



# Willistown Troop 78

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

Facebook: [Willistown Boy Scout Troop 78](#)

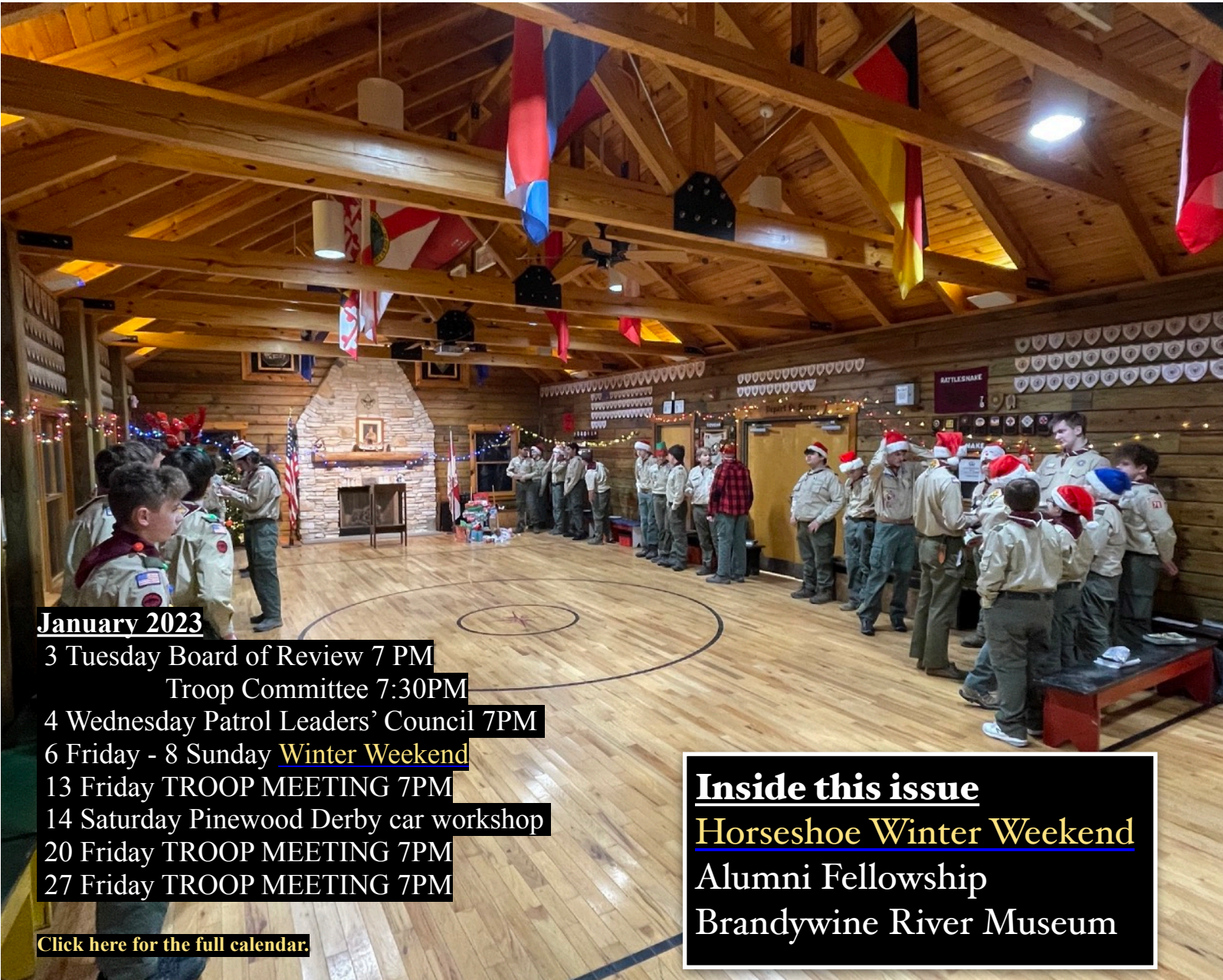
YouTube Channel: [Troop 78](#)

January 2023

Volume 39 Number 5

## Holiday Party

A good time was had by all!



### January 2023

- 3 Tuesday Board of Review 7 PM
- Troop Committee 7:30PM
- 4 Wednesday Patrol Leaders' Council 7PM
- 6 Friday - 8 Sunday **Winter Weekend**
- 13 Friday TROOP MEETING 7PM
- 14 Saturday Pinewood Derby car workshop
- 20 Friday TROOP MEETING 7PM
- 27 Friday TROOP MEETING 7PM

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

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# Holiday Party!

Friday December 16, 2022

By Nic Opielski



At 7:00PM on Friday December 16<sup>th</sup> of the scouts of Troop 78 gathered for our annual holiday party. Scouts arrived with gifts for our traditional white elephant and waited in anticipation for the meeting to start.

