

January 11, 2013

Greetings fellow Birchleggers,

Can you believe the 40th Birkie is right around the corner? This also means that some of you have not only completed the "required" twenty Birkies, but have been Birchleggers for nearly twenty years. Our number has been growing steadily and we are now over 1200 members.



To help commemorate this significant milestone, I am happy to report that we are now formally and officially **THE BIRCHLEGGINGS CLUB INC.** We are incorporated as a nonstock corporation under Chapter 181 of the Wisconsin Statutes. Application to IRS for 501(c) (3) non-profit status has also been filed and I am confident that we will qualify. So, what does this mean to us as individuals and as an organization? Well, for starters, there will be a bit more

structure and a lot of opportunities for you to be involved. We will need a board of directors, officers and some committees. To get things rolling we are working with a small group of volunteers, a steering committee, to put together preliminary bylaws. As soon as a board of directors is elected by our paid membership, it will review and, if needed, amend the bylaws. Our steering committee will meet on January 19 and we will post the preliminary bylaws on this web site. These bylaws will specify member benefits and obligations, including membership dues (for beginning, same as now \$25), date and place of annual meeting (required by law), election procedures and other details about structure and function of the organization.

Other updates:



To help us celebrate the 40th running of the American Birkebeiner, many special activities are being planned for the week. One in particular that I think many

Birchleggers would enjoy is a **retro ski tour/wooden ski 5k event the "Nikkerbeiner"** to be held on Main Street Hayward on Thursday. Another event is "Blast With The Past Tent Party", also on Thursday. You will have a chance to mingle with some old time Birkie movers and shakers among them members of Wise family, Birkie Founders, past Birkie Foundation board members and directors and even some past Birkie winners. Please consult the Birkie web site for details.



Of course we will again have our **Annual Birchleggings Awards Breakfast** on Sunday, at the **Lumberjack Steakhouse** on Highway 27 in Hayward. As in the past 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.

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 Tony Wise Legacy Fund and cover Awards Breakfast costs for new members. Last year we have added a major funding project, The Birchleggers Hut. To date we have made a partial payment of \$9,000. We will be exploring additional means for funding this project. Since we are now a corporation there is additional incentive for paying our dues as only paid members are eligible for voting and to run for leadership positions.

See you at Birkie XL

John Kotar
Interim 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 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.

2012 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.