

The Dog Scout Scoop

Official Newsletter ~ Dog Scouts of America

Volume 24 Issue 5 ~ Winter 2021

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

*The Olsons
hope everyone
has a happy
holiday season*



**Scout
Scoop
&
Troop
Talk
P7**

Notes from National

- The Beast is Here! P4
- Attitude of Gratitude P5
- Badge Bulletin & Title Tales P6
- Turkey Trot Update P24

Deadline: for the next newsletter is

March 1st

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

Available at Sparky's Store

Spark A New Year's Goal

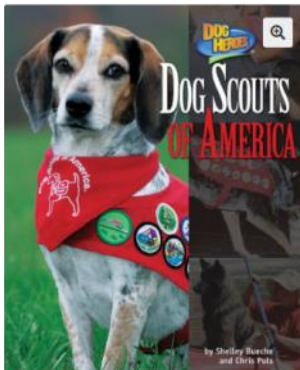


FIRST FINDER PATCH

Developed by Kelly Ford, and designed as a prize for the first person to find a newly planted letterbox or geocache. These patches are a great option for someone who will be working on the letterboxing and/or geocaching badges or titles in the new year.
\$3.00 ea

HEAD PROTECTOR/NECK GAITER

DSA "buff" with custom imprinted design features blue paw prints and bones, with the words "Dog Scouts of America" woven throughout the pattern. It can be worn a myriad of ways for just-right coverage in winter and summer. (Also good for keeping long fluffy ears free from snow and ice.)
\$12.00 ea



DOG SCOUTS OF AMERICA (DOG HEROES)

Intended for kids, this book is a great explanation of what Dog Scouts do. It highlights the journey of a discarded dog through his rise to Dog Scoutdom, and could spark a junior handler's interest in getting involved in positive activities with the family's dog.
\$19.99 ea

5 IN 1 SURVIVAL WHISTLE

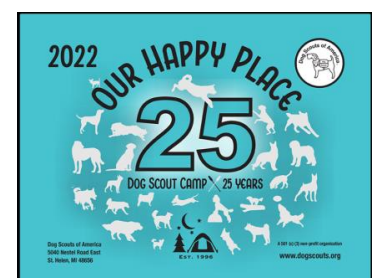
Anyone who will be working on trails badges and/or titles next year may well find this a handy addition to their backpack—this versatile whistle also contains a compass, flint, signal mirror and waterproof match container.
\$6.00 ea



PAINTIN' PAWS MITT

Created by DSA for the Art of Shaping badge, each includes an applicator sponge and step-by-step instructions on how to teach a dog to paint.
\$6.00 ea

Need to keep track of your training schedule, DSA goals and activities? We added a few extra 2022 Calendars to our recent print order—if you missed the pre-order, you can purchase one (or more) for \$19.95 ea—supplies are limited!



Spark A New Year's Goal

What Achievements & Successes Await in 2022?

SCOUT

Pup Scout
Jr Scout
Dog Scout
Honor Scout

AGILITY

60 Weave Pole Challenge
Agility 1
Agility 2
Agility Partners
Agilure
Obstacles 1
Obstacles 2
Obstacles 3
Parkour
Puissance
Triathadog

COMMUNITY SERVICE

Clean-Up America 1 - Cans
Clean-Up America 2 - Poop
Community Service 1
Community Service 2
Community Service 3
DSA Service
Fundraise 1 - Handles
Fundraise 2 - Put/Take
Humane Education
Therapy Dog
Therapy Dog - Reading
Therapy Dog - Hospital

TRAIL DOG TITLES

CycleDog
GeocacheDog
LetterboxDog
PackDog
TrailDog

COMPETITIVE SPORTS

Barn Hunt
Earthdog (Go-to-Ground)
Flyball
Frisbee - Distance/Flight
Frisbee - Freestyle
Herding
Hunt Retriever
Lure Course
Musical Freestyle - Beginner
Musical Freestyle - Intermediate
Musical Freestyle - Advanced
Rally FrEe Novice
Rally FrEe Intermediate
Rally FrEe Advanced
Steeplechase
Treibball Beginner 1
Treibball Beginner 2
Treibball Beginner 3
Treibball 1
Treibball 2

NOSE WORK

Messenger Dog
SAR Agility - Ladders
SAR Agility - Levels
SAR Agility 1
SAR Agility 2
SAR Urban - Direction 1
SAR Urban - Direction 2
SAR Wilderness
Scent Discrimination
Advanced Scent Discrimination
Scent Hurdle Racing
Tracking 1

OBEDIENCE

All Dog Band
Animal-Actor
Art of Shaping (Painting)
Copy Cat
Drill Team
IMPROV
Manners
Naked Dog Obedience
Rally 1
Rally 2
Retrieve
Tricks

RESPONSIBLE PET PARENTING

Disabled Dog
Disaster Preparation
Dog Care
Dog Massage
K9 CPR
K9 First Aid
K9 Fitness
K9 Nutrition
Pho-DOG-raphy
Sign Language
Temperament Test
Travel Safety

PULLING

Carting
Skiing/Scootering
Sledding
Weight Pull

TRAILS & OUTDOORS

Backpacking
Biking
Canicross
Carriage Dog
Geocache 1
Geocache 2
Geocache 3
Hiking
Letterbox 1
Letterbox 2
Letterbox 3
Overnight Camping
Up North Dog
Urban Hiking

WATER

Beach Buddy
Boating Safety
Canoeing
Dock Diving
Flat Water Stand Up Paddle (SUP) Boarding
Kayaking
Puppy Paddler
Water Racing
Water Rescue 1
Water Rescue 2
Water Retrieve

The Beast is Here!

