



The Dog Scout Scoop

(little bits of news we've picked up)

January/February 2011

Volume 15, 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



President's Holiday Message



To all the members of DSA, their families (2 footed and 4 footed, feathered and finned) and their friends, I wish you a very Merry Christmas and a happy, healthy and prosperous New Year! **Chris Puls, DSA President**

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Changing of the Guard

2010 will be the end of an era. Lonnie Olson, creator and founder of Dog Scouts of America, will be stepping down from the Board of Directors. She has been on the board since the beginning and feels it is time to pass the reins and enjoy her retirement. I know it's not easy for her to do this, to turn her creation over to others. I feel very honored to be one of the people she trusts to help DSA continue to be the best it can be.

It is because of her vision, dedication and blood, sweat and tears that DSA exists and has grown to where it is today. It also exists because of a small army of others who share her dedication to seeing DSA grow and succeed in helping dog owners worldwide have a stronger bond with their dogs and to help dogs have better, more fulfilled lives. Because Beth Duman is also stepping down from the Board, 2011 will be the first year that the Board of Directors does not have an original board member.

I want to thank all the original board members from the bottom of my heart for all they have contributed to this wonderful organization:

- Countless hours of their own time that add up to many years
- Prize winning ideas that have kept DSA moving forward and improving
- Their own funds to support ideas, and at lean times, the organization
- Hours and hours and hours spent at fundraisers and educational booths/events
- Hours and hours and hours spent telling others about DSA and the goals of the organization
- Their knowledge, passed along to others who passed it along to others, helping everyone improve during the learning process
- Their physical efforts in cleaning, building, moving/transporting, standing in support, demos and many other ways

The giving natures of each of the people who made DSA what it is today made all of the above possible. They are the folks that step up to the plate and give of themselves in any way they can. They deserve much more than I can give in these few words and I hope you will all join me in a rousing round of applause and undying thanks for getting this journey started for all of us. I know that DSA will continue to grow, improve and spread the message of responsible dog training and care worldwide. I look forward to the continuing journey and hope we can live up to the high standards these wonderful founders have set. They will always be there, on our shoulders and whispering in our ears, guiding us in the right direction.

THANK-YOU

Chris Puls, Dog Scouts of America President

Deadlines, Deadlines, Deadlines!!!

Newsletter Submission - February 15th, 2011 for March/April 2011 Issue

IS YOUR MEMBERSHIP EXPIRED?

If you don't know your DSA membership expiration date, please check item #5 on this page:

<http://www.dogscouts.org/Membership.html>

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

TOP FIFTEEN STATES by Lonnie Olson

With 2010 being our 15th year, I thought it would be fun to see how the numbers added up for membership by state (I'm writing this in December, for the January 2011 newsletter—sorry I didn't think of it earlier). I have been getting a huge wave of memberships from new troop 211 in Massachusetts. Kudos to Jim Helems! For a minute, I thought they'd surpass the Ft. Worth, Texas troop! We have members in most of the states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico and Canada. Our membership currently covers 34 States, including Alaska and Hawaii (who are both working on building troops, by the way). So, in case you're interested in these little facts, here's how it boils down for the TOP FIFTEEN STATES, with total number of members according to state:

STATE	Number of Members
Florida	82
Texas	81
Michigan	60
Ohio	46
Pennsylvania	45
California	36
New York	30
Illinois	25
Massachusetts	24
Missouri	24
Virginia	21
Indiana	18
Arkansas	17
Maine	12
Connecticut	12



These statistics always enthrall me. I've been a member since the beginning, and have watched the numbers grow to proportions that I never thought imaginable. I'm sure that a few years down the line, these numbers will seem puny by future standards. We just keep growing and growing... Being away from the job of membership chairman for several years, I was surprised to see how some states have blossomed with DSA members.

Florida, what a surprise you are! With several troops in the state, and several Scoutmasters to mentor people along, you've really taken off! Congratulations on being the #1 state for membership. Texas, you're still going strong. Most of these 81 members from Texas are from the dynamic Troop 119 (Dallas/Ft. Worth), the largest and busiest Troop in the nation. Good on you, Texas! Of course, Michigan has some of the oldest members. With Dog Scout Camp centered in Michigan, a lot of people have joined from there and the surrounding areas, like Illinois, Indiana, and Ohio.

Ohio, you're moving right up the ladder. The new Columbus Troop is doing great, and of course, Cincinnati is the home of troop 107, which was one of the first "Largest Troops in the U.S." Pennsylvania has a couple of troops that are growing every day and doing creative things in the community. It doesn't surprise me that they're right up there at number 5 on the countdown. California, being a large state, I would expect a good proportion of members from you. What is interesting is that according to my information, these numbers represent three relatively small troops and a whole lot of individual members scattered around the state. Hey, you Californians! Let us hear what you're doing. Individuals are welcome to send stuff in for the newsletter, too!

