

NEW HAMPSHIRE'S FIRST 8-PERSON GONDOLA AMONG IMPROVEMENTS to SKI AREAS

CONWAY, NH – New Hampshire ski resorts have unveiled improvements for the 2018-19 season. The state's ski areas were hard at work during the snowless months, revamping everything from their facilities and events to improving snowmaking capabilities. Below is a sampling of ways in which resorts have made the state's official sport – skiing – more enjoyable for winter.

Resorts Under New Ownership

Loon Mountain: Boyne Resorts is now the proud new owner of Loon Mountain Resort. The Michigan-based resort company, which had held a long-term lease to operate Loon since 2007, purchased the resort this spring from Ski Resort Holdings, LLC, an affiliate of Oz Real Estate.

Included in the transaction were Brighton Resort in Big Cottonwood Canyon near Salt Lake City, Utah; Cypress Mountain in Vancouver, B.C.; Gatlinburg SkyLift in Gatlinburg, Tenn.; Sugarloaf and Sunday River Resort in Maine; and The Summit at Snoqualmie near Seattle, Wash.

Mount Sunapee: Vail Resorts, the Colorado-based owner of ski areas around North America, is continuing its expansion into New England. Vail Resorts announced that the company has closed on its acquisition of Triple Peaks LLC, the parent company of Okemo Mountain Resort in Vermont, Mount Sunapee Resort in New Hampshire and Crested Butte Mountain Resort in Colorado. Following the closing, Vail Resorts plans to invest \$35 million over the next two years across the resorts to continue to elevate the guest experience.

Chairlifts

Waterville Valley Resort: Last winter, construction began on the new High Country T-Bar, and the old 1966 double chair spun for its final season. The newly installed T-Bar's design is low to the ground, which means no more wind holds and ascent times that are twice as fast, allowing for more skiing on High Country.

Bretton Woods: Bretton Woods is installing New Hampshire's first 8-person gondola, with 36 cabins, each carrying eight passengers. It will be the first eight-passenger gondola in New Hampshire, and it is estimated the 6,000-foot gondola trip will take about five minutes. It is expected to be ready for this ski season by January.

Cannon Mountain: This year Cannon spent \$180,000 to make aerial tramway upgrades, plus an additional \$180,000 for upgrades on other chairlifts.

RFID

Waterville Valley Resort: Waterville Valley continues the development of their RFID ticketing system. Instead of a traditional lift ticket, which is checked by handheld scanners, guests will be issued an RFID card that will be read automatically by the gates. For this winter they have made updates to the technology by improving readability, eliminating the RFID card deposit, and in-

roducing the Direct-to-Lift (DTL) Reloadable Card. Season pass holders and frequent skier card users will also have the option to upgrade to a helmet sticker.

Ragged Mountain Resort: Ragged Mountain has partnered with Team Axess and their lift gate access systems. Every guest, from Season Passholders to those buying a day ticket, will need to pick up a unique RFID card for \$5 at Guest Services. Each card can then be reloaded through purchasing products online.

Snow Surface

Pats Peak: Pats Peak has purchased a new compressor that will boost the air plant by an impressive 20 percent, allowing even more snow guns to run at warmer temperatures. Pats Peak continues to increase their snowmaking capabilities by adding to an arsenal that already gives the mountain 100 percent snow coverage. This season, four new fans from SMI Snowmakers and 20 new towers will greet customers.

Loon Mountain: Loon has replaced and rerouted all the snowmaking pipes and towers on the Flying Fox trail. This improvement will allow Loon's snowmakers to take full advantage of the prevailing winds, which typically come out of the northwest during the winter. This change should make it easier for snowmakers to bury Flying Fox during the winter, and may even help them open the trail earlier in the season.

Waterville Valley Resort: This summer the Waterville Valley crew was busy laying down 33,000 feet of new snowmaking pipe, which connects to 400 new high-efficiency tower and fan guns. They have also relocated 80 snow guns, which allow for better snowmaking in new positions on the mountain. Additionally, they added two new snow groomers including a Prinoth Beast X Winch Cat and a Prinoth 500. The winch cat offers better grooming of steep terrain and will help build terrain parks faster and more efficiently.

Cannon Mountain: This year the ski area invested \$350,000 in a new Prinoth Grooming Machine and \$90,000 in snowmaking upgrades.

Lodge Upgrades

Pats Peak: The center A-frame that makes up the main base lodge is under construction this season with work being done on the foundation and the underground utilities. The lodge will be expanded and will feature an all-new post and beam entrance, brand new bathrooms, an elevator, and additional seating.

Loon Mountain: Loon expanded the deck of the Paul Bunyan Room by more than 700 square feet. The new deck will give skiers and riders more room to soak up the sun and enjoy après outdoors this winter.

Cannon Mountain: Cannon made \$450,000 in food service upgrades, including an addition to the Cannonball pub, which will add up to 80 new seats.

Waterville Valley Resort: A 12,000-square-foot expansion to the Base Lodge now allows for better views and more elbow room this season. The installation of glass windows facing the slope allows for more natural light and better views of the mountain. The ski area also added direct access to the mountain from the second floor to the slope for more convenient lift access. The Buckets, Bones & Brews bar received a facelift along with a new name, The Freestyle Lounge. The expansion will also allow for additional seating on the third floor.

