



# The Dog Scout Scoop

(little bits of news we've picked up)

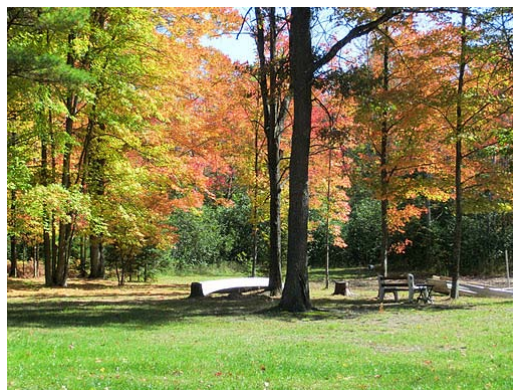
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## DSA Fall Outing

Well, I wasn't there and Lonnie Olson's computer is not working as it should but I got some Fall Outing photos from one of our members to share with you. Enjoy! Peggy Zweber, Editor



Splash Lake with its wonderful fall colors.

Thanks to Vikki Wilcox

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

**Newsletter Submission** - December 15<sup>th</sup>, 2011 for January/February 2012 Issue. Articles received after that date will go into the March/April 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!!!**

### **More Fall Outing Photos:**



Left - Morning walk: Barb with Sam, Astrid Glende with Boomer and Loki, and Lonnie Olson

Right - Costume contest: Elizabeth Najduch with Emma won 'Best Overall'







Left - Morning walk: Barb with Sam, and Elizabeth Najduch with Emma

Near left - Costume contest: Sam (owner Barb) won 'Cutest/Funniest'



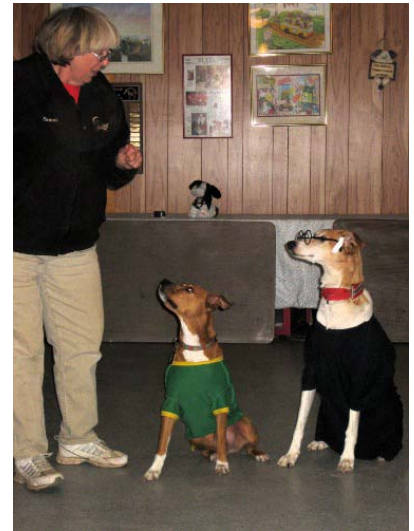
Far left - Costume contest: Mitchell (owner Joanne Weber)

Near left - Costume contest: Astrid Glende with Boomer



Left - Costume contest: Loki (owner Astrid Glende)

Right - Costume contest: Lonnie Olson with Cozy and Panda won 'Most Original'



Far left - Costume contest: Vicky Wilcox with Punkin, River and Joshi

Left - Teri Dougherty with Sadi



**More Fall Outing Photos!!!**



Left - Astrid Glende with Boomer and Loki backpacking/walking the Dog Scout Way

Above - Joanne Weber with Mitchell and Lonnie Olson with Panda after a fun letterboxing activity

Above right - Astrid Glende with Boomer and Loki, Doug and Vicky Wilcox with Joshi, River and Punkin

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**New Troop 218**

Congratulations to Troop 218! Jessi Queen, the troop leader, was the first person to complete all the requirements under the new guidelines that are posted in the Troop Leader Guidebook on the "Start a troop" page of the website. Troop 218 will serve south central Missouri. If you want to join the troop, contact Jessi at: [k9queen@wavecomputers.net](mailto:k9queen@wavecomputers.net). **Chris Puls, President**

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**Troop 166 Letterboxing Event!!!**

Attention all letterboxing dog scouts: Troop #166 is planning our first "official" letterbox event. It is being held on July 21, 2012 at the Mt. Gilead State Park in Mt. Gilead, OH. If any DSA membes would like to sign up, it is posted on AtlasQuest and the event name is "Who Let The Dogs Out..". We are asking that if anyone would like, to carve and send us a stamp or two (or more) to be hidden in the park for the event. I can then either send it back when the event is over, or it can be placed permanently if the stamp owner wishes. Our theme is, of course, dogs. Cartoon dogs, movie dogs, dogs in history, dogs in the news, hero dogs, things dog scout dogs do, etc. If anyone would like to supply a stamp, please email me, Sheryll Knipp at [Sheryll.Knipp@yahoo.com](mailto:Sheryll.Knipp@yahoo.com) and I'll send you my address to mail the stamps to. Thanks! **Sheryll Knipp, Troop #166**

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**Troop News**

**Troop 119, North Texas**



Troop 119 hosted a presentation in August by Mary Jo Cochrum, MA, LCPI, titled "The Unrecognized Loss". She talked about pet loss and things we can do to help in the grieving process and how to deal with those who don't recognize the loss as the loss of a family member. We were all able to share stories and things that have helped us in dealing with our pet losses and all got ideas on how to handle those who don't understand.

In September, we held a Dog Scout Class meeting and worked on Dog Scout certifications. Several dogs got very close to completing their Dog Scout certification. Lily Ways completed all her requirements and is now a new troop Dog Scout! Proud mom is Kimmy Ways. Also passing her Dog Scout test was Cassidy Deeds! Proud parents are Bob and Karen Deeds. Photo left – Lily Ways

We are working hard on preparing for the 8th Annual Texas Mini-Camp and look forward spending time with so many great Dog Scout members!

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

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**Troop 147 – Alabama**



Troop 147/Alabama enjoyed a day at Bark in the Park at Fort Toulouse, Wetumpka, Alabama on September 25, 2011. A huge crowd turned out for the event and many came by to ask about Dog Scouts. Apollo, in the foreground, enjoyed meeting and greeting a lot of handlers and their dogs. Events included, flyball, agility, pet/owner contest, races, and demonstrations that were enjoyed by all as well as lots of good food which Jamie caught me enjoying. The event was put on by the Elmore County Humane Society and proved to be a great informational event as well. There were several rescue groups present, breed groups, and I was able to gather information I wanted about therapy dogs. Apollo's handler, Jamie Nance, was present as well as her son, Adrian, Karen Richards and her new pup, Bear, and me, troop leader, Barbara Ferry. This was Jamie's 'first time out' at such an event and she with her dog, Apollo, was great at answering questions about Dog Scouts and demonstrating what clicker training is all about. Submitted by Troop147/Alabama, **Barbara Ferry. Leader**



Alabama Troop 147, in partnership with Montgomery Police Department/Animal Control, gathered up food to send to Tuscaloosa, AL following the tornado that devastated that city.

Pictured left to right, Adrian Porter and his Mom, Jamie Nance, with their dog Apollo, Barbara Ferry, leader, and her dog, Sage, and Jessica Hudson, an employee of Carriage Hills Vet Hospital, where all the food was being stored until the following day. Seeing so many dogs wandering around unable to find their homes or their people was heart wrenching and a reminder of how important it is to have an I.D. tag on your beloved pet or a chip. **Jamie Nance**

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**Troop 157 The Broward Paw Patrol**  
**Broward County, Florida**

Kayaking has been a huge hit for Troop 157. Once a month we venture down to Oleta State Park to enjoy an early morning outing. We make our way through the mangroves and out into the open intercoastal. Stopping on a small island to break provides the perfect setting to also work on the Puppy Paddler badge.



From left: Reba Stone ; Lisa Smets and Lily, Barry Bell and Princess, Teresa Irvine and Ripley ; Skye Gaffney (Photos by GoodTimePhotos)



We continued working on the Puppy Paddler badge at a local dog beach.



From left: Champ Waring; Teresa Irvine and Ripley ; Ginger Gaudette

Some members have continued to work on the Art of Shaping Badge.



From left: Sandra Pierce and Jake; Cindi Stone and Reba; Jan Smoller and Shammy work on their Art of Shaping badge (photos by GoodTimePhotos)

We've also participated in many local events. September 30<sup>th</sup>, we joined a local animal-assisted therapy group in a doggie flash-mob during a Yappy Hour fundraiser. October 1<sup>st</sup>, we had a booth at the Shenandoah Fall Festival.



Lily and Roo play at the Shandendoah Fall Festival ; Lisa Smets with Lily, Holly Blakney, Neely Waring with Roo, and Patricia Harrington (photo by GoodTimePhotos)

At our general meetings, we've worked on completing the travel badge; practiced our routine for the doggie flash mob; had a celebrity look-alike party; and our drill team has been practicing for their performance at the upcoming Happy Paws Pet Expo.





