



# Willistown Troop 78

Website: [www.tr78.org](http://www.tr78.org)

Facebook: [Willistown Boy Scout Troop 78](https://www.facebook.com/WillistownBoyScoutTroop78)

YouTube Channel: [Troop 78](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC...)

December 2023

Volume 40 Number 4

## Franksgiving 2023!



**Inside this issue**  
United States Naval Academy  
Brandywine River Museum Event  
Disney 2024!



**December**

- 1 Friday TROOP MEETING 7 to 9 PM
- 5 Tuesday Board of Review 6:30PM, Troop Comm Mtg. 7:30PM
- 6 Thursday Patrol Leaders' Council 7:00 -8:00 PM
- 8 Friday TROOP MEETING 7 to 9 PM
- 10 Sunday [Brandywine River Museum, Troop 78 Family Open House 5-7PM](#)
- 15 Friday TROOP MEETING 7 to 9 PM Holiday Party

[Click here for the full calendar.](#)

## 78 Alumni, Friends and Family Gather for Franksgiving III Celebration

Saturday November 25, 2023  
Troop 78 Cabin

On Saturday, November 25<sup>th</sup>, dozens of Troop 78 alumni, family and friends came together at the Cabin to enjoy lunch, swap stories and catch up with acquaintances old and new at the Troop's annual Franksgiving celebration. Some in the crowd took on the challenge of crossing the Scout-built monkey bridge, playing giant chess or tossing safety axes at a target; while others gathered around fires and brought one another up to speed



on the news since the prior year's get-together. In the main meeting room of the Cabin, a slide presentation, set to upbeat music and featuring highlights from the 2022-23 Scouting year, ran throughout the afternoon. Elsewhere, people viewed photo albums that feature 70 years of snapshots taken of 78ers at Camp Horseshoe, canoeing in Canada, meeting Scouts from around the world at Kandersteg International Scout Centre, and participating in many other trips and community events.

Now in its third year, Franksgiving is held on the Saturday following Thanksgiving. The event was founded in response to a challenge from Troop 78 legend Ernie Heegard to create an informal alumni association. Since so many of our past members return to the area for Thanksgiving, the group liked the



idea of hosting an informal lunch for the simple purpose of bringing multiple generations from our Troop 78 family together in friendship. Unfortunately, Ernie and Betsy Heegard were not themselves able to attend Franksgiving – until this year.

Ernie was asked if he'd be willing to offer some observations to those in attendance, and he readily agreed. As



usual, Ernie's words did not disappoint. "A show of hands from those of you who were in the Flying Eagle Patrol! How about Rattlesnake? Panther?!" Ernie then gave the crowd a brief history of Troop 78. He spoke about the days when Troop meetings were held in the old white cabin, where "Scouts stood sideways because the place was too small to hold everyone standing shoulder to shoulder." He then looked around the room and said, "How about the fabulous meeting venue we have now!" He referenced the continuity of Troop leadership, noting the picture of three 78 Scoutmasters that hangs in Mr. D's office. The photo features Link Rice, who was Ernie's Scoutmaster; Ernie himself, who was Steve D'Antonio's Scoutmaster; and Mr. D himself – who may have wondered if his *own* successor was somewhere in the room listening to Ernie! "From Doc



Lenker to Doc Motel – we’ve been fortunate to have people looking after the health of the Troop over the years!,” Ernie observed with a wry smile. His point was clear: While our members and venue may have changed over the years, the Troop has always stayed true to the traditions that produce outstanding Scouts and community members.

When he concluded his remarks, Ernie and his wife Betsy were feted by the crowd for their servant leadership, their stewardship, and their dedication to the Troop and Scouting over the years. Following a well-deserved round of applause for the Heegards, the crowd gathered for a group photo, and then took part in another Troop 78 tradition: Cleaning up and restoring the Cabin and the grounds to pristine condition, all in short order.



The Franksgiving team is already planning Franksgiving IV. Look for an expanded menu and new activities in 2024. Many thanks to Jim Hogan for his leadership of the event, and to the committee members who helped with the planning and execution. We look forward to seeing you all next year!



