



# Newsletter

Volume 23 Number 8

April 2007

## COMING EVENTS

### APRIL 2007

- 4/9 – Patrol Leaders Council (7:30 PM)
- 4/10 – Troop Committee and Board of Review (7 PM)
- 4/13 – TROOP MEETING (7 to 9 PM) Hoagie "set-ups"
- 4/14 – Build and Deliver Hoagies
- 4/20-22 – Historic Trip**
- 4/23 – Friends of Troop 78 Directors' Meeting (7 PM)
- 4/27-29 – Order of the Arrow Ordeal and Service Weekend
- 4/30 – Patrol Leaders Council (7:30 PM)

### MAY 2007

- 5/1 – Troop Committee and Board of Review (7 PM)
- 5/5-6 – Canoe Trip**
- 5/10 – Diamond Rock Roundtable
- 5/11 – TROOP MEETING (7 to 9 PM)
- 5/18 – TROOP MEETING (7 to 9 PM)
- 5/19 – Radnor Races (Save This Date!)**
- 5/20 – Radnor Races Cleanup (8AM)**
- 5/27 – VFW Memorial Day Ceremony (2 PM)
- 5/31 (Thurs.) – TROOP MEETING (7 to 9 PM)

### JUNE 2007

- 6/1-3 Order of the Arrow Service Weekend at Horseshoe
- 6/4 – Patrol Leaders Council (7:30 PM)
- 6/5 – Troop Committee and Board of Review (7 PM)
- 6/7 (Thurs.) – TROOP MEETING: Field Day Part One (7 to 9 PM)
- 6/7 – Diamond Rock Roundtable (Picnic)
- 6/8-10 – Order of the Arrow Conclave
- 6/10 – Field Day & Family Picnic (1 PM)**
- 6/15 – TROOP MEETING (7 to 9 PM) (Camp preparations)
- 6/16-17 – Rafting Trip**
- 6/23 – PLC to Summer Camp (3 PM)
- 6/24-7/1 – Horseshoe Summer Camp WEEK ONE**
- 6/25 – Friends of Troop 78 Directors' Meeting 7:00

### JULY and AUGUST 2007

- 7/1 -7/8 – Horseshoe Summer Camp WEEK TWO
- 7/28 - 8/4 – Algonquin Park, Canada - Canoe Trip

**KEY: Camping Trips and Major Troop Events: in Bold**

**TROOP MEETINGS: underlined and in ALL**

**CAPITALS**

*Adult Leader Only Meetings: in Italics*



## APRIL BIRTHDAYS

- |          |                |
|----------|----------------|
| April 5  | Allen Schertz  |
| April 11 | Matt DeStefano |
| April 12 | Matt Heilman   |
| April 25 | Ryan Nessle    |

Please let us know if we missed your birthday. Send the information to [newsletter@willistown78.org](mailto:newsletter@willistown78.org)

*Thanks* to Miles Stevens for plowing the parking lot at the cabin so that it could be navigated by our friends and guests who attended the March Adult Pasta Dinner, as well as for anyone else that used the lot. It was a big help. *The Troop Committee*

## NEW DADS NEEDED!

The April Troop Committee meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 10<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM at the cabin. The Committee meets on the first Tuesday of the month to guide and discuss the operation of the troop. New dads are especially encouraged to attend these meetings, and to become involved in troop activities.

## WELCOME NEW TROOP MEMBERS!

Welcome to our 19 new Scouts and their families who recently completed their Arrow of Light and have graduated to Boy Scouting. They are: Grant LePard, Stephen Lessley, Josh Nichter and Tim Shallack from Pack 122; Marshall LeMert, Duncan O'Hara, Chris Duncan, Mathew Cracus and Mathew Cates from Charlestown Pack 67; Matt D'Abruzzo from Pack 98; Chris Saunders, Kevin DeStefano and Travis Vercoe from Pack 76; Mathew Thompson from Pack 73; Kevin Lock, Dean Lang, John Kecergis and Ryan Morgenweck from Pack 71; and JD Lotz from Pack 113. On behalf of the Scouts, parents, and Troop Committee, thanks for choosing Troop 78. Glad you could join the fun!

## OA NEWS

Congratulations to those who were tapped out at Parents' Night as candidates to join the Order of the Arrow. They are: Philip Chow, Jack DeStefano, Nolan Dondero, Dan Dufoe, Alex Frees, Matt Heilman, James Mateyk, Brian Sheridan, Daniel Sheridan, and Mike Dufoe. They will be taking their Ordeal at Camp Horseshoe at either the April or June service weekends. OA members should plan to attend these weekends to support our candidates and help prepare the camp for summer use.



