

Second Chance Animal Rescue Society Members' Newsletter—June 2011

# SCARS helps Slave Lake and area animals

Our hearts go out to the people affected by the devastating May 2011 Slave Lake and area fires. We wish them well as they begin to rebuild their lives. This tragedy has touched the lives of so many.

SCARS worked alongside a network of volunteers who helped evacuees and their companion animals. It's heart warming to see how quickly Albertans come together in a time of crisis.

SCARS donated pet food, crates and other supplies to assist with the immediate needs of animals that belonged to evacuees staying at the Athabasca Multiplex and the Westlock and District Community Hall.

Our volunteers, along with many other local volunteers, worked around the clock to provide these animals with ongoing care. The animals received regular food, water, exercise and lots of love! Most of them arrived extremely stressed and thirsty. Volunteers and local veterinarians checked on them regularly to ensure there were no problems.

"We have been able to supply collars, leashes, food, litter, litter pans, pooper scoopers, bedding crates and pretty much anything else a pet could ever want to those who were in need or needed supplies for the road as they headed to their next destination," said Vicki Stafford, SCARS volunteer and owner of Sammy's Pet Boarding.

As well, some of our foster homes, the Hinton SPCA, Athabasca Veterinary Services, the Westlock Veterinary Center, The Dog Cottage, Sammy's Pet Boarding, and Grande Prairie Regional College (Fairview Campus) provided temporary homes for displaced animals.

SCARS also evacuated all the animals from



SCARS volunteer, Terra McLean (top left) at the Slake Lake temporary Animal Rescue Building.

the Wabasca and Calling Lake pounds because of the high risk for fire. Taking in these dogs put us over capacity, but we needed to ensure their safety.

SCARS also assisted the Edmonton Humane Society and the Slave Lake Animal Rescue Committee to search for pets in need of rescue in the Slave Lake area. We used the trailer that (Continued from page 1)

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Was recently donated to SCARS by Napa Auto Parts Wabasca.

SCARS volunteers like Terra MacLean from High Prairie helped coordinate the intake of animals that were brought into a temporary Animal Rescue Building at Slave Lake.

Sylvia Christiansen (SCARS President) and Lorraine Spreadbury (a very dedicated and long time SCARS volunteer) were on site too. They were dispatched to locate pets that had been left behind in Slave Lake homes through no fault of their owners. The evacuation happened so quickly that many people were not able to return home to collect their pets.

SCARS took 11 dogs from the Slave Lake area to foster care in High Prairie. One little sweetie named Cindy (shown above) had singed fur along both sides of her body.

We are grateful to the Hinton SPCA for agreeing to accept three adoptable SCARS dogs as transfers so we could make room for Slave Lake pets in need of rescue.

The fires also affected outlying communities such as Gift Lake and Whitefish Lake. SCARS donated food and, through volunteer Terra McLean, worked with the RCMP to feed

and water the over 200 dogs left behind in that area when the residents were forced to evacuate. Because of her proximity to the area and extensive animal rescue experience, Terra in coordinating the rescue efforts.

There are so



seriousness of her burns surfaced (above). She will be fine, but will require some ongoing care.

many volunteers to thank but we are especially grateful to Terra McLean, Liza Russell, Angela Kemble, Nancy Rosen, Lorraine Spreadbury, Heather Betts (the Dog Cottage) and Vicki Stafford (Sammy's Pet Boarding). These ladies worked very long hours to support the relief efforts.

SCARS would like to sincerely thank those who have so generously donated to SCARS in support of the Slave Lake animal rescue efforts.

# Thank you to Whispering Hills Primary School



SCARS is very excited to recognize and thank the wonderful students and teachers of Whispering Hills Primary School in Athabasca. These caring students and teachers raised an amazing \$1,006 and collected 1,110 pounds of pet food, blankets, dishes, towels, leashes, and accessories during April 2011. A picture of the donations is shown right. There were even a few more donations after the official fundraiser ended which added another \$107 dollars and 55 more pounds of donations.

# Thank you to Grade 5 students of LTIS School

SCARS is very grateful to the Grade 5 class at Landing Trail Intermediate School in Athabasca. This creative and generous group of students selected SCARS as their charity of choice in September 2010 for a very special fundraising project. The students set out to collect 400 recipes so they could create a cookbook. They collected the recipes from their parents, teachers, and fellow students. When they reached their goal, they printed over 300 cookbooks, sold them all and donated \$1,525 to SCARS in March 2011. What a truly kind and amazing accomplishment!



