



THE SKATING CLUB OF BOSTON

# CHIPS

October 2009

## Ross takes Gold!



Ross Miner celebrates his Lake Placid win

## President's Letter

I hope you all had a great summer. We had a busy summer here at the Skating Club, with visiting athletes joining us from Italy, Canada, and Japan. Our pairs program grew, and we expanded our pair ice to accommodate the many teams. It's wonderful to see a program develop and give our skaters more places to excel in the sport. Our programs at the MetroWest facility also continue to grow, and we added a number of new coaches to the staff there over the summer. Team Excel is finalizing the rosters for its synchronized teams; they held a workshop over a weekend in Boston and attracted many new skaters to try the sport.

Fall is now upon us, and with it, some exciting changes for the Skating Club. We've adjusted the ice schedule to let us add a third day of Learn To Skate classes, which have started on Sunday afternoons. The Sunday classes offer an expanded curriculum, including Learn to Dance, Synchro, Pairs and Artistry in Motion, to expose new skaters to all skating disciplines early in their skating careers. It's so important to welcome new skaters into our sport and our Club, to continue to build our base of skating talent and new members.

Also new this fall is our Introductory Membership, a one-year membership for families and individuals which will allow them to try out the Club and our programs. It's our hope that these new members, who must have at least one family member involved in a Basic Skills

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## President's Letter

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program, will fall in love with skating and join us as Regular members after their trial year.

Our competitive skaters have been working hard to prepare for the Fall season, and we look forward to cheering for them and all of the excitement of the competitive skating season. We'll have a strong contingent at New England Regionals in Burlington, Vermont later this month, and from there, our best will go to and Eastern Sectionals in Newark, Delaware, in November and Junior Nationals at Strongsville, Ohio, in December. We wish them great success.

We've spoken with you about our future planning, and the Board has been working hard on a number of aspects. There has been a lot of activity with parties interested in our property at 1240 Soldiers Field Road, and we continue to explore several strong possibilities for land for a new facility. When we have more concrete news to share, I'll be back in front of all of you with more details.

We continue to look at building our

programs, and dance is an area we would like to develop. In August, we had a visit from Krisztina Regöczy, a world champion ice dancer and Olympic Silver Medalist who has extensive coaching experience in Europe. Krisztina taught at the Skating Club in the early 80's and is on the ISU Ice Dance Technical Committee. She met with all of our dance coaches and Board, and spent time at both our Boston and MetroWest facilities. There's a great deal of interest among our MetroWest synchro skaters in adding more dance training, and we hope to bring more dance opportunity to the Boston facility as well.

I look forward to seeing you soon at a Friday night dinner, where I'll continue to make updates on the progress the Board is making in all the areas of our Club's development. We really welcome your involvement in all the Club has to offer!

Warm Regards,

Joe

## Have Something to Say?

**CHIPS** is crazy about feedback and articles from our readers. Items of interest (including your photographs or illustrations, preferably in digital format) and assorted notes (flowers, chocolates, etc.) may be delivered to The Skating Club of Boston's main office or sent directly to the editor via:

- Email: [editor@chipsboston.com](mailto:editor@chipsboston.com) or;
- Fax: 617 . 782 . 7846 (Attn: **CHIPS**)

The deadline for submissions for the next issue is **November 16**. Items received after this date will be published in the following issue. The editor reserves the right to edit for length, clarity, and accuracy. Contributors are encouraged to include their name and contact information (telephone number and/or e-mail address).

Member:  
  
[usfigureskating.org](http://usfigureskating.org)



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Visit The Skating Club of Boston website at [www.scboston.org](http://www.scboston.org).

# New Introductory Membership

In the midst of the current economic downturn, it's becoming a challenge for the Club to attract the constant influx of new members that we need to remain strong. Do you remember making the choice to join the Skating Club, and wondering how you and your family would fit in to all of the activities? It's a big decision for families, especially when their skaters are not yet at the competitor level.

In an effort to attract new skaters and families into the Club, we've developed an Introductory Membership that will allow eligible prospective members to try out our programs for a one-year period. "Many clubs across the country are adding introductory memberships, and U.S. Figure Skating is actively promoting this approach to increase interest in the sport," said Club Secretary Alisa Plazonja at a recent Board meeting. Alisa, who has engaged with the USFS Membership Chair to benchmark other clubs' programs, worked closely with the Board of Governors to set up the parameters of the Introductory Membership.

Because the largest point of attrition from the sport is out of the Basic Skills program, the Introductory Membership specifically targets Basic Skills participants – at least one family member must be enrolled in a Basic Skills program to be eligible to join the Club as an Introductory Member. The membership itself is designed to allow families to join at a low rate, similar to "new member" programs offered by fitness clubs. Accordingly, benefits are scaled back. Introductory Members do not have voting privileges, and their skating privileges are limited to designated No / Low Test sessions (at Member rates) and the Friday night and Sunday Hot Chocolate Club sessions. There is no Assessment or Bond payable for that first year, just a single fee of \$195. In addition, Introductory Members wishing to skate in Ice Chips must purchase a minimum of ten tickets to the show.

Because the goal of this new membership is to bring new members into the Club, we will not be allowing existing memberships to convert to this new category. This is only for new members, and at the end of the first year, those new members will need to convert to full family or single memberships. Do you have questions, or have a new member candidate you'd like to be able to talk to about the new Introductory Membership? For more information, please contact the Club Office or drop a note to [editor@chipsboston.com](mailto:editor@chipsboston.com).

## New Members

### *Family Members*

**Mr. Danny Ng & Ms Tina Tan  
(Brandon, Jessica)**  
Winchester, Massachusetts  
*L. Moscato / S. Murray*

### *Introductory Members*

**Mr. & Mrs. Mac Mendelsohn  
(Jennifer)**  
(Claire, Kyle)  
Newton, Massachusetts  
*L. Blount / K. Choi*

**Ms Allison Sokoloff**  
Boston, Massachusetts  
*C. Allan-Piper / A. Plazonja*

### *Synchro Memberships*

**Miss Allyson Bejma**  
Pawtucket, Rhode Island  
*K. Fuller / M. Naphtal*

**Miss Kyra Fasano**  
Lancaster, Massachusetts  
*K. Fuller / M. Naphtal*

**Miss Daria Serebrova**  
Shrewsbury, Massachusetts  
*M. Naphtal / P. Johansson*

**Miss Kate Wolstenholme**  
Bourne, Massachusetts  
*K. Fuller / M. Naphtal*

### *MetroWest Memberships*

**Mr. & Mrs. Brian Gollaher (Denise)  
(Amanda)**  
Hopkinton, Massachusetts  
*J. Wong / W. Naphtal*

### *MetroWest to Family*

**Mr. and Mrs. Christopher Rotella  
(Michelle)**

**Mr. & Mrs. Nat Phillips (Diane)**

### *Theatre On Ice to Family*

**Ms Veronica Hernandez**

### *Synchro to Junior*

**Miss Courtney Richiuts**



# Becoming a Great Skating Parent

*What makes a good skating parent? There are the obvious components of supporting your child's interest in pursuing a demanding sport like skating – funding lessons and ice time, driving to and from the Club, tests and competitions. What may start as one or two group lessons per week can quickly progress to several private lessons per week, supplemented by additional hours of practice ice, off-ice training in ballet, strength and conditioning. School and family schedules get rearranged around the skating year and its demands.*

*When an athlete and their parents get involved in figure skating, the whole family is captivated by the sport. Every family member wants the skater to both enjoy and succeed in their skating activities. "Success" is measured differently over time in the sport; starting with landing a waltz jump or doing the first scratch spin, to the first Axel, to preparing to enter Regionals for the first time and beyond.*

*Parents' involvement is critical. Great support can be the difference between a champion who loves the sport and a frustrated athlete who wonders why he or she is still skating. How, then, to be a good skating parent so that your skater has the best opportunity to develop on the ice? Chips spoke to a number of Club coaches to ask what works.*

**Trust your coach**, we heard again and again. At this time of year, it makes sense to draw parallels between your child's (school) teacher and skating coach. As a parent, you've chosen your coach carefully, and in many cases you've worked together for several years. Trust your coach to be in charge when he or she is teaching, and to lead the training of your skater. Skating Club coaches are carefully selected by our Coaches Committee and each one has many years of experience guiding young skaters. They maintain professional certifications from organizations including the Professional Skaters Association (PSA) and US Figure Skating (USFS), which also now does background checks. Before you challenge your coach's guidance, think about how you might handle a situation with your child's classroom teacher. Would you challenge a chemistry experiment, or an essay assignment? In skating, we have the benefit of being able to work with a coach for many years, so that relationship and trust can become even stronger as time goes on.

