



# Troop 251 Hooter Gazette

October, 2008



## Troop 251 Returns To Catawba



The older scouts in the troop remember a time when the Catawba site at Camp Conestoga was "home away from home." On June 28th, barring any unforeseen changes, Troop 251 will return to Catawba! The Summer Camp Reservation Chart, published in this month's edition of the Council newsletter *Smoke Signals*, shows Troop 251 at Catawba for the 2nd week of Camp, June 28th to July 4th, 2009.

In order to ensure that we keep our Catawba assignment, we need to fill 2/3 of the site. That's a pretty tall order, as Catawba can hold 28 tents! So we may be asked to relocate at the last minute, or to share the site with another troop. The best way to show them that we're excited to be home is to go in with big numbers! So mark your calendars now, and be ready to sign up for Summer Camp as soon as registration opens. Camping fees have not yet been determined, but the \$50 individual registration fee will be due to the troop Treasurer around the first week of March, with full payment due around the end of April.

## 12 Miles on the YRT

Regular readers of the *Hooter Gazette* already know about the 3-mile hike from Boston through Dead Man's Hollow, and the 6-mile round-trip "ice cream hike" from Buena Vista to Sutersville. On September 28th, we took our third hike of the season -- a 12-miler on the Yough River Trail ("YRT").



This hike took seven of us from from the Boston access to Buena Vista and back, stopping a half-mile short of the Buena Vista access. We turned around after a brief rest at the Dravo's Landing Camping Area. This campground was developed by Scouts through a number of Eagle service projects. On the way out we visited the adjacent Dravo Cemetery, an old Methodist burial ground with grave markers dating back to the early 1800's.

This hike is the first of the season that satisfies one of the 10-mile requirements for the Hiking Merit Badge.

## 10 Miles at Frick



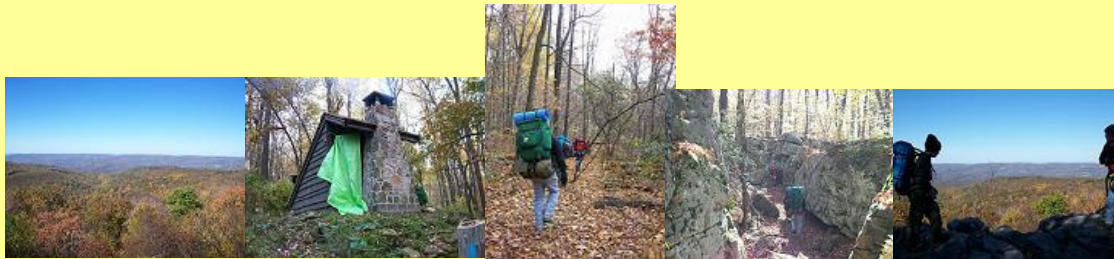
The trails at Frick Park proved to be steeper than expected. But then we realized that we began our hike on a trail that was not part of our itinerary. The original plan was to hike the 5-mile Tour Loop, twice, for a total of 10 miles. The loop offers easy-to-moderate hiking along wide paths. The new "plan" added a couple of moderate-to-steep miles to the trip, on dirt paths that at times required single-file formation. Using our map-reading skills, we eventually figured out how to complete our 10 miles, and got to see a lot of Frick Park in the process!



*Photo by B. Bratkowski*

Even though it was a more challenging route, the Scouts -- and Mrs. Bratkowski -- made it look easy.

## Backpacking Laurel Ridge



*Photos by P. Flaherty*

The Scouts who backpacked Laurel Ridge on October 18<sup>th</sup> & 19<sup>th</sup> were treated to some of the most colorful scenery that Pennsylvania has to offer. Mid-October is the peak of the fall foliage display in the Laurel Highlands, when red, orange, and gold replace the familiar greens of summer.

The backpackers checked out their gear on a short hike through Ackerman Nature Reserve two days before making the trek. Led by Mr. Astley, they were accompanied on the Ackerman trail by Webelos from Pack 270. Once on the mountain, the Scouts enjoyed sunny 60-degree days, and endured a chilly night in an Adirondack-style shelter. Mr. Flaherty reports that there were no complaints, except for being a little tired after covering more than 17 miles in two days.

## You Guys Rock!

Our popcorn show & sell was a big success, thanks to your efforts! You sold to everyone you know. You went door-to-door in your neighborhoods, and stood outside store entrances for hours on end. You met some really nice people who told you stories about their days as Scout leaders, or their Eagle Scout grandsons. You put forth the effort ... and your efforts were rewarded with sales that were up 59% over last year! Overall, sales were up 64%. Mrs. Flaherty, our popcorn chairperson, did an outstanding job of coordinating the sales and distribution. The next time you see her, be sure to tell her that she rocks, too!

## Hallowe'en Party Planning

**Nick D.** has been very busy of late, conjuring the spirit of Scouting fun for the annual Troop 251 Hallowe'en Party. The gathering will commence at the 19th hour of the 30th Day of October, in the place of the regular troop meeting. Maniacal games and devilish activities will keep the evil spirits at bay.

The day before the party, Nick will need help setting up the games and decorating the hall. Please watch your email and your Scout mailbox for details.

**Publication Deadline:** The *Hooter Gazette* is uploaded to the web sometime near the end of each month. So the October issue reports on things that happened in October (*What a concept!*) and is still there long into November. Please keep this in mind when submitting your articles or ideas for publication.

### Chairman's Corner

It is often said that successful troops are those that ***keep the outing in Scouting***. It's a catchy phrase that reminds us that Scouting is supposed to take place in the great outdoors. Our hiking program is an opportunity to do something about that ... to *get out there and do something!*

So far, we've had fair-to-poor attendance on these hikes. The good news is that we've had a number of leaders along, affirming their dedication to making this a great year in Scouting! What's even more impressive, though, is the way that the two branches of our troop leadership are working together to make it happen. The Laurel Ridge backpacking trek, for example, was staffed entirely by our Scoutmasters. And the conditioning hikes were led primarily by Committee members, with Scoutmasters participating.

With the football season moving into playoffs, and the last of the band competitions taking place in the next few weeks, I'm sure that we'll start to see more of our Scouts out on the trails, and at other activities. I'm confident that we'll see our leaders there, too, *keeping the outing in Scouting*.

Chuck Fuller  
Committee Chair  
Troop 251 BSA

**Attention Webelos Leaders!** It's that time of the year again, when Webelos II's should be checking out the Boy Scout Troops in the area, and making their decision about bridging. It's important to find a troop that matches the personality and needs of the individual. We, at Troop 251, would like to invite you to bring your den to one of our upcoming meetings, so that the boys can see for themselves what Troop 251 is all about. If you are interested in visiting, please see the "Contact Us" page of this web site for more information.



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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](mailto: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](mailto:hooter@t251.org). **More information regarding Troop 251 is available at the troop web site: <http://t251.org>.**