
Central Park Dance Skaters Association

Newsletter © C.P.D.S.A., 1995

Editorial: Roslyn Dotson, Maureen Eckert, Bob Nichols, Brent Nosworthy, Lezly Ziering,

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Skate at your own risk!

What's Up!

Last week:

- Σ Gained the official support of Ronnie M. Eldridge Council Member 6th District, Manhattan.
- Σ Continued dissemination of the CPDSA proposal to appropriate council members, community boards, other politicians.
- Σ Presentation of CPDSA proposal to Community Board 7.
- Σ Positive dialog with officials from the Parks Department.

Action Steps Now!:

- Σ Discourage anyone from violating the rules of conduct published below.
- Σ During what is hopefully near the last stages of negotiations, it is critically important that we keep sound levels at an acceptable level.
- Σ Be cool! Everything rests on this weekend!
- Σ Let's enjoy ourselves, have fun and a good skate!

Next week:

- Σ Continued dialog with officials from the Parks Department. We anticipate either a finalized agreement, or at least the implementation of an interim accord.

CPDSA in the News

We are making an ongoing effort to bring our case to the people of New York. To this end we have prepared and widely distributed a press kit. During the last two weeks we have succeeded in getting the following media coverage:

- Σ *New York One Radio*: Talk show interview and Q & A session with Lezly Ziering and Bob Nichols.
- Σ *NYU Radio*: Talk show interview with Lezly Ziering.
- Σ *Attitude and Trouble Magazine* (CD format): Interview with Brent Nosworthy.
- Σ *CBS News*: Interview of Lezly, Brent, Roscoe, Gregg, Robert Oxnam, among others.

The Ten Commandments

Please note! Last Sunday at around 6:30 PM, one of our skaters suffered a serious broken ankle. For the preservation of our activity and our collective sake, we must strictly enforce good skating behavior!

Skating can be a hazardous activity.

1. Skate with caution, consideration and control.
2. No speed skating.
3. No alcoholic beverages or illicit drugs.
4. No belligerent behavior.
5. No glass containers.
6. No littering.
7. Respect the environment.
8. Respect our boundaries.
9. Supervise your children and pets.
10. No unauthorized commercial sales or solicitation of funds.

Have a great day!

The View From Skaters Road

Sunday May 7th, 1995 was an auspicious day for the Skate Circle. For the first time in two months, skaters were able to synchronize their skating to the same music. A "flea power" FM stereo transmitter built by electronics wizard and skater, Stuart Popovitz, was set up in the center of the oldest circle; a portable tape player was connected and one of the skaters volunteered her tape. At 2:45 in the afternoon, the historic "Narrowcast" began.

Broadcasting at 87.7 to avoid interfering with conventional radio, the voice of the skate circle is a tiny one. With a seventy-five foot range, its signal just barely reaches to the edge of the lines painted on the pavement. Within that radius, the thunderous beat of skate music can be heard as loud as you want - as long as you listen on your personal Walkman - through headphones.

While this temporary solution to providing music is not perfect, it has allowed the skaters to resume skating in a rink style "circle" which produced many smiles and a great deal of the wonderful positive energy skaters have come to expect - the magic of the Central Park Skate Circle.

Onlookers from the edge of the circle have commented on the bizarre nature of the situation; the unsettling feeling of watching people who are obviously dancing to music and not being able to hear that music. One woman complained that she felt let down and excluded; she was personally insulted by the rudeness of the skaters - for not sharing their music!

Madam, on behalf of all of us on Skaters Road, please accept our sincerest apology. We hope to include you in our activity as soon as possible.

The Central Park Skate Circle Lives.! -- Bob Nichols

Please be kind. Don't Litter!

-- Maureen Eckert (To be continued in Issue No 6.)

Thank You

The CPDSA would like to thank Captain William Bayer of the Central Park Precinct for his suggestion to use a small radio transmitter to beam our music directly to skaters wearing Walkmans in our circle. This allows the skaters to dance together in a synchronized fashion.

We hope Captain Bayer’s temporary solution will allow us to keep the circle turning and the skaters dancing while we negotiate a more agreeable, permanent solution with the Parks and Police Departments.

Once again, thank you Captain Bayer; your help is appreciated.

Fax Numbers

Central Park Conservancy: Elizabeth Barlow Rogers Fax (212) - 315-0869

Central Park Precinct: Captain William Bayer Transverse Rd & 86th Street, NY NY 10024 , Fax: (212) - 570-2864

Police Dept Community Affairs, One Police Plaza, NY NY 10038, Fax: (212) - 732-3965

Henry Stern, Commissioner, Parks Dept. Fax: (212) - 360-1345
Park & Recreation Dep Public Relations, 830 Fifth Avenue, NY NY 10021

Fax: (212) - 360-1324

Rules of the Rink

Newcomers to the Central Park Skating Circle may have only a vague recollection of roller-skating rinks in their hey day in the seventies and eighties. Some of the youngest skaters may not remember the roller-skating craze at all. The tradition of rink skating is certainly very strong in New York City at Rinks like Empire (Brooklyn), Skate Key (The Bronx), Roxy (Manhattan) and The Rink (New Jersey); many Central Park skaters are veteran participants at these and other roller-rinks. The advent of roller-blading has given disco-roller-skating renewed popularity.

In Central Park, veteran rink skaters and bladers cohabit our skate circle in a truly unique manner (at the majority of roller-rinks people of traditional roller-skates, or “quads” greatly outnumber bladers.) It is clear, even to the casual observer, that there is something like a code of behavior that allows many skaters to occupy the same small space at the same time and enjoy themselves without many accidents. Our circle is, essentially, a “roller-rink” with a few very important differences. These guidelines are intended as a reminder for those less aquatinted with the “unwritten” rules of rink skating.

∑ Common sense and courtesy are the first and second rules of conduct.

Speed:

1. Always skate under control. Skate at a speed no faster than one which allows you to make quick stops or turn aside very quickly. Remember our circle is not for Roller-Derby and is not a race.
2. Faster skaters should stay in the outside lane. Skating speed slows progressively towards the center where people often dance-skate in place or practice routines.

Official CPDSA Contacts

If you are interested in helping us, please let us know. All inquiries should be directed to:

Brent Nosworthy (718) 797-0592

Lezly Ziering: (212) 777-3232

Bob Nichols (212) 246-1344

Please be kind. Don’t Litter!