



NITTANY VALLEY DISTRICT, JUNIATA VALLEY COUNCIL \* CHARTERED BY ST. PAUL'S UMC

# news & views

## BSA Troop 31 State College, PA

# May 2018

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## *Earth Day: Watershed Cleanup*

A chilly morning turned to a pleasant day as Troop 31 took to the waters of Bald Eagle Creek between Curtain Village and Bald Eagle Lake. We did an admirable job of eradicating four tires and a dozen full bags of trash and other bulk discarded material.

There were a few, including myself, who were provided the opportunity to put our swim test into action as we unsuccessfully navigated the swift waters pushing us to close to obstacles. Thankfully the water was not cold. LOL.

Participants received four hours of conservation and can also claim scholastic service hours if needed.

--from Paul Winkler

## **Troop 5K Reminder! Saturday, May 12<sup>th</sup>**

Registration for the 3rd Annual Troop 31 5K presented by PennTerra Engineering is now open.

Register online with a credit card here: <http://bit.ly/2oz6CbM>. Please note a small service fee will be added to your registration fee if you register online.

If you're not into running or walking the race but still want to help out, sign up to volunteer here: <http://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c054caaad2caafb6-2018>

If you have any questions, please contact Hayden Davidson.

See what the Troop's been up to over the last few months:

**Photos and more inside>**

*Cover photo this month from Watershed Cleanup from Paul Winkler.*

## Welcome New Troop 31 Scouts!

Over the past couple of months, area Cub Scout Packs held their Blue & Gold Banquets and Webelos Crossover ceremonies. Please join us in welcoming the following scouts.

- On Sunday, Feb 11<sup>th</sup>, we had three young ambitious men from Pack 383 Crossover to Troop 31. They are Derek Buchholz, Austin Haris, and Isaac Opperman.
- On Saturday, Feb 17<sup>th</sup>, we had five ambitious young men from Pack 67 Crossover to Troop 31. They are Aidan Donnelly (brother of Brendan), Dylan Herncane, Jack Lynch, Connor McGinnis, and Henry Smith.
- On March 15<sup>th</sup>, we had four ambitious young men from Pack 375 cross over to Troop 31. We welcome Kevin Burns, Cooper Brumberg, Lucas Esten, and Christopher Hill.
- On Sunday, Apr 15<sup>th</sup>, two more ambitious young men, this time from Pack 82, Crossed-Over to Troop 31. We welcome Jaxson Cohen and Sam Walker to the group of fifteen scouts now known as the Dragon and Ninja Patrols.

We'd also like to welcome David Zhu, a 6<sup>th</sup> grader who is new to scouting and David Packard, a high school senior who transferred to us from a Virginia Troop.



*Photo from Hyeseon Kim*

## Klondike 2018 – The Old Buffalo Trace

Troop 31 had thirteen scouts and 9 leaders attend Klondike this past January. What an exceptional group of scouts to participate in the Klondike Derby, support our Troop 31 fire building station, and provide hospitality to the Webelos Scout visitors. Thanks to all who participated!

A team of eight scouts followed the Old Buffalo Trace to test their scouting skills. The Dragon Team was led by SPL Jacob, along with David, Roman, Mitchell, Rik, Asher, John, and Brendan. The team also graciously welcomed an international guest Tony to join them on their sled.

This was probably one of the warmest Klondikes on record @ 50F, so the team managed to pull their sled along the many miles of gravel in the camp and still managed to have a GREAT time. At Leopold cabin, the fire building station for Webelos was lead by our own scouts, Joe, Hayden, Richard, and Jacob S who impressed the young scouts with the skills to be taught and learned as a Boy Scout and managed to warm themselves with chili and hot chocolate organized by the Stangel hospitality family.

Thanks to the adults that came out to support the Boy Scout fire building program to burn a string within 5 minutes time. Thanks Frank for organizing this T31 event!



We also enjoyed some time reconnecting with Maryland Troop 945 for our fun night at St Paul's on Saturday evening. What's not to enjoy with pizza and creamery ice cream to top off the evening!?! About twenty T31 scouts and scouters joined with us that evening. Already looking forward to next year...

--photo and article from Ed Brezovec

## Stargazing Campout

How many of your friends, relatives, neighbors, etc. can say they've camped in a tent when it's been under 20 degrees? Not too many. Well, the Scouts and Scouters who attended the Stargazing campout back in March did. Two nights in a row. Including a couple Scouts in hammocks.

