

# The Dog Scout Scoop

Official Newsletter ~ Dog Scouts of America

Volume 21 Issue 5 September/October 2019

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

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Danica Joy DSA (Troop 219)  
helping the Dean household  
prep for Halloween!



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**Deadline:** for the next newsletter is  
**November 15th**

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





This is a virtual race to fundraise for  
Dog Scouts of America!  
You can walk or run on your own time and  
you will receive a medal for supporting this  
great cause!



DSA is a non-profit, 501c3, educational organization dedicated to improving the lives of people and dogs of all ages through education, positive reinforcement training and community involvement.

**Sparky's Turkey Trot** is a virtual race that you can walk or run on your own time and you will receive a medal for supporting this great cause!

A virtual run is a fundraiser to bring people from all over the world to run together on their own time, in their own towns during the week of Thanksgiving. You can run after work, on the weekend, at your park, or on your treadmill. You can also walk, bike, sled, skijor, scooter, cart, cani-cross, or combine it with a geocache or letterboxing activity.

Run or walk a 5K, 10K or 1 Miler and be rewarded with the Dog Scouts of America Sparky's Turkey Trot race medal. To earn your medal, please run anytime during the week of Thanksgiving (November 16-24) and you will receive a medal "on your honor" for supporting Dog Scouts and getting some miles in.





You can bet we will have something amazing for 5th Annual Turkey Trot. You can add to your medal collection or start now. You do not need to be a member of DSA to participate. This is a great family and scout activity.

Watch our Facebook page for more information and registration details on October 20th.



The **FIVE Mile Gobbler** is an additional fundraiser, to celebrate our 5th Annual Turkey Trot. You may participate in the Mile Gobbler on its own or in conjunction with our Turkey Trot.

This is a virtual **five mile** run or walk that you complete on your own time and you will be rewarded with a special Mile Gobbler **PATCH** to show off your hard work. To earn your patch, please complete your 5 miles anytime **between Thanksgiving and Christmas**. There is no need to send in a mileage log to receive the Mile Gobbler patch it is issued "on your honor". *However, if you want to count your miles towards a future trails badge or title, you will need to log the miles and carry the required pack items in accordance with the badge/title criteria—you will submit that log to your evaluator or e-mail it to [dsavideoeval@gmail.com](mailto:dsavideoeval@gmail.com) once the badge/title requirements are completed.*

Medals and patches will be mailed out after Christmas. All proceeds from this events will go to furthering the mission of Dog Scouts of America (and setting up teams again this year will help us cut down on mailing costs so more of your hard-earned donation dollars can be spent on this mission). During the setup of this virtual race, we had to choose a location for the race to be based. The home base is the location of Michigan Dog Scout Camp, the happiest place on earth. But this race can be run from anywhere!

Be sure to e-mail a picture of you and your dog and/or a team participating in this event to [thescoop@dogscouts.org](mailto:thescoop@dogscouts.org). If you post on social media #dogscoutsofamerica



# Fall Craft Outing at Michigan Camp

On Sept 13-15, we had our annual Crafting Weekend, hosted by Fay Reid and Goldy. People did everything from sewing and quilting to scrapbooking, to finishing crafts that needed completion. Attendees have shared a little of their experiences and what weekend meant to them

**Sally Hoyle:** We began the weekend with letterboxing on Friday afternoon. Mackenzie found her first letterbox, which was Kismet Olson's first placed box.



**Lonnie Olson:** Kismet finished her Letterboxing 1 requirement with her placement of a box which was a memorial to Panda. I was able to have fun and play games with all three of my dogs throughout the weekend, plus I finished a lot of my half-done crafts. The meals and conversation were great, too. Thanks to Barb Foy for volunteering to orchestrate the potluck menu, and Fay for providing fun games and the movies.

**Fay Reid:** If you didn't get a chance to attend, be sure to sign up for next year's event. We had a lot of dog-focused fun and quality time spent with the dogs, doing the things we like to do together. It was fun getting together with folks from other troops.



**Joanne Weber:** It was a very relaxing weekend, filled with wonder and renewal.

**Barb Foy (and Family):** We Foys all had a great time at the Crafting Weekend. Mike and Milo walked and walked and walked and had fun playing "Hide and Seek" in the nicely fenced Dog Play Yard. Tim and I enjoyed the games a lot, though Tim had trouble understanding why he was supposed to leave the food alone in one game and was supposed to eat ALL of it in another game. We had time to work on our Freestyle behaviors and practiced Tim lying still on his beautiful mat crafted by Sally. Honey & I walked the trails and she had a great time playing with her little friend, Moose. As always, whenever I have the opportunity to spend time with fellow Dog Scout members and their dogs I take it. The camaraderie, knowledge and generosity of DSA members is the best. We'd love to see more people and their dogs come next year. It is always FUN!





## Fall Craft Outing (cont.)



**Diane Cranston:** This was my first time attending the DSA Craft Weekend. It was a BALL. It was 3 fun filled days of fellowship with interesting, awesome, generous people and their dogs. As a group, we watched (not surprisingly :- ) two dog movies - A Dog's Way Home and A Dog's Journey - both were very good, We went on a 1.5 mile walk where we saw coyote scat and tried to rearrange some trees in the forest - don't ask! We ate wonderful homemade food especially Sally's cherry cobbler and oatmeal with lots of whipped cream. Barb

made a tasty harvest soup and Lonnie made a refreshing cucumber salad. We also played four games with our dogs (Dog Jenga, Snowman, How the Dog Stole Xmas, and Just Eat It). All of the games were a blast. Thanks to Fay for facilitating them and Goldy for being the Champ in "Just Eat It". She ate EVERYTHING and very quickly too!! In between all of the activities with our dogs, we did work on individual projects with our dogs nestled by our sides! As always, DSA Camp is MY FAVORITE place to be!!

**Barrie Lynn Wood:** The weekend of friendship and community brought me and Moose a great deal of comfort and healing. Besides completing my memorial wind chime for Sunny, we thoroughly enjoyed the group hike through the woods. We also were thankful to Fay, for bringing games that all dogs could succeed at.



# Thanks Be To Dogs . . .

By Lonnie Olson

We all love our dogs, and each of them brings some new learning adventure into our lives. I've been keeping a journal of "thank yous" to each dog I've shared my life with for about the last seven years. Every now and then, I'll read it, or add a new dog to it, and it brings back so many fond memories that I often break into tears. I think this is a great thing to do, and we could all have our own journal of thank-yous to all of our dogs, past and present. Here are my beloved dogs from birth to present::

**To Queenie (Manchester Terrier):** Thank you for making my young childhood less lonely. You taught me that the love a dog gives is infinite and unconditional, no matter how it is treated by humans. I loved how patient you were with me.



**To Tootsie (Toy Poodle):** Thank you for introducing me to the joy of dog training. At age 11, you showed me how much you could teach a dog with just cookies, before "positive training" was a common thing. I loved how you never forgot the tricks I taught you as a child, and performed them for me with glee, 10 years later when you came to visit me in Arizona.



**To Sundance (Doberman Pinscher):** Thank you for being like Lassie, and saving the day so many times. I loved how you eagerly tried everything I taught you, and how you would plant a sweet kiss (not a lick) on my cheek, when asked for a "nice one." You were smart enough to growl at the man in our first obedience class who always brought a rolled up newspaper in his back pocket to smack his dog with.



**To Tarzan (Golden Retriever):** Thank you for excelling at obedience training and making people think I was a great dog trainer—you always came home with the ribbons and trophies. I loved how you learned everything on the third try. I especially loved how you'd lie there while I was sleeping, and the moment my eyes opened in the morning, and met yours, you'd vigorously thump your tail on the hardwood floor, at the joy of another day with me.

**To Meadows (Springer Spaniel):** Thank you for opening my eyes to the horrors of what can happen to a dog who is passed from home to home and given no training or socialization. You taught me the importance of getting the message out to the world to take dog ownership more seriously and responsibly.

**To Dragon (Bouvier Des Flandres):** You were really Harry's dog, but you taught me much. I liked how you were protective of me, without any training. You spoke softly, but weren't afraid to gently grab Harry's whole butt cheek in your mouth to warn him that we were playing too rough. You helped teach Heather Junior Handling and built her confidence. When you got your final CDX leg without completely flattening the high jump, you could hear the entire show grounds give a sigh of relief!

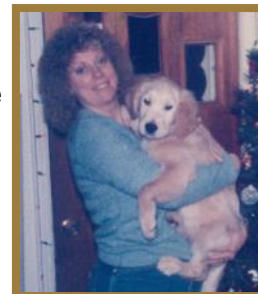




## Thanks Be To Dogs (cont.)

**To Sparty (Golden Retriever):** Thank you for spending your twilight years with me, though I know that you would have rather stayed with your (broken) family of 8 years... I loved how you never wanted anything more than to please me, and took great delight in showing off your eagerness for obedience exercises.

**To Haley (Golden Retriever):** Thank you for helping me realize that just because a dog is a show champion and a top obedience performer, it is no reason to breed that dog if she has marshmallows for brains.



**To Karli (Border Collie):** Thank you for giving me the idea for Dog Scouts of America. You were my first all clicker-trained dog. You certainly impressed Karen Pryor. I loved how you could make anything you'd find into a toy (a sucker stick, a pinecone, a tiny scrap of paper...), and would shove it at me, to try to get me to toss it for you. I loved how you loved the training game so much, that you valued the process more than getting the reward for getting it right. You taught me more than I can list... But I'm most thankful for the fact that you got me out of my "obedience" rut, and showed me how to have fun doing other things... LOTS of other things with dogs. One of my favorite memories was when we shot that TV commercial and after telling you what it was you had to do, I stood back and you did everything just as I had asked you to earlier. They got the shot in one take.

