



Troop 251 Hooter Gazette

Larimer, PA

May, 2011



Spring Camporee: GeoNav 2011

Article by Mr. Chenot

This year's Bushy Run Spring Camporee, based at Camp Conestoga, was a GPS orienteering competition that provided scouts with the chance to sharpen their map reading skills and to practice backcountry navigation with maps, compasses, and handheld GPS devices.

The competition worked like this: each patrol was given a list of five locations within Eberly Scout Reservation that were identified only by UTM (Universal Transverse Mercator) map coordinates. Patrols then had to navigate to each location using a topographic map, compasses, and handheld GPS devices. Upon finding a location, patrols marked their scorecard with the unique symbol for that location. Once all five locations were found, the patrols returned to the starting point for another list of five locations. The patrol that found the most locations within eight hours would be the winner.

The Troop fielded only one patrol (**Jake, Adam, George, and Andy**), and that patrol didn't have much experience in GPS navigation, let alone UTM coordinates. The patrol learned fast, though. Soon each scout could read off the "Eastings" and "Northings" of a destination while another scout entered the coordinates into the GPS and led the patrol to the destination following the direction provided by the device. At the end of the day, the guys found eleven destinations, which was good enough for fourth place out of a dozen or so patrols and just shy of third place. While they were at it, the four scouts also trekked 17.3 kilometers, which is about 10.8 miles!

Despite all of the hard work, not to mention a *lot* of rain, there was still time for the fun that normally goes on at a Troop campout. The scouts made lots of good food, including mountain pies (peanut butter and chicken was a favorite), turkey burgers, and walking tacos. When it wasn't raining, the scouts also had time to throw a ball around or to visit with friends from troops camped nearby. George even found the energy to build a campfire and earn his Fireman's Chit after a day of hiking with his more experienced and longer-legged patrol mates!



Top to Bottom: Find the orange milk jug, get your card punched; The great outdoors; Looking up in awe at the oldest known hemlock tree in Pennsylvania; What they saw.

Welcome to Troop 251, Vance !!!

Fitness on the Trail



Article by Mr. Chenot

On May 11, ten scouts (**Adam, Kevin, Raven, Trevor, Bradley, Brandon, Andy, Zane, Vance,** and **Skylar**) made a different kind of hike around the upper lake of Twin Lakes Park -- a fitness hike.

A fitness hike is done along a fitness trail, which is a series of interconnected exercise stations. The scouts jogged from station to station and did a variety of exercises, including push-ups, chin-ups, sit-ups, and isometric squats. What's an isometric squat, you ask? It's a squat done with your back up against a wall or pole, while you hold the squat position for a specific length of time. It's not quite as easy as it sounds.

After one lap around the one-mile trail, everyone was ready for another lap, this time without stopping. Everyone who started completed the lap, with **Raven** leading the pack, finishing in just under seven minutes.

Everyone who did the fitness hike had a great time and got a great workout. And who knows? Maybe someone was inspired to keep training so that he can keep up with Raven next time.

New Robotics Merit Badge



There's a new Merit Badge available, and it's sure to be popular with the sci-fi crowd!

But robots aren't just the stuff of science fiction anymore. They're very real, and they're all around us. Learn more about robots by earning this new, cool-looking Merit Badge!

What's Your Favorite Mountain Pie?

Everyone knows about pie filling and pizza stuff. Here are some suggestions that you may not have considered:

- Nutella or chocolate, and bananas
- Scrambled eggs and bacon
- Ham and cheese
- Cream cheese, cherry pie filling, and graham crackers
- Leftover spaghetti
- Bacon, lettuce, and tomato

Troop 251 Goes Into the Gutter

Article by Mr. Peschock

Yes, scouting does happen indoors sometimes and this month was one of those times. Saturday, May 21st from 7-9pm Troop 251 went bowling at the North Versailles Bowling Center. We had 11 scouts who brought 12 friends, siblings, and parents to bowl, with several other parents watching from the back of the alley.

All of the bowlers in attendance had a wonderful time. The scouts enjoyed bowling, eating a slice of pizza with a drink, and playing games in the arcade for a little while.

While most bowlers try to see who can get the highest score for a game or the best average while bowling, a couple of Troop 251 leaders noticed the speed of the bowling balls were displayed on each lane's overhead scoreboard and decided to see who could throw the bowling ball down the lane at the fastest speed. Mr. Langford and Mr. Peschock were throwing bowling balls down the alley with some pretty decent speeds — the fastest times were between 20.5 and 21 miles per hour.

In attendance: **Bradley, Kyle, Kevin, Austin P., Ben, Jon, Brandon, Zane, Vance, Evan,** and **George.**



Photo by Mr. Peschock

The Humorous Side of Sir Robert Baden-Powell

At a distance of a number of decades, the details of a famous person's life tend to fade away until only *the things that they are famous for* remain. Such seems to be the case with Sir Robert Baden-Powell.

Oh, we are reminded that he started the Scouting movement. And we have heard about the first camp on that small island off the southeastern coast of England. But we rarely hear about his personality.

In 1916, there were rumors going around that Sir Robert was being held prisoner in the Tower of London, charged with being a spy. On the 18th of May, the London Times published an excerpt from a letter in which "B-P" himself wrote that the rumors cannot be true ... because, said he, he had been "taken out and shot over a month ago", citing a rumor published in a Chicago newspaper.

I feel like I know Sir Robert Baden-Powell a little better for having read his response.

On the Horizon

6/11	Twenty-Mile Hike on the Greater Allegheny Passage
6/17	17-mile Backpacking Trek on Laurel Trail
6/26	Summer Camp
7/21	Archaeology Camp

Summer Camp is only 3 weeks away!



Who will win the swamped canoe race? Last year's winners brought back this most excellent canoe paddle trophy!

Chairman's Corner

The life of Sir Robert Stephenson Smyth Baden-Powell holds a certain fascination for me, not merely because he was the founder of one of the finest organizations to ever have graced this planet, but because he was, first and foremost, a leader. Leadership — the ease with which one sets the pace, the direction, and the tone of the group around them — seems to me an interesting puzzle.

Through the years, I've learned that the ability to lead is a talent that few truly possess. Of those who possess it, only a few develop it. When a person with that gift finds an opportunity to use it, the result can be amazing. I see nascent leadership in some of our scouts. The challenge falls to our leaders to discover it, and to create for the boys the opportunity to develop it.

- 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.