

The Dog Scout Scoop

Official Newsletter ~ Dog Scouts of America

Volume 25 Issue 1 ~ Spring 2022

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

*Amy
Strathman
pulling in the
New Year*



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Scoop
&
Troop
Talk
P7**

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Deadline: for the next newsletter is

June 1st

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

Attitude of Gratitude

Thanks to Barrie Lynn and Bill Wood for donating, delivering and setting up a new bed in cabin#4, and donating a vacuum cleaner to the lodge, also.

Thanks to Sally and Julie Lawler-Hoyle for purchasing a set of sled runners for one of the camp dogsleds, so now it is usable.

Thanks to Vickie Lomas for her help in getting "Share Point" set up for DSA. It's a software system enabling us to share important information with our membership online. Thanks to Melissa Matteson for suggesting it.

Thanks to Barb Whiting for being our accountant for the last 10 years. She'll be retiring soon, and wants to do some traveling.



How Versatile is Your Troop Leader?

By Shirley Conley, Vice President

At our January Troop Leader meeting, DSA introduced a **new** program exclusively for our hardworking Troop Leaders and Co-Troop Leaders. The main goals of the **Versatile Troop Leader Program** are to:

- **Recognize** leaders who distinguish themselves through achieving merit badges in multiple categories.
- **Facilitate** leaders' personal goal setting.
- **Motivate** leaders to expand their knowledge and skill set.
- **Increase** leaders' **confidence** as goals are accomplished which may initially be outside of their personal comfort zones.
- **Pave the way** towards the Honor Scout title.
- **Inspire** troop members to follow a positive example and venture into new activities.
- **Support** troop members with mentors who understand DSA's safety and skill requirements.
- **Convey** to interested dog owners the wide range of activities available with DSA membership.

We also see this as an opportunity for troops to further convey to local dog owners:

- the **long-term commitment** our Troop Leaders have personally made to the mission and vision of Dog Scouts,
- the **diverse skills and experience** our exceptional leaders have acquired and
- the **successful application of positive training methods** in all dog-related activities and sports.

Leaders can be recognized at one of five levels for the merit badges they achieve with their personal dogs while they are active Troop Leaders or Co-Troop Leaders. They will receive a personalized certificate and their status will be listed by their name on the "Find a Troop" page.

Bronze

- Leader's personal dog has earned at least one badge from 5 different categories.

Silver

- Same dog has earned 5 additional badges from any 5 categories – this may be from the same category as the previous level or from new categories.

Gold

- Same dog has earned 5 additional badges from any 5 categories – this may be from the same categories as any of the previous levels or from new categories.

Platinum

- Same dog has earned 5 additional badges from any 5 categories – this may be from the same categories as any of the previous levels or from new categories.
- A numeric designation will be added in recognition for each dog the leader achieves the Platinum leadership level.

Diamond

- Leader has maintained an active troop for a minimum of 5 years.
- Leader is an evaluator for at least 1 badge in 5 different categories.
- Leader's listed dog has earned the DSA Service badge plus at least 1 "Advanced Level" badge from 5 additional categories.
- A numeric designation will be added in recognition for each dog the leader achieves the Diamond leadership level.



Meeting attendees were provided with the log (which is now available on our website) and we expect to have the "Find A Troop" page updated this quarter to reflect the submissions we have received.

YOU'RE INVITED!

What: A Letterboxing Event (**The Power of PAWSitivity**)

Where: Bay City State Park, Bay City, Michigan

When: May 7th, 2022

Have you tried Letterboxing? It's a fun activity for you and your dog, or even to do with human friends!

Letterboxing is a global activity, so anywhere you go on planet earth, you may be able to find letterboxes. You can do a search on www.Atlasquest.com for your own area or an area where you plan to travel. At atlas quest, there will be information about the letterboxes, like if there will be a hand-carved stamp, if dogs are allowed there, if there is a cost to get in an area, and when the box was last found (to give you an idea if it's still there). There will be clues, that often read like a "treasure map," telling you where to park, what direction to walk or which trail to take, the clues might include compass headings, or they may say something, like "go right at the first fork in the trail and continue for 8 paces..."

So, if you have already done some letterboxing, or are new to this activity, go to our event page:

<https://www.atlasquest.com/showinfo.php?eventId=4550>

and RSVP to let us know you will attend. Due to covid, we are limiting attendance to 100, spacing out the areas where the boxes are located, and not having a potluck.

You'll need to have a "trail name" (alias) to participate. You could make it something about yourself, like CatMom, or 49ersFan, or HikesWithDogs. You'll want to get or carve a signature stamp to stamp into log books. And, you'll want an unlined log book so that you can stamp an image of the stamp from the box.

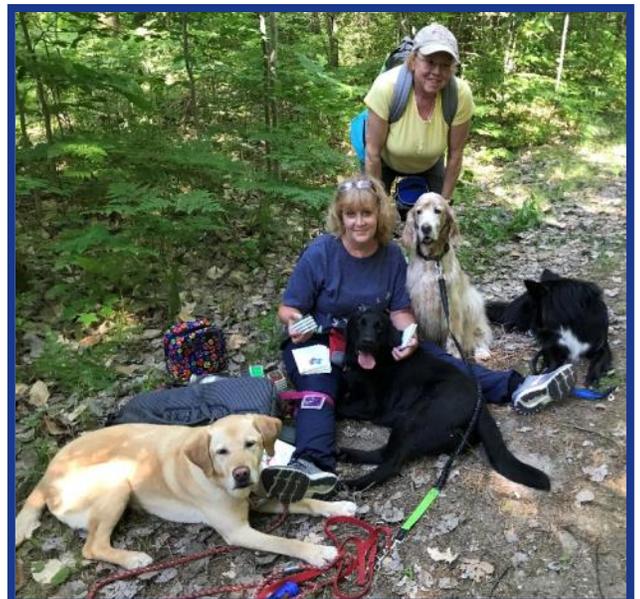
There's more about Letterboxing in general and our event in particular on Atlasquest.

If you're going to be in Michigan, or willing to travel to Michigan, you may want to take in this event.

You could become hooked!