**Respect their advice**, whether it is about needing new or different equipment (they are often the first to know when skates don't fit or are broken-down), when your skater is ready for a competition or test, or about additional training. They may recommend additional lessons, on- or off-ice training of different types. Be honest with them about what your finances will allow for; they'll help you prioritize. Some coaches sit down with parents once a season to map out the plan for each student, including lessons, competitions, changes to the program, etc.

**Be the parent, not the assistant coach.** After your skater's ice session or lesson, ask how it went, but try not to put pressure on your child. Skating is a sport that focuses on results – learning a new jump, perfecting a tough spin, improving a piece of choreography. Your skater is constantly aware of his or her on-ice goals, so try to stay neutral as you're listening to their account of the day. Ask if they enjoyed their lesson.

Likewise, if you're watching on the sidelines on a non-lesson day, **let your skater concentrate** on the ice and their work. Every coach gives skaters "homework", just as their school teachers do – things to work on before the next lesson. If your skater keeps returning to you for "what should I do now?" have him or her ask for homework at the next lesson and write it down. One of the coaches we consulted said one of his goals is to teach his students independence, whether that means being able to use a session effectively or handle him or herself during a competition. Sit back and watch your skater develop that independence; don't feel you need to manage their session.



*Toni Gupta works with Madeline, while big sister Meghan is skating*

**Don't let others make you a competitive parent.** If you're chatting with other parents in the Lounge during a session, try to keep the conversation supportive. Every athlete learns differently, and one might have a few months when everything seems to fall into place, and new jumps are mastered and new performance ability reached. That same skater might go through another period where he or she is feeling like others are acquiring new skills faster. The healthiest athletes in any sport know that they're not competing against their training partners, but it can still be hard on those days when it looks like your friends are having an easier time on the ice. As

# Becoming a Great Skating Parent

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a parent, if you can be patient through those frustrations, you'll be the most helpful. If your skater seems disheartened



*Lisa Foley checks her messages while daughter Taylor skates*

when coming off the ice, after a tough competition or even a practice, don't return their frustration with a reminder about all you sacrifice for them, the expense of lessons, the time put into driving, or thoughts on how well another skater did. Their bad feelings will be magnified, with a dose of guilt added as well.

**Be great with the easy stuff.** Know your coach's preferences for how to communicate (email, cell phone?) and what their policies are about changing lesson times or days. Understand how and when they like to be paid. Do they prefer cash on the day of the lesson, or will they bill you once a month? Whichever it is, please respect them as professionals. Contact them when something's important, but be respectful of their personal time. It sounds obvious, but don't ask to speak to them when they're teaching someone else! Speaking of easy, have your skater at the Club on time, ready for his or her session, and allow for off-ice warm-up time.

**Don't sacrifice everything for your skater.** Find a healthy balance and a way to fit in some of your other needs while your child is skating. We've seen creative parents doing grocery shopping during ice sessions, doing homework in the Lounge with a brother or sister, exercising in the Fitness Room, and even a variety of portable work tasks. Find another parent you can car-pool with to reduce your driving time.

Do you have great parent tips you can share with us for a future Chips article? Other skating parents would love to hear from you. Please send them to [editor@chipsboston.com](mailto:editor@chipsboston.com).

## Tests Passed

*Editor's Note: these Test Results are taken from the US Figure Skating website as of September 15. Subsequent Test Results will be announced in our next issue. If we missed your result, please let us know!*

**Amy Barnett-Nakamura** - Novice Moves

**Alessandra Bianchi** - Pre-Juvenile Moves

**Michael G. Bramante** - Pre-Juvenile Free

**Melanie M. Chen** - Junior Moves

**Nancy Silver Hargreaves** - Blues

**Breanne M. Kenney** - Senior Moves

**David Leenen** - Junior Moves, Junior Free

**Huai-Ti Lin** - Juvenile Moves, Pre - Juvenile Free

**Jessica Lin** - Senior Moves

**Irene McLaughlin-Alves** - Pre-Preliminary Free

**James M. Morgan** - Pre-Juvenile Pair, Juvenile Pair

**Heidi W. Munger** - Novice Moves

**Ursula H. Munger** - Senior Moves

**Julia Marie M. Rapela** - Novice Moves

**Jennifer Rosenthal** - Pre-Juvenile Free

**Alexandria Shaughnessy** - Pre-Juvenile Pair, Juvenile Pair

**Jordan Sims** - Pre-Preliminary Moves

**Lindsey M. Stevenson** - Juvenile Moves

**Sarah Swalboski** - Juvenile Moves

**Cindy Y. Yu** - Juvenile Free

# Team Excel News

By Jeff Sokolov

After a July hiatus, eager Team Excel skaters returned in August ready to begin training for the qualifying season, starting with the Thanksgiving Classic in Plymouth, MA on November 14. Part of Team Excel's mission is to prepare synchronized skating teams for national and international competition and the skaters are committed to putting forth the hard work required to do so.

## August Skate Camps

August was highlighted by week-long training camps for each of the Juvenile, Novice and Junior teams. During each week, Merita Mullen, Team Excel Director of Synchronized Skating and her coaching staff including Megan Walsh, Kristin Curran and Krista Benson worked with the skaters on synchronized skating specific skills.

Merita and her coaching staff were assisted by a variety of specialists, each carefully selected to teach specific additional skills. Dance coaches Rob Rafuse and Laura Gayton taught step sequences and ice dance. Curran Oi and Brittney Rizo assisted with freestyle and moves training. Curran and Brittney are former SCOB competitors who will be attending MIT and Northeastern respectively this year.

At the end of August, Team Excel also hosted a two-day developmental fun camp for Beginner and Preliminary skaters from across New England to introduce them to the sport. The camp was open to all skaters and was well-attended.



*Skaters from the August Fun Camp hosted by Team Excel*

Merita's philosophy is to have more experienced skaters train newer skaters, and a number of volunteers provided additional instruction at the fun camp. These included Melissa Delano, Lee Anne Filosa, Domenica Fuller, Ally Bejma, Hilary Crew, Meaghan Ronan, and Alex Wolfe.

## The Fall Kickoff

With the Thanksgiving Classic only two months away, fall training has begun. We also added two more teams -- Beginner and Collegiate -- to our community of synchronized skaters.

This year, Team Excel will field seven teams: Beginner, Preliminary, Juvenile, Novice, Junior, Collegiate and Adult. There are still openings on several of these teams. In addition, our Junior team is excited by the opportunity to apply for an international assignment in Hungary afforded by U.S. Figure Skating's new Reserve B Program.

