



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 3 Jul/Aug 2015

Fall Troop Jamboree



Don't delay, sign up as a troop or as an individual for the annual Fall Troop Jamboree Oct 23-25th.

This year's theme will be Can you survive a horror movie?

We are asking each team (if signing up as an individual we will team you up with someone) be responsible for

an activity and a meal. Troop #130 will help you with the activity planning portion.

This has been going on for four years now and it is a wonderful fun exciting time with Troop against Troop activities planned. The finale is on Sunday morning before everyone packs up to leave. Please contact me at Dogs2katz@yahoo.com to sign your troop up. Please contact Lonnie Olsen dogscoutcamp@gmail.com to reserve your lodging. We ask that you put a \$25 deposit down to reserve your spot. This can also be paid to Lonnie. We have had a Tribal Troop Bow Wow based on the show survivor although no one was voted off the island, a Zombie detection weekend, a Ghouls night out based on pamper yourself and your pooch and a Mystery Who dunnit. Please help make this another fabulous weekend – Come join us!!

Brenda Katz

Don't Forget! Pathtags are in!

The pathtags have arrived, and man are they cute! Only \$5.00/ea.

To order, contact Lonnie: dogscoutcamp@gmail.com



Dog Scouts of America was featured in "The Honest Kitchen" June 1st blog:
www.thehonestkitchen.com/blog/dog-scouts-for-fun-and-badges

Deadline

for the next newsletter is

September 15th

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

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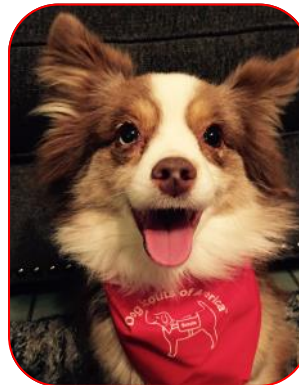
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Congratulations to our new Dog Scouts

Newly titled Dog Scouts from January 2015 through June 2015

Bean Chan-Witlow
Betsy Bedford
Betty Schupska
Boomer Kaiser
Cadence Schumate
Carbon Hotkowski
Casper Chan-Whitlow
Comet Buttacus
Cooper Wellinger
Cloud Crane

Dash Schumate
Doolin Whiting
Draco Anderson
Ecco Frum
Forest Bell
Goldy Reid
Laredo Mirabella
LeeRoy Sanford
(pictured right)
Lizzy Baughman



Jasmine Kostner
Joker Mirabella
Kai Moeskops
Mocha Kalish
Nando Ahern
Reba Stone
Reily Hearn
Sabre Heckard
Tucker McIntyre

Annual Hike-a-Thon Results

The 2015 Hike-a-Thon wrapped up at the end of June and we're happy to call it a big success! A total of 20 walkers and 6 teams participated with 29 dogs and collectively raised **over \$4,250**. Thank you to all who participated!

Our big individual winner is Maureen Callahan with Lacey and Jasper from Troop 119. Maureen pledged to walk 20 miles with her pups under full pack during the month of June. For her efforts Maureen will receive a \$100 gift certificate to the camp store that she can use to spoil Lacey and Jasper!



Our second place winner is Jeff Parker with Hemi. Jeff will receive a \$50 gift certificate to the camp store which Hemi will be glad to help him spend!

All participants who raised a minimum of \$200 will receive a DSA logo backpack and water bottle to use for future hikes. In addition to Maureen and Jeff these lucky individuals are Debbie Baker, Kelly Ford, Kris Thomas, Kathy Tucker and Lisa Zavala. Participants raising over \$50 will receive a Hike-a-Thon patch. Julie Baumler, Mary Blackstone, Bette Holden, Sally Hoyle, Kristen Keeling, Brenda Kieswetter, Michelle Lake, Melissa Matteson, Robyn Porter, Nichole Schiro, Nancy Strack, Richard Tettamant, Lori White and the participants listed above will all receive these cool patches.

Top troops for this event include Troop 119, the Lone Star Paw Squad; Troop 219, the New England Explorers; and Troop 217, the Motor City K9s.

Congratulations to everyone! Your fundraising efforts are appreciated!

Camp Anyone?

By Sally Hoyle, DSA Vice President

Many people would like to experience Dog Scout Camp but find that distance or time makes it challenging to attend one of the Michigan camps. Well, satellite camps, or mini camps, can provide that experience. Make no mistake, there's nothing at all mini about a mini camp! The name comes from the fact that these camps are often shorter in length than the Michigan camps, but many of the same activities and opportunities for earning badges are offered.



There are several mini camps that have had success over the years. The Blue Ridge Camp in western Maryland along with camps in Texas and East Texas have established camps that draw repeat campers each year. Through the success of these camps we've been able to develop a guide to encourage and help others establish mini camps. It can be found on the web site in the camps section or by using the link below.

dogscouts.org/base/tonto-site/uploads/2014/10/Mini-Camp-Guidebook-Part-I.pdf

You CAN hold a mini camp in your area! The guide walks you through the process and you'll have on-the-ground DSA support for at least the first year of your camp. If you have people who want to attend a camp and someone with good organizational skills you're on the right track. Take a look at the guide and consider if running a mini camp is right for your area. Camp is a very fun and rewarding experience for both staff and campers alike!

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

MICHIGAN CAMP

June 2016

July 2016

Richfield Township, MI

Stay Tuned for Updates

On-line registration:

Dogscouts.org

Contact Lonnie Olsen

Dogscoutcamp@gmail.com

Michigan Summer Camp Fun...

By Lonnie Allison, DSA President

This year's July camp was officially the Best Camp Ever! Some of us have never laughed so hard in our lives! The comedic talents of Jill Moore (as Judge, Paula Abdul, in the talent show), and the good humor of the other campers kept us in stitches much of the time. Most everyone brought their good attitudes to camp, and we all got one free "whine" during introductions, so that no further whining was necessary.

