



Troop 251 Hooter Gazette

Larimer, PA

April, 2012



REVISITING “TROOP 251’S TRAIL” AT DMH

Last fall, the scouts of Troop 251 clung to a steep hillside and wielded picks and shovels to create a new hiking trail in Dead Man’s Hollow. Named **Table Rock Trail** for the unique rock formation to be found there, the path is quickly earning a reputation as one of the more challenging trails in the hollow.



On April 14th, nine scouts and four leaders returned to Dead Man’s Hollow for what has become sort of a rite of Spring for the troop — an early season day hike at DMH.

Since there were five new scouts in attendance, the hike began with a crash course in the use of compasses and GPS devices. New scout **Nick** then put his newly acquired knowledge to use, leading the group to the first destination: a geocache called “Black Oak Trail Cache.” Nick led us to within fifty feet of the cache, and a group of new scouts, including **Chris, Christian,** and **Brendan** found the geocache in its hiding spot.

The next destination on the hike was the location of the Troop’s own geocache, “Dead Tree: Hollow.” Veteran scout **Kevin B.** suggested an off-trail hike to the cache. A quick check of the map indicated no hazardous terrain along Kevin’s suggested route, so we went cross-country with new scout **Derek** in the lead. To get to the

cache, we trekked up one very steep hill, stepped carefully down the other side of the hill, and then slogged up another *even steeper* hillside. Along the way, we found a cool slab of black shale at the top of a gorge. Everyone sat down on the slab of rock and had a snack and a drink, taking a few moments to admire the view. We found the troop geocache in good condition and added a few new items donated by Mr. Peschock.

The final destination on the hike was Table Rock Trail, and the rock formation for which it was named. The new scouts and leaders checked out Table Rock, discovering a large garter snake in the process, and then followed Table Rock Trail back to the bottom of the hollow. The trail was in very good condition despite the wet winter, although a short stretch near the bottom of the trail was overgrown with violets and white trillium.

By the time we got back to the cars, the GPS said we had hiked just under four miles and had made an ascent of 534 feet. This was an impressive hike for the new scouts, and a good warm up for the experienced scouts in attendance: **Kevin B., Kyle, Bradley,** and **Andy.** The hike was also much-needed exercise for **Messrs. Alexander, Chenot, McGowan,** and **Hornicak.**

Article by Mr. Chenot

A Sign of the Times?

Despite adding all of Larimer and parts of Drennan Heights to our traditional territory of North Irwin, our Scouting for Food collection was stagnant for the third year in a row. Our bag tally this year was only 96 bags, compared to 90 last year and 96 the year before.

Scouting for Food is one of the most important community services that BSA performs every year, and the troop is proud to be a part of it.

Tire Round-Up with Pack 293



The end of the road for many used tires is far too often at the bottom of a wooded hill, where they become unsightly, mosquito-breeding blights on the landscape.

On Saturday, April 14th, Pack 293 conducted a tire round-up, with assistance from Troop 251.

A total of 24 tires were collected by our troop. Eight tires were pulled out of the creek outside St. John's, another three were rescued near the entrance to Braddock's Trail Park, and three were recovered from locations on Guffy Road. The most amusing donation, however, was made by a scout from another troop who happens to live in Larimer. After stopping by to confirm that we were, indeed, collecting tires, he disappeared. Soon thereafter, four old tires came rolling down the grassy hill to be added to our collection.

Pack 293 collected a total of 120 tires, including ours. Kudos to the Cub Scouts of 293 for a successful service project!

SMOKE ALWAYS STAYS ON THE OTHER SIDE OF HIS CAMPFIRES ...

HIS SOLAR SOCK DRYER WORKS AT NIGHT ...

SKUNKS NEVER ENTER HIS TENT, OUT OF RESPECT ...

HE IS ... THE MOST INTERESTING SCOUTMASTER IN THE TROOP



On the Horizon

Fish-'n-Fun Camp	May 4-6
Scouting Open House	May 12
Shooting Sports	May 13
Spring Camporee	May 18-20
Court of Honor	May 31

SWIM TEST



If you've been to Summer Camp, you know that the first thing that you have to do is to take your swim test. On Friday, April 20th, 23 scouts earned their tags in the Norwin High School pool. Following the test, the boys had an hour of free swim. For those who couldn't attend, or who didn't quite get their Red White & Blue, you'll have another chance upon arrival at Summer Camp!

Scoutmaster's Minute ...

An Hour of Your Time

While attempting to prepare this month's Scoutmaster's Minute. I came across a story about a son asking his dad how much he made in an hour and then asking to borrow some money from his dad – only to turn around and use it to buy an hour of his dad's time.

I found this story interesting because, in the past month or so I have found myself having conversations with people about scheduling and balancing time in our lives. And realizing that time is an unknown in the equation of life, we all need to make sure that we are not wasting it.

So, while it is important to make sure that we take care of our commitments and responsibilities, it is also important to spend quality and fun time with our friends and families. And get out and do the things we want to taking advantage of the opportunities that come along. Time is such a precious commodity. I'm still working at getting and keeping that balance – an hour at a time.

- Mr. Michael Peschock, Scoutmaster

Whatzit?!



Last month's *Whatzit?!* sparked some debate. In the end, it was determined to be an egg cluster deposited in a water puddle by a Wood Frog.

This month's *Whatzit?!* was found during the same camping trip as last month's.

The photo is of a water-filled track left in the mud by some kind of creature. Can you guess what animal left this track? Hint: It's a scavenger common to this area.



... and the award for *Most Spectacular Splat* goes to ... the Scout who threw this pie at Mr. Peschock!



As promised, the top five sellers in our annual popcorn sale got the opportunity to lob a pie at one of our Scouters. The contents of many cans of whipped cream went airborne at the regular meeting on 4/26. The actual method of selecting the leader/target was shrouded in mystery, but seems to have involved many of our scouts and lots of "Yeah!"s whenever a name was suggested.

Stay hydrated, my friends!



Fish-'n-Fun!

May 4th Weekend

Mammoth Park

Chairman's Corner

"Scouts, Scouters, Parents, and Friends of Troop 251." You've no doubt seen that salutation on many of the emails from the troop that have graced your inbox. It never occurred to me that there might be some confusion about it. I realized while attending a dinner recently, that there is some confusion is about the word "Scouter". Let's stay confused, note that a Scouter is a registered leader of the Troop or other unit of the BSA. The term is used to differentiate those who have been vetted by BSA, have been trained, and who are covered by insurance ... from those parents and friends who have not. That last piece of information is very important. While parents, siblings, and friends are sometimes invited to participate in our activities, always remember that they do so at their own risk. BSA insurance coverage does not apply to non-members.

Many thanks to Mr. Gray for permitting the use of his likeness in the 'Most Interesting Man' parody. As it so happens, we're not the first to notice the resemblance.

- 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.