



The Dog Scout Scoop

(little bits of news we've picked up)

March/April 2011

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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



Here I am almost finishing year two as your Editor. I'm finally getting to know some of you, your dogs and who belongs with what Troop. Thanks so much for your articles and moving stories. You make my job great!! **Peggy Zweber, Editor**

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Deadlines, Deadlines, Deadlines!!!

Newsletter Submission - April 15th, 2011 for May/June 2011 Issue. Articles received after that date will go into the July/August issue. Please respect the deadlines. **Peggy Zweber, Editor**

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!!!



New Camp Store Product Available - We struggle to find the best products available for our camp store. We promote the use of ergonomically designed dog backpacks. Back in 1999, we had trouble identifying a good, ergonomic pack, so we created one ourselves. Then the Walkies pack came. And went out of business. Then the Kelty pack came. and they recently went out of the business of making dog packs. What is a camp store manager to do? I researched a number of packs available, but they seemed quite pricey. Then, I stumbled upon this nifty new pack that is fully adjustable. That's right. One Size Fits Most!



I tried it on my small dog, Kozi (39 pounds), and it was perfect (with room to be made even smaller). I adjusted it to fit my gigantic dog, Panda (81 pounds), and it looked great on her, too-still with room to be made larger. I was in dog heaven. What could be better than only having to stock ONE size of something for the camp store? I liked everything about this pack: The smaller saddlebag size, the 'V' neck harness, the durable material with reflective accents, the total adjustability, the weight over the shoulders, the fact that it will fit any of my dogs, and best of all, the price! Here is a description of the pack from the manufacturer:

The ergonomic padded spine support contours to the dog's back for a comfortable fit and provides weight distribution for the two saddlebags. The saddlebags offer space to store all of your canines travel essentials such as food, treats, toys, first-aid supplies and travel bowls.

- * Universal fit - adjusts to accommodate dogs 30 - 85 lbs
- * 4 reflective trim strips for increased safety from multiple angles
- * Rear mounted leash hook for added control
- * Unique ASB (Adjustable Saddle Bag) system achieves a customized fit for your dog
- * Water resistant

These packs retail for \$30.00. Thirty Dollars! Can you believe it? That's what our smallest DSA backpack costs! Get one from our DSA Camp Store today! I did. http://www.dogscouts.org/Backpacking_Necessities.html "You can get any color you want, as long as it's Black" and Gold (quote stolen from Henry Ford)!

DSA – The Next Generation

I thought that was a very nice piece from our President, Chris Puls, in the last newsletter, as she thanked the outgoing founding board members, and included all of the previous board members who have served and made DSA what it is today. It will seem strange to not be on the board of the organization that I founded, but it is time to move over and let some younger blood in.

In my years with DSA, I have seen nothing but improvement, and the trend continues. President, Chris Puls, and Chairman of the Board, Lowell Schmorow-Zuckerman, and all of the wonderful board members are steering our organization toward continued success. I am very proud of the board we have, and I know that DSA is in good hands. There are a lot of great plans in the works, and I encourage everyone to stay tuned to DSA (keep your membership current), because we're "going places." I, too would like to thank all of the board members, regular members and friends of DSA for helping shape it into the organization that it has become. Please join me in giving a warm welcome to newly elected Board Directors, Shana Carranco (FL) and Cheryl Bales (TX)! **Lonnie Olson, Founder and Past President of DSA**

Board of Directors Activities in 2010 and Organizational News

The Board of Directors currently consists of:

Chris Puls- President and acting secretary
Lowell Zuckerman- Chairman of the Board
Martha Thierry- Vice Pres
Brenda Katz
Ann Withun
Cheryl Bales
Shana Carranco

You can meet these folks and learn a bit more about them on this page: http://www.dogscouts.org/Board_Members.html

New Members

Most recently, we had an election because founder Lonnie Olson and founding board member Beth Duman ended their terms. In 2009, the board voted in term limits of two 3 year terms and set the departure/second term start dates of the existing board members so that we only had 2 board members changing per year. 2010 was the year Lonnie and Beth were slated to step down and the board voted in Shana Carranco of FL and Cheryl Bales of TX. They both have strong business experience, lead by example with positive training and have shown commitment to the organization.

Voting

In 2009, we tried having the membership vote for new board members, but the process ended up taking over 6 months and after much reminding and begging, less than 10% of the members submitted a vote. It also had issues with being a cumbersome and confusing voting system. So we returned to having the current board members vote in new board members that most closely fit the job description and have experience that will help move DSA forward. We are working toward a more business-like board model (Chairman, V.P., Secretary, plus other members with business experience) that will function separately from the organization's officers (C.E.O., Secretary, Treasurer).

Financial

In 2010, the BOD decided that we would get quarterly reports from anyone handling DSA funds. Each of the following departments have submitted (and will continue to submit) quarterly reports.

Treasurer
Camp Department
Certification Program
Competition and Titling Department
Membership Program
Recognition Program
Resource Development

Normally the 2nd newsletter of the year includes the organizations financial report. However, we just recently had CPA Barb Whiting from IL take over the Treasurer position (Thank-you Barb!!!) but unfortunately there have been computer program compatibility issues. So that report will be in the next newsletter to give her and the previous treasurer time to work out the transfer of records.

New Department

The new Competitions and Titling Department is up and running. This new program was announced in previous newsletters. The primary focus will be on starting DSA sanctioned IMPROV competitions across the country in which people and their dogs can compete for placements and titles. The current Packdog titling program will also fall under this department and participants will need to register for a "Competition Registration Number" (CRN) to compete in any DSA sanctioned program/competition that falls under this department. More info can be found on this by clicking on the DSA Competition and Titling link in the center column of the DSA home page: http://www.dogscouts.org/Competitions_and_Titles.html

Fundraising Programs

DSA earned \$109.35 from GoodSearch/Goodshop in 2010, so please continue to use these free services for your internet browsing/shopping and choose to help support DSA.

In 2010, the ink/toner/cell phone recycling program through CCash earned DSA \$98.15. If you have these items to dispose of, please visit the "help support DSA" page to learn how you can use them to bring in money for DSA: http://www.dogscouts.org/Help_Support_DSA.html

We have been working on the development of a Nationwide Hike-a-thon announced in this newsletter which we hope will be a big fundraiser for DSA.

TX mini camp a success

The TX mini camp (4 days) in November was sold out in JUNE! They raised \$4,647.24 for DSA in the auction and generated 11 new Dog Scouts.

A.E.D.

The DSA camp now has an Automated External Defibulator (AED) in case anyone has a heart attack that the AED can assist with. This was purchased through donations. Thank-you to everyone that sent in a donation!! Some of the troops really helped, most notably, Maine troop 159 donated \$200 and PA troop 161 donated \$1000. Staff will get instruction on how to use it at the start of each camp.

Developmental Committees

Early in 2010, DSA leadership went through a Strategic Planning Exercise, which resulted in the identification of the following important strategic goals for the organization:

- o Improve our bottom line
- o Get the word out
- o Grow our membership
- o Stay true to our mission
- o Improve our processes and procedures
- o Bring camp to the masses
- o Reduce our environmental impact
- o Manage risk

Each strategic goal will be championed by a specific Board member, and many will be looking for committee members to assist in DSAs growth in their assigned area. We welcome your ideas, suggestions, and/or committee participation – to assist or offer ideas, please contact Lowell: dsastrategicplan@gmail.com

Badge related updates

Chris is still working on updating the pages that accompany the badge forms based on feedback and common errors made by those that are attempting to get the badges through video. She is also adding additional training information and supporting material where possible. New badges created: Animal Actor, Messenger Dog, K-9 Fitness and Treibball (currently being developed, hopefully ready for the 2011 Leadership Retreat). A new resource was added to the badges page in the form of video examples of several of the badges being earned. We got zero responses to our video contest announced in a previous newsletter, but Jasper and his dad have made some wonderfully inclusive, yet concise videos while earning several badges from CA.

