



The Dog Scout Scoop

(little bits of news we've picked up)

September/October 2011

Volume 15, Issue 5

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



2011 Hike-a-Thon Recap

In May, Dog Scouts supporters across 13 states hiked and collected over \$9000 in pledges to help us to grow and spread The Dog Scout Way. The states represented were: *Alaska, Arkansas, California, Connecticut, Florida, Illinois, Maine, Michigan, Missouri, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, and Texas.* Some participants also took the time to report how many miles they hiked during the campaign, and that total was over 500 miles! We had a total of 263 generous donors who contributed pledges, at an average pledge amount of \$34. We can't wait to see what next year holds.

We want to congratulate and thank our Top Fundraisers in our very first national grassroots event. Our top individual fundraiser was Cheryl Bales, who collected \$2038.35 in pledges from over 75 generous donors! Our winner could choose between free Dog Scout Camp registration, or Cheryl's choice of a \$150 gift certificate to the DSA Store, as well as \$150 in "DSA Dollars" which she can spend on things like merit badges and camp and titling fees. We know her wonder-dog Tanner will put it to good use!

Our top fundraising troop was Troop 119, based in Fort Worth, TX, where 13 team members collected \$5,158 in pledges. The troop will receive a \$250 gift certificate to the DSA Store, as well as \$250 in "DSA Dollars."

An honorable mention goes out to our Top Ten Fundraisers:

- 1) Cheryl Bales in TX
- 2) Donna Dutkofski in TX
- 3) Cindy Ratliff in TX
- 4) June Haverland in OH
- 5) Pam Knowlton in PA
- 6) Julie Benson in MI
- 7) Melissa Perez in MI
- 8) Richard Tettamant in TX
- 9) Marguerite Fries in PA
- 10) Vicki Carter in TX

Thanks to everyone who participated!

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Please Respect Newsletter Deadlines!!!

Newsletter Submission - October 15th, 2011 for November/December 2011 Issue. Articles received after that date will go into the January/February 2012 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!!!

DSA FALL OUTING!



When: October 1-2-3

Where: DSA camp, St. Helen, Michigan

Why: To have fall fun with our dogs

Who: All DSA members are eligible to attend

What: It will be a fun weekend, full of costume contests, games, hikes and possibly the "spooky trail." BYO drinks, snacks, and sharable potluck items. Optional are: Items for the auction table, "trick or treats" for the other dogs and/or people.

Cost: The only cost is for your lodging, if you stay on site. We do have the new DSA cabins for rent. If interested, inquire with Lonnie. PLEASE RSVP! Let me know as soon as you can, if you're going to be here. Please call 989-389-2000, or email dogscoutcamp@gmail.com. I hope to see you there!

DSA holds first sanctioned IMPROV Trials

On June 25 and July 16, DSA camp hosted two IMPROV trials. Judges were Lonnie Olson and Peggy Zweber. They were a lot of fun for everyone. Handlers and spectators alike cheered as they watched dogs figure stuff out that they were never trained to do! In the Novice division at camp 1 the placings were: 1st place: Martha Thierry and Maia; 2nd place: Sue Vital and Simka; and 3rd place, Terri Tew and Reese. In the Standard division 1st place was Chris Puls and Dazzle (Kozi and Panda were also qualifiers, but couldn't take ribbon placements because they were the judge's dogs). At camp 2 the Novice division placements were: 1st place: Martha Thierry and Maia; 2nd place: Terri Tew and Reese; and 3rd place: Allison Holloway and Tango. In the Standard division, 1st place: Lonnie Olson and Kozi; 2nd place: Lonnie Olson and Panda; 3rd place: Chris Puls and Dazzle. I can't tell you how much fun these events were to participate in. I hope that more people will be hosting IMPROV trials across the nation. On August 13 and 14, Troop 161 from PA will be hosting 4 IMPROV trials over the 2 days. The judges will be Ann Withun, Doree Donovan, and Lonnie Olson. I can't wait to see what kind of fun gets cooking in PA!



Chris Puls and Dazzle



Left to right:
Lonnie Olson and Kozi (1st two photos)

Lonnie and Panda



Left: Mary Schuenemann and Nike



Left: Tango and Maia



Operation Socialization: DSA Member Discount

Operation Socialization provides expert support in setting up great puppy socialization classes with involvement of the whole community, and provides outstanding educational materials designed for both dog trainers and owners. The OS website is a great resource of free information for new puppy owners as well. **As a donation to DSA, Operation Socialization is providing DSA with helpful articles about puppy socialization that we will make available on www.dogscouts.org.**

Both DSA and OS know how important early socialization is when it comes to raising a well-adjusted, happy puppy. The enhancements that OS makes to a puppy class program encourage early socialization training and compliance in and out of the classroom. **For our members who are also dog trainers, Operation Socialization will waive their \$15 application fee for becoming an Operation Socialization Trainer. Simply use the code “DSASocializer” when submitting the Dog Trainer Application.**

What we love about OS is that just like our Dog Scout merit badges, the program makes it fun for owners to learn about care and training of their dogs, and rewards progress with positive reinforcement for the owners. It encourages owners to get out and socialize their dogs, by providing a “Puppy Passport” for each student, and lining up businesses in the community where owners can take their puppy for socialization and get their passports stamped! There are pages in the passport for owners to keep track of their puppy’s response to various kinds of people, animals, places, objects & obstacles, and sounds. We’ve never seen anyone make maintaining a training log seem so fun, and it’s a good example of the creative kinds of ways we can encourage fellow dog owners (and ourselves!) to do more with their dogs.



Places Log: Week 2		Places Log: Week 3	
Places	Stamp/Date	Places	Stamp/Date
Socialization Destination Name		Socialization Destination Name	
Socialization Destination Name		Socialization Destination Name	
Socialization Destination Name		Socialization Destination Name	
Name of Place		Name of Place	
Name of Place		Name of Place	

People Log: Week 2			People Log: Week 3		
Category	Person #1	Person #2	Category	Person #1	Person #2
Man	1 2 3	1 2 3	Man	1 2 3	1 2 3
Woman	1 2 3	1 2 3	Woman	1 2 3	1 2 3
Baby	1 2 3	1 2 3	Baby	1 2 3	1 2 3
Kid	1 2 3	1 2 3	Kid	1 2 3	1 2 3
Senior	1 2 3	1 2 3	Senior	1 2 3	1 2 3
On Wheels	1 2 3	1 2 3	On Wheels	1 2 3	1 2 3
Wearing Something Bulky or Unusual	1 2 3	1 2 3	Wearing Something Bulky or Unusual	1 2 3	1 2 3
Carrying Something	1 2 3	1 2 3	Carrying Something	1 2 3	1 2 3
Fill in	1 2 3	1 2 3	Fill in	1 2 3	1 2 3
Fill in	1 2 3	1 2 3	Fill in	1 2 3	1 2 3

3 = Loves it 2 = Just OK 1 = Hates it

For more information about Operation Socialization programs, visit their website www.operationsocialization.com. To use the DSA member discount, simply use the code “DSASocializer” on your application and indicate that you are a DSA member. They’ll contact us to verify your membership. Thanks, OS, we appreciate your support of Dog Scouts!

*Note from OS: Effective September 26, 2011, Dog Trainer startup memberships will include many new features and the price will increase to \$325 (from \$225). **Apply for the startup membership before September 25th** - and pass the OS Certification Exam by November 15th - and you’ll get these new features at the old price.*



Dog Scouts of America Competition & Titling is Up and Running!

This year, DSA launched our new Competition & Titling program. We began this project last year with turning IMPROV into a competition sport, with two levels (Novice and Standard) and writing a comprehensive guidebook. Since then, we've released comprehensive guidebooks for treibball - TreibballDog, scent discrimination tests – DetectionDog, and a guidebook for draft dog (carting) tests is nearly ready to be posted – DraftDog. We are also working on expanding our pack dog titling into an even more comprehensive TrailDog venue with more titles and activities.

