



UPCOMING EVENTS

SEPTEMBER 6:  
LABOR DAY BASH

Enjoy special performances and celebrate Labor Day Weekend at the CPDSA Skate Circle.

OCTOBER 31:  
SKATE FRIGHT

The 4th annual Skate Fright Show celebrates the end of the CPDSA outdoor season.

THE CENTRAL PARK  
SKATE CIRCLE

takes place every Saturday, Sunday and major holiday in 1999 from April 17th to October 31st. The music begins at 2pm, and ends at 7pm.

CPDSA

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

- Gene A. Williams-President
- Lezly Ziering-Chairman
- Robin Ziering
- Bob Nichols
- Muhammed Abdul-Aziz
- Steve Heurung
- Monique Hawkins
- Alonzo Jones
- Carol Spalding
- Bill Levy

OFFICIAL CPDSA CONTACTS:

- Voice Mail: 212-760-4848
- Gene Williams: 718-319-3036
- FAX: 888-418-3552
- Lezly Ziering: 212-777-3232
- On the Web: www.CPDSA.org

On the Horizon by Lezly Ziering

IT'S SHOW TIME - two special events are coming up: Labor Day, Monday, Sept. 6, and Skatefright 5, our annual Halloween celebration, which is slated for Saturday, October 30. On Labor Day, along with our usual skate session, we will have a dance skate class from 1:00 - 2:00 PM, followed by the hot sounds of DJ Jay Stewart. On this day we will have a special treat for you - "The Heavyweights" - a rather special singing group will be at the "Skate Circle" backed by some of our skaters previewing a number that will be a part of our Skatefright show - we are certain you will enjoy it.

We are still looking for talent for Skatefright 5 which is the highlight of our season. I encourage anyone with special talent who is interested in performing to please contact me, Lezly. There is not much time before it will be upon us, so don't wait, do it now. Another thing you can start thinking about now is your costume for the big day. There will be a costume contest for kids and for adults, with some special prizes for the winners. Even if it's just a mask or some special makeup, put together something to be a part of the spirit of the day, which I can tell you will be one hell of a high energy Halloween happening.

Beside the festivities which we will feature on these occasions we will be fund raising on the three day Labor Day Weekend - September 4th, 5th and 6th and of course, on the Halloween weekend. We will have for you, two new T-shirts in turquoise and in gray and we will once again be offering our CPDSA pullovers and hats. Most important we will once again open up our membership rolls for those of you who have not yet become members - and I hate to say - that's a lot of you. Once again I want to thank

those of you who have shown your appreciation for the effort we put out to bring this unique celebration of love to you every weekend for seven months of the year, by becoming members and by doing so, defraying some of the considerable expense we incur in the course of the season.

Just to put it into perspective: if you go to the Roxy to skate, you are putting out \$12 for early birds and \$15 for latecomers - for just one night. Our basic membership

is \$15 for the entire year and if you plunk down \$25 you have the option of a free T-shirt. How about this - if we were allowed to come around to you for battery money every session (as the music providers used to do, pre-CPDSA) and you dropped in a buck each time, you would be putting out \$60 per season. If everyone put in half of that we would be in the black for the first time in our history. So come on y'all, help out this organization that has done so much for so many.



DJ Jay Stewart mixing live from the Skate Circle.

Traveling? Take your Skates!

by David Linton

About six years ago I had an opportunity to visit Japan for a professional conference. Since I was going so far, I added a side trip to Hong Kong. Naturally, I took my skates.

I don't know if interest in skating in Hong Kong has waned since then or if the transition from British to Chinese rule has had any impact, but at that time there were two indoor rinks - one operating on each side of the massive Hong Kong Harbor - in Kwaloon and in downtown Hong Kong. There were no signs of outdoor skating; the crowded, bumpy

streets with frenzied traffic were inhospitable. There may be a park somewhere which invites skating, but I didn't find it.

The rink I visited was worth the effort. It was called Rollerworld Cityplaza at Complex 1,6/F. Cityplaza is a large shopping mall easily accessible by subway with elevators and escalators ascending from an atrium of five or six levels, each surrounded by shops. Shopping is the primary passion of Hong Kong and I found little else to do there.

(Please turn to page 2.)

CENTRAL PARK DANCE SKATERS ASSOCIATION  
14 Washington Place, #11F  
New York, NY 10003  
(212) 777-3232



Join us!

CPDSA MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Member # \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Amount of Contribution

Address \_\_\_\_\_

\$15     \$25     \$50     \$100     Other \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Check     Cash     Money Order

Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_

New Member     Renewal

Business Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Please cut out this membership application and mail it, along with your contribution, to the CPDSA headquarters address listed below.

Fax \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

You can get additional applications and more information from Gene Williams, Lezly Ziering or Robbin Ziering in person at the CPDSA Skate Circle, located mid-park at the foot of the bandshell. You can find us by entering Central Park at 72nd street and walking along the 72nd street transverse toward the center of the park. Just follow your ears. Listen for our booming dance music. You can't miss us.



