

## Sad News

### Curt Campbell – April 2024



Curtis (Curt) W. Campbell was born in Rochester, MN, in March of 1934. He lived on a farm south of Rochester in Simpson, MN, with parents Howard and Freeda. The family moved to Rochester in the late 1940s, where Curt finished high school in 1952.

Right out of high school, Curt joined the **Ice Capades**. He skated and traveled with the show for two years from coast to coast in the USA and Canada. He then joined the Air Force, serving three years at Elmendorf Air Force based in Anchorage, AK. After his time there, Curt went to the University of Florida, where he received an associate degree in Radiology. Immediately after that, he went to Duke and earned an associate degree in Nuclear Medicine.

[Click here to read the entire obituary](#)

## Our Alumni in the News

### Down Memory Lane with Holly Lynn Johnson



Lynn-Holly Johnson won the silver medal at the novice level of the 1974 U.S. Figure Skating Championships. She gave up competitive skating in 1977 to turn professional and join the Ice Capades, and subsequently began an acting career, making her film debut in "Ice Castles" (1978), in which she portrayed Alexis "Lexie" Winston, a figure skater who is blinded by a blood clot in her brain.

The production originally wanted to cast a name actress in the role and use a real-life ice-skater as a double for the complex skating scenes. However, it soon became apparent to them, in their opinion, that despite the best editing

and camera-work, the differences between the actor and the double would be noticeable, particularly as the choreography would require a number of close-ups and medium shots.

Johnson was cast after she was brought to the attention of the filmmakers by ice-skating coach John Nicks. Johnson, who was on tour with the **Ice Capades** show, flew to Minnesota for a script reading and to perform some ice-skating. Johnson then flew back to the show then a week later flew to Toronto, Canada for a screen-test. Johnson landed the role and signed on not long after this.

Johnson refused to do a nude scene in the film. The producers kept trying to write a nude scene in the movie for her, but she walked off the set and halted production for a day rather than appear nude. Johnson admitted in a People magazine interview that it tickled her that after all these years, people come up to her and tell her how great a family movie this is, and she thinks, "You have no idea!" (Wikipedia/IMDb)

## Ice Capades 2025 Reunion Cruise Update

Have you made your reservation yet?

Our Ice Capades -Escapades Cruise gathering is getting closer. If you still want to sign up please contact Sheri at [scruises@aol.com](mailto:scruises@aol.com)

We can look forward to catching up with old friends and making new ones!

You can reach J at [dabatej@bellsouth.net](mailto:dabatej@bellsouth.net)

A list of attendees is on its way.

**'Escapades 2025 Cruise'.... We'll have a good time! 🎵🎵'**



**Please click below to join the Escapades 2025 Cruise – events page and get all updates relating to the cruise.**

<https://facebook.com/events/s/ice-capades-escapades-cruise-a/746073810575573/>

THIS EVENT IS BEING CREATED AND COORDINATED BY Johnna "J" Bates...

**NOTE: PASSPORTS ARE REQUIRED!**

## Videos of the Month

### **Terry Pagano Kudrna and Tony Paul Kudrna Ice Capades "Chess" 1987 East Co.**



[https://youtu.be/G05q\\_zyasQw?si=64uNZTcGubZAn\\_gi](https://youtu.be/G05q_zyasQw?si=64uNZTcGubZAn_gi)

### **It nevers gets old to watch Tai & Randy winning Gold at 1979 World's**



Tai Babilonia and Randy Gardner capturing the Gold at the 1979 World Figure Skating Championships - last time the USA won Pairs gold.

<https://youtu.be/SuqrWskLOpc?si=HIJGO0RmhYSAKkuY>

### **1984 TV Commercial for Hartford shows**

**Channel 3: Night at the Ice Capades (Dec. 1984)**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oPjPEZ9Hsas>

## Proskaters Meet up at the Ice Chalet, Knoxville, TN Mar. 17, 2024



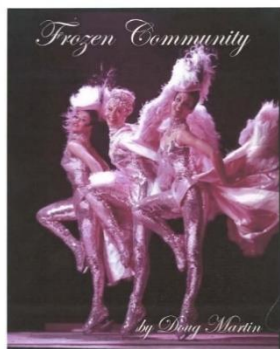
Professional Skaters Attending ProSkaters 2024 at the Ice Chalet, Knoxville TN (March 17, 2024)  
L-R: Front: Michelle Sheppard, Amanda Merritt, Mary Lu Shipstad  
Middle: Katy Garrity, Su Jackson-Wagner, Beverly Shipstad, Anita Hartshorn  
Back: Adam Blake, Andy Buchanan, Jordan Cowan, Elin Schran, Aaron Blake, Brittany Blake with baby Kilian, Austin Blake, Chelsea Ridley, Eddie Shipstad, Richard Dwyer, Mike Garl, David Lee, Linda Adams Garl, Jamie Lynn Santee, Frank Sweiding, Judy Thomas.  
Not pictured, but attending: Larry LaBorde, Paula Trujillo

