



**DJ Jay Stewart rocks the house**

©2007, Bob Nichols

## Security Guidelines 2007

The Central Park Police have reminded us not to allow any unattended bags at the Skate Circle, because of the very real danger that unattended bags are vulnerable to being stolen.

Things are fairly safe inside the Skate Circle, we are a close knit community and we have developed a well deserved trust of one another, but you must remember that there are many non-skaters who come through the area and... well, this is not a perfect world.

The police recommend that you do not bring valuables into the park. So, it might make sense to leave your new digital cameras, video cams, palm pilots, cell phones, Blackberries, ipods, iPhones, 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.

We recommend that you 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 also request that each of you bring a small padlock and use it to lock your backpack to the chains that

will be attached to the benches in the baggage area next to the DJ booth. An added benefit of locking up your backpack, is 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.

If you insist on keeping your back-packs 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, none of us will suffer the loss of our property this season. After all, we come here to play and forget our worries.

# CENTRAL PARK DANCE SKATERS ASSOCIATION



**NEWSLETTER**

JULY 2007

VOL. 13 ISSUE 1

## EVENTS SCHEDULE

### INDEPENDENCE DAY WEEKEND

**6/30 SATURDAY**

DJ e

**7/01 SUNDAY**

DJ Misbehaviour

**7/04 WEDNESDAY**

DJ Jay Stewart

**7/07 SATURDAY**

New DJ Jam

**7/08 SUNDAY**

DJ Julio

**7/14 SATURDAY**

DJ Lynnee Denise

**7/15 SUNDAY**

DJ Big Bob - Birthday Week

**7/21 SATURDAY**

NO SKATING - Triathlon

**7/22 SUNDAY**

NO SKATING - Triathlon

**7/28 SATURDAY**

DJ Alchemy

**7/29 SUNDAY**

DJ Nick Johnson & DJ e

## Ups & Downs

by Lezly Ziering

Skating by its very nature is fraught with ups and downs. I call to mind the meteoric rise in popularity of inline skating that virtually eclipsed traditional quad skates some years back. I saw it in my skate classes, on the streets, streams of bladers making their way through traffic, some in their work-a-day clothes, dressed to the nines with attaché case in hand, on their way to their jobs, shopping in stores, in the rinks, the parks—everywhere! In Central Park the loop became the thing to do; I heard a skater say to a friend, “Do you skate the Park?” - “Yeah, I do da loop.”

“You do da loop? - I do da loop - let's get down and do da loop.” Set it to music - Doodaloop, doodaloop, you doodaloop, I doodaloop, everybody doodaloop.

Then the downslide - a gradual diminishing in the flood of inliners, as the quad skate returned to favor. The attendance at the rinks was up - skating was on the rise again.

Then the crash - The Skate Key closed, suddenly, shocking the skate community! Then we heard that Empire was going to close; that venerable icon of roller skating. I was incredulous; I started skating there in 1945; it was my every Saturday activity from age 12 to 14. Empire - the birthplace of Roller Disco - closing? Skaters banded together and protested, rallied, petitioned, pleaded, and cajoled.

I attended a Save Empire Rally on the street in front of the rink, cordoned off by police barricades, a modest crowd of

impassioned devotees and local pols were gathered. Among the speakers were Congressman Charles Baron, Councilwomen Sabrina Lewis and the articulate Letitia James, the ardent assemblyman Hakim Jeffries who wasn't going to take this lying down - they all gave us hope - but I knew they were blowing smoke.

There were skaters who called on God, skaters who wept, skaters with creative but impossible ideas - but the one who stole the show with the best line of the day was skater Kevon Johnson who, on the subject of why skaters retain their youth, advanced the theory that “because we skate counterclockwise, we go against the clock - thereby reversing time”. It didn't save Empire - but I'll think twice about skating clockwise ever again!!

(Continued on page 2)

## CPDSA MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

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

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Home or Cell Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Work or Cell Phone \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_  New Member  Renewal

Contribution:  \$15  \$25  \$50  \$100  Other \_\_\_\_\_

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 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.

**CENTRAL PARK DANCE SKATERS ASSOCIATION**

14 Washington Place, #11F

New York, NY 10003

(212) 777-3232



Dr. Janis Brody

**Your Body:  
The Girls'  
Guide**

(St. Martin's Press)

Janis' book is recommended by *Publisher's Weekly*, *Jump Magazine*, and *Amazon's Top 10 Family List*. Available on [Amazon.com](http://Amazon.com)



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

## THE CENTRAL PARK SKATE CIRCLE

takes place every Saturday, Sunday and major holiday in 2007 from April 8th through October 28th. The music plays from 2:30pm to 6:30pm.

## OFFICIAL CPDSA CONTACTS

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## CPDSA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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**Energy around the world...UK skaters meet the CPDSA**



One day, Zoe will grow up to skate like her dad, Ricky Mujica

© 2007 DJ Julio



Phil Rosenberg skates with his daughter Solana on Father's Day

© 2007 DJ Julio

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"Ups & Downs" continued from page 1.

Then came the news about the Roxy—that world famous mecca of Roller Disco that hosted Madonna, Midler, Jagger and a host of celebrities from the worlds of music, theater, dance and sports—was closing. The Roxy, my home, where I taught skating since 1994. That rink was packed on Wednesday nights, and when the word went out that it was closing, it got more crowded still - at 10:30 you could see a solid wall of brown skates coming down the floor sweeping the Roxy regulars before them. It was a tidal wave - great for surfing but a little too crowded for serious skating. The final Wednesday skate night saw over 1,000 skaters pass through those hallowed portals.

