

The Dog Scout Scoop

Official Newsletter ~ Dog Scouts of America

Volume 23 Issue 4 July/August 2020

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

What are you doing to make your summer



GOLDEN?

Notes from National

- 25th Year Celebration Winners! P2
- DSA Calendar Highlight P3
- Badge Contest Continues P4
- Volunteers Needed P5
- Beware of Small Animal Traps! P5-8
- Tax Deductible Donations Update P9
- Attitude of Gratitude P10-12
- Scrap the Summer Collages P13-16

Rainbow Bridge P17-18

**Scout Scoop
& Troop Talk
P19-34**

Deadline: for the next newsletter is
September 15th

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

25th Year Camp Celebration!

by Sally Hoyle

Our year long celebration of our 25th year of camp continues, though since Michigan camps have been postponed at this point, we may celebrate our 25th year next year too. At any rate, we are continuing on with our celebration. As a reminder, on the 25th of each month we'll send an email to a lucky member and award them with a special prize. We'll choose a different reason to surprise a member every month, but you won't know what we are rewarding that month until we make the announcement. That puts everyone on a level playing field throughout the year and offers everyone the chance to win sometime in 2020. This isn't a contest. It's a way to celebrate and say thank you to our members. And our prizes are great!

Our June 25 winner was **Regina Battley** and her dog **Paisley**. Regina was selected as the June winner as she was the 25th person to place an order through our special spring stock up t-shirt promotion. Regina received a microfiber floor mat (think Soggy Doggie) and a matching microfiber towel courtesy of Pet Supplies plus.



Diane Cranston and her dog **Sky** were notified on July 25 that they were winners as well. Diane was the 25th person to sign up for our Scrap the Summer 2020 fundraising event. Diane received a Woven Moments Tapestry kit that allows Diane to send a photo to the company and have it used to create a custom woven tapestry. We're pretty sure that a photo of Sky will end up on that tapestry.

To be eligible to win prizes just keep your DSA membership current and stay active! You never know what we'll choose to reward but you can be certain that you'll hear about it on the 25th of each month. The possibilities for reward are endless! We might celebrate badges earned, fundraising for DSA, miles walked or DSA themed letterboxes or geocaches. We can pick the winner by random draw of all who meet that month's requirements or we might reward the 25th dog/handler to achieve or reach the goal. Whatever we do, the prizes will always be great! So keep an eye on your inbox on the 25th of each month to find out if you are that month's big winner!

Congratulations to Regina and Diane and thank you to everyone for your continued support of DSA.

This Month in the DSA Calendar

by Sally Hoyle

We want to be sure to include dogs from all areas so we need your photos to make next year's calendar the best yet. Those of you participating in our Scrap the Summer 2020 event are taking some really great photos! We hope some of these are submitted as many of them would be just perfect for our 2021 Calendar.

Our July feature pays tribute to Dog Scout Camp in St. Helen, MI. Located in the northern part of the lower peninsula, this property is an absolutely gorgeous 80 acres adjacent to state forest land. The property includes miles of trails, a pond, an agility field, a lure coursing field and much, much more. There is a main lodge building with a kitchen, a large dining and meeting room, and both private and group sleeping rooms. There are 6 cabins on the property as well as a number of RV and tent sites. Our camp property is truly heaven on earth for dogs and the people they bring with them when visiting.



In August we are honoring our very first troop. This troop, numbered 101 was started by our founder, Lonnie Olson. The troop was initially rather small and quiet as much of Lonnie's time and attention was focused on making Dog Scouts of America a success and managing the Michigan camp property. Now under the leadership of Fay Reid, troop membership has grown and they meet regularly. The entire Michigan camp property is at their disposal for hikes and other activities. These days many of their activities are planned closer to mid-state for the convenience of many troop members. Troop leadership has made all the difference for this group. As Lonnie often says, everyone should go and hug their troop leader. They do a LOT of work!



Do you have a photo that you think would be good for the 2021 calendar?

Would you like to see your troop featured next year?

Want to celebrate your dog's special day with a photo?

Photos are accepted for submission throughout the year. Just send them to sally.hoyle@yahoo.com. Be sure to clearly identify all dogs and people in the photos that you send.

Hope to see YOUR DOG in the 2021 calendar!

Summer Badge Blast Contest Continues!

by Sally Hoyle

There's just about a month to go in our badge contest and we've received a LOT of submissions so far! You have until August 31 to submit badge forms along with the appropriate videos, photos, logs and payment using our regular badge submission process

<http://dogscouts.org/base/merit-badges/>.

All badges that meet the requirements will be counted and the winners will be selected at the end of the contest period. Badge forms received by mail rather than by electronic submission must be post marked by August 31.

As a reminder, the 1st place winner will receive the coveted "My dog can earn 30 merit badges before breakfast" t-shirt in the winner's desired size and color. This t-shirt is very special as it normally is available only through auctions held at camp, yet we are making an exception to use it as a prize for this contest. This shirt has been sold at auction for hundreds of dollars!



The 2nd place winner will receive badge coupons for 2 specialty merit badges (\$50 total value) so that the winning dog can continue his learning journey and focus on even more new skills. We have a great prize for 3rd place too, a \$25 gift certificate to the camp store.

If you are working with your dog on Trail Dog titles rather than merit badges, don't worry. We'll count any Trail titles as a part of this contest. Trail Dog titles should be submitted through the regular process <http://dogscouts.org/base/dsa-titles/trail-dog-titles/> as managed by Kelly Dean.

If you are participating in the Scrap the Summer fundraising event, you've been learning skills that apply to requirements for different badges and you've been getting comfortable with taking photos and videos. You have already been doing the hard stuff so be sure to check requirements and get those badge forms turned in.

There's something for every dog so be sure to get involved, learn something new and have lots of fun with your dog!

Any questions regarding the badge contest or any badge requirements can be sent to DSAVideoEval@gmail.com.

Volunteers needed . . .

After 6 years, our wonderful Kelly Dean will be bowing out of the DSA Facebook moderator duties. We appreciate Kelly's time and her creativity which has brought the DSA page to almost 6,500 likes! Thank you, Kelly for helping spread the word on the positive activities DSA offers that enhance the lives of dogs, their people, and benefit their communities. However, this means we're in need of volunteers to **help keep Dog Scouts of America active on social media**—this involves deciding on monthly themes, contacting members to submit photos for the theme, then posting the photos or a postcard on Facebook once or twice a week. We'd be happy for more than one person to be involved in this. **Can help?** Even if you're not sure but are willing to learn, please e-mail Sally right away — sally.hoyle@yahoo.com

Beware of Small Animal Traps!

*I was purging old files from my computer, and I came across this from 2013. This so horrified us, that I had a friend who is a trapper come to camp and demonstrate on the different kinds of traps and how to release your dog from a Conibear trap—it's no joking matter—**these traps are small and might escape a person's notice until their dog is caught in one!** People are supposed to post a sign that traps are in an area, and they're supposed to have certain types of traps raised up above the ground high enough so as not to trap house pets. They're also not supposed to trap on people's land without permission, but there could be some who don't care about laws, or who may accidentally wander onto property that adjoins state land, so I thought it might be good to share this with a wider audience.*
Lonnie Olson

DO ANY OF YOU KNOW HOW TO RELEASE A SPINONE FROM A TRAP?