### **George Bussey**

You might not associate George's zany, near-miss collisions and crazy pratfalls with the hard game of hockey, but that's how his fantastic coordination and timing developed. In 1957, after a head-on motorcycle-car accident, George was told he would probably never skate again. He still has follow-up operations on his left ankle. Meanwhile he goes on creating new jumps, new routines, new laughs for the Ice Capades audience.



## RELIVING FOND MEMORIES



Doug Martin had published two books called 'Frozen Community' where he wanted to have skaters tell funny stories about their time on the road. Stories were posted before but worth sharing again.

*Yvonne Mjelde Lange* joined Ice Capades in 1962, soon after graduating from high school. Yvonne says that going into the show wasn't all hard work, but did require complete commitment from all the performers.

As important as Ice Capades was in her life she was willing to give it up for love and marriage. Here is Yvonne in her own words: When I was a little girl our family doctor encouraged my mom to get into skating to correct a minor pigeon toe problem I had. It worked and I became interested in learning the finer details in the art of skating.

When I was seven years old, I watched a movie starring Olympic ice skating gold medal winner Sonja Henie. I loved the gorgeous costumes and glitter of the ice show. I was hooked and could envision myself in glitzy costumes like Sonja's. I started taking advanced skating lessons at the Ballard Ice Arena in Seattle, Washington, along with public skating sessions. My parents were not rich, but could afford private lessons in the office hours when skating lessons were less costly. My day began with lessons at 6:00 am. After which I went to school. That was my schedule for several years, and I learned my craft well. I loved performing in the annual charity Ice Parade show, as well as skating at Christmas in a storefront window at Frederick and Nelson, a famous department store in Seattle.

I graduated from high school in 1951, and was hired by a national insurance company to work in the office. It wasn't my cup of tea, so in December of that year, I auditioned for Ice Capades when I learned they were looking for new cast members, and was hired on the spot. I gave my employer my two-week notice and joined the tour in January 1962, in Calgary, AB, Canada. I loved every minute of my time with Ice Capades. I especially loved my fellow performers, and the beautiful costumes I wore in the show. My childhood dream had become a reality.

In 1964, I was introduced to a tall, handsome blond named Bruno Lange, a Vancouver businessman. We were immediately attracted to each other, and courted for two years, exchanging love letters and enjoying the occasional visit when my schedule allowed. I left Ice Capades on Valentine's Day, 1966, to be with Bruno. We married in January, 1968, and are still in love 44 years later. Our son, Kirk, was born in 1970. Kirk and his wife, Sequoia, presented up with our first grandchild, Finn William Lange. Since his retirement, Bruno has written and published two books. His first, *Born into Turmoil*, is being considered for a Hollywood movie. I work as a designer of high-end jewelry, but will soon retire to spend more time with Bruno.

***Let's keep Doug's legacy going. I'm sure there are more 'interesting' stories out there from your time in the show. If you would like to share, please send them to me.***

# 'How it all began, the making of an ice show.'

MEETING OF DIRECTORS  
of the  
ICE-CAPADES, INC.

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Following meeting of the Arena Managers' Association, a meeting of Ice-Capades Inc. was called on Thursday, July 11th, at the Hotel New Yorker. Those present were: Messrs. Harris, Brown, Sutphin, Tyrrell, Sollenberger and Podoloff.

Mr. Russell Markert, well-known New York producer, who has been engaged as producer for the Ice-Capades show, came before the directors and outlined his ideas for the show, presenting sketches of costumes to go with same. Mr. Markert also stated that he felt that a male and woman singer would be a great asset to the show.

Mr. Harris asked the directors what they thought of Mr. Markert's ideas for the show, and it was the consensus of opinion that they were very good and the directors also agreed to the idea of having a male and woman singer in the show.

