



The Dog Scout Scoop

(little bits of news we've picked up)

May/June 2010

Volume 14, Issue 3

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

AWARDS

Please join me in honoring the deserving recipients of this year's awards...

Founder's Award - This award will be presented to members who have demonstrated dedication to, and promotion of, the DSA mission over many years by giving freely of their time, effort, labor, materials, information, and/or innovative ideas. **Beth Duman and Lonnie Olson** were voted as this year's recipient of this award. **Joanne Weber** was last year's recipient.

Longevity and Appreciation Award - **Joanne Weber, Beth Duman and Lonnie Olson** were also voted as deserving of the "Longevity and Appreciation Award." Without their hard work, DSA would not exist! This award is for all of the work done to make Dog Scout Camp and the Dog Scout Organization what it is today, which encompasses more than just years of continuous tenure. Their jobs did not end after camp, and they have provided a lot more than just their scheduled hours of instructing, always working to improve the organization and camp. For this dedicated achievement, they will receive free camp, regardless of duties taken on, or hours worked, for the remainder of their lives as long as they obey the dog scout laws and conduct themselves as a good example of scoutdom, as they always have in the past. They will also receive free lifetime DSA membership.

Chris Puls, DSA President

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Deadlines, Deadlines, Deadlines!!!

Newsletter Submission - June 15th, 2010 for the July/August 2010 Issue
August 15th, 2010 for September/October 2010 Issue

IS YOUR MEMBERSHIP EXPIRED?

If you don't know your DSA membership expiration date, please check item #5 on this page:
<http://www.dogscouts.org/Membership.html>

SPRING OUTING, CAMP CLEAN-UP DAYS AND LEADERSHIP RETREAT

The DSA Spring outing will be May 21 to May 24. The outing is free for DSA members and a great way to enjoy the camp with your 4 legged friends. Food is bring your own, but most people bring food to share as well, like pot luck. There is no set schedule of activities, but often hikes or other activities are organized on the fly between the attendees.

After the Spring Outing, DSA holds a camp clean-up to ready the camp for the summer season. If you would like to attend May 25, 26, 27, your lodging for the clean-up days is free (provided you are helping with the list of clean-up chores.) And a "clean-up" patch is available for those that help.

The clean-up days are followed by the Leadership Retreat which is fast approaching! Deadline for registration is May 17th. It is open to all Troop Leaders, Scoutmasters and Evaluators as well as people interested in those leadership positions. To get more information about the retreat and to register, visit this page: http://www.dogscouts.org/Leadership_Retreat.html

New News
Welcome to the newest troops!

Troop 198 in Santa Clara Co. CA
Leader: Beth Ward Beth.Ward@hssv.org

Troop 199 in Western NY
Leader: Nichole Schiro wnypositivepups@gmail.com

Troop 200 in Chicago IL
Leader: Lizzi Kadow ChicagoCanine@aol.com

Troop 201 in El Paso Co. CO
Leader: Cara Marshall Missseelie@aol.com

Troop 202 in Berk's Co. PA
Leaders: Rachael Kehler Skeeterdogequipment@dejazzd.com and Heather Heimbach hebee@dejazzd.com

Troop 203 Serving Austin TX Metro area and surrounds
Leader: Janice Patton janicepatton@austin.rr.com

Chris Puls, President

AED Fundraiser!

DSA is holding a fundraiser to purchase an AED (Automatic External Defibrillator) for the camp. These machines can be used to shock a defibrilating heart back into rhythm, which could save a person's life! The machines are around \$2000 and staff may need training on how to operate it. If you would like to help DSA get this, please send your donation (all amounts welcome!) to AED fund c/o Lonnie Olson, 5040 Nestel Rd, St Helen, MI 48656. You can also send money to dogscoutcamp@gmail.com through PayPal.

Thank-you for your help on this important addition to camp!

Chris Puls, President

DOG SCOUT CAMP NEWSLETTER March 2010

Hi Everyone! Spring is just about here in Maple Valley. Sure it's below freezing out there today, and there's still some chunks of snow in the woods that are shaded from the sun and haven't gone away yet, but I have high hopes that things will start turning green in no time. Ed has already doing some clean-up measures, removing some trees that fell into the play yard and squashed the fence, raking and getting rid of the leaves, and getting rid of some junk! That's right, he has actually moved the unsightly dump truck and is in the process of dismantling it and carting it off to the metal graveyard.

I saw my first Robin just yesterday, and I've been hearing the frogs croak. We've been spying a lone male pheasant on the road (I haven't seen too many of those since moving from downstate), and yesterday I saw my first partridge of spring. Soon, we'll hear them drumming in the woods with their mating calls. This past Tuesday, my chiropractor said that her husband spotted the elusive cougar that people say we have up here. He thought his wife was crazy (she had seen it before) until he saw it with his own eyes. My chiropractor also happens to be my neighbor.

We've got a lot of work to do between now and camp time to get the camp in ship shape, but at least the snow didn't stay until practically June this year! I'm actually getting this letter out a month early this year! Signs of spring always make me think of sending out the campers' first update newsletter. As far as camp goes, we're not full yet, so if you know someone who has been thinking about attending, have them get their deposits in. Your balance is due by May 12th, which is right around the corner. If you have been making payments with the payment vouchers, hopefully you have been keeping track of your balance due as well. Please pay for any lodging and extra dogs, spouses, etc., at that time. As you may know, DSA has stopped taking credit cards this year. It was just costing us too much money. One of the campers came up with an idea. She's going to send in a few hundred dollars extra in advance to pre-pay her camp tab and cover badges, store purchases and auction items. Then she doesn't have to take a lot of cash with her to camp, or deal with a Canadian checking account. That works for me, and if anyone else wants to do that, I'll take care of it.