There was lots of cool stuff going on all the time, and one of THE coolest things was that Bob Carlini brought his helicopter drone to camp, and took arial videos of the dogs running through the agilure maze, having fun at the pond, and made a "virtual tour" of the trails. The overhead view of the forest canopy was breathtaking. He had the videos running continuously on the large screen TV in the lodge. Thanks to Bob, for sharing his cool "new toy!"

The auction was chock full of great donations, and we raised \$2,680.00 at the July camp. The June camp did well, too... At only half the size of the July camp, we managed to make over \$1,000.00.

Thanks to everyone who contributed their positive energy to make this summer's camps successful and fun!

Pictured (right) is an arial view of the lure coursing field, with handlers ready to run their dogs.



(photography by Bob Carlini)

Camp Thank You!

Hi Lonnie,

I just wanted to thank you for providing us with a place where we can vacation with our dogs, learn together and our dogs feel safe. Our dogs have grown and gained so much since we have started coming four years ago. We feel we are better dog parents, trainers and people because of Dog Scouts. Every time we come we pick up another skill that we can pass onto our classes or give support to our club members. A week just doesn't seem like it's long enough to spend in the beautiful woods learning and growing with our dogs but we learned to cherish each day and make it count! We tell every one about camp and the wonderful organization known as Dog Scouts. We are proud to say we are responsible dog owners who only use positive training methods and pass our knowledge to others. In many ways Dog Scouts has changed our lives and for that we are grateful. In closing we just wanted to say Thank You from the bottom of our hearts for all that you do to make camp such a great experience for every one and for the organization. I'm working on my troop leaders test so I can get our troop started here and I'm super excited about it. Continue to do what you do because you are doing it RIGHT!!!!

Take care,

Peggy & Paul Mooney
and the Aussie Crew



T-Shirts!

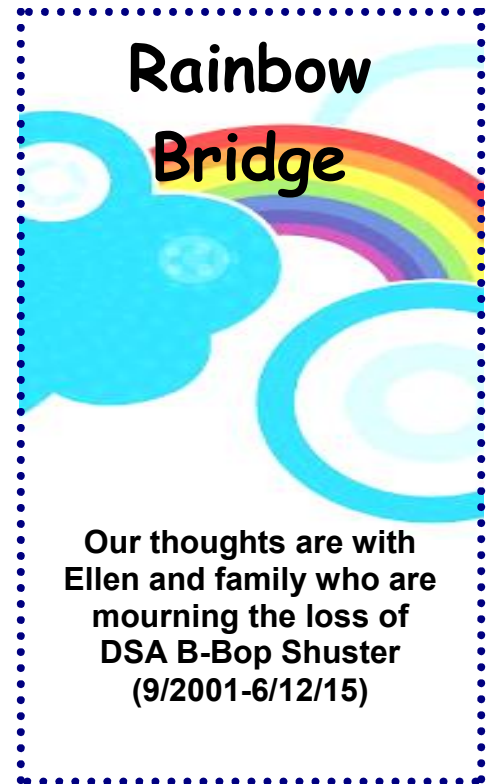
If anyone is interested in the Dog Scout **20 Year Anniversary** shirt that Kelly Ford put in the July Camp Auction, they are now available in Troop 219's Zazzle store. You can order yours in any color, size or style.

www.zazzle.com/dsa_20_years_tshirts-235933286528502760



Gloria Helmer-Voss re-started the "Think Pawsitive" T-shirt on teespring.com to benefit DSA (they have a small DSA logo on the back too).

The campaign tipped and shirts ordered by August 10 were accepted. Expect your shirts to arrive soon and thank you for the funds you helped raise for DSA.



20th Anniversary Quilt Auction

Sally Hoyle has sewn a special, **20th Anniversary quilt**, with the DSA logo, and lots of puppies and paw prints all over it. It is throw sized, and it will be auctioned to the highest bidder.



The current bid is \$60.00.

We will continue to take bids on this quilt until it goes on ebay for live auction on the weekend of the 20th anniversary celebration.

If you would like to make a bid, please contact Lonnie [\(989\) 389-2000](tel:9893892000).



Badge Bulletin & Title Tales



New Badge Introduced at Michigan Dog Scout Camp



Sonja Klattenberg with Misty

This year, we introduced a new badge, called Carriage Dog. The idea is to have a calm and well-behaved canine around horses, and in carriages or carts (like you might have an opportunity to do on Mackinaw Island some time). Owners acclimated their dogs to getting in and out of the cart on cue (like with travel safety or boating safety), and got used to being around a huge equine, who may stomp a foot, neigh, snort, or be fed a treat by the owner. Then the dogs all took "driving lessons" in the golf cart, to be sure that they would sit still in the moving vehicle. Then, the owner and dog drove the cart around a short trail, to demonstrate his or her control and good manners, and the owner's ability to drive the horse/cart.

A few people were scared at first, but Horse wrangler, Jill Moore kept things under control. The smiles on the faces of the people and dogs says it all.

