



The Dog Scout Scoop

(little bits of news we've picked up)

March/April 2010

Volume 14, Issue 2

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

TIME HAS RUN OUT!

If you have gotten a DSA newsletter mailed to you, you have not yet "gone green". Please take a moment right now to join the DSA newsletter Yahoo Group so you can view the newsletter on-line. This is the last newsletter that will be mailed. From the May/June issue and on, the only way to see the newsletter will be on-line. Mailed versions have been abbreviated and photos in black and white.

All the details you need to be able to get the password needed to view the on-line, full color, photo filled, newsletter can be found by clicking on "membership" at the top of any page of the DSA website. There is a step-by-step tutorial at the bottom of that page. **Don't wait! Do it right now!**

Please join the Newsletter Yahoo Group to get the password for the on-line newsletters. Also, please check your membership status/expiration date. Current membership list is number 5 on this page: <http://www.dogscouts.org/Membership.html>

Chris Puls, President DSA

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Deadlines, Deadlines, Deadlines!!!

Newsletter Submission - April 15th, 2010 for the May/June 2010 Issue
June 15th, 2010 for the July/August 2010 Issue,

Digital Newsletter Newsletter will only available on-line after April 1, 2010. **THIS IS THE LAST MAILED ISSUE!!**
To sign up for a digital newsletter, you'll need a free Yahoo account. To get one, click on "membership" at the top of any page of the DSA website. At the bottom of the membership page, you'll see a tutorial on how to get the Yahoo Account. This can be done from any computer, including a library computer.

Can YOU help DSA? The Board of Directors recently voted in term limits. This means each person on the board of directors will serve up to two 3 year terms before they need to step down. Since several of the board members have been serving since the beginning of DSA, they will be stepping down one or two at a time each year. This means there will be at least 1 vacancy (probably 2) per year that will need to get filled. This year, Joanne Weber will be stepping down. That's where you come in.

If you or someone you know has the skills and/or knowledge that we need, please let the board know! Our goal is to move the board toward a more corporate type of operation while keeping the growth and mission of DSA as our primary focus. We have recently revised the By-Laws and Code of Ethics and added a Statement of Corporate Responsibility. You can meet the current board members and see these documents on this page: http://www.dogscouts.org/Board_Members.html

If you would like to see what the volunteer position requires, you can see the general description of duties on the Board Members page (link above). Most of the board business is conducted by email through a private Yahoo Group on an on-going basis, so be sure you are able to check your email frequently. To submit a name for consideration **by March 22nd**, please email a page about the nominee and qualifications to Chris Puls: DogScouts@hotmail.com Nominations from the members are welcome and encouraged. Each nominee will need to agree to run for the board before they are considered. The confirmation will be done by the current Board of Directors at the end of March. **Chris Puls, President**

Troop Recognition Program

The Troop Recognition Program runs from Jan 1 through Dec 31 each year and started in 2008. This optional program consists of various activities for which the troop can accumulate points. Recognition would be given for reaching a certain level of points within the year. Most of the activities focus on troop member achievements and troop growth. The focus of this program is to reward troops for being active and helping in their communities, not for competition between troops!

The areas selected are important for several reasons. The new members tally is a reward for growth and the number of events with a booth/table shows that the troop is trying to reach more people. The badges earned are tangible measures of a troop's success in helping its members learn new skills. The numbers of community service hours the troop members contribute to their communities and the funds raised are a measure of the troop's community service attitude. The number of seminars attended, troop meetings, camp attendance and leadership retreat attendance helps measure the troop's commitment to education for it's members. To learn more about the program, visit the files at the bottom of the "start a troop" page of the DSA website.

Troop Recognition Program Results for 2009:

Troop #	State	# of members at year end	Points earned
101	MI	13	187 (Torch Troop)
107	OH/KY	35	305 (Top Dog Troop)
119	TX	105	483 (Top Dog Troop)
146	MI	8	78 (Honorable Mention)
149	MO	17	79 (Honorable Mention)
157	FL	51	255 (Treasure Troop)
159	ME	15	451 (Top Dog Troop)
161	PA	39	367 (Top Dog Troop)
166	OH	7	196 (Torch Troop)
171	PA	24	240 (Treasure Troop)
177	IN	13	310 (Top Dog Troop)
184	CO	12	310 (Top Dog Troop)
188	CT	8	212 (Treasure Troop)

Thank-you to all who participated this year! I love to see how active so many of the DSA troops are! There will be a few minor adjustments to the program for 2010, mostly changes that make the reporting form easier for me to process and clarifications of some of the info. New for 2010- get 5 points for each \$50 raised for DSA national!

