



Troop 251 Hooter Gazette

Larimer, PA

April, 2009



History and Technology in Bedford County



On the weekend of March 28th, sixteen Scouts and a number of leaders set off for a plot of land somewhere in Bedford County. This, the first camping trip of the season, promised to be another unique Troop 251 camping experience. The hosts for the weekend were the Morgart family, who shared lodging and a little bit of Bedford history with the troop.



Despite the constant threat of rain, the scouts slept comfortably in a re-conditioned dairy barn equipped with a coal furnace to keep them warm at night.

Saturday morning began with a visit to an antique sawmill, where Mr. Morgart's father demonstrated the old-fashioned way to turn trees into boards. Then it was off into the woods for a short hike into history. The first feature on their path was the site of an old schoolhouse, recognizable today only by the front porch, which was covered in a heavy blanket of leaves. Following an old stream bed, they arrived at the remains of a 19th-century water-powered grist mill.



Back at the barn that evening, the day was capped with a rare opportunity to see and learn a few things about prehistoric technology from the area.

A hearty **Thanks!** to Mr. Morgart and family for making this unique Scouting adventure possible!

Photos by Adam F., Life Scout

Turtle Creek Cleanup

The weekend before the opening day of trout season, Scouts and Leaders from troop 251 participated in the annual "stream cleanup" of Turtle Creek at the Saunders Station access area near Trafford. Each year, the Turtle Creek Watershed Association hosts a cleanup of litter and trash along the creek prior to stocking by the Fish & Boat Commission. The troop pitched in to help to remove litter from about 1 mile of shoreline and a couple of parking lots.

It's amazing how much litter can accumulate in one year! The cleanup was especially important for the stream this year – a few weeks before, a gas line rupture poisoned the stream, preventing the annual trout stocking for this season. Hopefully, the troop's efforts are a positive step towards the eventual recovery of this stream as a fishing destination for local anglers.

Mr. Astley was assisted in organizing our troop's participation this year by Mr. Flaherty. Kudos to the two of them for encouraging our involvement in this worthwhile project!

Article text contributed by Mr. Astley and Mr. Flaherty

Welcome to Troop 251, Josh !!!

Scouting Hierarchy: Part IV — Scoutmasters

This article is the fourth in a series examining the structure of Boy Scouting. We began with the patrol, then the PLC, and the troop. This month, we take our first look at the roles of the adult leaders.

Sir Robert Baden-Powell once said, "The spirit is there in every boy; it has to be discovered and brought to light." There is no better opportunity to do that, than while wearing a Scoutmaster's uniform. Made up of equal parts coach, teacher, mentor, and, yes, parent, the Scoutmaster's role is undeniably the most demanding role in any troop. The Scoutmaster bears ultimate responsibility

for the success of the troop program, as well as for the safety of his Scouts. Assisted by a staff of Assistant Scoutmasters, he guides the boys as they progress through the ranks, teaching them skills that will serve them well later in life. Along the way, he develops tomorrow's leaders by teaching them how — and when — to lead.

The Scoutmaster and Assistant Scoutmasters are guided in their work by the methods of Scouting: ideals, patrols, outdoor programs, advancement, association with adults, personal growth, leadership development, and uniform.



Fish-'n'-Fun 2009

It began years ago, and continues to be one of the most popular activities on the troop calendar. It's the annual camping trip to Mammoth Park, better known as the "Fish-'n'-Fun" camp. This year's Fish-'n'-Fun was held on April 24th-26th, and was attended by 12 Scouts, 4 Leaders, plus *Brownie* the dog.

For the new Scouts, Fish-'n'-Fun is their first real Boy Scout camping experience. It's an opportunity to learn the ropes, get to know their fellow Scouts, and to work on those Tenderfoot skills. It's also a weekend full of fun ... and fishing! The groves of Mammoth Park surround a 24-acre lake that is stocked by the PA Fish Commission. This particular weekend, the lake yielded only a handful of bluegill to the Scouts. But a little perseverance by the Scoutmasters was rewarded with a respectable mess of trout.



Fishing is only part of the fun at Mammoth. The field next to our campground provides great cover for evening hide-and-seek games. This year, "Zombies" was the popular game on Saturday night, with "humans" and "zombies" hiding and searching through the brush for hours on end.

When not playing games, the troop could be found at one of Mammoth Park's biggest attractions, the 96-foot slide. This slide always seems to be well-maintained, clean, and fast, and a sheet of waxed paper makes it even faster. This year, the undisputed *King of Big Air* was **Edwin**, who managed to go airborne on every run.

Troop 251 is known for eating well, and this trip was no exception. We had a *ton* of food. In addition to the mess of trout caught by the Scoutmasters, **Adam** made his popular jambalaya, a dinner staple of Troop 251 for the past couple of years. For this weekend he tripled the recipe, and there was only one small bowl left after everyone had eaten their fill.



Fish-'n'-Fun was led this year by Mr. Astley, Mr. Flaherty, Mr. Gillham ... and by Mr. Fuller, whose loud snoring reportedly caused quite a scare for one of our Scouts, who ran screaming from his own tent when he heard something *growling* ...!



The Mother's Day Flower Sale was a great success! Kudos to everyone who participated! And many thanks to Mrs. Morgart for coordinating !!!

Happy Mother's Day to all the Moms who help to keep the troop moving!

Mark Your Calendars!

There are **two great weekend outings** planned for the month of May! Mark your calendars for the Spring Camporee on May 15-17. And then get ready for a 3-day backpacking trek on the Gerard Trail in Oil City on the weekend of the 29th!

Scouting for Food

Sometimes we forget the effect that Scouting has on the people around us. But every once in a while, we get a reminder that people do appreciate Boy Scouts for what we represent, and for the things that we do.

This year's Scouting for Food campaign began as any other. Fourteen of our Scouts were out distributing door hangers in North Irwin, as we always do, when a man in a black pickup truck approached Adam with something in his hand. It was a glass block bank, decorated with the BSA logo. Adam thanked the man, and took the bank home until an appropriate use could be found.

A week later, nine boys and five leaders canvassed the area on a chilly Saturday morning, collecting bags full of all sorts of food for those in need. Through the years, the good people of North Irwin have always opened their hearts to this cause. Once again, they contributed enough food to fill the bed of a pickup truck.



As for the bank ... well, we're still looking for just the right purpose. For now, it will be placed in the Troop meeting room, as a reminder of the importance of *Scouting for Food*.

Chairman's Corner

You may have noticed that there are no articles this month about hiking. Funny thing, that. We had hikes scheduled. We just didn't go.

As bad as that sounds, it's really not that we've abandoned our hiking program. Quite the contrary. We're always planning the next one. However, as the troop has gotten busier with other activities, we are finding it necessary at times to postpone a hike in order to make room for another activity. This month's stream cleanup, for example, was a unique opportunity to get involved with local watershed management programs. And so we voluntarily pushed aside our hike.

Be sure to thank your Scoutmasters for keeping the schedule full of interesting things to do!

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>.** All articles and photos are © 2009 Troop 251 BSA except where noted.