



# The Dog Scout Scoop

(little bits of news we've picked up)

May/June 2011

Volume 15, 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

## Just A Note About the Newsletter

A number of people are sending in articles very late and asking that I put them in the newsletter I am currently working on. I need you to know that I want to do so, especially when you say please. However, this issue has taken longer than usual because of such requests and rearranging the articles. Start thinking about your articles for the June 15<sup>th</sup> deadline now, so I can put it together and get it out timely. I don't know what else to say but please. **Peggy Zweber, Editor**

Table of Contents			
DSA News	Pages 1 – 3	Troop News	Pages 3 -11
Rainbow Bridge	Page 11–12	Attitude of Gratitude	Page 12
In Closing	Page 12		

## **Please Respect Newsletter Deadlines!!!**

**Newsletter Submission - June 15<sup>th</sup>, 2011** for July/August 2011 Issue. Articles received after that date will go into the September/October issue. Please respect the deadlines. **Peggy Zweber, Editor**

**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!!!**

## **Stuff regarding the DSA Spring Outing and Annual Clean up:**

The DSA Spring Outing will be the weekend of May 13, 14, and 15. This is just a fun weekend that you can spend with your dog at the Dog Scout Camp in Michigan. There is usually planned a "Spring Egg Hunt," some hiking, a craft, a silent auction, campfires, and other adventures. If you'd like to attend, please contact Camp Manager, Lonnie Olson for reservations, room rates, etc. The weekend itself is FREE to all DSA members. The only charges would be for lodging, if you're staying at the camp.

The Annual Camp Cleanup is scheduled for the week following the spring outing. You can come up for any 3 days between May 16<sup>th</sup> and the 19<sup>th</sup> (or stay for all 4). Meals are provided, as well as FREE lodging (bunkhouse, or campsite), as long as you work while you're here (and we WILL put you to work!). There is a lot of stuff that needs to be done around camp to recover from the long winter, and to prepare for the summer camps. Last year, our dedicated cleaner-uppers made HUGE progress around the camp, taking care of unfinished projects and details that have been on the to-do list for many years! I hope we can do as well this year. There will be jobs of all types, easy and hard, depending on your skills and abilities. So don't be afraid that there's nothing you can do. There were a LOT of trees that came down last year, and we'll be having a lot of bonfires to clean up the branches. If you own equipment, like work gloves, safety glasses, boots, tree saws, loppers, hedge trimmers (maybe even your dog's hauling wagon), etc. we will put you to work. We have recently identified the future location of our very own Camp Chapel in the Woods, and we would like to get to work clearing that area of deadfalls and dead branches. The meals provided will be simple stuff, like pizza and hot dogs, and stuff we can cook in the fire pit or over a grill, so you may want to bring some supplemental munchies, treats, or stuff to pass to go along with what the camp is providing as "camp vittles." Contact Camp Director, Lonnie Olson [dogscoutcamp@gmail.com](mailto:dogscoutcamp@gmail.com) (989 389-2000) for reservations or more information. If you wish to bring a family member who can't work, due to age or whatever, they can come and pay the regular nightly rates for lodging. But we will have jobs for everyone, so please come out and help at the camp's annual clean-up (you can bring your dog(s), as we involve them in the clean-up, too, and there's usually some time leftover for some goofing off with your buddy, too. The clean-up precedes the Leadership Retreat, and if you're coming for that, you could come early and enjoy a few days before the hectic schedule of the retreat commences.

## 2011 Chicagoland Family Pet Expo

We had another successful year at the Chicagoland Family Pet Expo. The expo is shrinking every year, though, and it shows in the reduction of the number of exhibitors, and in the number of attendees. This was to be my last time attending this show, and it went out on a good note. The weather was perfect, the hotel very close and accommodating, and even the highway traffic was bearable this time around. The Tower Show Productions office gave DSA a premier booth space for what we would normally pay for an upstairs booth (which is what we had for years). We got a corner booth on that very first isle when people first come in the door. We were surrounded by fabulous neighbors, who did not hog the isles, mask our booth, or let their junk spill over into our booth. In fact, they would send over everyone who came to their booth, so they could see our amazing dogs. They also came over repeatedly with donations, and even brought us some French fries! They were very friendly and even helped us carry stuff out to our car on Friday night.

