



The Dog Scout Scoop

(little bits of news we've picked up)

September/October 2012

Volume 16, Issue 5

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

Summer Fun at Dog Scout Camp

The Dog Scout Summer Camps in Michigan have had a banner year! We had two of the best camps ever, with lots of new scouts, crazy auction bidders, new friends, and plenty of people signed up for next year. The auctions raised \$1,638.00 from camp one and \$2320.00 from camp two.

The camp has been looking really spiffy, now that our new custodian, Joe King, has taken things into his hands. I think that might be part of why the campers were so happy this year. There was no "junkyard" behind the caretaker's cabin, and everything was pretty manicured, and straightened up. Sorry there's just so many hours in a day... We didn't get to the pond weed removal and the bathroom shower repainting until camp 2. But I assure you, those improvements made a big difference! Both camps got to enjoy the new small dog play area, and a many of the other improvements that were made this spring.

We have had a large number of people sign up for next year already, so if you're wanting to come to camp, or need preferred lodging, try to get your request in right away—it's filling up fast. We now have 4 adorable cabins with air conditioning. If you'd like one of those, you have to speak up early. All of the private rooms are already spoken for at camp two. Thanks to all of the campers and staff of the 2012 Michigan DSA camps for making this a very memorable summer! **Lonnie Olson**

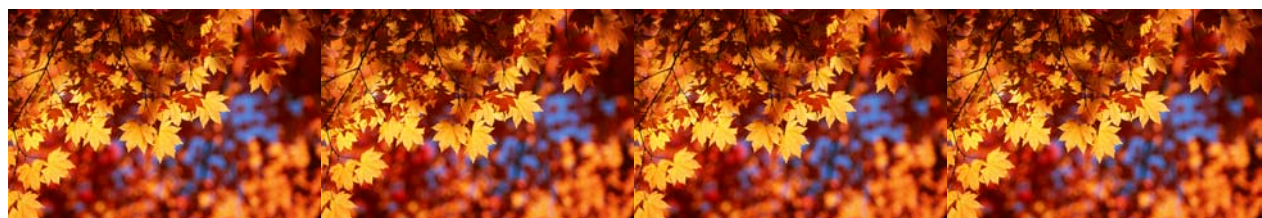
Table of Contents	
Summer Fun & Fall Outing Page 1	New Troop Info & Badge Processing P2
Hike-a-Thon/New Patches Page 3	Joe King/Camp Improvements Page 4
Living Light Out Loud Page 4-6	Mooney Thanks Page 6
Troop News, Pages 6 – 21	Attitude of Gratitude Page 22
Rainbow Bridge Page 22	In Closing Page 23

Please Respect Newsletter Deadlines!!!

Newsletter Submission - October 15th, 2012 for November/December 2012 Issue. Articles received after that date will go into the January/February 2013 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!!!



Fall Outing at DSA Camp

The fall outing is scheduled for the weekend of October 19th through the 21st, at the Dog Scout Camp in Saint Helen, Michigan. The usual activities will be offered: Enjoying the fall colors, hiking in the woods, crafts, costume contest, fun and games, potluck meals, and an auction. There is no charge for the fall outing to members of DSA. The only cost is for your lodging. The regular lodging fees apply. See the web site for details. Come and join us for a relaxing weekend with your dog at camp. Please reserve your space online, or contact Lonnie (dogscoutcamp@gmail.com) 989-389-2000. See you there!

Lonnie Olson

NEW Troop Program Administrator!

I am happy to announce that Robyn Porter has agreed to take over the administrator position for the DSA Troop Program! Hurray! So if you have been thinking about becoming a troop leader, Robyn can help you out with that! Please make a note of the new contact email for troop related items: dsaleadertest@att.net and help me welcome her aboard!

I'll still be doing the web updates and Scoutmaster/Evaluator certification, but any troop updates need to come to me through Robyn so that she can be sure the database is kept up to date. I'll be adding her email to the "Contact Us" page of the DSA website very soon.

Chris Puls, DSA President

New Troops

Troop # 219

State: Connecticut
Area Served: Southeastern CT and RI
Troop Leader: Kelly Ford
Email: DSA.Troop219@yahoo.com

Troop # 220

State: Nevada
Area Served: Douglas and Washoe Counties, Carson City
Troop Leader: Terry Lynn Cuyler
Email: cuykaylab@gmail.com

Future Troop:

State: Maine
Area Served: Kennebec/Androscoggin County
Troop Leader: Rita J. Pirrotta
Email: lvlabsx2@roadrunner.com

Troop #183 leadership change

Terry Cuyler, former leader of #183, moved from Florida to Nevada. As a result, Astrid asked Carol Czornog to become assistant troop leader of #183. Carol submitted her written Troop Leader test and passed. She still needs to pass her DSA within 12 months. I also took the step of confirming with Astrid that she asked Carol to perform this role. She confirmed the following entry for "Find a Troop" is accurate:

Orlando, Lake Mary: Troop 183 "PawsPack183",
Astrid Glende, aglende@gmail.com and Carol Czornog, skoolbefun@aol.com
website: www.dsatroop183.com

Thank you,
Robyn Porter
Troop Program Administrator, Dog Scouts of America
Troop Leader, Indy Dog Scouts Troop #177



Badge Processing

Badges Program Update! The badge processing has now moved from MI to Indiana! If you have badge forms to submit to DSA, please verify that you are sending them to Indiana! If you send them to Lonnie in MI, it will delay the processing while she then mails them to me. All the badge forms on the DSA website have been updated with the new mailing and email address, but I know people still have older forms they have gotten signed and are waiting to send in. I would like to be sure the turn around time for badges is as fast as possible. I'm currently processing them as they arrive and often send out the patches the day after I get the form! The only ones I can't always process that quickly are the Dog Scout badges. This is because the dog's ID cards are printed 10 to a page. I like to have at least 5 to print at a time, but it will be less than a month before you get those packets too. IF you have submitted a badge form to DSA and have not gotten your badges yet. Please contact Chris Puls DogScouts@hotmail.com Also email your dog's photo to Chris if you are submitting a form for the Dog Scout badge. Thank-you for your assistance in helping to keep delays to a minimum.

Chris Puls, President

Hike-A-Thon Results

Congratulations and Thank-you! The hike-a-thon donations are in and the results tabulated... It is my honor to announce the winners!

Top fundraising individual: **Connie Romano**
Top large troop (5+ participating members): **Troop 161 of PA**
Top small troop (under 5 members participating): **Troop 119 of TX**

Thanks to the 60 people who participated, \$7420 was raised!! Most participants raised enough to get a patch and 21 raised enough to get a T-shirt. The members of the above teams that raised \$100 or more will get their hike-a-thon T-shirt customized! A big thank-you to Ann Withun, who initiated and ran the program and did the collection of funds and tabulating.

