



The Dog Scout Scoop

(little bits of news we've picked up)

January/February 2013

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

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Winter Outing February 15 – 18, 2013



Don't forget to register for the Winter Outing (FREE) at the Dog Scout Camp in Michigan. There is no charge to members for attending, but the normal room rates and fees apply. The cabins will be available for the outing on a first-come, first-served basis. Please call or email Lonnie (dogscoutcamp@gmail.com) (989)389-2000 to reserve your spot. There will be the usual winter fun. Provided there is snow, we'll enjoy sledding, skijoring, weight pull, snowshoeing, kick-sledding, hiking, and roasting chestnuts on an open fire. Bring all of your winter fun-time gear. We will, of course, have some stuff to let you use, if you don't have a kick-sled, snowshoes, or cross country skis. You may need to pick up a pair of cross country ski boots, though. Or, you can just be a "snow bunny" and sit inside sipping hot cocoa and making crafts. Bring your warm clothes. Layering is best. You just never know what the weather will bring up here. It's also a good idea to pack "Yak-Tracks," or some other form of shoe traction, and an electric blanket or very warm sleeping bag. Look for more information on the DSA discussion list.

Lonnie Olson

Table of Contents	
Winter Outing, Fido Frost a Thon P 1-2	Happy Holidays from Lonnie Page 2
Fall Gathering Page 3-5	Camp Improvements Pages 4-5
New Badges, Nikki Scholarship P 5	Troop News, Pages 5 – 22
Attitude of Gratitude Page 23	Rainbow Bridge Page 23-24
In Closing Page 24	

Please Respect Newsletter Deadlines!!!

Newsletter Submission – February 15th, 2013 for March/April 2013 Issue. Articles received after that date will go into the May/June 2013 issue. Please respect the deadlines. **Peggy Zweber, Editor**

DSA website is all new and improved!! Check it out! www.DogScouts.org

Is Your Membership Expired? If you don't know your DSA membership expiration date, go to: <http://dogscouts.org/join-dsa/> Under "Is Your Membership Current?" you can click on by: name, state or troop to find your membership status.

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

February Fido Frost A Thon



When: Month of February

You can pick a certain date to exercise with "Fido" or count the miles travelled (skied, snowshoed, skated, slid, careened, or tumbled) during the entire month.

Where: Anywhere!

The locations are chosen by the participants. So plan to visit your favorite exercise locations and get moving!

Who: Anyone can participate

Anyone in the world can participate in this fundraiser by getting pledges/donations and skijoring, sledding, walking, rolling, riding, etc.! You can choose to do the miles on foot, on skis, on snowshoes, behind a sled, on a bike or any other way that gets you and your dog out enjoying nature getting fit! We are assuming people will complete the miles with their dogs, but if you don't have a dog or your dog is too old, you can still participate. You can participate in memory of a favorite dog as well.

What: A fundraiser that supports DSA

This is Dog Scouts of America's camp fundraiser.

Why: Because it's fun! (And you could get a patch and warm fleece cap!)

And because it supports DSA and helps you! It helps encourage people and their dogs to get out and be active together, which increases their bond and their fitness level. People that raise at least \$50 will be sent an Official DSA frost-a-thon patch and a small, matching "2013" patch. People who raise over \$100 will also be sent a warm fleece cap. Donations to the frost-a-thon are tax deductible. The frost-a-thon proceeds also help support DSA in its efforts to repair and maintain its Michigan camp.

Some of the things the frost-a-thon funds are used for include:

- Rewire the electrical system in the lodge
- Install gutters on cabins, red house and garage
- Install a better outhouse using a composting toilet
- replace the siding on the red house/nature center
- dig a separate puppy paddler pond

How: Use the pledge form or website

DSA is partnered with 'FirstGiving' so you can collect donations through that website from your friends and family all over the world in a secure and easy way! You can even create your own, individualized fundraising page for free with your own photos and web link that you can send to friends and family so they can help you meet and exceed your personal fundraising goals. That website also keeps track of how much you have raised so you can see how close you are to your goal (if you set one) and it shows how much has been raised by all the participants so far.

<http://www.firstgiving.com/DogScouts/dog-scouts-fido-frost-a-thon-2013>. A pledge form you can print is available on the website at: <http://dogscouts.org/Fido Frost-a-thon.html> For any in-person fundraising you want to do. (You can add these donations to your firstgiving page too!) So what are you waiting for? Print that pledge form or get your fundraising page set-up, let all your friends know about it and enjoy the winter!



Happy Holidays and Happy New Year from Founder, Lonnie Olson



Greetings! I hope that everyone has a happy, healthy, and prosperous 2013! I'd like to thank everyone who helps bring you the wonderfulness of Dog Scouts of America! First, the Board of Directors—they are hardworking watchdogs for the organization and have had many things on their plate this year. Without them, we would not have a DSA! Please hug a Board Member the next time you see one. They're doing a wonderful job, lead by Chairman, Lowell Schmorrow-Zuckerman, and assisted by President, Chris Puls. Chris is another one to give a big hug the next time you see her. When you're the head of an organization, you wear many hats, and she wears them well. It's not easy being the head of *everything!* We are so lucky to have great people like this at the steering wheel of our organization.

This has been one of the happiest years of my life. I have seen the organization that I started grow to be what it is today, and finally be in a position that it can continue to grow without ME! It's a wonderful feeling, actually. As I divest myself of the few remaining jobs that I have been doing for DSA for all these years, I breathe a sigh of relief. And yet, it's not all roses, and sitting around eating bon-bons... Transferring jobs to other persons is almost as taxing as doing the jobs yourself. There is a lot of training and mentoring going on, and then keeping an eye out to make sure everything is going as it should. Sometimes manuals or job descriptions have to be written or updated to help with the transfer. Of course, there are still people sending me stuff for membership or merit badges with monotonous regularity. I spend an awfully lot of the time I should be watching TV and eating bon-bons with packaging things up and re-mailing things to the correct departments!

This is why I felt it important to express my gratitude to the members and supporters of DSA. I've been so busy with all these job transfers and other stuff on my plate suddenly, that I haven't even given Christmas cards a second thought. But I couldn't let the season go by without wishing you all the best. You are the life of this organization. Your participation, support, ideas, donations and dedication are very much appreciated. I love that you love your dogs, and want to give them the best lives possible, and help others to learn to do the same. Thinking about all of the friendships I have made through DSA warms my heart like you wouldn't believe. Thank you for being part of this organization.

I'm having a very warm and fuzzy Holiday, just thinking about this, and I'm looking forward to a very Happy New Year. I wish you all the same. Big Hugs, **Lonnie Olson, Founder DSA**



Fall Gathering Planned by Troop 101



The fall outing this year will be hosted by the “winners” of last fall’s Zombie Detection Dog Training Academy Outing. We certainly had a lot of fun, and it will be a hard act to follow. Troop 101 is already hard at work with the planning of this event. Please stay tuned to your newsletter, and keep an eye on the discussion list and the web site for more info about next year’s fun event.

