

# The Cutting Edge

## Central Virginia Skating Club

December 24, 2007

### President's Notes

Here is my holiday list to Santa for the rink and the club (since we all seem to be on the nice list this year).

- 1. MORE LEARN TO SKATE PARTICIPANTS.** Learn to skate is the beginning step to club membership. Very few of our club members didn't start skating in a learn to skate program somewhere. The numbers for learn to skate are down significantly compared to last year. That means that in a few years, there will probably be fewer skaters joining our club. It also means fewer skaters skating on freestyle sessions, which will either mean fewer freestyle sessions or higher costs to skate on freestyle ice.
- 2. MORE HOCKEY PLAYERS.** I love hockey! Not just because my son plays, but because it makes operating an ice rink financially feasible. Currently, there are around 350 kids and 250-300 adults playing hockey in Richmond. As great as that sounds, the numbers are down amongst the youngest players. Starting hockey can be financially daunting. Equipment is expensive and the cost to play a season of ice hockey can be very high. The two rinks are offering a new introductory hockey program starting in January to allow skaters to try hockey at an affordable price. It's called Richmond Hockey U and is only \$99 for the 15 week program and includes free loaner equipment. If you know any boys (or girls) who might be interested in trying hockey, please recommend this program to them.
- 3. MORE VOLUNTEERS.** We have 80 members in our club, but it sometimes seems as if the same handful of volunteers steps forward every time there is a call for volunteers for a special project or event. We are all busy and all have a lot on our plates. When you can, please consider volunteering to help.
- 4. MORE CHANCES TO LET OTHERS KNOW "IT'S GREAT TO SKATE!"** Do you have ideas on how we can get this message out? Do you belong to a church youth group, Girl Scout troop, or other club who might be interested in a skating party? Do you have any media connections that might be willing to do a story about skating in Richmond? Anything the club can do to promote skating helps insure that skating will continue to be available in Richmond.
- 5. MORE SYNCHRONIZED SKATERS.** Synchronized skating is a fun discipline that allows figure skaters to participate on a team. It encourages skaters to stay involved in skating who might not be interested in individual competition. It helps promote successful test sessions because synchronized skaters are required to complete moves in the field tests.
- 6. MORE SKATERS COMPETING IN USFSA COMPETITIONS.** ISI competitions are fun, but as skaters move beyond freestyle 5, the number of skaters to compete against dwindles. USFSA competitions offer a more competitive atmosphere for skaters who are landing axels and beyond. Competing in USFSA competitions may involve traveling a little farther, but it is a step I would like to see more of our skaters take.
- 7. MORE CLUB MEMBERS ATTENDING CLUB EVENTS.** The club is trying to offer opportunities for club members to get together. The holiday family skate is coming up this week. In late May or June we will have our senior skate. July or August will bring our annual meeting. Please plan on attending as many of these events as you can. Do you have an idea for a fall get together? We would like to add one to the list for next year.

Those are my wishes. I hope Santa grants you all of your wishes, Diane

## **Bingo Update**

The CVSC bingo fundraiser is off to a great start. In our first two months, the club earned \$2439. Half of that amount will be divided among the ten volunteers to cover some of their skating related expenses (ice time, coaching fees, skates, competition entry fees, test fees, Ice Zone programs, etc...). If you do the math, that works out to \$121.95 per volunteer for just 4.5 hours of work (or \$27.10/hour). The other half of the money will be used by the club to fund special projects. Our upcoming dates for bingo are Dec. 30th, Jan. 13th, and Feb. 17th. If you did not sign up initially to volunteer for bingo, but would like your name added to the volunteer list, just drop Diane Brown an email at [diane@comcast.net](mailto:diane@comcast.net).

## **Family Skate**

The 2nd Annual CVSC Holiday Family Skate will be on Thursday, December 27th, 5:00-8:10 PM. Starting at 5:00, we will have a social hour with food in the café. The club will be providing appetizers and soft drinks. Families are encouraged to bring a favorite dessert to share. From 6:10-8:10, the ice will be available for skating and on-ice games. Admission to the event is at least one non-perishable food item per family member to be donated to the Central Virginia Food Bank. All club members and their families are encouraged to attend.

## **Science Museum Demonstration**

On Monday, November 19th, Kaitlyn Walker, Brenna Monk, and Katherine Brown used their skating talents to entertain guests at the opening night party for the Science Museum of Virginia's Joy from the World. The Science Museum has installed a 70' X 44' synthetic ice rink for the holiday season and invited the CVSC to provide some skaters to help with the opening night entertainment. Although the skating was pretty far removed from the main festivities, so we didn't have a lot of lookers, Kaitlyn, Brenna and Katherine did a great job representing the club and demonstrating the grace and beauty of figure skating. The demonstration lasted about 45 minutes and Kathleen Monk used the time to pass out learn to skate brochures and 2 for 1 public skate passes. She also answered questions and encouraged onlookers to come out to Ice Zone and Skate Nation Plus and give skating a try. Overall, it was a great opportunity for the club to promote skating in the Richmond area.

## **National Skating Month**

January is National Skating Month. The goal of National Skating Month is to increase awareness of and participation in ice skating sports. Once again this year, the Ice Zone, CVSC, Richmond Royals and Virginia Speed skating will be combining forces for National Skating Month to reach out to potential new skaters in the Southside community. During the month-long celebration, activities at the Ice Zone will include free skating lessons, skating demonstrations, hockey games and a used equipment sale. In order for the National Skating Month activities to be successful, we need to get new skaters into the rink to give skating a try. Do you have any ideas for promoting National Skating Month? Please share them with any of the board members or Gaby.

## **Used Equipment Sale**

In January, as part of National Skating Month, the CVSC will be holding a used equipment sale. Although the date and time haven't been set yet, start collecting up any used equipment you would like to try selling. Look for more details as January approaches.

## **Poinsettia Sale**

The CVSC held its annual poinsettia sale in November. Many thanks to Kim Pickard for organizing the sale, Stephanie Floyd for providing the beautiful plants, and all of the club members who sold poinsettias for the club.

## **Christmas Show**

Congratulations to our many members who skated in the Christmas Show this weekend at the Icezone. You all did a terrific job! Also congratulations to our coaches who once again produced such an amazing show for us all to watch. I hope you all know how much we appreciate your efforts for our kids (not just for the Christmas Show, but all year round). Finally, many, many thanks to all of the volunteers who stepped up and helped out at the Christmas Show. Stuffing snack bags, helping in the locker rooms, selling hot chocolate and raffle tickets, and organizing the candles are just some of the many tasks the volunteers performed. Special thanks to Curtis Monk for volunteering to narrate the show and also for the terrific poem he wrote for the coaches.

## **Coaches Books**

Did you get a chance to see the great books that the skaters gave to the coaches at the Christmas Show? Carol Haden did a terrific job of organizing this project! If you would like your own copy of the book, Carol can order one for you. She needs a check in advance, your name, and phone number. Give her a call at 897-0107 or you can email her at [cathaden@aol.com](mailto:cathaden@aol.com).