



The Dog Scout Scoop

(little bits of news we've picked up)

March/April 2013

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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



The DSA Spring Outing will take place on the weekend of May 18-19, 2013 at the Dog Scout Camp in Saint Helen, Michigan. We will have a spring egg hunt, some hikes and the usual spring fun. Please contact Lonnie Olson (989)389-2000 (dogscoutcamp@gmail.com) if you plan to attend. This is free for members. Regular lodging rates apply.



Following the Spring retreat is the Spring Clean-UP week. This will take place on Monday through Thursday, May 20th through 23rd. You can attend as many or as few days as you like. If you help with the work around camp, your lodging is free! Reservations will be taken on a first-come, first served basis. Call Lonnie (989) 389-2000 or email dogscoutcamp@gmail.com to reserve your spot. Following the spring clean-up is the Leadership retreat. If you can get the time off, you could spend a few days at both (or all three). I hope to see you there! We have a lot of new projects going on at camp that we'll be needing help with.

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Please Respect Newsletter Deadlines!!!

Newsletter Submission – April 15th, 2013 for May/June 2013 Issue. Articles received after that date will go into the July/August 2013 issue. Please respect the deadlines. **Peggy Zweber, Editor**

DSA website is all new and improved!! Check it out! www.DogScouts.org

Is Your Membership Expired? If you don't know your DSA membership expiration date, go to: <http://dogscouts.org/join-dsa/> Under "Is Your Membership Current?" you can click on by: name, state or troop to find your membership status.

Don't Forget Our On-Line Store – Go To Our Website and Just "Click" on Store to Order!!!

Message from the President

DSA has recently seen an increase in the number of people who think the Dog Scouts of America concept is so wonderful, that they start their own version! Even a person who was recently on the DSA Board of Directors has said he's been working for the past year on thoughts and ideas that copy the DSA concept and is now trying to start his OWN national and international organization.

DSA is the original (founded in 1995), the biggest and the best 501c3 non-profit scouting organization for dogs and their people on the planet. We have some exciting new features and programs being developed, but I thought it would be good to provide a reminder of just what we CURRENTLY provide to people and their dogs worldwide.

Most unique and recognizable to Dog Scouts of America are the high quality and detailed badges- currently **NINETY FIVE different badges** that you and your dog can work on together! And more are added on a regular basis as new sports and activities are developed. Anyone in the world can earn badges on their dog through video submissions, even if you don't have a certified evaluator in your area. Ninety-five different badges provides a LOT of learning opportunity and all the information about how to train and achieve those badges is available for FREE on the DogScouts.org website: <http://dogscouts.org/badges/> That amount of training information alone should be worth the low price of membership to help keep it available on the internet.

But there is SO much more that DSA offers!

There are **titles that you can earn on your dog** through the Competitions and Titling program for activities like Backpacking, Treibball, IMPROV Obedience, Draft Dog, and Scent Detection. Your dog does not have to be a Dog Scout to participate in these titling activities, but you do need to register your dog with DSA by getting a CRN (Competition Registration Number) which is a one time fee and allows your dog to compete in any DSA sanctioned event. Your DSA membership helps reduce the CRN fee. You can learn more about that program here: <http://dogscouts.org/competitions-titling/>

The website is JAM PACKED with **an amazing amount of free training information** and videos that are not directly badge related. Everything from puppy raising to problem solving to activities for bored dogs can be found on the website to help you and your dog be the best you can be. Take some time to browse the many helpful topics and you will likely be inspired to work with your dog on something new! The entry point to pages and pages of free training information is found here: <http://dogscouts.org/training/>

The DSA Yahoo Group is open to anyone, worldwide, that is interested in learning more about dogs and dog related activities. It's an online community of people who love dogs as much as you do! Feel free to join in the conversations, ask questions or just "lurk" and soak up the knowledge that is shared. Simply click on the "join this group" button at: http://pets.groups.yahoo.com/group/DSA_TalkList/

DSA is international with 44 active Dog Scout Troops around the US as well as in Canada and Puerto Rico! You can check to see if there is a troop near you at this link: <http://dogscouts.org/find-a-troop/> Click on your state under the map to get to the contact information for a troop near you! If you are interested in starting a troop in your area, we have a very helpful guidebook that will help you through that process. The guidebook and additional information can be found here: <http://dogscouts.org/find-a-troop/start-troop/> And once a person has a troop up and running, he or she can find support through the private leadership yahoo group as well as helpful information on this page for Troop Leaders: <http://dogscouts.org/find-a-troop/running-troop/> Of course the Troop Program Administrator is only an email or phone call away if anyone has questions or needs help.

But **you don't have to belong to a troop to participate in DSA!** Many of our members are individuals who enjoy doing things with their dogs, learning new things and helping in their communities. Badges can be earned by video submissions if you don't have an evaluator near you, anyone can participate in the National events that DSA hosts (like the Frost-a-thon and Hike-a-thon), and of course individuals can help spread the word in their area about DSA! Who knows, the person you introduce Dog Scouts of America to today might be your next troop leader or badge evaluator! For more ways that you can help support DSA, visit this page: <http://dogscouts.org/support-dsa/>

DSA also offers **4 day and 6 day Dog Scout camps** in MI, TX and MD where you can be immersed in learning with other dog people who are as crazy about their dog as you are about yours! Camps are staffed by very knowledgeable trainers who know how to make learning fun for your dog AND for YOU! Our camps have very high percentages of repeat campers and some people have been to Dog Scout camp EVERY YEAR since Dog Scout camps started in 1996!! Many people say it is, without a doubt, the very best time they have ever had with their dog. To learn more about the camps visit this page: <http://dogscouts.org/dog-scout-camps-and-mini-camps/>

Membership has its privileges because DSA offers **free outings** in the spring, fall and winter just for DSA members! These outings are focused on fun, socializing and learning for you and your canine companion. Activities are not as structured as during a camp and are often related to the time of year (pumpkin carving in the fall, skijoring or sledding in the winter, etc.) To learn more about the outings, visit: <http://dogscouts.org/dog-scout-camps-and-mini-camps/michigan-camp/dsa-outings-spring-fall-winter/>

Seminars and training camps are often hosted by DSA at the 70+ acre camp facility that Dog Scouts of America owns in Michigan. The facility has on-site lodging ranging from rustic tent sites to rooms in the lodge to private cabins with A/C and a mini fridge. There is also a 1 acre lake, miles of beautiful hiking trails, a full agility course and more! It's the perfect location to host a troop gathering, family gathering or an event. For more information on what activities are being planned for the DSA facility in MI visit: <http://dogscouts.org/category/retreats-and-special-events/>

Have additional questions about DSA or its programs? Visit the **contact us page** to connect with a network of volunteers who love DSA and would love to help you: <http://dogscouts.org/contact/>

You can also shop the **DSA store** to help support DSA. We have many helpful items as well as items you and/or your dog can wear to show your support for Dog Scouts of America: <http://dogscouts.org/store/>

And if you'd like to know more about DSA, its history, mission and vision for the future or to meet the Board of Directors, visit the "About Us" page: <http://dogscouts.org/about-us/>

So if you agree with me that DSA is the original, the biggest and the BEST scouting organization for people and their dogs, please help us continue to offer all the wonderful free information and activities by joining DSA or renewing your DSA dues here: <http://dogscouts.org/join-dsa/> You can fill out the form and pay online with a credit card, or print the membership form and send it in with a check or money order.

DSA would not be what it is today without the generous support of people like you. Your membership is what helps your Dog Scout organization grow and improve and continue to provide all the great information and services listed above.

Thank-you SO much for your support!

Chris Puls
President of the best dog scouting organization in the world!



