



EVENTS SCHEDULE

SATURDAY JULY 14TH

DJ Robert Scott

SUNDAY JULY 15TH

DJ Misbehaviour

SATURDAY JULY 21ST

Robert Scott's birthday
(DJ Wall Street opens)

SUNDAY JULY 22ND

NO SKATING due to
Native American Water Ritual

SATURDAY JULY 28TH

DJ TBA

SUNDAY JULY 29TH

DJ TBA

THE CENTRAL PARK SKATE CIRCLE

takes place every Saturday,
Sunday and major holiday
in 2001 from April 15th to
October 31st. The music plays
from 2pm to 7pm.

CPDSA COMMITTEE MEMBERS

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

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On the Web: www.CPDSA.org

Pick of the Crop by Lezly Ziering

Counted your blessings lately? Here's one for your top ten. The Skate Circle has aired 7 DJs so far and we are not even at mid season - and there are a couple in the wings who'll be coming at you soon. These are talented, knowledgeable, professional DJs who are volunteering their services - free - gratis - no charge - from their hearts to you and me!

So the next time you are not totally delighted with the fare - please stop and consider that someone is putting him or herself on the line to bring you joy. Oh I know what your expectations are - and yes, we all want the best; which is what you do get most of the time. But let me tell you, skaters, when you are not happy with the music, you let us know it loud and clear - shrinking violets you are not - and we

welcome your feedback - encourage it.

Do not think it's easy keeping everyone, including the DJs happy. You should be aware that on those occasions when someone comes to us and says, "this DJ sucks," or "nobody wants to skate to this s--t" - there are a half a dozen other skaters coming up to us saying, "this DJ is the best" and "Oh yeah, this is where it's at!" I am delighted to report that in the last 3 or 4 weeks I have heard only raves - we must be doing something right.

One thing I have learned is that most professional-caliber DJs learn what it takes to turn you on - like I said you don't make a secret of what punches your hallelujah button. Give them a chance, let them develop - don't be quick to call for the hook -

they want nothing more than to give you the music you want to hear. The few who do not get it, will eliminate themselves. By exercising patience you nurture a DJ pool with depth - we all win.

I would like to acknowledge our Doctors of Discology - to thank them for their dedication and generosity - DJs Julio, Leroy, Misbehavior, Nick Johnson, Rikky Rivera, Robert Scott & Roy (Kid Flash) - our gratitude and commendation for a job well done.

No tribute would be complete without extending our thanks to DJ Jay Stewart for the wonderful days he has given us in the past - we would love to have him back.

To all of our DJs past and present - you have our appreciation and our wishes for continued success.



Felix Santiago doing his thing at the CPDSA's "Born on the 4th of July" celebration.

Dancin' & Singin' in the Rain

by Lezly Ziering

Gene Kelly would have loved the Skate Circle - and could have taught us a few tricks too, as you well know if you ever saw him bust a few on his quads in the film "It's Always Fair Weather." On Sunday, July 1, when the T-storms hit, in the middle of our skating day, I thought of Gene in his most famous and memorable song and dance number, "Singin' in the Rain."

The way he danced and sloshed through the puddles with joy bursting through his very pores. By God that was us!!

For sure a lot had to do with our superlative DJ, Robert Scott, who blew it out with some extraordinary mixes; but our skaters didn't want to come in out of the rain. Yeah some of us came in under the shelter and did the "tarp boogie" the Circle is famous for. But a whole lot of skaters just didn't care a whit that the skies had opened up on us-and just skated and slid and hockey stopped through puddles and bearings be damned! The sheer joy I witnessed out there on that first

Sunday (we didn't see much Sun on that day) of July swelled my heart with pride to be a part of such passion and commitment.

The kinship and camaraderie, which has always been a high in our community, was never more apparent than in that downpour.

I heard one skater call out to his buddy who was doing power slides through the puddles - "your bearings will be rusted solid tomorrow!!" "Tomorrow I go to work - today I wanna skate," came the reply.

Earlier this season the Skate Circle experienced some uncharacteristic conflict and disharmony which saddened and distressed me deeply, dedicated as I am to the quality of our experience and the satisfaction and fulfillment of our people. We have worked hard to find solutions to enhance and enrich that experience; and days like this assure me that we are on the right road.

We're dancin' and singin' in the rain. Oh yeah!



Lezly Ziering wishes everyone a happy 4th of July on the CPDSA's 6th birthday.

Photo ©2001, Kenneth Nelson



DJ Nick Johnson pauses for a moment to pose with friends: CPDSA volunteer Joe Faraci, DJ Julio Estien, DJ Nick Johnson, DJ Leroy James, CPDSA Chairman Lezly Ziering

Photo ©2001, Bob Nichols



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

The Art of the DJ

by Harry Falkenstein & Marci Roth

Following up my education on NY dance radio from NYU's college radio station - 89.1FM, I learned some buzzwords of the new generation of DJs. T.O. Sweet, one of the hosts of "The Candy Store," a house program which airs on WNYU on Monday nights from 10:30pm - 1:00am, introduced a DJ who was to play on the show, "I know this DJ from classics, but tonight, he's brought some 'joins,'" meaning some brand new records, possibly not yet released on a record label.

