



The Dog Scout Scoop

(little bits of news we've picked up)

January/February 2012

Volume 16, 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

From the DSA President

Another year has come to a close and once again I'm left amazed that it went by so fast! But it was a very productive year for DSA. As you can see in the "Board of Directors Activities" report, there was quite a bit accomplished. Due to the volume of issues being addressed and the volume of almost daily email on our Board of Director's yahoo group, we have had to do what we can to try and manage that flow of information as well. Lowell Schmorow-Zuckerman has been doing an outstanding job of trying to keep us focused, on track and not getting too overwhelmed. Julie Benson has taken her new position as board secretary to heart and has been a big help in document organization. She also took on the big task of compiling the information for the year end activities report. Ann Withun has been busy with several big DSA projects, but always seems to have time to review things and offer excellent input and insight. Martha Thierry and Brenda Katz are also great at giving valuable input and feedback and they are also working on some big DSA projects. I am SO thankful to have such a wonderful group of people that bring so much talent and experience to the table while also being great at working together and remaining goal oriented! It really makes all our hard work so much easier. Mart Ratliff and Cheryl Bales have stepped down from the board and their experience and valuable input and perspectives will be greatly missed. As you will see, the board is looking for a new member to take on the task of coordinating the financial data from each department and I look forward to getting the resumes so we can get that new person on board and up to speed on their important job.

2011 will be remembered as the year of our first annual Hike-a-thon that was a HUGE success! Planning for the 2012 hike-a-thon will get underway very soon and we hope that even more people will participate and help DSA. We also purchased our first private cabins for the MI camp and they are adorable! You can see them here: <http://www.dogscouts.org/cabin.html>

The camps were very successful and I think the TX mini camp set a new record when it filled within just a few days of the registration opening! Keep an eye on the website for the announcement of the 2012 TX dates. The dates for the Michigan 2012 summer camps are already posted and open for registration.

Three new badges were created with several additional Community Service badges in the works for 2012. The badge program is going strong and many people are taking advantage of the ability to earn the badges by video. In addition to the badges, DSA now offers titles in various competition venues. The first official IMPROV competition was held at the June camp, followed by another at the July camp. Then Troop 161 also hosted a well attended competition and several dogs (that had been at both camps) earned their third qualifying score for the title! Also ready for competition hosting by troops or dog clubs are the Treibball, Scent Detection and Draft Dog programs. The backpacking program also falls under the Competition and Titling program as well and many people and dogs participate and earn backpacking titles each year.

And last but not least, some very exciting news for DSA! I was just recently contacted by Animal Planet and they want to include Dog Scouts of America in the pilot episode of a new show! It will be all about things people can do with their dogs and should be some excellent promotion of DSA on a national level. So if you have been thinking about getting a troop started, now might be the time! And if you are thinking about signing up for camp, you might want to do that now to beat the rush! I'm certain there will be a big jump in membership across the U.S. and those new folks will be looking for troops to join and camps to attend!

Thank-you to everyone that in any way helps promote and support DSA and that shares the educational or community service aspects of the organization with their fellow dog lovers and communities. We couldn't do it without YOU! Every little bit helps and you never know when the person you meet on the elevator will be the next President of the organization! ☺ I know 2012 will be a banner year for progress and growth within DSA and you won't want to miss out!

Chris Puls, President

Table of Contents
DSA News Pages 1 – 5 Troop News Pages 5 -17
ORDER YOUR DSA CALENDAR Page 18!!!!
Rainbow Bridge Page 19
In Closing.. Page 19

Please Respect Newsletter Deadlines!!!

Newsletter Submission - February 15th, 2012 for March/April 2012 Issue. Articles received after that date will go into the May/June 2012 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>

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

Board of Directors Activities in 2011 and Organizational News

The Board of Directors currently consists of:

Chris Puls- President

Lowell Schmorow-Zuckerman- Chairman of the Board

Martha Thierry- Vice President

Brenda Katz

Ann Withun

Julie Benson

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, the board voted in Julie Benson of MI as the BOD Secretary. Julie has a strong administrative background, is troop leader to MI troop 217, and has shown a strong commitment to the organization.

Voting

Current board members currently vote in new board members that most closely fit the job description and have experience that will help move DSA forward. We have developed an organizational structure to help break down organizational responsibility and hope to develop further throughout 2012.

Financial

The board is working with the President and Department Heads towards improving policies and processes around financial management. Activities in 2011 include:

1. Creation of a purchase and reimbursement policy and process
2. Identification of additional opportunities for improvement such as increasing the level of granularity and timeliness of reporting
3. The creation of common reporting logs across departments
4. Research into better financial reporting systems

New Department

Competitions and Titling Department was fully up and running in 2011. The primary focus is to hold DSA sanctioned IMPROV competitions across the country in which people and their dogs can compete for placements and titles. The current Packdog titling program also falls 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.

Many DSA members have already earned Packdog titles under this new program as more continue to work toward their packdog title goals. 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 or using this direct link: http://www.dogscouts.org/Competitions_and_Titles.html

Fundraising Programs

DSA's first nationwide Hike-A-Thon was a tremendous success. Supporters across thirteen (13) states actively raised money for DSA bringing in a total of over \$8,574. \$2,841 of that total was in cash/check donations. Top fundraiser was Cheryl Bates, collecting \$2,038.35 and top fundraising troop was Troop 119, bringing in \$5,158 in pledges.

GoodSearch/GoodShop: We have received **\$107.42** for 2011 as of reporting date of 11/15/11.

TX mini camp a success

The TX mini camp (4 days) in November was sold out within days of the opening of registration! They raised \$2,828 for DSA in the auction with an additional \$130 in “bets” on the granny races. There were 48 campers this year, adding 10 new Dog Scouts by the end of the camp.

