



The Dog Scout Scoop

(little bits of news we've picked up)

March/April 2012

PUBLISHED FOR DSA'S RESPONSIBLE, DOG-LOVING MEMBERS AND FOR THE
FRIENDS OF DOGS EVERYWHERE Dog Scouts of America PO Box 158, Harrison, OH 45030

Volume 16, Issue 2

Listing of troops on the website

As the number of troops has grown and spread across the U.S., the job of keeping track of which troops are active and which have dissolved has become more difficult. So, we have developed a way to be sure that the troops listed on the website are only those that are meeting the minimum requirements to maintain "active troop" status (at least 3 DSA members and at least 4 activities per year). Each troop is required to submit an end of the year report to DSA (either the abbreviated "short form" or the full Recognition Program report) along with the addendum. These reports allow DSA to track various statistics as well as making sure that the troops listed are offering activities to their communities. Any troops that did not submit one or the other report and the addendum are assumed to be inactive and have been removed from the website. If that is in error, please contact Chris Puls (dogScouts@hotmail.com) and submit the short form and addendum to be re-listed as an active troop. For "Future Troops" to be listed, the troop leader needs to have submitted the written troop leader test within the past year (or re-submit the updated version) and the names of at least 3 DSA members that are participating in their troop. If I accidentally removed a qualified "future troop", please let me know at (dogScouts@hotmail.com). Future troops have 1 year from the date they submit the written test to get the Dog Scout title on their dog to get a troop number issued. For more information on the updates made to the troop program, view the first several pages of the Troop Leader Guidebook (item #2) on this page:

http://www.dogscouts.org/Start_a_troop.html **Chris Puls, President**

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Please Respect Newsletter Deadlines!!!

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

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

Bring a Friend in April!

In April Dog Scouts is promoting a “bring a friend” event. We are ultimately trying to help troops obtain new membership and maybe even help those without a troop find some new friends with the possibility of starting a new troop.

To add incentive to this event, DSA will be giving out something to the troops who organize the events and something to the member who brings a new friend to the event that joins the Dog Scouts.

We have troops in the past hold an Easter egg hunt, a game day, or anything that would give a possible new member a taste of what DSA is all about.

Brenda Katz, Membership Committee

Love our organization? Help lead it!

- Who decides the policies of the Dog Scouts of America?
- Who fosters the creation of new Merit Badges?
- Who defends the organization against imitators?
- Who makes sure that your donations are put to good use?
- Who plans for the future to make sure that the Dog Scouts of America is around for a very long time?

You do!

If you are selected to join the Board of Directors you can do all this and more. We are currently looking for folks just like you to join the board. You must love what Dog Scouts of America stands for and have the time, skills, and dedication to keep the organization healthy and strong.

The following four committee chair positions are now available:

- Finance
- Membership
- Marketing/Special Events
- Fundraising

If you have interest/experience in any of the above areas or further questions, please contact Lowell Schmorow-Zuckerman (threek9s@gmail.com), Board Chairman, and he will send you an electronic information packet that includes detailed position descriptions and application instructions. Make sure you let him know which position interests you.

We will be accepting an application through the end of March, so now is the time to act. We look forward to hearing from you!

Regards,

Lowell Schmorow-Zuckerman, on behalf of the Dog Scouts of America Board of Directors

Troop Recognition Program

Dog Scouts of America would like to congratulate the following active troops for meeting the requirements of the Troop Recognition Program. This program tracks multiple activities and measures the troop's activity and level of growth over the past year. Points are adjusted based on the number of members so that small active troops can reach the top levels too. Troops getting 300+ points are the "Top Dogs" and the most active. Troops getting 201-299 points are "Treasure Troops" and troops earning 100-199 are "Torch Troops". Many thanks to these troops and their members for hosting and participating in many activities that embody the Dog Scout way and show the public the joys of having well mannered dogs.

<i>Troop #</i>	<i>ST</i>	<i>Points</i>	<i>Level</i>	<i># of Members</i>
119	TX	1453	Top Dog	77
159	ME	828	Top Dog	6
216	AZ	700	Top Dog	25
217	MI	507	Top Dog	18
177	IN	456	Top Dog	22
150	AR	369	Top Dog	4
208	IL	334	Top Dog	26
211	MA	315	Top Dog	34
161	PA	305	Top Dog	32
188	CT	303	Top Dog	17
157	FL	213	Treasure	54
207	OH	207	Treasure	31
206	CA	148	Torch	11
183	FL	135	Torch	5
166	OH	68		7

Zombie Detection Dog Training Academy Inaugural Class in St. Helen, MI
(Second annual All Troop Retreat)

The Department of Zombie Management (DZM) has granted the Dog Scouts of America Troop 217 the right to host a Department certified Zombie Detection Dog Training Academy (ZDDTA) at the Dog Scout camp in St. Helen, MI October 27-28th, 2012, with an optional craft night and bonfire on October 26th.

