

SLSC NEWS AND NOTES FOR JANUARY 2009

Happy New Year and Happy National Skating Month!

January marks not only the beginning of a New Year but also National Skating Month. There are as many ways to celebrate the month. Maybe you will choose to celebrate it by scheduling an extra lesson with your coach to try to get that jump you've been working on so hard. Maybe you will choose to celebrate it by bringing a friend to a public session and introducing him or her to the sport. Maybe you will choose to celebrate it by simply kicking back and taking in as much as you can of the U.S. Figure Skating Championships to be televised on IceNetwork and NBC. However you choose to celebrate National Skating Month, have fun and remember skating teaches a valuable life lesson: When you fall down, get right back up!

Upper Great Lakes Regionals

St. Louis Skating Club was well-represented at this year's Upper Great Lakes Regionals held in Richfield, Minnesota October 14-18, 2008. We had home club members competing in both qualifying and non-qualifying events. Congratulations to Jason Cohn, Kelsey McFarland, Aya Takai, Rebecca Serrano and Tina Nguyen and their coaches. You represented the Club well and we are very proud of your accomplishments.

Also, congratulations to associate club member Barbie Long who took home the Gold medal in the Juvenile Girls competition at Upper Great Lakes Regionals. Barbie went on to compete at the U.S. Junior Championships in Lake Placid, New York, where she finished in 6th place.

Gateway Invitational

Wow, what a huge turnout we had this year at Gateway this year! Special thanks to organizer Julie Binz who worked so hard to make this year's competition even bigger and better than last year. Thanks also to the many skaters, parents and coaches who volunteered their time to help with the competition. We are also grateful to our referee, accountant and the many judges who came from both near and far to help make this year's competition so successful.

Dr. Porter Synchronized Skating Competition

In early December, Fleur de Lis Intermediate had its first major competition of the season in Ann Arbor, Michigan at the 13th Annual Dr. Porter Synchronized Classic. The team's Parisian mime themed program earned a total of 37.23 points, 2.30 more points than the Intermediate team earned at Porter last year. After a well-deserved holiday break, the team returned to practice this week. Invigorated by some changes in music and program content, the team hopes to improve upon its score at the Midwestern Synchronized Skating Sectionals to be held in Broomfield, Colorado, at the end of January. Congratulations and best wishes to the team and to coaches Brittany Wisenor and Natalie Bendas.

It was truly amazing to see the number of skaters in the collegiate, junior and senior ranks at Dr. Porter with connections to our Club. Many current St. Louis Skating Club members and former Fleur de Lis members have continued to compete in college and represented the St. Louis area well at Dr. Porter, including current home club members Angela and Laura Comana (University of Notre Dame Open Collegiate), current home club members and former Fleur de Lis members Jill Sharp (University of Illinois Collegiate), Quinn Tyminski (Adrian College Collegiate) and Chelsea Wipfler (Western Michigan University Senior) and former Fleur de Lis members Miranda Eckhardt (Miami University Junior), Rosalie Rataj (University of Delaware Collegiate) and Mary Yavorski (Miami University Collegiate.)

Test Sessions

This past year has been a busy one for our test chairs as they worked hard to host regular test sessions for the benefit of our members. Thanks to Shelly Millard and Tina Randazzo-Coan for all their hard work in 2008.

2008 was also a very busy year for our skaters as they worked hard to progress in this oftentimes challenging sport. Congratulations to all of our members who passed tests in 2008 and especially those home club members who passed three or more tests during the year, to include Natalie Alexander, Allison Baynes, Sarah Bivona, Amy Bower, Jason Cohn, Tatiana Czajkowski, Xue Ding, Erin Downs, Grisel Escobar, Mali Gartin, Loren Hasse, Sarah Heerboth, Zoe Keller, Katie Lefton, Kelsey McFarland, Shelly Millard, Kelly Payne, Claire Pieper, Ashlyn Ray, Rebecca Serrano, Victoria Shadwick, Cassie Sharp, Jill Sharp, Maggie Stupakewicz, Aya Takai, Sayako Takai, Mariah Thoeke, Katherine Thomas, Kierra Wicks and Audrey Winn.

Our next test session will be held at the Brentwood Ice Arena on Tuesday, February 3, 2009. Our December test session proved to be a very popular so you may want to get your application in early and certainly no later than the January 20 deadline. Dates for our March and April test sessions will be posted on our website soon.

Club Ice

Ice reservation forms for February, March and April have now been posted on our website. During these tough economic times, the Club encourages members to take advantage of the discounted pricing available to those members whose forms are postmarked by the 25th of the preceding month (or by the 15th of the preceding month for even greater savings.)

