



Newsletter

Volume 29

Number 1

September 2012

COMING EVENTS

SEPTEMBER 2012

- 9/4 – Board of Review (7:00 PM) & Troop Committee Mtg.
9/5 – Patrol Leaders Council (7:30-8:30 PM)
9/7 – TROOP MEETING (7 to 9 PM)
9/10 – Friends of Troop 78 Board Meeting
9/13 – Sea Base Trip Information Meeting: 7:00 PM, Cabin
9/13 – Diamond Rock Steak-o-ree & Roundtable
9/14-16 – Beach Trip – Belleplain State Forest, NJ
9/21- TROOP MEETING (7 to 9 PM)
9/23 – Fitness Fest and Run for Scouting – East Goshen Park
9/27 – Pre-Course meeting for IOLS course on 10/6 – 7:00 PM
9/28-30 – Order of the Arrow Ordeal & Fellowship Weekend at Camp Horseshoe

OCTOBER 2012

- 10/2 – Board of Review (7:00 PM) & Troop Committee Mtg.
10/3 – Patrol Leaders Council (7:30-8:30 PM)
10/5 – TROOP MEETING (7 to 9 PM)
10/6 – Intro to Outdoor Leader Skills (Adult) – Camp Jarvis
10/6 – Den Chief Training (9 AM to Noon)
10/7 – **ANNUAL Outdoor Dinner and COURT OF HONOR: 3PM**
10/12-14 – Trip (to be announced)
10/6 – Radnor Horse Trials 7:30 AM to Noon – Help needed.
10/11 – Diamond Rock Roundtable
10/19-21 **Webelos Extreme weekend – Nottingham Park**
10/19 – TROOP MEETING (7 to 9 PM) - Poinsettia sale begins
10/22 – Patrol Leader Development Course
10/26 – TROOP MEETING (7 to 9 PM)

NOTE: Camping Trips/Major Events shown in Bold. TROOP MEETINGS underlined in CAPITALS. Adult only meetings in Italics.



IT'S "BACK TO THE BEACH" FOR TROOP 78

On Friday, September 14, we'll bus our way to relax and camp for the weekend at Belleplain State Forest in the New Jersey Pinelands, not far from the ocean beaches. On Saturday we will head to a nearby beach for some sun and fun. After dinner we will return for some boardwalk time, cotton candy and amusement rides. We may even come upon the chocolate covered bacon that eluded some of us in 2010.

Please tell your patrol leader by September 10th if you and/or your Dad are planning to come along. Dad's are welcome and will be asked to contribute \$20 towards food. As usual, there is no charge for Scouts unless you cancel unexpectedly.

Here's what to pack in your duffel bag:

- Sleeping Bag
- Foam pad or Air Mattress
- Flashlight
- Extra clothes
- Rain gear
- Extra shoes
- Toilet Articles
- Water bottle
- Bathing Suit
- Beach Towel
- Sunscreen
- Sweatshirt or jacket
- Spending Money for boardwalk
- Drinking cup**

The Troop bus will leave the Scout cabin at 6:00 PM on Friday September 14th. Our expected return is about 12:30 PM on Sunday.

NEW DADS NEEDED!

The troop committee meeting will be held on Tuesday, September 4, at 7:30 PM, at the cabin. The committee usually meets on the first Tuesday of the month to guide and discuss the operation of the troop. New dads are especially encouraged to attend.

TROOP 78 DIVES INTO SCUBA, WINS SEA BASE LOTTERY

We won the right to send a maximum of 24 people (which includes up to 8 adults) to the Scuba Diving program next August 18-25, 2013, at Sea Base High Adventure Scout Camp in the beautiful Florida Keys.

Few adventures in your life will compare with breathing under water and having the most beautiful fish in the world swim up to check you out. The water is so warm in August in Florida that you will only need a swimsuit (and scuba gear). Do not miss out on this awesome opportunity!



Is that you? It could be you. (The one with the spots looks a little like you).

The Sea Base Scuba Adventure includes nine dives (conditions permitting) of reefs covered with beautiful fish, turtles, corals and incredible underwater plant life. You

never know what you will see at the bottom of the Gulf of Mexico.

