



The Dog Scout Scoop

(little bits of news we've picked up)

July/August 2011

Volume 15, Issue 4

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

Summer and Our Dogs

To me, summer has always been more time with my pets. The days are longer and you really want to be outside doing things. For me, it is dog shows: agility, flyball, dockdiving. To you, it may be just hiking or throwing that Frisbee for him/her. I always watch Charly, my Yellow Lab, especially in warm weather, after finding out he is genetically predisposed to overheating, both his mother and grandmother died from heat prostration/heat stroke. Even when I'm traveling and have the A/C on, I stop every 2-3 hours to let the dogs out and hydrate them. All people who know me, remark about the huge water bowl I carry in my Jeep's back seat, along with 2 gallons of water. When exercising my dogs with my golf cart, I carry a portable water bowl and bottled water, stopping before the panting tongue reaches the ground to give them water. I know my Charly, he will retrieve until he drops, he loves it so. So, I met with all my neighbors individually, because of Charly's habit of dropping the ball over the fence and then sitting there barking until they throw it, and they do, he has ALL of them trained. So, I tell them only 6-7 throws, if they want to throw, and then just walk away. Two kiddie pools in the summer are a mainstay in my backyard, along with a huge bowl of fresh water. So, just a word of caution, your dogs don't know when they've gone too far, they always want to give 110%, even when it's hot. Take the time to hydrate, keep them safe in the heat. **Peggy Zweber, Editor**

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Please Respect Newsletter Deadlines!!!

Newsletter Submission - August 15th, 2011 for September/October 2011 Issue. Articles received after that date will go into the November/December 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!!!

Board Member Position Available

DSA has an opening on the Board of Director's for the secretarial position. In addition to normal board member duties listed below, the secretary of the board will be responsible for:

- Keeping a record of the board's activities, votes and open issues
- Submitting the "week in review" report to the board with the help of the Chairman
- Record progress of the strategic planning initiative
- Assist the Chairman with preparing for the annual meeting and in producing the meeting minutes

Volunteer Job Outline for DSA board member

All applicants should also:

- Be willing to serve for a 3 year term
- Have dedication to DSA (shown by volunteer work already done for the organization, in whatever capacity and/or membership for a number of years)
- Exemplify of the Dog Scout Way (ex.: positive trainer, responsible dog parent (if he/she has a dog) and willing to share their knowledge with others)
- Be able to work well with others (and others who are on the Board)
- Be known for great ideas and solid input on projects (can provide references)
- Not be related to another board member
- Not working for a competing organization, or one that engages in activities detrimental to the human/canine bond and responsible pet parenting

- Be physically and financially able to serve as a Board Member (able to travel if needed)
- Willing to attend all board meetings (either in person, by phone or by proxy)
- Have a computer, telephone, email account, and is able to communicate via email
- Be a person who will promptly respond to emails, phone calls, board memos, and give all issues before the board and concerning DSA thought and express their honest opinion or cast their vote.
- Will put the best interests of the organization first when considering items before the board
- Be of sound mind and body (sane and healthy)
- Have a strong work ethic they can apply to the position. Responses and delegated tasks will be addressed in a timely manner.
- Agrees to step down if no longer able to perform the duties required

Have experience in one or more of the following fields:

- running a successful business
- fundraising
- planning
- human resources
- accounting
- marketing
- research
- has served on a Board of Directors

If you have previously submitted a resume for consideration for a position on the board and would like to run for this position, please advise a board member of that intention. If you have not previously submitted a resume, please do so by sending it to DSA President Chris Puls DogScouts@hotmail.com no later than July 31st. **Chris Puls, President**

DSA's First Annual National Hike-a-Thon is a HUGE Success!



Thanks to our awesome membership across the country, our first DSA Hike-a-Thon was a huge success! We're still wrapping up donation collection, so you can expect a final total, and our Top Fundraiser prize winners, to be announced soon. At the time of writing this article, our fundraising total is over \$7500!

When I first thought up the idea of the Hike-a-Thon, it seemed like kind of a crazy idea. We had never attempted to organize DSA members across the nation before, for an activity that everyone could do in their own communities. But I just knew that we could count on our members' support, and boy was I right! What a wonderful group of people we have. I enjoyed hearing your stories and seeing photos posted on FaceBook and on your FirstGiving pages, and the stories people sent me individually along with pledge forms. I really hope it was an opportunity for troops and individuals to have a great time getting outside with your dogs this spring. Don't forget our Pack Dog titling program as well – just another program to encourage and recognize getting out and hitting the trails with your dog!

If you still have checks to mail in, please do so as soon as you can. Make sure it comes with a pledge form, to the address on the pledge form, and that if you raised more than \$100 you specify if you'd like an additional patch. If you'd like additional patches, but don't need to mail in any pledges via check, you can just send me an email to let me know about the patches if you like.

