



Newsletter

Volume 27 Number 4

December 2010

COMING EVENTS

DECEMBER 2010

- 12/1 – Patrol Leaders Council (7:30-8:30 PM)
- 12/3 – TROOP MEETING (7 to 9 PM)
Poinsettia \$ Due
- 12/4 – Chainsaw Training @ Camp Ware (9:00 AM – Noon)
- 12/7 – Board of Review (7:00 PM) & Troop Committee Mtg.
- 12/9 – Diamond Rock Holiday Roundtable
- 12/10 – TROOP MEETING (7 to 9 PM)
- 12/11 – Poinsettia Order pick-up at Cabin – Regular Orders
- 12/11 – SM & ASM Specific (8:00 AM - 4:00 PM)
- 12/17 – TROOP MEETING AND HOLIDAY PARTY (7 to 9 PM)

JANUARY 2011

- 1/4 – Board of Review (7:00 PM) & Troop Committee Mtg.
- 1/5 – Patrol Leaders Council (7:30 - 8:30 PM)
- 1/7 - TROOP MEETING (7 to 9 PM)
- 1/8 – Chainsaw Training @ Camp Ware (9:00 AM – Noon)
- 1/13 - Diamond Rock Roundtable
- 1/14 - TROOP MEETING (7 to 9 PM) Florida Deposits Due
- 1/21-23 - Winter Camp at Horseshoe**
- 1/28 - TROOP MEETING (7 to 9 PM)

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

NEW DADS NEEDED!

The December committee meeting will be held on Tuesday, December 7, 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.

WEBSITE GETS NEW LOOK

Willistown78.org has undergone a complete transformation but has the same great resources, pictures, and newsletters.



SAVE THE DATES: FATHER/SON EVENT SET FOR JANUARY 21-23

Among the great Troop 78 traditions is our annual Father/Son Winter Camp event at Camp Horseshoe. Troop members, alumni, committee members and friends gather for a weekend of fraternity and service to HSR. Fathers who don't get a chance to camp with us regularly can observe their sons putting scouting skills and the patrol method to use. And since we stay in cabins heated by wood stoves, the frosty nighttime temperatures are kept at bay. All dads and lads are welcome – and remember scouts, be sure to join us even if your father cannot make it!

Last year, we were nearly 100 strong, and we cut, stacked and racked enough firewood to supply the camp for an entire year. New scouts are instructed by seasoned scouts in how to use an ax and have ample opportunity to split wood. In the afternoon, the older scouts conduct instruction sessions so that younger scouts can work on advancement, while Ernie Heegard leads visitors on a historical tour of Camp Horseshoe. On Saturday night, the scouts take on the adults in a variety of patrol competitions. Last year, the adults claimed that "father knows best" but were bested in numerous categories by the scouts. What will the outcome be in 2011? Stay for the awards on

Sunday

morning, after our chapel service, and find out!

The Father/Son trip is a mainstay of recruiting for Troop 78, and we expect that Webelos and dads from many of our local Cub Scout packs will join us this year. Visitors always say that the energy they experience at the Father/Son event is a big reason that they choose Troop 78. So, join us for a great tradition and a great time! The trip handout will be available at a meeting later this month.



ELK MOUNTAIN/MATJE FARM SKI EVENT – FEBRUARY 5-6

Get ready for one of the best events of the scouting year, as Troop 78 heads to the Endless Mountains in upstate Pennsylvania for a weekend of snow sports, camping and camaraderie.

Early on Saturday, February 5 (and we mean "early" – like a 5:30 AM departure), the troop bus will hit the road and head to Elk Mountain Ski Resort. Elk boasts the best skiing and boarding in Pennsylvania. It has terrain for the beginner, the double black diamond expert, and everyone in between. Well-groomed hills with lazy, windy runs, plus steeps with giant moguls await downhillers. Stay on the greens – which are the longest runs in the Pennsylvania mountains – or work your way over to the more challenging terrain – but you'll be sure to have a great day on the slopes!

There will be group-rate rental/lesson packages available for first-time riders and gliders, plus lift-only and rental/lift combos. Pricing information will be available at the January Father/Son Winter Camp event at HSR. In the meantime, check out Elk Mountain on the Web at elkskier.com.