## APRIL IS HOAGIE MONTH

Dear Parents – The scouts have done their job in selling 1,000+ hoagies. Now we're asking for just a bit of your time in making these delicious hoagies. Please plan on coming to the Troop meeting at the cabin to make hoagie set-ups on Friday, April 13<sup>th</sup> from 7-9 PM and/or please attend the hoagie building session the next morning on Saturday, April 14<sup>th</sup> from 7-9 AM. The more parents and friends of Troop 78 that pitch-in, the easier and faster things get done. Your son's hoagie order will be ready for pick-up on Saturday, April 14<sup>th</sup> at 9 AM for delivery to his customers by lunch. Thanks to everyone for all their help!

## NEW SCOUT SPEAKS

*by Stephen Lessley*

I am very excited to be in Troop 78! It's an honor to be with such a great troop. I can't wait until summer camp starts. I had a lot of fun selling hoagies; I sold 55. I have started on getting Tenderfoot. Panther Patrol is really fun. Being in Boy Scouts is great!!!

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## ADULT PASTA DINNER

at The Scout Cabin

**TUESDAY, APRIL 17, 2007  
7 PM**

\$15.00

All Cooking Done By Men  
Of The Troop

**ALL YOU CAN EAT!!!!!!!**

All Proceeds Go To The Troop  
For Equipment, Etc.

MENU: Chicken Italiano  
Pasta, Salad, Beverages  
GREAT, HOME-MADE DESSERTS

### RESERVATIONS:

**Joe Cady  
610-647-4037**

Come out, support your troop!!!

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## WILLISTOWN TROOP 78 SUMMER CAMP 2007

*June 24<sup>th</sup> to July 8<sup>th</sup>*

*It is not too late to register*

It is hard to believe but summer camp is just around the corner! Once again Troop 78 has reserved the Dan Beard campsite at Camp Horseshoe for two weeks starting Sunday June 24<sup>th</sup> and ending Sunday July 8<sup>th</sup>. The basis for our scouting program is camping, and this two-week period is always the highlight of our scouting year. Your Troop Committee and leadership would like to have 100% of the troop in camp this summer.

The discounted cost this year is \$270.00 per week. **In order to receive the discounted price, your balance must be paid and your medical form completed by May 12<sup>th</sup>.** The late fee is an additional \$25 per week. In addition, you will receive a free troop T-shirt if you complete your registration by May 12<sup>th</sup>.

**If you have not yet sent in your deposit, it is not too late.** But please hurry! If you have not received a camp packet with all the information – or if you have any questions at all – please contact Dave Schertz at 610-687-0366.

Dads don't be left behind, come and

join the Troop for this camping experience. The cost to you is free; the value of your being there is priceless.

## DON'T MISS CAMPING TRIP TO HISTORIC HARPERS FERRY APRIL 20 – 22, 2007

Join Troop 78 as we head to Harper's Ferry for our annual historic-themed camping trip! Set in the valley where the Shenandoah and Potomac Rivers come together, Harpers Ferry National Historical Park is known for its beauty and its significance in our Nation's history. It is the site where John Brown led his attack on slavery. It was at Harpers Ferry that the largest surrender of Union Troops occurred during the Civil War. Harpers Ferry was one of the first places where freed slaves attended school in an integrated setting. And Harpers Ferry was the home of the first successful commercial railroad in the United States.

But don't take our word for it – come see for yourself! Join our exciting excursion to this West Virginia destination! We have a full schedule of activities planned, including a historic scavenger hunt, and a hike along the Harpers Ferry Historic Trail. Those who participate will receive a great-looking patch for their efforts. This is a wonderful trip for our new Scouts who have just crossed over from Webelos, so we look forward to having you!

Dads, a reminder that you are always welcome – and encouraged – to join our camping trips. If you're a history buff, or you like to camp, or you just want to spend time with a great group of Scouts, leaders, and other dads, please join us for the Harpers Ferry excursion.

We will be camping at a KOA site that is minutes from the Park. There is no fee for Scouts, and we will ask for a \$15 food donation per dad. Scouts, please call your Patrol Leader by April 13, 2007 to let him know if you will be attending. Please let your Patrol Leader know if your dad is planning to come as well. The bus will leave the

Cabin promptly at 6 PM on Friday, April 20, 2007, so plan to arrive early to get your gear stowed and help pack the bus.

A packing list for the trip is printed below. We will also provide a handout on the Trip at the April 13<sup>th</sup> Troop meeting. If you have questions in the meantime, please call Mr. Dudt or Mr. Bennett (see Troop roster for telephone numbers).

