



# Newsletter

Volume 28

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June 2012

## COMING EVENTS

### JUNE - AUGUST 2012

6/1-3 - Order of the Arrow Ordeal & Service Weekend @ HSR

6/4 (Mon.) - Camp Info Meeting for First Yr. Scouts (7:00 PM)

6/5 - Board of Review (7:00 PM) & Troop Committee Mtg.

6/6 - Patrol Leaders Council (7:30 PM)

6/8 - TROOP MEETING - Field Day Part One

6/8-10 - OA Conclave at Hawk Mt. Scout Reservation

6/10 - **Field Day & Family Picnic (3:00 PM)**

6/14 - *Diamond Rock Roundtable*

6/15-17 - **Bike Trip**

6/22 - TROOP MEETING - Camp Preparations

6/23 - PLC to Summer Camp (meet in Dan Beard at 2:00 PM)

6/24-7/1 - **Horseshoe Summer Camp WEEK ONE**

7/1-8 - **Horseshoe Summer Camp WEEK TWO**

7/22 To 8/4 - **KISC Trip**

8/5 to 8/12 - **Algonquin Park, Ontario, Canoe trip**

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, June 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.

### **MAY ADVANCEMENT**

**New Scouts:** Seth Hoffritz and Ricky Martinez

**Troop Neckerchief:** Liam Belleville

**Personal Management Merit Badge:** Chris Wang

**Second Class Rank:** Luke Lasure



### **62nd ANNUAL FIELD DAY AND FAMILY PICNIC Sunday, June 10, 3:00 PM**

**PARENTS AND FAMILIES ARE INVITED!**

#### **FIELD DAY - 3:00 PM to about 4:30 PM at the Scout Cabin Grounds**

Come see your Scout's patrol compete in various skill events in an attempt to win the coveted Field Day trophy -- a troop tradition for over 60 years! Bring your camera.

#### **FAMILY PICNIC - 4:30 PM (or immediately following Field Day events)**

Meet the parents and adults involved with Troop 78. Hot dogs and hamburgers will be served. **Please bring a salad if your last name begins A through L or a dessert if your last name begins M through Z.**

**Parents:** If you can help set-up for the picnic, your help is needed Sunday at 2:30 PM, and clean-up help is needed after the picnic. Many hands make light work!

**Scouts:** Please wear your complete summer uniform to field day.

**Also Bring:** Lawn Chairs, and any medical forms or monies not yet turned in for summer camp.



### **TROOP 78 TO BIKE ABANDONED PA TURNPIKE ON JUNE 15 - 17 CAMPING TRIP**

Fathers Day weekend 2012 brings a one-of-a-kind trip to Willistown Troop 78 as we go back in time to take the road less traveled. Are you planning to join us for this exciting trip that combines camping, biking and Pennsylvania history?

On Friday, June 15<sup>th</sup>, we will be traveling west to the Breezewood area of Pennsylvania, camping two nights in Buchanan State Forest or at a nearby state park, and then biking a 10-mile stretch of the abandoned Pennsylvania Turnpike (20 easy miles roundtrip). This stretch of the turnpike was bypassed in 1968. The abandoned turnpike goes through the Rays Hill and Sideling Hill Tunnels, both of which bend in such a way that travelers cannot see the light at the other end through most of the tunnel stretches. The grade is flat and the trek will be fun. This is a "first time" trip for Troop 78, and we hope Scouts and fathers will join us in big numbers.

Participants will need a suitable bike (we recommend a trail or mountain bike rather than a road bike), a bike helmet, a headlamp or mounted bike light, a spare light and a small day pack for carrying lunch. We will have some bike repair equipment but participants are highly encouraged to

bring one spare tire tube for their bikes. We will have a trailer to haul bikes to the camp and to the biking site.

Details will be available in a handout at our next troop meeting, but in the meantime, save the date and get out on your bike to prepare for this awesome trip. And open your web browser to check out the abandoned turnpike at <http://www.briantroutman.com/highways/abandonedpaturnpike/rip.html>.

### **KANDERSTEG ACTIVITIES BOOKED AS TROOP 78 PREPARES FOR EUROPE TRIP**

Fifty-three members of Troop 78 will board a bus on July 22<sup>nd</sup> and head to the Newark Airport for a flight to Switzerland to begin the trip of a lifetime. Our two-week stay at Kandersteg International Scout Centre is almost here. A Scout committee reviewed the activities available to the attendees, and based on their recommendations, we've now booked our KISC events.

Scouts and adults will have a number of options open to them. We've arranged for a group to visit Stressa, Italy, for the day. We'll also head to Zermatt and our team will have the option of hiking on the Matterhorn or taking a walk in the beautiful valleys around this wonderful city. On another day, we'll do a rafting excursion. We've booked overnight hikes up to KISC's mountain huts at two levels – a more aggressive hike and hike that will be within the skill and ability level of most attendees.

