



EVENTS SCHEDULE

MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND

05/26 SATURDAY

DJ RC LaRock & DJ KL

05/27 SUNDAY

DJ Julio Memorial
DJ e & DJ Sky King

05/28 MONDAY

DJ Rikky Rivera

06/02 SATURDAY

DJ Lynnee Denise &
DJ Young Starr

06/03 SUNDAY

DJ Misbehaviour

06/09 SATURDAY

NO SKATING
Mississippi Day Event

06/10 SUNDAY

NO SKATING
Puerto Rico Day Parade

06/16 SATURDAY

DJ Benny D &
DJ Jordan

06/17 SUNDAY

DJ Hani

06/23 SATURDAY

NO SKATING
Adventures in NY

06/24 SUNDAY

DJ Mike Dominico

THE CENTRAL PARK SKATE CIRCLE

takes place every Saturday, Sunday and major holiday in 2012 from April 10th through October 31st. The music plays from 2:45 pm to 6:45 pm.

OFFICIAL CPDSA CONTACTS

Bob Nichols 212-246-1344

On the Web www.CPDSA.orgE-mail CPDSA@earthlink.net

CPDSA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Bob Nichols, President
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Michele Knowles
Darryl Thomas
Lezly Ziering, President Emeritus

Editing & Production: Bobbi Bongard

LOOKING BACK

by Lezly Ziering, President Emeritus, CPDSA

I don't feel as though I am at the end of a journey, just that I've arrived at a bend in the road, and a new vista is opening up—a transition to a less active role with the CPDSA, that I have lovingly helped bring into being, and significantly contributed to its evolution. I have felt for the last couple of years that it was time to step down as President of this organization I have loved and nurtured, and assume the less demanding, honorary role of President Emeritus.

I have actively been a Central Park skater for 33 years, from its wild and wooly days when we gathered on the roadway overlooking Bethesda Fountain, and took turns with the traffic. The cars would flow with the traffic lights, and when the traffic let up, the skaters would move off the curbs and onto the roadway to skate and dance till the next stagger of traffic hove into view. The Parks Department, concerned for the safety of the skaters, set up a sound system at Mineral Springs in the courtyard between their maintenance buildings and the food concession. The inimitable Bill Butler and his company, "Good Skates" set up an area for skate rentals. The skaters flocked, in greater numbers than one would imagine possible, to skate in that tiny space. The arrangement didn't last very long for several reasons: the confined space—we were literally walled in—and the park was losing a commercial space that could pay in revenue, so we migrated down the hill to the "Dead Road" which we

eventually renamed "Skaters Road," and made ourselves a comfortable space where we set up a skate circle closer to where the volley ball courts are today, near the Sheep Meadow.

It was the late '70s, pre-boom box, pre-Walkman, and pre-digital electronics. An enterprising skater would bring out a portable radio, set it on the ground, and there was music, not even stereo—but music!!! The next evolution was the appearance of a second portable radio, which was set up by its owner, not in conjunction with, but in competition with the first radio. So we would skate through two music zones—somewhat confusing—but doable. The next phase came about with the realization that if both radios were playing the same station—voila—STEREO!!! Then began the station calls across the circle—"BLS" one would call out—and the dials would spin—this was primitive, pre-digital of course, "KISS FM" would come the call and once again dials would spin.

As technology advanced from dials to digital, and the advent of the Walkman, the boom box replaced the portable radio in the Skate Circle and the music capabilities of the Central Park skaters accelerated apace. In the 80s Wayne Bradley—one of the original CP skaters, brought out a car battery to power a tape deck and amplifier, which after a few seasons was replaced by an evolving series of sound systems from competing music



photo: © 2012 Bob Nichols

providers, and the decibels increased with each new system. The "DJs" would "pass the hat" demanding battery money and wait until a satisfactory sum was collected before they would start the music again.

In 1994 the sound system had grown to the point that the music could be heard on Fifth Avenue. At this point the NYPD and the Parks Department requested that we lower the sound, but to no avail—the music providers would not make the decibel dip, and so after several requests were ignored, the police and the Parks Department closed us down. We formed an ad hoc group composed of skaters and DJs and met with the Park reps to come to an agreement that was doomed to fail. Our group included the music providers, who were the problem—and none too fond of the solution. But, for the time, we were back on Skaters Road!!!

To be continued...

Security Guidelines 2012

The Central Park Police have reminded us not to allow unattended bags at the Skate Circle, because of they are vulnerable to being stolen. We are a close knit community and things are fairly safe inside the Skate Circle, but there are many non-skaters coming through the area and this is not a perfect world.

The police recommend that you do not bring valuables into the park. It makes sense to leave your new digital camera, iPhone, iPad, jewelry and other expensive items at home; unless you intend to keep them in your possession at all times. This will be difficult if you are skating, because we insist that skaters not try to dance in the Circle while wearing backpacks.

Please try to keep your wallet and house keys on your person at all times—invest in a small fanny pack or a belt bag to wear around your waist. We recommend that 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.

If you insist on keeping your backpacks on the fence, please do not hang the bag from the top of the fence—lock it to the bottom of the fence—but please lock up your bags. It is easy to see someone rummaging through your bag, but if they walk out of the Circle with it, no one will notice until it is too late.

