

The Dog Scout Scoop

(little bits of news we've picked up)



PUBLISHED FOR DSA'S RESPONSIBLE, DOG-LOVING MEMBERS AND FOR THE FRIENDS OF DOGS EVERYWHERE
Dog Scouts of America PO Box 158, Harrison, OH 45030

March/April 2009

Volume 13, Issue 2

New DSA President Takes Office

After getting Dog Scouts off the ground and spending 10 years as acting President, the reins were turned over this month to our new President, Chris Puls, of Brookville, Indiana.

As you may know, Chris was an ordinary dog lover with 3 pooches of her own when she walked onto an elevator in Chicago and met Beth Duman and her dogs with their DSA capes on, back in 1999. The rest is history. Chris joined Dog Scouts, started a troop, and came to camp (in that order). At camp she ate up everything in large spoonfuls.



Chris has this gift for being able to assimilate information quickly, and soon, she was well versed on everything Dog Scout, and was giving us new ideas on how to do things in a more organized fashion. She has been helping organize every camp at the Michigan campus since then, and has helped developed departments and procedures to make DSA what it is today.

Chris is a former Cincinnati Police Officer, and as such, has pretty great human skills. I have never seen her lose her temper (but don't go near her chocolate...), and she gets along with everyone. There is just nothing not to love about this woman.

We've been kind of "transitioning" the job over from myself to Chris for the past year or so. So when it came right down to changing hats, there wasn't much of a visible change. She quickly got out on the web site and

changed all of the contact info to be her email, address and phone number. Her husband, Mike, took Chris out to dinner to celebrate her new position. He asked her, "What exactly is different, now?" She said, "Not much!"



I agree. It's been like an office of two for the past year, and I've always been able to count on her for her help or her wisdom. Now that the transition is complete, I hope that the organization will give her your support as she leads DSA into the future.

—Lonnie Olson departing President



Chris Puls with Coyote, DSA

Inside this issue:

New Board Member Needed	2
DSA's Audit; Annual Report	3
Martini Honored	4
Dues, News and Editor	6
From the Recognition Coord	6
Troop Scoop	7
DSA at DKC	8
NADOI Conference	8
Newsletter goes GREEN!	9
DSA gets an AED	10
Spring Outing (first ever!)	10
Camp Cleanup	10
Leader Retreat	10
Newsletter Editor Needed	10
Membership Form	11
Attitude of Gratitude	12
Rainbow Bridge	12

After you've read this issue,

why not pass it on to a potential new DSA member, your veterinarian, local pet store, politician, or area humane society?

What are you or your troop doing? Please tell us about it! Submit articles and photos of your projects, programs and adventures, for all to see!

Some words from our new Fearless Leader, Chris Puls:

Hello DSA members!

By the time you read this, I will be the new leader for the Dog Scouts of America organization. I am very excited about this and look forward to moving DSA forward and helping it grow. But I can't do it alone! I need the help of every member. YOU are the ones out in public in your area, talking with other "dog people" and future dog parents. If each of you can commit to telling as many people as possible about

DSA the organization is SURE to grow. You can talk to people face to face, share information and links through the internet using your websites and/or blogs, put a link to the DSA website or your local troop website in your signature on emails, post flyers, make business cards to hand out. Encourage and promote donations to DSA too! We're a 501c3 organization, so all donations are tax-deductible.

Think back to the first time you

heard about Dog Scouts and how excited you were about it. I would LOVE to have you help me spread that excitement to as many other people as possible!

DSA is only in existence because of the wonderful and dedicated volunteers. This includes the "staff" as well as troop leaders, Scoutmasters, Evaluators and every member willing to help DSA in some way. I want to thank each and every one of you from the start and hope that I

can continue to see that support and even see it grow.

I am looking forward to helping DSA be the best it can be and sharing the message of building relationships between people and their dogs that last a lifetime. I look forward to serving as the next President of DSA.

Chris Puls - President

The DSA membership will choose the next member for the DSA Board of Directors!

That's right! You will have a say in who gets elected to represent you on the Board of Directors. We need YOUR input on who YOU think will be a great person for the job! You can volunteer for the position yourself or nominate someone you know is willing to take the job. Only those people willing to accept the responsibilities will be considered. So, if you have someone in your troop or that you know is a member of DSA (or even yourself) that fits the qualifications, please speak-up!

As the new President of DSA, I really want to see the organization grow and for that, we need fresh perspectives and new ideas-- peo-

ple that LOVE Dog Scouts of America and want to see it succeed and flourish. You can contact me with your nominations: DogScouts@hotmail.com or (513) 505-5071 and I will share them with the Board.

All candidates must sign an agreement that if elected they will uphold all the duties outlined in the job description. Each needs to submit a Bio, a list of qualifications, and why he or she wants to be a board member.

Once these are all received (by

June 15th please) the current board will select the top 3 candidates based on their qualifications and how those may better DSA. Every qualified candidate will receive a fair review based on the information they submit. The bio and qualifications of those top 3 candidates will be posted to the DSA website for all members to review. Ballots will be snail mailed to each DSA member along with voting instructions. We will ask that you provide an envelope and return postage to help DSA keep costs to a minimum.

