



Newsletter

Volume 29

Number 2

October 2012

COMING EVENTS

OCTOBER 2012

- 10/2 – Board of Review (7:00 PM) & Troop Committee Mtg.
10/3 (Wed.) – Patrol Leaders Council (7:30 - 8:30 PM)
10/5 - TROOP MEETING (7 TO 9 PM)
10/6 – *Intro to Outdoor Leader Skills (Adult) - Camp Jarvis*
10/6 – Den Chief Training (9 AM to Noon)
10/7 - **Annual Troop Dinner & COURT OF HONOR: 3 PM**
10/11 – *Diamond Rock Roundtable*
10/12 - TROOP MEETING (7 to 9 PM) - Poinsettia sale begins
10/13 – Radnor Horse Trials (7:30 AM to Noon) – Help needed
10/13 – Junior Leader Training – APLs, PLs, ASPLs, SPL
10/16 – *Pasta Night (7:00 PM)*
10/19-20 - **Webelos Extreme weekend – Nottingham Park**
10/21 – **Canoe Trip – Octoraro Creek**
10/26 – TROOP MEETING (7 to 9 PM)

NOVEMBER 2012

- 11/2 – TROOP MEETING (7 TO 9 PM)
Poinsettia \$ Due for Early or Corporate Orders to be delivered 11/20
11/5 - *Friends of Troop 78 Board Meeting*
11/6 – Board of Review (7:00 PM) & Troop Committee Mtg.
11/7 – Patrol Leaders Council (7:30 - 8:30 PM)
11/9-11 – Backpacking Trip
11/16 – TROOP MEETING (7 to 9 PM)
Poinsettia \$ Due
11/16 - Council Gala Event
11/24 – Poinsettia Early or Corp. Order pick-up at Cabin
11/29 - Readyman for 4th Grade Webelos (help needed)
11/30 - TROOP MEETING (7 to 9 PM)

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



WILLISTOWN TROOP 78 ANNUAL FAMILY DINNER & COURT OF HONOR

Sunday, October 7, at 3:00 PM
(Scouts arrive at 2:45,
Patrol Leaders at 2:00)

Troop 78 Cabin, 15 Mill Road
(When our parking lot is filled,
please park at the baseball fields
next door.)

All of our troop families are invited to dinner and to recognize our Scouts for their summer advancement.

Each family is asked to bring a dessert (last names beginning A-L) or a salad (last names beginning M-Z). The troop will provide meat or vegetarian Lasagna, rolls and butter and beverage.

Contact your Patrol Leader so we may have an accurate headcount.

Our program includes:

- Eagle Scout Court of Honor
- Presentation of merit badges and rank advancement
- Scout of the Year award
- Patrol of the Year award
- Highlights of the Scout year, Switzerland and Canada trips

Scouts and scouters please wear your complete uniform!

NEW DADS NEEDED!

The Troop Committee meeting will be held on Tuesday, October 2, at 7:30 PM, at the cabin. The committee usually meets on the first Tuesday of the month to guide and discuss the operation of the troop. New dads are especially encouraged to attend.

WEBELOS EXTREME WEEKEND AND TROOP CANOE TRIP

October 19 to 20 at Nottingham Park
October 21 at Octoraro Creek

We've combined two trips into one weekend for triple the fun!

The troop bus will leave the cabin at 6:00 PM Friday night for the trip to Nottingham Park. After setting up camp and a gateway, on Saturday we will be running 1-2 stations to teach Scout skills to Webelos. We also anticipate hosting some Webelos who will camp with our troop. Come help promote our troop and have fun at the same time. There will also be Boy Scout activities and events all day long. It will be a day of fun, Scouting, and will help to demonstrate to new prospective members and the rest of council what a great troop we are.

However, here at Troop 78 we are not content with just a camporee.

So on Sunday we will head to the Octoraro Creek and paddle from the reservoir to Camp Horseshoe. Anticipated return home is 3 PM Sunday. It is an easy fun day on the water for canoe veterans and novices alike.

All Scouts from Troop 78 are encouraged to attend the entire weekend.

However, if you are only able to attend the Sunday canoe trip or just the camporee, you may choose to do so. We anticipate running the bus back to the cabin on Saturday night and, if warranted, returning with additional Scouts for the Sunday canoe trip. **The Bus will depart from**

the cabin at 7 AM Sunday SHARP. The troop will be camping at Nottingham Park on Friday and Saturday nights.

