



EVENTS SCHEDULE

SUNDAY, OCT. 29TH

Closing Day

Join us for the final day of our 2000 skating season.

NY AREA ROLLER RINKS

Central Park skaters carry on through the winter months indoors at the following rinks:

The Roxy

515 W. 18th St.
(bet. 10th & 11th Aves.)
212-645-5156
Wednesday nights.

Empire Roller Disco

200 Empire Blvd.
(bet. Bedford and Rogers Aves.)
Brooklyn

Skate Key

220 E. 138th St.
@ Grand Concourse
Bronx, NY , 718-401-0700
Thursday and Sunday nights.

USA

1276 Hicksville Rd.
Seaford, Long Island, NY

THE CENTRAL PARK SKATE CIRCLE

takes place every Saturday, Sunday and major holiday in 2000 from April 15th to October 31st. The music plays from 2pm to 7pm.

CPDSA COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Lezly Ziering - Chairman
Bob Nichols
Cathe Sheehan
Muhammed Abdul-Aziz
Alonzo Jones
Steve Heurung
Carol Spalding
Bill Levy
Gene A. Williams
Mark Anthony Layne

OFFICIAL CPDSA CONTACTS:

Lezly Ziering: 212-777-3232

Bob Nichols: 212-246-1344

Fax: 212-541-7871

On the Web: www.CPDSA.org

That Something Special

by SP Lindsey

As we roll closer to the close of our 2000 Circle season, I can't help but reflect back on what this year has meant to me, both as a regular skater and a willing volunteer. I have been coming around the circle for nearly seven years now, doing my thing, developing my skills on wheels, and blowing off the week's stress to the rhythm of the music and the sheer energy of the whole experience. I have, up until the past couple of years, been a more silent participant, just showing up, acknowledging a few familiar faces, and taking off after the music ended for the day.

Somewhere around the mid-point of the '99 season though, I started to hear the requests for skaters to help out with the breakdown process, and I had a revelation of sorts. I began to think in terms of all the enjoyment I had gotten out of the circle, and a little inner voice said to me, "It's time to give back." I started to help out some with the gates and ropes, doing what little I could to do my part. Then for the first time, when Halloween rolled around last year, I felt a strong sense of sadness at the close of

another skating season.

Near the end of April this year, about a week before the opening of the 2000 season, I remember having these strange pangs of fear that the shenanigans of last year could possibly have a negative effect on the life of the circle. I'd never really felt such a strong personal and emotional connection to the circle, and at that point I made a promise to jump in and do all I could this year to help.

I kept my promise, and it's been the most rewarding year I've ever spent in our circle. I have participated on an almost weekly basis in everything, from setting up the gates and ropes, to going outside the circle to get signatures of support from the crowd. I've learned all aspects of the sound system, and what it takes in order to get it all up and running, and to help take some of the weight off of those whom have already given more of a commitment than could be expected of anyone. I'll admit that I've had to take a lot of time away from my own skating. I consider it my weekly therapy, but I feel at the

close of the year, that I have become a part of the larger family entity that we all know to exist within our little weekly gatherings. And more importantly, I feel like I have given back to the circle for all the years of enjoyment I've taken out of it, and also gained a different kind of therapeutic experience.

Although we're all out there first and foremost to skate, I can't say enough about the feeling of togetherness, companionship, and friendship that have also been rewards for participating and helping out. Rather than just coming over, dropping my bag, sticking to myself, and heading home with a few nods and waves goodbye, I feel that over the past couple of years I've become a part of that "special something" that breathes it's life into the circle each year. And I will continue to give all that I can to keep that "special something," our circle, and our skating family, alive.

I'd like to thank Lezly, Gene, Bob, Muhammed, Steve, Alonzo, Carol, Bill, Ken, Ed, Cathe, and the
Please turn to page 2.



Skaters deal with another washout in the circle. Our season was marked by one rainy weekend after the next.

Photo ©2000, Cathe Sheehan

The Master Skate Peace

by Bladie Flowness

When we were teenagers, the year was slow. As we waited for our eighteenth birthdays, life was new and we looked uphill toward our futures. Now we jump forward to the year 2000 and to our surprise the eighteen year olds come to the Central Park Skate Spot with their wheels and no skills.

However, because of our Skatist status we welcome them with open arms.

As I sat in the park one weekend in the beginning of October 2000, I overheard a group of young white teens ask the question:

"How come everybody here can skate, except us?"

I truly knew that the really deep answer was that we Skatists don't go to rave parties; but I took the humble road and told them that they were born one generation off the funk.

The last weekend of October of this year - which some people count as the beginning of the new Millennium - the only song that should be played more than twice, is one by Sister Sledge - "We Are Family."

"Something Special" continued from page 1.

DJ's, for all they've done over the years to give the skate circle to us all, and for all the work that I now know first hand goes into each and every week's enjoyment. I'd also like to thank them for allowing me to become involved as much as possible, for trusting me to listen and learn all that I needed to know, and for the friendship, laughs, and sense of family that they all exude.

