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letters from our readers

I absolutely love skating. When I got this magazine I had no idea there was this pen pal program, but once I found out, I wanted a pen pal immediately. I am trying to land my Axel and double Salchow, but I'm struggling on both jumps trying to get the full rotation. I am trying to find a pen pal around my age and level.

**Sara Denny, 10, FS 3/4**

**Brandon Ice Sports Form**

Lithia, Fla.

I am a Freestyle 4 skater and have a great coach named Christina. She has gotten me from swizzles to loops in a year and a few months. It may seem like not enough time, but I really have mastered everything, thanks to her. I am now looking for a pen pal who will share my thoughts about skating and everything else, preferably a female in my age group.

**Meredith Meske, 13, FS 4**

**Desert Schools Coyotes Center**

Phoenix

Even though I have only been skating for nine months, I have progressed quickly. I am on Freestyle 2 and I am working on my shoot-the-duck and my scratch spin. I am interested in a pen pal near or on the same level and age as me.

**Shannon Dunn, 12, FS 2**

**Norwich Municipal Ice Rink**

Colchester, Conn.

I have been taking lessons for eight months now and got on the ice for the first time about a year ago. I’m working on my Mohawks and three-turns. My coach is also having me start working on my Delta moves. Recently, I got to skate in my first competition and won first place. I can’t wait to do another one soon! I’d like to find a pen pal close to my age and level.

**Tiffany Rogers, 10, Gamma**

**Sprinker Recreation Center**

Tacoma, Wash.

I love to skate! My one-foot spin is on its way; that’s the only thing stopping me from passing. I would love to have a pen pal to talk about skating and be given some pointers. I have been progressed quickly. I am on Freestyle 2 and I am working on my shoot-the-duck and my scratch spin. I am interested in a pen pal near or on the same level and age as me.

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Letters to the Editor

- Be sure to include:
  - Your first and last name
  - Your ISI member number (the six-digit number on your magazine mailing label)
  - Your age
  - Your skating level
  - The name of your arena
  - Your city and state
- Photos are welcome, but cannot be returned.
- If you have a skating question, be as specific as possible. Technical questions will be answered by qualified ISI staff but should not be considered a substitute for coaching.
- All letters are printed at the discretion of the editor and may be edited for clarity, accuracy and space.
- E-mail is preferred. Send your letter to editor@skateisi.org or:
  - Ice Skating Institute
  - Attention: Editor, RIS
  - 17120 N. Dallas Parkway,
  - Suite 140
  - Dallas, TX 75248-1187

Pen Pals

- Pen pal requests must be sent by e-mail to editor@skateisi.org.
- You must include the member information listed above.
- The pen pal program is exclusively for current registered ISI members.
- E-mail address will NOT be published in *Recreational Ice Skating*.

NOTE: We do not “match up” pen pals; we only publish your requests and electronically forward letters to specifically requested members. Once you have made the connection with your pen pal, the two of you will communicate directly rather than through ISI.
skating since I was 8. I really enjoy being on the ice. When I get mad about something, I just want to get on the ice and do what I do best. I’m on a synchro team, The Dazzlers.

Kaileen Mangan, 11, FS 2
Downers Grove Ice Arena
Chicago

I am in the sixth grade, in Freestyle 4-6, and I’m working on my loop rotation. Any tips? I really can’t seem to get it! I love skating and I’ve been doing it for three years. I would like a pen pal that is also trying to land the loop!

Jessica Hang, 11, FS 4-6
Ashburn Ice House
Ashburn, Va.

Jessica, try going back to practicing the back spin part of your change-foot spin and hopping up and “landing” it.

I would like a pen pal about my age. I have been skating for about one year now. I take private lessons, and my skating coach is really nice. I don’t do competition yet, but I wish to move up and do better so I can get into the level I need to be in for competition. I really hope there is someone willing to be my pen pal!

Dominique Barca, 10, Beta
Mennen Sports Arena
Newfoundland, N.J.

I recently passed my Gamma test. I’d like a pen pal around my age and level.

Julie Wu, 11, Gamma
Ice Chalet
Knoxville, Tenn.

I have been skating since I was 4, which would be seven years now. I love it, but I am having trouble finding my “center” on my skis, so I wobble and travel. Got any tips? Also do you have any stretches to recommend for me, because I am trying incredibly hard to become more flexible? I am interested in skating (of course), football, piano and theater. I really want a pen pal.

Bonnie Atterstrom, 11, FS 4
Bay State Blades Marlborough
Framingham, Mass.

Bonnie, when you spin, always be sure you are stepping into the center of your imaginary circle and keep those shoulders nice and level! As for stretches, you might want to ask your skating instructor for specific suggestions or pick up a book on stretching at your local library.

I love ice skating! It’s my current favorite sport. I just started a few months ago, and am in Delta. I started in Gamma, and have become so attached to ice skating. I don’t take privates, but hope to as soon as I reach Freestyle. I’m working on my two-foot spin and backward inside edges. Off the ice, I play soccer and do gymnastics. I’d love a pen pal around my age.

Dana Donnelly, 11, Delta
Ice Oasis
Redwood City, Calif.

Skating is for all ages, and as seniors, we should always be promoting adult skating. My first pair of skates was a Christmas present at a very young age. After my husband, Dave, retired from active duty as a naval officer and

I retired from teaching special education, we resumed our interest in ice skating. My coach, Laurie Corder, understands the needs of the senior skater, and she choreographs my programs by putting humor and precision in the events. My competitive skating participation is now mostly in showcase and artistic programs. Having the support and backing of the young skaters as well as the other coaches helps with my endeavor.

Coralie Raunig, 75
Hampton Roads IcePlex
Williamsburg, Va.

This is my second time writing. I just wanted to say I have two great pen pals, Tianna and Ali. I’d love to have more! I just think it is great to be able to talk to people who love skating just as much as I do. Also, I hope to have a lot more who are around my age and level. I skate at three rinks: Sunblades on Wednesdays, TBSA Countryside on Fridays and TBSA Oldsmar whenever I miss a lesson. I have the most wonderful coach, Ms. Kirsten. I
am still working on my Axel; I have been working on it for two years.
Kaitlyn Pryde, 13, FS 4/5
TBSA Sunblades
Pinellas Park, Fla.

