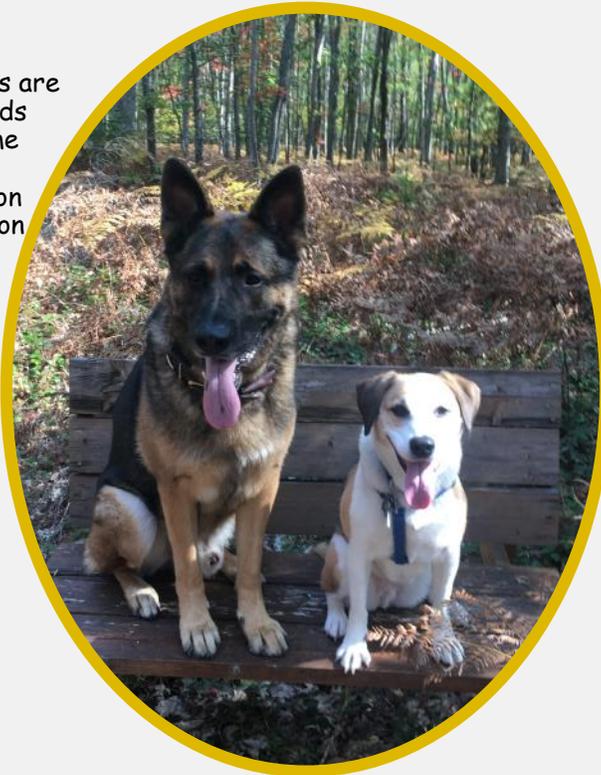


# The Dog Scout Scoop

Official Newsletter ~ Dog Scouts of America Volume 23 Issue 6 November/December 2020

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

The best days are  
when best buds  
can spend time  
together  
Dash Matteson  
& Sky Cranston



Don't forget to  
send a photo of you  
and/or your  
awesome canine  
companion(s) while  
you trot or gobble  
your miles to  
[thescoop@dogscouts.org](mailto:thescoop@dogscouts.org)

## Notes from National

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## Scout Scoop & Troop Talk P8-25

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

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

# Winter of Wags 2021!

DSA Virtual Camp

February 7—March 6, 2021

A LEARNING ADVENTURE FOR PEOPLE & DOGS

Join us for the best time you've ever had  
at home with your dog!

4 weeks of fun & learning for you & your canine pal.

Dog-centered activities you can't afford to miss, at a price you can afford!



**Make new friends & learn new skills**



Registration is now open: [Winter of Wags 2021](#)

# 25<sup>th</sup> Year Camp Celebration!

by Sally Hoyle

We are continuing with our 25<sup>th</sup> year celebration hoping to surprise a few lucky winners with fabulous prizes and bring smiles to their faces during this challenging year. This is our way to say thank you to our members for their continued support. Our October and November winners were chosen at random from all those who signed up for the 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Turkey Trot.

For October, our winner was Marsha Lindquist from Cave Creek, AZ and her dog Ziva. Coincidentally, Marsha was actually the first person to sign up for this year's Turkey Trot. Marsha's prize was a DSA logo Fanny pack filled with lots of other logo items. We are sure Marsha will make good use of her prize when walking Ziva.



Our November winner was Pat Hallemeier from St. Louis, MO and her dogs Harpo and Mango. Pat's prize was a Woven Moments Tapestry Kit that allows her to take a favorite photo and turn it into a beautiful woven tapestry. We know this tapestry will become a cherished keepsake for years to come.

We have one more winner coming up in December. To be eligible for this final prize just keep your DSA membership current and stay active!

Congratulations to Marsha and Pat and thank you to everyone for your continued support of DSA.

# This Month in the DSA Calendar

by Sally Hoyle

Well our 2021 calendar is all wrapped up and as of this writing is being shipped out to all who purchased one. It is full of DSA members and their dogs learning and having fun. We just know you're going to LOVE it! But we're not quite finished with our 2020 Calendar focus just yet.

November features our annual Turkey Trot, one of our fundraising events that members look forward to each year. It's a chance to get outside and enjoy a walk with both human and canine friends during what is normally quite a busy time of the year. The photos included are from 2018, when members from 3 different troops in different states came together to enjoy a hike. Getting all the dogs to pose together on the rock was quite a challenge!



The October calendar page features one of our most active troops, Troop 217, The Motor City K9s. This troop meets once or twice a month to go hiking, learn a new skill, participate in a community event or work on a badge. Typically the holidays are a very special time for this group as they enjoy parades, bell ringing, gift wrapping and special therapy visits. Though 2020 is a very different year. The troop is finding ways to make the holidays special for others by adopting a senior facility and providing them with holiday cards and photos of all the dogs.

