

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

**MAY 9:  
 ALLEN WARDWELL MEMORIAL**  
 This Sunday we will remember Allen Wardwell, an original Central Park Skater for more than 20 years.

**MAY 29-31:  
 MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND**  
 Join us for a 3-day weekend of fun as we celebrate the holiday with special skating performances.

**JULY 4:  
 BORN ON THE 4TH OF JULY**  
 Come to the CPDSA Skate Circle and celebrate our 4th birthday! Details of this big event are in the works.

**We're Back!**



by Lezly Ziering

I want to welcome all our friends and comrades in wheels back for our 1999 season. We hope to make this the best season yet and are always trying to find ways to make the experience richer and more enjoyable for us all.

One thing we have done is to expand the Circle at both ends to create larger rest areas and even larger areas for jamming at the north and south ends of the Circle. The configuration of these areas has been changed putting the jamming areas at the fur-

thest north and south ends of the rink and the rest areas between these jamming areas and the main, center circle. We expect that this change will make life easier for everyone and make the flow of activity more natural.

Another innovation we are introducing this season is the Saturday dance skate class from 1:00 - 2:00 PM. This class is geared to skaters who are making the transition from "just skatin' around", to gettin' down on wheels. It should also be of value to those of you who are on the verge of busting that move you've been working on, but don't

quite have yet and definitely for those of you who would like to be able to teach a move to someone else but cannot articulate how it's done. Finally, if you would just like to join us for the fun of it - come on by. If the class proves to be popular, we will consider adding a Sunday class as well.

We have several events coming up this season for which we are planning shows and would like to invite you to put something together and let me know that you are interested in performing. We are especially interested in preparing early for Skatefright 5 so we can organize a bangup show for that very special event.

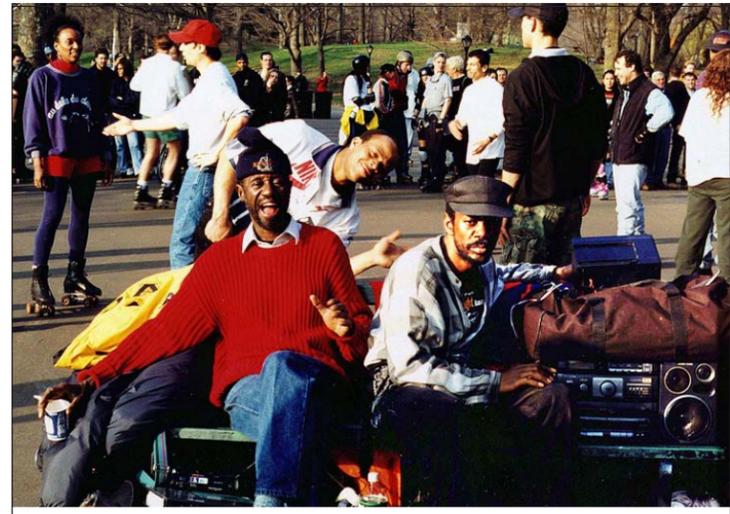
**The Winter Circle**

by Bob Nichols

the dance of snowflakes. On several warm sunny weekends over the course of the winter, Jay Stewart came out to the park with a small powerful

portable equipment. Even when the weather did not cooperate, Leroy was not alone at the winter circle. A small group of stalwart, hard-core,

In November of each year, the official CPDSA Dance Skate events in Central Park are suspended until the following April. The large crowds of tourists and warm weather skaters who throng the park in the summer are reduced to a trickle in the colder months. There is, however, a small group of die hard, polar bear skaters who brave the weather and skate all winter. Those Dance Skaters were not disappointed when they came out to Skaters Road on weekends last winter, because Leroy James was there to provide music for them. On every weekend day when the weather was dry and the temperature was above 30 degrees, Leroy was there playing dance music. On more than one occasion - when the weatherman's pessimistic forecast turned out to be right - Leroy and his compact stereo system ended up playing music to accompany



James, Quincy, Leroy and a gathering of hardcore skaters celebrating a sunny day in the middle of our Winter Skate Circle.

system to celebrate the good weather. Those of us who were there will not forget those few afternoons when the whole road rocked to the sound of Jay's tapes played on his State of the art

regulars kept the circle turning all winter. As you can see from the accompanying picture, there were plenty of skaters and a lot of enthusiasm even when there was snow on the ground.

