



CentralPark DANCE SKATERS ASSOCIATION

JUNE 2015
VOL. 21 ISSUE 2

05/23 SATURDAY
DJ Kervyn Mark
05/24 SUNDAY
DJ e
05/25 MONDAY
DJ Mike Dominico &
DJ Duce Martinez

05/30 SATURDAY
DJ Andre Collins
05/31 SUNDAY
NO SKATING
Israel Day Paradea

06/06 SATURDAY
DJ Duce Martinez & DJ
Rubin R
06/07 SUNDAY
DJ Bobby Morales

06/13 SATURDAY
NO SKATING
Mississippi Day Picnic
06/14 SUNDAY
NO SKATING
Puerto Rico Day Parade

06/20 SATURDAY
NO SKATING
Adventures in NY
06/21 SUNDAY
DJ Stormin' Norman
Fathers Day

06/27 SATURDAY
SKATING DAY
06/28 SUNDAY
DJ Arson

THE CENTRAL PARK SKATE CIRCLE
takes place most Saturdays,
Sundays and major holidays
in 2014 from April 12th through
October 26th. The music plays
from 2:45 pm to 6:45 pm.

OFFICIAL CPDSA CONTACTS

Bob Nichols 212-246-1344
On the Web www.CPDSA.org
E-mail CPDSA@earthlink.net

CPDSA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Bob Nichols, President
Gwen White,
Recording Secretary
Vera Sinnreich
Tyrone Cloud
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Duane Reid
Sal Rentas
Lezly Ziering, President Emeritus

Bobbi Bongard:
Editing, Production

CPDSA 20th Anniversary Season

This year, we celebrate the 20th anniversary of the CPDA. Of course, skating in our general area of the park has been going on for more than a century. Ice skating on the Rowboat lake, is documented in photographs from the 1880s. We have photographs of skaters in the Park in the thirties and an antique Poster for a 1936 Halloween roller skate event on the Mall.

In the early 1980s the Parks Department asked a group of skaters - who gathered on the Bethesda Terrace road at 72nd street - to move to the Dead Road because they were blocking traffic. The skaters liked the new area and soon made it their own. Wayne and Erik painted two concentric circles on the ground just south of the path between Mineral Springs and the Bandshell. That area became known as "The Skate Circle". Through the 80's a succession of DJs brought increasingly powerful radios and car stereo systems,

powered by car batteries, to play music for the skaters.

By 1994 the Skate Circle had become enough of an institution that when large corporate sponsored events drove their trucks in and started setting up tents, stages and bleachers, the skaters argued with them and didn't want to let the contractors take over. That was when the Dinkins Administration reached out to the skaters in the Circle and came up with a cooperative agreement to recognize the Circle and have it move down the hill onto the area that had been newly paved as part of the Bethesda Fountain and Bandshell Plaza restoration; if they would allow the events to set up without a big fuss. That area is the present location of the Skate Circle.

In April of 1995 the newly elected Guiliani administration reneged on our agreement and banned amplified sound in the park

without a permit from the police. They refused to issue permits to the skaters. Faced with a total ban on music in the park a group got together and formed the Central Park Dance Skaters Association in an attempt to find a way to get our skating back. Negotiations dragged on for months and many skaters gave up and moved on.

The CPDSA asked Stewart Popovitz - a skater who was also an electrical engineer—to build a low power FM radio transmitter for us. With that radio transmission and our first DJ, Jay Stewart, playing music that could be heard using FM walkman radios, we were able to get the Circle rolling again. Skaters came back and kept rolling until the city finally relented and allowed us to get the required permits. It was on July 4th 1995 that the CPDSA was finally able to play music out loud once again. Each year we celebrate the CPDSA's birthday on the 4th of July.



CPDSA Family



Diana



Big Joe



Zosia

SKATERS, DO YOU HAVE SKILLS THAT COULD HELP THE SKATE CIRCLE?

...or just someone genuinely willing to be a part of the group that keeps the skate circle rolling?

