

## **PREPARING FOR 2004-05**

### Solitude Mountain Resort Spends \$1.5 Million on On-Mountain Improvements for the Approaching Season

**SOLITUDE, UTAH (Sept. 21, 2004)** Solitude Mountain Resort spent \$1.5 million in on-hill improvements over the summer, the bulk of which went into overhauling the resort's snowmaking system — what may seem like a strange improvement for a mountain that is blanketed in 42 feet of Wasatch snow each season.

The improvements included the purchase of 11 new snow guns, the burial of more than two miles of snowmaking pipes and electrical lines, the construction of a new pump house and the addition of a brand new automated pump system, which when run at capacity, will pump nearly seven times the output of the old system.

"The reasoning behind these improvements is very much strategic," said Michael Goar, vice president of Mountain Operations for Solitude Mountain Resort. "This improved snowmaking system will allow us to create an optimal early season base, and offer the best possible conditions all season long, especially areas that have typically been hot spots in the past."

Goar also noted that even with the minimal snowmaking system of the past, Solitude does not suffer from a lack of snow, receiving more than 500 inches of the Greatest Snow on Earth™ each year. In fact, the mountain has never made snow after the first week of January and the same will hold true for this season, and others to come.

"This system will simply allow us to better prepare the mountain in specific places for whatever Mother Nature decides to bring us," said Goar.

The burial of the snowmaking system's piping, along with several electrical lines, is a very welcome and long-awaited improvement. It not only benefits the snowmaking system itself, but is an aesthetic improvement, as well, removing unnecessary equipment from the side of popular Solitude trails.

Solitude's 11 new snow guns are all SMI Super Polecats. Nine of these Super Pole Cats are carriage-mount fan guns, which are mobile and will be transportable throughout the resort, as well as two Super Polecat tower-mount fan guns. The tower-mounts place an oscillating fan, complete with its own weather monitoring system, 25 feet off the ground, offering excellent and even dispersion of snow. These two tower mounts will be placed on Sunshine Bowl (near Sundancer) and on the top third of Gary's Glade, two of Solitude's more popular trails that not only see a lot of traffic but also a lot of sun. Specifically, the Super Pole Cat on Gary's Glade will allow Solitude to groom the trail earlier in the season than usual, opening more groomed terrain to visitors.

The remainder of the \$1.5 million of on-mountain improvements included the purchase of another new groomer, a Bombardier BR 350, as well as the excavation for the new day lodge at the Moonbeam Center, slated to open for the 2005-06 season. The new BR 350 adds another excellent grooming machine to Solitude's fleet and reaffirms its commitment to not only offer some of the best natural terrain in the Wasatch, but the best corduroy, as well. The planned day lodge at the Moonbeam Center will be a welcome addition for Solitude's day guests, offering a 12,000 square foot lodge-style facility home to a new rental shop, lockers, indoor and outdoor food service, an après ski bar, a heated patio, a rooftop sun deck and a large, comfortable den.

Solitude Mountain Resort, a year-round, family-friendly destination, receives more than 500 inches of the Greatest Snow on Earth™ every year and is located just 40 minutes from the Salt Lake City International Airport.

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