After a full day on the slopes, the troop will head to Mr. Bob Matje Sr.'s farm. Upon our arrival, Mr. Matje will deliver brief but memorable remarks regarding the "do's and don'ts" of the farm. Once a Christmas tree farm, Mr. Matje's property is nearly 200 acres of pristine Pennsylvania and features a 150+ year-old barn that provides lodging for the scouts. New scouts are welcome in "First Year Corral," a comfortable nook that will have fresh straw to keep the crew warm. Dads spend the evening in Mr. Matje's farmhouse, which is heated by a wood-burning stove.

The Matje farmhouse is a site to behold. The walls are decorated with interesting pictures, placards and game trophies, including pheasant, whitetail deer and mule deer. The entire crew will enjoy meals in the spacious farmhouse kitchen. After dinner, the boys will watch a movie while the adults crackle-barrel in the kitchen. Mr. Matje is usually joined by some other long-time Troop 78 scouts, who regale us with tales of Troop 78 adventures from earlier years. Their stories are entertaining, and the house is filled with raucous laughter. It's not unusual for the boys to ask the adults to "quiet down," because the "conversation" often overtakes the movie soundtrack!

On Sunday morning after breakfast, we'll enjoy a hike around the beautiful property. A climb to the top of Matje Farm offers a wonderful view of downtown Scranton – some 60 miles away – if the day is clear. If we have snow, we can look for wildlife tracks as we hike. Maybe we'll find the prints of the howling coyotes that kept us up on Saturday night! Yes, the coyotes are out there – and you'll want to be out there, too!

Whether you'll be joining us for the first time or you're a repeat attendee,

the Matje ski/snowboard trip is a magical event. With Vermont-like downhill conditions followed by an evening of fun and friendship, the trip is a must for all troop members. Don't be missin' the tradition - mark your calendar and plan to join us! Look for the handout at the January Father/Son Winter Camp event.



POINSETTIA ORDER REMINDER

We're down to the wire on the "regular" poinsettia orders! Orders and money are due on **Friday, December 3**. If you forget to bring your orders/money to the December 3rd troop meeting or if you will not be at that meeting but have an order to hand in, it is your responsibility to get the order to me. I will accept orders up to Sunday, December 5, but you will need to hand-deliver them to me. **Absolutely no orders will be accepted after Sunday, December 5.** The final order will be placed Monday morning, December 6, for delivery that weekend. Please be responsible and remember to bring your orders and money to the troop meeting on Friday, December 3. Call Stephanie Robinson if you have questions: 610-415-[REDACTED]. Thanks for making this a great sale.

POINSETTIA PICKUP

The time for picking up your orders on Saturday, December 11, is from **12:00 to 2:00 p.m.** Please be considerate and pick up your orders by 2:00 p.m. at the latest. Remember, the helpers have orders to deliver, too. Your cooperation is greatly appreciated.

SEVERAL SLOTS REMAIN FOR THE KANDERSTEG 2012 TRIP

As of the publishing date of the newsletter, we still has several slots open for eligible scouts and scouters/registered adults who would like to go to join us for Troop 78's

2012 trip to Kandersteg International Scout Centre. If you are interested in attending, please contact Jim Bennett at home by phone (610-993-[REDACTED]6) or e-mail ([skibennett@\[REDACTED\].net](mailto:skibennett@[REDACTED].net)). But hurry – these slots are sure to fill quickly.

CADY AND RUBINO MAKE TROOP 78 "PASTABILITIES" A REALITY WITH PASTA NIGHT

Joe Rubino, "Mayor of Malvern"

If you've made the Troop 78 trek to Disneyworld, you know Joe Rubino. Mr. Rubino is responsible for planning and organizing this popular event, year in and year out. He helps the troop out in many other ways, too. Mr. Rubino is renowned for his ability to reach out to the community and gain assistance for the troop. For instance, for our recent trip to Annapolis, Mr. Rubino contacted his cousin – also named Joe Rubino – who works as the liaison for external affairs for the Superintendent of the Naval Academy. The Maryland-based Joe Rubino and the Malvern-based Joe Rubino made sure that we were able to get a guided tour of the academy and that we had great seats for the football game.

