

For Immediate Release

RJ Ochmann  
Race Director  
Elm Creek XC Ski Series  
763-898-6065  
[rgojr2001@yahoo.com](mailto:rgojr2001@yahoo.com)

## Elm Creek Cross Country Race Series

Several changes, same great event!

The Elm Creek races will return for the 2018/2019 season with the same familiar faces, with one notable exception. Our founder, Melinda Silbernack, stepped down as Race Director at the end of last season. While there will be some changes, none will be major outside of pricing. More on that later. I would like to thank Melinda and her husband Mike, as well as Amy Xu, for all of their contributions to the past **28 years!** I will work my hardest to honor the traditions and spirit of the series they created.

New for this season will be the addition of a cumulative points series sponsored by our ongoing sponsor, Pioneer Midwest. More details to come as final details are worked out regarding format and prizes/awards. There will also be some equipment demo nights run by Pioneer Midwest in conjunction with select race nights.

Also new for this season will be the way we handle entry fees. A one-price, full season pass will be offered for \$75. This will cover all 12 race nights. If you need some extra motivation for some good training, this is a great way to get it. Day of registration fees will be a flat \$10. That covers both races. The idea is to make things easier for all involved. We will also try to get onsite credit card payment set up, but no guarantees on that quite yet.

The biggest change for this season is limits on the size of the field. We want to continue our excellent relationship with Elm Creek. Limiting the overall field size to 40 skiers per race will keep things manageable for both the facilities and our race volunteers. We will also be setting aside 10 entries for high school racers, per race. Five of these entries will be available for reservation. Details to follow soon on reservation protocols. The other 5 will be first come, first served. The other 30 slots will be for adult racers. If those slots are not full by 6:40, they will be opened up to any and all high school racers until the field is full. We want to make sure that the event is accessible to all ages and abilities. Field size hasn't been a significant and recurring problem, but we would like to be proactive about it as access to snow has been challenging in recent years. There may be exceptions to field size made, but that will need to be addressed with myself and Elm Creek at least 2 weeks ahead of time for a given race.

We will also be pushing for racers in the classic field to use classic skis. We have had a few reports of racers double poling on skate skis pushing the bounds of skate motions on climbs and turns. We are all out to have fun and don't want to have anyone discouraged by feeling cheated or chastised. Race results will be available on Skinnyski.com and at PioneerMidwest.com as soon as they are available. Race information will be available at our new website, [ElmCreekXC.org](http://ElmCreekXC.org) (coming soon!) and our Facebook page, <https://www.facebook.com/ElmCreekXCRacing>. Please refer to the Facebook page for any timely news or updates.

We are always looking for volunteers. If you are interested, please contact me @ 763-898-6065. The past tradition has been that you will have the opportunity to go out before or after the races on Wednesday to do your races for free if you wish. That way you will be able to volunteer without sacrificing the chance to get a time(s) for the week.

If you have any suggestions for us, please feel free to reach out. We are here to provide a fun and productive chance to train, race, have fun, and try to afford a chance for newcomers to give racing a try. For anyone who is new to racing and to the series, we will waive your entry fee for the first night. If you have any reservations, I can send you my times for past efforts, which will surely be encouraging as I'm far from being elite—just persistent. All are welcome!

Don't miss the ski swap at Pioneer Midwest Saturday, November 10<sup>th</sup> at 8:00am. We will be giving away 5 free race entries as part of the drawings at the swap.

Thank you, everyone, for supporting us in the past, and we look forward to seeing you out on the snow this coming season!

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