Chris Puls, President

What activities should you report to your troop leader for the Troop Recognition Program?

(Your troop can earn points and recognition if these items are tracked and reported to DSA)

- If your dog gets a Dog Scout title or any badges during the year (or a pack dog title)
- If the troop has helped you make significant training progress with an issue your dog has/had
- Any troop activity in which troop members are helping to raise funds for a non-profit should have (at minimum): what the activity was/charity that benefits, the date it occurred, hours each person participated, and how much (total) was raised. Note also the amount that goes to DSA (if any).
- Booth Events: Need date, activity, and number of hours each troop member helped in the booth.
- If you offer free instruction at a training seminar (or class) that is dog related and uses positive training techniques, need: date, seminar title/subject, # of hours you instructed. Your session needs to be offered free of charge as a community service.



- If you share knowledge with your fellow troop members that you gained from a seminar, DVD, or other dog training source make sure it is noted on the record keeping form. You can share in person at a scheduled time, at a meeting or through a detailed email.

- If you attend a DSA camp or mini-camp or the Leadership retreat

- Community Service WITH your dog, need: Date, activity and the names of all DSA members that participated (& especially how many hours each worked.) To qualify, you need to be acting as a representative of DSA or the troop, or be wearing DSA logo shirt or hat and/or at some point talk to someone there about DSA or the troop.



- Community service without your dog, need: Date, activity and the names of all DSA members that participated (& especially how many hours each worked.) To qualify, you need to be acting as a representative of DSA or the troop, or be wearing DSA logo shirt or hat and/or at some point talk to someone there about DSA or the troop.

- Clean-up of dog waste that has been abandoned in public and would not otherwise be cleaned up: Need: # of piles you picked up and disposed of properly. If you are working on the Clean-up America badge, you'll need photo proof of the piles you clean up (photos of bags.)



Dear Members,

I just wanted to send a note to the newsletter to address the huge response I've gotten from my Christmas poem, "Two Weeks Before Christmas," that Peggy put in the last newsletter. I'm no poet, but all of the things I wrote about in the take-off from "The Night Before Christmas" were absolutely true. That's exactly how my holiday unfolded. It had to be my best Christmas ever.

I originally wrote this as almost an "apology," for not sending a "real" Christmas card. I figured I'd get a lot of flack from my friends for "copping out" with an email greeting. Well, I can't tell you how overwhelmed I am from the response from sending out that greeting. First of all, almost everyone who got it emailed to them responded back with a cheery note. They expressed that they had similar sentiments and they could identify with my feelings. I got several people who told me they liked it so much, they just kept reading it over and over. Most told me it was the best Christmas greeting they received all year, and some said it was the best one EVER, and a few even said it was the best "gift" they've received.

Reading everyone's comments, and the fact that I actually got responses at all (unlike any time I've ever just smacked my name on a store-bought greeting card and tossed it in the mail) was really wonderful. It led to several correspondences back and forth from people I haven't had the time to phone or write to in a while. It really warmed my heart to think that my Christmas greeting touched so many in a positive way. A few people even sent in nice donation checks to DSA, and mentioned that it was because of the Christmas greeting! I have to thank Peggy for putting it into the newsletter! I really wanted it to go out to everyone I knew, and what better way than to put it in the scoop?

Joanne (and others) asked for permission to cross post, or send it on to others, and I said sure. I'll probably have my own poem forwarded to me with a few of the words changed and the footnote, "Author Unknown" 20 years from now... Won't that be a hoot?

I guess it was because I was saying what everyone else was thinking, or that I was going through something they had experienced, too, but for whatever the reason, I want to thank everyone for their kind words of praise for a little poem I wrote describing my true experience at Christmastime.

Hugs,
Lonnie Olson

Leadership Retreat!

If you are (or are interested in becoming) a Troop Leader, Scoutmaster or DSA Evaluator, you may attend the Leadership Retreat! At the retreat, leaders work on their presentation skills (each attendee does a presentation) and (if interested) their badge evaluating skills. It is also a chance to help new leaders and for new leaders to get advice from others who have "been there, done that". For more info and to sign-up, visit this page:

http://www.dogscouts.org/Leadership_Retreat.html

Don't Forget Our On-Line Store – Go To Our Website and Just “Click” to Order!!!!

Tracking Seminar with Mike Roehrs

Mike has put many tracking titles on dogs and has been an instructor at the regular DSA summer camps. He is currently working on becoming an AKC tracking judge. He's also a great trainer and his dogs are dog scouts.