Hike-a-thon funds will be used to benefit DSA and it's members as a whole, in the following ways:

- Paying the website and printing fees so DSA can continue to make the extensive educational information and outreach programs free for public use.
- Creating new merit badges (several were created with last year's funds).
- Defending our organization against copyright infringement.
- Marketing - including the print and social media campaign in The BARK magazine and a booth at the APDT conference.
- Saving for the future (e.g., better website, expansion and improvement of offerings, etc.).
- Funding a small grant program to help assist troops and individuals in promoting DSA and its mission (helping to pay booth fees, providing banners, providing brochures, etc.) This program is now up and running.(future plans).
- Creating an ambassador program to give back to the troops and support them in order for them to better represent the organization

Chris Puls, President



Dog Scouts of America First Finder Patches For Letterboxing and Geocaching

Dog Scouts and my puggle Zora DSA have inspired me to learn many new things. Zora and I were in a car accident in October of 2011. Thankfully, she was fine. Unfortunately, I injured my back. As part of my physical therapy, Zora and I spent the winter months hiking all over Southeastern Connecticut. We took up letterboxing, so that we would have a goal while on our hikes. We had many wonderful adventures and completed both the Letterboxing 1 & 2 badges in a few short months. All of our adventures helped me to complete my physical therapy faster than would have been otherwise possible.



I was inspired to create the DSA First Finders patch to spread Dog Scouts to fellow letterboxers and to honor my best friend who has helped me get through so much.

Each patch is \$2 and profits will be donated to Dog Scouts of America. If you are interested in ordering a DSA First Finder patch, please send a check to:

Kelly Ford, 380 Meridian St Ext, Groton CT 06340

Please send questions to: pugglemomdsa@yahoo.com

Bulk orders are encouraged!

Thank you and Happy Boxing!
Kelly Ford and Zora Puggle DSA CGC



Meet our new DSA Camp Groundskeeper, Joe King

Joe started working for us in May. He started out being hired to fix the bobcat (skid steer), and then he fixed the 8N Tractor, then the John Deere Garden Tractor, then the Plow Truck... Pretty soon he was doing all kinds of odd jobs around camp, and then the board decided to make him the permanent Groundskeeper. He lives in the red house, with his dog, Scrappy Doo, Cockatiel, Elwood, and he has taken in Monkey the Cat and Mango the DSA Kitten. Joe hit it off with Mikey (the horse) and has been training him, despite no previous knowledge of horse training.



Joe is from Garden City, Michigan, but recently moved up north to live with relatives. He has owned his own fish store and raised Koi. He has owned a bar and cooked in the kitchen there. He has had a landscaping business, and worked in towing and repo. He is very skilled as a mechanic, and he can do almost anything. He likes to hunt and fish, and he loves working outdoors. Joe told me that working at the camp is his ideal job, and has always wanted to own or run a campground.

Joe has a teenage daughter, Brianna, who lives downstate with her mom. She thinks the camp and her dad's new job are cool.

Everyone who met Joe at the summer camps thought he was very nice. He's shy at first, but once you get to know him a little, his sense of humor comes out. He's always joking around. He tells me, "I have to... After all, my name is 'Jo-King'."

The attached photo is of Joe relaxing in the front yard of the red cabin, after a hard day's work.

Camp Improvements



Left - Grace Field: Grace Field is now level and grassy and fully enclosed. We have the new gate up with the lovely sign donated by Martha Thierry, as you enter.

Right - New Lure Course Shed: In the place of the ratty old trailer where we stored the equipment for the Lure Coursing Field is now a nice, new 8 x 10 shed (this is new since camp 2--Joe just finished it August 7th).



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

June/July/August 2012

Lottie blew me away at camp this summer. Not only did she pass her Dog Scout test, she also managed to get her badge for Obstacle 1 in Agility. I'm honestly having a hard time reminding myself that her sight is so limited, I find myself wondering if her sight could actually be improving? I have to remember back to when I first met her almost 6 months ago, when she crashed into so many things, and watched the ground all the time, never looking up at me. Now she looks up towards me, but it's because we have worked to get her head up into that position with treats. She still crashes into things when she is unfamiliar with an area. And I'm finding as I work with having her follow my hand, that she is actually working off of scent and not sight. But she sure fools me and everyone else into thinking she can see quite well! Amazing, and a testament to resiliency.

So many things to write about Lottie's progress at camp, and also about my progress in understanding her, there's not enough space here for it all. I'm so excited not only for what she has learned and accomplished, but also for how little effort it took on my part to get her there. I was teaching and managing five other dogs, so I didn't concentrate on her like I would have liked, yet she still did better than I expected.



We worked on some things that will require some more practice. We only managed to log 2 miles towards Lottie's backpacking badge, and that was mostly because I kept so busy with other things. We took more walks but I usually only had a few minutes so I didn't bother with the backpack. She has to wear an Easy-Walk harness to walk, because when she gets excited she charges forward and actually damages her trachea with her violent lunging. She is different from other dogs who I've trained to walk with a loose leash because most of the time she is wonderful and walks nicely, but when my border collies get running and excited, she flips out and charges forward. It's like she can't handle all of that energy generated by the other dogs. If she isn't walking (charging) forward, she will dig furiously. My theory is that she is a herding breed, who has an instinctive urge to make things move, then make things stop. Move, then stop. But she doesn't really have a concept of motion visually, so maybe it just manifests for her as energy, and she has to respond by explosions of energy from herself. I don't know, it's just perplexing and fascinating all at the same time to try and figure out her world.

We briefly touched on swimming, but unfortunately she fell off the dock twice, so she's hesitant to plunge in the pond. We worked on it a bit, and she is comfortable wading out a few feet, we'll do more towards the Puppy Paddler badge next year.

I was concerned about her DSA test, since we didn't make much progress by the end of the first camp in June, mostly because I was very busy with teaching and didn't have much time for any of my dogs. But by early in the week at camp 2, it was obvious she would be able to pass. Her "stay" at a distance of 20 feet was something that we worked on previously in classes and at the first camp without much progress, but it was like she suddenly understood what I wanted. She is very adorable in a "stay" – just lying there, 20 feet away, waiting patiently for me to return. . . . anyway, once she understood this, everything else fell right into place. She's a very smart girl.



LEAVE IT – I touch the top of her nose.

SIT – two taps on her rump

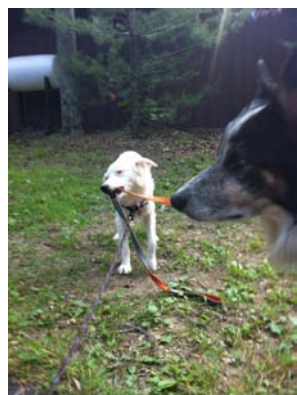
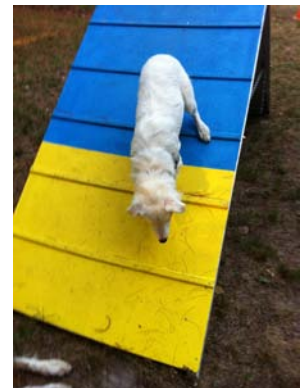
DOWN – two taps on her shoulder blades

STAY – I touch the front of her nose

COME – I touch under her chin, and then use the palm of my hand to guide her. I realized that I probably don't need to guide her with my hand, because I think she is tracking me. She lowers her nose to the ground to follow me.

HEEL – she starts in a "sit" at my side, and then I use my hand at my side as a target as I walk to get her to follow at my side and turn with me. When we stop, she sits.

