



Newsletter

Volume 26 Number 1 September 2009

COMING EVENTS

SEPTEMBER 2009

9/1 – Troop Committee Mtg. & Board of Review (7:00 PM)

9/9 (Wed.) – Patrol Leaders Council (7:30 - 8:30 PM)

9/10 – *Diamond Rock Roundtable (Steak-oree)*

9/11 – TROOP MEETING (7 to 9 PM) - Popcorn Sale Begins

9/12 – Junior Leader Training at Cabin (9 AM - ?)

9/18-20 – Canoe Trip

9/25-27 – O.A. Fellowship Weekend at Camp Horseshoe

OCTOBER 2009

10/2 – TROOP MEETING (7 to 9 PM)

10/4 – ANNUAL TROOP DINNER and COURT OF HONOR: 3PM

10/7 (Wed.) – Patrol Leaders Council (7:30 - 8:30 PM)

10/6 – Troop Committee Mtg. & Board of Review (7:00 PM)

10/8 – *Diamond Rock Roundtable*

10/9 – TROOP MEETING (7 to 9 PM)

10/16-18 – Council Camporee, Hibernia Park

10/23 – TROOP MEETING (7 to 9 PM)

NOTE:

Camping Trips/Major Events shown in: **Bold**

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

NEW DADS NEEDED!

The September Troop Committee Meeting will be held on Tuesday, September 1st 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.

RADNOR WRAP PARTY

The annual wrap up party for the Radnor Hunt Races was held at our cabin on Wednesday, June 3rd.

Once again our troop hosted an evening of food, fun and frivolity! (The latter provided by the race committee).

Our thanks again go to the "Lady Loons" led by Peggy Matje and assisted by Gladys Donnelly, Diane Davison, Coleen Nettle and Marilyn Rothberg. Joe Cady (an honorary member) provided able assistance in the kitchen. The hors d'oeuvres, menu and desserts were fantastic and devoured by all.

Jim Donnelly was on hand (as always) to make sure everything went along smoothly.

Al Terrell provided his usual "touch of class" wearing a tuxedo while serving beverages throughout the evening.

Meg Tredinnick provided a fabulous slide presentation of race day for the group, really great for a rookie. Meg was assisted by Matt Lewis who provided set-up and technical support.

Special thanks to Chris Wagner who donated and installed a large air conditioner in the kitchen, benefiting not only the wrap-up party but all future events involving the kitchen.

David Dondero and Steve D'Antonio were present to greet race committee members and represent the Troop. Brian Rothberg and Don Tyson (members of the race committee) were also present.

Special guest Eric Magendanze, Scout Executive of Chester County Council, spoke eloquently about Troop 78's dedication to the races and the community.

A highlight of the evening was a reading of a poem by Stephanie Robinson entitled "Ode to Cleanup at Radnor." You may have seen it in the last newsletter. The reading received a resounding round of applause.

All in all, Troop 78 but its best foot forward and a great time was had by all!

Bob Matje

Race Day Coordinator

SUMMER CAMP PHOTOS WANTED

Did you take photos at Summer Camp this year? If you are willing to share, please bring a CD to the first Troop Meeting and leave it in the Scoutmaster's office. THANKS!

WILLISTOWN SCOUT TRIP SURVEY RESULTS

At our meeting prior to Field Day this past Spring, the Troop provided a survey to Scouts and leaders alike. The survey asked respondents to rank the 2008-2009 Scout trips on a scale of "1" to "5", with "5" being the top score, and "1" being the lowest score. 52 Scouts and 5 leaders completed the survey. The results were analyzed on a Troop-wide basis, and then again by age and rank classification. Adult leader results were used as a basis for comparison, to see if leaders and Scouts view trips the same way.

Scouts graded trips on a consistent basis overall, although the results varied a bit by age and rank. Not surprisingly, the Troop's extended trips got the highest marks. Disney World and Europe/Kandersteg weighed in at solid "5's." Summer camp followed closely behind, with a weighted average rank of 4.6.

In terms of weekend trips, the Laurel Caverns caving trip was a top choice for many Scouts, with an average ranking of 4.6. While it received a solid overall rating, the Father/Son winter trip was more highly rated by Scouts through the rank of Star than it was by Scouts of the rank of Life or

above. The Quantico/Fredericksburg trip received mixed reviews: Younger Scouts ranked it lower, noting that "cold weather" affected their opinion of the outing, while more experienced Scouts gave the USMC Museum and the Fredericksburg tour a thumbs-up.

New Scouts – many of whom attended as Webelos – graded the Hawk Mountain trip a solid 4.2. While the Hawk Mountain hike was challenging, the Webelos who attended were certainly up to the task. Those same Webelos enjoyed baking chocolate chip cookies in the Troop's stove-top ovens. It's clear that those activities struck a chord with the Webelos, as many of them joined Troop 78. That data is particularly useful for Troop recruiting as we enter a new Scout year and begin our Webelos Outreach program once again.