Team Excel will be offering Beginner teams at each of its two locations (Boston and Marlborough). With two locations, skaters and their families can choose the most convenient one. Members of our Beginner teams will:

- Learn the fundamentals of synchronized skating and the building blocks for higher levels
- Enjoy the synchronized skating experience at a skill and



*Team Excel Novice team performing a spiral circle during their August skate camp.*

During the August skate camps, off-ice training was conducted by Jane Gruber and Meaghan Ronan. Meaghan was a nine year veteran of Merita's teams and is currently studying at the University of New Hampshire. In addition, Meghan Meehan, a recent Muhlenberg graduate, taught the Team Excel skaters a number of elegant and graceful ballet exercises.

## Synchro Fun Camp



# Team Excel News

Continued from page 1



*As Excel juniors skate by, Merita keeps an eye on their footwork*

age-appropriate level

- Skate the Thanksgiving Classic competition on November 14th in Plymouth, MA
- Be a part of the Team Excel community of synchronized skaters and their families

Beginning skaters' expected skill level is Basic Skills 5 through Freestyle 3 but any skater may request an assessment. It's not too late to sign up at either location.

Our Boston team will practice at The Skating Club of Boston in Boston on Saturdays from 5:00pm-6:30pm starting September 12. Our MetroWest team will practice at the New England Sports Center in Marlborough on Mondays from 6:00pm-6:50pm starting September 14.

There are also several opportunities to enroll in Learn to Skate synchronized skating classes at both locations.

In addition to the start of the competitive season in early November, Team Excel skaters are looking forward to several Friday night exhibitions in Boston in the fall. They are eager to share their love and passion for synchronized skating with the Club community.

On September 14<sup>th</sup>, Merita and Megan conducted a skills clinic for Preliminary, Juvenile, Novice, Junior and Collegiate skaters. Skaters worked on edges, step sequences and other synchronized skating elements.

## The Amazing Staff at Children's Hospital

On September 12, the medical and physical therapy staff at Children's Hospital volunteered their time to perform fitness evaluations of our preliminary, juvenile, novice and junior skaters. We are very fortunate that our skaters had this opportunity. Jane Gruber, Team Excel physical therapy and fitness trainer, utilizes the fitness evaluation results to prepare team and sometimes skater-specific programs. The Children's medical staff also uses the opportunity to catch potential injuries before they happen. Special thanks go to Dr. Brian Fitzgerald for coordinating this event on behalf of Children's Hospital Sports Medicine team. Team Excel is very appreciative of Jane, Brian and the Children's Hospital medical staff.

## In Closing

In this our inaugural season, we are grateful for the support of the Skating Club as well as the many volunteers who put in countless hours to realize Merita's vision.

Please visit our website at [www.ExcelSynchro.org](http://www.ExcelSynchro.org) for updates.

The mission of Team Excel is to promote synchronized skating and prepare synchronized skating teams for national and international competition, encourage teamwork and sportsmanship and support individual skaters as they seek to attain their unique potential, and teams as they seek to achieve their full potential as a team.

*Photos by Jeff Sokolov and Ted Castro*

# Club Committees

The Club is run by great volunteers — parents, skaters, longtime and new members alike. Each committee has a different meeting frequency, and some are event-focused (like Ice Chips committees.) The following is a list of the what each group does, and their chairs. If you're interested in learning more, and finding out how you can get involved, please call the Committee Chair(s) listed below.

Committee	Charter	Members
<b>Anniversaries / Reunion</b>	To organize Reunion Dinner, help recognize members for their loyalty, dedication and honor membership longevity..	Theodore Buck
<b>Awards</b>	To annually determine the recipients of the Club's various awards.	Nina Bradley, Chair Benjamin Wright
<b>Basic Skills</b>	To develop the Club's Learn to Skate program	Paul Crugnola, Co-Chair Ann Buckley, Co-Chair
<b>Coaches</b>	Identify the Club's coaching needs and develop and implement a plan to address those needs  Evaluate current and prospective coaching staff members and make recommendations to the Board of Governors regarding coaching staff appointments  Make recommendations to the Board of Governors regarding the Coaching Staff Rules  Oversee the coaching staff's compliance with Club and U.S. Figure Skating rules  Serve as the liaison between the coaches and the Board of Governors  Serve as the primary point of contact for Members for any coaching related issues that require the Board of Governors' attention  Make recommendations to the Board of Governors in all matters involving coaching issues	Alisa Plazonja, Chair  Stephanie Andrews  Peter Johansson, Coach Representative  Henry Son
<b>Chips Newsletter</b>	Gather Information from Board and Committee Chairs, attend and report on all Club events and competitions  Write, edit, lay out, and prepare for (electronic) publishing the club's Chips newsletter  Newsletter is published 6 times a year	Barb Fritz, Chair
<b>Competitions - Basic Skills</b>	Plan, staff (including judges and officials) and oversee execution of annual Basic Skills competition  Ensure compliance with all applicable U.S. Figure Skating requirements	Paul Crugnola, Chair
<b>Competitions – Boston Open</b>	Plan, staff (including judges and officials) and oversee execution of annual Boston Open competition  Ensure compliance with all applicable U.S. Figure Skating requirements	Paul Crugnola, Chair
<b>Competitions – Club</b>	Plan, staff (including judges and officials) and oversee execution of annual Club competition  Ensure compliance with all applicable U.S. Figure Skating requirements	



# Club Committees

continued

<b>Dance</b>	<p>Regularly review the Dance rules and recommend changes to the Board of Governors as appropriate</p> <p>Monitor compliance with the Dance rules and recommend corrective action for infractions to the Board of Governors as necessary</p> <p>Assign rotating "Member-in-Charge" to provide refreshments for Club Dance sessions</p> <p>Plan and execute Dance-oriented social events at the Club</p>	
<b>Development</b>	<p>Seek out and obtain sponsors and benefactors</p>	Mary Ann Choate, Chair
<b>Finance &amp; Investment</b>	<p>Establish the Club's investment policy for approval by the Board of Governors</p> <p>Regularly review the Club's investment policy and investment portfolio and recommend changes to the Board of Governors as applicable</p> <p>Oversee the management of the Club's financial assets in compliance with approved investment policy</p>	<p>Warren Naphtal, Chair</p> <p>John Frieling, Co-Chair</p> <p>Tobey Choate</p> <p>Cindy Stevenson</p>
<b>House Committee</b>	<p>Responsible for of all food-related functions at the Club, including the Café, Friday night dinners, the New Member Tea and other special events</p> <p>Duties including ensuring adequate staffing, event set up and break down and addressing special member needs</p> <p>Also responsible for creating and planning special events</p>	<p>Tammy Thierwechter, Chair</p> <p>Sandy Gibbons, Kim Donlan, Lydia Magill, Mary Ann Pastore, Gloria Miner, Toni Gupta</p>
<b>Ice Committee</b>	<p>Develop fall and summer ice schedules for approval by the Board of Governors</p> <p>Regularly review the Ice and Music rules and recommend changes to the Board of Governors as appropriate</p> <p>Monitor compliance with the Ice and Music rules and recommend corrective action for infractions to the Board of Governors as necessary</p> <p>Review requests for exceptions and recommend action to the Board of Governors</p>	<p>Linda Blount, Chair</p> <p>Peter Johansson, Coach Representative</p> <p>Athlete Representative (to be named)</p> <p>Jim McManus, Board Liaison</p> <p>Laura Riley</p>
<b>Ice Chips</b>	<p>Create and execute annual project plan for Ice Chips carnival</p> <p>Procure event facility and guest stars</p> <p>Establish sub-committees as necessary and ensure appropriate volunteer staffing</p> <p>Work with Ice Committee to procure practice ice for the show</p> <p>Keep the Board of Governors informed of event needs and project status</p> <p>Ensure compliance with the Ice Chips Solo Guidelines</p> <p>Maintain thorough and accurate financial records for all event activities</p>	<p>Ann Buckley, Co-Chair</p> <p>Kim Donlan, Co-Chair</p> <p>Jarshen Lin, Co-Chair</p> <p>Warren Naphtal, Co-Chair</p>