2010 Votes

- * The DSA Code of Ethics and the Statement of Corporate Responsibility were accepted and posted to the website.
- * The camp director shall remain in charge of the camp funds needed for proper running of the camp, while the remaining treasurer duties can go to the DSA treasurer. The treasurer will keep track of the camp fund the same way she keeps track of finances from other DSA departments like badges and memberships.
- * The pay rates used to calculate compensation for the processing of badges and memberships were reviewed and changed to a \$10 per hour rate.
- * The digital DSA newsletter is posted on the website and accessible to anyone (no longer password protected).
- * The Phillips brand AED was selected for purchase
- * Five dollars per evaluation is to be paid to the person(s) who review videos/written tests submitted by people wanting to get certified as a Scoutmaster or Evaluator for various badges
- *The position of DSA secretary (for the organization, listed on organizational government paperwork) was created and Lonnie has volunteered to be that person. This is separate from the secretary of the board of directors.
- *Lonnie was given approval to proceed with putting together a committee to work on the new ICAMP program
- * Lowell was voted into the position of Chairman of the Board.
- * Two new board members (Shana and Cheryl) were voted in to take the positions vacated by Lonnie and Beth

This report was submitted by **Chris Puls, DSA President**

What will happen to your dog(s) after you die?

I spend a lot of my time thinking about this. I don't have kids, and I will happily turn over whatever I have at the end of my life to the person who promises to take care of my beloved pets. The problem is that I wouldn't want my pets to go to just anyone... It would have to be someone with the same ideals and standard of living that I have, who would be willing to allow my dogs to maintain the quality of care they now receive.

We are members of an incredible network of positive trainers and dog owners. We have found homes for a great number of dogs through no particular organized effort at all, but just through our own internal DSA networking. Wouldn't it be great if we could organize something to benefit the dogs, the former owners, and the prospective owners? There are only a handful of organizations that will find a home for your pet in the event of your death (for a very tidy sum). And, they make no guarantee as to what kind of home it will be. Your dog would find the same odds in a shelter.

I am proposing that DSA institute "ICAMP" (I Care About My Pet), which will be a perpetual care adoption network, working within DSA to find quality, loving homes that will promise to give the same quality of care that you have throughout the dog's life. I have been working on all of the intake forms and applications, for both the prospective owner and the person setting up the trust. I am also working on some free helpful information that I would like DSA to place on the website to facilitate setting up an animal guardianship, with or without the help of ICAMP.

When you're talking about your dog's quality of care, you don't want to leave it up to probate or family members. I'd absolutely die if my dogs ended up in any of my family member's homes to live out their lives. I might as well leave instructions to have them euthanized upon my death... This is serious business. I want people who think about dogs the way that I do to be the ones caring for them. I want another Dog Scout Member to be that person.

WHAT I NEED is some **feedback**. I need to know how many people would be interested in setting up a provision for perpetual care for their pet(s). I need to have some **additional committee members** to set this up. I'd love to get the input of a lawyer on the committee, since we would be engaging people in legally binding contracts, and the adopting families would have to be checked up on by a trustee to make sure that the dogs are getting proper care as specified by the deceased owners.

Please let me hear from you, and if you feel strongly about this, as I do, please help me with the development of this program. Contact Lonnie Olson dogscoutcamp@gmail.com to help. It's not a "program" yet. The board is being cautious. They gave me permission to put this in the newsletter to try to get more people working on its development and something to them to see if it will fly or not.

Thanks in advance for your help. **Lonnie Olson**

Benefit Concert for DSA!

Joanne Weber was bumping elbows with some fellow Golden lovers at the Dog Show last month in Novi, when she realized she was speaking with celebrities! They were Jackie Davidson and Gary Brandt, a folk singing duo who sing and play banjo and guitar. Jackie was formerly married to John Davidson (singer/actor), and was a charter member of the New Christie Minstrels, and a member of the singing duo, "Jackie and Gayle." To learn more about them, visit their web page: www.JackieandGary.com.

Before Joanne had finished introducing them to Mitchell, and talking with them, Mitchell had convinced them to do a benefit concert for DSA! Jackie and Gary have a golden named "Cooper," who attends all their shows with them. Joanne told them he needs to become a Dog Scout!

Of course, Beth Duman was also at the booth that weekend, and we were discussing where to hold this benefit concert. Charlie Darwin, Beth's Borderless Collie, suggested the Howell Opera House, since Beth and husband Bob, and Charlie are always welcome there, due to Charlie's fundraising in the isles during intermission (Beth figures he's raised over \$3,000.00 or so for them). Beth inquired, and the Opera House was willing to "rent" the theatre to DSA without charge, because of Charlie's faithful fundraising. See, it's not WHAT you know, it's whose DOGS you know!

Joanne just finished firming up some of the details with Jackie and Gary, and the concert will be on Thursday, September 22nd, 2011. The Opera House is also rumored to be haunted. See this page: http://www.michigansotherside.com/Articles/Howell_Michigan_Haunted.html for more information. At this site, you can also view a video clip of Michigan resident, Jeff Daniels (of "Escanaba in the Moonlight" and other movies), along with Neil Woodward, who was in Joanne's graduating class at Henry Ford High School, jammin' some folk tunes of their own on the Opera House stage. So mark your calendars! Come to Howell, Michigan, for this fun event! Until we can decide who will be the go-to person for this event, contact me, Lonnie Olson, at 989-389-2000 or dogscoutcamp@gmail.com for more information, and I can pass on the questions to the person who will know the answers (if I don't). We'd like to get some of the local Dog Scout folks involved with promotion, tickets, hospitality, etc.

Troop Recognition Program

Twelve troops participated in the Troop Recognition Program in 2010. These troops are leading the way in spreading the word about Dog Scouts of America in their areas while bringing fun and educational activities to their members as well as supporting non-profit programs in their communities. Dog Scouts of America thanks these troops for their support!

Honorable Mention:

Troop 204 (Palm City FL) 91 points (so close to Torch Troop level!)

Torch Troops (100 - 199 points):

Troop 107 (OH-IN-KY Tri-state) 124 points

Treasure Troops (200 - 299 points):

Troop 171 (Harrisburg PA) 280 points

Troop 207 (Columbus OH) 244 points

Troop 208 (Aurora IL) 204 points

Top Dog Troops (300+ points):

Troop 119 (TX) 577 points

Troop 129 (Miami FL) 303 points

Troop 157 (Broward Co. FL) 590 points

Troop 159 (Salisbury Cove ME) 834 points (only 9 troop members!)

Troop 161 (Central PA) 453 points

Troop 177 (Indianapolis IN) 300 points

Troop 188 (Ledyard CT) 302 points

Michigan Winter Dog Classic



The Michigan Winter Dog Classic at the Rock Financial Showplace in Novi was billed as Michigan's largest dog show, with 4 full days of competitions, vendors and demonstrations. Dog Scouts of America gave the crowds a sample of the Dog Scout Way, panhandling for DSA, doing great tricks and demonstrating the positive training that is at the heart of our mission. As a bonus, Cadet Scout, and future Dog Scout, Drizzle Perez was the poster dog for this first annual dog show. Matt and Melissa Perez of Wayne, Michigan and their niece Ashley generously represented the show and the Dog Scouts by allowing Drizzle to participate. Drizzle's first birthday was the week before the show, so volunteers and show visitors celebrated with Cupcakes and Pupcakes and a chorus of Happy



Birthday.



More than \$600 was collected by dogs, Beth Duman and her dog Charles entertained and educated the crowds with a demonstration on everything we teach with Dog Scouts. What a great opportunity for the public to learn about us and how to positively train their dogs.



Photos Left to Right – Beth Duman and dogs; Charles skateboarding; Shelby and pupcake.

Volunteers that participated, in alphabetical order: Julie Benson with Shelby, Marianne Courey and Maria Jucha with Buddy and Stormy, Beth and Bob Duman with Charles Darwin and Reggie, Chris and Bill Kloski with Happy and Ally, Melissa Matteson with Belle and Kitty, Jill and Glenn Moore with Teapot and Tugboat, Elizabeth Najdych with Emma, Lonnie Olson with Panda, Maggie and Jim Ouillette, Melissa and Matt Perez with Drizzle and their niece Ashley, Fay and Lorrie Reid with Cassy and Autumn, Martha Thierry with Maia, Joanne Weber with Mitchell and Vikki Wilcox with Punkin.

