

ON THE EDGE

NEWSLETTER OF THE GOLDEN GATE SPEED SKATERS

January 1990!

SPRING RACE SERIES SCHEDULED. The Golden Gate Speed Skaters Gold Rush Series of three races has been set for the following dates: February 25, March 11, and April 22, 1990. Ice time has been reserved at our home rink at Fashion Island in Foster City, and awards are being ordered. **SKATERS, TO THE START!!**

Now in our second season of racing, we expect to be more organized, and even a little innovative, technologically speaking.

In our first meet, one year ago, we used the technical equivalent of sun dials for timing devices! For our second meet, The Turkey Sprints, in November of '89, we introduced our digital lap counter (created by Seth Weiman) as well as better organization, due to the efforts of Meet Director, Chris Buja (husband of lime green helmeted Bonnie Crater).

With the advent of this series, we will be introducing a system that completely organizes the meet from entry of competitors through finishers, their times for all heats and point earnings, plus calculation of over-all winners. Greg Wong has written a program he calls, 'Meet Ware', and we plan for it to manage the races on a lap-top computer. It greatly streamlines the processes necessary to track all skaters (no pun intended) and produces the results, prompting the user at each step, so that utilization doesn't even require much computer literacy.

Chris Buja has again volunteered to be Meet Director (at least for the first race of the series, Feb 25). He finds handling the reins of something as simplistic as a race meet a relaxing diversion from the science of rocketry. We are committed to being adequately staffed in advance of the races, and hope to avoid the confusion we experienced in our earlier efforts. We need a full complement of on and off ice people. Gordon Bowden is our Head Timer, and will need four assistants capable of precise stop-watch technique. At The Turkey Sprints, we put patches of different colored tape on the helmet of each skater, so each timer had only to concentrate on his or her 'assigned color', rather than a particular skater or hardly visible number. This idea worked well and will be repeated.

Additional off ice personnel needed are Runners to shuttle heat cards from the Clerk of the Course to the Starter and Head Timer. Heat Box Organizers to ensure that all skaters are ready for the next heat are also handy to have. We'll need two.

During The Turkey Sprints, we had to ask racers who were between heats to assist with on ice duties. This is a great distraction and just plain unfair to a person trying to focus on racing, so, on the ice we need non-racing skaters that are agile and alert to act as Judges (looking out for infringements such as charging, interfering and skating inside the blocks), and Block Chasers who can adroitly replace the rubber blocks that get inadvertently kicked, without getting in the way of the pack.

PLEASE, if you are a 'sometime skater' or a former skater who is still on the mailing list (Hi, Mike), consider contributing your efforts for any or all of the three meets (3 hours each) to help further the development of your Club's racing program and the advancement of speed skating in Northern California. All skating Girl and Boy Scouts, come on out and do your 'good deeds' for the year.

As mentioned, this is a 3 race series, in which awards will be given for the top finishers in each event, with overall awards to those scoring the most points, on a cumulative basis, in all three meets. In other words, trophies for the winners of the series.

ENTRY FORM ELSEWHERE IN THE NEWSLETTER. PAUL ALBERT AND GREG WONG HAVE MORE IF YOU NEED.

REST AND VIOLENCE IN U.S.S.R.* THREATEN TO UPSET INTERNATIONAL STATUS QUO!! (Union of Speed Skating Republics)

Spring thaw is almost here, and waves of change loom ominously on the horizon, worldwide. The globe is aboil, and things may never be the same again.

Grass-roots youth movement has taken to the streets demanding, 'Freedom of Choice'. They accuse the 'old guard' of 'iron-fisted, archaic practices' and, like the students of Romania, Czechoslovakia, Poland, Hungary, South Korea, China and Berkeley, are leading movements to tear down what we have accepted as standard practice for generations.

Claiming that repressive restrictions have been thrust upon them, the movement has begun their 'revolt' by insisting on only speed skating clockwise! Public sessions have become hambles, and race meets are all but impossible. At recent N.F.L. games, banners appeared in the end zones citing Bible passages about speed skating. They say they will carry on their fight until they achieve victory, however long it takes, claiming, 'We are a generation of martyrs and will sacrifice our time to skate so that those who come after us will have the freedom to choose their own direction, rather than being subjected to this oppression.'

Longer something to be scoffed at, there are those who believe that there may be some validity to this movement, some new philosophic 'truth'. A couple of underground skate manufacturers are rumored to be working on boots and blades with a 'right handed twist'. It all started when Chinese students tried to freeze-over Tienanmen Square in Beijing for the purpose of a clockwise protest demonstration. They were fired upon by Government troops (uniformed hockey skaters). A Government spokesman said it really began when China first allowed sweeping social reforms such as Epoxy boots and adjustable blades. The demonstrators erected a statue bearing an uncanny resemblance to Sara Bont, defiantly holding her right arm, holding a skate. It was blasted with rocket fire.