By Bob Priest

A few weeks ago over Christmas a young associate from my firm and his wife went to northern Pennsylvania snow shoeing. They brought along their "first born" Casey a Golden Retriever puppy of 18 months. Casey never came home with them. They found him caught in a Conibear trap not far from where they were. The young couple could not release him in time. Apparently they did not know how to release the dog and he suffocated. I cannot begin to share with you the overwhelming loss and heartache this experience bestowed on this couple and their friends.

I bring this to your attention as it is a concern that I have had for a long time. I have hesitated doing so until this incident happened. I got very angry because it could have been prevented, not that this lovely young couple should have known, but that the subject is not dealt with more openly. The impact of trapping on dogs is much larger than many are willing to admit, yet it is little understood, nor is it discussed! I would like to believe that with knowledge it is possible this incident could have been resolved quickly and efficiently.

Trapping I know gets a lot of visceral reaction pro and con, but it needs to be dealt with if we own dogs. Dogs are lost or severely injured due to traps and hunters or pet owners not knowing how to handle their trapped dog. It is growing problem throughout the United States and Canada. Several State DNR departments I contacted indicated that trapping has increased dramatically with the poor economy; just as illegal trapping. As an example a bobcat pelt will bring as much as \$1,275.00 and a red fox \$39.00.

Beware of Small Animal Traps! (cont.)

Tammara Morgan mentioned to me someone was illegally putting out claw traps in her neighborhood. As a result a pit bull got his foot caught and terribly injured. She lives not far from downtown Richmond, VA! We both thought claw traps went the way of the Dante's iron mask; this apparently is not the case. Legal or illegal the incidence of dogs being caught is on the rise, everywhere from Pasadena, CA; to Lake Forest, Ill; to Bedford, NY! It does not need to be the Boundary Waters of Minnesota or the Rangeley Lakes region of northern Maine to find traps set.

To be assured I am not an alarmist, but as many of you write about the health of our dogs, you can easily be prepared to manage this. Let me walk you through some basics and make a recommendation that experienced hunters with dogs use. Although I would be curious to know how many Spinone bird hunters really know how to release their dog from a trap. If not then they darn well better be! First go to and print out what you find on: www.terrierman.com/traprelease.htm this is a simple and clear description of most of the traps you will find and how to release your dog. All of you can manage this, but timing, and knowing what to do is critical.

One of the most deadly, efficient, and widely used traps today is the Conibear. This is the one that Casey was caught in. It is usually the snout or neck that is caught so you have about ten minutes to get to your dog and release him before they suffocate. That is why knowledge and a tool of how to open the trap are essential. Many hunters will carry a shoe string for this device, but I have seen shoe laces break trying to release their dogs on this trap and with the larger traps (the most commonly used) ropes slip on the larger springs. I have yet to see anyone release the spring on this trap with their bare hands, that is why a device is needed to close the spring and remove your dog.

Remember time is of the essence with the Conibear. By law in most states they are supposed to be only in and covered by water, but not all! Due to their effectiveness trappers are hiding them on known animal trails in dry land.

There is a better solution, that is quick, and the tool costs about \$25.00. It is small and easy to carry. As much as I believe every bird hunter should carry this tool, I would suggest those of you that let your dog run in the woods get one as well. I do not leave out those who let their dogs swim down in the marsh either. They're what are called "swamp bunnies," and trapping for muskrats is common wherever they are found. The Conibear is used prolifically there as well. I have seen the trap illegally set out of season, back in the marsh of the Eastern Shore of Maryland as well as near Warsaw, Virginia along the Rappahannock River in late fall. So they are there hiding in the marsh grass.



The device I am writing about is made by "Trapper Ron", and you can see his device on [\[www.southernsnares.com/products/trapper-rons\]](http://www.southernsnares.com/products/trapper-rons). He provides a very detailed description of how the device works and how to release an animal. From personal experience I would put a shirt or jacket over the head of your dog if found in a trap. The pain is intense and they are very frightened. The sweetest and most loving Spinone will bite you if given the chance. If you have someone else with you have them cradle the dog tightly so it does not move and further injure itself, or bite you. . . . Also, once the dog is released blood will come back into the area affected. This too will cause pain for the dog. I saw a man's heavy Filson hunting jacket bit through by his sweet Gordon Setter after this happened, so use caution and good sense!

Most of you will not experience having a dog trapped. However given the numbers of you who are in the woods in the spring, fall or winter I would recommend being prepared. Parallel to this topic is the absolute necessity of obedience with your dog if off lead, but that is a subject for a later discussion.

Beware of Small Animal Traps! (cont.)

Releasing Your Dog From a Trap

<http://www.terrierman.com/traprelease.htm>

Be prepared for the unthinkable -- it could save your dog's life!!

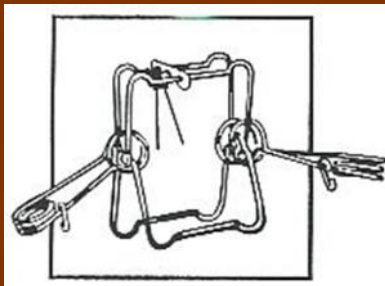
A regular long spring trap, coil spring trap or snare is generally easy to get an animal out of. In all cases, cover the dog's head with a shirt or jacket to act as both a muzzle and to calm the dog down. Though your dog may be friendly, most dogs will bite reflexively when in pain. While the trap may not be hurting the animal, it will scare him, and when you release the springs of the trap, blood will rush back into the foot and it may sting sharply for a moment.



This is a typical coil spring leg hold trap. The trap can be released by stepping down on the spring to the left and right of the center pan.



This is a typical long spring leg hold trap. The trap can be released by stepping down on the leaf spring to the left of the center pan. Double leaf springs will have springs on both sides -- step on both of them at once, as you would a coil spring trap

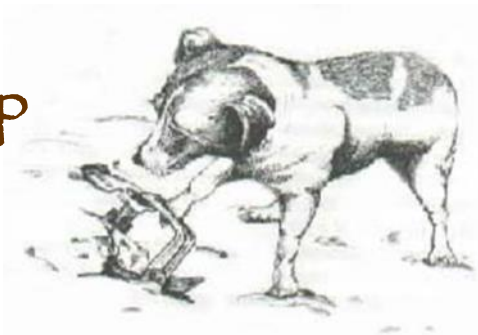


This is a conibear trap, and if your dog is caught in one, it is in serious trouble, as this trap is designed to kill. See instructions below on how to release an animal from this kind of trap -- it is difficult and *time is of the essence*!

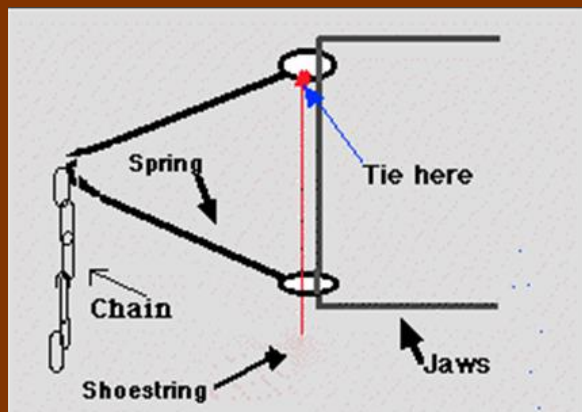
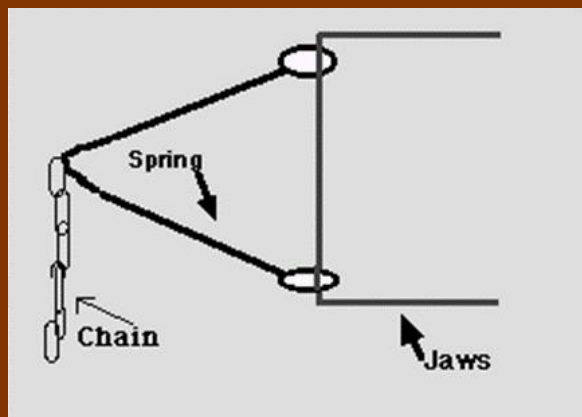
Beware of Small Animal Traps! (cont.)

