



Willistown Troop 78

Website: www.tr78.org
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Volume 33 Number 1
September 2016

Upcoming Events

September

Tuesday 6
Board of Review 7:00 PM
Troop Committee 7:30 PM

Wednesday 7
Patrol Leader's Council 7:30

Friday 9
Troop Meeting 7 PM

Monday 12
Friends of Troop 78

Friday 16 – Sunday 18
Beach Trip: friends and
Webelos invited

Friday 23 – Sunday 25
Order of the Arrow weekend
Members and candidates
only

Saturday 24
Main Line Animal Rescue
Parking 4 PM – 7 PM
Volunteers needed

Friday 30
Troop Meeting 7 PM

Please note: there are no
troop meetings September
2nd, 16th or 23rd

October

Sunday 9
Annual Troop Family Dinner
and Court of Honor 3 PM
Troop Cabin

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

KANDERSTEG 2016!

Troop 78 ventured to Switzerland with 22 scouts and 15 leaders July 23 to August 6 for a two week stay at the Kandersteg International Scout Centre (KISC) and daily adventures in the Swiss Alps. The article that follows is a day-by-day log of the trip.

This section of the log by Luke Brogan

Sunday July 24: Arrival

The troop arrived at the Zurich airport around 8am Swiss time. Unfortunately, most of the scouts didn't get nearly enough sleep, if any, on the overnight flight and were exhausted. After a little chaos getting used to the trains, we arrived at Kandersteg International Scout Centre. We then got arranged into our rooms for the next two weeks. Twelve of the older scouts took the Dutch Room, 8 younger scouts took the Italian Room in the main lodge. The rest took rooms in the new lodge. Soon it was time for dinner. We ate at the outdoor BBQ and started to make friends from different countries. Some fun memories of the night were a dance party featuring songs made 5 years ago, Seth playing the piano, and a scout dog pile. Before going to bed, we had a group meeting to plan for the next day.



Kandersteg Lodge



Ready for dinner

Outdoor barbeque

[Click here for more pictures and video](#)



Hike to the Hornlihutte: Matterhorn base camp

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Monday July 25: Rodelbahn

We woke up at 8 and had a hearty breakfast. After breakfast was all cleaned up, we walked through town and went to the gondola. The gondola took us up to the Rodelbahn (alpine slide), where each person was able to ride it 10 times!! After lots of fun, we took a quick hike to Oeschinensee Lake for a cold swim. We were then able to go back to the Rodelbahn or hike back to KISC, as we only had a one-way gondola ride. Back at KISC we had dinner and then hung out for the rest of the night.

[Click here for video](#)



Rodelbahn (Alpine Slide)

Tuesday July 26: Trummelbach Falls

We all had to wake up at the ungodly hour of 5:40 so we could make our train to Trummelbach falls. This is the only place in Europe where there are waterfalls inside a mountain. The caves that we walked through were carved out by the mist of the waterfalls, making for an excellent tour. After lunch, we went to Thun, where we split up and had free reign of the town. Some great things to do were to see the castle, see the old neighborhood, and catch some ice cream. We then took a boat ride on Lake Thun to Spiez, where we were able to admire the beautiful lake, and then take a train back to KISC. After dinner, we had a group meeting and then hit the sack.

[Click here for video](#)

This section of the log by AJ Stacey

Wednesday July 27: Jungfrau

Again we had to wake up at 5:40 to take a train and gondola to Jungfrau (elevation 13,642 ft). There, we could tour the ice caves, visit the Lindt chocolate shop, zip line into a snow mound, and go snow tubing/ snowboarding. We then hiked down a portion of the Eiger Trail to a train station on the mountain. We regrouped at the end of the trail and got some drinks. We arrived back at KISC at 20:00 for a special dinner of burgers and french fries (“chips”) at McDoris’ at 21:00. Unfortunately for McDoris my table cleared her out of chips after we devoured 11 platters.

