

## PRESS RELEASE

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**Great Barrington, MA** – Ski Butternut will employ their 120 new, state-of-the-art, energy-efficient Pipe Dream Tower Snow Guns to blast more snow onto the mountain trails even faster this winter than in seasons past!

The 120 new snowguns are the latest enhancements to the family-friendly mountain's snow making infrastructure. They provide its expert snowmaking team a set of powerful tools with which to open up the ski resort's 22 trails quickly, all while saving energy and helping to protect the environment! The new 20-foot, adjustable tower snowguns represent the latest installment in Ski Butternut's multi-million-dollar investment in snow making operations. Also installed this year across the mountain were more than 5,000 feet of snowmaking pipe and hundreds of new snowmaking hydrants to further enhance snowmaking operations.

The adjustable Pipe Dream tower guns were strategically placed along Ski Butternut's Hob Nob, Lucifer's Leap, Whip, Twist trails and on the bunny hill area. The new snow guns require less compressed air to produce the same amount of snow, said Mountain Manager Tony Bleau. The older ground guns they replaced, he added, gulped more than 100 (CFM) cubic feet of air per minute, compared to the 60 CFM required by the new Top Gun Pipe Dream towers.

"That's a huge difference", emphasized Bleau. "It means that we're able to conduct our snow making operations much more efficiently, conserving electricity, saving fuel and, in the long run, helping our environment!"

Ski Butternut kicked off snowmaking operations Last Sunday operating a new record of 178 snowguns firing at once blasting out 3200 GPM of water. Weather permitting the area will be able to make snow right through Saturday morning. We'll begin making snow whenever temperatures fall below 24 degrees and the forecast shows that temperatures will remain there for at least a six-hour period. Current forecasts indicate that intensive snow making operations should be able to continue for the next several days. "If we can get three nights with good cold temperatures for an extended period of time eight to ten hours, we should be able to get eight to ten trails on the mountain open for the weekend, predicted Bleau.

The new, permanently-mounted guns will help in that effort, reducing the time required to transition snow making from trail to trail. Previously, snow makers had to wrestle with shutting down and then moving a number of the less-efficient ground guns between trails. It took a lot of manpower to move all the guns and a lot of time to set them up on a new trail. This effort temporarily shutdown snowmaking operations often right in the middle of a good snap of precious cold weather.

The addition of the new Pipe Dream tower snowguns now means that the down-time it took to move guns around is now limited, allowing snow making operations to proceed much more quickly, smoothly and efficiently, said Bleue. What formerly took hours to shut down, move and

set up a new trail will now require only minutes. "It'll definitely save us a lot of time and allow us to open up or refresh the snow surface on our mountain much more rapidly," he observed.

Once Ski Butternut starts blowing snow, the snow making team will create four to six-foot interconnected snow piles stretching the length of each trail. A fleet of three modern Bombardier grooming machines will then plow through each mound, initially spreading the snow across the trail and then in subsequent passes, smoothing the snow out into roughly a foot-and-a-half deep base that covers the length of each trail. Over the course of the season, snowmaking will continue or return to those trails, allowing us to increase the base depth and creating the powdery corduroy surface for which Ski Butternut is known.

"It's definitely an art," observed Bleau, who noted that Ski Butternut has some of the most-experienced snowmakers and groomers in the business. "We take pride in keeping our mountain white throughout the season, while providing our customers the highest-quality snow and the best sliding experience in the Northeast" The new Pipe Dream tower guns are another tool in the Ski Butternut arsenal that will make that job even easier!

Ski Butternut is located in the South Western corner of Massachusetts, less than 2.5 hours from NYC or Boston.

The mountain offers a nice variety of green, blue and black diamond slopes with 22 trails in all, 2 Terrain Parks, 1000ft vertical, 100% Snowmaking coverage, 12 Lifts (including 3 quads and four carpets), a Tubing Center and on mountain ski and snowboard shop. Simply put a nice, fun, family oriented mountain and guests get it all at a great rate!

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