

Replacement not so Hip

By Lezly Ziering

To all those wonderful people who wished me luck and shared your love and prayers with me - I apologize for jumping the gun. I was all set for surgery on Dec. 6 - the date was firm and I was ready - I thought. The week before, I had a meeting with the surgeon - to speak about recovery and rehab - and in talking with him I was made aware that I'd have to be very careful about falls so as not to knock the prosthesis out of joint and there is always the danger, he said, of breaking the bone around the implant. You may have to limit certain moves that might put a strain on the

new joint and be careful about jumps and torque and.....
HOLD IT - I don't think I'm ready for all that. I think I'll just have to live with the pain - take anti-inflammatories and pain killers - and wait till I absolutely cannot walk anymore - then I'll go for the surgery without regrets or second thoughts. So..... I cancelled it.....we will have to go through the hugs and best wishes all over again some other time. Meanwhile thank you all for that lovely outpouring of love on that last Halloween of the century. SSSSSSee ya!!!!!!!

Top 10 Places to Skate

Rollerblade, Inc. surveyed members of the inline skate industry nationwide, including retailers, skating instructors, media and sales representatives, who have spent significant time skating at locations across the country. Winners were chosen most importantly for their quality of paths and for ease of access to lessons, skate rentals and safety skate patrols. Other criteria included proximity to parking lots, refreshments and restrooms. Seven of these sites offer the complimentary services of International Inline Skating Association (IISA)

- National Skate Patrol volunteers. And the winners, in no particular order, are:
- **Central Park**, New York City
 - **Boulder Creek Path**, Boulder, CO
 - **Rock Creek Park**, Washington, DC
 - **Golden Gate Park**, San Francisco, CA
 - **The Lakes**, Minneapolis, MN
 - **Veloway at Circle C**, Austin, TX
 - **Fairmount Park**, Philadelphia, PA
 - **The Strand**, Pacific Palisades, CA
 - **Lakefront Path**, Chicago, IL
 - **Ft. Lauderdale Beach**, Ft. Lauderdale, FL
- For more information on the IISA, check out their web site at www.iisa.org

(Editor's note: Strange to say that no mention is made of Venice Beach in Rollerblade's Top Ten. The Lakes? The Strand? Ft. Lauderdale Beach? Hmmm!)

CENTRAL PARK DANCE SKATERS ASSOCIATION



NEWSLETTER
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VOL. 5 ISSUE 5

Ghosts, Goblins and Skaters

by Marci Roth

The 1999 Village Halloween Parade was quite a spectacle - New Yorkers displayed their most creative costumes and strutted their stuff to the various musical floats. This year, nearly 70 of our skaters joined in the fun and madness of the scene.

We skated down Seventh Avenue this year, then followed Broadway at Times Square, down to Union Square for a short break, and to pick up a group of Wednesday night street skaters. We continued downtown, against traffic, on University Place, a terrifying thrill ride for those us with little to no street skating experience, but a breeze for others who skate around the city regularly. We arrived at Spring Street for the start of the parade, where we rested, snacked, and waited for the festivities to begin.

We were stationed toward the back of the parade near a hip hop float, where we danced in place for almost an hour and a half, waiting for the floats to start moving. Finally, we got going around 8:30pm. Some skaters went ahead to seek out the Z100 and KTU floats, many of us stayed behind and jammed with the hip hop float, or just ahead with the Jammin' 105 FM float.

As skating clowns, priests, Star Wars heroes, and various masked

characters, we had the crowd cheering for us, and many of us were stopped along the way for tourist photo opportunities.

More than halfway through the parade, Kevin rounded up the Central Park Dance Skaters and told us to come back to the beginning of the parade, DJ Jay Stewart was going to drive his van through, complete with speakers hanging out the back, and CPDSA letters on the side.

Many of us joined him at the back of the parade, tossed our backpacks into his van, and danced and skated the parade a second time. Only this time, we

had our music, and we had a blast. Jay's batteries died at 22nd Street, only a block before the end of the show. We gathered together and rested on the curb for awhile, discussing plans for Halloween 2000.