Would you 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>



Barry



Benny

The View from Skaters Road

by Bob Nichols, President, CPDSA

The weather this summer has been wonderful for skating in the park; temperatures in the mid 80s and moderate humidity. We were rained out a number of times early in the season, but most of the time we were able to skate without having to run for cover.

There is much to be grateful for this year besides the weather. We are making slow progress on a number of ongoing projects that make the Circle a better place to skate. Something as simple as repainting the rink guidelines has reiterated our presence and renewed our claim to this little corner of Central Park. Because the lines are bright and well delineated, they carry greater authority. The skaters and others stay behind the end lines and allow traffic in the main rink to move smoothly. Skaters do not have to weave around clumps of people standing in the skating area. Dancers in the center areas see the lines and understand our directions to stay within those boundaries and not block the skaters circling the rink.

We have also begun work on patching the worst cracks in the pavement and as these improvements are made no one except the skaters even notice the difference. This work is very arduous and time consuming, weather conditions and use of our area by other events limit our ability to continue the work. There is also the factor of volunteers being free when all other conditions are met: it is always difficult to meet all of those criteria. Like most attempts to change and make things better in life, they come in small increments and we do what we can when conditions are right; we gain ground slowly and try not to lose motivation.

We have been able to make small improvements to our sound system to make it more reliable, though it is a work in progress. We are still trying to solve some technical problems with the amplifier cutting out without warning. We have made some progress, by adding an additional high capacity heavy duty battery that we can switch to when we need an infusion of fresh power. Some of the problem may be due to the fact that our admittedly high quality amplifier is twenty-five years old and has served though hard duty in a difficult, dusty and sometimes damp environment. None of those factors are conducive to long life for sensitive audio equipment and replacing that equipment costs money, which is one of the ongoing problems of the CPDSA.

Because we are a community based volunteer organization with no corporate or government funding, our finances are precarious; dependent on the strength of the economy and the goodwill of our Skaters, Dancers and other supporters. This year there has been a disturbing and unexplained change in the rules of our special events permits from the Department of Parks. After nineteen seasons of being granted permission for all three days of holiday weekends for our fund raising sales, we are now allowed only one day on those weekends. This unprecedented restriction reneges on an agreement between us and the Parks Department in effect since 1995. We have protested this change, but so far there has been no redress of our grievance. This is not good for our financial picture, but we have persisted for twenty years and we are not going to give up now.

The Skate Circle Lives!



DJ A & DJ Hani



DJ RC LaRock



DJ Rob Scott

Thank You 2015 CPDSA New and Renewing Members

The CPDSA thanks these current 2015 members whose generosity allows us to keep rolling.

Adam Adam
Hector Alemany
Travis Austin
Bobbi Bongard
Dave Britton
Rick Casalino
Terry & Collins
Darryl Davis
Lynna Davis
Tom Dowling
Janis
Janice Brian J. Doyle

Richard Epsein
Peggy Flefle
Regine Gilbert
Neal Goldman
Richard Hassard
Rita Infante
Michael Katz
Artemis Koprulu
Murat Koprulu
Dimitri LaFortunne
Steve Love
Judy Lynn

Pamela Lobdell
Bobby Morales
Neil Meredith Jr
Wilie Morales
Gail Brillhart Myrick
Justin Myrick
Stephen Myrick
Alan Pfeifer
Robin Ostrow
Amy Rea
Jamie Rivera
Regina Rider

Jose Rivera
Todd Roberge
Zulma Rodriguez
Jennifer Struck
Julie Tan
Dalys "Panama" Torres
Tanya Valle
Mark & Lee Wolf
Tom Winslow
Bob Wollner



Steve & Gail



Tanya, Pop & Lynna

Photos: © 2015 by Bob Dea

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 make a copy of 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, just west of the bandshell. To find us, enter Central Park at East or West 72nd street on weekend days between 3 and 7 PM and walk along Terrace Drive toward the center of the park. Listen for our dance music, you'll find us.



Central Park

DANCE SKATERS ASSOCIATION

c/o Bob Nichols
421 West 56th Street – 2A
New York, NY 10019