

Moose Lake News by Jim Onarheim

2020 American Birkebeiner is officially over. Ben Popp said at the volunteer get together last Sunday afternoon, we are now starting to work on 2021. About 300 volunteers crowded into the Steak House and Lodge for an afternoon appreciation meal and meeting at 2 PM on Sunday. Ben said there were 13,500 skiers from 27 Countries and 47 states represented. Approximately 35,000 spectators attended from all over the world. He also said it took 3500 hardworking volunteers to make this event happen here in Hayward, WI. He gave everyone a Big Thank You to everyone in attendance. It was a very successful event because of the hard work that all of you had done. "We could not have done it without you."

This year's Birkie is not just one day ski race. It spans 5 days with 14 different events. These events are not just for the adults but include the children. Our Children are the future of this sport. Let's get them involved in the outdoors and show them how to use our natural resources to the fullest. Many people told me what a beautiful area we have here. I said, I totally agree that is why we live here.

The Gravel Pit First Aid station is managed by several Round Lake Firefighters and EMT's who help each year. I also have help from 4 of friend's, (EMT'S) from the bloomer ambulance service. They are very dedicated and help us out every year. We also had an EMT from Milwaukee who drove up to help and one Paramedic from Fifield, WI. I manage the EMS portion of the station, trying to keep all skier's safe as they go by. It is always a team effort. It takes every one of us to make that happen.

Friday was a warm-up for us, so we were ready for the Saturday race. Friday was the Kortelopet Race which is about half the distance of the Saturday Birkie Race. This race starts at the OO Trail Head and ends in downtown Hayward. We treated 7 patients on Friday with three skiers being transported to the hospital. Saturday's race started at the old Telmark Lodge in Cable, WI.

On Saturday we had 17 skiers that we treated but only one needed to be transported to the hospital. Compared to previous years it was a safe race. The warm temperatures eliminated any hypothermia problems like we have had in the past years. Falls with injuries, some shortness of breath and a few chest pain problems is what we were taking care of.

Dr. Quigley our Birkie Medical Director does an excellent job of managing & organizing our teams. Our Medical Chief Mark Gritzmacher of Round Lake is her assistant. Mark organizes all of the EMT's at all 9 First Aid stations along the trail. He also oversees and is responsible for all the medical equipment that we need and use.

Many skiers commented that this event runs like a well-maintained machine. They were very impressed with the way everything went. This makes you feel very good about what you are doing and volunteering for.

Despite have thousands of skier's and spectators in town there were thousands of snowmobilers also in the area. I talked to several snowmobilers at Louie's on Friday and Saturday night. They said the trails were very busy. We did have one snowmobile accident where we had to transport one person with an injured leg. This was a Round Lake Call on Saturday off Hwy B & River Rd.

We can safely say that this past weekend was the busiest weekend of the winter for the Hayward Lakes area. I hope all the retailers were happy.

Pool League this past Thursday had 10 players or 5 teams playing at Louie's Landing. When the last 8 ball was shot, Roger Winters and Tom Koehler had won first place. Second place went to Dave Wiltrout and Dean Broberg. The TP award went to Joe Dwyer and Larry Fullington. Everyone very much enjoyed themselves. Pool League is every Thursday evening starting at 6:30 at Louie's Landing. Everyone is welcome. No professional players please. Just kidding we don't care.

Joel Miller and I will be heading for Madison on Thursday for the Madison Fishing Expo. We will be again promoting Hayward for the Hayward Lakes Visitor and Convention Center. It will be great to talk to the many folks from southern Wisconsin about coming up north. This is always a good show. Jack Brown and Amanda Wilson from Deer Foot Lodge have done this show in the past, but they traded shows with us this year. With the Birkie now behind us it can warm up so we can start thinking about open water fishing.

Speaking of fishing the 2020 Governors Fishing Opener will be in Hayward this year. This event is organized each year by the Wisconsin Indianhead Country. Each year it is in a different location in NW Wisconsin. This year it is Hayward turn. The main objective of this event is to promote tourism for the area. We will have more on this this event in the weeks to come.

Birthday wishes this week would go out to Barb Figlewicz on Feb. 27th, Sara Miller on March 1st and Dave Arnett on March 3rd. Happy Birthday to all. There is one anniversary this week. Wishes are extended to Joe Dwyer and Jan Stapleton. Happy anniversary!

Well we are out of news and out of space. I hope everyone has a wonderful week and Stay Safe! Send your items of interest to myself Jim Onarheim at 715-462-4448 or jonarheim@centurytel.net

For information on the Town of Round Lake government, check the website: townofroundlakewi.org. For Moose Lake Improvement Association (MLIA) information, view the website at MLIAhaywardwi.org. Have a great week and Stay Safe everyone!