



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 4 Sep/Oct 2015

Merit Badge Certification Program Changes

Big changes are happening with our certification program effective October 1! We are saying goodbye this month to our long-time Certification Program Director, Chris Puls. Chris is stepping out of her role in order to pursue other interests and that means she is leaving us with big shoes to fill. Please make sure that you carefully review the changes we've made so that you don't send badge forms to the wrong place. We know you and your dog work hard to earn merit badges and we want you to get your badges without delay.

The Board of Directors has assessed all of the tasks required to support our Merit Badge Certification Program and developed several new roles to handle these responsibilities.

Merit Badge Recording Secretary - Julie Benson

Badge forms that are signed by an evaluator who completed an in-person evaluation must be sent to the Secretary, as well as badges that require a log for evaluation, such as Community Service, Therapy Dog or Letterboxing. The Secretary processes these badge forms and sends you the patch. She will also enter badges earned into the database and keep a record of evaluations that have been completed.

Julie Benson will be taking on the role of Merit Badge Recording Secretary while maintaining her current responsibilities for membership.



Deadline

for the next newsletter is

November 15th

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

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Merit Badge Program Coordinator—Heddie Leger

This role has been created to manage the process of video evaluation. All badge forms needing to be processed via video should be sent to the Coordinator, preferably electronically. The Coordinator also maintains a current record of evaluators and works closely with the Merit Badge Recording Secretary as needed. Heddie Leger, current Board member will step into this newly created role.

Distance Evaluators

Every member who is approved as an evaluator for any badge was given the opportunity to opt in and participate as a Distance Evaluator and we now have a group of people ready and willing to complete video evaluations. They are contacted by the Merit Badge Program Coordinator as needed to complete evaluations by video in their areas of expertise. Having a large pool of Distance Evaluators helps to ensure that any videos you submit for evaluation are processed as quickly as possible.



Evaluator certification will be managed by **Chris Kloski** and the Board is now responsible for new merit badge development and design.

Details regarding the changes to our program, including contact information can be found on the web site and on badge forms. Please be sure you have reviewed and understand these changes prior to submitting any badge forms. We would like to thank Chris for her service and wish her well, and we welcome Julie, Heddie and our Distance Evaluators to their new roles.



Fall Troop Jamboree Reminder

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 Olson 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

20th Year Anniversary Patches are available!

We have ordered some 20th year patches, which anyone can purchase. It is a fundraiser for DSA. The patches are 2 1/2 inches in diameter, and cost \$5.00 each.

If you would like to order any, please contact Lonnie Olson, dogscoutscamp@gmail.com or call 989-389-2000.



**Interested in a copy of the
July 2015 camp
talent show video?**

Cost is \$5 plus shipping.

**Please e-mail Chris at
ChrisBill1966@gmail.com**



**Pathtags still
available!**

Only \$5.00/ea.

To order,
contact Lonnie

dogscoutcamp@gmail.com



**You'll want to order
one of these!**



**Acrylic ornaments
to commemorate
the 20th Anniversary!**

They are 2 3/4" by 2 3/4" with a red satin string to hang them. The inscription lasered into each one says "2015" (in the toes) and "20th Anniversary", with the DSA logo in the foot pad part of the paw. These are \$5.50 (which includes mailing, as I believe they'll go fine in a standard envelope.

To order, contact Lonnie
dogscoutcamp@gmail.com

20th Anniversary Celebration a great success!

We had 25 people attend the 20th Anniversary Celebration at the Michigan Dog Scout Camp facility, and many more ordered memorial luminaries or 20th Anniversary patches.

It was a weekend of laid-back fun with our dogs. There were games and contests, and prizes. Everyone got a free ticket for several activities upon arrival, and additional punch cards could be purchased for \$10.00 each, which entitled you to participate in another 3 activities. The games were fun for both humans and dogs.

Well, except for Jeopardy! That was a game for the pet parents, while the dogs took a rest. The Jeopardy game was run by Sally Hoyle, and "Announcer," Bob Duman. Sally came up with all of the categories and answers. It was a LOT of fun, and I would recommend it as a game at any get-together. The answers all had to do with DSA's history, merit badges, titling programs, etc. I know a lot of work was put into this (Thanks, Sally!).

One of the contests was called, "Create your Fantasy Merit Badge" "Bistro Dog," submitted by Kris Thomas of Pennsylvania took first place. In the Best Camp Story/Photo contest, first place was a submission by Julie Benson, depicting Shol'va and Shelby swimming side by side in the pond (Shelby helped Shol'va learn to swim and get his puppy paddler badge. All of the entries in both of these categories took a lot of thought, creativity, research, or humor, and they were fun to read.

There was also a lot of photos (thanks to Joanne Weber and others) from camps past posted all over. There was a memorial board, featuring all of the human members who have passed away in the last 20 years. There was a "timeline" of the history of DSA running down the center of a table, and some quotes heard at Dog Scout Camp. Martha Thierry created a poster of all of the camp t-shirts for each of the 20 years of camps held in Michigan. Martha also prepared a lovely certificate, thanking Lonnie for creating Dog Scouts, and another, listing the "Things we have learned from Lonnie in 20 years through the Dog Scouts." What a thoughtful gesture and nice surprise!

The Memory Walk was super. Everyone enjoyed custom-creating a luminary for their departed loved ones, and a tissue paper ornament with seeds attached, for placing at the chapel. A Kleenex box was handy, and many



people needed it as they remembered their lost loved ones. At dusk, we took all of the luminaries (about 40 of them in all), and placed them along the trail to the Chapel. Then, we all walked to the Chapel (via the back way) for the Blessing of the Animals, which was a beautiful ceremony conducted by Reverend Judey Kalchik. As it got darker, the solar-lights (Angels, Butterflies, Globes, etc.) in the Chapel lit up and began glowing. We placed our tissue paper flower seed ornaments around the chapel, and exited down the path with the luminaries lighting the way. They were just beautiful. Many were decorated in a way that made the names appear in a cool way, once the bag had its candle lit. We stopped to have a moment of remembrance at each luminary. It was a wonderful experience. So beautiful. Everyone commented that it was a great experience.



The Scavenger Hunt on Sunday was devised and run by Elizabeth Najduch (puzzle genius extraordinaire). A great time was had by all, and everyone wanted to start having these during camp! Elizabeth always goes the extra mile, and filled the scavenger hunt with question and answers, and stunts that you had to do with your canine companion, so it wasn't just about "finding things." Thanks to Elizabeth for all the work she put into this!