This event is hosted by several Dog Scouts of America members from Troops 101 and 217:

Stargazer's Pups
Hummingbird Crew
Purl 1 Knit 2
Dog Is My Co-Pirate
Sassy Girl
Team Wigglebutts



Badge Bulletin & Title Tales

By Kristie Iwamoto (Maurice's Mom)



Congratulations to Our New Title Holders!

Hooray for the winter weather loving teams who earned Trail Titles between December and February!

TRAIL DOG

Burley Weger
Duchess Weger
Frankie Weger
Murdock Weger

TRAIL DOG EXCELLENT

Sam Hoyle



UTILITY TRAIL DOG

Taika Almann - **UT6K!!!**
(Zebi's Some Kind of Wonderful)
Westen Tucker
(Los Suenos MySpyGuy WesternHils)
Blitzen Tucker
(Roberts Tucker Flash of Lightning)

LETTERBOX DOG

Maurice Iwamoto

Congratulations to our Dog Scout Class of 2021

Connecticut

Douglas Simon
Nell Freeman
Thunder Lake

Pennsylvania

River Vasinda

Rhode Island

Clara Grove

California

June Phillips
Kokoro Southworth
Tacoma Phillips
Wishbone Johns

Texas

Belle Montelongo
Blitzen Tucker
Finn Kaiser
Panda McClelland
Rocky Romano
Spirit Waits
Toby Quinn Francis
Wyatt Barnes

Illinois

Amy Strathman
Boomer Gordon
Bria Gordon

Wisconsin

Ebony Raap
Jordie Raap

Michigan

Ali Lundhahl
Benny Duman
Bliss Beaton
Cali Matthews
Matty Ashford
Pixel McCrindle-Bailey

Mitcham, Surrey, UK

Chalkie Bruce
Lemon Puff Bruce

Missouri

Luna Haffner

Nottingham, Nottinghamshire, UK

Patch Walker

Ohio

Ellie Mae Matteson

Scout Scoop & Troop Tales

Budd Lake Vay Cay—MI

Lonnie Olson

Vacation at Harrison, Michigan

This year at the summer DSA camp in St. Helen, Michigan, Troop 101 member, Lisa Lundahl, generously donated to the auction two vouchers for a weekend stay at her vacation rental, “The Lake House” at the Carriage Inn Resort in Harrison. There was hot bidding on these items, and they ended up in the hands of our Troop Leader, Fay Reid, and Troop 217 Leader, Sally Hoyle. Right away, they started plotting their plans, and asked if we could have 5 days instead of 2 ½, if all of us stayed there at the same time. The answer was yes, and so four of us made plans to spend the week there with our dogs. Now, it’s a PARTY!



Troop members Sally (with Mackenzie & Katie), Lonnie (with Kismet and Scallywag), Laurie (with Booker), and Fay (with Goldy)

The Carriage house is an old home that was formerly a carriage house in olden days. It has 3 spacious bedrooms, and the couches also make into beds downstairs. It has a fireplace, a deck, looking out over Budd Lake, and miles of hiking trails through the 127 acres of pine forest. There is a cool firepit, where we made our own foil dinners on the fire one night.

Of course, we brought lots of stuff to keep us and our dogs busy. We practiced Rally Free, by setting up a course in the large paved parking lot, and getting our dogs to perform the indicated tricks on the signs. We went letterboxing and Geocaching in the surrounding areas, and planted a few letterboxes of our own. We visited a veteran’s memorial in town, and did a little shopping. We drank water from an artesian well, and visited some cemeteries with interesting histories.



Goldy shares her birthday cake

We got some gifts and a dog birthday cake for Goldy Reid, as she was celebrating her birthday over the weekend. We also took advantage of many opportunities to do some scent work outdoors, having our dogs find small hidden vials of various scents in structures, in the bushes, and on other people.

After watching the sun set over Budd Lake, at night, we played board games and worked on a huge jigsaw puzzle in front of the fireplace, while our tuckered pups snoozed nearby.



Doing a jigsaw puzzle

Budd Lake Vay Cay (cont.)

Artesian well Geocache



Doing a little parkour



Letterboxing at Veteran's Memorial



Making Foil Dinners



Letterboxing at a park



We'd like to go back again with our entire troop, or even host a DSA event there. There's plenty of accommodations with the three large houses.

Never say Never

By Kaylene Long (Troop 101)

I wanted to share with everyone the story of Jax becoming a dog scout. A little history on Jax, I got him when he was two years old, he was a show dog reject (he has an ever so slight curve at the tip of his tail). From the minute I met Jax, I sat on the floor, and he came over sat between my legs and leaned into me...I knew at that moment he was mine.

Jax had no training, he was a show dog, and they really don't want them to "heel" in the ring. I honestly, never had to train him, sit and down yes, and to actually take a treat from my hand (he was trained using liver in handler's hand, they couldn't eat it, just smell and lick) but Jax never pulled on his leash, he always walked calmly by my side, never really got into anything, he was my snuggly bug, my couch potato.

Some of you know about my mom being on hospice care and her wanting her black lab (and now my girl) Molly to become a Dog Scout, so I became Molly's handler. Well, I didn't want to leave Jax at home when we went to Dog Scout meetings and outings, so I made Jax a Dg Scout, really with the intent "just so he could go". Jax isn't food motivated, he isn't toy motivated, I told my sister repeatedly, "Jax won't do that" and one thing at a time...Jax proved me wrong...again and again and again. Jax doesn't swim, but he did and earned his Puppy Paddler and boating safety, my sister had said "He'll look really pretty going over jumps." Me: He won't jump...yep, he jumps, and actually seems to enjoy it. Canoeing, kayaking, SUP – he acted like he had been doing it his whole life. Wear a backpack, absolutely. Painting, I thought no way, he doesn't paw at anything...well, he didn't but he learned very quickly and accomplished it. Come to find out, he will do anything for a yogurt drop!

The Manners badge, I thought ok, this one will be a breeze, Jax has the best manners of any dog, he is considerate, gentle, gets along with everyone, human and animals, manners no problem!! A year and a half later, we were stuck. One word...settle...sounds easy, we took it step by step, he would lay down, shift to one side, but without luring or touching his shoulder, he would not go the rest of the way. Several months ago I stopped asking him, and then mid-September, out of the blue, I said "Jax Settle"...out of the blue, he did it! And since that day, he does it quicker and even when I tell the 3 dogs to Settle Down, yep, he "settles". This dog of mine is truly amazing, I really did not think he was capable of doing some of this stuff, but he is more than capable, he does things at his own pace (even a year and a half), but English Setters are known for their stubborn streaks. I love watching him as he catches on to something, and looks at me like "did I get it right?" There is a sparkle in his eyes when he is engaging in something fun.

