



Newsletter

Volume 23 Number 7

March 2007

COMING EVENTS

MARCH 2007

- 3/2 – TROOP MEETING (7 to 9 PM)
- 3/5 – Patrol Leaders Council (7:30 PM)
- 3/6 – *Troop Committee* and Board of Review (7 PM)
- 3/8 – *Diamond Rock Roundtable*
- 3/9 – TROOP FIRST AID MEET
- 3/10 – **Council First Aid Meet (plan to attend!) (8AM)**
- 3/10 – Order of the Arrow Banquet (5:30 PM)
- 3/16 – TROOP MEETING (7 to 9 PM) Hoagie Orders Due
- 3/20 – *Pasta Night (7 PM)*
- 3/23-25 – **Webelos Woods Weekend**
- 3/30-4/7 – **Florida Trip**

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)

KEY: Camping Trips and Major Troop Events: in Bold

TROOP MEETINGS: underlined and in ALL CAPITALS

Adult Leader Only Meetings: in Italics

MARCH BIRTHDAYS

- | | |
|----------|---------------|
| March 1 | Joseph Smith |
| March 8 | Dan Dufoe |
| March 11 | Josh McFadden |
| March 19 | Miles Lang |
| March 23 | Jason Cecco |
| March 23 | Keegan Weiler |
| March 24 | Joe Poidomani |

Please let us know if we missed your birthday. Send the information to newsletter@willistown78.org

NEW DADS NEEDED!

The March Troop Committee meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 6th 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.

HOAGIE SALE BEGINS



The Troop 78 Hoagie Sale has begun. Contact Scott Vercoe at 610-644-7861 if you are in need of a Hoagie Sale Form. All orders and money will be due at the Troop meeting on March 16th. This year, we are increasing the amount of money earned by the scout to \$1.50 per hoagie. This is an excellent way to help pay the cost of summer camp, or to put towards the Europe KISC trip in 2008.

Parents, the Troop traditionally sells over 1,000 hoagies which are all made fresh by us. Please circle your calendar to help make hoagie "set-ups" during the Troop meeting on April 13th. The Big Day for all you new and "seasoned" (you know who you are) hoagie making parents is Saturday April 14th at 7 AM at the cabin, when we put all the delicious, fresh ingredients together. Hope to see you then!

DON'T FORGET COUNCIL FIRST AID MEET

Saturday, March 10th
8:00 a.m.

Valley Forge Middle School
NOTE: new location, at
105 West Walker Road,
near Chesterbrook

WILLISTOWN TROOP 78 SUMMER CAMP 2007

JUNE 24TH TO JULY 8TH HAVE YOU RESERVED YOUR SPOT?

It is hard to believe, but summer camp is just around the corner! By now you should have received the mailing outlining everything you need to know about summer camp. Once again, Troop 78 has reserved the Dan Beard campsite at Camp Horseshoe for two weeks starting Sunday June 24th and ending Sunday July 8th. 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. **A \$25 deposit per week is due by March 17th.**



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

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.

ADULT PASTA DINNER

FIRST ONE FOR 2007

Tuesday, MARCH 20, 2007

AT THE CABIN

7:00 PM

\$15.00

**MENU: "Scott" Brasciole
(Stuffed Beef)**

Antipasto

Pasta & Beverages

FABULOUS DESSERTS

RESERVATIONS:

Joe Cady, 610-647-4037

**COME, BRING A FRIEND
SUPPORT YOUR TROOP!!!!**

A REVOLUTIONARY WEBELOS WOODS 2007

Friday, March 23rd to Sunday, March 25th at the Paoli Memorial Grounds Monument Avenue, Malvern, PA

SCOUTS: Meet at the Monument Grounds at 6:30 PM Friday night. (Directions are available). Pick up is Sunday Morning about 10:00 AM

We will be running a station to teach Scout Skills (Pioneering Tower construction) to Webelos. We also expect to have Webelos camping with us. Come help promote our troop and have fun at the same time.

All Scouts from Troop 78 are encouraged to attend the entire weekend. If you are only able to attend the Saturday events, we still want you to participate.

CALL your Patrol Leader before March 19th and let him know you want to go, and which meals you will be attending.

WHAT TO BRING:

Sleeping Bag and pad

Wear your class "B" uniform (Troop t-shirt*, scout pants, scout socks)

Bring your class "A" (Scout shirt and neckerchief) for Retreat and church service

Extra clothes and underwear

Rain gear

Water bottle or canteen

Toothbrush, toothpaste, soap

Small towel

Flashlight

Pocket knife (if you have earned your Totin' Chip)

Extra shoes (sneakers) and sock

Sweatshirt or jacket

Drinking cup (metal or plastic)

Pack in a small duffel bag. You will be walking from the parking lot to our campsite.

