



# The Dog Scout Scoop

(little bits of news we've picked up)

November/December 2009

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

Volume 13, Issue 5

## TIME IS RUNNING OUT!

If you have gotten a DSA newsletter mailed to you, you have not yet "gone green". Please take a moment right now to join the DSA newsletter Yahoo Group so you can view the newsletter on-line and help save DSA money! There are only 2 more issues until all mailing of a printed DSA newsletter stops. After that, the only way to see the newsletter will be on-line.

All the details you need to be able to get the password needed to view the on-line, full color, photo filled, newsletter can be found by clicking on "membership" at the top of any page of the DSA website. There is a step-by-step tutorial at the bottom of that page. **Don't wait! Do it right now!**

**If you have joined DSA or renewed after April of 2009, you will no longer be getting a mailed newsletter. Please join the Newsletter Yahoo Group to get the password for the on-line newsletters.**

Chris Puls, President DSA

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### **Deadlines, Deadlines, Deadlines!!!**

- Newsletter Submission** - December 15<sup>th</sup>, 2009 for the January/February 2010 Issue  
February 15<sup>th</sup>, 2010 for the March/April 2010 Issue, THE LAST MAILING!!!!
- Dog Scout Calendar** - Calendars almost ready, if you want extras, order them now!!!  
Payment to DSA, 5068 Nestel Road East, St. Helen, MI 48656-9568
- Digital Newsletter** Newsletter only available on-line after April 1, 2010 **ONLY 2 MORE ISSUES WILL BE MAILED!!**  
To sign up for a digital newsletter, you'll need a free Yahoo account. To get one, click on "membership" at the top of any page of the DSA website. At the bottom of the membership page, you'll see a tutorial on how to get the Yahoo Account. This can be done from any computer, including a library computer.
- 2010 Tax Deduction** Remember, a donation to DSA in 2009 will count as a tax deduction for charity on your 2010 taxes!!!

## Want to have a say in DSA?

Our first election, giving DSA members an opportunity to have a say in the election of the next board member has been a **DUD!!!** After more than a month of open polls, only 9 votes have been recorded. **NINE!** (And I know the current 6 board members have voted.) There are over 500 DSA members!!! I really would like to have more member input, but maybe you, the member, were happy with the way it has been done in the past? It is faster and easier if it is only the current board members that are the ones to vote, but there were complaints about that system. Judging from the fact that only 3 non-board members have cast a vote (probably the candidates), maybe it's not as big of an issue as was thought? Casting a vote is NOT hard to do! The information you need to make an informed vote can be found by clicking on "Members Only" at the top of any page of the DSA website. I will again email the password to that section to all members that have joined the DSA newsletter Yahoo Group:

[http://groups.yahoo.com/group/Dog\\_Scouts\\_newsletter](http://groups.yahoo.com/group/Dog_Scouts_newsletter)

To vote, click on the link in the previous sentence; sign in to your Yahoo account, then on the left side of the page select "polls". You'll see the question about selecting the candidate. When you click on the question, you'll see that you can make a mark next to the candidate of your choice to cast your vote. If you click on the link above, sign in to your Yahoo account and you can still see the "Join This Group" button just above the dog's head, then you are not yet a member of the group. Click on "Join this group" and follow the steps. Be sure to put your name, city and state in the comments to the moderator! That is the only information the person approving you for the list can see. Only people with a current DSA membership will be approved to join and vote.

If you like the idea of the DSA members having a voice in future elections, cast your vote now (**Polls close Nov. 15<sup>th</sup>**)! If a large number don't express that opinion with a vote, we'll go back to having the current board members select future board members. This has worked well for us, since most of the board has usually had a chance to personally get to know the candidates, and can make an informed choice with the best interests of DSA in mind.

**Chris Puls, President**

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## **Here Again Is Voting Info!! Please Remember to Vote!!!!**

**The voting polls are OPEN!** Help select the next DSA board member! We want to make DSA a more member driven organization, so please do your part and help select the person who you feel will best fill the needs as a board member of Dog Scouts of America.

There is yet ANOTHER reason to join the Yahoo Group! We are using the private DSA newsletter Yahoo Group to hold the election for the next DSA board member. The group has a "poll" function that provides all the features we need to do voting electronically (thus saving several hundred dollars on the postage costs of mailed ballots):

- One vote per group member (though you can change your vote as many times as you like until the poll closes).
- Only DSA members can vote (because only DSA members can get on the private Yahoo Group)
- Only one candidate can be chosen by each voter (pick the one who best meets the outline of the duties expected- which is also found on the web page with the candidate bios)
- Votes will be anonymous (Yahoo will make sure the above rules are followed and will tally the votes without any human intervention.)

### **HOW TO VOTE:**

1) Go to the "Members Only" section of the DSA website:

[http://www.dogscouts.org/Members\\_Only.html](http://www.dogscouts.org/Members_Only.html)

2) Click on "Vote for next board member!"

3) Enter User Name: DSAmember  
Password: Vote

4) Read the "Volunteer Job Description" page

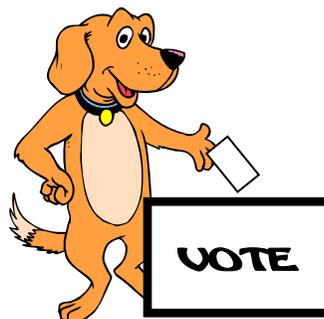
5) Read each candidate's bio and decide which one has the experience and training that best fits the job description

6) Follow the voting steps outlined on the web page

Once the voting is completed, the results will automatically be emailed to each member of the Yahoo Group and will be saved on the Yahoo Group website. Results will also be posted in the DSA newsletter that follows the close of the election.

