

# ON A ROLL

## Wanted: Women who take skating seriously

By **Eva Jacob Barkoff**  
East Jefferson bureau

Wanted — women from all walks of life who are 19 years old and older. There is no weight or height requirement.

You must have a desire to learn or already know how to roller skate.

And you must have interest in women's roller derby. Seriously.

Tryouts for the Big Easy Rollergirls will be held Tuesday from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. at Airline Skate Center, 6711 Airline Drive, Metairie.

The team was organized last May, said Kate Parker, the team's trainer.

"Right now, we have 24 or 25 members," Parker said. "Our goal is 50 to 60 so we can form teams of 12 to 15 people. You don't even need to know

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STAFF PHOTOS BY RUSTY COSTANZA



ABOVE: A group of skaters run a drill during a practice for the Big Easy Rollergirls, a women's roller derby league, at Airline Skate Center in Metairie.

LEFT: Dana 'Illegally Blonde' Duterroil, left, and Lisa 'Sugar Reye' Rahon work on side blocking during a recent practice session.

# Group having car wash on May 21

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how to skate — we can teach you that.”

There are approximately 100 all-female, flat-track roller derby leagues in the country with teams representing a number of states including New York, Texas, Arizona, Alabama and Minnesota.

“The popularity of women’s roller derby is growing nation-

wide,” Parker said. “It is not only a very competitive sport but it’s also a lot of fun. We have members who, when they first joined, never imagined they would be skating competitively.

“Some didn’t even know how to skate much less understand how the game is played. And believe me, you will get quite a workout both at practices and in games.”

In addition to the Tuesday training sessions at Airline Skate Center, Parker said there is an additional training day on Thursdays from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. at Audubon Park.

“At the park, we do what I call ‘dry land exercises,’” Parker explained. “This includes training

exercises such as push-ups, sit-ups, crunches, squats and stretches. It is a way to strengthen muscles and increase stamina. And for additional practice, you can spend some time skating around the park.”

Dues are \$40 a month per person which helps to defray the cost of the rental fee for using the Airline Skate Center facility. Those wishing to participate must purchase their own equipment, such as skates, helmets, wrist guards, knee pads and elbow pads. Skates also can be rented for the practice sessions.

The group is sponsoring a fund-raiser — a car wash — on May 21 from 2 to 5 p.m. at Liuz-

za’s By the Track, 1518 North Lopez St., New Orleans. The cost is \$10 per vehicle and proceeds will go to the Big Easy Rollergirls.

“I encourage any women interested in joining us to come out, take a look and see what we’re about,” Parker said. “You can put on a pair of skates and learn a little bit about roller derby. And if you like it and want to stick with it, we want you to be a part of our team.”

For information, call (504) 289-6299 or go to the Web site [www.bigeasyrollergirls.com](http://www.bigeasyrollergirls.com).



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