



Troop 251 Hooter Gazette

Larimer, PA

January, 2012



“1ST PLACE ... 251!”

At 6:45am on Saturday, January 21st, the temperature was a bone-chilling 29°F. Snow was falling, mixed with rain, and local meteorologists were warning of a winter storm over the next six hours. **Jon, Mitch, Austin P., Zane, Andy, Brandon, Kevin B., Trevor, and Vance** paid no attention to this dire prognostication as they loaded the sled into Mr. Smith's truck. This was the Klondike Derby! The snow would only make it better!

Jon — were not injured (for the most part).” [You gotta love that parenthetical afterthought: “... for the most part.”]

From the description of that episode, it's fortunate that the troop picked this year to remember their first aid lessons. Reports from the field are that the patrol had their best performance in recent years at the First Aid station.

Trophy photo by Mr. Peschock

Scouting remains one of the few places in America where boys can take part in real-world challenges in which you succeed based on what you know, and on what you do. The Klondike Derby epitomizes that type of challenge. It is a game that can be won only by outperforming the competition.



We've always done well at fire-building. An heroic sprint by **Trevor** and **Andy** enabled **Mitch** to produce an “impressive” shower of sparks from his flint and steel, igniting a well-designed and highly flammable fire lay. The patrol's 2:19 elapsed time eclipsed their nearest competitor by almost six full minutes!

The best part about the Klondike Derby is that even when you lose, it's still a day filled with good friends, unique experiences, and seemingly endless *fun!* But having fun all day *and* walking away with the 1st Place trophy is, well, ... *a LOT of fun!* The guys from Troop 251 had a lot of fun this year, indeed, bringing home not only the 1st Place trophy for the derby, but also the 2nd Place trophy for the adult leaders' chili cook-off.

Another perennial Troop 251 strength, shelter building, was also on display this year. The judges were overheard to remark positively about the quality of the shelters, and the teamwork displayed in building them.

Not to be completely outdone, our adult leaders showed commendable culinary capability in concocting their creation for the cook-off. Was it Mr. Varner's recipe, or Mrs. Peschock's venison that made the chili taste so good?

Not everything went our way that day, though. As scout **Kevin B.** related it, “Our winning streak at racing came to an abrupt end after our sled smashed into a tree and careened down a hill side. The scouts inside — **Andy** &

At the end of the day, **Mitch, Austin P., and Zane** braved the cold and the howling coyotes to camp Saturday night on the frozen ground of Camp Tenacharison, accompanied by Mr. Varner and Mr. Peschock.

Past Results

2007—3rd

2009—2nd

2010—1st

2011—4th & 5th

Climb On!

As much as the Klondike Derby was a team event, wall climbing is all about individual accomplishment.

On Saturday, Jan. 28th, Troop 251 went to The Climbing Wall and practiced the fine art of lifting oneself skyward. **Jacob** (left) and **Justin** (right) make it look easy as they do a little bouldering as a warm-up for the main event, top-roping the 30' walls. **Kevin B.** (below, left) starts his descent after reaching the top, while **Andy** (below, right), pauses with his right hand on the pipe. Twenty climbers and a number of non-climbing leaders and parents were in attendance.



Scoutmaster's Minute ...

Team means Together Everyone Achieves More! ~Author Unknown

At this year's Klondike Derby I was reminded about teamwork and what makes a good team. As I watched the different patrols during the competitive stations, I saw some patrols work very well together and others just trying to make it through each event.

I was very impressed with what I saw from Troop 251. During each event they worked together as a group putting aside their individual stardom for the good of the entire patrol. And as I talked to the judges at each station I heard the recurring theme, that group of scouts really works well as a team.

From the preparation prior to the events, the planning before each station, and working together to accomplish the same goals – it is teamwork that makes it all come together and will always result in success. And teamwork is something that I always see from the scouts in our troop.

As Scoutmaster of Troop 251; I am extremely proud of what I have seen from our troop over the past year, through the competitive stations at the Klondike Derby, and hope to continue to see the same teamwork in all our future events, outings, meetings, and camporees while having as much fun as possible.

- Mr. Michael Peschock, Scoutmaster



Past Eagle Projects at St. John's

We've all heard the comment, "There've been a *lot* of Eagle projects here," at St. John's. But just how many have there been? The answer may surprise you.

Let's start with the floor tile, and the paint in the third-floor rooms. The stair rails were an Eagle project. So was the floor in the gym, the tile in the basement washroom, and the shelving for the food bank. The kitchen cabinets and appliances were installed as an Eagle project, as was the door at the rear entrance to the gym. Outside, some of the landscaping was done by an Eagle candidate.

To see what else our Eagle Scouts have done in the surrounding area, check out the new Eagle Scout Roster page on the troop website.

Skiing, Camping, Fish-'n'-Fun ... It's all ahead!

Coming Up in February

Feb 5 — Scout Sunday at St. John's
We'll be serving brunch for the congregation following the service. Plan to be there on the 4th to prep. Watch your email for details.

Feb 17 — Snow Tubing at Boyce Park
It's a change of venue this year. Let's check out Boyce Park's snow tubing lanes!

Leader Training Update

Troop 251 has always been good about keeping up with the required training. But the 2012 requirements of Journey to Excellence *up the ante* a little bit. To be considered "Trained" this year, you will need:

<u>Scoutmasters</u>	<u>Committee</u>
1. Youth Protection	1. Youth Protection
2. Fast Start	2. Fast Start
3. Leader Specific	3. Troop Committee Challenge
4. Intro to Outdoor Leader Skills	4. This is Scouting
5. This is Scouting	

Chairman's Corner

I have two stacks of kudos to hand out this month. The first stack goes to our scouts, not for their win at the Klondike Derby, but for the class that they showed in achieving it. Reports have it that more than one judge commented on the teamwork that was demonstrated by our boys. They knew what had to be done, and they worked together to make it happen. Kudos!

The second stack goes to our leaders — Scoutmasters and Committee members alike, —who have given so freely of their time and knowledge to teach our boys how to be men. This month's performance demonstrated for all the world that not only are we teaching the skills of Scouting here at 251, we are building character. Our boys work together well because you, the leaders, work together so well. Kudos! and thank you.

- 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 © 2012 Troop 251 BSA except where noted. All rights reserved.