**AGAIN, POLLS CLOSE NOVEMBER 15<sup>TH</sup>, GET INVOLVED, THIS IS YOUR ORGANIZATION!!!**

**Chris Puls, President**



## 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 – Go To Our Website and Just “Click” to Order!!!!***

### **DSA Fall Outing Fun!**

Well, the colors were spectacular, and a good time was had by all at the DSA fall outing. People and dogs enjoyed a carting lesson by Sally Cole, a costume contest (winner was Olive Oyl and Popeye (Lindsey and “Sailor”), Track for Treats, Bobbing for Ducks, Tic-tac-dog, Musical Pumpkins. They also enjoyed playtime in the fenced play field, hiking, and lots of sharing of treats. The auction had some great deals and hot bidding, too.

If your paper version of the news doesn't include all of the great photos taken by Joanne Weber, please check out our online version of the newsletter, where they will be in living color! Don't forget to switch over to digital receipt of the newsletter soon! It now officially costs us 3 TIMES MORE to mail the issues out, because we don't have enough to do the bulk mailing, and we're paying .44 cents per piece instead of the .17 cents per piece we were previously paying. Here are some photos of the fall outing:



Sally Cole demonstrates Annie's ability to pull the cart and respond to leash signals.

Annie also pulled a cart with Sally in it.



Isn't Sailor supposed to be pulling the cart?



Popeye and Olive Oyl, Dr. Mitchell the Proctologist, Annie and her "He Ain't Heavy" brother, Ranger, Kozi the Frito Bandito, and Emma the Honey Bee and mom Elizabeth the Honey.

Tic-tac-dog. The cat got this game.



Emma plucks a duck from the tub...



Mitchell's snorkeling method brings with it a mouthful of water!

### DSA O2 Mask Patch



DSA now has a patch to commemorate your helping local fire departments by procuring dog and cat oxygen masks for them. If you or your troop has made the donation of oxygen mask kits and would like to sport a patch showing that you've help save pets' lives, you can purchase the patch from DSA for \$5.00 ea. Selling the patches is a fundraiser for DSA. If your troop has a lot of people who have donated money to place these kits, and you'd like to order 20 or more of the patches, contact the treasurer, Lonnie Olson, for bulk order prices. For those of you viewing the newsletter in black and white, the patch is blue with a yellow, red and white Maltese cross and black lettering. Here is what the patch looks like:

**Troop News**  
**Troop 107 Cincinnati, Ohio**

On August 29th, the troop held a fundraiser at Bass Pro in which they earned \$330.61 to help local Police Officer Tony White and his K-9, Tundra, attend the US Police Canine Association National Field Trials. Watch the following video to see our new fundraising star, Koda, "working" the customers at the fundraiser:  
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=i7Kzx5b7CqE>. Officer White and Tundra finished in 9th place overall in the trials - out of 94 of the best canine teams in the country. The troop meeting on September 13th featured a animal physical therapy assistant who gave a very informative lecture on canine rehabilitation and injury prevention. Several troop members assisted with Barktoberfest and Dog Jog 2009 at Lunken Airport Playfield on October 10-11. Proceeds from the events went to dog and cat rescue in Cincinnati. **Naomi Swanson**



Gerry and Dakota Meet Some Huskies

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**Troop #119 Texas**

Troop 119 continues to be active and actively growing! In August, our troop meeting included the Dog Scout class and work on the Dog Scout certification for the newer folks. The existing Dog Scouts worked on their Manners and Sign Language badges. We ended up adding several new Dog Scouts to the troop that day and several Scouts left the meeting with better Manners!

In September, the weather was finally mild enough for us to be back in the park! The dogs loved being able to meet back outside! We had a great nature hike then played Doggie Games! There was a great competition between the three teams and we got to enjoy bonding and being silly with our best friends. Also in September, we participated in our big fundraiser of the year, Dog Day Afternoon. Our troop team raised over \$3,000 for the event - half of that will go to Operation Kindness, the area's oldest and largest no-kill shelter. The other half will be used to purchase animal oxygen masks in our troop's ongoing efforts to blanket North Texas with these life saving masks.

Our "oxygen mask donation committee" of Nancy Strack, Debra Payne and Susan Smith have done an amazing job over the last couple of months in contacting numerous fire departments in our area and delivering the mask kits to departments in need. We are getting a tremendous response from the departments as most of them had heard of the masks, but didn't have the money in their budgets to purchase them themselves. To date, our troop has donated over 150 oxygen mask kits and we'll be ordering another 30 soon!! This effort is making a big difference in this area as we have had many reports of saved animals due to the availability and use of these masks! We are very proud of our troop for working so hard to raise money for this effort year after year!

**Mart & Cindy Ratliff, Troop 119, Dallas-Fort Worth area, TX**



PHOTOS: the "Flower Mound" photo includes troop members, Debra Payne, Susan Smith and Alice, DSA delivering canine oxygen masks to the Flower Mound Fire Department; the "O2 Southlake" photo shows troop member, Nancy Strack, and Daisy, DSA doing an oxygen mask demo for the Southlake Fire Department; the other photos are from our Doggie Games in Sept. All dogs are named and all dogs are Dog Scouts.

Cheryl and Audi in the relay game



Flower Mound October 11, 2009 (Left)  
O2 Southlake October 6, 2009 (Below)



Rowdy gets clothed (Left) Sadie enjoys dressing game (Below)



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**Troop 130 Cereal City area Michigan**



Hello fellow DSA members! Troop #130 in the Cereal City area of Michigan has been pretty quiet but we are back to make some noise and let people know about DSA. Since I am really bad about taking photos, I have hesitated to send in our news for the newsletter but after kicking myself for getting nothing but video at our annual Easter egg hunt, I was determined to take some photos at our annual picnic. We have two new troop members, Kevin Witmyer with his Lab mix Gracie and Lindy Benson with her Bernese Mountain Dog, Saylor. They both were in attendance at the picnic but Lindy left before the group photo. We also had a few new prospective members from the Kalamazoo area. Amy with her PBT, Burrito; Ben with his American Bulldog, Pearl; Kat with her Labs, Indigo and Chelsea; Kyle and Heather with teacup Chihuahua, Periwinkle and Chihuahua, Bruizer; and Melissa with her all American, Maizie.

