



# Troop 251 Hooter Gazette

Larimer, PA

June, 2009



## Backpacking Gerard Trail



By **Solomon A.**, *Star Scout* and *Hooter Gazette*  
Contributing Writer

Troop 251 went on a hiking trip to Gerard Trail, in Oil City. It was approximately 18 miles, so it was pretty rough. The first day, Friday, the boys hiked to Cow Run shelter and did a decent job of making fires in their dark lean-to's. **Drew, Adam,** and **Kevin** got theirs started first, then **Solomon, Mitch,** and **Justin**, then the leaders. Everyone had a good time at camp. The first day, overall, went well and everyone was ready for the extremely tough day ahead of them.

On the second day, Saturday, the boys and the leaders must have wandered around for 45 minutes before they found that the trail start was right at the camp and they had totally missed it. They started and at first it was nice. They were making good progress and thought they would be there in no time, but saw a sign in front of a creek, looked at the map, and had a slow, horrible realization that they had gone virtually nowhere. Everyone started hiking, and about six miles later, they

reached the Petroleum Center. There, at the center, they rested for a good fifteen minutes, ate some snacks, filled their water bottles, and were off for the other half of the hike. This, in my opinion, was the worst part. Constantly going up the massive hill, then right back down so they could go back up. Even though it was painstaking and tiring, there were some beautiful sights at the tops of the hills, so I'm sure the boys enjoyed it. When the boys arrived at Wolfekielle Shelters, they took a well-deserved and well-needed rest

The third day, everyone made excellent time, even though everyone was sore. They stopped for a few breaks along the way and after climbing a hill so massive I'm sure not one of them had ever conquered one as big as that on foot, they made it back to the Cow Run camp. They were all very excited and hiked the last half mile back to the cars. On the way home, they stopped at the Drake Well Museum and Dairy Queen..



Photos by Adam F., Life Scout

## Scouting Hierarchy: Part VI — Merit Badge Counselors

No discussion of all of the important people in Scouting would be complete without mention of the Merit Badge Counselors.

Without them, advancement would not be possible, for they are the ones who attest to the completion of the requirements to earn the Merit Badges.

That said, you may be surprised to learn that counselors are not a part of the troop roster. Merit Badge Counselors are registered with the

Council, and their applications are screened as any leader's would, to ensure the safety of the Scouts.

They may choose to perform their duties for only one troop, or may make themselves available to work with other troops or individual Scouts throughout the Council. Some are expert in their field, others are hobbyists. They may provide counseling for only one badge for which they possess unique qualifications, or multiple, more general, badge topics.

### Eagle Project Breaks New Ground



For over a decade, an archaeological excavation has been quietly going on very near to Troop 251's home.

At a location known simply as the Consol site, a group of archaeologists have unearthed artifacts from a 600-year-old Monongahela village. Our troop has camped and volunteered there in the past, and has even uncovered a number of small items of interest to the archaeologists.

On May 30th, **Nick** and crew literally broke new ground as he began his Eagle project to open a trench in an unsearched location on the site. Nick's hope is to find a continuation of the stockade fence, to allow the archaeologists to complete their outline of the village. On the first day, they removed the sod and began the tedious task of removing soil in painstakingly thin layers, hopefully to find what has not been seen for hundreds of years.

Work on the trench continued on the weekend of 6/13-14, with twelve Scouts and four leaders camping out at the site. Their efforts were rewarded with the uncovering of a number of post molds, and a feature (see *photo*) believed to be the shallow bottom of a pit where villagers had dumped several discarded items.

### Troop 251 is on Summer Schedule

Class A's are not required at Troop meetings. Scouts may wear any scouting-related T-shirt.

### Like to Bike?

We're thinking about doing some bicycling on the YRT. In preparation for that, we're making sure that everyone has a bike to ride.

Your editor will match loaner bikes to riders. If you need a bike, or have a spare bike to lend, send an email to [hooter@t251.org](mailto:hooter@t251.org).



### Can You Canoe?

You certainly can! Plans are being made for a canoe trip on the Youghiogheny River on Aug 1. Early sign-up and rental fee are required, so check your calendars now!

Our sincere thanks go out to the Westinghouse Electric Co. for their recent donation of a computer for the Scoutmaster's office. □

Mark your calendar now for our next  
Court of Honor

**Sunday, August 23rd**

## 2009-2010 Fundraising Plan

The Troop Fundraising Plan is designed to give our Scouts the opportunity to pay a good portion of their Summer Camp (or other Scouting activity) fees through participation in fundraisers which have proven to be profitable in the past.

the Scout's ISA from assessments paid, and any unpaid assessments will be deducted from the Scout's ISA. The only way to build the ISA is through participation in the fundraisers.

Over the next 12 months, we will conduct 5 planned fundraisers. A *minimum* of 40% of the profit from 4 of those fundraisers will go into the Scout's Individual Scout Account (ISA). Once the troop's basic financial needs are met, we hope to be able to raise that percentage.

		Minimum Sale	Mandatory Assessment
July	Nuts *	\$60	\$20
Sept	Popcorn	\$60	\$60
Nov	Poinsettias	\$75	\$20
Mar	Easter Candy	\$60	\$20
May	Flowers	\$75	\$20

Because the Troop also has need for funding throughout the year for both durable goods (gear) and consumables (propane), participation in these five fundraisers is mandatory. If you choose not to participate, you must pay an assessment that is roughly equivalent to the profit that would have been made from the minimum participation level (*see table at right*).

\* Troop benefit (no ISA)

For those of you wishing to earn more money towards your Scouting activities, you'll be happy to know that the 5 mandatory fundraisers are not necessarily the only opportunities you'll have this year. Additional fundraisers can be added with approval from the Troop Committee. So bring your fundraising ideas to Committee, and we'll do what we can to help you to reach your goal.

Note that there will be no contribution made to

### Chairman's Corner

**Every boy deserves a trained leader.** — *Sir Robert Baden-Powell*

Leader training has never been more important in Scouting than it is today. Thankfully, it's never been easier. BSA's new Online Learning Center ("OLC") offers a wealth of training courses to meet a variety of needs. **Youth Protection Training** is available through the OLC, as are Safe Swim Defense and Safety Afloat — two very important courses for anyone planning to take the Troop near water. One of the most recent changes was the introduction of "**This is Scouting**", required training for all leaders at every level of Scouting.

Training is very important to a quality program. Leaders at every position should make it a point to set aside some time to complete online training in the comfort of your own home. "**This is Scouting**" and others are available online at <http://olc.scouting.org>.

- Chuck Fuller, Committee Chair, Troop 251 BSA

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