

News From The Edge



Diamond Edge Figure Skating Club

Volume 17, Issue 9
September 2016

From the President's Desk



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I hope everyone had a wonderful summer! At our house, it has been really hard to say "good-bye" to days in the sun and nights binge watching NetFlix and "hello" to homework and bedtime (which we still are struggling to understand).

While many of us have been hanging onto to the last days of summer, our skaters have been busy on the ice.

I would like to highlight 2 extraordinary skaters. DEFSC Member Alida Kaufman recently competed at the 2016 USFS National Showcase. Congratulations Alida, and thank you for always inspiring all of us with your

incredible and breathtaking performances!!!

Alex Han achieved his second USFS Gold Medal this summer! Alex is busy preparing for the USFS Southwestern Regional Championship, which will be held October 5-9. And Daniel Block will be skating his best at the Preliminary level at the Regional competition. Let's all cheer our skaters on as they prepare over the next few weeks.

I encourage all of our Members to sign-up for 2 upcoming events hosted by the Arkansas Skatium-Halloween on Ice and the Christmas Show. Both of these events are incredible opportunities for your skaters to showcase all their

hard-work and talent.

As we all too quickly welcome the Holiday Season, please contact me with any community service ideas you may have. Over the last few years, under the leadership of Dawn Doray, the DEFSC has sponsored a Community Service Event during the Holiday Season. The Board intends to continue this tradition this year. We welcome your ideas and input.

Thank you for allowing me to serve as your President. I wish you all the best- on and off the ice.

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Young At Heart by Anne Eden

With fall getting closer, my thoughts are already turning to the 2017 competitive figure skating season. I hope we will have competitors from DEFSC representing us at Southwestern Regionals this year. If you would like to go watch a major competition without traveling too far, this is the year! Southwesterns will be held at the Dr. Pepper Star Center in Plano TX October 5-9, which is a short drive from here.

Also in October is Skate America, which will be in Chicago October 21-23. Ticket information is available on the US Figure Skating website.

Another opportunity to see great skating, and not too far away, will be the US Figure Skating Champi-

onships, to be held in Kansas City MO, January 14-22, 2017. There are all-event ticket packages available for all practices and competitions from Juvenile levels through Senior Championship levels, starting at \$399. There are also ticket packages for the weekend, including all Championship events, starting at \$152.

If you prefer not to travel, but still want to be able to see all of the competitions this season, you can go to icenet.com, and subscribe for a year of skating videos, news, and photos (lots of it is live-streamed) for \$49.99.

I am fortunate to have gotten to attend two World Championships when they

were in the US, in Hartford CT in 1981, and in Cincinnati OH in 1987. Watching the practices was my favorite part, because we got to sit by the rails and watch all the hard work up close, and hear the interaction between skater and coach. I will never forget seeing Scott Hamilton, British sensations Torvill and Dean, Russian dancers Klimova and Ponomarenko, the brilliant pair team of Gordeeva and Grinkov, Brian Orser, Brian Boitano, Debi Thomas, and my favorite, Caryn Kadavy. It is such a wonderful experience to witness a big competition in person, so I hope some of you will take the opportunity to go to one of these near-by upcoming events.



Test Results are In!

Congratulations to the skaters who passed tests on Sunday, Aug. 7, 2016:

Pre-Preliminary Moves: Michelle Gong

Mallory Crosby (7/24)

Pre-Preliminary Free Skate:

Michelle Gong

Emily Ye

Preliminary Free Skate: Emily Ye

Ava Kate Lowery

Pre-Juvenile Moves: Emily Ye

Ava Kate Lowery

Pre-Juvenile Free Skate: Triniti Horner

Juvenile Free Skate: Triniti Horner



Senior Moves: Maya Griffin (7/24)

