



The Dog Scout Scoop

(little bits of news we've picked up)

July/August 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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A Fond Farewell

When I started as editor four years ago, I was still copying and mailing paper issues to the membership. Going paperless was a great step, taking away hours of work. Now, as this issue's completion winds down, and a metamorphosis of the news is again occurring, I realize I will miss the newsletter and what it meant to me. Before I took on the job, when the new issue arrived in the mail, time would stop as I read it from front to back, soaking in what was happening. Paperless and mailless let me go from 5 pages to make the mailing weight requirements to 25 to 30 pages with lots of photos expanding the troop news and not putting limitations on their news. I've been told that the newsletter is not being read anymore, something I think of as sad, because I read everything sent to me. Your stories have enthralled me, moved me and made my day a little brighter when I read them. Thanks again to all who contributed stories, articles and photos to fill the pages. I will not forget any of you. It was wonderful getting to know you. Now with the camps all over for 2013, I'm settling down to the routines of training and showing my dogs. It has been an honor serving DSA as editor. **Peggy Zweber, Editor**

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Future of the Newsletter

Troop Leaders, DSA members, and friends,

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Peggy for her hard work and dedication on the DSA newsletter! She has been easy to work with and we are sad to see her go, but understand it is best for her health to do so. Moving forward, the DSA news will be delivered in 2 NEW formats in addition to two existing formats. Our hope is that this will make the news more timely, easier to share and easier to read.

The first new format is the **DSA blog**. You can check the "blog" tab on the website from time to time to see what is going on. The posts have the title and a little bit about what it's about, just click on "read more" to get the full story. Troops and members may submit information about DSA related news and events to be posted as soon as Kim, the webmaster, can process and post the info (generally within a few days). No more waiting for or worrying about deadlines! A photo or two can be included in the post and unlimited photos can be posted to and linked in the DSA gallery. There may be changes in the future to make the blog more photo rich. You can send your articles and info for the blog to Kim at thescoop@dogscouts.org or by filling out the submission form here: <http://dogscouts.org/newsblog-submission-form/> Articles submitted about training or other educational dog related info may be reviewed before being posted.

The other means of sharing information and important news will be the **Email Newsletters** through Mailchimp. This will mostly be news about upcoming events and updates about DSA like new badges, new programs, etc. Anyone may sign up for this on the website and new members who provide an email address on their membership form are added as recipients as well. Emails sent out through mailchimp will be as often as needed, but we promise not to fill your in-box. We'll be shooting for no more than 1 or 2 emails per month, but there will be less than that till this program really gets going. And as it gets going, its use and purpose may evolve to best suit the needs of DSA and the members.

There is also the main **DSA Yahoo group**, (http://pets.groups.yahoo.com/group/DSA_TalkList/) Which anyone can join and where announcements are made. The number of emails generated by this group varies based on the topics being discussed/shared. But there is an option to receive mail from the yahoo group in "digest" form, which means you would get 25 or less posts from the yahoo group combined into a single email. This setting typically generates about 1 email per day.

And **DSA has a Facebook page** (<https://www.facebook.com/DogScouts>) where info and tips are shared on a regular basis (but responses to posts made by individuals on the page may be slow or missed due to the limited amount of time the moderators have to reply to the many facebook posts). If you're on Facebook, be sure to join the over 3,500 others who have "liked" our page! **Chris Puls, President**

Dog Scouts of America is proud to announce the recipients of the 2013 DSA awards!

The Good Scout award

A trend-setting, trailblazing member who demonstrates leadership by doing things that:

- o Impact the global community
- o help all of the other scout troops
- o That the other Scout Troops could emulate to be successful

DSA is proud to present the 2013 Good Scout award to Karen and Bob Deeds!

In addition to being on a FEMA Search and Rescue team (Bob) and being a dog behavior expert who is called in for legal assessments & to testify in dangerous dog hearings (Karen), they tirelessly give of themselves to help DSA and its members.

They have been volunteer instructors at the TX mini camp every year since 07/08. Together, Bob & Karen work tirelessly each year at mini-camp, both instructing multiple activities, working with campers during their "off time" and consulting with campers who are experiencing various dog issues. They have both very much become "go to" experts in Troop 119 (in Dallas/Ft Worth TX) helping troop members and troop dogs at every opportunity. They also offer help via the yahoo talk lists to members and Troop Leaders all over the world.

In their own dog training business, they are quick to talk about Dog Scouts of America and the positive impact it can have with dogs and their humans. They believe in tapping into a dog's potential and enjoy teaching owners how to do this as well and see involvement in DSA as a means to get there. Whether in their class training sessions or during their many seminars and speaking engagements, they talk about DSA and encourage people to get involved with their dogs through the opportunities DSA provides.

Excellence in Writing award:

This award applies to writing (online or in print) that benefits DSA as a whole and/or all of its members.

The 2013 recipient is Allison Holloway!

Allison has written a blog that tracks the progress and success of her deaf/blind dog Lottie Moon. This blog has opened many eyes and hearts to just how much a deaf/blind dog can be taught and can do. Including the passing of the Dog Scout test and earning a few badges! She advocates for deaf and blind dogs needing to be adopted and her blog is used as a reference for anyone wanting to enrich the lives of their own deaf and/or blind dog as well as those wanting to learn more about such dogs. To find out for yourself, visit her blog here: <http://lottie-seeingintodarkness.blogspot.com/>

Above and Beyond Award

This award goes to a person who goes beyond what is expected of a regular member or staff member, and gives of his/her time, resources, expertise and more to promote or help DSA.

The 2013 recipient is Kim Hovey!

She has worked tirelessly, first to update and improve our website and most recently to help us recover from the total website crash. She has put in countless volunteer hours for weeks on end to help DSA and has continued to do so, in the face of several recent personal and family challenges that would have sidelined most people! She has been easy to work with, has shown amazing initiative, and a strong commitment to the success of the organization. She has many ideas for ways to improve the website and we look forward to seeing what she has in store for everyone who uses the site!

We had several nominations for the awards this year and we wish to thank everyone who gives of their time to make DSA and dog's lives better! Other nominees for DSA awards included: Noelle Weeks, Kelly Ford and Julie Benson.

Thank-you to all!

Chris Puls, DSA President

On behalf of the DSA Board of Directors

2013 Leadership Retreat

Fifteen DSA Leaders attended the 2013 Leadership Camp in Michigan over Memorial Day weekend. Attendees came from as far as Colorado and Connecticut as well as states closer to Michigan. The Leadership Retreat gives individuals in a troop leadership position an opportunity to practice their skills, meet other troop leaders and learn about the DSA way. Congratulations and a big thank you to the following attendees who put much effort into guiding scouts and their troops: Julie Benson, Amy Braat, Doree Donovan, Anita Dudley, Kelly Ford, Brenda Katz, Julie Montilla-Goad, Andrea Mykrantz, Robyn Porter, Angela Schmorow, Lowell Zuckerman, Margo Suzuki, Vikki Wilcox, Chris Puls and Lonnie Olson.

Attendees gave informative and entertaining presentation regarding DSA topics as well as general canine interest. The group managed to work in some fun along with serious business! Hikes, Doga (yoga with your canine companion), an innovative candle decorating craft project, making your own insect repellent from essential oils, a cold (brrrr) camping trip in the woods provided everyone with fun diversions and memories.