That ends our 2020 calendar tour as we await the arrival of 2021. Since it's never too early to prepare, photos for the 2022 calendar will be accepted for submission throughout the year. Please send photos to me at [sally.hoyle@yahoo.com](mailto:sally.hoyle@yahoo.com). Clearly identify all dogs and people in photos that you send.

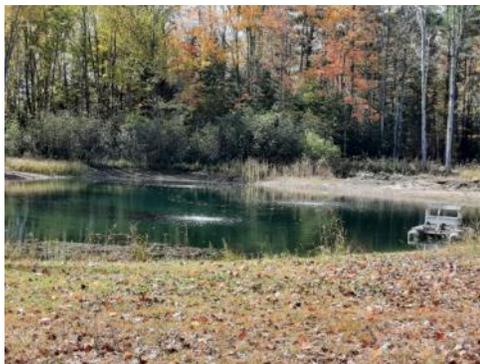
**Here's to a happy and HEALTHY 2021!**

# MI Camp Musings

by Lonnie Olson

It's hard to think about summer camp right now, as there are several inches of snow on the ground, but a lot has been happening here at camp this year, in preparation for when we can next get together in person!

First, camp has a new look. We demolished the Nature Center, and consolidated our 2 electrical services into one (so we'll be saving money on electricity bills). Our future plans for the nature center cement slab is to create a pavilion to be used for class space during rainy weather, or whenever we need another building for activities.



Next, the pond has been “re-shaped” a little, to get rid of the peninsula that was created by a couple of previous excavators. Also, we have been wanting to install an aeration system for quite some time to cut down on algae to make the aquatic life healthier and the pond clearer. This year, due to the generous contributions of some of our membership, we were able to completely pay for the aeration system, and some pond treatments to enhance the health and the looks of our pond. The water level in the pond is lower than it's ever been, due to the summer drought, but you can see the three aerator bubblers working, out there in the middle.

In addition, we took the opportunity to have some gravel added to our drive, to remove some of the mud puddles and potholes in the camp driveway.

Another expense we have been holding off on until we could afford it was to get a standby generator that will run on LP gas. In pricing them, we've found them out of our reach, but recently, long-time supporter of DSA, Joanne Weber had decided to buy a larger standby generator for her home, and will be donating her current one to DSA camp. Those of you who have been at camp during power outages will certainly appreciate this new addition which will be installed early next year. THANK YOU JOANNE!

We were gravely concerned about our ability to continue on without the revenue from the summer camps, but we found we were eligible for a grant that was set up to help non-profits and small businesses in several “up north” counties who depend on summer guests to maintain their livelihood. We really must have a guardian angel looking out for us, as we were awarded the grant, which enabled us to take care of these necessary expenditures, which would have had to have been put on hold indefinitely.

In addition, some of our camp staff and board members put their heads together and decided to try a “virtual camp” to try to recoup some of the lost funds, due to Covid-19 restrictions. It started out as an idea to just build a scrapbook (we called it “Scrap the Summer 2020”) recording memories of participating in some online fun with others. Well, over 100 people joined STS 2020, and it was a big hit! We kept adding more bells and whistles, until it became something HUGE, and a lot more work than we had originally anticipated. Thanks to our hard-working camp “counselors” we put on a great activity that kept people engaged, having fun with their dogs, and learning cool stuff in spite of the pandemic. We had an influx in merit badges earned (by the “campers” in STS 2020). More

## MI Camp Musings (cont.)

badges were earned this summer than when we actually have had the camps to depend on! I know that many of our regular summer campers participated in this first virtual camp, but it also allowed our far away members to participate in a camp without driving thousands of miles. The feedback we received was that it was incredible!

We're getting ready to launch our next virtual camp, which will start in February. It promises to be another fun adventure. If you didn't make it to "Scrap the Summer 2020," you won't want to miss "[Winter of Wags 2021!](#)" Registration for this virtual camp is now live on [runsignup.com](https://runsignup.com) and you can click on the link to read more and sign up. It would make a great holiday gift to yourself or another dog friend.

I'm looking forward to next year's summer camp. I certainly hope that we will be out of the woods with regard to Covid-19. If not, your deposits and payments to camp will be held over until we can open our doors again.