Our guidebooks contain everything a person needs to know about the sport – whether they are a competitor, a judge, want to host an event, or if they just want to have fun with their dog trying the sport without competing. We encourage you to check them out, and see if any of the activities interest you! The guidebooks contain information you could use to organize a fun informal troop activity as well.

The purpose of the Competition & Titling program is three-fold: 1) To encourage people both inside and outside of DSA to enrich their bonds with their dogs through positive training and dog/handler team activities, 2) As a way to spread The Dog Scout Way ever further, reaching people with our message of positive training and kindness toward our dogs through a new forum, 3) While we make all of our guidebooks available to the public for free, those that choose to participate in sanctioned competitions will also be an ongoing source of fundraising for our other programs.

Fun Facts about the C&T Program:

- The program's motto is: *DSA Competition & Titling: Where Everybody Plays!* We wanted to highlight the fact that we welcome dogs of every kind, and that it's all about having FUN with your dog.
- People do not need to be DSA members to participate in C&T events – however, each dog must have a DSA Competition Registration Number to compete and earn titles. A CRN is a single registration number that we will use in all of our DSA competition venues, to track registration, entries, scores, and titles. (Info about getting a CRN is in each guidebook.)
- By the time you are reading this article:
 - We have held three DSA-Sanctioned IMPROV Trials in two states! This includes 6 Novice classes, and 5 Standard classes.
 - We have over 45 dogs registered for competition with CRNs.
- We have designed new oval patches for both PackDog and IMPROV – you will receive a patch when your dog earns their first title in the sport. While these aren't merit badges, they can be displayed on your dog's DSA uniform cape if you wish – they also look great on tote bags, and on soft crates!



- Those who have submitted PackDog title requests under the new system and paid the \$25 processing fee will receive their patches in the coming weeks. If your dog has earned a pack dog title in the past and you would like to order the patch, copies of the patch are \$3 - please contact Ann at ann@withun.com.
- Future plans.... We would love to expand into other sports, such as all-breed earth dog competition. We also are looking into an option of "combined titles" to recognize a dog's versatility for accomplishments across several sports/venues.
- Interested in helping promote our C&T program?
 - It's easy to hold a DSA-Sanctioned event! Details are in the guidebooks, and we're here to help you succeed and have fun. Events can be as large or small as you like.
 - Have a fun match! This is where you play the sport or activity by the rules in the guidebook, but it's just an informal game rather than sanctioned competition. These can be great activities for troops, or just a group of friends. There's no need for DSA sanctioning or any paperwork at all - but we'd love it if you'd let us know if you are hosting one (and again, we're happy to help!)

- We're looking to add more judges and certified test evaluators to the team! Generally, the process involves running one or more informal fun matches according to the guidebook rules and sending in video and scoresheets for review. You can find more information in the guidebooks.

Congratulations! New Titles Earned in 2011!

Pack Dog (PD): Matilda (Lila Arnold), Tanner (Cheryl Bales), Quinn (Donna Dutkofski), Arabella (Silke Werness), Cadence (Angela Schmorrow), Hallie (Robyn Porter)

Pack Dog Excellent (PDX): Tanner (Cheryl Bales)

Utility Pack Dog (UPD): Tanner (Cheryl Bales)

IMPROV (I): Panda and Kozi (Lonnie Olson), Rowdy (Ann Withun), Ransom (Lisa Basial), Taylor (Noelle Weeks)

Novice IMPROV (IN): Seelie (Ann Withun), Ben (Mary Kutulakis), Sadie and Faith (Doree and Kelsey Donovan), Cian (Lisa Basial)

If you have any questions about C&T programs, contact Ann Withun, the DSA Director of Competition & Titling, at ann@withun.com.

Remember the Howell, Michigan Benefit Concert, September 22nd!

Jackie Davidson and Gary Brandt will be holding a benefit concert on September 22nd at the Howell Opera House in Howell, Michigan. Tickets are \$25.00. Please come and support DSA. All proceeds of the concert will be going to DSA. Howell Opera House has donated their facility, and Jackie and Gary (folksingers from the New Christy Minstrels) are donating their talent. Their dog, "Cooper" will also be there with them. Come join us!!!

7 p.m. THURSDAY SEPT. 22, 2011

HOWELL FOR THE DOGS

General admission \$10

"Singing the Good Old Songs Again" with Jackie Davidson & Gary Brandt to benefit the Dog Scouts of America

jackieandgary.com

www.dogscouts.org

www.theoperahouse.us

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123 W. Grand River Howell

Troop News
Troop 119, North Texas

We have been beating the intense summer heat by meeting indoors and continuing to have a great time with our dogs and our dog-friends!



Photos left to right: Cowboy catches a treat in the air; Lily performs her task; Susan and Shiloh perform in the hoop.

In June we had a great meeting playing doggie games! We had some new original games to play with our dogs as well as some old favorites. The three teams raced to finish first in relays like the water relay game. One of the games that brought the most laughs was the new "Me or My Dog" game where participants drew cards with an activity or behavior on it and if they couldn't get their dog to perform the task, the handler could perform it in the dog's place. We ended up with several humans picking up a safety cone in their mouths that day!



In July we had a very informative meeting with Red Cross CPR/First Aid instructor, Mary Morgan, doing a presentation on canine CPR. She gave a very informative presentation then everybody had an opportunity to practice what they learned. We all left feeling more equipped to deal with an emergency situation.

Photos left to right: Mary Morgan doing CPR; Mary performing Heimlich; Mary shows Maureen where to find a pulse.

Mart & Cindy Ratliff, Troop 119, North Texas

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

Downeast Dog Scouts July Picnic



Photos left: Bri created her own game of stick; Cirra - "Beach Beauty" watching water activities.

Troop members and their dogs enjoyed a summer picnic at a member's home on a Maine lake. The hostess Dog Scout, Raya, had a great time in the lake with her friends. The Labradors showed the Italian Greyhounds how to retrieve bumpers and Bri



played her own game of stick. There was plenty of food, margaritas and a great time for all! Photos Left: Raya waiting for the tennis ball game.

Children Read to Downeast Dog Scouts Dogs at the Swan's Island Library

On Friday, August 5th members of the Downeast Dog Scouts and their dogs boarded the Captain Henry Lee ferry boat for the six mile, thirty minute ride to Swan's Island. The troop visited the Swan's Island Library to introduce Children Reading to Dogs programs and to support the new community library.

Children were all smiles when seeing the dogs upon arriving at the library. On a beautiful summer day, in the pleasant atmosphere of the new library, the children relaxed in bean bag chairs and on comfortable floor mats as they petted and snuggled with the dogs. They chose books from the library or brought their favorite books from home. Not only did the children enjoy reading to the dogs, they learned about several different dog breeds and how to interact safely around dogs.



Five troop dogs listened to the readers: Golden Retrievers Raya and Rebel, a Great Pyrenees Cirra, an Italian Greyhound Gracie and a Labrador Retriever Jill. The children read to one or several of the dogs and wondered which book was the dog's favorite. The readers then chose a book from the dogs' library to take home. In addition, troop members read stories to babies and toddlers, the library's future readers! Reading program dogs are registered therapy dogs that volunteer with their owners as a team, going to schools, libraries and many other settings as reading companions for children. Reading Education Assistance Dogs (R.E.A.D.) have been trained and tested for health, safety, appropriate skills and temperament. Dogs can be great listeners. Their presence creates an inviting, motivating and fun environment for readers.

The Swan's Island Library and its contents were destroyed in a fire started by a lightning strike on July 24, 2008. Construction of the new 3,500 square foot library began on September 27, 2010 and the new building was dedicated on July 7, 2011. The new library serves as a hub of activity for 350 year-round residents and many summer visitors.

