



# Willistown Troop 78

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

Facebook: [Willistown Boy Scout Troop 78](https://www.facebook.com/WillistownBoyScoutTroop78)

YouTube Channel: [Troop 78](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC78)

Volume 34 Number 4

December 2017

## Upcoming Events

## West Point Military Academy

Please print out this Newsletter and post at home for everyone to see.

### December

1 Friday Troop Meeting 7PM

5 Tuesday Board of Review 7PM  
Troop Committee 7:30PM

6 Wednesday Patrol Leaders' Council  
7:30PM

8 Friday Troop Meeting 7PM

15 Friday Troop Meeting 7PM,  
Holiday Party

Please note: there are no Troop  
Meetings December 22 or 29.

### January 2018

2 Tuesday Board of Review 7PM  
Troop Committee 7:30PM

3 Wednesday Patrol Leaders' Council  
7:30PM

5 Friday - 7 Sunday Winter Weekend  
at Camp Horseshoe

12 Friday Troop Meeting 7PM

20 Saturday - 21 Sunday Klondike  
Derby at Camp Horseshoe

Please note: There is no Troop  
Meeting January 5.

[Click here for full calendar](#)

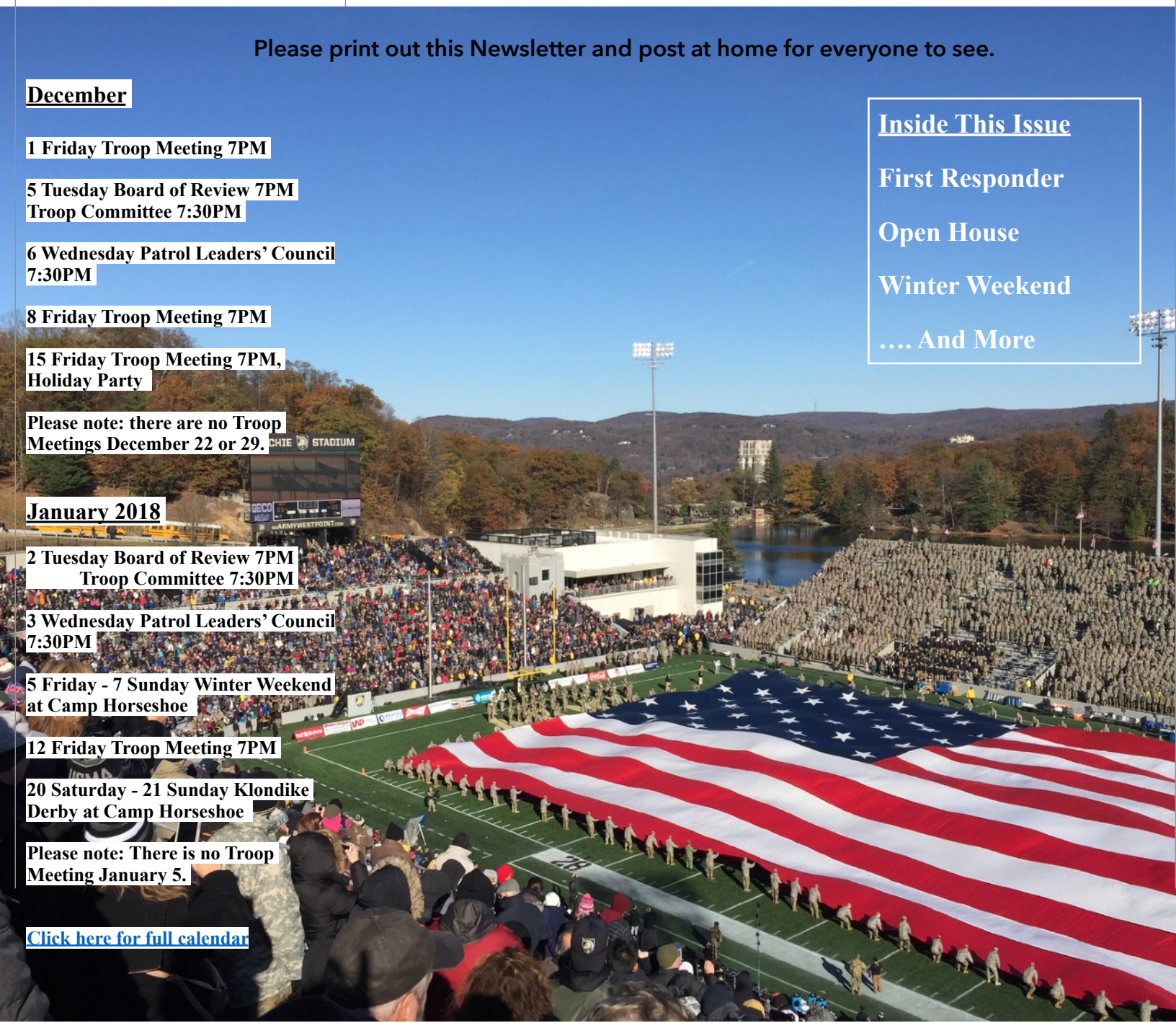
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.... And More



