

The Dog Scout Scoop

Official Newsletter ~ Dog Scouts of America

Volume 24 Issue 4 ~ Fall 2021

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

Rainbow Bridge P9

*Our first Up North
Trail Runners at
Michigan Camp
See Page 7*



Scout Scoop & Troop Talk P11

Notes from National

- 25-year Pathtags! P2
- Michigan Mini Camp P3
- Badge Bulletin & Title Tales P5
 - Urban Hiking P6
 - Up North Dog P7
 - Cycle Dog Titles P8

Deadline: for the next newsletter is

December 1st

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

Available at Sparky's Store

25th Anniversary Commemorative Tag

These coins can be worn as a dog tag, traded in geocaches, used as first finder prizes in letterboxes, kept as a keepsake, or traded with others. They are black nickel metal with aqua paint and glittery silver on the "25". The back side features the DSA website and the trackable number (2021 CAMP). These are 2.5 cm in diameter (just less than 1").

We have a limited supply, and when they're gone, we will take them down from the web site.

Pricing is 3 for \$12 5 for \$18. or 1 for \$5.



Collapsible Water Bottle w/ Logo

\$6.00 only 4 left in stock

If you're searching for a water bottle for your dog's pack that does not have air space in it. The soft-sided design allows you to let the air out as the contents are consumed.

Cool DSA Doggie Socks!

Take a step into your next trails title or merit badge wearing these fashionable DSA socks—only \$9.50 a pair

RED – features “I (heart) my Dog Scout” at the top of the sock, and the bottom of the sock is covered with tiny paw prints and different DSA merit badge images.

BLUE – features “Happy Camper” on one side and “Dog Scout Camp” on the other, and feature all of the fun stuff we do at camp: agility, Frisbee, hiking, etc., with signs pointing the way along the path of sand with dog paw prints on it.



Michigan August Mini-Camps Recap

Lonnie Olson, Michigan Camp Director

Wow, it was so nice to have people in camp again! We weren't sure we could pull it off, because just about the time we announced the August Mini Camps, the Covid Variants were having a serious upsurge.

With the help of Dr. Jennifer Vasinda, who kept us updated on the state of the spread, and how to best mitigate it, we installed several new safety precautions (dehumidifiers, air purifiers, toilet seats with lids, masks required indoors) and practices (moving as many classes as possible outdoors, having the auction outdoors, spacing people farther apart at tables, keeping bathroom doors closed, having hand sanitizer at tables and at the doors), things went very well. In fact, we were complimented on how well we took care of everyone's safety.

I thought that food service might be a problem, but Julie Lawler-Hoyle, Esq. handled everything like a pro chef, with much attention to detail. She and co-chef, Jennifer, did a wonderful job. We had to remove things from the menu, like the taco bar, make your own ice cream sundae bar, and the build your own loaded baked potato bar, but everyone cooperated, and no one complained. The Doctor/Lawyer Chef duo plated the food, had individual servings made up of condiments, pats of butter, syrup, veggie dip, etc. and everything out in the air was wrapped in plastic. These two did a stellar job, and when Julie wasn't preparing or serving food, I saw her sweeping the floors, hauling garbage bags out to the trash cans, and sanitizing everything in sight. We were well taken care of with these two, doing the jobs of what normally would have been several people helping out. No one was allowed in the kitchen but the chefs!



Timmy and Barb Foy
Show how many things
can be done with a
suitcase



Sky and Diane Cranston paint a
picture that won 1st place



Rocket shows how many things
you can do with a spool



Laurie Keel and Booker slide
under the limbo log



Martha Thierry & Maia finish
the first portion of Up North
Dog (notice the new sign...)



Lonnie Olson on the Sky
Ladder Bridge with
Scallywag



Beth Duman on the
double logs with
Charlie Darwin

Everyone enjoyed the new Up North Dog Badge. This is a course similar to Tough Mudder, or Incredible Dog Challenge's "Mountain Dog" events. The people and the dogs both had to navigate

Michigan August Mini-Camps Recap

all of the 10 obstacles, plus the water paddle together. It sounds daunting, but we had a blind dog, deaf dog, and some elderly dogs complete the course, not to mention handlers of varying disabilities.



Jeff Parker and Hemi complete the peanut butter lick painting



Jennifer Vasinda wins a nice Scavenger Hunt prize

Sally planned an elaborate Scavenger hunt that ran for all 4 days. People had to perform tasks that involved tree identification, poem writing, taking photos of your dog, making a peanut butter lick painting with the dog, finding letterboxes and the challenging "Gadget Caches," performing impromptu songs, orations or other outbursts (like howling at the moon) at specified times to earn points. It was really fun, and the PRIZES for the winners were fantastic!



Moosie chases the lure

We got the lure running, and a lot of the dogs enjoyed lure coursing, including my two Bostons, who have told me that this is their new favorite activity.

The auctions were extra competitive! We had some lovely auction donations, and some people who were serious about getting the items. We got the largest auction total ever for a Michigan camp, and that includes the 6-day camps! People were certainly in a generous mood after facing 2 summers without the regular camps because of Covid shut-downs.



Diane Baughman & Jaxson row the boat

One great thing was how well the new pond aeration system is working. We knew it would cut down on algae and make the water healthier for the fish, but there was another side-effect I didn't anticipate... I was concerned about having a camp in August, because usually the pond level is down so low by July, we have had to push the docks in another 20 feet! This year, we didn't have to move the docks at all, and as a matter of fact, the water got to within 10 inches of the top of the dock. My little Kismet even dove off the end, because it was so close to the water! I Googled why this might be happening, suspecting that cooler water evaporates slower than warm or hot water. I was correct. Cooler water (brought up from the bottom of the pond) evaporates 40% slower than heated water. So we have to thank all of the generous people who made donations to purchase the pond aeration system for that. THANKS!



Ann Bergeron with Banzai and Rocket



Goldie Reid just kept bidding on EVERYTHING! She kept auctioneer, Chris Kloski hopping!

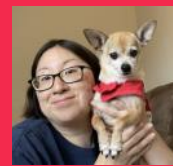


The new "miles to paradise" sign post at camp

Well camping season has come to an end, and I'm looking forward to seeing these smiling faces again next year. Stay safe,

Badge Bulletin & Title Tales

By Kristie Iwamoto (Maurice's Mom)



Congratulations to Our New Title Holders!

TRAIL DOG

Declan Aiken

Taika Almann (UT5K!)

Katie Hoyle (UT, UT500, UT750)

Mackenzie Hoyle (TD, TDX, UT, UT500)

Maurice Iwamoto (TDX)

Amy Strathman

Blitzen Tucker (TDX)

Patch Walker (TDX, UT, UT500, UT750, UT1K, AND UT2K)

PACK DOG

Booker Keel

Goldy Reid

Amy Strathman

LETTERBOX DOG

Katie Hoyle (LBA)

Pumpkin Neu

Kismet Olson (pictured right)



CYCLE DOG

Also, a special shout out to our **VERY FIRST**
Cycle Dog Title holder, Amy Strathman!