[Click here for video](#)

Thursday July 28: Swim, Zip Line, Climb

We had our first day where we could choose what we wanted to do. We could either go to the Brigerbad Pools or we could do the Adelboden Adventure Challenge. Most of the older scouts opted for the adventure challenge which was a two-part day. In the morning, we went to a zip lining course where we were able to ride about 20 lines total. The course was along the hills on either side of a river. Everyone harnessed onto a steel cable and we zipped back and forth across the river at various levels. At the end of the zip lining course, we went on a high ropes like course, walking along a steel cable. Then the braver scouts and adults had the choice of jumping off a bridge, a feat very few people can say they have done. Harnessed into drop-line, you jumped off the side of a bridge over the river and the pulley system lowered you to the ground. In the afternoon, the adventure continued with a unique hike called the Via Ferrata which translates to “by the iron path”. This meant we were hiking while clipped onto a steel cable because the terrain was so steep and dangerous. The trail we

hiked up was along the side of a mountain leading to a beautiful waterfall. Once at the top, our guides pointed out a book in which everyone who completed the hike could sign their names. We then hiked down a standard trail because going down along the cable would be too dangerous.

[Click here for video](#)



Hiking "via ferrata"

Friday July 29: Zermatt

We embarked to Zermatt for the Matterhorn. There were two options today. The first was the glacier paradise which had snow tubing and other fun activities or a hike to the base camp of the Matterhorn: the Hörnlihütte (10,700 ft). The Hörnlihütte hike was a difficult hike, rated by KISC as a four on a scale of five. Going up to the hut, we started at approximately 8000 feet above sea level. It was a 2.5 mile hike with an elevation increase of about 2700 feet, basically taking stairs cut into the rock to the top. Although it was a challenging hike, it was rewarding when we reached the base camp because the view was spectacular.



At the Hornlihutte

We stayed at the top for about 45 minutes before our decent. It was estimated to be a five hour hike which created a small transportation issue for the hikers. We started the hike at 12:30 but need to catch a 4:15 train which the glacier paradise group was able to accomplish. Assuming we'd miss the 4:15, we took our time with the hike and tried making the 5:15 train instead. We arrived at the train station at 5:17 just missing this train. To pass the time until the 6:15 train, we ate dinner at an Italian restaurant and ordered around 15 pizzas. Close to 6:00 we noticed a hoard of people outside the train station and dozens of taxis being loaded. By our luck something went wrong with trains and they were taxi-ing people to a train station past the issue. So we got in the taxi line and simultaneously a train pulled into the station. We sprinted to the train doors leaving behind two adults in line because it was yet to be determined if the trains were actually running. It turns out, the trains were running, so all the people in line for a taxi sprinted to the train. Because we were first in line to the train, we managed to all get seats and arrived in Brig at 8:30 pm to change trains to Kandersteg. The next train to KISC was at 10:07, so for the next hour and half we went into the town where they were having a local music festival and we ate gelato sitting on steps listening to the music. We got back to KISC around 11:20 pm exhausted.



Waiting for the next train back to KISC

Saturday July 30: Stresa, Italy

We had a short night's rest because the next day we had an early morning wake-up for a trip to Stresa, Italy. Early Saturday morning we took an overbooked train to Stresa on Lake Maggiore in northern Italy. One of the hottest days so far, we walked from the train station to piers where water taxis were docked. We took a short boat ride to an island mansion called Isola Bella. We toured through the mansion and beautiful gardens most of the morning. Once finished with the tour, the island had shops and restaurants where you could buy souvenirs and get lunch. After lunch, we then left the island at 12:30 to head back to KISC. Once back, we had free time until dinner at the Reudihus. The Reudihus is a local restaurant in Kandersteg known for its fondue and raclette. The cheese used is made locally. Raclette is melted cheese, potatoes, onions, pickles and bread. The food was all-you-can-eat, so we all ate until we were stuffed.