A.E.D.

The DSA camp now has an Automated External Defibrillator (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 \$1,000.

Recycle Bins

The DSA camp now has recycle bins for glass, plastic, and aluminum.

Badge related updates

New badges created in 2011 were Treibball 1 & 2 and Agilure. The board is currently working on an extended Community Service recognition program with a variety of new badges to be offered, hopefully in 2012.

2011 Votes

- Lowell Schmorow-Zuckerman elected Chairman of Board
- Motion made to change mileage compensation:
 - General use of personal vehicle is tied to the govt rate (currently .51/mile)
 - Use of personal vehicle to haul heavy items for a trip under 350 miles (1.5 x govt rate, which would be .80/mile)
 - Use of personal vehicle to haul heavy items for a trip 350 miles and over (govt rate plus \$100)
- Host DSA Hike-A-Thon in May 2011
- DSA sign up for 1 year of First Giving services for fundraisers. Cost is \$250 with the \$50 discount code
- Oath of Office for board members written/approved
- Motion made to have Chris Puls move to a non-voting position, with the Chairman of the board running the Board of Directors and have board members VOTE on current applicants to fill the vacancy
- Annual Board meeting, motion is made to hold it during the leadership Retreat- May 21, 7pm
- Purchase a Panel Concepts cabin and install it on a concrete pad at camp
- Add an additional cabin (total of 2) to the purchase order before camp to get the 5% discount on the cost of the cabin
- Purchase 75 safety bandannas designed by Martha Thierry at a cost of \$5 each
- Julie Benson elected to BOD as the board secretary
- Approve the streamlined mission, values and vision statement
- Approve the Advisory Board description and incorporate in Administrative Manual
- Compensation rates for the Competition and Titling Director approved based on work completed
- Create and approve the latest revision to the Troop Leader Guidebook
- Create and approve the Dog Scouts of America Policy Guidelines and Process
- Approve the organizational structure proposed by Ann and agree that we will develop a plan to transition towards that structure
- Approval to set aside \$2500 for an advertising budget in 2012
- Approve the cabin agreement policy
- Approve the sale of non-working heavy equipment that is on camp property
- Approve to pay \$10/hr for caretaker work not being done by Ed, not to exceed Ed's monthly salary
- Approve the purchase of a new office computer plus the cost of an online backup service, not to exceed \$600
- Approve the use of groundskeeper funds to replace wood taken from Lonnie Olson's private wood pile for DSA use

NEW BOARD OF DIRECTOR'S POSITION!

The Board of Directors is looking for an additional volunteer to be a **Board Member** and to fill the newly created role of **Finance Committee Chair**. The person in this position receives reports at the beginning of each month from DSA's departments, compares budgeted versus actual expenses and income, and maintains knowledge of DSA's account balances and overall financial situation in order to assist fellow board members with having the information they need to make good decisions. The Finance Committee Chair also receives requests for purchase and reimbursement, and forwards them for approval and action.

Advanced financial management skills are not required. A successful candidate would have the skills required to prepare a detailed household budget, keep track of multiple bank accounts, and be very skilled at organizing information. Being available to process the reports at the beginning of each month is important.

The Finance Committee Chair will be a liaison between the board, DSA's Accountant/Treasurer, and department heads - so good communication and people skills are a must. Basic skills with Microsoft Excel and Word are required, and experience with accounting software such as Quicken would be a plus but not required.



This is a new position which will be working with the department heads, the president and the board to create new processes and procedures that will enable the candidate to fulfill the responsibilities of the position.

All applicants should:

- Be willing to serve for a 3 year term
- Be a person who will promptly respond throughout each month to emails, phone calls, and board memos, and will give all issues before the board and concerning DSA thought and express their honest opinion or cast their vote in a timely manner.
- 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, is able to communicate via email and usually checks their email each week day.
- 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

Applicants should submit their resume (that outlines the above experience) to:

DSA President Chris Puls DogScouts@hotmail.com

A New Camp Project by Lonnie Olson



This is Mikey. He's my new draft horse. Haflingers are the preferred work horse of folks from Germany and Austria. When I visited there, there was just about one at every house along the countryside. The Amish like to use them, too. They are known for their pulling ability.

Being minus an ATV for camp use, we were all wondering what we will do to take the place of Ed's ATV. A new UTV is quite expensive. One night, I had an interesting thought. It occurred to me that we have our own 4WD horsepower right in the yard! The Board liked the idea of going "green" with this non-gas-guzzling approach to Dog Scout Camp work. We bought a heavy-duty cart, and work harness, and we are going to proceed to put Mikey to work. There is just one small problem. Mikey was never told that his life's work as a Haflinger was to pull stuff. Mikey is going to have to learn to pull a cart. And, Lonnie is going to have to learn how to teach Mikey to pull the cart!

I have been asked to write an article for the newsletter, chronicling Mikey's progress with the clicker training, and the habituation to the new equipment. I will be placing an article with updates and photos in each newsletter. This is the first.

In August, Mikey entered my life. In December I got a cart and harness. Mikey is very food motivated, and I'm sure he will quickly catch on to the training. I have started pairing the word, "yes" with the treats I offer the horses by hand. The bridge is not complete yet. I will let you know when there is progress. I have downloaded a very good "teach your horse to pull a cart" tutorial. It is a very slow process. I have made a chart to help me along.