We strongly urge EVERY DSA MEMBER to take part in this

first election! Get to know each candidate through the information posted on-line and submit your selection. The candidate with the most votes will be elected to the position of DSA Board Member.

So please take a look at the job description and then look at the people you know within DSA. Nominate or urge those whom you feel are qualified to volunteer for the position!

Chris Puls
DSA President

Volunteer Job description for DSA board member

All applicants should:

Be willing to serve for a 3 year term

Have dedication to DSA (shown by volunteer work already done for the organization, and/or membership for a number of years)

Exemplify of the Dog Scout Way (ex.: positive trainer, responsible dog parent and willing to share their knowledge with others)

Be able to work well with others (and others who are on the Board)

Be known for great ideas and solid input on projects (can provide references)

Not be related to another board member

Not working for a competing organization, or one that engages in activities detrimental to the human/canine bond and responsible pet parenting

Be physically and financially able to serve as a Board Member (able to travel if needed)

Willing to attend all board meetings (either in person, by phone or by proxy)

Have a computer, telephone, email account, and is able to communicate via email

Be a person who will promptly respond to emails, phone calls, board memos, and give all issues before the board and concerning DSA thought and express their honest opinion or cast their vote.

Will put the best interests of the organization first when considering items before the board

Be of sound mind and body (sane and healthy)

Have a strong work ethic they can apply to the position. Responses and delegated tasks will be addressed in a timely manner.

Agrees to step down if no longer able to perform the duties required

Have experience in one or more of the following fields:

- **running a successful business**
- **fundraising**
- **planning**
- **human resources**
- **accounting**
- **marketing**
- **research**
- **has served on a Board of Directors**

Dog Scouts of America has just had our first Audit!



In an effort to get DSA in a better position to receive grant monies, we had an audit of our books. This is not necessarily a time when we could AFFORD this audit, but it is a time of transition, when we could not exactly afford NOT to! Our organization is entering into a time of hope for growth, both physically and financially, and we felt

the audit will help us get the much needed donations and grant monies that are available.

During this time, we especially appreciate all members donations of funds, time, and materials. Your donations are tax deductible. Please think of DSA and include us in your giving plans.

There are many ways of contributing to our organization. You could serve on a committee, run for a board position, contribute your ideas, time and effort, but we especially need your financial contribution! There are also many ways to contribute financially to our organization.



Of course, you can always send us a check or go online to offer a donation through Pay Pal at our web site. I was very impressed by a donation I received for two dollars the other day. I'm guessing that if the donor could have afforded more, he would have, but I was impressed by the fact that he took the time to go through the donation process online to give us a few dollars that he COULD spare. We must have done something meaningful for him that changed his life forever for him and his dog. I'm sure we do this for a lot of people, and if you try to put a price tag on this, it's hard to do. I would hope that more people who find that we've helped them in some way to form a better relationship with their dog would opt to send a donation.



Another way to do this is to opt for the Contributing or Sustaining membership option when you renew your dues. By doing this, you get the same membership services you have always enjoyed, but everything over and above the regular membership amount goes as a donation to DSA. You also get a new membership number, reflecting the fact that you chose to support DSA with a Contributing or Sustaining membership. This is designated by a C or an S with your current number. You will also receive a nice gift of a gold tone ornament featuring our founder (Border Collie, Karli, the first Dog Scout) to thank you for your contribution.



Don't forget that you can also help DSA with "Planned Giving," which is to leave money set aside for DSA in a will or a living trust.

This way, you can leave a legacy of helping promote responsible pet parenting, even after you have left the earthly plane. It can be done through a charitable remainder trust, or an endowment fund, or even as simply as having your bank account designated as POD (payable on your death) to DSA. I have this on my own bank account, instead of naming a family member as a joint member on the account, I have named DSA as the benefactor, so the money goes directly to them in the event of my death, in addition to everything that I have left to DSA in my will.

I am hoping that DSA will be around for a very long time, but we are a publicly supported nonprofit organization, and we count on your donations for our continued success.

Thank you for your continuing support,
Lonnie Olson, Outgoing President

2008 Annual Report

DSA had a busy 2008. We have decided that we need to start delegating work to more committees, encourage more people to run for board positions, try to get more people to volunteer for stuff, and seek the services of a Resource Developmental Director and Fundraising Manager. We want to really get Dog Scouts on the "map" (or at least on everyone's lips) around the world, and to do so, we need funds.

The organization depends on camp enrollments for much of its day-to-day operational

funds, but the economy is not cooperating. Enrollments are down, and the year-end report does not show a good bottom line. Next year's projections don't look much better, if we don't identify a source of funds, soon. I'd like to ask everyone out there to put on your thinking caps, volunteer to work on committees, grant-write, or give us your ideas for fundraisers. If you have experience in any of these areas, please let our Board of Directors know.

I know that when times are hard is not the



best time for us to come asking for donations, but if you can find a few spare dollars to send to DSA, it will help our outlook for 2009. Remember, that giving can take many forms. It warmed the cockles of my heart the other day, when we received a \$2.00 donation from a stranger (via Pay Pal).

