

# ON THE EDGE

NEWSLETTER OF THE GOLDEN GATE SPEED SKATERS

September 1991

- IMPORTANT NOTICE -

GOLDEN GATE SPEED SKATERS announces NEW PACKAGE DEAL RATE SCHEDULE.

New Fee Schedule adopted at recent Membership Meeting. At last, a chance to save money on skating fees! 5 and 10 Session "PUNCH CARDS" available to GGSS Membership at **25% SAVINGS** for adults, **50% SAVINGS** for kids over single admission charges! Here are the details:

- Adult Single Session Fee: \$10 per session (one at a time)  
**\$7.50 per session** with new 5 or 10 session "PUNCH CARD" - Save 25%!!  
(5 Session cards Must Be Used within 8 weeks. 10 Session cards Must Be Used within 16 Weeks.)
- Kids Single Session Fee: \$5 per session (one at a time)  
**\$2.50 per session** with new 5 or 10 session "PUNCH CARD" - Save 50%!!  
(5 Session cards Must Be Used within 8 weeks. 10 Session cards Must Be Used within 16 weeks.)

Of course, we hope to attract more skaters by lowering the cost per session. **SKATE MORE, PAY LESS !!**

Effective September 1, 1991, Saturday SPEED SESSIONS return to 1½ Hour Format.

Sessions are from 4:00PM to 5:30PM on Saturdays at

GOLDEN GATE ICE ARENA - Redwood City

Come early to stretch - suit-up - warm up and get on the ice **ON TIME**

Lane County Speed Skating Club to host first meet of the season. **OCTOBER 12, 1991** marks the opening of the 1991/1992 Racing Season with a race meet at the great ice facility in Lane County, Eugene, Oregon. Let's support our friends in Oregon by making plans to attend this race. Any carpool volunteers? Get details from Mary Wong.

## HOUR AND A HALF SESSIONS ARE BACK AT GOLDEN GATE ICE ARENA IN REDWOOD CITY!

After a cut-back to 1 hour for the summer months, we return to the standard **one and a half hour sessions** for our Saturday training sessions. It was decided at the General Membership meeting in August to reduce our ice time by one half hour to meet the annual "summer drop off" in attendance due to activities which take families and skaters in other directions for a month or so. Summer is about over, and we are **GETTING READY TO RACE!** How's your dry-land work coming?

## MORE RESULTS OF THE AUGUST MEETING.....

Cornelia Bagg will assume the duties of Club Secretary. Now that we have Cornelia, we will do a better job of **COMMUNICATING** the news to our members.

Sally Schirber hangs in there as "iron fisted" Club Treasurer, and Paul Albert stays on as President.

Gordon Marshall has been appointed Equipment Manager, and will be in full control of all those mats, blocks and loaner skates (their maintenance, too.)

Chris Buja has once again offered his services as our

Race Director, and will be assisted by Pat Benet. These are two such organized people, that we expect to have the smoothest run races in the West! Wait for the gun.

The meeting also provided for a Budget Committee which will be staffed by Bonnie Crater, Pat Sehl, Tim Phillips and Mary Wong. It will be their job to anticipate our financial needs and come up with solutions for our fiscal challenges. (Smoke and Mirrors!) There will be no major decisions without membership approval.

Sara Laufer, newly appointed Social Director has scheduled the first Club event of the season. It will be a pot-luck picnic at Pat and Barbara Sehl's house on Sunday, October 6. Mark your calendar. More later.

Watch for the establishment of a **PHONE TREE** to keep members aware of any last minute changes of plans and ice availability. Tell Mary Wong if you can be of help.

**GGSS GETS SPEEDING TICKET!** It was decided at the August meeting to offer an incentive to members that would save money on weekly session skating fees. We will now offer a "punch card" that will be good for 5 or 10 sessions, and will cost **25% less** than one-at-a-time charges for adults, **50% less** for kids. **SAVE \$\$\$\$**

Current single skate fees are \$10 for adults. Buy a 5 session card for \$37.50 (\$12.50 less than paying by the session), and use it within 8 weeks, and you have a **25% discount!** The same applies to the \$75 10 session card, except that it is valid for 16 weeks.

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The kids cards cost \$12.50 for 5 sessions and \$25 for 10. You **save 50%**! This will really help families.

As in the past, new skaters get the first session FREE. Holders of "punch cards" may bring a guest and pay for their skate with a "punch", but only once per guest.