Recently, the new Up North Dog badge, I finally thought, I think Jax can do it...Molly ran through the course like a breeze, Jax got stuck on the bridge, I always knew Jax was sort of a klutz, but I did not realize that he doesn't have good hind end awareness and walking across a bridge with holes...it proved to be a challenge! After the fall outing, I thought, maybe he won't get the badge, but we practiced at home with a pallet for a week and with the help of my sister, at the scrap weekend, we worked with him some more on the dreaded bridge. Then, he went across, I was walking backwards on the bridge, not smoothly or gracefully, but he did it! Then Sally told us the dog has to go in front of



Never say Never (cont.)

the human across the bridge for safety reasons, made perfect sense but...yet another challenge. Sunday, we went out, on the walk out we had Jax "go in front" while I held onto his harness, with my sister videotaping and evaluating, and with much patience, Jax completed the Up North Dog requirements one step at a time. Never before has a dog brought me to tears by accomplishing a task...but that day, as I rounded the corner to go to the water portion of the course, telling Jax how proud I was of him, tears of being so proud of my boy welled up in me.

I started Jax out in Dog Scouts just so he could attend functions, thinking he might get a couple of badges...but he is holding his own against his sister, doing everything that she is doing (Molly is very quick to learn and takes on anything I throw at her)

The reason I wanted to share this with you, is never, ever underestimate your dog. Believe in them and they will shine. A couch potato dog is only that because we made them that way, ask your dog to play and be amazed at what they will do for you (and yogurt drops) :-). Don't say they can't do something (I am still working on this, I catch myself starting to say it...stop myself and then ask myself, how can I help Jax and Molly achieve this) and then I usually call my sister and ask her how to train the desired behavior! LOL! Believe and be amazed like I am.

Jax will now be working on DOGa, to see if we can help his hind end awareness. In December Jax took on pulling a cart in a parade, my husband finished it the night before so Jax had minimal training...but at the parade, it was like he had been doing it forever! Yet again, I was amazed.



The Evolution of a Super Model

by Alex Ratliff, DSA

I adopted my mom and dad on September 25, 2010 when I was about 14 weeks old. I lived with someone else initially along with my biological mom and siblings. Then one day our first human took me and my bio mom to a big field in the country. It was a huge field and so much fun to play in, although my bio mom seemed nervous about it. Turns out our first human had left and forgot to come back. We weren't out there too very long before a nice human came along and was concerned that we were in the big, fun field without a human. She took us for a ride in her car to her very own house. She spent the next few days on the phone a lot and making these little posters that she put up in her town. I don't know what that was all about but after she had done this for a few days, we then got to meet our next nice human. Her name was Melissa and she took us and said we were GRRNT dogs now! I don't know what that meant but it involved other dogs that looked a lot like my bio mom and me and a lot of really nice people.

My bio mom went to live with another nice family and I heard that she ended up going to live with a whole family of her own for her whole life. I went to live with my next nice human, Carol, and her family. Carol had dogs that looked like me and enjoyed playing with me. One of the dogs I lived with named Maddie was extra pretty and, I didn't know it at the time, but I would grow up to look so much like her that Mama Carol would later say I was her spittin' image. I don't know what that means and I swear I never spit on Maddie or anybody else!

So, I camped out with Carol and Maddie and the crew for a little while and then, like I said, I adopted my Mom and Dad so I could live with them forever. They called me their Wild Child. I can only imagine that this is the very best compliment a puppy could ever have. I was able to train my Mom and Dad pretty quickly to give me treats. I rewarded them by doing silly little things they asked me to do. It was no skin off my hide since everything came easy for me. I don't think Mom and Dad knew just how smart I was but I was smart enough to get them to give me treats. A LOT! And I just kept rewarding them by performing little feats for them.

My life kept getting more and more exciting. About two months after I adopted my folks, we all went to this place called Mini-Camp. It was loads of fun! There were so many more nice humans and lots and lots of dogs but they didn't all look like me. I got to experience all kinds of fun stuff, including wearing booties for the first time! We called them my Groovy Shoes. They were way too big for me and Mom said I sounded like a Clydesdale when I walked but I didn't care. I knew I looked awesome and I think this may have been the first time people began to recognize me for my sense of style.



Image by Mom, Cindy Ratliff



Image by Joanne Weber

I learned all kinds of things at this "Mini-Camp" thing and at the end, I had a title bestowed upon me. People called me a Dog Scout and everybody was excited about it. I wasn't really even a dog yet, I was just a 5-month old puppy, but whatever. They all seemed excited about it so I went along. It was easy after all. I just did a bunch of those feats that I had been rewarding my parents with the last two months. It was a breeze but the folks were happy so I was, too.

Flash forward... turns out this Dog Scout thing came with a lot of perks. I made all kinds of friends, both four-legged and two, and we'd get together every month to have fun. I kept training my folks to give me yummy treats and I kept doing little tricks and stuff for them in return. They were so cute how they'd get excited about it all and take pictures of me. I'd hear Mom on the phone telling people about all the little rewards I did for them. It was funny to me that they made such a big deal about it all because I knew so much. Sometimes when Mom would ask me to do something, I'd play a fun game with her like I didn't know what she meant. It was funny. You should have seen her scratching her head and changing up her plans and doing things differently to help me to "figure things out". It was hilarious because I knew all along, I just liked to watch the humans get these confused looks on their faces. If I had opposable thumbs, I would take all the pictures of them and talk to my friends on the phone about it. Eventually, I would do whatever I knew Mom wanted me to do to begin with and she'd get so excited. Parents can be so weird.

The Evolution of a Super Model (cont.)

So, remember that Maddie dog I told you about? I grew up to be an adult just like her. And I grew to be a pretty girl just like her, too. Frankly, this was no surprise since I was a pretty puppy. I was quite sure I was going to be a pretty adult.

