

The Dog Scout Scoop
Official Newsletter ~ Dog Scouts of America
Scout Scoop & Troop Tales

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

Volume 21 Issue 1b January-February 2018



**Outstanding Volunteer,
Sam Lawyer-Hoyle DSA**

Deadline: for the next newsletter is
March 15th

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

Dog Scout Named Outstanding Volunteer

by Sally Hoyle, Vice President



Julie Lawler-Hoyle & Sam

Julie Lawler-Hoyle and her dog, Sam, have been part of the Pet Therapy volunteer team at the VA Ann Arbor Healthcare System (VAAAHS) since October 2012, donating more than 425 hours since that time.

Julie and Sam visit Veterans at bedside, brightening their day in what can be a very stressful situation. The unconditional love offered by Sam is priceless and is very soothing to Veterans and their loved ones during their hospital stay. In addition, Julie's friendliness and compassion to those they visit provide a positive experience for everyone they encounter. This fabulous duo definitely lift spirits wherever they go.

Julie and Sam's dedication to, and support of, the Veterans hospitalized at the VAAAHS makes them an excellent choice of Volunteers of the Month for February 2018.

As Dog Scouts we know the value of community service and many Dog Scouts provide countless hours of comfort through work as Therapy Dogs. Recently one of these dogs received a very special honor from the VA Hospital in Ann Arbor, MI.

Sam and his mom Julie Lawler-Hoyle have served the community for years as a Therapy Dog team. Sam has never been a dog that enjoyed most athletic endeavors and often suffers from performance anxiety when asked to do things in front of people. But he has a real talent for therapy work and demonstrated this at an early age when he became the youngest dog ever certified as a Therapy Dog through Therapy Dogs International (TDI) in the state of Michigan.

Sam has done therapy work at many different places but his favorite by far is the VA Hospital. He absolutely loves going to this facility and knows just about everyone who works there. Recently the hospital honored Sam by naming him "Outstanding Volunteer", the first time a dog has achieved this honor at the facility. Sam goes to the hospital weekly to provide comfort to patients and their families and he puts a smile on the faces of everyone he sees.

Sam is known among staff and patients for always choosing his own path through the hospital on each visit. He has been welcomed everywhere in the hospital other than the operating rooms. Sam is also well known for the way he starts his visits in the hospital; with a quick visit to the chapel. His mom calls this "Saying hello to God." She's not sure that he has a specific religious affiliation, but he never fails to step into the chapel and stand quietly for just a moment before moving on to see patients and staff.

Sam seems somehow drawn to men and women who have served our country and can identify these special people even when out in public. When Sam pays special attention to someone Julie will often ask if they have served our country. The answer is always yes. In December Sam was very insistent upon breaking formation in a parade and going into the crowd to visit for a minute with a man who, of course, turned out to be a veteran. After his quick visit Sam rushed to catch up with his Dog Scout troop and rejoined the parade.

For his many hours of therapy work Sam has achieved the title of Therapy Dog Excellent (THDX) through the AKC and Remarkable Volunteer Achievement (TDIRVA) through TDI. He is well on his way to the highest level titles in both organizations.

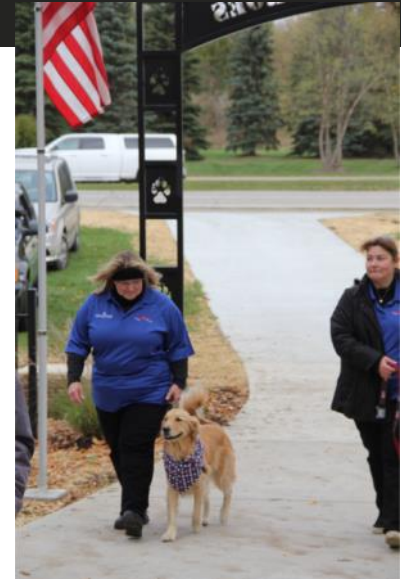
Congratulations to Sam and mom Julie (his chauffeur) on his achievements!



HONORING OTHERS

by Sally Hoyle, Vice President

Darby and her mom Carrie recently became members of the K9 Salute Team for the Michigan War Dog Memorial. Membership on this team is quite an honor and Darby proudly serves during events, dedications and interments.



The War Dog Memorial was discovered in 2006 as an abandoned site full of headstones buried in foliage and brush, with a large granite monument in the center engraved with the words, "The War Dog".

The local AmVets Post came together with Veterans Service Organizations and dog clubs to begin restoration of the site in 2010. Through the efforts of many volunteers the site was not only restored, but has undergone many improvements including paved pathways, fences, an iron arch at the entrance and a black granite wall honoring dogs who served in the Vietnam War. Continued development and maintenance of the War Dog Memorial is managed by a group of dedicated volunteers.



Today the War Dog Memorial stands as a monument to K9s who have died both in the line of duty and while out of service. Dogs eligible for interment at the site includes military and police K9 officers, Service Dogs and Therapy Dogs. Interment with full honors is provided to owners/handlers at no cost. The memorial is truly a special place.



Ceremonies held at the memorial are quite impressive and Darby is proud to be able to serve. She is the only Golden Retriever on the team among many German Shepherds and Belgian Malinois and stands out during any service. Most recently Darby participated in the dedication for the monument honoring Oakland County Sheriff K9 Officers. We hope Darby and mom Carrie enjoy serving on this special team for many years to come.