We’re calling it the “Ghouls Just Wanna Have Fun Gathering.” We are planning a FUNdraising event to hopefully pay for some of the neat improvements we’re working towards here at the camp. It’s going to be hard to top the money brought in by Troop 217 for their hard work on the Zombie Retreat, but we’re going to try. On Saturday, we will have a day of fun, relaxation and pampering. We will enjoy our time with our dogs and friends, and learn Dog Massage, which I hope to have become an actual merit badge by then. We will have games and competitions, resulting in cumulative points for the troops participating. On Sunday, we’re hosting the first Ghouls Just Wanna Have Fun RUN. We’re hoping to cash in on people’s love for dressing up and acting ghoulish, with their love for fitness and their dogs. We will feature a Cani-Cross event, a 5k, 2k, and a fun walk through our Spooky Trails. This will be one of the first events that is open to the general public. On Monday, our plan is to pamper the members of troop 101 for their hard work in pulling this fundraiser off, and for winning the 2012 competition.

To add a twist to the annual all-troop event, we will make it the “losers” of the various competitions who get the privilege of hosting the 2014 event, not the winners. We saw a lot of sandbagging at this year’s event, when people weren’t doing their best because they didn’t want to get “stuck” hosting the event the next year. We want everyone to work their hardest, and get into the spirit of the games, instead of holding back. Troop 101 is honored to be hosting the 2013 Ghouls Gathering, and have already had our kick-off organizational meeting. We have a lot of dedicated, hard-working members in our troop, and I look forward to working with them. We had a great brainstorming meeting and made much progress. You’re not going to want to miss next year’s event!

The DSA Calendar has the Ghouls Gathering listed as the weekend of the 5th and 6th of October, but we may have to move it to the 12th and 13th of October, due to an Agility trial in the area (and involving some of our troop members). So, keep watching for updates. The Ghouls Gathering is open to all troops, and there is no charge to attend, except for your lodging. We usually have a silent auction to help raise enough money to pay for some of the food for the weekend, and the participants usually bring a lot of potluck items (yumm). Please contact Lonnie Olson (dogscoutcamp@gmail.com) 989-389-2000, if you’d like to attend this event. The rules are you have to have at least 3 troop members to represent your troop at the Gathering. You can bring as many as you like. See you there!

Lonnie Olson

Second Annual DSA Troop Retreat: K9 Zombie Detection Team Training Academy

On October 26-28th, DSA Troop 217 hosted the second annual troop retreat at Dog Scout Camp in St. Helen, Michigan. The theme this year was “K9 Zombie Detection Team Training Academy,” where dogs and handlers would learn skills to prepare for a “zombie apocalypse” while competing in a variety of games and activities with their troop. Over 20 people attended with their dogs, representing five troops from as far away as Virginia. Festivities began on Friday evening, as Gloria Voss and Kim Behrmann helped people make paracord bracelets and collars while viewing an assortment of zombie movies in the lodge, helping to set the tone for a weekend of zombie hunting.

Formal academy sessions started off early on Saturday morning. Teams received a basic orientation to K9 zombie detection, then started off a day filled with games. Each game was designed to help dogs practice a skill necessary to be an effective K9 Zombie Detection Team (K9-ZDT). A series of five fun games were developed to practice Zombie Avoidance (heeling), Zombie Detection (tracking), Physical Agility, Zombie Containment (retrieve), and In-Field Communication (recalls). Dogs also had the opportunity to check off on three DSA badges - Pet Care, First Aid, and K9 Fitness – as all of these were determined to be useful skills for the K9-ZDTs. The academy students proved to be eager learners, and many badges were awarded over the course of the weekend.

On Saturday evening, teams were able to relax a bit and enjoyed a Zombie Drill Team performance to Michael Jackson’s “Thriller,” which then led in to a zombie costume contest. Participants went all out with many elaborate and creative costumes, making the decision a difficult one for the judges. In the end, Lonnie Olson and Kozi were awarded Funniest costume, Brenda Katz with Roman and Justice were awarded Scariest, and Lisa Lundahl and Sophie won Most Original.

Following the contest, the group took a night hike on the Spooky Trail. Joe King did an amazing job this year of setting up and lighting the trail, and there were even a few zombie sightings, courtesy of Matt Perez. After a campfire and a good night’s sleep, the students awoke Sunday morning ready for their final test – an actual zombie hunt! Zombie remains had been scattered throughout the camp property. In order to prevent further contamination and future outbreaks, each team had to use a set of clues to locate all of their zombie parts, return to the lodge, and re-assemble their zombie. Teams were timed, and their rankings in the hunt were then added to their rankings in the previous day’s games to determine who would graduate with Highest Honors.

At the end of the weekend, Troop 101 had the honor of graduating at the top of the class, meaning that they will be the lucky hosts for the 2013 troop retreat! Troop 166 came in second place, graduating with High Honors. In addition, dogs also were able to earn individual titles based on their level of participation. Dogs who participated in any of the weekend's games earned the K9-ZDT Bronze Certification. Dogs who also earned at least one of the badges offered received Silver, and dogs who earned all three badges received Gold. We had six dogs receive this highest level title: Kozi, Dazzle, Sophie, Drizzle, Shelby, and Ivy.

Overall, it was a highly successful weekend on all counts. Everyone had a great time – handlers and dogs alike – and the event proved to be a successful fund-raiser for DSA. Between sales of K9 ZDT Training Academy logo items on our Café Press store, the auction, camp stores sales, lodging, and badges, the event brought in close to \$3,000!! We are already looking forward to 2013 retreat, and seeing what fun Troop 101 has in store for us then!

Left - Lonnie Olson won "Funniest" costume for her zombie costume.



Above - Roman and Justice Katz as the "Hounds from Hell" took "Scariest."

Above-The "Zombies" all assembled after the Zombie Hunt



Left - One of the Zombies, now caught and safely contained
 -Submitted by **Angela Schmorow-Zuckerman, Troop 217 Co-Leader and K9-ZDT Training Academy Faculty**

Camp Improvements

I'm so excited to give you an update on some of the things we have planned for the camp in the coming year. Now that we have a groundskeeper that actually cares about the success of the camp, Joe is all gung-ho about bringing business and hosting more activities here.

Cabins! First, we added 4 new log cabins to the camp in 2012. They are a big improvement over the older trailers we were renting out, and people just love them. We'd like to buy some more, but we need to get the funds to do it. We have more people that want to rent them next year than we have cabins available. If you would like to contribute to our building fund, or take out a sponsorship on a future cabin (a great deal), please contact Lonnie, the Camp Manager (dogscoutcamp@gmail.com) (989) 389-2000. The more donations and sponsors we get, the faster we can put up more cabins!

Trails! Joe has already started breaking new trails around camp. This year, he cleared out Karli's Walk, and improved the Saikou Path and Weasel's Way. He has discovered some unknown trails on the adjoining state land, and plans to connect them to the back of the DSA camp property. In addition, he will be putting up some kiosks with maps and signage around the camp (made by Gloria Voss), to help people find their way around camp, as we expand.

Welcome/Nature Center! We are going to be using the cabin up front as a Welcome and Nature Center. We will have some interesting objects provided by nature for your viewing and learning pleasure. We will also be able to use that building for smaller activities like the staff meetings, check-ins, and classes. The building will require some renovation, but should be ready for the 2013 summer camps.