Birthday crew



Ally and kids



Happy entertains



Girl Scouts and Dog Scouts

Melissa and Belle



Special thanks to Lonnie Olson and Joanne Weber and their dogs, who came early to set up the display and spent all four days representing Dog Scouts, to Melissa and Matt Perez, who also went above and beyond to share Drizzle as poster dog and to everyone who travelled, some further than others, and shared their efforts to make our booth a

success. People are hungry for information about the Dog Scouts when we show up at events. If you have a chance to volunteer or organize a booth at an event, you will feel the pride of being a DSA member and know that you have contributed to getting our message to the public, to educate and improve the lives of many dogs.

Book Review: FEED YOUR PET RIGHT

Authors: Marion Nestle and Malden C. Nesheim

Copyright 2010 - ISBN 978-1-4391-6642-0

\$16.99 (\$12 Half Price Books and Amazon)

Reviewed By: **Cheryl Bales, Troop 119**

Now, it only got 2.5 stars from Amazon, but the reviews go from one extreme to the other. Mainly those who rated it low appear to be already set in their ways about one feeding method being best. I happen to believe the same as one of the reviewers who said "Finally this book lays out all the facts and misconceptions and then let's you decide what is best for you and your life style. She does not endorse feeding of kibble but teaches you how to read a label and realize the marketing gimmicks and lack of regulations involved in pet food manufacturing, so you can choose the best product based on ingredients and manufacturing principles rather than marketing tactics." Even though I knew how to read labels, I didn't know a lot of the other information in this book: the business side of dog food companies and marketing, the history of how pet foods developed, etc. The book is a presentation of facts (or in some cases the admission of lack of research) on the history of the dog food industry, its growth, marketing techniques, governing bodies, and alternative choices. From an individual who has been questioning, "What is best?"; the book basically presents the pros and cons of different food options and lets you decide which works best for you, giving you a background and the knowledge of the industry from a business standpoint. Just like humans, every dog is different - as our holistic vet has been saying for years "you have to decide what works best for your dog" - it's not a cookie cutter approach. This book gives you information and history, without being highly one sided or opinionated; to allow you to make the choices that best fit your dog's specific needs.

An Interview with an Interesting Member: Robert Verdahl

As the Recording Secretary, I noticed a large number of badge certifications being sent in by members Robert and Misti Verdahl of Santa Clara, California, and their dog, "Jasper," a 2-year-old Border Collie/Labrador Mix. Robert and Misti are in their mid 30's and are both nurses. I thought that I'd probably never get to meet this family in person, so I decided to interview Robert for the Dog Scout Scoop. **Lonnie Olson**

Scoop: Do I understand that your wife, Misti, found Jasper at the shelter?

Robert: Misti searched www.petfinder.com. She had done a lot of searching at local shelters and various rescue organizations. We were attracted to his brother at a nearby rescue called "Pound Puppy Rescue." This brother was extremely cute and fluffy. PPR was adopting out the entire litter. We ended up getting our second choice of the litter and are very pleased about how it turned out. We have since, began doing transports for them where we pick up litters of puppies and take them to their foster homes until they get adopted. Our last transport was more than 260 miles round trip and transporting 2 litters with moms (16 dogs total!).

Scoop: How long have you had Jasper?

Robert: We have had him since he was 8 weeks old. He was such an energetic puppy that we signed him up for two simultaneous Puppy I classes. I took him to one location on one day of the week and Misti took him to the other. He surprised us and graduated top of both classes (maybe it was because he was getting twice the training?).

Scoop: Did you know right away that he was going to be an over-achiever?

Robert: We knew right away that he had a lot of energy. It would take him 5-6 times longer to get worn out as other dogs his age. Energy = trouble. We began training him with every piece of kibble just to wear him out. He was learning quickly but we related it to the amount of training he was getting.

Photo: Jasper at 7 months. I could not get mad. I just had to stop, laugh, and grab the camera.



Scoop: How did you learn about Dog Scouts of America?

Robert: We started running out of things to train him so we began searching the Internet for dog tricks. Soon we had a lot of new material to work with; however, that did not last long either. One of the Internet searches finally led us to the Dog Scouts....and we still haven't run out of things to do!

Scoop: That's great! DSA seems a pretty good fit for you and your very clever, very active dog. What do you like most about participating?

Robert: Jasper learns things very quickly. The DSA has exposed our entire family to events we had never even heard of. Not only has it given us positive things to do with Jasper, it has given us new Hobbies that we will continue to do long past DSA.

Scoop: What was your favorite badge to earn together, and why?

Robert: The Geocaching series of badges was a lot of fun. Geocaching is something we still do together, frequently while riding our bikes. We have nearly 200 finds. Jasper has located several caches on his own, once we were in the right area, of course. He must be drawn to the stronger human scent near and on the cache. We had never even heard of Geocaching before the DSA!

Photo: Robert, Misti and Jasper geocaching

Scoop: From what I've seen on your videos, and your submitted logs for various badges, you and Jasper make it look easy. Do you think the requirements for the badges are too easy?



Robert: Easy? Not at all. Most are quite challenging. We try to mix up his behaviors so that he does not get weak on one area or another; however, it still happens. Each time we start a new badge we may have to focus on an area that he previously mastered. We have been wanting to do the Manners badge for a while, but he is struggling to greet people politely (without pulling). I am not sure why, except that he seems to think every human must say hello to him. I think it is just a phase in his life. He was doing it well a year ago and now, not that great. It might be due to the new puppy we just got too. The important part is each badge gives us an opportunity brush up on skills he may have previously mastered and we have since become lax on.

Scoop: Tell me about the new puppy...

Robert: Our new Puppy is Rue. She is a pure breed border collie that was deemed "defective" because she is deaf. I read her profile on the Northern Ca Border Collie Rescue site and thought we would love to give it a try. We were extremely worried about having a deaf dog, but our worries have all but gone away. She needs constant attention and lots of training. She is learning some things faster than Jasper but struggling in other areas. We are giving them all the attention we can muster. I will be working with her to pass the DS test too. I am hoping that I can use her and Jasper as demo dog for others in our troop.

Photo: Rue at 3 months about 15 lbs.



Scoop: According to my records, you and Jasper just earned First Aid, Animal Care, and CPR. What badge(s) are you going for next?

Robert: Backpacking, Travel Safety, and Scent Discrimination.

Scoop: What would you say to other folks who think they can't pursue Dog Scouts because there's no Scoutmaster in their area, or no troop in their area (you seem to be doing a pretty good job through the world-wide certification program).

Robert: Have perseverance. Don't shy away from what seems like a daunting task. Take the initiative and get started. Your dog, neighbors, and community will thank you for it. We have actually had neighbors knock on our door to ask if Jasper can show their families (that were visiting for the holidays) some tricks.

Scoop: Did you know that you and Jasper have earned more merit badges through the worldwide certification program than any other Scouts?

Robert: No, I didn't realize that.

Scoop: Did you know that Chris has set up links for most of your videos for badges on the web site, now, because you're such a good example of how to do it right (you always cover precisely what is required, and do a good job of filming and presenting information)?

Robert: Well, yes, Chris had asked me to set up a YouTube page for that. I didn't know how many of the videos she would be using, though, I thought maybe just the most recent ones I sent in.

Scoop: Is there something you'd like to add that I haven't asked you about?

Robert: I think the opportunity to send in video to qualify for badges is really great, but it does add an element where people can be less than honest, by virtue of editing out all of the bad takes or poor attempts at a behavior. I'm always afraid that people think my dog is so great because he has earned all these badges, but if I ever get the opportunity to come to camp, and people see how out of control he can be, they'll think I fudged on my certifications!

