



Troop 251 Hooter Gazette

Larimer, PA
November, 2011



The Christmas Catapult



Troop 251 remains one of the few, if not the only, units to actually build a float for the annual Irwin Light-Up Night parade. The 2011 event marks our fourth entry. This year, **Jon, Bradley, Mitch, Andy, Vance, Adam, Zane, Skylar, Austin P., Raven, George, Kevin L.,** and **Brandon** either rode or escorted the float through town. Those who participated in the construction got to ride in the limited available space.

Our float this year was not so much a celebration of Christmas, as it was a humorous look at how a Boy Scout troop might approach a snowball-throwing contest. A trebuchet hidden behind the massive wall of a snow fort just may give these snowball-throwers a little edge against their competition. One can almost imagine the *splat* of a two-foot snowball on an unfortunate target.

The risk in fielding something like this is that the joke may not be understood. Judging from the comments heard along the route, the crowd got it. "Wow! Lookit that snowball!" and "Does it work?!" were heard frequently. One enthusiastic Cub-Scout-aged young man started chanting "2-5-1! B-S-A!". It was all music to our ears.

It began, of course, when we built the trebuchet for the Fall Camporee. The guys immediately recognized its potential as a snowball-hurling weapon of mass precipitation. The trick would be turning it into a parade float. One night at the Sudsina's doing prep work, and another night fitting the pieces onto the trailer were sufficient. Final assembly was done in the parking lot across from the Immaculate Conception R.C. Church in Irwin an hour before the parade.



Eagle Project Establishes New Trail in Dead Man's Hollow

In selecting an Eagle project, **Adam** wanted to create something of lasting significance. Saturday, November 5th, marked the completion of his project, to create a new trail that connects the Catfish Pond loop trail, in Liberty Borough, to Dead Man's Trail, which runs through the bottom of Dead Man's Hollow.

The trail, tentatively called *Table Rock Trail*, takes hikers past a unique natural rock formation, and onto a grand promontory that invites one to pause, take a deep breath, and enjoy the scenery. Approaching from Catfish Pond, the view as one reaches the promontory is one of airy, open space, with the land falling away on all sides into the valley below. It is truly an awe-inspiring space, and a pleasant surprise to the hiker unfa-

miliar with the trail.

The hike is a steep one at times, as the crews who tilled and packed the trail can attest. The elevation change, over a distance of 800 feet, is greater than 200'. The crews' hard work made the hilly trail passable through liberal application of switchbacks and built-up berms to provide level footing, resulting in a trail that is considerably longer than the 1/8-mile straight line.

Adam secured permission from the Allegheny Land Trust to establish the trail, which brings together all of the trails in the hollow. Using the new trail, it is now possible to enter Dead Man's Hollow from Liberty Borough, and exit at Calhoun Road, 1.5 miles away via Witch Hazel Trail.



First Troop 251 Geocache Placed

An avid geocacher friend explains her favorite pastime this way: "It's hiking with a purpose."

Mr. Chenot proposed the idea of planting the first Troop 251 geocache on the new trail, and set out to collect appropriate contents for the cache. There are patches that may be of interest to other Boy Scouts who find the cache, an assortment of various holiday-themed pencils, toys for the younger geocachers, and a "first-to-find" bag filled with items for use in the great outdoors, including an LED headlight.

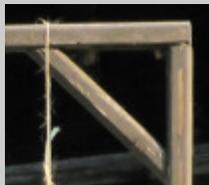
Five scouts — **Andy, Adam, Bradley, Brandon,**

and **George** — were present when the "Cave Dweller" cache was placed on November 20th. Much to our chagrin, we were forced to relocate it when it was found to be within a tenth of a mile of an existing, unadvertised, location of part of a multi-stage cache. "Cave Dweller" had to give up its cave, and move to another location.

On Nov 25th, **Andy** and **Adam** returned to seek out a new home for the cache. "Cave Dweller" is now known as "Dead Tree: Hollow."



How Well Do You Know Camp Conestoga?



This month's puzzle item has a range of use, if you get the point.

What could it be ...?

Urban Hike



Dec. 27th, 2:00 PM

Winter Court of Honor

A new tradition is born — the Winter Court of Honor.

December 8, 2011

Luminaria Sale

Kits will be assembled on Dec 10th,
and delivered on Dec 17th,
just in time for Christmas.

Order forms are available on the
Resources page of the troop website.

Solomon and Mr. Astley wish to thank all the scouts and parents who attended Solomon's Eagle Scout banquet ceremony on October 16th at the firehall. Solomon says that now that his eagle work is over, now the real fun begins! Solomon plans on continuing his attendance at scout meetings to help mentor the younger scouts towards the Eagle badge.

Chairman's Corner

It took considerable restraint, I'll have you know. Proud father that I am, I had to fight the urge to fill the whole issue with articles about my son's Eagle project. To make it even tougher, I realized that this was not just *Adam's* project — it was a project that involved the *entire troop* in creating a new hiking trail that hopefully will be around for *their* sons and daughters to enjoy. That's a claim that not many troops can make. So the article had to be small enough to be humble about Adam's accomplishment, yet large enough to highlight this unique event in the history of Troop 251. Hopefully I struck the right compromise on print space.

The other tough decision this month was what to put on the parade float. The boys had it all figured out; it just took a while for some of the adults to warm to the idea. Our most sincere thanks go out to **Norwin Landscape and Pond Supply** for their support — not only for their part in our parade float, but also for supporting our upcoming luminaria sale. Remember folks ... *honor thy sponsors!* Thanks as well to our leaders who participated, and especially to the Sudsina's, who once again allowed us to deface their lawn and landscape in the interest of float construction.

- 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.