By the way, the camp remains open to smaller groups or individuals to come up for a weekend or to camp for a week, and some people have taken advantage of this opportunity. We were able to safely allow groups of 10 or less members to come up and participate in outings planned and run by those members. We changed how food service was provided (potluck), we took our temperatures daily, maintained social distancing, and used our personal protection equipment (including lots of hand sanitizer). I'm happy to report that everything went well. And if the present situation continues, we may be hosting camps using these safeguards in the future (if and when we're allowed to hold camps again).

I hope the end of 2020 finds you safe and sound, and able to enjoy each day with your dog(s). We have a lot to be thankful for, even in these troubled times. Have a Happy Thanksgiving, however you choose to spend the holiday. Just be careful and stay safe!



# Badge Bulletin & Title Tales

## Title Update!



In 2021

why not make it a **goal** to earn **DSA Trail Titles** with your dog?

Trail Dog Titles can be earned even if your dog hasn't yet earned the Dog Scout title.

DSA Membership is not required, so even your non-DSA dog-friends and family can join you and earn these titles too.

**BONUS:** Your trail title miles can also be logged towards one of your Trails **Merit Badges** or vice-versa (check out the specific Merit Badge criteria to find out what is allowed).

The application for a Competition Registration Number ([CRN]—which is how we keep track of who is earning DSA titles) has been simplified.

The one-time registration fee is only **\$15** for DSA Members (\$20 for non-DSA Members).

Trail Titles can be paid for online and the required logs and photos e-mailed along with a copy of the receipt to [dsatraildog@gmail.com](mailto:dsatraildog@gmail.com) or you can still mail payments and documents to the address listed in the [Trail Guide](#).



## DO YOU HAVE THESE TWO BADGES YET?

**Winter of Wags 2021 participants will have the opportunity to earn the First Aid and Dog Massage Merit Badges during our scheduled Badge Labs—1/2 day workshop that will cover the badge requirements and have a Badge Evaluator available to check off the completed criteria.**

**\*\*Even if your current dog doesn't have his DSA title yet, you can still complete the badge requirements and then send the forms once his DSA title is submitted.**

To Register for Winter of Wags 2021: [Winter of Wags 2021](#)

# Scout Scoop & Troop Tales

## Troop 101—MI ~ Northern Michigan Trailblazers

Fay Reid

Troop 101 has been working individually and together on Parkour, Disabled Dog, Letterboxing and Geocaching badges. In October some of the members



The 2 Dianas show off their work.

joined Troop 217 at the Michigan camp (using all safe protocols) to have a fun weekend. Each attendee was responsible for a one-hour activity. The weekend started on Friday night with pumpkin carving. I haven't carved a pumpkin since I was a child and have to say I was amazed at everyone's work. On Saturday, we had a Zombie Hunt where two teams competed in solving puzzles to get clues and the dogs helped find the zombie parts out in the woods. The first team to make their Zombie was



DSA Pres, and Troopleader of 217, Sally Hoyle carves an Old English onto her Faux Pumpkin.

declared the winner. Teams also competed outside on the Tombstone walk where at each Tombstone an individual

dog and handler had to complete a specific badge requirement. The first team done was declared the winner, but everyone was a winners for the relationship they each had with their dogs. Another activity was for each of us to take a photo in a fall or winter scene. Laurie Keel set this up for us as her contribution to the fun.



Kismet & Scallywag's Fall scene



Jaxson's winter scene



Foster Pup, Swag, sees his first snow

Thanks to Lonnie & Sally, dogs were able to try the Puissance and Weight Pulling badges. We had fun watching each dog's succeed in something they had never tried before, like little "Moosie" who, after trying the "under" version of Puissance, successfully completed the required height to earn the badge.



Moosie jumps 1.5 times her height easily...



At twice her height, Moosie sneaks under

**Troop 101—MI (cont.)**

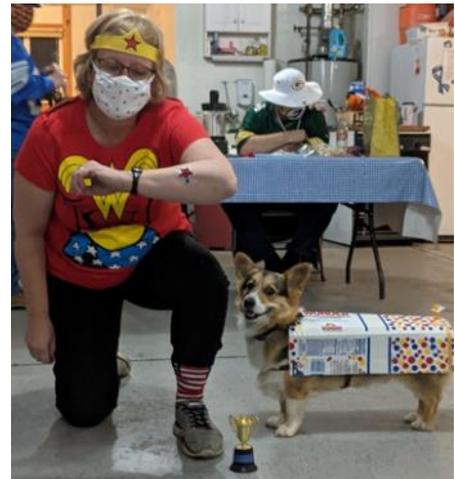
It wouldn't be Halloween without a fun Costume contest. The categories were look alike, most creative, best group, funniest, and then best in show. Goldie and Jaxson tied for Best in Show .



