



EVENTS SCHEDULE

SATURDAY, AUGUST 2

Skating Day
DJ LEE

SUNDAY, AUGUST 3

Skating Day
DJ NICK JOHNSON

SATURDAY, AUGUST 9

NO SKATING
NYC IRONMAN OLYMPICS
finish line

SUNDAY, AUGUST 10

NO SKATING
NYC IRONMAN OLYMPICS
finish line

SATURDAY, AUGUST 16

Skating Day

SUNDAY, AUGUST 17

Skating Day

SATURDAY, AUGUST 23

Skating Day

SUNDAY, AUGUST 24

Skating Day

THE CENTRAL PARK SKATE CIRCLE

takes place every Saturday, Sunday and major holiday in 2003 from April 11th to October 31st. The music plays from 2:30pm to 6:30pm.

CPDSA COMMITTEE MEMBERS

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

The Rainy Season

by Marci Roth

Nearly every Friday afternoon since the season began, I've been listening for the weather report, or checking it online while keeping my fingers crossed and praying for a sunny Saturday. All too often, I've heard "thunderstorms on Saturday afternoon, chance of rain 60% on Sunday." And Mother Nature has been keeping true to those ghastly reports. This season, until last weekend, has been a skater's nightmare.

Usually by this time, almost 3 months into the season, we've acquired a tan, are in great shape, and have created, practiced and taught each other lots of new skate moves. But not this year. There have been a number of weekends,

Memorial Day specifically comes to mind, that were a total washout, meaning it was useless to even try to set up the Circle because rain had been pouring out of the sky for hours before our permit took effect. The CPDSA must still pay for the permit regardless of the weather, which makes it even more depressing when we miss a weekend of skating due to stormy weather.

On Sunday, June 22nd, the sky was cloudy, and it had yet to rain by 3pm, so I brought my skates to the park and hoped for the best. Sure enough, the CPDSA was set up, DJ Walden was throwing down some slamming house music, and the Circle was in full swing... for about 45 minutes. Then,

while a record with "rain" in the lyrics was playing, the skies opened up, and before long, the pavement was too wet to skate any longer. Many of us took our skates off and danced till 5pm, Walden continued working the decks, and I must say it felt quite liberating to dance in the rain for over an hour in the middle of Central Park. We may have been soaked to the skin, but a great time was had by all the skaters who braved the elements that day.

OFFICIAL CPDSA CONTACTS:

Lezly Ziering: 212-777-3232

Bob Nichols: 212-246-1344

Fax: 212-541-7871

On the Web: www.CPDSA.org



Rain, rain, go away, already!!!! An oft-repeated scene at the Skate Circle on weekends this season - die-hard CPDSA skaters hop over puddles and hold the big blue tarp overhead while the music plays.



Rebecca Torosian now dances in Vancouver, Canada, where she has recently moved with her fiancé. We miss you, Rebecca!

Photo ©2003, Bob Nichols

New Security Guidelines

Central Park Police Precinct has urged the CPDSA to institute tighter security guidelines in the Skate Circle. The reason for this is that there was an increase in the theft of bags in the Park last season.

The most significant recommendation is that we should not allow any unattended bags. The police recommend that you do not bring valuables into the park unless you intend to keep them in your possession at all times. So leave your new digital cameras, video cameras, palm pilots, cell phones, jewelry and other expensive items at home.

The CPDSA insists that skaters not try to dance in the Circle while wearing backpacks, so it is especially important that we

secure our bags when we are skating. We recommend that you keep your wallet and house keys on your person - invest in a small fanny pack or a belt bag to wear around your waist.

We also request that each of you bring a small padlock and use it to lock your backpack to the chains attached to the benches in the baggage area next to the DJ booth. Locking your backpack will also insure that it will stay in the place where you leave it instead of being shifted around to the bottom of the pile every time someone searches for their bag.

We hope this new policy will mean that none of us has to suffer the loss of our property this season.

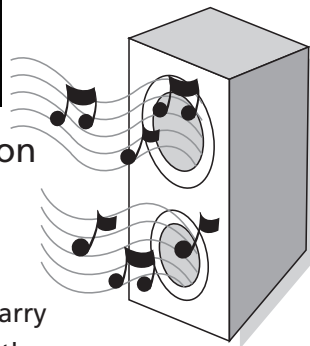


I joined the
CPDSA...
 ...and I'm so glad
 that I did!!!
 and I get to vote
 on the new
 DJ report card!

