

The Dog Scout Scoop

Official Newsletter ~ Dog Scouts of America

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

Volume 20 Issue 6 November/December 2017

**Rainbow
Bridge
P6-7**

**Notes
from
National
P2-4**



I'm thankful that I was able to travel Alaska for 5 months with my two dogs, Scout Indigo (lab) and Chico (Yorkie mix—adopted in April)

~Kat Vogtmann~

**Badge Bulletin
& Title Tales
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& Troop Talk
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Deadline: for the next newsletter is
January 15th

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



Mitchell looks on while Joanne works on scrapbooking. Sadly, Mitchell recently passed away. He will be remembered for his sweet nature by all who knew and loved him.



by Sally Hoyle, Vice President

Crafters met at camp the last weekend in September for our annual Scrapin' and Craftin' weekend. This event is very relaxed with everyone set up with their own craft area in the lodge. There's no agenda so everyone arrives for the day on their own schedule and we all pitch in for meals.

This year there were lots of different crafts that people were working on, though scrapbooking is the most popular. Fay Reid and Sally Hoyle were able to get through a ton of sewing projects and Lonnie Olson finished all the different crafts she had piled up just waiting for time to do them. Melissa Matteson wowed us all with a demonstration of how to make an "explosion box" which is a really cool way to display photos and other mementos rather than using a traditional scrapbook. Claudette Smith used her time to catch up on the badges she needed to sew on her dogs' uniforms while Barb Foy, Joanne Webber and Fay all worked on scrapbooking. Everyone also enjoyed our "make and take" crafts which were holiday ornaments and painted rocks.



Katie takes a break while Mom Sally sews.

While the humans in attendance always enjoy crafting and catching up with one another, the dogs get to have fun too. They all had fun playing and napping in the lodge, getting the occasional treat and plenty of time walks in the woods.

Our traditional auction of garage sale items was really popular again this year, raising \$780 to go towards improvements at camp like adding a pump to the pond and preparing the site for the new cabin.

Lonnie consults with Kozi and Caper (in their festive Halloween jackets) on her rock painting project.





THE GREAT ESCAPE

2017 FALL JAMBOREE

By Sally Hoyle, Vice President

The Fall Jamboree is always great fun and this year's event was no exception! The weekend was filled with games, letterboxing and geocaching, all based on urban legends. We played the "find Slender Man" search and rescue game, the "choking dog" retrieve game, and scent work "Candy Man". We found the letterbox and geocache that were planted for the occasion and played urban legend tic-tac-stay, where each box had its own urban legend to learn about.

But there was a twist! Participants had to collect clues while playing games, searching for the letterbox or geocache or even just walking in the woods. Clues were everywhere, including on game pieces or in the telling of the urban legends, on the décor in the lodge and in the woods, and even on the host dogs. Keen observation was required and participants wrote down what they heard and saw in their special notebooks given to them at check in, so that the information would be handy when needed.

Sunday morning we found ourselves in need of the information gathered as teams were "locked" in rooms and were given just 75 minutes to find the required items and escape! Teams quickly found that they had to work together and depend on one another for observations they may have missed while collecting clues. Some of the clues were necessary to solve a needed puzzle or find the combination to unlock one of the 4 locked boxes, but others were complete red herrings!

Once in the identical locked rooms teams needed to use all their senses to find information to help them escape. They had to find cards and determine which were needed to unlock the first box and they needed to find pieces of a jigsaw puzzle and assemble it to continue to find more clues. There were clues hidden in skulls and rats, in a word search puzzle, written on boxes of dog treats, and some written in Morse code and heard in the music that was playing on a loop. Clues written in invisible ink were key to escape but first they had to find the black light flashlight and the batteries to make it work. One of the final clues was found on one of the painted rocks that participants drew out of a bag in order to choose teams the previous day. Teams could get clues from the room monitors if they got stuck along the way but they could only get 5 clues and their dogs had to perform tasks in order to get the clues.

In the end the red team was able to escape the room within the allotted time and the blue team was close to escape when the clock ran out. Throughout the weekend everyone pitched in and we enjoyed fantastic meals and had lots of laughs along the way. Each game had 1st, 2nd and 3rd place winners but many games were really close and all the dogs had a great time with the activities throughout the weekend. Hosts Julie Benson, Michelle Neu and Sally Hoyle did a great job putting the weekend together and their dogs Shelby, Sassy and Katie patiently waited until the other dogs were done before playing games just for fun. The host dogs also enjoyed watching all the other dogs working hard to get clues in the escape rooms while they relaxed.

The 2017 Fall Jamboree is now history but it was a lot of fun for everyone involved and will be remembered for quite some time. Be sure to watch for announcements for the 2018 event (held in October but date not set) and register early so you can join in on the fun!



THE GREAT ESCAPE



2017 FALL JAMBOREE



1. Hosts Michelle, Julie and Sally along with dogs Sassy, Shelby and Katie (not pictured) explain the games and activities for the weekend.

2. Participants get ready to choose teams.

3. The blue team's rocks.

4. Lonnie gave Caper a pep talk before heading out to find The Slender Man.

5. Lizzy and her new wheels, with mom Diane.

6. Lizzy (left) and baby Moose (in mom Barrie Lynn's arms) find the themed letterbox planted especially for the event.

7. Some rather unsavory characters hung around for the weekend. This guy is the very evil Black Jack. His dog Demon seems to be hiding from the camera in this photo.



8. Elizabeth Najduch telling the group about a brand new urban legend!

9. Shelby had no trouble identifying the correct candy during The Candy Man game.

10. Kozi enjoyed playing The Choking Doberman game.



Badge Bulletin & Title Tales

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

Urban Hikes

Trails titles aren't just for those of us who have access to wilderness trails. You can earn your Trail Dog miles doing urban hikes too. Look for outdoor malls, city parks, and school tracks, anywhere that allows dogs. Stairs that connect public roads are great cardio workouts.

Winter Hikes

Winter hikes are also gorgeous and unique. Imagine the changes in landscape after the first snow fall. Few places are more magically still than a forest covered in snow. The weather may be cold, but layers make it fun. A nice colorful coat for your pup and maybe some boots! You can still go geocaching. And no bugs!!

Happy Trails!

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

Utility PackDog 500 (UP500)

Jib Almann

TrailDog (TD)

Noel Miller

Layla Sheller

Utility TrailDog 750 (UT750)

Ro Olawski-Steiner

Utility PackDog 1000 (UP1000)

Monroe Kelly

Utility TrailDog 1000 (UT1000)

Monroe Kelly



Layla Sheller earned her first Trail Dog title and now sports the letters TD after her name. She also participates in hiking challenges with her mom.

Rainbow Bridge

It's a good thing that pictures speak a thousand words....as right now I'm speechless...well almost.

On Saturday, October 28th, I said goodbye to my 11½ year old Golden Retriever, Mitchell. He is now free of his failing body to continue being the Loving Spirit he is.



Mitchell came to me in March, 2008, at 2 years old, as my Paws with a Cause trained assistance dog. His training provided great help to me when I had seizures, and also with various tasks as my spine deteriorated. He was so full of himself with a tinge of naughtiness. Mitchell made me laugh at a time when smiles were very few - following the unexpected and sudden passing of my sister, father, and Mitchell's Golden predecessor, Willie, DSA Honor Scout, and a Paws With A Cause assistant.

