



Canadian Birkie E-News:
October 2017

Canadian Birkebeiner Society
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29th Birkie Feb 9-11, 2018

Flying Over the Snow with Skis

Registration is open!

Registration will open today at 13:00 for the 2018 Birkie - February 9,10 & 11.

Click [here](#) to register on Zone4.

Register by November 15 to secure the best early bird savings! Next price change is January 17th and final registration date will be February 7th.

For details on the events click [here](#).

Ole's Tour (2.5/4 km):

NEW DATE AND LOCATION

Join us on Sunday, February 11 for the new Ole's tour Event!

We are pleased to announce that our family-fun Ole's Tour will be held in conjunction with the Edmonton Nordic Ski Club at an Edmonton location for 2018. Details to follow.

Schedule of Events

Birkie 29 is February 9th - 11th, 2018!

Friday the 9th:

Birkie Opening Ceremonies 11:30 am - noon

	<p>Nordic Fair and Registration Package Pick Up noon – 8 pm</p> <p>Saturday the 10th: Birkie 29 Ski Events - day Vikings' Feast - evening</p> <p>Sunday the 11th: Ole's Tour Event - details to follow</p>
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<p>10 for 10 Club Competition</p> 	<p>Welcoming all Cross Country Ski Clubs to participate in a Club Competition called 10 for 10!</p> <p>Each participating club will register 10 participants who will receive a 10% discount on their entry fee</p> <p>The 10 members will compete for points with cash prizes awarded to the top three clubs. Prizes are \$1,000 for first place, \$750 for second and \$500 for third!</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>If your club is interested, please email the office for the promo code.</p>
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<p>New Website</p>	<p>We're excited to announce that our new website launch is imminent!</p> <p>The url address will remain the same, so you can still visit us at www.canadianbirkie.com.</p> <p>We will be using a new newsletter program as well which you should see with our next newsletter.</p>
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<p>Sponsors and Donors</p>	<p>There are always opportunities to show your support for the Birkie through your business, company or as a private philanthropist.</p> <p>Contact the Birkie Coordinator to discuss how we can assist you in contributing to your favorite Loppet!!</p>
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Join the Birkie

Volunteer Opportunities



New Chiefs!

The Birkie Committee has had a good month with two new chiefs signing up! Randy Stebner is our new Chief of Equipment and Logistics and Mike Stern is our new chief of Transportation. Both arrive with experience as 55 km Birkie skiers.

Seeking more Loppet Chiefs (training/mentoring provided):

Assistant Chief of Loppet - This official aids the Loppet Chief with the technical preparation, administration, execution and supervision of the loppet by chairing the loppet committee and supervising/coordinating the efforts of the loppet committee members ensuring each of these people complete their respective tasks.

Assistant Chief of Food Stations - This official aids the Chief of Food Stations to plan food requirements of the start area and on-course stations; recruit volunteer groups as food station crews, and supervise/ coordinate the delivery of the food products to the station crews. Also aids with food station signage.

Assistant Chief of Stadium - This official aids the Chief of Stadium to plan the necessary lay-out, set-up and take-down of stadium (finish line and food tent/trailers/clothing tents/transport area). On race day, responsible for heating/equipment relocations, clothing tents, environmental crew supervision. Also responsible for all signage within the Stadium Area.

Many Loppet Committee positions are big enough for two! If you would like to assist with any of the other Loppet Committee positions, or if you're flexible and can provide back up, we would love to have you!

You would work on a great team with training/mentoring provided. If you want to learn more about the Loppet positions, click [here](#). If you have an interest in one of these positions please email the [office](#).

Cross Country Alberta (CCA) Awards

We are very pleased to inform you that two members of our Birkie event organizing team received CCA awards!

Race Organizer of the Year award

Jim Black – Chief of Loppet



Jim Black on trail maintenance

Jim has been a long time Birkie Skier and finally saw his way to joining the organizational aspect of the event.

Among the tasks Jim faced were reconstructing the Loppet Committee, redesigning the course with the new Chief of Course, initiating the very successful wave start and hosting the Volunteer Orientation evening; "Cheetah Jim's" speech was a highlight of a very enjoyable evening.

Official of the Year award

Mike Dickenson – Technical Delegate for the 28th Canadian Birkebeiner Ski Festival

Mike has been a dedicated volunteer to the Birkie, handling our manual timing for many years, as well as assuming the role of Technical Delegate - a position he assumed again this year.

He worked very well with our new Chief of Loppet, Jim Black, and our new Chief of Course, George Foxcroft, providing appropriate and supportive information at all times.

Mike is a constant force for good in the cross country ski community and brings credit to Cross Country Alberta.

We thank Mike and Jim for their outstanding contributions to the Birkie and to Cross Country Skiing!

Birkie Training Groups

Our wonderful coach, Roy Merritt, is on sabbatical this year so the Birkie Training Group Fall and Winter sessions will not run.

Details on other Birkie Training Group Courses will be included in upcoming newsletters and website as available.

Birkie Rookie Program

Our friends at the Strathcona Wilderness Centre (SWC) are holding a 3-week program designed for beginner cross country skiers to introduce them to the fun of the Canadian Birkebeiner.

The classes (Sundays January 21 to February 4 from 1 - 3 p.m.) provide skill development and instruction, and includes registration in the 13 km Birkie event February 10, 2018. Ski equipment from SWC can be provided with the course.

\$191.10 without rentals (course code 115835) or
\$225.75 including rentals (course code 115836)

Details and how to register can be found in the [SWC Recreation Guide](#) under the heading Outdoor Programs.

Birkie Alumni Group



The Board has approved the formation of an Alumni Group encompassing all past Board Members and Loppet Committee Chiefs. The intent is to record and acknowledge all those who have been on the Board or Committee over the years.

From time to time, assuming you are interested, we may seek out your knowledge to assist current board members and chiefs – particularly those who are new to their positions. We are always debating new ideas and suspect many of these have been suggested previouslypossibly a number of times over the years, so we would value your input.

Part of the genesis of the Birkie Alumni Group is the fact that many of you continue to participate invaluable in the Birkie as skiers or as volunteers and we would like to acknowledge your contributions.

Brian Lucas has agreed to be our first Chief of Alumni. Brian has been involved with the Board and Committee over the past 20 years or so and doubtless is familiar to many of you.

We have a reasonably complete list of Alumni members back to the year 2000 and will be contacting you by email with more detail and to determine your interest. We will complete the list for the 1985 – 2000 period over time.

Birkie Swag



Need ideas for Christmas? Check out our **reduced prices!**

For details on our cool swag and 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)

