



Official Newsletter ~ Dog Scouts of America

# The Dog Scout Scoop

Published for DSA's responsible dog-loving members and for the friends of dogs everywhere



Volume 20 Issue 1 Jan/Feb 2017

## Happy New Year from the Board

The new year always brings us a time to reflect, regroup and set the path we want to be on for the next year. The busy holiday season is over and many of us are looking forward to spring. The Board of Directors is prepared to get back to the business of making sure this organization is running smoothly.

### So what's on our agenda for 2017?

**First**, we'll be working on some new challenges for you and your dog. There are a number of things that will be going before the Board for approval in the next few weeks so that they will be ready for you and your dog to work on throughout the year. We are working with a couple of exciting concepts and some that are good for every dog household to be familiar with. Is your interest peaked? We are sure that you will enjoy working on our new badge concepts but that's all the information we can give you for now.

**Second**, we have another very exciting idea that we'll be working to approve. It's a plan in progress for a competitive venue made up of different events, or "classes" for those who may be familiar with terminology used in other dog sports. Competition and titling would be open to Dog Scout members and non-members alike. Stay tuned for further updates.

**Third**, the Board lost two members last year, both of whom stepped down due to other obligations, so we are currently evaluating candidates for Board membership. Last year it was approved to expand the number of people we can accommodate on the Board, so now we are looking for just the right people rather than trying to fill a specific number of seats. Board members need to be open minded and have a base of knowledge to bring to the table. They also need to be able to think globally about issues rather than simply thinking about them from the perspective of themselves and/or their dogs. If you know someone who might fit the bill please e-mail Sally at [sally.hoyle@yahoo.com](mailto:sally.hoyle@yahoo.com). Once we have new members, we'll work to make sure each person is in the right position.

**Don't forget**, the Board is working for you, our members, to make sure that your experience with Dog Scouts is a great one. Please contact a member of the Board of Directors with questions or suggestions.

### Deadline

for the next newsletter is

**March 15th**

Please e-mail your news, articles, and pictures to [thescoop@dogscouts.org](mailto:thescoop@dogscouts.org)

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# LEADERSHIP RETREAT



Have you ever thought, Hey I want to be a badge evaluator for my troop! or As a troop leader I would really like to get some more ideas about XYZ! ???

Well May 19-21st is the time to do it!! The annual leadership retreat is being organized right now. Last year we had an awesome attendance. Frankly the biggest I think since I have been going these past 16 years. We learned some really cool new things such as: how to build dog beds and stuff out of PVC, how to prepare to take care of our pets in our will, how to pass the new Stand up paddle board badge, how to dance your dog to physical fitness, how to make snuffle mats and much much more!!

What is required to attend the leadership retreat??

First, send Lonnie a request for your lodging (this is the only monetary requirement) with your \$25 deposit. The deposit goes towards your lodging. We have private cabins, a few travel trailers as well as private and bunkhouse rooms in the lodge. You can also bring your own trailer or tent.

Next, get your thinking caps on for a presentation. Anything dog or troop related is acceptable. Did you attend a presentation on something recently that you could share? Maybe you have a passion for something that has not been thought about before. Maybe your forte is in another line like pet insurance.. great! Or maybe you want to be a badge evaluator .. love it! Maybe you learned a new game for dogs you want to share... all this is wonderful... We also added the "take home" idea... that is a little something you give the attendees to take home with them to remind them of your presentation... this can be very simple and we had a lot of fun with it... some did pathtags, some did printed hand outs, we had all kinds of goodies that we took home with us...

Not sure? Contact me and we can discuss it - [dogs2katz@yahoo.com](mailto:dogs2katz@yahoo.com) - Oh and I have been working on a really cool new craft idea that ANYBODY can do!

Finally food... and let me tell you we eat well :-) Everybody will get grouped up and be responsible for just one meal whether it be breakfast, lunch or dinner.

Yes I know that coming to Michigan is out of the question for some of you that are further away. We have had people come from TX and other surrounding states... so if you can, we would love to see you attend. We have yet to come up with a way to share it with all of you via the web, Youtube or other ideas... maybe some day.

So come on! Who wants to join me???

Brenda Katz

# New Membership Chair

We are very happy to announce that Peggy Mooney is taking over responsibilities for all membership activities effective immediately. Peggy will be processing new memberships and renewals, sending out reminders to renew and welcoming our new members as they join.

If you prefer to renew your membership online, nothing changes. Peggy will now get notification for online renewal payments. If you choose to renew by sending a check you'll now address and send it to Peggy. Our web site has been updated to reflect the changes we've made. Questions can be emailed to Peggy at [mmooney65@gmail.com](mailto:mmmooney65@gmail.com).

We would like to thank Julie Benson who has handled our memberships for many years. Julie has decided to step away from this now due to work obligations but will continue to manage our badge program for us.



## Three Honor Scouts in 2016

In addition to **39 new Dog Scouts**, we are thrilled about the human-canine partners who have excelled in their teamwork, respect, communication, and living the Dog Scout Way and who achieved the Honor Scout badge in 2016. We'd announced **Martha and Maia Thierry** and **Julie and Shelby Benson** in previous newsletters, but we also want to congratulate **Kris and Kevin Thomas** (Troop 161) for fulfilling all the requirements to attain this merit badge.

The Honor Scout badge is a most challenging to earn, but worth every minute! It was designed to honor those Scouts who have shown a great desire to learn new things, and to be helpful in their communities. Their dedication to living the Dog Scout Way is evident, and they have met and conquered many obstacles and challenges to reach this goal. Requirements include completing a 4-page application, plus:

- attending multiple Dog Scout Camps
- obtaining Therapy Dog & Canine Good Citizen certifications
- earning a minimum of 23 merit badges, including some specific badges (see the badge check sheet)
- passing the Honor Scout test in the "real world" (in public)

It is a long road, but it is possible and we hope you'll check out the requirements on the DSA webpage and make achieving the Honor Scout badge a long-term goal.



Kris and Kevin Thomas earned the Honor Scout badge in October 2016

# Badge Bulletin & Title Tales

Kelly Ford—Troop Leader, CRN Secretary and Trails Titling Program Coordinator

Hello fellow Dog Scouts!