Three National Canine Organizations Recognize Local Dog Volunteer: AKC, GPCA and TDI Award Titles to Cirra, Glimmer's Spirit of Acadia



Cirra, Glimmer's Spirit of Acadia, of Bar Harbor, Maine has been recognized by three national organizations for her therapy work and Children Reading to Cirra Program. She has received titles from the Great Pyrenees Club of America, Therapy Dogs International and the American Kennel Club. The Animal Assisted Therapy and Activity title (AAT&A) is awarded by the Great

Pyrenees Club of America to dogs and handlers who are registered with a national therapy dog organization and have performed at least 200 volunteer therapy hours. Therapy Dogs International awards the Tail Waggin' Tutors Achievement Award (TWT) to dog and handler teams with 100 reading program visits. The AKC awards the Therapy Dog title (THD) to registered AKC dogs that are **certified by an AKC recognized therapy dog organization and perform a minimum of 50 visits**. Photos above: Cirra Titles - AKC Therapy Dog, TDI Tail Waggin' Tutors and GPCA AAT&A; Robyn Douglas and Cirra - TDI Tail Waggin' Tutors Award

Cirra is a six year old spirited gal and has been a "socialite" from birth. She is an avid "greeter" with an infinite curiosity, playful nature and fantastic sense of humor. Her breeders recognized her temperament for therapy work as a puppy and encouraged Cirra's owners, Robyn Douglas and Denise Houseknecht, from the beginning. Early in her therapy work, Cirra visited with

Denise at two local hospitals. Cirra visited patients and was a welcomed support to hospital staff. The most memorable moments were those with patients that missed their own pets at home and felt calmed by Cirra's presence. Cirra inspired people to walk further, get out of bed for a visit and helped some to fall quietly asleep.



Photo left: Cirra - Great Pyrenees Club of America Animal Assisted Therapy and Activity Awards

In 2008, Robyn Douglas completed the Reading Education Assistance Dog training. Cirra and Robyn have helped young readers at the Somesville Library, Mount Desert Elementary School and Northeast Harbor Library. They continue the Children Reading to Cirra Program at the Northeast Harbor Library with the support of Eilleen MacLean, Children's Librarian. Children can read to Cirra this summer on Thursday mornings at the Northeast Harbor library. At the library, children are guided by a colorful paw print path to a comfortable nook in the Reading Room. Cirra brings a bag of books with stories about Great Pyrenees, dogs and positive canine relationships. Her alphabet book, "C is For Cirra", is filled with pictures of her exploits and is available to be checked out by patrons of the library. A tote bag,

complete with a stuffed Cirra, can be checked out by children so that they can read to her at home. Cirra thanks the children for reading with bookmarks for the children to adorn with their earned stickers, paw print pencils and reward books. Cirra's special word puzzles and her "C is for Cirra" alphabet book provide an opportunity for children to practice literacy skills. Her Great Pyrenees breed cards and coloring pages foster learning about the Great Pyrenees breed.

Children reading to dogs programs increase children's reading skills, confidence and self esteem. Children that have special canine relationships develop empathy for dogs and others. The reading sessions create a love of reading and lay the foundation for a lifetime of learning. The Children Reading to Cirra Program also teaches children how to interact safely around dogs and about responsible dog ownership. Children that have been apprehensive about dogs can watch other children read to Cirra and it is wonderful to see them warm up to Cirra and participate in the program.

In addition, Cirra has earned a Canine Good Citizen Certificate (CGC) and Rally Novice Title (RN) from the American Kennel Club. She has completed the requirements for the three Versatility Titles of the Great Pyrenees Club of America: Versatility Ambassador (VA), Versatility Emissary (VE) and Versatility Excellent (VX). Her Versatility activities included: public education, walk-a-thons, therapy dog visits, boating, hiking, backpacking, mountain climbing, agility and rally obedience. Cirra is a Downeast Dog Scout. Her Dog Scouts of America Titles include: Dog Scout (DSA), Pack Dog (PD) and Pack Dog Excellent (PDX) as well as several Dog Scouts of America badges. Cirra earned the Downeast Dog Scouts Carriage Road Certificate after completing walks along the entire carriage road system of Acadia National Park.

Dog Scout Patches Retires as Peggy Smith's Service Dog

Patches has been a member of the Smith family since February 1999 arriving at thirteen weeks of age. In 2003 Patches learned to be a Service Dog for Peggy and therefore went everywhere with her, doing all sorts of mobility things for her, both at home and out in public. She traveled to Arizona with Peggy in 2006 by plane and they had a wonderful Elderhostel trip together. After Peggy became a Philanthropic Educational Organization (P.E.O.) member, Patches was initiated into Chapter K, Maine as an honorary member looking straight into the eyes of the president. When the Downeast Dog Scout Troop 159 was established in this area, Patches easily passed her test to become an official Dog Scout of America, participating in many events to help others become responsible dog owners. As Peggy's Service Dog, Patches continued going to church, P.E.O., Audubon meetings, Garden Club, craft fairs, restaurants, museums, etc., however she was getting more and more stressed at these places so needed to be retired at age 10. Sir Wilfred, AKA "Gillie", has assumed Patches' former service dog role at age 1 1/2. Photo above: Patches and Frisbee.



Hi all, Today, July 20th Patches has found a new home with a dear couple on a Maine Island. She will be given lots of love and will no longer be bullied by Gillie. A phone call from the couple indicates that Patches seems to have already bonded with the husband and they will be happy together.

Patches has been a member the Smith family since Feb 1999 arriving at 13 weeks of age. She earned a blue ribbon the second week of Puppy class by doing 11 sits, downs and stands in the 15 seconds allotted time. At 10:00 in the morning on Sept 11, 2001 she began her first day as a Therapy Dog at the Blue Hill Hospital. An experience for both of us. Later Patches made a

difference in the life of Joseph, a Kindergarten student, who read to her and then guessed he wasn't afraid of all dogs, just the one who knocked him down. In 2003 Patches learned to be a Service Dog for me and therefore went everywhere with me, doing all sorts of Mobility things for me, both at home and out in public. She traveled to Arizona with me in 2006 by plane and we had a wonderful Elderhostel trip together. After I had become a P.E.O. member, Patches was initiated into Chapter K, Maine as an honorary member looking straight into the eyes of the president. When Dog Scout troop 159 was established in this area, Patches easily passed her test to become an official Dog Scout of America, participating in many events to help others become responsible dog owners. Still my Service Dog, she continued going to church, P.E.O., Audubon meetings, Garden Club, craft fairs, restaurants, museums, etc., but she was getting more and more stressed at these places so needed to be retired at age 10. Today, therefore, at age 12 ½, is the day when Patches has retired with the couple on an island here in Maine. Gillie, the residents here at Parker Ridge and I already miss her, but she will be happier and 1 ½ year old pup should turn to me for comfort instead of poking and biting Patches for attention. It is for the best for all 3 of us. I wish her a long loving life with the couple. Peggy and Sir Wilfred, AKA "Gillie" **Robyn Douglas, Downeast Dog Scouts Troop 159**

Troop 161 – Carlisle / Central PA News

On July 23rd, we had a Troop Training Day. Troop members practiced and tested for the Dog Scout title, and also did some painting for the Art of Shaping. Congratulations to Chantal Wagner with **Colby**, and Noelle Weeks with **Binkley** earned their Dog Scout title! Casey Bretz and **Gabe** earned the Junior Scout badge. **Gabe** and **Binkley** also earned the Art of Shaping merit badge. Troop 161 hosted a two-day IMPROV trial event on August 13-14. We had 49 entries/runs over the course of the weekend in 4 Novice classes and 3 Standard classes. Some entrants had already earned legs toward their first titles at the camp trials in June and July, and overall 5 dogs earned their Standard IMPROV titles and 5 dogs earned their Novice level titles (their names are listed within the C&T article.)



Placements for IMPROV Trial 2 Standard Level (Kozi, Panda, and Ransom pictured) and Novice Level (Ben, Cian, and Faith.)

For the first time, some of the IMPROV courses had "themes" and we had Novice classes where dog/handler teams negotiated exercises with themes of "board games," "sports," and "summertime."

Standard level dogs had course themes of "travel," and "household chores." Some of the highlights included Novice handlers "scoring goals" by sending their dogs back and forth across the "field" into goal areas on opposite sides of the ring with the handler remaining on the "sideline" and working their dogs at a distance. Standard dogs helped with the laundry in a Tab A in Slot B exercise where the dogs had to collect laundry from a pile and place it in a laundry basket across the room. Dogs retrieved everything from garden hoses, to 3-pound dumbbells, to helium balloons. In the travel themed Standard class, handlers sent their dogs through "Dog Scouts of America International Airport" security, having to send their dogs away from them and through a mockup of a "security scanner" about 20 feet away. Our small raffle raised over \$100 for the Morris Animal Foundation's Canine Cancer Fund.



