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**Saint Croix Valley Ski Club to Host  
Marine O'Brien Cross Country Ski Race on January 28**  
*Oldest ski race in the Midwest offers Nordic races for all ages*

MARINE ON SAINT CROIX, Minn. – December 4, 2017 – The Saint Croix Valley Ski Club is hosting their Annual Marine O'Brien Cross-Country Ski Race on Sunday, January 28, 2018. Skiers are invited to 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.

"Our 47<sup>th</sup> year on the William O'Brien trails, we're hoping for lots of snow!" said Katie Brekke, race coordinator. "This race is the primary fundraising opportunity for our ski club and we're hoping for a strong turn out this year."

Due to a lack of snow, last year's race was cancelled. The club raises funds through 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.

"If you need an excuse to pull out your knickers and Scandinavian sweaters, our wooden ski race is your go-to event," added Brekke. "We hope to see you there!"

**Race Registration:**

Registration Participants can register online through January 26, 2018, at <http://marineobrien.com/>. 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.

**Race Schedule:**

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

- 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/MarineOrienSki/>, or register online at <http://marineobrien.com/>. For further information or media inquiries, contact [Tara Tierney](#).

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