"Joseph the Carpenter" Cady

If you've ever been to the Father/Son Winter Camp event, you know Joe Cady. Mr. Cady shops for, cooks for and feeds over 100 scouts and scouters every January at our annual camping event. Mr. Cady also runs the troop's "scout account" program, in which funds earned by scouts are tracked and then applied for special events, like the Florida trip, the Canada trip, summer camp, or the rafting and skiing trips. He is also a talented woodworker and over the years has made many plaques and patrol storage benches for the troop. The new patrol bulletin board in the boardroom of the cabin is Mr. Cady's handiwork, as is the Eagle Scout Roll of Honor plaque that hangs in the back of the main meeting room.

In addition to these activities, several times a year the "Joes" team up for a Troop 78 tradition known as "Pasta Night." Perhaps you've seen Pasta Night notices in the newsletter, and your curiosity's been piqued: Exactly

what is Pasta Night, and how did it come to be in the first place?

Rick DeVirgilio and Cabin Fundraiser

About 2,500 meatballs, 1,000 pounds of pasta, and 400 gallons of gravy (REAL Italians don't call it "red sauce") ago, Troop 78 was building our current cabin. Mr. Cady, Mr. Rubino and dozens of other leaders and friends of the troop were all active in all aspects of the troop's efforts to complete the cabin – from coordinating contractors to swinging hammers. Naturally, building the cabin required a great deal of fundraising, and at some point the troop leadership realized that the effort would fall a bit short of the troop's fundraising goal.

Enter Troop 78 veteran scouter and committee member Rick DeVirgilio. Mr. DeVirgilio worked in the food industry for years. He thought that a fundraising dinner at the almost-completed cabin might be just the thing to bridge the shortfall. Needing an assistant chef, Mr. DeVirgilio recruited Mr. Rubino to aid in the effort. And so, the first Pasta Night was born. The two combined their culinary skills to create a feast that was enjoyed by many.

The Tradition Continues With a New Team ...

While the fundraising efforts were satisfied by the first Pasta Night dinner, the palates of those in attendance demanded an encore performance. Eager to fulfill the demand, the DeVirgilio/Rubino team decided to continue offering the scrumptious meals. When Mr. DeVirgilio decided to hang up his ladle, Mr. Rubino went looking for his own cooking apprentice. Given Mr. Cady's established track record as a culinary master at Father/Son Camp, he was a natural choice. Thus, "Team Joe²" was born, and accordingly, Pasta Night continues as a welcome troop tradition.

Pasta Night "Magic"

Mr. Rubino likes to say that Pasta Night makes "a little magic happen" when unbudgeted troop expenses crop up. For instance, over the years,

Pasta Night proceeds have paid for the side storage compartments on the troop bus. When the cabin needed a new front door, the Rubino/Cady team "cooked up" the solution and with Pasta Night proceeds purchased the portal. No water fountain in the Cabin? No problem - Pasta Night to the rescue once again. In fact, Pasta Night has provided many other necessary items for the troop that would not otherwise be available because of budget limitations.

You're Invited, Too!

While many of the original attendees still frequent the Pasta Night dinners and continue to rave about the cuisine (SM Steve D'Antonio is particularly fond of the fabulous home-made desserts), Mr. Cady and Mr. Rubino would like the parents and friends of the new scouts to join them at the next Pasta Night for an evening of adults-only fine dining and conversation. The menu varies from event to event, but our dynamic duo always delivers a fabulous soup-to-nuts dinner at a modest price. And if you're handy around the kitchen, whether as a chef, server or dishwasher, your skills are most welcome as well. The crew always needs volunteers.

So keep an eye on the troop calendar, and plan to join us at the next Pasta Night. The "Joes" promise a night you can't "pasta" up – even if the menu is pork scaloppini and broccoli rabe! In the meantime, a big Troop 78 "thank you" to Mr. DeVirgilio, Mr. Rubino and Mr. Cady for all of their great work on behalf of the troop. We tip our (chef's) hats to you!



