



Willistown Troop 78

Website: www.tr78.org

Facebook: [Willistown Boy Scout Troop78](https://www.facebook.com/WillistownBoyScoutTroop78)

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

Volume 32 Number 9

May 2016

Upcoming Events

May

Monday 2

Friends of Troop 78 7PM

Tuesday 3

Board of Review 7PM

Troop Committee 7:30PM

Friday 6

Troop Meeting 7PM

[Spring Flower Sale](#) pick up

[Summer Camp payment due](#)

Friday 13

Troop Meeting 7PM

Saturday 14 to Sunday 15

Canoe Trip

Friday 20

Troop Meeting 7PM

Saturday 21

Radnor Races

Sunday 22

Radnor Races clean up

June

Wednesday 1

Patrol Leaders' Council

7:30 PM

Thursday 2

Troop Meeting 7PM

Field Day Part I

Sunday 5

Annual Field Day

Family Picnic 3PM-5PM

Friday 10 to Sunday 12

Order of the Arrow Service

Weekend (Members Only)

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

Jim Donnelly: 61 Years with Troop 78 and Going Strong!

By Gladys Donnelly and other contributors

Many, many moons ago this month, the seventh child of what would eventually be 10 children was born, and they named him James. The rest is history.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY JIM DONNELLY!

Age - too old to remember

Member of Troop 78 since 1955

Secretary of Troop 78 since 1961

Secretary of Friends of Troop 78, Inc. since its start in 2000

Wife: Gladys

Sons: Jim, Jr. & Ed (Both were Scouts)

HISTORY

Born in Philadelphia, raised in Glenolden, Delaware Co.

Graduate West Catholic High School, 1941

Served in WWII in the US Navy as a radio operator on Liberty Ships in the North

Atlantic and in the South Pacific on the Destroyer USS Shubrick

Honorable discharge, 1947

Worked for the Red Arrow Line / SEPTA for 44 years, rising through

the ranks. Trips to Japan for QC in the manufacture of high-speed trolley cars.

RETIRED 1986 - Wow!!!

Now, let's talk about his 60+ YEARS of involvement with Troop 78.

Joined in 1955 with two sons: Jim, Jr. and Ed. Ernie Heegard was Scoutmaster,

and George Bellgrau was Committee Chairman. Meetings were held in the two-

room cabin owned by the VFW on Grubb Road. The first Canadian trip was in

1958 in Ernie's and the Donnelly's cars, with Jim Jr., Miles Stevens and 9 others,

as reported by Jim, Jr. & Ernie. (Continued on the next page)

[Click here for more pictures](#)



Algonquin Park Canada: 1958

Inside this Issue

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KISC Updates

Flower and Plant Sale

Gettysburg Trip

Sign up for summer camp



Mr Ernie and the scouts



Jim Donnelly

By Jim, Jr.

When my parents, my brother Ed, and I moved to Willistown Township in the summer of 1955, Ed and I joined Troop 78. At that time, it was Country in Willistown with a big “C”. The troop had 4 patrols, each had 8 scouts.

In 1957, the Troop Leader, Ernie Heegard, decided they would make a 10-day canoe trip to Algonquin Provincial Park, Ontario, Canada via Watkins Glen, Corning Glass, and Niagara Falls. One requirement: you had to be an Explorer, age 14 or older. Two vehicles were needed and only Ernie’s was available. My dad was willing to go on the trip and take his son, Jim, Jr., (me) but I was only 13 years old. An exception was made. For someone with only two weeks’ vacation, that was a considerable sacrifice for my dad. And it proved to be a fortuitous happening. In the coming years, my dad (Jim) would accompany the scouts on trips to New Orleans, Florida, as well as Camp Horseshoe.

In addition, Jim has been Secretary of the Troop since 1961 and of Friends of Troop 78, Inc. since its incorporation. He was elected as a member to the Order of the Arrow and he was “tapped out” by me, and I enjoyed giving every “tap” on the shoulder! All these years, Jim could be found working at the Radnor Races, being involved with set-up, traffic, and cleanup.

Jim was also honored with Chester County Council Extraordinary Service Award.

By Ernie

This goes back to when I joined the Troop and our main fundraiser was collecting newspaper for recycling. We went around the neighborhoods and put up flyers that said when we would be around to pick up the newspapers. We stored them in Link Rice’s garage, and when it was full, we would get a truck, load it up, and drive it to Downingtown Paper Mill.

I could go on and on, but I want to talk more in detail about the Troop’s first trip to Algonquin Park in 1958. Planning started in 1957. We rented our canoes at the park and they were extremely heavy since they were canvas over wood/fiberglass. The backpacks were heavy, no freeze paks those days, only canned goods and fresh foods. Also, one portage trail took all day and into the night because it had been wiped out by loggers.

