



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 19 Issue 4 July/Aug 2016

ACCEPTING ORDERS FOR THE 2016 CAMP SHIRTS



Due to their popularity, we will be placing another order of our Olympic-themed camp shirts commemorating Dog Scouts' 21st year

The graphic for the shirts has a border collie and a lab running through the Olympic rings.



100% preshrunk cotton
unisex short-sleeved Tee
in Metro Blue
\$17.00



75% cotton
full-zippered hoodie
in Navy
\$39.00

Deadline

for the next newsletter is
September 15th

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

Inside this issue:

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Camp Shirt Re-Order Deadline:

August 15

Price excludes shipping which will depend on the weight of the package and how fast you want to get your items.

These items are not featured on our online camp store, so please contact Lonnie directly: dogscoutcamp@gmail.com

CELEBRATE YOUR DOG'S SPECIAL DAY IN THE DSA CALENDAR

The 2017 Dog Scout Calendar staff would like to invite you to submit photos of your Troop activities, competitions and community service projects. We want to celebrate your dogs and their achievements so you can share them with your friends and family and the entire Dog Scout family.

You may also include your dog's adoption day or birthday by submitting a portrait and their special date.

Please fill out the order form on page 3 and enclose your payment for calendars (\$15.95 + \$3 shipping each) and dog days (\$5 each). If you want to order multiple calendars, let us know for a bulk shipping rate.

DEADLINES

TO SUBMIT PHOTOS & DOG DAYS: SEPT. 1

TO ORDER CALENDARS: NOV. 1

**EMAIL PHOTOS OR QUESTIONS TO SALLY HOYLE:
sally.hoyle@yahoo.com**

ORDER YOUR 2017 DSA CALENDAR AND ADD YOUR DOG'S SPECIAL DAY

Calendar order DEADLINE FOR CALENDAR ORDERS: NOV.1

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip Code _____

email _____

Phone # _____

Dog Scouts of America
5068 Nestel Road East
St. Helen, MI 48656
989-389-2000

Number @ \$15.95:

Total for calendars

\$

Shipping & handling
(\$3.00)

\$

TOTAL ENCLOSED
for calendars

\$

Cost: \$15.95 + \$3 shipping
Dog days: \$5

Dog Days order

Pet's name _____

Day _____

Additional pet's name _____

Day _____

Additional pet's name _____

Day _____

TOTAL ENCLOSED
for dog days

\$

TOTAL
ENCLOSED:

\$



**DEADLINE FOR DOG DAYS
AND PHOTOS: SEPT.1**

Proceeds from sales of Dog Scouts of America calendars are used to promote education and public awareness of responsible dog ownership. Order for your friends and family to share the Dog Scouts way — how our dogs make our lives better!

Scrapbooking/Crafting Weekend at the MI Dog Scout Camp

Saturday, October 15 - Sunday, October 16, 2016



First registered, first 8 foot table available!
Bring your dogs!

**Come join a weekend of scrapbooking, crafting,
whatever your heart desires!
Best of all, your best friend can join you!**

DSA Member \$15 + regular lodging fees

Non-DSA Member \$25 + regular lodging fees

<http://dogscouts.org/base/camp-info/mi-dog-scout-camp/>

All dogs must have their medical forms up-to-date

Once we have a list of campers, we will determine meal plan.
Possible potluck/crockpot meals.

Auction for scrapbooking or other items—proceeds to benefit DSA.

Please let us know if you have any fancy things
like a Cricket, embosser, etc., that you are willing to share.

Friday accommodations are also available.

**Contact either Amy at puppylvt@gmail.com
or Fay at starpup59@yahoo.com**

Badge Bulletin & Title Tales

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

Dog Scout Day 2016 Virtual Letterbox Event

<http://www.atlasquest.com/showinfo.html?gEventId=3698>

The third annual virtual letterbox event to celebrate Dog Scout Day is officially posted on Atlas Quest. Virtual Events are special events posted on AtlasQuest usually to celebrate or commemorate an event. There are generally specific requirements regarding the theme, name of the new box and dates to be planted.



The theme for Dog Scout Day 2016 is celebrating fun things we do with our dogs. Does your dog love agility? Swimming? Hiking? Tennis balls? Carve a stamp that represents their favorite object or activity.

Zora DSA loves backpacking. This is the Pack Puggle letterbox planted in Stonington CT. The Dog Scout First Finder patch can be purchased online from Sparky's Dog Scout store.

All boxes should be created and planted as traditional boxes, not event boxes. Planting a box for a virtual event is one of the optional requirements for the Letterbox Titles. Sign up now and start carving your special stamp.

Label your box: DOG SCOUT DAY 2016: Your Pet's Favorite Activity

Happy Trails!

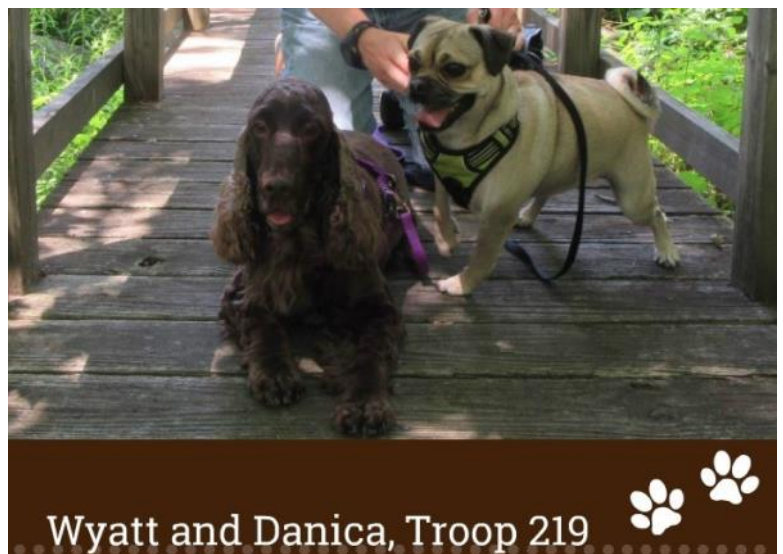
I would like to congratulate everyone who has earned a recent Trails Title.

Trails Titles Earned from March 2016 to July 2016

PackDog (PD)
Danica Joy Ford
Rio Olawski-Stiener

TrailDog (TD)
Wyatt White
Sam Hoyle

TrailDog Excellent (TDX)
Katie Hoyle



KEEPING THINGS POSITIVE: "NO" has no place in dog training!