Holle Anderson; Grace Geschwill; Troop 157 Drill Team- Sandra Pierce & Jake, Jan Smoller & Shammy, Cindi Stone & Reggie, Joan Otten & Casey, Teresa Irvine & Ripley, Tish Gaffney & Skye, Jackie Chapman & Milo, Alice Perez & Bella. (Photos by GoodTimePhotos)

What's up next for our troop: Group letterboxing excursions to the Florida Keys and to Naples. Our October general meeting will also be our annual Halloween party. We will also be having a booth at Fairchild Botanical Garden's Howl-O-Ween booth event where we will give 2 demos on positive clicker training in regards to earning the Art of Shaping & Tricks badges. Our Drill Team will be performing at the Happy Paws Pet Expo.

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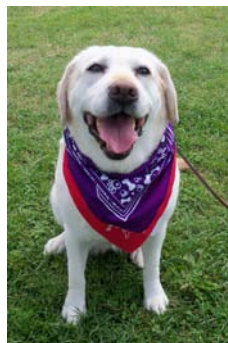
**Downeast Dog Scouts Troop #159- Mount Desert Island, Maine**

**Bark For Life Hancock County**



Photos left – Downeast Dog Scouts Booth

Downeast Dog Scout, Jillian, and her owner Pamela Bourque were the top individual fundraisers for the American Cancer Society's Bark For Life™ event held on August 27, 2011 at Hadley Point Campground in Bar Harbor. They raised \$360. Community oriented dog lovers and their friends raised a total of \$2,008 supporting the American Cancer Society's fight against cancer.



Nancy Morrison, Raya and Rebel

Jillian

Pier Carros and Gracie

Jillian is a registered therapy dog with Therapy Dogs Incorporated, an AKC Canine Good Citizen, Reading Education Assistance Dog and a Dog Scout of America. The American Cancer Society sponsors Bark For Life™ fundraising events honoring the life-long contributions of Canine Caregivers. People and dogs participated to celebrate cancer survivorship, to honor people lost to cancer, and to fundraise in support of the American Cancer Society mission of eliminating cancer through research, education, advocacy and service. Canine companions demonstrate unconditional love, joy, security, compassion, and no judgments of cancer survivors' abilities or appearances.

This was the first and only Bark For Life™ event held in Maine this year. The event provided education about dogs and raised awareness regarding Canine Caregivers. The Downeast Dog Scouts participated in the event and raised \$460 as a troop. The Downeast Dog Scouts bring people and dogs together to learn, socialize and help in the community. Bark For Life™ Hancock County was a lot of fun for people and dogs alike!

**Jordan Pond House - Acadia National Park**



Above Left - Jordan Pond House, Acadia National Park; Above center - Nancy Morrison, and her mother Betty O'Keefe and her dog Laci; Above right - Robyn Douglas and Cirra enjoying a popover

In September, the Downeast Dog Scouts enjoyed Acadia National Park with a walk on the Carriage Roads and lunch on the lawn at Jordon Pond House. They attracted a lot of attention with the ten dogs at the head table on the lawn. It was an excellent opportunity to educate people about the Dog Scouts of America since most of the diners were "from away" on vacation in Acadia. Several people indicated that they would check for a troop in their area once they returned home. A Downeast Dog Scout troop member's mother remarked, "This is so much fun for the dogs and their people. I wish that such a group existed when I was younger."

**Therapy Dog Visits**

Pam Bourque's Labrador Retrievers, Rissa and Timber, have earned their AKC Therapy Dog Titles! Congratulations! Troop members Pam Bourque and Rissa, and Denise Houseknecht and Cirra have been visiting the residents at the Birch Bay Retirement Village in Bar Harbor.

**Children Reading To Dogs – Photo right - Cirra's Mail Basket - Children Reading to Cirra Program**

Summer reading programs were provided by Pier Carros, Bri and Gracie at the Brooksville Library and Robyn Douglas and Cirra at the Northeast Harbor Library. Pam Bourque, Rissa and Jillian have returned to the Tremont School in Bass Harbor and will do some group reading activities this semester. Pier Carros, Bri and Gracie are now listening to children read at the Blue Hill Library. Cirra continues her reading program in Northeast Harbor, welcoming back the Mount Desert Elementary School children. A mail basket for Cirra has been placed in the Children's Room at the Northeast Harbor Library and children are encouraged to correspond with Cirra. Cirra is especially interested in learning about the books that children are reading and any suggestions about favorite books and authors.



**Robyn Douglas, Downeast Dog Scouts Troop 159**

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Troop 161 – Carlisle / Central PA News



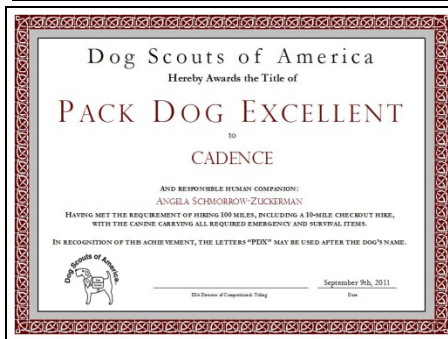
**Dog Scouts of America Competition & Titling:  
Where everybody plays!**

**Congratulations! New Titles Earned!**

Recognizing the achievement of hiking a total of 100 miles, including one 10-mile checkout hike, with the dog carrying all required emergency and survival items, the following dogs earned the Pack Dog Excellent title – the second of our three PackDog titles.



Quinn, with Donna Dutkofski



Cadence, with Angela Schmorow-Zuckerman

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**Troop 161 – Carlisle / Central PA News**

On September 9th-11<sup>th</sup>, fourteen members of Troop 161 went on our third annual Fall Camping Trip with our dogs. Activities for the weekend included beginning Treibball training, some SAR Directional Control practice, Dog Care and Maintenance, a K9 IMPROV Minute to Win It game, and a craft of needlefelted dogs. Though much of PA was flooded from severe rainstorms, on Saturday morning the weather turned sunny and beautiful for our activities and we again had a wonderful time together.

Congratulations to the following dogs, who earned new merit badges over the past few months: **Fiona** (Kelsey and Doree Donovan) earned the Dog Scout badge; **Cooper** and **Colby** (Chantal and Randy Wagner) both earned their Backpacking and Dog Care and Maintenance badges, and Cooper also earned the Art of Shaping; **Taylor** (Noelle Weeks) earned the IMPROV badge; **Toby** (Johanna Lonski) earned First Aid and Dog Care and Maintenance; and **Sadie** (Kelsey and Doree Donovan) and **Kevin** (Kristine Thomas) both earned the Dog Care and Maintenance merit badge. **Kevin** and Kris also impressed us as we watched them videotape their submission for the Sign Language badge.

In October, we had a booth at Bark in the Park at Colonel Denning State Park, supporting Pennsylvania's state parks, and we're looking forward to another IMPROV trial on October 22<sup>nd</sup>.

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**Troop 166, Marion/Morrow/Crawford Counties, Ohio**

Troop #166 has had a busy summer. We attended a letterbox event in July on Kelleys Island. Six members attended the event and we all enjoyed the ferry ride and exploring the island. On September 18 our troop got together and painted the inside of the training building for the Crawford County Humane Society. We had a great time and the work went fast with all the helping hands that showed up. We enjoyed a potluck lunch and the building looked great for the humane society's open house. The weekend of October 1st the troop got together for a campout. The weather was cold and wet, but we were able to get a couple of hikes in with the dogs and we were able to have a nice bonfire on Saturday night. We are now in the planning stages of our first Letterbox event, to be held on July 21, 2012. It is called "Who Let The Dogs Out..." and is being hosted by troop #166. Anyone who is interested, please check AtlasQuest as it is posted on the events calendar. I hope to see some dog scouts there!

Submitted by: **Sheryll Knipp, Troop #166**

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**Troop 177 – Indianapolis, Indiana**



Peggy Kraus, Anita and JD Dudley, and Robyn Porter (and dogs) staffed a DSA Booth at the September 24 Westie Walk. Guest Eleida Ehman and her Neopolitan Mastiff, Cole Porter joined us to meet and greet attendees. 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. We were also there to clean the grounds following the event. We thought we were going to amass large numbers of stray piles from the large number of dogs in the park, but attendees only left 3 behind for us!

Troop #177 selected a cold, cold weekend for the annual fall camping trip. High winds and cool night time temperatures of 39 and 36 degrees occurred! Anita found Hickory Hills, a beautiful campground near McCormick;s Creek State Park. We had grassy sites, two lakes and lots of trails at the campground. Peggy Kraus, Anita Dudley and Robyn Porter (and dogs) went on a 7 mile canoe trip on the west fork of the White River Friday, September 30. Casey, Sophie and Hallie are now old hands at canoeing and the canoe outfitter had many compliments on the dogs and their behavior.