Sunday also featured a "parade of service dogs" at which time, all of the service dogs, therapy dogs, and other special partners walked across the stage, and a short bio was read aloud about each dog.



Also on Sunday, we witnessed the renewal of wedding vows for Sally and Julie's 20th anniversary. Between the 20th, my birthday, and the wedding anniversary, we ate a LOT of cake this weekend.

Thanks to everyone who helped conduct any of the games, or helped put on meals.


Everyone had an important job, and I appreciate all of you that pitched in.

Total intake for this fundraiser was **\$4,316.00!** I've already been asked if this was a "typo." No, that includes all of the donations for food, prize drawings, games, luminaries, and 20th Anniversary Patches, plus lodging for the weekend for all of the participants. It also includes a large donation of \$100.00 from Charles and Barbara Holmes, who couldn't make it to the celebration event, but sent the info for their dogs' luminaries, and will include a matching grant from Charles' place of work. Thank you so much!

Everyone wants to do this again for the 25th anniversary. I can hardly wait!

Lonnie Olson
Founder & President

THINGS WE HAVE LEARNED FROM LONNIE IN 20 YEARS THROUGH THE DOG SCOUTS



NEVER UNDERESTIMATE A DOG
WITH AN OWNER WHO CARES

NEVER GIVE UP ON A DOG

NEVER BE AFRAID TO SAY "WHY NOT?"

ALWAYS TRY TO DO MORE AS A TRAINER

ALWAYS HAVE FUN WITH YOUR DOG

ALWAYS HAVE A PURPOSE AND A PLAN

IF IT DIDN'T WORK ONE WAY, TRY ANOTHER

BREAK THINGS INTO DO-ABLE PIECES

SAY LESS, DO MORE

KEEP LEARNING

KEEP IT SIMPLE

TRUST YOUR DOG

PEOPLE VARY


PAY ATTENTION

GO FOR IT!


OUR DOGS' LIVES ARE MUCH
SHORTER THAN OURS --
LET'S HELP THEM ENJOY
THEIR TIME WITH US AS
MUCH AS WE CAN.
- Dog Scout Owner
MOTTO


LET US LEARN NEW THINGS
THAT WE BECOME MORE
HELPFUL.
- Dog Scout Motto

FOR THESE LESSONS AND SO MANY MORE WE THANK YOU!



20 YEARS OF THE
DOG SCOUTS OF AMERICA





Attitude of Gratitude

Thanks to Sally Hoyle and Julie Lawler Hoyle for donating the Arbor to camp, to be used in the Outdoor Chapel area. It will be used for a renewal of vows ceremony taking place in our new Chapel area in September.



Joanne Weber enjoying some time away from her hectic life at the Scrapping weekend



Treats are coming! Louie Schupska, Goldy Reid, and Mitchell Weber

Thanks to Fay Reid and Amy Schupska for organizing the Stamp 'n' Scrap weekend at the camp. Among the "Make-&-Takes" were a pet sympathy card and a "congratulations on your puppy" card - both of which are hard to find through Hallmark!

Continental Breakfast on Sunday morning, and inner on Saturday and Sunday night were included in the price. Massage Therapist, Don Sylvester, was "on hand" Friday night and Saturday morning, for those that wanted a little extra stress relief.

\$400.00 was raised for DSA at this event.



French toast with whipped cream and fresh fruit . . . Yum!



Goldy inspecting Fay Reid's scrapbook pages

Stay tuned for updates on the Blue Ridge Mini Camp and Michigan Camp

MINI CAMP 2015

Texas

November 12-15

Fort Worth, TX

Accepting requests to be put on the Wait List

Contact Cindy Ratliff

doglurvurz@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

Get well wishes to
Peggy Zweber
—hoping you'll rock
rehab and be back home
with the crew soon.



Rainbow Bridge



Cooper Klahr
1/2006 - 7/30/2015

My handsome "black boy", Cooper, is no longer my constant companion. Wow, does this hurt! I recently helped him across the Rainbow bridge due to bone cancer. He was 9.5 years old, and I thought I had another 4-5 years with him.

Cooper and I attended DSA camp in Michigan for a week in the summer of 2007. We enjoyed so many of the dog scout activities available there and earned his DSA rank. We buried him wearing his DSA neckerchief.

Give your pups an extra hug for me today!
Carol Klahr
Troop 171

Our condolences to Barbara and Charles Holmes. After losing their beloved Josie in April, they lost their youngest dog Gretchen (age 7), and their cat, Blueberry, in July. We're thinking of you as fill each day to its fullest with your dear Brandy.



Splash "Baby Girl" Wiggins crossed the Rainbow Bridge August 2015. From her diagnosis date of Lymphoma, we only had her 8 more days. We had such hope that we could get her into remission. I reached out for help and received so much info and support and had our plan of attack all set. But it wasn't the one chemo treatment she had that took her - it was the swift progression of the disease. I will always remember how she loved interacting with people more than other dogs. How she loved lying on me when I was on the sofa watching TV (maybe so she could be able to feel my heart beat). How she loved sleeping on the pillows above Mark's and my head (maybe so she could be close to our breathing). How she loved being out on the trails with her doggie friends and owners. How she

and Sawyer became a wonderful pair after we brought him home. How she would jump up and bark back at any dog who was barking on TV. How she had so much fun earning badges as a Dog Scout. How she loved life.....and food....with gusto. There is definitely a void in our home now.....we have been through this before with many other pets but it does not make it any less painful. What a beautiful dog she was....in body and spirit....and we will miss her, and grieve, and always have her in our hearts. Thank you to everyone who reached out with info, help, support, thoughts and prayers - we are so grateful.

Mark and Richelle
Troop 188



Trails Titles Bulletin

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

I've gotten a good deal of questions recently about logging miles for trails titles and what device or app is best. I have both a handheld GPS device (Garmin Etrex 20) and an iPhone 4.

A handheld GPS, like my Garmin will connect to as many satellites are in range. I have found that the Garmin Etrex 20 is accurate to within a 5-foot radius, if it's locked on to enough satellites. I rarely lose signal, unless we are hiking in a canyon. I bought it nearly three years ago and haven't had any problems with it. I normally use the route feature on my Garmin Etrex 20 for logging miles.

