

October 2002  
Issue No. #83



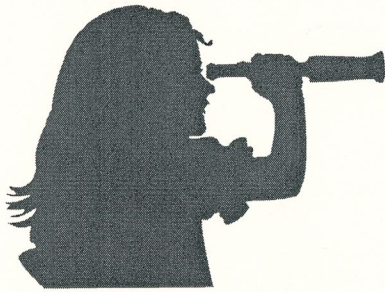
Historical  
Roller Skating

# Overview

National Museum  
of Roller Skating







## Curator's Column

By Deborah L. Wallis,  
Director and Curator

We have added a couple new columns in this issue of the museum's newsletter: Roller Skating Trivia and Featured Exhibit. We have brought back the trivia contest since its hiatus in 1999. The first person to send in the correct answer by either email or regular mail will receive a gift from the museum's store. The museum is continually updating and adding new exhibits to our gallery. The Featured Exhibit column will allow our readers to experience the new exhibits from the comfort of their own homes. This issue we are featuring the newly redone speed skating exhibits.

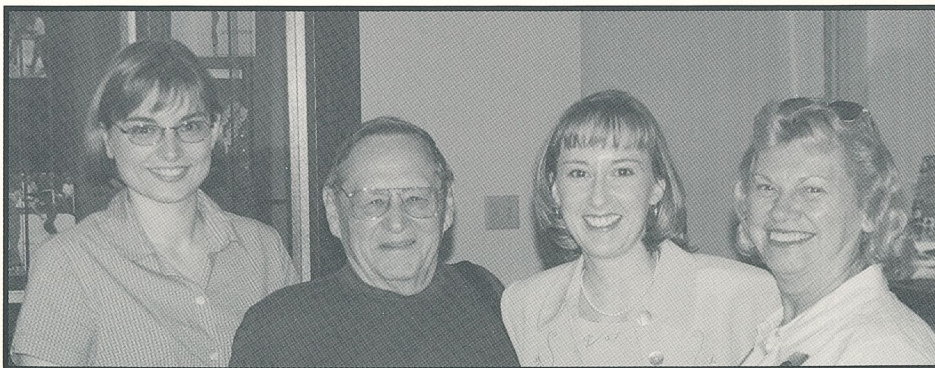
The world of Disco is explored in a new exhibit at the Experience Music Project (EMP), a museum in Seattle, Washington. Since roller skating was such a part of the Disco scene, EMP asked the museum to take part in the exhibit by lending a few items for the exhibit. The Disco exhibit will open in November and will run through April 2003. If you happen to be up in the Seattle area, go check out the exhibit and the museum's artifacts.

In August, the museum lost a staff member. Jennifer Cook, former Assistant Curator, left the museum for a full time position in the new Union Pacific museum in Omaha, Nebraska. We were all very sad to see her go but wish her all the best in her future endeavors.

The cover photo on this issue is one of the museum's unidentified photos. We know it is two girls dressed as pilgrims participating in a skating show. If anyone has any information such as the names of the girls, the approximate date or the name of the rink, please contact the museum. We would very like to learn more about the photo.

Did you know that October is National Roller Skating month? I hope all you will celebrate by taking a friend to go skating at your local rink.

Wishing all of you a great holiday season and peace for the New Year.



During the 2002 National Championship Alumni Reunion, museum members, Loretta and Ralph Horvath, visited with the staff at the museum and museum board member, Chester Fried, captured the moment. From left to right: Jennifer Cook, Assistant Curator; Ralph Horvath, Deborah Wallis, Director and Curator; Loretta Horvath.

National Museum of Roller Skating  
4730 South Street  
Lincoln, NE 68506  
Phone: 402/483-7551 x16  
Fax: 402/483-1465  
www.rollerskatingmuseum.com  
postmaster@rollerskatingmuseum.com

### Museum Hours

9 am to 5 pm, Monday thru Friday  
Closed holidays and weekends.

**Mission Statement:** The museum exists as an autonomous entity, to acquire, preserve, research and interpret the history of roller skating through its collection of artifacts, photographs, archival material and other skating memorabilia. It strives to document roller skating's historical progression, current status and its future development in context of the associated people and events.

