



# Troop 251 Hooter Gazette

Larimer, PA

June, 2012



## SUMMER CAMP ACTION REPORT

### 251 Makes a Positive Impression at Camp Conestoga

Troop 251 held a commanding presence at Camp Conestoga this year. In the last week of June, twenty-five scouts moved into the Catawba site, along with their leaders — ten in all, some of whom were there for the full week, and others for as many days as their work schedule would permit.

Prior to arrival at Conestoga, each scout had signed up to work on a number of Merit Badges, and the older boys got started to work on those immediately. The new guys spent their mornings in the Pathfinder program, where they became skilled in the outdoor requirements necessary for First Class.

When the scouts were not working on their scheduled activities, they filled their time by taking first place in just about every contest that they entered. **Jacob F.** took the Iron Man competition. **Mitch, Andy, and Trevor** captured first place in the Triathlon. **Ben** and **Zane** managed a come-from-behind win in the Swamped Canoe race for 251's third year in a row. **Skyler** won the William Tell archery challenge, beating **Mitch's** best by scant millimeters. And **Brandon's** tomahawk throwing earned him first place in that event. Each of the winners received a Conestoga daypack as their reward. In the Leaders' skeet-shooting competition, Mr. Varner hit all five of his clays, and continued shooting until he had bro-

ken seventeen in a row.

On Visitors' Night, the guys baked two dutch-oven cakes, with fruit filling, for their visiting friends and family. After a hearty meal, the troop

paraded to the Ruth Rhoda Waterfront for OA call-outs. Those elected for 2012 included **Andy, Kevin L., Ben,** and **Austin P.,** along with Messrs. Chenot, Langford, and Peschock.



Photo by Mr. Hornichak

One of the fun memories from that night is that

of Mr. Fuller *the elder* being called out by Mr. Langford for having his uniform shirt tails out, and the requisite push-ups — *in good form!* — that followed. In a grand show of respect, the entire troop joined in and "gave 10" along with Mr. Fuller.

The last night of the week brought the requisite summer storm, this one strong enough to invoke emergency protocol and move all of the scouts indoors. Troops 251, along with Troop 208, occupied the men's bath house until the storm passed. As there was no electricity, light was provided by headlamps placed atop the shower walls by Mr. Fuller *the younger*. The temperature had been in the 90's, and though the rains cooled thing off a bit, the tight confines of the bath house added to the tension. An hour and a half later, the scouts were back in their tents.

## Images from Summer Camp 2012

1. Tomahawk throwing 2. Parading to OA Call-Outs 3. Shooting sports 4. Small boat sailing 5. Canoeing  
6. Catawba site 7. Swim test 8. Swamped Canoe race 9. The Rope Game



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### Eagle Project Makes Trail Safer for DMH Hikers

Kevin's Eagle service project took the troop back to the Catfish Pond area of Dead Man's Hollow, this time to replace a foot-bridge above the waterfall that feeds the pond.

The old bridge deck had deteriorated to the point that it had become unsafe. Kevin and crew began by removing the old wood, quickly learning that "demo ain't pretty!" as the old deck was unceremoniously ripped from its supports. The new planks, cut to length off-site and brought in on a wagon, were then installed onto the existing 4"x12" beams.

The upstream side of the bridge is almost at ground level, but a fall from the downstream side could result in serious injury. A new safety rail added by Kevin and crew not only protects the hiker, but provides a great place to pause to watch the water go over the fall into the ravine 25 feet below. A 92-year-old who walks the trail daily commented that the railing makes her feel much safer on the bridge.

In order to fund his project, Kevin prepared and successfully submitted his first grant application, a skill that could someday prove to be very valuable!



### Indian Lake Fishing Derby



There were definitely more fish than fishermen at Indian Lake on the morning of June 2<sup>nd</sup>. Those who did show up for a morning of cast-in' and reelin' had a great time, though!

Mr. Peschock, Mr. Powell, Mr. Sudsina Sr., and Mr. Sudsina, Jr., baited hooks with the troop (and a couple of siblings). A number of bluegill got an unexpected trip topside, and an 8" crappie earned **Nick H.** top honors.

Other scouts in attendance were **Ben, Tim, and Brendan.**

#### Summer Camp 2012 Attendance

Christian	Kyle	Jake M.	Jake S.	Tim
Andy	Nick H.	Austin P.	Austin G.	Trevor
Chris	Skyler	George	Zane	Brandon
Dylan	Jon	Derek	Vance	Bradley
Justin	Matt	Mitch	Ben	Kevin L.

### Ice Cream Social at Court of Honor



Our Spring Court of Honor was held on Thursday evening, June 31<sup>st</sup>, at St. John's United Church of Christ. Awards and achievements were presented, followed by an ice cream sundae bar served up by your Troop Committee. Unfortunately, the ceremony was lightly attended.

HE HOLDS THE PATENT ON THE LEFT-HANDED SMOKE SHIFTER ...

MOSQUITOS PROTECT HIM FROM OTHER INSECTS ...

HIS CAMPFIRE SKITS ARE THE SUBJECT OF SCHOLARLY STUDY ...

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





Photos by Mr. Gillham

## Raccoon Creek Trek

In the mid-1800's, Beaver County was home to a popular retreat for the people of "the west" — those who lived west of the Allegheny Mountains, that is. Remember that the transcontinental railroad wasn't completed until 1869. Every summer, hundreds would flock to Frankfort in Hanover Township to enjoy the rumored medicinal benefits of the Frankfort Springs.

On June 15<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup>, **Jacob F., Andy, Mitch,** and **Justin** visited Frankfort Springs, not to seek rejuvenation, but as part of a 2-night, 16-mile backpacking trek through Raccoon Creek State Park. On the first day, they hiked in on the Appaloosa Spur Trail in the north, and camped for the night at Pioneer. The next day's hike took them along Appaloosa and the scenic Heritage Trail, to the Frankfort Mineral Springs near the southern border of the park. Their campsite for the night was at Sioux, a couple of miles north on Forest Trail. On Sunday morning, they continued on Forest Trail to Appaloosa, and took the Appaloosa Spur back out of the park.

Leaders on the Raccoon Creek trek were Mr. Gillham and Mr. Flaherty.

*Errata* — You may have noticed that the specification for the tent prop sticks ["*Art & Science of the BSA Standard Wall Tent*"] in the *May Hooter* changed late in the month. I neglected to take into account the height of the deck upon which the tent sits. The 42" sticks will work to tighten up the ropes, but cannot be used vertically. For that purpose, you'll need a 47" stick ... or just set the shorter sticks on the deck.

*I don't always drink bug juice, but when I do, it's with Troop 251!*



*Chairman's Corner* and *Scoutmaster Minute* will be back next month. They were purposefully omitted from this issue in order to make room for more interesting articles.

## Write for the Hooter!

Your editor cannot be everywhere that the troop goes. Please send reports of events and activities to [hooter@t251.org](mailto: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](mailto:hooter@t251.org). **More information regarding Troop 251 is available at the troop web site: <http://t251.org>.** All articles and photos are © 2012 Troop 251 BSA except where noted. All rights reserved.