The really great and amazing thing Lottie did for me that I wasn't expecting so easily was to get her Obstacle One badge. To do this, she had to navigate the A frame, a jump, and a tunnel on the agility course. She had learned to do the small A frame at the June camp, and she didn't forget a thing in the 3 weeks between camps. I took her out to the course, and she went right up the A frame like a pro. So then I tried her on the larger A frame, but again, no problem. Up and over. Even managed to slow her down at the bottom to hit her contact zone. The tunnel was easy. She went right through if I sent Tango through first, but to get her to go through on her own I had Angela's help. Angela held her at one end; I went to the other and enticed her through with cheese.



Just a few times and she had that. Then the jump. Angela and I tried setting her up, telling her to stay, and then I would go to the other side of the jump and "call" her over with a chin touch signal. She would come, but crashed each time into the bar, not even attempting to jump. Then we tried her on a panel jump that had small stabilizing bars in front and behind the jump, on the ground about 6 inches out. She seemed to key off of the bar on the ground, and leaped right over! I added another panel, so that she was jumping about 12", and she had no problem. I need to get some PVC pipe to make a jump like this for home. She is so amazing and brave. I was reminded of her braveness one night I took a shower in the lodge late, and had to navigate back to my camper in blackness. It was kinda unsettling, feeling my way slowly across the yard in darkness, using my hands and feet to feel for obstacles in my way as I walked really slowly and carefully. It struck me that Lottie must have times when she cannot see what is in front of her, and yet she never lets it get to her, she charges forward with interest and joy in everything new that is presented to her. So often she is MY teacher, and not the other way around.



So now Lottie Moon is the first deaf/blind Dog Scout. Next, we'll have to get her to pass her Canine Good Citizen test from the AKC. It is not as difficult as the DSA test, but similar, so it should not be any problem for her. After that, Therapy Dog. I understand that TDI has lifted their ban on deaf dogs, so we can now show them how awesome deaf dogs can be. Photo left: Lottie Moon, first deaf/blind Dog Scout running in the play yard with Luke, the first Picard Shepherd Dog Scout.

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

Thanks from Peggy and Paul Mooney

This is us... in the north woods in St. Helen, Michigan at Dog Scout Camp July 2012. As you can see from the looks on our faces we are had the time of our life. Our days were filled with learning, helping, playing, and love. Everyone was so great! Always willing to inform, demonstrate, give ideas and support each of us. Our dogs did things at camp they have never done before, and did them with ease. Peggy Zweber said, "There's a magic bubble of learning over this place!" and I believe her!



Every day was like Christmas for us. Not knowing what was going to be "unwrapped" that day, and the excitement that it would bring. A week just doesn't seem to be enough time to spend in such a heavenly place. It went by way to fast! Since we have returned home we have been asked, "What was your favorite part?"... It's hard to put into words. We can't pick just one thing, but we have a collection of things that bring a smile to our faces, and a peace to our hearts.

We want to thank the Dog Scouts of America board for allowing us to attend camp this year and a BIG THANK YOU to Peggy Zweber for her generosity so we could attend camp through the Nikki Zweber Memorial Scholarship Fund. We are saving so we can attend again next year and for years to come. We are so grateful to everyone that made this experience at camp so wonderful for us.

Paul, Peggy, Sydney, Samantha, and Cinder Mooney

Troop News
Troop #119, North Texas

Troop 119 has had a very fun and BUSY summer! In June, we had a "split" troop meeting. The newbies had the Dog Scout Class with Mart & Cindy and got to start working on their check-offs for Dog Scout certification. The "already Scouts" group got to participate in an interactive presentation by Cheryl Bales called K9 Mind Stimulation: Enhancing the K9 IQ and Fulfilling/Directing Drives which including lots of training games. We had a great turnout and everyone had a great time! We continued our Dog Scout check-offs into a special meeting in the park in July for those who needed to complete their check-offs. We are happy to report that we have added 7 new Dog Scouts in the last couple of months: Abbey Woodall, Angelina Malone,

Tucker Tucker, Mauser McLean, BeBe Davis, Tucker Jenkins & Lacey Callahan! We are very excited about our new Scouts!



In June, we also participated in our first Dallas Pet Expo! It was a huge event drawing approximately 12, 000 people and a whole lot of pets! We had a booth at the event and talked to lots of attendees about responsible pet ownership. Thanks to troop members Maureen Callahan, John Trodden, Mary Weigandt, Jessica Stout, Lenda Curtis and Misty Wagner, we had lots of homemade Dog Scout cookies to pass out at the event! Jennifer Page and Naiyma, Donna and Jeff Dutkofski and Quinn, Cheryl Woolnough and Audi and Mart and Cindy Ratliff and Alex, all spent time working at the booth throughout the day talking to people about DSA and handing out brochures. Alex, Quinn and Audi did a great job taking donations and putting them in the collection bucket! We had a great day at the Expo and have already heard from several people since the event and had visitors to meetings from Expo as well! Left: Jennifer and Naimya at Dallas Pet Expo



Our July troop meeting was an all-time favorite! Summer Doggie Olympics 2012! We had record-breaking attendance of 64 humans and 49 dogs for the festivities! Three teams completed in summer Olympic games converted into doggie Olympic events! Dogs and humans had a great time and all the participating dogs medaled in either gold, silver or bronze. Right: Chris and Tucker compete in the Olympics equestrian event. Left: Jackie and Abby compete in the Olympics relay hurdles. Below:

Hannah and Cowboy went home with the gold!!



In August, we invited certified nutritionist, Diane DeMore, CN, BS, HomVet, to do a presentation on homeopathic remedies, natural treatments and nutrition. She provided lots of helpful information and most importantly introduced another way to look at treatment for our canine companions. In addition to our regular troop meetings, Troop 119 participated in a lot of community service activities over the summer. We had 12 members participate in the Troop Poop Challenge of collecting at least 50 piles of stray poop from area parks. Thanks to Donna Dutkofski and Quinn, Cheryl Bales and Tanner, Lisa Hamilton and Marla, Mary Weigandt and Duncan, Leslie James and Maddy, Nancy Strack and Ty, MarSue Freeman and Cayleigh, Tammy Malone and Angelina, Nita Lanter and Sage, Amy Bowman and Scout and Mart and Cindy Ratliff and Alex and Stevie Ray for completing the challenge! Far right photat: Diane does muscle testing on Tammy and Angelina.



In July and August, troop dogs participated in four separate sessions of the Arlington Youth Grooming Academy presented by the Animal Care and Control of the city of Arlington, TX. Kids sign up to learn more about responsible dog ownership and how to properly take care of a dog. Each session included an hour of classroom time; then, an hour of hands on time grooming the dogs.

Afterwards, the kids were presented with graduation certificates. The dogs enjoyed the attention and the kids enjoyed a fun learning experience! Thanks to the dogs who willingly participated: Holly Crone, Deacon Waits, Daisy Strack, Rocky

and Halo Urban, Duncan Weigandt, Audi Woolnough, Simon and Daisy Ross, Martini and Phizz Carter-Bober and Jerzee Stout (and their humans who chauffeured them there!) Photo left: Kids check Martini for a microchip. Photo center above: Vickie demonstrates dremel with Phizz.

