



July/August 2010

Volume 14, Issue 4

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

A Year and Counting

Usually, this place in the newsletter is filled with important messages from our President, Chris Puls. However, I've got to announce that last year at this time, I went to camp and starting working on my very first Dog Scout newsletter, which covered not 2 months but 4 months, a huge issue. I knew about club newsletters as I have been Editor of the Peoria Obedience Training Club's newsletter, "Tails and Details" for 8 years, but it's not as grand a scale as the "The Dog Scout Scoop" with members from across our nation and Canada. I have been at times, a little overwhelmed, but always greatly honored to bring the news to all of our members. It's been a year of learning, being challenged, getting to know our troops and feeling like I'm able to make a difference, just sitting in a chair and typing. The Troops are great at sharing stories and pictures and Chris Puls and Lonnie Olson and Judy Harris have been there to help me when I needed it. Thanks to all of you for a great first year, it's been awesome. See you at July camp!! **Peggy Zweber, Editor and her dogs, Charly, Cate and Nikki**



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Deadlines, Deadlines, Deadlines!!!

Newsletter Submission - 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>

Welcome to the newest troops!

Troop #204 - serving Palm City, FLORIDA
Leader: Shana Caranco, TreasureCoastDSA@hotmail.com

Troop #205 - Serving Mid Willomet Valley, OREGON
Leaders: Julie Flanery, Sharon Gretch and Jen Rourk
jflanery@comcast.net

Chris Puls, President

SPRING OUTING, CAMP CLEAN-UP DAYS AND LEADERSHIP RETREAT

In late June, during the clean-up days, Lonnie, Doree Donovan, Kevin Donovan, Melissa Matteson and myself helped clean-up the camp (Joanne Weber and her mom had helped with the cleaning a few days before the official clean-up days too). We fixed, cleaned, created, tossed junk and re-arranged. The camp really looks good!



The lodge also has a new floor! The dusty old concrete has been covered with a tough epoxy that is usually used in shops and garages (with color flecks). Lonnie and Ed have really been busting their backsides on this back breaking, multi-step, time consuming job. But it really makes a big difference in the appearance and lowers the levels of dust on everything. Much easier to clean too!

The hallway is cleaned out to allow free flow of traffic, since the bookshelves got organized and moved to the main room.



Hopefully people will be better able to see what books and videos are available to view. All the folding beds have new covers and some of the frames got painted to reduce rust transfer to those mattress covers. Camp will be getting a donated brand new flatscreen TV too! Big thanks to Jill Moore! So the huge old TV and big TV cart will be going away as well. Lots of great improvements with more on the way. When I left, Lonnie was working on organizing the store room and getting the store ready for the new floor covering. Thank-you to everyone that helped! It's very rewarding to see the progress. **Chris Puls, President**

 The Cleanup week took place Tuesday through Thursday May 25-27, in preparation for the coming camp season, as well as the Leadership Retreat, which took place on May 28 through May 31. The attendees for the clean-up week (Chris Puls, Lonnie Olson, Doree and Kevin Donovan, and Melissa Matteson) did work of Herculean proportions, completing jobs that have needed doing for 10 years. Their hard work was appreciated, and they really got the camp looking spiffy.



Melissa Matteson and George bring out lawn chairs for cleaning



Melissa cleans kayak



Kevin Dovovan rebuilds earthdog liners with concrete block



Doree Donovan's dogs take a break
 Dock diving



Photo Left – Bear Puls caught sleeping on the television cart after a hard day of cleaning and preparing camp for the Leadership Retreat; must have been cozy there.

Following the Clean-up week, we had the Leadership Retreat, where we learned a lot and new leaders got practice presenting topics of interest to fellow leaders. Lori Miller presented on Earthdog, and several dogs actually earned the badge. Gayle Sprinkle presented on Overnight Camping, and 7 of us braved the mosquitos to spend the night in the "wilderness" with our dogs, earning the badge. Thanks to all who participated in the Retreat, and for presenting interesting topics for us all to learn about.

