



Willistown Troop 78

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September 2024

Volume 41 Number 1

Summer Camp!

Another Great Season at Camp Horseshoe



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Philmont

Celebration of Life for Ernie



September 2024

3 Tuesday Board of Review 6:30PM

Troop Committee 7:30PM

4 Wednesday Patrol Leaders' Council 7PM

6 Friday TROOP MEETING 7PM

7 Saturday Junior Leader Training, cabin 9AM

9 Monday Friends of Troop 78 7PM

13 Friday - 15 Cape Henlopen State Park, campout

20 Friday TROOP MEETING 7PM, Family Food Festival

21 Saturday Work day at the cabin 8AM

27 Friday - 29 Sunday Order of the Arrow weekend, Camp Horseshoe

[Click here for the full one page calendar](#)

Summer Camp

Week 1

June 23rd - June 29th 2024

By: Caleb Fulmer

On Sunday June 23rd, Troop 78 scouts and scouters arrived at the Horseshoe Scout Reservation excited for an action-packed week of fun. There were already a lot of 78 scouts and adults there from the celebration of life for Ernie Heegard that happened the previous day. Everyone else arrived at camp by 1 o'clock so that we could go to Goodman Pavilion to get our Horseshoe wristbands and our buddy tags to take to the pool.

After the Health Lodge staff told us about the health lodge information, we went down to the pool for our swim tests. We were told the rules, got a shiver shower, and completed the swim tests. We went back to camp to set up our tents and have some fun before we had to go to retreat. Then we all got into our Class - A uniforms and fell in at the campsite flagpole early so we could all get our campaign hats to look the part while we were marching.



Then we began marching practice. Once we did a few laps around the parking lot and picked out those that would be on Kitchen Patrol to set up dinner, we were ready to take our practice to the parade field. Once we got a few laps done on the parade field then we all got ready for the actual retreat ceremony. Retreat is at the end of the day before dinner and that is when the camp staff lowers the American flag. After the flag is lowered then all the troops each march around the parade field before going to dinner. Once we all washed our hands and lined up in front of the dining hall the staff picked which troop went first and so on, the lines were picked by the straightest and quietest.

Once everyone was in the dining hall, we said grace and then had a dinner of pasta with chicken and red sauce, and for dessert we had apple pie. After everyone was done eating, one of the camp staff got on the podium and we sang a song to open the camp experience. Every night after dinner a song is sung in the Allen Memorial Dining Hall. Then after the song they announced the winner of that night's marching. We won Sunday's marching and were awarded a ribbon and the marching trophy to take back to the Dan Beard Campsite. Then we all went back to camp and hung out for an hour and a half before going to the Sunday night opening campfire.



[Click here for video.](#)

The Sunday night campfire, as usual, was filled with corny songs and skits some of which were funny. After the campfire everyone went to bed, excited for the first full day of camp the next morning. The next morning the troop was called to fall in at 7:00 AM to raise the flag. Then we were given 15 more minutes to get our tents ready for inspection. Then once the Patrol Leaders and Staff went around and checked everyone's tent we headed up to breakfast. Breakfast that morning was scrambled eggs, bacon, and breakfast potatoes. Once the staff did their announcements we went back to camp to do our patrol cleanup jobs for that day to make sure that our campsite was spotless before the inspector came.

In the morning all the scouts attend 2 different merit badge sessions throughout the week followed by lunch. Lunch was BBQ pulled pork sandwiches with curly fries. Then we went back to camp and had our afternoon siesta followed by our afternoon merit badge classes. After merit badge classes, we had SIP where scouts can choose different areas of camp to enjoy, followed by Retreat and then dinner. Then after dinner we went back to camp and got ready for the camp-wide scavenger hunt. The scavenger hunt is a sheet of paper with lists of items that you can make or find and then you show them to a counselor. You are competing

against every other troop in camp and we finished in a personal record time of 14 and a half minutes. This sealed our first place finish. Then we all went to the shower house before going to bed in high spirits after a camp wide game win.

Each day was very similar to this with different meals and a different activity each night. Tuesday night's activity was the troop auction and was (as usual) a blast. There were some outrageous prices and some great bidding wars. One of the most fun purchases was when an American Flag cowboy hat was sold for 60 dollars. On Wednesday, after a busy day of merit badge classes each of our patrols competed in patrol games. Patrol games are where each patrol runs around to each different department and does a challenge to get a signature. Whichever patrol does it the fastest wins. Troop 78 had 2 patrols finish on the podium. There were also a variety of physical and mental challenges.

The next morning we woke up on outpost day which means we cook all our meals at our campsite and there are no meals in the dining hall. After a full and fun Thursday we headed back to camp for the troop campfire. Then we got ready for the troop campfire. The Campfire was wonderful and each patrol did a skit and then we sang a lot of songs. Then we all went to bed excited for the last day of camp. Once we all wrapped up all our merit badges then we ate lunch and got ready to compete in the Water Carnival. The Water Carnival was an absolute blast and it had events including the treasure dive, canoe of war, and rock climbing wall. It also included the Aquatic staff kidnapping the Campcraft director, our very own Logan Duff. Troop 78 ended up doing really well as we won canoe of war and the Masthead event. Overall we placed second in the water carnival. The afternoon was very fun and action packed and we did pretty well. Then we had a retreat in front of our parents, and then we went to dinner. After dinner we stayed in uniform for the

closing Campfire that night where we would get the awards and segments we had earned all week. Then we went back and went to bed disappointed that tomorrow was the end of week one.

