



## EVENTS SCHEDULE

**SATURDAY, APRIL 13**  
OPENING DAY

**SUNDAY, APRIL 14**  
NO SKATING - Parkinson's Walk

**SATURDAY, APRIL 20**  
SKATING DAY

**SUNDAY, APRIL 21**  
SKATING DAY

**SATURDAY, APRIL 27**  
SKATING DAY

**SUNDAY, APRIL 28**  
March of Dimes -  
Delayed opening

**SATURDAY, MAY 4**  
SKATING DAY

**SUNDAY, MAY 5TH**  
SKATING DAY

**SATURDAY, MAY 11**  
SKATING DAY

**SUNDAY, MAY 12**  
SKATING DAY  
MOTHER'S DAY

## Let My People Skate

by Lezly Ziering

Welcome back to the Skate Circle for the 2002 season. This year we celebrate our 8th season as New York's premier dance skating organization. I hope you haven't let your skating chops rust over this long but mild winter. Many of you I know took advantage of the freaky Spring-like weather that we have enjoyed these past few months and continued where we left off at the end of October, with more people than ever visiting the Winter Circle.

Each season, as chairman of the CPDSA, the task has fallen to me to remind my brothers and sisters of our skating community that this joyful happening has only been possible with your support and good will. Once again I must appeal to you all to dig in and give us your support so that we may continue to bring you the highest quality skating experience possible.

This year, unfortunately, promises to be our most trying time ever. Since our inception in 1995, the CPDSA has, with the support of the Parks Dept., been fortunate in having space at Mineral Springs to store our not inconsiderable sound equipment, tables, chairs, canopy; charge and store our batteries, first aid supplies and all the sundries that have contributed to the success of our venture each year.

Last season the new management of Mineral Springs only grudgingly allowed us to continue to occupy the 6x4x3 ft. space into which we creatively crammed our paraphernalia. Even though we never in the past experienced any problems with prior owners and have been considerate and trustworthy in all our dealings with the parade of proprietors that has occupied the concession stand. This man-

agement has informed us that they are no longer willing to allow us to use Mineral Springs for storage. We have reasoned, begged, bargained and cajoled - have offered to rent the space to no avail.

We had a taste last year for the first 2 weeks of the season, before Mineral Springs opened, of what we face this entire season. We had to rent a truck and a space at Manhattan Mini Storage and each day before our session, a few dedicated stalwarts met at the facility and lugged our equipment to the truck, where they loaded it - drove it to the Tavern On The Green lot - unloaded the whole shebang from the truck, onto carts, and in several trips rolled it up the hill and down the hill to the Skate Circle - unloaded everything, and set it up.

At day's end they did it again in

*Continued on page 2.*

### THE CENTRAL PARK SKATE CIRCLE

takes place every Saturday, Sunday and major holiday in 2002 from April 13th to October 31st. The music plays from 2:30pm to 6:30pm.

### CPDSA COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Lezly Ziering - Chairman  
Bob Nichols  
Muhammed Abdul-Aziz  
Alonzo Jones  
Stuart Pollack  
Steve Heurung  
Carol Spalding  
Bill Levy  
Mark Anthony Layne  
Calvin Coleman  
Steven Myrick

### OFFICIAL CPDSA CONTACTS:

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**On the Web:** [www.CPDSA.org](http://www.CPDSA.org)



The Winter Circle skate crew (with boom box provided by Leroy James) takes a short break.

"Let my People Skate" continued from page 1.

reverse, ending back at Manhattan Mini - that was Saturday. Sunday it started all over again. Talk about burnout - our crew was experiencing it 2 weeks into the season. But we did it, because we were assured that it was only 2 weeks and there was a light at the end of the tunnel, we were allowed back into our space when Mineral Springs opened. Not so in 2002 - it appears that the trek we so dreaded last year will be the norm this season.

