

PRESS RELEASE

HARD, HARDER, MOUNTAIN ATTACK

- > The competition takes part on 11 January 2019 for the 21st time
- > Superstars chase the record time
- > 1,100 participants from 22 nations come to Glemmtal

Saalbach, 17 December 2018. Austria's largest and hardest touring ski competition, the Hervis Mountain Attack in the Saalbach Hinterglemm Leogang Fieberbrunn Skicircus will take place on Friday, 11 January 2019 for the 21th time.

Roland Kurz from the Salzburg event agency NMC launched the Mountain Attack 21 years ago. In 1999, the organisers as well as the participants were still called „weirdos“ who ran up a mountain at race pace to then race it down again at high speed using extremely light material. In the meantime, ski mountaineering has firmly been established in our society and is a fixed part of the sports scene. The local sports retailers benefit from the sales generated in this area. The boom remains unchanged, more and more people discover ski mountaineering, whether for fun, as a hobby- or as competitive mountaineering. All facets are represented, all milieus and income levels are part of this sport; and also tourism is rethinking its position as the target group is constantly growing. The Mountain Attack alone provides for just under 25,000 additional overnight stays in the Glemmtal, thus creating important economic impetus.

On Friday, 11 January 2019, the race will start at 4pm on the village square in Saalbach. 1,100 athletes from 22 nations will be part of the sprint and will run along the village street to the base area at the foot of the Schattberg. Following the motto: „On the skins, ready, steep uphill!“ the Glemmtal mountains will be attacked. With up to 70% gradient in the lower part of the Schattberg, the first mountain already demands everything from the athletes. The participants also experience a real summit thrill while being cheered on by numerous fans along the track.

THE RACE: 3 DIFFERENT DISTANCES

1. The Schattberg Race: This is a pure vertical race. Here the athletes have to master an elevation gain of 1,017 meters with the goal being on top of the Schattberg. 200 athletes have registered for this category.
2. The Tour: This is an individual race (ascents and descents). Here, the participants must tackle 5 summits, a total elevation gain of 2,036 meters and also descents have to be completed. The route leads via: Schattberg - west summit - descent to Hinterglemm - through the village - ascent Hasenauer Koepfl - Reiterkogel - descent Wetterkreuz - Bernkogel - descent to Saalbach (about 500 participants).
3. The Marathon: Also an individual race. Here it is necessary to cope with an elevation gain of 3,010 meters. The route is identical with the Tour until Hinterglemm. However, the participants also have to master the Zwoelferkogel ascent, the north descent into the Hochalm and the ascent from the Hochalm in the direction of Hasenauer Koepfl. Approximately 400 athletes will climb a total of 6 peaks!

ATTACK NEWS - WHAT IS SPECIAL AT THE #ATTACK19:

Starting shot by Landssportrat Stefan Schnöll and LH Deputy Christian Stöckl at the start
The starting shot for the 21st edition of the Hervis Mountain Attack will be given by the Salzburger Landessportrat Mag. Stefan Schnöll on 11.1.2019, and the 1,100 starters will start the race. One he sends in the race is LH Dep. Christian Stoeckl. He has already been a guest in Saalbach several times and has decided to attack himself at this year's edition and to defeat the Schattberg. Schnöll will be watching the unique spectacle this year and possibly raise his skins in 2020, because he is an enthusiastic tour guide himself.

Attack Boom

Two hours after the opening of the registration on 15 October 2018, already all 1,100 starting places for the 21st Hervis Mountain Attack were gone. Additional starting places can only be awarded if participants withdraw from the race and thus return their starting position. These possible remaining starting places will be awarded on the day of the race from 9:00 am directly at the registration in Saalbach.

Live Stream

As in the previous years, also in 2019 a LIVE STREAM of the race will be available on www.mountain-attack.at <<http://www.mountain-attack.at>>. In cooperation with Salzburg AG and the production team Mediahaus, we will broadcast live from 3:40 pm with the starting preparations until about 7:30 pm. In addition, postings, live feeds and current pictures on the Mountain Attack Facebook page will inform the fans about the current race progress. The spectators on site will be able to follow the race with live pictures on an LED wall in the finish area. Four presenters, eight mobile camera teams, four fixed camera positions and a state-of-the-art broadcast van will provide action-packed images and background reports on the Attack.