Gail Wiseman and Zipper joined the campers on Friday night. Her hot chili was welcomed after a cool, breezy day on the river. The group went to McCormick's Creek for hikes most of Saturday and were joined by guest Eleida Ehman and her mother. The dogs loved scrambling on the rocky creek bed and the falls had plenty of water. On Sunday Robyn, Anita and Peggy returned to McCormick's Creek to learn and practice geocaching. We found ourselves scrambling on the rocky creek bed again, but this time we were on a mission for geocaches. Two caches were located!

Anita Dudley and Sophie, and Robyn Porter and Hallie were joined by guests Glenda Lavy, Candy Shoef, Abbey Lakin and her boyfriend on the Irvington Ghost Tour. The two hour lasted three hours while attendees walked through the beautiful, historic Irvington neighborhood and heard scary stories that involved Abraham Lincoln, John Dillinger, the KKK as well as more gruesome tales. It was a beautiful night and the dogs loved the walk.



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

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## Troop 188 - Connecticut and Rhode Island

### Ledyard Fair

The Ledyard High School Vo-Ag students invited us to share their space at the Ledyard Fair this year. We had a small information table in the bunny tent.

### My Dog's Place Client's Day

My Dog's Place Client's Day is a fabulous day of games and fun for clients of My Dog's Place. For the last few years we have had a table at Client's Day. This year we volunteered to run one of the games. We ran the water retrieve, as an adaptation of Devil Ducks from Dog Scout Camp. We used a plastic kiddie pool and lots of ducks. The dogs had to try to retrieve a duck from our pond. Any attempt was rewarded, as long as the parent didn't give up.

Photos below, left to right: Millie, Felicia DSA, Tartan DSA, Kelly, & Zora DSA waiting for people to play; Our first water retrieve participant.



Photos below, left to right: My Dog's Place Clients trying to retrieve ducks from the duck pond.



Many of the dogs tried to swim in our duck pond. They would lay down in the pond and spin in circles. Some would try to dig at the water and splash everyone. A few of the dogs caught the duck if I tossed it to them.

Photos below, left to right: My Dog's Place Clients swimming in the duck pond.





The other games at the event included agility, flyball, hotdog scenting, Rally-O, tricks, and leash walking. Zora DSA thought the hotdog scenting was the best, she finished that in record time and then cleared the rest of the field for bonus points. Phantom DSA enjoyed Rally-O and agility. Rueben liked playing flyball.

Photos below, left to right: Phantom DSA on the A-Frame; Zora DSA scenting; Rueben playing flyball.



**Autumn's Festival**

Autumn's Festival was once again a great success! Love My Pet vaccinated 96 animals. We invited local vendors to the event for the first time and made many new friends. Pirate DSA and Summit DSA learned how to paint and earned their Art of Shaping badges. They had quite an audience while they worked on their masterpieces.

Photos below, left to right: Sheri demonstrating how to play in the All Dog Band; Summit DSA learning how to paint with Marge; Truffles practicing her leave-it.



Photos below, left to right: Phantom DSA helping out at the Troop booth; Marge & Noodle playing Frisbee by Marge's My Dog's Place booth; Zora DSA & Kelly resting in the sun.

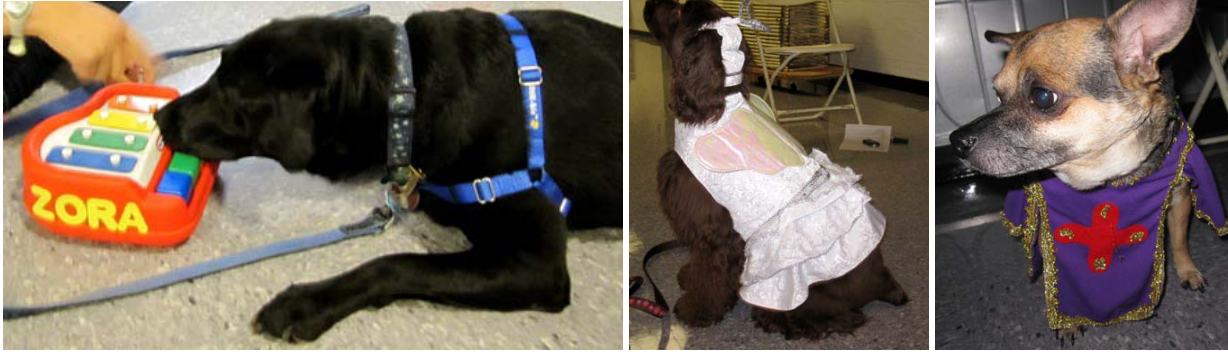


**October Troop Meeting**

Our October Troop Meeting featured the Troop's All Dog Band, The Facelickers. Previously, the Band was a duet consisting of Zora DSA and Lucy DSA. Bailey plays the piano beautifully. Felicia and Tartan also tried their noses at piano playing.

We also had a Costume Parade. We discussed how to train your dog to wear a costume, while some of our dogs showed how fabulous they looked in their costumes.

Photos below, left to right: Bailey playing the piano; Hannah is 100% Angel; Pirate is really the lost 4<sup>th</sup> Musketeer.



**CT Puppy Up! 2 Million Dog Walk**

On November 6<sup>th</sup> in cities all across America thousands of dogs will join in on the promise to bring awareness to cancer. Dog Scout Troop 188 will be walking in CT Puppy Up! in Washington CT.

2 Million Dogs was formed on the belief that if 2 dogs can walk 2000 miles to bring awareness to cancer surely 2 million dogs can walk 2 miles. Our mission benefits the study of canine cancer and comparative oncology.

**The photos were taken by Sheri Throop, Jeff Eilenberger and myself. I have permission from Sheri and Jeff to use their photos.**

**Kelly Ford, Co-Leader Troop 188**

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**Troop 188 and 211 Hiking Together Labor Day Weekend**

On Saturday, September 3, Troop 211, including Troop Leader Jim Helms drove from MA to Groton CT to meet Troop 188. Together, we went hiking at Bluff Point State Park & Coastal Reserve. We hiked two-mile loop talking about our dogs, Dog Scouts and getting to know each other as we walked. Felicia DSA, Zora DSA and Kassie from Troop 188 carried their backpacks during the hike. This was the first time that Kassie had carried her pack & she did fabulously! Felicia DSA completed her Backpacking badge. Congratulations Felicia!

Photos below left to right: Kelly and Zora DSA heading down the trail; Felicia DSA is ready to hike; Jeff and Kassie hiking with Ann Marie and Beau.



We stopped to let our dogs swim in the ocean. This was the first time that the scouts from Troop 211 had seen the ocean, they all ran right in and had a blast. Four Cadet Scouts from Troop 211 earned their Puppy Paddler merit badges, Beau, Booker, Pyro, and Baily. Kassie and Felicia DSA from Troop 188 also earned their Puppy Paddler badges.

Photos below, left to right: Zeva running on the beach; Bailey Roo retrieving his ball from the ocean; Bailey Roo after a successful ocean retrieve.





Photos below, left to right: Jim Helms swimming with his Scouts.



Photos below, left to right: Scouts from Troops 188 and 211 swimming and playing on the beach together.



This is a special submission for the Newsletter about Troop 188 and 211. We went hiking together in September. The photos were taken by Rhonda-Marie Haska and Maryfrances Peters (both from Troop 211) and myself. I have their permission to use their photos.

Thank you, **Kelly Ford, Troop 188**

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Troop 196, Rockford/Grand Rapids, Michigan



Dear DSA Friends and Troop Members,



Far left - Jillian and new puppy, Sage;  
Near left – Zeep says “Happy Fall”!!!