I have had so much fun over the years seeing dog and human friends every month and going back to that mini-camp thing every year. My folks have found all kinds of different treats to give me and I like them all. I have continued rewarding them by doing all kinds of tricks in all kinds of environments, with props, with other dogs, all kinds of things! But last summer I started a whole new adventure.

So one of the nice humans from our monthly thing named Michelle works at a place called Chewy.com. It is a wonderful, magical place and it turns out they have a LOT of treats there! AND they have humans that are just as amused by how smart and pretty I am – just like my folks are!



Last summer, Michelle told my Mom about how she could sign me up to go to work where Michelle works at the big treat place. If they chose me, I could come in to get lots of treats. While there getting treats, I would just let them take a lot of pictures of me. That was no biggie since Mom does that all the time anyway.

So, Mom filled out the information they wanted and then a little while later, Mom told me they had picked me to come in for glamour shots to see how I would do “on set”. Well, of course they picked me. I don’t know why my Mom thought they might not. I will take treats from anybody and I could teach them all kinds of cool stuff I’ve learned in Dog Scouts.

So I got an appointment time on a day last June and Mom and Dad took me to the big Chewy place. It was huge and I could smell every kind of treat under the sun. It was A-MA-ZING! Mom filled out paperwork while a “wrangler” (person who gives treats that I reward with tricks) took me inside and someone with a camera, bigger and fancier than Mom’s phone, took pictures of me. They told me I was pretty and what a good girl I was. And I was. I didn’t play the games with them like I do with Mom sometimes where I make her think I don’t know what she’s asking. These Chewy people were brand new and I thought I might need to take their training a little slower.



So, my new Chewy friends were so impressed with how much I liked getting treats that they contacted my folks less than two weeks later and asked them to bring me back for an all-day photo shoot. And because they realized how much I love treats, they started putting money in my folks’ bank account just so they never run short on keeping me in treats at home. Mom said she even had to fill out a tax form so Uncle Sam could get some of my treat money. I don’t remember ever meeting this uncle at any of our family gatherings so I’m a little irritated that he thinks I want to share my treats with him.



Images by Chewy Studios

The Evolution of a Super Model (cont.)



Since that all-day photo shoot day in July, they have called and called and just keep wanting me to come back and hang out all day and take treats from them. Of course, I am happy to do it. And I'll tell you this – it isn't all just about the treats. They have these individual rooms there where I get to take naps during the day. And outside of my room is a dog park. I've heard Mom and Dad talk about dog parks before and they said that it's a place I don't need to go because there are dogs there that don't share as well as I do. But this place is like my own, personal private dog park. I get to play during the day with toys and with my wranglers. They let other dogs come during the days when I'm there, too. They get their own private rooms, too, and they get to play in my park when I'm off busy getting treats and having my picture taken. I think they invite the other dogs because there are so many treats at this Chewy place that they know even I couldn't eat them all, so they have to bring in other dogs to help.



Besides eating treats, taking naps in my room and playing in my park, my wrangler friends also take me on walks outside four times a day. I go out and look around to see if anybody else like that uncle is trying to sneak in and take my treats or horn in on my fun. I see other dogs that are there that I let play in my park and have their pictures taken and I'm nice to them all because I know they're there just to help me cut down on the treat inventory at Chewy. And I have some of my monthly meeting friends that get to help on the treat inventory, too. My friend, Michelle, that works there – she brings her dog, Panda, and another friend, Leah, brings her dog Kira Kitsune. And my friend, Nancy, brings her kitty, Jasmine, sometimes, too. Our Moms have even talked about us having some of our pictures taken together on a day when Chewy needs both the dog AND cat treat inventories to be reduced.

And now my Chewy friends have started sharing my pictures all over the world! They put them on some kind of web that I guess holds pictures and then all the dogs' humans can see them. They see how pretty I look in an outfit or how much I like a toy or a harness and the humans can get Chewy to send them these things of their very own so their dogs can look as pretty as me!

I have so much fun on my days out at Chewy. Mom and Dad used to always tell me I needed to get a job to pay for my own treats and now I have. See?! I told you I always know what my folks are asking me to do. Sometimes I just make them work a little harder for it.



Images by Chewy Studios

Troop 101—MI

Lonnie Olson and Goldy Reid (with help from Fay)

Dog Scout Troop 101's Christmas Party/meeting was December 12th at TNT (Train and Trial Dog Center) in Midland, MI. Our troop leader, Fay Reid, had some fun games in store for us.

First, we played a "go to your place" game. We had to send our dogs away to a mat or a platform that was a distance away from us. The farther away we were, the more points we got. Bonus points if the dog lay down on the mat or platform without being told. Less points for a sit.



Booker Keel and Goldy Reid get max points on the Go to Place relay.



Jax Long and Booker Keel sniff out the scented ornaments.



Kismet Olson navigates the treat fig. 8, while She-ra Baudoux hangs her ornament.



Goldy alerts on a scented ornament.

Then we played a scent game, where we told our dog to find the birch scent, and sent him to a pile of handmade cloth ornaments. When the dog alerted on an ornament you pick it up and proceed through the figure 8 cookie minefield. The dog, of course, had to leave all of the scattered cookies alone. At the end, we had to "hang" the ornament on the cardboard Christmas tree. If there was no code letter on it, that meant that your dog did not choose one of the ornaments with the scent on it. There were decoy objects, too, to distract the dogs.

When your team got enough letters to spell something, you had to decipher the word (PEACE) to be the winners. The teams had so much fun at the games, I don't think anyone cared who placed first.

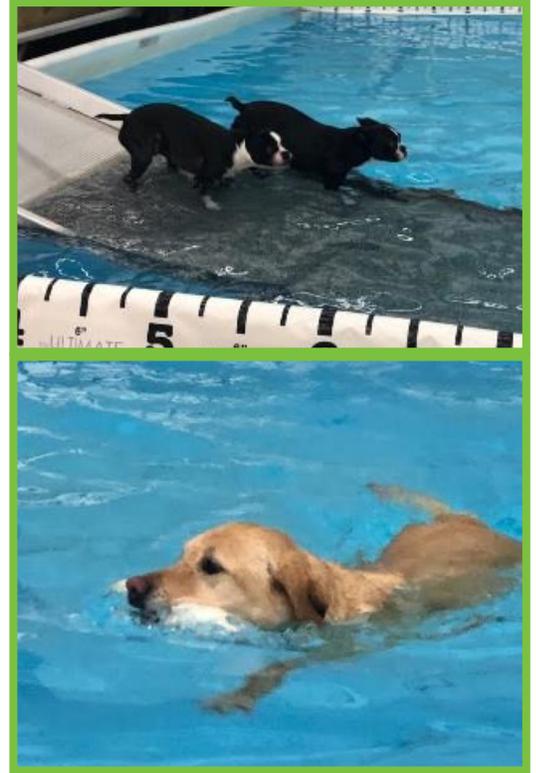


Troop 101—MI (cont.)