I bought the Garmin Etrex 20 for geocaching based on online reviews stating that it is the best at its price range. It doesn't have Wifi, I have to plug it into the computer to load geocaches, thus I have to plan my trips. It is very robust, as I have dropped it many times while hiking.

In addition to my Garmin, I have an iPhone 4 and use the *WalkForADog* app. The app works great as long as I have good signal. My Troop members suggest *MapMyMiles*, I need to test this one.

The geocaching app for mobile phones is free. I've tested the app against my Garmin and found the app to be off by 30 to 50 feet. This greatly increases my search area when looking for a geocache and would make the coordinates for planted caches inaccurate. If you choose to use the app for caching, remember what its limitations are. Please use waypoint averaging when planting a cache.

No matter what device you use, read your manual before you go out and charge your batteries. You can submit a copy (photo or screenshot) of your GPS route instead of your buddy's signature on your logsheet. However, you should still tell someone at home where you are going, so they can send rescue crews if you don't make it back.

I want to remind everyone that you can submit everything electronically. For example, all of the photos that you took of your geocaches for the GEOD title can be uploaded to a Facebook album and you can send the link to me. This is much easier than printing all of your photos and mailing them to me. Please label or caption each photo to match the lines on your logsheet.

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

Trails Titles Earned July 2015 thru September 2015

Trail Dog (TD)

Gambit Stewart
Xander Stewart
Trog Stewart

Pack Dog (PD)

Katie Hoyle (pictured)

Letterbox Dog (LBD)

Katie Hoyle



Scout Scoop & Troop Talk



The Accidental Beauty Queen *by Catherine Bickley*

Although I have always been convinced that Smudge is gorgeous, I had no intention of showing her in conformation until Dutch Judge Jan De Gids came to town.

During his trip from the Netherlands to Canada to judge the Schapendoes Club of Canada's first national specialty, Judge De Gids also visited Anne and Robert Harvey's home in Brampton to meet and evaluate a group of Ontario Schapendoes. His evaluation of Smudge was so positive that I decided to give the "beauty show" ring a try.

Fortunately, United Kennel Club (UKC) shows typically include classes for "Altered" (spayed or neutered) dogs to compete in conformation.

At the October 2014, Grand River Kennel Club shows in Rockton, Ontario, Smudge competed in both conformation and rally. With the two events being in two different buildings, at overlapping times, it was a whirlwind day of changing Smudge's leashes, collars and hair-style as we zoomed back and forth between rings.

For a rally obedience trained dog, it wasn't too difficult to learn the new game: run up and down, stand still, let the judge touch you. Smudge was the only Schapendoes at the show, so for any wins to count toward a conformation championship title she would have to defeat

dogs of other breeds at the group or best in show level. What a delightful surprise to be handed the Reserve (Altered) Best in Show rosette that afternoon. That, combined with her qualifying score in Rally, also earned Smudge a Total Dog rosette – beauty and brains.

In November 2014, at the Maple Leaf Kennel Club show in Brampton, an even greater thrill awaited – Best (Altered) in Show. Then, on April 26, 2015, at the spring Grand River Kennel Club shows, Smudge added another Reserve Best (Altered) in Show and another Total Dog rosette to her collection, completing her UKC conformation title and becoming officially known as:

ALCH URO2 Smudge du Bouleau Blanc CGC
RN (AKC) CGN RE (CKC) CRAMCL CRNT
CRO1 SD-S, SP DSA NTD HIC



Smudge now has conformation, scent detection, rally obedience and trick titles and her herding instinct certificate, demonstrating the versatility of our happy Schapendoes. Thank you, Jan De Gids, for the nudge that motivated me to take a chance in the conformation ring.

Smudge attended DSA Camp in Michigan in 2010, 2011 and 2012 with Catherine and Sarah. She was the first Schapendoes to earn a DSA title.

Note: Schapendoes are a Dutch herding breed.

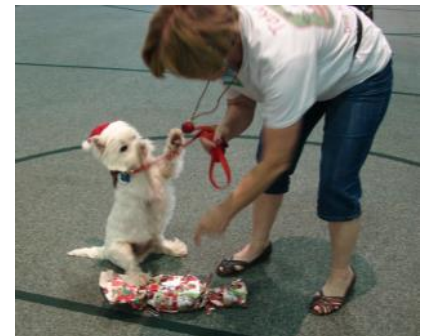
Troop 119—TX

Cindy Ratliff Troop Leader

Troop 119 has had a great summer with the addition of several new troop members, and new Dog Scouts, too!

We had a great time in July with our first ever Troop 119 Christmas in July Party! Our troop is always so busy in the fall that we usually don't have a meeting in December so this year we had several troop members form a committee to put together Christmas In July!

Everyone, humans & dogs, were encouraged to dress festively and come and enjoy the fun! We had a lots of great treats, a gift exchange, fun new games and contests for most festive! We had a great turnout and lots & lots of fun!



In August we had a special presentation by well-known Fort Worth attorney, Randy Turner, who specializes in animal law. Randy spoke to us about animal laws that affect us as dog owners and about how to set up an animal trust in the event our dogs outlive us. Even though we talked about some things that none of us like to think about, it was very helpful information!

Troop 119—TX (cont.)

Also in August, we got to participate in Dog Scout Troop 119 Mania at Bark Out Loud Doggie Boutique & Café. Bark Out Loud was the dream of troop member, Connie



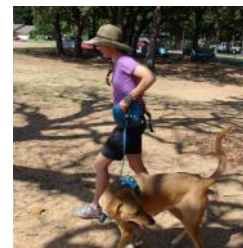
Romano, and was inspired by her first Dog Scout, Stuart. Connie had her grand opening Aug. 1 and couldn't wait to have a Troop 119 event! A percentage of all



troop sales, as well as all raffle ticket sales, went to the troop and will be used for our Meals On Wheels for Pets program in the fall! The troop earned \$257 from this event!



In September we had a Dog Scout class for new members and not-so new members who had new dogs that wanted to become Scouts! We were excited to have three troop dogs become new Dog Scouts. All moms were super excited with their new Dog Scouts, as was the rest of the troop! We had a lot of dogs work on the testing and several are just a step away from becoming new Dog Scouts as well!



Millie Tucker, DSA



Mason Hamilton, DSA



Darby Francis, DSA

Troop 146—MI

Do you know anyone in the West Olive, Grand Haven, Holland, Muskegon, MI area? Troop 146 is looking for new members so it can become active again. Troop Leader Mary Hinchman is a certified Scout Master and can teach and approve Backpacking and Hiking badges.

