



Troop 251 Hooter Gazette

Larimer, PA
February, 2012



Photo by Mrs. Bratkowski

A Scout is Reverent

It was an impressive sight: uniformed scouts and their leaders, more than twenty strong, standing shoulder to shoulder across the rear wall of the chapel. Behind them, the stained glass windows of the 125-year-old church shone brightly in the morning sun of Scout Sunday.

Bradley commanded the color guard and led the congregation through a recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance. The scouts recited the Oath and Law, then we took our seats amid a very warm and sincere welcome from Pastor Liddy. Four scouts — **Ben, Andy, Jon, and Brandon** — contributed their voices in the reading of scripture. For many of us, this annual visit to St. John's is our only opportunity to experience the United Church of Christ, and its message of openness and acceptance.

Earlier that morning, the scouts had prepared a breakfast of French toast, scrambled eggs, bacon, sausage, fruits, and rolls, which awaited downstairs. Following the service, the good folk of St. John's were invited to the dining room to join us for breakfast and a few minutes of fellowship and thanks for all that they provide for us throughout the year.

Photos, Pg 3

Welcome to Troop 251 — Christian, Adrian, Dylan, Derek, Adam, Nicholas D., Christopher, Nicholas H., Jacob M., Jacob S., David, Max, and Brendan

Mystic Mountain SNOW Tubing

Friday, February 17th, was another snowless winter day in southwestern Pennsylvania. The troop had plans to go snow tubing at Boyce Park, but tubes without snow don't move very fast. Meanwhile, on the other side of the mountain ...

Nemacolin Woodlands Resort occupies a large expanse of land in Farmington, about 60 miles from Larimer. A luxury resort with solid placement near the top of every ratings guide, Nemacolin offers everything and anything that their guests could want, including some of the finest snowsports in the area.

The snow tubing area at Nemacolin is one 15-foot-wide lane, rumored to be about 800 feet

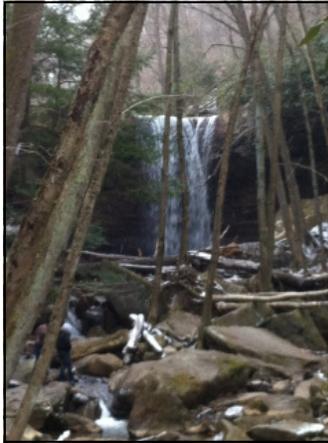
long, with a snow-pile ramp at the end to bring your tube to a halt. The lane is flat, with no hills or bumps to impede your slide down Mystic Mountain. On this particular day, the lane was a sheet of ice, making for fast runs and maximum use of the ramp at the end.

Perhaps it was the uncertainty of finding a new venue, or the eleventh-hour change, but **Andy, Austin P., Brandon, and Jake S.** were the only scouts to make the trip.

Before the day was over, Mr. Peschock and Mr. Chenot joined the boys for a few rounds of belly-sledding over the icy hills, while Mrs. Peschock and Mrs. Spagnolli respectfully declined.

Cucumbers and Cascades

When most people think of Ohiopyle, the image that comes to mind is typically that of Ohiopyle Falls, a roaring waterfall that spans much of the Youghiogheny river, pouring tons of water into a pool 18 feet below the ledge and providing kayakers with a true Class IV whitewater challenge.



Photos of Cucumber Falls by A. Fuller

A little off the beaten path and just a little over a mile downriver can be found one of the most scenic waterfalls in Pennsylvania. Where Cucumber Run drops into the Yough River gorge can be found Cucumber Falls, an impressive 30-ft curtain of water arcing out far enough to allow hikers passage behind the falls.

On February 26th, fifteen scouts and four leaders took a short hike to Cucumber Falls. A number of our new members came along on what was to be a very cool first hike. Starting at the Meadow Run trailhead, and following a path running along the river, the scouts were treated to views of the gorge that can only be seen in winter, when the deciduous trees are without their heavy foliage.



Upstream from the Meadow Run trailhead are the Cascades, a series of small waterfalls. One of our leaders, who shall remain nameless but is known for his hiking experience, lost his footing there while trying to move from one rock to another and landed in a crouch. A second leader immediately moved to make sure that he was alright and lost his footing. Not to be left out of this comedy, a third leader then moved in to help both of them and met the same fate. Had they not quit trying to help one another, the scouts, who were downstream from the leaders, might have been treated to the spectacle of three scoutmasters going over the Cascades.

Scoutmaster's Minute ...

Looking into the Future ...

This month I attended a couple of Blue-N-Gold Banquets, to welcome new scouts into our troop. I found myself thinking back a couple of years to the Blue-N-Gold Banquet when my son was bridging to Troop 251. And then looking at the scouts we were welcoming into the troop this year. Wonder what wonderful adventures are in store for all of us over the next several years.

Now I find myself thinking about the future of our troop and the future leaders within our troop. It is time for us to continue to give our scouts all of the tools they need to become better leaders both in our troop and in other areas of their lives. We must remember the best way to learn to lead is the hands-on approach, which will help us to achieve our ultimate goal of being a boy-led troop. We are on our way to our ultimate goal ... and at the same time – creating the future leaders in our communities.

- Mr. Michael Peschock, Scoutmaster

Stayin' Safe Troop 251 now has its own safety gear. Following up on a suggestion from Mr. Varner, we recently purchased 24 pair of safety glasses, 2 sets of industrial ear muffs, a supply of disposable ear protectors, and 5 pair of leather-faced work gloves.

CAUTION CAUTION CAUTION

As the speed and torque of battery-powered drills and screwdrivers continues to increase, the likelihood of flying debris increases as well. Having our own safety gear will keep us from having to borrow it the next time that we build a sled, trebuchet, or parade float.

Scout Sunday — Feb 5, 2012



Photo by Mrs. Bratkowski

May 13th

Shooting Sports!

Spring Court of Honor

March 4th
2:15 PM
St. John's

Mark Your Calendars!

April 21 & 28

Scouting for Food



Chairman's Corner

Mr. Varner earned his kudos this month for recognizing the need for focused training in tool safety, and for conducting the first session with the scouts. It's this kind of thinking that keeps Troop 251 ahead of the curve!

Thanks also to all of our scouts and leaders who made Scout Sunday a huge success again this year. Our friends at St. John's were very impressed to learn that the scouts did all of the cooking! Special thanks to Mrs. Sudsina for coordinating the event with St. John's. Quick thinking — and a lot of phone calls, I'm sure — on the part of Mr. Peschock saved the snow tubing trip. When Boyce Park cancelled due to lack of snow, he found an opening and booked us at Nemacolin Woodlands. And Messrs. Chenot, Varner, McCormely, and Fuller *the Younger* braved cold and ice to lead the boys on their Cucumber Falls adventure, one of the more scenic hikes we've taken in recent history. A special note of appreciation goes out to the folks at the **Falls Market** in Ohiopyle for assisting Mrs. Fuller and me with the logistics of providing very tasty hot chocolate at the end of the trail.

- 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.