This individual probably read our web site, and found something profound that helped enrich his life with his dog, and was moved to send us a donation. It doesn't matter the size... I was so

Annual Report Continued

tickled to think that someone would go to the trouble to initiate a Pay Pal transaction for two dollars. If all of our members donated two dollars today, we'd have an extra thousand dollars to get us through the lean times. Remember that many companies (maybe the one you work for) have matching donation policies. This would double any donation that you would send our way.

There is also the donation of goods and equipment, which helps out a lot. You can help by registering with escrip, and having a portion of your charge card expenditures go to DSA. You can also create a trust, or put Dog Scouts of America in your will. Troops can also hold fundraisers to help support the national organization. There are many ways to help, and we appreciate you thinking of DSA with your donations.

The home office is undergoing an audit, so that we will look better to potential grant funders. This audit will cost us close to \$6,000.00, but hopefully, it will help us get more funding. I am awaiting the final packet right now, and when I get the financial part of the annual report, I'll put the information in the newsletter.

Well enough of the appeals for funds...

I am so pleased with the accomplishments of the troops this year. All you have to do is read the Scoop to see what marvelously tal-

ented people are doing out there. It warms my heart. Chris Puls has been very busy helping many new troops get started. We have really grown in 2008! She has also been busy viewing tapes from our new Worldwide Scout Certification Program. Lots of people have been able to take advantage of the option to become certified with their dogs as Dog Scouts via You Tube or sending in a video.

Chris has also developed the "Dog Scouts Welcome" program, offering businesses the opportunity to allow dogs who are scouts and have responsible owners at the other end of the leash, to enter their establishments.

Judy Harris hosted the first Missouri Mini Camp last May, which was a great success.

We are developing several new badges, which will be available this coming year. Kayaking, Canoeing, Canine CPR, Puissance Jumping, and Trail Companion are all in the works. Trail companion involves horses and dogs, and because of the adoption of several horse rescues this past year by Lonnie and Ed, we will be able to offer this badge at camp in the future.

Several troops submitted the paperwork to become official nonprofit 501 (c) (3) sub-groups. This new status will allow them to raise funds and apply for grants just like the

Central Organization. We just got the determination letter from the IRS stating that they have been accepted. Any troops who would like to pursue this course, please contact President, Lonnie Olson.

After several appeals to the board from our wonderful newsletter editor, Grace Stevens, to go to a digital format for the newsletter, we are going to "go green," and step into the 21st century, and do just that. This will make it easier on our newsletter editor, and it will kill fewer trees than the old-fashioned way. Anyone who does not have an email account can get a free one through yahoo, and can get their copy of the news online by visiting the local library, but if you live 50 miles away from the nearest library, and can not do this, we're looking for an alternative that will not be inconvenient for our members or our membership and newsletter departments. Thanks for your cooperation and your patience.

I am very excited for the future of DSA, and I hope you are, too. Chris Puls has officially taken over the reins as President. Please show her the same great support and friendship that you have shown me over the last 14 years.

Here's to a productive and prosperous 2009!

Respectfully Submitted,
Lonnie Olson
DSA Outgoing President

Dog Scout "Martini" is Honored as a Therapy Dog

My therapy dog and Dog Scout Troop Member of Troop #119, Martini (I Ma Winter's Tale, CGC, TDI AOV, DSA) was honored by the American Whippet Club at its National Specialty in Atlanta, GA on Saturday night, April 11, receiving this year's esteemed Willow Award for excellence in the field of therapy work. Willow was a Whippet, officially named FC Warburton Song Sung Blue, CD, FCh, TRP, AV, TT, CGC, Delta Therapy Dog. She is the only Whippet in history to be the recipient of an American Kennel Club Award for Canine Excellence (ACE), and by bestowing an award in her name to other Whippets performing outstanding therapy service, the American Whippet club honors, in addition to the recipient, her life and her labors in loving memory and perpetuation. Willow was such a special dog - we are very humbled and honored. This is Martini's second therapy award in just a few months. In December 2008, Martini was inducted into the Tarrant County Veterinary Medical Association's Animal Hall of Fame. Tonight we are scheduled to visit the facility where we made our very first visit. The timing is perfect. We are so proud to be associated with Dog Scouts of America. I have attached a photo of Martini as well as one of the Willow Award table that was set up all last week at the Nationals.

Thank you!

Vicki Carter



Martini Carter

DOG SCOUTS OF AMERICA
Roscommon County, Michigan

STATEMENT OF SUPPORT, REVENUE, AND
EXPENSES - MODIFIED CASH BASIS
For the Year Ended December 31, 2008

<u>Revenue</u>	
Camp	\$ 38,778
Donations	3,615
Fundraising	6,157
Membership dues	9,277
Recognition program	15,636
Satellite troop revenue	21,604
Store revenue	16,772
Miscellaneous revenue	1,979
Total unrestricted revenue	<u>113,818</u>
<u>Expenses</u>	
Accounting fees	350
Administrative and office	2,294
Business travel	516
Calendar	1,250
Camp supplies	7,790
Contracted services	11,200
Caretaker	9,900
Depreciation	9,832
Fundraising	291
Insurance	5,780
Interest	24,724
Legal fees	1,528
Membership	6,041
Miscellaneous	200
Recognition program	6,298
Rental fees	520
Repair and maintenance	880
Retreat expenses	247
Satellite troop expenses	19,902
Store merchandise	8,804
Utilities	8,500
Total expenses	<u>126,847</u>
Change in net assets	(13,029)
Net assets - beginning of year	<u>82,224</u>
Net assets - end of year	<u>\$ 69,195</u>

