

FEBRUARY
2002

The Blade

Peach Frost Exhibition

By Greg Corbitt

Peach Frost... Have you seen the Eastern Champs? You'll love them! As a way of saying thank you to the Georgia FSC for all their support this year and in preparation for the Intermediate team to head toward the U.S. Synchronized Team Skating Championships in Lake Placid (the nationals), the Peach Frost Intermediate Team will be skating in an exhibition at the Duluth Ice Forum on Saturday, February 23rd at 1:00 pm. Immediately following the exhibition, the GaFSC will host a send-off and congratulatory party for the team. And YOU are invited. Please be there to show our support for our nationals team and witness the amazing part of our sport called "synch". Let the team know that they "ARE OUR HEROS!"

Inside this issue:

Letter from the Prez	2
Rink News	3
Board Elections	4
Board Candidates	4, 5
Test Results	6
Calendar	7
Olympic TV	8



The proud Peach Frost intermediate synchronized team at the awards ceremony in Lowell, Massachusetts after winning gold at Eastern Sectionals.

IT'S GOLD

Peach Frost intermediate heads for Nationals



The preliminary team proudly displays their gold medals at Eastern Sectionals.

By Greg Corbitt

The Peach Frost Preliminary and Intermediate teams had a busy competition month during January. A few days before traveling to the Mid-America competition in Fraser, Michigan the teams skated an exhibition at the South Lake rink. The exhibition was covered by the Daily News, a Clayton County newspaper. Also, Channel 11 Sports was on hand and the report was aired on the nightly news. The newspaper pictures and articles can be seen on our website at <http://www.gafsc.com>.

Even though it is a non-qualifying competition, the Mid-America Competition was the largest synchronized competition ever held with 126 teams competing from all over the United States. Our Preliminary team skated their way to the Bronze medal! The Intermediate team came in a disappointing fifth in the qualifying round failing to move on to the final round. Keep reading... the good news is about to come!

(Continued on page 6)

Letter From The Prez: Alicea Smith



Go For The Gold!

As I write this, I can feel the excitement of the Winter Olympics building as they prepare for the upcoming ceremonies. Excitement is also in the air as our Peach Frost Intermediate and Preliminary teams return with the gold from the Eastern Sectional competition in Lowell, Massachusetts. The Intermediate team will represent the GaFSC at the U.S. Synchronized Team Skating Championships In Lake Placid. Congratulations to both teams. Your success is the combination of great coaching, hard work, and supportive parents. We are very proud of you!

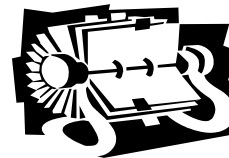
With passage of the new by-laws, beginning with the next skating year, we will have 15 total board members. The 15 are comprised of a test chair, a membership chair, and 13 elected members. Elected members serve a two year term. Board members elected last year were Cheryl Kohser, Noelle Neary, Marianne Campbell, Carolyn Schwab, and Michele Aiken from Town Center... Gloria Lewis, Rob Lichtefeld from Duluth... and Ben Loggins from South Lake. Counting the test chair and membership chair positions, that means 10 of the 15 positions are filled, leaving 5 members to be elected. Please keep in mind that it is to our advantage to maintain a board that is diverse as possible. The board should reflect club membership... synchro, freestyle, dance, adult, as well as coaches, and judges. Since it may be difficult to vote for people you do not know, we will be including photos and information on each candidate in the Blade. Your vote is important. The board will set the direction of your club. Choose carefully.

Monthly parent and skaters meetings are a vital part of GaFSC's success and growth. This is one of your opportunities to share your ideas and concerns. Great things will happen when you get involved.