Sally Hoyle—President

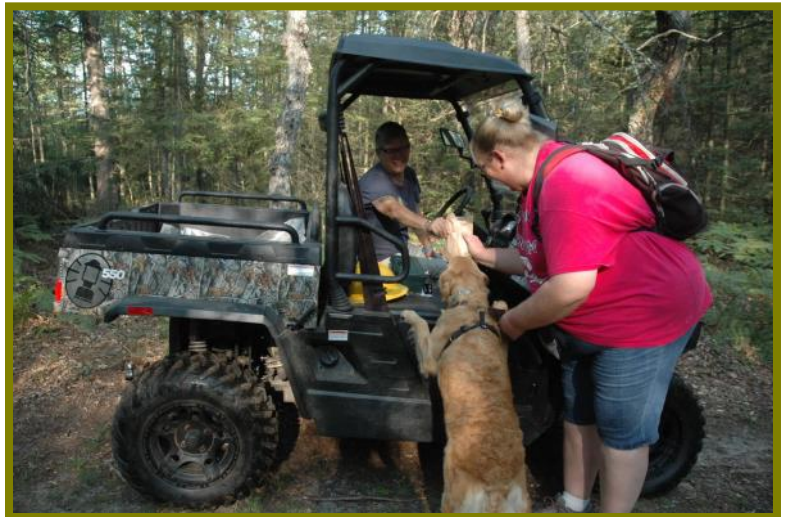
We are very excited about our recent purchase of a UTV for our Michigan Camp property! Affectionately called “the Beast”, the UTV was approved by the Board of Directors and purchased earlier this year. This vehicle has already proven its worth in the clean up we did at camp this year.

One of the reasons that this purchase is so exciting is that it is the first piece of equipment used on the property other than the tractor that is actually owned by DSA. This is important because we have routinely used equipment owned by Lonnie in trying to maintain the property, including the golf carts, a trailer, and her personal trucks, causing years of wear and tear. In some cases, we have been using this equipment in ways it was never meant to be used, like pulling trailers with golf carts.

As you may remember, the last winter was particularly rough on the property with many, many downed trees and branches. With nearly 1000 volunteer hours used in cleaning up the property, we actually never quite caught up. There are still many piles of branches and brush that were not brought in for burning, and now we are facing another winter. Though this is all expected when you own a 80-acre wooded property, the process became much faster and easier once the UTV was purchased. We expect our 2022 spring clean up to be much more efficient using the UTV.

We have towed in many loads of trees and branches with the UTV, and have used the winch to pull trees weighing hundreds of pounds out of a ditch and then carry them to an appropriate location. We also used the winch to pull one of the golf carts out of the mud when it got stuck. We have learned to change the oil ourselves and had a remote installed that makes the winch much easier to use.

We recognize the investment that we have made in this vehicle and are sure that “the Beast” will serve us well for many, many years! We have put rules around the use of the UTV to protect our investment including limiting drivers and...gasp!...a “no dogs” policy. While “the Beast” may look like some of the others out there, it is not a “toy”. It is a true workhorse and is used only for that purpose.



Sorry Pumpkin. You are not allowed to ride

Thank You

Attitude of Gratitude

A great BIG Thank You to Joanne Weber, who generously donated a Generac standby Generator, including delivery and installation, to the Michigan camp. We will no longer suffer power outages and the resultant dependence on Lonnie's personal portable generator. Just imagine not having to fetch buckets of water from the pond to flush toilets! Hooray!! Thanks so much, Joanne!

Sally and Julie Lawler-Hoyle donated a new flatbed scanner/printer to the Lodge office. The old one had stopped being able to communicate with the two office laptops, and this new one is a dandy! Those of us who have need of the printer during camps and outings really appreciate it!

Cheryl and Bob Ashford made another very generous monetary donation to DSA, to help us with ongoing efforts and expenses. Thank you so much! What would we do without generous members like you!

Bill and Barrie Lynn Wood donated two Pelican Kayaks with paddles to the Michigan Camp. They're nice, and we thank you so much for donating and delivering them to camp!

Kaylene Long Created Vinyl numbers for the lodge rooms, so that when we don't have the printed placards with the person's name and room number on it on the door, we'll still be able to know which room number it is. They look really nice. Kaylene also made a monetary donation to go toward camp improvements, more specifically using the foundation of the demolished nature center to have some additional cement poured and made into a nice rectangular pad, which will eventually be covered with a pavilion. Thanks, Kaylene!

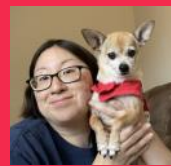
Fay Reid donated a huge amount of auction items for one of our outings, and helped raise a lot of money for DSA. We appreciate Fay thinking of DSA with items she knows will result in some heavy bidding/fundraising for our cause. Thanks, Fay!

Thanks to Jeff Parker and Hemi, who participated in a matching grant donation with his employer, Jovian Software Consulting LLC. This was a very generous donation to DSA. Thanks, Jeff and Hemi.

Thank You

Badge Bulletin & Title Tales

By Kristie Iwamoto (Maurice's Mom)



Congratulations to Our New Title Holders!

It's been a busy time for Trail Titles! Congratulations and great job to everyone who earned Trail Titles between September and November!

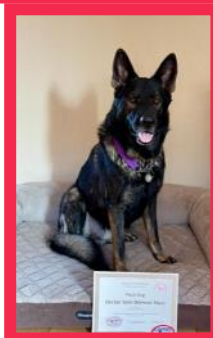
TRAIL DOG

Raise the Jib; Smooth Sailing Ahead! Almann (UT4K)
Sky Cranston
Calamity Jane Tarnation Donaldson (TD, TDX) (pictured)
Katie Hoyle (UT1K)
Mackenzie Hoyle (TD750)
Booker Keel
Goldy Reid
Amy Strathman (TDX)
Los Suenos MySpyGuy WesternHills Tucker (TDX)
Patch Walker (UT3K, UT4K)
Moose Wood (TDX)



PACK DOG

Declan Vom Wenner Haus Aiken (pictured)
Sky Cranston
Booker Keel (PDX)
Amy Strathman (PDX)
Patch Walker
Bam Bam Wood



LETTERBOX DOG

Sky Cranston (pictured)
Katie Hoyle (LBX)
Mackenzie Hoyle (LBD, LBA)
Sallywag Olson



GEOCACHE DOG

Kismet Olson

CYCLE DOG

Amy Strathman (CDX)

Scout Scoop & Troop Tales

Troop 101—MI

Goldy Reid (with help from Fay)

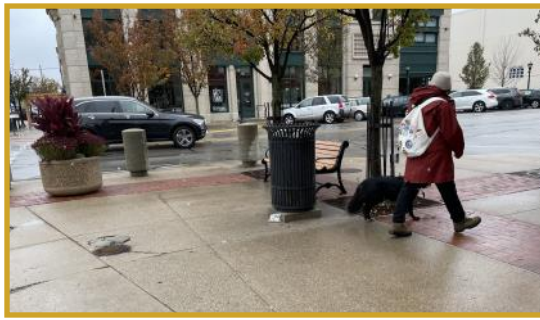
Members of troop 101 have been working on the Drill team badge to the song “Bang” by AJR. It has been a fun badge to work on requiring a lot of teamwork not only with individual teams but also the team as a whole. It requires each member to be in step with the music and the individual teams to know their parts so that they are a cohesive group.