## Thank you to Napa Auto Parts Wabasca

CARS is very grateful to Napa Auto Parts in Wabasca (Shawn Molloy & Paula Bissell) for their continuous support. They provide generous and ongoing financial donations and they are also "hands on" with animal rescue. They help SCARS monitor the local pound, they actively rescue and shelter needy strays, and they help us connect with the community and local government. Paula and Shawn (shown right with their son, Mason) live in one of the communities where SCARS is most needed and we are lucky to have their help.

Most recently they have donated a 6'x14' Royal Cargo trailer (shown below) to SCARS. This trailer has been set up to safely transport a large number of dogs from pounds to rescue and from foster homes to adoption events. This donation means no dog will ever be left behind due to lack of space in our transport vehicle. They have also donated two quads. SCARS is planning to use one for a raffle fundraiser (details to be announced) and the other will be used to help exercise dogs at our primary foster home and intake facility near Athabasca. "Shawn rules!" and Paula is pretty wonderful too!

SCARS is always grateful for donations—large or small—every dollar helps! As well, we are always pleased to accept donations of supply items (visit our website to see our "wish list").



(Above) Shawn and Paula with their son on the raffle quad, and (below) the new SCARS trailer



# Spay and neuter clinic at Wabasca

CARS extends a sincere thank you to the Alberta Spay Neuter Task Force for their successful June 23-27, 2011 spay and neuter clinic at the Community Centre in Wabasca. Many of our volunteers made the trip to Wabasca to help with this historic event. Of the 77 animals that were surrendered, SCARS was able to take 28 and the rest were divided among other rescue groups.

#### Here is a summary from event organizer, Nancy Larsen:

- 145 dogs and 4 cats were spayed or neutered, vaccinated, tattooed and treated for parasites
- 77 unwanted dogs and 3 cats were placed with our partner rescue groups
- An additional 42 dogs were vaccinated and treated for parasites
- 8 Veterinarians participated
- 3 Animal Health Technicians participated
- 92 volunteers, many from the community, assisted



SCARS volunteers Deb Kardash and Burgundy Goodwin

The clinics are supported by the Alberta Veterinary Medical Association. The clinic was funded by the Bigstone Cree First Nation and the M.D. of Opportunity.

Special thanks to Bigstone Cree First Nation Councillor Clayton Auger and to MD of Opportunity employees for all of their help. Accommodation donated by: Canada North Camps.

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#### Look at us now

#### **Grendel (formerly Brindle)**

Grendel was adopted in March 2010. He is doing very well and at 65 pounds has finished growing. He just loved going to the cabin on Lac La Ronge for three weeks in October, but his all time favourite thing is snow. I have never seen a dog so over the moon about snow. His favourite toy is a four foot length of one inch diameter rope with knots tied in it. If he ever runs across a snake, I feel sorry for it. A rope that moves on its own and tastes good could replace snow as his favourite thing. He is a very happy-go-lucky guy that gets along with everyone: people, dogs, cats, and even rabbits. Walking him in the fall with the leaves flying about is a real adventure.

Thanks SCARS! - Dwain Sebelius



## **Cali (formerly Butterscotch)**

We adopted Cali in December 2010 and have been so blessed to have her in our lives. She is the most gentle, sweet and playful puppy we have ever met and spends most of her time goofing around and making us laugh. She loves her walks, roller-blading and play dates with other doggy pals but her favourite time is cuddle time! We truly are the luckiest people and couldn't be any luckier now that we have her as part of our family. We are forever grateful to SCARS for finding her for us and look forward to experiencing her first camping trip this summer! She has brought us so much joy and I can't wait to continue to share our special family moments with her. - *Crystal & Gavin* 

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Thanks for donations from: Paula Bissell, Laricina Energy Corporation, NAPA Auto Parts and Woodland Oilfield Services.