Please spread the word to anyone you know in the area to contact Mary at wmdstroop@hughes.net

Troop 183—FL

Shirley Conley Troop Leader

Nosy Dog

What better way to tire a dog than to make them think! Our July activity brought Paws Pack 183 members and guests together to update our nosy dog skills. Previously we had focused on box games and finding an item with our scent on it. This session we turned our attention to the teaching our attendees the steps in teaching our dogs to mark a new odor, working on an activity from The Canine Kingdom of Scent: Fun activities using your dog's natural instincts by Anne Lill Kvam, paired with the Scent Detection information found on dogscouts.org in the Merit Badge pages.

Due to limited time, we had two goals for this session. The first was to teach our attendees how to introduce a new target odor. The second was to give our dogs some exposure to searching for a hidden odor container, and also to follow a scent at nose level – both of which would be useful skills for the Novice level DSA Detector Dog title and the Scent Discrimination badge. We discussed that K9 Nosework tests use Birch, Anise, Clove, and DSA suggests teaching useful odors, such as mold, or insects (bed bugs). Indeed, Kvam suggested using peanut oil for the activity, but since we didn't know if any of our attendees had a peanut allergy, we went with what our troop leader had available – which turned out to be sesame oil.

To begin we created a scent cup – a scented Q-tip was dropped into a Dixie cup, then another Dixie cup slid down over it to sandwich the Q-tip. Holes were punched in the bottom of the second Dixie cup and the two cups were taped together. Then we introduced it to our dogs. Here we were teaching our dogs that the target odor had value. The dog putting his nose in the cup (not mouthing or nudging) was marked/clicked and the dog that offered this was then expected to hold his nose in the cup a little longer—ensuring inhalation of the scent to be associated with the reward. The scent cup could then be held where the dog would have to take steps towards it to sniff it. Next we moved to teaching our dogs to distinguish the target odor rather than simply offering the behavior of putting their nose in a cup (future training would include a sit after finding the target scent).

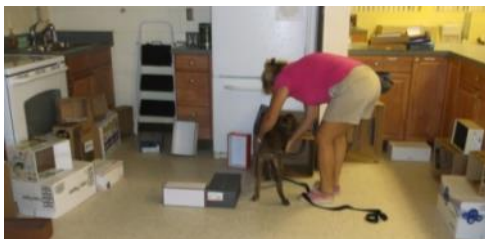
Afterwards we played a “shell game” with the scent cup placed in a box, and the box set on the floor near two similar boxes. Our dogs were reinforced for indicating the box with the scent in it. Since we hadn't done sufficient repetitions for the target odor, some of our attendees added treats to the box with the target odor so that when the dog showed any indication of the scent, the pet parent could open the box and the reward would be given near the target odor, again reinforcing the value of the target odor. The shell game reminded us of the Barn Hunt instinct tests where our dogs are required to identify the tube with the rat from an empty tube and one with just rat litter. As we practice these behaviors at home, we can add different decoy odors to ensure that our dogs understand which odor is the target odor – possibly even getting some litter from a pet store and using it as a decoy odor for those of us who don't have easy access to live rats – that way our dogs will already understand that signaling on litter doesn't pay – one less thing to work through if and when we're ready to try Barnhunt again.

While the next game was being set up, we shifted gears a little on the “shell game” and used empty Altoid tins, one tin was scented by the pet parent and treats placed inside, and the dogs were rewarded out of the Altoid tin when they distinguished the tin scented by their pet parent from the two unscented tins.

Finally we each took turns having our dogs search a new location for treats in an open box – the first time the box was on the ground, the second time the great box was moved to approximately nose level in a location – the beginning steps for some of the requirements of the Scent Discrimination badge, the Detector Dog title, and K-9 Nosework tests.

When the dog found the treat box, they were clicked and while they were eating the treats in the box the pet parent went up and praised while adding more treats to the box to extend the reward time. The same treat box was used for each dog so there would not be any confusion from remnant scents in other boxes.

A little proofing came along as sometimes boxes would fall or make noise as they were pushed/kicked by the dog. This was an added confidence building bonus as the dogs learned there was nothing to be afraid of and to keep searching. The only drawback for our activity was that it was set up in the activity room kitchen, so when it came time for the Great Dane to find the treats at nose level it looked a lot like counter surfing. . . hope he has a good “leave it” at home! The A/C intake was located in the kitchen, and as one of our dogs was working the A/C kicked in; this was a good opportunity to discuss how wind currents affect scent disper-



Troop 183—FL (cont.)

sion, and watch how the dog was affected by it – in this case being drawn passed the treat box a few times, towards the intake vent, and then having to search back along the rows of boxes until the treats were finally located.

There are a number of different venues for scent detection, we discussed playing these games in and around a parked car, outside (a few years ago we did a similar scent activity outside under a pole barn), and in new locations.

Practicing Picture Perfect

Our August activity focused on the components of the Pho-dog-raphy badge. We hooked up a computer to a TV screen so a large image of the DSA photo examples handout and other reference material could be viewed by everyone, as we went over the basics of photo composition/guidelines. We also discussed that mobile phones are becoming the more common tool for taking pictures, and it would be worth reading the phone's instruction manual and adjusting the camera settings on the phone now, so that the photo quality is better when we actually want to take a photograph.



The talking part aside, we moved on to the practical portion – beginning with having our dogs hold a basic position (sit, stand, and down) and look at an object. We also worked on getting our dogs to put their front feet onto a platform, and introduced a basic prop, for this activity we had an umbrella.



Most of the attendees knew how to achieve foot targets, so we worked on targeting the chin - beginning with shaping the chin resting on the pet parent's hand, this can later be transferred to a different prop. Teaching tricks (wave, high-five, sit pretty, bow, etc.) with a longer duration are also useful skills for capturing novel and more interesting images. Anyone working with rescue organizations understands how valuable cute pictures of adoptable dogs are: putting a head tilt, or paw on the nose behavior on cue goes a long way in enchanting a would-be adoptee.



Lastly we pulled out a small laundry basket and had some fun getting the dogs front feet, back feet, and then all four feet into it – building confidence by increasing their comfort level in interacting with new props - we used platforms to help the smaller dogs climb into the basket! Certainly having a dog that can pose inside a large prop increases our photo composition possibilities.