When: April 9-10

What: Tracking Seminar for beginners or started dogs

Cost? I think we were going to charge \$110.00 and include some meals, but I am not in front of my desk... Maybe just say contact DSA for prices?

Where: DSA camp in St. Helen, MI

Why: Great opportunity to work on tracking with your dog. You should be able to earn your DSA tracking merit badge after taking this training.

Lodging is available at camp at the usual prices.

Bring your dog, treats, long line, harness, treats, some personal items to use as articles (cloth, leather or other). We'll have most of the other stuff you'll need to get started. Please come! This is also a fundraiser for DSA! Come and spend a fun weekend with your dog, learning cool new skills!

Lonnie Olson

The life of a Dog Scout explained:

Here in this house.... I will never know the loneliness. I hear in the barks of the other dogs 'out there.' I can sleep soundly, assured that when I wake my world will not have changed. I will never know hunger, or the fear of not knowing if I'll eat. I will not shiver in the cold, or grow weary from the heat. I will feel the sun's heat, and the rain's coolness, and be allowed to smell all that can reach my nose. My fur will shine, and never be dirty or matted. Because I am a Dog Scout.



Here in this house... There will be an effort to communicate with me on my level. I will be talked to and even if I don't understand, I can enjoy the warmth of the words. I will be given a name so that I may know who I am among many. My name will be used in joy, and I will love the sound of it! Because I am a Dog Scout.

Here in this house... I will never be a substitute for anything I am not. I will never be used to improve people's image of themselves. I will be loved because I am who I am, not someone's idea of who I should be. I will never suffer for someone's anger, impatience, or stupidity. I will be taught all the things I need to know to be loved by all. If I do not learn my lessons well, they will look to my teacher for blame. Because I am a Dog Scout.

Here in this house... I can trust arms that hold, hands that touch... knowing that, no matter what they do, they do it for the good of me. If I am ill, I will be doctored. If scared, I will be calmed. If sad, I will be cheered. No matter what I look like, I will be considered beautiful and known to be of value. Because I am a Dog Scout.

I will get to experience many fun activities that keep my brain and body active so that I will not be bored. I will get to accompany my human on many trips and will get the daily exercise I need. Because I am a Dog Scout.



I will never be cast out because I am too old, too ill, too unruly, or not cute enough. My life is a responsibility, and not an afterthought. I will learn that humans can almost, sometimes, be as kind and as fair as dogs.

Here in this house... I will belong. I will be home. I am a Dog Scout.

Author unknown (Dog Scout references added)

Feedback on Goodsearch Program

Lonnie,

First of all, I have got to tell you, LOVE goodsearch.com. I signed up and added the tool bar to my web browser and even when I just pull up one of my favorite websites that I order stuff from that happens to participate in donations, it 'lites' up the little donation flag. Pretty cool. Sorry I didn't know about this sooner as there are quite a few that I shop regularly that are linked. Those couple bucks here and there will add up over the year.

Have you thought of adding all the stuff that is in the newsletter about fundraising (goodsearch.com, ink cartridges/cellphones, etc) to the website fundraising page? I know on the ink and cell phones I don't have them very often and so when I need the info I never know where to find it, it would be handy to have it readily available in the website.

Tammy Meek, Max's Mom
Austin, TX

Here again is goodsearch.com:



What if Dog Scouts of America earned a donation every time you searched the Internet? Or how about if a percentage of every purchase you made online went to support our cause? Well, now it can!

GoodSearch.com is a Yahoo-powered search engine that donates half its advertising revenue, about a penny per search, to the charities its users designate. Use it just as you would any search engine, get quality search results from Yahoo, and watch the donations add up!

GoodShop.com is a new online shopping mall which donates up to 37 percent of each purchase to your favorite cause! Hundreds of great stores including Amazon, Target, Gap, Best Buy, ebay, Macy's and Barnes & Noble have teamed up with GoodShop and every time you place an order, you'll be supporting your favorite cause. There is a whole section for Pets that includes cool stores with unique gifts!

Why not give a present to DSA by using GoodShop for all of your gift and decorating purchases? Make it easy by adding the GoodShop toolbar so it's always handy, or by making GoodSearch your home page.

You can see the impact you're making by clicking the yellow "amount raised" button on the GoodSearch page below where you've selected Dog Scouts. You'll be amazed at how large the donations can be from your holiday shopping purchases! Just go to www.goodsearch.com and be sure to enter Dog Scouts of America as the charity you want to support. And, be sure to spread the word!