We had a great time playing games and getting to know one another. Everyone got to watch Kevin and Gracie take the DSA test which was short the other animal leave it. I forgot the bunny! Most dogs enjoyed the bobbing for critters and the "touch it" game. A little bit like Improv, I later learned. Please watch the next newsletter for photos from our Halloween party. Amy has some great stuff planned and I am going to set up our own version of Lonnie's spooky trail. Lindy/Saylor and I/Breac attended the fall outing and had a blast. Although we froze to death in our tent since it was only 19 degrees at night. Our own Lindy/Saylor won Best Overall! Watch for great things from Troop #130 in the future! **Brenda Katz**, Troop Leader



Left to right for group photo is Amy with Burrito, Ian and Kevin with Gracie, Melissa with Maizie, Brenda with Breac and Ben with Pearl.

Diving for ducks from top to bottom: Kat's Labs, Indie and Chelsea, Breac, and Kevin and Gracie

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**Troop 146 Muskegon/Holland/Grand Rapids, Michigan**  
**Highlight on the Portuguese Water Dog**

Our beloved Hunter's Rapture of the Deep DSA, WWD, RN a/k/a "Fin" has the honor of being the first PWD ever to obtain her Dog Scouts of America certification and her Jr. Dog Scouts certification. She earned her Jr. DSA with my 6year old daughter, Karma, as her handler. Karma and Fin worked very hard together to get ready for their test. It was a wonderful experience for them both. They learned to work together; persevered when they didn't understand each other, and bonded with each other even further. The Portuguese Water Dog (known as PWD) is a water loving, hard working breed that is not for everyone. Their tendency to be tolerable for people with allergies and their sweet, shaggy dog appearance makes them attractive to many people, but this is not a breed for the faint of heart. PWDs have been bred to be a strong and independent working dog for hundreds of years. Even today, the Portuguese Water Dog Club of America and its local clubs around the country stress the workability of this breed and encourage participation in all dog sports, like Water Work. PWD's are mouthy like a retriever or herding dog, smart, independent, and strong willed. They do not respond well to most "old style" or conventional training techniques but...once you win the heart of a PWD there will be no other dog in the world that will work for a person and live for a person like a PWD.

I have been heavily involved in dogs and dog sports since I was a teenager. My first dogs were Rottweiler's, Akita's, a Doberman, and a Shepherd. I have also worked with and trained innumerable other breeds and have a great fondness for a really good working Labrador Retriever. There is no dog that has gone through my hands that is such a joy to work and play with as a PWD. My family and I are heavily involved in PWD Water Trials as well as doing conformation and obedience with our PWD's. Our involvement with PWDs began when we discovered that our Baby son, Gabriel, was severely allergic to dogs. We began researching breeds with a reduced allergy risk and upon the recommendation of our good friend Christine Lietzau, we came upon the PWD and Elaine Suter of Hunter Portuguese Water Dogs. I began doing puppy temperament testing for Elaine while I familiarized myself with the breed. We had people meet us with their adult PWDs to "test" to see if my son had a reaction to the dogs. Luckily, my son is not reactive to PWDs. We were mentored and supported by Elaine and Deb Ensing. We currently own 3 PWD's: Fin (Hunter's Rapture of the Deep DSA ,WWD,RN)who has already earned her DSA and Jr. DSA; Zeep (Ch. Hunter's Dr. Seuss on the Loose AWD) who will be testing soon; and Keebler (Manitou Elfin Magic) a 6month old puppy. Living with PWDs requires dedication to exercising and stimulating them that is not for everyone, but they are the perfect breed of dog for our family. **Jilian Rakow**



Jilian's Portugese Water Dogs

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**Troop 157 South Florida**

Hello from Florida!! Just an update on troop 157 in south Florida... This past March our troop participated in the Humane Society Walk for the Animals and raised money for their shelter and programs. In May, we held our annual Dog Scout Olympics Day and had a blast! And we are hosting our first 3 day camp in November!!

We also have two new scoutmasters and new Troop leaders! Sandra Disque Allen was recently certified to evaluate the DSA badge as well as tricks and manners. Sandra is mom to one of our troops first Dog Scouts "Fauntleroy" (Pomerian). She also is mom to her Dog Scout in training...Oberon (also a Pom)... Who is a rescue dog. Sandra is now currently working on becoming certified for travel safety, letterboxing and biking badges. Holly Blakney is also a new Scoutmaster and is certified for the DSA badge as well as obstacles 1 and 3, agility 1, 60 weavepole challenge, rally 1, manners, tricks, naked dog obedience, retrieve, herding and the fundraising 1 badge. Holly is mom to Dog Scouts Bradley and Penguin (Shelties). Holly is now working on becoming certified for dog care, freestyle, rally 2, agility 2, fundraising 2 and the biking badges.

We have had a great increase in new members as well as now being able to offer multiple DSA badge classes during the week. Our troop leaders do a great job keeping up with the troop members and activities! The picture is from our September 2009 meeting. Troop leader Cindi is playing musical sits with the troop members.

