



Greensboro NC Skate Nationals Trip Notes January 17-27, 2020

Greensboro Headlines:

- Sweet little house about 15 minutes from the rink and 10 minutes from airport.
- Much better competition than expected. So, we booked next year's national competition already. San Jose here we come.
- This event was the culmination of what skaters would go to Worlds in Montreal where we'll be in March. We were very pleased with the US line up.
- Attending Junior Skaters practice and competition has some advantages but we are both giving it up. Too much, too many, for limited benefit.
- Tired and more tired. Getting home at midnight generally meant we'd not catch up or calm down until 2-3am. Then the sunlight wakes one before 8am want to or not. The last time I was so sleep deprived was at the last skating event in Torino.

Off to Greensboro NC.

Why? Ice Skating Championships with sister Beverly plus a couple days being tourists.

Cold! Never more so than departure morning with temperatures in the low 20s though I'm sure it was even lower as we stood on the jetway and even colder yet in the airplane with a broken heater. My fingers and toes don't take well to any momentary chill let alone 45 minutes of freezing.

We met up in the Greensboro airport only by luck. Beverly drove the 2 hours to the St Louis airport at 4am just ahead of an ice storm. She made her connection. My area had a big snow the next day.

Our home for ten days - From - www.VRBO.com/760671ha

Renovated Family Home 6 Mi. to Downtown Greensboro - House 1360 sq. ft. - Nestled in a quiet neighborhood, this newly remodeled 3-bedroom, 2-bath Greensboro getaway is the perfect Heartland host! The property boasts brand new furnishings, a spacious sunroom and a large yard for entertaining. A quick 6-mile trip away, downtown plays host to dozens of local attractions, including the University of North Carolina, Friendly Center and Revolution Mill. Even closer to home, check out the Greensboro Science Center and Country Park!

NOTE: Your safety matters. There is a Ring doorbell security camera, located next to the front door facing out. It does not look into any interior spaces.

When you're not out on the town, this 1,360-square-foot home serves as your quiet respite. Kick back and relax in the living room, highlighted by a flat-screen cable TV. A glass door connects the main living space to the sunroom - soon to be your go-to spot! Turn on the ceiling fan to keep cool while you set up shop at the work desk or sink into the armchair with a new novel. End the evening with a family dinner in the eat-in kitchen, fully equipped with stainless steel appliances. If you're not much of a home chef, you'll find restaurants to suit all tastes less than a mile from your Greensboro home base.

Key Residence Features:

- Amenities include a fully equipped kitchen, laundry machines, a flat-screen cable TV, free WiFi, a sunroom, driveway parking for 4 cars, books, DVDs, and more
- Great Greensboro location - Situated in a quiet residential area, yet only 6 miles from downtown attractions!

A sweet story: We'd found the grocery store, I got through the panic of finding NO alcohol sales when I remembered about state run ABC Stores. Then the house corkscrew broke in the wine bottle cork. Thinking it only fair to report the breakage to the owner, I offered that it wasn't a complaint and as I was no connoisseur I would simply buy a screw cap type bottle the next day — imagine my surprise when he had a new corkscrew in our mailbox in minutes — well after 10pm at that.

If that story doesn't do it for you, try Anthony Bourdain Quotes That Will Inspire You to Travel More, Eat Better, and Enjoy Life -

<https://www.travelandleisure.com/travel-tips/celebrity-travel/anthony-bourdain-travel-food-quotes>



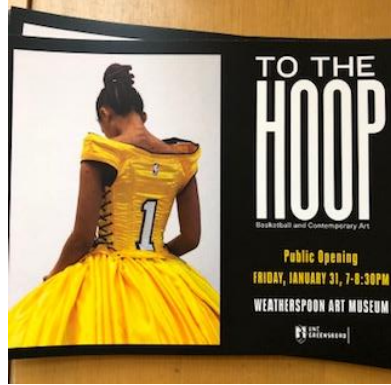
A mini museum in the tiny airport



It wasn't warm outside but it was warm in the sunroom with the space heater not even needed.



We spent most of our time in the kitchen at the big table with lots of window light. Not enough time in our beds!



The Weatherspoon Art Museum. Lots of interesting oddities.



Mike Rogers
United States, born 1957

Cross Country, 2002
Super 8mm film transferred to DVD, edition 12/100, 23 min. 30 sec.