**THE CENTRAL PARK SKATE CIRCLE**

takes place every Saturday, Sunday and major holiday in 1999 from April 17th to October 31st. The music begins at 2pm, and ends at 7pm.

**CPDSA COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

- Gene A. Williams-President
- Lezly Ziering-Chairman
- Robin Ziering
- Bob Nichols
- Muhammed Abdul-Aziz
- Steve Heurung
- Monique Hawkins
- Alonzo Jones
- Tina Freberg
- David Britton
- Carol Spalding
- Alice Garfinkel
- Melody Jackson



**Join us!**  
**CPDSA MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION**

Member # \_\_\_\_\_  
 Date \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
 Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
 Business Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
 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 Gene Williams, Lezly Ziering or Robbin Ziering in person 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 the 72nd street transverse toward the center of the park. Just follow your ears. Listen for our booming dance music. You can't miss us.

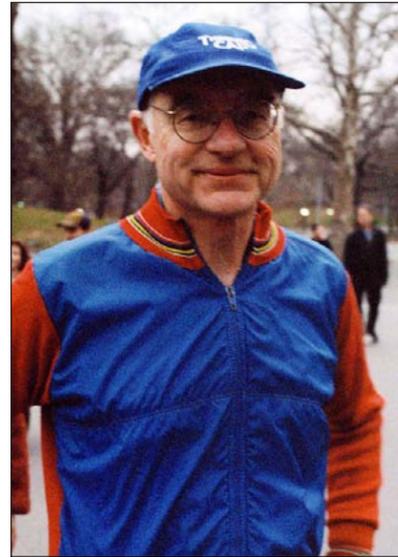
**OFFICIAL CPDSA CONTACTS:**

# Allen Wardwell, skater and author, passes on

We mourn the passing of one of our most loyal and devoted skaters, Mr. Allen Wardwell. Allen could be seen skating in Central Park through all seasons and has been a regular at the Skate Circle for many years. During our season he rarely missed a weekend dancing on his skates. Allen was a member of the board of directors of the CPDSA and one of our most generous contributors. He was on a ski vacation in Aspen, Colorado when he suffered a massive heart attack.

renowned author and consultant in the field, was 64 years old. He is survived by his wife Sally, his daughter Leila and his two sons William and Alexander.

Allen will be sorely missed by his many friends and fellow dance skaters. A more memorial will be held for our dear departed comrade on Sunday, May 9th - rain date May 16th.



Allen in the park during the winter of 1998.

Mr. Wardwell, a well respected authority on Asian, African and Native American art and

## CPDSA and Dance Skating in Central Park, Our History

Part One in a series of four on the history of Central Park Skating by Allen Wardwell

CPDSA'ers may not know it, but this is the twentieth anniversary of dance skating in Central Park. By pure luck, I was there at the beginning. In April, 1978, my daughter asked me for a pair of roller skates and off we went to Herman's, where I found some for about \$40. You can imagine what kind of skates they were, but I thought, for forty bucks, I'm going to try this. Next thing we knew we were in the park. As I was getting used to them, I suddenly came on this scene right on the roadway overlooking Bethesda Terrace of these guys with a boom box skating to disco. A crowd was already gathered, and nobody knew it, but right then and there, a new form of recreation was born in the park even if it was years before it became official.

was way before blades), but the horse buggies couldn't get through, and there were major confrontations every time one wanted to pass. The Parks Department got wind of this, and quickly came up with a brilliant solution, albeit not one you'd expect from them.

**NOBODY KNEW IT,  
BUT RIGHT THEN AND THERE,  
A NEW FORM OF RECREATION  
WAS BORN IN THE PARK.**

On a Saturday in early May, I was headed over to Bethesda, when I heard loud disco music coming from all unexpected directions. The Parks Dept. had hired a disk jockey to do his thing on Dead Road so we'd be lured away from the Bethesda road. He set up just northwest of the crosswalk, almost exactly where we are now, and to no one's surprise, we took the bait.