'Saint Willie' was a tough act to follow. When Mitchell joined me I thought he'd help me maintain the quality of life I enjoyed with Willie, but the funny thing is Mitchell taught me far more than ever anticipated. He taught me to live in the moment...abundance and patience...the beauty of imperfection...and that it's okay to be naughty as long as no one gets hurt. He introduced me to people and places so dear to me now. Our first four years together were idyllic much like time spent with Willie. (Although Mitchell surpassed Willie when he had the distinct honor of winning a Caribbean cruise which Lonnie, Kozi, Mitchell and I went on in January 2012.) Oh the stories we could tell!

February 2012 my third back surgery was life-changing. Chief physical therapist, Mitchell, kept me walking and swimming daily so my rebuilt spine and decompressed spinal cord now put together with titanium rods, screws, and wire cages with bone grafts all healed well. As my back grew stronger, the seizures and migraine headaches that I suffered with for so long were gone - an unintentional side effect and huge blessing Life was better than ever until Mitchell experienced multiple health issues beginning at the age of 6 1/2 which forced him to retire as a service dog.



Rainbow Bridge (cont.)



Mitchell fought a good fight for the last 5 years and beat the odds several times - always honoring my request for just one more day together. The best veterinary cardiologists and neurologists, along with his vet who used holistic medicine, Chinese herbs, acupuncture, and western medicine gave him the best quality of life possible. However, when the diagnosis of lymphoma confronted us on September 20th, my heart sank and I prayed that the vet made a mistake. It wasn't. Since Mitchell wasn't a candidate for further treatment, the prognosis was 4 - 6 weeks.



Mitchell is one of the sweetest Golden Retrievers I've known. So sweet, so undemanding, with the most beautiful golden coat EVER! It was so fine, so soft, so silky, so long, and SO THICK. He loved being brushed and laid patiently as each tangle loosened. Watching his fur flow with the wind and water as he ran laps around the pond and then dove in to cool off, or retrieve a stick, was pure joy. Mitchell followed me from room to room for years, a constant shadow. He sported the longest eyelashes I've ever seen and a sweet little cowlick between his eyes. We loved our 'Dog Scout days'.



Last Saturday, Lonnie drove Mitchell and I to the veterinary clinic. She was as broken up as I was as we made the hour drive. Not sure how we got there, but we did. Then time stood still as Mitchell's gentle spirit slipped away too quickly. Dr. Johnson said something about only once or twice in a lifetime of practice has she known such a beautiful being.

Mitchell came to me from a divine place with a divine purpose. Now he has returned. The circle of our lives together is complete. Mitchell's physical presence will always be missed - but he will remain ever present in my heart. Sweet dreams, sweet golden boy, Mitchell...until we meet again.

With Gratitude,

Joanne Weber

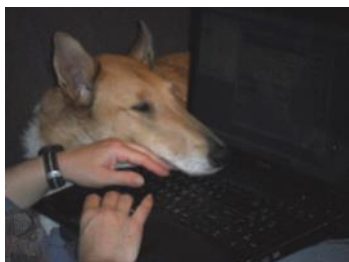


Scout Scoop & Troop Tales

DOG SCOUTS OF AMERICA VIRTUAL TRAINING TROOP

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/dogscoutsvirtualtrainingtroop/>

Dog Scouts is such an amazing way to work with our dogs but not all of us have an active troop within a reasonable distance. So what's a dog to do?



Why, take to Facebook of course!

www.facebook.com/groups/dogscoutsvirtualtrainingtroop

The Virtual Training Troop has been established to help fill the gap for teams that want to work on their titles or badges but don't have a physical troop to call home. Or maybe have a physical troop and just want to do more by video, meet people from other troops, get more involved in the training how-to's or work on things before submitting their final videos for approval.

Teams on any level, working on any behaviors are welcome. You can train with us, ask questions, polish up your video skills and work together on badge/title requirements where possible. It may not be the same as attending troop meetings, but we hope to create a community for current members to enjoy and encourage/spread awareness of Dog Scouts in general.

There are only a few guidelines:

- *Be kind/considerate in your replies. You certainly don't have to agree with everything someone says or does but intentional ugliness will not be tolerated.
- *Of course, all training methods should be in alignment with the DSA Code of Ethics.
- *Above all else—**let's just do more Dog Scouting!**



The Virtual Training Troop group is administered by Lisa Wood owner of Think PAWsitive! Pup Positive Dog Training in Southern WV/VA. Lisa is currently working on the Dog Scout badge with her Rough Collie, Gryphon, and getting her new Yorkie-mix pup, FizzGig, started in training.



Troop 119—TX

Cindy Ratliff—Troop Leader

Troop 119 has had some great troop activities going on!

In September, troop member and trainer, Traci Betts, did a presentation on treibball. We had some great demos and then the dogs got to work on the beginning steps to see if it was something they might enjoy.

In October, troop member & retired FEMA search & rescue handler, Bob Deeds, presented a very informative session on disaster preparedness. Bob gave a unique perspective on what he has seen over the years from “the other side” of disasters and how we can best prepare ourselves and our dogs. In a year when there have been so many families affected by natural disasters, it’s not something we like to think about but know we need to do what we can to prepare.



Then came November and the much anticipated **14th annual Texas Mini-Camp!**

We had four awesome days of learning, fun & bonding with our dogs. We had **58** campers and staff this year, great weather (after it poured the whole day just prior to camp) and the campers & dogs were great!

We had some great activities this year like
steeplechase (the dogs gave that paws up for sure!),
boating safety,
art,
band,
fundraising with baskets,
treibball,
rally,
agility,
backpacking
and more!

They also got to learn a great deal in classes like impulse control, dealing with distractions, puzzle games and more!

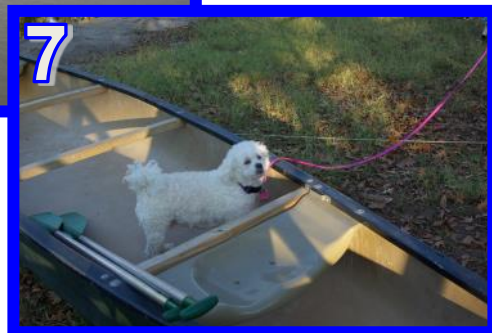
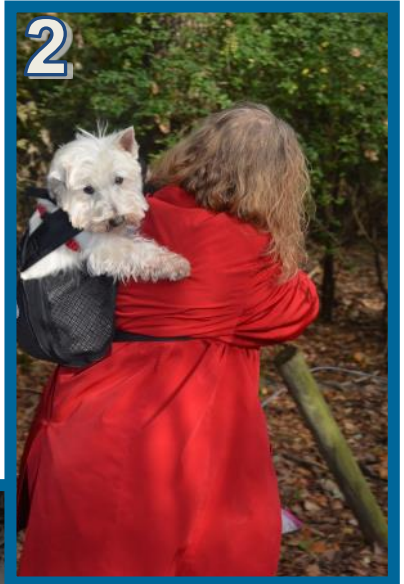


In addition to all the fun & learning going on, we had another incredible auction raising \$5,983 for Dog Scouts of America! We had another year of awesome campers and staff. We got an email from one camper this week telling what a great time she had and she closed with “**only 51 weeks until next mini-camp!**”

Troop 119—TX (cont.)

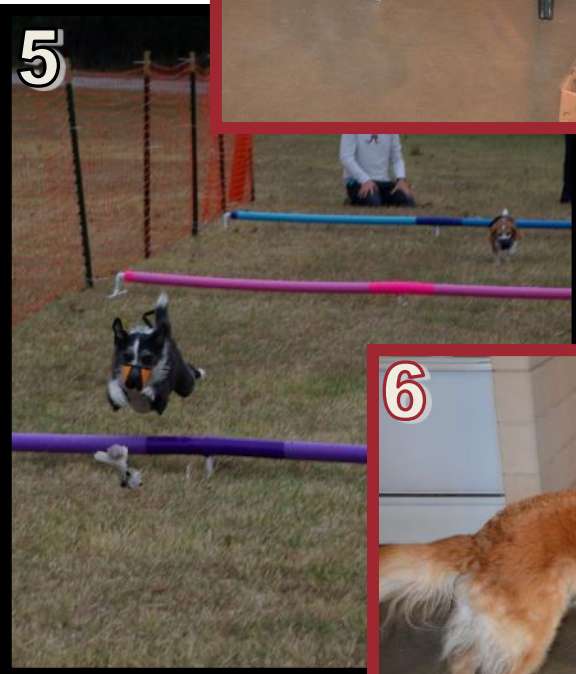


1. First year camper, Remi, backpacking with mom
2. 13 year old Casey hitches a ride on the trails
3. Camper dogs all aglow in preparation of the night hike
4. First year campers & now BFFs, Jake & Daisy, enjoy the trails together
5. Jango enjoys the trails



6. New camper, Rosie, loves water fun!
7. Ting Ting practices Boat Safety
8. Darra learns treibball

Troop 119—TX (cont.)



1. **Biscuit learns his guitar for All Dog Band**
2. **New camper, puppy Ka-Boom, works it out in the puzzles class**
3. **First year camper, Leia, sniffs it out in puzzle game**
4. **Marz shines in the cheese-ball rally game**
5. **Harper proves too fast for Leia in Steeplechase**
6. **Alex practices fundraising with baskets**

7. **Rouen practices fundraising with baskets**
8. **First year campers & 12 year old dogs, Chance & Sadie, learning new trick of painting**

Troop 119—TX (cont.)

1. New camper, George, learns in the Impulse Control class



2. Scout practices in impulse control class



3. New camper, Turtle, learns the A-frame



4. New camper, Mulligan, figures out the tire



5. Tessa imitates her golden retriever as Pam tries to be a good handler for her



6. First year camper, Jaime, practices leave it in Dog Scout class



7. Drake & Casey open the Awards night ceremonies

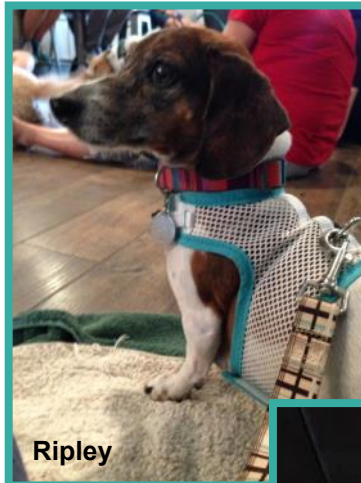


Troop 157—FL

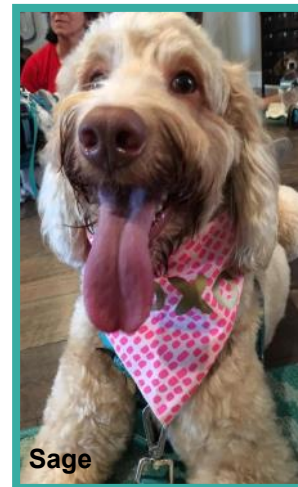
Teresa Irvine

Throughout the year our troop members have used our monthly meetings as means to bring to light badges that folks might be interested in, troop activities coming up, plus use the time to socialize ideas on community events the troop could support in the coming months.

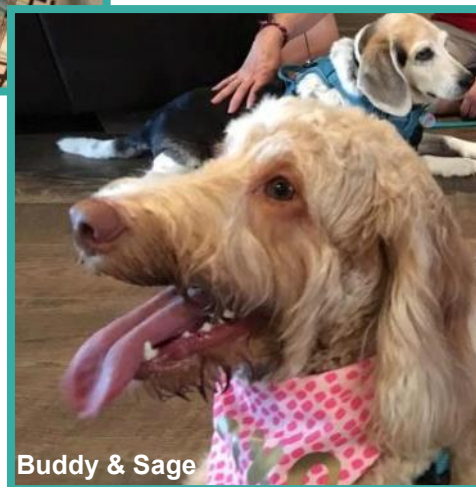
In September at our monthly troop member meeting, we invited Hope Garcia as a guest speaker to share dog massage techniques that can be used on your dog, which are some of the same techniques used on humans. Hope, is a Certified Dog Massage Therapist and she explained how beneficial it is for us to take time to massage our dogs, which fits perfectly with the Dog Massage badge. Everyone enjoyed the meeting along with our dogs because while Hope was demonstrating the techniques we all practiced on our own dogs. After just going through Hurricane Irma it was a perfect topic to learn about and the dogs were completely relaxed by the end of the meeting.



Ripley



Sage



Buddy & Sage



Christine & Clover

In October, we enjoyed showing off our dogs in their Halloween costumes at our troop meeting at a local park. Plus, our troop leader Christine Geschwill gave an overview of "Letterboxing" and shared with us her own personal letterboxing kit and personalized stamps.



Freckles took Cutest



Halloween Group Photo

Troop 157—FL (cont.)



Jessie & Jolie



Later in the month some of the troop members participated in a “Pet Parade” at Aston Gardens assisted living facility located in Parkland, FL, where the residents got an awesome treat from our troop. We had over 10 dogs in Halloween costumes parade through their living areas. The smiles were amazing as our dogs strutted by looking “paw-some” in their costumes. After parading around the residents enjoyed petting all the dogs and meeting each one of them. It was an event both Dog Scouts and Residents enjoyed. We had a bee (Peanut), french maid (Lily), 2 pink divas’ (Kanga & Roo), candy corn (Jessie), butterfly (Jessie), watermelon (Jolie), monkey (Hunter), lizard (Precious), taco (Lucy), ice cream cone (Jazzy), and the president (Shelby). The residents enjoyed our visit so much they have invited us back for a Holiday Sing-A-Long.



Lily

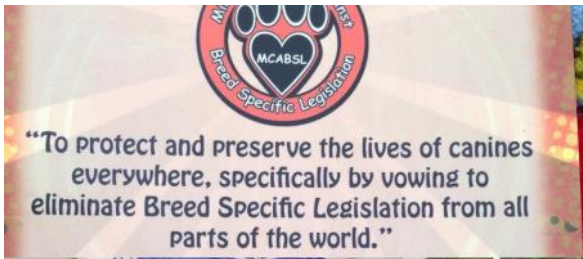


Andrea & Lucy

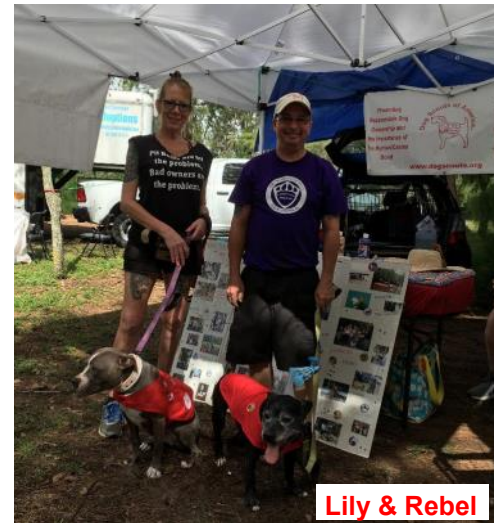


Diane, Kanga & Roo

Troop 157—FL (cont.)



Thanks to our Pet Parent, event volunteers: Marcel, Sura, Gina, Cynthia, Teresa, & Ruby



In November (Sunday the 12th) our DSA troop went to the 9th Annual Pit Nic held by the Miami Coalition Against BSL (Breed Specific Legislation) to show support and to educate people about Dog Scouts and the benefits of using positive training methods as well as doing fun and new things with your dogs.

In the photos from this event are Lily, Rebel and Felice as our very own “pittie” DSA role models. All dogs are individuals and should not be judged or banned because of their breed. The troop enjoyed supporting this event and showcasing what Dog Scouts is all about. We are looking forward to some of our troop members supporting the Sparky’s Turkey Trot as virtual participants on 11/24.

As we move into the end of the year our troop is truly thankful for each other and all that we have accomplished this past year together. It is an awesome feeling to participate in events as a troop because we all know each other and our dogs, plus we help each other as we learn new things.

Our troop leader Christine Geschwill continues to inspire interaction and training with our dogs, which will be carried through to the new year. She has done a tremendous job scheduling multiple DSA training sessions for the troop to give us an opportunity to continue to work our dogs’ individual needs as well as give our new troop members support in working on what is needed to pass the DSA testing requirements.



Troop 177—IN

Robin Porter—Newsletter Correspondent



Corn Maze Group

Troop #177 ventured into the corn on October 29. It was a brisk day, and the Piney Acres Corn Maze trail pattern had changed since last year. Nonetheless, we braved the temperatures and managed to locate 18 of the possible 24 markers hidden throughout the maze. Gail & Daisy, Amy with Piper & Star, Sharon & Zena, Peggy with Casey & Penny, Robyn & Hallie, Jayna with her children Carly and Jayden brought her sister's Rottweiler Addie for the outing. At first Addie wasn't sure what to think about the big group traipsing through the corn, but settled in and had fun with it! Guests Cathy and her granddaughter Grace joined us as well.

Troop member Sharon Massey has been a Soldiers' Angels volunteer since 2011. Soldiers' Angels has become one of the highest rated nonprofits in the country. Soldiers' Angels provides aid and comfort to the men and women of the United States Army, Marines, Navy, Air Force, Coast Guard, their families, and a growing veteran population. Sharon has been connected with a deployed service member and routinely sends her letters and care packages. It just so happens that Sharon's soldier is a Kennel Master stationed at Incirlik Air Force Base in Turkey. Troop #177 members gathered wish list items and sent the following Christmas presents to 16 military dog teams stationed there in Turkey:



Gail and Daisy



Sharon and Zena



Peggy with Casey & Penny

Troop 177—IN (cont.)

Sophie, Zena, Piper, Star and Hallie pose in front of donated items.

Daisy, Lucy, Penny & Casey had to leave before this group picture was taken.



19 fleece blankets, 16 cooling bandanas. 1 8oz bag balm ointment (nose & paw), 20 Cow ears, 8 oz bag beef jerky, 2 grooming rakes, 2 dual sided shedding blade grooming tool, 32 oz natural miracle oatmeal shampoo & conditioner, 4 Resco Large Dog Nail Clippers, 1 6-pack Rescoe Blade Replacement, 10 10oz bags Charlee Bear Liver treats, 17 Collapsible 3-Cup Water Bowls, 22 toothbrushes, 16 homemade toothpaste containers, 3 mammoth cotton blend 5 knot rope toys, 2 Crate fans, 3 Doggles, 18 10 oz Burt's Bees Waterless Shampoo, 2 Grooming Brushes, 18 Deodorizers, 3 Chew Toys, 2 Boxes Dog Biscuits, 16 Braided T-Shirt Toys, Tennis Balls, Magazines, Puzzles, Books, Coloring Books & Colored Pencils, Cards & Letters to Soldiers, Gift Bags, Cash for Shipping.

Special mention to Amy's mom Donna for her fleece donation & for sewing 16 fleece blankets!

Indianapolis Salvation Army Bell Ringing Shifts began in mid-November! Robyn Porter and Hallie have already completed a few shifts! It is funny how people see us and say "weren't you here last year" or "I know that dog from Community Hospital!" Hallie likes meeting and greeting people, especially babies.



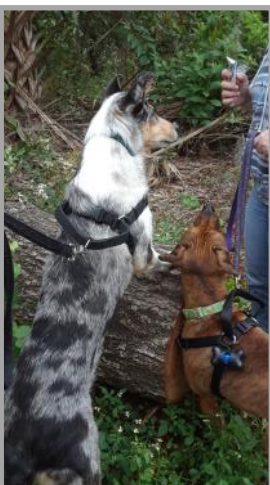
Hallie raising donations for Salvation Army

Troop 183—FL

Shirley Conley—Troop Leader

October found us in Apopka working on agility obstacles. Florida had not been informed that October is supposed to bring Fall weather . . . it was hot enough that we had to fill up a paddling pool for the dogs to cool off in!

Flat Coated Retrievers, Casey and Jurnee, Border Collies, Bling and Tachi, and Smooth Collie, Nim, spent some time in the sunshine jumping, climbing and tunneling. Some of us who had taken the summer months off from outdoor agility found that our dogs needed a little help with the contact obstacles, particularly the teeter. Now that the weather is finally cooling off, we may get back out for a little more practice so that we can brush up on our agility skills and so that next time we run a course we'll have improved our teamwork.



At the beginning of November, Troop Member, Amy with Marvin, joined Troop Leader, Shirley, with Nim, to check out the route of our Parkour Hike for potential *Environmental Features* (EFs) that our dogs could interact with. Parkour, also known as Urban Agility, is a great way to enrich a walk and build confidence in our dogs. Dogs must be on a non-restrictive harness to allow both freedom of movement and proper *spotting*. Safety is a primary concern for both Parkour organizations (All Dogs Parkour and International Dog Parkour Association), and proper spotting must be demonstrated in every video interaction when applying for titles.

Since we're new to Parkour, we were looking for Environmental Features for some basic interactions—get on (2 or 4 feet), walk on, go under, go around, go between, jump (clean, assisted, and broad), straddle, platform turns and pivots. All these behaviors can be learned at home on a piece of equipment the dog already knows to build proper form, and get the behaviors on cue. We've done many of these behaviors in our canine fitness activities, so applying them to Environmental Features and constantly re-affirming for the dog that through spotting we will keep them safe is a great confidence builder for them. For those of us pet parents that are not quite as energetic as our canine partners, Parkour interactions are a great way for our dogs to expend a little more physical and mental energy on a walk!

So why should Dog Scouts try Parkour? **The interactions for Parkour are very similar to the requirements for the Search and Rescue badges, and they open up another venue to log under the K9 fitness badge.** Those of us who hadn't considered these badges before now have a little more motivation to review the checklists and see how achievable they can be with the addition of this sport. **WARNING!** Once you start Parkour you'll be looking at everything as a possible Environmental Feature and how your dog might interact with it!



Troop 198—CA (together with Troop 233, 237, and Pre-Troops San Francisco Peninsula)

Leah Lane—Event Coordinator

The California San Francisco Bay Area Troops are growing and we are out there learning new things so that we may be more helpful.

On Sept 16th Troop 237 changed their regular meeting to a “Field Trip” to the Bay Area Pet Fair, the largest pet adoption event in California hosted by Pet Food Express at the Alameda County Fairgrounds. As well as supporting the adoption event, the group assignment was to check all the vendors and find a product or service that was new to the member and bring it and or the information to their next meeting. Early arrivals to the fair include from the right, Susan and Stephanie with Ellie, Pat with Copper, Ruth with Kobi and grandchildren Delia and Fiona, Melissa with Tuck and Yvette holding Luna.



On October 1st, Troop 198 held our Mall Walk About at Stanford Mall In Palo Alto, we practiced stays for pictures, here we have from left to right Duncan, Wyatt, Bailey, Cora, Kokoro, Nessa and Stretch



We use the mall environment to help the dogs take on new challenges and build their confidence. Here Kokoro walks through a sculpture as Denise gives encouragement



Nessa, a Guide Dog Puppy in training, plucks up her courage and goes under the art sculpture for Connie



And Bailey shows he can be comfortable around some funky looking statue people.

Troop 198—CA (cont.) On Oct 2nd Troop 237 hosted a field trip to the Acclaimed Bergin University. Wearing booties in the facility, Anastasia Pryor, conducting the trou explains to troop members Patty, Stephanie, Susan new member Chriss and troop leader Ruth about the commands the puppies are taught beginning with “better hurry”. Mike is taking the picture.



Here Stephanie talks with puppy handlers who are holding 3-4 day old black lab puppies.

On Oct 7th we had several activities going on starting with the Harvest Festival at Martial Cottle Park. First Stop at the Harvest Festival was the Visitor’s Center where we learned all about the Martial Cottle Ranch before it became a County Park.



Here are Wyatt, Duncan and Bailey hanging out with a new pony friend they met at the festival,



and Bailey learned some basics of farming.



Wyatt and Duncan learned how to Do-si-do with some square dancers,

And everyone enjoyed the shade of an old oak tree



Troop 198—CA (cont.)

Also on Oct 7th the South Bay Troop # 237 held a class on Teaching Your Dog To Read led by Hazel Weiss, M.S., M.A. who is affiliated with Bergin University and her service dog Virgil. Here Virgil responds to a card as Cash pays close attention.



Here Chriss becomes the first troop member to teach her dog Toby to read and behind her in the blue "Sit-Stay-Read" shirt is Julie who is visiting from the El Cerrito Library who was present to meet the dogs and the handlers who will be participating in the upcoming kids-read-to-dogs program.

Here Carol works with Sadie who looks to Hazel for approval as she learns to read.



Here Joe works with Huckleberry on the sit card.



Here Hazel cheers on Blueberry who responds quickly to Mango and the Shake card.



Stephanie, a college instructor, prepares Ellie for her exams

Troop 198—CA (cont.)



Here Tom encourages Cash who works through all of Tom's cards and the received a big ovation when he completes his final "DOWN" with only the characters on the card to guide him.



Kim expresses the delight with Ruby that we all experienced watching the dogs learn to read.



The last activity we had on Oct. 7th was a Wag'n Trails Dog Hike up on Mt. Madonna led by Ranger Blake and her Standard Poodle Yeti.

On Oct 8th we had our monthly training at the Humane Society of Silicon Valley. Here are Denise and Kokoro, Jackie with Palo and Donna preparing to shoot some video for the DSA test.

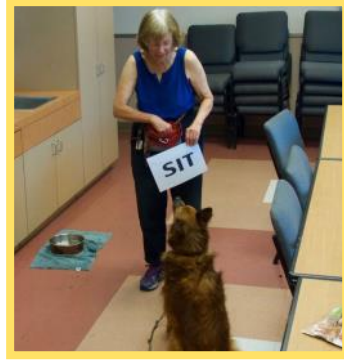


While one of the kitty residents living at the Humane Society watches over Scott's shoulder to see if she wants to learn to be a Dog Scout

Troop 198—CA (cont.)



On Oct 21st, the East Bay Troop held another Teaching Your Dog To Read at the Contra Costa Animal Shelter in Martinez. Here Pat teaches Copper to read the DOWN card,



and new member Katherine works with Charlie using the SIT card.



And another new member Kim, teaches Luke to read the word DOWN as Kobi, already a reader observes.



On Oct 26th was the Love On A Leash Pet Assisted Therapy Meeting in San Jose where some members came in in the Halloween costumes they wear on their Pet Therapy Visits. Here we have Dog Scouts, Big Wyatt dressed as Superman; Duncan dressed as Batman; Little Wyatt dressed as Thor; Mokey the kitty is an honorary Dog Scout Cadet because in addition to being a Therapy Pet, he attends Dog Scout Training Meetings so Cadets can practice their Leave It with Critter. Our Dog Scouts are joined by their Therapy Pet friend Penelope in a Jazzy Halloween Hat.

On Oct 28th, all troops came together to form a Dog Scouts Of America Team to fund raise for the annual Canine Companions For Independence Dog Fest Walk N Roll held in Jack London Square in Oakland. Before the festivities, from left to right we have Bailey Bear, Duncan, Wyatt & Kobi posing with the mascot for the event.



Here we have Stephanie, and Susan with Ellie arriving to join Ruth and Kobi before the event



And Kim arrives with Luke to join the team



It was a big event with 22 people signing up to join our group and the event raised over

Troop 198—CA (cont.)

On Oct 29th, East Bay Troop 237 had a Pack Walk at Pt. Pinole Regional Park, here is part of the pack gathered at a rest stop during a great outing for both man and dog.



Also on Oct 29th we had our big annual Howlloween Party. We played several games of Tic Tac Dog. Here we have top left, Cowgirl, Crystal, Dayton, Duncan, Kokoro, Frodo's backside, Wyatt's backside, and Baiely Bear sitting front and center.



Here we have from top left, Spike, Duncan, Dayton, Sadie, Crystal, Tinkerbell, Dino's tail, Frodo and Wyatt.



This game is going wild! Top left, here we have Spike making a break for it, Duncan staying put, Dayton walking off, Sadie, staying put, Crystal in the center solid as a rock, Tinkerbell walking off, Dino, rock solid, Frodo listening to Mom and staying put and Wyatt starting to get up to leave his spot.





One last game, top center we have Rebel holding a sit with Jackie, Kokoro in the center holding for Denise, in the front row on the left we have Dayton, Crystal and Cowgirl on solid stays.

We enjoyed time with our friends and loved ones. Here we have Debee with Maxwell in his Tux bandana and Bob with Dayton in his Tux bandana enjoying a minute together off to the side.



Our Dogs sniffed out and found treats. Here Frodo dressed as a prisoner, and Crystal are playing the find the treat under the cup game with Dave and Patty.

We played with toys and puzzle games. Here Wyatt is playing with a treat filled Kong as his brother Duncan watches and Crystal sees something of interest across the room.



Here is Jackie with June sporting her #12 sports jersey getting ready for Tic Tac Dog.



Troop 198—CA (cont.)

Here are Donna and Spike playing the muffin tin game with Sharon and Saide in her butterfly costume getting ready to go over the jump and Denise with Kokoro in her devil costume chatting in the background.



We ran through tunnels. Here is Sir Bailey Bear Barks A Lot dressed in his knight's outfit coming out of the tunnel and being greeted by Christina and Wyatt as he comes out of the tunnel.



And shared our fun side with each other. Here is Honey with a little jockey riding on her back.

On Nov 4th there was the Tails & Ales Fund Raiser for the Humane Society of Silicon Valley hosted at the Google Campus. Here is a shot of Bailey and Carlotta in front of the Fund Raiser mascot



We are gearing up for the holiday season, looking forward to parties, parades and helping out in our communities in the spirit of the holiday season. Happy Holidays from the San Francisco Bay Area Troops.

Troop 217—MI ~ Motor City K9's

Sally Hoyle—Troop Leader

Our troop has been busy this fall with some of our favorite activities. We recently participated in the Bark for Life event in Livonia for the second year. We have done many of these events in years past in other cities but found this smaller, yet growing event to be especially rewarding. The organizers do a great job in putting the event together and we had a great time talking to people in the community about DSA and K9 Nutrition. Our dogs were able to participate in the many games that were offered including the crowd favorite, bobbing for hot dogs. We also had dogs showing off their musical talents and other tricks. It was a really nice afternoon spent honoring cancer survivors and connecting with the community.

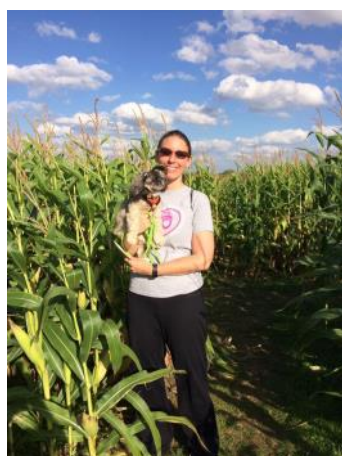


Bark for Life participants, from left, Barrie Lynn and Sunny, Julie and Sam, Julie and Shelby, Michelle and Sassy, Vickie and Shadow and Diane and Lizzy. Elizabeth Najduch is not pictured.



Lizzy, Sassy and Sunny get ready to dive in and bob for hot dogs. Those hot dogs never stood a chance!

On an unseasonably warm afternoon in early October we met a a local orchard to do something we haven't done in quite a few years...tackle a corn maze. Our group had fun going through the maze and finding items on the scavenger hunt. The dogs didn't seem to mind the wrong turns at all and afterwards we took a stroll back to the cider mill area through an active orchard. We took some time to just catch up with one another on their big lawn out front. We could have done without all the bees but I guess that's kind of impossible at an apple orchard!



Julie and Shelby at the corn maze on a warm and sunny afternoon.



Saxon and Daisy with mom Rachel at the corn maze



Kristen with dogs Stanton and Linus



Katie and Sam in their rival football jerseys seemed to enjoy grazing as much as the corn maze

Troop 217—MI (cont.)

The weather turned quickly so our carting class took place on a cold Saturday afternoon. Carting is something that some dogs take to very quickly and others need time to get used to pulling something behind them. Most of the dogs seemed enjoy the challenge even if they were unable to master all of the necessary skills. Lizzy is recently in a K9 wheelchair due to a degenerative disease and since her wheels allow her to carry a small load she was able to participate along with all the other dogs. Lizzy has been practicing and learning to use her wheels and her practice paid off as she earned the Carting badge. Darby took to the cart easily and seemed to really enjoy pulling so she was able to earn the badge too. Sam and Linus were able to get some practice in but they were cut a bit short when the weather turned even worse and it started to rain. We were very happy to have Claudette Smith from Troop 101 join us for this event along with her dogs, Yaegar, Delta and Tegra. Delta got to try pulling a bit and even baby Yaegar got to participate using a very lightweight cart. Though Katie and Shelby have already earned the Carting badge they got to do a little pulling as well. Though the weather was dreary we had a lot of fun!



Lizzy with her pink wheels



Shelby still enjoys pulling at 14 years old



Delta wanted to be sure she knew what she was going to be harnessed to!



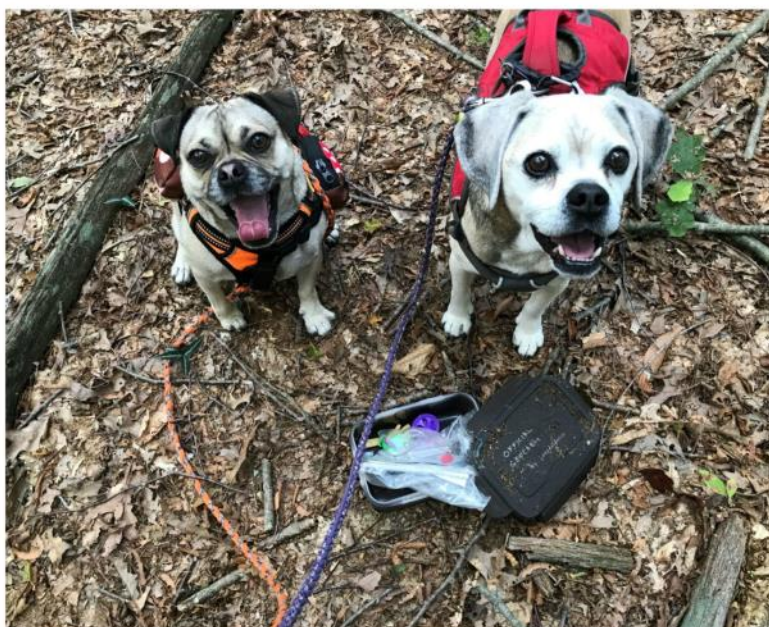
Darby getting used to the cart

We are looking forward our holiday activities next, including several parades and bell ringing, and hopefully some sledding and skijoring once there is some snow on the ground.

Troop 219—CT ~ The New England Explorers

Kelly Ford—Troop Leader

In our continuing quest to hike new trails, we took a trip to Day Pond in Colchester CT. We choose a colorful series of letterboxes to search for in addition to some geocaches. The letterbox series is called “Edibles Around the World” and included edible plants including a fig, lotus, prickly pear, wild blueberry and a jujube. Zora DSA, Wyatt DSA and Danica DSA had a great time helping to search for all the letterboxes.



DAY POND STATE PARK

DSA Troop 219
Geocaching
Letterboxing

Troop 219 had a wonderful time at the Shoreline Puppy Up this year. The day started out with a bad rainstorm, but cleared up in time for fun. We got to talk to a lot of vendors about canine health and well-being. There were several veterinarians doing demonstrations.

