

The Dog Scout Scoop

Official Newsletter ~ Dog Scouts of America

Volume 24 Issue 2 ~ March/April 2021

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

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practicing
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during
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Deadline: for the next newsletter is

May 15th

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

A Message from the Michigan Dog Scout Camp Director

Greetings, Campers!



It has been a very weird year. We weren't sure what the pandemic had in store for us this time last year, so we put off postponing camp until the last minute, hoping that there would be a miracle or something.

Well, we've got the Covid vaccine now, but with new strains, and with part of the population thinking that this is no big deal and attending mass gathering super-spreaders, the numbers are going up again. It's really hard to predict what the chances for large gatherings will be like for the near future. The people I respect (doctors and scientists) urge us to maintain the caution that we have used for the past year.

So, I regret that we will not be having the June camp again this year, and without some sort of miracle, we will most likely not be holding the July camp, either. Will this ever end?

I am a bit concerned about peoples' deposits or monies paid to DSA for the balance of their camp back in 2019. It's starting to seem like ages ago... Those of us who anticipated bringing our young pups to camp for their first time, now have full grown dogs. Those of us with elderly dogs, are reaching a point where there is less and less they are able to do. And, sadly, some of us have had our Dog Scouts pass on in the past year. So, I am going to offer all registered campers the opportunity to have their deposits and/or balances refunded, if that is their wish. Those of you who are optimistic for next year can still let the funds "ride" until we are able to hold summer camp again. If you would like your deposit and/or payments refunded, **please let me know by April 15th**.

Last year at this time, the thought of doing this would have been extremely challenging for DSA. But because of the generous donations of members and the two virtual camps that we held last summer and this winter, we are able to remain financially stable. I don't want anyone to feel guilty about asking for their camp funds to be returned. You may need the money to get you through these unprecedented times of unexpected joblessness or other hardships you're facing from the Pandemic.

There's another option. If you choose to let your monies paid for camp tuition remain on hold for when we'll have camp again, we are hoping to have two separate mini-camps this fall that you can use your funds toward. To keep everyone safe and meet everyone's lodging expectations, these smaller camps will be held separately. This was the suggestion of one of our Board Members, Jennifer Vasinda. You will hear more about this, later, as we discuss it with our staff. We're looking at late August or early September. It seems fitting, as our very first DSA camp ever was held the first week of September, 1996. If you are not able to attend the fall mini camp, we will still hold your funds over for the next time we can hold camps.

2020 would have been our 25th consecutive year of holding camps. However, 2021 is actually our 25th Anniversary (if you count years since the beginning, rather than years with camps in them). So, if we are able to hold the mini camps, we will now be celebrating the same number of camps as our years in business. I'm hoping this will make it less confusing for all involved.

Message from Michigan Dog Scout Camp Director (cont.)

As for camp news and wildlife watch, SPRING has SPRUNG. The wildlife is moving around again. The frogs are croaking in the ponds. I boiled maple syrup last week (with DSA President, Sally Hoyle, who wanted to come up and see what that was like). Just about all of the snow is melted, and the ice is off the pond. There are many, many trees that broke in half with the weight of the snow this winter, or were pushed down by the high winds. We've got a HUGE clean-up waiting for us.



Speaking of Spring Clean-up, there will be a number of activities that will still be going on at camp. We will continue to allow individuals or small groups to come up and camp. We will follow all Covid protocols, for everyone's safety. We found that we can have 10 to 12 people in the lodge for meal times, still maintaining the 6 foot distance between people. So, again this year, we'll have a Camp Clean-up weekend (probably in April or May), the troop 101 Crafting Weekend (usually in September), possibly the jamboree or other fall outing of some type in October, and other various excuses for smaller get-togethers here at camp throughout the summer. Be sure to read your newsletter for information, consult our Facebook page, and I'll probably continue to send camper memos, also.



Me? I've been busy helping run the virtual camps. We have 3 creative geniuses in Sally Hoyle, Melissa Matteson, and Shirley Conley (and me, a person with an imagination), who have come up with some amazing stuff for us to do with our dogs during social isolation. The Virtual Camps have been incredible, and the feedback has been extremely positive. People really needed this. We plan to continue to offer the Virtual Camps, even after we are able to start back having in-person camps. We have found it an amazing way to build and maintain friendships with our members in distant places, who can't make it to a regular camp.

I've also been busy raising my male Boston Terrier, Scallywag (brother to Kismet). I got him one year ago in April. He is such a fun addition to our family.