The public was great, and we received less comments than usual about our "poor dogs" who have to wear the ridiculous outfits. Why is it that people ASSUME that our dogs would have a problem doing something perfectly normal, like wearing headgear and a uniform, just because they didn't bother to properly condition their own dog to be comfortable in these situations? But, like I said, we got less of this "I know better than you do about the comfort of your dog" kind of attitude than usual this year. People must be learning...

We had many people tell us that we had the best booth in the whole show, or that they learned more visiting our booth than anywhere else in the show. The time we spent talking one-on-one with people was worth it, and seemed like it was life-changing for some of them. And all of this because they were attracted to our booth by the dogs in the ridiculous head gear doing the "fetching dollars" trick. Many just wanted to see the trick and leave, but for the ones who were really interested, we made an impact.

Thanks to everyone and their dogs who helped out at our booth. Jo and I were there all weekend, and we appreciated being able to leave the booth to look around or walk our dogs. We raised over \$740.00 with the dollar fetching trick, and Schaefer Stegner picked it up in just a few tries.

It was a wonderful way to end our 10-year stint at dragging everything to Chicago for this annual event. I'm sure I'll miss the friends we've made there, but I won't miss the 8-hour drive, the Chicago traffic jams, the concrete jungle, and the 1-hour + waits for seating at any of the good restaurants in the area on Saturday night. Boy, I'm glad I live in the northwoods...



Left: Lonnie Olson and Kozi greet visitors

Right: Mitchell Weber loves this job



Above: Lizzi Kadow & Bianca

Right: Joanne Weber and Mitchell

Far Right: Mary Schuenemann, Mitchell And Bob Miller

**New Troops**

Please welcome our newest troops!

Troop 213- CO (North metro Denver)  
Leader Margo Suzuki  
nmddogscouts@gmail.com

Troop 214- IN (North Vernon)  
Leader Candy McKing  
Cmcking2002@yahoo.com

Troop 215- MA (Boston metro west)  
Leader Ann Dupuis  
ann@yourdreamdog.com

Troop 216 - AZ (Lake Havasu City)  
Leader: Vicki Warner  
ok9Korral@yahoo.com

Troop 217 - MI (Novi, Dearborn)  
Leader Julie Benson  
Julie\_Benson@CBLProperties.com

To see if there is a troop in your area, visit:  
[http://www.dogscouts.org/Troop\\_Locations\\_List.html](http://www.dogscouts.org/Troop_Locations_List.html)

\*\*\*\*\*

**Troop News**  
**Troop #119 Texas**



**Announcing:**  
**8<sup>th</sup> Annual**

**Dog Scouts of America Texas Mini-Camp**

**Hosted by Troop 119, Lone Star Paws Squad  
November 3-6, 2011  
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](mailto:dogluvurz@prodigy.net)**  
**Or call (817) 446-7791**  
**register online at:**  
**[www.dogscouts.org](http://www.dogscouts.org)**

\*\*\*\*\*

In March, we had beautiful weather to enjoy a nice long troop hike at an area park. Afterwards, troop member Lenda Curtis led the meeting with 101 Things To Do With A Box. We had some imaginative dogs in the group and everyone got to sharpen their training skills.

In April, we had our first booth event of the year, Pooch and Pals, to help raise money for the Fort Worth Animal Shelter. It was a great day to be in the park and we got a lot of interest at our booth. Troop Dog Scout, Quinn, did a couple of painting demos for the crowd and we had people come by the booth afterwards to help us name the paintings. We heard from several people after the event and added some new troop members!

Our troop members continue to work on the Troop Poop Challenge of collecting at least 50 stray poops by June 1. We are also working on getting donations for our troop's Hike-A-Thon team! We are already off to a great start with our troop team raising \$2,500 so far... and counting...

**Mart and Cindy Ratliff, North Texas Troop 119**



Far left – Clover demos doing something with her box

Near right – March troop hike



Far left – Quinn demos painting

Near right – Quinn, Donna, Geo and Cassie

\*\*\*\*\*

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

**Downeast Dog Scouts Troop 159**

**March Meeting**

Downeast Dog Scout member Denise Houseknecht shared her experience at the Canine Rehabilitation Fast Track Program at the University of Tennessee. Denise attended the program in July 2010 and spoke about the benefits of canine rehabilitation.

**Camp Beech Cliff's Sign the Beam Party**

Troop members Robyn Douglas and Denise Houseknecht attended Camp Beech Cliff's "Sign The Beam Party" and "signed" the beam with a paw print. Community members became part of the camp's history by signing their names on a beam that will become part of Camp Beech Cliff's Renovation Project.