Scuba is a lifelong activity. Once you are Scuba Certified you will be able to dive anywhere in the world. It's a unique opportunity; less than 1% of the total U.S. population of all ages is Scuba Certified. Imagine how uncommon it must be for a teenager to be Scuba Certified.

Here are the key requirements to attend Sea Base 2013:

- Scouts must be 14 years old by next August 17 to go on this trip.
- Special Sea Base medical forms are required.
- Participants will be Scuba Certified before attending Sea Base (details below).

The total per-person cost for Sea Base will be \$1,500.

The Sea Base program that we have been selected to join requires that all participants be Scuba Certified. Here is the plan for that:

Our group will be broken up into two classes (you can pick either one or the other, but each group should have 12 people).

The first group will meet on the following Sundays in 2013: Jan 13, Jan 20, Jan 27, Feb 3 and Feb 10.

The second group will meet on the following Sundays in 2013: Feb 17, Feb 24, Mar 3, Mar 10, Mar 17.

All classes are from 8:30 AM – 1:00 PM and are divided into pool time (8:30AM – 11:00 AM) and classroom instruction (11:00 AM – 1:00 PM).

In addition to pool/classroom instruction, Scuba certification requires Open Water Dive experience. This entails four dives over two days. We will be doing this at Dutch Springs near Allentown. The dive shop will provide all of the special equipment for the Open Water Dives (this includes heavy-duty wet suit, tanks and specialized breathing equipment).

Open Water Dives are scheduled for

two weekends (pick one): either Saturday-Sunday, April 20-21, 2013, or Saturday-Sunday, May 4-5, 2013. (These can be camping trips, if we want. Otherwise, we just go up and back on Saturday and Sunday).

Participants are required to purchase some of the personal gear for scuba (that is, mask, snorkel, fins, boots and weight belt).

Here is the budget for Scuba Certification:

Classroom/Pool:	\$250
Open Water Weekend:	\$200
Personal Gear (Mask, Fins, Snorkel, etc):	<u>\$250</u>
TOTAL:	\$700

Dive shops also provide the opportunity to go on the required Open Water Dives to places other than Dutch Springs, like Florida or other (warmer) places. You can do this rather than doing the Open Water Dives at Dutch Springs, if you like, but it will cost extra. Details can be worked out with the dive shop.

Come join us. Come watch your bubbles rise to the surface from 35 feet under the ocean! This amazing adventure is the opportunity of a lifetime! Don't miss it.

JOIN OUR INFORMATION SESSION AT THE CABIN ON THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 13, 2012.

Due to the need to pay Sea Base an initial payment of \$450 on October 1, 2012, Sea Base participants must make an initial deposit of \$450 when they register. (You can pay this at the meeting at the cabin on Thursday, September 13, at 7:00 PM; this is about one-third of the total cost of the Sea Base trip).

If you have any questions, feel free to contact Eric Meltzer (George's dad) at EMeltzer@BVOne.com



See you at the bottom!

HICKORY RUN HIKING TRIP

By Duncan O'Hara, Cougar Patrol

The trip, like many other trips, started off with a nice long bus ride to the Hickory Run State Park campsite. We arrived late in the night, set up our campsite, had a scrumptious midnight snack of cookies and hot chocolate and eventually fell asleep. In the morning we were greeted by the gentle songs weaved by the birds, the dancing morning lights on the blanket of leaves that covered the ground and the shouts of anger as Scouts pulled their sleeping friends out of their tents by their sleeping bags. The almost ritualistic morning shenanigans of the Scouts came to an abrupt halt as the scent of breakfast, French toast and sausage, wafted around the camp. Once we got our filling of the delicious feast, each patrol went about their assigned duty, whether it was cleaning up after breakfast, setting up the lunch for the upcoming hike, gathering the necessary water and snacks needed or sitting around playing cards. Soon we were all ready to begin the hike. We gathered our supplies and filed onto the bus so we could get to the starting point of the hike, which we arrived at about 10 minutes later. After spending the necessary amount of time standing around and taking pictures, we decided that we had to start sooner or later, so we set off up the gentle incline and began the hike. The first portion of our hike was fairly easy as it was flat and there were only a few rocks, but as we progressed we steadily came to steeper and steeper slopes and by the time we stopped for lunch we were all panting and sweaty. We stopped was at the crest of the hill overlooking a sapphire river as it snaked its way through the lifeless trees. Needless to say, we were pretty content as we munched on our lunch. Soon we all got up and began to make our way back down the trail, which broke off and led us back down the hill and to a clearing by a lazily drifting brook where our bus sat waiting for us. We all crammed back onto the bus and left for the campsite where we goofed off until it was time to cook dinner, which each patrol cooked on its own. We had a kind of contest, which it was said that Cougar won for its lip-smacking chicken