Step 1:

Goal:	Begun	Acceptance	W/Movement	Bit	New Locations	Distractions	Completed
Bridge the click	☺						
Desensitize to ropes/reins				Without With			
Unwrap exercise				Without With			
Meet the tack				Without With			
Wear the tack				Without With			
Ground Drive w/loose reins			w/helper w/o helper	Without With			
Ground Drive reins through harness			w/helper w/o helper				
Drag a tire			w/helper w/o helper				
Poling				Without With			
Poling w/sack							
Me drag pole			On far side On near side	Without With		bumping	
Pole attached to harness			On inside On outside	Without With			
Meet the cart				Without With			
Touching cart				Without With			
Helper pulls cart near Mike			On left On right	Without With			
Cart bumping				Without With			
Hitched with lead rope							
Hitched; Drive from behind							
Hitched; driver in cart; helper leads							
Hitched; drives w/o help							

Troop News **Troop 119, North Texas**

Troop 119 has had a very busy fall, as usual! October brought our annual fall swimming party! We had about 20 dogs in attendance for a beautiful fall afternoon at the pool! All the dogs and humans had a great time swimming, running & playing and making new friends!

The first weekend of November we celebrated our 8th Texas Mini-Camp!! We had a great group of campers and the best staff anywhere!! We ended up with 48 campers this year and felt it was the best one yet!! We all had a great time and the weather cooperated, too! We added 10 new Dog Scouts at this year's mini-camp ... Marz (proud mom is Melissa Alpha), Freckles (proud mom is Susie Betts), Cassidy (proud parents are Karen & Bob Deeds), Stevie Ray (proud parents are Mart & Cindy Ratliff), Buggy (proud mom is Gina Smith), Tyler (proud mom is Nancy Snyder) and Belle (proud mom is Cheryl Woolnough), Bisou (proud mom is Janice Patton), Apollo (proud mom is Arianna Rodriguez) and Fiona (proud mom is Doree Donovan).

We are also happy to report that this year's mini-camp auction raised a whopping \$2,828 for DSA!!! Whoo-hoo!! We also raised an additional \$130 on the bets for the granny races (you gotta be there to understand! ;-)

We expect next year's camp to fill up early again - so be watching for the next big mini-camp announcement in the spring! (Hint: 2012 camp will be the first weekend of November again...)

We also just wrapped up our biggest community service project of the year: our Meals On Wheels for Pets project. We believe this was our 9th year for this project and it has continued to grow. We get donations from many dog-product companies, as well as lots of private donations so that we are able to fill 120 gift bags to the brim with toys, treats, biscuits, shampoo, collars and leashes and lots of other necessities and luxury items! We have a great time at the "baggin' party" where we all get together, decorate the bags, fill them up then load up the van. The Meals On Wheels clients are always very excited and appreciative when the bags are delivered with all the goodies for their furry family member! The smiles and tears are always worth it!

Mart & Cindy Ratliff, Troop 119, North Texas



Belle searches for a scent at mini-camp



Cassidy clears the bar at mini-camp



Clover learns flyball at mini camp.



Hike at mini camp



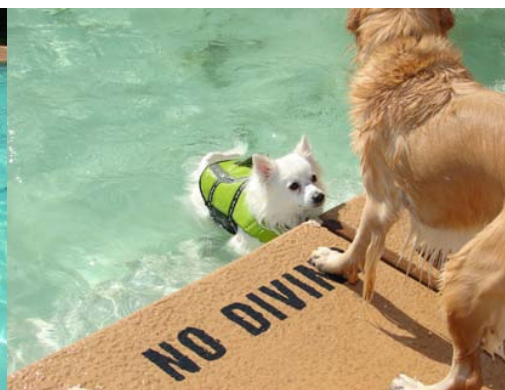
Magi clears the tire at mini camp



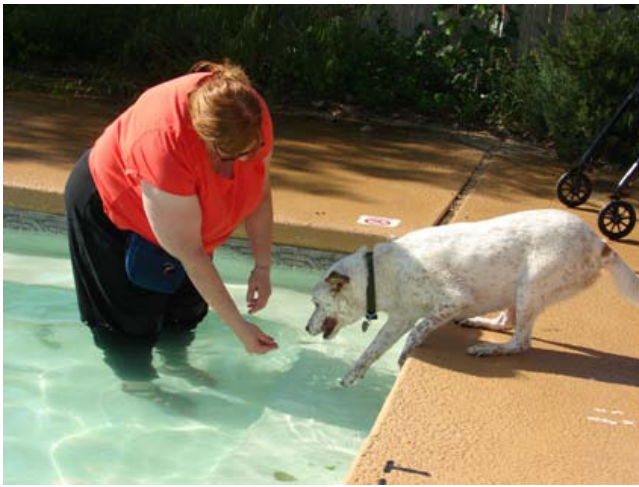
Cowboy takes the plunge



Lily takes a nose dip



Maddy's testing the water



Reilly tries to decide if swimming is for him



Meals on Wheels for Pets baggin' crew

Troop 147 – Alabama

November 19th, Troop 147 held a get acquainted picnic for potential members at the home of Linda Darnell. There was a question and answer period discussing Dog Scouts after which everyone enjoyed a picnic spread of hot dogs, beans, chips, and soft drinks. Corrine Dreyfus, a guest demonstrator, was in attendance with her agility equipment and boxes to demonstrate nose work. Corrine let the members enjoy playing with their dogs on the equipment after she demonstrated how the dogs were trained for jumping, going through tunnels, and standing on an unbalanced disc. Corrine surprised us with her dog, Stevie, there to help her with demonstrations. Stevie, a black Russian terrier, is the number one dog in the country with nose work and is in Florida this month after being invited to the AKC invitational. Those attending were Jamie Nance/Apollo, and son, Adrian, Barbara Hunter/Pixie, Karen Richards/Bear, Lynn Sanders/Storm, Julie Oliver/Cookie, Kaye Knight/Minnie Pearl, and Barbara Ferry/Jacob.

