



# Hooter Gazette

Larimer, PA

May, 2013



*On the Horizon*

June 1	Hot Dog Sale
June 11	Norwin Reality Tour
June 15	Hot Dog Sale
June 22-23	Canoe Trip
Jul 7-13	Summer Camp
Aug ?	Gettysburg
Summer 2014	Northern Tier

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



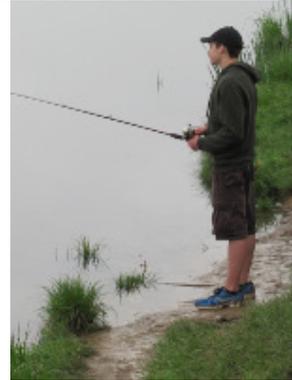
## Fish-'n-Fun 2013

The weekend of May 10th started out wet, cold, and gray. It ended that way as well. But that doesn't bother the Boy Scouts of Troop 251. There are skills to learn, and fun to be had!

Twenty-four scouts made camp at Mammoth Park in Mt. Pleasant Township on Friday night for our annual Fish-'n-Fun weekend. They set up their tents in the rain as the sun was setting, and pitched two pop-up canopies over the picnic tables and set about gathering firewood. This would be their home for the weekend.

One of our Assistant Scoutmasters, who has a penchant for "minimalist" camping, slung his hammock, tarp, and bear bucket among the trees across the field from the row of tents. This weekend a number of the older scouts — **Brandon, Austin P., Mike, Andy S., and Jon** — joined him in what was later dubbed "Mr. Fuller's Neighborhood." Each scout built his own shelter using a single tarp and ground cover. Because there was rain in the forecast, an "emergency tent" was set up adjacent to the area. Ironically, the scouts were comfortable all night in their makeshift shelters, while the emergency tent was discovered in the morning to have collected a fair amount of rain water.

Saturday began with a scrambled egg and potato hash that looked "disgusting" in the words of the scouts, but which thankfully tasted much better. After breakfast, the clouds opened up and the rain came down. The troop



hunkered under the canopies until the worst of it passed, then split into two groups and went in two different directions. Half of the troop headed for the giant slide; the other half made the short hike down to the lake for a day of fishing.



Continued on pg. 2 ...

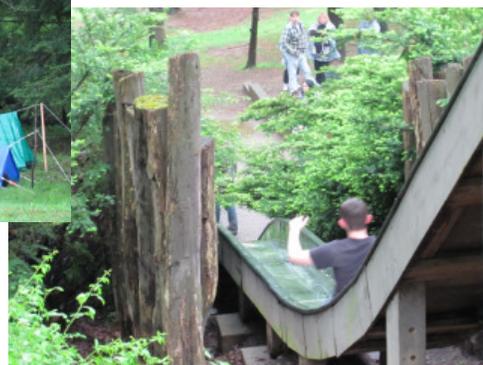
Welcome to Troop 251, Andy and Andy!

## Fish-'n-Fun (cont'd)

The lake yielded a few bluegill and fewer trout, but the guys got a lot of baiting-and-casting practice.

Toward evening, a surprisingly competitive chess tournament suddenly broke out, followed by the first round of Zombies, a perennial favorite of Troop 251. The scrub field behind the tents has grown through the years into the perfect hiding place for "humans" who are trying to avoid being tagged by "zombies."

After a hearty meal of trout and jambalaya, and another game of Zombies that went into the night, the guys sat around the campfire until it was time to sack out. The next morning, following the traditional donut wake-up, the troop broke camp and headed for home.



### *Scoutmaster's Minute ...*

### **A scout says, "I can!" ...**

During outings this month, I heard scouts saying things like; I can't do this – I can't jump into the deep end of the pool – I can't swim well enough to complete the red/white/blue swim test – I can't spend the weekend at camp.

Each time I heard the phrase "I can't ..." I would explain to the scout that just isn't true – You can accomplish anything if you just go out and try.

Henry Ford once said; "Whether you think you can or can't, you're right!"

Every goal that you set for yourself can be achieved as long as you believe that you can. The first step to achieving any goal is believing you can do it, and then you just go out and do it.

A scout says, "I can!" And then goes out and accomplishes every goal that he decides to accomplish.