I would like to express my sincere gratitude to each and every one of you who participated in our second annual Sparky's Turkey Trot. Your generosity is truly appreciated.

Sparky's Turkey Trot 2016 was very successful with 59 participants and 64 K9 running partners registered.

Thanks so much to everyone who made this trot possible. Look for the third annual Turkey Trot in 2017!



I would like to congratulate everyone who has earned a Trails Title from August to September.

TrailDog (TD)  
Danica Joy Ford

TrailDog Excellent (TDX)  
Rio Olawski-Stiener

Utility TrailDog (UT)  
Rio Olawski-Stiener

Utility TrailDog 750 (UT750)  
Taika Almann  
Jib Almann

# Badge Achievement

## What Badge(s) Do You Want To Earn This Year?

### **SCOUT**

Pup Scout  
Jr Scout  
Dog Scout  
Honor Scout

### **AGILITY**

60 Weave Pole Challenge  
Agility 1  
Agility 2  
Agilure  
Obstacles 1  
Obstacles 2  
Obstacles 3  
Puissance  
Triathadog

### **COMMUNITY SERVICE**

Community Service 1  
Community Service 2  
Community Service 3  
Therapy Dog  
Therapy Dog - Reading  
Therapy Dog - Hospital  
Clean-Up America 1 - Cans  
Clean-Up America 2 - Poop  
Fundraise 1 - Handles  
Fundraise 2 - Put/Take  
DSA Service  
Humane Education

### **NOSE WORK**

Messenger Dog  
SAR Agility - Ladders  
SAR Agility - Levels  
SAR Agility 1  
SAR Agility 2  
SAR Urban - Direction 1  
SAR Urban - Direction 2  
SAR Wilderness  
Scent Discrimination  
Advanced Scent Discrimination  
Scent Hurdle Racing  
Tracking 1

### **OBEDIENCE**

All Dog Band  
Animal-Actor  
Art of Shaping (Painting)  
Drill Team  
Freestyle - Beginner  
Freestyle - Intermediate  
Freestyle - Advanced  
IMPROV  
Manners  
Naked Dog Obedience  
Rally 1  
Rally 2  
Tricks  
Retrieve

### **OTHER/MISC**

Pho-DOG-raphy  
Sign Language  
Temperament Test  
Canine 1st Aid  
Canine CPR  
Dog Care  
Travel Safety  
Dog Massage  
Disaster Preparation  
K-9 Fitness  
Carriage Dog  
Scrapbooking at Dog Scout  
Camp

### **PULLING**

Weight Pull  
Carting  
Skiing/Scootering  
Sledding

### **TRAILS**

Backpacking  
Biking  
Canicross  
Geocache 1  
Geocache 2  
Geocache 3  
Hiking  
Letterbox 1  
Letterbox 2  
Letterbox 3  
Overnight Camping  
DSA Hike-a-Thon

### **WATER**

Puppy Paddler  
Beach Buddy  
Boating Safety  
Canoeing  
Dock Diving  
Kayaking  
Water Racing  
Water Rescue 1  
Water Rescue 2  
Water Retrieve  
Flat Water Stand Up Paddle  
(SUP) Boarding

### **EXISTING COMPETITIONS**

Barn Hunt  
Hunt Retriever  
Lure Course  
Steeplechase  
Herding  
Flyball  
Frisbee - Distance/Flight  
Frisbee - Freestyle  
Earthdog (Go-to-Ground)  
Treibball Beginner 1  
Treibball Beginner 2  
Treibball Beginner 3  
Treibball 1  
Treibball 2  
Rally FrEe Novice  
Rally FrEe Intermediate  
Rally FrEe Advanced



# Badge Achievement

## Steps To Achieve Your Goals

Shirley Conley

Whether you're aiming for a badge or a title in another venue, write down your goals and how you're going to achieve them—be sure to read the badge criteria or rules and evaluation/judging guidelines produced by the parent organization—don't just rely on someone's interpretation of them—read them for yourself and ask questions of an evaluator or credible source if something isn't clear.

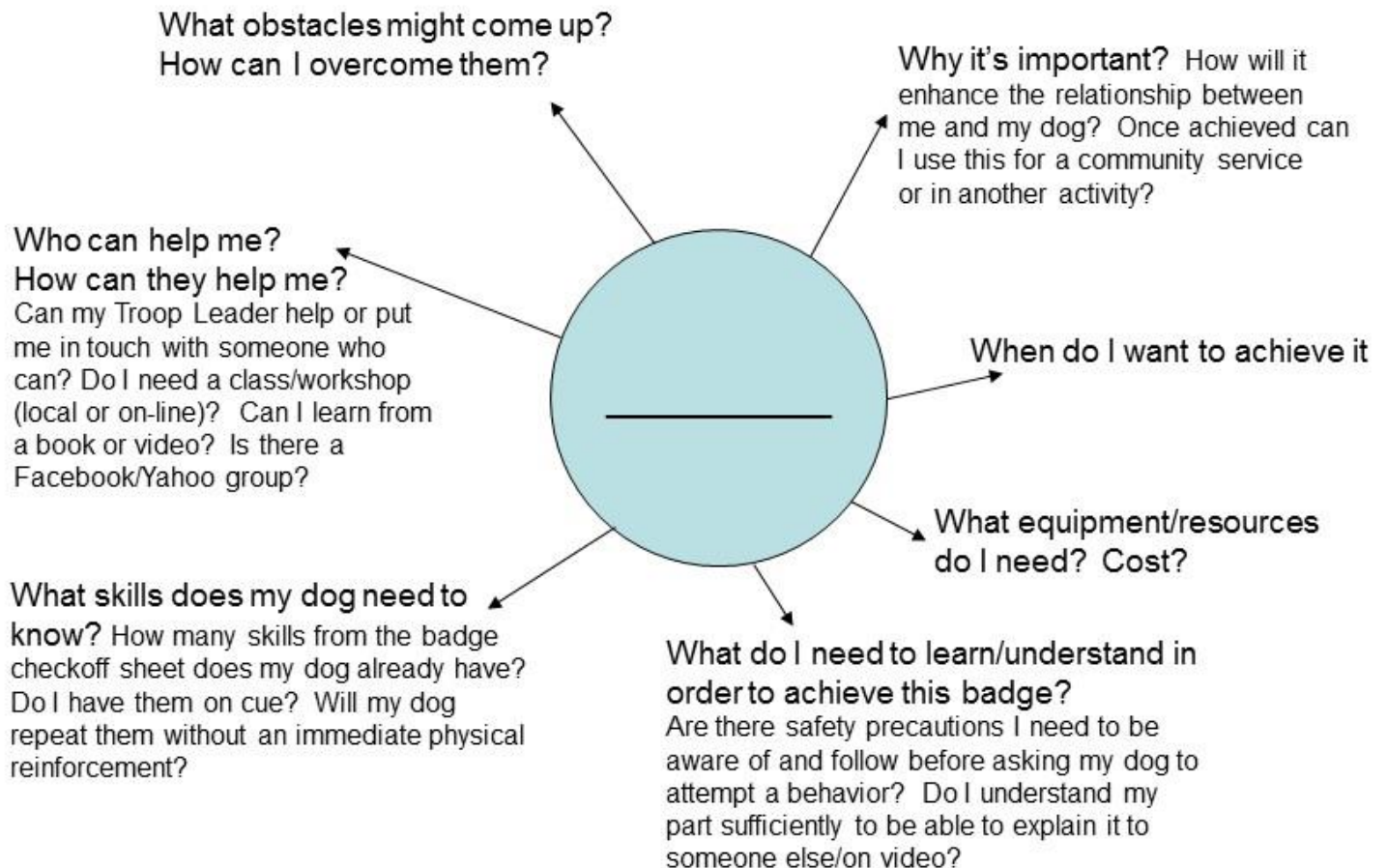
Make use of a training journal to plan effective training sessions and evaluate your progress. It's easier to practice and train if you already have your equipment set up and a plan for what you intend to work on during your session.

