

FESTIVAL INFORMATION AND LOGISTICS

NEWS, UPDATES, and INFORMATION

The Festival website is www.2018bklfestival.com. This is where we will post updated schedules, maps, parking instructions, and other important information. Schedules are subject to change based on the actual numbers in each race and the weather. Please check back the night before to see if there are any changes. If there is any kind of major change, it will **also** be posted on the NENSA website (www.nensa.net). Please make sure you check the schedules the night before the races, they are subject to change based on weather.

LOW-SNOW CONDITIONS:

We have an amazing crew at Weston Ski Track. Snowmakers at the ski venue have all hands on deck to make snow whenever the temps are low. Over the past weeks, snow guns were pointed straight up to build piles. These piles will help build up the course to ensure we are ready for racing on Saturday morning.

FRIDAY NIGHT: Festival Check-In

All racers should plan on picking up their goody bags at the host hotel from 6:00pm – 8:30pm unless you have other arrangements with your district. If you are not able to pick up your goody bag and/or race bib, please make other arrangements with your district. Please plan ahead so the Festival planning crew does not have to portage a slew of goody bags back to Weston Ski Track for early Saturday AM pick-ups. Thanks!

RACE BIBS:

Please check in with your District Chair for information regarding picking up Race Bibs for all three races. District Chairs will distribute Relay Bibs on Friday night or early Saturday morning. Lycra Bibs for the Sprints will be distributed by District Chairs on Saturday at the Ski Track. Race Bibs for Sunday's race will be distributed either late Saturday or early Sunday morning at the venue. **It is critical that you check with your District for the correct schedule.**

NEBKL HOST HOTEL—Embassy Suites, Waltham

The NEBKL Festival Hotel is the Embassy Suites Waltham, located at 550 Winter Street, approximately 10 minutes from the course. Staff at the hotel can be reached by phone at 781-890-6767.

For those staying at the hotel, breakfast will be served on Saturday and Sunday morning starting at 6:30am through 10am in DRAKE. Checkout is Sunday at 10am. If you need to leave bags, please check at the front desk. BRANDEIS will be available for waxing skis. The floor will be covered to protect the carpet, but we ask your cooperation in making sure that glide wax is removed outside the hotel.

FUN STUFF on SATURDAY NIGHT:

From 5:30pm – 9:30pm, there will be a Photo Booth, Music, and Olympics in the MEZZANINE.

BKL Banquet and RAFFLE

The BKL Banquet and Raffle will be open to ticket holders only on Saturday evening. There will be a cash bar available. Anyone needing a gluten-free meal should request one when they arrive on Saturday.

Dinner will be served in both DRAKE and HASTINGS Ballrooms. For the 5:45 seating, we have assigned all of the Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, and New York districts. For the 6:30 seating, we have assigned Massachusetts.

GETTING TO WESTON SKI TRACK- NEBKL VENUE AND PARKING

There is VERY LIMITED festival parking at the Weston Ski Track. We have reserved an off-site parking lot and free shuttle busses to safely transport you to the venue. You may choose to leave early so that you can drive to the Weston Ski Track to drop off skiers and gear, but **please note** that the venue lot is small and will likely be congested. Our recommendation is that you drive to the designated NEBKL Festival Parking Lot, load a free, heated NEBKL Festival Bus, and, in 5 minutes, get dropped off close to the Festival Village. After you are done enjoying the Festival, the shuttle bus will bring you back to your car.

Parking

The main parking lot for the Festival is located at the MBTA Riverside Station parking lot 364 Grove Street, Newton, MA. Very close to I-95 freeway, the lot off Grove Street is well marked as “Riverside Terminal”. Turn into the drive, then stay left, turn left at the T and follow signs to the pay parking, driving through the bus turn-around. **Enter the pay area (pay \$6 per car) and park as soon as possible.** The shuttle bus will be near the bus turn-around that you drove through. Look for volunteers and/or Festival signage on the curb between the parking and the bus turn-around.

NEBKL Shuttle Busses

Once you are parked, please carry your gear to the loading area and load a NEBKL Festival Bus, operated by Doherty’s (Yellow School Bus with NEBKL Placard). We will have three shuttles running throughout the morning. The route from MBTA Riverside Festival Parking and Weston Ski Track Festival Site takes approximately 5 minutes. If there is not a bus there when you arrive, one will be there very soon. There will also be an attendant at the Riverside Parking Lot to help you. **The NEBKL buses are free all day on Saturday and Sunday. First bus from Riverside is at 7:15am. Last bus back to Riverside Festival Parking on Saturday is 5:40pm and on Sunday is 3:40pm.**

AT FESTIVAL SITE: ARRIVAL, FESTIVAL VILLAGE, AND NEBKL SKI VENUE

There is no parking on Park Drive, Concord Ave, and no Festival parking on Recreation Road--you could be ticketed and towed. Please do not park "creatively" in the parking lot. You will be ticketed and likely towed.

