



The Dog Scout Scoop

(little bits of news we've picked up)

May/June/July/August 2009

Volume 13, Issue 3

PUBLISHED FOR DSA'S RESPONSIBLE, DOG-LOVING MEMBERS AND FOR THE FRIENDS OF DOGS EVERYWHERE Dog Scouts of America PO Box 158, Harrison, OH 45030

New Editor Trying to Get Her Act Together

Okay, here's the scoop. I'm Peggy Zweber of Peoria, Illinois and I am trying to get out my first issue of the DSA newsletter. So, this one may not be the normal format or I may not have all the articles that you sent in. However, if I missed your article in the transition, please email them to me at editor@potcdogs.com and I will put them in the next issue. I am getting ready for the July camp as I am writing this, so I am juggling this and that. A little about me: I have been a Dog Scout camper and member for 6 years. I have three dogs: Nikki a 12 year old mixed breed rescue; Charly, a 7 year old Yellow Labrador Retriever and Cate, a 2 year old Yellow Lab, with the same sire as Charly.

I am humbled and proud to be offered this opportunity to give back to Dog Scouts who have made one week of my life each year both relaxing and challenging, funny and exhilarating, and as close to heaven on earth that I could imagine. 24/7 with my dogs, in a lodge, next to a lake with people who talk "dog"!!!

I have been editor of my own club, Peoria Obedience Training Club, newsletter, "Tails and Details" for 6 years and during that time, I have learned that it is the members who make a successful newsletter. The more you contribute, the better, more interesting, more imaginative, it becomes. So, I invite you to help me continue to make this the successful newsletter it has become. Hope to be with you for awhile.



Peggy Zweber, Editor with her dogs, Nikki, Cate and Charly

Note: After we lost Grace Stevens, Lonnie completed the March/April newsletter and designated Jan Gilmer as the new Editor. Jan was unable to complete the May/June newsletter due to a family emergency. Peggy Zweber was asked to be the new Editor the week prior to Camp 2. Therefore, this issue is covering 4 months of information to get back on track.

All mailed newsletters will be copied in black and white. For the full version with all color photos, please register to view at our website.

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Deadlines, Deadlines, Deadlines!!!

- Newsletter Submission** - August 15th, 2009 for the September/October 2009 Issue
October 15, 2009 for the November/December 2009 Issue
- Dog Scout Calendar** - September 1st, 2009 For 2010 Calendar Dog Day Digital Pictures
Dog BD Dates and Digital Pictures go to Peggy Zweber at editor@potcdogs.com
Payment to DSA, 5068 Nestel Road East, St. Helen, MI 48656-9568
- Digital Newsletter** Newsletter will be only available on-line after April 1, 2010
Just send an email to DSAnewsletter@yahoo.com to register

New News – Developmental Directors!

Allison Holloway and Ann Withun will both fill the role of DSA Developmental Director/ Fundraising Manager. As such, they will work with DSA's Board of Directors to develop short and long-term strategic plans for the organization. They will organize and direct fundraising campaigns to maintain DSA's programs and enable growth and expansion; collaboratively shape the vision of the organization along with the Board; and promote DSA to the general public, communicating the importance and availability of the organization and its free educational information and services.



Allison Holloway - I'm Allison Holloway, and I excited to be one of two new Developmental Directors for DSA. Ann and I share a love of Dog Scouts and a desire to see this organization take off and become a resource for even more dog lovers

I graduated from Miami University with a BA in English literature and creative writing. I worked for 14 years for the Defense Logistics Agency, where I was a contract specialist, purchasing construction equipment and firetrucks for the military services. It was there that I became involved with marketing and developmental strategies. I worked part time as a trainer, and worked my own dogs in obedience and agility. I also became involved with rescue groups, and was fascinated with the training possibilities of shelter dogs. I decided to work with animals full time, and accepted a position as the executive director with the Humane Society Serving Logan County, where my primary duties were PR and fundraising. After 6 years at the shelter, I moved on to train full time and open a daycare and boarding facility.

I live near Columbus, Ohio, where I have 70 acres that I share with lots of dogs, cats, horses, a goat, a macaw and an African grey.

I became involved with DSA in 2005 when a friend asked me to accompany her to camp, and I was hooked! I've been teaching agility at camps 1 and 2 each year since. My goal for DSA is to make us a resource for all dog owners by expanding our services and educational opportunities, as well as our titling programs. I want to see our troops expand and grow, and become an even more integral part of their communities and DSA. I want all dog owners to see their canine companions through the eyes of DSA, and I'm looking forward to an exciting new era for Dog Scouts.



Ann Withun - I am so excited to be able to help DSA grow as one of the new Fundraising and Developmental Directors! I think Allison and I will be a great team, and we share a love for DSA and a vision for DSA's bright future. A little about my background:

I grew up in Easton, PA (with Shelties), graduated from the United States Military Academy at West Point with a B.S. in Mathematical Sciences and then served in the Army as a Military Police Officer, mostly in Germany. In the corporate world, I've worked in logistics - first for Target, and now for CEVA Logistics as a Quality Manager. As the QM, I am responsible for our Quality, Training, Safety, and Lean / Kaizen efficiency and continuous improvement programs. I ensure our facility is certified to ISO international quality and safety standards.

My husband Paul and I now live "out in the woods" in Newville, PA with Rowdy (Australian Cattle Dog) and Brutus (Big Black Dog), 3 ferrets, and some koi, goldfish, and random visiting wildlife. For the past 6 years we have been fostering dogs with local rescue, so we usually have an "extra" dog in the house too... I teach classes at Fieldwood, our local training center and enjoy the Basic class the most, where I get to experience the magic of seeing people and dogs really begin communicating with each other and building a great relationship.