... And just for the record; each scout that said, "I can't ..." actually managed to accomplish what they said they couldn't do. Great job everybody – Let's keep doing your best and accomplishing your dreams and goals.

- Mr. Michael Peschock, Scoutmaster

## Troop Shoot



← Fifteen scouts signed up for the troop shoot at the Pitcairn Monroeville Sportsmen's Club on May 19th, but in the end only nine showed up for a day of shooting sports instruction and trigger-pulling fun.

The day began, as it always does, with classroom instruction and a safety briefing. Then, with safety glasses in hand and ear protection in place, the guys went out to the ranges where they received additional instruction on the firearm that they would be using. The boys received individual training from men who obviously know their sport.

There would be no black powder shooting today, only trap and .22. Still, it's not every day that a young man gets the thrill of yelling "Pull!" and shattering a clay target in flight. But the real fun this year was at the rifle range, where the guys got to shoot at three sizes of metal targets. Whenever one of them got good at hitting one size of target, the instructors would move them down to a smaller one. At one point, the instructors brought out their own personal .22's to allow the boys to see and discuss the different models.

## More Excitement Than We Wanted

Our Summer Court of Honor started off with a little added excitement this year. Oh, there was the ice cream, with all of the toppings that anyone could want. And there were the Advancements, and the Merit Badges. The real excitement, however, took place an hour before the Court of Honor, when Mr. Fuller *the Younger* entered the church basement and detected the distinct odor of gas coming from the boiler room.

He alerted the Larimer Fire Department, and also the choir, who was rehearsing on the second floor. Scant minutes later, no fewer than seven fire trucks filled the parking lot and the street in front of St. John's — an embarrassingly large assemblage of hardware for what thankfully turned out to be a non-event. With the doors opened, the odor quickly dissipated and did not return. The Chief of Larimer VFD made one final check, and released the crews. The roadblocks that had prevented the scouts and their



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parents from getting near the church came down, and everyone gathered at St. John's for a quiet Court of Honor.



Since the Spring Court of Honor, there have been only three rank advancements: **Chris** (Tenderfoot), **Jacob S.** (2<sup>nd</sup> Class), and **Christian** (2<sup>nd</sup> Class). Seven merit badges were earned: Astronomy (**Brandon**), Basketry and Nature (**Kyle**), and Music, Pet Care, and Reptiles & Amphibians (**Nick H.**)



## Swim Test



On the evening of May 3<sup>rd</sup>, a number of our scouts did a few laps in the pool at the Norwin High School, to try to earn their red, white, & blue swim badge for Summer Camp.



The swim test is one of the first things on the agenda when the scouts arrive at Conestoga. Passing their test here saves them time at camp.

Photos by Mr. Hornicak

Coming this August ...  
**Troop 251 Musters at Gettysburg!**



## Chairman's Corner

Where do I start to thank all of the people who helped to make May a great month for Troop 251 ???

Messrs. Flaherty, Gillham, and Fuller *the Younger* stayed the weekend at Mammoth Park where they were visited by Mr. & Mrs. Peschock, Mr. Langford, Mr. & Mrs. Powell, and Mrs. & Mr. Fuller *the Elder*. A number of leaders contributed their time to the troop shoot and the swim test; pardon me for not being able to list them. Thanks to Mr. Hornicak for his contribution of photos of the swim test. Lastly, Mr. Peschock deserves mention for his work in arranging the troop shoot with PMSC.

And what can I say about the **Pitcairn Monroeville Sportsmens Club**?! They're a great bunch of guys who gave up their Sunday morning to work with our boys and to promote the sport that they enjoy! They always do a great job for us! I'd also like to extend enthusiastic kudos to the scouts who were in attendance that day. Your shooting instructors had nothing but good words for the scouts of Troop 251. You made your leaders proud!

Thanks also to the local volunteer fire companies who turned out in force for a small gas leak. These guys and gals truly earn what little praise the community gives them. Ask yourself, what if it had been a serious leak? Would you have gone into the building to search out the source? Keep your local volunteer fire company in mind as you plan your donations for the year.

- 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 © 2013 Troop 251 BSA except where noted. All rights reserved.