



Newsletter

Volume 29

Number 9

May 2013

CALENDAR

MAY 2013

- 5/1 – Patrol Leaders Council (7:30 PM)
5/3 - TROOP MEETING (7 to 9 PM)
5/3-5 – Youth Leadership Training Weekend 1
5/4-5 – Scuba Training Class - Open Water Dives
5/6 – *Friends of Troop 78 Board Meeting*
5/7 – Board of Review (7:00 PM) & *Troop Committee Mtg.*
5/9 – *Council-wide Roundtable*
5/10 - TROOP MEETING (7 to 9 PM)
5/11 – **Canoe Day trip**
5/10-12 – Youth Leadership Trng Weekend 2
5/17 - TROOP MEETING (7 to 9 PM)
5/18 – **Radnor Races - (Save This Date!)**
5/19 – Radnor Races Cleanup - 8AM
5/31- 6/2 -Order of the Arrow Ordeal & Service Weekend @ HSR

JUNE 2013

- 6/4 – Board of Review (7:00 PM) & *Troop Committee Mtg.*
6/5 – Patrol Leaders Council (7:30 PM)
6/6 (Thurs) - TROOP MEETING (7 to 9 PM)
Field Day Part One
6/7-9 – OA Conclave – Camp Mack
6/9 – **Field Day & Family Picnic (3:00 PM)**
6/13 – *Diamond Rock Roundtable*
6/14-16 – **Whitewater Rafting/Caving Trip**
6/21 – TROOP MEETING - Camp Preparations
6/22 – PLC to Summer Camp (meet in Dan Beard at 2:00 PM)
6/23-6/30 – **Horseshoe Summer Camp WEEK ONE**

COMING UP

- 6/30 -7/7 – **Horseshoe Summer Camp WEEK TWO**
8/3 to 8/11- Algonquin Park, Ont. Canoe trip
8/18-8/25 - Florida Sea Base Trip

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

CANOE DAY TRIP

May 11th, Schuylkill River

7:45 AM at the Cabin

Late Afternoon Return to the Cabin

Continuing a long tradition of canoeing, the troop will take to the iconic local waterway for a day of fun and adventure. We will break the trip up by skill set with canoe veterans taking a longer trip with a put in near the Limerick Power Plant, while canoe novices will start in Phoenixville Lock 60. All canoe groups will end inside the Valley Forge National Park. New Scouts who have or can pass the BSA swimmer test (as outlined in the Scout handbook) are encouraged to come out. The portion of the Schuylkill River from Phoenixville is a great first canoe trip. New Scout dads are also welcome to attend if they are BSA Youth Protection Trained. This will be a bring-your-own-lunch-and-water affair (well waterproofed please), with the troop providing PFDs, paddles, canoes, and luxury Troop 78 bus transportation. As always, closed-toe shoes are required, along with a hat and sunscreen, and yes a change of clothing in waterproofed bag that will also hold your lunch.

The troop does have watercraft for 43 people, and we do have the ability to borrow (or rent) canoes/kayaks for more if needed; additionally, if you're interested in using your own canoe/kayak, please contact Mr. Bilson by May 1st. We will do everything we can to accommodate all Scouts who are interested in this trip. We are also looking for SUV/truck drivers to tow the canoe trailers and/or assist in Scout transportation; again, if interested, contact jackbilson@gmail.com (610-547-7934). A detailed trip brief will be emailed out in the next few days; sign-ups for the trip will be

due to your patrol leader no later than May 3rd at 8PM. However if you're excited about this trip, call, e-mail, and text message your patrol leader today and let him know he can count you in! We look forward to seeing you on the water soon.



ATTENTION ALL PADDLERS, BACK PACKERS, HIKERS and TENT PITCHERS

The time is upon us to cast away thoughts of idle summer living and dream of days of glistening lakes, whispering pines and the calls of wild moose and coyote. The Algonquin Wilderness beckons you and awaits your arrival!! So block out your calendars for August 3rd through August 11th and come to the kick-off and planning meeting of the 2013 Algonquin Canoe Trip. We will meet right after the troop meeting on Friday, May 3rd. No trip route has been finalized so bring your ideas and requests so we all can plan a great trip. The trip will be limited to the first 18 who sign up so don't miss out on this great annual, high adventure. If you have questions or can't make the meeting but want to go, call Mr. Siegle at 610-608-9075. Paddle on!

NEW DADS NEEDED!