We faced a few challenges and some of the things we learned from this badge:

- New skills for our dogs
- Remember to take things slow especially expecting dogs to preform in close proximity to other dogs like they do at home.
- Commit to practice times ahead so everyone can make it.
- Commit to the routine upfront so that it doesn't keep changing, (hard for us old folks to remember).

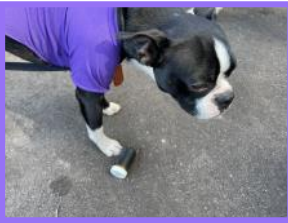


Members of Troop 101 are working on the new Urban Hiking – visiting new towns, places we haven't been to, exposing dogs to things they may not have seen before.



Troop 101—MI (cont.)

Part of our Urban Hiking included attending the Midland Santa Parade for the first time as a troop along with several members of troop 217. That also included a hot cocoa walk afterwards. During the Midland Santa Parade Jax worked on the carting badge dressed as a tree. Goldy & Booker also joined troop 217 in the Garden City parade. Goldy completed her Keep America Beautiful badge.



Many of our members have found Letterboxing & Geocaching a fun way to spend time together in nature working on badges and titles.

Many of our scouts earned the new Up North Dog badge at the August Michigan camp (Goldy, Kismet, Scallywag, Booker) and others during the Fall Outing (Molly & Jax) that was held at camp. Jax had a hard time with the bridge but with patience and persistence he made it! Others are working on it and hopefully in the spring will achieve it.



The Fall Outing and Craft Weekends held at the Michigan camp included activities, games, crafts, some badge work and just relaxing with our friends both 2 & 4 legged.



Booker & Molly earned the 60 weave pole.

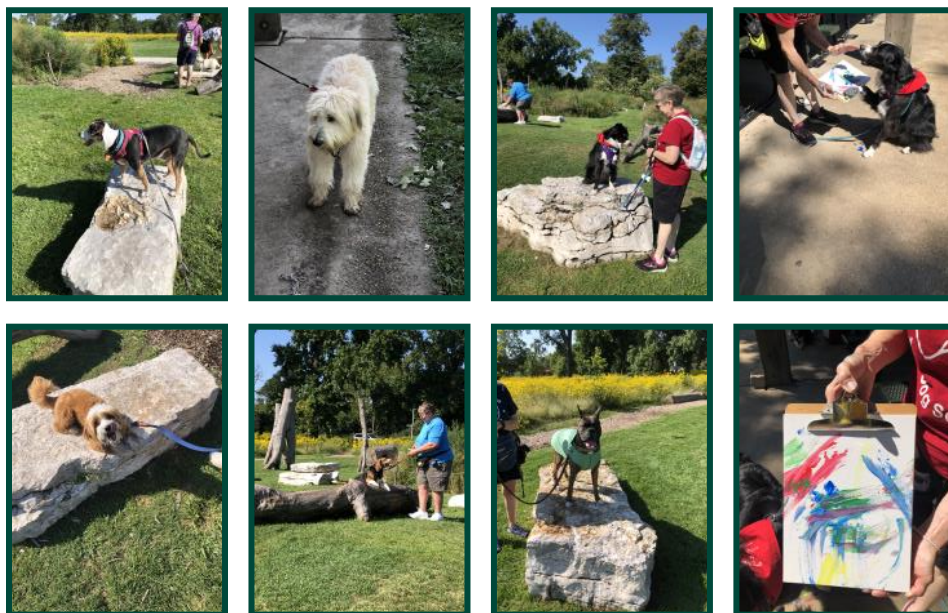
Molly & Jax earned the overnight camping with Booker, Shadow, Kismet & Scallywag going along for the walk & camping.

Troop 149—MO ~ River City Rovers

Submitted by Fran Beezley and Dog Scout Barney

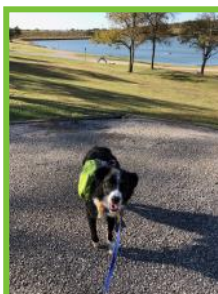
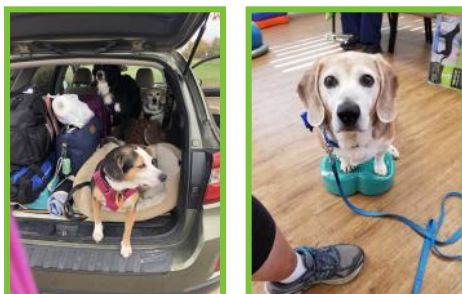
September 2021

It was another beautiful day for a meeting in one of our local parks. Our first activity was to walk in the Anne Albrecht Nature Playscape where the dogs could practice some Parkour activities. Then we worked on some badge activities and Roxie earned her Shaping Badge by creating a masterpiece of art.

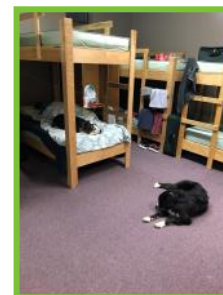
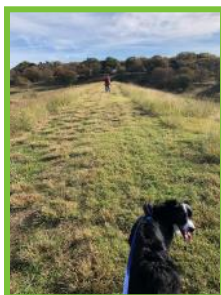


November 2021

No official meeting was held but three of our troop made the journey to Waxahachie, Texas, to join Troop 119 for their mini-camp. This was Roxie's first trip to camp, and she loved it. Barney had gone to their day camp the year before, but this was his first experience at attending 24/7 for 4 days. And Lou was our veteran, having attended several previous camps. At 15 ½, he was the oldest scout in attendance, but he showed those young pups how to have fun! He even went on the 2-mile hike.