Two New Badges and A New Title

Urban Hiking Badge

Sheri Throop and Julianne Grove, Co-leaders DSA Troop 188 CT/RI

What is Urban hiking and how did it become a badge?

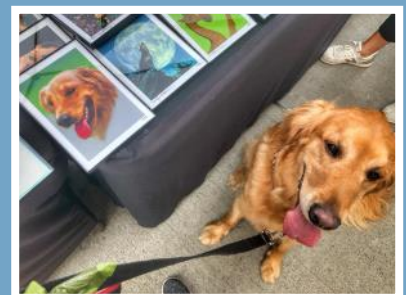
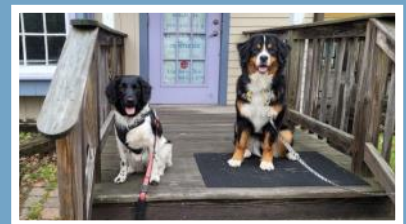
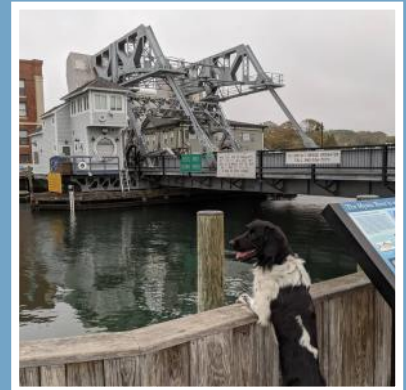
This badge demonstrates that the owner and dog can be model citizens when hiking through populated areas, respecting the environment and 'leaving no trace' while the dog is hiking on-leash.

This badge was created to fill a niche for dogs that do not have areas to hike off-leash. In our area legislation was created that no longer allowed us to take our dogs hiking off-leash so we needed a replacement activity. Several of our troop members took to walking around urban areas, and practicing their obedience skills in these areas. A comment was made one day: "too bad there's not a badge for this" and an idea was born!

We submitted our idea and were given the green-light to write it up. After writing up the badge criteria and gathering all our training and safety materials, we put everything into the proper formats and sent it to the board for finalization. A few minor tweaks and a new badge was born!

The photo that was selected for the badge is of Troop 188's Breeze who is the first dog to have met all the criteria for the Urban Hiking badge making him the first to earn the badge. Troop 188 has had a dozen dogs earn this badge so far, and have a few more almost finished with the requirements.

We hope you enjoy earning this badge as much as our Troop has had creating it, and we're looking forward to seeing everyone's Urban Hiking photos in the next Dog Scout Scoop.



Two New Badges and A New Title (cont.)

Up North Dog Badge

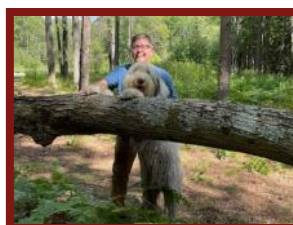
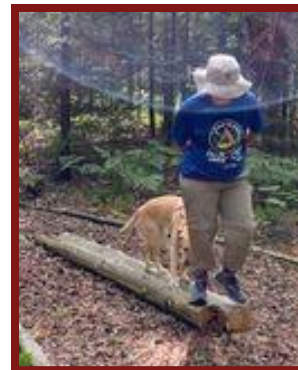
Lonnie Olson, MI Camp Director

At Michigan Camp this year we introduced our newest merit badge "Up North Dog."

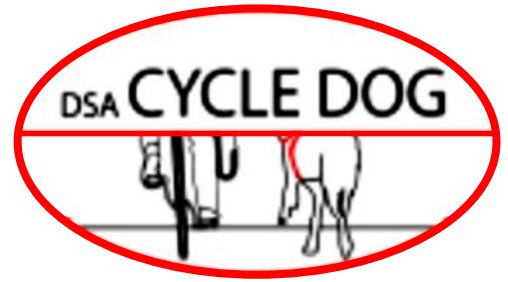
This is an obstacle course through the woods, with the obstacles being made of natural materials. Both the handler and the dog have to go over all of the obstacles.

Obstacle

1. At the start there is a log walk. You and your dog have to balance on the logs. Walking sticks are allowed for people with balance issues.
2. Cavaletti made out of smaller logs.
3. Pyramid Log Climb. Dogs and Handlers can clear it or climb it.
4. Single Log Jump (it can be climbed or jumped).
5. Sky Ladder Bridge. This is a ladder with openings as large as the steps themselves, placed over a "gorge."
6. Trampoline Swamp. This is a trampoline on springs, suspended above the ground slightly, so that you squish down with each step.
7. Limbo Log. Handlers and dogs have to crawl under a fallen log.
8. Next is the "sprint" to the beach, where you and your dog don lifejackets, hop onto a SUP or kayak, and paddle across the pond.
9. Lilly Pad Leap. Your dog has to get all 4 feet onto each of the tree trunk slabs, and you have to get 2 feet on each of them, too. It doesn't have to be at the same time. You can send your dog ahead to the next pad.
10. Land Raft. It's a short raft made of logs. You and your dog have to have at least some body parts on it at the same time.
11. Stump Slalom. Both handler and dog weave through the short stumps.
12. Finish Line - 2 paws up, and at least one of the handlers hands stops the clock.



Two New Badges and A New Title (cont.)



Cycle Dog Titles

Earlier this summer we updated the Trails Title program and introduced the new Cycle Dog title program.

To log miles for the Cycle Dog program the handler rather than the dog must carry the required pack items, either on his person or on the bike. The dog walks or runs beside the handler who is riding a bike. The dog is attached to the bike using a “springer” type attachment and a non-restrictive harness. When on the trail the dog demonstrates behaviors of a well-mannered and trained companion. As with all DSA trails titles, you must practice responsible dog ownership, including abiding by Leave No Trace principles while cycling.

Dogs must be physically mature to participate in the Cycle Dog program. Small to medium dogs must be at least 12 months old and large dogs must be at least 18 months. DSA recommends that you seek advice from your veterinarian before beginning any cycling with your dog.

Cycle Dog Title Log Requirements

Logged distances must be a minimum of 1 mile. Miles logged toward any Cycle Dog title may NOT be counted towards the Pack Dog or Trail Dog titles. Letterboxing and Geocaching is permitted while logging miles towards the Cycle Dog titles.

All titles beyond Cycle Dog (CD) have the prerequisite of the title that comes immediately before it.