I feel that I have contributed many positive things to the club this year. We have open board meetings, we have published board meeting minutes. We have regular newsletters and our memberships roster is current and up-to-date. We have had great test sessions. Our finances have been updated and are reported regularly. Our Christmas Shows were successful in all three rinks and we are now planning for our Spring Shows. There is a commercial on television that says, "We don't make all these things, we just make them better." I didn't make all these things happen by myself... but I have worked hard to get the right people in the right jobs. The Georgia Figure Skating Club has great people who are willing to make this a great organization. To each of you who are willing to make this a great club... To each of you who have worked so hard to make great things happen... To each of you who have trained hard to represent us so well at competitions... To each of you who have helped to promote our sport and the love of it... I say thank you from the bottom of my heart. We need you and all our members. Great things will happen when you get involved. Enjoy the journey!

Alicea Smith

President,
Georgia Figure Skating Club



Phone Directory Corrections...

Corrections to be made are
"Bold and Italicized"

Andrew Austin

WELCOME NEW AND
RENEWING MEMBERS

Duluth News

By Nancy Anderson, DVP

The Duluth Ice Forum club members are gearing up for future activities. "Bring A Friend to Club Ice" is scheduled for February 8th. This event allows the club members to invite non-skating friends to skate on club ice. New friends will be made and maybe new skaters.

The next event scheduled is the "All Night Skate-A-Thon." On March 1st skaters will check in between 11:30 p.m.-12:00 a.m. The fun will start with our midnight kick-off which will involve a surprise or two. The next six hours will include games, movies, relays and prizes. We hope all skaters will work hard and raise the money needed to buy a harness. A new belt is needed for the Thrasher rink and another harness is needed for the Ice Forum rink. Let's have fun and reach our goal as well!

Another exciting event is the Spring Show that is scheduled for mid April. The Ice Forum is planning this event with Aren Nielsen as the chairperson. The theme of the show will be "Going Through the Decades." Sounds like a great way for skaters to perform without competing. More details will come later.

The end of the year party is scheduled for March 23rd. The GaFSC board will vote on the location and activities soon. If this seems early, this is a short skating year due to USFSA regulations. Don't forget Christmas pictures are here and Christmas video tapes are for sale. Jill Breneman can help you with both items. "Solo Night" is back, returning on February 22nd. Sign up sheets are on the GaFSC board. It is fun time to see the skaters practice their new routines. Keep up the great work!

South Lake News

By Ben Loggins, Acting SLVP

Well, things are going great in our neck of the woods! We have several skaters who are about to come out of basic skills and start USFSA testing, hopefully within the next few months. Our three most advanced skaters are working on their field moves and preparing for competitions.

Sherisse Gill, our most advanced skater, is working on her novice moves in the field test and is hoping to test by the end of the year. Sherisse is preparing for The Atlanta Open and the rest of 2002 competitions. Tritin Carney is working on moves in the field and plans to be at least juvenile MIF and Free Style by the end of the year if not intermediate MIF. Tristin is preparing for the ISI Invitational in Nashville and The Atlanta Open. Emily Loggins is preparing to test for her pre-preliminary MIF and Free Style for February or March. Emily will also be attending the ISI in Nashville.

We have a lot of people that will be competing in Nashville. Skaters ranging from level Pre-Alpha to Free Style 6, the competitors are as follows: Noah Edwards and Stephanie Hall as well as the others mentioned above. In early January, The Peach Frost Synchronized Teams held an exhibition and they skated GR8!!! Channel 11 news covered the event for the evening news. We used the exhibition as a membership drive effort.

We are trying to increase our membership. If any of ya'll out there from other rinks want to come and take us on, we have a lot of good ice. We only have two double jumpers, so there is a lot of room. The big question is can you handle it? So come on out and try Southlake for a change!!!

Well, things are going great in our neck of the woods! We have



Town Center News

By Mike Aiken, TCVP

Peach Frost competed at Sectionals in Boston, and both teams came back Sectional Champs! The Intermediate team now progresses to Nationals. Congratulations Peach Frost, we're very proud of you! Good luck at Nationals!

We had our rink-wide parent and adult skater meeting on January 12th. Our next meeting for skaters parents and adult skaters is scheduled for Friday, February 22nd during and after Club ice at the Town Center rink. In addition to our monthly meeting, we are planning to have a little party for all Club members who have February birthdays. We hope to see more participants at that meeting!

