

**GGSS RACE: SOONER THAN YOU THINK**

Saturday, November 9th, Golden Gate Ice Arena (Redwood City) is the first GGSS race of the season. Contact our race director, Chris Buja (415-854-9609), or Pat Benet, if you are able to help out. Racing entry forms will be made available soon at speed sessions.

\*\*\*No speedskating session in Redwood City October 12 \*\*\*\*

**WEEKEND WORKOUTS**

We'll say it again!

**Saturdays, 4:00 to 5:30 p.m.**

**GGIA, Redwood City**

This is prime time and we are lucky to have this ice slot! Ferd Shaffer directs these sessions using the training programs of Guy Daignault, Diane Holm, etc. (You mean you haven't heard the Jerry Search Beep Tape?). These sessions aren't just for the racers. We do intervals and downtimes in groups according to ability. Consider the benefit being with good skaters on good ice. Lap skaters can do their kind of skating too.

There's been a rush on Speeding Tickets, our new five or ten session punch cards that save you money on our Saturday Redwood City sessions (25% savings for adults and 50% savings for children). Don't miss out - buy one from Sally Schirber at the next Redwood City Session.

**Sundays, 6:00 - 7:15,**

**Fashion Island, San Mateo**

"Bring over some of your old Motown records

Put the speakers in the windows and the hall

Listen to the Miracles

Echo in the alley down below..."

OK, so Rod Stewart doesn't skate with us on Sundays, but he's got the right idea. Fashion Island lets US play DJ at our evening rec session. (That's REC, not WRECK - no crash pads here.) Bring your favorite speedskating tunes and get an even better workout. You know the kind of stuff I mean - "Rush Rush", "Can't Slow Down", "Can't Touch This", or if you're out of shape, "How can I Ease The Pain?". And of course, there's that rollerblading classic: "Cruisin' for Bruisin'"... So bring your favorite old Motown music or whatever gets you skating fast.

**FIRST RACE IN THE COUNTRY**

Saturday, Oct. 12th, Eugene, Oregon: First Annual Pacific Northwest Open; Lane County Speedskating Club will have its first competition (read: "ever"! ). Some of us are driving, others are flying.

Call Steve Lader (203-343-3249) for details.

**FASHION ISLAND CLASSES**

The "Learn to Speedskate" classes originally scheduled to begin in October at San Mateo have been moved to November.

Call Bonnie Crater 415-854-9606, for more information.

**"Speedskating Times"**

keeps you up with the latest news in in-line and ice speedskating - events, products,

race times (who and how fast). Call 305-782-5928 for subscription information.

Gabe Kingsley is collating information for a skating equipment database with a source list. He'd appreciate any suggestions. Say's Gabe, "This will be so easy to run, your cat could find information!".

FOR SALE: Bont Customs, approx. size: men's 4 or 5, 98% new. \$275 includes 15½ Pennington Excaliber blades and cups. Call Jim Minami, 510-581-3901.

**EQUIPMENT DATA BASE and TRADING POST****MARKETING GGSS**

One of our goals this season is to gain more visibility for GGSS in the greater Bay Area. With enough volunteers, we can:

- Splatter informations flyers across the Bay Area without mercy, ice



## THE PHANTOM SHOPPER

U.S. Olympic Sports Festival apparel, mugs, pins, hats and more are available from our association at 50% off. Order directly from Bob Nelson and 15% goes to Bill Disney Boosters - call Bob at 213-941-0842 to order. Mary has order forms.

Skate Pro has finally opened its doors at an alternate location: NOMAD CYCLERY, 2555 Irving St., S.F. Congratulations to owners Art Howard, Paul Schiessl and Keith Presting! They would like to hear what products you'd like them to carry. Give them a call: 415-752-8776. See Mary or Keith for a 10% off coupon.

Experience the JOY OF SOX with Marty Hill, 315-492-6620. He sells these blister preventive socks so you can break in new skates without them breaking you in!

rinks, roller rinks, bike shops, athletic clubs, skate shoppes, etc. The flyers on display at Ice Capades rink and on our bulleting board were made by Bonnie. Please get some from her to put up in your local bike or roller shop.

- Cornelia and Paul are each working on a club banner for our two rinks.

- Attract new members by placing ads in Bay Area ethnic community newspapers (Dutch, Swedish, Canadians, etc. - bring us the address of yours!). We could attract the support of people who know what speed skating is all about.

- Make up race invitations for friends, co-workers, etc., and send them to our favorite celebs.

- Issue press releases to newspaper and radio stations.

