



Newsletter

Volume 24 Number 4 December 2007

COMING EVENTS

DECEMBER 2007

- 12/1 – Pickup Poinsettia Sale orders at the cabin
12/3 – Patrol Leaders Council (7:30 - 8:30PM)
12/4 – *Troop Committee* and Board of Review (7:00 PM)
12/7 – TROOP MEETING (7 to 9 PM)
12/13 – *Diamond Rock Holiday Roundtable*
12/14 – TROOP MEETING (7 to 9 PM) and Holiday Party
12/17 – *Friends of Troop 78 Directors' Meeting* 7:00 PM

JANUARY 2008

- 1/8 – *Troop Committee* and Board of Review (7:00 PM)
1/2 – Patrol Leaders Council (7:30 - 8:30PM)
1/4-6 – Winter Camp and Father/Son Weekend – Camp Horseshoe
1/10 - *Diamond Rock Roundtable*
1/11- TROOP MEETING (7 to 9 PM)
1/17 – Pack 67 First Aid Round Robin (7 PM) (help needed)
1/18-20 – Matje Farm Ski Trip
1/25 – TROOP MEETING (7 to 9 PM)
1/26 – Assist at Pack 76 Pinewood Derby (Service Hours)

NOTE:

Camping Trips/Major Events shown in: Bold

TROOP MEETINGS: underlined in CAPITALS
Adult Leader Only Meetings: in Italics

BIRTHDAYS

- November birthdays missed in last Newsletter:
21 Steve D'Antonio
26 Al D'Antonio
December birthdays:
6 Michael Bennett
7 Josh Mateyk
11 Zack Davis
14 Dan Dore
16 Ryan Morrison
17 Hunter Jackson
20 Luke Conover

NEW DADS NEEDED!

The December Troop Committee Meeting will be held on Tuesday, December 4th at 7:00 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 to get involved in troop activities.



GO GREEN – OPT OUT OF THE PAPER NEWSLETTER

If you would like to opt out of receiving a **paper** copy of the newsletter in addition to the **electronic** version, please send an email to newsletter@willistown78 dot org

MERIT BADGE OFFERED

Any Scouts interested in learning how a car works and what is required to take care of them should sign up for the Auto Mechanic Merit Badge to be offered starting in February. Please contact Clay Davis (trionics@yahoo dot com)

HOLIDAY PARTY

The Troop Meeting on December 14th will be a Holiday Party. It starts with our traditional First Aid problem, followed by games, food, and finally the "throwing of the pies" by the Popcorn Sale top sellers. A gift exchange will be held for those who wish to participate. Your wrapped gift should cost no more than \$5. Each Patrol will be asked to bring in certain snacks or baked goods. Popcorn Sale prizes will also be given out at this meeting. Any pre-ordered Troop jackets and hats will also be available for pick-up.

POINSETTIA SALE THANK YOU

Thanks to all the Scouts who participated in the Poinsettia Sale! The final numbers are still being tallied, but almost 1,000 plants were ordered this year! Please pick up your orders on Saturday, December 1st at the cabin. Call Stephanie Robinson with any questions.

OUTBACK STEAKHOUSE "FEEDS" EUROPE TRIP

The Europe Trip Planning Committee thanks all Scouts, Scout families, and Friends of Troop 78 for attending the fundraising luncheon at the Outback Steakhouse in Frazer.

150 diners enjoyed great food, service, and a Troop family atmosphere. All proceeds raised at the event will help defray the cost of the Europe Trip for our Scouts.

We ask that any Scout family choosing to dine at a local establishment consider choosing the Outback Steakhouse in Frazer. They provided our group with a great meal and friendly, considerate staff at **no cost** to the Troop. We need to return the favor!

Our next "free lunch" Europe fundraiser will take place at the Carrabba's Italian Grill on Route 30 in Frazer. The tentative date is Saturday, March 29. Please mark your calendars and watch for more information.

If you missed out on Outback's great deal, take advantage of the food and fun at Carrabba's. We'll be looking to sign-up 200 hungry folks.

