

**CONCORD**

## Official: Black Ice delay better in long run

Pond hockey tournament to run  
Feb. 9 to 11 due to weather

By **CAITLIN ANDREWS**  
Monitor staff

Anyone driving by White Park on Saturday morning might have been confused to see the masses of skaters on the ice.

Chris Brown, chairman of the annual 1883 Black Ice Pond Hockey Tournament, was not. After being closed for a few days during the week due to a dreary bout of rain and warm weather, all of Concord's outdoor skating rinks were back open for the weekend. And the day promised to be beautiful, with bright, sunny skies and temperatures in the high 20s by 11 a.m.

But Brown knows what that beautiful weather does to the ice, and by 2 p.m. — with temps in the low 40s and climbing — you could see the effects: standing water, and soft, almost sticky ice. On radar, the threat of rain showers starting Saturday night into Sunday morning loomed.

*"We're not the largest pond hockey tournament, but we feel its the best for its accommodations, for having great ice. That's why people keep coming back."*

**CHRIS BROWN**,  
chairman

From a pond hockey perspective, it's a perfect reason to postpone the Black Ice tournament, Brown said.

"If you can't even look at

potentially finishing the tournament, you shouldn't move forward with it," he said. "People spend a lot of money to put up a team. You can't be playing boot hockey too many times, or people start losing faith."

It costs \$700 to enter a team into the tournament, Brown said, and one of the things that Black Ice prides itself on is the quality of White Park's ice.

"If it's 36 degrees and overcast, that can work," he said, noting the warm weather wouldn't have been enough to melt away the foot-deep layer of ice on White Park's pond. "But once you reach sunny and 38, that top layer turns into a snowdrift. ... We're not the largest pond hockey tournament, but we feel its the best for its accommodations, for having great ice. That's why people keep coming back."

Boot hockey, if you didn't know, is almost the same sport as ice hockey, but without the speed and grace ice skates lend to the sport. Black Ice participants two years ago were given the option of continuing play via boot hockey, Brown said. Some people chose to do so, but semi-finals and final games had to be played indoors at the Douglas N. Everett Arena.

SEE BLACK ICE B6

## A day dedicated to Christa McAuliffe

Sununu declares Jan. 28  
'Christa McAuliffe Day' on  
32nd anniversary of tragedy

Monitor staff

Gov. Chris Sununu has set aside Sunday as a special day of recognition in memory of a former Concord teacher who died in the Space Shuttle Challenger explosion.

The day will be known as "Christa McAuliffe Day" and it

marks the 32nd anniversary of the disaster, which ended the lives of seven astronauts, including McAuliffe, who was chosen by NASA to pioneer its Teacher in Space program. McAuliffe was the first teacher chosen out of approximately 11,000 applicants, according to a proclamation from the governor's office.

Sununu wrote that on this day the community is reminded of McAuliffe's "purpose as an educator to open minds and put emphasis on exceptional learning,

in her own words, 'I touch the future, I teach,' and these profound words continue to guide educational programs today."

Additionally, he said, McAuliffe's lessons live on through the Christa McAuliffe Elementary School and the McAuliffe-Shepard Learning Center, both in Concord.

The Challenger exploded just 73 seconds after liftoff exactly 32 years ago, Jan. 28, 1986, tragically ending the spacecraft's 10th mission.



High school teacher Christa McAuliffe gives a thumbs up during a parade down Main Street in Concord, N.H., in 1985. AP file

## NHTI WINTER FLING 2018



Heather and Keith Wilding dance a Viennese waltz during the "Dancing with the Concord Stars" program at NHTI's annual Winter Fling event on Saturday.

## CITY STARS SHINE



Kate Fleming and Aaron Jones dance a jazz funk number during the program.



Joanne and Dan Randall embrace after dancing.



Michelle Olivier (right) and Tom Devaney dance a samba/salsa number.

NHTI's Winter Fling fundraiser, featuring the "Dancing with the Concord Stars" competition, took place Saturday. Ten couples coached by professional instructors from area dance schools showed off their waltz, hip hop, jazz and tango skills. The eighth annual event helped raise funds for the school's President's Fund for Excellence.

