



THE SKATING CLUB OF BOSTON

CHIPS

February 2010

Davis and White to headline Olympics-themed Ice Chips!



Photo by Sarah S. Brannen

President's Letter

Dear Members,

Since our last Newsletter, 2009 is in the past and we all hope for a better 2010, even though we have been able to hold our own and have programs that continue to expand. Many of our skaters have had injuries, some families have lost loved ones and some are dealing with illnesses which we hope will be alleviated this year. Our skaters have continued to present themselves in an outstanding manner and the past two weeks at Nationals was no different; they are to be congratulated for their hard work and perseverance.

We had our Board Retreat December 4 & 5, 2009 which provided a great opportunity to look at where we have been, our strengths and weaknesses, where we need to streamline our organization and procedures as a Board and staff, and where we need to go for the future to the benefit of our membership. Thanks to the Board Members and the club staff for their participation, time and talent. A special thanks to Jim McManus for an outstanding job in organizing the logistics with our leader, Rose Snyder, the Board and staff. Extremely well done, Jim!

Our Synchronized Skating Teams, Team Excel, continues to improve and they held their first send off on January 15, 2010 at the New England Sports Center with attendance over

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All about Ice Chips and our stars, Meryl and Charlie!

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President's Letter

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200 including the seventy or so skaters and are to be commended for a job well done. We wish them their best skate at the Eastern Sectional Synchronized Skating Championships to be held January 28-30 and we look forward to their National Send off scheduled for February 19, 2010 at the club.

Our programs at our satellite, New England Sport Center, continue to grow with support of the club, the facility, staff and coaches at the facility. We look for continued success.

Nationals Send Off was well attended, our skaters skated extremely well and that appears to have carried over to their performances in Spokane since many finished in the top ten. When a skater, or for that matter any competitor, finishes in the top ten nationally I feel it's a major accomplishment. Sure, medals are the goal but being there; skating well, making friend and having a good time provide them with many experiences that will face them in the future. Congratulations to all of our skaters for a job well done and representing The Skating Club of Boston in an outstanding manner.

site, looking into better ways to operate the club, office and facility. We have many items on the to do list and I feel confident that we have the proper people in place to get the job done and better serve the needs of the membership. Thanks to all who have brought us to this point?

U.S. Figure Skating has requested recommendations for people who are interested in serving on U.S. Figure Skating Standing Committees. Any member in good standing who wishes to be recommended for one of the committees whose functions are described in the rule book needs to let us know by February 10, 2010 since the recommendations need to be at U.S. Figure Skating Headquarters by February 15, 2010. The recommendation requires the approval of the Board.

Hope you all will have a great 2010 and thank you for your support of The Skating Club of Boston.

Best Regards,
Joe



Member:



CHIPS is the official publication of The Skating Club of Boston and is edited by **Barb Fritz**.

The deadline for submissions for the next issue is **March 15, to editor @chipsboston.com**. The editor reserves the right to edit for length, clarity, and accuracy.

Chips is emailed to readers to conserve paper, toner and postage. Please make sure the Club office has your preferred email address(es).

The Board is vigorously working on our Long Range Plan, finalizing a site, developing a business plan and looking at financing options. When we have information that is complete and solid we will report to the membership at a membership meeting.

The club phone system has been replaced to better serve the membership and we are working on the web-

The Skating Club of Boston is located at 1240 Soldiers Field Road in Boston, Massachusetts 02135. Telephone 617-782-5900, fax 617-782-7846.
Visit The Skating Club of Boston website at www.scboston.org.

Elections: a Letter from the Editor

With elections coming this Spring, I wanted to talk to Nina Bradley, longtime Club member who has chaired the Nominating Committee for the past few years. (Please see Ben Wright's great article on page 4 about the Election process.) For anyone who doesn't know Nina, she's a wonderful Club member who has served on the Board, and has been involved with Ice Chips for many years. Say hello to her in the ticket booth when it opens.

Elections for our Board of Governors happen each year. Terms, as Ben's article explains, are two years for Board members and one year for Officers. Terms are staggered so some expire each year. The first thing a Nominating Committee chair has to do, as Nina would tell you, is to check in with all of the Board Members whose terms are ending and find out if they're interested in running again. That is, if they have been on the Board for two consecutive terms or fewer. Again, as Ben's article details, our By-Laws give the Board Members (but not Officers) term limits.

Nina started those calls to Board members in early January. When asked about her committee, she said she had a great committee assembled, but that if all the Board members whose terms were expiring had decided to run for re-election, the Nominating Committee would not need to seek additional candidates.

As a first term Board member, I'm learning a lot about the Club, its governance, and often using Chips to explain things that I had questions about before joining the Board. I hope this helps members with questions they have, and welcome you to ask me things you wonder about too – I'll find the answers and get back to you. When I was a new member, I thought you had to be invited to join a committee – like a secret society in college. Somebody would tap your left shoulder in the locker room, or slip you the special handshake during a freestyle session, and you'd be in.

Now that I'm much more involved, I know that couldn't have been farther from the truth. There are so many places for people to get involved, whether on year-round committees or seasonal ones like Ice Chips. Every committee, every event, is hungry and happy for volunteers.

I'd offered my credentials to the Nominating Committee a few years ago, interested in running for the Board, but wasn't chosen as part of that year's slate. Now, I understand that may have been because all of that year's Board wished to run for re-election. When I ran for election in 2008, I had my name added to the ballot by getting a petition signed by 10 Club Members. Other Board members currently serving were first elected that way as well.

What I've learned, both from being on the Board and from serving on Committees, is that the election process isn't designed to exclude. If you approach Nina Bradley and the Nominating Committee armed with your interest in serving the Board, thank you! If your name doesn't end up on the slate, and you'd like to run, get 10 signatures on a petition and run. If you aren't elected this year, don't stop there – find a committee that sounds interesting and make yourself an important part of it. We want, and need, your involvement to make our Club the best it can be.

