



The Dog Scout Scoop

(little bits of news we've picked up)

July/August 2012

Volume 16, Issue 4

PUBLISHED FOR DSA'S RESPONSIBLE, DOG-LOVING MEMBERS AND FOR THE FRIENDS OF DOGS EVERYWHERE Dog Scouts of America PO Box 158, Harrison, OH 45030

Troop Grant Program

The DSA Board of Directors is happy to officially announce the Troop Grant Program. This program will be funded by donations brought in from various fundraisers, the most recent being the 2nd Annual DSA Hike-A-Thon. The Troop Grant Program was developed to financially assist troops in purchasing troop business cards, pay booth fees, and create troop flyers to name just a few things.

The criteria is as follows:

1. Funds will be used for a project that promotes DSA as a whole.
Examples: DSA banner or other promotional item, specific educational materials branded with DSA logo, all or part of booth fees at an event where DSA as a whole will be represented to a large audience, etc.
2. The project would be difficult to fund with local fundraising efforts alone, and/or group requesting funds has committed to raising a significant portion of the needed funds.
3. The project is ready to execute. This means that you have a high level project plan that includes milestones with dates, a list of people/organizations needed for each milestone, and a description of the steps you have taken to be able to hit the ground running should the project be funded.
4. The project is consistent with the mission of DSA.
5. The benefit of the project justifies the cost.
6. Project is not controversial, religious or political in nature, or likely to bring a negative public association to DSA.

The conditions are as follows:

1. Troops must have earned at least 100 recognition points in the previous calendar year.
2. The project must be led by a DSA member.
3. Grant money must handled by a DSA member.
4. In the event the project is cancelled, all grant money must be returned to DSA.

If your troop is in need of financial assistance, please fill out the DSA Troop Grant application located on the Dog Scout website and send to Chris Puls at dogscouts@hotmail.com. The board will review your request and award grant funds based on specific requests and available funding.

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Please Respect Newsletter Deadlines!!!

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

UPDATE: Dog Scout Testing Criteria

In an effort to help the Dog Scout test be administered as consistently as possible, the DSA Board of Directors has enhanced the descriptions of the exercises, added some options and included some set-up requirements. It also makes the use of the written test mandatory (with a few exceptions).

If you are a Scoutmaster, PLEASE read over this new information as you will be expected to be testing to the established criteria. People being tested are asked to contact the Certification Program Department if the testing varies from the Evaluation Criteria so that testing that is too hard or too easy can be addressed.

There will be a short grace period for anyone who may have already started putting together their video regarding the use of the new "leave it" set up and how the "safe with other dogs on leash" is demonstrated.

The updated Guide to the Dog Scout title, Evaluation Criteria and Check-off Sheet is found here:
http://dogscouts.org/Dog_Scout_Badges.html#DSA_badge

If you have any questions, please ask.

Chris Puls, Certification Program Director

Board of Directors- changing of the guard

The DSA Board of Directors would like to publicly express their sincere gratitude to **Martha Thierry** and **Brenda Katz**. Brenda became a board Member in 2009 and Martha became a board Member in 2006 and then accepted the Vice President position in 2009. Both Martha and Brenda have made many significant contributions during their terms and continue to serve DSA on the advisory board and by continuing some of their duties on various committees and projects. It was an honor to have them helping to shape DSA into what it is today. Thank-you both so much for your tireless dedication and support of DSA!

We would also like to welcome 3 new Board Members:

Doree Donovan- Fundraising chair- ***Doree learned about Dog Scouts from her daughter Kelsey, who was 12 years old at the time. After a year of reading the newsletters and wishing there was a closer troop, she and her daughter Megan worked together to start the first troop in Colorado. In past years Doree has worked as an engineer, a professor at a community college and a business owner. She now teaches obedience classes and private sessions at a pet store in the Pittsburgh area. Doree also volunteers at a training club teaching K9 Nose Work and Treibball classes. Doree has attended the TX mini-camp for three years, one year instructing Treibball. Her dogs have titled in AKC Conformation, Obedience, Rally and DSA IMPROV Obedience.*** She has certified two of her dogs through the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) in Urban Search and Rescue (disaster canine) and one as a wilderness air scent canine. Doree is a supporting member of the International Association of Animal Behavior Consultants and a lifetime member of the Society of Women Engineers.

Jim Helems- Marketing and Special Events chair- Jim started Troop 211 in the fall of 2010. One of his main goals includes growing Troop 211 and DSA. In the first 18 months, Jake (one of Jim's Aussies) and Jim have performed dog trick shows in 7 states and at each location he talks about the benefits of DSA to the crowd. Jim is a retired Military Medic, serving all over the world as a Medical Evacuation Technician. Serving mainly on fixed wing aircraft and helicopters. During his 22 years he also served as an Emergency Room Technician, Intensive Care Unit Specialist and in charge of a 150 person Mobile Air Staging Facility. Now he runs Dog Pals, a dog training company, in Ma. His services range from puppy socialization to working with aggressive dogs. Jim's dogs include 4 Aussies (Jake, Pyro, Ember and Booker) plus fosters and boarders. Jim also serves on several DARTS (Disaster Animal Response Teams) from the local, state and national level. He has deployed on several local disasters and 2 national puppy mill rescues, (one in Arkansas and one in Kentucky) helping nearly 450 dogs. He currently serves as a training leader on several teams.

Anita Dudley- Finance Committee chair- Anita has been a DSA member for about 3 years and strongly supports the Dog Scout mission and values for responsible dog ownership. She is actively involved with her local troop as the Vice President and heads up several of the troop's activities. She currently works with an accounting firm in Indianapolis and has 20 years of accounting experience and 8 years of experience working with non-profit organizations.

Welcome to these new members of the Board!

Chris Puls, DSA President

Living Light Out Loud
Adventures Training a Blind/Deaf Dog to be a Future Dog Scout
Part II

April 2012

So much has been happening for my little blind/deaf Aussie girl. Lottie has settled into her new home and becoming confident in her routines. She's bonded more to me and the other dogs, and if possible, has become even happier! What an inspiration she has become for me.



I take her to as many places as possible, which is what I would do with any puppy/dog. It is so amazing to see the confidence that comes with proper experiences and socialization. I use the word "proper" because I see a lot of people socializing puppies and creating fear. Just taking a puppy out without paying close attention and monitoring and shaping emotions can result in a messed-up pup. At the slightest sign of my dog becoming uncomfortable in a situation, I immediately distract and reward for happier body language. I have to be careful with Lottie, because she is so incredibly social with other dogs, but mostly a very gentle girl, that sometimes she gets in with a rougher, more inappropriate dog. I can see her body change from soft to cringing and deflecting, and her eyes, even her tiny microphthalmia eyes, turn hard with fear. So I'll intervene and get her to "safety", and remind her how much she loves life by giving her a cookie, or smothering her with happy mommy-love!