Title	Requirements	Total Mileage	Awards
Cycle Dog (CD)	50 miles including one 5-mile ride	50 miles	CD title certificate and title patch
Cycle Dog Excellent (CDX)	CD title + 50 miles including one additional 5-mile ride	100 miles	CDX title certificate and 100-mile patch
Utility Cycle Dog (UC)	CDX title + 100 miles including one additional 5-mile ride	200 miles	UC title certificate and 200-mile patch
Utility Cycle Dog 500 (UC500)	UC title + 300 miles including one additional 5-mile day ride	500 miles	UC500 title certificate and 500-mile patch
Utility Cycle Dog 750 (UC750)	UC500 title + 250 miles including one additional 5-mile day ride	750 miles	UC750 title certificate and 750-mile patch
Utility Cycle Dog 1000 (UC1K)	UC750 title + 250 miles including one additional 5-mile day ride	1000 miles	UC1K title certificate and 1K mile patch
Utility Cycle Dog (x)K UC(x)K*	UC1K title + 1000 miles	2000, 3000, etc.	UC(x)K title certificate

*Additional titles are awarded for each increment of 1000 miles

Rainbow Bridge

My Labradoodle Casey and Our Journey

by Peggy Kraus



I met Casey at a rescue. He was only 40 pounds, infection between his toes, his body had been shaved and he had been attacked by two other dogs at the rescue. He came over to me laid his head on my lap, looked up at me with those beautiful whiskey eyes and I fell in love. He was my shadow from that point forward. If Casey could figure out what I wanted him to do he would do it without hesitation. He was the first dog I tried to train, and we had to learn together. Dog Scouts were a blessing as well as obedience classes, agility classes and dance classes. Thank goodness we had excellent instructors that taught the positive training methods. I loved having Casey, he was my joy; he was my friend.



Casey earned his DSA certification in June 2010. He was a Dog Scout for 11 years and attended camps in Michigan and Maryland. He earned a wide variety of badges including Freestyle, Agility, Drill Team, 1st Aid and Temperament Test. He won second place one year in the high jumping contest! As members of Troop 177 we took part in camping, canoeing, hiking, and back packing. We attended many agility trials that Casey loved; his tail always wagging.



High Jump 2011 Michigan camp



In the pond



Maryland Camp Lure Course

He was a member of Pet Partners, Delta Society and Bentley's Buddies as a therapy dog and read with children. One elementary student having been attacked by a dog, wanted to read with a dog. The first day he stood across the hall afraid, I promised him Casey would not even touch him but just be here with him. During that semester he eventually allowed Casey to rest his head on his lap and he would pet him while he read. At the end of the semester, he asked "Will Casey be here next year to read with me"? Casey was the Literacy Award Recipient for Volunteering in the reading program of Hamilton County, Indiana children at the Fishers Elementary School. He also volunteered at the Catamount School for children with behavioral and learning disabilities.

Casey took part multiple years in Bell Ringing for the Salvation Army at Christmas with other Troop 177 dogs to help others have a Merry Christmas. He raised money and provided oxygen masks for the Greenfield Fire Department's fire trucks and emergency EMT trucks for animal victims of fire as well as the police department's dogs.

Casey and I had many adventures together; I have many happy memories.

The journey's End.



Rainbow Bridge (cont.)

"Rufftown's On A Nite Flite" aka Rebel

3/7/05 - 4/2/21

by Owner Lisa Rose

Rebel enjoyed hiking, backpacking, geocaching, kayaking, going out to dinner with us and Lily, getting pets from people and snacks whenever he could. He loved lying on a pile of pillows.

We met Rebel at the West Palm Beach Pet Expo on March 24, 2012. Lily and I were volunteering in the Miami Coalition Against BSL pittie kissing booth while Marcel was getting smitten with Rebel. Of course Lily and I had to meet this little guy who was quite adorable.

When we got home Marcel kept talking about the "little guy" Rebel. Marcel loved Rebel the moment he met him. We had Lily, Cleo and Ebony at that time and decided what's one more! So we filled out the application for BHBD to adopt Rebel. Rebel was already in a home on a trial basis to see if he was a good fit. It didn't, Rebel was not a good fit for that family. After a meet and greet with our existing pack, we brought Rebel home on 4/24/12.



We took Reb to flyball practice where he learned ball drive and the entire flyball pattern. He also went to our Dog Scout meetings. He attended DSA classes and did really well for a senior pup. Getting checked off for the DSA badge made us so proud! Daddy Marcel was so proud he was beaming when Rebel earned his DSA badge. We loved taking Rebel with Lily or Ebony geocaching and to dog events. Rebel loved lure coursing and for an elder bull he was a rockstar!

He learned to play with a frisbee and play ball. He traveled with Lily and us to many flyball tournaments. Rebel captured the hearts of most everyone he met. He was a little vocal at flyball tournaments when he was crated. He loved doing flyball even though he would never compete. He earned his DSA flyball badge and we have to

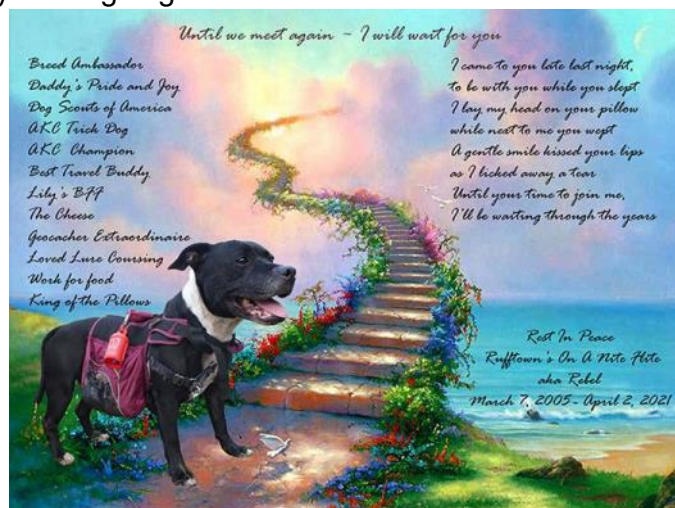
thank Pawmetto Pack for all of their help in accomplishing this. Rebel also went to flyball practice with On Your Bark Flyball along with Lily. Maria Tully and everyone on the team was so good with Rebbby. He had a blast at practice and Maria spent as much time as he wanted at practice. I will always treasure the love and kindness Rebel was given from that team.



Fellow DSA troop 157 members, Linda, Crystal and Jessica Romano, thought of Rebel when they got a deluxe dog stroller but the wheels didn't quite fit. This was the very best gift! Rebel absolutely loved going for rides in his new stroller! Marcel and I were beyond grateful! Rebel turned 16 on March 7th and went for a ride in his decorated birthday stroller!

When renal disease and acute pancreatitis took their toll and we saw him getting to the point of no return. we made the heartbreaking decision to let Rebel cross the bridge and go to Heaven where he would be whole again.

Love you Rebel. Thank you for being our best boy. It was an honor to be your Mom and Daddy. Rest in Peace sweet Angel.



