

The Dog Scout Scoop

Official Newsletter ~ Dog Scouts of America

Volume 24 Issue 3 ~ Summer 2021

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

Scout Scoop & Troop Talk P14-33

*Congratulations to
lovely Luna Gumbin
who recently
earned her
honorary Pup
Scout title*



Rainbow Bridge P9

Notes from National

- NEW Virtual Block Party! P2
- Michigan Mini Camp P3
- Trail & Dog Scout Titles P6
- Sparky's Store Featured Items P8

Deadline: for the next newsletter is

September 1st

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

You're Invited To SPARKY'S SUMMER



The countdown to Sparky's Summer Block Party has begun, but in the weeks leading up to the party, challenges have arisen! Will a corrupt city official, neighborhood drama, thieves and Murphy's law stall Sparky's summer soiree success?

Join our quest to overcome these roadblocks by participating in four weeks of fun-filled, skill-building activities and challenges for you and your favorite canine companion(s) that will secure your invitation to Sparky's Summer Block Party.

During the countdown you will receive access to weekly activity guides that provide you and dog with opportunities to reinforce behavior proficiency, expand communication capability, encourage new skill acquisition, develop relationships, and energize the dog days of summer.

The activity guides are supported with instructional videos, written materials and Weekly Wag Zoom sessions, plus we're hosting two Sunday 4-Paws Mixer Zoom sessions designed to ignite your dog-training creativity as you interact live with fellow dog enthusiasts. You will also have access to the closed Facebook group created exclusively for Block Party participants, where you can share your photos and videos and connect with existing and new friends.

The countdown will culminate in Sparky's Summer Block Party (hosted via Zoom) with activities and games - bring your own beverage and dog treats - we can't wait to see you!

\$90 for 4 weeks with some discounts available.

Register at [Sparky's Summer Block Party \(runsignup.com\)](https://runsignup.com)

Michigan Mini Camp

Session 1: August 20-24, 2021

Session 2: August 25-29, 2021



We're offering Mini Camps at Michigan Camp this year

Cost: \$530 for first camper,
\$200 for additional family members
Camp fee includes tuition, meals and all camp activities (from 9am
-9pm) each day (lodging and badges are extra).

Repeat campers receive a \$50 discount.

First dog is Free - additional dogs per family are \$50 each.

Find out more at [MI - Dog Scout Camp - Dog Scouts of America](#)

Registration form: <https://form.jotform.com/92466304521150>

Join us to find out what all the fun is about!

Michigan Camp Cleanup

We had our first spring cleanup of the Dog Scout Camp in St. Helen on April 19-22nd. After weeks of T-shirt weather here in Michigan, suddenly we returned to winter, and temps were very cold. Despite that, 5 dedicated DSA members turned out to take on the huge task before us.

Over the winter the heavy snow weighed down our tree branches and took off huge branches on the large trees, and just plain snapped the small trees in half. The trails were impassable and we certainly would not be able to have any camps or outings until the debris got removed.

We all did a little chain-sawing, lopping, loading and trucking the over-filled trailer loads to the lure coursing field, where it would be burned. Vickie showed up ready to work, with her large chainsaw, helmet, and chainsaw chaps. This gal really knows how to fell and cut up trees! We all learned a little bit from her. We also had Lonnie's 2 smaller chainsaws going and other tools to help us.

By the end of the 4th day, we had hauled at least 15 loads of trees out of the woods. The trails were cut open again, and we burned about half of what we removed. There's still a lot of big trees and branches that we just pushed off to the side with the tractor, to get through. So we're having another clean-up weekend in May. There may even have to be a third...

I would like to thank the hard-working members of Troop 101 who braved the cold to give DSA several days of hard work. We had: Fay Reid, Laurie Keel, Vickie Lomas, Lonnie Olson, and President, Sally Hoyle (who is a dual member of troop 101 and 217). Also happy to say that with all the crazy logging going on, there were no mishaps or injuries.