# **Troop 78 Visits Army for Veterans Day**

Friday November 10 - Sunday November 12, 2017

**By Chris St. Clair**

## USMA Campus Tour / Football Game

On Saturday evening at approximately 6:00PM, the troop headed out to West Point New York to take part in the United States Military Academy Scout Day. This day was full of excitement and included a campus tour and activities that led up to the main event: a football game featuring the Black Knights of Army and the Blue Devils of Duke. It would be a good game, even though Duke's current standings are 5-6 while Army is 8-3.

When we first arrived at the USMA campground, it was full of other scouts from NY, NJ, PA, and VA. We were all ready to start the trip in the "great" outdoors of New York. Unfortunately, we had to leave the comfort and warmth of the Troop bus into the blistering cold temperatures of the night. When all the tents and troop gear were set up, everyone was cold and tired so we headed to bed. It went down to 16 degrees that night!

The next day came bright and early at 5:30AM in the morning. For some people, this was not the ideal time to get up and change into Class A Scout uniform, but we did what had to get done anyway. When we arrived at the Academy, we split into two groups due to our size. After that, we started off with an excellent but brief tour of the main parts of the campus. When the tour was all said and done, we had some time to wander and take part in interactive stations that were set up. At around 11 or so, we headed to a shuttle bus station that would take us into the USMA stadium. It took a little longer to get in than expected because we couldn't have backpacks in the stadium. When we all got in, it was about 40 minutes before the game started so many people went to get food for the game. Of course the food didn't last the whole 60 minutes. The game was close, but Army managed to pull out a win against duke, 21-16!!!

Upon our return to the campsite, we were all cold, hungry, and tired. After dinner, many people went straight to the sack, but others stayed awake around the warm camp fire we built. Sunday morning came bright and early (and also VERY COLD). We had a very quick breakfast, took down the tents, and packed the gear quickly. We were all ready to head back down south, to the hopefully warmer Pennsylvania. (BTW: When we got there, it was not warmer at all in PA...) When we got back to the cabin and all the Troop gear was unpacked, the scout's headed to the final destination of the day: home.

[Click here for more pictures and videos from the West Point trip.](#)





## **Sign up for Troop 78 Text Notices**

Troop 78 now has a Text Notification System!

This system is: [remind.com](http://remind.com)

It's easy to join the text group. (And easy to un-join, if you later so choose).

This text group will be used to notify you of upcoming events, last minute changes due to weather and other unforeseen events.

To sign up simply text @willistown to 81010

## **New page on the Troop website: Archival Photographs**

Photographs of Troop 78 events from the 1950s and 1960s have been added to the Troop website.

These photographs are courtesy of Jim Donnelly Sr. and Jim Donnelly Jr.

If you have any old Troop photographs, please send them to: [petemote@aol.com](mailto:petemote@aol.com)

[Please click here to view the pictures.](#)

## **Webelos Welcomed for First Responder Training**

Wednesday November 8, 2017

By Arek Conners

On November 8th, volunteers from Troop 78 arrived at Achgekatum Lodge to prepare for the First Responder event. The First Responder event trains Webelos Scouts in practical first aid skills similar to those that Boy Scouts are required to learn for the First Class rank. Webelos Scouts participated in stations like fire escape plans, carry methods, and other basic first aid topics. I personally taught the Webelos about cuts and abrasions, insect stings/bites, and blisters. The Webelos paid attention and actively participated in my station (which I thought was the least interactive).