Here's the check-off list for the new Carriage Dog merit badge:

- 👍 Dog will demonstrate an immediate response to a leave-it cue that moves the dog away from access to an equine. Leash, if used, stays loose.
- 👍 Dog will do a "leave-it" with horse poop, at least 2 pass-bys on loose leash or off leash.
- 👍 Dog will walk near the equine without undue curiosity or predatory behaviors (no barking, growling, pre-emptive strike lunges, or chasing)
- 👍 Dog will remain under control at all times when within working distance of the equine and not be allowed to do anything unsafe (such as playing with the tack or running run under the equine).
- 👍 Dog is comfortable in and around the cart
- 👍 Dog will get in and out of the cart when cued, and only when cued
- 👍 Dog will sit or down stay on the ground while handler gets cart ready, and feeds equine a treat
- 👍 Dog will enter cart, remain in the cart, and behave in the cart, while handler drives the cart for a short trip (at least a 1/4 mile and including at least 2 smooth turns and one smooth stop)
- 👍 Handler understands that working with large animals, like equines, carries with it inherent risks and dangers, and if at camp, has signed a waiver to this effect



Martha Thierry & Maia with Draco

- 👍 Handler has attended Dog & Pony class (clicker training for equines) if at camp. And/or has learned how to be safe around horses and can demo teaching an equine a basic behavior using reward based methods.
- 👍 Handler knows how to tack up a horse for carting and can explain which parts of the harness go where, and what they do
- 👍 Handler knows how to drive the cart safely including turns, changes of pace and stops.
- 👍 Handler can keep his/her dog calm and under control in the cart while driving it, even if passing a distraction.
- 👍 Handler knows what to do if the equine or dog should panic, become frightened or gets overly interested in a distraction.
- 👍 Handler can describe the usefulness of each of the above check-off items



Lonnie Olson & Caper with Draco

Editor's Note: Even if we don't have our own horse and cart we can still work on many of the required skills. The check-off list provides us with a number of appropriate behaviors for our dogs to offer around any livestock. We might check out our local tourist office to see if there are any horse and carriage tours or at least make contact with a local stables or 4H office—it would be worth a trip on the weekend to desensitize our dogs to the sights, sounds, and smells, and ask questions of the drivers//riders.

Trails Titles Bulletin

Kelly Ford, Troop Leader, CRN Secretary and Trails Titling Program Coordinator

If you were at Dog Scout Camp in July, you have already heard the announcement. We are introducing a new and improved Trails Title Guidebook. The new Guidebook includes an updated General Section with more comprehensive Safety Information and more information about Training, Conditioning and Trail Manners. Thank you, Sally Hoyle for writing this section.

The Pack Dog and Trail Dog sections have not been changed. The requirements for those titles remain the same. However, a new Quick Reference Guide has been added, to each section.

Here's the BIG change, the requirements for both Letterbox Dog and Geocache Dog have been transformed based on comments and desires from Dog Scouts around the country. We recognize that both letterboxing and geocaching can be very different based on where you live and the title requirements have been modified to accommodate those differences.

The requirement for numbers of found letterboxes and geocaches remains the same. The requirements for planted boxes and caches have been reduced to accommodate individuals who live in locations with a high density of caches and limited opportunity to plant.

We have two choose-your-own sections that have been created to modify the event requirement and allow you an opportunity to choose what requirements best suit your area.

I would like to send a special Thank You to Mary Blackstone of Troop 229 for helping us with editing. We couldn't have done this without you!

To help you get started with your Letterbox Title, the annual Dog Scout Day Virtual Letterbox Event will be at the end of September this year. Start carving your stamp and find a place to plant your box for this annual celebration of Dog Scouts!

www.atlasquest.com/showinfo.html?qEventId=3503

I would like to congratulate everyone who has earned a recent Trails Title.

Trails Titles Earned in May 2015 thru June 2015

Trail Dog Excellent (TDX)
Sky Mieh

Letterbox Dog (LBD)
Shelby Benson (pictured)

GeocacheDog (GEOD)
Zora Ford



Don't leave it too long before you check out the revised Trail Dog Guidebook:
dogscouts.org/base/tonto-site/uploads/2014/10/DSA-TrailDog-Guidebook_July-2015.docx

Be the Smart End of the Leash!

By Chris Puls, Recognition Program Director

There are four parts to being the “smart” end of the leash; **responsibility, management, communication and expectations**. As a Dog Scout parent, you are the “thinking” end of the leash.

You give your dog the attention and protection he deserves, and you are not afraid to tell another person to get his or her dog away from your dog. You handle any situations so that your dog doesn't have to. That's the covenant you have with your dog. You are aware of the environment and the changing situations around your dog. You know your dog well enough to know what types of situations will make your dog nervous. You **do everything you can to manage, control or avoid those types of situations**. When your dog sees that he or she no longer has to be ‘on guard’ for developing situations (because you have taken on that job), the dog will be able to relax more and will be less reactive.

You have learned to have your dog look at you on cue, which alone can get you out of potentially sticky situations. When your dog is looking at you, he is not making direct eye contact with another dog (a threat in dog language). It also appears to other dogs as if your dog is ‘looking away’, which is a calming signal and will help other dogs around you be less reactive with your dog. A dog that is paying attention to you is not ‘surfing the environment’ for better and more interesting things. He knows that you are the giver of wonderful things and that his good behavior is what gets him access to the smells, sights and interaction in the environment. By making the dog responsible for his own behavior management, you have to do less asking for good behavior (sit, don't pull, leave it, don't jump on that, etc.), which gives you more time to just enjoy your dog and be proud of how smart he or she is.



You know how to conduct yourself in public. You are a good representative of a **responsible dog parent**. You clean up any messes your dog leaves behind (feces, urine, vomit, hair, half chewed rawhides, etc.) so that you will not be the cause of a ban on dogs (in a hotel, park, or other public place). You obey all laws and rules regarding your dog and keep him on leash or under excellent verbal control to keep him safe. You don't allow your dog to harass people or interfere with their right to enjoy a public place. You set a good example that shows the joys of the human-canine bond. Your dog is under control and well behaved, showing people

what is possible with positive training. You know that if we, as dog parents, are to keep from losing any more privileges, we must act responsibly, and must lead by example in our communities. We must always pick up our own dog's waste, and when possible, pick up a few extras to keep dog parents from getting a bad reputation because of a few irresponsible people.

You treat your dog with kindness, knowing that while he or she may not be “perfect,” your dog is PERFECT at being a dog. Unlike Pinocchio, your dog will not magically wake up one morning a “real boy.” He will always be a dog, and we, as parents, have to **respect the differences in our species**. You have taken it upon yourself to **learn as much as possible about those differences and how to bridge the communication gaps**.

