



The Dog Scout Scoop

(little bits of news we've picked up)

November/December 2010

Volume 14, Issue 6

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

Strategic Planning Committee

Are you willing to help improve DSA? Do you love the Dog Scouts of America and want to make it even better? Do you have a special skill or interest? How would you like to help expand and improve this fine organization?

Well, here's your chance. Starting now and until Jan. 15th 2011, you have a chance to apply for membership in one of the following exciting strategic planning committees being formed by the DSA Board of Directors. The committees are responsible for brainstorming, planning, and taking action in any one of the following 8 areas:

1. Improve our bottom line
2. Get the word out
3. Grow our membership
4. Stay true to our mission
5. Improve our processes and procedures
6. Bring camp to more people
7. Reduce our environmental impact
8. Manage risk

If you would like more information or would like to be involved, please fill out the application found here: http://www.dogscouts.org/Board_Members.html.

Did I add to the article that DSA is looking for new board members?

If not, that will need to be added in some obvious spot. The same link I included for the committee members can be used for potential board members. Applications can be submitted to me DogScouts@hotmail.com.

If you have questions, please contact Lowell Schmorow-Zuckerman at: dsastrategicplan@gmail.com. Stay tuned for future announcements on the DSA Talk list and on the DSA Facebook page.

Chris Puls, DSA President

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Deadlines, Deadlines, Deadlines!!!

Newsletter Submission - December 15th, 2010 for January/February 2011 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>

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

HAPPY 15th ANNIVERSARY!

For Dog Scouts of America's 15th anniversary, I thought it would be fun to look up the top 15 most steadfast members--the ones that have been with us the longest. The list of members below share something in common (except for the Johnson's, whose Smokey must be about 14). They have lost one or more of the original dogs they had when they joined Dog Scouts of America. We are, for the most part, "second generation" dog scout members.

These members are not only steadfast, but generous, as many of them have elected to be Contributing or Sustaining members, or regularly give cash donations to DSA. All are very good supporters of our mission, many tirelessly giving their time to fundraise for DSA, some being instrumental in troop operation, others helping develop badges, and still others having DSA speak at their national specialty, to spread the word to many other potential members and supporters. Six have served or are serving on the board of directors, and three others were nominated to serve. This list seems to represent not just the "oldest," long-standing members of our organization, but some very fine role models. It's a shame I had to stop the list at 15, because there are a lot of early names worth mentioning here. But, since it's our 15th anniversary this year, I thought I'd choose that number. To give you an idea of where our membership has gone since it's beginning, the member numbers we are currently assigning are in the 3,000's. Not all of those have kept their membership current throughout the years like the folks in this list have... Hip, Hip, Hooray for them! Be proud of your "young" number!

Lonnie Olson & Ed Wolfe	1* Donors and Fundraisers, Life Members
Joanne Weber	2* Donor and Fundraiser, Life Member
Beth Duman	3* Fundraiser, Life Member
Gary & Jennifer Riess	105 Suporter
Jim and Maggie Ouillette	117 Contributing Members
Kat Vogtman	132 Sustaining Member
Chris Puls	190 Donor and Fundraiser
Chris Kloski	209 Fundraiser
Fay Reid	223 Donor and Fundraiser
Dina & Ben Johnson	276 Supporter
Mart & Cindy Ratliff	355 Donors and Fundraisers
Dianne Coleman	356 Supporter
Matt & Melissa Perez	365 Fundraisers
Deb Braun	386 Supporter
Charles & Barbara Holmes	407 (have been both Contributing and Sustaining Members and donors)

*At the time we started memberships, we gave board members the single digit numbers, and started regular membership with number 100. **Lonnie Olson**

Our New DSA Treasurer - Barbara Whiting

Barbara Whiting is single and resides in Downers Grove, Illinois with her dog Danny, a Border Collie/Husky mix. She grew up in the Chicago area but has lived in Boulder, Colorado (where she received her BS Accounting from the University of Colorado and where her daughter was born), Los Angeles, Dallas and Detroit. Currently she is working as a tax specialist for Whitnell & Co, a financial planning and wealth management firm. She has been involved with several nonprofit organizations as a volunteer, including Andover High School Parents Band Organization where she acted as treasurer and Great Lakes Border Collie Rescue where she fostered dogs pending adoption. Besides spending time with Danny, Barbara enjoys gardening, bicycling, canoeing, and travel. Favorites:

Authors: Elmore Leonard, John LeCarre and Richard Russo.