There were so many activities to pick from that it was hard to choose. In the end, Roxie earned 5 badges (Puppy Paddlers, Band, Steeplechase, Obstacles 1 and Obstacles 2). Barney earned 3 (Obstacles 1, Obstacles 2, and Steeplechase) and Lou earned 2 (Disabled Dog and Doga). Lou also hid a geocache for his Geocaching 1 badge. Barney didn't quite finish all of his Disabled Dog but was able to work on it when he got home and complete all of the needed work. All three dogs are ready to go again!

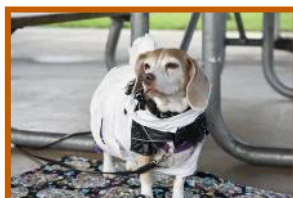


Troop 157—FL ~ Broward County Paw Patrol

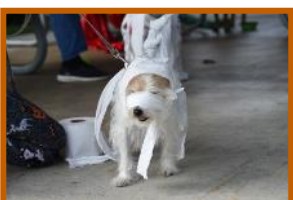
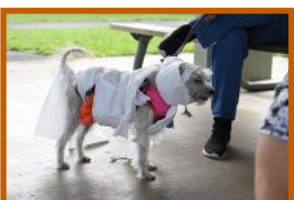
Teresa Irvine



October Troop Meeting/Halloween Party



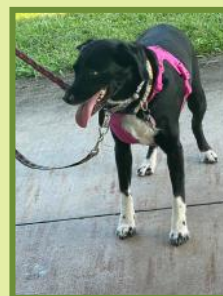
It has been awhile since our Troop was able to have an in person Troop Meeting and Halloween party, but we were finally able to pull it off and had great attendance. Pumpkin decorated cookies and cupcakes were brought. We played a few games, talked about some future events planned and showcased our pups in their Halloween costumes - which our pups (Biscoff, Bubbles, Clover, Katie, Lucy, Luna, Penny, River) didn't seem to mind. All in all it was a fun event to get together and catch up.



DSA Classes

Over the past couple of month' our very own Dog Trainer and Troop Member Monica Pajuelo has been holding DSA training classes. These are classes that work on fundamental training skills along with skills for future sign-off on DSA Badges.

This is the best time of year in Florida to work outside with our pups and not worry about the heat. Shout out to Biscoff (Monica), Penny (Shari), Lucy (Roxanna), Jasmine (Kim) and Katie (Andrea) for attending the classes. Monica has seen the improvements made class over class.

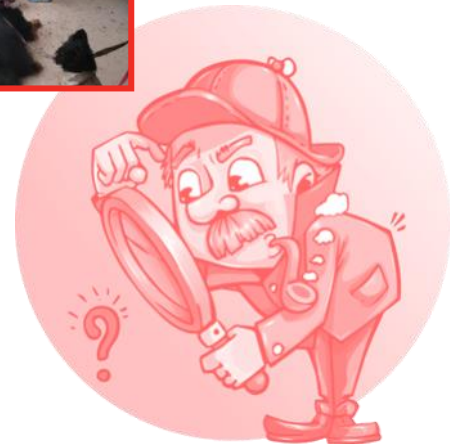


Troop 157—FL



Cluedupp

Canine sleuths, Penny, Biscoff, Bubbles, Luna, Aurora, Lucy & Clover teamed up on Nov. 6th to solve the Cluedupp Boca Raton Ripper Case. It was great practice for the Urban Hiking badge, and a really good time! And we solved the crime! We had so much fun we signed up for a future event!



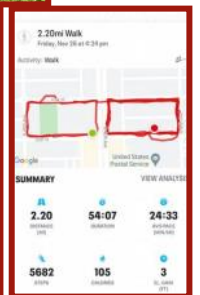
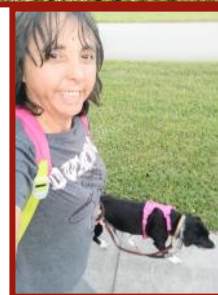
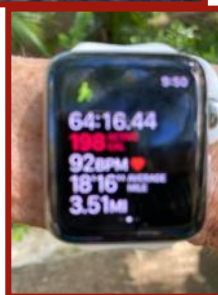
Leave-It Challenge

Our very own River completed his 9th Annual "Leave It" challenge! You ROCKED it River!

Sparky's Turkey Trot

This year we kept with tradition meeting at a local park to participate in the 7th Annual DSA Sparky's Turkey Trot. We scheduled the walk on the day after Thanksgiving to burn off some of those extra calories. For those who were not able to make this date they completed their walk virtually at other locations, such as Costa Rica.

It was such a beautiful day for everyone who participated no matter where they were. Thank you Clover (Christine), Ripley (Teresa), Penny (Shari), Lucy (Roxanna), and Jolie (Maria) who were able to participate this year.



Troop 177—IN

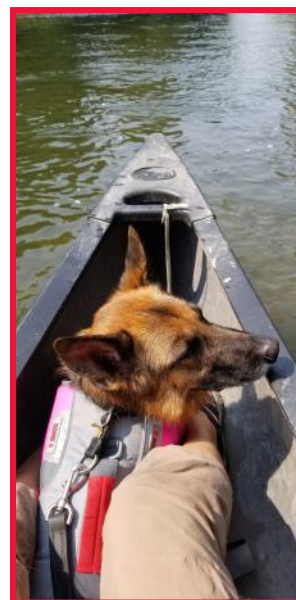
Robyn Porter

Troop #177 members enjoyed a canoe trip on August 7.

We had great weather and it was good to get outside for a day. There were plenty of other kayaks and canoes on the water that day. Others are always impressed with how well behaved our dogs are in the watercraft!



Emily and Lucy with



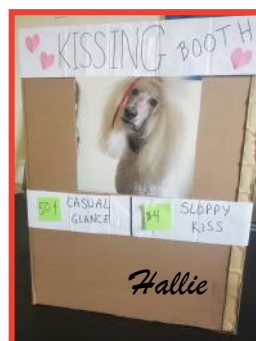
Zena in canoe front



Happy Hallie with Robyn and Sharon



At our September 12 troop meeting, members practiced DSA Certification skills. In addition, our pups posed in a Kissing Booth! Is this an idea for future fundraiser?



