



The Dog Scout Scoop

(little bits of news we've picked up)

January/February 2010

Volume 14, Issue 1

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

Happy Holidays!!!

Year End Message from DSA President Chris Puls

Hi all! I hope this newsletter finds you well and that you had (or will have) joyous and love filled holidays with your family, friends and critters. The DSA board and I have been busy lately on several fronts in an effort to improve DSA and it's services. We also welcome the new input and ideas from the newest member of the board, Brenda Katz!

Speaking of new board members... While we did eventually get some votes through the new system, it wasn't enough to convince us of the membership's desire to be involved in voting for future board members. We DO want and value your suggestions and nominations, but future board members will once again be selected by the current members of the board (based on the needs of DSA and the skills that the potential candidates bring to the position.) This will also allow the voting process to go much faster.

We have been busy revising the badge forms so that a separate "badge request form" is not needed (these will get posted to the website soon) and we are working on developing a new badge (maybe two). We have changed the badge earning process and let the troop leaders, Scoutmasters and Evaluators know of the change. The new process will make it easier for the people who are earning the badges to figure out the payment for the badges. All fees for badges will now go straight to DSA (full badge fee). DSA will keep track of how many badge forms each evaluator signs and will send them a check once or twice a year for their portion of the badge fee (after the first 5 tests for each badge). We think this will help eliminate the confusion that was being experienced.

We have also been working on making the pre-camp information more positive, with focus on what folks need to do and less of a "thou shalt not" format. :-) We use positive training with the dogs, we want to be positive, not punitive, with the campers too! A manual for hosting a mini-camp was also created and board approved just recently. We hope this will help troops that are considering holding a minicamp do so successfully. It can be found on the "start a troop" page of the website.

Christmas Cards were recently sent to each troop leader with a thank-you gift certificate for each troop. If you are a troop leader and didn't get a card, please contact me (DogScouts@hotmail.com) to be sure I have your correct address. I have gotten a few Troop Recognition Program Reports and will be sharing the results in the next newsletter. Thank-you to the troops that have participated! Thank-you also to the troops who submit news for the newsletter; I really enjoy reading what the troops are doing.

The board approved a membership deal for the month of December. Each new membership or renewal in December will get 13 months of membership instead of 12. If you read this in time, please take advantage of this and get your membership submitted before midnight Dec. 31st.

In 2010, we will have a booth at the Cobo Hall show in MI on Mar. 6-7. If you'd like to help, please contact Lonnie. It sounds like there will be a large attendance of Dog Scout members at the Clicker Expo in Lexington March 19, 20 and 21 too! If you are going to attend, please contact me (DogScouts@hotmail.com). I'm going to plan a get together during the Expo open to anyone who wants to learn more about DSA. We did this in the past and it was well attended.

2010 camp dates are June 21-26 and July 12-17 and we hope you'll be able to join us for one or both! The leadership retreat is May 29-31 and is open to anyone in a leadership role within a troop and all Scoutmasters and evaluators as well as anyone interested in those roles. The registration will be available for the retreat online some time in January.

I'm looking forward to a busy and productive 2010 and welcome your ideas and input. Please make a New Year resolution (But don't break it!) to share information about DSA with as many people as you can! :-) Thank YOU for your support of DSA, it is appreciated and it does make a difference! **Chris Puls, DSA President**

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Deadlines, Deadlines, Deadlines!!!

- Newsletter Submission** - February 15th, 2010 for the March/April 2010 Issue, **THE LAST ISSUE BEING MAILED!!!!**
April 15th, 2010 for the May/June 2010 issue, **THIS ISSUE WILL ONLY BE ON-LINE!!!**
- Dog Scout Calendar** - Calendars are 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 1 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!!!

Quilt Drawing!



The winner of the quilt raffle is Jan Herb, of Grand Rapids, Michigan. Thanks so much to Jill Moore, who sewed this beautiful quilt and donated it to Dog Scouts of America. We raised close to \$1,000.00! (\$920.00 actual) Thanks to everyone who bought tickets, and thanks to Brenda Kwekel from BK Inspirations, who did the quilting on the backgrounds, who donated the batting, backing, thread and her time. Congratulations to Jan! Here is what the finished quilt looked like:

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

2010 Calendars Are Here!!!!



Dog Scouts of America ☎ 5040 Nestel Road East ☎ St. Helen, MI 48656 ☎ A 501 (c) (3) non-profit organization ☎ www.dogscouts.org

Order your 2010 DSA calendars now! The calendars are here, and we're offering a special! The regular price of the calendar is \$17.95 plus \$2.00 postage and handling, but while quantities last we will offer you FREE shipping, so your total cost for the calendar will be \$17.95. Quantities are limited! Don't be left out! Get yours today! Contact Lonnie at 989 389-2000 or email her at (dogscouts@dishmail.net).