Submitted by **Robyn Porter**
DSA Troop Program Administrator
Troop #177, Indianapolis IN

Spring Clean-up Week

We only had 2 volunteers for spring clean-up, but they got a lot accomplished. Joe and Greg had been thinning out the trees around the pond, and the workers (Melissa Matteson and Lonnie Olson) collected all of the brush, hauled it to the bonfire and burned it. That section of pond frontage is going to look really nice, once the work is finished. We'll have more rustic camp sites, and better access to the beach.



Above: (left) George pulls some branches to the fire pit; (rt) Bell's idea of hauling brush to the fire pit



Left: Melissa tends the fire. The branches you see surrounding the fire pit are probably a tenth of what we removed in two solid days of dragging and burning.

Everyone's Invited to the Fall Troop Jamboree Oct. 11-13!

The theme for this year's event is "Ghouls Just Wanna Have Fun!" Troop 101 will be hosting the event this year, since they won the competition last year.

We have a lot of fun in store for everyone. There will be the usual costume contest, and spooky trail, plus many fun events during which your troop can earn points to see who will be the big winner this year! We will have games, such as "Brain Teaser" (an ultimate leave-it game), "Fear Factor" (see whose dog is the biggest chow hound), and "Goulsh Minute to Win it" (our regular game with a Ghoulish twist), to name a few. We will also be having a dog treat "Bake Off." Your entry is to be prepared beforehand and presented to our canine and human judges, and will be evaluated on taste, presentation, and originality.



But besides all of this Goulsh stuff, we just wanna have FUN! We found out that a few teams may have been sandbagging to lose the competition, so that they did not have to host it the following year. So we decided that the winner should get some sort of great TREAT, rather than a dirty TRICK! So the FUN part of this weekend is that it will be a "Pamper Yourself" weekend! We will have massage artists (for human and canine massages), massage chairs, foot baths, wax dips for your hands, soothing music, hot tubs, aroma therapy, and fancy drinks. Participants will get goodie bags with some pampering yourself items in them, as well as some tickets to use towards some of the pampering stuff. Additional tickets may be purchased at the Jamboree. Each form of pampering will have a ticket cost, and we hope to raise some money for DSA. Our crafts will be creating a healing/soothing aromatherapy hot/cold pack to pamper your sore muscles, and an aromatherapy calming necklace/charm for you or your canine . We will also be introducing the new "Canine Massage" badge, which you and your dog can earn at the gathering. The other badge we will be working on will be the PhoDOgraphy badge. We want each troop to submit a photo of their troop (this can be taken at the Jamboree). The photo should be funny or whimsical, and we'll probably designate a theme. If you want to complete the other requisites for the PhoDOgraphy badge, you may need to start working on it ahead of time. More info to follow.



If you would like to be part of this year's fun event, please contact Fay Reid (fmreid@delta.edu) or Lonnie Olson (dogscoutcamp@gmail.com) . ALL TROOPS from the entire nation are invited. You need at least 3 people to participate, to be a troop. If you are an individual and would like to participate, we will pair you up with other individuals who are not with a troop. Warning: The group to come in LAST PLACE will be the ones hosting the event next year... So be prepared to "bring it" to all of the competitions.

This will fill up FAST, so please get your reservations in for this event!



Troop News **Troop 119, North Texas**

Troop 119 has been busy as always!

In February, troop members & awesome positive reinforcement instructors, Victoria Severns, Nancy Strack and Traci Betts, led the troop meeting out at PAWSitive Agility Working School. Victoria and Nancy worked with dogs to check off some of their obstacle and agility badges and to introduce some troop dogs who were new to the fun of agility! Traci and her dogs introduced the troop to the fun new sport of Treiball. All the humans and dogs in attendance had a great time!

We also had the opportunity in February to do a presentation at an area private school. Traci Betts talked about how to greet a dog and talked about body language. Victoria Severns talked about agility and scent work (Keenan was happy to demonstrate) which allowed her to talk about how dogs are different and that they do have preferences as to what they enjoy doing. Nancy Strack talked about the animal oxygen masks and demonstrated with Daisy and also talked about her being a therapy dog. Becky Paxson talked about Dog Scouts, responsible ownership and bonding, plus our Meals On Wheels for Pets project. There was a question and answer session at the end and Traci allowed the kids to do a greeting with her dog, Scout. The school presented the troop with a Visa gift card with their thank you. We used the gift card to purchase pet food for the Meals On Wheels for Pets companion dogs. The school was very complimentary of the troop and really appreciated the presentation.

March brought Easter, which brought the Troop Easter Egg Hunt! We had a great turnout at beautiful YMCA Camp Carter. The dogs searched for over 500 plastic eggs filled with freeze dried liver treats over many acres. Prizes were awarded for finding the most eggs, as well as finding the special prize eggs that had a little play chick inside. After the hunt, we all enjoyed a costume contest and awarded prizes for the most festive human/dog team. It was a beautiful day and the humans and dogs enjoyed lots of fun and socializing with their troop friends!



Photos above – March Easter Egg Hunt

April brought more troop adventure! We gathered at a great local park and did a Troop Photo Scavenger Hunt. It was our first troop such event and we really had a lot of fun with it. Troop members gathered in teams and headed out and about in the park to find a list of 30 things they could find in the park and take a photo of. They had an hour to accomplish as many photos as they could within a the mile loop of the park. Points were given for each item on the list and extra points were given for stray poop piles collected. Two teams got 29 of the 30 items on the list (the item missed was different for each team), but one team picked up 5 more stray poops than the other so they were declared the winners! Some of the things they were to photograph were: a troop dog drinking from a park dog fountain, a troop dog on a large rock, a troop dog on a tree stump, a "Dogs Must Remain On Leash At All Times" sign, a non-troop dog enjoying the park with its human, etc. It was a fun, new event for us and something we will be doing again in the future!



Photo Scavenger Hunt
Above – Doggy Water Fountain
Right – On big rock

Above – Wildflowers!
Left – On a park bench



We also got some great exposure in April! Our Animal Oxygen Mask Distribution committee headed up by Nancy Strack and Liz Herring, set up a donation of oxygen mask kits to yet another area fire department, Richardson, TX. RFD was the 24th Texas fire department to benefit from a donation of masks from our troop. The local media was there and we got news coverage on two Dallas TV stations. A few days later, we were contacted to do a phone interview for one of the local radio stations. We have really gotten lots of great response to this community service project that we are now in the 9th year of! **Photo left** – Tanner demos oxygen mask

Troop members participated in another event in April, the Mansfield Pet Day in Mansfield, TX. It was a pretty small event - their first! - sponsored by the city library. Connie Romano organized the event and got lots of great troop help. Troop Dog Scouts, Quinn, Cowboy and Lacey participated in a painting demo to show off their skills and the troop collected pet food for our Meals On Wheels for Pets project. **Right photo** – Cowboy paints at Mansfield Pet Day.

In May we were treated to a mini-seminar from another of our great troop instructors, Karen Deeds. Karen gave a presentation on canine communication. She took questions ahead of time by email so she could structure her presentation around what people wanted to learn then had a Q&A period at the end to address questions that had arisen. It was a great opportunity to learn more about how we can best communicate with our dogs and how to know what they are telling us!





In June for the second year, we participated in the Dallas Pet Expo. It was a huge event that drew thousands of people and their pets. Thanks to several troop members, we were able to pass out homemade dog cookies to all the people who stopped by our booth, which, of course, they loved! We got lots of great exposure and met some great future troop members and future Dog Scouts! Alex worked hard all day taking donations from people

and depositing them in the collection bucket. She made lots of people smile and made money for DSA in the process!
Photos above – Alex taking donations and putting them in the bucket.