Lonnie Olson—President

I was at my Freestyle class last night with my dog. I was attempting to do a "remote" figure eight, which is sending my dog away to do a figure 8 around two objects which are about 20 feet apart, making theatrical arm movements that do not look like signals to the dog. The instructor happened to notice my improvement, and said, "Nice, Lonnie!" About that time, Kozi was rounding her 3rd orbit around the bar stools, and ran to the other bar stool, only to decide to climb up the rungs of the stool, rather than run around it. All I could do is laugh. I was embarrassed, because that's right when the whole class was probably looking at us, after the instructor's comment. I just wondered what would possess her to throw that into the routine? While I've never asked her to climb a bar stool (I don't think she's ever even seen one), I must have confused her somehow. When dogs don't perform as instructed, they either don't understand what's being asked of them yet, or they're confused. This is where a lot of trainers would have thrown out that doggie swear word, "NO!" I don't use this word in my training, because it doesn't convey any information to the dog.

As I was leaving class, I noticed a gal in the Open obedience class, trying to get her dog to do the broad jump. This is a jump consisting of four low boards spread out on the floor, and the dog must execute the jump correctly to clear the span of the boards, and not step between or even tick one of the boards with a toenail as he begins or finishes the jump. I noticed that the dog cleared the jump, but ticked the first board on his way up and over. When the dog landed, the owner showed him a rancorous frown and shouted, "NO!" at the dog. I felt bad for them. What was the dog supposed to learn from this? That he shouldn't have jumped?

Training is a progression that should move you forward, perfecting what you are trying to accomplish. Saying "No" does not give any information to the dog about what he did wrong, or how he is supposed to know what to do differently. Did "No" mean he didn't jump high enough? Should he have tried to step on MORE boards? Should he have done a pirouette in mid air? I really hate the word "no" in dog training. It is used as a punisher, and it doesn't help the dog know how to get it right.



Think of all of the times you might say "no" to your dog. Usually it is screamed in a nasty tone. For example, if the dog starts to jump on grandma, you might be tempted to say, "NO!" "No" doesn't tell the dog what not to do. He's breathing, moving toward grandma, he's happy... which thing is it that is causing the owner to use the doggie swear word at him? Is grandma dangerous? It's so confusing for a dog to try to understand. Instead, why not tell the dog what you would LIKE him to do instead. The owner could say, "sit," "off," or "four on the floor, please," and reward that when it happens, instead of shouting a word that conveys no information.

When teaching a complex behavior, where there are a lot of things the dog must do right at the same time, you can see where the word "no" doesn't clarify things any for the dog. If you yell "no," because he got one part wrong, how is he to know which part you're unhappy with.

How do we get the word "no" out of our vocabulary? Think about communication. Make every effort to convey true information to your dog. If you were to look out the office window one morning, and notice that the new

employee accidentally parked in the “Employee of the Month’s” parking spot. Then, he got out of his car, used the side entrance to the building, came up the stairs, walked into the office, set down his briefcase, and said “Good Morning,” and you walk over and shout “NO!” at him, how is he supposed to know that you’re “admonishing” him for using the parking spot reserved for employee of the month? You wouldn’t do this to a fellow human—you’d say, “Move your car.”

Dogs live their lives deciding what to do by what has gone rewarded or unrewarded. Let’s go back to the broad-jumping dog. When the dog completed the jump, all happy with himself, instead of bursting his bubble by letting him think you’re upset with him, just ignore that particular try. Don’t reward it. Keep quiet. Don’t show your disappointment. Don’t confuse him with vague words, like “NO!” **Use NO RESPONSE, rather than a “NO!” response!** Then, set your dog up for success and try again. Maybe go back to standing at the end of the jump boards, instead of to the side, where you have to place yourself for a competition. Maybe place a target of some sort at the end of the jump boards, to get the dog jumping straight and true, and reward all of the jumps that don’t involve toenails ticking the jumps. Work on one thing at a time. If you’re trying to communicate to the dog that you don’t want toenails to hit the jump boards, then don’t worry if he angles the jump a little and almost cuts the corner. You’ll have to clean that up separately. Remember that complex behaviors have a lot of stuff that can go wrong to botch up the complete performance. Just work on ONE of them at a time. By rewarding the successful attempts, and ignoring the mistakes, you are communicating to the dog exactly what you want his performance to look like.

Let’s look at my dog’s attempt to insert her own innovative move into the figure 8 around the barstools. This is a complex behavior. She is working away from me. She has to move herself from one side of the room to the other, and back again, going around the bar stools, while I am off to the side. If I would have said “no” to her, she might have thought I was negating her stellar performance on ¾ of

the rest of the behavior. I simply went over to her, and showed her that, just like all the other times, she needed to go AROUND the barstool. I had been working on 4 consecutive trips around the barstools with no reward except praise. Possibly she thought that I was having her repeat it until she “gets it right,” so she assumed she needed to do something ELSE to complete the picture. When you repeat a behavior over and over like that, sometimes the dog starts throwing in stuff because she thinks you want something she’s not giving you. The dog just has to learn that sometimes they must repeat a behavior and get a delayed reward at the end.

At the end of the evening, I was so glad that I have the relationship with my dog that I have, which is based on communication and understanding, rather than confusion and fear of admonishment. I know that my dog would do everything in her power to do as I ask of her, and if that isn’t happening, it’s due to a failing in my training, or me not making things clear to her.





**Sending
get well wishes
to Indi Vogtmann, DSA,
who is recovering from
TPLO surgery
on both knees.**

MINI CAMP 2016 PLANNING

**Blue Ridge
Aug 8-13**

Swanton, MD

Contact Noelle Weeks

newcap@comcast.net

Registration & schedule

also available at dogscouts.org

Texas

Nov 10-13 FULL

Fort Worth, TX

Contact Cindy Ratliff

To be placed on the waiting list!

dogluvurz@prodigy.net

MICHIGAN CAMP 2017

June 19-24

July 17-22

Saint Helens, MI

On-line registration:

Dogscouts.org

Contact Lonnie Olson

Dogscoutcamp@gmail.com

Rainbow Bridge



Hunter Schultz crossed over the rainbow bridge on May 31, 2016. He became a Dog Scout in 2005 along with his best friend, Cody.

Hunter was a small dog with a huge personality. He was full of life, fun, and mischief yet his favorite spot was on his dad's lap at nap time. For nearly 17 years, Hunter was our friend and companion. His passing has left a hole in our hearts that will never be filled.

Till we meet again, handsome man, we love you.

Chuck and Debby Schultz

Scout Scoop & Troop Talk

Troop 119—TX

Cindy Ratliff—Troop Leader

We had a great couple of meetings in May! We actually had a two-day Dog Scout Class event on May 20 & 21. Troop members and their dogs were encouraged to come either or both days to learn more about Dog Scouts and work on the Dog Scout certification. As a result of the two-day meeting, we were able to certify five new Dog Scouts! And they are...



