking and exclusive mountainside residences has reinforced Stowe Mountain Resort's position as one of the East's premier ski and four-season mountain resorts.

No single project will touch more visitors in Stowe this winter than the new Spruce Base Camp, Stowe Mountain Resort's central source for skier and snowboarder services. The building includes restaurants, a bar, indoor and outdoor fireplaces, rental shops, retail, tickets, event space and public lounge areas that blend the unique dynamics of Stowe's mountains with the comfort of a state-of-the-art luxury base lodge. The beautifully designed building is adjacent to the new 'Over Easy' transfer gondola, providing convenient access to Spruce Peak and Mount Mansfield's slopes.

STRATTON

For intermediates and experts, Stratton shines with its six new glades and trails in the Sunbowl. Old favorite trails and terrain will be enhanced with a new Prinoth Sherpa Winch Cat for steep pitches. A Prinoth BR350 terrain park cat with more horsepower and range of motion will build innovative rails and features at the Tyrolienne Slopestyle course for freestylers.

Stratton is investing a half million dollars in energy efficiency programs including snowmaking. Last year, Stratton invested \$4 million, increasing snowmaking coverage to 95 percent.

SMUGGLERS' NOTCH

Gladed trails are at the top of the list this season at Smugglers' Notch. Added to the 22-and-growing percent of terrain amidst the trees at the resort, Madonna Mountain now has Attitude. To get to this trail, skiers and riders jump into the balsam firs on Lower Drifter just before the mid-station on skier's left. After pumping their legs through the hardwoods, skiers and riders come out of this steep pitch on Lower Rum Runner on Sterling Mountain. Most of Smuggs' other glades have received a thorough trimming.

The Hibernator Trail on Morse Highlands now offers beginners a direct line top to bottom. Smuggs' progression terrain parks Log Jam, Birch Run and The Zone will be freshly populated with jumps, banks, rails and fun boxes for refining skills and simply having fun.

SUGARBUSH

A half million-dollar expansion to Sugarbush's two-year old Gate House lodge means more room for fun. At the lodge's Castlerock Pub, pub-goers can toast to a 1,200-square-foot addition to increase its already delectable menu offerings. Atop the addition, a slope-side deck will have a BBQ and fire pit. Sugarbush will also be building an addition onto the top floor of the Gate House lodge for more food-court seating and conference space.

Hop aboard a Pisten Bully cat cab for a ride up to Allyn's Lodge at Lincoln Peak for specialty dinners and full moon skiing and snowshoeing. Cat skiing in New England? With the new Pisten Bully cat cab, Sugarbush will be the only resort in the East to have it. Traditionally, the resort closes Mt. Ellen in late March. When that happens, Sugarbush's highest peak will become the domain of the 12-passenger cat.

TRAPP FAMILY LODGE

Trapp Family Lodge gears up for an exciting 40th winter season by offering guests a magnificent mountain experience at America's first cross-country ski center. Opened in the winter of 1968-69, it was the first time cross-country ski trails, instruction and equipment sales and rentals were offered at one location.

A number of special events are being planned throughout the season to celebrate the 40th anniversary including special cross-country ski clinics for guests and locals, special deals on ski passes, festive parties at the Slayton Pasture Cabin and more.

This report was compiled by the Vermont Ski Areas Association, who also note the 400th anniversary of Samuel de Champlain's exploration of the lake that now bears his name.

The Lake Champlain Quadricentennial will be a year long event that kicks off on Dec. 31, 2008, at First Night in Burlington. Events will also occur throughout the state in 2009.

