



slumberland
BIRKIE
Ski. Run. Bike. Live!



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact:
Nancy Knutson
715-634-5025
Nancy.Knutson@Birkie.com

Runners From Across the Nation Podium at the 17th Birkie Trail Run Festival

Joseph Gray Tops Field for a Second Year in the USATF Championship Race

Hayward, WI (September 29, 2018) – It was a crisp morning at Birkie Ridge for the 17th running of the Birkie Trail Run Festival, presented by Salomon, near Seeley, WI. For a second year, the event was host to the USA Track & Field Half Marathon Trail Championship. With a field of an estimated 1200 participants in the day's events, runners and trekkers took part in events ranging from an ultra-marathon, marathon, marathon relay, half marathon, 5K, 10-mile Nordic trek, to a fun run for kids.

Birkie Half Marathon & USATF Half Marathon Championship Race

The Birkie half marathon race proved to be the most competitive and exciting event of the day as it played host to the USATF Half Marathon Trail Championship. The appeal of the National Championship race enticed participation from some of the best elite trail runners from across the U.S. The elite field didn't disappoint.

For a second year, Joseph Gray, Colorado Springs, CO, blew through the finish line amongst the cheering crowds at Birkie Ridge. Gray emerged from the forested trail and into the final stretch with Andy Wacker, Boulder, CO, only :27 seconds behind. The two-time Birkie Trail Run Festival Half Marathon winner and USATF Half Marathon Trail Run Champion, Gray finished with a time of 1:13:16, with Wacker crossing the line in 1:13:43. No stranger to the top step on the podium, Gray has amassed over a dozen U.S. National titles.

"It was a very unique course with a mix of cross-country elements, trail racing, and steep grinds similar to some mountain running courses," said Gray, after collecting his USATF National Championship award. "It was an awesome course with a great race atmosphere and terrific energy, especially from the crowds cheering near the finish line."

13.1 Mile - USATF Half Marathon Trail Champions - Men

1st Place - Joseph Gray, Colorado Springs, CO – 1:13:16

2nd Place – Andy Wacker, Boulder, CO – 1:13:43

3rd Place -- Tyler Sigl, Seymour, WI - 1:15:48

-more-

Megan Roche, Age 28, from Boulder, CO, raced across the finish line in 1:27:31, minutes before the next female competitor. Roche is familiar with the podium and holds numerous USATF and collegiate titles. It was Roche's first time participating in the Birkie Trail Run Festival of events.

13.1 Mile - USATF Half Marathon Trail Champions - Women

1st Place – Megan Roche, Boulder, CO – 1:27:31

2nd Place – Samantha Lewis, Moscow, ID – 1:30:40

3rd Place – Megan Lacy, Boise, ID – 1:33:04

Saturday's running events started early with the Ultra race (100 kilometers) at 5:30 am. Ultra marathon runners left Birkie Ridge with headlamps aglow as they made their way into the woods and the beginning of their journey on the Birkie Trail. The Ultra runners, proving their endurance and determination, were the first to start and last to finish their event. 31 brave souls started the race, with the first runners finishing over 11 hours later.

Birkie 100 Kilometer Ultra Marathon Champions - Men

1st Place – Jeff Cook, (age 44), Savage, MN – 11:07

2nd Place – Bob McGrath, (age 55), Wyoming, MN – 11:20

3rd Place – Matt Bower, (44), St. Paul, MN – 11:22

Birkie 100 Kilometer Ultra Marathon Champions - Women

1st Place – Linda Kobilarcsi, (age 55) Chanhassen, MN – 13:48

2nd Place – Heather Norton-Bower, (age 45), St. Paul, MN – 13:54

3rd Place – Lyndsi Pollock, (37), Puposky, MN – 14:25

With colder than normal temperatures, the breeze may have been cool, but the pace was hot for the following competitors:

Birkie 26.2 Marathon Champions – Men

1st Place – Zach Rickenbach, San Francisco, CA – 3:11:53

2nd Place – Jacob Pellmann, Shorewood, WI – 3:30:35

3rd Place – Robert Mitchell, Rochester, MN – 3:54:56

Birkie 26.2 Marathon Champions – Women

1st Place – Erin Mullan-Towns, Madison, WI – 3:56:21

2nd Place – Kylie Rischer, Andover, MN – 4:01:00

3rd Place – Kitty Earl-Torniai, St. Paul, MN – 4:11:14

Birkie 5 Kilometer - Men

1st Place – Joshua Halverson, Cameron, WI – 19:52

2nd Place – Jacob Lehr, Omaha, NE – 21:20

3rd Place – Mark Parman, Hayward, WI – 22:00

Birkie 5 Kilometer - Women

1st Place – Barbara Swenson, Pine Island, MN – 21:31

2nd Place – Jillian Schommer, Minneapolis, MN – 21:57

3rd Place – Nancy Hobbs, Colorado Springs, CO – 22:57

Additional results for age-class and relay events are available at www.Birkie.com.

-more-



slumberland
BIRKIE
Ski. Run. Bike. Live!



All running and trekking events took place on the scenic and rolling hills of the Birkie Trail and single-track sections of the CAMBA (Chequamegon Area Mountain Bike Association) trail system. The festival was rounded out with great food, Birkie Brew-Ski craft beer, Dive for the Dirt obstacle course for kids, toasty fires, and mother nature's splendor.

The 2019 Birkie Trail Run Festival is slated for September 28, 2019.

The Birkie Trail Run Festival is sponsored by: Salomon – Title Sponsor Birkie Trail Run Festival; CARLSON MD - Presenting Sponsor Marathon; FITS - Presenting Sponsor Marathon Relay; HydraPak - Presenting Sponsor Half-Marathon; The Rivers Eatery - Presenting Sponsor 100K Ultra-Marathon; Corner Deli - Post-Race Food & Beverage; Clif Bar – Official Bar; Kemps – Finish Line Recovery; GU – Official Energy; nuun – Official On Course Hydration; Hayward Area Memorial Hospital & Waters Edge – Presenting Sponsor: Kids 1K and Dive for the Dirt.

About the American Birkebeiner® Ski Foundation and Birkie® Events

Located near Hayward and Cable, Wisconsin, the American Birkebeiner Ski Foundation, a 501(c)(3) organization, is known for its signature American Birkebeiner Ski Marathon held each February. Today, the Birkie brand has grown to encompass a year-round lifestyle that provides healthy, active events for thousands of outdoor fitness enthusiasts of all levels.

Birkie. Ski. Run. Bike. Live! Visit www.Birkie.com to learn more.

About the USATF – USA Track & Field

[USA Track & Field \(USATF\)](http://USA Track & Field (USATF)) is the National Governing Body for track & field, long distance running and race walking in the United States. USATF encompasses the world's oldest organized sports, some of the most-watched events of Olympic broadcasts, the country's No. 1 high school and junior high school participatory sport and more than 30 million adult runners in the United States. For more information, visit: usatf.org

About Salomon – *Designed for Freedom* -

For more information about Salomon, visit www.Salomon.com

###