Day Use... In an effort to bring more of the public to the camp, and introduce them to Dog Scouts, we hope to host a number of fun weekend learning opportunities, seminars, titling events, lure coursing, bird watching, fun runs, dog expos and anything else we can think of. We need to get the camp looking its spiffiest for this. If your troop would like to come up and complete a "Beagle Scout" project at camp, please see Camp Manager, Lonnie Olson for more information. While in MD at the Blue Ridge Mini-Camp, I got to pick their groundskeeper's brains, and he said that a lot of the cool features of their camp were funded by

groups that wanted to help out with a project for the camp, so they came in and build a wood shed or a fancy dock, or other improvements. These volunteers came from all walks of life—karate groups that had previously enjoyed using the camp, Eagle Scouts that had to complete a project to benefit a worthwhile entity for their graduation to Eagle status, members, and supporters.

Please Help! If you are able to help in any way with our projects, please contact us right away. What a wonderful way to give back to Dog Scouts of America! We will need monetary donations, equipment, and manpower to complete many of these improvements. Your support is much appreciated. Please call Lonnie to see how you can help! (989) 389-2000

Reminder to Troops that are Non-Profit Subgroups of DSA. Don't forget to submit your 2012 990-N forms. If your troop brought in less than \$25,000.00, you can submit the short, postcard form, and you can do it online. From the IRS.gov site:

e-Postcard (Form 990-N) - Electronic Filing Requirement for Small Tax-Exempt Organizations - Annual Electronic Notice: Small tax-exempt organizations (those normally with annual gross receipts up to \$25,000 (\$50,000 for tax years ending on or after December 31, 2010) may be required to file an annual electronic notice, Form 990-N, Electronic Notice (e-Postcard) for Tax-Exempt Organizations not Required To File Form 990 or 990-EZ. This filing requirement applies to tax periods beginning after December 31, 2006, and may apply to organizations that previously were not required to file returns. See [e-Postcard \(Form 990-N\)](http://www.irs.gov/efile) for more information about this requirement and a link to the filing system. Go to <http://epostcard.form990.org> to electronically file your 990-N.

SIX NEW Community Service badges!

The 6 new Community Service badges are now online! Share this info with your fellow troop members and/or participate in activities on your own to earn these new badges. All are earned with submission of a log sheet, so no video required. You can count previous Community Service you have done if you have the information needed and if it is allowed (see the "how to log activities" page and the check-off sheet for more info).

<http://dogscouts.org/badge-categories/community/> Chris Puls, President

The Nikki Zweber Memorial Scholarship

Since my dog, Nikki, died at the July camp in 2010, I have been making donations to DSA in her memory, which I intend to continue for as long as I can. DSA has changed my life, made it richer, and has made my dogs happier. I consider my time at Dog Scout Camp as a little bit of heaven on earth. Each year, I asked Lonnie Olson if a portion of this contribution could go to assist someone who doesn't have the resources to attend camp, but would be enriched by the experience and would use it to make the world around them better along with all the dogs that they have contact with. The Nikki Zweber Memorial Scholarship was established in 2012 with the help of our Founder, Lonnie Olson and the approval of the Board. The inaugural recipients were Peggy and Paul Mooney in Camp 2 of 2012. Chris Puls told me that there have been no applications for recipients for the 2013 camp year.

I submitted some criteria to the Board for the Nikki Zweber Memorial Scholarship, to financial assist a person(s) in attending camp; or, what I would expect would make that/those person(s) eligible to receive the sponsorship.

1. Resources not available for individual to afford the camp experience on their own.
2. Have made significant and positive contributions towards training and rescuing dogs.
3. Perform volunteer work related to dog activities.
4. Use only positive methods in training dogs.

So, if you have someone that you feel fits this criteria, submit an application to our DSA Board for consideration for this camp year. I'm sure it will enrich them and expand our membership. There is nothing like DSA Camp!!!

Peggy Zweber, and her family, Charly, Cate and Luke, also proud friend of an angel named Nikki

Troop #119, North Texas

As usual, Troop 119 has had a wonderfully busy fall! In October, we had our annual fall swim party. We have always been blessed with beautiful weather for our swim party, which is always the last weekend of the month, and this year was no different. The dogs really enjoyed splashing in and enjoying the day.



In November came and went the 9th annual Texas Mini-Camp. We had another great year of campers and staff and we put up some incredible numbers this year. We had record attendance this year with 52 campers and 56 dogs! We certified 7 new dog scouts and issued 112 badges during camp. We were also happy to be able to certify some folks from other troops to be able to expand the opportunities for the troops in their states.



Above – Agility at mini-camp



Art of Shaping at mini-camp



Overnight camping at mini-camp



Above – Retrieve at mini-camp



Water racing at mini-camp



Water racing at mini-camp



Left – Backpacking at mini-camp

Another great number that came out of this year's camp was 20... this is the number of DIFFERENT campers/staff who were nominated for the Mark G. Echterling Spirit Award! This number really touched us because it showed how many individuals work together to make our camp successful! We congratulate Jay Garris and Jeremy Vass who together shared in the honor of winning the Spirit Award this year.

The thing that touched us the most at this year's camp was the unbelievable generosity of this year's campers. \$150 was donated to the Granny Races, which had a couple of surprise entries this year! We had a couple of new auction items this year, too. Our camp is held at YMCA Camp Carter. Camp Carter entered two baskets into the auction this year to raise money for it's Camp Can Do, which is a camp specifically for handicapped children to be able to have a camp experience just like able-bodied children do. We are happy to announce that the two Camp Carter baskets raised \$300 for Camp Can Do, which will enable 2 children to attend camp that might not otherwise be able to attend. The Camp Carter staff was very touched by the vigorous bidding on these items, which basically comprised of Camp Carter t-shirts and items from their camp store.

In addition to the Granny Race donations and the Camp Can Do donations, this year's mini-camp raised a WHOPPING \$4,580.00 for the programs and services of Dog Scouts of America! We cannot thank our campers/staff enough for their generosity and spirit and giving and helping this year! As always, we had an incredible staff that made running camp look easy and made the campers' experiences memorable.



Also in November is when we wrapped-up our Meals On Wheels for Pets Project. This year, we had a pet food drive along with our usual collections for gift bags for the companion dogs of Meals On Wheels. We collected almost 1,000 lbs of pet food and filled 145 doggie gift bags with toys, treats, etc. This is always such a rewarding project for the troop as we know how appreciative the Meals On Wheels clients are that someone else cares about the needs of their furry family members!

Left – MOW bagging party



Left – Meals on Wheels bagging party

We have had some pretty exciting opportunities this fall to showcase Dog Scouts of America more publicly! On Oct. 17, we participated in the filming for a TV show on Animal Planet called “Who Let The Dogs Out”. They asked for a painting demo and to teach the show’s mascot, Tillman (he’s the skateboarding bulldog that everyone has seen videos of), to paint. Several troop dogs participated and did a great job! Sadly, Tillman was not much in the mood to learn to paint, but at least he enjoyed his afternoon with the Dog Scouts!

In September, we were interviewed about Dog Scouts of America for a 20-minute segment on a show called “For The Love of Dogs” that airs on Saturday nights on an independent station in Dallas. We got to spread the word about Dog Scouts of America and talk about some of the cool things we do

including donating animal oxygen masks to area fire departments, our troop’s Meals On Wheels for Pets project and our work with Arlington Animal Services for the Arlington Youth Grooming Academy. Anybody who wants to check out the show can see it here: <http://youtu.be/MxuJbwO3TJ4>



This same program then ran a contest called “America’s Best Tails” where people could submit animal rescue stories. The top stories would be featured on future shows and the finalists would win donations for their charitable organization. Our story about our troop’s animal oxygen mask project was selected as a semi-finalist. On November 30, we were invited back to the show to share the story of how the masks have saved pets’ lives all across North Texas. Battalion Chief David Stapp of the Arlington Fire Department joined Mart on the show to talk about the impact of our donations to fire departments and of the countless lives that have been saved. Our story won the story of the show which included a \$1,000 donation to the organization! The Nov. 30 show can be seen at: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4fMkUANYjbM>.

