

HAVING FUN!

From board games to bridge BY JEN OTTERSON

It has been said that the community that works hard plays hard. Since the earliest civilizations, games have served as a way for communities to relax, to bond, and even to work out their differences. The hard working members of the Oxford Hills area find a wide range of activities to help them unwind and spend time with their neighbors. For individuals or teams, our community offers something for every taste, from the traditional to the somewhat unusual.

If a more sophisticated morning's diversion is your cup of tea, join the Oxford Hills Duplicate Bridge Club at the **Fare Share Commons** in Norway. The group meets from 9:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. every Friday. A small fee covers refreshments. Organizer Les Buzzell says that a partner is always guaranteed to anyone who arrives without one. The group belongs to the American Contract Bridge League, but Buzzell says that individuals don't have to be ACBL members to play. "The only requirement is that you have to love to play bridge."

Also on Main Street in Norway, game aficionados can play Scrabble, chess, or backgammon while enjoying coffee and a muffin at the **Café Nomad**. For a light game of chance, join the American Legion for bingo Monday nights at 6:30 in their smoke-free hall. At The Dragon's Lair, players can meet for a game of Magic: The Gathering, or play one of the store's board games. The store encourages good sportsmanship and promotes games that require strategy, cooperation, and creativity.

Scott Buffington, proprietor of Crazy Eights Billiards in South Paris playing in the weekly Eight Ball League



Photos: (top) A lively game of "Settlers of Catan" at The Dragon's Lair in downtown Norway; (bottom) Enjoying a game of Bridge at the Fare Share Commons



There are many opportunities for those who don't care for cards and board games, or who just prefer to move around while they play. Creative Recreations in South Paris is an eighteen-hole disc golf course, and a great way to spend an afternoon trying something new.

Owner Andrew Shaskan explains that disc golf is "just like regular golf." The difference is that instead of hitting a ball into a hole, players throw a disc into a basket. Like golf clubs, the discs come in different styles: some are designed for distance, some for accuracy, and some combine the two. The Creative Recreations course is a bit rougher than the average golf course, going up and down hills and through the woods. "Healthy, good exercise," Shaskan calls it.

Every good golf course has a pro shop. Creative Recreations' features tie-dyed sweat shirts and tees with the course's logo, candy, and sports drinks in addition to a wide range of discs. Course fees (\$3 per round or \$5 for the whole day) are paid on the honor system on weekdays when Shaskan is not at the course.

The area also offers a variety of courses for a traditional game of golf. The **Paris Hill Country Club** is a nine-hole course on the summit of historic Paris Hill. Another nine-hole course, the **Norway Country Club** on Waterford Road,

overlooks Lake Pennesseewassee and the surrounding hills. The eighteen-hole championship golf course at **The Bethel Inn and Country Club** was designed to highlight the natural beauty of the area.

The course at **Oxford Plains Fun Park** on Route 26 in Oxford offers nine holes of mini-golf for a day of family fun. After playing a round, test your driving skills in a go-kart, play a game of pool or air hockey, or enjoy the arcade. For more family-friendly games, try **Hobbs Lucky Lanes** in South Paris. Hobbs features fourteen bowling lanes, a snack bar, and an arcade. If you're looking for a night out without the kids, try **Crazy Eight Billiards** in South Paris. Crazy Eight hosts a straight pool league on Sundays and an eight ball league on Wednesdays. There's a DJ on Friday and Saturday nights and a full schedule of bands and comedians.

Games allow us to deepen relationships while enjoying a light-hearted rivalry. Through our recreation, we can bond with friends and co-workers and release the stress of the day. Whether you prefer your amusements in the form of a rowdy night with friends or a more civilized morning's leisure, you will find it in the Oxford Hills. ■