



Troop 251 Hooter Gazette



Larimer, PA
November, 2012

On the Horizon



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|-----------|---------------------|
| Dec 1 | Orienteering Race |
| 6 | Court of Honor |
| 8 | Luminaria Kit Prep |
| 11 | Norwin Reality Tour |
| 15 | Luminaria Delivery |
| 27 | Urban Hike |
| Jan 11-13 | Klondike Derby |
| Feb 3 | Scout Sunday |
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For detailed info on upcoming events, consult the troop calendar at t251.org.

Irwin Light-Up Night 2012

Photo by Mr. A. Fuller



What would it look like if Santa set up camp in a forest of Christmas trees? Troop 251's entry in this year's Irwin Light-Up Night parade seemed to answer that very question, with a green tarp tent surrounded by lighted Christmas trees and brightly-wrapped presents.

This was Troop 251's fifth float entry in the parade, continuing a tradition which began in 2008. Construction began, as

it always has, at the Sudsina's, with final assembly taking place in the parade staging area

Our parade "presence" took another leap forward this year with the addition of a parade banner and a new flag harness, both of which were proudly displayed in advance of the float tow vehicle. Including the scouts walking behind the float, Troop 251 filled over 50' of street that evening!



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.



Ghoulish Games and Donut Destruction

Those donuts never stood a chance. In a scene reminiscent of a swarm of sharks in a feeding frenzy, the scouts and Webelos in attendance at our annual Hallowe'en Party on November 1 made the donut challenge look easy!

When they weren't eating donuts, they were playing games of all sorts, including the ever-popular Rope Game, wherein two players attempt to pull their opponent off of their perch (in this case, two cases of canned beans!) without losing their own balance.



A ghoulishly good time was had by all!

An Impressive Sight



Photo by Mrs. Spagnoli

Flanked by the Troop 251 and United States flags, our new parade banner makes its debut at the Light-Up Night Parade on Nov. 15th.

Urban Hike

Dec 27th

Mark your calendar!



Luminaria Legwork

Our annual luminaria sale has begun! On Nov. 17th, a group of scouts distributed flyers door-to-door throughout North Irwin and Sheridan Terrace. Be sure to mark your calendars for Dec. 8th, when we'll meet to build the kits, and Dec. 15th, for delivery. **It's a great way to build your ISA!**



Scoutmaster's Minute ...

Take a minute to look at the scenery.

During the recent Dead Man's Hollow hike, I watched the scouts hiking in front of me. I noticed that as they hiked along they paid little attention to all of the things around them, barely noticing the beautiful scenery all around them.

I pointed out Catfish Pond asking if they had noticed it, and from their responses I realized that though we have spent many hours in this area of Dead Man's Hollow many of our scouts never really paid attention to everything around them.

I challenged the scouts to look for signs of life during this and future hikes. They pointed out a few things for the next couple of minutes, but seemed to return to their norm – looking down at the path for the location of their next step.

As they say, "Scouting happens outdoors." I just hope that while our scouts are outdoors having fun with all of their activities that they take a few minutes to look at the beautiful scenery.

- Mr. Michael Peschock, Scoutmaster

The Trails at Ohiopyle

Article and photos by Mr. Chenot

On Sunday, November 18, eight scouts (**Brandon, Bradley, Vance, Zane, Jake S., Derek, Andy, and Justin**) went on a ten-mile hike at Ohiopyle State Park. This was the third ten-mile hike that this group of scouts has taken in pursuit of the Hiking merit badge. Five ten-mile hikes and a twenty-mile hike are required to earn the badge. Mr. Varner and Mr. Chenot accompanied the scouts on the hike.

The hike started off on the Ferncliff Trail, which follows the shoreline of Ohiopyle's Ferncliff Peninsula. The Ferncliff Peninsula is a biologically unique area because the cooling effect of the Youghiogheny River allows plants to grow on the peninsula that are typically only found at higher elevations in Maryland and West Virginia. It was difficult to identify unusual plant species due to fallen leaves, but the trail did provide some nice views of the Youghiogheny River and of Ohiopyle Falls.

The next leg of the hike followed the Beech Trail, which is so named because of the giant beech trees that grow along the trail. The steep climb up

the narrow and rocky Beech Trail proved to be the most difficult part of the hike. The scouts stopped near the highest point of the trail for a welcome lunch break near a small waterfall.

After lunch, the hike continued along the Beech Trail across the hilltop that makes up the northwestern part of Ohiopyle State Park. Fallen leaves made it difficult to find the trail in places, but several consultations with map and compass kept the scouts going in the right direction.

After another short rest at the amphitheater of the park's campsite, the scouts were ready for the final leg of the hike, a descent down the Kentuck and Great Gorge Trails to the Meadow Run Trail. The final leg of the hike included stops at Cucumber Falls and along the banks of the Youghiogheny, where the scouts discovered ice patches that had remained frozen all day, despite temperatures in the fifties. Finally, at the end of the hike, the scouts devoured a well-earned box of donuts provided by Mr. Varner.



Lost!?! in Dead Man's Hollow

Dead Man's Hollow has become a regular stop on our hiking tours of the area. **Kyle** and **Bradley** took the responsibility of planning the November 4 hike, the itinerary for which included a visit to the bridge that was **Kevin's** Eagle Project, a stop to check on the troop's geocache, Table Rock Trail, and the ruins on the valley floor.

The patrol met at the parking area by Cat Fish Pond where **Bradley** explained the plan for the hike to the others in attendance — **Austin, Andy, Brandon, and Mike**. The waning colors of autumn surrounded us as the crisp leaves crunched underfoot. We paused at the bridge, then continued on to the site of the geocache. Finding the cache to be in good shape, we returned it to its hiding place and headed toward Table Rock.

We paused there long enough to re-hydrate and to consume some nutritious trail snacks, then continued along Table Rock Trail into the valley below. It's been a year since the troop established this trail, and some sections are starting to return to their natural state for lack of heavy usage. Once on the valley floor, it was decided that the patrol would skip the 1/2-mile walk to the ruins due to time constraints.

On the return trip, our scouts received a not-so-subtle reminder that it's easy to lose one's way if you're not careful, even on a trail system as familiar as that of Dead Man's Hollow. On the return trip, the patrol missed a turn and quickly found themselves in unfamiliar territory. This presented the leaders with an opportunity to discuss how to determine your location; by looking at landmarks, finding an area that is high enough to enable you to see your surroundings, by using a map if you have one available, and by using a compass to stay on course. Then Mr. Chenot and **Bradley** used some newer technology to set a course back to the parking area. In the interest of time, a nearby street offered the most direct route.

Chairman's Corner

The guys did a great job of building this year's float, adding another crowd-pleaser to our string of annual entries. Many thanks to the Sudsina's, for once again moving the **MaxCare** trucks aside and subjecting their property to potential catastrophe by allowing us to build the float there. And, of course, to our friends at **Norwin Landscape Supply** for their contribution. Don't forget, folks ... *Honor thy sponsors!*

Our leaders and parents were out in force this month, particularly when it came to helping with the float. Thanks, *everyone*, for helping to make the program that much bigger and that much better! Kudos, also, to our two intrepid hikers, Messrs. Chenot and Varner, who continue their campaign to give the boys the opportunity to earn their Hiking Merit Badge!

Found: Our 2010 float is figured prominently at <http://www.irwinevents.com/Light-Up-Night.html> .

- 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.**