

September  
2002

# The Blade

## Adult Skaters Go To Camp

Gloria Lewis and Ginger Whatley attended the USFSA Adult Training Camp in June at the Ice House in Hackensack, NJ. The weekend camp included several notable coaches that gave the attendees a lot of individual attention. Topics covered were jumps, spins, Pilates, MIF and ballet to name just a few.

Although this was an "adult" camp, no mercy was shown by the coaches. The ballet class was conducted by a Russian contortionist that would put a pretzel to shame. Ginger really enjoyed this class but Gloria leaned more toward the Pilates.

Mornings on the ice generally started with a little warm-up known as agility. Robin Wagner could be heard loudly urging us on and to not quit on laps. As I said, NO MERCY! Each class lasted about an hour and you moved quickly from one to the other. There was not much time for a much needed Advil break for a few of us!

It was a great experience and the Ice House is hoping to host next year's camp. So pack your skates, lots of Ibuprofen, and join the - fun??????? You might even catch a glimpse of some Olympians on the ice or browsing the pro shop.



The "United Skates of Atlanta" featuring Mary Williams, Holly Faris, Kristie Chepaitis and Leah Anderson at the Charleston Open.

### Inside this issue:

<i>From the President's Desk</i>	2
<i>Rink News</i>	3
<i>2004 U.S. Nationals</i>	4
<i>Adult Testing</i>	5
<i>Test Results</i>	6
<i>Future Test Dates</i>	7
<i>JETS School</i>	8

## Doin' The Charleston!

by Holly Faris

I was one the skaters who was able to go to the Charleston Open competition. I thoroughly enjoyed my experience there and would like to go back again. The Carolina Ice Palace was big with a wonderful design and it was nice to sit and watch the skaters perform under such conditions. We had a lot of practice ice time. The vendors were on the upper floor with some cool items. I particularly liked the t-shirts.

It seemed like so many GaFSC members placed well in the competitions. I enjoyed participating in the team competition events and I would gladly perform in another team event. We had so much fun and

*(Continued on page 4)*

## From the President's Desk...



Our new skating year is under way. I hope each of you have your goals set and are working toward reaching them.

Last year I asked you to name two things you would like to see me accomplish. Communication and delegation are the two things that came up the most. I feel I have achieved success in reaching these goals, but they must be ongoing. So keeping this in mind, what are two things you would like to see the club accomplish this year? Think about it and let me know.

One of my first goals is fundraising. With the money raised at the Skate-A-Thon last year, we have been able to purchase not only a harness for the second rink at Duluth, but harnesses for Town Center and Southlake. The harnesses will be installed soon. We need a fundraising committee and a committee chairperson. Let me know if you are interested.

In July, your Board of Directors held an all-day planning meeting to set goals and map out the direction of the club for the coming year. Some of the goals we set in the planning meeting included having a year-end party April 26 and a banquet on May 17. Gloria Lewis is chair of the banquet and Teresa Loggins is chair of the year-end party. They need volunteers from each rink!

We now have a newsletter committee: Matt Breneman, Gloria Lewis, and Mary Ann Surratt. If you have an idea or article, please contact Gloria or Mary Ann. We are also going to run a "For Sale" section in the newsletter, for members to sell used skating equipment and clothing. The cost will be \$5.00, and the ad runs until it sells. Other advertising is available, as well.

Junior Board Members for the current skating year have been selected and approved by the Board. Your new Junior Board Members are:

Duluth	Tina Puchalski Vania Smith
Southlake	Tristin Carney Dawn Wilson
Town Center	Brandi Royer Jade Kohser

On behalf of the Georgia FSC Board, we look forward to working with each of you in the coming year. We are constantly looking for ways to utilize your energy and talents; any suggestions and ideas are welcomed. The Junior Board Members serve at the pleasure of their vice president and are encouraged to attend board meetings. The two Junior Board Members who rotated off the board this year were Krystal Ostrowski and Emily Loggins. They did a great job and are an asset to our club. A Big Thank You to both of you!

I'd like to welcome Cathy Procaskey as membership assistant for Town Center. If you have any questions regarding membership at Town Center, please contact Cathy. With the membership drives at all three rinks and the members who have joined recently, we've surpassed our predicted numbers! Thanks for getting your membership in and helping to keep us such a strong club!

Enjoy the journey!