Through Jim’s connections at SEPTA, we got our first bus in 1966, and we had “Old Blue” painted, and we still refer to our bus that way. (Continued on the next page)

Gladys' Editorial Note: There is not enough paper or enough room to elaborate how much Ernie has done for Troop 78 over the years, from all the time he was Scoutmaster and all the years since. You have been a wonderful role model for so many young boys. A big THANK YOU from all of us!!!!

That was the beginning of trips for '78; New Orleans with the same cars/drivers, and Florida, which still happens every Spring break. Then there were more trips: Konderstag 1971 (cost in 1971: \$180), 1982, 1986, 2008, 2012. Virgin Islands 1978, 1982, 1988, 1993, 1998. There were many day and weekend trips over the years, too many to list here, to State Parks, historical areas, interesting cities, etc.

But of course this does not come about without fundraising, and there was plenty: We sold cook books, candy bars, tickets to the Music Fair (now long gone), pumpkins, Burpee Seeds, tickets to McDonalds, driveway Bricks, popcorn, Scrip; ran food concession at the Devon Horse Show; did tree work, seal-coated driveways, painted parking lots; and don't forget the Christmas tree sale every year, and this list could go on and on.

Oh yes, and those who ran the hoagie business for so many years: Jane & Charlie Fry – 18 years; Ruth & Bruce Balmat, and Laurie & Scott Vercoe – 2003 until 2 years ago and now the Schallacks, the new, young members who have taken over these tasks! It's appreciated.

One day, 27 years ago, one of our now deceased Troop members, Doc Lenker, a dentist, had a patient who was involved with the Radnor Three-Day Races at Radnor Hunt. She explained it was getting more and more difficult to get volunteers to staff the Snack Bar, and they wanted out. Doc brought this to the Committee, and all the members agreed to go for it. The rest is history! It has been beneficial to both Radnor and the Troop, and it meant no more Christmas tree sales! It has been great for the Scouts, a sense of giving back. And Radnor Races? They love the fact that 78 takes complete control on Race Day!

Finally, this tribute to Jim Donnelly would not be complete without recognizing the many everyday people who have contributed so much to make '78 so successful. Most importantly, the now deceased **Frank Hurley**, Willistown Supervisor, who saw that we had the ground that the present cabin sits on today; **Betty Moran**, who has supported "her boys" generously during the building of our new cabin, and our entire program; **Ernie Heegard**, who has been here forever and still is to this day, long before Jim got involved in 1956, and, of course, **Steve D'Antonio**, who has been doing such a fantastic job as Scoutmaster since September **1994!** There is not enough room here to name all the people who have given their time and energy to make '78 what it is today. My hat goes off to all of you!

Editor's Note: On behalf of the Troop 78 family: Thank you Jim for all your service!



Gettysburg Historic Park Tour & Campout

The Troop bus rumbled away from the cabin at 6:00 PM sharp Friday, April 29th. We went down the road for a weekend trip to Gettysburg with 31 scouts and 9 adults. This trip rounded out our multi-year effort to learn about the Civil War. In recent years we have toured Harper's Ferry, Antietam and Baltimore (where Fort McHenry of War of 1812 fame was used as a Civil War military base and field hospital).

Friday night we set up camp at Tuckahoe Scout Reservation just down the road from Gettysburg. Saturday morning we met a private tour guide at Gettysburg National Battlefield for a driving tour of the park. With Mr. Dinsmore at the wheel of the bus and the guide in the front, we drove the park, stopping to get out and take in information and commentary from our guide. Several hours were required for us to have an understanding of the battle which took place over a three day period, July 1, 2, and 3, 1863. You may recall this was America's' bloodiest battle ever, after all every casualty on both sides was an American. After three days there were 53,000 casualties (missing, wounded, and killed). The Union started with about 100,000 soldiers and had 25,000 casualties. The Confederates started with about 75,000 soldiers and had about 28,000 casualties.

The battle was considered a Union victory and ultimately led to the defeat of the Confederates, but the war would drag on for two more years. Of course one of the immediate problems after the battle was how to handle the dead and wounded. It was decided a National Cemetery should be placed in Gettysburg. It was the dedication of this cemetery which brought President Lincoln to Gettysburg on November 19, 1863, where he delivered his now famous address. The address defined in the most direct and simplest terms the purpose of the United States and its national government. In the address Mr. Lincoln defined the purpose of the Civil War, which at the time was still underway, as a struggle not only for the preservation of the country, but for equality of all of the country's citizens.

After the driving tour we went to the Visitor's Center, where we had a picnic lunch and then a walk-through of the Center's displays.

