



Willistown Troop 78

Website: www.tr78.org

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May 2025

Volume 41 Number 9

Pinewood Derby!

TROOP 78 CABIN HOSTS THE DIAMOND ROCK PINEWOOD DERBY!



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May 2025

2 Friday TROOP MEETING 7PM

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5 Monday Friends of Troop 78 board, 7PM

6 Tuesday Board of Review 7PM

Troop Committee 7:30PM

7 Wednesday Patrol Leaders' Council 7PM

7 Wednesday Flower sale order sorting, **help needed, 11AM**

8 Thursday Flower order pick up at the cabin 3 - 7PM

9 Friday TROOP MEETING 7PM, camp medical forms due

15 Thursday Radnor Races set up

16 Friday TROOP MEETING 7PM

17 Saturday Radnor Races

18 Sunday Radnor Races cleanup

23 Friday NO TROOP MEETING

29 Thursday TROOP MEETING 7PM

30 Friday - Sunday June 1 Order of the Arrow service weekend at camp, members only

[Click here for the full one page calendar](#)

Pinewood Derby!

Saturday April 5, 2025

7th Annual Diamond Rock Pinewood Derby Race

Troop Cabin

By: Alex & Brian O

On Saturday April 5th, nearly 25 pinewood derby racers and their families from across Diamond Rock District packed the Troop 78 cabin for the 7th Annual Diamond Rock District Pinewood Derby. Excitement filled the air in anticipation for the championship race. Many Cub Packs were represented from all across the district.

Troop 78's cabin was chosen as the site of the Diamond Rock District Pinewood Derby because of the pure scouting atmosphere that the cabin naturally projects to all that enter its doors. After check-in, both Cubs and parents roamed the cabin and property to take in the history, legacy and opportunities that Scouts has to offer them when they bridge to the next phase of their Scouting journey. Many questions were asked by parents and scouts about what they saw at the cabin and the location received rave reviews from the attending families. It is very rare that a Troop has a home that every square inch is designed and used for the sole purpose of Scouting. Troop 78 is truly blessed to have such a home that we simply refer to as "the cabin". It is for this reason there is not a better scouting atmosphere to invite young Cubs to for a historic event that will be ingrained in their memories for the rest of their lives than "the cabin".

As the sun peaked over the eastern horizon on Saturday morning, 78's track was transported from the barn, set up, spectator seating was erected and parking logistics were put in place. The operation was fueled by not only the team's desire to put smiles on the faces of the young participants but also large amounts of coffee and donuts supplied by the man who resurrected the District and Council races in 2018.... our very own, Dr. Pinewood himself, Troop 78 Assistant Scoutmaster Mike Simms.

Check-in began at 10:00 AM and ran until 11:15 AM. The check-in ran very smoothly thanks to our two new matching scales that were rumored to be calibrated to +/- 0.00000 grams by NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory. The race kicked off at 11:30 AM and ran smoothly for an action packed 45 minutes. The top 5 winners were awarded trophies and showered with admiration from their adoring fans. These top 5 district racers will be entered in the Council Grand Championship race set for Saturday May 10 at PARC in Exton. They will compete against the top 5 racers from our Council's other 2 Districts.

We would like to thank Friends of 78 for allowing us to use the cabin and the following adults and Scouts for their dedication and efforts to make this race possible:

Adults:

Steve D'Antonio & Don Tyson: Parking logistics and crowd control.

Kipp Happ: Race Judge, Audio/Visual Technician, MC and Color Commentator.

Mike Simms: Race Director, Software Engineer and Breaker of Bad News Specialist.

Steve Wark: Car Modification and Track Engineer, Start Gate Director and Race Judge.

Dan Esterly: Track Engineer, Race Car Parking Coordinator and Car Shuttle manager.

Brian Opielski: Weigh-in judge, lead overweight car communicator and PR Director.

Scouts:

Mason E, Ryan W, Josh S, Alexander W, Nic O, Alex O: Parking, line car shuttle, flag ceremony, derby car runners, track setup/teardown muscle and multiple donut eaters.

It is our hope that "the cabin" will become the location of the Diamond Rock Championship Pinewood Derby Race for many years to come!



A Skiing Family Story

By Mark Siegle

You never know where taking a little risk and trying something new will take you. I think I was 10 when my older brother Drew took me skiing for my first time to Elk Mountain. He took me to the top, showed me how to snow plow, said good luck and skied off into the frosty gray cloud top. My first trip down the mountain was not one I care to remember.

After several crashes and face plants, I was cold miserable, ill equipped and ready to quit. But I decided to have another run at it and by the end of the day I was skiing and I was hooked.

57 years later I found myself once again at the top of a tall, cold mountain wondering if I still had the chops and nerve to make it down the mountain. After a few rusty turns and some creaking bones, the confidence and joy of skiing came back. Skiing was in my DNA.

As a senior leader of the troop, I get to hear a lot about all of the great trips the troop takes and of the adventures and great times they produce. The one trip that I always wanted to go on but never seemed to make happen was Jim Bennett's ski trip to Vermont. This year the stars aligned and after many years of not skiing, I took the chance, grabbed the opportunity and handed in my form.

