

# ROLLING

## along

By Chester Fried



**Long-time roller skating enthusiast Chester Fried is the vice president and a founder of the The National Museum of Roller Skating. We count on him at the Rinksideer to help keep readers current.**

### Katy Perry whoops it up at Rollerway

Once again Dominic Cangelosi's Moonlight Rollerway in Glendale, Calif. was the scene of a very special event. America's sweetheart singer/songwriter/actress Katy Perry attended a birthday party for her stylist Johnny Wujek. He's well known in the music industry. The Saturday night party was from 11 pm until 4am.

Katy was a very good skater. She loved the music and skating the night away with 438 fellow friends from the music and T.V. industry.

Also skating was Lindsay Lohan, Amber Heard, Zoe Saldana, Katy's musical brother David Hudson, and designer Jeremy Scott. Plus Rachel Bilson and Hayden Christensen. Many of the skaters wanted to know if they could do it again with another late night skate party.

Katy was the hit of the party. Her voice is something special. Her new CD *Wide Awake* shows just how good she is. Dominic told me they paid him \$10,000 for the rental – without even asking first what he charges. High security was provided by the organizers of the party.

This was a great promo for roller skating.

### A dream followed, a job well done

Kacie Fischer and LiveGiveSkate.org were on a mission to inline skate across America in support of the Special Olympics. Many other athletes took on the challenge to cross the country with Kacie for a few miles, days, weeks, or the entire journey. A few athletes skated, while others cycled or ran. There were also the countless volunteers that helped. All of these people supported the dream of raising money and awareness for Special Olympics. All funds raised that exceeded the trip expenses were donated to Special Olympics..

Fischer and her fiancé, Adam Cleveland, started the nonprofit organization LiveGiveSkate.org, because with many people the option to participate or compete in sports is taken for granted. For many others any participation is a life-changing gift. For more than forty years, Special Olympics has supported millions of disabled athletes who want to participate in sports.

Rollerblade sponsored Kacie and the LiveGiveSkate crew with Roller-

blade brand inline skates to skate the 3,800 mile journey. Kacie put her mind and body to the test by inline skating across the country from California to



**Star Katy Perry, center, shares a night of skating with friends at Moonlight Rollerway in Glendale, Calif.**

Florida and then on to New York City in an attempt to achieve her personal skating goals and break several world records in distance and speed.

Kacie's story is what makes this goal even more special. At 21, Kacie Fischer developed a heart condition that kept her from walking for months. Doctors said it was fatal, and there was nothing they could do short of a heart transplant. Now at 27, the Irvine, Calif., resident and personal trainer just became the first woman to inline skate across America. She was also the fastest person to do it - skating from California to Florida in 47 days. Kacie arrived in Florida on June 18 and continued on to New York City. That's 22 days faster than the previous official record of 69 days set by male inline skater Rusty Montcrief in 2002.

Fischer offered advice to those considering a challenging task or pursuing a lofty goal.

"Go after your dream no matter what you want to do," she said. "If you believe you want to do it, you should do it. The important thing is to set big goals and having small victories along the way." The entire trip was more than 3,800 miles long and they passed through 18 states. Donations continue to pour in via Face Book, Twitter, www.LiveGiveSkate.org, and Special Olympics Website. Kacie has brought Special

Olympics and roller skating into the spotlight. Congratulations to Kacie for a job well done.

For more information or to make a donation, visit [www.LiveGiveSkate.org](http://www.LiveGiveSkate.org).

Other sports have seasons with long breaks. Our 2012-13 season should be up in attendance from last year. I know from talking with a few operators that the summer season saw at least a 10-15 percent increase this past summer. And the media is spotlighting our sport. It's now hip to go roller skating.

We've always had the 18-and-under groups as our main skaters. Now it's the 20 and 30+ year old skaters that are attending jam skating sessions and roller derby. And yes, there are those that seek out organ-keyboard sessions, like me!

What makes our skaters special is that they skate all year. Our National Championships end in August. The artistic skaters and speed skaters train for 11 months, then start in September for the new season.

### Jamming 101

You hear a lot about Jam Skating. What is it? I go to Roller Jam every Saturday night. It is a rink located in Staten Island, N.Y. The DJ's name is Tito. He plays all the popular tunes and is a real professional. Jam skating sessions take place on Saturday's from 9 p.m.-2 a.m. The music controls the session. Play fast they skate fast with two-beat shuffle steps. Play a slow Barry White tune and it's couples or slow skate.

In the 1960s it was called bounce skating at the old Empire rink in Brooklyn, New York. In California it was then and now called rexing. In some parts of Eastern, Penn., it's called flea hopping. The names change, but it's good old jam skating by any name.

All Skates are where the fast skaters rule. They also skate six or eight packs - two skaters up front with at least five, two-by-two skaters behind. The center of the skating floor is for footwork, spins and dancing steps.

There was a book written by Bill Butler in the 1970s called *Jamming*. Bill skated at the old Empire rink. That's where it all started. Bill was like the god-father of Jamming. Disco skating came in around 1974 and lasted until 1984.

Two Georgia rinks just held a jamming skating event with almost 500 skaters attending. Skaters came from all over. And, yes, teens and pre-teens can jam skate also.

Now you know a little more about jamming.

### America's Cup for roller skating slated for January

The America's Cup will be a new international artistic event to be held in mid January, 2013. This international competition will take place at Skating School of Kissimmee's home rink, Skate Reflections. Skate Reflections is owned and operated by the Curran Family. The meet will serve as a PanAmerican qualifier for the sport of roller skating. America's Cup will take place over MLK Weekend, January 19-22, 2013.

Keep an eye out for more information soon! It's the perfect city and perfect rink to host this event. Kissimmee is the next town over from Orlando, so it will be an attractive location for those planning to attend.

For further details Contact: Jane Wojnarowski, USARS Figure Sport Director [jwojnarowsky@usaroller-sports.org](mailto:jwojnarowsky@usaroller-sports.org)

### Roller Skating, the sport of a lifetime

What makes our sport different? It's multi faceted. Baseball, football, soccer, bowling – they are all one game. With Roller Skating you can recreational skate, try hockey or speed skating, artistic dance, figures, or free-style jumps and spins, pairs or precision show skating.

Roller Skating goes on all year.