



# Troop 251 Hooter Gazette

Larimer, PA

March, 2011



## The Stave is Passed

On March 6, Scoutmaster Michael Morgart stepped down as Scoutmaster of Troop 251, ending a run that began in mid-2008.

Under Mr. Morgart's leadership, Troop 251 developed a unique personality among the local Boy Scout troops. Sure, we went back to the basics, with things like knots and first aid. But Mr. Morgart also shared with us some of his extraordinary life experiences, occasionally taking the troop to unusual and unforgettable destinations. An amateur archaeologist, he introduced the boys to the thrill of unearthing a 600-year-old village. He taught them about the history of our part of the world, and made it possible for them to experience the workings of an old sawmill. He taught them camping skills, and outdoor skills. He taught them the responsibility of leadership, and the value of individual contribution.

Mr. Morgart says that he hopes to stay involved in the troop as an Assistant Scoutmaster.



## Downhill All the Way!

by Mr. Chenot

Our annual ski outing was held Sunday, March 13 at Seven Springs. Seven scouts (**Sol, Mitch, Matt, Jon, Austin P., Andy, and Zane**), five leaders (Mr. Astley, Mr. McCormely, Mr. Peschock, Mr. Chenot, and Mr. Tello), and seven friends and family members attended.

When the troop arrived at Seven Springs, the experienced skiers took right to the slopes for a day of testing their skills on the sometimes slushy trails. The beginners got some instruction in the basics of skiing from Mr. Astley and then took a beginning ski lesson from a Seven Springs instructor.

After the lesson it was time for the beginners to go up the mountain. The beginners learned that it's easier to turn and stop when you're skiing down the bunny slope than it is when you're coming down the side of a mountain, but everybody made it down in one piece and had fun while they were at it!

## Crossing Cedar Creek

On March 26th, eight of our scouts went for a short 3-mile hike at a familiar spot, the Cedar Creek Gorge Trail. Along the way, they learned that there are two ways to cross a creek:

**the easy way ...**



**and the fun way.**



Welcome to Troop 251, Skylar !!!

## Eagle Project: St. John's Gym Floor

What little was left of the paint on the gym floor at St. John's UCC put up a good fight. But in the end, **Steve D.** and his crew won the battle and the paint yielded to expose the bare concrete beneath.

St. John's plays a vital role in the Larimer community, and its facilities are seemingly in constant use. The floor was last refinished in the 1980's, and the rate of deterioration had increased dramatically in recent years.

In the end, it took a stream of high pressure water to lift the last bits of the old paint.



In addition to the gym floor, shown here with just the first coat of paint, Steve and crew tackled the floor of the anteroom, using the paint that was left over from the first coat. The door to the dining room, which had scraped the floor through most of its arc, was realigned so as not to ruin the new paint.



Back in the gym, the brown baseboard and the front of the stage received a new coat of paint, the walls were touched up, and new receptacles and plates completed the look. Free-throw lines and boundaries were added later that week..

## A High-Energy Court of Honor

There's a new energy in the troop these days. You can sense it when the boys are on an outing. You can hear it in the Leaders' voices. And on March 6th, even the basement of St. John's looked brighter, more alive, as we gathered for Spring Court of Honor 2011.

The freshly-painted floor had a lot to do with that, of course. But there was also a certain amount of pride that was obvious in the way that the room was set up. Each placard, every candle, was placed *just so*. Every detail of the program was checked, and double-checked. Nothing was left to chance.

The ladies of the Troop Committee prepared a mouth-watering meal of ham, potatoes *au gratin*, rigatoni, fried chicken, green beans, corn, and salad. The

families in attendance brought the desserts — a veritable cornucopia of goodies.

The troop had advancements in every rank this Spring except one: Life. All other ranks, from Scout to Star, had at least one boy who had attained that rank. In addition, a number of boys earned merit badges over the

past half-year.

The highlight of this Court of Honor, though, was the installation of our new Scoutmaster, Mr. Peschock. The installation ceremony was written and administered by former Troop 251 Scoutmaster and current Chartered Organization Representative, Mr. Pilipovich.



### Klondike Derby Update

In honor of our 1st-place finish in the sled race at this year's Klondike Derby — our second in as many years — Bushy Run District presented us with this 12" trophy, which will be proudly displayed in our meeting room to inspire future Klondike patrols!



### Scouting for Food

Please plan to participate on **April 2nd** to distribute flyers, and on **April 9th** to collect food.

**It's one of the most important things we do.**

### On the Horizon

- Scouting for Food
- Fish 'n Fun Camp
- Spring Camporee
- Summer Camp

Check the troop calendar for details at [t251.org](http://t251.org)

### Election Results

Election of Troop Leaders was held at the regular troop meeting on March 3rd. The results of that election are displayed below. Congratulations to all troop leaders!

Now ... it is the responsibility of the new leaders to learn what is required of their position. Ask your Scoutmasters for guidance.

Then ... use your knowledge and your position to make Troop 251 even better!

<b>SPL</b>	Jacob
<b>ASPL</b>	Adam
	Kevin
	Raven
<b>Troop Guide</b>	Austin P.
<b>Quartermaster</b>	Mitch
<b>Scribe</b>	Austin G.
<b>Historian</b>	Trevor
<b>Librarian</b>	Justin
<b>Chaplain</b>	Skylar
<b>Custodian</b>	Zane

**Plans are being made for a shooting sports event. The tentative date is 9/25. Mark your calendars!**

### Chairman's Corner

Most scouts don't realize this, but it's not uncommon for a scout to have two or three different Scoutmasters during his years in the troop. My own son has known three: Messrs. Peschock, Morgart, and Woleslagle. Each brings his own personality and energy level to the troop.

It takes a lot of devotion to be a good Scoutmaster. There are meetings every week, a program to develop, outings to lead. There are the myriad questions from Scouts and parents, not to mention the nagging from the Committee Chair about keeping the schedule full of exciting activities. There are strict rules to follow, and training sessions to take. There is a lot happening behind the scenes.

I'd like to thank Mr. Morgart for his dedication over the past few years. And I'd also like to thank Mr. Peschock for stepping up to the challenge. I see good things ahead for Troop 251. Stay tuned.

- 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 © 2011 Troop 251 BSA except where noted. All rights reserved.