Members, if you see a slate of "old" names who have served the Board, please know that your vote is important. If you have ideas, keep bringing them to the Board of Governors and the Committee Chairs. That's the best way for us to keep making this the best training center, the best place for new and developing skaters, the best place for families and all of us who love skating.

Barb Fritz
Editor, CHIPS Newsletter
Member, Board of Governors

Annual Elections

The purpose of this article is to enlighten the membership with respect to the annual "rite" and duty of the Club to carry out annual elections.

When is the annual election held? The annual election is held either in April or May each year

Who is to be elected? The Board of Governors of the Club, which consists of 15 regular members, with four officers (President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer and 11 other regular or honorary members divided into two groups of 6 and 5.

What are the terms of office for Board members? The four officers are elected annually for one year terms (starting on July 1st). A group of 6 members is elected for a two year in the even years and a group of 5 is elected for a two year term in the odd years.

Are there term limits? There are no term limits for the officers. Members of the Board who are not officers may succeed him or herself for not more than 3 consecutive terms of 2 years, however, he or she will be eligible for re-election no sooner than one election year after completion of such three consecutive terms of 2 years.

Who is eligible to serve on the Board? Any active regular member of the Club (that is a holder of a Family, Single, Family and Single Non-Skating or Supporting membership) is eligible to serve on the Board.

How are nominees for election selected? Each year on or before February 1st, a nominating committee consisting of not less than 3 nor more than 5 members, none of whom shall be members of the Board, shall be appointed by the Board. The Secretary thereupon notifies all regular members of the Club of the appointment of the committee and invites them to send to its chairman the names of such persons as they desire to propose for

consideration by the committee.

When are nominations announced? The Nominating Committee, on or before March 10th delivers to the Secretary its nominations for the officers and Board members to be voted on at the ensuing annual meeting. No later than by March 15th the Secretary sends a list of such nominations to all members of the Club entitled to vote.

May nominations be made by other than the Nominating Committee?

Any 10 members of the Club desiring to make further nominations for the Officers and Board members may at any time prior to March 25th deliver to the Secretary such nominations in writing signed by them.

When is the notice of the annual meeting sent out? The notice shall not be sent out prior to March 30th and shall contain a notice and list of all nominations. A ballot listing all such nominations shall be sent out with the notice. Such ballots may be signed by any regular member voting and sent to the Secretary and shall be cast by the Secretary of the meeting.

When are the ballots counted and the results of the election announced? The ballots are tabulated by duly appointed tellers who are not Board members and the results announced prior to the adjournment of the meeting.

Since the Club relies heavily on its volunteer base and its Board is all volunteers also, it is essential that all active regular members participate fully in the election process in order to insure that the Club will have the best possible governance going forward.

Benjamin T. Wright
Chairman of the Board

January 2, 2010

Tests Passed

Michael G. Bramante – Juvenile Free

Kassandra Skye Carpentier – Pre-Preliminary Moves

Kyra Fasano – Preliminary Moves

Stephanie Gervais – Intermediate Moves

Marc J Gervais – Adult Pre-Bronze

Moves

Joseph E Kasputys – Adult Gold Dance

Breanne M. Kenney – Juvenile Free

Victoria E. LoRusso - Intermediate Free

Joelle E Young – Juvenile Free

Editor's note: *Have you passed a test, but don't see your result here? CHIPS relies on the US Figure Skating website for our Tests Passed information. Results published here were available as of our January 15, 2010 deadline.*

U. S. Figure Skating Sanctions

We all see and hear the words “this event is sanctioned by U. S. Figure Skating” when we attend skating events such as our Boston Open, Mary Louise Wright Gala, and Ice Chips. What does that mean, exactly, and why is it important? The article on the right, reprinted from the U.S. Figure Skating Winter '09 newsletter, Clubs Matter, does a great job of explaining the two different types of sanctions USFS can grant to protect skaters' eligibility.

Henry Son is the Skating Club's designated Sanctions Officer, and Henry works to get each of our events properly sanctioned by USFS. This involved getting the specific purpose of the event, its dates, and details to the his contacts at U. S. Figure Skating. This process can take time, particularly with competitions, as U. S. Figure Skating will check to see that two clubs in the same geographical area are not asking to have competitions at the same time.

If you have questions about Sanctions, or need to get a Sanction for an event, please contact Henry at his address below. He's a great resource to us and a wealth of information on the process. Thanks, Henry!

Henry Son
The Skating Club of Boston
Sanctions Officer
56 Graziano Drive
Braintree, MA 02184
781-929-1938
tiogason@beld.net

Put it on your calendar!

Ice Chips
Picture Day

Sunday, March 14

Performance Sanction vs. Basic Skills Performance Approval

Performance Sanctions are issued by U.S. Figure Skating to protect the eligibility of its members. The rules of the Sanctions and Eligibility Committee govern all carnivals and exhibitions held by member clubs. Each club has a U.S. Figure Skating Sanction Officer and alternate assigned to them each season, and it is their job to approve all performance sanctions submitted by member clubs. Each member club also may have someone designated as their club sanctions officer. The club sanction officer prepares performance sanctions and submits them to the U.S. Figure Skating Sanction Officer for approval.



With few exceptions, all carnivals, exhibitions, appearances or entertainment of any kind where U.S. Figure Skating eligible skaters participate must be sanctioned. Sanctions are required when any of the following conditions apply:

1. Admission is charged or admission is contingent upon a donation.
2. The sponsor or promoter is a recipient of some pecuniary benefit.
3. Skaters, other than those who are members of the host club, have been invited to participate.
4. Ineligible persons in skating have been invited to participate.
5. The performance is held at a location other than the principal skating headquarters of the host club.
6. The event is advertised or the public is invited to attend.
7. Skaters or synchronized skating teams exhibit at hockey games.

Basic Skills Performance Approvals allow full members to participate in U.S. Figure Skating Basic Skills approved skating performances, ice shows, exhibitions, carnivals without the need for a separate U.S. Figure Skating sanction. Restrictions on performance approvals are that they do not include the participation of U.S. Figure Skating member skaters who are or have been active U.S. Championship competitors at or above the novice level within the past two years unless participation has been permitted by U.S. Figure Skating approval by way of sanction, ESCA (Eligible Skater Compensation Agreement) or special permission is obtained. Filing fee for obtaining a Basic Skills performance approval is \$25.