Doree and Faith set up for Exercise 5 - Tab A in Slot B. In this case, Faith was "Tab A" and there were 3 "Slot B's": lie down on a beach towel, go out around a cone with a parrot decoration, and "take a drink" touching the straw in the drink.

Everyone had a great time, and it was wonderful to see dog/handler teams getting better and better, and having more and more fun, as the weekend went on. It goes to show that while ribbons and titles are nice, the real greatness is when something wonderful happens to strengthen the relationship between a person and their canine friend. Several dogs had breakthroughs



and "personal bests" and showed their people just what they were made of - with fellow entrants and spectators cheering with encouragement. Troop 161 would like to thank everyone who entered as well as those who came to help out and watch.

Ann Within Photo: It was a pretty "laid back" environment.... ☺

Troop 177 – Indianapolis, Indiana



Anita Dudley and Sophie, and Robyn Porter and Hallie went to Mackinac Island before June DSA camp. The weather was cooler and it was a bright, sunny day for bicycling. They rode bicycles around the island (8 miles) and then accumulated an extra 4 miles just out and about! Although they never would have guessed they'd attempt 12 miles on that day, it was a blast! They took extra care with the dogs by riding slow and stopping often. They were in the Lilac Festival Parade and Sophie & Hallie received many compliments on their DSA vests and lilac bandanas! Photo left: Hallie and Sophie prepare for Mackinac Lilac Festival Parade.

Peggy Kraus, Anita Dudley and Robyn Porter (and dogs) attended DSA June camp in Michigan. There were thunderstorms, lightning, power outage, hail and loads of fun! This was the second year for all of them and it

seemed so different from this year. Last year was all about swimming and boating in the lake, this year seemed to revolve around agility. Last year's lure course around the field had a little agility involved, as well as some of the extra activities. Troop #177 made a strong showing at camp and the dogs made the most of their week there!

Beth Bentley is on the 2011 Westie Walk planning committee and promises volunteer opportunities for our troop at the September 24 event. We'll have a booth, do a short talk describing Dog Scouts and be on Poop Patrol as volunteers for the day.

Kristi Rush is seeking therapy teams to greet Indiana soldiers returning stateside to Camp Atterbury from overseas tours of duty. The dogs have official permission to go into various base sites and visit with soldiers during Soldier Transition Days. Their first few events have been very successful!



Peggy Kraus, Anita Dudley and Robyn Porter (and dogs) went on a 5 mile walk at the White River State Park and downtown canal on July 9. It was a beautiful day with a breeze. We found geocaches and searched unsuccessfully for letterboxes. By the time we reached the cafe it was hot, hot, hot! Everyone welcomed the shaded deck, cold water and delicious lunch before the last leg back to the cars.

Photos left to right: Peggy and Casey at scenic White River lookout in Indianapolis; Hallie and Sophie at Medal of Honor Memorial on the canal in Indianapolis.

The August troop meeting included a business meeting and walk through Washington Park North Cemetery hunting for geocaches. We were pleased to welcome guests Eleida and her Neopolitan Mastiff Cole Porter. The group found 2 geocaches and the dogs were happy to meet Cole and Eleida.

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

Troop 188 - Connecticut and Rhode Island

Dog Scout Camp

Despite thunderstorms and a power outage, Zora and I had a wonderful week at Camp this summer. Zora celebrated her 5th birthday at Camp. Lonnie gave her a special birthday bandanna. Zora earned her Canine Good Citizen, her All Dog Band badge and her Backpacking badge. She loves hiking so much that we are working towards her Pack Dog title. Photo left: Zora and I after hiking at Dog Scout Camp.



Cleanup of Haley Farm

Haley Farm is a small State Park located in the Town of Groton. This is a great place to go hiking or biking with your dog. There are several miles of winding hiking trails. Unfortunately, many people don't pick up after their dogs here. Four of us brought our dogs to clean-up Haley Farm. We spent several hours hiking the trails and picking up poop, helping our dogs to earn their Clean Up America 2 badges.

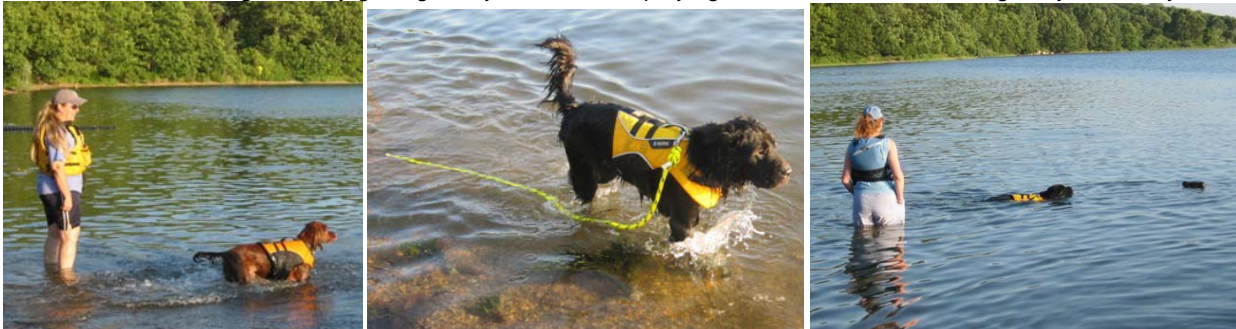
Photos below, left to right: Sheri, Lucy and Rueben looking for abandoned piles; Marge and Derby brought the cart to help carry everything we picked up; Rueben admires his work.



Puppy Paddlers

We met at Bluff Point State Park for our July Troop meeting. Bluff Point is a coastal reserve and a favorite hiking spot for several Troop members. The park is on the ocean, so a great place to swim or kayak. Nine Scouts attends the July meeting to work on their swimming skills. Everyone had a great time playing in the water or on the beach. Derby, Ella, Fyssher, Kayla and Tartan earned their Puppy Paddler badges.

Photos below, left to right: Derby getting ready to swim; Ella playing in the water; Ella retrieving a toy thrown by Beth.



I introduced the Troop a new game that Zora and I learned at Dog Scout Camp, Devil Ducks! We had a great time playing, several of the dogs caught on right away.



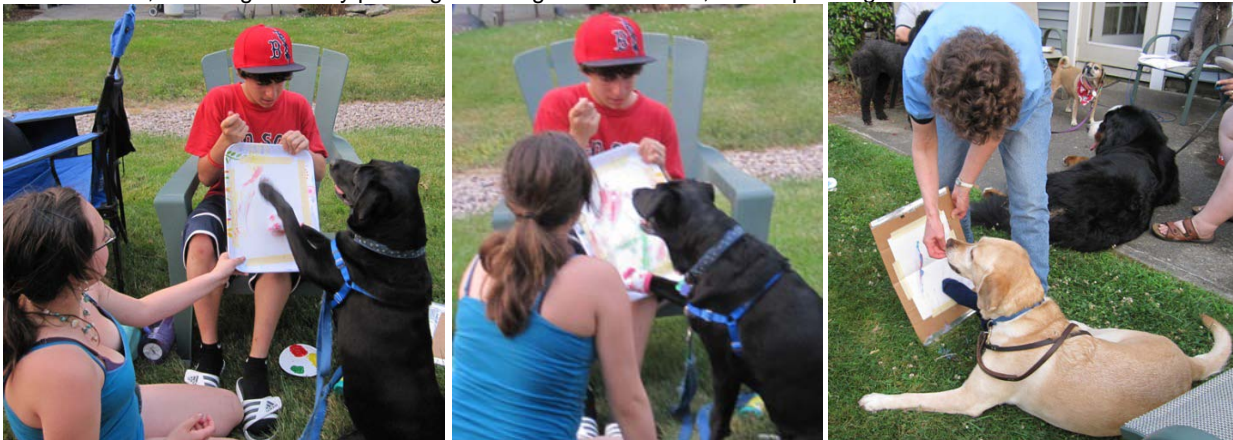
We met at Highland Lake for our August Troop Meeting. Highland Lake is a spring fed pond with a nice, sandy beach in Ledyard. It was raining, but several people still came to work on their Puppy Paddler. Bailey, Libby and Phantom passed their Puppy Paddler test on their first time out. We had a new member join us and little Clark also passed his Puppy Paddler test. Photo right: Bailey proud of her swimming accomplishments.

