

# BIRCHLEGGERS news | FEBRUARY 2011

## BIRKIE XXXVIII

February 8, 2011

### *Greetings fellow Birchleggers,*

For second winter in a row we have been enjoying great skiing conditions in most regions. The Birkie course has been in skiing shape since late November and many of you have taken advantage of skiing the Birkie Tour in January. Even the year-long stream of depressing news about the status of the Telemark Resort has improved. The Lodge will be operating for the Birkie week, but please note some changes that will never the less be in effect, mainly the registration pick up in Hayward Middle School. As last year, in order to manage quality growth, the race has been capped, this time at 8500 total participants. 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 and invited guests), tickets purchased at the door. We will follow with award presentations and perhaps a short business meeting. We hope to see many of you there, particularly the new inductees and those of you who missed us last year.

### **Tony Wise Legacy Fund and Tony Wise Birkie Spirit Award**

Vigorous growth of our membership in recent years is enabling us to contribute significantly to the Tony Wise Legacy Fund. We are making plans for strong Birchlegger participation and visibility in maintaining and improving the quality of our event with emphasis on pageantry and festivities, especially in preparation for the significant milestone of the 40th running in 2013. Your ideas will be solicited.

Last year we had the pleasure of unveiling the Tony Wise Birkie Spirit Award and honoring the first two recipients, Sven Wiik and Marty Hall. This year we are looking forward to presenting the 2011 Award to another deserving recipient, Frances Wise. Tony's daughter Frances, for years was the behind the scenes engine transforming Tony's visions into reality. It will be great to have her join us, together with Sven and Marty at the Awards Breakfast.

As you are probably aware the Birchlegger numbers now exceed one thousand. 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) or call 612-867-6696).



*Tony Wise Award is on display year round at Ideal Market in Cable.*

## 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 TW 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.

Wishing you lots of joyful skiing and will see you at Birkie XXXVIII

John Kotar, President



## 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 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 be our guest at our Annual Birchleggings Awards breakfast where you will be individually recognized. The awards will be mailed to those who could not attend.

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

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## 2011 BIRCHLEGGINGS CLUB ANNUAL FEE just \$25

Birchlegger (name) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

AMERICAN BIRKEBEINER BIRCHLEGGINGS CLUB

<http://www.birchleggings.com/>

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The Birchleggings Club now has connections through Facebook, LinkedIn, and Twitter.