



Troop 251 Hooter Gazette



Larimer, PA

October, 2012

On the Horizon



Nov 1	Hallowe'en Party
3	Float Construction
11	Float Construction
13	Norwin Reality Tour
15	Irwin Light-Up Night Parade
17	Luminaria Flyers
18	10-Mile Hike
Dec 1	Orienteering Race
6	Court of Honor
8	Luminaria Kit Prep
11	Norwin Reality Tour
15	Luminaria Delivery
27	Urban Hike

For detailed info on upcoming events, consult the troop calendar at t251.org.

Sweeps and Draws

The troop's aquatic activity to date has been focused on canoeing. but the boys have occasionally had the opportunity to try their hand at the double-bladed paddle for a few meters of river. That experience piqued their interest, so on a chilly October 7th



morning, eleven scouts found themselves at waters' edge, learning how to do it right.

Considered a hunter's boat by the Inuit, the kayak is much more nimble than its close cousin, the canoe. It drafts less, has a lower center of gravity, and is quieter on the water. We used single-seat craft for our lessons, both the traditional covered kayak and the sit-on-top variety.



The scouts quickly learned the parts of the kayak and the paddle, followed by some "dry" paddle practice on land.

Then it was down to the river to try out what they had learned. Each boy was asked to demonstrate the basic paddling techniques, and to show that they could maneuver their craft on the open water. The final test was to bring their kayak to a stop in one boat-length.

All of the scouts did very well, and had a great time in the agile watercraft. When asked whether they would choose a canoe or a kayak for their next river outing, they responded in unison, "Kayak!" A moment later, someone realized that for more than a day trip, they would need a canoe to carry the bulky gear. This set off a brief discussion of what would be optimal for a river camping trip.

Tim, Brandon, Derek, Jake S., Andy, Kyle, Justin, Tim,

Austin P., Jon, Ben, and Mike braved the 50°F morning on the river, and had a blast!



Attention Webelos Leaders!

It's that time of the year again, when Webelos II's should be checking out the Boy Scout Troops in the area, and making their decision about bridging.

It's important to find a troop that matches the personality and needs of the individual. We, at Troop 251, invite you to bring your den to one of our upcoming meetings, so that the boys can see for themselves what Troop 251 is all about. If you are interested in visiting, please see the "Contact Us" page of our web site for more information.

There's Gold in 'at Thar Camporee!



Photo by Mrs. Spagnolli

Article by Mr. Powell

GOLD FEVER! On October 12th, scouts **Justin, George, Mike, Skylar, Jake S., Austin P., Ben, Timmy** and **Derek**, along with adult leaders Mrs. Spagnolli and Mr. Powell, all headed out to stake their claims at the Camp Conestoga Gold Rush of 2012.

This year's Fall Camporee had the boys travel back in time to the Gold Rush of 1849 when James K. Polk was President, the Mexican American War had just ended and people were flocking to San Francisco to strike it rich.

Just like the 49'ers, our "miners" had to face some amount of adversity. On Friday night, the temperature fell to 23°F, but the guys (and their intrepid leaders!) dug in and braved the cold for a good night's sleep. The morning brought the promise of warmer weather, and by Saturday afternoon, the boys were enjoying t-shirt temperatures.

The boys had fun panning for gold, using a metal detector, and competing in a slingshot shoot out. They applied First Aid to an injured miner, put their orienteering skills to use, and participated in other mining themed activities. Led by SPL **Justin**, the boys used their lashing abilities to make a wheel barrow for the big wheel barrow race around camp.

Back at the campsite, camp cook **Jake S.** served up mountain pies, scrambled eggs and bacon and a savory beef stew for dinner. Saturday night, after the closing campfire, the boys joined in with several other Troops for a night time round of capture the flag.

Three of the scouts — **Tim, Ben, and Justin** — chose to sleep under the stars that night. Ben and Tim later agreed that it was the best night's sleep they'd ever had at a campout!

On Sunday morning, after doughnuts and cereal, the Troop pulled up their stakes and headed for home.

Scoutmaster's Minute ...

Short-cuts aren't the best way to accomplish our goals.

Yes, I know we have all taken short-cuts at one point or another and successfully completed the task. This does not mean that taking short-cuts is the right way to go about accomplishing our goals.

For months now I have heard the safety department at my company talk about how short-cuts cause accidents. They have shown multiple examples of these accidents, and in the end an injured employee will agree it would have been better to follow the job procedures and do the job right. During the recent storm coverage, I have seen news video several people that have taken short-cuts in the storm like attempting to cross a flooded roadway or intersection, or not evacuating when told. Only to later need to be rescued by others to keep them safe.

Watching our troop, I've pleasantly noticed that our scouts don't take short-cuts. They are constantly teaching and learning the scout skills that they need in order to complete each of their goals. Whether those goals are; completing a merit badge, gaining the skills to reach the next rank advancement, or reaching the ultimate goal of Eagle Scout. Our scouts are making sure they don't take short-cuts to accomplish their goals.