# Club Committees

continued

<b>IJS Equipment</b>	Maintain the Club's IJS equipment and ensure that it is continually operational and up to date  Oversee the rental of the Club's IJS equipment to other Clubs, including ensuring its safe shipment and return	Bob Withrow
<b>Junior Activities</b>	Organize a variety of events, primarily for the enjoyment of the Club's younger members.  Events include the annual Halloween Party, Holiday Pageant and Mary Louise Wright Memorial Exhibition.	Olivia Gibbons, Co-Chair  Michaellee Scarincio , Co-Chair  Jim McManus, Board Liaison
<b>Long Range Planning</b>	Establish appropriate long range goals to ensure the Club's ongoing viability and leadership in the sport of figure skating, and execute plans to achieve those goals  Obtain membership approval for long range planning initiatives as appropriate	Board of Governors
<b>MetroWest</b>	Manage and coordinate Club operations at the MetroWest facility	Warren Naphtal, Co-Chair  Tobey Choate, Co-Chair
<b>Museum</b>	Oversee the Club's museum	Benjamin Wright, Chair
<b>New England Interclub Council</b>	Work with the New England Interclub Council on areas of interest / importance to the region's U.S. Figure Skating member clubs	Joe Blount, Delegate
<b>Nominating</b>	Select a recommended slate of candidates for positions on the Board of Governors, in compliance with the Club's By-Laws	Nina Bradley, Chair
<b>Photography</b>		Jarshen Lin, Chair
<b>Program Development</b>	Identify the programs necessary to ensure the Club's continued growth and health and make recommendations to the Board of Governors for action required to implement such programs	Ann Buckley, Chair  Barb Fritz
<b>Off Ice</b>	Oversee off-ice training activities, including the weight room and any dance classes offered at the Club  Make recommendations to the Board regarding off-ice activities, including staffing	Linda Blount, Chair  Peter Johansson, Coach Representative
<b>Sanctions &amp; Exhibitions</b>	Identify the need for and obtain as necessary U.S. Figure Skating sanctions for Club events	Henry Son, Chair
<b>Synchronized Team Skating</b>	Oversee the Club's synchronized skating program and keep the Board informed of events, needs and activities	To be announced
<b>Test</b>	Schedule, organize, and staff test sessions  Ensure compliance with all U.S. Figure Skating test session requirements  Report test results to skaters, the Club and U.S. Figure Skating  Maintain appropriate records of all test sessions held at the Club	Stephanie Crugnola, Chair, Figures, MIF, Free Skating, Pairs Tests  Lenny Colarusso, Chair, Dance, MIF Tests

# Club Committees

continued

<b>Theater on Ice</b>	Oversee the Club's Theater on Ice program and keep the Board of Governors informed of team events, needs and activities	Jim McManus, Board Liaison Mary Samost, Act 1 Team manager Theresa Lee Kathy MacNichol
<b>Website</b>	Oversee the Club's web site and ensure that it remains operational and up to date with current news and information	Aaron Williams, Contributor News Editor to be named Webmaster to be named

Editor's note: For help in contacting any of the Committee Chairs, please call the Club office at 617-782-5900. There are lots of great ways to get involved, even if it's just volunteering for one afternoon at an event!

## IJS Technical Panel Facts

With the Fall competitive season just around the corner, the Professional Skaters Association (PSA) sent this notice out to coaches. CHIPS felt it would be appropriate to share with our readers, to help us all better understand the technical aspects of IJS Judging.

### How the technical panel functions:

The panel consists of 5 people all wearing headsets, listening to calls.

The Chief Referee is also on a headset.

The Technical Specialist makes the call with their voice.

The Assistant Specialist (AS) and Controller (TC) write down the elements the skater performs as identified by the Technical Specialist (TS).

If the AS or TC disagree with the call they say "review" and the data operator notes this on the data entry screen.

Upon completion of the program, the TC is in charge of the entire review process with the video replay.

The majority decision of the Technical Controller, Technical Specialist, and Assistant Technical Specialist governs the final decision. At no time does one person make a sole decision on the elements identified.

### How to protest an error in accounting or element identification:

If your coach receives your protocol sheet and believes there is an error, he or she must immediately go to the Officials' room and ask to speak to the Technical Controller.

Specialists and assistant specialists are not allowed to discuss anything regarding the event.

An appropriate form to initiate this review process must be obtained from the event referee, completed by the initiating party and returned to the event referee. This process may be initiated by the referee, TC, TS, ATS, data operator, affected athlete or coach of affected athlete.

### What calls may and may not be protested:

A Coach may ask for review of misidentified elements, error in data input, lack of second half bonus, missing elements and mathematical or calculation errors.

The field of play items such as spin levels, jump down-grades, and falls may not be protested.

Everyone at a skating event should keep in mind that judges and technical panel members are volunteers and spend a great deal of time to make the event happen for us. All IJS information /questions/ clarifications/ etc. are posted at US Figure Skating and ISU websites and available to coaches.



# Club News

*Editor's note: The following came in response to our August article, Q&A with Tammy Thierwechter.*

## What is the "Permanent Dinner List"?

*by Joe Riess*

The "Permanent Dinner List" is a little-known service offered to Club members. Rita and I, and few other members, have taken advantage of this feature for the past four years.

Having our names on the above list means the following:  
 We are informed by email about every Friday night dinner at the Club. That email message tells us what is being offered for dinner, and asks us to make selections before the given cut-off date. We are assured of getting seats for every dinner, including special events. We have the opportunity to cancel our reservation. We are informed if a scheduled dinner will not be held.

We find that being on the list is a convenient way to keep informed about the Friday night dinners. It also makes it easier to fulfill our membership requirement for attending dinners.

To put your name on the Permanent Dinner list, call the Club Office.

## Vocal Music

Did you know vocal music is now permitted for singles short and free skate programs up to and including the intermediate level, all events using 6.0 system judging and all free skate tests? Similarly, vocal music is also permitted for pairs' free skate programs up to and including the intermediate level, all events using 6.0 system judging and all pair tests?

Will you be skating to vocal music this year? Chips wants to know! Send us the details at [editor@chipsboston.com](mailto:editor@chipsboston.com)

**Did you know** the temperature of the ice on a skating surface is between 24 and 28 degrees?

Ice that is too cold is hard to do edge jump from, and toe jumps will cause larger holes in it.

## A Chips history lesson

*From our illustrious first editor, Ben Wright*

**When Chips was founded in 1940, it was decided to have a contest for the name, which was won by Bernard Fox, the pair partner of Joan Tozzer (North American Pair champions 1939, US Pair champions 1938-1940). The first use of the name for the carnival (editor's note: now known as "Ice Chips") was in 1946, when it was called the "Ice Chips Revue". Prior to that year, most of the carnivals had individual names which related to the theme of the show. One I always liked was "The Cruise of the S.S. Arena" in 1934. Another was "Cracked Ice" in 1937.**

**When I was the editor (1940-1943) the first time, it was pretty much of a "one man show", although I had a publisher who was a member and was the owner of the Cambridge Chronicle newspaper, Bill Dole, Sr. I was the editor a second time after I returned from the War. I kept a complete file of the early issues them and had them bound as a set. It is now in the World Figure Skating Museum.**

## Congratulations

To our adult TOI team, Imagica, whose gold-medal performances in June continue to bring them great press! On August 20, the Boston Globe published a great article with their team photo. On August 10, the Newton Tab did a wonderful story and pictures on new Club member / Imagica skater Veronica Hernandez.