The next morning we had Chapel at 7 AM, and then after chapel we went back to camp to pack up our stuff then we went to brunch. During brunch they handed out all of the awards that were won around camp that week. We placed in all but one camp-wide competition and we won most of the inter troop competitions. We also won marching every single day. Then after brunch we were able to go home after a fun and good week, while 14 scouts remained for week 2.

Summer Camp

Week 2

June 30th - July 6th 2024

By: Caleb Fulmer

On Sunday June 30th, 13 new scouts came into camp excited and ready join the others already there for a great week of camp ahead. Everyone that stayed over the weekend was already at camp week one so all of the new guys that came to camp had to do their health check in and their swim tests. Once they got back we all had some fun and played games before getting into class A for marching practice. After doing a few laps around the parking lot, then we did a few laps around the Parade Field. Then KP was picked. Then we did the Retreat Ceremony and marched. Then we had dinner, and we sang a song. There were also cheer wars.



[Click here for video.](#)



This is when each troop uses cheers that they learned to cheer at other troops.

After dinner, we went back to camp and changed out of class A and got ready to participate in the evening activity which was the opening campfire. The Opening Camp fire was fun, however it included the same skits as the previous week, and due to the threat of hardcover we had to have it in the Kindness center without an actual fire. Then we all went back to camp ready and excited for the first full day of week two. The next morning we all got up and prepared our tents for inspection. Then we raised the flag and the PLC came around and inspected our tents. Then we all went to breakfast.

After breakfast we went back to camp and did our patrol clean up jobs to get ready for the Camp inspection. Then we went to

our morning merit badge sessions. Then after our merit badges we went back to camp and then went to lunch. Then after lunch we had siesta and then went to our afternoon Merit Badge sessions. Then some scouts chose to go to an SIP but they had to leave early to make it back before we started practice marching. Then we practiced marching and had a retreat. Then we had dinner which was really good. Then we went back to camp to get ready for the camp wide game that night.

Most of the days at camp went like this where everyday we went to our merit badges, meals, and marched. However each day the meals were different and there was a different evening activity. Monday night's evening program was the scavenger hunt where each troop got a list of things they had to get or make and bring up to Goodman pavilion. We competed against every other troop in camp and we won that competition and since we were the first ones done we all rushed to the showers because they were not crowded.

The next morning we did the same things as the day before. Tuesday night's evening program activity was troop night. This meant that each troop stayed in their campsite and did fun activities. We had a volleyball tournament that night and it was incredibly fun. The staff broke us up into even teams and we had a double elimination tournament. Then we had a snack of Rita's water ice. After a full Wednesday we



participated in the evening activity which was patrol games. This is when each patrol runs to each department and completes tasks to get signatures. Troop 78 had two patrols on the podium for this event and Rattlesnake patrol won the event.

Then the next day was Thursday and it was great because it is an outpost day. It was pretty much the same as the last days but we cooked our meals. This means that they were way better than usual. Then the evening activity was troop night so we had our annual troop campfire. It was a great fire filled with the usual skits and songs. Then we all woke up on the final day excited and ready to go. We finished up our morning merit badges, and then went back to camp to get ready for Paul Bunyan Field Day. Some of the events included 9-knot, knot squadron, heaving bar, and tug o war. Nick Opeilski had a remarkable 9 knot time of around 35 seconds. Luke Fox dominated in the Heaving Bar, and our Tug-o-war team did really well placing second. Logan Duff ran a very fun and successful Paul Bunyan Field Day. We





did very well and some parents came out to watch. It was very fun to participate in and a great way to end off the camp experience.

Then we all went back to camp and got in our class A's so that we could march in

front of the parents. Then we had dinner, and went back to camp. We stayed in uniform because that night was the closing campfire. This is when we get all the segments and patches that we had earned throughout the week. Then we all went to bed excited for the final day tomorrow.

We all had to wake up really early the next morning because we had to go to Chapel early. Then we went back to camp and packed up our gear but stayed in uniform for brunch. Brunch was an okay meal but the best part was they awarded all of the camp-wide competitions with ribbons. Troop 78 did pretty well and we won Paul Bunyan field for the fortieth year in a row. We also won marching 4 out of the 6 times that week. Then we all left camp after a long but incredibly fun two weeks of scouting experience.



Field Day 2024!

