

# Circle America, record-setting event, to skate across U.S.A. for childhood obesity

By Suzy Weinland

Circle America is an International Speed Skating Federation event that begins June 2014, crosses 25 states and 9,000 miles, and ends September 2015 at the Chicago Marathon, in conjunction with Childhood Obesity Month. The entire event will be skated by Team X, the Akana Family (a.k.a the Hawaiian Skate Family), who founded the International Speed Skating Federation. The primary purpose of the event is to raise awareness of childhood obesity through educating communities about nutrition and the fitness benefits of roller skating (through world-class inline speed skating).

While skating across the country, the communities they stop in will offer many inline skate and nutrition-related activities.

Stacey Akana, manager of Team X and father to all the Team X members, encourages and challenges all ages to get active and involved. "All skaters are encouraged to participate in as many of the individual sub events and designated

legs as they can," said Akanas. Additionally, the Akanas are encouraging each city or township along the skating route to incorporate event(s) such as a Kids Dash, 10K or Marathon.

The Akanas Team as well as anyone else skating will have the opportunity to participate in any of the world record attempts taking place. These will include: 1) World's longest running skating event, 2) the most skaters involved in a single skating event, 3) the most number of cities/townships involved in a single skating event, and 4) first skaters to circle America. Each participant in the world record attempts will have the opportunity to record his or her involvement in the "World Record Attempt" section on the ISSF website.

The Akanas family members will carry custom carbon fibre relay batons throughout the entire journey. Representatives from each participating community, city or township will present a customized label for the baton (representing their community) that will ultimately be given to the White House in support of the "Let's Move" campaign. The batons also



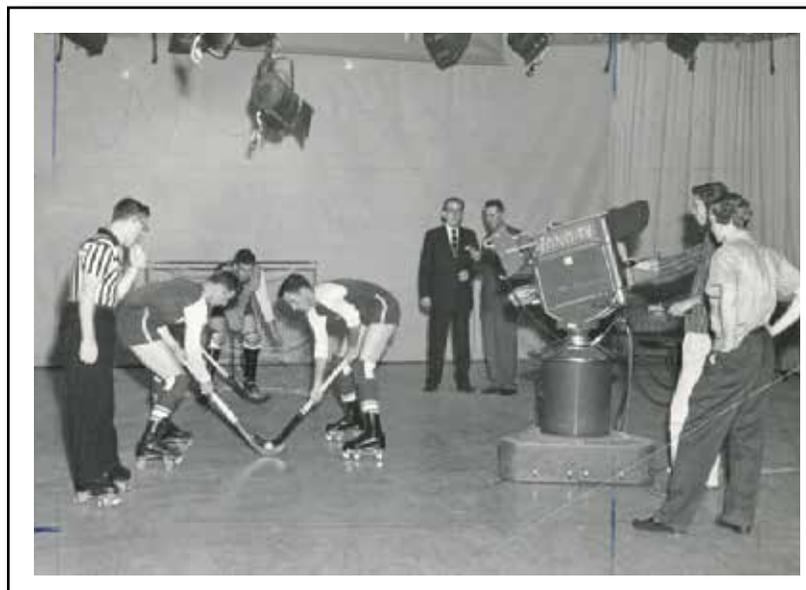
Photo: Thong Nguyen

The Akanas Family (a.k.a. Team X), of Hawaii, will inline speed skate across the nation this summer to help fight childhood obesity and set a few world records.

will recognize ISSF's passionate commitment to the President's Council on Fitness, Sports and Nutrition through the advocacy of the President's Challenge throughout the 15-month multi world record attempts. Akana, looking for sponsorship involvement, said, "There will be an additional promotional baton carried to represent our sponsors. Rolling billboards highlighting our partners, sponsors and schedule of sub-

events will travel the complete distance, which will involve a wrapped tractor/trailer and a 45-foot motor home. We are actively seeking additional vehicles to join in the Circle America convoy to raise awareness for the combat to childhood obesity."

For more information, or to become an event participant or sponsor, contact Stacy Akana at (208) 660-1870 or StacyAkana@hotmail.com



Roller hockey was great for TV, even in the '50s.

Reminisce with us as we look back at some of the photos that have appeared in *The RinkSider* over the years. If you can help us fill in the blanks with people, dates or locations, send us an email at [rinksider@rinksider.com](mailto:rinksider@rinksider.com). Enjoy!



Thank you to Mrs. Dianne Bollinger for sharing this historic skating family photo (at left) she found. She and the RINKSIDER would like to find the owner and unite them with the original photo! The photo was taken in 1942, and the partial identification on the back of the photo reads: "Standing from left to right—her husband, Betty Lee, Dorothy, Tony Miller. Sitting on Arcadia skate box—owner of Hollywood in Chicago." According to Dianne, the youngsters (standing in front) were not identified. Original photo taken by Hank's Photographic Service Commercial Photography, Chicago. If this photo belongs to you, your family or someone you know, please contact The RINKSIDER at 614-235-1022 or [rinksider@rinksider.com](mailto:rinksider@rinksider.com), with your name, phone number and address, and we will send the original to you. If you can identify the "unidentified" people in the photo, we will be happy to reprint it with everyone's names in a future issue.



Thank you to David Ramsey of Southeast Skate Georgia for identifying one of the historic photos published in our May-June 2013 RINKSIDER (at left) According to David, one of the men in the photo is the rink's original owner, Bob Phillips. The rink was Playland in Chamblee, Ga. "The rink had one of the first asphalt floors in this part of the country, and they always had issues with it. Bob's son eventually had the rink, and it was then run by his partners, John and Sally Howard. I actually went to high school with the Howard's daughter."