We were not as prepared as far as background set-up, and certainly it brought home how paying attention to the color and clutter behind our subject makes a difference in photo composition; definitely next time we take portraits of our dogs we'll bring some form of backdrop in case we need to use it.

Our grateful thanks to troop member, Mary Ann who brought her camera and took most of our photos throughout our activity, in between working her dogs



Taking better pictures is a work in progress, with the use of a basic computer programs well can crop a picture, fix red eyes, adjust the color and balance, etc., but it's always good to become more aware of photo composition and analyze why a picture appeals to us and keep it in the back of our minds when we take pictures – does it follow the rule of thirds? have balancing elements? Leading lines? Symmetry and patterns? What view-point is it taken from – high above, down below, from the side, close up and eye level, etc.? does the background focus our attention on the subject or is it distracting, does the photo convey a sense of depth that is present in the actual scene? Is the subject framed within the picture? Has the picture been cropped well?

There's a lot to consider, but by taking a little time to think about what we're attempting to capture, we can dramatically improve our photographs – this applies to photos taken with a camera or a cell phone. Certainly it's an incentive to keep practicing until we become more adept at capturing picture perfect.

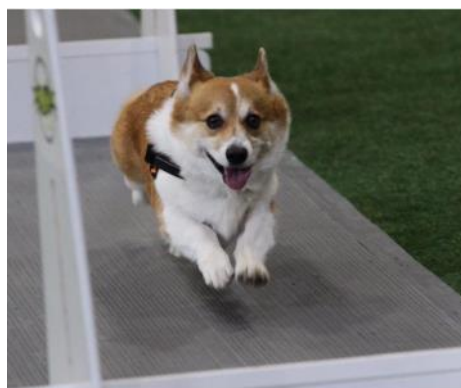


Troop 188—CT/RI

Sherry Throop Troop Leader



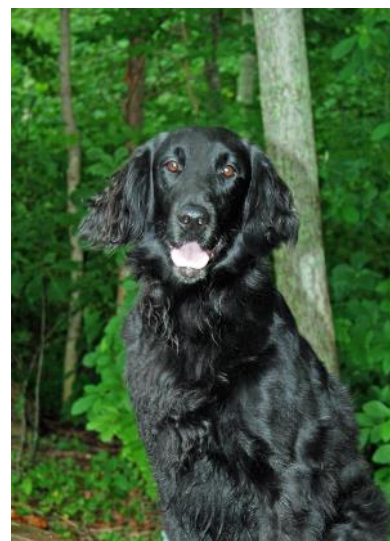
Swim practice and fishing in the balmy summer at the shore was one way the scouts of Troop 188 kept cool. Pictured are JoJo DSA (left) and Ella DSA (right) Troop 188's top fisherdogs.



In August 4 members of Troop 188 competed in a flyball tournament along with other members from the local flyball club. Roo (the happy faced corgi), Pirate, DSA (the high butt Chihuahua), and Noodle (setter mix) along with Lucy, DSA had lots of fun in lanes and enjoyed the fast clean runs. All of the Troop 188 members earned points at this tournament including Pirate who with his 2 points reached double digits. Pirate in his typical comedic fashion had the judges and secretaries in stitches over his goal to become the first untitled Iron Dog. (The Iron Dog title is given to a flyball dog who has competed in flyball for at least 10 consecutive years earning at least one point in each year.)



Troop 188—CT/RI (cont.)



Pictured above are three of the Paquin Pack all of whom were recertified Therapy Dogs for another year by Bright and Beautiful. Calypso the Chesapeake Bay Retriever has been a working therapy dog for a full decade now. His sisters (from another mister) Zephyr (Belgian Malinois) and Shazam (Flat Coat Retriever) are following in his very large paw prints. All of these dogs also have competed in confirmation, agility, and flyball. They are working on a number of therapy and sport badges this summer including dock diving.



It has been a big month for Carbon, DSA as not only did he earn his CGC but Carbon and his family welcomed his new brother Copper into the fold.



Troop 188 wishes Phantom a speedy recovery from his recent surgery. The kids at the library and his fellow scouts miss him very much.

Troop 217—MI

Sally Hoyle, Troop Leader, Vice President

The Motor City K9s didn't slow down at all following all the fun we had at camp! We've continued doing community events, working on badges, earning titles and just having fun! Our Troop had the pleasure of participating in the first ever Doggie Dip in Perrysburg, OH in August. Over 200 dogs attended this event to swim, play and learn about water safety for both humans and canines. We talked with many people about Dog Scouts, and our dogs demonstrated boating safety, water rescue and showed people the appropriate way to teach dogs to swim. Michelle Neu and Sassy and Diane Baughman and Lizzy participated with me and Katie; a pretty good showing for a Monday evening event. It was a lively event for sure with dogs running, jumping, swimming and having fun!



Michelle with Sassy, Diane with Lizzy and Sally with Katie at the Doggie Dip event in Perrysburg - BEFORE the dogs got wet!



Sassy demonstrating a water rescue



Lizzy taking a boat ride

Katie with our table at the Bark for Life event in Ann Arbor, MI



Some of our members participated in Bark for Life in Ann Arbor, MI that same week. This is an event for the American Cancer Society and our troop has participated for quite a few years. We talked with many people about Dog Scouts, safety around dogs and canine cancer. Our

Sassy made new friends at Bark for Life



dogs showed off their skills in playing musical instruments and painting. In all we raised over \$300 for the American Cancer Society including \$180 raised by our newest member, Golden Retriever Sunny and his mom Barrie Lynn Wood who joined our troop that same week. Thanks to Betsy Conway and Bert, Julie Benson and Shelby, Michele Neu and Sassy, Barrie Lynn and Sunny, and Julie Lawler-Hoyle and Sam for participating in this important event along with me and Katie.



Shelby with our musical instruments

Shelby, Sassy, Heikki (with mom Tina Patterson) and Katie participated in the Bark for Life event in Canton, MI where Heikki and Sassy took 1st and 2nd place respectively in the talent contest. Tina and Heikki, Amy Schupska, Betty and Sally participated in the event in Lansing, MI.

Troop members also got together to begin teaching our dogs sign language, something we've wanted to do for a long time. We are working towards helping our dogs earn the Sign Language badge but we are really most excited to just learn this skill so that our dogs can more easily adjust if or when they lose their hearing.

Troop 217—MI (cont.)

Julie Benson graciously gave her time to teach our class and Shelby demonstrated what she learned in earning this badge. This event was so popular that we decided to get together regularly as we learn and teach our dogs sign language. This will allow troop members who were unable to attend our class to join in on the fun.