We practiced our social skills in April at a dog birthday party. It was for Zeb, the 3 year old Briard. There were approximately 10 dogs at the party, which took place in the kitchen and dining room at a friend's house. I realized that bringing 10 dogs who don't know each other into a small room, while the humans ate dinner, was not a super-wise idea, so I waited until the food portion of the evening was completed before I brought Lottie in. She did get to eat some doggy-birthday cake, so it was all good for her. She enjoyed herself mostly, and LOVED Talis the big yellow lab, but the Briard was not very friendly, so I had to keep a close eye on her and intervene several times to keep her safe. She has a tough time often because she can't hear other dogs growl, and can't see them well enough to notice the "get away from me" signals. I watch her closely and try to be her eyes and ears.

Lottie also enjoyed her visit to the Pet Expo, where she and I represented Petsmart at the booth. I worked Lottie's obedience skills, and we also walked and shopped, and met lots and lots of people. She LOVES this kind of thing, which is perfect, since this is exactly what I want her to do. Meet and greet and educate, show her stuff! We worked on perfecting the "sit to greet people" skill, which is tough for her, but by the end of the event she was almost perfect. She does, however, revert quickly back to "jump up on people" skill without practice!



Additionally, she has visited PAWS Animal Shelter, been to a USDAA agility trial, been on a hike with the Columbus Dog Scouts, and made many, many trips to Petsmart while I teach. She's also been to several dog parks and hiking trails, and visited the homes of several of my friends. But for me, the most exciting trip recently was going to Anything Goes For Dogs to practice our Dog Scout skills and prepare to be a Dog Scout! The class had about ten dog/handler teams in various levels of skill. We practiced sits and downs, stay and heel. "Stay" is still Lottie's hardest thing, I'm still only able to get about 8 seconds, and only about 2 steps away max. Kym, who owns AGFD, was helpful as we discussed various possibilities for Lottie's special condition. I had been teaching a palm touch to Lottie's nose to signal "stay," but Kym suggested teaching an auto stay with sit and down first, to really solidify the behaviors and remove the expectation of hopping back up quickly. We worked that some, but she kept offering "down" from the sit unless I gave her the signal to "stay," so I'm still playing around with this to determine what will work best for her. I haven't been giving her a release, although I'm ADEMENT about the release on other dogs. It just gets difficult to have enough touch signals for her double handicap, so I've combined a couple simply because I'm not

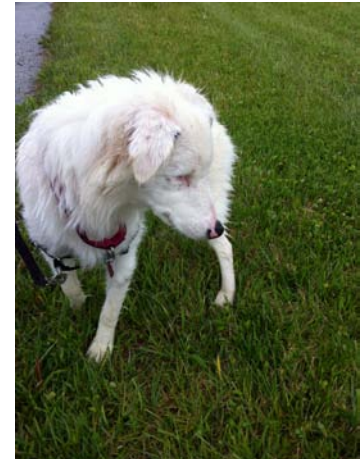
creative enough! I'm using her "click" (touch to the chest) as a release, and also I have the same touch signal for "no" and "leave it" and "enough". As we progress, this might work, or I might need to rethink. Kym suggested using my "come" signal (touch under the chin) as a release, so we worked a bit on that. We also worked on "heel" with trainer Trish, and this was something I hadn't started yet until our day at class. Trish and I talked about her special issues, and Trish suggested getting Lottie to bump my leg repeatedly for a click and treat, and this might be a way to get a nice "heel" from her. I like that idea, and we are going to try that and see how it works for her. Other blind/deaf dog owners have used a special scent on a tab that is hung from the waist, and taught their blind dogs to follow the scent, but I would always rather teach without elaborate props that will be needed for a behavior, because I'm honestly not organized enough to bring everything I might need with me all the time. I'd rather keep it simple! We'll just have to see what works.



May 2012

In May, there was a big change to Lottie's life with the warm weather – too warm to go to work with me every day, so Lottie and the border collies started summer day care at Blue Sky Dogs. The kennel is actually mine, so she just has to walk across the yard, but I'm sure to her it is like going to a new place. Kim, the manager and kennel tech, watches her and the others while she's at the kennel, and Lottie rooms with Phoebe the standard poodle during siesta time. Lottie loves Phoebe, and plays more enthusiastically with Phoebe than with any of the other dogs. Phoebe is a good sport. Overall, I think doggy daycare is good for Lottie. I don't feel that way for all my dogs, I actually don't like sending the border collies, but the only other choice is a crate all day, so most days I opt for the exercise of daycare. It's just that there is so much stimulation at the kennel, which I think it puts the border collies over threshold too often, and I'm not there to counter-balance and bring them back. But for Lottie it's actually good. She doesn't get the same stimulation, or over-stimulation, that a sighted, hearing dog does in that kind of environment, and she seems happy there, not stressed at all. She loves all the dogs she gets to meet every day.

Another big milestone for Lottie has been bedtime. For the first few months I had her, Lottie slept downstairs in a Vari-kennel. I had tried to leave her loose in my bedroom a couple of times, but she would never settle down, and barked at the other dogs, and bothered the cats. Her foster mom had told me the same thing. So Lottie had her kennel-bed, and she did just fine in it, as long as a cat slept with her. Yes, a cat. Lottie had separation issues that involved barking and drooling and shredding bedding, but one night I accidentally shut one of the cats in the kennel with her overnight, and she was calm as could be. After that, I made sure that there was a cat with her every night to share her crate. And the funny thing was, most of the time the cats would volunteer. They would go in with her, or be waiting for her. So the crate downstairs wasn't really a problem, but I really did want Lottie to sleep with us in the bedroom, and since she had settled down so much recently and is so much calmer in general, that I decided to try her again. We had a nice, peaceful night, and she even climbed in bed with me and snuggled all night. Since then, she's been able to sleep with us every night. And she is such a good cuddler, she even spoons really well. I love sleeping with my Lottie!



June 2012

As I write this, I'm preparing to leave for Dog Scout Camp 1 later this week, and I'm so excited to think of all the new things that Lottie, and I, will be learning. We are ready, and we'll report on all the great things and fun times in the next newsletter!

Note: If you would like to follow Lottie Moon's progress in between newsletters, you can follow her blog at <http://www.lottie-seeingintodarkness.blogspot.com>

Nikki Zweber Memorial Scholarship

When I first started coming to Dog Scout Camp in 2004, I became entranced with the auctions held after mealtimes with proceeds going to DSA and how much was collected by the spirited bidding wars that took place. I watched and learned and started my contributions to DSA, picking the perfect item to donate that would cause high bids, and learning to bid to get more money for DSA, it was fun. Because I really don't need more stuff, I often just gave the items back to be rebid upon a second time or gave them to the person that really seemed to want the item, surprising them. Thus began my love for giving back to DSA, and after awhile it just was not enough, especially after the way my Nikki was honored in 2010. So, I began donating to DSA in her honor. This year, I added Mary Schuenemann's Nike, one of my DSA and Dock Diving heroes. When I began donating, I knew that DSA sometimes provided scholarships to camp if the application included certain criteria. I asked that part of my donation be given to some appropriate recipient. This year, I had a name and asked Lonnie Olson if I could submit an application for a scholarship recipient. She suggested I start a new scholarship, call it the Nikki Scholarship and set some criteria. I know I was crying when I said, I like the name. She said tell me about the people you are proposing, so I did. She asked for it to be written down so she could present it to the Board, so I did. Below is my proposal which the Board approved as a continuing scholarship with Peggy and Paul Mooney as inaugural recipients. Thanks to Lonnie Olson and the DSA Board for making a dream come true, you are all special. **Peggy Zweber, Editor**

Subject: The Nikki Scholarship
From: editor@potcdogs.com
Date: Wed, May 2, 2012
To: "Lonnie Olson" <dogscoutcamp@gmail.com>

Since my dog, Nikki, died at the July camp in 2010, I have been making sizable donations to DSA in her memory, which I intend to continue for as long as I can. DSA has changed my life, made it richer, and has made my dogs happier. I consider my time at Dog Scout Camp as a little bit of heaven on earth.

