



GAZETTE

Troop 139 Warminster, PA



DECEMBER 2009

IMPORTANT DATES:



December 2009

- 6 Committee Meeting
- 7 Troop Meeting
- 10 Roundtable & OA Meeting
- 12-13 Holiday Trop : Camp Tohikanee
- 14 PLC
- 21 Troop Meeting
- 25 Christmas
- 28 No Meeting



January 2010

- 1 Happy New Year !
- 3 Committee Meeting
- 4 Troop Meeting
- 11 Troop Meeting
- 14 Roundtable & OA Meeting
- 16 Rock Gym
- 18 PLC
- 25 Troop Meeting
- 28 Klondike Prep Meeting
- 30 Klondike Derby

2009 FOOD DRIVE

Volunteers Needed!

Mark you calendar for **December 19**
Troop 139 will be at the **Warminster Shop Rite**
From **8:00 a.m. until 12noon** collecting food
donations.

Please see Mr. Pignatelli for details and sign up for
additional service hours.



2009 ADOPT FAMILY

The Troop will again be sponsoring a family from Warminster in need this Holiday season. The family consists of 7 children. Each Patrol will be given a family member and will be responsible for collecting money and go out and do the shopping. Generally, we ask each Scout to donate \$10.00 but it is dependent on the Patrol. Check with your patrol letter for specific information regarding our family. **Lets' make the holidays special for this family!**



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CAROLING AT MAJESTIC OAKS

Pack 139 will be caroling at Majestic Oaks on December 16. We are looking for Scouts and parent with musical talent singing or playing a musical instrument to assist. This year we will be putting on a Christmas show in the downstairs hall. If you are interested, contact Mr. Moritz.



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Troop 139 Holiday Trip

When: December 12 & 13th, 2009
*Where: Camp Tohickanee Richlandtown Rd.
Quakertown, Pa.*



Look for the next edition of the Gazette for updates on the recent 2009 Troop 139 Holiday Troop. Early reports indicate that this was a fantastic weekend event. The food was outstanding and great time was had by all. What makes this trip so special is it is shared with Webelos who are interested in joining Troop 139. This trip is perhaps the 1st time most of us were introduced to the troop on a campout, and it's traditions run deep. Sprinkled though the day are lots of exciting patrol competitions and opportunities for fun. The weather is always great.

The highlights culminate in a Holiday Feast and an evening troop gift exchange which gives scouts young and old a chance to share some laughs and build memories which last a life-time.

Season Greeting from Troop 139 !



ON THE ROAD AGAIN

Who wants to hike a mile up a mountain in the dark, or hike all day and part on the next with only the water you carry, or walk 15 miles in one day on what is supposedly downhill? Well, Jon Pi, Tim B, Dan C, David F, Tim M, Sean M, Josh M, John O, Nick P thought is sounded fun or at least challenging and decided to take up the High Adventure Challenge. The Crew was supported by several adult crazies including, Gary I should at least get something to shoot at with all this walking Crompton, Dave look at my new tent Detwiler, Ed guess how heavy my pack is Paulsworth, Jen hey my feet aren't hanging out of the bivy, Bielucke and Jim what happen to my camera Pignatelli. On Thursday night we went through the weigh in where the Crew divided up gear, tents, food and then reviewed map and hike. The elevation map looked like it would be downhill for most of the way. More on this later.

Saturday morning started as usual early and with donuts to snack on. After a two hour ride we arrived at High Point Park and started the trip. With a name like High Point you would expect you at the top of the mountain, wrong! It seems no matter what the map says we always start the hike going up and this was no different. The good news we had a beautiful weather weekend ahead, perfect temperatures and no rain in the forecast, who would believe it perfect weather. Well we started up for almost a mile just enough to wear us down before we start the 14 mile charge to the campsite. The mile climb was finished off with a great view from a platform it's a shame we only had a quick minute to enjoy it. We started the real part of the hike trying to force a good pace. Since we started hiking late it was around and got about 7 miles done; so we ate lunch late at one of the many stone walls we crossed. We had a classic PBJ. After climbing over a couple of barbed wire fences we moved into fields versus mountains with great views but we started wearing down as a group. Learned a new word, puncheon meaning a small boardwalk through swampy areas.



