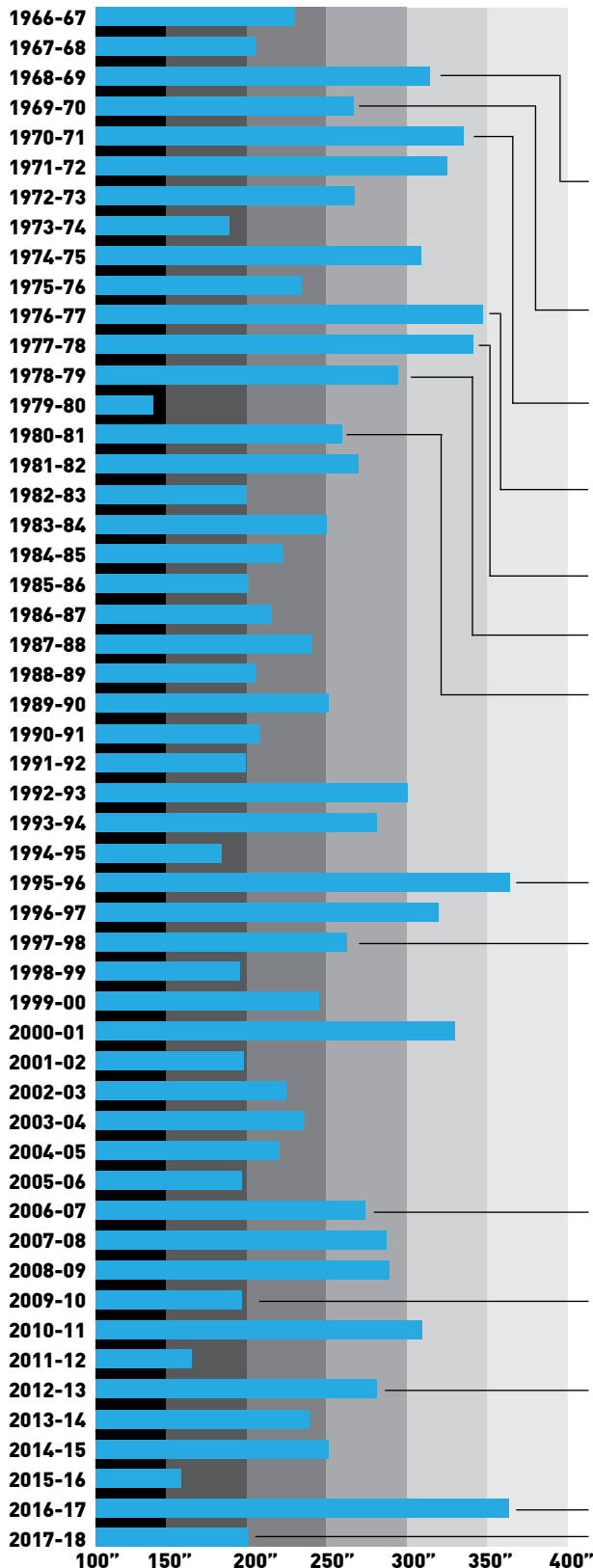


# Snow Deep in History

Fun facts about snowfall from the '60s to the present.

BY JOHN BLEH



Ski patroller Hoover Austin recalls a 30-inch storm sometime in the mid-1960s, when Middle Earth had just been cut but never skied. His boss directed ski patrol to boot-pack Organgrinder. But Hoover and his fellow patrollers decided that, "rather than bother with that, we'd just go finally try Middle Earth."

Sugarbush skier Dick Frost recalls that there was so much accumulation he could toss his toddler son up in the air and let him land in the soft piles of snow.

According to Austin, 4 feet of snow fell at Christmas, closing Interstate 89. Damon Gadd and Jack Murphy "were furious," Austin says, "because it meant nobody would come skiing." He himself skied more than a dozen runs in a row down Stein's Run and the Mall, getting fresh tracks every time.

Snowiest March—117 inches

Jack Murphy's daughter Kelly and son Mike both remember so much snowfall that they were able to do hike-to runs with John Egan on Rumble even after the Castlerock lift had closed for the season. This year also had the snowiest January, with 127 inches.

Snowiest May—16 inches

An April snowstorm contributed to a record month of 67 inches of snow.

Sugarbush was open for a record 201 days.

**SEASON AVERAGE SNOWFALL: 250"**

**SPRINGTIME AVERAGE SNOWFALL: 65"** (from March 1)

Snowiest season—363.5 inches, beating the 2016-17 season by half an inch

Snowiest November—57 inches

**10-YEAR AVERAGE SNOWFALL: 242"**

**25-YEAR AVERAGE SNOWFALL: 248"**

More than 4 feet of snow fell on Valentine's Day, and Win Smith remembers having to stay over at Clay Brook. Several local kids didn't return after skiing and were rescued by ski patrol and groomers, who located them trapped in Slide Brook Basin.

That Saturday was a bluebird powder day with a record crowd, but the power in the Valley went out, shutting down all the lifts. "We made the quick decision to give everyone a complimentary ticket so they could return another day," Smith says.

Snowiest February—84 inches

The Season of the Moose: Local moose, challenged by the deep snowpack in the woods, came out onto ski trails near North Lynx. A skier's video of the loose moose went viral and aired on Jay Leno's *Tonight Show*.

**SNOWIEST MONTHS: DECEMBER & JANUARY, AVERAGE 53" EACH**

Snowiest December—116 inches

Snow-laden spring allows Castlerock to be open and groomed in mid-April.

*Sugarbush has never had two seasons in a row of fewer than 200 inches of snow.*