I hope all is well with you and yours, and hope we'll be able to see each other again in person soon. In the mean-time, check out our virtual camps. We are already in the planning stages for our next one. They're a lot of fun, and the next best thing to being here!

Fondest Regards,
Lonnie



congratulations!

2020 Trail Titles

January

Westen Tucker—Utility Pack Dog

February

Rigger Robinson—Trail Dog

March

Bam Bam Wood—Trail Dog

Jib Almann—Utility Trail Dog 3000

Mighty Moose Wood—Trail Dog



April

Blitzen Tucker—Pack Dog

Blitzen Tucker—Trail Dog

The Stig Dombeck—Trail Dog

May

The Stig Dombeck—Trail Dog Excellent

Westen Tucker—Utility Pack Dog 500

Wyatt White—Letterbox Excellent

June

Sage Lanter—Utility Trail Dog

Wyatt White—Utility Trail Dog 750

August

Taika Almann—Utility Trail Dog 4000

September

The Stig Dombeck—Utility Trail Dog

October

Westen Tucker—Trail Dog

November

Alita Stewart—Pack Dog

December

Jax Long—Pack Dog

Molly Long—Pack Dog

Zuma Chlopek—Pack Dog



*Kaylene, Jax
& Molly Long*

2021 Trail Titles



Congratulations to Maurice Iwamoto on earning the first Trail Dog title of 2021!



Celebrating our New Scouts!

Becoming a Dog Scout is an event to be celebrated. It demonstrates the commitment the handler has made to his/her dog and serves as a testament to the intelligence of the dog and his willingness to learn. The badge the dog wears proudly on his cape represents the special relationship between the dog and his handler.

Dogs who have recently earned the Dog Scout title should be celebrated by the entire DSA community, as they follow those who have come before them and serve as an inspiration for those who will earn the title in the future.

This month we are celebrating seven special dogs who have earned the Dog Scout title as a part of the class of 2021. Many of these dogs participated in our Winter of Wags virtual camp and have already gone on to earn other badges. There is no doubt that they will continue to accomplish many things in the future.

Congratulations to these dogs and their handlers, including our very first Dog Scouts residing in the UK!

January



Tacoma Phillips
Jackie Phillips
San Leandro, CA

February

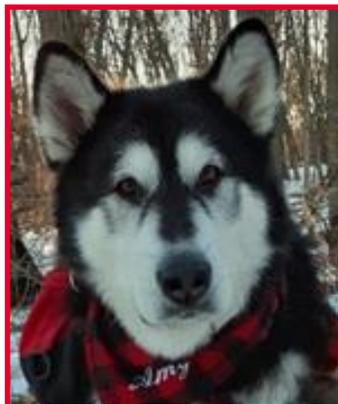


Chalkie & Lemon Puff Bruce
Diane Bruce
Mitcham, Surrey, UK

March



June Phillips
Jackie Phillips
San Leandro, CA



Amy Strathman
Kasha Strathman
Winthrop Harbor, IL



Bennie Duman
Beth Duman
Howell, MI



Thunder Lake
Michelle Lake
Gales Ferry, CT

My FAVORITE Winter of Wags Moments

By Sally Hoyle, DSA President

Our virtual camp, Winter of Wags 2021 wrapped up the first week of March. There were so many special moments during the month long camp! From the great pizza challenge to the celebration of Dr. Seuss Day, campers and their dogs kept me laughing. I was continually inspired watching the things all the dogs were accomplishing, from the youngest puppy learning a new trick or skill, to watching the oldest dog complete her own Minute to Win It course, and everything in between. I was awed by everyone's creative endeavors, whether it was seeing people's memory boards, baked cookies or perspective photos.

I absolutely LOVED spending time with everyone in our Weekly Wag Sessions and Badge Labs via Zoom. It was great to see all the dogs in action and I had a great time. And the icing on the cake was seeing all the dogs earn badges. There are still badge forms coming in as a result of WOW '21.

It could have been a long and bleak winter, but our wonderful campers continually brightened my days. The event was a great success and I attribute that success to our campers. So if you participated in WOW '21, thank you so much! Each and every one of you made a difference and added so much to the event.

I don't want to close without thanking those who worked so hard behind the scenes to make sure everything was in place and ready, and that campers always had what they needed. Melissa Matteson, Shirley Conley and Lonnie Olson did a ton of work to make the camp run smoothly. Our webmaster, Sonja Klattenberg made sure everything was always organized and ready on our web site, and Martha Thierry did all the amazing graphics we needed, including the very popular Passport stamps. This is a small, but mighty team, and each person does an incredible job.

