



# Redfern Ramblings

Mid-Summer 2008 Edition

## Special Events

Mark your calendar NOW and plan to attend the following special events:

- **Dog Scouts Troop 171**  
Hike on the Appalachian Trail — July 12 (Sat) 4 PM  
Picnic for Troop Members (FREE) @ Greenlin — July 20 (Sun) 4-7  
Troop Meeting — Aug 24 (Sun) 4 PM
- **Kids' Club**  
July 13 & 27, Aug 3, Sept 7 (Sun) 4 PM
- **Mutt Movie Night**  
A Feature-Length dog-oriented movie, with popcorn — bring your comfy chair & soft drink! (We'll provide the ice.)  
July 13, Aug 3 (Sun) 6:30 PM
- **Doggie Day Camp**  
A week-long Day Camp for Kids & Dogs. July 28-Aug 1 (Mon-Fri) Day-time 9:30-4:00
- **Redfern Therapy Group**  
Aug 6, Sept 3 (Weds) 6:30 PM
- **All-Breed Show & Obedience Trial**  
Harrisburg Kennel Club, Farm Show (Air Conditioned) — Aug 10 (Sun) 8-6
- **Housetraining Hints for your Puppy**  
(FREE) — Aug 30 (Sat) 10:15 AM
- **The Healing Power of a Dog**  
(Animal-Assisted Therapy Seminar)  
Aug 31-Sept 1
- **Back to School Party** — Sept 20 (Sat) 4 PM
- **Dog First Aid Seminar**  
Produced by the Red Cross  
(coming in Oct)

Plan now to attend the  
**Keystone Cluster Dog Shows**  
August 8-9-10  
Farm Show Building, Harrisburg  
*Full info on the  
Harrisburg Kennel Club show  
(Sunday August 10)  
(including a \$1.00 discount coupon)  
at [www.hkc.org](http://www.hkc.org)*

## Dogs + Summer = ?

(Possible answers:  Gangs of Fun, or  Danger in Disguise)

Summer is a great opportunity to enjoy quality time with your dog. The possibilities seem endless:

- Long walks and hikes
- Frisbee, tennis balls and other objects to catch and fetch
- Trips to the dog park
- Swimming in a pool, lake or pond
- Family gatherings without end
- Long trips in the car

But remember, **YOU are on the "Smart End of The Leash"**, and with that comes the responsibility to look out for the welfare of your faithful companion. Each of your activities need to be considered from the DOG's point of view.

Those long walks are best taken in the **morning or late afternoon/evening**. The hot sun may meet your needs as a sun-worshipper, but remember the one with the fur coat! Be sure to carry a supply of water and a collapsible water dish on your treks. All that panting through the mouth consumes a considerable amount of water. When you feel thirsty, *don't forget the dog!*

Be sensitive to the **temperature of the surface under your dog's feet!** Ever been at the beach in mid-day and felt that hot sand? Remember your dog does not have shoes or flip-flops. That's why dogs tend to walk on the grass next to a sidewalk on a hot day, it's much cooler. The worst walking surface is unshaded blacktop on a sunny day. Reach down with the flat of your hand and try to hold it in firm contact with the surface for 30-60 seconds. Too painful? Then get the dog off that surface!

Be careful **not to push the limits** with things like Frisbee and other sports. If your dog is not well conditioned to leaps and flips, keep the toys close to the ground. Serious injuries can happen if the dog is not "conditioned". And be especially careful on HARD or UNEVEN surfaces.

Dog parks are great opportunities for some ear-flopping exercise, but **resist the temptation to just "turn 'em loose and collect 'em after 30 minutes"**. Size up the other dogs present, and as new ones come and go. Know your own dog's limitations and their tendencies toward being "territorial" or playing with over-the-edge enthusiasm. The time to leave should be BEFORE it ceases to be fun — for the dog.

**Remember what you were taught about swimming safely** during your Scouting years: Know the swimming area, its depth and hidden dangers. Be sure the bottom is something you would walk on in your bare feet. Know when to say when, especially in water that is more than wading depth. Some dogs are so water-crazy that they won't come out of the water before they start choking, or worse. And if there are other critters in the water, make sure they do not include species that bite or otherwise present a threat (think jellyfish, snapping turtles, small sharks or rays). Be aware of sudden changes in river currents, and undertow at the beach. Swim safely.