*Alicia W. Smith*

## Town Center News

By Marianne Campbell, TCVP

There's a new face around the rink—well, not so new, as many of you already know me. My name is Marianne Campbell, and I'm pleased to serve you as vice president for the current skating year. We started off with a bang...well, not exactly, I think I said "Go!"...at the membership drive, with on-ice games and ice cream with all the trimmings (including whipped cream—though little of it ended up in the bowl. Right, Brandi?!). Then our rink was host to the JETS school, which several of our skaters participated in. Club ice returns, with a few changes. The time goes back to Fridays 6:10-6:40, and it's a regular freestyle session. Club members need to sign in with the club monitor to get a free session! This also means that we need some parents to volunteer to ice monitor, since I intend to be on the ice myself! Look for information on the Skate-A-Thon, a fun fundraiser we are trying to schedule for September, as well as other activities, both on and off the ice. I'm also looking for skating snapshots for our club board. If you have any, please put them in the club box behind the Skating School desk or give them to me. I'm looking forward to working with you to do great things for our skaters this year. Please look for ways to get involved—the best thing you can do for your child is to be active in his or her life, and that includes skating!



## Duluth News

By Nancy Anderson, DVP

School is back and schedules are falling into place. Our membership drive in June was very successful. The ice cream sundaes and drawings for prizes always make for a good time. Many of our skaters enjoyed the summer heat by staying on the ice. Rob Lichtefeld traveled to France and brought home the club's first international medal. He won silver in his freestyle. Way to go Rob! A number of skaters competed this summer in the Atlanta Open as well as the Charleston Open. Team competitions were held in Charleston and the GAFSC skaters made their presence known to all. Each team made Spirit posters and sported matching patriotic outfits. Way to go "In The Navy", "Rocketts" and "United Skates of Atlanta." The adult Peach Classic competition, one of our annual fundraisers, was held at the Duluth rink over Labor Day weekend and was a great success. Club skate resumed August 16<sup>th</sup> at 5:10 in the Duluth rink. Come to the club meeting each month and get involved. See you there!

## Southlake News

By Ben Loggins, SLVP

Emily and Ben Loggins visited the largest ice complex in the world – eight rinks in one building. In Vancouver, BC, the eight rinks are more than sufficient for their needs. One is for figure skating, five for hockey and one is used as a weight room. The last area is covered with carpet grass and is used for indoor soccer. Ben and Emily tried to skate public ice, but found that the public skates were in such poor condition that they could not practice. They did meet the goalie for the Canucks and were impressed by the overall operation in Vancouver.

Southlake members who were involved with the Peach Classic included Pam Paszke and Ben Loggins as competitors with Emily Loggins, and Tristin Carney as volunteers. Pam and Ben both received medals!

We are now having our Club time on Wednesdays at 6:35 – 7:15 PM. On our first session we had ten members join us and we look forward to many more of our members joining us as we continue to have fun at Southlake.

Look for a  
Peach Classic  
article and  
photos in an  
upcoming  
issue of  
The Blade!

Be sure to get all the latest club news, test results and competition results on the Club web site at [www.gafsc.org](http://www.gafsc.org)!

## Executive Director named for 2004 U.S. Figure Skating Championships in Atlanta

The 2004 U.S. Figure Skating Championships announces its hiring of DJ Mackovets as Executive Director for this premier event to be held at Philips Arena January 3-11, 2004.

Mackovets will oversee the weeklong U.S. Championships when they return to Atlanta for the first time since 1980.

The 46-year-old Mackovets has considerable experience in organizing and successfully running sporting events of the highest caliber, but this will be his first time coordinating a figure skating event.

The Marietta resident most recently directed the 2002 Men's NCAA Final Four championships here in Atlanta. He will hold the same position for the 2003 Women's Final Four, also to be held in Atlanta next April.

More than 200 skaters at the annual U.S. Figure Skating Championships compete for four national titles at each of three levels of competition, as well as for the opportunity to represent the United States at international and world championships. The Championships are sanctioned by the United States Figure Skating Association (U.S.F.S.A), the governing body of the sport here in the United States.

Mackovets will coordinate all aspects of the Championships and will oversee a staff and approximately 800 volunteers. He will report directly to the Board of Directors of the Championships. The projected economic impact of the event is over \$25 million.