Lilli McClelland, DSA
proud mom is
Michelle McClelland



Max Odal, DSA
proud mom is
Marcia Odal



Mozzie Sabrowsky, DSA
proud papa is
Gary Sabrowsky



Poppy Payne-Tettamant, DSA
proud parents are
Debra Payne & Richard Tettamant



Duke Waits, DSA
proud parents are
Tom & Susan Waits

Congratulations
to all our new
Scout Scouts!

Troop 119—TX (cont.)

In June we were able to get together at a local agility facility with some of our awesome troop instructors for agility/triathadog learning and fun! All the dogs had a great time either trying something new or practicing their skills and/or working on their badges.

Congratulations to Millie Tucker for earning badges for Obstacles 1, 2 & 3 as well as her Agility I; to Max Odal for earning his OB1, 2, 3 & AG I & II; and to Alex Ratliff for earning her AG II!

Special thanks to Nancy Strack, Victoria Severns & Hannelore Orkis for leading the meeting.



In July we had a special presentation by long-time troop member, Bob Deeds. Bob has spent 25 years in Search & Rescue. He recently retired as a K9 Search Specialist with Texas Task Force One Urban Search & Rescue team after 16 years. He has been on a wide variety of SAR deployments over the years including 9-11 Ground Zero, where his canine partner Kinsey was awarded the PDSA Dickin Medal -- the animal equivalent of the highest British military decoration awarded for valor; the space shuttle Columbia explosion; the Washington mud slides and many others. Bob gave a very moving presentation of his & Kinsey's experiences in their deployment to Ground Zero. He provided a Power-Point presentation of the tragedy as he experienced it and shared many memories and even some laughs along the way.

Following the July meeting, since we all left our dogs at home for that meeting, about 30 of us met at Chili's restaurant for Parent's Night Out and enjoyed some good food & good friends!



Troop 177—IN

Robyn Porter



On July 10, 2016 members of the Indy Dogs Troop #177 took a hike in Ft. Benjamin Harrison State Park, Emily George and Lucy, Anita Dudley and Sophie as well as Robyn Porter and Hallie shared the popular Lawrence Creek trail with numerous other hikers and cyclists.



Troop 183—FL

Shirley Conley—Troop Leader

In June Troop 183 worked on the components for the Manners badge.

The Manners badge is one that every Dog Scout can earn with a little training. The skills required are everyday behaviors that make living with our dogs easier and safer. It puts into practice some of the concepts covered in the written portion of the Dog Scout test.

Going down the check-sheet of behaviors, we started with targeting to a mat. This begins with shaping the dog to go to a mat/target. Next getting the dog to lie down before giving the reward marker and treat. With enough repetitions “Go to your place” or “Bed” means find the target and lie on it. Once the dogs were doing that we started slowly adding distance to send our dogs to the mat. Positive trainers Susan Garrett and Leslie McDevitt both use mats or crates as targets and safe zones (check out Garrett’s [Crate Games](#), and McDevitt’s [Control Unleashed](#)).

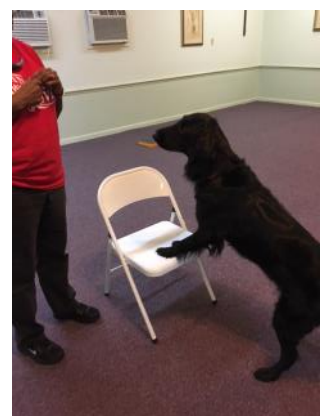
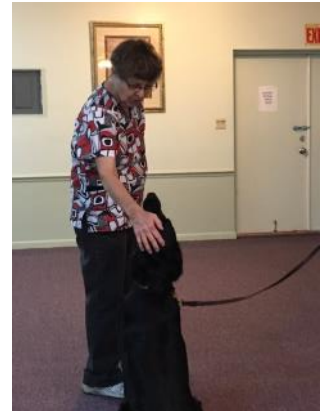
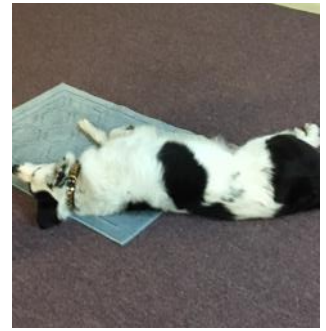
“Settle” is the “bang” or “play dead” behavior – besides being a cute, fun trick, having a dog lie on her side is convenient for nail cutting, checking common mat areas for medium/long-coated dogs, and accessing the pads of her feet for ticks, grass seeds and fur trimming. Modeling this relaxed position can also help other dogs to calm down if they’re a little overwhelmed in a group activity.

We don’t always think about the additional sit behavior for our dogs greeting people if we’ve taught them to keep “4-on-the-floor”, so the “Go say hi” will take a little more practice for us; however, once a dog figures out if they sit pets will come, those social canines offer a sit very quickly.

Most of the troop members who attended this activity train for competition obedience, so the stand for exam was covered fairly quickly. There are quite a few components to this exercise, so it’s good to practice the many different parts before putting them all together.

Next we set up some cones as substitute thresholds of doorways and practiced having our dogs wait while we walked through the opening between the cones. Once through we invited our dogs through the opening and rewarded them for looking at us and/or sitting once they joined us. Anyone who has tried to unlock a door while carrying something and holding on to a leashed dog will know how much easier it is if the dog waits patiently for the door to open and doesn’t pull you through once it is open. It’s a great safety behavior for exiting any building and vehicle, and it is beneficial when going through the dog park gate and when entering a building where it is unknown what people and/or animals will be doing inside.

We had our dogs lie down and rewarded them for getting up and out of our line of travel - useful not just for our line of travel, but when they’re lying next to a door that needs to be opened. We used the obedience behavior – move to heel position - to get our dogs performing this behavior, but this could be started with a lure or target for dogs just starting out. We worked through



Troop 183—FL (cont.)

paws on a chair and rewarding for “off”, and targeting our dog’s nose to our hand – not only is this good for steering our dogs but it is a beneficial, positive behavior we can reward for when we need them to calm down and re-focus.

Thanks to our troop members who got together the following week and took pictures of their dogs practicing the behaviors, since we didn’t take any during our activity.

In July Troop 183 worked on the components for the Treibball Beginner I and II merit badges.



We didn’t spend much time on the straight “go to mat” since we’d worked on that for the Manners Badge last month. We did use the mat on the other side of a chair to work on our dogs going out and around an object as the foundation for the Beginner II badge criteria of the dog going to the opposite side of the ball and assume a stationary position. We worked on having the dogs circle around the chair clockwise and counter-clockwise.



We spent some time on “push” using a hand touch, touching a piece of colored tape, and attaching the colored tape to an object. Then we encouraged our dogs to push a variety of different objects—everyone brought at least one object to work with.