But there was another motive for me going on this trip. You see, I have a skiing family in Vermont that I have been meaning to connect with on the slopes ever since a family reunion a few years ago brought us back closer together. So I called up my niece Caitlin and asked her if she and her two boys Cal and Cillian would come join us at Mount Snow. To my great delight she said that's a great idea and that she and the boys would make the two-hour trip down from Burlington to meet us and ski. I asked her to see if her mom Barbara Ann would like to join us. Barb's been skiing a long time and still teaches kids to ski at the family mountain most days, so she said she was very tired and wanted not to ski on her day off. Long story short, Barb shows up with Cate and the boys and we all had a great day at the slopes!

Barb's a pretty good skier, and she comes from a Vermont family of pretty good skiers. In fact, Barb's brother Bobby, sister Marilyn and her were all on the Olympic ski team at the same time. Her older brother and sister were destined for greatness but it was little Barbara Ann Cochran who brought home the gold medal in slalom at the 1972 Olympics in Sapporo, Japan.

My brother Drew moved to the Green Mountains of Vermont shortly after finishing his service in the Coast Guard to live the rustic life of mountain living and skiing. Some years later he met Barbara Ann on the slopes, got married and had two children, Ryan and Caitlin. Turns out, Ryan is a pretty good skier too. He finished second in Super G in 2022 Beijing Olympics to claim the silver medal, missing out on the gold medal by .04 seconds. Both Barb and Ryan's finish times were separated by only a few hundredths of a second between first and second place. That is a fact that comes up often at family gatherings.

Going on this trip was one of the best decisions I've made in a while. It probably never would have happened if I didn't take a chance and try something new. Little did I know standing on a cold tall mountain in Pennsylvania one frosty morning many years ago was the beginning of something special. My love for skiing and my love for family brought me to place and a time that I will always cherish. You never know where trying something new is going to take you.



Willistown Troop 78 - Scout Day of Service

Saturday April 5, 2025

Charlestown Township Park

By Don Tyson

At 11 AM on Saturday morning, 9 scouts and 3 adult leaders participated in the first annual Scout Day of Service sponsored by the Charlestown Parks & Recreation Board. Charlestown Township is enthusiastic about fostering its relationship with local scout troops and is planning two days each year (Spring and Fall) where local scouts can earn community service hours which are required for rank advancement.



The plan for the day was to paint several picnic tables in the park, but a wet weekend prompted the organizers to change the plan. The new plan was to give the park a thorough cleaning to rid it of months of accumulated trash. The sponsors provided trash bags, surgical gloves, and trash grabbers. As most of the 78 crew were Radnor Sunday cleanup veterans, cleaning the park grounds was, well, a walk in the park. Notable items that we found that we don't usually run across at Radnor included car tires and that shiny plastic confetti that they put inside balloons. (Please don't bring balloons with shiny plastic confetti to a park.)

After a couple of hours of de-trashing the park, it was time for lunch. The Charlestown Parks & Recreation Board provided pizza and water for everyone. Several of the boys stayed afterwards to enjoy some time relaxing and playing in the park. A hearty "Thank You" to the participants from the Charlestown Parks & Recreation Board and Troop 78 for a job well done. See you on Sunday, May 18th at the Radnor Hunt Club for more fun with trash!

Upcoming Events

Canoe Trip!

Marsh Creek State Park

Saturday May 3, 2025



In the run up to our planned excursion to Algonquin Provincial Park in Ontario this summer, we will spend the day canoeing the lake at Marsh Creek State Park.

There we will explore the lake, its shores and coves, practicing our canoeing skills, swamping and recovery.



[Click here for more information.](#)

Radnor Races Weekend 📢

Saturday May 17 and Sunday May 18, 2025

Radnor Hunt Club

Radnor Races weekend is just around the corner and it's one of the most important weekends of the year for Troop 78! We need as many volunteers as possible, for as many hours as you can give — especially ADULTS!

Thursday May 15, set up

Saturday, May 17:

Work hours: 8:00 AM – 6:00 PM

Most critical time: 11:00 AM – 3:00 PM

Sunday, May 18:

Cleanup from 8:00 AM – 12:00 PM

WHY IS THIS IMPORTANT?

- ✓ Supports Troop 78 fundraising
- ✓ Helps Brandywine Conservancy protect open space
- ✓ Earns credit in your Scout's camping account
- ✓ Fulfills our major public service project

After your shift, stick around and enjoy the amazing Radnor Races event!

If you haven't signed up yet — please let us know as soon as possible.

If your schedule has opened up, we'd love to have you for extra time.

Every helping hand matters — moms and all friends and family included! ❤️

WE NEED YOUR HELP!

CPR Training!

Thursday May 1, 2025

Cabin

Once again Anthony Wiencek of Emergency Training Partners is coming to the cabin to give CPR Training.. Anthony is a fellow Scout and a great trainer. This will be held Thursday May 1st, 7pm.

