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Whipping up fun

Fairborn couple
finds adventurous
new hobby

By Amelia Robinson
Staff Writer

Maybe it's time to introduce a whip into your relationship.

Laura Sizemore and long-time boyfriend Judd Baker did, but it's not what you may think.

"You said you wanted to whip each other," Baker joked, flicking a kangaroo hide whip between boxes and toward Sizemore, who was well out of reach.

Neither walked away with a lash mark.

The adventure-seeking Fairborn couple got an introduction to the bullwhip recently at the Whip Artistry Studio in Jamestown.

For nearly an hour, they cracked the whip at the studio operated by Whip Master Gery L. Deer.

The studio, which offers weekly and group lessons, is promoting bullwhip lessons as Valentine gifts or dates.

The lesson provided the something different Sizemore and Baker sought.

"When you've been together as long as we have, you have to try new things," Sizemore said, smiling. "We're all about competing with each other."



Laura Sizemore and longtime boyfriend Judd Baker take whip lessons at Whip Artistry Studio in Jamestown. Staff photos by Amelia Robinson

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Couple whip lessons start at \$50. Individual lessons are also \$50 an hour. Catered dinners can be arranged for an additional fee.

Baker met Deer through a local business-networking group and found his business intriguing. He said it could

also be fun for a couple's night out.

"You get to the point where you are going to a dinner and movie every time," Baker said.

Deer said there are serious misconceptions when it comes to the whip. "Most people think it is a dangerous tool, but it's not," he said, adding that it has historically been used to signal cattle and people, and not used as a torture device.

"It's like whistling for your dog," he said.

Deer compared the skills needed to learn whip artistry to the finesse and movement precision needed for ballroom dancing. Now 40, he's been honing his craft since age 12.

He said bullwhips make a crack noise because their tips can break the sound barrier.

For more information, go online to www.thewhipstudio.com or call (937) 902-4857.

Contact this reporter at (937) 225-2384 or arobinson@DaytonDailyNews.com.

» See a video of Deer at work at DaytonDailyNews.com

The Whip Artistry Studio

www.thewhipstudio.com

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