



# Newsletter

Volume 30

Number 4

December 2013

## CALENDAR

### DECEMBER 2013

- 12/3 – Board of Review (7:00 PM) & Troop Committee Mtg.  
12/4 – Patrol Leaders Council (7:30-8:30 PM)  
12/6 – **TROOP MEETING** (7 to 9 PM)  
12/6&7 - Poinsettia Order pick-up at Cabin – Regular Orders  
12/12 – *Diamond Rock Holiday Roundtable*  
12/13 – **TROOP MEETING** (7 to 9 PM)  
12/20 – **TROOP MEETING AND HOLIDAY PARTY** (7 to 9 PM)

### JANUARY 2014

- 1/3-5 - **Winter Camp at Horseshoe – Fathers invited!**  
1/7 – Board of Review (7:00 PM) & Troop Committee Mtg.  
1/8 – Patrol Leaders Council (7:30 - 8:30PM)  
1/10 – *Diamond Rock Roundtable*  
1/10 - **TROOP MEETING** (7 to 9 PM) (Fla. Deposits Due)  
1/17 - **TROOP MEETING** (7 to 9 PM)  
1/24 - **TROOP MEETING** (7 to 9 PM)  
1/25 - **Ski Trip**  
1/31 – **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 Troop Committee meeting will be held on Tuesday, December 3rd at 7:30 PM at the cabin. The committee meets to guide and discuss the operation of the troop. New dads are especially encouraged to attend.



It's that time of year again; folks, the Troop 78 Holiday Party is just around the corner! For those first-time Scouts who have never attended or for those who need a refresher, here are a couple tips to get you ready for this holiday's festivities.

Every year, the troop holds the famous "white elephant" exchange, when Scouts anonymously trade gifts with each other. As part of the exchange, each Scout is required to bring one gift under \$5. The better gift you bring, the more likely you'll get a great one in return! Many Scouts over the years have received toys like Nerf Guns, flashlights, and other novelties.

The party also has a wide assortment of food, games, and Christmas first aid. While your treating Santa for hypothermia, you can grab some of the delicious desserts and affluent amount of ice cream the troop has to offer.

It's a fun night for everyone, and there's always a surprise that adds to the enjoyment. Instead of sitting at home drinking eggnog, consider coming to this year's Holiday Party with Troop 78 on December 20<sup>th</sup>!



Father/Son Weekend

**WINTER CAMP AND FATHER/SON WEEKEND**  
(Father's attendance is not required for Scouts to attend)

**DATES:** January 3 to 5, 2014

**LOCATION:** Camp Horseshoe, Rising Sun, Md., Browning and Schramm Lodges (heated by woodstoves)

### WHAT DO I BRING:

- Sleeping Bag
- Flashlight
- Warm clothes
- Rain or Snow gear
- Sturdy shoes or boots
- Toilet Articles
- Gloves and work gloves (two pairs)

**Drinking cup (troop mugs will be on sale for \$5)**

- Scout Handbook
- Sled?

**PACK IN a DUFFEL BAG** (no suitcases please)

**GETTING THERE:** Troop 78 bus or your dad's car. The bus (or carpools) will be leaving the cabin at 6:00 PM on Friday; expected return is 10:30 AM on Sunday.

### ACTIVITIES INCLUDE:

Scout skill sessions, advancement, Camp tour, woodcutting, scavenger hunt, games, movie, snacks, Fun!

### HOW DO I RESERVE A SPOT?

Tell your Patrol Leader by Sunday,

December 29th. Food cost is \$20 for adults (collected at camp) and free for Scouts and visiting Webelos.

**Dads, we encourage you to join us and see what Troop 78 is all about. Please tell your son's Patrol Leader you will be joining us.**

#### **MORE QUESTIONS?**

**Call your Patrol Leader or Senior Patrol Leader.**



#### **AT BACKPACKING TRIP**

**By Billy Mackrides with additions by Luke Phayre, Panther Patrol**

Backpacking, one of the most challenging but fun trips our troop takes. This year we chose a section of the Appalachian Trail in Pennsylvania near the Cove Mountain Shelter. We left Willistown at 6:15 AM on Saturday, November 16<sup>th</sup>. When we arrived, the troop broke up into skill groups with the more-experienced Scouts being dropped off farther away from the night's campsite, while the younger and less-experienced Scouts got dropped off closer. The shorter hike ended up being 5.2 miles and the longer hike being about 11.2 miles.

All of the hiking groups had at least two *experienced* adults to ensure they would be headed the right way – well, all groups but one. That group happened to be ours. It all started when we passed the "experienced" hiking group made up of Scouts that were going to Philmont. We were making great time, and we even managed to catch up to part of the group, which had been dropped off closer to the campsite. We were about to be the second group to arrive at camp (because it's impossible to beat Eli

Bravo), but disaster struck. A mixture of bad directions and slim adult leadership in our group was the recipe for disaster. The directions that brought us 9.8 miles without getting lost read, "At the fork in the road take a steep blue-blazed trail down the mountain and turn right." When there was a fork in the trail, we took the steep blue-blazed trail down the mountain, thinking it was the right way. And man was it steep! Our group of eight was grabbing on to trees and grass and slowly stepping down the hill, except Ethan. He ran down the 700-degree slope of a mountain having lost his footing and ability to stop. When we decided to stop on the trail and rest, Ethan was still running; he ran right into a small dead tree, and it fell over. Ethan being his clumsy self, attempted to throw the dead tree off the trail, but it ended up hitting Harry. After a while we reached the base of the mountain and turned right, and we kept following blue marks on the trees. The problem was that these ended up being marks for tree cutters not for our trail.

