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 2 Mar/Apr 2017

Dog Scout Camp



Spring Clean Up May 16-18, 2017

FREE LODGING! THREE DAYS OF CAMP CLEAN UP!
Pot Luck Meals!
Spring Cleaning • Tree & Bush Trimming • Cabin &

Spring Cleaning • Tree & Bush Trimming • Cabin & Lodge Cleaning • Help Get Camp Ready for Summer Campers • Pull Out the Docks • Much More!

Contact Lonnie at DogScoutCamp@gmail.com

Deadline

for the next newsletter is

May 15th

Please e-mail your news, articles, and pictures to thescoop@dogscouts.org

Inside this issue:

Notes from 1-4 National

K-9 Nutrition

Badge Bulletin & Title Tales

• Trail Titling Update

Scout Scoop & 6-20 Troop Talk

• Rainbow Bridge

Contacts 21

5

LEADERSHIP RETREAT

May 19-21st

Are you interested in

- ⇒ learning new activities, games, crafts, and information on dog and Scout topics?
- ⇒ becoming a badge evaluator?
- ⇒ being inspired by what is possible with your dog?
- ⇒ encouraging others to broaden their horizons?
- ⇒ Sharing quality time with your dog and likeminded people?

Don't delay! Contact Brenda about attending this year's Leadership Retreat in Michigan: dogs2katz@yahoo.com



Sparky's Boutique & Outfitters will be re-opening for the summer on April 1st (no fooling!).

Shop online for all your dog camp needs and DSA logo items.

We restocked our shirts last fall, so if you're needing one of our standard shirts, chances are that we have your size in stock.

K9 Nutrition

As responsible pet parents we all strive to feed our dogs healthy, high quality food. But how exactly do we do that? That can be a difficult question to answer. Understanding the pet food industry can be complicated but with a little investigation we can all be more certain that we are feeding our dogs the best diet possible.

There is a group, the Association of American Feed Control Officials (AAFCO) that regulates the pet food industry. While it includes state and federal representatives it is not a government body and also has members that are directly involved in the industry. Since the AAFCO does include business insiders, they must balance the need for honest and descriptive labeling on pet food with their own business interests. This does create internal conflict as manufactures always want their products to appeal to as many consumers as possible regardless of the overall quality of the food they produce.

The product name is generally what is noticed first by the consumer and can be a key factor in deciding to buy the product. For that reason manufacturers want to emphasize certain aspects of the food that they believe will appeal to a wide range of pet parents. Since many consumers buy a product based on the presence of a specific ingredient, product names often incorporate the name of an ingredient that is perceived to be of high quality or value. People tend to want to feed their dogs food that contains the same easy to understand ingredients that make up their own diets. The percentages of named ingredients in the total product are dictated by AAFCO rules

⇒ If a food is named specifically, e.g. "Beef Dog Food", the named ingredient must not be less than 95% of the total weight if the water required for processing is excluded.





For example -

Since the named ingredients are only required to make up ¼ of the total product, they may not be truly descriptive of the main ingredients. You must look closely to make sure you get what you intend.

On a bag of dry food labeled "Lamb and Rice Formula" Look for...lamb, ground rice, barley flour, fish meal, etc.

Rather than...ground yellow corn, meat and bone meal, lamb, brewers rice, etc.

⇒ If a food name includes the word "dinner" (or similar ones like "formula", "nuggets" etc.), e.g. such as in "Lamb Formula", the named ingredient must not be less than 25% of the total weight.

- ⇒ If a food name includes the word "dinner" (or similar ones like "formula", "nuggets" etc.), e.g. such as in "Lamb Formula", the named ingredient must not be less than 25% of the total weight.
- ⇒ If the name of a food includes the phrase "with [ingredient]" (e.g. "with beef"), the named ingredient must not be less than 3% of the total weight.

For Example -

Since the mentioned ingredient is only a small percentage of the total it is really not a good description when making a purchase decision.

On a product labeled "with Real Lamb and Rice" the label will likely read...ground yellow corn, chicken by-product meal, wheat, animal fat, lamb, rice, natural poultry flavor, salt, minerals, vitamins, etc.



⇒ If a name only includes the word "flavor" or "flavored", no specific percentage is required at all, but a product must contain an amount sufficient to be able to be detected.

