



Troop 251 Hooter Gazette



Larimer, PA
September, 2009

Fun With Wood



A few months ago, a number of our Scouts began working on the requirements for their woodworking merit badge. This month, six of them got together to help out with a couple of projects that Mr. Morgart had prepared for them.

First on the to-do list was a framing project, a small roof to cover a firewood stack. As can be seen in the photo at left, their work was good enough to support all six of them! Next, a small cabinetry project of sorts, requiring a very different skill set than the earlier framing project. The task was to build a two-piece slat cover for an antique copper kettle. This job seemed to involve more planning than doing, and required a lot more finesse.



Welcome to Troop 251, Trevor!!!

Eagle Project at Queen of Angels

Queen of Angels Catholic School in North Huntingdon has always been a friend of Scouting. They have hosted meetings for a Cub Scout pack, and for awhile, was the location of the monthly Round Table for Bushy Run District. Indeed, a number of our Scouts spent their early school years at "Q of A". Some even spent their Cub Scout years in a Q of A—sponsored pack.

It was only fitting, then, that **Nick D.**'s Eagle project took place on the grounds of this school, which has been a part of life for so many young people in the area.

The road to the upper parking lot runs atop a hillside that had been left to grow over. Nick offered

to clear the area and plant shrubbery to brighten up the place a little. As the project progressed, it was decided that the hillside was best left to Q of A employees, and the focus of Nick's project shifted to the top of the hill, along the road.

Nick and his project crew cleared brush and debris, and outlined a number of planting beds. Once the weeds were

cleared, they planted shrubs and put down mulch. The green space is sure to be appreciated by students and visitors alike.



Scouting Hierarchy: Part IX — the Council

As much as we like to think of Scouting as this wonderful organization of dedicated volunteers — which it is, at the Unit and District levels — at the Council level we get a peak into the professional side of Scouting.

The council is, essentially, the local branch office of the Boy Scouts of America. It is the Council who, ultimately, makes it possible for Scouting to exist and to serve the youth of an area.

Council employs a small staff of professionals who take care of the business of Scouting, including running the council service center with the ever-important “scout store.” It is they who

coordinate everything from insurance coverage to dining hall catering contracts. Council either leases or owns the campgrounds, with all of the maintenance costs and responsibilities that ownership entails.

One of the more visible positions within the Council is that of Program Director, who holds responsibility for the camping program and other activities involving multiple Districts.

At the head of the Council sits the Scout executive. A career position within the BSA, the Scout executive is responsible for the administration, staffing, and management of the Council.



We Did It!

It's official. We increased our attendance at Summer Camp! What's the big deal, you ask? Well, because we had one more Scout at camp than we did in the previous year, the Troop will receive a \$5 credit to our Unit Account for each Scout. That's a total of \$65 !!!

It's Popcorn Time Again!

The annual popcorn sale is underway! If you haven't been out there selling, today would be a great day to start!

Trail's End Popcorn is to Boy Scouting what cookies are to, well, you know. It's the major fundraiser for the year, and benefits both the Troop and the District.

Our Popcorn Chairperson, Mrs. Flaherty, has done an outstanding job of making the opportunities available for you to sell. It's up to you to take advantage of them!

We still have time slots open for the Oct. 17th sale at K-Mart. Contact Mrs. Flaherty or Mr. Fuller for more info, or to claim your slot.

How Well Do You Know Camp Conestoga?

Some of the visuals that are presented here are sort of hidden. Last month's, however, was hidden in plain sight of anyone walking up the hill from the dining hall. The photo was of the end loops of the two handrails on the stairs at the rear entrance to Rohrbacher Lodge.



Funny how we never notice these things. Let's see how you do with this month's teaser.

It's obviously a weathervane, or at least what's left of one. But where is it?

If you think you know, or just want a clue, drop an email to hooter@t251.org.



Upcoming Camping Events

Fall Camporee

Fire building was the topic of one of the regular troop meetings earlier this month. Hopefully everyone paid attention ...

This year's Fall Camporee will be held at Camp Conestoga on the weekend of **October 9th-11th**.

The focus this year will be camp cooking. So scrub up those pots and pans, and dust off your favorite recipes. This is one weekend where everyone should be well-fed!

Summer Camp 2010

It's not too early to start planning for Summer Camp. The current reservation chart shows Troop 251 at the Catawba site again next year, from **June 27th to July 3rd**.

Here are some more dates to keep in mind:

3/12/10 Reservation Fee due \$50 (incoming Webelos have until 5/7)

5/7/10 Balance due

Fees have not yet been set.

Campaganza 2010

The big news in camping for 2010 is *Campaganza!* Billed as "One Xtreme Campout", Campaganza will bring together 10,000 Scouts at Moraine State Park in Butler, PA. Mark your calendars now for **September 24-26, 2010** !

Chairman's Corner

A few things conspired to keep this newsletter from getting published this month. But here it is, proof that "a determined soul will do more with a rusty monkey wrench than a loafer will accomplish with all the tools in a machine shop." [Robert Hughes]

First came the technological challenges. It's not enough that my camera is still drying out from last month's underwater adventures. *Nosirree*. My computer, apparently out of sympathy for the camera, decided that this would be a good month to retire. As a result, the time that normally goes into creative writing was spent scrambling around, trying to replace all of those software tools that used to make this job so easy, and to find replacements for the ones that won't work with Vista. There's nothing like a dead computer to make you realize that *you don't know what you've got until it's gone*.

So I began writing this issue about a week ago. That's when I realized that the Troop really hasn't done much this month. I guess with school starting, everyone's been too busy and their schedules are still adjusting. But October is only a couple of days away. Let's get out there and do something!

- 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.**