Adult Pre-Bronze Moves: Angelina Bardin

Dutch Waltz: Laila Almefty-Hernandez

Rhythm Blues: Laila Almefty-Hernandez

Canasta Tango: Laila Almefty-Hernandez

Cha Cha: Laila Almefty-Hernandez

Willow Waltz: Lauren McLemore

14 Step: Rose Johnson

Triniti Horner

European Waltz: Rose Johnson

Triniti Horner

Jules Gaddy

Foxtrot: Rose Johnson

American Waltz: Alex Han

Tango: Alex Han

Kilian: Alida Kaufman

Intermediate Solo Free Dance:

Lauren McLemore

Junior Solo Free Dance: Alida Kaufman

Dawn Talkington (adult)

Senior Solo Free Dance: Alex Han



Masters Bronze Dance: Anne Eden

The next USFS test session will be November 20, 2016

Patrick O'Neill Seminar by Jonathan Lim

On the weekend of August 13-14, I had the privilege of attending a seminar with Masters level coach Patrick O'Neill, at the Jones Center in Springdale, the home rink of the Ozark Figure Skating Club. The first great thing that occurred when I arrived there Friday afternoon: I reconnected with former DEFSC coach Robin Kreivans Aprea, now the Jones Center's skating school director.

Saturday was the busiest day; we were there from morning to evening, fortunately with breaks in between. This, however, proved to be extremely productive and lucrative. My Axel technique improved that day, the result of learning a new off-ice exercise routine. I also took the broken leg sit spin under my wing and learned the backward to forward

spin transition as well.

On Sunday morning we had a "power class" to build endurance (too difficult to describe in writing, unfortunately) which also proved extremely beneficial, as I have noticed less hesitation by myself in working on my field and freestyle moves.

And finally there's the question I receive most: did I meet other skaters? The answer, of course is yes: there were adult skaters Erin Spandorf and Katie Sabo, coaches Jennifer Kelly and Emma McClellan, and child skaters Peter and Tatiana Malakhov, who are half Russian and half Anglo-American.



Jonathan is in the second row, third from the left in the white shirt. Robin Aprea is on the right in the red shirt. Patrick O'Neill is in front with the Razorback nose!

Coach's Corner by Laure Schutze

Skate care

We all know how to take care of our skates, right? Well...maybe we need a refresher course once in a while! Here are a few tips to make sure you get the most out of your equipment:

Blade guards are a must.

Guards protect your blades from the gunk on our floor and help prolong your sharpening. The Pro Shop has them available in fun colors and fruity smells but they aren't just for show, make sure you use them any time you aren't on the ice. Tip: If your guards are gunky, pop them in the dishwasher for a good cleaning.

Take time to completely dry off your skate blades and the underside of your boots to prevent rust and rot. After

drying with a towel put soakers on the blades until your next skate.

Skates starting to smell? Make sure you unlace your boots all the way down to the toe and pull the tongue away from the boot. Your boots need to breathe and dry completely after each skate or you may start growing some stinky bacterial friends!

Periodically check your blades to make sure the screws haven't come loose. I'll have students tell me their blade feels funny only to find out it's barely held on by the screws! Any of our Pro Shop Pros can help with blade mounting.

How do you know when it's time to sharpen your blades? Depending on the skater blades need to be



sharpened after 20-40 hours of use. It's hard to keep up with that information so pay attention to how your blades feel. If it's difficult to hold an edge or you feel like your blade is "slipping" it's probably time to visit the Pro Shop!

Lookout for your laces. If you notice any frayed spots replace the laces before they break. That is not a fun experience in the middle of a program! Keep an extra pair stored in your skate bag just in case.



Diamond Edge Figure Skating Club

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Upcoming Competitions

Southwestern Regional Championship, Oct. 5-9, 2016, Plano, TX

Midwestern Sectional Championship, Nov. 16-20, 2016, Colorado Springs, CO

U.S. Championships, January 14-22, 2017 Kansas City

Skate Dallas, April 20-23, 2017, Plano, TX

Pigtail Classic, April 29-30, 2017, Springdale, AR

Diamond State Open, June 3-4, 2017, Little Rock, AR

Skate Memphis, TBA, Olive Branch, MS



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