



Troop 251 Hooter Gazette

Larimer, PA
December, 2012



On the Horizon



Jan 8	Norwin Reality Tour
11-13	Klondike Derby
Feb 3	Scout Sunday
Apr 5-7	Spring Camporee
Apr 12-14	OA Weekend
Jul 7-13	Summer Camp
Summer 2014	Northern Tier

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

FRICK PARK FOOT-O

Article by Mr. Chenot

Anyone who has spent time outdoors is probably familiar with the term *orienteeing*, which is navigating with a map and compass. However, *orienteeing* can also refer to a number of competitive activities that combine navigation with racing on foot, bicycles, skis, canoes, or horses. Whatever the mode of transportation, the object of competitive orienteeing is the same: find your way to a specified number of points on the map, referred to as "controls," in the least amount of time.

Foot orienteeing (or "Foot-O") is the oldest and most popular form of competitive orienteeing. On Saturday, Dec. 1st, seven scouts took part in a foot orienteeing race at Frick Park sponsored by the Western Pennsylvania Orienteering Club. The first group of scouts, ranked First Class and above, included **Brandon, Ben, Austin,** and **Andy**. This group of experienced navigators was permitted to go out on the course without leader supervision. The group chose a patrol name to use for the race: "Warmongering Wallabies."

The second group, **Vance, Skylar,** and **Derek**, were accompanied out on the course by Mr. Peschock and Mr. Chenot. This group, perhaps not inclined to conjure images of conflict-advocating marsupials in conjunction with speedy land navigation, chose the patrol name "Panthers" for the race.

Once the patrols were organized, it was time to race. Each patrol received a map of the eight-control course at the starting point, was given a time at which they could start, and then was told "Go!" The Warmongering Wallabies took off at a fast pace, confident that they knew the direction to the first control. The Panthers, who started two minutes after the Wallabies had left, took a little more time to get moving, preferring to get a refresher on orienteeing basics: orienting the map, determining direction and distance to the next control, and choosing the best route to the control. After a few minutes, however, the Panthers got their bearings and set out on the course with confidence.

The Panthers learned quickly how to find their way around the course. As they went along, the Panthers looked for signs of the Wallabies, hoping to catch up to the older scouts, but the Wallabies seemed to be too far ahead. The Panthers' suspicions were confirmed after they had found the third control, when Mr. Peschock received a call from Austin, who informed Mr. Peschock that the Wallabies had just reached the sixth control, which was nearly a kilometer away. The Panthers were disappointed to learn that the Wallabies were fifteen minutes ahead of them, but continued moving along the course as quickly as they could.

When the Panthers reached the sixth control, however, they were very sur-

(Continued on page 2)

Welcome to Troop 251, Cameron!

<http://www.t251.org>



L
U
M
I
N
A
R
I
A

2
0
1
2

It's a sell-out! Based on previous years' experience, we set our goal at selling 200 luminaria kits. Typically, that involves filling pre-paid orders for about half, and pounding the pavement to sell the rest.

That was not to be the case this year. On the day that we planned to deliver them, we had orders for 177 kits. That left 35 or so (we made a few extras) to sell door-to-door.

The two scouts in the photo at left are carrying the last of the kits as they canvass the neighborhood.



(Continued from page 1)

prised to find the Wallabies—*still at the sixth control!* The sixth control was at a junction of six different park trails, and the Wallabies were having a hard time figuring out which trail led to the seventh control. Both patrols found the correct route to the seventh control at the same time, and suddenly the Wallabies had a race on their hands again.

Both patrols had an easy time finding the seventh and eighth controls, so the last leg of the course turned into a footrace. The Panthers kept pace with the older scouts for a while, but the longer legs of the Wallabies eventually prevailed, and the older scouts finished one minute and forty-five seconds ahead of the younger scouts, narrowly securing bragging rights for the ride home.

Overall, the Troop 251 patrols finished twenty-eighth and twenty-ninth out of forty-eight participants, a pretty good performance for their first orienteering race.

