



Greetings Fellow Birchleggers!

Here is my standard opening line: Ready or not, our mega annual event is again just around the corner. It seems that every year I comment on a "strange" winter. This year is no exception. Depending on where you live, skiing has

been great, so-so, or nonexistent. We have not had a major snowfall in the Cable area, but at least we have been getting an inch or two every so often, so that trails have been skiable, and getting better, at least since Christmas. Many of us will have to do the Birkie with much less training than we are accustomed to, but then again, we the Birchleggers, are seasoned veterans and know how to get through anything. Here again are some updates:

First, and most important, we will again have our **Annual Birchleggings Awards Breakfast on Sunday, at the Lumberjack Steakhouse, next to Ramada Inn on Highway 27 in Hayward.** Upon requests from many of you we will keep the 9 AM time. The arrangements are similar as in the past, i.e. buffet style breakfast (at approximately \$10.00 per person — tickets purchased at the door), followed by award presentations and a short business meeting. We hope to see most of you there, particularly the new inductees and those of you who missed us last year.

After this race the number of Birchleggers is expected to exceed 800. We still need volunteers to help us function more effectively and to carry out some missions that we have identified over the years and others that we may still develop. I would like volunteers to step forward and volunteer as treasurer and web page developer. In addition, Steve Carmazon has volunteered to chair a small "committee" whose task would be to explore potential projects that our Club would undertake or support. Full membership will then vote on the committee's suggestions to set priorities. If you would like to participate in such a group please contact Steve (scarm53@hotmail.com 612-884-9827).

Wishing you lots of joyful skiing and will see you at Birkie XXXIV,
John Kotar, President

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 800 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.

We are looking forward to seeing you at the race and our awards event.



2006 Annual Birchleggings Breakfast in Hayward

Congratulations 2007 BIRCHLEGGERS

James Agre
Randy Back
Jacob Barnes
John Bassette
William Bauer
Glen Biscoe
Kevin Bohrer
Ken Bradbury
Dave Carlson
David Christopherson
Kathleen Clavette
Scott Clements
Karen Cook
James Coors
Dianne Dagelen
Jim DiDomenico
Dennis Dusowsky
Mark Elmer
Brad Erickson
Edward Eroo
Dennis Fait
Jerry Gagner
Steven Gorton
Jan Guenther
David Hammer
Edward Harjala
Michael Healy
Steven Hoffman
Paul Holte
Mike Ivey
Ronald Jasperson
Robert Jeanne
Joseph Kelsey
Gregory Knight
Timothy Koschmann
Mark Leach
John Leighton
Ross Lemke

Dave Leschke
Perry Lewis
Allen Limberg
John Lovaas
Richard Luedke
Robert MacCarty
Jeff Marks
Marek Mroz
Mark Nemetz
Michael Palm
Paul Pedersen
Richard Perry
Paul Peterson
Ann Pollock
Jeffrey Polzin
James Powell
Scott Putman
Mark Raderstorf
Harry Read
Robert Rickert
Stephen Scharrer
Larry Schmid
Charlie Schneider
Carmen Schroeder
Kevin Shalla
Stephen Smigiel
Robert Smith
Dennis Steffen
Lori Steinbach
Michael Sund
Robin Tedlund
Ted Theyerl
Mark Van Etten
James Vann
Thomas Weitz
Kenneth Wikgren
Ronald Wood
William Zimmerman

The Tony Wise Legacy Fund

An opportunity for the Birchleggings Club to make its mark

The Tony Wise Legacy Fund, established by the American Birkebeiner Ski Foundation, is an accumulating fund from which only the earnings will be used to support Foundation programs. Last year we accepted a proposal that the Birchleggings, as a Club, and individually, adopt this program as one means toward achieving our goals. The broad categories the fund supports are: The American Birkebeiner Trail; Youth Nordic Skiing Programs; Capital Fund Support and General Support of the Foundation. Contributions to this fund in 2006 have not been up to the potential of our Club. I hope we can re-invigorate this campaign. We have an opportunity to become a major funding entity for the program and be strongly involved in directing the use of its earnings.

Paying your membership dues is crucial to the functioning of your club.

Annual membership dues are our only source of income. The funds are used to produce awards for new members, postage and copying of two newsletters, printing of stickers (number of Birkies completed) to go with your bib and for any other expense. We need to generate additional funds to support projects we have identified in the past.

Request for old photos

We are still looking for old photos to create a CD showing the evolution of the Birkie from the Birchleggings' perspective. I know that all of you have a photo or two of some favorite Birkie moment of the past. Please send a couple of your favorite photos (we obviously will not use every photo, but will select them to fit the theme). We will scan them and return them to you. If we can pull this off we will have a great show at our awards event and CDs could be made available to all. Send (or email jpegs) to John Kotar at the address below.

Good News for Classic Technique Enthusiasts

As you probably know, a new classic only trail is being developed to parallel a portion of the current course. This year, the classic style skiers will enjoy the first 9k's of their own trail. It is hoped that in addition to reducing congestion in the early stages of the race, many classical skiers who never embraced the skating technique, will find the new improvements encouraging enough to join us. If this format proves successful, additional classic-only sections may be developed in the future.

AMERICAN BIRKEBEINER BIRCHLEGGINGS CLUB

JOHN KOTAR, President
 jkotar@wisc.edu
 2662 W. Princeton Ave.
 Eau Claire, WI 54703
 715-835-1246

DAVID BALSIGER, Treasurer
 dbalsiger@aol.com
 5703 Lincoln Rd
 Oregon, WI 53575
 608-835-8410



BIRCHLEGGERS FUN FACTS

Birchleggers

(year of skiing 20th race)

1992.....	9
1993.....	6
1994.....	10
1995.....	29
1996.....	35
1997.....	51
1998.....	68
1999.....	52
2001.....	63
2002.....	61
2003.....	76
2004.....	74
2005.....	82
2006.....	87
2007.....	76

Birchleggers

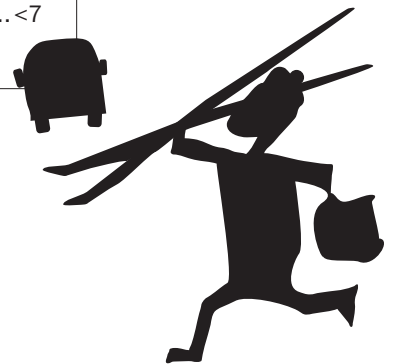
(number of races skied through 2006)

33.....	3
32.....	3
31.....	6
30.....	16
29.....	19
28.....	33
27.....	42
26.....	40
25.....	57
24.....	55
23.....	76
22.....	87
21.....	113
20.....	153

Birchleggers

(Where we live)

Wisconsin.....	443
Minnesota	222
Illinois	49
Michigan.....	20
24 Other states and Provinces	<7



2006 BIRCHLEGGINGS CLUB MEMBERSHIP FEE **\$10**

BIRCHLEGGERS _____

ADDRESS _____

PHONE (S) _____

EMAIL _____

SEND DUES TO:

Dave Balsiger 5703 Lincoln Rd, Oregon, WI 53575