January page at right

New Badge Forms

If you have badge forms printed that are not yet signed by an Evaluator, please print a new badge form! By the time you read this, all the badge forms on the website should be the new style of form. This new form eliminates the need for a separate "badge request form" and the top half looks like a nice certificate. Each form also has the processing directions that are relative to that particular badge to help reduce confusion. In order to save the top half (for the badges your dog has earned) in your camp notebook, you can punch the holes in the top or bottom of the certificate or get a "pencil pouch" for your binder to hold the certificates without punching holes in them. **Chris Puls**

Message From the Editor

It's been fun, this first year as Editor of the Dog Scout Scoop. Thanks to all the Troops for all the articles and pictures they've provided. It's been a true joy to put the newsletter together and I'm starting to get to know members and their dogs. Happy Holidays to all of our Troops and our Members.

I guess what I don't understand, because I've been reminding everyone in each issue, why we have 165 members who haven't signed up to the yahoo group for the on-line version of the newsletter. Thankfully, I found a wonderful person to print the issues at no cost. However, we are not mailing the issues through bulk mail anymore. So, if you could, please don't wait until we're not mailing the issues anymore to sign up. It doesn't take that much time and it benefits your club. So take a moment. Thanks.

Peggy Zweber, Editor, Dog Scout Scoop

Troop News Troop 107 Cincinnati, Ohio

On October 22-25, troop members had their fall campout in beautiful Cumberland Falls, KY. The weather was beautiful and the leaves were at their peak. Troop members went on hikes at Cumberland Falls, Cumberland Gap Forest, and Levi Jackson State Park. Dog hikers ranged from a four-month-old puppy (Candy Thompson) to a 14-year-old dog (Chloe Evans-Hayes), and all had a wonderful time. (Pictures here) Back in Cincinnati, troop members who did not go on the campout attended an open house at Kuliga Dog Training Club - where Troop 107 holds their monthly troop meetings. There were games and prizes, and pet items for sale.

November was a busy month for the troop. Troop Leader, Chris Puls, is teaching a clicker training class at Kuliga Dog Training Club that began on November 3rd and runs through December 22nd. The class is tailored to what the attendees wanted their dogs to learn. Attendees were surveyed about their needs, then emailed articles, websites, and videos on those training topics. In class, students learned clicker training skills to apply the information they were emailed. The troop was featured in a "Kentucky Life" show on KET TV. The show was about dog scouts and was aired a number of times in mid-November. Following is a link to the video, which is archived at the KET website:
http://www.ket.org:80/cgi-bin/cheetah/watch_video.pl?nola=KKYLI+001507&altdir=&template

On November 21st and 22nd, a number of troop members competed in a C-Wags competition in Cincinnati. C-Wags is a dog and handler team sport that is open to all dogs, and that has obedience, rally and agility competitions. Troop brags: Level 1 Obedience Titles were won by Dianne Coleman and Copper, Barb Matulionis and Sadie, and Greg Matulionis and Koda. Rally Starter Titles were won by Barb Matulionis and Sadie, and Greg Matulionis and Koda.

In December, troop member Susan Kimball assisted with the annual Lebanon Carriage Parade, and a number of canine and human troop members came to watch the beautiful horses and fancy carriages. The Parade is billed as the largest of its kind in the U.S. and attracted participants from multiple states. Entries ranged from miniature horse teams to giant Clydesdales and Belgians with many people and horses in period "costumes". (Pictures) **Naomi Swanson**

Picture captions:



The form is titled "Dog Scouts of America Art of Shaping Merit Badge". It features the DSA logo at the top left. The form is divided into two main sections. The top section is a certificate area with fields for "Dog's Name" and "Handler's Name", both followed by "DSA". Below these fields is a paragraph certifying that the dog and handler team have fulfilled the requirements of the Merit Badge. There are signature lines for the "Handler" and "Evaluator", each followed by a "Date" field. A small red dog logo with "Dog Scouts of America" text is on the right. The bottom section is titled "ART OF SHAPING Badge Form" and contains fields for "Dog's Name", "Handler's Name", "Full Mailing Address", "Phone", "Email", and "Troop #". It also has a field for "I would like _____ additional patches of this merit badge (I have included for \$3 each)". Below this is a paragraph of fine print regarding the requirements and a signature line for the handler. There are also signature lines for the "Evaluator" and a field for the "Evaluator's print name". At the bottom right, there are checkboxes for "In-person certification" and "By Video".