Swiss Day, which is the national day of independence in Switzerland, brings a host of fun events, including competition among teams formed from Scouts around the world. There's an international campfire, at which Troop 78 will perform a song or skit to be selected by the Scouts. For a select group of older Scouts, KISC will provide a chance to spend another evening in a mountain hut after a day of instruction and practice traversing the snow and ice of a Swiss glacier. And no trip to KISC would be complete without a rocky ride on the

Rodelbahn, which is a gravity sled track up on a mountain. We'll "cool down" with a quick dip in a glacial lake following that experience.

We've also ordered our Troop 78 KISC T-shirts, patches and neckers. The designs are great and we're sure you will be pleased with the quality. Be sure to check your e-mail for a meeting notice to go out soon as we'll have a mandatory meeting of attendees to allow you to select your activities, to review logistics, and to go over equipment needs one more time.

### **WEST POINT TRIP By Lee Neves**

After spending almost 5 hours on the bus, we arrived at the West Point campsite around 11:00 PM. We started our Saturday by getting up early, ate a quick breakfast and then picked our patrols, combining with West Point Troop 23, and headed out to physical training (PT). After PT, we saw an amazing performance by US Army soldiers fighting "terrorists." During this event, two Black Hawk helicopters landed on the field.

We then went to our activities on Lusk Reservoir Lake, such as Zodiac inflatable boat race, hand-to-hand combat training, fire building, basic knot tying, etc. When the morning activities were complete, we returned to our campsite and had lunch. After lunch, we went to additional activities that included first-aid training and air-soft gun shooting. Later, we ate dinner, went to a campfire that featured a 20-foot-tall flame and went to bed. The next morning we packed up our bags, ate breakfast and participated in a marching celebration. Finally, the trip had to end and we boarded the bus and arrived back at the cabin around 3:00 PM.



### **SIX LESSONS LEARNED FROM AN ADULT HIKER**

**By John Walsh**

On the November 2011 Camping and Hiking trip, my son Tommy decided to hike with the group on the longer 10-mile hike; so I went with them. I thought I was in decent shape, since I run on a treadmill every now and then. We are talking about going for a walk in the woods: how hard can that be? I learned that I wasn't in good shape and could have been better prepared for a hike on mountain hills, carrying a backpack.

The other adult leaders gave me great advice on the backpack loading, ensuring the weight was over my hips. I looked at the group of the four Scouts and three other adults and I thought I might be the slowest, so I went in the middle of the pack as we went up the first steep hill. By being in the middle, I thought I could be at a good pace. In keeping up with the three in front, I got out of breath, got wet from sweat, heart rate was high, and I was thinking that I should have gone on the shorter trip. Finally, at the top of the hill, I turned around and looked back and the rest of our group was 75 feet behind us. What was I doing? **Lesson Learned #1: Don't worry about keeping up with Scouts.** The remainder of the trip we set up a rotation of the hike leader from the front to the back, so that we hiked together at the same pace.

Hiking was up and down hills and rocks were sometimes covered with wet leaves, making walking slippery and different levels at times. I used tree sticks as walking sticks until Jim Bennett let me use his walking sticks for some of the hike. The walking sticks were very helpful with balancing and they took a percentage of my body weight, both up and down hills. **Lesson Learned #2: For me, walking sticks help.**

After finishing the hike and setting up camping tents, I removed my cotton T-shirt, wet from sweat. Even though I was told to wear synthetic only, I had cotton under my synthetic. **Lesson Learned #3: Wear synthetic layers, not cotton.**

On Sunday, everyone from Troop 78 hiked the six-mile trip together. I had blisters on my feet and my hiking boots seemed tight. Could my feet have swelled? **Lesson Learned #4:** Wear hiking boots and proper socks more than a few times a year to make sure that they are worn in and comfortable. Get new hiking boots if you need them.

On Monday, my legs were sore and my thighs were tight. Treadmill running didn't prepare me for hiking on mountains. **Lesson Learned #5:** Hike mountains or Stairmaster on high incline to prepare for hiking on hills. I have since hiked Valley Forge Mount Joy and Mount Misery and Ridley Creek State Park. But I still will pack Advil and will share as needed.

Adult leaders really helped me out a lot on this trip. Many of the lessons learned I had heard and read before, but now they really made sense to me. As I want to participate in everything at KISC and other hiking trips, I now have lessons to follow.

This trip was a great time. I learned a lot that will help on future trips. I want to enjoy my next trips and not miss anything due to blisters, sore legs or cold sweats. **Lesson Learned #6:** Be Prepared, as it makes for a better time on the day of the hike and the next days, too.

## **SUMMER CAMP – A WALK DOWN MEMORY LANE**

**By Michael Bennett,  
Troop Historian Emeritus**

One of Troop 78's most cherished traditions is spending two weeks each summer at Horseshoe Scout Reservation. This practice dates all the way back to the troop's inception in 1930. Although the considerable enthusiasm of Scouts in Troop 78 for Summer Camp has never changed, Horseshoe itself has changed quite a bit. Within a Scout's tenure at camp, he may see several minor alterations (like the washstands in front of the dining hall), but a longer period of time is needed to appreciate major changes in areas such as program structure, camp layout, and Scout customs. No man in the Troop 78 family can attest to this more than

George Ernest Heegard II, also known as "Ern." Six Summer Camps and many weekend chats with Ern have yielded the following effort to re-create the Camp Horseshoe that Ern saw for the first time in 1946, at the then-minimum age of twelve. (Please note that all of Ern's quotes are paraphrased; *my commentary is in italics*). To give a little historical context to Ern's story, in 1946 FDR first appeared on the dime, the Philippines gained independence from the US, and penicillin - the world's first widespread antibiotic was just becoming commercially available.