For Example -

If you buy a "flavored" product you can be certain that only a minute amount of the flavoring ingredient is contained in it, while prominent ingredients are not included in the name at all.

On a product labeled "with Liver flavor"

The label will likely read...ground yellow corn, chicken by-product meal, brewers rice, soybean meal, beef tallow, corn gluten meal, brewers yeast, digest of beef liver, natural flavors, salt, minerals, vitamins, etc.

All ingredients contained in the food are required to be listed in order of predominance by weight before processing. Ingredients must be listed by their common or usual name. This is helpful to consumers as it makes the ingredient list easier to understand. Be aware that many highly desirable ingredients have a high water content and since ingredients are listed by weight before processing, you might mistake a lower quality product for a higher quality one if you don't consider weight before processing. A food that lists lamb as a first ingredient may not as nutritionally sound as you think when you consider the water content of the lamb that is removed during processing. Once the water is removed the lamb meat may have shrunk to a final percentage of around 10% of the total. A product that lists dehydrated lamb meat as the third ingredient may be nutritionally superior since the water has already been removed.

Page 3 The Dog Scout Scoop

For Example -

A good rule of thumb is to look for the **first named source of fat** in the food. Anything listed before and including that ingredient makes up the main portion of the food. All other ingredients are present in much smaller amounts to add flavor, function as preservatives or add dietary benefits (like probiotics, vitamins and minerals).

Compare the following ingredient lists (first named source of fat in **bold**):

Food A: ground yellow corn, meat meal, **chicken fat,** ground wheat, chicken by-product meal, dried beet pulp, flaxseed, salt, vitamins, minerals

Food B: turkey, chicken meal, ground barley, ground brown rice, potatoes, **chicken fat**, herring, apples, carrots, cottage cheese, sunflower oil, alfalfa sprouts, egg, garlic, probiotics, vitamins, minerals

The comparison allows you to see differences in ingredients that are included in both large and small amounts. This is important when looking for the high quality ingredients you desire as well as ingredients that aren't necessarily harmful but should only be present in small amounts in a quality product (like beet pulp and corn gluten meal).

The diet you feed your dog is a personal decision that should be determined in partnership with your veterinarian. There are many different kinds of dog food including dry, semi-moist, canned, raw and home cooked. The choice of food must fit in to your lifestyle and budget, and must take into consideration your dog's taste preferences and any allergies or other medical concerns. With a little research and education you can be sure that you are feeding your dog a balanced and nutritionally complete diet.









Badge Bulletin & Title Tales

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

Earning a Trail or Pack Dog title is always something to be proud of, all those miles are pretty impressive. There have been a handful of dogs who have earned **ALL** of the Pack Dog and Trail Dog titles, **2,000 miles and counting...**

Congratulations Toka!

Toka loves hiking in Taughannock Falls State Park in New York, especially when they walk along the creek and go to the lake. He enjoys wading and playing in the water, especially when it's hot.

His hiking and pack dog BFF is Kiyo, who was the first dog to earn the DSA's 1,000 mile pack and trail dog titles. Every mile Toka has hiked or pack hiked, Kiyo has been right alongside him. They hike 3 to 5 miles every day, no matter what the weather or time of year.



He loves his hiking! When his mom pulls out his pack, he gives a BIG stretch. His way of saying 'FUN!'

I would like to congratulate everyone who has earned a recent Trails Title.

TrailDog (TD)

Bolt Stewart Kitara Appel Monroe Kelly

TrailDog Excellent (TDX)

Wyatt White Toka Almann Kitara Appel

Utility TrailDog (UT)

Toka Almann Kitatara Appel

Utility TrailDog 500 (UT500)

Toka Almann

<u>Utility TrailDog 750</u> (UT750)

Toka Almann

Utility TrailDog 1000 (UT1000)

Taika Almann Jib Almann Toka Almann

Pack Dog (PD)

Bolt Stewart Kitara Appel Taika Almann

Pack Dog Excellent (PDX)

Kitara Appel Rio Olawski-Stiener Toka Almann

Utility PackDog (UP)

Hallie Porter Toka Almann

Utility PackDog 500 (UP500)

Toka Almann

Utility PackDog 750 (UP750)

