



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Dedication Ceremony of The Birchleggings Club Bell by Cheryl Hiltibran, Birchleggings Club board member

The dedication ceremony of the Birchleggings Club Bell is scheduled for Friday, September 25, 2020 at 3 pm.

Visitors and spectators are welcome. The dedication will be held at the Bell's permanent site, which is located 500 meters west of the American Birkebeiner start line at the point where the skate and classic trails split.

Access the dedication location from either the Telemark Road start line parking area and walk west 500 meters or park roadside near Start Line Inn, 14795 McNaught Rd, Cable Wisconsin and walk 200 yards along the snow mobile trail to the Birkie trail.

The Birchleggings Club Bell will ring for the first time during the dedication. Its resonance will fill the air in acknowledgement and appreciation of the American Birkebeiner Race Founders, trail developers, and long time Birkie skiers—the Birchleggers.

Following the ceremony attendees are welcome to be among the first to ring the Bell. Attendees are asked wear a mask and using proper distancing.

Gale Otterholt, president of the Birchleggings Club Board and forty year Birkie veteran explains, "The Birchleggings Club Bell is important because it will encourage outdoor sports enthusiasts to use the trail, participate in the race, and honor those who made the trail and the race possible. It will make using the Birkie trail even more fun and memorable."

On August 7th the Birchleggings Club Bell was installed on the Birkie trail where the trails splits into two, accommodating both classic skiers and skate skiers.

James, Tenorio, also a 40 year Birchlegger, lead the team overseeing the design, fabrication, and installation of the Bell. Asked about the Bell's successful installation JT indicated it was like all Birchleggings Club contributions, a collaborative effort.

"Support for the fabrication and installation of the Birchleggings Club Bell came from multiple financial donors, Birchleggings Club funding, and the enthusiastic support of the American Birkebeiner Foundation's Executive Director, Ben Popp. Kurt Proctor and the Birkie trail-maintenance crew were instrumental in providing the muscle for preparing the site, excavating the foundation hole, and completing the final landscaping."

The Bell honors the many who helped make the American Birkebeiner into North America's World-Class Cross-Country Ski Race. This was made possible by the dedicated visionaries, founders, its trail developers, the American Birkebeiner Ski Foundation (ABSF), and the Birchleggers who return year after year.

As the Bell resounds it will honor and recognize those who made the Birkie the “Need to” ski race for all x-c ski racing enthusiasts and competitors from around the world!

The Birchleggings Club is a non-profit organization with the purpose:

To contribute support of the American Birkebeiner Cross-Country Ski Race and promote healthy life styles by encouraging participation in physical activities.

Skiers become Birchleggers upon completing their twentieth Birkie. This Bell is just one of the many ways the Birchleggings Club contributes to the health and well-being of the American Birkebeiner Ski Race, which is lovingly known as *The Birkie*. For more information about the Birchleggings Club visit www.birchleggings.com.

The Bell will be a constant reminder of the dedicated men and women who developed Northern Wisconsin's Birkie x-c ski trail into a multi-use trail with a rich history and a bright future, even now, as COVID is changing the way we can and do interact in and out of doors.



Take your turn in having the Bell sing its praises!

Media
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Gale



*Photo courtesy of
James Tenorio*

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Images of the Birchleggings logo, and photos send separately

Volunteers placing the Bell at its permanent site on the Birkie Trail. Combined weight of Bell and post is 300 pounds. Photo courtesy of Jame Tenorio.