



Rim of the World Figure Skating Club

July 2008 Newsletter

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President's Message

While the response to the survey sent out several weeks ago has been somewhat less than I had hoped for, enough were returned to give me a feel for what members are looking for in a club. Most important, of course, is the availability of testing sessions, which will be discussed later in this newsletter.

Virtually all respondents also indicated that a regular newsletter is desirable. To that end, I will be making the effort of generating a mailed newsletter at least once per quarter. In addition, the website will be updated regularly with news and current events.

When renewing memberships with USFSA this year, it became apparent that the club dues need to be raised. The club charges \$45 for home club members, and only \$25 for coaches. USFSA charges \$40 for each primary home club member, so in some cases the club is losing money. During the last board meeting, it was decided to raise the dues by \$10 for home club members, and by \$15 for coaches. I know that the economy has hit everyone this year, so dues will remain the same through June 30 for renewing and new members. As of July 1, dues will increase.

Responses from the survey also indicate that members would like to receive some benefits from membership beyond being able to test, including test patches and/or pins, permission letters, and social events. I will be sending out a permission letter to all Home Club Members to alleviate the need to seek me out for signing

forms. Many other benefits cost money so we will be trying to put together a number of fundraisers during the year. Fundraising is generally not very exciting, and usually results in the parents selling items to co-workers. I would like to try to have some events that can raise revenue, and be enjoyable for both parents and skaters. The Ice Cream Social is the first such event, and others that have been suggested include a Car Wash and a Bake Sale.

Ultimately, the club exists to support the efforts of the skaters. This requires time and effort on the part of the members, and revenues to provide the benefits. One of the best methods of raising revenues is to hold a USFSA sanctioned competition, which Rim of the World FSC has held every year. As some of you may be aware, the rink management has extended every courtesy to try and allow us to hold the competition this year, despite the problems we have been suffering. Whether this event comes to fruition or not this year, we need to show our support of the rink in return. The Skating School is holding an ISI and USFS Basic Skills Competition on July 19-20, and we have been asked to provide some assistance. I would like to suggest that all members contact Jan Perkins to find out what he or she may be able to do to help out.

As you can see, there is a lot going on, but there is also an awful lot to do in order to get this club functioning at a level that will encourage members to join and become involved. If you have any thought, suggestions or concerns, please let me know.

Dean Kent - President

ISI and USFS Basic Skills Competition

The Center Ice Arena Skating School is holding their 3rd Annual ISI and USFS Basic Skills Competition on July 19-20. The club has been asked to assist with hospitality, as well as any other services they may need. For those who may be considering helping out with the Rim of the World Open Championship, this would be a good opportunity to gain some experience and become familiar with the activities necessary to hold a competition.

The Skating School, and rink management have been very supportive of our club, and I believe it is important for us to show our appreciation by returning the favor. Please contact Jan Perkins (ejperkins@aol.com), or myself (dkent@realworldtech.com).

Rim of the World Open Championships Update

For 25 consecutive years, Rim of the World Figure Skating Club has held its annual competition, and is considered one of the premier events of the season for many skaters. This year, it looked almost certain that we would not be able to hold the event. Competitions are generally the top revenue generator for a club, as well as a source of pride and enjoyment for the members. The possibility of having to cancel this year's competition has been a source of great concern.

Fortunately, the rink management has been extremely supportive and has held the date for us longer than we could have expected. As members should now be aware, the club simply does not have the funds to pay the required deposit for ice time and other services.

Shortly after the letter was sent out appraising members of the club status, rink management extended a very generous and gracious offer to allow us to hold the competition. Efforts are now in full swing to try and make this happen.

The not-so-good news is that some deadlines were missed that are very critical. Number one of these is getting a chief referee, and all necessary judges. These should have been determined before June 1. The announcement should have been prepared and ready for submission to the USFSA for sanctioning.

I have been working hard to get the announcement ready, and that should be complete by the time you have received this newsletter. I am also contacting judges and referees, in hopes that enough will be available that we can hold the competition. However, judges' schedules are very busy, so this it does not look good, presently. If I am successful, there will still be plenty of hard work left to do.

One of the most important lessons we can teach our children is that success comes from being involved and not letting others determine your future. This is an excellent opportunity to see this in action. In essence, we all have this opportunity to become directly involved in literally raising this club from the ashes of its former self, and become proud of what we have achieved together.

Regardless of whether we are able to actually hold this event, since some things are not under our control, efforts in that regard will not be wasted, as it will become invaluable experience in organizing the event for 2009. Please contact Dean Kent (dkent@realworldtech.com) as soon as possible if you are willing and able to provide any assistance at all - whether in organizing, or in helping at the competition itself.

Test Session Status

I recognize that this has been a very sore spot with members over the past year, and I am working hard to try and rectify this

It has become blindingly apparent to me that one of the primary motivations for joining a club, particularly for 2nd club members, is availability of test sessions. Judges need to be arranged well in advance, so it is important that we have a regular schedule for them as well.

The past two test sessions have gone well, though some were cancelled due to various reasons. Most recently, we had to cancel our planned June 21 session because we were short one judge. Our attempts to get judges for a mid-week test session before the end of June are not going well. Judges are essentially volunteers with regular jobs, and are usually very busy. Weekend test sessions will allow us to schedule judges more easily.

Ideally, we would like to be able to hold a test session once per month, however the number of applications we have received of late do not justify that. More likely we will have tests every 6 to 8 weeks, with more frequency as applications increase.

You all have my personal apology for the lack of consistency in the testing schedule at the present time. Many of the requirements of running a club are new to me, and so I will likely be making some mistakes - and at the moment test sessions is where those mistakes are most obvious.

I am in the process of trying to line up judges for a test session to be held near the end of July. Two possible dates are Saturday (26th) or Monday (28th). If there is a preference for either one of these, please let me know. Once I have successfully arranged that test session, I will begin planning more regular sessions through the end of the year, and will post the schedule on the website.

Ice Cream Social

I have been trying to organize an Ice Cream (and Yogurt) social event this summer both as a fun activity for the skaters, and as a way to generate some revenues. Initially, I had hoped to hold the event at the end of June, but there has been far too much time and effort required to get other aspects of the club in order. With competition season in full swing, there are limited dates that will allow everyone to attend. At this time, it looks like Sunday, July 27 will be the best date. When the date has been confirmed, I will post a notice on the board at the rink.

If anyone would like to assist with planning and running this event, please contact me. Most of the planning has been done, but there are a few details that still need to be worked out.

Club Business

On Wednesday, June 18 a board meeting was held. Those in attendance were Dean Kent, Jan Perkins and Patricia Hamilton. Several issues were discussed, including some possible changes in the bylaws. One of them was to change the dates of membership to coincide with USFSA membership, as well as most other clubs.

Another possible change was to update the official club logo.

I have also been approached by several members about getting a new jacket design. Patricia Hamilton showed a very nice fleece jacket from the San Diego FSC, and offered to contact the designer/maker for us to discuss prices. One of our new members, Annetta Dudelson, has indicated she has experience as a clothing designer and has offered to assist with a new design.

There will be a new member survey at the rink asking members if they would like to have these changes made, if we should adopt official club colors, the best days/times for board meetings. A non-response will be considered an affirmative, so if you do not agree with the suggested changes, please make sure you make your opinion known.