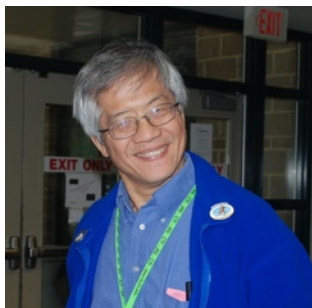


NOTES FROM THE PRESIDENT



Washington Figure Skating Club new season began on July 1, 2011. Please remember that with the start of the new season, you must renew your membership. Membership runs from July 1st through June 30th.

We thank Kim McDevitt for her service on the WFSC Board of Governors, and welcome Kim McIsaac who will be filling her term. We also thank Robin Maizlish for her service to Washington Figure Skating Club and the Board of Governors. During her tenure, Robin created the annual video montage shown at the Winter Social; produced the Blade; single-handedly ran the MIF/FS test sessions after Pat Brockner's passing; and willingly took on many other hours-consuming volunteer tasks for the Club. Robin also created the logo for Potomac Open, the program for the South Atlantic Regional Championships, and helped in many of the graphic arts needs of WFSC. As Jennifer, Robin's skating daughter, goes to college, we hope that we can still have Robin help in special projects at WFSC. Please thank her for all that she has done for the Club when you see. WFSC will miss her talents and dedication. If you are interested in volunteering with the Club in any of these or other capacities, please contact a WFSC board member. The Club can not run without a dedicated group of volunteers.

Congratulations to

Armin Mabbanoosadeh on his assignment to the NHK Trophy Grand Prix in Sapporo, Japan, which will be held November 11-13, 2011

Bob Crawford for being awarded the Helen M. McLorraine Figure Skating Scholarship for the second year in a row!

ATTENTION HIGH SCHOOL AND COLLEGE GRADUATES

Many WFSC Skaters graduated High School or College last month and will be beginning new endeavors in the Fall. We hope that all of our graduates will remain members of WFSC. Members attending college are eligible for a four year collegiate membership. We'd love to hear from you about your future plans. Please send your information to the Blade Editor so that it can be included in the August issue.

MOLLY CRAWFORD HONORED WITH WHEELER AWARD

Every year, the Washington Figure Skating Club awards the Wheeler Award of \$100 to a home club member age 18 or younger, selected on the basis of motivation, sportsmanship and skating accomplishments. The award was established by Mary Starr Wheeler, who was a charter member of the WFSC and a high-test judge during the 1950s, 60s and 70s.

The 2011 award went to Molly Crawford and was presented to her at the WFSC Annual Meeting in June. Molly has a strong competitive record, finishing 6th at the South Atlantic Regional Championships the last two years in Novice Ladies. She also qualified for the 2009 Junior National Championships in Intermediate Ladies and regularly medals at local competitions. She is particularly noted for her fine spins – especially her signature “leg over the head” sit spin. To reach her achievements, Molly trains hard and makes the most of her ice time. Her focus and determination on the ice is an example that is cited by many skating parents. Her diligence in warming up for a session and cooling down afterwards is also notable. She also works at Cabin John to help earn skating sessions in order to increase her practice time. In addition to her own skating, Molly is generous with her time and observations with other skaters. She is willing to help a young skater work through a particular skill or disappointing moment and often shares her knowledge on the IJS with other skaters. Furthermore, she has been a regular volunteer at the club and other local competitions such as CRC and Cherry Blossom from an early age (starting out as a runner and now helping as a monitor). Her volunteer spirit sets an excellent model for younger skaters and is very much appreciated by the competition organizers.



Past Wheeler Awards winners include Haley Dunne (2010), Sarah Eisen (2009), Jennifer Maizlish (2008), Ashley Wagner (2007), Sigrid Young (2006), Victoria Connelly (2005), Craig Ratterree (2004), Aiden Daley-Hynes (2003), Megan McCullough (2002), Emma Phibbs (2001), Schuyler Eldridge (2000), Sean O'Rourke (1999), Caitlin Obremski (1998), William Rasmussen (1997), Rusty Fein (1996), Tasha Purcell (1995), Diane Chen (1994) and Sarah Harre (1993).

