



Hello everyone, and welcome to the “new” Dog Scout Scoop!

I had hoped to get this going last Spring, but with yet a second site attack and crash, it never had a chance to take off. However, I saved all the emails I had received and will include them here for your reading enjoyment. I have also included anything that has been received up to September 9th. Everything received after that date will be placed in the Nov/Dec issue (# 2014-06) to be published the first week of November.

I have created this layout for the print (PDF) edition for download. Hopefully, we will get bigger and better, so I have to split it into 2 separate files! ☺ The online blog is different, and will list posts in order from newest to oldest.

REMEMBER... September 26 is **National Dog Scout Day** ~ hug your dogs and do something fun!

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News from National



This space is reserved, and will always be the very first section of all future newsletters. Why? Because anything coming from National is *very important to every member!* So, even if you read nothing else in here, *always* take a moment to check this section. If Chris or the Board have anything to share, it will be in this space.

Upcoming Events

GLORIA VOSS ADVANCED DANCE CAMP

Place: Dog Scout Camp, St. Helen, MI

Dates: September 13-14, 2014 AND September 20-21, 2014

Only a few spots left! See gnsvooss@journey.com for information to register

NATIONAL DOG SCOUT DAY

Place: Anywhere!

Dates: September 26

Hug your dogs and do something fun! It's a great day to get your Dog Scout badge (or any other badges), go for a title, or do something for your community.

FALL TROOP JAMBOREE

Place: Dog Scout Camp, St. Helen, MI

Dates: October 10-12, 2014

Troops & individuals compete in fun games, costume contest, etc. Contact Lonnie (dogscoutcamp@gmail.com) for details.

TROOP 217 CAMPOUT

Place: Dog Scout Camp, St. Helen, MI

Dates: October 24-26

Contact Julie Benson for details.

Congratulations to our newest Dog Scouts!



Yes! It is a very proud moment for every member when their dog achieves the Dog Scout Title! (It also says a lot about that member, as well.) We have saved this space to honor this grand achievement. Anyone can submit information for a Scout – just send the Dog's name, Member/Handler name, and the date it was awarded. Your Dog Scout picture would be nice, too!

I am angry with myself that I didn't get the names of everyone I was in class with. My *Tonto* was only one of 6 that passed DSA class at the July Camp session (*many thanks to our instructor Martha Thierry!*) I do not know how many (or who) was at the June session, nor do I know any others that have achieved this title this year. So, although I do not know you by name, please let me extend a hearty **Congratulations to ALL** those who achieved the DSA title so far this year! If you would like to be listed and share your DSA photo with your fellow members, please submit it and I will add it to the online blog! ☺



Tonto, DSA

Awards and Honors



We always want to congratulate any member (or dog) who has received any type of award or honor, for it is with *positive reinforcement* that we cultivate the desire to go on to bigger and better achievements. If submitted, you will find those mentioned in this section. If you include photos, please also include descriptions for them.

Camp News (*Mini-Camps, too!*)



Camp Director, Lonnie Olson, gets the first slot here! After any general news from her, we will include other Camp-related stories and news under the following headings. This information can be submitted by anyone – mini-camps, too! Please feel free to include pictures (and descriptions of them) if you so choose.

DOG SCOUT CAMP (MI)

- **July Session**

Your humble webmaster (and news editor) was very excited to have been awarded the **Nikki Zweber Memorial Scholarship** to attend Dog Scout Camp in July. I never, ever thought I would get it, but **Tonto** (my 8 mo. old Australian Shepherd pup) and I managed to scrape up the funds to make the trip – car trouble and all ~ and we made *many* memories that I will cherish forever. Tonto is also a SDIT (service dog in training), and earning his *Dog Scout* title at camp just made me that much more comfortable with his public access skills. The staff was amazing, and I worked closely with both Beth Duman and Martha Thierry on his skills, as he was going through a “fear phase” at the time. *Thank you for the individualized attention, ladies!* We also worked together and earned his Dog Care badge, his Canine Massage badge, and his Art of Shaping badge. Canine Massage was amazing – and so relaxing for both of us. Also, to our surprise, we claimed 3rd place in the Talent Contest, and his paw-painting was awarded Best of Show in the Art contest ☺ The food was wonderful, the weather cooperated (after the first day), and the company... well, suffice it to say that I would be more than happy to spend another couple of weeks with everyone that was at camp with us. You all were wonderful, warm and friendly, and very helpful when I needed assistance. Blessings to all, and I truly hope to see you next year!

