



# Troop 251 Hooter Gazette

Larimer, PA

November, 2010



## Irwin Light-Up Night 2010



Light-Up Night always seems to get here just a little too quickly. No sooner do we finish putting away the decorations from the Hallowe'en party, and suddenly it's time to build a Christmas float! But for three years running, Troop 251 has managed to create a unique and entertaining towable structure in time for the start of the parade. In 2008, we went Seussian, with the green guy and his brave dog sledding down a hill of snow. For 2009 we turned a trailer into a huge gift box full of Boy Scouts. This year, we paraded alongside a 200 cubic foot gingerbread house.

It wasn't made of real gingerbread, of course. That would have taken way too much ginger and molasses, and besides, we couldn't figure out how to cook it over a campfire! Rest assured, however, that our gingerbread house was constructed of only the tastiest plywood, OSB sheathing, and cardboard to be found in the area!



When the float arrived at the parade staging area, 45 minutes before 'go' time, it was only a bare painted structure, resembling not so much a gingerbread house as it did a large brown doghouse. Fourteen scouts and a handful of leaders swarmed around it, and soon "windows", "icing" and "candy" turned the doghouse into a gingerbread house. When all was done, and we stood back to admire our work, someone walked up to tell us, "You're right behind that tractor, which ...is ...leaving ...now." Great job, guys!



Welcome to Troop 251, Zane !!!

<http://www.t251.org>

## Luminaria

The troop is trying out a new fundraiser this year, that is sure to brighten the holidays for the folks in our area.

Luminaria orders are being solicited in the neighborhood of North Irwin.

Once the orders have been tallied, we will schedule a day to assemble the kits. Delivery will be on the 18th.

Be sure to get your orders in! If you need an order form, go to the Resources page on the troop web site.

## Time to Recharter!

It's one of the most important things that we do every year, to reaffirm our continued association with our Chartered Organization, St. John's United Church of Christ.

Watch your email for information on rechartering dates and fees.

Leaders: Please remember to finish your Youth Protection Training prior to rechartering, or you will be dropped from the roster.

## Summer Camp — June 26 to July 2, 2011 Mark your calendars!

- 3/11/2011 Reservation fee \$50 due to Council
- 5/13/2011 Balance of camp fees due to Council

Note that these dates are when the collected monies are due to Council. Expect to pay these fees to the Troop a week or two before the Council dates. More information will be sent out as each date approaches.

## Klondike Derby — Jan 7-9

Troop 251 returns to Camp Tenacharison this year as the defending champs! Patrol *Lady Gaga* ran away with first place last year, having failed to run away from that name.

*Will we do it again this year?!? Be a part of the excitement this Jan 7-9 !!!*



## How Well Do You Know Camp Conestoga?

There were three lucky winners in last month's *How Well Do You Know Camp Conestoga?* visual challenge! Their identities will forever remain a secret, in order to keep them from being mobbed by people wanting to share in their winnings.

The 3 scouts who correctly identified the item as a leg from one of the stands at the rifle range each win (*drum roll, please*) ...a solar-powered sock dryer! Winners may claim their prize at the next camp-out, by placing their wet

socks on the large dry rock provided.

Speaking of rocks, this month's challenge comes from a structure made entirely of rocks, with a wooden top. It's the centerpiece, but it's not in the center.



The first scout with the correct answer wins!

## Are You on the Grid?

The World Organization of the Scout Movement (WOSM, the folks behind that purple patch on your uniform) is a partner of the World Community Grid.

Scouts and Scouters the world over are combining their efforts to do great things ... things like fighting childhood cancer, solving the problem of clean water for under-developed countries, or curing muscular dystrophy. *How*, you ask?

only when you're not using your computer, you'll never notice that it's there. Right now, while you're reading this article, your computer is sitting idle. Instead of eating electricity while it waits for you to move your mouse, it could be discovering new ways to prevent cancer.

All that's needed is a computer. The World Community Grid ([www.woldcommunitygrid.org](http://www.woldcommunitygrid.org)) uses spare processing power from your computer to solve small pieces of big problems. Using a program called BOINC, the Grid will download data to your computer, run the calculations, and upload the results automatically. Because it runs

By joining the SCOUTS team at World Community Grid, you'll join over 400 people who, together, have contributed over **156 years** of computing time since the team was formed in 2007. Currently, the SCOUTS team contributes an average of 46 days of computing time every day.

**You may have noticed** that the troop calendar has changed format. The new format is easier to maintain, and easier to update. It's a little ugly, but much more useful. You can see it at <http://t251.org/cal/t251cal.html> .

The new calendar can be made available in **.ics** format for anyone who wants to download to their own calendar. Email your editor for details.

## Urban Hike — Dec. 27th !!

**Mark your calendars** for the third annual Urban Hike, to be held once again on **December 27th**. We're not sure where we'll be hiking this year, but you can be sure that it will involve ice skating! Watch your email for details.

**Have a friend who is thinking of joining? Bring him along!**

## Chairman's Corner

As I began writing this month's *Hooter*, it struck me that *we didn't do anything this month*. Of course, it took me only a minute to realize that the first half of the month was, indeed, *very busy*. Yep, we did it again! We managed to design and build a parade float in a little under two weeks! And from the comments we heard as we paraded through downtown Irwin, our float was a big hit with the crowd.

Once again, many thanks to the Sudsina's, who graciously and bravely allowed us, once again, to use their garage. Thanks, also, to the Leaders and parents who came out to help at the garage and at the staging area the night of the parade, and who donated everything from cardboard to candy. Most of all, kudos to the Scouts who came out to have some fun, and to help to kick off the Christmas season for the Irwin community. *Merry Christmas, everyone!*

- 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.**