DJ Mackovets was instrumental in organizing Super Bowl XXXIV in Atlanta in 2000, the 1998 Goodwill Games in New York City and the 1996 Summer Olympics equestrian events at the Centennial Games in Atlanta. Mackovets is a co-founder and manager of THOMAS JAMES CO. INC., a company providing management, implementation and operational services for events. Mackovets has more than 22 years experience in planning and implementing sports and special events, managing facilities and recruiting and training volunteers.

For more information or to purchase All-Event tickets, visit the event website at [www.Atlanta2004.org](http://www.Atlanta2004.org).

### *Charleston Open* (Continued from page 1)

laughed a lot too. The medals podium was of beautiful design and standing on it made you feel like a winner. It would be great if the Ice Forum could have a podium manufactured like that. Overall the Charleston Open was a thrilling experience and I would recommend it to any skater who wishes to compete.

The city of Charleston was a wonderful historical site. The buildings were very old and it was fascinating to learn about them. There is a restaurant called "82 Queen's Street." It is outside in a courtyard. The food was wonderful and there were lizards and birds everywhere. In the historic slave market, many things were for sale from good luck charms to daggers to stuffed animals. It was a great experience and I hope to return to Charleston!



**Naomi Bradley and Tatum Corley (front) with Jennifer Gresenz, Katherine Stamey, and Lauren Beelen (back) are "In the Navy" at the Charleston Open.**

## Tests Are Not Just For Kids

Jean Holcomb

After skating for eighteen years I made the decision to attempt the Adult Bronze Pair test. After being paired with James Wright, we started the process of learning the concepts of pair skating. I soon found that the degree of difficulty doubles in pair

Jennifer Silas

TEST?! Not me! No way.

That has been my position on testing as an adult skater. I was lucky. I skated as a kid and took some tests, but not enough to make it really hard to compete right now.

When I came back to skating 11 years ago the tests I had passed grandfathered me into a very comfortable competition level. I was a silver lady. I was allowed to do an axel in competition but no double jumps. Had I passed my Intermediate test when I was 17 I'd have to do doubles...had I passed one more dance I'd have to do doubles.... Well, thank goodness I didn't pass; I didn't have to do doubles in competition. So



The "Rocketts" featuring Andrea Ivan (front) Erica Anderson, Kimberly Graff and Amelia Bradley (back) at the Charleston Open.

when my numerous coaches over the last 11 years have asked me about taking my Adult Gold test that was my answer. "No way! I don't want to have to compete with doubles!" Other skaters told me that I should move up to Gold but I'd say, "Not me! I don't do doubles!"

Of course I have been aware for some time that moves in the field requirements were going to be added to the adult freeskate tests. I ignored the fact because I never planned to test. The new requirements go into effect September 3, 2002.

As that date approached I began to consider what it might mean to take that test. Considering everything, I was probably in the best position I might ever be in to pass the test. My axel was consistent. My current silver program, with very few changes, had all the requirements. My children are little now, but as they grow getting to the rink will surely become more difficult. Maybe I should commit to this and see it through to the end. What a sense of accomplishment that would be to have my Adult Gold Medal. I decided to do it.

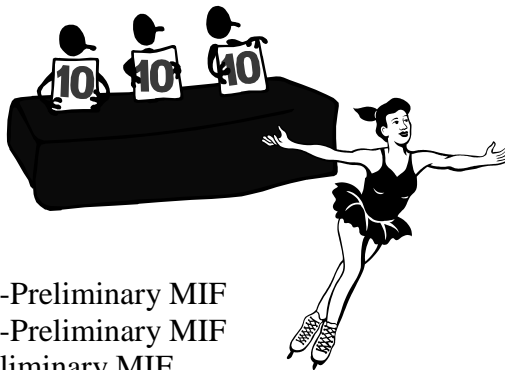
I had only one day to inform my coach and apply. The test deadline was the next day. I had three weeks to prepare and practice my program with the additional required elements. I did every thing that I could do to be fully prepared, except sleep. I could not sleep the night before. Of course I tried to put this into perspective. This is only a figure skating test! If I failed I'd be no worse off than I was when I thought I'd never take it. But still, now that I had decided to do it I wanted to do it well.