### Board of Directors

**President,** Bert Anselmi  
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Mills Lynn, Larry Owens, Dave  
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Bob Bollinger, Michael Brooslin,  
James Turner, Scott Wilhite  
and Mike Zaidman

### Honorary Trustees:

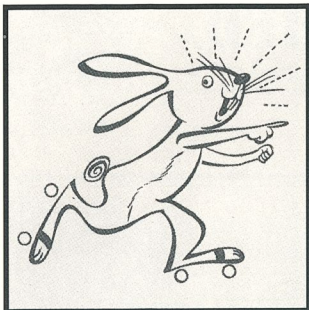
Irwin Rosee and RSA Chapter  
Chairpersons

### Staff

Deborah L. Wallis  
*Director and Curator*  
Emily Nimsakont  
*Assistant Curator*  
Mara Linskey  
*Intern*

Historical Roller Skating Overview ISSN 0896-1379 ©2002 is published quarterly for members of the National Museum of Roller Skating. It is available only through membership in the museum. Minimum annual contribution is \$35. Send correspondence and change of address to National Museum of Roller Skating, 4730 South Street Suite 2, Lincoln, Nebraska 68506 USA.





## FEATURE ARTICLE

*The armed forces on roller skates? Well, that is just what occurred during World War II. The reprinted articles below mention the US Army almost used roller skates to move them from location to location and the second article mention that one foreign army did use roller skates during WWII.*

### TROOPS MAY MOVE ON ROLLER SKATES TO SAVE GASOLINE AND TIRE RUBBER

reprinted from Popular Science, November 1942

Uncle Sam's infantry may soon march to the tune of the "Skater's Waltz." In these days of rubber and gasoline shortages, the Government is considering plans to move its new Army on roller skates.

For this purpose, a pair of lightweight skates, sporting wheels which could be manufactured from any available fabric, is now undergoing road tests. The body of the skate is cast from an aluminum-base alloy in one piece to keep the number of riveted parts at a minimum. Another feature is a new type of bolt which secures the skate trucks to the chassis in such a way that the chances for mechanical breakdowns are very slim. The sensitive wheels are designed to roll gently over small road obstacles, and to swing right or left as the weight of the skater shifts from one foot to the other. The diameter of the wheels, greater than on conventional skates, makes for easier rolling over rough surface.



*Artwork from Popular Science, November 1942*

In addition to the Army, various civilian-defense organizations are considering using these skates as a sure means of getting past bombed streets swiftly and safely. A group of defense workers in New York City, even contemplate skating to work to save precious automobile materials.



# RICHARDSON SKATES FOR THE ARMED FORCES

Reprinted from the "Richardson Rinkster", May 1, 1943 Vol. 13 No. 5

While we have been unable to manufacture Roller Skates for civilian use for many months, we have been able to manufacture them for the Army, Navy and Maritime Commission.

During the last few months we have shipped our skates to many Naval Training Stations and Army Camps, and some of these shipments have traveled long distances both by land and sea. All have reached their destination with the exception of one shipment which was lost at sea.

We would like to tell you where some of these shipments have gone, but suffice it to say that each is performing a real service. It is gratifying to learn, for instance, that in one particular case that had undergone a terrific experience, our skates are giving the boys in service their only form of recreation.

Roller Skating is treated not only as a form of recreation, for we are told by one of our foreign customers that his Army practically insists that recruits roller skate because this teaches co-ordination of the muscles quicker than other methods, and thus shortens the training period.

## RICHARDSON RINKSTER

PUBLISHED MONTHLY, SEPTEMBER 1 TO MAY 1, INCLUSIVE

VOL. XIII.
MAY 1, 1943
No. 5.

**Suggested Program For May**

**Mondays**—3rd, 10th, 17th, 24th and 31st. Beginners and Class Night. Free instruction in straight skating and elementary instruction in Fancy Skating and Waiting.

**Tuesdays**—4th, 11th, 18th and 25th. Book some Industrial Club, Church Club, Social Organization, etc.

**Wednesdays**—5th, 12th, 19th and 26th. Hockey Game. Races.

**Thursdays**—6th, 13th, 20th and 27th. Advanced Class Night. Free instruction in Fancy Skating and Waiting for the more proficient skater. Figure Skating.

**Fridays**—7th, 14th, 21st and 28th. Rink Club Night. Give more Waives.

**Saturdays**—1st, 8th, 15th, 22nd and 29th. Party Night.

1st—Games.  
8th—Balloon Party.  
15th—Grand Right and Left.  
22nd—Candle Light Party.  
29th—Topsy Turvy Party.