Dog Scouts of America
Art of Shaping Merit Badge

Dog's Name: _____ DSA Handler: _____

This certificate certifies that the dog and handler team above have fulfilled the requirements of this Merit Badge, according to the high standards set out by Dog Scouts of America. This dog was trained to perform the specified behaviors using positive training and the handler demonstrated the required knowledge.

Handler Signature: _____ Date: _____

Evaluator Signature: _____ Date: _____

ART OF SHAPING Badge Form

Dog's Name: _____ DSA Handler's Name: _____

Full Mailing Address: _____

Phone: (____) _____ Email: _____ Troop #: _____

I would like _____ additional patches of this merit badge (I have included for \$3 each)

The signatures below certify that the dog and handler team above have fulfilled the requirements of this Merit Badge, according to the standards set out by Dog Scouts of America. Signature of handler verifies that this dog was trained to perform the specified behaviors using positive training, the dog has earned the Dog Scout Title, and the handler is a current member in good standing of DSA.

Handler Signature: _____ Date: _____

Evaluator Signature: _____ Date: _____

Evaluator print name: _____ ☐ In-person certification ☐ By Video



1) ("Cumberland 1") L to R: Sharon Thompson with Kodi and Candy, and Susan Evans and Steve Hayes with Jazzy and Chloe pose in front of a display in Cumberland Falls.



2) ("Cumberland 2") Troop members hiking during the Cumberland Falls camping trip. Dakota and Gerry Duffy bring up the rear.



3) ("Carriage parade 1") Participant in the Lebanon Carriage Parade.



4) ("Group picture") Troop members enjoy the Lebanon Carriage Parade. Clockwise from lower left: Susan Evans and Jazzy, Gerry Duffy and Dakota, Dianne Coleman and Copper, Naomi Swanson and Molly, and Steve Hayes and Chloe.

Troop #119 Texas



Troop 119 has had an awesome fall! It's always our busiest and most productive time of the year! October was our annual fall swim party. The weather was gorgeous after an unseasonably cool week and the dogs had their usual great time swimming and mingling with their troop buddies! (Picture – Buttercup makes a splash at the swim party.)

November was our annual Meals On Wheels for Pets project. This was our 6th year to provide doggie gift bags for the clients of Meals On Wheels. Our troop worried that donations may be down this year, so they worked extra hard to make sure we had full gift bags for the dogs again this year. We provided a record 130 gift bags and know that our efforts are greatly appreciated by the recipients - both four-legged and two!



Picture – Packing up the MOW Van.

Picture – Max meets Santa at mini-camp

December brought our 6th annual Texas Mini-Camp and another successful year! We had 45 humans and 53 dogs in attendance this year and offered a packed schedule! The weather turned a little cooler than requested, but everyone came prepared to have a great time, regardless of the temperature! We had people attend from 6 different

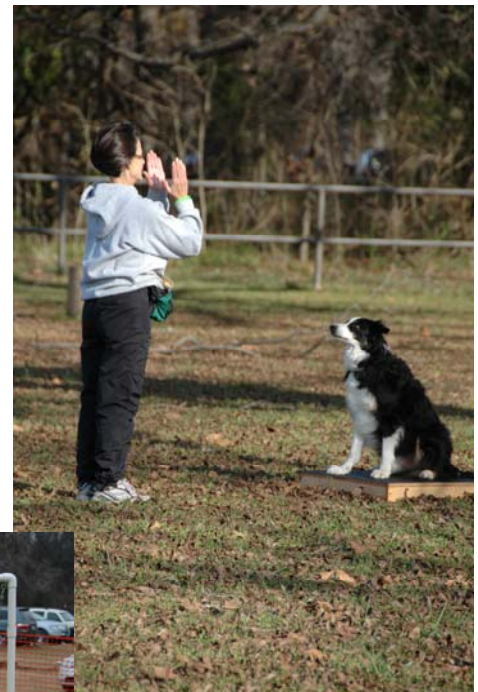


states, we certified 10 new Dog Scouts and we had a record auction of \$2,407 in funds raised for the programs of DSA! All campers went home exhausted but with a better relationship and having a great learning experience with their dog! We thank all our mini-camp staff and campers for making this year's camp another great success!