Scout Scoop & Troop Tales

Nosework Does Pay Off!

Ziva and I started going to the local Home Depot the first summer after she arrived – May 2016. It is so hot in Phoenix starting in May that it makes it challenging to get our daily walks in to satisfy a very active Aussie. We get out almost at sunrise to beat the heat, but it is not enough exercise for Ziva. If we walk every aisle in our local HD, we can easily complete 1.2 miles. From May through October, we go almost every day. All the employees know us and love to greet Ziva. They always have treats so we have to limit that part or just say no. On any given day, we can meet at least 6-12 Ziva buddies in the store and sometimes see other dogs. Ziva is a great joy to all that she greets. It has allowed us to practice skills, obedience, and nice greetings.

On this particular day at Home Depot, the merchandising people were in a dilemma trying to find a dead rat in the electrical aisle. Ziva was in a bit of a nose-down approach to them – usually, she is totally head up. They said they could not find the rat and asked if Ziva could find it. I told them it was not one of the odors she has been trained to detect but we would give it a try.

I sent Ziva on a “seek” command down two aisles. She found the dead rat in the next aisle over . . . at the source of the odor she wouldn’t move; she was glued to the spot and really resisted when we tried to move away (think leaning forward, paws dug in).

Ziva became the local heroine of the day and has many more friends in HD now. They will be giving her a child’s apron to wear when we go there to walk the aisles. Ziva has never been exposed to Barn Hunt, but I’m thinking she is well suited for it, so we’ve found another “nose” game she loves.



Marsha Lindquist
Arizona

Troop 119—N TX

Cindy Ratliff—Troop Leader

Troop 119 has had a busy summer! We have enjoyed making up for lost time for those months we weren't able to meet in person. We're back to having fun, learning new things and educating the community.

In **May**, we had a **Dog Scout Class** for our newer members and for the troop dogs that weren't yet Scouts. We had a great afternoon and ended the day with four new Scouts plus a few that are working toward that goal.



Welcome new Scouts:



Rocky Romano, DSA



Blitzen Tucker, DSA



Finn Kaiser, DSA



and Belle Montelongo, DSA

They, together with their moms, did a great job and they are all very proud to be Troop 119's newest Scouts!

Troop 119—N TX

Lacey is happy to show Karen how she can remain calm & relaxed for massage



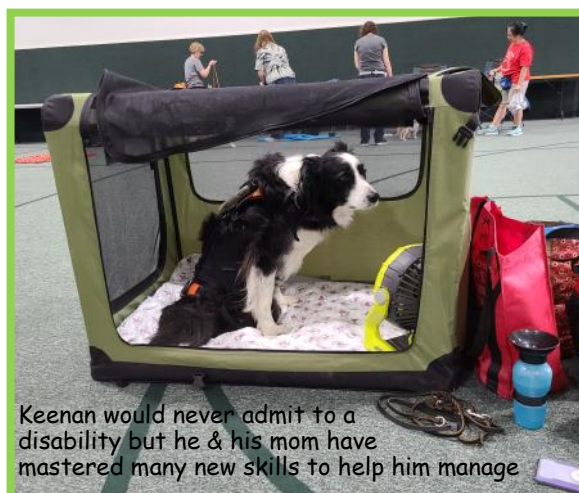
Casper & mom, Marcia, listen intently as Casper already makes adjustments for his visual impairment



In **June**, Karen Phillips introduced us to the **Disabled Dog** merit badge. This is a badge that will be offered at Texas Mini-Camp this year so the dogs were anxious to get a jump start on learning the requirements. Karen did a great job explaining the requirements for the badge then offering tips for how to work on and learn the different elements. Many dog and handler teams committed to learning all there is to know about the badge and working on it in the months ahead.



Sebastian waits patiently while mom, Karen, answers troop members' questions



Keenan would never admit to a disability but he & his mom have mastered many new skills to help him manage

July was an extra special event for the troop! It was delayed, just like the ones in Japan, but we were excited to have the **Doggie Summer Olympic Games 2020/2021** (who knows?!). We had some great, fun participation for this year's games and just one minor human mishap, but she bounced back like a champ! The dogs enjoyed competing, as did the humans, and all the teams went home with either the Gold, Silver or Bronze medals. The Olympic Committee conceded afterward that maybe the cycling event will need to undergo an overhaul before the summer games 2024! (But it was still fun to watch!)

Troop 119—N TX



1. Alex & ringer handler, Anne, work together to score a soccer goal for Red team
2. Lacey completes the balance beam for the White team
3. Rouen proud of her Olympic bling
4. Stella & Connie compete in the Equestrian event and clear their jumps on horseback
5. Teams Red, White & Blue compete in the hurdle relay (note the loofah batons)
6. In the gymnastics event, Marshal has completed the balance beam and now the rings with mom
7. Panda & Michelle looking to score a soccer goal for White team
8. Competitors for the Red, White & Blue teams work to score the first soccer goal
9. Libbie Belle is reluctant to conclude her ring competition for gymnastics
10. Ting Ting works to complete the floor exercise for the gymnastics round
11. Leah & Kira look like pros for the Cycling event
12. Mart brings in the torch for the official start of the Doggie Olympic Games
13. Maureen & Lacey get their cycle moving while Connie tries to find the power steering
14. Stella worked hard for her team & her medal

Troop 119—N TX

We had two great activities in August.



Young Cub Scout enjoys making friends with Kira



Alex enjoys the attention of the Cub Scout and her mom

On August 2, we were asked to lead a meeting for Cub Scouts Troop 379 on the topic of Be Kind to Animals. We had several Troop 119 Dog Scouts participate in this event.



Finn gently introduces himself to a timid Cub Scout



Keenan is eager to make a new friend

We did a presentation on dog safety and being good (& responsible) dog owners at any age, and what it means to be kind to animals.

Then the Cub Scouts got to individually meet the Dog Scouts and learn about them, their merit badges and the things they enjoy.



Keenan shows off his merit badges



Kira meets a Cub Scout and his mom

Even though a big thunderstorm rolled in, which kept many of the Cubs away, the Dog Scouts did an awesome job of ignoring the noise outside and being great representatives of the Troop.



Rouen meets a shy Cub Scout



A young cub scout learns about Sage

Troop 119—N TX

For our August troop meeting, Michelle McClelland introduced the **Animal Actor** merit badge. This is another badge that will be offered at Texas Mini-Camp this year so it was a great opportunity to get a jump start on this one as well. Michelle has a unique prospective for this badge as she works at Chewy Studios where she is the Pet Talent Manager overseeing pets on set for Chewy.com photo and video shoots. She did a great job explaining the badge and offering insights to how this badge can be applicable in the “pets on set” world, as well as offering something fun to do with our dogs to help them show off even more. She brought a lot of props and encouraged handlers to introduce new things to their dogs while using known tricks and behaviors to help them create something new and fun!