Hallie Porter celebrated her 13th birthday on November 23 by stitching her new Scent Discrimination badge on her vest! Robyn and Hallie also completed their first shift bell ringing this season on the day after Thanksgiving.



Hallie raising donations for Salvation Army

Troop 183—FL

Shirley Conley—Troop Leader

August

Troop 183 worked on the components of the Manners badge, we made progress on sending the dog to “Say Hello” (using the sign language cue for friend and go), beginning steps for “bang” for the cue for the dog to lie on his side, following a hand target and “excuse me.”

September

In September a couple of the Troop got together and introduced the dogs to scentwork—using birch in containers. The main goal for the session was to build a history of reinforcement associated with the scent. We progressed to having the dogs work on 4 containers and reinforcing for hanging out at the container holding the source of the odor.

October

October brought the Troop together to review some of the exercises for Naked Dog Obedience. Specifically on working on the performance of 5 different behaviors in random order and building distance between handler and dog. The dogs also worked on getting lots of treats for hanging out in heel position for 10 steps.

November

For our November meeting we rented an agility field to enjoy the glorious Florida Fall weather and give our dogs some exercise as we worked through various parts of an agility course. Handlers were encouraged to pay attention to how their body posture and their line of travel could push out or draw in their dogs and practice giving directional cues with the arm closest to the dog to make it easier for the beginner dogs to follow. Some of our dogs were new to agility, so we helped them figure out the tunnel, and kept the jumps low for them and those with physical challenges, and a couple of our slightly more experienced dogs were thrilled to be fly again after being grounded due to COVID restrictions for such a long time.

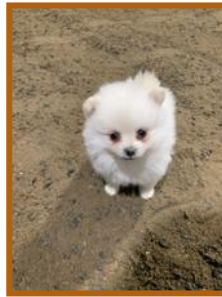
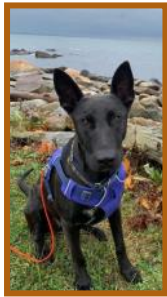
Congratulations to the Conley Collies—Tachi who finished his AKC Scent Work Excellent title and Manners badge, and Nim who finished her AKC Scent Work Advanced title in November.



Troop 188—Ledyard CT

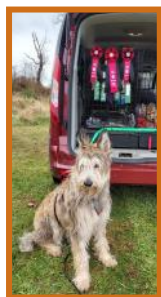
Kathy Freeman

It's been a very busy fall for Troop 188!



We welcomed several new dogs to our troop- Phaedra, Ripple, and Chowda. All are actively working toward their Dog Scout Badge.

Speaking of which, we are excited to report that troop members Kenzi and Wyatt Costas earned theirs!



Troop members participated in local scenting, lure coursing, and other canine sporting events. Petra had a great first year in scenting, earning several titles and showing a great talent at the sport.

Two members, Breeze Nado and Firefly Grove, were invited to our Regional Dock Diving competition. Breeze earned a new title and finished the season as top distance dog in his breed. Firefly placed 1st in the Senior Lap Dog division! She also earned her Dock Senior Excellent title.



Doug Simon and Thunder Lake earned DMWYD Advanced Trick Dog titles while working toward their Tricks badge, and Nell Freeman earned her CGC.

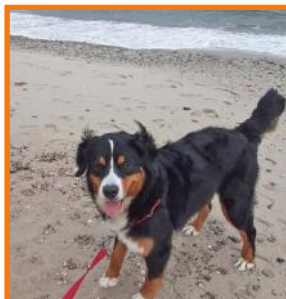
Troop 188—CT (cont.)

We provided community service at a local dog event, hosting a booth checking microchips and giving out information on chip registration, as well as Dog Scouts.

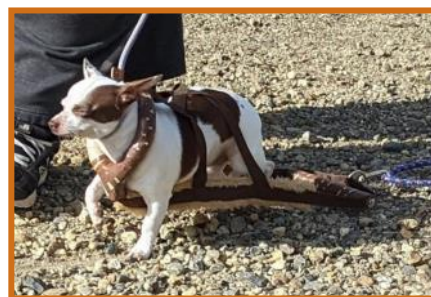


There is no place like New England in the fall, and Troop 188 has taken full advantage of the season. Until recently, the weather was still warm enough for Scouts to continue swimming, and you were likely to find Firefly, Sassy, Thunder, and Doug prepping for their next swim badges. The Troop attended a Ren Faire, explored a pumpkin patch, went on urban and woodland hikes.

We celebrated Halloween by donning costumes and performing tricks for treats at a local senior housing center, and honored our nation's veterans by visiting various memorials on Veteran's Day. A local pumpkin patch provided great photo ops, and troop members have been opting outside walking beaches and hiking trails.



Recently several of our members, from tall to small, have started working on their weight pulling badges. Thunder, Sassy, Doug, Firefly, Breeze and Clara participated in a weight pull "try-it" session and beginner class.



As the snow starts to fly we won't be slowing down. Winter plans include working on scent discrimination, weight pulling, winter hikes, and, of course, one of our biggest fundraisers, Pet Photos with Santa!

We wish all of our Dog Scouts friends a happy and healthy 2022!

Troops 198—CA

Leah Lane—Event Coordinator

Lots of fun and progress to share with you all, this is what our troop has been doing....

On September 19th we had our monthly training at Calero Park in San Jose and one of the things we worked on was teaching our dogs to read and do the "SIT" cue.



Our teams working with the "SIT" cue card.



Donna & Wishbone



Denise & Kokoro



Kate & Cora



Jadelynn & Daphne

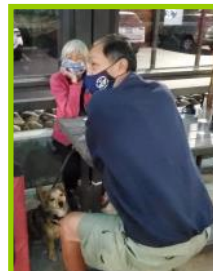


Andrea demonstrating as well as flashing the cue card for Gnocchi

On 09/28 we had our monthly meeting at Armadillo Willy's, we had a good turn out and lots of fun.



