

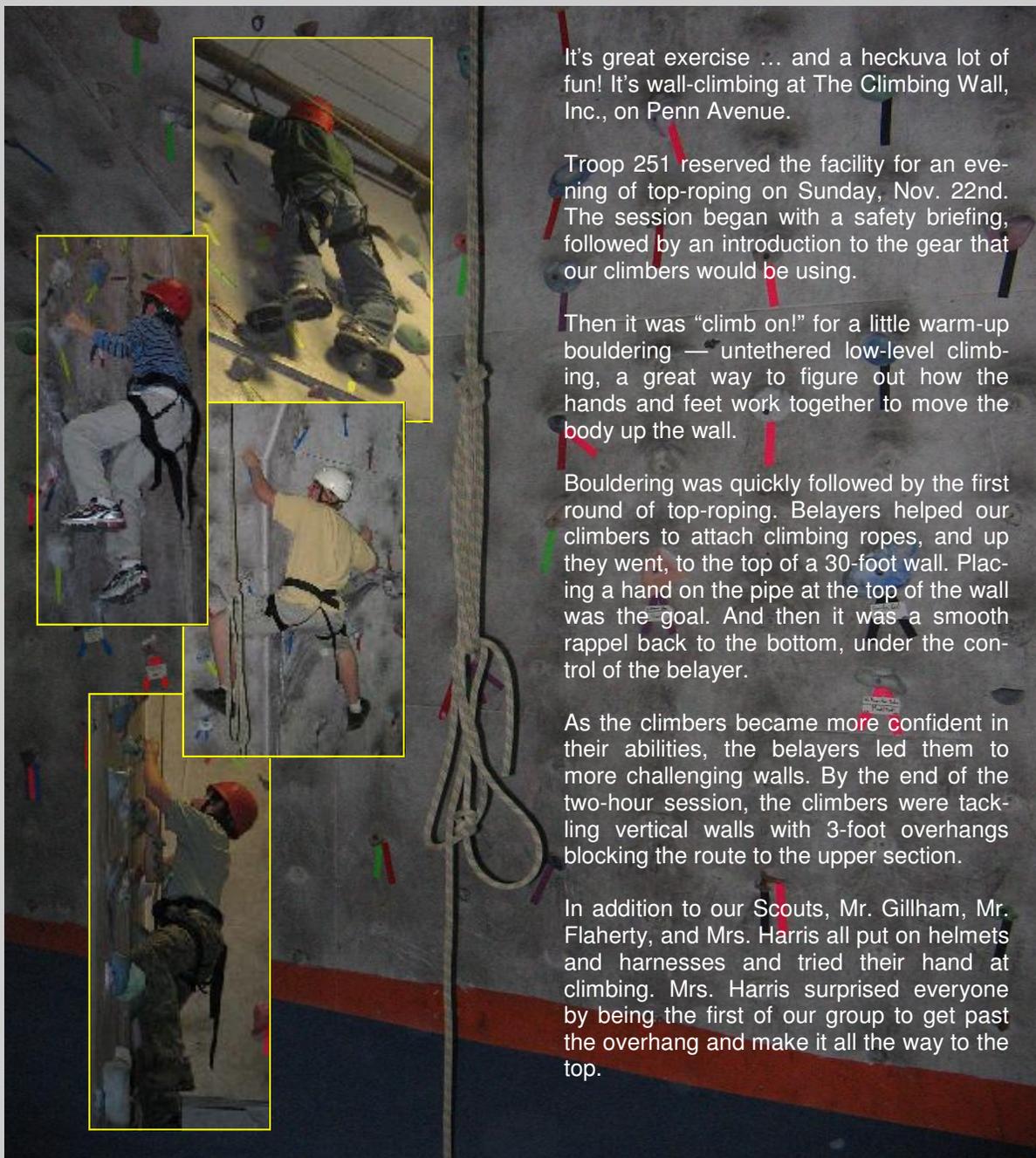


Troop 251 Hooter Gazette

Larimer, PA
November, 2009



Top-Roping at The Climbing Wall



It's great exercise ... and a heckuva lot of fun! It's wall-climbing at The Climbing Wall, Inc., on Penn Avenue.

Troop 251 reserved the facility for an evening of top-roping on Sunday, Nov. 22nd. The session began with a safety briefing, followed by an introduction to the gear that our climbers would be using.

Then it was "climb on!" for a little warm-up bouldering — untethered low-level climbing, a great way to figure out how the hands and feet work together to move the body up the wall.