Rescue groups included Alberta Animal Rescue Crew (AARCS), Animal Rescue Foundation (ARF), Calgary Humane Society, Fort McMurray SPCA, Hinton SPCA, Humane Animal Rescue Team (hart), Pawsitive Match Rescue, Pound Rescue, and SCARS. — Nancy Larsen Alberta Spay Neuter Task Force www.abtaskforce.org





# Adorable and adoptable

To inquire about these adoptable dogs, visit www.scarscare.org. There are over 150 companion animals of all ages, types and sizes currently in our care. We are desperate for adoptions, and for more foster homes. If you have room in our home and in your heart for a new friend, contact SCARS.



Hi there, I'm Buddy. I am a male, mediumsized Shepherd cross. I am very friendly and just love everyone. I am house trained, crate trained, and I do well on a leash. I am good with most dogs but not always with those bossy boy dogs. I am not overly fond of cats. I have

lots of energy so an active home is a must for me.

JoJo here. I am a beautiful medium-sized Shepherd cross. I am a very nice girl. I have been good with other dogs, though I have only hung out with the boys so far. I walk right into my kennel for bed and have never messed. I am great off leash and good on leash.



Hi there, my name is Heidi. I am a female Rottweiler cross that is approximately a year old and just over 50 pounds. My foster mom says I listen so well and always come when I'm called. I am a very energetic girl, so



I need an active home. I love going for runs and do need them. I am a very smart girl and learn quickly. I am house and crate trained. I prefer a home with no cats, they are just a chasing game for me. I would also like a home with older children as I may be a little much for the smaller ones. I am

very much a pleaser and would love to have someone to please.



Make room, here comes Big Jimmy. I am a large and usually approach life at full speed. I am perfectly house trained, love dogs and cats, I am great off leash, and LOVE going for rides. I know, I know, you're thinking why hasn't some-

one scooped up and great guy like me, I'm thinking the same thing. My zest for life is outstanding, my foster mom says you can't help but smile when you see my grin. I am a three-year-old male, Shepherd Lab mix.

My name is Woofy and I am a charming big boy. I love dogs, kids, any two legger that walks in! I am great with cats, and large animals. I am a bit independent, but loyal. I am three years old, I love attention, and I am crate and house trained. I do think a leash is an awful contrap-



tion but I do obey it. I am vocal and like to talk and/ or grumble. I think my favourite person is the resident six-year-old who tells everyone I am her favourite too!



Hi, I'm Turbo. I have been here awhile, not sure why. My foster mom says I'm a great guy. I am different looking, in a kinda cute way. I am laid back, love attention and will not turn down a cuddle. Though I love going for a good quad ride, I'm

happy just hanging out in the yard with you. I prefer girl dogs over boy dogs. I am great on and off leash, and absolutely lovable.



## **SCARS joins with Prairie Animal Rescue Society**

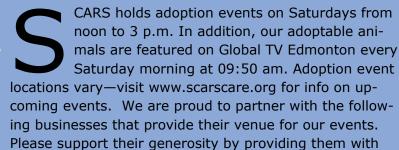


CARS is very pleased to announce a merger with Prairie Animal Rescue Society (PARS). PARS will cease to exist as a separate charity, but the work they do will carry on and be incorporated into SCARS operations. PARS and SCARS have worked closely together for many years so this was a natural next step.

Like SCARS, PARS has operated through a network of private foster homes. The largest of these foster homes is located at Terra McLean's farm near High Prairie. We are very pleased to welcome Terra (shown left with Jester) and her team into the SCARS family. This merger will take the strain of PARS volunteers and provide more animals with access to SCARS resources.

Terra works closely with the peace officers for the Town of High Prairie and she receives many dogs from the MD of Big Lakes. She has also developed a relationship with Grande Prairie Regional College (Fairview Campus), and the College fosters as many as 25 dogs each year.

# **SCARS Adoption Events**









- **Tail Blazers South** 7520 Gateway Blvd, Edmonton
- Global Pet Foods 2027A - 111 Street, Edmonton
- **PetSmart** 13680 50 Street, Edmonton
- The Bone & Biscuit Co. 14119 - 23 Avenue, Edmonton
- Infinite Pawsibilities
  10012 167 Street, Edmonton
- Sadie's K9 Stay & Play 8521 Argyll Road, Edmonton
- Paradise Pet Centre #50, 580 St. Albert Trail, St. Albert
- Heritage Square Pet Planet 2126 -109 Street, Edmonton



# Helping when it matters most

Here are some examples of dogs that were recently saved from tremendous suffering. We often wonder who could be so cruel, but we take comfort in knowing there are so many caring people, like you, and that is why SCARS is able to exist. Visit our website for updates on these and other animals.