Music: Blues; bluegrass

Movies: Indie films

Current Television: Boardwalk Empire

NEW BADGE! K-9 Fitness

A new badge has been added to the mix! It is all about fitness for our canines (& us). It takes at least 6 weeks to earn because it includes keeping records of at least 2.5 hours of aerobic exercise for the dog per week for 6 out of 8 weeks. It also has components that need to be seen by the Evaluator in person or by video such as the dog performing active warm-up behaviors, accepting stretching and massage, performing muscle building activities as well as body awareness activities. Only sustained aerobic activity (15 minutes or more at a time) counts toward the 2.5 hours per week. Activities like swimming, jogging, biking, repeated fetching, etc. do count. Activities where there is a burst of activity followed by a recovery period don't count (agility class, lure coursing, dock diving competition, etc.). If this sounds like something you and your dog may enjoy together, find all the details and training information at the bottom of the "other badges" page: http://www.dogscouts.org/Badges_other.html If you will be attending camp, you may want to get a head start on the weekly record keeping (start before the end of April for the June campers), then you can learn/demonstrate the other badge components in person during camp. The patches are already in for this badge, so as soon as it is earned, the patch is ready to be awarded! This badge was proposed and developed by Angela Schmorow and features her and her dog Cade on the badge. Angela will be the video evaluator for this badge. Thank-you Angela for a badge I think will be very popular! **Chris Puls, President**

FALL OUTING by Lonnie Olson

The fall outing was held at Dog Scout Camp on October 1 - 3. The weather was pretty nice all weekend, and the fall colors were beautiful. Fourteen people attended, and we hiked, played track-for-treats, had Halloween games and costume contest, and had the "Haunted Woods" thanks to Lowell and Angela Schmorow-Zuckerman, who got the stuff down from the attic and set it up (with some help from Ed). We had our first ever Virtual Pumpkin Carving Contest, where people carved stamps that were pumpkins or had pumpkins in them. There were some VERY good submissions, and Amy Braat won first place with her carving, "Chew Toy" depicting a bully breed chewing on a pumpkin that someone had meticulously carved into the likeness of a boxer or similar bully breed. It was great. She said she got the idea from a picture she saw in Better Homes and Gardens. Afterwards, we all exchanged stamps in our letterboxing log books.

The costume contest was hard to judge, and had all sorts of elaborate entries. Best Overall Costume was won by Raggedy Ann and Andy (Elizabeth Najduch and Emma). Ryder Knipp got Most Original Costume. Ryder Knipp was dressed as a "Utility Worker" complete with road sign slapped on his butt, and flashing lights, but also equipped with Utility obedience gloves, scent articles, go-out marker, bar jump bar, and tongs, all attached to his "utility worker" orange vest. That was hard to top, but all of the costumes were very nice, and everyone had fun. Melissa Matteson and her German Shepherd, Belle took first place in the duck bobbing contest, after a tie for first place and "duck off" with Kozi Olson. Burrito Braat won the musical pumpkins game, and Caesar Baker won the "Snack Attack" game. The auction fundraiser raised close to \$175.00 for DSA. Melissa Matteson donated several really nice items to DSA. We now have a second chute tunnel, another tire jump, an additional tube tunnel, an adjustable teeter base, and lots of spare parts for making more bar jumps.

If you missed this outing, you'll want to be sure to attend next year. It just keeps getting better and better! (They heard me exclaim as they drove out of sight. This was the BEST fall outing EVER!).



The photos are: Burrito is tired (Burrito nudges his mother's (Amy Braat) chair at the campfire to tell her that it's bedtime!)

A group getting ready to go for a hike (pictured: Elizabeth Najduch and Emma, Melissa Matteson and George, Gayle Sprinkle and Charlie, Teri Dougherty and Sadie, Barb Foy and Sammie,



Julie Benson and Shelby, Lowell and Angela Schmorow-Zuckerman with Jade and Cadence. You can see the beautiful fall colors. Another group of hikers is returning in the background at the far left of Splash Pond.



Costume contestants: Raggedy Ann and Andy (Elizabeth Najduch and Emma) – Best Costume and "101 Things to do with a Box" (Ann Braat and Burrito dressed as a clicker and a box)

Below: Ryder Knipp as a Utility Worker, most original costume



Michigan Renaissance Festival on Pet Fest Weekend by Lonnie Olson

DSA attended the Michigan Renaissance Festival on Pet Fest weekend this year (first weekend in September). Many members volunteered to help with the booth, and most tried to dress in period costumes, or as close to it as possible. We all had a great time watching the crowds of similarly dressed "playtrons" walking by. The dogs easily raked in the money panhandling, as I guess folks there had never seen dogs as clever as this, and the crowd was used to shelling out "tips" for being entertained by the folks at the festival. We did a couple of demos on the stage, too. Over the weekend, we raised \$538.19 for Dog Scouts! We also gave out information and got several people interested in coming to camp! Thanks to all who helped man the booth: Joanne Weber, Julie Benson, Lowell and Angela Schmorow-Zuckerman, Elizabeth Najduch, Martha Thierry, Fay Reid, Melissa and Matt Perez, Chris and Bill Kloski, and me (Lonnie Olson).



Indy Kloski in his Pirate outfit. Indy helped raise funds by being cute and playing piano for tips at the booth.

Did You KNOW?

Your Cadet Scout status does not have to be renewed. I notice some people sending in additional registration monies when their dog is also registered as a Cadet Scout. If you send in an additional \$5.00, I will assume that you have lost or broken your tag, and are needing a new one (also \$5.00). But as far as registering your dog, you only have to do that once.