- Mr. Michael Peschock, Scoutmaster

Dressing for Cold Weather

It's time to put away those shorts and t-shirts, and to get serious about your cold-weather gear. What is "cold weather"? You may be surprised to learn that 50°F or less is considered by BSA to be "cold" for outdoor activities.

The functions of cold weather clothing are very different from those of warm-weather apparel. In the summer, you want to let heat and moisture escape. Cotton absorbs moisture from your body and allows it to evaporate, and so is a good choice for summer wear.

In winter, though, you want to stay warm and dry. Layering is a good approach. Wear wool or a synthetic that wicks away water next to your skin, a nylon outer layer, and fleece, synthetics, or silk in-between.



Merit Badges!

BSA recently announced nine new Merit Badges that are being developed for release over the next three years!

2013

Game Design
Sustainability
Programming
Digital Technology

2014

Animation
Signs, Signals, and Codes
Multi-Media

2015

Computer-Aided Design
Advanced Computing

Yough River Clean-Up

Article by Mr. Peschock

On Sunday, October 14th, we joined the Youghiogheny Canoe Outfitters for their "River Cleanup Part 3" to assist with cleaning tires out of the Youghiogheny River. Several groups were in attendance and in all a 30 foot dumpster was filled with tires removed from the river.

In attendance from Troop 251 were: **Derek**, **Austin P.**, and **Mike**, accompanied by Mrs. Eckels, Makayla S., Mr. & Mrs. Skeehan, Mikhayla P., and Mr. & Mrs. Peschock.

In all, the Troop rescued 53 tires from the river, while a couple of other tires were lost along the way. As we were gathering tires from the river, Cuffy from the outfitters stopped by an informed us that 14 tires on one canoe was the record so far for the day. So, being the competitive guys that they are **Austin** and **Mike** attempted to load more than 14 tires in each of their canoes. **Mike** managed to get 16 tires and **Austin** had 17 tires as we set off down the river. While we would all agree that canoes

are usually pretty easy to control on the river. We quickly realized that when over-loaded with tires canoes become very difficult to maneuver.

At one point, we had to stop to rescue a flipped canoe and its floating passengers. After getting the people to the shore and flipping the canoe over we discover only 9 tires remaining in the canoe. We rearranged the tires in the other canoes and continued downstream to the Youghiogheny Canoe Outfitters. Upon arrival at the outfitters we gathered our tires and realized that we had 2 canoes that tied the day's record of 14 tires in one canoe, and our overturned canoe brought in another 9 tires. Mr. Peschock and Mikhayla P. had also brought an old boot that was found in the river.

We managed to rescue tires of all sizes from a small garden tractor tire, to a motorcycle tire, to a big farm tractor tire. It was amazing how many tires came out of the river, and how many tires still remain in the river for next year's event.

35¢

That's an estimate of what it costs Council to provide the administrative support for one Scout for one day. If you think about it, that's not a lot of money. It's a little over ten bucks a month, or \$125 a year. There's not much that you can buy for \$10 a month that will give you anywhere near the value of a Scouting program.

Once a year, usually in March, we are asked to contribute to FOS — *Friends of Scouting* — to help to cover some of those costs. We are assigned a target participation level, which I am proud to say that we exceeded for 2012.

For 2013, Council is trying something different. And they've asked Troop 251 to pilot it for them.

On December 6th, at our Winter Court of Honor, we will receive an FOS presentation after which we will be asked to pledge our donations *for 2013*. Please come to the Court of Honor prepared to make your pledge. Let's challenge ourselves to do even better than we did this year!

Update — Dead Tree: Hollow

One year ago, the troop placed its first geocache in Dead Man's Hollow. It's not far from Table Rock Trail, and was placed in the hopes of increasing usage of the trail. To date, our cache — *Dead Tree: Hollow* — has received 11 "found" entries on the geocaching website, most recently on October 13th.

***Pop* Go the Sales Figures!**

You guys rock! You more than doubled last year's popcorn sale figures with over \$8,000 worth of popcorn sold! Way to go!

Many thanks to our new Popcorn Kernel, Mrs. Spagnolli, for a smooth popcorn sale with lots of opportunity to build those ISA's!

Chairman's Corner

It's the end of October, and you know what that means. Yep. **Webelos!** We will soon be hosting visitors from Cub packs throughout the area. These future Scouts and their parents are looking for a troop that offers them just the right mix of growth, learning, challenge, and fun. The best thing that we can do to help them in that search is to *be ourselves*. Our Hallowe'en Party is all about fun, but it's when they come back to visit a regular meeting that they get to see the *real* Troop 251.

Our sincere thanks to Cuffy at **Youghioghney Canoe Outfitters** for making our kayak lessons possible! Also to Messrs. Peschock, Powell, and A. Fuller for their leadership that morning. Thanks also to Mrs. Spagnolli and Mr. Powell for their support at the Fall Camporee. It's always great to see the Committee Members out there with the guys!

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