Under the newly adopted by-laws, each rink should have a Local Advisory Council that acts as an extension of the Board for activities specific to that rink and also advises the Board concerning the needs and activities of that rink. Each Council consists of the Board Officer representing that rink, an assistant Membership Chair, an Assistant Test Chair, a Coach representative and an athlete representative. Please consider serving on the Town Center Local Advisory Council. Let Mike Aiken know if you are interested.

Don't forget to vote during the upcoming elections!!



Election Excitement

by Marianne Campbell, Nominating Committee Chair



It's time for elections! Due to our new bylaws and the change in membership year in order to be aligned with USFSA, we are holding elections earlier this year.

Enclosed in this issue is the ballot. Due to some changes in the bylaws, please pay attention to some details: In order to vote, you must be (1) a skating member over 18 or (2) the parent of a skating member who is under 18. Each skating member gets **1 vote**. So if you have two skaters in your family, bring two votes to the election. If there is only one skating member in your family, only turn in one vote. The election will be held Friday, March 15, during club ice at all rinks. If you cannot attend the election meeting, please send in your ballot prior to March 15 to Rob Lichtefeld.

In the last issue of *The Blade*, you were sent nomination forms for Board of Directors candidates. Thanks to all who helped in this process, particularly the members of the nominating committee: Carolyn Schwab, Rob Lichtefeld, Amy Bryan, Cathy Procasky, and Marianne Campbell. The list of qualified people is tremendous, but since our membership is scattered all across metro Atlanta, I thought I'd take a moment and let them tell you why they would like to serve you in this way!



Michael Aiken - I believe I can help increase the support the Club can provide to all skating members by improving Club communication, building the Club's financial base and strengthening relationships with the USFSA and other figure skating clubs.



Nancy Anderson - I have been involved in the club for two years and have seen positive changes take place. I enjoy planning activities for the skaters that bring them together as a group and have worked hard as vice-president at the Duluth rink to involve parents and skaters in the decision-making process. By the way, I have two daughters, Erica and Leah, who love the sport. So mom loves the sport as well!



Gary Andonian - My interest in the GaFSC stems from the enjoyment I've experienced watching my daughter compete on a regional and national level with the Peach Frost Synchronized Skating Team. Their success demonstrates the support and organization this club represents and should continue

to represent. I'd like to be involved in helping to grow that potential and to continue to offer opportunities for all Georgia skaters to excel.



Andrew Austin - I have experience of over two decades in this sport. Skating as a coach and personally is everything I do; and I would like to take that to the club. I was the chairman of the Montem Skating Club in the UK during its first year. The club is now doing very well; one of its skaters competed in the Peach Classic last year!



Matt Breneman - In the past six months that I have served on the Board of Directors, I have been actively involved in the re-writing of the Club bylaws and production of the Holiday show at the Duluth rink. I have also proposed ideas that are being implemented such as "bring a friend to skate night" which is intended to generate interest in the sport of figure skating for children who might not otherwise be exposed to the sport. I'm running for another term on the board because I feel I have much more to contribute and would like the opportunity to help the club grow both in size and in its commitment to our skaters and the advancement of their sport.



Greg Corbitt - I started backwards. My first adult skating activity was attending a Brian Botano / Katerina Witt show called Skating Spectacular in the early 1990's. From there I started attending the U.S. Figure Skating Championships. But it wasn't until, at the age of 44, I put on a pair of skates and tried

it for myself that I truly appreciated our sport. From there I was one of the original members of the new GaFSC club. I am a big kid who loves everything about skating. To me it's all about the kids, the skaters, and doing the things that are right to promote our sport and the love of it. I am currently serving at the pleasure of GaFSC as the test chairman, I am an USFSA official serving as a national level ice technician, and I am on the Executive Committee of the Atlanta 2004 U.S. Figure Skating Championships serving as the Director of Operations. It is my pleasure to help the club however I can to make life better for our skaters... young and old.