Your group (members only) can use the DSA facility for it's campout, seminars or other exclusive group event? If you would like to rent the facility and have it all to yourselves (no other campers using the grounds during your reserved time), you can arrange that by paying a \$75.00 fee per day for this priviledge. If you are just a group as small as a few friends getting together to use the camp for a scrapbooking weekend, this may seem like a lot of money, but consider that if three people shared a room, instead of each getting private rooms, they would save \$25.00 per night, and multiplied by three people would cover the exclusivity fee. As more and more people use the camp for their vacations, weekend getaways and other adventures, we put this fee in place so that people could insure that no other campers would be at the camp on the same weekend as their dog's birthday party or whatever. If you are just wanting to use the camp and don't need to have it exclusively, the usual fees apply: Private room - \$40.00; Bunkhouse room (shared with 2 other people) - \$15.00 per person per night; Trailer rental - \$45.00 per night (Big Trailer - \$60.00 per night). To rent the camp exclusively for a non-member function, the fee is \$150.00 per day. Contact camp manager, Lonnie Olson for reservations and camp availability.

Kozi's Certification

We knew Kozi had a great nose when she was only 9 weeks old and she went outside to go potty shortly after Ed had driven out back in his car. She was walking across the driveway when her head snapped to the right, and she took off following the scent of her dad in his car! Then, she showed a real prowess at the "Track for Treats" game at Dog Scout Camp. Next we went to Texas, where at 14 weeks of age, she passed the requirements for the Search and Rescue badge. The following year, she got her Tracking merit badge.

Next we joined a Search and Rescue team with the hope of working in area search or tracking, But with my artificial leg, the rest of the team thought I'd do better with cadaver training (less running through the woods). It was very interesting collecting the "training aids necessary to *practice* our human remains detection. Trying to talk people out of their wisdom teeth, blood samples, hair, afterbirths or removed growths can be awkward.

I trained and practiced for 2 years, mastering Ham Radio operation, incident command systems, navigation, weather basics, HazMat protocols, scouting and lost person behavior. Kozi got better and better at finding whatever was hidden in the most sneaky of locations, and learned to ignore planted "negatives," like animal remains, food, toys, or other distractions. She really enjoys her work, and goes right to it with determination when I give her the cue.

When we have our monthly practice drills, she gets so excited when she sees me packing the car with all of the SAR gear. She cries with anticipation as we drive down the road. She can hardly wait to "play."

Well, all of our hard work paid off this past weekend, when we passed our certification through the Law Enforcement Training Specialists, Inc. training camp and certification testing. We are now considered "Mission Ready," and will be able to respond when called out to perform Human Remains Detection as needed in the community.

It's funny how you try different things with Dog Scouts, and if your dog does well at or really enjoys certain ones, you may go on to really excel and do something great with it.



Here is a photo of Kozi in a building search, alerting on human remains. **Lonnie Olson**

We Have our Defibulator! Thanks to all who sent in donations so that the camp could buy an AED Defibulator. Your kind donations are appreciated. People have been asking what else we need at camp. Here's a Wish List of things we'd like to have for camp:

- Electric Stove
- Large Flat-Screen TV
- Scrabble game
- Agility Equipment (we need some additional stuff so we can offer Agilure as a badge in the future)
- Frisbee golf "holes"
- Extreme Vertical Dock Diving dummy holder apparatus (so we can offer EV as a badge)

If you can think of something else that you think we should have, please let us know and/or feel free to donate it. Thanks!
Lonnie Olson

Your Dog Could Be A STAR!



This is your chance to SHINE! In an effort to improve our customer service, we are going to provide some specific videos to help people participating in the worldwide certification program (earning badges by video) see what is expected. Chris has a lot of good information out there on what she needs to see in the video, and she has an example video of how to teach all of the exercises to pass the Dog Scout Certification, but even with this, she gets many videos that either didn't capture the right stuff, were too lengthy, or were barely on the right track.

We thought that by having some free, quality examples of what the finished product should look like, it would make things easier for the folks submitting video of their own dog. We didn't want to use just our own dogs for this, so, we're going to have a VIDEO CONTEST!

Please submit your video, using the following guidelines:

1. Videos should be **concise**. Edit clips to the bare minimum it takes for us to see the dog complete the exercise (for example, a leave it demo should take less than 15 seconds- that's 5 seconds per pass). The cues from the handler should be audible without wind or other background noise.
2. The exercises filmed need to **conform** to the DSA testing and video submission standards found on the DSA website and the dog should be getting it RIGHT, not just almost right. For leave-it's, you'll need to also show that the dog WANTS the item he or she is being asked to leave.
3. It must be **easy to see** the intended action on the film (up close and personal with a clear view of the subject and handler).
4. The video entry for each category must be **separate** from other categories (separate submissions for the Heel, Leave-it, etc.)
5. Videos must be posted via public **YouTube** posting (the links of the winners will be listed on the DSA website). Winners must agree to keep the video public on YouTube indefinitely or ask DSA for permission to move or remove the video.
6. Entries must be submitted via email with the link to your YouTube video, **identify** Dog, Handler, City and State where you're from, Camera Operator, Troop Affiliation (if any) and exercise shown on the clip. Email this to both DogScouts@hotmail.com and DogScoutcamp@gmail.com with "VIDEO CONTEST SUBMISSION" in the subject line.
7. Pick your **BEST** clip to enter in the contest, and enter only one clip of each topic. However, for the leave-it category you may submit one clip of leave it with an animal, another clip of leave it with food, and a third clip of leave it with a toy if you wish.
8. Must be a **member** of DSA to participate.
9. We don't want to have to edit any footage, so please make each clip as **short** as possible with no extraneous stuff on the video
10. The more **interesting** the better. Chris says she's not necessarily going for the most "extreme" versions, but if you happen to get a clip of an unusually unique or stellar performance, please send it in (like if a cat walks past your heeling pattern, and the dog still heels, or the dog unexpectedly gets "mauled" by a child and handles it with grace as the owner tries to get the kid off, or your dog meets a jellyfish on the beach and does a textbook leave-it).

