

A Part of History

Story & photos
by DAVE WESCOTT

In November I had the privilege of helping Dave Loverock and the crew from JetIce work on the Presidential Election 2008 Ice Rink at Rockefeller Center in New York City.

There was no TV magic here, just some long days and blue and red mesh logo material to get the effect that NBC wanted. I was amazed at the thousands of people who were in the area by the time it was over. It looked like New Years Eve, there were so many people celebrating Election Day!

When all was said and done, we had a great night!



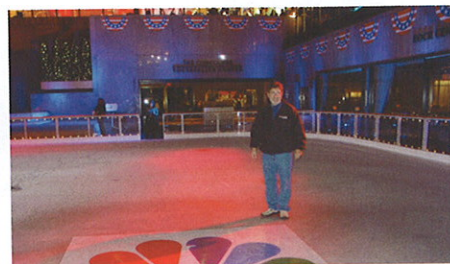
The outline of the states was installed a week earlier by George Arnaoutis of JetIce.



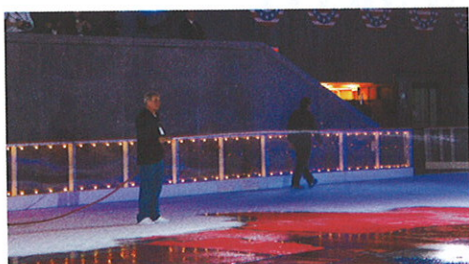
The rink had public skating going on it right up to 4:00 pm that day.



Organizing the states proved difficult as final voting results were being decided and called to us in no particular order.



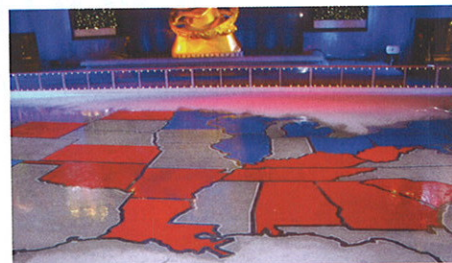
Here is George Arnaoutis in front of the NBC News logo. NBC pays for the rink rental.



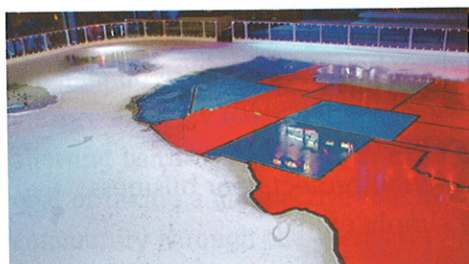
Dave Loverock kept the logo area wet to create a bright surface for the telecast.



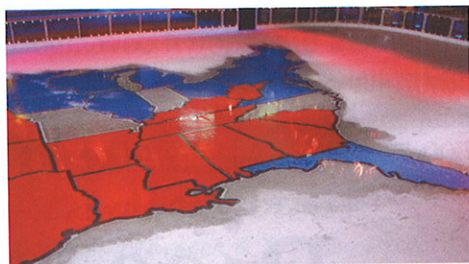
Time to get started with rink manager Jay Fruzia and Al Brand.



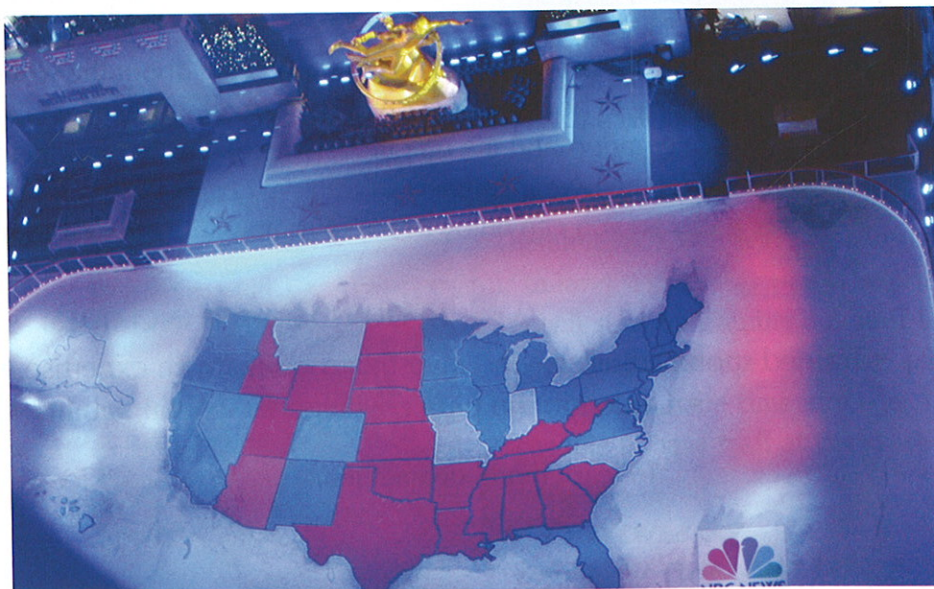
We're rolling now! Luckily the weather cooperated that night, cool and no rain!



Almost done! Western U.S.



Almost done! Eastern U.S.



At midnight many states were still not decided and a few never got decided for a few days. I managed to get a security guard to let me take this picture from a building across the street. Pretty cool!