**To Weasel (Pembroke Welsh Corgi):** Thanks for showing me that little dogs can be lead dogs, too! I loved how we would go anyplace (like the vet's office), and if people didn't immediately fawn all over you, you'd stare at them and woof, shaking your head to the side, and flopping those cute Corgi ears! I also loved watching you swim in circles in the pond for hours, just because you loved swimming so much!



**To Wiley (Border Collie):** Thanks for being such a devoted companion, while living in the shadow of superstar, Karli. I loved how you would heel beside me or the golf cart, without being asked to, even though the other dogs were running and playing about. Your favorite spot was always next to me. I also loved how you would wag your tail in a circle when you were having big fun!

**To Koda (Border Collie):** Thank you for slogging through those muddy pastures with me, trying to get that herding title. I remember you practicing your skills on a hapless litter of puppies I was babysitting for Kay. I looked out in the back yard, and there they were, all huddled in a group, unable to move, and staring towards the door as if to say, "HELP US!" And you were looking all like, "I've got them in a group... what do I do with them now?" I loved how you would run flyball for anyone. You were my "point and shoot" collie.



## Thanks Be To Dogs (cont.)

**To Ricochet (Border Collie):** I regret that I couldn't have adopted you BEFORE you spent all of your critical socialization period in an airline crate. Some things were so hard for you. I was happy when you finally turned on to dog sled racing and weight pull. It was good to see you passionate about something.

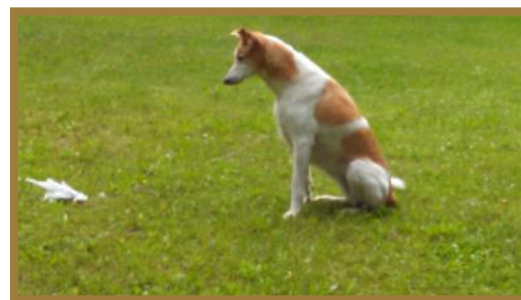
**To Gator (Cattle Dog/Pointer Mix):** Saved from death row at the shelter, you were a very cool dog. I loved how patient you were with puppies. You sounded like you were going to kill them, but you were just schooling them in manners, and would never really harm them. Though you were Ed's dog, I enjoyed having you share part of your life with me.

**To Saikou (Alaskan Husky/Border Collie Mix):** Thank you, Stinky Girl, for being just the right amount of Border Collie. Smart and quick to learn anything, but not "possessed" by the urge to herd or fetch everything you came in contact with. We were a true team, and as my service dog, you were able to do everything with me. I loved how you "lit up" at the sight of a Jolly Ball or Frisbee. I loved how when we would have Easter egg hunts, you would get so excited when you'd find one, and you'd run and hand it to me (or your dad—even though he didn't realize he was part of the game) to open it for you and give you the treat inside, rather than just crushing all the eggs to get the treat for yourself, like your sister did. You taught me that mixed breeds are wonderful.



**To Gala (Alaskan Husky):** You were really Ed's dog, but you spent your final years with me. You made me see that a sled dog could be a good indoor family pet. It made me cringe to think of your siblings (and Saikou's and Panda's), who weren't as fortunate, and lived out their life on a chain in a sled dog lot. You taught me how to use a helium balloon to teach the retrieve. I loved how you never had to be trained to pull a sled, like the other dogs did... You were a natural... Born to hike!

**To Panda (Alaskan Husky/Chart Polski):** Thank you, your highness, for gracing our family with your princessness! You never seemed to enjoy the company of dogs, unless you were racing through the woods with them, or hunting vermin with them. You always needed a cushy place to curl up, like a true sight-hound. I was glad to be able to introduce you to lure coursing, sledding and barn hunt. You were a natural, and never so excited as when you did these things. I loved how you would let me put glasses or other stuff on you and pose you for pictures. I love how you give me "the look."



# It's Your Turn To Share . . .

**Just in time for Thanksgiving . . . we'd love to hear what you appreciate about your past and present dogs. Send a picture and/or paragraph to [thescoop@dogscouts.org](mailto:thescoop@dogscouts.org) by November 15th**



# October is National Animal Safety and Protection Month

The American Veterinary Medical Association listed the following components. Click on the links below for more information from [avma.org](http://avma.org), [petmd.com](http://petmd.com), [preventivevet.com](http://preventivevet.com) and [dogscouts.org](http://dogscouts.org):



~ [Disease Vaccination](#)

~ [ID/Microchip your Dog](#)  
and [register the chip](#)

~ [Household Safety](#)

~ [Parasite Prevention](#) ([External](#),  
[Internal](#) and [Heartworm](#))

~ [Emergency/Disaster Preparation](#)

~ [Travel Safety](#)

## Speaking of Safety and Protection . . .

## Are You Ready for Halloween?

### Holiday Reminders for the Smart End of the Leash:

1. Don't feed your pets Halloween candy, especially if it contains chocolate or xylitol (a common sugar substitute found in sugar-free candies and gum);
2. Make sure your pet is properly identified (microchip, collar and ID tag) in case s/he escapes through the open door while you're distracted with trick-or-treaters;
3. Keep lit candles and jack-o-lanterns out of reach of pets;
4. If you plan to put a costume on your pet, make sure it fits properly and is comfortable, doesn't have any pieces that can easily be chewed off, and doesn't interfere with your pet's sight, hearing, breathing, opening its mouth, or moving. Take time to get your pet accustomed to the costume before Halloween, and never leave your pet unsupervised while he/she is wearing a costume;
5. Keep glow sticks and glow jewelry away from your pets. Although the liquid in these products isn't likely toxic, it tastes really bad and makes pets salivate excessively and act strangely;
6. If your pet is wary of strangers or has a tendency to bite, put him/her in another room during trick-or-treating hours or provide him/her with a safe hiding place;
7. Keep your pet inside.



Photo Courtesy of  
Lisa Hamilton



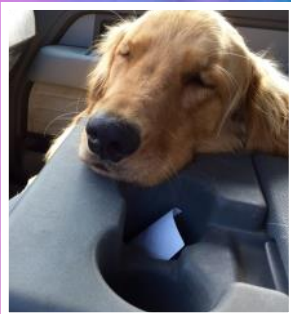
Photo Courtesy of  
Lisa Smets

Source: [www.avma.org/public/PetCare/Pages/halloween.aspx](http://www.avma.org/public/PetCare/Pages/halloween.aspx)

# Rainbow Bridge



*Our condolences to Barrie Lynn  
and the Wood family and friends  
on the loss of Sunny*



## I'm Still Here

Friend, please don't mourn for me  
I'm still here, though you don't see.  
I'm right by your side each night and day  
and within your heart I long to stay.

My body is gone but I'm always near.  
I'm everything you feel, see or hear.  
My spirit is free, but I'll never depart  
as long as you keep me alive in your heart.

I'll never wander out of your sight-  
I'm the brightest star on a summer's night.  
I'll never be beyond your reach-  
I'm the sun-warmed sand when you're at the beach.

I'm the colorful leaves when fall comes around  
and the pure white snow that blankets the ground.  
I'm the beautiful flowers of which you're so fond,  
The clear cool water in a quiet pond.

I'm the first bright blossom you'll see in the spring,  
The first warm raindrop that April will bring.  
I'm the first ray of light when the sun starts to shine,  
and you'll see that the face in the moon shine is mine.

If you start thinking I am no longer near,  
Take a hike in the woods and clearly you will hear.  
I'll whisper my answer through the leaves on the trees,  
and you'll feel my presence in the soft summer breeze.

I'm the hot salty tears that flow when you weep  
and the beautiful dreams that come while you sleep.  
I'm the smile you see on a baby's face.  
Just look for me friend, I'm every place!