Sally, Lonnie & Laurie managing the burn



Lonnie pushing a pile of broken trees out of the trail



Vickie, Laurie & Fay clearing one of many total trail blockages

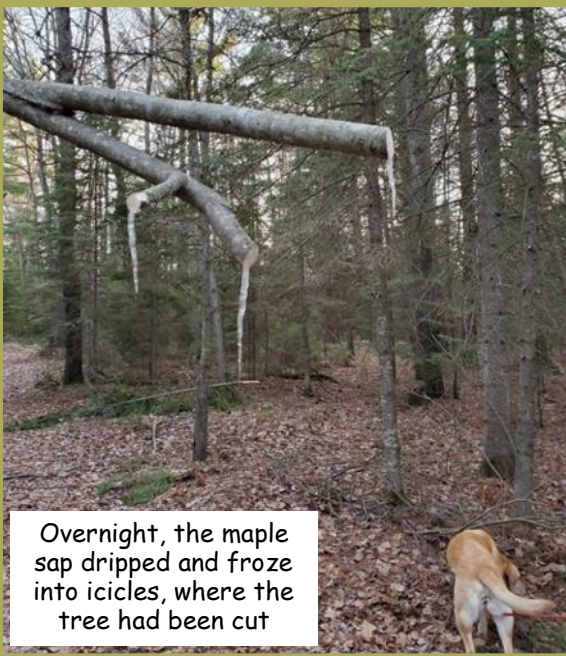
Laurie and Fay Loading the trailer



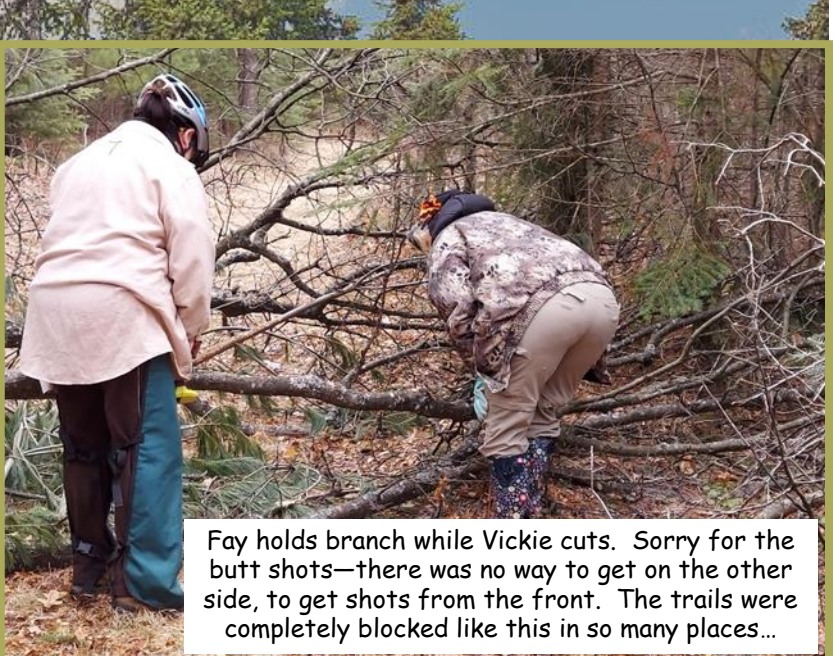
Fay returns for another load



Overnight, the maple sap dripped and froze into icicles, where the tree had been cut



Fay holds branch while Vickie cuts. Sorry for the butt shots—there was no way to get on the other side, to get shots from the front. The trails were completely blocked like this in so many places...



Sally removes some deadfall



Fay, Laurie, Vickie & Sally - hardworking "lumberjills..."



Michigan Camp Cleanup 2.0

There was just so much work to be done at camp, removing all of the trees that fell or died during the winter that we decided to have a second cleanup. This time, it was attended by Diane Baughman from Ohio, Kat Vogtman from Kalamazoo, and her friend from Lansing, and the usual troop 101 helpers, Vickie Lomas, Lonnie Olson, Laurie Keel, and honorary troop 101 member, Sally Hoyle. Fay also returned on a separate day to help us get even more loads picked up, and helped further clean up our new activity area.

This time, we had some additional chain saws at work, so we got a lot done. Plus, Diane is a “farm girl,” and she did a lot of the tractor driving, pulling up stumps, and delivering loads to be burned. We did a lot of limb pruning (BIG limbs), Laurie has become an expert in loading and unloading the utility trailer so the process was smooth and efficient. She could unload a ginormous trailer full in about 8 seconds! She and Diane were the “dynamic duo!”

Everyone worked really hard, and we even found time to play with our dogs more this time. But the work is not finished. We have scheduled Camp Cleanup 3.0 for the 4th week in June.



Diane and company working on the stump.



Sally hauling branches.

Badge Bulletin & Title Tales

By Kristie Iwamoto (Maurice's Mom)



Hello! I'm Kristie Iwamoto. My chihuahua mix Maurice and I have been Dog Scout members of Troop 237 in the San Francisco Bay Area/East Bay, California for nearly five years. I am so excited to be more involved with DSA and to contribute my time to this great organization.

I will be handling Trail Dog titles and issuing Competition Registration Numbers (CRN). What is a CRN? This is a unique number issued to your dog to make him/her eligible to earn DSA **titles**. You can request a CRN for your scout on the website: <https://form.jotform.com/210303963019145>

Titles can be earned by anyone with a CRN, DSA membership and the Dog Scout title is not a required to earn titles

Congratulations to Our New Title Holders!

TRAIL DOG

Patch Walker

PACK DOG



Goldy Reid

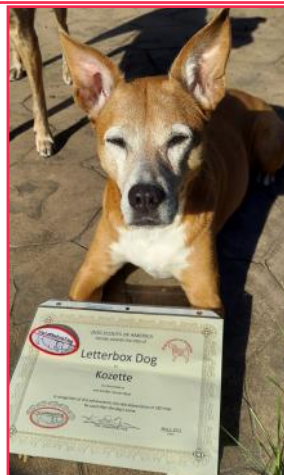


Amy Strathman

LETTERBOX DOG

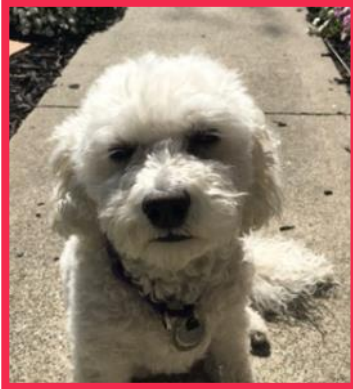


Caper Olson



Kozette Olson

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR NEW DOG SCOUTS



Kokoro Southworth
April



Belle Montelongo
May



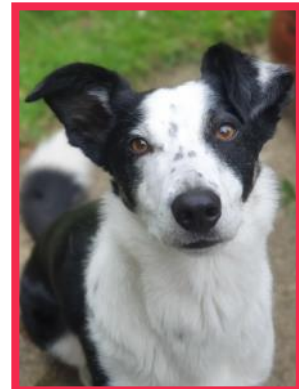
Blitzen Tucker
May



Ebony Rapp
May



Finn Kaiser
May



Patch Walker
May



Rocky Romano
May



New Items In Camp Store!

We came out with our own vinyl labels for our dogs' travel safety packets. It's a "can't miss" orange and white design for first responders to see if you are in an accident while travelling. It is labeled "EMERGENCY INFORMATION" and in smaller print, it features Dog Scouts of America and the web address, plus our logo. You may want to put one on your travel safety packet, one on the inside of your car door, one on your dog's crate, and one on your refrigerator at home. That's where the EMT's look first. These are \$3 each, or 3 for \$7.50. They are available at our online store.



We also have a limited quantity of pathtags left over from the Winter of Wags Virtual Camp. Those are on sale for 3 for \$12.00 while supply lasts. These little coins feature sparky in his winter coat and scarf on one side, and the DSA Logo with web address on the other side. You can put them in your letterboxes and geocaches as "First Finder" prizes, trade them with friends, put them on your dog's collar, use them as zipper pulls or simply add them to your collection.