Carlotta, Mily the puppy, Christina, Donna, Wishbone, Cora, Kate, Denise and Kokoro



Janet and Rod with their new rescue Cider on his first outing



Bob and Debee had some friends join them and their three Golden's, on this end of the table



On this end of the table are Dayton and a visiting Golden friend Aaron as well as Jadelynn and little Daphne



This is the much slower blur known as Duncan next to Jadelynn and Daphne with Travis



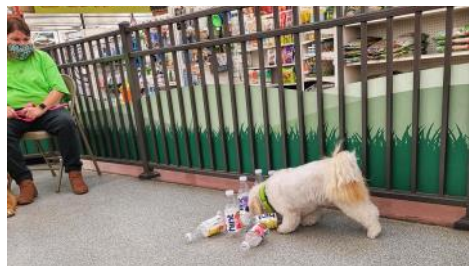
Here we have Patty with Sprocket and the blur of constant motion known as Trevor



And this is the best shot of first-time attendees Travis, Deanne, and Mad Max their new rescue

Troops 198—CA (Cont.)

In October we had a very bad storm the day of our Halloween Party, but we had a great time and were warm and dry because Pet Food Express of Campbell graciously allowed us to use their store to gather and enjoy the Halloween holiday. Pet Food Express also provided five \$25 Pet Food Express Gift cards, discount coupons, and treat samples to hand out for game prizes at the party. Thank you so very much Pet Food Express! We played many fun doggie games at the party.



Wishbone getting a strike at Dog Bowling



Sprocket showing his Dog Bowling



Donna and Wishbone playing the Dog Biscuit Concentration Game

And of course, we played Tic Tac Dog.



Yeti and Trevor starting off the first game



The Gumbin Goldens, Crystal, Luna, and Bailey, (Team X), taking the square to win against Sprocket and Wishbone, (Team O)



The final game: Crystal on the top row, Wishbone, Tribble and Yeti in the middle row with Sadie, Luna, and Duncan on the bottom

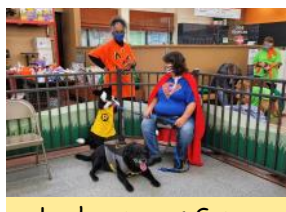
Such Great Fun and Such Great Players!



The Guthrie pack came as a Bar-B-Q, with Patty as the beverage Sprocket as the cheeseburger and Crystal as the hot dog!



Jadelynn and Daphne as matching Jack-O-Lanterns



Leah came as Super Dog Mom and Donna sported a Jack-O-Lantern tee shirt

We also had our Halloween Costume Contest



The Lane pack came as Superheroes, Duncan was Batman, Trevor was Robin



The Randall pack went with a garden theme with Sadie as a Fairy and Ryelee as a Bumble Bee



Our second prize winner for the costume contest was the Gumbin Pack who came as the Teen Age Mutant Ninja Turtles with human sister Christina rounding out the fabulous foursome



And our First Prize winners for the costume contest was the Weaver Pack who came all dressed up in formal Top Hat and Tails and wearing signs that said "Sorry". They came as a FORMAL APOLOGY! Such a clever idea! Awesome job, Blake, Yeti, Elle Belle, and little Tribble

Troops 198—CA (Cont.)

On November 26th members of our troop gathered to hit the road and rack up the miles needed for the DSA Mile Gobbler and Turkey Trot.



Trevor & Christina trotted their way to the head of the pack



Crystal, Patty, Sprocket, Donna, Duncan, and Wishbone followed behind, with Carlotta, Crystal & Luna next in line



A great time with great friends raising money for a great organization, Dog Scouts of America!



With Lennie, Sadie and little Ryelee bringing up the rear

Troop 198 also has several special events and achievements to share.



Asia Phillips DSA earned her first AKC Rally Novice Leg (9/4)



Cadet Trevor Lane graduated Puppy Class and earned his AKC Star Puppy Certification (9/19)



Cadet Ryelee joined the Randall pack and came to live with big sister Sadie and Mom Lennie Randall (9/25)



Cadet Trevor Lane earned his AKC CGC Title (10/3)



Cadet Trevor Lane earned his AKC Novice Tricks Title (10/10)



Tacoma Phillips DSA finished his AKC Excellent Handler Discrimination Title (10/16)



Asia Phillips DSA took 4th place and her first AKC Advanced Rally Leg (10/23)



Rebel Phillips DSA earned his AKC Urban Dog Title (11/7)



Cadet Ryelee Randall earned her Pup Scout Title (11/26)

We are so thankful for our time together and to belong to such a great organization, looking forward to hearing about what the rest of you have been up to and sending you all our best wishes for merry holidays and a Happy New Year!

Troop 217—MI ~ Motor City K9's

Sally Hoyle—Troop Leader

Recently our troop has been focused on a new activity that has quickly become a favorite...Urban Hiking! We have had so much fun with this badge and have enjoyed the new places we have explored while walking in urban areas. As a troop we had a big outing where we met in Detroit and walked 3 miles along the Dequindre Cut, a former street turned into an urban oasis. There were plenty of novel experiences for the dogs including bicycles (one being ridden backwards!), strollers, people on roller blades, loud music, and the horn and back up noises from a trash truck and many other things.

Following our walk we headed to Hitsville USA for a photo op. This excursion was actually the first time that the Motor City K9s had an activity within the city limits of Detroit! Members have also completed urban walks in Jackson, Fenton, Owosso, Midland, Garden City, Plymouth, and Marshall. We are very thankful for this new badge as it has taken us to many wonderful cities across Michigan.

A number of our dogs have completed the requirements for and have earned the Urban Hiking badge. These dogs are Matty Ashford (our newest Dog Scout), Sky Cranston, Maia Thierry, Bam Bam and Moose Wood, and Sam, Katie and Mackenzie Hoyle. Many others are well on their way and are expected to earn this badge very soon. All this walking has helped some of our dogs to earn trails titles as well with Bam Bam earning his PD title and Moose earning her TDX. Sky has earned her PD and TD. Mackenzie has earned her TD 750 and Katie has earned her TD1K.