Troop News
Troop 107 Cincinnati, Ohio

On December 12, several troop members participated in the annual Reindog Parade in Mt. Adams. Donna Auvil's dog, Tanner, won third place for his hippy outfit. Love those golden locks and hat, Tanner!! In early January, we had our first big snow of the winter in Cincinnati, and Evelyn Black and Sascha, and Dianne Coleman and Copper celebrated by going sledding in Symmes Park. It was Copper's first time sledding, and Dianne had prepared him by placing the sled in her living room and rewarding Copper for gradually spending more and more time sitting in it while it was stationary, and then when she moved it. As you can see from the pictures, both dogs (and people) enjoyed their time in the snow! Two troop dogs were featured in the Winter issue of "The Pet Connection," the Therapy Pets of Greater Cincinnati newsletter. The dogs were: Kipper, an extraordinary little Schipperke of Kim Smith's, who has a real talent with children, and Koda, whose owner, Greg Matulionis, arranged for a young patient at Christ Hospital to have his wish of meeting a K-9 dog come true.



Dianne Coleman and Copper sail down a hill



Evelyn Black and Sascha sledding

Naomi Swanson, Troop 107

Troop #119 Texas

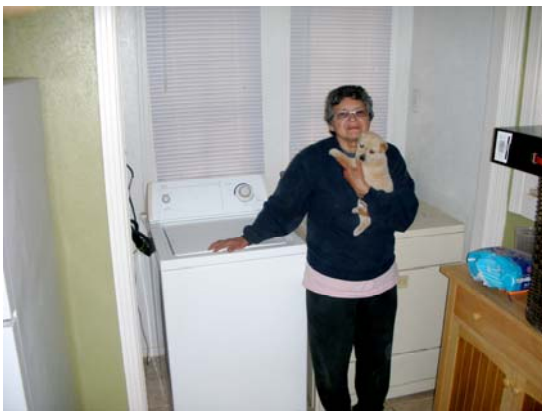
Troop 119 is off to a great start for 2010!

We took a break in January and we all concentrated on recovering from the holidays!

We had a great troop meeting in February. Susan Helber, from DFW Tracking Club, and her champion tracking dog and beautiful Belgian Tervuren, Jordan, gave a presentation and demonstration on tracking. Jordan followed the laid track from the gym where we were meeting, across snow, grass and parking lots through an elementary school property, along a residential area and a church parking lot. He found every item like the champ he is! It was great having a new fun activity introduced to the troop.



Also in February, we took on a new service project. We have known of an area rescuer for several years. She is a 69 year old woman named Angie that has been doing rescue work for 11 years in areas of Dallas most of us never want to go. She makes rounds every single day feeding and loving dogs that have been chained to trees and virtually ignored by their owners. Angie works to build a rapport with the owners with the eventual goal of getting them to surrender the dogs so Angie can find them new homes. She also fosters many dogs at her small home while working to get them adopted. Most of the neighborhoods she works in sees a lot of drug activity, but the drug dealers respect her and leave her to her work. A non-profit organization was established a couple of years ago called Angie's Friends to help her with the costs of her work. Back before Christmas, a request went out requesting used dog houses so Angie could shelter more of the foster dogs and several of our troop members contributed houses. We recently learned that Angie's old washing machine went out and she was upset because she was not able to wash the dog beds and blankets she has for the 25 or so dogs she is fostering. We put out a call to our troop just days before the February troop meeting and asked for donations to help get Angie a new washing machine and maybe some dog food, too!



Our troop responded with great generosity - as they have always done when there is a need. The result is - in just over a week, we have had a brand new washing machine donated and have collected almost \$500 that we will use to purchase a gift card for dog food. We are always amazed at the generosity of our troop and are excited to be able help such a great effort!



Photo above of Angie Manriquez (with a pup she'd just rescued Wednesday from under a pile of junk in an abandoned yard) and her new washing machine!

**Mart & Cindy Ratliff
Troop 119, DFW area, TX**

Angie and Friend

Troop 130 Cereal City area Michigan

SECRET SANTA STRIKES AGAIN!

Thanks to all the Scouts and their owners some of our Scouts had an extra special holiday this year. We had twenty three Scouts participate this year and Santa's sleigh was on time for all of them. Some received hand knitted sweaters, toys, some comfortable beds and of course lots of treats. One lucky recipient got a Christmas ornament made from her secret santa's fur. Another got a caricature. We have some very clever and creative members out there. Everyone looked very happy while enjoying their presents. If you haven't had the opportunity to join in the secret santa program it's lots of fun for dogs and owners alike. There should be more photos to enjoy in the photo section of the Yahoo! group.



