

Valley Forge Troop 73

September 2002

Scoutmaster — Tom Savoy
Senior Patrol Leader — Mark Staab
Scribe — Zach Johnson

Summer Camp 2002

In July, down at Summer Camp, our Troop won third place in Paul Bunyan Field Day. We won first place in the First Aid Challenge, Turtle Derby, and the Inter-Troop Rifle Shoot. We won the Marching trophy Sunday, Thursday, and Saturday. Dan Wagner was Awarded the Silver Buckle and Mark Staab was elected as SPL. Everybody had a great time, we appreciate having Camp Horseshoe as a place to go during the summer and we can't wait till next year.

Paddle-Rama

In June, at Paddle-Rama, we had 2 days of canoeing on the Delaware Canal near Tincum, PA on the Delaware River. Scouts work toward Canoeing Merit Badge to prepare for Canada and to add another badge to their list. Special thanks to Paoli Troop 1 for letting us borrow their canoes, PFDs, and trailers.

Swimming Merit Badge

Before camp, scouts worked on Swimming Merit Badge (eagle required) for preparation to Canada. We worked on it at the Eland Downe pool, YMCA, and at Water World. At Water World, we went on the slides, rope swing, had fun, and picked merit badges for camp. Afterwards some of the Scouts worked on the Swimming Merit Badge.

Events

September's Theme: Cycling

Sep. 8th – PLC 7pm – 9pm VFFC
Sep. 19th – School Night 6:45pm Schuylkill School
Sep. 21 – 22nd – Cycling Trip
Sep. 26th – Troop Committee Meeting 7:30pm @ Bohl's
Sep. 27 –29th – OA Fall Fellowships

October's Theme: Backpacking

Oct. 4th – Pack 73 Campfire 7pm
Oct. 5th – Phoenixville Area Packs Campfire 7pm
Oct. 13th – PLC 7 -9pm VFFC
Oct. 16th – Fall Court of Honor, Class-A, 7:30pm
Oct. 24th – Troop Committee Meeting 7:30 @ Bohl's
Oct. 25 – 27th – Council Camporee

We saw this moose in Algonquin Park:



Merit Badge Counselors Needed!!!

Denise Boone is recruiting fathers and mothers, aunts and uncles, grandparents, brothers and sisters, friends and neighbors, and any other adults, to help our scouts earn Merit Badges. Everybody has a special talent or interest that can contribute to the growth of our Scouts. This rewarding job doesn't take much of your time but really matters. Interested adults please contact Mrs. Boone at (610)-935-9382 for more information. Those of you that have already expressed interest, please return your applications to Mrs. Boone **ASAP**. Thank you for your continued support.

2002 Trip to Canada

Our trip to Canada was a blast! After a great breakfast at the G-lodge, on the first day, Mr. Savoy misdirected us. On the Turnpike, we had to turn around after a 5-mile side trip to Ft. Washington. It took us about 6 – 7½ hours of driving to get to our first stop at Ivy Lea Campground.

At Algonquin Park, when we went canoeing into the interior, it only took us about three hours paddling with a stiff tail wind. When we got to the campsites we wanted, they were already taken. So while the adults were looking for a new campsite, the Scouts were swimming, at least most of them were. Then we were on our way again. When we got to our new site, we setup camp and ate dinner. On the way back, the canoeing was fun but hard. We had a strong head wind and what seemed like 2-foot breakers. We had to stop to rest, eat lunch, and regroup. We all made it back to our starting point without swamping once. The three to four leading canoes got in before the storm came, but the other six to seven canoes were still out there in the rain. When we got back to our camp site at Algonquin Park, our site was a lake itself.

We took a mountain biking trip on an old railroad right-of-way. The trail had some rocks, ditches, and bumps in it to keep it from getting boring. At one point you got to jump over a big tree branch, but on the way back some people had already moved it. We went about twelve miles. It seemed like everyone was complaining about how small the bike seats were.

Our trip to Niagara Falls was awesome! We went on the Maid of the Mist boat tour and got to see Horseshoe Falls. When we went in Cave of the Winds everyone had a great time. Hurricane Deck takes you up only about 25ft from the falls, and if you standing in the right spot the mist flies off the falls and collides with you. It was more like a guy spraying you with a power washer. Some of the scouts stayed there about 5 minutes, but not the adults. You might as well have not have gotten a poncho because you get drenched anyway.

Most of the Scouts couldn't wait until we ate at the Top of the Falls restaurant in the Skylon Tower. It had stores, an arcade, an observation deck, and the Top of the Falls restaurant. Before we ate, we had to buy off some time before we could get in to eat so we went to see an IMAX movie of the History of Niagara Falls. After that we went back to the restaurant and ordered our meals. We didn't get served until about 12:00am, but the food was delicious.

That was our trip to Canada! I'm sure that everyone who went had a fabulous time. We hope to see you on the next "Big Trip"!