For the first time ever, civilian dog/handler teams will learn the following core skills that have been found essential for the successful Zombie Detection Team (K9-ZDT):

- Zombie Detection
- In Search Communication
- Zombie Avoidance
- Physical Agility
- K9 Care
- First Aid
- Zombie Containment

These core skills will prepare dog/handler teams for the DSA, K9-ZDT designation which is the gold standard of Zombie Detection Dog certification and which qualifies the team to respond to zombie emergencies nationwide and around the world.

Participants will also have the option of earning 3 merit badges: K-9 Fitness, Pet Care, and First aid.

The weekend will end with a simulated zombie hunt in which participants will have a chance to use what they have learned to earn a K9-ZDT title. Three levels of title will be offered and top ranking teams will earn additional recognition.

Details

What: Zombie Detection Dog Training Academy

Where: Dog Scout Camp, St. Helen, MI

When: 8AM October 27th through 2PM October 28th 2012 (optional craft night/bonfire on October 26th)

Why: To earn a K9-ZDT title, select merit badges, and contribute to the war on zombies.

Cost: There is a \$25 deposit to register, which will be applied to your camp tab at checkout from the retreat. Retreat deposits should be made out to DSA and can be mailed to Julie Benson at 30911 Jasper Ridge, Novi MI 48377. Please include with your deposit your full name, dog's name(s), troop #, lodging preference, and most importantly your email address. Note that badges/t-shirts/store items incur an additional cost.

More information:

For up to date event information, please point your browser to: <http://zombiedetectiondogs.blogspot.com/>
Or scan the QR code on your right

Questions: Contact Julie Benson (bensonjulie@earthlink.net)



Mikey Diaries

12/23/11 - I introduced Mikey to the “spinout” exercise. He did it a half dozen times to the right only. He was really catching on. He knew a treat was at the end, for some reason (it’s possibly natural for a horse to want to “unwrap” when they get the rope around their legs—untangling is its own reward)

Also worked on desensitization to ropes tangled on face, caught on ears, thrown over head, etc. He has a little problem when you raise your hands suddenly, but he was getting used to it. I’m supposed to keep pressing him until he realizes that the silly ropes aren’t going to hurt him. The ropes themselves really weren’t a problem.

Tried the bridle on Mikey. The blinders were in the wrong place and I adjusted for his larger size. He was very good, and still for this (I did it while he was wearing it). Then, I pressed my luck, and asked him to move while wearing the blinders. He was a little cautious, because he was in a small enclosed area with electric wire around the perimeter, and without his peripheral vision, probably was concerned that he would hit the wire. I would think that’s a natural reaction for the first time wearing blinders. He trusted me, though, and didn’t panic. I only asked for a few steps.

Tried the harness on Mikey. Wow, there’s a lot of straps to remember how it goes on... I downloaded a working harness diagram from the internet, to help me if I get it all taken apart, and can’t get it back together. I didn’t put the horse collar and harness on him... just the basic harness parts. He was very accepting of this, as it probably seemed like a much lighter version of a saddle. I had to adjust most of the straps, and he did a very nice “stand” while I did this. I had him take a few steps, and he was okay with it, but since it wasn’t strapped on, I didn’t want to push my luck and have it fall off and startle him. I didn’t put the crupper under his tail. He did so well, I may attach more parts next time.

I made the mistake of worming Mikey part way through all of this. Afterwards, when I offered him a treat, he just curled his nose, because he couldn’t get the icky taste out of his mouth. So I couldn’t use treats as a reinforcer. He seemed to enjoy exploring the box with the tack in it, and he was taking everything all in. I wish I had taken my camera out and gotten pictures of all of this. I’ll make sure to next time.

I also let him into the barn. If it’s frigid in the winter, I can put him in there for his farrier trims. It will keep all of us warmer, and the farrier can get a better idea of the trim he’s giving on the flat concrete surface. Mikey was unsure at first, but then followed me right into the barn—right through the passage door.