**DETAILS OF PARTIES**

**Games**—Devote this night to all sorts of games and races. Pick out the most successful of these that you have held throughout the season and run them this night. Balloon race, potato race,



three-legged race, spoon race, wheelbarrow race, etc., are always popular.

**Balloon Party**—This is an old favorite and is suggested at this time because of that fact. It is inexpensive to put on and is fun, both for the skaters and spectators. The balloons are all you have to buy. If you cannot buy them locally, write us for prices. The afternoon of your balloon party have your men blow up

enough balloons to equal the number of skaters you expect. Run a string the full length of your floor. Attach the balloons to these strings, spacing the balloons about three feet apart. Next attach one end to the ceiling at the extreme end of your floor, and the other end of each string run through a loop to a point where you can conveniently reach it in order to loosen it at the proper time. If you have a very long building, provide screw hooks every twenty feet or so upon which to hang the string to prevent the balloons from sagging too close to the skaters. The idea is to keep the balloons out of reach of the skaters until such time as you wish to let them down. At the proper time simply cut the string at the point you previously have chosen for this and then the fun starts. The skaters grab for the balloons and for some time there is a wild scramble. If you put a pass (good for any season you wish) or some other small prize, inside several of the balloons, it tends to provide additional excitement.

**Candle Light Party**—We have a little game they seem to like here, we call it the Candle Light. I get small candle holders, cut pasteboard handles for same, put a 1 inch candle in each. The one carrying lighted candle the longest gets a prize—first and sec-

Richardson Rinkster, May 1, 1943



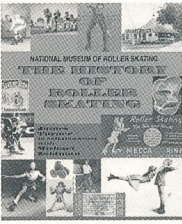
The museum is bringing back the trivia questions to the newsletter. The first person to correctly answer the question below will receive a gift from the museum's Store. Answers can be mailed into the museum at 4730 South Street, Lincoln, NE 68506 or email to the following address [postmaster@rollerskatingmuseum.com](mailto:postmaster@rollerskatingmuseum.com). The answer will be printed in the 2003 January issue of the newsletter.

**What year was National Roller Skating Week expanded to be the whole month of October?**

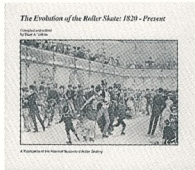




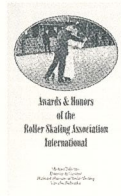
# Holiday Gift Ideas from the Museum Store



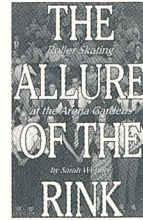
**Item A**  
*The History of Roller Skating*  
 Price \$20.00 each



**Item B**  
*The Evolution of the Roller Skate: 1820 - Present*  
 Price \$10.00 each



**Item C**  
*Awards & Honors of the Roller Skating Association International*  
 Price: \$5.00 each



**Item D**  
*The Allure of the Rink, Roller Skating at the Arena Gardens, 1935-1953*  
 Price: \$10.00 each

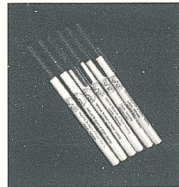


**Item E**  
 20th Anniversary Pin  
 Price \$3.50 each

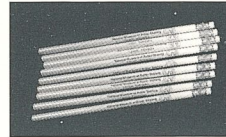


Nick Viscuso #53 Roller Skating Dances  
 Organ Music includes 16 Selections

**Item MM** **Item NN**  
 Cassette Tape CD  
 Price: \$15.00 Price: \$20.00



**Item G**  
 Logo Pens  
 Price: \$0.75 each



**Item F**  
 Logo Pencils  
 Price \$0.60 each



**Item LL**  
 Make A Date To Roller Skate shoulder tote bag  
 11" x 16.5"  
 Price:\$12.00

Item Letter and Description	Quantity	Total
<b>ORDER SUBTOTAL</b>		

**SHIP TO:**  
 Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Daytime Phone: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Museum Member       Non-member

Method of Payment:  Check    Money Order  
 Credit Card:  Visa    MasterCard  
 Credit Card Number: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Expiration Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Mail this Order form along with your payment to:

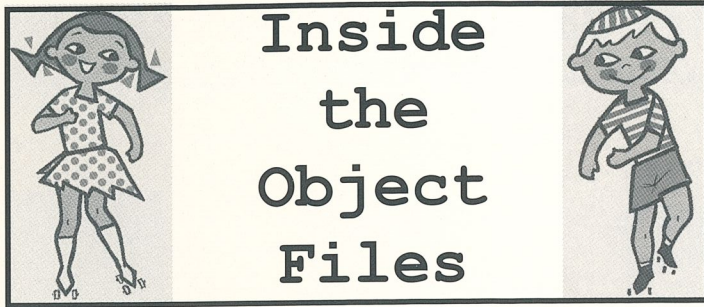
National Museum of Roller Skating  
 4730 South Street, Suite 2  
 Lincoln, Nebraska 68506

Questions? Call (402) 483-7551 Ext. 16

Total Amount of Order	
Museum Members -Subtract 10% Discount	
Shipping & Handling- see form to the left	\$
<b>TOTAL AMOUNT DUE</b>	

Number of items ordered	Charges
1-9 items	\$3.20
10-19 items	\$4.00
Over 20 items	\$6.00
<i>Call for International Charges.</i>	





By Deborah L. Wallis,  
Director and Curator

Included in the museum's archival holdings are several magazines spanning from 1931 to present. The museum staff uses our collection of magazines primarily for research for exhibits and articles and photo identification. We also use them to verify facts and to document the accomplishments of individuals in roller skating.

Our collection includes: *The Nation's Skater* (1939-1940), *Richardson Rinkster* (1931-1949), *Inline Hockey News* (1995-1997), *Global Skate* (1995-1997), *Daily Bread* (1993 to present),

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## Recent Donations

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**Marilyn Buyner**, Fort Collins, Colorado, *Miss Wyoming Roller Skate Queen photograph*

**Jennifer Cook**, Lincoln, Nebraska, *Garfield street skates with original box*

**Kathy Finley**, Indianapolis, Indiana, *roller skating theme toys, ceramics, dolls and archival material*

**Ron Hawker**, Suwanee, Georgia, *E-Z Walk wheel covers*

**Karen Lepish**, Middleburg Heights, *Lucite roller skate magazine rack*

**Mara Linskey**, Lincoln, Nebraska, *store catalog with shoe skate advertisement*

**Bea Luksik**, Adkins, Texas, *photographs from the 1965 National Championship Skating Spectacular show*

**Bill Martin**, Detroit, Michigan, *photographs from the 1940s*

**Jake Mersburger**, Lincoln, Nebraska, *Team USA jersey and Israeli pennant from the 2002 World Roller Hockey Championship in Rochester, New York*

**Caroline Mirelli**, Memphis, Tennessee, *magazine with roller skating article*

**Don & Sandy Nelson-Milton**, Kissimmee, Florida, *photograph of the Nelson and Nelson-Milton children*

**Janet Palm**, West Babylon, New York, *America on Wheels rink stickers*

**George Pickard**, Lincoln, Nebraska, *medal, button, banner and decorative plate from the 2002 Pan Am Games in Colombia*

*Rinksider* (1957 to present), *Skater* (1977-1980), *Skate* (1959-1984) and many more magazines. We easily have over a thousand magazines with topics ranging from the sports of roller skating to the business of owning a rink. The museum receives magazines as artifact donations or as reciprocal gifts from publishers in exchange for museum memberships.

The magazines are great capsules of the time in which they were published and help the museum to understand the issues of the day. It is important for the museum to continue to receive and keep magazines as they document the developments in the sport, business and recreation of roller skating. Our collection of magazines is a very valuable resource for the museum.



