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WHAT'S HAPPENING

RUTLAND RECREATION DEPARTMENT

Register on-line at rutlandrec.com or stop by our new offices at 16 North Street Extension, Rutland, for any of the following camps

FLIP SIDE SKATEPARK

Day Camps, July 21 – 25, July 28 – Aug. 1 and Aug. 18 – Aug. 22, 9 a.m.- noon. Beginner to Intermediate, ages 6 and up. Whether you're just learning how to skateboard or you're already riding the mini-ramp, we can help you improve your skills. Learn new techniques and tricks on ramps, rails and jumps with one-on-one teaching time, group games and fun activities. $80 Resident, $91 Non-Resident, $10 late registration fee applies 10 days prior to start of camp.

Also, join our Flip Side Skateboard Travel Camp. July 14 – 18 or Aug. 11 – 15. Must be at least intermediate level for ages 8 and up. Hit the best skate parks in Vermont and beyond. Each day we travel to a new skate spot; from 12 foot vertical prams to cement bowls and everything in between. There will be one-on-one teaching time, group games, fun activities and video analysis. Campers will depart by 9 a.m. and return by 6 p.m. each day. $170 Resident, $181 Non-Resident. $10 late registration fee applies 10 days prior to start of camp.

GOLF CAMP

July 28 – Aug. 1, Ages 5 – 7, 9 to 9:45 a.m., Pinewoods Golf Range. Led by PGA professional Tpm Stevens, this camp will focus on fundamentals, swing theory, rules and etiquette. Curriculum will be geared toward the beginning to intermediate player. Participants will receive a 2014 season membership to Pinewoods Golf Range, included in the enrollment fee. If you can't join us for camp, Tom is available for private lessons of all ability levels. Connect with Steve directly at 802-779-6232 or tstevens@pga.com. Cost is $49 Resident, $60 Non-Resident. $10 late registration fee applies after July 18.

BASKETBALL CAMP

Mini-Stars, boys and girls entering grades 1 – 3. July 21 – 25, 9 a.m. to noon at the MSJ Gym. This promises to be an exceptionally fun week for your budding basketball star. Join Joan Olson and Rutland igh School-coaches and players for a great week of basketball. Fees, $68 Resident, $79 Non-Resident. $10 late registration fee applies after July 11.

WALK, WAG, RUN SERIES

July 29. Grab your two or four-legged friends and join us for a trail walk or run around the beautiful CSJ campus. 2.5K, 5K and kids dash options available. Sponsored by Rutland Regional Medical Center Rehabilitation Services. Fee is $5 per person and FREE for kids in grades 12 and under. Registration opens at 5:30 p.m. and race starts at 6:30 p.m.

SUMMER SUNSET SERIES

12 at Pine Hill Park: 5K for Walkers and runners on Pine Hill trails, 6:30 p.m., $5 per person, Free for 12th grade and under

DROOPY PEDAL
Mountain Bike Series

July 21 and Aug. 18 at Pine Hill Park: 6-to-8 mile ride on trails throughout park, 6:30 p.m., $5 per person, free for 12th grade and under

PHOTO BY CHRISTOPHER THAYER

Kelsey Poljacik takes a shot at a short putt on the 9th hole.

Disc golf takes flight in Pittsford

By TOM HALEY
STAFF WRITER

PITTSFORD — The Pittsford Recreation Area is a gem. It is in a majestic setting enveloped by woods. It boasts baseball and softball diamonds, a swimming pool, a basketball court, a volleyball court, food concession and a gorgeous network of trails for walking or hiking.

But what gets as much use as anything and really sets this facility apart from others in small towns is an 18-hole disc golf course that is free to play as long as you bring your own discs.

You can rent discs for $5 each.

It was the concern of Recreation Director Randy Adams that the layout might detract from the area's other offerings or get in the way of them, but he has been pleased that has not been the case. The course is almost entirely cut through the woods, not interfering with any other activity while giving the disc golfers a pleasant venue with plenty of cover during hot days.

The course design was by residents Terry Poor and Tony Freson.

Adams said Poor and Freson are fervid disc golfers who were traveling all the way to Barre to play before laying out the course in their community.

"They came to us and presented the ideas," Adams said.

"It's really our most popular activity."

And why not. It's free. It's a walk through the woods. And it's an activity offering some competition if you choose to play against others.

"It's frustrating. It's definitely golf."

Dave Lewis,
disc golfer from Mendon

Or you can simply play the course as Mendon's Dave Lewis did on a recent weekday morning. Lewis came with a bag slung over his shoulder holding his own discs.

Lewis said the sport has the same things attached to it the game of regular golf does.

"It's frustrating. It's definitely golf," he said.

There is another similarity between disc golf and regular golf: Addiction.

You can become obsessed with trying to lower your score or beat your partner.

"But it's a lot cheaper than golf," Lewis said.

Both games boast the same sets of strategies and skills. Lewis had a handful of disks as he tried to execute a fade to avoid a tree in order to set himself up for a great second shot on a par 3 hole — the only hole of the 18 that is not really in the woods.

The course plays 5,027 feet from the white tees and 3,219 from the red tees. Par is 60.

Heather House, a former soccer and snowboard coach in the area, proposes disc golf with a twist. Her idea is a bike-and-throw or hike-and-throw concept with holes stationed along, say the new Creek Path, in Rutland. You can walk or bike point-to-point, playing disc golf along the way.

There is no league for disc golf at the Pittsford layout, but Adams believes it would not be difficult to start one.

Lewis plays in a league at one of the two courses in Killington.

There are a couple of tournaments played at the Pittsford course. One is a fund raiser for the library and Adams runs another in the fall to benefit the recreation department.

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PHOTO BY CHRISTOPHER THAYER

Pittsford Recreation Director Randy Adams, center, is pictured with Andrew Levandowski and Kelsey Poljacik behind of one of the newly constructed disc golf catch basins at the Pittsford Recreation Area .

PHOTO BY CHRISTOPHER THAYER

Andrew Levandowski puts some English on his shot from about 30 feet.