I investigated the dog lot out back. Now that there are no longer Ed’s dogs there, I think it will make a great training area. It is surrounded by a berm with a fence, and I’m thinking about separating off a small area to use as a round pen. It’s large enough that Mikey can take his first steps pulling the cart in there. If he freaks out, he can’t run himself ragged trying to get free of it.

12/26/11 - It was a nice day out, so while I was waiting for the water trough to fill up, I got out the pole I will be using for poling. I dragged it, waived it, bounced it, dropped it, tapped it on stuff, wobbled it, carried it, and poked it at them from a distance (of a few feet). I’m doing Draco, too, because when I got out something as commonly seen as an umbrella, he showed some discomfort with it. I popped the umbrella, swung it, twirled it, juggled it (spun it in the air and caught it again), and set it on the ground. They both seemed bored with the whole thing, but when I put it over my head, as in actual use, Draco didn’t recognize me, and backed off for a moment. I stayed at least 10 feet back with my antics, and when they showed the least sign of interest or bravery toward the object, I backed off.

12/29-12/31/11 - Friend Patty Drier came up from Grand Rapids to help with the training of Mikey. Patty was in horse driving for many years, and some may recall that several years ago she proposed the “carriage dog” badge, involving the horse, cart and dog. Patty was an enormous help, and we got a lot done with Mikey. We did some sacking out (see photo of him wearing a blanket on his head), we practiced the spin-out, we had him try on his tack and walk around, and rubbed him down with the pole, or “poling.” She even showed me some new exercises to help Mikey with ground manners and under saddle. We took a ride on New Year’s Day in the falling snow, and the horses were subjected to breaking through the ice (neither of them panicked). The day after my surgery, we pulled in the driveway and the horses were loose!—A deer knocked the wire down. This is when it’s valuable to have an experienced horsewoman around. She marched straight to their pen, and they followed her like baby ducklings (trudging through deep snow).

I’ve been watching a lot of videos on You tube of people breaking their horse to a cart. My general impression is that they move too fast and don’t take other variables into consideration (why would you start a horse with him and the cart aimed at a busy highway?—even if there was a chain link fence separating you from the actual cars that are screaming past). I’m trying to do everything slowly and by the book, even if Mikey does seem like the kind of horse that will just accept anything being done to him.

One photo is of Mikey trying on his new light carting harness. I was alone, and couldn’t seem to be able to step very far away from him without him wanting to follow me, so it’s a little blurry. Note to self: I need to get a quieter horse-treat bag. By the time I get a treat ready and click, he’s already coming over from the sound of the treat bag rustling.

If anyone wants to help in the training of Mikey, come on up! I will need assistants to hold his head when someone first walks behind him to ground drive him, among other things.

Goal:	Begun	Acceptance	W/Movement	Bit	New Locations	Distractions	Completed
Bridge the click	☺						
Desensitize to ropes/reins	☺	☺		Without With			
Unwrap (spinout)	☺ to rt & lft	☺		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							
Distraction desensitization	Um- brella ☺	Sacking ☺					



Photos: Patty Drier helps with sacking out Mikey;

Mikey Meets the Cart;



Mikey with Cart



Mikey wears the light harness.

Troop News **Troop 119, North Texas**

The excitement for Troop 119 continues as usual! As many of you know, on the first weekend of November we celebrated our 8th Texas Mini-Camp!! But as our friend Paul Harvey says, "here's the rest of the story". Shortly after our mini-camp ended Chris Puls was contacted by Animal Planet about a new series that they are starting and they wanted to get some footage of troops in action. Once we made contact with the Animal Planet producer, the filming changed from filming a troop meeting to recreating our entire camp! With only about two weeks to throw things together (right before Christmas no less!), it was a challenge to organize the troop, arrange to re-set up camp and coordinate the volunteers, but the troop came through with flying colors yet again. About 35 of us spent a full 12-hour day hiking, painting, playing in the band, doing agility, going through the Dog Scout test, etc. We want to extend a special thanks to all of the troop volunteers that came out for the day and helped set up/take down/provide "talent" and all the many other things that were required to make the day a success. We also want to thank our YMCA Camp Carter hosts who were so gracious in allowing us to come out and monopolize the site for the day. Be on the lookout this year for an



announcement of when the show ("Must Love Dogs") will air. You may see a familiar face or two! Photo above right: Quinn, Donna and Chris pose for the camera Right: Victoria runs show host, Chris Hill, through agility course



Last year we decided to have a "Troop Poop Challenge" to clean up local parks and recreation areas. It was such a huge success (the troop collected 1,482 piles of stray poop!) that we decided to issue the challenge again this year. We have challenged each of our members is to collect 50 piles of stray poop from public places by the end of June. We encourage other troops to join the challenge as well! Photo left: Quinn completes his Troop Poop Challenge.