I am a six-month-old Boxer cross. I recently got surgery for a broken pelvis and femur and also had to have my tail amputated. Sadly I had been hit by a car, but thankfully my injuries are treatable. Helping guys like me comes at a cost and SCARS runs solely on donations. If you

Hello, I am Ceaser.



can, please donate to SCARS!

Hello everyone. My name is Panena, which means "jewel." My foster mom thought it suited me perfectly because I'm a real sweetheart. I'm about one or two years old and a Shepherd mix. Unfortunately, my life has been really hard, but that changed the day that some really nice SCARS people found me living at a gar-

bage dump. I had been shot and left behind with some painful wounds. As a result, my left hind leg had to be amputated and they had to remove pellets from my



right leg. Despite all my suffering, I am a happy girl. I get along famously with everyone I meet. I am living with my three foster brothers, who range from 10 pounds to 85 pounds and I play really well with all of them. I have learned sit, down, and shake-a-paw; foster mom says I am UBER smart! I walk well on the leash and I have NEVER messed in the house. I am a very good listener and will be a fantastic addition to someone's family!

Hi I'm Bruno, I am a seven-month-old male rescue pup from the Calling Lake Pound. I was found with this chain embedded into my neck that I had no



choice but to wear for a long time, maybe since I was a wee fellow. I was a bit nervous on the ride to Westlock on the evening of June 25th, and it was hard to lie down because it made things more painful. I was whisked to the Westlock Veterinary Center where the vet cut the chain off with snips and a bolt cutter. That fully revealed a deep and gaping wound oozing blood and pus. Throughout this ordeal, I stayed friendly and gentle. On Sunday, June 26, he and another vet performed a surgery to clean out the infected wound. With my gentle and happy nature, I will become someone's new best friend. Is it you?

**Hi, I am Crusoe.** I came from Wabasca on June 26 after being surrendered at the spay neuter clinic. I am about 10 months old and weigh 48 pounds, but you can feel all my

bones right now so that will change. I am likely a collie/ shepherd cross. I have Demodetic Mange so I am missing lots of my hair. I started on medication for it



yesterday and will be on it for a month or more. I am very nervous right now, but I also like your company. Foster mom is teaching me house training. I want to make her happy so I am working on it. As my confidence grows I know that I will become a fun loving loyal companion. I can't be adopted for a bit as I am on medication and can't be vaccinated yet. But you can come and meet me, I promise you won't be disappointed.



## Tails on the Trails Pawsathon 2011

hank you to all dedicated SCARS' volunteers, supporters and sponsors who made our 7th Annual Tails on the Trails Pawsathon a great success. The weather could not have been more perfect and we raised an amazing \$35,000 for animals in need on Saturday, June 11 at Lion's Park in St. Albert.

Tails on the Trails is an annual event open to anyone who wants to show their support for animal rescue by collecting pledges and then participating in our dog walk. This event, however, is much more than a pleasant 45-minute stroll along the scenic Sturgeon River Valley. It is a day of celebrating—and learning more about—the animals that we love. Here are some of this year's highlights.

Congratulations to Jayden Pidsadowski for collecting over \$1,600 in pledges and winning the grand prize—an Apple iPad. The second prize of a Nikon S5100 Camera went to Amber Lafitte. Both prizes were generously donated by Instabox. Third prize of two tickets to a performance of Wicked went to Linda Rich. All of the participants received a free gift bag, but those who raised \$100 or more took home an official Tails on the Tails T-shirt or SCARS mar-

ket bag. Those who raised \$500 or more got a Tails on the Trails hoodie.

A wonderful part of this event is the joy of reconnecting with the loving families that have adopted animals from SCARS. Tears of joy could be found all over Lion's Park as foster home volunteers greeted former SCARS dogs and their new families. For our volunteers, there is no greater joy and no bigger reward than seeing how much happiness these animals have brought into people's lives.

