



Troop 251 Hooter Gazette

Larimer, PA
September, 2011



Return to Layton Island

The idea of canoeing to an island in the Yough River and camping there was too cool to pass up. But scheduling issues persisted, and it looked like it wasn't going to happen. Then our leaders put forth a creative solution: they would run the outing twice, with two sets of scouts and two sets of leaders.

In late July, four scouts and three leaders made the trip from Connellsville, camping at the northern end of Layton Island, near Perryopolis. On the 3rd of September, nine more scouts — **Justin, Raven, Adam, Trevor, Kevin B., Andy, Zane, Jon, and Vance** — loaded up their canoes and kayaks, put their paddles into the water, and shoved off from the Connellsville put-in. Thus began their island adventure.

A canoe can be an ornery beast, and may suddenly decide to liven things up by attempting to throw its passengers into the river. The end result of that maneuver, of course, is a swimming lesson, and freedom for anything that is not attached to the canoe. Such was the fate of the firewood, which floated quite well until retrieved a little ways downstream of the incident ... along with a jug of water and a cell

phone in a plastic bag.

Undaunted, our intrepid group made their way to Layton Island, and set up camp on the southern beach for their one-night stay. It was a warm night, in the mid-70's. Some of the group chose to sleep under a lean-to constructed of three tarps. Others chose the more traditional tent accommodations.

The islands of the Youghiogheny River offer a rare glimpse of a relatively unspoiled, natural environment, devoid of man-made structures save for the temporary ones we brought with us. *Leave no trace* is the order of the day there.

After a good night's sleep, the guys broke camp and paddled northward toward the take-out point at West Newton. As the canoes pulled into shore, the faces showed a mix of excitement and exhaustion. They had covered thirteen miles since leaving Layton Island, and were anxious to shed their PFD's, stow their gear, and talk about their adventure.

Would they want to do it again? "Oh, yeah!"



Left: The guys prepare to put in at Connellsville. **Above:** Heavily loaded kayaks. **Right:** Choice site for tent dwellers.

Photos by Adam



A Day at the Range



It began, as it should, with a lecture on range safety and the proper handling of firearms, presented by an NRA Range Officer. The scouts were visibly excited about this part of the day, with more than one caught trying to sneak in a little shut-eye. We have the pictures! The skilled presenter made sure, though, that everyone got the message before they were allowed out onto the ranges.



Soon, all 12 scouts — **Mitch, Zane, Jon, Austin G., Austin P., Skylar, Matt, Evan, Vance, Andy, Brandon, and Kevin L.** — were fitted with eye and ear protection, and were on their way to the ranges of the Pitcairn-Monroeville Sportsmen's Club.

The highlight of this year's event was the flintlock rifles, something that many shooters never get a chance to experience. **Austin P.** made it look easy, though, as did a number of our boys who completed the shooting requirement for their Shotgun Merit Badge.

Photos by M. Peschock

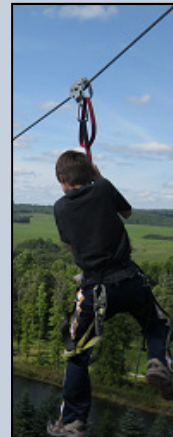
Zzzzzzzzip!



Article by Justin

Recently, a small group of our boys (**Justin, Austin P., and Ben**) took a trip to Nemaocolin Woodlands Resort on Sunday, September 18th. They took a trip down 2 zip-lines and made it through an intimidating ropes course high above the ground.

The course was made of walks across shaking ladders, a rope web, tire platforms, tight-lines, and another shaking ladder. After completing the course, they went down a zip-line that was 40 ft in the air and 250 ft long. Next, they decided to try the 1060 ft long zip-line that drops 350 ft. Overall, it was a fun experience for the boys.



Photos by M. Peschock



Attention Webelos Leaders!

It's that time of the year again, when Webelos II's should be checking out the Boy Scout Troops in the area, and making their decision about bridging.

It's important to find a troop that matches the personality and needs of the individual. We, at Troop 251, would like to invite you to bring your den to one of our upcoming meetings, so that the boys can see for themselves what Troop 251 is all about. If you are interested in visiting, please see the "Contact Us" page of our web site for more information.

How Well Do You Know Camp Conestoga?

The answer to last month's puzzle was, of course, Hagan Chapel. Hence the "ice cream" clue. The non-sectarian chapel was erected by the I. N. Hagan Ice Cream Co., of Uniontown, "in the interest of world brotherhood."



Do You Dare?

Hallowe'en Party
October 27th
Webelos welcome!

UPCOMING EVENTS

Fall Camporee Oct 7-9
Light-Up Night Nov 18

Popcorn

Our popcorn sale is in full swing! There's still plenty of time to get out there and sell !!!

Remember, the more you sell, the more you earn toward summer camp or other scouting expenses.

(Nick)Name That Scout!

All of the scouts in Troop 251 have nicknames, most of which are listed below. Some had to be left out because they contain last names. Parents: see if you can guess who's who:

BamBam, Blondie, Captain Giggles, Cosmonaut, Crazy Hands, Crow, Fro Man, Little Nicky, Mascit, Microchip, Ninja, Pancreas, Slagothar, Snippi, Sparky, Sprinkles, The Munchkin King, Twitchy, Woody, and, of course, ?.

Only 85 Hiking Days Until (the second day after) Christmas!

Urban Hike — December 27th
We're gorin' Dahntahn'n'at!

Chairman's Corner

I can't say enough good things about the folks at the Pitcairn-Monroeville Sportsmen's Club. Mr. Peschock provided me with a folder full of photos of our recent troop shoot held there. And in every "wide shot", there is an instructor literally within a foot or two of the action. I didn't count them, but they were out in force that day, volunteering their time to educate our boys on the safe and proper use of firearms ... and how to perfect their aim! Individualized instruction in any sport is worth its weight in gold. In the shooting sports, it's essential. Hopefully, a number of our scouts will continue in the sport throughout their adult life. And for many, it began on that Sunday morning at PMSC.

Hey, did you notice the change in the troop meeting room? A team of our leaders, led by Mr. Peschock, repainted and installed new carpet. The rickety old desk has been replaced by two 6' tables, so that our patrol leaders have room to work. The renovation team included Messrs. McCormley, Yusavage, Chenot, Varner, and yours truly. A special mention goes to Mrs. Peschock and Mrs. Fuller, who were called out of their homes one morning to make the final decision on the carpet. And Mr. McCormley earns a round of polite applause for his tasteful choice of wall and trim colors.

- 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.