~ Kim & Tonto

MINI-CAMPS

- TX Mini-Camp – Ft. Worth

The 2014 TX Camp is **FULL** – Please contact Cindy Ratliff at doglurvurz@prodigy.net to be placed on the waiting list.

TROOP JAMBOREE

- 2014 Fall Troop Jamboree

Dates: October 10-12, 2014

Troops & individuals compete in fun games, costume contest, etc.

Contact Lonnie (dogscoutcamp@gmail.com) for details.

Recent Troop News

TROOP 107 - June Haverland, Leader

Junior Haverland, DSA and a member of DSA Troop 107, successfully passed his **Temperament Test** (administered by ATTS) on August 30th, 2014. Junior is a 9 year old Shetland Sheepdog. Only 68% of Shelties pass this test. Congratulations to Junior!!

Looking Back on 2014...

Here are the items I received in the spring & summer that may interest you. Many things are happening around the country ~ we should certainly be proud of our members!

Paws Pack – DSA Troop 183

Wow, I sure had a lot to put in for Paws Pack! Shirley is excellent about sending an update every month on what they do at their meetings and events. But... since I have 5 months of updates in my mailbox, and this newsletter is already getting long... I need to condense it and give you the highlights. Sorry Shirley! From now on I will post your updates – promise!



February had the Paws Pack stretching their legs to learn about Treibball. Taking their selection of activities from the Steps to Teaching Treibball (from the DSA website), they started the groundwork for the DSA Treibball badges. Each participant received a copy of these steps, along with the check off list for Treibball Beginner I-III and the Dog Body Language 101 list. After some practical work sending our dogs to a mat, they moved to teaching a "push" on cue. During a break, Shirley discussed the signs of over stimulation in a dog, referencing some of the behaviors outlined on the Dog Body Language 101 list (on the website). Self-control and indirect access behaviors are a huge part of all this. After the break, they went back to "mat work", going out at longer distances, going around an object (laundry basket) to get to the mat, and for following directional signals. Lastly they created some channels using x-pens and encouraged the dogs to push the ball down the channel. Special thanks to Steve and Marilyn who came straight from an out of town trip to the meeting and spent their time helping other troop members where needed. At the end of the session, they put out some mechanical plush animals to work on the Dog Scout "leave it" behavior.

March had the Paws Pack tracking! Attendees received a copy of the AKC Tracking Regulations and a copy of the Dog Scouts Tracking Training information. Troop member, Karyn, gave information on the different tracking tests and how they compare to the Dog Scout tracking badge requirements, and briefly explained the different types of surfaces and how weather and wind direction could affect a scent, and the equipment that is used in tracking. For our activity, Karyn wanted to focus our beginning steps on properly cueing our dogs, and building the value of the glove. During the discussion, Karyn defined "Parallaxing" (lining up 2 distant objects to focus on in order to walk in a straight line), and informed us about the need to keep a notebook to map the terrain and plot the tracks, and that eventually our dogs would need to indicate an article on the track by either a sit, down, or by retrieving the article. After the discussion, Karyn worked with each of us in turn, guiding us in laying our own track, cueing, holding the leash at chest level, and allowing our dog to work the line and find the glove. Just about every one of our 15 attendees was successful in their dog's beginner tracking steps using the method Karyn gave us. For one of the dogs who was having a difficult time, Karyn recommended another method to train the dog. Anyone interested in getting started in tracking would benefit from reading the DSA training material written by Chris Puls, there's a lot of great information in there that was very helpful and which certainly impacted the success of our event. A special thank you to troop members, Susan, for our new sign, and Steve and Marilyn for the banner and contact cards for our troop which we received at this meeting. They'll be a great help in catching people's attention at future meetings and events.