Toka Almann

Utility PackDog 1000 (UP1000)

Toka Almann

Geocache Dog (GEOD)

Bolt Stewart Wyatt White

Geocache Dog Advanced (GEOA)

Tempest Stewart

Scout Scoop & Troop Talk

Rio, my husband and I participated again this year in the Westminster Kennel Club Dog Show's Meet the Breeds in New York City on February 11, 2017. Rio joyfully helped represent the Belgian Tervuren breed. Meet the Breeds is a wonderful family event where dog owners share their dogs with the public and educate them about their breed. This is the third year that this event was part of the Westminster Dog Show week. What a surprise that cats were invited to participate as well, for the first time! It was a grand prelude to Valentine's Day week.

The show was crowded with families and friends spending the day with their favorite furry companions. We had a fun exhibit full of Tervs and educational information about the breed, as well as Valentine's Day decorations to help share our love of our dogs. Many people stopped by our booth to learn about the Tervs, many simply to interact with them.

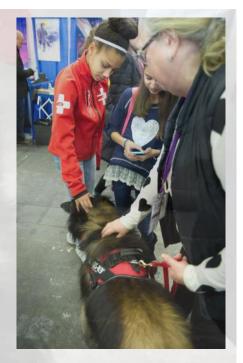
Rio proudly wore his Dog Scout bandana all day, looking very handsome. He was constantly surrounded by many admirers who enjoyed hugging and petting him, and taking lots of pictures. We shared information about our wonderful journey with Dog Scouts. Everyone loved the idea of dogs being Scouts (just like boys and girls), and were very impressed by the variety of activities, titles and badges offered by Dog Scouts. They enjoyed hearing about Rio's achievements, the fun we have taking long Trail and Pack Dog hikes, but especially, his heartwarming, and at times, simply magical therapy dog work at both a nursing home and hospice.



In addition to our dogs, a favorite for many was Rio's buddy, a life-size toy sheep, who helped exhibit our breed's sheep herding history. Both young and old enjoyed the sheep, and a Fox Sports reporter stopped by to chat with the sheep - the video, to our surprise, was included in Westminster Dog Show TV coverage.

It was a joyful day, and as it ended, our team was elated when judges awarded our booth First Place, Herding Group, based on creativity, the dogs, and friendliness of the owners. We left the show with warm hearts, so very proud of our beloved companion and best friend, Dog Scout Rio, and how he made so many people happy, as he makes us every day.

Joan Olawski-Stiener







Troop 119

Cindy Ratliff—Troop Leader

We kicked off 2017 with a postholiday hike in January. It was good to get out in the awesome weather (59°!) and hike several miles at the park on a beautiful day!











In February we had our mostly-annual Photo Scavenger Hunt Plus! We gathered at the park and broke out into teams. Each team had a list of 60 things they had to find within the park and photograph within an hour's time. The 'plus' allowed extra points for stray poop pick-ups. The team with the most points of photos/poops won! The teams had a great time photographing their dogs on a park bench or by a doggie fountain or in the wildflowers, etc. and finding some

obscure landmarks in the park. We had some great visitors join us from Troop 230 in Tyler and we really enjoyed meeting them & having them with us. It was another great day to be outside enjoying nature

with our best friends!













Page 7 The Dog Scout Scoop

Troop 119—FL (cont.)







In March we were invited to Denton, TX, north of Fort Worth, to do a presentation to the dog club of Robson Ranch, a luxury retirement community for active adults. Alex did a painting demo then collected donations that will go toward purchasing animal oxygen masks for the fire department that services that community. We had a great time sharing with like-minded dog folks!

For our March meeting, we had a troop meeting based on the Tricks merit badge. We enjoyed a walk through the park then settled in to see some troop dogs show off their tricks. We went over the badge requirements for the tricks badge then broke out into groups to learn various tricks. We had a great time and look forward to having more troop trick dogs in the near future!













Troop 157—FL

Terri Cannici



On Thursday, February 2nd, our troop visited Citrix Systems for their Annual Take Your Child to Work Day event where we visited with the families, and discussed Pet Safety and How to Pet a Dog. This was our third year participating in this event, and is a favorite for us. As usual, it was a huge success.