**We are always looking for new stories
 and photos for our newsletter.**

If you are a CPDSA member interested writing an article or if you have any recent photos taken at the Circle that you would like to submit, please e-mail our editor at marci@cpdsa.org.

The CPDSA would like to thank



for their generous donation of our new speakers for the 2003 season, and for their most recent contribution of new peripheral speakers that carry our music at the north and south ends of the Circle.



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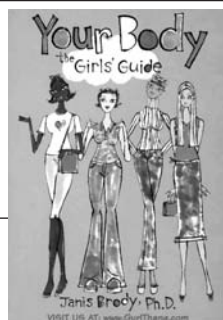


Vanda Wood strikes a pose on one of the few sunny days this season.



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



The View from Skaters Road

by Bob Nichols

This has been the wettest spring on record here in New York. After all the jokes about building an ark and growing mushrooms on the blue tarp, the fact remains that, starting on Mother's Day on May 11th, it rained on us every weekend day right through to June 14th. On the 15th, Father's Day, the sun came out and we had one good dry day. The next weekend we were rained out again. We didn't get a dry weekend until June 28th and 29th.

We got to the point where we came out even though we knew it was going to rain later in the day. There were some very iffy days when heroic efforts were made by DJ Nick Johnson, DJ MR G and DJ Walden, who played for an hour or two until the skies opened up again and forced us to pack it in. I will certainly not forget dancing barefoot in a raging river rapids that formed on the Skaters' Road during a particularly torrential deluge. We tried our best to have fun, but in the end we were soaking wet and pretty miserable.

There was a silly popular song, back in the mid 1960s that revealed to us the wisdom: "You can't roller skate in a buffalo herd." What we learned this year is that you can't roller skate in the middle of a river.

It's ironic that last month we were celebrating our good fortune in getting back storage space inside the park; we thought it was going to be smooth sailing until monsoon season started. I guess it just proves that you never know what will be coming around the corner at you next. As Satchel Paige, renowned Negro League star pitcher, used to say: "Don't look back, something may be gaining on you."

Our big news for this season was supposed to be an idea from Calvin Coleman, our

DJ committee Chairman, the DJ report card. It is a new and more constructive way of getting feedback from our skaters on the job that each individual DJ is doing. The DJ report card is alive and well - maybe just a little damp - and we're hoping to make it a regular feature of our activity.

The idea is to allow each member of the CPDSA to score the performance of a DJ on a scale of 1 to 10 - much like the rating system used for Olympic skaters. It also asks if the DJ is improving and whether that DJ should be invited back to play for the Circle again. Finally, there are questions about whether the DJ plays too much or too little of the specific types of music that are the mainstays of our skate dancing experience. This allows a DJ to know if the audience wants more R&B, House, Hip Hop or other dance music.

Of course, since different people like different mixes of musical genres, it also allows a wider range of views to be communicated than our traditional method of screaming "You Suck!" at a DJ who is playing a song you don't particularly care for. It also allows some of the quieter, less aggressive skaters to voice their opinions.

We had a test run of the ballot on Saturday the 28th and we are trying to work out the bugs in the system. As we envision it, voting for the DJ report card will be open to all current CPDSA members. Some might complain about those terms, but with the cost of CPDSA membership still holding at \$15 a year, after eight seasons, it remains one of the few real bargains left in New York.

At this point, the real question is: will the weather stay dry enough for us to skate outside this summer. Only time will tell.

The Skate Circle Lives!

WANTED

Members Supporters Contributors
Donors Commitment Volunteers

To perpetuate this highly valued and much loved source of *recreation, relaxation and spiritual sustenance*, we need your backing and your assistance, we cannot continue without your help!

This season we are emphasizing the importance of your *membership* in our organization. If you are not already a member please join. If you are already a member please renew. Individual memberships are a

bargain at \$15 for the entire season. For \$25 you can get a membership and one of our CPDSA T-shirts.

Your dues money helps defer the cost of Parks Dept. special events permits, police amplified music permits, transportation and storage costs, equipment maintenance and repair and all the other expenses we must cover to *keep "our thing" alive*.



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CENTRAL PARK DANCE SKATERS ASSOCIATION
14 Washington Place, #11F
New York, NY 10003



Join us!

CPDSA MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

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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 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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