Scoop: I know the feeling. I often wonder if people are thinking when they see my dog, "THIS is the founder of Dog Scouts of America's dog?" So, I want to thank you for the interview.

Robert: Thank you for interviewing me. I just want to say that DSA has opened up a whole new world for us, and I'm really grateful for the Dog Scouts of America.



For those of you who know Mart and Cindy Ratliff, from Texas, you know how much meaning this new addition to their family is. Meet Alex Ratliff, a Golden Retriever, meeting with Santa on December 5, 2010.

Welcome, Alex!!! And congrats, Mart and Cindy, she's just soooooo cute!!! Looks like a Dog Scout in the making!

Don't be a victim to dastardly dog breath ~ by Newman Knowlton, Troop 161, Carlisle, PA

Ah yes, the sweet smell of puppy breath. But what happens when that sweet scent fades? If proper steps aren't taken, you may very well end up with dastardly dog breath. And, not only can the smell become offensive, improper dental care can lead to gum disease and ultimately more serious health problems.

In case you didn't know it, every year February is Pet Dental Health Month as a way to remind owners of the importance of proper dental care. Although we dogs rarely get cavities, we are prone to gum disease and excess tartar buildup on their teeth. Food particles and bacteria collect along our gum lines forming plaque. Routine home care can help remove this plaque. As the Dog Scout Owner's Motto states, "Our dogs' lives are much shorter than our own, so let's help them enjoy their time with us as much as we can." Healthier teeth mean healthier dogs, so why not help prolong the lives of your canine companions by giving them proper dental care? My mom does.



Here are a few tips that I've picked up along the way to help curtail ghastly dog breath:

- Enzymatic toothpaste (such as CET) – Mom loves the smell of my fresh mint-vanilla scented breath after brushing with it. Even if you aren't a great brusher, toothpaste like CET contains an enzyme that inhibits the formation of calculus on your teeth. Never use human toothpaste. Other tasty flavors include liver, chicken, and beef. See you vet for a tube today!
- Dental chews – While not as good as brushing, dental chews work by scraping the teeth clean during the chewing process, and also contain an enzyme that inhibits plaque.
- Dental rinse – If you're a belligerent bully and detest brushing and chewing, consider doggy dental rinse. Believe me, I know about bullies. I live with two – my brother, Roger, and sister, Thelma Lou. Again, never use human dental rinse.
- The goal of brushing is to brush the outside surface of teeth in area where teeth and gums meet. Training your dog to have his teeth brushed is no different than leash training. It takes time and patience. Most importantly make sure that each step is perceived as enjoyable and non-threatening by your pet, so don't forget to load on the praise along the way. I just love hearing, "Good boy, Newman!"

Tips on the brushing process:

- When introducing brushing, limit the session to no more than a few seconds, then discontinue the session. Start by rubbing your bare finger along the gums. Do this for a few seconds and build up to longer periods of time.
- Add some dog enzymatic toothpaste to your fingertip and massage gums.
- Apply some dog toothpaste to a pet toothbrush and brush outer surfaces of teeth and gums.

Don't be a victim to stink breath. Have your owners take steps to prevent it. ~ by Pam Knowlton (Newman's mom)

A Busy Little Bully ~ by Pam Knowlton

On November 8, 2010, Thelma Lou made her first official appearance on behalf of the Dog Scouts of America (DSA) Troop 161 at the Neville, PA area branch ACNB Bank. Dressed as Buckley Beaver, the bank's mascot, Thelma appeared at Children's Banking Day promoting the importance of saving money, as well as responsible dog ownership. At the request of the ACNB Bank manager, Thelma Lou made her second appearance as Buckley Beaver on January 8, 2011, logging another 3 hours of community service towards the required 30 hours to earn her Dog Scout community service merit badge. During Troop 161's Annual Year-in-Review Dinner, Thelma and her human mom, Pam Knowlton, were awarded Good Scout Awards for leading their troop in service to the community by spearheading Kids' Day.



Thelma Lou finds community service very rewarding and divides her time between both the young and old. This past Christmas she decked the halls of Manor Health Care, a local area nursing home, in Carlisle, PA donning a red velvet dress, designed by Donatella Versace, spreading Christmas cheer to the residents. The smiles on the residents' faces were the best presents she gave last year.



**Thelma Lou's AKC Registered Name: Katandy's Lil' Angel Thelma Lou
Owned and loved by: Pam and Steve Knowlton of Neville, PA.**

Coming Soon in May 2011!
First Annual Dog Scouts of America National Hike-a-Thon!



There will be more info to follow, but we wanted to let everyone know about a cool event coming up in May that troops and individuals can participate in! This May, DSA will organize its first nationwide event and fundraiser – and we hope you'll want to join us. It's always a ton of fun to get outside with our dogs, and being able to support DSA's great charitable and educational programs at the same time is the icing on the cake!

We hope that projects like this can help Dog Scouts of America reach more and more people and dogs with our message of The Dog Scout Way: responsible dog ownership, positive training, and a lifetime commitment to our dogs.

The Hike-a-Thon will be held in May 2011. Each participant will choose their own commitment – whether it's a total of miles to be hiked on a single day, or if you want to set a goal to complete a certain number of miles in the entire month. Then, like other "___-a-Thons," participants will gather pledges to benefit DSA. We'll provide several ways to do this, including "the good old fashioned way" and also the option to use FirstGiving, an organization that makes it easy to make online fundraising pages you can share via e-mail, FaceBook, Twitter, etc. We'll have everything ready for you by April 1st – flyers, pledge forms, etc. There will be prizes for top troop and individual fundraiser, and we're working on a patch (above) to recognize those who collect a given "goal" amount of pledges. Anyone can participate as well – so bring friends and family along to spend some quality time outside with your dogs. - *Ann Withun*

Think Spring!

Save a date in May for the Dog Scouts of America National Hike-a-Thon!

ALERT: Danger of Food Containers Submitted by Beth Ward, Leader, Troop 198

Everyone needs to know about this tragedy so it doesn't happen to someone that you love in your family. I grew up being told that plastic bags are dangerous. Never leave plastic bags around unsupervised children, tie plastic bags into knots to reduce suffocation hazards, etc but no one until now had ever told me about another suffocation hazard. Potatoes chip bags, cereal bags, cracker box liner bags. I can think of the countless times I have either personally watched one of my dogs or cats explore a box or a bag. I have seen you-tube videos, America's Funniest Videos that showed animals getting stuck in the most precarious positions. All of these instances of course were supervised and generally hilarious. Seemingly harmless.

My sister's young dog, Clyde, a gentle, big goofy boy, died late last night. Cause of death – suffocation. My sister and her family include their animals as part of the family in all that they do, they are rarely without Buckeye or Clyde their two dogs by their side. Last night the kids had been watching TV eating munchies and they took a break and left the room, Clyde came right along with them. After a few moments they realized that Clyde had made himself scarce. They went to find him and after just a few minutes of looking they found him under the pool table with the Dorito bag on his head. He was dead. He had suffocated in just a few minutes trying to get the crumbs at the bottom of the bag. The vet explained that this is an unfortunate all too common occurrence. People don't think of the thin metallic or non-plastic appearing bags to be a suffocation hazard. The oils and the bags work together to quickly form a vacuum around the animals face. This happens with the large bags as well as the smaller snack bags. The danger is not limited to a certain species, breed, size or age. I spent some time researching this type of incident on the internet this morning and found that my sister and her family are not alone in this tragedy. If I can help to create an awareness for just one family then Clyde's death will not be in vain. What can you do to help prevent a similar tragedy like this from happening in your home? Follow these simple tips:

- Put your garbage can behind a latched/secure door.
- Before throwing away or recycling any bag, cut it down both sides and across the bottom.
- Keep all food products behind secure cabinets.
Don't leave food out when you are not present in that room, even if it is "just for a minute". Take the food with you or secure it out of your pets reach.
- Realize that your pets are intelligent, resourceful beings and know that where there is a will there is a way.

Families with pets should also find a local Pet First Aid/CPR class and have everyone attend.