Releasing Your Dog From a Trap

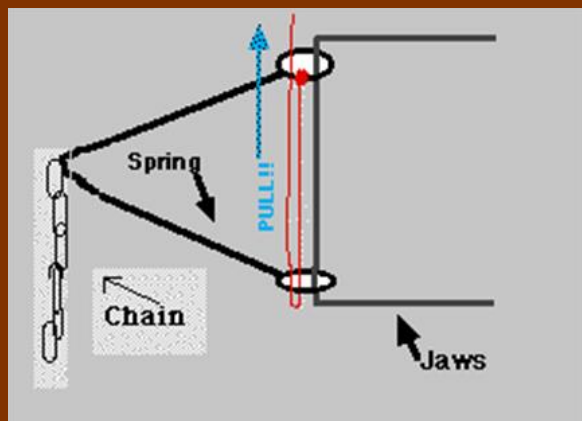
<http://www.terrierman.com/traprelease.htm>



The Conibear Trap- Shown in sprung position. Carry 2 long, strong, boot-type shoestrings with you at ALL times.



To release the trap, tie one end of a shoestring to the top loop of the spring where it runs along the jaws, run the shoestring through the bottom spring loop and then back through the top spring loop.



Then, stand on the trapchain, pinning the trap to the ground and haul up on the shoestring, this will compress the spring. Pull and take up the shoestring until both sides of the spring meet. Tie off the shoestring and repeat the process on the other side of the trap, if necessary.

**Again, be prepared for the unthinkable
-- it could save your dog's life!!**



Notice To DSA Members and Donors

From Barbara Whiting, DSA Treasurer

We thank you for maintaining your membership status with DSA and making donations to DSA; your support enables us to continue in our mission to improve the lives of dogs, their owners, and society through humane education, positive training, and community involvement. We truly appreciate your commitment. **We do want you to know that you may be able to get a new tax benefit for supporting DSA.**

On March 27, 2020 Congress passed the CARES Act. The tax law regarding charitable contributions that existed prior to this new legislation required that taxpayers could deduct charitable contributions only if they itemized deductions. This recent piece of legislation provides a new deduction opportunity for those who do not itemize deductions. ([check out this Forbes.com article](#))

If you do not itemize deductions on your 2020 return (the one that you'll file in 2021), but instead you take the standard deduction, Section 2204 of the [CARES Act](#) (Found on page 174 at this link) enables you to claim a brand new "above-the-line" deduction of **up to \$300** for the cash donations you make to charity this year. The provision applies currently only to donations made in 2020—another good reason to prepay your 2021 dues as discussed in the dues letter sent out in May.

The entire amount paid to Dog Scouts of America as membership dues are considered to be deductible cash donations under this new provision. Benefits you receive as a member of Dog Scouts are disregarded for income tax purposes.

If you have questions specific to your tax situation regarding this Notice, you should ask your tax provider.

Attitude of Gratitude

There's so much to be thankful for, despite these trying times...

*I would like to thank **Lisa Stewart** and **Sonja Klattenberg** for telling DSA to keep the monies paid toward the 2020 camp, as a donation. That is so kind of you.*

*Big thanks go to **Martha Thierry** (and **Maia** and **Riley**), who created her own fundraiser for DSA involving selling face masks with doggie prints, and paying the costs involved, so that the sales of the fundraiser were all profit. 100 masks were purchased enabling us to raise \$1,000.00 with this fundraiser. Thanks to **all of you** who supported DSA with your mask orders.*

*Also Big thanks to **Goldy** and **Fay Reid** for coming up with the 25% discount for our 25th year fundraiser. In June Sally processed over 40 badge forms, which is far more than a "normal" months badge submissions. By paying 25% of each person's badge fees through the end of the year, and donating an additional matching amount to DSA for each badge submitted, Goldy and Fay not only gave a powerful incentive for members to train and polish their badge-related skills, but they are making a hefty donation to DSA as well.*

*In June, I offered the opportunity for people to order any color DSA logo shirt in any size. This wasn't meant to be a fundraiser... I just wanted to get a few extra bucks to be able to afford restocking the camp store with more shirts! The camp store only carries limited colors and sizes, and this was an opportunity for people to go wild and get the shirts of their desire. Well people from all over responded, and we sold over 100 shirts! Not only that, but while they were paying, via the camp store, they did some impulse shopping and ordered a lot of extra stuff, too. I would like to thank **everyone who participated in this shirt promotion**. Maybe we should make it an annual event! It brought in nearly \$2,000.00 (minus what we need to pay for the shirts and shipping).*

I would also like to thank the many people who have contacted me with ideas for fundraisers. Some didn't pan out, and some are still in the formative stages, and I'm sure some are still in your brains, just waiting to come out! Keep coming up with these great ideas, and as always, thanks for supporting DSA.

*Thanks to **Fay Reid**, who paid to have all new smoke alarms installed in the Michigan Camp Lodge.*

*Thanks to **folks who recently made camp store orders**, and rounded their total up a substantial amount to include a donation to DSA, or got overcharged for shipping, due to a web store error, and told us to just keep the overpayment.*

Attitude of Gratitude (cont.)

A big THANK YOU to **Joanne Weber** who made a very generous donation in the name of her mother, **Delores Weber**, who passed recently. "De" was always very interested in and supportive of Dog Scouts of America. Whenever Joanne and I would go to an expo to host a DSA booth, we'd come home and throw the tablecloth with all the DSA advertising on it in the washer, and De would volunteer to iron it for us and have it all smooth and professional looking for the next expo. That lady loved to iron...

DSA raised over \$6,500.00 thanks to those who signed up to be a part of "Scrap the Summer 2020." This is a wildly successful fundraiser (and FUNraiser) that participants are really enjoying. Thanks to **Sally Hoyle** and **Shirley Conley** for their collaboration in dreaming up the "Scrap the Summer 2020" idea. Also on the STS2020 committee were myself (**Connie Olson**) and **Melissa Matteson**. We each took on different roles and duties and were able to work cohesively to move this project from a brainstorming possibility into a reality. Also thanks to **Kelly Ford** whose quick turn around on the registration page enabled us to launch the program without delay, and to **Sonja Klattenberg** for tirelessly working with the team to add the STS2020 information to the website and for uploading the supporting documents and links each week.

Thanks to **our STS2020 participants**. We're thrilled at being able to connect with so many of you on a more personal level and that you're sharing with us your progress and successes. We love that you feel more connected with Dog Scouts through this program too. I think this program could be popular even after the pandemic is over and we're seriously considering offering it, or some version of it, again. It could become an annual event!