- Interest more publications in writing about us (City Sports is running an article about the GGSS in their November issue! Thank you, Gabe).

- Use ideas from the San Jose State

marketing project. Cornelia Bagg has the marketing projects with her and is going through them to glean out the most useable ideas.

- Put up a booth at Sharks games and present a speedskating demo between periods.

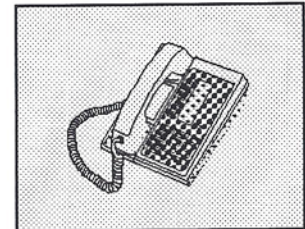
- Get GGSS bumper stickers on our cars with the ASU telephone number on them. We may pick up some in-liners this way.

- Lobby for an ice rink at Moscone Center, SF (and other locations).

- Put on fundraisers for new pads, etc.

We need lots of help on these projects, How about a P.R. Task Force? Call Cornelia Bagg (415-741-7823) with your ideas.

And EVERYONE - say hello to the new people who come out. We get feedback saying what a friendly, enthusiastic group we are.



If you have something FOR SALE for the Trading Post section in "On The Edge", let Cornelia Bagg know if you would like to put in a listing.

LAST BUT NOT LEAST - WELCOME TO ALL OUR NEW MEMBERS!!!!

And don't forget your old Motown records!



My Personal Opinion  
by Gabe Kingsley

In March of 1988, about 15 speed skaters, rounded up by Greg and Mary Wong, met at Belmont Iceland for a "speed skaters only" session. I hadn't skated in over 28 years, and didn't know a soul there, but because of the emotions stirred by the Calgary Winter Olympics the prior month, I had resolved to try to find a place to speed skate, and was hoping to find a modern replacement for my rusted and pitted 1959 vintage Planert Olympic Specials.

It was pure nostalgia for me. The smell of the ice rink, the technical skate talk and exchange of off-ice training techniques. I saw some incredible skaters that afternoon, and some average ones, too. There were those who were tentative. They wobbled and stumbled and stayed next to the rail to avoid as much embarrassment as possible in the event of an "accident", just like I did!. I also saw **everyone having FUN!** Many of those same skaters are with us today, 3½ years later. A few have gone on to compete on a National level, some have drifted off, or come and go, but most importantly, we, the Club, are **still here**. It has been a roller-coaster ride for these short 3½ years. We have had our ice time canceled, and the price we pay for the ice has been jacked-up without warning. Weekly attendance rose and fell without much obvious reason. But, we are **still here**.

We are, once again, in the "eye" of a crisis. From all outward appearances, we are an **ongoing institution**, with a lot of colorfully clad, crisp looking skaters whizzing around the ice at Club and public sessions. We have successfully negotiated the unthinkable, a Sunday evening "speed skaters only" public session at Fashion Island! But, our great public image isn't an accurate reflection of our actual condition. We are facing some large problems. They are **solvable**, but threaten our existence.

We have taken drastic, yet businesslike measures to meet the challenges of diminishing attendance and complaints of high ice costs per person. At the general membership meeting in August, it was decided to offer a scrip card, with the clear understanding that we would be taking a **25% loss in revenue per skater**. This step was taken with the purpose of attracting old skaters back to the Club, and getting new ones to show up. In other words, GGSS had a sale!

To keep things fair, it was decided that **only the scrip card holder** could use it. The single exception to this was to be in the event a member brought a guest. The guest could be paid for **1 time only** on the

member's punch card. We consider this concession an investment in the growth of the Club. We also voted to continue to offer the **first time free** to any newcomers.

It is disheartening that according to some, this isn't good enough! Because we want everyone to see the **scrip card as a value**, and because we simply can't afford to not care how many skaters show up, we **must charge \$10** for individual skates (without a card). The simple way to avoid this and **save 25%** at the same time, is to **buy a card!** That figures out to \$7.50 per session. (A mere \$2.50 for kids!) We have even made it **more economical** to use, in that it has an extended life. That means, if you don't show up every week, you don't necessarily lose any money you have invested in your card. Under the old system, you paid for the month. If you missed a weekend, or if the Club's session was canceled, you missed out. That is no longer the case. **Greater VALUE for your investment.**

It isn't reasonable to expect to satisfy everyone. However, I believe it is **unreasonable** that there are those who see the scrip card as a bad idea, merely because it requires the advancing of money to the Club. What purchasing a scrip card **actually** does is signify a skater's **personal commitment** to GGSS, and helps guarantee the future of the sport in the Bay Area. If the current trend continues, it will lead to the eventual dissolution of our Club. Not a smaller Club, because we couldn't get much smaller, but "bye, bye GGSS."