We are thrilled that several adoptable SCARS dogs found their forever home as a result of this event. Dodger, Baxter, Harley/ Sydney, and Kimber were adopted and there was an application to adopt Brisbane. The walk was officially kicked off by the SCARS rescue pack—five previously rescued dogs who banded together to show their support for SCARS. Together, they raised \$665 through online donations. This year's pack leader was gentle Maliha, a dog who has become a symbol of why SCARS exists. Her sad story has become an inspiration to many SCARS supporters. After the walk, participants browsed through SCARS merchandise, bid on silent auction items, checked out our adoptable (continued on next page)

Clockwise: Maliha smiles for the camera; the SCARS Rescue Pack; SCARS mascot and friend; Jayden Pidsadowski and friends; and Shelley Foss with Kurt West.



















animals, watched agility and fly ball demonstrations, and visited with vendors. Kids collected stamps to win raffle prizes, played games with their pets, and had a great time in the bounce house.

Always a highlight, our event once again featured free live music. We were privileged to listen to the acoustic rhythms of Shelley Foss, Kurt West, Crystal Joy, Hayley Mandala, Morgan, Chris Mostoway, James Beaudry and Will Belcourt. We are so grateful to these talented individuals for volunteering their time and talent in support of animals in need. They had everyone grooving to their heartfelt music. We are also very grateful to the vendors and demonstrators who showcased their products and talent. These supporters spared no expense or effort to ensure our participants were entertained and informed. A special thank you goes out to the St. Albert Fire Department for filling the wading pools for the dogs. And, of course, the event could not happen without the tireless organizers and the volunteers who assisted with event set up/tear down, silent auction, photography, greeting, registrations, prizes, games, adoptions, and the list goes on. We also sincerely thank all of our generous sponsors (a list of them is posted at www.scarscare.org).









## **Puppy Socialization**

By Vicki Stafford

ocialization in world of dogs is very different from that in the human world. In our world, socialization is more focused on human-to-human relationships. For a dog, socialization focuses not only on humans and other animals, but also on environmental situations, noise, sounds, smells, objects, and surfaces just to name a few.

Socialization is a few short weeks of intense concentrated exposure to many people, places, and situations. It is crucial to your puppy's development that it be introduced to as many situations as possible during 4-12 weeks of age. This socialization should take place before the fear stages take place at the 8-12 weeks range and again after six months. The best approach is to reg-

ister for a puppy socialization class so that a professional can help provide the right environment, right types of stimulation, and teach you how to identify and react to situations where your puppy might become fearful or aggressive. This class will enhance the life-long bond that you will develop with your puppy.

There are several benefits to socializing your puppy. By making sure that your puppy's experiences are carefully thought out, you will help your puppy become balanced, confident, and able to cope with unexpected events. This is accomplished through watching your puppy's actions and reactions and ensuring that situations hat it experiences are set up carefully and managed in the most positive way possible. Again, it's best to seek

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### SCARS pups in Tupelo Honey's "Falling" video

our adorable SCARS pups were featured in Tupelo Honey's new
"Falling" Video. The video was produced by Jeremy at Rattlesnake
Films. You can watch it www.tupelohoney.ca or on Youtube. Warning: you may find yourself humming this catchy tune all day long!

The puppies are Toffee, Lakota, Sidney and Ovechkin (watch for them just past the 2 minute 30 second mark). The video also gives a plug for SCARS right at the end (which is incredibly kind of this band).

It shows "If you would like to adopt a puppy or make a donation, visit www.scarscare.org." These pups are also featured in the April/May 2011 version of Pet Rescue Magazine. All of these now famous puppies have been adopted.

We are certain this video will lead to much needed support for SCARS and that means we can save more animals. We are very grateful to this wonderfully generous and extremely talented Alberta rock band.





(Puppy socialization continued)
assistance from a professional trainer. For a
small investment of time and money, you will
gain a life time with a balanced, happy pet.

Socialization will also help you identify signs of behavioural problems that, if left unresolved, could develop later in the puppy's life. This can even include prevention of aggressive behaviour that could eventually lead to an actual bite. Another benefit to this mass socialization is that it helps enhance brain functions by mentally challenging the puppy, which in turn, results in a smarter dog. It is of utmost importance during this time that you watch for any signs of fear or stress that any given situation might be causing the puppy. Overwhelming the puppy with situations that are not controlled may end up causing a fear reaction that will affect the puppy for the rest of its life. An owner can help a puppy by ignoring any fear reactions and rewarding the puppy with praise and food rewards for any appropriate reactions.