Weatherspoon Art Museum; Purchased with funds from the Joseph R. Morton Acquisition Endowment, 2003

Cross Country is a Super 8mm film documenting a highway journey that began in Coney Island, New York, and ended at the Pacific Ocean in Santa Monica, California. A frame was shot every six seconds so that it appears as if the traveler is speeding at 6,000 mph. Paradoxically, despite the high rate of speed on the road, the landscape only changes gradually. Ironically the duration of the film allows viewers to traverse the United States in about the same amount of time it takes to watch a TV sitcom.

The most fascinating of the museum was this 'cross country'.

From the web: Cross Country by Los Angeles-based artist Mike Rogers. Cross Country is a Super-8 film (transferred to DVD) documenting a road trip from the Atlantic Ocean at Coney Island, New York, to the Pacific Ocean in Santa Monica, California. A frame was shot every six seconds so that it appears as if the traveler is speeding at 6,000 mph; paradoxically, despite the high rate of speed on the road, the landscape changes gradually. This film allows viewers to traverse the country in about the time it takes to watch a TV sitcom.



Always surprises in manhole covers.

Home Again

Touring. We had a tourist weekend before The Skating Event. Thank heavens! It was a heavy concentration of skating.

Sunday? We must be in God's country because practically everything is closed on Sunday. I see about as many churches here as I see banks in our area. We did visit the history museum, walk some of downtown, and found all coffee shops and businesses closed. A unique tourist spot? Krispy Kreme. I got coffee. We watched two young gals inhale a whole box of donuts!

Skating! Lots of fans. Big money to the local community. Greensboro has a lovely complex with multiple rinks.

<https://www.wxii12.com/amp/article/more-than-100000-fans-expected-for-2020-figure-skating-championships-in-greensboro/30573745>

Monday start: It might be a good facility but they had a problem with the ice on main rink however. Was to open for practice at noon but not open until after 2pm. Can't even get to the concessionaire because the area was oddly totally closed. Supposedly very strict with no food or water allowed in - to make sure you purchase the \$9 hamburgers. We made up for it once in: yes - a big hamburger with fries. I ate the whole thing. We were entertained at the secondary practice rink during the main rink closure. Later in the week they had a power outage but we fortunately weren't there then. Sounds spooky.

Once inside we were hugely disappointed with our seating. Despite purchasing tickets on day-one nearly a year ago, paying for and being reassured they were the best they were front row seats

but folding chairs, no armrest, limited knee room and not much padding. Our options to trade tickets weren't good either.

Food. Despite not being allowed in with food or even water, we found coat pockets can hold PB&J sandwiches, water bottle and even a little brandy. There are a lot of big misshapen folks here and when you realize how little we stray from our seats (sometimes 12 hours spectating at a stretch) and how crappy is the food, it's no wonder.

I don't like disposable champions - Figure skating coach compares new generation skaters to single-use plastic cups —

<https://www.rt.com/sport/478226-rafael-arutyunyan-figure-skating-champions-plastic-cups/>

This famous coach is echoing my dislike for all the athleticism needed from a young age. And why our older lovely skaters haven't a chance. Yet the coach belongs to Nathan Chen, a big quad jumper who even broke his hip doing quads at a young age.

I've often had a nagging worry when watching juniors. They are mostly just children, far too tiny to be interesting, and I always wonder "where is their mother?" Are they being abused? Where is their childhood? Why aren't they in school? Are their developing bodies and bones taking too much abuse? So skinny. Such dangerously curved backs. Heavy make-up even before getting boobs? Is my viewership contributing?

Yet. Some of them look not only over 13 years old but good. Beverly rightly reminds me that they are the future of skating in the US and surely we need some new blood. She follows them seriously, who is their coach, and if there is potential.

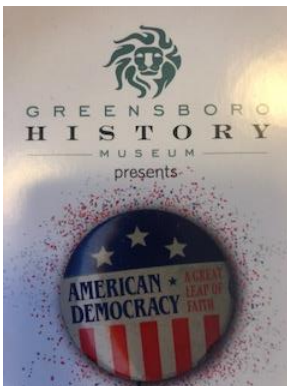
There is a side benefit to attending junior skate events: there aren't lines at the toilet during junior performances so apparently some of my complaints are shared. A very small audience and I'd guess many of them are family.

Going to Worlds in March:

Cain/LeDuc and Knierims selected for Worlds! 4CC is Knierims, Calalang/Johnson and Kayne/O'Shea. Ice dance medalists all going to Worlds and 4CC. Men's team for Worlds is Nathan, Jason and Vincent (a gift to him) and 4CC's is Jason, Tomoki H and Camden P.