You know that punishment creates fear, and no learning can take place where there is fear. Your dog is not afraid to offer behaviors, worried that he might be “wrong” and get punished. I hope

you both have learned that **“wrong” is not bad, it is only information, and nothing to be afraid of**. If incorrect behavior does not get rewarded, it

makes the correct behavior (that does get rewarded) more clear to the dog. Punishment is not needed for the dog to understand when he has made the 'wrong' choice.

As a person, I hope you also realize that being **wrong is just feedback from your universe**, and that success can often be a 1000-step process, with many wrong answers and dead-ends along the way. When Thomas Edison created the light bulb, it is said that he had 1000 trials that ended in no light bulb. A reporter asked him if he felt like a failure because he had 'failed' 1000 times. Edison replied that he was not a failure, he created the light bulb, it was just a 1000 step process. Don't be discouraged if a behavior you want to teach your dog becomes a 1000 step process, there is a light at the end of that tunnel. As a dog trainer, **you must have a lot of patience and be willing to keep trying, even when you are not seeing instant results.**

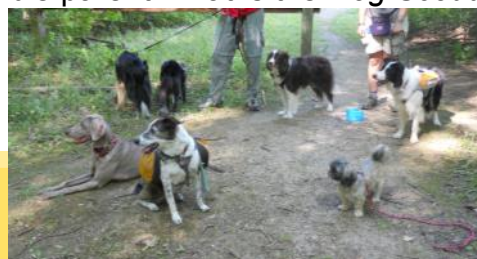
You realize that dogs will work better for positive reinforcement, and that the problem with punishment training is that you must always have the threat of punishment looming over your dog's head to get him to perform. He will never do what you ask because he "wants" to—



he is only performing to escape an aversive. You also know that **punishment inhibits ALL behaviors**, so if you punish for one behavior, the dog will be afraid to perform any behaviors for fear it will result in punishment. You know that for this reason, **crossover dogs will take longer to learn to trust** that you will not punish them. (Note- crossover dogs are dogs that started their training with a punishment based training method, but now have a trainer that uses all positive training.)

Knowing what you now know, we hope you will go home with this information and spread it like a disease, infecting everyone everywhere you go with responsible dog parenting and positive training methods. Like a pebble dropping into the water, the ripples reach out far from the original point of entry. We hope you will **become involved in community service and public education in the communities where you live, because you WILL have an impact on those around you**, even if it is just by letting people observe the joy of having a well-mannered dog and being a responsible parent. That is the *Dog Scout Way*

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Attitude of Gratitude

Thanks to Lynne Holmgren (camp 2) for donating the bicycle and the carting harness to camp.

Thanks to everyone who donated or bid on items at the Michigan camp auctions. Almost \$4,000.00 was raised, and much fun was had by all.

Big thanks go to Melissa Matteson (Michigan camp 2) for donating 5 new benches to camp.



These are the kind that have a durable plastic frame, and all you have to do is cut and add the two by fours. Jack got two of them put together, and they're in our new chapel area. Melissa also donated the money for the treated lumber to finish all five benches. Thanks, Melissa!

Thanks to Martha Thierry, Chris Kloski, and Fay Reid, for donating plants, flowers, and seeds to make the camp more beautiful and to Kat Vogtmann for donating several jackets to the camp.

Chris Kloski (left) received the Founder's Award at Michigan Camp this year.



Troop Talk



Troop 119—TX

Cindy Ratliff, Troop Leader

Well, this spring has been interesting for Troop 119. For anyone that hasn't heard, Texas has been hard hit this spring with an excess of rain, storms and flooding! It pretty much rained the entire month of May which caused us to suspend our May troop meeting. It hasn't slowed us down too much, though, as we have lots of fun things in store for the summer!

In June several of our geocaching members put together a presentation to introduce everybody to the fun of geocaching with their dogs! We met at one of the area parks that actually wasn't closed due to flooding and had a great time! Our members shared ideas that ranged from just getting started in adding this new element to hiking with our dogs, to talking about the DSA badges for geocaching through the top level. Afterward, everyone was invited to search the park for geocaches that were hidden earlier. Thanks to Maureen Callahan, Nita Lanter, Victoria Severns & Cheryl Bales for leading this meeting!

Later in the month, a group of troop members got together for a hike at another area park that had dry land for a nice Sunday morning hike with troop friends! They had a great time and the dogs enjoyed their naps afterward!

Stay tuned to the Troop Scoop next time when we report about our July "party" that will be a first for Troop 119!!



Troop 183—FL

Shirley Conley, Troop Leader

Handling for First Aid and CPR

On the last day of May, Paws Pack 183 spent a couple of hours together working our dogs through the various handling experiences they may encounter with the administration of first aid and CPR, based upon the criteria for the First Aid merit badge. We were pleased to have four guests with us, and hope they will join DSA and enjoy learning new things with their dogs.

We started out with getting our dogs to settle around the other dogs, accepting treats from strangers, and accepting handling by their pet parent with the distractions. While working on this we covered the points on the dog where heart rate can be checked, how to ascertain capillary refill time, and observe respiration rate. We didn't take our dog's temperature, but we did discuss how to do it and that a temperature below 100° or above 104° should prompt seeking veterinary attention. Knowing what our dog's normal stats are is an important base line for future comparison.

Not part of the first aid badge requirements, but good for animal husbandry, was getting our dogs comfortable with pill popping and accepting liquid medication. Soft moist treats were used for fake pills, and strawberry smoothies were used to practice syringing a liquid into the dog's mouth. We learned that inserting the syringe in the gap immediately behind the canine teeth and squirting slowly so the liquid was aimed at the inside of the teeth on the opposite side of the mouth helped reduce the dog's response of spitting out the liquid.