After coming to my first DSA camp, I fell in love! I started Troop 161 in September 2007, and we now have a great, active troop that has raised over \$6000 for charitable projects. We even now have a "sister" troop (Troop 171) just 25 miles away that is just as large and active! I hope to use some of the same

methods, on a larger scale, to help DSA and its troops expand on a national and global scale. As local troops grow and succeed, DSA as a whole becomes stronger. I plan to support our troops by creating easy-to-use tools to help with troop admin, holding successful fundraising events, recruiting and retaining members, and organizing great troop activities. One of my first projects will be to expand DSA Titling programs, eventually including each of the "core four" activities: Trails, Water, Agility, and Obedience. DSA will invite the whole community to join in on these competitions after registering their dogs with DSA, reaching a larger audience with our message of responsible dog ownership and positive training (and raising funds to DSA's good work at the same time!) I hope that by next summer, we will have held several IMPROV competitions across the country!

DSA Spring Report

DSA's First Spring Outing

On May 15-17, DSA had its first Spring Outing at the Dog Scout Camp in St. Helen, Michigan. Members attended from Ohio, Colorado, Indiana and Michigan. We had a Spring Egg Hunt, and did some hiking and letterboxing. The dogs really enjoyed the egg hunt (no scentwork experience required). They were all finding eggs on their own, and either bringing them to their owners, or opening them deftly on the spot, getting the treat out with their tongue, and spitting the shell out on the ground! The dogs really enjoyed this activity. They were racing around the yard with glee, from one egg to the next. They seemed to understand what the egg hunt was all about. A fun time was had by all.



1. Zoe Lundgren discovers and opens an egg. 2. Saikou Olson fetches the egg to mom, Lonnie, for her to open and give her the treat inside. 3. Dazzle Puls



finds an egg up high. 4. Panda Olson's technique was to chomp the eggs (she cracked several). 5. Tori Donovan waits while mom, Megan, gets the treat out for her.

You're going to want to attend next year's spring outing. The bugs hadn't really gotten out in force yet, the weather was nice, and it is a beautiful time to be at camp. If you have allergies, though, it could be a rough time for you.



DSA Spring Clean-up

Most of the same people who attended the Spring Outing stayed for the clean up. We got so much important work done around camp. We cleaned, built equipment, painted, raked, got rid of some junk, cut up and stockpiled campfire wood, and pretty much got the camp ready for summer. The attendees will receive a special clean-up patch for helping out.

- 1.. George Matteson pulls the wagon, while mom, Melissa loads up the raked leaves.
- 2.. Charlie Sprinkle and Dazzle Puls take a break from work to cool off with some water fun.

DSA Leader Retreat

The leader retreat was relatively small this year, due to several having to cancel at the last minute due to important family matters. Those that attended presented classes on topics of interest to the Yoga), which was fun and relaxing classes on various merit badges, so that they could get checked out to administer those badges. The new Puissance Jumping merit badge was debuted, as well as the new level of SAR Directional control. DSA developed a sub-level of the directional control badge with a lesser distance requirement, so that the average person could teach his or her dog to achieve the components. Those who have already earned the previous badge will have already met the requirements for level 2. The attendees got an opportunity to earn these badges as they acted as "guinea pigs" in the classes. Leaders also had an opportunity to complete a craft, relax, or let the dogs play together. People brought auction items to raise money to support the retreat. Next year, we will try to get grant money to support the leader retreat, so that we can provide even better learning opportunities, better meal selections, and more extensive printed materials.



attendees. One of the topics was "Doga" (doggie for owners and dogs. Several Leaders presented

AWARD WINNERS!

Several awards were presented at the retreat. **Ann Withun and Betsy Howell** received their honorary "troop poop" (for conducting the DSA test), and also their Scoutmaster tote bags, for completing the requirement and the practicum for administering the DSA test.

Chris Puls received an award for Excellence in Writing for the book about Dog Scouts of America that she co-authored last year, with **Shelley Beuche**. **Ann Withun** received the "Above and Beyond" award, for giving of her time and talent to develop materials that will help others (without being asked). She had developed a power point presentation to identify not just poisonous plants, but also poisonous snakes and spiders in the Pennsylvania area. When she ran it past directors, **Chris Puls and Lonnie Olson** last year, Lonnie's comment, was, "This is GREAT-I wish I had something like this for Michigan!" The next email Lonnie opened up from Ann was a power point presentation with (you guessed it) all of the poisonous snakes and plants of Michigan! Ann also developed a guide for troops who would like to be considered sub-groups of DSA and operate as non-profit organizations. She did this also because she saw the need, and wanted to be helpful, and not because it was her job, or because she was asked to do it. This is what the Above and Beyond award is all about. Ann was surprised when she was presented with the award at the retreat. Submitted by **Lonnie Olson**

NOTE: The DSA website will soon be switching back to www.dogscouts.org as the main address. This may cause broken links till we have a chance to fix them all. You may need to update any links you have to the website. Thank-you for your patience while we make improvements.

Chris Puls "Scoutdogs" , President of Dog Scouts of America: DogScouts.org

Dock Diving After Camp 2



After camp 2, several of the campers stayed until Sunday, and attended the River Festival in Roscommon, Michigan. They had a dock diving competition, and several DSA members participated.

Allison and Tango, Chris and Dazzle, Mary and Nike, Kat and Indi, and Lonnie and Panda all participated. The event was free, and the dogs got treats, toys, leashes or other goodies just for entering. Indi did very well for a puppy of 16 weeks who just learned to dock dive at camp. She placed second in the small dog division. Her jumps were 5' and 7'. Out of a field of 26 dogs in the large dog division, Panda tied for first place with a jump of 15' 6". In the "jump-off," however, she only jumped 14' 6", so she also placed second. We had a fun time on this beautiful day on the river, and we took the dogs to get ice cream afterwards. Next year, I hope to see even more folks stay to participate in this fun event. We made it to the evening news, and one of Lonnie's troop members, Teri Dougherty was there taking pictures, too.