The catchy name for this time and money saver comes from Chris (1 great idea a minute) Buja. Now, let's all line up in front of Sally's desk and have our check books ready. Make checks out to GGSS, and **SAVE!**

**ICE COST FACTS:** This Club is a democracy and we want you to be as informed as possible. Keeping the Club afloat isn't an easy task, especially when we have unpredictable attendance, comparatively high ice costs, and great aspirations. Here are the details:

We pay \$150 per hour for ice at GGIA. This represents a concession of \$25 per hour off their regular price. It is \$37.50 per hour less expensive than Fashion Island. Our 1½ hour session costs \$225 every Saturday!

It is **critical** that we maintain good attendance at our weekly sessions, or we will have to make the kind of decisions that won't please anyone. Be there.

We **must** have another **12 Crash Pads**. The cost for these "blue life savers" is about \$60 each. (This includes "volunteer labor", and "discount materials".) Where will the \$720 come from? If we attract enough skaters on a regular basis, we can have those mats, and possibly a Club picnic at the end of the racing season.

Become more conscious of the needs of **YOUR CLUB**. (Mary Wong gave up the job as treasurer because she realized that she wasn't going to be able to abscond with the cash any farther than Milpitas.) You are not being expected to contribute money, just to **show up!**

We have been working hard to publicize the Club. Our efforts have **finally** yielded a small upcoming article in **CITY SPORTS MAGAZINE**, which will appear in their November issue. Hopefully, they will follow-up with a feature piece during our racing season. This should really heighten awareness of GGSS and our sport in the Bay Area. Pick up your copy in sports shops soon.

We are working on creating a poster that can be distributed to various bike shops, ice rinks and "cross-training" sports shops. Our sport has a great message. We are working hard to get it out there.

Because kids represent a great potential to us, we are exploring the possibility of producing a video illustrating the excitement and fun of speed skating for showing to grade and middle schools and municipal Parks and Recreation Groups.

In partnership with Fashion Island ice rink, we will begin a "Learn to Speed Skate" program later this month. Head Coach Ferd Schaffer has volunteered to instruct

this group. Ferd has been ACEP qualified, and has a **great** way with novice skaters. Go low and slow!

Have you tried the Sunday evening **Public Speed Skating Session** at Fashion Island? It runs from 6:00PM to 7:15PM, pay at the door. Eventually, it will be preceded by the above mentioned novice training class instructed by Ferd. GGSS doesn't control this session, we just negotiated with rink management to establish it. This is the only Bay Area public session exclusively for speed skaters! With no blocks and no pads, it offers easy pace lines, no pressure, no racing, great for working on your technique and socializing with other speed skaters. Pick up tips on form from the attending coaches. A relaxing finale to the weekend. Kids welcome, too.

We have some promising new skaters from within the in-line roller skating community, and hope to build on this nucleus by "word of mouth". Just as we "skeeler" for cross-training, they use ice training to perfect their technique. Pass the word to all the in-liners you meet.

This Club was formed in the "afterglow" of the 1988 Winter Olympics. There was a rush of excitement about our sport, and we want to be ready for the "next wave" when it comes again in February and March of 1992. That means being a well established Club, with the physical equipment it takes to accommodate more skaters, ie: secured ice time, sufficient crash mats, loaner skates, ample instructors, etc..

**Ways you can help:** Attend Club skating sessions regularly. Help the Club in the activities and plans outlined above. Become a **part of what is happening**. Participate in the **Phone Tree** program to remind other skaters to attend weekly sessions. Help put out and secure the mats and blocks. Distribute posters to shops and ice rinks. Give the Club your old skates or extra blades to be used as loaners.

If your heart is in it, and your check book can handle it, make a donation to the Club's treasury. You can specify the purpose for which your funds will be used, ie: crash mats, loaner skates, trophies, ice time, etc..

Remember: We are affiliated with the **Amateur Skating Union**. It is a **NON PROFIT ORGANIZATION**, and so are we! **All fees and donations are deductible.**

Speed skating is PURE, CLEAN, HEALTHY fun! **DO IT.**

**THERE WILL BE NO SPEED SESSION OCTOBER 12!**

**GGSS RACE DATES - 1991/1992 SEASON**  
**NOVEMBER 9, 1991**  
**JANUARY 4, FEBRUARY 15, MARCH 7, 1992**

All races are on Saturdays at Golden Gate Ice Arena.

See you later, speed skater!

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