There are many problems that may arise should you not put a lot of time and effort into socializing your puppy. The problems can range from mild to extreme. It is known that more dogs are euthanized today because of behavioural problems—that inexperienced owners don't know how to resolve—than from disease. Many of the problems could have easily been prevented through puppy socialization. Although unfortunate, some vets recommend that you do not allow exposure to environments or other dogs until the puppy is fully vaccinated. From a training perspective, by the time that vaccines are complete you have lost very valuable time because the socialization period has such a small window. I won't tell you to go against veterinarian advice, but I hope that you would consider the possibilities and make an informed decision.

It is important that a puppy stay with its litter mates until 8 weeks of age and that dogdog socialization continue with a variety of dogs so that the puppy can practice greeting rituals, approriate play, and bite inhibition. Un-

der socialization also can cause a state of physical and emotional stress that could be life -long for the puppy.

If the puppy is in a constant state of stress, it can weaken the immune system. It is harder for the puppy to bounce back from what he perceives as a scary situation and that could impact the puppy for the rest of its life. Lack of socialization also makes it more difficult for the puppy to learn anything new as it has the potential to be in "shut down" mode as it just can't cope with its daily environment. In rare cases, the puppy's inability to cope in everyday life makes for a special needs adult dog, which is unfortunate as most behaviour problems can be prevented through well planned and organized socialization.

Remember, socialization should be carried out for your dog's entire life!



Please note that the opinions of dog trainers who volunteer with SCARS do not necessarily reflect the opinions of SCARS as an organization. Vicki is one of several dog trainers actively involved in our rescue work; we are very grateful for their support.



Vicki Stafford is the owner/operator of Sammy's Pet Boarding in Athabasca, Alberta. She is also a long time volunteer, valued foster home and past board member of SCARS.



## We need your help

econd Chance Animal Rescue Society (SCARS) is a non-profit, registered charitable organization dedicated to reducing the number of homeless animals in Northern Alberta, Canada. To date, SCARS has rescued and rehomed over 3,000 animals.

Our mission is to promote the humane care and protection of all animals and to prevent cruelty and suffering. We believe there is a suitable home for all homeless animals: young or old; large or small. We provide veterinary care and foster homes until permanent homes are found. Our foster homes provide the animals with warm shelter, food, exercise and tender loving care—something that so many of these animals have never experienced. We also promote responsible pet ownership, the importance of spaying and neutering, and community awareness. We rely solely on money raised through memberships, donations, sponsorships and other fundraising efforts. Because we have no paid staff and use private homes for fostering, we can only take in as many animals as our resources will allow. Here are some of the ways you can help:

- Donate or sponsor—our medical expenses are enormous. Please consider donating to our rescue efforts. We issue tax receipts for all donations of \$20 or more.
- Foster an animal—we rely on our volunteer foster homes to provide temporary care until we can find suitable permanent homes. There is no cost to becoming a foster home. We will provide everything you need.
- Volunteer—we are always looking for volunteers to help with fundraising, adoption events, animal care and transportation, and our daily operations. As a volunteer, you will become an integral part of a team that saves animal's lives.

- Buy an annual membership memberships cost just \$25 and include newsletters, a calendar and opportunities to volunteer.
- Adopt an animal—provide a needy animal



with a loving, permanent home. To see pictures of adoptable animals, visit our website. Their stories might make you cry, but they will also fill you with love and hope. There are so many

people who care and the animals are so grateful.

- Please be a responsible pet owner—
  spay or neuter, microchip and vaccinate
  your pets! And remember, all pets need
  food, water, shelter, healthcare, exercise,
  love and attention.
- Buy our merchandise—please buy SCARS clothing, our calendar, or one of our "Gifts from the Heart" certificates. Visit our website for more information.

Please subscribe to our electronic newsletter at www.scarscare.org, watch us on Global TV Edmonton every Saturday morning at 9:50 a.m., and follow us on Facebook and Twitter (www.twitter.com/scars\_alberta). For more info or to provide feedback or suggestions for this newsletter, please contact:

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