Picture – Mini-campers take to the hiking trail

Right – Moss learns directional control at mini-camp



Left – Sadie learns to paint at mini-camp

Below – Sugar clears the jump at mini-camp



**Mart & Cindy Ratliff
Troop 119**

Troop 130 Cereal City area Michigan

This fall Troop #130 was busy getting ready for their Howl-oween party. We had a pretty big attendance for our small troop and a few prospective visitors. Amy Braat and her PBT mix Burrito were extremely creative by putting together a spooky obstacle course. Amy used a lot of the typical agility items but put a Howl-oween twist on them. She did a spooktacular job and reward every dog who attempted with some homemade treats. We then had our potluck supper and let me tell can this troop cook! Then we played some other games and just socialized. Unfortunately it was wet and cold out so we kind of hibernated in my garage! We finished the evening off with a costume contest. Amy and Burrito won most original. Kat and her new puppy Indi won best "howl-oween" costume. This black lab puppy was dressed like a spider. Joe and Julie Dill (visitors) with their standard Poodles, Tess and Bella, dressed at a lady bug and a bee won best overall.

December plans are to ring the bell for the Salvation Army and we are also planning a dog sled - skijoring practice.

Troop #130 Cereal city Zippity do dawgs Kalamazoo, Battle Creek & Marshall MI



Photo #1 is Amy & Kevin Braat with Burrito



Photo #2 is Kat with Indi as a spider - not sure if this photo will be clear enough



Left - Brenda Katz and Breac in the haunted house

Kevin Witmyer with Gracie doing the cauldron grab



Troop 149 St. Louis, Missouri

St. Louis MO troop #149 was busy in October with a DSA drill team that visited Garden View retirement Center Oct 18, 2009. Six of our dog scouts and their parents dazzled the audience with their performance of obedience, tricks and marching. Members included Sandi Antalick and Lou, Fran Beezley and Angel, Sharon Ward and Chip, Carol Timpone and Jake, Millie Beuc and Frankie, and Chris Bahr with CJ.

On October 23, three Dog Scouts and their parents participated in a Girl Scout hot dog roast. We did demonstrations of the Art of Shaping with Sandi Antalick and Lou, Agility with Judy Cunningham and Harrington, and responsible dog ownership with Chris Bahr and CJ.

Thanks to DSA the world of geocaching has been opened up to members of troop #149. Four of the members now cache together and sign the logs with Team Dog Scouts. Three of the members have just made the milestone of finding 100 caches. The picture is one of a recent trip in the woods searching for the cache and finding an owl watching us. The members include Sandi Antilack with Lou, Fran Beezley with Angel, Tina McElhattan with Zep, and Chris Bahr with Foxy and CJ.

Chris Bahr, Troop #149, St. Louis MO



Troop 149 Drill Team



Owl found geocaching

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

November/December 2009



"Christmas Around the World". The troop was quite festive with Santa hats, red bows and their holiday outfits. Dog Scout, Cirra pulled her cart with "The World" in the parade. Safety Around Dogs activity books were given out to the children. Children and adults were able to meet and greet dogs of many different breeds, colors, shapes and sizes. The Downeast Dog Scouts are a favorite in the parade each year.

Take Pride in Acadia Day

The Downeast Dog Scouts enjoyed a walk and clean up day during November at Little Long Pond in Seal Harbor, Maine. The clean up was in coordination with Take Pride in Acadia Day sponsored by Friends of Acadia. The clean up was followed by a chili, cornbread and cider lunch at Acadia National Park headquarters. .

Ellsworth Christmas Parade Troop members and their dogs participated in the Ellsworth Christmas Parade. The theme this year is



Troop 166 – Marion, Ohio



Happy Halloween from Troop 166

Left - Caesar- the cowardly lion



Right - Bobopp & Drea as Wilma and Fred Flintstone



Left - Little E as a bat

Gadget as an evil witch



Right - Venture as Micky Mouse in a mouse trap



Left - Stryker as a pirate

Anita Baker

Troop 166 meets on November 22nd to have the monthly meeting. All members were present. During this time, we talked about our 2010 events. Camping, Hiking, Parades, Events, Swim Day, Dog Picnic, Troop Winter, Spring and Fall Outing were just a few of the things that the club scheduled as Troop events for the 2010 year. We also took Christmas pictures with our dogs. A special Thank You to all the members who brought items and back drops and made this day possible. On December 12th, the troop walked in the Mount Gilead Ohio Santa Parade. Wow, we were a hit! All the dogs were dressed in their Santa hats and decorated collars. Elton carried the banner. Mary Krebs and I passed out candy canes to the people. There were several dogs along the way, so next year we will have treats for them also. We also have been asked by the Salvation Army in this town to bring the dogs and bell ring for them. So December is a full month and looks like 2010 will be also.