Winter Outing February 15 – 18, 2013



The Winter Outing was great! We had 12 attendees. The temps were cold but the snow conditions were good. We got out on the trails for some hiking, skijoring and snowshoeing. We even did some search and rescue. On Saturday, Fred Underwood came and did a presentation on how to get your dog out of an animal trap. We played a fun game involving the dogs, which Angela brought. We also played a nose work game that Claudette showed us. A fun time was had by all. Here are some photos. **Lonnie Olson**



Above – Keebler demonstrates how dogs are attracted to animal traps



Right – Frank teaches how to release dogs from animal traps



Allison removes stuffed dog from trap.



Above – Lowell opens leg hold trap
Right – Lowell and Angela go Skijoring



Left – Meeting Martha's new puppy, Riley



Jade correctly identifies the owner of the glove



Panda finds Fay in the boathouse & barks the alert.



Kozi plays "Do You Mind?"



Martha shows Jo how to make a dog toy

DSA Year End Report

One of a Troop Leader's many responsibilities is providing feedback on troop activities each year to DSA. Annual reports for 2012 were due on December 31, 2012. The reports show DSA that troops provide educational opportunities and fun events for troop members. It takes considerable time and planning to complete the reports so give your Troop Leader a big thank you!

In addition to being a requirement for each troop, it's also an opportunity for troops to:

- 1) Take stock of accomplishments over the past year. Yes, pat yourselves on the back!
- 2) Demonstrate to DSA the level of activity and the types of activities your troop is engaged in.
- 3) Help identify and remember what worked, what didn't work and form some ideas on troop activities for the upcoming year.
- 4) Form new ideas from the categories of activities that build points for your troop throughout the year.

If troops opt to supply additional information for the Troop Recognition Program, they can earn points through various activities to demonstrate troop member achievements and troop growth. Troops can earn an icon next to their troop name in Find A Troop web page. The icons indicate the troop is an active, vibrant troop. Top Dogs earn a blue ribbon, Torch troops earn a torch icon to light the way for others and a Treasure troop. Congratulations to all troops listed below.

Troops qualifying for 2012 Troop Recognition Icons

Troop 119 Texas, 1492 points, Top Dog
Troop 159 Maine, 1132 points, Top Dog
Troop 217 Michigan, 865 points, Top Dog
Troop 161 Pennsylvania, 804 points, Top Dog
Troop 211 Connecticut/Massachusetts, 541 points, Top Dog
Troop 101 Michigan, 376 points, Top Dog
Troop 213 Colorado, 370 points, Top Dog
Troop 177 Indiana, 352 points, Top Dog
Troop 221 Pennsylvania, 350 points, Top Dog
Troop 188 Connecticut, Rhode Island, 322 points, Top Dog
Troop 219 Connecticut, 310 points, Top Dog
Troop 223 New York, 304 points, Top Dog
Troop 222 Wisconsin, 186 points, Torch Troop
Troop 150 Arizona, 168 points, Torch Troop
Troop 206 California, 168 points, Torch Troop
Troop 207 Ohio, 145 points, Torch Troop
Troop 166 Ohio, 108 points, Torch Troop
Troop 107 Ohio / Kentucky / Indiana, 106 points, Torch Troop

Active Troops who submitted short form or didn't achieve Torch Troop

Troop 104 Michigan
Troop 130 Michigan
Troop 147 Alabama
Troop 149 Missouri
Troop 157 Florida
Troop 171 Pennsylvania
Troop 183 Florida
Troop 184 Colorado
Troop 189 Pennsylvania
Troop 198 California
Troop 199 New York
Troop 157 Florida
Troop 191 Arkansas
Troop 214 Indiana
Troop 220 Nevada
Future Troop Georgia (Stefanie Elderkin)
Future Troop Texas (Melanie Zurinski)

Robyn Porter



Chicken Camp 101

Presented by Terry Ryan

Sat/Sun August 24 & 25, 2013
@ Dog Scout Camp, St. Helen, MI



What will I learn?

Exercises include observing and graphing (ethogram) chicken behavior. We'll explore how chickens acquire, store and process information. We'll practice mechanical skills with special attention to timing and eye-hand coordination. Lessons include systematic desensitization, capturing a behavior, shaping a behavior and the use of targets. We'll work on a three or four-component discrimination and conduct extinction trials.

Why travel to Dog Scout Camp?

Make this seminar part of a mini-vacation! You will be away from it all in Northern Michigan. This venue is unique among Chicken Camp hosting facilities in that you can stay onsite with three lodging options: campsite, lodge or private cabin, bring your dogs, and enjoy miles of trails, water sports, agility equipment, play yards and other camp amenities including access to our kitchen to prepare your own food.

Bonus Offer: Free Micro-Camp (\$200 value). Register for Chicken Camp and get **free admission to Dog Scout Micro-Camp on Friday, August 23.** During this full day of activities you'll learn about our organization and what it can do for you and your dog (and clients!) while you participate in exciting activities including shaping games, hikes, crafts, and campfires.

Why chickens?

The process is "an adventure and a revelation," according to Legacy Canine Behavior and Training, where Terry Ryan serves as president. "Training a chicken is a stretch and a fantastic boost to your mechanical skills. Chickens are faster than the average dog so your timing and coordination skills are quickly improved. Dog trainers are amazed at how much they learn from their work with chickens!"

Chicken Camp: Sat/Sun August 24&25

Free Friday Add-ON: Micro-Camp

Bring your dog for a mini-vacation!

Cost: \$350 participant/\$200 auditor, includes light breakfast and lunch. Onsite lodging extra, supply limited, (especially for private cabins).

Earlybird pricing (before 3/1/13):

\$300 participant/\$150 auditor

Time: 9A-5P each day

Information and registration



<http://dsachickencamp.eventbrite.com>

Dog Scouts of America is a 501c(3) charitable organization that exists to improve the lives of dogs, their owners, and society through humane education, positive training, and community involvement. Visit us at dogscouts.org

May I Have Your Attention Please?



This is something your dog probably asks several times a day. I am amazed at how much I have missed by failing to do what my dog does all the time – pay attention. By studying us, dogs know us better than we know ourselves. They can detect things as subtle as diseases and seizures, feel our moods and are clearly aware of our attempts to condition and train them (and often end up training us). They are able to anticipate a bath, a walk, bedtime and when we are coming and going. Lately, I have noticed that many people completely ignore what their dogs are telling them. I am so frustrated to see this--and extra frustrated when I am the guilty party.

MY CHOICE TO FOCUS

To be fair, dogs don't have to deal with distractions that we face, but we can make the choice to learn from their example. I don't have the ability to observe all of the things my dog can. Even blind and deaf dogs have more highly-developed natural skills than I do. The point is that they use them.

MISSING HALF OF THE CONVERSATION

We can talk about the wonders of indirect access till we are blue in the face, but if we don't listen to our dogs, we miss an entire half of the conversation. At Dog Scout Camp we have learned that dogs can use their sense of smell to find just about anything, but that is useless if we don't develop a clear indication of their find. On the agility course, a slight adjustment can mean success or failure directing the dog to the right obstacle. When playing IMPROV games, we can see how well we understand each other by thinking on the fly. By communicating we become a team.

WHY SHOULD I CARE?

My dogs are my family, and I don't want them to be strangers. I just got a puppy and I am noticing her firsts – first ice cube, first snow, first Cheerios – and what the world looks like through her eyes. She has started a great relationship with my 4-year-old dog and I know they were able to understand each other instantly. I love to watch their conversations: "that's mine" or "let's play" or "back off puppy!" The greatest compliment is when they include me. How sad it would be to miss all of this.

