



The Cats' Callum Dixon fires one across the plate under the lights at Hippach Field. (Dave Hart photo)

Post season alive for local Babe Ruth

By David Hart
Irregular Staff

FRANKLIN COUNTY — The post season for the two North Franklin Babe Ruth baseball teams continues this week with the North Franklin Cats developmental team (13-14 year olds) having a game tonight. There's also a high probability of continued post season game play if the Franklin County Rangers (14-15 year old) won on Tuesday.

The Cats lost their first game to the Daily Bulldogs at Hippach Field in double elimination format and then posted an elimination game win against the Wilton Lions to stay alive and advance. Wilton was eliminated from further contention.

With the win against the Lions, the Cats are in a mix with the Bulldogs and the Hannaford Stars who played each other on Tuesday without a loss.

The loser of that game will face an elimination game with the Cats at Hippach at 5:30 p.m. tonight. The winner of that game will head to the championship game(s) in the future.

The Rangers, with the best record in Franklin County Babe Ruth, needed to win only one game in their single elimination format to advance to the finals. The Rangers (#1) team plays the winner of AYS A's (#4) and the Farmington Falcons (#5).

If the Ranger succeeded, they'll play the winners of the Farmington Merchants (#3) and the Wilton Bears (#2) most likely at Mt. Abram. This game will represent the championship in a single elimination format.



CVOA members take GPS course

CARRABASSETT VALLEY — Two dozen CVOA members —from the somewhat savvy to the befuddled and bemused— pointed and plotted their way through a four-hour GPS course, June 13, hoping to answer the question: Where I am?

Braving fierce black flies and a steady rain, the intrepid navigators wandered around Sugarloaf's beginner terrain, eyes locked on their Garmin 72s, charting a course from lower Boardwalk to the Skidway lift shack over to the Superquad past the shuttle stop and back.

The wanderers knew they were "home" when the elephant icon chosen as the starting point flashed on the GPS screen with the welcoming words "arriving at your destination."

"Fun," said Nelson Camp of Carrabasset Valley, who organized the course for CVOA members.

Camp took a GPS course in Farmington last year sponsored by the State Department of Conservation, Maine Forest Service. He was so impressed, he asked District Forester Patty Cormier if she'd be willing to conduct a course for CVOA members. Cormier, who grew up skiing Sugarloaf, said she couldn't miss a chance to come back to the valley.

Cormier brought GPS units —and lots of patience— for the 24 CVOAers taking the course, most of them rank amateurs in the art of geo-positioning satellites.

Asked why they were taking the course, "students" mentioned boating navigation, hiking, hunting and "curiosity" as their reasons.

By the time the course was over, everyone knew a lot more about the military-run satellite system in our skies that helps everyone from the Army to the census takers to foresters to hunters to hikers to lost travelers.

"I learned a lot," said JJ Clements, who has a GPS navigator on her cell phone but had never used one "in the woods."

After explaining the concept, Cormier helped her "students" set-up their GPS devices inside the Sugarloaf Hotel before venturing outside to plot courses. Participants learned about trilateration, waystations, routes, tracks, mapping software, easing into the lingo with phrases like MOB (man overboard, which, roughly translated, means "show me how to get back to where I was).

"A great course. I really enjoyed it," said Bonnie Stagers.

"The best GPS course I have ever taken," said Neil Trask

Enthusiasm was so high that Cormier agreed to come back this fall and teach another beginner GPS course as well as a new course on Compass and Mapping for CVOA.

Any CVOA member interested in taking these CVOA fall courses should contact Camp at nacamp@redingtoneast.com.

More information about becoming a member of the Carrabasset Valley Outdoor Association can be found on the Web at www.cvoutdoors.com.

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