Please familiarize yourself with all sanctioning rules by clicking here <http://www.usfigureskating.org/MemberServices.asp?id=248> and go to the section on Sanctions and Eligibility.

All forms of advertising, announcement, program or notice, including on the internet/web, of any sanctioned carnival or exhibition must state that the event is presented by the sponsoring club/program and sanctioned or approved by U.S. Figure Skating.

Skatefest '10!

The Skating Club is proud to once again have its skaters and great volunteer coach / director, Amanda Farkas, so graciously contributing to the Salvation Army's annual Skatefest show, which is planned for Sunday, February 14 at Harvard's Bright Arena at 2 pm. Amanda has worked hard as the event director for the show for 14 years, and she organizes all of the numbers, selects the performers, and even choreographs special pieces for the long-running show, which benefits Our Place, the first licensed day care center for homeless children in Massachusetts. Not only is the show a great community event, it's a terrific opportunity for our skaters to get to perform in front of an audience, and know they are doing something to help others. Amanda works carefully to include skaters from different test levels, and students from different coaches, for the event.

Skatefest would be a great Valentine's Day activity for the whole family. Tickets are available at the Skating Club, or by calling 617-547-3400.

Featured Performers:

First Half

1. *L.O.V.E. Group Number*

Erin Catania
Deirdre Farrell
Jessica Levinson
Annabel Schmahmann

2. Lindsey Stevenson
3. Adrian Huertas
4. Rochelle Dost
5. Cori Boulet
6. Melissa Lee
Courtney O'Regan
7. Alex Shaughnessy and Jimmy Morgan
8. Ursie Munger
9. Julia Rapela
10. Mia Eisehandler
11. David Conley
12. Masha Minaeva
13. Keilani-Lyn Rudderham
14. Jason Wong
15. Team Excel

Second Half

1. *Hakuna Matata Group Number*

Caitria Catania
Ingrid Farrell
Natalie Levinson



Lindsey Stevenson, shown here performing at the Skating Club, is a featured performer in the first half of Skatefest

- Annabelle Rie
Olivia Schmahmann
2. Sebastian Kim
 3. Jessica Lin
 4. Suzanne Garcia
 5. Bennett Gottlieb
 6. Caitlyn Smith
 7. Jennifer Rosenthal
 8. Kylie Duarte and Colin Grafton
 9. Gianna Beniers
 10. Taylor Foley
 11. Rachel Zeppi
 12. Layla Siraj
 13. Harrison Choate
 14. Olivia Pastore
 15. Gretchen Donlan and Andrew Speroff
 16. Yasmin Siraj
 17. Ross Miner
 18. Team Excel

National Skating Week

The Skating Club was abuzz with activity on January 9 with our National Skating Month event. Held during the Public Skate session, we had well over 200 skaters in attendance. Paul Crugnola headed the event, which was kicked off by a great exhibition including skaters ranging in age and including some of our Eastern Sectional and Junior National competitors.

Next, generous coaches including Christie Allan-Piper, Linda Blount, and Tom Lescinski, as well as several SCOB competitors, offered free lessons at center ice. Board members Joe Blount, Jim McManus and Barb Fritz staffed a table overflowing with Snowplow Sam trinkets, Learn To Skate pamphlets, and information on our Club LTS programs. Ice Chips 2009 played on a video monitor, with many tiny skaters watching, spellbound. A raffle, held at the end of the session, was intensely popular, and winners were awarded prizes ranging from free Public Skating passes to Ice Chips tickets and Learn To Skate classes.

Lydia Magill, Eddie and their volunteers kept the crowd happy with trays of piping hot cookies and lots of cocoa.

Standing at the table was rewarding. We heard parents tell us how much they loved coming to the Club to skate, and answered many questions from skaters interested in our new Introductory Membership. Many remembered our Open House event from last year, and commented on how much they enjoy our instructors and Learn To Skate classes. It was a great day!



New Members

Family Members

**Mr. & Mrs. Stephen Sullivan
(Janet)
(Meaghan)**
Brookline, Massachusetts
C. Nutter / A. Makarechian

**Mr. Per Bakke
(Ingrid)**
Brookline, Massachusetts
E. Schran / T. Lescinski

Introductory Members

**Ms Xiulin Liu
(Robin Song)**
Brookline, Massachusetts
L. Blount / A. Farkas

**Mr. Raimund Wasner & Ms Donna
Amhrein
(Gillian, Gretchen (Wasner))**
West Roxbury, Massachusetts
L. Blount / J. Blount Medico

Synchro Members

Miss Ashley Liu
Sudbury, Massachusetts
K. Fuller / M. Naphtal

***Please welcome our new members
to the Skating Club of Boston!***

Team Excel News

Story and photography by Jeff Sokolov

Four teams exhibit at a festive send-off for the Eastern Synchronized Skating Sectional Championships

Fresh off strong performances at the Colonial Classic and World Junior Team Selection Competition, Team Excel exhibited at a festive send-off for the upcoming Eastern Synchronized Skating Sectional Championships on January 28-30 to be held at the Tsongas Arena in Lowell, MA. Organized by Pam Bohen and Mary Naphtal, the send-off was hosted by The Skating Club of Boston at their Metrowest location at the New England Sports Center.

The Preliminary, Juvenile, Novice and Junior teams skated in the exhibition. The “practically-perfect” Mary Poppins program of the Preliminary team wowed the crowd from the very beginning with a circle accented by blade-grab teardrop spirals. Then the Mulan-inspired Juvenile program featured scintillating spiral circle, spread-eagles, and Ina Bauers. Next, skating to a medley from the Twilight soundtrack, the Novice team introduced the audience to intricate circle footwork. Finally, the Junior team performed their long program to a medley of Celtic tunes showcasing their grace and power and ending with synchronized footwork in a no hold block.