Attitude of Gratitude

Thank you to Ruth Robinson in California, for her memorial donation to DSA—in memory of Troop 198 Dog Scout, Wyatt Lane.

Thank you to Chris Bahr of St. Louis, MO Troop 149, for the memorial donation in memory of Chris and Jodi's dog, C.J. Pyatt-Bahr.



Rainbow Bridge

Grace DSA
07/2006 - 3/16/2021



How do you sum up a lifetime of memories? It's taken me 8 weeks to even attempt to write Grace's Rainbow Bridge Memorial. On Tuesday, March 16, 2021 at 3 pm, after a painful (for me) two month fight with reality, my world changed forever. I'm still devastated. She was my world, and I'm still lost without her.

Grace came to me in July 2006 as a foster. I don't really know how old she was, the guesstimate was 2-3 years. I always calculated her age as her having been 2 when she came to me. She had been dumped in a local shelter, pregnant. A local rescue group, Pets in Distress, pulled her from the shelter and put her in a foster home with someone who had experience whelping puppies. It wasn't until after she had had her puppies and they had been adopted out that I came into the picture. The rescue was wanting to move her out of that fosters care to make room for other pregnant rescues. So I became her next foster. I had absolutely no idea that this little dog would literally become the most important relationship of my entire life. 15 years is a long time, but not long enough, especially when you spent the better part of those 15 years just the two of you. I hadn't fully committed to adopting her myself at that point but when she had a medical emergency resulting in an enlarged spleen and it's subsequent removal, I knew that no one, other than myself, would be able to care for her properly. Ever. And so our life together began.

It became immediately obvious to me that this little dog was destined for great things. I had been dabbling in dog training part time, practicing on fosters and friends dogs, and attending as many training workshops and even conferences as I could to learn everything I could. Grace became my partner and teacher. Together we learned and supported each other along the way. We attended week long training camp in North Carolina two years in a row, learning about dog sports, something I had never done before. We learned and competed in Rally, Agility, and even threw our hat into the Obedience ring for a spell. We learned about Tracking, and Flyball, and Nosework, and even tried Barn Hunt. Although we never competed in any of those sports, we could have. We should have. I had intended to compete with her in Barn Hunt and Nosework after she retired from Agility, but life got in the way. Agility was our sport. She didn't win any Grand Championships, but she ran her heart out, and always gave it her all. The relationship we built was like no other bond I've ever shared with a dog, or human, for that matter. The trust she gave me was like nothing I've ever experienced.



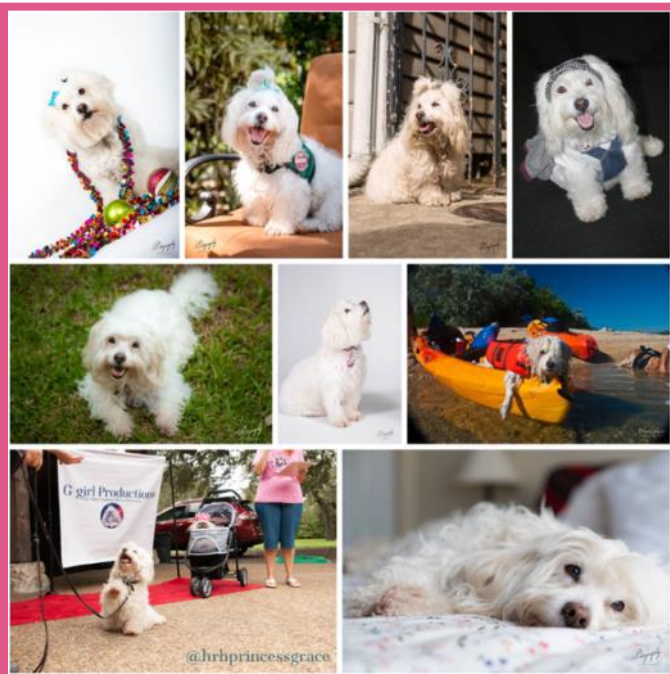
Grace was also a Therapy Dog. But she was so much more than most Therapy Dogs we'd worked with. We spent many years, until her retirement, working with kids with developmental and

Rainbow Bridge (cont.)

behavioral issues, and we worked with the same group of kids several years in a row. The bond she built with those kids was amazing. She could recognize which kid was having a bad day during our visits and would hone in on that specific child. The teachers were always amazed at how quickly she could pick the student who was in distress on any given day. But the most powerful work she did, at the end of her career, was the work she did at Marjory Stoneman Douglas Senior High School after the shooting on Valentine's Day in 2018. From the day of the shooting on, she worked long, emotionally grueling hours every single day for months on end, with very few days off. Starting with the vigils on day after the shooting, to supporting staff and students in the nearby feeder elementary and middle schools in the days and weeks after the shooting, to the return to school when the High School finally reopened, and then being on campus every day for the rest of the school year. After the end of the school year we continued to support the community through programs for the affected students, and back to the High School at the beginning of school the following fall. She retired from Therapy Work that winter. Following the shooting she was one of the inaugural class of dogs in the Humane Society of Broward County's Canines for Community Resilience program.



Besides her work with the HSBC's AAT & CCR programs, she was also a Canis Minor with the National Crisis Response Canines from 2016 through 2019. Through absolutely no fault of hers, but simply due to bad timing & circumstances, we never had the chance to become fully certified as a Canis Major, but we loved the time and work we did with the organization, and the opportunity to train and grow together. Because that's what we did, we trained, and grew...together. Always.



Grace and I first became involved with Dog Scouts in 2008, before there even was a troop in Broward County. We were individual members, but we did join the Miami troop for some activities now and again, and even became the leader of the Miami troop for a short time when the troop leader moved away. During that time, unbeknownst to me, a Broward troop formed sometime during that year. In the beginning, it was hard for me to get involved with a group of strangers. But that was Grace's superpower. Getting me out of my comfort zone. I can say, with sincerity, that she is directly responsible for the majority of the friendships that I have built the past 15 years. She made me a better person. Literally.