Looks like next year will bring a lot of chances to have fun with our dogs. Happy New Year every one!
Respectfully, **Ellen Shuster, Troop 166**

Troop 171 – Harrisburg, PA

As the calendar turned to December and activities picked up for our human members, the canine members of **Troop 171**, The **Redfern Ramblers of Harrisburg, PA**, have had a bit of a break during the past month. But, we still remain active. Numerous troopers have recently caught the letterboxing bug, and the infection is approaching epidemic proportions!

In other news, several dog and human duos are gearing up to ring bells for the Salvation Army again this year. The pups are especially looking forward to helping fill their red kettle with donations for area people in need during the holidays. We hope to top last year's efforts, which raised \$275 for this worthy cause. Also on our agenda for next month are sessions to practice and check out for the various Obstacle and Agility badges. There will be more to come about both of these activities in our next submission. Last but not least for December, we would like to congratulate all of our newest badge earners:

DSA Baxter: Backpacking

DSA Dale: PhoDOgraphy, Letterboxing 1

DSA Dora, Jon, Julie, Maida and Misty: Letterboxing 1

DSA Maida: Therapy



Congratulations also go to Zeke, Troop 171's first Pup Scout! Though there is no badge associated with this recognition, we're sure it won't be long before he becomes a full-fledged Scout! Happy holidays, and a Happy New Year from The Redfern Ramblers! We look forward to 2010!

Troop 171's first Pup Scout, Zeke.

Troop 177 Indianapolis Indiana



We've had a fun year! In October, there were games and a Halloween Party with a fortune teller, Ms. Monica. She read each DS paw The most original "ghost of Grampa Bush".

Group began working hard for their letterboxing spent five hours together working pack miles and letterboxes. It was a great time and very pretty fall leaves.



The December meeting was very active meeting with a Christmas party, crafts, Santa exchange and wish list donations for three groups, plus guest speakers on Pet Behavior and exotic pets.

We are looking forward to the coming year! Happy New Year! **Troop #177**



Troop 184 – Colorado

Troop 184, the Rocky R.E.D. Rovers has found a regular meeting place in Elizabeth, CO in a historic building that was a saloon back in 1890 when it was first built. This seems appropriate since our first troop meeting was held at the Liquid Center, the tasting room of New Belgium Brewery.



We call our activity days “Day Camp” because they fill up most of a day, including a potluck lunch. Several of our members travel an hour or more to attend meetings and activities so rewards for humans are important.

Our first Day Camp, held in July started off with backpacking. Several horses shared the trail on our return trip which gave us a chance to practice “leave it” as we waited off the trail while they passed.

Gyp is carefully watching to ensure all goes well while Doree places their first hybrid letterbox/geocache during the hike on the Hidden Mesa Trail.



Our troop has a website, www.coloradodogscouts.org. We post photos and have brief descriptions of our activities. We use a yahoo group to keep in touch with each other.

Several new DSA members are very close to earning the Dog Scout Badge. One of our new members who is working toward the DSA is Misha, a shy dog of uncertain heritage. She was mentioned in the June 2009 issue of the Whole Dog Journal in an article about DNA testing as a way to find a dog’s roots. The test was inconclusive for Misha, who is shown with her first masterpiece.



Dog Scouts has really helped Misha feel better about the world and her place in it. Her person, Laura explained that she had a little trouble meeting new dogs and needed time to get used to them. At her first few meetings, we saw Misha’s legs shake for about 15 minutes. Now she has gained confidence and knows the other dogs enough to enjoy almost all of the activities. At our Halloween Day Camp Misha displayed her inner strength by sporting a Mohawk and punk attire. Later the dogs had a break while the humans played The Training game, where one person tries to get another person to perform a “trick” by shaping their behavior. Several handlers had a much greater appreciation for how their dogs struggled to understand what we want. Everyone had a good laugh.

Cathi Wester and Doree Donovan, the Parker area co-leaders attended the Texas mini-camp with two dogs each. Leah earned the DSA badge and fell in love with tracking earning a badge after only three days of classes! The small dogs accompanying Cathi and Doree surprised us by earning the Scent Discrimination badge and are considering careers as secret agent dogs. Who would suspect a Chihuahua mix and a Pug as being experts on detecting and indicating a specific scent? Our troop is hoping to hold a Mini camp in Colorado someday. The staff at the Texas mini-camp was so awesome that we may try to lure them up to Colorado for a visit. We are developing a Colorado/Texas dictionary to prepare our members for TX vocabulary such as betwixt, booty hole, and y’all. Please let us know if you would be interested in attending a Colorado Mini Camp, just send a note of interest to doree.donovan@gmail.com.