We're looking forward to lots of fun summer activities!
Mart & Cindy Ratliff, Troop 119, North Texas

Troop 157 Broward Paw Patrol – Broward County, Florida

Summer in Florida is in full swing! We are trying to keep cool by focusing on the water badges particularly puppy paddlers and kayaking. In April we had our annual DSA Doggie Olympics. We played lots of games and demonstrated some great DSA skills like 20 ft wait, heeling, and leave it! Everyone had lots of fun! We have also been busy with community events. The troop did an agility demonstration at a local pet festival and troop members went to Ojus Elementary School. At the school troop members gave out information about safety around dogs and gave demonstrations of tricks. The students enjoyed the presentation. We are also planning our 2nd Puppy Up! Walk which will take place in November. Finally, over the past couple of months we have 2 new Dog Scouts: Lisa and Marcel Smet's Rebel and Emily and Patricia Harrington's Riley. Congrats to both!

"Patricia Gaffney" pag340@yahoo.com



Above – DSA Doggie Olympics – Teresa Irvine and Ripley

Working on Puppy Paddler Badge

Working on Kayaking Badge



Far Left – More Kayaking

Left – Ojus Elementary School



Far left – Troop members at Ojus Elementary School



Near left - Cindi Stone's Reggie running tunnel under children at Ojus Elementary School



Above – Lisa and Marcel Smet's Rebel DSA



Right – Patricia Harrington with Riley DSA

Downeast Dog Scouts Troop 159 – Mount Desert Island, Maine

Campus Comfort Canines - University of Maine



Dog Scout, Jill and Pam Bourque participated in the University of Maine at Orono pilot Campus Comfort Canines program during finals week in May. The Folger Library staff took a student's suggestion and provided some "de-stress" time for the students during the final week of school by having a few therapy dogs present each day in the library. The program was a huge success and the University of Maine plans to provide the Campus Comfort Canines for the students a few times each semester.



Photo above right - Campus Comfort Canines, Jill, University of Maine
Photo left - Campus Comfort Canines, Jill, University of Maine Bandana

Downeast Dog Scouts Monthly Walks



Pier Carros has organized monthly walks for the Downeast Dog Scouts and community members in Hancock County Maine. She and member Nancy Morrison led Carriage Road hikes at Little Long Pond in Acadia National Park during May and June. Also in June, the troop enjoyed a Jordan Pond Loop walk on the Carriage Roads followed by lunch on the lawn at the Jordan Pond House.

Photos above, left to right - Jordan Pond Acadia National Park; Jordan Pond Stream Acadia National Park; and Jordan Pond House Acadia National Park

Children Reading to Dogs Programs

Pier Carros and Gracie completed their reading program at the Blue Hill Library with a celebration of reading party. At the Northeast Harbor Library, Robyn Douglas and Cirra completed their reading programs for students from the Mount Desert Elementary School and readers from the library. Readers were rewarded with Certificates of Participation, bookmarks and books of their own at "Celebrate Reading" parties.

Photo near right and far right - Blue Hill Library Reading Celebration Cake; and, Blue Hill Library Reading Celebration



Idita-Readers Read from Anchorage to Nome



Photos clockwise -1)

Tremont School Bulletin Board; 2) ABS

18 - Ashley Bryan School Celebration - with Cirra; 3) Tremont School Kickoff Raya - Nancy Morrison with Raya - Purple Team; 4) Cirra - Tremont School Library Cirra waiting for Idita-readers; and 5) Tremont

School Kickoff - Pier Carros with Gracie



The local Idita-Read reading incentive program sponsored by the Downeast Dog Scouts has been a great success from all accounts by readers, parents, teachers and librarians. From March 2nd through April 22nd of this year, 184 children logged a total of 188,375 reading minutes or 3,140 hours, working toward their individual goal of 998 reading minutes correlating to the Iditarod mileage on the Southern Route.

The Idita-Read is an incentive reading project for school age readers offered through the nonprofit World Wide Idea's Read-A-Route Program. Mirroring Alaska's biggest annual sled dog race, the Idita-Readers relied on reading minutes to travel the distance along the Iditarod trail from Anchorage to Nome. One minute of reading equals one mile on the Iditarod trail. Based on the 2013 Iditarod race schedule, readers took up to 52 days to complete the race.

With support from the Hattie A. and Freddie C. Lynam Trust, the Downeast Dog Scouts sponsored Idita-Read Teams at the Ashley Bryan School on Islesford, Blue Hill Library, Frenchboro School, Northeast Harbor Library and the Tremont School. The Downeast Dog Scouts troop dogs served as Team Mascots, and encouraged their reading teams along the way. This year's mascots were: Alaskan Malamute - Bruno, Golden Retrievers - Raya and Rebel, Great Pyrenees - Cirra, Italian Greyhounds - Bri and Gracie, Labrador Retrievers - Rissa, Jill and Lily.

Photos left to right below - Idita-Read Celebration Cake; Tremont School Kickoff - Royce Morrison with Rebel - Red Team; and, Tremont School Kickoff - Rissa - Green Team



The Idita-Readers tracked their reading maps at their school or library. There were the children to read with a "friend". Some create stories and art projects. All readers team mascots and several students had an opportunity to read to the troop dogs.



progress from Anchorage to Nome on Iditarod canvas bags with stuffed huskies available for readers used bone shaped board books to receive notes of encouragement from their

The Tremont School Idita-Read was dedicated to a very special and loved Dog Scout, Timber. Timber, a Labrador Retriever, was a Reading Education Assistance Dog at the Tremont School with her owner Pam Bourque for five years. Timber helped students improve their reading skills and was the first Reading Education Assistance Dog to work in a school setting in Maine. School Librarian Crystal Dow coordinated the Idita-Read at the Tremont School. Her tireless dedication to reading and education motivated the entire student body. The children read 521 more hours than they did during the project last year. The student body was divided into four teams: Red "Thunder Puppies", Green "Turbo Tundra Dogs", Blue "The Hush Puppies" and Purple "The Reading Huskies."



Photos clockwise: 1) Tremont School Celebration - Jill - Blue Team; 2) ABS - Ashley Bryan School Celebration Reader with Pam Bourque, Jill and Lily; 3) NEH Celebration - Northeast Harbor Library Celebration Readers with Gracie; 4) NEH Library - Northeast Harbor Library Kick Off Nancy and Royce Morrison with Raya and Rebel; and 5) NEH Green Team - Northeast Harbor Library Celebration

Pat Horton, Youth Services Librarian organized the Blue Hill Extreme Readers at the Blue Hill Library. The library's Reading Education Assistance Dog, Gracie and her readers joined the "Blue Hill Extreme Readers" to celebrate reading at the library's Finish Line Celebration. Northeast Harbor Library's Children's Librarian, Eileen MacLean coordinated the project with fourth

and fifth grade educators at Mount Desert Elementary School. Three classes participated: Ms. Tripp's red team - "The Red Rangers", Ms. Taylor's purple team - "The Purple Paws" and Ms. Gray's green team - "The Juggernauts".

The "Ashley Bryan Musers" from the Ashley Bryan School on Islesford were coordinated by educators Donna Isaacs and Lauren Simmons. The "Musers" had a canvas bag with a husky "friend" for reading when riding the ferry. Frenchboro educator, Ashley MacCaslin coordinated the "Frenchboro Readers" at the school. Frenchboro School readers travelled the trail while reading by Skype with mascots Raya and Rebel from the town of Otis.