Laurie & Booker best look alike: Dracula & Dogula



Fay & Goldie - Funniest: Deer and hunter



Diane & Jaxson - most creative: Wonder Woman and Wonder Bread

The evening ended with a (not too scary) movie and snacks . . . lots of snacks! Sunday, It seemed like Santa came early when we woke up to our first snow fall.



Lonnie with Kozi, Scallywag, and Caper—Best Group: Little Miss Muffet and the spider

The dogs tried their noses at the Stinky Skulls. Their job was to tell their parent which skulls were “stinky” with essential birch odor.



Goldy

Stay safe everyone & together we will PULL through these difficult times.



Jaxson earns his weight pull badge

# Troop 119—N TX

Cindy Ratliff—Troop Leader

Troop 119 was super excited to get back together in October after no meetings since February. It has been such a crazy year and we have missed seeing each other, but knew we needed to keep everybody safe.

In October, the weather was such that we could return to outdoor meetings so we could meet safely while social distancing and we returned with a bang! We had a Howl-O-Ween event on October 31 at the beautiful YMCA Camp Carter.

We had Trick or Treating stations set up along about a ¾ mile trek around the camp grounds. Each station had a certain kind of treats individually packaged for all the dogs. Each station also included a “trick” or a game to perform. If the dog was successful at the game, he earned additional treats. After all the dogs finished trick or treating, we met up for a few rounds of Howl-O-Ween BINGO! Prizes were awarded for BINGO winners. Afterward, we had a costume contest with prize baskets awarded for various categories. It was a great day to be out with our troop friends and dogs!



Station 1



Station 2



Station 3



Station 4



Station 5



Pin The Tail on the Cat game



Groovy 70's Mart reveals the winner of the Pin the Tail on the Cat game



Sasha & Apollo attempt the Devil Duck game



Sasha & Apollo as Bonnie & Clyde



Pam sticking the cat's tail on the first place Malu nose touched on the scented cat



Debbie, Rouen, Rainey & Roger, Best All Around Winner, for the Sanderson Sisters from Hocus Pocus



Maureen & Lacey, Day of the Dead for Best Design



Finn, the Texas Rangers mascot



Waffle as a banana split



Libbie Belle playing Candy Corn Bowl



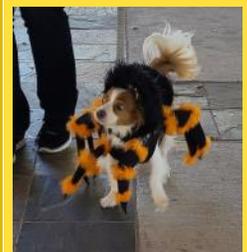
Leah & Kira Kitsune as the Kitsune Dynasty



Soka helping her mom with her BINGO card



Chewie, the hot dog



Gizmo the spider



Libbie Belle as Snoopy aka The Red Baron, Most Original

## Troop 119—N TX (cont.)

In November, we had our first ever Texas Day Camp! We decided a few months ago that we would need to forego Texas Mini-Camp this year. It was a hard decision after 16 years of successful annual mini-camps, but felt we needed to pass this year due to the potential of higher COVID risks in the fall. So, instead of a 4-day mini-camp with close to 60 campers, we had a 2-day day camp with about 35 campers. We were able to hold all our events outside and social distance to keep everybody safe. We created a very streamlined camp so if there were government mandates to shut down, we wouldn't have as much work to undo. The result was a very laid back, relaxed camp experience. All the campers rotated through all the classes so no one had to pick and choose what to attend and what they had to miss. Everyone got to experience it all. We also built in more breaks throughout the day to allow campers to enjoy nature and each other between classes. We had lots of fun and learning in those two days and we all enjoyed getting together with troop members, camp friends and new friends!



Sucha learns new things in the shaping class



Ting Ting works in the shaping class



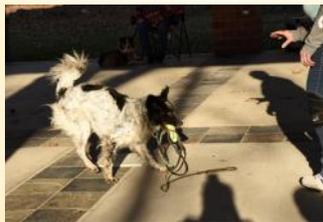
Gracie practices finding her mom



Harper putting her toys in a box



Finn works in the shaping class



Dempsey demos in targetting class



Fancy backs up in targetting class



Campers enjoy morning hike

# Troop 119—N TX (cont.)



Scarlet heels on a box



Tripoli works in the back-chaining class



Finn practices in targeting class



Social distancing class on back-chaining



Gizmo works at shaping



Barney puts 2 feet up in the parkour & agility skills class



Lacey works on backing up onto a box in the parkour & agility skills class



Spirit practicing unrolling a towel



Stevie Ray learns sign language



Sebastian loves rolling in the fall leaves at camp



Jazz takes the baton in the Show Off Skills class



Hikers on the hearty trail



Camp ornament sums it up

# Troop 150—AR

Sharon Branyan

In July we worked on the Arts, including Band practice and both Art of Shaping badge and the “flower paws” craft project for Scrap the Summer.