After the performance, the skaters and their families enjoyed a buffet dinner followed by short speeches by David Wolfe (Team Excel President), Nicole Castro (Team Excel Steering Committee Chair), Joe Blount (SCOB President) and Merita Mullen (Team Excel Director of Synchronized Skating). In Team Excel’s first year, David and Nicole have been instrumental in ensuring that the organization runs smoothly and has the necessary resources to support the hard work that the skaters do on the ice.

During his remarks, Joe spoke about the importance of marking milestones, such as the Eastern Sectionals competition, during the long competitive season. He ended by congratulating Merita, her coaching staff and the skaters on the tremendous progress that they’ve made refining and improving their program performances and wished them luck.

Finally, Merita thanked all the families and skaters for being a part of Team Excel’s inaugural year. And she thanked The Skating Club for being so welcoming and for suggesting the send-off.

One of the highlights of the dinner was the ovation that Jane Gruber, Team Excel’s physical therapist and fitness trainer, received for the countless hours she generously volunteers to help keep our skaters fit and safe.

Five teams will be competing at the Eastern Synchronized Skating Sectional Championships: Preliminary, Juvenile, Novice, Junior and Collegiate. We hope that you will join us in wishing them good luck!

Following the Eastern Sectionals, the U.S. Synchronized Skating Championships will be held on March 3-5 in Minneapolis, MN. All qualifying teams will compete.

There are numerous ways to follow Team Excel in the coming months. Please visit our website at www.ExcelSynchro.org for updates and to read our blog. We have also just launched an official Facebook page in which Team Excel fans can interact and share information.

Tryouts for the 2010-2011 season will be held at the end of March and in April. Please check our website and Facebook page for dates and times.

Team Excel quick fact: Did you know that Team Excel offers opportunities for SCOB members to join either a Beginner team at one of our two locations or our Preliminary team that splits practices between the Boston and Marlborough locations? This is a great opportunity for families and skaters wishing to participate in synchronized skating but have challenging schedules. Next year, we are considering adding a third team. Since we have already started planning for next season, please let us know what would work best for you and your family by sending email to excelsynchro@gmail.com. Please tell us what synchronized skating levels interested you and what locations are most convenient for you!

Team Excel News



EASTERNS SEND-OFF
JAN 19, 2010



The Skating Club of Boston wishes our Team Excel skaters outstanding success at Eastern Sectionals!

Holiday Pageant

The Annual Holiday Pageant, hosted and organized by the Junior Activities Committee with wonderful food provided by the House Committee, was a great way for members to get together over beautiful skating and wonderful holiday treats and enjoy some time together. Weather forced some last-minute rescheduling, so we thank everyone for their flexibility. The event was enjoyed by all!



House Committee Chair Tammy Thierwechter puts the finishing touches on a beautiful buffet



JAC Event Committee Chairs did a great job: Mia Eisenhandler, Olivia Gibbons, Kayla Thierwechter, Melissa Lee, and Jenelle Herman

Event performers, big and little, included a secret "Santa" - can you identify him?

Please see more Holiday Pageant photos on page 11

*Event Photos by
chief CHIPS
photographer
Jarshen Lin*



December Board Retreat

The Skating Club of Boston's Board Retreat, held on December 3 and 4, was a great opportunity for our organization's governing body and office staff to work collaboratively towards creating both a short term and long term strategy that will help lead us into the next 100 years and beyond, as we approach our 100-year anniversary. Rose Snyder served as a consultant and facilitator for our Board Retreat, which was held in the Club Lounge. Rose has many years of experience working directly with USFS and clubs throughout the country with organizational management and planning, and has parallel experience with USA Swimming. On Friday evening the Board of Governors and the Office Staff met for Dinner and kicked off the retreat activities with some team building, based around the Myers-Briggs Type Indicator. We learned our individual types, and looked at how they can influence effective communication. We talked about how we can use what we learned to create better communication among the Board, our staff and our membership. Rose also reviewed a summary she had prepared, based on the attendees' pre-retreat feedback. Everyone was given the opportunity to comment and add to it. The group also set expectations for Saturday.

On Saturday, the Board was alone with Rose for a day of planning and strategy.

We talked about the kind of Board we are and should be, and what keeps us from accomplishing our '40,000 foot' goals. We did a SWOT (Strengths, Weaknesses, Threats and Opportunities) analysis and talked about doing the same exercise with the membership at a Friday dinner. We talked about the difficulty of handling day-to-day matters alongside Big Picture matters in Board meetings,

and the limited number of hours we are together. The team worked in breakout sessions to get more detail and outlined information to support each of these critical goals, defined as those which would best serve our membership. They included:

1. Strategic Planning (encompassing Facility Planning)
2. Membership
3. Communication
4. Leadership Development
5. Governance
6. Technology

Each team created long- and short-term goals and action steps and is preparing a report which Rose will compile so we can make sure that we track each one. The team wrapped up by each Board member giving their comments on the weekend's activities, then there was a call to action to commit to helping to make sure we succeed in our efforts to implement our plans.

Rose Snyder was a wonderful facilitator and will be working with the Board over the next three months to follow up with the board on its progress. Board members felt energized and pleased with the time spent and with Rose's guidance. The staff also implemented weekly staff meetings and it was decided that one person from the staff would attend our monthly Board meetings to improve our communications.

The Board thanks Jim McManus for his effort in planning and organizing this terrific session, which will give us a great springboard to our future work together.