Part I Thursday May 30

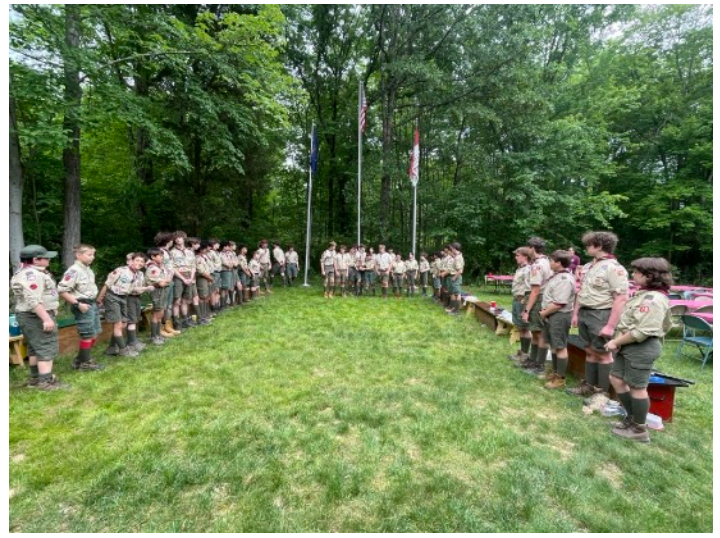
Part II Sunday June 2

By Jay Tyson

Every year, after the Council First Aid Meet, the troop spends months practicing and preparing for Field Day. Part I was on a Thursday night while Part II was the following Sunday.

Part I tests skills like 8-Knot, Scout's Pace, Nature Identification, Judging, Compass, and Water Boiling. First we did Scout's Pace. The goal of this competition is to run/walk a mile in exactly 12 minutes using the 50-steps-walking-50-steps-running method. The patrol that runs/walks the mile closest to 12 minutes wins. Overall, most of the patrols came in ridiculously early, with Moose patrol getting first place. The next competition involved skills using a compass. Most patrols didn't struggle at all with this and Panther patrol came in first. After this was Nature Identification. Each patrol went around to marked plants and had to determine what species they were. Some patrols did much better than others at this, with Cougar winning first place. Judging is a competition about estimating certain dimensions of objects. In this competition, Cougar came first. Next, the Flying Eagle patrol came first in the 8-Knot contest and set a new troop record with a time of 50.00 seconds! The last challenge of the night was Water Boiling. As soon as the SPL said go, each patrol ran into the woods to get twigs and sticks to use to build their fire. Some patrols decided to go to a different section of the woods to find better fire building material. All patrols managed to make a fire with Flying Eagle patrol barely getting first place. At the end of the night, the Cougar patrol was in first with the Flying Eagle and Moose tied for second and Panther patrol in third.

For Field Day Part II, parents and families were invited to spectate. With a few days of rest, the scouts were ready for another day of competitions. We started off with Log Chopping. The patrol with the fewest number of swings to get through their log wins. Panther patrol took first place. After Log Chopping was the Chariot Race. Each patrol lashed together sticks to make a chariot and then raced it across the field and back. Cougar won in this competition. In the 9-Knot competition, two scouts from each patrol must tie 9 of the 10 Tenderfoot knots around various parts of their body. Rattlesnake won first in this contest. Flint and Steel is a competition where scouts compete to light a fire the fastest with only a rock and file. After a false start, Panther got a total of 6 points for winning both first and second place. In between events we held our second adult Heaving Bar competition. Different adults who had had their sons teach them this skill battled out for the fastest time. Mr. Sansone won this competition. Now it was time for their sons to do Heaving Bar. The Panther patrol broke the junior scout record with a time of 19.81 seconds! The senior scouts



doing this competition were having a hard time getting the rope over the bar with most patrols being disqualified. Cougar ended up with a first in this competition by less than a second. Next, Cougar patrol broke their own the troop record for Giant Clove Hitch with a time of 5.13 seconds (more than a whole second faster than last year), getting first place! The penultimate competition of the day was String Burning. Scouts race to build a fire that can burn two strings above it. Cougar won a total of 8 points in this competition by winning both first and second, nearly setting the troop record. The last competition was Knot Relay where patrols have to tie 3 of the 10



Tenderfoot knots the fastest. Cougar won this competition as well. Throughout the whole day everyone had a great time and all of the patrols showed off their skills. The final standing was Cougar in first place with 50 points, Panther in second, Rattlesnake in third, Flying Eagle in fourth, Moose in fifth, and Stag in sixth.

After all of the competitions, we had our Court of Honor and family picnic. At the Court of Honor ceremony, we celebrated scouts' achievements, gave out ranks and merit badges, and gave awards. We celebrated and awarded our newest Eagle Scouts, Jay Tyson and Ethan Winkleman. The highlight of the picnic was the Eagle cake, but we enjoyed all of the tasty treats brought by the families. Everyone enjoyed a fun and exciting day.





FIELD DAY PART 2

PATROL	STAG	MOOSE	PANTHER	FLYING EAGLE	COUGAR	RATTLE-SNAKE
PART 1 TOTAL	3	11	9	11	16	3
LOG						
CHOPPING	1	0	5	0	0	3
CHARIOT RACE	0	0	3	1	5	0
9-KNOT	0	0	1	0	3	5
FLINT & STEEL	0	0	6	0	0	3
HEAVING BAR	0	0	5	1	3	5
GIANT CLOWNISH	0	0	3	0	5	1
STRING BURNING	0	0	0	1	8	0
KNOT RELAY	1	0	0	0	5	3
FINAL TOTAL	5	11	32	17	50	18

ALLIED WASTE



Philmont!