Try IMPROV!!!

We are looking for Dog Scout Troops and other groups to organize some fun matches this year to introduce IMPROV to their areas - so far, everyone who plays this fun game just loves it! IMPROV is a great relationship-building game for you and your dog and tests your communication, creativity, and versatility. "Cheating" is legal in IMPROV, and we call it "Lateral Thinking" - finding creative ways for you and your dog to work together, using things your dog already knows in new ways to accomplish a task.

Anyone who would like assistance in organizing a fun match, please feel free to contact Ann Withun at ann@withun.com. IMPROV events can be held in a relatively small indoor or outdoor space and require little supplies or equipment. Fun matches can be held for little/no cost. IMPROV is fun for any size group and dogs of all levels of training - your fun match could range from an informal gathering of a few of your friends and their dogs all the way to inviting the whole community and charging a small participation fee as a troop fundraiser with prizes for the winners. Non-DSA members are also welcome to participate in IMPROV (but will need a DSA registration number later on to compete in titling competitions.)

After camp 2, DSA held its first official Fun Match for IMPROV, which will be a competition event starting this year. Ann Withun judged the event which took place on Saturday afternoon. The new NOVICE class was being offered. Nine dogs entered the fun competition. Out of a possible 150 points, the placements are listed below:

First Place - Saikou and Lonnie Olson from St. Helen, MI - 144 points
Second Place - Schaefer and Shirley Stegner from Glenview, IL - 134 points
Third Place - Dazzle and Chris Puls from Brookville, IN - 133 points

For future sanctioned competitions, entrants must get a competition registration number from DSA. You and your dog will be able to compete and earn titles in IMPROV through DSA. We also plan to have the WET DOG events, DSA Agility, and DSA Rally, as well as our backpacking titling program. Stay tuned for more about this exciting new competition venue. We are seeking individuals who would like to act as judges for our competition programs. Please contact us if you would like more information. For information about IMPROV, see http://www.dogscouts1.com/Dog_Activ-IMPROV.html.

Quilt Drawing!



You could win a beautiful, hand-made Dog-themed quilt made by Jill Moore. The photo is from the pattern package. The actual quilt will be even more cute. Drawing to be held December 15, 2009. Proceeds benefit Dog Scouts of America, a non-profit, 501(c)(3) organization. Buy a chance to win! \$2.00 per chance, or 3 for \$5.00. Contact Sparky's Store Manager to get your name in the drawing. ALSO, for every \$50.00 or more order placed at Sparky's during the month of August, you will get your name into the drawing an extra time.

Don't Forget Our On-Line Store – Check Out Our Website and Just “Click” to Order!!!!

Fall Outing – Check It Out!!!!

The DSA Fall Outing will be held October 9-12 (3-day weekend, due to Columbus Day). Outing is open and free for all members of DSA. There is a lodging fee if you stay on-site. All of the usual fun and mayhem will be offered: Costume contest, fun, games, potluck, auction... Come and join in the fun during the most beautiful time of year here at camp. Please contact Lonnie Olson, Camp Director, for more information and lodging reservations. dogscouts@dishmail.net or call 989 389-2000.



Seminar with WCFO Judge & Champion Level Freestyle Competitor Gloria Voss

All Fees include a Continental Breakfast, Lunch & a snack each day
2 DAY Working Spot FEE \$145...1 DAY Working Spot FEE \$85...
AUDIT 1 DAY \$55 2 DAY \$95 (must attend Without a dog)

Classes will be from 9-5 each day with a lunch and breaks. Talent Show on Sat. night.
Dinner will be available for a small fee for Sat. night.

Workshop will be held at Dog Scouts of America Camp, 5068 E. Nestel Rd. St. Helen, MI 48656
http://www.dogscouts1.com/Home_Page.html

For more information contact Gloria Voss at gnsvoss@ejourney.com or 989-426-2841
Make check out to Gloria Voss and mail to 3323 E. Pinecrest Dr. Gladwin, MI 48624

Working spots will be limited to 20, additional Audit spots will be limited to 10 additional. 30 people total.
Deadline- Sept. 1, 2009

Overnight Lodging is available at Camp. ...

Contact Lonnie Olsen - DogScouts@dishmail.net or 989-389-2000

Friday night arrival and rooms available

Shared Dorm Style Room... Dog Scout Members \$15 per night.... Non-Members \$20 per night

Private Room ... DS Members \$40 per night Non-Members \$45 per night

Campsite with Electric- Members, \$12 per night per RV, Tent, Vehicle, etc.... Non-Members \$15 per night

Campsite with No Electric- Members, \$8 per night Non Members \$10 per night

There are local motels for Off-Site rooms.

K9 FREESTYLE DANCING SEMINAR

GLORIA VOSS, PRESENTER

SEPTEMBER 19 & 20, 2009 (Deadline Sept. 1st, 09)

~LOCATION~

Dog Scouts of America Camp

5068 E. Nestel Rd. St. Helen, MI 48656

Directions to Dog Scout Camp

From I-75 Exit #222: Go south on M76 to West Branch Rd (M55). Go about 4 miles west to S. Maple Valley Rd (F97) and turn left. Travel about 1 mile south on F97, turn right on Nestel Rd (dirt road.) Go slowly for almost a mile to Dog Scout camp (on your left.) Follow the driveway to the big lodge with half log siding.