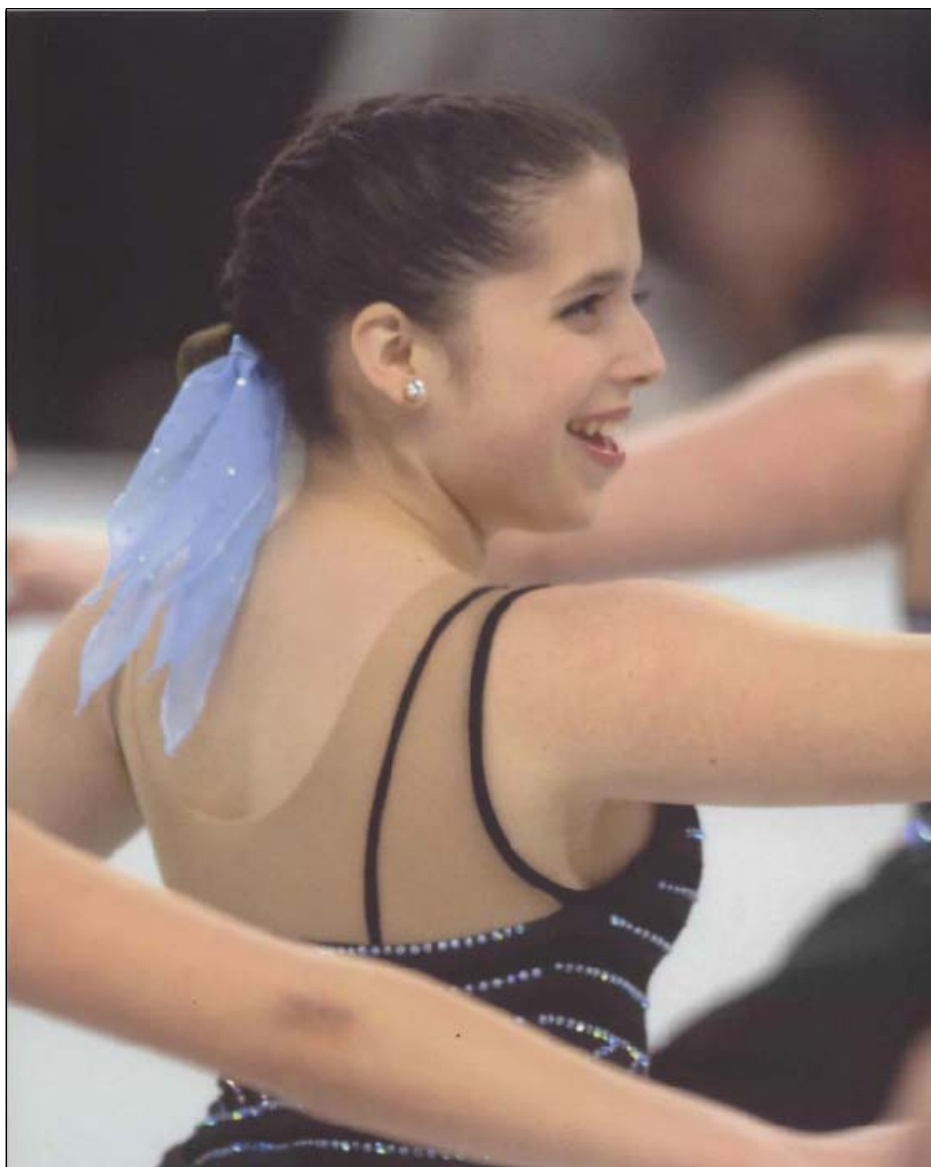
Left: longtime members Emily and Shep Holt, right, celebrate at the Holiday Pageant with Jim "Santa" McManus and Joe Blount. Above: the festive buffet

Naphtal awarded by USFS

Congratulations to longtime Club member **Rachael Naphtal**, who was named for her second eligible year to the U. S. Figure Skating Scholastic Honors Team. The USFS selects its top 10 student-athletes each year for this distinction, which includes an on-ice ceremony at the 2010 AT&T U.S. Figure Skating Championships in Spokane, WA. The program was started in 1996 to recognize high school athletes who excel in academics. More than 1,100 skaters have applied since the program's inception.

Rachael is a senior at Weston High School, and she has participated in synchronized skating for the past nine seasons, including winning four national medals. Last year, she skated with the Colonials junior team, which finished fourth at the 2009 U. S. Synchronized Skating Championships, and the team represented Team USA internationally. This year, Rachael is part of Team Excel junior. She has been a three-time Student Co-Chair and back-stage Operations Manager of Ice Chips, and is frequently seen on-ice with a headset, keeping the show running calmly. She also helps to plan the work Ice Chips does with the Girl Scouts each year, bringing hundreds of young girls in to see the show and learn more about the sport and discipline of figure skating.

Rachael's list of academic achievements is long. She is a National Hispanic Scholar, an AP Scholar with Distinction and earned a perfect score of 36 on the ACT college entrance examination. Rachael has achieved High Honor Roll status throughout her high school career and has received several departmental Letters of Commendation. In 2007, she was named Center Scholar



at the Johns Hopkins University Center for Talented Youth and was granted a three-year scholarship and summer research position at the Johns Hopkins School of Public Health.

In the Fall, Rachael will be headed to her first-choice school, MIT, where she plans to study cellular biology with a focus on the human genome. We're very proud of Rachael, and all she's accomplished in her academic work, skating, and volunteer activities.

More information about the USFS Scholastic Honors Team is available on the USFS website. The award is available to U.S. Figure Skating members of all disciplines who are juniors or seniors at an accredited high school. They must be full-time students with a grade point average of 3.4 or higher and have competed at the novice, junior or senior level during the past two years.

Candidates submit an application and an essay, which are reviewed by a panel that selects the team.

Scenes from Nationals



Spokane Arena welcomes competitors (Mary Ann Choate)



Gretchen Donlan and Andrew Speroff chat with Paul Wylie in Spokane (Kim Donlan)



Olivia Gibbons and Morgan Sowa (Mary Ann Choate)



Harrison Choate, with coaches Peter Johansson and Sina Murray



David Leenen (Mary Ann Choate)



Tyler Harris (Mary Ann Choate)

Ice Chips News (and more!)

Ice Chips is coming!

We're so excited about Ice Chips, scheduled for April 10 and 11 at Harvard's Bright Arena. This year's show, in keeping with February's events in Vancouver, will carry an Olympics theme.