Art of Shaping

We had an Art of Shaping workshop at the end of July. Six Scouts came to learn the Art of Shaping and work on their badge. Bailey, who was recovering after tearing her Achilles tendon, had so much fun painting with Meghan and Aaron that she completed two paintings and earned her Art of Shaping badge. Bailey presented her mom with the pictures as a birthday gift and they were a big hit! We're

sure that when Bailey is completely healed she will finish her Dog Scout test. Felicia also earned her Art of Shaping badge. Felicia really got into her art, she got red and blue paint all over the grass.

Photos below, left to right: Bailey painting with Meghan and Aaron; Felicia painting with Millie.



Upcoming events

Troop 188 is actively working on a number of upcoming events for the fall. Among these are:

- An information booth at the Ledyard Fair (Sept 7-9, 2011 Ledyard, CT)
- Autumn's Festival – a low cost vaccination clinic and fundraiser for local animal charities (October 2, 2011 Ledyard, CT)
- CT Renaissance Faire – Troop 188 is hosting the Dog Watering hole for Bring Your Pet Weekend, October 15 and 16 and is on the faire program for Tic Tac DOG! (October 15, 16, 2011 Hebron, CT)

If you are interested in joining us at any of these events we would love to have you. Email us for more information at dogscouttroop188@yahoo.com. **Kelly Ford, co-Leader of Troop 188**

Troop 196, Rockford/Grand Rapids, Michigan



Here are some photos that Jilian Rakow, Troop Leader, sent from their spring hike. Her computer was down during the last issue. I don't have an article from her, so enjoy.



Left to right:
Eric and Zepp
Gabe and Lego



Photos left to right: Deb and Skye; Four dogs – Skye, Lego, Finn and Keebler (I think); dogs wandering by river – Skye, Finn and Lego.



Photos left to right:
Karma climbing with Keebler and Lego
Keebler and Lego

Note from July 20: Wow we have had a fun summer. We have Dock Diving photos. My son should be earning his Dock Diving badge. We have done 2 rescues with all of the troop members pitching in. We will have pictures of the one dog left up for adoption. We went to Woof Stock. We did a Demo there with another troop....we have had a lot going on!! AND my computer is back up so i have pix for you too. I will send stuff when you are ready for the next newsletter.

Jilian Rakow, Troop Leader

Troop 198 – San Francisco Bay, California



Our June meeting featured special guests as speaker and demonstrator – partner Police Officers Nate and Jax of Santa Clara Police Department. Nate has been Jax’s handler for a couple of years and they have trained extensively in explosives and tracking. Officer Nate explained that their canines are chosen for their age, drive, social skills and, to a point, aggressiveness. The officers and dogs have training meetings once a week to keep their skills sharp and to learn new skills. Within our large meeting room they gave a demonstration of how Jax locates an explosive using a small canister of C-4. When he located the explosive, Jax backed away a few feet, sat, and stared. He was immediately rewarded with his tennis ball!

Officers Nate and Jax have mostly been called to use this skill to sweep stadiums or conference halls where dignitaries are scheduled to speak. After the presentation we went outside to have a look at Jax’s special vehicle. The back seat area of the Chevy SUV is carpeted, has a secured water bowl and is, of course, air-conditioned. The back passenger side door has a remote release so Officer Nate can let Jax out in case of an emergency. Then we started asking about tracking and training . . . What was scheduled as a 45 minute presentation took over two hours, we had so many questions.



On July 9th Troop 198 had their first yard sale fundraiser. Besides donations from members, Doggonegood.com, an on-line dog store, donated about 12 boxes of new dog books, equipment, toys, and many other items they were discontinuing. Starbucks donated 50 cups of coffee (and the cups!). We raised \$700 to purchase pet oxygen masks for San Jose Fire Department.

In July our meeting featured member Patty Guthrie as she and Crystal talked about nosework, beginning training, and they gave a demonstration.

Lyn Mehl

Troop 207 – Columbus, Ohio



Troop 207 has been busy and is happy to finally be enjoying some good weather! We recently finished a series of training classes for a new group and are happy to welcome a new group of Dog Scouts to the troop: Raleigh, Magnum, Mo, Maddie, Dralion, Comet, Keeper, Pascha and Bella.

We are still collecting donations to buy fire mask kits for the fire stations of Franklin County – only 12 more kits to buy! The troop spent some time helping the Dublin Girl Scouts troop earn their pet care badge, teaching them about behavior, health, feeding and the cost of owning a dog. We also recently spent time with the kids at the Central Ohio Youth Center detention facility. They did a wonderful job helping us with training, and we will be going back every quarter for more training sessions.

We will be hosting booths at the upcoming Pup-a-palooza and Woofstock festivals trying to drum up new recruits and spread the Dog Scout word! We hope to spend the summer months working on some hiking and swimming!



Some of our new Scouts. From left to right: Keeper, Magnum, Pascha, Mo, Dralion, Comet and Maddie.

Troop 217 – Southeast Michigan

Though still a young troop, Troop 217 continued to grow and stay active during the summer months. We are already up to 15 members, with several more people expressing interest. We are continuing to hold regular monthly hikes on the last Saturday of the month. In June, Lowell Schmorrow-Zuckerman and Maebe, Angela Schmorrow-Zuckerman and Cadence, Melissa Perez and Drizzle, and Teresa Bobicz and Ulysses hiked two miles at Gallup Park in Ann Arbor. In July, Julie and Shelby, and Teresa and Joe met at Kensington Metro Park for a four-mile hike. We plan to continue monthly hikes throughout the fall months.



Teresa with Ulysses, Angela with Cadence and Maebe, and Melissa with Drizzle at Gallup Park.

On July 16th, Troop 217 participated in downtown Farmington's annual Founders Day Festival Parade. The Farmington Area Founders Festival is a community celebration where local businesses, friends, and family come together for a weekend filled with good food, music, crafters, and much more! The parade is the Founders Festival weekend highlight, featuring all kinds of floats, cool cars, and marching bands. Dog Scout Troop 217 proudly walked to promote our new local troop and the Dog Scouts of America. Julie Benson & Shelby had one person recruited to join troop 217 before the parade had even begun!!



Left: Alice Borregard w/Sherlock and Betsy Conway w/Bert

Right: Julie Benson w/Shelby and Diane Schuler w/Annie & Odie

During June and July, seven of our members attended the DSA summer camps in St. Helen, Michigan. Congratulations are due to Troop 217 members for earning the following badges at camp 1 & 2 w/their Dog Scouts:

- Julie Benson and **Shelby** earned Rally 1, Rally 2, Beach Buddies, Boating Safety, Obstacle 2, Obstacle 3, Agility 1, Agilure, Lure Coursing, and Naked Dog.
- Elizabeth Najduch and **Emma** earned Agilure, Canine Freestyle, Agility 1, Agility 2, Water Retrieve, Flyball, and Community Service
- Michelle Neu & **Sassy** earned Backpacking, Rally 1, Rally 2, Art of Shaping, All Dog Band, Obstacle 1, Obstacle 2, Obstacle 3, Agility 1, Agility 2, Therapy Work, and Letterboxing 1
- Angela Schmorrow-Zuckerman and **Cadence** earned Agilure, Obstacle 2, Obstacle 3, Agility 1, Beach Buddies, Hiking, Rally 1, and All Dog Band
- Angela Schmorrow-Zuckerman and **Jade** earned Rally 2
- Angela Schmorrow-Zuckerman and **Django** earned Rally 2
- Lowell Schmorrow-Zuckerman and **Maebe** earned Beach Buddies and Hiking
- Lowell Schmorrow-Zuckerman and **Tristan** earned Boating Safety
- Diane Schuler and **Annie** earned Art of Shaping and Obstacle 1
- Diane Schuler and **Odie** earned Obstacle 1
- Martha Thierry and **Maia** earned All Dog Band, Frisbee, Flyball, Hiking, IMPROV, Rally 2, Obstacle 3, Agility 1, Manners, and Skijoring/Scootering

Finally, on August 13, Troop 217 gathered for a Craft for Charity event organized by troop member Melissa Perez. Members donated materials and made fleece beds, tug toys, cat toys, and kitty forts to donate to two local animal shelters: Michigan Humane Society and the Humane Society of Huron Valley. We also submitted photos of our creations to the "Craft It Forward" contest through Scrapbooks, Etc. for a chance to win \$500 for our troop and \$500 for our charities.