DSA Boomer Friedman

DSA Robin and Merlin Wilks

Happy Holidays
Brenda Katz
Troop #130



Downeast Dog Scouts Troop #159 Mount Desert Island, Maine

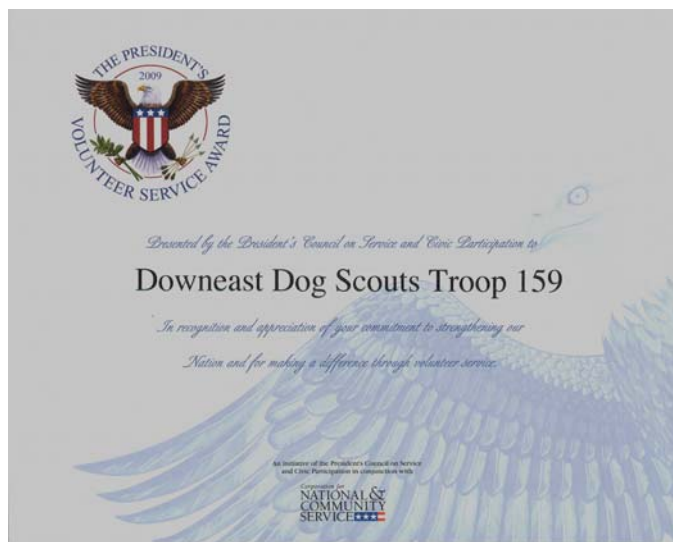
DSA Secret Santa Exchange - Cirra enjoyed participating in the DSA Secret Santa exchange again this year. We all enjoyed being Secret Santa to another DSA dog and Cirra simply loves opening packages!



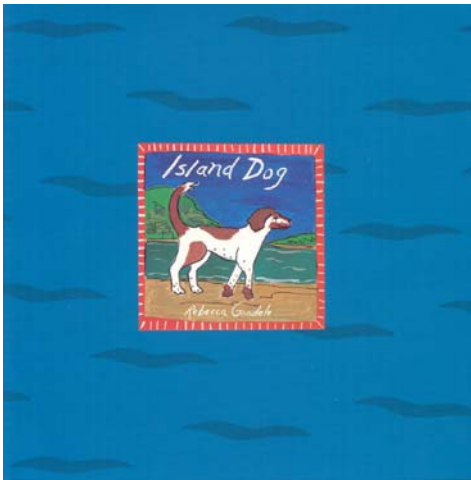
January Planning Meeting - In January the troop had a planning meeting for 2010. The coming year's activities will include: the Island Dog Creative Writing Project, educational speakers, community clean ups, walks and hikes, letterboxing, lunch on the lawn at Jordan Pond House in Acadia National Park, a boat ride, a fundraising yard sale and more. Downeast Dog Scouts Troop dog, Timmi, was showing off his new wheels at the meeting.



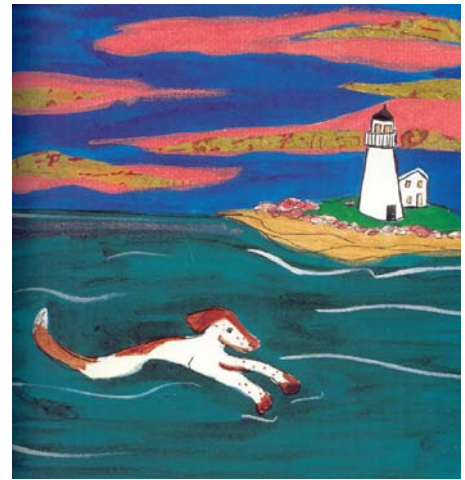
February Meeting - **Dr. Mark J. Hanks of Kindred Spirits Veterinary Clinic in Orrington, Maine was the guest speaker at the troop's February meeting leading a discussion about canine vaccines, nutrition and health.**



2009 President's Volunteer Awards - The Downeast Dog Scouts earned the Gold President's Volunteer Service Award. As a group, troop members completed over 1000 hours of community service during 2009. Several troop members completed between 100 -249 hours of volunteer community service and earned individual Bronze President's Volunteer Service Awards. Troop members receiving individual awards include: Martha Bonney, Pam Bourque, Pier Carros, Anne Czechanski, Robyn Douglas, Rebecca Henderson, Denise Houseknecht and Abi Larson.