Troop 219—CT (cont.)

Our Wyatt DSA was the Shoreline Puppy Up Walk Hero. Wyatt is a cancer survivor. He doesn't know that he is sick and we are not telling him! As a special gift to Wyatt and Lori, the Troop made unique buttons with Wyatt's picture because he is our Hero. We even made a cape for Lori to wear at the walk. Wyatt and Lori received a gift basket from the Puppy Up organizers for being the Hero.



Zora DSA, Cody DSA, and Danica DSA also had a great time sharing Dog Scouts with people at the walk. The pups liked meeting all the new people and sampling all the great treats at each booth.

Troop 219—CT (cont.)

We decided to challenge ourselves to this Fall with a new venture. We started a group project to complete our K9 Nutrition badges. We had already learned how to interpret the information on a bag of dog food. All of our Scouts were good at getting on the scale at the vet. Our group project would be to organize a healthy food drive.

Troop 219 partnered with Paw Print Pantry in Niantic to organize a food drive for a local rescue group. We choose Wings of Freedom Animal Rescue from Griswold CT. They rescue not only local dogs and cats, but had been working to fly dogs out of areas affected by the recent hurricanes to foster them and find them homes. We ran our food drive for several weeks, collecting healthy dog food and cash. On the last day of our food drive, we set up outside of Paw Print Pantry. We passed out information on healthy dog food, body conditioning and coupons. We had a wonderful day meeting people and especially meeting Wings of Freedom and their foster dogs.

We are so grateful to our local community, friends and family for helping us in our food drive. Thank you all!



K9 Nutrition
Food Drive



Troop 219—CT (cont.)

Winter is suddenly here, and we are all bundled up and out hiking. Veterans weekend, we headed out to Machimoodus State Park. We were joined by our good friends Cindy and 11 ½ year old Pearl. It was great to see Pearl and Zora running the trails, they are both 11 ½ years old. We were searching for geocaches, but we found some other cool things too. We found some adorable gnomes and their houses. We also spotted chickens!!



Machimoodus State Park
Dog Scout Troop 219



Troop 229—CA ~ Dogaholics Anonymutts

Mary Blackstone—Troop Leader

We're still here!



We've been going on hikes,



Working on our Geocache & Letterbox Badges



iZAR & I joined Sharon & Lilura and went on a couple of Geo-Letter box trips to Crater Lake & Lassen National Park to get the required letterbox 250 miles away. Sadly, a huge forest fire started the day we made our Crater Lake trip, and the air was pretty smoky, but we all managed to have fun and found our coveted Letterbox, plus a bunch of geocaches.



It was great to get away from the 100+ at home and enjoy the cool 74 degrees at Crater Lake.

Troop 229—CA (cont.)

Our Lassen trip was also a refreshing 73 degrees.



We found 10 geocaches and a letterbox that day.



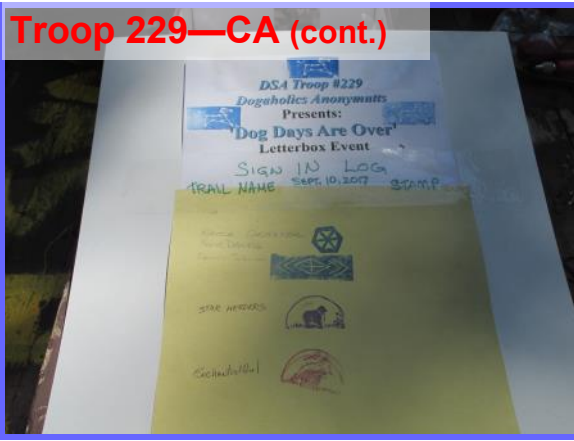
We have already done 3 of our annually required 4 Highway Clean-ups for our Adopt-A-Hiway project.



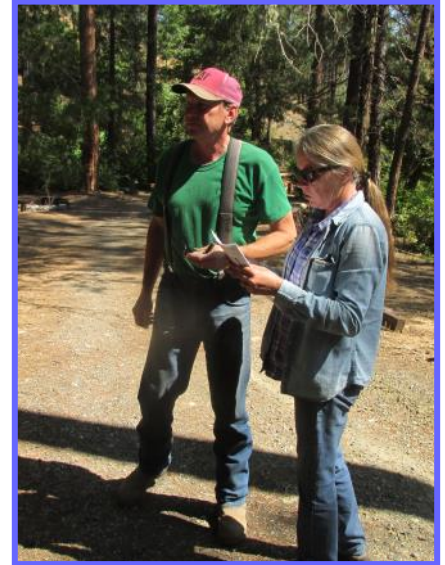
Jeanne brought Mick to join us for the first time.



Troop 229—CA (cont.)



In September, we held a Letterbox Event.



We didn't have very many people show up, but they had fun learning to carve stamps and use a compass and clues to find Letterboxes hidden around the campground.



We've all been working on our Manners Badge and we're done with the videos for that!

I call this the "Begging Manners" Skill. Jeanne brought out some fresh venison for high-value treats. All the dogs very politely asked for samples.



Troop 229—CA (cont.)

October 21st was our 2nd Annual OctOBarkFest. I found myself muttering those well-known words...."whose idea was this ANYWAY!" Alas, the answer was, as always, MINE!

We all survived, and I know I had a lot of fun!

My favorite was the wheelchair races.



We also had a Spoon & Ball Race



Costume Contest



and Dog Showmanship;

there was Recall w/distractions, Jumping Contest & more.

Troop 229—CA (cont.)

Dog Scout Vera got her picture in the local paper, giving her mom a big kiss at the kissing booth.

She also won the Jumping Contest!

Saintly smooch



JOANNE TUCKER | THE TRINITY JOURNAL

At the Dog Scout Troop #229 OctOBarkFest event in Hayfork on Saturday, Oct. 21, Vera, a 6-year-old St. Bernard, and her owner, Victoria Howe of Hayfork, pose in the "Dogaholics Anonymutts" kissing booth.

Vera and her owner Victoria Howe won the 2017 jump contest by getting through the obstacle course in 22 seconds.



October 24th, iZAR and I were invited to the Library's Reading Hour for the 5& under crowd. They've been reading books beginning with the letter "D" and one of the books was called "How to Politely Pet A Dog".

So we STUFFED his backpack with soft dog toys and went for a visit.

All the kids got to come up, one at a time, and Politely Pet iZAR, for which they received 1 voucher for a toy. When they were all done with the pets, they got to come up and choose a toy from his backpacks.

I was told we were a huge hit! Wish I could have gotten a picture of the kids and him, but alas, we didn't get photo consents. :(

If we get to go back, I'll have to make sure I do that!



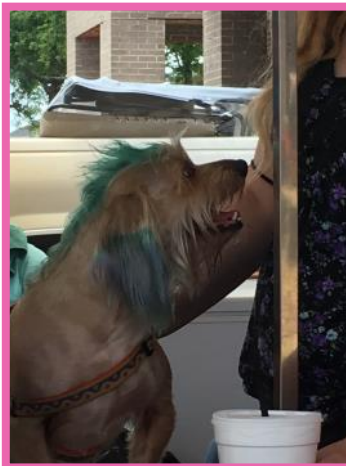
Troop 230—TX

Kristen Keeling—Troop Leader

May 19th we attempted to work on our Backpacking and Overnight camping badge. We had a great group sign up and we hiked in and set up camp. Then we went on a hike through the woods, wrapping up with a bonfire with hot dogs, sausage dogs, chili, chips and smores! Unfortunately Mother Nature had other plans for us as a really bad lightening/rain storm came up and made us cancel our plans.