Now we have been invited back for the Finalists show to be taped on Dec. 14. There will be 11 finalists and the top story

will win \$5,000 for their charity! It’s really exciting that we have already won money to help save more dogs’ lives and that we are in the running to be able to do even more! We’ve all got our collective fingers and paws crossed!

Mart & Cindy Ratliff, Troop 119, North Texas

Troop #157- Broward County, Florida
Broward Paw Patrol

Since the last newsletter we had our annual Halloween party. Everyone was dressed and ready to party! We played games and had costume contests. We are looking forward to the winter holiday party and Secret Santa! Congratulations to Terri Cannici’s Buddy as our newest DSA!

On November 4th our troop hosted the 2 Million Dogs Puppy Up! Walk (<http://2milliondogs.org>) in Hollywood, FL. For our inaugural year we raised approximately \$10,000 for comparative (human/canine) cancer research with our troop alone raising \$2,960 of that total. Approximately 130 people participated in this event and interest in becoming members after this event. Not only did we raise a significant amount of money, but we spread the message of positive training through a collar (prong/shock/choke) exchange. This was a very successful event for us and looking forward to next year’s walk.

Happy Holidays and a Happy New Year from Troop 157 in sunny Florida!



Photos left to right - Sandra Pierce and Jake DSA at the Halloween party; Milda and Edgar Serrano with Bella in costume for the Halloween party



Photo 1 above - Neely Waring running the collar/leash exchange at the PuppyUp! Walk registration table
 Photo 2 above - Lisa Smets with Lily DSA, Aimee Lowe with Gypsy and Indie, and Teresa Irvine with Ripley DSA getting ready to begin the PuppyUp! Walk
 Photo 3 above - Milda Serrano, Kimberly Kostner, Christine Borak, and Joan Otten with Casey DSA talk to participants about Dog Scouts.



Photos left to right - Donica Balamut with Sasha at the PuppyUp! Walk; Alice Perez with Bella DSA and Jan Smoller with Shabby DSA working on the geocaching badge; and Our newest DSA- Terri Cannici's Buddy!



Photos left to right - Holiday party; Holiday group photo with Riley, Ripley DSA, Sydney, Skye DSA, Reba DSA, Reggie DSA, Jake DSA, Milo DSA, and Shabby DSA; and Frances, Buddy DSA, and Jasmine showing off their holiday attire



Left - Troop 157 Holiday - Jennifer Bonness and Lola open their Secret Santa gifts

Neely Waring Photography & Art

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

Take Pride in Acadia Clean Up

For the fifth consecutive year, troop members cleaned up after less responsible dog owners at Little Long Pond in Acadia National Park. The Fall Dog Scout cleanup was held in conjunction with the Take Pride in Acadia Day sponsored by the Friends of Acadia. The Troop Spring and Fall cleanups at Little Long Pond have made for a much cleaner environment for dogs and their people

Second Annual "Happy Holidays" Bank Project

The Downeast Dog Scouts wished local dogs a "Happy Holiday" with bags of treats during their Second Annual Holiday Treat Bank Project. The troop held a work day in November to fill nearly 1000 holiday treat bags for dogs that were distributed through local banks. Dog Scouts delivered the boxes of treats to smiling bank employees in several Hancock county towns and then enjoyed holiday treats of their own!

Birch Bay Village Walk

Troop members and their dogs joined a walk-a-thon to benefit educational programs for residents at Birch Bay Retirement Village. Funds raised by walkers will help provide programs such as the LifeBio program for residents and their families. These programs stimulate the mind and body and add to the quality of life of residents at Birch Bay Village. Denise Houseknecht with Cirra and Pam Bourque with Jillian visit Birch Bay Village each week throughout the year.



Photos left to right - Clean Up 24: Take Pride in Acadia Clean Up - Little Long Pond at Seal Harbor, ME; Cirra and Santa - Hospital Fair: Cirra and Santa at Mount Desert Island Hospital, Bar Harbor, ME. Santa gave children books from the Downeast Dog Scouts; and, Cirra Shopping: Secret Santa Cirra shopping.



Birch Bay Village Walk - Jillian – Bar Harbor, ME



Birch Bay Village Walk: Denise Houseknecht, Cirra, Pam Bourque and Jillian at Bar Harbor, ME



Bank Holiday Treat Project - Stuffing Bags: Downeast Dog Scouts troop members stuffing bags with treats.



Photos left to right - Cirra Bank Holiday Project – Cirra’s holiday treat boxes ready for delivery to local banks; Bar Harbor Bank & Trust - Bank Holiday Project Ellsworth ME - Pier Carros and Gracie; and, Somesville Branch Bar Harbor Bank & Trust - Bank Holiday Project- Mount Desert, ME - Jillian



Photos left to right - Northeast Branch Harbor Bank and Trust - Bank Holiday Project - Northeast Harbor, ME - Robyn Douglas and Cirra; Camden National Bank Bar Harbor Branch - Bank Holiday Project - Bar Harbor, ME - Robyn Douglas and Cirra; and, Happy Birthday Cirra - Cirra celebrates her eighth birthday.



Photo Far Left - Book Fair: Northeast Harbor/Mount Desert Elementary School - Robyn Douglas, Cirra, Pier Carros and Gracie - Northeast Harbor Library

Left - Timber: Cedarwood’s Timberline, SH, CD, WCX, TD Inc, CGC, READ, DSA, ThD - March 18, 2000 - December 12, 2012

Robyn Douglas

Troop 177 – Indianapolis, Indiana

Troop #177 met at Best Friends in Castleton for the November monthly meeting. Gail Wiseman is leading troop members through Phodography badgework. Her husband made target sticks for everyone and Gail provided a training session on use of target sticks.

Members liked braiding dog toys from t-shirts so much on our fall camping trip we braided more at this meeting for ourselves as well as for donation to our charity-of-choice! Members brought multiple t-shirts of various colors and Anita Dudley provided guidance and instruction on making braided toys.



Photos:

Gail Wiseman and Zipper demo Phodography skills

Anita Dudley instructs on braided toy methods

Peggy & Casey, Gail & Zipper joined Robyn & Hallie for a four hour shift ringing bells for the Salvation Army. We had mild weather and fun visitors all evening. Gail brought homemade chili and it was very appreciated! Another session is scheduled later in December.



Photo: Gail & Zipper Peggy & Casey with Hallie ringing bells

In other news, Robyn Porter and Hallie finally faced and completed the 10 mile checkout hike and completed requirements for the Pack Dog Excellent title. It was a cool day following Thanksgiving and Robyn enlisted the help and encouragement of a family friend who walks much more than they do!



Photo: Hallie at the 7 mile marker on 10 mile hike

not one, but two Indiana organizations Heard would receive our donations. Opportunity (FIDO) Program and the Program are administered by the Anderson, Indiana and both take place where inmates care for dogs and cats. adoption.