**Jim Pollard**, Redwood, California, *Regional and Gold Skate Classic programs from 2000, 2001 and 2002*

**Joan Richter**, Lincoln, Nebraska, *skate dress, skirt and license plates*

**Riedell**, Red Wing, Minnesota, *Jam skate shoes*

**Don Ritchie**, Denver, Colorado, *1991 National Artistic and Speed Championship videotapes*

**Alice Sloat**, Indianapolis, Indiana, *Roller Skating Association items*

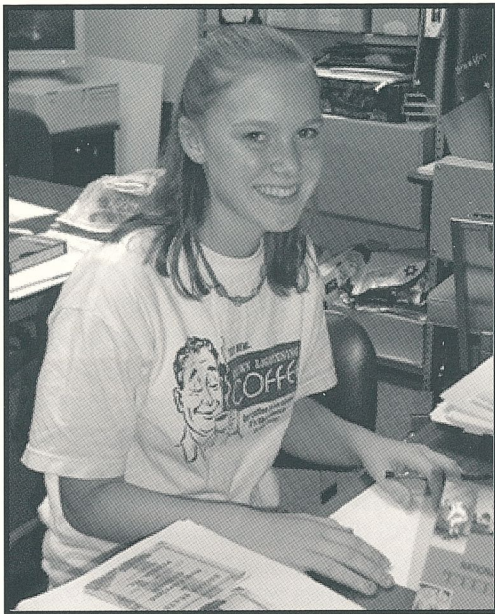
**Clayton Smith**, Orlando, Florida, *A Historical Collection of Skate Dance Diagrams, Volume 1 A-D book*

**Fred Tortola**, Waltham, Massachusetts, *skates, stickers and patch from the Wal-Lex Skating Club*

**Deborah Wallis**, Lincoln, Nebraska, *roller skating toy*

**Arlan D. Zimmerman**, Aurora, Colorado, *skates with skate case and archival materials*





Kim Herron, a high school senior at Lincoln East High School, has been volunteering the museum during September. Kim has been photocopying the museum's collection of rink stickers to make it easier for the staff to look through the stickers.



*Museum's billboard ad on the corner of 33rd and "O" Streets in Lincoln, Nebraska.*

USA Roller Sports graciously gave the museum two billboards during the National Indoor Speed and Roller Figure Skating Championships. Both of the bill boards featured the same ad designed by Dinah Robbins of USARS.

The museum would like to thank USARS for their generosity in donating the billboards.

## **Board of Trustees Elects Two New Members and Names Two Trustee Emeritus**

During the National Museum of Roller Skating's annual board meeting in August, two new trustees were voted onto the board. The new members are Howard "Bud" Engle and Larry Owens. Both Bud and Larry are rink owners from the state of Ohio. Bud comes to the museum with a long association with both the Roller Skating Association and USA Roller Sports. Through his work on the museum's board, he hopes to promote the museum by whatever means possible and to help preserve of the sport of roller skating. Larry, with his personal love of roller skating, has long expressed an interest in the museum. Through his work on the museum's board, he hopes to educate all rink operators on the history of roller skating in order to help them become better operators.

The museum is very happy to have both Bud and Larry serving on the museum's board, as both will bring wonderful talents and ideas to the museum.

The museum's board of trustees also named two individuals as Trustee Emeriti, Bob Bollinger and Michael Zaidman, during their annual meeting. The

board chose to recognize Bob for his outstanding service and contributions to the museum as a Trustee. Bob is one of the museum's founders and has served on the board for twenty-one years. Since its inception, he oversaw the museum's raffle including sending out personal letters to solicit buyers and supporters of the museum. He also helped the museum to secure the Ludascher collection, one of the most important artifact collections in the museum. The board chose to recognize Mike for his outstanding accomplishments as director of the museum and his continued service and contributions to the museum. During his tenure as museum director (1996 to 1999), the museum published three books and was awarded three grants totaling over \$13,000.00. Since leaving the museum, Mike has continued to volunteer for the museum. In 2000, he volunteered his time and talents to redesign the museum's web site.

The museum is very honored to have been associated with both Bob and Mike and is pleased to be able to give them the title of Trustee Emeritus.



Featured Exhibit

# Speed Skating Before 1937

In the late 1800s and early 1900s, professional speed skating was very popular in the United States. Skaters traveled circuits throughout the country, where they competed against other professional skaters and local competitors. In addition, many rinks around the country held local and regional championships.

### International Skating Union of America

In 1891, the International Skating Union of America (ISU) was established. Divided into various regional associations, this organization's purpose was to establish rules and regulations for both ice and roller skating. The association held championships for both figure and speed skating, but the speed competitions were more popular.

The organization also tried to change the image of speed skating from that of a rowdy event to that of a

legitimate competitive sport. For example, its rules did not allow pushing or tripping of other skaters, which had taken place during some earlier races.

### Speed Skating Troupes

In the first half of the twentieth century, some skaters formed skating troupes that would travel the country performing racing exhibitions. Many skaters started out with these troupes before racing solo on the professional speed skating circuit. One of the more famous of these troupes was formed by Harley Davidson of Minnesota. The Harley Davidson Professional Speed Skating Troupe was formed in 1911, and the members toured for a year before they split up to skate as individuals.