Please note that we will no longer be accepting monthly reservations for forms not postmarked by the 25th of the preceding month or making changes once the ice sheets have been completed. Please make certain that when you reserve your ice times, the times will work for you and your coach.

Sunday ice will be returning on Sunday, February 8, 2009, and continue through the end of March. It will be held at the Brentwood Ice Arena from 11:45am to 12:45pm. A special package price for all 8 sessions will be offered at a cost of \$69.00 (less than \$9.00 per

hour.) Reservation forms will be available on our website by January 15, 2009. Walk-on ice will be available at a higher price if we do not reach our maximum of 18 skaters through the reservation process.

Our ice chair, Julie Sharp, has asked me to pass along a special "thank you" to the moms (and dad) who have been helping her this year by serving as ice monitors. So, thank you from both Julie and the Club to Ana Serrano, Linda Thomas, John and Debbie Havel, Beth Gartin, Regina Ray, Tammi Pieper and Debbie Winn.

Stars on Ice

The Club has reserved a block of tickets for Smucker's Stars on Ice to take place at the Scottrade Center on Friday, February 20, 2009, at 7:30pm. This year's cast includes Olympic silver medalist and U.S. Champion Sasha Cohen, Olympic gold medalist Ilia Kulik, World Champion and six-time U.S. Champion Todd Eldridge, two-time Olympic bronze medalists Xue Shen & Hongbo Zhao, World Champion Yuka Sato, two-time World silver medalists Marie-France Dubreuil & Patrice Lauzon, two-time World bronze medalist and three-time U.S. Champion Michael Weiss, World bronze medalist and three-time U.S. Pair Champion John Zimmerman, six-time Canadian Champion Jennifer Robinson and special guest, two-time U.S. Champion Evan Lysacek.

We're hoping to get a group of at least 50 together for this event so that our members and their friends and families will have access to pre-show warm-ups at 4:30pm and 5:30pm. Our seats will be located in the first eight rows of Section 112 and tickets are available for only \$32.50 each (\$15.00 off the regular price.) Home club members will receive an additional discount of \$10 off the price of the member's ticket only.

So, join your fellow Club members for an evening of exciting and entertaining skating by emailing our coordinator for this event, Debbie Havel, at johndeb162@att.net by Tuesday, January 27, 2009. Let Debbie know how many tickets you will need and the names of any home club members in your party. Debbie will need payment (preferably by check made payable to St. Louis Skating Club) by the following Tuesday, February 3, 2009.

Farewell but Hopefully not Goodbye

It is with sadness that we say "so long" to Phillip Patterson as he moves to Fort Collins, Colorado. For those of you who have not had a chance to read the note posted by Phillip on the Club bulletin board, I have included a copy with this newsletter.

Both as a skater representing the Club and as a home club professional, Phillip has inspired many skaters throughout his years at St. Louis Skating Club. Thank you to Phillip for your dedication to the Club and the memories you have given us (my own personal favorite is remembering the grace and joy with which you and Evelyn Gwi skated to music from *Moulin Rouge* at an ice show in Fairview Heights.) You will truly be missed and we wish you the best!

Introduction to U.S. Figure Skating Class

This Spring, the Club will be offering a special 5-week bridge class designed to introduce young skaters and their parents to U.S. Figure Skating. The class will be offered on Sunday March 8, 15, 22 and 29 from 1:00pm-2:15pm and Sunday, April 5, 2009 from 12:00 noon-2:15pm. It will be taught by home club professionals Julie Binz, Gina Osterlei, Tina Randazzo-Coan, Ginger Krueger, Brittany Wisenor and Natalie Bendas. Parent education will also be offered as part of the program. Club membership will not be required to enroll in the class. More information, including information on discounted pricing for students enrolled in the Learn to Skate programs of our affiliated rinks, will be available on our website by the end of January. If you know someone who might be interested in this class, please let them know.

Championship Funds Committee

To date, we have received \$40,000 from the Greater St. Louis Community Foundation as a result of the efforts of the many club members who volunteered their time to work at the 2006 U.S. Figure Skating Championships. A committee is currently being formed to make recommendations to the Board on how best to utilize the funds we have received and will receive in the future. If you have interest in serving on this committee, which will be lead by former Club president Karen Kister, please contact me at RSharp@spvg.com.

Board Meetings

Our Board meetings for the next four months will take place at the Brentwood Ice Arena on the fourth Thursday of the month at 7:00pm. Our meetings are open to the membership. If you wish to attend a meeting and find out more about the inner-workings of your Club, feel free to do so. It does become necessary for us to close our meetings from time to time, but we try to save private business for the end of the meeting.

Got News?

Finally, if you have news to share about a special accomplishment of one of our coaches or skaters, please let us know. Simply email me at RSharp@spvg.com so that we can share the news with others.

Until March,

**Rodney Sharp
SLSC President**