On Saturday, February 4th, the troop got together on a beautiful afternoon to work on DSA Badge items and the Art of Shaping Badge. For many of our troop members this was their first experience with Art of Shaping. All the dogs did exceptionally well on their first attempt!







On Saturday, February 11th, Troop 157 (Broward Paw Patrol) supported the inaugural Canine

Assisted Therapy, Inc. – "Pup Strut". This event was to raise awareness and support for their pet therapy programs. We walked for one mile with our dog scouts through a local park enjoying the South Florida winter weather while enjoying entertainment, vendors, giveaways, and contests. Two of our troop members won 3 raffle baskets and Linda Berindei dog scout "Jessie" won the best trick contest too. It was a fun time for everyone while supporting a worthy cause.







Page 9 The Dog Scout Scoop

Troop 157—FL (cont.)

On Sunday, February 12, we participated in the 11th Annual Dog Bowl held by Boxer Rescue where we manned the DSA booth. Here we educated the public about Dog Scouts and force free training methods. While many of our seasoned pros

were there to offer guidance to our new troop members in attendance. No matter what the occasion, our troop genuinely has a great time. We are most definitely a group of likeminded individuals.





Living in South Florida, we are fortunate to have perfect weather in February to hold our monthly meeting outdoors. After getting down to business to discuss future classes and events, we

participate in a different group challenge each month. The dogs loved being in the fresh air and they proved it by having a blast with our recall challenge. Some of the dogs were new to this challenge, some were experienced, but whatever the level, it was a fantastic team building exercise for all.

















Troop 177—IN

Robyn Porter

On March 12, Troop #177 members practiced their clicker skills on Touch, Paw and some Directional Control commands. Robyn Porter and Hallie provided an overview and demonstration of clicker training. Troop members practiced touch to the hand as well as touch various props and objects. Troop members then practiced directional control with various props.

Anita & Sophie, Gail & Daisy, Jayna with her children Carly and Jayden brought Piper, Emily & Lucy, Amy & Star as well as new member Sharon & Zena participated in the meeting. Guest Shannon & Dexter joined us as well.



Carly and Jayden w Piper



Anita and Sophie



Gail and Daisy



Sharon and Zena



Hallie w Indianapolis Library Bison

In other news, Robyn Porter and Hallie finally faced and completed the 10 mile checkout hike and completed requirements for the Utility Pack Dog title. We couldn't ignore a 60+ degree day in January. Who says trails have to be in the woods or rural country? We followed the 8 mile Cultural Trail that circles around and through downtown Indi-

anapolis and added the Canal Walk. This was the day after inauguration day, and we shared downtown with marching protesters, hundreds of young girls with big bows in their hair from the dance competition at the Convention Center and many others enjoying the unusual warm January day.



Page 11 The Dog Scout Scoop



In February Troop 183 worked on tricks. We had a guest instructor, Deb Wood—who is a Certified Trick Dog instructor with Do More With Your Dog, join us to help us with teaching tricks to our dogs. While we were together, we found that many of our dogs had enough tricks up their sleeves that they could be witnessed and their form signed for the Novice title. We're very proud of Astrid with Loki and Boomer, Amy with Marvin, Carol with Kingston, and Cyndi with Casey who earned their Novice Trick Dog titles, Both Cyndi's dogs, Casey and Jurnee earned the Intermediate Trick Dog title as well—way to go ladies.

The following weekend, Dog Scouts Nim and Tachi took the American Temperament Test Society test and passed. It was interesting to watch Nim's response to the threatening stranger, she kept checking in to see what mom wanted her to do, and when she didn't get any feedback she offered calming signals and finally growled a warning while sniffing. Tachi spooked at the umbrella, but did recover, but then moving on to the threatening stranger, he decided he'd have to take charge, which impressed the tester, but it made me realize why dogs must be at least 2 years of age to test—this is not something you want to do with a puppy or teenage dog that is going through a fear stage or has not had sufficient socialization and positive reinforcement to recover from something that startles them. It was also a good reminder that in the real world we must advocate for our dogs and be the smart end of the leash—they really do rely on us to give them feedback about strange encounters and to keep them safe. Before we left the testing location which was held in conjunction with a large multi-event AKC show, we stopped by the lure coursing set-up and Nim earned her first leg in the Course Ability test—we were able to get it videoed (woo-hoo!), so she'll just need one more video of a lure coursing run and we can submit her lure coursing badge. Nim and Tachi were also approved for their Barn Hunt badges in March and the following week Nim earned her Open Barn Hunt title and Taci finished his Novice Barn Hunt title.