**Cub Scout Pack 89 - Bar Harbor, Maine**

In April, the Downeast Dog Scouts were guests of Cub Scout Pack 89 of Bar Harbor, Maine. The Dog Scouts taught the Cub Scouts about greeting dogs, grooming dogs, teaching dogs, the Downeast Dog Scouts and the Dog Scouts of America. The Cub Scouts signed the DSA Dog Bite Prevention Success Pledge.

**President's Volunteer Service Award 2010**

The Downeast Dog Scouts earned the 2010 Silver President's Volunteer Service Award. As a group, troop members completed over 500 hours of community service. Several troop members completed between 100 -249 hours of volunteer

community service and earned individual Bronze President's Volunteer Service Awards. Troop members receiving Bronze individual awards were Pam Bourque, Pier Carros and Robyn Douglas.

Downeast Dog Scouts Troop members and their dogs provided a total of 589 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. Locations that troop members visited were Mount Desert Island Hospital, Birch Bay Retirement Village, Tremont School, Northeast Harbor Library, Somesville Library, Blue Hill Library, and the Brooksville Public Library.

The Children Reading to Dogs Programs increase literary skills and boost the self esteem of young readers. Visiting Therapy Dogs help to relieve stress, improve health and recovery from illness. Young and old have benefitted from the dogs' endeavors!

During 2010, the Downeast Dog Scouts Troop partnered with schools, libraries and preschool centers 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](http://www.twodogpress.com)) in Brooklin, Maine. 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.

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. The child authors, their families and educators had broad smiles as Certificates of Achievement were awarded to each writer in attendance at the Island Dog Community Celebration held at Camp Beech Cliff.

Frequent community education has been an integral part of the Troop's activities. In 2010 they sponsored programs about Canine Nutrition and Vaccinations, Letterboxing and Compass skills, and Bite Prevention to name a few.

Community service is a fundamental part of the Downeast Dog Scouts mission. In 2010, the Dog Scouts raised funds with a community supported yard sale to donate lithium batteries for Hancock County Maine Search and Rescue Dogs teams. The two-way communication radios are the teams' lifeline while in the woods and the new lithium batteries will allow much longer operating time during emergency situations. The Downeast Dog Scouts participate in two annual clean ups during the Friends of Acadia Earth Day Clean Up and Take Pride in Acadia Day. Troop members clean up after less responsible dog owners at Little Long Pond in Seal Harbor, Maine.

Troop dogs Bri, Gracie, Raya and Rebel earned the Downeast Dog Scouts Carriage Road Hiking Certificate. With their owners, Pier Carros and Nancy Morrison, the dogs walked every Carriage Road in Acadia National Park. Additional Carriage Road Hiking Certificate requirements are that the dog handler will follow Carriage Road courtesy and safety rules, and demonstrate responsible dog ownership on the Carriage Roads.

The Children Reading to Dogs teams of Rissa and Timber with Pam Bourque, and Cirra with Robyn Douglas are featured on the Library Dogs website. Pam Bourque, Rissa and Timber were recognized in the 2010 Spring/Summer issue of the Therapy Dogs Incorporated magazine for receiving the 2009 Volunteer of the Year Award at Mount Desert Island Hospital

### Great Pyrenees Club of America Bulletin

Dog Scout, Cirra owned by Robyn Douglas and Denise Housknecht was featured in an article in the Great Pyrenees Club of America Bulletin (First Quarter 2011).

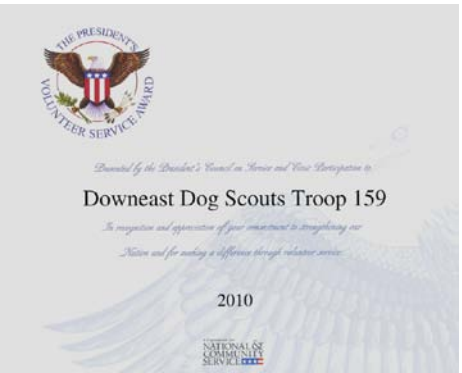


Camp Beech Cliff Beam Signing - Robyn Douglas, Camp Beech Cliff Mount Desert, ME  
Camp Beech Cliff Beam Signing - Paw Print  
Cub Scouts from Pam - Dog Scout Jill and the Cub Scouts  
Cub Scouts - Nancy Morrison and Rebel