The Troop Committee meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 7, at 7:30 PM, at the cabin. The committee meets to guide and discuss the operation of the troop. New dads are especially encouraged to attend.



Freedom Tower

THE NEW YORK CITY TRIP

By Ethan Bilson, Stag Patrol

The New York City trip was amazing and everybody had an awesome time. The trip began when everybody arrived at the cabin at 5:45 PM and we packed the bus. After a long and uneventful bus ride (which, unfortunately, had no tunnels to drive through), we arrived at the Staten Island Scout Camp in New York. There was a slight confusion with the camp master, but eventually we got to our site and began unloading gear. It was a 200-yard walk to the site from the parking lot, so we only unloaded gear we would need for the next morning. After setting up camp, we had a great snack of hot dogs and cookies and went to bed. Despite a few nervous stomachs for the big day, everybody slept great and woke up refreshed for our day of fun. Based on our time limit (we had to be at the ferry at 8:30), Saturday breakfast had to be the cold one. After everybody had his fill of Froot Loops and the lunches were made, we boarded the bus and began our journey.

The bus ride was boring, but we made good time and beat the ferry to the boarding dock. While on the ferry, some Scouts went outside on the deck to sightsee. After the ferry, we took a short walk to the entrance to the construction site of World Trade Center 1. After chatting with the construction workers, who pointed out the spire being lifted up by crane to

the top of the building, the Troop 23 Scouts arrived. After getting a picture, we went to the site, while they went to the 9/11 memorial. The tour with the concrete inspectors was neat and we learned a lot. The view was amazing and everybody wished they could have stayed longer. On our way down, we each received a WTC construction crew pin and a handshake. As soon as we regrouped, we went on our way to the 9/11 memorial. The memorial was pretty interesting and everybody was awed by the "survivor tree" (the only tree in the plaza to survive the attack). After exiting the memorial, we took the subway to the USS Intrepid Museum. The museum was neat and included various aircraft and helicopters, preserved rooms, a Lego model of the Intrepid, aircraft carrier memorabilia, a submarine, a history documentary, simulators, and a video called "The Kamikaze Experience." Everybody enjoyed the visit, but unfortunately, we were too worn out and it was too late to see Times Square or Rockefeller Center.

After some subway confusion and Colin's hunt for pinto beans, Mr. D's group arrived just seconds late for the 5:30 ferry. However, everybody got to catch their breath and buy some souvenirs while waiting for the 6:00 ferry. Soon enough, the ferry came back, and after the ferry and bus ride, we arrived at the site. It was decided that due to clean-up and time delays, the troop would cook dinner as a unit, versus patrol style. As the sun set, dinner was being laid out. Dinner, which was chicken burritos with salad and rice, tasted great and everybody was full. The clean-up crew (Stag Patrol) went into overdrive as the rest of the group got the fire set up and brought the marshmallows out. After desert, most of us went to bed as we were worn out from the day's activities.

The next morning, we found that the breakfast crew had arisen early in order to prepare us a scrumptious breakfast of French toast and sausage. It was a dichotomy to some camping veterans to have hot breakfast on a Sunday, but nobody could argue with good old French

toast. After breakfast, we packed up troop and personal gear alike, and hauled it all down to the bus. After skillfully loading everything, we left our pleasant spot in Staten Island for the cabin back in Pennsylvania. Thanks to all the adult leaders who went, especially Mr. D and Mr. Bennett, for a great trip.

ADVANCEMENT

October

Daniel Brown - Life
Andrew Chow - Life
Liam Bellville - 2nd Class
Ethan Bilson - Star
David Finkelston - Star
Seth Hoffritz - Tenderfoot
Drew Lotz - Scout
Ryan Small - Scout
Ryan Small - Tenderfoot
Peter Zuraw - Tenderfoot
Peter Zuraw - 2nd Class

November

Kevin DeStefano - Life
Chris Wang - Kayaking, Archery,
Rowing
Holden Barnes - Personal Fitness
David Finkelston - Personal Fitness

December

Michael Bennett - Scouting Heritage,
Theatre
Andrew Brown - Lifesaving
Lee Neves - Lifesaving
Michael Orlow - Lifesaving
Riley Palmer - Lifesaving
Matt Urban - Lifesaving
Tommy Walsh - Lifesaving
Dwight Lasure - Personal Fitness
Drew Lotz - Tenderfoot
Billy Mackrides - Life

January

Matt Urban - Life

February

Andrew Brown - 1st Class
Andrew Dudt - Life, Lifesaving
Ricky Martinez - Tenderfoot,
Swimming, Mammal Study
Lee Neves - Aviation
Michael Orlow - Star
David Finkelston - Life