In August we incorporated several Scrap the Summer activities into our meeting, including a nose work egg hunt and a solar dog-friendly some-more trial (conclusion: would need much longer in the sun to actually melt the marshmallow, but dogs liked it anyway!) In September we worked on Rally, going over how to read and follow the signs, and ran a couple of practice courses.



## Troop 150—AR

In October we worked on finishing off some badges like Obstacles 2 and held our All Dog Band concert. It was the week before Halloween so we conducted a treats taste test. Several members brought homemade dog treats and each dog took a turn walking to the treat line up and choosing their favorites.



# Troop 157—FL ~ Broward County Paw Patrol

Teresa Irvine

## Planning for your Pet

It is hard to believe we are in the last quarter of 2020 and the pandemic persists, so our Troop is doing what we can to stay connected under these conditions. One of our co-leaders Dawn Hanna had recently listened to a webinar about planning for your pets if you were not able to take care of them. Dawn thought it was a lot of valuable information she learned and wanted to pass it along to our troop, so she held a Zoom sessions for us. It was a very though provoking session with lots of information about what would happen to our beloved pets if we became disabled or a disaster was about to strike? How would you care for them if you broke a bone or a wildfire or mud slide was looming? It explored the 8 D's pet owners choose not to think about until it may be too late: Death, Disease, Disaster, Delay, Disability, Dementia, Divorce and Denial. The main focus was to make sure you have a plan in place, before you need it, so you don't leave the safety and care of your pet to chance. Below was the main objective and high level steps discussed during the session.

### Objective:

- ◆ Why and how to plan for the care of pets, theirs and their clients
- ◆ What if something happens to you and there is no one available to care for them?
- ◆ Outline the 8 D's-Divorce, Death, Disaster, Delay Disease, Dementia, Disability and Denial

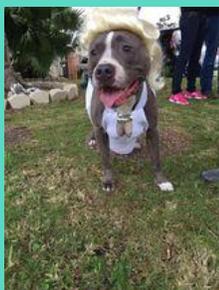


### Key Steps (MAAP):

- M—Make a Plan (Info, Age, Health, Options of Care, Family Assistance, Financial - Trust)
- A—Address the needs of the pet (at the level of care you want)
- A—Appoint caregivers (who would really take care of your pet at all levels)
- P—Publish the plan (give copies to your Vet, Friend, etc.)

## Is Fall Finally Here?

The Season's are finally changing in South Florida, so we are able to get outside a little bit and also enjoy general fun to celebrate the Fall Season Holidays, plus preparing for the Tropical Storm Eta that came out of no where it felt like. We certainly have had some crazy weather this year too, but despite that our pups are always ready for some fun.



## Troop 157—FL (cont.)



### Photo Shoot Fundraiser

Our Troop Leader Christine Geschwill held a Photo Shoot Fundraiser for Hoosier Bulldog Rescue, which raised \$110 and our troop, matched those funds, bringing our total donation to \$220.00. Those who were able to participate were Phyliss June Rinis Myers, Diane Waring, and Andrea Garcia. The pictures came out great as you can see. <https://www.hoosierbulldogrescue.com/wishlists.html>



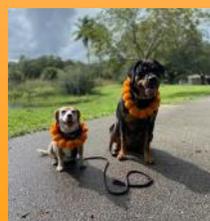
## Kukur Tihar/Kukur Puja Event – Celebrating Our Pups

We had several events this year we had to cancel due to the pandemic, but one of the ones we didn't was our Kukur Tihar or Kukur Puja event. The name literally means the worship of dogs. This is a mini-festival within a larger Hindu celebration of Diwali, the festival of lights. According to Nepalese tradition, one of the festive days is dedicated solely to the human's most devoted friend and guardian. In Hindu religion, a dog is a sacred animal, intended to have a special bond with a human, so as to accompany us on our way to heaven.

During Kukur Tihar, the canines are treated with special love and admiration. Each one gets a flower garland or "malla" placed around its neck. The forehead is painted with a paste named "talik" or "tikka" made from red-colored powder, rice and yogurt. This marking symbolizes their sacredness. Dogs' favorite part of the celebration is to feast on various goodies ranging from fruit and cookies to eggs, milk, cheese, meat, and high-quality dog food. Dawn Hanna lead this event, plus brought home made goodies for the dog, made the red paste for the forehead paint and made flower garland leis for all our pups. Despite the on and off rain we had a fun time celebrating our pups and all the love they bring us.