She earned many badges during her early years as a Dog Scout. In later years, we just enjoyed spending time with our friends. Earning badges seemed less important. I'm sorry we didn't earn more, but not enough to consider it a regret.

Rainbow Bridge (cont.)



She was my partner, not just my dog partner, but my partner in life. From the day she came to live with me in 2006, until we adopted her sister Clover in October 2013, it was just the two of us. Things changed when we added Clover to the family, but the bond Grace & I had did not. She and Clover loved each other, but they were both very independent. My bond with Grace never wavered. If anything, it grew. When two became three, it still was just us. No husband. No children. Just us. In the end she was, and is, my world, then and now. Still. Always.

Certainly I noticed some changes in her late in 2019, but like so many of us, we make excuses, or justify her behavior. And I accepted that she was getting older. But at the end of 2019, and with the start of COVID it seemed like things started to steamroll, slowly at first, but eventually it picked up momentum. I noticed some more significant

symptoms of cognitive decline. But in true Grace fashion, she took everything in stride and adjusted like the rockstar she always has been. So, despite things continuing to get worse, her smiling face and willingness to try anything due to her unwavering trust in me, she was still cognizant and functional well into December. In the summer I had the forethought to reach out to fellow pet photographers through some of my professional photography groups to photograph us together. I'm so grateful I did that when I did. And the universe delivered exactly the photographer I needed in Ashley Timms. I cherish those photographs so much.

On January 20, 2021, Inauguration Day, Grace had a stroke. I was devastated. When I got up that morning, I picked her up and carried her downstairs, like I always did. It wasn't until I put her down in the grass that I realized something was wrong. I won't waste space on the full blow-by-blow, but it wasn't good. She couldn't stand. Clearly her left side was affected. As things would have it, as the day went on, she began improving. By dinner time she was able to stand. In true Grace fashion, she was not ready to quit, and she wasn't going without a fight. She was not ready to leave me behind. In the weeks that followed she continued to fight. I know she knew how much I depended on her. She did not want to leave me alone. I am grateful for all of you who reached out that day. In the weeks that followed she amazed me with her resilience, but I knew we were now living on borrowed time.

In the days that followed, I was very afraid of what might happen. But as she continued to strengthen and improve, I let my hope grow. Foolish perhaps, but I needed to believe she could survive this. I needed to believe she would stay with me forever. After the first couple of weeks, she remained stable, but the truth was she was continuing to decline. I saw it. I'm not stupid, but I wanted to stay as positive as I could, so I continued to hope. On the inside I knew things were going wrong, but I wanted to try and support her, and myself, so I tried to stay positive. On the inside and the outside. It didn't work, but I tried.

On March 13th things started to go wrong. That morning she ate her last meal. That night she threw up her dinner, and she failed to keep down any food in the days that followed. We had a vet appointment scheduled for Tuesday the 16th already, so I chose to monitor her closely and see how things went. Over the next 3 days she couldn't keep down a meal. I struggled to believe there was still hope, but I knew the truth. She was clearly getting weaker. I knew that muscle atrophy was a

Rainbow Bridge (cont.)

symptom of kidney issues, and by Sunday it was clear to me that we had reached the point of no return. She had been diagnosed with Kidney issues in October or November, but I thought we had that under control. I stayed with her on Monday and did the best I could to stay positive, but I saw the writing on the wall. On Tuesday, I can only assume out of sheer desperation, she wolfed down her breakfast, only to vomit it right back up. I knew the end had come. We went to our vet visit, but I know what the outcome was going to be. We had hit the end the road. I called Lap of Love from the parking lot at the vet office. Within an hour they were at my home.

Grace's Legacy lives on in so many ways. Unlike most pets, she had a life outside of our home. She mattered to people beyond our family. Her loss effected so many more people than just me. I am still not ok. I'm not sure I will ever be ok, but for Clover's sake I make the effort to get through each day.