We completed our tour of the Park with a hike of about 5 miles around the battlefield, with the scouts following a Historic Tour guide, qualifying for a patch for their uniforms. Then it was back to Camp Tuckahoe for a delicious Dutch oven dinner cooked over an open fire. We closed the day with a campfire and snack. Everyone went to bed full of food and newfound knowledge. [Click here for more pictures and video](#)



Upcoming and Ongoing Events

RADNOR RACES - MAY 21 & MAY 22, 2016

If you can only give one weekend a year to Troop 78, please make it this weekend in May.

Radnor Races weekend is coming up on Saturday & Sunday, May 21st & 22nd. This is one of THE MOST IMPORTANT WEEKENDS on the Troop 78 calendar.

We need as many people coming out to work as many hours as they possibly can. We especially need ADULTS! We will be out working from around 7 AM to 6 PM on Saturday, May 21st. The hours from 11:00 to 3:00 are the most crucial, but any time is valuable. Clean-up is Sunday morning from 8 AM to Noon.

Remember working at the Radnor Races helps:

- TROOP 78 EARN FUNDS
- BRANDYWINE CONSERVANCY PROTECT OPEN SPACE IN OUR AREA
- EARN MONEY IN YOUR SCOUT ACCOUNT
- TROOP 78's MAJOR PUBLIC SERVICE PROJECT

In the unlikely event that you have not yet responded, please do so now. If your schedule has changed and you now have a few more hours to spare, let us know. Please remember, we need every possible family member.

Moms, friends and family are welcome & needed!

WE NEED YOUR HELP! SATURDAY MAY 21 & SUNDAY MAY 22

[Contact Brian Rothberg](#)

[Click here for more information](#)



Flower and Plant Sale

Our Spring flower sale was a grand success!

We had over 1200 items sold for over \$12,000 in sales, with over \$5,000 of the total coming through the online store. We are still tabulating the profits, but the scouts who participated should see nice increases in their scout accounts. There were 8 scouts with sales of \$500 or more!

The flowers are being delivered by the growers to the cabin on Friday May 6th. Orders will be delivered by the scouts or can be picked up at the cabin on Saturday May 7th.

See you in the Fall for the Poinsettia Sale.

Registration for Summer Camp is Underway

Payment is due in full Friday May 6th to get the discounted rate!

[Click here for the registration form](#)

[Click here for the troop website page and more information and more forms](#)

Once again Troop 78 has reserved the Dan Beard campsite at [Camp Horseshoe](#) for two weeks.

Week One starts on Sunday, June 26th and ends on July 3rd.

Week Two begins on Sunday, July 3rd and ends on July 10th.

Troop 78 Scouts learn many skills for rank advancement, dozens of merit badges, and display their teamwork, skills, and Scout spirit in the many games and contests at camp. The basis for our Scouting program is camping, and this two-week period is always the highlight of our Scouting year. Your troop committee and leadership would like to have 100% of the troop in camp this summer. We are encouraging 2nd year and up campers to stay for two weeks.

The cost this year is \$390.00 per week if paid in full by May 6th, (\$440 per week after that). You will receive a free troop T-shirt if you pay in full by May 6th, and turn in your completed medical form to the troop by June 2nd (Thursday troop meeting). The health form is on the troop website, and must be less than one calendar year old for the entire time you are at camp.

A reminder to those going on the KISC trip, that attending summer camp or working on the camp staff in 2016 is a prerequisite. You must attend camp with the troop or work at camp to go to KISC.

Important KISC Trip Updates

We are now only 3 months away from our great adventure in the Swiss Alps at the Kandersteg International Scout Centre (KISC).

If you need a passport, apply for it NOW. If you have a passport, it must be valid for 6 months AFTER our return date.

Click here for the [Activity Schedule Grid](#).

Click here for the [Activity Descriptions](#).

Click here for the [Kandersteg Information Page](#) on the Troop web site.

Click here for the [Kandersteg website](#).

Questions: email [Steve Brown](#).

Sea Base 2017

Troop 78 wins the lottery! The Sea Base crew lottery that is. The Troop has been awarded a reservation for a crew of 8 to participate in the SCUBA Adventure at the Florida Sea Base from July 16 to July 23, 2017. If interested we need a \$100 deposit by March 25th, with half the total fee paid by mid-September and the rest next year. The total cost will be determined by the air fare.

If interested or for more information please contact [Eric Meltzer](#).

Friends of Scouting (FOS)

The annual fundraising drive to support Chester County Council, BSA is underway. These funds support the activities of our local scout council, including the Camporee, First Aid Meet, and Camp Horseshoe. Please consider a donation to [Chester County Council](#). If you are interested or have questions, please contact [Jim Bennett](#).