Backpacking Trip 11/7 & 8 /2009

New Jersey Appalachian Trail, 21 miles



We started thinking about plan B camping by a river which was around 12 miles and gave a place to pump water. Two problems the river ran through a nature preserve and we couldn't use the pumps since they will not clean polluted water. So off to the next source of water a pump at the foot Pochuck Mountain at the 14 mile mark. Another challenge first could not find pump and then we did and it was turned off and the final straw no place to camp and it is now dark. So up the mountain we climb in the dark using our headlamps to find the way to the shelter. At 6:00 we reached the shelter in the dark and we now need to find spots to set up camp, fortunately that wasn't too hard. Well we covered 15 miles in 8 hours the last mile up hill in the dark. We pooled our remaining water and cooked dinner. Most everyone was in bed around 8 and fast asleep. Up around 7 and time to get it together and on the road, Breakfast became a cold meal, no water for oatmeal. We did benefit from some trail magic. A couple of the hikers camping at the shelter are Eagle Scouts and they had an extra gallon of water to share with us. Once an Eagle always an Eagle.

Next day was a whole different challenge the days of the suppose downhill was done now it was time for some ups. The Crew was still fairly worn down from the previous day but we pushed onward and upward. Did get a chance to stop at a creek to fill some water bottles to finish the hike. We were all glad when we started down the last mountain and could see glimpses of the cars. At the bottom the crew broke out the stoves to finish breakfast and the adult's moved the cars. Finished the trip up with a fast food stops at Wendy's, did I say fast food, and can we say fast was not the way to describe our stop.

It was a very challenging trip especially for a crew made up of most first time backpackers. Fifteen miles in one day is tough for a Philmont Crew to do so it was especially challenging for the first timers. The Scouts and Leaders who took this challenge should be proud of how they performed. Congratulations for successfully completing this challenge.

WINTER CAMPING

Staying Warm during the Day

1. Dress in layers, polypropylene or lightweight wool next to your skin (no cotton bottoms or tops). Next layer is long sleeve shirt or thermal underwear followed by polar fleece or wool shirt. On the bottom stay away from jeans, if they get wet you will never get dry and they will pull your body heat away from you. Wool, polyester, lined nylon pants or ski pants work best for keeping you warm.
2. Footwear starts with your socks. The first pair of socks should be liner socks (no cotton) followed by wool socks. You need boots to stay warm, sneakers won't do. If you have gaiters this is a plus in windy or wet conditions.
3. Your coat should have a hood and cover your bottom. You need headwear and a knit hat is the best for keeping you warm. You need a good pair of lined gloves. In real cold conditions, wear a liner pair of gloves. Mittens are warmer than gloves so if you don't use your fingers wear the mittens.

Staying warm at Night

1. Never, never, never go to bed in the clothes you wore during the day. The clothes you wore during the day contains perspiration (are wet) and your body will have to work overtime to keep you warm, because the moisture pulls the heat out of you. Change into fresh clothes to sleep. Clothes for bed should be liner socks, long underwear or sweats, and a knit hat.
2. You need to have a winter rated sleeping (32degrees or below). Mummy bags are warmer than rectangular bags. You can add warmth by bringing an extra blanket and using it on the inside of the sleeping bag. Another way to help keep you warm is to put all your dry clothes inside the bag. Take your coat, zip it up and put it over the bottom of the sleeping bag, to help keep your feet warm.

STAYING WARM IN THE OUTDOORS

3. Wear a knit hat and keep you face out of the sleeping bag, the moisture from your breath will cause condensation in your bag.
4. Take a short walk or do some exercises to get your warm your body up before going to bed. Eat a piece of candy before bed to give your body some energy to help to keep you warm.
5. Remember to go to the bathroom before going to bed. If you need to go through the night, it is best to get up, no matter how cold, and go. Otherwise, your body needs to heat this water also and you won't get a good nights rest.

Miscellaneous Items

1. Remember to drink water during the day it is easy to get dehydrated in the winter.
2. Control you're sweating during activity by managing your layers, remember your body works hard to keep you warm when your clothes are wet.
3. Every effort in cold weather takes longer to complete. Be sure to bring some winter patience with you when you camp in the cold.
4. **If you're cold, put on a hat.**



INDOOR RALLY 2009



Congratulations to everyone who came out for the Lenape District Indoor Rally on Monday evening, 11/2/09. Troop 139 was well represented by two teams, the Squids and the Turtles, who put on quite a performance.