Each year, I asked Lonnie Olson if a portion of this contribution could go to assist someone who doesn't have the resources to attend camp, but would be enriched by the experience and would use it to make the world around them better along with all the dogs that they have contact with. I have never put in the name of anyone.

As I submitted the names of a couple that I know this year, Paul and Peggy Mooney, Lonnie suggested that I set some criteria for the Nikki Scholarship, to financial assist a person(s) in attending camp; or, what I would expect would make that/those person(s) eligible to receive the sponsorship.

1. Resources not available for individual to afford the camp experience on their own.
2. Have made significant and positive contributions towards training and rescuing dogs.
3. Perform volunteer work related to dog activities.
4. Use only positive methods in training dogs.

Here are Paul and Peggy Mooney's contributions to making a better place for dogs in this world. I never asked their ages, don't know if that's important. They have been wanting to come to camp for a few years, but something usually comes up which absorbs that savings resource. They currently have 3 Australian Shepherds, all rescues, all arriving with "issues" and having seen the dogs in the beginning and what they have become, I know no small miracles happen at their house. They are positive trainers with the patience of saints. I've never heard a harsh word from them when they are working with their dogs or with other people's dogs in the classes that they teach at our club. They also foster dogs from the Aussie Rescue Group in our area until they are adopted into their forever homes. They've fostered 9 dogs since they joined our club, Peoria Obedience Training Club in 2009. The dogs enter emotionally wounded and sometimes with health issues and leave for their forever homes repaired, ready for a new life and healthy.

Besides their foster work, Peggy and Paul volunteer their service at our dog club. Last year alone, they donated over 300 hours of their time. They teach Puppy and Manners classes. My puppy, Luke, is currently in their Manners Class, learning socialization, and skills like "leave it", walking on loose lead and go to mat. I specifically chose their class because of the reputation they have built for patience and positive training methods. Paul is also Mr. Fixit at the club and is in his third year of serving on our Board. They personally organized and cooked at our now annual Member Picnic. They have the gift of laughter and hope and it is a privilege and honor to propose them as the very first recipients of the Nikki Scholarship and be able to attend July 2012 camp.

I sure you will find they will become DSA members and add value to our membership.

Respectfully submitted by:

Peggy Zweber, and her family, Charly, Cate and Luke, also proud owner of an angel named Nikki

Thanks from Peggy and Paul Mooney



Remember when you were a young child and how much excitement and anticipation you had waiting for your birthday, Christmas and even the Easter Bunny? You would spend months, weeks and days thinking about and planning for these special events. This is how my husband Paul and I feel about our first visit to camp this July in St. Helen, Michigan. The opportunity we have been offered to attend camp is like a dream come true for us! We have talked to friends who have taken part in past camps and have described it as, "Heaven on Earth". Who wouldn't want to be part of that?

This opportunity comes to us with a huge **THANK YOU** to the Dog Scouts Camp of America Board, Lonnie Olson and Peggy Zweber. We are the first recipients of the **Nikki Zweber Memorial Scholarship**. Nikki was the best dog in the world and meant the world to Peggy and her

brother, Charly, and sister, Cate. To receive such a gift was wonderful enough let alone having it named after a dog as awesome as Nikki. We don't feel we are deserving of such a gift, but are very grateful.

So, we will continue to be excited and thankful to able to be part of something that we have just dreamt about and hoped for. Our dogs are our family and our life. They bring us such joy and happiness we can't wait to share this with others. We are looking forward to learning and training with others that share the same passion as we have. We hope to make new friends both two and four legged. So if you're attending the July camp in St. Helen, Michigan, we are will see you then, if not enjoy the camp you do attend. If camp wasn't in the cards for your family this year, enjoy the time you have with your dogs, we don't have them long enough as it is.

Sincerely, **Peggy and Paul Mooney, and Samantha, Cinder and Sydney** (pictured above)

Troop News
Troop #119, North Texas



Troop 119 continues to have a fun & exciting year! In June, we participated with our Dog Scouts, Alex and Stevie Ray, in a presentation to about 60 cub scouts, plus some parents and sisters. We talked about dog safety, responsible dog ownership and Dog Scouts of America. Alex painted a one of a kind masterpiece during the presentation and kids paid a dollar each for raffle tickets for the painting to be awarded at the end. The winning child was excited to have won the painting and the money raised (\$68) went toward purchasing an animal oxygen mask kit for the local fire department. Left photo – Dog Scout Class.

In May, troop member and trainer, Karen Deeds, presented a seminar, "What Are They Saying? Are We Listening?" on canine communication. Troop members got a lot of great information on how to read their own dog's body language, as well as that of other dogs. Since most of the dogs stayed home for this meeting, afterward we enjoyed dinner at a restaurant for Parent's Night Out

and got to enjoy visiting with one another more than we usually get to when we have our four-legged families with us.

Also in May, we culminated two fundraisers. For several months, troop members collected dry food for a pet food drive for the Meals On Wheels of Tarrant County clients who have pets. Our troop collected a total of 1,010 pounds of much needed pet food! We also participated in the DSA Hike-a-thon. Our troop came in first place for the top fundraising team, raising \$2,484 for DSA! Our troop also had the first place individual, Connie Romano, who raised \$1,165 and the third place individual, Maureen Callahan, who raised \$970!



In June, we in had a "split" troop meeting. The newer folks to the troop participated in the Dog Scout Class to learn more about DSA and to start working on their dog's Dog Scout certification. The troop dogs who are already Dog Scouts, enjoyed an interactive presentation by troop member, Cheryl Bales, "K9 Mind Stimulation: Enhancing the K9 IQ and Fulfilling/Directing Drives". The dogs and the humans all had a great time and got some great ideas on keeping the pooches sharp! Left photo – Stevie Ray and Alex collect miles for the Hike-A-Thon.

We look forward to a summer full of continued fun and learning!

