



# Troop 251 Hooter Gazette



Larimer, PA

April, 2010

## Troop 251 Opens Archaeology Conference



Photo by Mr. Paschok

The morning of April 10th saw the Scouts of Troop 251 out in good numbers at the Four Points Sheraton, where we were honored to perform the opening flag ceremony for the Society for Pennsylvania Archaeology's 81st Annual Meeting, hosted by the Westmoreland Archaeological Society.

Troop 251's connection with the Westmoreland Archaeological Society goes back almost a decade, with many of our Scouts, both past and present, having been introduced to archaeology at the nearby Consol Site. Two of our Scouts have done their Eagle projects there, and a number of our current Scouts

have camped there, practicing their archaeological skills under the tutelage of our resident amateur archaeologist, Mr. Morgart.

The flag ceremony included the reciting of the Pledge of Allegiance by the audience, and the Scout Oath and Law by the assembled Scouts. Following the ceremony, the Scouts were invited to tour the displays of archaeological artifacts, and were treated to an impromptu discussion of Boy Scouting in years past, and the singing of an old camp song by a member of the SPA. A number of our Scouts also stayed to listen to some of the conference presentations.



Photos by Mrs. Bratkowski

## Return To Dead Man's Hollow

Dead Man's Hollow has become the traditional first hike of the season for our troop. For one, it's an easy hike, with a half mile of level terrain and paths that are soft underfoot. It's also local, with easy walk-in egress just a mile from the Boston access to the Yough River Trail. And then, there are the stories, and the remains of the Union Sewer Pipe works. It's a great place to try out that new backpack, or to get the winter out of your legs.

**Austin P., Andy, Bradley, Adam, Brandon, Kevin, Raven, Trevor, and Johnathan B.** made

the visit on 4/17. Returning hikers found the trail to look familiar, yet different. The heavy snows of this past winter left a lot of deadfall. Broken branches and uprooted trees crisscrossed the trail, forcing everyone to either climb over or limbo under. The trifurcated mature sycamore seems to have weathered the storms, but there are no signs of the trail loop that once went by it. Instead, a new trail seems to be growing beyond the old turn-around point. This year's hike took us to the end of that trail, and beyond. We turned around when the deadfall and mud got to be too thick for passage.

## How Well Do You Know Camp Conestoga?



This is obviously a photo of the front of the Robinson Dining Hall at Camp Conestoga. At least that's what the sign says.

But look! Something is missing! Can you guess what it is?

The first Scout to email the correct answer to hooter@t251.org wins a left-handed smoke shifter and a sky hook to hang it on!

## Food 'Bag Count' Down

One of the most important activities on the troop calendar occurs this month: Scouting for Food, the annual collection of non-perishable food items for those who are in need. Fifteen guys covered North Irwin and parts of Drennan Heights within a few minutes on day one to distribute flyers. The following Saturday, eight returned and collected a truckload of food. The good folks of North Irwin and Drennan Heights should be proud of their contribution!

Council asked that we make an extra effort this year, in honor of the 100th Anniversary of Scouting. And we did: we canvassed an area that had not been canvassed for years. But despite having covered more area this year, our "bag count" was only 96, down significantly from last year's.

## Civil War Items on Display

With the Gettysburg trip coming up in a few months, now seems like a good time to learn a little more about the Civil War. At the regular meeting on 4/8, the guys got their chance to see and handle period-correct clothing and tools from the 1860's. **Trevor** transformed into a civilian telegraph operator, with telegraph key, quill, and ink well. **Mitch** wore the uniform of a Confederate soldier, complete with kepi, haversack, and leather belts and boxes. The item that caught everyone's attention, though, was the ornate Confederate infantry officers' sword.

## New Backpacks !!

In order to better support our growing hiking and backpacking program, the troop has acquired 8 new adjustable frame packs. The lightweight packs can hold all of your gear for a weekend trek, yet are small enough to fit our younger Scouts.

These packs are available for any of our Scouts to use, on a first-come, first-served basis. Thanks to Mr. Gillham for finding and acquiring them on behalf of the troop!



## 2010-2011 Fundraising Plan

The table to the right lists the fundraisers that are currently scheduled for the coming year.

Additional fundraisers can be added if the Scouts want to earn more toward their camp fees. Just bring your profit-making ideas to any Committee member.

Month	Fundraiser	Min. Sale	Assessment
May	Mother's Day Flowers	\$60	\$20
September	Popcorn	\$60	\$60
November	Sarris Candy and/or Luminaria	\$60	\$20
March	Sarris Candy	\$60	\$20

There's a lot going on in the troop right now.

For the latest info, watch your email, or check the troop calendar.

<http://t251.org/t251cal.html>

### Important Dates

4/30	Fish-'n-Fun
5/21	Backpacking
6/4-6	Adventure Base 100
6/11	Gettysburg
6/27	Summer Camp
9/24	Campaganza

## New Merit Badges

You've already heard about the "Heritage" Merit Badges that have been reintroduced this year in honor of the 100th anniversary of Scouting. Now they've announced two *new* Merit Badges!

### Scouting Heritage

This Merit Badge celebrates the history of Scouting, with a focus on the individuals who made it happen. Of course, you'll learn about Lord Baden-Powell and Brownsea Island. You'll also learn about Daniel Carter Beard, William Boyce, Waite Phillips, Ernest Thompson Seton, and James E. West.

This Merit Badge is not all about history, though. It's also about DOING. Among the requirements are a trip to a high-adventure site, a Jamboree, or **Adventure Base 100** — a 10,000 sq.ft. traveling "hands-on, interactive base camp" visiting Pittsburgh on June 4-6.

### Geocaching

Learn how to use a GPS to locate (non)-buried treasure! While you're at it, learn how the GPS system works, and refresh your map and compass skills.

Find hidden caches! Create and release your own Scouting-related travel bug! Track its movement on the web! Plan a geohunt game! Learn the meaning of "Universal Transverse Mercator"!

Geocaching is more than learning how to use a GPS. One geocacher I know calls it "hiking with a purpose." This would be a great Merit Badge for those of you who like to go on troop hikes.

## Chairman's Corner

Adventure Base 100 ...?? (see the Merit Badge article, above) How did that one sneak up on us? By the time you read this, the National Scouting Museum's traveling "hands-on, interactive base camp of activity and fun" will have already visited 16 cities. A Pittsburgh visit is scheduled for the weekend of June 4-6, location to be determined. Watch the troop calendar and your email for more info.

Thanks are due to Mrs. Bratkowski and Mr. Peschock, who provided photos for this issue, and to Mr. Gillham for providing photos that, unfortunately, were not used due to technical difficulties. And thanks to Miss Paige Fuller of the Blue & Gray Brigade living history unit for the Civil War display.

- 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.