

# Vail urges GoPro viewers to leave their cars at home

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VAIL — The town of Vail is advising participants and spectators attending the GoPro Mountain Games this weekend to leave their cars at home and take the bus or ride their bikes to Vail, if possible, as parking will be at full capacity. Check [www.eaglecounty.us](http://www.eaglecounty.us) or [www.vailgov.com](http://www.vailgov.com) for bus schedules.

Vail Transit will run express bus service on South Frontage Road with stops at the Lionshead Transit Center, Vail Transportation Center and Ford Park through Sunday to help alleviate congestion on the in-town village to village route. Also, effective through Sunday, the in-town bus route has switched to the Farmers' Market in-town loop; there are no stops at the Covered Bridge, Solaris or Vail Road. Guests are being directed to the top of the Vail Transportation Center to load and unload the in-town bus, which includes extended service to Ford Park via Vail Valley Drive from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m.

The top decks of the Vail Village and Lionshead structures are reserved for vehicles with roof racks carrying bikes and kayaks. The Ford Park and soccer field surface lots also will be used to park cars exceeding the parking structure height restrictions.

Overflow parking on the South Frontage Road will be allowed once both parking structures are full. Parking is free in the town lots.

For schedule information, visit the website [www.mountaingames.com](http://www.mountaingames.com), and for details on parking and transportation, visit [www.vaileventparking.com](http://www.vaileventparking.com).

## GOPRO MOUNTAIN GAMES



Maya Rosecrance, left, Claire O'Hara, underneath, and Noria Newman, of France, get smashed and tangled together near the International Bridge on Sunday while competing in the GoPro Mountain Games Women's 8 Ball Kayak Sprint in Vail. Coincidentally, all three of these ladies took the podium with Newman stepping up to the top spot.

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# Noria Newman wins her first, and last, 8 ball comp

French kayaker gets punched, pushed into a tree and bashed in the face en route to victory

By John LaConte  
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VAIL — Amid all the unpredictability at the 8 Ball Kayak Sprint race, one thing was for certain this year: The crowd preferred watching the women.

Noria Newman, of France, took a beating down Gore Creek to paddle away victorious in the marquee closing event of the games, but she paid the price in the full-contact competition.

"They were really bad to us," she said of the 8 ballers, kayakers tasked with preventing sprinters like Newman from crossing the finish line at the International Bridge. "On my first run, I was upside down and people kept punching me, so I couldn't roll."

An audible gasp for air could be heard from the crowd when Newman finally did roll her boat back over.

"In the second run, I got pushed into a tree by Nick Troutman. In the third run I got pushed everywhere, my hands are all bruised up," she said after the race, holding ice on her hands. "This was my first 8 ball competition, and

### 8 BALL WINNERS

Men — Greg Parker  
Women — Noria Newman

right now, I will say it was also my last."

Local 8 baller Ben Hymes said he put down his best hit of the day on Newman.

"I didn't realize it was a girl," Hymes said. "I just saw a Red Bull helmet and aimed for it. I owe her an apology — sorry about the nose."

### LIVE LIKE LOGAN

Hymes' buddy Garret Funk joined in on the competition in the front of Hymes' two-person boat. He participated as a tribute to his friend Logan Jauernigg, who was recently killed while kayaking. It was Funk's first time ever in a kayak.

"Logan used to duo in the front with me, so Garrett totally took his spot today," Hymes said. "It was so fun."

Having no paddling experience, it was a baptism by whitewater for Funk, who quickly became a crowd favorite. Announcer Dan Gavere asked him if this was his first time in 8 ball.

"This is my first time in a kayak," Funk answered, to an explosion from the crowd.

Funk participated in five rounds of kayak bashing as an 8 ball at the bottom of the course. The first two went pretty well.

"I ended up swimming on the



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Boats pile up during the last leg of the Men's 8 Ball Kayak Sprint finals in Vail on Sunday afternoon. Despite the 8 baller's best efforts to hold the final line, Greg Parker managed to slip through to claim first place under the International Bridge.

last three," he said. "It's not as scary as it looks. When you're underwater and you grab that loop, you shoot out of your kayak."

With Funk in the water, Hymes discovered a new technique as an 8 ball.

"It was sweet having no one in the front, because the bow would lift up so it would just ride right up to their face," Hymes said.

Funk said ever since Jauernigg's death, the river has been calling him.

"It was a Live Like Logan kind of day," Funk said, repeating the popular slogan Jaurenigg's friends coined after his death on May 20. "I've been thinking about the river non-stop for the last three weeks."

Jauernigg, an expert climber as well as a kayaker, was already

entered into the climbing wall competition at the GoPro Mountain Games.

"Our friend Eric Warmhoven took his place on the climbing wall, wearing a sombrero and poncho," Funk said. "We parked his Jeep right down by the climbing wall, and I went and took a nap in it after the kayaking. It was a perfect day."

## GOPRO MOUNTAIN GAMES



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Alex Mason wows the crowd with his aerial moves during the Slackline Invitational men's finals at Solaris Plaza on Sunday. Professional slackliners from all around the world competed head-to-head during the GoPro Mountain Games for \$10,000 in cash prizes.

# Slacklining debuts new scoring format Sunday

Estonia's Tauri Vaheäär wins first competition using points-based judging system

By John LaConte  
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VAIL — Competitive slacklining made its debut as an objectively judged competition at this year's GoPro Mountain Games, to rave reviews from competitors.

While people have been using slacklines for decades, the competition aspect is relatively new to the sport. When the Mountain Games introduced it several years ago, and up until this year, a team of judges would evaluate and assign a score to a competitor's performance based on overall impression.

### GO BIG OR GO HOME

This year, every trick is scored and totaled to determine a winner. Competitors were given two attempts to lay down their best run on the slackline, with the score from their better of the two performances used.

Tauri Vaheäär, of Estonia, came out victorious.

"I love this new format," Vaheäär said on Sunday. "You can put everything down and really see who's the best."

### 'HE CAME OUT OF NOWHERE'

Two years ago, a 19-year-old Vaheäär made his debut as a professional slackliner here at the GoPro Mountain Games.

"He came out of nowhere," second-place Felix Carreira, of Brazil, said of Vaheäär. "I was here at his first ever comp, now he's killing it."

### ESTONIA BACKFLIP

Vaheäär came in from Estonia just for the Mountain Games. He said it was his signature move, the Estonia Backflip, that guided him to victory.

Vaheäär's Estonia Backflip starts with him having both feet on the slackline, he then flips one-and-a-half rotations to his back, then bounces to his feet again.

"This is what I came here to do," he said after the win. "I felt really good. It was all I could do."

Rounding out the podium was Kota Hayasaka, of Japan, in third.



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Felix Carreira spots his landing during the GoPro Mountain Games Slackline Invitational finals in Vail on Sunday. Carreira flipped, bounced and balanced his way to second place overall.



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Tauri Vaheäär, of Estonia, lands a back bounce on Sunday during the GoPro Mountain Games Slackline Invitational finals in Vail. Vaheäär took home the gold medal and \$4,000 with his first-place win.