*By Unknown Author*





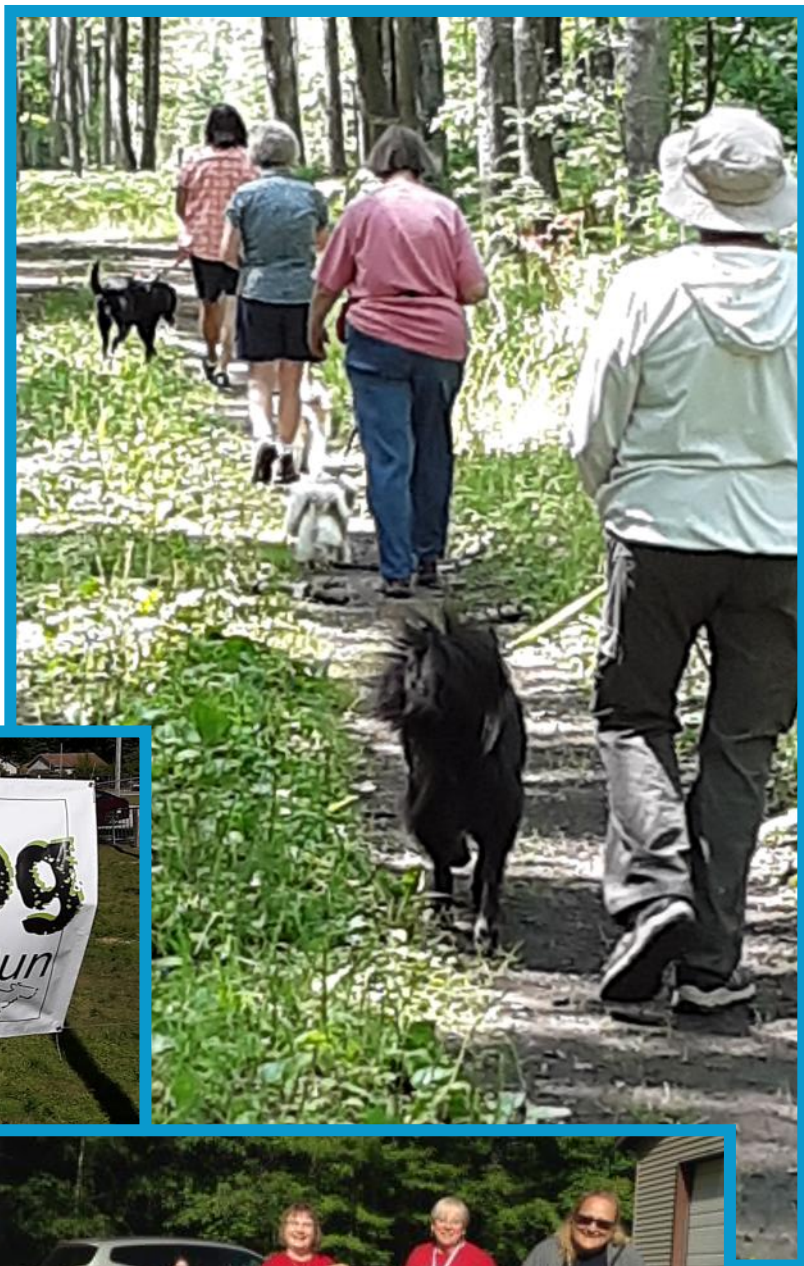
# Scout Scoop & Troop Tales

## Troop 101—MI ~ Northern Michigan Trailblazers

Lonnie Olson

At our August 4th troop meeting, we decided to practice skills needed for getting the [Cani-cross](#) badge. We all entered a fun run scheduled for August 24, and I thought, "Why not try for the badge?" So we worked on passing, and having other dogs pass us, having the dogs lead out and pull, and learn to respond to the cues for right and left. We talked about proper trail etiquette and proper equipment.

A few weeks later we showed up for the 1 mile fun run/walk in our [Proud Parent of a Dog Scout shirts](#), and completed the run. It was fun! We still need to practice a few things before we meet all of the requirements for the badge, so now we have some goals.



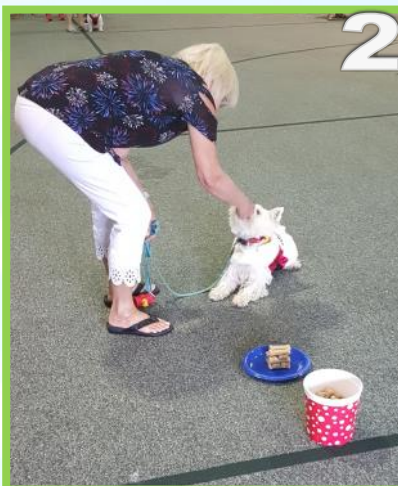


# Troop 119—TX

Cindy Ratliff—Troop Leader

Troop 119 has been having a great summer! We refuse to let a silly thing like miserable summertime heat slow us down so we combatted it this year with a Christmas in July party!

Attendance was great for our Christmas party that consisted of lots of food for both humans and dogs, lots of fun Christmas-themed games, door prizes, contests and photos with Santa. The REAL Santa!!



The games included Rocking Around the Christmas Tree where the dog had to do a stay while the human built up a Christmas tree of biscuits one layer at a time. Then the dog had to “rock (or heel) around the tree” three times, leaving the biscuit tree untouched and get back to their team. The first team to have all the dogs rock around successfully, was the winning team.

1. Charlie successfully completes Rockin' Around the Christmas Tree (of biscuits)

2. Tydus does his stay while Carolyn builds the biscuit Christmas tree



For the Frosty the Snowman Relay, humans had to heel their dogs while balancing a Styrofoam ball on a spoon until they reached the Frosty the Snowman building area where they put the snowballs together to make snowmen. First team to build 4 snowmen successfully, won!

3. Marz & Melissa build their snowman after successfully moving their snowballs

4. Robin & Remi work to keep their snowball on the spoon to the Frosty the Snowman making Station



## Troop 119—TX (cont.)



For the How the Grinch Stole Christmas game, dogs had to steal a gift from their team's gift pile and return the stolen loot to their team. They could either carry it themselves or have their human get creative in finding a way to attach the stolen goods to their dog. The first team that stole all the gifts in their pile, won.

1. Sebastian selects a gift to steal

2. Lacey steals a gift

3. Mozzie makes his gift getaway

4. Texie selects a gift



Grinch Art Source: [http://4.bp.blogspot.com/-ZePJDpbrv9s/UNakFxsC-I/AAAAAAABLg/tKnY5p28pn0/s1600/How-the-Grinch-Stole-Christmas-dr-seuss-963113\\_1024\\_768.jpg](http://4.bp.blogspot.com/-ZePJDpbrv9s/UNakFxsC-I/AAAAAAABLg/tKnY5p28pn0/s1600/How-the-Grinch-Stole-Christmas-dr-seuss-963113_1024_768.jpg)



The 12 Trays of Christmas game was fun for the humans seeing what our dogs would accept as an “unconventional treat”. The human had to pull a plastic baggie from a Christmas bag that had a bite of something the dogs may or may not eat including banana, cucumber, celery, apple, small marshmallow, green bean, pear, freeze dried liver (that one never got left behind), etc. The first team of dogs to clear all the items, one bite at a time, was the winner!

5. Stella contemplates the celery

6. Oakley checks out the cucumber

7. Gizmo considers the banana



Besides all the fun games, we had great prize baskets for door prizes that we gave away between each game and each dog got their photos taken with Santa.

8. Leah & Kira with their door prize basket

9. Rouen checks out her door prize basket

They all did a great job with Santa and Santa seemed to have a good time, too!

# *Santa and*



Everybody enjoyed the party atmosphere, got to enjoy some great snacks (humans & dogs alike) and take home a baggie of snacks at the end of the day.





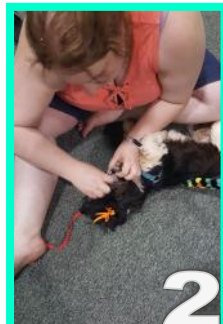
## Troop 119—TX (cont.)

Our August meeting was more mellow but very important as we learned about Canine CPR and worked on the CPR merit badge requirements. We had two doggikins that the humans could actually practice compressions and respirations on. They worked on learning what criteria needs to be met and the details of how to perform it if the need arises. The dogs enjoyed hanging out with their humans for this meeting and practice wearing a muzzle and letting their people take important vitals on them.

1. Mart instructs canine CPR



2. Kristen checks Gracie's mouth for an obstruction



3. Ting Ting wears an emergency muzzle



4. Mozzie practices wearing a muzzle



5. Nita & Sucha demo finding a pulse



6. Troop members listen to CPR instructions



7. Kim practices compressions on the doggikin



Also this summer, we got to add two more new Dog Scouts to our troop!

Congratulations to Charlie (Left), proud mom is Maegan Clark, and to Oakley (Right), proud mom is Faith Whatley.

We're very proud of our new Scouts and know their moms are, too!





# Troop 157—FL

Teresa Irvine

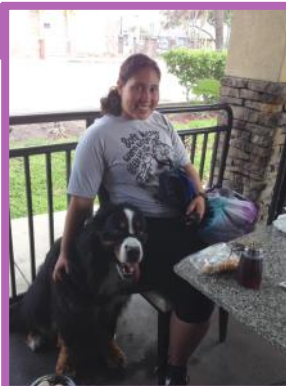
## New Dog Scout!

On August 16th Dawn Hanna's 1 1/2 year old Rottweiler, River, earned her DSA title. Dawn has done an amazing job preparing River and even hosted a written test group to help motivate others to complete their badges also. River has an amazing leave it with other animals. Our Troop Leader Christine Geschwill was truly proud to sign off on her badge form.



## Farewell to Monica Breakfast

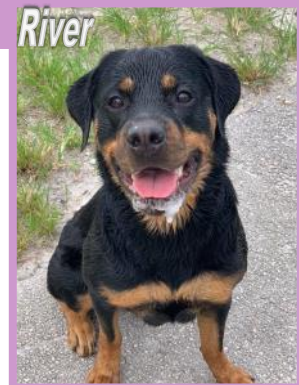
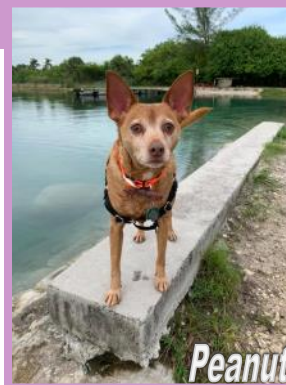
The troop came together for breakfast to wish Monica well as she starts her next semester at College, plus we all wanted to thank her for all the classes she lead/organized over the summer.



## Paw Patrol Fun Swim

When you live in Florida and the summer heat gets to you and your pup. What better way to cool off and have some fun with your pups at the local Performance Pups Doggie Beach. It is also a great way to work on confidence building around the water and great exercise too. As you can see River, Grace, Clover, Peanut, and Brina-Blue had a great time.

