



Official newsletter ~ Dog Scouts of America

The Dog Scout Scoop

Published for DSA's responsible dog-loving members and for the friends of dogs everywhere



Volume 18 Issue 2 May/June 2015

SPECIAL 20th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION PLANNED

Keep your eyes peeled for more information about a special 20th anniversary event being planned for this fall. Everyone's invited. It's part DSA camper reunion, part "get a taste of camp," and part celebration of our relationships with our dogs. It's still in the planning stages, but you only hit your 20th anniversary once, and we wanted to do something big.

Keep the date of September 26-27 available. People can drop in for a day, or spend the whole weekend at camp. Usual lodging fees apply, but other than that, there's no charge for attending. We want to give out a punch card allowing guests free attendance at various events going on at the camp. After the free one, you may purchase additional punch cards to enjoy more stuff with your dog (or a second dog).

Activities may include games, scavenger hunt, blessing of the animals, mini presentations, Agility fun run, lure coursing



fun run, crafts, and other great stuff.

Because many of our dogs have passed away since our beginnings 20 years ago, there will be a remembrance Walk along the trail to pay homage to the dogs that are at the rainbow bridge. Guests will have an opportunity to make a "doggie angel" with bird seed or flower seeds. After you hang your dog's remembrance angel on the tree, it will eventually bio-degrade, leaving perennial wild flowers for future generations to enjoy. Guests will also have an opportunity to make a remembrance luminary to line the path of the remembrance walk.

There will be a raffle, and possibly some other fun contests based

on trivia from our past 20 years. You can get a free raffle ticket for each event in which you pay to participate. We will have some vendors with cool doggie stuff on hand.

If you'd like to have a vendor booth, volunteer to help with the event, offer to add an event not mentioned, or have an idea that will add to the fun (and FUNdraising), please contact Lonnie (dogscoutcamp@gmail.com).

We hope to attract campers, former campers, members, former members, Dog Scouts, and Dog Scout "wannabes," people whose lives we've touched over the past 20 years, or people just hearing about DSA for the first time.

Deadline

for the next newsletter (July/August) is

July 15th

Please e-mail your news, articles, and pictures to thescoop@dogscouts.org

Inside this issue:

Notes from National	1-5
• 20th Anniversary Pathtags	2
• New Store Item	
• Six Additional Dog Scouts in 2014	
• Improved Beach & Camping Area	3
• Photos Needed for DSA Calendar	4
• 2015 Hike-A-	
• New Chapel at Michigan Camp	5
Badge Bulletin & Title Tales	6-8
• Trail Titles	6-7
• Path to Becoming a Dog Scout	8
Rainbow Bridge	9
Troop Talk	10-25
Contacts	26



20th Anniversary Commemorative Pathtags!

DSA has ordered some special pathtags to commemorate our 20th year. These have a similar design to what is on the 20th Anniversary Tee shirts, and has the DSA Logo on the reverse side.

Pathtags are great collector's items. Trade with friends, put them in Geocaches or Letterboxes as first-finder prizes, or wear them as a necklace or use as a key fob. They will be available soon.

Get yours by contacting Lonnie Olson at

dogscoutcamp@gmail.com.

They will be \$5.00 each. Please support your organization by purchasing several.

New Camp Store Item!

We've reordered the fanny packs for the camp store, and this time, we have a nicer quality pack with three zippered pouches, instead of just one. These are great for storing items that all Dog Scout Parents need to keep handy... Poop baggies, treats, clicker, phone, wallet... These aren't on the online store yet, as we're still trying to get that fixed. But if you want one, you can order it directly from Lonnie dogscoutcamp@gmail.com. Or, pick one up when you're at camp! **They are \$10.00.**



Six More Dogs to Add to the 2014 Dog Scout Title Recipients!

Six dogs earned their Dog Scout title at the Texas Mini-Camp in November 2014. Since their badges were filled at camp we missed them in the list published in the last newsletter, our apologies.

Congratulations to

Daisy Mae Blue

Stella Hudson

Bogey Miller

Mackee Neely

Princess Dot St. Clair

Ellie Stearns

That brings our new Dog Scout title holders for 2014 to 54—more than one a week! Hope everyone's reviewing the Guide and practicing the practical portion, we'd love to surpass that number in 2015!

Keep an eye on the Badge Bulletin & Title Tales section for training tips to help with your future Dog Scout and badge/title earner.