Mart & Cindy Ratliff, North Texas Troop 119

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



Idita-Read Project Tremendous Success

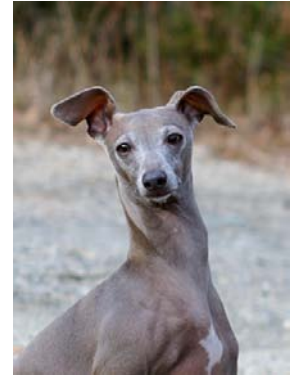
The local Idita-Read reading incentive program sponsored by the Downeast Dog Scouts has been a great success from all accounts by readers, parents, teachers and librarians. From March 3rd through April 20th of this year, children from the Blue Hill Library and Tremont School logged a total of 105,788 reading minutes or 1,763 hours, working toward their individual goal of 1,112 reading minutes correlating to the Iditarod mileage on the Northern Route. Photo left: Blue Hill Library

Pat Horton, Blue Hill Library Youth Services Librarian, organized the library's project and nine children for the Blue Hill Library's Extreme Readers team read 2,572 minutes or 43 hours, along the trail. Mrs. Horton noted, "Feedback from parents was very positive. Kids were inspired to read and very eager to report to me their progress. It was a great experience for all who participated." Dog Scouts Bri and Gracie were



team mascots for the Blue Hill Extreme Readers and small stuffed huskies were available for the Idita-Readers to take home as reading companions. The Blue Hill Extreme Readers and their families enjoyed an Idita-Read Finish Line Celebration at the library, and the readers were rewarded with books, certificates and Idita-Read cake. Gracie and Pier Carros are at the Blue Hill Library each week for readers during the school year. Photo left – Celebration cake

Photos right:
Blue Hill Idita
Read Mascots
Bri and Gracie



The Tremont
School Idita-

Read Project was organized by Tremont School Librarian Crystal Dow and she stated, "It was amazing and by far the most motivational reading program I've ever done." The four reading teams at Tremont School were the Crazy Canines, Turbo Dogs, MDI Mushers and Rocking Readers. The Tremont School students logged 103,216 minutes or 1,720 hours of reading. "That's impressive! Especially since most of the reading took place outside of school," commented Mrs. Dow.



Photo left; Finish Line. On May 4th, a fun filled Idita-Read Finish Line Celebration was held in the Tremont School gymnasium. Rob Liebow, Superintendent of the Mount Desert Regional School System, joined in the festivities to congratulate the readers on their accomplishments at the Idita-Read Finish Line. One hundred ten students from all grade levels participated in the reading program and seventy three students completed the reading goal of 1,112 minutes to cross the Idita-Read Finish Line. These readers proudly wore their paw print medals presented to them by the Downeast Dog Scouts team mascot

dogs. All of the Idita-Readers received Certificates of Accomplishment and special reward books while everyone in attendance enjoyed Idita-Read cake and ice cream.



Photos left to right: Idita Read Celebration Medals, Idita Read Celebration Cake, and attending celebration - Rob Liebow - Superintendent of Schools, Pam Bourque, Jillian and Timber



Above: Tremont school Idita Read mascots – Rissa, Timber, Jillian and Cirra

The Downeast Dog Scouts had joined the students at the Tremont School for their kick off assembly in the school gymnasium. Six dogs attended as team mascots encouraging the Crazy Canines, Turbo Dogs, MDI Mushers and Rocking Readers to read the most minutes for their teams. A few weeks after the Idita-Read project began, the Dog Scouts surprised the readers with

notes of encouragement featuring colorful paw prints and photos of their team mascots. Rissa, Timber, Jillian and Cirra visited the Tremont School to read with the top six readers of each team as inspiration to keep up the good reading! The Idita-Read was a fantastic project for a group that loves dogs, the outdoors and the promotion of positive canine relationships through education and reading with children.

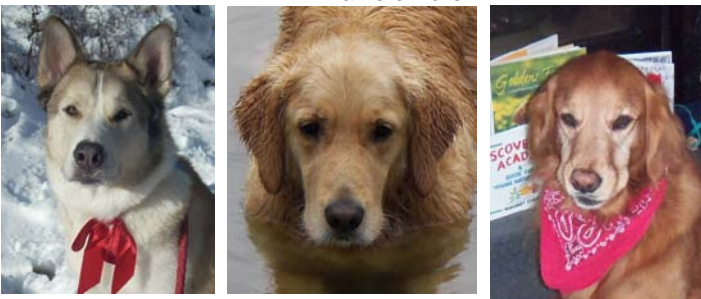


Raising Readers

Dog Scout Jillian and Pam Bourque were featured guests at a Raising Readers event in May at the Bangor Discovery Museum. Pam educated the kids and their parents on how Jill became a READER dog and how CGC, DSA, and therapy dog activities make a well-rounded canine companion. The kids all sat with Jill, taking turns reading a page to her with mega-enthusiasm each time a child finished a page. Jill gave each child an "I love my READER dog pencil", a giant paw print sticker and a postcard with her picture on it. Everyone had so much fun!

Photo left: Jillian at Bangor Discovery Museum

Pam serves on the Raising Readers Book Selection Committee and is the coordinator for the Program at Mount Desert Island Hospital. Raising Readers is an ambitious effort conceived by the Libra Foundation to foster a love of reading, improve literacy among babies and young children, and ultimately, improve the health and educational outcomes of Maine children. Now in its 12th year, raising readers has distributed more than 1.7 million books to more than 190,000 Maine children.



Photos left: More Idita Read Mascots – Bruno, Raya, Rebel

Children Reading to Dogs

Pier Carros and Gracie hosted the READ / Idita-read party at the Blue Hill Library in April with Robyn Douglas and Cirra as special guests. Gracie and Pier have started summer READ sessions at the Brooksville Library.

Cirra "Celebrated Reading" with her Northeast Harbor Library and Mount Desert Elementary School readers in



June at the Northeast Harbor Library. There were reward books, certificates, bookmarks, stickers, dog-related activity books and pages, as well as awesome cake! Left photo: Cirra celebrating reading and the celebration cake.

As part of the Summer Reading Program, Robyn and Cirra will be at the Northeast Harbor Library on Thursday mornings for eight weeks. In addition, they are trialing a reading program at Camp Beech



Cliff, a children's day camp, this summer on Tuesday afternoons. Left photo – Table at the reading celebration.

Therapy Dogs - Birch Bay Village - Cirra with Denise and Jillian with Pam continue to visit twice a month at the assisted living units at Birch Bay Village. Jillian and Cirra were honored to be mentioned in the obituary of a resident. Cirra and Denise recently completed their 50th therapy dog visit since beginning in 2007.

Downeast Dog Scouts Monthly Activities

During April, Pier Carros and Nancy Morrison led a four mile carriage road walk at Little Long Pond in Seal Harbor for Dog Scouts, visitors and potential Dog Scouts. In May, the troop met at Bubble Pond for a walk and meeting. June brought the Scouts back to Jordan Pond in Acadia National Park for a walk along the carriage roads and lunch on the lawn. The troop members entertained a guest with a newly rescued Lab mix and a person interested in beginning a Dog Scouts of America troop in their hometown area of Maine. Photos far left – Jordan Pond and near left – Bubble Pond, both in Acadia National Park.



DSA Badges/Titles/Certificates

In May, Cirra passed her American Temperament Testing Society Test with Denise Houseknecht. She is the 122nd Great Pyrenees to past the test and the Great Pyrenees breed has an 84.6% passing rate on the test. Having done this, Cirra earned her DSA Temperament Test Badge and she has completed her Letterboxing I Badge.



Photo left: Cirra completing her ATTS threatening stranger portion of test.

Cirra has also earned her TDIA Title from Therapy Dogs International, Inc. with Robyn Douglas, reflecting their additional 50 visits since achieving Cirra's Tail Waggin' Tutors Award.