Define your criteria of progress/success, and if you don't meet that criteria then consider what you need to review to bring your dog up to that point. Don't assume your dog "knows it" and is being stubborn. If you're not getting the behavior you want, either he doesn't understand your criteria or you haven't reinforced a behavior sufficiently for your dog to understand it's worth repeating! Review the merit badge check sheets available on the DSA website to see if you've missed a foundation step in your training.

Consider the environment you're asking for the behavior in and your dog's physical condition—perhaps your dog is concerned about or distracted by what's going on around him, or perhaps his body is fatigued from zooming around the yard with his buddies, or the agility class last night, or those 30 repetitions of paw waving you did yesterday practicing for the Art of Shaping badge!

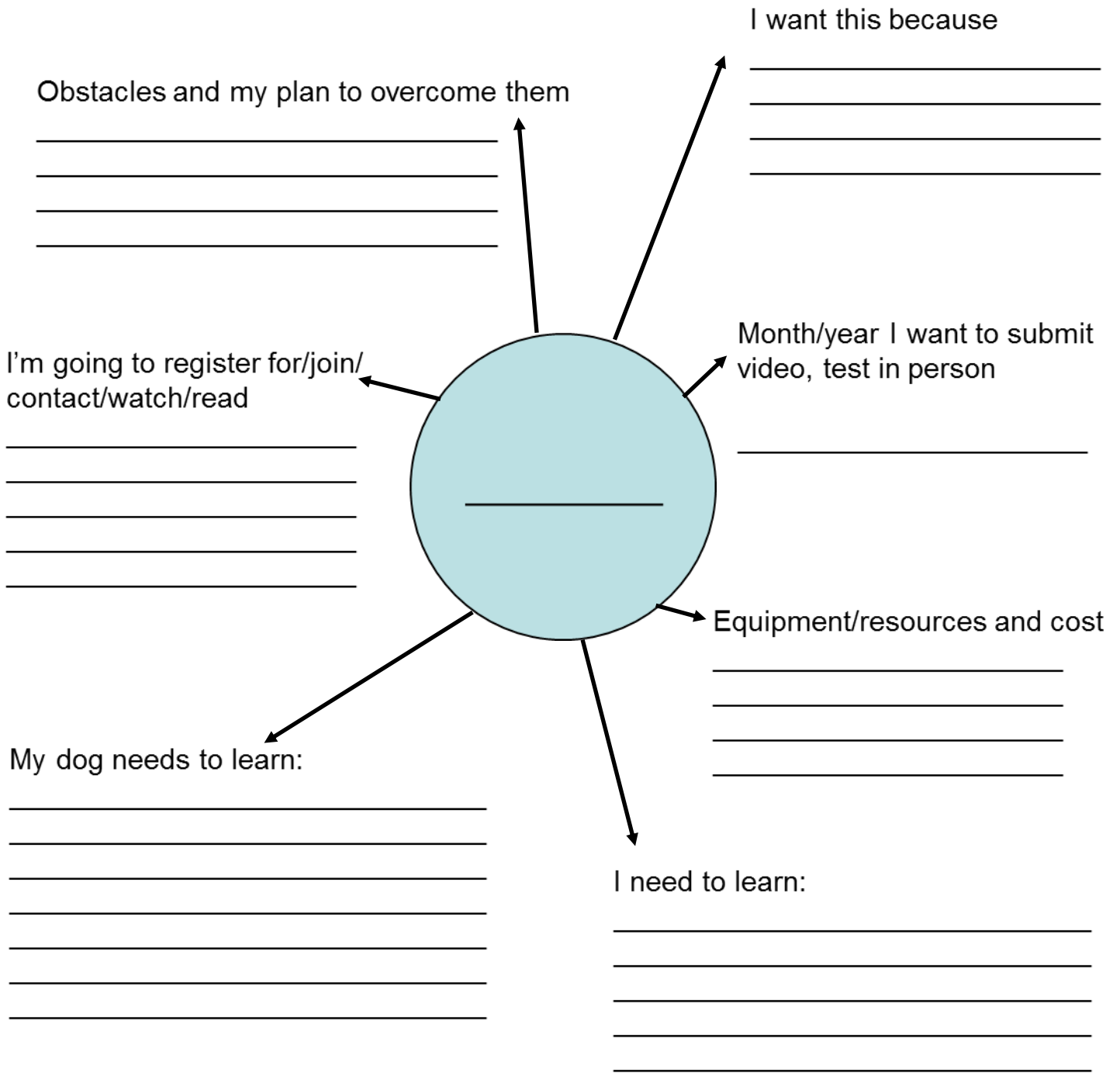
End training with a play session or at the very least something your dog likes to do—a 2016 study suggests that post-learning exercise/play improves training performance.