We ended our session discussing the signals for a dog getting over-excited and how mouthing and pawing end the fun. Using an alternate behavior—settle on the mat or a default behavior (sit in heel position with a nose touch on a hand) can help to re-engage the dog who is over-stimulated. Plus it never hurts to throw in some calming signals that the dog will understand—deep sigh or a yawn while the dog is on the mat. In addition, using an object that is not as easy for the dog to mouth or step on can also help isolate the push behavior—although many times mouthing and pawing comes because the dog doesn’t really understand the “push” cue and we have rushed too quickly in asking for the final picture.



Troop 198—CA (together with Troop 233 and Pre-Troops SF Peninsula and SF East Bay)

Leah Lane—Event Coordinator



The San Francisco Bay Area Troops are training hard, working hard to spread the DSA message, and playing hard! We finished May with ranger led Sunset Hike up on Mt. Hamilton at Joseph D. Grant Park, in San Jose.

Our dogs demonstrated their DSA training as they watched but did not react as we came across, birds of prey, deer, goats and wild pigs walking through the beautiful scenery.



Then back to the city life on June 4th as we manned an information booth for the third year in a row at Jazz On the Hill at the College of San Mateo

On June 12th we hosted another Mall Walk About at Stanford Mall in Palo Alto where we met with Guide Dog Puppies and members of the public. We both demonstrated and practiced going up and down elevators and stairs, walking over grates . . .



Troop 198—CA (cont.)

walking through crowds of people and other dogs, greeting strangers and sitting with our dogs by our sides while we enjoyed refreshments.



Since we were going directly from the mall to our monthly training session, our “Leave It” pig, Buster joined us at the mall for a little snack of hay before he assisted us with our training.

Then it was on to the Troop 198 Training Meeting at the Humane Society of Silicon Valley in Milpitas,



where members of the SF Peninsula Pre-Troop and Troop 198 worked on honing their training skills together.

Troop 198—CA (cont.)



Our SF East Bay Pre Troop is really taking off and on June 18th had their first training meeting at the Contra Costa County Animal Shelter in Martinez

They are well on their way to earning their Dog Scout Badges and getting their troop number as they practice their training in the wonderful classroom at the shelter.



Back to the country with another ranger led sunset hike at Anderson Lake County Park in Morgan Hill on June 18th

Followed by another ranger led sunset hike up on Mt. Madonna in Watsonville on June 25th



Troop 198—CA (cont.)

And a Pack Walk hosted by the new East Bay Pre Troop on the beautiful waterfront in Martinez on June 26th



Which included a little Pet Therapy Visit for some new friends they met on the walk

On the Fourth of July, the East Bay Pre Troop did us all proud by spreading the DSA message with an information booth at the El Cerrito Fourth of July Fair. They have also been invited by the Executive Director of Berkeley Humane to have a booth at an annual Bark Around the Block adopt-a-thon and street fair on 7/23.



Then for a little kicking back, on July 9th, there was the Vasona Vibrations Concert featuring Zydeco music where dog scout members enjoyed train rides . . .

Troop 198—CA (cont.)

. . . and picnicking and listening to amazing Creole music while helping to contribute to Second Harvest Food Bank.



We also managed to get a “photo op” with the lead member of the band.

But then we had to be up and early the next morning for very special training. We did our regular training and video-taping for badges and then . . .



We did the video for our 2 youngest cadets, Luca and Venus who are going for their Pup Scout Badge.

Troop 217—The Motor City K9s—MI

Sally Hoyle—Troop Leader with an assist from Katie and Sam

The past few months have been absolutely packed for our troop! June started out with a kayaking trip for those who were working on that badge with their dogs. We hit the Huron River on a very hot and busy Saturday in order to check off on some of the badge requirements. Julie Benson and Shelby, Diane Baughman and Lizzy and me with Katie tackled a busy and challenging section of the river with video cameras on board to capture our trip. After dodging a number of other kayakers, small islands with low hanging branches and a shore approach with rocks and big roots we beached the kayakers to take a breather. This also gave us an opportunity to get video of the dogs entering and exiting the kayakers. Despite the challenges we faced that day, including poor skills in using a video camera, we were able to accomplish what we wanted to and the dogs all successfully demonstrated a number of the badge requirements.



Julie Benson and Shelby kayaking on the Huron River

Next, several of us headed north to camp! Four troop members attended with nine dogs and we all had a great time. Though part of the week was cold and rainy we were able to participate in so many fun activities including scent discrimination, shaping, stand up paddle board and other water activities, rally, drill team and so much more. Amy Schupska brought all four of her dogs with her, Louie, Ellie, Sally and Betty. Betsy Conway was there with Bert. Martha Thierry and I were on staff at the June camp. Maia and Riley came with Martha and I brought both Sam and Katie. Each dog achieved something special at camp and every dog came home with new badges for their uniforms.

June continued to be busy as we were invited to participate in the Detroit Kennel Club Dog Show. This was a HUGE 2-day event and a great opportunity to talk to the public and share the Dog Scout message. We had a great booth and a large area where we did freestyle, nose work and carting demos. The dogs enjoyed meeting all the people and showing off their tricks. We had great participation from our troop including Brenda Kieswetter and Merlin, Vickie Lomas and Shadow, Michelle Neu and Sassy, Carrie Jones and Darby (our newest Dog Scout!), Elizabeth Najdich and Emma, Martha and Maia, Julie and Shelby, Betsy and Bert, Diane and Lizzy along with me, Sam and Katie. Martha even appeared on the news to promote the show and our participation! Everyone at the TV station was really impressed as Maia showed them some of the things she can do!



Buddies Sassy and Katie at the dog show



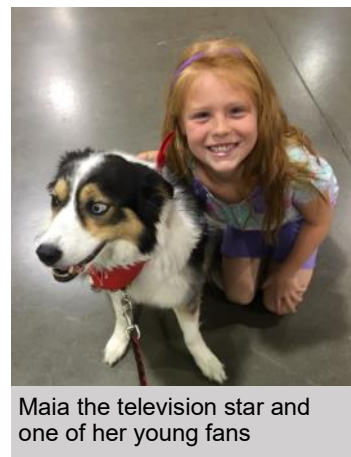
Lizzy playing the piano for the crowd



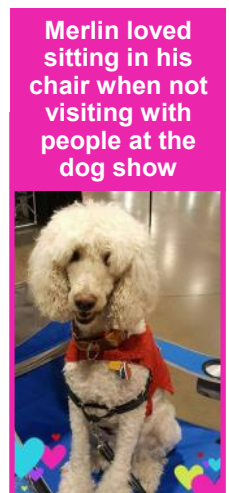
Emma at the dog show demonstrating freestyle in her brand new wheels!