Robyn Douglas, Downeast Dog Scouts Troop 159

Troop 177 – Indianapolis, Indiana

Troop #177 members spent much time hiking and walking in the last few months for good causes! On April 28, we participated in The Mutt Strut at the world famous Indianapolis Motor Speedway. This is the third year in a row we walked in rain during this fundraiser, but at least it wasn't bitter cold and blowing wind this year! Peggy Kraus and Casey, Anita Dudley and Sophie, Gail Wiseman and Zipper joined Robyn Porter with Hallie around the 2 ½ mile oval.

Like many DSA troops, Troop #177 worked to accumulate miles and raise funds for DSA during May in the "Hike Across America" fundraiser. We visited parks and trails new to us, as well as familiar favorites that we hadn't been to in a while. Indianapolis sites visited include Eagle Creek Park, Southeastway Park, Ft. Benjamin Harrison State Park. A new favorite is the Indianapolis Museum of Art's 100 Acres. This beautiful park is relatively new and offer trails in the woods, open fields and along the old canal. Art is around every turn! Gail Wiseman and Zipper along with Robyn Porter and Hallie explored the grounds and then walked up the hill to the Lilly Mansion to explore pristine gardens and pathways. Hallie and Zipper were especially interested in the goldfish pond and the big turtles in the canal!

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



Sophie, Zipper, Casey and Hallie in front of a 2012 official car



Casey, Zipper, Hallie and Sophie sit on the "yard of bricks" finish line



Candy Shoaf watches as Boomer hears a splash in nearby water



Gail and Greg Wiseman with Zipper organized the Eagle Creek hike



Hallie and Zipper get close to art



Hallie on basketball court..... hey, it's art!!!



Beautiful Peony

Troop 188 - Connecticut and Rhode Island

Backpack Workshop

In preparation for the Hike-a-Thon, we had a Backpack workshop in April to discuss the requirements of the Backpacking badge. Phantom DSA and Star DSA have started working on their Backpacking badges. Neuman carried his new backpack for the first time during the workshop, which was a gift from Zora DSA. Photo Right: Neuman and Zora DSA love hiking together.



Dog Scouts of America Hike-a-Thon 2012

Troop 188 organized 8 hikes in May to celebrate the DSA Annual Hike-a-Thon. Two of our hikes were with Troop 211 in MA. Troop 211 joined Neuman, Phantom DSA and Zora DSA on a hike at Bluff Point State Park. All of our dogs had fun making new friends and swimming in the ocean. The group hiked down to the point and back, which is just over 4 miles. We had a wonderful picnic lunch.

Fysher, Phantom DSA, Summit, Star DSA and Zora DSA went hiking together at Avery Preserve in Ledyard CT. We hiked 1.5 miles, taking time to let our dogs play in the creeks and the small pond that was a former "Sheep Washing Pen".

Pirate DSA organized a weekly Small Dog Stroll in Rhode Island. Pirate DSA and company went on three 1-mile strolls and a fourth 2 mile stroll, at Wilcox Park in westerly RI. Each stroll was attended by Truffles, Yippity, Pirate DSA, Daisy, and Suede. They were joined for part of one stroll by an old daycare friend who just happened to be at the park that day, Guido the Pomeranian. Another stroll had a lovely deaf white boxer join them for a brief play time by the duck pond. Their fourth stroll, they went for 2 miles, and had a mini picnic of sardine and graham cracker brownies at the gazebo to celebrate Pirate DSA's 8th birthday which happened to fall on the same day. Also while at the park they cleaned up several piles of abandoned poop. The photo below of Pirate DSA posing on the giant bunny is a sculpture was that was donated to the park when the library, which is adjacent to and oversees the park, opened a new children's wing. The sculpture is based on the book "The Runaway Bunny".

Star DSA and Zora DSA attended a hike in Dufresne Park in Granby MA with Troop 211 later in the month. We had so much fun! Almost all of our dogs got to hike off-leash. I was so proud of my little Zora for hiking off-leash with this wonderful group of people and dogs. Almost all of the dogs went swimming (or at least wading), including Zora DSA and Star DSA.

The final Troop hike of the month was at Pequot woods in Mystic CT. Zora DSA and Neuman had lots of fun playing in the mud. They both took time to check out the beaver dams. Zora DSA and Neuman made new friends when we met some hikers along the trail. Everyone had a great time this year and got to hike in many new places. Photos Left to Right: Members of Troops 188 and 211 hiking at Bluff Point State Park; Pirate DSA ready to kick-off a Small Dog Stroll.



Photo: The whole gang ready to hike at Dufresne Park in Granby MA.



Photos Left to Right: Fysher crossing the creek, followed by Summit, Marge, Michelle and Phantom DSA; Phantom DSA and Michelle crossing the creek; Neuman and Zora DSA muddy from hiking at Pequot Woods.



All Friends Annual Pet Fair

Troop 188 attended the annual All Friends Pet Fair again this year. It was bigger and better than ever. There was a petting zoo with goats, turtles, snakes and lizards. There was a glamour station where the dogs got their nails painted. Even the turtles got their nails painted. Photo Right: Zora DSA helping out at the Dog Scouts booth.

Robin Hood Springtime Festival

Dog Scout Troop 188 attended the Robin Hood Springtime Festival for the second year in a row. This year we provided a rest area and watering hole for pets attending the fair. Everyone had a great time and several dogs even got to walk in the afternoon parade.

Photos: Members of Troop 188 walking in the afternoon parade.



Kelly Ford, Co-Leader Dog Scout Troop 188



Troop 199 (Positive Pups), Western New York

Photo left: Tired and happy dogs after hike (5/26/12). Nancy Herdic (Baylor), Cathi McKelvey(Barrett), Candy Karsten(Maia), Christy Heine(Odin), Tina Evrard(Blaise)

Troop 199, (Positive Pups) Western New York has been quite active during the past two months. Several dogs took the ATTS (American Temperament Test Society) test and have added this badge to their list of accomplishments. Our troop participated in the Hike-a-Thon through individual as well as group hikes. These hikes were such a hit that we will continue to explore the area's many parks on a regular basis. After our Memorial weekend hike we headed to troop member Tina Evrard's (Skye and Blaise's Mom) property for swimming and play followed by a cookout and overnight camping. During the warmer weather our weekly classes are taking place at various outdoor venues allowing the dogs to experience different milieus while learning and practicing their skills.

We also took advantage of the opportunity to take the four week "City Dog" class taught by troop member Paula Kelman, CPDT-KA. The course focuses on sharpening skills and proofing your dog using the AKC Canine Good Citizen test as a guideline, in a very distracting urban setting. After the last class we had a graduation party replete with pizza, wings and dessert for the humans and special frozen treats for the dogs. Students (human and canine) graduated with increased self- confidence and gave the experience "two paws up". Paula generously donated all money generated by the class to "Animeals", a charity which provides food for the dogs and cats of "Meals on Wheels" recipients. **Cathryn Mckelvey**

Troop 207, The Columbus Dog Scouts



Troop 207 has been busy so far this year. With summer around the corner and the school year ending we said farewell to the students at Heritage Middle School. We have been visiting the kids monthly since the school year began and allowing them to work with the dogs to gain an understanding of the self-control and patience it requires training and working with a dog.



