



# Troop 251 Hooter Gazette

Larimer, PA

July, 2011



## Summer Camp Action Report

During the week of June 26th - July 2nd, twenty-one of our scouts descended upon Camp Conestoga's Catawba site, determined to fill the week with merit badge sessions, scout skills, and fun!



This is the largest group that Troop 251 has sent to Camp Conestoga that any of our scouts can remember. **Jon, Kyle, Austin G., Bradley, Jacob, Ben, Andy, Trevor, Raven, Justin, Kevin L., Adam, Brandon, Austin P., Matt, Tim, Vance, Skylar, Zane, George, and Kevin B.** made the trip this year. Another scout, **Mitch**, was also at the Eberly Scout Reservation that week, but was busy working at Buck Run.

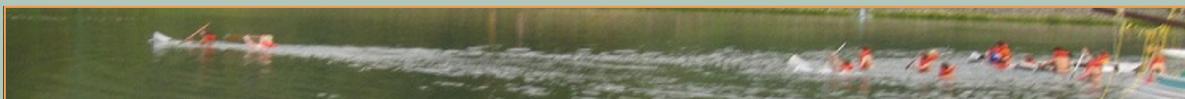
The triathlon wasn't quite so easy for **Raven** (the swimmer), **Andy** (the runner), and **Adam** (the canoeist). The trio finished third in their heat — not too shabby, considering that this is the first time that Troop 251 has participated in the triathlon in five years!

The scouts of Troop 251 did a little service work as well, raking grass at the parade ground in preparation for parents' visitation on Wednesday evening.

Bucket hats became the 251 identity item of the week, with 3/4 of the troop stopping by the trading post to plunk down \$5 for a floppy hat with the Eberly Scout Reservation logo.

**Kyle, Justin, Bradley, Raven, and Trevor** were called out this year by the Order of the Arrow.

And the Leaders' losing streak in water polo remains unbroken, with a 6-0 loss to Staff.



One of the main reasons to go to Summer Camp is to come home with a bunch of merit badges, and our scouts took good advantage of what was offered there. One even attended sessions for merit badges being taught by the Scoutmaster of a neighboring troop, coming home with a total of 10 completed badges.

**Adam** and **Raven** made the swamped canoe race look easy, leaving the rest of the group in their wake, literally and figuratively. That's them on the left in the photo above, making their way across the placid lake. Only Adam's head and shoulders are above the water line. Each was awarded a day pack with the Camp Conestoga logo.



**Top Left:** Scouts, sporting their new bucket hats, cheer on the 251 Leaders in water polo vs. Staff. **Right:** Lined up for parade. **Bottom Left:** Vespers at Hagan Chapel.

## Sleeping with the Fishes ... and the Ducks

On the weekend of July 30<sup>th</sup>, Troop 251 took to the river for the first of two overnight canoe trips. Crewing the canoes on this trip were **Kyle, Kevin L., Matt, and Austin P.**

On Saturday morning, the troop met at St. John's before

the sun came up, and departed for the Youghiogheny Canoe Outfitters at West Newton. We were fitted for PFD's and given paddles, then loaded our watercraft onto the trailer and climbed into the van for the 40-minute ride to Connellsville.

There's nothing like canoeing down a smooth-flowing river on a lazy summer day. We saw beautiful scenery everywhere we looked as we floated and paddled to our island campsite. We found a nice place on the rocks beside the river to pause for lunch, and then set out again for the island that would be our home for the night. As we neared Layton Island, 14 miles downriver from Connellsville, near Perryopolis, we discovered that another group had made it to the island before us. We went ashore by the main campsite and did a little recon, looking for a suitable campsite with sufficient river access. Finding a nice camping area near the end of the island, we returned to our canoes and paddled around to our chosen campsite.



This is primitive camping at its best! The only things available on the island were what we brought with us from Connellsville. We cleared the area and pitched our tents. Swimming and resting filled the remainder of the afternoon.

After dinner we sat around the fire and talked for a while before hitting the sack.

In the morning, we broke camp and ate a quick breakfast before setting off on the second leg of our trek. Under a blanket of heavy fog, we got our paddles wet again, pushing our crafts toward West Newton. As the fog lifted, the tree-lined banks of the Youghiogheny River once again came into view.

We took lunch at Cedar Creek Park before heading north again. All eyes searched the right bank for the rope swing that hangs from a tree about a mile from the takeout point. Several of us took a couple of swings out into the river. Then we set off for the takeout point and some much-needed rest.

Another trip on this 26-mile stretch of the Yough is planned for the weekend of September 3<sup>rd</sup>.



Photos and story by Mr. Peschock

August 25th is the first new meeting of the new scouting year. Wear your Class A's, please!

Coming up in September

## Shooting Sports



Sunday, Sept 25  
Pitcairn-Monroeville  
Sportsmens Club

**Make plans to attend!**

## COURT OF HONOR

**Oak Hollow Park  
Pine Pavilion**

**Sunday, August 21,  
2011**

Bring the family out to the park and have some fun as we celebrate the achievements of our scouts!



### Chairman's Corner

To those of you who have been waiting to read about summer camp, I apologize for the lateness of this issue. But I wanted to include the overnight canoe trip that ended on the last day of the month. The archaeology camp that was scheduled between those two activities fell victim to heat and rain, and had to be postponed. We can camp in a storm, but we can't work a dig! So while it looks like we've had only one outing this month, it's not for not trying!



To be a good scout leader, one needs to have retained a sense of wonder and adventure from the days of his youth. One has to instinctively and immediately react to the suggestion of sleeping on an island in the middle of the Yough River with the thought, "That'd be cool!" It's that kind of thinking that has brought this troop to where it is today, and that will lead to many more adventures in the years ahead. To the leaders — and the scouts — I urge: Keep your sense of adventure. Do the cool things.

Kudos once again to the great bunch of leaders who consistently show up in numbers! At summer camp, Messrs. Peschock, R. Gray, Langford, Morgart, and McCormley were in attendance for at least part of the week. Messrs. Langford, McCormley, and Peschock paddled along with the guys on the Yough River. And let's not forget Mr. Chenot who planned the canoe trip (and the upcoming trip in September) and Mrs. Peschock for taking care of the logistics on this one.

- 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.