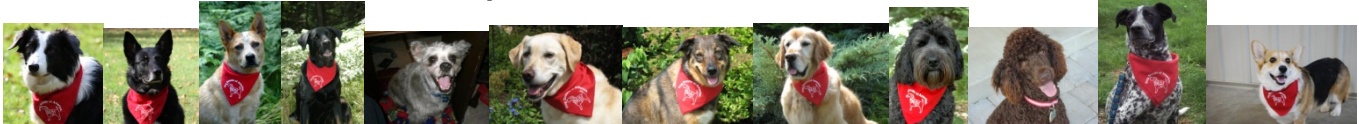
Island Dog Creative Writing Project - *The Downeast Dog*
Scouts are sponsoring an Island Dog Creative Writing Project through April 3rd. The Troop is partnering with schools and libraries in and around Mount Desert Island for an innovative program to encourage kids to write creatively and read with imagination. Children age ten and under will use "Island Dog", a picture book as inspiration to create their own stories. The book illustrations show a day in the life of a friendly, adventurous canine living on the Maine coast. Children can choose between writing individually and collaborating with a buddy or group.



Participating children and groups will have the opportunity to enter their own creations in a contest for fun and prizes. An Island Dog Celebration will be held in May providing the opportunity for the children to read their stories to troop dogs and recognize their creative accomplishments. Through this program, the Downeast Dog Scouts hope to promote positive relationships between kids and canines, and to foster community spirit by encouraging children to use their coastal Maine home as a springboard for their creations.

Robyn Douglas, Downeast Dog Scouts Troop 159

Troop 161 – Carlisle / Central PA



Troop 161 had a great turnout for bell-ringing this year. Members braved the cold to raise \$489.53 for the Salvation Army. The panhandling dogs were a huge hit, and people lined up with their dollars to see this great trick. We got some great press, and made it into two newspapers and onto our local TV news!

In January, we held our "Annual Business Meeting" to celebrate the year's accomplishments and plan for 2010. We met at our local Chili's restaurant, who will be donating 10% of our group's bill back to the troop. Not bad to fundraise with fajitas and mojitos! When we tallied up our 2009 activities, we were proud to find that we earned 53 merit badges, held 17 events, performed 261 hours of community service as representatives of DSA, and had raised \$4047.27 for various community groups that help people and dogs. Pretty cool. We made some big plans for fun in 2010, starting with a freestyle workshop in February put on by our local freestyle group, the Steppenwoofs. We also plan to "rough it" early this summer to work on our Overnight Camping merit badges, which spurred some interesting discussion on how to somehow sneak in a few creature comforts while still meeting the badge requirements. Well, not everyone in the troop is "outdoorsy" but we think they can get back to nature for one night... ☺ Everyone agreed that our troop camping trip and IMPROV match were tons of fun, so we'll definitely be doing those again this year, plus adding a few more hikes.

~ Ann Withun



Tammy and Casey Bretz with Gabe the elf! Is he cute or what!



Roger (Pam Knowlton) posing with some friends.



Rowdy does some bell-ringing with Ann Withun.



Reminder: Anyone travelling to Dog Scout Camp for the Spring Outing, Spring Cleanup, Leadership Retreat, or Summer Camps can bring used ink cartridges and cell phones with them for our fundraiser. Every little bit counts! Price lists for the kinds of items CCash accepts can be found at <http://www.cccashusa.com/price-lists.html>

OR... We already have 5 other locations set up with starter kits for local collection (Troops 119, 159, 161, 177, and 185) – if you'd like to collect on your own, as a troop, or by placing boxes at local businesses, just let Ann know: ann@withun.com. **Make money for DSA, and help the planet, in three easy steps:**

- 1) Simply collect any and all of the following:
 - Empty Virgin Printer Cartridges (laser, inkjet, fax, copier)
 - Inactive cell phones and PDAs
 - Laptop computers
 - iPods and MP3 players
 - GPS devices
 - Game systems
 - Video games and DVDs
- 2) Ship them to CC Cash for FREE (you get shipping labels in your kit)
- 3) DSA gets paid cash!



Troop 166, Tri-County K9's – Marion, Ohio

On December 12 troop 166 marched in the Mt. Gilead Christmas parade. The troop was very well received and there were a lot of people wanting to know more about DSA. At the end of the parade the dogs were surrounded by a whole flotful of children who wanted to see the dogs. They were great ambassadors for dog scouts.

On January 24, 2010 the troop met before our monthly troop meeting and had a dog harness making party. We are planning a troop winter outing day and wanted all our dogs to be ready for pulling the kick sled and skijoring.