Thanks Dawn Hanna for organizing and coordinating this event.





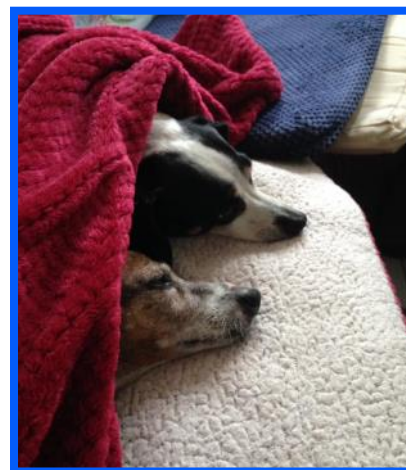
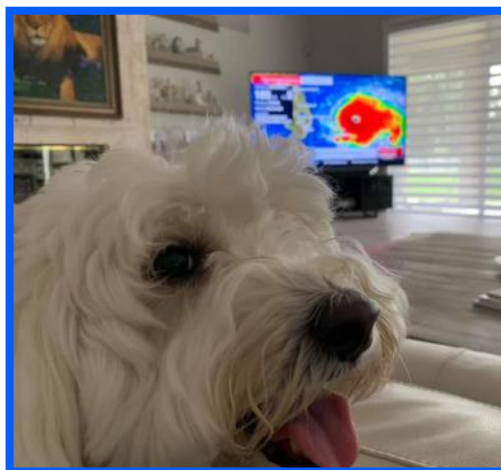
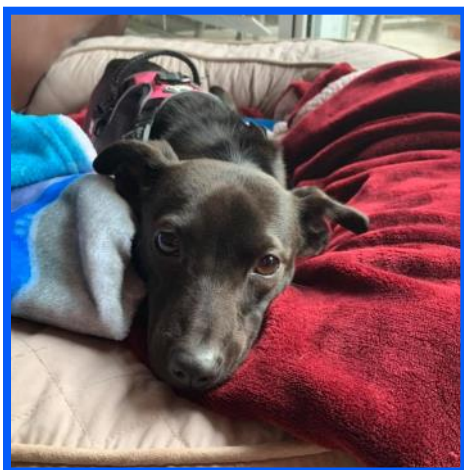
## Troop 157—FL (cont.)

### Hurricane Dorian – Keep our Pups Busy Training and Relaxed

On Monday, September 2nd, as we were in limbo waiting for Hurricane Dorian to make up its mind, Dog Scouts River, Grace & Clover headed over to the pet friendly Galleria Mall in Fort Lauderdale, to work in some skills and burn off some energy. The weather outside was not conducive to outdoor activities, so we were thankful for the Galleria's pet friendly policy that gave us this opportunity. They worked on heeling in a distracting environment, elevator etiquette; group stays with distractions, and recalls.



On the home front, Jessie watched to see where Dorian is going, Pepper was pouting because she can't go out and do her zoomies since it's raining, Brina-Blu & Baci-Bear played laser in the dark and Ripley and Sydney took a break on the couch wondering when will Dorian move.



We were all worried about our neighbors in the Bahama's as the storm was stalled over them for more than 24 hours, which is unimaginable when you consider the winds of 120 to 155 mph were upon them relentlessly between that time frame. We all knew in hearts the devastation that would be left and how it would affect the residents and animals. So without hesitation our troop decided to donate monies to The Kohn Foundation affiliated with The Humane Society of Grand Bahama's to aid in the recovery and welfare of their animals. Praying for the Bahama's - they have a long road ahead of them.

# Troop 177—IN

**Robin Porter**

Troop 177 members spent a beautiful afternoon trying their hand (and balance) at [Stand Up Paddleboard](#) (SUP) on Saturday, August 10. Emily & Lucy, Sharon & Zena, Peggy & Penny and Robyn with Hallie were all out on the water! Eagle Creek Park in Indianapolis offered a beautiful day, calm water and perfect conditions for the group!



1. Bold duck paddles right in front of Lucy the Springer Spaniel

2. Zena likes this!

3. Emily and Lucy just chillin’

4. Robyn talks to Hallie

5. Ships passing in the afternoon

6. Peggy with Penny waves Hi





# Troop 183—FL

Shirley Conle — Troop Leader

## Paws Up, Palms On

Massage workshop for pet parents with Natalie Herrick of Stella's Canine Massage LLC



Massage is a wonderful way to support your dog's physical and emotional health, but it is never a substitute for vet care. It is also different from petting because each stroke is specific intention, pressure, direction, and technique. Natalie discussed what massage can do (provide relief from tension and pain, encourages circulation, increase range of motion and promote the healing process through movement of lymph which contains white blood cells). She also told us the contraindications for massage would include not massaging over cancer tumors, at the site of open wounds and blisters, over fractures, if the dog has a fever or is in shock, and that massage should not be done within 30 minutes of eating a meal.



We learned that massage should not be performed more than once in a 24-hour period (again, massage is different from petting), and the length of time a massage should be done depends on how the dog responds. Massage can tire a dog because muscles fibers are being manipulated, they may feel uncomfortable as their body responds to lymph movement and the releasing of knots.



Sore muscles are commonly a symptom of overuse. But that's not just from high exertion in play or performing activities. It can be from structural imbalances, injury or joint degeneration. When muscles or joints are sore in one area the body compensates in other areas to allow full range of motion to be maintained. In dogs, weight often transfers to the limb located diagonally from the one that is not functioning effectively, therefore the muscles in the core and that limb are likely to fatigue quicker and tightness is often observed in those areas.



Perhaps you can relate if you've ever twisted your ankle. The way you walk changes: the muscles in the leg on the injured side will flex to hold the ankle off the ground – the knee stays in flexion and the hip raises slightly. This then causes the muscles in the back to work differently from their norm and even the muscles in the neck will tighten as the arms move out from the body to help balance our awkward movement. There is more pressure on the joints of the other leg from the weight shift and that causes the muscles in the non-injured leg to tighten to stabilize those joints.



Massage for dogs with structural imbalances and joint degeneration will not fix the cause, so it will be an ongoing and necessary aid to improving their quality of life.

## Troop 183—FL (cont.)



Natalie reminded us that dogs are excellent at hiding their pain, but we should be aware of panting, changes in movement and/or behavior: they may sleep longer, avoid interaction or offer more calming signals, be less tolerant of people or animals in their space, there may be an increase in whimpering or whining, a change in their eating or drinking habits, or they may pace more. Again, massage is not a substitute for vet care, and causes for these behaviors should be explored with a veterinarian.

The hands-on portion started with a couple of tips: **a)** if a dog is standing, muscles will be engaged so having a dog lie on its side generally allows you to more easily feel the difference between relaxed muscles and those that are holding tension; **b)** massage releases heat, so be sure drinking water is available; and **c)** a dog that has already gone to the bathroom will be more willing to relax :-).

Natalie encouraged us to be conscious of our breathing as it subconsciously guides the speed of our movements and suggested we get into the habit of some form of meditation or a method of calming or grounding ourselves which we can draw from when we work on our dogs.

As we ran our hands over our dogs, we noted areas of temperature change (warmer locations could be inflammation, cooler areas could be a site of an old injury where there is scar tissue and reduced blood flow) and felt for muscle textures changes/tight muscles. We also were encouraged to be aware of changes in response from our dogs (eyes widening, looking at us quickly, licking, and avoidance – some of our dogs presents a different body part to be worked on instead of the one that was uncomfortable). Two of the dogs with on-going joint issues had muscle spasms and Natalie was able to show us what those felt like. We also noted some tension release signals (yawning, lip licking, eyelids closing and afterwards shaking off).

Natalie covered a number of massage techniques: effleurage, kneading/thumb kneading, raking and skin rolls, the amount of pressure used for them, and the reason for using the technique. She stressed the importance of never pressing directly on the spine . . . massage is for muscles, not bones! She also noted that a full body massage may not be necessary every time we work with our dogs; we should focus on areas that appear sore if we are limited on time or if the dog appears fine everywhere else.

We thoroughly enjoyed the time we spent massaging our dogs. Natalie gave each dog and pet parent her full attention and went out of her way to help us have a better understanding of how we can improve our dogs lives through touch.



## Troop 183—FL (cont.)



In August we took a [Rally FrEe novice](#) course and worked through 3-5 signs at a time. In a Rally FrEe course there are 4 Free Choice signs for which we can perform a trick of our choosing. These signs might cause us a little stress trying to think of something our dogs can perform, but a simple answer can be to perform another more advanced Rally FrEe sign.

If we're interested in performing a trick that's not another sign, we want to start out with some foundation behaviors our dog already knows and either add a cute prop or chain it with some other foundation behaviors for something more complex.

Most tricks are based on these foundation behaviors:

- 👍 Willingness to interact with objects
- 👍 Paw touch
- 👍 Nose touch
- 👍 Chin rest
- 👍 Go to target
- 👍 Sit, down, stand
- 👍 Paws (front) and feet (rear) on an object
- 👍 Hold
- 👍 Left & right spins
- 👍 Jump
- 👍 Walking politely with handler
- 👍 Attention around distractions



We reviewed some tricks that our dogs already knew and for the dogs that didn't, we showed the starting steps for tricks such as pushing a ball, going through a hoop on the ground, jumping a hoop, retrieve - take/put, play dead, ringing a bell, and of course bow – which is the final sign for every Rally FrEe course – once a dog knows bow, we need to practice it with the dog on the left and right and in front. Many Rally FrEe signs at the Novice level cover transitioning between the four primary positions - left heel, right heel, center (standing front) and behind the handler (facing toward the handler). Our activity focused mainly on transitions between left and right heel.



