



Willistown Troop 78

Volume 32 Number 1

September 2015

Troop 78 Dominates at Summer Camp



Upcoming Events

September

Tuesday 8

Board of Review 7:00

Troop Committee 7:30

Wednesday 9

Patrol Leaders Council 7:00

Friday 11

First Troop Meeting of the year 7:00

Monday 14

Friends of Troop 78 Board Meeting 7:00

Friday 18- Sunday 20

Order of the Arrow Service Weekend at Horseshoe

Friday 25

Troop Meeting and Open House: 7 to 9 PM

October

Friday 2 – Sunday 4

Campout at Hickory Run State Park:
Friends/Webelows invited

Tuesday 6

Board of Review 7:00

Friday 9

Troop Meeting 7:00

Sunday 11

Annual Troop Dinner and Court of Honor 3:00

Wow! What a year at Camp Horseshoe!

Over 50 scouts and leaders had a fantastic stay at summer camp, earning hundreds of merit badges and advancement at all levels.

The scouts reveled in the usual summer camp activities: swimming at the over-sized Horseshoe pool, canoeing, riflery, archery, crafts, nature and outdoor study, a thrilling ropes course, and mountain biking.

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Awards earned by the scouts at camp this year



Chip and Jack with the Marching Trophy

Competition peaked on the Parade Field, the troop lined up against our traditional rivals in marching, and of course we excelled. Troop 78ers took the trophy 10 nights (much to the dread of the other troops) and there were two rainouts.

The scouts showed their best skills and sportsmanship in the traditional end-of-week activities: the Water Carnival and Paul Bunyon Field Day, with its thrilling finale: the Tug-of-War. To end the suspense: we won the WC and the Pbfd, and the Tug-of-War!

To round out the stay at camp, the kids competed in and won the Archery Shoot, the Obstacle Course and kudos go to Jay Madarasz for a victory in the Turtle Derby.

The highlight of the stay is the Saturday Night Campfire awarding of the Silver Buckle, chosen by their peers. Congratulations to Ethan Bilson and Chip Lemhenny for receiving this high honor.

We are all eagerly awaiting next summer for our weeks at Horseshoe! Mark your calendars: Week #1 is June 26 to July 3; Week #2 is July 3 to July 10. See you there!

Sea Base Islamorada Florida

By Jack Dinsmore

The first all-78 sea base crew made its way to the Florida high adventure Sea Base for a scuba adventure. We arrived at Sea Base on a Wednesday and started on our check-in process. Our dive master for the week was going to be Will Ligon, but that would change mid-week. Will told us that we were the fastest check in crew he had so far that summer. Later we took our photo and checked into our room for the week (which was shared with another crew because a crew of six did not warrant their own room). The crew we stayed with were friendly enough and would be on our boat for the week as well.



Andrew Brown, Jack Dinsmore, Ted Dinsmore, Ricky Martinez, Eric Meltzer, George Meltzer

The next day we dove our first reef which was Alligator reef. It was a great dive but quite quick because it was a group dive and some sucked through their air tank faster than others. Friday was the first day that two dive-a-day cycle kicked in and we started with a shallow depth at around 25'. This was also the first day we were allowed to dive without our dive master. One of the more memorable days was Saturday when

the seas were slightly rougher and many people on our boat found out that they needed motion sickness pills. It was also our first day with a bunch of new dive masters most memorable being Lindsey with the words of encouragement, "puke and rally boys, just puke and rally". That day we also had two emergency ascends. The first dive, a buddy pair from another troop got too far out for the long-line-of-love (scuba for a rescue rope) to reach them, so all divers were called back to the boat. The second dive, someone surfaced without signaling to the boat that they were alright so the boat put a siren in the water for an immediate ascend. It was a rough day for both the crew and for those that were sea sick, but in all it was an exciting day.