Questions should be addressed to both DogScouts@hotmail.com and DogScoutcamp@gmail.com

According to our Certification Program Director, the exercises that people get wrong or go overboard on the most often are (in order of importance and NEED for good videos):

- Leave-it
- heeling pattern
- safe around other dogs (on-leash and off)
- safe around other people (at least 2 people)

The top 3 best clips (that follow all the guidelines above) will be posted in 1st, 2nd, 3rd order as examples in the DSA website video section with the info provided in item #6 above. This is where everyone that is trying to get the Dog Scout title on their dog will be directed to view these videos. Winners will also be listed in the Dog Scout Scoop, announced on the Yahoo Talk list and get "bragging rights" for their famous dogs! So...



GO! Start filming! Deadline for submissions in Jan 1st, 2011

Doggie Bling By Lonnie Olson

Can a dog own too many leashes and collars? This question recently came to me after a non-dog person came to my house, and saw the myriad of leashes, collars, and harnesses hanging from the back of my mud room door and on the wall, and remarked that I seemed to have an excessive amount. My very next company to arrive was my cousins, who are more or less “dog people.” Prior to their arrival, I thought about my last guest’s comment about the leashes that greet all visitors entering my house through the back door, and I envisioned myself mentioning it to my cousins, and having a good laugh over it (silly non-dog people!). But, alas, before I could get a chance to poke fun at the comment and people who make comments like that, one of my cousins said, “My GOD, do you think you have enough leashes?” I started to wonder if I should call the hoarder TV show, or join “leashes anonymous,” or something. Then I started rationalizing the need for each leash, and I decided that I was perfectly sane, and there’s nothing wrong with having a leash for every occasion.

After all, you need your basic “grab a leash to go for a walk” leash and collar, which doesn’t need to be fancy because it’s going to get dirty anyway. And there’s the “going to be seen in public” leash and collar, and also the service dog leash and collar. Don’t forget the hi-visibility leash and collar for walking in the woods in hunting season, and your choice of the reflective leash and collar or the light-up leash and collar combo for walking at night. There’s also the leash sets built especially for walking multiple dogs, including the anti-tangle double-leash set.

There’s the fancy matching leash and collar sets. There’s the leash with sheep on it from my Border Collie days, the Harley Davidson set from my motorcycle days, the skull and crossbones sets because of my pirate fetish, and the Budweiser set from my drinking days. Oh, and let’s not forget the Holidays! There’s the Heart set for Valentine’s Day, the shamrock set for St. Patrick’s Day, the flowered set for spring, the American Flag set for Independence Day, the camp-themed set for camp, the autumn leaves set for fall, the pumpkin set for Halloween, and the holly set for Christmas. Plus, there’s a leash and collar set for when you’re in a spunky mood, one for when you’re in a serious mood, and one for each of the sports you enjoy with your dog.

You need the extra wide, sight-hound collar and slip leash set, when you’re doing lure coursing. You need the competition approved buckle or martingale collar, with regulation length leash for showing in agility or obedience. You’ll want the waterproof collar and leash with shock-absorber for dock-diving. For clicker training, you’ll want a “hands-free” leash. Add the special shock cord attachment to this leash and you’re ready for jogging with your dog. For sledding you need a limited slip collar. I like the quick release buckle collar for frisbee competition, because I usually remove the collar and leash in the end zone, and let my dog run naked. Of course if you’re on a flyball team, you’ll need that special collar (with built-in handle) or harness and leash in your team’s colors.

Did someone mention harnesses? There’s one type of harness that you wear for tracking, another for sledding, a different one for carting, and another to discourage pulling when walking on leash, and of course a totally separate accident-rated harness for riding in the car safely. We also have a harness for running in scratchy weeds, with a special belly protector, and a harness that holds the saddlebags for our backpack.

Goodness, I haven’t even gotten started with the dress-up collars and leashes for things such as parades, fundraising, musical canine freestyle, or other costumed events. You can never have too many of those, and they’re off the hook when it comes to doggie bling! Included in this category are the matching collar, leash, bandana and sun visor sets, too. Did I mention that my dog also has a mink collar and an ornamental glass collar?

If you ask me which is my favorite leash and collar, I’d probably say that if I had one favorite, I wouldn’t need forty thousand leashes! But I do favor the very skinny, light-weight leashes. They’re so small, there’s no room for a theme or design, and they ball up to fit in the smallest of pockets. Using one of these broadcasts to people that “my dog is so well trained that I can walk her on this piece of yarn...” If you asked my dog what her favorite leash and collar is, she’d say “none of the above.” When we’re just around the house, she likes to run free in her birthday suit.