I also think I know now what those pangs of fear and those strange feelings I was having back in the beginning of this year were all about. I think it was that "special something," a special kind of magic that the circle enchanted me with, and that circle magic was whispering to me "hey skater, help keep my music and my family alive!" I heard that whisper, I swear I think I did.



These boys can jam! A chain of skaters go round and round the circle, all together in rhythm, every one on the beat.

Photo ©2000, Jens Polkowski

New Zealand Skate Scenes

by David Linton

There are three good reasons to visit New Zealand:

1. The rate of exchange is 2 to 1; everything (except gasoline) is about half price;
2. It's a beautiful country;
3. There are lots of excellent skating opportunities.

My wife Simi and I recently visited New Zealand. Before going, I contacted Bev Cooper, Executive Officer of SKATENZ, the national roller-skating organization. She sent me a list of the 26 registered clubs with contacts. Most of the clubs are located on the North Island, where most of the population is, but there's a skating rink near every city and even some in small towns as well. Bev Cooper's email is: execoff@skatenz.org.nz.

If you want to meet all the competitive skaters at one venue, aim to attend the annual National Championships during the first week in January. They're often held in the largest city, Auckland, but sometimes get moved to the South Island in order to give skaters from the more distant

region a chance to participate at less expense. Remember that since NZ is in the Southern Hemisphere the seasons are reversed so January is the ideal time to travel there. The weather is nearly perfect, the beaches are beautiful, and outdoor skating is as pleasant as you can imagine.

I visited only one indoor rink during my visit, in a park along the beach in Nelson. Nelson boasts of being one of the hippest towns in NZ. It is at the North end of South Island, in one of the best wine producing areas. It faces the Tasman Bay and is a short drive from the beautiful Abel Tasman National Park, an excellent hiking and camping site.

The Nelson Skating Rink (PO Box 379, Nelson, NZ; ph. (03) 548-6499) is a no-frills operation with a smooth concrete floor. Since it was the peak of the summer and New Zealanders are outdoor folk, there was almost no one there when I dropped in. However, I was greeted warmly by one of the officers in the club which runs the

rink, and her daughter, who was working on her routines for the next competition. She showed me her spins and artistic routine and I laid down some CPDSA style dance steps. It was a fun engagement. The rink flyer advertises "Friday Night Discos" but, unfortunately, I didn't have the chance to sample NZ rollerdance style.

New Zealand has excellent outdoor skate settings for in-liners. Wellington, the nation's capitol, faces Lambton Harbor and has miles of paved pathways skirting its edge. The National Museum is on the water and includes wide skate-friendly plazas around it with many places where you can kick into impromptu dance moments. A few blocks back from the harbor the city gets hilly and less congenial for skating, but the pleasure of cruising along the water makes bringing your skates worth the bother. There are a few rinks listed on the outskirts of Wellington, but I didn't get to visit them. Auckland is equally appealing to street

skaters. There's a paved bicycle/skate path along the waterfront that goes for miles past industrial ship yards, beaches, residential areas and pleasant shopping zones.

We stayed across the harbor on the North Shore in Devonport, a laid back community with a ferry terminal which offers frequent trips over to the city. It's sort of like Hoboken is to New York. Our hotel, the Esplanade, is a funky, unpretentious place built in 1903 across from the ferry and facing the water. We could see the downtown skyline and watch the racing teams from the Americas Cup come and go. Not only was it a wonderful neighborhood, the price was pretty special too. We had a suite with a balcony facing the water for about \$100.00 (U.S.) per night.

Of course, getting there is the challenge. Flights are expensive and the trip is long. But if you're thinking of heading down under, take your skates. You'll be sure to use them.

The View from Skater's Road

by Bob Nichols

What went wrong? I thought we were doing well this year. Though we suffered through many rainy days, there were moments of ecstatic dancing, soaking wet under the blue tarp; abandoning ourselves to the music - "the spiritual thing...the soul thing." We had three great DJs who kept us inspired enough to dance all summer long. We had a more relaxed enforcement attitude, friendlier faces on the skate guards and fewer hassles all around. We got a wireless satellite speaker system working in the outside circles to distribute our music without disturbing other areas of the park. We jumped through all the hoops the Parks Dept. held up for us.

We lived up to our agreement: insurance, Parks Dept. Special Events permits, Police Amplified Music Permits...a time consuming expensive process. The truth is that if it wasn't for the permits and bureaucracy, we wouldn't need a budget at all. We would be a group of skaters who gathered and skated to music - the way it was 20 years ago. The CPDSA was formed to reassure the mayor that people dancing in public weren't breaking any laws, even if they did make a few tourists and suburbanites nervous.

We've done well for 7 years, but now, every event in Central Park demands the use of "Dead Road," and there are more events than ever before. We could lose even more days from our schedule next year. Why? Central Park is a big business, the Conservancy allows special events to be staged by those willing to pay big fees for use of the venue. The fact that we are a community group, enjoying our park for a lawful, healthy, athletic pursuit doesn't matter, big bucks matter.

Last month, I sat in a meeting between the CPDSA, Parks Dept. and NYPD, called to negotiate permits for us to salvage a few hours of skating after some of the special events this season. Gene Williams complained that the CPDSA must obtain permits, and must follow strict rules about insurance, music volume and hours of operation, while "rogue DJs" play music whenever they pleased.