Idita-Readers and educators celebrated their achievements at Finish Line Celebrations with the Downeast Dog Scout Mascots. All readers received Certificates of Accomplishment and reward books for their reading efforts while they enjoyed a special Idita-Read cake. The readers visited with the troop dogs and many of the children read their new books to the dogs.

Educators reported tremendous enthusiasm among the readers for the Idita-Read Project. The Idita-Read was a great motivator for the students and made a big difference with their reading. It was wonderful to see the readers so excited about books!!!

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.

Great Pyrenees Club of America Recognizes Cirra with Versatility and Animal Assisted Therapy and Activities Titles



The Great Pyrenees Club of America has awarded Cirra, Glimmer's Spirit of Acadia, four advanced titles: Versatility with Advanced Excellence, Versatility Ultimate, Advanced Animal Assisted Therapy and Activities, and Advanced Excellent Animal Assisted Therapy and Activities. Cirra is presently the only Great Pyrenees to earn the Advanced Excellent Animal Assisted Therapy and Activities title. She is one of only three Great Pyrenees in the country to have earned the Versatility Ultimate title.

The Great Pyrenees Club of America's Versatility Program encourages Pyr owners to interact with their dogs in a positive, experiential and educational manner. Each year the Great Pyrenees Club of America acknowledges club members actively involved with their dogs in service to others in their community. The Great Pyrenees Versatility Program provides an opportunity to promote an

understanding of the breed and to honor the versatile nature of Pyrs.

The Great Pyrenees Club of America awards five Versatility titles which are earned on a progressive basis based on many possible combinations of activities. **Cirra's Versatility activities have included: agility, backpacking, boating, Camp Buster, Children Reading to Cirra visits, costume contests, dining, Dog Scouts of America merit badges, hiking, mountain climbing, rally obedience, therapy dog visits, training classes, photo contests, public education, transportation and walkathons.** As a member of the Downeast Dog Scouts she has been involved in numerous community service projects and educational programs.

The Advanced Animal Assisted Therapy and Activities title is awarded to a Great Pyrenees who has completed 500 hours of service in two different venues. The Advanced Excellent Animal Assisted Therapy and Activities title is awarded to a Great Pyrenees who has completed 800 hours of service in three different venues. Cirra's Animal Assisted Therapy and Activities currently include her Children Reading to Cirra Program and therapy dog visits to Birch Bay Retirement Village.

The Children Reading to Cirra Program provides a relaxed, comfortable, safe, nonjudgmental, empowering and fun environment to encourage the love of reading and improve reading skills. Readers learn how to interact safely around dogs and about responsible dog ownership. Children that read to Cirra develop special relationships with the soft, big, white fluffy girl.

Learning is enriching and fun with Cirra's breed cards, word puzzles, activity books and her Alphabet Book. "C is for Cirra" is a photographic alphabet book featuring Cirra's life from puppyhood to adulthood is a favorite book. Cirra has a mail basket at the library for children to leave her special notes and drawings if they wish. Her small, stuffed "Cirra" in a tote bag is also available for checkout for children to read to "Cirra" at home. Cirra rewards her readers with Cirra bookmarks with tassels of her spun fur, stickers, paw print pencils and special books to take home.

Cirra and Robyn Douglas currently offer the Children Reading to Cirra Program at the Northeast Harbor Library. In 2012 and 2013, Cirra also participated in the Idita-Read, an incentive reading program for school age children sponsored by the Downeast Dog Scouts at several schools and libraries. Last summer, campers at Camp Beech Cliff had the opportunity to read to Cirra

one afternoon a week during the last session of the day. Cirra continues to be involved in many additional children's literacy activities by visiting various libraries and schools for special events.



Photos left to right – 1) Northeast Harbor Library Reading Celebration Cirra's Readers; 2) Cirra's Cake; and 3) Northeast Harbor Library Reading Celebration Reader

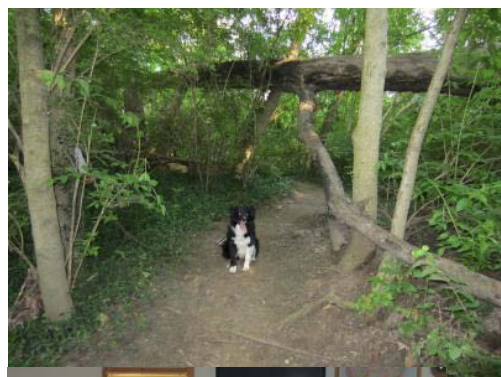
As a therapy dog team, Cirra and Denise Houseknecht visit the Pleasant Cove and Safe Harbor Assisted Living units at Birch Bay Village in Bar Harbor. Cirra provides emotional support and canine companionship for the residents that enjoy dogs. The staff of Birch Bay Village also enjoys Cirra's visits and visitors are quite thrilled to meet the beautiful big white dog that they have heard so much about. Cirra also garners attention when she occasionally escorts residents as they walk outdoors on the grounds. Over the past five years Cirra has made therapy dog visits at two hospitals, a nursing care facility and Birch Bay Village.

Great Pyrenees are confident, gentle, and affectionate. As a livestock guardian breed, the Great Pyrenees is matchless. They are known for their keen intellect and bore quickly with repetitious training. The Great Pyrenees breed heritage is to think independently with a reserved confidence when assessing threats to their flock. Forever observant, Cirra demonstrates the instinctive guardian characteristics of the breed and has assimilated into the human world as a therapeutic assistant. She is truly an exceptional ambassador for her breed!

Cirra, Glimmer's Spirit of Acadia, is eight years old and lives on Mount Desert Island with her owners Robyn Douglas and Denise Houseknecht. She clearly demonstrates that a Great Pyrenees can learn and fully participate when given opportunity and devotion from the owners. Cirra may be seen out for a daily walk, enjoying a boating trip, shopping at Bark Harbor, exploring a hiking trail, dining on the lawn at the Jordan Pond House and quite often getting her picture taken. She has taught many to love and respect the unique characteristics of the Great Pyrenees breed. Cirra has represented the Great Pyrenees breed with distinction and has lived up to her name in every respect as Glimmer's Spirit of Acadia.

Troop 177 – Indianapolis, Indiana

Troop #177 gathered for a hike at the Indianapolis Museum of Art's 100 Acres in Indianapolis on May 16. This was a Thursday



night hike designed to break up the usual Saturday morning routine meetings. Large outdoor art can be found in and around a lake. Trails snake throughout the woods, along the canal and around the lake. Greg and Gail Wiseman brought Zipper and a guest. Anita Dudley brought Sophie and Robyn Porter brought Hallie for this humid hike.

Photo far left - Zipper poses on the trail in the IMA 100 Acre woods. Photo left - Sophie and

Hallie play in the IMA 100 Acres

Anita Dudley and Robyn Porter attended the DSA Leadership Retreat over Memorial Day weekend in Michigan. Hikes, presentations, laughs and good food were the order of the weekend. Anita presented on Backpacking and Robyn presented on Overnight Camping.

Photo left - Anita presents Backpacking while Sophie observes





Amy Heard and Star, Anita Dudley and Sophie joined Robyn Porter and Hallie for a hike at Mounds State Park on June 8. The ancient mounds were constructed by prehistoric Indians around 160 B.C. The mounds were used as gathering places for religious ceremonies and viewing astronomical alignments.

Photo: Star, Sophie and Hallie in a dugout canoe!

