

Chicago Wheel Weekend a Success!  
 March 12<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup>, 2010 – Chicago, Illinois

This year’s Chicago Wheel Weekend was a big hit! Participants from the USA, Germany, and Canada participated, learning many elements in coaching, training, and judging wheel gymnastics. The courses were held at Alternatives on Sheridan in Uptown. Thanks to the gracious support of CircEsteem, Alternatives, and the Broadway Armory, the event was a great success.

USA’s National Coach, Wolfgang Bientzle, lead the coaching and training components of the weekend. USA’s Competition Officer, Maribeth Joy, and Maren Opfermann, our guest from Germany, lead the judging course. Significant coaching and training assistance was also provided by Luisina Rosas from Argentina, Chris Delgado, Katrin Schad from Germany, Cornell Freeney, Sam Sake, and Edith Keme. USAWG President Evan S. Brown assisted in judging and presiding over the weekend events.

USA Wheel Gymnastics was especially glad to see Paula Lord and Lori Laznovsky from GymRoots, Inc. present and taking many courses. Paula and Lori work with USA Gymnastics and the Sokol organizations to provide athletic opportunities and events for groups throughout the year. Feel free to read more about them at [www.gymrootsinc.com](http://www.gymrootsinc.com)

This weekend is especially meaningful, as we are celebrating our 80<sup>th</sup> year of Wheel Gymnastics in the USA! The picture below was taken just as the first wheel gymnasts arrived in 1930:



“April 9, 1930. New York. Miss Leni Klarmann, pictured with her rhoenrad which she will introduce to American Athletes. The rhoenrad is a gymnastic wheel device which has attained great popularity on athletic fields in Germany.”

Since that time the US has had a unique history in wheel gymnastics; from limited displays in circuses to inclusion as a member country into the International Wheel Gymnastics Association.

We are growing fast and are training new coaches and athletes at an alarming rate. We have developed wheel gymnastics courses at two more Illinois locations, one in Downers Grove and another in Kenilworth. We hope to expand our organization even further through gymnastics clubs and park districts. We are currently working on developing a new website at [www.usawheelgymnastic.org](http://www.usawheelgymnastic.org), Check back for updates!

The Fourth USA National Open Championship took place on the morning of March 14<sup>th</sup> at the Broadway Armory. It was a great competition and all the athletes did very well. For many, this was their first competition. The scores are below:

| Event/Gymnast          | Vault | Spirale | Straightline | All-Around |
|------------------------|-------|---------|--------------|------------|
| CircEsteem Cup Juniors |       |         |              |            |
| Ian Hicks              |       |         | Good         |            |
| Millie Baker           |       |         | Very Good    |            |
| Sophie Baker           |       |         | Good         |            |
| Julia Baker            |       |         | Good         |            |
|                        |       |         |              |            |
| CircEsteem Cup Seniors |       |         |              |            |
| Cordell Young          |       |         | Excellent    |            |
|                        |       |         |              |            |
| US Open Junior Boys    |       |         |              |            |

|                      |      |      |       |       |
|----------------------|------|------|-------|-------|
| Jack Gomberg         | 5.55 | 5.50 | 5.20  | 16.25 |
| Dave Ettelson        | 6.05 | 4.00 | 5.85  | 15.90 |
| Prado Keme           | 5.60 | 2.10 | 4.10  | 11.80 |
| Jackson Masada       | 3.90 | 2.60 | 4.90  | 11.40 |
|                      |      |      |       |       |
| US Open Junior Girls |      |      |       |       |
| Edith Keme           | 5.45 | 5.25 | 3.80  | 14.50 |
| Elsa Thompson        | 4.30 | 2.00 | 5.95  | 12.25 |
| Ali Haymes           | 4.95 | 2.20 | 4.85  | 12.00 |
|                      |      |      |       |       |
| US Open Senior Men   |      |      |       |       |
| Cornell Freaney      | 9.30 | 8.80 | 8.95  | 27.05 |
| Chris Delgado        | 8.00 | 3.80 | 10.75 | 22.55 |
| Samuel Sake          | 6.35 | 5.60 | 4.50  | 16.45 |
|                      |      |      |       |       |
| US Open Senior Women |      |      |       |       |
| Maren Opfermann      | 8.00 | 7.85 | 12.35 | 28.20 |
| Luisina Rosas        | 3.40 | 2.10 | 7.35  | 12.85 |
| Leanne Osmanski      |      |      | 6.75  |       |