



Newsletter

Volume 25 Number 1 September 2008

COMING EVENTS

SEPTEMBER 2008

- 9/2 – Troop Committee Mtg. & Board of Review (7:00 PM)
9/3 (Wed.) – Patrol Leaders Council (7:30 PM)
9/5 – TROOP MEETING (7 to 9 PM)
9/11 – *Diamond Rock Roundtable (Steak-oree)*
9/12-14 **Henlopen Trip**
9/18 (Thurs) – TROOP MEETING (7 to 9 PM)
9/26-28 – O.A. Fellowship Weekend at Camp Horseshoe
9/27 – Willistown Pow-Wow (Parking help needed)

OCTOBER 2008

- 10/2 (Thurs)– TROOP MEETING (7 to 9 PM)
10/5– ANNUAL TROOP DINNER and COURT OF HONOR
10/6– Patrol Leaders Council (7:30 PM)
10/7– Troop Committee Mtg. & Board of Review (7:00 PM)
10/9 – *Diamond Rock Roundtable*
10/10-12 **Hawk Mt. Trip**
10/17 – TROOP MEETING (7 to 9 PM)
10/24 – TROOP MEETING (7 to 9 PM)
Popcorn \$ Due
10/25 Den Chief Training @ Siemens, G. Valley Corp. Ctr.

NOVEMBER 2008

- 11/3 – Patrol Leaders Council (7:30 -8:30PM)
11/4 – Troop Committee Mtg. & Board of Review (7:00 PM)
11/7 – TROOP MEETING (7 to 9 PM)
Poinsettia \$ Due for Corporate Orders to be delivered 11/21
11/13 – *Diamond Rock Roundtable*
11/14- 16 – **Backpacking Trip** Poinsettia \$ Due for del 12/1
11/20 – Readyman for 4th Grade Weblelos (help needed)
11/21 – TROOP MEETING (7 to 9 PM) (Readyman)

NOTE:

Camping Trips/Major Events shown in: Bold

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

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- September 5 Kevin Compton
September 9 Jack DeStefano
September 11 Chris Gorman

NEW DADS NEEDED!

The September Troop Committee Meeting will be held on Tuesday, September 2nd at 7 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 to get involved in Troop activities.

SUMMER CAMP IMPRESSIONS (2008)

Steve D'Antonio, SM

Troop 78 enjoyed another great two weeks at summer camp at Horseshoe Scout Reservation. The first week we had 50 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. Twenty- Six Scouts from our troop stayed for two weeks, and each earned their star segment to place next to the year segment of their Horseshoe patch. Altogether we had sixty-six 78'ers stay one week or more at camp, nearly 100% of the troop! The Flying Eagle and Cougar Patrols earned the 100% Patrol Award.

The camp schedule at camp is full there are many contests and competitions. The troop carried on their winning tradition throughout the two weeks and we came home with the Scoutmaster's Leaders mug full of award ribbons. With a little marching practice before hand, and Sean Miller calling, we took the all important marching trophy 4 out of 6 times the first week and 5 out of 7 the second. The troop also brought home perhaps the biggest prize of all, the blue ribbon for Paul Bunyan Field Day at the end of week one. Once again our “Ern

trained” Giant Clove Hitch team of new Scouts “smoked” the competition this time with a winning time of just 9 seconds! And if you blinked, you probably missed our String Burning team take first in their event. And like clockwork, Dan Dufoe took first in the nine-knot event for the third year in a row. Ribbons for other campwide competitions and games included, 1st in the Beat the Clock game week one and 1st in the State Hunt and 2nd in the Alphabet Hunt week two, 2nd in the Rifle shoot both weeks, 2nd in the Archery shoot week two, 1st and 2nd place for the running of the Obstacle Course Week two. The troop teamed up to win the Inter-troop volleyball competition week two. Our Scouts were also squeaky clean weeks one and two, earning the blue ribbon both weeks for the Cleanest Camp. We also had a well trained team take first in the First Aid Challenge both weeks.

Over 200 merit badges were earned by our Scouts during the two week period and Al Terrell made sure that almost all of the Boards of Review were completed while at camp. If you are one of the few who didn't get a chance at a Board while at camp, our Advancement Chairman, Tom Shay has posted your name on the bulletin board at the cabin. There's also a list of those with partial merit badge completions to finish.