([www.companionanimalpsychology.com/2016/11/playtime-after-training-improves-dogs.html](http://www.companionanimalpsychology.com/2016/11/playtime-after-training-improves-dogs.html))



# Badge Achievement

Plan for \_\_\_\_\_



Remember STAR – Specific, time-framed, achievable, reviewable

# Scout Scoop & Troop Talk

**Congratulations to Lonnie & Caper Olson on finishing the Barn Hunt Open title (RATO).**

*(Kozi is photo-bombing the picture, even though she wasn't entered in the trial.)*



## **Dog Scouts Proudly Serving Veterans**

My 2 DSA dogs, Waylon and Findley have mastered panhandling skills and have brought in thousands of dollars for our local shelter. I recently brought the dogs to a veterans fundraiser and made over 400.00 in only 1 1/2 hours. Lonnie and Joanne showed me the steps to take to train them to take the money and place in the bucket. This skill has brought so much awareness to positive dog training and we appreciate all that Dog Scouts have done for us.

In January, our dog Waylon was on TV prior to the shelter's fundraiser, demonstrating his panhandling skills. Here's the link: [www.wciu.com/videos/youandme/4th-annual-bark-and-brew](http://www.wciu.com/videos/youandme/4th-annual-bark-and-brew)

At our last veterans fundraiser, Waylon and Findley dressed up in their patriotic gear and Waylon held the flag to pose with WWII veterans.

Debbie Tomasik and Bill VonDrasek



# Troop 119—TX

Cindy Ratliff

In November, our troop participated in our largest community service project of the year, our annual Meals On Wheels for Pets Project. We've lost track of how many years we've done this project but know it's at least 13 and maybe 14 years. It's an absolute favorite activity for the troop and everyone that participates has a great time!

Our troop dog representative this year was 15 year-old Macie Romano. Macie has a couple of special DSA distinctions. She was one of the very first Cadet Scouts, when the program was introduced in July 2006. Then in February 2007, she went on to become the first Cadet Scout to become a Dog Scout! She was very honored to represent her fellow Troop 119 dogs at the MOW event.

We received an incredible amount of donations this year, both from troop members and members of the community. At last official count, before we started bagging up all the goodies, we had collected 150 bowls, 136 rope toys, 865 plush toys, 144 balls, 192 poop bag dispensers, 450 poop bag rolls, 70 frisbees, 120 holiday bandanas, 256 chews, 453 dental sticks, 12+ large boxes of dog biscuits, 120+ packages of treats AND 1,000+ lbs of food! We actually had so much donated that the MOW driver took a van full of food back to the distribution center, then returned with another van to collect up all the goody bags. A special thank you, too, goes to troop member Nita Lanter and her family (including husband, kids & in-laws) who made 70 kittie bags for all the MOW cats, as well!

The folks at Meals On Wheels of Tarrant County were very appreciative, as were all the client recipients – both two- and four-legged.

After our MOW baggin' party, we headed out for our Parents' Night Out dinner at Chili's and had a great time enjoying visiting with our fellow troop members.



The troop took the month of December off and we plan to hit the ground running in 2017!

# Troop 157—FL

Terri Cannici

Troop 157 in Ft. Lauderdale, Florida has been busy this month! We have been out and about in the community educating the public on responsible pet ownership, positive training, collar exchange and the benefits of human-canine bond that we live by as dog scouts.



## Mutts and Martinis

Riverwalk Ft Lauderdale, FL



## Bow Wow Bonanza

Greynolds Park, Miami, FL

We held our annual holiday party with fun and games as well as delicious food for humans and our canine companions.

Some of the games included a tricks contest, hot dog eating contest and a holiday dress up contest. We even attempted the ever popular mannequin challenge!



*From our troop to yours, we would like to wish everyone more fun, adventures, wags and badges in the coming year!*



# Troop 177—IN

Robyn Porter

Our Christmas party and gift exchange was held on December 11. The dogs enjoyed a “white elephant” gift exchange, swapping and stealing gifts from each other. Maybe it was the handlers that enjoyed that part!

Anita Dudley & Sophie, Amy Heard with Star & Piper, Emily George & Lucy, Peggy Kraus with Penny Belle and Casey, John Carlson & Tilly, Gail Wiseman & Daisy, and Robyn Porter with Hallie & Griffin gathered to celebrate and catch up with each other. Donations for dogs and cats were gathered for the Faith + Inmates + Dogs = Opportunity (FIDO) Program. Amy Heard brought this worthy cause to our attention a few years ago.



Anita Dudley with Sophie



Star enjoys homemade frozen treat



Emily George with Lucy,  
John Carlson with Tilly

Troop #177 members participated in Salvation Army bell ringing. Our troop has been participating in this annual fundraising effort since 2012.



Peggy with Penny Belle and Casey

Robyn Porter and Hallie staffed shifts in November and December, joined by Peggy Kraus with Penny Belle and Casey.

2016's total of \$938.86 was an increase from 2015's total of \$851.44. Multiple people who donated to our kettle recognized Hallie from her volunteer work at Community Hospital!



Hallie in her DSA vest

# Troop 183—FL

Shirley Conley—Troop Leader

took the middle shift, Cyndi came back with her second Dog Scout, Jurnee, and Shirley with Dog Scout Nim, and soon-to-be Dog Scout Tachi assisted by Shirley's hubby Bryan took the last shift. Of her session, Mary Ann wrote:



*Dog Scout LeeRoy danced, played the drum, and sat pretty on the drum. Bling did tricks but LeeRoy is a real attention grabber. People think he is a puppy. Several people asked to take pictures of the dogs and they were happy to pose. The Salvation Army area rep. said she knew which location would bring in the most money today. She also took pictures of the boys (which made it to the Salvation Army Facebook page) and was excited that Bling would hold and ring the bell. We were super busy and the time flew by. Even the manager of Publix and numerous employees came out to see the Scouts. People are always interested in Dog Scouts.*



After Bling and LeeRoy's shift we had to call for a new kettle as there wasn't any room in the original kettle. Our troop was pleased to raise over \$400 for the local programs funded through the Salvation Army, and get the word out about Dog Scouts.