DR. SPOCK, CAPTAIN KIRK AND THE DOG SCOUTS

It's all about the balance between passion and logic. Attending my first Karen Pryor Clicker Expo, I was struck by the calm way trainers approached their dogs. It's a scientific approach: observe, evaluate, form a hypothesis, test and observe again. When something works, celebrate! It's not about losing the passion, it's about learning to use our efforts most effectively. It make everything more fun and rewarding for my dog. The talented trainers with the Dog Scouts of America started me on this path.

HOW DOGS ARE LIKE SNOWFLAKES

OK, its winter, so snow is on my mind. But it made me think how every dog is an individual, just like a snowflake. I want to know what makes my dog happy, scared, excited and motivated. What's the best reward — a toy? A treat? A game? I want to find my dog's sweet spot, times that we are completely in sync, I know exactly what you are saying to me without a single word. I can sense it. As a dog trainer, this is my goal and this is what I will encourage others to find. It's very simple, I love to know what makes their lives better.

PROGRESS JOURNAL

I learned that it's my choice to pay attention to my dogs. Keeping a journal of our adventures and training helps me to know my dogs but the added benefit is also getting to know myself better. My ups and downs are an essential part of their lives. It is becoming more natural to take daily notes and it will be fun to re-read as my puppy matures. I would encourage anyone to incorporate journaling, however formal or casual. Just like our dogs, we do better with some structure.

IT'S ALL A GAME

Games with my dogs are the best games ever. I want to play with them every day, no matter how tired or discouraged I am. Sometimes it's a quiet game, other times it is active, but it always includes paying attention. Sometimes I forget, but I can observe the results of that too. There are no mistakes, just information. When we were kids, we had a board game called "The Game of Life," which included a game piece — a car with little people — but no dogs. I would have included dogs. I always will include dogs, they are our partners in this world.

I AM A DOG SCOUT MISSIONARY

I was given a wonderful opportunity: serving on the Dog Scouts of America's board of directors. While serving, I volunteered to help redefine the Dog Scouts Mission Statement. Essentially it is our purpose. Without it, we are just a group of nice people with dogs. That's OK, but we can do more. When we see dogs and people who are not sharing the human/canine bond as we have learned through DSA, we can help. Lack of understanding and not paying attention to dogs is a major issue that creates problems in our society. Many dogs live lives of quiet desperation. Misunderstood, they adapt, but don't thrive. We don't have all the answers, but we do have the Dog Scout Way!

MY DOG'S DREAM

My dogs enjoy what I do with them – we do have some things in common, it seems like we do as I watch them. They seem to smile and play jokes on me. Their happiness is obvious, and that's sure worth noticing. They find joy in simple things and I am inspired by that.

Thanks for Your attention! Martha Thierry

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

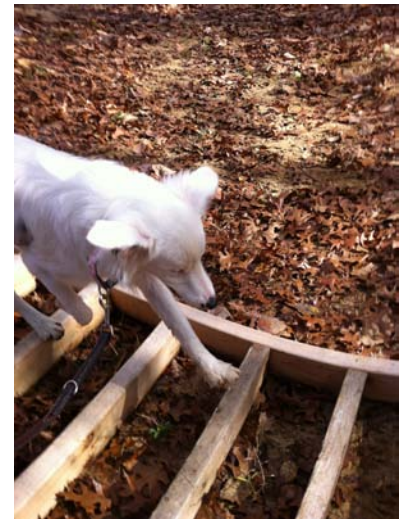
October 2012

This was a busy fall for Lottie Moon. We attended a picnic to support a local rescue, Friends for Life, where we were able to showcase the total awesomeness of double-merles like Lottie. I brought Lottie, and my friend Victoria brought Dahlia, who is totally blind and deaf, and her foster dog Lennox, who is deaf. All the dogs had a great time, and they were certainly the source of lots of curiosity and amazement. It was Lottie's first official role as deaf/blind dog ambassador. Photo left: Lennox, Dahlia and Lottie, ambassadors for double merles at Friends for Life Fundraiser.



Shortly after that, Lottie accompanied me and the border collies back to Michigan and

Dog Scout Camp for the Zombie Detection Training. We all had a blast, and although Tango was my main zombie hunter, it soon became obvious to Chris and I (Team Army of Darkness) that between Dazzle and Tango, our team was winning. Since we didn't want to win, and be in charge of next year's event, Chris and I decided to bring in the second string, Lottie and Bear. Bear is old and Lottie is blind and deaf, so they did a fine job of lowering our overall score. Yay us! But actually, Lottie did a very nice job, especially on the agility course. She managed to become a certified Bronze Level Zombie Hunter. She rocks. Photo right: Lottie running the agility course as a part of the Zombie training.



November 2012

November 14th was a day I have dreaded for years. It was the day that Noelle crossed over to the Rainbow Bridge. She left me completely broken-hearted, which I expected,

but what I did not expect was the effect her passing had on Lottie. My little Aussie became very stressed, and we still are struggling with this today. She became restless and unable to settle down. She started doing more of her crazy OCD behaviors, like licking the floor, and running and pouncing and barking at her invisible friends. Sometimes she gets so worked up, and I can't get her to calm down. Lavender essential oil, Thunder shirt, bear hugs, massage: all of these things have limited success. The entire pack is on edge, I have broken up several fights between Punch and Pete, Pascha and Kara, and I haven't had a dog fight in my house in many years. It's always amazing to me how the pack dynamics become disrupted when one member leaves. Little Noelle was obviously a very strong force in all of our lives.



December 2012 – Photo left – Lottie and Keebler

Well, Noelle left such a void in my life that I didn't last very long. In December, Keebler came to join our pack. He is a one year old double-merle Chihuahua. He is deaf, but his vision is fine. And Lottie Moon ADORES him! They are BFFs. They wrestle and sleep together and love love love each other. I knew that Lottie has a real affinity for others like herself. All the double-merles seem to gravitate toward other double merles. Lottie and Dahlia, Victoria's Aussie, have always seemed to have a special connection. And now

Lottie has her very own double-merle Chihuahua. These two deaf dogs scream like they are killing each other, but Lottie is actually very gentle with Keebler, despite the horrible sounds that come from them. They are a scandal! I am teaching Keebler hand signals, which adds more issues for me: touch signals for Lottie, hand signals for Keebler, and voice signals for the others. Sometimes I get confused. Photo right – Lottie and Keebler



January 2013

Before we had all worked through our grief over Noelle, we also lost Kannika. Lottie seemed to have calmed down a bit, especially after we welcomed Keebler, but Kannika's passing made her worse. The stress has escalated for Lottie, although the rest of the pack seems to be handling things better. Is her stress because the energy of these two dogs is missing from her life, or is it due to my grief and sadness? I don't know. But we'll keep working to settle her down and get her back on track.



PetSmart had an Alumni Party in January. We invited previous graduates of PetSmart Training classes to come and play games and meet and greet in the store. I had to choose a dog to bring, and I chose Lottie Moon. I wanted to get her out and involved in some more training, since it had been a long winter full of stress for everyone, I thought engaging her mind would be good for her. I just hoped she wouldn't embarrass me in front of my students! She didn't, she was amazing. She is actually such a good choice for events like this, because she loves everyone, and has no fear. And she does a very nice job of keeping one eye on me, so to speak! She loves the opportunity to perform some tricks, as long as there might be a cookie involved! We didn't participate in the first two games, Tic Tack Dog and the Longest Stay, because I was busy organizing. But for the final game, Doggy Hopscotch, I entered Lottie. To play, we followed a hopscotch-like floor pattern, performing tricks at each station, successfully executing each one before moving forward. It was timed, and points were added to the time for not executing any of the required tricks. Lottie had the second fastest time, I was so proud! She sure beat out a lot of dogs that could see and hear perfectly ☺ Photo left – Lottie at the PetSmart Alumni event.