The police told us that enforcement is triggered by complaints. Lezly said that we didn't want to complain about our own friends. The police agreed that we shouldn't have to make any calls; they decided that the best course was to step up enforcement of the rules against playing music in the park without a permit. I suggested that people playing boom boxes for small groups fall under the Parks "conventional use" rule and should be allowed; however, the officials agreed that "selective enforcement" could not be tolerated.

I was amazed! Why would one of our own people attack the DJs who play for us on the days when we can't get permits? Perhaps it is a reaction to the way the Conservancy views us: though we are a grass roots group, we are treated as a "special event" - one that does not bring in enough money to be worthwhile. The logic of this argument leads some to the conclusion that big money is needed to buy us a spot in the park and that we must eliminate any competition in order to assure a monopoly to prospective corporate sponsors.

We, on Skaters Road, have long considered ourselves a family. We have settled our differences without calling in the police over every little tiff. We have worked hard to present a positive image during the tourist season, and in the winter, we expect to skate in the Park with little interference. Now, our off-season is threatened by those with the delusion that corporate sponsorship will solve our problems; who are willing to sacrifice our good times in order to prove that they are in control.

Since the late '70s, skaters have enjoyed our place on Skaters Road. The Circle has brought great enjoyment to us and to those who come to watch us. Travelers tell us that we are the best dance party in NY - maybe the world. If that is true, it is the spirit of our skaters that makes the party work - more politics and corporate sponsorships will never recreate our spirit.

The Skate Circle Lives!

CPDSA in the News

From the *Village Voice*, October 3, 2000 ed., "The Best of NYC - Music" by Lori Cole

"Best Public Use of Disco"

An old woman in a flowy white dancer's gown flits by with an enormous silly grin. She's no doubt playing to the crowd - a mix of tourists, business people, and joggers - who have gathered to watch the entertaining promenade of dancers, skaters, and eccentrics get down to hip-hop and disco right in the middle of Central Park. Strolling through on weekends between

April and October, you can't miss the beats of various DJ's and gleeful shrieks of skaters who participate in the Central Park Dance Skaters Association's weekend sessions. These dance parties are staffed by committed and passionate volunteers as eclectic as their patrons. Some highlight performances include a man balancing two water bottles on his head and a group of roller-skating country-line dancers. Some have grace, others just have guts, but everyone's welcome.

Central Park, off 72nd Street.

Want to be a Skate Guide?

Zephyr Inline Skate Tours is growing rapidly and is currently hiring several employees. Zephyr doubled its business in 2000 and is expecting to double again in 2001. They are also moving their offices from Minneapolis, Minnesota to Red Lodge, Montana in anticipation of expansion into new adventure travel markets.

Zephyr is currently seeking an administrative assistant / guide. This person will work in the Red Lodge office full-time and also guide a number of trips each year. In addition, Zephyr is hiring

a full-time summer guide to lead various trips around the country and in Europe. Guides do not have to live in Montana, but can and may be better if they live in other parts of the country such as NYC. Candidates should be very involved in the skating community, preferably certified instructors, and have outstanding interpersonal skills. Please visit www.skatetour.com/work4us.htm for more information and an online application. You may also contact Allan Wright at zephyrtours@compuserve.com for additional information.



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& 2 weeks in Central Park

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\$60.00 for 4 week course
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DJ's Timmy Richardson • Mark BEEEE • Cheddi" 1343" Simmons
present

Ol' Skool Skate Jam

Wednesday, November 29, 2000 7pm-11pm

Empire Roller Disco
200 Empire Blvd., Brooklyn

Come on out to Empire for some Ol' Skool Roller Skatin' Jams
with a few deep house joints thrown in!

Hosted by www.speedgarage.com and the 3 dj's

Ladies: \$6.00 B4 8pm, \$8.00 After/Fellas: \$8.00 all night



Steve Kaye shows off his moves,
and his funky skates.



Glenn Brown & Monique
Hawkins dance in the sun.

Photos ©2000, Jens Palowiski

See the Skate Circle on TV!

CENTRAL PARK SKATE

Tuesdays, 4pm, Channel 67

NEW YORK SKATE

Every other Wednesday,
7pm, Channel 56

Check out our web site:
www.newyorkskate.com

The CPDSA
would like to thank



for their generous
donation of our
new speakers and for
their invaluable
technical assistance.

The CPDSA
would like to thank
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If you are a CPDSA member
interested in submitting an
article for our next newsletter,
please contact our editor at
marciroth@yahoo.com

AMAZON.com has a wonderful new training video for all those
adults who wish to learn how to inline skate or become better
skaters. **BLADIE FLOWNESS** has created the world's first

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To check it out: <http://www.thebladester.com>



Join us! CPDSA MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

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Address _____

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Fax _____ - _____ - _____ E-mail _____

Amount of Contribution

\$15 \$25 \$50 \$100 Other _____

Check Cash Money Order

New Member Renewal

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

You can get additional applications and more information from
Lezly Ziering 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.

Member # _____

Date _____



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