Also if you or someone in your family or network of friends have lost an animal family member remember that there are Pet Loss and Support groups out there to help you work through the grieving process.

Troop News
Troop #119 Texas

Troop 119 has gotten off to a great start for 2011!

We started the year with a challenge to our troop - for all troop dogs to complete the requirements of the Clean-Up America II merit badge by June 1. We are calling it the Troop Poop Challenge!! The troop has embraced the challenge and our members are searching parks high and low for areas to clean up. Unfortunately, they don't have too look very far to find remnants of irresponsible dog owners. Vicki Carter and her Dog Scout, Martini, were the first ones in the troop to complete the challenge and did it by January 29! We have had many more complete it since and lots more still picking up poops. Even dogs and owners who have already earned the badge are pitching in to collect their challenge poops! Troop members have received thank you's from park goers who see them "in the act" of scooping. We are hoping the idea catches on to be more responsible and keep our parks and public places clean!



In January, we met for a 5-mile backpacking hike. We had lots of dogs and owners bear the chilly temps (which were toasty by the time we finished!) do to the 3-mile hike and still had a handful left that stuck it out for the whole 5-miles. Several dogs were able to log additional miles for their backpacking titles and all of us had a great time and enjoyed the sunny winter morning!

In February, we had a very successful troop hike and meeting. We met for a nice nature hike and then had a very productive troop meeting. Mart presented the Dog Scout Class to newbies



and dogs still working on their Dog Scout certifications. Lenda Curtis took the "already Scouts" group and they did trick demos then Lenda taught them all some new tricks. By the end of the day, we had two new families who decided to become DSA members, we finished certifications for three new Dog Scouts and two members finished their Troop Poop Challenges! (Photo left: DSA Cayleigh Freeman; photo above: Vicki Carter, Phizz and Martini)



We are all looking forward to more troop fun in 2011!

Mart & Cindy Ratliff, Troop 119, North Texas

Troop 149 St. Louis, Missouri

Troop #149 was able to donate 9 sets of pet oxygen masks to area Fire Departments in 2010. One of our ways to obtain money for the oxygen masks this year was to collect aluminum cans from friends, neighbors, co-workers, and while on our hikes. In 2010 we collected 384 pounds of aluminum and received \$210.86 towards our oxygen mask fund. At our last meeting for the year we played "Minute to win it" which we would like to thank Troop #119 for the idea. Five of our troop members attended Mini camp in Texas this year. **Christine Bahr, Troop 149**



Aluminum cans



December meeting

Troop 157, Broward County, Florida



Dog Scout Troop 157 has had a busy beginning to 2011. Our year kicked off with a camping trip. Members had fun pitching tents, learning about first aid, working on their biking and backpacking, even if it was a little cold in the mornings. Okay, cold by Florida standards, a chilling high 50's at night and low 60's in morning. Enough to pull out the hoodies to stay warm. The camping trip ended with our monthly troop meeting where we enjoyed a presentation by PJ & Greg from Miami-Dade's Search & Rescue Team. It was fantastic to listen to them talk about and demonstrate some of the training that is done with their dogs to prepare them. And, after looking at our nose work training pieces from the national website, they were so impressed that they asked for copies to take back with them. GO DOGSCOUTS!!! All that talk about nose work kicked off our classes and now we have several members actively working every Sunday on their next badge - Tracking. We also participated in a new educational festival, Woofstock. Our dogs had fun demonstrating positive clicker training by painting pictures for the attendees while the human members talked with attendees about Dog Scouts.

However, all was not cheery for us. We lost one of our younger members - Karma. Aimee and Karma were a wonderful team. Everyone they touched fell in love with their warmth and love for each other. Karma was too young to have to cross the Rainbow Bridge and will be remembered for her sweet outgoing personality who was well on her way to becoming one of our troop's leading badge earners. As a troop, we took forward to walking with Aimee on March 5th in the Broward Humane Society's Walk For The Animals in honor of Karma. **Cynthia Stone, Troop 157**

Photo Credits - GoodTimePhotos.com (Woofstock, & Tracking Class)

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

January and February Activities

Troop members met in January to plan for 2011 activities and programs. During the February meeting, guest speaker Maggie Davis spoke about NeighborCare's fresh-hope program, Meant for Each Other. The program provides help for cats and dogs (and sometimes other animals) whose families struggle to care for them and keep them. Maggie also shared her personal experience with natural healing and Reiki. Maggie brought her retired racing Greyhound, Muse, with her to the meeting. Muse also contributes service to the community as a certified therapy dog. (Photo right: Maggie Davis and Muse)



School Superintendent Reads to Dog Scout

Dog Scout and therapy dog, Timber, is featured on the home page of the local school system. She can be seen listening to the Superintendent of Schools, Rob Liebow, as he reads a story to Timber at the Tremont Elementary School.

Cirra, Glimmer's Spirit of Acadia featured in AKC Gazette

Cirra, Glimmer's Sprit of Acadia, a Great Pyrenees owned by Robyn Douglas and Denise Houseknecht of Bar Harbor was featured in the December 2010 issue of the AKC Gazette. American Kennel Club president, Dennis B. Sprung featured Cirra in his column. Cirra was spotlighted celebrating her accomplishments beyond the competition ring.

Cirra has received her Rally Novice title, AKC Canine Good Citizen Certificate and is a registered therapy dog. She has also completed three Great Pyrenees Club of America Versatility titles by participating in activities that include public education, walk-a-thons, therapy dog visits, boating, hiking, backpacking, mountain climbing, agility and rally.



Cirra is a member of the Dog Scouts of America and very active in her local troop, the Downeast Dog Scouts. Through the Dog Scouts of America she has earned the Dog Scout title and Pack Dog and Pack Dog Excellent titles. Cirra has earned several Dog Scouts of America badges such as backpacking, clean up and community service and continues to learn new skills.

Cirra provides a listening ear for young readers with the Children Reading to Cirra Program. On Thursday afternoons, Cirra is available at the Northeast Harbor Library where patrons can find her alphabet photo book, "C is for Cirra." Children can check out a stuffed version of Cirra to read to her between visits.

Robyn Douglas

Famous Dog Scout – report by Sue Szeremet

I was just catching up on my reading of subscription magazine & I came across the president's letter on page 4 of the December 2010 AKC Gazette. They have spotlighted a Dog Scout!

Glimmer's Spirit of Arcadia, call name Cirra, a 6 year old Great Pyrenees, has been cited as a "true ambassador for the breed and purebred dogs." Robyn Douglas, her owner, was mentioned in the Maine troop news (January/February 2011) for her book "C is for Cirra."

She is a "library" dog & participates as a Reading Education Assistance Dog. She visits kindergarten through third grade classrooms & the kids who read with her receive bookmarks, paw-print pencils, and reward books when they reach their reading goals. The kids can also check out stuffed-animal versions of Cirra to read to between visits. Over 120 kids read stories to her and the other dog scouts at the Island Dog Celebration.

The AKC commends them for their dedication to dogs & promoting responsible dog ownership. Dennis B. Spring is president & CEO of the AKC. There is no picture. I thought it was worth mentioning because they don't spotlight the everyday dog owner in every issue. Way to go Robyn for the recognition & getting a shout out to the Dog Scouts & her particular troop in a national publication! (There is a link on the www.dogscout.org page, it is on the "DSA in the news" page of the website).

Troop 161 Carlisle/Central Pennsylvania Year-in-Review 2010

Troop 161 got together on January 30th for our Annual Troop Dinner and “Business Meeting.” We celebrated another year of having a great time with our dogs and spreading The Dog Scout Way, and we spent time planning out our goals and activities for 2011. Since we didn’t do a great job in 2010 of sending in newsletter updates.... we thought we’d share our “Year-in-Review” with you. ☺

JANUARY 2010 - We had our Annual Meeting and Fundraising dinner and planned out the rest of 2010.

FEBRUARY 2010 - Freestyle Fun Day at Fieldwood Dog Training Center!