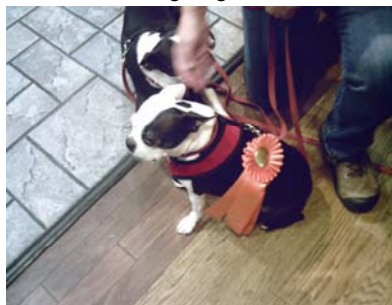
Troop 185 – Northern Virginia/NOVA - Dulles Dog Scouts



Troop 185 has been working hard to raise funds for our K-9 Police that we have “adopted” K-9 officers Koda and Stryker of Prince William County. The handlers of these K-9 officers have requested a GPS in lieu of a vest, as they already have one. This GPS will help the handler find the way to the dogs in the woods once they have surrounded the bad guy.



We have participated in several events, but our most profitable one was at Patriot Harley Davidson in Fairfax, Va. It was held on Halloween and people and dogs dressed in costumes. Our troop made dog tug toys from fleece and organic dog biscuits. We handed out information on dog scouts and raised money for our K-9 unit. The dog biscuits made by BJ (and tested by Jake) were terrific and while we were there, Laurie was been knitting dog sweaters, for our next fundraiser.



At the Harley Davidson event – our own Frannie, DSA – won first prize in the tricks contest. Dog Parent Roni was quite happy.



We began meeting at our new location in November. We meet at Bark & Bubbles in Herndon, VA. We are discussing a dog wash as a fundraiser.

In November we practiced Bell ringing for our salvation army. Alex & Hero doing great with the bell ringing.



Through Rain, sleet or snow – and on December 5th – it snowed in the DC area – a few brave dog scouts, trudged through the snow to ring the bell for the Salvation Army. We were outside of Petsmart in Leesburg, freezing, and actually had a lot of traffic. Our next bell ringing event is December 19th. We are expecting good weather, so we will be ringing longer.

We are looking forward to a fun 2010 – and Troop 185 wishes everyone a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Troop 188 – Connecticut - New London County and Windham County Rhode Island - Washington County

Well it certainly has been a busy year starting with our first planning and organizational meeting last December and running through our meeting this December where we had a gift exchange and made our own wrapping paper it has been a year full of growth and fun.

This fall we went on our first day camp at Pachaug State Forest. We pitched a tent there and had a campfire to help the dogs learn about the fun of camping. Of course the mosquitoes almost carried us off but there was hiking, tricks, and games for all.



Left is Java and Marge showing how to lure through a hoop.
Right is Pirate (Julianne) hanging at the campfire



Later in the fall we spent an evening letterboxing and hiking at Bluff Point State Park. Here we even held a test for some of the Dog Scout Badge requirements and completed the certification of 6 new dog scouts! October saw the Troop volunteering to fundraise and help at the first annual Howlween Pawty for the CT and RI Saint Bernard Rescue. A number of our scouts participated in the costume parade and contest with Lucy and her partner Pete Russak winning best dogfish impersonation! Our Troop raised more than \$80 by selling photo buttons created on site for the rescue.



We concluded October with our own Howlween Party and costume parade. Our scouts worked on their tricks while Tricking for Treats, got wet while bobbing for hotdogs and even



had a Pumpkin Pie eating contest! The pies were baked special for the scouts by our very own Michelle Oullette. November's meeting focused on safe travel. The roundtable discussion allowed us to share information about travel issues, training, and equipment. We then put this information to good use as many of us traveled to Maine for a Flyball Tournament. One of the extra curricular activities at the tournament was a dog and handler pie eating contest. While none of our scouts won we had some that made a decent showing. We also had some great flyball races too!



In December, we met and talked about the Art of Shaping badge and shaping as a training tool. Then we created our own holiday wrapping paper. The dogs and parents all had a great time. We are looking forward to a New Year with many more exciting experiences.



Left – The youngest (Kassi – Rotweiler) and oldest (Cricket- Smooth Fox Terrier) scouts in attendance take a play break.
 Right – Do you think it needs more blue? Artists Kassie and Cricket check with critics Julianne and Carl
 Below – The some of the artists with one of their creations (l-r, Kassi, Cricket, Bling, Lucy, Alice)

Helping DSA – Just A Review

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.