In July, troop member, Amy Bowman, led her school, Primrose School of Bedford, to do a month-long pet food drive on behalf of the troop for one of our favorite charitable groups, Meals On Wheels for Pets, to help provide much needed pet food for the clients of Meals On Wheels of Tarrant County. The kids did a great job collecting food and invited Cindy and Stevie Ray to the school to do a presentation before loading up all the food to go to Meals On Wheels. This has been an ongoing need that our troop has been happy to help with. Additionally, troop members Amanda Gray and now Becky





Paxson have helped by working at the MOW warehouse one morning a week repackaging large bags of pet food and organizing it for the week's deliveries.

We continue our community service project of providing North Texas fire departments with life-saving animal oxygen masks. We have outfitted over 25 cities' fire departments with the kits. Cheryl Bales and Tanner presented kits to the Plano Fire Department in July and ended up with a very nice write-up about it in the local paper. Photo left: Cheryl and Tanny deliver oxygen mask kits to the Plano Fire Department.

In August several members helped support a puppy in need. Bark



Avenue Bakery hosted a dog wash fundraiser for an 8-month old lab puppy who desperately needed surgery for a torn ACL. She had tried conservative treatment but the knee was reinjured and required surgery. The owner is a very responsible owner but a young college student who couldn't get credit to cover the surgery and was working two jobs and selling personal items to try to fund it. The dog wash raised over \$1,300 to cover the remaining funds needed for surgery! Koda, the lab, will have her surgery Aug. 17 thanks to a very generous dog community. Photo right: Valerie bathing Alex at the Bark Avenue dog wash fundraiser.

Troop 119 would also like to thank Bark Avenue Bakery's owners (and new troop members!) Tammy Malone and John Doak for committing to donate on an ongoing basis 3% of sales from all troop members back to Dog Scouts of America! Thanks so much, Tammy and John!

Mart and Cindy Ratliff, Troop 119, North Texas

Troop #147 – Alabama



Troop 147/Alabama had a good month in June. We went to Tallassee to aid the Elmore County Humane Society with their supply drive and the next day took our furry kids to the Biscuits Baseball game for a bit of fun outdoors. The article we had been interviewed for by personnel from the Montgomery Advertiser has been good for us as some have begun to recognize our furry companions from their Dog Scout uniforms. This gives us more opportunities to talk with others about Dog Scouts. We were recently interviewed by Trinity Broadcasting TV which will be airing in the month of July. Photo to the left is Barbara with Sage



and to the right is Jamie with Apollo all at Walmart for supply drive. The other photo to the right is of Karen and Trevor at Walmart. Trevor sometimes likes to pull Karen, has not learned that lesson well yet, and since we were right where cars were coming through she put a pulling thing on his nose to keep that from happening. I did check to see about the fit and she did good on that. **Barbara Ferry**

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



Downeast Dog Scouts Troop Summer Activities - The Downeast Dog Scouts enjoyed a walk at Bubble Pond and a summer picnic at Seawall Picnic area in Acadia National Park. Troop dogs are working on Letterboxing and K-9 Fitness badges. Photo left - Bubble Pond Walk - Acadia National Park

Volunteer Recognition Events - Troop members and their dogs were recognized for their volunteer



work at two events this summer. The Mount Desert Island Hospital recognized Pam Bourque with Jillian and Denise Houseknecht with Cirra for visiting residents at Birch Bay Retirement Village in Bar Harbor, Maine. Robyn Douglas, Denise Houseknecht and Cirra attended the Northeast Harbor Library Summer Cocktail Party. This was a wonderful opportunity for many of the summer residents to meet Cirra and learn more about the Children Reading to Cirra Program at the library. Photo right: Mount Desert Island Hospital Volunteer Recognition Event - Denise Houseknecht, Pam Bourque, Cirra and Jillian.

Therapy Visits and Children Reading to Dogs - Pam Bourque with Jillian and Denise Houseknecht with Cirra continue to brighten the days of the residents at Birch Bay Retirement Village. This summer Pier Carros and Gracie were part of the Summer Reading Program at the Brookville Library on Thursday afternoons. Robyn Douglas and Cirra have been at the Northeast Harbor Library on Thursday mornings. On Tuesday afternoons they have been at Camp Beech Cliff for the last session of the day when campers choose their activity. Pier and Gracie were able to join the fun one Tuesday afternoon. The troop donated several nature and dog related books including "Dog Scouts of America (Dog Heroes)" to the new library at Camp Beech Cliff. Photo left: Dog Scouts Cirra and Gracie - Camp Beech Cliff - Mount Desert, Maine..



Photo left: Children Reading To Cirra - Robyn Douglas and Cirra - Camp Beech Cliff - Mount Desert, Maine

Photo right: Pier Carros, Gracie and Camp Beech Cliff Readers - Camp Beech Cliff - Mount Desert, Maine.

Downeast Dog Scouts Celebrate Five Years: Education - Service - Fun - Love

Since September 2007 the Downeast Dog Scouts, Troop 159 of the Dog Scouts of America, have served the Hancock County community through numerous projects and educational events. Troop members work locally to fulfill the Dog Scouts of America mission - to improve the lives of dogs, their owners, and society through humane education, positive training, and community involvement. The Downeast Dog Scouts come together on a regular basis to learn new things, socialize, and help in the community with their dogs.

Commitment to community and education is the cornerstone of the troop. In 2008 and 2009 Troop 159 co-sponsored the fun and educational Canine Carnival event with the Coastal Crescent Kennel Club. In 2010, the innovative Island Dog Creative Writing Project was made possible with a Hattie A. and Freddie C. Lynam Trust grant. Young readers and writers in island

schools and libraries expressed their creativity and imagination creating their own stories inspired by the picture book "Island Dog". In 2011, Troop 159 donated full sets of the positive and fun "Take a Bow Wow" dog training DVDs to libraries so that training resources would be readily available to the community. Most recently in 2012 the Downeast Dog Scouts sponsored Idita-Read projects at Blue Hill Library and the Tremont School. The Idita-Read is an incentive reading project for school age readers mirroring Alaska's biggest annual sled dog race. The Idita-Readers relied on reading minutes to travel the distance along the Iditarod trail from Anchorage to Nome. One minute of reading equaled one mile on the Iditarod trail. The project was a huge success, encouraging over 122,000 minutes of reading!

Health and safety education projects have been a focus of the Scouts as well. During the summer of 2009, the Scouts delivered 26 sets of Pet Recovery Oxygen Masks to fire and rescue units across Hancock County that needed them. In 2010, to aid in the safety of rescue efforts, the Downeast Dog Scouts helped purchase lithium batteries for radios of the Hancock County members of the Maine Search and Rescue Dogs organization. The Downeast Dog Scouts have consistently offered information about the prevention of dog bites at informational booth events, programs and educational appearances. Scout meeting presentations have included canine vaccination and nutrition, disaster preparedness for pets, travel safety, canine rehabilitation, and service dog training programs.

