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Official Publication of the Tulsa Figure Skating Club

THE INSIDE EDGE



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Rebirth of the TFSC Newsletter, "The Inside Edge"

Within any organized group, communication is key to success. Even in these times of website magic and instant information delivery, someone must organize the news to be distributed. The Board of Governors recently discussed the situation within our membership and agreed that we had much to communicate to both new and established members. We chose to resurrect the newsletter format because of its store and forward reading capability and because it could be delivered electronically as well as on paper.

- TFSC has history and legacy that is more than just interesting reading. It adds tradition and value to the present skating experience to know that we are associated with some of the greats of the sport.
- TFSC has operating issues that the members need to understand so we

can continue to provide club benefits within an affordable context.

- TFSC has news of member accomplishments and events that should be shared.
- The TFSC Board of Governors has a strategy and a plan that we can better accomplish with member understanding.
- We want to add to the positive experiences of being a member of the Tulsa Figure Skating Club and communication is very important to that goal.

Judy Banner is backing her suggestion by agreeing to edit and publish *The Inside Edge*. You can contact her at judy@tulsafsc.com. We thank her for the timely suggestion and the energy to make it happen.

John Martens

President
Tulsa Figure Skating Club



Tulsa Figure Skating Club To Host The 2007 Sooner State Games

On February 3rd and 4th, 2007, the Convention Center is proud to be the venue for the 2007 Sooner State Games. The Tulsa Figure Skating Club will host this annual event where figure skaters from Oklahoma and Arkansas will compete to advance to the State Games of America in 2007. This event is free and open to the public. Competition events begin at 12:00 p.m. on Saturday, February 3rd, and continues through-

out the day on Sunday, February 4th.

Competitors placing first, second or third in their respective events will have the opportunity to advance to the State Games of America in August, 2007 to be held in Colorado Springs, Colorado. The State Games of America is an elite grassroots multi-sport festival that is the culmination of the 49 State Games events across the country. Nearly 10,000 athletes competed in 2005.



TFSC Members at State Games Of America 2005 with Olympic Champion Wrestler Rulon Gardner

Fundraising Closes the Gap

John Martens, President TFSC

Historically, TFSC has had the need to close the gap between the dues that members pay annually and the cost to operate the club. In recent years, the club budget required about \$5,000, more or less, to close the gap. That meant that the club had to raise through various means an additional \$5,000 over and above member dues, just to stay in operation.

The club's dues are kept as low as possible to encourage as many skaters as possible to be members. We understand that figure skating is second only to the equine sport for cost of participation. After the skater and parents pay for ice time, coaching, costumes, equipment and travel, there is not a lot left for the club to tap.

Our Membership Chair, Mark DeAngelis, has tried hard to keep the dues structure in line with the cost of ice for the club ice time. This can be especially difficult when the rink owner raises the cost of ice after the dues rate is set. The Tulsa Ice Arena handed the club a 30% to 40 % cost increase in the hourly rate several years ago and it took at least two years for the club financials to find equilibrium from that interim period move. In other words, we were forced to play catch-up.

The 2006 Poinsettia Sale netted the club about \$2,000. That may sound like a lot of money and it is a large fundraiser by any measure. But please remember the gap is \$5,000. As some of you may recall, TFSC has had an annual competition/show for the past sixty years or more. The most recent entry was **Skate Tulsa**, a nonqualified skating competition that drew entries from as many as nine surrounding states. Not only did it make money for the club, but it created a real happening event that everyone could join as competitor, volunteer, official or spectator.

Almost from the club's inception in 1938, it had an annual

show or exhibition called "IceTravaganza". The shows included elaborate scenery and acts with dance and music. Guest skaters were featured. In fact Dick Button appeared in the 1945 version as the National Junior men's champion. The shows were big social events in Tulsa and needed a very large amount of man hours to produce.

By 1979 and the opening of the Williams Ice, the club moved to a competition format for fundraising. **Skate Tulsa** became a big hit very quickly and was a standard for the skater's calendars. During the run of **Skate Tulsa**, the club generated a high of \$16,000 net (in the early years) to a low of no net in 2005. We did not schedule a competition for 2006 because of the construction possibility at the Oilers Ice Center. Therefore, we have had no fundraising from our major event in over two years.

We now rely on the Poinsettia sales, spring flower sales and events such as Sooner State Games for fundraising. We need a big event, but our limited venues and competition for the skating calendar by many other clubs have limited our options. Prior to 2005 and the sudden closing of the Tulsa Ice Arena, which threw a wrench into the plans, TFSC was netting about \$4,000 to \$6,000 from **Skate Tulsa**. That one event cared for many of the club's financial needs.