Belle learns to pick up a novel item



Brindle shows that senior dogs got game



Finn works on a new behavior



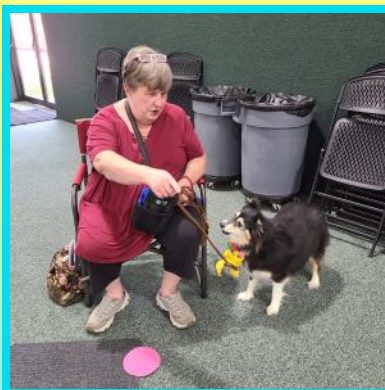
Gizmo considers tricks for her acting debut



Jasmine thinks hard about her next move



Libbie Belle seeing that acting pays off



Shadow pays attention to mom



Tripoli practices going to her mark

Troop 149—MO ~ River City Rovers

Submitted by Fran Beezley and Dog Scout Barney

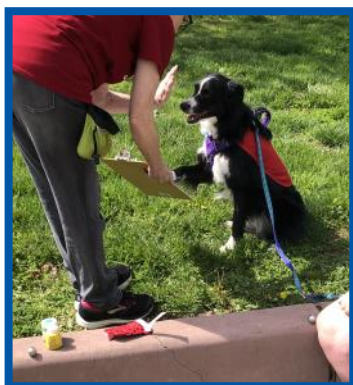
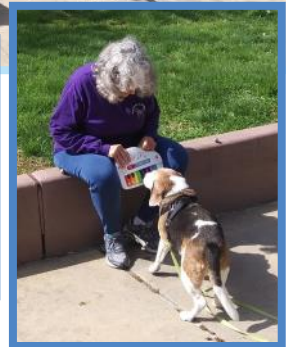
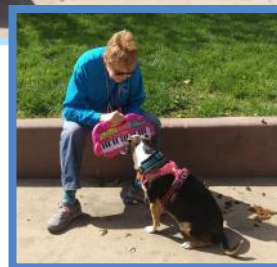
Troop 149 has been trying to stay active in spite of the pandemic and the cold. In November, we met at Tiemeyer Park for a bit of a hike. Mason, Zoey, Lou, Barney and Roxie bundled up and had a fun time.



Several members of the troop competed in both the Turkey Trot and the Mile Gobbler this November and December. When we heard that our medallions had arrived, a few of us were able to meet up on December 27th for a short hike and a little geocaching in a neighborhood park. We received our “prizes”, but it was too cold to take a good picture. . . we cannot wait until the weather warms up a bit so that we can have a meeting and work on some badges in another local park.

We met again in April for a busy meeting at Tiemeyer Park. The weather this time was perfect. First Mason, Zoey, Lou, Barney, Roxie, Margo, Harpo, and Bess went on a hike around the park. When they returned we were ready for a busy meeting.

Lou wanted to play his piano for everyone, so Roxie, Barney, and Zoey joined him for a combo. Everybody thought Lou did a fantastic job, so he qualified for the Band Badge. The other members of the band need to practice a bit more.



Then Roxie wanted to show off her painting skills. She got so close to creating a masterpiece, but she just wasn't sure she wanted to paint in front of her public.



Lou showed off his acting skills by performing a skit about going camping.

Everyone clapped vigorously for his obvious star quality. As soon as he gets it videotaped, he is planning on submitting it for his Tricks Badge

Troop 149—MO (cont.)



We ended the meeting by practicing the skills for the AKC CGC test. Fran (Barney's Mom) is a CGC evaluator, so she was able to check off on those who wanted to try.

Bess, Zoey and Roxie did a great job and earned their CGC titles! At the end of the meeting we sure had some tired but happy pups!

In July, Troop 149 met again for a short hike in the park and then Roxie worked on and earned her AKC Novice Tricks Title. It was Mason's birthday so he received a big bone cookie which he shared with the rest of the troop.



Troop 157—FL ~ Broward County Paw Patrol

Teresa Irvine

Letterboxing Series

Some of our members were not familiar with letterboxing, so Shari Hain inspired our Troop to learn more. We met virtually via zoom learn about the activity and the supplies needed.



Later we met at a local park to follow the clues and find our first letterboxes.



Then to wrap up our letterboxing series we all met at our Christine's home to learn how to carve a Letterboxing stamp. She supplied all the materials, Xacto knives, etc. We all came with our own ideas for a personal stamp – it was great to be together collectively doing something together.



Troop 157—FL (cont.)

4th of July Hike

A group of 6 members hiked T.Y. (Topeekeegee Yugnee) on the morning of July 4th. A total distance of a little over 2 miles was walked.



The goal was to have exhausted pups for the evening full of fireworks. A tired pup is less likely to notice or get scared of the fireworks.



During the walk, members worked on loose leash walking, leave it with other animals and focusing on their humans.



All the pups and humans had a wonderful time.

Troop 177—IN

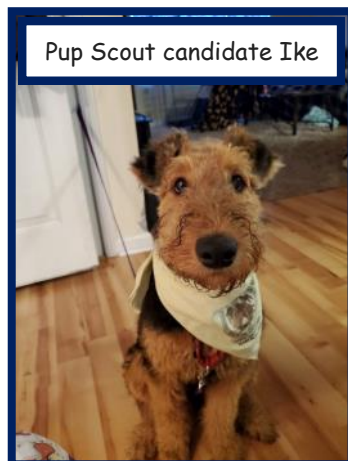
Robyn Porter

Troop #177 members met on July 11 to practice Scent Detection skills. We began acclimating the dogs to Birch scent. Once the dogs displayed a consistent behavior to target the small tin containing the scent, they graduated to find the tin in one of a three cardboard box set. We practiced hiding the scent for each other. Once everyone was tired of 3 boxes containing one scent we graduated to a long line of boxes with two containing scent. The cap on our scent practice was searching for the scent hidden in an assortment of metal chairs.

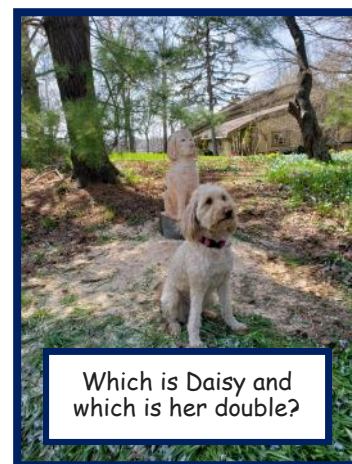
The dogs had fun! They were immediately curious and ready to try each new level of activity. What a fun afternoon!



Candy McKing brought her new Airedale Terrier pup named Ike. Ike was excited about all the activity and prospect of meeting so many beautiful female dogs! Ike's video and application for Pup Scout has been submitted so we're all waiting to see if he is our troop's first Pup Scout!