An extra plum was tossed to the NY skate world, an even more final Friday skate night, for my birthday, the owner said. Some birthday present - "For your birthday - I'm closing down the only remaining indoor rink in NYC". Why thank you sir, I'm underwhelmed!!

Skaters wept, reminisced, ranted, mourned. Where are we going to skate - Montvale is closing next month. What are we to do? How can this be happening?

Rather quickly Webster Hall opened for skating - but after a lukewarm opening night, nobody came!! Too small! It's the floor. It's not wood. No rental skates. So they got brown skates, still nobody came.

The Roxy reopened as Club 515 - HURRAH!

A modest crowd showed for opening night - somewhat less the following week, and attendance has been hovering around fair ever since.

Webster Hall, never seen as a viable venue by the skate community at large, even though the owners tried to make it attractive as they could for us, could not survive as a skating space once 515 was resurrected

from the ashes of the old Roxy.

The one haven for skaters of all persuasions that seems to keep on keepin' on through good times and bad, through all the changes in skate fashions, whether rinks open or close, in spite of economic crises or the ominous threat of terrorism, is the Skate Circle. We seem to be the Eveready Bunny of the Skate World.

But even the Skate Circle has to make it's nut. Like Big Daddy says - it may be free - but it ain't cheap. I do want to thank the skaters who always come through for us - who understand that it costs a lot to keep the CPDSA solvent - you know who you are. Without you we would not be out here, still. But it always blows me away to see the number of skaters who come week after week and never put their hand in their pocket to kick in their share. They'll go to a rink and shell out \$15 or \$20 for one evening of skating, yet not throw down the 15 bucks for a one year membership, to keep the Skate Circle going. Our staff is all volunteers, no one of us takes home a paycheck. Our DJs - worth a few hundred per outing? You bet!! They give of their time gratis - a labor of love! Are there people who can't afford more than to throw a dollar into the pot? Possibly so, and you I thank with all my heart for that hard won buck.

There are about 60 skating days in our season - if you had to pay a half a buck a pop for that - would it be a fabulous deal? You know it!! OK - don't toss in that \$30 - give us \$25 for a years membership and we'll throw in a free T-shirt of your choice to boot. I think that's the best deal in town. Name one better - and don't tell me - "Yeah, I take your 60 days of skating to the best DJs the Big Apple has to offer and I give you bupkis."

That's a down - let's take it up a notch!!

## The View from Skaters Road

by Bob Nichols

This has been a difficult year for skating in New York. The Roxy in Manhattan and Empire in Brooklyn both closed in the past several months, Skate Key, in the Bronx, shut its doors not long ago and the huge rink in Montvale, New Jersey closed a few weeks ago. Economics, we are told, do not allow for large spaces with hardwood floors in a city as vibrant and impatient as New York; a space big enough for a skating rink can make more money as something else.

The Roxy closed just before Thanksgiving and then opened again a couple of months later; then it closed again in March to much publicity, angst, and not a few tears. We were told that the building was slated for demolition. Then, in early May the club opened once more as "Club 515." To the hardcore Roxy skate group who longed for their precious Wednesday night skate, it is a miracle; even though we know it will not be there for long.

Last November, when the Roxy first closed its doors, Julio led the Roxy Skaters over to the venerable Empire Roller rink in Brooklyn for a Wednesday night skate. Empire was not conveniently located for many of us and there were some problems with the floor, but as the weather grew colder, we were grateful for the opportunity to skate indoors. Then it was announced that Empire was going to close, too.

Kevon Johnson, Gwen White, Sam Mendscole, Michele Mcphun, Adrienne Johnson and Sabrina Lewis led an effort to keep Empire open, they had a website and an e-mail campaign pleading to the Brooklyn borough President for help. They staged several protest demonstrations that got the attention of the media. Despite the efforts of the skating community, the legendary Empire Rollerdrome closed its doors in late April of this year.

When the Roxy closed for the second time, in early March, a group of concerned Roxy Skaters found a venue where we could skate: at Webster Hall. We were very grateful to the skater who

found the place and to the management, who so graciously invited us into their theater; which made it very difficult for us to just walk away from the place when the Roxy reopened in mid May.

Our love affair with the Roxy is a bit irrational. We've already said our goodbyes and yet we keep going back; it's like a relationship, where you have broken up and know that it is never going to work, but you keep on meeting "one more time." You know you are just prolonging the pain, but somehow there you are skating at the wonderful crazy Roxy with its wood floor and expert skaters spurring you to dance that much further out over the edge...and you can't stop yourself from enjoying it while it is still there.

Does this sound too much like a soap opera? Rinks come and go. A whole string of skate clubs: Metropolis, The Red Parrot, Waverly, Sweet Rubys, Busbys, Parkside...have come and gone since 1980. At one time in the early 80's the Roxy and Metropolis both closed and there were no rinks left in Manhattan. That was when I learned my way around Central Park and started spending time on the Skaters Road .

The Skate Circle is a major part of skating in New York and it is there because we kept it going. In 1995 a zealous new mayoral administration decided to clean up Central Park and the skaters were targeted as part of the cleanup. They wanted to get rid of us, but we didn't want to go. We were stubborn, we formed the CPDSA and we kept on skating. We had a friend build our first FM transmitter so that we could all skate to the same music, we used radio walkmen and kept the Skate Circle rolling. We stayed together, held out and kept on skating.

Today, we continue skating in the park. Our little group is a tourist attraction—an odd ecstatic little dance party woven into the fabric of New York weekends. What holds us together is a love of skating and a steely determination not to let it die.

The Skate Circle Lives!



The CPDSA skates down Broadway at New York's first Dance Parade

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Kevin and Magali take a spin at the 1st annual Dance Parade

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