Since the quelling of that much publicized uprising, the movement has gone underground. We believe secret research is being conducted in the Medellin Province of Columbia, South America. So concerned is the U.S. Government, that it has given high altitude reconnaissance support in the form of U-2 fly overs to help eradicate this horrible threat. When contacted, the U.S.A., officially, had 'No comment'.

Former dictator of Panama, Manuel Noriega, had been tolerated by the U.S. until he expressed sympathy for the movement and offered to freeze-over the Panama Canal to allow clockwise revolutionaries (trained by Fidel Castro's elite Che Guevara Skating Squad) to hold their first sanctioned meet. That's when the 82nd Airborne 'dropped in'.

This situation also infuriated Soviet Premier Mikhail Gorbachev, who has such a deep, abiding love for speed skating that he has a tattoo of Holland on his forehead! 'NYET', he says. 'Some things must always go to the LEFT!!' His wife, Rayisa, was a former Soviet Capades skater, reprogrammed to speed skating at a Siberian indoctrination center during the KHRUSCHEV regime of the 50's.

The Vatican wishes to remain neutral in this matter. The Pope has deftly avoided giving his usual Spring Blessing to the Italian Short Track Team by suddenly leaving to visit the earthquake damaged 400 meter oval in Armenia.

FAM International, Greenpeace and Amnesty International are all looking for ways to get involved. You can, too. Participate in our informal poll. Call 1(900)SKATE RIGHT if you are a revolutionary, or 1(900)SKATE LEFT if you are a traditionalist. (Touch Tone phones only / Calls cost \$1 / Only one call per person / Kids, get parents' permission, first)

Do you think Barth Levy is mixed up in this? From somewhere in the topsy-turvy world of speed skating.

Gabe Kingsley

PDATE:

e are approaching our second anniversary, and the obvious changes (improvements) are remarkable and gratifying.

e still use Safeway shopping bags for attache cases, corrugated cardboard scabbards for the blades of our 'loaner' skates, and make most important Club decisions over pizza or while avoiding the human debris at public sessions, but in all other ways, we have bloomed.

he sheer increase in our regular attendees is forcing us to better organize our weekly sessions in order to live up to our commitment of providing skating enjoyment for all skaters, whether racers, recreationalists, novices or beginners. Fortunately, the prior implementation of a monthly skating 'fee' may allow us to procure a little more ice time on a regular basis...if everyone would pay on time, at the beginning of the month.

e will soon have another change in Club management. Just when you thought Mike Bell was resident For Life! (This isn't Haiti, you know.) More bodies and brains are needed to carry the current load of responsibilities and to formulate plans for our future, whether that implies growth or just organizational refinement, or both.

e may, in the foreseeable future, want to separate from the Southern California Speed Skating Association (our 'parent' in L.A.) to form a new association, encompassing Northern California and the Pacific Northwest. Jerry Search, President of S.C.S.S.A. has been encouraging and supportive of this possibility, as has the A.S.U. National Office in the person of Shirley Yates, Exec. Director. We might just be speed skating amoebas!

he act of 'associating' isn't unlike moving out of your parents' home to a place of your own. When you live at 'home', you have little to say about anything, except which posters hang on the walls of your room and what color socks you wear (sometimes!). When you move out and get your own apartment, you have a great degree of freedom and a sense of relief, but you also have new found obligations and responsibilities, ie: first and last month's rent, monthly rent, P.G.&E bills, cable T.V. charges, gasoline and insurance expense, not to mention the shamefully high cost of candy bars, popcorn and laundromats!

e would benefit from being able to make our own directional decisions; sending a delegate to the Annual A.S.U. National Convention as our voting representative, and hopefully, attract out-of-state competition to our meets, because we would be an 'association', not merely 'club' with little status.

on the obligation side, we would be required to pay \$300 per year in Association dues (much of which is returned to the Association in Novice Funding, and other perks), in addition to certain reports and other paper-work that is required by the A.S.U.. We would need separate and parallel management for both Club and Association, involving more volunteer 'labor' than we currently have.

There is a 4 or 5 skater nucleus in the Sacramento/Stockton area that, with nurturing, could possibly develop into a Club, and Shirley Yates reports that there is 'interest' in speed skating in Seattle. There are ice rinks in Fresno, Santa Rosa, Portland and other cities, that at least, provide a venue for new clubs. Of course, this is 'future' talk, but something definitely to be considered.

As a statement of our legitimacy, and as a fund raising effort, we are going to produce and sell 1" diameter enameled pins with our Club logo on them. We are rushing the delivery so we can have them for sale at the National Indoor Finals in L.A... They should be beautiful! We may repeat the T shirts and sweat shirts later in the year.

1990 Gold Rush Series

Sponsored by the Golden Gate Speed Skaters

Dates

The 1990 Gold Rush Series will be held at Fashion Island Ice Capades Chalet in San Mateo, California. Event dates will be February 25, March 11, and April 22. Registration begins at 4:15. The racing will begin at 5:15.