We're most excited about our very special skating stars, **Meryl Davis and Charlie White**, the 2010 U. S. Dance Champions who will be making their first trip to the Olympic Games this year. Meryl and Charlie were recently named United States Olympic Committee Team of the Month (December) after their wins at the 2009 ISU Grand Prix final, Rostelecom Cup and NHK Trophy. The pair, who both attend the University of Michigan, have been skating together since 1998, and finished 4th at the 2009 World Championships.

We can't wait to cheer for Meryl and Charlie in Vancouver!



Photo courtesy of Sarah S. Brannen

Soloists will be notified by the Ice Chips committee of your selection for the show. Your show bios are due March 3, and pictures (high-resolution, 300 dpi or greater) must be submitted to Mary Naphtal for the program. Music may be submitted electronically this year (.mp3 format.) New England Competitors, your pictures will be taken on Picture Day, March 14, so you must be there that day.

The Ice Chips committee hard at



work, thinking of creative ideas. There's room for you! Email Kim Donlan at ksdonlan@aol.com to join in the fun!

The Girl Scouts will once again be a special part of Ice Chips. Each year, hundreds of Scouts attend Chips and learn about skating through a special demonstration by our skaters and stars. They learn about the various elements in singles and team skating and earn a badge for their efforts. Rachael Naphtal will be designing the special patch our Girl Scout guests will earn after completing their Figure Skating Demonstration badge this year. What a great way to share our sport and our Club with these girls!

Have you ever sold a program ad?

This year's Program committee is looking to create a special contest to help promote selling ads in the Ice Chips program this year. It's a great way to support your business, school, or even your favorite skater(s.) Watch for it!

Special group rates are available for Ice Chips. Can you arrange a group from your school, neighborhood association, or workplace to come and see the show?

December 22, 2009

Hello to Everyone!

I would like to take the time to thank everyone for making my first Junior Nationals so memorable. The skating was amazing to watch and luckily I got home despite the snowstorm. There are so many people to thank; the board for their generous send off gift, the house committee (and Eddie) for a delicious and fun send-off dinner, my coaches – Amanda, Deidre, Mark and Peter for getting me prepared, and last but not least all my friends and the families of SCOB who wished me well as I headed to Ohio. It meant a lot to me.

Olivia Pastore

House Committee presents...

The return of
Casual Bistro Dining
 for the
2010 Ice Chips Friday Evening Rehearsal Schedule

Due to last season's success of casual dining for parents and skaters participating in Friday evening rehearsals, we are kicking off Ice Chips rehearsals with the ever popular Taco Night! Of course, all members are welcome to attend any or all of these casual dinners where innovative themes and cuisines, live music, and the opportunity to become acquainted with new members prevail!!

Please note - for these dinners, the upstairs lounge is reserved specifically for adult club members, while the younger set will have dinner privileges near the ice to accommodate their practice schedules.

Children's / young cast members dinners will be complimented by a beverage, fruit / veggie, and dessert.

*All casual dining reservations must be made by calling or stopping in to the office
 by noon on Thursday of that specific week.*

January 29th – TACO NIGHT!! Taco buffets will be set upstairs and down - so choose your fillings or make a southwest salad!!

February 5th – Join us for GOURMET PIZZA!! Hmmm....white pizza, chicken alfredo, Hawaiian...traditional...what will those selections be? Delicious, to be sure! And, music for your dancing and listening pleasure provide by our good friend Patrick!

February 12th – *Let Me Call You Sweetheart*...and celebrate Cupid with delectable bistro treats made with romance in mind.

February 19th – SEND OFF!! No Ice Chips rehearsal, but everyone is welcome and encouraged to come and support our **Team Excel Synchro** skaters for their national sendoff!

February 26th – celebrate *Chinese New Year* with demonstrations of traditional Chinese dancing, and dine on a varied selection of popular Asian appetizers and entrees.

March 5th – waste away with us in *Margaritaville* and enjoy cheeseburgers in paradise, key lime pie, and other tasty treats. Dust off your parrot heads and don your Hawaiian shirts...be ready for a Jimmy Buffett sing-along, with the best in laid back music provided by our piano playing buddy, Patrick!

March 12th – *Wine and cheese extravaganza!* Sample wines with the experts from Gordon's Wines and Liquors at our tasting, and complement the vintages with an array of cheeses and hearty, dinner-worthy appetizers and desserts! Bistro-romantic music from Patrick, too!!

March 19th – REGULAR DINNER - *the club's Annual Irish Night!* Corned beef and cabbage, soda bread, and of course, and Irish Coffee ending!!

March 26th - *Pasta Night!!* Spaghetti, Tortellini, Gemelli – Bolognese, Alfredo, Marinara and more!! Choose your favorites, complimented by salad and garlic bread! Patrick's back for a repeat dancing and listening selection of music, too!

April 5th – Keep it light with Soup, Salad, and Sandwiches! Choose from a variety of café favorites to suit your individual tastes.

Hard Work and Good Company

By Lydia Magill

Waitstaff Needed – No Experience Necessary - \$10.00 per hour!

We have several openings available for waitstaff to work with Tammy Thierwechter and the House Committee (what a great name for a band!), of Kim Donlan, Gloria Miner, Sandy Gibbons, Toni Gupta, Lydia Magill, Amy Munger, and Marianne Pastore, at club dinners, send-offs, parties, and other club events. As many of you already know, our dinners and events are successful due in big part to the hustle of the waitstaff – whether it is serving “plated” dinners to 100 people seated upstairs, passing appetizers to guests sitting in the stands, replenishing offerings on the buffets rinkside, seeing to it that everyone has a knife and fork, or making sure that there is plenty of “send-off” cake and coffee to go around.

