

September's Mountain Update from The Schaefer's

After purchasing Catamount in May we took a deep breath for a day and began planning the future of Catamount that we are very excited about. Our primary objective was to complete phase 1 renovations in the Berkshire Lodge, build a new base lodge, add snowmaking and water storage capacity, install another triple chairlift in the Meadows area and upgrade the grooming fleet. Financing and local approvals for these projects were obtained in late August and work around the mountain has already begun. There is an aggressive time line to bring you as many of these improvements as possible for the coming winter season.



Berkshire Lodge – Main Room



Berkshire Lodge – Roof Installation

The Berkshire Lodge renovations started on Labor Day Monday with immediate attention to installing a new roof. New windows, flooring, lighting and furniture will follow throughout the fall. Preparations for the installation of a second triple chairlift in the Meadows area have been ongoing for a month with the clearing of the 2,500' lift line and the widening of Upper Promenade. This Poma triple chair will be called the Promenade Triple and will rise approximately 550' from the bottom of Colonel's Caper and unload above Upper Promenade. Operation by opening day is our goal. Snowmaking pipe feeding the Meadows area trails arrived earlier this summer and will be installed in September and October.



Promenade Triple lift line from the summit



Promenade Triple lift line view from Kelli's Run

The excavation for Catamount's new 7,500' base lodge began last week. You should see mostly finished outer walls by the end of the year with interior work ongoing through the winter. We had strong intentions of having this new lodge ready for the season. With the late start we realize that the timeline for completion will not meet our goal. We apologize in advance for the ongoing construction during the season and appreciate your patience while our contractor works towards completion and minimizes any inconvenience to Catamount's skiers and riders.



Site excavation for new base lodge

On the snowmaking and grooming front we are scheduled to receive 80 new HKD snow guns and 5 SMI Pole Cats this fall. Two additional Prinoth grooming machines arrive this fall as well and will take good care of the great snow produced by these energy efficient snow guns. One of these vehicles is a winch cat that will be responsible for grooming the double diamond Catapult trail among others.



New 10" line for snowmaking water distribution

This winter we want Catamount's loyal skiers and riders to experience these new and meaningful improvements in our first season at Catamount. We have spent almost our whole lives growing up and working in the ski business at Berkshire East and are excited about our future at Catamount. We know how much Catamount means to generations of families and we look forward to meeting many of you this winter.

Jim Schaefer Jon Schaefer