### Endurance Races

One popular aspect of professional speed skating was the skaters' participation in marathon endurance races. The first 24-hour individual endurance race in the United States was held on March 28 and 29, 1913, at the Riverview Skating Palace in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. The race was so grueling that afterward, the skaters who had participated agreed never to skate a 24-hour individual race again. They decided to limit individual races to twelve hours and to use teams for any longer races.

Skaters also competed in races that lasted for more than one day. In 1929, a six-day relay race was held at Madison Square Garden in New York. The three-man teams skated non-stop from June 11 to 16. In 1932, a 21-day relay race was held at Dreamland Rink in Newark, New Jersey. The race was declared over after 19 days due to snow on the outdoor track.

### The Decline of Professional Speed Skating

Professional skating began to decline in the 1920s and 1930s as many skaters stopped competing in order to become rink managers or exhibition skaters. The public's interest turned to roller derby and amateur skating.





# Speed Skating Since 1937

**The First National Amateur Championships**  
In 1937, the first official United States Amateur Speed Skating Championships were held at the Arena Gardens in Detroit, Michigan. The Inter-City Women's Amateur Speed Skating Championships were also held at this time. For both championships, the winner was determined on the basis of a point system. For each event, the winner received thirty points, the second place finisher received twenty, and the third place finisher received ten. The men competed in five events, and the women competed in three.

It was at this event that seventeen rink owners formed the Roller Skating Rink Operators Association (RSROA). The purpose of the organization was to promote roller skating business and sport throughout America. The RSROA began holding national amateur championships in 1938.

## Indoor Speed Skating

Indoor speed competitions take place on 100 meter oval tracks, and they include both individual and relay events. The competitors' divisions and the distances that they skate are determined by age groups.

In individual events, elimination heats are skated, followed by semi-finals. After this, six skaters remain to skate in the finals. The winner of the division is the skater who earns the most points in the finals of the various events.

Relay speed races were added to the National Championships in the early 1950s. Relays are skated by teams of either two or four skaters. Two-person teams can be two men, two women or two mixed (one man and one woman), and four-person teams can be four men, four women or four mixed (two men and two women). The overall distance of the race and the number of laps skated by each team member are determined by the age and gender of the skaters.

## Outdoor Speed Skating

Outdoor speed skating includes both road racing and track racing. A road race is skated either on a closed loop with no bank on either side, or on a closed stretch of road. Track races are held on closed, oval tracks with banked corners. These

tracks are usually 200 meters long. As in indoor competitions, skaters earn points as they skate a variety of distances, and the skater with the most points becomes the champion. Therefore, in order to be successful, skaters must be consistently good at many different distances.

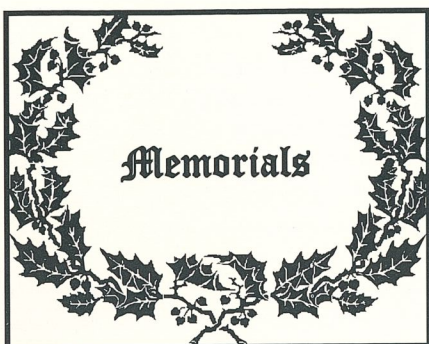
## Inline Speed Skating

Speed skating was traditionally done on quad skates, but when inline skates became available in the 1990s, speed skaters began using them. Inline skates provide skaters with more speed because they are lighter and more aerodynamic than quad skates. The clear dominance of inline skates over quad skates led USA Roller Sports, the national governing body for roller skating, to create separate division for the two types of skating, and in 1996 separate national championships were established.

Inline skates were introduced to international speed skating in 1992. Now they are the only type of skates allowed in international competitions sponsored by the Federation International de Roller Skating.







