

IT'S BACK TO SCHOOL TIME!

# Red River Sirens' School House of Pain

## Chattanooga Roller Girls get schooled Aug. 18

By Tammy Dohner  
Leaf-Chronicle

CLARKSVILLE, Tenn. — Well into their second competitive roller derby season, the Red River Sirens' report card shows two wins and three losses. In June, they played against the Nashville Roller Girls Brawl Stars (B team) at Municipal Auditorium. Although the Sirens lost, they never gave up the fight against the more seasoned Nashville team. Last month, the Sirens lost by a slim six points to West Kentucky Rockin' Rollers in Paducah. Since the defeat in Paducah, coach Denis Gantner says the team is "working on fine-tuning and paying attention to the details."

The Sirens' next test, against Chattanooga Roller Girls, is 7 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 18 at Magic Wheels Skate Center, 1671 Fort Campbell Blvd. The bout is themed "School House of Pain" in recognition of kids packing up their backpacks to start a new school year. Spectators are invited to dress their inner nerd, band geek, jock or cheerleader for the occasion. Tickets are \$10 at the door and children ages 12 and younger are admitted free with a paying adult. Doors open at 6 p.m. and the action begins at 7 p.m. The band No, Ted, No! will perform at halftime. A beer garden will operate just outside the skating facility, and soft drinks and snacks will also be available.

The roller derby version of the school dance, the "after party," is after the bout at The Warehouse, 20 McClure St., Clarksville. Admission is \$10, and a \$3 discount will be given with a School House of Pain wristband.

Tammy Dohner is a writer, photographer, artist and former roller derby queen. Features Editor Stacy Leiser can be reached at [stacyleiser@theleaf-chronicle.com](mailto:stacyleiser@theleaf-chronicle.com) or 931-245-0720.



Jammers Shawn "Knotty By Nature" Parson and Sarah "Redrum Ridinghood" wait for the whistle during Red River Sirens roller derby practice on Aug. 13. THE LEAF-CHRONICLE/TAMMY DOHNER

### SCHOOL HOUSE OF PAIN

**WHEN:** Doors open 6 p.m., action begins 7 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 18

**WHERE:** Magic Wheels, 1672 Fort Campbell Blvd.

**COST:** \$10, children ages 12 and younger are admitted free with a paying adult. A portion of the proceeds benefits NWHS Band Booster Club.

**ONLINE:** [clarksvillerollerderby.com](http://clarksvillerollerderby.com)

## Derby heats up, helps out

By Tammy Dohner  
Leaf-Chronicle

CLARKSVILLE, Tenn. — Red River Sirens roller derby skaters in full safety gear — knee pads, elbow pads, wrist guards, mouth-guard and helmet — filtered onto the wooden floor at Magic Wheels Skate Center. It was Monday at 6 p.m., their first of several practices of the week.

During one of many sprint drills, head coach Denis Gantner, shouted to the skaters, "Tomahawk stop on the whistle!" On his whistle blast, skaters spun 180 degrees to a stop before resuming skating in the opposite direction. After a water break, it was time to scrimmage.

Similar scenes are played out at practice spaces all over the country. Roller derby is hotter than ever these days. Around the world, teams are popping up. According to the Women's Flat Track Derby Association, there was one American roller derby league in 2001, 50 in 2005, and over 1,000 in 2011. Rollersports (including roller derby) are on the list of eight sports being considered for inclusion in the 2020 Olympics.

The growth of roller derby can be seen right here in Clarksville. With what began as a handful of skaters in the spring of 2010, Clarksville Roller Derby League's Red River Sirens team is now a maturing, conditioned, competitive team of 48 skaters. A second team, not affiliated with Red River Sirens, also formed in Clarksville.

The Red River Sirens reach out to the community beyond roller derby fans by giving some of their proceeds from each bout to local causes. They also have non-derby events like the Roy G. Biv for the Kids Poker Run starting 11:30 a.m. Saturday Aug. 25 at The Bent Wrench Roadhouse, 4724 Ashland City Road. Find all the details about their second annual benefit poker run — for all types of motorcycles — in the Aug. 24 edition of Go.

### ROY G. BIV FOR KIDS POKER RUN

**WHEN:** Registration 10:30 a.m. Saturday, Aug. 25, bikes out at 11:30 a.m., back by 2:30 p.m.

**WHERE:** Begins and ends at The Bent Wrench Roadhouse, 4724 Ashland City Road

**COST:** \$15 Registration per motorcycle, \$5 for participating backseat passenger, includes one poker hand and post-ride party; Additional poker hands are \$5.

**CALL:** 931-362-4774

**We Support Ft. Campbell**

**Week of the Eagles**

**931.906.8877**

107 FRANKLIN ST. • CLARKSVILLE, TN

MILITARY DISCOUNTS W/ID

Visit [www.stedhouse.net](http://www.stedhouse.net) for more info