Cimarron, NM

Trip July 26 - August 6, 2024

Trek July 29 - August 4, 2024

By Ethan Sansone

After months of training meetings and packing, we arrived at the cabin on the dawn of July 26th for the short bus ride to the Philadelphia airport. We landed in Denver at around ten local time and hopped in our rental cars for our first stop, the Air Force Academy. Unfortunately it was closed, but we still got a picture, so everyone agreed to count it as the troop's third service academy. After purchasing food (plus a few less necessary items) at Walmart, we arrived at our campground in Cheyenne Mountain State Park just outside of Colorado Springs. Dinner that night was Buffalo Wild Wings.



The next morning's activity was Pikes Peak, a 14,000 foot mountain in Colorado which sports a road going all the way to the summit. We took in the view and visitor's center before driving down to the Garden of the Gods. This park featured large, thin, sandstone and limestone formations forced into a vertical position, creating a skyline of rocks. We brought our day to a close with Domino's pizza and mini golf.

On day three we buckled in for the long drive to Great Sand Dunes National Park, where we slid down massive heaps of sand. That evening found us enjoying the hot tub and pool at our hotel in Raton, NM. The next day began with the short drive to Cimarron

and Philmont. At the welcome center we met our rangers Luis and Rachel who were to be our guides for the first two days.

After the last preparations for our trek, we spent the night in base camp's tent city, sleeping in platform tents similar to Horseshoe. Meals were eaten in the dining hall, the highlight of which was easily the delicious pink lemonade. In the morning we took a bus to the beginning of our trek and started out in two crews, as we were too big for a single crew. After about a mile we arrived at Ponil, a staff camp, which are campsites with clean water and permanent staff who run program. At Ponil we enjoyed a cowboy-themed program with lasso throwing and root beer at the cantina.

Next was two miles of switchbacks until we arrived at Bluestem, a dry camp (no water at all). After setting up our bear bags, dining fly, and tents, we ate dinner. Meals at Philmont mainly consisted of protein bars, dried fruit, peanuts, and a freeze dried backpacking meal with dinner. Before going to bed we happened to look up and were amazed at the countless stars speckled across the night sky. We woke up early and were soon hiking along a ridge, enjoying great views of the surrounding area and of Baldy Mountain in the distance. Five miles later and we arrived at

Head of Dean staff camp for COPE, rope-swinging, bridge-constructing team building challenges. We then hiked the last four miles to Baldy Skyline, a campsite with beautiful views of Baldy.

The next day found us continuing our trek into the famous Baldy Town, a staff camp situated along Baldy's majestic slopes. After picking up the remainder of the trek's food at the commissary, we set up our site in the pouring rain. We then made use of the showers, a rare luxury in the backcountry. We spent the rest of the afternoon eating cookies on the porch of the campsite headquarters. After the rain ended the cook crew made dinner and then we went to bed.

We were up again in no time for the big day, Baldy Mountain. We slowly made our way up, and after a couple hours we reached the bald area at the peak, a rocky, forty-five degree slope devoid of any trees. This was as much a mental task as a physical one, but we were up to the challenge. We high-fived each other as each scout took his last step onto the summit and looked out across the horizon. The view was incredible and we spent over an hour taking photos and napping. Then it was time for the traditional troop photo, with the troop and American flags displayed proudly in front of a perfectly clear New Mexico sky.

We couldn't stay forever though, and soon we were across a ridge and down into French Henry, the mining-themed staff camp. Here we enjoyed program such as blacksmithing and gold panning. After having lunch we returned to Baldy Town in a light rain, arriving in the early evening. The next morning it was a short hike to Miranda staff camp, situated in a meadow deep in the valley. Program there was axe throwing and muzzle-loading rifle shooting. I was proud to have hit each of my three shots. We also completed our conservation project there, restorative thinning,

which aims to make fires smaller and more controllable. That evening was the fur trapper rendezvous, a historically themed show by the staff.

As the sun rose on our last day, we packed up and hiked the short trail to the bus pickup for the ride back to base camp. After a shower, clean clothes, and an ice cold glass of pink lemonade at lunch I might have been in heaven. We stopped for ice cream in Cimarron and tours of the Villa Philmonte (Philmont donor Waite Phillip's mansion) and the



National Scouting Museum. We bought all sorts of Philmont stuff at the trading post and branded almost anything with the Philmont brand before dinner and the closing campfire. After receiving the Philmont arrowhead patch and the We All Made It award for both treks, we returned to our tents for the final time.

The next day we were up, fed, packed, and in the cars before we knew it. The drive to Denver passed quickly and soon we were at Fogo de Chão, a Brazilian steakhouse where delicious steaks are cut right onto your plate. It was a fitting end to the trip. After arriving at the airport we were soon on the way home from our once-in-a-lifetime adventure.



