



# BIRCHLEGGERS **news**

January 26, 2004

## Birkie XXXI is just around the corner

JOHN KOTAR  
BIRCHLEGGINGS CLUB PRESIDENT

### Greetings fellow Birchleggers,

Ready or not, our mega annual event is again just around the corner. Since this has been a considerably better winter than last year I suspect many of you are looking forward to a strong performance at the Birkie. Some of us, of course, will be happy to just notch up another one. Anyway, here is some pertinent information for this year.

#### ANNUAL BIRCHLEGGINGS AWARDS BREAKFAST

First, and most important, we will again have our Annual Birchleggings Awards Breakfast on Sunday, and this time back at our original location the Country Inn and Suites in Hayward, which is now under new management. Upon requests from many of you we will keep the 9AM 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 (tax and tip included) 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. If possible, send this information via e-mail to [dbalsiger@aol.com](mailto:dbalsiger@aol.com) You can also telephone at 608-835-8410 or mail to Dave at 5703 Lincoln Rd Oregon, WI 53575.



#### BIRCHLEGGINGS CLOTHING

I am happy to announce that we have arranged with Hidden Bay Graphics in Hayward to produce several items of Birchleggings clothing. Bill Kosfeld volunteered to make initial selections and to take care of the business end of it, while his wife Jeanne offered her artistic talent to handle the colors and graphic design. We decided on four items: a technical jacket and a vest (to ski in) and a vest and a sweatshirt for all-around wear. A sample of each will be on display at Telemark Lodge during the bib pick up days and also at our awards breakfast. You will be able to



place an order either at the awards breakfast or by mail. The orders will be submitted in bulk and Hidden Bay Graphics will take care of shipping. I hope you will be pleased with our selections.

#### IN YOUR BIB PACKET

This year (and in subsequent years) you will find in your bib packet a special sticker showing the number of Birkies you have already completed. The sticker is intended to go on your bib. The idea for this came from Birchlegger Jim Tenorio (24 Birkies), a professor at UW-Stout. He produced the stickers as a printing class project, so we got a good deal on labor. With this sticker on your bib you may not have to answer as many questions of: "how many have you done?"

#### BIRCHLEGGINGS CLUB MEMBERSHIP

After Birkebeiner 30 our membership stands at 460 and will probably exceed 520 with this year's race (see statistics provided by Dave Balsiger). 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 we'll see you at Birkie XXXI.

## Congratulations New Birchleggers!

### 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 skiers who have completed 20 or more Birkebeiners. We congratulate you for your achievement and welcome you to our group, now numbering over 460 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. Your chronological order of completion of your 20th race is silk-screened on the "glass". 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 (9am, Sunday, Feb 22 at the Country Inn and Suites in Hayward) 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 our awards event.

John Kotar



## Birchlegger Stats (UNOFFICIAL)

Since 1974: 104,239 total starters; 95,916 total finishers.

Approx 25,000 different people have finished the American Birkebeiner.

Birchleggers are 460 / 25,000 = 1.8% of all skiers.

10,367 / 95,916 = 11% of all Birkebeiners completed were skied by Birchleggers.

### Total Number of Birkebeiner Finishers

1973	53
1974	90
1975	181
1976	655
1977	1312
1978	1702
1979	2619
1980	3055
1981	2483
1982	4138
1983	4983
1984	4944
1985	3488
1986	3526
1987	3335
1988	3249
1989	3422
1990	3393
1991	3720
1992	3982
1993	4026
1994	4090
1995	4030
1996	4367
1997	4952
1998	4250
1999	4537
2000	
2001	4283
2002	3630
2003	3421

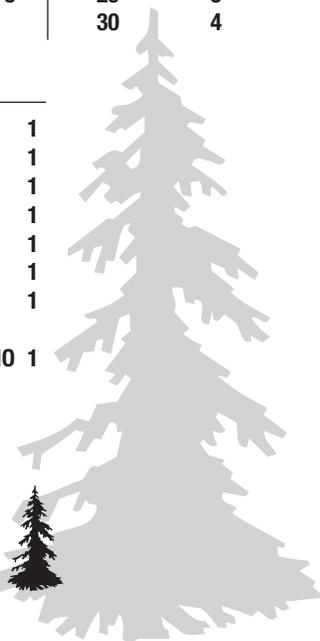
**TOTAL 95916**

### BIRCHLEGGINGS CLUB STATS

Sex	Age Group	Number of Birkies Completed		
M 430	35-39	1	20	114
F 30	40-44	21	21	85
	45-49	82	22	56
	50-54	142	23	60
	55-59	99	24	50
	60-64	63	25	41
	65-69	25	26	20
	70-74	11	27	20
	75-79	2	28	5
	80-84	5	29	5
			30	4

### BIRCHLEGGERS Home States

WI	248	IN	1
MN	146	MD	1
IL	28	NH	1
MI	14	OH	1
CA	4	OR	1
CO	4	UT	1
IA	4	VA	1
MT	2		
FL	1	ONTARIO	1



BIRCHLEGGERS **news**

BIRCHLEGGINGS CLUB  
AMERICAN BIRKEBEINER

JOHN KOTAR, President  
jkotar@wisc.edu  
608-273-9544

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

BILL KOSFELD  
wfk@wilder.org

JEANNE KOSFELD  
jkosfeld@ordway.org