Lonnie Olson



Gayle Sprinkle presenting Overnight Camping



Left – Lori Miller at overnight Campout



Right – Kevin Donovan cooking breakfast at overnight campout

 The 2010 Leadership Retreat was a big hit! 17 people attended (including family members) and based on the reviews, everyone learned several new things and had a great time. Also based on the reviews, we will be making some changes for the next Leadership Retreat to make it even better. The biggest change will be moving it off of the holiday weekend. The 2011 Spring Leadership Retreat will most likely be the weekend PRIOR to Memorial Day weekend (held on a Fri-Sat-Sun). However, we might also need to limit the number of attendees, but we are working on that.

The group that attended gave some very informative and interesting presentations. Even the veterans learned new things! The new leaders said they felt they had a better grasp of The Dog Scout Way and were looking forward to sharing what they learned. If you are interested in becoming a troop leader, or if you have a troop established, consider attending the retreat! It is not required to start or lead a troop, but it IS a great learning experience. **Chris Puls, President**

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

Troop News
Troop #119 Texas



Troop 119 is seeing some nice transitions. More and more troop members are stepping up and volunteering to take on the task of organizing monthly troop meetings, giving us some extra relaxation time! Our troop members are doing a great job and coming up with some new ideas for troop meetings and then leading the meetings and doing a great job at it!

The May troop meeting was supposed to be a Get Acquainted Picnic for the troop. Mike and Connie Romano offered to host the picnic at their property and they planned a great barbecue cookout, dog swimming in the pond, games, etc. What we found out is that we have some very sneaky troop members! The troop picnic ended up being a surprise birthday pawty for our BJ, who happened to turn 12 on the date of the picnic. Not only did everyone in the troop know about the surprise but us, but other people from all over knew about it, too! It was an incredible surprise and one we will remember for a long time! BJ loved being the center of attention, having doggie cake and doggie ice cream, playing games, seeing her human and canine friends and swimming in the pond! We felt so honored that so many people would work so hard to pull this thing off without us even knowing about it! and... we're just a tad concerned to realize that these troop friends can be so secretive and sneaky!!! :-)



For several months this summer, our troop has had the opportunity to be involved in some great education opportunities in conjunction with the City of Arlington Animal Services. Our troop was asked to provide volunteers for two programs the city was putting together for some special groups. One of the events was a Senior Living Therapy program that was presented to several different nursing homes/assisted living facilities during May and June. The program consisted of an educational talk about the benefits of pet therapy for seniors and then the volunteer dogs visited with the seniors at the facility. The program was lots of fun and the seniors – and volunteers - really had a great time together! Above **Molly and Max and Audi** visit with the seniors.



Photo Left - Kids bathing Benson and Daisy. The other program we were involved in was a Youth Grooming Academy. The program includes several 2-hour sessions during June, July and August. Kids between the ages of 12 and 18 attend classroom instruction on responsible care of a dog and then get to practice hands on care by giving the dogs a bath.

The kids "graduate" at the end of the session and obtain



certificates stating their completion in the program. The event has gotten some local press and, again, all the participants involved have had a great time and the kids are leaving with more knowledge of how to be a responsible dog owner! Left are the Grooming Academy graduates with Phizz.

We announced last month that the Texas Mini-Camp has closed registrations due to being full to capacity! Anyone still interested in attending Texas Mini-Camp in the fall, may contact us to be added to the wait list.

Mart and Cindy Ratliff, Troop 119 - North Texas

**Tanner and Cheryl - the King and Queen of Geocaching!
by Cindy Ratliff**

A funny thing happened on the way to fill the merit badge request from Tanner, DSA, and his trusty companion, Cheryl Bales. I realized Tanner and Cheryl are only the FOURTH Dog Scout and handler to ever claim the Geocaching 3 merit badge!! Wow! My Dog Scout database lists 1,041 Dog Scouts, past and present, and only three before Tanner has claimed this badge (badge requirements previously accomplished by Stryker Knipp, Adventure Knipp and Saikou Olson). Quite impressive.



