**Wasatch Figure Skating Club Member Coaches**

**Karel Kovar**

Weber County Ice Sheet Skating Director/Learn To Skate USA Supervisor – Coaching and choreography since 1989 in Slovakia, Leningrad, Germany, and Minnesota. Completed USFSA Senior Freestyle, Gold Figures, and Gold Pairs. Placed 2nd four years at Czechoslovakian National championships in singles and pairs. Graduate of the Institute of Physical Culture, Leningrad Russia Sport University with emphasis in sports medicine, choreography, and off-ice conditioning. International competitor and professional show skater with Holiday on Ice, Disney on Ice and Sun Valley ice shows. Performed in the 2002 Opening and Closing Olympic Ceremonies.

**Letitia Ahrensback**

Coaching figure skating since 2004. Experience teaching choreography since 1999. Completed USFSA Intermediate Moves in the Field and Intermediate Freestyle. Experience in various dance styles and techniques. Specializes in Choreography and Artistry, Freestyle Moves in the Field, Basic Skills and Off-Ice. Experience in early childhood education since 1997.

**Hiroe Kakisawa**

Professional show skater for 6 years with Disney On Ice. Also performed for Tokyo Disneyland in Tokyo, Japan and cruise ship shows. Trained in Yokohama, Japan, and was a competitive skater for 15 years. Competed on all levels on the Japanese team and in 1998 became a Novice National Medalist. Competed with the Japanese National Team, Junior and Senior levels. Participated in the Junior Grand Prix of Canada in 2004, and skated in many other international figure skating championships. Pairs skater with husband, John McKinnon. Fluent in English and Japanese. Specializes in all levels and disciplines of figure skating.

**Amanda Kovar**

Coaching and choreography experience since 1990 in Minnesota, Wisconsin and Michigan. Completed USFSA Gold Freestyle, 7th Figure test and Gold Dance. Placed 5th in gold round and U.S. National Precision Championships. Professional show skater for four years with Disney on Ice performing principal and understudy roles in pairs. Performed and trained with the Minnesota School of Ballet for six years. Five years Power skating experience with figure skating and numerous hockey teams. Performed in the 2002 Opening and Closing Olympic Ceremonies.

**Janusz John McKinnon**

Figure skating coach since 1996. Professional show skater for 12 years with Disney on Ice. Skated in the opening and closing ceremonies for the 2002 Salt Lake Olympic Games. Pairs skater with wife, Hiroe Kakisawa, and starred in Disney On Ice’s Lion King as Simba and Nala in the show. Skated competitively for 19 years. Regional champion, qualifier for Junior Nationals and two time medalist at Collegiate Nationals. Completed USFSA Gold Freestyle test and Gold Moves in the Field test. Also passed USFSA Novice Pairs Test. Specializes in all levels and disciplines of figure skating.

**Trent Thueson**

Special Needs Program Coordinator – Coaching since 2005. Competitive skater for 15 years, placing 10th in nation in Intermediate pairs. Specializes in jumps, spins and stroking. Works with special needs skaters as The Ice Sheet Special Needs Program Coordinator

**Kelsey Ward**

Coaching since 2001 for Learn to Skate and private lessons. Regional and National Competitor at the Senior Level. 2006-2007 National Collegiate Bronze Medalist in Moves in the Field and Freestyle. Solo performer in multiple ice shows. Experience in modern dance and ballet. Specializes in Freestyle, Moves in the Field, Choreography, Basic Skills, and Off-ice training. 4th grade teacher in Layton.