



## BIRKIE XXXVII

February 3, 2010

### **Greetings fellow Birchleggers,**

In spite of threats from El Nino and global warming, we have been enjoying another wonderful snowy winter in many regions. The Birkie course has been in great shape since early December and many of you have taken advantage of skiing the Birkie Tour in January. Although there are no guarantees from Mother Nature it looks like we are heading for another great Birkie. As you probably know the Birkie entries for this year have been capped at 7500 and the race has filled. I sincerely hope that every Birchlegger who wanted to ski has made the cut.

### **First some updates:**

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 (no charge for new inductees), tickets purchased at the door. We will follow with award presentations and perhaps 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.

### **Birchleggers adopt Tony Wise Legacy Fund and launch Tony Wise Birkie Spirit Award**

Following up on our last year's plans, we are now ready to deliver on two of our proposals. At our Sunday event we will present The Birkie Foundation with a substantial check to begin our annual contribution to the Tony Wise Legacy Fund. We will also unveil the Tony Wise Birkie Spirit Award and honor the first two recipients: Sven Wiik and Marty Hall. You may wish to refer to the 2009 Birchleggings Newsletter (available on our website) for details on how the Fund works and some brief information on Sven's and Marty's connection to the Birkebeiner.

After this race we expect to induct 75 new Birchleggers, which will bring our number to 1000+. 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](mailto:scarm53@hotmail.com) 612-884-9827).

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

Annual membership dues are our only source of funding for our projects. The funds are used to produce awards, contribute to the Tony Wise Legacy Fund, and cover Awards Breakfast costs for new members. We also sponsor 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.

### **If this will be your 20<sup>th</sup> Birkebeiner, please read on:**

*Dear Birkebeiner Veteran,*

Upon completion of this year's Birkebeiner you will have earned the privilege of becoming a member of the Birchleggings Club, an informal but prestigious organization of skiers who have completed 20 or more Birkies. We congratulate you for your achievement and welcome you to our group, now numbering over 1000 committed Birkie veterans.

Starting with this year's race you will have the privilege of wearing the 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 be our guest at the Annual Birchleggings Awards breakfast where you will be individually recognized. The awards will be mailed to those who cannot attend.

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

Wishing you lots of joyful skiing and planning to see you at Birkie XXXVII

John Kotar,  
Birchleggings Club President



### Members' Corner

Birchlegger **Ian Duncan**, Madison, WI urges fellow Birchleggers to support Skiers for Cures by purchasing an MS button for \$20. Please see [www.birkie.com](http://www.birkie.com) for details.

Please see the February issue of *Silent Sports* for an article by **Cherie Morgan** about the Birchleggings Club. Also featured is a story about **Ed Harjala**.



Photos from 2009 VIP dinner of **Bjorn Daehlie** and **George Hovland** with Montana State Senator **Larry Jent** (to be inducted into Birchleggings Club this year)

Send news, comments, photos and updates to Dave Balsiger or John Kotar (addresses below).

2010 BIRCHLEGGINGS CLUB ANNUAL FEE **just** \$25

Birchlegger \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

**Send dues to:**

**Dave Balsiger (address below)** or see *Dave at the Awards Breakfast on Sunday.*

AMERICAN BIRKEBEINER BIRCHLEGGINGS CLUB

**David Balsiger**, Treasurer  
[dbalsiger@aol.com](mailto:dbalsiger@aol.com)  
5703 Lincoln Rd.  
Oregon, WI 53575  
608-835-8410



**John Kotar**, President  
[jkotar@wisc.edu](mailto:jkotar@wisc.edu)  
2662 W. Princeton Ave.  
Eau Claire, WI 54703  
715-835-1246