

July 88

The previous writer of the newsletter has been canned. The new writer who's name shall not be revealed but who's initials are G.A.B.E. K.I.N.G.S.L.E.Y won the position by default, (he has a typewriter). Please refer all correspondence for the previous editor to Our Sisters of Perpetual Hallucinations Rest Home, Yucca Flat, Nevada.

There has been some loose talk about giving our Saturday evening group of ice scrapers a name. Unless you like the title, Northern California Gay Blades, or the Bay Area Stokers... get creative and make some suggestions. Write em down and hand them over to Mary Wong at the next session.. The submitter of the winning name will get a free trip to the 1991 Winter Olympic Games and a pair of electric skates.

Our attendance has been irregular over the past weeks, and that's to be expected in the summertime. A sure cure for the low attendance is new skaters. Not that we should become missionaries, but for those who work in companies with informational bulletin boards, ie: 'Porche for Sale, Cheap', Kittens Free to a Good Home', etc., a simple note about speed skating is certain to get some response, even if they just call to question your sanity.

Many bay area companies have groups of employees who bicycle together; some get quite serious. These are some our best potential recruits. Tell them that speed skating works the same muscle groups as 10 spped cycling, and that they will get a great aerobic workout with a smile on their face the whole time. Almost all serious speed skaters train on bicycles; why shouldn't cyclists train by speed skating?

If your company is large enough to have an in-house newspaper, write up a little blurb describing how speed skating enhances your virility and heightens the sexual experience. Ask the editor to include it in the next issue. Listing changes in the O.S.H.A. regulations is all they usually get to write about, so go ahead and make their day!

Rex has announced that he and his family will be relocating to Texas; you know, where they wear spurs on their skates. Watch out for those sheepskin chaps, Rex, they get in the way on tight turns, He promises to return periodically for some skating.

Some of our group members have been showing up at Berkeley Iceland on Sunday nights for some great skating between 8:00pm and 10:00pm. It is usually a sparcely attended public session, and consequently, fun for our brand of torture. Occasional bursts of speed are tolerated, and the rink is almost twice the size of Belmont. Give it a try... it's worth the drive. Besides, Mary usually brings trays of snacks and wine for speed skaters. Greg is the one in the chef's hat and the long blades.

John and Jan Diemont are currently in 'speed skating heaven' (Holland), checking out the racing scene (girls). Let's hope they get a chance to skate. Word has it that the rinks are closed for the summer. They are expected to bring back new skates. It's about time their feet hurt, too.

Mary has hired a graphic artist to create a sign to be affixed to the read of Gabes's tights. The first line will read, 'WIDE LOAD AHEAD', and the second line, ' MY GLUTEUS IS MAXIMUS'. Keep any suggestions to yourself.

With the wealth of skating experience we have in our assortment of skaters, we must also have some good tips that might be of value to others. Any little secrets that your employ in skating, training, sharpening, lacing, etc. Let us know, and we'll print em here for all to share.

For those of you who have been trying to contact Marty Hill at Built for Speed in Syracuse, N.Y. (Laberge skates), I spoke to Marty the other day, (a minor miracle!). Since he sent out a notice about his buying out the Laberge Skate Co., he has been overwhelmed, and periodically turns his phone off! Hard to believe but true. He is a 'one-man band', so he answers the phone, gives fit advice, takes orders, packs them, and takes them to U.P.S.. Dealing with a cottage industry when you are anxious to buy a new pair of skates can be exasperating... especially when the phone is unanswered. A couple of alternatives would be to drop him a line explaining your interest (and membership in our group) and ask him to call you, or buy Inze Bont skates from Australia. Bonts are very similiar in design (even interchangeable blades), but give slightly less support, and consequently take less breaking in. Turn around for Bont skates is usually one month from the time they receive your order. Jerry Search, Southern California speed skating guru, suggests Laberge blades and cups from Built for Speed, and Bont boots. Of course, if you prefer the traditional style of speed skate, Viking offers a large selection available from some of the sources listed in prior news letters.

Used skates might be a worthwhile alternative. If you are in the market for used skates, if you have a pair to sell.... write down the pertinent information and give it to Mary.

***** Skating Picnic *****

The shirts/skins soccer game at Kristen's picnic was won by the shirt team by a score of 10 to 7. The victory can be attributed to the awesome defense of the shirt team (8 goalies). Mario wins the award for the most intimidating goal against his daughter Leslie. She was threatened with no skating for 6 months if he didn't score.

The basketball game was won by Bobby "Magic" Payne, John "Bird" Peterson and Kim "Spud" Milstead over Kareem Abdul Brown, Greg "the hoop is too small" Wong and Chris "Cement Fingers" Wong.

The next picnic will be announced at an upcoming speed session.

***** For Sale *****

New Size 40 Viking Skates - \$90
Call Mario (415) 661-3834

Planert Intermediate - \$120 / Best Offer
Size 5 1/2 Good condition, just rockered
Call Carol (415) 673-6466

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Size 5 1/2 Planert Offsets Kangaroo, \$200 / Best Offer
Call Carol (415) 673-6466

High Peaks Cyclery, 18 Saranac Ave.
Lake Placid, New York 12946 (518) 523-3764
Size 3 1/2, 4, 4 1/2, 5, 6, 6 1/2, 7, 8 and 13
Planerts, Nestor Johnson, Vikings, and Ballengrud
skates \$100 - \$150
(ask greg for list of others)

***** NEW SPEED SESSIONS *****

Carol Levine has found us several possibilities for locations for future sessions. We need YOUR opinion A.S.A.P so that we can start negotiations with a new rink.

Fashion Island 1 hour somewhere between 5pm and 8pm on Sundays. \$6 per person adult. 1/2 price children under 12.

Berkeley Iceland 1 hour somewhere between 5:30 and 8 PM on Saturdays. Approximately \$6.50 per person. Charge is based on the attendance.

Belmont ... still in negotiations.

Redwood City 10 o'clock on Saturday night price is approximately \$8 per person.

Prices approximate, will depend upon formation of a formal club and the number of skaters in attendance at each session.

Please give us your vote by the July 17th speed session.