SO CALL YOUR PATROL LEADER before October 13th and let him know which category of Scout you are:

A – I am going to do both trips, GO SCOUTS!

B – Just the canoe trip on Sunday for me, as I have a previous commitment on Saturday.

C – I can only join in for the camporee portion Friday and Saturday; canoeing is just not my thing or I need to be home Sunday.

D – I can't make either trip that weekend.

WHAT TO BRING:

Sleeping bag

Sleeping pad

Wear your class "B" uniform (troop T-shirt, Scout pants, Scout socks)

Bring your class "A" (Scout shirt and neckerchief) for Retreat service

Extra clothes and underwear

Rain gear

Water bottle or canteen

Toothbrush, toothpaste, soap, small towel

Flashlight

Pocket knife (if you have earned your Totin' Chip)

Extra shoes (sneakers) and socks

Sweatshirt or jacket

Drinking Cup (metal or plastic)

Pack in a small duffel bag. You will be walking from the parking lot to our campsite.

For the Canoe Trip, bring: a towel, extra clothes in case you get wet, rain gear, old sneakers

ADULT LEADERS AND DADS

please let Steve D'A. (610-296-3233 or (sdantonio@comcast.net) know if you can attend and which meals you'll be eating with us. We will ask for \$10 for food from adult leaders.

Each Scout who participates in the Webelos Day will receive a patch for the event.

TROOP 78 BSA REGISTRATION

Troop 78 registration fees will soon be due. Willistown Troop 78 needs to register all Scouts and adults each year with the Boy Scouts of America.

The annual registration fee covers some of the cost of going on trips, including fuel for the bus, the food on trips, a subscription to Boys' Life (one per household), and troop specific uniform pieces (patches, neckerchief).

2012 Troop 78 Registration Fees

- First Scout \$75
- Each additional Scout in a family \$65
- Venture Crew \$35
- Adults \$50
- 1st Year Dads \$35
- Seniors (age 65+) \$35

All new and existing registered adults must complete Youth Protection Training.

Dads, please show your support for your son and the Boy Scout program by registering as an adult. Registration also helps the troop by making you eligible for attending any Scout camping trip and for serving as a merit badge counselor, where you can share your experiences and knowledge with the boys in the troop.

Registration form and check is due by October 31, 2012.

A registration form is attached. For questions, please contact Dave Schertz at 610-687-0366 or e-mail him at Registrar@willistown78.org

PASTA NIGHT

October 16th - 7:00PM

Hunter's Chicken, Spaghetti with meatballs and sausage, broccoli rabe, dinner rolls, tossed salad and dessert. Come hungry.

ALGONQUIN HIGH ADVENTURE

By Mark Siegle

Each year for the past sixty years or so, boys and leaders from Willistown Troop 78 have been adventuring to Ontario Canada to canoe, hike and camp in the vast wilderness fondly known as Algonquin Provincial Park. Canoeing and camping is a treasured

pastime of the Canadian people in this region and a tradition that has become a core annual event of our troop. The park offers the unique benefit of providing pristine lakes, rivers, forests and hills in a huge, preserved area that is perfect for a high-adventure wilderness experience, yet is close enough to our area to access in a day's travel.

Every year around late July or early August members and guests of our troop, in groups ranging from 2 to 30 have been making the trek. This year 10 members of Troop 23 from West Point, NY, who are looking to start a high adventure tradition of their own, joined us. Our path through the park this year was a loop trip, starting and ending in Lake Opeongo (the park's largest lake) that covered over 60 miles of lakes and portages. The longest portage this year was some 3800 meters, which is just over 2 miles. Mind you, a portage is not just a walk in the park. It usually consists of carrying your 60-lb. pack, your canoe and sometimes your buddy's canoe or pack from one lake to another. If you are efficient in your portaging methods you only have to cover 2 lengths of the portage to get all of your stuff to the other side. If you're not, well you can easily rack up the miles over land.