Free fan gondola

Also in 2019 all spectators, companions and fans can use the Schattberg X-press gondola to get up to the middle station and the summit free of charge after the race start in order to be as close to the action as possible.

The checkpoints in the valley, in Hinterglemm and in Hochalm, are best suited for the fans flooding in. Both locations can be easily reached by car. In Hinterglemm it is only a few steps to the checkpoint, while in Hochalm the cars can be parked directly.

Mountain Attack Charity

100 employees of the company Egger (St. Johann in Tirol) will once again conquer the Schattberg and will collect donations with their meters of elevation gain for the 7th time. The donation amount of approx. EUR 5,000, provided by Egger CFO Dr. Thomas Leissing from his own pocket, will again be donated to a SOS Children's Village in 2019 (will be reported after the race).

Participants and fans provide numerous overnight stays, an economic factor!

The Mountain Attack not only attracts more than 1,000 active athletes to the Glemmtal valley, but also numerous coaches and fans who fill restaurants and bars well before and after the race.

At the Mountain Attack in January 2018, more than 4,000 companions, fans and spectators came to the region next to the starting field.

Safety

For the safety of the participants, a dedicated Mountain Attack doctor with a Red Cross team is on site. Representatives of the Saalbach mountain rescue service and the ski patrol of the mountain railways are positioned at all summits. The event team includes eight emergency paramedics and two rescue paramedics.

THE RACE

Again in 2019 many international and national top stars will be at the start. It comes to the showdown to the course record on the marathon distance.

In the men's Marathon in 2018, the course record of 2017 by Toni Palzer (GER), 2:21:34, was undercut several times. The Italian exceptional athlete, winner of all Touring Ski Classic Races in 2018 and World Cup Overall Winner in 2018 Michele Boscacci pulverized the best time and came with 2:18:57 in the finish. Also under the old course record remained: Tadei Pivk (ITA), Jakob Herrmann and the fourth placed and 3 times Attack winner Christian Hoffmann (both AUT).

Palzer wants to bring back „his“ record in 2019, 2018 he was because of a cold not at the start. Boscacci will do his best to defend his title. Thus, it comes to the absolute showdown of the superstars in the touring skis scene.

Since the times in the previous year (the first 3 were within just 26 seconds) were particularly close, another exciting and tight race for the title „Mountain Man“ is expected. In addition to the already mentioned athletes, there are still other candidates. First and foremost Armin Höfl (AUT) from the national team, who won the tour in 2018 with record time (1:35:59), moves up to the marathon and is the secret favorite of the race.

Also to be expected on the podium: Damiano Lenzi and Martin Stofner (both ITA), 2018 5th place, Luka Kovacic (SLO), 2018 6th place, the 2010 Mountain Man Konrad Lex (GER) and the strong Austrians Robert Berger (La Sportiva Mountain Attack Team) and Stefan Steiner, who has a home game as Pinzgauer. New in Saalbach is a Spaniard: Cardona Coll Oriol, ranked 12th in the world ranking.

In the women's marathon, the victory will certainly be on last year's winner Michaela Essl from Abtenau, as well as the Italian for the first time in Saalbach and number 4 in the worldwide ranking, Alba de Silvestro. Also extremely strong is the Spaniard Claudia Galicia, number 9 in the world rankings. If all goes well, the two will be hard to beat. Nevertheless, Alexandra Hauser, from the national team, and strong Austrians continue to attack: Michaela Voithofer, Rosemarie Pötzelsberger, Theresa Kober (La Sportiva Mountain Attack Team) and the two strong German athletes: Alexandra Hagspiel (2018 4th place) and Kathrin Angerer (also from the Tournament Team: La Sportiva Mountain Attack Team) the podium

As always, the Tour Men will be the hardest fought over, times will be close together again. Top contenders for the win here are the Austrians. First and foremost Daniel Zugg, Alexander Brandner (both national team) and Maximilian Kurz (La Sportiva Mountain Attack Team), who took 2nd, 3rd and 4th place last year. Also very strong are Patrick Brieler and the athletes from the organizer team (La Sportiva Mountain Attack Team) like Andreas Jank, Harald Feuchter, Tobias Wagenhofer and Christoph Scheiber.