# United States Naval Academy in Annapolis Maryland

Friday November 10 - Sunday November 12, 2023

By Henry Scott

When we woke up Saturday morning, Panther cooked a good breakfast as pancakes and sausages were the main dish. Then, Alex told us the plan for the day, first we go on tours of the Naval Academy, then we would walk to the stadium where we would have lunch. As we got onto the bus for the tours, we were all excited for the Academy. When we got to the visitor's center, we divided into 2 groups, each with 1 tour guide, and 3 real students at the academy.

The first spot we visited was the athletics museum/ aquatics arena. As we walked through the building we went through the history of the academy. Memorabilia including Roger Staubach's Heisman trophy, and every game ball from a win against Army in the famed Army-Navy game. We then toured a museum with a model of the Wright brothers plane hanging from the ceiling. As we walked through the main hall, we saw massive murals of famous naval moments such as Pearl Harbor. We even got to see a model dorm room, which we were able to go into.

After we left the main hall, we went into the chapel which was the most beautiful building I've ever seen. It featured a high ceiling with stained glass, and a mirror at the top in the middle. There was a giant cross, because it was a Christian church. Underneath the Chapel was the coffin of a famed American naval hero, John Paul Jones. John Paul Jones fought in the American war for independence serving as a pirate of some sorts to steal British goods and bringing them back to America where they could be used for the war effort. Lastly, we toured the Naval History Museum where we saw model ships from all different eras of the history of the Navy.



We then walked to the stadium through the city of Annapolis. When we walked into the stadium it was so exciting! We sat just behind the end zone, behind a grassy hill which we laid down on. It was a blowout victory for Navy and we had a great time, but the night was not over. As we ate our dinner, some of us decided to make a fire at the fire pit at the campsite. The night included dancing and we told stories by the fire before we went to bed on a great trip that will never be forgotten.

## Annapolis Naval Academy Trip

Friday November 10th - Sunday November 12th, 2023

By Caleb Fulmer

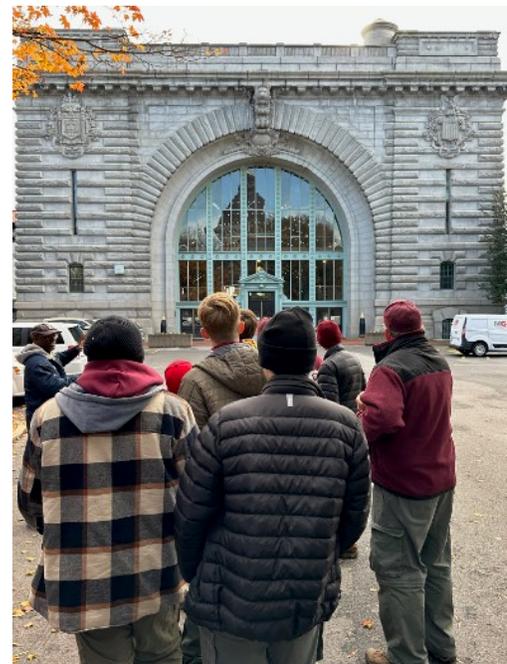
On a surprisingly cool November evening a bus filled with Troop 78 adults and scouts headed down to Maryland for the Naval Academy Scout Day. After a three hour bus ride, we arrived at our campsite, set up our tents, and then went to bed to prepare for an early morning the next day.

We had an early breakfast of pancakes and sausage, and got into our class A uniforms to prepare for the tour of the Naval Academy. Then after breakfast everyone got onto the bus and we drove to the Naval Academy visitors center to get a tour. We went into a theater to see an introduction film but it wasn't working so we just went straight to the tour. We split up into two groups and were shown around the massive school. Some of the most notable sites we saw were the Naval Academy Chapel, the admiral's house, and their big gym, pool, and sports facility. Our tour guides were 3 naval students and one professional tour guide. They were great and helped answer all of our questions.

