



# Willistown Troop 78

Website: [www.tr78.org](http://www.tr78.org)

Facebook: [Willistown Boy Scout Troop 78](https://www.facebook.com/WillistownBoyScoutTroop78)

YouTube Channel: [Troop 78](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC...)

Volume 36 Number 4

December 2019

## Appalachian Trail !



### December

3 Tuesday Board of Review 7PM  
Troop Committee 7:30PM

4 Wednesday Patrol Leaders' Council 7:30PM

6 Friday Troop Meeting 7PM

13 Friday Troop Meeting 7PM

20 Friday Troop Meeting 7PM

Holiday Party

No Troop Meeting 27 Friday

### January

3 Friday - 5 Sunday Winter Weekend Camp Horseshoe

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

8 Wednesday Patrol Leaders' Council 7:30PM

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

**Inside this issue:**  
Citizen of the Year  
Winter Weekend  
Parking Lot



## Appalachian Trail Hike: Peters Mountain

Saturday November 9 - Sunday November 10 , 2019

By Kade Anderson

The Appalachian trail backpacking trip was a very pleasant, yet extremely cold, experience. The trail ranges over 2,000 miles and goes through 14 states. Fortunately, Pennsylvania is one of them, so we didn't have to drive far. However, when we got there, I kind of wished it wasn't. The warmth of the bus was instantly taken away by the 29°F weather and the freezing gusts of wind. Whatever we were wearing wasn't working well enough, and we didn't have enough time to change either, as we were planning to arrive at the campsite at noon. So, we started our journey.

We saw many wonders on our way, like the human digestive track's capabilities after ingesting 250 mg of caffeine, and, better yet, a climbing spot called "Table Rock" named because of its flat top and sides. From Table Rock, you could see several miles off into the distance. It was calming, and a good place to shed a layer in preparation for the hike we had yet to complete.

Even though we had much to keep us occupied, our legs soon grew tired. A fountain of "Are we there yet's," erupted from the younger scouts. Thankfully, our SPL provided us with an approximate distance of "9 more miles," the standard response on any trip. Soon enough, however, we did arrive at our camping grounds. We hastily pitched our tents and went to get water from a nearby stream. At the stream, we used our water filtration devices to get clean water for that night's meal, freeze-dried beef stroganoff. Strangely enough, the beef was one of the best parts of the trip. I had been told before how amazing it was, and I am glad to say that it was all that it was chalked up to be.

Eventually, it was the next morning. After packing and eating our breakfast, we headed on our way. Dr. Motel explained to us that there would be a side trail up ahead. So we walked, and walked, and walked until we reached the stunning conclusion that we had missed the side trail and lost our way. Yet we finally found sanctuary - a cellular tower. Using our intellectual abilities, we were able to deduce that there must be a maintenance road nearby. So, we explored a little closer, and eventually found a way out and on to the main road. With help from the fifteen bars we got from standing so close to the tower, we found the place where we parked the bus. We loaded the bus and went home.



# First Responder Webelos Event

Wednesday November 13, 2019

By Luke Fox

OUCH! When you get injured, you might be looking for a scout who to assist you in first aid. Thanks to the willing efforts of a dozen Troop 78 scouts, there are now 17 more Webelos scouts who were trained in the basics of first aid on November 13th.

Visiting Webelos from local Cub Scout packs met with their fellow scouts and learned how to make a 911 call, how to treat burns and insect bites, how to plan an escape route to safety from a fire, and other valuable life-saving skills. The Webelos got a special visit from a first responder, and a chance to talk with with Mr. Schallack, a real first responder with Goshen Fire Company.

It was a cold evening for the training so the scouts enjoyed tasty snacks of hot cocoa with marshmallows, hot dogs, and apples. The Webelos were trained by those who they may soon be able to emulate as Boy Scouts!

I'd consider the event a success!



# **100th Anniversary Celebration: Citizen of the Year**

**Thursday November 21, 2019**

On the evening of Thursday November 21, Chester County Council hosted a banquet to honor Ernie Heegard for his many years of service to Scouting. The evening was a celebration with a mission: to raise funds for two of Ernie's favorite causes: Camp Horseshoe and Chester County Council.

The event was attended by 250 Scouts, Scouters, and friends of Scouting, all there to honor Ernie and to raise funds for camp and the Council. The evening was opened by a Troop 78 color guard composed of Cody Carnes, Chris St. Clair, John Wark, and Braeden Happ. We were led in the Pledge of Allegiance, and the Scout Oath and Law by Arek Conners, and then we heard a speech by Alex Lemheney about what scouting, Troop 78 and Ernie means to him.

We had a wonderful dinner, and then heard from FOE (Friends of Ernie), in a series of short speeches complete with remembrances of years past on the Camp Horseshoe Staff. All together the event raised over \$180,000, all to the good of the Camp and the Council!

