

Game on: Local arcade to take part in time capsule

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DeKALB – Classic video game lovers can become a part of history Saturday at an event Star Worlds Arcade is hosting to honor a documentary playing at the Sycamore Film Festival.

At noon, arcade officials are inviting fans to gather for a photograph to be put in the Ottumwa Time Capsule. Ottumwa, Iowa, is where the International Video Game Hall of Fame & Museum is located.

The time capsule is being created to document the stories and memories of the first generation of video game players.

Video gaming legend Walter Day, the founder of Twin Galaxies, an organization that tracks video game world records, will be on hand for the photograph and the weekend's other activities.

“Walter’s amazing, so we’re very excited,” Star Worlds owner Patrick O’Malley said. But, he added, with the other events planned for the weekend, it’s a “stressed out” kind of excitement too.

“Organizing anything like this is a lot of hard work,” he said.

After the photo, gamers are invited to watch the film “Star Worlds: A Pocket Full of Tokens and I’m Heading to the Arcade,” at the Sycamore Film Festival.

The documentary, written and directed by Northern Illinois University graduate students Byron Czopek and Andrew McLaughlin, tells O’Malley’s story from collecting arcade games in his garage as a teenager to his work promoting arcade history and culture through his business at 1234 E. Lincoln Highway.

Czopek said he wanted to make a film about Star Worlds after his first conversation with O’Malley, and a documentary film class at NIU helped make it happen.

“The reason I was always interested in telling Pat’s story was because I thought he was a guy who really followed his passion,” Czopek said.

Star Worlds is also using the weekend to celebrate the 30th birthday of classic video game character Donkey Kong. Gamers can pay \$15 to attend an “All You Can Play Party,” in the character’s honor.

Ticket price includes pizza, soda, video game tournaments and goody bags for the first 50 ticket buyers.

The Donkey Kong celebration will continue at the film festival’s block party Saturday on California Street in Sycamore. A Donkey Kong tournament is scheduled for 4 p.m. Following that, another “All You Can Play Party” is scheduled at 6:30 p.m. back at Star Worlds.

If you go

What: Star Worlds Arcade Celebration Weekend