Ragged Mountain Resort: A new Guest Services area in what was known as the Discovery Center was built over the summer. This relocates all of the ticketing, season pass pick-up, lodging reservations and general info into a streamlined space.

Trail Work

Waterville Valley Resort: Green Peak is the first major expansion at Waterville Valley in over 30 years. For the 2018-19 season, they unveiled the final three trails, including Wayne Wong Way, which features the steepest pitch at the resort.

Products and Rental Equipment

Pats Peak: Pats Peak's new Elan rental inventory has comfortable boots and some of the most cutting-edge ski technology that Elan has ever produced. The 9,600-square-foot Starting Gate Rental Shop is Northern New England's largest rental shop.

World-Class Events

Waterville Valley Resort: For the 2018-19 season, they will continue their tradition of bringing world-class events to the slopes of Waterville Valley. The Toyota Revolution Tour event will return on Jan. 13-18 as well as the World Pro Ski Tour Feb. 8 and 9. Finally, the much-anticipated U.S. Alpine National Championships on March 23-26 will bring the nation's top ski racers to Waterville Valley.

Behind the Scenes

Pats Peak: An upgraded power line will deliver power to the snow guns like never before, allowing more water to be converted faster and more efficiently.

Cannon Mountain: Cannon built a brand new ski patrol hut on the mountain summit and spent \$180,000 on installing a new fiber optic line.

About Ski New Hampshire

Ski New Hampshire is the statewide association representing 34 alpine and cross-country resorts in New Hampshire. For more information on ski areas, trail conditions, vacation planning and updated winter events at Ski New Hampshire resorts, please call (603) 745-9396 or visit www.SkiNH.com

For statewide travel info, please visit www.visitNH.gov

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At PATS PEAK YOU CAN SKI, RIDE and TUBE, DAY and NIGHT, and BEGINNERS CAN EARN a FREE SEASON PASS

HENNIKER, NH – The 2018-19 season marks the 56th consecutive ski and snowboard season under the same local family ownership. Pats Peak in Henniker, N.H., offers day and night skiing, snowboarding and snowtubing.

Pats Peak is a learn-to-ski-and snowboard mountain offering lessons for all abilities. With trails for all ability levels, terrain parks and snowtubing, there is something for everyone. Snowmaking with 100 percent coverage guarantees great conditions all season long. Kids 5 and under ski free anytime when accompanied by a ticketed adult.

At Pats Peak, when the sun sets, the fun is just beginning. Night skiing and snowboarding gives you more time to practice your new skills or improve your current style. In fact Pats Peak has one of the largest night skiing facilities in all of Northern New England, with all the terrain on the main mountain lit for night skiing.

Saturday Night POP (Pay One Price)

Under the Lights: The Best Deal Around

Guests can enjoy Saturday Night POP (Pay-One-Price) Under the Lights for one low price of \$49, starting Saturday, Dec. 29, through the end of the season. POP includes skiing, snowboarding, tubing, rentals, lesson tips, bonfires and entertainment.

POP Goes February Vacation Weeks where a great deal is also available during the Saturday, Feb. 16, 2019, through Saturday, Mar. 2, 2019 (Except Sunday, Feb. 24). POP Group Discounts are for groups of 15 or more people with advanced reservations made by contacting Pats Peak Group Sales.

Great Programs for Beginners

The Passport Program PLUS is for beginner skiers, where they can earn a free Season Pass and new pair of Elan Skis with Bindings. This pre-paid program can be purchased for \$349 by guests ages 18 and up, and includes four lift, lesson and rental packages. At the completion of the program, the beginner skier will receive their own pair of Elan Skis with Bindings FREE along with a Pats Peak Season Pass. Limited quantities are available. Pats Peak has collaborated with five ski shops to provide a shop for par-

ticipants to receive discounts on boots and accessories.

Another great beginner program is the Passport Program. It has the same great benefit of earning a Pats Peak Season Pass, good for the rest of the season, but it is pay as you go. This is a four-day program where skiers purchase four Starter Special Packages on four separate days for \$89 each (total: \$356).

For all the details on these great programs, please log on to their website at www.patspeak.com

More Improvements for this season

Pats Peak is constantly making improvements to the mountain for their guest experience. This year's list of capital improvements for the 2018-19 season include a new snowmaking compressor to boost the air plant by an impressive 20 percent and allow them to run even more snow guns at one time. That power will assist additional energy-efficient snowmaking fan guns and towers with four new fans and 20 new towers. Also new is a power line upgrade. This new power line will be able to convert more water to snow faster and more efficiently than ever before. In the Rental Equipment department, guests will find new super comfortable ski boots and skis with some of the most innovative ski technology that Elan has ever produced.

Pats Peak continues their lodge expansion with the center A-frame of the main base lodge. This will be under construction to set the foundation with additional construction continuing into the summer 2019. The completed project will feature a post and beam entrance, new bathrooms, an elevator and additional seating.

Pats Peak is only 20 minutes from Concord, 40 minutes from Manchester and 90 minutes from Boston.

Visit www.patspeak.com for more information.

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For information and snow conditions, call toll free at 1-888-PATSPEAK or log on directly to www.patspeak.com



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Pay-One-Price (POP) Saturday Night

One low price gives you access to lifts, rentals, lesson tips, tubing, entertainment and more from 3-10pm



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