From I-75 Exit 227: If you are Northbound on I-75, the exit ramp is about 1.6 miles long then becomes M55 west. The ramp will bring you to an intersection (no stop sign, just the first place in the divided road to turn left.). Turn left to cross the median and go straight onto M55 (which will be a regular two lane road that passes in front of the Maple Valley restaurant.) Go about 1 mile east to F97 and turn right (you'll see a little convenience store on your right at this intersection.) Travel about 1 mile south on F97, turn right on Nestel Rd (dirt road.) Go slowly for almost a mile to Dog Scout camp (on your left.) Follow the driveway to the big lodge with half log siding.

From 131 (via Cadillac) or 27: Come through Houghton Lake and Prudenville on M55. Just before you get to the on ramp for I-75, turn right onto M55 east (which will be a regular two lane road that passes in front of the Maple Valley restaurant.) Go about 1 mile east to F97 and turn right (you'll see a little convenience store on your right at this intersection.) Travel about 1 mile south on F97, turn right on Nestel Rd (dirt road.) Go slowly for almost a mile to Dog Scout camp (on your left.) Follow the driveway to the big lodge with half log siding.

REGISTRATION FORM

*required info... email confirmation will be sent and follow up questioner and details

***NAME** _____

***ADDRESS** _____

***CITY** _____ ***STATE** _____ ***ZIP** _____

***PHONE** _____ **CELL** _____

***EMAIL** _____

***DOGS – NAME & BREED** _____

DOGS – NAME & BREED _____

DOGS – NAME & BREED _____

2 DAY – WORKING SPOT- \$145- _____

1 DAY – WORKING SPOT- \$85- _____

AUDIT (NO DOGS) – 1 DAY- \$55 _____ **AUDIT – 2 DAY- \$95** _____

AMOUNT INCLOSED- _____ **CHECK #** _____

NO CHARGE CARDS ACCEPTED.... CHECKS OR MONEY ORDER ONLY

***NEED A ROOM... yes-** _____ **no-** _____

Contact Lonnie for rooms... info above.

Gloria Voss 3323 E. Pinecrest Dr. Gladwin, MI 48624
gnsvoss@ejourney.com or call 989-426-2841 www.gloriavoss.com

Troop News
Troop Scoop - Troop 119

In April our troop enjoyed our annual spring swim party. We had a great group of dogs come out to swim or just enjoy the company of their troop pals. Some of the dogs were introduced to swimming for the first time, some got to enjoy their favorite pastime and some just enjoyed cheering on the others from the sidelines.



BJ and bumper

Kay-cee's flying leap



Ting Ting swims to mom

In May, we had a guest speaker for our troop meeting. Dr. Nancy Bozeman is an area veterinarian who does both traditional veterinary care, as well as holistic/alternative veterinary care. She spoke with us about vaccinations, probiotics, acupuncture and other areas of interest in the troop. She answered lots of our questions and provided us new options to consider. Our troop continues to grow and to spread the DSA message across the great state of Texas!

We are just over half full for camper registrations for our Sixth Annual Texas Mini-Camp this fall. We invite everyone to consider coming to Texas Dec. 3-6, 2009 to enjoy some Southern hospitality and a wonderful long weekend with your best friend!

Mart & Cindy Ratliff
Troop Leaders, Troop 119

Downeast Dog Scouts Troop #159

The Downeast Dog Scouts are a small troop and the only troop in Maine. We began September 2007 and have been very active!!! Our focus area is Hancock County which includes Acadia National Park. At this time we are working on a website for our troop. Hopefully, it will be ready soon. "Cirra", the Great Pyrenees is our gal.

The Downeast Dog Scouts meet on a monthly basis for an activity and meeting. At our March 2009 meeting troop member, Denise Housknecht provided a fun filled program - Introduction to Rally. The program for April was a presentation and discussion regarding service dogs. Rob and Lynn Boulier, owners of Tail Waggin' Training Center in Levant, Maine provided an excellent program about service dogs and their training center - www.tailwaggin.net. During our May meeting, troop members enjoyed a walk on the Bucksport Waterfront followed by a picnic lunch.

During April five troop members attended a Red Cross Pet First Aid class. In addition, in April the Downeast Dog Scouts participated in the annual Friends of Acadia Earth Day Clean Up. Nine troop members and their dogs picked up 221 piles left by less responsible dog owners at Little Long Pond in Seal Harbor, Maine. That is over hundred less piles than was picked up last year.

Several troop members and their dogs continue to provide therapy visits at hospitals, assisted living facilities and nursing homes. The Children Reading to Dogs Program has been very active at schools and libraries. During, April two troop members and their dogs joined Italian Greyhound, Bri and Pier Carros for their Reader Dog Tea at the Blue Hill Public Library in Blue Hill, Maine.



Blue Hill Tea - 4-29-09 - Blue Hill Public Library - Blue Hill, Maine - "Bri" - Italian Greyhound, "Cirra" - Great Pyrenees and "Rissa" - Labrador Retriever



Clean Up 1 - 4-25-09 - Friends of Acadia Earth Day Clean Up - Little Long Pond - Seal Harbor, Maine*

Clean Up 3 - 4-25-09 - Friends of Acadia Earth Day Clean Up - Little Long Pond - Seal Harbor, Maine - "Wendi with Her Backpack" Chihuahua



Clean Up 13 - 4-25-09 - Friends of Acadia Earth Day Clean Up - Little Long Pond - Seal Harbor, Maine*

Tail Waggin - 4-5-09 - April Meeting - Lynn Boulter - Tail Waggin' Training Center*



May Meeting - 1 - 5-3-09 - Bucksport Waterfront Walk, Bucksport, Maine*

First Aid Class - 1 - 2-18-09 - First Aid Class - Pier Carros*



March Meeting - Rally 1 - 3-8-09 - March Meeting - Introduction to Rally - Sherry Brodeur and "Molly"

Robyn Douglas, Troop Leader
Downeast Dog Scouts Troop #159
Mount Desert Island, Maine

Maine Troop #159's Robyn Douglas Receives 2009 Good Scout Award!!!!