Those picnics can be super fun, but again **think like a dog**. If your dog is a "counter-surfer", keep them away from the grill! Remember to put those chicken bones and aluminum foil wrappers in a covered trash container. DO NOT feed your dog from the people food — and encourage your guests to do so as well. And be especially sensitive to how your dog behaves around young kids and older folks. You don't want them being knocked over in a moment of unbridled enthusiasm. And highly-animated movements especially of small children can trigger some unexpected behavior from your normally-placid pooch. Keep the leash close and ready to put on if you sense any danger.

It's best to **keep your dog restrained or restricted in the car**. If not in a crate, at least confined to an area that cannot distract the driver. "Head out the window with ears flying in the breeze may be fun for the dog, but beware that dogs can suddenly be thrust from the vehicle in a fast stop, turn or accident. And bugs, bees and other flying stuff can cause permanent eye damage since they're probably NOT wearing goggles!

And of course **be wary of tall grass or thick bush**. They're likely places to pick up ticks, & other unwelcome guests! Give your pooch the once-over after venturing into those uncharted waters.

ENJOY YOUR SUMMER — but remember to be "The Smart End of The Leash"!

## Dog Scout Badge Checkout

If you and your dog are ready to "Check Out" to qualify for a Dog Scout badge, here are some opportunities to be tested "on camera":

- **Dog Scout Badge** — If you have not yet completed these tests, see Betsy to arrange a time.
- **Backpacking Badge** — At the hike on the Appalachian Trail on July 12
- **Community Service** — coming soon
- **PhoDOgraphy** — See John.

## Worth Repeating

*In 1576 [in France] the annual budget for royal dogs reached the sum of 100,000 gold crowns. — Fernand Mery, The Life History and Magic of the Dog.*

## Dog Scout Troop 171

The Dog Scout world just keeps getting busier and busier!

**Checkouts** were held recently for the **Dog Scout Badge**. A few are yet to be completed. If you want to get that "First Badge" for your DSA uniform contact Betsy to set up a time.

The **First Aid Seminar** was held on June 22, and will be repeated this Fall. Checkouts were held for the **First Aid Badge**. This is a great program even if you are not a Dog Scout. Be prepared to administer First Aid and perform basic vital signs tests, apply bandages, transport a sick pooch and more.



We will have a 4 mile hike/backpacking trip (rain or shine) on July 12, on the **Appalachian Trail** (AT), which runs along the top of Peters Mountain. We will assemble at 4 PM at the AT/Game Lands parking lot on the east side of PA Rt 225 at the very top of Peter's Mountain. Folks who want to check out for the Backpacking Badge should be prepared to list the items in the dog's pack, and identify Poison Ivy during the hike. *See the separate article for some hints.*

Our regular meeting July 20 (reserved for current Dog Scout Members) will be a **picnic with swimming** (YES — for the DOGS!) at Greenlin Kennels in Middletown. Bring a folding chair, and if you have a Canopy it would be very helpful to provide shade/shelter.

August 17 is tentatively scheduled as a hike & swim at **Pinchot Park**. Details to follow.

Our next regular **Troop Meeting** will be on August 24 at 4 PM. At that time we will be planning several events for the Fall and Winter, including a fundraiser to provide Doggy Oxygen Masks for local Fire/Rescue organizations and a possible program to assist the Salvation Army as doggy bell-ringers during their holiday drive.

We will also be making some plans for **Badges** to be earned, including the Art of Shaping, Fundraising, and some other Service-Oriented badges.

Keep checking the website and announcements at the Training Center for future events.

## MOVIE NIGHT (July 13)

Sunday — 6:30 PM  
**Air Buddies**

**FREE — Popcorn Provided!**  
(Bring your own comfy chair and your favorite soft drink — ice and cups provided)  
Now with larger projection area & stereo sound

## Worth Repeating

*Dog, n. A kind of additional or subsidiary Deity designed to catch the overflow and surplus of the world's worship.*  
—Ambrose Bierce (1842-1914), in the *Devil's Dictionary*