March

Zach Fox - Scout, Swimming
Daniel Pimley - Scout
John Pimley - Scout
Kyle "Pooch" Puchula - Scout,
Swimming

Jonathan Stafford - Scout
Ryan Stafford - Scout
Luke Brogan - Life

April

Daniel Capelli - Scout
Eric Conley - Scout
Christian Curry - Scout
Ben McCallum - Scout
Luke Phayre - Scout
Michael Ruggiero - Scout
Christian Skodny - Scout
Colin White - Scout
Zach Fox – Music, Public Health
Lee Neves - Star
Kyle Puchula - Public Health

HOAGIES WERE HUMMING!

Thanks to many Scout parents, friends and a few Scouts, the Troop 78 hoagie-making machine was humming at full speed early Saturday morning April 6th. 1,066 hoagies were assembled, wrapped and packed in less than 1-1/2 hours. Thank you all for another successful hoagie sale fundraiser!

This year's 3 top-selling Scouts were:

- 1st place, Robert Varney 81 sold
- 2nd place, Zach Fox 75 sold
- 3rd place, Dan Brown 73 sold

These 3 Scouts accounted for almost 25% of the total hoagies sold. Because of their efforts, they will be invited to go fishing down at Stone Harbor, NJ, later this summer on Mr. Bob Matje's boat.

The hoagie sale has been a Troop 78 fundraising staple for many decades. Along with the poinsettia sale and Radnor Hunt, it serves as a vital program in helping supply funds for troop needs. More importantly, it allows the Scout a chance to "pitch in" and help his parents by earning money to defray the cost of troop trips and summer camp when he attends. Because we make our own hoagies from scratch, the hoagie sale is a labor-intensive project. However, this

helps to maximize profits. For many years a majority of the advertising, planning and making has been performed by parents who have not had a son in the troop for many years. These parents are still very willing to help. However, the time has come for new volunteers to come forward and assume the responsibility for this project. New volunteers should please contact Mr. D or Scott Vercoe to discuss the transition for next year's sale. Thank you.

MAY THE SCOUTMASTER BE WITH YOU

**By Michael Orlow, Flying Eagle
Patrol & Troop Historian**

As you all know, we close our meetings by joining hands, left over right, and saying the "Scoutmaster's Benediction." I'm sure that many of you have no idea what it is that we're actually saying for the benediction, and just mumble something that sounds relatively the same. Well, for those of you interested, the words are "May the great Scoutmaster of all Scouts be with you until we meet again." Some believe that the words from the Scoutmaster's Benediction were pulled from a training course offered in Texas in the mid-1930s. There are a few variations that other troops use, and no closing ceremony is exactly the same either.

In 1879, the British Empire engaged in a war against the Zulu Kingdoms in South Africa. Baden Powell was an officer in this war, and he developed a great admiration for the Zulu warriors. It is from the Zulu warriors that Baden Powell adopted the left-handed handshake for Boy Scouts. The formation of this was from the fact that the Zulu Warriors carried their shields in their left hands, and to show that they were friendly, they would drop their shield and shake hands. Meanwhile, they would keep their spear or mace in their right hand, always prepared.



The concept of the Zulu shields is also what may have created our joining circle. As a defensive formation for the Zulu warriors, they could hold their shields on their left arms, grab the person to their left's hand, and the person to their right's spear (or mace) shaft. This would create a very strong wall to block people out of an area. Coincidentally, they did this with their left hand (shield hand) overtop of their right hand, as we do in our circle.

HURRICANE SANDY RELIEF Troop 21 Fundraising Efforts Continue

Troop 78 continues to raise funds to purchase equipment for Troop 21 in Seaside Heights, NJ, after they lost all of their equipment in Hurricane Sandy. To date, we've raised nearly \$1,000 but need \$1,300 more to purchase everything they need. They need items like tents, cooking pots, camp tables, etc. These items are critical to the success of a troop as they enable the pursuit of a camping/outdoor program.

The fundraising campaign to assist Troop 21 will end on May 3. You can donate funds either by making a check out to "Friends of Troop 78" or by giving cash. There is a collection can along with a campaign sign in the hallway of the cabin. You can also donate funds by contacting Steve Brown at 610-692-2001 or steven.charlesbrown@yahoo.com and getting your contribution to him.

Please help us to help Troop 21 get back on their feet! Thanks to all who have contributed and to those that will."