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> **Allison Holloway**



Troop #119, North Texas

Well, this is traditionally the slower time of the year for our troop, but we still have a few things that we were able to get together and do. If you'll remember the last time Troop 119 reported, we were finalist for an award on a television show called America's Best Tails where we would be eligible for a \$5,000 grant if selected as the winner. Drum roll, please.. Unfortunately, we were not selected as the recipient of the \$5,000 prize but thanks to the \$1,000 prize we had won on a previous show, we were able to purchase many more oxygen masks kits to donate to area fire departments. Fifteen kits were delivered to the Garland, TX Fire Department this week by troop representatives Nancy Strack and Daisy.



In January, troop members Connie and Mike Romano invited the troop out to their place for a "taste of mini-camp". The Romano's provide food and drinks for the people and games, contests, an agility set up, and swimming opportunities for the dogs. The day was capped off by a bonfire and s'mores. Probably the biggest hit with the dogs was the sand volleyball court where there was lots of digging going on!!

Thanks again Connie and Mike, but you may find out you've started an annual event!! Photos, above left – Connie rallies the troop. Above right – Debbie and Rouen play TOSSIT.



Photo – far left – Mike and Drake play Doggie Dozer.



Photo – near left – Sage tries her paw at Doggie Dozer.



Photo – far left – Firing up the bonfire



Near left – Troop bonfire

We look forward to a great spring!

Mart & Cindy Ratliff, Troop 119, North Texas



Troop #157- Broward County, Florida
Broward Paw Patrol

Troop 157 had an educational booth at Woofstock in Sunrise, FL on February 2, 2013. Information about DSA was given out, people signed up for more information about our chapter, and the troop was also offering our collar exchange program. Photo left – Troop 157 at Woofstock.

Our Drill Team also did a performance for the crowd. This was a successful event for the troop.



Photos left and right – drill team at Woofstock.



Right - Geocaching

The troop is also working an agility trial February 15-17th to help raise money for park bite prevention signs.





Photo left – Joan Otten and Casey DSA

Finally, we are proud of our newly revised and re-vamped website www.DSAtroop157.com. "Patricia Gaffney" pag340@yahoo.com

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

National Day of Service - In January, President Obama called for a National Day of Service that coincided with the [Martin Luther King Jr., Weekend of Service](#). As a result, thousands of Americans joined the First Family and engaged in service across the nation. To do their part, the Downeast Dog Scouts greeted families in the Northeast Harbor Library Children's Room. The Dog Scouts listened to children reading stories, provided education about safely greeting dogs and were fine examples of canine volunteers!



Photos – far left - National Day of Service - Downeast Dog Scouts - Northeast Harbor Library

Near left - National Day of Service - Pam Bourque and Rissa - Northeast Harbor Library



Photos – far left - National Day of Service - Pier Carros and Gracie - Northeast Harbor Library

Near left - National Day of Service - Nancy Morrison and Laci - Northeast Harbor Library

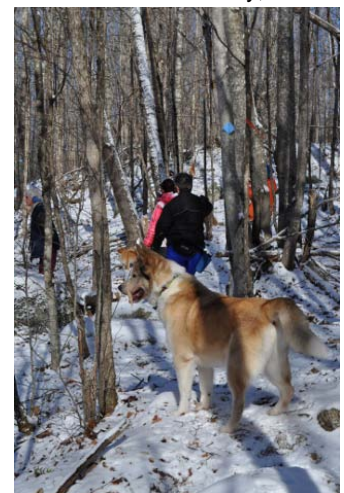
Downeast Dog Scouts Monthly Walks - Troop members have been organizing winter walks in Hancock County, Maine. During January and February they walked four miles on the Down East Sunrise Trail and at the Great Pond Mountain Wildlands, respectively.



Photo left - Downeast Dog Scouts February Walk - Great Pond Mountain Wildlands - Orland, Maine

Photo right - Bruno - Downeast Dog Scouts February Walk - Great Pond Mountain Wildlands - Orland, Maine

Robyn Douglas



Troop 177 – Indianapolis, Indiana

DSA Troop #177 members gathered on January 27 to work on skills for the DSA Certification test. Amy Heard and Star, along with Roselyn Noble and Boo were lead by Michelle Goldner through the DSA Certification test. Robyn Porter and Hallie videotaped for review.



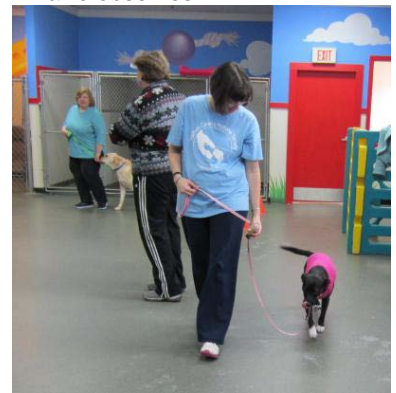
Above -Amy Heard and Star Waiting



Above - Roselyn Noble and Michelle Goldner work with Boo



Above – Hallie observes



Right - Amy Heard and Star Walking

Troop #177 met at Best Friends in Castleton for the February monthly meeting. The group played games from the DSA web site. Tic Tac Toe, Musical Chairs and Green Light/Red Light were the order of the day! Troop members and guests had a lot of laughs vying for the last chair in Musical Chairs!



Photos – Above left - Musical Chairs



Near right - Musical Chairs Final Two



Right - Peggy Kraus and Casey

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



Troop 183 – Central Florida
Valentine's Dog Party



On Sunday, February 10, Troop 183 held a Valentine's Dog Party at St. Mark's Presbyterian Church. It was a beautiful day with lots of fun activities including games with prizes, informative demos and wonderful raffle prizes. Approximately forty people were in attendance. Games included Musical Sit where the dog had to sit when the music stopped and Duck Dunking where the pups had to retrieve as many ducks as possible from bins filled with water. The winning dog in our Musical Sit game was a spritely eleven-year old named Sierra! It was great to see a veteran canine out and still having fun with her family. We had a laugh watching the dogs in the Duck Dunking contest; it seemed they were more interested in drinking the water than retrieving the ducks... that is until our very own Dog Scout, Zack, retrieved all of the ducks... and two at a time to boot! Of course, Zack is

a Golden Retriever, and true to his breed! The final winner of our Duck Dunking contest was also a retrieving breed, a black Labrador Retriever, named Thor. Between the games we conducted a "Teach-a-Trick" training session to help some of the dog owners teach their dog to "play dead" and "spin and twist". A mini agility course was set up with tunnels, weave poles and jumps for pups to be exposed to the fun of agility. This was very popular with those who attended. A very informative demo on Pet Massage was provided by Cherylann of *Puppy Love Therapy* and Brenda Degnan-Kormylo graciously donated her time and expertise in taking pet portraits, which attendees can download from either our Flickr account or from our public Facebook page. We had a nice range of vendors in attendance following our theme of "Ways to Love our Pets" - *Best Paw Forward* (dog training), *HMI Pet Products* (leather leashes, agility equipment, etc), *Carol's Creature Comforts* (dog walking and pet sitting), *Dental Hygienist, Teresa Cardenas*, and *Puppy Love Therapy* (massage and hydro therapy along with organic treats and food). We thank these vendors for supporting our event by attending and, in addition to *Woofgang Bakery*, *Hollywood Houndz*, *Clipper Ship Pet Grooming*, *Publix Lake Mary*, *Eastside Mobile Pet Grooming*, *Holler Hyundai*, *Louise's Pet Connection*, and *Pug Rescue of Florida*, for providing prizes for the games, raffle, and great stuff for goodie bags for all attendees. Special thanks to our Assistant Troop Leader, Carol, for coordinating the location and everything else she and her students at St. Mark's School did to make this a success for our troop. **Karyn Angel, Central Florida, Karyn.Angel@fisglobal.com**