MARCH 2010 - Troop 161 had a team at the Strikes For Strays Bowl-a-thon—\$950 raised for Furry Friends Network, a great local dog and cat rescue! Later in the month, we had a troop educational booth and hosted a Rally-Obedience Try-It area at PawsAbilities, a big dog-fest that benefits Susquehanna Service Dogs, central PA’s service dog organization. Our booth raffle raised \$1117!

APRIL 2010 -Spring Troop Hike at Gunter Valley Reservoir.

MAY 2010 - Class: Overnight Camping with your dog

JUNE 2010 - RUSTIC Overnight camping trip for the merit badge!

JULY 2010 - Two of our members attended Dog Scout Camp!

AUGUST 2010 - Summer Troop Hike

SEPTEMBER 2010 - Dog Scout Testing - Troop Fall Camping Trip - Troop 161 Team at the Woofstock Grateful Dog Walk—donated \$1686 to the Central PA Animal Alliance Spay-Neuter Fund.

Photos from the Fall Camping Trip:



Cute cabins!



Practicing our Drill Team routine



Doing IMPROV while camping



OCTOBER 2010 – “Bark in the Park” booth and K9 Backpacking class at Colonel Denning State Park. More troop Drill Team Practice! Pet O2 Mask donation and presentation on their use— we gave masks to 26 fire departments after the class.



Roger and Newman, Firefighters * Group shot of Troop members and firefighters.



NOVEMBER 2010 * “Smart End of the Leash” class for new scouts- and we also invited Furry Friends Network foster care volunteers as part of their new volunteer dog training education program.

DECEMBER 2010 * Salvation Army Bell-Ringing—raised \$1138 for the SA with three days of support.

We also compiled some statistics covering the whole time since we started in September 2007:

Total Charitable Donations: **\$10,466.60**

Hours of Community Service (as part of Troop): **560 hrs**

Total Members (All-time): **59**

Average Membership: **29**

Current Membership: **37**

Total Dog Scouts (Now): **20**

Total Activities/Events: **65**

Merit Badges Earned: **159**

Troop 161 wishes everyone a happy 2011 full of Dog Scouts awesomeness!

Troop 171 – Harrisburg, Pennsylvania

Greetings, fellow Scouts! Here is the latest update from Troop 171, **The Redfern Ramblers** of Harrisburg, PA. We would like to start our submission off with a group brag. The numbers from our bell ringing efforts on behalf of our local Salvation Army chapter are in. This year, we raised \$145! Several of our ringers also were captured in a video story for the Harrisburg Patriot-News, and **DSA Dale Evans, owned by Eleanor Parker**, had her picture taken for the paper too. Congratulations and a job well done to all of our bell ringers!

Special congratulations also go out to **DSA Rachel, owned by Annette Carricato**. Rachel recently won first prize in Rally Novice B in a national competition. Great job, Rachel and Annette! Tails are wagging in your honor!

Since 2011 began, we have been hard at work on two badges. The first of these is **Sign Language**. Several of the dogs have already learned four signs: I Love You, All Done, a visual click, and another sign of choice, such as Cookie, Ball or Car. In the near future, we hope to be able to report on several Scouts in our troop who have completed the badge requirements. Several of us have also decided to take on the challenge of the **All Dog Band** badge. What a fun challenge it is proving to be. Several of the dogs are learning to play pianos or keyboards; we also have one drummer and a horn player. We are looking forward to the next phase of the badge: combining our talents to create some musical numbers and showing off our skills for the crowds of adoring fans! We also will be working on the requirements for the **Retrieve** badge in late February for those who are interested in earning it.

Naturally, with warmer weather soon to come, we already have several letterboxing hikes planned for this spring. We look forward to sharing our brags and future plans in the next issue of "The Dog Scout Scoop."

~Paula Marinak

Troop 177 – Indianapolis, Indiana



As I write this, the snow and cold are raging outside. Our troop is busy planning the coming year, but also recently reviewed 2010 fund raising accomplishments. Troop #177 members are still basking in the glow (or still experiencing effects of the cold) from three December shifts of bell ringing for the Salvation Army. Our troop brought in \$504.76 for the Salvation Army late last year. Congratulations to Amanda Burger with Bailey and Saige, Kristi Rush with Lugnut, Peggy Krause with Casey, Anita Dudley with Sophie and Robyn Porter with Hallie for their effort! (Photo left: Peggy works for Salvation Army). In addition to the Salvation Army, troop #177 members in 2010 raised \$920.00 at the annual Mutt Strut in Indianapolis, \$9.15 for DSA with the recycling program and donated a number of animal care items to the Hamilton County Humane Society as well as Marion County Animal Care & Control. Congratulations and thank you to all who participated to benefit these worthy causes.

Our first "impromptu" event this year was dog sledding on January 16. This wasn't dogs pulling sleds; this was downhill sledding on bunny hills at a city park. Local teenagers didn't know what to make

of these "mature" ladies who appeared, with their dogs, to share the hill. Dogs in sleds, dogs jumping out of sleds, dogs running beside sleds, we did it all! At first we started going downhill one at a time in careful fashion, being sure to pose for Peggy's camcorder. Then we became bold, and let the dogs pull us or run beside us down the hill. Finally, we wrapped up with sled races while the dogs were on the sled or running beside the sled before going to Robyn's house to warm up with hot cocoa. Is there a badge for downhill sled races? Peggy Krause & Casey, Anita Dudley & Sophie (with J.D. manning the camera) and Robyn Porter & Hallie braved the cold on this fun afternoon. (Photo right: Anita and Sophie sled)



Amanda Burger and Bailey continue to compete in local agility trials. On January 16 Bailey was in three qualifying runs and achieved 1st place in all three! Peggy Kraus and Casey earned the Naked Dog badge on February 11. Kristi Rush and Lugnut passed the Delta Society Pet Partner evaluation on February 12 and look forward to therapy visits in the

Indianapolis area. (Photo above: Bailey and his ribbons). Troop #177 kicked off their Pet Oxygen Mask fundraiser in February. Best Friends Pet Care is offering a mask matching program. For every oxygen mask set we buy with funds raised, they will give us an additional set for distribution to the fire station of our choice. We're very excited about this opportunity to assist fire stations and pets. Two mask sets for the effort of one! Submitted by **Robyn Porter, Troop #177, Indianapolis IN**

Troop 188 - Connecticut and Rhode Island

Troop Hike and Letterboxing - After Thanksgiving, the Troop went hiking at the Nathan Lester House. Jim Throop and Ruben hid a new letter box during the hike.

Art of Shaping - We worked on the Art of Shaping Badge in December. I am qualified to evaluate for the Art of Shaping Badge. Lucy DSA earned her Art of Shaping.

Obstacle and Agility Badge Workshops - We have had three Obstacle and Agility Badge workshops in January and February. The workshops are open to dogs and owners of all skill levels. Sheri Throop and I are qualified to evaluate for Obstacle Badges 1, 2 & 3. Bling, Felicia DSA, Jasmine, Lucy DSA, Pirate DSA, Ruben, Tartan DSA and Tasha have all earned their Obstacle 1 badges. Bling, Felicia DSA, Jasmine, Lucy DSA, Pirate DSA, Ruben, Tartan DSA and Zora DSA have all earned their Obstacle 2 badges. Lucy DSA and Pirate DSA earned their Obstacle 3 badges. That makes a total of 18 Obstacle badges earned by our dogs in just two months!



Connecticut Spring Renaissance Festival - I am thrilled to announce that Troop 188 will have a booth at the Connecticut Spring Renaissance Festival at the Guilford Fairgrounds on Saturday, May 21. Everyone participating in the event will be dressed in costumes. We are planning a magnificent show where our dogs will perform tricks, play instruments and a few surprises. We will be raising money for charity. If you will be in the area, please drop by and give us a paw!