Our aim in the past has been to make things bigger & better. Our new goal is - smaller and lighter. Our objective must be to rally support among you, our friends and constituents, to help us shoulder this burden. We cannot expect the same 3 or 4 people to work themselves to a frazzle week in and week out from April through October. We still are working to find a solution, but our earlier optimism has faded.

What do we want from you, you

ask? We need, more than ever before, your commitment in the form of ideas, your membership renewals and donations to raise funds for permits, operating expenses, for new compact equipment to replace some of our current dinosaurs and to defray the cost of storage.

We need bodies to help lighten the load of the pilgrimage from storage to park. We need a place to charge our batteries from Friday till Sunday. If anyone has or knows of a secure area near the park where we could keep a vehicle loaded with our equipment on the weekends, we could eliminate a very large segment of the drudgery of the schlep.

So my friends and skate family - it's like biblical times - we have been cast out of Egypt and are wandering in the desert with our amplifiers and speakers on our backs - without you there will be no oasis.

LETS ROLL!!!



The Winter Circle in full swing...



...while a few stragglers practice their moves at the site of the Summer Circle.

Photos ©2002, Bob Nichols

# Winter Skating

by Harry Falkenstein

Winter skating is pure, hardcore, aboriginal park energy. It's revolutionary America after the war, and before "order" was restored to the chaos of victory in the 1780's. It's enjoyably edgy with no (bless their souls) CPDSA skate guards to maintain the flow. Dogs and babies irresponsibly, but happily, dart amongst the dancers. The DJ runs purely by sixth sense as situations constantly change.

Of course we can't let the radical few compare it to our burgeoning Continental Congress, it's just a break in the winter. If permits are required, it disbands, but it does keep the summer camaraderie going and keeps some skaters up-to-date with music changes and events.

In the old days, "by crackie," we'd shovel, shovel, shovel - then the specialists like yours truly would chip through ice to the ground with the likes of shovels and my specialty - the screwdriver! When this circle was accomplished, hopefully it would dry out quickly so the boomboxes would pick up the scene. Wayne Bradley would often light fires in the metal garbage cans so we could huddle together in the colder times. We weren't blessed/jaded by the new CPDSA equipment. It was the same boomboxes 52 weeks a year so there was no season to begin or end. Thus it was simple -

adapt to the elements and make sure the stations matched as we tried to avoid commercials and keep a constant flow without records, tapes or CDs.

It was back, this past season, with even smaller audio but the same people. Some since 1978, so they might know each other's moves a little by now. Scars have had some time to heal since last summer's skate season. Now it is time to crank up the system and the committees, once again. It was actually quite a smooth summer, last year. I'm not on the committee, but I would like to thank all of them for their unpaid, tireless efforts, helmets, backpacks, litter pick-up, fence carrying - I'm sure I've missed some labors - oh yes, physical confrontations with all those egotists on various bikes, skateboards and "bad attitudes" that go unnoticed by most.

Again, my thanks to the committee who also negotiated 4pm starts on days we had been closed totally for park events in 2000. Also, no noise shutdown, no violence, that I noticed - a really upbeat season in difficult times. It was a positive escape in a real New York environment, and I look forward to the new spring skating season with momentum on the good side of life in at least our skating area.



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# The View from Skater's Road

by Bob Nichols

Once again the winter has passed and the CPDSA is ready to start a new season. Did I say winter? It just barely felt like winter - lets hear it for global warming. Leroy, Nick and Hector seemed to enjoy the mild weather, and they brought out music to keep the winter circle turning. In addition to the regular winter DJ's, two long-time skaters, James and Kevin, brought out twin fender "cans" hooked up to radio walkmen and used them in the historic Skater's Road manner - synchronized them to the same radio station. The stereo effect produced by the tiny fender speakers set up about 30 feet apart was very impressive.

As usual, the new season finds the CPDSA short of money and with a host of obstacles to our continued operations. The major hassle this season is the loss of our storage space inside the park. After seven seasons of exemplary conduct by CPDSA volunteers who have had excellent dealing with all of the former managers at Mineral Springs; the new manager of the snack bar thinks we are "a pain" and will no longer allow us to store our equipment there.