Small bags and women's purses are particularly vulnerable. Try to leave bags like that in a friend's backpack that is locked to one of the chains in the baggage area. In an emergency, you might want to speak to one of our skate guards about special security arrangements inside the DJ booth. The best protection is to get into the habit of always locking your bag.

We hope that by taking these additional precautions, no one else will suffer the loss of our property this season. After all, we come here to play and forget our worries.

If you would like to contribute stories or photos for consideration in our next newsletter, please contact: CPDSA@earthlink.net



Last Stop: A Survivor's Story

by Nelson Velez and Tommy McInnis

A true story based on the lives and work of Nelson Velez, NYPD HOU police officer, and Tommy McInnis, an MTA Connections outreach worker, truly details the lives of some of New York's unsung heroes.

<http://www.laststopbook.com>



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Travel Info: crazylegsskateclub.com

SKATING WEDNESDAY NIGHTS

Crazy Legs Skate Club

8:00 PM – Midnight

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Zulma R.

The View from Skaters Road

by Bob Nichols, President, CPDSA

Each year at the Skate Circle is different. We never know what will change. New people appear, old friends drop out of sight, new situations present themselves, and there are always new problems to solve. As we roll into our eighteenth season, we face many of the same challenges we have had to deal with since the inception of the CPDSA.

Every winter the pavement cracks grow wider and the rink guidelines grow harder to see. It's up to us, the CPDSA to fill the cracks and repaint the lines. The Dead Road—we call it "Skaters Road"—is a multiple use zone; a skating rink one day, and the finish line for a fundraising walk, march or run the next. We skaters must pick up the little safety pins discarded by the marchers that catch under our wheels and send us flying. You might think that the marchers could hold onto their pins and tags and put them into the trash, but they don't, so we have to pick up after them.

The Central Park Conservancy tells us that we should be grateful because we have more days in the park than any other event, but to our skaters, each weekend day we can't be out there feels unfair. The truth is that one of the major reasons that the city has negotiated with us—starting in 1994—was to find a way to keep the skaters from getting in the way of the truckers and tent riggers who put together the huge special events that take place in Central Park each year.

By organizing, we presented a responsible party. We were the people who communicated with the city for the skaters. In return we received a sort of

stewardship over the Skaters Road. We provided a watchful eye over the pavement where we skated, we filled in the cracks, and smoothed the damaged areas to provide a safe skating surface. In return for operating the Skate Circle in a manner conforming to all Parks Department rules and city ordinances, we gained the respect of the city and in return we were empowered.

We are a community group, a registered 501-c 3 nonprofit. We bring music, roller-skating and roller dancing to a small stretch of asphalt in the middle of Central Park and we try to make it the best skate party we possibly can. We've doing it for while—this is our eighteenth season—so we have some practice; and hopefully we are getting better at it.

Over the years one thing has remained the same, Lezly Ziering was a founder of the CPDSA and the organization has always been recognized as his creation. Lezly was there for all the seminal meetings and negotiations, he was there to help move equipment in and out of the park, he worked with the repair crew the very first time we patched the road. He has always been there to lead and advise us. Lezly has been the president of the CPDSA since the beginning of this century, so it was a sad moment when he resigned from his position to become President Emeritus. The good news is that he is staying with the organization, which allows us to consult with him and make use of his experience and wisdom in the future.

The Skate Circle Lives!



DJ RC LaRock & DJ Russell



DJ Ray Vazquez & DJ Mike Dominico



DJ Vinnie Campisi

Thank You 2012 CPDSA New and Renewing Members

The CPDSA thanks all of you who helped make this season possible with your memberships. Here is a list of those of you who have joined or renewed your memberships so far this season.

Page Baker
Annette Bernhardt
Albert Boulanger
Dave Britton
Janis Brody
Vinnie Campisi

Max Cargill
Rick Casalino
Janice & Terry Collins
Brent Crayton
Lynna Davis
Richard Deas
dijits
Tom Dowling
Richard Epstein
Jeff Goldberg
Amy Gordon
Wanda Gray
Ute Kammerer
Jordan Kessler
Karen Ann King
Sonia Lee

Edward Lifshitz
Jose Lopez
Gypsy Lucas
Chantal Mariani
Robert Mattson
Suzanne Maxx
Samuel Mends-Cole
Mark Mindes
Nancy Mindes
Bobby Morales
Beth S. Novick
Guillaume Obajtek
Tristan Pearman
Amy Rea
Salvador Rentas
Connie Reynolds

Regina Rider
Nathalie Rivard
Jose Rivera
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David Rothman
Dilta Sanchez
Jose F. Santana
Michelle Savarese
Richard Spivack
Julie Tan
George Turner
Tanya Valle
Monique Van Grinsven
Christopher White
Bob Wollner
Danuta Zakrezewska



Tyrone & Vera



Danuta & Bob

photo: © 2012 Bob Nichols

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CPDSA MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION



JOIN US!

Name _____

Date ____/____/____

Member # _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Home or Cell Phone _____ - _____ - _____

Work or Cell Phone _____ - _____ - _____

E-mail _____

Contribution:

☐ \$25 ☐ \$50 ☐ \$100 ☐ Other _____

☐ New Member ☐ Renewal

Please cut out this membership application and mail it, along with your contribution, to the CPDSA address below.

You can get additional applications and more information from our staff members 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.



CENTRAL PARK DANCE SKATERS ASSOCIATION
c/o Mark Wolf
320 East 46th Apt 18H
New York, NY 10017-3025