Since starting her troop last year in Maine, Robyn has built a very active troop that is a great model for others, has made a huge impact in her community and shared DSA's missions with many people. Some of the things she has led her troop in doing are:

Starting a walk-a-thon program that anyone across the country can participate in to raise funds for programs the troop is working on. She also helped develop a certificate program for dog owners in her area that complete a walk of a certain number of miles along the Carriage Road Trail.

They have started a very nice reading program for kids in the local schools and recently finished their year with by getting 1062 books donated to their "Children Reading to Dogs" Program with a retail value of \$10,205. Her dog Cirra gave reward books to the seventy kids at "her" school. In addition, they gave some books to the teachers and librarian at the schools that they visited.

They were guests of honor at a room dedication in the childrens wing of the library.

Their Yard Sale in the beginning of June generated \$1,719. They will be using the funds to provide pet oxygen masks to the fire departments and EMS folks in their county and contacting the media for coverage of those presentations.

Robyn must have a knack for getting media to cover their events because just about every event they do results in an article in the paper or TV coverage :-). She posts all their troop meetings and activities in the local community calendars (radio websites, Chamber of Commerce websites, newspapers). This helps spread the word about DSA and what it's all about.

Their troop gets lots of attention at non dog events as well, like the Family Festival. The town closes down Main St and has vendors and artists to encourage folks to shop in the downtown area two weeks before Christmas. They set up a booth and did bite prevention with the kids giving them paw print stickers. Last year her troop did the Fourth of July Parade. A local dog store gave them \$500.00 for parade float supplies and they put their sign on the back of the float. Parade floats are a lot of work!!! You should see photos of the awesome, eye-catching float they did- complete with a full size canoe, fake camp fire and tent!



Robyn registered the troop with the Presidential Volunteer Service Awards. For 2008, the troop received the Group Silver Level Award (500 - 900 hours) and five troop members received Individual Bronze Level Awards (100 - 249 hours)!

The troop hosts the Canine Carnival which is planned for October 4th and Robyn is planning a children's writing contest some time during the next school year.

This is just some of the events and activities Robyn has helped her troop organize. She is a great motivator and troop leader and her troop is a model of activities for all to follow. She deserves this recognition for all the many hours she has put forth to promote DSA, positive training and community service.

I am glad to present Robyn with the 2009 Good Scout Award. Thank-you Robyn! **Chris Puls**

Troop 166 – Marion, Ohio



May 15-17 Troop 166
First Campout!

Little "E"



Troop letterboxing with visitors



Sheryll with her foil pack of potatoes

Troop 171 – Harrisburg, PA

Members of *Troop 171, The Redfern Ramblers, of Harrisburg, PA, *have stayed busy since 2009 began, and we have lots of exciting news to report. First, four new Dog Scouts have joined our ranks since February, and several more are very close to earning the DSA Badge! Our newest scouts are Dale Evans, Maida, Misty Rose, and Rachel. Congratulations to everyone!

Troop members are also hard at work on various merit badges including The Art of Shaping, Fundraising, Community Service, PhoDOGraphy and Backpacking.

Our troop is also working to increase our visibility and spread the word about the DSA mission and purpose by stepping up our community service efforts. Most recently, members of Troop 171 formed a team and took part in the Capital Region Arthritis Walk in Harrisburg May 2. Our team was 15 members strong, including nine scouts and six non-scouts. Through our group's efforts, we raised almost \$1,500 for the Arthritis Foundation – finishing third among all participating teams!

Also planned for spring and summer are several community presentations for our Oxygen Mask Project, which has been a great success so far. The masks purchased by the donations our troop is collecting will go to first responders in Dauphin and Perry counties. Last but not least, the totals are in from our Salvation Army bell ringing efforts in December. In four hours, The Redfern Ramblers raised a total of \$275! When divided among our eight ringers, that averages \$34 a dog. We had a great time during the winter months, and we look forward to a busy and productive spring and summer! **Paula Marinak**

Troop 177 – Indianapolis, IN

Troop #177 Indianapolis, IN - We are off to a great start for 2009! So far this year we have accomplished: 4 members passed the DSA certification in Special meetings Feb & March 09 - Making a total of 5 in our troop of 7!



Cash Hillman
Jetta Simpson
Saba Barefoot
Bailey Burger
*Charlie Sprinkle certified at Dog Scout Camp in 2008.

Meals On Wheels for 5 shut-in pets were delivered in March.

Raised \$500 MADE OUR GOAL! For the local humane society in the Mutt Strut.

6 Attended the Red Cross Pet 1st Aid course in March and we are working on First Aid, Dog Care and Maintenance, Travel Safety. We put together 1st aid kits and information for travel.



In April, we had an Easter Egg hunt 8 attended and 55 eggs were found!

We have great things planned for the rest of the year and looking forward to growing.

Troop 188 is Spreading the Word – New London County, Connecticut

A blue banner with white and red text. At the top left, it says "Congratulations To" in white. In the center, there is a red logo for "Dog Scouts of America" featuring a dog silhouette. To the right of the logo, it says "Our Newest Dog Scout" in white. Below the logo, it says "Troop 188" in red. Underneath that, it says "We are proud of our Dog Scouts" in red. At the bottom, it says "For More Information Check us out at WWW.Dogscouts.org" and "Or email DogScoutTroop188@yahoo.com" in red. At the very bottom, it says "Dog Scouts of America Promoting Responsible Pet Parenting" in white.

