



TROOP TRACKS

Troop 677

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October 2011



We've Been Riding on the Railroad

Down in Crawford County the 15 inch gauge Arborway, T.T. & Northwestern Railroad, owned by the Woods family, was the perfect spot for a family fall outing this year. Over 20 webelos and their families came to learn more about our Troop. The venture crew and many of our own 677 families also joined us to camp, fish and ride the 6 miles of rails.

The all volunteer staff at Arborway was very accommodating and even provided two trains for a night ride down to the river for our skits and flag retirement ceremony. We had a unique opportunity to run the 801 at night. The cooler air provided a magnificent opportunity to see the 801 in her full glory, accentuating the steam in a moonlit night.



The boys enjoyed fishing in the large ponds on the property. Lots of sun fish and a few bass were caught and released from the pier and around the Bell Lake. Some moms were there to help a few fish get back in the water and shared their secrets for handling the fish's spiny backs with the boys.

Thanks to Alex Beams of the ATT&NW and Gary Rolfes from the Union Pacific, many scouts participated in the railroad safety program, completing a number of requirements for the Railroad merit badge. The 801 steam locomotive was fired up, offering a chance to see how motive power was before the advent of the diesel engine.

In addition, a number of scouts provided service hours, straightening rail and maintaining the roadbed at the River Road Wye.

A special thanks also goes out the "Friends" of the ATT&NW, including Alex Beams, Fred Vergenz, and Zach

Gillihan as well as a host of others who came in to assist with the railroad operation for the day. We truly appreciate George Cotner's work to prepare the camp field for us. And a special thanks to Judy Woods, the owner!

We are very fortunate to have the opportunity to enjoy this private miniature railroad, along with the rest of the Woods Valley farm.



Inside This Issue:



<i>Poinsettia Sales</i>	2
<i>Bike Outing</i>	3
<i>Scouting For Food</i>	3
<i>Troop Open House</i>	3
<i>Future Outings</i>	4
<i>Open Adult Leadership Positions</i>	4
<i>Troop Calendar</i>	5
<i>Troop Committee Contacts</i>	5
<i>Scoutmaster Corner</i>	6