Martha Thierry and Maia promoting the Detroit Kennel Club Dog Show and Dog Scouts on live TV!



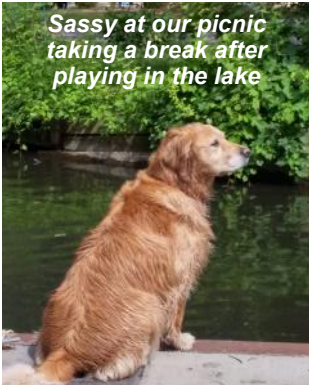
Maia the television star and one of her young fans



Merlin loved sitting in his chair when not visiting with people at the dog show

Troop 217—MI (cont.)

By far the best moment of the weekend came as we were taking everything down. We were approached by a man pushing his elderly mother in a wheelchair. As many of our dogs are therapy dogs they immediately approached as they saw the wheelchair. The man told us that they had just arrived because they had had a rough morning. Though the woman couldn't speak she was clearly in her element surrounded by all the dogs. She took great care to give each one special attention, gently rubbing their ears or patting their heads. She had tears in her eyes as she pushed the hair back on Sam's and Katie's faces so that she could see their eyes. Her son told us that she used to breed Old English Sheepdogs and that she hadn't seen one in many years. It was so special to see the connection that this woman had with dogs, and all our dogs were so happy to visit with her for as long as she wanted.



Sassy at our picnic taking a break after playing in the lake

At the beginning of July we got together for a picnic and play time at my house at the lake. We also focused on finishing up the requirements for the kayaking badge including having the dogs stay in the kayak with some major distractions going on and helping the dogs back into the kayak from swimming depth. Nature helped us out with the final requirement as the dogs found something very smelly on shore but all were easily called off when told to "leave it". All of the dogs, Sassy, Shadow, Emma, Shelby and Lizzy, enjoyed an afternoon at the lake splashing and playing with Sam and Katie. The humans had a great time too and ate tons of great food.

And then it was time to go back to camp! This time we had a larger group of people but still had 9 dogs. Martha and I were lucky enough to be able to attend again with our dogs as part of the camp staff. Also attending were Barrie Lynn Wood and Sunny, Elizabeth and Emma, Julie and Shelby, Michelle and Sassy and Vickie and Shadow. All of the dogs had a great time with the activities, especially stand up paddle board and advanced scent discrimination which are both new this year. There were so many accomplishments during the week including Shelby and Katie finishing their Disaster Prep and Kayaking badges; Shadow, Riley and Sunny earning their Scent Discrimination badge; Sassy earning her overnight camping badge after a tent malfunction and so



Katie was the gold medal winner in the Tempting Recall event in the Olympic Games at both June and July camps!

much more! Sam had fun earning the Drill Team badge, which was taught by our own Elizabeth Najdich, and he had great fun playing in the pond. Shelby and Emma both earned the new Advanced Scent badge, a good thing since Shelby's image is on the badge, and I'll never forget working with Sassy to help her earn her Stand Up Paddle Board badge. She really loved it and relaxed so much on the board.



Julie Benson paddle boarding with Shelby



Katie and Sam had a ball going to camp in June and July

Our troop really loves the MI camps and we always make great memories together whether in June or July. This year we have the special memories of earning (and teaching!) the new badges and several troop members adding badges to the lists of those they can evaluate. Our dogs earned 32 badges between the two camps and completed 2 new trails titles. But one of the very best memories is Shelby becoming an Honor Scout! Congratulations to Shelby and her mom Julie on this huge achievement!

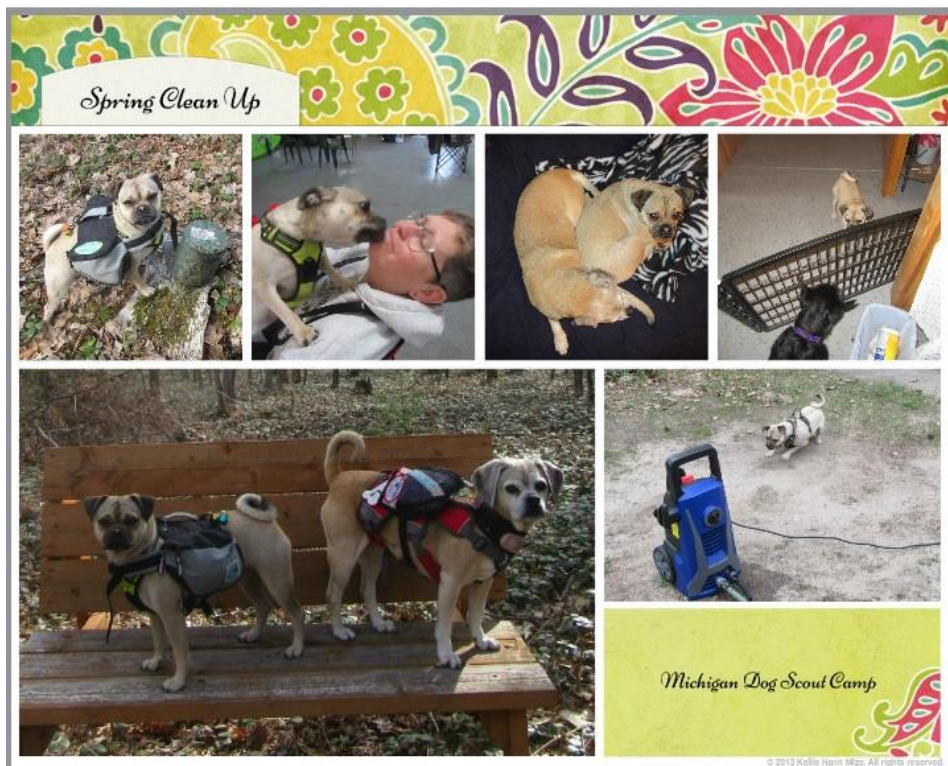
It's hard to believe that summer is nearly over and fall is right around the corner, but that means it's time for our troop to gear up for all our fun fall activities, including a number of community events, hikes and letterboxing, training classes and maybe even a corn maze!

Troop 219—CT—New England Explorers

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

Zora DSA, Danica Joy and I had some amazing adventures at Spring Clean-up at Michigan Dog Scout Camp in May. We worked really hard helping to clean up camp. I had an amazing time helping to clear a new trail and cutting trees. I cleaned cabins and trailers, cleaned the lodge, helped power wash chairs. I carried brush and trees. I've never worked harder than I did in that week. I hope more people will take time off to help make Michigan Camp beautiful. This was truly an inspirational week.

But it wasn't all work. Zora DSA was able to complete the last couple of requirements for her Boating Safety and K-9 Fitness badges. We watched some great movies in the lodge at night and took turns cooking dinner. Zora, Danica and I checked on all of the geocaches at camp and planted a new cache for Danica's geocache badge.



