



Newsletter

Volume 28 Number 5 January 2012

COMING EVENTS

JANUARY 2012

- 1/3 – Board of Review (7:00 PM) & Troop Committee Mtg.
1/4 – Patrol Leaders Council (7:30 - 8:30 PM)
1/6 - 8 - Winter Camp at Horseshoe
1/12 – *Diamond Rock Roundtable*
1/13 - TROOP MEETING (7 to 9 PM) (Fla. Deposits Due)
1/20 - TROOP MEETING (7 to 9 PM)
1/27 - TROOP MEETING (7 to 9 PM)

FEBRUARY 2012

- 2/1 - Patrol Leaders Council (7:30 PM)
2/3-5 – Matje Winter Olympics Trip
2/6 - *Friends of Troop 78 Board Meeting*
2/7 – Board of Review (7:00 PM) & Troop Committee Mtg.
2/9 – *Council-wide Roundtable*
2/10 - TROOP MEETING (7 to 9 PM)
2/24 - TROOP MEETING (7 to 9 PM)
2/26 - **ANNUAL PARENT'S NIGHT AND COURT OF HONOR: (3PM) – Scout Cabin**

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

NEW DADS NEEDED!

The troop committee meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 3, at 7:30 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.



DON'T BE "LEFT OUT IN THE COLD" FOR WINTER CAMP!

Every year, Mr. D stays up late on the evening that Camp Horseshoe opens up for winter camping reservations. He downs several cups of strong coffee and then waits for the stroke of midnight so that he can register Troop 78 for our annual Winter Camp event. Occasionally, Mr. D will nod off, and when he awakens, the desired date is gone. Not so this year! Though he may have been a little bleary-eyed at work the following morning, Mr. D entered Troop 78's reservations just after midnight and got the slot we desired. Thanks to his good work, the rest of us can mark our calendars for the weekend of January 6 – 8, 2012, and join the troop for a weekend of service, fellowship and fun at Camp Horseshoe.

As usual, we'll be staying in Schramm and Browning lodges. Friday night, we'll welcome alumni, returning college students, current troop members and visiting Webelos with snacks and beverages. After a good night's sleep, Mr. Cady and his Kitchen Krew will feed all 100 or so of us and send us out to cut wood for the entire camp. By the time we're done, we'll have cut, split and stacked close to 12 cords! After lunch, we'll break into groups for training, advancement and Scouting skills instruction. In the late afternoon, first-timers and long-timers can join Scoutmaster Emeritus Ernie Heegard on a walking history tour of Camp Horseshoe. Then, after dinner, we'll break into patrols and compete for bragging rights for the 2012 Scouting year. Who will win – Scouts or adults? Come join in the fun and find out yourself!

Let your patrol leader know by 7:00 PM on January 3rd whether you will be joining us. Please include your father in your report to your patrol leader if Dad's planning to join us. For first-time adults – don't worry about the weather. The cabins have wood-burning stoves, and we'll be nice and warm. Just don't forget your earplugs or the "Cacophony in Snoring Minor" could make for a couple of long nights!

We are looking forward to seeing everyone at Horseshoe for this great Troop 78 tradition. Remember, call your PL by January 3rd. Don't be left out in the cold when it comes to Winter Camp!



MATJE FARM CAMPING TRIP WITH A WEST POINT TROOP

Over the years, Troop 78 has had many great camping trips to the upstate Pennsylvania farm of Mr. Bob Matje Sr. During Mr. Matje's long tenure with the troop, we've skied at Elk Mountain, Sno Mountain and Big Boulder ski resorts while staying at Matje Farm. We've put together our own "Winter Olympiad," practicing snowshoeing and cross-country skiing on Mr. Matje's vast property. We've visited an amazing military museum, right in the heart of the Pocono Mountains. And this year, we'll be doing something we haven't done before: Camping at the farm with a troop from West Point, New York.

Those of you who went with us on the West Point trip in September may remember Lt. Col. Ron Whittle, USAF, who is the Air Force liaison officer at the United States Military Academy. Colonel Whittle visited with us at the Point and took Mr. Matje and Mr. Stevens on an aerial tour of USMA. In addition to his duties on the West Point staff, Colonel Whittle is an ASM of a Boy Scout troop at West Point. We thought it would be fun for the two troops to camp together, and Mr. D and Mr. Matje extended the invitation to Colonel Whittle and his troop. They have accepted and are looking forward to camping with us at Matje Farm on February 3-5, 2012.

In early January 2012, the youth leadership of the two troops will participate in a conference call to plan the events for the trip. Early indications are that, weather permitting, these leaders will put together a slate of competitive events based on snow sports. For instance, we may have a biathlon, comprised of cross-country skiing and target shooting with pellet and BB guns. There may be a Klondike first aid competition and a snowshoe relay. You may get to try your skills at building fires in the cold, using a variety of fire-making techniques. And of course, the trip will include all the hallmarks of a visit to Matje Farm, including the famous "Matje Welcoming Speech," sleeping out in Mr. Matje's nearly 200 year old barn, and a Sunday morning hike on the property.