I guess for a dog who is off leash as much as mine is, maybe she does have an abundance of leashes and collars. Did you notice I did not use the words, “too many”?

Troop News
Troop 107 (Ohio/Kentucky/Indiana tri-state area):

After 10 years of leading a great troop, I have made the decision to step down and let others take on the role of troop leader, membership chairperson and treasurer. It has been a lot of fun and quite educational. The new troop leader will be June Haverland and Troop 107 memberships will be handled by Julie Murray. I look forward to participating as a troop member in future troop activities. On Oct. 16th, we had a troop party at my house and it was wonderful! The weather was PERFECT (for a change)! :-) Several troop members attended and the dogs had a blast. We spent some time going through a novice level IMPROV competition and the 9 dogs and handlers that participated did a great job. I was judging, so I didn't have my dogs playing, but I was challenged on the retrieve items. No one thought the items were retrievable, but Dazzle proved them wrong :-) I was also surprised with a gift box full of Malinois items as a thank-you to me for my years as troop leader- thank-you again everyone! I am very thankful for such great troop members!

Chris Puls, Former Leader of Troop 107



If you want to list who is in the "troop party " photo it is (left to right):
 Steve Hayes
 Susan Evans
 Jerry and Joyce Bradley
 Kim Smith
 Evelyn Black
 Sharon Thompson
 Kitty Hevener
 Paul George (barely visible- in blue)



Troop #119 Texas

Our troop members have continued to be active with their dogs through the hot summer months.

In August, troop member and behavior specialist, Karen Deeds, did a great presentation for us called "Before The Bite". She taught us how to recognize signs of aggression in our own dogs and others and how to avoid stressful situations.



In September, we did a troop favorite - doggie games! The humans and dogs had a great time playing relay games, a dress-up game and the Devil Duck game! All participants got a prize and at the end of the day, the dogs all left likely wondering why we get such a kick out of such silliness!

Photos: Clover retrieving ducks, Maverick sharing duck pond, Daisy and Hank dressing up.

We are hard at work preparing for the 7th Annual Texas Mini-Camp. We are full to the brim this year and set a record for filling up earlier than in any years past. Everyone think about planning your calendars to include Texas Mini-Camp in 2011!

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

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

Hancock County SPCA Fair - The Downeast Dog Scouts had an information booth at the annual SPCA Fair in Northeast Harbor, Maine. Cirra educated children regarding safety around dogs and encouraged adults to learn more about local troop activities. Hundreds of pets attended and participated in the dog show.

Carriage Road Walk and Lunch at the Jordan Pond House - In September, troop members enjoyed a Carriage Road walk in Acadia National Park before having lunch on the lawn with their dogs at Jordan Pond House. The Pond House is a dining tradition dating back to the 1800's featuring popovers and homemade ice cream. Many people enjoyed meeting the troop dogs and remarked about the dogs' good table manners.

Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation Walk - Troop members Pam Bourque, Pier Carros, Michelle Knowlton, Nancy Morrison and their dogs Timber, Bri, Gracie, Bruno, Rebel and Raya participated in the Mount Desert Island walk to raise \$310.00 for Juvenile Diabetes Research.

Children Reading to Dogs and Therapy Visits -The Troop members have resumed their school and library reading programs in Hancock County, Maine. They created word puzzles to teach the children about their reading dog partners. Dog Scouts Rissa, Timber and Cirra are featured on the Library Dogs website at www.librarydogs.com.

Carriage Road Walking -Troop members continue to enjoy the New England fall foliage each weekend walking the Acadia National Park Carriage Roads. They are working toward completion of all 57 miles of the Carriage Roads to earn the Downeast Dog Scouts Carriage Road Certificate.



SPCA Fair - Hancock County SPCA Show and Fair, Northeast Harbor, Maine



Right - Carriage Road Walk - Brown Mountain - Downeast Dog Scouts Troop Carriage Roads Walkers - Acadia National Park - Hadlock Brook Carriage Road Loop

Left - Downeast Dog Scouts - Acadia National Park - Jordan Pond



Downeast Dog Scouts - Acadia National Park - Carriage Road Walk



Acadia National Park - Lunch Jordan Pond House



Cirra enjoying a popover at Jordan Pond House - Acadia National Park



JDRF Walk - Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation Walk - Mount Desert Island - Bar Harbor, Maine

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

Troop #166 hasn't been quite as busy this year as in years past. Life has happened to all of us this year but we managed to get in a few fun events. We held our first annual fundraising yard sale. It was so large we actually held it on two different dates in two different towns! But our goal was met, clean houses and hundreds of dollars in our fundraising account. We were also invited to attend our newest area troop #207 in their first event, the Tails and Trails BBQ. We did a 1.5 mile hike and then had a cookout. We got to meet a lot of great people and a lot of fun was had by dogs and people alike. Three of our troop members made the journey "up north" to attend the DSA fall outing in Michigan. It started out as a little wet and overcast but ended up a great weekend. Hiking, letterbox pumpkin carving contest, costume party and games were just some of the fun we had while there. And thanks to Lowell and Angela for putting up the spooky trail and great bonfires each night. The fall outing wouldn't be the same without them. We are looking forward to our troop letterbox day coming up on October 16. We have a great place to hike with our dogs and lots of letterboxes to find. Hope the weather holds!