## What's for Dinner?

### October Menus

#### October 9<sup>th</sup>

Chicken Parmesan or Alfredo Pasta Primavera with Caesar Salad and Crusty Rolls

#### October 16<sup>th</sup> – New Englands Send Off

Rinkside Seating Buffet and Carving Station

#### October 23<sup>rd</sup>

No Dinner (New Englands)

#### October 30<sup>th</sup>

Welcome to Spooky Town!  
 Menu to be announced

Watch for more details on all of these October events in your Club emails.

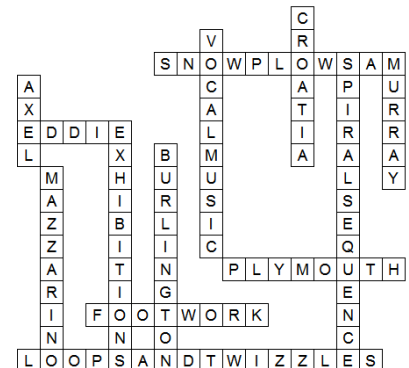
As always, please have your reservations in to the Club office by **Wednesdays at noon** before the dinner you wish to attend.

## In Memory

Chips extends heartfelt sympathy to member Nancy O'Neil, whose mother, Elisa M. (Palange) O'Neil, of Windsor Locks, CT, passed away on September 13.

## Don't Peek!

Answers to the Chips Crossword on page 20



# Coaches learn at PSA Seminar

The Skating Club was buzzing with activity on September 12 and 13 as New England area coaches and judges convened for the Professional Skaters Association (PSA) Nationwide Seminar. Led by our own Becky Stump and Ann Arbor coach Doug Haw, this year's seminar focused on the new Moves in the Field. The PSA conducts these seminars at Clubs across the country for skating professionals each year. Coaches are required to attend these or other PSA educational events to earn continuing education credits, much like professionals in other fields do, to maintain their ratings. This assures that coaches are getting information as soon as possible from the ISU, and can work together to understand new test and program requirements.

To study the new Moves in the Field, which will be implemented in September, 2010, the group reviewed video presentations of the moves, discussions of the changes to each test (as one example, on the Juvenile Moves test, the Eight Step Mohawk sequence will now combine both directions into a Figure 8 pattern with two sequences on each circle), the judges' expectations for each move and common errors to look out for. Some of the Moves changes, like the one described above, will help streamline preparation and testing, others, like the addition of Loops and Twizzles, will teach skaters valuable skills to build stronger footwork sequences so important in today's judging system.

After the classroom training, the coaches moved to rinkside where a group of our skaters and a few from other clubs stood ready to help demonstrate the new Moves. Many had learned them the evening before, and patiently repeated them again and again as requested for Doug and Becky and the large crowd of professionals. Judge Wendy Enzmann played an invaluable role – after the skater completed a move, she would give her (judge's) perspective on how well the move was executed and what she would be looking for to "pass" it.

One standout among our skaters demonstrating both days was Kayla Thierwechter. Becky noted that Kayla, who like the other skaters had just learned the challenging new moves, really demonstrated strong leadership qualities as she also helped to organize the demonstrators each day. She helped to make the presenters' job easier, Becky said, in addition to doing a great job with her skating. Doug liked her work so much he called on her repeatedly. All of the skaters were to be commended, skating before the critical eyes of so many professionals and officials with grace.



*Amanda Freedman, Rebecca Lin, Olivia Pastore, Caitlyn Smith and Meghan Gupta await direction from coach Doug Haw, background*

At the end of the demonstration session, the coaches got on the ice to try the loops, twizzles and new footwork sequences themselves.

In all, more than 150 professionals participated during the two days and all felt the experience was extremely valuable. Tammy Thierwechter and her House Committee made all of the guests feel right at home, and our skating demonstrators made us proud.

Thanks to our terrific skating demonstrators:

**Gianna Beniers**  
**Sydney Cusack**  
**Madeline Gupta**  
**Meghan Gupta**  
**Amanda Freedman**  
**Jenelle Herman**  
**Jessica Lin**  
**Rebecca Lin**  
**Christine Magill**  
**Olivia Pastore**  
**Keilani-Lyn Rudderham**  
**Caitlyn Smith**  
**Kayla Thierwechter**

# Competition Results

## **Champlain Valley Open**

*Burlington, VT—July 24 – 26, 2009*

### **Juvenile Girls A Free Skate**

Jessica Lin – 1<sup>st</sup>  
Olivia Pastore – 2<sup>nd</sup>  
Christine Magill – 4<sup>th</sup>  
Caitlyn Smith – 5<sup>th</sup>

### **Juvenile Girls B Free Skate**

Maria Minaeva – 1<sup>st</sup>  
Julia Marie Rapela – 3<sup>rd</sup>  
Gianna Beniers – 4<sup>th</sup>  
Meghan Gupta – 9<sup>th</sup>

### **Juvenile Girls Final**

Maria Minaeva – 1<sup>st</sup>  
Jessica Lin – 2<sup>nd</sup>  
Gianna Beniers – 3<sup>rd</sup>  
Caitlyn Smith – 6<sup>th</sup>  
Julia Marie Rapela – 7<sup>th</sup>  
Christine Magill – 8<sup>th</sup>  
Olivia Pastore – 9<sup>th</sup>

### **Intermediate Ladies A Short Program**

Christine Wang – 4<sup>th</sup>  
Isabelle Bertolozzi –

### **Intermediate Ladies B Short Program**

Jenelle Herman – 1<sup>st</sup>  
Brianna Coviello – 3<sup>rd</sup>

### **Intermediate Ladies Short Program Final**

Jenelle Herman – 2<sup>nd</sup>  
Brianna Coviello – 3<sup>rd</sup>  
Christine Wang – 10<sup>th</sup>

### **Intermediate Ladies A Free Skate**

Brianna Coviello – 3<sup>rd</sup>  
Christine Wang – 5<sup>th</sup>

### **Intermediate Ladies B Free Skate**

Jenelle Herman – 1<sup>st</sup>  
Isabelle Bertolozzi – 7<sup>th</sup>

### **Intermediate Ladies Free Skate Final**

Brianna Coviello – 4<sup>th</sup>  
Jenelle Herman – 6<sup>th</sup>  
Christine Wang – 8<sup>th</sup>

### **Novice Ladies Short Program**

Kayla Thierwechter – 1<sup>st</sup>  
Morgan Sowa – 3<sup>rd</sup>  
Mia Eisenhandler – 5<sup>th</sup>  
Nicole Fugate – 12<sup>th</sup>

### **Novice Ladies Free Skate**

Nora Smith – 1<sup>st</sup>  
Morgan Sowa – 2<sup>nd</sup>  
Mia Eisenhandler – 3<sup>rd</sup>  
Kayla Thierwechter – 5<sup>th</sup>  
Nicole Fugate – 10<sup>th</sup>

### **Novice Men Short Program**

David Conley – 2<sup>nd</sup>  
Matthew Swinton – 3<sup>rd</sup>  
James Morgan – 4<sup>th</sup>

### **Novice Men Free Skate**

David Conley – 2<sup>nd</sup>  
Matthew Swinton – 3<sup>rd</sup>

### **Junior Ladies Short Program**

Sydney Cusack – 2<sup>nd</sup>

### **Junior Ladies Free Skate**

Sydney Cusack – 1<sup>st</sup>

### **Senior Ladies Short Program**

Jordana Itzkowitz – 6<sup>th</sup>

### **Senior Ladies Free Skate**

Jordana Itzkowitz – 2<sup>nd</sup>

## **Cranberry Open**

*South Dennis, MA—August 19-22, 2009*

### **Pre-Preliminary Girls Test**

#### **Track Free Skate**

Lindsey Scally – 2<sup>nd</sup>  
Mizuki Nitta – 4<sup>th</sup>

### **Pre-Preliminary / Preliminary Showcase**

Lindsey Scally – 8<sup>th</sup>

### **Preliminary Girls Group 1 Free Skate**

Jin Baseman – 1<sup>st</sup>  
Tori Rotella – 2<sup>nd</sup>

### **Preliminary Girls Group 2 Free Skate**

Hanna Hymel – 3<sup>rd</sup>  
Victoria Xu – 4<sup>th</sup>  
Sybrinna Allen – 6<sup>th</sup>