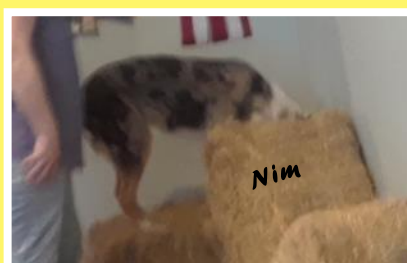
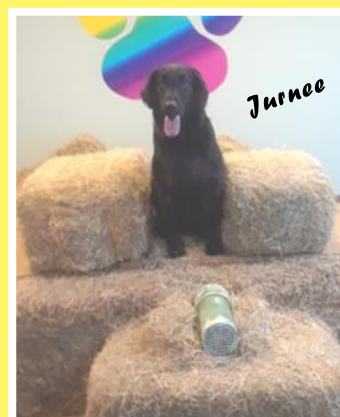
Gail Wiseman had a tree cut down in her yard and it left quite a stump. She had a chainsaw carver come and carve a likeness of her dog Daisy. It's an astonishing likeness.



Troop 183—FL

Shirley Conley—Troop Leader

June—Barn Hunt at Castle Keep Dog Training Center



Troop 183—FL (cont.)

July—Freestyle, Manners and Sign Language



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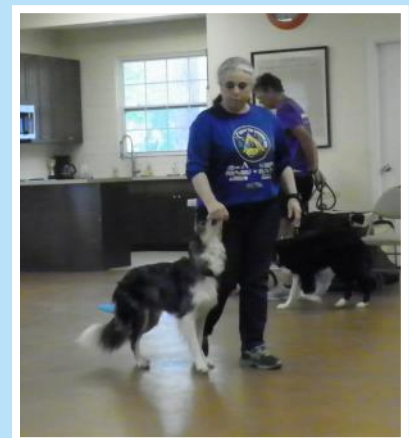
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THROUGH



SPIN

August—Manners

We got together and worked on components of the Manners merit badge—William and Ariea, Jurnee and Tachi worked on follow handler's hand, go to a target, go say hello, stand in place for petting, and move out of the way. During the July meeting we'd used an interior doorway to limit distractions as we introduced the behavior of re-orienting to handler after passing through a door.

Troop 188—Ledyard CT

Sheri Throop—Troop Leader

Troop 188 would like to congratulate our newest Dog Scouts!



Clara Grove



Douglas Simon



Nell Freeman

The COVID shut down allowed our troop leaders, Julianne Grove, and Sheri Throop, to assess the most common activities of our troop. One of these activities was the inspiration for the new DSA Urban Hiking merit badge. Troop 188 enjoys the many unique area with beaches, mountains, woods, lakes, and urban locations that all dog friendly and very accessible.

Urban hiking has some special challenges that our dogs have learned to master as we often hike in urban areas while attending parades, shopping, and enjoying restaurants. Recognizing that urban hiking did have these unique challenges prompted our leaders to submit a proposal to the DSA Board for consideration of a new merit badge, the Urban Hiking badge. Working through the new badge process under the guidance of Sally Hoyle the Urban Hiking badge was approved and introduced at DSA's summer virtual camp. Members of Troop 188 were very excited to work on this badge with a dozen scouts earning the new badge and several more poised to earn it as soon as they complete their Dog Scout title.

Water badges have proven very popular this unusually hot and humid summer. Troop Scouts have earned their Puppy Paddler, Dock Diving, Barn Hunt, Tricks, and First Aid in addition to the Urban Hiking badge.

As dog activities resumed troop members participated in Scenting and Barn Hunt trials, AKC conformation shows, various AKC sporting events and a couple of troop members have even begun taking herding lessons.

We have continued our monthly zoom meetings where we get together to review calendar items, the Dog Scout Laws and specific merit badge information. Also, we share information and plan demonstrations that we are doing this summer for elementary school children camps. An important part of our zoom meetings has been exchanging enrichment activities which have helped our scouts and their people keep active during COVID.

Troop 188 is looking forward to a jam packed fall and winter.

Troops 198—CA

Leah Lane—Event Coordinator

Troop 198 is enjoying lots of outdoor activities.

On May 5th we had our monthly training at Calero park in San Jose.

We had a good turn out and set up a pen for some off leash play. This picture shows Daphne, Jadelynn, Donna, Wishbone, Duncan, Sprocket, Emi, Hana, Cindy, Jaxi, Lisa and Patty.



We also worked on agility skills, here is Lisa and Patty giving Emi her first fun experience with the tunnel.



Sienna is a very reactive rescue, Kathleen has been bringing her to our monthly trainings for a while now sitting on the edge of the group to help her learn to be less reactive around people and dogs. Their first time with us Sienna barked and lunged pretty much non-stop, but now she watches the group and allows people to come up to her and give her treats. We love seeing the improvement in her manners and confidence.



Andrea & Gnocchi are working the wobbleboard.



Ike & Mickey and Daphne & Jadelynn are out in the field working on the leave it with food rings and the tunnel.



Puppy Emi is meeting Gus the Leave It critter for the first time.

Troops 198—CA (Cont.)

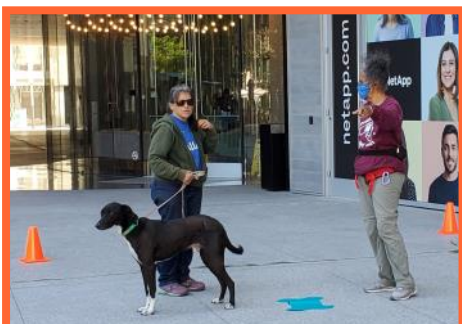


On June 6th we had our Mall Walk training. In the group picture we have Donna, Wishbone, Jadelynn, Daphne, Miyoko, Mickey, Jan, Teddy, Buddy Denise, Kokoro, Duncan & Rebel.



Jan & Buddy have attended many events, but this is little Teddy's first mall walk training and they all did great!

This was also a first-time mall walk training for Ike, Mickey & Miyoko. Mickey did great and they all had a good time learning about Dog Scout training techniques.



Jackie & Rebel used the mall walk training to test with Donna for the AKC CGC title and they passed with flying colors! Congratulations to both of you!

Troops 198—CA (Cont.)



On June 13th we had our monthly training in the park. We had a good turnout. Here is Gnocchi, Tribble, Blake, Elle Belle, Yeti, Donna Wishbone, Sprocket, Dave, Crystal & Patty. Donna makes the training both interesting and fun.

We are very proud of Sienna and Kathleen. Sienna has really improved and enjoyed a turn doing some of the jumps Donna had set out. They have been coming for months and this is the first time Sienna was able to do some of the activities, we LOVE watching their progress.



We're also glad that Sondra and Kozmo could join us at training, good to see friends who have been shut in for a while.



Christina, Carlotta, and Luna worked on their Pup Scout and AKC Star Puppy requirements during training.