New activities this year include some potential new merit badge activities. We're going to present the training for "Messenger Dog." This is not a merit badge at this time, but we'll see how it goes with the training. Also this year, we'll have an "Animal Actors" class. We're currently working on this becoming a badge. Whether all of the specifics get worked out in time to check you out for this at camp remains to be seen. We've got the badge requirements pretty well ironed out, but are still working on the graphic for the patch. This year, once again the American Temperament Testing Society will be offering the ATTS test right

after camp 1. This is a test of your dog's inherent temperament by measuring his reaction to novel stimuli, like sounds, strange surfaces and scary situations. If your dog is able to pass the test, the title, TT (for temperament tested) can be used after your dog's name. You will also receive a certificate in the mail. In addition, by passing this test, you qualify for the DSA TT merit badge.

Hopefully, you have all been reading the pre-camp materials on our web site (www.dogscouts.org). This is everything you need to know for coming to camp. I don't think we've left any question unanswered. There's also a handy list of things to pack, maps, directions, rules, etc. to help make your camp week as great as possible. If you have not yet completed your camper profile (for you and your dog), I would like you to get that in to me as soon as possible. Don't forget to note any special dietary requirements (like if you're a vegetarian). I know I see some of you year after year, but I can't always remember who is a vegetarian and who is not. We need this info for food buying. The camper profile is on the web site off the camp registration page. Most of you filled one out at the time you registered for camp.

Now for some really IMPORTANT news. I have cancelled the satellite internet connection in favor of an air card for DSA's internet connection. This means that my old email address will no longer be any good, effective immediately. Please use my new email address: dogscoutcamp@gmail.com, for any correspondence. I also cancelled the camp office's land line, and now have the same camp number on a Verizon wireless cell phone. If you call from another Verizon phone, the call is minute free and airtime free. I can also call out on weekends and after 9 pm at no charge to DSA, so I'll probably be returning a lot of your calls on weekends or after 9 pm, to save money for DSA!

As you may know, I am no longer the President and CEO of Dog Scouts of America. Any questions you have regarding general DSA info, starting a troop, earning badges, etc. should go to our new fearless leader, Chris Puls (513) 505-5071. I am simply the Michigan camp director and DSA Treasurer (and I'm looking for someone else to take over the job of Treasurer!).

I'm looking forward to seeing everyone at camp in a few months. In the mean time, there are several activities scheduled at the camp that may be of interest to you (members only). There is our annual Spring Outing on the weekend of May 22-24, followed by annual Camp Clean-up on the 25th through the 27th, followed by the annual Leadership Retreat on the 28th through the 31st. Also, the week before the June camp is our annual trip to Mackinaw Island where we participate in the Dog and Pony Parade and the Lilac Festival Parade. Contact me if you're interested in going with us. You would get free transportation to and from the island (normally \$25.00), and you can stay on the island or on the mainland. You can come for one day or both days. See you soon!

Lonnie Olson, Camp Director

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



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!

Fears and Phobias by Lonnie Olson

I did everything right with my sweet little Boxer Mix, Kozi, when I adopted her at 9 weeks of age. I socialized her to everything and everybody, and she turned out to be quite a nice dog. The “watchdog” in her makes her bark at a lone interloper who approaches our property, but as soon as she meets them, and sees that they are okay, they become her buddy. Still, I was puzzled by her behavior in public with certain individuals. Unlike my older dog, Saikou, who was severely traumatized by a crazed toddler during her fear imprint period, Kozi loved all children of all ages and either sex, tolerating all kinds of abuse from them. Kozi’s problem was with certain men.

I say certain men, because for 2 ½ years, I had not been able to pinpoint what specific thing she was afraid of in these “certain men”. It seemed that only one in every ten men caused her to panic. At first, I thought that it was tall men with hair, and blamed myself for not getting her out enough and meeting men taller than my husband, Ed, and who actually had hair on their heads. But then, she would prove me wrong by climbing into the arms of a tall, hairy man. Sometimes the man looked scary, dressed like a motorcycle gang member with numerous piercings and odd attire, but then another guy just like that would come along, and she would not avoid him. I could not seem to pinpoint a single feature that was common with all of the men she shied away from, except their age.

Kozi never showed avoidance to guys under the magical age of about 20. I thought she seemed a little fearful of tall, burly guys who approached quickly, staring, and “pounce” on her (reached out to suddenly grope her on the top of her head without asking or anything). But, of course most sane dogs would be wary of idiots such as these. But sometimes, she was even okay with the pouncers, starers, and gropers, and this blew my mind. It wasn’t until this past weekend at the Chicago Pet Expo that I started to tumble to the idea that what she was perceiving about the “scary” men was invisible, and might have very little to do with any physical characteristic or mannerism, and didn’t have anything to do with any lack of socializing on my part.