The Troop leadership will continue to study the survey results, and will use the results to help advise the Patrol Leaders Council as we build out the Troop calendar and plan for future high-adventure trips. Many thanks to all of the Scouts and leaders who completed the survey – your feedback is very helpful!



SUMMER CAMP IN A NUTSHELL (2009)

Steve D'Antonio, SM

Troop 78 enjoyed another great two weeks of summer camp at Horseshoe Scout Reservation. The first week we had 54 Scouts in Dan Beard with sixteen first year campers, most participating in the Trailblazer program. We had 42 Scouts with us for week two. 32 Scouts from our Troop stayed for two weeks (up from 26 last year), and each earned their special star segment to place next to the year segment of their Horseshoe patch. We had 64 78'ers stay one week or more at camp, 100% of the Troop members in patrols! That's right...for the first time in memory, every patrol received the 100% patrol award!

The Troop carried on its winning tradition throughout the two weeks, and came home with a fist full of award ribbons. First, the all-important marching trophy. With the seasoned Sean Miller calling the marching week one, the Troop took the trophy 5 out of 7 times. Week two was a little more difficult to master with rookie caller Kevin Compton, but the ribbon was won 3 out of 7 times.

As for the big events, let's just forget about the Water Carnival on Saturday of week one (except for "superhero" Jake Shallack's award-winning belly flop...Score that a 10!). The more important contest was conducted on Saturday of week two, and the biggest prize of all - the blue ribbon for Paul Bunyan Field Day - still resides with Troop 78. Once again, our "Ernie trained" Giant Clove Hitch team of four young Scouts "smoked" the competition...this time with a winning time of just 11 seconds! And in a blazing inferno of dried grass, birch bark, and dried corn silk, our String Burning team (Alex Frees, Nino P. and Keegan Weiler) took an easy first place (putting out the fire took a lot longer). Alex even practiced lighting the match to make sure nothing was left to chance. Eli Bravo took the ropes over from Dan Dufoe this year, and continued the tradition of winning with a first place finish in the nine-knot event, while Dan scored a first place win in the Heaving Bar. Joe Smith took third in the pole climbing competition and scored big points for style in the giant pancake flipping event. Chris Gorman and newcomer Mr. (Ron) Cummings took first for combined distance in the log throw event. Grant LePard and Mr. (Dave) Bravo scored a close second (literally one second behind the first place team) in the two-man saw. Kevin D., Andy D., and Connor R. were the fastest in the Gone Fishin' event. And for the finale, our tug-of-war team bested everyone for the bragging rights of strongest Troop in camp. Not only did the Troop dominate the skill events, but we also had the biggest and loudest cheering section...allowing Mr.



Cummings to take the award for best Paul Bunyan look-alike.

Ribbons were numerous for the camp-wide competitions and games, including:

- 1st place Troop in the Rock Band game week one
- 1st place troop in the Beat the Clock game week two
- 1st place in Staff Hunts weeks one and two
- 2nd and 3rd place Patrols in the National Treasure game week two
- 2nd in the Alphabet Hunt week two
- first in the Rifle Shoot week two
- third in the Archery Shoot week two
- 3rd in the Swim Meet week one
- 1st in the Track Meet week one and 3rd place week two
- 1st, 2nd and 3rd place for the running of the Obstacle Course Week one, and 2nd and 3rd 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 week one. And on Saturday evening week two, James Mateyk's turtle celebrated the end of a successful two weeks by taking home the trophy at the famous Turtle Derby.

Advancement is an important part of Summer Camp. Our Scouts earned over 200 Merit Badges during the two week period, with Mr. Shay complaining of writer's cramp filling out all the cards. Thanks to Al Terrell for getting all of the Boards of Review organized while at camp. If you are one of the few who didn't get a chance at a Board while at camp, Mr. 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 for active patrol participation and service to the camp, allowing the Troop to earn the Standard Troop Award for the 55th

straight year. Patrol service projects for the camp included: removing stumps in Dan Beard, removing wood from a fallen tree, fixing up the Dan Beard fire circle, repairing the totem poles at the Saturday night campfire circle, and doing work on the terracing there as well. Adult leaders worked on French drain repair, roof repair (Chris Wagner), tree trimming, and wash stand replacement projects at Dan Beard in our spare time.

Thanks to Sean Miller who led the Troop week one, finishing out his year as Senior Patrol Leader. Dan Dufoe tried it on for size week two. Both did an excellent job of leading the Troop. Our Silver Buckle recipients for Honor Camper of the week (as elected by the Scouts) were Kevin Compton week one and Joe Smith week two. My grateful thanks go to all of our older Scouts for their leadership in making this year's Summer Camp experience a great one for the entire Troop.