ADULT LEADERS AND DADS: Please let Steve D'Antonio (sdantonio@comcast.net or 610-296-3233) know if you can attend and which meals you'll be eating with us. We will ask for \$10 for food from Adult Leaders.

Each Scout who participates will receive a patch for the event.

Any new Scouts attending who have not yet received a troop T-shirt will be given one now rather than at Summer Camp.

"The Yanks Are Coming" Willistown Troop 78 Europe 2008 Trip Is On!

Twenty-five Scouts and Venture Crew members, along with ten Troop leaders and fathers, will board a plane for England on July 26, 2008 as Willistown Troop 78 begins its third trip to Europe.

The trip reached "official" status at the February 27th Parents Night and Court of Honor, as the Troop began accepting applications and deposits for the venture. Participants will spend three days in London, exploring the land of Scouting's founder, Lord Baden-Powell, and visiting historic sites such as the Tower of London, Westminster Abbey, and Buckingham Palace.

From London, the group will head to Kandersteg International Scout Centre in Switzerland. There the Scouts and Scouters will enjoy the beauty of the Swiss Alps and the surrounding countryside. Their adventures will include staying at an Alpine hut and hiking the Matterhorn. They'll celebrate Swiss Day on August 1st,

joining all of Switzerland in honoring the founding of that country. And, they'll make friends and share memories with Scouts from all over the world.

The Troop will be holding several fundraisers to help defray the cost of the Europe trip. Stay tuned to the Newsletter for more information regarding these events, and ongoing updates as we get ready to undertake the adventure of a lifetime!



**FRIENDS OF
SCOUTING**

Each spring, the Chester County Council has a fund raising campaign called "*Friends of Scouting*". Every Pack and Troop in the Council asks its families and friends to contribute to this campaign, which provides over 15% of the Council's annual revenue. This helps ensure that the Council's facilities and programs can be maintained and improved in order to continue providing top-notch services to Chester County youth. But it takes each and every family to contribute in order to make the campaign a success.

You should have received a letter providing additional information. Please consider making a contribution to the Council for this worthy cause. It is Troop 78's goal that every family participates in the "*Friends of Scouting*" campaign. No matter what size your contribution is, it will help the Council carry out its valuable mission for our Scouts.

PANCAKE BREAKFAST

The breakfast held at the cabin in early February was a success, considering it was the first time Troop 78 ventured into this activity. The breakfast was solely started because there is an Adult Pasta Dinner four or more times a year, and it was thought why not do something where the young parents can attend and bring their children? It was not meant to be a fundraiser, but hopefully the monies charged would cover expenses. It was also not meant to exclude older scouters.

The breakfast was advertised as a "Pancake Breakfast", which was a misnomer. The menu actually consisted of pancakes, French toast, eggs (to order), sausage, bacon, and orange juice and beverages. All you could eat!!!! And did some of the young children love that!!!!

The cooks and servers, most of whom also do the Adult Pasta Dinners, were: Joe Cady, Scott Kennedy, Curley Trowill, Rick DeVergilio, Frank Cecco, Miles Stevens, Bruce Balmat, and Joe Rubino. They did a great job, in view of the fact that they didn't know what to expect. Any of you young fathers want to show your skills at cooking? Love to have you!

Everyone seemed to enjoy themselves, and it gave the parents an opportunity to meet other scouts' parents. So, if you missed the breakfast, maybe you can attend the next one, which is already in the planning stage. We will keep you informed! See you there!!!!

The Troop Committee

SATURDAY, MAY 19th RADNOR RACES

Even though it is winter, Troop 78's Radnor Races committee is already busy working on this year's event. You can do your part by going over to your calendar and blocking out the weekend of **SATURDAY & SUNDAY, MAY 19 & 20**, to work with Troop 78.
BE THERE!

TROOP GARAGE SALE COMING THIS SPRING!

Troop 78 will be holding a Garage/Yard Sale at the Cabin on Saturday, June 2nd. This will be the first of several fund raising events to support the Europe KISC 2008 trip. **100%** of all items donated and sold will be split equally among each scout attending the trip.

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 be accepting 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!

OLD LOON" AWARD



The Old Loon Award was awarded for only the second time at the February Parents' Night and Court of Honor. For the benefit of newer Scout families, the "Old Loons" -- the loon being the symbol of Troop 78 -- was formed to get older members of the Troop Committee to step aside to let the younger generation of fathers get more involved with the troop. However, it should be noted that the older Scouters are responsible for making '78 the great troop it is today.