For more information about the Michigan War Dog Memorial please go to their web site, mwdm.org

Troop 119—TX

Cindy Ratliff—Troop Leader

In November, our troop participated in our largest and one of our all-time favorite community service projects of the year, our annual Meals On Wheels for Pets Project. This was our 14th year for this project and it is still going strong!

Our troop dog representative this year was 9 year-old **Maddy James**. Maddy's mom, Leslie, has been an active troop member since 2004. Leslie was kind enough to come to mini-camp this year without a dog just so she could stay busy being a camp photographer and capture memories of other people and their dogs. So we thought it was only fitting that Maddy get to have a day just to herself with mom & the troop.

We received an incredible amount of donations this year, both from troop members and members of the community. We served 134 dogs this year (the most to date) and troop member, Nita Lanter, and her family made goody bags for an additional 76 cats, as well. Our official count of collections included:

1,175 lbs of pet food

914 bags of treats

179 tennis balls

142 bowls

150 holiday bandanas

393 dog toys

208 poop bag rolls

210 bottles of shampoo

40+ pounds of Milk Bones

150 Christmas card enclosures

Additional food and items for the cats



Troop 119—TX (cont.)

We actually had so much donated that we filled up one Meals On Wheels van with food and cat items and another van with all the doggy gift bags.

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.



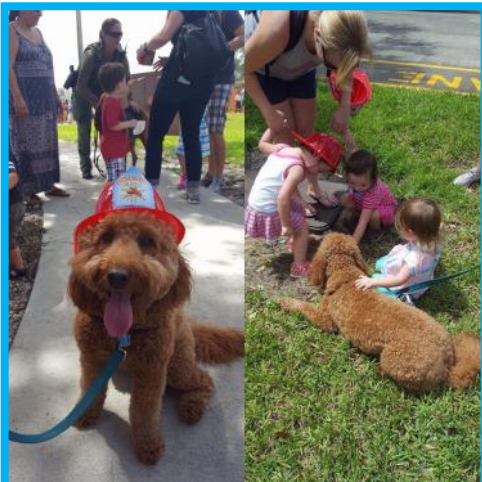
The troop took the month of December off for time for family and festivities and we plan for another great year in 2018!



Troop 157—FL

Teresa Irvine

Our troop ended 2017 supporting several community events and troop activities, which has been a theme throughout the year. During the month of November, we supported the Touch-A-Truck event, which was hosted by the Police and Fire Department from the city of Coral Springs, FL. They held the event to encourage families with children and young adults with special needs to spend the morning with fire and police personnel, learn about their equipment and explore emergency vehicles. The Coral Springs Police Department created a special needs database to better serve those with cognitive delays who reside or attend school in the City of Coral Springs. As Dog Scouts we were able to interact with those who participated and teach how to properly address and pet a dog. What a rewarding experience!!! It was great to watch how some children in the beginning were fearful of dogs, but after realizing our dogs were well behaved and friendly the children broke through their fears. They begin interacting with the dogs, petting them and wanting their picture taken with them. We had Jessie, Ripley, Brandi, Jolie, and Jessie.



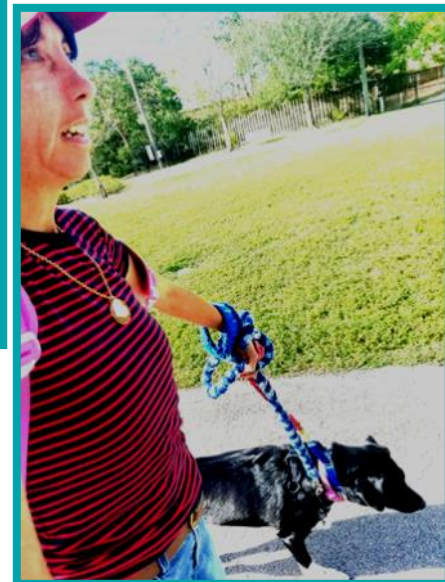
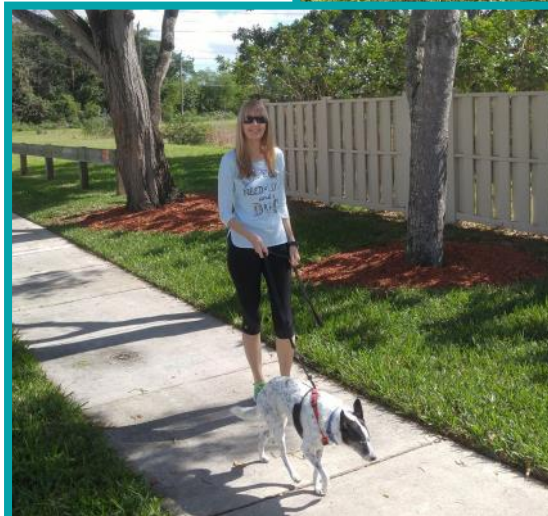
Troop 157—FL (cont.)