Troop Leaders: **Cynthia Stone (co-leader) and Polly Garfinkle (co-leader)/Debbie Bradford (web and email)**





\*\*\*\*\***Troop 158 Hatfield Pennsylvania**\*\*\*\*\*

Hi there! Ok, well, while our troop has been fairly inactive... I've been working on helping to get others to start troops... In the mean time.. I've been working with the new Hatfield township dog park in an effort to create one of the few responsibly attended parks... teaching people how to read body language, etc. I'll attach some of the newspaper articles.... **Kelly Krager**, Troop 158 Hatfield, PA

- <http://www.GoodOwnerTraining.com>> [www.GoodOwnerTraining.com](http://www.GoodOwnerTraining.com)
- <http://hatfieldtownship.org/dogpark.php>>
- <http://hatfieldtownship.org/dogpark.php>
- <http://www.mynewdog.org/>> [www.MyNewDog.org](http://www.MyNewDog.org)
- <http://www.animallifelineonline.org/>> [www.AnimalLifelineOnline.org](http://www.AnimalLifelineOnline.org)
- [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=K7Ynh\\_1qE0U](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=K7Ynh_1qE0U)> Give a little bit – A video for all the dedicated rescue workers and betrayed animals who continue to have faith in man
- [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=K7Ynh\\_1qE0U](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=K7Ynh_1qE0U)

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**Downeast Dog Scouts Troop #159**  
**Mount Desert Island, Maine**



**Downeast Dog Scouts Member Receives Mount Desert Island Hospital's 2009 Volunteer of the Year Award** - Pam Bourque, RN and therapy dogs Timber and Rissa received the 2009 Volunteer of the Year award at Mount Desert Island Hospital's annual meeting. Pam and her Labrador Retrievers received the award for visiting patients at the hospital and residents at Birch Bay Village retirement community. Timber and Rissa are Reading Education Assistance Dogs and along with Pam, volunteer in a children's reading program at Tremont Consolidated School and the Somesville Village Library. Pam and the dogs are also active members of Downeast Dog Scout Troop 159. Pam co-chaired the fund raising committee this year. Her efforts raised money to purchase pet recovery oxygen masks that were donated to emergency responders in several towns in Hancock County

through the summer.



**September Activity and Meeting** - The Downeast Dog Scouts enjoyed a trail walk in Acadia National Park for their September activity. As part of the adventure troop members and their dog rode Acadia National Park's shuttle bus, the Island Explorer. Waiting for the bus at the Jordan Pond House provided a wonderful opportunity for troop members and their dogs to meet and greet numerous people informing them about the Dog Scouts. A picnic lunch and meeting followed the walk at the home of troop members.



**Canine Carnival** - The Downeast Dog Scouts Troop 159 co-sponsored a Canine Carnival to celebrate AKC Responsible Dog Ownership Day with the local kennel club. Activities included: Meet the Breeds, breed rescue groups, animal shelters, educational booths, canine sports demonstrations, working dog demonstrations, Canine Good Citizen testing, dog games and activities, crafts and activities for children, vendors, a canine photo contest and a Children's Dog Show. Representatives from pet food pantries were available to accept donations. Troop members staffed the Downeast Dog Scouts information booth, welcome area booth, a "safety around dogs" booth and coordinated the rescue groups, photo contest, scavenger hunt and children's dog show. Troop dogs showed off at the Meet the Breeds booth. **Robyn Douglas**, Downeast Dog Scouts Troop 159

### **Troop 161 – Carlisle / Central PA**

#### **Troop 161 News Bits (with a little sprinkling of our friends from Troop 185!)**

Well it's been a busy late summer / early fall for Troop 161 (Carlisle / Central PA.) Members participated in several public education events over the past few months: **Johanna Lonski & Toby** and **Ann Withun & Rowdy** staffed a booth at BonTon Kids' Day on bite prevention and safety around dogs. **Linkey Green & Molly** and **Dee Hobrle & Lizzie** did a presentation for our local AARP chapter about DSA and positive training, complete with fabulous training and freestyle demos! The troop had a large booth at "Woofstock" and offered "Teach Your Dog Self-Control Mini-Workshops" which showed people how to play indirect access games with their dog. Our booth was staffed by **Ann & Rowdy**, **Tracy Mullineaux & Jasper**, **Kris Thomas & Kevin**, **Tammy and Casey Bretz & Gabe**, **Linkey & Molly**, **Johanna & Toby & Max**, **Pat Rosetto & Abby**, and joining us from Troop 185 were **Melanie and Aaron Friedman & Boomer**, and **BJ Schmeider & Jake**. **Kris & Kevin** and **Ann & Rowdy** also walked in the "Race for their Lives" charity walk, benefitting Furry Friends Network, a local dog and cat rescue.

Whew! Time for us to take a break from public education and spend some quality time with our dogs... Our next event was our first ever "Troop 161 Fall Outing." 20 people and 21 dogs, including six members of Troop 185, headed off to a campground (with cute little dog-friendly cabins!) among the gorgeous fall foliage of the PA mountains. We also held Dog Scout Class while camping – congrats to new Troop 185 Dog Scouts **Frannie & Igor (Roni Campbell)**, **Jake (BJ Schmeider)**, and Junior Scout **Ringo (Eryn Connell)**! **Jasper (Tracy and John Mullineaux)** from Troop 161 also finished up his Dog Scout title! Some troop members who had already earned the badge also attended Dog Scout Class "just because," and the Smart End of the Leash session was sprinkled with lots of great discussion.

Several campers also attended Canine First Aid class, and four of the dogs earned their First Aid badges the same day! Congrats to **Frannie & Igor**, **Jasper**, and **Juno (Lisa Basial)** – these dogs clearly have a wonderful trusting relationship with their handlers, and were more than willing to allow all of the "prodding and poking" needed to take their vitals and be restrained, transported, bandaged, muzzled, and otherwise touched in crazy ways they could not possibly understand the purpose of. Many others took their lead, beginning the process of patiently and gently teaching their dogs these potentially life-saving behaviors.