Here's some feedback from our Scrap the Summer 2020 Participants:

This really is a great sense of community. Thank you to everyone who created, designed, put it all together, and are still working so hard to make this so wonderful!
~Stacey and Ruby

Thank you so much for your work on camp. We're having the time of our lives! I keep seeing opportunities to do more. It's so true to our Dog Scout mission.

♡ □ ♡ □ ♡ □ 🐾 🐾 🐾 ☆ ☆ ☆
~Martha, Maia & Riley

You guys are really rockin' this and as a curriculum designer I am giving you a BIG SHOUT OUT.
~Jodee

Attitude of Gratitude (cont.)

As a Troop Leader, I have to say I had no idea what to expect with Scrap the Summer camp. The amount of work the team has done is beyond amazing. Yesterday I posted about session 2 on our troop Meetup site. And before the week was over, I signed myself up for another session as well.

A lesson learned for me is how quickly people all over the map have come together to be DSA! Relationships can form over the internet and say what you will, Facebook seems to work very well as a platform for this.

Kudos to the team...I know the behind the scenes work is just phenomenal and it is appreciated.

Thanks for all you are doing!

-Ruth

All I can say is this is the most wonderful idea that the four of you came up with for 2020. We have been having a great time!! It has really kept us focused and spending time together. Lou loves it!!! Anytime there is a clicker, treats and training involved, he's a happy guy. Thank you to all of you for all the work you have put in to "camp" this summer. Lou and I really appreciate it!!

~Sandi

The week2 album is perfect! And so is week1! I love having a scrapbook memory without the time and effort to scrapbook! Thank you for doing this for us!

~Karen

I'd like to thank you all so much for the wonderful, wonderful Virtual Camp. I am stunned by such a comprehensive and well thought out program. My dogs and I are enjoying it so much. The organization of material is so very helpful and the way it is presented encourages me to give new things a try. By the July session I think I'll have a camera and can join in on the fun. Thank you! Thank you! Thank you! Dog Scout people are GREAT!

~Barb, Milo, Tim & Honey

I am so grateful for STS2020. It is giving us something to do. Kevin is having a lot of fun. Between COVID-19 and the weather, we can't seem to catch a break.

~Kris Thomas & Kevin

We are enjoying camp very much. . . . Camp has made me accountable and Mimi and I are enjoying our stolen time together. You all have done such a wonderful job with all the work you have put into the camp.

~Bette

Scrap the Summer 2020—Camper Dogs



Scrap the Summer 2020—Community Dogs



Scrap the Summer 2020—Explorer Dogs



Loving Life & Learning

Learning while having fun!

Nature Dogs Rock!

Life is good

Rainbow Bridge

"Pirate" SDG Shiver Me Timbers DSA, CGC, TG1, ETD, RATI

May 30, 2003 - June 27, 2020

June 27th I said goodbye to my best boy Pirate. When I adopted him 13 years ago I knew he was special but I didn't know then how special to me he would be. He and I had an amazing journey together. He was my first dog that I ever put a title on. The first one I ever competed in agility with. My first dog to earn flyball points. My first dog to become a Dog Scout. He was the dog that I used to become a Certified Trick Dog Instructor and Tricks Badge Evaluator and my first (and best) demo dog. He was my first therapy dog. I learned so much about dog training with him by my side. He was always up for an adventure or a challenge and I got to do some really cool stuff with him. He learned to pull a cart. He learned nosework. He was in parades and helped man booths at many events for Dog Scouts. He even got to be in a play! He was Bruiser in Legally Blonde the Musical at East Lyme High school. Pirate was there with me during so many life events as well. He was there when I moved into my first apartment and he was there for the loss of several other pets. He was my road trip pal and my snuggle buddy. He sat by my side and comforted me when I lost both my Grandmother and my Mother. He was a special dog that was deeply loved and will be sorely missed. A small dog with a huge heart and a can do attitude. Love you, little man. ❤️

Julianne Grove



Rainbow Bridge (cont.)

Troop 149 River City Rovers, lost their founding Dog Scout, **CJ Pyatt** on May 14, 2020. CJ was 16 years old.



CJ attended her first Michigan Dog Scout Camp in 2006 at the age of 2, where she earned her Dog Scout badge along with other badges. CJ has attended several more camps in Michigan, Texas and Missouri. CJ was the inspiration for the start of Troop 149 in the St. Louis metro area. She has been our advocate for the donation of pet oxygen masks to many Fire Houses in Missouri and Illinois. She spent many hours in community service, promoting Dog Scouts with the Girl Scouts, at event booths and even made an appearance on a local TV station. We are grateful to Dog Scouts of America for teaching us through humane education and positive training how to improve the human-canine bond and helping CJ enjoy her time with us while learning new things. She will be greatly missed.

(photo by Joanne Weber)

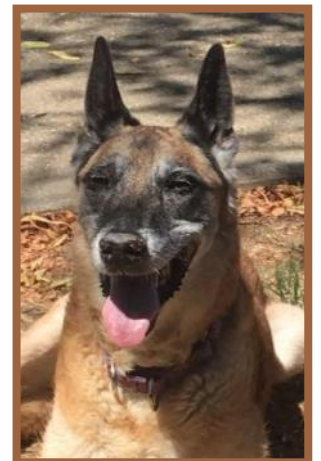


Our thoughts and sympathy go out to Leah, Wyatt & Duncan Lane on the passing of **Kevin**. We were just getting to know and appreciate how cool Kevin was through Leah's pictures and videos during Session 1 of our Scrap the Summer program, and were sad to hear of his passing.

Leah told us, "he was a great therapy pet with Love On A Leash and many are heartbroken at his passing." Kevin was Leah's fall back for the San Jose Airport when "the boys" were not up to the walking. She would rotate therapy pets—one time Duncan, one time Wyatt, then bring Kevin in his stroller to finish the airport visit. "He was the first bunny in the US to do airport visits."

We're sorry for your loss.
Lonnie, Melissa, Sally & Shirley
STS 2020 Camp Counselors

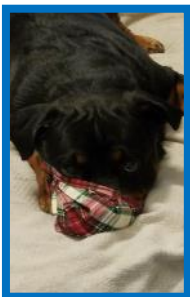
Sending our condolences to Brenda Fish on the passing of **Jolie**. May the memories of a life well-lived bring you some comfort as you grieve.



Scout Scoop & Troop Tales

Troop 119—N TX

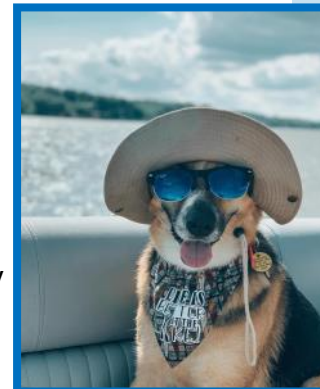
Cindy Ratliff—Troop Leader



Tripoli
mask up!

Like so many others, our troop is continuing to try to find ways to entertain ourselves and our dogs without the benefit of monthly troop meetings . . .

And yes, our troop members are making it happen! They are enjoying the great outdoors . . . and indoors, too. They are working with their dogs on all kinds of fun stuff, learning, hiking, earning badges and titles and just having fun.



Oakley boating

Troop dogs are racking up the hiking miles.



