



Troop 251 Hooter Gazette

Larimer, PA

July, 2009



Fourteen Scouts from Troop 251 packed up their gear and moved into Camp Conestoga for the week of June 28th through July 4th. For the older Scouts, this year marked a return to the troop's old home away from home, the Catawba campsite.

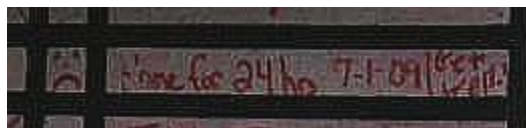
Contrary to the joke that circulated through the troop, "Conestoga" is *not* an Indian word meaning "rain." In keeping with tradition, though, the guys saw their share of falling water again this year. As one Scout put it, "It wouldn't be summer camp without rain!" Thankfully, there were periods of dryness between the downpours, and no moats or drainage ditches were necessary this year.

Speaking of things that weren't necessary this year: *Silly String*. It seems that someone, who shall remain nameless, brought way too many cans of the stuff to camp this year! It apparently was necessary, though, to learn to report in Czech, in honor of the visiting international camp staffer. Word has it that **Nick's** Czech is not too bad!

But pranks weren't the only fun to be had at Summer Camp this year. Even the leaders got

into the act. Mr. Astley, yielding to pressure from **Adam**, demonstrated his rappelling technique from the 50-foot platform, trusting life and limb to his belayer, **Mitch**. And despite some heroic goal-tending, the adult staff members defeated the Scoutmasters, including our Mr. Flaherty, Mr. Langford, and Mr. Astley, 3-1 in a water polo match, keeping the Scoutmasters' losing streak very much alive.

On the serious side, the troop enjoyed a little service time, clearing branches left over from the forestry management activity at the camp this past Spring. And then there was the illness. The sign-out board told the story: "Home for 24 hrs" was the order for three of our Scouts who



showed signs of fever during their stay. One who went home was the *only Scout in the entire camp* who was participating in the mile swim prior to his departure. Hopefully he — and others — will go for it when Troop 251 returns to Camp Conestoga next year!

Scouting Hierarchy: Part VII — The Chartered Organization

So far in this series of articles on what I'm calling "the Scouting Hierarchy" we've looked at the Patrol and the PLC, the Troop, the Scoutmasters and the Troop Committee, and paid a visit to our Merit Badge Counselors. This month we'll take a look at the Chartered Organization.

The Chartered Organization is often thought of as the "sponsor" of the troop. But the relationship of the organization to the troop goes much deeper than that. The phrase, "chartered organization" refers to the status of having been granted a charter by the national scouting organi-

zation. This charter gives the Chartered Organization the right to use the Scouting program to accomplish its own objectives within its area of concern. A church, for example, might use the Scouting program to reach out to families and youth in their community.

To conduct its work with the troop, the organization selects a Representative who is responsible for ensuring that the troop has proper leadership, and that the program is run in accordance with the policies of the Chartered Organization as well as being within BSA guidelines.

Found Near
Catawba



This marker can be found in the woods not far from the Catawba site. The inscription reads:

TEN PACES DUE EAST OF THIS SITE STOOD
THE JIM SHERIN MEMORIAL LATRINE. "HE
FILLED IT UP, AND HE SHUT IT DOWN."

Mr. Sherin was a Scoutmaster from Greensburg in the 1980's.

OA Rain Delay

The Order of the Arrow tap-out ceremony, normally held in the late hours of Parent's Visitation Day at summer camp, was postponed due to the downpour that rolled in about an hour before it was scheduled to begin.

Tap-outs were held, instead, in the dining hall the following morning. Troop 251 is pleased to have recommended three new members to the Wagion Lodge this year. **Mitch, Solomon,** and Mr. Astley will soon be doing their Ordeal.

Make us proud, gentlemen!

Troop 251 Opens and Closes Relay for Life

Troop 251 once again demonstrated its support for the Norwin community through its participation in the opening and closing flag ceremonies at the *Relay for Life* on July 18th and 19th.

On the 18th, the troop, along with a number of our uniformed Eagle Scouts, assisted the VFW in raising the Colors. On the 19th, the honor of lowering the Colors was the troop's to lead. As always, our Scouts performed both services with the utmost of dignity and respect for their audience and for the American flag.

How Well Do You Know Camp Conestoga?

This month's visual challenge should be easy, given that we've just returned from summer camp. In fact, it's normally part of a challenging experience. Can you guess what it is?



Show Your Colors!

Orders are once again being taken for troop shirts. These are the "official" dark green shirts with the embroidered owl logo. T's and polo shirts are available, in sizes from S to XXXL. The order form and more details are available on the Resources page of the troop web site.



Spotlight on St. John's

This month's "Scouting Hierarchy" article discusses the Chartered Organization and its role in Scouting. But how much do you know about our Chartered Organization, St. John's United Church of Christ?

The United Church of Christ formed in Cleveland, OH, in 1957. It grew out of a movement to reunite several branches of the Protestant Christian religion. Today, the UCC's 5,600 churches welcome 1.2 million members worldwide who listen for the Still-speaking God. A "united and uniting church", the UCC "turns no one away."¹

¹www.ucc.org

COURT OF HONOR & SUMMER PICNIC

Sunday, August 23rd
2:00-5:00
Locust Grove
Oak Hollow Park

Watch your mail for details!

Chairman's Corner

Researching the role of the Chartered Organization for this month's *Hierarchy* article was a real eye-opener. It had not occurred to me that the CO, from the perspective of BSA, is essentially a franchisee much like that of your favorite fast-food joint. The CO has been granted the right to own and operate a scouting unit, for the purpose of providing an outreach program for youth. BSA provides the materials and policies, and the franchisee runs the local business.

A special "Thanks!" goes out this month to our past Treasurer, Mrs. Smith, for all of her work keeping track of troop funds over the past four years. As anyone who's ever been in that position will tell you, it's no easy job. At this month's regular Committee meeting, Mrs. Smith requested a break from the task, and both Mrs. Tibbens and Mrs. Bratkowski stepped to the fore. What a pleasure it is to work with good people!

- 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. 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.