Gwen at Heritage



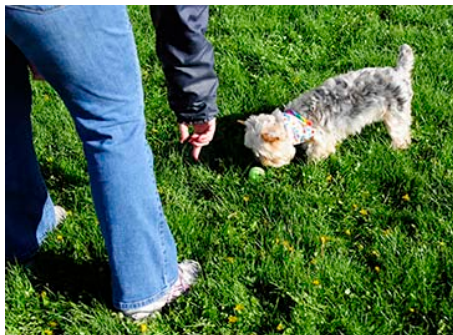
Hank at Heritage



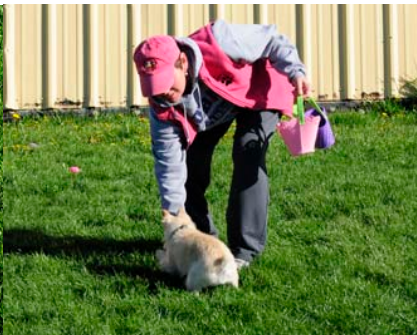
Jimmy at Heritage

Earlier in the spring we had a few workshops for painting and scent work. We also held an Easter Egg Hunt and took Easter Portraits of our Scouts for fun. In May we held the first session of our four class series of Dog Scouts Preparation Classes and welcomed **nine** new members to our Troop! We had a huge amount of interest generated because we were featured in the Columbus Dispatch when the National Article about the DSA ran earlier this month.

http://www.dispatch.com/content/stories/life_and_entertainment/2012/04/23/spots-honor.html



Jane and Magnum



Kym and Harry



Mandy and Bubba

Next, our Troop Leader, Andrea, her dog Gwen and founding member Vikki and her dog, River Tank, went to the Leadership retreat. Vikki actually spent the entire week preceding the retreat at camp due to a scheduling error but she was put to work by Lonnie and Chris so camp would look pretty by the time the others arrived. It was Andrea's first experience at camp and she met some great new friends and learned some fun and important ideas to bring home to the Troop! Luckily the retreat ended the day the escaped convict chaos started! Troop 207 has a lot of fun activities, events and even a fundraiser on the calendar for this summer! Stay tuned for more...



Photos left to right:
Kerry and Madison
Magnum
Mugsy



Gwen Leadership



Gwen soaking in knowledge



Vikki and River

"Andrea Mykrantz" amykrantz@sbcglobal.net

Troop 213/Colorado

Our April meeting was our "Bring a Friend Event". We met at Broomfield Commons Park for a 2.2 mile Hike and a Group Poop Scoop.



Pictures from Left to Right: Start of our 2.2 mile quest for dog doodie.... Beautiful day, Beautiful weather, and friends to spend time with. Misha and her mom carrying their 'treasures' they found.



Great manners! Hailey and Misha hurry past the Snack Shack! Ace making sure Dad doesn't stop either!

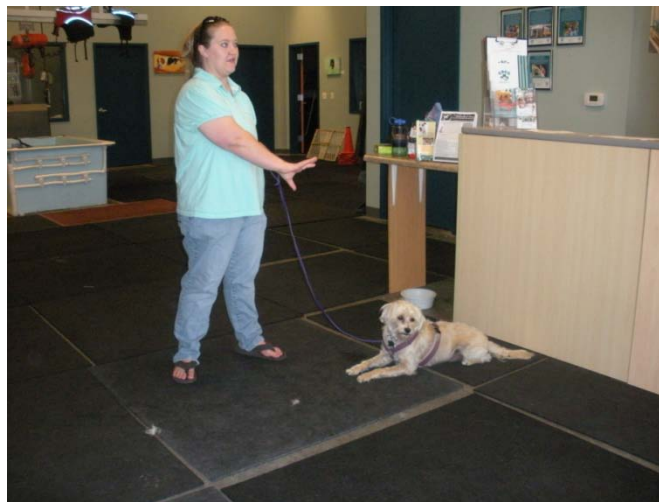


Pictures from Left to Right: Miss Photogenic Seven and Our Group Picture after a great day.

We had a very exciting May meeting! Four new members joined our group (2 human 2 canine)!



New Members: Alyna and Isabelle Waters, Marnie and Suki Johnson....Welcome ladies!! This is our Troop Leader Margo Suzuki (and Hailey) giving us instruction on shaping, which we applied with our pups in order to teach them to paint.



Pictures from Left to Right: Isabelle Waters, Seven Montilla-Goad and Hailey Suzuki getting ready to do some painting.



Marnie and Suki Johnson had a great time at their first meeting with the troop.

And our PAINTERS are:



Left: Alyna and Isabella Waters Right: Isabelle's Artwork. And the bids start at....



Jerrod and Layla creating a masterpiece.

Treibballing/Urban Herding

Isabelle and Ace took a Treibballing class at the Zoom Room. They both get so excited when their Mom's get the balls out to practice.



Isabelle Waters and Ace Montilla-Goad....we haven't mastered herding cats yet, but we are getting better and better at herding balls! Is there a herding cats badge??

Ace is currently working on his Scent discrimination badge by taking a class at the Zoom Room. You can see him below learning to sniff for the scent in a box.



Ace Montilla-Goad



May was a busy month for Ace at least! It was Hike-A-Thon month. You can see him left hiking with his Dad to earn his Hike-A-Thon Badge.

In closing, June 2, 2012 Scoutmaster Doree Donovan's daughter, Karen Lundgren gave birth to a beautiful baby girl named Matilda Sage. While Karen was in the hospital she had a very special visitor. While this very special dog was probably not a Dog Scout, I felt I needed to share her experience because if our goal for our dogs is in fact to "Let Us Learn New Things, So They May Become More



Pictured Above: New Mommy Karen and Therapy Dog Molly.

Helpful" this dog is for sure a Dog Scout at least at heart. Congratulations to Doree and her lovely family.

Submitted by: **Troop 213/Julie Montilla-Goad**

Troop #216, Lake Havasu City AZ "HappyFeet"

Big Congratulations to Ajax for passing his TDI Therapy Dog Test! Ajax, Isis and parents headed out for cooler weather in Michigan and plan to return next Season. Looking forward to a boat trip across to "new trails"! OH, and that narrated Sunset Cruise!

Rose, Dan & "Chloe" headed for RV life and colder Lakes! It was great seeing and hearing the History-making Guinness Record Dancin' from kayak in the Channel. Members Rose & Dorothy are in the group Line Dancing on London Bridge! <http://klhu.tv/morevideo.htm> Dorothy & "Lucy" will be coming back for more hikes and water fun next Season! Thanks for the invite for a Pontoon Boat Play Day next time!

Terry, Stetson, "Rio" & "Mandy", headed for cooler climates also, leaving their beautiful new house to welcome them back here in Havasu. Big "Thanks" for bringing Kayaks, Trailer and carts to show 'n tell and for Dog Scouts to Try 'em Out! Looking forward to the "Dog Walk" from your place!