Troop 188 is a relatively new troop (January 2009) and is preparing to award their first Dog Scout badges. As a new but active and growing troop we are trying to spread the word about Dog Scouts of America and its great message of positive pet parenting and also recognize our dogs' accomplishments. To achieve this goal the troop has purchased a couple of lawn signs (similar to the signs used by political candidates). The signs are 18"X27", printed front and back, and the jpeg image was uploaded to Vista Print (www.vistaprint.com) for printing. The lawn signs will be given to the Dog Scout Parent of the new Dog Scout for display in their yard until the next meeting. The sign serves multiple purposes not the least of which are to recognize our new scouts! If your troop is interested in a similar sign an Adobe Photoshop file will soon be available on the Dog Scout web site at www.dogscouts.org . The file can be

personalized for your troop. If you do not have access to Photoshop email Troop 188 at DogScoutTroop188@yahoo.com and they will be happy to make the personalization for your troop.

Troop 188 meets on the second Tuesday of each month and gets together for activities 1-3 times each month. January and February found the members of 188 busy hiking and working on skills for their Dog Scout badges. On January 19th we went



hiking after a fresh snow fall at the Eugene O'Neill Theater grounds. During the hike we worked on recalls on a long line with distractions. Everybody had a good time especially Alice as she enjoyed the path made by the other dogs. (The snow was deeper than she is tall!)

Troop 188 stops to rest and practice recalls while hiking. From L-R Amanda Throop with Alice, Josh Throop with Lucy, Elizabeth Cefaratti with Molly, Kate and Emily Freeman with Angie, and Kathy Freeman with Lola. – Picture by Sheri Throop

to footprint while trying to keep up with the big dogs. Sheri Throop

In February we discussed letterboxing and worked on skills and indirect access exercises. On the 22nd of February Jim Throop taught a group of (scout parents) how to carve stamps and the basics of At the end of the session the loop-enders had created stamp for their scout to use in pursuing the letterboxing



make hand carved stamps. From Left to Right (around the table) Millie Burke, Carl Russak, Marge Lineweber, Josh, Amanda and Jim Throop. Picture by Sheri Throop.

The Troop also met to work on leave-it and heeling skills in Eriksson Park. Unfortunately the letterbox that use to reside in the park is missing but the Troop has plans to replace it with one of their own very soon!

At our March meeting we enjoyed a presentation by GONE (Gaze Hounds of New England) members Clay and Sue Ann Leslie who talked to us about lure coursing. They brought the lure equipment for us to see as well as the racing attire for the dogs and training equipment. Scouts were allowed to try on the racing attire and try their instincts on the training equipment. The Troop has been invited to view an upcoming tournament April 18th and some scouts may even have the opportunity to try their skills! With spring right around the corner the Troop is looking forward to more time outdoors and a full schedule of activities and The troop's first Dog Scout Badge recipients!



Candy McKing

News from Columbus, IN
Here is a photo of Ted and I when we were at the Bark in the Park in Columbus Indiana.. He has his CGC scarf on because I had not received his DS cape yet!. The Bark in the Park is an annual event in Columbus for Dog lovers. There are dog booths and dog vendors and dog demonstrations. Ted and I did retrieving.



Cadet Scout Alice leaps from footprint Photo by

more greeting loop-enders letterboxing. a signature merit badges. Troop 188 Learns how to

**From The Rainbow Bridge
Remembering Grace...**



God was kind to her. She went into hospice and subsequently passed, only 4 days after her "toodleoo" party. She was bright and alert and witty right up until the end. I'm glad that she didn't have to endure prolonged suffering. She had it bad enough with the constant headaches and dizziness, and difficulty breathing.

What a great lady Grace Stevens was. She was so wise, and willing to share her wisdom. She was honest to a fault (sometimes she'd say, "Why, that woman hasn't listened to a thing you've tried to tell her to help her dog!" ...with the woman still standing within earshot! She didn't pull any punches. She called a spade a spade. I just loved her so much, as did most of the rest of us who knew her.

For those who didn't know Grace, she was a very young seventy-something, who came to camp and was asked to be on staff because of her sensibility and wisdom. She helped conduct the CGC tests and helped with photography, Rally, Manners, and Water classes. She would just do anything you asked her to.

During her lifetime, she raised 13 leader dog puppies. She trained for the Kalamazoo Humane Society. She and Triscuit volunteered in a reading program for kids at the library. She was a teacher and then a grade school principal. She edited the Dog Scout Scoop for several years, and also managed the DSA membership department for several years. She was always up for an adventure. She loved to go camping in the Rockies with her friends. She was an excellent cook. She was one of the most giving beings on this planet. Over the years, she raised many thousands of dollars, single handedly, for the KHS at their fun walk.

Grace won the DSA award for excellence in writing this year, and the board agreed that the excellence in writing award shall be now and hereafter known as the Grace Stevens Excellence in Writing award. When I got up to announce her being named for this award, there were some people in the back, talking... She said, "I hear some poor listeners out there... Do I have to come over there and stand right beside you?" The principal was coming out in her, right to the end. Of course, then I had stone silence to announce her award. Grace always kept us laughing and smiling, and will be missed desperately. Her grand niece, Richelle still be attended camp this summer. Jill Moore provided transportation and lodging in her travel trailer. \

I uploaded a photo of Grace with her friends at her farewell party (it is titled, A Toodle-oo Party)--that's what she called it. It is on the yahoo site in the photos section, right at the beginning. Everyone spare a thought for this great lady today. She meant a lot to a lot of us. Submitted by **Lonnie Olson**

Loss of a teacher and friend. On Thursday, May 14, 2009, we lost our Sheri. Her formal name was Misty Glen's March to the