2011 Edward G Picken Pro-Am Dance Classic

This year's Club Competition took place at SkateQuest Reston June 10th-June 12th. Results can be found at <http://wfsc.net/docs/ProAm2011/results/index.html>

Thanks to Kathleen Gatti and Nancy Brittingham for providing their comments on the event.

Notes from Kathleen Gatti:

The notable characteristic of this competition was smiling people: young, not so young, competitors, coaches, spectators, officials, & volunteers. Everyone enjoyed themselves, even the coaches, some of whom looked pretty tired by Sunday.

Ed Pickens, creator of this competition, felt that skating is for everyone, no matter what age. This inclusiveness showed in the diversity of the skaters. We enjoyed watching skaters at all levels compete. Lack of a partner does not disqualify a large number of dancers as in most competitions. The age range was preteen to septuagenarian. Skating level ranged similarly.

Notable performances that I watched were 11 year old Evelyn Walsh and Alexandr Kiranov almost filling an Olympic sized rink with the Fourteenstep, most of the junior free dance performances, especially the one with the crazy hairstyles, and an impressive Harris Tango by a nine year old boy in his first competition.

Notes from Nancy Brittingham:

This past month, several ice dancers from Connecticut and New York traveled to Reston to participate in the 2011 Edward G. Picken Pro-Am

Dance Classic. This was my third trip to Virginia for the event and this year was accompanied by another adult skater, a young dance team, my coach and even his mother! No, I did not win any medals, or even place, but at my age, skating my personal best, remembering the steps, and smiling brightly counted for a great deal and left me with a tremendous feeling of achievement for a job well done.

The event was perfectly organized and hosted ice dancers of all ages, skill levels, shapes and sizes! Organizers were friendly and supportive as they greeted you and then stepped away from their tasks for a few minutes to join the competitors on the ice for an event or two.

As the weekend wore on, I realized that I was sharing the ice, the event, and that joyful feeling that only ice dancing can provide, with friends, many of whom I have known now for years during my skating travels. My coach, as all coaches do, quietly prompted, cajoled, and otherwise supported my skating and my efforts, despite my nerves and shaky legs as we stepped out onto the ice for each event. The audience politely applauded each skater, regardless of affiliation. Fellow competitors hugged and praised each other in glee!

When I was a much younger skater, competition and performance left me quaking in my skating boots. Now that I am officially a senior, a master skater, and even a granny, I skate, compete, and perform with a joy and inward abandonment that, although it may not be seen by the judges, is happily simmering underneath. Who could ask for more?

THE STUFF DREAMS ARE MADE OF

WFSC Dancers participate in Ice Dance Seminar

by Andrea Gropman

On Sunday, June 26th, 2011, ice dance couples from juvenile level to senior level, and representing clubs from Laurel to Los Angeles, got a taste of what it takes to be an Olympic ice dancer. That is, they participated in an ice dance seminar sponsored by USFSA, with special guest instruction from Tanith Belbin, 2006 Olympic silver medalist in ice dance (with partner Ben Agosto), and Charlie White, 2010 Olympic Silver Medalist in ice dance (with partner Meryl Davis) and current reigning World Champion in ice dance.



The ice dance seminar came on the heels of the Chesapeake Open competition on June 24-25, and many of the same seminar couples participated in the competition as well. Most couples had group as well as one-on-one instruction with Tanith and/or Charlie, and the Olympians were very gracious in allowing numerous autograph sessions and photo opportunities with the younger skaters (and parents, too). The ice dance seminar started a few hours after the competition ended with skater only sessions on music selection Saturday night, and resumed on Sunday at 7 am sharp and finished at 4 pm. The seminar focused on all the elements critical to ice dancing. There were sessions on

edges and power stroking, elements and levels of execution, off-ice training and instruction in expression and interpretation. Junior and senior level skaters also had an opportunity for one-on-one critiques with Olympic level judges and officials, while the parents met with ice dance officials for informal sessions, from discussing general questions about ice dance, to the more complicated issues of scoring.