Several troop members attended a Murder Mystery night in Plymouth, MI and solved the mystery of the Broken Time Machine. This was an event to benefit Tail Waggers, a non-profit organization dedicated to providing low or no-cost veterinary care to those in need so that people are able to keep their pets in their homes. We were glad to participate as the mission of this organization is so closely aligned with the mission and vision of DSA. Those who participated appreciated this well organized event and most said they couldn't imagine an event more fun than this one! Solving the mystery correctly and taking 4th place was the icing on the cake!

Our troop has focused quite a bit on letterboxing recently and we have had two letterboxing afternoons with one more planned. We are having so much fun with our dogs as we go out in search of boxes. Sam Hoyle recently started this sport and has earned his Letterboxing 1 badge, Drizzle Perez has earned his Letterboxing 1 & 2 badges and Katie Hoyle finished her Letterbox Dog (LBD) title. At this point several of our dogs are well on their way to earning their Letterbox Advanced (LBA) titles so there are sure to be more fun afternoons to come!

In other accomplishments, Betty Schupska has earned her Therapy Dog badge and Katie Hoyle completed her last 5-mile hike on September 7 to earn her Trail Dog (TD) title. We also have a new Dog Scout, Heikki Patterson who worked with his mom Tina to pass the test with ease. Heikki was also featured recently in Bark Magazine on their smiling dog page. So many of our dogs have accomplished something important in the last several months. Whether it's mastering a solid heel, learning a new freestyle move at Dance Camp with Gloria Voss, practicing kayaking and swimming or simply a young dog learning to be calm around a group of dogs, we celebrate all of these successes.

Coming up...many of us are excitedly awaiting the Dog Scouts 20th Anniversary Celebration at camp in MI. To let you in on a secret, two of our troop members will be celebrating their 20th anniversary that same weekend and will be renewing their vows in a ceremony at camp surrounded by friends both human and canine. We are also looking forward to the Troop Jamboree in October where our troop has a record number of people attending. Other upcoming activities include a night letterboxing hike, more sign language and lessons in first aid and CPR. Our troop is extremely active and members' interests are quite varied, but whatever we do together we always have so much fun!



Katie, Shelby and Sassy at the end of a letterboxing hike

There's always time for a photo op. when letterboxing! Sassy and Katie (back) and Shelby and Sam (front) found a cool old cabin in a new park they explored while letterboxing



New Dog Scout Heikki is smiling in the middle of the smiling dogs page in Bark Magazine!



Troop 219—CT—New England Explorers

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

We would like to send a special welcome to our new Troop members:



Wyatt

Dog Scout Troop 219 has a new Dog Scout. Congratulations to Havoc! You passed your DSA Test!!

Congratulations to Wyatt DSA who earned his Puppy Padder badge. This is Wyatt's first merit badge.



Havoc DSA

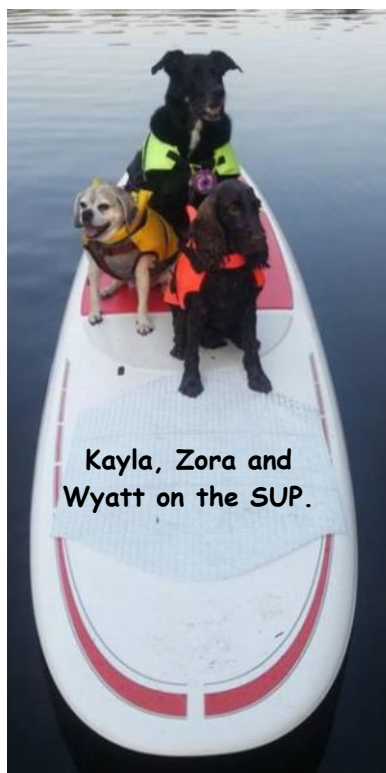
Zora DSA and I traveled to Ohio and Michigan in July to visit friends and spend a wonderful week at Dog Scout Camp. We got to ride on an ATV (pictured right), which was a highlight of the week.



Kayla and Anita SUPing

It's gotten very hot this summer. So we've taken up Stand Up Paddle boarding (SUP) this summer. Kayla DSA, Zora DSA, Anita and I all tried it at the EMS Demo Day on July 23rd. We loved it so much that we bought our own Troop SUP.

Learning to SUP has been an amazing adventure for us. Zora who has always been hesitant around water has overcome her fear and loves SUPing. Kayla, who loves swimming, has found that the SUP makes a great diving board. Zora spent time working on wobble boards at home to build core strength and confidence. We go every chance we get!



Kayla, Zora and Wyatt on the SUP.

We spent a lot of time using Anita's kayaks. They are great practice for the SUP. Zora also found that she likes transferring between the different watercraft, so that she could visit everyone.

Since you will eventually fall off when SUPing, we spent a hot day practicing getting on the board in deep water. We had a great time swimming in the lake. Our friend Laura, who has been SUPing for a while, joined us to give us tips. We also practiced rescuing our pups.

We are so proud to have learned this new skill with our dogs. Paddling around the Connecticut's lakes and rivers has been and will continue to be a wonderful experience for us. Wyatt DSA and Lori joined us one hot afternoon. Wyatt took to the SUP like a dog to water!



Zora on the front of the paddle board



Zora practicing being rescued

Troop 219—CT (cont.)

At our August 5th Troop Meeting, we started working on the All Dog Band badge. We are planning on exhibiting our band at the New London Bark for Life on October 3rd.

Kayla DSA demonstrated her FitPaws balance bone



Havoc gave the Pet Valu Regional Manager some love

Zora DSA entertained visitors by playing her piano



On August 15th, we were pleased to have been invited to Pet Valu Groton's Grand Opening/Open House. We passed out business cards and educated people

about Dog Scouts. Harlie DSA, Havoc DSA and Kayla DSA also demonstrated the ease of use of the store's dog wash stations.

On August 16th, we reviewed the TDI Test requirements. Kayla DSA and Anita had fun learning about being a therapy dog.