Sea, CGC, TDIA, RN, DSA. But Sheri was NEVER formal—she never met a person or animal that she did not consider her friend and she taught us to make new friends everywhere! She provided visits (over 350 throughout her life) to anyone who needed a little fur-fix. Never flashy or out-going, Sheri's calm and loving demeanor brought peace and companionship to countless hospice patients, children, and others. Sheri taught us many things but her 2 biggest lessons were contained in her eyes and her tail. With her eyes she taught all who knew her to see only the best in each other—she truly looked into the souls of everyone she met and in that meeting of the souls, you just KNEW she understood, liked, and loved you. With her always-in-motion tail she taught us to enjoy life as it comes to us. That tail was never still—as she left us, her tail was still moving. Thank you Sheri! May we always remember your love, devotion, grace, and quiet courage—not to mention your eyes and your tail! We will always miss you.

Betsy Howell, M.Ed., CPDT, Redfern Canines, www.redferncanines.com

From the Rainbow Bridge (cont.)



Tutu – Loss of a Dog Scout Cadet

We had to have Tutu put down on Friday, July 3rd, one day after her 13th birthday. She went into a seizure that she just couldn't come out of. Every day with her was a blessing and a gift and she will be greatly missed. She was a Cadet scout, who came from a horrible life in a puppy mill to being our little princess

Debby Schultz



Stryder Perez, companion of Matt and Melissa Perez of Wayne MI -

Stryder Perez, a black and white Siberian Husky with one blue eye and one brown eye, was adopted from the Michigan Humane Society in Aug 1998 at almost 1 year old. He and mom Melissa attended DSA mini camp in Sept 2001 where he earned his DSA badge, among others. Stryder was a member of Troop 109, helping with all sorts of events from fundraising to responsible dog ownership. He also volunteered with his mom Melissa for the Michigan Humane Society, teaching people how to be safe around dogs. He was especially good with kids, patiently waiting for them to come greet him. Stryder was diagnosed with adenocarcinoma, anal gland cancer, in March, 2009. He lost his battle on April 23 2009. He was 11 1/2 years old. He is survived by his fur brother Shiloh and parents Matt and Melissa. Dad Matt says of Stryder, he was a noble soul.

Melissa Perez, Michigan Humane Society www.michiganhumane.org



Louie's Story - Ann Withun

Louie came into our lives as a foster dog. There he was, looking at us from behind the chain link in the shelter. He had a cute face, a stocky Dalmatian with black ears. He had a sore on his paw that seemed like a scrape that would heal up fine, otherwise he seemed like he was in good health. He seemed like a nice dog... (this is where the suspenseful movie music plays)

We agreed to foster Louie and took him home. We began noticing things. Louie hated the commotion of the playground on our daily walks and anything that went by on wheels. He was generally lethargic and showed signs of arthritis. We figured he must be pretty old. He did not run, ever. If you said the word "no" and moved toward him, WATCH OUT. He did not play, with toys or with other dogs - it seemed he didn't know how. The "scrape" on his paw was a Lick Granuloma - he was gnawing himself to the bone. He would not allow us to touch his tail or hind end.

When I say he would not "allow us" to touch him in certain places, or to approach him while using a stern tone of voice, there might be some that are thinking we just needed to grow some backbones and show this dog who was in charge. Well, Louie changed all of our ideas about this - he has changed our lives and made us better people. This story might convince you too. At this point, someone was going to get hurt showing him "who was boss." This, clearly, was not going to work.

It became apparent to us pretty quickly that someone had beat the tar out of this dog on a regular basis. Anytime tensions rose - noise, tone of voice, lots of movement and chaos - Louie turned into a menace. But even without the benefit of the experience we have now, it was clear that this dog was afraid. Really afraid. This dog had been through hell.

We began thinking in terms of giving Louie a nice last few months. Adopting him out was out of the question. We figured he would either fall apart on his own from age, or he would become so dangerous that he would need to be euthanized.

Then a surprise. A bad one. Apparently, the shelter really should not have put Louie in the foster program, as his abusive previous owners were actually suing to get him back from the shelter.

We waited for news. And then they won. Their story was, the boyfriend was the one doing the beating, and he had been kicked out of the house. So after having this unfortunate, terrible, loving dog for two months during the litigation, we met these people at the shelter to give him back. There we were, delivering him back to the hell he came from. The woman was there with her young daughter, herself a mess and the little girl looking unkempt and dirty. Clearly the girl loved the dog who she called Sparky. I hoped that they might provide each other some comfort as my husband and I turned him over.

I held back from storming at this woman, wanting to ensure she might listen to my plea - If things don't work out, please have the shelter contact us. He has some real problems. We promise he won't have to go back to the shelter.

And to her credit, she did. Apparently Louie "growled at her son." Not much of a surprise to us, as this was a daily occurrence at the time. Anyway, about a month after we turned him over, she left him with the "rescue" she originally obtained him from - which has since been shut down for housing/hoarding the dogs in horrible conditions, the carcass of a dead dog in with the miserable survivors (the "pre-quel" to Louie's horror movie of a family). This "rescue" contacted us, and we met them in the parking lot of a local shopping center to get him back - it was time to sever all ties with Louie's old life. They brought him out of their van. Louie was filthy. I mean FILTHY. He looked awful and hopeless, head hung low, looking at the ground.

But that dog recognized our voices approaching. He lifted his head. In an instant, he went from looking like he was at death's door any second to having the light of life in his eyes, a different dog. I have had few moments like that in life. When our eyes met, he knew he was saved, and I promised he would never have to go back - we both understood this in that moment. We were a family now.

