

Kids learn yo-yo skills

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and wait for an animal to wander past. The stone, attached to a string would be dropped, ideally upon the animal's skull. After the prey was killed, the hunters would roll the huge ancient yoyo up the hill. Eventually, a version of the weapon was turned into a child's toy.
The scaled down weapon made its way to the U.S. in 1939 when Donald Duncan brought the toy and 75 Philippine yoyo masters to this country. Duncan paid for the men's room and board in return for their expertise in promoting the new toy.
Of the original 75, one man continues to demonstrate the yoyo. For 41 years, Gus Somera demonstrated the toy full time. Now he shows off the toy part-time in the Chicago area, according to Ben Baker, manager of sales and marketing services for Duncan Toys in Barbo, Wis.

WHEN it became prohibitive to use ivory, wooden yoyos were introduced. Generations of young yoyo enthusiasts grew up with the wooden toys which usually acquired a satisfying number of dents.

Wooden yoyos have swung into the past. Plastic yoyos are de rigueur.

Under the guidance of a knowledgeable operator, the plastic yoyos can imitate spaghetti being devoured or can display the suicide trick. The latter gives the illusion that the yoyo is swung around the neck. A flip of the hand sends the yoyo spinning around the operator's ears and back into the palm.

For those who would be satisfied with less ambitious but still showy tricks with the yoyo, there are some basic guidelines to keep in mind.

The yoyo string should reach from the ground to the operator's waist or to an inch above the waist. To insure a longer spin at the end of the line and a snapper return, make a muscle before throwing down the toy, LaPlante advised.

For those who are committed to practicing the craft, there will be a national yoyo contest conducted during the year. Citywide competition for the Farmington-Farmington Hills area will be at 7 p.m., June 23 in the Farmington YMCA on Farmington Road near 12 Mile.



Going by the book

That's how Christine Carnacchi, 9, found was the best way to get along when tackling a yo-yo recently at the Farmington library. (Staff photo by Randy Bors)

Golf league tees off in May

A senior citizens golf league for men will begin the first Friday in May at the San Marino Golf Course, Farmington Hills.

The program is offered to all men 60 years and older. Fee is \$2 for nine holes. Sessions begin at 9 a.m. and the league will run through August. The course is located at 2634 Halsted, between Grand River and Twelve Mile.

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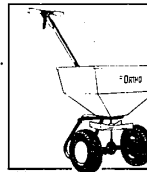
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