Improved Beach and Camping Area Donated by Troop 101 and Friends

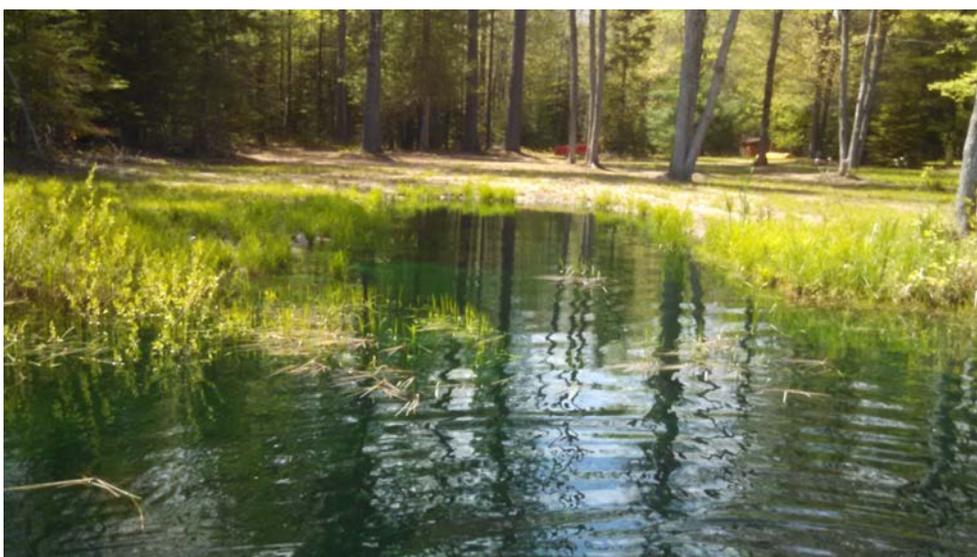
by Lonnie Olson

This is the new area that was improved and made beautiful through the generosity of members of Troop 101 (Saint Helen, MI), and Peggy Zweber of Peoria, IL. It used to look like any other section of forest (hilly, unwalkable, low spots and high spots, elbow to elbow trees and dead trees everywhere...), until Troop 101 held several fundraisers to enable them to hire this work done.

Pictured right is the view from the pond (boathouse and dock are to the right of this photo): There was also a large contribution from Peggy Zweber. Now, it looks like a park-like setting, and all we're waiting for is the grass we planted to grow!



Carved into the beach side is a narrow, shallow channel, designed for teaching dogs to swim (pictured below).



Thanks to Troop 101 and Peggy Zweber for sponsoring this camp improvement. It has really opened up the pond, and made the area look much nicer. Plus, now we have a separate "puppy pond" area for teaching beginner swimmers, which is away from the other water activities and distractions. The improved area is 175 feet deep and 85 feet wide. It gives us 75 additional feet of usable shore on the pond, and the puppy pond is about 20' by 35'.

Got Photos?

Preparations have begun for the 2016 DSA Calendar and we need your help. We are changing the process for creating the calendar in order to make it easier for the people who do the work and make it fun for everyone to submit photos. Our dogs do so many fun things and we want to capture as many of them as possible for the 2016 calendar!

Here are some things we're looking for in photos of these activities:



Photos of individual dogs, small groups and troops are all appropriate for the calendar contest. Please use the link below to submit your photos by July 1. Be sure to include a short description of the activity pictured for judging.

https://groups.yahoo.com/neo/groups/DSA_TalkList/photos/albums/16331090

Get your photos in now so that your dog can become a 2016 calendar dog!



2015

Hike-a-Thon

The annual Hike-a-Thon is in progress. There's still plenty of time for you to get involved if you're not already signed up. It's fun and easy! Just go to www.firstgiving.com/DogScouts/hike-a-thon-2015 to get started and be sure to join or create a team. Set your goal, share your personal fundraising link and ask friends and family to support you as you work towards your goal. Then all you have to do is walk with your favorite 4-legged friend!

The prizes for the Hike-a-Thon are great this year! Raise a minimum of \$50 and receive a Hike-a-Thon patch. Hit the \$200 mark and you'll receive a DSA logo bag and water bottle. Raise \$500 or \$1,000 and you will get a \$50 or \$100 gift certificate to the DSA camp store. The top fundraiser and top team will be announced following the end of the event and will have bragging rights as the event champions throughout the year!

This is also a great opportunity to work on any of the trails titles.

Any miles you walk for the Hike-a-Thon may be counted towards a PackDog or TrailDog title. Working on Letterboxing or Geocaching badges or titles? Just be sure you are meeting the requirements as defined on the badge form or in the Trails Titling Guidebook and count those miles as well!

The Hike-a-Thon runs through June 30 so dust off those hiking boots, grab a leash for your buddy and get walking. We can't wait to see who comes out on top!

New Chapel at Michigan Camp by Lonnie Olson

We've been working on putting in a Chapel at Dog Scout Camp for almost as long as we've had camp here. I found this nice clearing close to the main campus, where I thought it would be perfect to put a little outdoor, open air chapel. It's close enough for a short walk, but far enough from the hub of camp to get some solitude. This would be a place to go to have a special moment with your dog, or with God, or just to meditate or practice Shin Rin Yoku (the Japanese art of luxuriating in the forest). There are three big, 200+ year old white pines in the area, and we've been working on cleaning up the dead trees and deadfalls to open up the area more. Our plans are rather open. We'd like to install a stained glass window, featuring an Angel holding a puppy. But, then, of course, we'd have to erect some sort of building or 3-sided, open building with windows and a roof. If anyone has some ideas for this project, or would like to donate funds or labor for further improvement/construction, please contact Lonnie (dogscoutcamp@gmail.com). We may have a contest for naming the chapel, or, for a large enough donation, we would consider naming it after someone.

Does this area look familiar to anyone? It's not far from the main campus (near the corner of Dog Scout Way and Shorty's Cut).



Members who showed up for the spring clean-up did a lot of pruning and cutting, and carted out 12 huge trailer loads piled high with stumps, rotten logs, branches, dead trees, firewood and debris, to clean up this area of forest for the Chapel.

Thanks go to Melissa Matteson of Ohio, and Claudette Smith & Lonnie Olson of Troop 101 who put a lot of sweat into this work!