Guests visiting the vendors



Agility



Pet Portraits

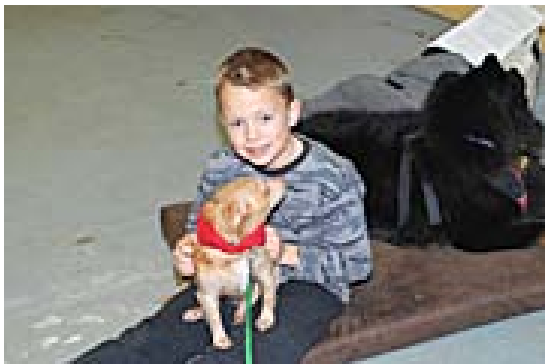


Far left - Teaching Tricks "Playing Dead"

Near Left - Puppy Love Therapy Demo

Troop 188 - Connecticut and Rhode Island

As always, Troop 188 is keeping busy. (Just like a pup with a Kong, it keeps us out of trouble) In January and February we are focusing on Rally-O, Therapy and Sign Language. We have had several workshops where troop members have met to work on the skills needed to pass the Therapy Dogs International (TDI) test as part of the Therapy badge requirements. The troop brought in various medical equipment and created scenarios to mimic situations that the dogs might experience on a visit helping the dogs get used to equipment, sudden noises, strange movements in preparation for an upcoming test date.



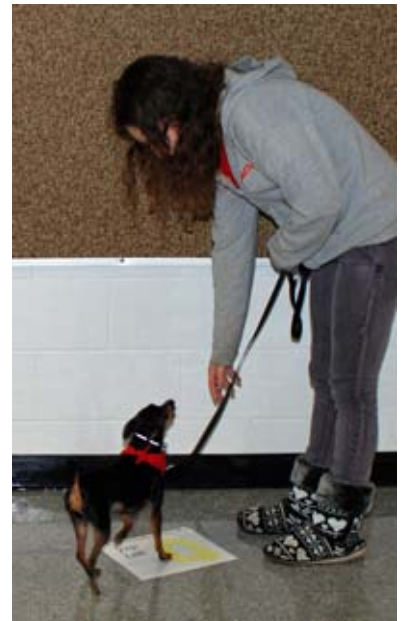
Star and Daisy practice being safe around kids.



A group stay is part of the TDI test.



Michelle Lake, Phantom DSA the Bernese Mountain Dog's mom is teaching the troop the sign language signs that we would need for the Sign Language Badge at our monthly meetings. In January we worked on the "clicker hand", "I love you", and a few others. Thanks to Michelle and Phantom for leading this badge activity for the troop. Sign language is a great way to communicate with your dog in loud environments or if you dog happens to be hard of hearing or even deaf.



Duke and Mary check out a Rally Sign

Troop member, Kristi Koltavary has been teaching us what we need to learn for Rally-O. Kristi competes in Rally with her two year old black lab Nemo and has qualified for AKC's Inaugural AKC Rally Nationals in March. Troop 188 will be cheering her on long distance, as the event is in Tulsa, Oklahoma. We'll let you know how they do in the next newsletter. Or, if you don't want to wait that long you can check out our website, dogscouttroop188.shutterfly.com, where Nemo's little brother Hadur will be posting updates throughout the Nationals. In order to have qualified for the AKC National a dog needed to have earned their title at the level they are to compete, and received three scores of 90 or higher. Nemo DSA will be competing at the Excellent level that he qualified for with scores of 93, 95 and 97 (out of 100).

Michelll and Phantom DSA



Kristi rescued Nemo when he was 9 months old. When she first brought Nemo home he was a reactive dog and fear aggressive. Nemo not only participates in Dog Scouts, earning his DSA and several other badges, but also competes in Rally, Agility, Nosework, and Dock Diving and has found a new life and attitude under Kristi's guidance. She credits his progress to positive training methods.

Nemo DSA

Troop 188 would also like to congratulate Nemo's little brother Hadur, who is following in his brother's footsteps working with the troop on his Rally badge. Hadur also earned his DSA



Nemo and Hadur with Mom, Is that attention or what?

Several dogs in addition to Nemo and Hadur in Troop 188 earned badges early in January that were awarded during our February meeting. Congratulations to Phantom DSA on your Obstacle 3 badge and Star DSA on your Therapy badge. We began February weathering Winter Storm Nemo.



Hadur DSA



Phantom DSA



Star DSA



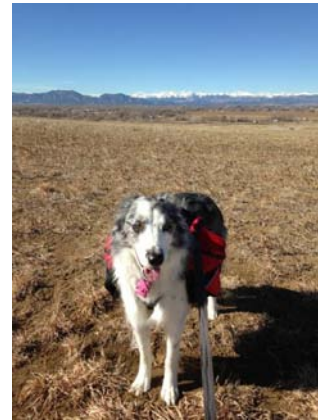
Monster ready to go to work

Many of our dogs loved the snow others of them not so much. The indoor time found us learning more sign language and assembling the necessary items to be carried by the dog when backpacking. So that we will be prepared for all the hikes we have scheduled later this spring. We also had a short Rally-O course set up so that attendees could continue to hone their skills for the badge. Plans for our spring are shaping up well with the calendar filling fast including several backpacking walks/hikes, TDI testing, Obstacle workshop, Scenting workshop, and a fundraiser to help the local shelter. Stay tuned for a report on all the fun! If you are in the

Julianne Grove

Troop 213/Colorado
Dog Scout Exclusive – Jen and Sage Bailey

Sage and Jen Complete 10 Mile hike toward PDX Title and Fido Frost-A-Thon



This fall and through the winter Sage and I have been working toward earning her Pack Dog titles. We were nearing the 100 mile mark and the 10 mile hike was looming. I decided that we would make our first attempt on Saturday, February 2nd. It was supposed to be a beautiful day for hiking so I thought we'd give it a shot. I decided to attempt this on my own, meaning no other humans helping me with Sage's mileage but gave myself permission to abandon the attempt and enlist some friends on a later date if needed. You see, this was also a personal challenge for me. Three years ago I was working hard to come back from a knee injury. Adopting Sage has helped with the long-term rehab for me as every new activity we try challenges me to do further strengthening to be successful at that activity. Prior to this attempt the longest hike we had tried was our 5 mile troop hike in November toward the PD title and this was going to be twice as long. I knew that Sage would be up for it with breaks along the way but I wasn't as confident in myself.

We started our hike about 9:15 in the morning when it was sunny and 28 degrees. We did a loop of 3.69 miles and then returned home for a short rest. I had planned to do several shorter loops in the allowed time frame but decided for our second

loop we would try a new trail that we hadn't explored before in the hopes of having the second loop be a longer mileage. It was such a beautiful day that we followed this trail and when we hit mile 8 and still had at least a mile to go until the end I decided that we'd just finish our 10 miles on this outing. We kept going and although we slowed down toward the end we were able to log a total of 10.14 miles that day. It was a beautiful day for a hike, it was 56 degrees and sunny when we finished a little after 1 PM. While we were hiking we saw a lot of wildlife including, bunnies, prairie dogs, hawks and even a bald eagle that soared over head during mile six. After returning home my legs were a little tired from hiking that distance but felt better than they did after the 5 mile hike so I was very pleased. Of course, Sage grabbed a ball and wanted to play when we got home, those of you who know her won't be surprised at all to hear that!

Our goal is to complete 50 miles during February for the Fido Frost-A-Thon and this long hike really helped us with that goal!