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 and be sure to enter Dog Scouts of America as the charity you want to support. And, be sure to spread the word!

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.

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.
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 - More Than \$200 Million Contributed and Growing

Ebay Fundraising

Attached is the flyer from the missionfish.org page: http://www.missionfish.org/fundraise/us_fundraise.html

Dog Scouts of America is now registered with e-bay as a non-profit charity, so if you want to donate through them this flyer seems to be very helpful and explanatory. People can now sell stuff on ebay and have the proceeds directly donated to us, or they can choose to list items, and select our non-profit as the recipient of a percentage of the sale. This is a great way for DSA to make extra money. People can have their own virtual "garage sales" and have the proceeds donated directly to DSA. The graphics on this page spells out the process pretty simply for people to understand and use. Please consider it. Thanks.

Lonnie Olson



The way to fundraise on eBay

Fundraise

Looking for a new source of funding for your nonprofit? Discover eBay Giving Works – a simple and effective fundraising program that can help your organization tap into the generosity of the eBay community.

There are three ways to fundraise with eBay Giving Works. Register with MissionFish to start benefiting right away!

1. Receive donations from eBay sales

eBay Community Sellers donate part or all of their sale to your organization.



[Learn more about receiving donations from Community Sellers »](#)

2. Turn in-kind donations into cash

Sell goods and services on eBay as a Nonprofit Direct Seller.



[Learn more about Nonprofit Direct Selling on eBay »](#)

3. Receive Donations from PayPal Users

Accept donations on eBay from any PayPal user through Donate Now.



[Learn more about Donate Now »](#)

Put the RIBBON to work for your organization

- Over 15,000 nonprofits have already put the power of eBay to work for them. Register with MissionFish and let your organization be the next to benefit from all eBay Giving Works has to offer:
- Rise above the rest: eBay Giving Works listings stand out in the eBay marketplace with a distinctive ribbon icon.
- Build awareness: Your logo and mission statement appear in every listing that benefits your cause (like this):



Rainbow Bridge

Chelsea Vogtmann

Chelsea passed away Monday, November 9, 2009 at 5:50 p.m. I miss her!

Chelsea was the type of dog that would try anything and have fun at it. She loved going to the Dog Scouts of America Camp. We have been going every year for all of her life (12 years!). When we get on the road to it, she would start whining! And of course, the first thing she did when I let her out of the vehicle was to head for the Splash Lake but she will run back and forth and saying "hurry up!" She had a blast at the camp and she earned 44 badges.

She was a wonderful fundraiser for the Kalamazoo Humane Society Walkathon, bell ringing for the Salvation Army and at the Dog Scouts booth at various Pet Expos.

Chelsea loved to pull, and boy, could she pull! Dog sledding (she taught countless other dogs), weight pulling (highest weight was 774 lbs.), biking and carting (in few parades and helped around the yard clean up). If you could ask some people who went on the canoe trip after camp, they would have tell you of that sight of my canoe passing them at a smart clip...Chelsea was pulling the canoe!

She went pheasant hunting one time. Although she flushed all 6 birds, the hunter with us could only get one. When I asked Chelsea to pick the pheasant up, she looked at the bird and then at me as if to say "You're right here, you pick it up!" LOL When I insisted, she picked it up and flung it at me!

Some of her "duties" at home were to keep the squirrels away from the bird feeders, teaching Indi (7 month old puppy), following me from room to room and making sure I didn't go down that shower drain (she would stick her head thru the shower curtain).

There was an article about Chelsea the July/August 2007 "Just Labs" magazine. There was a picture of Chelsea pulling a sled in the book "Dog Heroes: Dog Scouts of America". We competed in agility, rally-O and weight pulling.



The veterinarian, said that Chelsea was unique, she was the only dog that will try to jump on the steel table. She LOVES going to the vet. She considered the vet her "boyfriend". She wagged her tail when the vet came to the house today. But it was heartbreaking to see her doing that laying down. 12 years and 4 months...I love you, Chelsea...Godspeed.

Kat Vogtmann & Indi (Lorken Indigo Blue Moon, DSA)
UWP, UAGII Chelsea Moon III, RE, TT, CGC, DSA (6/17/97-11/9/09, Forever in my heart, I miss you so...)

Kat and Chelsea at DSA Camp '02

Bellringing (see Chelsea ringing her own bell!)





Chelsea trying to jump on the vet's table.



Chelsea pulling a cart in a parade.