Next up is the 6<sup>th</sup> Annual DSA Sparky's Turkey Trot where several us will meet at a local park for the walk or participate virtually. © <https://runsignup.com/RaceGroups/100889/Groups/863893>

Happy Thanksgiving everyone!  
Stay Safe.



# Troop 183—FL

Shirley Conley—Troop Leader

## OCTOBER

Troop 183 Water Puppies host, Hip Dog Canine Hydrotherapy allowed us to return for a raincheck session. The dogs were all excited to be back in the water and had a lot of fun. Marvin went skinny dipping at the end of the session—graduating to swimming without his life vest.



## NOVEMBER

At the beginning of November we had fun with tracking. Using concepts from Steve White's Hydration Intensified Tracking Training, we worked our dogs on both the asphalt surface of the parking lot at a park and the grass and dirt around it. The dogs did really well in following a trail of treats to the handler's sock, working with less treats on the trail each time they tracked, and everyone did at least one 90-degree turn. We were able to work 4 dogs at one time, so everyone got lots of practice.

We took advantage of our mentally tired dogs and worked on stays, recalls, leave it, accepting friendly strangers and attention to handler around the other dogs at the end of our session. Everyone did great.

# Troop 188—Ledyard CT

Sheri Throop—Troop Leader

Fall is always a fun time for Troop 188 and despite Covid limitations this year was no exception. As a troop we are working on our Parkour and Obstacle badges. In September we used the parkour moves we have been learning on some manmade obstacles. Our scouts went up and down, over, under and on; and of course in. It was a picture-perfect fall day and fun for everyone.



In addition to parkour we also learned about harnesses that turn your dog into a backpack for climbing, helicopter insertions, for search and rescues and of course emergency extractions.

Our troop held a couple of Obstacle workshops this fall as well. Some of our scouts were tentative at first but as confidence built everyone was enjoying the obstacles, beginning some simple sequences, and mastering some challenging obstacles.



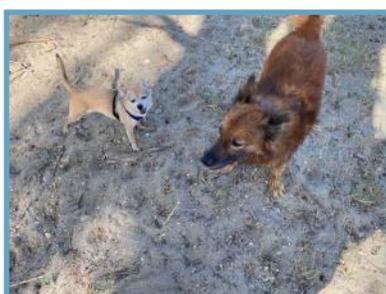
We concluded October with a costume walk. This event was a great experience for our new pup scouts and we have several of the cutest young pups (we might be a little biased). While Covid-19 had the people keeping their distances our scouts got to socialize and make new friends.



# Troops 198 & 237—CA

Leah Lane—Event Coordinator

The San Francisco Bay Area has another new Dog Scout!  
Congratulations to Yeti and Blake for successfully passing their Dog Scout test with Scout Master Donna at our monthly training in November. Little Tribble who is also a Cadet, will join big brother Yeti as a Dog Scout soon!



Troops 198 and 237 are still doing what they can to stay connected and stay safe both with Zoom meetings and controlled in person activities utilizing safe distancing and wearing masks. Once the air had cleared from the California fires, Kristie and Katherine from Troop 237 took Charlie and Maurice for a trail walk at Point Reyes at the end of September. The fur kids loved the outing, their humans too!

In October Troop 237 had our monthly training in the park where the group gathered to practice and get tested on Dog Scout Badge requirements.



Here is Patty and Cadet Sprocket practicing a sit for the Dog Scout test



This is Cadet Wishbone practicing his Leave It Critter with Gus as Dog Scout Duncan supervises from the other side of the fence.



And Patty and Dog Scout Crystal working on scent work, the scent canister is on the back of the chair.

## Troop 198—CA (cont.)

On our troop FB page, we continue to stay connected by posting pictures of our dogs working on activities for both fun and for badges. Here is Bailey showing Mom Trish which apple he wants



Cadet Elton and Cadet Rebel went with Jackie to meet Scout Master Donna at Santana Mall to work on their Dog Scout badge training



Jackie and Cadet June also met with Scout Master Donna to do some more of their testing for the Dog Scout Badge, June is very close only a few more requirements to pass. Go June and Jackie!



And Dog Scout Asia and Jackie are working on their carting skills



At our training in November we did both practicing and testing with Scout Master Donna, of course everyone keeping a safe distance and wearing masks.