As usual, dads are welcome to join us, too. Unfortunately, we will have to limit the number of adult participants, because the adults stay in the farmhouse, and of course our visiting troop will have adult leaders with them as well. Uniformed leaders and CDL bus drivers will get priority for this trip. Still, if you're interested in coming, please let Jim Bennett know and we'll let you know if we have room for you as quickly as we can. If you're willing to pitch a tent and sleep outdoors, we can probably squeeze you in!

This is sure to be a memorable event. Take advantage of this opportunity to participate in a great troop tradition

while getting to know other Scouts through friendly competition. If you've never been to Mr. Matje's farm, you'll see that it is one of the prettiest camp settings available to Troop 78. The farmhouse itself is filled with interesting memorabilia and hunting trophies, while the property is home to coyotes, deer and other wildlife. Come, join in the fun and be a great host to our West Point visitors. The barn provides excellent shelter, and the stories and fun will put the heat in your boots! We'll have a flyer available at Winter Camp and at our first meeting of the year, but mark your calendars now and plan on coming to the February 2012 Matje Farm trip. And be sure to thank Mr. Matje for his generosity when you see him!



**HEADING TO WALT DISNEY
WORLD WITH TROOP 78?
Reserve Your Spot for Spring
Break 2012 – March 30 to April 7**

With a five-day, Park-Hopper ticket, you can visit any of the four theme parks (Magic Kingdom, Disney's Hollywood Studios, Animal Kingdom, and Epcot), and you can use your pass for up to five visits to DisneyQuest and the water parks (Typhoon Lagoon, Blizzard Beach), or just swim and hang out at the Fort Wilderness campground at any time.

The troop committee has determined as eligible, those Scouts who:

- 1) are registered and active in the troop (50% minimum participation),
- 2) attended or worked at summer camp at least one week in 2011,
- 3) are or will be First Class rank by March, and

- 4) 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 total cost including bus transportation, food, camping fees, and a Five-day Park-Hopper Disney pass is expected to be only \$485.00. Money from your Scout camping account may be used for this trip. A \$200 deposit is due by **January 20th**. Note: Although all meals are provided at the campsite, most Scouts bring \$100 to \$150 spending money for food (lunch in the parks), beverages, souvenirs, etc.

Reserve your spot now by sending your deposit of \$200 per person via check **payable to Willistown Troop 78, B.S.A.**, to **Miles Stevens, 1130 Paxson Hollow Rd., Media, PA 19063**, or bring it to a **troop meeting**. You may use your Scout camping account money by calling or e-mailing Joe Cady at (610) 647-4037 jcady@comcast.net

Once you reserve a spot, you will receive further instructions regarding departure times, what to pack, spending money, bus preparation, etc. **We must have at least 20 Scouts and adults to camp at Disney. If we do not have 16 Scouts, we will have to cancel, so talk it up!**

RECENT ADVANCEMENT

Ranks

- Jay Madarasz - Tenderfoot
- Michael Giandonato - Second Class
- Colin Evans - Life
- D.J. Robinson - Silver Palm

Merit Badges

- Chip Lemheney - Lifesaving
- Chris Wang – Pets



**PERSONAL MANAGEMENT
MERIT BADGE**

I am the new Personal Management Merit Badge Counselor. I have

already had several requests from Scouts that would like to earn this merit badge. I will hold the first session for this merit badge at Winter Camp. (Time and location will be given out at camp.) I would like to keep the group to no more than 10 Scouts. Therefore, I will give Life Scouts &/or Scouts 16 or older preference to joining this session at Winter Camp. The Scout will need to e-mail me for a spot at the Winter Camp session. This way he will be able to plan to have everything he needs for the first session or pick another merit badge to work on while he is at camp.

He will need to go to this website to download and print the workbook that he will need for all sessions at this site http://meritbadge.org/wiki/index.php/Personal_Management. The workbook is at 2a. The plan is to go over items 1-4. In order to do this, the Scout should come prepared and have read over all items 1-4c, as well as bring his workbook and a pen. We will also set a date on when the follow-up session will be.

I am not sure how many of you need this merit badge, but I will start a waiting list. This way I will have an idea on how quickly I need to plan on the next group session.

I look forward to working with the each of you on this merit badge.

Mr. Hogan

E-mail: james.hogan@siemens.com

THE CANOE TRIP By Liam Belleville

On Friday, October 7, the Troop left the cabin for our weekend trip canoeing on the Potomac River near Paw Paw, West Virginia. This was my first canoe trip with the troop, so I was a little nervous. We had 17 scouts and 10 dads/leaders with 11 canoes and 4 kayaks. We left the cabin at about 6 PM for the long 5-hour bus ride, and it was pretty slow, at least for me. I started off talking with my patrol while others talked, played cards or lay in the beds. At around 9 PM, most people got tired and bored and started to quiet down and even take some naps.