We took him to our own vet, since there was no question that he would now be our dog forever. Of course, we had no idea how long "forever" was going to be... The vet said Louie was only about 4 years old, and you could have knocked me over with a feather.

We learned that a gentle touch and positive training works. We learned that patience pays off in the dividends of absolute love and devotion. We saw him blossom as we made him feel safe and showed him that we would help him understand what we wanted of him and help him be successful at it rather than punishing him for his mistakes. We learned that a dog that is broken can become whole again, and can keep getting better year after year.

Over the first year Louie lost over 20 pounds that had been weighing him down. The second year, we moved into a house in the woods, and we saw him take off at a run for the very first time, in pure joy. He became a dog again. He learned to play with our other dogs. He rolled in piles of leaves. A love of all creatures that must have always resided inside Louie resurfaced. He loved every foster dog and visitor that crossed our threshold. He became a certified Therapy Dog and shared the love he gave to us with others in need. The fourth year, he played with a toy on Christmas morning. This was his Christmas gift to me.

Louie's body showed the wear of a tough life. After 6 joyful years with us, his hind end didn't always work anymore, but there was never a complaint when he fell down. He just got back up and proceeded to enjoy whatever it was he was doing - if he remembered what that was. His favorite pastime was gardening, and as I did my own chores Louie did his, pruning back plants as he saw fit. His body continued to age, but the whole dog had found a fountain of youth, making up for lost time. I have never seen a creature more appreciative than Louie and with such zest for life. All that we have given to Louie, he has certainly returned tenfold. We have been lucky to know him.

We helped Louie find the Rainbow Bridge today (July 5th), where he will wait for us until the day we'll walk across together into heaven. On his last day, with a little help, he was still able to pick an apple from the tree, tend a few plants one last time, and lie in a sunny spot in some soft grass. We will miss him dearly.

Attitude of Gratitude

Thanks to **Martha Thierry** for donating the costs of mailing envelopes and postage for sending out the 2009 DSA calendars.

Other Contributions

May: Melissa Perez – A generous donation in memory of Stryder Perez (DSA)

May: Joanne Weber – A donation towards the purchase of the AED Defibrillator

May: Lonnie Olson – A donation in the memory of Grace and Triscuit Stevens

May: Chris Bahr and Jodi Pyatt – A very generous donation in memory of troop member Carol Huston's mother, Marjorie Huston; Linda Hayes' father, James Edward Hayes, and Grace Stevens

March: Joanne Weber – A generous donation to DSA, just because.....

February: Jackie Baldes – A generous donation in memory of Billie Baldes (DSA) and Joan Segler (Jackie's sister)

January: Lonnie Olson – A donation in memory of Dumpster Schueneman, companion of Mary Schueneman

January: Joanne Weber – A general donation plus memorial donation in memory of Dumpster Schueneman

In Closing... Some Thoughts The "Brotherhood" of Pet Parents

I had an unusual thing happen to me over the weekend. A person who I did not know, and could not see was transmitting a communication over short-wave radio which I thought was rude and inconsiderate (not the norm for Ham Radio enthusiasts). I sat there this morning, stewing over my cup of tea, and thinking, "THAT person was obviously NOT a dog owner." Then, I laughed to myself, thinking, "What would possibly make you extrapolate that?" It was then that I realized that I was part of a sub-group of the population that is bound by a code that is everything decent. It is the code of Responsible Pet Parenthood.



I realized that I attribute many good qualities to responsible pet parents. And rightly so. I assume that RPP's are helpful, kind and considerate to their fellow humans. I assume that the items in my car, in my crate and in my purse sitting on top of my crate at a dog show are safe, as no dog person would ever steal. I would open up my home to one of my dog friends without reservation. I trust them completely. I realized that, whether we know it or not, we are bound by a code that says, "If you're good enough to be worshiped by your dog, then you're good enough for me."

Thinking back over the years, in times of trouble or need, it was my Dog Friends who have been there for me, providing a shoulder to cry on, moral support, or camaraderie. I think that we are all that way for each other. When I was lying in the hospital after my motorcycle accident, and after barely making it out of intensive care alive, it was my DOG friends who came out of the woodwork to visit and cheer me. Dog people are like that. Especially Responsible Pet Parents, and especially Dog Scout Folks.

The support that is shared on our DSA discussion list is amazing. We all love and care for these people unconditionally, even though we have never even met some of them in person. The passion we have for our dogs and dog sports binds us together like a family. I often tell a new camper, "You will meet people at camp who are good friends that you just haven't met yet." You will immediately have more in common with the person next to you than you probably have with your own brother. That's because we are all bound together by the love for our dogs and for dogs in general. When I meet someone, I feel like I already love their dog as much as they do! So that automatically gives us a lot in common!

There's just something good and right about someone who shares my love for dogs, and my interest in getting things right and being the best pet parent I can possibly be to my dogs. I just can't explain it. If you're reading this, you know two things: That you're a good person, and I automatically like you.

The rude person on the short wave radio reminded me of a radio talk show interview I had several years back. It was one of those non-family oriented radio stations with a rude and lude wisecracking host. I endured every insult and sexual innuendo about what we did with our dogs at Doggie Camp, and resisted the urge to slam the phone down in his ear. At the end, when he said, "So what would I have to do to attend Dog Scout Camp?" I responded, "Well, first, YOU would have to get a dog!" He said, "How did you know that I don't have a dog?" And I answered, "Because a Dog Person would never speak to me in the manner which you have been speaking to me—they would have more respect than that!" And the interview was over.

So, for all my fellow "Brethren" out there, I may not say it often enough, but THANK YOU for being you; thank you for being a responsible pet parent; thank you for being a member of DSA; and thank you for being my friend. We're all in this together.
Hugs, Lonnie