The adult skating team Tropical Spice on Ice dedicates all performances to breast cancer awareness because this insidious disease has struck five team members, including Susan Evans, who continues to skate with the team in spite of being diagnosed with Stage 4 cancer. Susan is such an inspiration. She has been cancer-free for four years but recently discovered the cancer has come back, this time more ominous. It hasn’t stopped her; she hasn’t missed a practice or a competition since the diagnosis.

Susan and the team medaled in all of their events in Boston at ISI World Championships last July, plus Susan and her husband, Bob, were invited to skate in the ISI Benefit on Ice show with 2006 Olympian Emily Hughes. Susan says ice skating helps her cope and keeps her physically fit. Her goal is to skate at ISI Worlds in Chicago this summer. Susan is a “profile in courage.”

Linda Spinale,
Publicity Director
Tropical Spice On Ice
Ellenton, Fla.

I love to ice skate. I have been skating for six years. I would like some tips on my shoot-the-duck. I need some help on getting back up without falling. I would like a pen pal close to my age so I can talk to them about skills.
Stephanie Iseman, 8, Delta
Wayne Kennedy Recreation Complex
Fenton, Mo.

Try putting another jump after the Axel, such as a loop jump or a toe loop, to get the feel of landing it on just one foot so that you can do the next one. Arching your back and keeping your head up on the camel spin will enable you to sit back on the blade more.

I have been skating for a year. Skating is an athletic sport. I enjoy skating a lot and making progress. I would like to have a pen pal.
Sophia Beshoff, 7, FS 1
Glacial Garden
Lakewood, Calif.

Try putting another jump after the Axel, such as a loop jump or a toe loop, to get the feel of landing it on just one foot so that you can do the next one. Arching your back and keeping your head up on the camel spin will enable you to sit back on the blade more.
Every skater takes their own journey. From the first lesson to finals, from beginners to champions, it all starts with the skates.

What's your Riedell story?

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The Edge Ice Arena in Bensenville, Ill., will host the ISI 2007 World Recreational Team Championships July 23-28, offering the opportunity to experience the largest annual recreational ice skating competition on the planet, in a world-class environment. From the outstanding facility to its close proximity to The Windy City, this is a perfect excuse (and destination) for a summer vacation!

The Edge is home to the Chicago Steel and Robert Morris Eagles as well as practice ice for the Chicago Blackhawks. It is also the training facility for 2006 Olympic gold medalists Tatiana Totmianina and Maxim Marinin.

The arena’s amenities include three concession stands, a pro shop, stadium and mezzanine seating, and an NHL-size inline rink. The Edge is part of the 88-acre Redmond Recreational Complex, which also includes a 1.2-mile walking path around a 16-acre lake, a 50-foot climbing wall, ropes courses, a fitness center, sports fields and courts, a playground, an aquatic center, a band shell, a skate park and much more.

In addition to The Edge’s three ice surfaces, Worlds events will be scheduled at the nearby Franklin Park Ice Arena.

Adventures in

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Among the optional activities planned for Worlds week are:

- **Monday** – Special rates for Worlds participants at the Bensenville Water Park and Golf Waters Miniature Golf Course.
- **Tuesday** – White Sox Day, with special ticket prices for Worlds participants.
- **Wednesday** – A competitors’ party featuring a picnic in the park (don’t forget your picnic gear, from blankets to inline skates!), the parade of athletes, a DJ and light show, dancing, face painting, Chicago-style food vendors, access to the pool and climbing wall, a live band and fireworks over the lake (see reservation form, page 19).
- **Thursday** – ISI Day at Six Flags Great America and Hurricane Harbor.
- **Friday** – The ISIA Education Foundation Benefit on Ice show featuring Evan Lysacek, highlights from the week’s events and the winners of the “Skate with a Star” raffle fundraiser (see reservation form, page 23).

New to Worlds this year will be an ISI banner presented to the winning team to permanently display in their home facility.

Don’t wait another day! Download your Worlds form from skateisi.org and get ready to have the time of your life! Deadline for Worlds registration is May 1.
Top Picks from Hometown Hero David Santee

David Santee has deep roots in the Chicago area. He started skating at age 5 at the Michael Kirby Ice Skating School in Park Ridge, began competing at age 9 and became the youngest male in history to win the national junior title at 13. He went on to take 11 U.S. men’s medals, and claimed the silver behind Scott Hamilton at the 1981 World Championships. He competed in Winter Olympics in 1976 and 1980. Today he is a figure skating coach at Oakton Ice Arena and Niles Park District Iceland.

We asked the Chicago native to share his top picks for enjoying Chicagoland to the max. “I am biased,” he admits, “but Chicago is the best city in the world. Enjoy!”

Favorite local spots from your youth: Wrigley Field to see the Cubs, Riggio’s restaurant in Niles for thin-crust pizza, Museum of Science and Industry in downtown Chicago (still one of the coolest museums anywhere)

Best things that are uniquely “Chicago”: Deep-dish pizza. My personal favorite from back when I competed is Kelsey Road House in Barrington. A friend of mine brought me a frozen pizza from KRH to Vienna Worlds in 1979.

Favorite restaurants/diners: Breakfast – Mac’s in Park Ridge; lunch – Booby’s Charcoal Rib in Niles or Portillo’s (with locations all over Chicago); dinner – Black Ram Steakhouse in Des Plaines (almost every special occasion in the Santee family is celebrated there); hot dogs – definitely Portillo’s; pizza (besides KRH) – Lou Malnati’s or Gino’s East

Best family-friendly shopping: Woodfield Shopping Center in Schaumburg and Old Orchard Shopping Center in Skokie

Not-to-miss attractions: Catch a baseball game — either the Cubs or the White Sox are fun. My brother and dad are Cubs fans, but my sons and I are Sox fans. Better food at Sox games. Buckingham Fountain downtown is great and walking/jogging by Lake Michigan is cool.