Sheryll Knipp, Troop #166



Left – Yard sale



Group shot of our troop while on the Tails & Trails BBQ hike. Members are: Jim, Ellen, Sheryll and Anita. Two pictures from the fall outing. Our dogs are from L to R: Caesar (Anita Baker), Stryker & Ryder (Sheryll Knipp) and Drea, Little E and B-Bop (Ellen Shuster). Ellen and her dogs are on the trail. I took all the photos except the group shot at the hike, which was taken by a member of troop #207. **Sheryll Knipp**

THE LIFE OF A GEOCACHING TRAVEL BUG

The life of a travel bug is not an easy one. They can become lost, stolen or destroyed. They can also be stuck in a non-active cache, sometimes for years before they are discovered if at all. So you say "why should I go to all the trouble to send out travel bugs if there is no guarantee it will continue to circulate?" The answer is because if it goes as it is supposed to, it is a lot of fun to track their journey and is therefore worth the effort. Back in 2008 I released 3 travel bugs in local caches as part of the process of earning the geocache 3 badge with my dogs Stryker & Venture. The first one, Clean up America Travel Bug was lost soon after releasing it. It was a container of bags on board poop bags and I'm hoping that whoever took it at least used the bags to clean up after their dogs. The second one, Paws Across America is still in circulation. I just got an e-mail that it is now in Oklahoma. It has traveled a whopping 10,226.8 miles since being released and has been to 28 different states. I'm hoping this bright orange blinking paw collar tag will eventually hit all 50 states. The third and most important one, Dog Scouts of America Travel Bug is now retired and back in my possession. This travel bug has a lot of sentimental value to me because I released it in honor of my sheltie Stryker earning his DSA Honor Scout back in 2008. I had a mission attached to it - it was to travel west to Texas in hopes that a dog scout member would find it. I kept a close watch on it's progress and when it finally reached Texas I e-mailed Cindy, leader of troop #119 to let her know I had released it, it was close to her location and to see if anyone from her troop was interested in finding it. I got an e-mail from Mandy Hall and her great dane Simon on 12/6/09 stating that they had found it. I was so excited to hear it had reached it's goal. Its traveled 2,638.2 miles and if it could talk, I imagine the stories it would tell! Mandy took it to the Texas mini camp where it received it's directional retrieve badge, kayaking badge and art of shaping badge. I then contacted her and asked that she please mail it back to me since it had reached it's goal. I could have had her release it to another cache but I really wanted to have it back because it was special. Truthfully, I never expected to see it again when I released it. But I'm glad I did. I'm glad Mandy found it and got to have fun with it and I then got to "meet" Mandy and Simon through e-mail. It was a fun and positive experience. The Dog Scouts of America Travel Bug is now officially retired. I am now looking forward to releasing more travel bugs in the near future. If you are interested in geocaching, definitely give it a try. Check into releasing your own travel bugs. It's really neat some of the places they end up, places I'll probably never get to see myself! And you never know, there just might be a cool Travel Bug in a cache somewhere close to home. (pictures of my travel bug with cachers' dogs' are available to look at on the geocaching.com website). Happy Trails!



Sheryll Knipp (trail name Sirius Star Gazer) and dogs Stryker (Sun Dog), Venture (Little Bear) and Ryder (Shadow Walker), Troop #166



The photos were taken by myself and are Stryker with the Dog Scouts of America Travel Bug, and the actual Travel Bug itself.

Troop 188 - Connecticut and Rhode Island

New Dog Scouts



Zora, Kelly Ford's puggle earned her DSA in July at Dog Scout Camp. We are all immensely proud of Zora DSA.

Rosco, Jen Pictou's schnauzer earned his DSA in September. We are all immensely proud of Rosco DSA.

Zora DSA – Dog Scout Camp

Zora DSA and I are new members to Troop 188, we joined in June. Zora DSA is a four year old puggle. We are the first members of Troop 188 to attend Dog Scout Camp. Zora DSA earned her Dog Scout Badge,

Puppy Paddler, Art of Shaping and Obstacle I at DSA Camp.



Zora's favorite activity at camp was the hot dog retrieve. Pieces of hot dogs were placed in film canisters with holes drilled in them. The hot dog pieces were then hidden all over the fenced in play area. The dogs took turns sniffing for their prize.

Everyone was a winner. We had a wonderful time and are already planning to go back next year. In September, I gave a presentation about Dog Scout Camp to Troop 188. I hope to bring more members from Troop 188 with us next summer.

Puppy Paddler – Troop Swim Lessons



Troop 188 has gone swimming several times this summer. All of the dogs love playing on the beach and in the water together. This is the first time many of the dogs had ever been swimming. Lucy DSA, Sheri Throop’s poodle, passed her Puppy Paddler. Rosco DSA, Jen Pictou’s schnauzer, passed his Puppy Paddler.



