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## ELK CONTINUES GREAT PROGRAMS and IS CLOSE to HOME

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 chair 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 large number of trails are lit for night skiing, including the entire beginner area.



UNIONDALE, PA - Elk Mountain's spacious Day Lodge serves great food at reasonable prices and is a great après-ski spot for your group.  
Photo courtesy Elk Mountain

Elk Mountain continued to build on that legacy of great skiing when 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 most challenging ski seasons.

From the recently 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 more than 75 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 always 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.

You can view, read and share this page online at: [www.skiernews.com/2020-ElkBear.pdf](http://www.skiernews.com/2020-ElkBear.pdf)

Please call Elk Mountain at 1-800-233-4131 or log on to: [www.elkskier.com](http://www.elkskier.com) for more information




## Celebrating the



## anniversary of

# Bear Creek Mountain Resort

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## BEAR CREEK CELEBRATES ITS 20th ANNIVERSARY

MACUNGIE, PA – Bear Creek Mountain Resort has been a premier destination ski resort with beginner-friendly staff and slopes for two decades. New for the 2019-20 season will be the three-month long celebration of the resort's 20th anniversary of skiing and riding. Many locals are excited for the anniversary, not only to celebrate what the resort has become, but also to take a trip down nostalgia lane.

Many skiers remember the days of Doe Mountain. Many locals can recall the first sledgehammer to the exterior; the tiny Doe Mountain shack was about to show Macungie where its gem was truly hidden. Upon the completion of the 2-phase makeover, protruding from the 330 acres was a brand-new, three-section, brick-red building with two tall stone towers in stark contrast against the soft, green landscape. It was the first of many eye-catching changes the resort would undergo. With three banquet halls, a 116-room hotel, and an on-site spa and restaurant, the resort had a promising future.

Dramatic slope changes can also be seen in retrospect, but upgrades are a normal item on Bear Creek's yearly budget. Today, Bear Creek's renovated slopes include better snow making equipment and more ski runs than its predecessor, actual chair lifts (no more tow ropes), and a new thrill ride – snowtubing. Continuous enhancements provide the Snowsports School with the opportunity to expand and innovate the lesson programs. The only remnant of Doe Mountain is the high-quality standard of ski and snowboard instructors, keeping true to the vision of the original founders of creating a fun, learning environment for beginner skiers and riders.

The goal of turning this "ski area" into a "year-round mountain resort" was established

with the addition of hiking and biking trails, as well as monthly outdoor festivals. Now, skiing is just one of the many family-fun activities the resort has to offer. Bear Creek Mountain Re-



MACUNGIE, PA - Close to the Philly metro area and all of Northeast PA, the trails at Bear Creek lead to their beautiful hotel, conference center and day lodge. Book a midweek discount deal, or visit for a fun day trip.  
Photo courtesy of Bear Creek Mountain Resort and Conference Center

sort has made a name for itself, stepping out from Doe Mountain's shadow, and creating its own legacy for many more years to come.

The resort is ramping up for this year's celebration, starting with a social media campaign, engaging guests in a series of questions, wherein 21 winners will be rewarded with prizes. This winter, the fun continues with a variety of on- and off-hill events that correspond to the anniversary. These events, along with other specials, discounts, and promos will be happening throughout the entire winter season as a way to say thank you to all who have supported, and continue to support, the resort.

The 2019-20 winter season might just be the most memorable one of them all. The experience Bear Creek has gained over the past two decades will assure you the resort has everything you need for an amazing winter sports experience. Go to [www.BCMR.com](http://www.BCMR.com) to join the 20th anniversary celebration, whether you were along for the ride, or just appreciating what the resort is today.

Please find Bear Creek online on [www.skiernews.com/ResortsEast.htm](http://www.skiernews.com/ResortsEast.htm)

You can view, read and share this page online at: [www.skiernews.com/2020-ElkBear.pdf](http://www.skiernews.com/2020-ElkBear.pdf)

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