



Boy Scout Troop 461
Zion Mennonite Church
Souderton, Pennsylvania

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

E-Mail tim_wile@msn.com

Web Master Timothy P. Wile, Scoutmaster



NEWSLETTER

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January 2008

CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

- 7 January Troop Meeting – Order forms for the troop’s annual hoagie/stromboli sale will be distributed at this meeting.
- 9 January General Nash District Roundtable – 1930 hours (7:30 p.m.) at Trinity Lutheran Church, Main Street, Lansdale. The chapter meeting for the Order of the Arrow is held at the same time and place.
- 11-13 January Junior Leaders Training and Fellowship weekend at the Cabin of the Community Rod & Gun Club, Bechtelsville, Berks County, PA. Departure Friday night at 1930 hours (7:30 p.m) from the Zion Mennonite Church with a return scheduled for 1200 on Sunday. Other than each participant’s Saturday evening meal, there is no charge for this training weekend. See article on page 3 for further details.
- 14 January Troop Meeting – Sign-up forms for the winter snow sports weekend will be available at this meeting.
- 21 January Troop Committee Meeting – 1945 hours (7:45 p.m.), in Church Library, Zion Mennonite Church, Souderton.
- 21 January Troop Meeting – Planning for the District Klondike Derby. Order forms and monies for the hoagie/stromboli sale are due at this meeting!
- 28 January Troop Meeting – Preparations for District Klondike Derby.

BOY SCOUT TROOP 461 NEWSLETTER

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- 2 February Distribution of Hoagies and Strombolis between 1300 and 1400 (1:00 p.m. and 2:00 p.m.) in the Fellowship Hall, Zion Mennonite Church, Souderton.
- 4 February Troop Meeting – Final preparations for upcoming District Klondike Derby.
- 8-10 February General Nash District Klondike Derby; Musser Scout Reservation, Green Lane, PA. Depart Zion Mennonite Church by 1900 hours (7:00 p.m.). Cost for weekend is \$25.00/person.
- 11 February Troop Meeting
- 13 February General Nash District Roundtable – 1730 hours (7:30 p.m.) at Trinity Lutheran Church, Main Street, Lansdale. The chapter meeting for the Order of the Arrow is held at the same time and place.

CALENDAR OF FUTURE PLANNED EVENTS

- 11-13 January 2008 – Junior Leaders' training & fellowship weekend – Community Rod & Gun Club, Bechtelsville, Berks County.
- 8-10 February 2008 – General Nash District Klondike Derby, Musser Scout Reservation, Green Lane, Montgomery County, PA.
- 22-24 February 2008 – Winter Snow Sports Weekend at Resica Falls Scout Reservation, Marshall's Creek. Snow sports at Shawnee Mountain.
- 1 March 2008 – General Nash District First Aid Meet at Hatfield Fire House, Hatfield, PA.

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9 March 2008 – Annual Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser – Fellowship Hall, Zion Mennonite Church, Souderton, PA.

4-6 April 2008 – Hiking weekend on the Appalachian Trail. Base camp at Hawk Mountain Scout Reservation, Hawk Mountain Council, Berks County.

17-19 April 2008 Weekend camping trip at Ockanickon Scout Reservation, Bucks County Council. COPE course available as well as cooking and advancement.

15 April 2008 – Deadline for payment for Resica Falls Summer Camp and the Boot & Paddle Programme at Resica Falls for summer camp in order to get the discount rate.

15-18 May 2008 – Shooting Sports Weekend at the Community Rod & Gun Club, Bechtelsville, Berks County, Pennsylvania. Rifle & Shotgun Shooting merit badges will be available for a limited number of applicants.

6-8 June 2008 – Canoeing weekend – exact location to be announced at a later date.

6-12 July 2008 – Annual troop summer camp at Resica Falls Scout Reservation, Marshall's Creek, Pennsylvania. This is the troop's first summer camp at a Cradle of Liberty Council camp since the troop's 1997 trip to Resica Falls.

23 August 2008 – Service project – parking at the Souderton Mennonite Community Bar-B-Que. This is an easy way to accumulate service hours for advancement!



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ADVANCEMENTS AND ACHIEVEMENTS

Second Class – Darian Serfass. **First Class** – Darian Serfass. **Merit Badges** – Peter Detwiler – Rifle Shooting, Shotgun Shooting; Joshua Floro – Shotgun Shooting; Adam Gambone – Shotgun Shooting.



JUNIOR LEADER'S TRAINING WEEKEND

The troop will hold its annual Junior Leader Training Weekend during the weekend of 11-13 January 2008 at the cabin of the Community Rod & Gun Club in Bechtelsville, Berks County. All junior leaders are encouraged to attend this training weekend to learn or be reminded of the responsibilities of their current leadership positions. The training portion of the weekend will be completed during the morning and early afternoon of Saturday and will be completed by 1500 on Saturday.



Rather than the usual Saturday evening trip to Zern's Farmer's Market in Gilbertsville, the troop will break with tradition this year and take a field trip to Cabela's in Hamburg. It is planned that the group will depart Bechtelsville shortly after the afternoon training session finishes. The Saturday evening meal will be at the restaurant at Cabela's with each Scout and leader being responsible for their own meal cost, which should be in the neighbourhood of ten dollars (\$10.00). The meal cost is, of course, in addition to any other spending money a participant desires to take. There is no troop fee for this training weekend.

Departure is planned 1930 hours from Zion Mennonite Church in Souderton and the return is scheduled for 1200 on Sunday, 13 January.