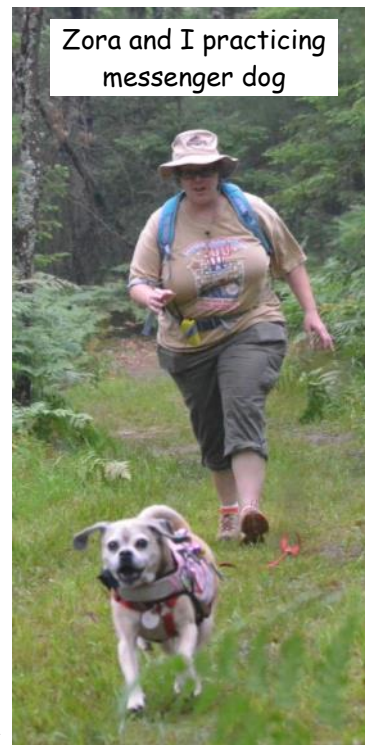
On August 19th, Zora DSA and I held a movie night to show everything that we learned at Dog Scout Camp this summer. We talked about Beth's training discussion and "Do As I do Training". We reviewed camp photos of carting, agility, agilure, carriage dog, messenger dog and free-style. There was so much to talk about camp!

Before the warm water cools for the season, we spent a few last days paddling around. We found a geocache on a peninsula that is most easily access via the water. Kayla DSA and Anita planted their first geocache at Powers Lake and it's accessible by kayak. This completes Kayla's Geocache 1 badge! Congratulations Kayla!!

We've also been working on our Boating Safety badges. We hope to earn more badges in the water.

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

Zora and I practicing messenger dog



Kayla and her first planted geocache



Zora, Anita and Kayla in the kayak

Troop 220—NV—The Silver Paws

Terry Cuyler, Troop Leader

Fledgling troop 220 in Nevada has tried to do a few things lately, and we have found a training center which will let us use their indoor facility which will be SO helpful in the coming winter months. I've freed up some of my commitments and will be working on a newsletter for our potential new members.



During the summer we went to the Taylor Creek visitor center at Lake Tahoe and enjoyed a guided tour of the different ecosystems, a picnic and playtime at the beach. It even has a paved trail so our member who uses a scooter could get around. We will be going back and looking for more places like that. We followed this up with another trail to a unique park administered by TWO states so it is Van Sickle Bi-State Park. Can't wait for the October outing to see the trees turn color. They have just begun to turn. We'll soon be turning our attention indoors and re-suming work on our "dancing dogs".

Troop 225—TX

Natalie Fletcher, Troop Leader

Our summer started off June 7th with a Wienie Roast held at Grasshopper Hill Farm! We had gourmet toppings for our hot dogs and played lots of games like tic, tac, toe and egg with spoon!



June 13th, Jo McMahan, Jill McIntyre and Natalie Fletcher attended Karen Deeds seminar on Reactive Dogs held by Tyler Obedience and Training



Club. This seminar gave us a lot to think about and led us to create a power point presentation on dog body language which we present to children to help keep them safe around dogs.



Some of the troopers got together to see "Max" the movie about the retired dog soldier.



Troop 225—TX (cont.)



July 5th we had a swim party for the pups at Jill McIntyre's house. She had a special pool with a ledge so the dogs could wade. Of course, Evie just had to try out the jacuzzi!

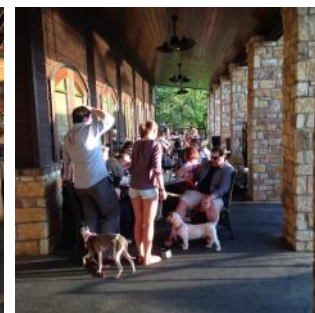


July 17th, Our troop was also invited to make a presentation to little kids at the local library's summer program. We demonstrated how to safely greet a dog and how to clicker train. Our dogs each performed a trick much to the great pleasure of the crowd of 60 kids! There was also a Q & A which surprised me but they asked questions for 30 minutes!



July 25th the troop supported the Pets Fur People dog wash fundraiser held at a local Subaru Dealership. Peltier Subaru paid \$25 for every dog washed and the washing was free for the owners! PFP raised \$5,000. We met at the farmer's market first for gourmet coffee and gluten free Danish!

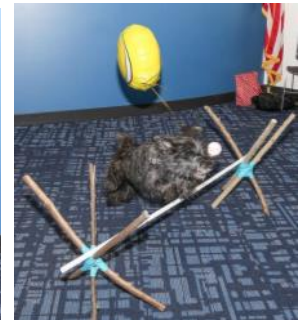
We have continued with our Sunday evening walks and with the help of the Meetup.com app, we have met a lot of new fun people and their pooches!



Our local SPCA of ET has started a monthly event: Pooches on the Patio! Every month, friends of SPCA and their foster families meet on the patio of a different local restaurant. It is a great opportunity to socialize their foster

dogs and change attitudes in East Texas regarding dogs eating at restaurants. The restaurant donates a portion of the proceeds earned during the event to the SPCA.

August 29th, we were invited back to the library to make a presentation at their Lucky Dog Festival. This time we added a power point presentation on how to read dog body language and a couple of fun safety videos! Xena has a trick in which she has a balloon tied to a toy and she carries the toy over a jump and through a tunnel.



Troop 225—TX (cont.)

September 6th, our troop enjoyed a play day held at Circle Star Pet Resort. This is where Jill and I both attended Mirror Method classes. There was dock diving, paddle boarding, and a swimming pool with a slide!

Upcoming events include: A pizza party is planned for Oct. 17th for the dogs at a friend's back yard in which he had built a wood burning oven for creating gourmet pizzas! This is a collaboration between our Meetup group and the Tyler Foodies Meetup group. I think this is an excellent way to expose more people to the Dog Scout Way and get new members!

Our next collaboration is with the East Texas Outdoor Adventure group. Our two groups are going to camp out at Caddo Lake State Park near Jefferson, Texas. We are planning to take the dogs down the water trail in canoes and row boats which ends up at the Big Pine restaurant. Jennifer McLean is coming from Shreveport with her pups to lead the way on the hiking trails. We are also going to have a trick contest on Saturday night and the Outdoor Adventurers will vote on the winner!



CAMP OUT WITH YOUR DOG

Join Tyler Dog Scout Troop 225 at Caddo Lake State Park
Friday, Oct 23 to Sunday, Oct. 25

Saturday Night Dutch Oven Cookout

**Tent/RV Camping, Hiking,
Biking, Geocaching,
Boating, Fishing (lic. req.)
& Paddle Boat Renting.**

**To RSVP or Ask Questions
go to Meetup.com:
Tyler Troop 225,
then choose Oct 23 event
or
Call 903-530-9273.**



Bring Your Dog!

