



Nancy
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44th Slumberland American Birkebeiner 2017 - Birkie Week of Festivities -

February 23 – February 26, 2017

- The Birkie Celebration and events begin on Thursday and include activities for all ages and abilities:
 - **Thursday, February 23, 2017**
 - **Birkie Adaptive Events – 9:00am**
 - Adaptive athletes ski in one of 3 categories – sit-skiers, standing adaptive skiers, and visually impaired skiers in 1.2K or 3K races. Presented by Becker Law.
 - **Barkie Birkie Skijor – 10:00am**
 - Skiers & dogs enjoy the sport of skijoring and show off their “Barkie Fever” as they race down Hayward’s Main Street. 3K sport or 5K expert events. Presented by Dirty Dog Grooming.
 - **Nikkerbeiner Parade - 11:15am**
 - Part of the Opening Ceremonies, this vintage ski-tour, named after Norwegian Knickers, finds skiers wearing the best gear from days gone by. From knickers, wooden skis, and bamboo poles, to the colorful garb of the ‘70s, ‘80s, and 90’s – you’ll see it all in this fun ski tour. From Hayward City Beach to Hayward’s Main Street. There is no fee to participate. Registration is required at www.Birkie.com.
 - **Opening Ceremony & Torch Lighting - 11:45am**
 - Join us for the official lighting of the American Birkebeiner torch that will burn brightly throughout the Birkie week of events. This special event signifies the official opening of the Nordic celebration. Champions Stage, Celebration Plaza, Downtown Hayward.
 - **Barnebirkie - 12:00pm**
 - Where Birkie dreams begin! Imagine 1000 youth skiers, ages 3-13, skiing from Hayward City Beach, up and over the International Bridge and finishing on Hayward’s snow-covered Main Street. 1.2K or 3K ski tour events. Presented by Johnson Bank and Swiss Miss.
 - **Slumberland American Birkebeiner Expo - 1:00pm to 8:00pm**
 - Home to bib pick-up, this 2-day event finds over 11,000 skiers and vendors galore preparing for the largest cross-country celebration in North America! Located at Hayward High School.
 - **Junior Birkie - 2:00pm**
 - The next generation of passionate skiers, between 6 and 19-years of age, charge their way toward Main Street in 1.2K, 3K, or 5K races. Presented by Gear West.
 - **Birkie Sprints - 4:20pm**

- The best of the best compete on sprint relay teams on Hayward's Main Street. Junior Team relay sprints alternate with elite skiers for an afternoon of action-packed excitement! Presented by FITS and Madshus.
 - **Birkie Giant Ski - 5:30pm**
 - Under the glowing Lure of Lights, Skiers and non-skiers alike compete in teams of six on giant 25-foot long skis on Hayward's snow-covered Main Street. Presented by Hayward Area Chamber of Commerce.
 - **Birkie Bash – 5:30pm**
 - Kick-off Birkie week at Birkie Bash 2017, a celebration and fundraiser in support of the ABSF Phase II Capital Campaign. Live music by Molly & the Danger Band, tasty food, and Birkie Brew-Ski! Tickets available at the door - \$50 per person. Steakhouse & Lodge, Hayward.
- **Friday, February 24, 2017**
- **American Birkebeiner Expo 9:00am to 8:00pm**
 - Home to bib pick-up, this 2-day event finds over 11,000 skiers and vendors galore preparing for the largest cross-country celebration in North America! Located at Hayward High School.
 - **Kortelopet – 29K Classic & Skate – 10:15am**
 - North America's second largest cross-country ski race departs from the Highway OO Trailhead and ends on Hayward's snow-covered Main Street. Title Sponsor Slumberland Furniture and Presented by Marshfield Clinic.
 - **Prince Haakon 15K – 1:15pm**
 - In honor of the infant Prince Haakon, the future Norwegian King, who was rescued and skied to safety by Birkebeiner warriors, this exciting race ends amongst cheering fans and the ringing cowbells in downtown Hayward. Title Sponsor Slumberland Furniture, Presented by Northern Lakes Co-op Corner Deli.
- **Saturday, February 25, 2017**
- **44th Annual Slumberland American Birkebeiner – 50K Skate/55K Classic – 8:15am**
 - The "Birkie" is North America's largest ski-marathon. In 2017, skiers will be part of the historic inaugural use of the new American Birkebeiner Trailhead and permanent start as skiers make their way from Cable to Hayward on the legendary Birkie Trail. The Greatest Show on Snow! Title Sponsor Slumberland Furniture, Presented by SWIX.
 - **BIRKEBEINERNE (THE LAST KING) - 7:00pm**
 - Rooted in Norwegian history, this feature film tells the story of the very legacy upon which the American Birkebeiner ski race is based. Cheer on Torstein and Skjervald while watching this Norwegian feature film. Rated R with English Subtitles. Tickets are \$10 at the door at the Park Theater, just north of Main Street on Highway 63, near the base of the International Bridge.
- **Sunday, February 26, 2017**
- **Sunday On-Snow Ski & Fat Bike Demo - 9:00am to 2:00pm**
 - Everyone from newbie skiers to elites can try out the latest in new equipment—skis, poles, boots, bindings, and fat bikes at the Birkie "OO" Trailhead. Vendors galore! East of Seeley, WI on Highway OO.
 - **Fast & Female Champ Chat – 9:45am to 12:15pm**
 - Join elite athletes for a morning of games, fitness, inspiration, and more! Designed to encourage young female athletes. Elite athletes will mentor younger female skiers through training tips, inspirational encouragement and the importance of embracing a healthy active lifestyle. Plus, special break-out sessions for parents and coaches! Hayward High School. Advance registration is required. Tickets available at www.fastandfemale.com



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More American Birkebeiner Ski Foundation Events!

- **Lumberjack Run/Walk Around Lake Hayward – July 22, 2017**
 - Channel your flannel at the Lumberjack Run/Walk. Held in conjunction with the Lumberjack World Championships. This 4.7 mile run/walk is a great way to embrace your inner lumberjack! Yoho!
- **Fat Bike Birkie – 47K and 20K – March 11, 2017**
 - Now 3 days of riding! March 10, 11, 12
 - March 10 – Expo & Criterium
 - March 11 – Races, Post-Race & After Parties
 - March 12 – On-snow Demos & Guided Rides!
 - The Fat Bike Birkie is the largest Fat Bike race in the world
 - Fat biking is the fastest growing sport in cycling
 - A once-a-year chance to ride fat bikes on the groomed, snow-covered American Birkebeiner Ski Trail.
- **Birkie Trail Run Festival – September 30, 2017**
 - Make it a weekend! On-site camping, great events, Expo, vendor demos, music, food, cold beverages, bonfires, turning leaves, stars, and more!
 - September 29 - Expo begins, camping and north woods fun!
 - September 30 – Ultra, Marathon, Marathon Relay, Half-Marathon, Nordic Trek, 5K, 1K for kids

Details on all Birkie events are available at www.Birkie.com.

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