The annual competition among local troops tested its participants in the traditional events of Knot Relay, General Scout Knowledge, Flint & Steel (fire starting) and Tug of War. The Wall event, where teams are timed in getting all of their members over an eight-foot wall, was cancelled because the gym mats required for the event were accidentally locked away with the voting machines and were not accessible. The event was replaced by the Baton Relay Race, however, and everyone was happy.

Troop 139 placed well throughout the evening, as shown below:

Knot Relay: 3rd Place

Flint & Steel: 2nd and 3rd Places

Tug of War: 2nd Place

Baton Relay: 3rd Place

Overall Performance: 2nd and 3rd Places !!!

(General Scout Knowledge was an all around tie, with only one troop narrowly edging out the others.)

Thanks to all the scouts and their parents who attended and represented Troop 139 so well! Everyone did their best, and it showed.

Is Your Uniform Complete & Correct?

A Scout is expected to maintain a full Class A uniform and have all his current badges and patches sewn correctly on the shirt and merit badge sash.

This is critical to your advancement and obtaining a Scoutmaster Conference and Board of Review for your next rank.

See Mrs. Puglisi's Uniform Exchange if you need to update your uniform before making any new purchases.

Label Personal Gear!

Do not forget to label personal gear. Scouts can avoid costly and inconvenient loss of your personal gear by scribing or labeling your name on each and every item!

USS INTREPID



Troop 139 was on the move again in early November with a special visit to the USS Intrepid. The USS Intrepid is an important part of America's history at sea, in the air and in space. The Intrepid's role in this history spans two major wars, the space program, and rescue and recovery efforts in the days following the attacks of September 11, 2001. Her stories are ultimately stories of technological innovation and human achievement under extraordinary circumstances. The Intrepid has one of the best jet-age, Cold War aircraft collections in the country. The museum has 30 aircraft that include two of the fastest in the world, the super-secret A-12 Blackbird spy plane and the Anglo-French luxury airliner Concorde, as well as early helicopters that cruise at today's highway speeds and even slower.

Maintaining and operating the Intrepid required the hard work and talents of each member of the ship's 3,000-person crew. Sailors like Ely Benjamin, a decorated member of the ship's World War II crew, kept the ship afloat and running smoothly, even in times of combat. Pilots like Anthony Nargi, who shot down a North Vietnamese MiG, flew mission after mission from the ship. Astronauts including Scott Carpenter, commander of the Mercury 3 space mission, walked across the ship's flight deck after returning from their pioneering missions.

On May 5, 1961, astronaut Alan B. Shepard Jr. became the first American in space, piloting his Freedom 7 capsule through a 16-minute suborbital flight. After Shepard splashed down, waiting helicopters airlifted him to the aircraft carrier USS Lake Champlain. Essex-class aircraft carriers served as NASA recovery vessels through the early 1970s and the Intrepid participated in two such space missions. Helicopters from the Intrepid recovered astronaut Scott Carpenter, commander of the second manned orbital flight, on May 24, 1962. Carpenter's Aurora 7 capsule overshot the landing area by 250 miles (402 km), delaying his recovery. On March 23, 1965, Intrepid helicopters picked up Gemini 3 astronauts John Young and Virgil "Gus" Grissom and their two-person capsule nicknamed "Molly Brown" after the popular musical "The Unsinkable Molly Brown."

Scouts engaged in a walking tour of the ship. They had a great time of hide and seek. They were able to see all aspects of the ship. The highlight of the day was the Iron Skillet Cook Off Competition held on Saturday evening. The scouts created great food and had fantastic décor. The winning patrol for a third year in a row was Lizard Patrol.



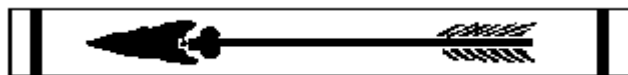
NATIONAL JAMBOREE – 100 YEARS OF SCOUTING

There are several spots still available on the Council Contingent to the National Jamboree at Fort AP Hill Virginia in July and August 2010. You will be joining over 40,000 Scouts, 5 Troop members and Mr. Candell. This a 10 day experience offering a wide variety of activities, shows and more things than you could do in 10 days. If you are interested contact Mr. Candell for more information.



Let Us Know When Your Email Address Changes!

Please remember to inform us if your email address has changed. Without the correct email you will not receive information. Besides letting us know of your new address, please include in the email that it is replacing. Thank you for helping us maintain an accurate listing of contacts!