The funds raised during the Hike-a-Thon will be deposited into DSA's general account, and no specific plans have been made yet for expenditures. However, even before the wonderful surprise of the Hike-a-Thon's success, we already had several ideas in the works that will "give back" to our satellite troops and help us to grow as an organization. We'll keep you posted as these projects move forward. Obviously, in order to spread The Dog Scout Way to even more people and dogs, our organization needs to be financially healthy and able to support itself. That's why fundraising events and programs are so critical to the future of Dog Scouts, and why your support of this event is so fabulous! Thanks so much!

If you have any interest in being involved in a planning committee for next year's Hike-a-Thon event, please let me know!

Ann Withun
 Member, DSA Board of Directors
ann@withun.com

NEWSFLASH! We're working on upgrading the lodging at camp!

“Log Cabin”



The Best it Gets!

Our most “Deluxe” Cabin with many options available. Choice of metal or architectural shingles.

Boxed in soffit and fascia for full overhangs all the way around. 6/12 pitch roof and loft above the porch are standard. Choose from 9-Lite steel entry door or a beautiful knotty pine door with black decorative hinges.

We wanted to let you know about a new project we've been working on for the Dog Scout Camp facilities – small private cabins as a lodging option. Remember, even if you've never been to camp or you never plan to attend, these cabins are great for DSA! There are countless stories of people who were not members of DSA before camp, and when they attend camp it changes their lives and attitudes forever, for the betterment of themselves and their dogs. It even benefits their friends and neighbors that they interact with after their camp experience. For those already involved with Dog Scouts, camp is a time to build their skills and learning and reflect together on what “parenting” a dog really means. Many campers take home new skills and activities to share with their local troops. Plus, each cabin will quickly pay for itself through its rental fees and will attract more people to camp. When providing a great learning experience for people and their dogs is also a fabulous fundraiser it's a great thing! DSA can then invest these funds in making the camp even better as well as enhanced national programs and supporting the growth of our satellite troops.

We'll be constructing one cabin very shortly with funds already generated from camp. Then, we'll work on creating a plan to replace the old rental trailers. You can be a part of that plan! If you plan on coming to camp, retreats, or outings in 2012 (or the end of 2011) use the following form to tell us whether you would be interested in sponsoring the construction of a cabin, or renting a cabin. This information will help us ensure that we upgrade our camp experience in a way that fits into our camp program budget and helps DSA as an overall organization.

CABIN SPONSONORSHIP AND RENTAL QUESTIONNAIRE

- 1) **Would you be interested in sponsoring the construction of a new cabin at camp?** In return for a sponsorship level donation to DSA (amount to be determined, likely between \$1500-\$2000) you would receive “free” future usage of that cabin for 5 years at one of the summer camps (you choose camp 1 or camp 2 at the time of sponsorship). You would also have the right of first refusal if you decided not to come to the camp you chose and could instead use the cabin for 1 week free of charge at another time of year (subject to camp/cabin availability).
- 2) _____ Yes! And I could have funds available for this project by: _____ (date)
(Note: you are not locked in to your choice below, we're just trying to get a feel for how many are desired for each camp)
_____ I would prefer to sponsor a cabin and use it for camp 1
_____ I would prefer to sponsor a cabin and use it for camp 2
_____ No
_____ Not for 2012, but maybe some time in the future
- 3) **Would you be interested in renting a private 10x16 cabin similar to the one shown in the photo, for a rental fee of \$75 per night (or \$500 per week)?**
_____ Yes, for Camp #1 in 2012
_____ Yes, for Camp #2 in 2012
_____ Yes, for another time (circle all that apply):
Spring outing / Leader Retreat / Fall Outing / Winter Outing / Other
_____ No, but I would be interested in staying in a larger group cabin for a slightly lower rate if one were constructed.
Suggested rate: \$ _____

Your Name: _____

Your Contact Info: _____

Email the answers on this form to Ann Withun at Ann@withun.com or mail the printed form to her at: 161 Beetem Hollow Rd, Newville, PA 17241.

NOTE: In the event that we have more people interested in renting cabins than the number we have available, this form will be used in a drawing to choose, at random, who will get first choice of accommodations. -- So if you are interested in upcoming cabin rental, please ensure you fill one out.

Troop News
Troop 119, North Texas

We had a great, informative May Troop Meeting. We started out the day with a troop hike and then three of our troop's trainers, Hannelore Orkis, Nancy Strack & Lenda Curtis, gave us an overview of several recent training conferences, that included speakers such as Kay Laurence, Alexandra Kurland, Steve White, Ken Ramirez, Bob Bailey and Grisha Stewart. All the dogs got to enjoy homemade doggie frozen yogurt in honor of new troop addition, Stevie Ray. While the dogs enjoyed their treats, the humans got to learn about different ideas and training trials from several great trainers.