[Click here for video](#)



Gelato in Stresa Italy



Reudihus fondue and raclette

This section of the log by Jay Madarasz

Sunday July 31: Canyoning

We got up bright and early excited to go canyoning. Up until we arrived at the canyon none of us really knew what we were getting into, all we knew is that we needed to bring a bathing suit. We met our guides at the train station and we took a short van ride to the building where we would pick up our wetsuits and split up into advanced, and intermediate canyoning groups. After a long windy van ride we arrived at the canyon that we would be rappelling into (or in Mr. Palmer's case falling into). Before any of us could get into the icy river we had to put on the smelly damp wetsuits and a harness so we could safely navigate the canyon. Then, we lined up along the guardrail to rappel down the 150 foot cliff face into the canyon. Everything was going smoothly until the guide had some fun with Mr. Palmer by dropping him down the cliff a foot or two, just enough to make him flip upside down on the rope (no one was hurt). Once everyone made their way down into the canyon, we began our long trip down through. If anyone was feeling sleepy after the long drive they were certainly awake after jumping into the icy cold pools at the base of the waterfalls. We made it through the canyon in about an hour, after going off about 20 waterfalls of various shapes and sizes. We were gladly met at the base of the canyon by our warm towels and an awesome lunch provided by the guides. After packing up all of our gear we headed back to camp and took the rest of the day off with no activities other than the barbeque for dinner.

[Click here for video](#)



Ready for canyoning

Monday August 1: Swiss Day

Finally, the break we had all been waiting for, Swiss Day. For the first time in what seemed like forever, we got to sleep in. Every other morning we had been long gone before breakfast had even started cooking in the dining hall, so this was also our first time having a hot breakfast. About an hour after breakfast we met at the soccer field for a brief introduction to all the activities for the day, and then we separated to the many different stations. The 78 favorite was a KISC brand that we quickly stamped on all of our leather belongings. Of course the moment Luke attempted to brand his belt he grabbed the hot part of the brand and ended up scorching his thumb and pointer finger. Eventually he got some first aid in the form of two cut off rubber glove fingers to protect his burns. After a tasty barbeque we made our way back to the soccer field to begin the parade through town. With everyone in class A, we join some of our friends from Texas in singing songs like Titanic. Before we knew it we were beginning our long walk through town. We sang and cheered the whole time despite the fact that we were quite raspy by the end of it. Many of the people who lived in the town came out to watch the ending ceremony and the great fireworks afterward. We sleepily made our way home, eardrums still ringing from all of the loud bangs. Once we finally made it back we all tried to get to bed early so we would be well rested for the long days we still had ahead of us.



Swiss Day

Tuesday August 2: Snow and Ice (day 1)

As per usual, we woke up early and made sure that we had everything packed we would need over the next two days. We packed two lunches, one for the climb up, and one for the climb down. We were all excited for the long awaited Snow and Ice overnight ahead of us. After a brief introduction with our guides we made our way to the bus station. Thankfully, all of us fit on the already crowded bus although it was quite packed. During the brief ride to the cable car I managed to loop a safety belt around AJ's legs and secure him to the inside of the bus. When it was time to exit the bus AJ panicked and couldn't escape and was stuck on the bus frantically asking for help. We eventually freed him before the bus pulled away. After a short hike past the rodelbahn (alpine slide) to the glacial lake we swam in earlier in the week, we filled our water bottles and began the ascent up the mountain. It took us about 3 1/2 hours to climb the 153 switchbacks, and trust me, we counted. We were given a quick break up at the hut, about 45 minutes later we began suiting up for a day of ice climbing on the glacier. After fitting crampons on our boots and grabbing ice axes we approached the glacier. At the base of the glacier we roped into each other in case one of us fell into a crevasse. We trudged in lines of six up the ice doing our best not to slip all the way back down to the bottom. As soon as we reached solid ice we un-roped while the guides set up ice belays. Once the belays were set up, we were instructed on how to use climbing axes and then allowed to climb up the giant chunk of ice one by one.



Snow and ice belay team



Ice climbing

It was a lot of fun and everyone got to make it to the top at least once. We were glad to head back down to the Frundenhutte for dinner. It was delicious, especially by the standards of what we had been eating. After a few games of cards, we all went to bed excited for the next day.