Virginia and New York, I had no idea you were so populated with members! Send us some stuff for the newsletter about what's going on in your area of the country. Of course, I've been hearing regularly from folks in Arkansas, Maine, and Connecticut. Their members do a lot of neat things, and I thank them for sharing their accomplishments with the newsletter. Missouri is still going strong with a good representation of members and a couple of troops that are quite active. Then there's Massachusetts. Troop 211 Leader, Jim Helems, must be giving away free "velvet Elvises" to any member joining his troop! I have been inundated with new membership applications. Jim, sign me up! Whatever you've got, my troop needs some of it!

So, I encourage everyone to keep going strong. Whatever you're doing that's working, please share it with others, via the newsletter or website. We always want to hear from our membership. Thanks for keeping DSA going... And, don't forget to renew your membership!

DSA needs your help!

We will have two openings on the Board of Directors we will be filling at the end of January. If you have the skills and experience we need, please submit your resume before Jan 15th to Chris Puls: DogScouts@hotmail.com

We will also be starting the activities in the planning committees in January. If you would like to help on one or more committees, please submit an application for each committee that interests you to: dsastrategicplan@gmail.com

To learn more about the Board Member position and the strategic planning committees, visit this web page:

http://www.dogscouts.org/Board_Members.html

Volunteer Job Outline for DSA board member

All applicants should:

- Be willing to serve for a 3 year term
- Have dedication to DSA (shown by volunteer work already done for the organization, in whatever capacity and/or membership for a number of years)
- Exemplify of the Dog Scout Way (ex.: positive trainer, responsible dog parent (if he/she has a dog) and willing to share their knowledge with others)
- Be able to work well with others (and others who are on the Board)
- Be known for great ideas and solid input on projects (can provide references)
- Not be related to another board member
- Not working for a competing organization, or one that engages in activities detrimental to the human/canine bond and responsible pet parenting
- Be physically and financially able to serve as a Board Member (able to travel if needed)
- Willing to attend all board meetings (either in person, by phone or by proxy)
- Have a computer, telephone, email account, and is able to communicate via email
- Be a person who will promptly respond to emails, phone calls, board memos, and give all issues before the board and concerning DSA thought and express their honest opinion or cast their vote.
- Will put the best interests of the organization first when considering items before the board
- Be of sound mind and body (sane and healthy)
- Have a strong work ethic they can apply to the position. Responses and delegated tasks will be addressed in a timely manner.
- Agrees to step down if no longer able to perform the duties required
- Have experience in one or more of the following fields:
 - running a successful business
 - fundraising
 - planning
 - human resources
 - accounting
 - marketing
 - research
 - has served on a Board of Directors

Application to Join a Dog Scouts of America Strategic Planning Committee

Introduction

Thank you for your interest in helping ensure the future of the Dog Scouts of America through participation on a Dog Scouts of America Strategic Planning Committee. We are currently seeking qualified applicants who can help us achieve the following objectives within the next 5 years:

1. Improve our bottom line: Double the DSA's free cash flow within 5 years through reduced costs and increased revenue.

2. Get the word out: Annually, double awareness of the DSA nationwide as measured by Facebook friends, website hits, Yahoo! group membership, and number of media references.

3. Grow our membership: Retain 85% of existing members and add one new member for every 2 existing members every year.

4. Stay true to our mission: Double the amount of activity related to DSA's core mission as it relates to community education, community service, and setting an example (public activities in which Scouts are participants).

5. Continuously improve processes and products: Document the DSA's core business processes and products and produce a continuous improvement plan within 1.

6. Bring camp to the masses: Double the number of campers attending a DSA camp or mini-camp within 5 years.

7. Reduce our environmental impact: Within one year, reduce DSA Camp's environmental impact by recycling 90% of recyclables accepted by local contractors and by performing and acting on a cost/benefit analysis of eliminating other types of camp waste.

8. Manage Risk: Create and implement a risk management plan within 1 year.

Instructions

Please complete the items below by Jan 15th, 2011 and email to dsastrategicplan@gmail.com.

You must complete a separate application for each committee you are applying for. A board member will be in touch with you to discuss further involvement. If you have any questions, please contact Lowell Schmorow-Zuckerman at dsastrategicplan@gmail.com.

Application for _____ committee:

(Please submit a separate application for each committee you are interested in joining)

Demographics:

Name:

Troop (if applicable):

Address:

Email:

Phone Number:

Questions:

1. What skills/experience do you have that will help you successfully contribute to the Dog Scouts fulfilling the committee objective?

2. What are your three best ideas that can help us achieve the goal you are interested in?

3. How much time do you have on a monthly basis to work on committee related activities?

4. How long are you able to serve? (must be between 1 and 5 years)

(Email to: dsastrategicplan@gmail.com)

DSA would like to welcome the following new troops!