MY WEEKEND AT THE NAVAL ACADEMY

By Tommy Walsh

It started off with a nice long, dark 3-hour bus ride down to the campground. Once we got there, we

had to wait while the leaders decided where we should camp. After the camping site was decided, they made my friends and I set up in a special formation. This special formation made moving around difficult because of all the stakes.

The next day, we woke up and froze in our spots. There was breakfast waiting, but the line was long and just a cold breakfast. Luckily, I brought hand warmers galore (a lesson that I learned at Quantico). We later left for the United States Naval Academy, where we got a tour. The tour was great. We walked around awhile and explored the beautiful campus, incredible naval history, museums, and gift shop. We walked far and wide to find the bus that brought us to the game. We tailgated outside the stadium, throwing a football I bought at the gift shop and then had hot dogs, hamburgers, soda and potato chips before going into the game.

The game was fun and really exciting, with a Navy win in the last seconds of game. The score was 38-37. With a score like that how can it not be exciting? On Sunday we had a hot breakfast prior to packing the bus and cars for the trip back to PA. I had a great time and can't wait for the next trip.



MATT LEWIS RECEIVES

VENTURING LEADERSHIP AWARD

On October 30, 2010, Matt Lewis was presented with the Venturing Leadership Award. The award is presented at the council level to Venturers and adult leaders who have made exceptional contributions to the Venturing program. Past recipients of the award vote to determine the award recipients for the current year.

Matt has worked very hard as advisor of Crew 78 to get the crew up and running. He has also been instrumental in implementing a Venturing program into the council Camporee. Matt has been a vital part of the Venturing Officers' Association. He has encouraged Crew 78 members to attend VOA meetings and events. Matt has also served on many district and council committees, including serving as Camporee Chairperson.

In addition to his many contributions to the Venturing program in Chester County Council, Matt holds many other volunteer scouting positions. Matt has served on staff at Camp Horseshoe for many years and continues to volunteer at camp in the winter season. He has also served as an Assistant Scoutmaster of Troop 78, Associate Advisor of Crew 539, Committee Member of Troop 78, and volunteers with Pack 98. Matt has also been an active member of the Order of the Arrow and is an advisor to the Camping Promotions Committee in the Lodge. He serves on the Camping Committee and the Horseshoe Scout Reservation Alumni Association committee. Matt is an Eagle Scout and is also a member of the Vigil Honor.

ADULT TRAINING CORNER

Reminder: you need to have completed the Youth Protection Training to renew your membership with Boy Scouts of America. You may complete it online in approximately 30 minutes. There are how-to guides located on the training section on the troop website (willistown78.org) if you have questions.

In addition to the online trainings that we hope you all are finding time to complete, there are some other opportunities.

The only known upcoming training course is the Wilderness and Remote First Aid course, Saturday & Sunday (not overnight) January 15 & 16 held at the Horseshoe Scout Reservation. Sign up on www.cccbsa.org. The course gives you the skills you need to respond to an emergency when help may be delayed an hour or more. The course is based on the Boy Scout Wilderness First Aid Curriculum and Doctrine Guidelines and meets the requirements of BSA's High Adventure bases (Philmont, Northern Tier and Sea Base). This course includes classroom instruction and demonstration, hands-on skills practice, and real-life scenarios.



Why fight the holiday crowds when you can shop at home with Scrips? Gift cards are great gifts for everyone on your list. Don't forget your mom, dad, brother, sister, teacher, mail carrier, paper deliverer, church donation for the needy, neighbors and yourself.

You can get gift cards for restaurants, electronics, gas, auto, movies, iTunes, clothing stores, sports stores, Disney, books, and music, just to name a few. You can find a complete list on the troop website at willistown78.org/component/content/article/73.

Several retailers are running specials at this time. See the special offers at glscrip.com/whatsnew/index.aspx.

Take advantage by placing your orders by December 12th, and all cards will be in for pickup on December 17th during the holiday party. You can get your order forms to download from the troop web site at willistown78.org/scrips-mainmenu-57.html.



Newsletter

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