Some people may have the impression that the Club is being run for the convenience of a few, or only for racers. That just isn't true. This organization has been run in as benevolent a way as is possible, inviting the participation of **anyone** willing to **get involved**. We continually ask for assistance and feedback.

The alternative to a lack of support is simple, **no Club**. Public skating sessions, with their limitations, or the private rental of ice by a group would be your only options. Currently, ice rental costs \$175 per hour at Golden Gate Ice Arena (GGSS gets a \$25 contractual discount), \$190 at Fashion Island, and \$185 at the 3 Bay Area Iceland rinks.

Berkeley Iceland's only available time slot is 11:00PM to 12:00 Midnight Saturday night! How many skaters are going to get together to pay for that ice, 8 to 10? That figures out to a minimum of \$18 per hour, per person! Ice for rent just **isn't available** during "normal" hours. The slot we currently "own" is in high demand. If we give it up, it will be snapped up by the



hockey league or the figure skating club, not to be available again.

The Sunday evening Fashion Island public session is reliant on the existence of GGSS as a club. Fashion Island requires a minimum of 40 skaters to justify a public session. The highest number of skaters to have attended the Sunday night speed session thus far is 24, with an average of 12!

Only because of consistent urging and reassurances from our Club's management have they continued to support this tenuous Sunday evening session. **No GGSS, no Fashion Island Sunday speed skating session!** We have no guarantee that Fashion Island ice rink will continue in business. Their parent company has filed for protection under Chapter XI of the Bankruptcy Law.

How much does **skating only with speed skaters** mean to you? Where and when would you continue to train or skate? With whom? Who would coordinate the whole thing? How would you keep informed about what is happening on a local, regional and national level relative to racing schedules, rules, safety, training, technique, equipment, events, etc.?

Are you aware that we are covered by a \$1,000,000 liability policy provided by the ASU, and that because of our non-profit status, most of your GGSS monthly contribution is tax deductible? Have you ever belonged to an organization from which you got **anything** that didn't charge dues? **GGSS doesn't charge dues**, although almost all other clubs do.

All of the above is hand delivered to you on a weekly basis by a small group of highly motivated, dedicated people who **love the sport**, and are working hard to keep its presence alive in Northern California!

Now is a good time to assess what speed skating represents to you. Is it purely a social activity? Is it pizza you really like, and is skating secondary? Is speed skating your fitness base? Do your children benefit from the wholesomeness, healthy competition and companionship the sport offers? If you are a non-skating parent, do you appreciate the fact that someone is instructing and supervising your child while he or she is having fun and gaining a valuable life experience?

**Start supporting YOUR Club** by purchasing a scrip card and attending as regularly as possible. Become a "recruiter" at public sessions. If you are an in-line roller skater, **every other in-liner you meet** is a potential ice speed skater! Tell them about GGSS; invite them to a session. Remember, the first time is **FREE!**

Make attending the Saturday session a **priority** in your weekend agenda. Even if you aren't motivated to train, there is **room to skate laps**, and others with whom to skate them. **Believe that you can make a difference** in the future of the sport in Northern California. We are such a small, fragile entity, that **every member** has great meaning to the existence of GGSS.

If you have been skating with us for a while, hasn't your technique improved? Don't you **enjoy skating** more as a result of skating better? Isn't that sort of personal gain a consideration in deciding to lend your support?

If you are a non-skater, know that your financial support will insure the continued existence of the sport in Northern California. It may go away without you.

Do you work for a corporation that might be willing to lend their sponsorship to amateur athletics? Will you help us in formulating a presentation to them?

Above all, **PLEASE** don't think of you and the Club in a "we - they" way. **YOU ARE THE WE, AND THE THEY!**

If you are one of the "stalwarts" who attend Club sessions regularly, **THANK YOU**. You are doing your share, and probably more. What I would ask of you is to encourage other skaters to attend more regularly, because **all we need** is a larger attendance base.

We are basing a lot of our hopes for the future of the Club on the Winter Olympics, which take place in February. We expect another "wave" of enthusiasm, like the one which spawned this Club in 1988.

If the current trend continues, we won't be here to accommodate that new group of skaters.

Please don't take the existence of GGSS for granted. Sometimes we realize, all too late, that something very meaningful could have been saved with some foresight and a little effort.

**Does your personal support match the effort being made on your behalf? Are you doing your share?**

If GGSS and what it represents are important to you, do what you can...but **DO SOMETHING**, and **DO IT NOW!**

Thank you for the opportunity to express my thoughts,