Here are Dog Scouts Wyatt and Duncan in front, then newcomers Andrea and Gnocchi, and at the back is Blake with Yeti and Tribble. It was so exciting to see Blake and Yeti complete and pass their final requirements on this day for Yeti's Dog Scout title!



Denise and Cadet Kokoro also passed another Dog Scout test requirement at training, congratulations, you are one step closer to your Dog Scout title!

## Troop 198—CA (cont.)



Hers is a pic with Lennie and Dog Scout Sadie helping Carlotta and Cadet Crystal take and pass greeting another dog on leash requirement, Crystal's human sister Christina watches with pride as all their training pays off with a pass of this test requirement!



Some heartbreaking news to share, we just learned that Dino Phillips crossed the Rainbow Bridge today, 11/15/2020. Not only was Dino a Dog Scout, but his life with Jackie epitomizes the Dog Scout Way. He was dumped at the Berkeley Humane Society in 2006 by his owner because they had too many kids and not enough time for the dog. Dino's time had run out at the shelter when at the last minute he was adopted by Jackie. Under her loving reward-based training Dino earned over 40 titles in a wide range of sports, venues and activities and he was the first Mixed Breed to earn the AKC Rally Advanced Excellent title in 2010. Dino's job was to help Jackie track and find lost pets reuniting them with their owners. They saved many lives with their Pet Detective Business. For all his roles and accomplishments, first and most important was being Jackie's best friend. He will be missed very much, see you on the other side Dino.

# Troop 217—MI ~ Motor City K9's

Sally Hoyle—Troop Leader

This year has been all about finding new ways to do the things we love to do while staying safe. Sometimes that's been a challenge for us, but we recognize that there are others who are dealing with loneliness, isolation, weariness and sadness due to COVID 19. As a troop we can't do all the things that we normally love to do during the holiday season, like parades, bell ringing and gift wrapping. But we can find ways to brighten the day of those who might need it the most, including seniors and care givers. This is how our troop holiday card was born.

Troop members are currently submitting their favorite photos which will be used to create a "card" in the form of a flyer that will be delivered to senior care facilities and hospitals. We know that though the therapy dogs in our group are missing their visits, those on the receiving end of those visits are missing them even more. We hope that our card provides just a bit of holiday cheer.

The word of the year in 2020 is "virtual" and our troop is getting as creative as possible in how we get together for activities. We have had troop meetings via Zoom and are currently planning a virtual holiday party.



We have also been working on the Disabled Dog badge with classes every 2 weeks. We have been able to have really good discussions using Zoom, and we have been able to check off requirements as both humans and canines were ready. Our participating members have learned a lot about how to angle their cameras for the best view of the behaviors their dogs need to demonstrate. At this writing Shelby Benson and mom Julie and Jaxson Baughman and mom Diane have earned the Disabled Dog badge through our classes with most others having just one or two requirements left to meet.

Our dogs are certainly benefiting from the extra attention they've received lately and have earned a number of badges in the past few months. At a recent gathering of just a few members our focus was on weight pull and a number of our dogs were able to master the skill and earn the badge. These dogs include Jaxson Baughman, Sky Cranston, Bam Bam Wood and Katie and Mackenzie Hoyle.

Additional badges earned recently include Jaxson with Dog Care, Sky with Clean Up America 2, Hiking and Parkour, Mackenzie with Geocaching 2 and Letterboxing 2, and Moose Wood with Puissance. In all our troop members have earned 48 badges in 2020 and there is certainly more to come!



Though we will be doing our walking separately, many of us are registered for the 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Turkey Trot & Mile Gobbler as a part of the Motor City Gobbler team. We look forward to racking up miles between now and the end of the year. We hope that many of you will be doing the same.

# Troop 219—CT ~ The New England Explorers

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

We didn't see each other over the summer as everyone worked on their personal goals and adjusted to this new normal. I got new puggle puppy in August. Sharona (Rona) is now the youngest member of the troop and the fastest. She loves her new sisters and all of her new friends. Rona was born June 1st and has already earned her Novice trick dog title, Trick Geek and Puppy Geek. Her favorite trick is digging holes!