All six of our patrols earned the Standard Patrol Award, allowing the troop to earn the Standard Troop Award for the 54th straight year. Patrol service projects for the camp included: Panther fixing the Dan Beard trail, Moose digging a drainage trench and French drain to prevent the trail from becoming a river when it rains, Stag patrol fixing up the Dan Beard fire circle and giving it a name and sign "Brownsea Island Fire Circle". Cougar, Rattlesnake and Flying Eagle dug posts and hammered and sawed to re-construct five rows of benches at the Saturday night campfire (Ahgekatum) circle.

Noah Eberhart served as SPL during week one, with Sean Miller trying it on for size week two. Both did an excellent job of leading the troop. It's no surprise then that our Silver Buckle recipients for Honor Camper of the week (as elected by the Scouts) were Noah week one and Sean week two. My thanks to all our older Scouts for their help in making this year's camp experience a great one for the entire troop.

Many thanks on behalf of the troop go out to all of the Horseshoe staff members, but especially to those from Troop 78 who serve on the Horseshoe staff. Jason Cecco moved into the kitchen this year as Food Services Director taking over for a departing 78'er and allowing Dave Knauer to take over as Campcraft Director. Jon DiVirgilio returned as Cope Director, creating a great team building experience for older Scouts. Josh Mateyk served his second year as a Trailblazer Counselor teaching new Scouts, and Sean Miller returned after the troop's two weeks to work the time between camp and Europe with the Campcraft staff. Serving on Camp Staff is a unique experience, which I hope all of our troop members will consider. The camp needs older Scouts from troops like ours who learn traditional Scout skills.

And lastly, my thanks and the thanks of the Troop Committee, go out to the many Dads and Adult Leaders who helped out by coming down to camp to spend time with the troop. There were four Assistant Scoutmasters who

stayed for a full week or more, Dave Bravo, Kevin Compton, Jake (Superhero) Shallack and Ernie Heegard as well as another 30+ Dads who came down for a night or two or three. A big thank-you goes out to Dave Schertz for taking care of all the money matters and collecting medical forms.

Looking forward to another great Scouting year in 2008-2009!

ADVICE FROM CHIEF SCOUT EXECUTIVE *Excerpt from USA Today*

For nearly 100 years, the Boy Scouts of America have been identified with leadership, and it was put to the test recently when a deadly tornado tore through a campsite in Iowa killing four Scouts. USA Today reporter Del Jones spoke to Chief Scout Executive Robert Mazza about the leadership lessons of Scouting from a business perspective. Following are edited excerpts.

Q: What leadership lessons can we learn from the way the Boy Scouts in Iowa responded to the tornado disaster?

A: *They put the needs of others before their own. They applied skills and knowledge in a disciplined and organized manner. It was what leadership looks like.*

Q: Sam Walton, Michael Bloomberg, Bill Marriott, Ross Perot and other CEOs are Eagle Scouts. Coincidence?

A: *Hardly. Scouting builds people who are equipped to make ethical and good choices. It's not unusual to see leaders of communities come out of Scouting.*

Q: When business people discuss leadership, they use words such as vision, passion, charisma. Why do the Scouts use these 12 words: trustworthy, loyal, helpful, friendly, courteous, kind, obedient, cheerful, thrifty, brave, clean and reverent?

A: *Charisma and other personality traits may determine how far up the ladder you go, but the 12 points of the Scout Law define your character. If you don't have integrity, you're not a good leader no matter how charismatic.*

Q: Which one of the 12 would you

most recommend to a business executive?

A: *I think brave. You can't do the right thing and be effective without some courage.*

Q: The Scouts are retooling as they head into their second 100 years. What changes are being made?

A: *Over the course of 100 years, you get a little arthritic and bureaucratic. We are steeped in tradition, which is a good thing, but we're not particularly good at innovation and renewal. We don't want to abandon tradition, but we want to be nimble.*

Q: How much of this retooling is public relations, to get past controversial issues?

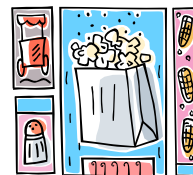
A: *It's time to reintroduce Boy Scouts to the American people and quit letting other people define us. For a decade we have abandoned the field of public relations and dialogue, and we have such a positive story to tell. Everybody has a good feeling about Scouting, and we have not been telling that story at all.*

Q: What is the most important thing about leadership today that is not being taught to the nation's youth?