It doesn't stop there; the Conservancy has issued new guidelines for special events permits, so that now we can apply for only three weekends at a time instead of every four to six weeks as we have in the past. This means ten Parks permits per season, ten applications, ten twenty-five dollar checks and at least twenty visits to the permit office - which now has shorter hours.

In addition, new requirements for special events permits for all activities that might include more than twenty people have created the sad reality of the Manhattan Parks Dept. permit office swamped with applications and unable to handle the volume. If it wasn't so sad it would be laughable.

The strict interpretation of which activities need special events permits has resulted in bureaucratic gridlock. It is now 3:00pm on

Friday, the day before our opening day, and though our application was submitted a month ago, our Parks Dept. permit has still not been finalized. Since police amplified music permits cannot be issued without a Parks Dept. permit, we are caught in a bureaucratic limbo.

The CPDSA was formed so that skaters in the park could find a way to cooperate with the Parks Dept. for one reason: so we could continue to skate to music in the park. In order to do that, we were forced - by an overzealous mayor who never saw a civil liberty he liked, and by others who never thought we could live up to our promises - to accept the fiction that we were a special event. In truth we were simply a recreational group, a weekly celebration of life through roller skating and dance. We're not there to raise money, promote a cause, have an athletic competition or protest anything. We just want to skate around and have fun, for this we need a permit?

Over the years, the rules for special events in Central Park have increasingly become geared to huge fund raising juggernauts, parades and march-a-thons. This leads to bizarre situations for us. For instance, cars and trucks supporting an event must have a special motor vehicle permit, issued at least four days ahead of time and must be driven into the park before 8 am and can't drive out until after 8 PM. This makes sense for the 18-wheelers carrying whole stages and concert audio equipment, but seems like overkill for Lezly's little Subaru sedan.

It's like a nightmare - a huge black all-wheel drive SUV flashes its searchlight over the skaters who are doing nothing more harmful than dancing on wheels. The vehicle's bull horn roars above the music:

"All right ... stop your dancing! Do you have a permit for celebrating life? There will be no dancing in this park without a license."

The Skate Circle Lives!

# Our Sound System

by Bill Levy

The CPDSA sound system has always changed and always remained the same. We have gone through mixers, turntables, speakers, CD players, and microphones, but we still have the same amplifier and tape deck. The real change this year is that we have always had a place in the park to keep our equipment until now.

We no longer have a storage space in the park. What that means is that a few of us must get a vehicle, go to a storage room on the West side, load the vehicle, drive to Tavern On The Green, unload the car, load the carts and push the stuff all the way down to the Circle and then set up the equipment.

Then we skate all afternoon and at the end of the day we reverse the trip.

The worst part is that on the way home we have to push the carts uphill.

What all this means is we must minimize our equipment and bring only what is necessary to have music. We will have two center speakers and amplifiers, one CD player, one tape deck, a mixer, microphone and a transmitter; that's all it takes to have enough music for us to skate to. We will still have remote speakers, but now they will be supplied by some of our dedicated skaters who will bring in their own powered speakers. I don't think we will have DJs playing on turntables until we have permanent storage in the park again.

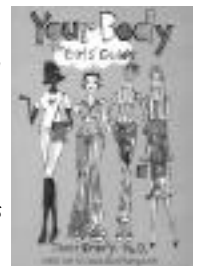
We just need music for skating, let's keep it simple.

If you are a CPDSA member interested in submitting an article for our next newsletter, please e-mail our editor at [marciroth@yahoo.com](mailto:marciroth@yahoo.com)



Dr. Janis Brody  
**Your Body:  
The Girls'  
Guide**  
(St. Martin's Press)

Janis' book has been recommended by Publisher's Weekly, Jump Magazine, and Amazon.com's Top 10 Family List



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## Join us! CPDSA MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

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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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