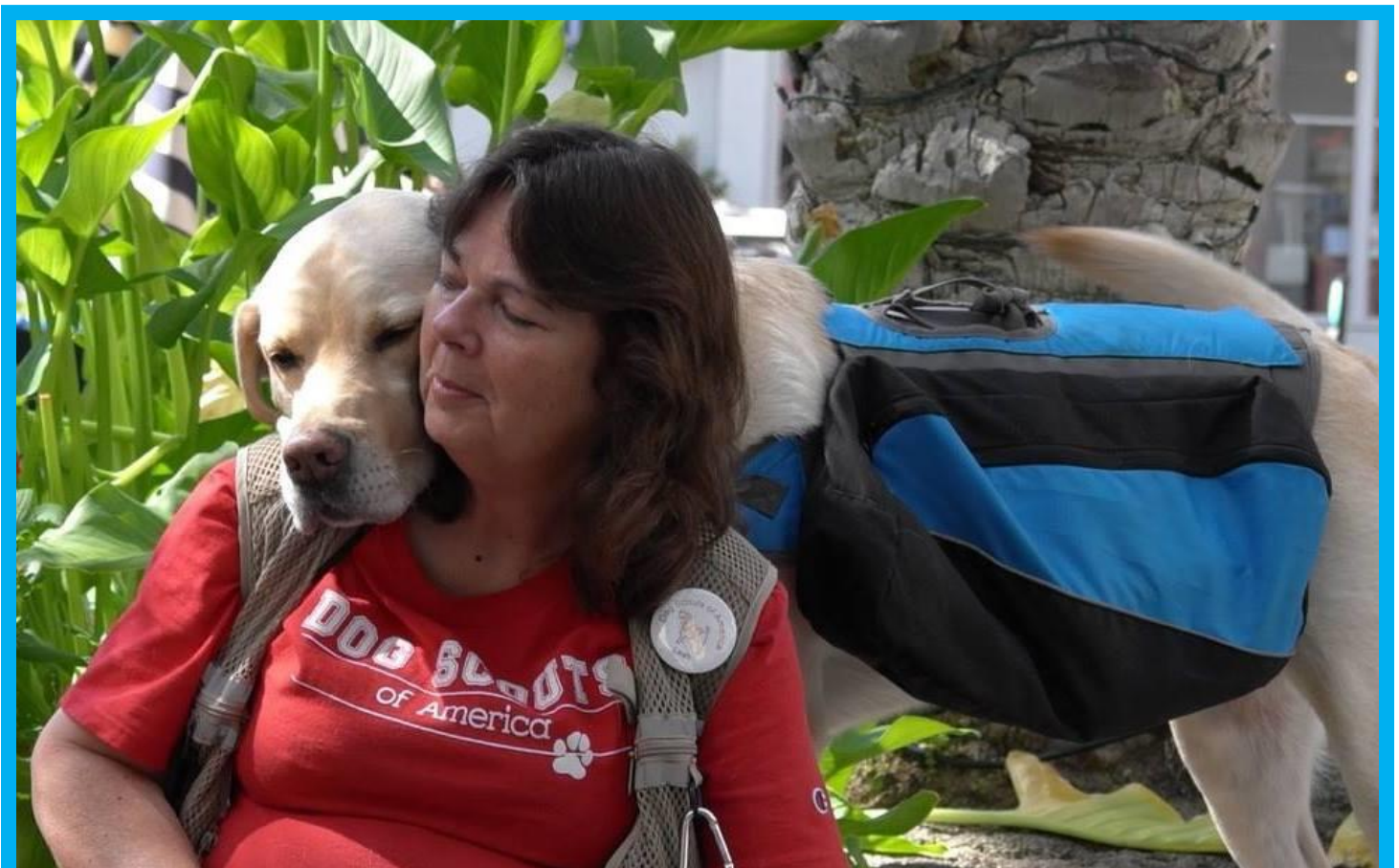
Christine Geschwill



Rainbow Bridge (cont.)

Wyatt DSA

Troop 198 is broken hearted to say farewell to Dog Scout Wyatt Lane who crossed the Rainbow Bridge May 3rd, 2021. Wyatt's Mom Leah writes: Wyatt had to leave me to cross the rainbow bridge this afternoon. He was my hero, my protector, my friend, my co-pilot, my Dog Scout, my therapy pet, my cheerleader and my baby. I wouldn't have made it through my toughest challenges without him, I am so grateful he bounded into my life. I am so proud of the things we have done together, he led me into being a better person, and opened a path to giving back that has given meaning to my life. See you on the other side Wyatt...



Scout Scoop & Troop Tales

Troop 101—MI

Goldy Reid (with help from Fay)

Troop 101 of Michigan has been active in the Spring Challenge created by Troop 217. Some members have gotten together for a little Geocaching and Letterboxing as well as taking walks in the park and 5K walks to raise money for other organizations. We had a troop meeting in one of the member's backyard to work on Drill team and the beginnings of Treibball. A concert was performed with troop members: She-Ra, Razzle, Jax, Scallywag, Delta & Yaeger.

As I am reading what troop members have sent in to add to our troop page, I realize many, both new and experienced members, have at some point this summer had an aha moment. This is a reminder to us all - Never underestimate your dogs! They are amazing and have such a large capacity to learn, work, and please us. What a little patience, breaking tasks or tricks down can help you achieve your goals. I challenge each of you to try something new with your dog this week. Share your experience with the group here in the next newsletter, on our Facebook page, or with a non-Scout person.

Treibball



Booker practicing his go out to the mat



Molly practicing rolling one of three objects that is not a ball



Jax practicing pushing a ball

Drill Team



Practicing Tunnel thru handler legs with our "dogs"



Practicing Figure 8's thru legs with our "dogs" as Goldy supervises

Troop 101—MI (cont.)

Treibball



Jax on the piano and the guitar. He finished his remaining badge requirement to earn the badge



Booker on the piano



She-Ra on the piano



Scallywag on the guitar

Razzle & She-Ra have been working on 2 new tricks, the crawl and take. We started training on Sexier than a Squirrel program and have been doing games with kibble each morning and evening instead of just placing the bowl of food down for them to chow. These games help with attention, loose lead and off lead walking and recalls. We had a wonderful month full of exciting spring challenges everyday from troop 217. We were challenged to try new things such as tricks, work with props from home/nature and freestyle moves.



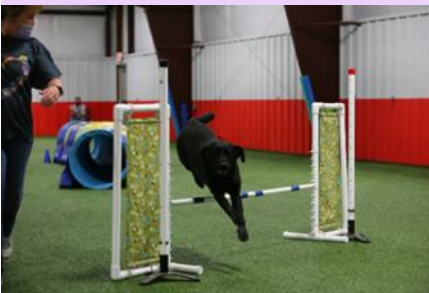
Troop 101—MI (cont.)



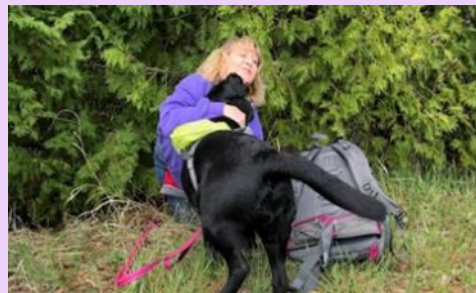
Booker & mom, Laurie continuing to work on geocaching and letterboxing. Booker is getting good at finding the actual cache. They are also trying to get some distance work for naked dog. They almost have enough “bagged poop” for clean up America badge, and continuing to work on crossing front legs.



Molly finished her Packdog #2 Title while walking for a great cause, Leaderdogs with some family members, cousin Jasmyne, Goldy & Aunt Fay. Molly & Mom, Kaylene are working on finishing agility and has competed in several CPE agility trials. Jax is surprising his mom yet again by working on the Obstacle badges that she said he could never get because he wasn't food or toy motivated. Both Molly & Jax completed their First Aid Badge. Molly and Jax are both working on massage, geocaching and letterboxing as well as beginning to work on Drill Team & Treibball. Jax completed the requirements for the All dog Band.



