

Darby Doll Dispatch

Volume 1 Issue 4

December 2013



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Darby Library American Girl Book and Doll Club

December Meeting

By Miss Kay

The December meeting of the Darby American Girl Book and Doll Club was held Friday, December 6, after school at the Darby Community Library.



Darby and Summer host a Teddy Bear Christmas Tea Party for Albert, Roscoe, Debbie, Diane, Benny and Walter.

The theme of our meeting was Teddy Bears. We talked about how stuffed toy bears became known as Teddy Bears

when Teddy Roosevelt refused to shoot a black bear in Louisiana in 1904.



Anise, winner of Best Dressed for her castle, busily working on her teddy bear.

Everyone brought a plush toy and we voted for the Best Dressed. Anise won by a landslide with her wonderful plush castle. Congratulations Anise!

Rebecca Rubin was the American Girl Doll of the Month at the December meeting. We chose Rebecca because she grew up in 1914, a time when Teddy Bears were very popular and on every child's Christmas wish list.

The book of the month was *Hattie Big Sky*, by Kirby Lawson. Hattie is a sixteen year old who moves, all by herself, from Iowa to Montana in 1916. Instead of playing with dolls and teddy bears, Hattie worked the ranch left to her by her uncle. She built fences, planted crops and struggled to survive bitter winters and hot, dry summers. *Hattie Big Sky* is available to check out at the library. A second book, *Hattie Ever After*, continues Hattie's story after she leaves her ranch in Montana.



Kiera and Kenzee talk about books they are reading.

Kiera and Kenzee shared books they have been reading with the rest of the group. We love hearing about books that we might also want to read.

Our craft project was to make doll size felt teddy bears. We sewed the bears, stuffed them with fiberfill and glued eyes, nose and bows on them. They really came out cute and just the right size for our dolls.

Each girl in attendance received a special Angelina Ballerina shopping bag full of goodies. Included were American Girl posters, bookmarks and pins. There

were also key chains, pencils, puzzles, word games and lots of other fun things.



These Angelina Ballerina shopping bags were full of goodies that each girl took home.

The girls were also introduced to our newest American Girl representative – Kaya, a Nez Perce Indian girl from 1764. Kaya will actively participate in the



Darby and Summer welcome Kaya to Montana.

April meeting when the theme is Lewis and Clark's Corps of Discovery Expedition.

Our next meeting is Friday, January 3 at the Library right after school. The theme of the meeting is The Great Depression. We'll learn about how difficult it was for girls growing up in the 1930s. For the January Best Dressed contest, dress your doll or teddy bear in something that a child growing up during the Great

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Depression might have worn, like home-made clothes, hand-me-downs, or other things that would have been affordable for a struggling family. American Girl Kit Kitteridge is our Doll of the Month.

And it's Clothes Swap Day! That means everyone can bring dolls, doll clothes, accessories, toys or books that you are willing to trade with the other girls. It's a great way to get something new to you, and bartering (trading one thing for something else) was very popular during the Great Depression since many people had very little money to buy things.

Member Profile - Kenzee

By Miss Kay

Our Girl of the Month is Kenzee. Kenzee



is 10 years old and is in the fourth grade at Darby Elementary School. Her favorite subject is Math.

Kenzee has some pretty cool stuffed animals. She had us all giggling at the December meeting with Tweety Bird. Kenzee informed us Tweety must fly upside down! With a head that big and heavy, there is no way Tweety could fly upright, especially with those tiny wings. Kenzee has a wonderful sense of humor and we all enjoy her participation in the club.

Kenzee's favorite toy is her 18" doll and she usually brings her to the meetings. Kenzee is really hoping the Doll Fairy draws her name for the American Girl doll to be given away at the May meeting. Good luck Kenzee!

Summer's Scoop

By Summer Elise Flores

Darby and I had such fun planning our display for the December meeting. We both love Teddy Bears. After thinking and thinking, we finally decided we would have a Teddy Bear Christmas Tea Party.



