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What Others Say...

Washer Craze “Agitates” St. George islanders

By Lois Swoboda Apalachicola Times

We all know what vacationers do while visiting St. George Island. In addition to “just plain relax”, they mostly swim, sunbathe, eat seafood, collect seashells and do a little fishing. Since residents can do these things every day of the week, what the heck do they do for a diversion? How about “washer tossing.”

No, not the appliance that cleans your clothes – the small, round metal things that fit in pipes and such.

In May 2009 Apalachicola Times staff writer Lois Swoboda reported on an agitating “craze” that was sweeping the island. A “craze” so sedate in nature that even 89-year-old islander Phil Vitale could compete.

Swoboda wrote, “On Memorial Day, over 80 St. George Islanders met for the first ever Island Washer Tournament, held at the home of Richard Saucer. Washer toss is the new craze sweeping the island like a tropical storm. The arena for the game is a pair of wooden boxes joined by a 10-foot length of rope. Each box has three round holes. Players attempt to toss three-inch metal washers into a hole in one box while standing balanced on the other.

“Washer tossing is similar to horseshoes, although washer toss uses a more complicated scoring system that even experienced fans had trouble following. Free-flowing beverages may have contributed to the confusion.”

For you sports purists who always have to keep score, Jim Kemp and Richard Saucer won the crown.