When our phenomenal senior Patrol Leader Jack Barsotti called fall in, we gathered in our regular patrols for inspection. After inspection was over we proceeded to play a game of First Aid bingo. It was an eventful game, with the board filled with vague injuries and a multitude of false bingos from the Rattlesnake Patrol.

Next we did two first aid problems. The first problem consisted of an issue on a hiking trail at Camp Horseshoe, which some patrols found slightly vague. The second problem was a patrol leader problem, that consisted of the



Grinch plowing into a rather surprised Cindy Lou Who on his sleigh. This problem ended up being a breeze.

Our traditional white elephant gift exchange followed the first aid problems. Most scouts were showered with wonderful treasures, some others less so. Probably the most notable gift being a 3ft bar of Twix, consisting of a whopping 18 bars.

After the gift exchange we had a snack, during which we all proceeded to put on an extra 10 pounds worth of ice cream, cookies, chocolate covered pretzels, and soda.

When we finished the snack and cleaned up, it was a time to head home for the holidays with memories of another amazing holiday party.



# Brandywine River Museum Family Event

Sunday December 11, 2022

By Jacob Diederich



The Brandywine River museum closed down from 5-7PM on December 11th to give Troop 78 a private museum walkthrough. There were snacks and refreshments for us, and some of us brought our families along to wander the museum. The museum had an amazing model train display with some parts that you could interact with by using things outside of the display. One interaction was someone welding on an electrical pole, and when you interacted with it, the welder would turn on. Another interaction was someone painting a billboard. When it was activated the man would start moving his arm up and down causing the billboard to get covered.

In another room, there was a display of bugs in cases and had mixes of other objects with them to create an unnatural environment. Each case had a theme. For example, a theme from one case was the game Clue. Another theme was dolls. Each case also had a wall display above it. There was a table of bugs in jars of honey. On the floor there was a large box with more magnificent bugs. Most of these creatures were from South America and Africa. Another interesting thing they had was coral displayed to make shapes or figures.

There were a lot of paintings and drawings, most of which had a plaque detailing their story. There was art of farm scenery, the Revolutionary War, as well as the classic subject of fruit still life. It was an amazing event which gave us the chance to explore the museum's amazing collection. Thanks to The Brandywine River Museum for their generosity!

[Model train video](#)



# Brandywine River Museum visit (continued)

By Steve Brown

On behalf of our Scouts, Scouters, and families, Brian Rothberg, Don Tyson and myself, I want to thank the Brandywine Conservancy for their long partnership with Troop 78. Supporting the Conservancy in their staging of the Radnor Races is our single largest volunteer service effort. This event provides many benefits to the Troop and our entire community benefits by helping them in the preservation of open space.

This year we enjoyed an amazing holiday evening at the Brandywine River Museum as detailed in the above article. We are pleased to be planning an activity with them for the new year that showcases open space preservation.

We are excited to continue and to deepen our relationship with the Conservancy in 2023 and are looking forward to another year at the Radnor Races!

# Holiday Poinsettia and Wreath Sale

By Jim Fox

For this year's poinsettia and wreath sale, many volunteers donated their precious time and strong muscles to help unload, sort, and deliver beautiful holiday plants and decor to the customers of the troop's winter fundraiser. One anonymous volunteer (whose name rhymes with "othberg") when thanked for his time, simply responded "This is just what we do. The troop needs help and we do what needs to be done."

And "get it done" was correct! We had 30 scout families participate in the sales to set a new record for this sale year even with modest price increases. The top sellers were: Shreyas Sao, Josh Simms, and Jacob Diedrich who were awarded gift cards. The Stag patrol was the top-selling patrol winning a pizza party for their efforts along with the SPL Staff whose sales were even higher. All of the participants helped to add to the troop funds.

We'd like to thank Mark Siegle for coordinating with the grower and bringing in new colors of poinsettias. Wayne Curry and Brian Rothberg for staying the entire time to give out poinsettias and make deliveries to our larger corporate orders, Steve Wark for recruiting a cast of volunteer helpers, and Mr. D., Dave Dondero, Joe Cady, Joe Johnson, and Maureen Sansone for getting the 144 wreaths and 735 poinsettias to the right scouts for delivery!



# Upcoming Events

## Winter Weekend at Camp Horseshoe

Friday January 6 - Sunday January 8, 2023

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: 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.

**Come see Camp Horseshoe in winter!**

[Click here for more information.](#)



## Disney 2023!

Saturday April 1 - Saturday April 8

Time is running out to sign up for  
Disney 2023



Permission slips and deposit are due on Sunday January 8th. We need a minimum of 15 people to go to Disney. Official handout can be found on the troop web site.