Later that day other troop members attended the 12th Annual Mutts and Martinis fundraising event. This fido-friendly afternoon cocktail party had food, music, a canine themed silent auction, giveaways and a pet fashion show; all to raise money/awareness for the Riverwalk Fort Lauderdale and local pet rescues. Our troop supported this event by interacting and educating people about Dog Scouts to show the benefits of using positive training methods as well as doing fun and new things with your dogs. We had Jolie, Amo, Rebel, Lily, Merle and Sage.



Troop 157—FL (cont.)



To end the month several of our troop members and friends registered and completed the 5K DSA Sparky's Turkey Trot. We thought it would be a great idea to schedule the walk on the day after Thanksgiving to burn off some of those extra calories. For those who were not able to make this date they completed their walk virtually at other locations.

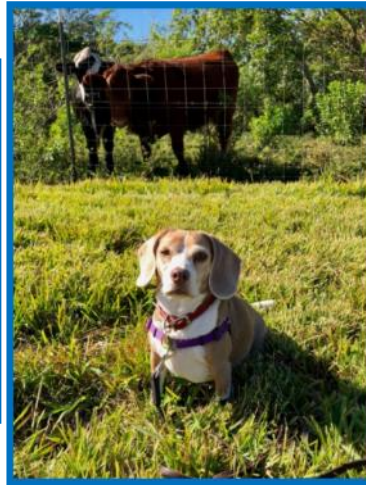
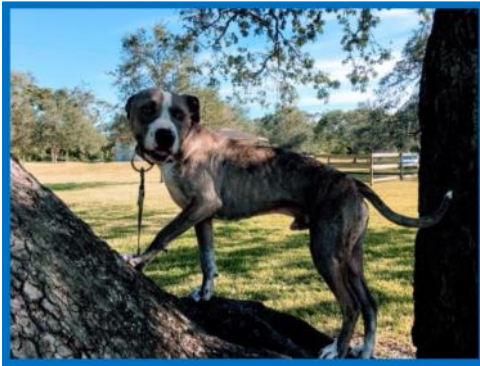


It was a beautiful day to just get out and walk with our pups while enjoying conversations with our fellow troop members. Everyone who participated had a great time and enjoyed supporting an event sponsored by the Dog Scouts of America. We had Ripley, Clover, Freckles, Felice, Jessie, Jolie, Lucy, Oreo, Lexie, and Emma.



Troop 157—FL (cont.)

In December, the troop worked on our DSA Badge and the Pho-Dog-Graphy badge. For the DSA Badge we focused on



leave it with animals, working with cows and donkeys. For the Pho-Dog-Graphy badge we worked on the beginning dog behaviors. Touching a target stick and Clover and Merle practiced posing in a tree.



Later in the month some of the troop returned to Ashton Gardens assisted living facility for their annual Holiday “Sing-A - Long”. Our dogs were dressed in their festive holiday attire while humans were singing carols and holiday songs. Some of the pups got in a trick or two which had the residents smiling with delight! Like the Halloween Pet Parade this was an event both Dog Scout and Residence enjoyed. We had Jessie, Bryant, Grace, Clover, Jessie, Jasmine, Brandi, Rebel, and Lily.



Troop 157—FL (cont.)

The last day of the month on New Year's Eve during the day we had a puppy paddler's class. It was a cold day for South Florida but the dogs all had a great time in the water. There was a great turnout for it being as cold as it was. All of the dogs got wet and most did swim. Not all dogs love the water but you take baby steps and make it fun for them. It was really good to tire them out before the New Year's festivities started. Can't wait to do this again!



It was a busy month for us, but our troop leader Christine Geschwill was able to fit in a DSA training class for those of us wanting to continue to work our dog(s) individual needs as well as give our new troop members support in working on what is needed to pass the DSA testing requirements (Felice, Brandi, Amo, and Biscoff). Also, several troop members did things on their own if they couldn't participate in some of the activities; here is Freckles at Matheson Hammock Park in Coral Gables enjoying time at the swimming pool. Plus some impromptu Dog Scout meet-up groups at the local park (Felice, Peanut and Freckles).

Our troop is very excited about what 2018 will bring and what new training opportunities will present themselves. We sure enjoy getting together and helping/supporting one another on learning new things. We had several new members join our troop last year who are studying for the DSA Written Test; so we plan to have more study groups that will be designed to assist our new troop members and refresh members who have passed it already.



Troop 177—IN

Robin Porter

Donation to Military Dogs 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.

Troop 177 members were happy to learn their donations for 16 military dog teams reached their destination at Incirlik Air Force Base in Turkey in time for Christmas. The dogs and handlers were very happy recipients!

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



Military Dog plays tug of war



Military Dog poses with new rope toy



Military Dog wearing Doggles



Hallie raising donations for Salvation Army

Robyn Porter and Hallie completed several Salvation Army bell ringing shifts and raised \$1,057.79. It was so fun when people recognized us from previous years, or asked us when we were going to be back at a location so they could see us again. One Saturday morning I was at a car dealership having my oil changed, as I checked out the cashier asked what I was doing the rest of the day. I mentioned that I had a Salvation Army bell ringing shift later that afternoon. She laughed and said that she always drops \$1 in the bucket, but then there was one lady with a standard poodle and she gave them \$5. I laughed and replied "that would be me". She was one of our first donations later that afternoon when we arrived at our shift!

Troop 183—FL

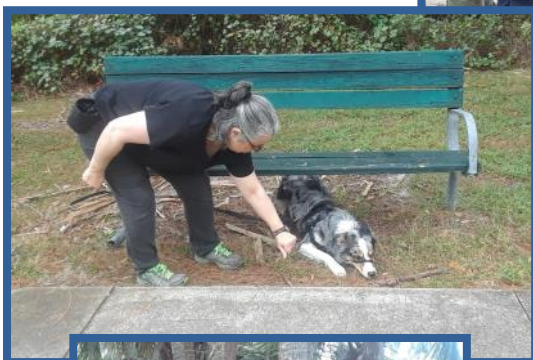
Shirley Conley—Troop Leader



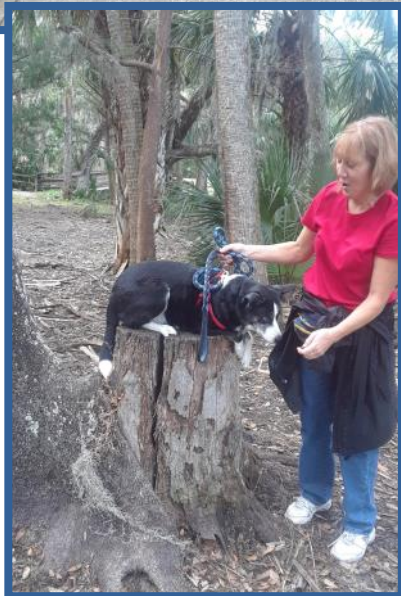
On Sunday, November 19, Shirley led the troop members on the Parkour hike. She reminded troop members that in addition to checking the safety of an environmental feature for the dogs, we should also check where we are stepping, as fire ants and snakes are a distinct possibility in our area!



The troop found a great tree for an assisted jump that Shirley hadn't seen the previous week. We did find that some of our dogs were distracted by the various smells on the trail, but decided to try asking for the behavior again at a different environmental feature rather than get worked up about our dogs sniffing - after all, a hike is supposed to add quality to our dog's life, and olfactory exploration is a great way to do that, and in this case, it was not a big deal.



It was interesting to watch how our dogs responded to our cues when they lacked confidence in trying something new. We found asking our dogs to perform a "platform turn" on the uneven and new surface of a rock, was a challenge for some. Trying to lure with a treat wasn't always effective, so we tried physically moving around the rock and bring our dog's attention down to the surface they were on so they could negotiate the turn, then we rewarded them for their efforts. There's certainly many things to consider when trying Parkour with our dogs, but it helps us become more aware as handlers of our dogs state of mind and body. Our dogs were tired by the end of the hike, having expended a lot more mental and physical energy than they normally would.



Troop 183—FL (cont.)

Paws Pack 183 rang for the Salvation Army on December 2.



Mary Ann & Fran with LeRoy & Bling [4], started the day and rang for 3-1/2 hours;
Steve (not pictured) & Marlyn with Alli & Jim & Marsha with Betsie [3], rang for a marathon 4 hours;
Amy with Marvin [3] & Shirley with Tachi [4] took the last shift ending at 8 p.m. and rang for 2-1/2 hours.

Our last few donated dollars had to be stuffed into the kettle!



The money we raised will help the Salvation Army meet the needs of men, women and children who utilize their services throughout the year and also for the less fortunate in our community that need help during the Christmas season.

Troop 188—CT

Amanda Wacasey

2017 was certainly a year of firsts. We got to do a lot of things that were new to us, and our members took up the challenge.

Along with the usual yearly community events, the troop was invited to new events.

The **Chester Pet Fair** was expanded to 2 days. This gave us a wonderful opportunity to meet lots of new people and pets.



Puppy Up Shoreline Walk Team raised over \$2500.00 for cancer research.



Troop 188—CT (cont.)



Joker's highest jump!

The **Connecticut Pet Expo** at the XL Center in Hartford was a great new event for us last year. Two days of fun and great vendors, along with troop members Dynomo Dogs! We hope to make this an annual event.

Even though it gets dark very early this time of year, Troop 188 is always ready to shine.



Trick or treating at the Senior Housing



Troop 188—CT (cont.)

The
**Ledyard
Holiday
Light
Parade**



And of course,
pictures with Santa!



Troop 188—CT (cont.)

Sadly, Troop 188 did lose 3 scouts this month.



Bailey DSA,



Fyssher DSA



and

Yippity DSA

will always be in our hearts. Even though you are no longer with us, we will bring you with us to all the new adventures in 2018.

We're all looking forward to what the New Year will bring! New badges, new challenges and new friends.

Happy 2018 everybody!

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

Leah Lane—Event Coordinator

The 2017 year-end holidays gave the San Francisco Bay Area Troops 198, 233, 237 and the Peninsula Pre - Troop lots of opportunities to share and enjoy each other and our communities. On Nov 4th and Nov 18th Troop 237 had “Review the Basics, Dog Scout Title” meetings at both Metro Dog in Richmond and Contra Costa Animal Shelter in Martinez.

Ruth encourages Maurice to show off his Dog Scout badges as Kristie, his Mom observes.



Kristie explains some of the badges to Kim, Pat & Ruth as Dog Scout Kobi watches approvingly .

Ruth discusses the Dog Scout badge test as the big boys patiently wait for instructions.



Troop 198—CA (cont.)

Kristie speaks to the group about different aspects of the Dog Scout badge



On Nov 24, Troop 237 had a Pack Walk at Pt. Pinole Regional Park in Richmond. The dogs are unleashed after leaving the paved road.

Copper, Otto and Lily lead the pack with Kim as they emerge from the woods



At the watering and rest spot, Katherine discusses optional trails for returning to the parking lot.

After a great walk, Ellie & Kobi wait for Copper to drink before heading home.



Troop 198—CA (cont.)

On Dec 2nd Troop 237 had a holiday party for Dogs and Others at the end of the leash at East Brother Brewery in Richmond.

A great time was had by all, big and small.



While Troop 237 was partying at the Brewery, Troop 198 & Troop 233 were getting ready to walk in the Morgan Hill Holiday of Lights Parade, put on by the Kiwanis Club in Morgan Hill.

Here we have Blake holding Tribble in a reindeer outfit and Yeti rocking a doggie Santa Hat wearing red and green beads and lights.



Here left to right is Susan with Cowgirl and Lennie with Sadie as the marching band practices in the background

Troop 198—CA (cont.)



As it gets darker, we get more excited.

Here left to right is Scott and Carlotta, (Bailey's parents), with Patty getting Crystal to perform and Bailey next to the Santa Sleigh that not only holds all of Santa's toys, but our Dog Scout sign too! In the background we have little Shelby dancing in her Santa hat and back against the wall is Judy putting lights on Ruby.



Cora watches all the commotion around her wearing her lighted Santa cape standing next to Mom Kate.



Wyatt, hitched to the Santa sleigh he will be pulling, waits patiently next to brother Duncan who is sporting a smart Santa sweater as Mom Leah adjusts the barrel around her neck that goes with the St. Bernard Costume she is wearing. Oh, What Fun!

Bailey waits patiently hitched to the Dog Scout Cart that Carlotta and Scott restored. The cart was donated to DSA by Rosalie Alvarez, who is well known royalty in the dog show circuit.



At last it is almost time to go so we gathered for a group shot before starting our march down main street. From left to right is Shelby, Judy with Ruby, Wyatt with Leah & Duncan, Kate with Cora, Carlotta with Bailey, behind is Blake with Tribble and Yeti, then Lennie with Sadie, Patty holding Crystal and Susan with Cowgirl. Bailey's dad, Scott is taking the picture.

Troop 198—CA (cont.)



On Dec 3rd, Troop 198 had a Mall Walk About Training at Santa Row in San Jose where they practiced their down stays surrounded by some spectacular holiday decorations. Left to right we have Stretch, Maxwell, Dayton, Cora, Wyatt & Duncan.



Again, the group takes advantage of the holiday décor of the mall. Left to right is Stretch, Cora, Maxwell, Dayton, Wyatt & Duncan



On Dec 30th members from Troops 198, & 237 joined together for an End Of The Year Pack Walk at Pt. Pinole Regional Park in Richmond. It was chilly, but wonderful walking weather.



Half way through the walk we stopped for a water break, here we have Shannon with Rufus, Kristie with Maurice, Katherine with Charlie, Stephanie and Ellie and Kobi with Ruth.

Troop 198—CA (cont.)

Here is Jackie with left to right, Palo, Venus, Rusty, Rebel and she is holding Tacoma with the beautiful bay in the background



Carole and Sadie are ready for the return walk back to the beginning!

On Jan 6th, Troop 237 started off the New Year with a meeting at Metro Dog in Richmond entitled “Year of the Dog -- Beginning Lunar Year 2018”. They started off the meeting with a question and answer session.



Then moved on to nose work.

Here Kaiwe is amused by Roxy’s antics as Ruby takes notes and Gracie waits her turn to practice the nose work.

Troop 198—CA (cont.)

Here Cash and Maui search for treats as Tom and Laakea observe.



Here Dog Scout Maurice alerts to the hidden treat with Kristie as Cash and Baymax take notes and Tom and Cecilia observe.



Here Ruby finds the treat hidden by Kim as Chriss observes with Toby and Cecilia and Baymax work on the side.

Here Susan is tasked with handling three “difficult” Golden Retrievers, darker colored Ellie, Dog Scout Kobi and his new sister, Star, in front who just joined the troop.



Troop 198—CA (cont.)

One of the other topics covered at the meeting was how to teach your dog to laugh. Here Ruth and Stephanie encourage Ellie to laugh.



Troop 198 started their new year with a Mall Walk About Training at Stanford Mall in Palo Alto. After socializing our dogs, we moved on to the fire pit to practice some stays.

From left to right is Washington, Bailey, Duncan, Wyatt, Sadie, and Cowgirl. Lennie is telling her Sadie to stay as Susan grabs her phone to take a picture of her Cowgirl.



Here is some of the group lined up along the fire pit, left to right is Washington, Bailey, Duncan, Wyatt, Sadie, Cowgirl and Kokoro.

Then it was off to practice walking through the sculpture. Here 6 month old Bruno gives it a try with Mom Emily giving encouragement.



Troop 198—CA (cont.)

Then Kokoro shows Mom Denise she can do it to!



Then Susan encourages Cowgirl to walk through as Emily and Bruno watch



Then it was time for Washington to show Mom Micayla she could do it too!

After everyone walked through the sculpture it was off to learn and practice going up and down in elevators and up and down stairs then we wound up the walk with one last down stay at some funny statues. From left to right we have Washington, Kokoro, Bailey, Wyatt, Duncan and Bruno



The San Francisco Bay Area Troops are really looking forward to making new friends and learning new things in 2018. Happy New Year Everyone!

Troop 217—MI ~ The Motor City K9s

Sally Hoyle—Troop Leader

Our troop was very busy during the holiday season with some of our favorite activities. Thanksgiving weekend we walked in the Garden Santaland Parade. This parade is a tradition for our troop and we have done it for many years. This year it was made even more special for us because we were joined by our sister Girl Scout troop, Cadette Troop 1042. The girls made the parade more fun for all of us. The dogs and the girls have a special bond as they have done many activities starting back when the girls were Daisy Scouts.

Our dogs Maia, Darby, Sassy, Shelby, Sam & Katie loved the attention they got during the parade and even had fun during the line up. Katie pulled Shelby in the cart and Michelle's niece Samantha helped to carry our banner. We were also joined at the Santaland Parade by Fay Reid, co-leader for troop 101, her dog Goldy and her niece Teryn and nephew Bryson.

Sam got some pre-parade attention from a friend as Maia looks on.



Sam and Katie with Sally pre-parade



Our group for the Santaland Parade with our Girl Scouts

Troop 217—MI (cont.)



Shelby always enjoys a ride in Katie's cart!



Taryn, Bryson and Goldy joined us for the parade.



Sassy got a well deserved drink after the parade.



Sam and Julie serving as the "rear guards" for the group.

Troop 217—MI (cont.)

Fay and Goldy also joined us the following week for the South Lyon Holiday Parade, bringing along another niece this time, Jasmyne. This was the first year we have walked in the South Lyon parade and we found we enjoyed it quite a bit. This is a lighted parade and it seemed the whole town turned out to see it. We found very creative ways to light up ourselves and our dogs and we're thrilled to see the crowd had done the same. Dogs Sally, Shadow, Sunny, Darby, Shelby, Sam, Katie and Goldy were all good sports about all of the ways we found to light them up.

Shelby and Julie were all smiles for the parade.



We had to be very creative for the South Lyon Parade!

We finished our holiday activities with bell ringing for the Salvation Army. Darby, Shadow, Sassy, Sam and Katie always enjoy this activity and did a great job this year breaking up shifts to cover an entire day at one location. The dogs are always a hit but this year they REALLY did a fantastic job and brought in \$4,376! That's \$292 per hour per dog! In all it was a great way to spend a Saturday afternoon.



Sassy and Katie (and Sam in the back) always enjoy bell ringing together.

Troop 217—MI (cont.)

Other highlights of the season included Katie's final show for the year with the Rock 'n' Roll K9 Performance Team. She looks forward to performing with her friends again starting in 2018. Darby finished her season with the War Dog Memorial K9 Salute Team. She will start up again in the spring as well.

The Therapy Dogs in our troop provided much needed comfort throughout the holiday season. Shelby continued going to work with the reading program at the library. Sassy enjoyed welcoming home our troops for the holidays through her duties at Detroit Metro Airport. Darby continued visits at Beaumont Hospital and Sam comforted military veterans and their families at the VA hospital. Sam and Katie got to make a special visit to a very special man we met through Facebook. The man was very seriously injured when crossing a street in a crosswalk while walking his two dogs. He and his dogs were hit by a car traveling at a high rate of speed in a residential area. A Facebook group put a call out for dogs to visit the hospital and Sam and Katie were happy to go and meet a new friend.

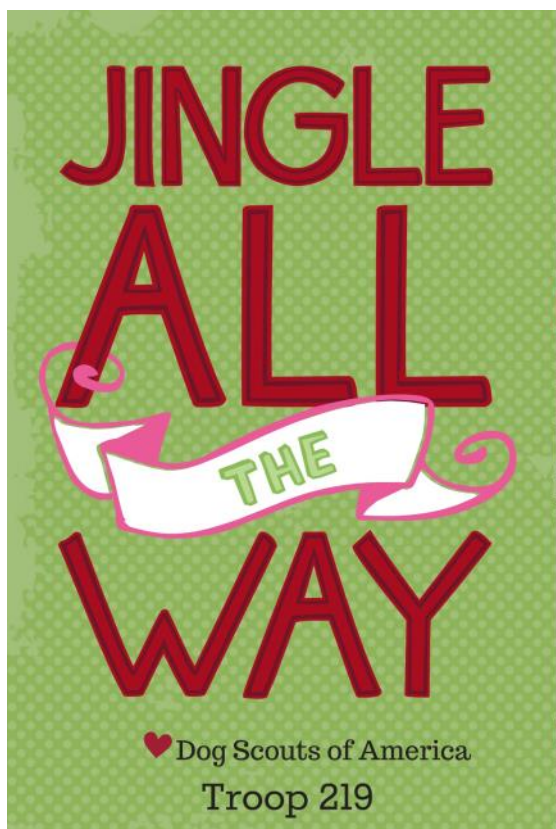


Many troop members got together on a recent Sunday afternoon to do some planning for 2018. We talked about activities we'd like to do this year, community events we want to participate in and badges we want to work on. We have tentative plans to take our dogs to a baseball game, have a "learning" weekend at a lodge in a local park, and do more letterboxing and geocaching. We also brainstormed ways we can fundraise and give back to our communities doing things like meals on wheels.

