

What in the world is “Carpet Ball”

What is carpet ball? If you have been a camper at Krislund in the last several years, you will think of it as one of your favorite activities. There are 6 carpet ball tables scattered around Krislund and they are in use much of each summer day. Carpet Ball is played on a long narrow table with side rails and a trough at each end. Each player as six balls placed within arms length of their own trough. The goal is to knock all six of your opponent’s balls into their trough at the opposing end while protecting your own balls from being hit.

Campers cheer on the players while waiting their turn to play.

The two carpet ball games located on the deck of the pool are in nearly constant use every day of the summer. This is what it looks like.



In 2015, Camp Director, Gene Joiner, introduced Krislund to carpet ball when he asked the Thursday Volunteers to build the game. The volunteers built six sets of two 8 foot wooden frames in the camp shop, hooked them together in their places around camp and added the carpeting.

To read more about Krislund’s Carpet Ball [click here](#).

Carpet Ball at Krislund

When Camp Director Gene Joiner asked the Thursday Volunteers in 2015 to create a game called Carpet Ball, none of them had ever heard of the game. However, with plans in hand, wood from the Krislund woodshed, and lots of energy the volunteers set to work.



While there are no standard dimensions for carpet ball, Krislund's game consists of a 16 foot long table about 20 inches wide with 8 inch rails on the sides.

The volunteers made the base and covered it with a burbur carpets, hoping it would withstand the weather. The 6 games placed around camp were a hit from the start with campers of all ages, both boys and girls,



taking their turns at the game. The goal is similar to shuffle board where the players try to sink the opponent's balls before their own are pushed into the trough at the end of the table.

Portable Carpet Ball Games.

A few years before the building of the carpet ball games, the Sinking Valley Presbyterian Church had purchased new tables for the fellowship room, and donated the old tables to Krislund. In the Krislund style of using every resource at least twice, the Thursday Volunteers at Krislund took the legs off of the tables and made folding carpet ball games so that the game



can be taken to the community day camps throughout Central Pennsylvania. The picture to the left shows the children at Tyrone day camp playing the game.



Upkeep and Repair

This past fall it was clear that the enthusiasm of campers for carpet ball has taken its toll on the game tables. They could be compared to the well loved teddy bear that has only one eye, a torn ear and frayed legs. Seven years of hard playing and severe weather were showing and the game tables needed significant repair.

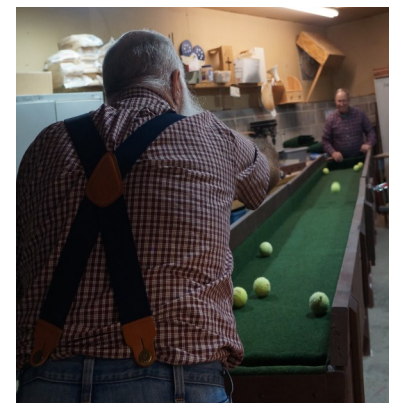
Consequently, after the summer season was over, the Thursday Volunteers hauled the carpet ball tables back to the shop. Over the span of a few weeks volunteers took off the old carpet, strengthened the legs,



and repainted the frames.

They also recarpeted with fresh green indoor/outdoor carpet. Finally, they added a new mechanism for hooking the two sections together.

Having a little fun, the volunteers played a game to



“test” their work. They are ready for summer 2023.