Kelly Ford, co-Leader of Troop 188

Troop 196, Rockford/Grand Rapids, Michigan

We have had such a busy Fall and winter!! The most note worth event was our service as Subjects for some of K-9 ONE Search and Rescue's Dog teams. Wolverine shoe factory was demolishing one of their old factories in Rockford and Jilian Rakow made arrangements with Their corporate offices for teams t be able to get in and train with proper protective gear. Anne and Quinne hid in the rubble and in an as yet undemonlished old factory building. Craig Veldeer worked his FEMA certified Disaster dog Pepsi looking for the women and he also worked his new young prospect Cirque. Eric Rakow hid under wood pylons in a well hole for Cirque, Pepsi, and Air scent Dog Tigger. Jennifer Hecker did some "run away" problems for Jilian Rakow's young Search dog prospect Lego. Bill Boersma took Curran, Lianna, and Gabe Rakow out into the woods to hide for Wilderness Air scent Search Dog Tigger, who located all 4 "lost" subjects. Wendy Redding and Deb Ensing were in attendance and ended up hiding and being training subjects on other occasions.

The Boersma's young PWD Callie is doing very well and enjoying her winter. Jennie Hecker currently has a Dandy puppy that she is socializing and the Rakow Family is working with Violet on her fear of children.

The Rogue River Dog Scouts troop 196 has spent a lot of the winter playing doggie juggle. Violet is at the Rakow's, Keebler went to the Boersma's for play dates, Zeep went to the Boersma's, and Lego went to the Redding's. We have found that during the winter when it is so hard to keep the dogs properly exercised and stimulated, juggling dogs around makes for great play dates, socialization, and they get to practice their manners and obedience with other families who train in a similar fashion. it also shows where our training is working and generalizing and where we need more practice.

Wendy, Anne, and Jilian made it out for a couple of training walks before it just got too cold. We all made it through Christmas without great peril and we look forward to spring and some of our spring events.

Lego earned his Jr. DSA with Gabriel Rakow, he earned his AKC CGC, and has been accepted into training with Kent County search and rescue as a Wilderness Air Scent dog. Jilian Rakow is working with K-9 ONE Search and Rescue to earn her Field Support Specialist Certification before beginning official training with Lego with K-9 ONE as well. Both teams have a mutual Aid agreement and training wit both teams is an exceptional opportunity. Our Dog Scouts Troop has been wonderful about making themselves available and have offered to continue to be training subjects for us.

We are still practicing for Callie and Lego to earn their DSA titles and are hoping to film those in spring.

Photos from left to right: The first picture is Anne and Quinne Boersma coming out after Hiding for Tigger. The second one is Jilian Rakow with Lego. The one with someone running away in rubble is Jennie Hecker hiding in the site and the others are Wendy and Deb with Kim Veldheer at the site while Kim explains how the training is being conducted. The final photo in the bottom center is Eric Rakow hiding in the hole under the wood pylons while FEMA certified Disaster Dog Pepsi finds him. He has her ball that is her reward for finding him.



Troop 198 – San Francisco Bay, California



Our December outing was a three-mile hike at a county park in the foothills. The turnout was small, probably because it was getting close to the holidays. Oh, and rain was predicted. As it turned out, it was a lovely day and only sprinkled for a short while. Our dogs were sweet and well behaved as we tromped around the lake and through the park observing ducks, herons, hawks and squirrels. We picked up trash and recyclables as we went and ended our hike with a picnic under the canopy. A very nice day. In January we started a lively discussion of terrific ideas for activities we can participate in as a Troop during the year. Our January meeting brought us a new Cadet named Rue to meet and socialize:

The Story of Rue – Troop 198’s Deaf Cadet By Misti Verdahl

We got Rue from Border Collie Rescue of Northern California where she had been for about 2 weeks. The original adoptive family didn't want her after they found out she was deaf. The Rescue people said they thought the family were novice dog owners and were possibly concerned about the extra training they felt she would need. The breeder did offer to take her back, but they would euthanize her. The family called the Rescue instead and, of course, they took her. Robert had been checking the



Rescue website for a year, just waiting for the right puppy to catch him. When he read about her, he immediately sent me a message! He filled out the application, spoke to the foster Mom and the head person with the Rescue group. A few days later we drove 200 miles North to meet her and brought her home with us that same day. □□Rue is 16 weeks old now and we have had her for 3 weeks. She does exceptionally well with the hand signals for basic commands (sit, down, stand, come). She will also spin and twist with hand signals. She will roll over and go to sleep easily when lured; we are still working on firming up those hand signals. She will do a great "off" with treats placed on the floor in front of her. She calms down from rapid play very quickly and allows handling without any difficulties or sensitive areas. She allows a bath without complaint! She is in Puppy I class and is doing well. She learns very fast! She also gets into things she shouldn't VERY FAST! I barely let her in the house and before I could put up the leash, she had a tissue out of the trash in the bathroom! (That door was supposed to be closed!) She is quick and smart, just like the Border Collie she is! Her parents are working dogs and she exhibits herding behaviors at the dog park. Her deafness is no hindrance to her in the slightest. It is only a challenge to us when we want to get her attention from far away, otherwise, it is actually a boon! When we put her down for a nap, we don't have to tip toe or worry we will wake her up! Our large mix breed Jasper plays very well with her though I think he is even a bit too lenient with her. He doesn't correct her much at all, he just lies on the floor and they wrestle away! I think another challenge will be teaching her to have a good bite inhibition. She can't hear Jasper or us yelp, but there are other ways she can tell when she hurts us. That process takes a while with any puppy. I remember we thought Jasper would never learn to have a soft mouth! □□Rue is a very friendly and loving puppy with a definite hyper streak! There are issues that we are working on but she is already improving in leaps and bounds!

Troop 207, Columbus, Ohio



Hello from Columbus Dog Scouts. We are coming to the end of our first 6 months as a DSA troop and it has been busy! In October, Troop 166 joined us for our first annual Tails and Trails Hike and BBQ (members got to choose from a 1.5-mile or 7-mile hike). Also that month, 15 of our furry family members earned their Dog Scouts titles, with a visiting Chris Puls evaluating, and Kym Jarvis earned her Scoutmaster title.

November was busy with fundraising, with the goal of purchasing an animal fire mask kit for every fire engine in the city. Jacqueline, Kym, Jiminy and Hank were interviewed on ABC/FOX Good Day Columbus about Dog Scouts, with Hank performing tricks and Jiminy demonstrating fire mask usage. We held a fundraiser at Rude Dog Bar and Grill, where there were a dozen fantastic prizes raffled off, a fire engine for our dogs to have their photos taken on, a caricature artist and live music. We raised over \$1100! This was a little short of our goal, so the local Invisible Fence business stepped up to the plate and offered us 40 more kits! We plan to distribute the kits to all the fire stations in January.

In the last month we've had a series of sessions working on our Obstacles and Agility badges. Six dogs earned all 3 Obstacles badges, and two more earned Obstacles 1 and 2. Six dogs also earned Agility I and II. We are looking forward to the new year and all the fun it will bring.



Fire Mask Fundraiser



Tails and Trails 7-mile hike team!

Troop 208, Western Suburbs of Chicago, Illinois

Fundraiser for Salvation Army Senior Meals Program - Our troop took the Dog Gift Bag idea and added a twist. We worked with a local pet food store and set up a pet food drive. It ran from Nov 27th through Dec 15th. The way it worked was we had the store put together pre filled bags in 5, 10 and 15 dollar values. We had a table at the store and we sold these bags to their customers to donate to our food drive. In the bags were treats, toys, canned food. We had both dog and cat bags. We also accepted cash donations or the customer could make a purchase from any item in the store for donation. At the front of the store there were shopping carts to hold the donations. We also contacted pet food vendors to ask for donations to our pet food drive. We had posters and flyers donated by a local printing company and we sent out press releases to local papers for publication. We had 4 local papers run stories about what we were doing and who we were. All of the papers also included a photo.