Be sure to stay tuned for information about our next virtual camp coming up soon. You won't want to miss this one, for sure!



Winter of Wags à la Dr. Seuss

Winter of Wags by Laurie & Booker Keel

The world of WoW is quite a place,
a place that has given the winter blahs a chase.

So many things to learn and to do,
I have to admit I've missed a few.

We tried pulling and pushing and fetching a tissue,
We tried Minute to Win It with hardly an issue.

Brand new feats have made us feel great,
For that magical sensation you don't have to wait.

A busy dog is just the most happy,
Spending some time with their human instead of a nappy.

Our Canine best friends are happiest of all,
DSA's WoW answered their call.



Tribute to Dr. Seuss by Claudia, Reveille & Rory Schmitt

Oh, the places we've been.
With sis', Reveille Rae and brother, Rory Blue.
From Dog -camp to Shreveport to Monrue
Oh, the fun we have too!

And the great things we've done.
Lure coursing! Dock diving
Hikes in the day, evening, and night!
Agility tunnels, dog walks at great heights.
Oh, the fun we have had!

Oh, so many dogs to meet.
Furry friends on the street.
Brindle ones. Freckled ones!
Hairy ones. Hair-less ones!
Oh, the fun we have had!





Winter of Wags à la Dr. Seuss

WOW Fun Is Not Yet Done! By Kaylyn & Rylie Berryman

We've waited so long for this winter event,
Rylie's had so much fun, we're so glad that we went.

It was so much fun, and so much is learned,
But we will keep working 'till the badges are earned

We've built so much distance and can hardly believe,
That on top of all that we have learned to retrieve.

We loved all the puzzles, they were such fun,
though the pulling word scramble is still part undone.

We liked Minute To Win It - its such a fun game.
We've found Rylie has a popular name.

We know WOW is done, but the fun is not done,
Spring's just begun, and we'll continue to have
good Dog Scout fun!



Rylie and her friend LaWana being Mayzie and Horton from "Horton Hatches the Egg"

Best of All by Kristie & Maurice Iwamoto

As our Winter of Wags sadly comes to an end,
We'll miss badge labs and zooms, and all our new friends.
From bowling, to "leave-it," and Minute to Win It,
We challenged ourselves and had fun while we did it.

To Shirley, and Lonnie, Melissa and Sally!
Thank you from me and Maurice here in Cali!
You all worked so hard to make camp a great time.
It wouldn't be right if you weren't in this rhyme!

We loved all the Facebook group posts here at camp.
We filled up our passports with plenty of stamps.
We exercised kindness, ate pizza, and the rest,
But I think Biscuit Day was the day Mo liked best.

When Covid is gone, it'll be just like Heaven
To see our good friends in Troop 237.
And who knows? We'll probably feel so great,
We'll go south, see our pals in Troop 198!

So let's go for a walk, Mo, just me and you.
We'll bathe in the forest, do some ShinRin-Yoku.
We'll breathe in ocean air under treetops so tall.
Just be with each other...I like that best of all!



Winter of Wags à la Dr. Seuss



Oh The Journey We've Had by Pumpkin & Michelle Neu

Winter can be cold, snowy, dark, and weary
But mom took me on a journey to make it less dreary

Winter of Wags, she said could be so much fun
Learning new skills sent us on adventures in the sun

I learned to jump, retrieve, leave it, and more
I couldn't wait to see what each week had in store

As we learned and played our bond really grew
We both taught each other things we never knew

Adventures outside let me run and go vroom
This way I relaxed when mom had to Zoom

Pushing, Pulling, Bowling, activities galore
ShinRin got us out to explore

I have to say thanks to those who put this together
We were able to make memories that will last forever

Dog Scouts and virtual camps have been a blessing for me
It has made my mom and I as close as can be!

My Winter of Wags by Ruth & Kobi Robinson

A big white dog with a lop-sided grin,
Went out for a walk, in a forest *shin-rin*.

His Scout friends were there,
Well, only a pair.

This Winter of Wags was a camp most virtual
On-line it was truly searchable.

From First Aid to safe car rides
We learned stuff from all sides

Of paw to tail and a top-notch, too.

But Kobi's bread basket, filled with dog biscuits

Made him most happy - he wouldn't have missed it!!



