

# On The Edge



August 1997

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**Please make note of these ice times!!**

**"Learn-to-Speedskate" SATURDAYS -**

**Oakland - until 8/24/ONLY**

**(4:00 - off ice) on-ice 5:15 to 6:00 - \$10 - pay rink**

**OICS summer sessions: \$5 - 6:00to 6:45 p.m.**

**Starting SOON**

**BERKELEY SESSION : August 10 - 6:45 to 7:45 p.m.**

**SAN JOSE SESSION: September !**

**Exhibition RACE: August 23, Oakland see pg. 5**

*Hello!*

**W**elcome back skaters. Its time to get ready for the new season. Say Hello to the new skaters who are speedskating through the NCSA and Oakland rink sponsored "Learn to Speed Skate" program.

If you have thought about inviting friends to the rink, now is the best time as we have more sizes of skates available to loan!

## Update Your E-mail and Fax Numbers

In order for us to update your fax and e-mail address (for race results and quick notices) please send us a fax at 510 886-4136 with your fax number on it and/or e-mail to gregw@sbei.com .



*Goodbye!*

Jim Minami is relocating to St. Louis at the end of September for his job with Southern Pacific. He is really looking forward to skating with the clubs around that area and travelling with skaters of the Missouri Association to meets around the Midwest.

He is shown here at the Nationals awards banquet, with medals he won in two Grand Masters races in West Point, NY last March.

Jim was a founding member of Golden Gate Speed Skaters, the club that started the Northern Cal. Speedskating Assoc. He attended the very first GGSS session on 3/13/88. Jim supported local clubs

and local racing. He travelled up and down the coast and to Utah, forging friendships all along the way. For many of us, he was the one who encouraged us not only in our first race, but at our first session. He dragged extra skates around in his car, pooling the first set of loaners, and was always talking to the rink managers, on the lookout for extra ice time. He was our first regular club coach. Jim, we'll miss you!

ON THE EDGE was composed, written, edited, copied, folded, stamped and mailed by the Wongs for Northern California speedskaters. Crumpling and shredding provided free by the Post Office.

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**PLANNING THE 1999 NATIONALS**

Mary Wong

In September of 1996 I wrote suggesting that we get busy in planning the '99 Nationals.

Bob Payne and I attended the National Convention in May 1997 in St. Louis and got lots of helpful hints and encouragement from people who put on the '97 Nationals in West Point, and the '95 North Americans in Cleveland. Also, the ASU passed a resolution that bids for nationals will now be taken two years before the event, rather than three years. So, the good news is that rather than being desperately behind, we are ON SCHEDULE!

**We have chosen March 19-21 1999 as our race dates with the "warm-up" the 18th. We will be hosting the State Meet two weeks before.**

In my mom's square dance club, each square has a couple designated as the "head." All others are the "not-heads. Ferd agrees to be a (co) "Meet Head," but doesn't want to do it alone. Bob, Kimon and I are in frequent touch with the rink. We have a verbal agreement with the manager, Dennis Smith, who is preparing a contract. We will be contacting people at the city level to ask them to kick in the approximately \$4,000 ice fees.

The Oakland convention and visitors bureau has put us in touch with hotels. With a contract in hand we meet with them.

The biggest trick of all is planning the fund raisers, with Bonnie Crater's help.

Later, when we can measure actual progress, I know there'll be those who don't like or agree with things, and they will be the..... hot heads.

Bob and Pferde on the grounds of West Point, at Nationals in March of '97, inspecting the starters canon.

**It is Election Time for NCSA**

Charlie Doval, NCSA secretary/treasurer for the last few years is resigning from his duties. He reminds us that it is election time.

Charlie has spoken to a number of active skaters and some have agreed to run for office. Charlie received the ASU registration forms from the National Office and they must be sent to all eligible skaters as soon as we have a new secretary.

The office of secretary is appointed by the president immediately after election.

At this time, we are looking for further nominees. Below you will find a sample ballot. Please contact Mary at 510-886-0565 right away to add your name or nominate someone.

Only those 40 members of the NCSA last season are eligible to vote.

**Sample Ballot for Election of NCSA Officers**

**President**

Bob Payne \_\_\_\_\_

**VP - Racing**

Pferde Shaffer \_\_\_\_\_

**VP - Membership**

Mark Schecter \_\_\_\_\_

**Treasurer**

Dino Papoutsis \_\_\_\_\_

**Executive Secretary (to be appointed by President)**

Ruggy Holloway \_\_\_\_\_

This is not an official ballot. Please contact Mary at 886-0565 to add nominees.

**GTE GRANT BENEFITS "LEARN-TO-SPEEDSKATE" PROGRAM**

It pays to volunteer when your employer is GTE. Employees who volunteer time for charities apply for GTE grants to be awarded to those organizations. Ferd and Bob each were awarded a \$1,000 check, made payable to NCSA.

They documented their hours (and hours and hours) spent helping NCSA, including coaching, planning races, officiating and attending ASU conventions and seminars. Ferd is one of the national coaching seminar coordinators for the ASU. Bob was our race czar last year, and even put in time transporting pads from rink to rink.

The grant came in just in time, as Kimon had placed the order for the equipment we use in the Learn-To-speedskate program in Oakland.