Then we had some snacks (human and dog goodies). And after that, everyone got a chance to practice dock diving or swim in the pool. Goldy helped Scallywag work up the courage to swim across the pool. Walden Weber was elated to dock dive again after a year off.



Walden Weber dock dives in the pool.



Finally, we had a blind gift exchange, meaning if you brought a present, you could choose a present, then others could STEAL your present if they liked it.



Everyone says "OOOOoooo" as Laurie plucks a tennis ball out of the bag Booker selected. I guess we all know why he picked that one! Scallywag looks on with envy.



Kismet & Scallywag select their gifts.

A fun time was had by all.

Troop 101—MI (cont.)

Troop 101 Gathering

Troop 101 was busy earning lots of badges & titles in 2021 with our top earner; Booker 13, Ali 11, and siblings Kismet & Scallywag 9. Our troop had a total of 57 badges and 13 titles. While that is impressive more importantly it's the new skills, and the human/canine bonding that took place that is what is important. Congratulations all dog scouts & parents that learned something new in 2021. Looking forward to 2022.



Booker & Laurie



Ali & Lisa

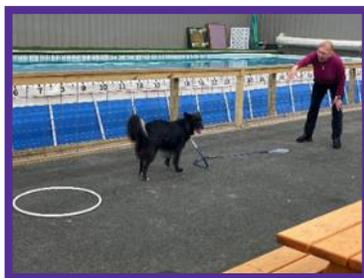


Kismet, Scallywag & Lonnie

Troop 101 members are working on Urban Hiking, Naked Obedience, Dock Diving, Carting, and Community Service.



Scallywag & Lonnie working on "left"



Working on distance: Booker & Laurie,



Shadow & Vickie,



She-ra & Pauline



Razzle & Pauline dock diving



Shadow learning where the ramp is for dock diving



Jax took to Carting like there was nothing to it. Dressed as a tree he pulled the DSA dog in the Midland Parade for over 3 miles.

Troop 101—MI (cont.)



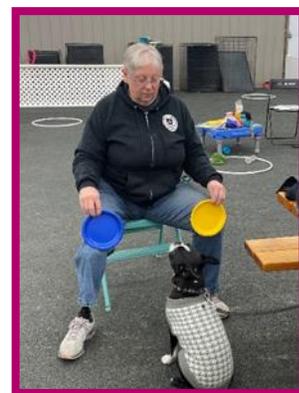
Lonnie & Fay attended Pat miller’s webinar regarding Dog Cognition. They have been passing on the information learned in our January & February meetings.

In January we checked our “leave its’ by playing the Watch Game - Will your dog “Leave It” if you are watching, have your eyes covered, or have your back turned. If your dog breaks do not correct. Practice & reinforce the “leave it”.

We also are experimenting with dogs ability to use color discrimination. Dogs see yellow & blue. Everyone got a yellow & blue paper, plate, & cup. Start with just one color. Name the color, touch cue, take it away, repeat. Just do a few times. Once the dog knows the color introduce the other. Put away the first color. Do the same steps to introduce the second color. Once you are confident the dog knows them present them together. Offset the named item closer (set up for success). Gradually decrease offset until items are presented together.



Booker & Laurie
Kismet & Lonnie



The dog may end up automatically going to the object when you say the name. You can choose to accept that or have them watch for the “touch cue”. If you do, you can later change the “Touch Cue” to “Fetch” “Bring” “Find”.



February started off with Booker wishing everyone a Happy Valentines Day. There were valentine treats for dogs & humans.

Scallywag shows off his new toy



In February we started using what we had learned from Pat Miller’s Cognition webinar and played the Match Game. We had two identical items. Start with one item and have your dog wait, “Same”, touch cue, reward, take it away, Repeat a few times. Once your dog has this bring out the other one. Sit it on top of a platform in front of the dog. Have it sitting closer to the dog (set up for success). Bring out the other item, “Same”, touch cue, he/she may want to touch the one in your hand. Wait them out to make a move to the other one. Reward. You should see the brains starting to work. Just play a few times & put away. You can try the same with other identical items. Once you feel they are getting it you can add another item down in front, do they go for the same or the new item you added.

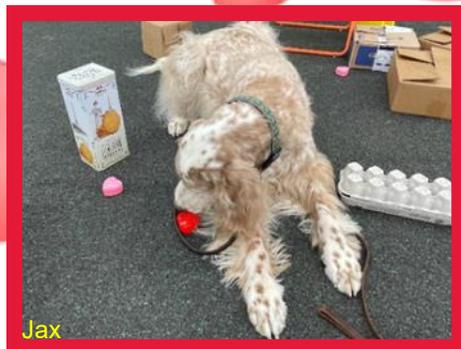


Booker & Laurie,
She-Ra & Pauline

Playing the Match Game



Troop 101—MI (cont.)



The Northern Michigan Trailblazers are sharpening their nose work & finding the Birch scent in the red hearts.



Upcoming Events:

March 20 – If you are in the area and want to join Troop 101 walking in Bay City, MI St. Patty's Day Parade Contact Fay.

April – DSA Mi Camp Clean Up will begin, dates to be determined.

May 7 - Letterboxing Event through AtlasQuest at Bay City State Park "Power of Pawsitivity". Hosted by members of Troop 101 & 217. This Letterboxing event is also helping nearby shelters by collecting donations for them and having an informational booth on canine nutrition—fulfilling a requirement of the K9 Nutrition Badge.

September/October Fall Outing & Craft Weekend. Dates coming soon!