Lincoln and Mason are hiking in the early mornings.



Maureen Callahan & Lacey (pictured) and Kathy Tucker & Westen participated in virtual 5K races;

and several of our troop dogs have been earning hiking and backpacking titles along the way, including



Blitzen Tucker
(Pack Dog),



Sage Lanter
(Utility Trail Dog)



and Westen Tucker
(Utility Pack Dog 500)

Troop 119—N TX (cont.)

Sebastian Phillips and Tripoli Paxson have been working hard on earning badges. Sebastian has earned his Sign Language, Scent Discrimination and Retrieve badges so far, besides his checking off some of his listed goals for this year. He's also learning to go on calm group walks with other dogs in the neighborhood.

Tripoli has earned her Parkour badge and is working on others. (We have several troop dogs working on their Parkour badges while they're out and about with their humans enjoying the parks and trails.) And Tripoli isn't just climbing over and under on the trails, she is sniffing them, too. She has been racking up Nosework titles left and right!



Some of our pooches have been showing off their fun sides and earning tricks titles.



Rocky (pictured left) & Stella (pictured below) Romano both earned Novice Trick titles

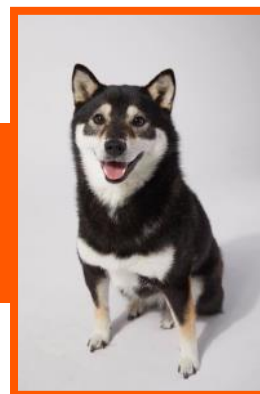


and Luna Page earned both her Intermediate and Advanced Trick titles!



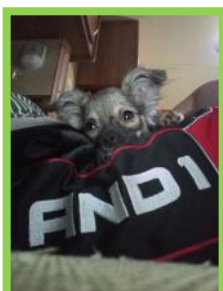
When Stella wasn't showing off her tricks, she was making splashes at dock diving earning her novice title.

And speaking of showing off, we now have a super model in the troop! Kira Kitsune Franczek is now a working model for Chewy.com!

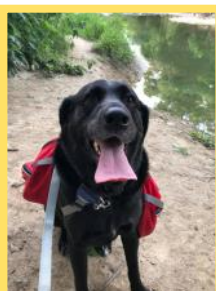


Sadly, because of the virus situation in the world now, DSA summer camps had to be cancelled. Thankfully, that didn't mean the dogs couldn't participate in camp activities. Fifteen of our troop members signed up for the DSA Scrap the Summer sessions and are participating in a "virtual camp" experience. The activities have been very well thought out and planned and there is a wide variety of activities to work on each week. We all share our successes (and a few bloopers and outtakes) on a special Facebook page. Some of the activities so far have included a leave-it challenge spelling out the word "CAMP" in treats, a blind leave it challenge with the owner's back to the dog (working up to leaving the room), distracted recalls, learning to pull a rope (to help set up a tent!), teaching visual targeting and much, much more! There are even special DSA-themed puzzles to complete each week and camp crafts! The dogs and their humans are staying busy and having a great time with their fellow campers.

Troop 119—N TX (cont.)



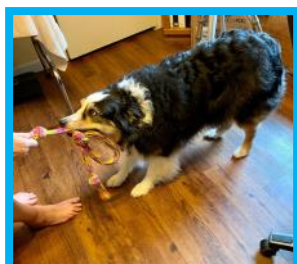
Chewie's timed photo



Jango backpacking for virtual camp



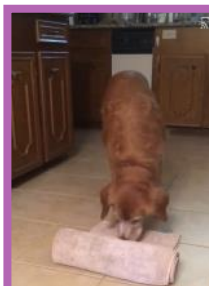
Sasha tent camping at home



Cutter learning to pull a rope.



Millie leave it challenge

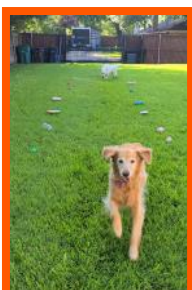


Darra unrolling the bed roll.



Waffle leave it challenge

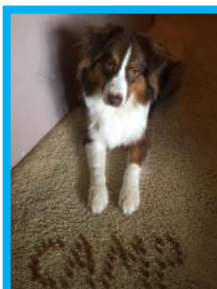
STS 2020 Troop 119



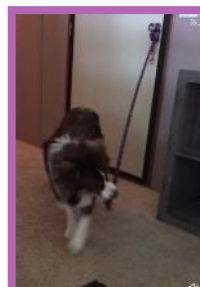
Alex's distracted recall



Jango successfully leaves "camp"



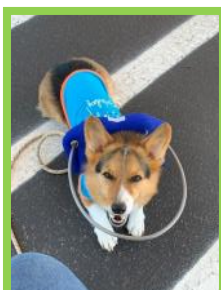
Wyatt's leave it challenge



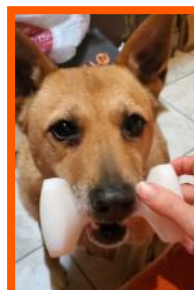
Wyatt learning to pull a rope



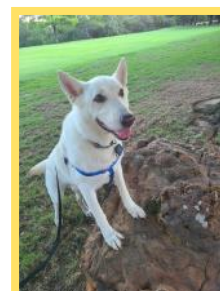
Darra is successful on the blind leave it



Justin ready for virtual camp



Lacey dumbbell retrieve



Stevie Ray's 2 feet up for Parkour

We are so looking forward to the time that we will be back together as a troop and learning and having fun again in person (and in dog!).

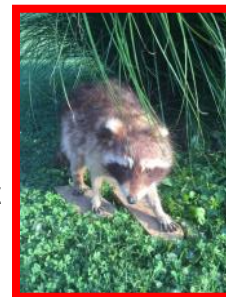
Troop 149—MO ~ River City Rovers

Submitted by Fran Beezley and new Dog Scout Barney

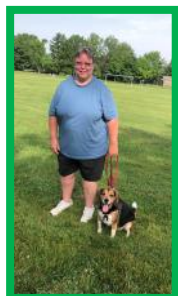
Troop 149 had not been able to meet due to the restrictions caused by the COVID pandemic but, finally, at the end of June, we were able to get together.

It was extremely hot and humid even at 7:30 a.m. and storms were threatening but it was so good to see some familiar faces, even if partially covered!

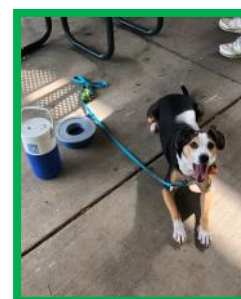
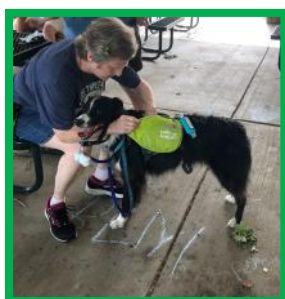
We met in a park that had a large shelter that was open and that didn't have too many people in it. One of the things we worked on was the Dog Scout badge. Chris, our Troop Leader and evaluator, brought a stuffed racoon to use during the "Leave It with an Animal". Rocky Racoon was pretty mean looking. This was the only skill that Barney had to pass, and, after much work, he did look away when told to "leave it".



Another skill that Roxie needed to pass was the "Leave It with Food". While we were together she worked on that and now has that checked off her list.