Rainbow Bridge

Cleo aka Swiffer

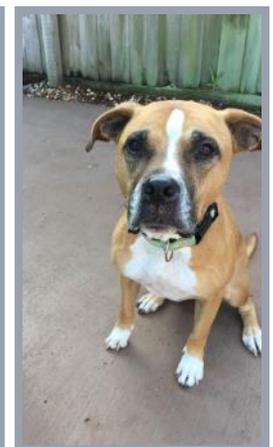
3/30/2009 - 1/08/2021

by Owner Lisa Rose, Troop 157

On Friday, January 8, 2021 Cleo crossed the rainbow bridge with Lisa Rose and sister Denice Zager by her side. This was one of the most difficult days in my life. I am so grateful Denice was able to come up. Cleo was a fabulous dog. She was a rescue from Hollywood Animal Hospital. Cleo was the most adorable puppy with those big floppy ears, beautiful, soulful brown eyes and her bratty stripe in the back of her head. She was a goofball and a total cuddle bug. When we brought her home she and Lily became best buddies along with Chyna Blue who would correct them when they got too wild. I used to call Cleo and Lily the Twins or Clily. They were inseparable and played hard and loud. They loved tugging on palm fronds and the game of chase with each other was a favorite. Cleo enjoyed training especially the treats!

We enjoyed doing agility with Holly Fidelius for fun, she loved doing tricks, geocaching with Lily and us and backpacking with our Dog Scout Troop. Cleo was my first dog to swim in the pool and this thrilled us no end. Cleo really enjoyed counter surfing. she used to counter surf the entire kitchen just to see if there was anything even a piece of paper was fun to her. If counter surfing was a dog sport she would hold the world title! Cleo loved sunning herself for long periods of time, she loved helping Marcel grill, hanging out with you when putting up Christmas decorations outside and playing with her stuffed chicken. Thank you Mary Thomas this was her favorite toy ever!

I was beyond proud of her when she earned her CGC, Dog Scouts of America badge, DSA Obstacles 1 badge and her AKC Trick Dog Novice title. Cleo totally rocked it and didn't miss a beat! We could not have accomplished this without our trainer friends Cindi Stone, Holly Fidelius and Marni Ivy Bellavia. You guys are awesome and I appreciate all you did for Cleo and me on our training journey. I will treasure those memories forever. I will miss playing with her and watching her hop like a bunny, she would crack me up when she had the zoomies. Cleo touched so many people's hearts and lives. She brought joy to everyone she ever met. Her love of life, people and food was undeniable. Cleo had such a beautiful spirit and so filled with love. She was truly one of a kind. Cleo, I miss you horrible and will love you forever. RIP Big Girl. Run free my love. I love you!!!



**Shelby Benson, DSA Honor Scout,
TDI, CGCA, CGCU,
July 31, 2003 – March 15, 2021**

Words can not express how heartbroken I am. Monday, March 15th I had to say goodbye to my best friend, Shelby.

Shelby was a “once in a lifetime” dog – she was something extra special. People who always said they didn’t like little dogs sure didn’t think that way of Shelby. Everyone she met fell in love with her.

I will always remember all our good times and adventures together – over 17 years of them.

From training classes, to years at Dog Scout camp, community service work, and countless hours serving as a therapy dog for organizations within the community. She touched so many lives and changed mine forever. Shelby taught me so much over the years – from patience to empathy to most importantly, unconditional love.

A Dog Scout, Honor Scout, TDI Therapy Dog, and Canine Good Citizen (including Urban & Advanced), I have always been so proud of all her accomplishments.

As terrible as the past year has been, it has been a great blessing for me. Because of the pandemic, I have been able to stay home with Shelby 24/7 the past 367 days. As hard as it was for me to watch Shelby decline, I was so grateful for every second we had together. I wouldn’t trade that time for anything!!



I hope Shelby is pain-free and happy again reuniting with so many she has lost over the years - Milo, Sassy, Abby, Emma, Shov’la, Arden, Josh, and so many more.

I lived ½ my 20’s and all my 30’s with my baby girl, I can’t even remember how life was before she came into my life and I can’t imagine how life will be without her. A piece of my heart died with Shelby on March 15th, I just hope over time I can think back on our time together and smile rather than cry.

My happiest hello and my saddest goodbye. No longer by my side but forever in my heart.

I will love you forever Shelby!!

Julie Benson
Troop 217



Scout Scoop & Troop Tales

Troop 101—MI

Goldy Reid (with help from Fay)

Troop 101 of Michigan has been weathering the pandemic like the rest of the world. Today was the first day a few of us and some friends we meet thru WOW (Megan, Aaron, and Amanda) got together for a walk with masks and social distancing. The sun was shining, the wind was strong but we were able to put in 1.75 miles. Some backpacked, others tried a little parkour and some even enjoyed the last of the snow.