In January we kicked off our 2017 activities with a pot-luck and games. A local girl scout troop joined us to talk to troop members about service dogs and therapy dog training for their Animal Badge. We also did some research and provided them with contacts and sent some links to articles and studies that would help them complete the remaining parts of their badge requirements.

After eating we played games—Tic-Tac-Toe, Limbo, and Temptation Tower, amongst others. Winners of the games received a small dog treat and the person with the most dog treats at the end of the day received a gift card to a pet supply store. We got to meet our newest troop member, Blake who drove about four hours from Georgia to join us! Perhaps she'll get some more people in her area interested in DSA and we can help her get a troop started in Georgia this year.



# Troop 188—CT/RI

Sheri Throop—Troop Leader

The months of November and December are always busy ones for Troop 188. Lots of different opportunities for service, learning and just plain fun.



We started early in November with our annual Veteran's Day Walk where our pups mark the day and pay their respect by joining in the local tradition of walking around the Submarine Veteran's Memorial at Sunset. Our local area has one of the submarine ports on the Atlantic seaboard as well as the home to the shipyard responsible for building our submarine force.

A couple of weekend hikes filled the time between Veterans Day and the Thanksgiving Holiday weekend. This year our Troop received the honor of leading the Ledyard Town Holiday Light Parade. Decked out in our holiday lighted coats we had a great time at the parade, tree lighting, and carol sing.



One of our local landmarks, Olde Mystick Village welcomed Santa December 3<sup>rd</sup> and Dog Scout Troop 188 was front and center taking pictures of people and pets with jolly ole Saint Nick. We love our Santa and he loves his animal friends. This annual fundraiser is one of our favorites as we get to visit with friends from far and near on their annual holiday visits

Our December meeting was a very exciting one as we hosted a Therapy Dog evaluation. We have been preparing for this as a troop for several months, learning new skills and practicing very hard.



Troop 188 would like to congratulate our newest certified therapy dogs, Belle, Ella, Fabio, Flynn, Jo-Jo, Lucy, Luna, Phantom, and Pirate.

## Troop 188—CT/RI (cont.)



Some of our members helped our local senior club celebrate their holiday. Phantom volunteered to help Santa during his busy time and take some of the weight from the reindeer by pulling the sleigh full of gifts to the luncheon.

Our next stop was a musical one as the members of Troop 188 spent an evening caroling at Kings Manor, a local senior village.



We love visiting with the folks there. Many of the residents had special holiday snacks for the dogs and several joined in caroling with us. What we lack in quality we make up for in volume!



As a troop we like to end the year on a giving note, helping out in our community in various ways. This year was no exception. We were blessed with an opportunity to make a difference discovered by one of our members in a local paper. One of our local animal shelters had a number of dogs in residence over the holiday with a wish list for stimulating and engaging toys. We were able to completely fill the shelters wish list with help from our friends at Benny and Jack's, a local mom and pop pet store. Our holiday was made so much sweeter as we received pictures of the shelter dogs enjoying their gifts.



Our troop was also able to help a local missing pet response team with a donation of poster board, a food pantry with a donation of pet food and toys, and another local shelter with some remote cameras to help monitor whelping mothers.

## Troop 188—CT/RI (cont.)

The holiday season ended with a few of our members enjoying some winter hiking and fun in the snow.



Our troop is looking forward to 2017 with more hiking, letterboxing, and therapy work. Also a group is looking to form a demo team, while another contingent is looking to learn more about scenting and carting. Still others will continue to compete in fun runs, agility, flyball, and barn hunt. 2017 looks like a very full year.

# Troop 198—CA (together with Troop 233 and Pre-Troops SF Peninsula and SF East Bay

Leah Lane—Event Coordinator

San Francisco Bay Area Troops keep the Dog Scout Momentum going as the 2016 winds down and 2017 revs up.

On Nov 19<sup>th</sup>, SF East Bay Troop # 237 met at the Contra Costa County Animal Shelter and their meeting topic was “Is your dog meant to be a therapy dog?” They had speakers from different Animal Therapy organizations come and share their experiences.



Copper lays quietly as Kristie, with Maurice in her lap, discusses therapy dog programs with Pat and Julie.



Maurice looks at Kristie and wonders why Karen with Tonks and Ruth with Kobi are laughing after he mugged the camera.

On Dec 3<sup>rd</sup> SF East Bay Troop # 237 Met at MetroDog in Richmond and had a Holiday Game Time meeting.



The Musical Cones Game begins led by Norine & Yuri



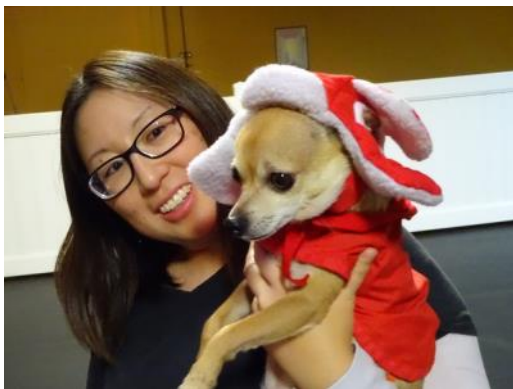
Nancy & Carol leave the “arena” after Stevie & Sadie win 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> place in Musical Cones



**Troop 198—CA (cont.)**



Kristie has Dog Scout Maurice show tricks to entertain at holiday gatherings.



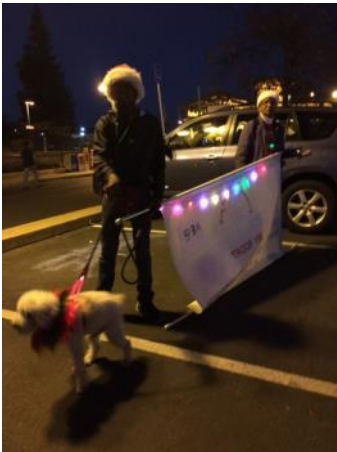
Dog Scout Maurice dazzles in his holiday outfit.