MICHIGAN CAMP

June 15-20

July 13-18 (FULL)

Richfield Township, MI

Accepting requests to be put on the July Camp Wait List

On-line registration:

Dogscouts.org

Contact Lonnie Olsen

Dogscoutcamp@gmail.com

MINI CAMPS

Blue Ridge

August 10 - 15

Swanton, MD

Contact Linkey Green

linkeyg@embarqmail.com

Texas

November 12-15

Fort Worth, TX

Accepting requests to be put on the Wait List

Contact Cindy Ratliff

dogluvurz@prodigy.net

MINI CAMP 2016 PLANNING

Texas

Spring 2016

Tyler, TX

Troop 225 has started planning their next mini camp. They need to hear from anyone interested in attending either as a camper or as a teacher/badge evaluator.

Contact Natalie Fletcher

pen3cows@gmail.com

Badge Bulletin & Title Tales



Trails Titles

by Kelly Ford, Troop 219 Leader and TrailDog Titling Program Coordinator

In April of 2014, we revised the [DSA Trails Titling Guidebook](#) to include three new categories of titles for trails, letterboxing and geocaching. We also expanded the titles for PackDog for a total of six levels for this category. Like the very popular Backpacking badges, the dog is required to carry a backpack with all of the required items for all of the PackDog titles.

What are the required items? The survival items are (FFMICKS): Flashlight, first aid kit, matches, ID, compass, knife, signaling device. The items for your dog are: water, bowl, spare leash and collar, three poop bags. There are no weight requirements for these items, so keep it light and healthy for your dog. For small dogs, think creatively for lightweight items. A silicone cupcake baking container makes a great lightweight water bowl.

The new trails titles are called TrailDog and include six levels. For these titles, the dog is not required to wear a backpack, but the handler needs to carry all of the required items.

The new letterboxing and geocaching titles are called LetterboxDog and GeocacheDog respectively. For these titles, the dog is required to carry a backpack with all of the required items, plus items required for letterboxing and/or geocaching.

Since most of these titles require a backpack, let's discuss those. There are many canine packs on the market. They are very popular right now. The first pack that my

puggle Zora ever used was a Kurgo, it was recommended by Lonnie Olsen and we loved it. It fit great, was easy to put on and pack all of her gear. They are now for sale at the DSA Camp Store. We used it for almost 100 miles before the straps gave out.



Lisa Stewart is pictured (above) with two of her geodogs, Tempest and Gambit, sporting two different packs.

When we needed a new pack, Doreen Donovan from Troop 184 introduced us to the K9 Poo Boss Vest at a DSA Leadersip Retreat. Zora loved this pack, fit like a dream. The vest was not designed as a pack, but all of her gear fits perfectly. It does not have bulky saddlebags like some other packs and it comes in many bright reflective colors. However, it does not have a leash attachment. Zora wears a harness underneath the vest. I have been able to sew many of her patches to the vest and add bells, since she hikes off leash.



Zora is pictured (left) with her vest and a geocache while on a snowy winter hike.

I recommend both the Kurgo and the K9 Poo Boss Vest as packs. When selecting a pack for your dog,

Trails Titles (continued)

make sure that they are comfortable and the weight is over their shoulders. Please see the [DSA Trails Titling Guidebook](#) for more information.

I would like to congratulate everyone who has earned a Trails Title in 2014 and 2015 (from January thru April). The photos were selected via a Facebook contest in the All Troop FB group.

Trails Titles Earned in 2014

PackDog (PD)

Cirra Douglas
Kevin Thomas
Westen Tucker
Tempest Stewart
Trog Stewart

PackDog Excellent (PDX)

Cirra Douglas
Jada Cook

Utility PackDog 1000 (UP1000)

Kiyomi Almann

TrailDog (TD)

Zora Ford
Cirra Douglas
Cooper Wagner

TrailDog Excellent (TDX)

Cooper Wagner

Utility TrailDog 1000 (UT1000)

Kiyomi Almann
Zima Wood

LetterboxDog (LBD)

Zora Ford

GeocacheDog

(GEOD)

iZAR Blackstone



Trails Titles Earned in 2015 (January thru April)

PackDog (PD)

Gambit Stewart
Xander Stewart

PackDog Excellent (PDX)

Tempest Stewart

TrailDog (TD)

Sky Miehm (pictured above with Fala at the Teddy Roosevelt Memorial while hiking in Washington DC)
Sirius Miehm
Rio Olawski-Stiener
Juju Dougherty
Ozzie Dougherty
Tempest Stewart

GeocacheDog (GEOD)

Tempest Stewart



iZAR (pictured left) on the trail to the Ruth Lake Vista geocache.

The Path to Becoming a Dog Scout

By Sally Hoyle, DSA Vice President

So many of our newest members have become Dog Scouts recently and many others are working towards being ready to test. It's always so much fun to see handlers celebrating successes big and small with their 4-legged buddies but the paths they take to those successes are often very different.

Ever watch a litter of puppies? If you have you know that even litter mates can be quite different from one another. From a young age you can tell the serious from the silly, the workhorse from the laid back, the leader from the follower, the free-thinker from the one who waits for direction. Follow these puppies as they grow and you'll see that unless something happens to disrupt their lives, these traits often remain with them into adulthood.

So which dog is the "easiest" to train to become a Dog Scout? None of them! Becoming a Dog Scout isn't meant to be easy for either the dog or the handler. Every team will have challenges. One dog will have no problem with "leave it" but will struggle with "heel". Another can do the heeling pattern with no problem but becomes so distracted that he can't hold his "stay". Other times handlers find that training the 4-legged partner is not as much of a challenge as completing the written handler test!

Rest assured that everyone can be successful if a few things are kept in mind.

