



Willistown Troop 78

Website: www.tr78.org

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February 2024

Volume 40 Number 6

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- 5 Monday Friends of Troop 78 7PM, cabin
- 6 Tuesday Board of Review 7PM, Troop Comm Mtg. 7:30PM
- 7 Wednesday Patrol Leaders' Council 7:00 -8:00 PM
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- 23 Friday Troop Meeting 7PM

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

Winter Weekend at Camp Horseshoe!

Friday January 5 - Sunday January 7, 2024

By Caleb Fulmer

On a cool Friday evening a full bus of scouts and adults headed down to Camp Horseshoe for our annual Troop 78 winter camp at Browning Lodge. After a one hour bus ride, we arrived at camp. Everyone quickly rushed to secure a bunk on the upper level of the Browning Lodge. We had a snack of chili and cookies and then went to bed for the night.

The next morning we woke up to the sound of sizzling sausages as breakfast was being prepared. Once everyone was up and ready for the day we had a breakfast of sausage, pancakes, and assorted cereals. Then each patrol received scavenger hunt Part One to work on before siesta that day. After breakfast, the troop headed down by the Camp Horseshoe pool to do our annual wood chopping service project for the camp.



This project took up all morning and it snowed while we chopped and stacked the wood. By the end of a hard morning we had chopped up about 6 truck loads of wood. We returned to Browning for the traditional Saturday lunch of grilled cheese and tomato soup. During siesta after lunch the troop handed in scavenger hunt Part One. Then we all received scavenger hunt Part Two to work on and turn in before snack that night.

After siesta, the troop had two advancement periods, the first period was all about merit badges. Some of these merit badges included Pioneering, First Aid, and Citizenship in the Community. Then the second advancement period was either rifle, the camp tour, or just a free period, as it was very gloomy



that afternoon as the snow from that morning had turned into heavy rainfall, advancement period two was not heavily attended. Then after this we had two hours before dinner, so this time was occupied by completing scavenger hunt Part Two.



Then we had a dinner of pasta and meatballs with dinner rolls. After dinner we had the Camp Horseshoe winter games where each patrol went around Browning, Kindness, and Schramm Lodges doing different activities to earn their patrol points to be added up at the end of the weekend. Some of these fun events were three man ski, saw-drill-drop, kim's game, and trivia. After these events, we all headed back to

Browning to have a snack and watch a movie. Before the movie, everyone handed in their scavenger hunt Part Two sheets. The movie that was picked was *Cars* and we had a snack of cookies and popcorn. After the movie we went to bed after a long day.

The following morning we all got up and packed up all of our gear so that we were ready for departure later that morning. Then each

patrol got a cleaning job to complete before we could depart. Once all of the cleaning tasks were complete we went outside for our picture and to hear who had won the weekend competition. Flying Eagle Patrol ended up winning the competition and we all got a cool patch to remember the weekend. Then we headed onto the bus for the ride back to the cabin after a long and exciting weekend of winter fun.



Pine Wood Derby Workshop

Saturday January 13, 2024

By Nic Opielski

On Saturday January 13th, the Scouts of Troop 78 awoke bright and early for an 8:00 AM curtain call at the cabin. They had a long day of designing, cutting, and building pinewood derby cars for an army of Cubs. Scouts mentally prepared themselves for a very hard but fun day of work. The promise of doughnuts and pizza made it much easier to start the day. The first Cubs started arriving around 9:00, where they were paired with an older Scout to assist them in building their cars.



The workshop started with a short instructional video. This provided the Cubs with crucial information about potential and kinetic energy while also engaging the Scouts and making it fun. It also provided all of the basic knowledge required to build a pinewood derby champion. The next stage involved the design process of their cars. While some Cubs came prepared with a design or theme, others needed some prompting before settling on a design. After landing on their design, older Cubs were shown how to use hand tools and saws to cut out their cars while younger Cubs were brought to the bandsaw manned by Mr. Duff to make the cutting process easier. This was only the first stage of building the cars. Troop 78 Scouts then helped them sand their axles to reduce friction. After the lengthy process of sanding the wheels, they helped the Cubs to add weight to their cars. We did this in a variety of ways such as drilling, shaving, and cutting weights. After preparing them with everything they needed to build their cars, we sent them home to paint and assemble.

We had amazing attendance from both our volunteers and Cubs. This gave us an extremely busy schedule for most of the day. However, Scouts also found the time to build their own cars and hold their own small pinewood derby. This has been a tradition of the Scouts since the inception of the workshop. Overall, it was an amazing day for both volunteers and Cubs.



A Big Thank You!

Thank you to Shreiner Tree Care for removing four large diseased Ash trees at the lower end of the Cabin property next to the power lines, at no charge to the troop. Owner Steve Shreiner is an Eagle Scout himself who grew up in Havertown. Here he is pictured with Bill Trowill at the cabin.