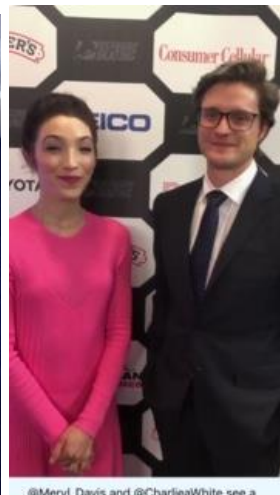
Next? No skating until March! (I feel like a Roadie). Paris in February. Montreal in March. Venice to Athens in April. Loire Valley in May, and KC, and Stockholm to St Petersburg to Bergen and Oslo into June, on and on, we hope.

More. But I'll add it eventually to website. Now? I'm worn out!





Bev and I met Nancy for brunch at the Sheraton's lovely café.



Huh? They either slept through a lot or played video games.

Hall of Famers Meryl Davis and Charley White. We miss them but we still have Jason Brown, a big time favorite of mine.



Fun Spectacular / Gala as much because the medalists are having fun. Couldn't be any better than this skit.

Home again. Home again. For a very few but needed days.

More notes:

Alysa Liu unfazed by pressure to defend title - I'm uncomfortable with taking 13-year olds out of school to, for example, do quad jumps. Are their bones even formed? Who is guarding them? This is a part of skating and gymnastics that worries and bothers me. She is our gold medalist. Unique story. Pretty special too.

<https://olympics.nbcsports.com/2020/01/20/alyssa-liu-figure-skating-national-championship/>

Jason Brown tweet - <https://twitter.com/teamusa/status/1221181610718048257?s=12>

Itinerary

Fri Jan 17 - Diana

9:30am Depart Newark EWR via UA#4884
11:27pm Arrive Greensboro, NC GSO

- Beverly

8:30am Depart St Louis STL via UA#3817
11:37am Arrive Washington DC IAD-Dulles for plane change

12:30pm Depart Washington DC IAD-Dulles via UA#3838
1:52pm Arrive Greensboro, NC GSO

Rental Car Hertz

House 3010 Ardoch Drive, Greensboro, NC 27410
Evolve Vacation Rentals 877 818 1013 and 1014 travel@evolvevacationrental.com

From www.VRBO.com/760671ha

Renovated Family Home 6 Mi. to Downtown Greensboro - 5.9 mi to Greensboro center - House 1360 sq. ft., Bedrooms: 3, Bathrooms: 2

From listing: Nestled in a quiet neighborhood, this newly remodeled 3-bedroom, 2-bath Greensboro getaway is the perfect Heartland host! The property boasts brand new furnishings, a spacious sunroom and a large yard for entertaining. A quick 6-mile trip away, downtown plays host to dozens of local attractions, including the University of North Carolina, Friendly Center and Revolution Mill. Even closer to home, check out the Greensboro Science Center and Country Park!

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Master Bedroom: Queen Bed | Bedroom 2: Queen Bed | Bedroom 3: Full Bed, Futon

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Find even more shopping and dining opportunities at the Friendly Center, an open-air shopping mall 5 miles from home.

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- Great Greensboro location - Situated in a quiet residential area, yet only 6 miles from downtown attractions!*
- Nearest Major Airport: Piedmont Triad International Airport (~6 miles away)*

Mon Jan 20

Ice Skating Competition from January 20-26, 2020 with added practice schedule in file

Location: Coliseum Complex at 1921 W. Gate City Boulevard

Tue Jan 21

12:00pm Junior Pairs Short Program – Session 1
2:00pm Junior Men Short Program – Session 2
8:15pm Junior Rhythm Dance – Session 3

Wed Jan 22

9:00am Junior Ladies Short Program – Session 4
11:45am Junior Men Free Skate – Session 5
2:45pm Junior Pairs Free Skate – Session 6
8:45pm Junior Free Dance – Session 7

Thu Jan 23

11:00am Junior Ladies Free Skate – Session 8
4:30pm Senior Pairs Short Program – Session 9
7:30pm Senior Ladies Short Program – Session 10

Fri Jan 24

4:30pm Senior Rhythm Dance – Session 11
6:30pm Opening Ceremonies and Senior Ladies Free Skate – Session 12

Sat Jan 25

1:30pm Senior Men's Short Program – Session 13

4:00pm Hall of Fame Reception at The Terrace to 6:30pm – tickets by Beverly
Welcome the new U.S. Figure Skating Hall of Fame members at the Hall of Fame Reception on Saturday, Jan. 25 from 4-6:30 p.m. at The Terrace. The 2020 class of Meryl Davis and Charlie White, Kimmie Meissner and Kathy Casey will be introduced and remembered for all they've given to the sport. Tickets are \$65, which include two drink tickets and food.

