

September 14, 2014



Happy Fall!

I can't believe summer is over, the kids are back to school and sweater weather is just around the corner! The skaters are all abuzz about the upcoming non-qualifying and qualifying competitions this Fall. The Charter Oak Board is happy to see all this excitement and has been very busy the last month planning test sessions and activities for the upcoming months. I am also happy to announce that Leslie Traubert has joined the Board of Directors. Your current Charter Oak Board members are as follows:

Michele Cicala, President
Judy Hennenberry-McGill, Co-Vice President
Carol Meltzer, Secretary and Co-Vice President
Kirsten Romanelli, Treasurer
Ken Jones, Director
Leslie Traubert, Director

We still have three Board of Director positions open so if you are interested in volunteering your time to help support our skaters, please contact me directly. I know everyone is busy this time of year and there's often so little time to get things accomplished, but the members really need our support to help them achieve their skating goals and dreams. We are operating without full board representation and a full board would give us more opportunities to assist our skaters. The full term is three years; however, the three positions that are open have shortened terms (one ends June 2015 and two end June 2016). This is a great opportunity to give it a try without the full three-year commitment. If you are interested or would like more information, please email me directly or speak to one of our current board members.

There is one additional important position that we have open: **Events Coordinator**. We are looking for an energetic person with great ideas to plan activities on a regular basis for our skaters and parents. We have several activities already planned for this Fall and the Events Coordinator will help execute them along with planning and coordinating activities for next Winter and Spring. If we do not have a volunteer for this position, we will need to start canceling events as we do not have enough man power to manage the daily club business and run events. If you are interested in volunteering time in this capacity, please contact me directly.

Below is a list of the activities/events that we have planned for September and October:

Qualifying Competitors Critique, September 22nd
Corn Maze*, October
Six Flags New England*, October
Regionals Send-off*, October

*Details will be emailed separately and posted at the rink.

New Committees

We have three committees forming and we need volunteers to help in the planning of these events. If you are interested, please email me. The committees are as follows:

Regionals Send-Off

Assist in the planning to “send off” our skaters to the 2015 New England Regionals being held in Burlington, VT. If you are interested in helping, please email me by Friday, September 19th.

2015 Charter Oak Open and 2016 Eastern Sectionals Planning Committee

Many volunteers are needed to run a successful club competition and even more are needed to plan and run sectionals. We are currently looking for volunteers to be on our planning committee. Our first meeting will be held in the next couple of weeks. We plan on having monthly meetings through the winter and spring and then more frequent meetings as we approach the Open. We will be using the Charter Oak Open as our “dry run” for the Sectionals. Please contact me by September 19th if you are interested in helping us plan these big events.

Holiday Gift Swap

Volunteers are needed to help plan Charter Oak’s Second Annual Holiday Gift Swap to be held in early December. Please contact me if you are interested in helping with this fun event for our skaters.

Additional club news:

Qualifying Skater Critique

On Monday, September 22nd from 10:00 am to approximately 12:00 pm, Charter Oak will be sponsoring a critique for skaters eligible for qualifying competitions. Volunteers are needed for this event. Please use the link below to access the sign-up sheet on Volunteer Spot. Or, you may check with Velma Tapia at the rink. Instructions for the volunteer sign-up are at the end of this letter.

Test Sessions

I am happy to announce that Velma Tapia is our new Test Chair. The Test Session dates have been confirmed and have been sent out in a separate email. Please note that the test session application has changed. All test session applications are due two weeks prior to the scheduled test date. This brings us in line with USFSA’s recommended best practices. The preferred method to register is through EntryEeze which can be accessed via our website. For those of you who still prefer a paper form, revised test applications can be found at ISCC or on the club’s website. We have revised the fees for this season and our Charter Oak members now test at better rates than in the past! More details about the upcoming testing season will be sent out soon so please keep an eye out for it!

Club Office

Charter Oak will no longer use the ISCC SkyBox as an office. More details regarding our new location in the rink will be sent in next month’s communication. Please note that you may continue to drop off any paperwork or forms at the ISCC front desk and they will put it in the club mailbox.

Club Communications

One of the most important things to our skaters is better communication among our members. I plan on sending at a minimum a monthly communication regarding club updates. Education in this sport is so important so as I find interesting articles or information, I will share them with you as well. For the latest and greatest information, please be sure to follow us on Facebook and Twitter. For those of you who don't have either account (like me), you can still save the links on the computer and phone and check them every day. The volunteers updating these sites have been doing a great job communicating upcoming events and results.

Okay, I think this is long enough for this month. Great things are ahead as long as we continue to work together and move forward. Thank you all for your continued participation and membership in Charter Oak and USFSA. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact me directly via email or when I am at the rink. You may also see one of the Board members listed above.

Warm regards,

Michele Cicala
President, Charter Oak Figure Skating

Instructions for September 22nd Critique Volunteer Sign-up

Please sign up for 2015 Qualifying Season Critique - here's how it works in 3 easy steps:

1. Click this link to go to our invitation page on VolunteerSpot: <http://vols.pt/G3DqE2>
2. Enter your email address: (You will NOT need to register an account on VolunteerSpot)
3. Sign up! Choose your spots - VolunteerSpot will send you an automated confirmation and reminders. Easy!

Note: VolunteerSpot does not share your email address with anyone. If you prefer not to use your email address, please contact me and I can sign you up manually.