Pat has Copper play the muffin pan-tennis ball-nose game while Ellie, Sadie and Cash learn with Susan, Carol and Tom observing.



**Troop 198—CA (cont.)**

Also on Dec 3<sup>rd</sup>, All SF Bay Area troops were invited for the second year in a row to represent Dog Scouts of America in the Morgan Hill Holiday of Lights Parade



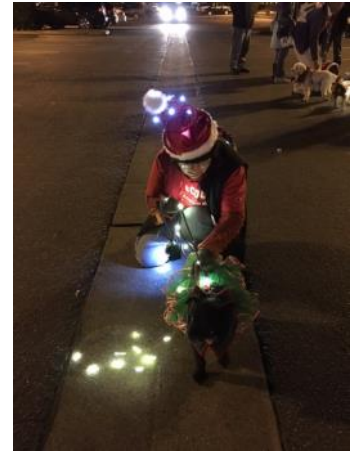
Donna, Leader of Troop 198, with her youngest son, Charles and Spike with the Dog Scout banner to lead our troops.



Candy with Jampa, Teddy & Bodhi all decked out to light up the parade.



Our sleigh filled with dog toys, all lit up and carrying our Dog Scout sign.



Dina with Sweet Pea all dressed in a beautiful Christmas outfit and both all decorated in lights.



Jan, the leader of the Burlingame pre troop, posing with Candy, Jampa, Teddy & Bodhi next to the James holding our Dog Scout Banner



Patty with Crystal and Leah with Duncan and Wyatt ready to pull the sleigh with our Dog Scout sign.



Leading us in the parade is Troop 198 leader Donna and her Spike with her son Charles carrying our big banner. Behind us walked the Cub Scouts of America, followed by the Boy Scouts of America, followed by the Grand Finale of Santa Claus in a lighted pirate ship. Needless to say, the Scouts of America were well represented!

Wyatt marching down the street pulling the sleigh with our Dog Scout sign for all the parade watchers to admire.



## Troop 198—CA (cont.)

On Dec 11<sup>th</sup> at Pet Food Express in San Jose, Troop 198 had a Holiday Gathering, where we had a little ceremony to congratulate Mike, (taking the picture), Ruth and Kobi (left) for obtaining their Dog Scout title and helping the SF East Bay Troop get their new Troop status as Troop 237. We had party treats, toys, games and everyone came dressed in holiday attire.



Bob & Debee and their goldens, Maxwell & Dayton with lab friends Wyatt & Duncan.



Crystal sitting pretty for Patty as Dave and Frodo watch admiring her technique.



A shopper is petting Kobi the golden next to Donna and poodle mix Spike. On the other end is Patty with Dave telling a little girl about Crystal and Frodo and what they do in Dog Scouts.



We also had a mother and son stop in to see our dogs. The little boy was interested and a little nervous around all those dogs as he listed to Ruth explain about Dog Scouts and how Kobi just earned his Dog Scout Badge.



Never one to miss an opportunity, Patty uses Crystal to teach the boy about how to train a trick using treats as positive reinforcement.



As our party comes to an end, one last visitor stops in to meet Wyatt and Duncan and to learn about Dog Scouts from Leah. Pet Food Express was a great place to have our party and to teach the public about Dog Scouts.

## Troop 198—CA (cont.)



Harper demonstrates her "Meerkat" moves as Karen prepares Tonks to "Sit Pretty"

Dec 17<sup>th</sup> SF East Bay Troop # 237 met at the Contra Costa County Animal Shelter for their Holiday Game Time Meeting. They also learned about how to train tricks and behaviors to show off at holiday gatherings.



Brenda discusses the canine Parkour course she is taking as Guppy demonstrates one of the positions she has learned.



Kobi demonstrates "Sit Pretty" with Ruth.



Ruth began the meeting on a rainy, blustery day.

On Jan 7<sup>th</sup> the SF East Bay Troop # 237 had their first meeting of the year at MetroDog in Richmond with the topic of skills and behaviors needed to earn the Dog Scout Badge.

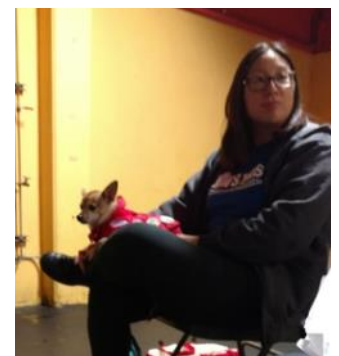


Tack and Clewie pay attention in their very stylish rain coats. Cash wags his tail behind them. Tack along with his parents Greg and Melissa were the first members to join when Troop 237 first started meeting as a pre troop.

The troop continues to grow with the addition of enthusiastic new member Patty with Gracie, a therapy pet.



Maruice stays warm in Kristie's lap in his Dog Scout vest with his newest badges just added.



# Troop 217—The Motor City K9s—MI

*Sally Hoyle—Troop Leader with an assist from Katie and Sam*

Our troop members both human and K9 really enjoy the traditional holiday activities that we participate in during the months of November and December. This year we certainly weren't disappointed!

We covered 5 different shifts ringing bells for the Salvation Army between November 19 and December 17. Though I'm sure the dogs don't really know that they are raising money for a good cause and helping people within our communities, they do really enjoy interacting with all the people who come by to see them. The dogs do tricks, play music or just generally charm people to fill those kettles and this year they did a great job. Though we can only get daily totals for each kettle, the Salvation Army told us that one of our kettles brought in almost TEN TIMES the average per day!



**Katie and Sassy relax while bell ringing.**

**Carrie Jones and Darby while bell ringing.**

The other activity that we really enjoy during the holiday season is parades and this year we walked in two. The Garden City Santaland Parade is a tradition for our troops and despite some construction challenges that made getting to the parade start difficult, we had a great time again this year. This parade is a big one for the area and includes a live television and internet broadcast. Michelle Neu and Sassy, Julie Lawler-Hoyle and Sam, and me and Katie all participated in this parade again this year and we were joined by some newcomers to the event, Dianne Pietras and Fletcher, and Carrie Jones and Darby. We also really enjoyed having our friends Fay Reid and Goldy and Fay's nephew Bryson from Troop 101 join us this year! Katie once again pulled her cart in the parade with her buddy Sassy right along side. Katie didn't have her regular passenger this year as Shelby and mom Julie Benson had a family event, but Fletcher hopped in for a ride towards the end of the parade route since his legs are much shorter than everyone else's.



