



# Troop 251 Hooter Gazette

Larimer, PA

October, 2010



Orienteering is finding your way with just a map and compass, and on Saturday, October 23, six scouts (**Ben, Austin, Kevin L., Bradley, Austin G., and Andy**) along with their guest **Zane** did just that on a 1.5 mile course at Twin Lakes Park.



First, the Scouts studied topographical maps of the park. Then, they learned how to draw declination lines on their maps to correct for the nine-degree difference between true north and mag-

netic north at Twin Lakes. Finally, they used their compasses to find the bearing to their first destination, the southern tip of the lower lake.

After that, it was time to start walking! The trek started with a fairly difficult descent down a wooded slope, but the Scouts soon found a trail that made for easier walking to the first destination. The next two legs of the trip took the Scouts to the park boathouse and to a point between the upper and lower lakes.

For the final leg, the Scouts had to find their way back to the course starting point. This was the most difficult leg of the trip since it required trekking through woods without trails or other visual cues, but the Scouts handled it just fine, finding the correct bearing and staying on it until they reached their destination. Mr. Peschock, Mr. Langford, and Mr. Chenot were a little winded from the quarter-mile climb up a fourteen-percent grade, but were still pretty impressed!

Article by Mr. Chenot. Photo by Mr. Peschock.

Did you know that there are a number of sports that are based on the not-so-simple skill of orienteering? The most basic form of orienteering sport is Foot Orienteering, or "Foot-O". It is a timed race requiring participants to navigate a course using the same orienteering techniques that we learned at Twin Lakes. To prevent cheating, the Foot-O uses a staggered start.

Orienteering can be done while mountain biking, horseback riding, skiing, canoeing, ... practically any means of getting from point A to point B. It can take place on mountain trails, along valley streams, or in an urban setting. It can be a test of skill, or a test of endurance. And now, you know.

## Hallowe'en Fun



Photo by Mr. Peschock

By all accounts, the annual Hallowe'en Party was *awesome!*

Fog and spooky music filled the room, and skeletons and ghouls were everywhere you looked. Scouts and their Webelos guests were both tricked and treated at Troop 251's annual celebration of things that go bump in the night. Fun was the order of the evening, with games like Ninja, and Medusa. Donuts hung on strings proved to be a challenge for some of the guys, though a couple of them figured out how to capture the suspended cake ring without chasing it in wild arcs and circles.

Around the room, at points along a compass course, a

number of boxes sat ominously, with holes just large enough to insert a hand. Inside the boxes, unseen, were truly gross and disgusting things. Eyeballs, intestines, and other warm, cold, slimy, or squishy imaginary entrails awaited the boy who was brave enough to reach inside.

Toward the end of the party, the older Scouts were surprised by a visit from an old friend, Mr. John Tello, in full Hallowe'en regalia. Mr. Tello will soon be coming back to work with the troop as an Assistant Scoutmaster.

Thanks to **Austin P.** and **Jon L.** for coordinating the event, which was held in place of our regular troop meeting on October 28th. Great job, guys!

## Knotty Words

If you overheard someone say, "right over left; left over right", you'd probably recognize that as the instructions for tying a square knot. If you were at the troop meetings this month, you probably heard that phrase more than a few times. Learning to tie knots can be tedious, but it can also be one of the most valuable things that you'll do as a Boy Scout, if you take the time to really learn them.

Here's something that you may "knot" know: Most knots can be categorized as either a **bend**, or a **hitch**. A **hitch** is used to tie your rope onto something. Think of tying your horse to a hitching post. A **bend** joins two ropes together. And if you double your rope by bending it back on itself, that's called a **bight**.

## How Well Do You Know Camp Conestoga?



Now there's something that you don't see everyday, though some of you may see it more frequently than others while you're at Summer Camp.

But do you notice it? That's the *aim* of this column: to get you to notice the things that are around you, or at least *partially around you*, as is the case with this item.

The first Scout to properly identify this item and its location at Camp Conestoga wins a solar-powered sock dryer!



**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.

**LEADERS — Be sure to complete your Youth Protection Training!!** It's easier than ever, now that it's online. Go to [myscouting.org](http://myscouting.org) and set up an account. You'll need your ID number, which can be found on your membership card. If you don't have your card, we can look up your number on the roster. Leaders who have not completed their training — this includes Merit Badge Counselors — will be dropped from the roster.

### Summer Camp 2011

It's never too soon to start planning for Summer Camp! Per the November *Smoke Signals*, Troop 251 has reserved the Catawba site for the 2nd week of camp, June 26th — July 2nd.

### Rechartering

It's that time of year again, when we renew our association with St. John's and BSA. Rechartering must be completed by Jan 12th this year, so plan to set aside a few bucks for rechartering fees. Watch your email for more info soon.

### Klondike Derby

The Bushy Run Klondike Derby will once again be held at Camp Tenacharison. Current plans have it set for the weekend of January 7th-9th. Troop 251 ran away with first place last year ... Will we do it again!?!?

### Chairman's Corner

The *Hooter* is a little light this month, and a week late in publication. It's not because the troop wasn't busy, but because your editor has been busy elsewhere. Yes, there is life outside of Scouting! But now that McKeesport is out of the playoffs, there should be more time for Scouting. Fans of the *Hooter* will be happy to know that I've already begun work on the November and December editions.

If you're not a fan of the *Hooter*, *why not?* Help me to make it better by contributing your photos, stories, and ideas. Feedback is always appreciated. Send yours to [hooter@t251.org](mailto:hooter@t251.org).

Many thanks to Messrs. Chenot and Peschock for their contributions to this month's edition!

- 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.