The Rogue River Dog Scouts Troop 196 will be having a hiatus of activities until the end of spring/beginning of summer 2012. The demands of family, Kids activities, work, school, assisting in teaching Karate, participating in karate, horses, and Search and Rescue training, require that

Troop leader, Jilian Rakow, needs to cut back on some obligations. Activities will resume with the spring hike in may of 2012. Please maintain your memberships and keep practicing. We have CGC testing and DSA evaluations that will be conducted in early summer of 2012 (Keebler and Callie are ready to be there!!). We have guest trainers coming for workshops and Guest trainer Chris Moe-Herlick evaluating Troop

member dogs for their CGCs. We will have Woof Stock and Bark for Life in early summer that we will be participating in and Water Work practice for the water Dogs beginning in May and continuing through the end of the season. Keebler will be working Courier Level with Wendy, Callie is Ready for junior and apprentice, Lego is ready for apprentice and working, and Zeep is ready for Courier as well. Puppies and young dogs need to continue their work in independent obedience and agility classes through the winter!! (Sage, Tucson, and Jema)

Please feel free to contact me with any questions and have a great winter, holiday season, and New Year. Photo left, Jilian and Sage

Jilian Rakow, [jilianrakow@yahoo.com](mailto:jilianrakow@yahoo.com)

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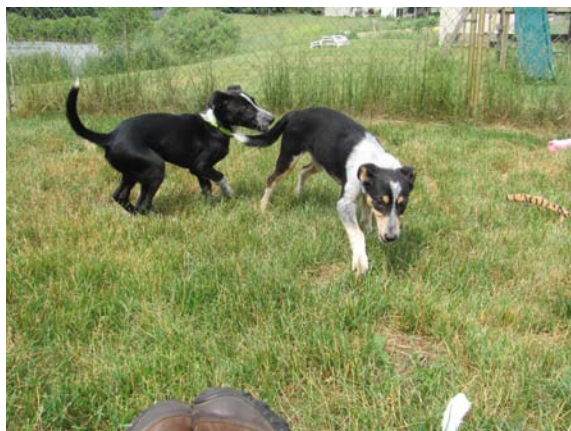


Photo left - Sage and Cassie, the rescued herding Dog Mixes. Sage is the Black and white and Cassie is the Tri colored.

The Rogue River Dog Scouts Troop had a blast this summer. We were having so much fun we forgot to write. Now Fall is upon us, all the kids are back in school, and we are hitting our "slow time" of the year here at Rogue River.

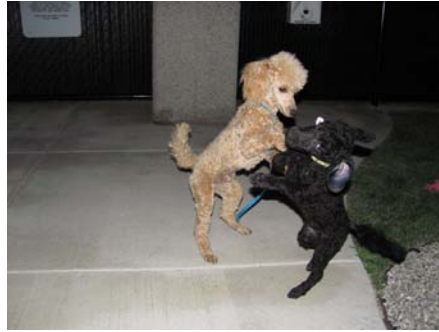
The summer started out with the Rescue of 2 Herding Dog Mix puppies. Cassie and Sage lived with the Rakow's

but were cared for and socialized by the entire Troop: The Boersma's, Deb Ensing, and the Reddings. Cassie was adopted by Jilian's father and moved to California. Sage captured the heart of Ann Boersma and so Sage is now a new troop member. The Rakow's now have a Russian Moyer Poodle from the West Coast living with them, Jema. Deb Ensing then adopted a 10 month old Poodle from the same





breeder who Jema came from, so Tucson joined our troop as well. Photo right – Cassie in California home with Jillian’s father.



More new puppies above: Left -

Tucson...wow...that Plane flight was scary!!! Center - Oh, my sister to play with...I'm okay now( Tucson apricot male and Jema, black female). Right - Day one home, Jema fits right in. She was swimming with the water dogs..swimming at 8 weeks old first day home.



Jennifer Hecker and the Rakow's did a lot of Dock Jumping this summer with Ultimate Air Dogs. Zeep and Gabriel (age 6) also earned their Junior Dock Jumping Title. Photos above - Jennifer Hecker with Baxter (Giant Schnauzer), Fival (on grass), and Violet (with Karma) waiting to Dock jump at the UKC Premier in Kalamazoo Michigan; Baxter Jumping



Left – Zeep jumping.



The Rogue River Troop was asked to help another DSA Troop with their Demo at Woof Stock in Kalamazoo this year. So, Miss Fin did a Demo with our Troop friends and Jema was used to do a little demo on motivational and positive training using a clicker. Cassie (one of the little rescue dogs) went along for the socialization. It was hot and busy but we had a great time working with another troop. Photo right – Fin and Jema at Woofstock.



The Rogue River Troop was also asked to lead the Bark for Life Parade. Bark for Life is a fund raiser through the American Cancer Society. We had a great turn out with many of our members and a guest member (8 year old Jessica) there to support us. We had a great time and raised over \$300.00 for the American Cancer Society.

Photo left - Karma (8) with Fin, Jessica (8) with Jema in arms; Jilian Rakow with Lego; Ann Boersma with Callie; Wendy Redding with Keebler; Deb Ensing with Music and Tucson at Bark for Life.





he Bark for Life shirts



Karma with Fin



Jessie with Jema and Karma with Fin



Photos above left - Wendy Redding with Keebler and another Bark for Life walker  
Above center - Karma teaching Jessica how to teach a recall with Fin



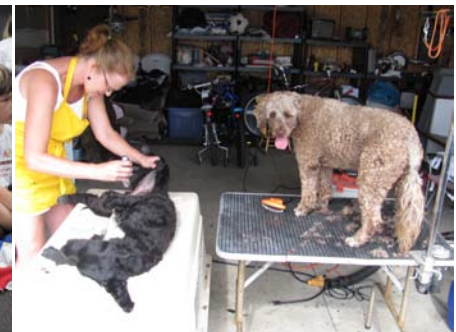
Right - Jessica with Jema



Left - Music, Tucson, and Lego with Deb Ensing



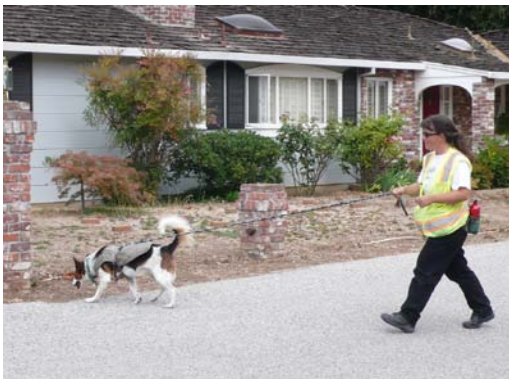
Two more photos – Near right – Fin at Kids Kamp; Far right – Jilian demo on maintaining a water dog coat.



Happy Fall ...make sure to pick some apples, roll in the leaves, and carve a pumpkin.

**Jilian Rakow, Troop 196, The Rogue River Dog Scouts Troop.**

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



The August meeting of Troop 198 was primarily a business meeting where we discussed membership, and additional fundraising plans to augment our budget for oxygen masks for the San Jose Fire Department.

During our September meeting our guest was Jackie Phillips of "The Social Pet" (thesocialpet.com) who, among many other pet related services, tracks missing pets with her own dogs. She brought Dino, a mixed breed with a very strong work ethic. I know this because in August while my dog and I were house sitting 20 miles from home, Cloudy got away. Jackie and Dino tracked for three days and helped me in countless ways – I learned all about following up on clues, tracking, using media . . . After three weeks I got Cloudy back, safe and sound. Jackie's discussion covered training, how she picks a dog, Dino's capabilities, his accomplishments In agility, utility, sprint racing and is Champion in obedience through the "Mixed Breed dog Clubs of America" organization. He is the first Mixed Breed to earn the AKC title of RAE (Rally Advanced Excellent). He's working on AKC Obedience and has completed his Companion Dog (CD) title. Jackie was very informative, extremely knowledgeable, Dino was a delight and we went well into overtime asking questions. **Lyn Mehl**





**Troop 207 – Columbus, Ohio**

Troop 207 has been busy. We had a wonderful time holding booths at local events Pup-a-Palooza, Woofstock and Fido Fest, and had a lot of interest in the organization. In the last two months we've started a series of classes for new members, and are hoping to help a new group of Dog Scouts pass their test this October.

Recently, we have become active working monthly with children with special needs at a local middle school. With this and our work with children in detention at the Central Ohio Youth Center, we get to spend a lot of time working with kids who need extra help and attention, and they really enjoy spending time with the dogs and helping us with our training.



Later this month we will be holding our second annual Tails and Trails hike and barbecue. We hope to have as much fun as last year and are keeping our fingers crossed for perfect weather.

We would like to welcome 4 new dogs scouts to our troop, who recently passed their test. Congratulations to Riley, Popper, Rufus and Merlin!

Photo left - Some of our scouts ready to work at the middle school.