It was Sunday morning, and there wasn’t much of a crowd at the expo yet, and Kozi had one of her worst reactions to a guy that I’ve seen. He seemed like a nice, friendly guy, not moving in a way that would frighten her, but she dove off the crate top and under the table skirt to hide from him. When I turned around, all I could smell was alcohol on this guy. I realized that the last time she had that strong of a reaction was at the booth at the DKC dog show. The guy wasn’t big or burly and he squatted down into a non-threatening posture, but Kozi still freaked out. Then, I noticed that this guy had an open beer in his hand. At the time I didn’t think much of it, but looking back, I was beginning to get more pieces to the puzzle. If what she was avoiding was people who had been drinking, then it truly was something that was beyond my realm of detection. This was the moment I had to smack myself in the forehead. What do men mostly under the legal drinking age have in common? Most of them don’t have alcohol in their systems. This is why she universally accepted kids and young men up to the age of 20ish.

With Kozi’s acute sense of smell (she’s a Human Remains Detection K-9 with a SAR unit), it should not surprise me that she is able to detect minute quantities of alcohol in peoples’ systems. So I started asking a few questions of each man that she met. I asked their age, and when was the last time they consumed an alcoholic beverage. Some of them looked at me as if I was accusing them of being drunk, or an alcoholic, but I would clarify by adding, for instance, did you have a drink with dinner last evening? Of course, I would also go on to explain that it was a minute chemical odor that Kozi was detecting, and not a state of inebriation. I didn’t want to offend people.

Of course, just the presence of alcohol in itself might not necessarily be enough to send a dog running for cover, even though my own words from 30 years of teaching dog obedience classes rang in my ears. I printed it right in the handouts: “Please postpone the use of drugs or alcohol until after training class, as it adversely affects the dogs.” And then more of my words rang in my ears. When I would tell the story about how we ended up with Kozi, after the breeder said that all of the puppies were sold, she called us back several days later to say that they would sell the one they were keeping for themselves. I would jokingly add that, “They must have needed to buy more booze and cigarettes, so they sold the dog to us.: Maybe this wasn’t too far from the truth.

After all of the socializing I did with Kozi, it made me think that her sensitivity comes from something that happened to her during her fear imprint period (before I had her), that has stayed with her. I now seriously suspect that the breeder’s husband was either an alcoholic and was mean to Kozi, or, he got drunk, and beat her or something. Then, it’s no wonder they were willing to get rid of her! She probably started cowering in fear of him all the time.

It came clearer and clearer as I got the answers to the “When did you last consume an alcoholic beverage” question. The men she liked the best either never drank, or else it had been months since their last drink. Though some of the men who had recently consumed like one drink within the past 24 hour period were scary to her and others were accepted by her. This leads me to believe that the additional characteristics that I thought I had been noticing (like height, weight, speed of approach and hairiness) could also be a factor. The man that terrorized her during her fear imprint period was probably pickled with alcohol, tall, burly, hairy, and pounced on her. So, not any one of these things was enough to trigger avoidance behavior all of the time in strange men. But, as Jean Donaldson’s bite threshold chart shows us, it is the cumulative effect of several scary factors in combination that put the dog at the fight (or in Kozi’s case, flight) threshold.

While I am relieved to think that I finally have the answer to Kozi’s extreme aversion to certain men, it is still not something that I can see coming and circumvent, since I can’t smell the alcohol on a person ten feet away, like Kozi can (unless they’ve REALLY been drinking hard). The good news is that I can usually get Kozi over any adverse reaction she feels toward a given man by

using one or two techniques. She's a very forgiving dog, and once she sees that the person is not going to grab her, beat her or yell at her, she can be friends. I keep a chair next to her pedestal at expos, and I ask any scary men to please sit in the chair (which is facing away from Kozi). Once they are no longer in a position to pounce, Kozi usually warms up to them. If she is just slightly wary of a guy, I'll show him the magic "china" trick. I ask them to hold their hand out, palm up and very flat, in front of Kozi and say "Chin". Kozi will then place her head in their palm. This helps put them both a little at ease. The guy thinks Kozi likes him, and Kozi is made to feel more comfortable, knowing that the guy's hand is not moving, and can not grab any body parts or reach for the top of her head as long as it is under her chin. This is often all it takes. But when I get an extreme reaction from her to a person who is pickled in alcohol, I think the best thing I can do is just remove her from the situation. I don't know what I can say to the person to not have them feel badly as I move my dog to a safe zone away from the offending guy. Maybe I can say, "I'm sorry, she reacts badly when she detects alcohol in someone's system. It might not even be you. I'm just going to let her have a break away from the crowd right now."

I thought I would share my revelation with you, since you may encounter something similar with your own dog.

Troop News
Troop #119 Texas

Troop 119 is having a fun spring! In March, we held to a longtime troop tradition and had the Doggie Winter Olympic Games! Mart carried in the Olympic torch to the sounds of the Olympic theme song playing. The dogs and handlers competed on teams for some of the favorite winter games of 2010 - with a little doggie twist! Teams competed in events such as figure skating, hockey, ski jumping and speed skating. The competition was fierce and in the end, team members were awarded gold, silver or bronze medals in a moving medals ceremony while the national anthem played. The dogs were all proud of their contributions to their teams and most slept a day or two to recovery from the excitement!



Alice decides if treats are worth getting wet.

In April, we had our annual spring swim party! The weather, again, was wonderful for this event with temperatures around 75 degrees and a nice cloud cover. Several dogs enjoyed diving and retrieving in the deep end while several other dogs hung out in the shallow end and worked on learning to swim. A few decided early that swimming wasn't going to be their thing and chose to run and play on the volleyball courts instead. Everyone had a great day and, again, the dogs had a very restful day or two while dreaming of doggie diving! **Mart & Cindy Ratliff, Troop 119**



Denise and Daisy speed skate.