👉 **Be patient.** Becoming a Dog Scout is not a race. Every team can be successful in their own time. Rushing your dog can cause frustration for you both and that can set you back rather than move you forward.



👉 **Operant conditioning** using a clicker and treats is usually the quickest way to desired behaviors. Don't worry. The clicker and treats can be easily phased out once appropriate behaviors are understood.

👉 Feeling stuck? Sometimes **getting assistance** from someone else is the key to moving forward. That person's perception might be very different than yours and good advice can move you forward more quickly.

👉 **Stay positive!** Help your dog choose the right behavior rather than punish him for doing the wrong thing. Punishment creates fear, and a fearful dog can't learn.

👉 While training, playing or just walking in public be constantly aware of the environment and always **keep your dog safe**. Never be afraid to say to someone else, "Please get your dog back!"

👉 **Use all the resources available** to you on the Dog Scout web site. You'll find very useful training tips, as well as everything you need in order to always be "the smart end of the leash."

Above all, **never give up** on yourself or you dog! Being able to call your dog a Dog Scout is a true accomplishment and shows your community that you are a responsible pet parent with a "model" canine citizen!

Rainbow Bridge



**Ivy Reid
2001-2014**



Duncan



Cricket

Troop 150 was saddened by the passing of Duncan, DSA, in 2014, who was the first Dog Scout in Arkansas, and also Cricket, DSA in 2015. However, we also have the joy of welcoming new companions as they join the family, and we look forward to introducing new Dog Scouts in 2015.

Jane passed away with dignity and in my arms today. It was the only gift I had left to give her. In a nutshell, cancer was eating away at her inside.

I realized this morning that today needed to be the day. She had stopped eating. Period. I will be forever grateful that she was able to enjoy a morning with me in the back yard, just the two of us. We sat at the bottom of the lower deck steps and basked in the sun. The songs of many birds filled the air. The sun was warm, the grass was cool and the breeze was light. Somehow I got time to simply stop for a while.

Later this afternoon there was still a bit left in this amazing bubble of timelessness and Jane was able to enjoy the grassy yard again amidst the company of the other dogs in residence. It was an absolutely beautiful day. I am so happy Jane got to enjoy this last taste of companionship.

I know all my dog-friends will understand what a bitch and a half the end of the day became, but I'm glad I was able to give Jane this day and a graceful and pain-free exit.

I will miss her so very much.

Ginny Venning



**Jane Venning
2/02-5/15**

Troop Talk



Dog Scout Presence at Westminster Dog Show

Joan Olawski-Stiener and Rio, in New Jersey



Rio and I participated in the Westminster/American Kennel Club Meet the Breeds event on Saturday, February 14, 2015 in New York City. This was the first year that this event was held on the same weekend as the Westminster Dog Show. It was a wonderful day, being Valentine's Day, and love was in the air despite the cold and snowy weather. The event was crowded from the time the doors opened with families and other loved ones desiring to spend the special day with their favorite people and pets - dogs!

Rio was one of the lovely representatives of the Belgian Tervuren breed, representing the American Belgian Tervuren Club. Our booth was crowded, and people asked great questions about the breed, as well about Dog Scouts of America, as Rio was also sporting his Dog Scouts bandana. I enjoyed sharing information about the DSA with the many visitors to the booth. So many people were very interested in DSA, and planned to find out more about DSA and its fun activities, titles, and badges!



Also of amazing fun, we also made a quick visit to the Girl Scouts booth, and they were very happy to meet Rio, also a scout - a Dog Scout of America. They thought that is so neat!



It was such a great honor to represent the DSA.

We hope to be back next year!



Troop 119—TX

Cindy Ratliff, Troop Leader

Troop 119 has already had some exciting activities going on this year!

We generally take the month of January off since us Southerners don't do snow & ice very well and the month of January is our winter here! Sadly, weather issues continued into February this year which caused us to cancel the February meeting last minute. Thankfully, then, spring arrived!

In March we had our annual Easter Egg Hunt which is always a big hit. This year we hit 621 plastic eggs with freeze dried liver treats inside. They were hid over the YMCA Camp Carter campgrounds and dogs & handlers were sent out to find both the most eggs they could find and the secret prize eggs. Prizes were awarded for the prize eggs, 1st, 2nd & 3rd place for most eggs found, and for the most festive dog/handler team. Best of all, we all got to enjoy a beautiful day with our dogs!

In April we had another hunt – a photo scavenger hunt! Dog & handler teams had a list of almost 60 items they were to find within a one mile loop at an area park. Teams took photos of as many items on the list that they could find and rushed to be the fastest team back with the most photos on this list. However, this was a Dog Scout scavenger hunt so they got bonus points for every bag of stray poop they collected and disposed of during the hunt. The winning team found 54 items



on the list and got credit for capturing 4 stray poops!



Troop 119 participated in an awesome project this spring as well. We were contacted by the organizer for an urban 4H group wanting us to participate in a “dog project” for their 4H kids. First of all, we didn't even know there was such a thing as an urban 4H club in Fort Worth, Texas! After speaking with the woman, we learned this



group has been in existence for 13 years and they do an amazing amount of community service projects. For their meetings, they have various projects that run 6-8 weeks and cover a variety of topics. Several of the kids had expressed interest in having a dog project. So, we worked it out to have different members and their



dogs do a presentation each week for the 7-week project. Our topics included: What is Dog Scouts? Dog care & maintenance, dog greetings (human/dog and dog/dog), obedience/training, grooming, therapy dogs, Search & Rescue dogs, assistance dogs, canine first aid. The kids were great and we got great feedback from the parents and organizers. Our dogs got to show off and have a great time, too!