Dues, News, Editor

After not having an increase in dues for more years than I can remember, the Board finally voted to increase them slightly this year to meet expenses. Grace Stevens, our great newsletter editor often donates her services and does not take reimbursement for her expenses, which makes the membership and newsletter expense seem less than it really is. After voting to increase \$5.00 for any type of membership, the Board also voted to go digital with the news, and decided that for those who opt to get your news electronically, your dues will NOT increase. Then, we just decided to allow everyone until this time next year to switch over to digital. At that time there will be no more paper copies mailed out, and you will have the option of digital only. That means that from this time forward, all new memberships and renewals will be receiving their news electronically.

Remember to send dues, address changes, additional funds, and a viable email address to our membership secretary, Judy Harris, 116 Chevy Chase Lane, New Bloomfield, MO 65063.

Due to Grace's battle with cancer, she will be stepping down as newsletter editor, and we will be looking for someone who can handle the production of both the electronic version and the mailing of the remainder of the bulk mail newsletters. I'd like to thank Grace for the wonderful job she's been doing at editing the news over the past several years. Well done, kiddo!

If you have what it takes to be our newsletter editor, please let us know. Contact President, Chris Puls at dogscouts@hotmail.com.

A Letter from the Editor

I have so enjoyed doing "The Scoop" for Dog Scouts of America during the past few years. Because it has been such a rewarding pleasure for me, I've been very reluctant to relinquish my role as Editor – but I must in fairness to our wonderful organization.

As many of you may realize, I've been fighting a battle with small cell carcinoma of the lung, an especially aggressive cancer. Although I went into remission for over a year, the cancer recently returned. Next I developed fluid around my upper right lung, which has been diagnosed as malignant pleural effusion, causing me to have great difficulty in breathing, particularly when I do even the least amount of physical activity.

I'm so sorry that this nasty disease, has resulted in my inability to get out recent newsletters in a timely fashion. My selfishness in trying to continue a job that has been so rewarding was at the root of my trying to keep going, even when I knew I couldn't.

I know that someone else will take this job and do a very good as editor. I wish you well in your efforts – and I thank DSA for your kindness and helpfulness during my tenure as editor.

Sincerely,
Grace Stevens

From your friendly neighborhood Recognition Program Coordinator:

There has been a large increase in the number of merit badge submissions I am receiving on a monthly basis. This is, I'm sure, due to the increased number of Scoutmasters & Evaluators being approved across the country, as well as more people submitting badges via video. Unfortunately, with the increase of badge form submissions has come an increase in errors with the submissions. Due to the volume of submissions I am receiving each month, I am only able to dedicate one week-end per month to work on the submissions. When something is sent with errors, it delays processing by at least a month, or until I am able to obtain the correct information. Therefore, I am posting this notice as a reminder of things to check your submissions for before putting them in the mail to me for processing.

1. Please make sure all documentation is attached to your badge form, including photos and log sheets as needed
2. Please be sure you are including the proper portion of the badge form (bottom half signed by an Evaluator).
3. Please be sure you are paying the correct amount for the badge(s) requested and that your checks are made payable to DSA, not to me.
4. For DSA badges, please submit a digital photo for the photo i.d. badge whenever possible rather than a printed photo. For multiple photos submitted, please be sure to label each photo properly with the dog's name as I don't always guess correctly! Also, realize that I do not have Photo Shoppe so the photo on your dog's i.d. badge is only going to be as good as the photo you submit.
5. Please do not submit badge forms for specialty badges before you have submitted the Dog Scout badge form.
6. Please be sure badge forms are completed before submitting. A badge form should never be submitted (or signed by an Evaluator, for that matter) that does not have a handler's signature.
7. Please print or write legibly!! (I know - it's a no-brainer, but you'd be surprised. ! :-)

Cindy Ratliff



Troop Scoop

Welcome to these new troops:

Troop 189

"Steel City" troop
Pittsburg PA
Troop Leader: Ed Hanke
Hanke42@hotmail.com

Troop 190

Edwardsville/ Granite City IL
Troop Leader: Maureen Keller
Maureen.mkeller@yahoo.com

Interested in forming a troop:
Kim Burnside bside003@aol.com
Waterford MI 48328

DFW, TX area Troop 119

This year we have gotten off to a great start with new members, new Scouts and lots of fun activities!

In January, the newbies had the Dog Scout class and worked on their Dog Scout certifications with our newest Scoutmaster, Nancy Strack. The existing Scouts of the group worked on their PhoDOGraphy or Manners badges. In February, we were able to be back in a local park and enjoy a beautiful day and a great hike in the park. We then presented the Travel Safety information. A couple of dogs were able to work on their Travel Safety merit badge, but for most it was just good information to discuss and to be aware of! In March, we introduced Rally Obedience. The troop dogs and humans enjoyed getting a taste of a something most had never participated in with their dogs and the humans were surprised at how well the dogs did on their first rally course.

