



For Immediate Release

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American Birkebeiner Ski Foundation Announces a Change of Course

44th Birkie Week Events Change Due to Weather Conditions

Hayward, WI (February 20, 2017) – In light of the recent above average temperatures, along with continued warm weather conditions and rain forecast for today, the American Birkebeiner Ski Foundation (ABSF) has announced that an adjustment to the overall race course for Birkie Week events is required.

After this weekend's warm weather, Lake Hayward is no longer a viable option for race week. As part of a normal race, skiers would ski across Lake Hayward before entering downtown Hayward. Without Lake Hayward, there is no longer a possibility of finishing races in downtown Hayward. Given this decision, the International Bridge that normally spans Highway 63, will not be installed for Birkie week events this year. While snow is in the forecast for later this week, a downtown finish is no longer a feasible option for 2017 events.

As always, the safety of participants is first and foremost in mind for the entire ABSF staff and board, followed by their goal of creating the best possible participant experience for all. Both things are weighed and considered with each and every decision the ABSF makes.

Overall, the Birkie Trail base has remained quite stable after this past weekend's weather. Trails north of OO have a 4" base and have fared well. Trails south of OO remain mostly intact. As of today, the possibility of finishing at Duffy Field in Hayward remains an option for Birkie Week races. That being said, the ABSF is very realistic with contingency planning and are focusing on the increasing likelihood of staging Birkie week events on the trail north of OO.

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Decisions on the location of Thursday events will be made and announced on Tuesday, February 21. Before any decisions are made regarding Friday and Saturday events, the ABSF staff must wait to see what Mother Nature has in store for Cable and Hayward in the next 24 hours.

As conditions or plans change, the ABSF will provide updates via www.Birkie.com, Facebook, Twitter, direct emails and through local media.

About the American Birkebeiner® Ski Foundation and Birkie® Events

Located near Hayward and Cable, Wisconsin, the American Birkebeiner Ski Foundation (ABSF), a 501(c)(3) organization, is known for its signature American Birkebeiner Ski Marathon held each February. Today, the Birkie has grown to encompass a variety of year-round, silent sport events that promote a healthy, active lifestyle for thousands of outdoor fitness enthusiasts. The ABSF also acts as steward of the legendary Birkie Trail, providing year-round grooming, mowing and maintenance to all 107 kilometers. From the iconic American Birkebeiner ski race, to the Birkie Trail Run & Trek, and Fat Bike Birkie, the ABSF and the Birkie Trail attract skiers, runners, bikers, trekkers, and hikers, from casual day-trippers to elite athletes. Learn more at www.birkie.com. *BIRKIE Ski. Run. Bike. Live!*

About Lucette Brewing Company

Lucette Brewing Company focuses on a variety of different styles that showcase the complexity surrounding small batch brewing, hand crafted in 15 BBL batches, one batch at a time. Lucette Woodfire Eatery opened in the summer of 2015 to showcase Lucette beer and focus on authentic woodfire food creations. Located on the Red Cedar State Trail in Menomonie, Wisconsin, Lucette is open year round for all to enjoy. For more information, visit www.lucettebrewing.com.

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