Libby Betts, water dog



Ting Ting swims to dad.



Lisa and Marla work on scoring a hockey goal.



Announcing:
7th Annual
Dog Scouts of America Texas Mini-Camp
Hosted by Troop 119, Lone Star Paws Squad
November 4-7, 2010

at YMCA's beautiful Camp Carter
6200 Sand Springs Road, Fort Worth, TX

\$395.00 (per person with one dog)
discounts available for additional family member in same
household
price includes meals and lodging

Limited Space Available

Contact Mart or Cindy Ratliff for more info:

email: dogluvurz@prodigy.net

Or call (817) 446-7791

register online at:
www.dogscouts.org

Troop 149 St. Louis, MO

Troop # 149 from St. Louis, Missouri and surrounding area donated 9 sets of pet oxygen masks to the West Overland Fire Dept. and 7 sets to the Olivette, Missouri fire department. At our March meeting, we had two Dog Scouts check off on the All Dog Band badge, and several working towards their Art of Shaping badge. A group of avid geocachers representing all 3 Missouri Dog Scout troops gathered together at the 6th Annual MOGA (Midwest Open Geocaching Adventure) held at Mark Twain Lake in Missouri. Present were 9 members of Dog Scouts representing Troops 102, 135, and 149 along with 9 Dog Scouts and others that enjoyed a beautiful weekend in the wood of mid-Missouri. Over 100 caches were found collectively over a 3 day period by the group. Two Dog Scouts found enough caches to complete the geocaching one badge. During the weekend, the 2nd granny race was held (The first was in 2008 at the Missouri Mini Camp) pitting Grannyzilla against Granny Mabel in a much anticipated rematch. Bets were laid down and the race was on. As in the past, Granny Mabel left Grannyzilla going in circles. The real winner in the race was Dog Scouts of America, all bets placed have been donated to DSA in memory of Addison Vinzant who recently crossed over the rainbow bridge.

Pictured are Paula Haffner with Grannyzilla on the left and Jodi Pyatt with Granny Mabel on the right.



Submitted by **Chris Bahr** Troop #149

Downeast Dog Scouts Troop #159- Mount Desert Island, Maine

News Release

**Downeast Dog Scouts Provide over 1000 Hours of Community Service in 2009
Earning the Gold President's Volunteer Service Award**

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.

Downeast Dog Scouts Troop members and their dogs provided a total of 1230 hours of community service in activities such as: therapy dog visits, children reading to dogs programs, school visits, community educational activities, walkathons, clean up days, and volunteering with dog related organizations in Hancock County. Some of the locations troop members visit include: Mount Desert Island Hospital, Birch Bay Village, Sonagee Rehabilitation and Living Center, Tremont School, Sumner High School, Mount Desert Elementary School, Somesville Library, Blue Hill Library, Bangor Public Library and the Brooksville Public Library. Children Reading to dogs Programs increase children's literary skills and self esteem, and the visiting Therapy Dogs help to relieve stress, improve health and recovery from illness. Young and old have benefitted from the dogs' endeavors! Frequent community education has been an integral part of the Troop's activities. In 2009 they sponsored programs about Disaster Preparedness for families and their pets, Service Dog training, Bite Prevention and Pet First Aid, to name a few. Community service is a fundamental part of the Downeast Dog Scouts mission and in 2009 the Scouts raised funds with a community supported yard sale to purchase 26 sets of Pet Recovery Oxygen Masks. The mask sets were then donated to EMS and Fire departments in Hancock County that did not have the equipment. The Downeast Dog Scouts participate in two annual clean ups in coordination with Friends of Acadia. Troop members clean up after ***less responsible dog owners at Little Long Pond in Seal Harbor, Maine during the*** Friends of Acadia Earth Day Clean Up and Take Pride in Acadia Day. The Downeast Dog Scouts Troop 159 co-sponsored a Canine Carnival to celebrate AKC Responsible Dog Ownership Day with the local kennel club. Activities included: Meet the Breeds, breed rescue groups, animal shelters, educational booths, canine sports demonstrations, working dog demonstrations, Canine Good Citizen testing, dog games and activities, crafts and activities for children, vendors, a canine photo contest and a Children's Dog Show. Representatives from pet food pantries were available to accept donations. Troop members staffed the Downeast Dog Scouts information booth, welcome area booth, a "safety around dogs" booth and coordinated the rescue groups, photo contest, scavenger hunt and children's dog show. Troop dogs showed off at the Meet the Breeds booth. Troop members served on the organizing committee and provided the public relations announcements for the event. ***Troop members and their dogs participated in the*** Ellsworth Christmas Parade. The theme this year is "Christmas Around the World". The troop was quite festive with Santa hats, red bows and their holiday outfits. Dog Scout, Cirra pulled her cart with "The World" in the parade. Safety Around Dogs activity books were given out to the children. Children and adults were able to meet and greet dogs of many different breeds, colors, shapes and sizes. The Downeast Dog Scouts are a favorite in the parade each year.