## Troop 198—CA (together with Troops 233 and 237)

Leah Lane—Event Coordinator

In the last Scoop we posted this picture to announce the new Dog Scout Title for Spike and his mom Donna, our Troop Leader, it is so very hard to use this same photo as a memorial to Spike who has just crossed the rainbow bridge. It is awe inspiring to think about ALL the lives this little dog has touched and made better, both human and canine. This sweet furry soul made a huge impact on the world around him, the ripple effect goes on and on, enhancing so many lives. Rest In Peace Spike, see you on the other side.



One more amazing event that happened because of Spike is Donna has earned her [Scout Master certification](#). We now have a Scout Master out here in the San Francisco Bay Area.

We honored Donna's great achievement at our Dog Scout Camp Out this year by presenting Donna with a framed photo of her and Spike and a Proud Parent of A Dog Scout Tee Shirt.



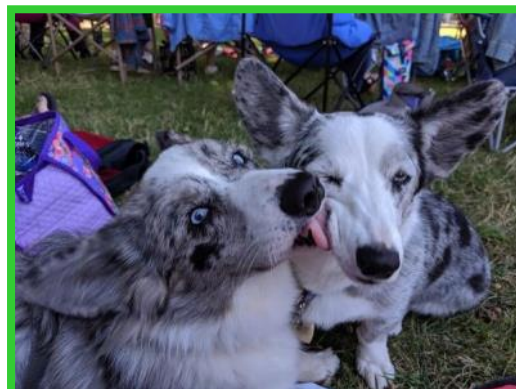
On July 19<sup>th</sup> Troop 237 had a Pack Walk at Point Pinole out in the East Bay,

*Here from left to right, June, Rebel, Tacoma, Palo, Rusty and Asia taking a break on the trail, it is such a beautiful place to hike.*



On July 20<sup>th</sup>, some of our group met at Vasona Park for another Fund Raiser Concert for Second Harvest Food Bank,

*Here is a shot of Sprocket giving his sister Crystal some love before the concert started, we are not sure Crystal is very appreciative.*





## Troop 198—CA (cont.)

Others decided to attend the Total Sit Show and Dog Walk at Coyote Lake Harvey Bear Ranch Park. We started out by playing games like retrieve the toy and musical sit for prizes. It was a great way to get to know each other and then we set out on our hike led by Ranger Blake and Dog Scout Cadet Yeti (*pictured right*)



*Here are Jan and Buddy getting ready*



*And Lennie with Sadie, and Susan with Cowgirl and Dude are ready for the hike to start*



*Wyatt & Duncan are ready to go to, let's hit the trail! It was a beautiful evening for a hike, and we made lots of new friends.*

On August 3<sup>rd</sup>, Troop 237 had an August is DOGust Universal Birthday for Shelter Dogs Party! During their get together, we talked about how to teach your dog to read!

*Here Ruth is explaining to the group the finer points of how to read the word "Sit"*



*New members Dyana and Raj with Samba practice Samba's reading skill.*



*Kristie is working with Maurice up on the table, Chriss & Toby are on the left and then Katherine & Charlie and Teresa & Lulu are in the back. All the dogs seem to be enjoying their reading lesson.*

## Troop 198—CA (cont.)



*Kobi and Ruth practice reading. Kobi is getting it!*

*The Musical Cones game reinforces the "sit" practice.*



*Rose and Sparky and Chriss and Toby are the last ones still in the game. And...ta da...it was a tie finish!*

On August 10<sup>th</sup> we attended the Night Trails Dog Hike at Coyote Lake Harvey Bear County Park at the Roop Road Entrance Location. We started out with a group shot before the hike.





## Troop 198—CA (cont.)

Ranger Blake had a table set up for anyone who wanted to take the Bark Ranger Pledge and become a [Bark Ranger](#).

*On the left is Jennifer and Tucker with Ranger Blake and her dog Yeti and then Wyatt & Duncan with Charlie in the back ground.*



*Before the hike Lennie keeps Sadie busy by having her sit pretty for a treat as Molly and Mom watch from behind on the right.*



*We then set out on the hike. Here we have Lisa with Wyatt and Duncan and Cowgirl checking her foot, and up in front is Lennie with her camera, and Gary with Dude and Emily with her two boys, Charlie and Justin.*



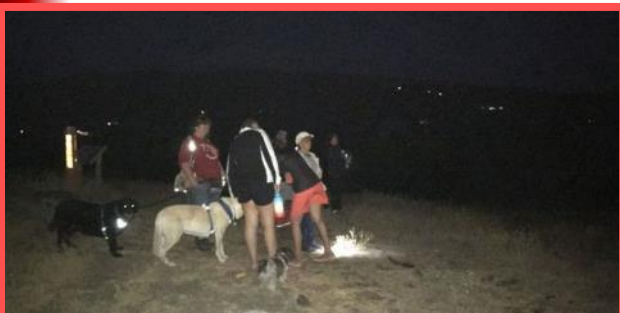
*Cowgirl is happy to get started on the trail with mom Susan behind, and friend Lisa*



*Here is a nice shot of Ranger Blake and her dog Yeti walking with Emily and her boys, Charlie and Justin with the moon showing overhead, it was a wonderful evening for a hike.*



*There are cows that roam loose in the area, great for practicing "Leave It" and good manners with other animals on the trail*



*The hike ended with everyone enjoying the view of the lights down in the valley in the cool night air*

## Troop 198—CA (cont.)



Here is a great shot of Crystal competing in Dock Diving.

Crystal received the Mighty Dog Ribbon for most points for dogs jumping under 16 feet on every jump.  
*What a precious face!*



Crystal's mate Bailey also competes in Barn Hunt and Dock Diving

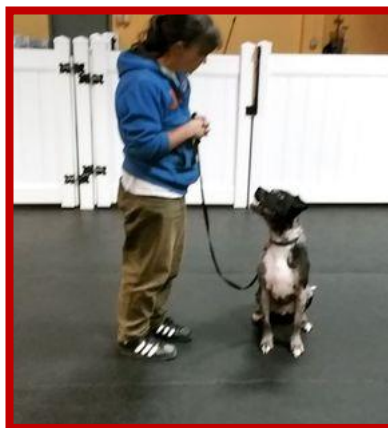


On the 2<sup>nd</sup> day of the competition, Bailey earned most improved going from 15' to 19.03. The next day he jumped 20'. There's an unofficial rule that if the dog beats his best, the owner also jumps into the water, wish we had that picture to share!



Here is a picture of Palo and his mom Jackie working together

We have lots of accomplishments to report in the scoop this time, another one of our cadets has earned the title Dog Scout, Congratulations Palo!





## Troop 198—CA (cont.)

On Sept 7<sup>th</sup>, the East Bay Troop 237 had a session at Metro Dog In Richmond, CA called Doggie Massage & Calming Signals: National Hug your Hound Day! They started out their meeting learning about Calming Signals

Then they went on to the Doggie Massage Class



*Ruth is working on Dog Scout Kobi and giving Chriss instructions for Roscoe. Young Sparky is enjoying his massage from Rose, while Kevin plans his massage moves.*



*Charlie is getting encouragement from Katherine.*



*Look at that happy smile on Tykie's face! Nancy is successful with his massage.*



*First-timer, Cheryl, discussing all the activity with Raider. He is too busy watching other dogs to lie down.*



*Ruth explains how frequent massage on our dogs will give us a better idea of general health and potential trouble spots.*



## Troop 198—CA (cont.)



On Sept 8<sup>th</sup>, we had Dog Scout Badge Training at Calero Park in San Jose.

*Here is newly titled Dog Scout Palo on the right taking a break with his brother Rebel, hopefully one of our next Dog Scouts.*



*Here is Asia after practicing her Leave it with Guinea Pig Gus, she did great!*

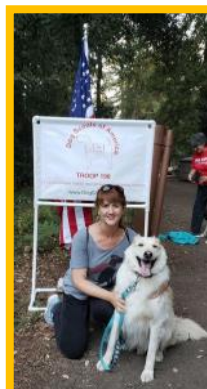
Once it cooled down several members of our troop headed over to Martial Cottle Farm Park for A Dog's Life On The Farm Sunset Hike led by Ranger Lisa. She told us all about what the working dogs did on the Martial Cottle Farm before it was donated to the Santa Clara County Park System. It was a great evening for a hike and several dogs who had not done so yet, took the pledge to become Santa Clara County Bark Rangers. While on the hike several people asked for information about Dog Scouts after meeting Leah and Donna with Dog Scouts Wyatt & Duncan along with Ranger Blake who attended with cadet's Yeti and Tribble.



Of course, we MUST also show you pictures of our Fifth Annual San Francisco Bay Area Camp Out. This year we camped again at beautiful Mt. Madonna in Watsonville. We had 29 dogs join us plus Spike who had crossed the Rainbow Bridge but was with us in Spirit. As in year's past we all had a great time and did great work on learning, practicing and testing on the Dog Scout requirements, plus did a Ranger Led Hike through the beautiful Mt. Madonna Forest. This year we had some dog's attending their first camp experience like Kozmo.