We had a special swim class with Kassi, Jeff & Cindy Eilenberger’s rottweiler, so that I could would on my Puppy Paddler Evaluator. Kassi and Jeff were great sports. Kassi made great progress and was

swimming by the end of the lesson. I passed my Puppy Paddler Evaluator examination.

Dog Parade at Mystic Seaport

Mystic Seaport’s annual Dog Days weekend now includes a dog parade. Over 100 dogs brought their people to the parade. Troop 188 was magnificently represented by Laney, Jeff & Cindy Eilenberger’s labrador, Kassi, Jeff & Cindy Eilenberger’s rottweiler, Tasha, Shannon McMartins labrador, and Zora DSA, Kelly Ford’s puggle. Maritime costumes were encouraged for the parade. Kassi and Laney wore their costumes proudly.



Dog on the Roof

Several members of Troop 188 volunteer with our local Animal Control. Kimlyn Marshall, Ledyard Animal Control Officer and a member of Troop 188, spotted a dog on the roof of a house while trying to catch another dog. During home renovations, the dog was able to climb up to the roof of his house, but couldn’t get down. Kimlyn used treats to lure the dog to her and calm him down. The heroic rescuers were able to lower the dog off the roof, using a doggie life jacket.



My Dogs Place Clients Appreciation Day - My Dog’s Place is a daycare, training and activity center for dogs and their families. The owner, Marge

Lineweber, is a founding member of Dog Scout Troop 188. Client Appreciation Day is a fabulous event organized by Marge and her staff to give back to their clients. This was the first year that Zora DSA and I attended the event. We spent most of the day promoting Dog Scouts at the Troop 188 booth. We had some amazing help from Sheri Throop’s daughter Amanda and her nephew Carl. I put together a Troop Scrapbook and we can exhibit selected pages on a display board for events. The Troop now boasts an astounding movie featuring photos and videos of Troop members and events. Sheri Throop put together the movie. We sold bandannas made by our own Millie Burke. The salesman award for the day goes to Carl, for selling four bandannas in one transaction.



My Dog’s Place had stations set-up where dogs could try activities, such as agility, flyball, scenting, and backpacking. The stations were arranged with an Amazing Race format, with prizes for completing stations. Ruben and Amanda finished the backpacking station. Ruben kept trying to play with the tennis

balls that were supposed to be in the backpack. Zora DSA and I completed the flyball station and eight others. She performed the jumps and touched the flyball box. Zora DSA won two squeaky toys. She was very protective of her winnings.



Several members of Troop 188 participated in the flyball demonstrations. The event was a great success for My Dog’s Place and Dog Scout Troop 188. **Kelly Ford, co-Leader of Troop 188**

Troop 196 – Rockford, MI
The Rogue River Dog Scouts



Hello fellow DSA Members. Fall is upon us and with so many children in our group it has been a busy time with everyone back to school. The joy of having a Dog Scout is that they are able to accompany us to many things Keebler is helping Wendy not only as a Pet Assertive therapy Dog at Clark retirement Communities but also helps her teach Karate. Keebler is especially valuable to the Little Dragons class. Keebler's presence at the "Mat Chat" is used to reward the children for paying attention and for their effort. Karma is permitted to bring Fin to the Dojo and they read and do home work together while Karma waits to participate in her own Jr.s Karate class. Our Troop Dogs were very successful this summer and some earned their DSA and Jr. DSA as well as a patch or two.



Beach Fun!

Above – DSA Class



Left – Lego Pup Scout

Right – the benefits of a DSA Scout



Zeep successfully earned his DSA certification with Jilian
 Zeep earned his Jr. DSA with Gabriel and his Puppy Paddlers patch
 Keebler earned her DSA with Wendy Redding
 Keebler also earned her Jr. DSA with Karma and her puppy paddlers as well
 Fin, already having earned DSA, and Jr. DSA also earned her puppy paddler patch with Karma handling her
 Lego earned his Pup Scout and his puppy paddler patch with Gabriel as well.

The Rogue River Troop is currently having a Dog Scouts Class with Jilian Rakow teaching. Jilian has passed her written for her Scout master and will need to submit video of the class and the other troop members being evaluated for their DSA certifications and the Boersma children evaluating for their Jr. DSA certifications with their Dog Calli and Deb Ensing's dogs.

Jennifer Hecker is working hard with her Giant Schnauzer Baxter on her skills as well.

Winter will be upon us soon and we will continue to work on our skills for our DSA certifications and we will also be having a grooming seminars put on by Jennifer Hecker and a Canine first Aid class put on by Jilian Rakow. We have Jeanette Groner, and internationally experienced Search and rescue Dog trainer and handler coming to talk to us about working dogs, how dogs use their noses, and search and rescue as well. Enjoy the fall colors and we look forward to reading about the events and experiences of our fellow Dog Scouts Members.

