



# Hooter Gazette

Larimer, PA  
December 2013



*On the Horizon*

Jan 14	Norwin Reality Tour
Jan 17-19	Klondike Derby
Jan 21	PLC Meeting
Feb 2	Scout Sunday
Feb 18	Norwin Reality Tour
Feb 18	PLC Meeting
	Nothern Tier Canceled

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

## Looking Back at 2013

2013 was by all accounts a very interesting and eventful year for Troop 251.

In addition to the traditional Boy Scout activities - hiking, camping, shooting sports, and the like - we continued our emphasis on community service projects and reminded ourselves of the fun that can be found while sharing a little bit of work among friends.

We also had a couple of unusual events this year, including a canoe-trip find that we hope never to repeat.

Our activities this year took us to some of our favorite places, and to some new ones that we visited for the first time. We walked new trails, navigated new rivers, and learned new skills. Along the way, we also demonstrated a few well-honed skills, winning races on water and land, and proving to ourselves that we can survive a night with only improvised shelter.

Our shining moment, perhaps, came at the beginning of the year when we planned and executed a successful Klondike Derby that not only introduced new stations, but raised the bar on the traditional ones.

- Klondike Derby
- Norwin Reality Tour
- CPR, AED, & First Aid Certs
- Snow Tubing
- Scout Sunday
- Greater Allegheny Passage
- Wall Climbing
- Skiing
- Shooting Sports / Spring Camporee
- Fugitive Tire Roundup
- Dead Man's Hollow
- Scouting for Food
- Pet Friends' Rabies Clinic
- Fish-'n-Fun Camp
- Troop Shoot
- Swim Test @ Norwin HS Pool
- Layton Island Overnighter
- Hot Dog Sales
- Summer Camp
- Glacier Ridge Trail
- Gettysburg
- Allegheny Islands Overnighter
- Popcorn Sale
- Eagle Projects
- Survival / Fall Camporee
- Hallowe'en Party
- Survival Camp
- Luminaria Sales
- Orienteering Race
- Light up Night Float

### Cooking Merit Badge: Now Eagle-Required

A big change is coming for those of you who have yet to earn your Cooking Merit Badge. Beginning January 1, it is now Eagle-required. With that designation come new requirements, though 2014 will be counted as a transition year in which either the old or new requirements may be used.

For those of you who have the badge, and are still working on your Eagle, you may purchase the silver-edged badge to replace the green-edged one.

## Luminaria Sale

This year we once again had a successful luminaria sale. We set the goal of 250 luminaria kits this year and fell just short of the goal. After our sale was complete and donations of kits to the businesses that helped us out this year, we have 12 kits left over. Great Job everybody!

During our BSA Popcorn Sale this year Troop 251 has the distinguished honor of having two scouts that topped the Bushy Run District in sales:

Jake S. was first with \$2,513 in sales  
Austin P. was second with \$2,003 in sales

Jake was also in the top three for the Westmoreland Fayette Council.

Great Job, guys!  
- Mr. Peschock



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

## Thanks for your continued support!

As 2013 comes to an end it is time once again to reflect on all of the things we have done in the past year, and look forward to all of the things we will be doing in 2014.

As I reflect on 2013 and all of the accomplishments of Troop 251, it has been a fun and exciting year. We completed over 1000 man-hours of community service, managed to sell over \$10,000 in popcorn, and had another successful luminaria sale, not to mention all of the monthly outings, events, and activities. And none of this would be possible without the involvement of our scouts, adult leaders, and parents. Thanks to all of you for supporting our Troop and helping us have a successful year in 2013.

At the December PLC Meeting our scouts reviewed troop calendars from the last two years to see all of the activities so they could provide a short-list of things for the first six to eight months of 2014

At our December PLC Meeting our scouts also reviewed the troop calendars for the past two years to see the activities and outings they have participated in and determine what they would like to try and do in the first half of 2014. The following are some of the activities and events they are looking forward to this year: The Climbing Wall, Klondike Derby, Fish-N-Fun Camp, winter camping, skiing, snow-tubing, snow-shoeing, Laurel Caverns, biking, back-packing, orienteering race, shooting sports, canoe trips, swimming, Spring Camporee, etc.

Let's continue with Troop 251's tradition and have another successful 2014. Thanks for your continued support so that we always provide our scouts with the best program possible.

Happy Holidays to all!

- Mr. Michael Peschock, Scoutmaster

## Early Eagle Requirements

In the early days of Boy Scouting, it was a little easier to earn that Eagle Rank:

### 1911

First Class and any 21 Merit Badges

### 1914

First Class and 21 Merit Badges (11 required)

### 1927

First Class for 1 year, plus 21 Merit Badges (12 required)

### 1936

First Class, Star, and Life Scout (for 6 months), plus 21 Merit Badges (13 required)

## Winter Court of Honor



Scouts, Scouters, family, and friends gathered in the small dining room at St. John's United Church of Christ on Thursday, Dec. 5th, to celebrate our Winter Court of Honor.

Following a well-orchestrated presentation of badges and advancements earned, the winners of the pie toss were announced - all eighteen of them! At some future date, the leaders of the troop will make themselves available to act as targets for whipped cream pies thrown by the 18 scouts who sold more than \$250 worth of popcorn in our most recent sale!

## Chairman's Corner

2013 has come and gone, like so many years before it. Looking back at the end of each scouting year, I often ask myself, "Did we make the most of it?" and "Did we offer our scouts the best scouting program possible?" Once again, I can truthfully answer, without reservation, "Yes!"

With the new year comes new opportunities, new Merit Badges, and new membership policies. This last one bears mentioning, if only because it has been so thoroughly discussed at every level of leadership from local to national. Of course, I'm talking about BSA's decision to modify its membership policy to add the phrase, "No youth may be denied membership [...] on the basis of sexual orientation or preference alone." It's really not that big a change, if you think about it. A recent BSA announcement says it best: "Scouting is a youth program, and any sexual conduct, whether homosexual or heterosexual, by youth of Scouting age is contrary to the virtues of Scouting."

Before closing this issue of the *Hooter Gazette*, I want to offer our *Thanks* to **Norwin Landscape** and to all of the leaders who contributed in various ways to our annual luminaria sale. Remember, everyone, honor your sponsors!

Thanks, **everyone**, for a great year! Let's all take a breath, relax, and *do it again*. Let's make next year even better for our sons, our Scouts!

- 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.