



# Troop 251 Hooter Gazette

Larimer, PA

July, 2012



## A Wet Ten-Miler on Roaring Run

Article and photos by Mr. Chenot

To earn the Hiking merit badge, scouts must plan and take five ten-mile hikes and one twenty-mile hike. On Saturday, July 21, five scouts (**Vance, Zane, Jake S., Bradley, and Andy**) who are pursuing the Hiking merit badge, accompanied by Mr. Varner and Mr. Chenot, took their first 10-mile hike, which actually turned out to be an 11.2-mile hike, in the Roaring Run Natural Area of Forbes State Forest.

Following the route that they had planned, the scouts started their hike on the McKenna Trail, a 2.8-mile trail through the forest that follows the ridge above Roaring Run. There were a few cool sights on this trail, including a four-trunked tree and a gigantic old-growth oak.

At the end of the McKenna Trail, the scouts turned left onto Painter Rock Trail, which follows the ridge down to Roaring Run. At the beginning of Painter Rock Trail, it started to rain, which was like the heavens announcing that the easy part of the hike was over. The 900-foot descent down the ridge was a difficult hike over a rocky, uneven surface. The scenery on the trail was great, though. There were gigantic sandstone outcrops that, in the morning mist, looked like a prehistoric rock garden. Jake even found an overhang that would have made a nice shelter for a few of our primitive ancestors.

At the end of Painter Rock Trail the scouts made the first of many crossings of Roaring Run,



all of which were made without a bridge. Fortunately, "Roaring Run" turned out to be a somewhat misleading name since the small mountain stream was barely six inches deep in most places. Zane and Vance observed that "whispering run" or "mumbling run" would have been better names.

The next stretch of the hike was the Roaring Run Trail, which follows lovely Roaring Run for 3.3 miles and crosses the stream some twenty-eight times. On the fourth crossing, Mr. Chenot proved that Hiking Merit Badge counselors should listen to their own advice when he stepped on a wet rock and took what was later described as a "controlled fall" into the stream. As Mr. Chenot later observed, a hiking staff or trekking pole would have prevented this common hiking mishap.



The last leg of the hike was on the appropriately named

Hillside Trail, which climbs back up the ridge. With Andy setting the pace, the scouts made short work of the climb. It was near the top of the ridge that the combination of an inaccurate map and badly marked trails led to another common hiking mishap: getting a little lost. Instead of finding themselves back on the McKenna trail, the scouts stepped out of the forest and onto Fire Tower Road. However, a quick consultation with map and compass showed that continuing north on the road would get the scouts back to the parking area, and after walking a mile or so on the new route, the scouts did indeed return to the parking area where snacks awaited.



## Tour de Yough

Article by Mr. Alexander

Perhaps inspired by the ongoing *Tour de France*, on Saturday July 14th, eleven scouts and four adults from "Team 251" set out on a tour of their own. The group of riders met at the Youghiogheny River Trail at Sutersville early that morning. The riders braved rather heavy showers over the first couple miles of stage one before the weather relented. The team was represented well in the *Tour de Yough* by riders **Bradley, Matt, Vance, Zane, Brendan, Skylar, Christian, Jake S., Dylan, Max** and **Tim**.

Mr. Alexander worked hard to stay with the early lead riders during stage one. Once those riders reached the West Newton train station, word came over the wire that the riders in the peloton

were experiencing equipment problems. Eventually the additional riders, along with Mr. McGowan, arrived while Mr. McCormely returned on a one pedal bike to the starting point.

After a brief stop at the bike shop in West Newton for a few adjustments to gears, brakes and pedals, and one rental later, the riders headed off together.

When one rider had to withdraw from stage 2, Mr. Powell who had been following the tour in the team vehicle was there so the rest of the riders could continue. The remaining riders were able to complete the ride from Sutersville to Cedar Creek and back again, a trip encompassing just over 15 miles.

## PLC Yearly Planning Meeting

Article by Mr. Peschock

That's right! Troop 251 had its first PLC Yearly Planning Meeting in some time. After a brief explanation of the expectations of this meeting and a review of the expectations of the Journey of Excellence our SPL, Austin P., conducted a productive meeting. Each patrol was represented.

SPL	Austin P.
ASPL	Andy
Cyclones	Jake S.
Panthers	Max
Duct Tape	Tim
No Names	Brandon
Dragons	Kyle
Falcon / Eagle	Bradley

### Scoutmaster's Minute ...

*Leadership and learning are indispensable to each other.* — John F. Kennedy

Such a true statement, good leaders are always learning new things. This is also true of our scouts as we help to teach them the skills required to lead not only within the troop but also in their future endeavors.