We are looking forward to the many events scheduled in August and September, including a troop camping trip, a troop picnic/dog birthday celebration, an agility training day, the First Annual Tribal Troop Bow-Wow, as well as a number of other community events. It looks to be an active and fun few months ahead for Troop 217 as we move into fall! Check out our troop website at: <http://dsatrop217.comule.com/>

-Submitted by **Angela Schmorow-Zuckerman, Troop 217 Co-Leader.**

Are you a "Club," or a Troop?

DSA strives to provide the best training for the leaders. It's all there on the web site, or available at the Leader Retreat. Something occurred to us this spring... Many troops are functioning more like a social club than a troop. We received our 501(c)(3) status because we are doing good work and providing education to help improve relationships between dogs and people. We do valuable work and help other charities and encourage folks to be active in their communities, to make a difference. Answer this short test to see if your troop feels more like a club, or a troop:

1. Our troop has planned a fundraiser for DSA or another worthy charitable organization in the past year.
2. Our troop has taken field trips to visit places of interest.
3. Our troop participated in the DSA National Walkathon in May.
4. Our troop holds fun days, badge blitzes, picnics, and group hikes.
5. Our troop does presentations in the community to educate children or adults about important issues like bite prevention and responsible pet parenting.
6. Our troop has parties and a Christmas gift exchange.
7. Our troop participates in a community project, like meals on wheels or pet oxygen masks for fire departments.
8. Our troop has held a "dog wash" to raise money for us to put to good use.
9. Our troop participates in the SIRIUS Reader Program or other reading with kids project.
10. Our troop has a booth at the local shelter's "mutt march" or "petpalooza."
11. Our leader has educated the troop members about DSA's mission and purpose.
12. Our troop has held a "clean-up" at a local park or dog walk.

If you answered yes to most of the questions, you have a well-rounded troop! If you answered yes to mostly the "even" numbered statements, then it sounds like stuff that could be done by any dog club.

A troop should educate its members about DSA's mission and purpose. It should be active in the community and participate in DSA National events. It should put any funds raised to good use (something that will promote the mission of DSA).

It's okay to have fun while doing these things, but we mustn't lose sight of the mission. The DSA Board, with input from the troops, is currently working on a guidebook for troops, which I hope will clarify our role in the dog community. **Lonnie Olson**

Attitude of Gratitude

Thanks to Gloria Voss, who so graciously donated a combination VHS/DVD player to the camp.
Thanks to all the campers who brought plants or flowers to camp 1.
Thanks to ALL participants in the DSA Hike-a-thon. We raised over \$8,000.00, thanks to your hard work! Way to go!
Thanks to Jackie Baldes, who made a memorial donation in the name of Casino Segler, Joan Segler's dog.
Thanks to Janet Kasper for the generous donation on behalf of her Dog Scout Cosmo, who passed away and will be missed by all who knew him.

Thank you to Peggy Zweber for the very generous donation in memory of her beloved dog, Nikki, who passed last year.

Also, Joanne Weber made a generous donation to DSA as a part of her necklace sales from camps 1 and 2.

We also need to thank each person who participated in the National DSA Hike-a-thon, for helping DSA raise \$9,000.00!

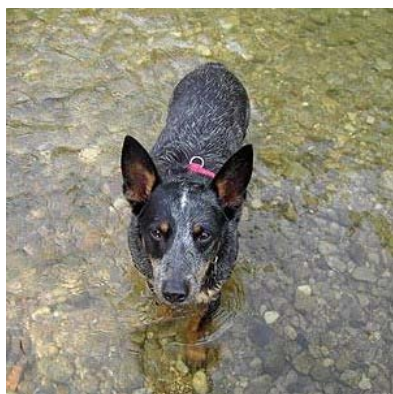
From Lonnie:

I would also like to thank Peggy Zweber, who has made it her personal vendetta to make SURE that the camp 2 auction totals exceeded the camp 1 auction totals (despite the lower number of campers), by bidding wildly on stuff, bidding on stuff and then donating it back to the auction to be sold again, and bidding big money on stuff only to generously give it away to some unsuspecting person. Then, she added a few hundred dollars to the total, just because... With great folks like Peggy Zweber, our auction totals are soaring! Thanks from the bottoms of our hearts!

Rainbow Bridge

Casino Segler (companion to Joan Segler) is now with Joan at the rainbow bridge. Jackie (Joan's sister) recently got word of his passing from the people that shared their lives with him after Joan died.

Buster Puls



It is with a hole in my heart that I report that on Aug 13th, Buster took his last breath next to me and my husband on his favorite dog bed in our house. He went quickly and peacefully, on his own terms. There was more than one time in the past couple weeks that I thought he was near the end, but then he would bounce right back and be like nothing had happened. He was a strong spirit right to the end. I wrote the following memorial when I knew his end was near. Thank-you Allison for helping us know Buster's wishes. It really helped us put our minds at ease and I think you were 100% right. 14 years ago, Buster came into our lives through a twist of fate that said in no uncertain terms he was meant to be ours. It was back when I only had one dog, my Rottweiler, and my husband was not yet my spouse but was spending more time at my house than his own. He was raised on a farm with only outside "farm dogs" and didn't know how wonderful, loving and personable a dog could be until he met Hunter and spent some time with him. He decided he wanted a dog that loved him as much as Hunter clearly loved me. And although

we were reading about various breeds, we both knew he needed more education about dogs and training before we started looking for another dog. He did decide, after much research, that he wanted a Cattle Dog, that he wanted it to be a blue male and that he was going to name him Buster.

Shortly after he declared that, I was on duty as a police officer and got a call for a loose dog on a major road huddled next to the median. I responded and found a scared dog, I think it was a labrador, that was clearly someone's pet but had no tags. I called SPCA to respond, but they had a 3 hour estimated arrival and I already had the dog in the back of my patrol car. So I got permission from my supervisor to go across town to drop the dog off at the shelter where I had never been before.





While I'm in line waiting to turn over the dog, a couple walked in with a (you guessed it) male, blue cattle dog. I didn't think much about it and figured they were probably getting him neutered or something. But I couldn't resist asking. I was told they had a baby on the way and already had 2 small dogs and this one just wasn't working out. I asked what his name was and they said Buster. I knew he was meant to be ours. He was flattening himself to the floor and trying to be invisible, and looked catatonic, but I thought it might just be because he was in the lobby of the SPCA and likely knew his only family was about to give him up. We agreed to meet the next day at a park on the other side of town where it turned out they also lived. I wanted to be sure Hunter would get along with Buster and wanted to see what he was like away from the SPCA environment.

They arrived the next day and had to coax him out of the car where he promptly flattened himself to the ground. Hunter walked up, gave him a sniff and walked off to sniff elsewhere. Buster didn't move. I thought I knew what we were in for and knew this dog would not be my husband's because it was going to take a boat load of training to get him out of his shell. We gave the people a dollar and had them sign him over to us just to make it official and we took him home. I have no doubt he would have been immediately put to sleep if he had stayed at the shelter. They told us they got him at 8 weeks old at a pet store and that they put him in their fenced back yard on a quiet cul-de-sac street and he never left the yard. He was now 8 months old and his entire known world consisted of that one back yard. He never learned that stuff outside that yard wasn't going to eat him or that sometimes things change suddenly in the environment and it wasn't a signal for the end of the universe or that people and dogs he didn't know weren't going to kill him. Our saving grace, if you can call it that, for our newly training skills was that he never tried to bite. When he got overwhelmed, he laid down and went catatonic.