Mart & Cindy Ratliff



Troop 161 – Carlisle/Central PA

On March 14&15, had a booth at PawsAbilities, a great dog event benefitting our local service dog organization that draws thousands of people to the state capitol's farm show complex each year. We had a booth with educational info and gave a presentation on Dog Backpacking and DSA. Troop members spoke to hundreds and hundreds of people about DSA, training, canine nutrition, and kid/dog safety. We displayed and sold works of art created by our **troop's dogs using the Art of Shaping**. Troop Fundraising Coordinator Lisa Basial organized a fantastic raffle that generated over \$2,300 in donations toward the purchase of pet oxygen masks for local fire departments! Our 16 great volunteers made ours one of the most popular booths at the show, with help from Troop 181



(Pittsburgh) and Troop 171 (Harrisburg).

Onstage for our presentation about backpacking with your dog. Pictured are Paul and Ann Withun with Rowdy and Brutus, Casey Bretz with Gabe, Linkey and David Green with Maggie and Molly, Johanna Lonski with Toby, Kris Thomas with Kevin, Rosa Marinak with Maida, and Lori Miller in our Dog Scout mascot suit complete with person-sized Dog Scout bandanna embroidered by Carrie Roush!

[Photo by Tammy Bretz]

Troop 107 Cincinnati Ohio

January 11th was a big day for the troop, with a troop party in the afternoon and a troop planning meeting in the evening, where a full slate of activities for the year were planned. The troop has a new, more centrally located meeting site at Kuliga Dog Training Club (St. Bernard). Chris Puls held a badge day at her home on January 17th, and three dogs earned their DSA titles: Mo and Draiko Kimball, and Tanner Auvil. Attendees also worked on the Manners badge, and were able to get some behaviors checked off. On February 2nd, Ann Baumbach was invited to the troop meeting, and discussed animal communication. Troop members learned how to better understand what their pets were trying to communicate through non-physical means

and about natural remedies that can help pets. Finally, a number of troop members celebrated Valentine's Day by taking an 8-mile walk with their dogs along a beautiful trail in the Miami-Whitewater Forest Park

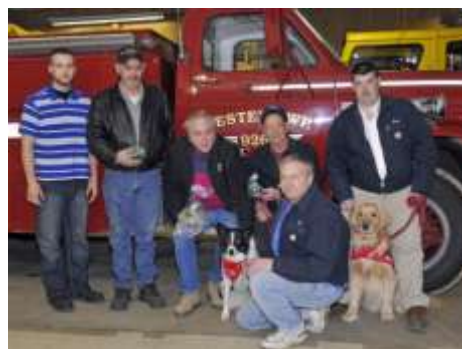


near the Ohio/Indiana border (described as a valentine for our dogs). Other activities of note include: Greg Matulionis shared a video with troop members that he took of he and his dog (DSA Coda) enjoying their hobby of rock climbing (the video showed Greg and Coda rappelling)

Troop 101 Northern Michigan

Troop member, Vicky Diehl, who is certified with the Red Cross presented training for our Canine First Aid and CPR certification for our troop, at the local hospital. Our next meeting will have the dogs checking out for the First Aid and CPR badges, as well as getting our certification from Red Cross.

Two dogs from our troop presented the local fire department with the oxygen masks that were purchased by the Leaders from the 2008 Leader Retreat.



Our troop President, Vickie Thompson, participated in an area "Safety Day" where she talked to people about responsible pet parenting with Jesse, her Standard Poodle.

Send your troop scoop, brags, stories, photos or other news items to: dogscouts@dishmail.net. Starting next issue, you'll be able to see these online before the newsletter goes to print!

Troop Scoop continued

Troop # 159, Bar Harbor Maine
January Planning Meeting - 10 members, 14 member dogs, 2 guests and 1 guest dog. During the January meeting troop members planned activities for 2009. Some of the planned activities include: clean up days, parades, information booths, children reading to dogs, therapy visits, walkathons, community service, fundraising, monthly meeting/activity days and the Canine Carnival. On monthly meeting/activity days a troop member will offer a program of interest for our members. Planned program activities include: letterboxing, rally and hiking.
February Meeting - 8 members, 9 member



dogs, 3 guests and 3 guest dogs. Troop member Rebecca Henderson presented an excellent program on emergency preparedness for people and their pets. Rebecca has received specialized training in emergency preparedness and is a member of the local County Response Rescue Team. I have included a picture of new member Sherry and her rescued Chihuahua Molly enjoying the Disaster Preparedness program during our February meeting.

I passed the Scoutmaster Test in January.

A news release "Downeast Dog Scouts Troop #159 Recognized as a "Top Dog Troop" for 2008 was printed in three local newspapers.

The Downeast Dog Scouts Troop #159 is

now an official sub group of DSA.

That's all for now - Robyn Douglas

DSA at DKC

By Lonnie Olson

The Detroit Kennel Club Dog Show at Cobo Hall was spectacular. Of course, we had our usual issues of getting into the building, but after shuffling the gear, dogs, and cars around, we managed to get in and get ready for the arriving hoards.