Algonquin Provincial Park Canada Canoe Trip

Saturday August 10 - Saturday August 17, 2024

By Daniel Christaldi

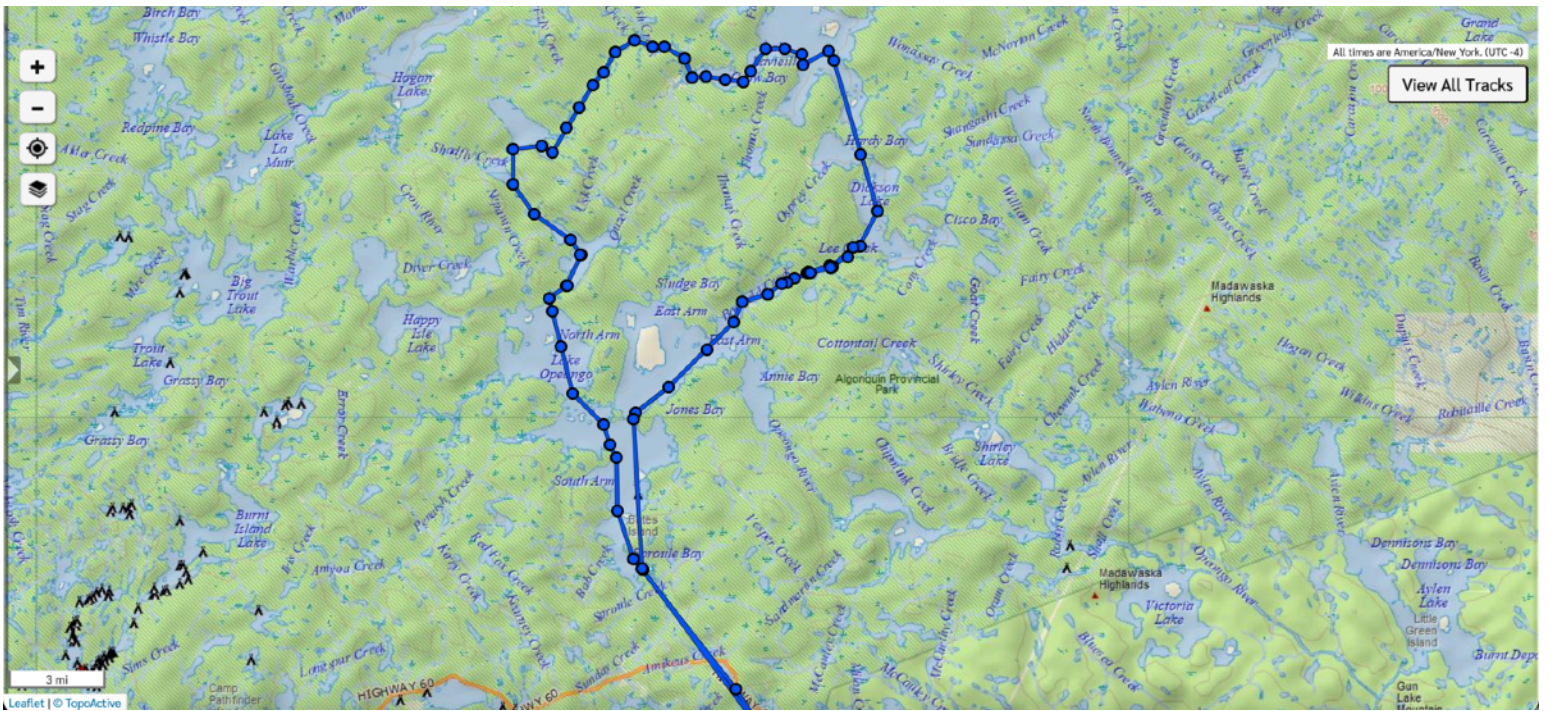
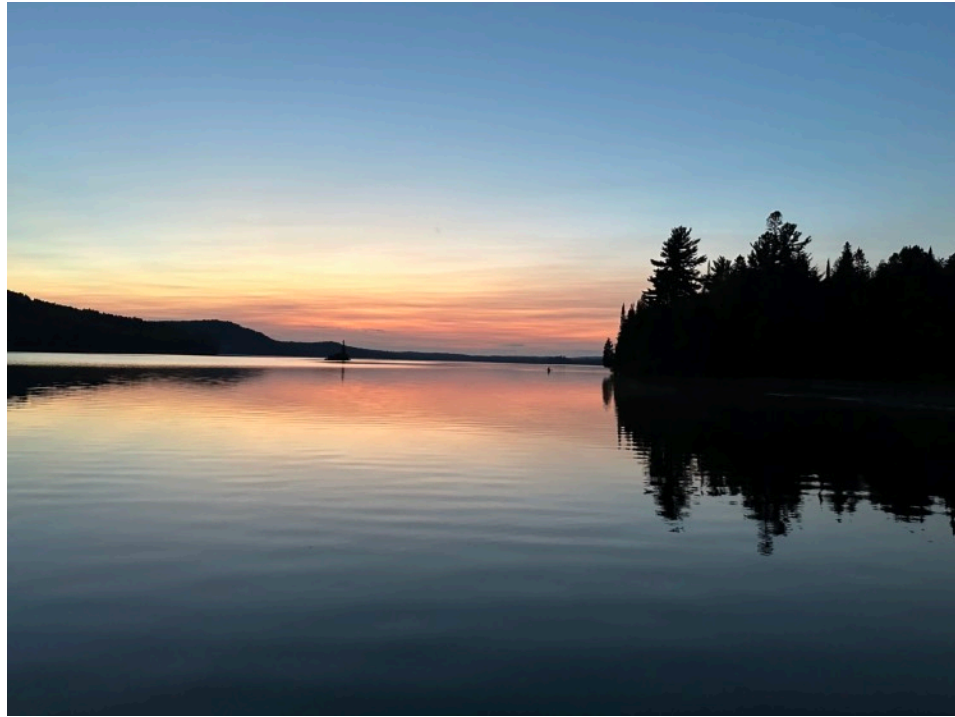
After our long drive to Canada and camping the first night in Bancroft, Ontario, we drove to Lake Opeongo. We set out onto the lake as the sky was gray and getting windy. The little waves became larger ones and rain clouds were coming overhead. It was getting very rough as the waves were coming from our left side. We finally got to our destination for lunch after a couple of hours with only one boat flipping. After some more paddling after lunch we got to our campsite marked by an orange sign. We set up our cooking materials and explored places to set up our tents. We cooked dinner and watched the sunset. That was the first night we heard the loons.