Troop 219—CT ~ The New England Explorers

Kelly Ford—Troop Leader

Congratulations to Danica Joy DSA, Wyatt DSA and Zora DSA for earning their K9 Nutrition badges!



219 spent a lovely Friday morning after Thanksgiving ringing bells for the Salvation Army. Bell Ringing on Black Friday has become a yearly tradition for us.

Our dogs enjoy meeting people and sharing the holiday spirit. They like to make sure that they each get to say "Hi" to everyone, no one gets left out.

Troop 219—CT (cont.)



Troop 219
Turkey Trot

Our annual Sparky's Turkey Trot was held at Bluff Point again this year. Cody played the part of Turkey, while several of us had turkey hats. We had a great walk with great friends.



Big Brook Gorge Preserve
Dog Scout Troop 219

After the first snow of the season, we went hunting for snowmen and snowflake letterboxes at Big Brook Gorge. It was cold, but the pups loved the exercise. The gorge has a couple of nice short well marked trail loops.

Troop 229—CA ~ Dogaholics Anonymutts

Mary Blackstone—Troop Leader



We started out November with a hike.



It was unseasonably hot and the dogs appreciated a dip in the creek.

The rest of November had us busy planning and getting ready for our “Sit With Santa” Fundraiser for the Trinity County Fairgrounds. We worked on Scent training at our weekly meetings.



Checking the lighting and prop locations for the “Sit With Santa” fundraiser

Karla brought her new 8 week old puppy, Max. IZAR had to say hello, he loves puppies.



Troop 229—CA (cont.)

December 3rd Santa (a personal friend of mine) came to Hayfork to hand out treats to the community's dogs.



IZAR heard he had some REALLY good treats for his reindeer team this year, and so dressed up to audition to be on the team!

iZAR was very impatient for Santa to show up and looked all over for him!



IZAR was SOOOO happy when Santa finally came! He just wanted to lay at his feet.



His baby sister Kip was also excited to meet with Santa! She couldn't wait her turn and ran in to say HI before it was her turn. This was really special, since Kip is very shy, and last year she didn't want to meet Santa!



Troop 229—CA (cont.)

Kip's mom had her hands full getting Kip's uniform on!



But finally it was Kip's turn to tell Santa what she what she wanted for Xmas.

Then it was Kip's new housemate, Max's turn to see Santa.



Max isn't shy at ALL, despite the fact he's only been on this earth for 8 weeks! He thought Santa was pretty cool, and enjoyed the treats he got. I'm hoping Karla will add Max to the Dog Scout roster. :)



Mic remembered Santa from last year too and was happy to see him again.



Troop 229—CA (cont.)

Max got away from his mom and came back to see Santa again!



Lilura had a lot of secret stuff to tell Santa...



Vera and Pearl, one of her housemates, made it to see Santa too!

A lot of the community showed up to take advantage of Santa's visit, and they also bought raffle tickets for a fundraiser we were putting on to benefit the Trinity County fairgrounds! We had put together a box of dog toys & treats, and local business donated gift certificates for all kinds of things, even people without dogs would like!

But we had more than just Santa! Almost everyone that showed up played our silly games and took a picture with their dog at the Lady & the Tramp photoboard.



Troop 229—CA (cont.)



A ball & Spoon race (which I didn't get any pictures of!)

And Wheelchair Rally-O.

I sure had a lot of fun, I think it was our best Sit With Santa event EVER!

It seemed like we were just recovering from having too much fun, and it was time to make treats for the local Community Holiday Basket give-away.



We made 93 dog & 33 cats treat bags for the Hayfork Community Center.



Troop 229—CA (cont.)

Sharon & I volunteered at the community center to give the baskets away. Jeanne baked the BEST little mini cupcakes for the volunteers!



We also made 70 dog treat & 35 cat treat bags for the Golden Age Center. They're always happy to get them.

Then it was time for our Trinity County Fairgrounds Fundraiser Raffle Drawing. We raised almost \$300 for them.



iZAR says it's been a long hard holiday season and I've worked him like a dog!

Troop 229—CA (cont.)

We get a lot of donations from our local businesses, and it's ESPECIALLY nice since we're not a non-profit, so they can't claim a tax break for it. So I like to show them our appreciation by giving them a thank you; a certificate & a bag of dog treats.



iZAR wasn't the only one that was tired after all that.



So we finished the year off with a few hikes up to see Philpot Waterfall & mapping a new trail a local organization is putting in around our local reservoir—because the best way to recoup from all the holiday stress, is some nice long strenuous hikes. Right?

