



Boy Scout Troop 461
Zion Mennonite Church
Souderton, Pennsylvania

Troop Web Site <http://www.soudertontroop461.org>

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NEWSLETTER

Volume 50, No. 12

December 2008

CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

- 1 December – Troop Meeting – Personal Fitness & Personal Management Merit Badges – Advancement to First Class.
- 8 December – Troop Meeting – Personal Fitness & Personal Management Merit Badges – Final Head Count for Men-O-Lan Camping Trip.
- 10 December – General Nash District Roundtable – 1930 (7:30 p.m.) at Trinity Lutheran Church, Lansdale, PA – Also Order of the Arrow Chapter Meeting, same time & location.
- 12-14 December – December Camping trip to Camp Men-O-Lan, Finland, Bucks County, PA. Cabin camping, orienteering course and other advancement as well as fun, good food and fellowship.
- 15 December – Troop Committee Meeting – 1945 (7:45 p.m.) at Zion Mennonite Church.
- 15 December – Troop Meeting – Personal Fitness Merit Badge & Advancement to First Class – Board of Review.
- 23 December – No Troop Meeting – Christmas Holiday.
- 30 December – No Troop Meeting – New Year's Holiday.
- 5 January – Troop Meeting – Personal Fitness & Citizenship in Community Merit Badges – Advancement to First Class

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CALENDAR OF FUTURE PLANNED EVENTS

12-14 December 2008 – Annual winter cabin camp at Camp Men-O-Lan, Quakertown, Bucks County, Pennsylvania.

23-25 January 2009 – General Nash District Klondike Derby at Camp Hart, Musser Scout Reservation, Green Lane, PA.

20-22 February 2009 – Winter camping weekend – Porcupine Ridge Site at Firestone Explorer Base, Resica Falls Scout Reservation.

27-29 March 2009 – Camping weekend at Ockanickon Scout Reservation, Pipersville, PA.

April 2009 – Spring camping and hiking weekend at Gettysburg National Military Park.

1-3 May 2009 – Cradle of Liberty JAM – Council Jamboree at Upper Montgomery County Park, Green Lane, Pennsylvania.

15-17 May 2009 – Annual shooting sports weekend at Community Rod & Gun Club in Bechtelsville, Berks County, Pennsylvania.

June 2009 – Civil War Forts Tour Weekend – a new adventure for our troop this year. A ferry will be taking us to three (3) Civil War era forts along the lower Delaware Bay

12-18 July 2009 – Annual troop summer camp at Camp Buckskin of the Curtis S. Read Scout Reservation in the Adirondack Mountain Region of upper New York State.



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ADVANCEMENT AND ACHIEVEMENTS

Second Class – Joshua Burke; **Merit Badges:** Peter Detwiler – Personal Management & Communications. **Eagle Scout Service Project** – Justin Seelaus.

COLD WEATHER WEEKEND AT OCKANICKON

A hearty band of Scouts and Adult Leaders from Troop 461 braved the blistering cold of a November weekend and enjoyed a cold weather camp at Ockanickon Scout Reservation in Bucks County over the



weekend of 21 through 23 November 2008. Thanks to some advance preparation and instruction on cold weather camping, the participants were well-prepared to battle the cold – and cold it was! Both Saturday and Sunday mornings had temperatures hovering around 20° Fahrenheit. While our water jugs froze overnight, the eggs in the cooler were

spared from the freezing temperatures.

A major advantage of camping during a cold weekend is that the Scouts needed no urging to go hunt for firewood. Each morning before breakfast was even started, one of the ambitious Scouts had a fire going and its warmth soon attracted even the most reluctant campers from their sleeping bags – well, almost all. We did have one Scout who preferred to remain snuggled in his sleeping bag(s) for most of Saturday, popping his head out every now and then like Punxatawny

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Phil on Groundhog Day to see if there was to be six more weeks of winter.

Besides a warm fire, hot food and beverages were the other two ingredients in keeping the Scouts happy and cheerful despite the cold weather. Hot water was available all day for hot chocolate and hot coffee was available to the leaders who wanted it. Once again, ASM Scott Forwood came through with a dynamite camp menu



that provided the participants with hot, satisfying meals that made the cold weather just a bit easier to take. The culinary highlight of the weekend was Saturday night's pork and sauerkraut dinner with freshly made mashed potatoes. The smell of cooking food on Saturday afternoon was strong enough even to coax Troop Guide Andrew Isban out of his burrow to join his fellow Scouts and partake of the evening repaste. At left, you will see a very rare photo of the Izz outside of his protective burrow – a sight even rarer than the GEICO Gecko.

Despite the cold weather, the Scouts even managed to get in a five-mile hike around the camp and set up an orienteering course as practise for the upcoming December trip to Camp Men-O-Lan.

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DECEMBER CABIN CAMPING AT MEN-O-LAN

The troop will be holding its annual December cabin camp at Camp Men-O-Lan which is located outside of Quakertown in Bucks County. As in the past several years, we will be bunking in cabins on the girls' side of the camp and have the heated shower house and bathrooms available for our use. We have two (2) 16-person cabins reserved so there should be no shortage of bunks. Yes, for those who have never been there, the cabins are heated, also.