Our main goal that day was to work on our Backpacking badge. Everyone brought their packs and Chris made sure we all knew what belonged in them and how to identify poison ivy. We then took a 1-mile hike around the park. We were all glad to get back in the shade of the pavilion!



After resting and refreshing ourselves with some nice water, Fran and Barney got out some of their nosework equipment. Everyone got a chance to sniff out birch and anise. Everyone went home with tired but happy dogs.

Troop 150—AR

Submitted by Stephanie Ensley

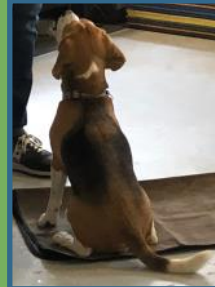
In January we chose badge interest areas to work on in 2020 (Manners and Naked Obedience, Backpacking, Parkour, Agility, Copy Cat, Rally, Water badges (including Stand Up Paddleboarding), Band, and Art.



Lucas practices lying on his mat



Dirk waits in place



Porter goes "down" on his mat



Dirk and Lucas lie flat



Dirk and then Lucas in a box

In February we worked on Manners (go to place and lie down), lie flat and then we had creative fun with 101 Things To Do With A Box.



Porter wants to know how to play the game

"Got it! Treat please!"



We lost March and April to the pandemic, but in May we had a Meeting-By-Email with details on the initial steps for Copy Cat training (three known behaviors on verbal cue) by using YouTube video examples. June's Email Meeting continued with the next steps for Copy Cat and links to the DSA Parkour badge requirements and the IDPA "quarantine parkour" competition and video submissions.

In June we also had a few members meet for some outdoor activity including some low-level Introductory positions to get ready for parkour:



Paws up and pause



Dirk observes a toad



Through and sit on a low platform

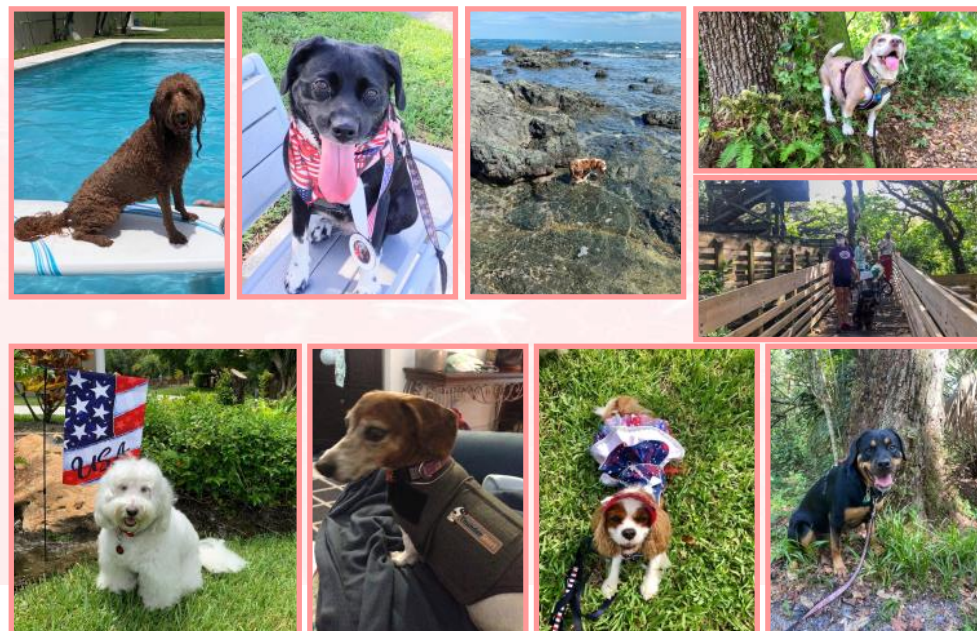
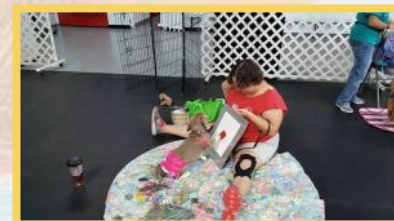
Troop 157—FL ~ Broward County Paw Patrol

Teresa Irvine

Our Troop continues to spend quality time with their pups and transition to the new normal during the COVID19 pandemic by connecting virtually via Zoom.

Our Troop Leader, Christine Geschwill, led a beginners Art of Shaping class, recorded it, and shared it on our troop page so others who couldn't attend at the time were able to still get the information. It was great and proved to be a very interactive class. Christine was able to share the information from DSA website then demonstrate with her canine Clover the progression steps and then pause while those attending could practice with their canines.

As you can see by Monica's "Canine Bubbles" the class proved successful. We will probably use this format in the future until we are out of the quarantine phase of this pandemic, which could be awhile.



Additionally, for the 4th of July in an effort to wear out our pups before all the fireworks and craziness started. Our troop member, Dawn Hanna, hosted a small meet up hike abiding by all the CDC guidelines at our local Tree Top Park; plus she encouraged those who couldn't attend to find ways at home to do the same. Here are a few pictures of our Canines.

Lastly, since we live in South Florida and we are now in the rainy season it is important for us to be mindful of the poisonous Buffo Toads that lurk at Dusk and Dawn enticing our canines to react and worse case bite them, which can prove deadly! Gina posted this picture to remind us all to keep watch during this rainy season. We all wish we had a Carlos in and around our yard to protect our canines from the Buffo Toads. We also know the importance of training "Leave It" as it comes in handy for refocusing our canines away from the Buffo Toads. To this day, I believe this is one of the most important commands you should train your canine on and make it a strong tool in your tool box of obedience commands.

We send everyone a "hello" from South Florida. Stay Safe!



Troop 183—FL

Shirley Conley—Troop Leader

MAY—Water Puppies

We'd originally planned an afternoon of Dock Diving in May, but due to COVID restrictions, the facility was not open to groups. We're very thankful that Hip Dog Canine Hydrotherapy made their facility available at short notice. While dock diving wasn't an option at this new location, each of the dogs already signed up for our May activity was able to have some water fun. Kristina, Tom, Matt and Sianna were on hand to assist the dogs in and out of the water and to make sure the dogs didn't panic when away from the landings. Once they were sure the dogs were comfortable in the water they were able to give them more space and let them safely build confidence in the water.

Annie and Ariea were pleased to be back in the water after having to abide by the Stay-At-Home order and missing their regular hydrotherapy visits here. Our dogs were thrilled to be water-puppies again, and the folks at Hip Dog were very welcoming and made the safety of our dogs their first priority.

This was Sandy's first time in the pool; she adapted wonderfully, and was quickly swimming around the perimeter of the pool. In between her swims she worked on paying attention to her dad around all the exciting activity—an excellent training opportunity for this recently rescued girl who is still getting used to positive human and dog interactions after a life on the streets.

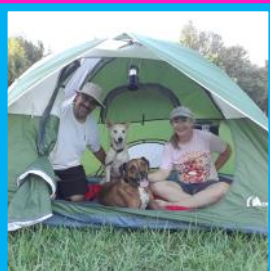
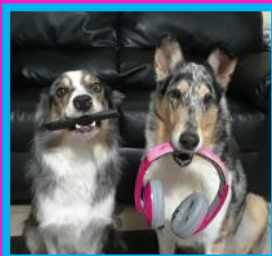
Marvin was a superstar and made the greatest progress leap of the group . . . literally. By the end of our session it seemed like a little social learning took place as Marvin watched Tachi jump in after a toy and decided he could do the same!