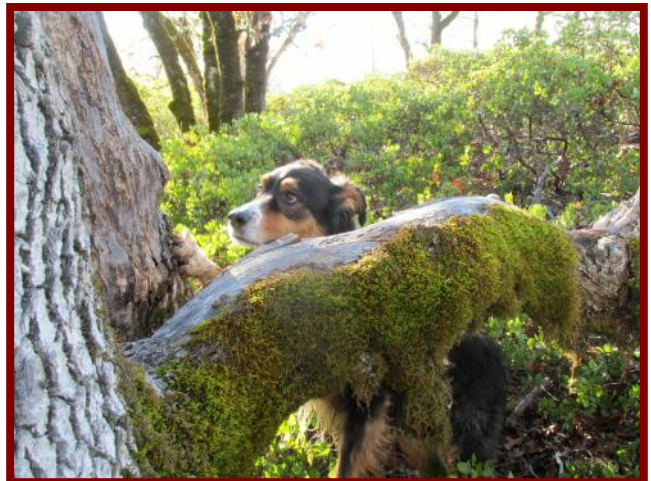


Troop 229—CA (cont.)

Christmas Day Hike



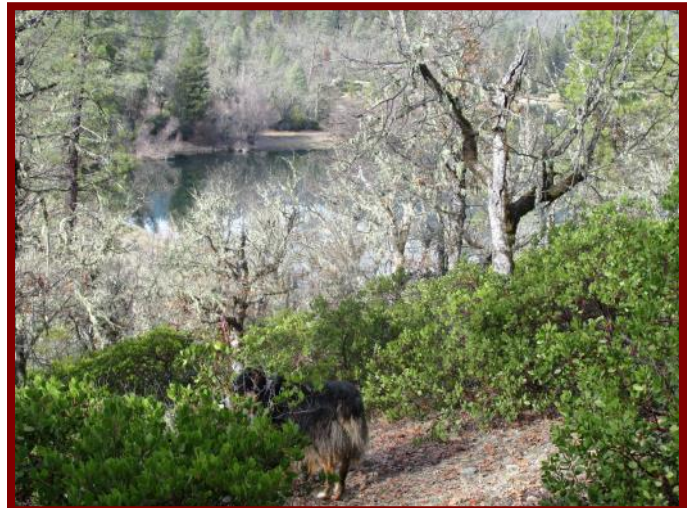
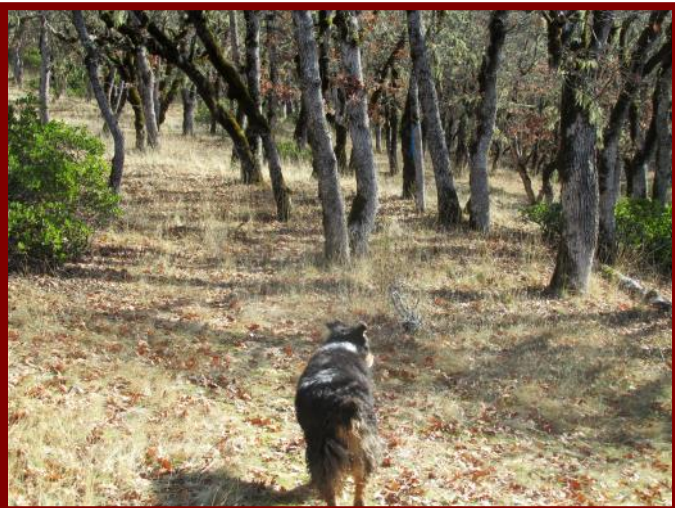
Our troop held our “End of the Year Hike” at Ewing Reservoir this year. Our End of the Year parties are open to our friends and the public. So we get a chance to socialize our dogs with other dogs of all kinds.



Troop 229—CA (cont.)



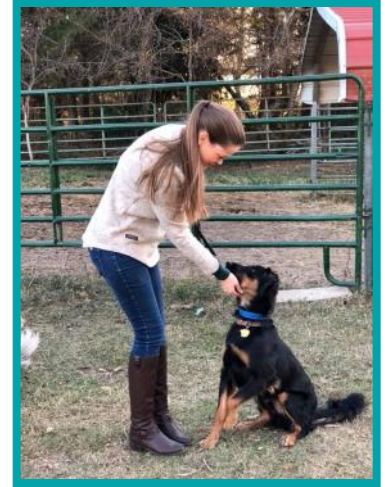
And the last activity of the year, iZAR & I finally got a map & mileage of the new trail done.



Troop 230—TX

Kristen Keeling—Troop Leader

December 10th we gathered together for our annual Christmas party. Our dogs were able to visit with donkeys and miniature horses. Then we played several games which allowed our dogs to show off their abilities with their friends. These included sit, down, leave it and heel.



Some of our members prepared a pot of good old fashioned beans, sausage and rice meal while others brought additional goodies. We had hot cocoa and roasted marshmallows around a fire pit. The doggy gift exchange is always a blast with the white elephant gift exchange. There were lots of steals and giggles but in the end everyone seemed very pleased with their goodies.



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."

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(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
(Memorial recognition and engraving)

Membership: Peggy Mooney — mmmooney65@gmail.com

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

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Recording Secretary: Julie Benson — bensonjulie@earthlink.net

Evaluator Certification: Chris Kloski — ChrisBill1966@gmail.com

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