Far left - Cub Scouts - Cirra

Near right - Cub Scouts - Cub Scout



Left - Cub Scouts - Pam Bourque and Jill

Center - Cub Scouts - Pam Bourque and Cub Scouts signing the DSA Dog Bite Prevention Success Pledge

Right - 2010 Volunteer Award - Certificate

\*\*\*\*\*

**Troop 161 Carlisle/Central Pennsylvania**

Along with other members of Dog Scout Troop 161, Roger, Thelma Lou, Mom and I are hiking to raise money for the Dog Scouts of America in the first annual Hike-a-Thon. Our overall goal for the Hike-a-Thon will be to hike a total of 10 miles during the month of May. Since Roger and Thelma have such short legs, I feel it's only fair to divide the miles up between us. Roger and Thelma have committed to do 2 miles each with Mom, and I plan to hike the entire 10. Our goal is to raise \$200 as a group. For every \$50 we raise over our goal, Mom and I will commit to walking an additional mile. While hiking 10 miles during an entire month may not seem like that great of a commitment, keep in mind that Mom hasn't exercised in months -- and this is my way of getting her to get her butt in gear.

DSA programs promote responsible dog ownership that include programs to help dog owners enjoy a great relationship with a well-mannered dog while benefiting from each other's company. DSA members strive to solve any problems that come their way with positive and effective training, thus helping to reduce the number of unwanted dogs in shelters by keeping them in happy, lifelong homes. Since 2007, Troop 161 has raised over \$10,000 for charities that help people and dogs, including the Salvation Army, local police K9s, and service dogs. Our troop members actively participate in educational and therapy programs for kids and adults.

If you are able to do so, I encourage you to make a donation by visiting our FirstGiving page: <http://www.firstgiving.com/fundraiser/newman-knowlton/dog-scouts-national-hike-a-thon-2011?fge=ask?fge=ask>. You can donate online with a credit card. All donations are secure and sent directly to Dog Scouts of America by FirstGiving, who will email you a printable record of your donation.

Many thanks for your support. Please feel free to forward to anyone you think might want to donate, too!

**Newman Knowlton**

\*\*\*\*\*

## Troop 171 – Harrisburg, Pennsylvania

Spring fever has definitely set in for **The Redfern Ramblers of Harrisburg, PA**. The turning of the calendar and the onset of warmer temperatures means lots more outdoor activities for the human and canine members of Troop 171 along with several opportunities to spring into action and put our best paws forward to help our community. In March, several of our troop members participated in a dog-friendly letterboxing event called Vernal Equinox II. Although this was not an official Dog Scouts of America event, several members of our troop used this special day as an opportunity to work on their Letterboxing and/or Backpacking badges.

In April, hikes (with letterboxing) and charity dog walks began to fill up our weekend schedules. On April 10, several troop members participated in the Paws for a Cure walk to benefit the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society. On the weekend of Palm Sunday, at least half a dozen troopers participated in the annual Tree of Life Pet Expo in Harrisburg by staffing a table about Dog Scouts of America and explaining some of the activities in which our troop participates. Proceeds from this worthy cause benefit Castaway Critters, a no-kill, foster home animal rescue and spay/neuter charity in Harrisburg. In May, several troop members also plan to walk to raise money for the Helen O. Krause Animal Foundation, another no-kill animal shelter in the Harrisburg area.

Continuing in the spirit of community service, **DSA Maida** and her owner **Paula Marinak** are pleased to share that they have done some more work toward their Community Service badge recently. On April 5, Paula and Maida went to the monthly meeting of the Penbrook Leos Club, a Lions Club for middle and high school students. Paula spoke to the Leos about Dog Scouts and volunteering with dogs, sharing experiences like therapy visits and ringing bells to raise money for the Salvation Army. Paula also brought some of Maida's paintings to show the group, along with demonstrating Maida's skill as a pianist for the All-Dog Band badge. Also in April, Paula and Maida went on a therapy visit to an autism school in Carlisle. We will share more about that in the next update.

We wish everyone a happy and productive spring, and we look forward to reading everyone's latest news.