Ariea, Jurnee, and Tachi had fun jumping in the water and retrieving pool toys. Even little Midas, Annie and Ariea's housemate, got his paws wet, although we're not sure he was thrilled about being a soggy doggy when he got out of the pool.

When we got there, Hip Dog provided seating appropriately spaced to accommodate the COVID-19 guidelines, and each family took turns swimming their dogs so the pool wasn't crowded. We were provided with soda and a homemade cookie for each of the humans thanks to Sianna and her mom, and homemade dog treats for each of the dogs, we're very glad to have made a new connection with such great dog-loving people.

It looks like all our dogs are progressing towards the Puppy Paddler badge, we just need to practice our "leave it" and get all the required steps on video—perhaps during our August activity when we've scheduled a return visit to Hip Dog.





JUNE — Lunch

Our Troop Meeting in June was lunch on the covered patio of a local restaurant and a discussion on our activity schedule for the remainder of the year. It was just us and our dogs on the patio, so it worked out well.

JULY — Summer Scrapping Begins!

We've been busy so far during July, working on various activities in the first couple of weeks of DSA's Scrap the Summer 2020 Session 1. Everyone participating appears to be having fun and progressing in different skills. It's great to see troop members motivated to keep up their training. We've enjoyed working on the craft projects, manners amid distractions, tricks, learning about the new Disabled Dog badge requirements, practicing for Parkour and sharpening our Pho-Dog-raply skills.

Congratulations Marvin Beer

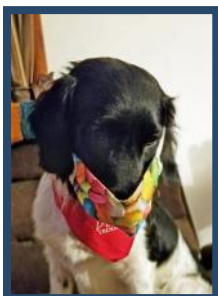
Our Marvee, with the help of his side-kick Amy, earned the Dog Scout title at the beginning of July.

The eating of yellow cake with chocolate frosting (in some form) is to be scheduled for the humans.



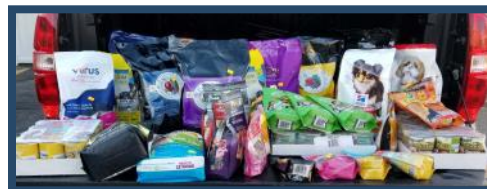
Troop 188—Ledyard CT

Sheri Throop



Covid-19 doesn't seem to be slowing Troop 188 down. Of course, we had to make some concessions, smaller groups, masks, social distancing and the like, but fun and learning along with some community service were all still accomplished.

One of our ongoing projects is helping with local Food Pantries to stock pet food. With all the lay-offs during this pandemic food for both people and pets is in high demand at local pantries. Troop 188, working with one of our local pet stores, The Mystic Pet Shop, organized several pet food deliveries to help keep the pet portion of the food banks stocked.



One of the new ways we get together is via Zoom meetings. We gather at least once a month this way, discussing changes in the calendar and new skills we can work on during this time. The Zoom meetings allow us to exchange ideas and tips on teaching skills to our scouts. Troop members coordinate smaller groups to go hiking, geocaching, letterboxing and to meet up at competition events.



In our area North American Diving Dogs has resumed dock diving competitions with some modifications, and members of Troop 188 are participating. On one recent day Troop 188 represented with a 2nd place in the Master division and 1st place in the Senior Lap Dog division. Splash on, Troop 188!



July is always a special time for Troop 188 as we gather each year on the 188th day of the year to celebrate the people and dogs of Troop 188. We had food, music, swimming, games, and loads of laughs. We did manage to get serious for a few minutes and taped a couple of PSA's regarding dogs and summer safety that will be airing on our Facebook page soon. We had entertainment from Troop 188's own dynamic duo High Tide and the pot luck meal was awesome.



Troops 198 & 237—CA

Leah Lane—Event Coordinator

Since the last *Scoop*, we have had three major events in our group.

The first to share is sadly one of loss. At the end of May Brenda watched her beloved companion Jolie cross the rainbow bridge. We all know and share her loss. Godspeed Jolie, see you on the other side.



The second thing to share is very happy. Donna, our Scout Master and leader of Troop 198, welcomed a new cadet into her family. Meet Wishbone, a soon to be Dog Scout!



The third thing to share is exciting! Sadie earned her Dog Scout title. Congratulations Sadie and Lennie!



Here is a Donna handing Lennie her signed badge papers and you can see Wishbone on his hind legs in excitement, he can't wait until he is a Dog Scout too!



At the beginning of May, Carlotta and Scott along with Bailey and Crystal signed us up for the 2020 Wag n' Walk for Monterey SPCA virtual fundraiser. It is a great organization and their daughter, Cristina's sorority connected us with this fundraiser last year. Here is Scott and Carlotta along with Bailey and Crystal logging the miles for the virtual fundraiser. Great job all of you!

In June we resumed our monthly Dog Scout training out of doors at a local park, practicing social distancing, everyone with their own hand sanitizer and wearing masks for safety. It is the current Dog Scout way! This is Andrea on the left with Wishbone and Gnocchi, and on the right, we have little Schlemko, Duncan and Wyatt with Donna. Taking a break from the practical training, Donna is explaining the fundamentals of Dog Scouts to Andrea who came to see what we are all about. Andrea was the foster for Wishbone, Donna's new family member through Jake's Wish Rescue.



Troop 198—CA (cont.)



Also in June, we had our first virtual Dog Scout Troop meeting, we have no pictures, but MANY thanks do Bob and Debee Armstrong and their three Golden Retrievers, Maxwell, Dayton and Memphis for setting up, hosting and painstakingly teaching us all how to do it!



In July we had another training in the park, from left to right is Andrea with Gnocchi, Donna with Wishbone, Lennie with Sadie and Duncan and Wyatt. Andrea is really liking our group and thinks she wants to join!

Several of our members from both the South Bay Troop 198 and the East Bay Troop 237 have signed up for the Dog Scouts Scrap The Summer Virtual Camp this year. For the first week of camp we were given instructions and assignments for all kinds of fun things such as crafts, games and training instructions for badges, and each week we are taking pictures to post on the DSA Scrap The Summer Face Book page and to put together for a camp album. The following are some pictures participating members have submitted for the first week. First is South Bay Troop 198 member Leah with Dog Scouts Wyatt and Duncan getting a picture for the cover of their album. (*Tipper the kitty photo bombed the picture!*)



Tipper the Kitty lives with Lennie and Dog Scout Sadie, members of South Bay Troop 198, so he posed in their photo



South Bay Troop 198 Cadet Wishbone took his first picture with the troop banner and his new mom Donna, our Scout Master and Troop Leader. Wishbone can't wait to take his next picture with our banner, it just might be the one documenting becoming a Dog Scout, he is learning fast at camp and could make it happen in record time!

Troop 198—CA (cont.)

One of the things we did with our dogs during the first week was practice our “Leave Its” by using treats to spell out the word “CAMP” in front of our dogs. This is Kristi and Dog Scout Maurice from East Bay Troop 237 showing us how it is done!



Carlotta along with cadets Bailey and Crystal from South Bay Troop 198 show how they spell CAMP in treats when you have two dogs showing their Leave It Skills at the same time. Great job everyone!