Mr. Harris commented that he felt possibly that the opening number might be a little heavy and suggested something lighter and Mr. Tyrrell was of the same opinion. However, after putting it to a vote, the majority of the directors felt that the entire arrangement of the show should be left in the hands of Mr. Markert and that he should be in full charge.

Mr. Markert stated that he needed 12 chorus men in the show, but Mr. Tyrrell had only allowed 4 men in his budget. After considerable discussion on this point, it was decided to increase the budget to allow for 8 extra men.

Mr. Markert stated that special music would be written for the show, with at least 4 song hits, which would not be published until after the opening of the show.

DIRECTORS' MEETING

ICE CAPADES, INC.

Time: 11:50 A. M.

Place: Ice Capades, Inc, RKO Bldg., New York City

Date: August 6th, 1945

Those present were:

John Harris, Pittsburgh  
Louis A. R. Pieri, Providence  
Nathan Podoloff, New Haven  
Pete Tyrrell, Philadelphia  
John Sollenberger, Hershey  
Eddie Shore, Springfield  
Lou Jacobs, Buffalo  
Al Sutphin, Cleveland

Mr. Harris announced the officers to be elected for the coming year, President, Vice President and Treasurer, Secretary and Asst. Treasurer.

Eddie Shore made a motion, seconded by John Sollenberger, to re-elect the same officers who had served in the past year and a unanimous vote was cast.

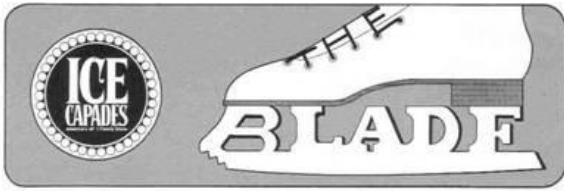
Mr. Harris then brought up the matter of a third ice show to be sponsored jointly by Ice Capades and Ice Follies. This idea had been shelved a year ago because of various disadvantages present at the time. At this time, however, the idea met with considerable favor. Mr. Harris has already discussed the idea with the Ice Follies and made tentative plans which Mr. Harris presented at this meeting.

With soldiers returning to the ice shows, and more and more talent developing, there will be a sufficiency of talent for a third ice show. This show would be called the ICE REVELS. One half the show would be owned by Ice Follies and one half by Ice Capades. Corporation papers have been drawn up in the name of International Ice Attractions, Inc. This corporation is not only

## Pictures from Past Reunions

[All Skater's Reunion – May 1-3, 2023 Las Vegas](#)

[Ice Capades 2022 Reunion pictures](#)



The website, [www.icecapadestheblade.com](http://www.icecapadestheblade.com) has been revamped and more information has been added. If you have something to add, please send them.

Look here for **2022 Ice Capades Reunion** information, including reunion pictures  
**Cast, Precision & Production Pictures** – Relive some memories.

**Past reunion Pictures** – Check them out for some you may have missed.

**Rosters** – Looking for someone or remembering who you skated with in the show?

**Video links** – have been collecting skating 'You Tube' links from the early years.

**Program Covers** – we had the most beautiful covers

**Past Issues of The Blade** – just in case you missed an issue

**Past Reunion Pictures** – relive the times you attended the reunions

**In Memorium** – remembering those who have left us too soon

Check it out!

## Upcoming Events

# 2024 The Experience Adult Skate Camp Palm Springs

the experience!  
adult skate camp

**Palm Springs 2024**  
SEPTEMBER 17 - SEPTEMBER 20  
Berger Foundation Iceplex

**ON AND OFF-ICE SESSIONS**

Daily off-ice warm up classes in studio  
On-ice classes include:

- Randy's Three's Company
- Liz's Jumps, Spins, and Storytelling on Ice
- Jeremy's Movement with Music
- Elin's IceFlow

Small on-ice groups focusing on:

- Turns & Steps
- Jumps
- Choreographic Movement
- Spins

Private lessons available separately on request

**THE EXPERIENCE IS WHAT MAKES THE JOURNEY REMEMBERED**

Enjoy quality time with our coaches and fellow campers at:

- Champagne Welcome
- Catered Lunch & Learns
- Beautiful Dinner and unique Palm Springs outing

**\$1950**

For more details and registration

<https://www.theexperienceadultskatecamp.com>

SCAN ME

**COACHES:**  
RANDY GARDNER  
ELIZABETH MANLEY  
GRACIE GOLD  
JEREMY ABBOTT  
ELIN SCHRAN

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