Bear with us for a moment as we wax nostalgic, but this year will mark the TEN year anniversary of Troop 119 "The Lone Star Paw Squad". In April of 2002, we held our first troop meeting with 100% troop attendance (three of us!) and ten years later we have seen over 200 members join DSA through our troop! We want to say a great, big thanks to all our wonderful troop members through the years who have helped grow DSA in the great state of Texas!!

Mart & Cindy Ratliff, Troop 119, North Texas

Troop 129 – South Miami Dade, Florida



Troop 129 is getting back on it's feet. The New Members Meeting on November 20th brought us FOUR new members !!! Photo left - Anouk and Borgoe, Ashley Lambert and Abbey, Jennifer Dietrich and Oso, Doreen Kennedy / Marti Lafaye and Daisy, Dawn Orfas and Monty (absent) and Clark Shimeall and Katu. (photographer: Anouk Boon)



Troop 129 had a "Without Family" member Christmas dinner. Anouk Boon (Troop 129's troop leader) with Borgoe and Fluffy (guest); Doreen Kennedy / Marti Lafaye (hosts) and Daisy; Jennifer Dietrich / Mark and Oso and their Service Dog in training, they are puppy raisers. All dogs got along and had a blast. Playing for several hours. We had a great Turkey dinner. I hope we'll get more active in 2012. The new members are eager to work on their Dog Scout badges and have fun with their dogs.



Photo Far Left: Dog Pack and Troop with Doreen, Mark, Jennifer and Marti
Photographer: Anouk Boon

Photo Near Left: Anouk with Borgoe and Fluffy
Photographer: Marti Lafaye

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

Downeast Dog Scouts Celebrate the Birthday of Dr. Seuss



The Downeast Dog Scouts encourage children to read to their dogs on March 2nd in celebration of Dr Seuss's birthday. Dogs are great listeners! Their presence creates an inviting and motivating environment that is relaxed, comfortable, nonjudgmental, empowering and fun! The relationship between children and dogs is magical when children snuggle with a dog to read their favorite books. Photo left: Timber and Cirra celebrate Dr. Seuss.

Photo right: Bri & Gracie

The National Education Association's Read Across America is an

annual reading motivation and awareness program. Read Across America calls for every child in every community to celebrate reading on March 2, the birthday of beloved children's author Dr. Seuss. All across the country, thousands of schools, libraries, and community centers participate by bringing together kids, teens, and books, and you can too!

Motivating children to read is an important factor in student achievement and creating lifelong successful readers. Research has shown that children who are motivated and spend more time reading do better in school.



The theme is green for a very special 2012 Read Across America celebration. The National Education Association's Read Across America 2012 campaign will showcase the Lorax book as well as NBC/Universal's **The Lorax**. First published in 1971, the beloved tale "The Lorax" chronicles the plight of the environment and the Lorax, an advocate who "speaks for the trees" against the greedy Once-ler. The story details the decline of the Truffula forest, the Swommee-Swans song, the Humming-Fish hummed, and the Brown Bar-ba-loots as the huge Thneed-making business of the Once-ler grows. As whimsical as all Dr. Seuss tales, "The Lorax" contains key messages regarding the destructive nature of deforestation yet highlights the positive roles that every individual can play in the fight against destructive forces. Photo right – Raya retrieves.

Since 2008, three Downeast Dog Scouts Troop members and their listening dogs have provided 1,227 hours of community service listening to children read at local libraries and schools. Children Reading to Dogs Programs increase children's reading skills, confidence and self esteem. Children that have special canine relationships develop empathy for dogs and others. The reading sessions create a love of reading and lay the foundation for a lifetime of learning.

Downeast Dog Scouts Sponsor Idita-Read Teams

The Downeast Dog Scouts are sponsoring Idita-Read Teams this year at the Blue Hill Library and the Tremont School. The Idita-Read is a reading incentive event for school age readers. Team Coordinator at the Tremont School, Librarian Crystal Dow, is organizing the student body into four Idita-Read teams. At the Blue Hill Library, Youth Services Librarian Pat Horton is the Idita-Read Team Coordinator. The Downeast Dog Scouts troop dogs are serving as Team Mascots, encouraging their reading teams along the way!