The Dog Scouts of America have awarded the annual "Good Scout" Award to Bar Harbor resident Robyn Douglas, Troop Leader of the Downeast Dog Scouts Troop 159. The "Good Scout" Award is given to people who help promote humane education on a regular and ongoing basis. Pam Bourque, RN and therapy dogs Timber and Rissa received the 2009 Volunteer of the Year award at Mount Desert Island Hospital's annual meeting. Pam and her Labrador Retrievers received the award for

visiting patients at MDI hospital and residents of Birch Bay Village retirement community. The Downeast Dog Scouts Troop 159 has been recognized as a "Top Dog Troop" for 2009 by the Dog Scouts of America. The Dog Scouts of America Troop Recognition Program rewards troops for being active and helping in their community. Recognition is given to local troops that achieve a designated level of points within the year. Troops earn these points through accomplishments in membership, training, education and community service activities. The Downeast Dog Scouts Troop 159 was established in September 2007 and is the first and only Dog Scout troop in Maine serving Hancock County, Maine. The troop offers a local membership program for people who advocate responsible dog ownership and enjoy participating in dog centered activities. Troop members take an active role in the community by providing educational programs and canine related community service. Troop members and their dogs learn new skills working toward the Dog Scouts of America merit badges and participating in troop outings and activities. The Downeast Dog Scouts Troop 159 promotes the positive treatment of animals, advocating only the most modern behavioral approaches to training. The troop dogs are fine examples of the value that pets have for families and the community at large. Promotion of responsible dog ownership and involvement in the community lies at the heart of this group. If more people involved their dogs in more activities such as the Dog Scouts, everyone would benefit. Health and safety would be enhanced with fewer orphaned dogs, better understanding of dog behavior, less dog bites, cleaner parks and more responsible dog owners that respect others. Maine is fortunate to have a thriving dog community and dogs are largely involved in the lives of their people, not just tied out back. It is very valuable to have a group that bridges the gap between dog training activities and human service that can further promote healthy, happy canines.



The Dog Scouts of America is a national non-profit organization dedicated to educating people about responsible dog ownership, the important role of the human/canine bond and to challenge people and dogs to learn how to better serve each other. All troops work toward the goals and missions of the Dog Scouts of America while focusing on the needs and interests of each local community. Additional information regarding the Dog Scouts of America is available at www.dogscouts.org. For more information about joining the Downeast Dog Scouts contact Robyn Douglas at downeastdogscouts@yahoo.com or 207 266-5807.

March Meeting and Walk - Troop members and guests enjoyed a walk along the ocean on the Park Loop Road in Acadia National Park.



Timmi and Bruno - March Walk - Ocean Drive - Acadia National Park

Connors Emerson Elementary School - Downeast Dog Scouts troop members and seven of their dogs visited a fifth grade class at Conner's Emerson Elementary School in Bar Harbor, Maine. Along with the students meeting the dogs, the group discussed the Dog Scouts of America, the Downeast Dog Scouts and responsible Dog ownership.



April Meeting - Letterboxing Workshop - The Downeast Dog Scouts worked on requirements for the Level 1 Letterboxing Merit Badge during the April meeting. Topics covered included: the history and rules of letterboxing, what to bring on a letterboxing adventure, basic compass skills and how to create a letterbox. Participants brainstormed where to place a troop letterbox in Hancock County and tested newly learned compass skills on a treasure hunt.

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

Troop #166 held it's monthly meeting on March 21. We worked on our fundraiser for the year, a large yard sale to be held in June. We also decided to have a DSA booth again this year at the Pup-a-Looza held at the Alum Creek Dog Park in June. After the meeting we held an Easter Egg Hunt for the troop dogs. They had a great time finding the hidden eggs and getting the goodies hidden inside. There were also a few that had some people goodies and surprises inside. Our next meeting will be held on April 25 and we will finalize plans for our first troop hike of the spring. Time to start logging those backpacking miles. Happy trails!

Troop #166
Sheryll Knipp

Troop 171 – Harrisburg, PA

The warmer temperatures have been just what our troop has needed after a long snowy winter. **The Redfern Ramblers of Troop 171 in Harrisburg, PA**, are off and running with activities this spring! On April 11, eight human troopers and at least as many dogs participated in the Paws for a Cure Dog Walk on Harrisburg's City Island to benefit the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society. Our Scouts and Scouts in training had a wonderful day in the sunshine seeing old friends and making new ones – not to mention enjoying all the yummy treats and fun toys. Of course, we are very proud of our fundraising efforts. As a troop, we collected more than \$600 in donations to help fight the battle against these devastating blood cancers. In fact, our efforts contributed to an overall fundraising total of \$5,500 for the event! Thanks and congratulations go out to everyone who walked and contributed to this worthy cause!

A smaller but no less enthusiastic group of Redfern Ramblers took part in the Tree of Life Pet Expo on April 18. Proceeds from this event also benefited the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society. It was a tail-wagging good time! Also on our calendar of upcoming community service events is the 2010 Walk for a Healthy Community in Harrisburg. We again plan to participate as a group, and our furry friends will be sporting their troop scarves or uniforms so we can spread the word about Dog Scouts.

We also have several badge-related activities planned throughout the spring and summer. In June, we plan to work on Travel Safety, and we have several troop members who are interested in the badge for Household Manners when the weather gets too hot to be outside for long. A few troop members are also working on the Retrieve badge, as well as Clean Up America 2. Look for an update on badges earned with our next submission.

Last but not least, when we're not doing community service or working on the badges mentioned above, we plan to take advantage of the warm weather by scheduling several more hikes and letterboxing excursions. As you can see, our troop's day planner is filling quickly. We hope you have as much fun this spring and summer as we have planned! Enjoy!

