



EVENTS SCHEDULE

SATURDAY, JUNE 1
SKATING DAY

SUNDAY, JUNE 2
SKATING DAY

SATURDAY, JUNE 8
SKATING DAY

SUNDAY, JUNE 9
NO SKATING -
Puerto Rico Day Parade

SATURDAY, JUNE 15
SKATING DAY

SUNDAY, JUNE 16
SKATING DAY
FATHER'S DAY

SATURDAY, JUNE 22
SKATING DAY

SUNDAY, JUNE 23
SKATING DAY

SATURDAY, JUNE 29
SKATING DAY

SUNDAY, JUNE 30
SKATING DAY

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

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On the Web: www.CPDSA.org

Gaynor and da Gang at da Garden

by Lezly Ziering

This past winter I got a call from Steve Kay, our friend, and an avid supporter of the CPDSA, telling me of an audition for skaters, for a show with Gloria Gaynor at Madison Square Garden on Jan.5th. The gig was for skaters to skate, a la Central Park Skate Circle jam, to Gloria Gaynor's "I Will Survive," during the halftime show of the N.Y. Knicks big game with the Boston Celtics. Steve asked me to send over some skaters for the audition, which of course I was happy to do. I love being able to get our skaters work doing what they love to do. The pay was decent and the time involved was minimal.

Petra Pope, the stunning and regal director of the Knicks cheerleaders (I call her the cheerleader Goddess), conducted the audition at the Expo Center.

They all put on their skates and and started to JAM to the music. "It was awesome," says Steve Kay, just like at the Skate Circle in the Park. Even the security people stopped to watch us. Petra selected three guys and three gals, from the 25 skaters who auditioned, all of them Central Park Skaters: Steve Kay - the lone blader, James Singley and Ray Reed, and the ladies were Lynna Davis, Sonya Lazarevic and Julie Martin. This would be the second time dancing skates would grace the Garden floor during halftime.

Last year I had the pleasure of being paid to train the Knicks cheerleaders to skate (which definitely falls into the category of having your cake and eating it) - most of these talented beauties learned quickly and loved it - and the inimitable Roger G. did the

choreography for their hip-hop roller routine.

There was one organized rehearsal for the Gloria Gaynor Garden gig, then - SHOWTIME. The skaters were told the theme was the 70's and to dress accordingly.

Steve Kay recalled, "The experience of waiting during the game for the first half to be over was very nerve-wracking. We waited in one of the star dressing rooms at the Garden...the girls costumes were ok...but the guys were given costumes that didn't fit right, so it's a good thing we had all brought our own clothes. But once we got onto the Knicks court...the feeling was awesome. The Arena was packed with 18,000 fans still in their seats, waiting to see the Halftime Show with Gloria Gaynor." What a high to hear the announcer say, "Here

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Setting up the Skate Circle in our second weekend in April.

"Gaynor and the Gang" continued from page 1.

is Gloria Gaynor and her Disco Roller Skate Dancers."

James & Sonya were a paired together and skated around the foul line circle - under the hoop. On the opposite circle, Ray & Julie skated as a couple, and Steve Kay and Lynna skated around the entire court, in and around Ms. Gaynor and her backup singers/dancers. They skated for over 5 minutes straight and were exhausted. BUT, when it was over there was thunderous applause - the audience loved them! They received kudos from everyone and after the show, posed for a photo

op with Gloria, who was very gracious to the skaters. "We did the CPDSA proud and hope to continue to promote skate dance whenever we can, because we love it," said Steve Kay.

Unfortunately, the only ones to get the full effect of the spectacle were the fans in attendance, because only a small portion of the show could be seen on TV, and even the video tape focused mostly on Gloria, as one might expect, but the skaters did a great job and had a blast, and some bucks to boot. Right on CP Skaters!!!! The Knicks lost.



CPDSA star skaters pose with Gloria Gaynor after the Knicks game - (from left) - James Singley, Ray Reed, Steve Kay, Gloria Gaynor, Julie Martin, Lynna Davis, and Sonya Lazarevic



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Historical Hysteria

by Harry Falkenstein

Some people who are blessed with cable watch skating history archived on videotape on public-access channels all winter long. They stay tuned to renew their anticipation for the coming seasons. This year I was also entertained by PBS's Ken Burns' history of New York, and Central Park in particular, to get my juices flowing for this skating season. I was always aware that history tends to repeat itself, but this surprise I was not ready for.

Central Park was designed, as most know, by Olmstead in the middle of the nineteenth century, but was interrupted by the Civil War. Its design was revised in the years following, to include Bethesda Fountain, which has a statue of the "Angel of the Waters" atop it, to honor the Navy veterans of the Civil War. This public place developed in two different ways which relate to our history.

It seems in the 1870s, there was no concept of movies, TV, or any of our modern leisure activities, so the wealthy were bored. It became a national fad for the richest to move to Fifth Avenue. According to Burns, 800 millionaires moved in at that time. Their pastime was to spend money and the women would have only one way to show off their luxurious wardrobes. That was to promenade.