We spoke to SO many people over the weekend. Many were interested in a troop in the Detroit (or nearby) area. A few even wanted to become leaders and form their own troop. Everyone seemed so excited to meet the Dog Scouts, and most said that they had looked us up online and read all about us, and specifically sought out our booth to visit us during the show! The reason for this is the fantastic press coverage that was provided by Jenny Schlip (a friend of Martha's), who made sure that we were well-taken-care-of.

We had another spacious ring set-up this year, and Martha and Jill set it all up on Friday night and decorated it with the theme of going to camp. A few of us brought the little "pup tent" pop-up tents to make it look like a camp site, and Martha brought in a pine tree and some pine boughs with pinecones and lights and a sign that said "Welcome Campers." She had printed off the large color photos of all of the dogs who were at the booth, along with the dogs' bios, and she put them up on the pillar, and around on the tables. The people were really enthralled, reading all of the stories of the



dog scouts. I could not believe that people would take the time to read the individual bios, but they DID-- they ate them up! They would

see the dog's picture, and come meet the dog, or they'd meet the dog and go read about him in his bio, and then come back and ask more questions. It was Great!



We had great turnout of Dog Scouts for the booth, and I want to thank each of them from the bottom of my heart. Everyone took their turn collecting dollars, answering questions, passing out information, or giving "fur-fixes" to people visiting our booth. We worked hard, but we sure had fun, too. Thanks to all who helped out over the weekend!

NADOI Annual Conference features Dog Scouts

On May 28-31, the National Association of Dog Obedience Instructors is having their annual conference in Lexington, Kentucky this year, and speakers include former DSA Board Member, Brenda Aloff, and DSA President, Chris Puls. Brenda will speak on getting a connection with your dog, and Chris will speak on conducting safe home visits. Chris will also be having a seminar on how to become a Scout Evaluator. For more information on the conference, go to www.NADOI.org.

Seminars at Michigan Camp

In an effort to utilize our camp more, we will be having more outings and seminars here. One of the first will be a scent work weekend, covering tracking, area search and scent discrimination and detection. This will take place in the fall. **If you've been wanting to teach your dog these skills, keep an eye out for more information in the online newsletter. You will have an opportunity to earn 1 or more of the 3 scentwork badges mentioned above over the weekend.**

SAVE A TREE! The Newsletter is going GREEN!

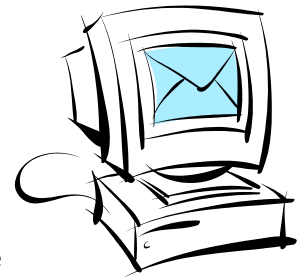


DSA is finally joining the technology of the 21st century. It has been difficult, because some of us old-timers still like to rely on our old ways. But, the time has come for DSA to go digital with the DSA newsletter.



The good news is that it will be easier to produce the newsletter, we will be able to include a lot more color graphics, live links, and more pages of great stuff than we could when we were limited by the weight of a bulk mail piece. Also, receiving the newsletter in digital format will be a lot faster than by the snail mail. You'll also be able to renew your membership with just a click of the button, instead of clipping out the page with scissors and mailing it in (but you can still print and mail it if you want to.) It will allow DSA to save a large amount of money that is paid on the printing supplies and postage of the paper newsletter and now we won't need to raise dues to cover those and the savings can be better spent on educational programs.

We are giving you some advance notice to get situated. **Please don't put this off, take a moment NOW to notify us that you want to "go green" right away.** We realize that some people may not even have an email account at this time. If you need a free email account, you can get one through yahoo at: <http://overview.mail.yahoo.com/products/new>. Using Yahoo will make it easy to join the required notification group too! If you don't have an internet service provider, there are several free or low cost options, such as www.netzero.com and you can get free access to the internet through a dial-up connection. If you don't have a computer, or a phone line, then I suggest you go to your local internet café or library to access the yahoo site above. You don't need your own computer to set-up a Yahoo email account. If you absolutely do not have a friend or relative with a computer that you can use, or there is no library near your home, then you aren't going to lose the newsletter benefit from the dues you have paid, but you will need to find a way to get email before you renew your dues. We will continue to send out a paper copy till the end of the year to those few people who don't send us an email and join the new program. However, if all you want is the paper copy to file or read while you are away from your computer, then please just print off the copy that will be available for you on the password protected page of the DSA website (along with links to all future issues.)



Going Green is EASY!! If you want to get all your newsletters electronically starting right away (recommended) and help save DSA money on printing and postage as well as getting an expanded version of the newsletter faster, just send an email to:

DSA.newsletter@yahoo.com **Please include your name (for verification of your DSA membership)**

Jodi Pyatt, our list administrator, will reply to you with directions on how to join the brand new Yahoo Group we have set-up that will email you a password each time a new newsletter issue is ready to be read. This particular Yahoo Group is for the newsletter notices only. Everyone who joins the talk list will get the password email when it is sent, but no one can reply to the list or post their own messages. So you can be assured YOU WILL ONLY GET ONE EMAIL every other month from the Yahoo Group giving you your password and a link to the newsletter page of the DSA website. This is why you have to be able to get email for this new delivery option.