April – on the hottest day of the month – found them on the Legendary Agility Training field to start working on the Obstacle and Agility badges. Special thanks to Cyndi M. for coordinating the location and heading up this activity. The troop worked through the obstacles available – tunnel, A-frame, pause table, beginning teeter, tire jump, wing jump, bar jump, and double bar jump – and moved through a number of short courses. The dogs did really well with the tunnel, most of the dogs made it safely and confidently over the A-frame, and there didn't appear to be any problems with taking the jumps. With safety and long-term confidence in mind, the teeter was stationed all the way down so it was basically a flat board. Ideas for preparing an inexperienced dog for the dog walk or teeter revolve around getting a 2"x6" plank of wood from a home supply store/lumber yard and working with their dog to get all four paws on the plank and then to work on walking across it while it is on the ground, then raise the plank by putting the ends on a couple of paving stones, and increasing the height by placing the plank on a couple of blocks. The Dog Scout instructions for teaching obstacles also suggest some form of wobble board interaction to help dogs feel comfortable with a moving surface beneath their feet in preparation for the motion of the teeter. Activities like that are great proprioceptor exercises and help with the general fitness of our canine companions and their ability to respond appropriately to environmental stressors. The troop was pleased with the work accomplished, and definitely consider this a "must do again" activity.

May's activity was working on the Rally skills for the badges. The troop shared performance tips as they practiced the individual signs in the comfort of the air conditioned activity building. There were handouts on the AKC signs, some of the rules for AKC Rally Obedience, and the Dog Scout badge criteria, along with two course outlines. After completing all the signs that are required for the Rally Obedience I badge, they set up a rally course outside based on one of the course maps that was provided. It's always a good idea to walk a course more than once and picture how you might cue your dog, and how much space you need to get past signs and around cones without bumping them (which would be points off). Having video is useful because we can see a few things that we can work on during future training sessions. At the end of their sessions, when working on new badge criteria, there always seems to be much more to do and train for, which is part of the philosophy of DSA's merit badge program. Thankfully having fun together and seeing some

improvements encourages us to keep working with our dogs in order to reach those goals. Special thanks to troop member, Cyndi, for the use of her Rally signs and holders, and to Beth for taking photos and video.

June was Click-A-Trick time! Troop Member, Mary Ann, headed this activity; her dog, Bling earned the *Excellent Trick Dog* title through the Do More With Your Dog organization, and wowed the public with his tricks at the Salvation Army fund raiser we participated in last year. Often we pet parents forget that - to our dogs - every behavior we teach them is a trick. We get caught up in the serious "obedience" behaviors and forget that in reality it's all the same to our dogs, just some tricks are more fun and more reinforcing than others. Many children are great dog trainers when they train a trick using positive reinforcement because they laugh, have fun, and are usually generous with their treats, in comparison with us adults! Teaching tricks to our dogs are useful in fundraising events, in therapy and service dog work, to relieve tension, and as a gateway to more complicated behaviors. As a bonus, they are the foundation behaviors for some of the other badges offered through Dog Scouts of America's Merit Badge Program.

Many tricks start out with luring and move on to shaping and we found that having a dog that has a hand and nose target, and one that was willing to offer behaviors is very useful. It was acknowledged that when shaping tricks it takes patience, and behaviors are more effectively learned when captured with a clicker, allowing the dog to be responsible for making a choice to offer a behavior and discover whether it would earn a cookie or not. We worked on getting our dogs to crawl. Starting in the down and clicking initially for bringing the nose down, stretching the neck forward, and then any movement by either of the front feet. Following that our dogs would need to stretch their body forward and if the treat was kept still and not pulled out too quickly some of our dogs brought their back legs forward while still in the down position. Keeping the hand with the treat low and close to the dog was important in maintaining the down position. The patience of the handler came into play because many dogs stood when the treat was too far forward and we had to remember it was not a big deal and we should just start again (when we don't apply a cue too early then we haven't asked our dogs to perform a specific behavior, we're just capturing something we want them to repeat). Another help with teaching crawl is to sit on the floor and have our dogs go under our legs, or to use a prop for the dog to go under.

Mary Ann's dog, Lee Roy, demonstrated playing the drum, roll over, and several of his tricks. Our troop was fortunate to have access to a number of props (thanks to Mary Ann and Carol), which helped us try new tricks that we may not have tried on our own. We were shown an easy way to capture the "shy" behavior by using a sticker, (or a piece of tape for the bigger dogs) placed on the dog's nose. Since the sticker felt odd to the dogs they quickly tried to remove it and we could click for the nose down action. Our dogs also had to problem solve to find a treat in a muffin tin that had tennis balls placed in each of the cups. These types of brain games are great for mentally tiring out our pups when it's too hot to play outside.

