

---

# Central Park Dance Skaters Association

---

Newsletter © CPDSA, 1997

---

Editorial: Lezly Ziering, Bob Nichols, Muhammad Abdul Aziz Vol. 3, No. 4

October 1997

---

## PRESS RELEASE: SKATEFRIGHT III '97

In 1995, the Central Park Dance Skaters Association - in cooperation with the NYC Department of Parks - created "Skatefright", the first official Halloween celebration in Central Park. Our skate show, costume contests, and dance skating competitions drew 7,000 people to Skaters Road and attracted international media coverage. In 1996, the event grew to encompass all of Central Park, drawing 25,000 participants.

This year, "Skatefright III" will be bigger and better than ever. Our outstanding skating show will feature some of the world's finest inline and traditional roller skaters at the Naumberg Bandshell on the Central Park Mall. Once again we will be featuring costume contests and skate competitions for children and adults, with prizes for winners in each category. This year's event will take place on Saturday, October 25 from 12:00 noon until 7:00 PM. At 5:00 PM, a skate marathon will originate from our area.

The CPDSA is a non-profit organization dedicated to bringing music and dance skating to Skaters Road in Central Park for the enjoyment of the skaters and the thousands of visitors from all over the world who observe our weekly festivities. Our multicultural, interracial group attracts and welcomes skaters, dancers and spectators from all walks of life to share in our celebration. Our weekly events are free and are run entirely by dedicated volunteers.

## The Event of the Summer Season

One of the social events of the New York summer season in the city's Big Apple must surely be that of the Central Park Skaters. This event sponsored by the Central Park Dance Skaters Association (CPDSA) brings together a mosaic of people from different cultural backgrounds, who come together for the purpose of sharing their social, sport and recreational interests.

The CPDSA is in the third year of staging this event and every year gets better. The Association's future seems to be riding on a very positive note and looks to have real staying power. Recent CPDSA committee meetings have showed much improved ability in planning strategies for Fund Raising, continuing the dialogue with the Parks Department and for managing the Skate Circle.

Public response has been quite favorable to the over all image which the CPDSA has given to Skaters Road.

Muhammad Abdul Aziz

## Next Year in the Skate Circle?

In the next issue of this Newsletter there will be a new section for your suggestions about how to improve the Skate Circle. What would you like to see on Skaters Road next year? Your opinion is valued by the CPDSA and by your fellow skaters. All comments are welcome.

## The View From Skaters Road

Those of you who read this column regularly know that my favorite topic is the unique gift that each individual skater brings to the circle. I marvel at the way our presence - each person's "dance" - changes the energy of the circle; so that each session is different and memorable. For those of you who are skeptical of this kind of rosy "spiritual" musing, allow me to offer a more concrete example.

Maybe, I should say an asphalt example, because I'm talking about the group of skaters who joined together to repaint the circle. We had to fix the mess painted on our area by some unknown party early one morning in late July. (One witness said that he saw a large, green Parks Department truck, but that is not important)

What happened was that after the lines were repainted, no one was around to keep traffic off the road. Wet paint was tracked all around by garbage trucks, police cars and whoever else passed through Skaters Road that morning. It was a disaster!

Soon after, in early August, a small group of skaters joined together to fix our rink. We had to paint over the smeared white paint with black pavement paint, redesign the rink and then paint new guidelines. The person who did the hardest work - painting the new lines - was Glenn "Torch" Brown. Together, he and I did all the painting. Before any paint went down, though, we had to rethink and redraw the rink.

It is important to note that the new design is a variation of the original work done by Wayne Bradley and Eric Brothers, several years ago and on the paint job done earlier this summer by Leroy James and Zee.

One of the major problems with the rink is the nasty twist in the downhill slope of the pavement on the north end; which is good for drainage, but tough on skaters, who are forced to negotiate a reverse banked turn. We had quite a few falls in that area when the pavement sealer put down by the Parks Department was fresh. This difficulty was alleviated by using black non-skid pavement paint around the perimeter of the curve. Richard Epstein shed some light on the problem by showing us how to give the turns a wider arc without changing the boundaries of the rink - magic through geometry.

As Glenn, Leroy and I began drawing the outlines for the new rink with chalk, we got some real design help from Peter Longauer - who is a professional artist and animator. He smoothed and reshaped the center dance area to echo the curve of the road. Somewhere along the line we decided to use a circle - with the same radius as the inside of the dance area - for the center of the rink. The result was magical! As soon as the outlines were chalked in, we all knew it was right.

One of the most tedious parts of the job was keeping people off the wet paint while it was drying. Leroy came to the rescue by setting up barricades and patrolling the perimeter to keep out wanderers. I didn't believe it until I saw it, but if you leave one inch of the barricade open, someone will find their way in and walk, skate or bike through the wet paint. Luckily, Leroy was a vigilant guard and the paint was allowed to dry undisturbed.

One of the nicest things that happened, was the spirit of camaraderie that developed in the work crew. Other skaters came up to watch us work and to offer words of praise and encouragement. We were proud of our work and we had reason to believe it would be well received.

Hector showed up almost every evening to offer advice and schmooze. Glenn named him "Hector the Heckler". One night - please don't let

**Please. Don't Litter!**

this get around and spoil his reputation - Hector even helped us carry some of the heavy metal gates and put them away; truly miraculous!

I'd like to leave you with one last observation. On Monday October 13th., the last day of the Columbus Day weekend, the circle was very mellow. The crowd was composed of regulars - the "family" - who skate there year round. There was no need to enforce any rules because everyone knew what to do and stayed within the bounds of reason and safety. Even the purple-shirted skate guards were able to relax and have a good time.

At the end of the day, as we finished breaking down and putting away the equipment, the barricades and the benches, the time came to sweep up the area; but there was no trash to clean up. Other than a few leaves on the ground, the place was spotless. It reminded me of a family, turning off the TV and straightening up the living room before going to bed; everyone doing their part, everyone respecting the sanctity of their home.

What a beautiful place!

What a wonderful group of people!

The Skate Circle lives!

Bob Nichols

### ***Official CPDSA Contacts***

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

Gene Williams (718) 319-3036

Lezly Ziering: (212) 777-3232

#### **CPDSA Membership Application Form**

MEMBER # \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_

Central Park Dance Skaters Association  
14 Washington Place # 11F  
New York, NY 10003  
(212) 777-3232

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

PHONE # ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ FAX # ( ) \_\_\_\_\_

WORK # ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ E-MAIL \_\_\_\_\_

Amt of Contribution    Check / Cash / Money Order

\$15 ( ) \$25 ( ) \$50 ( ) \$100 ( ) Other \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Please be kind. Don't Litter!**