Once you are a member of the brand new Yahoo group, you will be all set to receive the password for the next newsletter. To see how the DSA newsletter will look, please visit this page of the DSA website for an example (no password needed.)

http://www.dogscouts1.com/Newsletter_Sample.html

Help DSA Get an AED!

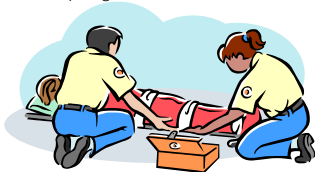
An AED (defibrillator) can save lives. Your chance of surviving a heart attack diminishes by another 10% for each additional minute it takes



the ambulance to arrive and begin life-saving measures. Many businesses are now getting defibrillators that can be operated by a trained

person who is not necessarily an EMT or a Doctor. I would say that over half of our campers are over 50 years of age. While we have never had a close call at camp, I would certainly hate to have something happen when we could have prevented it with the purchase of one of these life-saving devices. We discussed this purchase last year, but were unsure of the legal ramifications if the device was used to TRY to resuscitate someone, but they couldn't be revived. Here is what Wikipedia says about that concern: Most health professionals agree that automated external defibrillators are so easy to use that most states in the US now include the "good faith" use of an AED by any person under the Good Samaritan Law, "Good faith" protection under a Good Samaritan law means that a volunteer responder (not acting as a part of one's occupation) cannot be held civilly liable for the harm or death of a victim by providing improper or inadequate care, given that the harm or death was not intentional and the responder was acting within the limits of their training and in good faith. In the United States, Good Samaritan laws provide some protection for the use of AEDs by trained and untrained responders. AEDs create little liability if used correctly; NREMT-B and many state EMT training and many CPR classes incorporate or offer AED education as a part of their program. In addition to Good Sa-

maritan laws, Ontario, Canada also has the "Chase McEachern



Act (Heart Defibrillator Civil Liability), 2007 (Bill 171 – Subsection N)", passed in June, 2007, which protects individuals from liability for damages that may occur from their use of an AED to save someone's life at the immediate scene of an emergency unless damages are caused by gross negligence.

Some of our staff has already had training for the use of a defibrillator. The Board of Directors has voted to have DSA purchase one of these

devices. However, they are very expensive, and Dog Scouts does not have it in the budget to purchase a machine that will cost up to \$2,000.00.

We need to have a fund raiser to pay for the purchase of our AED. Please donate, if you support our decision to be prepared in the event of an emergency. The life you save could be **your own!** We'd like to purchase this before the coming summer's camps, so please make any donation that you can afford. You could become someone's hero!

Thanks,
Lonnie

NEWS FLASH: Grace Stevens was the first to answer the call for donations to purchase the AED defibrillator. She donated the amount that she would have been reimbursed for expenses related to publishing the newsletter, which amounted to \$322.47! Thanks, Grace for the nice donation to our AED fund!

First Ever Spring Outing

Where: DSA main campus

When: May 15-16-17

What: A weekend to celebrate spring with our dogs. There will be a spring egg hunt, hiking, eating, crafts, auction, campfires and just plain fun with your dog.

Why: Do you really need a reason to have fun with your dog?

This outing will be like the other outings, except instead of celebrating fall or winter, we will be welcoming the advent of spring! And **after this long winter we've been having, I can hardly wait!** Please see the info online for attending outings, and RSVP to Lonnie at the main camp as soon as possible. There is no charge for members to attend the outings, but lodging and food are your responsibility.



Camp Clean-up

Following the spring outing, there will be a "mid-week" cleanup "weekend" on the 18th, 19th and 20th. This is the time of year that we need to remove fallen branches,



repair broken stuff, put out solar lights, fencing, do some raking, seeding, etc. to get the camp ready for the summer camping season. Bring your boots and gloves, and prepare to dig in to help spiff up camp! And of course, the Leader Retreat is the following weekend.

Leader Retreat

The Leader Retreat is the usual Memorial Day Weekend (May 22-25) at the main campus. If you have been thinking of starting a troop and need some guidance, or if you are a leader and want to get together with other leaders to exchange ideas and hone your skills, this is the place for you! Contact Chris Puls (Dogscouts@hotmail.com) if you plan on attending.



Newsletter Editor Needed

Our dear newsletter editor, Grace Stevens will be stepping down as editor of the news, after many years of excellent service to DSA. **Grace's diagnosis with cancer in 2007 has given her a rough ride.** In spite of it all, she has kept up as our newsletter editor--a job she was reluctant to part with, as she really has enjoyed it and added a lot to our publication each issue. **If you ask Grace how she's feeling, she'll say, "I'm in Great health... Except for the cancer!"** She really has kept a good attitude through her ordeal. We are looking for someone who can take over the newsletter, beginning with the next issue. The job involves getting the mailing list from our membership secretary, and soliciting, receiving, editing and publishing news from the membership in the form of articles, troop scoop, photos, announcements, etc. It also involves printing, collating, folding and securing the pieces for bulk mailing, and putting the address labels on, sorted in zip code order for the mailing. Each month, as we get closer to the entire membership taking the news digitally, there should be fewer and fewer people still getting a paper copy of the news. The news will need to be prepared and converted to pdf format and sent to the administer of the Yahoo digital newsletter list administrator (Jodi Pyatt), who will make sure the digital receivers get the newsletter.