Our troop takes our camping pretty serious and prides itself in doing it in style. In recent years we developed techniques to pack, haul and prepare meals from fresh ingredients. This year, for instance, we had Greek Island shrimp for the first night's dinner and grilled steaks the second night. Our philosophy is when you work and camp as hard as we do to get to some really remote and beautiful places, you deserve to eat and live well along the way. We also like to have baked goods at a lot of our meals. It's a little more effort but well appreciated by everyone who likes to eat fresh baked brownies and cinnabon cakes. In the early days, this was only possible if you packed and carried in your cast-iron Dutch oven. Today we benefit from the technology of outback ovens doing the same task with less weight and space.

Some of the sights and events that you will experience on this trip will stay with you the rest of your life. Seeing an 8'-tall bull moose startle from the water where it was grazing on lily pads, gracefully leap across a tiny island and disappear up a steep bank into the forest in the wink of an eye is something you'll never forget. Or laying out on a rock as the night turns completely dark and looking up you see the sky filled with stars and the Milky Way shining like you've never seen before, is something that will happen very few times in your life. Maybe you'll get to paddle out in the day's first light through the mist and fog coming off the glass-still water and hear the silence and the sound of only the water coming off your paddle. Soon you may paddle out of the fog into a clear patch of lake or river as the first rays of sun blaze across the treetops. Egrets, herons and loons will look at you curiously as you slowly pass by along your way. The occasional beaver dam checks your progress. Somewhere along your journey you will suddenly realize why you came. Most of you will find a way to come again.



THIS YEAR'S TRIP

By Holden Barnes, Stag Patrol

This summer, Troop 78 and Troop 23 of West Point, New York, went to Canada for this year's canoeing trip. We headed out Sunday morning at 6:30 AM on our way to Canada. We arrived at 6:00 PM, and from there we ate dinner and found our campsite. The next morning we woke up, took down our tents and were on our way to Lake Opeongo. We got there, put our canoes in and cast off. That evening, we arrived at Lake Happy Isle and set up camp. We went to bed around 8:30 PM after a long day of canoeing. The next day, we headed out of Lake Happy Isle and paddled to Big Trout Lake. We got there early, so we relaxed for a couple of hours

before dinner. That night, the sky was clear and you could see the stars from the rocks. It was a great view. The next morning, Wednesday, we woke up and set off to go to Burnt Root Lake. It was a fun paddle day. We arrived around 3:00 PM and set up our campsite. We had a campsite on a peninsula that day. We ate dinner and went to bed early. Thursday morning it was damp outside, and it was starting to rain. We headed out for a big paddle day. We portaged once, and then canoed some more before our second portage. At the end of our second portage, we built a fire before continuing to Hogan Lake. We ate lunch at our campsite on Hogan Lake and we set up our tents. By then, everything was soaked from the rain. We went to bed early that night. Friday morning we headed out for our last full day of canoeing. Part of the paddle that day was through a giant marsh, which was pretty fun. I ended up securing that night's campsite on Proulx Lake, located on a big island on the middle of the lake. After a fun afternoon of relaxing and cliff jumping, we went to bed. The next morning, we woke up really early and headed out for Opeongo. By around 2:00 PM, we had all gotten back to Opeongo, showered, and put away our gear. That evening, we went to a restaurant in Whitney, Ontario, and ate dinner while catching up on all the Olympics news. We came home that night and were back at the cabin by around 5:00 PM. Overall, it was a great canoeing trip.

A DAY AT THE BEACH

By Tim Schallack, Moose Patrol

So what did you do the weekend of September 14th? I went to Sea Isle City with the troop. And I guarantee you it was better than whatever you did, unless of course you were with us. Let me try and capture some of the amazing things that happened. Upon arriving at the cabin, we packed the bus and left for the beach. It was a pleasantly uneventful trip except for locking Luke Brogan out of his iPod. There was also a joke about Robert Varney's fondness for redhead girls that ended up running the whole weekend. When we got there, we set up tents and found that packed sand is incredibly difficult to put tent stakes

