

2017 -2018
American Birkebeiner Ski Foundation
Board Candidate Profile Information

Candidate Name: Michael J. Mandli
Address: 14134W Snowflake Ln.
Hayward, WI 54843

Home Phone: 414-617-2656
Email Address: mandlim@centurylink.net

ABSF Member 14 years. ABSF Board of Directors 3 years.
ABSF Trail Committee Chair, ABSF Finance Committee,
ABSF Competition Committee
Completed 26 Birkies and 11 Korties

Occupation: Retired Owner of Mandli Psychological Services
Grandfather (a really good gig)
USSA/CXC Cross Country Ski Coach - CXC Masters Racer
Event and Community Volunteer

“Life is like riding a bicycle. To keep your balance, you must keep moving.” (Albert Einstein)

In my first three years as a Birkie Board Member and the ABSF Trail Committee Chair, our little cross country ski race has not only stayed in balance, it has moved forward in a way that will insure the Trail and the Race will be with us for years to come. I can take little credit for what previous Board Members and Executive Directors put in motion before I joined the Board, but their great vision has helped me see the completion of the Phase I Capital Campaign, and has allowed me to help flesh out the details of Phase II (www.birkie.com).

Early in my Board tenure, I received daily phone calls and had numerous interactions concerning trail grooming. The Trail Committee worked hard to reach the highest level of grooming possible on the 109 kilometers of Birkie Trail. Our Trail Director does an amazing job. At www.birkie.com, under The Birkie Trail link, Grooming Procedures/FAQ's, we now explain why we do, what we do, and when we do it. Nonetheless, feedback is essential to make this your trail and your race. Calls about the trails or any Birkie concern are always welcome.

In addition to some of the usual Board duties such as studying and approving the budget, hiring and evaluating the Executive Director, being a community liaison, and volunteering as often as possible, our ABSF Committee involvement is a cornerstone of how the Board works. The Committees formulate and make suggestions to the overall Board, which are then considered and often put to a motion if they have merit. The most recent example of this process is Birkie Snowmaking. After last year's cancelled Birkie, we saw a need to provide a Birkie venue with guaranteed snow.

The Trail Committee has met five times in the month of May and twice more in June to explore snowmaking. We had 17 people attend the first Snowmaking meeting and after much discussion, I broke the group into a Venue Subcommittee to explore what locations would be

best for snowmaking, and an Infrastructure Subcommittee to explore the mechanics and available technologies.

As a result, we know the infrastructure costs and the operational costs of snowmaking. We are also exploring environmental friendly ways to make, to store, and to reuse the energy involved in the process. The venue choices have been narrowed, but final recommendations are not able to be made due to property ownership issues that are in flux. We also know funding will be a long term investment back to the community with a low direct return on investment (ROI). We do see a long term ROI.

We think snowmaking will provide a consistent early site for training camps and recreation. It will offer a venue where the Birkie can support local, regional, national, and international events. It will provide the ability to make and to cache snow for trail repair that could save the Birkie in low snow years. As Trail Committee Chair, I will take these findings and suggestions to the full Board on June 20th. As you can see, a Board member's participation in ABSF Committees and the Full Board reaction to those Committee reports are part of what moves the ABSF forward and keeps it in balance.

While we have a long way to go, I believe we will be making and caching snow in the near future. I ask for your vote to continue guiding this project and the many others that will make your Birkie ride a quality experience.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael J. Mandli
ABSF Board Member
Trail Committee Chair

414-617-2656