Troop 209, Troop leader Lauren Cannon Lshelley21@aol.com
Serving: MA- Middlesex, Worcester and Essex Counties

Troop 210, Troop leader Alyce Cohen alycecohen@yahoo.com
Serving: IL- Western/southern suburbs of Chicago

Troop 211, Troop Leader Jim Helms DogScouts211@gmail.com
Serving: MA- Berkshire, Hamden, Hampshire and Franklin Co.
CT- Hartford, Litchfield, Windham, Tolland counties

Troop 212, Troop Leader Tracy Mullineaux TLM008@aol.com
Serving: HI- Kauai

Troop News

Troop 104 - Frasier/St. Clair Shores/Troy Royal Oak, Michigan

Troop 104 Bell Ringing

Thank you to all Troop members who participated for the Salvation Army Bell Ringing, and those with us in thought and spirit. The little doggies were real "Troopers" for panhandling in the cold. Thank goodness we were there Saturday and not Sunday !!!!!

Our grand total is \$484.14. Joe Yerke from the Salvation Army said that was an awesome total! Congratulations to all!

Elizabeth and Emma



Above – Chris and Bill Kloski with their crew

Left – Emma does her thing.



More Troop 104 bell ringing.

Troop #119 Texas

Troop 119 has had our usual extremely busy - but incredibly fun! – fall season!

In October, we had our annual fall swim party. The weather was sunny and gorgeous and the dogs had a great opportunity for fun in the sun! The dogs enjoyed the water and each other and the members enjoyed the last real summertime type activity with their dogs! Below – Emerson swims to shore. Right – Maddie checks the water.



Left – Sage water retrieves. Below – Quinn, Alex and Lily



We kicked off November with our 7th annual Texas Mini-Camp! This year's mini-camp was the biggest and best ever! We had a full camp with 54 campers and staff! We had gorgeous fall weather and lots of great activities to keep the dogs and humans having fun and learning new things at every turn! We raised a record \$2,621 in auction money for DSA (plus another \$98 in granny race bids!), certified 11 new Dog Scouts and had a whole camp full of people and dogs having a great time!



The end of November brought our Meals On Wheels for Pets Event! This was the 6th consecutive year that the troop has collected loads of toys, treats, food, biscuits, etc. and made doggie gift bags for the companion dogs of the Meals On Wheels of Tarrant County clients. We assembled 125 doggie bags at our baggin' party, then loaded up the Meals On Wheels van for distribution. The clients are always so touched that we take the time to create these gift bags for their pets. For some of them, the toys and treats they get from us are the only "luxuries" their dogs get all year. A few troop members got to participate in delivering the bags this year and got to see the joy and appreciation on the faces of the recipients. Left photo – Bagging party group.



Left – Loading the MOW van

Right – Happy recipient



We will all be enjoying the holidays with our favorite 4- and 2-legged family members and gear up for more troop fun in 2011!

Mart & Cindy Ratliff
Troop 119, North Texas

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



In conjunction with the annual Take Pride In Acadia Day troop members completed the fall cleanup and found that there was far less poop to clean up! The efforts of three consecutive Spring and Fall cleanups at Little Long Pond have paid off! Photo left - Clean Up 4 - Take Pride in Acadia Day Clean Up

Troop member Anita Burdzell and her children attended a training exercise of the Maine Search and Rescue Dogs (MESARD) organization on Mount Desert Island in November. The children were able to be "found" by the search dogs and they learned firsthand about the dogs' training, rescue procedures and the handlers' dedication. The children had donated their older toys to the Downeast Dog Scouts yard sale fundraiser and the funds helped to provide longer life lithium batteries for the MESARD teams to use in their field radios. Anita said this, " We were really

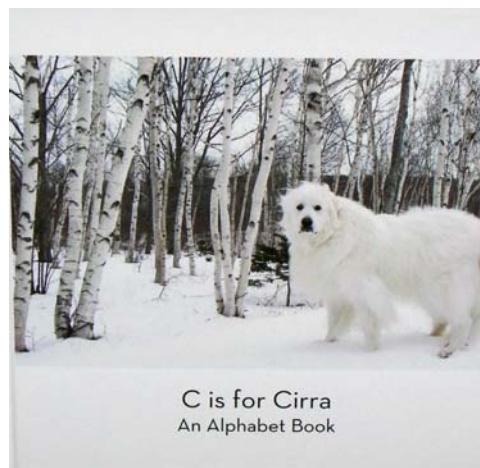
happy they received the funds from Dog Scouts this year and they said the lithium batteries are a big help in keeping them out in the field to do their work with fewer interruptions. The kids agreed they were glad they had donated their old toys and that the

funds went to support search and rescue..... It was an interesting day for us all. I am glad we were able to attend. I am much more in awe of what the search and rescue team does than I was before I attended. Certainly an amazing group of handlers and dogs. Excellent choice to donate funds to."



Santa's helper, Dog Scout Rissa greeted children and adults at the Mount Desert Island Hospital's Seventh Annual Charity Craft Fair. Troop member Pamela Bourque and Rissa helped to raise \$5,500 in funds for various local programs and families in need on Mount Desert Island. Rissa has been the Elf for Santa Claus for four years and is truly an excellent ambassador for Labrador Retrievers and the Dog Scouts of America.