Submitted by Troop147/Alabama, Barbara Ferry

Pictured below are first, Lynn Sanders and her dog, Storm, trying out one of the jumps, second, Barbara Hunter and her dog, Pixie, trying out the tunnel and third, Karen Richards and her pup, Bear, giving the nose work a try.



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



Take Pride in Acadia Clean Up

Troop members again cleaned up after less responsible dog owners at Little Long Pond in conjunction with the annual Take Pride In Acadia Day sponsored by the Friends of Acadia. The efforts of four consecutive Spring and Fall cleanups at Little Long Pond have paid off with far less poop to clean up.

Downeast Dog Scouts donate Take a Bow Wow dog training DVDs to libraries in Hancock County

Take a Bow
Wow Dog
Training DVDs

are now available at local libraries to benefit community dog owners and their dogs. The Training DVDs are as entertaining as they are valuable to the beginning dog owner. The DVDs offer clear instructions, are easy to follow and are appropriate for children and adults of all ages. They put the fun back into training sessions! Each DVD features clicker training, which is a positive reinforcement training technique. The featured trainers have 70 years of combined dog training experience that they share with the viewer. Photo right: Jesup Memorial Library, Bar Harbor, Maine



The Downeast Dog Scouts, Troop 159 of the Dog Scouts of America,



donated full sets of Take a Bow Wow Dog Training DVDs to libraries in Bar Harbor, Blue Hill, Ellsworth, Northeast Harbor, Southwest Harbor and Swan's Island. Education is the key to responsible dog ownership and the donation by the Downeast Dog Scouts provides a readily accessible and fun positive reinforcement training resource to the community. Photo left: Northeast Harbor Library

The Downeast Dog Scouts and the Dog Scouts of America advocate positive reinforcement training and encourage people to help their dogs be all they can be. The more a dog learns the more welcome that dog becomes in more places. That dog becomes an ambassador for good training and responsible dog ownership everywhere he or she goes.

The Dog Scout's of America Motto is "Let us learn new things, that we may become more helpful." These DVDs live up to that motto. The first DVD, *Take a Bow Wow and Bow Wow Take 2* is a combination DVD that teaches 21 fun tricks that are an excellent introduction to clicker training for children and adults alike. Examples of included tricks are turning lights on and off, retrieving the leash and of course, taking a bow! The second DVD, *The How of Bow Wow* features 84 minutes of instruction on the many important foundation skills all dogs should learn, including sit, down, stay, come, wait, off and loose leash walking. The *Shape of Bow Wow* is the third DVD which gives an overview of clicker training and how to shape desired behaviors from your dog. Some examples shown are paw targeting and good manners at the door. *Fido Refined* is hot off the press and the exercises featured on this fourth DVD are designed to improve your dog's impulse control in daily situations. Some examples shown are: taking food gently and calmly from your hand, self-control around favorite toys, polite greeting behavior and waiting patiently when doors are opened. Photo above right: Swan's Island Library.



The trainers in the DVDs have extensive clicker training expertise, having been faculty members of Karen Pryor's Clicker Expos. Virginia Broitman and Sherri Lippman collaborated on the first two DVDs. Virginia Broitman produced the *Shape of Bow Wow* and *Fido Refined* DVDs. Sherri Lippman began her dog training career in 1970, raising German Shepherds for Seeing Eye. Sherri designed and implemented a training program for the resident animals at a wildlife rehabilitation facility in San Rafael, CA. Virginia Broitman has been involved in dog training since 1981. Since 2007, Virginia has been the head trainer at various prison facilities where shelter dogs are placed with inmates in order to receive obedience training and behavior modification before being adopted by the public. She was also a contributing writer for Karen Pryor's Academy for Animal Training & Behavior

program. Her own dogs have participated in a variety of activities, including pet therapy visits, agility competitions, herding and television advertising work.

"Happy Holidays" from the Downeast Dog Scouts

The Downeast Dog Scouts wished local dogs "Happy Holidays" with bags of treats distributed by several local bank branches. The troop had a work day together and bagged up nearly 1000 holiday treat bags for local dogs that were distributed through participating local banks. It was great fun and not a single dog stole a treat from the tables! Good dogs! Dog Scouts then delivered the boxes of treats to smiling bank employees all over the towns and were pleased to receive their own holiday treats at each stop!



Far left: Bar Harbor Bank & Trust

Center: Camden National Bank

Right: Happy Holidays Bank Project



Mount Desert Island Hospital's Seventh Annual Charity Craft Fair

Dog Scout Rissa greeted children and adults at the Mount Desert Island Hospital's Seventh Annual Charity Craft Fair. Rissa also handed out books for the younger children as Santa's helper. Troop member Pamela Bourque and Rissa again helped to raise \$5000 in funds for local programs and families in need. Rissa is 13 years old and has been the Elf for Santa Claus for five years. She is a wonderful ambassador for Labrador Retrievers and the Dog Scouts of America.

Robyn Douglas, Downeast Dog Scouts Troop 159

Troop 161 – Carlisle / Central PA News

Blue Ridge DSA Mini Camp 2012. Save the Date! More details to follow, but we now have finalized the dates and location for the Dog Scout Mini Camp that Troop 161 will be hosting next year! Exciting!

Dates: August 16-19, 2012 (with arrival and welcome the evening of the 15th)

Location: Western Maryland 4H Education Center, Mt Lake Park, MD (in the western panhandle of Maryland, just south of PA)

Activities: We're still mapping out the schedule, but we plan to include Treibball, SAR Directional Control, and Flyball as well as a sampling of obedience, shaping, trails, and water activities.

We'll post further details to the website, talk list and DSA Facebook page when we're ready to begin registration. If you have any questions in the meantime, feel free to email me at ann@withun.com.