~Paula Marinak

\*\*\*\*\*

## Troop 177 – Indianapolis, Indiana

Paws and Think has two new Animal Assisted Therapy teams! Peggy Kraus and Casey and Robyn Porter and Hallie completed the training classes and written test in February to qualify for participation in animal assisted therapy. Peggy and Casey intend



to participate in library reading program sessions. Robyn and Hallie are signed up for sessions with grieving children. Paws and Think is an Indianapolis organization that connects people with canines for therapy and assistance. In addition to therapy dog training and volunteer opportunities, they have a program to provide hands-on canine training for at risk children as well as raise puppies to be trained as service dogs.

Troop members made progress on badge work early this year. Peggy and Casey earned their Naked Dog and Dog Care badges. Robyn and Hallie, Anita Dudley and Sophie and new troop member Gail Wiseman and Zipper earned their Dog Care badge as well. Although a 'leave it' is not part of Dog Care requirements, Sophie, Zipper and Casey performed great leave its when Robyn's bold cats kept investigating the Dog Care badge work! Robyn and Hallie completed Clean Up America I and II badges. Photo left – Peggy, Anita and Robyn with Casey, Sophie and Hallie.

Robyn Porter and Hallie planted three Geocache Travel Bugs in Mississippi last November. Travel Bugs are tags with unique serial numbers that finders move from cache to cache and log each move online. That way the owner can track a Travel Bug's current location and movement. Of the three TBs one hasn't moved, one has been found and moved 16 miles and the third has traveled 18,859 miles! Robyn lives in Indianapolis and planted the TBs in Mississippi to get them out of the Midwest. The TB named "Geocaching with Dogs!" was picked up by one, and then another, well traveled geocacher. Both of them decided to keep the TB for a time on their caching adventures. Robyn watched as "Geocaching with Dogs" travelled to Ohio, Indiana, Florida, Georgia, Pennsylvania, Quebec, North Dakota and Argentina! The funny thing is "Geocaching with Dogs" stopped in an Indianapolis park where Robyn and Hallie frequently walk when it came through Indiana. The TB is back in Quebec for now.



Our second "impromptu" event was a 5 mile hike on the Pennsy Trail in Greenfield. The trail follows the former Pennsylvania Railroad line just south of US40 and crosses Brandywine Creek, presumed site of James Whitcomb Riley's "old swimming hole". Peggy and Casey, Anita and Sophie and Robyn and Hallie walked five miles on a day that threatened to set an 85 degree heat record!

**Submitted by Robyn Porter  
Troop #177, Indianapolis IN**

## Troop 188 - Connecticut and Rhode Island

### Second Annual Troop 188 Dog Scout Badge Workshop

Seventeen dogs and their people signed up for our Dog Scout Badge Workshop.

Photos left to right: Beth and Ella heeling; Meghan and Baylee practicing stays; Sheri and Reuben demonstrating recalls; Michelle and Phantom practicing stays, Michelle stays while Phantom walks 20-feet away then returns.



Photos left to right: Anita and Kayla studying with Nicole and Maggie; Kristi and Nemo heeling; Jeff and Kassi learning the Dog Scout Way.



### Easter Egg Hunt

Our annual Easter egg hunt at our April meeting was especially exciting. We placed plastic Easter eggs filled with cotton balls scented with cinnamon around the school. The dog that found the most eggs, won a prize. Brook came in second place. She won a pair of Easter Bunny Ears.

### Up Coming Events and Activities

We have a lot of events scheduled for this Spring and we have been working really hard to get ready for all of them. Our dogs have been practicing for their All Dog Band, the *Facelickers*, in preparation for our booth at the Connecticut Spring Renaissance Festival. Hopefully we'll be sending in some All Dog Band badge videos soon.

Troop 188 will have a booth at the Connecticut Spring Renaissance Festival at the Guilford Fairgrounds on Saturday, May 21. If you will be in the area, please drop by and give us a paw!

Troop 188 and the Ledyard Animal Shelter are holding its first annual Canine Wellness Fair on Sunday, June 5 at the Ledyard High School in Ledyard CT.