In March we joined a local training organization and worked on Hunt Retrieving. Our dogs were introduced to duck feathers and the whistle cues, then got to retrieve bumpers or toys in short and moderate cover, and in the water. Video was posted on our Facebook page of the various participants.



Troop 217—The Motor Cit

Sally Hoyle—Troop Leader

Here in Michigan we are SO ready for spring! We've seen glimpses of warmer weather and are hopeful that it will appear in the near future. So far this year, each time we schedule an outdoor activity we find ourselves battling the element. Snow squalls, strong winds, damp and cold days are just some of the things that Mother Nature has thrown at us. But our dogs never seem to mind, so we continue to



persist, getting outside as much as we can for letterboxing or geocaching.

In the past our troop has done A LOT of letterboxing. So much so that some members have to travel quite a distance to look for boxes that we haven't already found. We love letterboxing so we're not giving up on it, but we have started to focus a little more on geocaching. Recently we got together at a local coffee shop to learn more about geocaching from our troop experts, Carrie and Dave Jones and their dog Darby. We had a good sized group for this activity and after spending some time learning we ventured out into the bitter cold to look for some caches. Some of our group found their very first geocaches! Though we were fighting snow squalls we really had a great time and went 5 for 5 that day. We are very appreciative of the time Carrie and Dave took with us, especially their patience in answering all the questions.

Shadow, Sam and Ember found their first ever geocache right in the parking lot of the coffee shop

Since we were so successful we decided to go out again but wanted to wait until it was a bit warmer. Surely several weeks would bring



warmth, right? Well despite having some beautiful (a relative term) days, the morning of our next geocaching adventure brought with it a surprise snow storm that left the remainder of the day damp and cold, and very muddy in some areas. Still we got out and had a

Vickie and Shadow found the cache

great time and went 3 for 3 for the day. We also welcomed our newest members Rachel and Kevin

Page 13 The Dog Scout Scoop

Troop 217—MI (cont.)





Wiles, and their dogs Saxon and Daisy to their first troop activity. Currently we are planning to wait another few weeks before venturing out again.





We were able to get out of the cold and met with a group of Boy Scouts to help teach them about pet care. This is the type of activity that we really love doing and our dogs seem to really enjoy the attention. Michelle and Sassy, Carrie and Darby, Brenda and Merlin, Betsy and Burt and Julie and Sam all took time out of a busy week to meet with the boys and everyone had a great time.







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

Troop 217—MI (cont.)



We also got together to discuss canine nutrition, a topic that many of us feel is extremely important. Even though this was an indoor activity. Mother Nature still showed her hand. High winds during the week took out power to more that 800,000 homes in SE Michigan including many of our troop members. So after a scramble to find a location that had power we ended up having a fantastic discussion about nutrition including topics like, reading pet food labels, helping our dogs to maintain normal, healthy weights. and the role of nutrition in managing disease. Our discussion was informative and lively at times, and we all left with a renewed focus on and commitment to healthy feeding habits and exercise for our best furry friends. As a part of this focus we want to spread the word throughout our communities about proper nutrition by making this topic a priority for community events we do through the remainder of the year. We are also conducting "healthy" food drives in several different communities, collecting food that will be delivered to local shelters and rescue organizations.

We have a new Dog Scout in our troop! Congratulations to Linus and mom Kristen Uitenham for meeting all of the requirements to become a Dog Scout. And in true Michigan Dog Scout fashion, they braved bitter cold and wind to complete the test.