Thus, every weekend became an Easter parade, or full frontal fashion event down Fifth. The highlight of this display of finery was to stroll down the Mall through the Bandshell area down to Bethesda, which was all fine and good. However, a group of recreation-seeking citizens found their niche on the newly-built frozen lake. Yes, ice skating was the documented rage, and hundreds of bladers hit the lake, without security. They were both a family and a raucous group of party people.

As it happened, the politically-connected paraders objected to mixing with the skating riff-raff, and according to Burns, a "flap" ensued with ramifications throughout the 1870s. He does

mention the skaters won out - but we knew that already.

In the early 1990s, when faced with an overwhelming attack by hockey players who intruded on our scene, the park operations manager, Toby Bergman, told us "Sports and competition ruin the dance ambiance of this place". And today you can still see "No Hockey Playing" painted on the pavement all over Skaters' Road by the Parks Department.

In 1995, when our music was first stopped by Mayor Guiliani; Police Captain Bayer - who personally pulled the plugs out of the back of DJ Fafir's amplifier - led a campaign to rid Central Park of our skating community. Police Captain Bayer ended up posing for a picture - printed in the Daily News - in full skating regalia; surrendering his sword, so to speak, to skater Dr. Judy Meyers. We won back our right to skate because we were willing to organize, get permits, security and adapt to modern rules and regulations.

So when you wear your finery on skates in our circle you will be carrying on the tradition and fulfilling the dreams of those ice skaters who, more than a century ago, won against the Fifth Avenue paraders who just couldn't bear the presence of an all-inclusive skating population.



CPDSA skater and new committee member Calvin Coleman

Photo ©2002, Bob Nichols

The View from Skater's Road

by Bob Nichols

Some skaters have been asking: "When are we going to have DJs playing records on turntables and mixing live in the Skate Circle again?" It sounds like an easy question to answer, but it's not.

We are caught in a terrible bind because we no longer have a storage space and a place to charge our batteries inside the park. In the past we had an equipment storage box in the back room of the food concession Mineral Springs; we would load up a few handcars and push them down the hill to Skater's Road. We were able to charge our boat battery - the one that takes three men to lift - and the car battery and the internal batteries in the peripheral speakers. We could store the turntables, speakers, audio equipment, the canopy, ropes chairs and medical box within a few hundred yards of our site.

That convenience made it possible for us to operate over the past seven seasons. A key part of the agreement made between the Parks Department and the CPDSA was that they would do everything possible to convince the food concession to allow us to keep our equipment there. It was a reward to us for our efforts at keeping the Circle operating within the parks regulations, a privilege that could be lost if we didn't keep our part of the bargain. Over the years we have maintained excellent relations with the series of management companies operating the food concession and we had a perfect record of honesty - no one was pilfering soda or candy bars - that's why it was so surprising when we were evicted.

For now we've decided to get small, to discard everything that's not an absolute necessity, and to truck in only the bare minimum needed to play some dance music for us to skate to in the park. The central mission of the CPDSA has always been to ensure that the music could continue. The DJs, turntables, FM transmitters, peripheral speakers, chairs, ropes, canopies,

medical kits and all the rest are amenities to make us safer and more comfortable. In the past, we made do without any of these extra comforts and we had plenty of fun.

What we've been doing over the past month is to play CDs given to us by DJs and by skaters. This has meant a much more direct access to the music selection by the skaters themselves; to my way of thinking, it's the best and most democratic way for us to operate. If the music pleases a majority of the skaters it is obvious by the way they move. When everyone is standing around grumbling, it's time to skip to another track or change the CD.

We're hoping to get another CD player so that a DJ can mix from two CDs in the modern mode. For now, we are limited by our finances and by the lack of committed volunteers willing to help with the heavy work of loading and unloading the equipment six times every day we come out to the park and hauling the battery up a flight of stairs to my apartment every night, charging it, and then carrying it back down to the truck the next day.

I'm getting too old to do all this heavy lifting if I want to continue dancing on skates. The reason I'm doing this is to have fun and skate for a couple of hours late on Saturday and Sunday afternoons. I hate to sound selfish, but I've got to admit it's the skating that's important to me, not the enforcement of Parks regulations or the public service glow I feel at the end of the weekend. That "glow" is too much like exhaustion for me to enjoy. I cannot keep keep doing this all season.

You young, strong guys must pitch in pretty soon or the Circle will get even smaller. After all the time and effort we have expended, it would be a shame to lose the Circle because of laziness and apathy. It's up to you.

The Skate Circle Lives!

▶ WANTED ◀

- Sponsors
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The CPDSA is facing the most daunting challenge in its 7 year existence.

Our budget has almost doubled from last year - and our money pool is almost exhausted.

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

We are having a 3 day fund raiser, this Memorial Day Weekend -

during which we will be giving away premiums for donations and soliciting your contributions to help keep "our thing" alive. It's the first of the five fund raising opportunities we are allowed each year.

Be generous - dig deep - we do have some hot items for you to take away and enjoy for years to come.

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



Dr. Janis Brody
**Your Body:
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Guide**
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Janis' book has been recommended by Publisher's Weekly, Jump Magazine, and Amazon.com's Top 10 Family List



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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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