



Rim of the World Figure Skating Club

January 2009 Newsletter

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President's Message

With the start of the new year, we have a number of issues to consider. First and foremost is the upcoming club election. Our bylaws state that elections are held in March or April (at the 'annual' meeting). In order to hold proper elections we need to formulate a nominating committee, select candidates and provide ballots to all members.

While I understand that most of us have considerable obligations at home and work, it is important that more members become involved in some aspect of club operation. While it may appear that there is a lot of work to do, the saying 'many hands make light work' applies here.

We also need to start planning the 2009 Rim of the World Open Championships competition. Last year we were able to pull everything together in a very short period of time, but we really need to start planning now if we want to ensure its success this year.

Another issue is club jackets, and the logo. We had some discussion last year prior to the Rim competition, but due to time constraints we had to put it off. Since that time, Andrea has taken some of the responsibility but it appears that there is little interest by other members in pursuing this. It would be very nice if our skaters had jackets to wear to competitions, as other clubs provide. We can either continue to use the existing logo, or assign someone to develop a new one. Many of the clothing companies that provide club jackets have a graphic designer on staff that will help with logo

development. If you wish to have some input into this process, please try to attend the next board meeting or talk with (or send an email to) Dean and/or Andrea about your ideas.

As everyone should be aware, a club requires funding to operate. Test sessions generally lose money, or break even at best. In past years, the competition was the main revenue generation for the club but with rising costs and a slow economy, that is no longer the case. In addition, skaters qualifying for Sectionals and Nationals are generally provided with financial assistance. Therefore, we need to start considering alternative sources of revenues, such as fundraisers and the use of 'scrip'. This, again, will only be successful if club members become more involved.

With the economy doing so poorly, and costs likely to continue to increase, we really need to cooperate as a club. The board meeting on Jan 27 will begin discussions on all of these topics. I hope to see many of you there to offer suggestions on how we can continue to provide the services that club members expect and deserve.

Dean Kent - President

Farewell to Coach McGrath

As many of you are likely aware, Danielle McGrath will be moving back to Australia this year. Danielle has been a member of this club for many years, and has been an ardent supporter. She has gone out of her way to help out with test sessions and the competition, and has been a wealth of knowledge about skating in general.

Danielle has been my son's coach since 2001, and I can say that she will be sorely missed by both him and me. I am sure other students and families feel the same way.

On behalf of this club, I would like to offer a heartfelt 'Thank You' to Coach McGrath, and wish her the very best in her future endeavors. I am sure I speak for all of us when I say this.

Membership and Fund Raising - Again

In the last newsletter, I wrote that we needed to add a few members to meet the minimum requirements. I'm happy to report that we did achieve this goal, so the club is officially recognized by USFSA. This allows us to continue to hold official test sessions, and to hold our annual competition. However, we still need to try and encourage additional membership, as we know we will be losing at least one member this year in Danielle McGrath. A larger membership also means potentially greater involvement, and possibly better services.

As has been mentioned a number of times, we need to look at some fundraising opportunities to help generate operating funds for the club. I will be bringing some materials to our next board meeting on Jan 27, and I hope others will be able to offer some ideas as well.

Test Sessions

One of the primary services that a club offers is official USFSA test sessions. With that in mind, I am striving to schedule at least one test session per month between now and the end of summer. This is when most singles figure skaters will have the need to test.

Our next test session is scheduled for Wednesday, February 11, followed by another on March 11. The reason for Wednesday test sessions is that other local clubs have already

established Mondays, Thursdays and Fridays for their monthly sessions, and judges have informed me that Wednesdays are best for them to come up.

The times for these sessions will not be established until I know how many tests we will be doing. The reason for this is that the 10am time slot requires we pay for two hours, while the 12:15pm time slot only requires one hour.

As always, a test session may be cancelled if we do not receive a sufficient number of test applications to cover the costs, which include ice time and judge's transportation.

Club Business

Our first board meeting of 2009 will be held on Jan 27. All members should have received an email notification of this already. If you are not getting club emails, please contact Dean at dkent@realworldtech.com, or leave a note in the box office. You can also call 909 825-9742.

At this board meeting we hope to form a nominating committee for club elections, begin forming a competition committee for this year's Rim Championship, a committee (or group) to finalize our club logo and jackets, and a fundraising committee. Hopefully enough people will attend and want to become involved so that these are not all manned by the same individuals.

US Jr. Championships Trip Report

I write this, not so much as a club officer, but as a skating parent. As most of you are aware, David Kent qualified for the 2009 US Jr. Championships, held in Lake Placid, NY. This was truly an inspirational opportunity for him, and he did his best to make the most of it. With two dedicated practice sessions, you could almost see the improvement in skills and confidence each day.

The atmosphere was quite exciting, with so many top skaters, coaches and USFSA representatives. Seminars were held for coaches, skaters and parents who wanted to find out more about how competitions and skills are judged, how the USFSA works, and how to get the most out of training.

It did not take long to recognize that Coach McGrath as been around figure skating for awhile. It seemed she was being sought out every day by someone who had heard she was attending. David and I had the opportunity to meet a number of Olympic medalists, top coaches and USFSA officials. Don't let her modesty fool you, Danielle is quite well known and respected in the figure skating world!

We were able to see fellow Center Ice skater Courtney Hicks perform her routines in the Ladies Intermediate events. She skated exceptionally well, as you would guess from her 2nd place finish. We also watched the Men's Intermediate events, so David could get an idea of what he needs to be doing this year. Quite the eye opener for him.

While David did not do as well as he had hoped, he came away very inspired, and said several times that he was planning on working much harder this year so he can go back again for the 2010 Jr. Championships. He made several new friends, whom he will be skating against this year, and was able to reaffirm his love for this sport.

All in all, it was an excellent experience for David, and I had fun watching both he and Danielle enjoying themselves. For myself, I would like to give a huge thanks to all in the club who helped to make this happen, including Andrea McClure, Phoebe Chapman, the Noyes family, the Dudelson family, the Laksana family, and most of all Danielle McGrath, who has been the best coach for David that we could have hoped for.