



Troop 251 Hooter Gazette

November, 2008



CPR/AED Certified!



The troop First Aid program shifted into high gear this month, with two full meetings dedicated to CPR and First Aid training. The fast-paced, highly informative classes were taught by Mr. Jeff Tirpak from North Huntingdon's *Rescue 8*.

We take great pride in the fact that most of the Scouts of Troop 251 are now certified in CPR and in the use of the automated external defibrillator (AED). The AED can be found in many public buildings across the nation, and can truly be a life-saver when used appropriately and without delay. Hopefully, our Scouts will never need to use one. But if the need arises, at least we know they'll **be prepared**.



Hallowe'en Hauntings

Our annual Hallowe'en Party was haunted by the souls of Troop 251, along with eight brave Webelos who ventured into the unknown looking for fun ... and a little fright. Much sugar was consumed by everyone, including the parents who were safely seated in another room, away from the scary things going on in the main hall. Ghoulish surprises were everywhere!



Games were run carnival-style, with tickets awarded to the players. At the end of the evening, the one with the most tickets was awarded a prize. Delivered in a large box, the winner was surprised to find (*drum roll, please!*) John T., holding an 18" chocolate chip Jack-o'-Lantern cookie! Kudos to Nick D., and to the Scouts who helped him to plan and execute the entire event! Great job, guys!

Mrs. Tibbens Earns Her Wood Badge

At the Bushy Run District *Volunteer Recognition Dinner* on October 29th, our own Mrs. Tibbens was presented with her Wood Badge, the symbol of advanced leadership training for adults involved in Scouting. The training introduces leadership concepts from areas outside of Scouting, blending them into the Scouting program. *Congratulations, Mrs. Tibbens!*

Rechartering

Rechartering in the Bushy Run District is slated for January 13th. We need to have all of our troop paperwork done a week ahead of time, including the collection of any and all rechartering fees. Watch your email and Scout mailbox for details.



Laughing All the Way

If you weren't at Boyce Park on Nov. 9, you missed some of the funniest moments we've had yet on a hike! Our goal was a mere 2.5 miles, but in keeping with tradition we took a wrong turn and stretched it to a little over three. Enroute, we got to see someone (*ahem!*) lose his shoe in ankle-deep muck, and a number of us took turns falling off of ... er, I mean *crossing* ... a log bridge or two. Mr. Boyce would have been amused, I'm sure.



An impromptu first aid drill fell flat, as only one Scout walked back to see what had happened. The best line of the hike, though, was when one Scout -- *who shall remain nameless* -- calmly asked, after we had caught up, "What was all the yelling about back there?" I guess we know what will be covered in the next first aid session!

Boyce Park, by the way, offers some very nice trails. We'll probably go back there some day to explore some of the longer ones. Maybe a winter hike through Boyce would be fun. Our next hike, however, will take us into the Laurel Highlands for a 10-miler on the Great Allegheny Passage.

Recent Eagle Projects

If you keep your ears open in this part of the world, you'll hear about a lot of things that were either created or enhanced by Eagle Scouts. This month saw the completion of two such projects, both of which are certain to be appreciated for years to come.

Zach's information kiosk, recently installed in downtown Irwin, will provide visitors with a place to go for announcements and bulletins related to the downtown and surrounding areas. The four-sided structure is patterned after traditional ornamental kiosks, and adds to the "old-timey" feel of the downtown area.

Though not as visible, Ben's project will be very much appreciated by the users of the old carriage house at the Norwin Elks. The restroom there was in need of refinishing, so Ben and his crew supplied the labor to bring it back to life. They also refinished the main entrance, and installed an outdoor faucet to reduce foot traffic in and out of the restroom during events.



*A Special Thank-you
A heartfelt thanks goes
out to those Scouts who
helped with donations
and who went to the VA
Hospital in
December. Thank-you to
Dan Sudsina who
organized it. We had a
total of 68 gifts to
distribute. It put a big
smile on their faces. Dan
would like to continue
this as an annual event.*

A Blast from the Past

The article at left appeared in the February, 2003, issue of the *Hooter*. Sadly, plans of making this an annual event didn't pan out. Mr. Sudsina has continued, though, with help from his family and friends. Now an Eagle Scout and Assistant Scoutmaster, Mr. Sudsina would like to bring this activity back into the troop. Please watch your email and Scout mailbox for details.

Den Chief Learns by Teaching

Adam recently accepted an assignment as a Den Chief for a Wolf Den at Cub Pack 257.

As a Den Chief, Adam shares his Scouting knowledge with younger boys, and helps the Den Leader with his program. It's a great opportunity to develop leadership skills, and to help another Scouter, while also promoting our troop.

Another new format for the *Hooter*?!? The HTML page was working out okay, but was difficult to archive or print. As always, your feedback to hooter@t251.org will be appreciated.



Irwin Light-Up Night

Yeah, we were there.

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See the December issue of the *Hooter Gazette* for more about Troop 251's participation in Irwin's 2008 holiday festivities.

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 the web site for more information.



Chairman's Corner

Wow! What a month! At the beginning of November, it seemed as if we had nothing on the calendar. But it filled up quickly, with some important — and fun! — activities. We began this month with a party, and ended with a parade. And somewhere in the middle we found time to hike, and to earn our CPR certifications. Having an entire troop certified is a fairly unique thing to do. Kudos to our Leaders, and to our Scouts, for putting together another great month of Scouting!

- Chuck Fuller, Committee Chair, Troop 251

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>.