~ Paula Marinak

Troop 185 – Loudoun and Clark County, Virginia

Troop 185 Dulles/NOVA welcomes new member Cheryl! Congratulations to Sky our newest Dog Scout! Sky started the testing at the Troop 161 campout in October and recently completed the badge by video posted to facebook. Sky is taking Agility classes this spring and is looking forward to all the fun troop activities.

Troop leader Melanie kept Boomer busy this winter learning Flyball and he will also be taking RallyO classes. Melanie and troop member Roni attended the Karen Pryor Clicker Expo in Kentucky this past March and have come back with great ideas and fun training games for the dogs.

The winter managed to dump snow on us every time we had a troop meeting scheduled during the months of December, January, and February. Now that the weather has cleared, we are planning fundraising activities to buy GPS systems for police canines. We are looking forward a lakeside camping trip for the troop. We have adopted part of a highway for litter clean up and are looking forward to getting started on our Clean Up America badge. We will also be learning about about Rally. All this in addition to our regular troop meetings. **Laurie Miehm**

Troop 188 - Connecticut

Spring has sprung and with the change in the weather Troop 188 is blossoming. In February and March we had Obstacle Badge Days where we worked on the first two obstacle badges. Thanks to Marge Lineweber and My Dogs Place for use of the facilities and equipment and Julianne Grove for leading this activity. We hope to be submitting our badge videos shortly.



Safety first. Julianne covers safety information for Troop 188



Summit masters the dog walk



Harry reaches the top



Felicia emerges from the chute



Pirate shows his form over the spread jump



Fenwick on the dog walk



Bling does her first tunnel



Lucy in her Easter bonnet

In April members of our Troop participated in a fundraiser for the CT and RI ST. Bernard Rescue held at Mystic Village. The weather was wonderful and the fundraiser broke all previous records for attendance and funds raised.

In April we worked on nosework skills culminating in a fun Easter Egg hunt. Scouts and parents searched for eggs inside and out. Some eggs had food others were identified by scent to be identified and found by the scouts. All the dogs had a great time. Also in April we started a 6 week workshop on the skills necessary for the Dog Scout Badge. New and old members alike have joined in the Monday night skill practices and discussions on canine topics. Thank you to the Ledyard Agi-Science Department at Ledyard High School for hosting this workshop.



Kassi finds an egg



Pirate wants to know what is hiding inside

Our bottle drive is doing well with the Troop collecting over \$50 dollars in returnables during the recent collection period. The money from this drive will help us by animal rescue breathing equipment for our local emergency crews. In May the troop will have a workshop on Canine CPR and we will also be presenting our first batch of rescue breathing equipment.

Troop 196 – Rockford, MI
The Rogue River Dog Scouts



Dog Scouts Troop 196, in Rockford Michigan, has had a lot of fun and new additions in the last few months. We have added new members, done Dog Scouts trips for Therapy work, and met to train and get to know each other better.

We have also begun a collaboration with Canine Water Sports and Deborah Lee Miller-Riley to teach our members about water work with dogs of all breeds.

Ms. Miller-Riley was one of the people who established the official water trial tasks for the PWDCA (Portuguese water dog Club of America)and is now bringing those skills to all breeds and mixed breeds of dogs. Canine Water Sports ONLY supports positive training methods. Their training style and their Water Work tasks match well with Dog Scouts water Work patches and so it is a wonderful teaching collaboration. http://www.caninewatersports.com/Home_Port.html

One of our establishing members, Wendy Redding, is the Health and Wellness coordinator for Clark Retirement Community. Dog Scouts Troop 196 has begun a collaboration with Mrs. Redding and Clark brining our dog Scouts and our Cadet scouts to Clark as part of a Pet Assistive Therapy program and the health and Wellness program. We have had our first Spring Hike and are looking forward to our first BBQ of the season.

We will be offering Dog Scouts (and Jr. Dog Scouts) testing for our Troop in the near future. We look forward to announcing the achievements of the dogs within our group. Member Deb Ensing has had a crucial role in offering experienced dogs for supporting the learning efforts of our younger members and her dogs will be earning their Jr. DSA titles with the Boersma children after earning their DSA titles with her. We are very grateful for her generosity and efforts in helping all of the troop children learn to be good pet parents.

Dog Scouts Troop 196 is an open minded, family oriented, accepting group. We invite you to join us in our many activities with children, dogs, and our troop members from various backgrounds and experiences. We will be announcing our new members in the next newsletter after conformation of membership and ...PICTURES.. from our up coming BBQ. With friendship in canines, **Jilian Rakow, Troop leader.**



The pictures are from Eastertime with Troop 196.

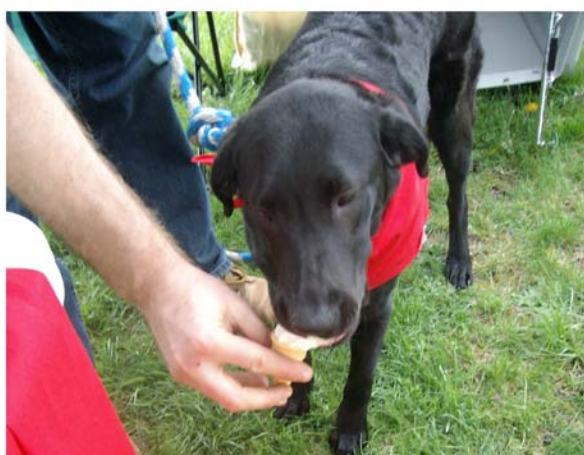
Troop 199 – Western New York

We are a newly formed troop in Western New York (Buffalo area). We are holding an informational meeting on Sunday April 18th at 3:30 pm at Purrfect Paws Animal Behavior Center in Tonawanda NY. All the information is on our website: www.wnypositivepups.webs.com. We can be contacted at our troop email at wnypositivepups@gmail.com.

