

Island Sports



Ben Schmidt prepares to take a ride the rail the Pickle Jam Rail Jam. Schmidt placed fourth at the event.

Photo by Stephanie Cotsonas

Snowboarders get early snow

By Stephanie H. Cotsonas

The snow arrived a little early for island snowboarders Ben Schmidt and Nate Pease, who headed up to Ski Market Underground in Warwick earlier this month for the Pickle Jam Rail Jam.

The snow didn't actually fall from the sky, but was brought in from local ice rinks as ice shavings and was packed around a metal rail in the parking lot of the snowboard shop.

The two islanders competed in the event and Schmidt placed fourth after advancing to the top ten and getting a second chance to ride. Schmidt was happy with his performance, but added, "It was my first time on my board since last winter."

The competition followed a "jam format" where participants get as many rides as possible in 30 minutes. A ramp was built so the riders could build up enough speed leading to the 25-foot-long rail and to simulate a snowboard park on a mountain.

Schmidt said he was happy with the rail and the take off gave him plenty of speed to attempt his tricks. "It took a couple of runs to get a feel for the rail, but I was happy as each attempt I tried to go faster and bigger." He finally nailed his best trick, a 270-degree board slide, which put him in fourth place.

Sara Grimley and her husband, Jim, of Underground organized the event and were happy with the turnout of about 30 competitors and 200 spectators. "The rail jam was a success and the weather could not have been more perfect," said Grimley.

There was free rail riding for all those competing and prizes for the top finishers included goggles, boots and snowboards.

Schmidt and Pease will continue to practice at Yawgoo Valley in Slocum and hone their skills on homemade backyard rails. They said they will definitely be attending the next event.

According to Sara, the next rail jam will be held Friday, Dec. 7, from 5 to 8 p.m. It will be a "Toys for Tots" event so all riders must bring a toy donation to participate.

Islanders who are interested in participating should call 737-2602.

Football ends season on winning note

By Stephanie H. Cotsonas

The North Kingstown High School football team capped their season with a win over South Kingstown on Thanksgiving Day at the University of Rhode Island.

Islander John Perrotti finished his high school career with a solid performance and was named defensive MVP of the game. He scored on a 1-yard touchdown run with a minute left to play to win the game.

The Skippers scored on their first drive. Quarterback Dave D'Errico capped a 12-play drive with an 8-yard touchdown run to give the Skippers a 6-0 lead.

The Rebels led 7-6 heading into the fourth quarter and added to their total when they scored another touchdown, giving them a 13-6 lead. D'Errico scored again on a 6-yard run and Perrotti ran the 2-point conversion in to give North the lead 14-13.

Perrotti scored North's last touchdown after South had taken a 19-14 lead. North's 20-19 victory over South was secured when Cord Lopez intercepted the pass on the final play of the game at the goal line.

When asked if he was happy with the team's performance head coach Keith Kenyon said, "Winning three of the last four games gave us confidence as a team and the kids were playing very well

at the end of the season. Even though we had our ups and downs this fall, our kids never quit and always played hard. I personally think that we played Hendricken and St. Ray's as tough as anyone in the state. I am very happy for our seniors who finished with a 6-5 winning record and an important victory in their last high school game."

Looking back on the season Kenyon said, "It was a successful year in many ways. We installed a new offense and lost several outstanding players to graduation. We had only eight returning varsity lettermen and were fairly young and inexperienced playing in the toughest division in the state. Sixteen of our kids earned

first year varsity letters which speaks to our youth."

Jamestown is well represented on the 2007 All Division teams. Perrotti was named 1st Team All Division, Ryan Morris was named 2nd Team All Division and Brian McDevitt was named to the 3rd Team All Division.

McDevitt and Morris have been chosen as two of the four 2008 captains. Commenting on next year, Kenyon said, "I believe that the foundation is set for success next season. We have 20 returning juniors and 12 varsity lettermen. The seniors have left us in good position for next year through their efforts this season and a win last Thursday. The kids are very excited to get going."

Frostbiters start sixth season

By John Horton

The frostbiters greeted and helped each other unload their Shellback dinghies from trucks and cars and launch them at the Conanicut Marina for the opening day of their sixth season of racing. Bill and May Munger provided for the use of the floats for the frostbiting winter sailing season.

Frostbiting, however, did not describe the day. The temperature was in the mid 40's with a steady 11-knot wind out of the

north under cloudy skies.

With a north wind, the race committee decided to start the races right off the floats, literally, by using the eastern most float as one end of the starting line. Race Committee Chair Dick Allphin, assisted by John Quinn, commuted in his lobster boat the 'Nancy B', only about 200 feet to tie up to the Marina's outer float. They tied a red racing buoy on the float for one end of the line and picked a lobster pot about 100 feet to the east for the other end. And, with the luxury of the big float space, the resourceful Dick Allphin appeared with two folding lawn chairs and the committee comfortably settled in to blow whistles and run the races. The windward mark selected was a mooring ball about 300 yards to the north, right next to the only sailboat left in the mooring field.

Even though the races could be run from the float, a race committee boat is still needed in case

See "Sailing" on next page

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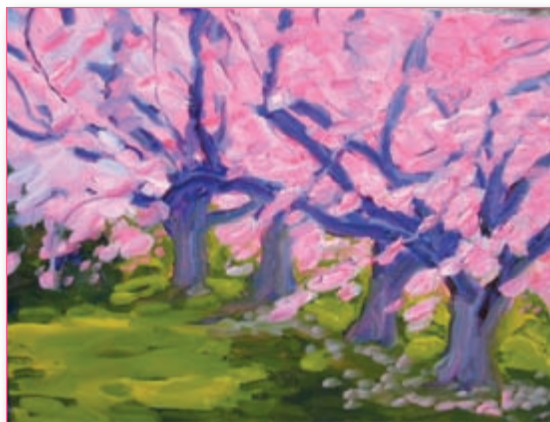
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jamestown fitness

In the spring of 2006, I joined Jamestown Fitness Center. Although an avid walker for most of my life, at the age of 65, I felt I needed to do more. After a year and a half at the fitness center, I wonder how much I have missed through the years by not doing this much earlier.

Today I no longer stiffen up after sitting for a period of time. I feel stronger and fitter, my posture is better, I am a happier person and life is brighter each day. Mostly I don't feel so vulnerable to growing older.

My blood pressure has dropped dramatically (including no longer taking medication) and my pulse rate is lower than it has been in years.

Thanks to Barbara Lundy for creating Jamestown Fitness – so very convenient for Jamestowners. Barbara maintains an excellent level of cleanliness and her equipment is always in good working order. She is helpful, encouraging, and always has a smile. Another bonus has been meeting friendly and committed people who regularly work out. Jamestown Fitness is definitely a great way to start my day.



Ginny Saunders — October 26, 2007

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