



**Canadian Birkie E-News:
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Canadian Birkebeiner Society
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29th Birkie Feb 9-11, 2018

Flying Over the Snow with Skis

Ole's Tour Announcement



Ole's Tours – The Old and the New for Birkie 2018

Our skiers have spoken! In addition to exciting plans for additional youth-oriented events on “Birkie Sunday” at Gold Bar Park in Edmonton, the Birkie will continue to offer the Ole’s Tour options as part of Saturday’s events at the Waskahegan stadium area. We hope the Saturday Ole’s tours will continue to appeal to families who want to ski a short event and be part of the larger Birkie festival in the Cooking Lake – Blackfoot Provincial Recreation Area. The Birkebeiner 2018 Zone 4 registration site now includes this option.

The plan to move Ole’s Tour into Edmonton as part of a new “Birkie Sunday” event was a response to comments about the frustration of getting youngsters out and back to Waskahegan on the Saturday, when many of the adults were also wanting to be involved in the longer Birkie races. The “Birkie Sunday” events, being planned for Gold Bar Park in collaboration with Edmonton Nordic Ski Club, will include a range of short sprints, relays and other fun activities, including a short loop Ole’s “Other” Tour.

So, for 2018, the local Birkie community will be able to ski the Birkie events on Saturday, February 10th and then head down to the Edmonton river valley the following day to enjoy a fun day of classic and skate skiing events at a location with the best guarantee of snow.

Sign up for Ole's Tour and other Birkie ski events on Saturday, February 10th [here](#).
Registration details for "Birkie Sunday" will be coming shortly.

10 for 10 Club Challenge



Be a part of the new Birkie Club Challenge!

Register 10 members on a team, get 10% off each registration fee AND compete against other ski clubs for cash prizes!

- 1st Place – \$1,000
- 2nd Place – \$750
- 3rd Place – \$500

Here is how it works:

Each club must have 10 club members to qualify
One ten-person team per club - additional members are welcome to register but will not be eligible for the discount
Register as a club – each member of your team receives 10% off their registration fee
Prize money is to be awarded to club (not to be divided by individuals)
Participants can take part in any of the Birkie events (55 w/pack, 55 Lite, 31 or 13 km)
Points will be accumulated based on the contribution of each member
Time and distance will be the criteria used for ranking
The actual formula will be available one month before the Birkie to the clubs that are registered at that time

Once you have your team ready to register, email the [office](#) to get your promotion code.

Birkie Learn to Loppet

Whether you aim to improve your skiing skills, finish the 13 km Tour or improve your personal best time in the 55 km, the Birkie Learn to Loppet ski lessons will help you achieve your personal goals.

The program includes a basic wax clinic, four ski lessons at Gold Bar park and one day out at Cooking Lake-Blackfoot Provincial Recreation Area to help you experience the terrain where the Birkie takes place.

Course participants will be offered a discount on Birkie registration and are offered free admission to wax clinics (beginner and intermediate) held in January by MEC. Course details [here](#).

This popular program starts January 6 but almost always fills early so do NOT hesitate...[register now](#).

**** makes a great Christmas gift****

Join the Birkie Volunteer Opportunities



It takes approximately 550 volunteers to plan, organize and run the Birkie each year. Year after year our skiers extol the virtues of our wonderful volunteers! It's one of the top three things skiers say they love about the Birkie!

We appreciate that without volunteers, the Birkie could not happen. As a volunteer, you receive a Birkie souvenir, an invitation to the Volunteer Appreciation evening, meet new people and have fun!

There are many different positions available requiring a variety of skills. You can sign up for just for a day or throughout the season as a member of the Loppet Organizing Committee. You don't have to be "the one in charge" because many positions are big enough for two!

If you would like to assist one of our existing Chiefs and work on a great team with training/mentoring provided, or if you're interested in volunteering just during Birkie week, visit our website to see job descriptions and to [sign up](#).

Seeking Phoning Volunteers

We are looking for volunteers to phone ski clubs across Canada. If have a long distance phone plan and you would like a volunteer job that can be done from your home, please [sign up](#).

Birkie Merchandise



Need ideas for Christmas? Check out our [cool Birkie Swag](#) at reduced prices!

To purchase, click [here](#)!

(2018 shirts and other new swag will be available near the end of January 2018)

Please **do not reply** to the newsletter; that email goes to an unmonitored address.
You can email the office [here](mailto:ski@canadianbirkie.com) (ski@canadianbirkie.com)