Ann Withun, Troop 161 - Carlisle / Central PA

Troop 177 – Indianapolis, Indiana

Troop #177 members participated in the October 29 Irvington Halloween Festival parade. The festival is a large annual event that encompasses all of October and cumulates in the parade. Highway 40, the National Road, is closed for the last day of the festival and troop members marched with others in costume. JD and Anita Dudley were dressed as a priest and a nun, while Dog Scout Sophie was a Catholic schoolgirl. Sophie had a pleated skirt, white shirt with tie and argyle socks! Dog Scouts Hallie and Zipper were in their DSA vests.

Peggy Kraus and Casey continue to work in reading therapy through the Paws and Think organization. They were featured in a local Indianapolis television news story. It can be viewed at:
<http://pawsandthink.org/2011/11/paws-to-read-program-was-featured-on-wthr/>

For the second year in a row, Troop #177 members participated in Salvation Army bell ringing. We completed three shifts during December. Although the receipts aren't all in yet, the following scouts had a good time socializing and helped raise funds: Peggy Kraus and Casey, Candy Shoaf and Boomer, Gail Wiseman and Zipper, Anita Dudley and Sophie, and Robyn Porter and Hallie.

Our Christmas party and gift exchange was held on December 10. The dogs enjoyed a "white elephant" gift exchange, swapping and "stealing" gifts from each other. Maybe it was the handlers that enjoyed that part! Two new members of Troop #177 attended the party. Candy Shoaf and her black standard poodle Boomer are new members who went on October's Ghost Tour as well as helping raise Salvation Army funds. New troop members Abbey Lakin, Adam Scott and beautiful black dog Jacks also went on October's Ghost Tour. We're thrilled to welcome three new members to our troop!

Donations for dogs and cats at the Greenfield-Hancock Animal Management organization were collected. Greenfield-Hancock was happy to receive the car load of food, toys and cleaning supplies.

Submitted by Robyn Porter, Troop #177, Indianapolis IN

Photo left: New DSA member Boomer helps raise funds for the Salvation Army



Photo left: Zipper, Sophie and Casey admire donations destined for Greenfield -Hancock County Animal Management



Right: New DSA member Abbey Lakin and Jacks

Far left: JD and Anita Dudley, along with schoolgirl Sophie



Left: Peggy Kraus and oodles of poodles!

Troop 188 - Connecticut and Rhode Island

New Dog Scout!

Star a long-time member of Troop 188 recently passed her Dog Scout Test. HUZZAH!

Badges Earned

Zora DSA has completed the requirements for her Community Service and Letterboxing 1 badges.

Lucy DSA has completed the requirements for her Community Service and Letterboxing 1 badge. Lucy also earned her Flyball Master title.

Star DSA earned her Therapy Dog International title.

Connecticut Renaissance Fair Bring Your Pet Weekend

Troop 188 had the pleasure of having a booth at the CT Renaissance Fair for the second time, this time in the Fall. Saturday was Halloween Knights, so we had jack-o-lanterns carved by members of our Troop decorating our booth. For the first time, the Fair collected pet food donations in lieu of charging entrance for pets. All of the donations collected on Saturday went to Ledyard Animal Shelter. Our local shelter! All of us and our dogs had a great time at the fair.

Zora DSA demonstrated her musical skills, as we toured the fair. She played her piano for each of the vendors. We also sat by the front entrance and Zora DSA played her piano for tips. Princess Knight Zora DSA won the Doggone costume contest for Most Complete Costume. Everyone we talked to was impressed with how she carried her sword for the entire weekend.

Lucy DSA helped at the booth by running the table. She would also shake a metal pail for tips. Sir Tartan DSA was knighted by the King. Princess Felicia DSA met the Queen. Many visitors to the Fair stopped to take photos of or even pose with our poodle-pumpkin.

Photos below, left to right: Princess Knight Zora DSA playing the piano for tips; the poodle-puggle pumpkin; Star DSA posing for the camera.



Photos below, left to right: Lucy DSA selling elk antlers; Sir Tartan DSA and Princess Felcia DSA; Princess Knight Zora DSA and Kelly Ford.



Puppy Up! Walk, 2 Million Dogs

Troop 188 raised funds to support 2 Million Dogs at the Connecticut Renaissance Fair. Zora DSA and I attended the CT Puppy Up walk and represented Troop 188. We walked one mile with all of the new friends we made that afternoon. Sheri Throop, Lucy DSA and Reuben spent a morning with Luke, Hudson and Indy talking about Dog Scouts.

Photos below, left to right: Zora DSA at the CT Puppy Up walk; Indy, Hudson, Luke Robinson, Sheri Throop, Reuben, & Lucy DSA.



Paws and CLAUS

Ledyard Animal Shelter had a holiday fundraiser in December. Dog Scout Troop 188 had a table at the event and many members of the Troop helped out, setting up, selling snacks, taking photos and cleaning up. But most importantly, everyone got to meet Santa!

Photos below, left to right: Mrs. & Mr. Claus (Cindy & Jeff Eilenberger); Lucy DSA and Santa.



A special thanks to Cindy and Jeff for all of their hard work!

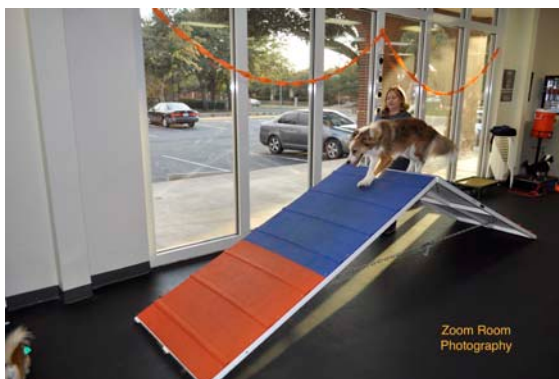
Kelly Ford, Co-Leader Dog Scout Troop 188

Troop 203 Austin, Texas



Here is some information on an event we did recently (Austin Troop #203). We had a great time.