Fun was still had by all!

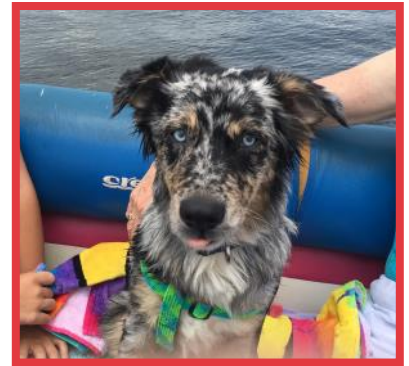
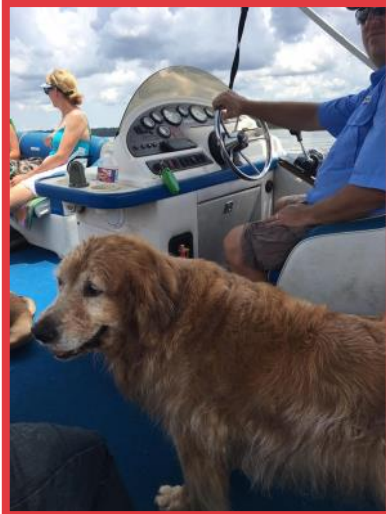


June 21st we met at the Dog Park and talked about the Sign Language badge. We had a deaf doggie special guest whose human discussed the challenges and importance of teaching your dog signs. Then on June 24th we were in Longview at the East Texas Area Groomers Challenge educating humans about Dog Scouts and the fun we have as well as the importance of the Dog Scout Way. Zana even was asked to model for a local store!



Troop 230—TX (cont.)

July 9th, our very own Pat Keeling invited the troop (and friends) to her lake property on Lake Tyler. Our goal was to work on Puppy Paddlers and other water badges, but again Mother Nature had other plans. We still had a nice group barge ride and a BBQ lunch before the down pour.



August 19th we met at the dog park again to go over some general training. This was an opportunity for anyone with a training issue or needing someone to video tape them for their badge submission could come and get some individual attention. We had one dog get checked off on 99.9% of their Dog Scout badge. We hope that Esther and her human Mary will complete the Dog Scout badge by the end of 2017.



October 7th our troop attended the East Texas SPCA's Dogtoberfest where we were able to educate humans about Dog Scouts and the fun we have as well as the importance of the Dog Scout Way. We also assisted in a medical emergency and offered water, poop bags and treats to our 4-legged friends.



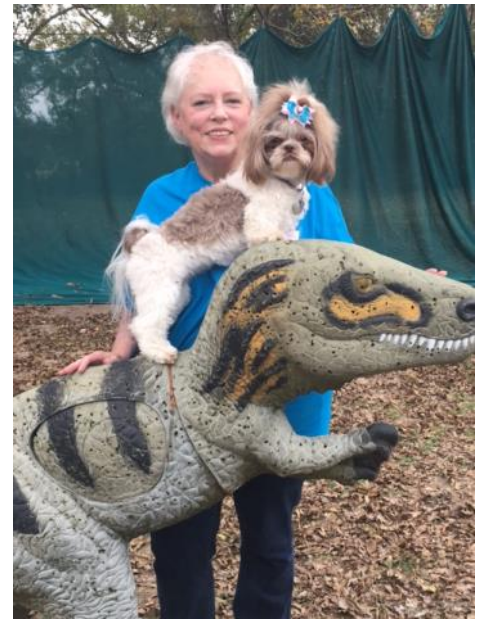
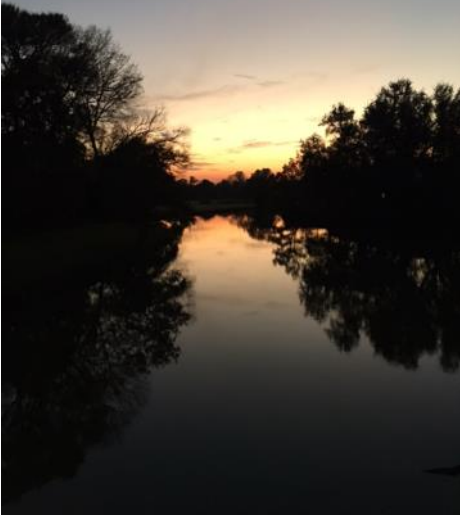
Troop 230—TX (cont.)



October 29th was our annual Howl-o-ween costume contest and party at Fresh in Tyler. In addition to the costume contest we played multiple games including Beginner Tic-Tac-Toe and the Pup Walk. Just about every dog walked away a winner!



Troop 230—TX (cont.)



November 9-12th we had four of our members attend Texas Mini Camp at Camp Carter in Fort Worth. We represented well coming away with 13 badges, lots of sore feet and paws but big smiles and wagging tails.

Gracie earned her Obstacle 3, Backpacking, Overnight Camping and Steeplechase badges; Reveille earned his Rally 1 and Steeplechase badges; Rory earned his Dog Scout badge (yay Rory!), Puppy Paddlers and Backpacking badges; and Zana earned her Obstacle 1 and 2, Backpacking and Overnight Camping badges. All 4 dogs came away with goals for 2018 badge submissions.



Our condolences to Diane Schuler on the loss of Annie, who crossed the Rainbow Bridge on Nov. 22, 2017. She was around 15 as near as we know and became a Dog Scout in 2009 about 8 months after Diane adopted her. She was a certified therapy dog with close to 300 visits under her belt when she retired in May.

DOG SCOUTS ~ THANKSGIVING 2017

**Tripoli Paxton
share's her first
Thanksgiving with
Charlie & Addy**



Danica Joy Ford



Barrie Lynn, Sunny & Moose Wood



Austin Bales

checking out the "bones"!



DOG SCOUTS ~ THANKSGIVING 2017

Sunny, Barrie Lynn & Moose Wood



Katie & Sam Hoyle



**Ember Moyer
patiently waits
for her tiny plate**

Princess Zora Ford



Tachi Conley drying off after a morning swim, with Nim's help

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

Photo of Wyatt & Dancer
by Leah Lane



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."

For all the activities we got to share in 2017.
Looking forward to DSA 2018!

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

MERIT BADGE RECOGNITION PROGRAM

Video Evaluation: DSAVideoEval@gmail.com

Recording Secretary: Julie Benson — bensonjulie@earthlink.net

Evaluator Certification: Chris Kloski — ChrisBill1966@gmail.com

TITLES/COMPETITIONS

Hosting/Competing: Sally Hoyle — sally.hoyle@yahoo.com

Trail Dog Titles: Kelly Ford — DSA.Troop219@yahoo.com
(Also for competition registration numbers)

Newsletter: Shirley Conley (Editor) — thescoop@dogscouts.org

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(Also for newsletter distribution)

Don't forget to e-mail
your 2018 goals &
a picture for the
next newsletter

