



Troop 251 Hooter Gazette



Larimer, PA

February, 2010

Snowed In / Snowed Out

The great snowstorm of 2010 was not so great for troop activities. Our February schedule took a real beating as, one by one, plans were cancelled.

Scout Sunday	St. John's	CANCELLED
Troop Meeting	St. John's	CANCELLED
Local Hike	TBD	CANCELLED



Scout Sunday this year was going to be bigger and better than ever for Troop 251, with plans to provide a fellowship brunch for the congregation of St. John's following the service. But equipment breakdowns halted snow removal from the parking lot, forcing St. John's to cancel services. The regular troop meeting was cancelled the following Thursday, as was the local hike planned for the 13th. We were hoping to explore the trails around White Oak Park, and perhaps do some geocaching along the way. With snow depths in the woods approaching three feet in places, the decision was made to cancel that as well.



But a little snow wasn't about to stop our Scouts from getting outside. Some found time to work on skills like building snow shelters, or took to the slopes to work on their snow sport proficiency. Okay, these guys were just having fun! But who says you can't learn something while you're laughing?!

You would expect that a number of our Scouts would spend a few hours shoveling snow, clearing driveways and the like. Some helped at home, some at Grandma's, and some even pitched in to remove snow at their friend's Grandma's. And you know what? Those guys had fun, too!



The ambition award goes to **Drew** and **Mitch**, who cleared at least ten driveways around their neighborhood, including an "emergency" digging-out of a car for a volunteer firefighter who had just gotten a call. They even cleared the snow away from a fire hydrant just in case it was needed. And when they weren't helping others, they were taking care of things around their own home. They — and their neighborhood — were prepared!

Welcome to Troop 251, Jonathan B., Andrew, Brandon, Benjamin, Austin P., Daniel, Jonathan L., Aslan, & Matt !!!

Tips for the Recently Bridged

One of the mistakes that many new Scouts — and new Scout parents — make is to wait until the last minute to acquire those things that will surely be needed sometime in the coming year.

Think about all of the activities ahead: hiking, camping, backpacking, ... Are you ready?!?

Are you, really? Do you have proper gear that will keep you safe and comfortable in the great outdoors? Now would be a good time to start dropping hints for a few useful birthday presents.

You will need a good sleeping bag. Get one that will keep you warm all the way down to 20 degrees. There are bags that advertise lower ratings, but they typically cost a lot more.

How about a good pair of hiking shoes? Light weight and water resistance are two desirable

features. Obviously a sole that provides good traction is important. And don't forget your ankles. Consider a high-top shoe or boot.

For short hikes, you should wear a backpack big enough to carry a couple bottles of water and a first aid kit. Last year's school backpack works well. For overnight hikes, you should have a pack with a frame. But don't rush out to buy one; They can be fairly expensive, and the troop has a few to lend. If you do buy one, consider buying used. This is particularly good advice for the smaller guys, who need a smaller pack but will quickly grow out of it.

And remember, the words "camping" and "rain" are synonymous in the language of Boy Scouting. Good rain gear — pants and jacket — is worth its weight in gold.

Seven Springs Ski Trip

As one who considers it foolish to even attempt to stand at the top of a snow-covered mountain with two boards strapped to your feet — boards that are *designed to slide out from under you*, I might add — I am continually impressed at the way that our Scouts take to the slopes.



On February 21st, six of them — **Austin G., Adam, Mitch, Sol, Justin,** and **Jacob** — made the trip to Seven Springs, strapped boards to their feet, and proceeded to show us how it's done!

Accompanied by Mr. Astley on skis and Mr. Gillham on snowboard, the Scouts had a great time! This is the third year that Mr. Astley has organized this trip, and we always look forward to next year!

How Well Do You Know Camp Tenacharison?

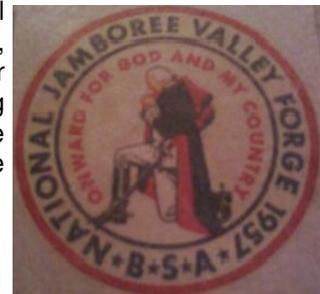


The wall at the campfire circle may conjure up images of castles and moats and medieval

knights, but according to the plaque affixed to the front wall of the left section, it was built by the US Army Corps of Engineers in 1971.

Check out this extremely cool memento from the 1957 National Jamboree, a sticker, given to one of our snow-shoveling Scouts by an Eagle Scout who was there — 53 years ago!

ONWARD FOR GOD
AND MY COUNTRY



Troop 251 to Muster at Gettysburg !



Orders from HQ ...

On the Eleventh day of June, in the year Two Thousand and Ten, the Scouts of Troop 251 will assemble at the battlefield at Gettysburg for a weekend of camping, hiking, and history.

Mr. Flaherty will have charge of the Troop for this campaign. You are requested to apprise Mr. Flaherty of your decision to attend as early as possible.

Camp Registration Due March 4th

If you're planning to go to Summer Camp — *and who isn't ?!?* — be sure to get your **\$50** registration fee to Mrs. Bratkowski by **March 4th !!!**

Snow Tubing — March 5th

Don't put that snowsuit away just yet! Grab yer goggles and make yer way over the mountain to Seven Springs on Friday, March 5th for an evening of Snow Tubing!

Court of Honor — March 7th

Troop 251 will hold its Court of Honor at St. John's on Sunday, March 7th. By now, you should have received information via email. If not, or if you have questions, contact Mrs. Harris at secretary@t251.org .

Chairman's Corner

Regular readers of the *Hooter Gazette* can always tell when we haven't had a busy month. Filler takes over the newsletter and articles of any substance disappear. Judging by the content of this issue, it might appear to have been one of those months. But it's not our fault! *Really!*

Our first planned activity for the month, Scout Sunday, fell victim to the record snowfall. Of course, the snow fell right *after* the shopping trip for the fellowship brunch we had planned. Anyone know how much ham and cheese you need for a 96-egg omelet? Then there was the yet-to-be-determined local hike planned for the 13th. After carefully considering the fact that 3 feet of snow would cover most of a 4-foot scout, we reluctantly scratched that idea.

Snow, of course, is the main ingredient in the troop's annual ski trip. In addition to Mr. Astley and Mr. Gillham, this year also saw Mr. Flaherty, Mr R. Gray, and Mrs. Fuller there, along with your non-skiing editor.

- 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.**