**Kelly Ford, co-Leader of Troop 188**

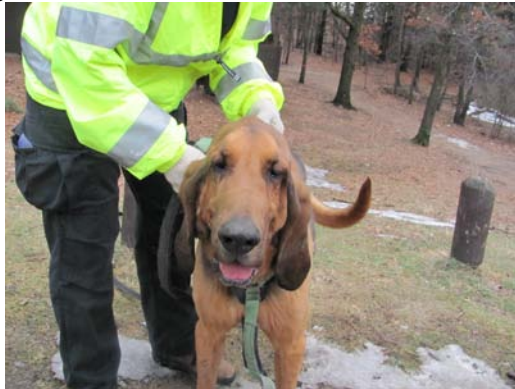
\*\*\*\*\*





**Troop 196, Rockford/Grand Rapids, Michigan**

Well, Troop 196 has had a busy fall and winter. We are looking forward to the warm weather and some water work. The Rakow's volunteered to lay trails and hide for Kent County Search and Rescue Team's Trailing Hounds. Karma and Gabriel had a great time hiding in trees and in cars for the dogs.



Eric, Karma, and Gabriel Rakow

Found by Jake the happy Blood Hound and handler Jen.

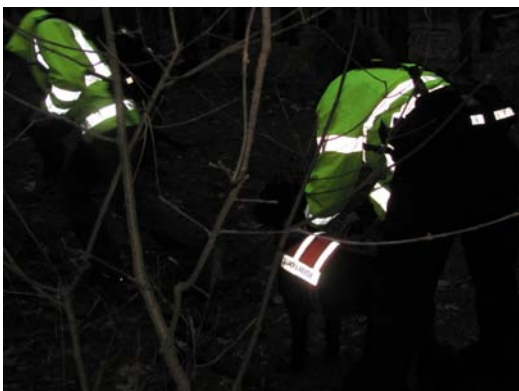
Below left to right – Jilian Rakow and Lego training



Above left - Karma Rakow found by Gracie and handler Erin

Above center and right - Eric and the Rakow Kids being found...

Left - Jilian working Lego in the dark with special help from Brett, our subject.



Above right - Jilian learning about scent theory and learning from the dogs perspective...what a great opportunity that was!!!



Photos to left - Kent County Search and Rescue Fundraiser, the Rakow's all helped

Deb Ensing had a scare with Gryphon having a thyroid tumor and a lump. He was treated for the thyroid tumor and the lump was benign so we are excited to say that Gryphon and his crew should be back to Dog Scouts with us all.



Photo left - Violet Hecker is doing a great job with her fear of children and she will jump right up in bed with the Rakow kids now.

Photo near right – Lyndsy visiting.



Photos left - Lyndsy the rescued Mixed Breed. Possible new troop member getting to know the Group. Rae is her parent.

Our Friend Rae came by with her Rescued Mixed breed dog to socialize and we introduced her to the joys of the Easy Walk harness. We hope to see Rae join our Troop with Lyndsy this summer.

Wendy Redding and Keebler have been working hard at Clark retirement community and at the Dojo. The Boersma's have been working hard with Callie and have also been dog sitting Keebler on occasion. Callie has also had over night stays with Wendy and Jon Redding as well as the Rakow's.

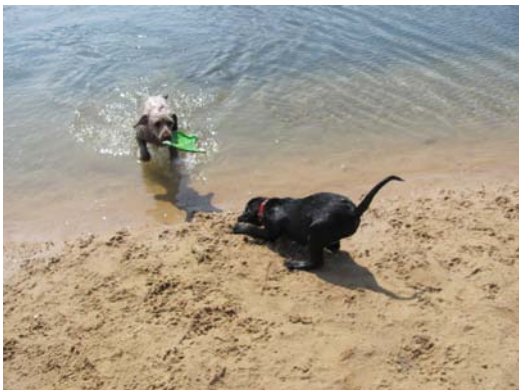


Photo far left – Finn socializing SAR puppy. Photo near right – Karma socializing Lab puppy.

Karma and Gabriel had a great time socializing the new Search and Rescue Prospect Lab puppies this weekend while Legolas and Jilian trained for wilderness air scent and their field support test.

Coming at the end of September will be That Doggone Ruff Adventure Race. This Adventure race for you and your dog is being sponsored by Apex Outdoor Gear in Grand Rapids, Michigan. Visit their web site and sign up will be available soon. We hope to see you there.



This is Jennifer Hecker and her current crew. Baxter the Giant Schnauzer and all the Dandy Dinmont Terriers. Actually only Violet and Fival are her Dandy's. The others are puppies that she socialized for the breeders.

