



BIRCHLEGGERS **news**

February 10, 2005

Birkie XXXII

JOHN KOTAR
BIRCHLEGGINGS CLUB PRESIDENT

Greetings fellow Birchleggers,

Here is my standard opening line: Ready or not, our mega annual event is again just around the corner. This winter has again been somewhat strange, depending on where you live, but we have seen much worse. I have been on snow 18 times so far and perhaps there will be a couple more times and that will have to do to get me from Telemark to Hayward one more time. Anyway, here is some pertinent information for this year.

First, and most important, we will again have our **Annual Birchleggings Awards Breakfast** on Sunday, and this time at Lumberjack Steakhouse (next to Country Inn and Suites in Hayward) which is now under new management. Upon requests from many of you we will keep the 9 AM time. This will give everybody a little more time for travel. Otherwise the arrangements are similar as in the past, i.e. buffet style at \$10.00 per person. We hope to see most of you there, particularly the new inductees and those of you who missed us last year. Any number of guests is welcome. Please let Dave

Balsiger know if you plan to attend and how many guests will accompany you.

This year the local radio station **WOJB** will be celebrating 20 years of intensive and passionate covering of the Birkebeiner race and associated events. We are inviting the station director Camille LaCappa and her staff to our Awards Breakfast where we will present them an honorary Birchlegging membership award. And, of course, we are again extending our invitation to the American Birkebeiner Ski Foundation Executive Director Shirley Riedmann and members of the Board.

Annual Birchleggings Club Awards Breakfast

Sunday, Feb 27, 9am

Lumberjack Steakhouse

(next to Country Inn and Suites in Hayward)

Buffet \$10.00/person

RSVP Dave Balsiger
email dbalsiger@aol.com
call 608-835-8410
or mail 5703 Lincoln Rd.
Oregon, WI 53575

Hidden Bay Graphics will be taking orders for Birchlegger technical jackets and vests. Their exhibit will be in Telemark lodge (behind the fireplace) on Thurs and Fri and also in the log exhibit building in Hayward (at Hwy 63 and Main near

the Cheese Spot) on Thurs, Fri, and Sat. They will have samples for fitting at both locations. There are a few jackets and vests in stock from last year's order that you can purchase. These will be at the Telemark location on Thurs and Fri and at the Hayward location on Sat. We will also have the fitting samples and any remaining stock for order/purchase at the breakfast on Sunday. It is highly recommended you try on the samples before you place an order.

Our membership now stands at 534 and will easily exceed 600 with this year's race. This year six more Birchleggers are poised to reach 30 Birkie completions. They are: **Ladd Conrad, Lance Scott, Steve Carmazon, Fritz Nothacker, Karl Wolfe and Roy Carlsted.** *Hip-hip-hurray to you!* We now have the critical mass to easily finance the awards without having to charge the new inductees. So here is just a friendly reminder that we have agreed to charge ourselves \$10 annual membership fee which would cover all of our anticipated expenses. I would appreciate it if you would make this payment either at the Awards Breakfast, or mail a check, made out to Birchleggings Club, to our treasurer, Dave Balsiger at 5703 Lincoln Rd Oregon, WI 53575.

Wishing you lots of joyful skiing and will see you at Birkie XXXII!

Congratulations New Birchleggers!

If this will be your 20th Birkebeiner please read on:

Dear Birkebeiner Veteran,

Upon completion of this year's Birkebeiner you will have earned the privilege to become a member of the Birchleggings Club, an informal, but prestigious organization of 20+ Birkebeiners. We congratulate you for your achievement and welcome you to our group, now numbering over 500 committed Birkie veterans.

Starting with this year's race you will have a privilege of wearing a special purple and gold Birchleggings race bib. You will also receive a classy award. If you have not seen one, it consists of 4.5" x 5.5" clear acrylic plate (looks like glass) with attached brushed-gold coin with a multilevel die image of our logo. A brass plate on the walnut base includes your name and the year of your 20th finish.



We cordially invite you to attend our Annual Birchleggings Award Breakfast where you will be individually recognized. The awards will be mailed to those who could not attend our Sunday event.

The Birchleggings Club is a group of enthusiastic and creative skiers. You will learn more about our goals and projects at our Hayward event and in future newsletters.

I am looking forward to seeing you at the race and the Birchleggers Club Awards Breakfast on Sunday.

John Kotar



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AMERICAN BIRKEBEINER
BIRCHLEGGINGS CLUB

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