Wednesday August 3: Snow and Ice (day 2)

The next day, we had a nice relaxed morning, waking up at 7:00 for a quick breakfast before we headed back out to the glacier to do some rappelling into a crevasse. We gathered our gear from the day before and prepared for the long walk up to the top of the glacier. After roping in we took the same path up as before and arrived at the top without a hitch. Our guides showed us how to make various ice anchors and prepared the rope to lower people into the 60-foot crack in the ice looming before us. I went in at the same time as Nathan and it was really cool down there, literally. You are surrounded in 360 by blue glacial ice with only a small crack of sunlight up at the top. Icicles hung around everywhere and no matter how you moved there was always water dripping on your head from somewhere. The whole point of the activity was to demonstrate different types of ice rescues, so everyone on the surface had to

haul the participants 30 ft back up to the surface. As soon as everyone had descended into the crevasse we quickly headed back down the mountain to the warm hut. The wind had picked up on the ice and it was freezing. Thankfully, by the time we had to leave it had warmed up and we could comfortably hike back down in shorts. In fact, we were so warm that by the time we had reached the bottom we had decided to take a dip in the glacial lake. We all had a spare set of clothes so we just jumped into the icy water and changed after. We had a relaxing rest of the day just hanging out in town and going to the scout disco later that evening.

This section of the log by Seth Fox

Thursday August 4: Chocolate and Cheese



Castle in Gruyere

On Thursday of the second week of our fantastic trip in Switzerland we visited a cheese factory and a chocolate factory in Gruyere. The cheese factory tour included information about the history and the cheese making machinery. The tour was a little different than I expected. We each were handed a phone to listen to Molly talk about how the cheese is made. You might think Molly is a human, that's what I thought. But, actually I was listening to a talking cow who informed me that "cow magic" is how the cheese was made, well at least according to Molly. I learned that the factory has a big giant

mixing bowl where the milk is poured along with other ingredients to make the cheese. After a series of steps, the cheese will ferment for a period of time. After the tour, we tried the different completed cheese products. I noticed that the cheese tasted better the longer it was fermented because it had more flavor.



Chocolate shop

In the chocolate factory, we entered an elevator that took us to the bottom floor where information was given on the history of chocolate making. A room decorated jungle style had a narrator that explained that chocolate comes from cocoa beans. We then walked into different rooms and learned the history of how chocolate became popular. The exhibits also showed the machines, and we watched how chocolate is made in the factory. At the end we got to feel, smell, and taste the different nuts (such as almonds and hazelnuts), cocoa bean, and different types of chocolate bars. It was a very crunchy and yummy experience.

Friday August 5: Rafting

Friday the group went white water rafting. I usually love it when it rains because it makes the river go faster. Sadly, the rain caused the cancellation of the advanced rafting because the river was too dangerously fast. So I decided to go on the easy rafting because I would rather do the easy rafting than no rafting at all. Actually, the easy rafting had turned into more advanced rafting due to the rain. We did a lot of spins and went over rocks and big waves. My brother got splashed more than I did because he

was in the front. We ended up with our friends from Yorkshire, UK in the other rafts. At the end we loaded the rafts into the trailer and headed to the changing rooms. We had to wait a few minutes for our change of clothes because the truck was running a little late. That night, all the troops at camp attended the closing campfire where each troop either sang a song or did a skit. Everyone loved watching Ethan and Andrew do the Time Machine skit. Every time Andrew picked up soda, all the scouts got excited and shouted, “Chug! Chug! Chug!”

[Click here for video](#)

Saturday August 6: Homeward Bound

Early Saturday morning, at 4 a.m., we got up for our trip home. I knew I was going to miss Switzerland; the fresh air, the fresh water, and the beautiful view of the mountains. When we got to the airport we loaded our luggage and got ready to get on the plane. On our way to the plane the whole troop was in a hurry to catch the airport monorail shuttle. The shuttle announced, “Please stand clear of the door.” So, we all made it in at the last second since not much warning was provided. I mean 99% of Troop 78 made it in at the last second. Ricky was trapped outside. To be honest, if you were in Ricky’s situation, this story would be scary and funny at the same time; the airport monorail left leaving poor Ricky behind.