Looking ahead in the calendar... we are looking forward to the 12th annual Texas Mini-Camp in November in Fort Worth, TX. Registration has closed but anyone interested in being on the waiting list can email us at dogluvurz@prodigy.net.



Troop 149—MO *Lisa Stewart Troop Member*

Six humans and one canine attend the May 9th geocaching event. Also included was one remains of a former geodog as a “Log My Dog” attendee.



Troop 150—AR *Sharon Branyan, Troop Secretary & Webmaster*

Greetings for DSA Troop 150! We are headquartered in Northwest Arkansas but have members from Oklahoma who faithfully drive over every month.

A quick summary of **2014** activities: we worked on a “drill team” move at each meeting. We worked on First Aid, Art, Backpacking, Band, and Puppy Paddler badges. We 9

enjoyed presentations on flea and tick control products, training service dogs for PTSD assistance, and Rally Obedience (as a competition and a badge.) Our learning activities included work with a touch stick, a skills challenge team competition, and the 101 Things to Do With a Box game at clickertraining.com/node/167. (We allowed

each dog 2 minutes to interact and helped each other identify each new behavior to click and treat. It was great fun for our dogs and good for our clicking skills!) Also, a couple of troop members were lucky enough to attend the Texas Mini-Camp in November and shared some of their learning experiences from Camp with the Troop.



Troop 150—AR (continued)

In 2015, we are learning a foundational training skill at each meeting with an eye toward the Tricks badge – those who want to pursue the badge will be able to present their routines to the troop later this year. So far we have practiced targeting and the Touch command, targeting a mat or “go to place” command, and how to safely teach the “sit pretty” command. We had a February party celebrating Dog Scout Cricket’s 14th birthday, with a treat “taste test” where our dogs voted (by mouth) for their favorite homemade or store-bought treat recipe, and we played a dog skill/trick game where each successive dog/handler down the line had to repeat the skills of the previous dogs in line and add a new one of their own. We are working on the Sign Language badge and practicing a sign or two at each meeting. Our Troop Leader shared information from a weekend seminar she attended on canine fitness, which also tied in very well with the K-9 Fitness badge, and we learned a few simple stretching exercises to improve our dogs balance and core strength. We have also completed a community service project: a local non-profit low-cost spay/neuter mobile clinic posted a need for sheets, towels and blankets for use during post-surgery recovery. They got a lot of “likes” - and not a single donation! Our troop stepped in to collect donations from our friends and family, and we were able to donate 4 trash bags full of clean bedding, which was much appreciated!





Troop 157—FL

Neely Waring,
Troop Co-Leader



In conjunction with Canine Assisted Therapy (C.A.T.) Inc., Dog Scout Troop 157 conducts presentations on safely meeting & greeting dogs. We incorporate info from The Liam J Perk Foundation on how to “Be A Tree / Be A Rock” around loose/stray dogs. We teach children the proper way to approach and pet dogs, as well as talk about dog body language for bite prevention.



Troop 183—FL

Shirley Conley, Troop Leader

Introduction to Barnhunt

On April 12th, our troop and guests arrived and set up crates and chairs and got to work on an introduction to barnhunt.



First up was getting our dogs comfortable with the straw bales. We introduced them to the climb - meaning all 4 feet had to touch the top of the same bale - and everyone did well with that. Next we worked the dogs through a channel between two bales on each side, once we got that we moved on to a basic tunnel, where a bale was across the top of the channel. Some of our dogs thought we still wanted the climb, so we had some fun working out ways to encourage them to stay on the ground.

Next up was an introduction to Barney the rat who was in a metal cage so the dogs could see him. There's a misconception that participating in barnhunt is stress for the rats; but we



could see Barney in his cage and his lack of concern about the dogs as we interacted with him, and all the rats previously encountered in other barnhunt events our members have attended have reacted in the same way - showing no concern or actually being curious about the big nose sniffing at the bars of their cage.

After the dogs were introduced to Barney and rewarded for interacting with him in the cage, the cage was put beside a straw bale and covered with a handful of loose straw. This game encouraged the dogs to sniff through the straw and helped us to learn more about their body language when they were signaling they'd found a rat.

Moving quickly on from there, we each had a turn working the basic tunnel, climb and finding a straw-covered PVC tube with a rat in it. A light sprinkling of rain gave us a quick break and encouraged us to move into the barn setting where each of the dogs worked to find the rat in a tube hidden within a basic course.

At the end of our two-hour session we worked the dogs on the "instinct" set up - where they had to indicate which tube had a rat in and differentiate that tube from the empty tube and the one that just had bedding in it. Most of our dogs were tired by this time, so when we try this again, we may start with this activity and be more quick to reward for interacting with the rat tube until they figure out what the object of this game

is. A couple of our dogs did very well on this last activity, and we managed to get a little video of them doing this exercise.



We appreciate our gracious host, Georgia, who owns Havenlea Dog Training Center, and who was the instructor for our introduction to this

fun sport. Georgia shared some good insight on predicting our dog's behaviors and some training/handling tips for us to incorporate into our training for and participation in barnhunt.

It was interesting to see how quickly the dogs keyed into the scent and got excited. The next step for some of us will be to mark and reward more obvious behaviors from our dogs, and also to reinforce at a higher rate for interacting with the rat tube rather than the empty tubes.