Lone Star Paws Squad – DSA Troop 119

Although you may not have heard from us lately, Troop 119 has been very busy in 2014. In February, the troop held Doggie Olympics to celebrate the Winter Olympics. Everyone divided up into three teams. As a team, humans and dogs competed in slalom skiing, hockey, speed skating and bob sledding. (Smaller dogs had the advantage for bob sledding, but I'm not holding a grudge or anything like that!) All dogs were awarded a bronze, silver or gold medal.



Hockey!



Speed skating



Bobsledding (come on!)

The March meeting took us outside to River Legacy Park and one of our favorite events...Photo scavenger hunt. What's a photo scavenger hunt? Why that's where you are provided a list of things within a certain area of the park and you must take pictures of them. For example, you may need to take a picture of a troop dog on a large rock. Or you may have to take a picture of a dog that is not participating in the scavenger hunt (People had no problems with us wanting to take pictures of their dogs. Everyone, even non-Dog Scout people, loves their dogs.) The more items you found and took pictures of, the more points your team received. BUT here's the twist...you got an additional point for every stray pile of

poop you cleaned up. Yes, you have to provide a picture of that too. And the poop count made the difference. The winning team picked up a lot of poop. River Legacy Park never smelled so sweet!



On a Rock



Poop Cleanup is fun

April brought us spring and the annual Easter Egg Hunt held at Camp Carter. Hundreds of plastic eggs with liver treats were hidden around camp. The dogs and their humans had to find them. Some of the eggs held magic yellow chicks, which were good for prizes. Everyone had fun running around the camp and we even got to see some pigs that were in a pen. Prizes were awarded to the top egg finders.



Sage as a "bunny"



Mom! I found an egg!

A few members of the troop went to the new **East Texas Dog Scout Mini-Camp** in April. The dogs got to swim, hike, do agility, paint, play instruments and get massages. Lucky dogs! The troop also worked on their Travel Safety and First Aide badges, with many members earning one or both of them. Although it's fun to hike and swim, it's also important to emphasize safety. Many Troop 119 members continue doing therapy work, having children read to them, or teaching kids about Dog Scouts and letterboxing. All this and the year's only half over! See you next time!



Jasper helping with letterboxing event

We got the news! Troop 119 was the top fundraiser for the 2014 DSA Hike-a-thon - 3rd year in a row! Members of the hiking team were awarded blankets with the DSA logo and a pedometer during a team meeting. Needless to say, we are very pleased and the dogs are looking forward to using the blankets when it gets cooler.

Troop 119 was also selected to be recognized by the Dallas Agility Working Group. Troop member, Cheryl Bales

nominated the troop for their continuing program of donating animal oxygen masks to local fire stations. Several dogs have been saved due to these masks.

And it's been hot here in the DFW area, so Troop 119 did what most do in North Texas... we moved our meetings inside to beat the heat. In May, members worked on their Travel Safety badges. Several dogs completed all the necessary requirements for the badge and a few only needed the Canine First Aid badge as their final requirement. This is important information for anyone who travels with their dogs.

During the June meeting, we worked on the Canine First Aid badge. Many members earned this badge, and a few members finished the final requirement for their Travel Safety badge. The dogs were all very patient as we wrapped up various body parts, took temperatures, and showed we could "transport" them.

After two "serious" meetings, it was time for Doggie Games in July. The games required, for the most part, skills that are actually required to earn the DSA certification...with a twist. Weave through cones with your dog with a freesbie on your head. Put your dog on a dog/stay while you pull a number and find that page in a magazine. The teams were tied after the first four games. The tie breaker was a rubber duck retrieval from kiddie pools. The "water" dogs loved that game.



August saw two members earning their DSA certification. Congratulations to Darra, DSA (MarSue and Ric Freeman, proud parents) and Boomer, DSA (Melissa and John Kaiser, proud parents). Other members made good headway towards completing the requirements.

We're looking forward to cooler weather so we can get outside for meetings. *And Texas Mini-camp is just around the corner.* We can't wait!

