

Editor's Note



owling, the last hobby we explore in our 2011 series, is one that touches the lives of many people in the United States. From mere spectators to professional bowlers, there is a whole spectrum of participation in this activity. On one end of that spectrum are people like me, who can count on one hand how many times in a *decade* they go bowling; nearer the other end are people like a friend of mine who bowled every week in a regular league, with her mother and sisters, for decades.

I would be reluctant to go bowling with that friend for fear of being completely embarrassed by my low score and the possibility that I might (gasp!) throw a gutter ball. But from time to time, other people have invited me to go bowling. And I always enjoy myself when I join them.

I think the most fun I ever had bowling was the time I went cosmic bowling with my nieces and nephews. The bowling alley was dimly lit, and black lights were everywhere. Anything white, even people's teeth, lit up brightly. My nieces and nephews were entertained by that phenomenon and seemed more concerned about how their T-shirts were glowing in the dark than they were about how many pins they knocked down. (I was so amused by those kids that I wasn't paying much attention to my bowling, either.)

Being such a sporadic bowler has made it impossible for me to gain any kind of expertise in the sport. So I long ago accepted the fact that I'm pretty bad at bowling—and that's okay.

But I got a new perspective with the advent of Wii. At first I resisted this modern video game—even though, in my younger days, I had been an avid fan of some of the old coin-eating video games. But as my nieces and nephews coaxed me to try Wii bowling (which they said was the easiest of the Wii sports games), how could I resist?

Well, as it turns out, I am much, much better at Wii bowling than I am at real-life bowling. I often get spares and even strikes. In fact, because of Wii, I learned a new bowling term—*turkey*. (If you don't know this term, you can look it up under "Bowling Chatter" on page 43.) That's not to say that I get strikes all the time, but it's gratifying when I do (and that feeling is reinforced by the sound of the cheering crowd on the video).

Wii bowling does a pretty good job of replicating the whole bowling experience (except it lacks the same amount of exercise). Still, engaging in the video version of bowling—a hobby in itself—has made me more eager to go back to a real bowling alley someday soon.

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