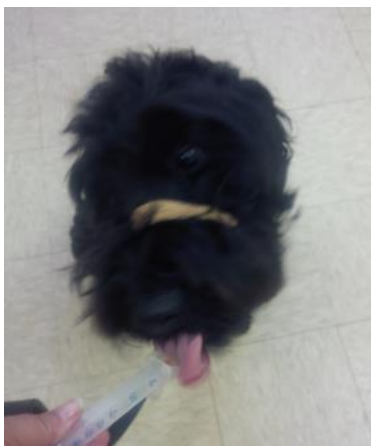


Next we practiced making temporary muzzles, and treated our dogs with a smearable treat delivered on a spoon so they could lick the treat and be rewarded while wearing the muzzle. We also practiced having our dogs do position changes and following a treat while wearing the muzzle.

Once the muzzles were off we swapped dogs and worked on them follow treats with someone other than their pet parent and having them sit and lie down for that person. That done, we returned the dogs to their respective pet parents and moved on to capture, restraint, and transportation techniques. We covered where to place our hands for the Heimlich maneuver and then settled down to rewarding our dogs for allowing us to bandage an extremity, splint a leg, and bandage the head using an ear as an anchor.

Before we ended our time together we discussed some tricks to teach for defusing tension between dogs and also within the dog itself (according to Turid Rugaas): bang, bow, paw, sniff, head/body turn, yawn, lip licking, shake, sniff, and how if you're trying to catch a loose dog, sometimes pretending interest in something on the ground (pointing at the ground, making sniffing sounds) may encourage the loose dog to approach and give us a change to capture it. We also discussed how teaching a dog to sit at every door before they are permitted to go through it, and teaching them spin to help them move out of the way can help them learn appropriate behaviors at thresholds.

We had five dogs take the practical portion of the Dog Scout test on this date. All five dogs passed. Four can now become Dog Scouts and the other one is just waiting for his pet parents to have the written portion of the test approved. We're thrilled at the teamwork displayed and the effort our troop members have put into training their canine partners and understanding more about Dog Scouts and the Dog Scout way.



Troop 183—FL

Shirley Conley, Troop Leader

Canine Massage

The great thing about Dog Scouts is that it helps us discover skills to improve the quality of life for our canine companions. What better way to encourage our human-canine relationship than by getting in touch with our dogs - literally!

On June 28, Cheryl Ann of Puppy Love Therapy joined us and shared some massage techniques that we could easily master and use, focusing on lymphatic drainage. We covered how massage can benefit our dog's health: aid in digestion, improve cardiovascular health, strengthen the immune system, reduce pain, swelling and stiffness, calm the nervous system, improve mobility, increase flexibility, range of motion, energy, and endurance, and shorten

healing time of strained muscles. Cheryl Ann simplified the lymphatic system for us by telling us that our strokes will be directing lymph to the lymph nodes in the equivalent of the dog's armpit and then also to the base of the tail. Lymph is

the clear fluid that carries white blood cells, oxygen, plasma proteins and fluids to the cells of the body through the capillary walls (the red blood cells being larger and therefore not able to pass through). In addition lymph moves waste products from the tissues to the lymph nodes where they can be destroyed if they're considered harmful and moved into the kidneys to be flushed out of the body (hence most dogs need to relieve themselves after a massage). She told us that when we put our hands on our dogs we should feel for differences in temperature. Heat tells us that blood and lymph are collecting at a certain location (due to muscle soreness, spine misalignment or other ailments), and cold tells us that there is a blockage



on either side of the area. Those "hot spots" are where we'll want to be conscious of massaging away from the heat towards the lymph node and the "cold spots" we'll want to work on opening up circulation on either side.



Cheryl started us at the head, noting that when we release fluid at this site (through gentle pressure beginning at the dip behind the skull in line with the spine and slowly curving out to the base of the ears and holding that final position for a few seconds) we should expect yawning or lip smacking and that will tell us that we've been successful (when lymph is released it has a metallic taste). She gave us suggestions on how to work down the neck to the axillary node, strokes and pressure for the chest, tops of the legs and shoulders, and the forelegs. We brushed our fingers lightly over the ribs and spine and focused on the hips and back legs, being conscious of how the muscles lie along the bone and focusing on the belly of the muscle we were working on.

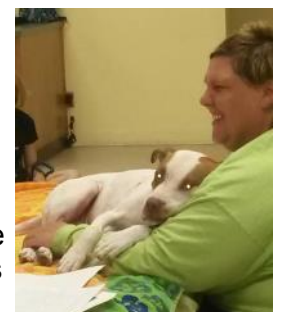


With the muscles warmed from our massage, our dogs were able to safely accept some basic stretching to promote a wider range of motion, specifically in the hips and shoulders - we were careful to support the outer joints to guard against hyper extension.



Massage makes us aware of the physical and emotional well-being of our pets, Cheryl Ann mentioned that teaching massage to children has the benefit of encouraging them to be gentle and have empathy for other living beings. Certainly our activity attendees ended the session with a greater awareness of how we can make our dogs feel better and recover faster after completing strenuous activity, surgery, enduring stressful situations, and/or playing rough.

We appreciated Cheryl Ann's friend, Linda, bringing her rescued pit bull, Casper, who was a great demo dog for our activity. Casper was calm and accommodating, and thanks to the short coat, we were able to more clearly see what Cheryl Ann was doing as she worked with him.



Troop 188—CT/RI

Michelle Lake, Treasurer

Our Troop did some Barn Hunting in May with Pirate earning his RATI title! Yippity, who was competing in his first barn hunt trail at age 17, unfortunately didn't qualify for a title. While he did find his rat, he was slightly over time. All had a good time!



Yippity Barn Hunting



Pirate with his RATI ribbon



Michelle and Phantom along with Troop members Trudy and Al plus their three tortoises Ungowa, Chimwalla, and Joplin visited the Clark Lake Middle School's Pet Club in mid-May. We talked about therapy work and the Dog Scout badges we have earned. While the tortoises were racing, Phantom showed off his best "leave it".



