



Troop 251 Hooter Gazette



Larimer, PA

August, 2009

Yough River Float

"I see Mr. Fuller's kayak, but I don't see Mr. Fuller" is sure to be the line that will be retold from our trip down the Youghiogheny River on the first of August. Mr. Fuller, I am happy to report, was doing just fine, swimming toward shore on the upstream side of his kayak after flipping it in a futile attempt to get into a more comfortable seating position.

Earlier that morning, **Jacob, Solomon, Kevin B., Justin, Adam,** and four leaders launched four canoes and a kayak for a 7-mile trip to West Newton on smooth-flowing water ranging in depth from a few inches to a few feet. The light fog that covered the hills at put-in lifted as the sun rose higher into the sky, creating a near-perfect day to spend on the water. A little farther

down the river, a lone heron watched from shore as the flotilla glided past.

Each of the scouts took a turn at paddling the kayak, which is faster and much more maneuverable than a canoe.

The surprise highlight of the trip came into sight about a mile from our take-out point. On the right bank, a rope swing hung invitingly from a tree branch. After checking for sufficient depth and absence of underwater hazards, the guys took turns demonstrating their individual styles of flight and splashdown. Many of the launches went as planned, but more than a few ended in shoe-dragging face-plants.

Court of Honor and Summer Picnic

There's nothing like a picnic to bring friends and family together. And when the gathering is called to celebrate the accomplishments of a great bunch of Boy Scouts, you know it's going to be a good one.

Troop 251 has been very active over the past six months, and the list of merit badges presented was lengthy. One scout, **Bradley,** earned six. **Kyle** achieved the rank of Tenderfoot, and it was noted that **Edwin** was awarded his Eagle recently.



Our 2009 Fall Court of Honor and end-of-summer picnic was held at Oak Hollow Park on Sunday, August 23rd.

Scouting Hierarchy: Part VIII — the District

If there are two words in the scouting lexicon that get confused more often in conversation than “Council” and “District”, I am not aware of them. Hopefully after reading the next few articles in this series you’ll know exactly which is which.

The District is where all of the units — Boy Scout troops, Cub Scout packs, and Venturing crews — in one geographical area come together. There are multiple Districts within a Council, in order to provide the best support possible to the individual units. Each District is governed by a District Committee, whose job is to ensure that things

are running smoothly at the unit level, and to provide training, guidance, promotion, and activity coordination among the units within the District.

Each District has one Scouting professional, the District Executive. The DE, as he or she is sometimes called, is employed by the Boy Scouts of America to provide oversight to one District. The job of the DE is to ensure that the District is successful. He does this by working with the units and with the District Committee to promote Scouting through various means, including recruitment and leadership guidance.

Conestoga’s Conestoga

Parked prominently at the edge of the parade grounds, it’s been the symbol of Camp Conestoga for years. About a quarter of a century, in fact.

Looking more like a ship than a typical flat-bottomed wagon, the Conestoga wagon was the cargo truck of its day. The large rear wheels helped to keep it moving over uneven terrain, and the curved floor helped to keep its load from shifting as it was pulled up and down the mountains of Pennsylvania. If you look closely at the front of a Conestoga wagon, you’ll notice that there is no “driver’s seat.” That’s because the driver usually walked along beside the wagon, or rode on a board seat that stuck out from the left side.



The wagon that is the backdrop of every flag ceremony at Conestoga is a replica. It was built by a crew from Troop 480, Greensburg, in the 1980’s.



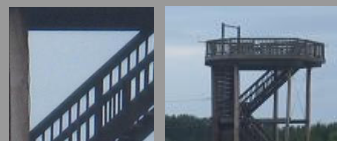
A Short Ride on the YRT


It was hot and humid on the Yough River Trail on August 16th ... a perfect excuse for a bike ride to Sutersville for ice cream. **Bradley, Adam, Kevin,** and his friend **Trevor** made the ride, along with Mr. Fuller and Mrs. Bratkowski. Mr. Bratkowski drove the chase car.

If you are interested in longer rides, please let your leaders know so that we can work them into the fall schedule!

How Well Do You Know Camp Conestoga?

Some of you recognized the triangle from last month’s puzzle as the stairwell of the C.O.P.E tower.



Let’s see if you can get a handle on this month’s image.  It’s highly visible, yet sort of hidden. What is it?



Troop Leadership

Elections were held at the regular meeting on 8/27/09, and the Scouts named below were selected to fill the Troop leadership positions for the next 6 months.

Senior Patrol Leader **Nick**

Assistant Senior Patrol Leaders **Solomon
Steve M.
Adam**

Scribe **Kevin B.**

Troop Guide **John**

Historian **Jacob**

Chaplain's Aide **Austin**

Quartermaster **Adam**

Scorpion Patrol

Patrol Leader **Adam**

Assistant Patrol Leader **John**

Eagle Patrol

Patrol Leader **Bradley**

Assistant Patrol Leader **Solomon**

Falcon Patrol

Patrol Leader **Jacob**

Assistant Patrol Leader **Andrew**

Dragon Patrol

Patrol Leader **Kyle**

Assistant Patrol Leader **Austin**

Chairman's Corner

It's that time of year again. School has begun. And with the new school year comes the beginning of another year of Scouting. All through the valley and across the hills, the call goes out: "Mom! Where's my Scout uniform?!?" ... and the Class A uniform once again emerges from its summer resting place. Some will be found hanging in a closet, some under the bed, and others will eventually be found in a ball under the seat of the family car. Hopefully, none will be found *under* the family car.

Your Class A uniform is a very important part of your scouting experience. It tells the world that you are a part of an organization that has been a positive influence on generations of boys the world over. It marks you as a leader among your peers.

Wear it proudly.

- 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.