



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

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March 2009

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### CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

- 2 March - No Troop Meeting – Winter Storm Cancellation.
- 9 March - Troop Meeting
- 11 March - Order of the Arrow Chapter Meeting – Trinity Lutheran Church, Lansdale, 1930 hours.
- 11 March - General Nash District Roundtable – 1930 hours – Trinity Lutheran Church, Lansdale.
- 16 March - Troop Committee Meeting – 1945 hours – Zion Mennonite Church.
- 16 March - Troop Meeting – Wilderness Survival – Monthly Board of Review.
- 19 March - Annual General Nash District Adult Recognition Dinner – 1900 hours -
- 23 March - Troop Meeting – Wilderness Survival – preparation for Wilderness Survival Camp at Ockanickon Scout Reservation.
- 30 March - Troop Meeting – Continue Wilderness Survival Theme.

### CALENDAR OF FUTURE PLANNED EVENTS

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

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

11 May 2009 – Annual Troop Family Night and Court of Honour – 1800 hours (meal) – 1900 hours (Court of Honour). A Friends of Scouting presentation will also be made at this event.

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.



## ADVANCEMENT AND ACHIEVEMENTS

**First Class** – Anthony Rivellini; **Merit Badges:** Peter Detwiler – Personal Management & Communications. **Eagle Scout Troop Board of Review** – Andrew Isban.

## LEADERSHIP CHANGES

The past several months have seen a few leadership changes in the Troop. **Andrew Isban** turned 18 years of age on 15 February 2009 and became an Assistant Scoutmaster. **Tyler Bragg** has taken Andrew's place as one of the Troop's two (2) Troop Guides.

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## SNOWY WEEKEND AT FIRESTONE

A dedicated group of seven (7) Scouts and three (3) Adult Leaders from Troop 461 trekked northward to the Firestone Explorer Base at Resica Falls Scout Reservation to enjoy a weekend of outdoor winter camping during the weekend of 20 through 22 February 2009. The



purpose of the weekend was to continue the Troop's experience with cold weather camping – an experience that began at Ockanickon in November. As in November, the Scouts elected to sleep outside rather than in a cabin and several troop meetings prior to the trip were dedicated to stressing the importance of preparation for cold weather and the

equipment necessary to stay warm and have an enjoyable time.

The Scouts decided to sleep in one of the two Adirondack shelters that were at our campsite and all seven Scouts slept in the same Adirondack. While there was enough room for the Scouts and their sleeping gear, some of



the other gear had to be kept outside under the overhang of the Adirondack. For additional warmth and to protect them from the blowing wind at night, the Scouts hung a tarp from the front of the Adirondack, which also aided in keeping heat in at night. None of the Scouts complained

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of being cold either Friday or Saturday night.

The Scouts spent most of Saturday hiking and exploring the area around Firestone Explorer Base, especially down along the Bushkill Creek. While the weather was hovering around freezing during the day, the ground was not completely snow-covered except in heavily-forested areas. However, even in those areas that had some clear patches, one had to be careful of one's step as the rocks and fallen tree branches were still slippery.



We were fortunate in that our campsite had one of the enclosed pavilions at Firestone and we made that our camp headquarters and mess area. In order to keep the chill off of the pavilion, we brought along a kerosene heater that was kept going all weekend long and provided the Scouts with a relatively warm place to eat or simply warm up if they felt that they were getting too cold.

ASM Ernie Gambone served as the Troop's chef for the weekend and did a splendid job of serving up hot food and keeping everyone content. Hot food is a necessary component of any winter camping trip – especially one that involves sleeping out of doors. The menu was planned at an earlier Troop meeting and during the trip, no one complained as they were all too busy eating.