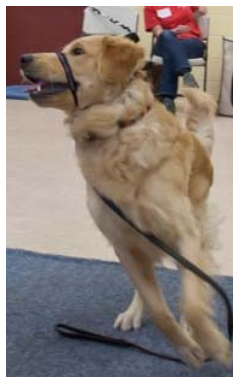
Submitted by **Robyn Porter, Troop #177, Indianapolis IN**

Troop 183 – Central Florida
Do You Wanna Dance? by Cyndi Mimms

On June 9th, Central Florida's Troop 183 turned the dance floor over to Linda C., a member of a local Freestyle group, and she shared with us some of the things she'd learned in over a decade of training, performing, and competing in Freestyle with her dogs.

For a Freestyle routine to be created the dog is taught moves that blend with those of the handler. The great news for newbies is that it can include many traditional dog obedience commands – walking on the left (and right), sit, down, coming when called and moving into heel position. In addition to those commands, common party tricks – spin to the left and right, walk backwards, dancing on hind legs, high five, sit pretty/beg and weave/figure 8 through handler's legs – can also be used in a routine. Who knew that traditional pet training could be so much fun? Just by adding some music many of us were on our way to creating a cute freestyle routine. Linda impressed upon us that it is important to think about dancing with our dogs as a means of sharing joy with both our canine companions and with our audience; this philosophy certainly fits in with the values of Dog Scouts. One of our attendees observed that, "Success of the routine was based on the dog being under control through training and [the] tricks [that had been] taught.

"We started out the troop activity with each attendee and their dog taking the floor and working with some music to find a beat and rhythm that the dog enjoyed. Linda stressed that when we pick our music we should use something we really enjoy because we'll be playing it over, and over, and over again as we practice our routine! So we shouldn't pick something just because we think it would be a good Freestyle piece, but because we really like the music. Music can come from any genre, as long as the tempo is right for both the handler and the dog; Linda had mentioned that waltzes and marches were often more difficult to work with, so, as newbies, we stayed away from music with those tempos. For some ideas to get started with your dog, here's the playlist we used: Belle Stars, "IKO IKO"; Gloria Estefan, "1 2 3" or "Conga"; Grace Jones, "Pull up to the



Bumper"; Hunter Hayes, "I Want Crazy"; Celtic Storm, "Hills of Connemara"; Kylie Minogue, "The Loco Motion"; Elvis Presley, "Return to Sender"; Abba, "Waterloo"; Brooks & Dunn, "Boot Scooting Boogie"; Right Side Fred, "I'm Too Sexy"; and The Chordettes, "Lollipop".

Linda noted that as we teach new tricks to our dogs they'll perform the ones they're more comfortable with better than the newer tricks. She also informed us that sometimes in a performance a dog may perform a behavior other than the one the handler cues; when that happens the best thing to do is just keep going. She said audiences enjoy watching a performance where the dog "ad-libs" almost as much as the dog does everything perfectly, if not more so!

In researching Freestyle we found that once a dog learns a behavior we need to work on putting it on a cue that is barely noticeable to the onlooker this means a cue that looks like part of the handler's natural movement as they progress through the routine. Unlike competition obedience, a cue in Freestyle is not limited to one hand or arm movement, but can be the movement of a foot, a head nod, or even the angle of the handler's body, this gives us many more options for performing a routine and asking for behaviors from our dogs.



Once all the attendees had worked with the music we spent the remainder of the session working on some of the components of a routine, spins to the left and right, leg weaves, and figure 8's between the handler's legs, among other behaviors. It seemed like everyone was up and working with their dog at the end of our session. We hope our members were inspired to continue to learn new things and apply behaviors their dogs already know in different ways. Our troop leaders thought Freestyle would be a great activity to perform for the public when we're involved in community events as a way to highlight Dog Scouts and to share the joy that comes with responsible dog ownership. This was a great spring board for our troop to be inspired to keep working on these behaviors, and we look forward to seeing some Freestyle routines in the not too distant future.



Tricks 4 Treats by Susan Pardee & Shirley Conley

May 5, 2013, saw Central Florida's DSA **Troop 183** gather to work on tricks. We had a number of behavior goals to work on for this session in preparation for future fundraising events, and specifically for fundraising in December: ringing a bell (with either the dog's nose or foot), holding a basket, taking paper (money), and dropping paper (money) into a basket. We had eleven dogs and their handlers in attendance, including two guests, Marilyn and her All-American Dog, Allie, and Rico with his Irish Setter, Jay Jay.



We started out working on our dogs touching either their nose or paw to our hand (targeting), using a clicker to tell the dog when they did the desired behavior for which they got a reward. Most of our troop members' dogs are clicker/marker savvy and know targeting so this part went very smoothly. We then added a bell to the picture, holding it in our hand for the dog to continue the targeting behavior, and then lengthening the string/ribbon attached to the bell so that eventually the dogs started targeting the bell instead of our hand. For the dogs that were more interested in the hand than the bell when we started lengthening the ribbon, we extended the ribbon to its full length to take our hand out of the picture, and clicked and rewarded any interaction with the bell. Susan's All

American Dog, Juliette, was constantly wagging her tail and her bright eyes let us know she was having fun trying to figure out what earned her the cookies. Some of our troop members, such as Cyndi and Flat Coated Retriever, Casey, already knew this behavior because they use it for Casey to tell Cyndi when she needs to go outside.

Next we worked on beginning behaviors for holding a basket handle. The retrievers in our troop did this very well and worked on holding the basket handle longer; with the other dogs who hadn't worked on retrieving before we had them grab a wrapped cheese stick (yes, we kept hold of one end!), those that got comfortable with the cheese stick then progressed to a dumbbell or the basket handle, (a dowel rod or a cardboard tube could be used when practicing at home, and later attached to a basket handle).



Following we worked on taking and dropping paper in preparation for receiving donations and dropping them into a basket. Carol's Labrador Retriever, Kingston, and Karyn's Golden Retriever, Maya, were our star performers; both made it as far as accepting money and dropping it into either a basket or a box. We were delighted with Astrid's All-American Dog, Boomer, who, never having done any retrieve work before, was willingly taking hold of paper in exchange for yummy treats by the end of the session. Marilyn and Allie also did well teaching Allie to drop paper on cue, the next step for them will be to hold the paper

longer before the cue to release it is given, and only rewarding when the paper is dropped on cue.

At the end of our scheduled event, our dogs had a short play session, then those who were interested in taking the Dog Scout Certification participated in a "leave it" training session. Some of our troop members appeared to have made some good progress since our training session in April.

Video of the troop's progress can be seen on the troop's Facebook page, and pictures of the event are posted on our website.



Troop 188 - Connecticut and Rhode Island

So many things have happened during the last few months for Dog Scout Troop 188! Here are just a few of the highlights. Troop 188 has three new dog scouts!



Congratulations to Newman and JoJo on their DSA badges, and Baylee on her Jr. Dog Scout badge.

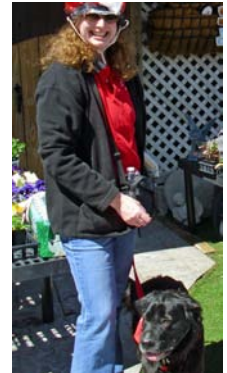


We'd also like to congratulate Nemo for a job well-done at Rally-O Nationals. He earned his "Q" and made us all proud. You go Nemo!





We've been hard at work, working towards earning our backpacking, hiking, and letterboxing badges. On Easter, several members of the Troop and friends met at Rome Point in RI and hiked out to the beach to see the seals that sun themselves on the rocks during their annual migration. Star DSA, Lucy DSA and Pirate DSA located and collected over 100 bags of dog waste from along the trails leading to the beach, during the 3.25 mile trek. Star packed them out on her backpack. The trails are much nicer to hike now. Good work Star!