We watched (and videotaped for evaluation) wonderful performances by **Kevin** in Tricks 101 and **Toby** in Freestyle. Kevin's skit was the absolute best the audience had ever seen, with an amazing amount of cool tricks and a great storyline about Kevin training for the Olympics! The All-Dog Band played, including **Kevin** on piano, **Toby** on the tambourine shaker, **Ransom (Lisa Basial)** on the electric guitar, and **Jasper** on the bicycle horn. (Warning: a very large and very serious German Shepherd Dog honking a clown horn repeatedly just about makes you pee your pants....)

We also had a Novice IMPROV Fun Match, had campfires and s'mores, and helped each other learn a lot with, and about, our dogs. A special shout-out to our camp cooks – **Johanna, Linkey, and Dee** (with celebrity guest breakfast chef **Christopher Pinney**) and our Campfire Expert **John Mullineaux** who warmed us up with campfires, hot meals cooked over the grill, cocoa, and a hearty helping of loving care!



**Just some of the attendees of our first Troop Camping Trip:** Emily Rossi, Laurie Miehme and Sky, BJ Schneider and Jake, Eryn Connell and Ringo, Dee Hobbler, Melanie and Aaron Friedman, Kris Thomas and Kevin, Noelle Weeks and Taylor, Chris Pinney, Linkey Green and Molly and Maggie, Tracy Mullineaux and Jasper, Ann Withun and Rowdy, Ransom Basial (mom Lisa is taking the photo), Johanna Lonski and Toby, and Roni Campbell and Frannie and Igor.

### Novice IMPROV Fun Match Held in Central PA

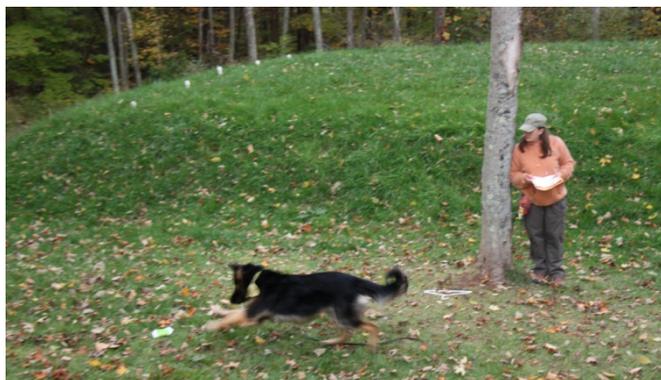
On October 10<sup>th</sup>, Troop 161 hosted their first Novice IMPROV Fun Match. The match drew 13 competitors from Troop 161 and 185, as well as several spectators. Dog-Handler teams displayed some great “lateral thinking” in using their dogs’ skills and creatively solving the problems in each part of the match. Many of the handlers expressed how impressed they were with their dogs’ ability to tackle brand new challenges they had never seen before. The match was held outdoors in a grassy clearing in the woods, providing even more challenging context to the six exercises of Novice IMPROV.

**With a score of 125, first place went to Noelle Weeks and Taylor**, a happy, easygoing, and intelligent Golden Retriever who just seems to know everything and be more than willing to do it for his person (we suspect it has something to do with Noelle’s commitment to a lifetime of training). **Scoring 114, second place went to Tracy Mullineaux and Jasper**, a gorgeous adolescent German Shepherd Dog whose handler really did a wonderful job of helping this youngster maintain focus on the tasks. **With a score of 98, third place was earned by Kris Thomas and Kevin**, a handsome mixed-breed dog of boundless energy who is on Troop 161’s “most improved” list. Kris’s patience, along with diligent training and practice, have certainly paid off! A Judge’s **Honorable Mention goes out to Eryn Connell**, age 8, who did a fantastic job with her schnoodle Ringo. It was clear that she has put hard work into teaching her dog, and her relationship with Ringo is super. In exercise 2, Eryn stepped just a few feet out of the “handler’s box” to send Ringo a full fifteen feet out – giving him just the right amount of help to do his best.

*Rules, exercise descriptions, and score sheets for Novice IMPROV, and updated ones for standard IMPROV, will be posted shortly on the DSA website. We would love to see more fun matches this fall and winter, as we plan to begin holding titling competitions starting in summer 2010! For questions or assistance in holding a fun match, contact Ann Withun via e-mail at [ann@withun.com](mailto:ann@withun.com).*



Kevin takes a moment to decide if he will retrieve a scrub brush – he decided YES!



Jasper throws his full energy into a retrieve.



Noelle carefully lines Taylor up for a "send out."



Taylor happily negotiated all of the odd surfaces in Exercise 1.

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**Troop 166 – Marion, Ohio**  
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On October 2, 3, and 4, our troop 166 Tri-County k9's had our fall outing at Hocking Hills. The troop enjoyed a game of Dogopoly, letterboxing and hiking at Cedar Falls, Ash Cave, and Old Man's cave. Ellen & Elton Shuster took the troop to dinner Saturday evening at the Gouse's Nest, good thing their van could climb up that steep hill or we may of went hungry. Four members out of 5 attended with canines: Drea, B-bop, Little E, Sherry, Rocky, Katie, and Caesar.

Our prayers are with Sheryll Knipp at this time as she recovers from eye surgery. Next troop activity is a Halloween party followed by a Christmas party in December.  
**Anita Baker, Secretary, DSA Troop 166**



Old Mans cave Hocking Hills

Ellen Shuster Drea, B-Bop. Elton Shuster. Little E, Mary Krebs , Sherry, Rockie, Katie, Anita Baker with CZ at Ash cave Hocking Hills.



The Cedar Falls Hocking Hills



Hocking Hills is in Logan county, which is in southeast Ohio, an hour southeast of Columbus, Ohio. It's such a beautiful place to go visit, hike, camp, shop, etc.....