And Buddy with Jan



And Tucker with mom Jennifer



## Troop 198—CA (cont.)



This is a picture of Sue, holding Sprocket. Sue doesn't even own a dog, she has kitties and we know her through our connection with Love On A Leash Pet Therapy but she wanted to go camping with her doggie friends. This is Sprocket's first time at camp too. Sprocket belongs to Dave and Patty and lives with Crystal but was happy to be loaned out to his buddy Sue for this great shot in front of the DSA sign.

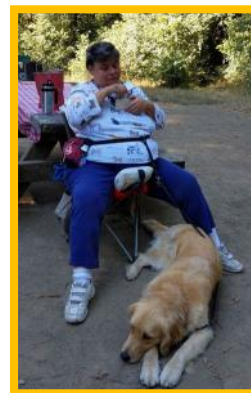


Another first timer to attend camp is JJ with mom Sandy, he is having a great time as you can see and there is Sprocket with Sue in the background.

Although it is his first time to camp, Bocuse had a leg up on the other new comers, mom Judy has been to camp with us every year taking turns bringing his older siblings. Bocuse is glad he got to come this year and is ready to get out of his crate to go on the hike!



We have another dog that is new to camping this year, but whose mom has come every year with us to camp. This is Memphis and he is very proud that his mom Debee teaches the class for the Backpacking Badge to our group at camp. Memphis is Debee's new Guide Dog, in past years Debee attended camp with Maxwell, who recently retired as her Guide Dog, but still hogs her bed at home.



## Troop 198—CA (cont.)

Another new camper this year is Zen.

*Here is a shot of Zen giving Ranger Blake kisses for helping her to earn her Bark Ranger Certificate. Mom Nicole proudly holds up the Bark Ranger tag that Zen is now entitled to wear after taking the pledge. We had many of our campers earn the Santa Clara County Bark Ranger Title thanks to Ranger Blake!*



This was the first time for little Jada to attend camp, but Guppy has been before with mom Brenda



We also had lots of repeat campers this year.  
Sadie had a great time this year!



Wyatt& Duncan were glad to come back to camp this year!



Briar Rose and mom Mary Beth have been to camp before and are eager to taste some of that world-famous camp cooking that Judy is doing behind them, YUM!!



Little Tribble and Big Yeti have not only been to camp before but have led lots of hikes with their mom, Ranger Blake





## Troop 198—CA (cont.)



To work up an appetite for our Pot Luck dinner, we headed out on a hike led by Ranger Blake.

*Here is a shot of the group before we headed out, we had 22 dogs attend the hike this year.*



Ranger Blake leads the way as we leave the group camp ground and head for the trails.

*That is Donna walking Memphis on his first hike at a Dog Scout Camp so Debee could stay in camp and rest her knee, you can't see him, but we know Spike's little doggie spirit is walking right along with them!*



After walking for a while on the trail and before we head back, we stop for a short rest amongst the beautiful trees as Ranger Blake tells us fun information about the local flora and fauna.



Back at camp after the hike, Tacoma and June hang out with mom Jackie, waiting for the Pot Luck to begin!



Not only does Ranger Blake lead the hike, her husband Travis stops by to drop off Bar-B-Q ribs and chicken. We call him our Pot Luck Hero!

*Nicole and Zen and Sandy & JJ come up to give thanks as Brenda reaches to shake his hand with Lennie looking on .*

## Troop 198—CA (cont.)



Ranger Blake enjoys the yummy food all have provided for the Pot Luck with her faithful Elle Belle by her side, while Sadie and Scout wait for mom Sharon to share something tasty with them. Elle Belle is 14 year's old and was dumped at the park when she was just a puppy. Ranger Blake brought her home and trained her to start the dog hike program with the Santa Clara County Parks. Our troop has so much to be grateful to this beautiful dog for, we were thrilled she could come up and join us this year again!



*After all the activities, Dave, Sprocket and Crystal needed a quick nap, but Patty and behind them Jan and Buddy are still going strong!*



On Sunday, Patty put on a Scent Demonstration with Crystal.

*Here is Crystal looking up at Patty which is her signal she has found the scent that has been hidden on the chair leg. Memphis is interested in the scent too!*



Lots of campers took advantage of this wonderful trip to practice and test for the Dog Scout title requirements. Here is Brenda working with Guppy on the leave it with critter, which is very hard for a dog that competes in Barn Hunt, but they are doing great! Memphis waits patiently for his turn to practice with Gus the Guinea Pig.

*Memphis says: "Dog Scouts are amazing; every dog wants to be a Dog Scout and go to camp. Stay tuned to see what we get to do next, the holidays are going to be exciting!"*





## **Troop 217—MI ~ Motor City K9's**

*Sally Hoyle—Troop Leader*

**Troop 217 had a great time in August and September focusing on water badges, and Mother Nature cooperated by providing us with that kind of gorgeous weather that helps us to forget about the bleak Michigan winters.**

**First, we met to give everyone the opportunity to become familiar with the Boating Safety, Kayaking, Canoeing and SUP badges. Then we set to work on Boating Safety since that badge is a prerequisite for the others. Everyone practiced on land in kayaks provided for our use by Kayak Flint. Some of the dogs had never been in or even seen a kayak but they were all good sports and learn quickly to get in and out by themselves.**

**From there we took the kayaks to the water and practiced the same skills in shallow water. The dogs also learned how to get in and out from the dock and felt what it was like when the kayak scooted over pebbles at the shore. Then everyone got the chance to paddle around and the dogs practiced staying in the kayak with varying distractions like birds, ducks and other lake traffic.**

**Our final challenge for the day was to practice “leave its” with stinky, smelly, disgusting stuff. We scavenged the shoreline and found a rotting fish skeleton and some “worm soup” to use for our exercise. The dogs were in heaven with these unusual smells but they all made quick work of the task and were successful.**

**After all that we were ready for our river trip and we were able to do that on a beautiful Saturday in September. We took a 2 hour paddle down the gorgeous and peaceful Flint River starting in downtown Flint and despite what some might have thought the river was extremely clean. Most people, I’m sure have heard of the Flint water crisis and associate the issues with the river itself though that’s not completely accurate. We shared the river with wildlife including the Great Blue Herons that stayed with us for some time. They would fly ahead of us, let us catch up and then fly ahead once again. The dogs all handled the wildlife extremely well.**

**The river provided us with a nice paddle. It was mostly calm but I was really excited to find several places where there were honest-to-God rapids! That was fun and really gave everyone a chance to put all they had learned about paddling to good use! Everyone on the trip was able to meet the requirements for the badge though some have a few more items we need to complete on Boating Safety.**

**At one point during our river trip we rafted together to do a short memorial to Sunny, one of our Dog Scouts who was supposed to be on the trip with us but passed away recently after a sudden illness. Sunny’s mom, Barrie Lynn read a beautiful poem and released sunflowers into the river in his honor. We were all in tears but it was a beautiful moment.**

**One of the goals that Barrie Lynn had been working on with Sunny and his sister Moose was meeting all of the requirements for the K9 Nutrition badge. I’m so happy that they were all able to complete this badge together before Sunny passed and I know that Barrie Lynn will always hold tight to the memories they shared together.**

**Sunny will be missed by our troop. He was a goofy boy who never met a tennis ball he didn’t like. In fact, the video that he and Barrie Lynn created together for the Canine Actor badge centered around his love for tennis balls and need to put each one in his mouth. In life Sunny always brought a smile to my face and his memory still does. I hope he now has all the tennis balls his heart desires.**

## Troop 217—MI (cont.)



Barrie Lynn helps teach little Moose how to get in and out of the kayak.



Moose on a practice paddle in the lake.



Goldy did a great job on her practice paddle.



Ken and Michelle worked with Tela getting in the boat in shallow water.



## Troop 217—MI (cont.)



Moose had a great view while kayaking on the river!



Katie loves to kayak with me and came along to help me teach the class. On the far right, Rachel works with Leah on getting in the kayak.



Goldy and Fay on the river.



Katie in the kayak with Goldy and Fay behind. It doesn't look like it but Katie has plenty of room to move around. Every time I go kayaking with one of my girls I hear someone at the livery say, "you're putting THAT dog in a kayak?!" Really, it's just a lot of fur.