Thanks! **Nicole Schiro**

Troop 202 – Boyertown, Pennsylvania

We are a new troop, Troop 202 "Berks Barkers". We are located in Boyertown, Pennsylvania. On Sunday April 11th, we attended an event for The Animal Welfare Project. It was located at Rita's Water Ice in Ziglersville, Pennsylvania. We had some dogs there and the kids were giving out the Bite Prevention Contracts, and of course we all had Rita's (even the dogs). This was our first outing for our new troop. **Rachael Kehler**



Hello! I would like to announce that I am working to start a Dog Scout troop in the Chicagoland area so I am looking for members. I have put up a website with information and it will be updated when the troop is official: www.chicagocanine.com/scouts/ or people can contact me at chicagocanine@aol.com. Thanks! **Lizzi Kadow**

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

Dear Chris, Jodi, and all of the "off-track" wagerers from troops 102,135, and 149, in Missouri. Thanks for sharing the news of the revival of the Granny Races. I loved the picture and the story, and I see that you sent it on to the editor, because that was the first thing I was going to ask you to do. Very cute. Thanks so much for the memorial donation of the wagers to DSA. We certainly appreciate it. And it's great that you could have fun while raising the funds, too. You guys are fantastic, and your generosity is very much appreciated. Thanks to Chris Bahr and Jodi Pyatt for the donation of a new DVD player for the camp. Hugs, **Lonnie Olson**

Rainbow Bridge

**GOODBYE TO MY SMURPH,
Murphy, DSA
July 4, 1999 - April 3, 2010**

I said goodbye to my dearest friend last night. He began his life with me as a rescued dog. When we met, it was like we were meant for each other. Murphy went home yesterday to the One who rescues and loves all of us.

We have a lot of great memories. He was a great dog and he lived a very happy life. Even though we got along great, we struggled with his ability to adjust to public life at first. He began his transformation in classes, though sometimes it wasn't pretty. I wanted to take him on vacation and discovered we could go camping up north with the Dog Scouts and they said they could help me train him to boot. It was like a whole new world opened up for us. We learned how to communicate and explored activities that most dogs will never have an opportunity to do.

Murphy would never be an ordinary house pet. He went camping and visited Mackinac Island every summer and went on fall and winter outings. On his last visit to the island we hiked the whole eight miles around the island. He visited his Grandpa and other residents in the nursing home, went to Detroit Tigers and Detroit Shock games, raised money for the Michigan Humane Society and Michigan Anti-Cruelty Society and represented the Dog Scouts at many events. He had fun practicing flyball and agility, went sledding, kayaking and hiked over 100 miles under pack. In recent years, he helped patrol a lakefront park to control geese.

What made him special wasn't being a Dog Scout or winning any great awards, though I was proud of everything he achieved. Through him, I met so many nice people. His life was devoted to making me happy, having fun and enjoying simple things like rolling in the grass on a sunny day.

When he was eight years old, he represented the Dog Scouts in the Detroit Kennel Club Dog Show, less than 10 miles from where he had been picked up by the Anti-Cruelty Society. I wrote about him that he would never be cold and hungry, sick or lonely like many homeless pets-and he never was.

Six months ago, Murphy was diagnosed with hemangiosarcoma, an incurable cancer. He bravely recovered from surgery and went on a holistic program to maintain his health as best we could. As a final service to society, a sample of his blood has been sent to doctors at the Van Andel Institute who are researching causes and cures for this cancer. I would like to encourage anyone who has a dog or knows someone with a dog that has this cancer to consider sharing a sample to this study. Though we were lucky to have extra time together (they told me 3 months at first) and every day was a gift, I hoped for more. Who doesn't?

He is survived by his animal family: cat brother, Stewart, who grew up with him as a true brother and playmate, Maia, his sister, friend and apprentice, his cousins Bonnie and Tobi and his human family: his Granny, my sister Marge and her family, and me, the one he rescued.

Thanks to all of you who were his friends, rest in peace my sweet boy-

Postscript: If you are interested in more information on the Van Andel Institute's research on Canine Hereditary Cancer, see their website: www.vai.org/Research/Labs/CancerAndDevelopmentalCellBiology/CHCC.aspx

Martha Thierry



Angel Teale

Dear Friends, It is with deep sadness I must tell you that Angel crossed over to the Rainbow Bridge Feb. 26, 2010. Words will never be able to start to tell you what Angel meant to me, Cathy, my mom and Tippy and hopefully all of you! Tippy misses her already! Angel didn't know the word NO or I CAN'T DO THAT, not even to the very end. She loved agility and her missing that one leg never stopped her. I believe she changed a lot of people views on what disabled dogs could do.