Members nominated organizations to receive Troop #177 donations in December. The group determined nominated by new member Amy The Faith + Inmates + Dogs = Nine Lives Shelter Cat Prison Animal Protection League in the Pendleton Correctional Facility The animals are made available for

The programs were nominated by Amy Heard. Amy confirmed with Maleah Stringer from APL that they could accept our t-shirt braided toys into the prison. We enjoyed large member attendance at the December meeting, lots of wonderful homemade treats for dogs & humans, gift exchange and assembled donated items.

Photo: Troop 177 Christmas Donation

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



Troop 188 - Connecticut and Rhode Island

DSA Troop 188

Learning new skills and helping in the community with our dogs.

E-mail us at DogScoutTroop188@yahoo.com 275 Whalehead Rd
Gales Ferry, Ct 06335

Telephone: 860-287-9031

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Troop 188 began our fall season on a bit of a soggy note. As we prepared for our fall excursion to the Renaissance Faire, we also prepared for the arrival of Super Storm Sandy. Unfortunately, Troop 188 was unable to attend the Faire, due to the Faire being cancelled on pet weekend to allow the vendors to pack up and return home before the storm arrived. The troop members' homes weathered the storm fairly well; however, one of our local animal shelters had a tree come down on their roof. New London Animal Control is currently without a building and is housing their animals at a neighboring pound. They are currently trying to decide the proper course of action for repairs but are greatly in need of donations of items for the day to day care of the animals as all their supplies were destroyed in

the storm.

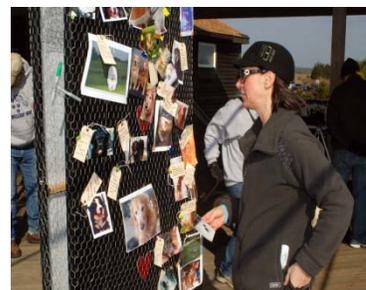


Troop 188 members continue to work towards their letterboxing badges. In October, several troop members gathered for a stamp-carving workshop. On Veteran's day we had a "Freedom Stroll" where we searched out letterboxes that had memorial aspects to them and also had a time of remembrance at the Veteran's Memorial.

On November 6, six human members and four canine members of Troop 188 gave a presentation for Cub Scout Pack 12 on responsible dog ownership. We talked about how to greet a dog properly (Always ask permission first!), proper care of our own pets, and had a "Fastest poop



pick-up" contest, complete with fake poo.



There was a great turn-out for the first "Shoreline Puppy-up! Walk", with more than twelve troop members and friends gathering to participate. It was a beautiful location walking alongside the ocean on a nice trail. Meghan Norcia and Baylee were Troop 188's highest fundraisers, raising 150% more money than the next highest fundraiser in the troop. Way to go Meghan!



Our November troop meeting covered a variety of house-keeping topics, from sharing of neat dog items, to showing off our new troop business cards, to scheduling many winter events. We also added a new member to the troop and continue to see growth with new members joining at nearly every event.

To kick off the Christmas holidays, Troop 188 marched in the Ledyard Light Parade. The dogs all looked like they should have been at the North Pole with their fancy garb. The troop members showed lots of creativity and talent with the lighted backpacks, coats and sweaters that they made for their dogs. That creativity paid off with a prize of "Best walking group" for the troop. Our next holiday event was an educational booth at Paws and Claus. Paws and Claus is a pet pictures with Santa event to raise funds for a local animal control. Our December meeting rounded out our holiday events, with one of the largest turnouts for a troop meeting this year. Everyone had a great time socializing, snacking, and trying the Rally-O course that had been laid out.



Troop 188 had a great 2012 and we are looking forward to many more exciting events and activities in 2013. If you would like more information about Troop 188, any of our events, or would like to see more pictures you can check out our website at Dogscouttroop188.shutterfly.com.

Julianne Grove



Troop 199 – Positive Pups. (Western New York)

Troop 199 took advantage of some beautiful fall weather and went on several hikes. During one of these walks we all geared up for Letterboxing for the first time, and several of our members are well on their way to earning the Letterboxing badge.



Left - 10/20/12. Positive Pups Introduction to Letterboxing Hike

In October our troop members were again out and about in the community. One of the events attended was the Pet Expo which raised money for Maddie's Fund. Several of us have been taking Nosework classes given by member Miranda

Workman, and we participated in a demonstration in front of a lively audience. Odin (Christy Heine), Barrett (Cathi McKelvey), Sherlock and Artemis (Miranda Workman) all performed well in a very distracting environment.

After our November meeting Tina Evrard explained Rally Obedience, set up a course and coached us as we went through it. This sparked interest in yet another fun thing to do with our dogs!

During our December meeting we made toys for a local dog rescue group, discussed upcoming events, and welcomed new member Kimberly Combs (Mya and Tasha).

Sadly, we said goodbye to sweet Otto who passed this October. Stay tuned for an entry in the "Rainbow Bridge" section of the next newsletter. **Cathi McKelvey**

Troop 207/Columbus, Ohio



Hi all! CDS has had an event filled last few months, some good and some sad. On the sad note, Allison's precious Noelle crossed the Rainbow Bridge. She will be missed by all her knew her sweet little face. Noelle went everywhere with Allison and we became accustomed to seeing her in her little pink carrier. As much as she is missed here, I'm convinced that Noelle is enjoying an egg McMuffin a day while she patiently waits to be reunited with her mom. In other news we have welcomed several new scouts into our Troop! Kym started a new after school program called BASE which works with Autistic children. Their goal is to work with the kids and teach them clicker training skills which will eventually translate into greater understanding of life skills and help be able to get these kids into the mainstream. Kudos to Kym, Becky, Jane, Lynn and Lori and their Scouts for facilitating and making this project possible. In badge news, Scouts Ben, Harry, Mac, Brady, Kirby, Comet, and Maddie all earned their 60 Weave pole challenge badge! Magnum also earned all of the Agility Badges available. Finally, we resumed the Pages and Paws reading at the Marysville Library and our monthly visits to Heritage Middle School to work with the kids. What an awesome group of people we have in Dog Scouts! I am so proud to be part of this organization and call these guys my friends!



December 16th marks the date of our annual Christmas Party. In lieu of exchanging presents amongst ourselves we have decided to make donations to a local organization called Hospets. Hospets is a non-profit whose goal it is to help people who are temporarily ill or entering into Hospice care to keep their animals with them for as long as possible. They arrange transportation for vet visits, provide financial help for pets needing veterinary care, provide training for dogs who may not be the greatest at accepting visitors into their home, and general other needs. If you are interested in checking them out, here is the link to their site: www.hospets.org. **Andrea Mykrantz**

Troop 213/Colorado

DSA Troop 213 has been happy to work with Zoom Room Longmont to help many of our members earn new skills and test for their badges. The Zoom Room is a nationwide dog training franchise that has the same goals as DSA of positive reinforcement, education, community involvement and improving the lives of dogs and their owners. Zoom Room Longmont has been actively involved with Troop 213 since shortly after they opened in May of 2011. It is a partnership made in doggy heaven and an awesome place to look to for earning badges.

Pictured: (Left) Jen Bailey/Sage (Right) Seven Montilla-Goad



Zoom Room offers an obedience track of classes to help owners and their dogs become certified therapy pet partners with any of the organizations in the area. This track is open to anyone interested in performing community service by participating with his or her dog. The Zoom Room Therapy Dog class conditions the dogs to sounds from a hospital, hospital equipment and fun interactive distraction games to help the dog and owner gain confidence for any unforeseen situation they may come across. They also help educate the owners with what to expect during facility visits and tailor the class to the needs of the students and their dogs. Additionally, students benefit from working with a trainer on staff who has gone through testing and gaining advice from several clients who currently perform pet partner work in the community.