We have also been doing a lot of letterboxing, something our troop has enjoyed for many years. Some of us are old pros, but we are really happy to have others are now catching the letterboxing bug and are joining the group on our outings. We have been able to combine letterboxing and Urban Hiking in some cases and have really enjoyed locating letterboxes, and some geocaches in urban areas that are new to us. Jaxson Baughman recently earned his Letterbox 1 badge as did Moose Wood. Pumpkin Neu and Sky Cranston earned their LBD titles. Mackenzie Hoyle earned her LBD and LBA titles and Katie Hoyle earned her LBA and LBX titles. Our letterboxing adventures take us to so many great places! We have four more mapped out and are just waiting for the right time to go. We hope that we are able to have some warmer (for Michigan) days this winter so we can continue our adventures.



Troop 217 (cont.)

Troop 217 loves a good parade and this holiday season we have done two great ones. We joined members of Troop 101 to do the Parade in Midland, MI and then invited them to join us for our traditional parade in Garden City. Both parades were a lot of fun and we hope Troop 101 will want to do the Midland parade again next year as we really enjoyed it, though at 3+ miles, it was the longest parade we have ever experienced!



We are very proud of Tali McQuade! She and her mom Donna have been working very hard to earn Tali's Therapy Dog certification and they recently achieved it. We know they will both really enjoy this work and can't wait to have them join us for events of this type!



GREAT WORK

DRILL TEAM We have been working on the Drill Team badge, which we have introduced in our Zoom meetings. We have reviewed the badge requirements and have introduced the first moves. Participating members will work on moves individually over the winter as they are taught in our Zoom meetings. Then we will come together in the spring to work as a group, perfect our moves, and perform the routine. This is a pretty unique approach to Drill Team, but one that seems to be working so far. We will provide an update on how it's going once spring arrives.

So what's next for our troop? Well, we have a rather busy winter planned with an upcoming trip to a tree farm and visit with Santa. We are planning to go on a lantern hike in December and will do a First Day hike on January 1. Special holiday therapy visits are taking place now and Sam has a holiday kissing booth planned for a special event at a memory care facility for patients and their families. He is also looking forward to another fraternity house visit in January. Our schedule filled up so quickly in November and December and we were unable to have a holiday party, so we have scheduled a post-holiday "holiday" party in January. We will play holiday games, eat some good food and talk about goals for 2022. A number of us are really excited about a cognitive K9 workshop we are doing in three sessions in January. This type of work is really fun and right in line with DSA's views on training.

We would like to wish all troops and members around the world a safe and happy holiday season!

Troops 237—East Bay, CA

Ruth Robinson—Troop Leader

Knock, Knock. Who's there? Scents. Scents who? Makes Scents to me! (woof-woof)

What is the opposite of a Leave It With Food? How about a “go find it”.

What is the opposite of a tried and true obedience skill? How about “IMPROV”.

A dog's brain is just amazing, as is his sense of smell and desire to please. All of the above are well-and-good skills to teach and learn for our dogs. Best of all: these are just plain FUN for both handler and dog to engage in. Throw in a lot of learning games, and as they say in the UK, “Bob's Your Uncle”. Whatever that means...

Our Troop schedules at least 3 activities a month: social, training and pack walks. Here's a recap of our September-November events!

September IMPROV

On a chilly September morning, we learned new IMPROV skills.

Troop 237 attempted an informal IMPROV fun match exercise. We did two rounds which were each a minute long for each dog. In the first round, handlers had one minute to get their dogs in a circle (width three feet) on the ground. Handlers had to stay at least ten feet away from their dogs at all times, and treats could not be used. Any part of the dog in any part of the circle got a point, but whole body in the circle or prolonged staying inside the of the circle got extra points. Handlers used a variety of methods such as throwing toys, “stay/come” commands, and send commands.

For the second round, a canvas bag containing a blanket was placed in the middle of the area. The sixty second time limit, ten-foot separation and no treats rules were still in effect. The scoring went as follows:

Nose on the bag – one point

Paw on the bag – two points

Pulling the bag for any duration – three points

Pulling bag out of designated area – four points

The troop had a great time, and the exercise generated a lot of conversation about what training worked or could be taught for those particular behaviors.



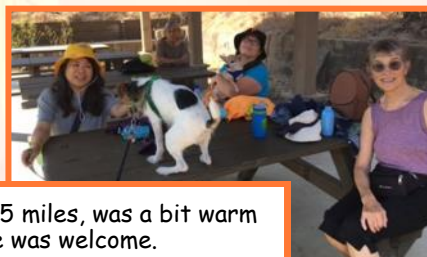
Kristie Iwamoto introduced our troop to IMPROV and it was a huge hit



Dogs enjoyed the challenges and the dog parents just had fun



Toby is getting the idea, while Maurice retreated to his comfy bed for a little break.

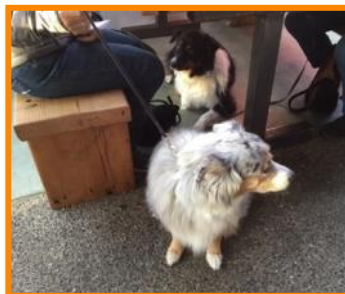


The September Pack Walk, of about 2.5 miles, was a bit warm for our doggos, so a break in the shade was welcome.

Troops 237 (Cont.)

October

The first Wednesday of the month finds us at Los Moles, a delightful, dog-friendly restaurant near by. Yum! Our furry guests get to hang out, generally under a table or two. . . . Unless, of course, you're small enough to sit on a lap!



October Troop Meeting and Training Session

Let's learn some tricks to enhance our obedience skills. Touch, Look At Me, Sit Pretty, Roll out Your Bed (or yoga mat in this case). And since it was early Halloween, Bobbing for Carrots.



Little Dude, Maurice



Big Dude, Kobi



Gathering of the Troop, ready to have fun



We love learning new games!



Love those carrots! Big guy thinks this is great



Ruby-girl loves her carrots!



Pack Walk in October, Pt. Pinole Regional Park, California
—Lovely weather, sunny skies, mild temps.



Ripley and Haroldo, ready for tracking and working on hiking badges

Troops 237 (Cont.)