"Soon to be new," a phrase used by Neil Aline, DJ of the now-cancelled WNYU house & techno music program, "BPM," describes the freshest tracks, available as yet only to DJs connected to producers within the music industry.

The WNYU DJs give track listings at the top of each hour, rather

than between each song as in Top 40 radio. The music they play is mixed well, so the flow of the music is seamless. Making an announcement during a mix would spoil the vibe of the music.

Many DJs haunt the record stores weekly, updating their collections. Our good park DJs bring with them a new "lineup" each week-end to spontaneously choose from as they read our collective skater mood. Our park DJs don't create the music, rather, they coordinate the flow to keep us moving around the circle. "NY DJs Don't Take Requests," reads a sign posted at the Wollman Rink by former park DJ Carl Moore in the late '80s. The problem with making requests is that it may insult the DJ, who has the talent to feed off the crowd's energy, and decide what to play next.

The View from Skater's Road

by Bob Nichols

Sometimes it takes a struggle to make us appreciate those things we really love. Back in April of 1995, when the City stopped us from playing music on Skaters Road, we learned very quickly how much we wanted it back. We organized the CPDSA; we wrote and signed petitions. We contacted Commissioners, Borough Presidents, City Council Members and others in the City government and we kept on skating.

We negotiated fruitlessly for months. One skater - Stu Popovitz - built us a mini radio transmitter and we created a Radio Skate Circle that puzzled a lot of tourists who watched us skate together in apparent silence, but with everyone dancing to the same beat.

I'll never forget the first day that we got our transmitter working, it was just a boombox with its speakers unplugged, attached to a little black box with an antenna. A new DJ in the park - Jay Stewart - played tapes for us and though we had to wear walkman radios and headphones to hear our FM transmission, we were deliriously happy to be skating together again. That day, we knew we could hold the Circle together until a deal was struck with the City or until hell froze over.

We persevered in the face of adversity and in the end, won the right to keep on dancing and skating to music in the park. In the process we drew closer together; the "skate family" became more real than ever before.

On July 4th 1995 - under the strict supervision of Parks Department employees-we opened our first season as the CPDSA Skate Circle. The place was packed and the energy was unbelievably intense. FOX news covered the event and we were able to watch ourselves that night on the 10 o' clock news - if you ever get a chance to watch a tape of that broadcast, you will see a lot of ecstatically happy faces.

The legend "Born on the Fourth of July" on the back of some vintage CPDSA T-shirts commemorates that day and the achievement it symbolizes.

It's hard to believe, but this year is our sixth anniversary. Each year has presented problems and challenges to the CPDSA and each year we have worked together to surmount those obstacles. It hasn't always been easy, but we have always joined forces to fight for something we believe in - Dance Skating.

This year the Parks Department and Conservancy has been more favorable toward us than ever before. The CPDSA has been cited again and again by other groups seeking official approval to play music in the park : "but the skaters can do it ... why can't we?" Is the question.

"Well, the skaters have Parks Permits and Amplified Music Permits, they obey strict rules on sound decibel levels, sales and solicitations, ban all alcoholic beverages and other illegal substances, they have skate guards and first aid services and they clean up after their event." Is the answer from the City; we are now the ones setting a good example. Where we were once viewed as a "broken window," now, we are a stained glass mosaic, depicting an ideal urban community; which is not an easy role to fill.

Some people will tell you that what we have earned is the right to pay a lot of money for permits and to enforce a lot of rules handed down to us by the Parks Department. They might be right, but the important thing is that we are still out in Central Park, playing music, dancing and skating together.

Despite our diversity and our differences we remain a community of dance skaters who work together so that we can play together.

The Skate Circle Lives!



Linda Marie aka "Blonde Zee" spins on her wheels.

Photo ©2001, Bob Nichols



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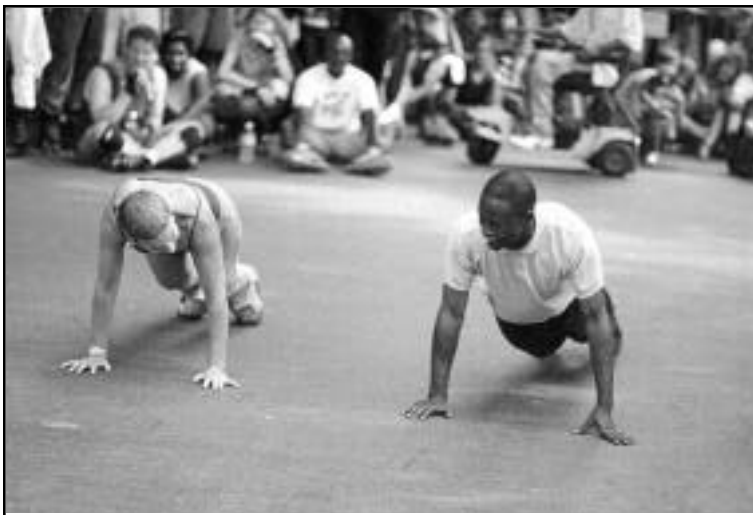


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Susanne Hunter & Jamel Myers Smith work out their dance routine at the CPDSA "Born on the 4th of July" show.

Photo ©2001, Kenneth Nelson

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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 Olmsted Way toward the center of the park. Just follow your ears. Listen for our dance music. You can't miss us.

Member # _____

Date _____



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