We arrived at the camp around 11 PM. The campground was right next to the Potomac River. We grabbed our stuff and tents and started to set up our site. We set our tents in 2 rows, and the cook tent was placed in front of the tent rows next to a picnic table. After we were set up, we got cookies and hot chocolate and went to bed. It was after midnight. There were 2 other groups in the camp area, and the people next to our troop were up all night and very loud. Most of the troop tried to get sleep, but it was hard, considering the Scouts in the tent next to us were talking for a couple hours. We were also getting bombarded with walnuts that were falling from the nearby trees.

My patrol had breakfast duty, so we had to wake up at 6:15 AM. No one got much sleep because of all the noise. We had to cook pancakes and bacon for breakfast. Luke and I cooked pancakes while Billy, Dan, Eli and Robert cooked the bacon. We made a lot of pancakes and bacon and every one had seconds. The troop also had to make bagged lunches for the canoe trip. Lunch included PB&J sandwiches, apples, Baby Bell cheese, cliff bars and rice-crispy treats. We then loaded the bus and drove 20 miles up river to our put-in spot. The plan was to head down river back to our campsite.

When we got to the drop-off spot, we quickly unloaded our stuff and all of the canoe and kayaks from the bus and trailer and picked our canoe partners. The Scouts with canoe experience partnered together, and those of us with little or no experience got partnered with adult leaders who knew what they were doing. Since my dad was in one of the kayaks, I needed a partner. Since I was a rookie, I was lucky enough to get partnered with Mr. Stevens, who is one of the most experienced in the troop. We launched the canoes and set out on a nice 5- or 6-hour trip down the Potomac. With all of the recent rain, the current was running pretty good and the paddling was not that difficult.

After about 30 or 45 minutes of not much action, we hit some small and

narrow rapids. Mr. Bilson and Ethan were in the canoe in front of us, and they ended up getting stuck between a tree that was downed in the river and an island. Mr. Stevens and I tried to get around them, but we were unsuccessful. While trying to avoid them, we took a dump. This was my first canoe trip, and in less than one hour, I was swimming. Fortunately, my life vest did its job. The river was very shallow and not all that fast, so we were able to walk/swim to the side of the island. Several other canoes and kayaks came to our aid and we had lots of help.

The air temperature was not bad, but the water was cold; so I had to get out of my wet clothes. Mr. Bravo made me do jumping jacks to keep warm before I changed into a set of dry clothes. We got everything back in the canoe and started off again.

The rest of the trip was less exciting after that. We stopped for lunch after about 10 miles and had a stone-skipping contest. While we were stopped for lunch, Mr. Bravo asked me what the most important part of our dump was and I said I did not know. He said, "The bum wad did not get wet."

We continued down the river after lunch for the second half of trip. The river was slower and we had to paddle more, but we had no more big adventures. We arrived back at our campsite around 4 PM. The take out area had a pretty big, muddy hill to climb up with our equipment and canoes, but we made it. We cleaned everything and loaded the canoes back on the bus.

We still had some time before dinner, so we decided to do a short 1-mile hike to Paw Paw Tunnel. The Paw Paw Tunnel is part of the old canal path through the mountain. The tunnel was very long, dark and kind of scary. Mr. Bravo tried to scare some of us by saying stuff that might happen. But we made it through the tunnel, took some pictures on the other side and turned around and hiked back to camp.

That night we had really good chicken tacos for dinner. Everyone had at

least three helpings. We built a campfire and had cookies and hot chocolate. Since we had a late night Friday and a long day on the river, everyone went to bed early. We got up Sunday morning, had breakfast, tore down camp and packed up the bus in not much more than an hour. We headed out for the long ride home. Everyone was kind of quiet on the bus ride, mostly playing cards or napping. We stopped for lunch at a rest stop, where almost everyone got pizza. We finished the ride home. Everything was really wet, because it was so damp when we packed up; so we had to unpack everything and hang up the tents to dry. We put away the rest of the gear and the canoes.

When my mom, who had been a little worried about my first canoe trip, picked me up, she asked me, "Did you fall in?" I said that didn't matter, because at least the bumwad did not get wet.



Thanks to everyone for making the holiday sales so strong and December our highest month as always. This year, there were 580 cards ordered which had a face value of just over \$22,000. This brought in a profit to us of just under \$1,200.

Remember, stock cards can be purchased at troop meetings. Stock cards that are available are ACME, Giant and Wawa. If there are other retailers that several of you would use on a regular basis, let us know and we can look into stocking those cards, too.

We will be placing our next order on Sunday, January 8th, for those non-stocked cards. This is Winter Camp Weekend, and I will have stocked cards available during the weekend. Cards will be in the following Friday, January 13th, at the troop meeting.

Thanks for your support and we wish everyone a happy, healthy, and strong Scrip sale in 2012,

Sincerely,
Jim and Claire Hogan
Troop 78 Scrip Coordinators
610-644-8835
james.hogan@siemens.com



Newsletter

Willistown Troop 78
Chester County Council, B.S.A.
Steve D'Antonio, Scoutmaster
Barry Evans, Editor
Email: newsletter@willistown78.org
Cabin: 610 644 8702