Mirroring [Alaska's biggest annual sled dog race](#), the Idita-Readers rely on reading minutes to travel the distance along the Iditarod trail from Anchorage to Nome. Participants can read anything they desire to read and then will log their reading minutes. One minute of reading equals one mile on the [Iditarod](#) trail. Based on the 2012 Race Schedule, readers can take up to 55 days to complete the race, March 3rd - April 20th.

The Idita-Read total reading goal is 1,112 minutes. This equates to a reading goal of about 141 minutes a week with a minimum daily reading goal of about 20 minutes. **Educators will provide books and resources encouraging the readers to learn more about the Iditarod and mushing, geography, mapping, climate, science and technology, social studies and art.** Each participant will **track their trail progress on maps with checkpoints and learn along the way.**

Downeast Dog Scouts Troop 159 is an affiliate of the Dog Scouts of America in Hancock County, Maine that promotes responsible dog ownership, bringing people and dogs together to learn, socialize and help in the community. Reading is the cornerstone of all learning and many of the dogs in the troop are Reading Education Assistance Dogs. The Idita-Read is a fantastic project for a group that loves dogs, the outdoors and the promotion of positive canine relationships through education and reading with children.

College of the Atlantic early childhood education class enjoy a visit from Dog Scout, Jillian and Pamela Bourque

Pamela Bourque, RN and her canine Jillian were guest speakers at an early childhood education class at the College of the Atlantic in Bar Harbor, Maine. The presentation was about Raising Readers, a Maine reading initiative created and funded by the Libra Foundation, and about Reading Education Assistance Dogs. Pam is the coordinator for Raising Readers at Mount Desert Island Hospital and now sits on the book selection committee, largely because of her years of reading with children with her three Labrador Retrievers. The focus of the discussion was "education beyond the classroom - how our community can support our teachers and children". The presentation was well received and it didn't hurt having a mellow, gentle yellow Labrador schmoozing with all the students. The 2010 Downeast Dog Scout's "Island Dog" Creative Writing Project was used as another example showing community support of the education of our children. The class professor, Sioban Ryan, asked Pam to speak after Siobhan and her infant son had their first READ experience with Pam and the Downeast Dog Scouts on Swan's Island, Maine. Jillian is a registered therapy dog with Therapy Dogs Incorporated and Reading Education Assistance Dogs. She has earned her AKC Canine Good Citizen certificate and DSA title.

Photo right: Jillian - Early Childhood Education Class - College of the Atlantic, Bar Harbor, Maine



Dog Scouts Bri and Gracie at the Blue Hill Library - Using dogs to improve children's reading skills



Dog Scouts Bri and Gracie, Italian Greyhounds, visit the Blue Hill Public Library each Tuesday afternoon for their own kind of story time. They are Reader dogs, trained as "Reading Education Assistance Dogs," and they are an integral part of a national program designed to improve children's reading and communication skills. The dogs are registered therapy animals and are trained to be good listeners. In addition to helping children read more fluently, the program helps children overcome any fear of dogs and reading they may have.

Under the care of their owner Pier Carros of Ellsworth they follow the paw prints leading from the library's door into a corner of the children's room, and curl up on their blankets. Children follow them in to read to the dogs as part of the library's reader dog program. Students from the Blue Hill Consolidated School, the Bay School and home schoolers regularly come to the library to read to Bri and Gracie. The library provides the space and spreads the word on the

program to children and parents. Carros provides the dogs and more. Participation is limited to six children, six years old and over, who are asked to register beforehand. Photo above left: Pier Carros and Gracie at the Blue Hill Library - Blue Hill, Maine

Children receive books picked out especially for them in May, when the program breaks until resuming in October. And after each Tuesday session, stickers are handed out to the children, and dog treats to Bri and Gracie.

"I hear a lot of laughs. Barking, sometimes, too," says Pat Horton, youth services librarian. "Pier is really good at helping the kids along," said Horton. "She's really non-judgmental and very good with positive feedback."

Troop 171 – Harrisburg, Pennsylvania

Can it really have been THIS long since **Troop 171** sent a newsletter submission? **The Redfern Ramblers** have not gone on hiatus or on a permanent vacation from our home base in Harrisburg, PA. The person who writes our newsletter submissions has just had a lot of other personal business that has diverted her attention from sending regular updates. Her sister just got married on December 3, so there was a year's worth of wedding planning to help with. Now that the big day went off without a hitch, we can get back to business as usual. Here is a brief look at what we have been up to the last several months.