Written by **Jen Bailey**

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

Troop 214 – JACKSON COUNTY, INDIANA

THE TRIBUNE

Wednesday, January 2, 2013

PACK LEADER - Dog group educates owners

Over the years, Jackson County organizations have offered boys and girls a chance to become scouts — now dogs have the same opportunity thanks to a local pet lover. Jackson County resident Candy McKing organized Dog Scout Troop 214 in Seymour almost two years ago after belonging to the state's only other Dog Scout troop, in Indianapolis. "I thought I would get something going close to home," she said. From nature walks to helping the elderly, at some point almost everyone has sought to earn a merit badge or at least help a child earn one — but how many of us can say our pets have earned a badge for completing a task or learning a new skill? With Dog Scouts of America, an organization open to anyone with a dog, dog lovers help their canine companions gain badges that they can proudly display on a vest.

Dog Scouts of America was established in 1995 in Michigan by founder Lonnie Olson as a nonprofit organization for people who want to enrich their lives and the lives of others with dogs. Troops allow people to spend a little more time with their pets while meeting new people who share similar interests. Though Indiana has only two troops, there are troops in 22 states, including Kentucky, Illinois, Michigan and Ohio. There also are Dog Scout camps in Michigan, Texas and Maryland, where individuals or troops can camp with their pets. "It helps people learn how to train dogs, and for dogs it can be helpful for socialization," said McKing, who is the leader of the local troop.

Pets and their humans can earn badges in many areas, such as Frisbee catching, painting and community service. Dogs also may earn a badge for Naked Dog Obedience, for dogs able to obey commands without being on a leash; All Dog Band, for learning to play a musical instrument; and I.M.P.R.O.V., for dogs who can perform a variety of behaviors on cue. McKing said she got involved with Dog Scouts because other groups for pet owners offered only certain events where pets could participate, too. "With Dog Scouts the number of activities is almost unlimited," she said. During troop meetings, members and their dogs practice pet skills to earn badges and share presentations on subjects as pet first aid and pet massages. She and other group members recently went on a hike with their pets to earn a badge for hiking. McKing said the troop, which is open to any dog owner, has five members but would like to continue to grow. "They don't have to be any specific breed," McKing said.

Troop members Debra Olsen of Seymour and her dog, Freedom, earned their biking badge. Olsen said they enjoy biking together. "Dogs need exercise too," she said. Phil and Chris Brazier of Seymour joined the group with their dogs, Jake and Gabe. "When I want to go on vacations I have to board my dogs," Phil Brazier said. "With this I can take the guys camping, and we can be together." Spending time together helps dogs get used to people and people get used to dogs, Chris Brazier said. "We love being with the dogs, and the dogs want to be with us," she said. "We have a lot of fun, and we share it." Phil Brazier said one of the best aspects of the group is meeting people who share interests. "We're out and about meeting people and getting out with people with the same likes," he said. The Braziers said they enjoy being able to do more things with their pets. "They have shorter lives than we do," Phil Brazier said. "We want to spend as much time as we can with these guys."

Man's best friend puts talents on display

FOR INFORMATION

Dog Scouts of America Troop 214 in Seymour meets on the second Tuesday of each month.

For information about joining the troop, contact Candy McKing at cmcking2002@yahoo.com.

DOG SCOUTS OF AMERICA

For information about Dog Scouts of America or to donate to the organization visit the website at

www.dogscouts.org.

LEADER OF THE PACK

STORY BY JESSICA SQUIRES

PHOTOS BY AARON PIPER



Top: Seymour resident Phil Brazier plays with his dog, Gabe, on Saturday. Brazier and Gabe are part of Dog Scouts of America

Troop 214 in Seymour. Dogs Scouts is a nonprofit, goal-oriented organization aimed at socializing dogs and educating their owners to issues involving their pets while serving the community.

Below: Gabe catches a flying disk thrown by Brazier.



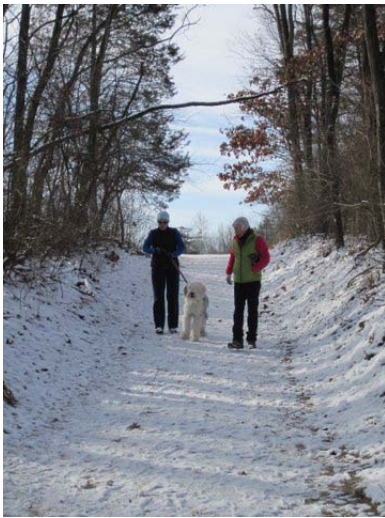
Troop 217 – Southeast Michigan

The holidays are past, and even though winter weather is upon us, that hasn't slowed down Troop 217, as we have started off 2013 with several new members and several fun activities already planned for the year ahead. We closed out 2012 with a final troop hike at Huron Meadows Metro Park in Brighton, MI on December 23. The hike was well attended and we were able to welcome new members Julie and Sally and their Old English Sheepdog, Katie.



Far left - Samantha with Pecas and Ella

Near left - Samantha with Pecas and Ella, Julie B. with Shelby, Bob and Catherine with Leela and Liberty



Far left - Julie L. and Sally with Katie



Near left - Maebe gets some backpacking miles in.

On January 6, we had our annual troop meeting at Celebrity Pets in Northville, in order to touch base with members, update them on all that we have done over the last year, and get feedback on what they would like to see moving forward. We had some great conversation and left inspired with some exciting ideas for 2013 events. New members Terri and Theresa also were able to attend and meet many of us, and we look forward to seeing them at more events in the future.

On January 19, Canine Sports Recreation Center in Dexter, MI kindly donated the use of their (very large) training facility for us to host a Rally

Obedience and Agility fun day. Julie Benson set up a sample Rally-O course, reviewed some of the various maneuvers with those new to the event, and walked handler/dog teams through the course providing individual instruction. Troop member Samantha and Pecas then did a sample run-through of the course with Julie evaluating, with hopes that Julie will ultimately become an evaluator for the Rally badges.



Far left - Melissa and Drizzle on the Rally-O course



Near left - Angela and Cadence working on Rally.

At the same time, Lowell and Angela set up an agility course in the neighboring ring, with two "nested" courses. Dogs who are still new to agility could opt for a shorter course consisting of jumps and tunnels, while more advanced teams could try their paw at a longer course with contact obstacles and weaves. The course proved to be a hit, with all the dogs getting in a few runs over the course of the night.

The evening also provided us with the opportunity to gain our first new Dog Scout of 2013, as Julie was able to test Fate, the newest addition to Angela and Lowell Schmorrow-Zuckerman's

family. Fate's new parents are very proud of her, and can't wait to start working on merit badges now!



Photo left - Fate, DSA

In January we were also fortunate to hold two troop hikes, one at Maybury State Park and one at Lakeshore Park. Despite the winter weather, everyone had a great time and hiked four miles at each event. On the fundraising front, we were very excited that as a result of our 2012 troop fundraiser/bottle drive, we were able to purchase seven pet oxygen masks to be donated to local fire departments. The Inkster Fire Department will receive one of the kits, while the remaining six will be given to Huron Valley Ambulance (HVA), who will distribute them to stations in Washtenaw, Wayne, and Oakland County. We are looking forward to an upcoming presentation/PR event with HVA to present the masks to them. Thank you to all troop members who participated in the fundraising, especially:

- Michelle Neu & Sassy
- Melissa Perez & Drizzle
- Vickie Lomas & Duncan
- Julie Benson & Shelby
- Francine Chatlin

We still have many events in store for the winter. In February we will be holding a Training Video Viewing Night to watch a DVD on dog play, a craft day to make blankets and toys for animals in local shelters, and our usual monthly hike. In addition, many troop members are staying motivated to keep active in these colder months by logging their dog-walking minutes on Idita-walk.com – an on-line fitness challenge and fundraiser for various youth programs in Nome, Alaska. Several members are also

participating on the Troop 217 team for the Fido Frost-a-thon, to help raise money for nearby Dog Scout Camp. We are very pleased that the colder temperatures and darker days have not slowed our members down any, and we look forward to the new opportunities and experiences that 2013 has in store for us and our canine companions.