On Earth day, we participated in a cleanup walk, sponsored by Stonington Feeds-the Mystic Pet Shop. We made hats out of recycled materials, wandered around downtown Mystic, picking up trash and enjoying the scenery of this lovely area.



One of our favorite events was our lunch with the Ledyard Senior Citizens at their center. 5 Scouts and friends brought the seniors information on The Yellow Dog Project, companion visits, upcoming vaccination and registration clinics, and fun activities to do with dogs including tricks to teach dogs and letterboxing. The visit was so popular with the seniors we have been asked back for weekly visits and are in the process of organizing a letterboxing workshop for all the interested members.





Troop 188 also continued practicing our skills for our Rally and Therapy badges during meetings and at special workshops. Sometimes it appears that the dogs have a better understanding of the signs than the parents! Of course the variable New England weather may have had something to do with that.

Our Hike-a-thon team raised over \$100 during May. In addition to our hikes and backpacking adventures we again offered "Small Dog Strolls" as hiking alternatives for the tiniest members of our troop. These are 1+ miles walks thru a local Victorian strolling garden. As always we practiced good trail manners cleaning up after ourselves and others.



Some members of our troop gathered to work distractions and desensitization at our local Memorial Day Parade. The parade route abuts a field giving the trainers and their dogs plenty of

room to work the dogs under each individual's threshold while preparing them for the sights and sounds of fire engines, marching bands, livestock, tractors, horses, children, balloons and other odd things. The dogs were preparing for future parade participations as a troop.



We all gathered at the Connecticut Renaissance Faire for a day of fun and frivolity with our dogs. The troop provided pet watering stations for the animals in attendance and also policed the grounds for any unwanted "gifts" left by sight-seeing pets. Troop members enjoyed participating in the canine costume contest, with costumes made by our fabulous troop seamstress Beth Nado. Reubenhood, our troop leader Sheri's cute little cocker, won first place, narrowly beating out fellow troop member Daisy the chiweenie. (Even though she *shamelessly* flirted with the Mayor!). Our group spread the word about Dog Scouts and made many new friends including being made part of the act on a few occasions!



Troop 188 ran our 3rd annual Canine Wellness Fair, raising over \$1,100 to help local shelter pets and Dog Scout troop charities. We had several vendors highlighting different aspects of overall pet care and health, including positive pet training, canine nutrition, volunteer work to benefit local animal control, and of course, dog scouts. Over 145 animals received vaccinations and over 62 dogs were registered with the town. Big thanks to Mary Crist for organizing all the baskets for the raffle table, which is always a huge draw.



Troop 188 provided plenty of volunteer legwork for a CGC test at Ledyard High School. Several troop dogs and non-troop dogs tested. Congrats to those in the troop who passed their tests; JoJo, Baylee, Noodle, and Monster.



We continue to meet whenever we can to go letterboxing, with two of our troop members earning their Letterboxing Level One badge. Congrats Star and Pirate! Other troop members will be earning more letterboxing badges soon, with the troop actively working towards planting over 60 letterboxes for an event we will be hosting on July 13, 2013. There are 54 cemeteries in Ledyard CT, which is the highest concentration of cemeteries in any town in Connecticut. We will be planting a letterbox in honor of each cemetery. If you are in the neighborhood, stop on by and say hello.



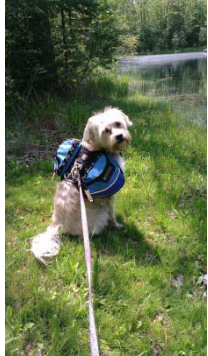
Lots more hiking, letterboxing, clean-up and other fun things are coming up in the next few months for Troop 188. In the meantime, we'll be out enjoying the sunny weather. See you on the trails!

Respectfully Submitted by
Julianne Grove and Sheri Throop



Troop 213/Colorado

In May, Troop 213's two Troop Leader's made the long drive from Colorado to Michigan to attend Leadership Camp. Margo Suzuki and her dog Hailey and Julie Montilla-Goad and her dog Ace had a great time meeting the other leaders and learning lots of new things at leadership camp. Margo and Hailey earned their Rally 1 and Backpacking badge while there. Julie and Ace earned the Overnight Camping Badge and Julie became an evaluator for the Rally badge. They brought home many ideas and can't wait to share them with their troop!



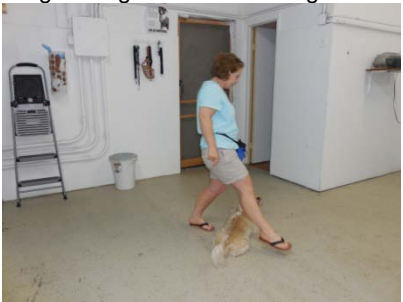
Ace Montilla-Goad and Hailey Suzuki Traveling BFF's Hailey Sukuki (so cute) Julie Montilla-Goad and Ace ready to hike



Overnight Camping Buddies

May and June Dog Scout Meetings

Troop 213 is having a lot fun coming up with a routine to earn the Drill Team Badge. They are learning new skills with their dogs while strengthening their bond through trust and fun.



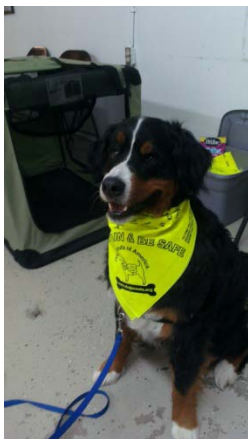
Margo practicing stepping over Hailey



Julie practicing a "ZAP" with Ace



Margo and Hailey working on a eight



Ace modeling a "Door Prize"
(a bandanna from Leadership Retreat)

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

Troop 217 – Southeast Michigan

As the spring temperatures and longer days arrive, Troop 217 continues to get more active with a variety of new events and very active participation from our members. We were very pleased to gain several new members over the past couple months – welcome to Cheryl, Judi and Patrick, and Hannah and Dennis! We are looking forward to seeing you and your canines at many of the upcoming events!

On April 19, Angela and Lowell hosted another training video night to view the second half of Patricia McConnell's "Dog Play" seminar. The viewing again prompted some interesting discussion, and we followed by watching and commenting on footage of some of our own dogs' play styles. The video nights continue to be a hit, and are always a fun and educational evening.

Troop Members Catherine Stafford, Bob Carlini, Melissa Perez w/niece Ashley, Betsy Conway, and Julie Benson attended Plymouth's Cultural center Pet Open House on April 20th with their dogs to promote our local troop, offer training tips to attendees, and to spread the Dog Scout mission. Troop 217 gained two new members from this event, Judi and Patrick Hales with their dog Lydia.



Shelby working the table at the Plymouth Pet Expo.

On April 25th, Julie and Shelby Benson visited with ten Cadette Girl Scouts to discuss the importance of service and therapy dogs and explain the difference between these two types of "helping" dogs. The girls (grades 7th and 8th) were able to ask specific questions and discuss how animals help them to feel good.

Troop 217 held their first Freestyle Workshop at "My Hero Dog Training" in Commerce, MI, on April 28th. Troop member Elizabeth Nadjuch taught the beginner Freestyle 101 class, assisting troop members along the way. Everyone had a great time learning the moves, watching some more advanced steps by Elizabeth and Emma, and just having fun w/their dogs.



Annie Schuler at the Freestyle Workshop.