Not being a Geocacher myself, I was interested in reviewing the large packet of information and photos that was submitted with the badge form. The merit badge has many requirements including finding at least 50 geocaches in at least 3 different states (they have actually found over 500 - just since mid-December!), placing at least 10, finding at least 5 travel bugs and placing 3 and... here's probably what keeps many from finishing this badge - they have to host a geocaching gathering that includes games/contests, etc. and collection of items for a collection cache. I had such fun seeing all the photos from Tanner and Cheryl's "gathering"! They had 27 people and several dogs in attendance. There were posters and balloons and snacks and originally created games and all kinds of other fun. The group all had a great time and everyone was very congratulatory on Tanner's accomplishments! Tanner and Cheryl jumped into DSA with all six feet at last fall's Texas Mini-Camp. We got them because another dog camp that they had planned to attend, cancelled their camp which left Tanner and Cheryl looking for a place to enjoy some good dog fun! Since that time, they have been an active part of Troop 119 and active in spreading the word about DSA! We're lucky to have them!

Troop #157 Florida

May and June were busy for Troop 157. What a blast as we ended Spring with our participation in 'Bark at the Park' with the Florida Marlins and over 1,000 other dogs and their human counterparts. We celebrated a very bittersweet 3rd Annual Doggie Olympics. Bitter, as we said farewell to Sandra Disque Allen, Founding Troop Leader, as she and her family head up to the cold north; and sweet, as we had our largest participation yet with over 30 members and their dogs attending. And in between this, we shaped and painted for our Art of Shaping Badge, cycled and cycled towards our Biking Badges, began our Freestyling training and had several of our members achieve their DSA certification. Oh, and if you want to catch the Letterbox craze - just head down to Florida. 80 boxes planted and growing every day!



Bark At The Park 2010 - waving at ourselves on the Big Screen Fastest Dog Contest.... and they're off. Winner finished dash in 1.7 seconds.

WOW, don't blink, you'll miss him!





A hot day, but fun was had by all the members of Troop 157.



A bittersweet day as we said farewell to Sandra Disque Allen, Founding Leader for Troop 157 (Cindi Stone, Co-Leader - Sandra Allen, Founding Leader - Polly Garinkle, Co-Leader)



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

Friends of Acadia Roadside Clean Up - The Downeast Dog Scouts participated in the annual Friends of Acadia Roadside Clean Up on Saturday, April 24, 2010. Troop members and their dogs picked up 147 piles after less responsible dog owners at Little Long Pond in Seal Harbor Maine.



Downeast Dog Scouts Troop 159 May Meeting

The Downeast Dog Scouts May meeting was held at **Birdsacre Wildlife Sanctuary in Ellsworth Maine**. Troop members *enjoyed exploring the nature trails and gardens at Birdsacre*. **Photo to left** - Downeast Dog Scouts at Birdsacre Wildlife Sanctuary on the "Queen's Throne"

Photo Right
Island Dog
Story Display
- Island Dog
Creative
Writing
Project



Island Dog Creative Writing Project

The Downeast Dog Scouts Troop partnered with schools, libraries and preschool centers in and around Mount Desert Island for an innovative program to encourage children to write creatively and read with imagination. Children age ten and under used the picture book "Island Dog", as inspiration to create their own stories.

The Island Dog Creative Writing Project was inspired by the book "Island Dog", by Maine artist Rebecca Goodale and published by Two Dog Press (www.twodogpress.com) in Brooklin, Maine. The book is based on Ms Goodale's depiction of coastal Maine through a day in the life of a friendly, adventurous canine. The Island Dog Creative Writing Project was made possible by a grant from the **Hattie A. and Freddie C. Lynam Trust** and the support of Two Dog Press. Children chose between narrating a story, writing individually and collaborating with a buddy or group. Stories were judged by a panel coordinated by Pat Horton, Youth Services Librarian at the Blue Hill Library. All participants in the Island Dog Creative Writing Project received a Certificate of Achievement. The authors of the most creative story in each category received a copy of "Island Dog", an Island Dog ribbon and a gift certificate. **The six story categories were:** Story Written by a Child Ages 9 -10, Story Written by a Child Ages 7 -18, Story Written by a Child Ages 5 -16, Buddy Written Story, Group Written Story and Story Narrated by Child.