The purpose of this article at this time is two-fold. Educating the membership on fundraising necessity is important. And second, we need ideas for a replacement of the "big annual event". This is a membership with ideas and imagination. What do you all think we should do next? Contact Judy Banner judy@tulsafsc.com with your suggestions.

Together we can make great things happen!

Testimony On Ice

Sunday, March 4, 2007 — 2:30 p.m. At the Tulsa Convention Center

This show includes over 80 of Eastern Oklahoma's most dedicated ice skaters from ages tot to adult including professional coaches. Special guests this year include 2003 U.S. National bronze medalist **Ryan Jahnke** and Miss America 2006, **Jennifer Berry**. The purpose of the show is to share the story of our lord Jesus Christ from birth through resurrection through music, skating and scripture. Admission is a canned food item to be donated to the Community Food Bank of Eastern Oklahoma.



Skaters at a Testimony On Ice practice session held at the Tulsa Convention Center in downtown Tulsa, January 5, 2007

Club News and Activities

Poinsettia Fundraiser: A Great Success!

1026 total plants sold!
31 club members participated
\$2,110 profit to the club

Top Sellers (50 or more plants)

Katherine DeAngelis- 100
Jannelle Babb- 90
Alexandria Sipes- 61
Charles Meadows- 54
Brooke Rogers- 52
Abigail Fain- 50

Congratulations to *Mariah Rubino*, freestyle drawing winner. Thanks to all who participated and to those who helped unload the truck!

Club Holiday Party Was fun for everyone!

We even had a visit from old St. Nick himself!

Tulsa Figure skaters celebrated the holiday season in style at the Oilers Ice Arena December 9th during club ice. We had great food, fun, and skating topped off with a visit from Santa and Mrs. Claus!. We'd like to thank Renee Schmucker, our social chair, for planning a great party and everyone else who participated to make this such a fun event!



Pictured from left to right: Brittany Schmucker, Bethany Shinn, Alexandria Sipes, Santa, Steven Brower, Brittany Guevara, Paige Westmoreland, Charles Meadows, Caitlin Gruns, & Claire Wood

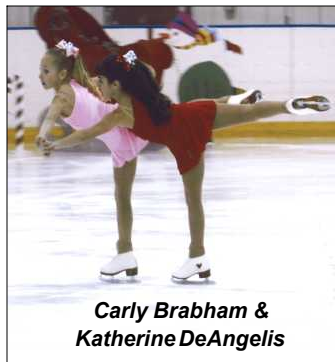
2006 Holiday Showcase Was Spectacular!



Low Group



Paige Wheeler



Carly Brabham &
Katherine DeAngelis



Sipes & Brower



Medium Group



High Group

Thanks coaches for great choreography. Thanks Chrystal Meadows and Susan Westmoreland for making beautiful costumes. Thanks skaters for all your hard work. Thanks parents, volunteers, and Oilers Ice Center for making this event possible.

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

Tulsa Figure Skating Club is now offering **prorated membership dues** for the remainder of the skating year for first time members. Contact Membership chair, Mark DeAngelis at mark@tulsafsc.com for more details.

Junior Board News



Junior Board Members Spread the joy of the holiday season as they sang carols and entertained residents of Woodland Terrace Living Center.

For information on joining the junior board, contact Renae Schmucker at renee@tulsafsc.com.

Editorial Note

Do you have a story idea or a topic that you would like to see addressed in the newsletter? Contact Inside Edge editor, Judy Banner, at judy@tulsafsc.com.

Deadline for submission of material for the March/April edition is March 1, 2007

Local Laurels Tests Passed November & December 2006

Junior Moves

Nikki Strnad
Claire Wood

Novice Freeskate

Brittany Schmucker

Novice Moves

Brittany Schmucker

Intermediate Freeskate

Stephanie McKay

Intermediate Moves

Stephanie McKay

Juvenile Freeskate

Charles Meadows

Juvenile Moves

Brittany Guevara

PreJuvenile Freeskate

Danika Burton

PreJuvenile Moves

Megan Banner
Danika Burton
Abigail Fain

PrePreliminary Freeskate

Nicole Richardson

PrePreliminary Moves

Nicole Richardson

Juvenile Pair

Charles Meadows

PreBronze Dance

Cha Cha – Chelsea Jones
Swing Dance (Solo) – Stephanie McKay
Cha Cha (Solo) – Chelsea Jones, Stephanie McKay

Preliminary Dance

Dutch Waltz – Stephen Brower, Claire Wood
Canasta Tango – Stephen Brower, Claire Wood
Rhythm Blues – Stephen Brower, Claire Wood
Dutch Waltz (Solo) – Chelsea Jones, Claire Wood
Canasta Tango (Solo) – Chelsea Jones, Claire Wood
Rhythm Blues (Solo) – Chelsea Jones, Claire Wood

Major Ice Storm Blankets The Region . . .

