



Newsletter

Volume 29

Number 6

February 2013

COMING EVENTS

FEBRUARY 2013

- 2/1 – TROOP MEETING (7 to 9 PM)
2/4 - *Friends of Troop 78 Board Meeting*
2/5 – Board of Review (7:00 PM), Troop
Committee Mtg. & CPR Training
2/6 - Patrol Leaders Council (7:30 PM)
2/8 - TROOP MEETING (7 to 9 PM) Begin
Hoagie Sale
2/12 – *Council-wide Roundtable*
2/15 – TROOP MEETING (7 to 9 PM)
2/22 - Council Recognition Dinner
2/22-24 – **Ski Trip/Matje Farm**

MARCH 2013

- 3/1 – TROOP MEETING (7 to 9 PM)
3/3 - **Annual Parent's Night and Court of
Honor: (3pm) – Scout Cabin**
3/5 – Board of Review (7:00 PM) & Troop
Committee Mtg.
3/6 – Patrol Leaders Council (7:30 PM)
3/8- TROOP FIRST AID MEET (7 to 9 PM)
3/9 – **Council First Aid Meet**
3/9 – Order of the Arrow Banquet (5:30 PM)
3/14 – *Diamond Rock Roundtable*
3/15 - TROOP MEETING (7 to 9 PM) Hoagie\$
due
3/22-30 – **Florida Disney Trip**

COMING UP

- 4/5-6 – *Parents Build Hoagies 7 to 9 PM and
7 to 9 AM; Pick-up at 9 to 10 AM*
4/12-14 - *Historic Trip – NYC*

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

NEW DADS NEEDED!

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



MATJE FARM/SNO MOUNTAIN SKI EVENT

February 22 – 24, 2013

Join Troop 78 and our colleagues from West Point Troop 23 as we spend the weekend at Mr. Matje's farm in upstate Pennsylvania. The weekend promises a great time on the slopes and fellowship and fun in a fantastic winter setting.

On Friday night, we will board the bus at the troop cabin for the trek up to Mr. Matje's place. The Matje Farm has a long and storied history with Troop 78. Years ago, the troop sold Christmas trees that were harvested on Mr. Matje's property. When then-Scoutmaster Ernie Heegard suggested to Mr. Matje that the farm would be a great venue for a winter camping trip, Mr. Matje agreed, and the property barn – which is well over 150 years old – became the overnight shelter for the hundreds of Scouts who have since been on this trip. Mr. Matje's orientation speech, given when the troop bus arrives and before any Scouts make camp, is legendary. And the memorabilia in the house is wonderful to see. Mule deer, whitetail and pheasant are among the hunting trophies mounted on the walls of the property. A large cast-iron wood-burning stove warms the house as the troop gathers around large tables, dining-hall style, for the meals we take

together. Even if you aren't usually a "cold-weather" kind of guy, the Matje Farm trip is a must for every Troop 78'er.

But if you like the cold and snow sports – have we got a deal for you! On Saturday morning, after breakfast, skiers, boarders and tubers will head to Sno Mountain (the former "Montage"), about an hour from the farm, for a day of fun on the slopes. Sno Mountain offers Scouts the best deal of any ski facility around: The cost for a lift and rental (youth or adult, skis or snowboard) is \$27 per person. If you don't need to rent equipment, the cost is just \$23. Never skied or boarded? No problem – the price for both packages includes a lesson, if you'd like one. Don't ski but like to sled? Try snow tubing, which is only \$15. Per BSA and Troop 78 policy, you must wear a ski helmet to get on the hill, regardless of your experience or ability level. If you don't have one, you can rent one at Sno for an additional \$12 per person.

You say you like to camp, but you're not much for skiing, boarding or tubing? Join us anyway – there's plenty to do at Matje Farm. Some of our leaders will be staying back at camp and will provide Scouts with the opportunity to shoot clay pigeons with shotguns. Other activities and skill events, such as sled races, cross-country skiing and snow shoeing, will be available, depending on demand and weather. On Saturday night, after a tasty meal, we may have a campfire outdoors and perform skits, or the Scouts might choose to watch a movie, while the adults gather in the kitchen of the farmhouse to talk. The conversation at Matje Farm is always enjoyable. Mr. Matje is usually joined by some other long-time Troop 78

Scouters, who regale us with tales of Troop 78 adventures from earlier years. Their stories are entertaining, and the house is filled with raucous laughter.