May was a busy month in other ways for our troop! At the beginning of the year, we challenged troop members to participate in the Troop Poop Challenge and to scoop at least 50 stray poops in a public location with their best friend. We had 27 humans and 28 dogs participate in the challenge. As a result, we cleared 1,482 piles of stray poop from our cities' parks!! Troop members and dogs who participated are: Cheryl Bales and Tanner; Amy Bowman and Scout, Tatum and Emerson; Janice Cannizzaro and Sugar; Vicki Carter and Mark Bober and Martini and Phizz; Stacie Everitt and Rowdy; MarSue Freeman and Cayleigh; Jay and Brenda Garris and Ting Ting; Debbie Davis and BeBe; Donna Dutkofski and Quinn; Lisa Hamilton and Marla and Major: Leslie James and Heidi; Nita Lanter and Sage; Debbie McKnight and Kyra; Debra Payne and Richard Tettamant and Dakota and Brindle; Mart and Cindy Ratliff and Alex; Susan Smith and Alice; Nancy Snyder and Louee; Nancy Strack and Hank; Gina Smith and Elvis; Susan Waits and Shiloh; Mary Weigandt and Duncan; Kimmy Ways and Lily and Casie Wood and Geo. Thanks to everyone who gave some time and plastic to take part in the Challenge!!

May was a big month for our troop in another way, too!! The DSA Hike-A-Thon!! We are proud to report our troop team raised a whopping \$5,299.54 to finish easily in first place for top collecting teams!!! We also had the Top 3 Individual Fundraisers in the troop: Cheryl Bales and Tanner raised an incredible \$2,038.35; Donna Dutkofski and Quinn raised a big \$1,515.23 and rounding out the top 3 was Cindy Ratliff and Alex with \$507.31. We had 16 troop members commit to walking and collecting donations in the Hike-A-Thon. They were Robin Ashman-Terrell and Riley; Cheryl Bales and Tanner; Janice Cannizzaro and Sugar; Vicki Carter and Mark Bober and Martini and Phizz; Donna Dutkofski and Quinn; Stacie Everitt and Rowdy; Lisa Hamilton & Major and Marla; Lori Miller and Benny and Sadie; Debra Payne and Richard Tettamant and Brindle and Dakota; Mart and Cindy Ratliff and Alex; Gina Smith and Elvis; Nancy Snyder and Louee; Casie Wood and Geo; and Carol Wyatt and Waldo. In addition to those who participated in hiking, we had several troop members who donated to those who were hiking. They were Susan Barnes, Gratia and Steve Childers, MarSue Freeman, Leslie James, Jennifer Lemley, Becky Paxson, Victoria Severns and Nancy Strack. A HUGE thanks to all of those who participated in this event and helped Troop 119 reach a very lofty goal!!

We are also happy to announce a new Troop 119 website!! Thanks to Cheryl Bales for creating this awesome website that will help anybody who's interested, to get more familiar with our troop, activities, news, etc. Cheryl did a great job and we welcome everybody to stop in and take a look at: <http://dsatroup119.org>

Mart & Cindy Ratliff, Troop 119, North Texas



Left to right: Hank participating in challenge, Shiloh participating in challenge; Phizz makes a point.

At start of article: Alex completing the challenge.

Martini and Phizz 500th TDI Visit



May 30, 2011 - Today marks a milestone that I never dreamed of – Martini’s and Phizz’s 500th therapy dog visit! We chose this memorable visit to occur at Odyssey House.

After Martini and Phizz were both certified through Therapy Dogs International on August 7, 2007, I was actually afraid I would not be able to find a facility that would want us to volunteer. I started researching on the internet and applied to several different organizations. I was overjoyed when I was contacted by Odyssey Healthcare – a local hospice facility. After going through their training and meeting their requirements, we made our visit for them on October 17, 2007. Odyssey has patients in different nursing homes around the area plus their own in-patient facility, Odyssey House. We currently visit patients in four different nursing facilities, in addition to Odyssey House. Plus we also regularly visit three other facilities

as well. These facilities originally cared for Odyssey patients who are no longer with us. The dogs have made friends with other patients in these homes and we continue to visit there because of these important relationships.

Our 500 visits also include visits to a nursing home where our elderly neighbors went to live. We actually went there on our very first certified visit on September 29, 2007. As fate would have it, that facility closed and combined with another nursing home that cares for Odyssey patients. We also visit monthly with the birth mothers at The Gladney Center for Adoption. Our visits begin there in October, 2007.

I knew therapy work would be rewarding, but I honestly had no idea of what a blessing it would truly become. I would love to know the number of individuals Martini and Phizz have touched during these 500 visits. We are still in contact with a couple of family members of patients we visited before they passed on. Everyone says the dogs are such a blessing – I feel like I am the “blessed” one – the people I have met, hugged, cried with and prayed for have changed my life forever.

