



Newsletter

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COMING EVENTS

JULY and AUGUST 2007

7/28 - 8/4 – Algonquin Park, Canada – Canoe Trip

GARAGE SALE JUNE 2007

by Stan Conover

May days and nights were spent collecting, sorting, and picking up items for sale. Many thanks to Darlene Matsinger for orchestrating this large undertaking. She was equipped with a blue print from the last sale held to help with the costs of constructing the cabin. Mentoring was offered and delivered (in Willistown fashion) by Gladys and Jim Donnelly. They provided the blueprint from the last sale, advised, encouraged, and lent a helping hand throughout the entire time. Donations came from troop families and their acquaintances, and Friends of Troop 78.

As a parent involved in the process, it was nice to see former scouts dropping off things to be sold, as well as talking to the current scouts. What better way to set a great example for our boys as they grow through life and Scouting?

All of these fund-raising events require support from all families of the troop in order to be successful.

Thank you to all that lent a helping hand. The Willistown spirit certainly showed up loud and clear for this event bringing us to the target of the first 20% to be raised for our boys.

RADNOR RACE COMMITTEE WRAP-UP DINNER

For the past four years, our Boy Scout Cabin has been the location of the Radnor Race Committee's Wrap-Up Dinner, and we again had the pleasure of hosting this year. The affair was put on by Peggy and Bob Matje and their able crew. As usual, the meeting and festivities were enjoyed by all who attended.

This occasion is a very big part of Troop 78's giving back to an organization that has repeatedly supported Troop 78 in many ways over the past 18 years. The Troop benefits from the participation of

Scouts, parents, families, friends at the Radnor Hunt Races each spring, in that the proceeds for its efforts cover a large portion of the operating budget.

Back to the dinner...

All expenses are borne by the Race Committee; no Troop funds are expended. All who participate volunteer their services. The affair started with the Race Committee holding its Executive Committee Meeting, followed by the serving of delicious hors d'oeuvres by "Lady Loons" Judy Cady, Diane Davison, Marilyn Rothberg, and Colleen Nessel...all mothers of Scouts or former Scouts. And, of course, the beverages were served by our able-bodied beverage server, Al Terrell.

Peggy's choice for the main entree was Shish Kabobs of many varieties, cooked on the grill by Pasta Men Joe Cady and Rick DiVergilio, and served with all the necessary side dishes. Desserts, as usual, were exceptional having been prepared by Gladys Donnelly and Peggy.

The very interesting slideshow presentation, prepared by Renee Miller, included photos taken on Race Day, and was enjoyed by all.

It was a very enjoyable evening, and our efforts were very much appreciated by all who attended. Our thanks to Peggy, Bob and their crew.

The Troop Committee

NEW FENCING BEAUTIFIES CABIN LAWN

If you've visited the cabin in the last few months you may have noticed the decorative wooden post and rope fencing that outlines the front yard. This landscaping upgrade was provided by Jason Cecco and Brett D'Antonio, two 78 Eagle Scouts from a few years ago. This is just another fine example of our Scouts volunteering their time and hard work to give back to the Troop. Younger scouts take note - this is what it's all about at 78. Jason and Bret, the Troop thanks you for improving the look of our great facility!

EUROPE TRIP FUNDRAISER AT OUTBACK STEAKHOUSE

All Scouts, Scout families and friends of Troop 78 please mark your calendars for **Saturday, November 10, 2007** to attend a luncheon at the Outback Steakhouse on Route 30 in Frazer. Seating will start around 11:00 AM.

This luncheon is the next fundraiser planned to raise money for those Scouts headed to Europe in the summer of 2008. Tickets will go on sale September 1st. The price will be \$20-\$25 per person including gratuity.

Outback supplies all the food, beverages, cooks and servers for free. All funds raised (less gratuity) will go towards defraying trip expenses. Outback will only seat 200 people for this event, so plan on getting your orders in early. Look for more details online, and in September's newsletter.

The Europe Trip Planning Committee

SUMMER CAMP IMPRESSIONS

by Steve D'Antonio, SM

The Troop topped off another great Scouting year with two weeks at summer camp for the 80th camping year at Horseshoe Scout Reservation. The first week we had 49 Scouts in Dan Beard with ten of our "new recruits" doing well in the Trailblazer program. Week two saw 42 Scouts from our Troop in camp plus three guests from Troop 76, with eight in Trailblazers. Twenty Five Scouts from our troop stayed for two weeks, and a new star segment was given out to those Scouts to place next to the year segment of their Horseshoe patch. Altogether we had 66 Troop 78'ers stay one week or more at camp...almost 100% of the Troop!