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**Troop 208 – Chicago, Illinois**

Troop 208 attended Scarecrow Fest in St Charles IL from 10/7 – 10/9. We hosted the Dog Olympics in which we held 10 events. We had 87 Dogs competing in the events. The events included: Peanut Butter Lick, Temptation Tower, Doggie Limbo (small dog and large dog), musical hoops, kiss off, marathon down, leave it challenge, hot dog dunk, obstacle course and ball lottery. We had a great time and even had one of the mascot dogs< Doug the Dalmatian, compete in the musical hoops and was our demo dog for the obstacle course. Troop member Chip Stone was our MC, with Donna Orłowski, Larry Somerstoffer and troop leader Karen Reeves as judges. We received some really great feedback and have been asked to return next year to host Dog Olympics again.



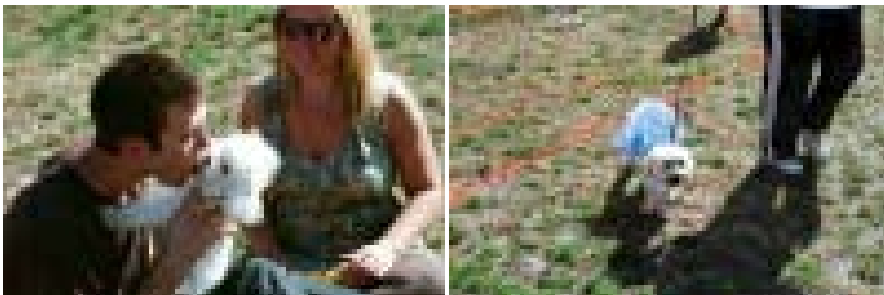
Photos above – Left - In the peanut butter lick photo is Elizabeth Treuter of St Charles with her dog Tede (not a DSA member); Center - In the hot dog dunk photo is the beautiful Aussie - Steel (will be joining our troop because of Dog Olympics); Right - In photo are troop members: new member Chip Stone who was our MC for the events (black shirt/black hat) and Larry Somerstoffer one of our judges.



Photos above – Left - At the photo of our booth is my granddaughter Emma helping out; Center - In photo are the winners of the small dog doggie limbo - from left to right Roberta Merwin and her dog Wrigley, Anita Armstrong and Neo and Latte. Is it a wonder that the top three winners were all dachshund's? (none of them are troop members); Right - In photo is Kathleen Ebbing of Dekalb and her dog DeeOhGee running the obstacle course. (Kathleen and DeeOhGee joined our troop after the Olympics)



Photos above – Left - In photo is Doug the Dalmatian and mascot from Kountry Pet Resort having fun doing musical hoops. Center - In photo is Pup-Pup with handler Janet Wilford of Maple Park (Not the most flattering moment for Janet). Right - The photo is of Steve Finney and Harvey.



Photos – Far left - Jessica Vandrick from West Chicago with her Maltese Neva Bean. Near left – Karen Reeves's Bailey walking in the pooch fashion show.

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**Troop 217 - Southeast Michigan**

Troop 217 has been keeping very busy with fun activities, badge work, outings, & community service. Congratulations for the following achievements among 217 troop members:

- Angela Schmorow-Zuckerman & **Cadence**, Martha Theirry & **Maia**, and Julie Benson & **Shelby** for earning their **Overnight Camping** badge.
- Shelby** Benson for earning her **TDI certification**.
- Julie Benson & **Shelby**, Angela Schmorow-Zuckerman & **Cadence**, Lowell Schmorow-Zuckerman & **Maebe** for earning the **Geocaching 1** badge.
- Angela Schmorow-Zuckerman & **Cadence** for earning their **Letterboxing 1** badge.
- Angela Schmorow-Zuckerman & **Cadence** for earning their **Naked Dog** badge.
- Angela Schmorow-Zuckerman & **Cadence** for earning their **PDX** title.
- Julie Benson & **Shelby** for earning their **Community Service** badge.
- Roberta Chapman & **Gypsy** & **Sprite** for earning their **Dog Scout** title.

**August 20<sup>th</sup>** marked our first overnight camping trip. Seven members and nine dogs loaded up their packs and set off for our campsite located within the Pinckney Recreation Area. We were all real troopers, braving the severe storm that passed through along with the bird size mosquitoes we fought off throughout our stay. Lowell presented our Overnight Camping O&S during our craft day gathering and three troop members earned their overnight camping badge at the completion of our stay. Sunday morning we packed up camp and finished our weekend stay with a 1.5 mile hike before heading home. Fun was had by all that attended!





Julie Benson & Shelby



Angela Schmorow-Zuckerman & Cadence



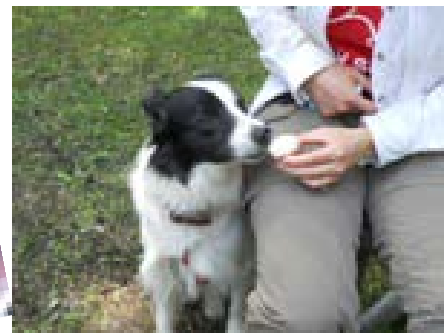
Matt, Melissa Perez & Drizzle

Teresa Bobicz & Ulysses

Martha Thierry & Maia

August 27<sup>th</sup> marked the end of summer for us with our End-Of-Summer Potluck Picnic and Dog Birthday Celebration. We started the day at Kensington Metro Park with a nice 1.5 mile hike on the Spring Hill trail then settled in for a day filled with games, good food & fun. The dogs enjoyed pup cakes and exchanged birthday presents with one another. Devil Duck, Tic Tac Dog, and a Tail Wagging Contest were played. Lowell & Maebe took first place in the Devil Duck game, Vickie & Duncan took first place in the tail wagging contest.

Pictured (left to right): Julie Benson & Shelby, Lowell Schmorow-Zuckerman & Maebe, Angela Schmorow-Zuckerman & Cadence, Vickie Lomas & Duncan, Carrie Shelden & Bandit, Michelle Neu & Sassy, Melissa Perez & Drizzle, John & Roberta Chapman & Sprite and Lucius, Diane Schuler & Odie & Annie, Laindra Schuler & Charley.



Not pictured: Martha Thierry & Maia

September 11<sup>th</sup> five troop members met up for our 2<sup>nd</sup> agility training day. We tried out a new facility in Farmington Hills, which has an outdoor agility yard. Angela and Lowell assisted those who needed guidance on specific obstacles and also taught us some different techniques for crosses during our runs. To finish our two hour training time, we held a fun run game that everyone participated in.



Sprite ready for a run!

Photos - Django showing us the weaves!  
Diane w/Annie on the Dog Walk



September 18<sup>th</sup> Troop 217 set up a booth at the Walled Lake's Pet Awareness Day. Various members of Troop 217 manned the booth along with a sister troop 104 member. Dog Scouts showed off their uniforms while their parents met with patrons and educated them on the importance of positive training and Dog Scouts of America. Numerous people were interested in joining the organization and local troop.

**Volunteers included:** Diane Schuler w/Odie, Angela & Lowell Schmorow-Zuckerman w/Cadence, Maebe & Tristan, Julie Benson w/Shelby, Betsy Conway w/Bert, and Elizabeth w/Annabelle from 104.



Local Northville Brownie/Daisy Troop 092 welcomed us to their monthly meeting on **September 22<sup>nd</sup>** to learn more about responsible pet parenting and basic dog care & maintenance and fitness skills. Brownie members of this troop were working on their pet care badge so we were thrilled to be able to help assist them in meeting the requirements to earn this badge. We finished our presentation for the day with a demonstration on a mini-agility run we had set up. Then the girls took turns interacting with the dogs. The following members participated in our presentation: Angela Schmorow-Zuckerman with Cadence & Maebe and Julie Benson with Shelby. Photo - Mary taking some time to brush Shelby



**October 13<sup>th</sup>** Troop 217 was welcomed back to Brownie/Daisy Troop 092 to complete the necessary requirements for their pet care badge. Angela & Julie

attended to visit w/the girls again, present the girls with their completion certificates & prizes, answer any questions, and take pictures while Martha Thierry w/ Maia, Diane Schuler w/Odie & Annie, Elizabeth Najduch w/ Emma,



and Michelle Neu w/ Sassy presented new information. Elizabeth started the presentation w/a Red Riding Hood skit then Martha, Diane, and Michelle presented the girls with information on bite prevention, positive training techniques, and explained what it means to be the "smart end of the leash".

Photo - Brownie/Daisy Troop 092 & Dog Scout Troop 217

Dear Troop #217,  
Thank you for teaching us about how to take care of dogs and how to be safe around them. We liked seeing the dogs and getting to watch them do tricks. Thank you for visiting our Daisy/Brownie troop for 2 meetings and helping us to earn our first badge of the year!