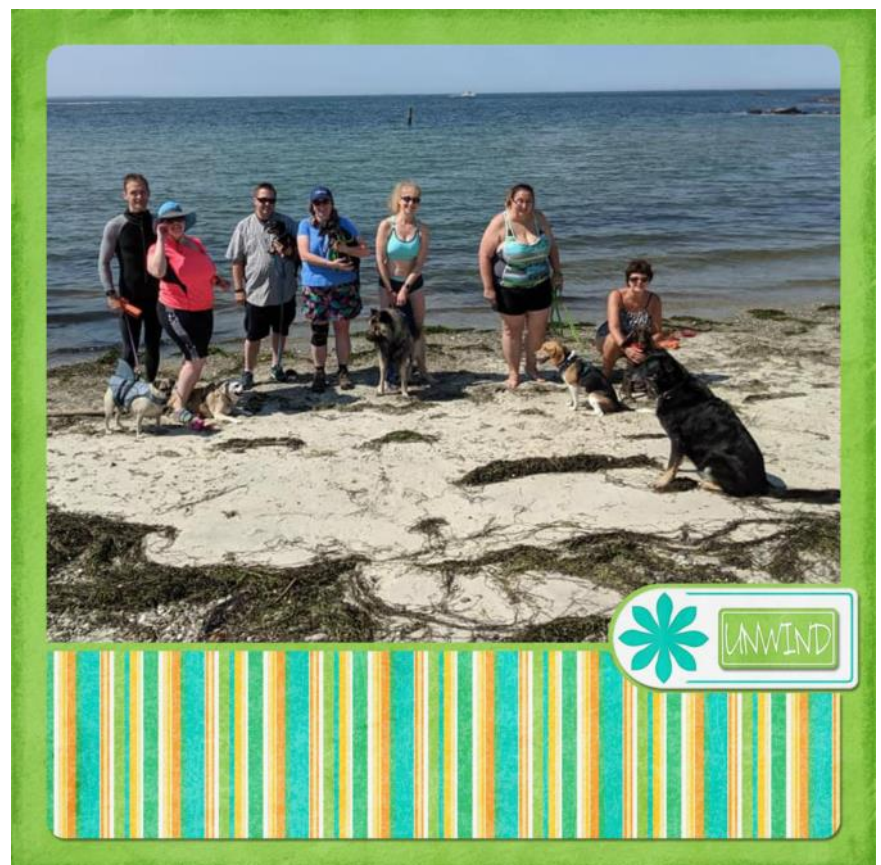
## Troop 219—CT ~ The New England Explorers

Kelly Ford—Troop Leader



Summer here in New England has been an interesting mix of overwhelming heat and nice warm days. Fourth of July was one of those overwhelming days that isn't safe to walk the dogs. Fortunately, by evening, it cooled off and we had a nice relaxing hike at Bluff Point State Park. The pups were able to play in the water. We made a new friend who was visiting family for the holiday.

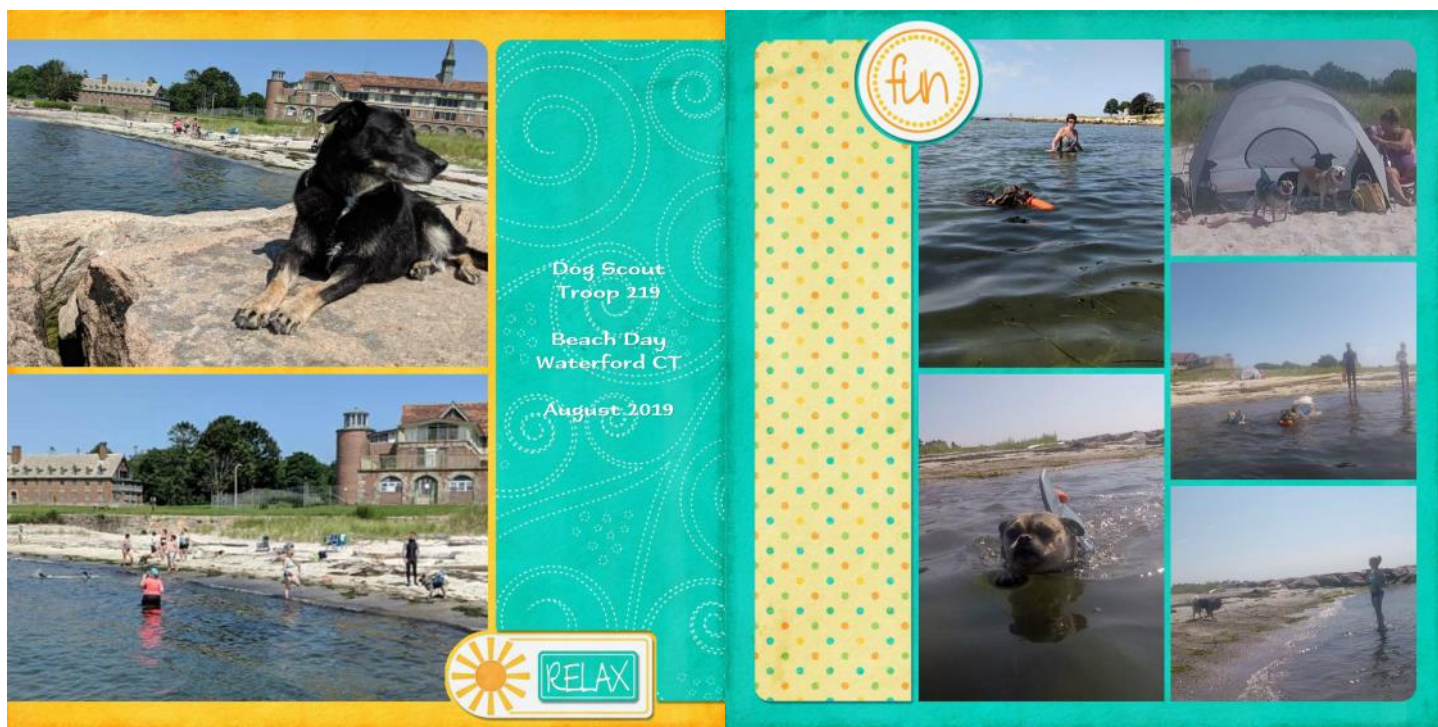
August sent us to the beach, with lots of wonderful sunny days and beautiful weather for playing in the surf. We made some more new friends at our beach gatherings and helped our new friends learn to like the sea and surf as much as we do.





## Troop 219—CT (cont.)

The scouts may not have built sand castles, but they love the sand. They sure do love playing in the waves. Our older girls love to work on their tans and roll in the soft sand. The younger pups loved playing with all the toys and took turns retrieving toys from the water.



September has brought us wonderful Fall weather. We spent an afternoon geocaching at Benedict Benson Preserve.

The [geocaches](#) were hidden recently with very few finders. These are some very special caches with lots of sparkle and bling. We gave several favorite points to the planter!





# Rio ♥ A Love Story

## How My Dog Saved My Life



**Joni darc Shepherd**

I am very excited to let you know that my inspirational book about my Dog Scout Rio, titled ***Rio – A Love Story: How My Dog Saved My Life***, will be published on Amazon.com on November 1, 2019. The front cover of the book is a beautiful photo of Rio in the snow in my backyard, wearing his striking red Dog Scout of America bandana.

The book is my memoir, a heartwarming story about being immersed in heartbreaking sadness after the long tragic illness and passing of several family members and my other Belgian Tervuren, all within a short timeframe. I became very sad, having lost most of my support structure – my best friends and cheerleaders – within a very short time.

I regained the joy in my life with the loving prodding of sweet Rio, a gift from our breeder on the passing of my first Belgian. Rio diagnosed me, then lovingly lead me out of my darkness with pure unconditional love, joy and faithfulness, encouraging me daily to open new doors of happiness. He helped me regain control of my life, encouraging me to set goals and achieve new accomplishments.

The story is very inspirational. We began in the conformation ring, and this soon followed with our participation in Dog Scouts and many dog sports.

Rio has been a very proud Dog Scout since 2015. Rio earned his DSA, [TD](#), [TDX](#), [UT](#), [UT-500](#), [UT-750](#), [UT-1000](#) and [PD](#) titles. He also earned his [Clean Up America 1](#), [Clean Up America 2](#) (2 times), [Pack Dog](#), [Trail Dog](#), [Barn Hunt](#), Therapy Dog, [Temperament Tested](#), [Obstacles](#), [Rally 1](#) and [2](#) Badges.

We also participated in the American Kennel Club Westminster Dog Show Meet the Breeds event for the last five years, with Rio often wearing his Dog Scout of America bandana. One year, we visited the Girls Scouts of America booth at the show, and they were amazed and delighted to meet Rio, a fellow Scout.

The most heartwarming badge has been his [Therapy Dog badge](#). Rio and I have been visiting a nursing home, hospice, and rehabilitation center the last several years as a certified therapy dog team. Rio has made many beautiful people smile with delight at just the sight of seeing him. It has been a most heartwarming and rewarding experience for us.

By enjoying simple daily activities, precious community service and fun dog training classes, shows and trials, I now enjoy a happy heart and fulfilling life with so much surely to come in the near future. Rio is now 10.5 years old and enjoying life with me.

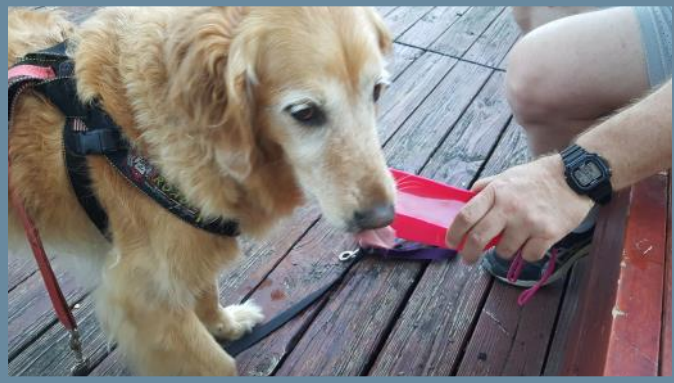
Thank you Dog Scouts of America for being such a fun and very important part of our lives!

Rio and Joan



# Shelter Dog Successes!

August 1st was DOGust Universal Birthday for Shelter Dogs. Following are some of the successes rescue dogs have achieved thanks to the DSA members in their lives.



Alex Ratliff is a 9 year-old golden retriever that we adopted at 14 weeks of age from Golden Retriever Rescue of North Texas after she and her mom were dumped in a field (her mom was adopted also and is living in CO). Alex loves to train and picked up on clicker training right away. She has earned 25 merit badges to date and is a great ambassador for Dog Scouts, doing booth events and demonstrations for schools, nursing homes and other events in the area. One of her outings this year included working a crowd at a dog event to personally go around and collect donations in her basket for a working dogs memorial for the city of Arlington, TX.