The Webelos also got to meet a First Responder, an EMT who is a Troop alumnus and he brought the emergency vehicle he uses (a full-sized ambulance). The Webelos Scouts also got to go on the monkey bridge that the Troop staff had built for the previous Open House troop meeting. The Webelos earned their First Responder Award and most importantly, learned skills that may help them in the future. Oh, they also got to eat cookies afterward.

The Troop 78 scouts that helped out greatly helped both the Webelos and the Troop. Not only did these scouts teach the Webelos, but they also presented the Troop in a very positive light to the Webelos and their parents. Thanks everybody!



[Click here for more pictures from the Webelos Events.](#)

# **Troop 78 Hosts Open House**

Friday November 3, 2017

**By Ethan Winkleman**

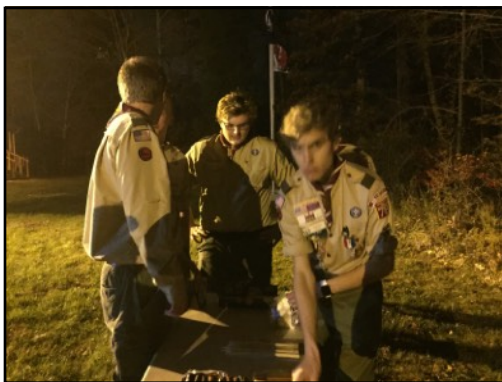
Troop 78 recently had two outreach programs to recruit new scouts. The first was an Open House at the Troop cabin. We had visitors from four Cub Scout Packs and also scouts from other troops. The visitors were blended into the existing Troop 78 patrols, a few visitors to each patrol. We had 6 stations ready for the visitors. The first station was Flint and Steel. Everyone sat in a circle on pre-arranged mats. Each of us were given a small ball of twine and a patch of charred cloth to assist with the process of making a fire. We hacked away at the flint (which was actually quartz) with the steel file, some of us even managed to successfully create a flame, which we stomped on with our boots to stop the fire from growing.

The second station was the Monkey Bridge which was built by the Troop 78 scouts earlier in the day using poles and rope. We got in line on one side of the structure. It tended to shake a lot when someone was walking across it, but it held even the older bigger scouts. After everyone crossed the bridge, we headed over to the next station which was Native American tools. One of the older Troop 78 scouts showed us how each of the tools was used and what they were used for. There were also some old Boy Scout Handbooks and other old Boy Scout memorabilia which was pretty cool.

The next station was the cooking demo. The scout in charge was cooking some cobbler in a Dutch oven. We helped with the cooking a bit. The station after that was Fire Starting. We ventured into the woods to get sticks for the fire we were to make. After finding some supplies we gathered around the scout who was running the station. He told us how to make a fire starting with tinder and ending with logs.

The last station of the night was cookie and hot dog cooking. We assisted with the cooking of the cookies process, but mostly just ate hot dogs roasted over an open fire. The cookies were not ready yet, so they would be distributed at the end of the meeting. When that station was over, we all walked into the cabin for closing announcements. By then the cookies were passed around and eaten.

As all the scouts and visitors funneled out of the building, the finished cobbler was served from a table in the hallway. Scouts were gravitating toward the cobbler dessert. And so, the conclusion of the Open House meeting was signaled by the sweet taste of cobbler. Yum!



[Click here for more pictures and videos from the Open House.](#)

# **Radnor Races Thank You**

**By Brian Rothberg**

**The following letter was sent out to those who were able to help the Troop at the Radnor Races in May, 2017**

On behalf of the Troop 78 Committee, Don Tyson, Bob Matje, Steve Brown and I want to thank you for your efforts at the past Spring's Radnor Event. The Radnor Races depends on Troop 78 to handle most of the support functions that make this great event possible. The Troop depends on you, its extended family, to enable us to do this.

Race Day was not as dry as promised but the weather was never a major problem. Our 28<sup>th</sup> year at the Races saw our usual great bunch of people (nearly 140 on Saturday alone!) out to help us. There were some new and unique challenges this year, including an entirely new entrance gate and an extended and delayed race schedule. But we made sure things proceeded seamlessly. On Sunday we had a great crew for clean-up. In a little over three hours, we left the Radnor Hunt Club in wonderful condition. Thanks so much for your fabulous efforts.

