



Troop 251 Hooter Gazette

July, 2008



The *Hooter Gazette* is now online!

In the tradition of the original, printed edition and the more recent electronic (emailed) edition, the *Hooter* continues to provide the latest news and announcements of Troop 251.

A few things have changed, and a few have remained the same. The wise old owl, you'll note, is still with us but is now mirror-image on the masthead. Gone are all of the photos that used to adorn the pages of the electronic edition. Now that we're online for all the world to see, we need to be more careful about things that could create unsafe situations. The plan is to move the photos into a password-protected area, and to publish more photos than ever before!

For the same reason, we will no longer use our Scouts' last names in the articles contained in the public portions of the *Hooter*.

We hope you like the new Online Edition! Keep in mind that, just as with the previous editions, the success of the *Hooter Gazette* is in your hands. Without news articles and items of interest, there can be no *Hooter Gazette*. Send your ideas and comments to hooter@t251.org.

Popcorn Sneak Attack!

Get ready to sell popcorn! The Show & Sell portion of the program is only a few weeks away. The District Popcorn Committee has announced that the sale will commence on Saturday, September 13th. This means that Show & Sell orders must be placed well ahead of last year's schedule. Please remember that each Scout is expected to sell a minimum of \$60 worth of popcorn. The annual popcorn fundraiser is very important to the District and to the Troop. So let your buyers know that you'll be on your way with an order form soon.

Rep. James Casorio Knows Troop 251!

Do you remember when State Representative James E. Casorio visited us? A photo was taken. Did you know that it can be found at Rep. Casorio's photo gallery? While you're there, look for a picture of a recent Eagle.

Needed: One 12' Pole

The troop is in need of a 12-ft wooden pole, similar in size to a telephone pole but without the creosote. If you know where we can obtain one at no cost, please contact the editor of this newsletter.

This edition of the *Hooter Gazette* was originally published to the web in HTML format. Beginning with the November edition, the format changed to PDF to facilitate archiving and printing. Editions published in July through October were subsequently archived in the new format. No changes have been made to content.

Serious, Fun

It's becoming a troop tradition. Once again, Friends of 251 was well-represented at this year's Relay for Life, where loads of fun and serious intent come together to raise money for cancer research. Led year after year by Mrs. Sudsina, the troop does much more than just man the game booth to which they are assigned. The scouts also volunteer on a moment's notice to lift the heavy boxes that need to be lifted, and to move the things that need to be moved. And, of course there are the flag ceremonies, which our scouts handle with practiced expertise. Thanks to your efforts, the troop is gaining a great reputation with the Relay coordinators, and undoubtedly making a good impression on the Norwin community!

Bradley, Solomon, John T., Nick M., Kevin B., Steve, Tim, and John A. were joined this year by a number of parents and leaders in a fun-filled 24-hour day of support for this important charity. Planning for next year has already begun. Word has it that the volcano is slated to make a comeback appearance! Practice up on your hula technique, guys!

Troop 251 Answers the Call

On Thursday evening, July 10th, Mr. Kattic from the VFW called to request assistance in pulling weeds at the Veterans' Memorial in Irwin. The catch was that he needed the help on Sunday afternoon, only three days away. He had called a number of troops and the Council Office to obtain assistance.

When Sunday came, we were proud to see that Troop 251 turned out. In fact, we were the only troop to do so. We were only 4 scouts (**Adam, Kevin T., Andrew, and Jacob**) and 4 leaders, but we got the job done. Mr. Kyle Bryan, Bushy Run District Executive, also came out to do his share. In addition to cleaning up the Veterans' Memorial, we also did a little weed pulling around the military hardware on display at the VFW, where we enjoyed cheeseburgers offered by Mr. Kattic.

Smooth Sailing for Sea Base Crew



Four of our scouts returned recently from Florida Sea Base where they participated in the Coral Reef Sailing program. Shortly after arriving at Sea Base, the crew -- **Ben, Adam, Zach, and Drew** -- were introduced to their ship and its captain. The crew was excited to learn that, although they were a small crew of only 6 including leaders, they had been assigned to one of the largest ships in the fleet, the *S/V Vivid*. She is a wooden-hulled 45-foot ketch, custom-built in the 1950's. To everyone's enjoyment, she looks like a pirate ship – complete with a Jolly Roger flying from the mast.

The crew provisioned the ship with food, and set sail for an anchor point on the Atlantic side of the Keys where they spent the first of six nights aboard ship. The rest of the week was spent sailing and snorkeling, with at least one stop per day at a coral reef teeming with fish and other aquatic life. Barracuda, reef sharks, jellyfish, and hundreds of yellow-tailed snapper swam with the scouts through the underwater forests of sea fans and coral.

The crew earned a Captain's Award with a 'Superior' rating for the performance of their duties aboard the *Vivid*. Each crew member also earned the Snorkeling BSA award. Before departing Sea Base, they affixed our insignia to the wall of the mess hall to let everyone know that Troop 251 had been there. Be sure to look for it when you go to Sea Base!

Scout Leadership

The leadership positions in the troop are currently held by:

Senior Patrol Leader **Adam**

Assistant Senior Patrol
Leaders **Nick M.**
Zach
Ben

Quartermaster **(open)**

Librarian **John T.**

Troop Guide **Steve**

Historian **Solomon**

Chaplain Aide **Mitch**

Bugler **Andrew**

Patrol Leaders

Bat Patrol **Joe Joe**

Scorpion Patrol **Steve**

Eagle Patrol **Mitch**

Falcon Patrol **Kevin B.**

Assistant Patrol Leaders

Bat Patrol **Edwin**

Scorpion Patrol **John T.**

Eagle Patrol **Bradley**

Falcon Patrol **Jacob**

To contact your Senior Patrol Leader, simply send an email to SPL@t251.org.

Scoutmaster's Minute

Once again, Troop 251 spent another exciting week at lovely Camp Conestoga. Thanks in part to our dedicated leaders, Mr. Flaherty (2 nights), Mr. Gray (1 night), Mr. Astley (2 nights), Mr. Fuller (1 night), and yours truly (6 nights), thirteen of our heartier Scouts were able to enjoy a week at summer camp. The four new campers all completed the Pathfinder Program and earned a merit badge or two as well. The nine older boys completed 28 merit badges with Drew taking the lead with 5 merit badges finished. Everyone completed the Run For Your Life Program too. A special congratulations goes out to **John T.**, who earned the coveted 'Oldest Piece of Trash' Award sponsored by the Nature Center. Usually given for antique litter turned in at the Center, this year John's "Chuck Norris" jokes were deemed perfect for this award. Way to go John!

Leaders, start planning now for summer camp next year. Conestoga rules say someone has to go for the entire week and as I plan to be on my upcoming world tour next summer, I can't see me making it. Besides, I have spent the entire week at camp for Troop 251 for 5 summers, including the past three. Time to hand off the football.



Write for the Hooter!

Your editor cannot be everywhere that the troop goes. Please send reports of events and activities to hooter@t251.org. Not only will it help to keep everyone informed, it's also a good opportunity to develop your writing skills! Articles from Scouts, Scouters, and parents are all welcome!

The *Hooter Gazette* is the newsletter of Boy Scout Troop 251, Larimer, PA, USA. Views and opinions expressed herein are not necessarily those of Troop 251 or the Boy Scouts of America. Questions or comments should be sent to the editor: hooter@t251.org. More information regarding Troop 251 is available at the troop web site: <http://t251.org>.