Sunday morning provided a bit of a surprise for the Scouts as a light snowfall began about an hour or so before we arose. There was about a half inch of new snow on

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the ground when we awoke on Sunday morning and by the time breakfast was ready, at least an inch of new snow had fallen. When the snow was falling, the woods becomes extremely quiet and it was quite a pleasant experience as we completed breakfast and began the process of cleaning up and packing up to go home. With everyone pitching in, it didn't take long to pack up and get our pavilion and campsite ready for our check-out inspection. In fact, we were ready to go well before the Campmaster showed up to check us out and, with the snow still falling, the Scouts decided that a snowball fight was in order. Finally, the Campmaster showed up, inspected our campsite and cleared us to leave. We were on our way – finally – or so we thought. On the road out of our campsite, ASM Tom Isban's minivan couldn't get enough traction in the newly fallen snow to make it up a small hill. After a few unsuccessful attempts to clear the hill, several of the older Scouts assisted Mr. Isban with some Scout muscle-power and the minivan was on its way again. So, without further adieu, we headed home without further incident.



## APRIL CAMP CANCELLED

Pending Troop Committee approval, Scoutmaster Tim Wile has decided to cancel the April camping trip that was planned to the area of the Gettysburg National Historical Military Park. In late February, the Troop was notified that we were not selected as one of the groups that would be given a slot at the campsite inside of the National Park which meant that alternative arrangements for overnight camping had to be found. In light of the fact that the Troop is camping at Ockanickon Scout Reservation during the last weekend in March and the Council

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Jamboree is being held the first weekend in May, SM Tim Wile felt that it was simply too much to expect the adult leadership to plan and cover a camping trip in April. In addition to the Council Jamboree the first weekend in May, the Troop's annual shooting sports weekend is scheduled for the third weekend in May, between the Mother's Day weekend and the Memorial Day weekend.

## SUMMER CAMP 2009 – CAMP BUCKSKIN



Time is running short to make your reservations to attend the Troop's 2009 summer camp at Camp Buckskin at the Curtis S. Read Scout Reservation in New York and qualify for the early bird discount on the camp fee. 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

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rappelling, low and high COPE, as well as caving and Adirondack rock climbing. The last two events require additional fees.

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." ***As of the date of this Newsletter, the Troop has not received a single deposit from any of our Scouts indicating an interest in attending Summer Camp at Camp Buckskin.***

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/>.

## STATUS OF SPAGHETTI DINNER FUNDRAISER

For the past number of years, Troop 461 has held a spaghetti dinner fundraiser during the month of March in order to raise funds for Troop equipment. Our other fundraisers, such as the popcorn sale in the fall and the current WAWA hoagie coupon sale going on, are designed primarily to allow our Scouts to earn money for summer camp or to offset other Scouting expenses that come up during the year. The overwhelming majority of the monies raised in those fundraisers are

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credited to the individual accounts of the Scouts who participate in them with very little going to the Troop account.

This year, as a result of the current economic conditions and the small size of the Troop, the Troop Committee decided to cancel the spaghetti dinner fundraiser for 2009. Whether the spaghetti dinner event will be resumed in 2010 will be decided by the Troop Committee at a later time.

## 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 307<sup>th</sup> 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 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.

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## WILDERNESS SURVIVAL CAMP

The Troop's Patrol Leader's Council has decided that the March camping trip to Ockanickon Scout Reservation will have a Wilderness Survival theme and the Troop's activities during that weekend will revolve around that theme. The two (2) troop meetings prior to the Ockanickon trip will go over Wilderness Survival topics in preparation for the weekend. Those Scouts who are interested may work towards completion of requirements for the Wilderness Survival merit badge.

One of the things planned for the Ockanickon weekend is the construction of wilderness shelters with the idea that the Scouts can spend a night in their shelter and thus complete that requirement for the Wilderness Survival merit badge.

The March camping trip is scheduled for the weekend of 27 through 29 March 2009. We plan on departing from the parking lot of Zion Mennonite Church no later than 1930 hours (7:30 p.m.) on Friday, 27 March 2009, and hope to return to Zion Mennonite Church on Sunday, 29 March 2009, by 1200 hours (Noon). The cost of the camping trip is twenty-five dollars (\$25.00) and cheques should be made payable to "Boy Scout Troop 461" and can be given either to Scoutmaster Tim Wile or Treasurer Harold Frederick, Jr.