ORDER OF THE ARROW

Next meeting scheduled for December 10 at
Neshaminy Warwick

2010 SUMMER CAMP - BAYPORT SCOUT RESERVATION

July 18 – 24, 2010

The week of July 18, Troop 139 will be camping at Bayport Scout Reservation. Bayport Scout Reservation is conveniently located in Jamaica, Virginia, with access to the Chesapeake Bay and operated by the Colonial Virginia Council, Boy Scouts of America. From our first year camper program to our high adventure activities, Bayport can be your destination for provisional Scouts or large troops and crews.

Scouts interested in High Adventure (High Adventure requirements: Scout must be age 13 and 1st class) will have four options this year. Please speak with Mr. Moritz if you think you are interested in High Adventure for camp on Monday Dec. 21.

Master Aquatics Program

Your summer experience will be filled with sunny days and breezy winds. This truly unique location with miles of open water is naturally perfect for all of the aquatic activities. Your journey will allow you to explore the Rappahannock while having fun, getting wet, covered with salt, soaking up the sun and learning how to operate various watercrafts. MAP participants will spend the week learning to safely and effectively take control of the motorboats, small sailboats, and water skis. Participants will rotate through the activities with instruction as they master the operation, launching, safety, preparation and general care of all watercraft.

Waterman's Program

Does living the life of a local waterman sound like fun? For the avid fisherman, this program exposes a variety of fishing and harvesting experiences. Surfcasting and bottom fishing are just the beginning as this program also includes crabbing and field trips to locations such as a local wharf.



COPE & Climbing

The Challenging Outdoor Personal Experience is our high adventure and team-building program. The low-elements are a combination of activities that challenge the mind and body as the teams try to complete the given task. Experience the thrill of climbing to the top of a 30 foot pole and jumping! This program features high-elements like the Giants Ladder, Two-Line Traverse, and a 500 foot zip line that spans over one of our ravines. Beyond the basics, our high ropes course will challenge the most daring. Laid-out like a treetop playground, participants will stretch their comfort zone. After mastering one set of elements, an advanced set of elements will await those that wish to test their confidence. These elements will include a Skywalk, Centipede Climb, Commando Rope, and the Flying Squirrel.

Our climbing program will showcase our unique lighthouse climbing tower, perched on a bluff that overlooks our private beach and 1,032 foot floating pier. Resembling a lighthouse on the outside, the tower will also contain "chimney-climbs" on the inside. The multi-level tower will include a short wall and short rappel for beginners. For the more advanced, this six-sided tower will feature multiple surface climbs with obstacles, as well as a free rappel. At night, the tower will host rappelling inside the tower to simulate a caving experience.

Bayport Sampler

Truly a tour of Bayport, this program gives your Scouts a chance to sample the different programs that are offered at our High Adventure Base. The following days/activities are part of the Bayport Sampler Program: Waterman Program (Fishing), Cope & Climbing, Canoeing or Rafting, Equestrian, Small group sailing with a recreational focus



UPCOMING EVENTS

January 16	Rock Gym
January 30	Klondike Derby (look for an announcement regarding Practice Meeting)
February 12 -14	Troop Leadership Training
March 14	Court of Honor Scout keep working on those merit badges and get your completed cards to Mr. Candelli before March 1.
March 15	District Swimmoree
March 19 – 21	Wilderness Survival
April	Shooter’s Weekend
	High Adventure Trip

SCOUTING SCRIPT PROGRAM

COMMITTEE CORNER

Want to help the troop raise money?

How about supporting our Scouting Script Program!

Please consider purchasing a \$100 gift card to Acme or Giant and \$3 will go to your Scout’s account and the troop gets \$2.

Please see the following for script:

Acme – Bill King

Giant – Cynthia McGinley

Thanks to all those Scouts and Adult Leaders that made the 2009 year a great one for Troop 139.

All Parents are welcome and encouraged to attend our monthly Committee Meeting. Join in the discussion and help create the best troop by participating in Committee Meetings.


Please contact Mr. Kraft or attend any Committee Meeting for more information.

For the latest Troop news...


Links to scouting sites, Copies of Permission Slips, Or to see what else we’ve been up to . . .

Visit our Website at: www.bsatroop139.org





GAZETTE
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The Gazette Needs You !
 Interested in writing an article, sharing something of interest, taking pictures for , or have a suggestion for the Gazette?
 Contact Mrs. McGinley at any Troop Meeting