After the tour, we all went back to the visitors center to visit the gift shop. We had some time before the football game so we went over to the museum and saw some of the different exhibits and how the Navy has helped the US in so many different conflicts. Then we all walked to the stadium where we met the bus and ate our lunch before going into the game. Then we all went into the stadium to find our seats and buy some extra food before the game started. Before the game there was a cool national anthem ceremony and planes did a fly over. Once the game started it was a thriller. It was a close game in the first half but then Navy midshipmen really took and ran with it in the second half. Especially when Alabama B. was about to score a touchdown a Navy safety picked off a pass and scored it for a touchdown. Single handedly out scoring Alabama B. in the fourth quarter. Then towards the end of the game we were all on the wall separating the stands from the field and we were cheering loudly for the Navy.

After the game we all boarded the bus and drove back to our campsite where we had a delicious dinner of burritos, chips, and salsa. After dinner was cleaned up, everyone went to bed after a long and eventful day. Then in the morning everyone woke up and cleaned up their gear. We had a cold breakfast and cleaned up camp. Then we formed a police line and we loaded up Mr. D's truck and the troop bus. Then we took the three hour drive home with no stops. Then once we got back to the cabin we hung everything up to dry and then everyone went home to enjoy the rest of their Sunday.





## Upcoming Events

### **Troop Meeting: Holiday Party** Friday December 15, 2023

The annual Troop Holiday Party is set for Friday December 15th. That evening we will have a fun Troop meeting including a Holiday themed first aid problem (prepping for the upcoming First Aid Meet), outdoor scout skill event, Holiday gift exchange and snack.

Scouts: if you wish to participate in the Holiday gift exchange, this is how it works. Bring a small, in most cases scout or outdoor activity-related gift of approximately \$10 in value. If you bring a gift, you may take a gift someone else brought. [NO gag gifts! Click here for more information.](#)



# Brandywine River Museum Family Event

Sunday December 10, 2023

For many years Willistown Troop 78 has helped to support the mission of the Brandywine Conservancy in various service projects, including our annual support of the Radnor Races. In thanks for our support and service, the Brandywine Conservancy & Museum of Art have created an exclusive event just for us and is inviting all of the members of Willistown Troop 78 and their families to the Brandywine Museum of Art to tour the facilities and have light refreshments. This event is no charge.

Come see Brandywine's renowned O-gauge train layout with its 2,000 feet of track along with three special exhibitions including one called Abstract Flash: The Unseen Andrew Wyeth. Details: Sunday, December 10, 2023, from 5:00 -7:00 pm. 1 Hoffman's Mill Road, Chadds Ford, Pennsylvania (off Route 1).



Scouts and Scouters should be in full Class A uniform for the event.

Please RSVP by December 7th to Steve Brown at [stevencharlesbrown@yahoo.com](mailto:stevencharlesbrown@yahoo.com) Include all family member names and ages of people under 18. It is critical to RSVP on time so the Conservancy can plan appropriately. [Click here for more information.](#)



# Winter Weekend at Camp Horseshoe

Friday January 5 - Sunday January 7, 2024

Please join us for the annual Father / Son Weekend at Camp Horseshoe. We will be staying indoors in cabins heated by wood stoves, sleeping on bunks with mattresses, eating a delicious menu of home cooked food, and generally living large. The Troop will do a service project for the camp: collecting and splitting firewood for the camp, then we will work on individual scout advancement, play games, compete in a round robin of scout skill events and all around have fun.

[Click here for more information.](#)



## Pine Wood Derby Workshop

Saturday January 13, 2024

Annual Pinewood Derby Fabrication Workshop on 1/13/23. During this workshop our world renowned derby car builders will be lending their time, talent and tools to help local Cubs (and parents) fabricate 5 ounces of pure Pinewood Derby greased lightening glory. Cubs will be asked to bring their official Pinewood Derby car kit, a package of weights and ideally a sketch of their car's design. The workshop will start with all Cubs and parents learning some simple physics principles that apply to making a competitive Pinewood Derby car.

[Click here for more information.](#)



## Disney 2024!

Saturday March 23 - Saturday March 30, 2024



Heading to Walt Disney World with Troop 78?  
Reserve your spot for Spring Break 2024

When are we going? March 23- 30

**What are we going to do?** We will spend a morning at the Disney Imagination Campus in one of the parks. We will participate in a workshop in a Disney Park learning about the Physics of Disney's Parks. We will also spend four days Park-Hopping, we can visit any of the four theme parks (Magic Kingdom, Disney's Hollywood Studios, Animal Kingdom, and Epcot), or just swim and hang out at the Fort Wilderness campground at any time.