Linda-Jo Saunders - As a "skate mom" (I have two daughters that skate), I would like to help the Board continue to do a good job on their behalf. As an adult skater, I would like to bring a stronger voice to my skating minority and formulate different learning images for us (e.g., skating for weight reduction, skating for entertainment value, etc.).



Alicea Smith - I am running for the GaFSC Board having served this year as president of the club. Prior to this year, I was a board member and vice-president representing the Duluth rink. My daughter Vania is a freestyle and dance skater, and has passed her Junior moves, Novice freestyle, and is working on her Pre-Silver dances. The love of our sport is the thing that drives my interest. As your president this year, we have accomplished many things. This includes the shows that have displayed our skaters, regular newsletters and board meetings, open meetings and finances to the membership, parents and skater meetings, up-to-date membership rosters, and great test sessions, up-to-date bylaws, and the near completion of the

filing of our 501-c3 status with the IRS, just to name a few. I believe my strengths are in the love of the sport and the skaters, and in my organizational abilities, including matching the right person with the right task. I would like to continue as one of your Board members.



Shelly Taylor - Having been involved with Peach Frost for the past few years, I have been impressed with the support the Georgia Figure Skating Club has given synchronized skating, and individual skaters. I would like to continue this tradition. I believe my organizational skills that I utilized with Peach Frost would benefit the club's board. I would enjoy helping out where I can.



Ginger Whitley - I have been on the Board of Directors of the Georgia Figure Skating Club since its inception serving as the co-test chair. I am an adult skater. I live and work in Buckhead, and I skate at both the Duluth and Town Center rinks. I take freestyle lessons from Helen Ross in Duluth and dance from Andrew Austin at Town Center. I am also currently a trial judge. I am hoping to get my first judging appointment in the next year. The 2004 U.S. Figure Skating Championships will be held in Atlanta. I serve on the Board of Directors of the Local Organizing Committee. In January, I spent a week in Los Angeles attending the 2002 U.S. Figure Skating Championships. It was a thrill to see the current Olympic team selected. I have a degree in Journalism from the University of Georgia, and I am employed by NewsRadio 640 WGST and the Atlanta Falcons Radio Network. For fun, I enjoy traveling around the world attending skating competitions. In the past few years, I have traveled to France, Canada, Switzerland, Finland and across the US attending competitions. In March, I will travel to Japan to attend the Figure Skating World Championships. I first joined the Georgia Figure Skating Club because of my love for the sport and my desire to get more involved in the administration side of the sport.

Please vote! It's your right and your responsibility!

Peach Frost

(Continued from page 1)

The Eastern Sectional Competition was held in the Tsongas Arena in Lowell, Mass. The arena is a 6,400 seat arena and the chairs are in the Peach Frost colors – Green and Blue! The event was hosted by the Colonial Figure Skating Club. The Preliminary team faced tough competition but they skated great... and when the arena score board announced the results, it read, “The Gold Medal goes to... PEACH FROST!” WAY TO GO, PRELIMINARY!

The Intermediate team was one of 13 teams competing for the gold. Because there were more than 12 teams, they first had to skate a qualifying round. The top four teams of each of the two qualifying round skate again for the podium positions. Peach Frost came in FIRST in the qualifying round. Then, the following day, the team skated in the final round. Most of the teams in the Intermediate competition skated a clean, strong program. Peach Frost was sixth in the skating order. The team skated an awesome program... but the results weren't announced for over 30 minutes after the competition was completed. Once again, the score board showed the finish... 6th – Northern Stars, 5th – The Storm, 4th – Shoreline Of Cape Cod, 3rd – The Ice-lantics, (at this point, the Peach Frost nerve wound very tight!), 2nd – The Colonials, (at this point, tears were flowing and the team was embraced in hugs... and if that didn't bring tears to your eyes, you should have seen the parents!), and.. “The Gold Medal goes to --- PEACH FROST!” WHAAA WHOOO!