Our troop had several members' dogs earn various titles and awards during 2009. We would like to congratulate everyone on their achievements. First is B-Bop owned by Ellen Shuster. She earned her World Canine Freestyle Championship. This is a culmination of several years of training and shows and we are very proud of B and Ellen. Next is Rocky, owned by Mary Krebs. He earned his obedience CDX title. Rocky and Mary had a pretty "Rocky" year in the show ring but didn't give up. Lots of practice (and nerves on Mary's part LOL!) paid off and Rocky is now officially Starburst Rock Solid CDX. Way to go Mary, we are proud of your accomplishment! On to utility! Venture, owned by Sheryll Knipp worked hard and passed her TDI certification. We will begin visiting nursing homes and hospitals as soon as the weather allows. Stryker, also owned by Sheryll Knipp along with Venture both passed their American Temperament Tests. Being shelties I wasn't sure what to expect but they didn't disappoint.

**Troop #166
Sheryll Knipp**

The Troop 166 DSA dogs:



Mary Krebs's Rocky



Ellen Shusster's B-Bop



Sheryll Knipp's Stryker



Sheryll Knipp's Venture

Troop 171 – Harrisburg, PA

Getting hit with a total of more than two feet of snow just eight days after the groundhog predicted six more weeks of winter hasn't done much to slow down the members of **Troop 171 in Harrisburg, PA. The Redfern Ramblers** remain a busy troop. Our biggest group accomplishment is that we're expanding the delivery of pet oxygen mask sets to several other fire departments and emergency response/EMT organizations in Dauphin and Perry counties. In addition to providing sets of masks to the Harrisburg and Penbrook fire departments and the Dauphin County Animal Response Team, we have also delivered sets of masks to the following additional fire departments: Paxtang, Susquehanna Township, Edgemont, Hershey, Hummelstown and Lawnton.

Along with our collective efforts to help other animals in our community, we have been busy working on several merit badges. Our interests include Travel Safety, Household Manners, Sign Language, Clean Up America 2 and Retrieve. Additionally, we have held another series of PhoDOgraphy lessons for those troop members who are interested in earning the badge or simply polishing their skills. Last but certainly not least, several Scouts completed checkouts for some of the Obstacle and Agility badges at a local dog training facility, Bella Vista, in January. It was great fun for humans and furry friends alike, as shown by the pictures below!

We will have a badge update with our next submission, along with a recap of some fun activities we are gearing up for (including a charity walk and some letterboxing hikes) in the spring. In the meantime, think warm thoughts and good luck if you are digging out from under a ton of white stuff!

~ Paula Marinak

Troop 171 Snapshots:



Troop member Marian Masi presents a Set of pet oxygen masks to a member of the Harrisburg Fire Department.



Theresa Ayer guides her Scouts Oubi (front) and Emma over the A-frame.

Annette Carricato and her dog Rachel clear the broad jump.



DSA Steele loved going over the wing jump!



Troop 177 Indianapolis Indiana

We had a great planning session for 2010; plans include our annual September campout and river trip. Spring overnight primitive camping for badge work, fundraisers for the Mutt Strut, Easter Egg Hunt, swim/birthday party and much more.

We have 2 new pups passing their DSA in January 2010:

Hallie



Noche



February 13, 2010 - we had a total of 10 dogs attending the 3-hour session 1st aid seminar and badge work. 8 successfully completed the 1st aid course and evaluation for 1st Aid Badge. Well done, the pups especially loved the muzzle and temp taking.





Roberto & Agnieszka Carballido – Noche
Sarah Barefoot & Ozlo & Saba

Just completed heart rate, respiration and temps – Oh Joy...

Next month planned a special speaker to teach us how to do canine massages, which they should really enjoy after the 1st aid class.

Troop 177

New Troop -Troop 196 – Rockford, MI
The Rogue River Dog Scouts
#196



The Rogue River Dog Scout Troop Began as a group of friends doing activities with their dogs together. When one of the group of friends became involved with Dog Scouts of America (Jilian Rakow), all became interested. Unfortunately, the distance to the nearest troop was too great for all to participate so....with the begging and pleading of Jennifer Hecker, Jilian Rakow became the newest leader of a Dog Scout Troop.

Our Troop has done multiple outings including: Our first outing as a socialization and obedience trip to down town Grand rapids, a socialization trip to the park in Rockford, Michigan, 2 training trips to Home Depot, a small educational meeting about puppy proofing your house and getting ready for a new puppy, and other events.

The Rogue River Dog Scouts Troop is a family centered troop with 5 children actively involved in working with dogs for the dogs to attain their Jr. DSA Titles. Karma Rakow (at 6 years old) has already been the handler for "Fin", the first PWD to attain a Jr. DSA Title. Karma actively mentors the other children in working with dogs. The Boersma Children have a single PWD puppy and so our DSA member Deb Ensing has been kind enough to "lend" her 3 PWDs to the Boersma children. Gryphon, Skye, and Music are working hard with the Boersma children to attain their Jr. DSA titles and in the process, the kids are all learning to be good dog parents. Gabriel Rakow (at just 5 years old) is our youngest member and he is trying hard using the "double leash method" to work with his own dog "Zeep" and also test "Zeep" for his Jr. DSA title.

