



Northern Ice Skating Club



NORTHERN EXPOSURE

February 2004

President's Corner

Another competitive season is beginning and Northern Ice is doing all it can to support our members. We are running test sessions once a month from Feb-Aug to give you more opportunities to test in-club. Also, we are hosting test sessions at a variety of rinks to better serve our members. We are also going to be using a standard form to make things easier, too. (See Test News for all the information on new test policies)

We are getting ready to host Northern Blast 2004. We are bringing in National, International and World judges, in addition to the great judges we have in Illinois, in order to give you an opportunity to be judged by judges you may not see at regionals or other large competitions. It is not only a great opportunity to compete locally, but also to be seen by judges from all over the country. We hope you will all compete in an event or two.

We are looking for help with Northern Blast 2004. It is a chance to get to know other club members and learn a lot about competitions. (See Northern Blast 2004 for more info.)

We are getting ready for our [Spring Exhibition](#). We hope to see you all there with your new programs. It is free to full members, just another one of the benefits of being a member of Northern Ice. (See [Spring Exhibition](#) for details.)

Also, since competition season is beginning, I would like to give a word of advice to all of our members looking for authorizations of their competition forms. If you don't see a board member at your rink to sign your forms, you can send or fax them to a board member, but please make sure that the board member is expecting it. This way you can be sure your form gets where it is going.

Finally, don't forget to check our website at www.northernice.org for the contact information for your board members and the latest updated info.

Happy skating to all of you. Whether you are testing, competing or just starting out, don't forget to have fun!

Synchro Mids

Synchro Mids was a big success. Final numbers are not in yet, but we wish to thank all of the generous volunteers who gave their time to help. An update will be included in a future newsletter.

Northern BLAST 2004

Believe it or not, it is just around the corner-May 13-16, 2004. Entry forms are included with this newsletter and are available at www.northernice.org.

We need you! We are looking for committee chairs and volunteers. The committee chair positions we are looking for include:

Decorations-a few days prep and set up on Thurs, May 13 at Arctic Ice Arena.

Giveaways-collect items from local and skating related businesses to include in goodie bags.

Hospitality-order and maintain food for officials and volunteers during competition. This job needs someone who can be available most of the competition. Or, you can share the job with a friend and split the workload.

Medical-Health Care professional(s) to be available rinkside to handle emergency situations. We could use a chairperson and a few people willing to volunteer their time.

Resale-We are considering doing a resale. If anyone is willing to coordinate it, we will hold a resale during the competition. Details will be in a future newsletter.

If you would like to chair one of these committees, or if you have any questions, please contact Lynn Balaskas immediately at 708-349-9854 or at northernsk8ers@aol.com.

Northern Blast competitors-

Northern Blast is a great way to get your program in front of Regional, Sectional, National, International and even World judges. Get your programs ready for our competition in May. Also, new this year, we are offering Short Program critiques for Juvenile and up competitors. If you are interested, you need to participate in the Short Program event and sign up for a critique at the registration desk.

www.northernice.org

Please check the website for competition forms for Northern Blast and other competition forms we have received, as well as test forms and other news. Also, we would be pleased to post competition results and skating-related pictures. Send them to our very wonderful webmaster, Kris Dixon at kdixon@earthlink.net. Or email her for information on how to get them to her.

NISC Logo Merchandise

The order form is available on the website at www.northernice.org and we will mail them out every year at the beginning of the season. You may contact me at 708-349-9854 or northernsk8ers@aol.com for more information.

Spring Exhibition

Time to tune up that program and get it in front of an audience. Our Spring Exhibition will be held March 20, from 2-5 at Arctic Ice Arena in Orland Park. All members are invited to perform a program. If you would like to participate, please contact Lynn Balaskas at 708-349-9854 or northernsk8ers@aol.com to register. Please include your name, competition level, title of music and length of program in your message. Schedules will be available about 2 weeks before. First come, first served; so register early. Associate members will be

Farewell

Our Test Chair, Melissa Wittenborn, has retired from her position. She has done a great service to the club not only as Test Chair but also as President, Competition Chair and numerous other tasks. Melissa has shown great dedication over many years and helped to build the club. She will be missed.

Thank you, Melissa!

Test News

We have some changes in the way test session forms will be handled. We are going to a standard form that will be used for each test session. They are available on our website www.northernice.org and will be mailed out with each newsletter. We will try to keep them at the rinks where we have skaters.

Test forms must be postmarked 2 weeks prior to the test date.

Upcoming test dates will also be printed in each newsletter and on our website. We are trying out a new system. Please give us your feedback and be patient while we finalize the details.

Upcoming tests:

March 6 (Sat)	Darien Sportsplex
April 24 (Sat)	Oak Lawn Ice Arena
May 13-16	Arctic Ice Arena
June 11	Seven Bridges(tentative)

If you would be available to help at any of these test sessions, or if you have any test-related questions, please contact Odys Stamos for more information at 312-953-0051 or odys.stamos@att.net.

Starfire News

Starfire competed at Synchro Mids where they skated a great program but just missed qualifying for final round in a very competitive group.

They also competed in Homewood, where they skated fabulously and finished 1st.

Way to go Starfire! If you are interested in Synchro, contact Sharee DeCosola at Rocket Ice Arena, 630-679-1700 or you may email Maureen Reyes at mgreyes@uic.edu for more information.