



### START'S BIRKIE WAX CLINICS WITH ANDY GERLACH

Monday Feb 20 6:30pm Gear West

Tuesday Feb 21 7:00pm Pioneer Midwest

10% off all Start, Bliz Swenor, Ant-Freeze Products

### BIRKEBEINER PRELIMINARY RECOMMENDATION Updated 02.19.2017 @ 3pm

See you at the Start/Bliz booth at the Birkie Expo

Updates at <http://www.startskiwaxusa.com/american-birkebeiner-waxing-suggestions/>

Discussion. We're still 5 days to the Korte and 6 days to the Birkie, so keep checking back for updates as we get closer to race-day. Let's start with the assumption that some portion of the trail will survive the huge thaw and Monday's rain. At that point, the big "?" becomes "How much snow will fall on Friday?" My bet is that the race will happen on a surface that is mostly super-granular, dirty, ground-up icy snow, with a little (maybe 1 inch) of packed new snow on top. Current forecasts are indicating the new snow will fall at apx. 30-34F making it relatively moist which is good because it is more likely to stick to the snow/ice underneath and also good because it makes wax selection more similar to the snow/ice that is underneath. I think we will know a lot more about what the race-day snow conditions will be on Monday and Tuesday.

As of right now, the 2 priorities in waxing are DURABILITY because the snow currently on the trail will be turned into uber-abrasive icy snow crystals and DIRT REPELLANCY because snow that has melted for 5+ days tends to draw the dirt into the top-layer of the snow.

In glide waxing, durability is best found by having skis with well-conditioned bases. If you wax your skis regularly through the season, and they don't get gray quickly while skiing, your bases are well conditioned. If they get gray quickly, don't seem to stay fast while you ski, etc. you should consider putting an initial layer of Start SG8 blue or Start LF8 blue on prior to the race waxing. This conditioning will help the rest of the wax-job work better.

Once the bases are well conditioned, the other two strategies to increase durability on abrasive snow are to use a hard wax as a base layer and to use waxes with as much fluoro as your budget will handle.

To deal with the dirt in the snow, fluoro again becomes an important "friend" but also having a dry-lubricant additive like molybdenum can really help to keep the dirt off your skis. Start's BM line of waxes have both high levels of fluoro and molybdenum making them ideal of dirty snow. See the photo of my new Atomic C9 Carbon Skate skis after skiing 10km with only a warm LF wax.



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If you're looking for excellent speed but you want to keep things really simple (Keep It Start Simple), starting with a hard first layer, like any of the Start Green waxes, using Start's "blue" range waxes as the main layer (with whatever level of fluoro you want to buy), and maybe finishing with a universal fluoro block like SFR99 would be a fantastic way to get speedy skis without making it too complicated.

**Make sure to stop by the Start/Bliz booth at the Birkie expo to get last-minute tips and pick up any waxes, tools and eyewear that you will need.**

Preceding Weather - Lows 28-34F, highs 45-55F. High on Friday apx 36F with snow likely.

Race Day Weather- Overnight low around 13F, high 28F with snow likely.

Snow Conditions - Expect highly transformed granular and dirty snow with a coating up to several inches of new snow.



## **Birkebeiner Wax Rec**

### **Podium-Level Glide Wax**

- Base Wax - Start BM6 Green. Start BWLF would be a good alternative especially if there's significant new snow.
- Race Wax- Start FHF4 Purple is ideal for old, dirty and humid conditions. Start BM4 Purple or Start HF6 Purple would be good alternatives.
- Fluoro - Start FHF7 Powder or Start SFR60 Powder.
- Top Coat - Start FHF11 block or Start BMR5 block.

### **Keep It Start Simple (KISS) Glide Wax.**

(SG or LF versions can be substituted as economical alternatives)

- Base Wax - Start LF10 Green.
- Race Wax- Start MF8 Blue. Start MF6 Purple for later waves.
- Top Coat - Start SFR99 Universal block.

### **Kick Wax**

- Base - Base klister, thin and ironed.
- Main Kick Wax- Start FHF30 Purple klister. Start Purple klister would be economic alternative.
- Final Layer - Check back as we get closer to race-day, but Start FHF60 Red, Start RF Red, Start Terva Red or Blue and Start Synthetic Blue are all likely candidates.





## Korteloppet Wax Rec

<http://www.startskiwaxusa.com/wax-recs/2017/2/24/korteloppet-2017>

We will continue to update as details about the race evolve and forecasts get more accurate.

Expect hard, icy, abrasive and likely dirty conditions with chance of new snow falling during the race.

Check in with us at the Birkie Expo in the Start/Bliz booth for up-to-the-minute updates.

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