



Troop 251 Hooter Gazette



Larimer, PA
December, 2011

251's First Fall Court of Honor

BSA's new *Journey to Excellence* program suggests that units should hold three or four Courts of Honor every year. Rather than take two more weekends out of our schedule, we've come up with a unique solution.

We are adding both a Fall and a Spring Court of Honor to our calendar. These two will be held on regular meeting nights, with only light refreshments served. The Winter and Summer Courts of Honor will remain as weekend events on the calendar and will be held as they have in the past, with full buffet dinner.



Our first Fall Court of Honor under the new schedule was held at St. John's on December 8th. Rank advancements and Merit Badges earned over the past 3 months were presented before an audience of 60+ scouts, parents, and siblings. The highlight of the evening, though, was the distribution of the popcorn sale prizes by Mrs. Flaherty!

Hiking the Golden Triangle

CANCELLED

Sometimes life and work get in the way. We just couldn't find two leaders who were free on a Tuesday afternoon. Maybe next year ...

Presents for Patients

For long-term patients of our nation's personal care homes, Christmas might be just another day, unless someone takes the time to make it special for them. On December 18th, Troop 251 brought a little Christmas cheer to 35 patients at Golden Heights P.C.H. in Irwin as part of the St. Barnabas Health System's *Presents for Patients* program.



Coordinated again this year by Mr. Sudsina Jr., and Mrs. Sudsina, the presentation of gifts was attended by 15 Scouts and a number of leaders, with gifts from nearly every Scout in the troop. As each name was called, one of the Scouts delivered a present to its smiling recipient. After all of the presents were delivered, Mrs. Lint led the troop in an impromptu but heartfelt rendition of *We Wish You a Merry Christmas*.

The Year in Review

It's always fun to look back at where we've been, and what we've done. Invariably, there's an "*I forgot all about that!*" moment. With that in mind, let's take a look at Troop 251's activities for the past year. Were you there for ...

- ◆ Klondike Derby
- ◆ Sled construction
- ◆ Harrison Hills hike
- ◆ Cold weather camp
- ◆ Snow tubing
- ◆ Pie throwing!
- ◆ Scout Sunday brunch
- ◆ Ski trip
- ◆ Cedar Creek hike
- ◆ Fish-'n-Fun camp
- ◆ Scouting for Food
- ◆ Dead Man's Hollow
- ◆ Spring Camporee
- ◆ Twin Lakes fitness trail
- ◆ Bowling
- ◆ Eastern Continental Divide 20-miler
- ◆ Laurel Ridge trek
- ◆ Summer Camp
- ◆ Layton Island canoe camp (twice!)
- ◆ Bike Hike
- ◆ Shooting sports
- ◆ Zip Line and Rope Course
- ◆ Hallowe'en Party
- ◆ Fall Camporee
- ◆ Archaeological dig
- ◆ Trebuchet build
- ◆ Light-Up Night float
- ◆ Table Rock Trail
- ◆ GeoCaching
- ◆ ... and more?

Summit Shakedown 2012 July 13-17, 2012

Be among the first to camp at the new Summit Bechtel Reserve, and help to test the new Jamboree model, on-site!

The Summit is, of course, BSA's newest high adventure base, located just 250 miles away at the New River Gorge near Beckley, WV. On the weekend of July 13-17, BSA will be testing components of the new program to be implemented

for Jamboree 2013.

Westmoreland-Fayette Council plans to send a troop of 36 youth and 4 adults on a four-day adventure that is sure to be a once-in-a-lifetime experience. The cost is \$225.

For more information on participating in Summit Shakedown 2012, see the December issue of Smoke Signals at the Council website, or contact Jack Waite at 724-837-1630.



What Are Luminaria, Anyway?

If you were to ask anyone around here, "What's a luminaria?", odds are good that you would hear that it is a lighted candle in a bag, weighted with sand and used as a Christmas decoration. But how did the tradition begin?

Online research suggests that luminaria have their roots in the bonfires that burned along the roads of 16th-century Spain to guide people to Midnight Mass at the conclusion of Las Posadas, a remembrance of Mary and Joseph searching for lodging in Bethlehem. When European missionaries came to Mexico, they brought the tradition of Las Posadas with them.

The familiar paper-bag lantern is an adaptation of the Chinese paper lanterns used in the 1800's in the southwest, particularly in New Mexico, to light the entrance to homes celebrating Las Posadas. Even today, what we know as *luminaria* are better known in parts of the southwest as *farolitos*, "little lanterns."



Scoutmaster's Minute ...

It is that time of year again, time for reflecting on the past year and looking forward to the coming year.

During the past year our troop has taken part in many adventures and events – Thanks so much to the scouts for their participation, their parents for getting them to the events, and a special thanks to all of the adult leaders in the troop that have so graciously given their time and efforts to help make the past year a huge success for Troop 251.

Now we begin to look forward to the New Year, and planning the adventures and events for the troop. With the continued support of the adult leadership in the troop, the assistance from the parents, and the participation of the scouts we can have another successful year of adventures.

It is also time to set new goals and work towards achieving our goals. Each scout should be setting his own goals for the up-coming year. These goals could be for completing more merit badges, making rank advancements, being involved with troop activities and events, or even goals that are not related to scouting directly at all - better grades for instance.

- Mr. Michael Peschock, Scoutmaster

How Well Do You Know Camp Conestoga?

Last month's puzzle, you may recall, had "a range of use, if you get the point." The range, of course, would be the archery range. The "point" reference is left to the reader.



Know What's Happening in Bushy Run District

Smoke Signals, the monthly newsletter, can be found at wfbsa.org, along with a lot of other important information.

Roundtable is a great way for Scouters and parents to learn more about what makes a troop run. Make regular attendance a New Year's resolution!

Bushy Run District is also on **Facebook!**

Summer Camp 2012

It's never too early to start planning for Summer Camp!

Troop 251 is registered for the Catawba site for Week 2, **June 24-30**.

Your \$50 deposit is due *to the troop* on **March 1**. The full fee is due *to the troop* by **May 3**. The full fee has not yet been published by Council.



2012 Rechartering Fees are Due!

There are only a few days left to get your rechartering fees paid! All fees must be in to the troop by the regular meeting on **Jan. 5**, so that we can get it turned in to Council on time.

Recharter fee plus insurance = \$16. Boys' Life is \$12. And OA dues are \$15.

Chairman's Corner

Our annual luminaria sale was a big success, thanks to the efforts of a number of Scouts and Scouters who braved the cold to make and distribute three truckloads of kits. Thanks again to our friends at Norwin Landscape Supply for all of their support! ... and to our friends at Subway, on Rt. 30, for their contribution. Remember, folks, *honor thy sponsors!*

Mr. Sudsina, Jr., deserves more kudos than you may realize. The troop hasn't done *Presents for Patients* since 2008. But Mr. Sudsina, Jr., and family, have been involved continually in one form or another. The earliest mention in the *Hooter* is from 2003. We're proud to say that you're one of our Eagles, Dan!

I couldn't possibly name all of the leaders and parents who helped with all of the activities this month. Suffice it to say that it's great to be associated with folks who are so giving of their time and talents!

- Chuck Fuller, Committee Chair

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.