Newman set for some brushing

Dog Scout Troop 188 met with Cub Scout Pack 60 to give a presentation about all things dog! Sheri with Lucy, Karen with Newman, Allison with Belle, and Michelle with Phantom talked about cleaning up after your pets, how to properly greet dogs, how dogs can be useful, caring for your pets (grooming, traveling safely) and showed off some tricks. With a little work at home, these Cub Scouts will be able to earn their Pet Care Awards.



Phantom demonstrating the usefulness of therapy work



Both Troops after a fun evening



Lucy ready to perform some tricks



Belle showing off her spinning skills

Troop 188—CT/RI (cont.)



Beth & Ella ready to lead the way



Beth with Ella, Meghan with Lucy & Allison with Belle



Trudy & Al with Zepher playing and parading



Troop 188 catching some shade

Many Troop members spent the Memorial Day weekend at the Robin Hood Springtime Festival during their pet weekend. Our Troop supplied water at strategic locations and helped check in pets at the main entrance. We also participated in the daily parade and entertained the crowd.

We had a booth at Ledyard Animal Control Appreciation Day held at a local nursery/ice cream stand.

Over 100 responsible pet parents came out with their 225 pets to get low cost vaccinations from All Friends Animal Hospital at our Annual Vaccination Clinic. Thanks to everyone who came out and helped to make our pet community healthy!



Troop Dog "Scout" wearing Phantom's cape



JoJo ready to greet both people and pets!

At our July meeting we hit the water for some puppy paddling and drill team work, then



celebrated the 188th day of the year with a picnic! More summer fun to come in the next newsletter!



Troop 188—Member Spotlight

Member Judith Kelly and Apple earned the new **CGCU** (Urban) title ribbon. Between April and June, Apple earned 18 ribbons and 3 titles at various Performance Scent Dog trials (performancescentdogs.com), all while Judith was recovering from a leg injury.

Congrats to Judith and Apple!



Troop 207 OHIO

Congratulations Elizabeth Frum on completing the steps to become a Troop Leader and assuming responsibility for leading Troop #207 in Columbus, Ohio. Co-leader for the troop is Andrea Mykrantz.

Troop 217—MI

Sally Hoyle, Troop Leader
& DSA Vice President

Sassy, Katie, Lizzy and Shelby (on table) represented Dog Scouts and our troop well at the event and loved greeting all the people that day!

The Motor City K9s have once again been very busy! June was very exciting as we held our first ever Letterboxing event. It was very successful and raised a nice sum of money for DSA. We saw some old friends and met a lot of new letterboxers. All of the stamps we carved for the event had a positive training theme and we enjoyed showing off our dogs on event day and telling people about Dog Scouts.



As a result of our event Shelby Benson earned her Letterbox Dog title! Here's the proud new title holder with mom Julie.

The other big June event...CAMP!!! We had 4 troop members with 6 dogs attend the June camp and we had a great time exploring activities including learning skills for the new Carriage Dog badge. In all a total of 16 badges were earned by these 6 dogs and we are very proud of all they accomplished!

Nine more troop members attended the July camp with 11 dogs. All of these dogs enjoying activities ranging from flyball and carting to agility, dock diving and even first aid skills. In all these dogs earned 38 badges and 3 new titles! This includes Katie Hoyle's new title of Draft Started (DS), earned by participating in the after camp Carting Trial. Katie is the only the second Dog Scout to earn this title after Kozi Olsen earned it at the June trial. All of the dogs that attended MI camps this year had some amazing accomplishments along with a lot of learning and tons of fun!



We are all looking forward to lots of fun experiences as a troop in the next few months. We will be doing a carting workshop, teaching our dogs sign language, going on an overnight camping trip, lots of hiking, learning more freestyle dance moves and maybe even tackling Drill Team!

Troop 219—CT

Kelly Ford, Troop Leader, CRN Secretary & Trails Titling Program Coordinator

The New England Explorers

would like to send a special welcome to new Troop members Havoc, (returning) HarlE and their mom Teresa (Tree) and Ollie and his mom Lia.

During our May Troop Meeting, Wyatt started testing for the DSA badge. We are all very impressed with how quickly Wyatt mastered the required skills.



Dog Scout Troop 219 has two new Dog Scouts. Congratulations to both Wyatt and HarlE Quinnt!!! You passed your DSA Test!!!



Troop 219 is very proud of Kalya DSA who has completed the requirements for her **Backpacking badge**.

We have an update on our Sky's The Limit Challenge. On May 16th, we made it to the peak at Hurd State

Park. We also found several geocaches at the park. We hiked over 3 miles that day.

Kayla DSA, Zora DSA, Havoc, HarlE DSA, Anita, Kelly, Tree, Elsie and Laura at the Split Rock vista at Hurd State Park.



On May 22nd, Kayla, Zora, Anita and Kelly made a special trip to Beebe Pond after work to hike in the beautiful weather. We found several geocaches, including one of our creepiest finds, a huge spider cache. We also found Zora's 100th find (pictured left), completing that requirement for her Geocache Title.

On May 24th, we hiked to the top of Mt. Misery, twice! Pictured are Kayla DSA, Zora DSA, Anita and Kelly. After our hike, we had a picnic and found some drive-by geocaches.



On May 25th, we spent the morning hiking Oswagatchie Hills, planting geocaches to complete that requirement of Zora's geocache title. We hiked over 3 miles finding the perfect hiding spots for all of Zora's new caches. Thank you to Kayla DSA, Anita and Donna for helping us find the perfect spots.

At the end of May, Zora DSA and I attended the annual Wakeda Letterbox Weekend in New Hampshire. We hiked countless miles, found tons of letterboxes and hung out with some amazing friends. We received a number of compliments on the three new boxes that we hid during the weekend. The highlight of the weekend was roasting strawberries coated in marshmallow fluff over our campfire. These were amazing and will be added to all future camp-out menus. Zora is working on her Letterbox Advanced Title (LBA).