On Sunday morning, we'll hike the property, looking for wildlife tracks. If there's snow on the ground, we will likely find coyote prints. Perhaps they're the tracks of the coyotes that you heard on Friday and Saturday night when you bedded down! If time permits, we may be able to do some additional shooting or participate in other Scouting skills before we head home from this weekend of great memories.

The cost for Scouts will depend on the ski package selected, but there is no charge beyond the fees charged by Sno Mountain. The cost for adults will be the fee for the selected ski package cost plus \$20 for food. Adults can shoot shotgun for an additional \$5 charge. We're hoping to have the Webelos that will be crossing over to Troop 78 join us, so help us have a big turnout for a great trip!

Whether you'll be joining us for the first time or you're a repeat attendee, the Matje ski/snowboard trip is a must for all troop members. Don't be "missin' the tradition" - mark your calendar and plan to join us! Look for the handout at the first troop meeting in February.

COLD WEATHER CAMPING How to Stay Warm on the Slopes and in the Hay

Note – as you read this article and think about the cold weather gear that Scouts and Scouters need, keep in mind that our Scrip program can help to keep everyone warm while lining a Scout account with terrific rebates. Remember that with Scrip, you, as the buyer, get the full amount of your purchase price (in other words, a \$100 certificate costs \$100 and is worth \$100 in merchandise when spent), and the participating retailer provides the sponsoring organization with a rebate.

With Troop 78, half of the rebate goes directly into the Scout's account, and the other half goes into our 2016 "big

trip" fund. Scrip participants include LL Bean, REI, Cabelas, Dicks Sporting Good and Orvis. They all provide great products with terrific Scrip rebates. Visit the Scrip website at www.glscrip.com, and see Ted Dinsmore to place Scrip orders. It's fast, it's easy and it helps your Scout and Troop 78!

Winter is a great time for us to remember that Scouting is all about getting outside. Scouting's founder, Lord Robert Baden-Powell, famously stated, "Scouting is three-quarters 'outing.'" Here at Troop 78, we maintain an active camping agenda all year round. Scouts and Scouters will enjoy our cold weather trips – like our upcoming trip to Matje Farm – if they've got the right gear. Here are some "ABC's" of cold weather camping. Keep these in mind, and you will have as much fun in the winter weather as we have during our warm weather trips:

A – Always Wear Layers. Our bodies generate significant heat. If we don't insulate, all of that good warmth escapes and leaves us feeling cold. Dress in layers, from your feet (synthetic sock liners plus all wool socks), to your body (synthetic long underwear and synthetic layers with wool – but no cotton!), to your head (a knit cap made of wool or synthetic – starting to see a pattern here?), topped by a wind-resistant outer layer made of synthetic and insulated with good synthetic material or goose down, will keep you warm and allow you to shed layers as the activity level brings up the heat.

B - Bivy Sack. Be prepared by carrying a bivy sack/day pack on your winter excursions. Pack that bivy sack with an extra layer (like a fleece), a dry under layer to replace the layer closest to your body when you perspire, and space to stuff the layers you remove as you get too warm during the day. Make sure you pack your sunglasses, to protect your eyes from winter's glare. Put on sunscreen, and pack the tube in your bivy sack so you can reapply during the day. Remember to pack your raingear in your bivy sack. Winter rain is cold and contributes to hypothermia.

C - Carry Water. Carry water to stay hydrated. Think you don't sweat when it's cold outside? Wrong. You perspire, but you don't realize that you're losing fluids because the air around you is so dry. Unlike the weather in the warm seasons, the relative humidity in the winter months is low, so moisture wicks away quickly. By the time you feel thirsty, you may already be dehydrated. Keep at least 2 liters of drinking water handy when you're outside in the winter, and drink often.

If we were going to extend our alphabet, "D" would be for the "dry lips" that are a problem in winter. Keep lip balm with you at all times. "E" is for "energy bars." They aren't meal substitutes but they're great supplements to give you the energy you need to enjoy the ski slopes or a day of snow hiking or cross-country skiing. And finally, remember that wintertime is a great time for "fun." Whether you skate, sled, ski, board or just traipse around in the snow, enjoy winter's activities!