Bouldering was quickly followed by the first round of top-roping. Belayers helped our climbers to attach climbing ropes, and up they went, to the top of a 30-foot wall. Placing a hand on the pipe at the top of the wall was the goal. And then it was a smooth rappel back to the bottom, under the control of the belayer.

As the climbers became more confident in their abilities, the belayers led them to more challenging walls. By the end of the two-hour session, the climbers were tackling vertical walls with 3-foot overhangs blocking the route to the upper section.

In addition to our Scouts, Mr. Gillham, Mr. Flaherty, and Mrs. Harris all put on helmets and harnesses and tried their hand at climbing. Mrs. Harris surprised everyone by being the first of our group to get past the overhang and make it all the way to the top.

Scouting Hierarchy: Part XI — National Council

Incorporated on Feb 8, 1910, the National Council of the Boy Scouts of America is the “company” that “owns” Boy Scouting here in the United States. Some tend to think of it as the place where the “business” of Scouting is conducted. And while that is true, you may be surprised to learn that most of the people involved at the National level are volunteers.

The National Council has a number of parts. The National Executive Board is probably the most well-known, and acts as a board of directors. It is made up of volunteers who are elected for one-

year terms at the annual meeting of the National Council. Also among the members of the National Council are representatives from Regional and Local Councils — our Council President and Commissioner are members of the National Council. A large Advisory Committee to the Board exists to provide a breadth of expertise from all walks of American life.

All positions are voluntary except for the National Commissioner, the International Commissioner, and the CEO of the BSA, the Chief Scout Executive.

Webelos Event Report

Feedback from our Webelos Event held on Nov 12th has been very positive. The boys who visited reportedly had a lot of fun, and the parents were very impressed with the Scouts who spoke with them at the end of the evening. Kudos to all who supported this important event!

Irwin Light-Up Night



Sorry, you'll have to wait until the December issue of the *Hooter Gazette* goes online to read about Troop 251's entry in the 2009 Irwin Light-Up Night parade!

We Were Prepared!

We didn't wait long to get started this month! On November 1, five Scouts — **Trevor, Justin, Adam, Kevin, and Bradley** — and three of our Leaders enjoyed a short bike ride on the Yough River Trail.

It was a sunny day with temperatures in the high 40's, a great day for riding. The guys rode from the Boston Access to Buena Vista and back, a total of only 12 miles round trip.



Equipment problems plagued the trip from the start. But, being Scouts, we were prepared with tools and skills, and everyone had a bike to ride back to Boston.

How Well Do You Know Camp Conestoga?

Did I hear someone say ...

UNCLE

...???

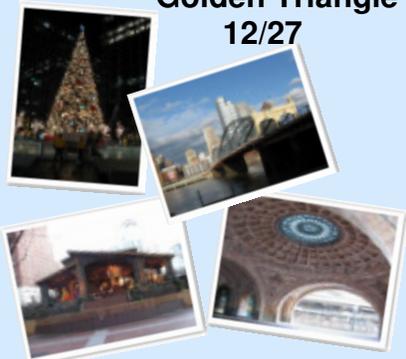
Give up? Well, *I haven't*. I've decided to stretch this one out for another month. Here's another clue.

UNCLE BEN

And no, it doesn't have anything to do with rice. Or maybe it does. You've walked under this sign more than a dozen times every week of summer camp.

For 1000 bonus points, and the chance to stay in a tent on your next camping trip, can you tell me who is referred to as Uncle Ben? Send your answers to hooter@t251.org.

Christmas Hike Golden Triangle 12/27



Mark Your Calendar!

Ideas Wanted

Scouts — Your ideas are what keep this troop moving. Let your leaders know what types of activities you want, and they'll help you to set it up.

Now would be a great time to plan that "big" activity for next summer!

Campaganza 2010

10,000 Scouts

September 24-26, 2010
Moraine State Park

Mark your calendars now!

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.



Chairman's Corner

Much appreciation is due our Scouts, Scouters, and parents for all of the work — and donations — that went into our float for this year's Light-Up Night parade. As 15th-century English playwright John Heywood taught us, "Many hands make light work." It was certainly true in this case. Teams of people, working at different times with only their imagination as a guide, created a float that looked as good as any in the parade. Special thanks to Mr. & Mrs. Sudsina, who once again opened their garage and their house to our insanity.

Our appreciation also goes out to the Webelos Leaders who brought that huge group to this year's Webelos event. We had a lot of fun, and we hope that the parents went home with all of the information that they need to help their sons to make an informed decision about joining a Boy Scout troop. It's always great if they choose to join ours, but I always hope that if they don't, that they at least join some troop, somewhere. Boy Scouting is too important an opportunity to walk away from.

- 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.