Recommended mode of transportation: You can take the train downtown.

Favorite indoor activities: Outside of skating, many of the skaters get together to bowl.

Favorite outdoor activities: White Pines Golf Course in Bensenville

Closest rinks (for practice) to Bensenville and Franklin Park: Oakton Ice Arena in Park Ridge and Niles Park District Iceland

For more information, visit these Web sites:
- bensenville.il.us
- dupagecvb.com
- choosechicago.com
- cityofchicago.org

In Chicagoland

But with Chicago just a quick car or train ride away, why not take in the sights and sounds of this world-renowned city? Visit the Navy Pier, Michigan Avenue’s Magnificent Mile, the Shedd Aquarium, Lincoln Park Zoo or one of Chicago’s acclaimed museums — most of which offer free admission. Check out the awesome views from the 94th-floor John Hancock Observatory or the Sears Tower — at 110 stories, the tallest building in the Western Hemisphere.
It wasn’t easy for ISI to bid farewell to Patti Feeney, the organization’s managing director of member programs and services for the past 10 years. But no one could blame her for moving on to the next chapter in her exciting life: sailing the high seas with Mike, her husband of 40 years, on their newly acquired 35-foot Tobago. It’s a permanent vacation for someone who has earned it.

Patti has been a friendly, familiar face at ISI competitions for many years. As a figure skating coach in the early 1980s, she got her skaters involved in ISI Worlds (then called “Champs”) when the event was held in Dallas. When she witnessed ISI’s emphasis on fun, she was hooked.

Even as an ISI volunteer, she was responsible for the development of the ISI Judges’ Certification Program. “Later, Patti’s ISI position involved her in virtually everything the Institute accomplished during her tenure,” said Peter Martell, ISI’s executive director. “She has been a frequent judge and referee, the liaison between ISI and its member rinks, and the unofficial advocate of the skaters. She has been intimately involved with our conference and tradeshow each year, the development of the Ice Arena Institute of Management (iAIM) program, the annual Benefit on Ice production and the planning and development of the new national events that have been introduced during the last decade: Synchro, Adults and Artistic Challenge. Her combination of management skills and skating background makes her unique in the ice skating industry. She has carried out her duties at ISI with great expertise and a wonderful sense of humor, which has always been one of the keys to her success.”

Voted ISI Woman of the Year in 1991, Patti also has served on the ISI board of directors and was a member of both PSA and USFSA. She was a figure skating coach for 20 years and managed the Galleria and Prestonwood ice rinks in Dallas for a total of 12 years.

Her figure skating titles include U.S. gold medalist in figures, freestyle, pairs, dance and free dance; New England novice champion and dance silver medalist; U.S. senior pairs bronze medalist; and member of the North American and world teams. Legendary coach Ron Ludington created the throw Axel with Feeney and her partner, Pieter Kollen, who became the first team to execute the difficult move.

“Patti has an incredible zest for life,” said Jimmie Santee, former ISI board member and current executive director of PSA. “She is the type of person who lights up the room when she enters, and when she leaves, the room just doesn’t seem as bright. She is also a rock. Her personality influenced many of her friends and colleagues and motivated me to be the best I could be.”

ISI staff members had the pleasure of working with Patti on a daily basis and learning from her leadership. “Patti has the ability to find a way to relate to anyone, even in the most challenging situations,” said Angela Tooley, ISI’s customer service coordinator, who has worked with Patti in various capacities for 21 years. “As a manager, she finds practical solutions to problems, encourages creativity and builds a team around her. She has never sought to work over people, but to work with them. She is at the center of wherever she is because people gravitate to her, not only because of her well-known fun personality, but also because she is calm and poised. She has seen or done it all, and it is really hard to ruffle her feathers.”

Patti Feeney’s contributions to the sport as well as the industry of ice skating leave them both better today. We wish her smooth sailing!
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ISI welcomes Carrie Clarke and Randy Winship

ISI members will be seeing two new faces at national ice skating events this year. The Ice Skating Institute has named Carrie Clarke director of skating programs and services, and Randy Winship national events and skating program coordinator.

Carrie has assumed the position vacated by Patti Feeney, who retired on March 1. Carrie’s responsibilities will include the development, promotion and administration of all skating-related membership programs and services in addition to assisting the executive director as needed. She has been involved in the ice skating industry for more than 25 years as a coach, a skating director and a rink owner. Most recently, she served as the skating school director for Skatetown in Roseville, Calif. She has been actively involved in the ISI program since childhood and is also a USFSA gold medalist.

Randy comes to ISI from the Pasadena Ice Skating Center in California, where he served as skating director for three years. He brings more than 20 years of experience to the position, including active involvement in ISI programs, conferences, competitions and committees. He has started ISI programs worldwide and is the competition director and chief referee for Skate Asia. Randy replaces Barb Yackel, who recently returned to her home state of Minnesota after three years with ISI.

Allie Rubenstein’s efforts benefit Chicago Boys & Girls Clubs

Thirteen-year-old Allie Rubenstein put her love of dance and ice skating to work for her Bat Mitzvah project, a collection of dance and skating costumes and gear to benefit youth who otherwise might not have the opportunities that she has enjoyed.

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“It was a rewarding experience,” said Allie, who skates at Northbrook Sports Center. “It was great that all my friends and family could help out with a project to make kids’ lives better. It made me feel good that I could share my love for dancing and skating.”

To encourage donations, Allie sent a note with her invitations and placed collection boxes at her temple and dance studio. When she mentioned her project to Melinda Grieger of Lindy Z during last year’s ISI Worlds competition, the campaign took on a new dimension, said Allie’s dad, Mike Rubenstein. “Mindy took it to the next level, and shipped about $15,000 worth of discontinued new inventory to include with Allie’s collections.”

At final count, the delivery to the Boys & Girls Clubs totaled 40 boxes of new and gently used dance and skating attire, brand new jazz sneakers, Disney dress-up costumes, T-shirts, sweatshirts, even Riedell skates.