Perhaps we could create a real float for the CPDSA skaters next year, with a larger sound system, and make our presence as the Central Park Dance Skaters known.

All in all, it was a Happy Halloween for those of us who braved the streets and helped make this year's Halloween Parade a great success!



Scott Marwin and Richard Greene goofing off in the 1999 Village Halloween Parade

THE CENTRAL PARK SKATE CIRCLE

will officially resume in late April, 2000, and every Saturday, Sunday and major holiday through October 31st. The music begins at 2pm, and ends at 7pm.

Unofficially, skating continues through the winter at the Skater's Road, just south of the Summer Skate Circle. The Winter Circle, hosted by DJ Leroy James, has been going strong from 1pm to 5pm on weekends.

THE CPDSA WOULD LIKE TO WISH ALL OUR MEMBERS A HAPPY AND HEALTHY HOLIDAY SEASON!

NY AREA ROLLER RINKS

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

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

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

CPDSA COMMITTEE MEMBERS

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

OFFICIAL CPDSA CONTACTS:

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

Join us!

CPDSA MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

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Home Phone _____

Business Phone _____

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.

During the summer skate season, 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.

During the winter, contact us at 212-760-4848 for more information on membership. And be sure to visit our web site at www.CPDSA.org



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

Horrorween

by Lezly Ziering

This year, 1999, marked the fifth year that I have been immersed in the planning, choreographing and directing of the Skatefright show. I took on this task again in spite of the vehement objections of my wife Robbin. Why indeed would I not - it's what I do - and I feel a strong sense of propriety toward Halloween in Central Park. Flashback...

Saturday, July 4, 1995 - the newly formed CPDSA, after a four

month hard fought battle against daunting odds, has its first officially sanctioned event since being shut down by the Police and Parks Departments in April - a trial run we are told. It is an unqualified success and we are given another Saturday two weeks later (why not the next week - but who are we to reason why). Once again the event went well. We request Saturdays and Sundays from 2:00 - 8:00 - we get Saturdays 1:00 - 5:00.

As the season progressed the hours and days were doled out, until by midseason we were running weekends from 2:00-6:00. So successful and popular was the Skate Circle that we were summoned for a meeting and told that we could choose a day to have a fund raiser and do a show and Parks would try to obtain sponsorship for the event. I said without hesitation, Halloween - and everyone agreed. Brent Noseworthy's

son Tristan suggested we call it - Skatefright.

Posters went up all over the city, radio spots peppered the airwaves - without any mention of the CPDSA. Our protests finally resulted in our tiny logo being added to a few of the posters. We were required to rent a sound system because, we were told, ours was not powerful enough - odd when you recall that we were shut down 6 months earlier for being too loud - HELLO!

Skatefright, complete with pumpkin patch, vendors, sponsors banners and costume and skating contests for children and adults, brought about 7000 people to Skaters Road and the well thought out staging area enclosed by four bleachers. The performers all volunteered their talents - ten time national champion April Allen, Bill Butler's Company, Roger G and of course the Central Park skaters and dancers - and gave a bangup performance. After the show we skated in a light drizzle till a little after 6:00. We were told that Skatefright was such a success that the following year it would be expanded to a parkwide Halloween Party in Central Park and that in all likelihood it would become an annual tradition with Skatefright as a central focus.

Skatefright 2, over our vehement protests, was moved to the bandshell which effectively eliminated some performers, who refused to deal with the surface and made skating somewhat less enjoyable for our skaters. We negotiated some remuneration for our headliners, but once again got stiffed in the publicity department. Appearances were made by Commissioner Henry Stern and Mayor Giu-

liani. After the show we moved back to the Skate Circle and skated till dark.