While the weekend is generally pegged as a "fun" weekend, there will be advancement opportunities available for those who wish to take advantage of them. SPL Justin Seelaus will have an orienteering course set up on Saturday morning for those Scouts who still require map and compass work for advancement to Second and First Class. Additionally, SM Tim Wile will be offering Public Speaking merit badge for those Scouts who are interested and do not yet have this badge. This is a merit badge that can be started and completed while at camp!

As usual, ASM Scott Forwood has prepared a mouth-watering menu for the weekend, highlighting with a roast beef dinner for Saturday evening. Snacks include home made pizza one night and ice cream and cobbler for another.

We have extended an invitation to the Webelos and Webelo parents from Franconia Cub Pack 10 to visit us at camp on Saturday. Up to the present time, we have not been advised that any of Pack 10s Webelos or parents will be joining us Saturday, but time is still available for them to do so.

The troop will depart the Zion Mennonite Church parking lot Friday night, 12 December 2008, no later than 1930 hours (7:30 p.m.) for Camp Men-O-Lan. We expect to depart from Camp Men-O-Lan no later than 1100 hours (11:00 a.m.) on Sunday, 14 December 2008,

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returning to Zion Mennonite Church by noon. The cost for the Men-O-Lan trip is twenty-five dollars (\$25.00) per person. Those planning on attending please let SPL Justin Seelaus or SM Tim Wile know by the end of the Troop meeting on 8 December 2008.

SUMMER CAMP 2009 – CAMP BUCKSKIN



While the Christmas and Hanukkah holidays are upon us, it is not too early to start thinking about attending the Troop's 2009 summer camp at Camp Buckskin at the Curtis S. Read Scout Reservation in New York. Camp Buckskin is operated by the Westchester-Putnam Council of the Boy Scouts of America and is touted as one of the premier Boy Scout camps in the nation. At the present time, we have a reservation for the St. Regis campsite at Camp Buckskin for the week of 12—18 July 2008. This is week two of the summer camp season and the camp theme for the week is Outer Space.

The camp has a dining hall, which is pictured at right, and has a great number of advancement, fun, and adventure opportunities. Those Scouts who



attended summer camp at Resica Falls last year had a great time and completed quite a bit of Scout advancement. The Troop chose Camp Buckskin for its 2009 summer camp adventure because of the programmes offered, such as horseback riding, rock climbing and rappelling, low and high COPE, as well as caving and Adirondack rock climbing. The last two events require additional fees.

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In order to save a place at the 2009 summer camp adventure, Scouts and leaders are encouraged to pay a non-refundable fifty dollar (\$50.00) deposit. The total camp fee for the week is Three Hundred Twenty Dollars (\$320.00), if paid no later than 1 June 2009, and Three Hundred Forty-Five Dollars (\$345.00) if paid after 1 June 2009. So that we can have our fees paid by 1 June 2009, we ask that the full camp fee be paid by 1 May 2009 so that any cheques can clear the bank and our Troop Treasurer has sufficient time to post the payment to Westchester-Putnam Council. Deposits for summer camp should be paid to Troop Treasurer, Harold L. Frederick, Jr., and cheques should be made payable to "Boy Scout Troop 461."

For those who are interested in learning more about Camp Buckskin or Curtis S. Read Scout Reservation, the Council's website is located at <http://www.wpcbsa.org/>.

CRADLE OF LIBERTY COUNCIL JAMBOREE

The Cradle of Liberty Council will be holding a council-wide Jamboree at the Upper Montgomery County Park in Green Lane during the weekend of 1 through 3 May 2008. According to the council website, there will be two (2) stages playing music and having shows all day on Saturday, 2 May 2008. Additionally, there will be fireworks and the 307th Military Band will be the closing show! The photo at right shows an aerial view of Jambo '07.

After hearing some suggestions from the 2007 council jamboree, the 2009 jamboree will be featuring more programmes for older Scouts, including an introduction to Scuba. The chair of



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the Jambo 09 committee is Jeff Baer, who is Scoutmaster of Hatfield Troop 141. According to Jeff, those who attend Jambo '09 are in for a "hootin' good time."

At the present time, our Troop has submitted an early reservation for 15 Scouts and Adult Leaders to attend Jambo '09.

NEED A NEW UNIFORM? TRY eBAY!

As we all grow a bit older, and, for some, a bit wider, that old Scout uniform just does not fit as nicely or loosely as it once did. When you or your parents checked out the price of a new Scout shirt or trousers at the Scout Shop, well, does the term "sticker shock" have any meaning??

Well, there is an alternative – eBay. Whether you are looking for a larger Scout shirt, trousers or shorts, or perhaps even a vintage Scout field cap or red beret, you can probably find it on eBay. Recently, eBay had 520 listings for Boy Scout uniform items in its "Boy Scout" listing under "fraternal organisations." Those items included everything from Scout shirts and pants to caps and socks. While most of the item listings on eBay are used, the cost will definitely be less than the purchase of a new item at the Scout Shop and the items will have quite a bit of useful wear left in them.



For the younger or Scouts who can use the smaller sizes, Julie Youtz (Ben Gehringer's Mom) still runs the Troop's uniform exchange. If you need a smaller sized Scout shirt or trousers, contact Julie to see if there is a used shirt or trousers in your size available.