Vicki Carter, Fort Worth, Texas

Troop 130 – Michigan (Battle Creek, Marshall)
First Annual Tribal Troop Bow Wow



Michigan troop #130 is throwing down the gauntlet to all the other Michigan troops. The weekend of September 24th will be the date of this first annual challenge done Survival style. Each troop will need a minimum of three troop members to participate. There will be multiple challenges performed during the weekend to determine which troop shall get the coveted Tiki dog trophy. It will be important to perform well as a team to score as many points as possible. Once the teams have registered we will be looking for a few judges outside of Michigan who will help judge the stiff competition. Several troops have already accepted the challenge so don’t delay and contact your troop leader today. Don’t belong to a troop? Now is a great time to contact the troop leader closest to you and think about joining. Or put your own troop together just for the Survivor challenge. This will be a weekend full

of fun with some amazing teamwork being displayed. You won’t want to miss it. Contact **Brenda Katz** - dogs2katz@yahoo.com for more details.

Troop 149 – St. Louis, Missouri



Troop #149 thought it was time to come up with a name for the troop. We had a contest and narrowed it down to two names. The winning name River City Rovers was from Carol Huston. Left - Carol receives a gift bag from Jodi Pyatt as Holly the beagle eagerly looks on. Right - The new logo to go along with our new name was created.



Val Anania with Hart at the first grade class that they attend with the reading program. On this date Val is discussing Dog Scouts of America and responsible dog ownership with the class. The class also participated in collecting aluminum cans for our troop to buy pet oxygen masks for the Fire Departments.

Christine Bahr

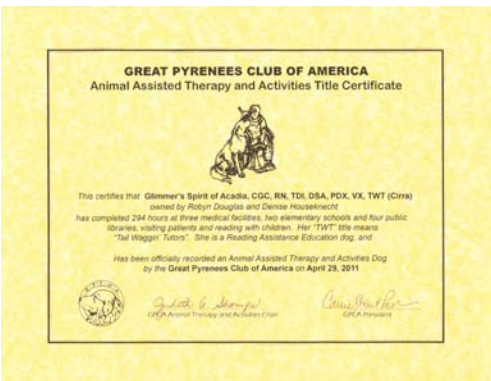
Downeast Dog Scouts Troop #159- Mount Desert Island, Maine

Downeast Dog Scouts Yard Sale - - The Downeast Dog Scouts held a successful Yard Sale April 16, 2011. Proceeds from the Yard Sale will go towards the Downeast Dog Scouts Community Service Projects and Community Education Programs.



Left – Little Long Pond in Seal Harbor Maine

Friends of Acadia Roadside Clean Up - The Downeast Dog Scouts participated in the annual Friends of Acadia Roadside Clean Up on Saturday, April 30, 2010. Troop members and their dogs picked up after less responsible dog owners at Little Long Pond in Seal Harbor Maine.



Cirra's AAT&A Title - Dog Scout, Cirra earned her Animal Assisted Therapy and Activities Title from the Great Pyrenees Club of America. Title requirements included having a card from a national therapy dog organization and verification of a minimum of at least visitation 200 hours. See left.



Downeast Dog Scouts May Walk - Troop members *enjoyed exploring the* Sieur de Monts Spring Area in Acadia National Park. In 1909, George B. Dorr, Acadia's first superintendent, built an octagonal tile-roofed structure over a spring at the south end of Great Meadow. On a nearby rock he carved "The Sweet Waters of Acadia." - Left



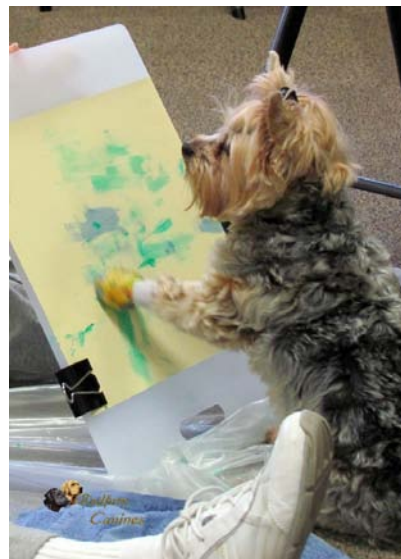
Children Reading to Dogs - The children reading to Cirra at the Northeast Harbor Library in Maine were rewarded with end of the school year celebrations. Cirra had two parties - one for the school children and one for the library children. The celebrations included reading, reward books, certificates, bookmarks, word puzzles and cakes featuring the cover of Cirra's book, "C is for Cirra". Troop member, Pam Bourque, and her Labrador Retriever, Rissa, attended the celebration for the library children. Pam showed off her Chocolate Labrador flip flops that match Rissa. At 12.5 years of age, Rissa is still ready to go party and had a great time! Cirra will have summer reading hours beginning later in June.



Robyn Douglas, Downeast Dog Scouts Troop 159

Troop 171 – Harrisburg, Pennsylvania

It may already feel like the dog days of summer here in central Pennsylvania, but that hasn't stopped members of **Troop 171, the Redfern Ramblers of Harrisburg, PA**, from staying busy with lots of scouting activities. Following is a list of our latest badge-related accomplishments. In the pairings, the dogs' names have been bolded to emphasize their achievements.



