



Troop 251 Hooter Gazette



Larimer, PA

January, 2010

Troop 251 Wins Klondike Derby!

"... and in First Place, with a score of 231 points ... Troop 2-5-1!"

That's how it ended. But it didn't start that way. "Are you serious?!?", was the response from the staff at the first station of the day, after we gave them the name of our patrol. Someone thought it would be a good idea to name a Boy Scout patrol after glam/pop rocker Lady Gaga. A bold move, perhaps. Then again, maybe it was the drive to overcome that took them to the top.

Whatever the motivation, the patrol from Troop 251 was a force to be reckoned with. It did not look good at that first station, where we were the last to get our fire started. But our guys don't do anything small. In a flash, the flames reached the string and it was gone, our patrol finishing minutes ahead of the competition. Then it

was a little compass work and a trek to the next station, slingshot paintball.

For a bunch of guys who had never used a wrist rocket, we held our own. A number of targets went down at the hands of **Justin, Solomon, and Raven**, and our total score went up. Then it was off to the trust maze, a blindfolded test of the patrol's ability to work together as a team. With **Nick** calling out directions to guide them, our hooded Scouts *conga'd* their way through the trees to the end of the maze ... and then had to find their way back without guidance. With **Sol** in the lead, the group was careful not to run face-first into trees on the way out. When they emerged from the woods, the Scoutmasters were quick to note that, not only had no one received any major wounds, not one Scout had gone missing in the maze!

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Welcome to Troop 251, Raven!!!



Clockwise from top left: Sol leads the patrol through the Trust Maze; Mitch tries out the sled harness; Sol adjusts the harness rigging; The lid comes off the first pizza; Adam feeds the fire using tinder gathered by the patrol; Behind the wall, eight guys on a stump — the hard way!

Tips for the Recently Bridged

Making that big jump from Cub Scout to Boy Scout can be very exciting, and perhaps a little confusing. Making sense of it all can start with something as simple as a 3-ring binder.

1. Buy a zippered 3-ring binder, thick enough to hold your Scout manual and substantial enough to last a few years. A pocket for patches is a good thing.
2. Insert a few baseball card collectors' sheets (with clear plastic pockets) into the binder. These will be for your merit badge cards and other awards.
3. Merit badges are individual effort. While you are working on them, you may have to keep track of what are called "blue cards". Keep these in your binder, too.
4. **Always** bring your binder (and book!) to Scouting functions.



Klondike Derby Win

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Back at camp, we were prepared for the pizza challenge! The dutch ovens were readied. Dough was prepared and sauce was spread in **Trevor's** most professional manner. The cheese and toppings, including **Mitch's** summer sausage made from venison and duck, were piled on. The pizzas were baked to perfection. But, alas, the judges did not see fit to award us any points.

The last two stations were First Aid and Teamwork. Poor **Kevin** had a mock head injury, a painful arm, and was in shock when the patrol "found" him. **Jacob** leapt into action, tending to the head wound, and the patrol managed to keep their patient alive and well enough to move on to

the next station, where they *wow'd 'em* at the Teamwork challenges! Eight boys stood on a log. The challenge was to swap the 4 on the left with the 4 on the right, without touching the ground. **Adam's** solution: the larger boy lifts the lighter one, turns, and sets him down. Not only did they solve the problem, they left the judges laughing. On the 8-boys-on-a-stump challenge, our patrol was reportedly the only one to actually figure out how to *stand* on the stump! Now *that's* teamwork!

Lady Gaga's biggest moment came in the main event, the sled race. Troop newcomer **Raven** pulled the sled to victory, and made it look easy. He even broke stride near the end of the race to smile for a photo! And so went the day. **First place in the sled race, and first place overall!**

How Well Do You Know Camp Tenacharison?

One of the stations of the Klondike Derby was located at this impressive structure.

**Who built it?
And when?**

The answer is on a plaque affixed to the structure. Did you notice it?



Contacting Troop 251

You can always reach the troop via email at

scoutmaster@t251.org
spl@t251.org
advancements@t251.org
treasurer@t251.org
committee@t251.org

For questions of a general nature, email

info@t251.org

It's That Time of Year Again

Most of the Scouting year is devoid of large expenditures. But somehow, it all seems to come due at the same time. Here are a few things that you'll want to plan into your budget.

Troop Dues

We don't collect dues at every meeting. Instead, we collect \$50 once a year. Dues will be collected throughout the month of **February**.

Summer Camp Registration Fee

Camp registration fee remains at \$50 again this year. Please register on or before the regular troop meeting on **March 4**.

Balance of Camp Fees

The balance of your camp fee is due to the troop on **April 29**. In most cases, that will be \$225 (\$275 less your \$50 deposit).

Are you Going to Campaganza?!

On the weekend of September 25th, 10,000 Scouts will invade Moraine State Park for one of the biggest events of the decade.

Be ready to answer when Mr. Morgart asks!

A Scout is Reverent

On February 7th, we will celebrate Scout Sunday with the congregation of St. John's United Church of Christ. Following the service, we will prepare and serve a fellowship brunch.

Ski Trip!

Plans are being made for our annual ski trip. The trip is still tentative, but the date is set: 2/13. If we cannot get to the slopes that day, we will take a local hike and maybe do some geocaching. Save the date!

Chairman's Corner

Imagine the look of surprise on the faces of people searching the web for Lady Gaga, when they find themselves opening this month's issue of the *Hooter Gazette*. My apologies to those people, but such is the state of search bots.

Kudos to our Scouts on their performance at the Klondike Derby on the 23rd. Not only did they display a fair knowledge of scout skills, they also displayed a high level of maturity. Rarely did I hear any squabbling among our patrol. And when it did flare up, it died down just as fast. That, my friends, is an important part of becoming a leader: listening to others' ideas, weighing them against the options, and selecting the one that has the highest probability of success. Patrol *Lady Gaga* did that better than any of the 21 other patrols at the Derby. And that's why you won.

Kudos also to our Scoutmaster and Assistants, and to our 'medical instructors', for their contributions to our Scouts' knowledge and skills throughout the year.

- 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.