-♡  
Ken/Alia Daisy/Brownie Troop 092 Northville, MI  
Ellie Juliana  
TOVA Rebecca  
Katie Russ  
Lauren Mary  
CHARLOTTE Ken 201/19 Ellie

The weekend of **September 24-25<sup>th</sup>** marked the first annual Troop Tribal Bow-Wow, hosted by Battle Creek troop 130. Troop members Angela & Lowell Schmorow-Zuckerman w/Cadence, Maebe, Django, Jade, and Tristan, Julie Benson w/Shelby, Melissa & Matt Perez w/Drizzle, and Elizabeth Najduch w/Emma attended this 1<sup>st</sup> annual Michigan troop retreat. Fun was had by all while participating in various individual games, hunting for letterboxes, taking hikes, and participating in troop challenges. Troop 217 took home the "torch" w/the most points earned throughout the weekend and will be planning next year's retreat, which will be opened to ALL troops that would like to participate. Dates will be determined soon and posted to the DSA website and leader talk group.

Photo - **Angela & Lowell Schmorow-Zuckerman, Elizabeth Najduch, Julie Benson, and Melissa Perez**



**October 1<sup>st</sup>** marked our first Drill Team meeting and rescheduled Geocaching Outing. Interested Drill Team members gathered at Maybury State Park to discuss monthly practice times, routine music, and badge requirements. 217 members participating in Drill Team include Roberta Chapman w/Sprite, Michelle Neu w/Sassy, Martha Thierry w/Maia, Lowell Schmorow-Zuckerman w/Maebe, Angela Schmorow-Zuckerman w/Django, Julie Benson w/Shelby, and Elizabeth Najduch w/Emma.





After our meeting, we had a brief O&S from Roberta & John Chapman re: geocaching and headed out on the trails. We found a total of 3 caches along our 2 mile hike. The weather was a bit chilly, most sporting winter coats, but it was a nice change from our hot, bug infested summer!

On **October 2**, Troop 217 was invited to have an information table at the "Bubbly for Bullies" event at the Humane Society of Huron Valley. The event was a reunion for people who had adopted pit bulls and pit bull mixes from the shelter, and was well attended with over 100 people and over 40 dogs. The response to the DSA information was overwhelmingly enthusiastic, with many people picking up information and expressing interest in the troop. Hopefully we will gain some new troop and DSA members as a result, whose bullies can become good ambassadors for their breed by becoming Dog Scouts.



Gallup Park, Ann Arbor

**October 8<sup>th</sup>** marked our first Letterboxing Day in Ann Arbor, MI. We started with a few searches at Gallup Park then headed over to Parker Mill for some additional finds. Those dogs working on their Pack Dog miles were able to log 2 miles toward their total. We couldn't have had a more beautiful day with temperatures in the low 80's, a nice change from the winter coats we wore the weekend before! For Elizabeth & Emma, this was their first official Letterboxing outing; now they are well on their way to their Letterboxing 1 badge! Photos - Emma ready to set out! Maebe taking a break in between finds



Congratulations to Sprite & Gypsy for becoming Troop 217's first new Dog Scouts!!!



Gypsy Chapman



Sprite Chapman

With many troop members expressing an interest in earning their **Clean Up America 1** badge I decided to challenge everyone in Troop 217 to a **Colossal Can Collection Challenge**, collecting as many stray cans/bottles from now until the first snow flake flies. To date, Troop 217 has collected **337** stray cans/bottles. Keep up the good work everyone!!!



Troop 217 has also stepped up to collect dog & cat food throughout the remainder of the year to assist in Huron Valley's **Bountiful Bowls** pet food assistance program. Celebrity Pets Co., LLC has graciously offered to assist in our efforts by serving as drop off locations for donated food.

Check us out at <http://dsatrop217.com/mule.com/index.html>  
 --Submitted by **Julie Benson, Troop Leader**



\*\*\*\*\*

**Hello from Wasilla, Alaska**

We have a group of people that have come together to join DSA and we are currently meeting three times a month to prepare for our video shoot so we can become official. Here's a picture of part of our gang. **Sandy Wojtaszek**

\*\*\*\*\*



**DOG DAYS**  
**\$5 per day with a photo of your dog**  
**Choose birthday, adoption day or ???**

## ORDER YOUR 2012 DSA CALENDAR

Order your calendar for next year and purchase your pet's special day!

**Cost: \$14.95, Dog days: \$5**

plus \$2 shipping and handling

**To submit photos for dog days or calendar pages:**

Use the Dog Scouts 2012 Calendar photos folder on the DSA Talklist at this link:

[http://groups.yahoo.com/group/DSA\\_TalkList/photos/album/0/list](http://groups.yahoo.com/group/DSA_TalkList/photos/album/0/list)

A WHOLE YEAR OF DOG SCOUTS FUN!

ORDER YOURS TODAY FOR  
**\$14.95**  
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**ORDER FOR 2012 CALENDARS**

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email address \_\_\_\_\_ Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

SEND TO:  
 DOG SCOUTS OF AMERICA  
 5068 NESTEL ROAD EAST  
 ST. HELEN, MI 48656  
 989-389-2000

Number @ \$6.95:	
Total for calendars	\$ _____
Shipping & handling	\$ _____
<b>TOTAL ENCLOSED</b>	<b>\$ _____</b>

### RESERVE YOUR 2012 PET'S DAY

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Pet's name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Day \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip code \_\_\_\_\_ Alternate day \_\_\_\_\_

email address \_\_\_\_\_ Phone # \_\_\_\_\_ Additional pet's name \_\_\_\_\_

Day \_\_\_\_\_

Alternate day \_\_\_\_\_

**\$5.00**

TOTAL ENCLOSED \$ \_\_\_\_\_

PROCEEDS FROM SALES OF DOG SCOUTS OF AMERICA CALENDARS ARE USED TO PROMOTE EDUCATION AND PUBLIC AWARENESS OF RESPONSIBLE DOG OWNERSHIP

**CONTACT FOR DOG DAYS:**

Martha Thierry [puppiesarelove@yahoo.com](mailto:puppiesarelove@yahoo.com)

**CONTACT FOR CALENDARS:**

Lonnie Olson [dogscoutcamp@gmail.com](mailto:dogscoutcamp@gmail.com)

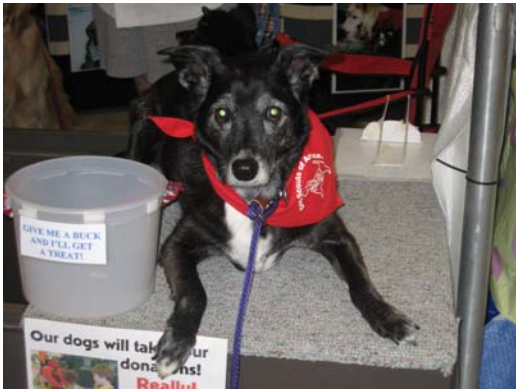


## Attitude of Gratitude

The donation for Gracie Murray was made by M.B. Irvine. Here's what she had to say about Gracie: "In memory of Gracie - the four footed love of Julie Murray. Gracie's purpose in my life was to be sure that I healed from cancer." Thanks, L

Julie Murray sent a memorial donation for Buster Puls.

## Rainbow Bridge DSA Tippy Teale 5/6/93 – 7/12/2011



A Tribute to my Special Girl!! I can't believe it has been a month and I have not been able to send Tippy's tribute out yet. She means so much to us I just don't what I can say. But who would of known 18 years ago when I adopted Tippy, what she would mean to everyone who met her. How much she would of shown me and accomplished in her life. I guess over 18 year's the question is what hasn't Tippy done. She was my constant companion, she loved to go for car rides. She loved to go to the park with mom for their daily walks and occasional picnic in the park, or just for a car ride with mom while she would do her errands. Tippy loved to sun bathe in the yard, she loved swimming in our pool. She loved chasing her tennis balls, she even learned to actually say "I Want one", when she wanted us to give her the ball when we would play keep away. Tippy loved to go up to our cottage in Michigan and swim and bark at the pontoon boats that would go by our dock. She swam so much all summer long that by the middle of the summer so would smell like lake water no matter how many baths we would give her and that smell would last through the fall.

Tippy was Dog Scout and a member of Dog Scouts of America and earned many badges. Our only regret is she never made it to Dog Scout Camp. As a dog scout she made several appearances at the Chicagoland Pet show along with her sister Angel promoting Dog Scout. Tippy was a retired Therapy Dog ,as a therapy dog she was involved with agility demo for the seniors and other groups, she helped kids learn how to read and also help with some of the patients at Christ hospital.