Dorty and **Brodie** Theis are now Dog Scouts.

Annette and **Rachel** Carricato earned the Retrieve Badge.

Betsy and **Dora** Howell have completed Letterboxing 1, 2, and 3.

Betsy and **Pearl** Howell have completed Letterboxing 1 and 2.

Eleanor and **Dale Evans** Parker have earned their AKC Rally Excellent title.

Eleanor and **Jon** Parker have earned 2 legs towards their AKC Rally Advanced title.

Betsy and **Pearl** Howell have earned 2 legs towards their AKC Rally Novice title.

Bonnie and **Tara** Roberts have earned their Art of Shaping badge. (Please see left a picture of Tara showing off her painting prowess. This little Yorkie girl is quite the budding artiste!)

Alice and **Levi** Parry have earned their Art of Shaping badge.

In other news, John Howell is presenting a series of classes on photography that is being attended by some of the members of Troop 161 from Carlisle, as well as some of our own troop members. We are hopeful this will soon lead to some other Redfern Ramblers who can complete the PhoDOGraphy badge requirements.

Last but not least, in the community service realm, we had a booth to raise awareness about Dog Scouts at Tree of Life's Pet Expo earlier this spring. This is a Harrisburg-area event that raises money for Castaway Critters, a local animal shelter. Other dog-related businesses and organizations also shared information. As before, our Scout members were excellent representatives, and people were very interested in their badges. Several Scouts also participated in the Paws 4 a Cure Walk for the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society. Participants in this event included Paula Marinak, with **DSA Maida** and future Scout **Zeke**; along with Carol Varano and **Sophie**; and the Yorkie contingent, accompanied by Carol Stansfield and Bonnie Roberts. You are now caught up on our news and activities. Until next time, have a safe and happy summer! ~**Paula Marinak**

Troop 177 – Indianapolis, Indiana

Troop #177 members have been busy! Peggy Kraus and Casey attended the May 7 and 8 Gloria Voss Canine Dance camp in Michigan. They also completed a series of Paws and Think library reading sessions with children. Kristi Rush and Lugnut landed a television commercial. Lugnut is the new spokes-doggie for a local auto dealership and already filmed his first commercial! Robyn Porter and Hallie completed a series of Paws and Think therapy sessions with grieving children as well as visiting a senior care facility.



Indianapolis in May means action at the famous Indianapolis Motor Speedway. Gail Wiseman, Anita Dudley, Peggy Kraus and Robyn Porter, with their dogs, participated in the May 1 Mutt Strut. This annual event raises donations for the Marion County Humane Society and Troop #177 collected \$691.41. Dogs and handlers walked around the 2.5 mile oval race track. For the second year in a row the weather was wet and rainy. However, this year it wasn't cold and blowing! In order to complete their 5 mile check-out test towards the 50 mile Packdog title, Anita, Peggy and Robyn walked around the track twice with Sophie, Casey and Hallie. Left: Hallie, Sophie, Zipper and Casey at the track.

Troop #177 was invited to host a booth at the June 4 Castleton Best



Friends Paws-Fest adoption event. All troop members pulled together and created a booth to explain the DSA way and local troop activities. Giveaways included Troop #177 fliers, business cards and bookmarks as well as a combo bag holding a treat, business card and poop bag! Displays included a photo board of past activities such as snow sledding, canoeing, hiking, camping and the Mutt Strut. Another display that attracted much attention was the Pet Oxygen Mask set. Event attendees were very interested in the masks and their use, plus the Troop's ongoing effort for fire station donations. Anita & Sophie sold cold drinks for their Oxygen Mask fundraiser. Gail & Shadow sold dog treats for their DSA fundraiser. JD Dudley, Beth Bentley, Peggy Kraus and Casey and Robyn Porter and Hallie staffed the booth as well, providing welcome help on this record-setting hot day! Above right: Anita, Sophie, JD, Casey and Peggy.

Robyn Porter and Hallie donated oxygen mask sets to various fire departments in May and June. They raised money over the past number of months to buy three sets of oxygen masks. Best Friends provided a match of three additional oxygen mask sets. Two sets went to the Punta Gorda (Florida) Fire Department. Three went to the Lincoln County (Missouri) Fire Department and one set went to the Beech Grove (Indiana) Fire Department. The fire departments were thrilled with the donations and accompanying instruction sets. The Punta Gorda department was specifically seeking two new sets to go with the single set they already had, and were in the midst of arranging pet first aid training for their staff. Good timing for Robyn and Hallie!

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

Troop 188 - Connecticut and Rhode Island

Second Annual Troop 188 Dog Scout Badge Workshop

The workshop was very successful this year. Our Troop gained six new members. Three dogs earned their Dog Scout Badge. Congratulations to Nemo DSA, Phantom DSA and Kayla DSA. Nemo DSA earned his Puppy Paddler Badge less than a week after completing his DSA.