**Memorials received in honor of  
Charlotte Groves  
have been donated to the museum from:**

Bert and Lynn Anslemi  
Paul and Patty Gamsby  
Marvin and Lois Facher

*Thank you to everyone who donated to the  
museum in memory of our mother,  
Charlotte Groves.*

*Ted Werner and Dianne Groves Werner*



**Memorials received in honor of  
Winnie Young have been donated  
to the museum from:**  
Marvin and Lois Facher

**Memorials received in honor of  
Virginia Darimont have been donated  
to the museum from:**  
the Michigan Roller Sports Coaches Association

**Memorials received in honor of  
Patricia Zupan have been donated  
to the museum from:**  
Mary Piskor and John Bax



**MEMORIALS**

The Patron Memorial Plaque was created to honor those individuals who have contributed to the growth of roller skating as a sport, recreation or business. A plaque may be purchased for a minimum contribution of \$250. Please fill out the information below if you are interested. All other donations are recognized in the newsletter.

*In Memory of      In Honor of      On Occasion of*

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Event \_\_\_\_\_

*Please check one:*

\$25    \$50    \$100    \$250

Other \$ \_\_\_\_\_

*This contribution was made by:*

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Mail this form & payment (NMRS) to the museum.  
All donations are tax-deductible.



# Membership

**The National Museum of Roller Skating would like to thank these members who have either joined or renewed their membership with the museum since our last issue. Thank you for your support!**

**Benefactor (\$500)**

Jack & Nancy Becker\*

**Patron (\$250)**

Annelle & Bob Anderson  
Midwest Skate Company  
Larry Owens/Rollercade Family  
Fun Center

**Associate Patron (\$100)**

Donald Dillon  
Eric & Barbara Englund  
Mack & Beverly Harris  
Michael & Pat Jacques  
Bruce Johnson  
Kahne Krause  
Ronald Milton  
Bill Sahly/Roller Garden  
Skate World of Troy  
Jim & Nancy Wells

**Donor (\$50)**

Joan & Les Diener

The Fleming Family

Sylvia Haffke  
Virginia Klapheke  
William Martin

Sara Messires  
Mildred Neschke  
Edwin & Ann Newman  
Joni Salmon  
William G. Schneider  
Bill Sisson  
Mary Lou White

**Individual/Family (\$35)**

Chelsea Appel  
Rusty & Eunice Arnold  
Darwin & Patty Behnke  
Pearl Borgia  
Virgil & Sue Dooley  
Rondalyn Gardner  
Samantha Geffen  
Joey Higby  
Valerie Hildebrand

Sandra Hisaw

Joseph Leanza  
Caroline Mirelli  
Arthur Nodine

Dolores Pillow  
Elizabeth Plimpton  
Teresa Purvis  
Jeffrey Rabold  
Laurie Radwanski  
Marti Robinson  
Elizabeth Rohde Cratty

Al Sarnelle  
Suzi Schmitz  
Lori Schade Shelly  
Gloria Smith  
Betsy Terry  
Carol Vanderbilt  
Jennifer Marie Vanderbilt  
Jack Walker  
Carlesa Williams  
Elizabeth Woods

\*Also made an additional cash donation.

**Membership support is greatly appreciated!**

	Join Here!	
New	Renew	
<i>Check one:</i>		
Benefactor	\$500	
Patron	\$250	
Associate Patron	\$100	
Donor	\$50	
Individual/Family	\$35	
Additional Contribution .....	\$ _____	
Gift Membership .....	\$ _____	
Total Enclosed .....	\$ _____	

**Payment Method**

Check Payable to National Museum of Roller Skating

VISA    MasterCard

Card # \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

**Member Form**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

*Thank you for joining!*

**Gift Membership Form (Makes a Great Gift!)**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Benefits extend one year from join date. Please allow 3 weeks for processing. Membership includes a subscription to the member's newsletter, Historical Roller Skating Overview, 10% off museum store items, a membership card, and your choice of publications (please check one):

*The History of Roller Skating* ©1997 ISBN 0-9658192-0-5  
*The Allure of the Rink* ©1999 ISBN 0-9658192-1-3

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# A Skating Poem

## “The Skater”

By Scott Eller, a competitive figure skater from Indiana  
originally printed in *Skate Magazine*, Summer 1989

As I walked in the door  
of the rink today,

I met a great skater  
along the way;

He made me nervous  
just as before...

I got more nervous  
as he skated on the floor.

Relentlessly skating  
with each thoughtful stroke,

The skater improved  
with each edge that broke.

For he was a great skater  
that skated with a smile,

Every contest he skated  
he skated with style.

For this skater was me  
who was afraid of himself,

That always got so nervous  
that I punished myself

But when the contest ended  
the gold medal was on my shelf.

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