ELIZABETH FRANTZ / Monitor staff

# Black Ice Pond Hockey Tournament delay better in long run, official says

BLACK ICE FROM B1

It's not just players who would miss out if Black Ice continued this weekend. Bad ice can mean no games at all, and no games means no one buying food at the food trucks or hanging out during live performances, Brown said. So he's happy with his decision.

"Of the 98 teams we had scheduled this week, we've got about 96 now," he said. "A lot of them have been on the waiting list for a couple of years, so they're excited to get a chance to play in two weeks."

This is the fourth time Black Ice has been delayed due to warm weather. The event was pushed back two weeks last year but otherwise carried on per usual; 2016 was the year of boot hockey. A two-week delay in 2012 still resulted in several games being canceled due to slushy ice.

Historically, Black Ice weekend weather has been all over the place. The weather hovered around – and sometimes dipped below – zero degrees during the 2013 and 2014 tournaments. In contrast, the temperature never went below 10 degrees, but often hung in the 30s, 40s and even once the 50s during the 2012, 2015 and 2016 events.

And skaters on White Park were just as happy to enjoy the Saturday afternoon sunshine.

"It's really soft," said Tim Donlon, who was making wide turns on the pond, hockey stick in hand. A lifelong-

skater, he could see why Black Ice needed to be postponed. "I think it would have gotten really beat up. ... The way they set up, they've got people going 24/7, it would have gotten really chunky."

Terry Cotton and Michelle Leuci had it made in the sun. See, Cotton was supposed to be playing in the tournament this weekend with his team, the Desperadoes.

But, facing a delay, Cotton

and a group of friends, decided to head to the pond anyway. Armed with soft drinks, a charcoal grill, hot dogs and potato chips, they were content to hang out on the shore and watch their kids race

around the pond. "We've been here since 9 this morning, so we're probably going to start wrapping it up," he said. "This pond is one of the great quality of life things about Concord. We

come down here fairly often."

(Caitlin Andrews can be reached at 369-3309, c-andrews@cmonitor.com or on Twitter at @ActualCAndrews.)



Tim Donlon of Concord skates with his hockey stick on the White Park pond Saturday. The annual 1883 Black Ice Pond Hockey Tournament was scheduled start Friday, but was postponed due to rain and recent warm temperatures.

ELIZABETH FRANTZ / Monitor staff

Come as a customer. Leave as Part of the Family.
   
 204 Fisherville Road, Concord 603-753-8488
   
 Locally owned & operated!
   
 MON-FRI / 7:30AM-5:30PM
   
 SAT / 7:30AM-1:00PM
   
 CLOSED SUNDAYS
   
**Compustar Remote Starters \$269<sup>05</sup>**
  
 Starting at \$269<sup>05</sup> Complete with installation.
   
 Must present this coupon prior to initial quote. Cannot be combined with any other offers. Valid until 2/21/18.
   
**\$30<sup>00</sup>**
  
 For 30 Minutes of Detailing
   
 Must present this coupon prior to initial quote. Cannot be combined with any other offers. Valid until 2/21/18.



"You can explore and find out who you are. NHTI is also very affordable and that really helps a lot."

Nolan, Accounting

Start here . . . Go anywhere!

Visit NHTI

A visit will help you decide if NHTI is the right place for you.

<p><b>Campus Tour</b> We encourage you to schedule a tour. Tours are led by knowledgeable staff who will help answer your questions. You will see our academic facilities, residence halls, student center, the Library, Wellness Center and our Dining Hall.</p>	<p><b>Drop in Tuesdays</b> A 15-minute overview of the college with Admissions Representatives available to answer questions about enrollment. An optional tour of NHTI will also be available for those who arrive by 5:15 pm. Just 'drop in'.</p>	<p><b>Health Program Info Sessions</b> For those interested in Radiologic Technology Mondays @ 10 am <b>Nursing</b> Mondays @ 2 pm and Wednesdays @ 4 pm <b>Dental Hygiene &amp; Assisting</b> Thursdays @ 2 pm  Except holidays or due to campus closing.</p>
---	---	--

Visit [nhti.edu/visit-nhti](http://nhti.edu/visit-nhti) for more information or to schedule a tour or call Admissions at (603) 230-4011

103.9 FM - 1450 AM Advertisement Opportunities Available (603) 225-5521

CONCORDNEWSRADIO.COM

The Life with Matt Bonner