November

Heading into the end of the calendar year. We encouraged folks to participate in the Annual Sparky's Turkey Trot. Our very own member, Sparky (not as in the original Sparky, however) the dog was not able to participate because his family welcomed a new baby, Alma, and of course Sparky's parents needed to take care of the little "sister". Maybe later...

Our Troop Meeting was the Knock-Knock joke at the top of this post. First we practiced Leave It with food. (Good dogs, well done!) Then we were introduced to scent work, using an essential oil that did not smell like any food they would be likely to munch. Those scent paths are easy to follow, but not a simple skill to fully achieve. We will work on this.



Practice, practice, practice!

Carol and Sadie are proud of their accomplishments



Nancy and Tykie nail it!

Scent Paths...and we're off. Maybe... This is harder than it looks!



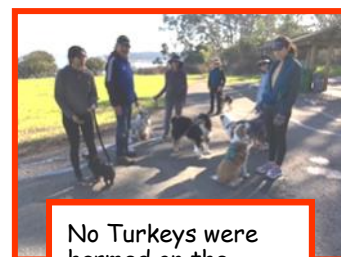
And our Turkey Trot day was perfect Bay Area weather – sunny, bright blue skies and mild temps. We welcomed 3 new folks and dogs on our hike.



Kristie and Maurice made sure all doggos were safe!



Where did all these Aussies come from??



No Turkeys were harmed on the Turkey Trot Hike!

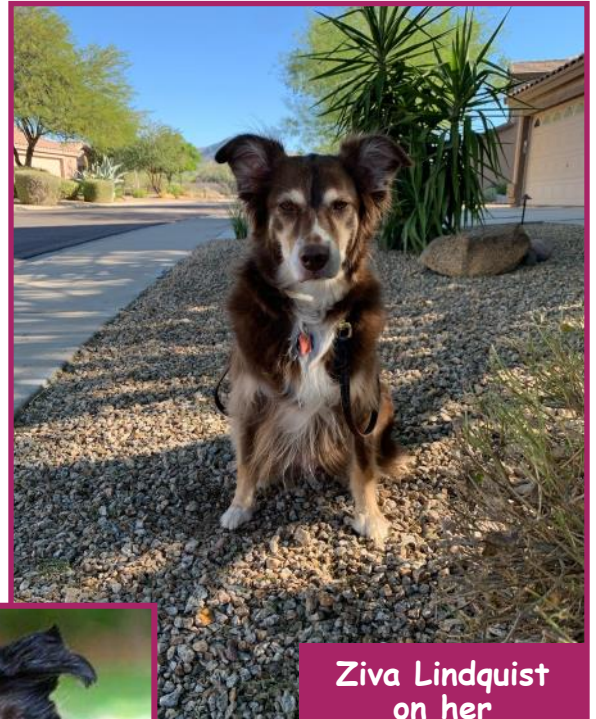
We're looking forward to December, and fun times. For a Service Project, we're collecting items for the Berkeley Humane Thrift Store, which is a good place for humans to shop.

Our Pack Walk will take place on New Year's Eve Day, which is a great way to end 2021 and sort of start 2022! Happy New Year everyone from Troop 237!

Sparky's 7th Annual Turkey Trot



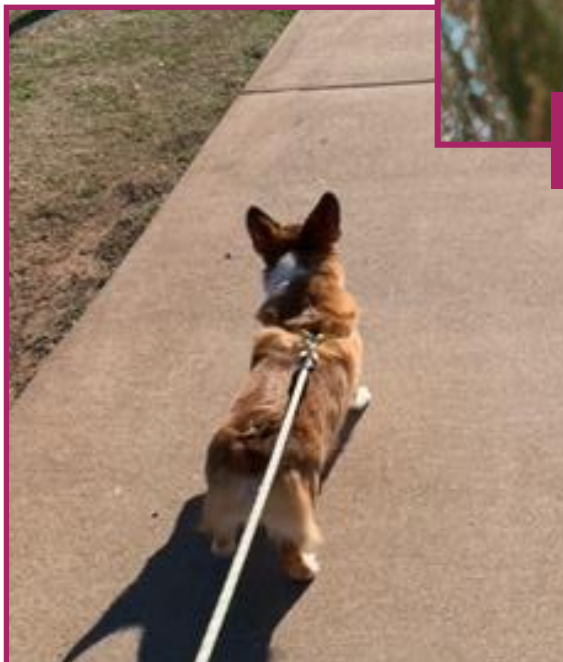
Stacey and Ruby Damm trotted in the Pittsburgh Botanic Garden



Ziva Lindquist on her Turkey Trot



Mika Keneally in New Zealand



Casper the Corgi and Marcia Odal trotted around Sikes Lake in Wichita Falls Texas 1 mile exactly on Thanksgiving day



Cutter and Westen Tucker hope everyone had a great Thanksgiving

Thank you to all who registered and/or donated to DSA through the Turkey Trot and Mile Gobbler. Over \$2,800 was raised for Dog Scouts of America.

Contact Dog Scouts of America

Learning new things that we may be more helpful

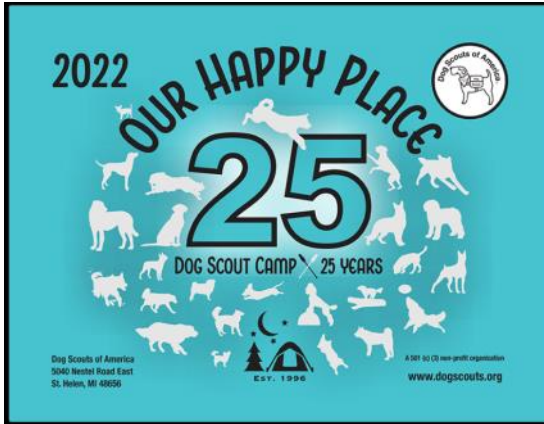
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Facebook: facebook.com/DogScouts

Instagram: [instagram.com/dogscoutsofamerica/](https://www.instagram.com/dogscoutsofamerica/)

Youtube: [Dog Scouts of America - YouTube](#)

#dogscoutsofamerica



Did you miss the calendar pre-order?
We ordered a few extra—place your
order at Sparky's Store. \$19.95 ea

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)