In Memoriam: Remembrance

Bennett Roderick Krusen

– Former Troop 78 Member

In late October of 2023, our community was saddened to learn of the passing of Bennett Roderick Krusen at the age of 15. Bennett joined Troop 78 after crossing over from Pack 151 at their Blue and Gold ceremony on Saturday, 2 March 2019 at the Advent Lutheran Church. He was an active member of our Troop for two years until deciding to pursue other activities due to the pandemic and changing personal priorities.

During his time with the troop, Bennett gained a reputation for being a boy who loved the outdoors, insects, plants, gadgets, and anything technological or scientific. Ben could hyper-focus on details which led him to marvel at things in nature that others overlooked such as a salamander sunning itself on a rock. Bennett was able to capture a turtle at summer camp which he proudly submitted as a troop entry for the Turtle Derby.

Bennett had a sharp mind, and a strong will, and was never shy to speak up. Upon arriving at summer camp for the first time, he stated that he did not want to take a cold outdoor shower, which was required to enter the pool for the swim test. However, the next time at camp, he lead the troop to the pool and was at the head of the line for the pool shower. Bennett really came into his own in many ways in his brief and all too short two years with the troop.

Bennett selected Troop 78 because he loved to go camping due to his enthusiasm and love of nature. He rarely, if ever, missed a trip. He went on the challenging trips even though he knew the events would push him out of his comfort zone. His admiration of nature and the outdoors seemed to outweigh his discomfort on many outings, even if sometimes by only a little bit. His favorite trip was the Beach Trip where after a day of fun on the beach, he procured a laser pointer from the local Boardwalk which seemed powerful enough to burn his name onto the passenger planes passing overhead. He was kind enough to stop that experiment when asked. While he could be a selective eater when assessing food on camping trips, he enjoyed some meals with significant enthusiasm and was happy to give details on why it was excellent.

Bennett's time with our Troop, like his life, was too brief. He will be remembered by the boys and adult leaders of the Troop as a very enthusiastic and passionate scout, persevering in both activities that were his favorite and those that challenged him and were still important to do.

In addition to his parents, Sheila Krusen and Craig Krusen, Bennett Roderick Krusen was survived by his brother, Carter David Krusen; his maternal grandfather, L. Richard Brown; his paternal grandmother, Linda M. Krusen; his aunt, Nancy Wick (Bobby); his uncles, Jason Krusen (Julie), Scott Brown (Heidi), David Brown (Kate), and Tim Brown (Julie); and twelve loving cousins. He was predeceased by his maternal grandmother, Sandra L. Brown, and his paternal grandfather, A. Larry Krusen, and his uncle, Brian R. Krusen.

His parents would like to help other families who are faced with the unimaginable task of burying a child. Final Farewell and The "J" Foundation made donations to cover all of Bennett's funeral expenses. Please help us pay it forward to other families experiencing this unfathomable pain.

Final Farewell, 201 York Rd, Suite 1 #403, Jenkintown, PA 19046, <https://www.finalfarewell.org/donate> or to The "J" Foundation, Inc, P.O. Box 141, Thorton, PA 19373, <https://www.jfoundationinc.org>



Upcoming Events

Council First Aid Meet

Saturday February 3, 2024, gather at the cabin at 7:15AM

The troops in the Council will gather again on a Saturday in February for the annual First Aid Meet. Patrols will complete in first aid skill demonstrations. There will be two levels of competition, Band-Aid for those who want to learn (beginner) and Blood and Guts for those who want to challenge themselves (advanced).

[Click here for more information.](#)



Super Bowl Breakfast

Sunday February 11, 2024

Enjoy a wonderful home-cooked breakfast with your family and the company of others in the troop cabin.

This "super" tradition of eating breakfast with your family on Super Bowl Sunday at the cabin will take place on Feb 11th, 8-11am.

We are asking everyone to sign up in advance for a specific time slot.

You can pick a breakfast reservation time and the number of people in your party on the Troop website.

We are looking forward to seeing you!

[Sign up](#) for our annual Super Bowl Breakfast here. Or scan here to sign up!

[Click here for more information.](#)



Matje Farm Weekend

Friday February 16 - Sunday February 18, 2024

We are planning again for the Winter Olympics at Matje Farm!

The troop gathers at this wonderful 125 acre property of longtime troop



alum Mr. Matje. At the farm, the scouts sleep in a large barn and the leaders sleep indoors in bunk rooms. We will cook meals as a troop and during the day will compete in various “Olympic” events. It will be a great weekend of fun, food and fellowship!

[Click here for more information.](#)



Radnor Races 2024

Saturday May 18 and Sunday 19, 2024

SAVE the DATE

Radnor Hunt Races - May 18 & 19, 2024

PLEASE, go on over to that new calendar and block out the third weekend in May to help Troop 78 at this years edition of the Radnor Hunt Races.

Expect a beautiful time in the Chester County countryside, as the Troop spends another weekend at the Races.

Planning is already well under way to make this an Event to remember.

On Saturday, May 18 & Sunday May 19 we need your help as Troop 78 does its annual Radnor thing.