For the first 6 months, if we got up off the couch, or walked in the room he was in, he bolted out the back dog door. He was more comfortable outside, but it didn't take as long as I expected to get him indoors for the most part. The dog door helped and so did Hunter who Buster seemed to feel safe with (surprising because he had only known small lap dogs, but Hunter was a gentle soul and had a way with people and dogs that were fearful despite his 120 lb size). I think it was a year before Buster crawled up on the couch for attention, but for years he still bolted off if he thought we might stand up.

I recall early on thinking I would take him for a walk, but as soon as he stepped out onto the front porch, into the new and unknown world, he was back to a catatonic puddle on the floor. So we spent months just sitting on the porch watching the world go by until he was able to take treats and deal with it all. Eventually we were able to leave the porch and take a walk around the block. During that time, I found that he was much more relaxed in the woods, so that's where he got most of his exercise when we weren't playing in the now familiar back yard.

Buster was the reason I found clicker training, because up to the time he entered our lives, I was not using completely kind methods. But it was pretty clear that since an unhappy glance in his direction caused him to turn into a puddle that the training I had used with Hunter wasn't going to work on him. So I attended a seminar in Chicago presented by two guys from the Shedd Aquarium that opened my eyes to a whole new world of training. It was also where I met Beth Duman and her Dog Scout Anja and found out about DSA. But I was still unclear on much of positive training and it wasn't till I attended Dog Scout camp in 2000 with Hunter that I really experienced the power of positive training and started understanding how it could be applied.

After that, my skills with Buster grew rapidly, I started working at a Dog Daycare and learning loads about canine body language and Buster started making more progress with his socialization (but he wasn't ever able to attend the daycare where I worked). He did get to attend Dog Scout camp twice and on his second visit, he was relaxed enough to be able to play some fetch with a frisbee (his favorite toy) and to paint a lovely painting I still have framed. We went on many long walks in the woods together, Buster always off leash because he was more relaxed that way. If we met anyone on the trail, Buster would trot into the woods, way out around the other person, but always came right back to my side. I found he loved water activities and often took him to a park near our house where he could fetch his frisbee in the shallow reflecting pool, which he would do all day long if I let him. We also went on several kayak trips together and as long as he was able to go for the occasional swim, he enjoyed sunning himself in the kayak and watching the world float by. And once we moved and got a big back yard, countless hours were spent throwing the frisbee for him when we weren't hiking a trail.

When he was 12, he played with a dog he didn't know for the first time at a troop party at our house. I got it on video and nearly cried. During previous parties, he had started by staying in the bedroom and only darting out to pee whenever other people were visiting. But each party he got more and more bold. He started peeking out and watching, then coming out into the living room as long as no one looked at him. Then he started to make short trips outside where everyone was instructed to feed him. He was pretty food motivated, so that helped a great deal. But when he actually engaged in play with a corgi, that was a wonderful memory I'll cherish.

I only wish other people could have seen what he was like when it was just us at home. He was playful and had a wicked sense of humor. He was also masochistic. He would torment Coyote or Dazzle until they bit him and especially when coyote would grab him by the muzzle and hold him, making indentations into the skin, Buster would stand there and wag his tail with a gleam

in his eye. Allison did a reading of him a few years ago and agreed that if he were a person, he'd be wearing leather and chains and begging to be whipped. He was also quite cunning. He learned that when Coyote had a bone he wanted, if Buster barked at the front window, Coyote would run over to help him bark and Buster would saunter back and get the bone! That worked until Coyote figured out what Buster was doing and would carry the bone with him and bark with it in his mouth. Buster didn't try that ploy again after that. But he did do other similar things. He loved to play, wrestle and fetch and often walked around with a toy in his mouth. As he got older, he had a knack for laying in a traffic pattern so Coyote, who is nearly blind, would accidentally step on him so Buster could "correct" Coyote. But he was never rough about it, I think it was a game he played, exercising what control he still could. He was truly a character to the end.



He taught me SO much about canine behavior, body language and positive training I could never thank him enough. As it has been said, it's not the easy dogs that make you a good trainer, it's the ones with issues. And Buster brought that in spades. But I wouldn't ever trade him for an easy dog. I know I wouldn't be where I am today without him and I wouldn't have been able to help the countless people and dogs I have helped because of what he taught me or forced me to learn. So thank-you Buster from the bottom of my heart. You will be missed deeply and a piece of my heart went with you. I'll remember you fondly. Rest in peace my dear friend and teacher.

Chris & Mike Puls (and Dazzle, Bear, Coyote and King)

Cosmo Kasper



On July 8, 2011, Cosmo, DSA passed away at around 12 years old. I take comfort from the part of the Rainbow Bridge poem where it says "All animals who had been ill and old are restored to health and vigor..." During the past year Cosmo had been diagnosed with diabetes and seizures. He was a brave warrior sitting patiently when I had to give him injections or take his glucose readings. On his final day, Cosmo let me know that he was ready to go. I found him wandering in the basement at 4:00 am, not knowing where he really us or what was going on. Even though he is gone and the house is very quiet, when I think of him it is all good memories. The best memories come from the vacations we took together – camping at Dog Scout camp, RV trips in Arizona and Wyoming, and quiet weeks together at cottages. While Cosmo and I had not been to Dog Scout camp in a few years, those were good weeks of learning how to communicate, taking on new adventures, and meeting new friends. As I turn on my phone, a picture of Cosmo appears and I say quietly "Love you buddy". **Janet Kasper**

Shiloh Perez, DSA, PD Aug 3, 1998- July 8, 2011



Shiloh was a "special" dog that turned into a very special dog. In 1999, we were looking at the possibility of adding another dog to our family. We were open to just about any dog and were looking at one from the Michigan Humane Society, where we had gotten Stryder the year before. Then we heard that the sister of one of Matt's coworkers had a Siberian Husky she was looking to get rid of. The family had bought him from a breeder and decided when he was about 7 months old they didn't want him anymore. The kids, boys who were about 7 and 9 yrs old, wanted a dog they could play with like a Lab or Golden, but Mom wanted a Siberian Husky "because they are so pretty". We agreed to have a look at him. When we went to see him the first time, we decided

immediately that he needed to be out of that situation. We weren't sure we were the right people for him, but knew he needed to be somewhere else. They kept him outside, and while he did have a dog house, he was lacking toys, proper Vet care and social time with the family. After another meeting where we introduced Stryder to him and they got along fine, we decided to take him. The Mom dropped him at our house so the boys wouldn't know. We found out later she told them that the dog was never theirs to begin with, that they were raising it as a Leader Dog for the Blind. Though the family would never admit it, we suspect he was beaten in some way or another. He would not go near the door, cowered in the corner of our yard. Getting him in the door was a challenge. We ended up putting a harness on him and literally running him into the house. He had never seen stairs or a tile floor. We had to teach him to climb the stairs, walk on the tile and walk on leash. He was afraid of men, screamed if you tried to take hold of his collar and walk him anywhere. We began training that night, starting with a name change. Quartz (because of his blue eyes) became Shiloh, a word that means "place of peace" in Hebrew.

Shiloh became a Dog Scout in 2002 and one of his first events was Bellingring for the Salvation Army in Dec 2002. He never quite got the hang of holding a basket in his mouth or taking a dollar, but people loved to pet him. He became quite the social butterfly over the years.

Since I was a volunteer for the Michigan Humane Society, Shiloh often helped out as demo dog at orientation for our training classes. He was proof that positive reinforcement training was the best. One of the events I often volunteered for as Turn off the Violence night in Westland, Mi. We worked the "Wonder Dogs of the Michigan Humane Society" booth, teaching about pet safety and responsible pet ownership. Shiloh loved this event. Not because of the attention from all the kids (which he loved, especially the little girls), but because of the elevator. He loved to ride the elevator. I would wait until the event was winding down, and take him up and down the elevator several times as an additional reward for working th booth.