Is this the end of Rickey?

Will he be stuck in Europe forever?

Will we ever see him again?

I’m just kidding. We went back and got him. We eventually got on the plane and left for home. Switzerland will be a trip that I will never forget.



Horseshoe Summer Camp!

By Jack Dinsmore



The scouts of Troop 78 arrived in Dan Beard campsite promptly at 12:30 to begin an exciting week at Camp Horseshoe. The week started with a new site guide named Evan Gutherman. He gave us a tour around camp which was interesting to some and all too familiar to others. After the tour and our swim test, which was conducted by 78 camp staff members, we all headed back to Dan Beard to finish setting up our patrol sites. The rest of Sunday was spent relaxing until it was time for marching. This year we had no one returning to camp who had experience calling marching, so to say the least it was a difficult week as far as marching went. Although it was a rocky start 78 still won marching for the week. Sunday night was the official start of camp program. The Sunday night campfire consisted of many funny skits run completely by camp staff. Some of the most memorable skits were Time Machine, Toilet Paper, and an overwhelming favorite of the Spit Take skit.

The next morning we were up and starting our normal daily routines at 7am like we would do for the rest of the week. Monday had an extra special breakfast because at the very end all the staff members

did their staff intros in which they all introduced themselves in a themed and comedic sort of way. The rest of the day would involve 4 merit badges sessions with lunch in the middle and a siesta following lunch. After merit badges we went to a special interest program (SIP) at any of the departments. At SIP you would play games, make new things, or learn a new skill. Before dinner every day we would have a retreat ceremony in which every troop marched around the parade field to honor the flag. Marching would also be judged by staff members as a competition between the troops. Unlike most years, we were not always the clear best which only made it that much more exciting. After dinner on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday there was a camp-run game. On Monday the game was a scavenger hunt where each troop competed to find the most objects and challenges on the list. Wednesday game was a station game in which each patrol competed separately to complete all the stations at the many different program areas. The final game of the week was a staff hunt. Each staff member had "quit in protest" and it was the job for the campers to hunt them down and bring them to Will Stevens, the Program Director.

The last full day of the first week at camp was Saturday which is on a very different schedule than the rest of the week. On Saturday the only program for the day is the Paul Bunyan Field Day which starts at 2pm. Up until Pbfd, the troop went through our normal procedure of going through the Board of Reviews for each of our merit badges and ranks. After Board of Reviews, we all arrived at Campcraft for Pbfd. Paul Bunyan Field Day is a competition of many different scout skills such as: 9 knot relay, heaving bar, tug of war, two man saw, giant clove hitch, and string burning. Troop 78 has a history of winning this competition for

the past 31 years and this year was no exception, even with our shaky start. Competition was tough this year with Devon 50 placing in many early events. After Paul Bunyan the troop returned to Dan Beard to get into our very best Class A with OA sashes and all to practice for the last retreat of the week which also decided the winner of the week. Last program for the week was the traditional Saturday night campfire at Achgekatum fire circle. As normal the troop got its standard troop award. They always save the best for last and congratulations to Matt Urban on his Silver Buckle Award. On Sunday everyone who was leaving packed up and the rest that were staying welcomed the new arrivals.

For many people the end of the first week just meant the start to another exciting week at Horseshoe. The second week meant a change of leadership and a smaller and more compact group. The week started the same with the retreat ceremony leading into the first dinner. The opening campfire was held once more with some reoccurring skits from the week before but some fresh ones as well. The fan favorite for this campfire had to be the devil and angel on the shoulder skit. After the fire we returned to our tents and got ready for the next day.