The pavement was old and cracked (the road wasn't resurfaced until sometime around 1983), people were walking though all the time, and nothing was painted to suggest anything like a rink, but that was how we came to our place. In the light of later events, it was sort of ironic that the Parks Department was so actively involved in this part of our history, but stranger things have happened.

After that, since this activity seemed to be sanctioned, the boom boxes appeared every weekend. They'd be there any time from noon until way after dark some nights. Sometimes, there would be only one, sometimes as many as three. There were lots of interruptions, because it was all radio and when the commercials came on, everyone waited while whoever was in charge found the appropriate music. Batteries had to be replaced by the hundreds, and we all chipped in. Wayne and Starr were among the first of our regular music men, and the rink became established in the area just south of the crosswalk.

To be continued next issue.



## The View from Skater's Road



by Bob Nichols

It's a new season and everything is slightly different, yet very much the same. The Skate Circle is growing into an oval, with more space for skate dancing at each end. If you've had enough of skating around the rink and you want to skate in a place - safe from the circling throng - you move to the outside. The rest area is between the two. It all makes sense; at least in theory.

So, things are going to be a little different, hopefully better. We're trying to let the Circle run better on its own; making it easier, safer and more enjoyable. As always, it's up to all of us - if you're a regular this means you - to set a good example for the hordes of visitors who come through our area in the course of our season. We should all try to remember how far a little courtesy can go toward oiling the working of the circle.

One thing that won't be different this year is that Leroy James will be charging the batteries, bringing the system out to the Skaters Road and setting up the sound equipment; just as he has since the CPDSA was able to reinstate the Skate Circle. Actually, Leroy has been helping bring out the music since the earliest days of the Circle. He has been keeping the winter circle running on his own for the past two years. Which is still nothing new; what has changed is that this year Leroy will be playing tapes on Saturday. I think of the job as the Host DJ or you could say the House DJ. Jay Stewart will be playing his own tapes on Sundays and he may even do some live mixing over the course of the season as he did last year. Sounds like the beginning of a great year!

The skate circle lives!

## The CPDSA Needs You

You have heard it before and you will hear it again - the CPDSA needs you. It takes a lot of work to keep the circle rolling and each weekend most of it is done by the same few tired faces. There is always plenty to do at the end of the day, cleaning up and putting the gates and benches away; you can make a big difference by taking a few minutes to pitch in and help. If you are already a member, the CPDSA needs you to renew your membership. If you are not yet a member, this is the time to join. This is one of those little things that each of you can do and the money raised is the most important source of income for the CPDSA.

The big job for one or two of you is to be the chairperson of the Membership committee; which means managing the database of members, keeping it up to date and making sure that everyone who has joined or renewed gets their new membership card.

One more thing that all of you can do; pick up your empty water and soda bottles and cans and throw them into the trash cans. If everyone picked up their own refuse, cleanup would be a snap. I should add that Lezly heads the crew that cleans up the area surrounding the

Skaters Road - up on the Hills and on the paths around our area. This is an important part of our agreement with the Parks Dept. Most of the time Lezly is the only one cleaning up the area. We desperately need volunteers to join in on the cleanup - it's too big a job for one person to take responsibility for week after week - a couple of helpers would make short work of it.

We also need people who are good with fund raising to help us get some corporate funding. We need volunteers to man our tables on the two weekends a year when we are allowed to sell CPDSA T-shirts and hats in the park. Bob Nichols has a pet project trying to collect all the articles written about the Skate Circle over the years. He could use someone who is good with details to work on preserving our history.

Finally, we are trying to come up with a sign to be posted at the entrances to the circle delineating our basic rules for newcomers. Things like "No Glass Bottles", "No Alcohol", "no skating with backpacks" ... if any of you have suggestions for good rules that will help the circle turn smoothly, write them down and bring them to the DJ booth. You can be one of the people who makes the circle work.



Fred, Marci, John and Beth practicing "the Rage" during CPDSA's 1999 opening weekend — May 1st and 2nd.

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