Unloading Zone

If you drive to the Festival site (Leo J Martin Golf Course works on most mapping services), please follow the directions of the Volunteers at the parking lot. It is likely the parking lot will be full. You may unload in the designated unloading zone, then drive to Riverside (see address above).

Bus drop off-pick up at Festival Site

The shuttle bus pick up and drop off is at the same place. Follow signs from the Welcome Tent.

Welcome Tent & Festival Village

The Welcome Tent is at the foot of the parking lot and will be your arrival hub for information about schedule, course maps, and ski venue. The Welcome Tent will be open until mid-day. Festival Village, down the path from the Welcome Tent and sponsors, will be the location of your district tent. **Lost & Found will located at the First Aid tent, next to the Food tent.**

Race Headquarters

Race Headquarters are located in the brick building across the walkway from the Clubhouse. This area is designated for official race business and is not open for general public access. Day of, late registration, goody bag and bib pick up will be at Race headquarters.

Nordic Adventure

There are many fun things to do this weekend that aren't racing. There will be lots of games on snow and off—Ski Orienteering, Tandem Skiing, Face Painting, Ice Cream Making and plenty of other fun! Look at the schedule for details—some Nordic Adventure activities are only scheduled for one day.

Ski Passes

Because of low snow conditions, it is likely that ski trails will **only be open to racers**, coaches, wax testers and festival volunteers as needed. We will limit public and pedestrian access to warm-up areas and trails to maintain the integrity of race courses.

Costumes and Theme

This year's theme is Snowdance! So bring your disco balls, funkadelic threads, and tutus. These costumes will be highlighted throughout the weekend, starting with the parade on Saturday!

Parade

The parade will take place on Saturday at 1:30pm, directly following the relay awards ceremony. **Please help your child line up with their district and/or club.**

Food

There will be lots of healthy and low cost options for lunch at the venue. Bring an appetite! There will be warm healthy lunch to purchase from Whole Foods (delicious soups), free snacks from Green Mountain Creamery, and other treats. There will also be food for purchase at the LJM/Weston Ski Track Clubhouse.

On Saturday night, the host hotel is the place to be! We'll have an event-themed photo booth, music, and the Olympics! Don't forget to reserve your spaces for the pasta buffet dinner! AND, your buffet ticket is also a raffle ticket! You have a chance to WIN an awesome NORDIC BASKET complete with stuff you need for skiing, and a fine bottle of wine autographed by two Olympians! **If you still need to purchase tickets to the pasta dinner, there will be a limited number of tickets sold on Saturday morning in the Food Tent.**

Posting Boards

There will be 2 information boards at the venue--one on the deck of the clubhouse and one at the food tent. There will also be an information board at the hotel. This is where you can always find a schedule, start lists, course maps, and results.

Glide Waxing/Power

There will be NO power available at the venue so please plan accordingly and have your skis glide waxed before you arrive. There will be a wax room at the Embassy Suites hotel (see above). **You MUST scrape skis outside. Please remember that the Bill Koch Festival is a low flouro only event.**

Awards

Award ceremonies will be during the day. Please keep an eye on the schedule for your time. For individual races, there will be medals for places 1-10 and ribbons for places 11-20. For relay, there are medals for places 1-3 and ribbons for places 4-10.

OTHER ITEMS/OPPORTUNITIES TO NOTE:

Autograph Opportunity with Bill Koch

Bill Koch will be available to autograph hats, skis, medals, etc. after the parade on Saturday from 1:40-2:40pm. Stop by the Clubhouse deck (where we announce awards) and meet Bill, whose love for family, skiing, and healthy outdoor activity runs deep.

Be On Time

Because of the high numbers of parents and kids at this event, please try to arrive early for your start, and take into consideration driving and parking time when getting to the venue. This will help us stay on schedule!

Silent Auction

We have an ONLINE auction to support this year's Festival. It is now live and will be open until 2/25/18. There are some great finds, so make sure you visit the site and bid, bid, bid-- A chalet stay in Switzerland, an Ercolina, World Championship gear, SMS Summer Camp, and lots of other great items! Check out this URL for more details: <https://www.32auctions.com/BKLFestival2018>

Drive safely! We can't wait to see you at Weston Ski Track!