First, we have welcomed some new members to our troop. They include a **Pit Bull mix named Lucy** and a **French mastiff named Rango**. We also have a new Dog Scout in our midst: **DSA Rex** and his proud mom **Alice Parry**. At age 10, Rex has the distinction of being our newest, oldest Dog Scout. Congratulations! We also have a few other dogs who are very close to completing the requirements for their own Dog Scout badges.

One of our most recent activities was another successful bell ringing outing in support of our local Salvation Army just before Christmas. We don't yet have a final tally on how much we were able to collect in our kettle, but when the number comes in we will be glad to share the total. Regardless of how much we raised to help those less fortunate in our community, we can certainly say that our eight participating Scouts and their people had great fun "working like dogs" to help a worthy cause. We look forward to doing it again this Christmas!

In late January, we introduced some more of our furry friends to the Art of Shaping. By the end of our session, we had three budding "Pupcassos" (pictured below). All of them did well enough to meet the requirements for this badge. Last but not least, our troop recently decided to form a Steering Committee to plan activities for our group. We have some fun activities to come in the months ahead. These include an introduction to Treibball in February, an introduction to agility and an Agility Day in April, and hopefully a session on dog massage in March. Can you tell we are looking forward to spring? We hope you are too! Enjoy!

~Paula Marinak



Our newest Scout, Rex, begins his first masterpiece with his mom's assistance.



Future Scout Zeke perfects his painting stroke while his cheering section watches.



Future Scout Rango contemplates adding more color to his work, while his mom looks on.

Troop 177 – Indianapolis, Indiana

Troop #177 members participated in a hike at Ft. Harrison State Park on Monday, January 16. Peggy Kraus and Casey and Robyn Porter with Hallie and foster dog Morgan joined other Indianapolis area dog owners on a cold morning. The trail had a fresh layer of snow, and was icy in a few areas but was fun for all.

Robyn Porter and Hallie continue with therapy work through the Paws and Think organization. They visit the Altenheim Retirement facility once a month and work with grieving children at Brooke's Place every other month. They recently completed the DSA Therapy badge requirements and added this new badge to Hallie's vest!

The eyes of the world turned to the Midwest as Indianapolis hosted Super Bowl XLVI in early February. The Super Bowl village attracted thousands of fans to downtown Indianapolis the week prior to the big game! Peggy Kraus and Casey, new troop member Michelle Goldner and Banjo, Abbey Laken with Adam Scott and Jacks, and Robyn Porter and Hallie joined the fun on Sunday, January 29. It was a windy, chilly day as we observed the zipline, games, and bands and took advantage of photo opportunities at every turn. It was a great chance for the dogs to experience big crowds as well as talk about Dog Scouts!

The troop hosted a Letterbox workshop on Saturday, February 11. Troop members received a walkthrough of the Atlas Quest web site and orientation on Letterboxing. Then each attendee carved a stamp from a design they brought. Troop members are looking forward to warmer weather for Letterbox outings!

Submitted by **Robyn Porter, Troop #177, Indianapolis IN**



Beautiful Ft. Harrison
and Hallie



Fall Creek at beautiful Ft. Harrison



Peggy Kraus with Casey, Morgan



Above: Abbey Laken, Adam Scott and Jacks at
Super Bowl Village
Near Right: Casey & Hallie at Super Bowl Village
Far Right: Robyn & Hallie in front of giant graphics





Michelle Goldner & Banjo with Abbey Laken and Jacks



Peggy Kraus with Casey at Super Bowl Village



Letterbox workshop attendees Anita Dudley, Abbey Laken, Michelle Goldner and Candy Shoaf

Troop #216, Lake Havasu City AZ "HappyFeet"

Our Troop has been trottin' around the past couple months with new Activities. Members have been very fortunate to have an indoor facility to meet in once a week for Music, Puzzles, Scent Training! We've also done easy obstacles and work on Obedience exercises on the Dog Scout checklist for prospective future Dog Scout Badge earners!

The weather has been great for our new Hiking/Walking program! We were motivated (not quietly either!) into Hiking/Walking by Blind member, Matt Fallara, who insisted (demanded?) he wanted out on the local Trails to exercise his Cadet Scout, Sadie (Sadie is Deaf). Big "Thanks" to Matt for "kicking" us into gear!