So here's an opportunity to join the team:

- Be a minimum of 13 years old
- Be willing to learn or already know and put into action what it means to be part of a team
- Be willing and able to lift food and serving trays
- Be focused on customer service
- Be willing to smile and possess a friendly, helpful attitude

- Have strong attention to detail (does every table have salt and pepper, what appetizers or soda bottles need replenishing, does a guest look like they need some help, for instance)
- Show a high degree of responsibility – dressed appropriately, be on time, good common sense
- Be able to keep the expected time commitment; for instance, staff for a Friday dinner has to be “ready to go” at 5:00 p.m. but might work until 10:00 p.m. or occasionally, later!
- Be willing to do “whatever it takes” to make an event successful
- Have a clean white shirt (no camis, tanks or crops), black pants, and very comfortable shoes (no sandals, slides, clogs, or high heels) or sneakers to wear for work
- Room for advancement – be a team leader and/or train and mentor new waitstaff

First dibs on waitstaff positions are given to club members, who then have the choice to have their earnings in a pay-check or applied directly to their house account. Other family members are also encouraged to apply! Friends who meet the requirements above will also be considered with a member's recommenda-

tion. Only club members are able to choose to have their earnings applied to their house account.

Duties include: setting tables completely, rearranging seating as needed, setting up coffee and non-alcoholic drink stations, directing guests to available seating and/or buffet lines, set up of appetizer stations, serving of passed appetizers to guests, confirming reserved dinner choices of guests, assisting chef and staff with plating of food, promptly and correctly serving assigned tables, clearing tables between courses and at completion of dinner, refilling and/or replacing empty serving dishes on buffets or stations, and cleanup – loading/unloading dumbwaiter, restocking cabinets with clean dishes, serve ware, silverware, and glassware, removal of table linens for laundering, storage of table and other decorations, as needed.

How to apply:

Please email Kim Donlan - KSDONLAN@aol.com – and add “interested in waitstaff” in the subject line. Kim will be in touch with you to find out more about your availability. We expect to be running a training session very soon for new waitstaff or for those who'd like a refresher, so watch for more details!!

Chips Thanks

CHIPS has had gold medal contributors for this issue. First, our professional photographer / author and SCOB friend Sarah S. Brannen, who has graciously lent us the beautiful photographs of Meryl Davis and Charlie White, our own photographer Jarshen Lin, Ben Wright, who explains even the weightiest matters easily, our House Committee goddesses Lydia Magill and Tammy Thierwechter, good sport Jim McManus, our President Joe Blount, team players Colleen O'Brien and Aaron Williams, Kim Donlan, Amanda Farkas, our tireless Team Excel Publicity Chair Jeff Sokolov. Mary Ann Choate, who took fabulous pictures backstage for us at Nationals, was a great spy for us—thank you!

There's room for you on the CHIPS team! We can use writers, photographers, editors, puzzle writers, illustrators... any talent you have can find a home here. We'd love your story ideas and feedback in general. The black mailbox is posted outside the Club office, if you're into anonymity, otherwise, editor@chips.boston.com works too.

Competition Results

2010 U. S. Junior Figure Skating Championships

Strongsville, Ohio - December 16–19, 2009

Hosted by the Greater Cleveland Council of Figure Skating Clubs

Competitors Photographs by Jarshen Lin



Congratulations to our Junior Nationals competitors for a job well done!

Juvenile Girls Group A (QR)

Maria Minaeva – 10th (43.12)

Olivia Pastore—13th (37.00)

Juvenile Girls Final

Maria Minaeva – 7th (48.50)

Juvenile Boys (QR)

Bennett Gottlieb – 3rd (50.45)

Juvenile Boys Final

Bennett Gottlieb – 3rd (48.39)

Intermediate Ladies Group B (QR)

Rachel Zeppi – 13th (37.00)

Melissa Lee – 21st (45.74)

Intermediate Men Free Skate (QR)

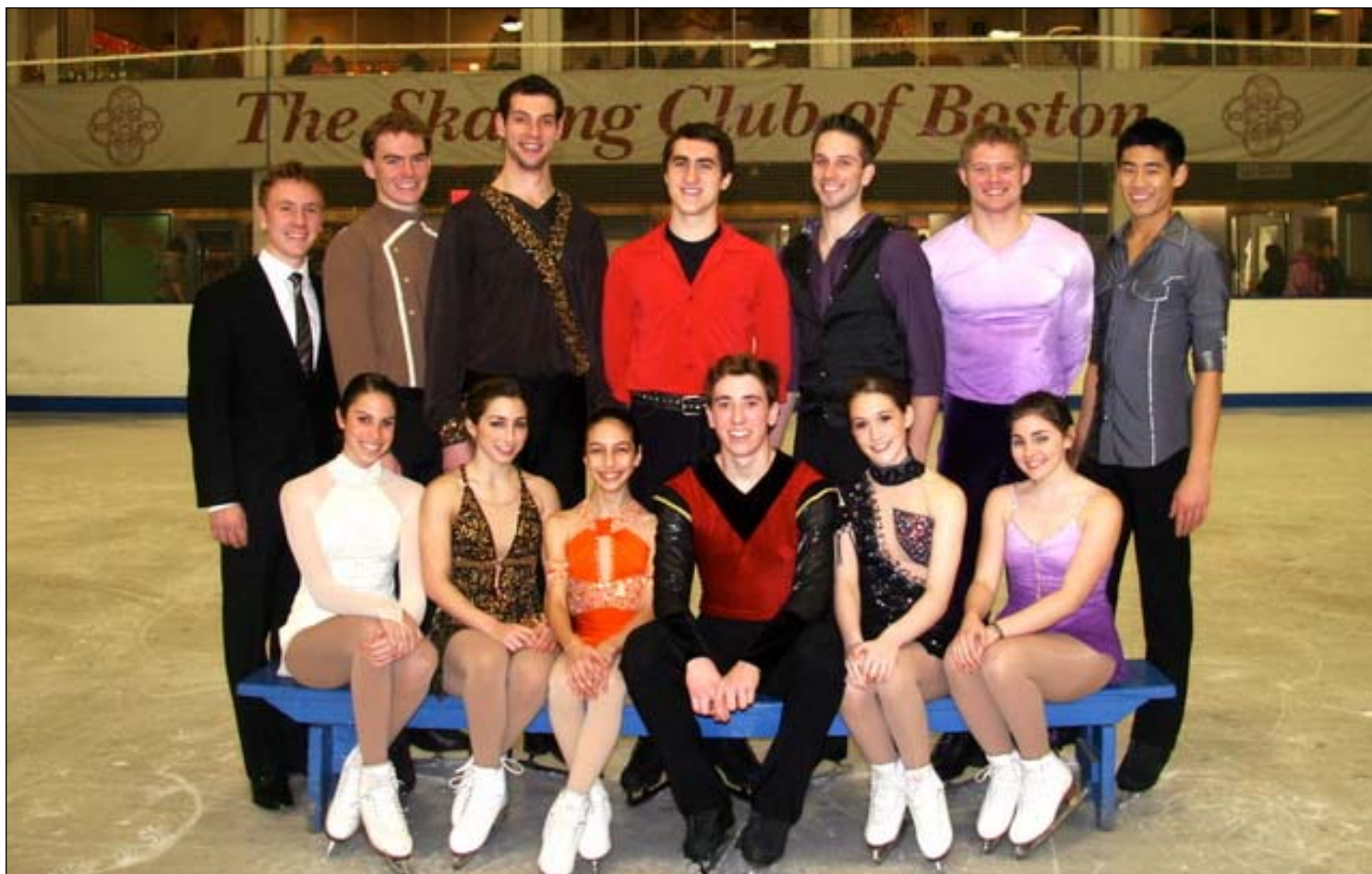
Adrian Huertas – 12th (51.16)