Troop 119—N TX—Lone Star Paws Squad

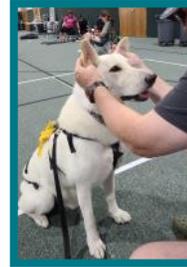
Cindy Ratliff—Troop Leader

Troop 119 had a super busy fall, as always! It's our busiest time of the year and so busy that we didn't get around to reporting in for the last newsletter. So, we're catching up now!

In September we had a very informative meeting from one of our knowledgeable members, Victoria Severns. Victoria is not only one of our mini-camp agility instructors, but she is also a certified Tellington TTouch practitioner who has worked with many companion animals and their people in private consultations, group classes and workshops in the Dallas - Ft. Worth area over the years.



Victoria teaches us about the benefits of TTouch



Stevie Ray enjoys the ear touches



Jasmine is a willing participant

Victoria did a TTouch presentation for us and the dogs enjoyed their owners learning about touches to use for a multitude of benefits, from bringing awareness and improving the dog's ability to learn to reducing stress and anxiety and helping ease symptoms of arthritis, digestive problems and improve circulation. The dogs were willing participants and the humans learned new tools for helping their dogs wherever they go.



Crystal approves of the gentle touches from her mom



Libbie Belle & Gizmo relaxing with TTouch



Pearl performs a trick for an extra treat



Group Bingo



Scarlet plays the Devil Duck game



Tosh picks his spot for Pin the Tail on the Cat



Harper plays Candy Cane Bowl



Costume contest winners, Rouen, Roger & Rainey

In October we had a fun Howl-O-Ween event at a local park. We had Trick or Treating, games and a costume contest. The dogs travelled around to various Trick or Treat stations and collected goodies. They were then able to perform a trick at each station in order to earn an additional treat. After the Trick or Treating time, we all enjoyed a game of Howl-O-Ween Bingo for prizes. After Bingo, we had a costume contest and had some great participation! Prize baskets were awarded for First, Second & Third place.

We all had a howling good time!

Troop 119-N TX (cont.)



November is always our busiest month of the year and this year it was that and more. The first week of the month, we were asked to do a presentation to a group of Cub Scouts. There were three Cub Scout Troops in attendance along with many parents and sponsors. Their theme was 'A Scout is Helpful' and we were asked to do a presentation on how dogs can be helpful. We had some great participation from troop members and troop dogs and the dogs were rewarded afterward by getting love and attention from all the kids (in small groups, in an orderly manner!). We started off the presentation with Mart Ratliff introducing them to Dog Scouts of America and all the cool things that Dog Scouts do to educate the community and to help in various ways within the community. Then Cheryl Woolnough talked about service dogs and shared some experiences of hers as a service dog trainer and all the ways that service dogs can be trained to help their humans. Nita Lanter, Pam Barnum and Debbie Baker talked about therapy dogs and how their dogs help kids to read at the library and provide comfort to members of the local police departments during their shift changes. Michelle McClelland & Leah Franczek talked about dogs with jobs and how dogs can have their own careers being advertising models. The kids and adults in attendance were all excited about the presentation and being able to meet the dogs afterward. We appreciated that it was very organized and that the kids moved slowly & quietly in groups around the room to meet the dogs. They asked great questions of the handlers and we feel they had a new appreciation for the four-leggeds.



Troop 119—N TX (cont.)



The next week we were excited to present the 17th (almost) annual Texas Mini-Camp! Because of the pandemic, in 2020 we opted to forego our usual mini-camp and had a 2-day Day Camp in its place.

We were so excited to get back to our regular mini-camp fun and learning with our mini-camp friends! We were at a new campsite for the first time in 12 years. It was a beautiful camp with a great staff and we really enjoyed the change. We had a little smaller group than usual but still had 50 campers/staff in attendance and we had a great time participating in all kinds of fun activities and learning along the way.

We offered several badge activities for the first time at our camp, like Dock Diving, DOGa and Disabled Dog.



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We also brought back some activities we haven't offered in a few years like Search and Rescue, Treibball and Steeplechase, and, of course, lots of yearly favorites like Art, Agility, Backpacking and Puppy Paddler.



As always, we also offered a variety of training classes to help the dogs learn a variety of behaviors that would help them in all different activities of their everyday lives.



Troop 119—N TX (cont.)

We welcomed 5 new Dog Scouts by the end of camp:



Luna Haffner, Panda McClelland, TobyQuinn Francis, Spirit Waits and Wyatt Barnes.

As always, we had a terrific staff and great campers that all helped to create another awesome Texas Mini-Camp!

Two weeks after camp, we had our largest community service event of the year. This was our 18th annual Meals on Wheels for Pets Project. We gathered over 2,600 lbs of pet food, 475 lbs of dog treats, over 1,600 toys, and about 400 miscellaneous items (collars, harnesses, sweaters, etc.). We decorated and filled gift bags for 130 dogs. The Lanter family created an additional 65 cat bags. Iris Bruton, Client Assistance Manager for Meals on Wheels of Tarrant County, shared with us that each year they question their clients regarding their wants and needs for “extras” as they have a Silver Santa program for people to purchase Christmas gifts for the clients. Iris told us that many of the clients they contacted stated that they didn’t mind if they didn’t receive anything at all for themselves, but they just wanted their pets to get their gift bag from the Dog Scouts. This has been a great event for us year after year and even in pandemic years, our troop members and their friends, families and co-workers have done a great job helping us to provide a great holiday for these much-loved companion pets!



We’ve already gotten off to a great start for 2022 and will be reporting on our new year activities next time!

Troop 149—MO ~ River City Rovers

Submitted by Fran Beezley and Dog Scout Barney

The Olympics came to St. Louis February 13th for a one-day doggy event. It was colder than we thought it would be with not as much sun and more wind, but the entrants were excited and ready to go. Abby, Barney, Bess, Margo, Roxie and Zoey warmed up by taking a nice walk. They were joined by Doug and his family who were checking out the troop. Everyone agreed that he was a great addition, and they hope he will consider joining them at future meetings. Lou was invited to join them on the walk, but he decided he needed to stay behind and help set up the events, especially since he was going to be the official demo dog.

The first event was Curling, although it really was “Uncurling”. Treats were rolled up in a towel and the dogs had to use their noses to unroll it.