Some of the dog scouts from troop 101 decided to make some dog/cat beds to donate. Here I (Goldy) am with Booker trying them out.

As you can see we still have lots to do so any help would be appreciated.

Delta, Yaegar and Claudette Smith attended the WOW virtual camp and worked on the skills that will help them to help Claudette with her special needs. Claudette said they improved their Toss N Fetch scores for their team this winter and are looking forward to performing with Rock N Roll K9s again. They are also practicing nosework and carting skills.



Jax, Molly & Kaylene Long attended the WOW virtual camp where both dogs learned to pull a sled. Jax is working on picking up and bringing Kaylene his snuffle ball. Kaylene is learning about massage for both Molly's and Jax's merit badges. Molly is working on agility and they are learning to work together as a team. Jax is determined to master the settle so he can get his manners badge. Molly is excited to have her own agility field this spring so she can play more!

Troop 101—MI (cont.)

Razzle & SheRa Baudoux have been working on agility, rally, recalls, staying in place with distractions and fitness. Mom (Pauline) is working on trying to complete the written part of our tests.



Mom (Fay Reid) and I (Goldy) participated in WOW and are spending a great deal of time ShinRin-Yoku-ing and enjoying the start of spring. I enjoy scent work, geocaching, letterboxing and Parkour.



Shadow and mom, Vickie, have been taking lots of walks, practicing parkour and playing freebee. Now that the snow is gone Shadow's favorite game of Chuck It ball will start up again.

"It's me, Booker. I've been working on things from WOW 2021 with my Mom Laurie, playing in the snow, and visiting my cousins really poops me out and I crash early every evening. I have been working hard on learning to focus on my Mom more."



Walden has been spending much of his time helping his Mom, Jo, fix stuff around the house.

Troop 101—MI (cont.)

Jean, Taavi and Sheila Thompson have been hanging together staying safe. Hope the pandemic is over soon so we can get back to seeing our friends.



The Olsons have been enjoying a true Michigan winter for the 1st time in a few years. With mom, Lonnie, working so hard with the WOW committee the youngest, Kismet & Scallywag, have been pulling most of the weight.

The Foy's have been enjoying spending family time and keeping a low profile till this pandemic is over. As you can see they love to spend time cuddling and practicing their dance moves.



Question for my fellow Dog Scouts.

Do any of you dogs out there have any ideas for me to get my mom motivated to do her part on these badges? I have completed several on my part but mom doesn't like writing and hasn't completed the handler section. I finished finding poops for mom to pick up for the Clean up America badge. Hope she turns in the form soon. There is our written plan to get out of town for the Disaster Preparedness badge. Oh, and the movie in which I star in to name a few. Any help would be appreciated.

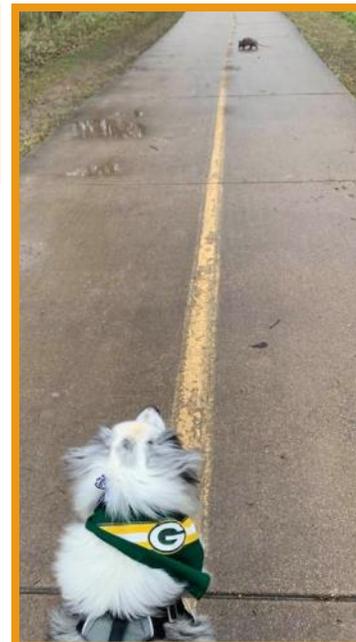
Maybe I can recommend to the badge committee, they switch the roles so I can get her parts done. I'd love to see her do my parts, specially the 1st Aid. Wouldn't that be a hoot! What do you guys think? On the other paw, if she never gets her part done we still have a blast working on my parts together and there is a lot more out there to do. Well, they say spring is around the corner and with that comes spring cleaning maybe it will work for badges too! Can't wait to see you all at the next Wags session or in-person camp. Happy Trails everyone! Thanks Goldy

Troop 119—N TX

Cindy Ratliff—Troop Leader

Troop 119 started out the new (hopefully dramatically improved) year with a troop hike in January. It was a great day to be out and we just got a very few sprinkles on us while we walked. We enjoyed a nice 2.5+ mile hike on a really nice January day.

We all enjoyed being back together with our troop friends! An armadillo even wanted to join in and offered a “leave it” opportunity for the dogs.



