

Mid-Michigan Library League

Weekly Update

June 18, 2008



Game tournament draws teens to library

By Brian Keilen

Editor of the *Town Meeting*

<http://www.thetownmeeting.com/stories/061208/loc lk04.shtml>

J ALDEN - They had names like Joker, Fluffy and Bootz and they descended upon the Alden area on June 5. More specifically, they were teenagers who gathered for a video game tournament at the Helena Township Public Library.

The game of choice was Super Smash Brothers Brawl for Nintendo's Wii console, and the tournament drew a bevy of area teens, including Randall Robbins, 17, of Kalkaska.

"When I saw it, I was like 'man, that's so cool,'" Robbins said of first hearing about the library-sponsored tournament. "I thought it was a great idea."

The tournament offered teens the opportunity to connect using a shared passion: video games. Robbins usually gathers with three to four of his friends to play, he said, but they've never held a tournament. Thursday's tournament, which also featured Guitar Hero III open gaming, attracted nearly 20 teens and offered prizes to the top four places. And while those prizes were modest - a large pizza for first, a 12 pack of Coke for second - more than just prizes brought them, Library Director Sue Riegler said.

"It's the element of competition that draws them," she said.

Library-sponsored game tournaments are cropping up across the state as a way to connect to teens and young people. Already aware of the Traverse Area District Library's "TADL BATL" game tournaments, Riegler said the library was inspired to start their own after watching a presentation by the Ann Arbor District Library's Eli Neiburger at a Mid-Michigan Library League (MMLL) workshop.



Randall Robbins begins a round of Super Smash Brothers Brawl as Captain Falcon. His favorite characters are Jigglypuff and Pikachu. "I like to use out of the ordinary characters," he said.

Photo by Brian Keilen

Eager to pioneer programs, the MMLL purchased two Wii systems and the games for the tournaments. Helena Township Public Library is the first member to use them, a good try out, Riegler said.

"We hope to get teenagers into the library," she said. "We want to provide a service for them."

And the library hopes to continue providing that service. Two more tournaments are already scheduled for Thursday, June 12, and Thursday, June 19. Guitar Hero III will be the featured game on the 12th the June 19 tournament will have all ages competing in Mario Kart.

"They don't even have to check out books," Riegler said. "We wouldn't mind if they did, though."

The reaction among the participants seemed pretty positive. With school out for the summer, teens had more time for the tournament - and to prepare for it.

"I haven't got any sleep for the past two days," Robbins said. "We've been practicing a lot."

Member Library News:

From the Glen Lake Community Library Newsletter (Summer 2008):

The Inflation Busting Library

Hard to believe that a gallon of gas, or a loaf of bread, actually costs more than \$4.00 - as of today, that is. Inflation is a fact of modern economic life, but the current rate of price increases is downright shocking. In these volatile economic times, public libraries offer a welcome respite from skyrocketing prices. Looking at some basic figures illustrates this value. Let's start, of course, with books. The average cost of a new hardcover novel is now about \$27, up almost 40 percent over the past decade. During that same period, the cost of borrowing that book from our library has remained fixed - at \$0. Our movie collection reflects similar value. Feature films can be rented for \$1, as has been the case for nearly twenty years, while documentary films can be borrowed for no cost. Compare that to the rental and late fees from Blockbuster, or pay-per-view fees through cable and satellite providers. Music has also become a growing part of our operation, with CDs in various genres available to borrow for no charge. Free public Internet access, including wireless connectivity, is another hallmark of public libraries. Our only charge in this realm is for the cost of printing - 10 cents per page, just as it was in 1998. Of course, the library is susceptible to inflation in one sense. A decade ago, we checked out 14,000 items per year. Last year, we topped 25,000 checkouts. Perhaps inflation isn't an entirely negative phenomenon after all. If your budget seems a little too snug this summer, come get some relief from your local price-controlled public library.

David Diller, library director

Quote:

The illiterate of the 21st century will not be those that cannot read and write, but those who cannot learn, unlearn, and relearn - Alvin Toffler

MMLL Schedule and Upcoming Events:

August 14, 2008: Advisory Council Meeting: 10:00

August 28, 2008: MMLL Board of Trustees Meeting: 10:00

Joint meeting of the Board of Trustees and Advisory Council:

September 18, 2008: 10:00 a.m.

Location: Cadillac-Wexford Public Library

September 12, 2008: Celebrating Childhood Through the Magic of Puppets, Nature and Books!: 9:30 – 12:30

Presenter: Joyce Davis, Puppet Lady

Location: Cadillac Wexford Public Library

.3 CEUs

Cost: MMLL Member: \$20.00 per person Non-Member: \$30.00 per person

Registration: <http://www.mml.org/puppets.htm>

Current Number registered: 1

October 7, 2008: Black Belt Librarian: 9:00 – 4:00

Presenter: Warren Graham, nationally renowned security, safety and customer service consultant recognized for his unique approach to personal and professional safety.

Location: Traverse Area District Library

.6 CEUs

Cost: MMLL Member: \$25.00 per person Non-Member: \$35.00 per person

Registration: <http://www.mml.org/blackbeltlibrarians.htm>

Current Number registered: 12

October 15, 2008: Stress is a Laughing Matter: 9:30 – 12:30

Presenter: Ben Spitzer, Comedian and corporate presenter

Location: Cadillac Wexford Public Library

.3 CEUs

Cost: MMLL Member: \$20.00 per person Non-Member: \$30.00 per person

Registration: <http://www.mml.org/stress.htm>

Video preview: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1pOSjDTmgaQ>

Current Number registered: 8

November 5, 2008: MeL Databases Essentials Part A and B: 9:00 – 3:30

Location: Mid-Michigan Library League

.6 CEUs

Cost: MMLL Member: \$20.00 per person Non-Member: \$30.00 per person

Registration: <http://www.mml.org/melatabases.htm>

Current Number registered: 0

(Registration limited to 10)

November 11, 2008: A Lever and a Fulcrum: 9:00 – 4:30

Presenter, Charlene Ezell of the Extra Edge

Location: Cadillac Wexford Public Library

.6 CEUs

Cost: MMLL Member: \$25.00 per person Non-Member: \$35.00 per person

Registration: <http://www.mml.org/leverfulcrum.htm>
Current Number registered: 1