This year's recipient was Albert D'Antonio, father of our current scoutmaster, Steve. "Big Al", as he is affectionately known, has been involved with scouting since 1964, when one of his four sons joined the troop. He has been very active over the years, serving as a member of the Troop Committee and on the Board of Directors of Friends of Troop 78, Inc. He participates wherever and whenever his expertise is, or has been, needed. Over the years, he has worked at many of the fundraisers, and on construction projects including the construction of the troop's new cabin and various projects at the Horseshoe Scout Reservation.

Three of Al's four sons were scouts involved with Troop 78, and all served on the staff at Horseshoe in their youth. Two of his grandsons are Troop 78 Eagle Scouts as well. Al was tapped out as a member of the Order of the Arrow and received the Vigil Honor at the same time as his youngest son, Mike, who is an Eagle Scout. He is a big supporter of Troop

78, and scouting in general, and is truly a deserving recipient of this award.

Troop 78 has been very lucky to have so many dedicated Scouters throughout the years.

Congratulations, Al!

The Troop Committee

THE MATJE FARM SKI TRIP

by DJ Robinson

On Saturday, January 20th, 2007, at the wee hour of 6:00 a.m., 9 scouts, 3 dads, and Mr. D. met at the cabin to prepare for our weekend of skiing, camping, and hiking at Matje Farm in upstate Pennsylvania. It was freezing at the cabin, so we moved quickly to pack the bus and take off on our adventure. I had heard about Matje farm, and I couldn't wait to get there!

The first leg of our weekend was a day of skiing at Big Boulder. We got our skis and had a blast...but boy was it cold! Big Boulder is an awesome place to go skiing. Several of us began earning the Snow Sports merit badge with Coach Ron, a BSA ski instructor. It was really fun.

At about 4:30 p.m., we left the ski area for the major event of the weekend -- camping in the 100-year old barn on Matje Farm! When we got there, we unloaded the bus and got the famous Matje speech. It goes something like this: "This barn is over one hundred years old. The straw is new. Therefore, it is very easy to start a fire. Don't bring matches, lighters, or high frequency technology. Anything that sparks will be the end of the barn."

The barn was awesome. It had a separate little "sleeping room" for us that had fresh hay. It was itchy when it got down our shirts during the wrestling match! We ate a delicious chili dinner in the farmhouse, and then watched "The Haunted Mansion." After the movie, the guys went back to the barn for a very cold night, while the adults stayed in the farmhouse.

When I woke up the next morning, my toes were numb. After a breakfast of

pancakes, we went on a hike. We saw PA Game Commission land. At the top of a hill, we could see the surrounding land. After the hike, we packed up and headed home. So next year, come to Matje Farm.

Only go on this trip if you like bitter cold, hiking, and snow.



78's Winter Adventures

by Michael Bennett

When winter comes, most people lock their doors and crawl underneath their blankets until spring. However, Troop 78 continues its busy, exciting schedule. Lately, the troop has been involved in two of its nearest, dearest traditions: the Matje Farm Ski Trip, and the Klondike Derby!

On a bitterly cold January morning, at a bitterly early hour, the troop arrived at the cabin and drove off on the bus toward Big Boulder Ski Mountain. The Scouts arrived and began showing off their skiing - as well as snowboarding - ability. After a long, successful day, the boys left for Matje Farm.

They arrived in the late evening and enjoyed the movie "The Haunted Mansion." Finally, they went to bed. After a hearty pancake breakfast and a tour of the property provided by Mr.

Matje, the Scouts packed and went home.

On February 10, the Diamond Rock District's annual Klondike Derby was held. Unfortunately, the weather was not as wintry as last year, with zero inches of snow on the ground. The Scouts participated in such events as wilderness survival, chair building, match lighting, and wood cutting and drilling. The big highlight of the day was the sled racing. Since one team from 78 wasn't there on time, a makeshift first-year patrol was hastily assembled. They lost, but another patrol from 78 made it to the finals.

As the snow melts, so do the troop's winter campouts. In March, the troop will partake in the First Aid meet and Webelos Woods. After that, we will switch to summer uniforms. In April, Troop 78 will visit Harper's Ferry. By then, every last trace of winter will be gone, but summer will be quickly approaching - as well as summer camp and the troop's annual Algonquin Park trip.

DANCE TEAM NEWS

by Sean Miller

The Ahtaquaoweh Native American Dance team is made up of Boy Scouts from several different troops and is headquartered at Willistown Troop 78. The team has been performing for about forty years. Although the dancers are not Native Americans, their dances are meant to pay homage to all aspects of Native American culture. Each dance performed has been researched to ensure authenticity.

Members are of all ages and rank, from Cub Scouts to Boy Scouts. We encourage anyone one who wants to join no matter what age or sex. Members spend time creating their own regalia following authentic patterns, learn a variety of dances, and learn how to play a variety of instruments.

If you are interested in joining or in scheduling a performance, call (610) 429-4750 or come to one of Troop 78's meetings.



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