“We are truly grateful for Allie’s support of Boys & Girls Clubs of Chicago,” said Tara J. Woodring, manager of advancement information services for the organization. “The donations she collected will help the more than 15,000 kids we serve every year reach their full potential. It is great to see the philanthropic spirit alive in young people today.”
Interview with a Global Ice Skater

Ruthanne Reichert Taylor’s work as a medical officer and diplomat has taken her all over the world, but somehow she always manages to find an ice rink. She even met her husband, Bill Taylor, also an American diplomat, on an outdoor rink in Russia. Ruthanne recently told us about some of her global experiences, on and off the ice.

What is your ice skating background?
I started skating in 1966, at the age of 6, on a frozen pond near my home in Illinois. I took most of my lessons and joined ISI at the Carol Stream Ice Rink. I was a recreationally competitive skater in singles, synchronized skating and pairs. I taught group and private lessons in Grand Rapids, Mich. to help pay for college. I also taught college P.E. ice skating classes and worked on power skating with various hockey teams in the area.

I have coached in the Chicago area, in Grand Rapids, at the International Skating Center of Connecticut in Simsbury, at several clubs and rinks throughout Wisconsin and in a small town in Russia, near the Ural Mountains. I have also judged at ISI competitions, including Skate Asia.

Describe your job and its responsibilities.
I am a medical officer for the Foreign Service and a diplomat representing the U.S. at the various embassies where I am stationed. I have served in Russia, Africa, Nepal and soon, in Turkey. I provide primary medical care for embassy employees and their family members, as well as occupational health services for the local embassy employees. I have certain representational responsibilities, such as evaluating local medical capabilities, coordinating medical evacuations, preparing for epidemics (like bird flu) and developing professional relationships with medical peers.

What are the greatest challenges and rewards of your career and lifestyle?
The challenges include: moving to a new country and culture every two to three years; sometimes serving in a country with no ice rink (or even ice cubes); missing family and friends back in the states; and not having skating coverage on TV every weekend all winter. Rewards? Meeting fascinating people from all over the world, representing the best of what America believes in and helping shape health policy in the world’s neediest countries. Sometimes I’m tired of airports, time zone changes, strange food, odd driving rules (or lack thereof), new languages and cultural differences, and I long to put away my suitcase forever. But then I go home and get bored in a few weeks and long for the adventure of it all again. That said, I can see myself settling in one place in the not-too-distant future. My permanent home is in Freedom, Wyoming (south of Jackson Hole).

How have you combined your career, your travels and your love of ice skating?
Sport is so amenable to diplomacy. It breaks down many barriers. I find that people from all over the world are united more by their similarities than they are separated by their differences. Much of what I learned from skating and coaching is directly transferable to my role as a diplomat — important life lessons such as graciousness in defeat or trying circumstances, humility in victory, goal setting, maintaining a positive attitude, challenging yourself and encouraging others to develop to their fullest potential while working diligently at your own improvement.

Because I love to skate and be around skaters, I always seek out some way to participate in the sport. Sadly, during my tour in Africa, there really were no options. But immediately upon landing in Nepal, I contacted ISI Asia representatives and offered to assist with ISI programs and competitions. In Russia, every town has some frozen surface that becomes a central gathering point for social and physical activity. When an American shows up with purple skates and starts spinning and jumping, pretty soon you have an ad hoc skating school.

Where have your favorite ice skating memories been made?
Besides the places already mentioned, one of the most fun places to skate was on the platform of the Eiffel Tower in Paris. Sun Valley is always a favorite. When I taught at the Pettit National Ice Center in Milwaukee, I loved skating on the speed skating oval.

How is recreational ice skating similar or different in other countries?
In post-Soviet countries and parts of Asia, “recreationally competitive” is an oxymoron. Kids without natural talent would never have been given the opportunity to skate. Some of my most rewarding students have been the ones with the least talent but the most drive and love for the sport.

Why does ice skating remain such a high priority in your busy life?
My life as a medical provider involves some pretty serious and sad moments. Skating is my total break from that. When I’m skating for myself, I can focus on nothing else, and when I’m working with a student or judging, the skater gets my entire focus. I laugh at and with my skaters. I keep it fun. If they can laugh at themselves, they will always love skating.
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The beautiful new state-of-the-art Goggin Ice Arena and big, fluffy snowflakes provided the picture-perfect setting for one of the largest ISI Winter Classic events in recent memory.

More than 760 competitors from 35 teams in 15 states (plus Mexico) participated in 55 hours of competition on Goggin’s two rinks during the three-day event. Skaters ranging in age from 4 to 82 logged more than 2,000 entries, from Pre-Alpha to Dance 10. The team trophy went to the Ice Chalet from Knoxville, Tenn., and La Pista from Mexico City earned the percentage trophy.

ISI National Events and Skating Program Coordinator Randy Winship credited Goggin Skating Director Libby Rhodes and her dedicated team for the energy and extra efforts that contributed to a classic winter ice skating competition.

It’s not too early to start planning for next year’s Winter Classic, at Tampa Bay Skating Academy in Oldsmar, Fla!
PLACE ARENA TOTAL POINTS
1 . . Ice Chalet . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . 1202.5
2 . . Silver Blades Figure Skating Club . . . . . . . . . . . 470.5
3 . . Chiller . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . 452.0
4 . . Skating Club of Greater Youngstown . . . . . . . . . . 429.5
5 . . Northbrook Park District Sports Center . . . . . . . . . 394.5
6 . . Goggin Ice Center . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . 390.5
7 . . Alpine Ice Arena . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . 283.5
8 . . Homewood-Flossmoor Ice Arena . . . . . . . . . . . . . 276.0
9 . . St. Peters Rec-Plex . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . 238.0
10 . . McMillen Ice Arena . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . 223.0

For a complete list of team standings, go to skateisi.org.
Thanks to all who sent their ideas to help us name the weSKATE characters. There were so many good ones that we couldn’t choose just one set of names! So now we need you to help us break the tie. We have listed our top choices on the ISI Web site and we’re asking you to vote for your favorite character names.