The Troop wishes to thank all of the awesome Horseshoe staff members, and especially those from Troop 78 who served on the Horseshoe staff this season. Josh Mateyk moved to Campcraft from Trailblazers for his third year on camp staff. Sean Miller served as a counselor on the Campcraft staff after leading the Troop week one. Also, after camping with the Troop, both Joe Smith and Dan Dufoe returned as Staff members with a week off for our trip to Canada. Connor Ritchie assisted as a Counselor in Training in various departments after he camped with the Troop. Serving on Camp Staff is a fun, educational, and unique experience which all Troop members should consider. The camp needs older Scouts from quality troops to instruct Scout skills.

And lastly, my thanks and the thanks of the Troop Committee go to the many Dads and Adult Leaders who camped with the Troop and helped things run smoothly. There were 5 full-time leaders week one and 4 week two. Many thanks to Ernie for spending the two weeks with us. For those of you who are counting, this was his 62nd year at Camp

Horseshoe! Newcomer Ron Cummings had so much fun he was able to extend his stay to include both weeks. Many thanks to all of the 25+ Dads who came down to spend a night or two or three. Thanks again to Dave Schertz for taking care of all the money matters and collecting medical forms for one more year.

Looking forward to another great Scouting year in 2009-2010! Don't miss it!

ADULTS REQUIRED TO EARN NECKERCHIEFS, BEGINNING 2009-2010 SCOUT YEAR

Scouts joining Willistown Troop 78 are given a challenge: complete ten requirements from a list contained in the Troop Handbook, and earn a Troop neckerchief, complete with a patch depicting the Troop's signature trip, the Algonquin canoe adventure.

Fathers who become active in the Troop can be forgiven if they felt a twinge of envy as their sons replaced their plain neckerchief with the Troop's patch-bearing neckerchief. Until now, there was no way for Dad to earn a neckerchief of his own. That will change with the advent of the new Scouting year.

Beginning with the 2009-2010 Scouting year, adults will have the opportunity to earn a Troop neckerchief. Requirements will include attending Scout leader training; obtaining a uniform and wearing it to appropriate Scout functions; participating in camping trips; and taking a leadership role by helping to plan a Scout trip or other Troop activity. An adult must be registered with the Troop in order to be eligible to earn his neckerchief. Adults who already have a Troop neckerchief will be "grandfathered", but in the spirit of Scouting, are highly encouraged to complete all neckerchief requirements as well.

We're hoping that the adult neckerchief program encourages broader participation among our adults. A list of the requirements will be available soon after the new Scout year begins. Once available, the requirements will be posted at the

Cabin and on the Troop website.

SAVE THE DATE CANOE TRIP: SEPTEMBER 18 – 20, 2009

As you know, for safety reasons, we cancelled our June 2009 canoe trip. The trip is now scheduled for September 18 – 20, 2009. We are still working to finalize our itinerary, and will announce our destination and have a handout on the trip available at our September 11th Troop meeting.

As was the case for the Spring trip, we are absolutely capped at 39 attendees. We will fill our roster first with active Scouts (as defined by Troop Committee guidelines), and we will then augment the Troop's adult leadership with fathers who would like to attend. Dads with a CDL license will have preference over those without a CDL license.

Let your Patrol Leader know by Friday, September 11th if you and/or your dad would like to go on the trip. Patrol Leaders – get your list of attendees to the SPL by Sunday, September 13th. By Tuesday, September 15th, your Patrol Leader will know which members of his Patrol, and which dads, are going on the trip. If you have questions, call your Patrol Leader. Patrol Leaders should call the SPL, who will call Mr. D. or Mr. Bennett with questions.

The canoe trip is always a great time. Sign up now and beat the crowds! See you on the river!

OA FELLOWSHIP WEEKEND 9/25-27

Octoraro Lodge 22's Fellowship Weekend will be held on September 25 – 27 at the Horseshoe Scout Reservation. Registration is now available online. Also, annual lodge dues are due by October 1 to stay an active member of our lodge. Dues can be paid online at www.dues.octoraro22.org. An early bird discount is available until Sept. 18. Don't wait!

SUMMER CAMP

By Drew Schenck

On the 5th everybody started arriving around 12:30. We already had our tent partners. We put on our swim suits and swam our swim test. Almost everyone got red white and blue. Then we got back and put on our uniforms and got campaign hats. Then we went and practiced marching. After that we went and marched on the parade field. After marching, we went to dinner and found out we won marching. We got back and had free time till the game.

After the game, we had snacks and went to bed. Monday was pretty much the same, except for we had inspection and Merit Badges and also Trailblazers. Then Tuesday was the same, except we had the Troop auction for Troop Night. From Wednesday which was the same to Thursday which was outpost. We cooked all our meals. We had a ceremony after marching and we found out we won. Then we had to get ready to go to our outpost or we stayed for Troop Night. On Friday it was the same except we lost

marching. On Saturday we had the Water Carnival which had lots of events in the pool. We ended up winning the water carnival. Then we lost marching again. We got to eat dinner with our family. Then we went to the camp fire. We got all of our awards and the silver buckle. The winner of the silver buckle was Kevin Compton. Then Sunday afternoon around one, some people left and some stayed and some people came. Now it was to a new week.



Newsletter

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