



# Troop 251 Hooter Gazette

Larimer, PA

August, 2010



## Troop Shoot at Pitcairn-Monroeville Sportsmen's Club

In March of this year, the Pitcairn-Monroeville Sportsmen's Club (PMSC) hosted the Westmoreland-Fayette Council Spring Camporee. A number of our Scouts attended, but due to attendance limits, our younger Scouts were asked to sit that one out.

In order to give the younger guys a chance to experience the satisfaction that comes from a well-placed, tight grouping, our Mr. Peschock approached the PMSC to ask if they would consider hosting a troop shoot.

The members of PMSC responded enthusiastically, and set about making plans for a day at the range. PMSC is known in the area as a proponent of firearm safety and youth education. On this day, no fewer than six NRA-certified range officers and instructors gave up their Sunday morning to work with our troop.

The popularity of shooting sports cannot be denied. Fourteen Scouts turned out for the August 8th event — that's roughly 60% of the troop, an attendance figure topped only by Summer Camp!

The day began with a safety lesson, and an introduction to the firearms that we would be using. Then it was out to the ranges to prac-

tice what we had learned. The troop was split into 3 groups. Scouts were fitted with eye & ear protection, and each group went out to one of the ranges — pellet rifle, .22, or trap. At each range, we received more training specific to the firearm to be used there. When the range officer was satisfied that the Scouts were ready, the shooting commenced.

Some of the Scouts had never fired a rifle before. But with our small group numbers, the instructors were able to provide individualized coaching, and soon even the beginners were making marks near the center of their targets.

The highlight of the day for a number of our Scouts was the opportunity to satisfy the shooting requirement for their Shotgun Shooting Merit Badge. That required hitting 48% of the clays in two 25-shot rounds. Six of our Scouts were successful, thanks in large part to the excellent coaching that they received.

The troop shoot was a huge success. Everyone had a great time, including your Leaders. More importantly, though, we learned a lot about firearm safety and the proper way to conduct ourselves when holding a gun ... lessons that should stay with us for the rest of our lives.



To apply on  
Position.....Rating of.....  
Name.....Age.....

SHOTS TOUCHING A SCORING RING  
RECEIVE THE HIGHER VALUE.



Saturday, August 28th, started early in the morning with a drive to the Smithton put-in. But we didn't put-in just yet. Instead, we biked to Youghiogheny Canoe Outfitters ("YCO") in West

The float was an easy one, with a steady current to push you along. The river ran shallow in spots, requiring either a good choice of approach, or, as most of us found out, wet shoes and portage.



Newton. We left the bikes there for the ride back, and YCO transported us and our rented canoes back to where we started.

Near the end of the trip, the guys stopped to play for awhile on a rope swing that arcs out over deep water. This was a favorite from last year's trip, and not to be missed on this one!



The next leg of the trip was a 6-mile paddle down the Yough. We launched 7 canoes and 3 kayaks, carrying 11 Scouts and 6 leaders.

From there, it was just a few hundred yards down river to the take-out point, and the start of the bike ride back to Smithton.

### Summer Court of Honor at Oak Hollow Park

*Grillmaster J* was flippin' the burgers and everyone was having a great time at our recent Summer Court of Honor and Picnic at Oak Hollow Park. The weather cooperated, and except for a little bit of wind that kept us jumping to catch

plates, flags, and papers, we couldn't have asked for a better August day.



Everyone enjoyed the three poster-board-sized photo collages of troop activities from the past year that Mrs. Bratkowski had on display. The photos showed a very active troop, and the list of accomplishments presented to our Scouts in the formal program echoed that fact.

SPL Solomon wrote the program for the day, and led the senior troop leadership through the presentation of numerous Merit Badges and Rank Advancements.

The program was followed by a picnic lunch of generous proportion. Sixty-plus attendees enjoyed a wide range of food and refreshment, followed by games, fishing, or a walk around the lake with a remarkably tame goose.



Softly falls the light of day,  
 As our campfire fades away.  
 Silently each Scout should ask,  
 "Have I done my daily task?  
 Have I kept my honor bright?  
 Can I guiltless sleep tonight?  
 Have I done and have I dared,  
 Everything to Be Prepared?"

### Troop Leadership

	Scorpions	Eagles	Falcons	Dragons	No Names
<b>Patrol Leader</b>	Steve	Bradley	Jacob	Austin G.	Austin P.
<b>Asst. Patrol Leader</b>	Nick	Mitch	Kevin B.	Justin	Andy

**SPL - Adam**  
**ASPL - Solomon, Jacob, Kevin B.**  
**Scribe - Trevor**  
**Custodian - Mitch**  
**Quartermaster - Raven**  
**Historian - Austin G.**  
**Librarian - Justin**

**Get Ready!**

It's almost time for



### Chairman's Corner

There is something about *Vespers* that touches the soul. As I write this note, the voices of all of the Scouts I've ever known are as a chorus in my memory of hundreds of recitations. There is a time-less quality about *Vespers* that makes it perfect for any era, and every generation. It is as relevant today as when it was penned.

*Vespers* is more than just a song with which to close our meetings. Its singing offers us a time for reflection, a time to think about our day, our week, our time together as Scouts. It offers us the opportunity to reflect upon the role that God plays in our lives.

I urge you to read the lyrics. Read them slowly, line by line, and think about each. Imagine yourself with your fellow Scouts, circled around a campfire at the end of a day. Ask yourself the questions ... and answer them, truthfully. Do this every time you recite *Vespers*. You will be amazed at how it will touch *your* soul.

- 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 © 2010 Troop 251 BSA except where noted.