Dog Scout Cirra and Robyn Douglas created a wonderful book, "C is for Cirra, An Alphabet Book," for the children that read to Cirra at the Northeast Harbor Library. D is for Dog Scout, U is for uniform...



Happy Holidays!!!
Robyn Douglas

Troop 171 – Harrisburg, Pennsylvania

Troop 171 may have been absent from the last edition of "The Dog Scout Scoop," but that doesn't mean we have nothing to share. **The Redfern Ramblers** have been busy as usual for the past couple of months, and we are also gearing up for lots of activities after the holidays. Here is a look at some of what we have been up to and some of what we are planning.

First, those of you who have been bitten by the letterboxing bug as much as some of us have might enjoy knowing that we planted our first group letterbox this fall. Seven of our Scouts were involved in telling the story of how to find "**A Scouting Outing**." The fun we had creating this box will no doubt lead to more group plants and other letterboxing hikes when the weather improves. As much as many of us enjoy the hunt, no one wants to search when the temperature is well below freezing! If you are local (or if you are a true letterboxing addict who wants to trek to Pennsylvania to find a new treasure), the clues to our box are posted on atlasquest.com.

Next, we have some brags to share involving two of our Scouts. **DSA Dora** owned by our troop leader **Betsy Howell**, is proud to announce that she recently earned her Novice Rally title. **Paula Marinak** is delighted to share that her Scout, **DSA Maida**, joins the ranks of troop members who are published. Paula sent a submission about Maida's latest therapy visit to Therapy Dogs Incorporated's bi-annual newsmagazine, and a full-page article titled "A Rare Kiss From Maida" was published in the most recent issue, along with a photo that Paula took. Congratulations, Dora and Maida. Maybe you will find a little something extra from Santa Paws in your Christmas stockings this year!

We are excited to announce that several dogs in our troop are once again ready to ring bells for the Salvation Army this Christmas season. We are especially looking forward to it because we have some new ringers lined up for this year. Our goal is to surpass our total of \$275 from our first bell-ringing venture two years ago. Look for an update from us in the next newsletter about how we did in our efforts to fill the red kettle and help community members in need! Hopefully, we can also share a few photos of the fun we had.

After the holidays, we are planning to work on several badges that will let us have fun and learn new things while staying out of the cold. A group of us have already started to work on the **Sign Language** badge; several of the dogs are quite adept at responding to the "I Love You" sign. Another badge we'll be working on in January is the **All Dog Band**. It will be fun to see what instruments we can teach our dogs to play. Perhaps once we perfect their musical talents, we can take our show on the road and do a concert – maybe even a fundraiser of some sort! Another badge we definitely plan to work on this winter is **Retrieve**. At least one of our Scouts has partially completed the requirements for this badge. Other winter badges in the works could include **Art of Shaping**, **Freestyle** and **Household Manners**. All this means that we could have a pretty lengthy badge update with our next submission. Stay tuned.

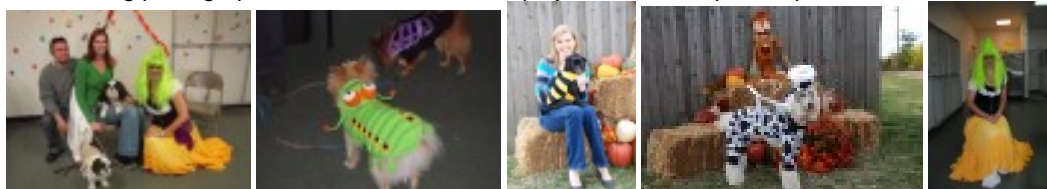
Of course, in closing, we would like to wish all of you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. In all the busyness of the holiday season, don't lose sight of what we are really celebrating. Take time to enjoy your friends and family, and appreciate your many blessings – including those that come with four legs, a fur coat, a wet nose and a wagging tail! Last but not least, as we remember our many blessings this holiday season, consider this quote from Louis Sabin, "No matter how little money and how few possessions you own, having a dog makes you rich." We wish you many riches now and in the new year to come!

Paula Marinak

Troop 177 – Indianapolis, Indiana

Troop #177 has had a great and very busy productive Fall! September we had our 3rd annual weekend campout and river trip. We were fortunate enough to have Chris Puls join us for the canoe /kayaking to sign off on water badges. Even with the cold water, many troop members were in swimming with their scouts to qualify for the Puppy Paddler and Beach Buddy badges! Way to go Parents!

For our October meeting the pups celebrated Halloween with a costume party, games, photos and a Paw Reader! Our Scouts were decked out in their finest. Bailey the (Caterpillar) and Hallie (Holy Cow) took the top prizes for the day. One of the mom's is a budding photographer, set a beautiful fall display for individual photo opts.



November we decided what charities to sponsor for our December Christmas party, the Humane Society for Hamilton County and Animal Care and Control Division in Indianapolis, Scouts will gather donations for shelters wish list. The meeting included craft time, each Scout then made their very own Christmas Paw Plaque!