We do actually have adults in our group and The Boersma parents, Bill and Anne, as well as Wendy Redding with the puppy Keebler, and Jennifer Hecker all participate together. Jennifer Recently earned a C.G.C title on her Giant Schnauzer, "Baxter". We are very proud of Jennie for abandoning the archaic tail docking and leaving her German breed Giant Schnauzer with her natural tail.

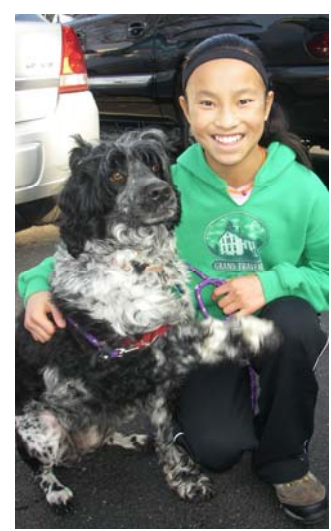
We look forward to sharing our outings and experience with all of our "like minded" DSA members. We would invite all to come and join us in our fun, open, open-minded, kid friendly, outings and we are very excited to view your accomplishments in DSA via the new letter.

Jilian Rakow, Troop Leader (Mother)

Troop Members:

Jilian and Eric Rakow, Karma and Gabriel Rakow, *Fin, Zeep, and Keebler PWDs (Portuguese Water Dogs)*
Deb Ensing, *Gryphon, Skye, and Music PWDs*
Wendy and Jon Redding, *Keebler PWD*
Bill and Anne Boersma, Quinne, Corran, and Liana Boersma, *Puppy yet un-named PWD*
Jennifer Hecker, *Baxter, Fival, Clive and Violet, Giant Schnauzer and Dandy Dinmont Terriers*

Troop 196 – Rogue River Pics



New News
Welcome To Our New Troops!!!

Troop 198 - Santa Clara County CA, **Troop Leader:** Beth Ward Beth.Ward@hssv.org
Troop 197 - Rio Nido CA, **Troop Leader:** Laurel Scarioni PositiveResults@comcast.net

If you want to join these troops, you can find the leader's contact info on the "Troop Locations List" page:
http://www.dogscouts.org/Troop_Locations_List.html

Again a Reminder: We are not putting members dues status on their mailing labels anymore, so **CHECK YOUR DUES STATUS!** There are over 200 members that have moved to the expired dues list in 09! The most current membership file is item #5 on this page: <http://www.dogscouts.org/Membership.html> **Chris Puls, DSA President**

Just as a reminder for Troop Leaders and new members to be sure to use the new membership form that is on the web. There are some Troop leaders who have created their own membership forms or are using old forms and they do not have all the information included (i.e., yahoo email addresses). The best way for members to ensure that their information is correct is to use the forms on the web. Thanks!! **Judy Harris, Membership**

Attitude of Gratitude

Thanks so much for one more time to Kevin Krosse of Chillicothe, Illinois, who donated the printing of the March/April Dog Scout Scoop Newsletter. Your support for our last printed issues has been greatly appreciated.

In Closing....A Dog's Bill of Rights

I just happen to be on the Board of Directors of the Peoria Obedience Training Club, as Secretary and Editor of their newsletter "Tails and Details". Our outgoing President gave each member of her 2009 Board a framed document, entitled "A Dog's Bill of Rights". I was touched by the gift and the sentiments reflected in the document. It now sits on a shelf in my living room, next to my dogs' pictures. I just thought I'd share it with you. It is in my top 10 gifts EVER!! **Peggy Zweber, Editor**

A Dog's Bill of Rights

- I have the right to give and receive unconditional love.
- I have the right to a life that is beyond mere survival.
 - I have the right to be trained so I do not become the prisoner of my own behavior.
- I have the right to adequate food and medical care.
 - I have the right to fresh air and green grass.
- I have the right to socialize with people and dogs outside my family.
 - I have the right to have my needs and wants respected.
 - I have the right to special time with my people.
 - I have the right to only be bred responsibly - if at all.
 - I have the right to some time and space all my own.
- I have the right to be foolish and silly, and to make my person laugh.
- I have the right to earn my person's trust and to be trusted in return.
 - I have the right to be forgiven.
 - I have the right to die with dignity.
 - I have the right to be remembered well.

~Carolyn Krause