Your participation helped the Troop in our major fund-raising activity. Further, you helped raise money for the Brandywine Conservancy in its ongoing and crucial efforts to preserve open space in our area. We also were able to show the public the kind of great work that Boy Scouts & Troop 78 do in our Community. I hope you were able to enjoy yourself too!

This year we had a great group of newcomers to join with our veteran members and our legendary corps of "Old-Timers." Together we once again put forth the kind of effort that most groups could not even imagine. Just another day at the Races for Troop 78.  
THANKS AGAIN!

Very sincerely,  
Brian Rothberg

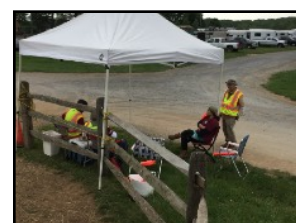
If you could not make it this time, we look forward to seeing you next May 2018.

These are the families who came out and worked with the Troop:

Altemose, Anderson, Benyo, Bilson, Bravo, Brogan, Brown, Cady\*, Carnes, Chermak, Compton\*, Conners, Constantine, Coulter, Cronauer, Curry, D'Antonio\*, DeVirgilio\*, Dinsmore, Dondero\*, Donnelly\*, Dougherty, Duff, Duncan, Elliott, Fenimore, Flipse\*, Fox, Greskewicz, Grewell\*, Gruss\*, Hoffritz, Hogan\*, Hornickle, Jarrett, Lane, Lang\*, Lemheney, LePard\*, Lu, Madarasz, Matje\*, Meiswich+, Miller\*, Moss, Motel, Orlow, Palmer, Pickell, Pimley, Pizzuto, Purcell, Riley, Rinacio\*, Rothberg\*, Rubino\*, Schallack, Schertz\*, Shay\*, Siegle\*, Skodny, Smith, Souder\*, St. Clair, Stacy, Stevens\*, Theurer\*, TROOP 585\*, Trowill\*, Tyson\*, Urban, Vercoc\*, Warlick, Williams, Zuraw

The names followed by \* are people and families that came out and helped Troop 78 in spite of the fact that they no longer have (and in some cases never had) an active boy in the troop. Thank you!

You are a wonderful example of the spirit of our Troop and its extended family!





## A Fish Story!

On a beautiful day, Monday November 13, four happy fishermen: Bob Matje, Ted Dinsmore, Jim Donnelly, and Miles Stevens shipped out of Waretown New Jersey near Barnegat for a day of striper fishing. The day was a grand success with many large fish caught to the credit of the day, the crew, and the skill of fishermen.

The largest fish was bagged by Jim Donnelly (holding his catch third from the left in the picture).

Jim caught it, fought it, and onto the deck he brought it! Good job!



## Notice of Upcoming Events

### **Holiday Party**

Friday December 15, 2017

Please join us Friday December 15 for the annual Troop 78 Holiday Party! We will be gathering at the Troop Cabin at 7PM for an evening of fun, food, and a pollyanna gift exchange. Scouts: if you wish to join in the gift exchange, please bring a wrapped useful item of approximately \$10 value to put into the exchange so you may take one gift in exchange. **No gag gifts please, only gift something you would wish to receive.**

After the gift exchange, we will enjoy a snack of Holiday treats.



### **Winter Weekend at Camp Horseshoe**

Friday January 5 - Sunday 7, 2018

We will be gathering again at our favorite place on Earth: Camp Horseshoe!!! This is our annual winter weekend at Camp Horseshoe. All Troop Scouts, Troop Dads, Scout-aged youth and Troop Alumnae are welcome to join us for a weekend of fun, good food, good conversation, service to the camp, and Scout skills events.



# Klondike Derby

Saturday January 20 - Sunday January 21, 2018

Troop 78 will once again participate in a Klondike Derby (for us old-timers, this is a Polar Bear Campout). Chester County Council will host a gathering of troops from around Chester County. The troops will complete throughout the weekend on a series of scout skill events.

Below is the event flyer the Council has posted in advance of the weekend:

In honor of the newest Star Wars movie that makes its debut in December 2017, the theme of this year's Klondike Derby is focused around the Star Wars franchise. Patrols will put their scout skills to the test in our Star Wars-themed cold-weather challenges.