It seems that this activity was very successful and there was talk of getting together for another session perhaps after the summer, and at the very least, some of us will be looking for barnhunt trials and plan to get some video so we can get the barnhunt merit badge..

More pictures and video of our activity can be found on our website: dsatrop183.shutterfly.com

Troop 188—CT Michelle Lake, Treasurer

Dog Scout Troop 188 has been keeping busy this spring after a particularly harsh winter. We co-hosted an Easter Bonnet Contest & Parade in March. With the funds from the entry fees, we were able to purchase five pet breathing kits for our local fire stations. We look forward to distributing them soon.



Some of the contestants waiting for the parade to start.



Troop members Ella, Lucy, Belle & Pirate greeting a contestant.

Troop 188—CT (continued)



Pirate DSA and Julianne dazzled the Clark Lane Middle School's Pet Club with his tricks! More Troop members will be visiting the club soon.



Phantom DSA has been busy since being certified by Therapy Dogs International a year ago. In April he celebrated his 100th Therapy Dog Visit and 6th birthday. The kids at the Groton Library where he participates in the *Sit, Stay, Read!* program made him birthday cards while waiting for their turn to read him a story.



Our Troop had a hike in early May (we like to hike before it gets too hot and humid!). Casey was our hike leader who took us on 1 ½ mile loops around the beautiful UCONN Avery Point Campus.

Julianne holding Yippity and Daisy with Pirate on the ground, Allison with Belle, Sheri with Lucy, Beth with Ella and Casey with Mo.



Casey & Mo earned their AKC Canine Good Citizen certification recently and Mo had a celebratory ice cream afterwards. They are well on their way to earning the Dog Scout badge too!

Marge & Fyssher passed the AKC Community Canine test. Congrats to all!



Coming in the next newsletter...photos and stories from our time at the Robin Hood Renaissance Faire, Ledyard Animal Control Day, Vaccination Clinic, Barn Hunting Trials and Hike-A-Thon.

Troop 217—MI

Sally Hoyle, Troop Leader

The Motor City K9s have been very busy once again with fun, community and educational events! First, we had a Barn Hunt day with the wonderful people at Zodiac Ranch in Milford, MI. We had three different classes based on the experience level of the dogs and had 15 dogs participate. We were even able to simulate a Barn Hunt trial and both dogs and people had a blast! Some dogs even discovered a new passion!



Some of the dogs warming up and waiting to hunt.

Slyder getting ready to find Sparky.



Appropriately enough our rat was named Sparky.



We managed to get a picture of most everyone who participated. It was a great day despite being a little chilly.



Lizzy found that she LOVES to Barn Hunt!

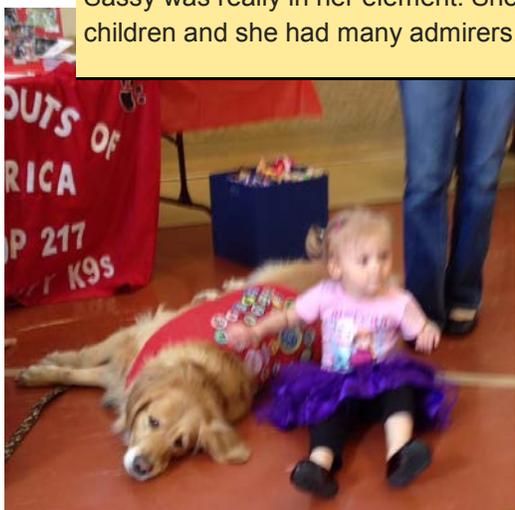
Our next troop activity was a children's health fair in Toledo, OH. Why were the Motor City K9s in Toledo? Well even though we call ourselves the Motor City K9s we actually cover southeast and south central Michigan AND northwest Ohio! On this day in Toledo we talked to hundreds of children and their parents about dog safety and dog bite prevention. We had information and coloring sheets to hand out, and even had toys for the kids to take home to their own dogs. Both the dogs and the kids seemed to really enjoy the day!

Katie (right) checked out the ambulance. She helped the kids to understand that service dogs may travel with patients in ambulances at times.



Troop 217—MI (continued)

Sassy was really in her element. She LOVES children and she had many admirers.



We were very proud of our table and our dogs were a big hit.



From left, Sassy, Katie, Bert & Lizzy. Sam was a little camera shy that day so he didn't make the photo...or maybe he just didn't want to sit beside his sister Katie.



After the event several troop members went to a nearby park to hike and do some Letterboxing. Here's Sally with Katie and Sassy and one of their finds. This was the last box that both Katie and Sassy needed to earn the Letterbox 3 badge!

Finally, many troop members gathered for a testing day. We had several dogs earn the AKC CGC and CGCA titles and eight of our dogs earned the brand new Urban CGC (CGCU). They were some of the very first in the country to earn the title!

Here we all are with our dogs. From left, our evaluator Diane with Odie, Michelle with Sassy, Julie with Shelby, Julie with Sam, Sally with Katie, Betsy with Bert, Brenda with Merlin, Diane with Casey and in front, Martha with Riley (standing in for Maia).



We are also very excited to welcome four new members in April and May and are celebrating two new Dog Scouts!

Troop 219—CT

The New England Explorers

Kelly Ford, Troop Leader

and TrailDog Titling Program Coordinator



Troop members Kelly, Zora DSA, Anita, Kalya DSA and their hiking buddies Laura, Elsie, Tree, Havoc and HarE.

Connecticut's Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) announced a great opportunity to win prizes for hiking Connecticut's high peaks as part of a new program –“The Sky's the Limit” 2015 Hiking Challenge, designed to promote hiking in Connecticut's state parks and forests throughout 2015.