The next morning everyone was up early with tents already cleaned and ready for inspection at 7:15am. Following inspection we marched our way down to the dining hall and ate our breakfast and listened to the staff introductions once more. Afterward we made our way to our daily merit badges as we would for the rest of the week. On Monday night the troop competed in a Boom Town game in which the goal was to elect a new program director. At the end of the game we found out the grand prize was for our SPL, Jay Madarasz, to

become the program director for a day. This new position resulted in a cheer war against Jay at head table with the out-of-office Will Stevens on our side. On Tuesday we held our standard patrol required camp fire. Wednesday was the station game once more but with a Star Wars theme this time and Friday we ended with a nice short game of staff hunt.

In the place of PBFD, Saturday's program was a Water Carnival where each troop competed against each other in aquatic and pirate related events. The events included an inner tube face off, canoe tug of war, and of course the greased melon event. Although we thought we did fairly well we did not end up placing, but it was fun as always. The week boiled down to the final closing campfire Saturday night. It was the final campfire for me as a camper after seven years. The campfire ended and the thoughts of leaving Horseshoe and returning home excited a few and saddened many. The next morning involved lots of packing, but the week was not finished until Ernie bang and sang away Green Grow one more time. It was a fantastic two weeks. Thanks to all the leadership and sacrifice coming from the many adults there during the two weeks.

[Click here for camp pictures and videos](#)



Field Day 2016

By Nathan Motel

Field Day is a two-day event in which the scouts are able to demonstrate, and compete with the skills they have been practicing all year. Field Day Part One usually begins on a Thursday. While the more exciting Field Day Part Two is held on a Sunday.

This year on Thursday June 2nd at 7pm all of Troop 78s scouts assembled at the troop cabin to begin Field Day Part One. For the next two hours, from 7 to 9, the scouts participated in all of the usual boring events like nature identification and orienteering. By the end of the night, all of the scores were scattered, and it was hard to tell who was going to win.

That Sunday, at Field Day Part Two, all of the scouts and all of their parents gathered at the cabin to complete what they started on Thursday. After an afternoon of fierce competition in events such as water boiling, string burning, and 9 knot, Flying Eagle Patrol and Rattlesnake Patrol were neck and neck. Everything would be decided by the last event, the knot relay. Flying Eagle flew through all of their knots thanks to the good teachings of their Patrol Leader Nathan Motel and assistant Patrol Leader Zack Fox and finished the event long before the other patrols. This victory in the Knot Relay secured the Flying Eagle Patrol the victory by one point over the Rattlesnake Patrol. However, all of the scouts had fun at Field Day 2016.

As soon as we finished Field Day and the picture of the winning patrol had been taken, the rain clouds swept in and the skies opened up. To prepare for the

possibility of rain, we had previously set up tables in the main room of the cabin to ensure the banquet would not be delayed. The Banquet is a social gathering of all of the scouts and their families after the Field Day events for a delicious meal of burgers and hotdogs. This year, due to the rain, all of the scouts sat outside under the large carnival tent and all of the families sat in the main room of the cabin. Everyone enjoyed the competitions and the food and we are all looking forward to Field Day 2017. See you all next June.



Flying Eagle: Field Day winner



Firebuilding: String Burning

[Click here for more Field Day pictures and videos](#)

Notices of Upcoming Events

Order of the Arrow Service Weekend



There is an OA weekend set for Friday, September 23 to Sunday, September 25 at Camp Horseshoe. This weekend is open to all members and candidates who were tapped out at our February Court of Honor. New candidates: if you have not yet gone through your initial weekend, you must attend either this weekend. If you do not attend this weekend, you will need to be elected and tapped out again.

[Click here for more information.](#)

Or you may also see the OA page on the troop website (tr78.org) or visit: www.octoraro22.org.

Annual Dues and Registration

It is that time of year again!

All scout and adults must pay dues.

Adults who wish to be registered must submit the required clearances.

[Please click here for the information and forms.](#)

Calendar for 2016 – 2017

[Please click here for the one-page calendar](#)

[Please click here for the Google Calendar](#)