The camp will use the funds for projects of Ernie's choosing including a complete renovation of the Achgeketum Saturday Night Campfire Circle. The campfire circle is named for Ernie. The word Achgeketum is Lenni Lenape for "teacher" and is Ernie's name in the Vigil Honor of the Order of the Arrow.

Thanks to everyone who generously contributed to this event! Many thanks to the Friends of Troop 78, the Horseshoe alumnae association, Order of the Arrow Octoraro Lodge 22 and all of the other generous donors who supported scouting at this wonderful event.



[Click here for a video summary of the event.](#)

[Click here for a video of the entire event.](#)

## **A Night to Remember!!**

**Thursday November 21, 2019**

**By Ernie Heegard**

At first I was a reluctant recipient of the Distinguished Citizenship Award from Chester County Council Boy Scouts of America, but agreed after being told that half of the funds raised would be spent on projects at Camp Horseshoe. As most of you know, I fell in love with the camp at age 12 and have spent a large

part of my life there for the next 73 years. I had no idea, at first, how much time energy, talent, and bucks members of Troop 78 would spend making this event a smashing success. I would like to thank each of you for your part in making this truly a night we will all remember.

Thanks first to the event chairman and master of ceremonies, Pete Motel, and all of the Troop 78 committee members: Jim Bennett, Steve D'Antonio, A.J. DiAntonio and Dave Dondero.

Thanks also to event sponsors: Friends of Troop 78, Inc., The Balmat & Lenker Families, The Bennett Family, Joe & Judy Cady, The D'Antonio Families, Ted Dinsmore & Family, The Jon Duncan Family, Dr. Alan Fegley & Family, The Heegard Family, The Jim Hogan Family, Buck & David Jones, Brian & Renee Miller & Family, The Motel family, Joe & Sue Rubino, and The Robert Urban Family.

I would also like to thank the following who gave support by placing ads in the program: The Balmat & Lenker Families; Jim, Kim, & Michael Bennett; The Joe Cady family; Al, Steve, Mike, Greg, Brett, & Bobby D'Antonio; Mark Duffy, Jeff Duffy, John Hope, Buck Jones & David Jones (The Rambling Lane scouts circa 1957 to 1975); Jim Hogan & Family; Buck Jones, Eric Lorgus, Jim Matthews, & John Souder (former Headquarters staff between 1960 and 1973); Don, Pete, & Nathan Motel; Joe & Sue Rubino; and Troop 78.

An extra special thanks to our Scouts who were the Color Guard: Cody Carnes, Chris St. Clair, John Wark, & Braeden Happ. and Arek Connors, their leader.

Last, but not least, thanks to a wonderful address by Alex Lemheney, who gave us his thoughts on what Scouting meant to him.

It is very obvious that Troop 78 led the way throughout the preparation and delivery of this fine program. Words cannot express how I have been touched by the support you have given to me and to the camp I love. My greatest desire is that all our Scouts will grow up with wonderful experiences like I had at Camp Horseshoe. Remember once you get the dust of Horseshoe in your moccasins, "You can't kick it out!"

# Parking Lot Project

**We now have a completed parking lot.**

It's the ice cream sundae with all of the toppings.

The latest updates:

The parking lot has been striped, with its handicapped accessible and regular spaces marked.

Also the edges were backfilled and sodded.

**Thanks to Ted Dinsmore who arranged the striping and to Greg D'Antonio who had the back fill dirt and the sod delivered and he and Steve for installing it.**

**It looks great!**



# Upcoming Events

## Holiday Party

**Friday December 13, 2019**

The annual Troop Holiday Party is set for Friday December 20th. That evening we will have a fun Troop meeting including a Holiday themed first aid problem (prepping for the upcoming First Aid Meet), outdoor scout skill event, Holiday gift exchange and snack.

Scouts: if you wish to participate in the Holiday gift exchange, this is how it works. Bring a small, in most cases scout or outdoor activity-related gift of approximately \$10 in value. If you bring a gift, you may take a gift someone else brought. **NO gag gifts!** [Click here for more information.](#)

# **Winter Weekend at Camp Horseshoe**

**Friday January 3 - Sunday January 5, 2020**

Please join us for the annual Father / Son Weekend at Camp Horseshoe. We will be staying indoors in cabins heated by wood stoves, sleeping on bunks with mattresses, eating a delicious menu of home cooked food, and generally living large.

The Troop will do a service project for the camp: collecting and splitting firewood for the camp, then we will work on individual scout advancement, play games, compete in a round robin of scout skill events and all around have fun. [Click here for more information.](#)

## **Disney 2020 !!!**

**I am heading to Walt Disney World with Troop 78 in just over 150 days. Are You?**

- When are we going? April 4th to April 11th
- What are we going to do? Spend four days Park-Hopping, we can visit any of the four theme parks (Magic Kingdom, Disney's Hollywood Studios, Animal Kingdom, and Epcot).

[Click here for more information.](#)

[Click here for the sign up info and forms.](#)

**Please print out this Newsletter and post a copy at home for everyone to see.**



An overlook on the Appalachian Trail



Circle at the closure of the First Responder Event