Congratulations to the following members for badges/titles earned this quarter:
 -Fate & Angela: Dog Scout title

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

-Submitted by **Angela Schmorow-Zuckerman, Troop 217 Co-leader**

Dog Scout Troop 219
Southeastern Connecticut and Rhode Island

Troop Dog Project



In December 2012, Abby Labrador Holmgren DSA teamed up with the American Legion post 518 in North Mankato MN to send care packages to military dogs deployed overseas. Abby is working on her second community service badge for Dog Scouts of America and this was her idea was to help the dogs that help our country. Abby lives with and takes care of Lynne Holmgren and they have attended Dog Scout Camp for several years. Together, with members of the American Legion, Marine Corps League and Disable American Veterans, they collected donations of dog treats, toys, socks, snacks and much more to ship to military dogs and their handlers.

On January 9, 2013 Abby DSA, Lynne, members of American Legion post 518 and several of Abby's friends packed 20 boxes of donations to ship to military dogs and their handlers. Here are photos of Abby DSA's friends packing boxes.



The photo below left is a packed box with a letter from Abby and all of her friends. The photo below right is Abby's friends filling out customs forms, while Abby supervises.



The photo below left is Abby with all 20 boxes that will be mailed to the military working dogs overseas. The photo below right is the whole crew. Great job guys!



Written by **Kelly Ford, Troop 219 CT & RI**

Troop 219 Leader, Kelly Ford Achieves a New “Evaluator Status”!

On November, 19, 2012, Kelly Ford received the official word that all of her hard work had paid off and she became an Official DSA Evaluator for the All Dog Band Badge! She, and all of us, wants to thank, Chris Puls for viewing her evaluation video. Congratulations, from Troop 219!

A Christmas Pot Luck Dinner Event with Troop 219

On December 7, 2012 Troop members gathered for an evening of Holiday Cheer together, at their regular meeting place at the Waterford Country School's Rose Lodge. We exchanged gifts and goodies for the pups and their people, the pup-parents ate tons of delicious food, while the pups all played the evening away with the new toys they all received! We had a great time and left with full bellies and hearts! It was a wonderful way to end the year of 2012 with the Troop!

Photos Below: Adie, Scrat, Sophie & Zora enjoying the festivities; Zora DSA calls this Troop meeting to order; Addie & Sophie playing with a new toy.



A Geocaching Expedition at Bluff Point and Others!

The Geocaching Journey of Zora and Kelly began on January 1, 2013 where Zora DSA and Kelly Ford started working on the Geocaching 1 badge. They bundled up and spent the day playing in the snow on the trails at Bluff Point State Park and Beebe Pond. They found three geocaches on their first day! A few weeks later, on January 12, 2012 Zora found three more geocaches with the help of her best friends Sophie, Angela and Roger! On this trip, not only did Zora have the chance to work on the Geocaching 1 badge, but Miss Sophie was also able to log 3 miles towards her Backpack badge! Sophie and Zora had a great time running the trails at Bluff Point and playing in the mud too! On the wondrous day of January 13, Zora DSA and Kelly Ford hid their first cache and completed the final step to completion of the Geocaching 1 Badge! Congratulations, Troop Leaders you earned it!

Photos Below: Zora DSA looking for geocaches in the snow.



Photos Below: Zora & Sophie hunt for geocaches together; Zora & Kelly find their 5th geocache; Angela and Sophie help Zora find another geocache.



Troop 219 Meeting #3 & Scent Discrimination Workshop #1

On January 17, 2013, the Troop both old and new members, met up at their meeting spot in the Rose Lodge in Waterford, CT for their 3rd Meeting and 1st Scent Discrimination Workshop! Everyone had a wonderful time, and learned so much doing the foundational steps of learning how to find one specific scent upon request! The pups found it very amusing to be able to poke about into all the various boxes and containers around the floor, and likewise receiving treats! The workshop itinerary can be found at this website address – <http://www.dsatroop219.org/badges/scent-discrimination/>.

Photos Below: Left to Right: Zora, Sophie, & Scrat having a great time at the Troop's 3rd Meeting!



Troop 219 Scent-discrimination Workshop #2

On January 26, 2012 the Troop met up at the Waterford Country School, in Waterford, CT for their 2nd Scent Discrimination Workshop of the year. The pups were introduced to the scent article during class. We are using birch oil. All the pups really enjoyed this class. Mojo also worked on getting video footage of his progress towards his Dog Scout Badge! After working hard, they all got a chance to run play together and proceeded to snooze soundly on their ways home!

Photos Below: Kapri practices Scent Discrimination; Kapri; Mo & Zora practice with Linda; Zora DSA takes notes while Mo works on his DSA Badge, Zora wants to be an evaluator.



Troop 219 Scent-discrimination Workshop #3

On February 7, 2013 the troop gathered together in the warmth of the Rose Lodge of Waterford Country School and learned some of the more advanced techniques and skills required to pass the test for a DSA Scent Discrimination Badge! The pups that missed the 2nd class were introduced to the scent of birch. We also started working on how to train an alert. Everyone was given homework to practice for the last class.

Photos Below: Right to Left – Adie, Sophie and Zora working on Scent-discrimination!



In Conclusion..

As a newly established Troop in the DSA Organization, we believe we have taken huge steps towards becoming a full-fledged working group and are excited to reach our Goals for the Year 2013! We have taken part in many Troop activities across the board and enjoy the variety of them offered by our Troop Leader, Kelly Ford! We are working on a Troop Council, where I (Lauren Houck), have been elected as the Troop Historian and look forward to continuing to bring you our latest News! Our pups have come such a long way since we have come together and we are very excited to see what the New Year shall bring!

Lauren Houck, Dog Scout Troop 219



Troop #221- Wyoming Valley Squad

Greetings from Wyoming Valley Dog Squad Troop #221! The holiday season was a busy one for our troop. We participated in a give back to the community activity at Barnes and Noble Bookstores in Wilkes-Barre, PA. It's been so fun for us getting out there and telling our area what DSA is all about. Our pet oxygen mask fundraiser was a huge success and really helped in spreading the word about DSA also. Phyllis Sinavage, Troop Leader and Liza Roper, Secretary/Treasurer have been having a great time getting out there and meeting and donating Pet oxygen Mask kits to Luzerne County firefighters, emergency medical technicians and paramedics. We made a special friend at Nanticoke City Fire Department, her name is Ember, their firehouse dog. We even stopped by to give her valentines and gifts and tails wagged in glee at the second meeting. We had a Valentine pet photo event at a local pet store that was a huge success. Whiting's Pet Supply was wonderful to us and so kind to allow us to have our event at their store. A great time was had by all, we even had a few cats come to get a photo taken!

We have been very busy getting activities together for our troop. We are looking for members to get more involved and are looking to fill positions also. We currently have these positions available; Club Photographer, Fundraiser Assistant, Shot Record Database Officer, Advertising Officer, Troop Walk Organizer. Diana Cognigni has taken the position of Troop Recognition Officer and has been doing a fantastic job so far. We're so glad she found us our troop wouldn't be the same without her.

Our troop has started an activity called Troop Walk and when it is one of our members dog's birthday we call it Cake Walk. What we do is go to our local park and walk the parameter which takes about 45 minutes to an hour and at the end of the walk we let our dogs eat cake at the end of the walk. The first Cake Walk was for Kirby, DSA , dog of Liza Roper. It was his eleventh birthday on January 20, 2013. Here is the recipe for the dog cake ;

Dog Cake:

2 Bananas

3 Tbsp. Honey

2 Eggs

2 Cups Water

1 Tsp. Vanilla

3 Cups Rice Flour

1 Tbsp. Baking Powder

- Mix Bananas, Honey, Eggs, Water, and Vanilla until well blended. Sift Rice Flour and Baking Powder and gradually add in until well blended but do not over mix. Bake 20 minutes @ 350 degrees. Frost with the following icing recipe after completely cooled.