Photo Left - Activity Area - Island Dog Creative Writing Project
Photo Right – Nancy's Reading Corner - Island Dog Creative Writing Project

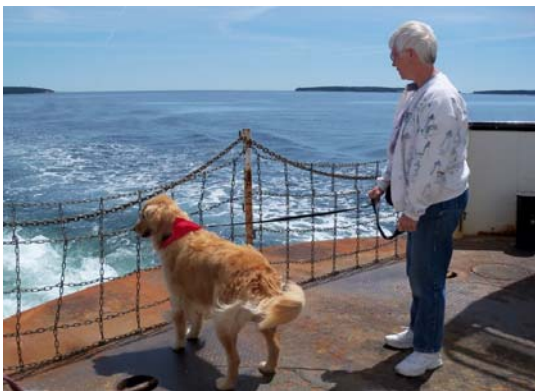


The Island Dog Creative Writing Project was a tremendous success! The Downeast Dog Scouts received ninety four very creative stories with over one hundred and thirty children participating in the project. Stories were received from: Frenchboro Elementary, Harbor House Children's Center, Home School or Sent from Home, Islesford Elementary, MDI YMCA Preschool, Mount Desert Elementary, Pemetic Elementary, Swan's Island Elementary and Tremont Elementary. Though older than the project groups, children from the fifth grade of Connors Emerson School also submitted poetry and a story to the Island Dog Creative Writing Project.



The Community Celebration of the Island Dog Project was well attended at Camp Beech Cliff in Mount Desert on Thursday evening May 6th. The children's stories were displayed on a colorful wall in recognition of their achievement. Balloons in Island Dog colors adorned the Eagles Nest Lodge for the celebration. Children and parents learned about the Downeast Dog Scouts Children Reading to Dogs Programs and read to the dogs in a comfortably decorated space of the lodge. Word games were played, and the children colored with dog bone crayons on coloring pages with an Island Dog theme. They voted for their favorite Island Dog name taken from the submitted stories. An interactive educational scavenger hunt taught the children about different breeds of dogs, the Dog Scouts, how to be safe around dogs and being a

responsible dog owner. There was pizza for everyone and a decorative Island Dog cake in three flavors. Islesford children wore dog necklaces for the event and had a special boat ride to attend the Celebration and receive their certificates in person. The child authors, their families and educators had broad smiles as Certificates of Achievement were awarded to each writer in attendance. The most creative story writers were also awarded a copy of Island Dog provided by Two Dog Press, a gift certificate and an Island Dog Ribbon. The most creative story authors of the six categories were: Christina Closson - Age 9-10. Sarah MacDonald - Age 7-8, Avonlea Brown - Age 5-6, Rocco DenDanto and Sean Murray - Buddy Written Story, Tremont Elementary Kindergarten Class - Group Written Story and Akasia Berger - Narrated By Child.



Twenty four students participated in the Island Dog Creative Writing Project from Swan's Island however were not able to attend the Celebration due to the ferry schedule. Downeast Dog Scouts Troop members and their dogs rode the ferry to Swan's Island to visit their 34 elementary school students. The children enjoyed meeting and greeting the dogs and receiving their Certificates of Accomplishment.

Photo Left - Swan's Island Ferry - Raya and Nancy Morrison
Photo Right - Swan's Island Ferry - Robyn Douglas and Cirra



Students at the Tremont Elementary School adopted a Maine National Guard Unit recently deployed to Afghanistan through their Students Promise Our Troops Support Program. They will be sending boxes of "goodies" to the troops for the next year. The children decided they wanted to send a copy of Island Dog and their stories in the first box because the troops love things that remind them of the kids and their Maine home.

The Island Dog Creative Writing Project provided an opportunity for children to develop their expressive skills creating stories about an adventurous "Island Dog". In the process of creating "Island Dog" stories the children reflected on their own relationships with canines. The bond between children and canines is strong and unique. Promotion of positive relationships between children and canines fosters empathy and respect for others.