Because of her, Agility rules changed, to allow disabled dogs to compete on a case by case basis. She became a UKC Agility Grand Champion, she also took First place at the AMBOR Agility Nationals in her height division in 2002, and was on her way to accomplishing her CPE C-ATCH title before her failing eyesight from PRA finally slowed her down enough that she couldn't make the course time. But it didn't stop her from completing the course, because she never said NO!!! Blindness might have stopped her show agility career, but not the love of agility. She continued doing agility on her own in her back yard. Angel learned to be Tippy's cheerleader while Tippy was finishing her agility career. Everyone knew when Angel was in the building, she would just BARK BARK BARK for her sister while she was running the course. After Agility she went on to compete in ADPT Rally and received her Rally 1 and Rally 2 title. Rally 2 is done off leash and she received that title while being totally blind. She also was an expert in TRACKING; blind dogs have excellent noses. She would remind us of that everyday. You could never fool her. She even tried FLYBALL but could not understand why a ball would hit her in the face every time she touched this box, but she kept trying it. Angel was a DOG SCOUT and a member of Dog Scouts of America and earned many badges. She was also a retired THERAPY DOG! She was a Canine Good Citizen. Tippy and Angel worked the Chicagoland Pet Fair for both the Dog Scouts of America both and Dog Days of Wisconsin, and both even earned a paycheck by wearing a billboard walking around downtown Chicago, one winter day promoting a dog show in town. She also loved going to Dog Camp every year. As soon as she smelled the camp, her tail would wag and she would just BARK AND BARK. She loved to do everything, she loved to be with us always, her walks and special picnics in the park, She camped with us, went canoeing and kayaking; She even went up for a bi-plane ride. The pilot said he has never seen this before.

Angel just loved winter, from the first till last snow fall, she would roll in the snow and make snow angels. Thanks for the snow the other night, we were able to help Angel create one last snow angel for us. She loved Christmas and the exciting smell of puperonii in the packages under the tree, that she would rip apart to get at her treat. Easter, she would go out to mass, earlier in the morning, then she would like, at Lake Michigan. Then after the service she could run on the beach with Tippy and Cathy and dig "to China" in the sand and run into the lake for the first taste of the Summer that was coming. Summer would bring car rides in her own car seat looking out the car windows while she was still sighted and curling up in a comfortable ball afterwards. Summer would let her lay in the yard on a pillow enjoying the sun and cool breezes and an occasional dip in the pool. Summer would also bring softball games where she could attend Cathy and mine's games where she would wait, impatiently, till the end of the game when she could run the bases in the field, with Tippy, each carrying out their own softball mitts and show off as the team mascots. Summer would also include swimming and tubing on Garver lake in Michigan and birthday parties with all her doggie friends enjoying with her, her birthday cake and helping her open her birthday gifts. While at the cottage on Michigan, Angel, while being blind, was able to walk across the yard and, with pride, she was able to find the pier and walk onto it to find her beloved pontoon. Then she was able to locate the pontoon and time herself to be able to get on it, without falling into the lake, despite the fact that it was moving with the waves. There she would spend the afternoon enjoying the rocking and rolling of the waves under her as she enjoyed a peaceful nap with her mom. Angel loved her waverunner rides (the faster the better), she was able to find the waverunners to tell us she wanted to go for a ride, but also loved the slow pontoon boat ride.



Angel and Tippy attending the White Sox games on their DOG DAYS (once they stopped doing fireworks during the game), sitting in the bleaches and enjoying the food and walking (sometimes being carried) around the warning track in the outfield. I am sure I am missing others. Angel had a couple published newspaper article's written about her and her accomplishments. Angel's picture was published in a child's book about the Dog Scouts of America. She was on a WCIU's commercial and also on Animal Planets Pet Stars special episodes. Everyone that met Angel knew she was a special girl with a special heart!! No one would have known that this little black, 3 legged furball dog Cathy adopted would ever have this much effect on so many people. She accomplished more in her life than I know I have. Angel has taught us so much! Angel's motto was Go over, Go under, Go Around, Or Go through BUT NEVER NEVER NEVER, Give UP! That is something she has taught me and hopefully all of you.

I have tons of more memories and stories that will keep her in my mind and heart forever. Angel had to be put to sleep because her heart never failed, but her kidneys did. She was strong to the very end, wagging her tail and loving life!!!! Angel was one of a kind. There will never be another Angel. Angel was, quite simply the best. To all of you who shared a part of Angel's and Tippy's life. I would have never met you if it had not been for them. For that I am so grateful. Angel will forever be in my heart and I hope in yours too. Please say a prayer for her and for her sister, Tippy, who will miss her greatly. **Cheryl, Cathy, Mary and Tippy Teale**

The above pictures are of Angel working the Chicago Land Pet Fair last March. The first one has her sister Tippy, looking over her as she is working on the table, and I also included another.

Addison Vinzant

Addison was a Dog Scout (female), whose owner was Esther Vinzant. She was one of the two St. Bernards that were at the Missouri mini camp. Ester and Addison are from Troop #135. Addison lost her battle with cancer last month. **Chris Bahr**



In Closing....Dog's On Welfare?

This morning I went to sign my Dogs up for welfare. At first the lady said, "Dogs are not eligible to draw welfare". So, I explained to her that all my dogs are orphans, mixed in color, unemployed, need looking after, can't speak English and have no clue who their Daddys are. They expect me to feed them, provide them with housing and medical care, pick up after them and feel guilty because they are dogs. So she looked in her policy book to see what it takes to qualify. My Dogs get their first checks Friday. Damn this is a great country! **Author Unknown**



Another problem caused by deforestation