Pictured: (Left) Julie Montilla-Goad/Ace (Center) Ace (Right) Amy and Seven



Pictured: (Left) Julie Montilla-Goad/Ace (Right) Seven Montilla-Goad

In addition to preparing troop members for Therapy Dog work, the Zoom Room has opened their doors for troop meeting and hosted a badge evaluation session for members interested in testing for their agility badges. Troop 213 enjoys knowing there is a local, positive training facility that can help their members with obtain knowledge in Agility, Manners, Tricks, Treibball, Scent and more to prepare them for earning badges and having fun with their dog. Not only are group classes fun, but private classes can be utilized to work on specific DSA skills if necessary.



Pictured: (Left) Seven Montilla-Goad (Center) Isabelle Waters (Right) Ace Montilla-Goad



Pictured: (Left) Isabelle Waters (Center) JulieMontilla-Goad/Ace (Right) Jen Bailey/Sage
 If you would like to get a jump start on any badges visit the www.zoomroom.me to find a local Zoom Room near you.

Submitted by **Julie Montilla-Goad Troop 213/Colorado**

Troop 217 – Southeast Michigan

It's been a busy time for everyone with the holidays approaching, but Troop 217 has continued to stay active in the fall months.

Our biggest event by far this season was hosting the DSA Second Annual Troop Retreat at Dog Scout Camp in St. Helen, Michigan. The theme we chose for the weekend was the K9 Zombie Detection Team Training Academy. The event was a huge success – for full details on all the fun see the related story in this month's newsletter.

On November 11th, several troop members met for an unseasonably warm hike at Lakeshore Park in Novi, Michigan. With temperatures near 70 degrees, we all enjoyed getting out for some fresh air, and ended up extending our hike for an extra loop, for a total of about three miles.

For the second year in a row, several members of Troop 217 helped with bell-ringing for the Salvation Army at the Walmart in Canton, Michigan on December 1st and December 8th. The dogs showed off their good manners, greeted the public as they approached and performed tricks and played instruments for entertainment and "extra" donations. We are eagerly waiting to hear the total we raised from our 8 hours of bell ringing from our Salvation Army representative, hoping to surpass last year's totals of approximately \$480.

Thank you to Julie and Shelby Benson, Michelle and Sassy Neu, Kim and Winnie Behrmann, Teresa and Joe Bobicz, Diane and Odie Schuler, Melissa and Drizzle Perez, Mary and Toby Gleason, Betsy and Burt Conway, and Vickie and Duncan Lomas for volunteering to bell ring this holiday season.



Shelby, Michelle Neu, and Sassy bell-ringing for Troop 217.

Several members also met for a troop end of year/holiday party on December 9th. My Hero Dog Training in Commerce, MI allowed us to use their training facility, so attendees were able to do some agility practice as well as socialize and enjoy a potluck lunch and holiday treats. Michelle Neu's sister, Chris, offered her photography services and set up a holiday backdrop so each of the dogs and their handlers could have a holiday picture taken together. A few of the troop dogs were introduced to the agility obstacles for the first time and all seemed to take to the equipment quickly and seemed to have a blast.

Troop 217 Members at the holiday party: (L to R) Bob Carlini and Catherine Stafford w/Leela and Liberty, Kim Behrmann w/Winnie, Samantha Winslow w/Ella and Pecas, Michelle Neu w/Sassy, Julie Benson w/Shelby, Elizabeth Najduch w/Emma, Matt and Melissa Perez w/Drizzle.





Pecas and Ella relaxing at the party.



Julie and Shelby practicing agility.

Congratulations to the following members for new badges earned:

- Cadence and Angela: Canicross
- Maebe and Lowell: Canicross
- Drizzle and Melissa: K9 Fitness, First Aid, Pet Care

For more information on any of our troop's events, contact Julie Benson at bensonjulie@earthlink.net or Angela Schmorow-Zuckerman at redogblues@gmail.com. You can also check us out at our troop website: <http://dsatrop217.com>.

-Submitted by **Angela Schmorow-Zuckerman, Troop 217 Co-leader**

Dog Scout Troop 219
Southeastern Connecticut and Rhode Island

Troop Meeting Number Two

On October 16, 2012 Troop 219 held their second meeting at their new meeting location at the Waterford Country School in Waterford, CT. In attendance, were doggie members Sophie, Adie, and Scrat (and their human parents!), under the tutelage of Troop Leaders Zora DSA (Puggle) and Kelly Ford. We learned about what DSA as an organization stands for, the perks of joining and much more! We also discussed and organized how the Troop itself was to be conducted, such as our quarterly meeting schedule, troop rules, the different badges and activities to be offered, and the foundations of discussion on our future logo and name. Below, are two pictures of the fun & learning that took place!



Troop Workshop for Backpacking & Letterboxing

On October 28, 2012, Troop Leader Kelly Ford, kindly held a Backpacking & Letterboxing Workshop to troop members out of her home. Both Adie and Scrat (JRTs), and their parents thoroughly enjoyed the presentation on the requirements and methods to use during training for a Backpacking or Letterboxing badge.

Photo Right: Scrat is ready to learn about Letterboxing.

Troop 219 Supports the Pack n' Go Pets Exclusive's, First Annual Wag-O-Ween Party

On October 21, 2012, many members of Troop 219 showed up to attend and show support to Troop member Lauren Houck and her small business, as she hosted the companies first Client Appreciation Event. Everyone had a wonderful time, and Sophie and family even donated a bag of pet food towards the company's featured non-profit organization known as, Maggie's Pet Pantry! What big hearts these troop members have!

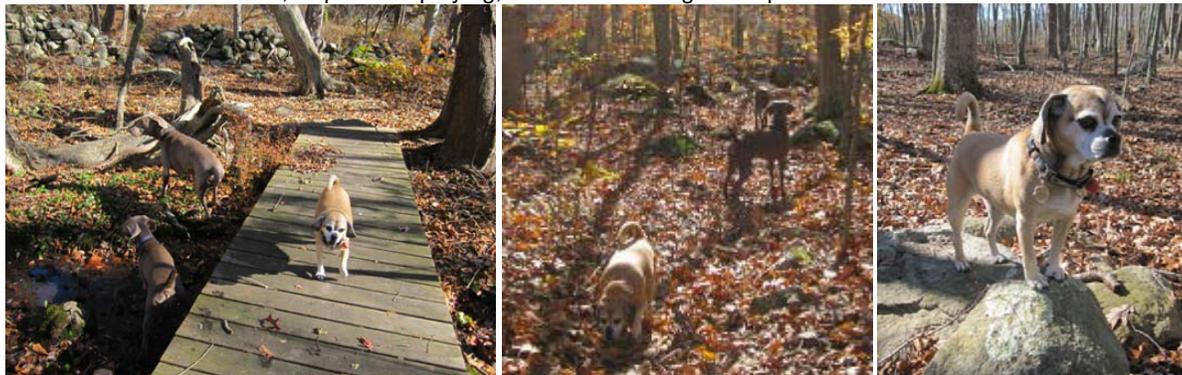
Photos Below: Sophie with the cat food she donated to Maggie's Pet Food Pantry; Scrat and Zora in the Halloween Costumes; Sophie dressed in her Halloween finery.



