



## Empire Halloween Skate (Weekend!) 2014

Dates: Friday, October 31, 2014 to Sunday, November 2, 2014  
Time: Friday – 6:00PM, Saturday – 9:30AM, Sunday – 9:30AM  
Hosted by: Rick Trager, Peter McKiernan and David Kay



We had so much fun at the Big Apple Roll that we'd love for you to join us again for our always memorable Halloween Skate from Manhattan to the Village of Sleepy Hollow, NY and the Old Dutch Church where the remains of the Headless Horseman's body lie (he apparently still searches for his head each evening).

This is also a huge weekend in New York City so we've decided to take in two other major events -- The Greenwich Village Halloween Parade on Friday Night and the New York City Marathon on Sunday morning.

Dates: Friday, October 31 – Sunday, November 2.

Friday Night: NYC Greenwich Village Halloween Parade  
Saturday: The Main Event – Sleepy Hollow Skate  
Sunday: The NYC Marathon!

Friday Night – Meet up at 6:00PM at COLUMBUS CIRCLE entrance to Central Park at 59th St. Instead of skating in the parade, we will skate down the Hudson River Greenway until we reach Greenwich Village. There, skaters can choose to watch the parade and/or skate around the village and take in the show. Skates or not, if you haven't attended the parade in Greenwich Village, it is definitely a must see.



Feel free to spend as much time as you like in Greenwich Village. We may suggest a location for a group nightcap, but the plan is to lead skaters out of the neighborhood to a location that suits a majority of the skaters at a reasonable hour so that there is an opportunity to rest up for the Saturday skate. (For those that are having too much fun and wish to sleep in, we will suggest a way to join the skaters in the Bronx or Westchester County the next morning)

Saturday Morning – 9:30am -- Group-up at COLUMBUS CIRCLE entrance to Central Park at 59th St.

OR...

Join the skate at 125th Street and the Hudson River Greenway at @10:30AM

Then join us as we head north from Manhattan to chase down the Headless Horseman, the fictional character from Washington Irving's classic story, *The Legend of Sleepy Hollow*. The skate route will take us north along the Hudson River and on a segment of the South County Trail (The old Harlem-Putnam Railway) to the historic town of Sleepy Hollow, NY. We have chosen a route that keeps us on bike trails for more than half of the trip. If the trees hold the leaves like last year, we should be able to skate as planned. If not, we have an alternate route.

We begin the skate with the trails of Riverside Park and the Hudson River Greenway until we reach the GW Bridge and The Little Red Lighthouse. From there, we will skate up to and alongside the Henry Hudson Parkway and through the trails of Inwood Hill Park until we cross the Henry Hudson Bridge into Riverdale in the Bronx. The skate will continue up Riverdale Ave until we reach the City of Hills - Yonkers - where we will access the newly-paved South County Trailway. After approximately 5 miles on this trail, we will leave the trail in Hastings on the Hudson so that we can explore the Hudson River villages of Westchester County as we roll our way north to Sleepy Hollow. In the village of Irvington, we will visit an American architectural gem – The Lyndhurst Castle. On display on the grounds is the Halloween artwork of the children of the local elementary school. We'll end our skate at the Old Dutch Church (the 2nd oldest in New York, used as far back as 1640 by the earliest Dutch settlers) and the Sleepy Hollow Cemetery where "Headless Horseman" author Washington Irving is buried. A professional storyteller offers repeat performances of the Irving story inside the church.

There has been increased interest in the village of Sleepy Hollow since the premiere of the TV show. Expect a very busy and energetic village the day after Halloween. [Click here for events](#). You are welcome to stay on in Sleepy Hollow for the evening and, if you do, the haunted mayhem of the Horseman's Hollow and the breathtaking display of the Great Jack O'Lantern Blaze are recommended. Reservations for both are necessary and local hotels are available. The celebrated Stone Barns restaurant for a Sunday brunch would be a treat.

After we have explored the church and cemetery grounds, we will return to Beekman Avenue (Sleepy Hollow's Main Street) for food, refreshments and some fun with costumes. Please bring money and footwear.



After we have enjoyed the sites, food and refreshments, we'll return to Manhattan on Metro North's Hudson line which runs along the Hudson River. The hardier may wish to skate back via White Plains and then head back down further inland.

This is a 28-30 mile skate. It is not a skate for beginners, but intermediate skaters should be able to keep up. Skaters must be comfortable skating on hills and in traffic. We should be able to maintain an intermediate speed along much of the level terrain on the pathways. There are a few challenging up-hills, but a nice long downhill is the reward in Yonkers just before we enter the South County Trail. Stops to rest and refresh will be as frequent as necessary to make the miles enjoyable including a beer garden in Yonkers.

For the weary, we hope to have two volunteers to drive sag wagons like last year. In addition, the Metro North train lines and the Westchester Bee Line buses afford many opportunities for skaters to turn back or ride north to meet us at our destination.

Since we will have sag wagons, we recommend bringing a change of clothes to the meet-up locations and costumes if you desire. A few skaters donned wigs and other creative attire during the skate, but skating in full costume is not recommended. Feel free to skate/stroll in costume once we reach the village. Last year one of the skaters put on a show by skating down Beekman Avenue in a headless horseman costume (Pete!!). There is no obligation but we may ask for a small \$5 donation to defray the costs of our volunteer SAG crew as well as refreshments.

Helmets and wrist guards are required and all other available protective gear is recommended. Footwear is required for the train and/or restaurant.

Bikers are welcome. If you want to come by bicycle, you have to have a bike permit for the train. You can get the lifetime \$5 permit the same day or before by downloading and filling out permit application at MTA bike webpage [www.mta.nyc.ny.us](http://www.mta.nyc.ny.us). Permit application and \$5 fee must be given to ticket or conductor staff.

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Saturday Night - There are many options in Tarrytown and Sleepy Hollow, including music and Halloween-themed events (yes, they like their Halloween [Click here for area events](#)). We hope to depart the village around 6PM and head back to the city where you can "probably" find 1 or 2 things to BOO!! We hope to dine as a group in Manhattan at a location to be determined.

Sunday Morning - We'll meet-up at Columbus Circle at 9:30AM. We will lead a skate around Manhattan with a plan to see the elite runners up close at least once and possibly twice just before they leave Manhattan for the Bronx, and just after they re-enter Manhattan. There are no

# Empire Skate Club of New York

great skate places, great skate people, great skate city



crowds on this part of the course and it is quite a thrill to be so close to the best runners. A late check-out is recommended for out-of town skaters as we will likely finish no earlier than noon.

For the moment, we do not have an event hotel. The demand for lodging this weekend is high. We are looking into a few properties where the rates are more reasonable. We recommend that you search for rooms in the meantime in hotels, hostels, abandoned buildings, etc. Reserve what is available and retain cancellation rights.

We are also asking NY skaters with extra room to help out. As of this announcement, Nancy advises that she can host two (2) skaters. She can be contacted on Facebook. One of the properties we are considering is the Jersey City Hyatt. A PATH Train station (Exchange Place) is next to the hotel and affords guests a short and inexpensive ride to Manhattan. Then it's a 1.7 mile skate to Columbus Circle from the 33rd St. PATH station. There is also a ferry a quarter mile away. The hotel is a 4-star property on the waterfront with great views of Manhattan. As of last week, the rates were 169.00 (non-refundable) and \$199.00 (refundable).

Check out our Meetup page for a Halloween Skate description with MANY live links to sights and attractions along the route and more....

<http://www.meetup.com/Empire-Skate-Club-of-New-York/events/206331312/>

Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/events/356388567859276/>