- Read each character’s description, then cast your vote for the girl’s name and the boy’s name you think best fit the weSKATE kids.
- If you include your own name and your ISI member number (the six-digit number found on your magazine mailing label) when you vote, you’ll be entered in a drawing for one of two $25 American Express gift cards!
- The voting deadline is April 15.

• Go to www.skateisi.org and select “weSKATE Name Contest” under publications.

One more contest!
(Like “American Idol,” but nobody gets voted off.)
ISIA Education Foundation

Benefit Show
At Worlds 2007

Don’t Miss Evan Lysacek!

Worlds Competitors! This year you’ll have a chance to skate with Evan Lysacek – two-time world bronze medalist, national champion, US Olympic team member and a Chicago native.

Get Ready! ISI will be selecting some of you to perform in the ISIA Education Foundation’s annual Benefit Show.

Even if you are not performing, you don’t want to miss this exciting and entertaining skating event to further the education of ISI members.

See You There!

Reserve your tickets now! Seating is limited.

|$22 before July 13
|$25 at the door
|$20 group sales (25 or more tickets through the ISI office prior to July 13)

Friday, July 27 • 7 p.m. • Edge Ice Arena • Bensenville IL

Advanced orders must be received before July 13.

Payment Method
(check one)
☐ Check/Money Order
☐ Visa
☐ MasterCard
☐ Discover
☐ American Express

Number of tickets ______________________ Total $ ______________________

Name for ticket pickup at registration ______________________

Card # ______________________ Exp. Date ______________________

Cardholder’s Name ______________________ Telephone (Required) ______________________

Signature ______________________

WORLDS event tickets will be available for pickup at ISI registration.

Make checks payable to Ice Skating Institute.
Mail order form and payment to: ISI-Events, 17120 N Dallas Pkwy #140, Dallas, TX 75248.
Ready ... Set ... GO!

I hope that spring has finally sprung and all the skaters in the North and Northeast have thawed out from this winter's deep freeze.

This is my first column for Recreational Ice Skating in my new job as the ISI national skating program and events coordinator. I have lived and had ice skating jobs in 20 different countries, on several different continents. “Have skates, will travel” has always been one of my favorite mottoes.

Speaking of skates and travel ... don’t miss out on your last chance to sign-up for this year’s ISI World Recreational Team Championships competition in Chicago July 23-28. The entry forms are available at www.skateisi.org. And remember – the entry and test deadline is May 1.

It’s never too early for adult skaters to be practicing for our annual ISI Adult Championships event. This year we return to the ever-popular Las Vegas destination in September. Check out skateisi.org for all the latest event information details.

I’ve already seen many of you at our ISI national events during the 24 years that I’ve been a referee, assistant chief referee and chief referee. I’m looking forward to meeting many more of you at our upcoming events.

Focus on SPOTLIGHT

by Randy Winship
ISI National Skating Program & Events Coordinator

Note: Since there are now so many different events offered at ISI competitions, it can be difficult for skaters, coaches and parents to keep up with all the current details. Each event is designed to enhance one aspect of a skater’s total development. Our new “Focus on” series will provide basic details for one type of ISI event in each issue. Since all ISI recreational competitions are designed for fun, a great place to begin is the Spotlight events.

Lights, camera, action! Get ready to have fun with your new Spotlight program.

Who can do Spotlight events All ages and all levels can do Spotlight events. The event groups are usually divided into Character, Dramatic and Light Entertainment categories.

Types of Spotlight events There are several types of Spotlight events including: Solo Spotlight (your level is determined by your Pre-Alpha to FS 10 test level); Couples Spotlight (which you can do with a friend); and even Family Spotlight (for two or more skaters in the same family).

Tips for a “winning” program The main emphasis for all Spotlight programs is on your acting and performance ability — not skating ability. You don’t have to be a great skater to place higher in a Spotlight event, since there is no judging score for any technical skating maneuvers.
Your costume, prop and choreography must fit the overall theme of your program. The most important thing is to actually become your character on ice. If you are Mickey or Minnie Mouse, then be the best skating Mickey or Minnie. If you’re a cowboy, a basketball player or a cheerleader, be creative when you transform those characters to the ice. It’s great fun to take some off-ice activities — such as ballet, gymnastics or other sports — and try to transform them into an ice skating routine.

**The best thing** The best thing about Spotlight programs is that you can use the same program for more than one test level. You don’t need to get a new program every time your test level changes, so it’s great for Mom and Dad, too, if you can reuse the costume and prop for several competitions throughout the year. Of course, with your coach’s help and advice, you can always change the choreography in your routine between competitions, as long as you follow the maneuver limitations listed below.

**Duration**
- Solo Spotlight: Pre-Alpha to FS 3 = 1 min.; FS 4-5 = 1.5 min.; FS 6-10 = 2 min.
- Couples Spotlight: Low (PA-DL) = 1 min.; Med. (FS 1-4) = 1 min.; High (FS 5-10) = 1.5 min.
- Family Spotlight: 1.5 min. (all levels)

**Maneuver limitations**
- Pre-Alpha - Delta . . . Maneuvers from Freestyle 1 & below
- Freestyle 1-4 . . . . Maneuvers from Freestyle 4 & below
- Freestyle 5-10 . . . . . . . . . . . . Maneuvers from any level

**Costume & prop limitations** Props are limited to hand-carried items that can be lifted, pushed or carried onto and off the ice in one trip within 30 seconds. Prop size should be compatible with the skaters’ height and weight.

**Judging criteria** Costume and/or prop, duration, judge appeal, music and choreography, originality

---

**Everyone Has a Chance to Win!**
It’s not just the largest teams that have a chance to score big at ISI national events. In addition to the overall trophy for the most team points, don’t forget about the three new awards given at Winter Classic, Worlds, Adult Champs and Artistic Challenge:

- **The Percentage Trophy** goes to the team of five or more skaters with the highest average placement.
- **The Board of Directors’ Trophy** is awarded to the team earning the most points among teams in the small team category not placing in the top five overall.
- **The President’s Trophy** is awarded to the team earning the most points among teams in the medium team category not placing in the top five overall.

---

**2007 Figure Skating Seminar**

World renowned figure skating coach **Alexei Mishin** is coming to Floyd Hall Arena in Little Falls, NJ

**April 16 - 27th**

Daily group sessions with Alexei Mishin and private hours are available.

Register for a Clinic
Package with Olympic Medal winner Alexei Mishin, whose students include multiple World Champions and Olympic Gold Medalists

- Evgeni Plushenko
- Alexei Yagudin and
- Alexei Urmanov

Space is limited, please register early!

**Call 973-655-8013**
or email skatingdirector@floydhallarena.com

www.floydhallarena.com
On the campus of Montclair State University
It’s time to start planning for the ISI 2007 World Recreational Team Championships, which will be hosted July 23-28 by the Edge Ice Arena in Bensenville, Ill.

The ISIA Education Foundation Benefit Show is always one of the highlights of the week, and we are all part of it. After all, we are figure skaters and let’s face it: We live to perform.

The star of this year’s show is none other than 2006 Olympian and 2007 U.S. national champion, Evan Lysacek (see reservation form, page 23).

As always, every one of you has a chance to become a star, too. Throughout the competition week, Foundation Vice President Jean Albrighton and her committee of spotters will be watching you, selecting the performances that will be invited to become part of the show. Skaters of all ages and abilities will be selected to represent the diversity of our organization, so remember, it’s most important to smile and have fun out there!

And should the committee not select you (probably because they missed your stellar performance in the competition), all is not lost. The ISIA Education Foundation will be raffling off chances for two skaters to participate in the show. Raffle tickets will be sold throughout the week for $5 a ticket or five tickets for $20. On Wednesday evening, during the competitors’ party in the park (party form, page 19), two tickets will be drawn and the two lucky winners will be invited to perform the program of their choice, on the same bill with the guest skater! For those of you who just want to watch the show, discounted advance tickets will be available for purchase through July 13. Also, for the first time, groups of 25 or more will be able to purchase tickets at a special group rate from the ISI office through July 13.

The show is one of the major fundraising initiatives of the Education Foundation and all proceeds will go toward the endowment of the 2008-09 scholarships. Remember, these scholarships are there for every one of you, so please learn about the program and participate. Information is available on the ISI Web site at www.skateisi.org.

Lisa Fedick is a member of the ISIA Education Foundation board of trustees, the ISI District 3 representative and executive director of Wonderland of Ice in Bridgeport, Conn.

Recent Education Foundation Donations

| SPONSOR | SJR Charitable Foundation |
| DONOR | Boyd & Barbara Wietecter Richard Zamboni, Zamboni Company |
Spend a day at the park with the Ice Skating Institute during the ISI World Recreational Team Championships. The opening ceremony events offer a variety of fun activities for everyone – the judges, the coaches, the championship participants as well as their families.

**Your $10 wristband pass will cover these activities:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
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<tr>
<td>Parade of athletes</td>
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<tr>
<td>Live musical entertainment</td>
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<tr>
<td>DJ</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dancing</td>
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<td>Fireworks at dusk</td>
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<tr>
<td>Open swim</td>
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<td>Climbing wall</td>
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<td>Rollerblading</td>
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<td>Sand volleyball</td>
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<td>Basketball</td>
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<td>Soccer</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Food will be available for purchase from park vendors.

**Other events to consider and places to visit:**
Your competitor’s packet will contain information about other exciting activities you might like to consider while at Worlds, such as:

- **Bensenville Miniature Golf and Outdoor Aquatic Park** - Monday 7/23
- **Chicago White Sox** - Tuesday 7/24
- **Six Flags Great America / Hurricane Harbor** - Thursday 7/26
- **ISIA Education Foundation Benefit Show** - Friday 7/27
  ...and many more

**Opening Ceremony Order Form**

Advance orders must be received before July 13.

**Payment Method** (check one)
- Check/Money Order
- Visa
- MasterCard
- Discover
- American Express

Number of wristbands ________ x $10 each = $________

Additional wristbands will be available at ISI registration.

Name for wristband pickup at registration

Card #
Exp. Date

Cardholder’s Name
Telephone (Required)

Signature

Event wristbands will be available for pickup at ISI registration.

Make checks payable to Ice Skating Institute. Mail order form and payment to ISI-Events, 17120 N Dallas Pkwy #140, Dallas, TX 75248.
Balance is Key — On and Off the Ice

by David Jacobson

For obvious reasons, balance is critical to your on-ice success. Balance off the ice — between skating, school, family, friends and other activities — is even more important. Fortunately, balance off the ice actually will improve balance (and other aspects of performance) on the ice.

Why? Because a well-rounded life away from the rink frees your mind when it is time to perform. Which scenario do you think leads to better performance?

• Arriving at a competition physically tired from training, mentally distracted by loose ends in other areas of your life and emotionally drained from focusing only on skating
• Hitting the rink well-rested, mentally comfortable that other parts of your life are in order and emotionally committed to the moment of competition because you already are pleased from experiencing your other interests

Clearly, the second scenario will have you performing better. But these scenarios only consider how life balance affects your competitive ability. There is more at stake for you than just competitive results. In fact, that is the basis of PCA’s coaching model, the Double-Goal Coach, whose first goal is winning, and whose second, more-important goal is teaching life lessons through sports.

Those life lessons are much more important if you actually have a life outside of skating. Just as we hope you apply to the rest of your life the lessons of determination, teamwork and overcoming adversity that you learn from skating, we also hope you bring to your skating similar lessons learned from your outside life.

