



# Troop 251 Hooter Gazette



Larimer, PA

October, 2009

## Fall Camporee

Situated in the heart of the Laurel Highlands, Camp Conestoga is the perfect place to host a Fall Camporee. The air is crisp, and the trees are painted with the reds and golds of autumn. On the weekend of October 9th, five Scouts led by Mr. Flaherty and Mr. Gillham pitched their tents and settled in for a good night's rest before Saturday's games.

In keeping with the theme, this year's fall camporee was dubbed the "Fall Cookoree." Patrols participated in all sorts of cooking-related activities, ranging from a flapjack relay (ending with the patrol leader eating the pancake) to "utensil-less cooking" of an egg. In addition to the games, the patrols demonstrated various cooking techniques. A cooking competition was the last activity of the day before returning to the campfire.



## Scouting Hierarchy: Part X — the Region

With an organization that spans the country, it is understandable that the BSA would be organized into administrative regions — four, to be precise: Western, Central, Southern, and our own Northeast Region. Although the smallest in terms of U.S. land mass covered, the list of included areas may surprise you. In addition to CT, DE, MA ME, NH, NJ, NY, PA, RI, VT, and DC plus parts of MD, VA, and WV, the Northeast Region also includes Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, and an area known as the Transatlantic Council: England, Germany, Switzerland, and Italy. As this is being written, the national organization is closing its four regional offices, and consolidating regional leadership into the National Office in Irving, TX.

Area IV — our area — is comprised of ten councils: Allegheny Highlands, Bucktail, Chief Cornplanter, French Creek, Greater Pittsburgh Area, Juniata Valley, Moraine Trails, Penn's Woods, Potomac, and Westmoreland-Fayette.

At the end of September, 2009, the Northeast Region membership stood at 746,021 youth, in 20,300 units.

## Sprucing Up at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton



The garage pictured at left is familiar to anyone associated with St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Roman Catholic Church. It's been there as long as any of our leaders can remember, resting quietly in the back corner of the lower parking lot.

But, as we all know, buildings don't just rest. They're constantly battling the sun, rain, snow, ice, and wind that the four seasons throw at them. It was obvious to **Steve M.** that these doors could use a little help. And so, the garage became the focus of Steve's Eagle project.

The door frames were in worse condition than the doors themselves. After cutting away the rotten wood, the frames were replaced, and then painted to match the doors. The steel beams above the doors were wire-brushed and repainted as well. The side door received similar treatment. When Steve's crew was done, the garage looked as good as new. The only one who wasn't excited about the project was the snake that was living in the door-bottom weather stripping channel.



Not satisfied with all that they had accomplished, Steve had his crew clear dense overgrowth from the sides and back of the garage, leaving a clear area approximately 30 feet wide all around. To make the job complete, they finished by retrieving a number of unused brick that had been discarded over a hillside when the garage was built, and stacked it neatly alongside.



**Attention Webelos Leaders!** It's that time of the year again, when Webelos II's should be checking out the Boy Scout Troops in the area, and making their decision about bridging. It's important to find a troop that matches the personality and needs of the individual. We, at Troop 251, would like to invite you to bring your den to one of our upcoming meetings, so that the boys can see for themselves what Troop 251 is all about. If you are interested in visiting, please see the "Contact Us" page of this web site for more information.



### Christmas “Urban Hike”

Last year's Christmas hike was such a big hit, we've decided to do it again!

Because Christmas falls on a Friday this year, our hike will be on a Sunday. Mark your calendars for **Sunday, Dec. 27th**. For those of you who weren't there -- *and those of you who were!* -- you might want to check out the *Hooter* article from last year at <http://t251.org/news/Hooter200901.pdf> .

### Climbing the Walls?

Looking for a challenging, fun activity? On **Sunday, Nov. 22nd**, the troop has reservations at The Climbing Wall.

### Floating Along ...

Don't forget ... Irwin Light-Up Night is **Thursday, Nov. 19th**. We will be building our float at the Sudsina's again this year. Watch your email for details!

### How Well Do You Know Camp Conestoga?

Were you able to identify the location of last month's challenge item as the weathervane on the top of the gazebo outside of the dining hall?



This month's challenge will have you saying ...



Any idea where this word can be found?

### Chairman's Corner

The closer we get to the 100th anniversary of Scouting on February 8, 2010, the more curious I've become about the life and times of William D. Boyce — in particular, the years *leading up to* the founding of the BSA.

1909, it turns out, was a very interesting year from an historical perspective. William H. Taft became our 27th President in 1909. The first race was held at Indianapolis Motor Speedway. The U.S. Naval base at Pearl Harbor opened in that year. The Signal Corp Division of the U.S. Army purchased the world's first military airplane — from the Wright brothers. And Arctic explorer Robert E. Peary reached the North Pole.

Against this background, William D. Boyce was laying the groundwork for the establishment of what we know today as the Boy Scouts of America.

- 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.