**Troop 171 – Harrisburg, PA**

Fall has been an exciting time for the Redfern Ramblers. Our troop celebrated the unofficial end of summer with our first mini retreat held over Labor Day Weekend. The biggest brag from our three days of fun was that we now have six new Dog Scouts! They are DSAs Timmy, Tara, John, Corrie, Sophie and Steel. Congratulations, everyone! The weekend was also packed with opportunities to work on other badges. Several of us nearly completed the Letterboxing 1 badge, and all had a lot of fun hunting for these little treasures. Some of us humans were even adventurous enough to try making our own rubber stamps. A few brave pups also tried their paw at swimming and earned the Puppy Paddlers badge for their efforts. We also tried to work on the Rally 1 and 2 badges, but the hot weather made it difficult for the dogs to "rally" and finish the courses. A great time was had by all, though, and we hope to make this an annual event! Also in September, three of our budding Pupcassos took part in the Harrisburg Gallery Walk. Patrons thoroughly enjoyed watching two of our Scouts, Emma and Misty, show off their painting skills. DSA Maida was a bit shy about painting publicly, but she brought along some creations done in her open-air backyard studio. Our appearance at the Gallery Walk brought \$50 in donations to support troop activities. We have also been invited to return next year.

Additionally, we are proud to announce that we have delivered our first sets of oxygen masks to the Harrisburg and Penbrook fire companies, as well as to the Dauphin County Animal Response Team. Each organization is very appreciative of having these masks available to assist local pets during emergencies. The troop is on the hunt for more community organizations who could benefit from the rest of the masks we've collected so far. We are excited about all our activities to date, and look forward to an equally busy and fun winter!

~ Paula Marinak



New Scout Baxter enjoys a swim during our Labor Day Weekend retreat.



DSA Steel shows off his Labrador Leap!



Troop 171 members are on the hunt for a letterbox at the Harrisburg State Hospital grounds.

DSA Emma paints at the Harrisburg Gallery Walk with help from her Mom, Theresa Ayer.



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**Troop 177 Indianapolis Indiana**



The pups have had a great summer and fall. DSA 177 took part in the local Humane Society "Mutt Strut" and raised collectively \$525.00 (photo on the Indy 500 speedway of the walkers).

In August "Birthday Party & Swimming Party" All scouts had an ice cream shaped doggie treat, tried to hold a long down stay for a photo opt but temptation gave in. Then onward for a swim party at a nearby dog park.

September we had our 2nd Annual campout and river trip. Nine people and 10 scouts weather the rain on Friday. Once the rain stopped we had a wonderful 1 match fire and a backpacking night hike. Saturday morning hopped on the bus and went to the river for a 8-mile kayak/canoe trip. All were working on their puppy paddler, boat safety, beach buddies and canoe/kayak qualifications. Sunday the gang took a 3-mile hike for fun and backpacking. We were able to welcome 3 new scouts to DSA. The weekend turned out beautiful, good fellowship and food!

Troop 177 has plans for Oct - Dec of Halloween Party, MOW and helping with the Humane Society wish lists. New plans for 2010 already in the works!



Picture to Left: Hallie, Bailey, Sage, Charlie, Cash Noche, Tess (birthday party)



Campout: Josh Reel and Tess, Roberto/Agnieszka Carballido and Noche, Sarah Barefoot and Saba, Amanda Burger and Bailey and Sage, Anita D and Sofie, Robyn Porter and Hallie, Gayle Sprinkle and Charlie Melissa Hillman and Cash (Picture at right)

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**Troop 185 – Northern Virginia/NOVA**  
**Dulles Dog Scouts**

Some of our troop headed to the dog Beach in Annapolis. The dogs had a great time in the water and sand. Tired dogs on the way home.



We held a fundraising meeting at Eleanor Lawrence Park in Chantilly. We are working on helping a K-9 police office of Prince William County (In photo – left to right Boomer, Melanie, BJ, Laurie, Sky, Sandy, Alex and Natalie)



We donated the dogology game to the Friends of Gum Springs – they had a “Frog” walk to raise money for a new library.



We had a booth at the HART (homeless animal rescue team) Walk and Fundraisers. We gave out information on our troop and had cupcakes for sale to raise money for our K-9. Alex and Natlalie entered Biskit in the custom contest and the trick contest. They won first place in tricks.

Over the Columbus Day weekend, we joined Troop 161 for a camping trip at Hemlock Hide-away. It was a bit on the cold side, but we all had fun. Frannie, Igor, Jake and Ringo now join Boomer as a Dog Scout. Sky did a terrific job, but had a tough time on leave it. With a bit more practice – Sky will be next. Ann did a great job leading the pack and the food prepared by troop 161 was great.



Ringo & Jake



Sky & Laurie



Our cabin – home of 5 dogs and 5 people.

**New News**  
**Welcome To Our New Troops!!!**

Troop 191- Sequoyah County Arkansas - Leader: Mary Gilbreth  
Troop 192- Vancouver Washington - Leader: Alison Eberhard  
Troop 193- Monterey California - Leader: Cassandra Brenot  
Troop 194 serving Richmond Virginia - Troop leader: Jennifer Thomas cbthvac@comcast.net  
Troop 195 serving Milwaukee and southeast Wisconsin - Troop leader Mary Scirba bordercollebingo@yahoo.com

There is also interest for troops in Northern Mississippi, Springfield Ohio, and Santa Clara County California. If you want to join these troops, you can find the leader's contact info on the "Troop Locations List" page:  
[http://www.dogscouts.org/Troop\\_Locations\\_List.html](http://www.dogscouts.org/Troop_Locations_List.html)

Also, we are not putting members dues status on their mailing labels anymore, so **CHECK YOUR DUES STATUS!** There are over 200 members that have moved to the expired dues list in 09! The most current membership file is item #10 on this page: <http://www.dogscouts.org/Membership.html> **Chris Puls, DSA President**

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Just as a reminder for Troop Leaders and new members to be sure to use the new membership form that is on the web. There are some Troop leaders who have created their own membership forms or are using old forms and they do not have all the information included (i.e., yahoo email addresses). The best way for members to ensure that their information is correct is to use the forms on the web. Thanks!! **Judy Harris, Membership**  
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**DSA Office will no longer accept Credit Cards**

Effective Immediately, DSA will not be accepting credit cards. Well, actually, you can still pay towards your camp, get a membership, or purchase things through the online web site with your credit card through Pay Pal. You do not have to have a Pay Pal account to use Pay Pal. You can actually pay with a check sent to them, or a credit card number given to them, and they will put the transaction through (or wait for your check to clear), and then put it in our bank account. Your transaction is completely safe.