### **Pre-Juvenile Compulsory Moves**

Victoria Xu – 3<sup>rd</sup>

### **Juvenile Girls Group 1 Free Skate**

Isabelle Dost – 1<sup>st</sup>  
Jessica Lin – 3<sup>rd</sup>  
Olivia Pastore – 4<sup>th</sup>  
Nicole Lee – 8<sup>th</sup>

### **Juvenile Girls Group 2 Free Skate**

Maria Minaeva – 1<sup>st</sup>  
Victoria LoRusso – 2<sup>nd</sup>  
Christine Magill – 3<sup>rd</sup>  
Gianna Beniers – 6<sup>th</sup>  
Caitlyn Smith – 8<sup>th</sup>

### **Juvenile Girls Free Skate Final**

Victoria LoRusso – 1<sup>st</sup>  
Jessica Lin – 2<sup>nd</sup>  
Maria Minaeva – 3<sup>rd</sup>  
Isabelle Dost – 4<sup>th</sup>  
Christine Magill – 5<sup>th</sup>  
Gianna Beniers – 7<sup>th</sup>  
Olivia Pastore – 8<sup>th</sup>

### **Intermediate Ladies Group 1 Short Program**

Heidi Munger – 1<sup>st</sup>  
Courtney O'Regan – 3<sup>rd</sup>  
Olivia Bertolozzi – 7<sup>th</sup>



# Competition Results

## **Intermediate Ladies Group 2 Short Program**

Brianna Coviello – 2<sup>nd</sup>  
Alexia Rogers – 5<sup>th</sup>  
Christine Wang – 10<sup>th</sup>

## **Intermediate Ladies Group 3 Short Program**

Rachel Zeppi – 2<sup>nd</sup>  
Lauren Lampiasi – 5<sup>th</sup>  
Anna D'Amico – 9<sup>th</sup>  
Courtney Phillips – 13<sup>th</sup>

## **Intermediate Ladies Short Program Final**

Alexia Rogers – 3<sup>rd</sup>  
Rachel Zeppi – 4<sup>th</sup>  
Lauren Lampiasi – 5<sup>th</sup>  
Heidi Munger – 7<sup>th</sup>  
Brianna Coviello – 12<sup>th</sup>  
Courtney O'Regan – 14<sup>th</sup>

## **Intermediate Ladies Group 1 Free Skate**

Rachel Zeppi – 1<sup>st</sup>  
Heidi Munger – 2<sup>nd</sup>

## **Intermediate Ladies Group 2 Free Skate**

Lauren Lampiasi – 2<sup>nd</sup>  
Brianna Coviello – 4<sup>th</sup>  
Courtney O'Regan – 7<sup>th</sup>  
Melanie Chen – 9<sup>th</sup>

## **Intermediate Ladies Group 3 Free Skate**

Isabelle Bertolozzi – 6<sup>th</sup>  
Christine Wang – 7<sup>th</sup>  
Courtney Phillips – 9<sup>th</sup>

## **Intermediate Ladies Free Skate Final**

Lauren Lampiasi – 2<sup>nd</sup>  
Rachel Zeppi – 5<sup>th</sup>  
Brianna Coviello – 7<sup>th</sup>  
Heidi Munger – 8<sup>th</sup>

## **Intermediate Men Short Program**

Adrian Huertas – 1<sup>st</sup>

## **Intermediate Men Free Skate**

Adrian Huertas – 1<sup>st</sup>

## **Novice Ladies Short Program**

Morgan Sowa – 1<sup>st</sup>  
Taylor Foley – 2<sup>nd</sup>  
Kaitlin Manning – 3<sup>rd</sup>  
Jenelle Herman – 6<sup>th</sup>  
Nora Smith – 7<sup>th</sup>  
Mia Eisenhandler – 8<sup>th</sup>

## **Novice Ladies Free Skate**

Mia Eisenhandler – 2<sup>nd</sup>  
Taylor Foley – 3<sup>rd</sup>  
Morgan Sowa – 4<sup>th</sup>  
Kaitlin Manning – 5<sup>th</sup>  
Nora Smith – 6<sup>th</sup>  
Ursula Munger – 10<sup>th</sup>  
Jenelle Herman – 11<sup>th</sup>

## **Novice Men Short Program**

Harrison Choate – 1<sup>st</sup>  
Jimmy Morgan – 3<sup>rd</sup>  
Matthew Swinton – 4<sup>th</sup>  
David Conley – 5<sup>th</sup>

## **Novice Men Free Skate**

Harrison Choate – 1<sup>st</sup>  
David Conley – 3<sup>rd</sup>  
Matthew Swinton – 4<sup>th</sup>

## **Junior Ladies Short Program**

Yasmin Siraj – 1<sup>st</sup>  
Layla Siraj – 2<sup>nd</sup>  
Keilani-Lyn Rudderham – 3<sup>rd</sup>  
Rochelle Dost – 5<sup>th</sup>  
Kendyl Murtaugh – 6<sup>th</sup>  
Alexandria Shaughnessy – 7<sup>th</sup>  
Sydney Cusack – 8<sup>th</sup>  
Katelyn Rota – 13<sup>th</sup>

## **Junior Ladies Free Skate**

Yasmin Siraj – 1<sup>st</sup>  
Keilani-Lyn Rudderham – 2<sup>nd</sup>  
Layla Siraj – 3<sup>rd</sup>  
Rochelle Dost – 4<sup>th</sup>  
Alexandria Shaughnessy – 5<sup>th</sup>  
Kendyl Murtaugh – 7<sup>th</sup>  
Sydney Cusack – 8<sup>th</sup>  
Katelyn Rota – 14<sup>th</sup>

## **Junior Men Short Program**

David Leenen – 2<sup>nd</sup>

## **Junior Men Free Skate**

David Leenen – 1<sup>st</sup>

## **Senior Ladies Short Program**

Alexandria Volpicelli – 5<sup>th</sup>  
Carly Milden – 8<sup>th</sup>

## **Senior Ladies Free Skate**

Alexandria Volpicelli – 2<sup>nd</sup>

## **Senior Men Short Program**

Jason Wong – 1<sup>st</sup>  
Schuyler Eldridge – 2<sup>nd</sup>

## **Senior Men Free Skate**

Jason Wong – 1<sup>st</sup>  
Schuyler Eldridge – 2<sup>nd</sup>

## **Middle Atlantic Championships**

*New York, New York, September 10-13, 2009*

## **Senior Pairs Short Program**

Marissa Castelli and Simon Shnapir – 1<sup>st</sup>

## **Senior Pairs Free Skate**

Marissa Castelli and Simon Shnapir – 2<sup>nd</sup>

## **Senior Men Short Program**

Jason Wong – 2<sup>nd</sup>  
Schuyler Eldridge – 6<sup>th</sup>

## **Senior Men Free Skate**

Jason Wong – 2<sup>nd</sup>  
Schuyler Eldridge – 4<sup>th</sup>

## **Providence Open**

*Providence, Rhode Island, September 11-13, 2009*

## **Adult Bronze Ladies**

Cynthia Jerrier – 2<sup>nd</sup>

## **Adult Gold Ladies**

Suzanne Garcia – 1<sup>st</sup>

# Competition Results

## Pre-Preliminary Girls B, Group 2 (QR)

Stephanie Postrowski – 10th

## Preliminary Girls Group B

Tori Rotella – 1<sup>st</sup>  
Jin Baseman – 2<sup>nd</sup>  
Amanda Gollaher – 4<sup>th</sup>  
Sybrinna Allen – 8<sup>th</sup>  
Hanna Hymel – 10<sup>th</sup>