For the 2011 Holiday Party, we went to the Zoom Room for two hours of fun and frolic. Attending: Chris with Kua, Bill and Susan with Molly, Alice and Kathy with Finn and Heidi, Janice with Bijou and Nikki, Holly with Jasper, Cecile and Pam with Gracie plus 3 Zoom Room helpers

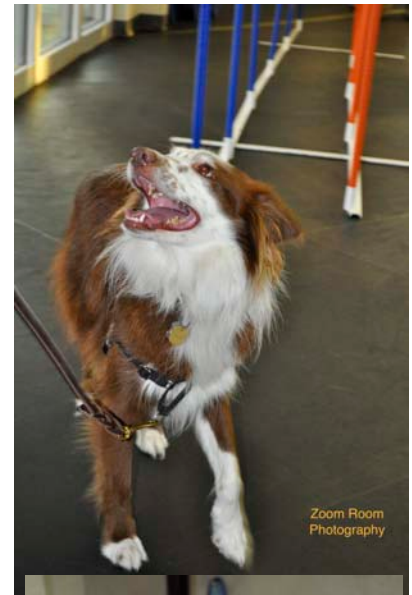


After a quick greeting and orientation to the Zoom Room, we all learned a little about a piece of equipment and then took turns using it. After two or three rounds on one, we went to the next agility activity. Things we tried: single jump, tire jump, A-frame, weave poles and dog walk.

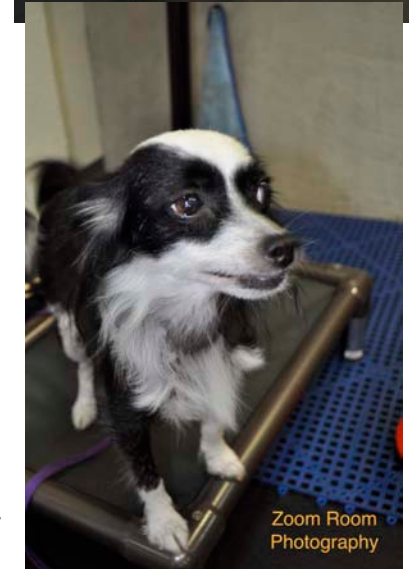


Next there was open play on the equipment where we were able to take our dogs around to whatever equipment we wanted. This was followed by FOOD served up to the dogs (and munchies supplied by us for the humans) – each dog got a small helping of hot dog and a cup of special-for-dogs, all natural, frozen yogurt.

Janice recounted stories about the Dog Scout camp in Ft.



Worth and the badges Bijou and Nikki completed. Cecile reviewed the charities she found that accepted dog food donations. We all agreed to send our donations to her favorite: Meals on Wheels. Pam and Cecile



collected the dog food and planned to deliver it the following Monday (post note ... delivered and greatly appreciated).

We ended with open, off-leash, dog play for about 15 minutes. Next meeting: mid-January

Janice Patton, Troop Leader

Troop 208 – Chicago, Illinois

Troop 208 held it 2nd annual Pet Food Drive for the Senior Golden Diners Meals beginning Nov 25 and it ran through Dec 11th. We had great press coverage this year and also some TV air time on Windy City Live in Chicago.

This year we were able to provide gift bags with food, treats and toys for more than 900 seniors who have their meals delivered to them at home. We also raised \$3400.00 in cash donations. PetsMart donated a \$2000.00 gift card to our cause on the Windy City Live show and the rest came from our troop being in the Pet Supplies Plus store. This year was a huge success for our troop and the Seniors we were able to help. The Salvation Army Golden Diners have added a new part to their home delivered meals program with the Furry Diners Club. Seniors are able to sign up to have pet food delivered with their meals year round. Troop Members Mary Schueneman, Lee Stone, Kathleen Ebbing, Donna Orlowski, Larry Somerstoffer, Vicki Martin, Sandy Rogowski all took turns spending time at the 2 Pet Supplies Plus stores, along with myself talking about our cause and collecting donations and George Lennon, owner of the Pet Supplies Plus stores in Villa Park and North Aurora added an additional 10% to the donations collected in his stores. Thank you troop 208 members who helped out this year.



The first photo is Miss Bailey and her piano at our table in the store during the food drive.



The second photo are troop members Lee Stone (wearing baseball hat), Kathleen Ebbing (Black shirt) and Mary Schueneman putting together the gift bags. The third photo is Mary Schueneman working on the cat bags.



The fourth photo is 4 of the 17 shopping carts of food that was donated. The fifth photo is Bob Miller attaching the cat gift bags to the 4# bags of food donated.



The sixth photo is one small portion of the 4# cat food bags that were donated. The last photo is Lee Stone, Kathleen Ebbing and Mary Schueneman working on the bags.

Karen Reeves, DSA Troop 208 Leader

Troop #216, Lake Havasu City AZ "HappyFeet"

Recently formed in May 2011, we are the first Troop in Arizona! Starting with folks interested in Agility, we soon expanded into activities that all could participate in. We welcome friendly dog parents of all abilities!

While walking dogs after a day competing at a large Obedience/Rally/Agility Competition at WestWorld in Scottsdale AZ, Vicki met a friendly Dog Scout member in the RV camp. This lady was traveling across country with her dogs and excitedly shared about Dog Scouts. Now, a few years later in Lake Havasu: Dog Scouts became the answer to getting friendly folks together to learn, play and have fun locally!