The following year I was informed by the Parks special events rep that money was no object - he wanted the top skate talent in the country for **Skatefright 3** which was slated once again for the bandshell. I recommended Steve Love's NY Express Roller Dance Co. featuring some of the finest skaters from N.Y., the West Coast and Europe and of course Roger G, who will skate on any surface - with the possible exception of the Mojave Desert -

and our own skaters and dancers. Skatefright 3 received some media coverage and we were even able to get our logo on some of the fliers, however, Murphy's Law prevailed and the day started out in a steady drizzle. The show was delayed till the rain let up. The NY Express, though they performed brilliantly, had to cut their show short - the rain started again while they were on stage. Steve Love's rain or shine Parks Dept. contract was not honored - his partial payment barely covered airfares and hotels for his out of town skaters and some salaries. A humiliating experience for him and for the CPDSA.

Though **Skatefright 4** was a resounding success, we were not

happy campers. Skaters Road was taken over by Rollerblade whose skate venue attracted ten children the entire day - while we were relegated to Cherry Hill whose ruts and potholes were inadequately patched with a substance resembling lumpy coal tar. We then had to relocate to the Bandshell for the show and finally, move yet again, to our own area after the show, where we boogied till 6 PM. The final fly in the ointment - after

verbally agreeing on a budget with Special Events, they side-stepped the contract we prepared for them and took nine months to pay half the

originally agreed upon amount.

Which brings us to **Skatefright 5** - I thought we had all the bases covered. We successfully negotiated to bring the event back to Skater's Road and outlined approximately the same area as we had for Skatefright 1. We negotiated a fabulous sound system with Crate Audio. Parks agreed to patch the cracks and resurface the area. Well in advance, upon request of the Parks Department, I submitted the rundown of the day's schedule with a breakdown of our approved budget and an invoice so that they could prepare our contract. The week before Skatefright we were informed that we had to shut down by 5:00 P.M. - a

complete departure from the past four years, but OK we would live with that - starting our open skating at 11:00 A.M. and skate again after the show till 5:00. When I arrived on the scene at 9:00 A.M. and saw where the bleachers were I was flabbergasted to see how spread out our staging area was. I was not surprised to see that no resurfacing had been done. The show, nevertheless, was excellent - The Heavyweights and the Central Park Dance Skaters, the sensual dancing of sinuous James Hunter, Bill Butler and his sensational company, Miguel and Stacey's exciting and spectacular Hustle lifts, the creative and masterful performance of Roger G and then at 4:10 P.M. - out of the blue - just as we were introducing Steve Love's fabulous new production "Break", featuring the awesome NBS Crew - the culmination of our show - along comes the Park rep to tell us we have to shut down the show, it is past 4:00 and we are over our time. What happened to 5:00 - we argue - I beg and plead - this is the last act - I tell Jay Stewart to start their music. I think we are going to make it as the NBS Crew begins their breathtaking, gravity defying performance - but no - before the climax of their performance, the Park Rangers move in with the largest force I have ever seen in the park - some on horseback. I didn't know that many Rangers existed. To our utter amazement and humiliation, at 4:25 P.M. - THEY SHUT US DOWN !!! Coitus Interruptus! Steve Love is livid - the remarkable NBS Crew is furious - the crowd left in shock at this ultimate disrespect.

The CPDSA would like to thank

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The View from Skater's Road

by Bob Nichols

First, let me assure you that I am talking about the physical universe - not some kind of metaphorical, metaphysical state - just you, me and the music; skating around in the Circle. If you've been there, you've felt the forces working on you as you roll. Classical Newtonian physics uses calculus to describe them in complex equations - like the acceleration you feel when you lean into a downhill turn - the whip that snaps you around the corner. You may or may not be able to quote the formula for centrifugal force, but you feel it when you are spinning and you know how to use it if you can spin. There are a lot of complex forces acting on us when we skate; we don't have to be physicists to understand how to use them. We trust ourselves, our experience and our intuition when we skate.