On May 4th, Troop 217 came out to support the American Cancer Society during its Bark for Life walk/run event in Dexter, MI. Michelle and Sassy Neu, Kim and Winnie Behrmann, and Julie and Shelby Benson, walked the fun walk to raise money for this great cause. Troop 217 also had a booth at the event, where additional troop members Elizabeth and Emma Nadjuch, Sally and Katie Hoyle, and Mary and Toby Gleason, promoted our local Dog Scout troop, helped dogs that passed by play some interactive dog games, and spread the Dog Scout mission. Throughout the day we also had the opportunity to enjoy some fun agility courses, participate in the Doggie Dash, and have our dogs lure course.



L to R: Mary and Toby, Katie and Sally, Emma, Kim and Winnie, Sassy, Julie and Shelby.

On May 19, we held our monthly hike at Lakeshore Park in Novi, MI. Despite the warmer temperatures, we had a great turnout including some of our newest members, and the shady wooded trails helped keep us all comfortable.



Hikers stopping for a water break at Lakeshore Park.

Julie and Shelby Benson and Diane and Odie Schuler finished their school year of Pet Care presentations with a Junior Girl Scout troop on May 22nd. The girls were taught how to properly greet a dog, when never to approach dogs, basic pet care, diet, and exercise. At the conclusion of the presentation the Junior Girl Scouts declared the meeting "Best Troop Meeting ever!!!", so the dogs proved to be a huge success, a great way to end 4 months' worth of 9 Pet Care presentations!

Over Memorial Day weekend, three of our troop leaders were able to attend the annual DSA Leadership Retreat at Dog Scout Camp in St. Helen, MI. Julie, Angela, and Lowell all had a great time visiting with other troop leaders from around the country, exchanging new ideas, learning new things, and presenting on a variety of topics from pet travel, water safety, and wilderness safety. All came back excited to bring new ideas to the troop.



Lowell getting ready for a hike with Tristan, Maebe, and Django at the DSA Leadership Retreat.

On June 2, we met again for a hike around Argo Pond in Ann Arbor, MI. This was one of our most well-attended hikes to date with 14 people and a dozen dogs! After the 2 mile hike, most of the group stayed to rent kayaks and paddle for a couple hours on the Huron River. We had some brand new boating dogs in the group, and all of them did great on their first water voyages.



L to R: Joe, Django (foreground), Samantha and Ella.



Scarlett on her first kayak ride with Cheryl.



Patrick Judi, and a very relaxed Lydia enjoying the boat ride.

Troop 217 was invited to K9's & Cones on June 8th by a local Livonia Jaycee chapter. The event was hosted at Dairy King in Plymouth, MI, and all money raised, and items donated, were given to the Detroit Dog Rescue. Dairy King graciously gave out free doggie sundaes throughout the day which all our troop dogs seemed to thoroughly enjoy!



Shelby enjoying a frozen treat.

As the summer approaches, we are excited for a variety of events on the horizon. In June, Angela and Lowell will host a training day that will focus on agility and on building drive and attention, and we also will hold another letterboxing event. In July, we are looking forward to our annual summer picnic, an "Art of Shaping" painting day, and several members will also be attending Dog Scout Camp together. In August we will be taking our annual camping trip, and have a few other events in the works including another video night and a possible clicker training/shaping/tricks training day. As always, we are thrilled to have so many energetic and enthusiastic members who make every event a success, and we are looking forward to lots of good times in the coming months.

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://dsatroop217.com>.

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

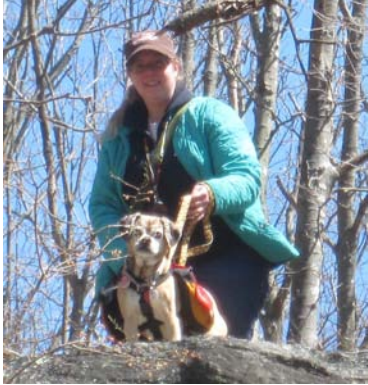
Dog Scout Troop 219 – The New England Explorers
Southeastern Connecticut and Rhode Island

Hike at Bluff Point and Troop Meeting

On April 21, 2013 pups Zora DSA, Gypsy, Big Guy, and their family members Kelly and Becky went Geocaching at Bluff Point early in the morning. It was a beautiful sunny day and everyone had a great time for both playing and working on their badges! They found a geocache hiding under a big rock after a wonderful hike in the woods. Becky also helped Zora and Kelly hide a letterbox, called the "Puggle's Pal Pooh"!

The fun day continued along as the rest of the New England Explorers members met up for their meeting hosted by Pack n' Go Pets Exclusive in Hope Valley, Rhode Island. The weather was perfect for testing and practicing for their Dog Scout Badges, and everyone did an awesome job working on their skills.

Photos below: Kelly & Zora DSA on top of a rock wall; Gypsy hunting for a geocache; Mojo & Linda working on leave-its.



Troop Hike at Devil's Hopyard

On April 27, 2013 Kelly & Zora of DSA Troop 219 were joined by the newest Troop members Abby, Annie, John and Jackie for long hike up to the Vista at Devil's Hopyard State Park. Together and working as a troop they were able to successfully find 2 geocaches, one of which was all the way at the top near the vista. After the hike the group had a yummy picnic, provided by Troop Leaders Zora DSA and Kelly. What a splendid end to a fun-filled day!

Photo right: New members John, Abby & Annie.



Photos below: Roger, Angela and Sophie found their first geocache on their own; Kelly and Zora at the Vista; Linda, Mojo and Kapri at the Vista;



Grills Preserve Hike

On May 12, 2013 Kelly and Zora DSA set out together to celebrate Mother's Day with a hike at the Grills Preserve in Bradford RI. They hiked all over the beautiful preserve and found two geocaches, spent time playing in the water and had an all around wonderful day! They planted another letterbox called the, "Puggle's Partner for Pirouettes". They even planted their fourth geocache called Boulderling Puggle!

Photo right: Zora at the top of the 'Big Hill' with the second geocache that she found on Mother's Day.



Annual Troop Hike-a-thon at Bluff Point 2013!

On June 2, 2013 the DSA Hike-a-thon concluded on a beautiful sun filled June day at Bluff Point State Park of CT. People and pups from all over the New England area met up to begin a 3 hour hike around the trails! Not only did everyone get to practice behaving themselves as with all sorts of exciting distractions, but they also got to burn off some energy hiking the trails and playing in the water by the beach! The group was huge at around 20-25 people and was full of all sorts of shapes, sizes and personalities of pups too! We had a fun time and can't wait for next year to do it again. To end our fun Hike-a-thon festivities, a few members of the group met up to enjoy some ice cream at the local Dairy Queen and wind down from the busy morning.

Photos below: Zora DSA running on the trail; Linda and Kapri love the ocean!



Troop Leaders, Kelly and Zora DSA brought a special souvenir from the Leadership Retreat with them on the hike with the Troop to visit the ocean. A Travel Bug called "San Diego Nostalgia II" from Robyn Porter. They are thrilled to be able to start Robyn's new travel bug out on its journey on the East coast to the West coast.

Photos below: The group checking out the ocean; Zora DSA and Kelly with the travel bug!



Lauren Houck, Troop Historian

Leadership Retreat Report

Zora DSA and I attended our first leadership retreat this year and had so much fun! I was thrilled to be the first presenter. I presented on Geocaching, our newest hobby. Zora and I love Geocaching and have so much fun out in the woods! We planted our 5th and 6th geocaches at camp, completing Zora's Geocache 2 badge! I loved watching people try to find the micro cache that we planted, it is so sneaky. We also spent some time Geocaching around camp with Lonnie, her new puppy Caper, Doree, Faith and Riot. Zora thought this was the best, because she got to ride in the golf cart and sick her head out.