Since May we have been working through some DSA checklists in: Rally, Agility, Dock Diving, Kayaking, Paw Painting, Music, Manners, many levels of Water Safety/Retrieve, Shaping with Puzzles, Clicker Training, K-9 Scent Training, Frisbee and more! We also participated in Community Events: Parades, Pooch Party in the Park, and will be at the Hot Air Balloon Festival in January. Members volunteer in many other ways in the community, including at the shelter, 4-H and Community Events. We've had photos featured in the last 2 issues of Mohave Dog (Aug/Sept & Oct/Nov) and volunteer members helped with photos and story writing when needed in these and the upcoming issue Dec/Jan. <http://www.themohavedog.com/>

Generous member donations of time and equipment include: Marcia Turner/Prestige Assisted Living Facility; Dani Banks/Agility Field & Equipment "Build It & They Will Come" & Instruction; Vicki Warner/ Equipment & Instruction; Leo Labarbera, Main Equipment Man & Instruction Assistant "See It/Build It"; Instruction: Sandy Larsen; & upcoming new volunteer Instructor Dawn Horsager. Members come up with ideas: like Randy Hudnall with "Pole Dancing Dogs" and Gloria Hudnall with "Stop, Drop, Roll"

& we try it! New interests: Clean Up America, Dog Scout Badge work; Hiking/Walking Local Trails & Parks - Blind member Matt Fallara has volunteered to lead us!

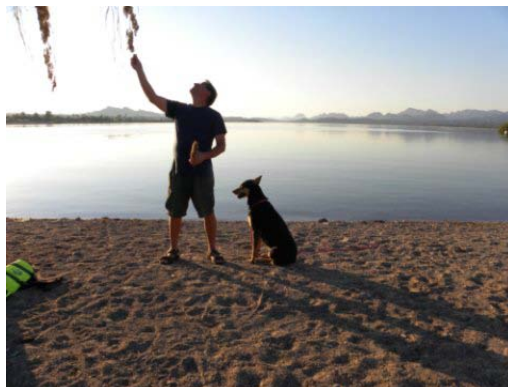
See you at the Santa Photo Op at Prestige with our own Randy Claus!
Submitted by Vicki Warner, Troop Leader #216, Lake Havasu City AZ "Happy Feet"
www.happyfeetdogsouts.com

Photo Gallery: http://www.happyfeetdogtagilitydogs.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=6&Itemid=14



Orange Kayak: Lucy Vinsik with "Molly" & "Chico" on their 1st kayak ride.

On Beach, reaching up to Dates on Palm Tree: "Katie" and her Main Man- Leo Labarbera



Group on new Doggie Paddleboard: Matt Fallara & "Sadie"; Sandy Larsen & "Snickers"; Randy Hudnall (in back) & "Ms.Daisy"; Vicki Warner with "Calamity Jane" & "Sharkie Shooter"; Leo Labarbera & "Katie"; Bo Williams & "Shaka Zu"



Left: Dock Diving Dog: "Sadie" (Matt Fallara's dog)

Troop 217 - Southeast Michigan

Troop 217 (Southeast Michigan) has been keeping busy throughout the fall, with many fun seasonal events.

On October 29, we had a troop outing to a local cider mill to enjoy a dog-friendly corn maze. The group had a fun time walking through the maze, then enjoyed the complimentary cider and donuts afterwards. Julie and Shelby, Angela and Cadence, Lowell and Tristan, Melissa and Drizzle, Roberta & John with Gypsy, Sprite, and Mouse, Elizabeth and Emma, and new members Catherine and Bob with Liberty and Leela all attended the corn maze. Afterwards, most of us proceeded to a nearby state park to hike with the dogs for an hour.



At the Cider Mill. L to R (Standing): Drizzle, Melissa, John, Lowell, Shelby, Julie, Angela, Elizabeth, Emma. (Seated): Gypsy, Sprite, Roberta, Mouse, Catherine, Liberty, Bob, Leela.



Melissa and Drizzle at the Corn Maze.

On November 5, several of the human members of our troop participated in the 22nd annual Tailwagger's Bowl fundraiser. Tailwagger's is a local non-profit that helps dedicated pet owners in emergency situations to keep their pets by providing low-cost vaccinations and sterilization, pet food assistance, and critical care funding. Their annual bowling event is their largest fundraiser, and Troop 217 was proud to send two teams to participate. Julie, Angela, Lowell, Melissa, Matt, Roberta, John, Catherine, Bob, and Carrie all got to show off their bowling skills for an afternoon, and together brought in \$210 for Tailwagger's.

Metro Park in Brighton, Michigan. The meet was being held by the Southern Michigan Orienteering Club. Orienteering involves using a topographical map and compass to navigate a course marked with a series of "control flags," and meets often have courses of various levels of difficulty that can be done competitively or for fun. Our troop was given an introductory lesson on orienteering by Lowell, then set out on the Advanced Beginner course. We took our time enjoying the nice fall hike, and completed having found all of the control points on the course. Julie and Shelby, Angela and Cadence, Lowell and Maebe, Melissa, Matt and Drizzle, Elizabeth and Emma, and Roberta, Sprite, and Mouse all attended. We were also joined by a guest and her young dog who may be prospective new troop members.



Julie and Shelby orienteering.



Cadence continued to work on his Utility Pack Dog title at the O-Meet.