The rest of the week was filled with great dives, filled with great sea creatures. The most memorable were the 9 foot nurse shark, large moray eel, numerous barracuda, and large schools of fish. All of the earlier dives lead up to the night dive on Monday. We left after dinner and headed back to Alligator reef because it was a very diverse reef and it was familiar because we already dove it that week. During the night dive we saw numerous barracuda, a squid, eels, sleeping turtles, and many other cool things that were not there normally during the day. Tuesday we went for a morning dive and then returned back to the harbor. Florida Sea Base was to everyone who went a very memorable and fantastic trip.

Algonquin Adventure

By Tommy Walsh

The Canada trip is one of Troop 78's oldest traditions, where scouts travel up to Algonquin Provincial Park in Ontario Canada for a week of canoeing, five star meals and general Canadian shenanigans. This year the trip was expertly organized by Mr. Siegel. It included Dr. Motel, Mr. Walsh, Nate Motel, Luke Brogan, and myself. This year's Canada trip was probably smaller than most because of the moist conditions of last year, but that did not stop it from being my grand finale of scouting.

We left bright and early on Saturday, August 1st and returned the following Saturday afternoon. The drive up was fun with the Motel's roomy SUV and luxury DVD player. The trip was such a great ending to my career of scouting and my only regret was that I did not take the trip earlier. It blew away every expectation of what I thought the trip would be. Every lake was beautiful, the weather stayed in the mid 70's, and the food was first class. Many of the lakes had clarity and color that resembles the lakes that I experienced on the Troop 78 Switzerland trip and they were absolutely stunning. We bathed in waterfalls, jumped off of 20 foot cliffs, and swam daily.



Tommy, Nate, Luke and Mr. Siegel in camp

The cliff on Greenleaf Lake was phenomenal and the best part of the trip. We then used the opportunity to clean up and combined the arts of bathing and cliff jumping into the ultimate Boy Scout bath (using biodegradable soap of course). Another highlight was the thirty foot waterfall that Nate, Luke and I discovered on the last night. We skillfully climbed down the waterfall and then used the powers of the rapids to thoroughly shampoo and condition our hair.

The Canadian wilderness is truly an untouched gem and it should be a requirement for all scouts to experience this trip. We had great weather this year so the weather of last year's trip was probably due to Billy's bad luck.

Field Day 2k15

By Jay Madarasz

Field Day this year has been quite an achievement for Rattlesnake Patrol and especially memorable for me. For the first time in nearly 20 years, Rattlesnake has claimed itself a highly sought after spot on the troop 78 Field Day trophy. Many of the less thrilling events such as scout's pace and judging took place during Field Day part one. Even though these events aren't very manly, they often provide a leg-up during part two. After the part one events Stag was leading with a score of 11.5 and Snake was not far behind at 10.



The winning patrol

Everyone arrived ready for part two with dreams of victory on their minds. The contest remained tight between Snake and Stag for the remainder of the competition. It eventually came down to the knot relay in which Stag did not place, costing them first place. The final score was Stag 27.5 and Snake 30. Jack Dinsmore and I and all of the scouts in Stag were ecstatic to have won. We ended the day in high spirits enjoying the fantastic picnic put together by all of the families.

Notices of Upcoming Events

Open House in September

The last troop meeting in September, on Friday the 25th, will include an open house for friends and visitors to come to the cabin for an evening of fellowship and visiting.

HEAR YE! HEAR YE!

All scouts: bring your friends to see what scouting Troop 78 style is all about.

Overnight Camping Trip in October

Mark your calendars for the weekend of October 2 to 4! The troop will be venturing to Hickory Run State Park in the Poconos for a fun-filled weekend of camping, a day hike and foliage watching, as summer turns to autumn in Pennsylvania. The park includes the National Landmark Boulder Field, a striking boulder-strewn area which is left over from the last ice-age when the glaciers stopped their advance in Pennsylvania.

Join us for the Annual Family Dinner and Court of Honor

Sunday, October 11 at 3:00 PM we will all gather at the troop cabin for food, fellowship and awards. Please plan to join us to cheer the scouts in their achievements, the numerous merit badges and ranks earned at camp will be presented. We will also recognize and congratulate the Scout-of-the-Year. Please put this important event in your calendar.