CENTRAL PARK DANCE SKATERS ASSOCIATION  
14 Washington Place, #11F  
New York, NY 10003  
(212) 777-3232



# More Room For You and Me

We've been making changes in the ground plans to make our event area safer and more enjoyable. With the addition of yellow caution ropes, we've enclosed the entire perimeter. This has improved our security and drastically cut down on crowd encroachment and the risk of accidents. We also reconfigured the white lines on the road surface, to reposition our skating areas and situate our rest areas more conveniently.

The perimeter of the main dance circle was moved six feet down. We then reduced the size of the rest areas. These changes gave us the footage needed to enlarge both of the smaller auxiliary skating areas, where couples, line

dancers and freestyle skaters enjoy dancing.

Our new layout divides the road into three distinct skating areas, enclosed by two continuous buffer zones on either side of the main circle. Each buffer zone serves two distinct functions: They serve as rest areas and also as safety zones between the main skating area and the auxiliary skating areas .

Access between auxiliary skating areas and rest areas has been simplified. The rest areas now completely encircle the auxiliary skating areas. Just step across the white lines onto the aprons of asphalt enclosing these skating areas and you've stepped into of our new rest areas. It's that simple.

by Steve Heurung

In general, the new layout is easier to understand.

- The outer shell of main circle functions like a traditional skating rink where all dance skating traffic flows, promenade style, in one direction, faster skaters on the outside and slower skaters on the inside

- The center island, where the DJ booth is located, is a special area where skaters and a limited number of guests can dance with or without skates.

- Both of the auxiliary areas are for non-directed, free flowing dance traffic, similar to the activity found in most dance clubs.

For this plan to work optimally, we need everyone's' consideration and cooperation. So please, as a matter of courtesy, whenever you want to stop skating, whether it's because,

- you're tired
- the music doesn't suite your style
- you want talk with friends
- or watch what's going on,

just step across that white line and move off the dance floor into one of the rest areas. We can do it. With our mutual consideration and cooperation we all can have a more satisfying dance experience.

# CPDSA and Dance Skating in Central Park, Our History

Part 3 in a series of four on the history of Central Park Skating

by Allen Wardwell



*In the past two installments of this history, Allen has taken us from our earliest days*

*on Skaters Road to the Skate Circle's darkest hours in 1995 when the new mayor's misguided policy on amplified music closed us down.*

There were letters to the papers, articles and TV news reports, and bitter confrontations with the police and Captain Bayer (who to his credit did show up in the middle of our protests). We all realized that the situation could have gotten a little too loud and overwhelming.

Beer was being sold and consumed along with other illegal stimulants and money was being solicited for our batteries when it was needed. We still resented the fact that the crackdown had come without any warning, and we hadn't been given a chance to negotiate or discuss the problem with anyone. Clearly, we had to get organized, and we did.

This marked the birth of the CPDSA. Under the leadership of

Brent Nosworthy, Leslie Ziering and Bob Nichols, a membership flyer was produced, dues were collected, and we were kept up to date on developments through a newsletter. Negotiating meetings were held with Park and Conservancy personnel, and even Parks Commissioner Henry Stern said he liked us and wanted us to keep skating, but under a more controlled situation. Clearly the days of our uninhibited unsupervised behavior of Dead Road were over, and we had to make a deal or we'd be dead for good.

In the months that followed, the faithful still showed up with their earphones and Walkmans, and several tried to play the same things, but the scene was pretty dead. Stuart, an inventive electronic wizard, built a transmitter that broadcast over a seventy-five foot radius and we could pick up the signal at 87.7 on FM from our Walkmans. So for a while, we were skating to some of the old tapes to music only we could hear which must have looked weird to those wandering by. Still, it wasn't the same and we all longed for the day when we had our real scene back.

**Traveling? Take your Skates!** (continued from page 1.)

Rollerworld is on an upper level and is one hell of a skating rink. The facility was opened in 1982 and claims to be the largest rink in Asia with over 12,000 square feet of space. It has a dazzling array of disco lights, mirrored balls, video screens and smoke machines with a DJ who was spinning mostly American disco tunes over a powerfully amplified, high quality sound system. One long wall is carpeted in broad flowing stripes, and there's ample lounge space.

It wasn't very crowded the night I went and the skating wasn't very sophisticated. The best were some young guys who limited themselves to skating fast and whipping each other into jumps. There are probably some nights when it's better because they do offer lessons and have participants in competitive events, but those folks weren't there when I was.