Molly working on the agility badge



Molly helping Mom out of a tight spot while Geocaching



Planting a Geocache for Jax



Molly & Jax working on First Aid.

Fay, Goldy, Jasmyne, Molly & Kaylene raising money for Leader dogs of Rochester MI.



Troop 101—MI (cont.)



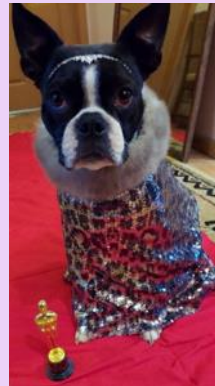
Goldy has completed her Keep America clean badge while out geocaching and letterboxing with friends. She has also completed her Pack Dog title. Goldy also wants to thank Troop 217 for the invitation to the Spring Challenge. She especially like doing the Chicken dance with her mom, Fay.



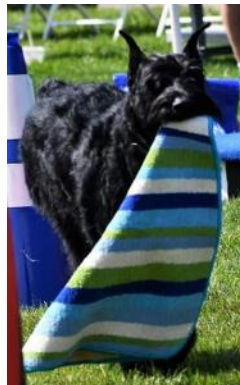
The Olson dogs and Lonnie really had fun and learned a lot during the Spring Challenges that troop 217's leader, Sally Hoyle invited troop 101 to participate in. Kismet perfected her "roll over", and the "get into the suitcase and pull the lid closed" trick, and she's coming along on her skateboard training, and began work on treibball. Scallywag learned to bow, and will also get into the suitcase, but isn't quite ready to pull the lid closed, and he held a stay while I was out of sight.

Kozi and Caper earned their Letterboxing Dog titles, and received their certificates and patch in the mail today! For the academy awards, Kismet got on the red carpet in all

her finery. Then on the last day, we were challenged to make a May pole, and have our dog circle it, holding a streamer in her mouth. I thought that was too big of a challenge, but Kismet amazed me with her jubilant performance. She even ran back to pick up her streamer (without being asked to) when she accidentally dropped it, and finished encircling the pole with it! It was as if she somehow knew what to do with a maypole! What a fun spring!



Delta Smith earned the Travel Safety and Temperament Test badges. Delta is scheduled for TPLO surgery in June, so she is on restriction until August.



Yaegar Smith earned the Travel safety, Massage and Temperament Test badges. Yaegar is working on herding and carting.

Both dogs are attending a weekly nosework class and have earned their Expert level certificate from DMWYD. They are now working towards their Trick Dog Championship.

Troop 119—N TX

Cindy Ratliff—Troop Leader

Troop 119 has had a fun spring with some great troop events! We are all so happy to be able to get together with our troop friends again and are enjoying every opportunity!

In March we had our annual Easter Egg Hunt, which is always a favorite of the troop!

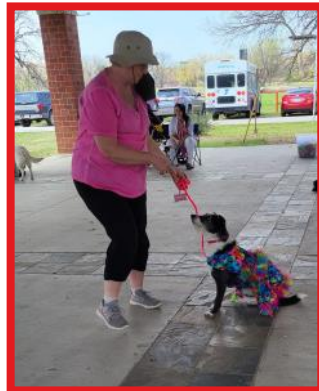
The dogs searched out over 600 plastic freeze-dried liver filled eggs over several acres at YMCA Camp Carter.

Twelve of the eggs were special prize eggs with little chicks inside that were their ticket to get a prize.

After we counted eggs, we enjoyed a parade of those handler-dog teams that entered the Most Festive Team contest. We all had a great time enjoying a beautiful day with our best fur friends and troop friends!



Waffle with his Easter egg load



Harper shows off her Easter dress



Leah & Kira festive for Easter



Maureen & Lacey in the festive parade



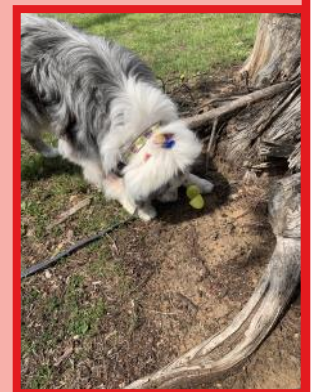
Tosh finds an egg at his first troop Easter Egg Hunt



Rainey, Debbie & Rouen showing off their Easter finest



Gizmo searches everywhere for eggs, including the tree stump



Westen finds an egg & the treat inside

Troop 119—N TX

In April we had a lure coursing event! Long time troop member, Nita Lanter, offered up her pasture for us to set up a great field of lure coursing.

Troop member, Mark Nelson, put together the equipment for us – last year actually as we had planned this meeting for last March then got shut down as the shelter at home orders went into place. So, we have waited a long time for this meeting!

Most of the dogs really enjoyed getting their prey game on and chasing the lure. A few decided it was too much effort to expend and chose to just enjoy the sights, sounds and smells of the day.

We are very thankful to have the lure coursing equipment now and look forward to having other lure events in the future!



And our BIGGEST news.... Is that Texas Mini-Camp will be returning this year for our 17th year, after the year of hiatus in 2020. We have a new beautiful location at Lakeview Camp & Retreat Center in Waxahachie, TX. It is an awesome location and they are super excited to have us there! Mini-camp will run from Nov. 11-14, 2021 and will be \$499 for one human and one dog. There are still a few spots available. Registration is available on the DSA website or email Cindy at dogluvurz@prodiqy.net for more info. We are looking forward to our best camp yet!

Troop 150—AR

Sharon Branyan

Troop 150 of Arkansas started our year with our first Zoom meeting to map out our 2021 calendar. So far this year, Four members participated in the Winter of Wags virtual camp. At troop meetings, we have missed our Oklahoma members while travel has been restricted and are looking forward to seeing them in person soon.