potpie. Our bellies full and our legs sore we all fell contentedly around the fire as we talked and joked; eventually we all stood up, stumbled to our tents, curled up in our sleeping bags and drifted off into sleep. In the morning we were greeted by the traditional Sunday cold breakfast, and we drowsily packed up our belongings and tents and again filed back onto the bus. We unloaded on the side of a highway and began another hike, which, although it was considerably shorter than the last one, was just as scenic. When we drew to the very end, the densely forested trail opened up and revealed a vast ocean of boulders, which stretched as far as the eye could see. Many of the Scouts soon began to run around and explore. We each felt a pang of sorrow as we packed back onto the bus and left the wondrous field of stone behind us and made our way back to the cabin. All in all, this trip was personally one of my favorites and I know if asked the others who went on the trip, they would say the same thing. I would gladly go again if I had the option.



TROOP 78 BIKE TRIP

By Ethan Bilson, Stag Patrol

In June, the troop went on a bike trip along an abandoned section of the Pennsylvania Turnpike. We got to the campsite late, but it turned out to be one of the better campsites that the troop has ever visited. After setting up for the night, we all went to bed. My only complaint for the weekend was that, being near a lake, it was hard to sleep with all the bullfrogs croaking at night. The next morning Stag patrol woke up bright and early to make breakfast. We assembled our lunches after cleanup and prepared to go biking.

The route was pretty simple and mostly downhill with two tunnels and a bit of uphill both ways. However, these tunnels were nothing to laugh about; we had to worry about potholes that we could barely see and water was falling from the ceiling of the tunnel. It was also dramatically cooler than it was outside and it felt like winter, cycling at full speed. After the first tunnel, there was a huge downhill slope that most people raced on. Then we had to bike up hill, avoiding patches of gravel all the way, until we got to the second tunnel. The trick with this tunnel was that it wasn't flat, so in the center we couldn't see the light at the other end over a slight hill in the pavement. Coming out of the tunnel, we continued on our way, avoiding trees in the road, and we stopped at a blown-out bridge. We ate our lunches there and, after a quick break, we biked back to the bus.

On the bus, we decided that, for an easy afternoon activity, we would go to the Flight 99 Memorial because it was close by. The memorial was nice and we all got to learn something while resting our legs from the day's trek. After solemnly exiting the memorial, we went back to camp to make the usual spaghetti dinner. However, there was some time to do other activities before dinner was served. Some Scouts collected firewood, while others took turns on Mr. Belleville's kayaks on the lake by the campsite. He even let us use his spare fishing pole, but the fish weren't biting. By then, dinner was ready and there was plenty to go around. We prepared some pies to bake in the Dutch ovens we brought for the patrol pie-making contest. During the pie baking, we also got the fire started for the marshmallows. After polishing off the last bag of marshmallows, we let the fire die down and we all went to bed.

The next morning we had a cold breakfast and packed up our gear. After checking for trash and making sure we didn't leave anything, we drove back to the cabin. Thanks again for another good trip. Special thanks to Mr. Belleville for bringing the kayaks and fishing rods.

