



# Newsletter

Volume 31

Number 9

May 2015

## CALENDAR

### MAY 2015

- 5/1 - TROOP MEETING (7 to 9 PM)  
5/1-3 - NYLT Youth Leadership Training  
Weekend 1  
5/4 - *Friends of Troop 78 Board Meeting*  
(7PM)  
5/5 - Board of Review (7:00 PM) & *Troop*  
*Committee Mtg.*  
5/6 - Patrol Leaders Council (7:30 to 8:30  
PM)  
5/8 - TROOP MEETING (7 to 9 PM)  
5/9 - **Troop Yard Sale and Flower Sale**  
**8:00-Noon**  
5/8-10 - NYLT Youth Leadership Training  
Weekend 2  
5/15 - TROOP MEETING (7 to 9 PM)  
5/16 - **Radnor Races - Volunteers**  
**Needed! (Save This Date!)**  
5/17 - Radnor Races Cleanup - 8AM  
5/29-31 - **Rafting Trip**  
5/31 - C.C.C. 2014 Eagle Scout  
Recognition Dinner, 6:00PM

### JUNE 2015

- 6/2 - Board of Review (7:00 PM) & *Troop*  
*Committee Mtg.*  
6/3 - Patrol Leaders Council (7:30 to 8:30  
PM)  
6/4 (Thurs) - TROOP MEETING - **Field**  
**Day Part I**  
6/5-6/7 - Order of the Arrow Ordeal &  
Service Weekend @ HSR  
6/7 - **Field Day (Part II) & Family Picnic (3**  
**- 5 PM)**  
6/11 - *Diamond Rock District Roundtable*  
*Picnic*  
6/12 - TROOP MEETING (7 to 9 PM)  
Summer Camp Preparations  
6/20 - PLC to Summer Camp (meet in Dan  
Beard at 2:00 PM)  
6/21 to 6/28 - **Horseshoe Summer Camp**  
**WEEK ONE**  
6/28 to 7/5 - **Horseshoe Summer Camp**  
**WEEK TWO**

## ROW ROW ROW YOUR BOAT, GENTLY DOWN THE STREAM

On May 29-31 Troop 78 will head out West for some whitewater rafting on the Lower Youghiogheny <<http://wildernessvoyageurs.com/loweryough.html>>: the Lower Yough (pronounced "Yok"). The scenery is beautiful and the rapids are challenging. The river runs through the protected wilderness of Ohioyle State Park, one of Pennsylvania's largest state parks (and one of the most beautiful). The Lower Yough is a Class III "Drop & Pool" river, meaning every whitewater rapid is separated by a calm, deep pool, allowing our scouts (and their dads) to catch their breaths and prepare for the next set. This portion of the Lower Yough has dependable class III whitewater, and we will be on a guided tour from an outfitter that we have used before. This means we will have troop-engineered boat crews based on skills sets. While we won't have guides in our boats, they will coach and guide us along the way. This is the same section of river we did in 2013 and is by far some of the best water in PA and is always a scout favorite.

Cost for this trip is shared between the camping budget and the families of those participating. Costs for this year's trip are \$47 per scout, \$65 per adult. Scouts wishing to use scout camping account money must contact Joe Cady before May 15th to make arrangements. This is an expensive paperwork-heavy trip that requires timely signup and commitment for attendance. Parents of scouts under the age of 11 must contact Camping Chairman

Jack Bilson ([jackbilson@gmail.com](mailto:jackbilson@gmail.com)) before May 15th if they would like their son to attend. In order to attend this trip you must be able to be at the cabin at 6 PM sharp, May 29<sup>th</sup>. We will return around 3 PM, Sunday the 31st. With a 5-hour one-way drive to our campsite at the Heritage Scout Camp, vehicles will be limited and must be coordinated with Camping Chairman Bilson by May 15th. Additional information will come out in about a week.

## TROOP 78 YARD SALE

**May 9 - 8 AM to Noon**

It's that time of year again! Empty out your closets, garages and attics and donate your "treasures" to this cause! Ask your friends and family to donate items as well! "Empty out your stash to earn the troop some cash!"

Drop-off and pricing dates: 7-9 PM, May 7 and 8.