Not only are we learning local Trails, a number of Scout Cadets started work on the PackDog Title. Parents signed up their Cadets for the Idita-Walk program we heard about through DSA! Idita-Walkers include: Lucky & Shadow Banks, Chloe Kopecky, Dakota Walters, & Black Bart Warner. PackDog contenders currently include: Chloe, Dakota, Black Bart & Calamity Jane.

Members Leo LaBarbera/Katie; Joe LaBarbera/Janie & Pepper & Sami; Matt/Sadie; Vicki/Bart continue playing Frisbee with other local Dog Scouts through Hot Dogs.

Agility has continued meeting weekly, with Isis Antos going on to compete with her Mom, Elizabeth in AKC competition. We're cheering them on! Welcome new volunteer Instructors in Agility: Dawn Horsager with Novice and On-going; and Elizabeth Antos with Beginners! Our Pre-Agility/Rally with Obstacles is starting up soon again outside, with better weather!

Members Dani Banks, Elizabeth, Vicki, Laura Rosensweet & Dawn volunteer assistance in various local Community Dog Obedience Training Classes, 4-H and local Shelter. All Troop Members actively "doo" on-going community clean-up Poop Patrol!

Submitted by Vicki Warner, Troop Leader #216, Lake Havasu City AZ "HappyFeet"
www.happyfeetdogscouts.com

Photo Gallery:

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



HappyFeet Dog Scout Troop #216 Winter 2012 Lake Havasu City AZ

Members & Cadets Shown (clockwise) Elizabeth & Isis; Matt; Vicki; Chloe "finding"; Lucy & Molly; Tina & Chico; Terry; Joe & Janie; Rose; Leo, Joe & Penny; Sandy & Dakota; Dani & Lucky; Santa Randy, Marcia & Molly; Sadie, Bart & Janie (center); Ms. Daisy & Puzzles; Matt with Sadie helping the descent (between feet)

Troop 217 - Southeast Michigan

Troop 217 is excited for what 2012 will bring. 217 was officially formed in May 2011 but we were still able to pack in tons of activities, training days, camping trips, picnics, and much more in just eight months. It will be exciting to see what all we can do during a full year's time!!!



Once the craziness of the holidays were over, we managed to get together **December 27th**, when a number of troop members were enjoying time off from work. We met at Lakeshore Park in Walled Lake for a nice hike just over 2 miles. Although not too cold, a light snow was falling that morning, which added to the atmosphere and surroundings of the beautiful park. Photo left: Shelby braving the cold

January 8th marked our first of the year troop meeting, held at Celebrity Pets Co. in downtown Northville. We discussed what we all liked in 2011 and the activities/events we would like to see again this year. Elizabeth updated us on our drill team practices, Lowell suggested looking into holding a dog food/supply drive during the holidays to donate to needy families, and Catherine recommended bringing a friend in for a "doggie" massage day. Our first community fundraiser will be a can/bottle drive to help raise money to purchase canine/feline oxygen masks for local fire departments. Lots of great ideas and plans for 2012! After the troop meeting, a number of us headed up the road to Maybury State Park for an afternoon hike. The unpaved trails were pretty muddy so we stuck to the paved trail which circled around the park, approximately 1 mile in distance.



Catherine Stafford w/Leela

January 14th we held our first Dog Scout testing day of the year. Catherine & Bob with their two dogs Liberty & Leela and Melissa with Drizzle all passed with flying colors!!! Congratulations to all and thank you to our two troop scoutmasters Melissa Perez and Martha Thierry for conducting the tests.



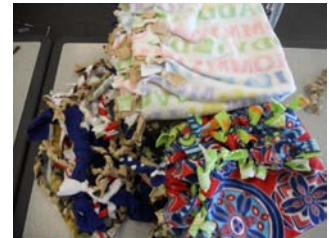
Shelby collecting donations

January 20th and 21st numerous Troop 217 members volunteered at the Metro Detroit Winter Dog Classic at the Suburban Showplace in Novi, MI. Handlers and their dogs showed off their tricks, collected donations, and distributed troop flyers to potential new DSA and Troop 217 members. Thank you to all that volunteered their time.



Diane Schuler, Melissa Perez, and Lowell & Angela Schmorrow-Zuckerman

February 4th troop members met at the Westland Michigan Humane Society for a charity craft day. Craft Supplies were donated by participating troop members and Kitty Forts, Blankets, Tug Toys, and Kitty Toys were made. All crafted items were equally donated between MHS, where Melissa Perez volunteers, and HSHV, where Angela and Lowell Schmorrow-Zuckerman volunteer their free time.