On December 3, we celebrated the holidays at Celebrity Pets in Northville, Michigan. A dozen troop members and dogs attended for a potluck lunch, socializing, games, and craft-making. The food and company were great! Members got to make a fleece tug toy for their dogs, and everyone played a "my dog can do that" type game. Everyone would draw a card with a different trick or behavior, and had one minute to try to successfully complete that challenge with

their dog. Shelby impressed everyone by walking backwards on her hind legs, and Maia also wow-ed us all by retrieving an object and dropping it through Martha's arms. Afterwards, the dogs got to participate in a peanut-butter licking contest, and Maebe was the first dog to clean her spoon, with Duncan close behind.



Sprite and Maebe at the holiday party.



Duncan waiting patiently for the games to begin.



Melissa visiting with Maia and Shelby.

On December 11, our troop took several shifts bell-ringing for the Salvation Army. We rang for five hours outside of the Walmart in Canton, Michigan, and brought in \$399.71. The dogs greeted the public and did tricks, and were quite a draw. Many shoppers paused to notice the dogs, then would reach in their pockets to add a donation to the kettle. It was a great way to bring a smile to the faces of some stressed holiday shoppers and to help give back to the community at the same time, plus the dogs all seemed to enjoy the attention. Our bell-ringers included Lowell and Maebe, Angela and Cadence, Betsy and Bert, Michelle and Sassy, Teresa and Joe, Vicki and Duncan, Melissa and Drizzle, and Diane and Landra with Annie and Odie.



Betsy and Bert, and Lowell and Maebe bell-ringing for the Salvation Army.



Sassy getting ready for her shift.



Landra, Annie, Diane, and Odie working on ringing the bell.

We have also continued with our "Clean Up America" challenge – our friendly competition to see who can collect the most bottles and cans by the end of the year. So far, Julie and Shelby are in the lead with 217 bottles/cans, and overall our troop members have cleaned up 389 returnables.

Finally, congratulations are due to members for their recent accomplishments:

- Julie and Shelby for earning the PhoDOGraphy badge.
- Angela and Cadence for earning the Therapy Dog badge and the Manners badge.
- Lowell and Maebe for earning the Therapy Dog badge.
- Martha and Maia for earning their Therapy Dog International certification.

Although the winter months are upon us, our troop still has plenty of activities ahead. We will kick off the new year with a troop planning meeting on January 8, will test new Dog Scouts on January 14, and are planning another craft day, hike, and Art of Shaping training day in February. For more information on any of our troop's events, contact Julie Benson (bensonjulie@earthlink.net) or Angela Schmorow-Zuckerman (reddogblues@gmail.com). Check out our troop's website at: <http://dsatroop217.comule.com/index.html>

Cadet Scout Drizzle Perez was entered in the 96.3 WDVD Haunted Paws Halloween costume contest. He was one of 155 contestants. Thanks to many voters, he not only made the Top 10, but the Top 3! We were invited to come down to the radio station to be on the air live with the morning show hosts, Blaine & Allyson, Halloween morning. Photos were taken with the morning show hosts. Drizzle, dressed as the Dread Pirate Drizzle, was the second runner up (3rd place). First runner up (second place) was the cat Alex dressed as a pumpkin. First place went to the pig, Squirtle, dressed as a piggy bank. Drizzle won \$250 to Party City and \$250 to PetSmart.

Thanks to all who voted for him.

Melissa Perez
Michigan Humane Society
www.michiganhumane.org
Dog Scouts of America www.dogscouts.org
DSA Troop 217
<http://dsatroop217.comule.com/index.html>





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CONTACT FOR DOG DAYS:

Martha Thierry puppiesarelove@yahoo.com

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Lonnie Olson dogscoutcamp@gmail.com

Rainbow Bridge
DSA Calvin Kuceyeski



I just lost my Calvin to a very aggressive cancer. He was just shy of four years old and I miss him terribly already. He was very active as a Canine Good Citizen, Therapy Dog, and Dog Scout. He participated in many local programs, and his favorite days were at RUFF Readers and Pages for Paws, where he got to listen to kids reading stories. He was a great agility competitor and had recently lead the debut performance of the Marching Mutts Drill Team. He touched many lives (including my own) and was a once in a lifetime fellow. He will be missed..

Wendy Kuceyeski
Columbus Dog Scouts

In Closing....A Dog's Rules for Christmas

1. Be especially patient with your humans during this time. They may appear to be more stressed-out than usual and they will appreciate long comforting dog leans.
2. They may come home with large bags of things they call gifts. Do not assume that all the gifts are yours.
3. Be tolerant if your humans put decorations on you. They seem to get some special kind of pleasure out of seeing how you look with fake antlers.
4. They may bring a large tree into the house and set it up in a prominent place and cover it with lights and decorations. Bizarre as this may seem to you, it is an important ritual for your humans, so there are some things you need to know:
 - a. Don't pee on the tree
 - b. Don't drink water in the container that holds the tree
 - c. Mind your tail when you are near the tree
 - d. If there are packages under the tree, even ones that smell interesting or that have your name on them, don't rip them open
 - e. Don't chew on the cord that runs from the funny-looking hole in the wall to the tree
5. Your humans may occasionally invite lots of strangers to come visit during this season. These parties can be lots of fun, but they also call for some discretion on your part:
 - a. Not all strangers appreciate kisses and leans
 - b. Don't eat off the buffet table
 - c. Beg for goodies subtly
 - d. Be pleasant, even if unknowing strangers sit on your sofa
 - e. Don't drink out of glasses that are left within your reach
6. Likewise, your humans may take you visiting. Here your manners will also be important:
 - a. Observe all the rules in #4 for trees that may be in other people's houses. (4a is particularly important)
 - b. Respect the territory of other animals that may live in the house
 - c. Tolerate children
 - d. Turn on your charm big time
7. A big man with a white beard and a very loud laugh may emerge from your fireplace in the middle of the night.

DON'T BITE HIM!!

Happy Holidays!!!!