Troop Hike at Paffard Woods

On November 3, 2012, the Troop and newest members, met up at Paffard Woods to enjoy an afternoon Hike! The weather was beautiful and the moods were cheery, as the troop hiked and explored the paths! Zora DSA and Kelly, were also able to plant their "Puggle in Pursuit" Letterbox!

Photos Below: Zora DSA, Kapri & Mo playing; Zora DSA looking for a spot to hide her letterbox.



Dog Scout Badge Workshop

On November 8, 2012, the Troop and some new guests met up at the Waterford Country School, Rose Lodge to prepare pup members (and their humans) for their Dog Scout Badge Test! Everyone did fantastic with the wonderful guidance of Kelly Ford, our Troop Leader and we are all ready to get our Badges! We learned "Leave-It's", worked on "Heeling" and Advanced "Leave-It's" too!

Photos Below: Everybody is ready to work on their Dog Scout Badge; Sophie is helping to demonstrate heeling; Sophie is working on her leave-it with animals.



Art of Shaping with Troop 211

Kelly Ford was invited to teach Art of Shaping to Troop 211 in Springfield Mass on October 17, 2012. Twelve dogs attended the class with their humans. The class was a great success and 9 dogs earned their Art of Shaping badges, creating wonderful masterpieces for their homes.

Photos Below: Zora DSA & Kelly Ford teaching the class; Bailey DSA working on his masterpiece; Zeva DSA & Libby DSA with their Mom & their masterpiece.



Beebe Pond Hike

On Friday, November 23, 2012, members of Troop 219 met up at Beebe Pond in Mystic, CT to do some good ol' fashioned hiking and got to enjoy some off-leash playtime! Pup member Sophie Furtak, got to experience her **first** off-leash session ever, and did a fantastic job with the guidance of her great family and supportive group members! They had a blast doing "zoomies" together around the park, and were excellent about checking back in with their parents frequently and never left each other's sides. We were so happy to get out and enjoy the beautiful weather in the company of great friends!

Photos below: Sophie running ahead of her Mom; Zora DSA and Sophie hiking together; Mo, Sophie and Zora DSA are checking things out.



DSA Troop Badge Practice

At the Troop Badge Practice on Saturday, November 24, 2012 troop member, Sophie Furtak was tested for recalls, sits, and stays. As well as practiced her heeling skills! To the joy of everyone present and to herself too, Sophie flew through the tests with flying colors! She even did a recall with one of her best friends Zora DSA as a distraction! After having such a great time off leash the day before, everyone got to relax and play off leash in the nearby dog park!

Photos below: Sophie being congratulated after a wonderful stay; Sophie working on her Dog Scout Badge with her Dad; Sophie is practicing recalls with distractions with Zora DSA.



Troop 219 has had a wonderful first year together and has made some great friends, both doggie and human. We are looking forward to our upcoming Holiday Pot Luck Dinner and several more fun-filled activities before the start to our New Year together! We hope everyone has a Happy Holiday season and look forward to reading about all the fun the other troops have been having the last few months! **Lauren Houck, Troop 219**

Troop #221- Wyoming Valley Squad

Wyoming Valley Dog Squad Troop #221 has been very busy! In an effort to grow our troop and gain new members as well as public awareness of Dog Scouts in general, we decided to start with a fundraiser that would greatly interest the community. We started a pet oxygen mask fundraiser. We were shocked to learn how many fire departments in Luzerne County, Pennsylvania are without kits! Our goal was to provide all of the fire departments we could contact with a kit. We attained a list of 35 and are nearly at our goal. We sold pies and cookie dough and also sold Pet Oxygen Mask Angel certificates to those who would like to purchase an entire kit and dedicate it to a special dog who has passed on. The response was amazing! We plan to distribute the kits over the next several weeks so that all our fire departments have the equipment they need to keep our dogs safe.

We currently have 15 members including Diana Cognigni who has Jake who has recently earned the Dog Scout title! Diana has been busy with Jake and already earned Naked Dog badge and Freestyle Badge, so we congratulate her! Phyllis Sinavage has earned two new therapy dog badges with Pasha and Sheila. Liza Roper has earned Treibball, art of shaping, and therapy dog with Sam and Therapy dog and clean-up America with Kirby.



Photos left to right: Diana Cognigni and Jake at the Veteran's Day Parade; Janice Zerfoss and Bailey at the Veteran's Day Parade; and, Veteran's Day Parade. Photos taken by Liz Roper.



Photos left to right: Kirby and Liz Roper; Kirby enjoys the Veteran's Day Parade; and, Diana Cognigni and Liz Roper carry banner. Photos taken by parade watcher.

Our Veterans Day Parade was on a beautiful warm day and there was a great turn out and we made many new friends and handed out cards to potential members on November 11, 2012. The following weekend we walked in the Santa Parade where a great time was had by all.



Photos left to right – Phyllis gets ready to start October meeting; Joanne Wychock with Syd; and, Phyllis Sinavage cleans up Dog Park after October meeting.

Our October meeting was at our local dog park where we spent the meeting talking about what it takes to be a dog scout and what we had planned to raise funds for the pet oxygen mask fundraiser. Our November meeting was held at our local Fire Department's training room. We talked about the dog scout title and rounded the meeting out with a fun game of musical bases.



Photos left to right: Mary Perrego and Bisket at the November meeting; the November meeting; and, Phyllis Sinavage starts the November meeting. Photos taken by Liz Roper.



Photos left to right: Nikki, Phyllis Sinavage's dog, enjoys the November meeting; Aggie, Karen Barbose's dog, enjoys the attention while bell ringing; and, Bisket and Mary Perrego ring the bell for the Salvation Army.



Photos left to right: Mary Perrego and Bisket bell ringing; Val Boler with Coco and Liz Roper with Kirby bell ringing; and, Val Boler, Coco, Liz Roper, Kirby, Diane Rebar, Isabella, bell ringing. Photos taken by Liz and Ben Roper.

We had a great response on December 8, 2012 when we volunteered to ring the bell for Salvation Army. Many of us taught our dogs to ring their own bell and the donors very much enjoyed their tricks and enjoyed petting the dogs while they rushed to complete their shopping lists.



Photos from Santa Parade, left to right – Heidi Roach and Jack; Jake DSA, Diana Cognigni's dog; and, Kirby, Liz Roper's dog.



Photos left to right from Santa Parade – Lauren Stier and Mys wait for the parade to begin; Mys's Lauren Stier's dog and Kirby, Liz Roper's dog wait together; and Pasha, Phyllis Sinavage's dog at parade.



Photos at the Santa Parade left to right – Phyllis Sinavage with Pasha and Sheila; The Parade; and, Diane Cognigni and Phyllis Sinavage hold the banner. Photos by Liz Roper.



Photo left – Sheila and Pasha, Phyllis Sinavage's dogs at the Santa Parade.

With the close of 2012 approaching, we look forward to the coming year with excitement as we plan to earn new badges and camp and do more community service projects and learn new things with our well behaved dogs!