For our December meeting we will have a scout gift exchange, put together wish lists for shelter animals. We participated with the Salvation Army Bell Ringers for 2 nights, collecting with the "little red buckets" donations.

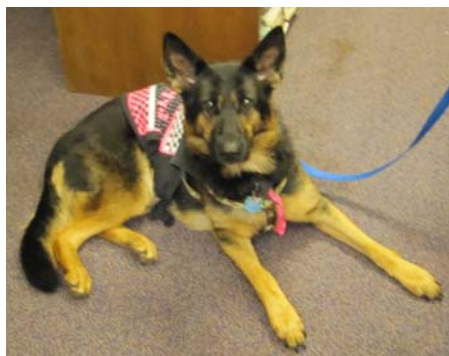
Individual accomplishments have been plentiful this fall. Bailey competed in his first Agility competition and took several ribbons, great job on his 1st show! Hallie competed at the Indy Pet Expo with her Holy Cow homemade outfit. Charlie went with the Boy Scouts on an overnight camping trip and earned the Boy Scout Polar Patch for 2 nights of tent camping below freezing! Bailey, Saba and Charlie shared an evening of pet therapy, playing and cuddling with homeless families at an Interfaith Hospitality Event.



All the Indy Scouts are thankful for their friends, family and all the blessings of the year, Merry Christmas to all and to all a good night. **Gayle Sprinkle**

Troop 188 - Connecticut and Rhode Island

New Members - Welcome to our new members!



Kiya and Lydia joined us in October. Kiya is a six year old female German Sheppard. She is a black Sheppard with some brown and tan markings. We adopted her from the local pound one year ago on October 17, 2009 and we were told we are her third family.

We understand from the local police that Kiya originally came to this country from Germany. Kiya was only 44 pounds when the police rescued her from a home (her second owners) where she was not fed or taken care of properly. She had been bred with a pit bull (for income), and she had just given birth to her third litter of puppies, most of whom died. The officers said they could tell Kiya was a very nice dog. They saved her life. She gained 17 pounds in 4 weeks at the pound.

When we adopted Kiya, she was still very skinny, she had fleas and worms, and she was sick with multiple tick and other infections. She knew the hand signals for

sit, stay and down, but she did not know the verbal commands (in English or German). She knew how to heel, but she tried to do it so perfectly that we would trip when we walked with her. She was very fearful. If you picked up a stick, she would cower instead of thinking you wanted to play. If my husband talked in a loud voice, she would run and hide in another room.

We have spent the last year working with Kiya so she is happy and healthy. She is now 78 pounds (perfect according to the vet!). She goes for at least 2 walks every day. She has successfully completed three training classes at My Dog's Place, and she is much more comfortable, neither fearful nor aggressive, with other dogs. Kiya has learned how to swim and play ball. She is a very good dog, and we are blessed to have found her. – **Lydia Herd**

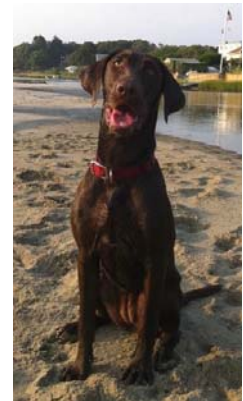


Nemo and Kristi joined us in November.

Peanut & DJ joined us in November

Lucy & Savannah also joined us in November.

Lucy turned one on November 23. She is a chocolate lab and is extremely active and loveable. Some of Lucy's favorite activities include soccer, Frisbee, swimming and hiking. She LOVES tennis balls, pizza, cheese and almost any kind of bone! In her spare time she likes to go for long walks, meet new dogs and during the summer she loves to go to the beach and dig holes. Yes she's a digger. Other than her favorite activities, she is a fast learner and knows sit, down, paw and crawl. **-Savannah Marie Simon**



Ledyard Animal Control Shot Clinic

Twice a year the Ledyard Animal Shelter holds a shot clinic to provide low cost rabies vaccines and microchips. Dog Scout Troop 188 helps to organize, promote and run the event. All proceeds from the event go to Autumn's Fund which benefits injured pound pets.



Sheri Throop and her nephew Peter sold photo buttons. Sheri, Pete, Emily, Star, Zora DSA and I ran the Troop 188 booth and sold doggie bandannas made by Millie Burke. Amanda Throop ran the yard sale. Carl Throop ran the basket raffle. Everything for the yard sale and basket raffle was donated from local citizens and businesses.





There was a long line of people who brought their cats and dogs for shots, waiting before we opened in the morning. The event was a success before we even started. After getting vaccinated, many people would have their dogs' photos taken by the Troop. The photos were used to create the photo buttons that the Troop sold for donations to Autumn's Fund. Two of the Troop's Cadet Scouts came to get vaccinated and microchipped. Ruben, Sheri and Jim Throop's Cadet Scout, waited very patiently in line. Laney and Kasie, Jeff & Cindy Eilenberger's Cadet Scouts, took turns waiting in line.