1. Now This is Pod Racing!: Patrols will have to pull their sled through the snowy track as fast as possible.
2. Blaster Testing (Boy Scouts only): Send your best sharpshooter to the rifle range to test empirical blasters. Are you better than a storm trooper?
3. Power of the Force: Do you think you're stronger than Chewbacca? Can you throw a log like Vader threw Palpatine? Compete in the Log Heave and find out!
4. Star Wars Trivia: Search your feelings, do you know it to be true? Test your knowledge of the classic space movies with our Jeopardy-style trivia game.
5. Ewok Real Estate: Endor has gone cold! Use your skills with lashings to build a cozy shelter for the Ewoks.
6. Repairing Anakin: Put your broad knowledge of first aid to the test with our first aid scenarios.
7. Hoth Survival Training: Patrols will compete to see who can build a fire to boil water the fastest and survive the harsh cold of the ice planet Hoth.
8. It's a Trap!: Use your knot tying skills to help the Ewoks defend their planet by completing the Intermediate knot relay.
9. Escape the Trash Compactor: Can you get out before the trash compactor crushes your patrol into a pancake? Complete the Human Knot challenge in the shortest time to survive!
10. Wookies Take Aim: Is your aim as good as Chewbacca and his Bowcaster? Grab a bow and find out!
11. Jedi Mind Tricks: Can you use the force to sense the presence of all 30 objects on our table? Find out with Han's (Kim's) game!
12. Lightsaber Throwing: See if you can throw a lightsaber better than Darth Vader with the tomahawk competition!

Along with these main stations, the patrols will have a Scavenger Hunt to work on throughout the day as they move from station to station. For the Scoutmasters, there will be a Star Wars look-alike competition. For all adults we have an Intergalactic Geocaching course. All units should provide their own lunch. Coffee and hot chocolate will be available in the afternoon and the Ware Dining Hall will be available for seating during lunch only.

Patrol needs: Klondike style sled, patrol first aid kit, 3 six foot poles, rope for lashing, blanket, natural fire making materials, Patrol flag.

# Disney World

March 23 - March 31, 2018

## I am heading to Walt Disney World with Troop 78 in just over 100 days. Are You?



**When are we going?** March 23<sup>rd</sup> to March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2018

**What are we going to do?** Spend five days Park-Hopping, we can visit any of the four theme parks (Magic Kingdom, Disney's Hollywood Studios, Animal Kingdom, and Epcot), and we can use our ticket for up to five visits to Disney Quest, miniature golf (Fantasia Gardens and Fairways or Winter Summerland Miniature Golf Courses), or the water parks (Typhoon Lagoon, Blizzard Beach), or just swim and hang out at the Fort Wilderness Campground at any time.

### **Who can go?**

Scouts and leaders who are registered and active in the troop.

Scouts must have attended (or worked) at summer camp at least one week in 2017, and

Scouts who are *or will be* First Class rank by March 17th, 2018 and who are responsible enough to visit the theme parks ***on their own*** with a small group of other Scouts as determined by their parents and the Scoutmaster.

**The cost to go on the trip to Disney?** \$600 plus spending money.

**What do I get for the \$600?** Round trip bus transportation on the luxurious Troop bus, food and meals, camping fees, a five day Park-Hopper Disney pass, adventures of conquering all of the mountains in Disney, visit Mickey and Minnie, and create some magical memories.

**How do I sign up for this awesome annual trip?** Handouts will be given out during a Troop meeting in December and they will also be posted on the Troop web site.

Once you reserve a spot you will receive further instructions regarding departure times, what to pack, spending money, bus preparation etc.

**Dates to remember for mandatory meetings and payments are:**

1. Friday January 7<sup>th</sup> - \$300 deposit and permission slip are due
2. Friday, February 2<sup>nd</sup> - \$300 final payment is due
3. Friday March 2<sup>nd</sup>, 9:00 PM (after Troop meeting) – Scout and Parent Meeting (Parent must attend with scout)
4. Sunday March 18<sup>th</sup> – Bus and equipment cleaning meeting 1:00PM to 4:00PM
5. Thursday March 22<sup>nd</sup> – 6:30 PM Load your gear on the bus
6. Friday March 23<sup>rd</sup> – 1PM Leave for DISNEY

**We must have at least 20 scouts and adults to camp at Disney.**

**Don't be the guy that sleeps through the sign-up dead line and misses out on going to Disney.**

**Sign up sooner rather than later.**

**Please print out this Newsletter and post a copy at home for everyone to see.**