Don't delay – demand for this Trip will be high. See you on the bus!

### PACKING LIST

#### Winter sleeping bag or sleeping bag w/blanket

Sleeping pad

Flashlight

Warm clothes; gloves; hat with visor;

Knit hat\*

Sunscreen

Lip balm

Long underwear\*

Jacket

Rain/snow gear

Sturdy hiking shoes or boots

Wool or synthetic hiking socks

(no cotton socks, no sneakers for hiking)

Toilet articles

#### DRINKING CUP

(no metal cups – cup should hold at least 8 oz.)

Spending money for souvenirs (optional)

\*Remember – It is best to dress in layers. Harpers Ferry could be quite warm during the day and cold at night, or cold all day. Who knows what Mother Nature has in store for us? **BE PREPARED!**

## MAY 4-6, 2007 POTOMAC RIVER CANOE TRIP

Get ready for the Troop 78 Spring Canoe trip the weekend of May 4-6, 2007. This canoe trip will take place along a scenic section of the Upper Potomac River near Paw Paw, Maryland. We will drive to, and stay at, a group campsite in Little Orleans, MD on Friday evening. On Saturday, we will visit the famous Paw Paw tunnel, where the C&O Canal goes through a mountain. Then we will continue a short hike to our put-in location along the Potomac. We will

canoe about 13 miles of the Potomac, stopping along the way for lunch. Depending on the weather and water temperature, there will be time for canoe skill-building and for swimming. We will arrive back at our campsite before dinner. We will leave the Potomac on Sunday morning for our return trip.

You need to sign up with your Patrol Leader. Be at the Cabin at 6 PM on Friday, May 4<sup>th</sup> – we leave by 6:30 PM. We will return to the Cabin at about 2 PM on Sunday, May 6<sup>th</sup>. Specifics on the trip and what to pack are available at the Cabin.

### CABIN DAY CLEAN-UP!

Troop 78 has the great gift of owning one of the finest Boy Scout cabins in the country. It is indeed a beautiful facility, and one we are all proud of. With this in mind, our Cabin is in need of some serious spring cleaning. We are holding a Cabin Spring Cleaning Day on Saturday, May 12<sup>th</sup> from 8 AM until Noon. We ask all scouts, parents, and friends to help in cleaning both the inside, outside, and yard area of the cabin.

Exterior projects include:

- Power wash cabin exterior
- Clean out gutters
- Wash windows
- Trim bushes, weed & mulch flower beds and walking path
- Fill parking lot pot holes, rake-out gravel piles from snowplow

Please bring any garden tools that can be used for these tasks. Call or e-mail Scott Vercoe with any exterior project questions.

We will also be doing spring cleaning on the interior of the cabin. Bring your cleaning supplies: mops, brooms, vacuums, furniture polish, scrub brushes, buckets, bathroom and window cleaning.

Interior Projects include:

- Top down cleaning of the bathrooms, including scrubbing the floor
- Cleaning the Committee Room: polish, dust, vacuum
- Clean the ceiling fans in the Committee Room

- Sweep and mop the floor in the Committee Room and Scoutmaster's Office
- Sweep and scrub the entry hall floor.
- Dust, sweep and mop the Meeting Room

Since we all enjoy the use of this great facility, this is a way to come and meet other scout families and take ownership of our property.

If you have any questions, call John Mateyk at 610-993-9844.

### RADNOR RACES SATURDAY, MAY 19 and SUNDAY, MAY 20

*by Brian Rothberg*

There is way too much snow, ice and cold weather out there, but you can bring yourself some early thoughts of Spring by picturing yourself helping Troop 78 during a beautiful weekend at the 2007 Radnor Races.

Just a quick refresher:

- This is the Troop's biggest single undertaking; we need well over 100 people out to help
- This event provides the underpinning for much of the Troop's finances
- Your Scout will receive credit in his Scout Account for every hour worked by every person you bring out that weekend
- The Radnor Races is one of the high points on the Main Line social calendar; it is a wonderful experience, and we always have a great time working there and enjoying the event

You will receive formal notification and sign-up sheets shortly. Saturday, May 19<sup>th</sup> is the big day, and we must have adults who can devote the better part of their day to helping us out. We need a smaller contingent on Sunday, May 20<sup>th</sup> to take care of clean-up.

PLEASE GO RIGHT OVER TO YOUR CALENDAR AND BLOCK OUT ALL DAY SATURDAY, MAY 19 TO HELP TROOP 78 AT THE RADNOR RACES.