Here is Lisa with Hana, and puppy Emi practicing being well mannered in a group, and they brought along first-time visitors Sharleen and her puppy Penny to learn about Dog Scouts. Duncan is just chilling with the ladies.



Troops 198—CA (Cont.)

We had our monthly meeting at Armadillo Willys on June 22nd. Bob and Debee, brought their three Golden Retrievers, Maxwell, Dayton & Memphis, they always liven up anything they attend.



Carlotta, Scott, Luna, and Patty enjoyed some good chomping while listening to the meeting and Luna took and passed her Pup Scout Test at the end of the meeting. Congratulations, another Dog Scout on the way!



Jadelynn & Daphne enjoyed the good company and good food while we took care of troop business.



Here is Memphis, Maxwell, Sprocket, Duncan, Carlotta, Scott & Patty chilling after all the business was discussed.



We were thrilled to have Lyn one of the founding members of our troop join us at our meeting, here is Donna, Lyn, Wishbone, Leah & Duncan.



Troop 198—CA (cont.)

At our July 11th training it was hot, so we kept activity to a Minimum. Here is Lennie, Sadie, Christina, Carlotta, and Luna trying to keep cool while doing a little training.



Andrea & Gnocchi had lots of knowledge to add to Donna's lesson on doggie heat stroke, how to identify it and how to treat it.



Donna set up cones in the shade for people to practice "back up" with their dogs. Donna explains with Wishbone how to teach the behavior as Denise and Kokoro listen.



This is Denise and Kokoro with Wishbone listening to the class. In the front is Trevor Lane attending his first training, doesn't have all his shots, so he had to stay in a pen on a fake grass rug for now.



Carlotta trains with Duncan and Luna on hitting the buzzer button.



Wishbone shows everyone how to do a "place" between Donna's legs, it is a both a cute behavior and a great trick to use to keep your dog from getting stepped on in a crowd.

Troop 198—CA (cont.)

On July 20th we had our monthly meeting at Armadillo Willy's. Bob and Debee and their three Golden Retrievers, Memphis, Maxwell and Dayton got to meet Duncan's new brother Cadet Trevor Lane for the first time, and at the end of the meeting Trevor took and passed his Pup Scout test. YAY Trevor!



Here are Patty, Sprocket, Carlotta, Christina, Scott, Luna & Duncan enjoying some Texas style cuisine during our meeting.



Donna, Wishbone, Denise & Kokoro also enjoyed some tasty "fixins" during the meeting.



Donna, Wishbone, Denise & Kokoro were happy to have camera shy Molly and her Love On A Leash pet therapy partner Janet join their table for a visit during the meeting.



Troop 198—CA (cont.)

During our Mall Walk training on August 8th, Jackie and Asia took and passed their AKC CGCA title, great work team!



After the Mall Walk training Wishbone and Duncan watched as Scout Master Donna tested and passed Cadet Trevor on his sit and down requirements for his Dog Scout test.



We had a good turnout for our monthly training. Christina, Carlotta, Sprocket, Luna & Duncan listened as Patty gave some pointers on nose work.

Best training session ever with Sienna, Kathleen was able to walk Sienna much closer to the other members and their dogs as they were sitting in groups, all the patience and hard work is really paying off as Sienna continues to make great strides towards calmly interacting with other troop members. It is very inspiring to watch Kathleen's dedication and Sienna's success!



Total cuteness as Daphne takes a cat nap next to Jadelynn during training.



Donna & Wishbone take a break in the shade as they go over some training information with group members.

Sixteen-year-old Elle Belle hangs out with Christina while mom Blake is off practicing for the Dog Scout test, in the background Carlotta & Luna are doing some training practice too.



In the heat of the day, Cadet Trevor continues to dream of the time when he has all his shots and can join Donna, Duncan, Yeti, Blake, and Tribble outside of the X-pen and on real grass instead of fake rug grass to do his Dog Scout training.



Elle Belle's Mom, Blake, is getting set up with Yeti and Tribble to do some Heel course training as Duncan wanders through. At our training this weekend, Tribble finished up all her Dog Scout test requirements except for the heel test, once she passes that, She will join her brother Yeti as a Dog Scout. Yay Tribble!



Carlotta and Luna did lots of Leave It with Critter practicing with Guinea Pig Gus. Luna also took and passed her Dog Scout test sit requirement during training.



Troop 198—CA (cont.)



On August 14th, Donna, Leah, Carlotta, Christina, and our dogs all gathered with Lennie at her house to join with Dog Scouts all across the country for the Sparky's Virtual Dog Scout Camp Block Party. In this shot are Sadie, Duncan, Zoey, Wishbone, Luna, Trevor, Carlotta, Christina, Donna & Lennie.



Here is Carlotta with Zoey, Duncan, Trevor, Sadie, & Luna; she is making them all sit and wait their turn to get a treat, such well-mannered Dog Scouts!

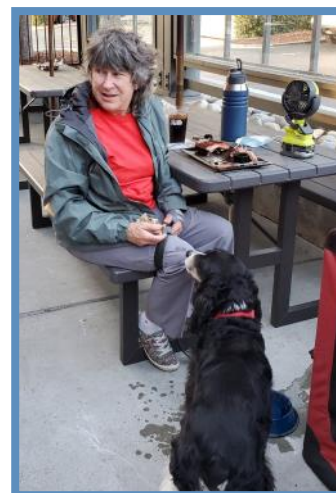


Wishbone was late to the party, so Carlotta reloaded with treats and did another round of sit and wait with Zoey, Duncan, Trevor, Sadie, Luna, and this time Wishbone too.



For our monthly meeting on August 24th, Judy and Lily brought a delicious cake in the shape of a dog's paw to celebrate Leah's birthday and Judy also brought a dog-safe cake for the canine troop members to enjoy. YUM!

Duncan made the rounds stopping to visit with Scott and Carlotta during the meeting.



Here is Luna, Duncan, Trevor, Hana, Wishbone & Donna during the meeting, both Luna and Trevor passed the Dog Scout requirement to be safe and comfortable around other dogs on leash in a managed environment. During the meeting Luna also took and passed her Dog Scout test recall, down, stay, and greeting two friendly strangers requirements. Awesome Luna!



Here are Donna, Trevor, Wishbone, Hana, Lyn & Dawn. Lyn is one of our troops founding Members and we are so happy they could join us for the meeting. Dawn is Lyn's daughter and was gracious enough to be one of our friendly strangers for Luna and Trevor's Dog Scout test requirement.

Cute picture of Dawn with Hana giving Trevor a congratulatory hug for passing his Dog Scout recall test. Yay Trevor!

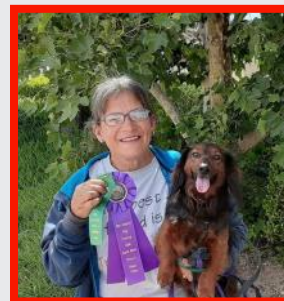


Troop 198—CA (cont.)