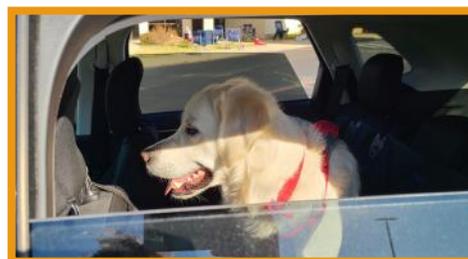
In February we all got a huge surprise, as we're sure you all have heard. Snowmageddon 2021!! We don't see much of that white stuff in these parts and even though many of us got an inch or two in January, February was way out of line for winter weather in Texas! Most of us got several inches of snow (6-8 inches in north Fort Worth, for example) and sadly, most of our troop members had to deal with some pretty harsh conditions. Many members lost power, were under water boil notices, had busted pipes or busted swimming pool equipment.

Even though many were huddled in their houses trying to stay warm, many of the dogs enjoyed the opportunity to get out and play in conditions they had never experienced before.

We were all thankful that the very next week we returned to our usual February high temps in the 50s & 60s!

In late February, we presented the Travel Safety badge in the hopes that we'll all be able to start travelling around the country again soon! We got to remind ourselves of the importance of keeping our dogs safe while travelling and being prepared for emergencies and various weather conditions as well.

We enjoyed a beautiful day in the sun and the dogs got to show off how much their parents care for them by keeping them safe.



Troop 157—FL ~ Broward County Paw Patrol

Teresa Irvine

Walk In The Park – Turkey Trot Medals

We held a Troop meet up walk at our local Heritage Park to enjoy the beautiful Florida winter weather and gave out the Sparky Turkey Trot medals to those who signed up and participated. We had a great turn out, enjoyed catching up with each other and getting out with our pups.



Hike at Hugh Taylor Birch State Park

This is February in South Florida! Our troop headed east to Hugh Taylor Birch State Park for what South Floridians think is a great hike. This park is bordered by A1A and the beach, Long Lake and the Intracoastal Waterway. We enjoyed fabulous weather, mangroves, art, butterflies, lakes, stunning views of the Intracoastal Waterway, beautiful trails, strangler figs, and most of all... friendship and camaraderie. Superstars Clover and Christine, Luna and Patricia, and Jolie and Maria, totally rocked their backpacks on our 2-mile hike!



Troop 177—IN

Robyn Porter

Troop #177 met on March 14 for our first meeting in some time! After the dogs had a chance to run and play each member answered two questions for the group:

- 1) How Covid has impacted them or their schedule
- 2) The most surprising thing about the last year



Beautiful Penny in a pose

We had a variety of responses but one common theme was isolation and how glad we are to have our wonderful dogs!

We practiced skills related to the Retrieve badge, using both plastic and wood dumbbells for retrieval. Believe it or not, dogs might have a preference! In attendance were Emily and Lucy, Peggy and Penny as well as Zoey, and Robyn with Hallie and Griffin.

Since it is close to St Patrick's Day we had photo opportunities with two backdrops and lots of props!



Griffin posing with St Patrick's basket



Lucy and her bandana in a pretty sit



Zoey is almost 1 year old!



Griffin looking dapper in his jaunty cap!



Hallie - too cool for school!



Hallie is the gold at the end of the rainbow!



Quizzical Lucy says "I found the gold, now what?"

Troop 183—FL

Shirley Conley—Troop Leader

February saw some of our troop participating in Winter of Wags. We met a new family who had signed up for WOW2021 with their puppy, Mako—an Australian Koolie, and hope they'll join our troop and have more fun with us.



Marvin and Nim played Bow-Wow Bowling.

Four of our dogs were used as demo dogs for some of the WOW instruction videos.



For one of the videos Sandy demonstrated how quickly and easily an emergency stop can be introduced to a dog.



We successfully met the "leave it" challenge, worked on foundation behaviors for IMPROV, learned about Travel Safety, Disaster Preparation, First Aid Kits, Geocaching & Letterboxing.

Awesome Amy and Marvin are the first of our Troop members to earn the First Aid badge, which they demonstrated during one of the WOW Badge Labs.



In March we got together at a local park and worked on some of the activities from WOW2021—leave it, directional cues, distance cues, figure 8's, using dogs and people as posts and relaxing around other dogs and people.



Aria is recovering from TPLO surgery, so Jeanette brought Midas and Will. Midas got to hang out, clean up dropped treats and learn to relax in the big world around friends and Will got some much needed one-on-one training time with Jeanette.