## HONG KONG RINKS

**Rollerworld Cityplaza**  
at Complex 1,6/F, Taikoo Shing, Hong Kong, Tel: 567-0408.

**Sportworld**  
G/F, Bldg. G, Telford Gardens, Kowloon Bay, Tel: 757-2211.

The rink I visited in Tokyo was a good bit different. It is located in a huge entertainment complex consisting of an amusement park, arcades, sporting facilities and at its center, the Tokyo Dome, otherwise known as the Big Egg, the venue for sports events and concerts. It's easy to get to on a major subway line (the Toei Mita Line, the Suidobashi stop). The rink is on the top floor of a five story building which also houses several floors of gambling machines and arcade games.

In design, the facility is somewhat plain and the sound system is bad. The music was insipid. Around the sides were nets and the floor was marked for hockey, clearly the more frequent activity taking place there. But, the skating was quite good. There was an emphasis on line dance performances, which were done with admirable precision and style. The tone was a bit more friendly than in Hong Kong, and I found myself wishing I could combine the best of both rinks.

Skating in other countries can be a good way to meet folks and to pick up new moves (or new people!). Next issue I'll suggest some skate places to visit in New Zealand and Australia.

# The View from Skater's Road

by Bob Nichols


I want to recommend a TV show called "New York Skate"; unless you hate watching yourself and your friends on TV, you will enjoy it. The show is on Manhattan Neighborhood Network, Public Access TV. I get it on Channel 57 on Wednesday nights at 8:00, but it may be different for you depending on where you live.

New York Skate draws about 95 percent of its footage from the Skate Circle; so, chances are that if you are a regular at the Circle, you are a regular on the show. Al Gerra - known around Skaters Road as "Big Bird" - produces, directs, tapes and edits the show. Especially impressive is his moving camera work, which flows with the skaters around the Circle and gives the viewer a visual representation of what it's like to skate with us.

Al also produces a show called "Central Park Skate" which is on Tuesday afternoons at 4:00 on Channel 47. This show has more footage of the Slalom course near the Tavern on the Green, skaters at the Band Shell and on the Bethesda Plaza steps, but also features the Skate Circle. New York Skate has a web site with still pictures and video footage that is definitely worth checking out at: [www.newyorkskate.com](http://www.newyorkskate.com) The site also has a link to the CPDSA site, so it is easy to find.

Al is very polite and reserved, but he has a fanatic's love for skating. He and his wife Mary Pat are regulars at the Circle and I'm sure you would recognize them if I could find a picture. Al will not try to sell you a tape of his show out in the Circle; which is more than I can say for a lot of other people. Despite the CPDSA's agreement with the City - which prohibits vending of any kind - there are still a few people trying to use the Circle to make a buck at our expense. These people are endangering our right to continue skating to music in the Park by selling soft drinks, fruit, tapes, photographs and who knows what else.

Sales are only allowed in our area two or three times a year when the CPDSA is permitted to raise money through sales of T-shirts, hats and Sweatshirts. It is also the only time we are allowed to directly accept money for new memberships and renewals out in the park. While this has not afforded the CPDSA financial security, it has made skating with us a more pleasant experience. Please do not buy or sell anything in The Skate Circle. If a vendor is persistent or offensive, please let one of the purple shirted staff members know. We need your help to keep predators out.



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# A Thank You Message

by Steve Heurung

Last year, perhaps a bit foolishly, I volunteered to start working on a new plan that would improve the way we use our event space. After almost a year of deliberations and numerous revisions, a new layout for the event was agreed upon by the committee and afterwards approved by the Parks Department. The changes were then first tested with removable tape and later after a few minor adjustments the new plan was implemented.

I want to thank all those who helped in the preparation and execution of this plan. I thank all the CPDSA committee members for their invaluable input and cooperation. I also must individually thank all those who helped test and then carry out this plan. I thank David Rothman for his financial support and his very helpful ideas. Russell Marcus, Mike Allison and Henry

for chalking in lines and putting down the test tape. Lewis and Jeff for helping remove the test tape, which turned out to be much harder than we had ever imagined! Tim Hilchey for his magic hand with a roller, Steven Gertner for his painting and great patch up work. Patricia Payne, our paint-pan girl, for her assistance, along with Joey and Hector for their encouragement, in the 95 degree July heat.

A special thanks must go to Andre Chin for making protective covers for the storm drains in our skating area. To Wayne Bradly and Eric Brothers for all that we learned from their circle painting in the past. Bob Nichols for his help, dedication and patience. A special thank you must also go to Mr. Neil Calvanese, Chief of Operations of Central Park, for his level headed cooperation in the approval of our plan by the

Parks Department and Central Park Conservancy.

Speaking for all those who have helped, this has been our way of giving back to a wonderful recreational activity. We, humbly, hope you all enjoy our efforts. It's our gift to our friends and our way of saying thank you for the enjoyment we have received from your company and from skating.




"Bray Waller gets some last minute advice from his mother, Iris Nunez, while his godmother, Debbie Richardson, helps him get his skates on the right feet."

The CPDSA would like to thank

**MINERAL SPRINGS**

**NY SKATE** See the Skate Circle on TV! MNN Channel 67 Wednesdays @ 8pm

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