Location

Fashion Island is located in San Mateo, CA midway between San Francisco and San Jose. The San Francisco, San Jose and Oakland Airports, are all within a 1/2 hour drive of Fashion Island. Recent surveys have found fares as low as \$58.00 for reservations made 3 weeks in advance on United from LAX to Oakland and on Southwest from Ontario to Oakland.

Driving from Los Angeles, take Interstate 5 North to 152 West to 101 North through San Jose. Exit onto 92 East/San Mateo Bridge and stay to the right. Take the first exit onto Mariners Island Boulevard. Right at the light, over the bridge, and right at the next light. Go straight through one light and take a right at the stop sign. Follow the road around Fashion Island to the mall entrance just past Whole Earth Access. You will see the rink to the right of the movie theatre saying "Ice Capades Chalet."

From San Francisco, take 101 South to 92 East/San Mateo Bridge. Follow the directions from above.

The nearest Motel Six is in Palo Alto near 101 at the San Antonio South Exit. The cost (according to the guide) is \$31.95 for one adult and \$6.00 extra for additional adults. There is no fee for children under 18. Call for more information @ (415) 949-0833.

Skating Groups and Events *

A/B Men	500, 1000, 1500
Advanced Men	500, 1000, 1500
Advanced Women	500, 1000, 1500
Masters	500, 1000, 1500
Advanced Novice Men	500, 1000, 1500
Novice Men	333, 500, 777
Novice Women	333, 500, 777
Advanced Children	222, 333, 500
Children	111, 222, 333
Tiny Tots	111, 222

* There will be an open 3000m race if time permits. This race will not count for Gold Rush Series points.

Prizes

1st, 2nd, and 3rd place trophies and medals will be awarded to the cumulative winners of the series. Ribbons will be awarded at each of three events.

Point Accumulation

The more events you participate in, the more points you can accumulate!

1. Winners will be awarded points for each event:

1st place	5 points
2nd place	3 points
3rd place	2 points
Other finishers	1 point
DNF, DQ	0 points

2. Racers achieving a personal record in an event will also get one point. The first race in the series will establish the personal records for each skater.

3. Skaters who participate in every race in the series will receive 3 points.

For more information, call Greg or Mary Wong at (415) 886-0565.

1990 Gold Rush Series

Sponsored by the Golden Gate Speed Skaters

February 25 March 11 April 22

Fashion Island Ice Capades Chalet
San Mateo, California

Registration at 4:15 Racing at 5:15

Please pre-register by February 18th. Send your form to Mary and Greg Wong, Golden Gate Speed Skaters, 2723 Gamble Court, Hayward, CA 94542. (415) 886-0565.

In consideration of your acceptance of this form, I hereby for myself, my heirs and executors, waive and release any and all rights and/or damages that I may have against the Golden Gate Speed Skaters and the Southern California Speed Skating Association for any and all injuries suffered by me at this meet.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Address2: _____

Signature: _____

(Parent or Guardian must sign if participant is under 18 years old)

National Skating Class: _____ Age: _____ M/F: _____

Entry Fee: \$5.00 for GGSS monthly dues payers, \$8.00 for non-dues payers and \$2.50 for children.

OM P.4

rints in November of '89. Not only do we have a great Coach, but we have a generous one.

has taken us two years, but we finally have a TREASURER. Yep, that's right, Mary Wong
s milked this Club of all the cash she can, and has given the pot-of-gold, rainbow and
1, to (you might have guessed) Sally Schirber. 'Iron Fisted Schirber' as she's known in
e business world, will now be in charge of collecting your monthly skating fees. Sure,
u probably have forgotten how much...\$30 for ages 15 to 74, and \$15 for ages 14 and down.
ve Sally your bank account number, and she can access it via ATM machine, if you find
e experience of check writing painful. Unless you remember to pay at the first session
the month, some individual has to 'front' money on your behalf to the rink. That isn't
ir, is it? Besides, we have a new member transferring here from New Jersey. His name
Guido, and he's part skater and part pit bull. Pay, or else!!

r those interested in casting their feet for the purpose of ordering custom molded boots,
t aren't savvy about the process, there is an instructional video produced and starred
by Jerry Search, President of S.C.S.S.A.. Greg and Gabe each have copies and they are
ailable for short term loan, if you are interested. You will need to build or borrow a
lding box. This isn't covered in the vidao, so talk to Greg or Gabe before you commit
a time to cast. The video does, however, inform you of the supplies you will require,
ong with ideas about mess prevention and clean-up.

Bay Area Chevrolet dealer, with an interest in speed skating, has generously offered the
ub the use of a vehicle for the purpose of going to the meets in L.A.. It is a Chevy
mina. We have decided to decline, and wait for one made out of steel. (sorry)

ep 'em sharp. See you on the ice!

OLDEN GATE SPEED SKATERS
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