

BIRKIE
Trail Run
Festival



Birkie Trail Run

Ultra Marathon Course Description

General Description of the Trails and Terrain		
Type	Trail Names	Description
Ski Trails 35 of 62 miles 58% of total	Birkie Ridge, Birkie Skate, Birkie Classic, North End Ski Club Trails	This ski trail sections of the course range from 10 to 30 feet wide. They are mostly grass covered. Some sections have a dirt “goat path” formed on them, some do not get much summer use and are grass covered from edge to edge. The trails are built in a region with glacial topography, littered with potholes and ridges. The ski trails were built to attack the terrain with the slopes going directly up the fall line. This creates a seemingly endless run of steep ups and downs. Most of the climbs are small (less than 50 foot height difference) but are steep, with slopes between 10 and 20%. It is very different terrain from alpine regions, but equally challenging with hundreds of small to medium climbs adding up to large amount of total climb. The descents are equally steep and relentless.
Single-Track Trails 24 of 62 miles 36% of total	Seeley Pass, Flow Mama, Ojibwe	These trails are built and maintained by the Chequamegon Area Mountain Bike Association for cycling. They are all intermediate to expert level trails. They are much less steep than the ski trails utilizing switchbacks on the slopes rather than heading directly up the fall line. They are generally more winding than a typical hiking trail. The surface is mineral soil with all the organics removed. The drainage is very good and there are only a few wet spots after a heavy rain. They are generally smooth with a relatively low amount of rocks and roots. There are some built “rock gardens” that are easy to navigate. There are many tight switch backs, stay on the marked trail at all times; cutting these would be considered not running the entire course.
Gravel Road or Motorized Trails 3 of 62 miles 6% of total	Randysek Road, Parker Road.	These sections are open to car and ATV traffic, but they are very sparsely used. The roads and most of the trails are course gravel with some sandy sections. Some of the snowmobile trail sections are native soil with some muddy spots, rocks and roots. The terrain is generally flat to broad hill on these sections.

Detailed Description by Sections					
Section	Section Miles	Total Miles	Pacer	Section Details	Aid Station Details
Birkie Ridge to Boedecker	3.7	3.7	N	The race begins with 1.5 miles of steady climbing on the Birkie Ridge ski trail. This spur trail terminates at the intersection with the Birkie Skate trail. Here the course turns right on Birkie Skate trail for 2.2 miles to Boedecker Trailhead.	The first time through Boedecker there will be self-serve water, Nuun, and energy food. Cabin and toilet are trailside.
Boedecker to Boedecker	4.8	8.5	N	This section begins on the Birkie Skate Trail and crosses over to the Birkie Classic Trail for the trip back to Boedecker. It features mostly rolling terrain with a few larger hills in the middle. The Half Marathon course cuts off on the left at about 1.0 miles into the leg and rejoins on the left at 2.0 miles before the return to Boedecker.	The second time through Boedecker will also be self-serve.
Boedecker to Timber Trail	5.2	13.7	N	This leg begins by continuing north with a significant downhill on the Birkie Classic Trail. This descent continues as the course turns onto the Seeley Pass single track trail. The descent ends at the "Ball Fields", a clearing from an old CCC camp. A steady climb begins here. The trail steepens after crossing an ATV trail and then intersects with the Birkie Classic Trail again. The course turns right onto the northbound Birkie Classic Trail to the aid station. Make note that the Half Marathon course continues on the single track at the Birkie Classic intersection. The final section of the leg has small rolling hills.	Timber Trail is full-service aid station. Cabin and toilets are trail side. The course returns the station again for a total of 4 times.
Timber Trail Northbound to Timber Trail Southbound-Marathon Course	4.7	18.4	N	Pay close attention to the course markers as there are many trail intersections in this leg! The fourth leg begins by continuing north on Birkie Classic Trail. The first turn is a left onto the Ojibwe single track. Note: the second lap of the Ultra Marathon course turns right at this intersection. Stay on the single track until a left-hand turn takes you onto the North End Trail ski trail. After a short distance on the North End Trail, the course will take a left turn onto single track, then another left turn onto North End Ski Trails. The final turn is a right turn back on to Birkie Skate Trail, heading south to the aid station. This may be considered one of the tougher legs as there are many medium sized, steep hills.	Timber Trail is full-service aid station. Cabin and toilets are trail side. The course returns this station a total of 4 times.