WILLISTOWN TROOP 78 PARENT'S NIGHT AND COURT OF HONOR

Sunday, March 3, 2013

Each year in late February or early March the troop holds a Court of Honor to present Scout awards and ranks, conduct an Order of the Arrow call-out ceremony and update parents on recent and upcoming troop activities. Also included is recognition of the Recruit of the Year from 2012. Please join us in recognizing your Scouts.

TIME: 3:00 PM (SCOUTS ARRIVE BY 2:45 in complete Class "A" Uniform)

PLACE: TROOP 78 CABIN, 15 MILL ROAD (If our lot is filled, please park at the baseball fields next door)

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS:

- Highlights of the First Half of the Scout Year
- Presentation of Merit Badges and Rank Advancement
- Recruit of the Year Award
- Order of the Arrow Call Out Ceremony
- Eagle Scout Court of Honor

**SCOUTS AND SCOUTERS,
PLEASE WEAR YOUR COMPLETE
UNIFORM.**



WINTER CAMP 2013

By David Finkelston, Panther Patrol

This year, the troop went to the annual winter camp. I went with my dad, but some Scouts rode the bus down on Friday night. As soon as I got there, I got my stuff and got a bunk. After unpacking, we went downstairs for our patrol assignments. We then went out to play capture the flag. While we were playing the game, a few Scouts decided to turn a few lights on. After the game, we came back and got ready for bed. I went to bed right away instead of talking, because I knew we were going to do heavy lifting the next day. On Saturday morning, we had pancakes and bacon. After that, we went outside to go to Dan Beard to cut down trees that fell down during Hurricane Sandy. After Dan Beard, we went to the other campsites. After cutting down trees and lifting logs, I went back to Browning Lodge and started to chop wood with Jay and his dad. I split pretty well, but nowhere near as well as Mr. Bravo did. Next, it was time for

lunch. Lunch was grilled cheese and soup. Right after I had two grilled cheeses, I went back out to chop some wood again. During the afternoon, the new Scouts got their tote n' chip. After they got it, they would not stop asking us to let them use the axes. Finally, Jay and I got tired so we went to Buzzards Rock. The view was amazing. When we came back, we had dinner. Panther, my patrol, was in charge. We made spaghetti and meatballs; they were delicious. After that, we watched a movie, The Dark Knight. I stayed up till the end, but most people decided to go to bed. The next morning, we had breakfast and a wonderful chapel lead by Luke Brogan. Then, we cleaned the lodges and took the troop picture. After that, we went on the bus and left. I had a great time, I was so glad I went.



TROOP HOAGIE SALE IS COMING!

Scouts & Parents,
The month of February kicks off our annual troop hoagie sale. This long-running fundraiser allows Scouts to sell a delicious, handmade Italian hoagie. The funds raised are used to help support the troop's needs for equipment, trips, and programs, while at the same time adding to Scouts' own personal accounts. Personal funds earned can be used to pay for various camping trips, summer camp or the international trip.

Hoagie sale forms will be handed out to the Scouts at the end of the troop meeting on Friday, February 8th. All money and orders will be collected at

the beginning of the troop meeting on Friday, March 15th. The cost of our great hoagies will be the same as previous years, \$6, with the Scout earning \$1.75 for each hoagie he sells. Since the fundraiser benefits the whole troop, it is expected that each scout sell a minimum of 12 hoagies. Parents, this is where you come in. The troop usually sells over 1,000 hoagies. I know this year will be no different. With your effort we will be making hoagies on the following 2 dates. Please mark your calendars and plan on attending 1 or both sessions. A large adult turnout is **crucial** and means quick, easy work for all!

Friday, April 5th, 7-9 PM - Hoagie Set-ups during troop meeting
Saturday, April 6th, 7-9 **AM!** - Hoagie Assembly. Scouts pick-up orders on back porch from 9-10 AM.

I look forward to working with you all again on another successful hoagie sale!

Scott Vercoe
Hoagie Sale Coordinator

CPR TRAINING AND RECERTIFICATION

CPR training and recertification will occur on February 5th, 2013, immediately after the regular troop committee meeting. CPR certification is valid for 2 years. All registered adults who are active with the troop are urged to attend if they have not been certified within the past 2 years. Due to increased costs, we are requesting a \$10 donation from each registered adult who is certified. No prior CPR training is required to attend.

Please contact Dave Schertz at 610-687-0366 or e-mail me at registrar@willistown78.org for more information.