SUMMER CAMP 2012

By David Finkelston, Stag Patrol

Week One

This year was my third year at camp. During my stay at Camp Horseshoe I took merit badges, helped with my patrol project and had fun. I took two merit badges. They were Pioneering, and Citizenship in the Nation. For pioneering, we had to build a project using only rope and wood we found on the site. My group built a washstand for the Cooking merit badge class to wash their dishes. Usually the projects are just for a week, but ours was going to be up all summer. I passed both of my merit badges. Throughout the week we had wonderful food in the dining hall. My favorite was the salad bar. They took mystery meat off the menu and put in corn dogs, which were a big hit. Tuesday night was the auction, and I bought a knife and pedometer. It was a lot of fun. This past year I bought a nice chair at the troop yard sale. I brought it to camp and I used it at the auction. I wanted to let people sit in it for 25 cents, but I wanted to sit in it, so I didn't. The chair was a big hit. This year's games were very interesting. They were much improved over last year. Troop 78 won quite a few of the games in the two weeks. I think we came in second behind Devon 50. Friday night was staff hunt. However, it was in the athletic field and was not as much fun as last year's staff hunt. The theme was scrabble, and we had to tag the staff to get the letters. On Saturday everyone was taking his board of review. I passed all of mine. The marching went well. We only lost on Sunday to Paoli 1. After Sunday we won marching for the rest of the week. Dr. Dave disqualified Paoli 1 when during the heat wave they wore class "B+" when the troops were told to wear class B. The Saturday night campfire went well. The O/A pageant put on a good skit. My favorite part of the week was Sunday lunch when Ernie got up on the podium and led us in singing "Green Grow the Rushes Grow." This year at Camp Horseshoe we all had a very good time.

Week Two

After and amazing Week One I couldn't wait for Week Two. This week we were all in upper grounds. I was in Stag Patrol again. Our patrol leader was Dan Brown. I tented with Jack Dinsmore. During this week I took Lifesaving and Communications. For me Lifesaving was not as bad as everyone said it was. The only hard part was swimming 400 yards every session (which was twice a day!). I enjoyed and luckily passed it. The board was sweet because it was literally 2 minutes long. Throughout the week we had marching. We did pretty well, as we only lost once. One thing I thought (and probably a lot more thought this too) was how annoying Troop 965 was for cheering 10 seconds after grace for lunch and dinner. On Monday, Wednesday and Friday there was a game. We did well in all the games. One was a scavenger hunt. We won that. On Tuesday and Thursday, it was Troop Night at camp. On Tuesday we had an inter-troop volleyball game. Thursday night we had the communications campfire. I was doing flint and steel. However, I could not get the charred cloth to light. So Grant of course got his lighter and lit the charred cloth for me. I'm glad I came this week. I had a great time. My favorite time was everything!

TROOP 78 VISITS SWITZERLAND

By Michael Bennett

On Sunday, July 22nd, thirty Scouts and twenty-three adults from Willistown 78 boarded a bus bound for Newark Airport. The reason: the troop was returning to Kandersteg International Scout Centre in the scenic Swiss Alps for the fourth time. (Note: The troop had previously visited "KISC," as it is known, in 1971, 1986, and 2008. Attendees from all three previous trips participated in the 2012 trip!) Upon arrival at KISC the next day, the whole contingent was jet-lagged but excited and ready to have a good time.

The next two weeks were full of exciting, action-packed programs for the troop. The Scouts went on several grueling hikes and swam in the bone-chilling waters of an Alpine lake. They spent a night in an Alpine hut and sampled Swiss delicacies at chocolate and cheese factories. They toured the Swiss capital of Bern, visited the quiet Italian village of Stresa, and took a train to Europe's highest railway station, Jungfrauoch. The activities alone would have made the trip a fantastic experience for the whole troop – but that was not the case.

Instead, many of the Scouts and adults found that one of KISC's most fun activities was one of its most informal – meeting and talking to people from other places around the world. For instance, a chance encounter with a group of Scottish Scouts in a hallway would lead one to an intense session of "badge-swapping" (patch-trading). Or, upon boarding a train, one would run into an Italian Scout troop bound for KISC and strike up pleasant conversations (or in Mr. Bravo's case, teach them American phrases like "Yo," "Dude," and "Awesome!"). Troop 78 Scouts were very pleased to find that many Scouting programs outside of the USA have male and female participants in the same unit!

Sadly, on Saturday, August 4th, Troop 78 had to leave KISC and, with heavy hearts, board a bus bound for the Zurich Airport and, ultimately, for home. As the troop sped away from the scenic peaks and forests of Kandersteg, however, everybody knew that they had just taken the trip of a lifetime – one that they would surely remember forever.

Mr. Jim Donnelly brings on the heat at the Reading Phillies game.

