



UPCOMING EVENTS

**JULY 4:
 BORN ON THE 4TH OF JULY**
 Come to the CPDSA Skate Circle and celebrate our 4th birthday! Details of this big event are in the works.

**SEPTEMBER 6:
 LABOR DAY BASH**
 Celebrate Labor Day 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.

Anniversary Bash by Lezly Ziering

Born on the 4th of July 1995, the CPDSA takes pleasure in wishing all its members and loyal supporters a happy 4th anniversary. As you can see, we have grown substantially and are constantly striving to improve the event we bring you each week. On the July 4th weekend, we will once again seek to enlist your support when we offer CPDSA paraphernalia for sale, to raise funds to defray the not inconsiderable cost of bringing out the music for you, 7 months of the year. We also hope to add some sorely needed new

members to our rolls; so, for those of you have been riding the bandwagon without paying the fare, we would appreciate your support. On Sat. the 3rd, music will be provided by two DJs - Leroy James & Nick Johnson. Entertainment for our anniversary bash on Sun. the 4th, will be provided by our skaters and friends. Our DJ once again will be Jay Stewart, who will be spinning live (a term that never ceases to unnerve me - I blanch at the alternative). We have a few surprises in store for you - one of

our skaters is a former star of the Moscow Circus - he will amaze you, as will hustle champs Miguel Marrero & Stacy Redler and our very talented crew of skaters you all know & love. Rounding out the weekend, on Mon. we will feature a new DJ - Ricky Rivera who will be spinning live. In true CPDSA tradition we bring all this to you from our hearts and sincerely hope that we can make this last Independence Day of the 20th Century an enjoyable and memorable one for you all.

CPDSA—Known Everywhere by David Linton

On my way to Hawaii to attend a wedding, visit some friends, enjoy a January vacation and find some new skating spots, I stopped for two days in Santa Monica for a pilgrimage to Venice Beach. My favorite transplanted Central Park skater, Joyce Katz, now lives (and skates) in the vicinity, and we periodically get together to skate the beach pathways along Malibu, Santa Monica and Venice. Joyce is always eager to hear what's going on among the CPDSA skaters who we both know, and she sends greetings to all the Roxy and Park crowd.

Sundays with a pushbroom to clear away the wind blown sand and to set up the music. Like New York, there are some extraordinary skaters and a lot of variety, but the tone of the scene is quite different. In the half dozen or so times I've skated there it always seems to me that it's more competitive and show-offish than in Central Park, more edgy or testosterone laden. It's a lot less welcoming than New York,

which may come as a surprise to those who think of California as laid back and open. The promenade along the beach front in Venice is incredibly exotic with innumerable shops, restaurants, performers, booths, tables, displays, and promoters of every conceivable cause - a cross between a carnival side show and a county fair. And that's not to (Please turn to page 3.)



Skaters enjoying a beautiful day in the park.

**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



Join us!
CPDSA MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Member # _____
 Date _____

Name _____
 Address _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip _____
 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.

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.

OFFICIAL CPDSA CONTACTS:

Skate Diplomats

by Cathe Sheehan

I moved to New York to learn to dance skate. I have been an avid skater for several years and have only recently converted to traditional roller skates, however, I am frequently asked about dance skating. Questions like: How hard is it to learn to dance on skates? Can just anyone skate dance? Is there a difference between blades and quads? What kind of skating is harder? Why did I choose dance skating?

While these are all valid questions, I sense that embedded in them somewhere, is a basic misunderstanding about dance skating as a discipline. Non-dance skaters' perspective seems to be

that dance skaters aren't "true skaters". I have learned - first hand - that this view is far from the truth. My experience is that skaters who take up skate dance are focused and extremely determined. Keeping your balance while performing a wide variety of moves on wheels and timing them to an equally wide range of music can only come from an inner desire to make the impossible seem easy. Most of these moves are mastered only through practice, persistence, much guidance, many hours of repetition and sometimes injury.

As a group, I have found skate dancers to be helpful, casual peo-

ple who care about each other as individuals, not just as skaters. We approach our sport with a strong respect for other dancers' styles and personalities. There is a cooperation among dance skaters that I have not experienced in hockey, ramps, aggressive, or racing venues. Dancing on skates requires a high level of athleticism, but many of the "attitudes" found in other sports are conspicuously absent in dance skating. Dance skaters do not look down on other forms of skating - or other form of athletics, many play other sports, bike, run, or work out. What we share is a special affection for an activity that allows us to combine artistic

expression, athleticism, and social interaction in one experience. I am delighted to be a "junior member" of this strong and diverse community.

Perhaps the most important feature of dance skating is its high visibility to the public at large. Central Park is our weekend stage. Because we draw the attention of, and respond to questions from curious non-skating onlookers, dance skaters have become the diplomats of skating. The goodwill we generate can give all skaters a better reputation; something to keep in mind the next time you roll out to the park.



CPDSA and Dance Skating in Central Park, Our History

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

by Allen Wardwell



Our numbers grew, and they were fed by skaters who rented from Good Skates which operated out of what is now the maintenance shop at Mineral Springs Pavilion just up the hill to the West from us. Good Skates had its own music, and many first time renters started their skate dancing in the tiny rink right in front of the rental shop. We even had music on some weekday evenings. Anyone could bring a box. Later, Paul designed a nice tape deck he'd set up and many of us brought our own tapes for him to play.