Liz Roper

Future Troop of SE Georgia
Pawsitively K-9

Our December meeting was fun and informative as always. 9 members were in attendance. My focus for this month meeting was how to teach "leave it" by way of clicker as explained on the DSA site and by way of pass by. I also reminded everybody to let me know if they are interested in a clicker class taught by one of the members in January and a basic obedience class taught by myself around the same time. Most were interested and promised to send e-mail for reservation for the class. Second focus was on recall! We are holding our training meetings at a fully in closed tennis court and were able to do individual recall of leash with everybody. Everybody received homework and meeting was called to a close. I explained to the group they were welcome to stay and observe the dog scout test components as two members and myself were taking our dogs through the test and video taping to send in to headquarters.



Photos left to right – Haven and Ilona meeting a friendly stranger; Haven and Ilona on left and Mocha and Stef on right; heeling with Mocha Latte and Stef; out on a walk; Rafferty and Pam; and, recall.

We are starting our fundraiser for <http://www.k9sforwarriors.org/> this week by placing our home made, gourmet, gluten free and/or wheat free treats by a farmers' market, groomers, and Veterinaries and via website and facebook. We are all excited to help this awesome group!

The dog scout test components were measured out and cones placed by myself prior to the meeting. One of the ladies travels almost an hour from south side of Jacksonville, Florida to meet with our group, so it was important that we would have time to get through as many items as possible. We had great results with all our cadets and great fun! Sometimes you meet people with the same love and passion for their animals as you do and things just fall right into place!

I received messages the next morning from one of our members stating that she learned a lot from watching us last night and it really motivated her to work more with her dogs. She did not realize how much was involved in taking the dog scout test until last night and it made her realize that the dogs while taking the test all seemed happy and focused on there owners. I explained to her that these kind of results take time and commitment, and that I can only teach her the tools but she has to do the work at home. All three cadets have AKC titles, Raffie has RE title and a herding title, Haven has herding title as well, and Mocha Latte has her RE and CGC. All in all another good meeting!



Future Troop of SE Georgia Pawsitively K-9
Stefanie Elderkin
 dogfriends31548@yahoo.com
<http://segapawsitivelyk9.com/index.html>

Attitude of Gratitude

We received a generous donation from Charles and Barbara Holmes, in memory of Coco Waldman.

In addition, Joanne Weber donated an HP Scanner to the camp office, for which I am very grateful.

Also, there was a generous donation from Karen Hasenstab.

Thanks to the TX mini camp, for doing such a great job on their auction and raising so much money for DSA.

I hope I'm not forgetting anyone...Thanks, **Lonnie Olson**

Rainbow Bridge

IN MEMORY OF A LIFE BEAUTIFULLY LIVED AND A HEART DEEPLY LOVED

HRD MISS COCO CHANEL WALDMAN

MAY 20, 1998 – NOVEMBER 20, 2012



Dear Friends:

It is with deep sadness that I share with you Coco's passing. She died peacefully at home in my arms on Tuesday night, losing her brave battle with liver cancer.

A natural athlete, artist and musician, with amazing intelligence, Coco participated in many sports - agility, flyball, frisbee, geocaching, dock diving, and water racing, just to name a few. She was an accomplished artist, with a painting that was exhibited for a summer in an art gallery in NYC, and many others that she created just for fun. She was a part of the all-dog band at Dog Scout Camp, with her favorite instrument being the piano. She was also quite an actress and, along with me, performed many musical skits to the joy and laughter of our friends. Coco's adventures took her from the Upper Peninsula in Michigan to southern Florida. She'd ridden in a horse-drawn carriage on Mackinaw Island and a hydro-jet boat across Lake Huron, climbed the dunes of Lake Michigan, swam in the Gulf of Mexico, and, kayaked down the Au Sable (Michigan) and Santa Fe (Florida) Rivers. She was fluent in English, with a working vocabulary of over 500 words, and also understood Spanish and sign language.

Coco became a Dog Scout in 2001, and easily learned many new skills for 7 summers at Dog Scout Camp in Michigan - earning over 50 merit badges for her talents. She was certified as a Canine Good Citizen and was also an authorized therapy dog, providing hours of comfort to others with her gentle spirit and loving nature. She became friends with everyone who met her, and she loved everyone she met.

Most importantly, she was my best friend - mother, sister, child, confidante and partner, all rolled up into one. She was the keeper of my secrets, the holder of my heart, the joy in my life. She gave me the courage to try things that I never thought I would do - road trip across the country - just the two of us, try all kinds of new activities, and meet new people. She was always ready for adventure, ready to explore and play and live life to the fullest. She taught me to loosen my inhibitions and feed my curiosity, trust those who love me, enjoy the little things in life, love unconditionally, do what makes me happy, and always, always make time for a nap.

All through her life, Coco loved to hike in the woods. She would run up ahead of me, so that she could check out everything first. If she got so far ahead that she couldn't see me, she would turn back, just far enough that she could see where I was, and she'd wait there, patiently, for me to catch up, and then she'd be off again. But she never let me get too far behind. I know that she is waiting for me now, patiently, still not letting me out of her sight.

Coco was buried at Prairie Creek Conservation Cemetery on Wednesday. A few weeks ago, she and I picked out our final resting spots together, under an enormous Live Oak tree, with a wide canopy of spreading branches. She lies in peace under dappling sunshine and shade at the foot of the tree. I read this prayer, adapted from a poem I found online, at her burial:

Dear God, please open your arms and take my beloved Coco into heaven. Give her a place of honor for she has been a faithful and loyal companion. I send her to you with love and compassion, freeing her from pain and suffering. Grant me the strength not to dwell on my loss. Help me remember the details of her life with the love she has shown me. And grant me the courage to honor her by sharing those memories with others. Let her remember me as well, and let her know that I will always love her. And when it's my time to pass over into heaven, please let her join me for eternity. Thank you, God for the gift of Coco's companionship and devotion, and for the time we've had together. Thank you, God, for sharing her gifts with me - her beauty without vanity, her strength without arrogance, her courage without violence and her love without condition. And thank you God, for granting me the strength to give her to you now.

Forever would not be long enough for me to feel like I had enough time with her. She holds a place in my heart that will never be filled. I will love her and miss her for the rest of my life.

Julie Walden, November 25, 2012

Indy Stewart

Indy Stewart Hribar , companion of Sheila Stewart Hribar, has passed away. Indy was the last of her dog scouts. Indy is the dog on the Geocaching 2 badge (with the GPS in her mouth). She was a Border Collie. She passed in September at age 13. Sheila is the one who got us all involved with Letterboxing and Geocaching. **Lonnie Olson**

In Closing . . .The Perfect Dog (from the National Purina Dog Show)

My son asked a question, as little boys do
Of me and my wisdom and all that I knew.
"Is there a dog that is perfect?", he asked on a whim.
Well, I thought and I thought about where to begin.
Uhhmm, it had ears that were floppy, or cropped and alert,
And eyes that were sleepy or perky and pert.
It leapt like a bunny, or sat in you lap
And run fast as horses, or opt for a nap.
A dog that Is perfect would be covered in spots,
Or maybe one color and then have spots not.
It would be small as a teacup or big as a house
With a nose that seemed flattened or long as a mouse.
He'd swim and he'd hunt with a coat flying free
Or be dainty and delicate, and he'd be a she.
As I struggled to answer and not with a clue,
My son with a smile, said out of the blue,
With the wisdom of children that he already knew,
"The dog that is perfect is the one next to you."

John O'Hurley, with apologies to Dr. Seuss