Shake, Waggle & Roll Pet Adoption Day

Shake, Waggle and Roll was hosted by the Animal Welfare League of New London County. The event included cats and dogs available for adoption, local vendors, a pet costume parade and contest, and kid's activities. Dog Scout Troop 188 demonstrated doggie painting, similar to the Art of Shaping badge. Our dogs entered the costume parade and contest. Lucy DSA was a cat-fish-dog. Lucy DSA won a prize for Best Costume. Ruben was Captain Jack Sparrow and walked with Peter Throop, who was also a pirate. They won a prize for "person most likely to dress up as a dog". Zora DSA was skela-dog and had to stop for lemonade during the parade.



It was a very fun, but long day. Lucy DSA decided to sit down and put her feet up for a while. Pete and Zora DSA shared a lollipop in the afternoon.



Howl-oween Party

The Troop 188 Howl-oween Party was a howling success. We began our party a small costume parade.

I think we enjoyed it more than our dogs. Lucy DSA swam along the parade as a cat-fish-dog. Ruben paraded as Captain Jack Sparrow. Kassie and Laney were biker dogs from 'Kassie's Krew'. Rosco DSA leapt along as our local hero "BAT Dog". Kia jazzed for the costume parade as jazzercise-dog. Zora DSA whooshed down the parade route at top speed as Submarine Dog. Tasha ambled along as skela-dog. Ella danced as ballerina dog for the parade. Lucy DSA won Most Creative Costume. Ruben won Most Original Costume. Rosco DSA and Zora DSA tied for Best Costume. Tasha and Sean won for the Best Human/Dog Coordinating Costumes. The bobbing for hot dogs game was very popular. I learned that hot dogs do not float. Some dogs just dove right in, they were really eager to get their treat. A few dried to drink all of the hot dog flavored water to reach their hot dog. Our final dog event was Tricks-for-Treats. Each dog performed their best trick and was rewarded with a special peanut butter biscuit. All of the dogs loved the party and helped pick up all the crumbs. This is sometimes known as the "Hoover Dog" trick.





Sean McMartin was bestowed a special prize for carving his dog Tasha's likeness onto a jack-o-lantern. We concluded the evening by composing captions for Troop photos, which will be added to the slideshow.

Meet the Breeds

The second annual Meet the Breeds event was held at the Jacob Javits Center in New York City on October 16-17. This event, hosted by the American Kennel Club and the Cat Fanciers Association attracted between 40,000 to 50,000 visitors who had the opportunity to meet 160 breeds of dogs and 41 breeds of cats, each breed having their own booth. Dog Scout Troop 188 was represented at this event by Jennifer Pictou who was acting as booth photographer for the American Curl cat booth. Capitalizing on an opportunity to promote the organization, Jennifer handed out brochures for the Dog Scouts of America and wore a button that displayed a picture of Rosco DSA, her scout and encouraged folks to "Ask Me About My Dog Scout." The ribbon photo button was designed by Sheri Throop and Kelly Ford. Even the cat folks got into it with one breeder sporting a button that stated, "Ask My Sister About Dog Scouts." The doors of the event were open from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. totaling 14 hours of contact for Troop 188.



CT Renaissance Faire Bring Your Pet Day

Zora DSA and I attended the CT Renaissance Faire in Hebron CT for Bring your Pet Day. We met many wonderful people and dogs. Several people noticed Zora's Dog Scout tag and asked me about Dog Scouts. Zora was happy to show off for her new friends. Zora and I shared a turkey leg. She thought this was the best treat ever. A number of people attending the faire were wearing animal tails as part of their costumes. Zora really wanted to play with those tails. She picked out a lambs wool toy (scrap of fur) from a vendor that makes shoes. Zora carried her new toy home.



November Meeting and Press Interviews

Our November Meeting was especially exciting, Tom Fagin from Patch.com attended to write an article about Dog Scouts and Troop 188. We're very pleased with the press and attention. We hope to acquire new troop members.

Dog Scouts Meet Cub Scouts

Dog Scout Troop 188 was invited to meet with a local Cub Scout Pack. We organized a demonstration group to teach the Cub Scouts the basics about dog care. The demonstration began by Sheri Throop calling in the Troop. The dogs ran into the room to join Sheri on the stage. The rest of us followed after dogs. The kids loved our entrance. A couple of the dogs introduced themselves to the kids as they went by. Sheri explained positive training methods to the Cub Scouts. We played a game with them to illustrate why positive training is important. Two boys were sent out of the room, and a task was chosen for them to do, in this case picking up a hat. The game is similar to "hot and cold" when the first boy is "cold" or moving away from the hat, everybody yells "NO!". Just like any dog, the boy shuts down and stops playing the game. Sheri's nephew played this part of the game. He was prepped and knew exactly what was going to happen. No child's feelings were hurt. Next, the second boy was called in and when he was "hot" everyone clapped and cheered when he got close to the hat. This showed why positive reinforcement is more effective. Millie Burke and her scout Tartan DSA demonstrated proper dog greetings, including asking to pet a dog. Jen Pictou and Emily Wheaton, with their scouts Rosco DSA and Star demonstrated dog grooming. Zora DSA and I demonstrated how to give a dog a treat. Pete and Amanda Throop demonstrated how to pick up dog poop, using homemade fake dog poop. This was the most popular demo with the Cub Scouts.