Jilian Rakow

Troop 208, Western Chicago (Kane, DuPage, Will and McHenry Counties)

Paws in the Park Festival October 3, 2010

I am sending you some photos from a booth event that my troop (208) and Alyce Cohen's Troop (210) did October 3, 2010 in Aurora, IL. The event was called "Paws in the Park" and was sponsored by the Fox Valley Park district and Aurora Animal Welfare League. There were a number of contests for the dogs, we handed out "treat" bags for all the dogs that stopped by our booth and treat bags for all the kids as well. The festival had a lot of contests and a great time was had by all, including our troops. We handed out a lot of the DSA brochures and I already have received 10 emails from people who are interested in joining. Not many people in this area have heard about DSA and everyone who stopped by was impressed with what DSA stands for. I was also approached by a local grade school who would like us to come and talk to the 1st through 4th grade classes about "Bite Prevention". **Karen Reeves, Troop 208 Leader**



Save a Stray

Our first booth event was on Sept 16th at an adoption event called "Save A Stray". This was the first public event that troop 208 attended. It was a large event that ran from 9 am to 8pm with many rescue organizations, pet food distributors, training facilities representatives and a custom pet accessory store in attendance. Since this was the first booth event we did, I was really excited to talk to as many people as I could about DSA. I am attaching photos. I was also asked by a local radio station that was broadcasting from the event if I would consider being interviewed on the air. Not wanting to pass up a chance to get the Dog Scouts message out to a large audience, I jumped at the chance. I have also attached photos taken during our interview.



Bailey and Karen at DSA Booth

Karen and Bailey on the Radio

Prospective New Members



Save a Stray Event



Left – Spot stopping by to find out about DSA

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DEADLINE:

Deadline to submit photos is Sept. 1st. If no photo is sent, a pawprint marker with pet's name will hold the date.



Email photos to Lonnie: dogscoutcamp@gmail.com

Pet's name _____
 Day _____
 Alternate day _____
 Additional pet's name _____
 Day _____
 Alternate day _____
TOTAL ENCLOSED \$ _____

Attitude of Gratitude

Thanks to **Melissa Matteson** for the generous donation of a couple hundred dollars worth of equipment for the camp agility field. We will put it to good use.

Thanks to **Troops 208 and 210** for raising money at their pet expo and sending the donation to DSA!

Thanks to **Dunja Ortel** for the matching chip and dip bowls she donated to the camp.

Maggie Oulette offered to donate a much needed stove for the Dog Scout Camp. It turned out to be a gas stove that we can't use, but thanks for thinking of us!

Thanks to **Joanne Weber** for donating a portion of her necklace sales to DSA.

Thanks to everyone who opts for a Contributing or Sustaining Membership each time they renew their dues!

Lonnie Olson

In Closing Running Through the Rain

October is a solemn month for me, even with the beautiful colors, I get sad as October 15th approaches, the day my husband, Marty, died. He was a wonderful soulmate, funny, irreverent, thoughtful and loving, and, I still miss him. When I saw this article, submitted by one of my dog club's members, for our newsletter, it just made me think of him, but lifted my spirits. So, enjoy, running through the rain, and enjoy and savor every precious moment in life, with your family, including those four-legged ones.

Running Through The Rain

A little girl had been shopping with her Mom in WalMart. She must have been 6 years old, this beautiful red haired, freckle faced image of innocence.

It was pouring outside. The kind of rain that gushes over the top of rain gutters, so much in a hurry to hit the earth it has no time to flow down the spout.. We all stood there, under the awning, just inside the door of the WalMart. We waited, some patiently, others irritated because nature messed up their hurried day.

I am always mesmerized by rainfall. I got lost in the sound and sight of the heavens washing away the dirt and dust of the world. Memories of running, splashing so carefree as a child came pouring in as a welcome reprieve from the worries of my day.

Her little voice was so sweet as it broke the hypnotic trance we were all caught in, 'Mom let's run through the rain,' She said. 'What?' Mom asked. 'Let's run through the rain!' She repeated. 'No, honey. We'll wait until it slows down a bit,' Mom replied. This young child waited a minute and repeated: 'Mom, let's run through the rain..' 'We'll get soaked if we do,' Mom said.

'No, we won't, Mom. That's not what you said this morning,' the young girl said as she tugged at her Mom's arm. 'This morning? When did I say we could run through the rain and not get wet?' 'Don't you remember? When you were talking to Daddy about his cancer, you said, ' If God can get us through this, He can get us through anything! '

The entire crowd stopped dead silent.. I swear you couldn't hear anything but the rain.. We all stood silently. No one left. Mom paused and thought for a moment about what she would say. Now some would laugh it off and scold her for being silly. Some might even ignore what was said. But this was a moment of affirmation in a young child's life. A time when innocent trust can be nurtured so that it will bloom into faith. 'Honey, you are absolutely right. Let's run through the rain. If GOD lets us get wet, well maybe we just need washing,' Mom said.

Then off they ran. We all stood watching, smiling and laughing as they darted past the cars and yes, through the puddles. They got soaked. They were followed by a few who screamed and laughed like children all the way to their cars. And yes, I did. I ran. I got wet. I needed washing.

Circumstances or people can take away your material possessions, they can take away your money, and they can take away your health. But no one can ever take away your precious memories...So, don't forget to make time and take the opportunities to make memories everyday. To everything there is a season and a time to every purpose under heaven. I HOPE YOU STILL TAKE THE TIME TO RUN THROUGH THE RAIN. They say it takes a minute to find a special person, an hour to appreciate them, a day to love them, but then an entire life to forget them.

Contributed by **Peggy Zweber**