Troop dogs have earned Carriage Road Hiking Certificates, Dog Scout titles, Pack Dog and Pack Dog Excellent titles, as well as Dog Scouts of America Badges for Letterboxing, Community Service, Cleanup, Therapy Dog, Backpacking, and Temperament Test. Several of the troop dogs are also therapy dogs who visit patients in hospitals and residents in retirement communities. Six dogs are Reading Education Assistance Dogs who volunteer to listen to young readers in Children Reading to Dogs Programs at libraries and schools in Hancock County. Current canine members include the Italian Greyhounds, Bri and Gracie; Labrador Retrievers, Rissa, Timber and Jillian; Golden Retrievers, Raya and Rebel; Alaskan Malamute, Bruno and Great Pyrenees, Cirra. The dogs have enjoyed hiking, swimming, boating, games, rally obedience, holiday parades, walkathons, picnics, Carriage Road walks and lunches on the lawn at Jordan Pond House. Photo left - Summer Picnic at Seawall - Acadia National Park Summer Picnic at Seawall - Acadia National Park



The Downeast Dog Scouts are a small dedicated troop that has earned the Dog Scouts of America's "Top Dog" Troop award from 2008 to 2011 in recognition of the troop's outstanding commitment to community service and education. Troop members contributed over 3,000 hours of community service over five years. For the past four years, the troop has earned the President's Volunteer Service Award at the Silver and Gold levels. In addition, individual troop members have received Bronze and Silver President's Volunteer Service Awards. The Dog Scouts of America also awarded the 2007 "Good Scout" Award to Robyn Douglas, Troop Leader of the Downeast Dog Scouts. The "Good Scout" Award is given annually to people who help promote humane education on a regular and ongoing basis. Robyn Douglas became a Dog Scouts of America Scoutmaster in 2009, which enabling her to evaluate dogs for their Dog Scout title.

The Downeast Dog Scouts became a 501c3 non-profit subgroup of the Dog Scouts of America organization in 2008. The Scouts are grateful for the fantastic support from the Hancock County community that has made troop activities, special projects and fundraisers so successful. With this support, the Downeast Dog Scouts continue to work toward a community where everyone takes responsibility for socializing, training,

containing, and caring for their dogs. For information about the Downeast Dog Scouts contact Robyn Douglas at 207-266-5807 or downeastdogscouts@yahoo.com.

The Dog Scouts of America is a national non-profit organization dedicated to educating people about responsible dog ownership, the important role of the human/canine bond and to challenge people and dogs to learn how to better serve each other. Visit the Dog Scouts of America website at www.dogscouts.org for a host of information for you and your dog!

Robyn Douglas, Downeast Dog Scouts Troop 159

Troop 177 – Indianapolis, Indiana

Troop 177 wrapped up numerous hikes in May as part of the DSA fundraiser "Hike Across America". Anita Dudley raised \$220.00 and Robyn Porter raised \$60.75. Congratulations to Anita for such a successful fundraising effort!

June was a big month! Anita led a hike for our June regular meeting, then, suddenly, it was time for DSA June camp. Anita Dudley and Sophie, Peggy Kraus and Casey, Robyn Porter and Hallie along with Robyn's mother, Glenda Lavy and her dog, Button, as well as Robyn's niece, Kaitlyn, met at St. Ignas the weekend before June DSA camp began. Kaitlyn is the newest Troop #177 member. The group leased a large carriage for the morning that accommodated 5 passengers and 4 dogs. Yes, the dogs loved riding in the carriage to view points of interest along the upper elevations of Mackinac Island. After lunch at a dog friendly restaurant, the group participated in the Lilac Festival Pony and Dog parade. Many people gather to see the dogs and ponies in the parade, and all are judged on costumes. Although our dogs were dressed in their DSA vests and not "War of 1812" parade theme costumes, the judges were interested to learn about DSA and the ongoing community service work our



dog
s
perf
orm.
Wh
at a
surp
rise
whe
n
we
wer
e
pres

ented with "The Humanitarian Award"! In addition to the honor, the award included a large shopping bag filled with fudge from various island shops. Every 3rd storefront on Mackinac is a fudge shop, and we were happy to accept fudge and gourmet dog biscuits! Anita and Sophie, Kaitlyn, and Robyn and Hallie went on the 8 mile ride around the island that afternoon. Anita brought her bicycle and Kaitlyn and Robyn rented bicycles. The ride was at a slow pace to accommodate the dogs and sightseeing along the shoreline. The group stopped often and took lots of photos. The dogs did well on their 8 mile trip and Kaitlyn was pleased to earn the patch that says "I biked around Mackinac Island". It's now stitched on the side of her Mackinac hat! Photo above left: Mackinac Carriage Ride. Photo above right: Anita Dudley and Sophie, Peggy Kraus and Casey, Kaitlyn Lavy and Hallie with Mackinac Lilac Festival Award and "Lots of Fudge"!

Once the DSA June camp began, the DSA camp schedule kept everyone busy all day every day. The Indianapolis team represented Troop #177 well during the week. Anita and Sophie, dressed as a stern nun and schoolgirl in school uniform won the costume contest! All Troop #177 members participated in the costume contest. Kaitlyn, age 8, and Hallie earned the Junior DSA for 8 - 12 year old children. Kaitlyn and Hallie tied for 1st in the "Minute to Win It" competition but lost out in the run-off. Hallie and Robyn placed 3rd in the Novice IMPROV competition. Peggy and Casey won the dance portion of talent night! All four participated in the Thursday night Talent Show. At the awards ceremony Kaitlyn, along with her new friends Olivia and Lilly received the Mark G Echterling award for "outstanding commitment to helping others, in the same way Mark always gave of himself". Anita and Sophie earned Agility I, Peggy and Casey earned Freestyle and Robyn and Hallie earned Wilderness Search and Rescue, Tricks and Naked Dog merit badges. Anita, Peggy and Robyn were awarded our 3rd year pins. Whew, what a busy and fun week!

One of the most exciting parts of camp for Robyn this year was the fundraiser auction. Campers donate items for the fundraiser auction, and Robyn donated a scrapbook with completed pages that reflect a week at camp. The scrapbook was all ready for the winning bidder's photos. When the scrapbook came up at auction, the bidding was fierce! It was fun watching the price go up and up! Finally, it went for \$100! But wait, it's not over. There was a second, similar but unique, scrapbook hidden under the table. The winner had their choice of scrapbook album and the 2nd highest bidder had the option on the remaining scrapbook. Right there \$200 raised for DSA. Think of it, in the last 2 months our little troop raised \$480.75 for DSA!

For our July meeting Peggy Kraus taught a session on beginning Freestyle dance steps. Peggy has attended the beginner and advanced dance camp taught by Gloria Voss in Michigan and recently achieved the Freestyle merit badge. The group of troop members had fun sharing training techniques and learning from Peggy.

Our August troop meeting was a hike and letterboxing in Holliday Park in Indianapolis. Yes, it's spelled with two Ls and the park is named after the family who donated the land. Photos below from left to right: Boomer with his new vest at Holliday Park; Gail Wiseman and Zipper and Peggy Kraus and Casey in the Holliday Park garden; Troop #177 and guests on Holliday Park staircase. After months of sweltering temperatures and drought conditions, the temps



were rather cool. A large group

(for our meetings) assembled including Abbey Laken and Jacks, Anita Dudley and Sophie, Peggy Kraus and Casey, Candy Shoaf and Boomer and Robyn Porter and Hallie. Boomer was sporting a new hiking vest and we welcomed four visitors who expressed interest in DSA!