In 1946, even a Scout's ride to Horseshoe was a wholly different experience from the pilgrimage that hordes of Chester County Boy Scouts will take today. "At that time, US Route 1 ran through all the little towns of southern Chester County – Kennett Square, Avondale, Oxford – which meant that the drive down to camp took two hours," Ern recalls. (*Typically, today's trip from Willistown to Horseshoe takes roughly an hour and fifteen minutes.*) "So, we would stop for lunch in Oxford at the Halfway House – so named because it was halfway between Philadelphia and Baltimore – and have a hamburger and a milkshake. After turning into the former Camp Horseshoe entrance, we would cross the Blue Bridge and then wind up the Old Camp Road along the Octoraro River. A line of flagmen along the road would allow traffic to flow one way for a little while and then change it to flow the other way. After arrival, we would check-in at the White House. The upstairs was where the staff resided, along with infirmary patients. Just down the hill from the White House were the boat docks, which were found at the current site of the informal campfire circle." Campers' accommodations in those days were not quite the same either, says Ern. "There were only five sites, called stockades, all of which had flush toilets." (*Alas, if only this were still true!*)

In addition to the substantial physical differences present at Camp Horseshoe in 1946, Summer Camp was run differently, too. "There was

no option," Ern recalls, "of how long you would stay: all campers attended for two weeks. When you arrived at camp, you were split up not by troop but by the stockade in which you chose to stay. Each stockade housed a program area: Boonesboro dealt with Campcraft and Nature and Taylor housed Aquatics, among others. Typically, Scoutmasters couldn't secure two weeks off from work (*how lucky we 2012 Scouts are!*), so a provisional leader – typically a college student – would serve in that role. During the two weeks at camp, Scouts stuck together as a stockade." While this practice was eventually discontinued in favor of camping by troop, it lives on at retreat each night when each SPL announces which campsite his troop is using that week. "Since we did not have bug spray," Ern continues, "we sprinkled sulfur dust on our socks each morning to ward off ticks."

One last major difference between the Summer Camps of 1946 and 2012 was protocol for two of Horseshoe's major group activities: retreat and meals. "At retreat," Ern relates, "we saluted a flagpole atop Flagpole Hill, not the present one adorning the field. You see, at the time, the trees were all considerably lower, so the flagpole was visible. This practice actually didn't change until the early 1960s, when a young – and shorter – Scout asked Camp Director Don Simpson what everyone was saluting each evening." After retreat, Ern remembers, dinner (as well as breakfast and lunch) was in the same Allen Memorial Dining Hall that today's campers use, but, he adds, "It was about half the size it is today. The tables were rectangular and sat four campers on a side with the stockade leader at one end and the assistant stockade leader on the other. As food was served, it was first given to the stockade leader, who drew his portion, and then was then passed by the Scouts to the assistant at the other end to draw his portion. Only then were the Scouts able to take their food. If a Scout happened to drop food, a chant would arise from all corners of the dining hall – '*Johnny get the drip pan, Johnny get the drip pan.*' The embarrassed Scout would

then have to go to the kitchen to fetch a huge pan of water and a sponge to clean up the mess. This would invoke another chant: '46...47...48...49... Razzz...berries!'" One wonders how current Scouts would respond to such treatment.

As current Scouts gear up for Summer Camp 2012, they should get excited (this writer certainly is) but should also keep in mind that their predecessor Scouts' experience at Horseshoe was very different from theirs – as theirs will be from that of Scouting's next generation.

### 30 YEARS & 42,000 HOAGIES

Yep, 30 years have passed since we had our first HOAGIE SALE!!! In the "olden days," hoagie sales were the lifeline of the troop! There were two sales per year. That and other contributions sustained this violent troop for years!

With the great participation of Mom, Dad and friends of 78, we completed another sale of hoagies to support the activities of Scouts of the troop. Events like this one help to pay for the many activities that all the Scouts and leaders are fortunate to enjoy.

For this support we are forever grateful,

*The Troop Committee,  
Willistown Troop 78, BSA*



### RED-TOP KNEE SOCK COLLECTION

With the new Scout uniforms taking over, Troop 78 can use your red-topped knee socks. Troop 78 will be initiating a new sock collection fundraiser. It is a perfect solution for what to do with your useless, older socks that you can't wear to camp anymore! The socks will be collected and sold to help raise money for fun and delicious troop snacks down at HSR Summer Camp and other troop activities! Please drop off any sock donations to Chris Wang during a troop meeting or leave them in the troop's uniform-exchange drawers in the cabin hallway, across from the committee room.



## Newsletter

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