## Juvenile Girls Compulsory Moves

Caitlin Kwan – 2<sup>nd</sup>

## Juvenile Girls Test Track

Caitlin Kwan – 1<sup>st</sup>

## Juvenile Girls, Group 1

Olivia Pastore – 2<sup>nd</sup>  
Lina Takaoka – 3<sup>rd</sup>

## Juvenile Girls, Group 2

Isabelle Dost – 2<sup>nd</sup>  
Victoria LoRusso – 3<sup>rd</sup>  
Christine Magill – 4<sup>th</sup>  
Julia Rapela – 5<sup>th</sup>  
Jessica Lin – 6<sup>th</sup>

## Juvenile Boys

Bennett Gottlieb – 1<sup>st</sup>

## Intermediate Ladies Short Program, Group 1

Rachel Zeppi – 2<sup>nd</sup>  
Anna D'Amico – 3<sup>rd</sup>  
Lauren Lampiasi – 4<sup>th</sup>  
Brianna Coviello – 5<sup>th</sup>  
Melissa Lee – 7<sup>th</sup>

## Intermediate Ladies Free Skate, Group 1

Courtney O'Regan – 2<sup>nd</sup>  
Brianna Coviello – 3<sup>rd</sup>

Alexia Rogers – 4<sup>th</sup>  
Lauren Lampiasi – 5<sup>th</sup>

## Intermediate Ladies Short Program, Group 2

Courtney O'Regan – 1<sup>st</sup>  
Alexia Rogers – 2<sup>nd</sup>

## Intermediate Ladies Free Skate, Group 2

Rachel Zeppi – 1<sup>st</sup>  
Anna D'Amico – 2<sup>nd</sup>  
Melissa Lee – 3<sup>rd</sup>

## Novice Ladies Short Program

Ursula Munger – 1<sup>st</sup>

## Novice Ladies Free Skate

Ursula Munger – 2<sup>nd</sup>  
Kaitlin Manning – 4<sup>th</sup>

## Novice Men Short Program

Harrison Choate – 1<sup>st</sup>  
Jimmy Morgan – 2<sup>nd</sup>  
David Conley – 3<sup>rd</sup>

## Novice Men Free Skate

Harrison Choate – 1<sup>st</sup>  
Jimmy Morgan – 2<sup>nd</sup>  
David Conley – 3<sup>rd</sup>

## Junior Ladies Short Program

Yasmin Siraj – 1<sup>st</sup>  
Keilani-Lyn Rudderham – 2<sup>nd</sup>  
Alexandria Shaughnessy – 3<sup>rd</sup>  
Kendyl Murtaugh – 5<sup>th</sup>  
Rochelle Dost – 6<sup>th</sup>

## Junior Ladies Free Skate

Yasmin Siraj – 1<sup>st</sup>  
Keilani-Lyn Rudderham – 2<sup>nd</sup>  
Rochelle Dost – 3<sup>rd</sup>  
Alexandria Shaughnessy – 5<sup>th</sup>  
Kendyl Murtaugh – 8<sup>th</sup>

## Senior Ladies Short Program

Carly Milden – 1<sup>st</sup>

## Senior Ladies Free Skate

Carly Milden – 1<sup>st</sup>

## **Junior Grand Prix, United States**

*Lake Placid, New York, September 2-6,  
2009*

## Men Short Program

Ross Miner – 1<sup>st</sup> (63.82)

## Men Free Skate

Ross Miner – 1<sup>st</sup> (116.13)

## **Junior Grand Prix, Belarus**

*Minsk, Belarus, September 23-27, 2009*

## Ice Dancing, CD

Anastasia Cannuscio and Colin  
Mc Manus—6<sup>th</sup> (27.48)

## Ice Dancing, OD

Anastasia Cannuscio and Colin  
Mc Manus—7<sup>th</sup> (42.21)

## Ice Dancing, Free Dance

Anastasia Cannuscio and Colin  
Mc Manus—8<sup>th</sup> (60.12)

## Ice Dancing, Final Standings

Anastasia Cannuscio and Colin  
Mc Manus—7<sup>th</sup> (129.81)

Chips wishes all Skating Club of Boston competitors  
a great fall skating season!

# Q&A: Ross Miner

A chat on international skating travel with the Lake Placid JCP Champion

*Skating Club fans were not surprised to see Ross Miner come into his own and win the U.S. Junior Men's Championship last year. Those of us who skate with Ross know he works hard on and off the ice and is focused on his training, while maintaining a healthy perspective toward the sport. He's genuinely friendly to everyone, and a great ambassador for the Club.*

*As a part of Team USA Envelope B, Ross will be named to International competitions, his first ISU event being the 2009 Junior World Championships in Bulgaria (last February). He earned his first Junior Grand Prix assignment, to compete in Lake Placid September 2-6, and brought home the gold medal.*

**Chips** set out to ask Ross what it's like to be a world-level competitor representing Team USA. How different is it, we wanted to know, than packing up your costume and getting ready for the Cranberry Open?

**Ross:** Well, first, you don't know most of the competitors! At an event like Nationals, you know about 90% of the people, because we've all been skating together for so long. You start getting to know people right away, because the events are a little smaller and you start meeting at the draw (the event where competitors' skating order for the first event is pulled.) You also meet people in your practice groups.

**Chips:** Is language an issue?

**Ross:** Not really; English is the official language of the ISU and most skaters and coaches speak it. I've met Swiss skaters who speak better English than we (Americans) do! I try to learn a little of the language of the country I'm travelling to before I go. *(Editor's note: in addition to Bulgaria, Ross has competed in Italy and Germany.)*

**Chips:** Tell us about being part of Team USA. What are the expectations?

**Ross:** Well, we have two team leaders, generally one male and one female, when we travel. They're great! They're also kind of in charge of us and what we do. They plan a team dinner, and are with us at all the events. We're expected to be at all of the events, and in our Team USA jackets at all times when we're in the arena.

**Chips:** Does USFS allow your parents to come with you to the competition, and what about your coaches?

**Ross:** Our parents are able to come with us, if they choose to, and they have to fund that travel themselves. Mine have come with me for my events, but not all of the parents do. There are plenty of parents around, though, so no skater is without a lot of support. USFS pays for travel and expenses for one of my coaches. Mark (Mitchell) came with me to Lake Placid.

**Chips:** Ok; tell us about the accommodations, and more importantly, the food!

**Ross:** Well, in Lake Placid we stayed at the Olympic Training Center, which is like a dormitory; in Europe we're in hotels. We always have roommates, and my roommate in Lake Placid was (ice dancer) Alex Shibutani. They put skaters from different disciplines together because we don't compete against each other, and our events aren't at the same time, so it works out well. You also get to learn about their side of the competition. In terms of food, we always have a team dinner, which the Team Leaders set up, and it's nice to go out with everybody. During the rest of the competition, sometimes it takes some extra planning! The Team Leaders give us money for meals, or they have food for us at the hotel. Depending on when you're competing, you may have to get creative. I always bring "emergency food" when I travel outside the country...peanut butter crackers, and



*Ross skates his short program at JGP USA in Lake Placid*



# Q&A: Ross Miner

A chat on international skating travel with the Lake Placid JCP Champion

continued

camping-type food I can eat anywhere. That really saved me a few times in Bulgaria!

**Chips:** Your Team Leaders probably have “emergency food” too, right?

**Ross:** They have emergency “everything.” They’re former competitors, so they make sure we’re really prepared and they also have things on hand to solve pretty much any potential problem.