Remember that cute table and chair that I got at the Kalispell Doll Club yard sale last summer? That's what we brought and we put the cutest Christmas table runner on the table and Christmas chair back covers on the chairs. Our tea set isn't very Christmas-y, but that's OK, it looked really nice. We knew we would wear our Christmas dresses but what teddy bears should we invite?

Albert solved that problem! When we told him about the tea party, he said he had never been to a tea party before.



We invited several of our animal friends to join Albert. Benny and Roscoe came and brought Walter. And Debbie and Diane came too.

Everybody used their very best manners - for a while anyway. Once we served the cookies, Albert climbed right up on the table! I guess he was afraid he wouldn't get his cookie!

We were going to march in the Darby Shiver Fest parade on Saturday, December 7, but it was a little too shivery for us! So instead, we went to the Christmas Bazaar at the Darby Community Clubhouse. We bought



some cookies from the Darby High School and got to sit on Santa's lap and tell him what we wanted for Christmas.

We also got to go with Miss Kay and Mr. Dan to get a real live Christmas tree

right out of the forest. We helped cut it down and load it in the truck. Then we helped decorate. There are forests all around Darby, and cutting permits are only \$5, and it is so much fun to play in the snow while we hunted for the perfect tree! Darby says lots of families in Montana cut their own trees.



Summer sawing the tree and Darby supervising!

The very best part of Christmas preparations is baking cookies! Darby and I helped make old fashioned sugar cookies. We got a little flour on our noses but we sure had fun.



*We wish you all a very merry Christmas and we'll see you in 2014!
Love Summer. Love Darby.*

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Animal Adventures

By Albert, the alligator

Brrrrr! Benny told me it got cold up here, but there was a couple weeks there when I didn't think I was going to make it! The temperatures were negative. That means below zero, which is at least 32 degrees below freezing! I got so stiff and slow, I could hardly move!



We have lots of new friends. First let me introduce you to Bentley. Bentley is a bat that flew all the way up here from Florida. He sleeps most of the day so we haven't gotten to know him too well yet. Benny says let him sleep – this summer he will catch mosquitoes all night long and we will all appreciate it!

Oliver is an owl. We've heard him hooting many times but didn't meet him until we all stayed up late the night that Bentley got here. We were are having a welcome party and kept hearing

someone say "who?" After we yelled "Bentley" about ten times, Oliver flew down and introduced himself.

Fortunately Oliver knows more words than just "who"! Oliver is going to take Bentley under his wing, so to speak, since they are both night owls, so to speak.

And Roscoe has a girlfriend! Her name is Rachel and she is perfect for Roscoe. She is very quiet and polite and neat as a pin.



Miss Kay and Darby and Summer came up and read us some stories. One was called Bambi. Debbie and Diane loved it. We all laughed at the part about the water getting stiff – the smaller ponds are frozen solid. The girls said we are going to have an ice skating party and they are going to bring me a surprise so I can ice skate too. We'll see. I don't do too well in the cold!

*We all wish you a very merry Christmas
and the best New Year!*

*Love from Albert and all your animal
friends!*

Photo of the Month

Submitted by Summer



Summer’s first experience in real snow. Darby taught her how to make and throw snowballs. Come to find out, Summer has a pretty good aim!

Calendar of Events

Day	Date	Event – Theme	Time	Location
Friday	January 3	AG Club – The Great Depression, Clothes Swap	3:00 to 4:00	Darby Library
Friday	February 7	AG Club - Mardi gras	3:00 to 4:00	Darby Library
Friday	March 7	AG Club - Circus	3:00 to 4:00	Darby Library
Friday	April 4	AG Club - Lewis and Clark	3:00 to 4:00	Darby Library
Friday	May 2	AG Club - Cinco de Mayo Doll Fairy presents an American Girl doll	3:00 to 4:00	Darby Library

To add events to the calendar, call or email Miss Kay at 406-360-7214, schrader1501@blackfoot.net