Competition Results

2010 U. S. Figure Skating Championships

Spokane, Washington - January 15-23, 2010

Competitors Photographs by Jarshen Lin



Novice Men Short Program

Harrison Choate – 5th (43.20)

Novice Men Free Skate

Harrison Choate – 4th (80.88)

Novice Men Final Placement

Harrison Choate – 6th (124.08)

Novice Pairs Short Program

Morgan Sowa & David Leenen -
9th (31.77)

Novice Pairs Free Skate

Morgan Sowa & David Leenen -
9th (64.82)

Novice Pairs Final

Morgan Sowa & David Leenen -
9th (96.82)

Junior Men Short Program

Peter Max Dion – 6th (55.84)

Junior Men Free Skate

Peter Max Dion – 11th (95.50)

Junior Men Final Placement

Peter Max Dion – 9th (151.34)

Junior Pairs Short Program

Gretchen Donlan & Andrew Speroff –
5th (44.85)
Olivia Gibbons & Tyler Harris – 10th
(36.77)

Junior Pairs Free Skate

Olivia Gibbons & Tyler Harris – 8th
(73.42)

Gretchen Donlan & Andrew Speroff –
9th (73.25)

Junior Pairs Final Place- ment

Gretchen Donlan & Andrew Speroff –
8th (118.10)

Olivia Gibbons & Tyler Harris – 9th
(110.19)

Junior Dance CD: Argentine Tango

Anastasia Cannuscio & Colin McManus
– 6th (29.50)

Competition Results

Junior Dance Original Dance

Anastasia Cannuscio & Colin McManus
– 8th (45.84)

Junior Dance Free Dance

Anastasia Cannuscio & Colin McManus
– 8th (68.42)

Junior Dance Final Placement

Anastasia Cannuscio & Colin McManus
– 7th (143.76)

Junior Ladies Short

Program

Yasmin Siraj – 4th (50.72)

Junior Ladies Free Skate

Yasmin Siraj – 2nd (100.33)

Junior Ladies Final Placement

Yasmin Siraj – 2nd (151.05)

Championship Men Short Program

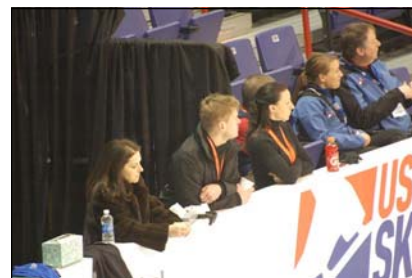
Jason Wong – 9th (64.56)
Stephen Carriere – 17th (58.68)

Championship Men Free Skate

Jason Wong – 10th (121.90)

Championship Men Final Placement

Jason Wong – 10th (186.46)



Championship Pairs Short Program

Molly Aaron & Daniyel Cohen – 8th
(52.19)

Marissa Castelli & Simon Shnapir – 11th
(49.28)

Championship Pairs Free Skate

Molly Aaron & Daniyel Cohen – 9th
(94.41)

Marissa Castelli & Simon Shnapir – 10th
(93.25)

Championship Pairs Final Placement

Molly Aaron & Daniyel Cohen – 9th
(146.60)

Marissa Castelli & Simon Shnapir – 10th
(142.53)



The crowd at Spokane Arena (Mary Ann Choate)

International Events

ISU Junior Grand Prix Final 2009- 2010

Tokyo, Japan – December 3-6, 2009

Junior Men Short Program

Ross Miner – 2nd (70.85)

Junior Men Free Skate

Ross Miner – 4th (125.24)

Junior Men Final Placement

Ross Miner – 3rd (196.09)

2010 ISU Four Continents Figure Skating Championships

*Jeonju City,
Republic of Korea
January 25–31, 2010*

Pairs Short Program

Marissa Castelli & Simon Shnapir –
10th (44.60)

Pairs Free Skate

Marissa Castelli & Simon Shnapir –
10th (84.31)

Assignments: Winter Events

*2010 U. S. World Junior
Figure Skating Team
The Hague, Netherlands
March 8-14, 2010*

Men

Ross Miner

Club Calendar

February 2010

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Test Applica- tions due 2 2 wks before	1	2	3 Dance Test	4	5 Dinner	6 Basic Skills Competition
7 Member Orientation, FS Test	8	9	10	11	12	13
14 Skatefest	15	16	17	18	19 Synchro Nationals Send Off	20 Adult Eastern Sec- tionals begin
21	22	23 Editor's birthday	24	25	26 Dinner	27 Synchro Nationals begin

March 2010

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
28	1	2	3	4	5 No Dinner	6
7 New Mem- ber Orientation	8 Junior Worlds begin	9	10	11	12	13
14 FS Test IceChips PictureDay	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			