**Jilian Rakow**

\*\*\*\*\*

**Troop 198 – San Francisco Bay, California**

At our February meeting we were joined by Patty Guthrie of Furry Friends Pet Assisted Therapy Services, a local (San Francisco South Bay) non-profit group run by volunteers. Patty presented a slideshow of the services and some of the volunteers



(the guardians and the furry ones). She explained the requirements to join, the screening process, what is expected of the pets, and the personal fulfillment she receives participating in the program. As an added bonus, Patty and her dogs, Frodo and Crystal, have joined Dog Scouts.

In March Lisa Towell of the Humane Society of Silicon Valley spoke to our Troop about Disaster Preparedness. With the horrors of the earthquake and tsunami of Japan fresh in our minds (and our location on an active fault line) this topic was of great interest. Lisa spoke of the need to be prepared, suggesting that we partner up with our neighbors to provide care for each other's pets in the event we're not home or unable to get home if disaster strikes. She provided handouts with a comprehensive checklist of things for an emergency kit and explained why some things on the list would be necessary, discussed the kinds of disasters most likely to happen in our area, showed us how to apply a muzzle of gauze to a frightened or injured pet, and how to remove bee stings with a credit card. Even Crystal, our newest member (see photo) was taking in every word. Thank you Lisa.

\*\*\*\*\*

**Troop 217 - New Troop in Michigan**

I am so excited to be starting up this new troop in Michigan. Troop 217 will serve the Novi/Northville area and surrounding suburbs of Southeast, MI. Our first troop meeting was held April 30th at the Celebrity Pets Co. location in downtown Northville. The owner of this specialty dog boutique has graciously offered the basement of her store for us to hold our monthly troop meetings, free of charge, so many thanks to Rose Misiolek!

Some ideas for our troop to participate in during 2011! Summer hiking trips, pool days, an educational booth at the upcoming Walled Lake Pet Awareness Day, dog drives, bite prevention/responsible dog parenting "work shops" with a local Northville Daisy and Brownie troop, and bell ringing for Salvation Army during the holiday season.

Anyone interested in joining this newly formed troop? Please contact me, Julie Benson, at [bensonjulie@earthlink.net](mailto:bensonjulie@earthlink.net).

Thank you! **Julie A. Benson**

\*\*\*\*\*

**Rainbow Bridge – Saikou Olson**



Photos – left - Saikou on her trail (the Saikou Path) at camp. Right - Saikou with her uniform on (taken by Joanne Weber).



Saikou, DSA went to the rainbow bridge today (Monday, April 25, 2011). Thank goodness the weather finally broke, and we got several nice days of getting everything on her "bucket list" done. In between all of the walks, Easter Egg hunts, squirrel forays, swimming, playing "jolly ball," and eating all of her favorite treats, I was a mess.

I was tortured by the task of having to decide if it was time or not. It's so hard... She couldn't have had a better the last 4 days. I can feel good about that. She was deaf, incontinent, had congestive heart failure, couldn't walk on one back leg, and couldn't see very well. I worried each night that she would drown on the fluid in her own lungs (or hack out a lung, coughing), and I wouldn't be able to live with myself. During the days, she seemed fine, other than she never did anything but sleep without some coaxing. She lost interest in eating, and

turned her nose up at her favorite kind of bone, and her frisbee. I knew it was time. It's almost as if she could sense that this was her "going away party" and she was a brave kid at the vet's.

As for me, I'm doing much better now that it's done with. The torture was in knowing she was going to leave us... Now, there's no hitting the rewind button, we can only move forward with the cherished memories of a life filled with fun and adventure. Saikou and Joanne helped me discover the perfect place for a chapel in the woods for Dog Scout Camp...

I'm down to 2 dogs and 3 birds, now...

**Lonnie Olson** (plus Panda, Kozi, Dusty, Quasar and Stevie)

\*\*\*\*\*

**DSA Buster Lipford - 3/1/99 – 4/20/11**

Buster, my English Bulldog, was diagnosed with nasal adenocarcinoma in February. He was euthanized with complications due to the cancer April 20, 2011. **Linda Lipford**

Note from the Editor: At the time of issue of the newsletter, I only had the above information. I hope that Linda shares some stories and photos in the next issue. Our hearts go out to her and Lonnie in their losses.

\*\*\*\*\*

**Attitude of Gratitude**

**Pam Roehr** made a \$50 donation on behalf of "Scout", Diane Schuler's dog

Thanks, **Lonnie Olson**

\*\*\*\*\*

**In Closing...**



Blast from the past...

DSA founder, Lonnie Olson, pictured at age 2, already trying to teach the family dog, "Queenie," how to wave.