The Rainbow Bridge

Some of these I received in email, others I pulled from the Yahoo! Group. Please feel free to submit your memorial information, along with a picture if you choose. These will also be posted on the Rainbow Bridge Members page of the website.

from Sue Szeremet

**Jako's Jasmine Bennington, CD, RN, CGC, TT, DSA
"Jasmine"**

05/29/2000 - 04/27/2014



Celebrating the most precious life of my Jasmine. Her favorite times were when she was with me at camp from 2003-2008. She ruptured her ACL in December of 2008 playing with her sister, Lolly, so we were unable to return to camp due to a 90% chance of rupture in the other leg. It was unexpected, as unexpected as this can be for a 14 year old golden retriever. Hemangiosarcoma. The tumor on her spleen was the size of a grapefruit which was revealed on the x-ray taken that day. I am comforted knowing I made the right decision because this situation is a ticking time bomb. She is my new guardian angel at the rainbow bridge. I will always love her. Forever.

from Robyn Douglas, Downeast Dog Scouts

**Can CH Cedarwood's Narissa, JH, CD, WC, TDInc., R.E.A.D., CGC, DSA, ThD
"Rissa"**

05/29/1998 – 03/14/2014

This sweet, lovely tempered girl is the embodiment of the term "overachiever". Before becoming a family pet and certified therapy dog in 2006, Rissa attained numerous field and obedience championship titles while a member of Nancy Brandow's Cedarwood's kennel under her show name "Narissa". After retirement from loving motherhood to many happy, healthy puppies, Rissa joined her new home with Pamela Bourque and used her gentle and patient nature to put a new focus on community service activities. Retiring just this year at age 15, Rissa has made over 1000 visits to schools, libraries, retirement homes, and hospitals. Her service work included being Reading Education Assistance Dog at local libraries and schools. She became a Dog Scout of America and joined the Downeast Dog Scouts (Troop #159) – participating in positive pet training promotions, dog bite prevention and multiple fundraising efforts for Alzheimer's and Juvenile Diabetes Walks, Pet Oxygen mask distribution to local fire stations and American Cancer Society events. Her favorite activity was always making pet therapy visits to folks at local hospitals, assisted living centers and memory units. She even served 5 years as Santa's Helper (Rissa the chocolate Rein-Dog) to relieve children's anxiety sometimes brought on by the Big Guy! One great honor awarded to Rissa (plus sister Timber) and her mom was the 2009 Mount Desert Island Hospital Volunteer of the Year. All this and she still found time and energy to retrieve and swim at every opportunity too! She has hiked many mountains and carriage roads in Acadia National Park with her mom and dog buddies. Adults and of course children, all loved to interact with this wonderful dog that embodies all the ideal solid characteristics of the Labrador breed and represents the best attributes of a canine companion and good citizen. She will be missed greatly by her mom and all those in the community that met this special dog.



From the Editor

Well, I did the best I could for you in this issue... I know things have been “wacked-out” lately with the website and all. I tried to create some meaningful content to send along, based on what I had received over the past months in email.

I truly hope you all will take it upon yourselves to submit your news and really make this newsletter your own! I enjoy doing this, but I need the items to put in it ~ my old imagination can only go just so far ☺

I look forward to seeing all the wonderful things happening out there... keep them coming!
~Kim

*** **ATTENTION** ***

I want to make sure everyone is aware of deadlines and tentative publishing dates. I hope to be able to stick to this fairly closely, but please be patient with me, as I am quite busy these days! ☺

The newsletter will be *published every 2 months* (bi-monthly). We may move to quarterly if member input is sparse, or if it gets (I hope!) too heavy for me to handle by myself.

[HINT... an Associate Editor volunteer would be wonderful! I will have to talk to Chris, but I think it would be a great idea! If anyone is interested, please let me know so I can share that with her!]

Here is the **tentative** schedule for all of 2014-2015 so you can plan ahead. I will post a reminder in the DSA Blog when the deadlines are getting close, and when the newsletter is about to be published.

ISSUE #	Submission Deadline	Publishing Date
14-06 Nov-Dec 2014	Oct 20, 2014	by Nov 8, 2014
15-01 Jan-Feb 2015	Dec 20, 2014	by Jan 8, 2015
15-02 Mar-Apr 2015	Feb 20, 2015	by Mar 8, 2015
15-03 May-Jun 2015	Apr 20, 2015	by May 8, 2015
15-04 Jul-Aug 2015	Jun 30, 2015 <i>*extension made to include DSA Camp session articles</i>	by Jul 15, 2015 <i>*extension made to include DSA Camp session articles</i>
15-05 Sep-Oct 2015	Aug 20, 2015	by Sep 8, 2015
15-06 Nov-Dec 2015	Oct 20, 2015	by Nov 8, 2015

(This table is also online here: <http://dogscouts.org/scoop-1/>).