Crafted Blankets and Tug Toys

To take advantage of all the cans/bottles waiting to be returned after SuperBowl Sunday, we decided to hold a can/bottle drive Saturday, **February 11th**, in order to raise money to purchase canine/feline oxygen masks for local fire departments. Our goal is to raise enough money, approximately \$500, to purchase six mask kits which include all three mask sizes and a carrying case. Collected totals to date are **\$242** thanks to the hard work of Michelle Neu, Vickie Lomas, Melissa Perez, and Julie Benson. We are hoping to hold one more can drive this spring to reach our overall goal.



We also held a troop hike on **February 11th** at Kensington Metro Park. Five troop members, and one new recruit from the Winter Dog Classic, enjoyed a nice 2-3 mile hike through the beautiful park with a fresh 2-3 inches of snow on the ground.

February 12th we held our first official drill team practice at My Hero Dog Training in Commerce Township where Nancy VonKoehnen, a Freestyle instructor at the facility, helped with the choreography of our routine. Emma, Sassy, and Shelby all did a great job for their first practice and we were able to choreograph the entire routine. For those of you planning on attending July camp, we hope to have the routine down and ready to perform for our badge at camp this year.



Photo: Angela Schmorrow-Zuckerman, Bob Carlini, Samantha Winslow, & Melissa Perez Sassy taking a break from practice

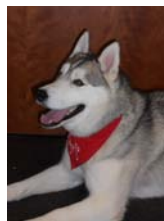
Congratulations to Liberty, Leela, and Drizzle for becoming our troop's newest Dog Scouts!!!



Liberty Stafford



Leela Stafford



Drizzle Perez

Congratulations are also in order for 217 troop members Angela Schmorrow-Zuckerman & **Cadence** for earning their **Retrieve** and **Tricks** badge, Lowell Schmorrow-Zuckerman & **Maebe** for earning their **Pack Dog** title, and Julie Benson & Shelby for earning their **Pet Therapy** badge. The possible colder months ahead won't slow us down. We have many fun and exciting activities planned in the upcoming weeks including an Art of Shaping training day, troop hike, a Rally seminar, and a training video night with a planned special performance by Julie & Shelby Benson to hopefully earn their Tricks badge. For more information on any of our troop's events, contact Julie Benson at benjonjulie@earthlink.net or Angela Schmorrow-Zuckerman at redogblues@gmail.com. You can also check us out at our troop website: <http://dsatroop217.com>.

--Submitted by **Julie Benson, Troop Leader**

Rainbow Bridge
DSA Nike Schuenemann

For those of you that don't know, Mary Schuenemann lost her Golden Retriever, Nike, just prior to the publication of this issue. She will be sharing his story and her memories in the next newsletter. I know our thoughts and prayers are with her.

In Closing...."Here in this House"

"Here in this house...

I will never know the loneliness I hear in the barks of the other dogs 'out there'.
I can sleep soundly, assured that when I wake, my world will not have changed.
I will never know hunger, or the fear of not knowing if I'll eat.
I will not shiver in the cold, or grow weary from the heat.
I will feel the sun's heat, and the rain's coolness,
and be allowed to smell all that can reach my nose.
My fur will shine, and never be dirty or matted.

Here in this house...

There will be an effort to communicate with me on my level.
I will be talked to and, even if I don't understand,
I can enjoy the warmth of the words.
I will be given a name so that I may know who I am among many.
My name will be used in joy, and I will love the sound of it!

Here in this house...

I will never be a substitute for anything I am not.
I will never be used to improve peoples' images of themselves.
I will be loved because I am who I am, not someone's idea of who I should be.
I will never suffer for someone's anger, impatience, or stupidity.
I will be taught all the things I need to know to be loved by all.
If I do not learn my lessons well,
they will look to my teacher for blame.

Here in this house...

I can trust arms that hold, hands that touch...
knowing that, no matter what they do, they do it for the good of...
If I am ill, I will be doctored. If scared, I will be calmed. If sad, I will be cheered.
No matter what I look like, I will be considered beautiful and known to be of value.
I will never be cast out because I am too old, too ill, too unruly, or not cute enough.
My life is a responsibility, and not an afterthought.
I will learn that humans can almost, sometimes, be as kind and as fair as dogs.

Here in this house... I will belong.

I will be home."

Author Julie Evans

K5Mills