Place skating in perspective. The first step is to agree with your parents, coaches and leaders of your health & well-being

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GET THE  @ IWSA

JUNE 5 THRU AUG. 10, 2007

Train with Legendary World & Olympic Skating Coach Frank Carroll June 5-8, 2007

At Indiana/World Skating Academy, we’re dedicated to the athletes’ pursuit of maximizing their skating potential. Our dual rink facility, set in the heart of downtown Indianapolis, houses an intensive program featuring:

• High Level Figure Skating
• Competitive Pairs, Dance & Singles
• Off-Ice Jazz, Ballet & Weight Training
• Sports Science
• Summer Clinics & Seminars
• Competitions
• Personalized Housing

Coaches Welcome!

For more information on summer programs please call 317/237-5565 or visit our website at www.iwsa.org

Indiana/World Skating Academy
Pan American Plaza, Downtown Indianapolis

Get the edge @ IWSA

Train with Legendary World & Olympic Skating Coach Frank Carroll June 5-8, 2007

Along with Guest Choreographer Scott Brown

IWSA Skate Director

Pieter Kollen & the IWSA Year-Round Coaching Staff

Enrollment Limited!

Register on-line before May 15 @ iwsa.org and save $25!
skating organization that skating is not the be-all and end-all of your life. Think about whether your organization is committed to education and character development. Does the organization have a printed, displayed mission statement acknowledging those values? Have you ever discussed these ideas with your parents and coaches? Living up to that standard means that competitive results come second. In turn, you should feel less pressure to train at the expense of healthy doses of school, family, friends, relaxation, entertainment and indulgence of other interests.

Use your commitment to balance to improve performance. With skating in perspective, you can pursue a balanced life. You might even introduce the idea that you or your teammates can occasionally miss practice to pursue other interests, such as theater or music, as long as you let coaches know your plans ahead of time. Let your coaches and teammates know you can all have a great impact on each other by attending teammates’ plays or concerts, showing that you all value each other not just as skaters, but as whole people.

You might also introduce academic exercises, such as writing a few sentences on something of importance to you outside of skating. That will help bring together what you are learning in school with what you are learning on the ice, and sharing those essays can help you and your teammates discover new bonds.

A group outing to the mall, the movies, meals, museums — anywhere that removes you from the rink — can be an outstanding teambuilder. That shared experience, and whatever you and your teammates learn about each other and the outside world, can then be reintroduced back at the rink.

Common bonds from off-ice experiences will make all of you that much more valuable to and supportive of each other. Your shared values will help you urge each other on in practice, which means improved skating; a supportive atmosphere in a close competition may be the difference-maker.

While you help establish your organization’s reputation for excellence, and especially for encouraging a balanced life, you will help attract the best skaters and the most balanced people. As that success feeds on itself, your focus on things other than skating will actually improve your focus while skating.

In the times when you are less successful in competition, your commitment to balance still will carry you through. After all, there is much more than just your skating that hangs in the balance.

To request information about PCA’s workshop visit positivecoach.org/inforequest.aspx or contact PCA at (866) 725-0024 or PCA@PositiveCoach.org.
### ISI-endorsed competitions & shows/exhibitions

**Deadline for the next RIS Calendar:** April 15

For regular calendar updates, see [www.skateisi.org](http://www.skateisi.org), event info

#### competitions

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shows & exhibitions

march

23-25 Eden Prairie, Minn.
Eden Prairie Community Center
Spinning Through Time

24
Norwich, Conn.
Norwich Skating School
Skate Into Spring Ice Show

24-25 White Plains, N.Y.
City of White Plains Recreation & Parks
End of Year Show

24-25 Big Rapids, Mich.
Big Rapids Figure Skating Club
Hooray for Hollywood

30
Jefferson City, Mo.
April 1
Washington Park Ice Arena
The Magic of Motown

30
Southgate, Mich.
April 1
Southgate Civic Center
Rock Legends

31
Greensburg, Pa.
Kirk Nevin Arena
Annual Season End Ice Show

31
White Plains, N.Y.
April 1
City of White Plains Recreation & Parks
Night in the Spotlight

april

1
Youngstown, Ohio
Skating Club of Greater Youngstown
Skate Youngstown 2007

14
Brentwood, Mo.
Brentwood Ice Arena
To Infinity & Beyond

14
Garner, N.C.
Garner Ice House
2nd Annual Spring Fling

15
Highland Park, Ill.
Centennial Ice Arena
Spring Exhibition

17
Arlington, Texas
ICE at The Parks
Spring Fling 2007

19-22
Berkley, Mich.
Berkley Ice Arena
Let’s Dance

20-21
Carol Stream, Ill.
Carol Stream Ice Rink
9 to 5

20-21
Newark, Ohio
Newark Ice Arena
Space Adventures

20-22
Roseville, Calif.
Roseville Skating Center
Everything’s Coming Up Roseville

may

4
Dimondale, Mich.
The Skate School LLC at The Summit
Spring Ice Show

4-6
Crestwood, Ill.
Southwest Ice Arena
Spring Ice Show

5
Rockland, Mass.
Winterland Skating School
Rockland Rink Ice Show

5-6
Irmo, S.C.
Iceland Irmo
Spring Ice Show

5-6
Cottage Grove, Minn.
Cottage Grove Ice Arena
The Sky’s The Limit

9-10
Honolulu
Ice Palace
Adventures in Time & Space

11-13
Niles, Ill.
Niles Park District
Iceland
Gliding Through the Decades

11-13
Northbrook, Ill.
Northbrook Sports Center
Northbrook-On-Ice 2007

11-13
Indian Trail, N.C.
Extreme Ice Center
Color My World

june

27-28
Downers Grove, Ill.
Downers Grove Ice Arena
9 to 5

27-28
Minneapolis
Parade FSC
Books & Blades

27-28
University Park, Pa.
Penn State Ice Rink
A Colorful Stroke of Genius

27-28
Woodbury, Minn.
Bielenski Sport Center
Then and Now
Celebrating 10 Years of Skating