Ruby came to her first meeting and seemed to enjoy it.



We reviewed the letterboxing requirements and practicing carving a stamp. Several dogs are working to finish up badges started last year.



Congratulations to Dirk who has finished requirements for his Art of Shaping and Backpacking badge, and is working to perfect his broad jump for Obstacles 2.

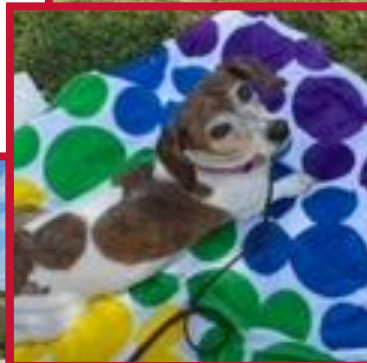


Troop 157—FL ~ Broward County Paw Patrol

Teresa Irvine

Yoga with our Dogs

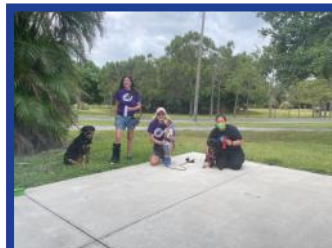
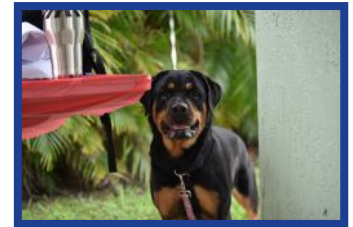
It was a beautiful morning at Vista View at the end of March where some of our troop members met up to enjoy some Yoga with our dogs. It was an activity that was a little different, but since some of us practice Yoga on our own, we decided why not give it a try. The focus was primarily Human Yoga with dogs present. Some Yoga for Dogs was addressed along with some stretching techniques, but it was mostly centered on humans. I think our dogs enjoyed watching us practice our Yoga while they relaxed nearby soaking up the nice breeze and sunshine.



Troop 157—FL

Annual Troop “Doggie Olympics”

After a year of postponement our troop was finally able to host our annual Doggie Olympics at Heritage Park in Plantation, FL. This is an event our troop looks forward to each year, to participate in fun games, raffles and enjoy light bites to snack on. Several troop members donated items for the raffle prizes, which made for more giveaways. We played 3 games (Challenge A Trick, Simon Says and Recall Relay), which everyone participated in. The Challenge A Trick (CAT) game was really fun because it allowed for each team to choose a behavior/trick that one of their dogs could do then they would challenge the other team to do the same behavior/trick. If the team couldn't do the behavior/trick then the challenging team would win a point. It was super fun; this was a new game for our troop and one we will keep playing in the future. It was a perfect day to have this event, the weather was beautiful and it was great to get outside with our dog scouts.



Troop 157—FL

Preparing for the Unexpected



Sometimes the universe delivers a bump in the road like an injury. Last month, Dawn Hanna injured her foot (again... osteopenia) and has to wear an orthopedic boot for a few weeks and do her best to keep weight off the injury. It is so helpful to have a dog with skills when recovering from an injury. Dawn's dog River gained and practiced many valuable skills earning her Dog Scout Title and attending many public events with her Troop. A special thanks to Troop Leader Christine Gecshwill and many others that helped when River was a puppy.

One of Dawn's biggest challenges is having to use a knee walker to keep weight off her foot. As a puppy, River was stressed and frightened of things that moved on wheels. Dawn worked with her by desensitizing and counter-conditioning to carts at plant nurseries and dog friendly stores, luggage, carts, and dollies. Three days before River's first birthday, Dawn had her first foot injury and had to use a knee walker. River walks beautifully next to the knee walker now.

All of the items on the Dog Scout test are very valuable skills in life and especially when the handler has an injury, making physical restraint with a leash alone difficult and dangerous. Sit stay, coming when called, leave it, and heeling are crucial skills when taking your dog in public especially when the handler is injured.

River has experience in going to the groomer and being handled by others. Sometimes an injury can be so exhausting or painful that having others bathe and walk your dog is the best solution.

Consider how you would care for your dog if you had an injury. Prepare your dog for any skills she would need to have others care for her. Consider sharpening your skills with your dog in public so that your dog is not denied enrichment and exercise while you recover from an injury.

Troop 183—FL

Shirley Conley—Troop Leader

April



The first Sunday in April, Marvin and Tachi explored a new trail and afterwards politely hung out while their handler's, Amy and Shirley drank coffee in one of the downtown squares. Tachi tried his first Pupaccino, it seemed to go over well!



The second Sunday in April, four of our troop members participated in a Pet Tech First Aid Certification course. One of the tips we received was for bandaging—when you get to the point of tying off, leave a loop to slide the excess bandage into.



We were also informed that on a homemade muzzle, connecting the muzzle wrap and neck wrap at the bridge of the nose and back of the neck hit acupressure points on the skull that help to calm the dog.

We were fortunate to be able to practice CPR on dummy dogs, it made us realize that 2 minutes of chest compressions on a large dog to a depth of approximately 1/3 of the chest width can be very tiring!

Troop 183—FL

Troop members, Cyndi arranged for a couple of her Church's deaf ministry teachers to demonstrate the signs for the Sign Language merit badge for us. We practiced each of the signs and asked questions (they could read lips) on the origins of the signs and we got clarification on how to properly sign the cues. It was great to see some of our troop members who we hadn't seen for a while due to COVID restrictions



Jen and Ducati worked on "ball"

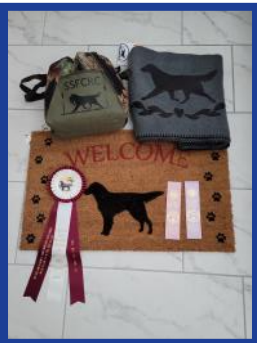


Cindy and Carly worked on "I love you"



Amy and Marvin worked on "sit"

Troop Brags



In March, Jurnee Mims attended the Flat-Coated Retriever conformation show . She was awarded Best in Show Veterans Sweepstakes. In April she attended the International All Breed Canine Association and was awarded four Best of Breed, Group 1 along with Bronze Winner in the Gold Cup Best In Show

In April, the Conley collies went to their first scent trial since the COVID shut down, Nim qualified in all 3 Advanced classes entered and Tachi qualified in 2 Excellent classes. Both dogs took first place in the Exterior class. Nim also earned High in Trial at the Advanced level.