into. After going to bed and waking the next morning to prepare a delicious breakfast of French toast and sausage, we headed to the beach at Sea Isle City. Once we arrived, we all started trying to dig holes and trying to keep out the waters, while a group of younger guys went out into the ocean. After a while each group switched activities. I went out into the water with the second group, and we played jackpot until I was certain I had hypothermia. Then we went back and tried (multiple times) to catch a seagull. Jay Madaraz kept trying to catch crabs and soon a lot of other people got caught up in it too. We drove back to the campsite to make dinner, where each patrol cooked a Dutch-oven beef stew. After clean up, we headed back the beach, but this time it was to the Ocean City boardwalk. We all went around in groups. The best thing my group did was head to Manco and Manco pizzeria, where we ordered, a small pizza with everything on it. It was the most delicious pizza I have ever sunk my teeth into. After that, we kept walking down the boardwalk until it was time to go back to the bus, then drive to the campsite and eventually to bed. The next morning, we packed up our personal gear and had a wonderful cold breakfast, took down the tents and packed the bus. We then "policed" the area picking up tons of trash left by previous campers and headed back to the cabin. I slept half the trip, being tired from all the fun.

HISTORY OF

"ACHGEKETUM LODGE"

By Scoutmaster D'Antonio

On September 19th the old Troop 78 cabin was razed. While most of you reading this have never known anything but the present cabin, I thought a little history lesson would be of interest.

In 1947, wanting to assist Troop 78, the newly formed VFW Post 5203 offered the troop the use of one of four summer cabins remaining on their 24-acre property. Shortly thereafter, a fire destroyed the troop's meeting place at the Willistown School. After inhabiting the cabin near Grubb Road, plans were drawn by the Troop Committee to double the

size of the cabin and add a fireplace. The VFW Home Association gave the troop \$1,000 for materials to make the improvements. In 1962, a “back room” or Committee Room was added on the site of the former kitchen. This room was remodeled in 1982 and named in honor of George Bellgrau, longtime Troop Committee chairman. Originally heated only with wood stoves and the fireplace, an oil burner was added to the cabin in the 1970s. There were never any bathrooms or running water. The cabin was named “Achgekatum Lodge” in honor of long-time Scout and Scoutmaster G. Ernest Heegard upon his retirement from the position of Scoutmaster in June of 1994.

Needing more outdoor space after the Waynesboro Woods (Veteran’s Way) housing development was built in 2000-2002, the Troop Committee made plans to construct a new cabin on Mill Road on a 2-3-acre parcel. Deeming it too impractical to move the Achgekatum Lodge, plans were made to build a new and much larger log cabin. Funds were raised under the direction of William “Doc” Lenker DDS and ground broken in the spring of 2001. Under the leadership of a cabin building committee headed by David Dondero, the cabin was completed with the help of numerous volunteers from the troop and throughout the community, and dedicated on October 5th, 2002. Speakers at the dedication included former Scoutmaster from 1955 to 1994, G. Ernest Heegard, Committee Chairman David Dondero, and outgoing Senior Patrol Leader, Brett D’Antonio. After sitting vacant for many years, the old cabin was demolished by Willistown Township on September 19th, 2012.



Last troop meeting at Achgekatum Lodge – June 2002

WE NEEDED MORE STORAGE SPACE!

Since we built the cabin 10 years ago and the pole barn 9 years ago, the troop has accumulated more and more equipment. Notable purchases are the two canoe trailers. We needed more space in the pole barn, so the Troop Committee authorized an addition to the barn. Charlestown Paving and Excavation generously donated materials and labor to prepare the site. The contractor did a nice job and the new side matches the old flawlessly. While we were at it, we corrected an original design flaw and widened the access door for the bus. Our friends at Forcine Concrete and Delaware Valley Concrete donated time and materials to pour the floor, and our own Chris Wagner weatherproofed and shingled the roof. Special thanks to Troop Committee members Joe Rubino, Miles Stevens, and Bill Trowill for their help in this project. We now have an additional 800 square feet of storage space. We are confident that Mr. D can fill it up.



MY TRAIL THROUGH BOY SCOUTS **By Michael Bennett**

Since March 2006, Troop 78 has taken me many places far from our cabin in Willistown Township. In the last six-plus years, I have traveled to ten states, four countries, and three national capitals. Through the troop, I have ascended to the soaring peaks of the Rockies in New Mexico and descended deep into the earth in southwestern Pennsylvania. I have battled the rapids of West Virginia’s New River and clambered up the side of a Swiss glacier. I have visited the hallowed halls of three U.S. military academies and seen the Hall of Presidents in Disney World. In short, during my Boy Scout career, I have done so many cool things that I could

write a book about them all.