Another trick we learned and trained was for our dogs to balance an object on top of their heads or noses and since it is camp, of course the suggested item was a marshmallow! Here is Kobi, Mike and Ruth's Dog Scout from East Bay Troop 237 showing how it is done!



East Bay Troop 237 cadet Lulu shows her mom Teresa, she too can leave all those yummy treats that spell out CAMP. You're rocking the “Leave It” Lulu!

Another skill we received instructions on was to take pictures with our dogs using the timers on our cameras, this is one of the requirements for the Pho-DOG-raphy badge and yet another picture we can add to our camp photo albums. East Bay Troop 237 cadet Pearl and her mom Teresa knocked out the requirement with this great photo!



This first week has been great fun and those of us participating have not only learned many new things, we have connected with Dog Scout members from all over the country, making new friends and building an amazing support group. We can't wait to see what activities are in store for us over the next three weeks. Plus, there is **ANOTHER** four-week virtual camp coming in August, hope to “see” you all there. Be well and stay safe from the San Francisco Bay Area Troops 198 & 237.

Troop 219—CT ~ The New England Explorers

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

In June we had a social distance hike at Copp Park.

The pups had a lot of fun playing in the mud and with each other. It was so nice to see friends again.



Penny Lane is having so much fun participating in Scrap the Summer 2020! So far she's practiced wearing a loaded backpack, completed the leave it challenge, and experienced her first ShinRin-Yoku hike.

This week she learned to unroll a blanket, do a blind leave it and will be making a painting using her paw!



Troop 219—CT ~ The New England Explorers

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

You're not seeing double our Wyatt earned TWO Dog Scout titles!!!!

Wyatt earned his UT750 title for hiking 750 miles! And he also earned his LBX Letterbox Excellent title!



Danica Joy earned her PDX, Pack Dog Excellent title for hiking 100 miles while wearing a backpack which held all the required trail items!



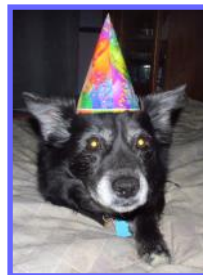
Troop 229—CA ~ Dogaholics Anonymutts

Mary Blackstone—Troop Leader

Since January, iZAR & I, (often with friends) have been busy. We walked 116 miles during the spring as part of a fun dog walking challenge group. We checked out creek crossings to see if we could cross yet, walked our favorite trails and explored new places.



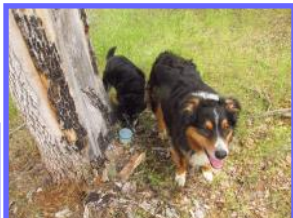
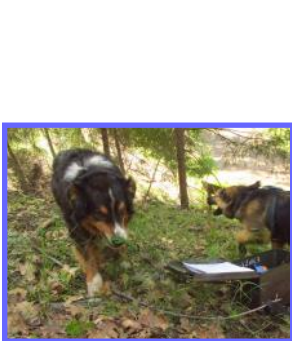
After a 4H meeting in February, we did the entire trail to Winton Flat with other Dog Scouts and their people and our new puppy friend, who is now 8 months old!! It was a great day!



In April we walked a mile in a rain storm on iZar's birthday, then rushed home to dry off and get ready for a birthday party with his oldest friend & little sister.

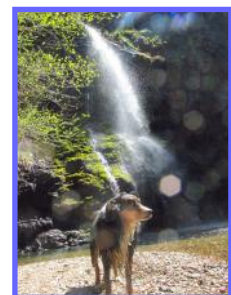


We checked out the American River & Wildflowers at an Open Area in Redding, the snow pack in the mountains around us, played on our 'go-to' walk near our house, checked the creeks in Indian Valley where he told me Smokey the Bear said not to start a fire and guarded me while I sat on the ground resting.



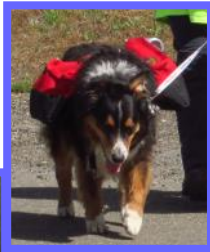
Next thing we knew it was time for his annual vet check up, which is not iZAR's favorite thing, but afterwards we stopped at the Open Area where he couldn't wait to get... You guessed it.... IN THE WATER.

The closest water was at a culvert.... he didn't mind! We also did some geocaching on our hikes and a friend took us to a secret waterfall. It was so loud! iZAR didn't like the noise.



In May we made it a point to go on MY favorite hike and check out the wildflowers and another small waterfall. . . . We took a friend up to Indian Valley for a nice walk... and swim, made it up to Hayfork Bally Lookout (6000'+), explored some more possible trails, Hiked part way on a new trail.

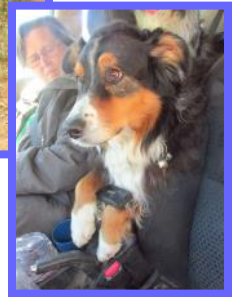
Troop 229—CA (cont.)



In June we participate in our local trash pick up. Our troop used to do the 2 mile stretch through town, but our membership dropped and I'm not able to do it by myself, so iZAR & I volunteer with the local Trek4Trash. iZAR carries spare bags & recyclables for me. He's kind of famous around town.



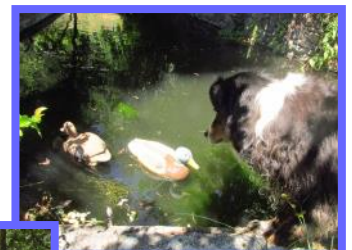
One day we headed to the Garden Gulch Trail to find 2 geocaches. After the first geocache, it got warm and muggy, like a sauna. I knew that was bad news. iZAR is afraid of lightning & gun shots. I've worked with him a lot, but we've never come across thunder out on the trail. We were heading back to the car when it started raining. . . . not long after that the first boom hit. Luckily it was far away. I got iZAR's leash on and the treats ready. It boomed REALLY loudly for about 20 mins. We were almost back to the car before it quit. BUT it turned into a great training session! He was definitely wanting to get back to the car, but calmed down enough to take treats and after about 5 minutes wasn't pulling me. A doe jumped out of the brush in front of us and he wanted to go tell her to get back in her pen, and it even boomed at that time! Hmmm.... I almost wonder if I should take him out in thunder storms more often... NAH....



Our last day of the Spring Walk challenge. I walked/rode around our local reservoir with friends.



After finishing a trail iZAR enjoyed a dip in a muddy ditch. I tried to get him to wash off in the clean pond by their house, but he was concerned about the fake ducks. So we had to go to the bigger pond below their house, where he was more than happy to wash the mud off.



The next day, we went walk ride at 13 dips.... where there are 13 water crossings on the road. One of iZAR's FAVORITES!



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
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
(Also Mini-Camp Mentor, Merit Badge Submission Process)

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

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

Membership: Shirley Conley — membership@dogscouts.org

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

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

MERIT BADGE RECOGNITION PROGRAM

Video Evaluation: DSAVideoEval@gmail.com
Evaluator Certification: Chris Kloski — ChrisBill1966@gmail.com

TITLES/COMPETITIONS

Hosting/Competing: Sally Hoyle — sally.hoyle@yahoo.com
Trail Dog Titles: Kelly Dean — DSA.Troop219@yahoo.com
(Also for competition registration numbers)

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

Website/Communications: Sonja Klattenberg — webadmin1@dogscouts.org
(Also for newsletter distribution)