**Chips:** Ross, for someone who’s just done his first Junior Grand Prix event, you seem to know all of the ins and outs of how everything is done. How did you learn it all so fast?

**Ross:** When USFS holds its Champs Camp (in Colorado Springs, in June,) we learn all of the protocols involved in representing Team USA: how we’re expected to behave in public, how to handle a press conference, things like that. The Team USA kids are really well-prepared and we’re pretty well-behaved. (*Grins*)

**Chips:** Talk to us about the travel. Do you get help in making the arrangements?

**Ross:** USFS arranges all of our travel, and they try to coordinate flights so we get in to the host city at the same time. There is usually ground transportation too, and that’s just for the skaters and coaches, so the parents have to find their own way!

**Chips:** What’s the hardest part of traveling to another country to compete, and how do you deal with it?

**Ross:** For me, it’s trying to sleep on the plane! I try to take the latest flight possible, so it feels like bedtime, and then I also drink a lot of water so I don’t get dehydrated. That helps me to avoid jet lag. When I reach my host city, I try hard to stay up until my bedtime (local time) and forget about the time change.

**Chips:** When and where will you compete next?

**Ross:** (*Hesitates, because he’s been asked not to broadcast this information by USFS. Asks Chips when our next issue will be published, and then decides to confess.*) I’m going to Croatia, and I’m really excited about it. It’s supposed to be the gem of Eastern Europe.

**Ross, although we may not be sitting in the stands in Team USA jackets, we will definitely be cheering for you! Look for information on the JGP in Zagreb, Croatia on the USFS website. Events will be held October 7-11. Also, keep your eyes posted on the USFS for one of our very favorite dance teams. We believe in keeping secrets, so you’ll have to wait to learn which SCOB dancer will be competing in an upcoming JGP event!**

Success is failure turned inside out-  
The silver tint of the clouds of doubt-  
And you never can tell how close you are,  
It may be nearer when it seems afar,  
So stick to the fight when you're hardest hit,-  
It's when things seem worst that you mustn't quit.

Submitted by Cindy Jerrier

Chips thanks our contributors for this issue: Jeff Sokolov, Aaron Williams, Colleen O'Brien, Alisa Plazonja, Tammy Thierwechter, Cindy Jerrier, Ben Wright, Henry Son and Joe Riess. We'd love to hear from you for the December issue! Send your contributions by November 15 to [editor@chipsboston.com](mailto:editor@chipsboston.com)

# Fall Calendar

## October 2009

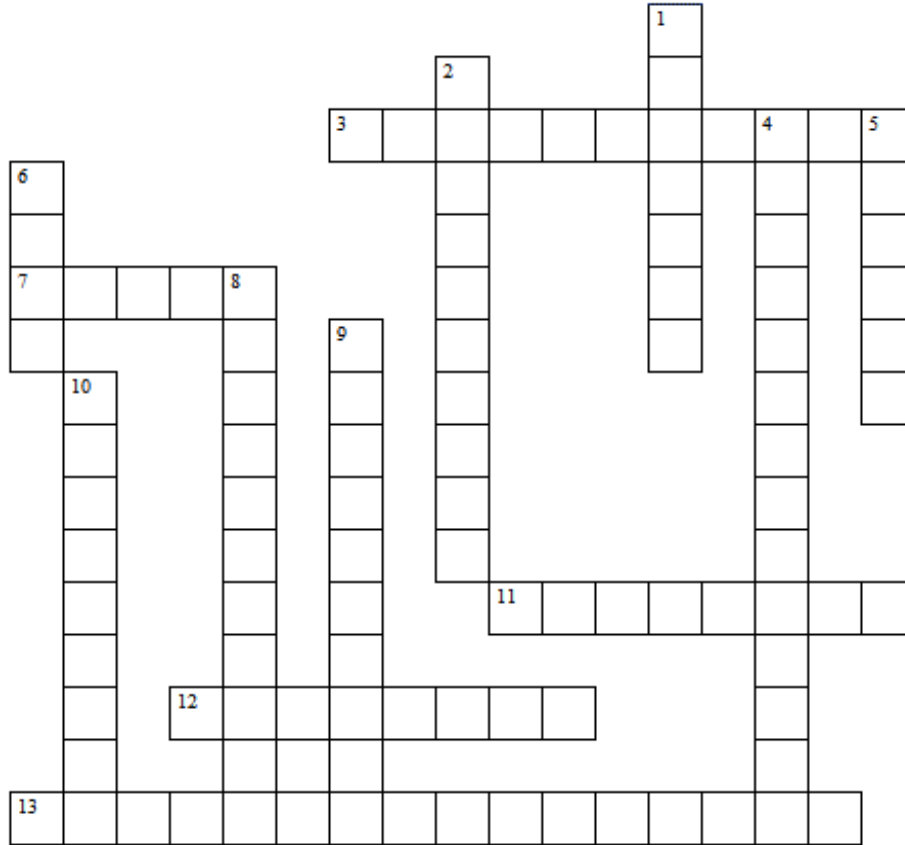
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Test Applications are due Two weeks	Prior to test date!			1	2	3
4	5	6	7 Dance Test	8	9	10
11 Free-skating Test	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22 New Englands	23 New Englands	24 New Englands
25 New Englands	26	27	28	29	30	31

## November 2009

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Halloween Party	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14 Thanks-giving Classic
15 Free-skating Test	16	17 Easterns	18 Easterns	19 Easterns	20 Easterns	21 Easterns
22 Easterns	23	24	25	26	27 Reunion Dinner/JGP	28
29	30					

# Chips Fun Page

## Chips Crossword



### ACROSS

- 3** Basic Skills Mascot
- 7** Café Chef
- 11** Location of Thanksgiving Classic (Synchro)
- 12** Harder than it looks!
- 13** New turns in 2010 Moves in the Field

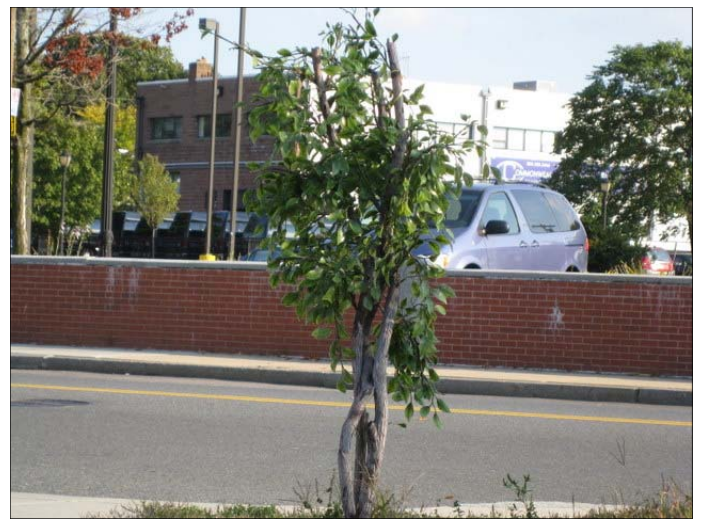
### DOWN

- 1** Ross Miner's next JGP event
- 2** Now allowed for some singles and pairs programs
- 4** Important singles element
- 5** Coach Suna
- 6** Forward-takeoff jump
- 8** Favorite Friday night activity
- 9** New England Regionals location
- 10** Theater Coach Tasney

Many of the answers are in this issue's articles. Answer key on page 12.



Smiling for the camera: Rebecca Lin and Amanda Freedman on duty at the PSA Seminar



Is it the Club mascot? Winter-proof landscaping? **Chips** wants to know what this plastic tree is doing at the entrance to our parking lot! Send your creative ideas to [editor@chipsboston.com](mailto:editor@chipsboston.com)