Lou demonstrated a good technique and most dogs caught on once they uncovered that first yummy morsel.

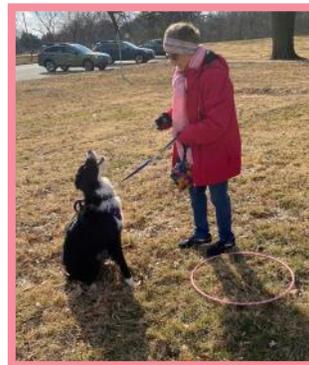
Barney and Roxie tried to get at them from the side but soon decided the best way was to use the standard method.



The second event was the Luge. There were three hula hoops they had to walk or jump through. Then they ran through a tunnel.

Some of the dogs were hesitant, but with lots of treats and encouragement from the crowd, they did it.

Troop 149—MO (cont.)



Next came the Biathlon. To represent the cross-country skiing, the dogs had to weave through several cones. There were some minor penalties for knocking over a cone but nothing serious. Everyone completed that in one fashion or another. For the rifle shooting, the dogs sat in a hula hoop and the handlers stood in another. The handler then had five cheese balls that they tossed one at a time at the "target" (the dog's mouth). The dog had to catch them. This was definitely a favorite event! Barney decided that if they hit him on the head, they would fall on the ground he could get them that way.

The last event was the Snowboard Halfpipe. There were six different objects for them to try. First came the Balance Disc where they had to put two paws on it. Then they moved to an obstacle that was made of PVC pipe and was a square. They had to jump/step in and out of it. They moved next to a wobble board and then on to a slightly raised padded square block. They could stand or sit on that. They then moved on to another PVC square and finally two small balance discs that they could try to put a paw on each.



Everyone did a great job and had a lot of fun. Everyone was awarded a cookie cutter dog bone to hang around their necks and the choice of a toy. After a group picture, everyone went home happy and tired! Way to go Team Troop 149!!

Troop 157—FL ~ Broward County Paw Patrol

Teresa Irvine

A Holiday Wonderland

Dog Scout, River Hanna, invited her Dog Scout Troop to meet the winners of the ABC Great Christmas Light Fight! The Sablich Family Christmas Display boasts 75,000 lights, multiple animation and still figurines, a walk thru Santa village, and even “snow” in Florida. We got to congratulate neighbors Lisa and Carol on their trophy and winning display. The Sablich Family accepts donations for a local dog rescue.



Our troop members gathered at River’s backyard for some refreshments and then we headed down the street to see the lights. Here is a link to Lisa and Carol’s segment on ABC

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Mce-GGmhYFA>

Our troop was welcomed warmly and we got some lovely photos of our dogs among the displays. We enjoyed supporting our community and embracing the holiday spirit!



New Year Eve Hike

Dog Scout River and Cadet Scouts Luna, Aurora, and Rico hiked Tree Tops Park in Davie, FL on the morning of New Year’s Eve. We enjoyed 2 miles of shady nature trails with novel smells and novel creatures. The park has a marsh with an observation area where our dogs could watch fish and turtles in the clear water.

This was Rico’s first event as a Cadet Scout! The hike was a great opportunity to welcome Rico and get a little bonding with the other scouts.

Our mission to get in some socialization, a novel experience, and exercise before the holiday fireworks, was certainly accomplished.

Troop 157—FL (cont.)

New Year Troop Planning

During the first part of January our Troop came together to plan out events for 2022 and to celebrate the beginning of another year of Dog Scouts.

We had some breakfast snacks, and discussed what activities/events we wanted to plan for the upcoming year.

For fun we played one of our favorite games “musical sits”, which is great to train your dogs to focus and practicing your “sit” signal.

For the upcoming year we will target Doggie Olympics, letterboxing stamp carving, hike/letterbox planting and some other events including a virtual cooking meet up to learn how to cook dog treats. It should be another fun year for our Troop.



CluedUp

Canine sleuths, Dawn & River, Christine & Clover, Teresa & Ripley and Shari & Penny teamed up again on February 26th to solve the CluedUp CSI Ft. Lauderdale case.

It was great practice for the Urban Hiking badge, and focusing our canines away from distractions. There was plenty of distractions, from people, other dogs, sounds from traffic and a Yoga festival. Our pups did great through it all. It was such a fun time!



The weather was picture perfect for trying to solve the crime as we strolled along the New River in downtown Ft. Lauderdale. We were also able to give out the Turkey Trot medals to Christine and Shari who participated. The others who participated were Marie and Roxane and we will share pictures of them with their medals in the next Newsletter.

Troop 183—FL

Shirley Conley—Troop Leader

December

In December we finished up our miles for the Turkey Trot Mile Gobbler and did some tracking.



During December and January, Marvin, Nim, Tachi and Sandy assisted us in scouting out future locations where we can check off the requirements for the Urban Hiking merit badge. Sometimes we got a few miles in while we reconnoitered . . . sometimes we get ensnared by a local coffee shop!



January

In January we had a lunch meeting and decided on the activities for 2022. Turkey Trot medallions and Mile Gobbler patches were handed out too. We also pulled out the troop's agility equipment to see what pieces we had and what we else needed for our Agile Dog activities. We're in the process of making some more jumps and purchasing some "mini" contact equipment.



February

February started our new activity schedule—our foundation activities are:

- Nosey Dog - focusing on nose games, scent work and/or tracking;
- Agile Dog - focusing on communication and teamwork using the agility equipment as well as incorporating some DOGa & K9 Fitness;
- Uptown Dog - combining manners, rally, tricks and sometimes urban hiking and parkour.

Some of our Uptown Dog activities are planned to be excursions into town which will allow us to wear our DSA shirts and perhaps initiate conversations with interested dog owners and share information about DSA and positive dog training methods. Troop business cards are at the ready!



Troops 198—CA

Janet Ngai

We finished the year with lots of activities taking full advantage of the season for fun and learning!

Holiday Walk at Santana Row: Practicing our Urban Badge skills, with a giant shiny long-necked, humped canine joining Lynne, Ed and Piper, Janet, Rod and Cider, Jackie and Rebel, Jadelynn and Daphne.



Our fearless leaders, Donna and Wishbone modeling in front of the festive tree.