6:00pm Senior Pairs free Skate – Session 14
9:30pm Senior Free Dance – Session 15

Sun Jan 26

2:30pm Senior Men's Free Skate – Session 16
7:30pm Skating Spectacular – Session 17

Mon Jan 27 – Diana and Beverly

1:05pm Depart Greensboro NC GSO via UA#4884
3:00pm Arrive Newark EWR

- Beverly

3:35pm Depart Newark EWR via UA#5016
5:41pm Arrive St Louis STL

Tourist ideas:

International Civil Rights Center and Museum (closed Sunday)
Governor Morehead's Blandwood Mansion
Weatherspoon Art Museum

Ambleside Gallery

Botanical Gardens and Arboretum

<https://vacationidea.com/destinations/best-things-to-do-in-greensboro-nc.html>

Hotels offered by Skating group: Sheraton Four Seasons at \$195, Double Tree at \$125 and Holiday Inn Greensboro for \$150. Or Sheraton Suites to inquire at 800 242 6556 and ask for "US Figure Skating Room Block"

Greensboro Coliseum Complex

Greensboro, North Carolina to Host 2020 U.S. Figure Skating Championships U.S. Figure Skating Figure Skating

U.S. Figure Skating today announced the selection of Greensboro, North Carolina, as the host city for the 2020 U.S. Figure Skating Championships, January 20-26, 2020. The Greensboro Coliseum Complex will again serve as the host venue. This marks the third time that Greensboro has been chosen to host the U.S. Championships in the last decade (2011, 2015, 2020). The annual event, held since 1914, is the nation's most prestigious figure skating event, with past champions including Michelle Kwan, Kristi Yamaguchi, Brian Boitano and Scott Hamilton. Champions will be crowned in ladies, men's, pairs and ice dance at the championship and junior levels of the U.S. Figure Skating competitive structure. The National High Performance Developmental Team Camp for juvenile, intermediate and novice athletes will be held in nearby Morrisville, North Carolina, Jan. 26–29, 2020. "Greensboro did an outstanding job in hosting our U.S. Championships in 2011 and 2015," U.S. Figure Skating Executive Director David Raith said. "Our skaters and our fans had high praise for the local organizing committee and how they worked to make our marquee event special. We look forward to returning to Greensboro."

All-Event Ticket Packages for the 2020 U.S. Figure Skating Championships go on sale today. Weekend Ticket Packages and individual tickets will go on sale in 2019. "We are excited to be selected to host the U.S. Figure Skating Championships again in 2020," said Hill Carrow, chairman of North Carolina 2020, the local organizing committee for the event. "We will be working to top our excellent ratings as a previous host. In particular, we will be focused on attracting large and enthusiastic crowds of spectators to support the outstanding U.S. Figure Skating athletes who are among the best figure skaters in the world." 12/20/2018 Greensboro, North Carolina to Host 2020 U.S. Figure Skating Championships - U.S. Figure Skating Fan Zone

<https://usfigureskatingfanzone.com/news/2018/11/27/greensboro-north-carolina-to-host-2020-us-figure-skating-championships.aspx?print=true> 12/2/2

The 2011 U.S. Championships marked the first time that the event was held in North Carolina in the competition's almost-100-year history. For the event in 2015, the Greensboro Coliseum Complex unveiled a \$24 million renovation that included new seating, a huge video board and new restrooms. SportTravel magazine named the 2015 U.S. Championships "Sports Event of the Year" and "Best Amateur Multi-Sport or Multi-Discipline Event." The 2020 U.S. Championships will be broadcast live on NBC and streamed live on the Figure Skating Pass on NBC Sports Gold. Recent U.S. Championships were held in Saint Paul, Minnesota (2016), Kansas City, Missouri (2017) and San Jose, California (2018). The 2019 GEICO U.S. Figure Skating Championships are set for Jan. 18- 27, 2019, in Detroit. To purchase All-Event Ticket Packages, to receive 2020 U.S. Figure Skating Championships news and ticket alerts, and for more information, visit www.ncskate2020.com.

Other attendees:

Nancy Porter at DoubleTree Hotel, seating at Section 125, Row GG, Seat 14

Diana and Beverly at Section 127, Row B, Seats 13 and 14