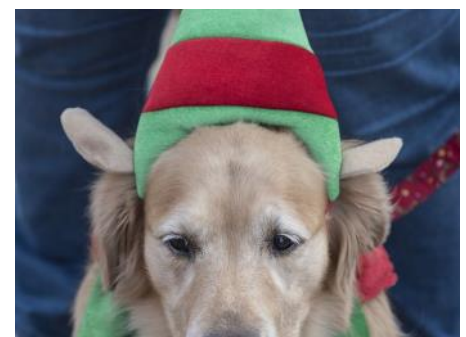
**Julie and Sam and Sally and Katie enjoying the parade.**



**Carrie and Darby with our troop banner in the Garden City Santaland Parade.**



**Fletcher LOVED his first parade.**



**Sassy "the elf" is a parade veteran and always has a great time.**

## Troop 217—MI (cont.)

We also participated in the Chelsea Hometown Holiday parade for the 3<sup>rd</sup> year. This is a night parade that is always a lot of fun and although Chelsea is a small community the parade is well supported and attended. Residents line the parade route with luminaries and we always have a great time figuring out how to light up our dogs and ourselves.



Our crew after the Chelsea Hometown Holiday Parade.



Shelby was a CROWD FAVORITE in the parade! Here she is with mom Julie Benson.

Katie was very glad that Julie and Shelby were able to participate so that she could have her passenger in her cart. Shelby was a real crowd favorite and we heard “Oh look at the little one!” more times than we could count! Darby and Sam rounded out our group and though we were a small entry the 4 dogs really did a great job. More importantly, we all had fun!

So many of our dogs do therapy work and it's especially rewarding to help out at the holidays. That was the case when a couple of our members spent a few hours at the University of Detroit Mercy Dental School during exams to provide some stress relief. Diane Schuler and Odie and Brenda Kieswetter and Merlin were extremely popular and really seemed to help the students a lot. We all know how comforting it is to pet and cuddle with a dog and it's pretty special to see these young adults gain benefit from our dogs during a stressful time.

Once past the holidays we got together for a CPR class. We partnered with Lucky Dog, a local daycare in space donated by a community church and had a fantastic turnout of Dog Scouts and daycare clients. In total we had 30 people attending and with the daycare clients a captive audience we were able to spend some time talking about Dog Scouts and talking about our experiences. Once class was over I was able to work with our members and do badge check offs for those that were ready. In attendance were Betsy Conway and Burt, Valerie Carey and Reid, Diane Baughman and Lizzy, Sue Szeremet and Ember, Kristen Uitenham and Linus, Michelle and Sassy, Julie and Shelby and Julie and Sam. Some of our dogs had already earned the CPR badge and just came for a refresher on this important topic, and 5 dogs were able to earn the badge. Katie seemed to enjoy hanging out in the middle of the room being the center of attention (from her perspective) while I taught class.

Our troop has a lot to look forward to in 2017 but right now I think we're are most looking forward to SPRING and hoping it arrives before May. :)



Lizzy is happy to demonstrate the proper position for CPR with her mom, Diane Baughman.



Sue Szeremet and Ember show how to use the top of a bottle as a rescue breathing device.



Julie Lawler-Hoyle and Sam after CPR class.



Katie and I had fun teaching CPR class and really enjoyed talking to the Lucky Dog clients about Dog Scouts.

# Troop 219—CT—New England Explorers

Kelly Ford—Troop Leader, CRN Secretary and Trails Titling Program Coordinator



On an early Saturday morning in mid-November we gathered at Hopeville State Park in Griswold CT to go letterboxing. Danica Joy, Wyatt, Zora and Simon were accompanied by Lori, Lauren and Kelly. We hiked a total of three miles and found 8 letterboxes. The day was warm enough to let the pups take a break to swim and play at the beach.

After enjoying a wonderful Thanksgiving dinner with our friends and families, we got up early Friday morning to ring bells for the Salvation Army.

Everyone enjoyed a fun morning wishing shoppers a Merry Christmas and the pups got lots of love.



Dog Scout Troop 219  
Bell Ringing for  
the Salvation Army

## Troop 219—CT (cont.)



At the end of November, Wyatt DSA and Lori attended the annual Westerly Land Trust meeting in Westerly, RI. As new supporting members, they were introduced to those in attendance and spoke briefly and answered questions about dog scouts. Following the meeting, those interested enjoyed a hike around Wahaneeta Preserve. Wyatt and Lori had further opportunity to talk about the Trails and Outdoors Badges and Titles offered by DSA. Wyatt and Lori have been asked to lead a hike in 2017 to promote trail safety and responsibility and dog scout fun!

Several members of Troop 219 participated in the Annual Sparky's Turkey Trot. Lori and Wyatt did their turkey trot in RI on Saturday. Danica, Zora and Kelly completed their turkey trot on Sunday at Bluff Point. They were joined by Troop members Simon and Lauren for a refreshing 3 mile walk to finish off the Thanksgiving holiday break. Cody and Nadene also completed their turkey trot on Sunday.



# Sparky's Turkey Trot

# Hiking Bluff Point



## Troop 219—CT (cont.)

The first weekend in December was warm, sunny and perfect for geocaching. Danica Joy, Wyatt, and Zora spent the day playing and geocaching at Coogan Farm. This was their first time at Coogan Farm and there are many more trails to explore. They found some open fields to run and play in, while waiting for their people to catch up. The group found 4 geocaches before the sun got too low and their exploring had to end.



TROOP 219  
Geocaching



Hiking new places, Coogan Farm,  
Mystic CT



Dog Scout Troop 219

...  
Januart 1st 2017  
First Day Hike



We held our second annual First Day Hike on the first day of January in 2017. This year we hiked more than 3 miles at Rocky Neck State Park. None of us had hiked the trails there before, so this was a perfect place for us to explore together. After our hike, we went down to the beach and let the dogs run and play. A Troop member brought a remote control car to hike with us. The car, called "Shelf Queen" was the best behaved Dog Scout.

