



# BLADELINES

*The Newsletter of the Birmingham Figure Skating Club*

## Nationals Sets Attendance Record

Did you watch Nationals this year? If so, you weren't alone. The 2010 U.S. Figure Skating Championships, held January 14-24 in Spokane, Washington, set a new attendance record and had the largest television viewing audience since 2003.

Over 158,000 attended the event, surpassing the previous attendance record of 154,389 set in 2007. The Championships were also held in Spokane that year. Nearly 13.7 million viewers watched the event on television. Coverage of the ladies free skate, original dance, free dance, ladies short and the Skating Spectacular had higher ratings than any of the weekend's nine other sporting events, except the two NFL conference championship games.

These numbers show that there's obviously an increased interest in figure skating right now. A lot of that may be contributed to the upcoming Olympics, which often increases people's interest in winter sports, especially figure skating. With this increased interest, it's a great time to encourage your friends and family to give skating a try by inviting them to the National Skating Month clinic. For more information about this clinic, see "It's National Skating Month" below.

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## It's National Skating Month

National Skating Month allows clubs to promote the fun and benefits of figure skating to residents in their area. Now in its ninth year, the goal of National Skating Month is to increase awareness and participation in figure skating.

The BFSC will celebrate U.S. Figure Skating's National Skating Month by hosting a skating clinic on on Sunday, February 21 from 3:30 – 5 p.m. Invite your friends, neighbors, coworkers, extended family and anyone else who has an interest in learning to skate! This free event is open to anyone age 3 and up.

Lots of volunteers of needed, so if you still need volunteer hours, or just want to lend a helping hand, contact Linda Beamon, [lbeamon@charter.net](mailto:lbeamon@charter.net).

## Southern Magic at Synchro Sectionals

Congratulations to the Southern Magic Pre-Juvenile and Open Juvenile synchronized skating teams for competing at the 2010 Midwestern Synchronized Sectionals in Cedar Rapids, Iowa January 28-30. The teams placed 8th and 9th respectively in their qualifying rounds.



Skaters had a great time and saw a lot of snow! They traded pins with teams from all over the Midwestern and Pacific Coast Sections — introducing many folks to "Southern Magic" and the BFSC. You can see these teams in action as they skate an exhibition at the National Skating Month clinic on February 21 and Blades in 'Bama on March 6.

## BFSC Consignment Sale February 6

Got some skating stuff you can't use anymore? Bring your gently used dresses, tights, skates and other skating apparel to donate to the BFSC Consignment Sale. The sale will be held Saturday, February 6 from 9 – 11 a.m. at the Pelham Civic Complex. Thirty percent of the proceeds benefit the BFSC. For more information, see the "Current News" section of the BFSC web site, [www.bhamfsc.com](http://www.bhamfsc.com).

## Test Session: Applications Due; Volunteer Needed

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*Test applications must  
be postmarked by  
February 13.*

If you're planning on testing at the upcoming BFSC Test Session on Sunday, March 7, don't delay. Test applications forms must be mailed and postmarked by February 13. They cannot be left in the folder in the skate school office. Since the deadline is Saturday, you can drop last minute forms off at the Galleria Post Office branch; however, you must request a Saturday postmark. Otherwise, they will postmark it Monday and your application will be considered late. Test forms can be found under "Testing" on the BFSC web site ([www.bhamfsc.com](http://www.bhamfsc.com)).

An adult volunteer is needed to coordinate the judges' hospitality room. This involves making sure there is adequate food and snacks for the judges throughout the test session. We want to take good care of our judges so they will want to return for future events! If you are interested in helping with this, please contact Beth Noble, Test Chair, at [bnoble@bcbsal.org](mailto:bnoble@bcbsal.org). This is a good way to get those volunteer hours for the Skater Incentive Program.

## BFSC Board of Directors

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We're on the web!

Visit the BFSC web site:

[www.bhamfsc.com](http://www.bhamfsc.com)

## Blades in Bama Application Due Soon

Thinking about skating in the 2010 Blades in Bama Basic Skills Competition? If so, you'd better start thinking about getting your application mailed! Forms must be postmarked by February 13. The competition will be held at the Pelham Civic Complex on Saturday, March 6. Events will begin at approximately 1 p.m. Get the announcement and entry form online at [www.bhamfsc.com](http://www.bhamfsc.com).

## Skater Incentive Program

If you're planning to participate in the Skater Incentive Program, don't forget to keep track of your competition results, volunteer hours and club functions you've attended. If you still need volunteer hours, don't worry – there's still time and many upcoming opportunities to lend a hand! More information about the Skater Incentive Program can be found on the BFSC web site.

## Get Informed, Stay Involved!

Did you know you don't have to serve on the BFSC Board to attend Board meetings? Meetings are held each month and are open to all members. Get a meeting schedule on the BFSC web site. Plus, minutes are posted online too. Look under "Board of Directors." Stay formed about the workings of your skating club. Stay informed, get involved!

## Upcoming Events

- BFSC Blades in Bama – March 6, 2010 (Deadline: February 13)
- BFSC Test Session – March 7, 2010 (Deadline: February 13)
- Other Local Test Sessions: Atlanta FSC – March 19, 2010 (Deadline: February 26)
- Magnolia Open (Atlanta, GA) – March 12-14 (Deadline: February 5)
- Louisville Skating Academy Invitational (Louisville, KY) – March 19-21 (Deadline: February 15)
- Blades in Decatur (Decatur, AL) – March 27 (Deadline: February 27)
- Robert Unger ISI Skating Competition (Knoxville, TN) – April 9-11 (Deadline: March 1)
- Skate Nashville (Franklin, TN) – April 22-24 (Deadline: March 10)

Submit article ideas or comments about *Bladelines* to [bkenski@bellsouth.net](mailto:bkenski@bellsouth.net).