What you will no longer be able to do is to call up the camp store and give your credit card number. You can call and order stuff, but you'll be sent a pay pal invoice, which you can pay with a credit card or a check. Since most of our receipts online are now handled through Pay Pal (memberships, camp payments and store purchases), our non-camp time credit card sales have become non-existent, and we found that the credit card processing company is charging us almost \$40.00 per month for any month with no credit card sales. That's a lot of money for a lot of months with no credit card sales. When most of our business was via the phone and credit card sales, it was worth it, but times have changed. In these poor economic times, we can't afford to pay \$500.00 per year for the few credit card transactions we do have. I hope everyone will understand. Please remember that you can always use your credit card with Pay Pal. But, otherwise, please just write us a check. Thank you for your cooperation.

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What if Dog Scouts of America earned a donation every time you searched the Internet? Or how about if a percentage of every purchase you made online went to support our cause? Well, now it can!

GoodSearch.com is a Yahoo-powered search engine that donates half its advertising revenue, about a penny per search, to the charities its users designate. Use it just as you would any search engine, get quality search results from Yahoo, and watch the donations add up!

GoodShop.com is a new online shopping mall which donates up to 37 percent of each purchase to your favorite cause! Hundreds of great stores including Amazon, Target, Gap, Best Buy, ebay, Macy's and Barnes & Noble have teamed up with GoodShop and every time you place an order, you'll be supporting your favorite cause. There is a whole section for Pets that includes cool stores with unique gifts!

With the holidays coming up, why not give a present to DSA by using GoodShop for all of your gift and decorating purchases? Make it easy by adding the GoodShop toolbar so it's always handy, or by making GoodSearch your home page.

You can see the impact you're making by clicking the yellow "amount raised" button on the GoodSearch page below where you've selected Dog Scouts. You'll be amazed at how large the donations can be from your holiday shopping purchases! Just go to [www.goodsearch.com](http://www.goodsearch.com) and be sure to enter Dog Scouts of America as the charity you want to support. And, be sure to spread the word!

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## Good For the Planet – Good for DSA!



**DSA has a "new and improved" ink cartridge and cell phone recycling program.** Along with our usual efforts to be a green organization, we will earn *cold, hard cash* for our efforts, supplying much-needed funds for our educational and charitable programs. Ann Withun will coordinate the program, which you can be part of in several ways. As always, you can bring recyclables to camp with you. And now, we can easily expand our efforts nationwide! Collection boxes and shipping are all provided free-of-charge in this program, and it looks like it will work great for our satellite troops as well as motivated individuals.

How it Works:

- 1) **Coordinate with Ann to have a "starter kit" sent to you.** - The starter kit has collection boxes, shipping labels, posters, and an info packet with all the instructions you need. (You don't need this on hand to begin collecting though!)
- 2) **Collect recyclables.** – Printable lists of what kinds of cell phones, ink and toner cartridges are recyclable and their dollar values can be found at <http://www.cccashusa.com/lists.html>. The group we are partnering with would prefer that we do our best to only send items on the lists, since they take care of the shipping costs for us. Collect recyclables as a troop, from friends and family, or see if your workplace or other local businesses would let you place a collection box there.
- 3) **Ship the recyclables.** - Pack empty space in the collection box (or any box) with newspaper, tape it closed, and affix the shipping label. Drop it off at any UPS location.

That's it! Contact Ann with any questions, or if you'd like to get started, at [ann@withun.com](mailto:ann@withun.com).

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## Good Dogs!

Dog Scouts of America is making a difference all over the country, with our positive impact growing each year. As a national organization, as local troops, and as individuals, DSA members are a giving and caring group of people. We have always known this, so have never before tried to count up all of the hours, dollars, events, and donations that our members make possible... But it sure was wonderful to begin finding out:

- 🐕 **167** = the number of educational events held by DSA members all over the country, *just in 2008-09*, as representatives of DSA.
- 🐕 **\$31,600** = dollars raised by DSA members, just in 2007-09, on behalf of *other* charitable organizations.
- 🐕 **249** = number of pet-sized oxygen mask sets that have been donated by DSA members to local fire departments and other emergency responders.
- 🐕 **290** = care packages provided by DSA members to Meals-on-Wheels households who have dogs.
- 🐕 Just *some* of the groups DSA members have taught, volunteered for, raised funds for, or otherwise helped with their dogs' special talents:
  - AARP chapters, Countless elementary schools, Girl Scout Troops, the Salvation Army, Cumberland County (PA) Sheriff's Office Police K9s, Countless fire departments, Meals-on-Wheels, Michigan Humane Society, Livingston Humane Society, Wolf Park, Crawford County (OH) Humane Society, Fort Wayne (IN) Animal Care & Control, Hancock County (ME) SPCA, Humane Society of Missouri, Operation Kindness (TX), Relay for Life, Livingston County Arts Council, FL hospice programs, Children Reading to Dogs, Idita-Walk, Juvenile Diabetes Foundation, Cystic Fibrosis Foundation, Walk for Alzheimer's, Walk for MS, Operation Spot spay-neuter...

