



## Lapham Peak Snow Making 2017/2018 Season Summary – R8

**Overview:** During the summer of 2017 we defined several new enhancements for the manmade ski trail, along with investing in several key equipment initiatives.

- We made the manmade trail wider, a bit longer and added a few start and stop areas.
- Completed 3 days of trail work & marked the trail with edge stakes to identify trail width and snow depth.
- Invested in 2 new larger Pole Cat snow guns (\$42k).
- Completed a major overhaul of the snow cat (\$20k).
- Repaired the well pump (\$6k).

These actions resulted in our ability to;

- Make **60% more snow this year** than last year in the same time span!
- Reduce the time to make, spread, and groom snow for an earlier ski loop opening!
- Create a very clean, robust, and well maintained manmade snow trail!
- Handle a higher volume of skiers on a daily basis – especially weekends when there were no other trails open most of January in SE Wisconsin!
- Provide a better variety of skiing terrain, and better access for race spectators.
- Have an improved and safer start and finish trail for races.

This was the second year that volunteers made a significant amount of snow with the DNR.

- We had 16 volunteers, coordinated by Joe Stuber, who spent over 350 hours of making snow!
- All of the Snow Cat operations were conducted by 2 volunteers providing over 145 hours of work! Two additional volunteers spent significant hours in training and a few hours of initial operation.
- Made snow two additional days after hard rains took a toll on a few trail locations.
- Tilled the main trail with the snow cat over 6 different times to provide a quality ski surface after tough rain and warm temperature conditions!

### Results:

- We were able to start making snow on Dec 7<sup>th</sup> and opened an initial loop Dec 16<sup>th</sup>.
- We made the remaining snow Dec 26-29<sup>th</sup> and opened the entire loop in time for Jan 1<sup>st</sup> Ski-a-thon!
- **We were able to ski on the manmade loop 78 days versus 9 days for the rest of the Lapham Trails!**
- The Man-Made loop was very robust and withstood 3 rain storms and 3 other significant warm ups.
- All but two of the Wed night races were on the manmade loop and several weekends required overflow parking for skiers at Lapham. We were able to provide consistent skiing to thousands of people this winter!

## **Without Your continued donations much of this would not have been possible!**

It's been an expensive year but we have seen the benefits of these expenditures that will continue for years to come!

- The new Snow Guns made a significant difference allowing us to make snow at temperatures the old guns could not, make it much drier, and as much as 3 times more snow per hour.
- This allows us to have wider and deeper snow to accommodate more skiers at one time. This drier snow does not need to sit as long before spreading! We had a few instances when we spread snow within 6 hours of making it!
- We also experimented with one of our new Snow Guns on the trail above Magic Carpet (the new spur) to understand how these Snow Guns would perform in the wooded trail areas (this went very well and will help us with future trail expansion knowledge).

### **Improvements Being Considered:**

- We hope to purchase another Snow Gun in the future. We were able to use a demo Snow Gun this year from our supplier which helped tremendously – but we will not have this Snow Gun for next year so we would like to purchase one more Standard Pole Cat in the future.
- We have identified several trail expansion phases that are currently being considered and discussed with the DNR.
- Drainage improvements will be implemented to reduce the impact of rain and melting snow on the trail.
- Our single largest future equipment investment will be a newer SnowCat. Our current machine is 37 years old and in reasonable condition but we would like to be prepared to replace it in the event of a major breakdown. We are considering various plans for temporary and long-term replacement of the current SnowCat.

We will provide an update on these planned improvements later this summer once we discuss priorities for next year and review progress on the trail expansion process with the DNR.

## **Thanks for your past support and please continue to donate!**

**Private donations are critical to providing snowmaking for cross country skiing at Lapham Peak and providing future improvements.** Currently the DNR covers only a small portion of Snowmaking costs (but helps us greatly with Snowmaking Manpower, grooming, trail support, and equipment maintenance)

Sincerely, Your Snow Making Committee and Volunteers (March 15, 2018)

You can contribute throughout the year by:

- Sending a check to (Be sure to write "Snowmaking" on the check!):
  - Lapham Peak Friends – Snowmaking
  - W329 N846 Hwy C
  - Delafield WI 53018
  - Please enclose your email address so we can send you a Thank You/Receipt and updates.
- Pay Pal using the snowmaking website (PayPal keeps 2.2%+\$0.30 from each online donation.)
  - <http://www.laphampeaksnowmaking.org/support-us/donate/>
- Depositing Cash or Check in the donation tube at the start of the trail

**The Man-Made Loop broadly serves our community and offers a health-oriented experience to a wide range of skiers and groups such as:**

- Non-competitive skiers from the area enjoying the outdoors in winter
- Young families with children doing something outside together in winter!
- Elderly skiers enjoying time together
- Youth ski program with over 80 K-6<sup>th</sup> grade kids skiing every Monday
- Weekend Warriors trying to improve their skiing and fitness
- Serious Skiers training for the Birnie and other competitive races
- Adult Tuesday morning lessons
- Tuesday evening intense interval training sessions
- 33 High School skiers on Peak Nordic team
- 16 Middle School skiers on Peak Nordic team
- Lapham Loppet Race (135 racers from 53 cities)
- 7 Wed Night Races for all levels of experience and skills
- Visually impaired and skiers of various physical abilities

*Tuesday Morning Lessons*



*Monday Night Kids Program*



*All Ages of Skiers enjoy the Trail!*



*Expanding the Playground! and Adding Hills!*





*Our New Snow Guns making Great Snow & Fast!*



*Wider and Solid Start Area*



*Peak Nordic Team Practice*



*Renovated Snow Cat Working Well*



*Expanding snow on the Spur beyond Magic Carpet!*



*Penguin Pal Fundraising Campaign added new Donors & Sponsors this season*



*People of varied abilities use the man-made snow!*