Icing

8 oz. Cream Cheese

3 tsp. Carob Powder

2 tsp. Honey

Mix until well blended.

Phyllis Sinavage, Liza Roper and Heidi Roach have been working hard on the Frost-a-thon. Heidi's goal is to walk a mile each day in February. Phyllis thought it would be a great idea to register the troop at firstgiving.com/dogscouts. We've had a snowy and cold month so far so it's not an easy feat , but troop #221 are a hardy bunch!

Phyllis Sinavage, Troop Leader and Mary Perrego, Assistant Troop Leader have worked hard conducting the meetings. Mary has been going over obedience skills and the importance of how it's okay to ask others to keep their dog back. Phyllis talked about the Household Manners Badge and that it's a good place to hone skills. Phyllis says it's a great place to start to work on some obedience skills while strengthening the bond with your dog. Phyllis usually rounds out a meeting with a fun game such as ring around the rosy or musical mats. **Liz Roper**



Karen Barbose, Mary Perrego, Phyllis Sinavage and Liza Roper with Pasha DSA and Kirby DSA at the Barnes and Noble gift wrap event. Photo taken by Valerie Boler.



Pet Oxygen Mask Kits ready to be donated. Photo taken by Liza Roper



Back Mountain Regional Fire Department Chris Roman firefighter & paramedic and chief of Lehman Josh Sawyer stand in front of their new medic unit. Photo taken by Liza Roper



Brian Zegarski firefighter, Phyllis Sinavage Troop Leader, John Zegarski firefighter, Liza Roper Secretary Treasurer, Ember, Kirby DSA, Sheila DSA, Pasha DSA. Pet O2 Kit Donation at Nanticoke City Fire Department.



Liza Roper with Kirby DSA, Phyllis Sinavage with Sheila DSA, Pasha DSA, and Nikki DSA, Dave and Melba Cohen with Shelly and Sophie, Diana Rebar with Sandy and Isabella and Judy Jones with Elvis at Cake Walk.



Mary Perrego and Judy Jones demonstrate walking side by side. Photo taken by Liza Roper



Mary Perrego talks about how it's okay to ask others to keep their dog back at the January meeting. Photo taken by Liza Roper.



Phyllis talks about the upcoming Valentine Pet Photo event. Photo taken by Liza Roper

Attitude of Gratitude

1. \$150 were donated to Abby and Lynne Holmgren's Frost-a-thon page in memory of Lynn's Mother.
2. A total of \$200 in donations was collected from the sales of the First Finder Patches.

Thank you,
Kelly Ford and Zora, Dog Scout Troop 219 Leader

Rainbow Bridge

"Timber"

Cedarwood's Timberline, SH, CD, WCX, TD Inc, CGC, READ, DSA, ThD
March 18, 2000 – December 12, 2012



Troop 159, Mount Desert Island, Maine

A true beauty inside and out, an awesome athlete, a patient READER dog, the best snuggler, my travel buddy, superb ambassador to her breed and my fabulous "fur-iend"

.Pam Borque

Sage – February 16, 2013

It is with a heavy heart that I am notifying you of the passing of my beautiful poodle, Gingers Mystique Little Sage. Sage had an enlarged heart and just after noon on February 16th, it just gave out. I thank God I was with her and could give her comfort when she passed over. Sage was a sweet loving dog, great companion, and never in her twelve years of life ever met a stranger. She loved everyone no matter age, gender, or race. I was never so proud as I was the day she passed her DSA test. Sage loved going to all the different functions we attended, she loved camping, and life in general. The vet called her a "princess" as she was never one to balk when having treatments of any sort. Sage was a member of this family and loved traveling with us. She would always sit up in the back seat of the van and watch as the scenery went by. Sage stayed in hotels with me at times



and was always the perfect companion, never feared the elevators or the different surroundings and the clerks were just another friend to her. We had routines that were done daily and the one I miss most is when she would lay down in the evening by the couch for her evening back rub. Having two other dogs, this was our time alone in the evening as Jacob and Haans seemed to know and would never interrupt us. She never balked at all the pills she had to take due to her condition. All I had to do was say "pill time" and she would come to the kitchen where I was and sit down to take them. If I was upset about anything, she always sensed it and would come to me with those big brown eyes and lick me on the cheek. She was always there for me through some very trying times. Sage is sorely missed and will always be a most loved memory for all that knew her.

This is Sage with my daughter, Karen, on one of our last outings to make up funds for the shelter. **Barbara Ferry**

Molly Green, DSA, CGC,
W-SSFD/MF, W-SSFEX/MF, W-FD/MF, W-TFD/MF, W-FDX/MF, W-TFD/MF
Labradoodle Born 4-20-2003, Died 2-10-2013



Molly was a charter member of Dog Scout Troop 161 in Carlisle, PA. She earned her DSA and went to Michigan camp the summer of 2008 where she earned 7 badges. Molly's sport was Canine Freestyle. She and her partner, Linkey Green, belonged to the *Steppin' Woofs* – a World Canine Freestyle Organization club. She earned 6 Freestyle titles. Between Dog Scouts and the Steppin' Woofs, Molly put in many hours of community service in Nursing homes, libraries, schools, public events and various clubs. She was a great bell-ringer for the Salvation Army and one year took in \$279 in less than 2 hours at the local mall.

In 2010, Molly was featured in Workman Publishing Company's Page-a-Day Dog Calendar. Her date was February 16th and the write-up was about Dog Scouts. Molly was a very sweet girl who spoke with her eyes and loved with her whole heart. She will forever be our Calendar Girl. **Linkey Green**



Noelle, CGC, TDI, DSA

I met Noelle seven years ago. She was so tiny, sitting in the kennel at the Humane Society. Little did I realize that day what a huge impact this little white puff of a dog would have on my life. Within a few months of adopting her, Noelle was diagnosed with a level 6 heart murmur. She was not expected to live through the summer. Yet seven summers later, we were still together. I took her everywhere with me, I was afraid if I left her alone she would die. So for seven years, she went with me to Michigan, to Maryland, to South Carolina, to Chicago, to New York. For seven years she went with me to work everyday, riding shotgun for the 120 mile commute. I talked and laughed and cried to Noelle, and she listened for seven years. Seven years of Dog Scout Camp, seven years of badges overflowing her tiny red vest. Seven years of hiking, biking, carting, swimming, camping, painting. Seven years of visiting nursing homes and hospitals and schools and girl scouts, fundraising for shelters, and conferences and workshops. She was the most wonderful companion I have ever had. Life for me will be very different without her.
Allison Holloway

Kannika, CGC, DSA

When my eyes met those ice blue eyes of Kannika's at the humane society 9 years ago, I knew instantly she was my dog. She had 3 puppies with her when she was found on the side of the road, and once her puppies were weaned and adopted, she came home with me. She worked in obedience, then agility, and soon became my favorite Winter Outing dog in Michigan. She didn't like to pull the sled, but she sure looked good doing it! One of her most memorable winter outings was when she found a porcupine, and came back to the lodge with a face full of quills. She was always such a drama queen. Four years ago she almost died when we discovered a bleeding adrenal cancer. I promised her she could come to DSA summer camp with me if she would live, so she managed to get 8 summer camps and many badges before she finally had to leave me. Kannika was my bad dog. She was a husky among border collies, and that husky energy that is always pushing the limits was quite a contrast the work ethic of my other dogs. I miss that bad dog terribly. **Allison Holloway**