**Who can go?**

- 1) Scouts and leaders who are registered and active in the troop,
- 2) Scouts must have attended (or worked) at summer camp at least one week in 2023, and
- 3) Scouts who are *or will be* First Class rank by March 17th, and who are responsible enough to visit the theme parks **on their own** with a small group of other Scouts as determined by their parents and the Scoutmaster.

**The cost to go on the trip to Disney?** \$1,000 plus spending money

**What do I get for the \$1,000 cost?** Round trip bus transportation on the luxurious troop bus, food and meals, camping fees, a morning of learning about the Physics of Disney Parks, a Four day Park-Hopper Disney pass, adventures of conquering all of the mountains in Disney, visit Mickey and Minnie, and create some magical memories. During this time you will practice scout skills of reading a map, money management and time management as well as brushing up on your cooking skills.

**How do I sign up for this awesome annual trip?** Handouts will be given out during a troop meeting in December and they will also be posted on the troop web site.

Once you reserve a spot you will receive further instructions regarding departure times, what to pack, spending money, bus preparation etc.

**Dates to remember for mandatory meetings and payments are:**

1. **Sunday January 7<sup>th</sup> (Winter Camp) - \$500.00 Deposit and permission slip are due**
2. **Sunday, February 11th (Super Bowl Sunday Pancake Breakfast)- \$500 Final Payment due**
3. **Friday March 1st, 9:00 PM (after Troop meeting) – Scout and Parent Meeting (Parent must attend with scout)**
4. **Saturday March 16th – Bus and equipment cleaning meeting 1:00PM to 4:00PM**
5. **Friday March 22nd – 7:00 PM Load your gear on the bus**
6. **Saturday March 23rd – noon Leave for DISNEY**



**We must have at least 16 Scouts and Adults to Camp at Disney.**

# Fundraising

## Personalized Brick at the Cabin Walkway

Are you looking for a Holiday gift for the scout, scouter or friend of Troop 78? Why not a brick with their name on it? When walking into the cabin there is a beautiful brick walkway with names of scouts, scouters and friends, both past and present, engraved into the brick pavers. Why not buy a brick for them to have their name be a visible part of Troop. Troop 78 is re-launching the engraved brick purchasing program, where you have the opportunity to purchase an engraved brick which will be added to the front walkway. For a fee of \$350 each, you can include the name of your scout, your family or the name of any supporter of scouting. Order forms can be found on the troop website at:



<https://www.tr78.org/>

If you have any questions, please reach out to Jim Hogan at jim.hogan @foxroach.com.

## Picnic Tables for the PARC Scout Center in Exton

Thanks to a group of dedicated Scouters from Troop 78, the PARC center in Exton, Chester County Council, BSA's headquarters, now has a new pavilion, dedicated to all Eagle Scouts.

This generosity has causes more sacrifice. Troop 78 has agreed to build picnic tables for the pavilion. We are going to construct 10 picnic tables.

We are hoping for volunteers for anyone who wishes to help with the cost and/or the construction.

If you wish to "buy" a table, please consider a \$250 donation to the Friends of Troop 78.

Mark Siegle and Ernie are organizing the table construction crew.



# Alumni Corner

## **Holiday Get-Together at PJ Whelihan's Pub**

Join Our Holiday Get-Together at PJ Whelihan's Pub: We invite you to join us to toast the holiday season on the evening of Wednesday, December 27<sup>th</sup>, between the hours of 7 and 10 PM, at PJ Whelihan's Pub, 12 General Warren Blvd, Malvern, PA 19355 (off Route 29). This is a cash bar event and attendees are responsible for obtaining and paying their own check for food and drink consumed.

Last year, we had a great turnout of Troop alumni, current Troop member parents, friends of the Troop and those who were visiting with Troop friends or alums who just wanted to come out for an evening of socializing and enjoyment. All are invited! No need to RSVP – just show up when convenient and see some old friends and make some new ones. This one's not to be missed! We're coming off a GREAT Franksgiving event and we'd like to keep the momentum going. Please come out and join us - we look forward to seeing you on the evening of the 27<sup>th</sup>!