Photos Left to Right: Nemo DSA, Phantom DSA and Kayla DSA



Pet Easter Bonnet Contest for St. Bernard Rescue

Several members of our Troop came out on a very wet and cold Easter Saturday to support the St. Bernard Recue group of CT & RI for their Pet Easter Bonnet Contest. It was pouring and it was cold, but our dogs are great. They wore their Easter Bonnets and looked fabulous. Kayla and Harl-E had matching Easter Bonnets and won a prize for cutest couple. Zora DSA won a prize for smallest Easter Bonnet and smallest dog. Even the St. Bernard puppies were bigger than Zora! Almost a dozen St. Bernards were in attendance and they all looked tremendous in their Easter finery. Beeper the llama even joined us in his Easter Bonnet.

Photos Left to Right: Beeper, Zora DSA, Kalya DSA and Harl-E Quinn in their Easter Bonnets.



All Friends Pet Fair

In May we introduced Elk Antlers for sale at the All Friends Pet Fair. They were a big hit. All of the dogs love them. We shared our wonderful supplier with Lonnie Olson and Elk Antlers will be sold at Dog Scout Camp this summer! If your Troop is non-profit and is interested in selling Elk Antlers at an Event, please contact Troop 188. Photo Right: Lucy DSA, Kelly Ford and Zora DSA discussing Dog Scouts

We met lots of people and dogs at the Fair. The local Animal Control Officers had numerous dogs and cats up for adoption. Several of them found new homes.



Photos Left to Right: One of the dogs that was adopted during the fair; Lucy DSA wearing her rain hat, we've gotten lots of rain this Spring; Sheri Throop selling Elk Antlers



Connecticut Spring Renaissance Faire

We drove through the fog early in the morning on Saturday May 21st to the Connecticut Spring Renaissance Faire in Guilford. Several hours before the Faire opened, we arrived to set-up our booth. We had pretty hand-made ribbon collars, doggie bandanas and Elk Antler Dog Chews to sell. We brought candy and dog treats to give away. The fog cleared and left us with a beautiful sunny day at the fair. Ten Dog Scouts and Cadet Scouts attended the Fair: Derby, Libby, Lucy, Pirate, Rueben, Summit, Tartan, Truffles, Yippity and Zora. We brought our portable tunnels so that we could demonstrate some of the cool things our dogs do. We had our instruments with us. Zora, Lucy, Summit and Derby played for the crowd. Everyone in our group and all of our dogs dressed in costume. Summit as Robin Hood and Zora as the Knight in Shiny Armor got countless compliments. Lucy as the Wench won the Doggone Costume Contest.



Photos Left to Right: Summit as Robin Hood; Zora as the Knight in Shiny Armor; Yippity modeling a ribbon collar



Photos Left to Right: Lucy as the Wench, Pete the Pirate, Truffles and Julianne as Robin Hood's Merry Band.



Summit helped unload the car by pulling his cart. He pulled the cart again in the midday parade with Marge. Zora and Kelly walked with Summit and Marge in the Parade. Photos Left to Right: Summit resting after unloading the car; Summit and Marge getting ready to walk in the midday parade.



Photos below: Zora, Summit, Kelly and Marge walking in the Midday Parade with the Dragon from Dragon Ice Cream.



The merchants at the Fair were excited to see a community group come out and run a booth for the day. We received a number of compliments from merchants and Fair Staff, as well as donations. Everybody enjoyed meeting our dogs. Many children asked me for permission to pet my dog, something I always appreciate. We raised \$175 with donations, Elk Antler and ribbon collar sales!

Hike-a-Thon

Several Dog Scout Troop 188 teams participated in the Dog Scout National Hike-a-Thon. Brook, Derby DSA, Fyssher, Java, Lexi, Libby, Lucy DSA, Pirate DSA, Reuben, Summit DSA, Truffles, Yippity and Zora DSA participated with Barbara, Julianne, Marge, Sheri, and myself. We raised a total of \$494 for Dog Scouts of America. We hiked over 74 miles.

Photo Right: Fysher selecting the trail for the daily hike; Summit and Derby resting on a bridge.

Photos Left to Right: Fysher resting on a log bridge during a hike; Summit and Derby waiting by a trail sign.