Troop 219—CT—May-June 2015 (cont.)

We worked on heeling at our June Troop Meeting for the Dog Scout badge. We had so much fun that we forgot to take any pictures.

Happy Birthday Zora!!! On June 20th, we celebrated Zora's 9th Birthday with a hike at Lover's Leap State Park followed by a party. This is part of the Sky's the Limit Challenge. The hike to the peak and back was only two miles. That's six challenge hikes down and eight to go.



After the hike, we had a birthday picnic. Everyone got a party hat, the pups had pup-sicles and the people had carrot cake. All the pups exhausted themselves playing, especially the birthday girl. Pictured (above) are Havoc, HarIE, Teresa, Kayla DSA, Anita, Kelly and Zora DSA at the peak of the state park, the Fall's Mountain Vista, some great photos from the party and one exhausted little birthday girl.



We had two amazing events on Saturday June 27, so we divided our forces. Anita, Teresa, Elsie, Kayla, Havoc and HarIE went to the Connecticut Humane Society Pet Fair and Dog Walk. Team Sky's the Limit raised a lot of money for the humane society. The whole team entered the costume contest. Anita and Kayla won first place for Most Original. Tersea and HarIE won first place for Finest Six Legs (Human and

Dog Team). Havoc, with Elsie, won First Place for Best Accessory.



Lori, Wyatt, Zora and I set up our booth at Paw Print Pantry Open House in Niantic CT and spent the day spreading the word about Dog Scouts. We helped other vendors set up their tents, passed out fliers and had a great day. Zora got cold laser treatment on her hips and knees. She liked this so much that she fell asleep and almost slid off her bed. Anita, Teresa, Kayla, Havoc and HarIE joined us at the Open House after the Pet Fair. Everyone went home with lots of free samples, courtesy of our friends at Paw Print Pantry. Kayla also got to try the cold Laser Therapy. Havoc and HarIE got professional portraits done.

Troop 219 sends out big, wet doggie kisses to all of our sponsors for the 2015 Dog Scout hike-a-thon. Wyatt and Zora worked really hard to get all of their sponsors and raised over \$300 for Dog Scouts of America from our Team.

On the July 4th we went on an early morning hike at Pequot Woods. Wyatt hiked off-leash for the first time. He did excellent showing off his recall and exploring the trail on his own with his buddies. Kayla and Anita found a tiny little geocache in a fake bird's nest. Pictured (right) is Wyatt hiking off-leash and working on his back pack badge.



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

Troop 229 CA

Mary Blackstone, Troop Leader

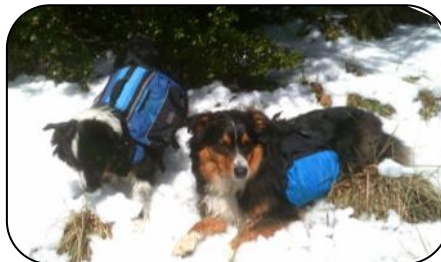
Troop 229 has had a busy
April!

baby sister Kip go with us.
CHECK OUT THE SNOW!!!!



On the
4th we
had a
good
time at
Dog Scout

iZAR's Birthday Party. The weather was great, cool and sunny with a little breeze. After our picnic lunch, we walked up to Philpot Waterfall. Not much water in the creek but the waterfall was running and there was enough water for the dogs to splash in. After we got back to the campground I hid plastic eggs w/treats and we let the dogs go! They had a grrrEAT time finding them. I think that is one of their favorite games.

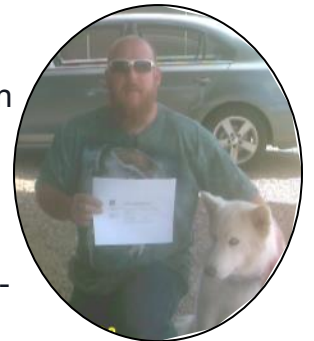


There wasn't much and it was melting fast, but iZAR was sure happy to see it! This was the first snow Kip ever saw! She liked it! It was the first time she ever wore a(n) (empty) backpack too.



April 25th we put on another 1st Aid for Dogs seminar, this time in Bella Vista, CA at Above & Beyond Animal Care. We raised \$95 for Pets Without Partners.

Gary Swain won the free "Wellness Exam" our troop sponsored.



April 19th we went to Natural Bridge for our monthly hike. We hiked around the Kok-Chee-Shun-Chee trail. Well, a couple places it was more

like carefully climbed. While we were there I hid a geocache. We had fun, dogs had MORE fun, they got to play and romp and cool off in the creek.



IZAR & I have been getting out geocaching every chance we get. Sometimes Karla & iZAR's

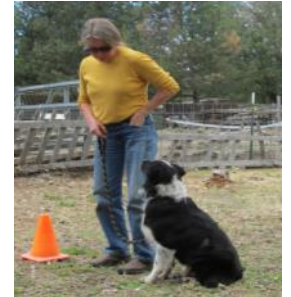


Troop 229—CA

Mary Blackstone, Troop Leader

"Dogaholics Anonymutts" MAY 2015

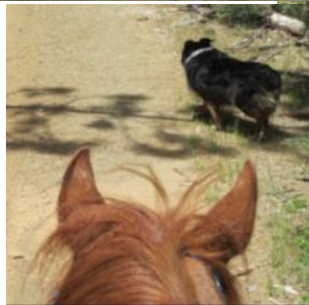
At our weekly meetings we practiced for our Obstacle 1 badge which we're ready to video-tape, and everyone helped work with the 2 new pups in our troop, Cadet Kip and Cadet Fearless, who are studying for their Dog Scout Badges.