## **Troop 78 Alums and Chums in the News**

Coming in January, 2024 - Troop 78 Alums and Chums News: Did you just get married? Has there been a birth in the family? Did you become a grandparent? We want to hear about it!

Send us your family update and we'll put it in the Newsletter. "Troop 78 Alums and Chums News" will be a feature of the Newsletter, starting in the New Year. We'd like to let the members of your Troop 78 extended family know what's going on in your life or the lives of your more immediate family. Share your news on graduations, engagements, weddings, relocations, bereavement notifications and other life events.

Send your news to Dr. Pete at [petemote@aol.com](mailto:petemote@aol.com) by the 20<sup>th</sup> of the month and we'll do our best to get it in the upcoming Newsletter.

## **Alumni Committee**

A big thanks to the Alumni Committee for the successful recent Franksgiving celebration.

Thank you to Mr. D, Matt DeStefano, Ethan Bilson, Pete Motel, Ted Dinsmore, Jim Bennett, Sam Lemheny and Jim Hogan. Another job well done.

Keep an eye out for the next evite / event coming soon.

The alumni committee is looking for ideas and suggestions for new events.

Plus new members are always welcomed. Reach out to the committee at any time. Their email is [troop78alumni@gmail.com](mailto:troop78alumni@gmail.com).

## **Franksgiving!**

**Mark your calendars now for the 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Franksgiving Day to be held on Saturday November 30<sup>th</sup>, 2024 at the cabin**

The Annual Franksgiving Day came and went on Saturday November 25<sup>th</sup>. The third annual event started very chilly in the morning but turned into a beautiful sunny day. During the day over 60 people came out to catch up with old friends and make new ones. Some stopped in for a quick visit and others stayed for the duration. It was great to see so many young and old scouts and their families get together. It was a great day!

# FOLLOW TROOP 78'S ALUMNI ON SOCIAL MEDIA!



TROOP 78 ALUMNI



TROOP 78 FRIENDS  
AND ALUMNI



@78ALUMNI

**WE'RE LOOKING FOR FEATURES!  
PLEASE SEND ANY PHOTOS AND VIDEOS TO  
TROOP78ALUMNI@GMAIL.COM  
ALONG WITH THEIR STORY**

## Chester County Council News

### Raise the Roof

As the hub of activity in Camp Horseshoe, the dining hall is part of what makes camp so special. From grilled cheese day chaos to cat came back conga lines, each Scout has a mealtime memory.

As many of you know who have recently sat in the dining hall, the roof is in need of replacement. This need has become critical as the roof in the kitchen area is now failing. The entire roof structure needs to be replaced. We have bids for the work and the amount we need to raise is \$100,000.



Help us Raise the Roof with your donation today!

[Click here for more information or to donate.](#)

# Octoraro Lodge 22

## **Lodge Leadership Development – December 9, 2023 at Camp John H. Ware 3rd**

The Lodge's annual Lodge Leadership Development (LLD) will be on Saturday, December 9, 2023 starting at 9 am and will run until 2 pm. Lunch will be provided. This year LLD will be held in the Camp Ware Dining Hall. All Team Leads should attend and LLD is open to all lodge brothers even if you are not on the LLT. What is LLD? LLD is a half-day of training provided by the lodge aimed at improving youth leadership with focus on the programs offered by the Order of the Arrow. Any questions please email [lld@octoraro22.org](mailto:lld@octoraro22.org).

## **Brotherhood Blitz – December 9, 2023 at Camp Horseshoe**

On Saturday, December 9, 2023 at the Kindness Center in Camp Horseshoe the Lodge will hold its annual Brotherhood Blitz starting at 2 pm. What is Brotherhood Blitz? In addition to obtaining Brotherhood at any of the three service weekends in September, April or June, the Lodge offers another opportunity to obtain Brotherhood in December. Discussion begins at 2 pm and the ceremony is at 4:00 pm and should be concluded around 5:00 pm. If interested, please email [brotherhood@octoraro22.org](mailto:brotherhood@octoraro22.org).

**Please print this Newsletter for all in your family to see!**