Please plan on being there!



CPR Training!

Tuesday April 30, 2024

Anthony Wiencek from **Emergency Training Partners** is coming to give us a CPR class. Training will be held at the Cabin on the night of Tuesday April 30, cost ~ \$50.

CPR training is highly suggested for all adult Scouters and needs to be renewed every 2 years. If interested, please contact Ted Diederich at ted.diederich@gmail.com



Vermont Ski Weekend!

Coming in March: Vermont Ski Trip

Friday March 8 - Sunday March 10, 2024

Remember to mark your calendars for the Troop Ski Trip to Vermont, March 8 – 10, 2024. Details will be provided in a handout to be distributed at an upcoming Troop meeting. We'll stay at the Woodbridge Lodge in Dover, Vermont, about 2 miles away from Mount Snow. We will ski or board for a full day on Saturday and half-day on Sunday at Mount Snow. Lessons will be available on Saturday for first-time skiers if we have at least two youth signed up for lessons. All skiers and boarders **MUST** bring equipment on the trip, including helmets. **NO RENTALS AT THE MOUNTAIN!**

This is a great trip and we hope you'll join us. Dads who ski or board are welcome to join us and encouraged to join us. Stay tuned for the details!

Fundraising

Personalized Brick at the Cabin Walkway

The cabin entrance has a beautiful walkway with names of scouts, scouters and friends, both past and present, engraved into the brick pavers. Please consider adding your name or the name of a friend or family member to a brick in the walkway.

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.

[Click here for more information.](#)



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

Alumni Corner

**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

Troop 78 Alums!

Follow Troop 78 on social media!
Stay tuned for upcoming alumni

events.

Chester County Council News

Gala! Night of Stars

Thursday March 21, 2024

Chester County Historical Society

Once again, this spring, we will be hosting our **Annual Gala & Auction**. This year's theme is A Night of Stars. This in-person event, celebrating the stars of scouting, will take place on Thursday, March 21st, 2024 at the Chester County Historical Society to raise funds for all of our scouting programs. We will be awarding several special honors that evening.

The **Distinguished Citizen Award**, which honors an individual who shares Scouting's belief in leadership, determination, and values, and have contributed significantly to the growth and vitality of our community. This award will go to Richard (Dick) Kunsch Sr., retired longtime president and CEO of Phoenixville Federal Bank & Trust. Past recipients of the Distinguished Citizen Award have included our very own Joe Rubino and Ernie Heegard.

The **Lifetime Service Award** will be given to Delores Hagerstrom, she served in many positions for Chester County Council including as Council President. She was the first woman to serve as a Council President in the entire United States.

This event is open all members of the community and all are welcome.

[Click here for more information.](#)

Council Training Palooza

Saturday March 16, 2024

Camp Ware

Chester County Council will host a day of training for adults and for youth on Saturday March 16 at Camp Ware.

For adults there will be Wilderness First Aid, Chainsaw Safety, CPR, Mental Health First Aid for Youth, and many more.

For youth there will be ILST (Introduction to Leadership Skills for Troops). This is a prerequisite requirement before taking NYLT (National Youth Leadership Training).

[Click here for more information.](#)

Order of the Arrow Octoraro Lodge 22



2024 Annual Lodge Banquet Sunday March 3, 2024

The Annual Lodge Banquet and Recognition Dinner will be held **Sunday March 3, 2024** at the Red Clay Room in Kennett Square from 4 PM - 8 PM. The annual banquet is a time to reflect on the previous year, get excited for the year ahead, have some great food, commiserate with Octoraro 22 Brothers, and honor those who have served their lodge. In addition to a keynote speaker, we will have door prizes, a silent auction (see below for more information), and the presentation of awards including the Vigil Honor call-out ceremony.

You can register for the banquet two different ways:

- 1) as an individual event
- 2) or as part of **Pay to Play** which registers you for the 3 service weekends (in April, June, and September) and the banquet (and allows you to save some money).

Registration for the banquet and Pay-to-Play closes on February 17th, so make sure you register before the deadline!

[Click here for more information and to register.](#)

Dues for 2024

If you did not pay the “early bird” dues earlier this fall, regular 2024 dues are now due. Information for payment is on the Lodge Website (<https://scoutingevent.com/539-lodgedues2024>). Payment of your dues are very important for rechartering and performing the many service projects and events, such as the Cub Scout Camporee. The Lodge also owes fees to national when it recharterers. Thank you for your support!

NOAC 2024

July 29 to August 3, 2024!

The National Order of the Arrow Conference (NOAC) is the premier event of the Order of the Arrow and is Scouting's second-largest national event. Arrowmen from across our nation gather for an inspirational and unforgettable experience full of fellowship, training, adventure, and fun!

Location: University of Colorado Boulder

<https://scoutingevent.com/539-77690>

[Click here for the National Order of the Arrow Newsletter.](#)

Please feel free to forward and/or print this Newsletter for all of your family and friends to see!