



Boy Scout Troop 461
Zion Mennonite Church
Souderton, Pennsylvania

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

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Web Master Timothy P. Wile, Scoutmaster



NEWSLETTER

Volume 50, No. 3

March 2008

CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

- 3 March Troop Meeting
- 10 March Troop Meeting – *Uniform Inspection* Sign up information for the troop's Resica Falls summer camp as well as the Cradle of Liberty's boot & paddle programme will be available. Information packets, flyers and tickets for the annual spaghetti dinner fundraiser will be distributed. Webelos from Pack 10 in Franconia will be visiting our meeting along with their parents.
- 15 March Eagle Scout Court of Honour for David Pulli – 1300 hours at Fellowship Hall, Zion Mennonite Church. Please plan on attending this event to watch Dave receive his Eagle Scout Award and congratulate him in person for achieving this high honour! Refreshments will follow the ceremony.
- 17 March Troop Committee Meeting – 1945 Hours in Library, Zion Mennonite Church.
- 17 March Troop Meeting – hiking and trail tips in view of upcoming Appalachian Trail hiking weekend at Hawk Mountain Scout Reservation.
- 24 March Troop Meeting – final preparations for upcoming Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser.
- 29 March Annual Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser – Zion Mennonite Church, Souderton. Volunteers needed for set up, servers,

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and take down. Sign up sheets will be available during March troop meetings.

31 March Troop Meeting – final head count for hiking weekend on the Appalachian Trail and camp at Hawk Mountain Scout Reservation.

CALENDAR OF FUTURE PLANNED EVENTS

1 March 2008 – General Nash District First Aid Meet at Hatfield Fire House, Hatfield, PA.

12 March 2008 – General Nash District Roundtable, Trinity Church, Main St., Lansdale, PA. 1930 hours. Order of the Arrow chapter meeting same time and place.

27 March 2008 – General Nash District Adult Recognition Dinner – Immanuel Church of the Nazarene, Lansdale, PA.

29 March 2008 – Annual Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser – serving from 1600 to 1900 hours at 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.

5 April 2008 – Life to Eagle Seminar, Upper Gwynedd Township Building, North Wales, PA.

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.

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18-20 April 2008 – Weekend camping trip at Ockanickon Scout Reservation, Bucks County Council. COPE course available as well as cooking and advancement.

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.

14 June 2008 – Eagle Scout Award Ceremony for Nathan Lanan – Trinity Lutheran Church, Main Street, Lansdale. More details will be forthcoming as they become available.

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!



EAGLE SCOUT COURT OF HONOUR

On Saturday, 15 March 2008, an Eagle Scout Court of Honour will be held for David Pulli. Dave is currently a student at Temple University in Philadelphia and is a 2007 graduate of Souderton Area High School. While a Scout with Troop 461, Dave served in a number of important leadership positions, the last being as



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Assistant Senior Patrol Leader. Dave is also a member of Unami Lodge One of the Order of the Arrow.

The Court of Honour will be held at in the Fellowship Hall (troop meeting room) of Zion Mennonite Church on Cherry Lane Souderton. The Court of Honour is scheduled to begin at 1300 hours (1:00 o'clock p.m.) on Saturday. Refreshments will be provided following the ceremony.

GENERAL NASH DISTRICT KLONDIKE DERBY

For the first time in recent memory, Troop 461 participated in General Nash District's annual Klondike Derby. This year's Klondike Derby was held at the Musser Scout Reservation during the weekend of 8-10 February 2008. A total of nine Scouts and four adult leaders participated this year and had an enjoyable time. While the event itself was held at Camp Hart, the troop stayed at Totem Lodge in Camp Delmont, which is an older stone cabin



but suited our needs quite nicely. As seen in the photo below, the day started out with a touch of snow, but that wasn't to last long!

Senior Patrol Leader Justin Seelaus lead the troop's sled team while the adult leaders manned one of the stations that the sled teams could visit in order to win points for the

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overall standing. The adults were in charge of a firebuilding station entitled “splash of fire” that required the participants to build a fire and completely burn a paper cup containing an inch of water within the space of fifteen (15) minutes. Of the more than twenty teams that participated at the station, only four were able to complete the task within the 15 minutes allotted.

Following the station portion of the Klondike was the sled race. Through a courageous effort, the Troop 461 team came in second place



in the sled race. The Troop might have come in first had it not been for an unfortunate equipment failure by the first turn of the race where one of the rope harnesses broke and the team members had to scramble to reorganise and return to the race.

The Scouts built the Klondike sled during a meeting held at the Brong house where Mr. Brong has a wood shop and greatly assisted the Scouts in constructing the sled. Still, some last minute adjustments were necessary Friday night and the sled was a little worse for wear following the Derby. Still, the Scouts want to participate in next year’s event and make a few “modifications” to their sled in the meantime!