In the Skate Circle, we have a wonderful way of synchronizing our separate motions: music. When we are all dancing to the music, the Circle is at its best. I'm talking about the Zen-like state of coordination when everyone is doing their own thing and yet not interfering with anyone else. When the people who are dancing in place or moving slowly don't block the people traveling around the circle who are using the force of momentum in their dance. The Circle works

best when we're all free and none of us interferes with the freedom of others. The music holds us together and our self interest is tied up with looking out for the other guy in order to be able to continue doing what we want to do.

The best skaters are almost invisible, they travel through the wide spaces that are vacant for an instant; always moving into the place no one else is occupying in that millisecond. They never bully or threaten the people around them, they look out for those who are limited in their skills, for their own safety as well as for the others .

Each of us must find our own personal space in the midst of the crowd and use our own unique skills to adjust our speed and position to synchronize with the music and the motion of the others around us. We can achieve that balance of cooperation and individuality by exercising common sense and courtesy; we don't have to be geniuses in physics.

Personally, though, I believe that if Albert Einstein had been a skater, we would now have a unified field theory of physics and we would we would have the technology needed to allow us to skate without wheels! The skate circle lives!

Skating Down Under

by David Linton

Both Australia and New Zealand are welcoming places for skaters to visit. A look at the several Australia Roller Skating Web sites will identify a large number of rinks all across both countries. I've skated in a few of them as well as out doors and here's what I found.

I did not see a lot of casual street skating in Sydney, Brisbane, Auckland or the smaller cities I've been to. Since my last trip was three years ago, things may have changed. One of the large parks in Sydney, Prince Albert Park, has well-paved roadways and allows a good workout, but I was the only skater in sight. But there is one outdoor spot in the Sydney area worth carrying your skates to.

Bondi Beach is at the South edge of the opening to Sydney Harbour, more than half an hour's bus ride from downtown or the Opera House parts of town. It has earned a reputation for being a great party locale. Set back from the beach is a row of mostly small hotels, restaurants and shops. The scene feels like a mix of South Miami Beach, Venice, CA, and the New York Riverfront zone on the Lower West Side.

The beach itself is broad and beautiful, made even more so (at least for me) by the fact that the bathing suits are small and topless bathing is common on many Australian beaches, especially so on Bondi's permissive shores. (It seems to me this is one of the differences between a country settled by ex-convicts and one founded by religious fanatics - but I digress.) Along the beach is a wide, paved promenade which stretches for two miles or more from a large swimming pool nestled into the rocks at the shore line so that sometimes the waves break over the edge and splash into the pool past the band shell and other amenities to the North end of the beach cove.

Along the way there is a series of beautiful spray-painted murals and a special space set up for skate and skate board tricks: two half-pipes and some ramps and rails. Even if you don't skate, Bondi is terrific, but gliding back and forth on the promenade on a beautiful day is a skater's delight.

I only visited one indoor rink in Australia, in a little town named Ballina on the East Coast about mid-way between Sydney and Brisbane. This night there were mostly kids and it was a friendly, curious crowd. It became clear to me that folks at that location have a different approach than I do when one 13 year old girl asked me, "Aren't you ashamed to skate like that?" Of course, she might have simply meant to say that I was so bad that I shouldn't skate in public, but I suspect it was more of a style thing. After all, that's what draws the crowd to our scene in Central Park, isn't it?

The Friday I arrived at my hotel in Auckland, NZ, I scanned the local paper and discovered that the New Zealand Roller Skating Championships were being held that very weekend. I attended that night's event, held in a local high school gym, and watched a few events including the Pairs Dance Routines. It was kind of boring, although it was fun just being there and buying the commemorative T-shirt.

A week later in a town renowned for its collection of Art Deco architecture called Napier, toward the South end of the North Island, I discovered another pleasant ocean front promenade which included a nice, paved outdoor skating rink. Unfortunately, the weather was cool that day so the place was empty, but just so I could say I'd done it, I laced up, slipped on my head phones and danced to some of DJ Jay Stewart's tunes half a world away. I hope I left a bit of the CPDSA spirit behind.

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

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