In the Tour Ladies, the winner from the previous year is Johanna Erhart in the „baby break“ and thus the runner-up of 2018 Verena Streitberger (La Sportiva Mountain Attack Team) is the logical favorite for the victory. Strong is also Sarah Dreier from the national team, which finished third in 2018. Always strong with ambitions for the podium: Uli Exenberger (winner Tour 2017), Marita Kröhn (Villach), Natalie Sunkler (GER), Claudia Sillner (AUT).

DATA & FACTS

Mountain Attack International Touring Ski Marathon

Date: Friday, 11 January 2019, Start: 4pm, village square Saalbach

Location: Skircircus Saalbach Hinterglemm

Distance: 3 distances on marked and secured slopes

Marathon: 3,010 meters elevation gain, 6 peaks

Tour: 2,036 meters elevation gain, 5 peaks

Schattberg Race - sprint with finish on Schattberg summit 1,017 meters elevation gain

Classes: Marathon Men & Women, Marathon +45, Tour Men & Women, Tour +45 Men

Mountain Hero: Combined score with the Marathon of the World Games of Mountain biking 2019 (long distance only) Prize money: Total EUR 7,000

RACE PROGRAMME

4 pm Start Marathon & Tour at the village square in Saalbach afterwards start Schattberg Race (2nd wave)

approx. 4:40 pm first planned arrivals at the Schattberg

approx. 4:55 pm first planned arrivals in Hinterglemm

approx. 5:35 pm first planned finish Saalbach Men's Tour

approx. 6:15 pm first finish in Saalbach (Marathon)

approx. 10:30 pm Award ceremony at the village square of Saalbach

SOCIAL PROGRAMME

From 3 pm Attack party on the village square with a DJ

Hosts: Marina Herzmayr & Rudi Schwaiger

From 4 pm Attack raffle with great prizes at the village square in Saalbach

LIVE coverage with pictures from the Schattberg, Zwölferkogel, Hochalm, Reiterkogel and from the track and finish

From 8 pm Attack-Party with LIVE-Band „The Foxes“

10:30 pm Award ceremony on the village square

11 pm Attack Clubbing at the Castello (Saalbacher Hof)

RACE SPECIALS

Youngest participants:

Timon Tramberger, Landl, 6.7.2003, Kategorie: Schattberg

Oldest participant:

Herwig Müller, Grödig, 18.3.1950, Kategorie: Schattberg Race

Hubert Grünbaum, Bayreuth (GER), 6.10.1950, Kategorie Marathon +45

Track record bonus

If the track record set by Michele Boscacci (ITA) at 2:18:57 hours in 2018 is beaten, there will be an extra bonus of EUR 500.

THE „MOUNTAIN MAN“ OF THE PAST YEARS:

Michele Boscacci (ITA) 2018 (new track record)
Toni Palzer (GER) 2017
Christian Hoffmann (AUT) 2016, 2014, 2013
Tadei Pivk (ITA) 2015
Kilian Jornet Burgada (ESP) 2012, 2011
Konrad Lex (GER) 2010
Guido Giacomelli (ITA) 2009, 2007, 2006
Andi Ringhofer (AUT) 2008, 2005, 2004
Martin Hornegger (AUT) 2003
Mirco Mezzanotte (ITA) 2002
Luciano Fontana (ITA) 2001
Fabio Meraldi (ITA) 2000
Omar Oprandi (ITA) 1999

THE WINNERS 2018

Marathon

Winner Men's: Michele Boscacci, ITA 2:18:57
Winner Women's: Michaela Essl, AUT 3:01:27
Winner Men's +45: Hans Wieland, AUT 2:38:13

Tour

Winner Men's: Armin Höfl, AUT 1:35:59
Winner Women's: Johanna Erhart, AUT 2:06:57
Winner Men's +45: Hannes Fischbacher, AUT 1:53:59

Schattberg Race

Winner Men's: Martin Schider, AUT 44:30
Winner Women's: Susi von Borstel, GER 49:10

ORGANISER

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