Thanks to a great idea I picked up from the Tyler Texas troop at Leadership weekend, we have started Monday evening Summer Strolls. Every Monday, we meet at a local trail for a nice, easy stroll. This is a great time for us to socialize and exercise in the evening when it's a bit cooler. We walk different trails, but stay close to the shore and the ocean where there are opportunities for the dogs to play in the water. Everyone is welcome. We've had friends and co-workers who don't have dogs join us. Here are some highlights from our weekly Summer Strolls.



Troop 219—CT (cont.)

We started Art classes in June with Wyatt and Danica learning how to paint. Wyatt picked up the painting skills really fast and has no problem wearing his socks. Danica is really enthusiastic.



On June 25th, Troop 219 teamed up with Freedom Hills Dog Training and joined our friends at the annual Paw Print Pantry Open House. Paw Print Pantry, in Niantic CT is a specialty dog store that carries a ton of awesome treats and dog food. Their annual Open House was a big hit this year, with dog food vendors and local artists.



A local farm brought two one-week old baby goats to the Open House. Danica Joy was fascinated by them. As babies, the goats were the same size as she is. They just smelled "weird". She even got a few kisses from one of the goats.

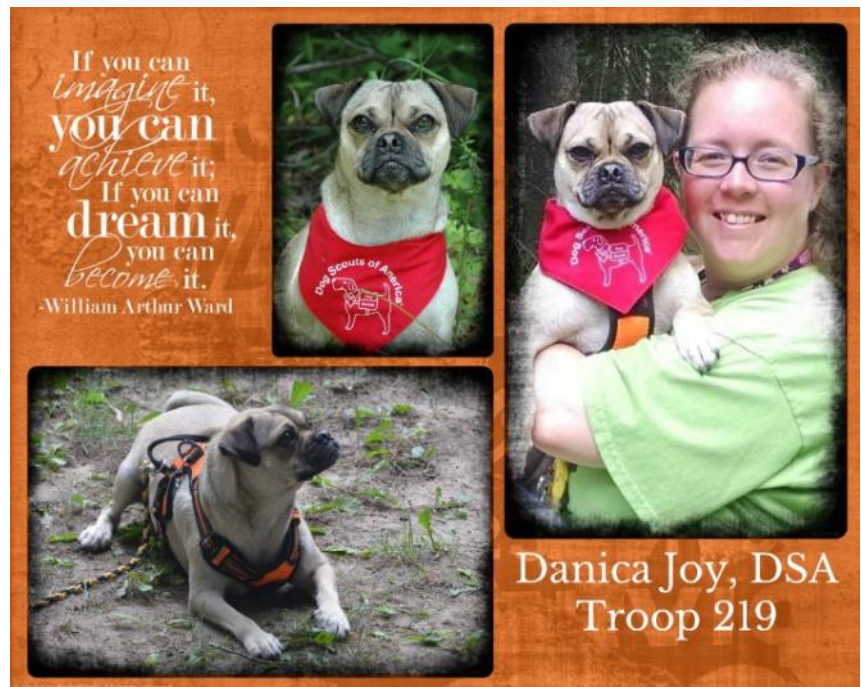


Troop 219 explored a little known area of the Connecticut college arboretum in early July. Several friends joined us to learn about Geocaching. We found three geocaches and some raspberry bushes.

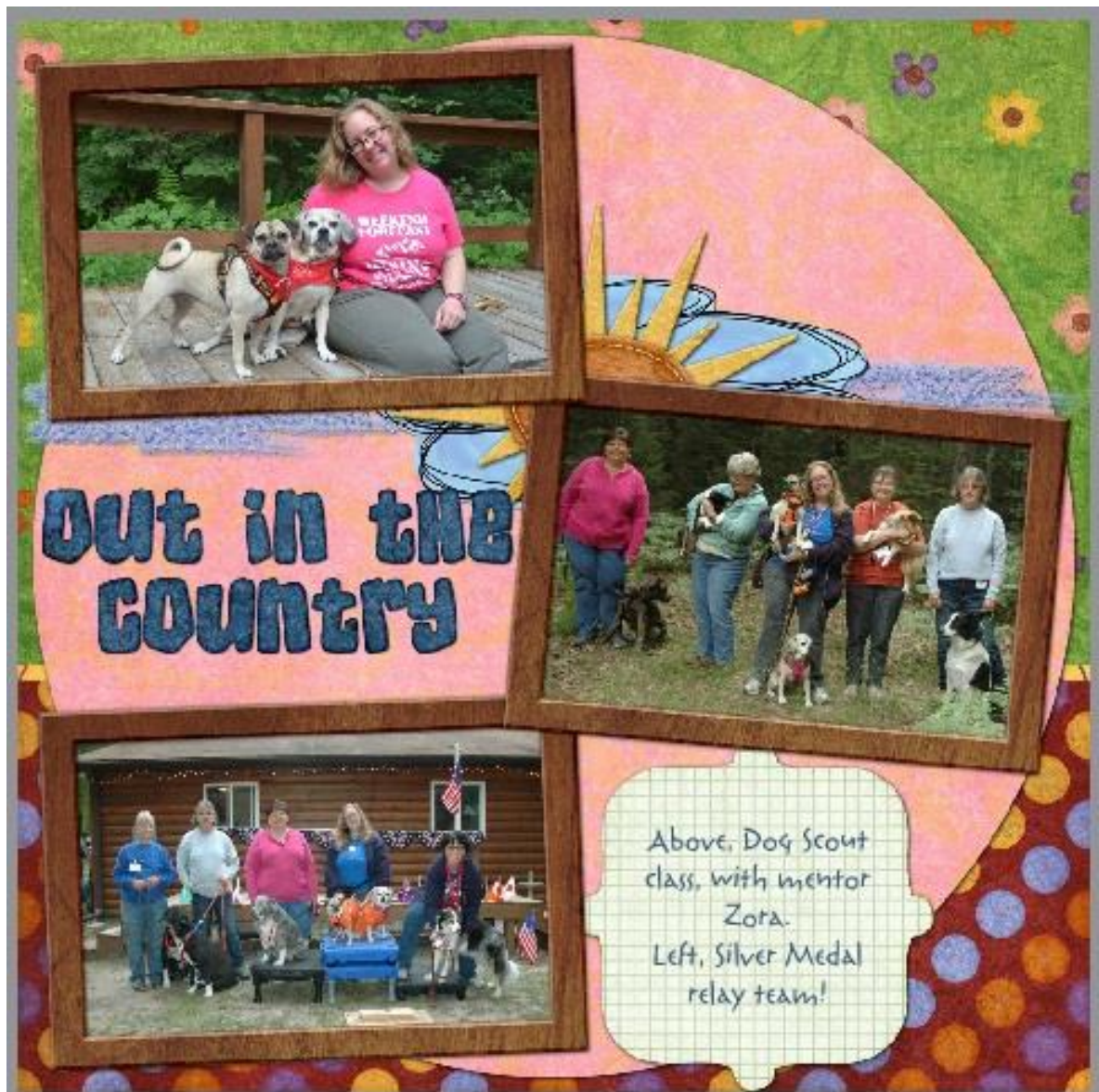


Troop 219—CT (cont.)