Troop 229—CA

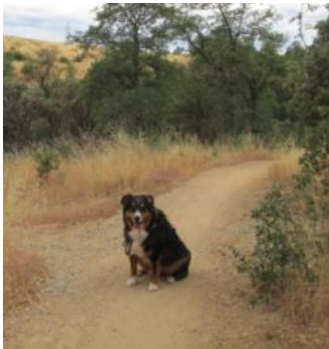
Mary Blackstone, Troop Leader

JUNE



We started June off with our 2nd Annual Dog Scout Geocache Event at Philpot Campground, Hayfork, Ca. Our game-plan included a “Trash Grab” game where you raced against the other participants to see who could pick up the 10 trash items the fastest, with all the safety

gear on and while holding your dog (who was wearing a backpack), a “Pin the Tail on the Puppy” game, and ending with a treasure hunt on the trail to Philpot Waterfall to find 12 items (FFMRICKS+4).



On one of our trips to the big city of Redding to do shopping and stuff, IZAR & I did a little geocaching, and found a new trail to hike and get our mile requirement, right next to a geocache!

JULY

In July we spent a LOT of hours at the local fairgrounds, helping to get the local horse club's trail course set up for the fair in August. iZAR was there to protect me from the Squirrels and we got to work on his 'Leave-it' with those squirrels, which is getting pretty good. I SWEAR those squirrels come looking for him. I think they are on a first-name basis now. ;)

Our troop was also putting on some fun dog contests for the fair, a Trash Grab race and a Simon Sez Contest. Most of our weekly meeting were to practice our obedience skills, play RallyO and have fun on the cool lawn (it was in the 100s already!) and to get our booth set up. I even surprised every one with a random peanut butter “leave-it”!



Troop 229—CA (cont.)

We even squeezed in a couple days for geocaching and swimming!

Karla & I took Kip & iZAR to Wildwood to check out possible riding/hiking trails and get a geocache I hadn't already found.



iZAR, Lilura & I went to Redding with Sharon on one of her medical appt. days, and we went geocaching while we waited for her. We found THIRTEEN geocaches that day!

AUGUST

July 30-31st, a summer storm system visited us and lightning started over 60 fires in our area. One was just a ridge away, and we were put on evacuation notice, where we stayed until September. The smoke started the next day and we had almost a month of “hazardous air quality” and waiting for the call to be told to GET OUT NOW.



So we didn't do much in August, not even our weekly meetings. Fair was canceled, so we didn't even get to have our contests. :(

The end of August, the fire had burned farther away from us and was under control, and I decided I needed to breathe some clean air, so we ran away to the coast to be able to take the dogs for a walk where I could breathe and it was cool. I didn't get any really good photos of our day at the beach. I hadn't moved much for a month and hiking almost 2 miles in soft/semi-soft sand took most of my energy and concentration! I'm used to mountain trails of firmer stuff!



Our dogs are NOT impressed by the beach. Lilura was almost interested in catching the waves as they moved up and down the shore, but iZAR thinks water should be drinkable and was very disappointed in so much useless water. He did find the dead crabs on the beach interesting, and I was VERY pleased that one simple “leave-it” was all that was needed to tell him those were off limits as a food/toy source. I had never told him to “leave-it” at the beach or with something as new and smelly as crab parts!

After the beach, we went to visit a friend who now lives in a nursing home near there. Everyone who noticed the dogs enjoyed petting them. They were all impressed with their great manners and interested to learn about Dog Scouts, although they may not remember... ;)

We did get to do some geocaching on the way home! Geocaching is GREAT!



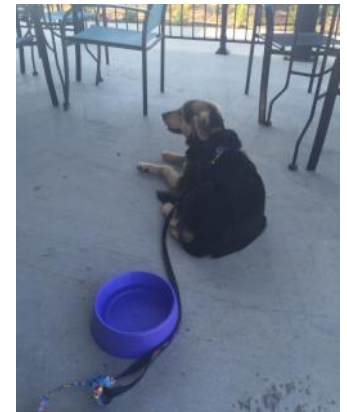
Troop 230—TX

Kristen Keeling , Troop Leader

At least once a month Troop #230 (Piney Woods Paws) has been gathering for a Pups and Me Activity. July was a gathering Andy's Frozen Custard where all dogs were given free pup cones (some used those cute puppy dog faces to get a 2nd) and mother nature provided an early shade and a nice breeze.

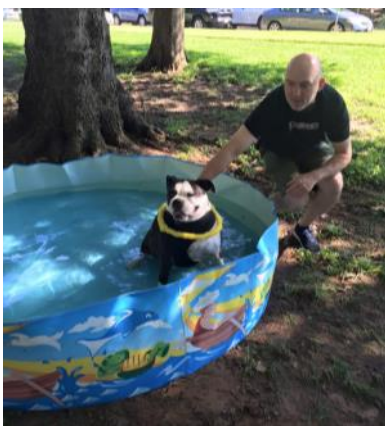


In August, we had a Pizza Pawty at a local pizza place. Again the weather was great. As a young troop, we are getting out and about getting exposure for our troop as well as raising awareness to the values of Dog Scouts of America.



September 6th, a couple of troop members drove up to Hurst, Texas to participate in Troop 119's Dog Scout testing. Two precious pooches came really close to passing their test and our leader Kristen Keeling was present to observe and learn in anticipation of gaining her Scoutmaster certification this fall.

September 12th, Troop #230 (Piney Woods Paws) was invited to be Pooch Patrol at the local Petapalooza event benefiting SPCA of East Texas. We were in charge of pooch patrol (making sure no one brought in cats or dogs to "dump" at the event, poop patrol, and the most fabulous pool party in the history of Petapalooza! Other troop members, including Gracie Keeling, Bandit Bowles and Gracie Castle, had paid booths where they were raising money for their chosen charities. The day was a HUGE success.



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

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

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

Membership: Julie Benson — bensonjulie@earthlink.net

Troop Admin Questions: Brenda Ketz — dogs2katz@yahoo.com

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Merit Badge Recognition Program Coordinator: Heddie Leger — pawzone@yahoo.com

Merit Badge Recording Secretary: Julie Benson — bensonjulie@earthlink.net

Merit Badge Evaluator Certification: Chris Kloski — ChrisBill1966@gmail.com

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

Contact Ann regarding **Improv Titles** also

Treibball & Scent Discrimination Titles: Chris Puls — DogScouts@hotmail.com

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

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

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