### Items Not Accepted:

- Upholstered furniture. (Wood or metal are OK)
- Stuffed animals
- Luggage
- Items like refrigerators and air conditioners which contain Freon
- Large exercise equipment
- Building materials like bricks, wood, screws, etc.
- Clothing
- TVs, computers, stereos/radios
- Kitchen Sinks, bathtubs, refrigerators, clothes dryers
- Uncaged wild animals, caged wild animals
- April Fools pranks (because it is no longer April 1st!!!!)

### Items We Need:

- Typical household items
- Books
- Toys
- Sports gear
- Knick knock
- Tools

We need the support of the entire troop to make this fundraiser a success. The families of all scouts and the scouts themselves attending the Kanderstag trip must participate in the sale. Volunteers are needed for a variety of tasks, but most importantly for the drop-off and pricing nights and for the day of the sale. Please contact Maureen Martinez at 484-325-4092 or [maureenmartinez@gmail.com](mailto:maureenmartinez@gmail.com) to volunteer or if you have questions.

Scouts, consider making flyers to hang up in your neighborhood and distribute.

### NEW DADS NEEDED!

The May Troop Committee meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 5th, 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.

### RADNOR RACES

Radnor Races weekend is coming up on Saturday & Sunday, May 16th & 17th. 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 16th. The hours from 11:00 to 3:00 are the most crucial, but any time is appreciated. Cleanup 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 are welcomed & needed!

### SUNNY (AND EDUCATIONAL) TRIP TO DISNEY

We were blessed with awesome weather this year at Disney World. The week started in the 70's and then got into the 80's later in the week. No rain or whipping winds this year to take down any of the tents either. While every camping trip is educational in terms of it being a growth experience away from home, this year our tour guide Jim Hogan added something extra. Our Disney bonus happened on Monday morning with a 7:45 AM visit to EPCOT before it opened for a learning session on Technology. It didn't hurt that the session included rides on Test Track and Mission Space without having to wait in a line, but much to everyone's surprise, the Technology session was also fun! The class was well done, and our instructor was able to keep everyone's interest. (And Mr. Hogan tells me they gave each scout a small discount on their park pass just to attend!) As I accompanied the class of our older scouts, I was impressed by how much they already know about the technology they use every day (computers, i-Phones, video games etc.) and I think our instructor was even a little surprised by some of their answers to his questions. The biggest "take away" from the two-and-one-half-hour session was the realization of how much technology has already impacted our lives, and of all the potential careers our scouts could pursue in the field of developing technologies and the many jobs which support new products. Hopefully it has some of our scouts thinking about their future and career possibilities. Each of the Disney parks has a similar Youth Education program and next year we'll be sure to attend another one. I'll bet Mr. Hogan already has the

discount in next year's budget. Thanks Disney!

### WANTED: FATHER-SON DUO FOR ONCE-IN-A-LIFETIME ADVENTURE

Local Scout Troop from Willstown, PA, seeks father-son duo for Florida Keys Scuba Adventure. Must be willing to travel to awesome Florida Keys on week of Wednesday, July 29, thru Wednesday, August 5, 2015.

Serious inquiries only, please! Only two spots left. Respond immediately if interested. Reply to EMeltzer @BVone.com

### KANDERSTEG KOUNTDOWN

Our trip to Kandersteg International Scout Centre (KISC) is now a short 15 months away! The planning for the trip continues with a meeting for all Kandersteg families on May 13, 2015, at 7 p.m. at the cabin. At this meeting we will be reviewing the action-packed Alpine pursuits that scouts and scouters will be participating in while at KISC. The primary goal of the evening is to narrow down the list of possible activities and events for the scout committee to make the final choices. We'll also be reviewing the important, but not as exciting, paperwork requirements for the trip. All Kandersteg families should plan to attend this meeting. If you have questions ahead of the meeting or cannot attend, please contact Steve Brown at [stevencharlesbrown@yahoo.com](mailto:stevencharlesbrown@yahoo.com).

### AN AMERICAN IN MADRID

By Michael Bennett

*Ed. note – the following article first appeared in The Lafayette, weekly newspaper of Lafayette College, in February 2015. Troop 78 alumnus Michael Bennett is a sophomore pursuing undergraduate degrees in Civil Engineering and History at the college. Michael has been studying in Madrid, Spain, for the Winter/Spring 2015 semester. Michael will return to the US from his studies abroad in mid-May. He wrote this article as a guest columnist for The Lafayette, and*

ahead of the troop's upcoming trip to Kandersteg International Scout Centre. We are pleased to share the article on Michael's international experience with the Willistown Troop 78 family.