A: *Personal responsibility. Taking responsibility for your actions is the hallmark of a good leader.*

THE SMELL OF POPCORN IS IN THE AIR

By Stan Conover



This year we will have our official KICK OFF on Friday, Sept. 5th

All scouts were mailed their order forms and a brief letter from me about the sale, approximately two weeks ago, and we will consider that a SCRIMAGE.

I have already received some phone calls asking questions and others from the boys expressing their excitement about the sales they already have made. AN EARLY START WILL GIVE YOU BETTER RESULTS.

Please take note of the prizes that are listed and set your goals for this year.

This year's sale will revolve around "PATROL PARENTS" one family from each patrol that will help with, show

and sell dates, checking on activity levels of scouts, and distribution of popcorn for sale, and making up the final orders.

Last years sales were over \$15,000, almost double any previous year. TROOP 78 was the number one Boy Scout troop in all of Chester County Council last year and number three when adding in the Cub Scout packs. We are hoping for the number one spot again and maybe even move up a notch or two in the overall status.

The national average shows that two hours of selling house to house yields approximately \$225.00 in sales. If you combine parents taking forms to work and selling to family members, I think we could have many pies being thrown at the Christmas party.

THIS YEAR \$500.00 IN SALES WILL GET YOU A CHANCE TO THROW A PIE AT THE PARTY.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED....DADS.... Please be ready to sign up for being a recipient of one of these "non dairy" whipped cream pies; I hear that they are delicious.

FISHING TRIP 2008

By Michael Bennett



After this year's vigorous two weeks at Horseshoe, most of Troop 78 was probably sound asleep at 9 AM on the morning of July 9th, 2008. The top three hoagie sellers, however, were

barreling down to Avalon in Mr. Vercoe's truck, Mr. Donnelly riding shotgun. The 2008 Fishing Trip had begun! After the two-hour ride, Captain Matje laid down some ground rules and the trio set off into the back bay. The first part of the trip saw many diverse specimens caught. Michael Bennett caught three types of seaweed and a sea star, and Mr. Donnelly nailed a large sea robin and a small flounder – but no one got anything to take home. Disappointed, the crew sat down to lunch, hoping that the afternoon would bring better luck.

To the dismay of all, the first half of the afternoon was quiet and without catches. Then, at 3, Michael Bennett broke the drought with a calm "I think I've got something!" Michael proved to be right, as he brought in an 18-inch flounder, barely hitting the limit. To close out the day, Mr. Donnelly nabbed a sand shark. Although Michael was the only Scout to enjoy a fish dinner, Tim Schallack brought two to the surface that wriggled away and Jimmy Hogan got a few nibbles. The Scouts then had Hubba-Bubba and Capri-Sun, courtesy of Mr. Vercoe, on the way home. Speaking of courtesy and good deeds, the author would like to thank Mr. Vercoe and Mr. Donnelly for giving up a day of their time to chaperone the trip. The author also thanks Mr. Matje for providing his services and his boat to the troupe.



To join Mr. Vercoe, Mr. Matje, and Mr. Donnelly on Fishing Trip '09, you must

be among the Troop's top 3 hoagie salesmen. Get your game on – the lowest qualifying total this year was 87. It is well worth it for the thrill of a lifetime.

ESCRIP HELPS THE TROOP

Do you shop at Genuardi's? Would you like to help the troop with very little effort? Then consider signing up at www.escrip.com. All you need to do is register your Genuardi's card and they do the rest! Our ID # is: 151278872. If you have any questions about the program, contact newsletter@willistown78.org.

EMAIL ADDRESSES NEEDED

Parents, if you do not receive the monthly newsletter via email and would like to, please let us know at newsletter@willistown78.org.

Occasionally reminders are also shared via email to reinforce information handed out at Troop meetings. If you have any questions, they too may be directed to this email address.

GO GREEN – OPT OUT OF THE PAPER NEWSLETTER

If you would like to opt out of receiving a *paper* copy of the Troop 78 Newsletter in addition to the *electronic* version, please send an email to newsletter@willistown78.org of revenue for Troop 78.



Newsletter

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