Participants in this

friendly competition have the opportunity to receive a medallion for hiking up 10 designated locations.

Troop 219 has taken on the challenge with the goal of reaching all 14 high peaks. To complete the challenge, we have to take selfies at each designated scenic location. We've already completed three challenges, Southford Falls, Sleeping Giant and West Rock Ridge. We reached the fire tower at Southford Falls on sunny April 11th morning.

While we work on this challenge, our scouts are working on their backpacking, hiking and geocaching badges. On May 9th, we climbed two peaks, Sleeping Giant and West Rock Ridge.



The Challenge Crew at the peak of West Rock Ridge, after our hiking 3.6 miles at Sleeping Giant.

Troop 219 has been helping with the Spring clean-up. Groton Open Space Association holds an annual clean-up of Haley Farm State Park which is popular with local dog walkers. For the last three years, Troop 219 has helped clean up the park. This year, in conjunction with Earthday, Kayla DSA and Zora DSA scoured the trails with Anita and Kelly. We picked up 28 bags of abandoned dog poop.



Zora and Kayla with their “loot” from the first round of clean-ups.



Wyatt, who helped carry all of the American Flags that we found. These will be cleaned then returned to the cemetery.

The Cemetery Association at Coronel Ledyard Cemetery asked us to help with their Spring clean-up. On May 6th, we picked up trash and bags of dog poop all over the cemetery. We were joined by several ladies from Groton Open Space Association.

Zora DSA ran in her first agility trial in April. Zora loves agility and was very excited to run. She placed in both colors and jumpers. I'm very proud of my little puggle girl. She came home with a bunch of fancy new ribbons.



Troop Member Blogs: Follow the adventures of Zora Puggle! <http://positivelypuggle.com>

Troop 220—NV

Terry Cuyler, Troop Leader

Silver Paws Pack ended 2014 with Bell Ringing for the Salvation Army, and our efforts were noted by the online version of the local newspaper (Carson Now) and the local ABC affiliate (<http://bit.ly/1zM163w>).

In January several of us got together to help work Brindy and film her success to turn in to DSA for approval. After passing her Dog Scout Test, Brindy then earned the Retrieve Merit Badge. Congratulations, Brindy (and Linda).

We plan to work on some “dance”/drill team routines and teach some clicker classes this summer when I am not as busy “in school” with READING Paws therapy dogs. We want to start a newsletter locally and recruit more Scouts.



Aspiring Dog Scout Serves Michigan Community

Fay Reid and Goldy, Troop 101 Members



Hi, my name is Goldy Reid. I'm a 1-½ old yellow Labrador retriever and I got my new Mom & Dad two months ago.

I am hoping to go to Michigan camp this year and become a Dog Scout and a member of Troop 101. I decided to start working on my **Community Service badge** by participating in a 5K run/walk to help the Humane Society of Bay County and Women's Shelter. This Fund will help all kinds of pets whose parents are in abusive situations to get them out as well. Next week I'm doing one to help Leader Dogs. This one is very special to me since that's how I started out. You can do this too, just get your parent to start working on the **Fitness badge** so that you are both in shape and make sure that you do warm ups and cool downs so you don't get hurt.

Troop 225—TX

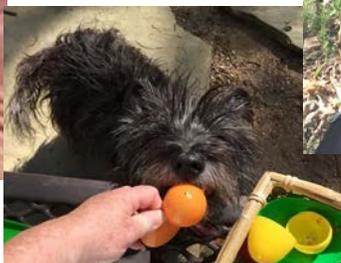
Natalie Fletcher Troop Leader

This January, Tyler Troop 225 started a campaign to walk every Sunday at Faulkner Park in Tyler, Texas. The idea was to socialize our dogs and create more control in a distracting environment. We walk as a pack to a central grassy area where we do some training for the components of the DSA test. We've also brought helium balloons to get our dogs ready to fly kites. I was able to add the helium balloon as a component of a bigger trick for Xena's Mirror Method graduation.



At the end of February, Troop members visited Troop 203 in Austin, Texas! We had a fabulous time staying in a lovely B&B that accepted our dog scouts and visiting the Austin Troop. Two of our dogs, Tucker and Daisy, passed their dog scout test! Then we showed Troop 203 how to make the "Indestructible Dog Coat" out of Duct Tape. (pictured right) Afterwards we went out to a local restaurant that had a heated patio! Thank you Janice Patton! We learned so much from you!! If anyone else is interested in coming to Tyler or hosting us for a week-

end in your town, please call Natalie 903-530-9273.



Easter we held an Easter Egg Hunt that was written up in the local paper which we hope will help spread the word about Dog Scouts. We really just threw the eggs out in the grass. Despite the bright colors of the plastic eggs, the dogs didn't seem to see them. But they could smell them as they were filled with cat food or cheese! From this event, we got a couple of new members.

In May we were supposed to have our Weenie Roast, but as you may have

seen from the news, Texas is flooded! So we have postponed for a couple of weeks.

We have started using Meetup.com as a way of reaching new people and communicating notices about upcoming events. You might try it. It has generated some new interest for us. It is a free service. Once a week, Meetup sends an email to the people who have indicated that they would like to know about your events. This is automatic. Plus the leader can send out a



Troop 225—TX (continued)

group email with a click of a button. So this might cut down on some work--we hope!