In 2004 when I joined the Leadership Team for Troop109, I also attended my first Leadership Retreat. I decided to take Shiloh with me because he was good at waiting. Stryder was a fast learner, but always had to be doing something. He didn't have the patience to lie quietly during a lecture or class. So Shiloh became my Retreat buddy, attending with me every year until 2009 when the Troop went inactive.

In 2008 we noticed he was hard of hearing. We don't know why he was going deaf, it may have had something to do with the chronic ear infections, we will never know for sure. I started to retrain all of his commands to hand signal only, using a flashlight as a clicker. One of the first new behaviors I taught him using this method was to hit the "Easy" button, like in the Staples commercials. He also learned how to file his own nails by scratching at a board that has rough sandpaper like material glued to it.



In April 2009, Stryder developed adenocarcinoma, cancer of the anal glands. He passed within 6 weeks of diagnosis. This hit Shiloh very hard. He suddenly didn't have his buddy, his "hearing dog", his best friend for the past 10 years. Shiloh grieved hard, losing 5# in just 3 months. He slowly got used to being an only dog. By this time I had stepped down from the Leadership Team for Troop 109 and eventually the troop went inactive, so we weren't doing much with Dog Scouts. Things had also changed at the Michigan Humane Society and we were longer offering training classes. So Shiloh was retired from public appearances, preferring to spend his time sleeping. But that all changed in March 2010 when we brought home 10 week old Drizzle. We were very unsure how Shiloh would react to a young pup. Our fears were put to rest as Shiloh accepted Drizzle as one of the family. Oh, I'm not saying they didn't have their spats. We would get the imploring looks from Shiloh of "when is he leaving?", but on the whole Shiloh loved Drizzle and Drizzle adored his big brother.



Shortly after bringing Drizzle home, Shiloh had a bad bout of pain in his hips and knees. He even growled at my Dad when he came over to let Drizzle out during the day while we were at work, something Shiloh hadn't ever done. We took him to the Vet and she told us he had arthritis in both hips and knees. She prescribed some pain meds and told us to watch his interaction with Drizzle so not to wear him out too much. Over the next year he got progressively worse, having difficulty getting up after sleeping, falling down when walking, not wanting to climb the stairs to our bedroom at night. A couple of months ago the pooping in the house started. Again we talked to our Vet and she suggested an anti-inflammatory thinking maybe the arthritis was irritating the nerves that control his bowels. Unfortunately it didn't seem to help much and after a month on the medication, he was still having several accidents in the house, increasing to several in a day. We would say every night that we would need to talk about making a decision, but let's see how he was the next day. Over the July 4th holiday weekend, Shiloh had 5 poop accidents in the house in 24 hours. We figured this was the sign we were waiting for. We needed to make the appointment to see the Vet on a Friday so we would have the weekend to grieve. We invited our families over to say good bye and the night before our appointment, my family came over and we gave Shiloh all of his favorite treat that a dog should not have. Shiloh loves sweets and bread, so he got a whole bag of peanut butter cups and a bunch of leftover bread. The day of our appointment we had planned to have our friend and favorite vet Dr. Heather Karalambo do the procedure. She has been the first Vet to see him when he brought him home all those years ago and it only seemed

fitting that she was there with us at the end. Shiloh slipped peacefully away surrounded by Matt and myself. We petted him and comforted him until his last breath.

I firmly believe dogs are our teachers. Every one teaches us something different. Shiloh taught me patience, and the value of silence. He was never a fast learner, so I had to learn to slow down and take it one step at a time. After he became deaf, I learned the value of silence. I believe he helped me to become a better trainer and dog owner. I don't yak at my dogs as much and I think they have benefitted from that.

Rest easy my friend, you have earned it. We'll see you one day again.

Warm hugs and wet doggie kisses,
Melissa, Matt and Drizzle Perez

In Closing....



New Publishing Policy: An Invitation for YOUR Contributions!

We are continuously impressed by the talents of our members, and knowing this, we'd like to invite and encourage you to contribute to our various DSA publications like the Newsletter, FaceBook page, website, printable handouts and other venues.

Have you learned something worth sharing? Are you a behavior consultant, veterinarian, groomer or other dog professional who would be willing to share your expertise with us? Have you attended a seminar that you'd like to report on? Did you just finish an excellent positive training book and you'd like to offer a review? Have you written a piece of enjoyable dog-related fiction, or a compelling true story of your dog's life? *We'd love to see it!*

With the readership of our newsletter, our FaceBook friends and other listeners, we have a wonderful opportunity to use these forums to spread the DSA mission of responsible dog ownership, positive training and enrichment of the human/canine bond.

Of course, as part of our DSA mission of promoting responsible dog ownership, we know that educating people on how to find good, credible information and evaluating any information you come across is important. The information we use to make healthcare, behavior, nutrition, and other important decisions for our dogs can have a serious impact on their lives and we want to encourage our members to look for authors who are experts in the appropriate field, have applicable credentials or give you the expert source of the information they're providing so that you have the opportunity to follow up with your own research if you wish. With all the information out there, we know how hard it can be to sort through. So in order to set an example for this kind of responsible, forthright communication, we've developed a new publishing policy to set some guidelines to ensure the information DSA provides is outstanding and you know its source.



There won't be any change to how you submit your Troop news, Photos, Attitude of Gratitude and other material for the Newsletter – we love the casual, lighthearted feel of these columns and the way our newsletter editor uses them to bring our Dog Scout community together. But if you'd like to submit other kinds of articles or content to be published in one of our many public or member forums, please review the new DSA Submission Guidelines for Published Materials, which you can access in the "Help Support DSA" section at www.dogscouts.org. Then, you can submit your contributions to any National DSA Leader, including our newsletter editor, who will forward them for review and publishing.

DSA Board of Directors

And From Peoria, IL
IMPROV Fun Match, March 25, 2011



We had our second IMPROV Fun Match on March 25, 2011. Our group included: Sally Miller and Raggy (Wire Dachshund), Marge Mattern and Amber (Standard Poodle), Dorothy Maruso and Summer (Shetland Sheepdog), Roy Mashaney and Jack (Golden Retriever), Sue Venderheiden and Jill (Golden Retriever), Donna Willett with Thistle (Border Terrier) and Joey (Wire Fox Terrier). I want to thank Marge for helping set up the all the exercises, and Christy Mashaney for being my timer.

Super Dog Jack proved to be our most versatile dog and closely connected with Roy. We learned that Jill could dance, doing commands across the great divide for Sue; and, Raggy, when he did not want to retrieve a tire gauge, rolled it with his nose all 15 feet to Sally. We laughed a lot at our dogs and had the best time ever! Thanks to all for coming and spending an amazing evening with your dogs.

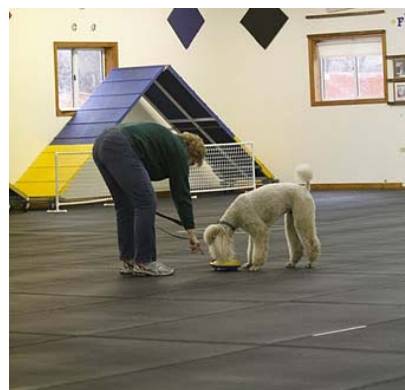
Peggy Zweber, Coordinator



Left : Roy strategizes with Jack on the "Touch" course.



Left: Dorothy Maruso and Summer cross the "scary" tin foil without hesitation. Below: Amber completes her "Touch".



Below - Joey "downs" across the "Great Divide"



Below - Jill appears to dance beyond the "Great Divide"



Far right – Raggy struggles to retrieve a paper bowl accidentally turned upside down.



Left – Thistle rounds the garbage can completing "Slot A into Slot B" exercise.

Lonnie Olson asked me to share some of our POTC IMPROV Fun Match photos. I snagged a POTC member's wife to be my timer, after she stopped laughing, she told me that she has never had such fun at our club! Thanks to John Maruso, POTC member for taking the photos.

Peggy Zweber, Editor