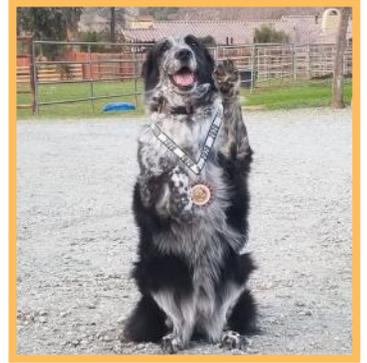


Marvin and Tachi got some "Bro" time and were happy to get treats for practicing some of the things they'd been introduced to during WOW 2021, being polite and for paying attention to their moms.

Coming up in the next few months we have sign language, a pontoon boat ride, and barn hunt.

Troops 198 & 237—CA

San Francisco Bay Area Troops 198 and 237 have been keeping busy while staying safe out on the west coast. We didn't have this picture in time to post in the last scoop, it is a great shot of proud Dog Scout Sadie Randall showing off her Turkey Trot Medal, looking gorgeous Sadie!



Another Dog Scout super achiever is Tacoma Phillips who earned his second AKC Advanced Handler Discrimination Leg through the Monterey Bay Scent work Club on Feb 21st. Great Job Tacoma!



Tacoma's siblings, Dog Scouts Palo and Asia also have been keeping busy enjoying the great outdoors by doing some biking with a friend. Running good team!



Brother Cadet Elton Phillips got his energy out by Scootering with Mom Jackie. Such an athlete!



Tacoma's other two siblings, Dog Scouts Rusty and June helped make sure all the valuables like the dog food at home were safe and secure. No way dog food thieves could get past his security team!



Bailey Girardi showed she is a true California girl and demonstrated her skills at soaking up the warm California sunshine.



Madison showed off her balancing skills with a pic for International Sled Day, she would rather ride than pull any day!



The Armstrong boys, Maxwell, Dayton and Memphis demonstrated their skills in how to get the bed warm for Mom and Dad on those chilly nights. Just three giant furry golden hot water bottles! But where do Mom and Dad fit?



Troop 198—CA (cont.)



Cadet Kozmo accepted a troop Mission Possible challenge for National Peanut Butter Day. Kozmo gave us his favorite peanut butter recipe, a bone stuffed with wet dog food, peanut butter, cheese strings, dry dog food then you freeze it. A great doggie tribute to National Peanut Butter Day.



In February our monthly Dog Scout training landed on Valentine's Day and we took Valentine's Day pictures for those who attended training. This is first time attendees Kathleen and Sienna. Sienna is a Kelpie, the first one ever to attend our trainings, she had a great time.



We had three more first time attendees, this is Lisa, Hana and Emi. Lisa and Hana have been doing Pet Therapy for years, and little sister Emi just joined the family a month ago. Puppy Emi at 17 weeks is already larger than petite sis Hana, but big sis Hana is still very much in charge.



Showing great Valentine's Day style, we have Dog Scout Crystal and Cadet Sprocket posing for a great fashion shot sporting Valentine deely boppers.



Not only are they adorable Valentine's, but Denise and Kokoro are a great team, at training Kokoro and Denise completed the last of the requirements of the Dog Scout test. Denise is working hard on the written test and soon we will have another Dog Scout in our troop. WOO HOO!



This is such a great picture, Scout Master Donna Johns and cadet Wishbone celebrating Valentine's Day with our troop, it doesn't get any sweeter than this!

Troop 198—CA (cont.)



They were not at the Troop 198 training because Kristie and Maurice live in the East Bay and they are members of troop 237, but they shared a picture of their Valentine's Date done right! Check out that tie on Mr. Maurice! Very suave!

Many members of both troops attended the Winter of Wags Virtual Dog Scout camp. We have already shared pictures of Jackie Phillips and her fur family, as well as Lennie's girl Sadie, Donna & Wishbone and Kristie & Maurice so here are some pictures from the other camp attendees.

Chriss and Toby had fun attending camp, meeting new friends and posting encouraging words to other attendees on the camp Face Book page.



Teresa and Lulu posted this picture on the camp Facebook page. They had lots of fun doing activities like Bow-Wow bowling and taking walks in nature together, practicing Shin Rin Yoku.

All three kids from the Weaver clan attended WOW virtual camp, Dog Scout Yeti, Cadet Tribble and big sis Elle Belle had lots of fun spending time with Mom Blake taking walks outside and learning new games and new skills. At 16, Elle Belle showed you are never too old for fun with family and friends!



Susan Butkis' kids, Cas and Callie posted pictures from snowy Minnesota to the WOW virtual camp Face Book Page, they made new Dog Scout friends all across the US of A, Canada and even from Great Britain!

Troop 198—CA (cont.)