27-29
Chicago
McFetridge Sports Center
Broadway Magic

28
Buffalo Grove, Ill.
Twin Rinks Ice Pavilion
Rockin On Ice

28-29
Mount Clemens, Mich.
Mount Clemens Ice Arena
True Colors

29
New Castle, Pa.
Hess Ice Rink
Spring Recital

29
Hoffman Estates, Ill.
Hoffman Estates Park
District Ice Arena
Cruisin’ the World

12
Geneva, Ill.
The Skate School at Fox Valley
Annual Spring Show

15
Skokie, Ill.
Skatium
Superstars on Ice

16-20
Glenview, Ill.
Glenview Ice Center
34th Annual Ice Show

17-20
Skokie, Ill.
Skatium
It’s Party Time

18-19
Orland Park, Ill.
Arctic Ice Arena
Skaters Ahoy

18-20
Highland Park, Ill.
Centennial Ice Arena
Heroes and Legends

18-20
Franklin Park, Ill.
Franklin Park Ice Arena
2007 Annual Spring Ice Show

18-20
Wilmette, Ill.
Centennial Ice Rinks
Figure It Out

18-20
Evanston, Ill.
Robert Crown Center
Skaters in Space

18-20
Pleasant Prairie, Wis.
Pleasant Prairie Iceplex
TV Glide

19
Wasilla, Alaska
Brett Memorial Ice Arena
Spring Ice Show

august

29
Bloomington, Minn.
June 1
Sheraton Hotel
ISI/MIAMA Conference & Tradeshows

1-Aug. 31
Wasilla, Alaska
Brett Memorial Ice Arena
Exhibition Skating

9-10
Acton, Mass.
Nashoba Valley Olympia
Ice Magic

december

16
Arlington, Texas
ICE at The Parks
Summertime 2007

16
Arlington, Texas
ICE at The Parks
Holiday In The Park 2007

classified advertising

ST. LOUIS SYNCHRO SKATERS: Do you want to skate on a fun ISI synchro team? Audition for Synchro St. Louis-Metro Edge. This year we have five teams: ISI Youth and Jr. Youth, and USFSA Intermediate, Open Juvenile & Beginning (ages 4-17). Attend Skate with Synchro, April 16, 7 p.m. at Webster Groves Ice Arena. It’s FREE! Find out more: www.metroedgefsc.org or e-mail: krtruman@artscl.wustl.edu.

To place classified advertising, call Carol Jackson, advertising sales manager, at (972) 735-8800, fax to (972) 735-8815 or send e-mail to cjackson@skateisi.org. The deadline for the next issue of RIS is April 25.
Skaters Pass High-Level Tests

Congratulations to the following ISI skaters, who recently passed high-level freestyle and dance tests.

FS 8
Lauren Arnold
Bay State Blades Natick
Madison Charbonneau
St. Peters Rec-Plex
Alexandra Coffin
Nashoba Valley Olympia
Molly Driscoll
Oakton Ice Arena
Stefani Hensley
Oak Lawn Ice Arena
Sarah Hill
Pilgrim Skating Arena
Delane Honda
Parade FSC
Amanda Kennedy
Kennedy Recreation Center
Kirsten Kjorsvig
Parade FSC
Katie Kocourek
White Bear Lake Sports Center
Courtney Koenig
Parade FSC

FS 9
Katie Landy
Bay State Blades Natick
Abby Sheamus
Northbrook Sports Center
Allison Thompson
John Gallo Ice Arena

Dance 9
Kassandra Hazard
Ice Chalet

Are You Tired of the Crowded Sessions at Your Rink During the Summer Months?
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- High Level Freestyle Sessions
- Adult Only Freestyle Sessions
- Dance and Moves in the Field Sessions
- Daily Power Classes
- On Ice Jump and Spin Classes
- Off Ice Training Classes
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- PSA Rated Coaches
- Jump Harnesses
- Cardio and Weight Equipment
- Swimming Pool, Hot Tub, Steam Room, and Sauna
- Special Guest Coaches TBA

Coaches, Skaters, and Clubs
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Contact Jenny M. Nelson at 970-544-4116 or jenny@cl.aspen.co.us for more information.

ADULT WEEK
July 30 - August 3 and August 6-10, 2007
Adult Week is a camp for adult skaters of all ages and all skill levels.

www.aspenrecreation.com

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Adult Championships

It’s back to Las Vegas for the 2007 ISI Adult Recreational Championships!

September 21-23
SoBe Ice Arena
Las Vegas, NV

Entry deadline: Aug. 1, 2007

And not a moment too soon—while ISI’s adult skaters always have the time of their lives regardless of the Adult Champs venue, some have been in withdrawal ever since the 2005 event!

Vegas is the ultimate adult playground, and our adult skaters can’t seem to get enough of it. All your favorite things are here in one location—skating, fine dining, partying, playing your favorite casino games and lots of live entertainment.

SoBe Ice Arena has an NHL-size rink with seating for 500, four locker rooms with shower facilities, a pro shop and a spacious concession area. It’s located at the Fiesta Rancho Hotel and Casino, which boasts restaurant options such as Blue Agave Steakhouse, the Baja Beach Café, Festival Buffet (where you’re invited to eat your way around the world, with six live-action cooking stations) and Garduno’s, which has been voted the best Mexican restaurant in Las Vegas for over 10 years.

At Club Tequila, Fiesta Rancho’s own two-level nightclub, skaters can groove to their favorite rock tribute bands on Friday nights, oldies and R&B on Saturdays and Latin on Sundays. There’s no cover charge, but do call for reservations. If karaoke is your specialty, be sure to make an appearance at the Cabo Lounge. And don’t forget to leave some time in your schedule to visit Vegas’ famous Strip, only 10 miles from Fiesta Rancho!
Learn how to develop coaching skills that make you stand out from the rest by using the weSKATE™ Program - the Ice Skating Institute’s premier learn-to-skate program.

The weSKATE™ National Instructor Training Program can get you started in the coaching business by demonstrating consistent techniques, standards and professional requirements of teaching.

Choose the training level that will make you an asset to any facility and is best suited to your individual needs. You can take the training levels in any order, but become a certified instructor now!

Training Levels:
- Core: Tots-Delta
- Intermediate: FS 1-5
- Advanced: FS 6-10

For more information, call the ISI office at 972-735-8800 or e-mail us at weSKATE@skateisi.org.

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