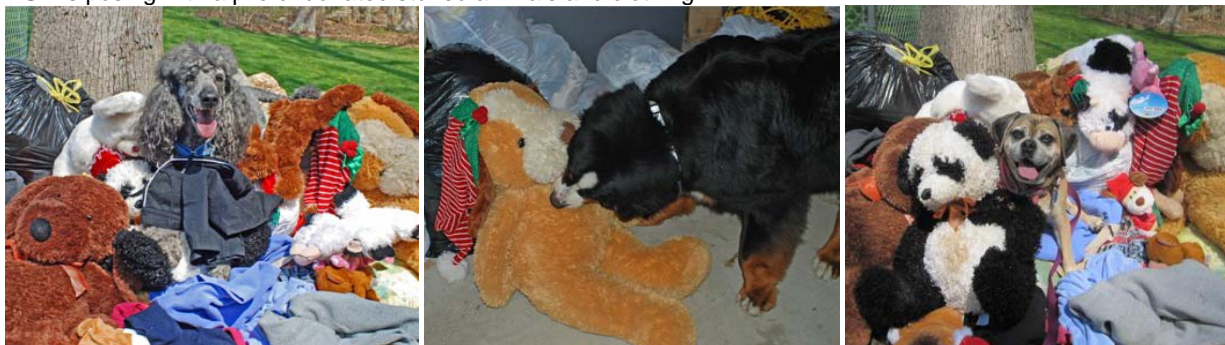
Charity Clothing Drive

Troop 188 held a month long charity clothing drive starting the beginning of May. We collected clean, gently used clothing, shoes, towels, linens, bedding, toys, and handbags. We received money for every pound of donated items that we collected. The money raised will benefit local animal shelters, animal welfare organizations, help provide pet breathing apparatus and training to local fire and emergency squads at no cost, help provide K-9 bullet proof vests to our service dogs including both local law enforcement and overseas in Afghanistan and Iraq, and Dog Scouts of America. Some of the clothing and toys collected will be sent to help third world charities.

To help advertise our clothing drive, we took promotional photos of our dogs. From Left to Right, Zora DSA is posing on top of a filled wardrobe box of donations; Phantom DSA with a pile of donations almost as big as he is; Ella says that this box is empty.



From Left to Right, Lucy DSA is posing with a pile of donated stuffed animals and clothing; Phantom DSA is collecting toys; Zora DSA is posing with a pile of donated stuffed animals and clothing.



On June 6th, six fabulous volunteers loaded 196 bags of clothing, bedding, stuffed animals and other donations onto a big box truck. Thank you Beth, Marge, Millie, Sue, Sheri and Kelly for helping! Thank you My Dog's Place, Ledyard Agri-Science, and Ledyard Animal Control for hosting collection sites. After everything was weighed, we collected a total of 2,454 pounds of donations for \$368.10! That's 1.23 TONS of donations!

Canine Wellness Fair

Troop 188 and the Ledyard Animal Shelter held its first annual Canine Wellness Fair on Sunday, June 5th at Ledyard High School in Ledyard CT. The Troop put together 100 Welcome Bags with advertisements from our sponsors and goodies for the dogs. The contents of the Welcome Bags were donated by local businesses. We assembled 12 raffle baskets with donations from local businesses. The Wellness Fair included presentations and demonstrations about Ledyard K9, Missing Animal Search, Canine Massage, Socialization and Education, and Disaster Preparedness. Photos Left to Right: Zora DSA is ready for the fair to start; the table for My Dog's Place; Marge & Summit DSA giving a demonstration on missing animal search, Summit DSA is a certified cat search dog.



Photos below left to right, Phantom DSA loves to help with the Welcome table; Lexi likes to help sell tickets for raffle baskets; Zora DSA loves to help demonstrate canine massage.



Love My Pet raised over \$600 through vaccines and microchips for Autumn's Fund, which benefits local pound pets. Dog Scout Troop 188 raised \$400 with basket raffle ticket sales, donations and Elk Antler sales. Thank you to everyone who made this event a success!

Kelly Ford, co-Leader of Troop 188

Troop 196, Rockford/Grand Rapids, Michigan



First we want to announce some really exciting up coming events. Our Troop will be participating in the Sept. 16th Bark For Life event here in Rockford Michigan. It is a fund raiser for the American Cancer Society. It is along the lines of Relay for life but with dogs. We will be in the parade and helping out. We would love to see you all here to join us for this wonderful event.

Second, our Dog Gone Ruff Adventure Race (put on by Apex Outdoor gear in Grand Rapids) is still on...The date has been moved to September due to conflicts with other races. Please check out ApexOG's site for more details as we get closer or call ApexOG and ask for Mark Ph# 616-940-4611

Troop 196 had our Spring Hike and we had a BLAST!! There were some acrobatics by the dogs and the kids. There were some huge climbing tree. All dogs and children had a wonderful time and the adults well...what is better than a hike, near the river, with friends, dogs, and no phones.

Our weekly dog walks are beginning again now that the weather is cooperating and water season is upon us so..Dock Jumping and Water work have begun. The Troop Dog juggling is in full swing. We trade our dogs off and watch each others dogs for socialization and to encourage continued stability. Happy Summer and we can't wait to read about all of your activities and hope to see you at our events. **Jilian Rakow, Troop Leader**

Troop 198 – San Francisco Bay, California

In April Dr. Julia spoke to our group about those nasty critters that plague our lovable creatures - PARASITES! She explained how to control the fleas that cause so many health problems for our pets from anemia and allergies to dermatitis and tapeworms. She also talked about the proper administration of flea products and how important it is to treat every furry pet in our home for 3 to 4 months to eradicate all stages of the fleas. She told us about the mites that cause mange and scabies, the ticks that cause anemia, lyme disease and, in some areas, paralysis by secreting a toxin.