Camping at Ole Bull State Park in the heart of Pennsylvania's Black Forest gave Scouts the opportunity, not only to test their gear and cold weather procedures, but also gave them time to play chess, football, frisbee, go on hikes, get wet in Kettle Creek, and of course, cook great camping meals. Around dusk on Saturday, we jumped in the vehicles for the 15 mile drive from the valley bottom to the plateau where Cherry Springs State Park is located. There we took in the amazing night sky, made even more impressive by the cloudless, crisp cold air. Seeing the Milky Way stretch across the sky, made us appreciate how remote we really were.

--photo and article from Kurt Baker



# Easter Eggs for CRPR

Scouts, leaders, and parents gathered on March 20<sup>th</sup> at St. Paul's UMC for this fun-filled annual service project. Each year, Troop 31 stuffs thousands of plastic eggs with candy for the annual Easter Egg Hunt sponsored by CRPR.

An amazing fact: Every year (and I have 6 years of experience to back this up), we manage to get them all stuffed in one hour!

Great job all – thanks for supporting this effort and giving back to the community.



## The Troop Committee Needs You!

Troop 31 is seeking assistance to fill the following adult leader positions. Below is an overview of the opportunities available. We can provide additional information and training to interested parents and friends.

**Popcorn Sales coordinator- Seasonal (fall), mostly administrative.** (Can be two co-chairs.)

Needed by July! Disseminate popcorn information to the Troop. Coordinate popcorn sales at sites. Collect and submit orders and payments. Organize distribution of popcorn products.

**Wreath Fundraiser Chair/Co-Chair- Seasonal (fall), mostly administrative.** Works with Fundraising Chair and leads the annual wreath sale in the fall.

**Trading Post Chair** – Order Class B apparel to support Troop outings, including High Adventure trips. Fill other troop supply needs on request.

**Merit Badge Counselors** – Needed for many Eagle badges and electives. Inform scouts about subject matter. Ensure scouts fulfill requirements as listed in pamphlet/online. Fill out blue cards. This is a very flexible position that can be done when you have time and scouts are interested.

Questions? Please contact Troop 31 Volunteer Coordinator- Lisa Kerchinski [esk10@psu.edu](mailto:esk10@psu.edu) or Committee Chair David Eng [davideng321@gmail.com](mailto:davideng321@gmail.com). Thank you for your consideration.

# Calendar for May/June 2018

Tuesday, May 1st	6pm	Adult Leaders Meeting	Tuesday June 5th	6pm	Adult Leaders Meeting
	7pm	PLC		7pm	PLC
Tuesday, May 8	6:30pm	Trash to Treasure	Thursday, June 14		Flag Day @ Boalsburg Military Museum
Saturday, May 12		Troop 5K	Fri-Sun, Jun 15-17		Mystery Campout
Tuesday, May 15	6:30pm	Meeting @ Shaver's Creek	Tuesday, June 19	7pm	Meeting: Park Clean-up
Tuesday, May 22	6:30pm	Ultmate Frisbee	Tuesday, June 26th	7pm	Meeting: Skills Challenge
Fri-Sun, May 25-27		Pirate Campout	Fri-Sun, June 29-Jul 1		Project First Class Campout
Tuesday, May 29	6:30pm	Troop Olympics			


Check [www.troop31.us](http://www.troop31.us) for more info and calendar updates!

(t) Fully trained for position (w) Wood Badge

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## ADVISORS

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Scribe Advisor

 troop shed key

## New Scouts 5-Mile Hike

On March 24<sup>th</sup>, a great group of new scouts met to enjoy a hike through scenic Spring Creek Canyon. Each year, this hike is scheduled so that new scouts, troop guides, and other scouts can work toward a variety of rank requirements including these Second Class Requirements:

- Map/Compass, 5-mile hike
- Identify animals
- Identify plants (First Class)

And, of course, enjoy the outdoors.



## Your pictures are needed!

Please send photos you'd like to share to newsletter chair, Deb Norloff. We'd love to include your photos and announcements.

We also need some to update the Troop presentation:

- Scouts cooking meals and washing dishes
- PLC meetings
- Troop guides teaching skills to younger scouts