



Newsletter

Volume 27

Number 6

February 2011

COMING EVENTS

FEBRUARY 2011

2/1 – Board of Review (7:00 PM) & Troop Committee Mtg.

2/2 - Patrol Leaders Council (7:30 PM)

2/5-6 - **Matje Farm and Elk Mt Skiing**

2/8 – Council Roundtable-Downingtown

2/18 -TROOP MEETING (7 to 9 PM)

2/25 – TROOP MEETING (7 to 9 PM) Hoagie sale begins

MARCH 2011

3/1 – Board of Review (7:00 PM) & Troop Committee Mtg.

3/2 – Patrol Leaders Council (7:30 PM)

3/4 – TROOP MEETING (7 to 9 PM)

3/6 - **ANNUAL PARENT'S NIGHT AND COURT OF HONOR: (3PM) – Scout Cabin**

3/10 – Diamond Rock Roundtable

3/11- TROOP FIRST AID MEET (7 to 9 PM)

3/12 – Council First Aid Meet (plan to attend!) 8AM

3/12 – Order of the Arrow Banquet (5:30 PM)

3/18 - TROOP MEETING (7 to 9 PM) Hoagie money due

3/25-27 - **Backpacking Trip**

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

NEW DADS NEEDED!

The February committee meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 1, 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.

“PASTA NIGHT” CORRECTION

In last month's newsletter, we ran an article about Troop 78's Pasta Night event. One name that was mistakenly left off the list of the “Founding Fathers” for this great tradition was Bill “Curley” Trowill. Mr. Trowill is a long-time Troop member whose

contributions to Troop 78 over his many years of service would fill an entire edition of the newsletter. Among his other good work on behalf of the Troop, Mr. Trowill was instrumental in establishing Pasta Night. We regret the omission and wanted to correct the record and thank Mr. Trowill for his service to Troop 78.



2011 WINTER CAMP A SUCCESS!

Troop 78's 2011 Father/Son winter camping trip at Camp Horseshoe was, once again, a great event. Pending mid-term exams for Great Valley students and conflicting Webelos events resulted in our overall attendance being down a bit from recent years, but those who braved the cold temperatures had a fantastic time.

Attendees feasted on Mr. Wagner's famous chili and enjoyed a variety of snacks served up by Mr. Cady to kick the event off on Friday night. Former SPLs Sean Miller and Joe Poi left their respective college campuses to join us and provided great assistance. The adults in attendance formed into two patrols to go head-to-head with the regular Scout patrols in a series of contests ranging from Troop 78 trivia to outdoor Scouting and athletic skills.

Saturday dawned bright but cold. Fortified by a hearty breakfast of

pancakes and bacon, the 78ers headed down Old Camp Road to fell trees and load up trucks with firewood. In front of Browning Lodge, a team of adult and Scout lumberjacks, led by Mr. LePard and Mr. Schallack, split the thick sections of timber into pieces that will provide heat and fellowship for Horseshoe's buildings and fire pits throughout the year. The crowd swelled at lunchtime as many alumni and committee members came down to survey the Troop's efforts and to lend a helping hand.

Saturday afternoon brought Scouting-led instruction in a variety of skills and merit badges and an opportunity for sharpshooters to take aim at the rifle range. ASM Matt Lewis conducted an informative session for adults on the fine points of being a merit badge counselor, while Scoutmaster Emeritus Ernie Heegard regaled Camp Horseshoe newcomers with an oral history of HSR during the traditional hike around the property. After dinner, the adult and youth patrols competed in a variety of fun events, such as the three-man ski race and a mini-Klondike derby run. It had been some time since Troop 78 had enjoyed a snow-covered Camp Horseshoe for the Father/Son event, so this year the group put the snow to good use.

On Sunday morning, Michael Bennett led the Troop in a chapel service, but the biggest “Hallelujah” went up from the crowd when Joe Poi's missing wallet miraculously turned up. The Troop then went to work tidying up the camp and left it looking better than it did when they arrived. By the time Troop 78 broke camp, a triple-wall of firewood, 24 feet long and 6 feet high, was neatly arranged in front of Browning Lodge.

Thanks to SPL Dan Dufoe, SM Steve D'Antonio, Chef Joe Cady, and all of the youth and adult leaders who made the 2011 Father/Son trip another memorable event. See you next January when we do it all again!



TROOP HOAGIE SALE IS COMING!

The month of February kicks off our Troop Hoagie Sale! This long-running annual fundraiser allows the Scouts to sell a delicious, fresh, handmade hoagie. The funds are used to help support the Troop's needs for equipment, trips and programs, while at the same time adding to their own personal Scout accounts. Those funds can help pay for camping trips, the international trip and summer camp.

Hoagie sale forms will be handed out to the Scouts at the end of the Troop meeting on Friday, February 25th. All orders and money will be collected at the beginning of the Troop meeting on Friday, March 18th.

