



Troop 251 Hooter Gazette

Larimer, PA

April, 2011



Fish-'n'-Fun

What better way to shake off the winter doldrums than by pitching your tent by the lake and casting your line into the water? On the weekend of April 29th, eighteen scouts and four leaders did just that.

Mammoth Park has been the site of our annual Fish-'n'-Fun Camp for a number of years. Indeed, for a long time, we were the only troop we knew of who camped there. This year, another troop was camped in our usual site, and we were reassigned to a site near the old BMX track.

The new site was a little windy, but much closer to the water. Going fishing no longer meant a short hike, but merely a walk across the road to the lake. And when the Fish Commission showed

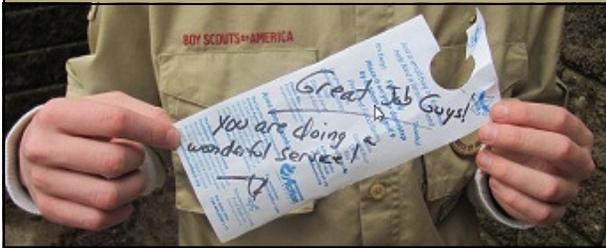
up to stock the lake, we were right there to help. Four scouts were able to complete their Fishing merit badges while at camp that weekend.

Of course, it wasn't all about fishing. There were skills to learn, work to do, ... and games to play. The giant slide saw its share of use, as did the dirt mounds of the old bike track. And Zombies walked among the troop again, with new hiding places to be explored.

Trevor's dutch oven pizza was as popular as always. For something a little different, an unusual topping was added — ground elk. In addition, the new guys got their first taste of Adam's jambalaya, which has become a staple of troop cuisine over the past few years.



A Little Mystery



“Great job guys! You’re doing a wonderful service!”

That was the message attached to one of the bags that we picked up in our annual Scouting for Food campaign on April 9th. There are a couple of notable Scouting figures living in the neighborhood, so it may have come from one of them. Or it may have come from someone who simply appreciates the effort.

Regardless of who penned it, the message was well-received — not only by our scouts, but also by the good folks at St. John’s food bank who serve month after month, year after year.

We were only able to collect 90 bags this year, down from last year’s 96 and far short of our goal of 125 bags. Next year, we’ll be taking on more territory in an effort to collect even more food for those who need it.

A Little History

Regular readers of the *Hooter* should know to expect an article on Dead Man’s Hollow about this time every year. An easy 2.5-mile level out-n-back, it’s the perfect early-season hike for new scouts and winter-weary veterans alike.

We’ve been there so many times that the remains of the Union Sewer Pipe Company are as familiar to Troop 251 as our own backyards. On April 16th, a handful of our scouts visited Dead Man’s Hollow for the first time this season, and found it as we remembered it — welcoming and familiar, yet still somewhat of an enigma. We’ve

known a little of the history of the hollow, but there were a lot of gaps in our knowledge.



For those of you interested in learning more about Dead Man’s Hollow, there is now an excellent website put together by The DMH Fellowship, a group of volunteers that works

together with the Allegheny Land Trust to assist with the maintenance of the Dead Man’s Hollow conservation area. The site offers both history and hope for the future of Dead Man’s Hollow.

Check it out at www.dead-mans-hollow.com.



The Hooter’s 50th Issue

This issue marks the 50th known issue of the Troop 251 *Hooter Gazette*! Little did Mrs. Harris suspect, when she put together that first issue back in February of 2003, that the *Hooter* would still be going strong eight years later. Mrs. Harris continued as the editor through 2005, with Mrs. Stewart picking up the pen for 2007 & 2008.

In its history, it’s gone from a one-page handout, to email distribution, to a web page, to the current 3-page monthly PDF served up over the worldwide web. It’s gone from black-and-white text and graphics to full-color photos.

The goal is to keep you informed of what we’ve done, where we’ve been, and what’s on the horizon for Troop 251. Archived issues can be found at <http://t251.org/t251oldnews.html>.

The Men Who've Led 251

The Scoutmaster plays a very important role in the development of the boys in his charge. In honor of those who have dedicated a part of their lives to this endeavor, herewith is a list of past Scoutmasters of Troop 251 since 1984.

Mr. Brian McKinnon
Mr. Paul Snyder
Mr. Tom Whitaker
Mr. David Pilipovich
Mr. Joe Woleslagle Jr.
Mr. Michael Morgart

The troop's been around since 1973, so we're obviously missing a few. If you can add any names to this list, please send same to your editor at hooter@t251.org.

All Blue Tarps Look Alike

One of the most useful items in any camp is that roughly-rectangular sheet of cheap, often blue, vinyl that we call a tarp. We use them under tents as moisture barriers, over tents as rain protection, and around pavilions as a windbreak. We borrow and lend them in a rush to get camp set up, and just as quickly forget who we borrowed them from or loaned them to.

Here's a simple solution for that problem. Using a permanent marker, write your name on two corners of the tarp. If you have more than one, you might also want to write the size on the same corners, to make selection from a stack of tarps easier.



If you haven't checked the troop calendar recently, you may be surprised at what you'll find there ...

May 14-15 Spring Camporee
May 21 Bowling
Jun 17-19 Backpacking Trek

Upcoming Activities

Jun 26-2 Summer Camp
Jul 22 Archaeolog (tentative)
Sep 25 Shooting Sports

Chairman's Corner

This has been a tough month for scheduling. With Scouting for Food taking two Saturdays, and Easter only two weeks later, it didn't leave much time for Scouting. But our intrepid leaders managed to squeeze in a hike and a camping trip before the end of the month! Kudos and thanks to those who made it happen.

I did not pitch a tent at Fish-'n-Fun this year. But I spent enough time there on Friday evening and on Sunday morning to make some observations on the way that this year's troop functions as a unit. From what I've seen, we have a great bunch of boys. They work well together, and they play well together. They help one another, and they respect one another. These are the basics that must be accomplished before any further learning can take place. These guys seem to have all of that figured out. It's going to be a great year!

- 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. 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. **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.