Mart & Cindy (Troop 119)



Austin "the muppet" Bales, was adopted from Texas Little Cuties Rescue. Digestive issues have been a challenge since he joined his new family, but they have at last been resolved.

Austin is now comfortable being groomed (bathed, dried, combed, shaved), which is a good thing since he's been a calendar pin-up the past couple of years for the North Central Texas Council of Governments "Doo the Right Thing" campaign.

Through positive and safe experiences Austin is learning to trust people and he has gained more confidence in new places and trying new activities.

As his picture demonstrates, Austin has also learned some great impulse control.

Cheryl (Troop 119)

# Shelter Dog Successes!

When my eyes met Lacey's at the City of Fort Worth Animal Care and Control, we immediately bonded.

Lacey Callahan, a Husky/Chow mix, went from sitting on death row to achieving a Dog Scout of America title. Since then she has earned over 20 merit badges. This is a wonderful testament to an incredibly smart and loving dog who is now living a life filled with fun activities and positive relationships.

Maureen (Troop 119)



Caper Olson was born "in the wild," the puppy of a feral Border Collie, that could not be captured, and kept having litters in the neighborhood. She had Caper's litter under a porch in the dead of winter. The rescue (Paws and Prayers Rescue in Akron, OH) estimate that she was born on Christmas day, so all of the puppies got "Christmas Cookie" names. Caper's name was "Sugar." When the feral puppies were about 5 ½ weeks old, the rescue scooped them up, before they could ambulate well

enough to follow their mother on her haunts, and become a feral pack. Her foster home nurtured her and found a good home for her (ME!). I saw her on Petfinder.com, and I was smitten! Besides, she had my initial, "L," right on her face!

Caper will celebrate her 7<sup>th</sup> birthday in December. She has had an active life as a Dog Scout, earning many badges, and achieving titles in Barn Hunt and Musical Canine Freestyle (her two favorite things), plus being certified as an Area Search Canine with NASAR (National Association for Search and Rescue). All of these interests were cultivated through DSA. This summer she earned her Canine Actor badge, which was my personal "bucket list" badge. She plays the villain in "Wonder Woman Catches the Pup-napper," which you can view on YouTube at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BozbLgcXvmo>

So, hers is a real "Cinderella" story. She could have ended up living on the streets, but thanks to Paws & Prayers Rescue, she found a good home, became a Dog Scout, a movie actress, and is living a happy and productive existence with her mom and sisters.

*Caper, pictured above at 6 weeks of age, and at right, at 6 years, with sister, Kozi, showing off their badges.*

Lonnie (Troop 101)





# Shelter Dog Successes!

This is Lizzie. our sweet rescue Aussie. Lizzie was found roaming the streets with heartworm in Henderson, Texas. She was crated for two months, so only knew how to walk on a leash. One year later, she is a certified therapy dog who does agility, and is earning a new DSA badge each month. As the pictures show, she truly gives joy to many through her therapy visits.

Proud parents, Rick and Claudia Schmitt



Malu was put in a dumpster with her 8 siblings when she was 5 weeks old. She was rescued by a sweet young family in Houston who rescues dogs, and when I picked her up when she was 7 months old there were probably 20-25 dogs there, not counting the puppies, and I don't know how many dogs were inside. She was scared to death of people, and I was getting her to be a Therapy Dog.

I took her to all the [PetSmart](#) classes, agility classes, and finally tricks classes. It took her a year and a half to pass the Therapy Dog test because she was too afraid to let the tester pet her.

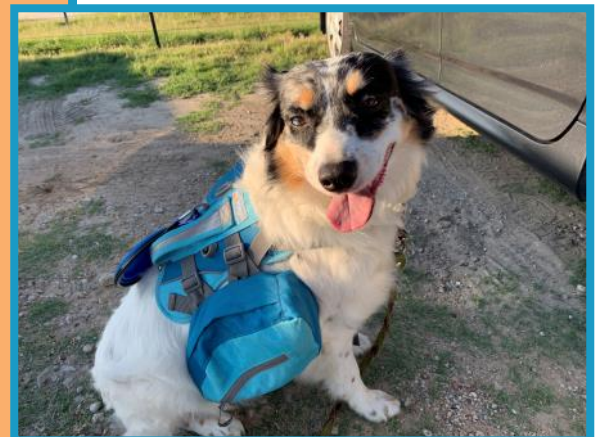
Now Malu is four years old, has 9 DSA merit badges, is a registered Therapy Dog who makes weekly visits, mostly with children, and she's a [K-9 Greeter at DFW Airport](#). That's where she is in this picture. She has a little routine of tricks that she loves to do, but her favorite is ringing her bell. We're going to [DSA Camp](#), this will be her 4th year. She is still on the shy side but she has come so far!!

Pam Barnum

This is Millie, Australian Shepherd, who we adopted from ARPH ([Aussie Rescue Placement & Helpline](#)) 5 years ago. She was one when we adopted her. She earned her Dog Scout of America title a couple of years ago. We take weekly agility classes. She competes in a few trials/year. She is going to the [Texas Mini Camp](#) this year instead of Westen (our other dog).

The photo is Millie at Marine Creek Park in Ft. Worth where she earned her [Backpacking](#) badge.

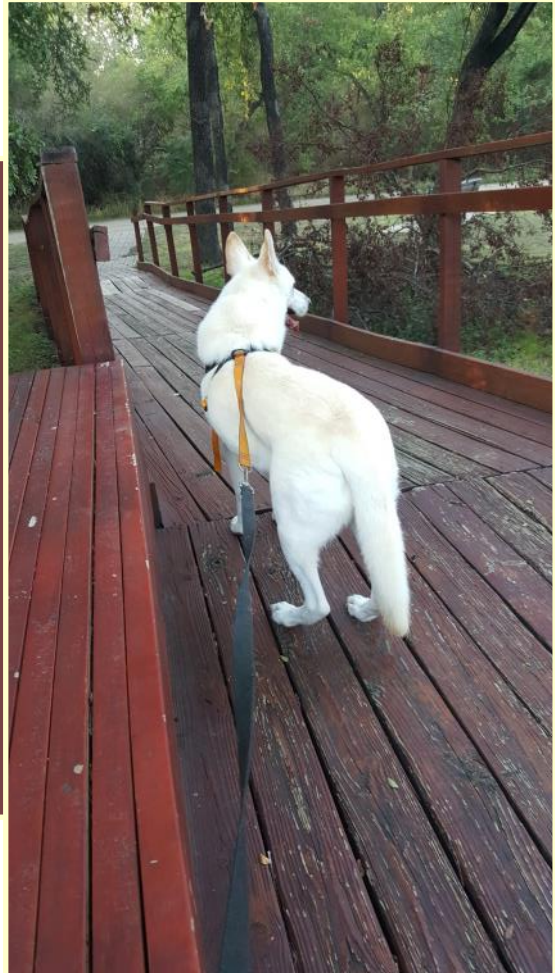
Kathy Tucker (Troop 119)



# Shelter Dog Successes!

Stevie Ray Ratliff is a 10 year-old German shepherd. We adopted him 8 years ago as the result of a foster fail from [Echo Dogs White Shepherd Rescue](#) (founded by long time DSA member & camp staffer, Mark Echterling) after he was dumped along a highway in Houston, TX and rescued by a wonderful woman who passed him on the road. He has overcome a lot of fears (floor surfaces, for instance) and has become a Dog Scout and earned several merit badges. We have been fostering regularly for Echo Dogs for the last 18 months and he is a great, calming influence with our foster pups. He loves people and loves hiking and spending time with his family.

Mart & Condyl (Troop 119)



I rescued Tyler from the Shelter in Wichita Falls, Texas in 2011. He became a Dog Scout in 2011. His big accomplishment was playing Treibball. He earned his [American Treibball Association](#) Beginner Title in 2014. Attached is a picture of him pushing a ball which was taken at Dog Scout Texas Mini-Camp where he earned all his [Treibball](#) badges. This picture of Tyler was also published in Pamela Dennison's book, "You Can Train Your Dog, Mastering the Art & Science of Modern Dog Training"

Now a days, Tyler just wants to be a dog relaxing at home and hiking on the trails at the lake.

Nancy Strack





# Contact Dog Scouts of America

Learning new things that we may be more helpful

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

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:** Sally Hoyle — [sally.hoyle@yahoo.com](mailto:sally.hoyle@yahoo.com)  
(Also Mini-Camp Mentor, Merit Badge Submission Process)

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

**Dog Scout Obituaries:** Chris Kloski — [ChrisBill1966@gmail.com](mailto:ChrisBill1966@gmail.com)  
(Memorial recognition and engraving)

**Membership:** Shirley Conley — [membership@dogscouts.org](mailto:membership@dogscouts.org)

**Troop Administration:** Barrie Lynn Wood and Cyndi Stone — [troops@dogscouts.org](mailto:troops@dogscouts.org)  
(Starting a troop/Troop Leader Tests)

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

## MERIT BADGE RECOGNITION PROGRAM

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**Recording Secretary:** Julie Benson — [bensonjulie@earthlink.net](mailto:bensonjulie@earthlink.net)  
**Evaluator Certification:** Chris Kloski — [ChrisBill1966@gmail.com](mailto:ChrisBill1966@gmail.com)

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(Also for newsletter distribution)