The rest of the week was filled with early wake-ups at dawn and a quick departure from where we camped. We all gained skills paddling our canoes and fell into a quick rhythm. We got comfortable in our new environment, adjusting to challenges that arose like the weather, going the wrong way, having trouble keeping up, and many more. The big challenges were the different landscapes we traversed. Sometimes it was deep wavy areas and others were shallow and grassy. Each landscape, however, came with its own beauty. In the grassy places we saw water fowl, huge galleries of spider webs, and a ton of green frogs. It was nearly the same each day; early wake-up, long days of paddling, set up camp and then explore. However the fun was always at the campsite where we would hike around to look at weird places and see new animals. On Wednesday we had a free day, so we explored all the tiny islands around us. After our long explorations we would gather around the campfire and talk about our lives or interesting topics. The sunsets were always stunning, each cast a different color. Some were a rich pink, sometimes a soft yellow and all colors in between!

You go out with a team to Canada, right? So what is teamwork like there? Our biggest feat was our 3 mile portage. At first we were all carrying our canoes and swapping with our partners, but we realized that some canoes were lighter than others and we needed people to rotate between them. So we did just that. Every .3 kilometers we'd stop, swap and keep walking. It was still very hard, but much faster with the rotation.

With all the challenges, scout skills and teamwork, we made it through the week all in one piece. So I implore you, answer the call of the loon and come to Canada!



Celebration of Life for Ernie

Saturday June 22, 2024

Camp Horseshoe

By Pete Motel

In a fitting tribute to Ernie, his family and friends from his decades of scouting joined together at Camp Horseshoe for an afternoon of celebration and fellowship.

Ernie would have been proud of the groups' persistence in the face of adversity as the temperature that day soared into the upper 90s, a portent of temperatures to come throughout the summer.

We met at Ernie's favorite place on Earth, his second home, Camp Horseshoe and visited all of his favorite spots in camp. The festivities started with a procession from the Parade Field to the Horseshoe Chapel for a service Ernie would have certainly appreciated. We sang Ernie's favorite hymns and enjoyed the view, the overlook gleaming in the June sun. At just the right time, as if queued by the heavens, two bald eagles appeared and soared over valley. In one of the more poignant moments of the day, on a day when there were many poignant moments, it was noted that Ernie and Betsy were married in the Chapel exactly 40 years earlier to the day, June 22, 1984.

After the service in the Chapel, the group then moved to Achgeketum Fire Circle. Of course, Ernie's pride and joy, the place for the entire camp gather at the end of every camp week. The circle named after him, Achgeketum being the Lenni Lenape word for Teacher. There in the circle, a traditional Native American pageant, a morality tale modeled after Ernie's life, was performed, telling the value of a life dedicated to teaching others. After the pageant, remarks were given by Ethan Bilson, A.J. DiAntonio, and Mark Siegle.

We then adjourned to the dining hall for fellowship and a buffet feast. During the buffet, a slide show played with pictures throughout the years of Ernie in his role as camp director, Order of the Arrow advisor and scout leader. There was large display of Ernie related memorabilia. Remarks were given by representatives of the Troop, the Order of the Arrow, and the Camp. Representing the troop were Logan Duff to honor the youth and John Souder to honor those more seasoned, representing the span of the decades of those influenced by Ernie.

It was a wonderful day of remembrance and fellowship, as Ernie taught us all.