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

Troop 188 - Connecticut and Rhode Island

It has been a busy couple of months for Troop 188! We've had several special events, welcomed new members, done some fundraising, planned future events and had our regular meetings to boot.



The Second Annual Canine Wellness Fair was one of our two spring fundraisers. The Wellness Fair had several booths highlighting different aspects of pet health including grooming, positive training, and responsible pet parenting. Also featured at the fair was a vaccination clinic, (left members of the public wait for vaccinations) and a Basket Bonanza along with the chance to meet Luke Robinson, founder of 2 Million Dogs, an organization raising money to fund comparative oncology studies that hopefully will lead to a cure for cancer in both people and pets. Each Wellness Fair attendee received a welcome bag with



coupons, samples, informational brochures, dog treats and clean up bags. The Basket Bonanza gave fairgoers a chance to win some great baskets. Chair of the Basket Bonanza, Mary, (pictured to the right with right hand man Carl) had a great time and was very excited by the community support for this special part of the Wellness Fair.



Our annual clothing drive was a success as well. We collected 97 bags of clothing and toys and earned over \$300. Pirate and Ella (Pictured left) made sure that the clothes were sorted and bagged to ensure a successful event.

One of our troop members, Jen Pictou and her dog Rosco, a standard schnauzer, participated in the Bangor Brewer Parade in Bangor, Maine as part of the 4th of July celebration there. Jen and Roscoe were marching with the Bangor Museum and History



Center. Jen was in civil war era dress and Rosco, her soldier escort had "haversack," keppie cap, bed roll, canteen, and bandana. He was the hit of the parade! The route was 2 miles long and approx 30,000 people viewed it. Rosco practiced for the parade by working on his backpacking badge. As is our custom during the summer we held our July and August meetings outdoors. This summer has been very hot in Connecticut and both meeting days were very humid. We met at a local dog friendly lake, Highland Lake in Ledyard CT. At the July meeting we had fun showing off new tricks that several troop members has worked on after the Tricks Badge presentation at the June meeting. Then we all adjourned to the water to cool off. Some of



the new dogs had never been near the water. Troop members who had worked with their dogs in past summers helped those who were new to playing in the water. Monster the Greyhound (pictured left) got



his feet wet for the first time! During our August meeting we had an end of summer barbecue with more fun in the water, this time with kayaks! 3 of our members brought kayaks to let the dogs check them out. Thanks to Anita, Beth, and Carl. We used the time we had at the lake to practice skills for Puppy Paddler, Beach Buddies, Water Safety, Boating, and Kayaking badges. Also during the meeting we discussed plans for our Fall activities... it's going to be a busy fall.

Troop 188 would like to Congratulate Kelly Ford and the members of the newest Dog Scout Troop in our area, Troop #219. We wish them well in all their endeavors and are excited to see how the Dog Scout Way is spreading in our region.

Respectfully submitted, **Julianne Grove / Troop 188**

Troop 189

Saturday, August 11, Dog Scout Troop 189 participated in a Stroll Against Hunger held at Wingfield Pines. Troop members brought bags of food and toured the Acid Mine Drainage Abatement system at Wingfield Pines. We learned about several invasive species of plants. While we were listening to the tour, Loren Schaffer reached down and picked up a four leaf clover! She gave it to another tour participant who said she needed a little luck. Ed Hanke helped us identify poison ivy along the path so that we could all steer clear of it.

Later that same day, Doree Donovan and Faith joined Jo Wilkens, Dan Simon and Maxi for geocaching and backpacking with friends from the MaxiNation meetup group. We had a great time even though we were rained on and no one had rain gear. Faith was well protected from the burrs in her purple lycra suit. Faith and Doree located an old Clorox bottle (cache in trash out) and one aluminum can toward their Clean Up America I badge. Doree wore a pedometer and logged 11741 steps by participating in both activities. **Doree Donovan, Troop 189**



Photos left to right: Faith covered with burrs; Loren and Chloe, Faith, Ed and Sarah; Maxi, Faith and Penny have fun geocaching; poison ivy at Wingfield Pines.

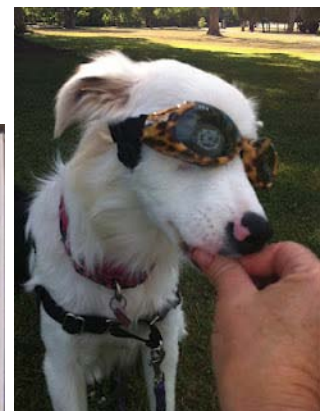


Left: Wetlands at Wingfield Pines

Troop 207, The Columbus Dog Scouts



Hello everyone!! This has been one hot summer so far. The Columbus Dog Scouts have had a good time though! We had several members attend Dog Scout Camp in both June and July. In fact, one of our members, Allison Holloway, had the honor of having the first ever blind/deaf Dog Scout Graduate! Congratulations to Miss Lottie Moon and Allison on this fantastic accomplishment.



In July, unfortunately the hottest day of the summer (it reached 104⁰ that afternoon) we held a Fourth of July Picnic. We had grand plans to play doggie baseball and hike the trails at the park. Instead, we all holed up in the shelter house with a couple of fans and swimming pools and relaxed. One of our Troop Members, Gary Hughes, braved the heat and took on the role of grill master so that we could still enjoy our hamburgers, hot dogs and veggie dogs! The dogs also got to partake in some delicious dog ice cream treats courtesy of Miss Gwen's impending Birthday.