BIG "Way to Go!" to Member Dani, Mom of "Shadow", "Lucky" & "Bandit" – on up-coming sale of their Summer Agility Play Ground: "Holy Smoke Resort", in the Dakotas! <http://www.holysmokersort.com/> Dani wants to get a Kayak and go "doggin" with Shadow and Lucky and our other "Kayakin' Dogs" on return!

We're looking forward to seeing more of "Moki", Denyse & Mark next year now that their house is "moved into"! Plus look forward to playing at Prestige & with the Agility group!

Chico, Molly, Sharkie Shooter and 5 Dog Scout Parents went to Cinco de Mayo Chihuahua Races. Lots of laughs! Shirts were good conversation starters ;) <http://www.klhu.tv/> click on Chihuahua Races by Paws & Claws to see "Chico" & Lucy featured plus some of our other dogs and members. We met some new folks & " Welcome" to Debbie Olson and husband Stanley! (Another Kayaker!) We give 'em the award for bringing the "Cutest Long-Haired Chihuahua - Chanelle" and are now shopping for a new doggie life vest! They recently bought a house here; are returning to Wash. State; and plan to come back next Season and Kayak here!

Leo, Randy/Gloria & Vicki get special "yee-haws" for "Poop Picker-uppers!" at the Beach on swim days :) Randy & Gloria donated a small kneeboard to Debbie & family- with stipulation they return next year :) They also donated some Life Vests and a great little guitar. "Bart" is learning to play it! Leo manufactured a great little kayak cart with real tires (bye-bye old fertilizer spreader/plastic & wheels)!

Our members made a great showing at the Island Pathway Fountain Official Dedication. Leo, Joe, "Katie & Penny"; Vicki & "Bart"; Randy, Gloria & "Daisy"; Lucy, "Chico & Molly"; Sandy & "Dakota" braved the Sun & overwhelmingly represented the "Public"! Many Thanks from the Day of Service High School group & Parks Rep. Donna, for our support and previous Thank You Card and note to newspaper. We were mentioned in the article in Sunday's June 3rd 2012 Today's News-Herald covering the dedication. Good Job Members! Fountain project partner: Western Arizona Humane Society Director, Victoria Cowper, invited us to do a Demo at Critter Camp in July (program for children) and also offered to "Sponsor" us in "Adopt A Street" program that Member, Sandy W. is motivating us to get going.

Dog Scout Promo Flyer featuring Lake Havasu Dog Scouts came out in the May/June issue of Prescott Dog Magazine in Thanks for our help distributing The Mohave Dog Magazine in lake Havasu during this past year! Page 32 <http://www.prescottdog.com/publications/2012-may-june.pdf>

We're looking forward to some "lost dogs" returning to play! Up 'n Coming "Hot Dog" Pot Luck! Just maybe Capt. Bruce, (off to Alaska), will bring back some Halibut or Salmon (No "Dog Salmon"...) for the "Dogs" or...Dog Parents? <http://alaska-halibut-fishing-charters.com/> Watch for NEW water sports! Tube Floaties!



Picture with group (person's name, then dog's names): Leo & "Katie & Penny", Vicki & "Bart"; Joe; Randy & Gloria: "Ms Daisy"; Lucy & "Molly & Chico" (dog's names are in quotes)



"Katie" Teaching "Penny" to Retrieve



Left: "Sharkie Shooter" at The Races!

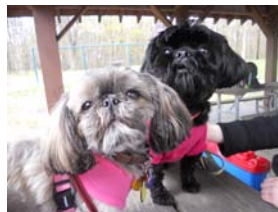


Left: "Chico" Run for the Roses...or Cookies!

Submitted by **Vicki,**
Troop #216 Lake
Havasu City AZ

Troop 217 – Southeast Michigan

Troop 217 has been keeping very busy over the past few months and has increased its membership by six (6) members since mid-April. On April 14th we held our "Bring a Friend" event at Kensington MetroPark. Nine troop members, along with four "friends", attended the event titled "Day in the Life of a Dog Scout". We started the day's activities with a troop hike around the shelter area, stopping along the way for a geocache find. We also held mini-demonstrations on Shaping, showing the non-members and newer troop members how to teach their dogs to paint as well as play an instrument. The day finished up with a tracking game for the dogs, a hot dog Easter egg hunt. Our event proved a success recruiting two new members to the troop, Mary with Toby and Kim with Winnie.



Shelby with new friend and troop member Winnie
Cadence demonstrating Art of Shaping w/Instrument



Nine troop members got together Friday, April 20th for a strategic troop retreat planning meeting at Aubree's Pizzeria & Tavern. While we enjoyed a nice dinner we discussed what needs to be done, who was interested in leading what task items, and mapped out a plan for future meetings. Those DSA members already signed up to attend the all troop retreat – The Zombie Apocalypse - October 27-28th are in for a great fun-filled weekend. Space is limited, all private rooms and cabins are sold out so if you're still interested in attending email bensojulie@earthlink.net ASAP to reserve your space!

On April 22nd, Angela & Lowell Schmorow-Zuckerman hosted the troop Agility Day at their home. Angela taught a total of twelve troop members the method of 2x2 weave pole training. All the dogs did a great job, catching on very fast to this great method of weave pole training. We also had a chance for Angela to test five dogs on their Obstacle 1 badge. Congratulations to Melissa & Drizzle Perez, Roberta, Sprite & Gypsy Chapman, and Catherine, Leela & Liberty Stafford for all earning their Obstacle 1 badge.



Catherine Stafford with Leela on A-Frame

Troop 217 kicked off DSA's 2nd annual Hike-A-Thon with an American Cancer society run/walk – "Bark for Life" on May 5th. Our troop came in as the 3rd highest fundraiser for the event raising \$2,173!! The day event also had fun activities to participate in including a doggie dash, Rally course, and Agility courses. Our troop also was invited to have a table at the event, where we hosted a "doggie painting" booth and had the opportunity to get the word out more about DSA. Thank you to everyone that participated!!



Michelle & Sassy Neu w/Martha & Maia Thierry



Lowell & Angela Schmorow-Zuckerman proudly display Troop 217's Certificate of Participation.

Leadership Retreat was held May 19-21st at Dog Scout Camp. Troop 217 troop leaders Angela Schmorow-Zuckerman and Julie Benson attended along with Lowell Schmorow-Zuckerman, troop 217's hiking coordinator. The weather couldn't have been more beautiful and perfect with temperatures in the high 70's/low 80's. Lowell was certified to sign off troop members in Backpacking and Hiking and Julie was certified to sign off on Dog Care & Maintenance. Lowell & Angela were also certified as Scoutmasters. Everyone enjoyed catching up w/other DSA troop leaders, playing games, and taking numerous hikes throughout the weekend.

Walled Lake Elementary's Girl Scout Troop welcomed Troop 217 to their troop meeting May 21st to learn more about dogs, bite prevention, and positive training. Diane Schuler presented bite prevention to the girls with information from the "Be a Tree" program, Elizabeth Nadjuch & Emma performed their "Little Red Riding Emma" skit, Julie Benson talked to the girls about how to care for their dogs with basic grooming/care and through diet and exercise, and Martha Thierry & Maia ended the meeting with how to train your dog through positive reinforcement.