Dog Scout Troop 219 is very proud to announce that Danica Joy is now a Dog Scout!! She earned her DSA at July Dog Scout Camp. She is the youngest member of Troop 219 to have earned her DSA.



Zora DSA, Danica Joy DSA and I attended July Dog Scout Camp for the 7th year this summer. This year was Summer Olympics at Camp and we played all the Olympic Games. The team relay was our favorite. Our team got the silver medal in the relay.



Troop 219—CT (cont.)



Many of the camp activities were brand new to all three of us and we had so much fun trying them. Zora earned Stand up Paddle Boarding (SUP) and Drill Team. Zora and I had a stellar team for Drill Team. I could not have imagined a better team. Zora and I also worked on Rally and Agility. We played in the Olympic games at camp too.



Troop 219—CT (cont.)

This was Danica's first summer at camp and she earned eight badges:

Puppy paddler,
Beach Buddies,
Boating Safety,
Art of Shaping,
Geocaching 1 & 2,
Lure Coursing, and
Backpacking.



Swimming in the pond was Danica's favorite activity. She would run down to the pond every day for swim class and swim laps in the pond. Danica took a ride in a kayak with her friend Zack. She also got to ride in a row boat to complete her Boating Safety badge.



Troop 220—NV

Pamela Sauer



Clickers and whistles for some, hand signals for others and Rocket Recall Classes too!

WORK, WORK, WORK
We are working on the Dog Scout requirements and doing "meet ups" in small groups. Just the humans doing back to school, pups get a night off!



We're excited that we've been invited to Dog Scouts in Redding, California in October this year! Plans in the Works!

Training for Dog Scout test - heeling, sit, down and stay.

We had tons of fun at the end of our meeting letting our pups play together!



Troop 230—TX—Pineywoods Paws

Kristen Keeling—Troop Leader

East Texas DSA Troop 230 aka Pineywood Paws has been having a blast this year. So much so that we need to stop and catch you up on our activities.

In February we had our first annual Sweetheart Supper with Your Pooch. This was a very special Valentine's Dinner with our favorite 4-legged loves. We met at Juls in Tyler and had dinner and wine on their deck overlooking the lake at sunset.



In March, we starting working on our Dog Care badge by having a vet tech come out and teach us about routine care and concerns to be aware of. Then later that month we had our first annual Doggy Easter Egg Hunt. That was so much fun. Big thank you to Dallas Troop 119 for their ideas and insight. With the help of the City, we were able to cordon off a large part of the park for our hunt real close to the trails. This allowed us to invite walkers to come and help find over 200 eggs we had hidden in the park and learn about Dog Scouts.



After an unfortunate fall we had to cancel our April Geocaching activities but they will be re-scheduled later in the year so look forward to those fun pictures.



May brought a general training session. We will soon be announcing at least one new Dog Scout! Mandy is so close and Gretel and Zana are trying their best to get there too. Who will do it first...Mandy or Zana??

Troop 230—TX (cont.)

June and July brought even more fun. First we worked on the “High 5” or “Give Paw” trick. Then in July we met in the park for an awesome Paint Pawty! Oh my goodness what fun we had. Although initially we were going for the badge, when we realize many pups hadn’t mastered the trick and it was frustrating the owners, we sort of tossed the rules for the badge aside and simply had a blast painting with our pups. And what Picassos we have. Not sure who painted better, the parents or the pups but there were giggles galore. We even had a human canvas thanks to newcomer Chrissy. We will be doing this again in the fall upon request.



Look for more action shots from our troop this fall. We are just ramping up!

Troop 229—CA—Dogaholics Anonymutts

Mary Blackstone—Troop Leader



Well, we were working on our manners, naked obedience & obstacle 2 badges, but then got sidetracked with riding, setting up trail trials and attending the gymkhana with our local horse club (iZAR is my assistant) and a little geo-caching.



We had a new member join (so we're working on getting the dog to pass the DS test) and lost a couple members. We cleaned our highway section twice and had a birthday party for iZAR.

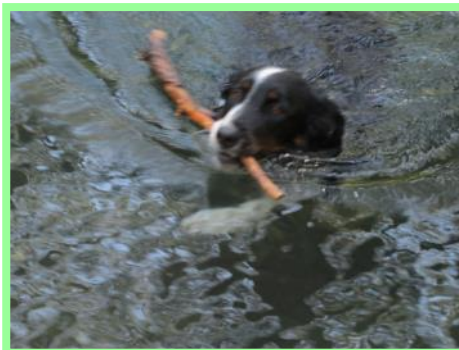


We've held 2 clicker workshops and hope to have another in September.

Our troop is holding an "Oct-O-Bark-Fest" on Oct. 9th, so we've been working on that too.



BUSY, BUSY, BUSY :-)



Moving On

By Peggy Zweber

They are the glue which holds us together, these four-legged critters. I don't know what magic they possess, but it catches you off-guard and wham, you're theirs and they're yours. I've had it happen so much that I can't live without it. The connection, the attention, the intelligence, the curiosity, the empathy are all mixed into one and when you lose it, there is a hole in your heart and the joy that filled that hole, well, it's vanished. Heck, it's more like a Grand Canyon. That's how it was when I lost my Lab, Charly.

A friend of mine said, "But Peggy, you still have three dogs!" Even if I stuff Cate, Luke, and Nick into that canyon, it seemed like just a dot. I let myself love him too much. Then another feeling snuck in. I got lonely, something I hadn't felt in a long time. I did things with the other three dogs but it wasn't working. Cate felt it too. She's been barking more, just endless, useless barking and I don't know how to fix her. She does sleep at night with Nick. She's gotten closer to Luke.

Then I got an idea. I emailed the breeder and asked him if there were any puppies due, perhaps related to Charly and Cate. Indeed there were. I went out to meet the mothers. When I saw Scout, I fell in love. She had Charly's eyes and was red like Cate. I took Cate with me and she jumped out of the car and led a group of red Labs on a tour of the property. She was happy and she found the swimming pool. I took a wet dog home that day, a smiling wet dog.