Section	Section Miles	Total Miles	Pacer	Section Details	Arrival Station Details
Timber Trail Southbound to Fire Tower	5.2	23.6	N	This leg begins by running southbound on the Birkie Skate Trail, turns right onto North End Ski Trails, and then left onto the Ojibwe single track. Note: the second lap of the Ultra will turn right onto the Ojibwe single track. The course then takes a right on the Birkie Trail. A right onto 38 Special single-track trail and the course climbs steady to the high point at 1,730 feet above sea level. At the summit, it turns back on to the Birkie Skate Trail for a quick, steep descent to the aid station.	Fire Tower is a full-service aid station. Cabin and toilets are trail-side.
Fire Tower to Birkie Ridge Ultra loop through	3.5	27.1	Y	Follow the Birkie Skate Trail to the Birkie Ridge Trail where the course turns to the right and returns back to finish at the Birkie Ridge Trailhead. 0.6 miles down Birkie Ridge Trail, you will turn left on the 5K course. Follow the 5K course for 1.8 miles. Watch for the Ultra straight ahead arrow that will put you out into the start/finish area. Note: 5K course turns right. Run through the lap lane adjacent to the start line. Overall this is the shortest and fastest section and is almost all downhill. However, there are three short steep climbs on this 360-foot drop to the finish.	Birkie Ridge is the site of the start. Toilets are in the area, but not along the trail. There will be some aid available- water and Clif bars. This is an excellent spot for your crew to provide you support.
Birkie Ridge to Boedecker	3.7	30.8	Y	The course begins again with 1.5 miles of steady climbing on the Birkie Ridge ski trail. This spur trail terminates at the intersection with the Birkie Skate trail. Here the course turns right on Birkie Skate trail for 2.2 miles to Boedecker Trailhead.	Boedecker is a full-service station with cabin and toilets.
Boedecker to Boedecker	4.8	35.6	Y	This section begins on the Birkie Skate Trail and crosses over to the Birkie Classic Trail for the trip back to Boedecker. It features mostly rolling terrain with a few larger hills in the middle. The Half Marathon course cuts off on the left at about 1 mile into the leg and rejoins on the left at 2.0 miles before the return to Boedecker.	Boedecker is a full-service station with cabin and toilets.
Boedecker to Timber Trail	5.2	40.8	Y	This leg begins by continuing north with a significant downhill on the Birkie Classic Trail. This descent continues as the course turns onto the Seeley Pass single track trail. The descent ends at the "Ball Fields", a clearing from an old CCC camp. A steady climb begins here. The trail steepens after crossing an ATV trail and then intersects with the Birkie Classic Trail again. The course turns right onto the northbound Birkie Classic Trail to the aid station. Make note that the Half Marathon course continues on the single track at the Birkie Classic intersection. The final section of the leg has small rolling hills.	Timber Trail is full-service aid station with hot food. Cabin and toilets are trail side. The course returns to the station again southbound.

Section	Section Miles	Total Miles	Pacer	Section Details	Arrival Station Details
Timber Trail to Birkie Trailhead	7.0	47.8	Y	Continuing from Timber Trail northbound, the course continues on two-way section for 500 feet, then bears right on the Birkie Classic Trail for 1.4 miles. The course follows the Marathon course during this stretch until it reaches the intersection with the single-track Ojibwe Trail where the you turned left the first time on the marathon course and you now turn right . This is the departure point from the Marathon race course. From this point, the course will use a combination of single track and ski trail to wind its way to the Birkie trailhead. This is the northernmost point of the course.	Full service aid station with hot food. Cabin and toilet are trail side.
Birkie Trailhead to Timber Trail	6.0	53.8	Y	The Birkie Trailhead is the origin of the Birkie Skate and Classic Trails. The course continues on this ultra-wide section of trail for ¼ mile, then turns left onto Birkie Classic Trail. A combination of Birkie Trail, single track, and North End ski trails are used to return the course to the Marathon Course for the run back to Timber Trail aid station.	Timber Trail is full-service aid station with hot food. Cabin and toilets are trail side.
Timber Trail to Cable	8.0	61.8	Y	Exiting Timber Trail to the south, the course continues to follow the two-way section of Birkie Trail, then takes a right onto the North End Trails following the Marathon Course. After 1.8 miles, the course turns right onto Ojibwe single track (note different direction on Ojibwa than the Marathon Course!). It follows Ojibwe for 2.5 miles as it swings west and then north re-crossing Timber Trail Road. Next it makes a left on to a short segment of the North End Classic Trail, through an intersection with the North End Trail and left back onto the Ojibwe. After ¾ mile it bears right on to Ridge Trail for 500 feet where it intersects with the North End Trail and turns left on the North End Trail for 200 feet to the North End Trailhead. The course turns right and follows Randysek Road north for about 1 mile then turns left on to Philippi Road until it intersects with Kavanaugh. The course takes a right at Kavanaugh and then an immediate left on to a trail that leads to Snowmobile Trail #73 which is an old rail right of way. Turn right onto Trail #73 and follow to the finish!	The finish is on the Old Chicago & Northwestern RR right of way behind the Ideal Market/Rivers Eatery in Cable. Drinks and energy food at finish. Drinks and party at Rivers Eatery!
Total Miles	62				