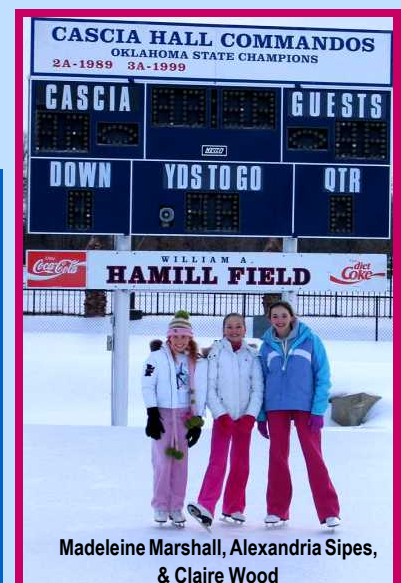
causing school closures, power outages and hazardous driving conditions but creating a paradise for area skaters.



Madison Brown & Megan Banner



Abigail Fain



Madeleine Marshall, Alexandria Sipes, & Claire Wood



Ask A Coach

Most of you have read "Ask Mr. Edge" in *Skating Magazine*. Many of our professional coaches have agreed to answer your questions in a similar format. Send your questions about anything skating related to judy@tulsafsc.com and they will be published in the "Ask A Coach" section of the next issue of *The Inside Edge* along with an answer from one of our professional coaching staff.



Submit Your Photo's

Do you have great pictures of your skater from recent events or competitions? Tulsa Figure Skating Club would like to have a copy of high resolution images for club history, website and publication uses. Mark DeAngelis will be available at club ice with a computer to download images on selected Saturdays in February. Contact Mark at mark@tulsafsc.com for exact dates.

Your Responsibilities As A Skating Parent

Why Kids Participate - taken from The Skating Parents' Survival Guide Vol. 1

More than 20 million kids between the ages of 6 and 16 participate in organized sports. According to numerous studies, they participate for the following reasons:

- To have fun
- To improve skills and learn new ones
- To be with friends and make new ones
- To feel the excitement of competition
- To succeed or win
- To exercise or become fit

As you encourage you child's endeavors in skating, keep in mind that if the reasons your child has chosen to participate aren't being fulfilled, your child may drop out of skating.

These guidelines should help you do much more than survive your child's skating experience. It should equip you to enjoy it to the fullest and help you make it fun and valuable for your child.

To do this you need first to understand your responsibilities as a Skating Parent. The following are guidelines for helping your child make the most of his or her skating experience.

1. Encourage your child to skate, but don't pressure. Let your child choose to skate – and to quit- if he or she wants.
2. Understand what your child wants from skating and provide a supportive atmosphere for achieving these goals.
3. Put your child's participation in perspective. Don't make skating everything in your child's life; make it a part of life.
4. Make sure the coach is qualified to guide your child through the skating experience.
5. Keep winning in perspective and help your child do the same.
6. Help your child set challenging but realistic goals rather than focusing only on winning.
7. Help your child understand the valuable lessons skating can teach.
8. Help your child meet responsibilities to the coach.
9. Discipline your child when necessary.
10. Turn your child over to the coach at practices and competitions – don't meddle or coach from the sidelines.

Inside Edge Classifieds

Do you have a skating related item the you would like to advertise for sale?

To place an ad contact Judy Banner at judy@tulsafsc.com.

Submission deadline for next newsletter is March 1, 2007

Cost is \$5.00 per advertisement

Payment goes to help defray printing costs of this newsletter

Mark Your Calendars

Feb. 3, 2007	Test Session	Tulsa Convention Center
Feb. 3rd & 4th 2007	Sooner State Games	Tulsa Convention Center
Feb. 10, 2007	Club Valentines Party	10:30-11:30 A.M., Oilers Ice Center
March 29– April 1, 2007	Skate Kansas City	Ice Chateau Arena, Overland Park
April (date TBA)	Test Session	Oilers Ice Center
April	Skate Dallas	
Saturdays Sept.-May	Club Ice	10:30-11:30 Oilers Ice Center

FYI

If you know of a company or individual who might want to help sponsor our club please contact Judy Banner at judy@tulsafsc.com for a sponsor packet. If you originally recruited one of the sponsors listed below, contact Judy Banner for renewal information. For every \$250 sponsor you recruit or renew, you get \$50 in your skater account to use on anything skating related.

We Thank Our Sponsors



For more news and competition information visit our website at www.tulsafsc.com
Click **Club Info** and then **newsletter** to download a copy of this publication.