God
Bless
America

Did you know that the royalties from Irving Berlin's "God Bless America" benefit the Boy Scouts of America and the Girl Scouts of the USA? Berlin established the "God Bless America Fund" shortly after its 1938 debut by one of the most popular singers of the day, Kate Smith, on her radio show. Since then, the BSA and GSUSA have received proceeds from the sale of "God Bless America" sheet music. More information can be found at the Library of Congress website, www.loc.gov.

Scoutmaster's Minute ...

Happy Holidays!

It is time for reflecting on what we've done good and what we need to improve upon in the new year.

As another very successful and active year comes to an end, we look forward to a new year of scouting activities. It is time for our scouts to determine what new adventures we will take on for the new year, and what goals they will set for themselves, and for us to do what we can to help them achieve their goals and enjoy their adventures.

I would also like to thank all of the people that have helped throughout the year to help our troop to achieve all that we have this year. I look forward to working with all of you again this year to put together the best program possible for our scouts.

Happy Holidays to everybody!

- Mr. Michael Peschock, Scoutmaster

Urban Hike: The Strip District

This year's Urban Hike took us to places that many people don't even know exist. Take the grotto pictured here. Modeled after the grotto at Lourdes, this one can be found on Liberty Avenue in the Strip District. But we're getting ahead of our story.

Maybe it was the threat of sub-freezing temperatures, but only three scouts — **Jake S., Brandon, and Kevin** — turned out for our annual Dec. 27th walk through downtown Pittsburgh. We began our hike this year in the Strip District, exploring Liberty and Penn Avenues from 24th Street into the city. After lunch (and chopstick lessons) at Wholey's, we made our way to the Creche, and then down to PPG Place for an hour of open-air ice skating.

After a few minutes of warming up and looking at the displays in the PPG Wintergarden, we headed back to where our day began. The "T" offered welcome transport from Gateway Center to the USX Tower, and then we were on foot back to the Strip. The total distance covered in our hike was a little over three miles, not counting travel by "T" or skates.



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.

Scouts on the Grid

While I'm writing this article, I am also helping to find a cure for cancer. Twenty-three hours from now, I'll be working on a way to prevent malaria from spreading. It's all in a day's work for the computer that I use to write this newsletter.

Since 2007, the SCOUTS team on the World Community Grid has donated close to **300 years** of free computing power by simply allowing research projects on the Grid to use the spare CPU cycles on their home PC's. Scouters and parents: You can join the SCOUTS team by downloading the World

Community Grid software, and by using the link at the bottom of this article to join team SCOUTS. (Scouts: Be sure to get your parents' permission before downloading anything!)

Your spare CPU cycles will then be used for research in fields ranging from fighting childhood cancer to generating clean energy. It's a great way to make good use of your computer when you're not.



For more information on the World Community Grid, check out <http://www.worldcommunitygrid.org/>

The World Organization of the Scout Movement (WOSM, the folks behind that purple patch on your uniform) owns the SCOUTS team, and is a partner of the World Community Grid.

Happy New Year!

Chairman's Corner

That our scouts — *both patrols!* — placed in the middle of the pack in their first Foot-O is testament to the excellent training they've received from our resident orienteering enthusiast, Mr. Chenot. He and Mr. Varner have made orienteering an integral part of our hiking program. Thanks to Mr. Peschock for accompanying the guys on the trail in his first Foot-O, as well.

Mr. Peschock was kept busy this month with the annual luminaria sale, which, under his leadership, has grown steadily through the years. Many thanks to all of the leaders who helped him in all phases of this very successful sale! Thanks also to Mr. R. Spagnolli, Mr. A. Fuller, and to Mrs. Gray, for accompanying us on the Urban Hike.

Next month, Troop 251 will be hosting the Klondike Derby at Camp Tenacharison. This is an important event for the troop, as we have not hosted such an event for as long as any of us can remember. In doing so, we are declaring that *Troop 251 is back!* For that reason, it is imperative that we show up in force, and deliver the best Klondike that we possibly can. I hope to see all of our leaders — Scoutmasters and Committee — at Tenacharison that weekend.

- 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.