



Troop 251 Hooter Gazette

August, 2008



An "Historic" Eagle Court of Honor



Nicholas M.'s Eagle Court of Honor was one for the books -- the history books, that is! In addition to the formal celebration of his achievement as a member of Troop 251, Nick's other scouting unit, Venture Crew 246, presented in full Civil War attire replete with polished brass, white gloves, sabers, and muskets. Shown



here are some of the adult leaders of the Crew, standing Honor Guard with the youth members during the ceremony.

Nick has completed his trail to Eagle, while three more Scouts prepare to join him. **Edwin, Zach,** and **Ben** are in the process of planning their service projects. Watch your email, Scout mailbox, and bulletin board for more information, and be prepared to contribute your efforts to their projects. You may be surprised at how much fun you'll have!

SPL Completes NYLT



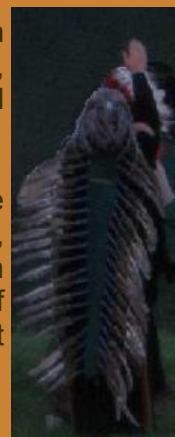
Adam recently completed the National Youth Leadership Training (NYLT) course at Camp Buck Run. NYLT introduces young men to proven techniques in team leadership within the context of a Scouting experience. Through a simulation of the operations of a typical troop, the NYLT students learn how to effectively plan, promote, and lead troop activities.

The work starts early in the morning and finishes late at night, but there is a lot of fun in the mix as well. Scouts who aspire to the office of SPL or ASPL should look for an opportunity to take the NYLT course. NYLT is targeted for Scouts between the ages of 14-16, though older Scouts are welcome.

OA Recognitions

Troop 251 has a long and storied history of contributing to the ranks of Wagon Lodge #6, Order of the Arrow. Wagon itself is 50 years older than our troop, having been in continual existence for over 85 years. It is an organization proud of its heritage, and confident of its future.

Over the weekend of August 15th, **Nick D.** was selected to do his Vigil, the highest level of recognition within the order. Nick is very active within the lodge, and is the editor of the lodge newsletter. To the growing list of members from Troop 251, we can also add the names of **Nick M.**, and Mr. Fuller, both of whom were tapped out at Summer Camp, and who completed their Ordeal that same weekend.



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.

Backpacking Trip Postponed

The overnight backpacking trip originally scheduled for August 22-23 has been postponed until Solomon's broken arm heals. *Pssst! Solomon! The inside of the pool is softer than the outside!*

Hooter History

The *Hooter Gazette* was first published in 2003, the creation of Mrs. Harris. Recently, she has helped us to assemble a collection of past issues, which have been uploaded to their own section in the Photo Gallery. Many thanks to Mrs. Harris for her contribution to the collection. Your editor owes a debt of gratitude to Mrs. Harris, and to Mrs. Stewart, the editor of the electronic edition that preceded this format, for their work in establishing, refining, and promoting the *Hooter Gazette* through the years.

Are you aware of any Troop newsletters prior to the *Hooter*? It would be a hoot to include them in the archive. If you know of any, please contact the webmaster at webmaster@t251.org.

New TV Series: *Scouting for Adventure*

Boys' Life magazine has launched a TV series, *Scouting for Adventure*, on the Outdoor Channel. Episode 1 focused on the Florida Sea Base's SCUBA Adventure program. You can watch a 2-minute video on the Outdoor Channel web site. For the week of 8/23, the scheduled episode, "Out Island Adventure" will air on Wednesday at 8:30 AM and 6:30 PM, and Saturday at 2:00 PM.

Troop Personnel Support Cub Scouting

Did you know that many of our leaders and parents are also involved in Cub Scouting activities? Some even hold leadership positions with Cub Packs in the area. At a time when our troop is enjoying a resurgence of interest from the younger Scouts, paying attention to the Cub packs makes good sense!

Consider these examples:

- Each year, the Bushy Run District runs their Cub Scout Day Camp at the Norwin Elks. And each year, the field is dotted with volunteers, some of whom also devote time to Troop 251 in various capacities.
- For four years now, a small cadre of volunteers -- including many who are associated with Troop 251 -- have generously given of their time to staff the activities at a Cub Scout Parent/Son Weekend at Camp Conestoga.
- One of our Assistant Scoutmasters is also a Cubmaster!

We should be proud of the fact that many of these volunteers are also Troop 251 committee members, scoutmasters, scouts, and parents! Though not troop activities *per se*, it speaks well of the troop to have so many individuals out there working with the Cubs. Who knows? Familiarity may someday be the deciding factor for a Cub making his troop selection, or a Webelos leader deciding which troop to visit. So keep up the good work, volunteers!

Why Can't I Open the Photo Gallery?

There's lots of neat stuff in the photo gallery, but I'm the only one who's ever seen it. I'd like to share it with all of our Scouts and families. Before I do, though, everyone needs to sign a photo release form. The forms are available on the Resources page, or you can pick them up at the Troop office. *If you do not want your photo to appear in the photo gallery*, please let me know so that I can remove any photos that include your likeness before we open the gates.

Chairman's Corner

I'm feeling real good about this troop. We have a great bunch of Scouts, led by a knowledgeable Scoutmaster who is backed by a supportive team of Assistants. I work with a wonderful Committee who understands that "it's all about the boys" and who go out of their way to get things done. And let's not overlook our Scouts' parents, many of whom pitch in to run fundraisers or to help with outings.

We have all of the pieces in place to grow this Troop. All we need are the boys. And that's where you come in. Troop 251 does not have a "feeder pack"; there is no Cub Scout Pack 251. Webelos who come to our troop usually do so in response to an invitation from a friend, or from a troop leader. Call it recruiting, if you will. And we need more of it.

Scouts, talk to your friends. They don't have to be Cub Scouts today. If they are past the 5th grade and are tired of just "hangin' out", invite them to a meeting. (Be sure to let your Scoutmaster know ahead of time!) Parents, the same applies to your friends with young sons. Invite them to check out the web site, or arrange for them to attend a meeting.

There's good stuff happening here. Let's get the word out!

Chuck Fuller
Committee Chair
Troop 251 BSA

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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, the Boy Scouts of America, or of our Chartered Organization, St. John's United Church of Christ. 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>.