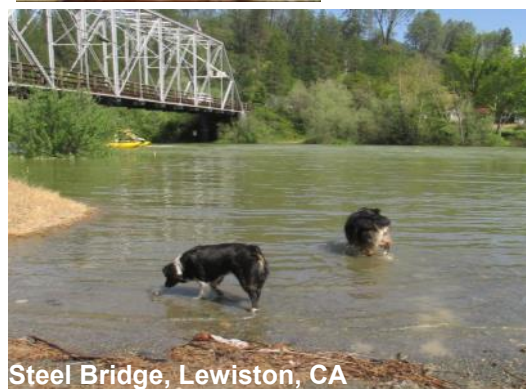
iZAR got his mileage check-offs for his Trails Title while on 2 rides with our local horse club; a 5.2 mile ride at Dobbins Gulch and a 6.4 mile ride in Indian Valley.



His 10 month old baby-sister, Cadet Kip went on the Dobbins Gulch ride (5.2 miles) too, and got to meet one of iZAR's old best-friends, Sam(antha) a wonderful Dobbie, and go on her first horse ride-along!



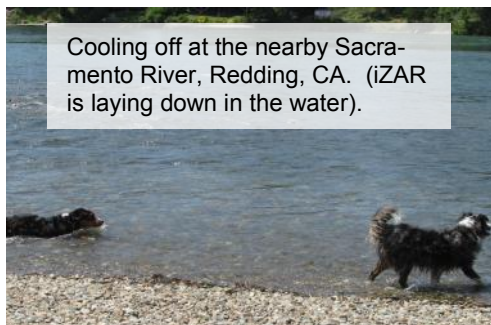
We came across some dirt-bikers taking a break. The dogs had never seen anything like that before! We stopped for a few minutes and chatted and they got confident enough to go in for a closer look.



Steel Bridge, Lewiston, CA

We also did some geocaching, and of course, cooling off in the rivers/creeks! I think Kip loves geocaching as much as iZAR does! And she's already learning she gets a cookie for sitting still and putting her ears up!!!

More geocaching with iZAR's other sister, housemate & Dog Scout, 3 yr old Lilura. We took her to find some caches iZAR had already found, while dog-sitting during her mom's doctor appointment. :)



Cooling off at the nearby Sacramento River, Redding, CA. (iZAR is laying down in the water).



Dropping off TBs at the TB Hotel.

Troop 229—CA—May 2015 (cont.)

iZAR & Lilura attended a Cinco De Mayo Geocache Event.



iZAR won the first raffle ticket and picked out a grassy geocache to hide.



"Did someone say
'Come & Get it'?"



Where's the line to the Home-made Chicken Tamales?

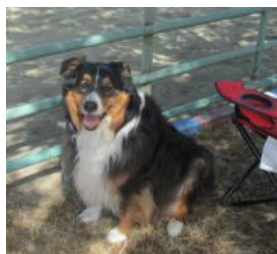
For our Monthly Hike, we worked on clearing the trail of one of our favorite hikes to Philpot Waterfall. A big tree had fallen across the path this winter and we had been climbing thru brush to get around it.



Now we have a nice clear trail around. The dogs gave us the 'green light' when we had done a good



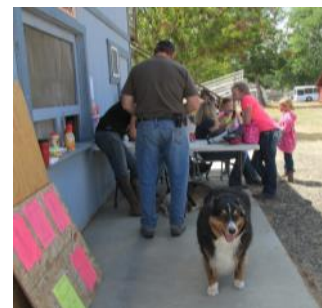
enough job. Now they run around the tree on the trail, instead of under or over! I guess they want us to know they appreciate the work we did



Many of our troop members are also part of our local horse club: Trinity Horses & LongEars. We often bring our dogs to the events and they are complimented on their good manners :)



iZAR has become a mascot of sorts, he helps me at the concession stand, with taking pictures and sometimes handing out ribbons!



Other things we worked on this month:
PLANNING!

- Planning our Adopt-a-highway Cleanup (June 5th) & Annual Geocache Event (June 7th).
- Starting to plan our Simon Sez Contest at the local Fair this August. We're also going to hide eggs with "treasures" (like ride tickets) and make a list of coordinates for the Fair Manager to hand out as a Geocache Game.
- I'm hoping to put on a Dog Days Event this fall when it cools off. We want to involve the community. The plan is to have games, contests and demos. BBQ dinner and maybe a campout. Some of the demos: a seminar by our local vet, a clicker training demo, some kind of Dog Body Language Awareness seminar, a Mondio, Treibball & Scent demo. I'm hoping to find someone to do a herding demo, carting demo, for example, and for the local sheriff's K9 to show up. I'd like to include as many dog jobs as I can. (any suggestions to my newest scheme is appreciated! Anyone wanting to come and help....even MORE appreciated!! LOL)

Well, that winds it up for MAY. Looking forward to JUNE!

Troop 231—FL

Kim Hovey, Troop Leader

On May 30, 2015, three of our DSA Troop 231 members attended the very first outdoor **Free Shot Clinic** offered by **TLC PetSnip in Lakeland, FL**. They were set up to focus on the Combee Neighborhood, a traditionally low-income/high pet ownership area.

Although it was in the low 90s and hot, the humidity was a bit low, which made the extra-long wait in the line a bit more bearable. We supplied several large tubs of water for the dogs, and refilled them frequently. We also provided bottled water for those standing in line with their pets. All animals were crated or on leashes, and most of the dogs were very well behaved during their wait. We enjoyed talking to the folks waiting in line, discussing their pets, making friends, offering positive training tips where needed, and (of course) handing out our Troop business cards so they can come learn more about DSA!

The turnout was fabulous, and our vets vaccinated well over 200 cats and dogs, as we passed out information on low cost, high quality spay and neuter services for the area. A local grooming business was there to offer free nail trims to all the pets who came through the lines.

We had a great day and we look forward to being invited to volunteer again at the next event!



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:

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

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

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

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

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

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