## Current Class Listings

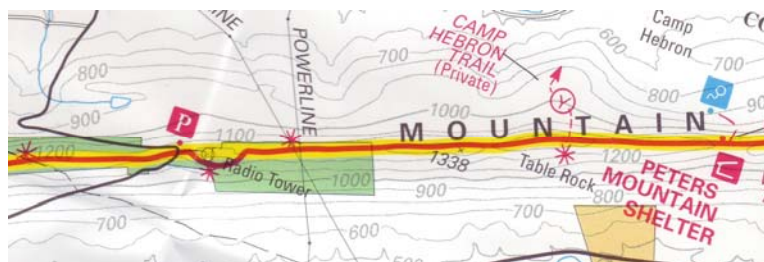
Class Title	Beginning Date/Time	# of Class Sessions
Rally -- Level 2	July 12 (Sat) 12:45 PM	6
Puppy Class	July 14 (Mon) 6:30 PM	6
Rally -- Level 1	July 15 (Tues) 7:45 PM	6
Obedience Competition	July 16 (Weds) 7:45 PM	6
Manners Class	July 19 (Sat) 10:15 AM	6
Tricks Class	July 20 (Sun) 1:15 PM	2
Loose Leash Walking	July 20 (Sun) 2:30 PM	4
Beginners Class	July 26 (Sat) 9:00 AM	6
Reliable Recalls	July 26 (Sat) 11:30 AM	4
Puppy Class	August 23 (Sat) 12:45 PM	6
K-9 Sampler	August 24 (Sun) 12:00 Noon	5
Manners Class	August 24 (Sun) 1:15 PM	6
Beginners Class	August 25 (Mon) 6:30 PM	6
Manners Class	August 26 (Tues) 6:30 PM	6
CGC/TDI Preparation	August 26 (Tues) 7:45 PM	6
Puppy Class <i>Daytime Class</i>	August 27 (Weds) 2:15 PM	6
Tricks Class <i>Daytime Class</i>	August 27 (Weds) 3:30 PM	2
Conformation Preparation <i>Daytime Class</i>	August 27 (Weds) 5:00 PM	6
Rally -- Level 1	August 28 (Thurs) 6:30 PM	6
Rally -- Level 2	August 28 (Thurs) 7:45 PM	6
Agility -- Level 2	August 29 (Fri) 6:30 PM	6
Agility -- Level 1	August 29 (Fri) 7:45 PM	6

*NOTE — If the class you prefer is not scheduled at a time convenient to you, please let us know ... we may be able to make an adjustment, or schedule a new class based on general interest.*

*PLEASE REMEMBER when registering online to complete the Class Application Form. If a Payment Form is submitted without the Application it is necessary to contact you to get important information.*

## Dog Scout Hike — July 12, 4 PM

We will assemble for the hike at 4 PM at the State Game Lands/ Appalachian Trail parking area on the east side of Rt 225 at the very top of Peters Mountain. The hike will be held rain or shine. If you get lost call one of the numbers below, or 979-2143.



The hike will be approx 4 miles (2 out, 2 back) along the ridge of the mountain. This is a mostly level trail (after an initial gradual ascent) and mostly in the trees, with a few viewpoints (so bring your camera). We will hike to the Table Rock Overlook (see the map above).

If your dog is "Backpacking", be prepared to check out for the Merit Badge, by knowing the 11 items required in the dog's pack, and be prepared to identify Poison Ivy along the trail. *HINT: To remember the 11 items think 5 body-part related items (Leash, Collar, Water, Bowl, Bags) and "FMICK" (Flashlight, First Aid Kit, Matches, ID, Compass, Knife).*

Remember the key rule of trail hiking: "Pack it in, Pack it out". This includes any pooper-scooper pickups, so [1] bring extra clean-up bags, and [2] bring at least 1 large Ziploc bag to contain the smaller bags (it is air-tight and will reduce odor).

Recommendations:

- Wear sturdy, comfortable shoes, with socks that cushion and can absorb moisture. The best shoes for trail hiking contain ankle sup-

port to help with sometimes uneven terrain.

- Bring plenty of water (for you AND your dog). 2-3 bottles are recommended if it is very warm. And of course a collapsible dog bowl for your dog.
- A hat will be handy both for sun and any sudden showers. And bug repellent might come in handy as well.
- Remember that there are NO human "comfort facilities" on this trail, so visit a restroom before you arrive. We will have minimal supplies for trail emergencies, for those who may find the need.
- For this hike it will be important that we stay together, at least within sight of one another, since the trail will be unfamiliar.
- While Flexi-leads are great for exercising your dog, they do create a bit of a problem around trees and bushes! So the best lead would be a normal fabric lead, 3-6 feet long.

Plan for the hike to last upwards of 2 hours, hiking at a leisurely pace and with a few scenic view stops. And most of all, plan to have some FUN!