The Europe Trip Planning Committee

WILLISTOWN TROOP 78 ANNUAL WINTER CAMP AND FATHER/SON WEEKEND AT HORSESHOE SCOUT RESERVATION

**Father's attendance is not required
for Scouts to attend**

WHEN: JANUARY 5 to 7, 2007
WHERE: CAMP HORSESHOE,
RISING SUN, MD.
BROWNING, and SCHRAMM
LODGES (both heated by woodstoves)

WHAT TO BRING: sleeping bag, foam pad, flashlight, warm clothes, rain or snow gear, sturdy shoes or boots, toilet articles, gloves and work gloves (two pairs), drinking cup, Scout Handbook, sled? PACK in a DUFFEL BAG (no suitcases please)

HOW TO GET THERE: THE TROOP BUS OR YOUR DAD'S CAR. THE BUS (or carpools) WILL LEAVE THE CABIN AT 6:00PM ON FRIDAY JANUARY 5th. EXPECTED RETURN IS 11:30AM ON SUNDAY.

WHAT WILL WE DO THERE?

Scout skill sessions, Camp tour, wood cutting, scavenger hunt, games, movie, snacks, etc.

HOW DO I MAKE RESERVATIONS?

Tell your Patrol Leader by Sunday December 24th. Food cost is \$15 for adults (collected at camp) and free for Scouts and visiting Webelos. **Dads, we encourage you to join us and see what Troop 78 is all about. Please tell your son's Patrol Leader you will be joining us.**

WHAT IF I HAVE MORE QUESTIONS ?

Call your Patrol Leader or Senior Patrol Leader.

BACKPACKING SWATARA GAP

By Nino Poidomani

When we arrived at the long trail we were split up into two groups: those who wanted to do the long hike, and those who wanted to do the short one. Once everyone had gotten his pack and food, we set off. The beginning of the hike was uphill and very rocky. Eventually the trail got flat, but was still very rocky, and after a while many people had strap burn.

We continued hiking at a steady pace and finally stopped for lunch. Lunch consisted of sausage, peanut butter, cheese, and

crackers. The only ones who didn't eat were those who decided to get ahead of everybody by about a mile. After lunch we only had two miles left to go and they went by quickly.

When we arrived at camp, most of the tents had been set up, and there was a fire going. The rest of us set up our tents and prepared for dinner. Some chose to pump water from the spring. Personally, I did not trust the water from the spring, so our Patrol used the water we had brought. Getting the mini gas burners to light was a challenge. Kevin Compton had to help everyone get theirs lit. We had beef stroganoff and applesauce for dinner. Once everyone had calmed down, we decided to have a real campfire with songs and jokes. A small number of us decided to go to another campsite and play cards with some girls from New Jersey. They taught us how to play Egyptian Rat Screw. We played for about an hour and then they came back to our campsite.

The campfire was over by now, and the girls decided to go back to their site. At eight o'clock, many of us decided to hit the hay and get a good night's sleep. When we awoke, to our surprise, it was snowing. Unfortunately, we had to cook in the snow and take down our wet tents. This was not fun. Anyone unprepared ended up very cold.

When we left camp, it was still snowing and the trails were covered. We had to hike four miles to reach the bus, but the time went by very fast. At the end, there was an awesome view of the valley and I could just barely make out cows in the distance. The bus ride home was long and boring. When we got back to the cabin we had to hang our tents so they

would dry. My brother, Joe, missed a good trip.

Congratulations,

to Bob Matje, Radnor Hunt Races Coordinator, on his retirement from more than 30 years in the fine printing paper business. It was a tough decision to make, but he did it!

Bob has been a dedicated supporter of Troop 78 since his involvement began when his eldest son Bob, Jr., joined the troop, later followed by his son Mark. Both sons, incidentally, reached the rank of Eagle. Bob and his wife Peggy, who has also been involved with the Troop over the years, also have a daughter Kristen.

Bob has been active in many phases of Troop activities over the years... too many to mention here. Some include his participation on many trips, fund raising, and building the new cabin. He is a Director of Friends of Troop 78, Inc. and a member of the Troop Committee. He is also a member of - and is very dedicated to - the Order of the Arrow. The Matjes generously offer their upstate Pennsylvania farm each year for the Scouts' annual Matje Farm Trip. Bob is looking forward to spending more time on his hobbies: hunting and fishing. He and Peggy are also looking forward to many years of travel, which they have already been doing, spending more time with their family, which includes six grandchildren, and spending many hours volunteering for their favorite community projects.

Good Luck, and God Speed!

The Troop Committee



Newsletter

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Chester County Council, B.S.A.

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Cabin: