



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 5 Nov/Dec 2015

## Get to Know Our Board of Directors!

### Part 1

For this edition of the newsletter we asked members of the Board of Directors to tell you a little about themselves. We asked them not to give you the same old stuff. You know...stuffy biographies, experience and qualifications. They are always happy to give that information but for this article we thought we'd get them to tell you about themselves and their dogs. The members not highlighted here (Jane Clark, Jennifer Vasinda, Heddie Leger and Peggy Zweber) will be focused on in the next issue of The Scoop.



Lonnie with Panda

### Lonnie Olson

*DSA Founder, Ex-officio President*

With the help of my Border Collie, Karli, I dreamed up an organization that would give merit to all aspects of things you can do with your dog. I thought there should be ONE body that could do this, recognizing all areas of achievement. I called this, Dog Scouts of America. Over the years, with all the education we were doing, we became a non-profit educational and charitable organization.

When I'm not concerning myself with the well-being of DSA, my dogs and I love travel and the great outdoors. We went west last

summer to Wyoming, and will be visiting Mississippi and South Carolina this winter. I got a travel trailer this year, which is our "home away from home."

I have two rescued parrots, Jabber (an Eclectus) and Oswald (a Blue Crowned Conure). I also have rescued a horse and two miniature donkeys, whom I adore. Mango, the DSA kitty wandered up to the DSA office door one bitter cold January night 10 years ago. You will notice she's the only cat featured on the DSA calendar.

When asked what my favorite DSA activity was, I answered, "Letterboxing." There's little or no performance pressure, and the dogs love to be out in the woods with me. It's also something you can do while traveling. I like the artistic aspect of carving the stamps (when I have time), too.

### Deadline

for the next newsletter is

**January 15th**

Please e-mail your news, articles, and pictures to [thescoop@dogscouts.org](mailto:thescoop@dogscouts.org)

### Inside this issue:

Notes from National 1-7

- Get to Know our Board of Directors
- A Not-So-Brief History of DSA
- 20th Anniversary Celebration/Fundraising

Rainbow Bridge Members & Scouts 8-9

Badge Bulletin & Title Tales 10

- Trail Titles Bulletin

Scout Scoop & Troop Talk 11-25

Contacts 26

**2016  
Calendars**

**are ready  
for pre-order**

**See page 7**

**Get to know Lonnie (continued)** My favorite place to be is underwater. I haven't been SCUBA diving in several years, though, as my diving buddy of many years, Joan Segler, passed away. I went to an aquarium in Detroit two days ago, and saw lots of fish and invertebrates. But it's just not the same as being in the water with them. My bucket list includes seeing a whale shark and a sea-horse in its natural habitat. I have been bitten by an octopus and a sea turtle (while trying to help them back into a safe place in the water, of course).

I have earned most of the merit badges over the years, and participated in just about every dog sport and activity there is. My dogs, Caper (BC/ACD mix), Kozi (Boxer mix), and I are currently preparing to compete in Freestyle Dance. I'm part of a Search and Rescue Team here in Michigan, but I'm dialing back on that to take more time to "smell the roses."



From left - Julie Lawler-Hoyle, Sam, Katie & Sally

## **Sally Hoyle**

*Vice President, Director of Mini Camps,  
Troop Leader, Troop 217*

I currently share my home with two Old English Sheepdogs, Sam and Katie both 5 years old, litter mates born on Thanksgiving day. Fitting, because I am very thankful to have them in my life. The only thing better than having two OES is having two that are Dog Scouts.

I found Dog Scouts at just the right point in my life. Sam and Katie were young and my life had taken a turn that I never expected. I was recovering from a stroke and physically couldn't do many of the things that I had enjoyed doing with my dogs in the past. In that way Dog Scouts became a part of my recovery plan as my dogs and I have been able to explore activities we never dreamed of. I'm lucky enough to live in an area that already had a very active troop and I've met so many people who

I am blessed to be able to call good friends. It's pretty amazing to be able to get together often with others who believe in positive training and love their dogs as I do mine.

It was awesome to be able to attend camp in Michigan with my dogs our first year as DSA members. What I found at camp was an environment built around fun and learning for both dogs and people. Sam, Katie and I have attended fall outings, winter camps, clean up weekends, and summer camps in both June and July. I've been to the dance camp held by Gloria Voss for several years and I've been to camp "just because". Though some people might find it odd or even scary to be the only person staying on the property overnight I love it when Sam, Katie and I have the lodge all to ourselves. I think camp is truly heaven on earth for dogs and people alike and I will always be grateful to Lonnie for what she has built, both physically with camp and philosophically with the organization. This fall we were lucky enough to attend the very special 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration and the Jamboree. My dogs know that we're headed for camp when they see what's being packed and they get so excited! We are very lucky to live where we can get to camp within 2 ½ hours so we go up as often as we can.

Dog Scouts has enriched my life and the lives of my dogs. I've seen my dogs become more confident when trying new things and it's easy to see the activities each one likes best. My belief in their abilities has grown tremendously as well. More than any badges or titles they've earned I'm proud of how they've grown into the important work that they do. Sam is a Therapy Dog and Katie is by my side everyday as my Service Dog. Everything they've done through Dog Scouts has added to their ability to do their jobs well.

## Get to know Sally (continued)

I am truly honored to be able to give back to Dog Scouts as a member of the Board of Directors and I am committed to making sure that this organization is always the best that it can be. I'm always willing to jump in and help no matter what the task, whether it's fundraising or...EEEEK!... evicting snakes! I became the leader of Troop 217, The Motor City K9s this year and had so much fun as a staff member at the Michigan camps this past summer.

I currently live in Whitmore Lake, MI where the lake in my backyard provides a year-round playground for me and my dogs. Sam, Katie and I share our home with Julie, my partner of 20 years, two cats (Hazel and Harley), a cockatiel (Abby) and a sun conure (Giizis – an Ojibwe word meaning “sun”).



Jeff & Hemi

## Jeff Parker

### Board Member

Most people hear Hemi's name and think of the truck. However, his full registered name is Jeff's Hemi Cuda. I am a car guy at heart and have always wanted a “Hemi Cuda”. I am realistic and know unless I win the lottery I will never be able to afford one, but I wouldn't trade the one I have for a thousand of the original ones.

When I got Hemi, I had no aspirations for him. He was to be my pet, and companion. Had you told me at that time we would be involved with Canine Musical Freestyle, after I figured out what it was I would have laughed at you. I am extremely introverted, where Hemi is extremely extroverted. He has taken me on a path in life I never knew existed. He has shown me things I never knew possible and brought a lot of love and laughter into my life. Hemi is so extroverted many people see us and that don't remember me, I am usually known as Hemi's dad, which I am totally fine with.

When he was a young puppy we bonded in many ways. One of my favorite that I will remember forever is when he was a puppy at about 4 months. He would try and try to always jump on the bed. He would put his front paws on the bed and try with his back legs to jump up. I knew if he just got a running start he would make it no problem. So one evening he was trying, I backed up to the door of the bedroom. I then called him to me. We gave each other a look and we both took off running and both jumped into bed. He made it! He was so excited he was jumping up and down on the bed. Then the sheer horror on his face as his back legs slipped off the edge of the bed and he was desperately clawing to stay on the bed, his hard earned reward. Too late his butt had slid off. So I got off the bed we went back to the door and did it again. We built a bond that day one of many but it was one that I would always try to teach him and help him understand. We learned a way to communicate and we both wanted more. I wanted to share more of the world with him and one way that interested me is I hadn't been camping in years. So I started searching for a place to take this wonderful addition to my life camping that would also be fun for him. I found Dog Scout Camp and it sounded like a lot of fun. How little did I know, it would change both Hemi's and my life forever. It taught me how to communicate with Hemi.

Hemi and I now compete in Agility. We do Rally, Obedience, Nose work for fun. We plan on competing this year in Canine Musical Freestyle. However most importantly he really is my best friend and everything in life is better with him. I make him a part of everything I do from laundry, as he helps put things away and take clothes to the wash, to exercise as we do Pilates together. Well one exception to making things better, I am still trying to teach him to canoe. He has learned if he goes out one side, I go out the other and we get to swim together. We are still working on that.





Gloria with Fancy & Charm (on lap)

## Gloria Voss

*Board Member, DSA Camp Staff Member*

I'm Gloria Voss. My husband Steve and I are originally from St. Clair Shores, MI a suburb of the Detroit area. We met when we were both in high school band but were just friends, as we were both dating other people. Steve was two years ahead of me in school and went away to college for Engineering but since we lived on the same street... I saw him when he was home. The beginning of my senior year in high school, neither of us was dating anyone and Steve asked me to attend a wedding with him as his date since we both knew the family of the bride... and the rest is history. We ended up marrying after I graduated from high school. In Feb. of 2016 we will celebrate our 46th anniversary. We have 2 grown daughters and 3 grandchildren.

We bought a cottage in 1986 north of Gladwin, on Secord Lake, and moved up to the cottage full time, in 1994, after our girls moved out on their own. I was a full time Graphic Artist and Sign Painter and had my own Sign Business. I relocated my business up north and the dog training was a passionate hobby at that time. I had to retire from the Sign Business in Jan. 2002 after having a second Cervical Disc fusion surgery on my neck... the first related to the sign business & the second due to a fall while practicing Agility in the evening on wet grass and hitting my forehead on the ground. In 2002 I went into the dog training & dog show vendor business full time and started my new business.

As kids, Steve & I both grew up with pets (including dogs) and a love of animals. My first dog was a Beagle puppy that my Dad gave me, when I was 4, from one of the litters of his hunting dogs. Dad let me name her and was sure that she would be ruined as a hunter with being allowed in the house and not in the kennel like the other dogs. I named her Squeaky and she was my constant companion. Much to my Dad's amazement, she was also his very best rabbit hunting dog ever. I didn't know it then, but that was the beginning of my education into what positive training methods can do for our relationship with animals. It also changed my Dad's idea of how to train and live with dogs.

I've had many dogs over the years, a few cats and a horse, along with various other small animals, but none of the bonds were as strong as the ones I've had with my dogs since I started doing formal training with my dogs in 1988. Oh we always taught our dogs home manners and the typical commands, but I began training seriously after adopting a rescued Border Collie that had been abused. I did some obedience and agility and therapy dog work with one of my Aussie/Sheltie mixes. Then in 2000, the new sport of Canine Musical Freestyle was introduced at Brenda Aloff's training center, where I was taking classes, and I started taking Freestyle classes from Brenda with Casey, my therapy and obedience dog. I never intended to compete in the sport but was more interested in using it to entertain for therapy dog work. Brenda suggested that we enter the first freestyle show that was going to be held in Michigan, in May 2001. I fell in love with the sport and the camaraderie I found within it. I was one of the first to join the Michigan Freestyle Fanatics club, when it was formed, and have been involved ever since. I became a WCFO Judge in 2006.

Not long after moving up North to our cottage, which is just 23 miles from the Michigan Dog Scout Camp, I started



Gloria dancing with Charm

**Get to know Gloria (continued)** taking classes with my dogs at Midland MI KC and then with Brenda Aloff. I met Barb Foy, who was also new to the area and we went from MMKC to Brenda Aloff's training center because we both had mix breeds and were looking for a change. Brenda was my first introduction to positive and clicker training. I owe Brenda so much and she became such a mentor to me and told me about DSA camp. Barb invited me to a National Association of Dog Obedience Instructors (NADOI) event that was being held at Dog Scout Camp and I met Lonnie. I talked to Lonnie and joined DSA and her troop. I would periodically run into Lonnie when she was judging obedience trials that I was entered in, but I didn't have much time to get involved in DSA at the time.

Later I talked with Lonnie about teaching Freestyle classes for DSA summer camps. I was there only as a guest instructor the first couple of years and didn't stay overnight at camp. Then I started staying over, with my whole "glamping" set up and I really enjoyed getting to know the campers better and helping out with other things like crafts and teaching platform class, and just helping out where needed.

The two Border Collies that I have currently, Fancy & Charm, are both rescues and are the third and fourth dogs that I have competed in Freestyle with. I love Lonnie's vision of DSA and feel so very fortunate to live so close to the MI camp. Both Freestyle & DSA are important to me and my involvement with DSA has given me a chance to spend more time with my own dogs and also spread the sport of Freestyle to more people who love doing fun things with their dogs. Serving a term on the board is an opportunity for me to give back to an organization that has enriched my life by making it possible to form friendships with people that have the same interests and love for their dogs. It also gives me the opportunity to share the sport that I have a passion for with more people.



*Lynn & Abby*

## **Lynn Holmgren**

### *Board Member*

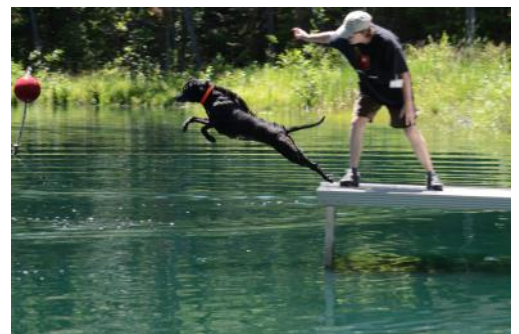
I live in southern Minnesota. I was born here but grew up in California. I'm now back in MN and hating the winters. The good thing is that I'm closer to DSA camp.

My dog Abby is the first dog I've owned as an adult. I got a Sheltie for Christmas when I was three years old and he lived to be 17. He wasn't a show dog and he didn't know many tricks, but he was a good dog and I have many fond memories of growing up with a dog because of him.

Abby was a prison program dog at Safe Harbor Prison Dogs in KS. I got her when she was 9 months old. Her adoption papers said she was a Labradoodle. Her DNA test says she is mixed with several breeds, Labrador, Chesapeake Bay Retriever, Pyrenean Shepherd, Tibetan Spaniel, Schnauzer, Italian Greyhound and some other ancestral breeds! I still say she is Lab and Poodle.

Abby has attended DSA camp for six years; we've been to June and July camps over the years. We have also attended a winter camp. Abby will be 10 years old on Feb 23rd. She is currently recovering from ACL surgery and doing well.

I love DSA and have learned more from camp and other members than I ever thought imaginable. It has made me a better "parent" to my dog and a better person to share with other people the knowledge I've gained from DSA.



*Abby showing off her dock diving skills*





## A NOT-SO-BRIEF HISTORY OF THE DOG SCOUTS OF AMERICA



**November 1995** - "A twinkle in the eye of my dog..." Karli, Lonnie's Border Collie, causes Lonnie to dream up the concept of Dog Scouts (Lonnie goes to the lawyer the following morning to get copyright paperwork in motion).

**September 4-8, 1996** — Lonnie plans first Dog Scout Camp ever at camp NAHELU in Holly, Michigan. NAHELU isn't an Indian name... It's an acronym of the first two letters of the owner's daughters (Nancy, Helen, and Lucy). Just 14 campers (seven campers and 7 staff) attended. Lonnie lost a few thousand dollars putting this on, and considers forgetting about the whole Dog Scouts idea. Joanne convinces Lonnie to try again the following year. Lonnie convinced friends, Joanne Weber and Beth Duman to help with the administration of camp. Beth dreams up the future Clean-up America Badge, by hosting an impromptu "Litter Dogs" campaign, having the dogs pick up the thousands of beer cans and bottles left behind by the drunken volleyball players whom we shared the camp with. Badges offered were: Flyball, Agility, Backpacking, Water Rescue, Frisbee, Sledding, Herding, and Freestyle Obedience. Dogs around a campfire, roasting Marshmallows was featured on our shirts.

**June 24-29 1997** — At the second camp, we used Camp Sarah Grindley in Howell, Michigan, and had 21 campers attending. Lonnie did better than break even, and decided to keep DSA rolling. Badges offered were: Canine, Flyball, Search and Rescue, Backpacking, Agility, IMPROV, French Ring Sport, Water Rescue. Cost of the 5-day camp was \$395.00. The camp shirt featured "1997" and the words "Dog Scout Camp," spelled out in life rings and oars and marshmallow sticks, and the "Dog Scout Bus" bringing all of the regulars to camp.

**July 7-12, 1998** — "Dog Scout Camp — where Dog Dreams Come True" In our third year (at Sarah Grindley again), we had to have 2 camps, because we wanted to keep the staff to camper ratio higher. We split up our 56 campers into two groups, and held the camps back to back, to avoid having to cart the stuff back and forth twice in one summer. In those days, we packed EVERYTHING to camp with us... the files, my golf cart, all of the supplies, the agility equipment... The shirt featured some of our staff's dogs in their bunks in a cabin, dreaming about their favorite activities. There were 38 campers in the first camp.

**July 14-19, 1998** — At the fourth camp, we had the same badges offered as the 3rd one. There were 38 campers at "camp 2" of 1998. Badges offered were: Agility, Flyball, Backpacking, Water Rescue, Art of Shaping, IMPROV, Lure Coursing, Go-to-ground.

**1999** — In our fourth year, we again held 2 camps (with 73 campers, total). One in July and one in August. In March of 1999, Lonnie bought the Saint Helen, Michigan camp, so that the \$20,000.00 per year we were spending on camp rental could come back in to pay the mortgage (by renting the camp to ourselves). We applied for Non-Profit Organization status with the IRS.

**July 1999** — (our 6th camp) had 34 campers in attendance.

**August 17-22, 1999** — (our 7th camp) had 39 campers in attendance. The camps were growing so large that we would have to have 3 camps the following year. Badges offered this year were Backpacking, Agility, Water Safety, Art of Shaping (Flyball and IMPROV were demonstrations only).

**2000** — A pond was excavated at the new camp property, and construction began on what would be "Kawisakowe Lodge." KAWISAKOWE is an acronym of the first two letters of the 5 dogs' names that Lonnie had when she moved up north to the camp: Karli, Wiley, Saikou, Koda, and Weasel. The IRS Granted us Non-Profit status in May 2000.

**June 2000** — (our 8th camp) Our theme (and shirt design) for this year was "New Beginnings," commemorating the acquisition of our own camp on 80 acres of beautiful woods in Northern Michigan. There were 38 campers at the June camp. The plan was to have the camp at the new site, but as usual, nothing goes as planned, and the building was not finished in time to have the campers stay in it. At the last minute, I had to make hotel reservations for everyone who had signed up for a private room in the lodge. One of our campers, an electrician, strung up some lights from the uncovered ceiling joists, to illuminate the main room in the lodge. The restrooms worked, but were still without ceilings and were open to the attic. There were 2 by 4s and insulation and drywall piled everywhere in the building. Some folks still tented on site, or stayed in RVs.

**July 2000** — (our 9th camp) 37 campers were in attendance.

**August 2000** — (10th camp) 18 campers. We had to have a third summer camp to take care of the overflow from June and July.

**2001** — This year, camps were really booming. We held FIVE altogether. Two mini camps, and 3 regular camps. The theme for this year was "2001 — A Training Odyssey"

**May 2001** — (our 11th camp) This was a special mini-camp held following the NADOI National Conference that I hosted here at the new facility. Several NADOI members continued their stay to enjoy the mini camp, and several other folks made their first trip to camp that year, future staffers, Fay Reid and Chris Puls being 2 of the attendees. We had 17 people at the first Michigan Mini-camp.

**June 2001** — (our 12th camp) In 2001, we dispensed with the group photos because it was too stressful for the dogs (and some of the owners).

**July 16-21, 2001** — (our 13th camp) We went to issuing a "Yearbook" instead of a group photo. This included ID photos of all the dogs at camp, and the fellow camper photos with their dog families.

**August 13-18, 2001** — (our 14th camp) 44 campers

**September 1-3, 2001** (Mini-Camp) — (our 15th camp) 23 campers. We held a fall mini-camp, to offer a camp of a shorter duration for people who couldn't afford the full 5 days. Right after camp was over and people were back at home, some very evil people drove planes into the World Trade Center. After this, people became afraid to travel, and camp enrollment took a nose dive.

**June 10-15, 2002** — (our 16th camp) 20 campers. "It May not be Heaven, but you can see it from here..."

**June 24-29, 2002** — (our 17th camp) 30 campers. This year, we painted the mural on the entrance to the camp store (which is now the craft building).

**July 8-13, 2002** — (our 18th camp) 29 campers.

**July 22-27, 2002** — (19th camp) 34 campers.

**September 14-16, 2002** (Kentucky Mini-camp) — (20th camp) 19 campers. This was our first satellite mini-camp, held in Northern Kentucky, at the home of camper, Tracy Spenlau, and hosted by Chris Puls, leader of the Cincinnati area troop. They rented circus tents, a porta-potti, and the camp store was in Tracy's horse trailer.

**June 23-28, 2003** — (21st camp) 35 campers. "There's no place like Dog Scout Camp!" This is the year we went "digital" and began putting out a DVD with the camp photos on it (instead of the yearbook). Joanne Weber arranged the photos in a slideshow format, complete with music.

**July 7-12, 2003** — (22nd camp) 36 campers.

**July 21-26, 2003** — (our 23rd camp) 39 campers.

**March 2, 2004** — Our advance ruling period is over, and the IRS grants us official, permanent Non-Profit status.

**June 21-26, 2004** — (our 24th camp) 45 campers. "Race to Camp for the time of your life!"

**July 12-17, 2004** — (our 25th camp) 29 campers.

**July 26-31, 2004** — (our 26th camp) 32 campers.

**October 1-4, 2004** (Texas Mini-Camp) — (27th camp) 17 campers. Texas held their first mini camp. It was held at a park in Southlake, TX that was run by Debbie McKnight's boyfriend, so the price was right. We stayed in Hotels in town. It had a covered pavilion, where most of the classes were held, and the food was all catered in. It worked!

**February 17-22, 2005** Winter Camp — (28th camp) "Too MUSH Fun!" This was our first winter camp. It had low enrollment, but was a lot of fun. We got to do all of the things that we don't get to do at the summer camps.

**June 20-25, 2005** — (29th camp) "What Happens at Dog Scout Camp STAYS at Dog Scout Camp!"

**July 11-16, 2005** — (30th camp) We had 42 campers.

**July 25-30, 2005** — (31st camp) We had 39+ campers.

**December 2-4, 2005** — (32nd camp) The TX Mini Camp moved to Camp Carter for 2005.

**June 19-24, 2006** — (33rd camp) "The Year of the Dog" There were 41 campers at the June Camp.

**July 17-22, 2006** (34th camp) — There were 36 campers at the July Camp.

**2006** — (35th camp) There were 40 campers at camp 3

**November 3-5, 2006** — (36th camp) 26 campers. Texas camp. This year, the camp was held at a Baptist Youth Camp in Lake Texoma, TX. Texas is doing such a great job with their mini-camp, they no longer need to have DSA administrative staff go there to oversee things (but we keep attending because it's so much fun!).

**May 2007** — Dog Scouts buys the camp from Lonnie, upon the recommendation of the Board.

**June 25-30, 2007** — (37th camp) "Uncle Sparky Wants YOU to come to Dog Scout Camp"

**July 16-21, 2007** — (38th camp)

**July 30- August 4, 2007** — (39th camp)

**September 14-16, 2007** — (40th camp) Michigan Mini Camp.

**November 2-4, 2007** — (41st camp) Texas camp.

**June 23-28, 2008** — (42nd camp) "Sparky's Swim Team"

**July 14-19, 2008** — (43rd camp) There were only 19 campers in attendance.

**July 28-August 2, 2008** — (44th camp)

**November 6-9, 2008** — (45th camp) Texas camp.

**June 2009** — (46th camp) "Think Positive" We had 37 campers.

**July 2009** — (47th camp) We had 24 campers.

**December 3-6, 2009** — (48th camp) Texas camp. The Baptist Youth Camp was sold, and the mini camp was back at Camp Parter in Fort Worth, TX.

**June 21-26, 2010** — (49th camp) "Dog Scouts Celebrates 15 Years" There were 46 campers at the June camp.

**July 12-17, 2010** — (50th camp)

**November 4-7, 2010** — (51st camp) Texas camp. 48 campers.

**June 2011** — (52nd camp) "Find Yourself at Dog Scout Camp" There were 40 campers.

**July 2011** — (53rd camp) There were 30 campers at the July camp.

**November 3-6, 2011** — (54th camp) Texas camp. There were 49 campers.

**June 18-23, 2012** — (55th camp) "The Sparky Constellation" There were 44 campers.

**July 16-21, 2012** — (56th camp) There were 45 campers.

**November 1-4, 2012** — (57th camp) Texas camp.

**April 2013** — (58th camp) Texas camp.

**June 2013** — (59th camp) "Get Your Ducks in a Row at Dog Scout Camp" There were 27 campers.

**July 2013** — (60th camp) There were 32 campers.

**July 2013** — (61st camp) Maryland Mini Camp

**November 14-17, 2013** — (62nd camp) Texas camp.

**June 16-21, 2014** — (63rd camp) Theme — Bam Hunt ("Find ME at Camp!") There were 29 campers

**July 14-19, 2014** — (64th camp) There were 35 campers.

**July 2014** — Maryland Mini Camp (65th camp)

**November 13-16, 2014** — (66th camp) Texas camp.

**June 15-20, 2015** — (67th camp) "Dog Scouts Celebrate 20 Years of Helping People Love their Dogs" There were 22 campers.

**July 4-20, 2015** — (68th camp) Maryland Mini Camp

**July 13-18, 2015** — (69th camp) There were 42 campers.

### 69 CAMPS TO DATE

**November 12-15, 2015** — A new record! Texas camp filled within 48 hours of registration opening it filled with a new attendance record of 58 campers!



# Last Orders!

As we near the end of our 20th Anniversary, there are only a few commemorative items left . . . don't miss out!



Front



Back

**Pathtags**

**\$5.50**



**Patches**

**\$5.50**



**T-Shirts**

**\$22.00—33.00**

*Check with Lonnie for available styles and sizes*

**Acrylic  
Ornaments**

**\$5.50**



**Only 3 left!**

**2016 Calendars**

**\*Pre-order price \$17.95  
(Add 2.95 for priority mail)**

*Note: 3 calendars will fit into a  
priority mail envelope.*

*\*Calendars can still be purchased after our  
first printing, but price increases by \$2 each.*

**All pricing includes standard shipping**

**To order, contact Lonnie  
dogscoutcamp@gmail.com / 989-389-2000**



## In Memoriam

Kim Hovey volunteered as webmaster for several years, before her health forced her to give it up. Until then, she worked tirelessly to rebuild and keep our web site current. Kim lost her battle with lung cancer Tuesday morning (November 17). Kim was a strong supporter of DSA, and her husband, David related to me that Dog Scouts meant the world to her. She was so thankful for all that she learned through DSA, and for receiving the Nikki Zweber memorial scholarship in 2013, so that she could attend camp in Michigan. Kim called me a few weeks ago to let me know that she was going to take a trip to the Smokey Mountains to celebrate her anniversary. David said that it was a lifelong desire of hers to go there. She rallied all her strength to make the trip.



*Kim and Tonto DSA at Michigan camp 2013*

Kim is survived by her husband, David, children Amanda, Cory and Christine, and their pack of 5 fur kids: Aussies, Faith and Tonto (DSA), BC Mix, Scout, Wirehaired Dachshie mix, Goobie, and St. Bernard, Zachary. If you would like to send card to the family, it can go to David Hovey, 222, Kent Rd, Lakeland, FL 33809.

David called to let me know that it was Kim's express wish that people know how much DSA meant to her and that in lieu of flowers or anything, she would like people to make a donation to Dog Scouts of America, or the American Cancer Society. Please address your gifts to **DSA Treasurer, Barbara Whiting, 5433 Brookbank Road, Downers Grove, Ill 60615**. DSA is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization. We will make sure the family receives a thank you note for all donations made in Kim's name, and who made them (unless you prefer to remain anonymous).

Rest in peace, Kim. We will all miss you.



I am standing upon the seashore. A ship at my side spreads her white sails to the morning breeze and starts for the blue ocean. She is an object of beauty and strength. I stand and watch her until at length she hangs like a speck of white cloud just where the sea and sky come to mingle with each other.

Then someone at my side says: "There, she is gone!"

"Gone where?"

Gone from my sight. That is all. She is just as large in mast and hull and spar as she was when she left my side and she is just as able to bear her load of living freight to her destined port.

Her diminished size is in me, not in her. And just at the moment when someone at my side says: "There, she is gone!" there are other eyes watching her coming, and other voices ready to take up the glad shout: "Here she comes!"

And that is dying.

--Henry Van Dyke



# Rainbow Bridge



In 2015 Troop 188 marked the passing of a special scout Tartan. Tartan brought joy to many children participating in local community reading programs. Tartan and his partner Millie work with Guiding Eyes helping to raise puppies, funds and awareness. Tartan was the first troop dog to earn his Dog Scout Badge from our Troop leader as she earned her Scoutmaster status. His joy in working with Millie, no matter what the weather or the job was always uplifting to see. Tartan helped raise

funds for our Working Military Dog Teams in Afghanistan, so the troop could send supplies including cooling vests and protective foot and eyewear. Whether chilling in his firemans outfit at Halloween time, or showing off his leashwalking skills Tartan was the embodiment of a Dog Scout and he will be missed by all who knew him.



Sandy Oaks Plume Blanc ITD, PD, TT, CGC, DSA (aka Feather) went to the bridge on the morning of October 23rd. My sweet beauty was nearly 14 years old so we had a good long time together but she will be missed greatly. I have many happy memories of her.

R.I.P Feather

Mary  
Hinchman



# Trails Titles Bulletin

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

I've really enjoyed looking at the great photos everyone shared of the boxes and caches you've found and planted. So, I want to share the method that I use to camouflage my boxes.



1. Gather all of your supplies
  - Lock & lock containers, I get mine from Job Lot
  - Goo Gone
  - Rubbing Alcohol and cotton balls
  - Spray paint for Plastic, in flat, natural colors
  - Custom stencils

2. Clean any stickers or labels off the containers with the Goo Gone. Clean off the Goo Gone with mild soap and water.



3. Prepare the plastic containers for spray paint by cleaning with rubbing alcohol on a cotton ball.

4. Cover your painting surface with cardboard or newspaper. Don't use plastic (such as garbage bags), the painted containers will stick to the plastic. Always paint outdoors or in a well ventilated room. Spray painting must be done when it is warmer than 50 deg F, follow all directions on the can.



5. Lightly spray the containers with a dark color, such a black or green. This is the base for your camouflage.

6. Spray your containers lightly in small splotches with your lighter colors, such as tan or light green. This is the top layer of your camouflage.

7. Allow to dry at least 1 hour.



8. The custom stencils are optional. I got mine from My Geocaching Store. They come with a reusable sticky back. Press down on all the stencil edges to prevent bleeding. Cover the edges with painters tape to prevent overspray. Spray vary lightly with a contrasting color, such as red. Remove the stencil as soon as the paint is tacky.

<http://mygeocachingstore.com/index.html>

Have fun and Happy Trails!

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

## Trails Titles Earned October 2015 thru November 2015

### Trail Dog Excellent (TDX)

Tempest Stewart  
Gambit Stewart

### Utility Pack Dog Excellent (UP)

Tempest Stewart

### Pack Dog Excellent (PD)

Gambit Stewart

### Letterbox Dog Advanced (LBA)

Shelby Benson



# Scout Scoop & Troop Talk



## Sunny's Story

Troop 217 has a new member and a new Dog Scout. Sunny, or The Sundance Kid of Benchmark Alpacas of the Tin Roof Ranch as he is formally known is a rescue dog that came to Barrie Lynn Wood and her family with tons of energy but very little training. Barrie Lynn and Sunny have worked very hard together and have accomplished quite a lot in a short time together. Sunny has graduated from beginner and intermediate obedience classes, he has taken a carting class and discovered that he loves pulling things, he loves agility and anything to do with a green fuzzy ball, and he has earned both beginner and intermediate trick dog titles. Now he's a Dog Scout too and is looking forward to parades and bell ringing and other fun stuff that Dog Scouts get to do.

Barrie Lynn was recently asked to provide a "Happy Beginnings" story for the group that rescued Sunny. She decided to let Sunny write it in his own voice and it seems that Sunny is great with words. Here's what he had to say about Dog Scouts.

*"I recently joined the Dog Scouts of America and that opened many new opportunities for me and my mom. We go on hikes, are working on sign language, go to Dog Camp, and help our community every chance we get."*

What was most impressive though was the final paragraph of Sunny's story. It expresses so clearly why Sunny and his mom have joined DSA. If all our dogs could write as well as Sunny they would say much the same thing.

*"My story's a good one, that's for sure, but it doesn't always end up this way. To be best friends takes a lot of work on you human's part. You may not know it from my story, but we dogs don't speak the best English, or Spanish, or Ukrainian or... you get what I am saying. We start off life with a huge heart and looking for direction on how to be your best friend. Like people, we are not perfect and to be our best takes a lot of work, by both us dogs and you as our leaders. You make a lifetime commitment to us and I promise, and I speak for all of us, we will show you the unconditional love and loyalty that we are known to give."*

Well said Sunny! We are glad that your story has turned out so well and can't wait to see what you accomplish next.



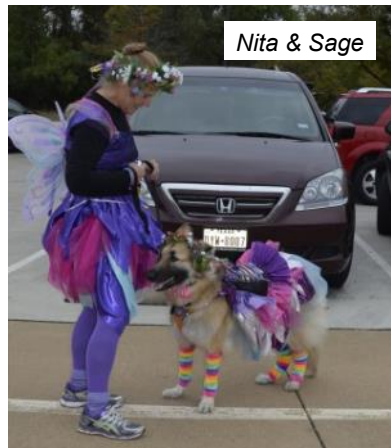
Sunny with the basket of goodies he won at Bark for Life for showing off his tricks.



# Troop 119—TX

Cindy Ratliff—Troop Leader

Troop 119 has had an awesome fall! In October, several troop members planned a great event for the troop, a Halloween Parade & Fall Festival!



Nita & Sage



Debbie, Regan,  
Roger & Rouen



Costume Parade



Boomer  
playing  
Ghost  
Attack

Cheryl B. &  
Tanner & their  
parade float



Festival Games



Cheryl N. & Biscuit play pumpkin ring toss



Victoria & Keenan as each other



Maureen & Lacey

We met at an area park with the dogs (& several troop members, too!) dressed in costumes. We walked a parade through part of the park and told people about DSA along the way! Afterward, prizes were awarded for the costume contest, including most original, funniest, cutest, etc. We then had a carnival-like atmosphere set up for a festival complete with seven different games, including Devil Duck, Ghost Retrieve, Squish the Spider, Pin the Tail on the Cat, Pumpkin Ring Toss, Trick or Treat, Lollipop Tree and a Cookie Walk. There were 24 game winners throughout the day and everyone had a great time! A big thanks to troop members Cheryl Bales, Nita Lanter & MarSue Freeman who put in a LOT of work putting the festival together! And thanks to new troop member, Kenneth Ray, for taking photos for us!



## Troop 119—TX (cont.)

Abbey learning Directional Control



November brought the 12<sup>th</sup> annual Texas Mini-Camp! We had 53 campers and staff at this year's camp and 56 dogs and they were all great campers!



Reveille clears the tire



Melissa fills in for Donna's dog



Biscuit learns to paint

We offered lots of great merit badge activities as well as classes in Shaping Fun!, Brain Games, Musical Freestyle Choreography and more! We had a great auction, raising over \$4,500 for the programs of DSA, as well as raising money for YMCA Camp Carter's Camp Can Do, a camp that is specifically for visually impaired children.



Apollo gets used to the hay bales



Macaroni practicing Triathadog

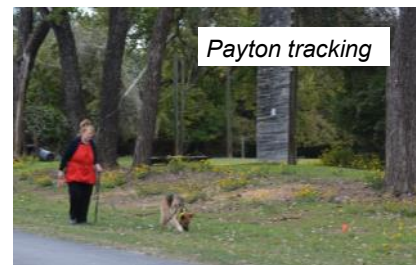


Daisy Mae practices for Manners



Gracie learning the teeter

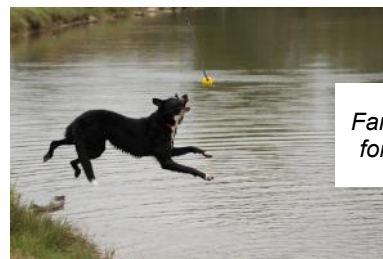
It was great getting to see so many old friends return as well as meeting new campers & their dogs and seeing them learn & bond with their dogs! We had camper dogs ranging in age from 4 months to 13 years and every age in between and they all had a great time! We thank all the campers & staff for helping to make this year the best one yet!



Payton tracking



Maddy works at Brain Games



Fancie goes for her ball



Darby learning the A-frame



3-mile hike



Marla working on her agility badge



Dakota in Shaping Fun! class

# Troop 183—FL

Shirley Conley—Troop Leader

## Rally FrEe

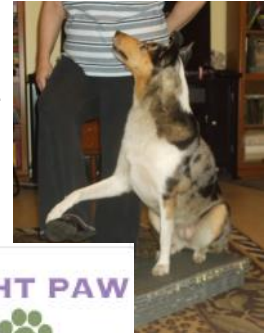
It turned out that most of our troop members had conflicts for our September activity date, but a few of us were able to get together to get a brief introduction to Rally FrEe.

One of the purposes for Rally FrEe was to enable Freestylers to practice the precision skills necessary for higher scores in competition. Freestyle itself is more than just tricks, and many find that they need help with the transitions as they work the ring; so, RallyFree contains elements of both the creativity and freedom of Musical Freestyle combined with the structure of a Rally Obedience course. For many of us who are used to traditional obedience it adds a new dimension as our dogs will at some point be working not just on our left side, but also on our right, in front of us, and behind us. It's great for helping our dogs with body awareness as they are required to move laterally as well as forwards and backwards. Rally FrEe is also a great sport to dive into as it works well with Dog Scouts of America's mission of promoting positive reinforcement training methods.

The basic components of Rally FrEe are: circle around the handler - clockwise and counter-clockwise, dog will eventually be able to circle forwards and backwards; spins in both directions and in all 4 positions; passing through the handler's legs - forwards and backwards; paw lifts; and bow. There are 15 signs plus the start sign on a course, and a clip/marker attached to the start sign indicates which side of the handler the dog starts (left or right). Four of the signs are "Free Choice" signs, which can be any safe behavior - an obedience skill, trick, another Rally FrEe sign or the repeating of a sign already on the course.

We started our activity watching a clip about Rally FrEe, then we watched some demo videos that can be found on-line on how the signs are executed. We then took turns working through some of the Novice signs and discussed different options for teaching them. All our attendees had previous experience in AKC Obedience and Rally, and some had agility experience, so we considered what cue words we would use so they wouldn't overlap with cues for other venues, and also how we would use platforms and barriers to help us manage our dogs to elicit new behaviors instead of confusing our dogs who are trying to offer what we've reinforced in the past - particularly for obedience.

It seems like we didn't get through too many of the signs before our time together was up, so we'll probably re-visit this activity again when we plan next year's calendar. Certainly working on Rally FrEe skills will help us build our relationships with our dogs as we teach them new things. These skills can potentially be a benefit not just for future demos to spread the word about Dog Scouts and positive training methods, but also these modified "doodling" skills can come in handy in a crowded environment - being able to maneuver through crowds without our dog getting stepped on or jostled, or to circumvent overly-stressful encounters.





## Troop 183—FL (cont.)

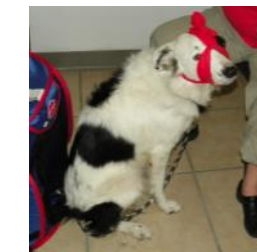
### PetSaver Workshop

On October 11, seven Paws Pack 183 members and four guests attended a PetSaver course to certify in Pet CPR and First Aid. Certified Pet Tech Instructor, Laura Beattie, presented slides and demonstrations on the various CPR and first aid techniques, and we got hands on practice with mannequins. We covered the priorities of emergency pet care, muzzling, primary pet assessment, snout to tail assessment, assessing the pet's vitals, and basic first aid.

A couple of tips we learned when we were practicing bandaging is to unroll the bandage in the direction that doesn't require lifting the roll away from the dog's body - that way there's less chance of wrapping too tightly. Another bandaging tip was to make a loop with the bandage to tie-off and tuck the excess bandage at the knot site - which should be over the wound to help apply pressure where needed - this negates the necessity of having to wrap until we get to the end of the bandage.

Besides being certified, each participant received a workbook with all the information we covered during the workshop and more. Pet saving techniques are not something we use every day, so even though our certification is valid for two years, we're glad to have the workbooks to review periodically so the information stays fresh in our minds.

The success of our workshop was due mainly to the efforts of our troop member, Cyndi, who contacted our instructor, arranged a location, handled the registrations and provided refreshments. Thank you, Cyndi.



### Backpacking/Hike



On October 18, we stopped by Gemini Springs State Park, and walked with our canine companions.

The weather was glorious, and what we thought was a two mile walk ended up being between three and four! A couple of our dogs and some of our humans wore backpacks. Canine, Roxy, sported a pink ribbon onto her fur, while her mom, Marilyn, wore a cancer awareness t-shirt to support cancer awareness month.

We navigated the sidewalk along a dusty exit road, the playground area where there were lots of kids enjoying themselves, loud music blaring, and the delectable odors of hot dogs and hamburgers on the grill. We passed little dogs that yapped at us as we went by and big dogs that gave us hard stares, we even made it over a bridge without any melt downs, even though that was a new experience for some of our pups. We took a few breaks and checked the map a couple of times to try and figure out where exactly we were on the trail, and finally made it to the nature trail. Thankfully there were no bear, gator, or snake encounters as we walked by the river, through the trees, and along a quiet path back to the parking lot! Troop members Steve and Marilyn stopped briefly to chat with some of the people we met, and Alli brought smiles with her hi-five trick.

After the hike, those of us who were not used to doing quite such a long trek stretched our dogs while we chatted before heading home. We're looking forward to spending more time out and about with our dogs now that the weather is finally cooling off. After finishing this walk, the backpacking badge and hiking requirements don't seem nearly as daunting.

Troop leader, Shirley's camera was low on battery juice, so thanks to Steve (supervised by Roxy) for taking a photo of us on the nature trail.

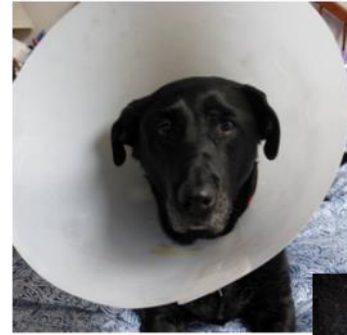
# Troop 188—CT/RI

Sheri Throop—Troop Leader

Troop 188 has sure been busy this fall, between walks, hikes, skill sessions, fundraisers, competitions, and community service. It is a great time to be outdoors, Fall in New England.



Although the majority our time has been spent in outdoor activities it has also been a rough time for some of our scouts, health wise. Our big guy Phantom is recovering nicely but still not 100% yet after surgery to repair his knee. Baylee N. (pictured right) had a tumor removed from her knee (Good News they got it all) and she has a clean bill of health! Harrah (pictured left getting set to run at an earlier flyball tournament), injured her back and had to bow out of the November Flyball tournament but she should be back in the lanes again soon.



Baylee may be in the cone of shame but at least she has clean margins.



Despite the injuries to our troop we had a successful fall vaccination clinic on October 4<sup>th</sup>. There were over 150 local pets who showed up to take advantage of the low cost vaccinations provided by our local veterinarians from All Friends Animal Hospital. Funds raised at this event helps our local shelters with medical costs.



Ella "Lady Bug" is one welcome insect at the Senior Village

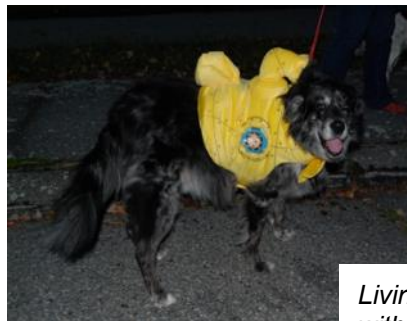


Shark Firefly

Costumes and candy make Halloween one of Troop 188's favorite times of the year. Each year we go "tricks for treating" at one of our favorite places our local senior housing village. Each year we show off our costumes, much to the seniors delight. They are often found outside in anticipation of our arrival as the weather allows and this year the weather was particularly nice.



Visiting with our Senior Friends  
Prince Reuben and Squirrel Mount Belle say hi to some of their favorite folks



Living on the Yellow Submarine with Capt. Newman

A basket of Monsters  
– Truffles and Yippitty





## Troop 188—CT/RI (cont.)

The troop also marked Halloween with a new activity participating in a local Trunk or Treat for school aged children. Over 800 people stopped by to visit the dogs and enjoy a sweet treat present in a poop bag.



*Skeleton Belle and family amazed the Trunk and Treaters*



*Marge and Derby in the lanes. Derby roaring on at age 12.5*

Many of our scouts travelled to Maine in November to participate in Flyball Maineia. A number of milestones were reached including two of our scouts reaching Iron Dog status. Iron Dog is a NAFA (North America Flyball Association) award given to dogs who have raced for ten consecutive years earning at least one point in each year. This tournament also marked Derby's retirement from flyball due to advancing medical issues.



*Derby (Left) and Lucy (Right) rocking their Iron Dog recognition medals from their flyball club the Mystic Storm Chasers*



Also in November our Troop participated in the Shoreline Puppy –UP, a walk to raise funds for research in comparative oncology. The goal is to cure cancer in people and pets. Since many of the cancers and treatments are very similar in dogs and people studying these cancers may bring us close to a cure truly making our dog pals deserving of the title “Man’s Best Friend”

*Scouts Ella (far left) and JoJo PUPPY UP to help find a cure for cancer*

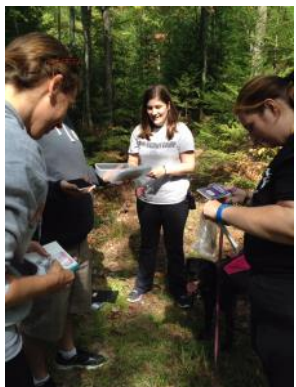
Troop 188 marked Veterans Day by participating in a time honored ritual at the Submarine Veterans Memorial. At sunset on Veterans' Day the Troop circled the memorial to honor our fallen and living veterans. Pictured to the left are Belle (left) and Pirate decked out in their patriotic best to honor our veterans





# Troop 217—The Motor City K9s—MI

Sally Hoyle—Troop Leader



Julie Benson (left front) Letterboxing with our Canadian friends Alex, Sherri and Michelle. Delilah is the only dog pictured



A luminary made to remember Sally's Sophie

The end of September was very exciting for Troop 217 with the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary weekend at Camp in Michigan. It was a very special weekend and we were thrilled to have so many troop members attend. It was a weekend to remember special moments, people and dogs from the past and to make new memories with new friends as well. For many of us the highlights of the weekend included the blessing of the animals in the new chapel area and the first ever luminary walk at camp, where we celebrated those who have gone before us and those walking by our sides today.

We had a great Letterboxing afternoon in October even though it was cold and windy. We explored a nearby historical village in a park setting and enjoyed the great hiking trails they had to offer while we searched for the boxes. Four of our dogs were just starting to work on Letterboxing so it was an afternoon of laughter and celebration as they all found their first boxes.



Maia's 1st letterbox (with mom Martha)



Sluggers inspecting his first stamp impression (with mom Patty)



Riley posing with her first find

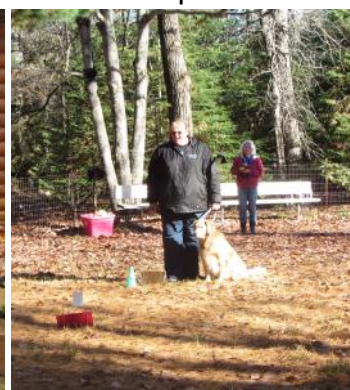


Ellie and mom Amy had to crawl in the brush for Ellie's first box

October also had many of us returning to camp for the annual Fall Jamboree. So many of our troop members attended that we had to divide ourselves into two teams! We all loved playing games, showing off our dogs' recall and rally skills and doing the fantastic craft that Brenda Katz planned for us. Julie Benson once again proved herself to be the DSA Jeopardy champion even though her team was down two members for the game, and I'm pretty sure that most people have decided that they don't want to compete with her anymore. For that reason we've decided that she will be responsible for keeping score for all future games of DSA Jeopardy our troop plays in the future. Overall it was a great weekend to spend with so many friends and in the end we all survived the horror movie. And the icing on the cake? One of our troop's teams took top honors for the weekend!



From left - Sally, Katie, Sassy, Shelby (on lap) and Julie taking a break from the fun at the Jamboree



Michelle and Sassy having fun with Rally at the Jamboree with event organizer Brenda Katz in the background.



## Troop 217—MI (cont.)

We had one more dog become a Dog Scout in October, bringing our total new Dog Scouts for the year to eight! Sunny is a rescued Golden Retriever who loves to show off his tricks. He's such a smart boy and has had a lot of fun with the troop over the past few months. We love Sunny's energy and positive outlook and were not at all surprised at how easily he passed his Dog Scout test, even when he encountered animals he had never seen before. Sunny's mom, Barrie Lynn Wood has done so well with his training and we know that she's very proud of his latest accomplishment.



*Our newest Dog Scout Sunny and proud mom Barrie Lynn Wood*

In early November we got together for something a little different, a learning session for using essential oils with our dogs. Troop member Brenda Keiswetter shared her expertise in using oils with her dog Merlin and a representative from Young Living oils was there with oils available for us to purchase if we wished. Our dogs seemed to enjoy the evening as much as we did and were all very tired by the time we wrapped up. Perhaps the scent of oils in the air provided relaxation for them. It was a fun evening for all as we are always interested to learn something new that could be helpful for our dogs.



*Sam visiting the VA Hospital in Ann Arbor, MI*

Some of our therapy dogs chose Veteran's Day as an opportunity to honor some of those who have served our country. Sam visited at the local VA Hospital and others made visits to nursing homes and even private homes. Everyone was really happy to see the dogs that day. Sam helped veterans celebrate the day with a Bingo game, visited patients in private rooms and took some time to put smiles on the faces of some hard working physicians and nurses. We are so happy that our dogs can provide comfort to those in need throughout the year and are very proud to have 14 therapy dogs in our troop.

November also brought us another great Letterboxing afternoon and we were very happy to spend some time outdoors in the sunshine. Our clues took us to a park that none of us were familiar with but now that we've found it we know we'll go back. We thought it would be a great place for some snowshoe hiking! I guess our thoughts took us to winter sports because it's really uncommon for us to be able to stay warm outdoors this time of year. The experts say that we're likely to have a mild winter this year but we know that in our part of the country even a mild winter will bring plenty of cold weather and snow. Still, on this November day we enjoyed sunshine on our hike and had success in finding all of the boxes we set out to find.



*Lizzy and mom Diane on a warm November afternoon*



*Katie taking a break after Letterboxing*

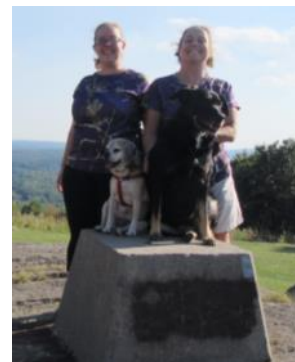
As we move into winter and the holiday season we are looking forward to the many community events we traditionally participate in including a couple of parades, lots of bell ringing and finding ways to make the holidays a little brighter for those in need of some cheer. We're also planning a number of indoor activities to keep us busy this winter as well as some fun things we'll do outside once we have some snow on the ground.

# Troop 219—CT—New England Explorers

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

We have an update on our Sky's The Limit Challenge. During the weekend of September 12<sup>th</sup>, Kayla DSA, Zora DSA, Anita and I went camping in East Cannon CT and completed five of the 14 challenge hikes. We've now completed a total of 12 challenge hikes.

On Friday, we started with a hike up to the peak of Mount Tom State Park. There is a magnificent tower at the peak, with great views of the area. We found five geocaches at Mt Tom. After Mt Tom, we drove to the peak of Mohawk Mountain State Forest. We found two geocaches here, for a total of seven for the day.

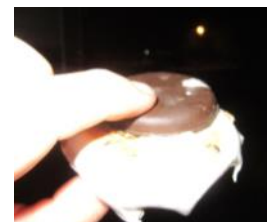


*Kelly, Anita, Zora and Kayla at the peak of Mohawk Mountain State Forest.*



We started Saturday, with a demanding hike up to the peak of Haystack Mountain State Park. The tower at Haystack was stunningly preserved and we had a great time climbing and exploring the tower. We found two geocaches at this park. Zora and Kayla had a great time exploring the Haystack tower. We followed this up with a relaxing hike at Dennis Hill

State Park, where we found three more geocaches, for a total of five for the day. At Dennis Hill we had to find the main pavilion, but we took a side tour to a smaller much more unique pavilion. The views from this area were spectacular. Zora and Kayla loved climbing on the walls at Denis Hill.



*Our reward at the end of the day was s'mores made with Girl Scout Thin Mints.*



Our last hike of the trip was the toughest and most grueling. On Sunday we headed out to Macedonia Brook State Park. Our good friend Laura joined us for this challenge. There was no brook, but there was some rock climbing involved. We found three geocaches and some amazing views after our climbs. This was the longest of all of our Challenge hikes at 3.55 miles. This was our first camping trip together. We had a great time with the pups. Now we just need to talk the rest of our Troop into joining us.

*Kelly, Anita, Laura, Zora and Kayla at the peak of Macedonia Ridge Trail.*

On September 27<sup>th</sup>, Troop 219 joined Team Waterfront from Electric Boat at the Annual American Heart Association Walk. Our team collectively raised over \$8,000 with help from all of our generous friends, family and coworkers. Thank you so much to everyone who supported us!

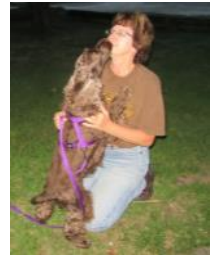


Congratulations to Wyatt DSA (*left*) who completed his Backpacking badge with a three mile hike at the Heart Walk.



## Troop 219—CT (cont.)

We have continued to work on our All Dog Band Badge to prepare for our debut at Bark for Life. Wyatt has surprised his mom at how much he likes his piano. Pictured right is Wyatt with telling his mom how much he loves Dog Scouts.



On October 6<sup>th</sup>, Wyatt DSA and Lori found their very first letterbox, with a little help from their buddy Zora DSA. Fortunately, the scary nature didn't get them. We really loved introducing this addicting hobby to our friends. In just a couple of weeks, Wyatt was able to earn his Letterbox 1 badge. Congratulations Wyatt! Pictured left are Wyatt and Lori with their first letterbox.

For our October Troop meeting, we learned about letterboxing. We took a 3.55 miles hike around Bluff Point State Park and found letterboxes and geocaches. Kayla DSA, Wyatt DSA and Zora DSA had a great time playing and running on the trails.



Bark for Life on October 25<sup>th</sup> was a little rainy this year, but we still had a great time. Our friends from SNEAK agility club organized an agility demonstration and all of us had a chance to play.



Our friend and professional photographer Bruce Hostetler took great photos of our troop members and everyone else at the event. He even had a kissing booth as a prop. Zora DSA totally rocked the kissing booth as the Frog Princess.



We played games and Kayla DSA won the dunking for cookies game.

As part of Zora's DSA Service badge, we talked about DSA and positive training and Zora demonstrated playing her piano. Then we did an All Dog Band demonstration where both Kayla DSA and Wyatt DSA earned their All Dog Band badges. Several dogs in the audience took turns playing the pianos.



Northern Illinois Pug Rescue and Adoption, Inc.

(NIPRA) is a 501c3 non-profit organization that exists to assist the community in placing any needy Pug dog in a permanent, loving home. Their annual Virtual Pug Run raises thousands of dollars for rescued pugs. This year, Troop 219 participated and walked two miles, in costume for the NIPRA. We are proud to have helped this wonderful rescue group and earned our Pufferfly medals. With our participation, NIPRA reached their goal of 475 runners and their \$9,500 fund-raising goal!!



We walked on a raining Sunday afternoon at the Connecticut College Arboretum.

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



# Troop 225—TX

Natalie Fletcher—Troop Leader

We started off the fall by having a planning meeting at Jul's Café Patio October 1st. The temperatures had finally cooled off and it was lovely sitting by the water. Chris Vogeler brought Grace to this meeting where she learned to sit quietly under the table. It is so great to have these learning experiences with people who are kind, understanding and patient. Thank you Carlina, Jill, Margaret, Stephanie, Erin, and our two guests: Erin's husband and Margaret's daughter! The key is to not get excited when one dog snaps at another because he was jostled under the table. Dogs play off of our emotions and when we remain calm then the situation doesn't escalate. Grace did wonderfully as she is normally afraid of crowded situations. This is what Dog Scouts is all about: helping each other help our dogs be the best they can be!