SNOW SPORTS WEEKEND IN POCONOS

The Troop held its winter sports weekend at Resica Falls Scout Reservation during the weekend of 22-24 February 2008. Attendance at this year’s winter sports camp was disappointingly poor with only five Scouts and two adult leaders, ASM Ernest Gambone and TCM Richard Detwiler, attending. Through a stroke of luck, however, the group was moved from its originally reserved cabin to the newly-constructed

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Unami Lodge at Resica Falls, which included many amenities and creature comforts enjoyed by the Scouts and adult leaders, including a kitchen and hot water showers.

On Saturday, the participants enjoyed skiing and snow boarding at Shawnee resort. Shawnee was chosen this year since it is closer than Jack Frost/Big Boulder and its prices were about the same for the activities the Scouts desired.

As a result of declining interest in the snow sports weekend in the past several years, the Troop will probably be seeking an alternative activity for its February camp.

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] programme. Summer camp is a great place to complete Scout advancement, whether it be requirements for Tenderfoot, Second or First Class, or required and elective merit badges for the higher ranks. Summer camp is designed to be the high point and focus of the Troop's scouting year.

Resica Falls Scout Reservation consists of approximately 4,500 acres in the Pocono Mountains north of Marshall's Creek, Pennsylvania. The reservation itself consists of several camps, including the Big Springs Camp, which is the major residence camp, Fawn Run, which is a back-packing camp, and Firestone Camp, which is a more rustic camp and was originally designed as an Explorer Base when the reservation first opened in 1957. Water activities are available either at the lake on the reservation or in the Bushkill Creek that runs through the

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reservation. The Big Springs camp has a new Olympic sized pool that features a water slide!

Those Scouts who are interested in attending summer camp 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. 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.

BOOT & PADDLE PROGRAMME

Also available to the Troop's summer camp is the Council's "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!

Sign-up for the Boot & Paddle programme is accomplished on an individual basis through Cradle of Liberty Council. Application forms for this programme are available from either Harold Frederick or Tim Wile at Troop Meetings.

APPALACHIAN TRAIL WEEKEND

A hiking weekend on the Appalachian Trail is planned for the weekend of 4-6 April 2008. Plans are for the Troop to camp at Hawk

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Mountain Scout Reservation located just west of Hamburg, Pennsylvania in Berks County. For those who attended our last trip to Hawk Mountain, we have reserved the same camp site that we enjoyed last time.

A ten-mile hike along the Appalachian Trail is scheduled for Saturday. Hikers should plan on wearing sturdy hiking shoes or boots, not sneakers or athletic type shoes. While it will be spring, we will be in the mountains and it will probably be chilly or cold in the morning and evening hours so dress in layers and bring appropriate clothing.

This is a tent camping weekend so plan accordingly! As always, mess kits and personal eating utensils are required. Menu planning will be done during one of the troop meetings prior to the trip so bring ideas for meals!

It takes approximately an hour and a half to travel from Souderton to Hawk Mountain so departure is planned from Zion Mennonite Church by 1900 hours (7:30 p.m.) on Friday, 4 April 2008. We plan on returning between 1200 and 1300 hours (Noon and 1:00 p.m.) on Sunday, 6 April 2008.

COPE WEEKEND AT OCKANICKON

The second April camping trip is scheduled at Ockanickon Scout Reservation in Bucks County for the weekend of 18-20 April 2008. We have reservations for Bischewi campsite at Ockanickon, which is near the old camp headquarters.

The COPE course will be available for older Scouts this weekend and those Scouts who desire to participate in the Ockanickon COPE programme must sign up for the programme prior to the weekend.

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For those Scouts who are not participating in COPE, fishing will be available at the pond – bring your own equipment! Additionally, we will have adult leaders present for working on Scout advancement

SPAGHETTI DINNER FUNDRAISER

The Troop's annual "all you can eat" spaghetti dinner fundraiser is scheduled for Saturday, 29 March 2008. As in years past, the event will be held at the Zion Mennonite Church with dinner being served from 1600 hours through 1900 hours (4:00 p.m. through 7:00 p.m.). Scouts and adult volunteers are needed for set up, cooking, dish washing, serving, clean up and take down. Sign-up sheets will be available during Troop meetings and please take the time and sign up for a shift or two! Scouts working at the spaghetti dinner will earn service hours towards advancement. Uniforms are required!

The date of the spaghetti dinner fundraiser was moved from the second Saturday in March to the last Saturday in March to avoid conflicting with the spaghetti dinner run by the Souderton Adult Activity Centre (SAAC). Hopefully, by moving our spaghetti dinner to later in the month, we can avoid competing with SAAC and we will see more customers!

Ticket packets will be handed out at the 10 March 2008 Troop meeting. Please take the opportunity to promote this fund raiser to family, friends and neighbours. This is the Troop's only fund raiser that goes to pay for necessary troop equipment, such as the new stoves and kitchen shelter (car port) that we have purchased recently. Selling advance tickets gives the dinner planners some idea of how much supplies should be purchased.

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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.

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 Treasurer 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.