We learned about the internal parasites, roundworms that puppies are born with, whipworms that manifest primarily in hot, humid weather, hookworms, tapeworms and heartworms. What terrible damage these parasites cause our pets!



Dr. Julia brought an assortment of these parasites for show and tell. Here's a picture of Nicholas getting a first hand look at one of the bad boys he needs to stay away from!

For our May meeting Beth Ward gave a presentation on "What Is My Dog Saying" that included a slideshow to illustrate what even the slightest movements of our dogs are communicating to other dogs and how we can interpret them. She showed us how the shifting of weight conveys intent; that facial expressions, tail and ear carriage, posture and vocalization are all clear (to other dogs!) communications.

Our guest in May was Melissa McKenzie from "The Santa Clara Weekly" a newsletter for a city with a population of about 117,000. Here is the article she wrote about her visit: http://www.santaclaraweekly.com/dogs_scout.html

In May we also set the date for our first DSA, Troop 198 fundraiser, a yard sale, on July 9th. We will be asking for donations for the sale from our members and proceeds will go toward our non-profit application and to purchase pet oxygen masks for our local fire departments.

We also announced that Officer Fitzgerald and his canine partner from the Santa Clara Police Department will be the guests at our June meeting. Officer Fitzgerald will discuss the training police dogs receive, their backgrounds, their care, safety and many other things. This is one meeting where we are asking that our Scouts and Cadets remain at home, but encourage our members to bring a friend or neighbor instead. **Lyn Mehl**

Troop 217 - New Troop in Michigan

May: On May 15th, we headed out for our first official troop hike at Maybury State Park in Northville. Despite the constant rain, cold, and wind we managed to hike just under 3 miles.

Left to Right: Melissa w/Cadet Scout Drizzle, Lowell w/Dog Scouts Maebe and Cadence, Julie w/Dog Scout Shelby (not pictured: Angela Schmorow-Zuckerman)

Since the weather seemed to deter some on the 15th, Lowell, troop 217's hiking coordinator, scheduled another troop hike on May 29th to help finish off those last couple miles needed to meet our goal(s) for DSA's Hike-A-Thon. This time we hiked 3.5 miles in Brighton at Huron Meadows Metro Park. Congratulations to Troop 217 for raising the third highest amount, \$639, for DSA's National Hike-A-Thon.



Left to Right: Melissa w/Cadet Scout Drizzle, Lowell w/Dog Scout Django, Angela DSA Members John and w/Shelby)



June: On June 5th, we held Dexter. We had a great turn set up throughout the training pick and choose specific

Scout Drizzle, Carrie w/Dog Scout Max, Lowell w/Dog Scouts Maebe and Cadence, and new Roberta w/Sprite (not pictured: Julie Benson

an agility training day at Pawsitively Positive in out with ten members attending. Obstacles were center so members could practice on them all or obstacles that their dog needed more work on.

Lowell and Angela taught us all some great handling techniques and gave pointers on how to help "overcome" some common fears with such obstacles like the teeter. Those ready to video tape for Obstacle 1 and 2 badges did so with the help of troop co-leader, Angela Schmorow-Zuckerman.



Angela giving handling advice to Martha & Maia and Diane and Anne



Elizabeth w/Emma playing the Teeter "Push" Game



Julie w/Shelby going across the Dog Walk for the first time!

Thank you to Teresa Bobicz for designing our troop's website - check us out at <http://dsatrop217.comule.com/index.html>

--Submitted by Julie Benson

In Closing....
Tick Removal

With summer upon us, I am sharing an article that a member of the Peoria Obedience Training Club submitted for safely removing ticks. Just thought it was appropriate. Here it is:

A nurse discovered a safe, easy way to remove ticks where they automatically withdraw themselves when you follow her simple instructions. Read this one as it could save you from some major problems..

Summer is here and the ticks are showing their heads. Here is a good way to get them off you, your children, or your pets. Give it a try.

I had a pediatrician tell me what she believes is the best way to remove a tick. This is great, because it works in those places where it's sometimes difficult to get to with tweezers: between toes, in the middle of a head full of dark hair, etc.

Apply a glob of liquid soap to a cotton ball. Cover the tick with the soap-soaked cotton ball and swab it for a few seconds (15-20), the tick will come out on its own and be stuck to the cotton ball when you lift it away. This technique has worked every time I've used it (and that was frequently, and it's much less traumatic for the patient and easier for me).

Unless someone is allergic to soap, I can't see that this would be damaging in any way. I even had my doctor's wife call me for advice because she had one stuck to her back and she couldn't reach it with tweezers. She used this method and immediately called me back to say, "It worked!"

Contributed by Laura Thompson, POTC, Peoria, Illinois