The schedule at camp is full most of the day, and every time you turn around there is another contest or competition. The Troop carried on their winning tradition throughout the two weeks and came home with a fist-full of ribbons. With a little practice beforehand, and Sean Miller calling, we got back to our usual marching level, taking the trophy 7 out of 7 times the first week, and 6 out of 7 the second week. The Troop also brought home

perhaps the biggest prize of all: the Blue Ribbon for Paul Bunyan Field Day at the end of week two. Ribbons for camp-wide competitions and games included: the most gold to spend at BoomTown, (can you believe we paid for Reveille at 1 AM?), Second Place for the Caveman Game (Rattlesnake Patrol), and First Place in the Scavenger Hunt to sell items on e-bay and save the camp from developers. Week one also saw the Rattlesnake Patrol taking First Place for the running of the Obstacle Course (Zack Davis and Dan Dufoe), and the Stag Patrol tied for First Place in the same event during week two (Stephen Babb and Dan Dufoe). The Troop teamed up to win the Inter-Troop Volleyball Competition week two, and placed second in the Inter-Troop Track Meet both weeks. Taking First Prize for the Archery Shoot during week two was a welcome surprise. Our Scouts were also squeaky clean week one, posting the best Clean Camp scores. We also had a team take First Place in the First Aid Challenge both weeks.

All six of our patrols earned the Standard Patrol Award, allowing the Troop to earn the Standard Troop Award for the 52nd straight year. Patrol service projects included: fixing the front gate to Dan Beard and digging a drainage ditch to keep the campsite dry, a new Fireguard rack, improvements to the trail into the Trailblazer area, removing stumps in front of the shower building, and building new wooden and stone bridges connecting both sides of the Dan Beard campsite.

We had two Scouts make their last trip to camp as (under-18) campers: Jackson Hunter and Max Davidson. Allen Schertz

finished his year as SPL during week one, with Noah Eberhart taking over and doing an admirable job week two. Silver Buckle recipients for Honor Camper of the Troop were Matt DeStefano week one, and Jackson Hunter week two.

My thanks go out to all the older Scouts for their help in making this year's camp experience a great one for the entire Troop, and especially for the younger Scouts. As we all got a little tired toward the end of the second week - and after having lost marching for the first time on Thursday and having had a tough camp inspection that same day - you overcame your disappointment and stepped it up with a strong spirit right into Paul Bunyan Field Day. Nothing exemplified this more than Noah Eberhart's refusal to give up during the Heaving Bar event, even after having missed his rope throw four times (maybe it was five). He finally got it over and quickly tied his knots to score a Second Place time. Not without notice was the spirit and teamwork shown by our giant Clove Hitch team made up of four first year Scouts. They won their event with ease, and had a load of fun in the process.

Many thanks on behalf of the Troop go out to the Scouts and former Scouts from Troop 78 who served on Camp Staff this year. Matt Lewis was back as Business Manager. Jason Cecco moved up to his first year as Campcraft Director. Jon DiVirgilio returned as Cope Director, creating a great team building experience for older Scouts. David Knauer was a new and funny (nimble bimbly) Campcraft Counselor. Josh Mateyk a first time Trailblazer Counselor teaching eleven

year olds, and Joseph Smith served as a Counselor in Training when he wasn't camping with the Troop. And even though he's related, a special thanks to Brett D'Antonio - who moved from Campcraft Director to Food Service Director - for making a definite improvement in the food this year (warm pancakes with cinnamon butter and warm syrup!). Some of these Scouts and young adults have been on staff for five or more years. They return each year, not for the money, but for the experience and camaraderie. Serving on Camp Staff is a unique and positive growth experience, which I hope all of our Scouts will consider as a part of their Scouting journey.

Lastly, my thanks and the thanks of the Troop Committee, go to the many Troop Dads and Adult Leaders who helped by coming down and spending time with the Troop at summer camp. There were two Assistant Scoutmasters who stayed for a full week: Kevin Compton and Jake Shallack...plus another 20+ Dads who came down for a night or two or three. Thanks to Dave Schertz for taking care of all the money matters and collecting medical forms. And a special Thank You to ASM and former Scoutmaster, Ernie Heegard who kept us adults going and guided us through another two weeks of work projects. After 62 consecutive years at Camp (29 as Camp Director), we still can't seem to keep up with him. In fact, Ern stayed another week after we left. It seems we didn't complete all the work projects after all.

***Looking forward to an even better
2007-2008 Scouting year***



Newsletter

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