

# Distance proves no obstacle for pairs team

BY LEXI ROHNER

**BOB MASSEY, 46**

Point Mallard Figure Skating Club  
Huntsville, Ala.

Levels: Adult bronze and bronze dance

**JENNIFER KENSKI, 32**

Birmingham Figure Skating Club  
Birmingham, Ala.

Levels: Adult silver frees skate, bronze dance

Seventeen years ago, Bob Massey learned skating to improve his skiing. Massey now skates pairs with partner Jennifer Kenski, who lives 100 miles away.



"Competitions

give you goals," said Massey, a mechanical engineer. "Scheduling practice is challenging, but Jennifer is a great partner so it's worth it."

Kenski met her husband of eight years, a hockey player, while skating. She thinks her southern location kept her unaware of skating until the 1988 Olympic Winter Games. From that moment, she loved the sport but waited for lessons until age 18, fearful of being the oldest beginner.

"Boy, was I wrong," said Kenski, a health insurance communications coordinator. "I had no idea there was a whole world of adult skaters. I would have missed out on a wonderful sport and many fantastic friends."

Massey trains four days a week, while Kenski skates three hours a week. Both enjoy the health and social benefits of skating.

"I've met great people skating," Massey said. "Competitions and skating are just fun."

Not athletic growing up, Kenski favors physical activities and has served on her club board as president, vice president and secretary. Her coach, Chris Jones, is supportive.

"Skating pushes me farther than I think I can go," Kenski said.

Performing to Jimmy Buffet's "Cheeseburger in Paradise," Kenski amused the audience once when her large foam cheeseburger costume kept her from retrieving a lost pickle.

"Skating helps me let go and not over think," Kenski said.

Both skaters are motivated to improve competitively. Massey plans to test adult silver and ice dance. Neither favors the Axel. It took Kenski five years to land her Axel, while Massey jumped hard over the boards, knocking his coach down.

"Still no Axel but I haven't given up," Massey said. "My coaches, Charles Bernhard and Pam Chamness, tell me what to do and I try to do it."

Though adult skating has gained acceptance and skaters, Massey's concern is economic impact.

"More adults will realize it's never too late to begin something new," Kenski said.

makes Chinese paper cutouts, does ballet and roller-blades.