**Kelly Ford, co-Leader
of Troop 188**

Troop 198 – San Francisco Bay, California

Catching up with Troop 198's Very First Dog Scout – Jasper Verdahl received his Dog Scout Badge at our September meeting. His award ceremony was attended by a writer from SFGate an on-line magazine affiliated with the San Francisco Chronicle. Here's a link to the [article](http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?f=%2Fc%2Fa%2F2010%2F10%2F15%2FDDE1FPT18.DTL). Or, cut and paste into your url, (<http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?f=%2Fc%2Fa%2F2010%2F10%2F15%2FDDE1FPT18.DTL>). Robert and Misti Verdahl have taught Jasper an amazing number of tricks and behaviors and the badges just keep coming in. To date Jasper has earned 13 badges and has his eye on scent training, backpacking, manners, travel safety . . . WHAT FUN!



"Active Seniors Event" at the Humane Society of Silicon Valley. On November 3rd our Troop represented DSA with a table at the Seniors Day Open House. Beth Ward, Winter Schuyler with Shep, and Lyn Mehl talked to the attendees, explained the DSA program, handed out brochures and listened to many wonderful dog stories.

Our October meeting included a presentation by Robert Verdahl on Geocaching and we followed up a week later with a cache meet in a local county park. A few of our Cadets worked hard toward their badges. William and Charles Johns helped their dog, Spike, locate two caches on their own and assisted in finding three others.

Photo left – Geocaching

Lyn Mehl

Troop 210, Chicagoland, Illinois

Attached is a photo of my husband Marty Cohen, a Troop 210 member, helping me spread the word that Chicagoland Dog Scout Troop 210 is in town! Our troop spent a few Sundays wrapping packages at a local Borders Books through their volunteer community service program.

Happy holidays to you!
Alyce Cohen, Troop Leader
Chicagoland Troop 210



Trail Dog Certification

Okay, I know I'm not the Dog Whisperer but I do occasionally watch Cesar Millan's show. I don't always agree with his techniques but I've tried out a few since first adopting my deaf dog, Matilda. First, I have NEVER owned a puppy so I knew there would be some puppy issues like chewing. But never in my wildest dreams did I image revisiting motherhood again. I was up and down all night long the first few months with the new pup. Brings back memories...doesn't it ladies? I had to do something or lose my sanity. Then I recalled an episode of the Dog Whisperer where the technique of hiking with your dog was explored. A light bulb went off! I purchased a dog backpack and loaded it up with Matilda's supplies and hit the trail. Suddenly the new pup was sleeping through the night. She stopped chewing...well slowed down the chewing around the house. My cats got their life back now that the dog was not chasing them all through the house. Plus, I got the added health benefits. Then one day I was visiting the DSA website and just thought I would check and see if any sanctioned events had started. Low and behold...there was something new called the Trail Dog Certification. I had already been hiking with my dog for peace of mind and now Matilda could earn recognition as a TRAIL DOG! What could be better?



I have enjoyed hiking with Matilda. I have become somewhat of hiking connoisseur. A day doesn't go by that I'm not out on the trail as a team with my dog. I have especially enjoyed hiking in the fall. Of course, any good team must always remember hiking etiquette. First and foremost, I follow the mantra, "Leave no trace behind." And yes, that includes picking up the poop...even in the wilderness. Always be aware of your dog's well-being. Take frequent water breaks for both you and the pup. Your dog's pack should always include a collapsible water bowl and plenty of bottled water. I like to bring along a few munchies for Matilda too. It's a good idea to always let someone know where you are going to be hiking because accidents do happen and cell reception is not always a guarantee. Always contact your local state or national park ahead of time to be certain dogs are allowed. Both you and your dog need to have ID just in case you get separated on the trail. Be prepared for wildlife crossing your path. Dogs will react differently when Bambi darts across the trail. Most importantly, I would recommend journaling about your outings. You will want to remember these memories you have created with your dog.

I don't know if logging 50 miles is your thing or not. Maybe the idea of getting out in nature doesn't appeal to you. But I do know, both you and your significant other, the dog, will benefit from your time together. Head on over to your local pet store and pick up a dog backpack and give it a try. You could just get hooked on hiking like I did. If this does sound like something you would like to try, the Official Trail Dog Guidebook can be found on the DSA website under the link "Competition and Titles." Who knows...maybe your dog has what it takes to be a Trail Dog too!