I went to the rink early on August 4<sup>th</sup> hoping to get on the ice before the test session ever started. Let's face it. A five-minute warm up on a Sunday morning in a cold rink is NOT enough time to get these old bones and muscles operating. I need a five-minute warm up PER ELEMENT! I was able to skate for about 25 minutes and that was all that was necessary. I watched the kids take their tests. Some of them cried when they came off the ice. I told them they did well, and that they shouldn't cry. I wondered how will I feel if I make a big mistake? Will I want to cry? "Just do your best," I told myself.

What a different feeling it is to test than compete. In a competition you have elements planned but if you don't make them you can still win a medal. In a test if you lack one revolution in a spin you can fail. It was much more pressure than I expected. After my program I had two elements to re-skate. That was okay, I expected that. But I didn't expect to be so nervous going to talk to the judges. I felt like I was 14 again, even though in reality I am probably older than two of the three judges on my

*(Continued on page 8)*

# Georgia Figure Skating Club Test Session Results



## June 2, 2002

Megan Sheasby	Pre-Preliminary MIF
Mikaela Allen	Pre-Preliminary MIF
Kelly Beth Lanier	Preliminary MIF
Megan Leftwich	Preliminary MIF
Taryn Mecher	Pre-Juvenile MIF
Caitlin Summey	Pre-Juvenile MIF
Brittany Marshall	Pre-Juvenile MIF
Kaley Willman	Pre-Juvenile MIF
Megan Neary	Pre-Juvenile MIF
Ann Bartone	Juvenile MIF
Molly Watkins	Juvenile MIF
Lisa Findley	Senior MIF
Vania Smith	Senior MIF
Caitlin Summey	Pre-Preliminary FS
Kaley Willman	Pre-Preliminary FS
Marissa Spector	Pre-Preliminary FS
Melanie Janas	Pre-Juvenile FS
Heather Schwab	Juvenile FS
Lisa Findley	Senior FS
Suzanne Sauer	Adult Silver FS
Ginger Whatley	Brz Ten Fox
Ann Bartone	Brz Ten Fox
Caitlin Summey	Prelim Dnc Dutch Waltz
Caitlin Summey	Prelim Dnc Canasta Tango
Caitlin Summey	Prelim Dnc Rhythm Blues

## July 7, 2002

Whitney Jinks	Pre-Preliminary MIF
Jessica Richardson	Pre-Preliminary MIF
Shelby Sheldon	Pre-Preliminary MIF

## July 7, 2002 cont.

Isabella Rodriguez	Pre-Juvenile MIF
Cheryl LaFontaine	Juvenile MIF
Kelsey Nicole Dunn	Juvenile MIF
Amelia Rose Bradley	Juvenile MIF
Mindy Shoppe	Intermediate MIF
Danille Szalkowski	Intermediate MIF
Laura Sims	Intermediate MIF
Brad Martin	Pre-Preliminary FS
Shelby Sheldon	Pre-Preliminary FS
Chelsea Bushue	Pre-Juvenile FS
Erica Anderson	Pre-Juvenile FS
Christina Puchalski	Intermediate FS
Amanda Bates	Intermediate FS
Suzanne Sauer	Adult Gold FS
Jean Holcomb	Adult Bronze Pairs
James A. Wright	Adult Bronze Pairs
Brandi Royer	Pre-Gold Paso Doble
Danille Szalkowski	Brz Hickory Hoedown
Ryan Downing	Brz Ten Fox

## August 4, 2002

Shelby Sheldon	Prelim MIF
Kayla Ridgely	Pre-Juvenile MIF
Hannah Leigh Jones	Pre-Juvenile MIF
Caroline Guo	Juvenile MIF

## August 4, 2002 cont.

Krystal Ostrowski	Senior MIF
Kelsey Traunero	Senior MIF
Pamela Jo Paszke	Adult Pre-Bronze FS
Heather Hatzenbuhler	Prelim FS
Amelia Rose Bradley	Juvenile FS
Krystal Ostrowski	Junior FS
Pamela Jo Paszke	Adult Bronze FS
Rob Lichtefeld	Adult Silver FS
Jennifer Silas	Adult Gold FS
Ricardo Pena	Adult Gold FS
Ginger Whatley	Brz Willow Waltz

## August 11, 2002

Natalie Thornton	Pre-Pre MIF
Megan D'Ambra	Pre-Pre MIF
Danielle Emby	Prelim MIF
Katherine Stamey	Prelim MIF
Stefanie DiLegge	Novice MIF
Karissa Fitzgerald	Novice MIF
Jaimie Prochaska	Novice MIF
Danielle Emby	Pre-Pre FS
Frances Marlow	Pre-Pre FS
Megan D'Ambra	Pre-Pre FS