Congratulations
to new Dog
Scout, Linus,
& mom,
Kristen



Page 15 The Dog Scout Scoop

Troop 219—CT—New England Explorers

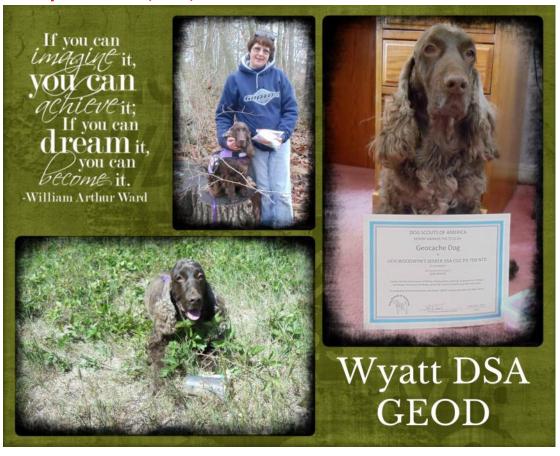
Kelly Ford—Troop Leader, CRN Secretary and Trails Titling Program Coordinator

Troop 219
would like
to proudly
introduce our
newest Doc
Scout - Cody
Mills DSA!!!





Troop 219—CT (cont.)



congratulations to Wyatt for earning his Geocache Dog Title!!!

We celebrated Super Bowl Sunday with a hike at Champlain Farm in Old Lyme. This was a new place for us to explore. The trails are packed with geocaches and on this hike we found 5 caches. Danica, Wyatt and Zora enjoyed stretching their legs before we went home to watch the Puppy **Bowl and Super** Bowl. Our last find of the day was Wyatt's 100th find!



Page 17 The Dog Scout Scoop



Cody has been working diligently on his Dog Scout badge this winter. On a surprisingly warm, sunny February morning, we did some training in the snow at a local ball field. We took breaks to allow everyone to play. Cody worked really hard on his leave-its with animals. The crow was just too tempting! But Cody figured it out. He looked very handsome heeling around in the snow. Cody is going to be a wonderful Dog Scout!

Troop 219—CT (cont.)

With so many more geocaches at Champlain Farm for us to find, we had to go back. At the end of February, we headed back to hike another loop at the farm. If was a lovely warm day, almost like Spring. Our little group found 4 geocaches this time. We will go back to get the red loop and finish off this series.





Wyatt DSA and Lori are starting work on their DSA Service badge. In early March, they led a Troop hike to Glacier Park in RI. We had a cold spell in New England, but we persevered and went hiking anyways. With everyone, including the pups all bundled up we hiked 2.3 miles and found two geocaches.

Page 19 The Dog Scout Scoop

Rainbow Bridge

It is with great sadness and heartache that I let you know that Shooting Star crossed the Rainbow Bridge on Jan 28, 2017. At 11 years old, Border-Aussie Starry was DSA, CGC, TDI Certified and ESA. She was a world traveler (went to England and back), earned the Community Clean-up badges, Therapy Dog Badge, Letterboxing I & II and almost had III.

She and I were members of DSA Troop 188 and 219. She was winner of Most Personable ribbon at the Abington, CT, Pet Show, winner of Silliest Pet Trick two years in a row at the Brooklyn Fair, and well known as the Sea Scout Ship 584 Groton, CT mascot. Starry was a DSA representative at the renaissance Faires and holiday parades in Connecticut and a major fixture at the Polk County, NC Farmer's Markets and Landrum, SC, Farmer's Market.

Starry was diagnosed with aggressive oral cancer in beginning of January and the tumor was inoperable, closed off her throat, made it impossible for her to eat or drink. She was freed to run across the Rainbow Bridge.

She was a brilliant, super smart companion who never stopped learning and enjoying life. Rest In Peace and Free of Pain, my girl. We WILL meet again...



Emily A Dinwiddie-Cole

Contact Dog Scouts of America

Learning new things that we may be more helpful

Website: Dogscouts.org

Facebook: facebook.com/DogScouts

Yahoo Discussion List:

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

(Also for Dog Scout Calendar, Sparky's Camp Store, Dog Scout Camp (MI), Camp Scholarships)

Mini-Camp Mentor: Sally Hoyle — sally.hoyle@yahoo.com

Dog Scout Obituaries: Chris Kloski — ChrisBill1966@gmail.com

(Memorial recognition and engraving)

Membership: Peggy Mooney — mmmooney65@gmail.com

Troop Administration: Brenda Katz — dogs2katz@yahoo.com

(Starting a troop/Troop Leader Tests)

Treasurer/Donations: Barb Whiting — bwhitingdsa@comcast.net

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(Also for newsletter distribution)