As time went on, Wayne brought out much more sophisticated equipment including amps and a good deck, and we soon started moving to uninterrupted sounds. The problem was always how to get enough power. Wayne tried car batteries and a gasoline gen-

erator (too noisy). He even tapped electricity from one of the street lights just east of where we skated, hiding the wires under newspapers and towels, but the cops soon found him out. Gradually, in their own home grown inventive ways the music and the systems were getting more sophisticated.

Around 1988, dance skating took a quantum leap forward with the arrival of Zee (aka Blade Runner) and his car battery operated deck, amps and home-made tapes. He towed the whole rig from the back of his souped up custom made bicycle and set himself up on a beach blanket under an umbrella. From then on, we were really in business. The music was great, and we felt we'd really arrived. Zee lasted a couple of years, but one day because of some renovation project, Parks ran a chain link fence right across the North end of the rink, cutting off a good quarter of our area. That was the end of it for

Zee, but there was always a solution and someone else to step in.

We moved to the large rink opposite the Sheep Meadow, and Wayne came forward again before Carl (aka Blue) took over with his excellent sounds. By now, there were usually at least two places where music was being played and with the power we had, it was getting louder as well. When Blue

left us for Venice Beach in 1993, Hector took over with his super powerful system and his own

tapes, and the next year, our man was Pete (aka Fafir). Pete also worked as the jockey at Wollman on their disco nights, and he was with us on the blackest day in our history: March 25, 1995.

As he came over to set up on that fateful day, he found a bunch of patrol cars in the middle of our rink. When he moved and the first notes were sounded, an officer pulled the wires out and told him it was against the law

**IT WAS AGAINST THE LAW TO
PLAY AMPLIFIED MUSIC IN THE PARK
WITHOUT A PERMIT. WE WERE ALL
SHOCKED OUT OF OUR MINDS.**

to play amplified music in the park without a permit. We were all shocked out of our minds. Moses, Pete's brother, got a bongo group to supply us with some kind of beat, but that was immediately outlawed as well. It was clear when the cops brought mounted enforcers out the next week they meant business. Ostensibly it was because we were making too much noise. Captain Bayer talked about zero tolerance, the need for peace and tranquility, and the fact that our crowds encouraged drinking and crime and all kinds of other problems. We could never figure out where it came from, but suspected the Central Park Conservancy responding to apartment dwellers on Fifth Avenue who on humid days (if they were in town) claimed to be bothered by our music. Then there was also that quality of life initiative from the Mayor's office.

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.

To be continued next issue.

The View from Skater's Road

by Bob Nichols

Is it my imagination or has the Circle become more crowded than ever before? There are so many people passing through - so many new faces - that it's hard to hold onto the friendly party atmosphere we've come to expect when the Circle is rolling. The Circle is growing and the CPDSA must find a way to grow with it.

We've been experimenting with the rest areas and the freestyle areas; trying to get them to work better. This can sometimes cause confusion, but you should be confident that the changes will be for the better. We really do have to thank Steve Heurung for the carefully thought-out, tediously drawn grounds plan. He has committed a huge chunk of time and hard work designing, planning, chalking and taping off experimental perimeters - so that we can determine the best configuration for our area.

Maybe you've noticed an improvement in the sound system. Bill Levy has been hard at work upgrading the equipment; adding a more sophisticated mixing board, a CD player and a high quality wireless microphone system. Some of the money for these improvements has come out of CPDSA funds, but plenty of it came out of Bill's pocket. He

doesn't do this because it's going to make money for him (it's not), he does it because he loves the Circle and wants us all to have the best experience skating there. Steve and Bill are only two examples of the generosity of spirit that goes into maintaining the Circle.

You might be very surprised to learn how much time, effort and money Gene, Lezly, Marci, Alonzo, Robbin, Monique, Muhammad and the rest of us expend on the operation of the CPDSA.

Some of you pitch in with the work every week when we set up and break down the equipment; I would like to thank each of you personally for your help. However, there is one important thing not enough of you have done this year: renewing your membership. The fifteen dollars we ask for dues is a pittance when you look at the hours of enjoyment you get from the Skate Circle. Yet, too many of you come week after week and give nothing back. The Circle can't keep operating at the level of service you've learned to expect, unless more of you dig into your pockets and do the right thing - join the CPDSA.

The skate circle lives!



Arnold and friends jamming to the funky beat on a hot summer day in the Circle.

CPDSA-Known Everywhere (continued from page 1.)

mention the Muscle Beach set up, an open-air body building site where the buffed and the buff wannabes display their forms next to a building in the shape of a bench press rack. On skates the whole scene is easily enjoyed and for relief from the crowds one can simply return to the beach pathways and cruise in the sun.

There doesn't seem to be much skating in Hawaii. In fact, I was stopped by a cop in Honolulu who informed me that skating was not allowed in the Waikiki area other than in the park at the end of the beach. That's too bad because the streets are smooth and open though it can get annoyingly crowded.

Before leaving on my trip I had tried to research skating opportunities but could find no rinks listed in the phone books or web sites. However there was one special moment. I had been skating up and down the ocean front

streets and parking lots of the small town of Kihei on the island of Maui when I decided to stop for a smoothie at a little shop facing the beach. As I placed my order at the counter, the young woman running the blenders glanced at my CPDSA tank top and did a double take.

"Hey! My friend's father skates in Central Park!" she exclaimed. "What's your friend's father's name?" I asked.

She thought a moment and replied, "I think it's Randy. Yeah, I'm pretty sure it's Randy."

We exchanged New York lore for a few minutes but could make no more connections, so I finished my drink and skated away pleased at CPDSA's having been recognized.



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