## August 11, 2002 cont.

Darrah Cole	Prelim FS
Katherine Stamey	Prelim FS
Brittany Marshall	Pre-Juvenile FS
Kristin Bayless	Adult Silver FS
John Richardson	Adult Bronze Pairs
Maria Heckman	Adult Bronze Pairs
Brandi Royer	Pre-Gold Blues
Jade Kohser	Slvr Tango
Jaimie Prochaska	Pre-Slvr Foxtrot
Christopher Nolan	Brz Hickory Hoedown
Christopher Nolan	Brz Willow Waltz
Erin Brothers	Pre-Brz Cha Cha

## September 8, 2002

Alison Hyde	Pre-Preliminary MIF
Jody Stein	Preliminary FS
Jody Stein	Pre-Juvenile MIF
Kelly Neary	Pre-Juvenile MIF
Ginger Whatley	Adult Silver MIF
Abigail Morgan	Juvenile MIF
Taylor Corley	Intermediate MIF
Jade Kohser	Novice FS
Heather Schwab	Pre-Silver Fourteen Step
Chelsea Bushue	Pre-Silver Fourteen Step

## Upcoming Test Dates

Test Date	Location	Application Deadline
October 6, 2002	South Lake	September 13, 2002
November 3, 2002	Duluth	October 10, 2002
December 1, 2002	South Lake	November 8, 2002
January 5, 2003	Town Center	December 11, 2002
February 2, 2003	South Lake	January 9, 2002
March 2, 2003	Duluth	January 9, 2002
March 30, 2003	South Lake	March 3, 2002
May 4, 2003	Town Center	April 7, 2002
June 1, 2003	South Lake	May 5, 2002
June 29, 2003	Duluth	June 2, 2002
August 3, 2003	Duluth	June 26, 2002
August 10, 2003	Town Center	July 16, 2002

# Georgia Figure Skating Club

P.O. Box 393

Kennesaw, Georgia 30156

www.gafsc.org

## Mail To:



---

### JETS School Really Takes Off!

The Georgia Figure Skating club hosted a four year Dance and Moves Judges Seminar at the Town Center Ice Forum in Kennesaw, GA on July 27-28, 2002. Forty judges representing 16 different states participated in this event.

Jenny Mast, International Dance Judge from Blue Bell, PA, Kathleen Flaherty, International Singles, Pairs, Dance Judge and Referee from Burbank, CA and Andrew Austin, US-FSA/PSA Coach from Kennesaw, GA were the seminar presenters. Two National and International former competitors, Oleg Feduikov and Cheryl Demkowski Snyder, who now coach in the Philadelphia, PA area assisted with demonstrations. In addition to the faculty, many of our local skaters assisted with demonstrations as well, giving them an opportunity to be critiqued by many different levels of judges.

During the event, several demonstrators from clubs in South Carolina and Alabama were given the opportunity to test and event participants were given the opportunity to trial judge these high level dances. A very good experience for skaters and judges alike.

Greg Corbitt and Mary Ellen Minyon were the local organizing committee co-chairs. Hospitality was co-chaired by Alicea Smith and Marianne Campbell. During the event,

many members stepped forward and helped in any way they could. This team effort made a successful judges school and allowed prospective and advanced judges to learn and improve their judging techniques.

Kudos to the GAFSC and to all those involved!

---

#### *Adult Tests*

*(Continued from page 5)*

panel. To be judged is part of skating. For me, over the past 11 years, my skating has been judged in relation to other skaters in my event in a competition. On August 4<sup>th</sup> I was judged to a standard that has been labeled "Gold." There were no other factors to depend on. No other skaters to worry about, only me. I passed. All three judges passed me, 6.0, 6.0, and 6.1. The extra point really means a lot to me. It symbolizes what my skating is about now. I do not have a double jump but I will be competing with skaters who do. I may not win as much as I did when I was in silver. My measure of accomplishments will have to come from the satisfaction of a program well skated and the extras I can take the time develop at this new level. When I think about it, I am so glad that I went for it. Competing at Gold doesn't have to be intimidating. Anyway, I've only been working on the double Salchow since 1983, who knows, I might land it yet!