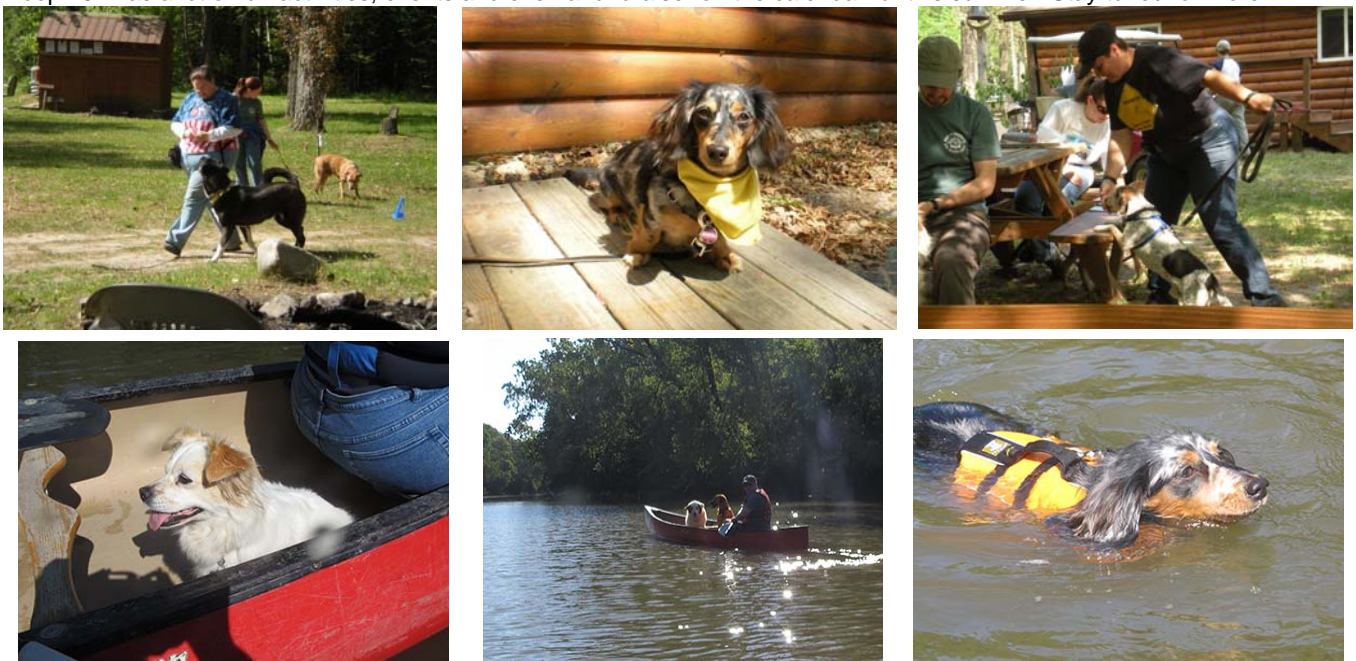


In May we held the first session of our four class series of Dog Scouts Preparation Classes and welcomed **nine** new members to our Troop! We had a huge amount of interest generated because we were featured in the Columbus Dispatch when the National Article about the DSA ran earlier this month.

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

Our Troop Leader, Andrea and 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!

Troop 207 has a lot of fun activities, events and even a fundraiser on the calendar for this summer! Stay tuned for more...



~Andrea Mykrantz, Troop Leader

Troop 213/Colorado

Our Troop continues to grow.
A huge welcome to our new members Julie Small and Jil Raczkowski (not shown).



Julie Small with Seven Montilla-Goad

At our June Meeting, we worked on Shaping, to work toward earning our Obedience – All Dog Band Badge.



Left to Right: Jessica and Bain, Julie M. and Seven



Left to Right: Laura and Meisha: Chelsea and Pirate

Jerrold Fassler's awesome dogs Ghost and Layla working toward various badges: Dock diving, backbacking, frisbee etc.



Way to catch good air, dogs!

Todd Goad and Julie Montilla-Goad attended Dog Scout Camp for the first time this July with their Berners Ace and Seven. The morning they left for camp, Ace took and passed a Temperament Test.

Seven earned her Merit Badge at DS camp and became Troop 213's youngest Dog Scout!

Seven had just passed her CGC on June 9, 2012 at only 10 months old.



Seven

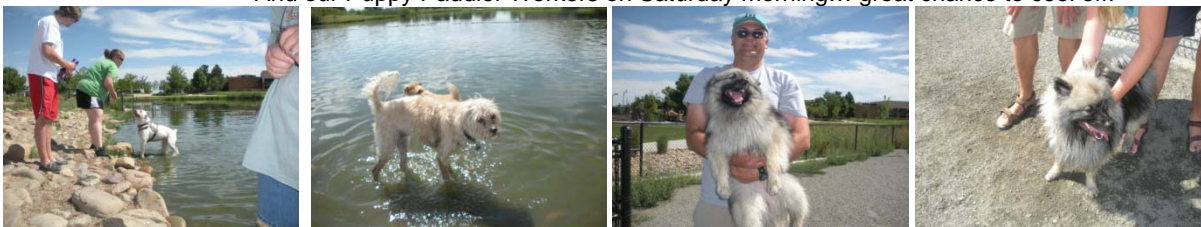


L to R: Julie and Seven cleaning up poop for the DS Merit Badge, Ace working on his SAR Badge
While at Dog Scout Camp Ace and Seven each earned 3 Badges. Not bad for their rookie year! Fun was had by all!
For July's Meeting we had a split meeting. For those that didn't have their Dog Scout Merit Badge we met and worked/taped for skills needed for the merit badge.



From L to R: Alyna and Isabelle, Marnie and Suki, and Marnie and Suki!
Awesome work ladies!

And our Puppy Paddler Workers on Saturday morning... great chance to cool off!



From L to R: Jessica and Bain, Hailey and Buffy, Jarrett Roberts and his 2 beautiful pups!
Everybody has a job!



Along with giving swim lessons to Hailey and Buffy, Dad is designated shade tree!

OUR DOG SCOUTS IN THE NEWS!

Our very own Dog Scout Ace has won 5th place in the public voting portion of the Paw-parazzi Pet Photo Contest! This contest supports the homeless pets at the Dumb Friends League. As the 5th place winner, his entry photo will be featured on the inside cover of the 2013 Dumb Friends League Calendar.



Ace's 5th Place Winning Entry Picture
Team "The Flying Aces" Ace and Isabelle tied for 1st Place in Agility League at the Zoom Room.



"The Flying Aces"

Badges earned:

Ace Montilla-Goad: Puppy Paddler, Clean Up America I, Clean Up America II, Backpacking, Search and Rescue, Rally I, Temperament Test

Seven Montilla- Goad: DS Merit Badge, Puppy Paddler, Backpacking, Clean Up America I, Clean Up America II
Happy Birthday!!



Misha turned 6 years old on July 11, 2013
Ace turned 3 and Seven turned 1 year old on July 13, 2013

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

Troop 217 – Southeast Michigan

Despite the summer's heat wave, Troop 217 has been managing to stay busy over the past few months.

On June 23rd, Julie Benson led a troop letterboxing day at Proud Lake State Recreation Area. Five members were in attendance, and the group successfully found four letterboxes in two hours. A few first time letterboxers were among those that attended which made for not only a fun afternoon out in this beautiful park but also an educational one.



Sassy at the letterboxing hike.

Eight members of our troop made the trip to Dog Scout Camp for the July camp this year. Julie and Shelby, Michelle and Sassy, Elizabeth and Emma, Martha and Maia, Catherine and Bob with Leela and Liberty, and Angela and Lowell with Jade, Tristan, Django, Maebe and Cadence all enjoyed a week of visiting with friends, learning new things, and trying fun activities with the dogs. In addition to the usual camp activities, dogs had the opportunity to try search and rescue, scent detection, carting, lure coursing, water racing, and freestyle. The Troop 217 "Zombie Drill Team" also performed their "Thriller" routine at the camp talent show, and Shelby, Maia, Emma, and Sassy all earned the Drill Team badge as a result. All had a good time and agreed it was one of the best camps ever.



Tristan and Lowell at Camp



Claudette helps Cadence and Angela learn scent detection.

On July 28th, we held our 2nd annual troop potluck picnic at Kensington Metro Park. Twelve members were in attendance as everyone enjoyed an assortment of sandwiches, salads, and delicious desserts. After dinner we played some games with our dogs with the winners being Samantha Winslow w/Ella and Pecas at the heeling game and Elizabeth Nadjuch w/Emma at the treat hunt game. Thanks to Melissa Perez's niece, Ashley, we ended the evening with some craft making, making tug toys to sell at the Ann Arbor Pet Fest to help cover costs of planning this year's all troop retreat in late October.