This month during our Yearly Planning PLC Meeting the scouts learned more about the steps of planning for upcoming events and got an understanding of looking further than the next meeting. Each month our scouts' leadership skills are improving.

This became evident to me during our canoe trip this month at several different times. Several of our scouts assisted scouts with less experience in canoes how to paddle and steer the canoes. And when a canoe capsized, using skills learned at summer camp several scouts assisted in getting the canoe emptied, back into the river, and the scouts back into their canoe without leaving the center of the river. A job well-done!

Proving to me that; Leadership and Learning are indispensable to each other. And that our scouts are learning scout skills and leadership skills all the time.

- Mr. Michael Peschock, Scoutmaster

## Whitsett to West Newton on the Youghiogheny River



Imagine what would happen if you told your teacher that there's a 50% chance that you will pay attention and do well in class ... or that you may just do absolutely nothing. The response would not be a positive one! (So don't do it!)



That's what we faced on Saturday, July 28th, when the weather forecast was calling for either heavy thunderstorms ... or nothing. In the interest of safety, we scuttled our plans for an overnigher on Layton Island, and opted for a day trip on Sunday.



### And what a day trip it was!

Fluffy white clouds floated against a clear blue sky. We floated on water that was just a little browner and a little higher — and therefore a little faster — than usual. Seventeen scouts and six leaders put in at the launch in Whitsett around 10 AM. By 11:15, the flotilla had reached the Rt. 981 bridge at Smithton, over 3 miles downriver.



This was the first canoe trip for a number of the scouts on the river that day. But once they figured out how to steer their craft, they had no trouble keeping up with the group, thanks to a boost from the rapidly-flowing water.



The greatest challenge of the day came when one of the canoes capsized, dumping two canoeists into the water. Using skills learned at Summer Camp, the two worked together with another canoe to drain the water from their craft and right it, then climb back in.



The trip ended at West Newton shortly after 4:00 PM, following a stop at our favorite rope swing!



**T to B, L to R:** Kyle & Trevor, Messrs. Peschock & Chenot, Mr. Evan & Ben, Mr. Powell & Tim, Derek & Dylan, Vance & Mike, Austin P. & Brandon, Mr. Hornicak & Nick, George & Jon, Zane & Andy, Christian & Chris, Mr. A. Fuller



Dead Tree: Hollow

UPDATE — Our first and only geocache, placed *some-where* in Dead Man's Hollow after the completion of Table Rock Trail, has received a number of positive comments by those who've found it. There are currently nine entries in the log at the geocaching website, the latest of which is from a scout working on his geocaching merit badge. Ours was his first cache ever!

Others who have found the cache have left compliments on its placement, and on the wealth of goodies it contains.

*Did you know ...* that the images that make up the collage on the front page of our website — <http://t251.org> — are clickable? Try it!



You never know who you'll meet on the river! Mr. & Mrs. Morgart ran a segment of the Yough with us, all the way to Cedar Creek!

**On the Horizon**

**Aug 3** Steelers Training Camp Food Drive

**Aug 14** PLC Meeting

**Aug 17-18** NHT End of Summer Celebration

**Aug 19** Summer Court of Honor

**Aug 24-26** Cook Forest Camp

Check the troop calendar frequently for up-to-the-minute info on upcoming troop events!

**Chairman's Corner**

I neglected to mention a very important event in last month's issue: **Justin's** performance as emcee of the Wednesday night campfire at Summer Camp. It's much more difficult than it looks to stand in front of a hundred of your peers *and their parents* and direct a show. Yet Justin made it look easy ... and gave Conestoga yet another positive image of Troop 251. Way to go, Justin!



A word about sign-ups for activities ... We have them for multiple reasons: (1) to gauge interest in the activity, (2) to help plan food quantities, and (3) to support logistics of travel and lodging. Too often, we see scouts *sign up* who, on the day of the event, don't *show up*. This causes last-minute changes in plans, and frequently ends up costing our Scoutmasters money out-of-pocket.

**Scouting is all about personal responsibility and accountability.** We all understand that unexpected events do occur. Absent that, if you have signed up for a troop outing, we expect that you will be there. **Scouts:** Be sure to check with your parents before signing up for an activity. **Parents:** If you've agreed to let your son sign up for an activity, please don't change plans at the last minute. It's not fair to the rest of the troop.

- 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](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.