

stopping points

Timber Ridge RV & Recreation Resort

TRAVERSE CITY, MICH.

BY LEE BARNATHAN

Ristin Levesque, co-owner of Timber Ridge RV & Recreation Resort, can't help but feel excited as she surveys the resort's 80 acres. Although the season doesn't begin until May 1, Levesque and her partner, Gordon Waggoner, have spent more than \$1 million in improvements and can't wait to show off their third season as owners.

Among the upgrades, 80 sites have become pull-throughs, and full hookups have been added to 50 sites. A new septic tank has been installed. Levesque and Waggoner have created a special seasonal RV area, where guests who stay for the season (May 1 through Oct. 30) enjoy 50-amp service, cable TV and concrete pads, among other goodies.

The banquet hall is 100 feet larger, and Levesque offers event tents to rent for parties, reunions and

weddings. ("We do a lot of weddings," she reports.)

The resort has plenty of wooded spaces, perfect for mountain biking and hiking in the summer and cross-country skiing and snowmobiling in the winter. Although the resort's RV section is closed in winter, many RVers come and rent one of 21 cabins. The winterized cabins are located closest to newly insulated and heated bathhouses.

In winter, Timber Ridge has groomed trails that are lighted for night skiing. There is direct access to the premier Vasa trail system, with more than 60 kilometers (37.28 miles) of groomed trails. Timber Ridge trails lead right to the race trails at Pere Marquette State Forest, where a national cross-country ski race takes place each February.

Other wintertime amenities and



Timber Ridge RV & Recreation Resort

4050 Hammond Road
Traverse City, MI 49686
(800) 909-2327
(231) 947-2770

www.timberridgeresort.net

Ratings:

Facilities: 4  (out of 5 )

Recreation: 4  (out of 5 )

Sites: 159 (75 full hookups)

Open: May 1-Oct. 30 (listed on page 465 [Eastern] in the *2007 Woodall's North American Campground Directory*)

Other services: Cable TV (some units only), tenting, showers, dump station, portable dump, laundry, groceries, LP-gas by weight/meter, ice, tables, fire rings, wood, recreation hall, recreation room/area, pavilion, swim pool, mini-golf (extra cost), playground, shuffleboard, planned activities, horseshoes, sports field, hiking trails, basketball, volleyball.

activities include snowshoeing, equipment rentals and lessons.

In the summer, Timber Ridge has numerous planned activities and themed weekends. Among the most popular activities is the dodgeball court. There's also a big screen for viewing movies and a hot-weather hayride in which everyone gets wet.

Christmas in July and Halloween weekends will return this year; a special "Pirates of Timber Ridge" weekend and a 1980s theme weekend are planned. Two additional event weekends take place at Timber Ridge

each year: the Cherry Festival and the Relay for Life, a 24-hour relay walk/run to benefit the American Cancer Society.

Other summertime amenities and events include a heated swimming pool, miniature golf, a large playground, basketball, volleyball, horseshoes, shuffleboard, bicycle rentals and candy bar bingo for the kids. Additionally, complimentary coffee and doughnuts are served every Saturday morning. "It's a beautiful park here," Levesque says. "There's a lot to do." 