The program and details were as follows:

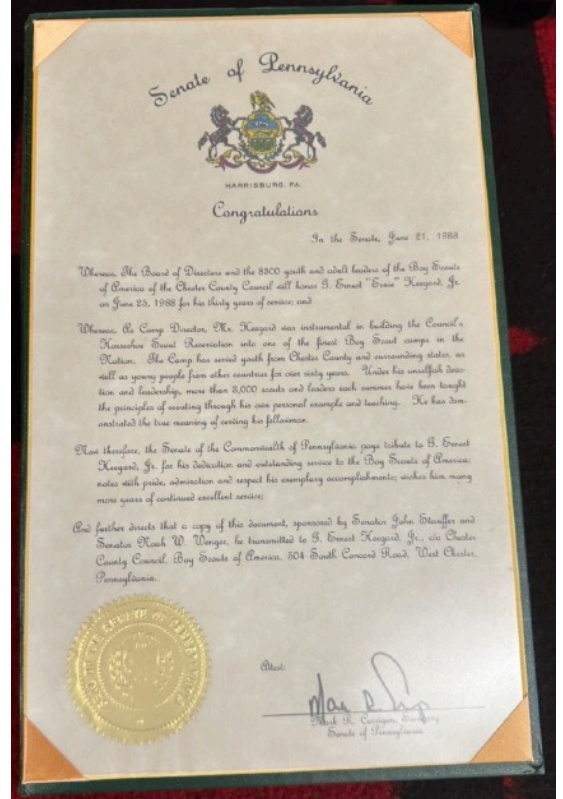
2PM - Chapel Service

3PM - Campfire at Ackgekatum Circle

- Traditional campfire program
- Tributes by Ethan Bilson and AJ Diantonio
- Closing remarks by Mark Siegle

4PM - Reception at the dining hall

- Food
- Camp songs
- Celebratory speeches



Radnor Races, Thank You!

Saturday May 18, 2024

By Brian Rothberg

On behalf of the Troop Committee; Don Tyson, Steve Brown and I want to thank you for your efforts at this spring's Radnor Event. The Radnor Hunt Races depends on Troop 78 to handle the supporting functions that make this great event possible. The Troop depends on you, its extended family, to enable us to do this.

This year marked a continuation of the efforts to develop the Races into a more successful and sustainable Event and there were new features introduced. The Races also "lost" one of our major Parking Lots which caused ripple effects all down the line. In this, our 34th year, we needed to be able to adapt on the fly, and Troop 78 came through! Thanks to your flexibility, we were able to accomplish our tasks. Race Day weather was wet but we were undeterred! While there were very few "no-show" because of the weather, we had enough folks extend their time or even come out when they were not expected, to allow 78 to take care of business. We had a wonderful crew for clean-up on Sunday and we finished that task in record time. *Thanks so much for your fabulous effort.*

Your participation helped the Troop in one of our major fund-raising activities. Further, you helped raise money for the Brandywine Conservancy in its ongoing and crucial efforts to preserve open space in our area. We also were able to show the public the kind of great work that Boy Scouts & Troop 78 do in our Community. I hope you were able to enjoy yourself too.

This year we had a super group of newcomers to join with our veteran members and our legendary corps of "Old-Timers." Together we once again put forth the kind of effort that most groups could not even imagine; just another day at the Races for Troop 78.

THANKS AGAIN!

Very sincerely,

Brian

Brian Rothberg

These are the families who came out and worked with the Troop. If you could not make it this year, we look forward to seeing you next May.

Anandh	D'Alonzo	Hornickle	Motel	Siegle*
Badgley	D'Antonio*	Johnson	Narr	Simms
Balmat*	DeVirgilio*	Jonalla	Opielski	Souder*
Bilson*	Diederich	Kartick	Peruzzi	Stacy
Bravo*	Dondero*	Kuppireddi	Riley*	Stevens*
Brogan*	Esterly	Lane	Rothberg*	Sugzdinis
Brown*	Fenimore	Lang*	Sansone	Tang
Bryan	Fisher	Lang	Sao	Tyson
Bull	Fox	Madarasz*	Saraswat	Vercoe*
Campbell	Fulmer	Malingham	Schallack	Walton
Capelli	Gunderson	Marshall	Scott	Wark
Cole	Happ	Miller*	Seymour	Wyher
Curry	Hogan*	Moss	Shay*	Xiao

The names followed by * are people and families that came out and helped Troop 78 in spite of the fact that they no longer have (and in some cases never had) an active boy in the troop. **Thank you!** You are a wonderful example of the spirit of our Troop and its extended family!



78 Leaders Bike Across Ohio

78 Scouters Complete Ohio Summer Cycling Trek

By Jim Bennett

On Sunday, July 21st, Scouters Brian Rothberg, Dave Bravo and Jim Bennett, accompanied by Brian's college classmate, Norm Rattey, set off on a week-long, 425-mile cycling trek that started in southern Indiana and ended in northern Ohio.