October 5th, we joined the local ER doc and his wife, a veterinarian, on a walk at Rose Rudman Park. The local hospital has been encouraging more people to walk through their "Walk with a Doc" program.

Dr. Whitley quoted a 2010 University of Missouri study which showed that dogs are better walking companions than humans. Owners with dogs walk at a faster pace and dog owners tend to walk more than people who do not own dogs. So the hospital encourages dog owners to attend. Jill McIntyre got the opportunity to explain about Dog

Scouts of America to the group and invited attendees to join us on our Sunday Hikes at Faulkner Park. Both Jill with her dog, Tucker, and Margaret with her dog, Charlie, were photographed for the Newspaper! After all that healthiness, we went to Andy's Soft Serve for a free pup cone!



October 17th we had our gourmet pizza party for the pups at Grasshopper Hill Farm's Bunkhouse. This was a collaboration with another Meetup group: Tyler Foodies! Nancy Faber and her husband brought their portable pizza oven. We tried some of the pre-made pizza dough which was good, but we discovered that using flour tortillas for thin crispy pizzas was even better!!!



So in preparation for our Caddo Lake Campout, Chris Vogeler brought one of his canoes to the big pond at Faulkner Park where we walk on Sundays. Troopers and their dogs got to practice canoeing and acclimate. By the second Sunday, all the dogs were pretty confident!



## Troop 225—TX (cont.)



Our Caddo Lake Campout was another collaboration with the Meetup Group: east Texas Outdoor Adventurers. Unfortunately, we got 10 inches of rain that weekend. Natalie, Pat and Chris Vogeler met up with the Outdoor Adventurers. We stayed the entire weekend! It was a great learning experience. I feel like I can overcome obstacles! Friday night we had a burger buffet inside our tent. As you can see, we were “glamping” with a real bed and carpet on the tent floor! Saturday morning the dogs played and chased each other while we made pecan pancakes! Then we went hiking. After lunch, we went geocaching. We met up with the outdoor adventurers for dinner at the Big Pine Lodge. Sunday morning we ate breakfast and packed up before another big storm passed through the area! The next Sunday when we went hiking with the rest of the troop, it was fun to observe that the dogs that had gone camping had developed a bond. They immediately started to play again along the trail picking up where they had previously left off!



Unfortunately, our Trunk or Treat event at Lanes Chapel Methodist Church was cancelled due to the continuing torrential rains!

November 8th we had a planning meeting once again in torrential rain attended by Natalie, Jill, Amy, and Chris with special appearance by Lonnie Olson on speaker phone. We discussed having a two day camp in the spring to be held at Grasshopper Hill Farm. We are planning to offer badges in lure coursing, first aid, canine massage, overnight camping, puppy paddler and beach buddy. Since we won't be offering the dog scout badge which requires 3 days of observation, we hope to hold a clinic in the months leading up to the camp. So in preparation, we are going to start holding classes in the meeting room at Gander Mountain to teach the basics for the dog scout badge on Tuesdays at 5:30 pm. We were also excited to learn that Lonnie and Claudette may winter in parts of Mississippi, Florida and Texas. So we might plan a road trip to join them for a weekend of dog scout activities! December 3rd we will march in the Tyler Christmas parade.



*Here's Charlie practicing for the parade!*

Sometime before Christmas we want to go caroling with the dogs in our local retirement homes.



# Troop 229—CA

Mary Blackstone—Troop Leader

## September—October

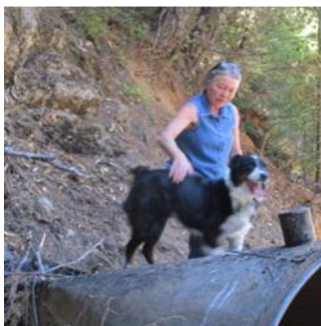
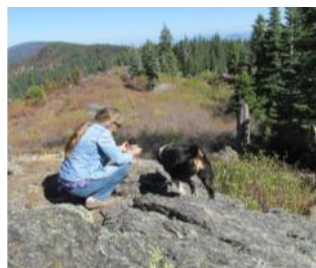


Fearless is still working on his DSA badge. He's doing great on the leave-it with animals, and most of the time he does his heeling great, but then he has a day when he just doesn't WANT to!



We videoed Kip's Obstacle 1 test, but we're waiting for her mom to take the handler's written test so Kip can become an official Dog Scout and start getting badges for the new skills she's learned since joining DSA.

Karla & Kip, and iZAR & I were able to do a little geocaching, mostly hiding a few geocaches and one letterbox.



These are from a cache of iZAR's that was in the fire. That can used to be a bright blue with yellow print. Inside, all the plastic swag was melted together. It was right on the edge of the burn, you can see the ash on the bank behind Karla. The gold color in the photo of the burned trees, are brown needles carpeting the ash blackened ground.



We replaced this burned (gone) cache with a spare I keep in our geo/box bag. It used to be in an oak tree. I buried it in a cairn of burned rock under that tree. This area was covered in grasses and forage. All that black-gray color is ash, not natural rocky soil. The rocks themselves were so hot they kind of pulverized. A very sad day for me.



So I stopped to show Karla and the dogs a beach we used to frequent when my son was little. Waikiki Beach, so named because it sloped very gently to the river, with small gravel and a wide shallow area for the little kids and a deep pool with

swing rope for the bigger kids. The dogs didn't care about any of that, they were happy to see the water! The small gravel now has larger gravel deposited over it, but it is still a nice beach. We all enjoyed it so much, we decided to have a picnic there and invited all our doggie friends for an End of Summer Picnic!



## Troop 229—CA (cont.)

It was after that day of romping and running that iZAR's limp from over-doing it, became worse. He'd been on modified exercise since August (walking was OK...no jumping or running for miles, but everyone convinced me swimming would be good). Back to the vet. :( Turns out the little ligament that holds the knee together, isn't doing its job. So now he's on really restricted exercise and we're trying acupuncture/laser treatments, which are (cross your fingers) working. He's already better and we're hoping we will be able to postpone or not need the expensive surgery to correct this. In the meantime, we haven't been able to go hiking (or caching because of the hiking-we're on our titles), play agility, chase balls, etc. but he HAS learned to pick up his dinner bowl and bring it to me in the kitchen. Then he goes and collects the other 2 dog's bowls. :) We are VERY bored, and can't wait until we get the OK to do more.

SO, for the month of October, iZAR's mainly been working on the manners badge and being an obstacle/distraction for the others, while the rest of the troop practice: manners, RallyO, obstacles, random food/animal leave-its ( I like to do that to people) and some targeting.



And of course, just some goofing around... can you tell these 3 dogs are full siblings (from different litters)? Last year I taught iZAR and Lilura (left and center) to roll this "log". Dixie thought it was cute and wanted to give them a treat, so Baby sister Kip, came over and stood on the log too! The three of them stood long enough I was able to run ( and I use the word loosely) back to the chairs and grab my camera, turn it on and get back for some photos!

What a bunch of hams....

Dog Scout Lucky has been working on his Obstacle 1 badge, but was having trouble with the Aframe. So we lowered it back down to give him some confidence. He's doing so well, we're ready to raise it a few inches next week! He also LOVES the tunnel and weave poles!



Our last troop activity was October 25, when we picked up a record amount of trash along the highway. Sadly, our mascot, iZAR, was not able to participate :( So it was a no-dog troop event this time.

We heard that a section in town was available, with sideways and slower traffic, and I asked about it and we were able to trade! So our next pickup will be at that section. I think that will be safer for us old folks and maybe another dog can do it's backpack and carry out recycles. On previous clean ups, I had used all the recycles iZAR packed out toward iZAR's Recycle badge, but no one else was interested in doing that, so we decided to recycle all the recyclables and use the money for our troop's activities. I have 2 big bags to recycle from this trash pickup!

# Dog Scouts of America

Website: [Dogscouts.org](http://Dogscouts.org)

Facebook: [facebook.com/DogScouts](https://facebook.com/DogScouts)

Yahoo Discussion List:

[pets.groups.yahoo.com/group/DSA\\_TalkList](https://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."

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