We learned a lot of new things during the weekend. I loved learning about Doga. We also learned about scootering and Doree let me borrow her scooter. I had a great time riding up and down the camp road, with Zora trotting along beside me. We learned a great new way of training the 'landlubber' dogs how to swim from Angela, using a kiddie pool. I'm really excited to try it at July Camp.

We made so many new friends and hope to see everyone again at camp or maybe next year's retreat!

Happy Trails!! Kelly Ford and Zora Puggle DSA CGC PD, Troop 219 Leaders



Attitude of Gratitude

DSA would like to thank Claudette Smith of troop 101 for donating a Wheelhorse Garden Tractor with mowing deck plus plow blade to camp. Joe has got it running and has been mowing the grass with it!

Big thanks go to Melissa Matteson and her canines and Lonnie Olson for their help with the Spring Clean-up. They were the only ones to show up, but BOY did they ever get a lot of work done!

A BIG thank you to Peggy Zweber for establishing and continuing to support the Nikki Zweber Memorial Scholarship fund. This year's recipients of the scholarship are Sally Hoyle and Julie Lawler. They are new DSA members and recently joined Troop 217. They attended the July camp.

Lonnie Olson

We have received a donation in memory of Cleo Holmgren, Lynne Holmgren's Mom.

Barb Whiting

Rainbow Bridge

Gala, DSA, went to the Rainbow Bridge on Monday, June 3. She would have been 10 years old in August. She had come to us with 3 of her littermates from a French Canadian Musher, who wanted us to socialize the sled dog pups in exchange for getting to keep one. "Annie" was not my first pick, but Ed got to choose, and she was slightly better with children than the others. So Annie became "Gala," and stayed with us. I tried to make her my service dog for the first 2 years, but she had issues in automobiles, and she had issues with other dogs. She would never start a fight, but if another dog picked one with her, she'd try to finish him off. This is why many of you may never have met Gala, or heard of her.

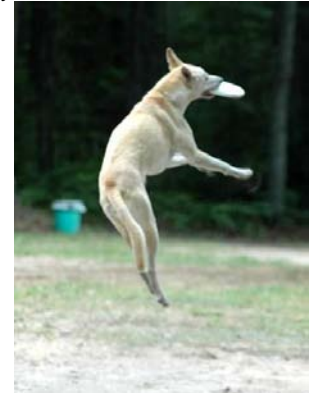


After she washed out of service dog training, I began working with Panda to that end, about the time I moved into the mobile home next door. Gala stayed with Ed for 7 of her ten years, and I just got her back when we got divorced a year ago. He said to me, "Gala is going to be looking for a new home... are you interested?" I couldn't bear to think of her living out her life tied on a chain at some musher's place, after being the princess of Ed's bed for all those years, so I took her.

In Gala's short time with me, in her youth, she taught me how I could train a dog to retrieve by using a helium balloon. She became a Frisbee dog ace. She took to sled dog racing the very first time she was in a harness, as if what to do was in her blood. She had a passion for lure coursing,



and was grace in motion in the field. She was a kind soul, and I could always count on her at an expo to put up with the endless mauling and people shoving their faces in her face, without worrying that she would decide she'd had enough. She never met a stranger. She loved everyone. She collected dollars for DSA and did bell ringing for Salvation Army. She did therapy visits at the nursing home.



In the past year, she has been a sick, arthritic dog. Yet she constantly would put on the "happy face" and start playing by herself with a toy, tossing it up and trying to engage me in a game of keep away

or fetch. She used to love small superballs (we called them "small ball"), and she would race around the house with one, intentionally spitting it out of her mouth like a watermelon seed, and letting it bounce up under the kick plate of the kitchen cupboards, where it would go rat-a-tat-a-tat, bouncing up and down in the small space with lightening speed. She was such a happy dog.

When we finally were able to diagnose what was making her sick, the cancer had gone throughout her lymph nodes and spleen, with a large tumor in her bladder, blocking off her urethra. We thought she might have two weeks or so left, but the time proved to be very short, and we ended her ordeal on Monday. It's hard to get used to not having her in the house.

Gala rests in the lure/Frisbee field, where she most loved to play. Rest in peace, girl. I hope you're chasing Frisbees and lures in doggie heaven.



Lonnie, Kozi, Panda and Caper

Photos above are:

Gala age 2 at the 2005 Winter Camp;

"Air Gala" catching a Frisbee;

Greeting folks at the Novi Pet Expo; and

Gala, in March of this year, meeting her new little sister, Caper.

In Closing . . . Remembering

As I finish this last newsletter as editor, I want to take a moment to thank Lonnie Olson for entrusting me with this wonderful job. Without her, this organization, Dog Scouts of America, and the Michigan camps would not exist. I reached the 10 year anniversary with this year's July camp, hard to believe that Charly was only 2 years old at the beginning. I always tell people there is a magic bubble over the Michigan camp that allows you dog to learn anything. Thanks to Lonnie for having the imagination, fortitude and creativity to start this place where dogs, no matter their size, shape, or coloring, have plenty of tail to wag and a heart full of love to make it go. They are all welcome. I know my dogs feel the excitement the minute we turn down the gravel lane, and Charly is beside himself with joy and we turn the corner around the lodge and he sees "his" Splash Lake. Lonnie has been through some hard times recently and, I think she would appreciate some feedback from the members on her contributions to DSA and you, and especially, her contributions to the Michigan camps.

I don't want to forget the others who won my heart with their wisdom, humor and love and understanding of our 4 legged families. Chris Puls, thanks for being so patient with me as I learned the newsletter and always being there to answer any questions with a smile (and coming to watch Charly at the Dock Diving Nationals in Cincinnati). Beth Duman, who taught my little Nikki how to swim and to retrieve, your intuitiveness into her psyche just amazed me. And Jean-Luc just loves you and your gentleness with him. Joanne Weber, who photographed my dogs and made them look beautiful (Charly said it's "handsome"). Your photo of him doing his weave poles, Nikki coming out of her tunnel, Cate jumping off the dock with her reflection in the water are my favorites, and now, Jean-Luc (Luke) tipping his head in curiosity as you meowed taking the photo, I tried so hard to hold back the laughter so he wouldn't move. Allison Holloway who won over my skepticism of her abilities with her first reading of Nikki, knowing the mysteries of her name without me telling her. Thanks for all of your time mind melding with Charly, Nikki, Cate and Jean-Luc. Martha Thierry for your hard work on the calendar which I enjoy each year, thanks for making my heart leap with joy when one of my dogs is included. Fay Reid for the best summer cobblers ever!! Both Martha and Fay for catching my dogs in action with camera ready. Chris Kloski, best auctioneer, thanks for all the DSA inscribed items for the auction to bid on and thanks for all you skits from Pet Star night that made me laugh so hard. Bill Kloski, thanks for holding Charly when he wouldn't let go of the oar he retrieved while I went in the lodge to get something of higher value to trade with him. And thanks for carrying Nikki to my car when I had to take her for that final trip to the vet, telling her it was going to be alright when we knew it wasn't. You are all my family and I wouldn't give up my camp experiences for anything. As I get older and crankier, please be patient with me, I intend to come to camp as long as I am able. My thoughts are with you all.

Peggy Zweber, Editor, signing off one last time