This is a great picture of Carlotta, Bailey and Crystal in front of a beautiful Weeping Willow. One of the activities of camp was to take pictures in front of four different types of trees each week to help us get outside and do Shin Rin Yoku walks to help us renew, de-stress and spend time with our dogs.



Of course, being a virtual camp and all of us participating electronically, there were technical challenges, Wyatt was a big help to Mom Leah as tech support for the weekly camp zoom meetings called Weekly Wags.

We also earned badges during camp by participating in zoom meeting trainings and demonstrations. This is Ruth and Kobi demonstrating their skills and earning their First Aid Badge during one of the virtual Badge Labs during camp.



Duncan also earned his First Aid Badge during camp as he cooperated while Mom Leah took his vitals, showed how to transport him two different ways in an emergency and how to put on an emergency muzzle, bandage a wound on his front leg and then put a splint on his back leg. They had practiced all of this many times so they both would know what to do in an emergency.



EXCITING NEWS!!! The Gumbins just picked up the newest edition to their family, meet Luna! Bailey and Crystal's life is about to get really busy, nothing like a puppy to get the party started! No doubt we will soon have a new Pup Scout, Bailey and Crystal will show her how it is done. Congratulations to proud Mom, Carlotta, Dad, Scott, and human sister, Christina, too!



Our troops are off and running using and sharing new skills they learned at Winter of Wags virtual Dog Scout Camp and we can't wait to start visiting our old gathering spots together. Lots of new exciting things on the way and **WE ARE READY!!!**

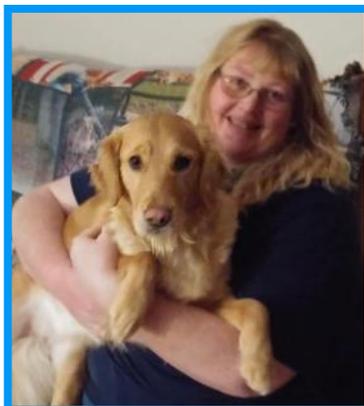
Troop 217—MI ~ Motor City K9's

Sally Hoyle—Troop Leader

A few weeks ago we hit the one year mark with regard to the COVID shutdown. There were a number of people on social media sites sharing the last photo taken on their phones before everything shut down, so I thought I'd take a peek at my phone to see what my last photo was in the "normal" world. I was glad to see that it was a very happy reminder. The photo that came up was taken at our last in person troop meeting. It seems like it was so long ago!



And just for comparison here's Pumpkin 1 year on



Our troop has been existing via Zoom for the past year, but that doesn't mean we haven't been active! We've been meeting every 2 weeks and spend some time together working on badges, playing games and sharing knowledge. We've worked on the Manners badge and are having discussions about some of the requirements for Travel Safety and Disaster Prep. We have some dogs ready to check out on those badges all ready. Each time we meet, one troop member has a fun game for us all to play. Most recently we played a trivia game and have a scavenger hunt coming up for our next meeting. Through it all, we've been able to keep our dogs engaged and make them a part of each meeting.



We are very sad to have lost one of our longtime members a couple of weeks ago. Shelby Benson was 17 ½ years old, and she was one very accomplished little dog! I have many, many fond memories of Shelby, but one of my favorites is watching Shelby and her mom Julie learn to stand-up paddle board. Turns out that Shelby absolutely loved it, and I think Julie found it to be quite tranquil. I also really enjoyed letterboxing with Shelby and have so many memories of fun hikes and great finds. We always managed to have a good time, even if we didn't find what we were looking for. Shelby was such a special girl and is missed by so many people. I am so glad that my dogs and I were able to be a part of her long and happy life.

DSA in the UK



We'd like to extend a warm WELCOME to our new DSA members in the UK, Diane Bruce and Wade Cooper.

Wade and his greyhound, Susie, live in Sheffield and are affiliated with Troop 188 in CT.

Diane joined us for both Scrap the Summer and Winter of Wags with her two Papillons, Chalkie and Lemon Puff. Now Dog Scouts, the boys earned a merit badge each during the Winter of Wags badge labs: Chalkie earned Canine Massage and Lemon Puff Canine First Aid. Diane says that Travel Safety, Naked Dog Obedience and Disaster Preparation, which we highlighted during Winter of Wags, are also in the works. Besides the Butterfly Boys, Diane has 10-year-old collie, Jade, and 13-year-old collie, Max, and sometimes 9-year-old mixed breed, Frankie, stops by and partners with Diane in Flyball competitions.

The upside to hosting more virtual events due to the pandemic is that troops and DSA can include and stay connected with those living further afield. Welcome to our UK pups and peeps.