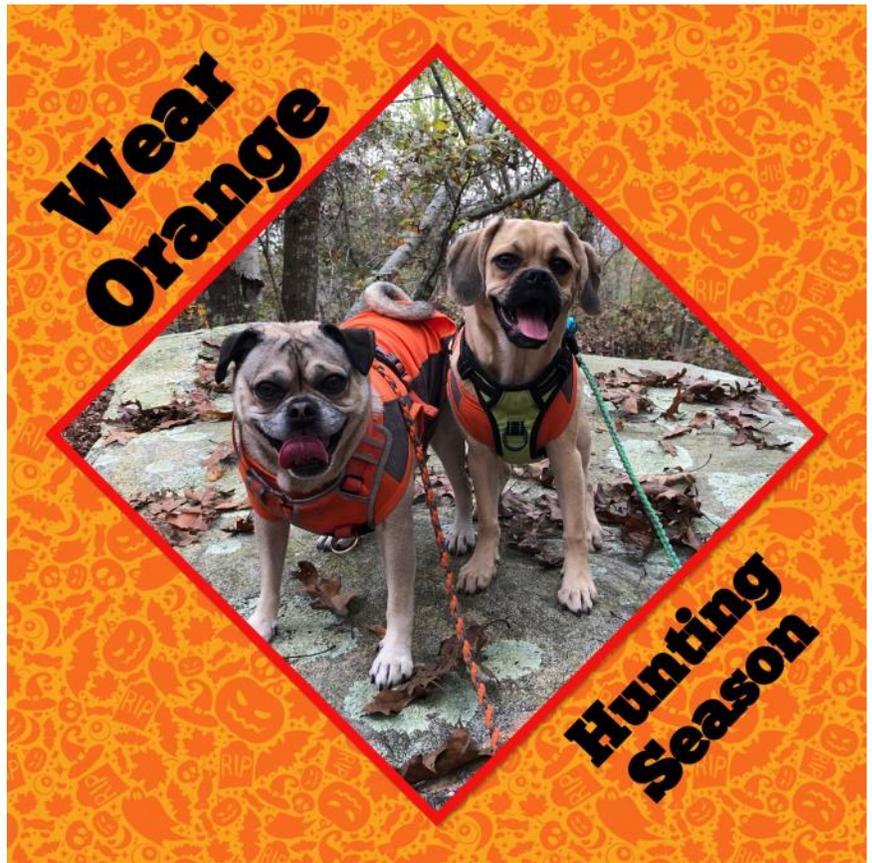


October saw us back on the trails! We went letterboxing in Old Lyme. It wasn't a successful hunt but the pups loved the time to explore and play again. They do not understand social distancing.



**Troop 219—CT (cont.)**

October is also the beginning of hunting season and we want everyone to remember to be safe and wear their orange.



We had our annual Halloween hike at Mooween State Park this year. It was a chilly sunny day but we had snow the night before so the trees were dripping pretty snow. It was an amazing beautiful hike.

## Troop 219—CT (cont.)

In November we went to RI for more letterboxing. Everyone wore their orange because it is hiking season. We love seeing our pups happy and spending time with their friends.



# Contact Dog Scouts of America

Learning new things that we may be more helpful

Website: [dogscouts.org](http://dogscouts.org)  
Facebook: [facebook.com/DogScouts](https://facebook.com/DogScouts)  
Instagram: [#dogscoutsofamerica](https://instagram.com/dogscoutsofamerica)



Princess Mia, Taavi, Jenny Rose and Sheila  
Hope you'll lose count of all your blessings  
and have a happy holiday season

Dog Scouts of America (DSA) was established in 1995. It is a non-profit organization with people dedicated to enriching their dog's lives and the lives of others with dogs. Founder Lonnie Olson has made it her life's ambition to experience as many dog sports and skills as possible with her dogs.

If you believe that dogs really enjoy learning new things and spending time with their owners, you're our kind of dog person. Dogs were not meant to be "furniture." Working dogs want to work. Without having an acceptable activity in which to use up all of the energy that comes "built-in" with a dog, our canine companions often get into trouble.

By better understanding how your dog thinks, how he learns, and what drives his behavior, and by participating in a variety of dog sports and activities, you will become a more responsible dog owner.

We hope to prevent misunderstandings, communication failures, and behavioral problems which often lead to dogs being given up as a "lost cause."

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

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

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

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

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

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

## MERIT BADGE RECOGNITION PROGRAM

**Video Evaluation:** [DSAVideoEval@gmail.com](mailto:DSAVideoEval@gmail.com)

**Evaluator Certification:** **Chris Kloski** — [ChrisBill1966@gmail.com](mailto:ChrisBill1966@gmail.com)

## TITLES/COMPETITIONS

**Hosting/Competing: Sally Hoyle** — [sally.hoyle@yahoo.com](mailto:sally.hoyle@yahoo.com)

**Trail Dog Titles: Kelly Dean** — [DSA.Troop219@yahoo.com](mailto:DSA.Troop219@yahoo.com)  
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