We finished out the month with a troop hike on May 27th as DSA's Hike-A-Thon came to an end. We met at Maybury State Park in Northville and hiked the paved trails two miles around the park. It was a hot day but luckily we beat some of the heat meeting up earlier in the day. Everyone enjoyed catching up with one another and meeting some new troop members and their dogs.

At the completion of our hike, we all cooled off under an unused pavilion and Angela and Lowell presented what they had learned at this year's ClickerExpo on shaping a formal retrieve. During the demonstration the dogs snacked on yogurt and chicken broth frozen bones made special by Angela.

June was welcomed in with a kayak trip on June 10th at Argo Canoe Livery in Ann Arbor. Temperatures were in the high 80's, but the slight breeze on the water provided for the perfect day. Nine troop members, of various levels of experience, paddled to the end of the pond and back carting their dogs in kayaks and/or canoes. The round trip lasted just over two hours, the perfect amount of time to improve on our kayaking/canoeing skills or learn for the first time.



Samantha & Pecas Winslow setting out on our trip.



Angela & Django Schmorow-Zuckerman taking in the beautiful day.



Julie & Shelby Benson enjoying their First kayaking trip.

Congratulations to the following troop members and their Dog Scouts in earning the following badges:

- Angela & **Jade** Schmorow-Zuckerman – Dog Care & Maintenance
- Angela & **Cadence** Schmorow-Zuckerman – Community Service
- Angela & **Cadence** Schmorow-Zuckerman – Dog Care & Maintenance
- Lowell & **Maebe** Schmorow-Zuckerman – Community Service
- Melissa & **Drizzle** Perez – Art of Shaping, Obstacle 1, Backpacking, Overnight Camping
- Catherine & **Liberty** and **Leela** Stafford – Obstacle 1
- Roberta & **Sprite** and **Gypsy** Chapman – Obstacle 1

For more information on any of our troop's events, contact Julie Benson at bensonjulie@earthlink.net or Angela Schmorow-Zuckerman at reddogblues@gmail.com. You can also check us out at our troop website: <http://dsatrop217.com>.

--Submitted by **Julie Benson, Troop Leader**

Attitude of Gratitude

Betty Gardels has made a memorial donation in memory of Stuart Romano (Connie and Mike Romano's Westie). Please include this in the attitude of gratitude. Thanks, Lonnie

Annual Awards

Founder's Award

Chris Puls has received the Founder's award. Chris has been an instrumental part of Dog Scout Camp ever since she first attended in 2001. We got her on staff almost immediately, and she has been a driving force in the success of our camps ever since. She has been the President of DSA for the past several years, and has been the director of the Certification Program for many more years. She helped see the worldwide certification program to fruition, and has helped many a troop get off the ground. She is a Scoutmaster Trainer and can administer most of the DSA badges. She is webmaster for the DSA web site, and has written many of the training manuscripts that are found there. She continues to instruct and help run the camps in Michigan, and is an inspiration to us all. She is very deserving of the Founder's Award.

The Good Scout Award

A trend-setting, trailblazing member who demonstrates leadership by doing things that:

- o Impact the global community
- o That help all of the other scout troops
- o That the other Scout Troops could emulate to be successful

Mart and Cindy Ratliff are being honored with this award for their tireless work with Troop 119 and for DSA as a whole. They are the leaders of the largest DSA troop in the Dallas/Ft. Worth area and host a very successful annual mini camp each year that has a devoted following. Although they have no children of their own, Cindy has directed her nurturing energy toward making sure all of the campers are prepared, both physically and emotionally for the adventure ahead of them. Mart's style of auctioneering is so entertaining that mealtimes at their mini camp are an exciting, fun and memorable experience.

They have set an example of how to build a friendly, accepting and caring community where pet owners can learn new things with their best friends, both canine and human.

Mart and Cindy have helped their troop members raise thousands of dollars to help the people and dogs of their community and to help DSA national. They host an annual dog food, toys and supplies drive every year for the pets of the people on the Meals-on-Wheels program. And their troop has provided pet oxygen masks to MANY fire departments to help them save pets that have been caught in fires.

They are responsible for saving countless dogs in the Dallas/Ft. Worth area by posting notices immediately to their large troop when dogs are impounded. Anytime a dog is picked up off the street, they are fervent in getting the word out.

Mart is certified to train new Scoutmasters and Evaluators and has helped certify new Scoutmasters and Evaluators, not only from TX, but other states as well. As a former Board Member, Mart has been instrumental in shaping the growth of DSA as a national organization.

So for these reasons and the long list of achievements not listed here, DSA honors them both with the Good Scout Award for 2012.

Above and Beyond Award

This award goes to a person who goes beyond what is expected of a regular member or staff member, and gives of his/her time, resources, expertise and more to promote or help DSA.

This year's recipient is Chris Kloski. Chris is always ready to attend pet expos, demos and fundraising events with her dogs to help show how dogs can be helpful and useful in raising awareness about positive training. Her dogs perform tricks and play the piano for tips and they have raised large sums of money for DSA and for other non-profit organizations.

Chris always donates a few very nice items, engraved with the DSA logo, for the camp auctions. These items are coveted by many people willing to bid big bucks to get them, which helps increase the amount of donations made to DSA via the auction.

She also created and maintains the Rainbow Bridge Troop plaque in honor of her dog Sweetie. She collects information for the plaque from the DSA talk list, newsletter and directly from DSA members during the year so that the names of Dog Scouts who have passed away can be engraved and added to the memorial. All costs for this are donated by Chris.

For these and the many other things Chris has done for DSA, she is being honored with the Above and Beyond award for 2012.

Excellence in Writing award

This award applies to writing (online or in print) that benefits DSA as a whole and/or all of its members.

The 2012 recipient is Peggy Zweber. Peggy has been the newsletter editor since July of 2009 when she took the job just 1 week prior to attending a week of camp and was given the task of compiling the 4 previous months worth of info! It was also the very first digital issue of the DSA newsletter! She did an outstanding job and continues to show her dedication to DSA and its main source of information for the members: The Dog Scout Scoop.

She donates a large amount of her time (often well into the wee hours of the morning) to the task of collecting, editing and arranging all the submissions and photos from various sources as well as writing or finding interesting or funny information to be added. She always tries her very best to get each issue ready for posting before the end of the month and really stresses out when there are last minute submissions or other reasons that delay it.

Her dedication to DSA and her passion for producing a high quality publication shine through in each issue of the DSA newsletter. So DSA is proud to present Peggy Zweber with the Excellence in Writing award for 2012.

In Closing . . . Frozen Treats for a Puggle . . . or any other dog!

Kelly Ford's Puggle, Zora, turned 6 on June 20, 2012, and she shared her recipe for birthday treats, and agreed to share with all of you. So, here are the treats for a Puggle's birthday. Happy birthday, Zora!



Homemade Frozen Dog Treats: 18 oz Plain non-fat yogurt, 4-oz Banana Baby Food, ½ cup Peanut Butter, 1 tbs Honey; Combine well; Pour into small Dixie cups, place a dog biscuit in the top as a stick; Freeze; Serve!