



Troop 251 Hooter Gazette

Larimer, PA

August, 2011



Bike Hike: Sutersville to Cedar Creek

Saturday, August 27, was a great day for a bike ride. Nine scouts (**Evan, Skylar, Tim, Vance, Andy, Ben, Matt, Zane, and Bradley**) did just that, pedaling their way along the Youghiogheny River Trail from Sutersville to Cedar Creek Park and back. The round trip distance was thirteen miles. For many of the scouts on the trip, this was the longest bike ride they had ever taken.

The scouts met at the Sutersville trail access and then, following the pace set by Mr. McCormely, bicycled the first leg of the trip. After about an hour of pedaling and a quick stop at West Newton Station, the scouts reached Cedar Creek Park, which is where Cedar Creek flows into the



Youghiogheny River. The scouts explored a sandbar deposited by the creek, tried their hands at catching crayfish, and walked along the creek bed up to a small waterfall. After forty minutes of exploring, it was time for the return trip to Sutersville.

Mr. Yusavage and Mr. Chenot also accompanied the scouts on their trip. Mr. and Mrs. Varner helped to shuttle scouts and their bikes to and from the Sutersville trail access.

Photos and article by Mr. Chenot

A Summer of Scouting Activity

Labor Day is upon us, the school year has begun. Let's face it, folks: summer is over. Contrary to the song about those hazy, lazy, crazy days, summer for Troop 251 was anything but lazy.

We hiked 20 miles across the Easter Continental Divide. We backpacked and camped on Laurel Ridge. We spent a week at Summer Camp. We canoed 26 miles and camped on an island. And Fall is looking to be just as exciting!

As this issue is being written, nine of our scouts are making camp on an island in the middle of the Yough River as part of an overnight canoe trip. This is the second such trip, the first having taken place in late July. Be sure to check out the September issue of the *Hooter* to read about their journey.

Troop 251 – Results of Elections

Senior Patrol Leader (SPL)		Mitch
Assistant Senior Patrol Leaders (ASPL)		Jacob Bradley Austin P.
Troop Guide		Justin
Quartermaster		Andy
Scribe		Zane
Historian		Trevor
Librarian		Kyle
Chaplain		Tim
Custodian		Austin G.
Junior Assistant Scoutmaster		Adam
Order of the Arrow Representative		Kevin B.
Patrol Name	Patrol Leader (PL)	Assistant Patrol Leader (APL)
Scorpions	Raven	Adam
Dragons	Justin	Kyle
Falcons / Eagles	Bradley	Trevor
No Names	Andy	Brandon
Duct Tape	Vance	George

Fall Court of Honor

On the afternoon of August 21st, the scouts and families of Troop 251 gathered at the Pine Pavilion of Oak Hollow Park for our fall Court of Honor.

A number of advancements were recognized, in addition to the presentation of a small mountain of merit badges. One scout managed to earn ten merit badges, eight of them at Summer Camp.

The program, led by SPL Jacob, opened with the presentation of colors and the recitation of the Oath, Law, and Outdoor Code.

Presentation of achievements followed a hearty picnic dinner, featuring some of the best food this side of the Alleghenies.

It was great to see so many of our troop families there to celebrate their sons' accomplishments.



How Well Do You Know Camp Conestoga?

We haven't seen one of these puzzles in the *Hooter* for a while. Given that we've just returned from summer camp, let's see if you remember what you saw.



This object should ring a bell (if you'll pardon the pun) with those who like ice cream.

The first scout to guess where this item can be found will get the satisfaction of being the first scout to guess where this item can be found.

Kevin B. is New OA Rep

Historically, Troop 251 has been very active in the Order of the Arrow. In recent years, however, that hasn't been the case. Despite the best efforts of our previous representative, Nick D., we haven't been participating as much as, perhaps, we should.

Our new OA Representative, **Kevin B.**, hopes to change that. Whether you are Ordeal or Brotherhood, Kevin needs your help to bring Troop 251 back to an active role within the OA. Plan to attend OA Weekends.

Junior Assistant Scoutmaster Appointed

At elections this month, **Adam** was appointed Junior Assistant Scoutmaster, making him the first scout to hold that position in the troop for as long as any of us can remember. The appointment is in recognition of outstanding leadership skills.

Chairman's Corner

Let me ask you something. Do you think that Neil Armstrong became the first man to walk on the moon because he was an Eagle Scout? Or was he an Eagle because he exhibited the same qualities in youth that later drove him to secure his place in world history? I suspect the latter.

Just as each step of a hike gets you nearer your destination, each step along the trail to Eagle moves you that much further toward your goal. If you hike with your head down, or run to get to the end of the hike, surely you'll get there. But what will you have missed along the way? What will have been the value of the hike if you missed seeing the majestic hawk swoop low over the tree line? Or the fawn grazing in the clearing behind that stand of pines? If we hike only for the purpose of getting to the end, then surely a parking lot would suffice as a location.

As with a hike, the trail to Eagle offers opportunities that we encounter nowhere else in life. Each rank is designed to teach certain skills. The threshold for advancement can be crossed with minimal effort, should you so choose. But what will you have learned? Take the time to experience what your current rank has to offer. When you reach the rank of Eagle, you'll know in your heart that you've achieved it. I'd be willing to bet that 's what Neil Armstrong did.

- 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, photos, and images are © 2011 Troop 251 BSA except where noted. All rights reserved.