The ride, known as the "Cross Ohio Bicycle Adventure," or "XOBA," did indeed prove to be quite an adventure. The group of 47 cyclists actually started in southwest Indiana and headed northeast to their final destination Fairport Harbor, Ohio, on the shores of Lake Erie. Day 1 featured an 80-mile leg with a lot of hills and a bit of history, as the Fearsome Foursome stopped to pay homage at the tomb of William Henry Harrison, the ninth and shortest-tenured (only 32 days!) President of the United States. The group pedaled through America's heartland, riding through Rust Belt towns, complete with abandoned and repurposed factories, and agrarian areas that featured working farms and acres of corn and soybeans. At night, the crew slept on the gym floors of YMCAs and local high schools, with lights out by 8:30 PM and bikes on the road by 7:00 AM the next morning.

The cyclists enjoyed seeing many freight trains, including some being loaded with grains at silos. One startling moment was when the group saw a large animal running toward them. It turned out to be a curious donkey, whose owner was calling the jackass by name (the donkey, that

is – not one of the cyclists!) to return to her side. Another first for the team was getting a shower at a Pilot truck stop (they're quite clean and private, BTW!).

Brian Rothberg made sure that his crew was well-fortified each day with some of the finest ice-cream available in the Buckeye State. Kudos to Brian for spearheading the effort. It followed their 2022 ride across Iowa. The 2025 version of the trip will be cycling from through North Carolina, starting in the Piedmont mountains of the Tarheel State and ending at the Atlantic Ocean.



Troop 78 Eagle Scout Highlighted

Eagle Scout Braeden Happ speaks about his scouting experiences.

[Click here for the video.](#)

Troop 78 YouTube Videos

[Click here for the latest Troop 78 videos.](#)

Upcoming Events

Beach Trip!

Friday September 13 - Sunday September 15, 2024

Please join us for a weekend at Cape Henlopen State Park in Delaware. We will spend the day relaxing on the beach, enjoying the sand, sea and sights, expecting beautiful September weather. We hope to take some time Saturday night to experience the Boardwalk shops, treats, and fun.

Family Food Festival

Friday September 20, 2024, 8PM at the cabin

All are invited to join us for our annual food festival at the troop meeting Friday September 20. We will have the usual troop meeting program from 7 - 8 and begin the Food Festival at 8:00. Scouts are asked to bring a food which has some family ancestral meaning to them. Main courses, sides, and desserts are all good!

[Click here for more information.](#)

Cabin Workday

Saturday September 21, 2024, 8AM - noon

It will be all hands on deck Saturday September 21 for some much needed clean up at the cabin to get our meeting place ready for a big year of scouting program!

Please plan to join us for various projects inside and outside the cabin.

We need your help!

Volunteer Opportunities!

By Steve Brown

The new Scouting year is underway and in full swing! That means the Troop is looking for help with our two annual Fall volunteer events/opportunities. Those opportunities are as follows:

Radnor Horse Trials - October 12th. This is an all day event for the Troop where parking help is needed from 6 a.m. until about 11 a.m. (Total volunteers needed - 12, need adults and older Scouts primarily), help at the jumping ring starting at 10 a.m. and lasting till it ends around 2:30 p.m.(Total volunteers needed - 10, this is a good job for any Scout), and then we also help tear down the dressage ring after that event ends. We need to make sure there are about 10-12 volunteers available from 1 p.m. till the end of the day, which is usually between 4 p.m. and 5 p.m.

In the past, the Horse Trials have kindly fed us throughout the day and at a pig roast at the end.

Willistown Conservation Trust (WCT) Run A Muck - October 5th. This is a simpler event and takes place in the afternoon. We arrive to set-up ropes and cones at 12 p.m., park cars till the race starts, and then take down the ropes & cones after people start leaving. Like the Horse Trials, they

invite us for the BBQ, music, and bonfire at the end of the day, which is typically 5 p.m.. A mix of adults and Scouts is needed. This event requires 12 volunteers from Noon - 5 p.m.

Please let Steve Brown know if you are willing to help this year. Also please ask your friends in the Troop and newer Scouts as well. Please contact Mr. Brown at stevencharlesbrown@yahoo.com or text him at 610 476-4903 (if you are a Scout, please make sure to include another adult to comply with Youth Protection Training standards).

Thank you for considering helping the Troop and your community with these events.

Chester County Council News

Council Off-Season Merit Badge Program at Camp

Saturday September 14, 2024

The Council is launching a merit badge program at Camp during the off-season. First up is Kayaking merit badge. Those interested must register at the link below and plan to meet for a day of fun, learning at the Horseshoe Boat Docks.

[Click here for more information.](#)

Additional merit badges include:

Shotgun October 12

Metalwork November 16

Electronics and Electricity Dec 21

Movie Making January 4

Suicide Prevention Training for Adult Leaders

Please join us at Council headquarters (PARC) in Exton for suicide prevention training.

There are two opportunities to receive this training, September 17 or September 19.

We encounter an increasing crisis in youth mental health issues. We volunteer in a youth-facing organization. This issue is critical for us to understand and we urgently need this training.

[Click here for more information.](#)

[Click here for the Chester County Council Newsletter.](#)

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