When we went to our first obedience class Tippy showed me how much she loved to work, we just continued onto to the advanced level, then we heard about flyball, agility and rally and had to try those. So, because of Tippy, we learned all about dog sports. She was just so smart and easy to teach. Whatever we tried she would just excel in. Tippy had a very successful obedience and agility career, there are to many awards to mention but some of the highlights were, competing at the UKC Premiers and coming home with several first place awards over the years, the 2002 AMBOR Nationals, the 2005 CPE Nationals were she ended up with the High Specialist in Trial award and she was the oldest dog competing in the division. She also received the CPE top 10 awards in the Specialist Division 2 years in a row, 2005 and 2006. She was one of the first dogs to get the UKC Agility Grand Champion title, the highest title she was able to get while competing in UKC. Tippy had several first in her CPE career, the first dog in the state of Illinois to obtain CPE Agility Championship title along with the first dog in the state of Illinois to obtain the CPE Agility Specialist Title and Agility Specialist Extraordinaire Title.

Tippy was our softball team's original team mascot. She would sit in the dugout and wait for the softball game to be over and then run onto the field to run the bases and have me chase her. Tippy always knew when a game was finished. We never had to tell her. We would go to summer dog camp with her and Angel, her sister, and they just loved participating in all of the activities. They camped with us, went canoeing and kayaking. I remember one time at dog camp when we tipped the canoe, Tippy's first response was to look to make sure Angel was okay, since she was the weakest swimmer, then checked to make sure Cathy and I were okay and then swam with us back to shore.

Tippy was featured in several newspaper articles, over the years, once because she was the only dog at a cat parade. She was on a WCIU commercial and also tried out for Animal Planet's Pet Stars, where she amazed the director with her trick. He kept asking how did she do that and I kept tell him she is "SMART". One thing I can say about Tippy is that she is the smartest dog I have ever had. Tippy loved to work and stay busy and one of her jobs was to watch over Angel and make sure she was okay. One of Tippy quirks is she loved to eat bees, wasps, and flies. She would catch them and eat them like they were candy. I don't know how many times her face would swell up by being stung by the bees and wasp but there was no stopping her.

I have tons of more memory's and stories that will keep her in my mind and heart forever. Tippy was one of a kind. She was, quite simply THE BEST. Tippy is now with Angel, someone she has missed since the day she passed just a short 17 months ago. Tippy passed in her sleep while everyone was at work, mom left her at about 2 pm and she said Tippy was sleeping so comfortably all day it reminded her of a baby, just so calm and peaceful. By the time I got home 2 hours later, she was gone, in the same spot and position as mom left her, so she went peacefully. That was the last gift that she gave us, knowing she went on her own and peaceful.

To all of you who shared a part of Tippy's and Angel's lives, I would have never met you if it had not been for them. For that I am so grateful. Tippy will forever be in my heart and I hope in yours too. **Cheryl Teale**

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## Amazing Grace aka "Gracie" Feb 14 1998 - Sept 8, 2011



Amazing Grace, DSA, TDI, a/k/a Gracie left her beautiful little body on September 8, 2011 in a gentle, sweet, tender movement of her spirit as she lay in my arms on the back deck. I could not have possibly asked her to give me an easier way to go through the passage that I have known would come but I dreaded and feared. I honestly did not know if I could survive without this little being that came, literally crashing into my life 13 years ago today as I drove on East McMillan Street, taking my godson to Steel Drum Band practice at Clark Montessori at 6:30 in the morning. I want to honor this anniversary that changed my life by briefly writing the story to share with all of you.

My dad had died on August 22, 1998 and I decided, having accompanied him through his dying process and growing in loving intimacy with this WWII Marine who loved dogs, and his beloved dog, Brunie, more than anything in the world. I have to say that undoubtedly the love of dogs is what Dad and I shared more than anything else and so when I decided to spend the traditional 49 days after his death praying the prayers from the Tibetan Book of the Dead for him, I was aware that Oct. 6th was the end of that cycle of 49 days of prayer for his passage to the Light. As I came around the curve on that dark morning and this wild little mut ran out from under the garbage truck and careened into my car, I was stunned and sick - I had never so much as hit anything - and I began to scream and cry and David tried to comfort me assuring me that it was not my fault, that I could not have avoided it. There was this little dog, yelping, with her fright front leg dangling by threads, but otherwise apparently unhurt. With the help of neighbors who came out at the cries and yelps, we bundled her in a blanket, called the SPCA, I left my

card with a kind man who stayed with her as I delivered David to school and asked him to have the SPCA people to call me - When I was driving home, I stopped by the scene of the accident, but they had all disappeared and I burst into tears, letting loose, I think, the grief from my dad's death, that I had not really felt. I went home, cancelled my clients for the day and just sobbed. Within two hours, I received a call from a Vet Clinic that did pro bono work for the SPCA, telling me that the driver of the van that had delivered the dog to them had given them my card. This particular clinic is about 12 miles from the scene of the accident - and....you won't believe it, but it was in fact the same Vet where my dad had taken his own dog for the 8 years they had lived together in Cinti. - Amazing Grace!! -

So, I went to the clinic and saw this little dog that by now had been treated for the emergency and looked up at me with eyes seeming to say "Ok, can we go home now?" - She had on a black collar, but no ID tags -" I can't have a dog." I said. So I put an ad in the paper, describing the "Lost Dog" - no mention of the accident - with the Vet phone number and mine....5 days later, I was making a daily lunch time visit to the clinic and this little dog, no response to the newspaper ad and the Vet telling em that they had been instructed by the SPCA to put the dog to sleep the next day, since they don't have funds to do the kind of serious limb repair operation she needed. I was leaving the next day for a week of out of town work and yet, I couldn't have her put down...so I plunked down my credit card for the \$1300. surgery, plus care and said I would deal with it when I returned... When I came back, there she was, still saying, "OK, NOW, can we go home?? and of course, the rest is history - a love story about the deepest connection I can imagine. A Mystery that still leaves me stunned - but when the Vet himself said to me and all the Vet Techs agreed "Ms. Murray, we don't think this was an accident! We have never seen a man who loved his dog more or better than your father. We think he sent this dog to you!" - well, I said yes and have never regretted the amazing journey we have been on - it has been incredibly costly and rewarding. She earned her Dog Scouts of America Title and badges and her Therapy Dog Title and has been a healing power in my private practice of spiritual direction and energy healing for many, many clients.

When I first adopted her she had to be in the veterinary hospital pretty continuously for two solid months, having reconstructive surgery on her right front leg. Every day I did energy healing work on her and she healed amazingly fast according to the vet and soon was jumping and racing faster than any dog in the dog park, but she was a wild maniac, so we began our endless series of "Obedience 101" classes. Gracie is a beagle-australian cattle dog mix, so she is very bright and willful. Training was hard but after 6 months we had bonded and she understood what was expected of her. Since I have my therapy practice in my home office, Gracie has always been with me and she learned to tune into my clients, jumping up next to them, licking the tears of those who were crying, or snuggling next to those who needed comfort and a little softening of their rigidity. It was hard for her to understand how some people didn't like licks and kisses but once she got that, she respected it and knew who was who, not even complaining when she was told to go to her crate for those who just don't want a dog around in their session with me at all.

The first clue I had that Gracie intended to be a healer was when I saw evidence that she clearly saw people's energy fields (auras). She not only gave empathic responses to those in sorrow or pain, but she would bark wildly at certain people on the street whom she would see from my car as we drove by and I could confirm that those she barked at had something going on that was pretty scary. The next step was she began to select a place in my healing room to place herself so she could send comfort and







light and love to the person on my table. The one day, I had a client who arrived who told me she had been diagnosed with stage 3 ovarian cancer. This woman had shown kindness and affection to Gracie, but nothing unusual. As soon as this person lay down on the table, Gracie, with no prompting (nor permission!) jumped up on the table, lay down between the client's legs, her head resting on the client's pelvic area and paws crossed over the belly area and remained there, unmoving for the entire length of the healing. In subsequent healings with this client, Gracie has assessed the situation and found just the right spot on the table to offer her healing. This went on every other week for two years and the client went into total remission and continues to be cancer-free 10 years later, to the amazement of her oncologist. After each healing, when she felt she had done her part, Gracie would run out her doggie door to the back deck, running into the sunshine and air, or rain or snow (she loved every kind of weather, catching snow flakes or rain drops with

glee in her mouth, chasing a few squirrels for fun and get ready to greet the next client at the front door and usher them in. She always knew who belonged here, even if it was their first visit. Go figure!! She was an amazing healing companion for me. She worked mainly in my office but we also went to visit children in hospital, older patients at the local Hospice and folks in retirement homes. She delighted everyone with her amazing loving, playful spirit.