Dates to remember for mandatory meetings and payments are:

1. **Sunday January 8th (Winter Camp) - \$425.00**  
**Deposit and permission slip are due**
2. **Sunday, February 12th (Super Bowl Sunday Pancake Breakfast)- \$400 Final Payment due**
3. **Friday March 10th, 9:00 PM (after Troop meeting) – Scout and Parent Meeting (Parent must attend with scout)**
4. **Sunday March 26th – Bus and equipment cleaning meeting 1:00PM to 4:00PM**
5. **Friday March 31st – 6:30 PM Load your gear on the bus**
6. **Saturday April 1st – 1PM Leave for DISNEY**



**DISNEY WORLD CELEBRATES  
50 YEARS!**

# Troop 78 Pinewood Derby Workshop

Saturday January 14, 2023

Brian Opielski

Troop 78 would like to officially announce its 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Pinewood Derby Fabrication Workshop on 1/14/23. During this workshop our world renowned derby car builders will be lending their time, talent and tools to help local Cubs (and parents) fabricate 5 ounces of pure Pinewood Derby greased lightening glory.

Cubs will be asked to bring their official Pinewood Derby car kit, a package of weights and ideally a sketch of their car's design. Parents and Cubs (based on their rank) will progress through a series of workstations manned by our scouts and qualified adults that will take them from conceptual design to a car that is ready for final sanding, polishing and painting at home with their parents. All fabrication steps will follow Chester County Council's official Pinewood Derby rules.

As always, many hands make light work. We need both equipment and qualified adults and Scouts to make this workshop a success. Please contact Brian Opielski at [bopielski@verizon.net](mailto:bopielski@verizon.net)  
[Click here for the workshop flyer.](#)

## Philmont Trip Signups

Summer 2024

Action Required ASAP

2024 reservations for Philmont are now taking place. Are you interested in a high adventure trip during the summer of 2024? Troop 78 is targeting a late July or early August trek to the Philmont Scout Ranch in New Mexico. The trip would consist of a 2-3 day visit to Colorado Springs followed by a 7 or 9-day backpacking trip through the historic Philmont Ranch in Cimmaron, New Mexico. We are looking for at least one crew of 9 scouts and 3 adults to make this trek (additional crews could be added if interest is high).

If interested, please email Steve Wark at [stevenwark@yahoo.com](mailto:stevenwark@yahoo.com).

Deposits for the trip will be due in January 2023. A wilderness and learning adventure that will last your lifetime is just around the corner! Scouts must be at least 14 years old to go to Philmont.

## Alumni Corner

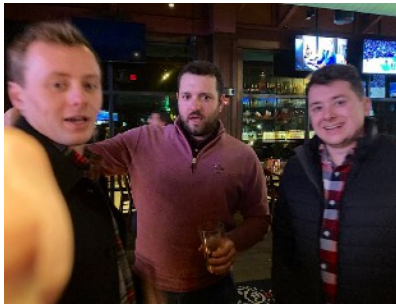
### Troop 78 Alumni, Friends Holiday Get-Together

By Jim Bennett

On Tuesday, December 27<sup>th</sup>, friends and alumni of the Troop gathered at Chickie's and Pete's in Malvern, PA to celebrate the holidays. Over 25 people came to the event from places as far away and diverse as Seattle, Raleigh, Houston, and South Philadelphia.

Those who came together represented multiple decades of Troop membership. The younger crowd was especially well-represented at the event. Spouses and significant others were entertained listening to stories of yesteryear, and the generation gap was well-bridged by the common, positive experience that all had (and some continue to have) due to their membership in Troop 78. Everyone who attended agreed that the holiday gathering was a success. We hope that next year's event will draw even greater attendance.

The alumni group is planning two more activities in the coming months. Look for news on a unique dining event, to be held at a local eatery in the early Spring, followed by a trip to see the Phillies' AAA affiliate, the Lehigh Valley IronPigs, take the diamond in August. Remember – Troop 78 is family. We'd love to see you all at our events! Details coming – stay tuned!



## Fundraiser for the Cabin Endowment

Announcing a limited offering of reproduction prints of a watercolor painted 20 years ago of the "new" cabin done by Win Reber. Win was longtime member of the Troop committee, as well as an original member of the Friends of Troop 78 board. He was also the chair of the Radnor School District art department.

He designed the Troop loon logo as well the patch used on the Troop neckerchief. Full scale reproduction of the painting measures 22" x 15", half-scale is 15" x 11".

Limited edition: ten full scale prints offered at \$195.00 each, twenty half-scale prints at \$95.00 each.

Proceeds go to the cabin endowment fund.

[For more information contact Dave Dondero.](#)



## Chester County Council News

### Upcoming event: Council First Aid Meet 2023

Saturday February 4, 2023

[Click here for more information.](#)

### Council Newsletter

[Click here for the current issue of the Chester County Council's newsletter the Trailblazer.](#)

Please print this Newsletter for everyone in your family to see.