Lila Arnold, Wichita Falls, TX, Troop 119

Rainbow Bridge



What a tragic week of loss and sorrow this has been. The sudden loss of my Sweet Baby Howie has been more than heartbreaking for me. I have pain in my heart that is overwhelming. This week, through the love and support of those close to me, I have been trying to remember all of the wonderful happy times we had with Little Howie. My heart still breaks and the tears flow at the glimpse of a photo or toy belonging to my Sweet Baby. I am struggling with the cruelty of the situation - that a happy, playful, loving little pup was taken in such a short time by such an aggressive sickness.

I do understand that not everyone has the same love in their heart for pets that I do. While I don't know how they cannot, I respect that they don't. That being said, everyone - no matter what their opinion is, has been very sympathetic and supportive to me. I am someone that loves these little ones so very much, and this loss is overwhelming for me. My friends and family have been - and continue to be - here for me in this heartbreaking time and I

want to thank each of you for that love and support.

My head tells me that time will heal this pain. At this moment, my heart feels as though that is a lifetime away. I am focusing of remembering and LOVING all of the happy times and things that defined my Sweet Baby Howie. That sweet little split tongue of his that would stick out when he was at rest or sleeping... His tiny little button tail that was packed with more wiggles than you could imagine... The conversational chirping and chatter that he always provided... The way he loved to crawl and scratch his little belly or roll in the grass... His love of a good squeaky toy or a ball - ANY ball... The "Jack Stampede" as all three Jacks thundered through the house at full running speed... His love of chasing bubbles and playing with his bubble machine... The great times spent at nursing and care homes entertaining the old folks - playing his piano and running through his routine of tricks... There are so many things that made my Sweet Baby Howie the special little dog that he was. I know that I am blessed to have had Howie and wouldn't trade a moment for anything. Sadie and Benny are helping me to get through this hard time. Most of all, it has been my friends and family. Thank you for all of that love and support.

Just this side of Heaven is a place called Rainbow Bridge. When an animal dies that has been especially close to someone here, that pet goes to Rainbow Bridge. There are meadows and hills for all of our special friends so they can run and play together. There is plenty of food, water and sunshine, and our friends are warm and comfortable.

All the animals who had been ill and old are restored to health and vigor; those who were hurt or maimed are made whole and strong again, just as we remember them in our dreams of days and times gone by. The animal are happy and content, except for one small thing; they each miss someone very special to them, who had to be left behind. They all run and play together, but the day comes when one suddenly stops and looks into the distance. His bright eyes are intent; His eager body quivers. Suddenly he begins to run from the group, flying over the green grass, his legs carrying him faster and faster.

You have been spotted, and when you and your special friend finally meet, you cling together in joyous reunion, never to be parted again. The happy kisses rain upon your face; your hands again caress the beloved head, and you look once more into the trusting eyes of your pet, so long gone from your life but never absent from your heart.

Then you cross Rainbow Bridge together... **Lori Miller**

In Closing Letter from God

What a lovely little story to remind us that life really can be beautiful. This is one of the kindest things you may ever see.. It is not known who replied, but there is a beautiful soul working in the dead letter office of the US postal service.

Our 14 year old dog, Abbey, died last month. The day after she died, my 4 year old daughter Meredith was crying and talking about how much she missed Abbey. She asked if we could write a letter to God so that when Abbey got to heaven, God would recognize her. I told her that I thought we could so she dictated these words:

Dear God,

Will you please take care of my dog? She died yesterday and is with you in heaven. I miss her very much. I am happy that you let me have her as my dog even though she got sick. I hope you will play with her.. She likes to play with balls and to swim. I am sending a picture of her so when you see her You will know that she is my dog. I really miss her.

Love, Meredith

We put the letter in an envelope with a picture of Abbey and Meredith and addressed it to God/Heaven. We put our return address on it.. Then Meredith pasted several stamps on the front of the envelope because she said it would take lots of stamps to get the letter all the way to heaven. That afternoon she dropped it into the letter box at the post office. A few days later, she asked if God had gotten the letter yet. I told her that I thought He had. Yesterday, there was a package wrapped in gold paper on our front porch addressed, 'To Meredith' in an unfamiliar hand.. Meredith opened it. Inside was a book by Mr. Rogers called, 'When a Pet Dies..' Taped to the inside front cover was the letter we had written to God in its opened envelope. On the opposite page was the picture of Abbey & Meredith and this note:

Dear Meredith,

Abbey arrived safely in heaven. Having the picture was a big help. I recognized Abbey right away. Abbey isn't sick anymore. Her spirit is here with me just like it stays in your heart. Abbey loved being your dog. Since we don't need our bodies in heaven, I don't have any pockets to keep your picture in, so I am sending it back to you in this little book for you to keep and have something to remember Abbey by.. Thank you for the beautiful letter and thank your mother for helping you write it and sending it to me. What a wonderful mother you have. I picked her especially for you. I send my blessings every day and remember that I love you very much. By the way, I'm easy to find, I am wherever there is love.

Love, God

Unknown AuthorContributed by **Peggy Zweber**

Happy Holiday!!!
Peggy Zweber, Editor