Our regular spot to practice sit/stay, with both dogs and humans aptly demonstrating that skill here.



The Morgan Hill Lighted Holiday Parade sponsored by the Kiwanis is always held the first Saturday in December; it is a fund raiser for local charities that our troop is proud to support and it puts everyone in the holiday spirit of giving.



Dressed and ready to march are Cora with mom Kate, Duncan and Trevor



This year Sadie pulled the Santa sleigh with our small troop banner and mom Lennie and their young neighbor helped to guide the sleigh.



Bailey pulled the Dog Scout parade cart all decorated for the holidays. Mom Carlotta helped guide the cart while human sister, Christina, walked with Crystal. This year one of Bailey and Crystal's puppies, Milly, and her human brother, Jonathan, joined with us to walk in the parade.

Troops 198—CA (Cont.)



The youngest canine member of the Gumbin family, Luna, walked with dad Scott in the parade.

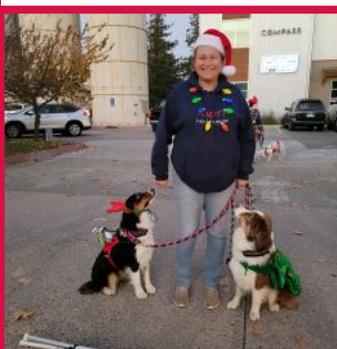
All lit up and ready to march in the parade is Dog Scout Kokoro and Mom Denise.



The Weaver family also dazzled on the parade route with their light-decked outfits, Yeti, Tribble and mom Blake strutted their stuff!



First-timers to the parade, Marley, Zoey and mom Jackie had a great time!



Trevor had a blast in his first parade as he walked next to brother Duncan riding in style in his lighted stroller pushed by mom Leah in her Dog costume.

Howl-i-Day Party On December 19th, we gathered together at Pet Food Express in Campbell and a great time was had by all! Several different games were played, including 'doggie bowling' and 'tic tac dog', as well as opportunities to practice our training. Troop members spoke about Dog Scouts to people watching and marveling at our dogs' good behavior. Thanks so much to Pet Food Express for their generosity – the gift cards and goodie bags were very much appreciated!

Beginner bowler Trevor with Big Bro Duncan and Leah giving guidance on technique.



1st-time Bowler Odin and Mom Kate.

Troops 198—CA (Cont.)



Another 1st-Time Bowler Bocuse and Mom Judy.



Bowler Buddy jumping right in for Beagle Bowling with mom Jan.



Memphis takes the center square with Crystal in the back corner with human sister Christina keeping her on a stay and Kokoro in her stylish holiday sweater holding down the other corner square, while Cora waits for her turn.



Duncan commanding his square with his strong down/stay, while Jan's Teddy smells something interesting as he owns his.



Sadie takes her pins down while showing off her holiday outfit with mom Lennie proudly wearing her DSA Winder of Wags camp shirt.



Bob showing off his Golden's' boys, Dayton, Maxwell and Memphis to sit pretty, all 3 at once with only 2 hands.



11/26/2021 Crystal Gumbin passed her Love On A Leash evaluation and can start her training visits to become a certified Therapy Pet.



12/23/2021 Trevor Lane earned his Dog Scout Title, he is the 3rd Dog Scout in the Lane family.



01/17/2022 Wishbone Johns earned his Dog Scout Title, he is the 2nd Dog Scout in the Johns family.



2/27/2022 Cider Ngai passed his Furry Friend's Pet Therapy evaluation, and will join the teams visiting veterans, senior living facilities and stressed students during Finals week.

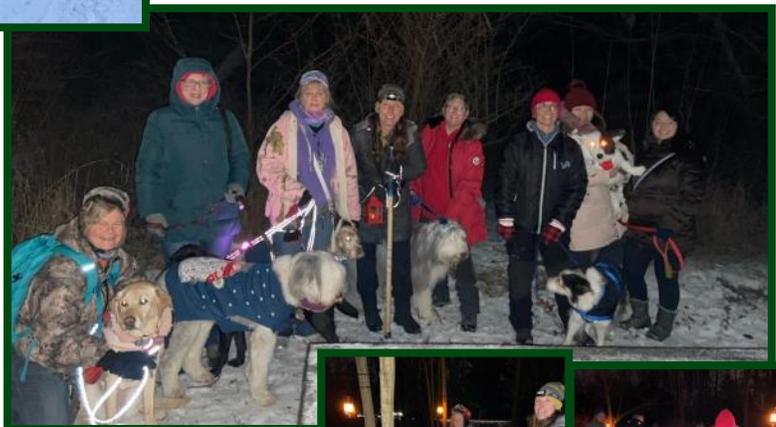
Troop 217—MI ~ Motor City K9's

Sally Hoyle—Troop Leader

Our troop has not let the winter weather stop us from doing some of our favorite outdoor activities. We are staying active and doing a lot of winter hiking, starting out with a First Day hike on New Year's Day. We have decided to try and make our 2022 hikes in areas where we have not hiked before by using the [AllTrails](#) app. For our first hike this year we decided to try hiking in a rather obscure park, and other than a few mud crossings, it was a delightful hike.



Back in December we did a lantern hike at a nearby state recreation area. We loved this hike in February so much that we decided we would do some community service and put the lanterns out so that others could enjoy the hike too. We had so much fun that we have decided to make both events annual traditions. Once again we have proven the adage that “there is no bad weather, there’s just the wrong clothes for the weather,” and we have an upcoming hike on what is sure to be a cold and snowy day.



Troop 217 (cont.)

In January we got together for a post-holiday “holiday” party. Everyone was so busy at the end of the year that we decided to ignore the calendar and have the party in January. We played games which the dogs really enjoyed, and we had a sort of “white elephant” gift exchange where the dogs got to choose which gift they wanted. We also stuffed a whole lot of Kongs for a local animal shelter and made the donation to the shelter on what would have been Betty White’s 100th birthday. We think she would have approved.



We are also moving forward with our work on Drill Team. We are meeting by Zoom where I give assignments on what to work on, and work out any issues we may be having on any of those assignments. Recently, we got together for our first in-person practice, and all things considered, I think it went pretty well. We’ll keep you posted on our progress and hope to eventually show everyone our Drill Team video.