**...and this is just the stuff people were *keeping track of!* Clicks and treats to all! ~ Ann Withun**

## **eScrip Program – Helping DSA!**

### **What is the eScrip Program? How Does it Work?**

eScrip has created a system that rewards customer loyalty by contributing a percentage of purchases made by participating families to schools and non-profit organizations. Members and friends of DSA are encouraged to register their grocery club cards, and existing credit/debit cards as supporters. A percentage of all purchases made at eScrip merchants will be given back to the designated group. There are no receipts to collect, no vouchers or certificates to buy, no hassles for you - and every purchase counts. There are thousands of participating merchant locations and your credit cards are safe.

**WE NEED YOUR HELP!** It's simple. Sign up with eScrip, and you can earn \$200.00 annually for Dog Scouts! Here's how:

1. Go to [www.escrip.com](http://www.escrip.com).
2. Click on "sign-up".
3. Follow the instructions to register your grocery cards and your existing debit/credit cards.
4. Designate Dog Scouts of America (Group ID 35961) as the organization to receive the funds.

**THANK YOU! IT'S EASY; IT'S FREE; IT'S POWERFUL!** [www.escrip.com](http://www.escrip.com) - More Than \$200 Million Contributed and Growing



### **Calendar Girl**

Attached (left) is a page from the 2010 edition of the Page-a-Day 365 Dogs calendar - it's Linkey Green's Molly in her DSA uniform! **Ann Withun**

### **2010 DSA Calendars Ready Soon!!!!**

The 2010 DSA calendars are going to be ready soon. Some of you purchased dog days at camp this summer, and did not let us know if you would also like a calendar. The calendars are, as usual, \$2.00 off if you pre-order and pre-pay for yours. Instead of the purchase price of \$17.95, you will get the pre-order price of \$15.95. It is important to take pre-orders to get an idea of how many calendars will be sold. If we order too many, we could lose a bundle, as we only have a very tiny profit margin on the calendars. Please support DSA and purchase a calendar, or several. If you want three calendars, and I look up in the database and see that you have ordered and paid for two calendars, I will let you know that you need to pay for the one additional calendar. If you wanted one calendar, and I see that you have pre-paid for 1 calendar,

then you're all set. If you have not pre-paid, but would like a calendar, please send in your funds. If you think you have prepaid for a calendar, please don't email me and say, "I'd like a calendar." I will wonder if you want another one. Please just say something like, "I need 5 calendars. I believe I paid for 3 at camp, please put me down for two extra." Or, "I know I ordered dog days, but I'd also like a calendar." Or, "I want two calendars, I'm not sure if I paid for them at camp or not, could you please bill me if I didn't?" Our calendar sale has the potential of being a great fundraiser for DSA. We need your support. Please order several. They make great gifts. They will be ready some time in November. Send calendar money with check payable to DSA to: DSA, 5040 Nestel Road East, St. Helen, MI 48656. INCLUDE \$2.00 shipping for the first calendar, and an additional \$1 for each additional calendar. Thanks. **Lonnie Olson**

### **Rainbow Bridge**

**Brandywine** CGC TDI DSA - Oct 19, 1993 - Sept. 8, 2009  
Brandy gave me 16 wonderful years. She was the most loving and caring dog I knew. Maybe that's why she was such a great therapy dog when I took her to nursing homes. 1998 was our first time coming to Dog Scout Camp and we came back in 1999. Remembering sell Dog Scout Cookies for camp that was a lot of fun. Brandy favorite activity was go to ground, we didn't even have to show her what to do she just did it. After that she was my little hunter. Besides becoming a Dog Scout, she earned patches for Backpacking, The Art of Shaping (which she was awarded Paints with the most TLC.), Agility 1, and Hunting Retriever. The picture is from the post card we made at camp. **Pauline Sabatini**





**Teddy Ferry** - Teddy, the beloved six year old golden retriever of G. T. and Amy Smith's family, passed away September 14<sup>th</sup> after putting up a valiant fight against cancer. Teddy was a sweet, lovable dog that loved to go swimming and would just jump into puddles if given the chance. He was a part of Alabama Troop 147 since it's beginning in 2007. Teddy never met a stranger, human or otherwise, and was a great joy to be around. It is with a lot of sadness that we had to lose him. Teddy fought through several months of chemo treatments and was thought he would make a recovery when more tumors were found and proved to be just too much for him. He will be missed but will forever be in the hearts of those who loved him.

**Barbara Ferry** - [dsatroop147@earthlink.net](mailto:dsatroop147@earthlink.net)

### **Attitude of Gratitude**

Thanks so much to Kevin Krosse of Chillicothe, Illinois, who donated the printing of the September/October Dog Scout Scoop Newsletter and made a commitment to print our last 3 issues at no charge!!!

### **In Closing....A Happy thanksgiving, from my recipe box to yours.....**

Here is a turkey recipe that also includes the use of popcorn as a stuffing -- imagine that. When I found this recipe, I thought it was perfect for people like me, who just are not sure how to tell when poultry is thoroughly cooked, but not dried out. Give this a try.

8 - 15 lb. turkey  
1 cup melted butter  
1 cup stuffing (Pepperidge Farm is Good.)  
1 cup uncooked popcorn (ORVILLE REDENBACHER'S LOW FAT) Salt/pepper to taste



Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Brush turkey well with melted butter salt, and pepper. Fill cavity with stuffing and popcorn. Place in baking pan with the neck end toward the back of the oven. Listen for the popping sounds. When the turkey's ass blows the oven door open and the bird flies across the room, it's done. And, you thought I didn't cook... Author Unknown, contributed by **Peggy Zweber, Editor**