While on a hike in Switzerland this July, I had an idea – what if I *did* write a memoir of my time in Scouting? What would I cover in each chapter of such a book? After careful thinking, I divided my time in Boy Scouts into ten chapters and gave each one a title based on my experiences during that period of time. To give my Scouting experiences context, I also decided to cover the time immediately before and after my Scout tenure in a prologue and an epilogue; I applied the same titling system with them that I used for my chapters.

The title of this article is also my memoir’s title. Below are my chapter titles, along with the time period they cover and a brief chapter summary. Please forgive me for sketching out the events of the final chapter and the epilogue prior to their actual occurrence!

PROLOGUE: A Glowing Ember

(September 2005 – March 2006)

As a Webelos, I visited several Boy Scout troops, all without finding what I really wanted. However, when I visited Troop 78 at a meeting and at Winter Camp, I knew I’d found my home.

CHAPTER 1: The First Rays of Dawn (March 2006 – December 2006)

I received a baptism by water at Summer Camp 2006 – the infamous “Rain Year.” That year, I also made new friends, advanced to Second Class, and won an “Easy” Button (a la Staples) at the gift exchange.

CHAPTER 2: Onward and Upward (January 2007 – December 2007)

Early in the year, I received First Class, and in the summer, I attended two weeks at Horseshoe for the first time. In the fall, I reached Star and did my first long hike on the Backpacking Trip.

CHAPTER 3: Rounding the Bend (January 2008 – October 2008)

In 2008, I was inducted into the Order of the Arrow (OA), I spent two more weeks at Horseshoe, and I made my first pilgrimage to Kandersteg

International Scout Centre. To top the year off, I earned Life in the fall.

CHAPTER 4: *The Eye of the Storm*

(November 2008 – July 2009)

After reaching Life, I served as a Den Chief and got my first taste of leading other boys. I also earned Brotherhood in the OA. At Summer Camp, I was 14½ years old – the Boy Scouts of America's median age.

CHAPTER 5: *The Drive to Eagle*

(September 2009 – May 2010)

That fall, I decided that I was ready to earn my Eagle Scout rank. I found my dream Eagle project – interviewing military veterans for the Library of Congress – then lined up interviewees and prepared to tackle it.

CHAPTER 6: *Long, Hot Summer*

(June 2010 – August 2010)

A week as a patrol leader at Horseshoe. Two humid, footsore weeks at Philmont. Seven days of paddling and portages in Canada. Did I mention fitting my Eagle project in between all of these events?

CHAPTER 7: *Aging in Comfort*

(September 2010 – July 2011)

In October, I finally earned my Eagle's wings; that year, I also served as Cougar's patrol leader. To my surprise, I was now among the troop's "Old Guard." Yet I kept trying new things, like the Disney trip and a week at Scouting's newest high adventure base – the Summit – in West Virginia.

CHAPTER 8: *Front of the Cabin*

(September 2011 – May 2012)

After becoming an Assistant Senior Patrol Leader (ASPL), I got to see the troop from an older boy's viewpoint – something about which I had long been curious. I very much enjoyed helping lead the troop and watching the younger Scouts hone their skills.

CHAPTER 9: *One Last Hurrah*

(June 2012 – August 2012)

As my Scout tenure drew to a close, I decided to have some fun during my last summer. Two weeks at Horseshoe, another week at the Summit, and a second trip to Kandersteg made for a memorable time.

CHAPTER 10: *The Twilight Months*

(September 2012 – December 2012)

Following our return from Kandersteg, I had a few camping trips, meetings,

and merit badges left before I turned 18. These formed a satisfying ending to my Scout career.

EPILOGUE: *Into the Fog*

(January 2013 – August 2013)

After turning 18, I became an Assistant Scoutmaster and spent some time reflecting on my Scouting tenure. I also decided to remain as active as I could in Scouting while in college.

Now, as I conclude my time as a Scout, I would like to conclude my article by thanking a few people and groups of people for their positive influence on me:

- Mr. D'Antonio – being one of your Scouts has been a privilege.
- My Dad – I'm glad that you're my father and that you were our Camping Chairman.
- My PL's, SPL's, and ASPL's who led me well throughout my years in Troop 78.
- Troop 78's current Scouts and Scouters. You all are my second family. It is wonderful to be a part of such a supportive, vibrant group of people, and I hope to stay in the fray.



Newsletter

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