If you think you have the skills necessary for this job, please make it known to Lonnie Olson (dogscouts@dishmail.net) 989 389-2000 as soon as possible. Thanks.

Dog Scouts of America Membership

Dog Scouts of America is a non-profit, 501 (c) (3) charity. We promote responsible pet ownership and the importance of the human/companion animal bond. Our mission is to make the world a better place to live, by teaching humane education, and having society as a whole respect ALL life more, and place more value on the dog as a member of the family.

When you renew your membership, you can be part of the team by checking the box for contributing member or sustaining member. In doing so, you will help us in our mission, and your contribution is tax deductible.

All new or renewal memberships include electronic receipt of newsletter.

Active Member - \$25.00 Please give us your Yahoo email address or Yahoo user ID below. Directions for how to sign-up for a free Yahoo ID are on the membership page of the DSA website.

****Each additional participating human family member in the same household is \$5.00 extra**

Contributing Member(\$50.00)– This membership includes a \$25.00 donation, which is **tax deductible**, to help Dog Scouts of America continue to provide information via the web site, newsletter and discussion list.

Sustaining Member (\$100.00)- This membership includes an extra \$75.00 donation, which is **tax deductible**, to enable Dog Scouts of America to maintain its annual scholarships, “Good Scout” awards, and other forms of ongoing community education.

Cadet Scout- \$5 per dog – If you agree to strive to uphold the Dog Scout laws, you can register dog(s) as a Cadet Scout and get a nice collar tag with “Cadet Scout” and the DSA logo on it. Please note below which of your dogs will be Cadet Scouts.



your

Thank-you for your support!

PRINT NEATLY

Name(s) _____

I added \$5 for each additional participating human family member listed above

Address _____

City State Zip _____

Phone _____ E-mail _____

You must have an email to receive the newsletter after 4-1-10

Yahoo email address or Yahoo Group User name: _____

(By becoming a member of DSA, you permit us to add you to the Yahoo Notification Group for the newsletter)

Dog's Name _____ Dog's breed _____ I added \$5 for Cadet Scout

Dog's Name _____ Dog's breed _____ I added \$5 for Cadet Scout

Dog's Name _____ Dog's breed _____ I added \$5 for Cadet Scout

Additional Dogs? Please include the info above on the back of this form for each additional dog

Troop Member? _____ If yes, your troop number: _____ or I'm joining a “future troop” -no troop number yet.

I have enclosed a check or Money Order for \$ _____ Date Submitted: _____

Send a check or money order. Payable to Dog Scouts of America , or DSA



Nonprofit Org
US Postage Paid
Permit #343
Kalamazoo, MI

Membership (dues renewal)
Judy Harris 116 Chevy Chase Lane
New Bloomfield, MO
Interim Newsletter Editor (paper)
Lonnie Olson 5068 Nestel Rd E
Saint Helen, MI 48656
dogscouts@dishmail.net

Digital Newsletter Administrator:
Jodi Pyatt
DSA.newsletter@yahoo.com

Check to see if your dues need to be renewed. This could be your last issue!



Attitude of Gratitude

Thanks to Anita Baker, who donated some sledding harnesses to the camp for the winter outings.

Thanks to Ellen Shuster, who donated two pairs of L.L. Bean snowshoes to the camp for the winter outings.

Thanks to Grace Stevens for donating letterboxing carving materials to the camp for the letterboxing class, and also for making a large donation to our AED defibulator fund.

Rainbow Bridge Troop

Sadly, we lost several Scouts in recent months:

Gromit Roehrs, companion of Mike and Joanne Roehrs, of Bowling Green, Ohio Mike and Joanne had this to say about Gromit: AM/CN CH Nor-Coast Bronze Gromit OA, OAJ CGC TDI DSA 1997-2009. Gromit was our first Field Spaniel and our first Dog Scout. Gromit was the first Field Spaniel in the breed to attain the Dog Scout title.

Bella Nodwell, companion of Joan Nodwell, from troop 109 in Howell, MI (but recently relocated to another part of the states)

Billie Baldes, companion of Jackie Baldes of Pekin, IL

Triscuit Stevens, companion of Grace Stevens, had to be helped to the Rainbow Bridge on April 17th. He was 14 1/2 years old, and will be remembered as being a sweet boy his whole life.



Grace Stevens and Triscuit

If you've shopped online at Sparky's Boutique lately, you will notice that it has a new look. Our camp store manager has set everything up with an "add to cart" button, so that we don't have to pay extra each month for the storefront on the web. We're going to save \$600. per year! Please shop at our web site often. We have some new items on there, like the tote bags: "The few, the proud, the responsible pet parents!"

Coming up in our NEXT Issue...

DSA has two Resource Development Consultants...

Report on Spring Outing and Leader Retreat...

Feedback from having News available online...

DEADLINE FOR MAY/JUNE ISSUE IS MAY 10