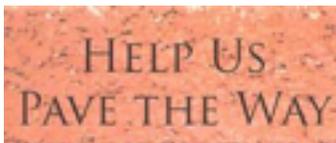
Did I mention handmade? Parents, that's where you come in! The Troop usually sells over 1200 hoagies! I'm positive this year will be no different. With your efforts we will be making hoagies on the following 2 dates. Please mark your calendars and plan on attending one or both sessions as a large adult turnout is crucial and means quick, easy work for all!

Friday, April 8th, 7-9 PM: Hoagie Set-ups during Troop meeting.

Saturday, April 9th, 7-9 AM: Hoagie Assembly. Scouts pick-up orders from 9-10 AM.

I look forward to working with you all on another successful hoagie sale!

Scott Vercoe
Hoagie Sale Coordinator



SUPPORT TROOP 78 DONATE A BRICK, LEAVE A LEGACY

You can make a financial investment in the lives of the boys of Troop 78 by purchasing a brick that will be engraved with a name of your choice (personal, family, or business). The brick will be laid in the walkway at the entrance of the Troop 78 cabin as a reminder to others of your involvement. The minimum donation is \$300.00 per brick.

Please contact Dave Schertz at 610-687- or e-mail him at registrar@willistown78.org for more information or an order form.



MARCH 2011 BACKPACKING – SAVE THE DATES!

This year's backpacking trip takes place March 25 – 27, 2011. Normally, we do the backpacking trip in November, but this year we've moved it to March to accommodate the Annapolis trip.

If you're new to the Troop, no worries! The backpacking trip has two treks: a shorter trek for new Scouts and first-time hikers and a longer trek for experienced hikers. The shorter trek is still challenging and offers Scouts the opportunity to use a compass, orient a map, and lead the hiking crew. The longer trek lets more experienced hikers put more mileage under their belts. We meet up and camp at the same location and enjoy a hot dinner, cooked on lightweight backpacking stoves.

Backpacking is one of the best events the Troop has. We carry all of our

own gear and food, take a challenging, scenic hike to a great location, cook on lightweight stoves, and then trek back out – leaving the campsite even better than we found it. Weather conditions make the trip even more interesting. We've awakened to snow, and we've hiked in the rain. Last year, we had ideal hiking conditions, and the trip was a good time for all.

If you're new to backpacking, don't be intimidated. You will have a good time, and we will help you to Be Prepared. Our Troop youth leaders will conduct a packing evening ahead of our trip, so that first-timers (and maybe some of you old timers who've forgotten!) can learn the proper way to pack a backpack. They'll discuss proper clothing and footwear, and review safety issues. And if you don't own a pack, no problem. The Troop has some to lend out.

Will we be hiking a portion of the historic Appalachian Trail? Will we take on new terrain? You'll find out soon. Look for more information in the next newsletter and in the handout for the trip. In the meantime, plan on joining us for a great time on the trail!



A SCOUT IS TRUSTWORTHY (OR LESSONS LEARNED)

By Jim Bennett, ASM

Like many of the adults involved with Troop 78, I was a Scout in my youth. I grew up in Northeast Philadelphia and was a member of Troop 24. Our Troop was one of the oldest in Philadelphia Council (now called Cradle of Liberty).

Troop 24 folded a number of years ago, but a friend of mine from that Troop, Dave, has been Scoutmaster of another Troop in that neighborhood for over thirty years. Dave was one of the first Boy Scouts that I got to know well. He was my Den Chief when I

was in Webelos. I thought Dave was totally cool. For starters, he always wore a campaign hat instead of the green "overseas cap" that was a part of Troop 24's official uniform. Dave had an enormous collection of Scout patches. His collection filled an entire footlocker. When we went camping, or on a hike, Dave would point out which plants could be eaten and which ones were toxic. Dave knew animal tracks, he knew semaphore, and he knew the constellations. In fact, when I was a young Scout, I was convinced that Dave knew everything there was to know about Scouting.

About a year after I joined Troop 24, we attended a District Camporee at Breyer Training Area (BTA) in Jenkintown. The camp is now closed, but it provided me with the following indelible Scouting memory.

BTA's trading post opened for business on that Saturday afternoon, so I headed over. In my pocket was a \$10 bill – a lot of money for me to have at that time. I wanted to buy some Scout patches and build my own collection, just like Dave's. The trading post was staffed by a larger-than-life Scouter named Mort and a cadre of older Scouts. Mort and his crew had an assortment of donuts in a box by the counter. After surveying the donuts, I turned my attention to the patches that were displayed on the countertop. Finally, I selected 6 for purchase – three different patches, two of each kind. Dave had told me to always buy two of each patch, so I'd have one for my collection and one to trade. Total price: \$7. I handed a Scout my \$10 bill and awaited my change.

To my surprise, the Scout handed me back *four* bills, not the three I'd been expecting. My eyes must have grown as big as saucers when I saw that one of the bills was a \$10. I had received \$13 in change, not \$3.