I am so deeply grateful for the way this little mutt came into my life and loved me unconditionally, teaching me how to love in a way that was new and wonderful. I am so happy that I can say that no matter what the cost, I held nothing back from Gracie - whatever she needed she got and I can say that she never ever held anything back from me. A Totally Mutual Love. May all of us find that gift at some point in our life.

I miss her terribly, though I can feel her with me - and am cultivating my relationship with her every day in the ways that are being revealed to me.

Many of you know what I mean and what we have meant to one another, through all the health crises and ups and downs. She is a very, very special Being!! One of my friends always would remind me "She is not a dog, Julie, she is an angel in a dog's body!" and so she is!!! Now and forever.

I wanted to write to tell you hear the story of her amazing final days. My beloved companion of 13 years unzipped her body on Sept. 8th at 1:30 am as I held her in my arms on the chaise lounge on my deck as the soft rain of the cool night fell on us. I knew since Wednesday, Aug. 30th, that Gracie's body was very, very tired, too tired to continue and giving out after all these years of such vitality and physical strength and loving to run, catch frisbees and tennis balls, jumping high in the air and catching them in her mouth in mid-air. She has had to be on a combination of very strong medications since the big health crisis in 2006 to counter the auto-immune disease that came as the result of a Vet error of vaccinating her twice for rabies within the same month. She has gone through so much in her body - misdiagnosis and several unnecessary surgeries, etc. She is such a special being that her determination and courage always evoked my willingness to give her whatever she needed. For the past 10 days I have had either two Tibetan Buddhist healing mantra chants playing continuously through out the day from waking to sleeping except when I have been with a client and Gracie has been right at my side as she always is, taking in those powerful prayers.

I had been asking her constantly during those last 10 days to let me know clearly what she wanted and needed from me now - that, though I was so attached to not wanting her to go, I loved her so much I would do whatever she needed and wanted, but she would have to let me know clearly. The problem with that is that I mistrusted my ability to know that inside myself. It is hard to explain to someone who has not had a deep relationship with a dog, but I think you all know to understand and respect when I say that David and Gracie are the two beings who have called out my deepest capacity to love. Neither of these have been romantic, nor easy loves - both have demanded a great deal of trust, faith, sacrifice, discernment and fidelity. I have understood in a way that I must claim without shame or fear that in matters of true Love, there are no "hierarchies" - as in "oh, it is just a dog after all, Julie" - or "he isn't really your son, Julie".... There are mysteries of Love that are so compelling that there is no doubt what the response is - for there is really only One Love and we are blessed when it choose us and sweeps us up in its mysterious Life. And that Love carves canyons in our heart, breaking it open so that Love can live more and more fully in and through us.

I am so sad to have had to surrender her body, that little body that I loved so much, its feel, its smell, its energy. I knew every square inch of it by heart. And she loved me with her whole being right up to the last breath...knowing that I had held nothing back in my love for her, she held nothing back from me, and let me know very clearly that she felt safe and happy and secure and unafraid of this passage here at home with me and Lilly and that is where she wanted to be, not being "put down" on a Vet's table - she had started having occasional seizures several weeks ago - every couple of days, after any exercise, like climbing the stairs up to our second floor, and I would sit down by her and hold her as these happened, scared to death at first and then learning how to relax and soften and let it pass through her. This past week, the seizures were more and more frequent, though only



lasting a minute or two. Then the last 3 days, every time she would take herself out the doggie door to pee in the back yard, just that effort would trigger a seizure. This last week she refused her food and then began to refuse even the dried liver treats that she would almost bite my fingers to gobble down. This scared me, because I knew she needed to have these medicines, and she wouldn't take them in any form...Monday and Tuesday I figured out how to hide them in a little ground raw beef....and then Wednesday even that was refused. So I knew she was telling me..."no more, Julie." Yet that evening when my friend, Linda came over to say goodbye to her and be with me, Gracie jumped up and literally ran out to greet Linda whom she loved a lot and then asked for some dried beef treats and gobbled them up around 7 pm when I offered them - Linda and I took some pictures and sat together loving Gracie for several hours and then we were alone, just Gracie and Lilly and I. She vomited all the treats she had eaten and had another seizure. I cleaned her up and then I sat and loved her and then finally around midnight, I got a mat and some blankets and lay down on the floor in my office middle room next to her little bed where she was sleeping, and put my arm around her and went to sleep, leaving the back doggie door open for Lilly to go in and out of to the yard. At 1:00 am, Gracie got up by herself, waking me up and stood, turning her head back to me beckoning me to follow and then walked out the doggie door into the night. I got up and followed her, for I knew she would have a seizure while she was out there - and so it was - so I got a flashlight and found her by the bushes and the side fence. I picked her up in my arms and took her back to the deck and laid her on the chaise lounge and just talked to her, loved her, stroked her for the next 20 minutes as her panting subsided and her heart beat and breathing grew weaker and weaker, till I could feel it no more and I could tell she had left her body. So, I put Lilly in the car and gathered her precious body up in my arms and put her in the front seat, called Linda and asked her to meet me at the place where my friend had told me they cremate dogs respectfully up near Linda's home. It is a 24 hr. operation and the Vet there received us with respect and I laid her still warm body in a cardboard box and said my goodbyes. I asked them to wait until the next day to cremate her, so her spirit would have time to adjust and transition fully. I hope all this doesn't sound to weird to you, but I want to own the truth of this all the way. I picked up her ashes and have a little memorial altar on my stove here for her, with a picture of her alone on the beach in Truro, looking out at the sea and another on that same beach, playing frisbee with me.



The morning I did my first client healing without Gracie under the table of my healing room where she always, always has been for the past 13 years -I didn't know how I could do it - Gracie, the Dog Scout of America and registered Therapy Dog. But I felt her presence very strongly with me - her loving energy of service supported me though I wept through the first part of the healing and I thought my heart would burst.

Last Spring my friends had given me a wonderful book that I highly recommend to everyone who has a dog - read it now! A Dog's Purpose.

It is the story of the 5 subsequent reincarnations of the same canine spirit and it is an amazing book that has helped me approach this painful letting go that I have feared for so long with the courage to feel my heart breaking open with love and trust that she is with me forever.

One last thing - Gracie let me know that yes, she is indeed right here with me - You may recall that the night we had our first AIP Cinti. gathering in Sept. 2009, my office, below my home was broken into by a thief during the night. My wallet was stolen from the table in this same room where I was with Gracie two nights ago. and in rifling through that table

where I had left my wallet and taken off a treasured silver pendant I assumed, taken by the thief along with the wallet. I have felt such grief over the loss of the pendant and I have cleaned that room many times in the last two years and searched high and low for it - well, the morning of Gracie's passing it appeared, next to one of the claw feet of the table. Gracie is with me!!!!

**Julie Murray**

### **In Closing....DOG FOR SALE**

A guy is driving around the back woods of Montana and he sees a sign in front of a broken down shanty-style house: 'Talking Dog For Sale'He rings the bell and the owner appears and tells him the dog is in the backyard. The guy goes into the backyard and sees a nice looking Labrador retriever sitting there. 'You talk?' he asks. 'Yep,' the Lab replies. After the guy recovers from the shock of hearing a dog talk, he says 'So, what's your story?' The Lab looks up and says, 'Well, I discovered that I could talk when I was pretty young. I wanted to help the government, so I told the CIA. In no time at all they had me jetting from country to country, sitting in rooms with spies and world leaders, because no one figured a dog would be eavesdropping.' 'I was one of their most valuable spies for eight years running. But the jetting around really tired me out, and I knew I wasn't getting any younger so I decided to settle down. I signed up for a job at the airport to do some undercover security, wandering near suspicious characters and listening in. I uncovered some incredible dealings and was awarded a batch of medals.' 'I got married, had a mess of puppies, and now I'm just retired.'

The guy is amazed. He goes back in and asks the owner what he wants for the dog. 'Ten dollars,' the guy says. 'Ten dollars? This dog is amazing! Why on earth are you selling him so cheap?' 'Because he's a damned liar. He's never even been out of the yard'