Looking forward to hearing from you and working with you soon.

### 2007 CANADA TRIP INFORMATION

This year's Canada trip is scheduled for **Saturday, July 28<sup>th</sup> thru Saturday, August 4<sup>th</sup>**. Here is the basic information about this trip.

- To **register** for this trip, you must provide a **\$50.00 deposit** to Bruce Balmat **by May 11, 2007**. Make checks payable to "Willistown Troop 78, BSA". There are specific requirements which you must meet, and you can pick these up at the Cabin. The trip is expected to be limited to 18 people.
- The cost of the trip will be **\$350 per person** and the full payment must be made by **June 15<sup>th</sup>**. You can withdraw funds from your Scout Account for this trip. Scouts making the trip for the first time will receive a new canoe paddle for their use while they are in Troop 78!
- The trip leader, in consultation with the Scoutmaster, will make any decisions with respect to an individual's ability to meet the requirements for going on the Canada trip.
- All participants are expected to participate in the planning and packing meetings for this trip.
- All participants must:
  - Have a current passport
  - Be registered with Troop 78
  - Provide the appropriate current medical form

If you have any questions about this trip, please feel free to contact Bruce Balmat at 610-647-0973 or [balmat123@comcast.net](mailto:balmat123@comcast.net).

### TROOP GARAGE SALE COMING THIS SPRING!

Troop 78 will be holding a Garage/Yard Sale at the Cabin on Saturday, June 2<sup>nd</sup>. This will be the first of several fund raising events to support the Europe KISC 2008 trip. 100% of the proceeds from items sold will be split among scouts attending the trip and any scout not going on the

trip but wishing to help during the sale.

Help support this trip! Start setting aside any items you feel can be used by others. The Newsletter will publish drop-off dates so that your items can be reviewed and priced prior to the sale. For health reasons, we will not accept stuffed animals or used clothing...with the exception of sports equipment.

Please contact Darlene Matsinger or Scott Vercoe with questions, and don't throw out that old stuff just yet!

## CHESTER COUNTY COUNCIL FIRST AID MEET 2007

*by Bradley Bene*

This year's First Aid Meet turned out to be very successful. At the same time, it was also lots of fun. The Troop's hard work definitely paid off at the meet, because Panther and Stag got first place honors, and Rattlesnake also had a great second place finish.

The eventful morning started when we arrived at Valley Forge Middle School. As soon as we went into the gym, we were surrounded by troops that came from all over the area. From then on we spent the whole morning hard at work tackling first aid problems. In the end it was all worth it with a fantastic finish by our troop.

Our last problem of the day was

probably the hardest. It was the scramble problem. It was hard because they put us into patrols with kids from other troops. We had to perform first aid with people that we've never met before. It was interesting because lots of the other troops had other strategies to solving problems that I had never seen before.

All of our hard first aid work at the meetings definitely paid off at this year's First Aid Meet. Hopefully we can perform as well or maybe even better at next year's competition.

## THE COMING OF SPRING

*by Michael Bennett*

These days, everything about the world is changing. Snow is melting, days are getting longer, and the weather is getting warmer. Troop 78 is changing as well, from freezing, icy-cold campouts to warm, pleasant trips.

Troop 78 kicked off spring with a boom - a cannon boom, in fact, at the Revolutionary War-themed Webelos Woods! Scouts taught Webelos one of 78's top abilities - lashings. However that was merely the appetizer in the Troop's buffet of great spring camping trips.

This month, Scouts will test their endurance on 78's trip to Harpers Ferry, the site of an 1859 slave revolt led by John Brown. One test will be

the hike along the Harpers Ferry Trail. A special patch will be given to those who complete this challenge. The other test is to see whether Scouts will be able to stay awake through the long bus ride to West Virginia!

The main course of this buffet is the Potomac River canoe trip. The Troop will depart the cabin and arrive in Paw Paw, Maryland on Friday, May 4<sup>th</sup>, 2007. After a visit to the Paw Paw tunnel and a brief hike on Saturday, the Scouts will hit the water and canoe along 13 scenic miles of the Potomac River. As a bonus, Canoeing Merit Badge, a Troop requirement for Life rank, will be offered on this trip.

Of course, no buffet is complete without dessert. For 78, the sweetest event is the Troop's annual rafting trip in June. The trip is full of rapids, swimming, and intense water gun battles. It is a great trip to end the weekend trip year. Then, after school lets out, 78 will go on two of its most exciting trips - summer camp and Algonquin Park.

Don't let other Scouts get to the buffet table before you do. Sign up for these cool trips right now!



## Newsletter

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