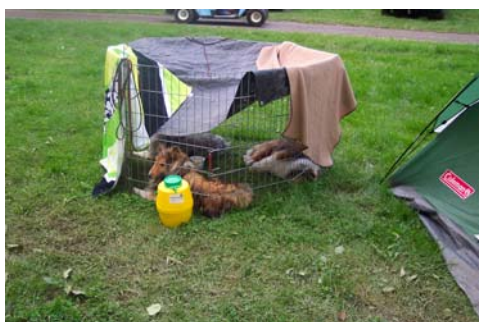
Yard Sale - The Downeast Dog Scouts held a very successful Yard Sale June 5, 2010. Proceeds from the Yard Sale will go towards the Downeast Dog Scouts Community Service Projects and Community Education Programs. Old ink cartridges and cell phones were collected for recycling to support DSA.

Children Reading to Dogs and Therapy Dog Visits - Downeast Dog Scouts members and their dogs continue therapy visits at hospitals, assisted living facilities and nursing homes. During the past school year, children from two elementary schools and two libraries read to Downeast Dog Scouts Troop dogs. Two troop members and their dogs will be involved with summer reading programs at two libraries.

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



Troop #166 has kicked off the summer with our second annual spring camping trip. We camped at Riverbend campgrounds in Marion, OH. The weather was a little wet but it didn't dampen the troops adventurous spirit. Our troop chef, Dave Knipp cooked Saturday night dinner and did a great job of feeding us. The weather was clear and we were able to have a really nice campfire after dinner.



Photos Left - Members Ellen and Elton Shuster manning the booth and part of our booth display at Pawzfest.

Photo Right - Ellen Shuster and Little E on the agility A frame at Pawzfest,



On June 13 we participated in the Wyandot county Pawzfest. A lot of people had never heard of DSA and our booth drew a lot of interested people. In addition to our booth, troop members participated in the Pawzwalk and the agility fun course. Our troop was very well received and we were invited back for next year's event.

We are also finalizing our first big fundraiser for the year, a yard sale to be held at troop member Mary Krebs house on the last weekend of June. We are also working on our booth for the Pup-a-Looza to be held at the Alum Creek Dog Park in Delaware, OH on July 31. The original date was June 5, but due to torrential rains it was cancelled to the new rain date. More to come in the next newsletter!

Sheryll Knipp, Troop #166

Troop 171 – Harrisburg, PA

Summer is off to a busy start for **Troop 171, the Redfern Ramblers of Harrisburg, PA.** Before we get to our list of activities that we have planned and accomplished, we would like to share some happy news. Congratulations to first-time mom, **DSA Dora!** She gave birth to nine healthy pups on June 9! Her brood contains six boys (three black and three yellow) and three yellow girls. Maybe there will be some future Redfern Ramblers if any are going to homes in the area! Kudos also go to **new Dog Scout Pearl!**, owned by Betsy and John Howell. She completed her Dog Scout badge, as well as her Letterboxing 1 and 2 badges -- all before her first birthday on June 19! (In the spirit of friendly competition, Pearl's brother Zeke, owned by Paula and Rosa Marinak, will be among the next to complete his Dog Scout badge!)

Tails are also wagging in support of **DSA Julie** (mom of Pearl and Zeke), who recently completed the requirements for her First Aid and Puppy Paddler badges. She also only needs to find two more boxes to earn Letterboxing 3, which will complete that series of badges for her. Last but not least, **DSA Maida** (great-grandmother of Pearl and Zeke) has finished one phase of her Retrieve badge and is also plugging away on the requirements for her Community Service badge. As you can see, Dog Scouting and badge earning is somewhat of a family business for our troop!

Now, on to our activities. Just before Memorial Day, a group of us participated in the 2010 Walk for A Healthy Community on Harrisburg's City Island to work on our Backpacking and/or Community Service badges. Some troopers walked a more leisurely mile, while others preferred the challenge of the 5K. No matter what our pace, we enjoyed the camaraderie and the chance to raise money for several local worthy causes. Charities represented by our group included United Cerebral Palsy of Central PA and Susquehanna Service Dogs. In keeping with our goal to take advantage of the outdoors before the "dog days" of August set in, we have scheduled several hikes for next few months. Our first one was held June 6 at Shank Park in Middletown. The weather turned out great, and a fine time was had by all!