More Great News: One of our Dog Scouts, Taylor McCarthy, has been busy raising money for our local SPCA of East Texas as part of a middle school service project at All Saints! She was one of three Top Winners personally raising \$298.00 to help the SPCA build a comprehensive facility which we desperately need. She won an off-campus lunch for her efforts

Way to go, Taylor!



which included visiting all her neighbors asking them to pledge a donation for each mile she walked in a two week period. After walking 5 miles, she went back to each neighbor collecting the funds and handling all the paperwork! Since her class raised the most money in the whole school, the class gets a free dress day! It is really uplifting to see young people doing something positive for our community!

DOG SCOUT CAMP

CREATING CANINE KODAK MOMENTS

Planning for Spring 2016

CAMP TYLER OUTDOOR SCHOOL



Come spend quality time with your dog and other dog lovers learning new things and having fun in the great outdoors. Activities include painting, campfires, behavior training, agility course, pet first aid, doggie dress-making, hiking and fun on the lake. \$425.00 covers lodging, meals, snacks, craft supplies, training classes, use of camp equipment, trails, boats, and docks. Send check or money order payable to "Tyler Troop 225" to 731 S. Vine, Tyler, Texas 75701. Call 903-592-1188. Pay online at www.facebook.com/TylerTroop225.



As you might recall our troop held a camp in the spring of 2014. We might try to hold another camp in the spring of 2016. So we'd like to know who might be interested in coming as a camper and if so, what badges or activities you would be interested in. If there are some teachers or badge evaluators interested in providing a class, we'd really appreciate you letting us know and giving us your input!

You can call
903-530-9273 or
email
pen3cows@gmail.com

Troop 228—PR

Maritza Santiago, Troop Member



Last March our Troop 228 in Puerto Rico, went camping as a reward for the hard work our dogs do as Therapy Dogs. Both the dogs and the parents had a blast. Can't wait for our next camping activity in July!



Troop 230—TX

Kristen Keeling, Troop Leader



Dog Scout Troop #230 attended Hogs for Dogs on May 8, 2015 at Hogg Middle School in Tyler, Texas. The event was designed to bring awareness to the community about the homeless animals of the SPCA of East Texas and various other rescue organizations in our area. Dog Scout Stella (owner Angela Hudson) stomped the agility court getting the kids to clap and whistle while Dog Scout Gracie (owner Kristen Keeling) wowed them with high fives, her good looks and great charm. It was a great educational opportunity to tell the kids about the mission of Dog Scouts and the value it brings to the relationship between dogs and their owners. They were extremely impressed with the badge opportunities presented. Hopefully we will have some new Junior Scouts soon!



CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR NEWEST TROOP— 232 UP AND RUNNING IN IOWA

Troop 232—IA

Nicole Shumate, Troop Leader

Greetings from Troop 232 in Des Moines, Iowa! We had a fantastic first troop meeting over three days. Pictured are the dogs that started work on the backpacking badge, some of whom passed their Dog Scouts evaluation today.



Dog Scouts of America

Website:

Dogscouts.org

Facebook:

facebook.com/DogScouts

Yahoo Discussion List:

pets.groups.yahoo.com/group/DSA_TalkList

Learning new things
that we may be more
helpful

Dog Scouts of America (DSA) was established in 1995. It is a non-profit organization with people dedicated to enriching their dog's lives and the lives of others with dogs. Founder Lonnie Olson has made it her life's ambition to experience as many dog sports and skills as possible with her dogs.

If you believe that dogs really enjoy learning new things and spending time with their owners, you're our kind of dog person. Dogs were not meant to be "furniture." Working dogs want to work. Without having an acceptable activity in which to use up all of the energy that comes "built-in" with a dog, our canine companions often get into trouble.

By better understanding how your dog thinks, how he learns, and what drives his behavior, and by participating in a variety of dog sports and activities, you will become a more responsible dog owner.

We hope to prevent misunderstandings, communication failures, and behavioral problems which often lead to dogs being given up as a "lost cause."

Contact Us:

President: Lonnie Olson — DogScoutCamp@gmail.com

Lonnie also handles Dog Scout **Calendar**, Sparky's Camp **Store**, Dog Scout **Camp (MI)**, and she is the Board contact regarding **Camp Scholarships**

Texas Mini Camp (Ft Worth): Cindy Ratliff — dogluvurz@prodigy.net

Hosting a Mini-Camp Mentor: Sally Hoyle — sally.hoyle@yahoo.com

Dog Scout Obituaries - Memorial Recognition and Engraving Coordinator: Chris Kloski — ChrisBill1966@gmail.com

Membership: Julie Benson — bensonjulie@earthlink.net

Troop Admin Questions: Robyn Porter — dsaleadertest@att.net

Treasurer/Donations: Barb Whiting — bwhitingdsa@comcast.net

Merit Badge Recognition Program: Chris Puls — DogScouts@hotmail.com

Chris also handles **Worldwide Badge Certification, Treibball & Scent Discrimination Titles**

DSA Competition Hosting/Competing: Ann Withun — Ann@Withun.com

Contact **Ann** regarding **Improv Titles** also

Trail Dog Title: Kelly Ford — DSA.Troop219@yahoo.com

Kelly also issues the **Competition Registration Numbers** for our Competition and Titling department

Newsletter: Shirley Conley (Editor) — thescoop@dogscouts.org

Reina Kalish (Distributor) — thescoop@dogscouts.org

Website/Communications: Kim Hovey — webadmin@dogscouts.org

Sonja Klattenberg — webadmin1@dogscouts.org