For 2008 Christmas card.



Attitude of Gratitude

- Grace Stevens has left DSA a very generous donation in her will. We received the check this month which has saved us from going in the hole for the month of December and the year. Grace has reached out to help DSA even after her death.
- Thanks so much to Kevin Krosse of Chillicothe, Illinois, who donated the printing of the November/December and January/February Dog Scout Scoop Newsletter and made a commitment to print our last issue at no charge!!! Also, thanks to our Editor, Peggy Zweber, who has donated supplies and postage for the November/December 2009 and January/February 2010 issues.
- Joanne Weber has made a donation in memory of Chelsea Vogtmann.
- Lonnie Olson has made a donation in memory of Chelsea Vogtmann.
- Joanne Weber has donated 1/2 of the proceeds of the sale of her one-of-a-kind necklaces to DSA, amounting to a generous donation.
- Due to the members signing up for the "Good Search" as their search engine, DSA has received a check for \$30.02 this month. Thanks to all who helped support us by signing up for this easy way to get free money for DSA!

In Closing....Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays from Lonnie Olson

Hi. This is it. It's my Christmas Greeting Card for this year. Nothing fancy, no stamped and snail-mailed card. I was so broke this year, I "Cancelled Christmas" at our house. I decided that my friends and I and Ed and I would not exchange gifts, and I couldn't afford to mail out cards. This decision was like taking a vice off my head. I was able to truly enjoy the time leading up to Christmas, and I composed a poem (a rip-off of "Twas the Night Before Christmas") describing how it all happened. I went from "Bah, Humbug," to "Joy, Joy, Joy" with very little effort. I just had to look around me. At this time, I just want to wish everyone a great Christmas and Happy New Year, and thank everyone who has touched my life and helped mold me into the person that I am. Hugs, **Lonnie & Family** (I have attached some recent photos of Dusty, Kozi and Saikou and our wintry wonderland below)

TWO WEEKS BEFORE CHRISTMAS by Lonnie Olson

'Twas two weeks before Christmas, and at the Olson house
The power bill was so high, the twinkle lights we did dowse;

The stockings were hung on their mantelpiece hooks,
Unless Santa fills them, they're just there for looks.

The dogs were nestled all snug in their beds,
While thoughts of new toys and treats danced in their heads;

The heat's turned down low, and we're in our flannels;
I sure will miss having the premium channels.

When early one morning I heard the birds chatter,
And I realized that a lack of funds didn't matter.

Away to the decorations I flew like a flash,
We can still have a Christmas, in spite of no cash.



No diving vacation; no warm place to go,
I'll have to be happy with icicles and snow!

Then, what to my wondering heart should appear,
But a chance for new-found Christmas Spirit this year!

I don't need presents-my life is complete.
I'd find other ways to make my Christmas sweet.

I listened to carols, rang bell at the mall,
And found I was full of the spirit after all!

No Shopping! No Rushing! No Crowds for this year!
Just more time to spend with those I hold dear!

It's not about giving and receiving presents;
But more about what we do with our "presence."

As I packaged up Meals on Wheels Pet gift packs,
I felt just like Santa Clause, loading his sack.

Bringing gifts to the seniors made my heart glad,
It made me feel thankful for all that I had.

Not buying and exchanging gifts removed worry.
I had no concerns and no reason to hurry.

And not only did it help my poor pocket book,
It really gave Christmas Spirit a new look.

I was actually happy--thrilled with the season;
But this time it was for all the right reasons;

We went out to view Christmas lighting displays,
Sang along with the Carols and enjoyed snowy days.

I had already decided not to send Christmas greetings;
A frivolous waste when your money is fleeting.

But suddenly I thought that I need to reconsider this;
A chance to share joy with friends I just couldn't miss.

On my Holiday greeting, I usually work hard,
To create a hand-made and one-of-a-kind card.

But realizing that time and money was short,
To another conclusion I had to resort.

With postage so high, and list of loved-ones so great,
I had to do something before it's too late!

With paper and pen, I sat down and quick
Thought of new words for this poem 'bout St. Nick.

Now just DAYS before Christmas with pen still in hand;
This poem took a lot more of my time than I'd planned.

How can I deliver my wishes to so many I know,
When on a fixed income I don't have the dough?

So, I hope you'll forgive me and agree that it's better,
To send an e-card, instead of mailing a letter.

I saved a tree and was able to share my delight:
"Happy Christmas to all, and to all a good-night."

Happy Holidays to All.....See You Next Year!!!!