Mary and Izzy, and Elizabeth and Emma having fun at the picnic.



Liberty and Catherine playing the treat search game.

On August 3rd-4th, our troop took its second annual camping trip, this time to Sleepy Hollow State Park in Laingsburg, Michigan. Teresa and Joe, Samantha and Ella and Pecas, Julie and Shelby, and Angela and Lowell and their five dog scouts all attended the outing. We all enjoyed one of Lowell's famous campfires on Friday evening. On Saturday morning, we took a couple mile hike on some of the park's trails, then later took the dogs for a quick swim in Lake Ovid. It was a relaxing weekend, and all the dogs and people seemed to have a great time.



Pecas relaxing at the campsite.



Cooling off in Lake Ovid (L to R: Teresa, Julie, Shelby, Joe, Angela, Cadence)

On August 11-12, we staffed a table at the Ann Arbor Pet Fest, a large annual event which brings in many pet lovers to see animal demonstrations, learn about various pet-related organizations, and look for their new best friend among a number of rescue groups. We were able to spread the word about Dog Scouts to many new people, and hopefully recruited a few new members.



Shelby at the Ann Arbor Pet Fest.



Lowell and Maebe greet the public.



Ashley working the booth.

We continue to stay busy planning for the upcoming DSA Troop Retreat in St. Helen, Michigan this October. This year's theme is "K9 Zombie Detection Team Training Academy" and we have had such a great response that we are now declaring the event filled and are accepting names for a waitlist.

Congratulations to our members for the following badges and titles earned:

- Julie and Shelby: Clean-Up America 1, Biking, Freestyle, Drill Team, Geocaching 2, Pack Dog title
- Angela and Cadence: Pet Care, Agility 2, Search and Rescue
- Lowell and Tristan: Freestyle
- Lowell and Maebe: Lure Coursing, Search and Rescue, Pack Dog Excellent title
- Elizabeth and Emma: Drill Team, Water Safety, Pet Care, Search & Rescue, Naked Dog
- Michelle and Sassy: Drill Team, Water Racing, Carting, Pet Care, Community Service, Search & Rescue
- Martha and Maia: Drill Team, Water Racing, Pet Care

On a final note, our troop was saddened to lose one of our human members, Roberta Chapman, who passed away on July 18. Roberta joined our troop shortly after its formation in the spring of 2011, and was an active member with her husband, John, and her two dog scouts, Gypsy and Sprite. Roberta often joined us on our agility days and our troop hikes. As avid geocachers, she and John led our geocaching outing last fall and were always happy to help members find or place geocaches as they worked on their badges. In addition to her involvement with Dog Scouts, Roberta owned a successful pet-sitting business and was actively involved as a volunteer for local animal shelters and rescue organizations. She will be very much missed by all who knew her.

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

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

In Loving Memory

On Wednesday, July 18th, Troop 217 lost a dear friend and troop member, Roberta Chapman. Roberta was a troop member of 217, with her husband John and their two dogs Sprite and Gypsy, for the past year and a half and was one of our most enthusiastic members. Sprite and Gypsy were our troop's first official "new" Dog Scouts. Active geocachers, with over 800 finds, I always looked to Roberta and John to "lead" our geocaching troop outings. Our troop will be planning a special Geocaching Day sometime this fall, as this was Roberta's favorite time to geocache, in order to plant a geocache in loving memory of Roberta.

She will be greatly missed by all that had the privilege of knowing her and the honor of being able to call her a friend.

Julie Benson, Troop 217 Leader

Dog Scout Troop 219
South Eastern Connecticut and Rhode Island

Check Us Out: www.facebook.com/DogScoutTroop219

Email: DSA.Troop219@yahoo.com

If you are in our area, send me a message! I look forward to hearing from you.

Kelly Ford and Zora Puggie DSA CGC
Dog Scout Troop 219 Leader

DSA Evaluator for Puppy Paddler, Art of Shaping, Backpacking, Obstacle 1, 2 & 3

Attitude of Gratitude

Thanks to Fitz Simon who made a generous donation to DSA after receiving one of Quin Dutkofski's artwork creations. She was so moved by the gift that she made a donation to DSA.

Thanks to Chris Puls, who donated a new set of pots and pans to the DSA Michigan Camp.

Thanks to Gloria Voss, who made a generous donation to DSA from the proceeds of her sales at "Gloria's Emporium" at camps one and two.

Thanks to Elizabeth Najdich, who developed the "Emma Award" (for most improved campers) and donated the prize money that goes to the winners.

Thanks to Peggy Zweber for developing the "Nikki Zweber Memorial Scholarship," which has enabled some pretty cool new folks to come to Dog Scout Camp.

Lonnie Olson wants to thank everyone who helped out at the summer camps this year. This includes our regular paid staff, and also to some helpful campers, who are too numerous to mention. Thanks to Anita Dudley for helping with the tab checkouts on Friday night at camp one. Thanks also to Barbara Whiting, who helped categorize and tabulate the sales and totals for our auction for camp one.

Thanks to Troop 217 for their donation in memory of Roberta, one of their troop members.



Rainbow Bridge
Leelo Ouillette

Leeloo was born 11/6/04 and died 5/6/12. She was our beloved companion at a time when she was sorely needed. She was taken too soon. The name Leeloo came from the main character in the movie, "The Fifth Element". If you



watch it, you will see that it is a very special name with great meaning.

Maggie Ouillette

In Closing . . . If I Didn't Have a Dog or Cat

IF I Didn't Have A Dog or Cat

- I could walk barefoot around the yard in safety.
- My house could be carpeted instead of tiled and laminated.
- All flat surfaces, clothing, furniture, and cars would be hair-free.
- When the doorbell rings, my home wouldn't sound like a kennel plus I could get to the door without wading through all the fuzzy bodies who beat me there.
- I could sit on the couch and my bed any way I wanted, without having to take into consideration how much space several fur bodies need to get comfortable.
- I would have enough money, and no guilt, to go on a real vacation.
- I would not be on a first-name basis with 6 veterinarians, as I put their yet unborn grandkids through college.
- The most used words in my vocabulary would not be: "out""sit""down" "come" "no" "stay" and "leave it ALONE."
- My house would not be cordoned off into zones with baby gates and makeshift barriers.
- I would not talk 'baby talk'. 'Eat your din din'. 'Yummy Yummy for theummy'. "Where's mama's babies?"..lol
- My house would not look like a day care center, with toys everywhere- especially when I break out the bottle of catnip.
- My pockets would not contain things like poop bags, treats and an extra leash.
- I would no longer have to spell the words B-A-L-L, W-A-L-K, T-R-E-A-T, O-U-T, G-O, R-I-D-E, S-U-P-P-E-R, AND C-O-O-K-I-E.
- I would not have as many leaves INSIDE my house as outside.
- I would not look strangely at people who think having ONE dog/cat ties them down too much.
- I'd look forward to spring and the rainy season instead of dreading 'mud' season.
- I would not have to answer the question: 'Why do you have so many animals?' from people who will never know the joy of being loved unconditionally by the closest thing to an angel they will ever encounter.
- How EMPTY my life would be!!!