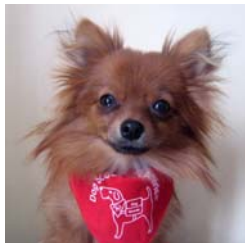
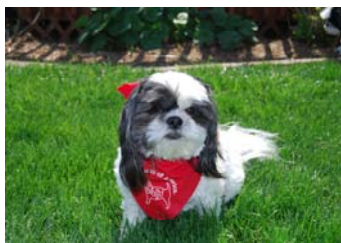
In an effort to work on more badges while still learning and having fun, we had an orientation to the Travel Safety Badge on June 13. This was a great activity to prepare for the summer travel season with our four-footed adventurers! A first aid seminar was also planned for June 16. We will have an update next time on more troopers who earned that badge. Next, two of our newest troop members gave a presentation on geocaching at our monthly June meeting. If this hobby is as addictive as letterboxing, a lot of us are going to be in serious trouble! Of course, summer just wouldn't be summer without some swimming. We have two swim parties planned for the summer – one each in July and August. Those will be dog days indeed! Undoubtedly, some more swimming badges will be earned. As you can see, we have lots of summer activities already planned, and we will likely find room in our schedules for a few more. Whatever your summer plans, we hope they include lots of opportunities for good fun and good work with great friends – human and dog alike! ~ **Paula Marinak**

Troop 177- Indianapolis, IN

Troop 177 welcomes 2 new scouts Ozlo and Saige are our recent graduates from cadet to scout.

The May meeting all who achieved their DSA in the past year (June 09 though June 2010) were recognized for their accomplishment in a bridge crossing ceremony. Cadets Hallie, Sophie, Lungnut, Noche, Saige, Ozlo crossed the bridge to Dog Scout, and reaffirmed their pledge to follow the dog scout way.

**The troop has been blessed with 4 new cadets: Casey, Daisy, Pansy, and Samantha.



Our spring was full of many great things! The scouts raised funds for the Humane Society at the annual Mutt Strut. It was a wet and windy day but everyone walked the 2 ½ mile oval at the Indianapolis Motor Speedway. \$920 was donated to the Humane Society



Sophie, Cash, Bailey, Saige, Charlie, Casey, have all been at festivals, walks and fundraisers with either or both the parent wearing a DSA t-shirt and the scout wearing their DSA bandana's or full uniforms. Several have won awards for contests in leave its, best-dressed, musical free style.

DSA camp June 20-26: Six members are attending camp and are now meeting 2 – 3 times per week to practice their Drill Team routine. Good luck to Saige & Bailey, Sophie, Hallie, Casey, Ted & Jauck, and Charlie for a fun trip to summer camp.



Six scouts have completed their certifications with Delta Society Pet Partners and are actively visiting in the community. Bailey just started a read program, Saba, Cash, Charlie have all been attending summer camps for children with disabilities. Resent visit at a **Burn Camp**.

We are scheduled for 2 other camps throughout the summer

Our meeting for July will be to attend and walk together in the parade at a DogDayz Festival. August is our annual Birthday Bash; all dogs celebrate their birthdays. A day of hiking, canoe/kayaking, swimming, letterboxing, picnic and presents!



My name is **Candy McKing**. I am a new troop leader just getting started. I am also a member of troop 177 in Indianapolis IN. Here are photos of me and my dog scouts at the adoption event at Dog World in Columbus IN May 1. This was part of the Caesar Milan marathon pet adoption event. In Columbus IN it was sponsored by Dog World and CARE. We had many veterinarians, animal control, canine message, groomers, agility booths. My dogs and I talked with the public and showed off some of our skills.



Ted, Candy & Jauck

Troop 194 – Richmond, VA

We are a new troop, but our membership and activities are growing. We have had three monthly hikes and have our fourth approaching this month. The hikes have ranged from 2 miles - 5 miles, mostly off leash. I am proud of our dogs and our members. This weekend we will be hosting our first swim/cookout. I know my dogs are looking forward to it. We are also looking into a few DOGA classes. Yes, Yoga with your Dog=DOGA. :) We will keep you updated on our outings. The picture of the old building is an old pump house located in Pump House Park on the James River in Richmond, VA. The next photo is part of the troop crossing a bridge into the park area- Beth Thompson with Megan (dog).



