



Greetings fellow Birchleggers,

This year we are being lucky in more than one way. First, we have acquired webmaster services from one of our newest Birchleggers, **ED EROE**. I am sure you will agree that we have a very attractive and functional web site. Thank you Ed. Because of this, we have decided to post this year's newsletter

here and save ourselves (mainly **DAVE BALSIGER**) a lot of envelope stuffing and postage costs. Secondly, in spite of threats from another El Nino and global warming, we have enjoyed one of the snowiest winters in many regions. The Birkie course is in great shape and weather forecasts for the next couple of weeks are favorable. This probably means that competitive juices are again going to be stimulated and some of us may be missing the light hearted, party atmosphere of last year's open track event. But, after all, this is The Birkie and the big 35th to boot.

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 will 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 as treasurer and give Dave Balsiger much deserved relief. **STEVE CARMAZON** continues to function as a one-man committee exploring potential projects that our Club would undertake or support. If you have ideas along these lines please contact Steve (scarm53@hotmail.com 612-884-9827).

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

Good news for classic technique enthusiasts:

As I am sure you know by now, the new classic only trail, paralleling the original course, has been extended to High Point at 15 K. Those of you who had a chance to ski it will probably agree that it is a joy to ski, but Tough. Some who have feared that the classic trail meant, "taming" of the notoriously demanding Birkie course need not worry. The classic section is in fact longer and has higher total vertical. We have already seen a marked increase in the number of classical participants for this year's race.

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.

AMERICAN BIRKEBEINER BIRCHLEGGINGS CLUB

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Request for Old Photos

We are still looking for old photos to create a CD showing the evolution of the Birkie from the Birchleggers' perspective. I know that all of you have a photo or two of some favorite Birkie moment of the past. Please send us 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.

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 and cover Awards Breakfast costs for new members. Also postage and copying, printing of stickers (number of Birkies completed) to go with your bib and for any other expense. This year we have an opportunity to promote our Club, the course and the entire event by sponsoring one or more kilometer markers along the Birkie trail. This is a very popular fund raising program. Organizations, companies or individuals sponsor a particular K-marker at \$300 - 500 per year with a three-year commitment. We believe it behooves the Birchleggings Club to be visible and participate in this program.

2008 BIRCHLEGGINGS CLUB MEMBERSHIP FEE

only \$10

BIRCHLEGGER

ADDRESS

PHONE (S)

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PLEASE SEND DUES TO:

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