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"Just over a month ago, I boarded a plane bound for Madrid. As I watched the lights of the eastern seaboard fade into the darkness of the Atlantic Ocean, I was apprehensive and I had many questions. Would I, as an American, find a place for myself in this bustling metropolis? How was I supposed to cope in an environment where for the first time in my life my native language was not the primary language used? Most importantly, I was beginning to second-guess my decision to study abroad. As I arrived at my host family's house and tumbled into an exhausted sleep, these questions still swirled through my mind.

"A month into my stay here in the Spanish capital, I'm not even close to having answers to most of my questions, but I'm certain that I've made some progress in that direction. At the very least, I've overcome a severe case of culture shock. I'm no longer stunned to see people driving like Manhattan cabbies and parking on the sidewalk. I have come to anticipate, if not necessarily to appreciate, the performers who treat my fellow Metro (subway) riders and me to guitar, accordion, and vocal concerts. I've even gotten used to seeing people smoking on every street corner. So far, I'm pleased to report, I've avoided smoking, playing the accordion, and driving crazily. I have, however, found other small ways to immerse myself

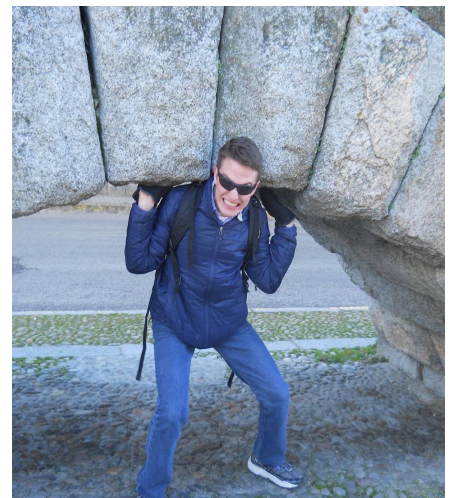
in Madrid's life and culture. By drawing on my prior knowledge of Spanish, I can crack cheesy jokes and discuss my tastes in music with my host mother, and I can drop into local shops and chat with the owners. I can even read most of the advertisements I see, or at least read enough of what they say to get the gist.

"One thing I try to do every day, which has proved tremendously entertaining, is to keep my eyes open for Americana. Much to my surprise, I found out that unlike US foreign policy, American popular culture is often welcomed enthusiastically in other nations. I've ducked into bars with walls covered in vintage advertisements (in English) for Coca-Cola, and walked past a number of people wearing New York Yankees hats. The ever-present nature of American films and music has been even more astounding. On my daily walks to the Metro, I pass massive posters advertising movies like *Cincuenta Sombras de Grey* (*Fifty Shades of Grey*) and *En el Bosque* (*Into the Woods*). Similarly, speakers throbbing with songs by Pharrell Williams and Katy Perry have greeted me in taxicabs and supermarkets. While I came here to expose myself to a new culture, it's comforting to encounter these small slivers of home.

"So far, though, I think I have most enjoyed encountering places and people from different cultures during my stay here. I've played basketball with peers from Kurdistan and shared lunch with new friends from Libya. I've visited the beautiful city of Segovia, where I got to see – and even to support – a

Roman aqueduct. I've improved my previously Clydesdale-worthy dancing skills through my class in Latin dancing. On a whim, I even tried out for the school play – *Dead Man's Cell Phone* – and found myself cast in the title role. Ironically, although my character is deceased throughout the whole show, I have quite a few lines, including a five-page monologue!

"While I am only one month into a four-month semester of studying here, I already feel that the experience has been a fulfilling one. I've seen how a different part of the world lives, works, and relaxes. I've learned things I would not have predicted, which to my surprise has included things about the country I thought I had left on the other side of the Atlantic. Most importantly, I've expanded my own worldview by taking new opportunities and launching myself into the unknown. All in all, I've had a wonderful time, and now I *do* think I can answer that last question I had as I flew to Madrid. Yes, studying abroad was the right choice for me."



*The columnist, working hard to hold up the Roman Aqueduct in Segovia, Spain*