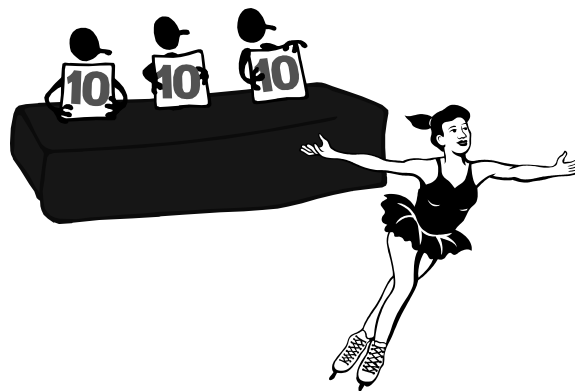
The top four teams move onto the U.S. Synchronize Skating Championships in Lake Placid, February 26th – March 3rd. Peach Frost will fly to Lake Placid on Wednesday, February 27th. The Intermediate Championships are skated on Friday afternoon around 6:00 p.m., March 1st in the 1980 Olympic rink. So much history has occurred in Lake Placid. What a wonderful experience for the team!

One of the most important parts of the Peach Frost story isn't on ice. It is way the teams represent our club. Not only are they gold medallist, but they are wonderful ambassadors. At competitions, they are very supportive of other teams... and in turn many teams cheer for the Peach Frost. When given the opportunity, the other teams like to come sit with our skaters. The Peach Frost pin is the most valued trading pin of the events. You would be exceptionally proud of our teams and the outstanding sportsmanship they display as they represent the Georgia FSC.

“Peach Frost, You're Our Hero!”

Congratulations to these skaters who passed tests February 10, 2002 at Town Center:

<i>Aimee Borovich</i>	<i>Pre-Pre MIF</i>
<i>Alli Frye</i>	<i>Pre-Pre MIF</i>
<i>Hannah Brown</i>	<i>Pre-Pre MIF</i>
<i>Kelli Andonian</i>	<i>Pre-Juvenile MIF</i>
<i>Alexander Aiken</i>	<i>Intermediate MIF</i>
<i>Samantha Kelley</i>	<i>Intermediate MIF</i>
<i>Cathy Procaskey</i>	<i>Pre-Pre FS</i>
<i>Cathy Procaskey</i>	<i>Adult Pre-Bronze FS</i>
<i>Johnathan Frye</i>	<i>Prelim FS</i>
<i>Heather Schwab</i>	<i>Pre-Juvenile FS</i>
<i>Laura Sims</i>	<i>Pre-Juvenile FS</i>
<i>Chelsea Bushue</i>	<i>Brz Hickory Hoedown</i>
<i>Samantha Kelley</i>	<i>Brz Hickory Hoedown</i>
<i>Heather Schwab</i>	<i>Brz Willow Waltz</i>
<i>Samantha Kelley</i>	<i>Brz Willow Waltz</i>
<i>Chelsea Bushue</i>	<i>Brz Ten Fox</i>
<i>Ashley Newcity</i>	<i>Pre-Brz Swing Dance</i>
<i>Ashley Newcity</i>	<i>Pre-Brz Fiesta Tango</i>



2002 GaFSC Test Dates

<u>Planned Date</u>	<u>Planned Location</u>	<u>Application Deadline</u>
2/10/02	Town Center	1/17/02
3/10/02	Duluth	2/14/02
4/07/02	Town Center	3/14/02
5/05/02	Duluth	4/11/02
6/02/02	Town Center	5/09/02
7/07/02	Duluth	6/13/02
8/04/02	Duluth	7/11/02
8/11/02	Town Center	7/18/02