I left the Trading Post without saying a word. I was in a mild state of shock. Had I somehow made a mistake? I counted the money again: \$13. For an instant, I began to think that this was my lucky day. After all, it wasn't my fault that the Scout gave me the

extra money. Wasn't it *his* responsibility to be more careful? Wasn't this really just a case of "finders keepers"? I hadn't *asked* for the extra money. But guilt quickly overcame me. Try as I might, I couldn't get comfortable with my "windfall." What to do, what to do? Then, an idea came to me. I'd ask Dave what I should do. I figured that, if Dave said it was all right to keep the money – if he validated my "logic" – well, then it would be OK for me to keep the extra cash. So, I approached Dave, and told him the story of what had transpired at the trading post. Sheepishly, I asked, "What should I do, Dave?"

Dave's reply was immediate and brief. "You already know what to do," he said, "or you wouldn't have asked me." Dave was right. "A Scout is Trustworthy," I thought. We repeated that first principle of the Scout Law at every Troop meeting. I knew exactly what I needed to do. I had to take that money back to the trading post. But I was afraid – perhaps more embarrassed than afraid – to go back by myself. Would Dave go back with me? "Yep," he said. "I'll walk up with you. But you will do the talking."

And so, Dave and I headed back to the Breyer Trading Post. There behind the counter stood Mort – appearing to me at that moment to be the largest human being on the face of the earth. On Mort's right stood the Scout who had given me my change. And to the left of Mort sat the box of donuts. I summoned up my courage, and explained to Mort and the Scout that I had received too much change. Then I handed back the \$10. "Thank you," said the Scout. "And have a donut," said a smiling Mort. In that moment, I felt as if the weight of the world had been lifted from my shoulders.

Nearly 40 years after that event occurred, I look at the lesson from that day as the most important thing I learned in my time as a Scout. I often think of that moment when I recite the first principle of the Scout Law – "A Scout is Trustworthy." It is incumbent upon all of us in the Scouting movement to strive always to do the

right thing – as I finally did at Breyer that fateful day – and to help others to do the right thing, as Dave did for me that day. When we repeat the Scout Law, we are making a vow to do our best to uphold it ourselves. And by setting a good example, we can help others to uphold the Scout Law, too.

After years of sporadic contact, Dave and I now keep in regular touch. When I first became associated with Troop 78, I called Dave up to tell him that I was once again active in Scouting and to let him know that my son was now enjoying a great Scouting experience. During that conversation, I asked Dave if he remembered the incident at Breyer. He assured me that he did. Then, I thanked him for helping me that day. "For what?" he said. "You knew what you needed to do all along. After all, you were a Scout." Wow, I thought. Forty years later, and this guy is *still* teaching me....



ORDER OF THE ARROW NEWS

Pay and Play Registration

New for 2011, Octoraro Lodge will offer a discount when you sign up for each event in advance. Register for all three Lodge weekends and the Lodge banquet and save \$5.00 off each event. Registration begins January 1 and ends February 26. Register at www.octoraro22.org.

Lodge Banquet Registration

The annual Lodge banquet is swiftly approaching and the Lodge officers are busy planning for this exciting evening. The banquet will take place on March the 12th at the Kimberton Fire Hall. The cost this year will be \$30.00 per person. Seating is limited. Registration is first come, first serve. Register at www.octoraro22.org.

Committee Positions Open

There are several youth committee positions open on the Octoraro Lodge

22 Executive Board. Please contact Matt Steinberger, the Lodge chief, at chief@octoraro22.org, if you are interested in getting more involved with the Lodge by chairing an open position. The current open positions are Projects, Unit Elections, Costumes, Convention, Program Development, Indian Summer and Summit Corp. Job responsibilities can be found on the lodge website under the Lodge Committee menu item.



I was asked the other day a few good questions:

“How often do you report Scrip earnings to the Scout accounts?”

We transfer and close the books once a year on April 15th. This way the

funds should be transferred over in time for the last payment of summer camp.

“How are we looking this year?”

GREAT!!! This time last year we had sold over \$17,000 worth of cards that had provided us with almost \$800 in profits. This year we are at \$57,000 worth of cards that had provided us with almost \$2,300 in profits.

“How often is a order placed and when?”

Orders are placed once a month, and it is normally the first Sunday of the month.

“Why only once a month?”

Since there is a shipping and handling fee, we keep it to once a month to keep down our costs.

“What is the turn around on an order?”

The order is placed on Sunday and processed on Monday with GLSC. We receive the package and sort the cards to hand out by Friday.

“What is the most unusual gift card ordered?”

We would have to say Carnival gift card. A family was taking a cruise in the summer and found that they could buy and use gift certificates to pay for the cruise. Carnival pays 8% commission back to us. You have to remember that you can purchase cards for Disney, car rentals and hotels that you can use on vacations.

“When is the next order going to be placed?”

The next order will be placed on February 6th. Orders can be dropped off Friday night February 4th at the Troop meeting.

Remember Valentine's Day is coming up. You can get gift cards to purchase your roses, dinner, and jewelry. Yes Moms - your husbands would like to receive all 3 items this year.

Thanks for your support,
Jim and Claire Hogan
Troop 78 Scrip Coordinators

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