After 25 minutes of seeing no trail markers or signs, we became suspicious and checked in with an adult from the short hike. "You weren't supposed to take the blue blazed trail" Is the response we got, and we found out that every other group but ours had already arrived at camp. This of course, meant that we would now have to hike back up the steep mountain.

By the time we finally got up the mountain and back at camp the sun was just setting. We frantically set up our tents and began cooking. All of the patrols did great setting up their backpacking stoves and cooking an assortment of backpacking, freeze-dried meals such as Beef Stew, Spicy Vegan Curry, Pasta Primavera, and Beef Stroganoff. After a lunch of bars on the trail, there is nothing like a hot meal. Our group quickly became the talk of the camp and we were dubbed "The Lost Patrol" and "The Missing Group" but my favorite was Mr. Bennett's name, "The Wer-

dahek-arwe Tribe," because when we were lost we said, "Where the heck are we?" After everyone was finished laughing about the names we all had no difficulty falling asleep.

The next day we woke up, took down our tents, and hiked the 5.2 miles back to the bus. The trip was a good 16 miles for the long hikers, 10 miles for the short hikers and a brisk 24 miles for the "Wer-dahek-arwe Patrol."

#### **RADNOR THANK YOU**

*The following letter was sent to those who were able to help us at the Spring Radnor event.*

June 2013

On behalf of the Troop Committee, Don Tyson, Bob Matje and I want to thank you for your efforts at this spring's Radnor event. The Radnor Races depend on Troop 78 to handle most of the supporting functions that make this great event possible. The troop depends on you, its extended family, to enable us to do this.

Race Day brought some rain - but not enough to hold back the troop. We had our usual great bunch of people (over 175 on Saturday alone!) out to help us. There were changes made in some of the events during the day, but we were able to adjust and make sure the cars and people got to the right places at the right times. On Sunday we had a large, hard-working crew for cleanup and left the grounds in great condition in record time. ***Thanks so much for your fabulous efforts.***

Your participation helped the troop in our major fund-raising activity. Further, you helped raise money for the Brandywine Conservancy in its ongoing and crucial efforts to preserve open space in our area. We also were able to show the public the kind of great work that Boy Scouts & Troop 78 do in our community. I hope you were able to enjoy yourself too!

This year we had a bumper crop of new members, and it was gratifying to see new faces join our veteran members and our legendary corps of "Old-Timers." Together, we once again put forth the kind of effort that most groups could not even imagine - just another day at the Races for Troop 78.

Very sincerely,  
Brian Rothberg

Don Tyson is tasked with coordinating our entire security effort. It is a huge responsibility that Don handles in an organized and super-competent fashion. Don is also getting more involved in the overall coordination of Troop 78's Radnor efforts.

We cannot discuss Radnor Races and Troop 78 without singling out Bob Matje, Sr. Watching him coordinate Race Day is a wonder to behold. But sometimes I think that is the easy part. For months prior to and after the event, Bob is involved with planning, not just the troop's involvement but also the entire Races themselves. Bob's dedication to Troop 78 as well as the Radnor Races is amazing!

These are the families who came out and worked with the troop. If you could not make it this time, we look forward to seeing you next May.

Barnes  
Belleville  
Bennett  
Benyo  
Bilson  
Bravo  
Brogan  
Brown  
Cady\*  
Capelli  
Cecco\*

Chan  
Compton\*  
Conley  
Curry  
D'Antonio\*  
Davison\*  
DeStefano  
DeVirgilio\*  
DiAntonio\*  
Dinsmore  
Dondero\*  
Donnelly\*  
Dudt  
Dufoe\*  
Duncan  
Elliott  
Evans  
Fenimore  
Finkleston  
Fox  
Fox  
Heegard\*  
Hemphill  
Hoffritz  
Hogan  
Lang  
Lemheney  
Longenecker\*  
Lu  
Mackrides  
Madarasz  
Martinez  
Matje\*  
McCallum  
McCarthy  
Meltzer  
Miller\*  
Moavenzadeh  
Moss  
Motel  
Neskovic  
Neves  
O'Hara  
Palmer  
Pimley  
Poidomani  
Puchalla  
Purcell  
Range  
Riley  
Riotto  
Rothberg\*

Schallack  
Shay\*  
Sheridan  
Siegler\*  
Skodny  
Small  
St. Clair  
Stafford  
Stevens\*  
Stiles  
Tredinnick  
TROOP 585\*  
Tyson\*  
Tyson\*  
Urban  
Varney  
Vercoe\*  
Walsh  
Wang  
White  
Zuraw

*The names followed by \* are people and families that came out and helped Troop 78 in spite of the fact that they no longer have (and in some cases never had) an active boy in the troop. **Thank you!** You are a wonderful example of the spirit of our troop and its extended family!*

#### **OA CONCLAVE STAFFERS NEEDED**

Conclave 2014 needs help from Order of the Arrow Members! Octoraro Lodge 22 is looking for ONE HUNDRED staff members to provide service at Camp Horseshoe on June 6-8, 2014. Conclaves are gatherings of many OA lodges from an area to share best practices, have LOTS of fun and meet new brothers. If you are interested, contact [conclave@octoraro22.org](mailto:conclave@octoraro22.org) to get your name on the list! Troop 78 has had a tradition of supporting the Order of the Arrow and assisting in hosting the conclaves held at Camp Horseshoe. Think about volunteering for an unforgettable experience.