Photos from left to right: Our table, our poster, Miss Bailey looks for customers; and Mary and Rico

The end result of the drive was a total 482 pet gift bags, \$285.00 in cash donations and 50 large (30# bags) of dog food were donated thru the store and over 100 cases of pet food samples donated by pet food vendors. This was a huge success considering we put together the idea of the pet food drive at the beginning of November. We have been asked to come back and do it again next year by both the pet store and by the Salvation Army. The press that we received was great not only for Dog Scouts but for the pet store. I have been contacted by several other senior groups to participate in next years drive and the pet store wants to expand it to the other 4 locations in the Chicago area. **Karen Reeves, Troop 208 Leader**

Rainbow Bridge - Lady Daisy Hinch

We had two stories that come to mind to show the Smartness of Daisy and her sense of Showmanship.

1. We were in Saskatoon, Canada at an Agility competition. It was the last day and the last round. Daisy had not done well but I told the Judge that I would finish the Course this round. She was a good Judge and said "Sure you will". I bet her I would. So, as the round began, Daisy took the first two jumps and the weave poles. We then went for the A-Frame. She got to the apex, stopped, looked around. She came down the Frame and hit the contact then ran to the fence line and looked for anyone to pet her. Without missing a beat I jumped through the tire, through the next set of weave poles, through the double set of tunnels and the last jump. All the while Daisy was sitting with a pole-setter with a SMILE on her face. As I jumped over the last jump, she came bounding up to me and gave me a BIG KISS. The Judge was in hysterics and the crowd was laughing so hard. Daisy and I were like two clowns at the circus. We could not have scripted any better.

2. We had three Dalmatians visiting us from B.C. for a couple of days. All the dogs got along fabulously. We have a lot of old Army towels for cleaning up spills. Well the dogs were playing with one of the towels and ripped it to shreds. So they turned their attention to one of Daisy's favorite toys. She was trying to get it back but to no avail. Then out of the blue, she went to the bottom of our basement stairs, Lonnie can remember what they were like, and starts to bark. All three of the other Dals came to the stairs and start to bark as well. Then Daisy slowly walks over to her toy and picks it up. She goes to her chair and lays there chewing her toy while the other three try to figure out what just happened. They say Dals are not too bright, but I beg to differ.

I am saddened to let you know that LADY DAISY has gone over the RAINBOW BRIDGE. She passed away peacefully on Dec. 23, 2010 at 6:45 MST. Jo was with her for her final breaths. She was 14 yrs 3mos and 17 days old. My former co-worker at the Fire Department has a crematorium for pets and he came on Dec.24 and took her away. We were lost for the time she was gone. Darcy brought her back home on Christmas Day and the weight of the world seemed to lift off our shoulders. DAISY was home again. We have her with us. She was born Sept. 03, 1996. Jo and I took over her Guardianship in Feb.1997. She was the Mascot at CFB Suffield Fire Department until our retirement in Aug. 2004. Daisy performed her duties as a Member of the Fire Service with a cherished abandon. I introduced her to the STOP, DROP and ROLL. and the CRAWL THROUGH SMOKE but she showed me SO MUCH MORE. Daisy also visited Pre-Schools and she did the Stop, Drop and Roll plus we visited in

Spring time and taught the children how to be around strange dogs and dog safety. She has done so much in her short life span.



As for a favorite picture, we have two. One is on a fishing boat at Lake Koochanusa, on the B.C./U.S. border. The second needs no explanation. She was proud to be a Dog Scout.

In Friendship

Sterling, Jo and Lady Daisy Hinch

Maverick Woods (3/1/2002 – 12/19/10)

Casie & Vincent Woods said their final goodbyes to Maverick this morning (December 19th) as they allowed him to escape the pain he was in and join a host of awaiting friends at The Rainbow Bridge. He had a t-bone steak for breakfast and went on his final journey. He is pain- and cancer-free but leaves an incredible hole in all of our hearts.

We have felt privileged and honored to have known Maverick for the last 5 ½ years. We will miss him terribly as will everyone who knew him.

Mart & Cindy Ratliff

Skitter Nodwell (12/22/10)

SKITTER HAS CROSSED THE BRIDGE - I released her across the Bridge last night. She was doing well for her 14+ years until Sunday and then started limping really bad. Monday found her not much better so I made the decision and let her join Bella and the rest of the gang... She passed quietly and quickly in my arms. We will all miss her!!!

Joan M. Nodwell

Zeppelin McElhattan (12/29/10)

Troop #149 is sad to announce that Tina and Joe McElhattan's Dog Scout, Zeppelin passed away on 12/29/10. Zep was one of our first Dog Scouts for Troop #149 and has been a wonderful ambassador for DSA at our events. Zep is pictured here at our Drill Team event on the left and the last Dog Scout meeting he attended playing a minute to win it. We will all miss Zep .



Chris Bahr, Troop #149

Our hearts and prayers go out to all those members who lost their Dog Scouts and their four-legged family.

Attitude of Gratitude

Thanks to Newman, Roger, and Thelma (pictured on the December DSA calendar page as Sherpa Guides) who have a calendar of their own that mom, Pam Knowlton produces and sells. This year, Newman Knowlton decided that the proceeds from their calendar sales would go to DSA! Thanks, guys for the fat check!

Joanne Weber made a donation to DSA (as a thank you for the business she gets through DSA contacts). Also, thanks to Joanne Weber who graciously donated a portion of the proceeds of the sales of her beautiful necklaces from the Michigan Winter Dog Classic. Thanks, Jo!

Thanks to all of the DSA members who came out and worked the booth at the Michigan Winter Dog Classic. We raised \$612.88 including the money Joanne donated. Thanks to: Martha Thierry, Beth Duman, Joanne Weber, Lonnie Olson, Elizabeth Najdich, Chris and Bill Kloski, Fay Reid, Melissa and Matt Perez (and niece, Ashley), Julie Benson, Melissa Matteson, Vikki Wilcox, Maggie and Jim Ouillette, Jill and Glenn Moore. This was the biggest turnout of members we've had at one of our booths! Thank you all so much for your help!

Thanks, **Lonnie Olson**

In Closing...

I was emailing Martha Thierry about something or another and happened to mention my Yellow Lab, Charly's successes in 2010. She said, "You should put it in the newsletter!" So, down in Central Illinois, where there is no DSA Troop, yet, though I'm starting to get local dog club members interested in camp, I belong to the Peoria Obedience Training Club. If you know Charly at all, his high energy antics and obedience classes just aren't the most perfect match. However, this year, we tried real hard together and guess what, my Charly became the club's Top Novice A Dog!!! He worked better off leash than on and got High In Trial his first time out. So, at our Annual Awards Banquet, Charly and I got our names on the Top Novice A Dog plaque as the 2010 handler/dog team. It hangs on our club "Wall of Fame". Next step, Open A (thanks Ann Withun for the "down" on recall tips last summer! For those of you that do obedience regularly, you know that you only get one Novice A dog in your lifetime in AKC, so when I start Cate, she will be Novice B.

Then, for some reason, Charly started clicking in distance agility. I have been unable to run next to him since 2005, so I've been working with Charly to go from Velcro to distance for a long time. We started doing CPE (Canine Performance Events) agility this year and in just 4 trials, Charly qualified for CPE Nationals in June 2011 in Minnesota!!! Where was that dog??? I've been doing AKC, UKC and NADAC and had just reconciled to the fact that Charly would always be course creative working away from me, so far. Now, he is actually doing layering, working 3 or 4 obstacles away correctly and doing "left" and "right". Everyone at my club says, "It's you too, Peggy!" but I know that we've figured it out together and he's more intuitive than any dog I've ever had. I'm looking forward to Minnesota this summer. A friend of mine said Cate would be my AKC MACH dog.

Next week, we inadvertently got into a Stuart Mah agility camp in Florida. I put myself on the waiting list last August and never expected a cancellation. Stuart is known for his work with handicapped and/or mobility challenged handlers, a perfect fit for me. So, Charly, Cate and I are hopping in the Jeep for a 16 hour drive March 5th. It's like Dog Scout Camp, only agility only, with a lodge and meals and 24/7 with your dogs. Sounds like heaven to me. So glad my credit cards are paid off!!! I'm taking my camera, maybe I'll get my DSA photography badge this year!!! It's snowing here today, again, but not where I'm going.

Peggy Zweber, Charly and Cate