



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Saint Croix Valley Ski Club to Host Marine O'Brien Cross Country Ski Race on January 24

Oldest ski race in the Midwest offers Nordic races for all ages

MARINE ON SAINT CROIX, Minn. – December 28, 2015 –Skiers of all abilities are invited to the beautiful St. Croix River valley to participate in the 45th Annual Marine O'Brien Cross-Country Ski Race on Sunday, January 24, 2016. Called "Ski MO," the event will be held at [William O'Brien State Park](#) located north of Marine on St. Croix, Minn. All proceeds from the race benefit the [St. Croix Valley Ski Club](#) youth skiing program.

"We are excited to celebrate our 45th year partnering with William O'Brien State Park to benefit our youth ski programs, said Katie Brekke, Ski Mo race coordinator. "It's a great activity for the entire family, and we invite local residents to cheer on their friends and neighbors and make some noise for the finishers."

There are three adult races of varying distances, and children's races through age 13. Honoring the history of the race, organizers are also hosting a wooden ski race.

"Dust off those wood skis, oil up your leather boots and pull the moth balls out of your wool knickers and socks," added Brekke. "The wooden tour is always a fun sight to be see, honoring Marine's skiing heritage, and we love to see participants dress the part."

For more information on the race, visit [Zap Event online](#), or check out the details below:

Registration

Participants can [register online](#) through January 21, 2016. Day-of registration and packet pickup opens at 9:00 a.m. and will close 30 minutes prior to race start. The first 100 registrants for the 25 km and 12.5 km races will receive a custom Ski Mo race hat.

Races and Start Times

The races begin with the 8 km wood ski tour over mostly flat and moderately hilly terrain. Adult races include a 12.5 and 25 km (single and double loop), circling the park on both flat and hilly terrain. Start times include:

- Wood Ski (8 km): 10:10 a.m.
- Adult Classical (12.5 and 25 km): 10:30 a.m.
- Adult Skate (12.5 and 25 km): 11:00 a.m.
- Children's Races: 1:45 p.m.
 - Ages 3 and under: 100 m "dash"



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- Ages 4 and 5 : 1/2 km “sprint”
- Ages 6-9: 2 km “thriller”
- Ages 10-13: 6 km “mad dash”

Results and Awards

Race results will be posted on Skinnyski.com and PickleEvents.com. The top three places in the 12.5 and 25 km skate and classical races, male and female, will receive an artisan crafted mug and a custom "woodal" (wooden medal) to commemorate their victory. The adult and children's awards ceremony will take place immediately following the races. All adult racers are eligible to win prizes donated by local businesses via raffle.

More Information

Visit us on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/MarineO'BrienSki/>, or register online at ZapEvent.com. For further information or media inquiries, contact [Tara Tierney](mailto:Tara.Tierney).

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About the St. Croix Valley Ski Club

The St. Croix Valley Ski Club is a non-profit, volunteer organization dedicated to giving 3 to 14 year olds an opportunity to learn to cross-country ski in a family setting. Skiers of all ability levels are encouraged to join. The club is affiliated with Central Cross Country (CXC), which is the regional organization governing Cross Country skiing for the United States Ski and Snowboard Association. Learn more at <http://www.stcroixskiclub.com/>.