

NORTHERN LAKE GEORGE PADDLE TENNIS COMES TO TICONDEROGA

Through a collaborative effort, led by the not-for-profit Ticonderoga Revitalization Alliance and Northern Lake George Paddle, LLC, platform tennis is coming to the Northern Lake George area starting in June at the new site next to Eddie's Restaurant on Route 9N. Northern Lake George Paddle will have a two-court platform tennis facility with a warming hut and viewing deck.

Platform Tennis, also known as paddle, combines the best elements of tennis, racquetball and squash, and is an easy to learn sport for players of all ages and abilities. It is the only outdoor racquet sport that is played year-round in colder climates. To find out more about it see <www.platformtennis.org>.

The official Grand Opening will be Friday, July 11, 2014 from 9 – 11 am. There will be free lessons and food for all. Participants should wear comfortable clothing and NLG Paddle will provide the equipment.

For July and August there will be introductory free play for everyone. Any adult can sign up for a court, borrow paddles and play between 10 am and 5 pm by registering in advance at the Golf Pro Shop at Ticonderoga Country Club. After 5 pm, guests can sign up for a court and borrow equipment from Eddie's Restaurant. All juniors must be accompanied by at least one adult. Donations will be graciously accepted and will support our youth leadership program called "Platform for Life".

"Platform for Life " is Northern Lake George Paddle's youth leadership program designed to inspire and impassion area youth through positive mentoring and job training. Patty Hogan and Andrea McDonald started this youth initiative last year, placing three Ticonderoga 8th graders in a three week farm/job training program in Shelburne, Vermont. This year, the Platform for Life Coaches team has expanded and to include Dave and Beth Iuliano from Eddie's Restaurant, George Mackey from Ticonderoga Country Club and Jay Wells from Five Nations Golf.

According to promoter, Patty Hogan, " Our profits will help fund an after school Paddle Program for kids and will also go towards youth efforts in the community including our own "Platform for Life" Leadership program. Our full success relies on our ability to continue to generate funds to support our community's kids. If you love sports, the outdoors and programs that inspire kids, please consider making a tax deductible contribution!"

Northern Lake George Paddle, LLC was formed as a partnership between The Ticonderoga Revitalization Alliance and Dave Iuliano, Jane Ingrey and Patty Hogan to build and maintain the platform tennis facility. All LLC members have committed their profits to fund youth leadership programs in the Ticonderoga area.

Thanks to our community volunteers, led by Scott Hearburg, Rick Bartlett and Doug Ross, our viewing deck and warming hut will be available by the end of July. Scott helped design the project, raise funds and recruit the most amazing group of volunteers. We are extremely grateful for the outpouring of support from these volunteer leaders and the many other community members who have turned out to help us build this project.

Contributions can be made through the Ticonderoga Revitalization Alliance (TRA), a 501(c)3 organization. A check, payable to TRA with the notation "Paddle", can be sent to PO Box 247, Ticonderoga, NY 12883.