So, I patiently waited for Scout's due date. On May 31, she gave birth to two male puppies, little red sausages. I went to see them. When one was handed to me, a funny thing happened, I felt whole. Their fur felt like silk, tiny and blind. I asked the breeder to contact me when their eyes opened so I could tell a little more about their personalities. I went back at 5 weeks and then again last Wednesday and chose my dog. I'll pick him up on the 18th.

So, here is my new puppy, BPK Red Indigo Star a/k/a "Indy". I know I'll never have another Charly, but I know so much more about training dogs from him that all of my four dogs will be very busy this summer, learning new skills. I have my family again.



How One Dog Discovers Barn Hunt, Thanks to Dog Scouts

Melissa Perez

It's finally our turn in the ring. We were the last dog in our blind. Somehow I just know today is going to be the day. The judge welcomes me and gives the go ahead to begin. I take off his leash and hand it to the leash runner, remembering my manners and saying thank you. I take a deep breath, quickly survey the course and let go of him.

Jumping forward, he begins to run around. A few seconds of sniffing around and he is on a bale. "Climb!" I hear the judge call.

Suddenly, intense interest in a pile of hay, "Rat!", I call. "Rat 1" responds the judge. I grab the tube to hand to a rat wrangler.

Ok here we go, one down three more to go. Up and down the bales he goes. "Go Tunnel", I ask of him. "Tunnel!" I hear the judge call. Just need to find the rest of the rats.

Checking out more piles, then intense interest, nose down, pawing. "Rat!" I call, pointing to the pile. "Rat 2" responds the judge. Rat wrangler jumps in to take the tube.

Heart racing, "Where is it, where is the rat?" I ask of him.

Head swing, he has caught the scent. Nose down in a pile of hay, small pounce. "Rat!" I call. "Rat 3" comes the reply.

Gotta keep it together, only one more to go. What's my time? Watch my dog, he will tell me. Circle around the ring, back to a pile that looked interesting before. He's got it, I just know. "Rat!" I call. "Rat 4, congratulations" I hear.

"YES! YES! YES! YES! That's title!" I cry. Celebration with the ring crew, clapping from the audience, "Woo-woo-woo!" sings my boy. Flushed with excitement, I exit the ring to the cries of congratulations from fellow competitors, from the host club and judge. We did it! We finally got our Senior title in Barn Hunt.

★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★



This day has been a year in the making. Drizzle and I have been competing in Barn Hunt whenever it fits our schedule, about once a month. Generally we only compete one day out of a weekend trial. New to competition, I want every outing to be fun for us, whether we walk away with a ribbon or not. It all started two years ago when Julie Benson, then the Troop leader of Troop 217, scheduled a day of Barn Hunt fun at Zodiac Ranch in Milford, MI for the troop. Later that same year at the Ghoul's Just Wanna Have Fun all Troop outing in October, we tried our hand at passing the requirements for the Barn Hunt badge. We came close the first time, but needed to try again. Thankfully instructor, evaluator and judge-in-training Brenda Jones was willing to take us to the ring again and we passed in a matter of seconds.



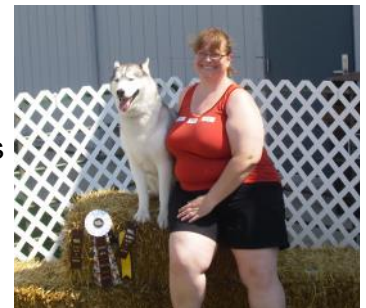
Dog Scout Discovers Barn Hunt (cont.)



Buoyed by the accomplishment, I briefly considered entering in a trial in our hometown the following January. But foot surgery had me sidelined for 2 months and I was just not comfortable with the thought of walking through the hay in the ring only 1 month after getting out of a walking boot.

Six months after we earned our Barn Hunt badge, Julie set up another fun day of Barn Hunt at Zodiac Ranch. Drizzle did really well and I was encouraged by the instructor to try a real trial. So I checked things out and found a trial fairly close to home. I checked out the premium and there was a familiar name listed as judge. Brenda Jones had passed all the requirements and was a full judge now. I decide to take the plunge and entered the trial. We earned our Instinct title at that first trial, but not any legs towards our Novice title. Having Brenda as our first judge was nice, she treated us with respect even though she has known me for over 10 years in Dog Scouts. The host club was the same group of people where Drizzle and I take Nosework class, so we knew a lot of the ring crew too. I went home and thought about what we had accomplished that day. I decided to try again at another trial just a few weeks later. We earned our first Q's at that next trial and I realized that we were becoming real competitors in the dog sport world.

We slowly worked our way through the ranks. We earned our Novice title in August 2015 and our Open title in October 2015. Then came Senior. Boy did we struggle! But every run was a learning experience. Many of our runs were under judge Cindy Angiulo, who was yet another Dog Scout member we would encounter in Barn Hunt. She encouraged us, and gave tips and advice when she was able, and when it was appropriate. We earned our first Senior leg in January 2016, our second in March 2016 and our third leg for our title in June 2016. It has been quite the ride for sure. Drizzle has accomplished something special, he is the only Siberian Husky actively competing in Michigan. He is the first Siberian in Michigan to earn the Novice, Open, and Senior titles. And in every run where we qualified, we also earned a placement ribbon. While we never were quite quick enough for a High in Class, we do have a few 1st place ribbons in our stash. We are on our way to the Master class. While other teams may have progressed faster than us in the same amount of time, we are enjoying the time we get to spend together. And isn't that part of the Dog Scout motto, to learn new things, to strengthen the human canine bond?



As we run back to our chair after our successful run, I am approached by a young woman. She is a photographer for the Detroit Free Press and she was able to get a photo of us during our run. I am still flushed with excitement and Drizzle wants his "good boy" treats. She asks me some questions about what just happened. My mouth is dry and I have a hard time talking, but I manage to squeak out the answers as I pump treat after treat into Drizzle's mouth. He just earned a big jackpot of treats, though I am not sure he really understands what all the fuss is

about. But he happily takes the treats I offer. Continuing to beam with pride, I take my boy shopping at the vendor booths after the photographer leaves. We both deserved a treat for a job well done. My only regret that day was I didn't have anyone to video our run for me as my husband had stayed home. But I have my memory and I hope it will stay with me for a long while.

Thank you to Dog Scouts for introducing us to this fun sport. I know there are many more Scouts who are also participating in Barn Hunt. I hope to see you at a trial some day.

To see some of our Barn Hunt runs, check out my YouTube channel, [Syberhuskie](#). To learn more about the sport of Barn Hunt, check out the Barn Hunt Association website www.barnhunt.com.

Contact Dog Scouts of America

Learning new things that we may be more helpful

Website: Dogscouts.org
Facebook: facebook.com/DogScouts
Yahoo Discussion List:
pets.groups.yahoo.com/group/DSA_TalkList

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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