The next photo is Mario and Juneau playing with a stick while the other dogs look on (Paisley, Gaius, and Dazzle). The next photo is Mario trying to take the stick from Juneau.



The Doga photo is Martina Hancock and her 9 year old Jack Russell Terrier, Scooter. Our next hike is June 26th. This will be our fourth hike this year, once a month. We are loving the Dog Scout Way!

Jennifer Thomas, Troop Leader #194

Troop 196 – Rockford, MI
The Rogue River Dog Scouts



It has been kind of a PWD-O-Rama recently with the Dandy Dinmonts off showing how beautiful they are in conformation every weekend. The Giant Schnauzer has been longing at Whisker's Pet Spa and the Lab has been no where to be seen.

Our troop has still been active with plans in the works for more and more fun!!

In June we have a socialization trip to the Rockford fire department scheduled as well as a very special presentation on Canine Search and Rescue being given by Jeanette Groner, an internationally renowned Dog





trainer and Search and rescue Dog handler as well as author. We have some new members, the McPhee family, with their PWD, Maize'. We welcome them. The Rakow's also have a new PWD (Portugese Water Dog) puppy named "Lego". We welcome them all.



Troop 196 puppies socializing at Karate class with Sensei Wendy Redding @ Pro-Karate Rockford.

 Kya and I are individual members and do not belong to a troop. We're working towards our community service and therapy dog badges, as well as 100 mile Backpacking merit, which we are ten miles shy of.



Left – Kya introducing the Girl Scouts to Dog Scouts. This took place at a nursing home visit we do through an organization called H.E.A.R.T. (hence the blue vest). I brought along Kya's dog scout vest and the girl scouts were amazed to see her merit badges.

The next picture is when we had a booth dedicated to Dog Scouts at our local SPCA Wags and Whiskers Walkathon. I talked to people and Kya sat pretty & showed what a good Dog Scout she is.



The third photo is of Kya and a client at a nursing home visit. This person usually does not talk or react to anyone, but he is reaching for Kya. She later sat on his lap and he pet her.



The last photo is our Earth Day clean up where Kya helped me find trash along the roads.



Karen Meschino & Dog Scout Kya
 Brewster, NY

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**

Rainbow Bridge

Zeke Ratliff, 1-29-2001/ 5-25-2010



Zeke came to us almost 4 years ago, full of life and vibrant energy. He brought along with him a considerable bag of charms to steal our hearts away. It is these charms and the memories we created while he was with us that will give us solace in our grief now that he is roaming the grounds at the Rainbow Bridge. Zeke also came to us with a medical condition that led his previous family to surrender him, and when we were asked to bring Zeke into our family, we promised to shelter him with tenderness, love him while he was with us and care for him in the very best way possible. Zeke taught us many things and we learned many more while treating his condition, but the most important thing we learned was to enjoy each day to its fullest as we do not know which will be the last. While the grief at times seems unbearable and we still often get a tear in our eye when we are reminded

of him, we do not consider the investment of love that we gave him to be in vain. We will forever treasure the memories of Zeke and the happiness that he brought to our family, and one day the grief will pass and we will be able to rejoice in his antics with all those whose life Zeke had such an impact on. Give your dog a hug and do something special with them today, it will be a memory that will help carry you through the grief that will come when God comes calling and your friend passes to the Rainbow Bridge to wait for you there.

Loved by Mart, Cindy & BJ Ratliff and all those who were ever blessed to know him

In Closing....Just A Few Thoughts About Our Best Friends

"Dogs feel very strongly that they should always go with you in the car, in case the need should arise for them to bark violently at nothing, right in your ear." - Dave Barry.

"He is your friend, your partner, your defender, your dog. You are his life, his love, his leader. He will be yours, faithful and true, to the last beat of his heart. You owe it to him to be worthy of such devotion."

**** Author Unknown ****

"Within the heart of every stray lies the singular desire to be loved." - Unknown.

"Acquiring a dog may be the only opportunity a human ever has to choose a relative." ~Mordecai Siegal~