Overall, it was a great experience for all, with many skaters expressing enthusiasm for any future camps of this nature. We are lucky to have such great coaching and skating opportunities in the Washington area. Thanks to the USFSA ice dance program for putting together such a terrific program and to Tanith and Charlie for inspiring so many young ice dancers.





POTOMAC OPEN DEADLINE July 19, 2011

Register for the Potomac Open and pre-register for discounted practice ice! <http://comp.entryeeze.com/Home.aspx?cid=219>

How are you getting your WFSC and skating news?

Washington Figure Skating Club's volunteers do their best to provide its membership with current news and information. We do this in a variety of ways:

- Website: www.wfsc.net. The Club website lets the membership know about upcoming competitions and tests, as well as the recent accomplishments of our skaters and other members.
- Facebook: www.facebook.com/WashingtonFSC. In addition to the information found on the Club website, the WFSC Facebook page provides news from the figure skating world, updates from U.S. Figure Skating, and information about area competitions and seminars. This page is interactive – feel free to comment on a posting or post a comment or question yourself.
- Twitter: www.twitter.com/WashingtonFSC. WFSC's Twitter page provides the same information as its Facebook page, but in a streaming, news-oriented format.
- E-mail: www.yahoo.com. WFSC has a "Group" on Yahoo! that is used to send e-mails out through a ListServ. This is the way that WFSC reaches out and sends information to its members, as opposed to the members going on-line and accessing one or more of the above sites. Test and competition schedules are generally available first through the ListServ. If you need help joining the ListServ, send your e-mail address to WFSC President Peter Tsai at PeterTsai@verizon.net and he will send you an invitation to the Group.

You don't have to join Facebook or Twitter to access the information provided there. Simply go to the webpages listed above, and you can access all of the information provided there. On the Facebook page, be sure to click on the links to the left in addition to scrolling through our news feed. More information is available at the Events and Notes tabs.

WFSC/U.S. Figure Skating upcoming events

July 10: MIF/FS test, Cabin John Ice Rink

July 16: Dance test, Wheaton Ice Arena

August 3-6: National Showcase, Mentor, OH

August 6: MIF/FS test, Kettler Capitals IcePlex

August 19-21: Potomac Open, Ashburn Ice House

September 18: MIF/FS test, Prince William Ice Center

October 9: 2012 South Atlantic Regional Figure Skating Championships Send-Off, Rockville Ice Arena

October 15-17: 2012 South Atlantic non-qualifying Regional Figure Skating Championships, Aston, PA

October 21-25: 2012 South Atlantic Regional Figure Skating Championships, Aston, PA

November 15-19: 2012 Eastern Sectional Figure Skating Championships, Jamestown, NY

November 26: MIF/FS test, Cabin John Ice Rink

December 9-13: 2012 U.S. Junior Figure Skating Championships, East Lansing, MI

January 16, 2012: MIF/FS test, Rockville Ice Arena

January 22-29: U.S. Figure Skating Championships, San Jose, CA

January 26-28: 2012 Eastern Synchronized Skating Sectional Championships, Harrisburg, PA

February 20: MIF/FS test, Rockville Ice Arena

March 7-10: 2012 U.S. Synchronized Skating Championships, Boston, MA

March 17: MIF/FS test, Ashburn Ice House

March 31: Club Competition, Ashburn Ice House

April 14: MIF/FS test, Ashburn Ice House

May 6: MIF/FS test, Kettler Capitals IcePlex

June 3: MIF/FS test, Kettler Capitals IcePlex

August 17-19: Potomac Open, Kettler Capitals IcePlex

Upcoming area competitions:

Liberty: July 12-16 at Iceworks, Aston, PA

WFSC Potomac Open: August 19-21, Ashburn Ice House

Challenge Cup: September 8-11, PSCHS

Mid-Atlantics: September 15-18, Skating Club of New York

Falling Leaves: September 30-October 2, Richmond FSC

2012 South Atlantic non-qualifying Regionals: October 15-17, Aston, PA

2012 South Atlantic Regionals: October 21-25, 2011, Aston, PA



The Blade
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