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GENERAL NASH DISTRICT KLONDIKE DERBY

General Nash District will hold its annual Klondike Derby at the Musser Scout Reservation during the weekend of 8-10 February 2008. The troop decided to attend this year's Klondike Derby and we have reserved the OA Totem Lodge at Camp Delmont for the weekend. This cabin can hold 12 persons so if more wish to attend this event, plan on bringing a tent for sleeping!

In order to participate in the Klondike Derby, it is necessary for the troop to build its own Klondike Derby sled. SPL Justin Seelaus has been provided with copies of plans for several different types of Klondike Derby sleds, but time is fast running out on building it! The actual sled construction could be accomplished in one or two troop meetings if all of the materials are procured and cut to measure beforehand.



TROOP ADOPTS EVENT CANCELLATION POLICY

At its November 2007 meeting, the troop committee adopted a policy to handle participants who sign-up for troop events and later cancel or simply fail to show up for the event. Starting in January 2008, Scouts or leaders who indicate or state that they will be attending a troop event that involves a fee who later discover that they will not be able to attend the event are required to notify either Scoutmaster Tim Wile [215.362.7121 or tim_wile@msn.com] or Treasurer Harold Frederick [215.723.2555 or HLFrederickJR@verizon.net] no later than the Wednesday prior to the event ***or be held financially responsible for the event's full fee.***

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The troop committee adopted this policy in response to an increase in the number of Scouts who sign up for a weekend event and then either fail to show up or call on Friday hours, or even minutes, prior to departure to say that they will not be attending. Unfortunately, by that time, the food for the weekend has been purchased and other fees either paid or otherwise obligated. The troop has lost money on several recent camping trips as a result of last-minute cancellations and this policy is designed to at least allow the troop to break-even on camping trips and other events.

RESICA FALLS SUMMER CAMP RESERVATION REMINDER

Our troop now has a reservation for summer scout camp at the Resica Falls Scout Reservation for the week of 6-12 July 2008. Our



reservation covers the regular in-camp [eating in the dining hall] program. Also available is the “Boot & Paddle” programme, which includes hiking 15 miles and then canoeing down the Delaware River to the Treasure Island Scout Camp. In order to participate in the “Boot & Paddle” programme a Scout must have attained the age of fourteen (14) years. The “Boot and Paddle” programme is not held during the same week as the troop’s planned summer camp and it is possible for an interested Scout to attend both events. At the last District Roundtable, it was discussed that Council was giving a discount on the second week of camp if a Scout attended Boot & Paddle and a Council summer camp!

Those Scouts who are interested in either programme should make their \$50.00 non-refundable deposit as soon as possible to: Boy Scout Troop 461, and given to or mailed to Harold Frederick, Jr., Troop Treasurer.

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A deposit of \$50.00 will hold a place for each Scout and a deposit of \$25.00 will hold a place for each adult. Please note that the FULL FEE is \$300.00 per Scout, with a discount of \$25.00 per Scout if the full fee is paid to the troop by 15 April 2008.

2008 HOAGIE & STROMBOLI FUNDRAISER

Once again the troop will be sponsoring a Super Bowl Hoagie and Stromboli Sale to give Scouts another opportunity to earn money towards summer camp and other troop activities. Order forms will be distributed at the 7 January 2008 troop meeting. The completed order forms and payments are due back at the 21 January 2008 troop meeting.

The Super Bowl is scheduled for Sunday, 3 February 2008. Hoagies and Strombolis will be available for pickup the previous Saturday, 2 February 2008, between 1300 and 1400 hours (1:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m.) in the Fellowship Hall (meeting room) of Zion Mennonite Church.

SWIMMING & LIFESAVING AVAILABLE

The troop has once again purchased a group membership at the Souderton Area High School pool and swimming will be available for troop members and their families on the third Sunday of the month from 1300 to 1500 (1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.). Scouts will have the opportunity to complete the swimming requirements for Second and First Class as well as for Swimming and Lifesaving merit badges. If any Scout is interested in working on either of those merit badges or completing the Second or First Class swimming requirements, please contact ASM Bill Brandis [215-723-0140] to let Mr. Brandis know of your desire and which requirements you desire to work on.

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SCOUTMASTER ELECTED TO BOARD OF DIRECTORS

At the December 2007 general membership meeting, Scoutmaster Tim Wile was elected to a two-year term on the Board of Directors of the Community Rod & Gun Club of Bechtelsville. The Community Rod & Gun Club has been allowing the troop to use its club cabin and range since 1985 for its annual shooting sports weekend and for its junior leader training weekend.

Scoutmaster Emeritus Frederick is a life member of the club and SM Tim Wile and ASM Zach Wile are annual members. Club dues are \$30.00 per year and any individual age 16 years or older is eligible for membership. Anyone interested in seeking membership in the club should see SM Tim Wile or ASM Zach Wile for an application.

NRA RIFLE, SHOTGUN & PISTOL INSTRUCTOR COURSES AVAILABLE

The General Nash District is offering courses leading to NRA certifications as a Rifle, Shotgun and Pistol Instructor during the Spring of 2008. All courses are to be held at Camp Delmont and registration is on a first come, first served basis. At present, the troop has only two NRA certified instructors, SM Tim Wile and SME Harold Frederick. More are definitely needed!

The Rifle Instructor Course will be given during the weekend of 28-30 March 2008; the Shotgun Instructor Course and Pistol Instructor Courses will be given on Friday & Saturday, 11-12 April 2008. The cost for the Rifle Instructor Course is \$60.00 for a registered Scouter while the Shotgun and Pistol Instructor Course are \$55.00 each for registered Scouters. The troop committee has voted to reimburse any troop leader who successfully completes any of the instructor courses for the cost of the programme. See SM Tim Wile for more details.