Cost: ~\$50. If interested please RSVP to Ted Diederich

(ted.diederich@gmail.com).

Algonquin Canoe Trip

Friday August 8 - Saturday August 16, 2025

A week of adventure and fun awaits in the lakes and streams of Canada.

[Click here for more information.](#)



Fundraising

RaiseRight Gift Card Fundraiser

Troop 78 is running the gift card service again in early May!

Grab some end of school year, graduation, Father's Day gifts, and for those summer vacations! Or grab a grocery store gift card.

Choose from hundreds of gift cards and pay full face value. The troop gets a rebate back and that money is split between the selling scout and the troop. Win-win! (Rebate varies by store - some are over 10%!)

Order form available. You may also sign up and order online. Please email sherriwark@yahoo.com so she can send you the troop's earnings code. RaiseRight can also be used as an app and you can order gift cards instantly at the restaurant or store where you are.

Orders are due by Friday May 16th to the Cabin or by Sunday May 18th to Steve/Sherri Wark.

[Click here fore more information.](#)

Spring Flower Sale!

Pick up orders for delivery May 8

Order sorting Wednesday May 7 at 11AM at the cabin

Scouts pick up their orders Thursday May 8, 3PM - 7PM, cabin

Delivery May 8, 9, 10


The Spring flower is nearing completion! The orders are in and it was a grand success. Over 2000 plants were sold! But that means there is a lot of sorting to do. We will be taking delivery of the plants Wednesday May 7 at 11AM.

Helpers are needed to unload the order and sort the plants.

Scouts: Please come to the cabin to pick up your order Thursday May 8 between 3PM and 7PM.

Cabin Sidewalk Bricks

Last order of the scouting year is going in on May 19th for the walkway bricks. We want to get the bricks back and installed for the new Scout year in September. For a donation of \$350 each, you can include the name of your scout, your family or the name of any supporter of scouting. Order forms can be found on the troop website at:



<https://www.tr78.org/> .

If you have any questions, please reach out to Jim Hogan at jim.hogan@foxroach.com.



Order of the Arrow

Octoraro Lodge 22 Service Weekend at Camp

Horseshoe Scout Reservation

Friday April 25 - Sunday April 27, 2025

By Logan W.

On a cloudy Friday night, scouts from all over Chester County arrived at Camp Horseshoe for a fun and laborious weekend. Ordeal candidates would test themselves through the weekend to see if they have what it takes to become a member of the lodge. Members looking to seal their membership by becoming Brotherhood would be tested on lodge knowledge and carve totems.

New Ordeal candidates gathered in the Kindness Center and checked that they had everything they needed for the long weekend. Candidates were put into crews, which are like patrols, and met their line leader: the Elangomats. Once everyone arrived, they were put under an oath of silence, which only could be lifted by obtaining the sash. The crews were escorted out to the opening ceremony and a long hike around camp seeking words of wisdom. Once they completed the hike, they set up camp under the dark clouds, preparing for a rainy night. In the morning, candidates were served little food and told to build a cooking fire.

Crews then prepared for projects around camp that needed to be done. Projects like trail crew, wood splitting and stacking, and platform repair. Everyone put in a long day of work to get the projects completed. When the projects were done, everyone had dinner and then went to the ending ceremony, where the new members received their sash.

The next morning, breakfast and more meetings about the lodge. Overall with the rainy weekend and challenging work, candidates were able to overcome and become members of our lodge.



Chester County Council News

Camp Horseshoe Kitchen Repair

The Horseshoe kitchen suffered a catastrophic pipe break which was discovered January 3rd. Since that time, the CCC staff and numerous volunteers have labored non-stop to repair the damage and return the kitchen to a functional state. The burst pipe resulted in water damage to the entire kitchen front to back and side to side. The entire ceiling and all of the walls had to be removed, along with all of the insulation and ceiling lighting.

Thanks to everyone's tireless work and the generosity of numerous donors who gave their time, treasure and talents, the kitchen was back on line for the OA weekend April 25. We could not have done it without the donation of money and skills. The plumbing repairs including repair to the water pipes, gas lines, and fire suppression system: all donated. The repairs to the electrical system: donated. The insulation: donated.

The pictures tell ten thousand words.



THE DAMAGE WHEN FIRST DISCOVERED



AFTER THE DEMOLITION



AFTER THE REPAIRS

Thanks to all who helped get us back to working order.
We are ready for summer camp!

New Historic Marker Installed at Camp

The newest historical marker was recently installed at Camp Horseshoe. This is latest in a series of markers which have been developed and installed by the Horseshoe Scout Reservation Alumni Association (HSRAA). Markers have been placed at both Camp Horseshoe and Camp Ware.

This new marker is at the intersection of the pool trail and the Mason Dixon trail, just up the hill from the Mason Dixon monument.



Council Off-Season Merit Badge Program Continues

Camp Horseshoe

[Click here for more information.](#)

Off-season Merit Badge schedule:

Fishing: Saturday May 10



[Click here for the Chester County Council Newsletter](#)

Please feel free to forward.

Print this Newsletter for all of your family and friends to see!