February 2002

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 <i>Club Ice Duluth/TC</i>	2
3	4	5	6 <i>Club Ice South Lake</i>	7	8 <i>Club Ice Duluth/TC 2002 Olympics</i>	9 <i>GaFSC Board Meeting 2002 Olympics</i>
10 <i>Test Session Town Center 2002 Olympics</i>	11 <i>2002 Olympics</i>	12 <i>2002 Olympics</i>	13 <i>Club Ice South Lake 2002 Olympics</i>	14 <i>2002 Olympics</i>	15 <i>Club Ice Duluth/TC 2002 Olympics</i>	16 <i>2002 Olympics</i>
17 <i>2002 Olympics</i>	18 <i>2002 Olympics</i>	19 <i>2002 Olympics</i>	20 <i>Club Ice South Lake 2002 Olympics</i>	21 <i>2002 Olympics</i>	22 <i>Club Ice Duluth/TC 2002 Olympics</i>	23 <i>Peach Frost Party at Duluth 2002 Olympics</i>
24 <i>2002 Olympics</i>	25	26	27 <i>Club Ice South Lake</i>	28	March 1 <i>"Skate-A-Thon" Duluth</i>	March 2 <i>"Skate-A-Thon" Duluth</i>

Skaters Travel to Washington D.C. for Competition

Georgia Figure Skating Club Adult Skaters and Board Members Ginger Whatley, Rob Lichtefeld and Gloria Lewis competed in the First New Year's Adult Invitational. Helen Ross came along as their coach. The competition was held January 26th and 27th at the Ashburn Ice House in Ashburn, Virginia. The competition was hosted by the Washington FSC. This facility was conveniently located near the Dulles Airport. There were about 75 competitors at the event. Most were from Northern Virginia, but some came from as far away as San Francisco. There were also 7 competitors from the Atlanta FSC. This was a very successful competition for the first year. The Washington Figure Skating Club plans to hold the competition next year. The competition served as a great tune up for adult skaters competing at Adult Nationals in April. It also gave Georgia FSC members a chance to promote the upcoming Peach Classic. Flyers promoting the Peach Classic were distributed at the competition, and many skaters committed to coming to Atlanta in September for the Peach Classic.

D.C. Competition Results

Gloria Lewis

2nd Ladies Bronze Freeskate III

4th Ladies Interpretive III & IV

Rob Lichtefeld

1st Men's Silver Spins

1st Men's Bronze Freeskate II & II

Ginger Whatley

1st Ladies Bronze Compulsory Moves I

2nd Bronze Solo Dance

4th Ladies Bronze Freeskate I

Skaters to compete at Adult Nationals

Duluth Adult Skaters Rob Lichtefeld and Gloria Lewis will represent the Georgia Figure Skating Club at the 2002 Adult Nationals April 3-6, 2002. The competition will be hosted by the Ann Arbor Figure Skating Club and will be held at the Ann Arbor Ice Cube. The Ann Arbor FSC will also be the host of Adult Nationals in 2003. Please wish them luck when you see them at the rink.

Georgia Figure Skating Club

P.O. Box 393

Kennesaw, Georgia 30156

Email: Ga_Blade@mail.com

Mail To:

A note about test sessions and schedules....

As always, test dates and times are subject to change! The scheduled time for your test is NOT a fixed time but an approximate time that the test chairman is planning to hold your particular test. Many factors can cause this time to vary, and therefore, skaters should plan to arrive at the rink on test day a minimum of 60 minutes prior to their scheduled warm-up. For example, another test participant (scheduled to test before you) may withdraw at the last minute and your test will be moved up. Please be sure to verify all information with your coach as soon as you arrive.



Olympic Skating on NBC

Sat., Feb 9	10-11:30 PM	Pairs Short
Mon., Feb 11	10-11:30 PM	Pairs Long
Tues., Feb 12	10-11:30 PM	Men's Short
Thurs., Feb. 14	10PM-12Mid	Men's Long
Fri., Feb. 15	8-9, 9:45-10:30	Ice Dancing Comp.
Sun., Feb. 17	9:30-11	Ice dancing Original
Mon., Feb. 18	9:45-11:30	Ice dancing Free
Tues., Feb. 19	8-11 PM	Ladies Short
Thurs., Feb. 21	9:30 PM-12Mid	Ladies Long
Fri., Feb. 22	9:15-11:30 PM	Champions Gala

Subject to change... check local listings.