Troop Member Blogs: Follow the adventures of Team Puggle! [positivelypuggle.com](http://positivelypuggle.com)

# Troop 229—CA—Dogaholics Anonymutts

Mary Blackstone—Troop Leader

While out looking for a new hiking place at the end of November, we ran into some snow.



It was iZAR's first snow of the year.



Our Troop participated in the Igo Parade with our favorite clicker trainer. It was our dog's first parade.

Of course we had to find a couple of geocaches on the way....



In December Santa dropped by to take some pictures with local dogs, because Santa likes dogs too! IZAR was impatient for Santa to arrive, last year Santa brought some tasty goodies!

iZAR was really happy when Santa finally showed up! He didn't waste any time telling Santa what he wanted for Xmas, and what he wanted right now!

## Troop 229—CA (cont.)

Then it was time for other dogs to see Santa.



Believe it or not,  
iZAR USED to be  
camera shy.

Heidi snuck back  
into the Santa line!



## Troop 229—CA (cont.)

iZAR saw her, and thought that was a GOOD IDEA!



And then there was THREE!



It was all over from there...



All the dog scouts present took a picture with Santa before he had to leave.



We donated the money from the photos to the local Fairgrounds.

## Troop 229—CA (cont.)

Every year we make little holiday bags to add to the community's holiday baskets they give to the local poor families. This year we did 100 baggies of dog food and dog treats and 60 for cats. We donated them to our local community center and to a senior center.

Some of the seniors wanted a picture with iZAR.



One lady just had to adjust iZAR's hat.



iZAR also visited the Dialysis center and brought lots of smiles from staff & patients.

We ended the year with a hike. We found a new trail that had a southern exposure, so the snow had melted off it. The dogs enjoyed romping down the trail under the trees above the river.



# Troop 230—TX—Pineywood Paws

Kristen Keeling—Troop Leader



November 10-13<sup>th</sup> several of our members attended Texas mini-camp. Members



learned lots of new activities including cart, lure coursing, sign language, barn hunt, phoDOgraphy, naked dog and drill team. We had at least 4 more that can't wait for next year because they missed signing up this year.



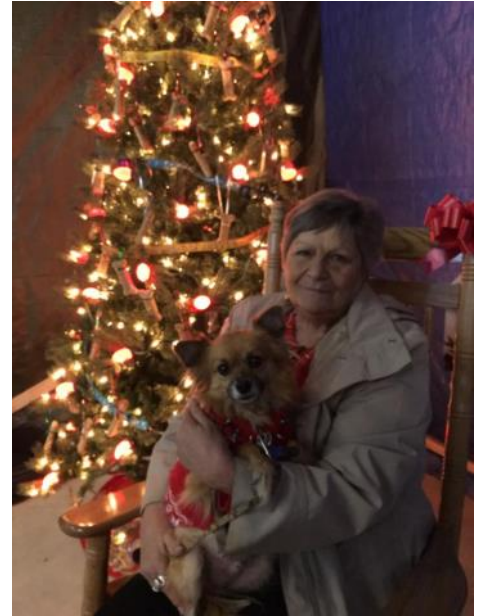
November 20<sup>th</sup> we met at Southside Park for a walk in the park and to hunt Pokemon.



December 11<sup>th</sup> we had our first Paint your Pets event. We had a great turn out and fun was had by all. A wonder artist from the Dallas area Jayson Blondin, came down with sketches of our pets. Then he assisted us in completing the paints. We have several hidden artist in our group!



## Troop 230—TX (cont.)



December 18<sup>th</sup> we had a fantastic Christmas party. We have to give a HUGE thank you to the following members who donated the party place, food, decorations, beverages and did their best to make sure we didn't freeze when Mother Nature plummeted us from the mid-70's into the teens that morning: Beth Head, Beth Ann Gessing and Sarah Jane Gessing you made this the best Christmas party ever. We enjoyed a three course meal, gift exchange and portraits by the tree.

In 2017 we hope to bring more unique ideas to our members and write up a badge submission for Pokemon Go! We have a troop patch and spoke with Lonnie about our ideas. Now we just need to get it written on paper.

# Contact Dog Scouts of America

Learning new things that we may be more helpful

Website: [Dogscouts.org](http://Dogscouts.org)  
Facebook: [facebook.com/DogScouts](https://facebook.com/DogScouts)  
Yahoo Discussion List:  
[pets.groups.yahoo.com/group/DSA\\_TalkList](https://pets.groups.yahoo.com/group/DSA_TalkList)

Dog Scouts of America (DSA) was established in 1995. It is a non-profit organization with people dedicated to enriching their dog's lives and the lives of others with dogs. Founder Lonnie Olson has made it her life's ambition to experience as many dog sports and skills as possible with her dogs.

If you believe that dogs really enjoy learning new things and spending time with their owners, you're our kind of dog person. Dogs were not meant to be "furniture." Working dogs want to work. Without having an acceptable activity in which to use up all of the energy that comes "built-in" with a dog, our canine companions often get into trouble.

By better understanding how your dog thinks, how he learns, and what drives his behavior, and by participating in a variety of dog sports and activities, you will become a more responsible dog owner.

We hope to prevent misunderstandings, communication failures, and behavioral problems which often lead to dogs being given up as a "lost cause."

**President: Lonnie Olson** — [DogScoutCamp@gmail.com](mailto:DogScoutCamp@gmail.com)  
(Also for Dog Scout Calendar, Sparky's Camp Store, Dog Scout Camp (MI), Camp Scholarships)

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**Dog Scout Obituaries: Chris Kloski** — [ChrisBill1966@gmail.com](mailto:ChrisBill1966@gmail.com)  
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**Membership: Peggy Mooney** — [mmmooney65@gmail.com](mailto:mmmooney65@gmail.com)

**Troop Administration: Brenda Katz** — [dogs2katz@yahoo.com](mailto:dogs2katz@yahoo.com)  
(Starting a troop/Troop Leader Tests)

**Treasurer/Donations: Barb Whiting** — [bwhitingdsa@comcast.net](mailto:bwhitingdsa@comcast.net)

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**Evaluator Certification: Chris Kloski** — [ChrisBill1966@gmail.com](mailto:ChrisBill1966@gmail.com)

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(Also for newsletter distribution)