Our Troop also has several Events & Achievements to share.



Dog Scout Tacoma Phillips will be Mr. August in the American Dachshund Rescue Calendar!



On May 21st Dog Scout Tacoma Phillips earned his Advanced Handler Discrimination Title in Lodi, CA.



On May 23rd Dog Scout Bailey Gumbin won two first place, four second place, one third place and one fourth place ribbon at the at Doggone Dirty Dog Sports Dock Diving competition.



May 23rd Dog Scout Crystal Gumbin won four first place, one second place, two third place, one fourth place and captured the Doggone Dirty Dog Sports Mighty Award for most points.



On June 6th Cadet Rebel Phillips earned his CGC title during our Mall Walk Training.



Cadet Luna Gumbin earned her Pup Scout Title at our June 22nd Meeting.

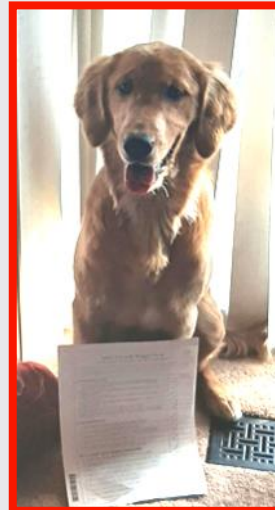
Troop 198—CA (cont.)



Dog Scout Tacoma Phillips earned his first AKC Excellent HD Leg in Aptos, CA.



Cadet Luna Gumbin graduated Puppy Class on July 5th and her AKC Star Puppy Title on July 11th.



Trevor Lane became a Dog Scout Cadet on July 15th and earned his Pup Scout Title on July 20th at 12 ½ weeks old.



Dog Scouts Bailey and Crystal Gumbin gave birth to their second litter of puppies on July 29th.



Dog Scout Asia Phillips earned her AKC CGCA title on August 1st.



Cadet Luna Gumbin had her first two dock diving competition jumps recorded and earned first place in her class with a jump of 8' 5" on August 14th and graduated Intermediate Puppy class on August 23rd.

So many good times and achievements for our troop in the last few months and plans for so many more to come! Can't wait to share them with you and to find out what everyone else is doing. Looking forward to more Dog Scout fun and adventures, see you there!

Troops 237—East Bay, CA

Ruth Robinson—Troop Leader

Be Prepared!

Our August Troop training meeting had to be canceled because of very poor air quality. While we are aware that many of the readers of this newsletter will not be affected by the degree of fires in the Western USA, many also may not know how serious air pollution is for our dogs. Here is some important information from the AKC:



What To Do With Your Pets When the Air Is Smoky

During wildfires, the air quality is often dangerous and hazardous to breathe. Some studies estimate that breathing the smoke-filled air is equivalent to smoking more than eight cigarettes a day — and that's for a human! Brachycephalic breeds (such as Pugs and Bulldogs), puppies, and senior dogs may be especially at risk of inhaling too much smoke.

Here's what to do if you experience poor air quality due to smoke:

- Keep your pets inside as much as possible, with your windows shut
- If your dog needs to go to the bathroom, only let them out for short periods of time
- Avoid long walks and activities outdoors
- Watch for signs of smoke inhalation

Do Facemasks Protect Dogs Against Smoke?

While most people have gotten used to wearing facemasks to combat COVID-19, they can also be a tool for protecting humans against poor air quality. However, no evidence has been seen that masks protect against carbon monoxide, carbon dioxide, or cyanide, which are some of the most dangerous aspects of smoke inhalation. Not enough research has been done to support any effectiveness on masks to protect animals. The best plan is to keep both you and your animals indoors as much as possible.

Please have an emergency pet evacuation plan, including a go-bag for your dogs and other pets.

Out here in California, we've experienced major fires for the past two years. It is unpleasant to consider a fire disaster, but it is a lifesaver to be prepared.

In Other News:

Weather permitting, we hold monthly pack walks at a local regional park. We practice loose leash walking, greeting friendly dogs and humans, and when off leash, recall. This is a fairly long, about 2-hour walk. Plenty of time to get to know the humans and dogs better than during a focused training session. One of our most popular activities, we highly recommend Troop Pack Walks.



Laakea and Ola, Carol and Sadie, Ruth, and Troop 198 member JT with 2 pups - leading the pack is Tykie and Maurice

Rest break on the Pack Walk: Nancy & Tykie, Katherine & Ollie, Laakea and Ola, Rose and Sparky, and visitor Brian



Troop 198—CA (cont.)

Monthly Training and Badge-work Sessions

In July, we moved from an indoor setting to an outdoor park, in deference to COVID safety protocols. An advantage is that we have attracted the attention of passers by and their dogs. Fun visitors came through in July! We worked on basic badge skills and discussed Calming Signals.



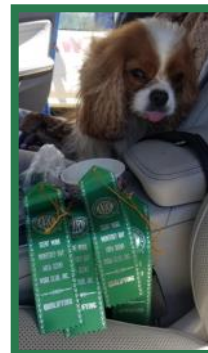
Kristie and Maurice, new member Ripley and Haroldo, Ollie and Katherine, Ruth and Kobi, Nancy and Tykie, Connie and Poppy, Kim with Ruby. Pleasant new location!

The AKC offers interesting challenges for our dogs, in addition to our own DSA badge work. Some of our members accept these challenges and excel!

Here are Chriss and Toby working on Scent skills near Monterey Bay, CA.



Toby shows off his "wins" in Scent Work.



Outdoor dining with dog friendly patio – what's not to like? Good food, good company, good discussions, good doggos! (under the table)



Ruth, Carol, Ripley, Nancy, Kristie and Kim – obviously, serious discussion all things doggie. Delicious Mexican food and beverages.

Many of our members also participate in Therapy Dog work. Recently, a number of the doggos "signed" a designer library card at the El Cerrito, CA, Library. This is the proto-type of a new card. Read-to-a-dog is a special activity for many of us. And while we're doing this on Zoom right now, we all look forward to the time when it will be safe to be face-to-face, and nose-to-nose, dogs and kids.



Geocaching and more!

Kristie and Maurice are becoming quite skilled in this badge, and expanding to other Geocaching groups, as well. Our Troop needs to catch up with them!

Contact Dog Scouts of America

Learning new things that we may be more helpful

Website: dogscouts.org

Facebook: facebook.com/DogScouts

Instagram: instagram.com/dogscoutsofamerica/

Youtube: [Dog Scouts of America - YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCqWz8v8v8v8v8v8v8v8v8v8)
[#dogscoutsofamerica](https://twitter.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 — president@dogscouts.org
(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: 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

Titles/Competition Registration Number: **Kristie Iwamoto** — titles@dogscouts.org

Hosting/Competing: **Sally Hoyle** — president@dogscouts.org

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

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