May



In May we enjoyed a Sunday morning boat ride on Dave and Jeanette's pontoon boat. Afterwards we had lunch at a local Restaurant—the dogs stayed home for this activity.

Also in May, Nim and Tachi Conley each earned the Advanced Scent Discrimination merit badge through the video evaluation process.



Troops 198 & 237—CA

Leah Lane—Event Coordinator

Troop 198 is VERY proud to announce that Kokoro Southworth has earned the Dog Scout title! Five years ago, when Denise and Kokoro first came to our troop, Kokoro was a trembling dog who could not stop herself from barking because she was so afraid of everything around her. With determination and great patience, Denise took the lessons she learned from Scout Master Donna and with the help of other troop members and the Dog Scout teachings, she has worked the Dog Scout Magic and we are all busting with pride for the both of them. Their journey was very challenging and is a true tribute to the Dog Scout Way. You are an inspiration to all of us! CONGRATULATIONS TO BOTH OF YOU!!!



On March 10th we had some very unusual weather out here in Silicon Valley California, it hailed so hard it looked like snow and Bob, who is dad to cadets Memphis and Dayton got a picture of them frolicking in it on their front yard in Milpitas. The boys are having a blast!

During our monthly Dog Scout training in March, we took the opportunity to take some St. Patty's Day pictures, here is Lisa with Hana & Emi striking a pose.



King took the opportunity to get a family St. Patty's Day shot.

Troop 198—CA (cont.)



This was Organa & Family's first Dog Scout training and they posed for a St. Patty's Day pic to capture the memory.



The Weaver dogs, Dog Scout Yeti, cadet Tribble and big sis Elle Belle posed for a St. Patty's Day picture too.

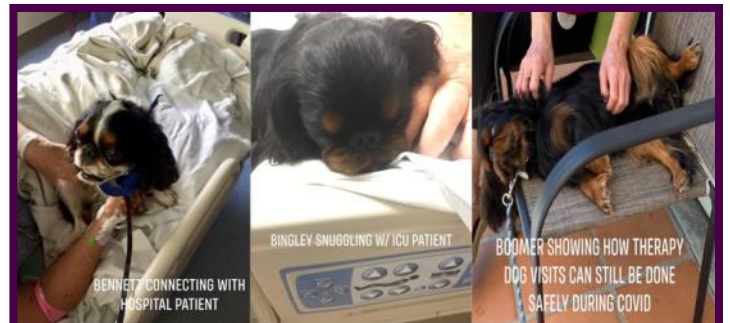


Of course, Dog Scout Sadie got all decked out to show her excitement for both training and St. Patty's Day. You wear it well Sadie girl!



On March 26th Troop 237 gathered for their first Pack Walk since the Covid shut down, the weather was beautiful, and they had a wonderful time all coming together again to enjoy each other's company and the walk, a good time was had by all. Of course Dog Scout Maurice Iwamoto took the lead!

The family Fitzgerald joined our troop FB page posting pictures to commemorate National Therapy Animal Day. Welcome Bennett, Bindley, Boomer and human Mom Denise who are all certified therapy pet teams through Alliance of Therapy Dogs. Well rounded dogs, they also tear it up in agility, sharing great videos of their work, so glad to welcome them to our FB group and to introduce them to Dog Scouts.



Troop 198—CA (cont.)



Cass and Callie Butkis continue to grow and stretch their boundaries. Susan adopted them from a Husky rescue in January. After being in foster care for a year, they were still very timid and skittish, they have learned and experienced so much with Susan and their world continues to expand and their confidence grows with each new experience. This picture is amazing because it is Callisto and Cassini - on a road trip to Disney World. The kids visited their 8th through 11th states in their four months together. They've been doing very well - riding in their first elevator, walking down several flights of "commercial" stairs, and hanging out in the lobby - although still too weary of people to greet them, but they're getting better. Woo Hoo! Rockin the Dog Scout Way of life!

As usual the Phillips Dogs Scouts and cadets are busy enjoying all the wonderful places in the bay area dogs can visit. On the left is Elton who has been doing scootering, caincrossing and bike riding, on the right is Asia who just earned her AKC Urban Dog Title, and her UKC Precision Coursing titles. In front is Rusty who just took four first places competing in Doggie Drag Racing.



Here are three more of the Phillips family, on the left is Tacoma who earned his UKC Drag Racing Flat Aptitude title, AKC Handler Discrimination title, he worked on Lure Coursing, scent work and helped his mom Jackie in a search for a lost dog in Sausalito. In the middle is Rebel who has been working hard and plans to take his CGC test in a few weeks and on the right is Palo who just completed his UKC RO2 Rally title. A very talented and accomplished Dog Scout family!

Kristie & Maurice Iwamoto have been keeping busy and we love sharing this picture of them out doing Letterboxing and Geocaching in the East Bay. They inspire us all to do more and to try new things!



Bailey & Crystal Gumbin shared with us a picture sporting their new capes with all the badges and patches they earned just before and during Winter of Wags Virtual Dog Scout Camp. Great work everybody!



Troop 198—CA (cont.)

For our monthly Dog Scout training in April, we included a Doggie Easter Egg Hunt.



Here is Patty with Dog Scout Crystal and Dave with cadet Sprocket searching for Easter Eggs filled with doggie treats, such fun!



Here is Jaxi showing Mom Cindy the Easter Egg hiding on top of the cone they need to add to their bag. Excellent work Jaxi!



This is Sienna and Mom Kathleen enjoying watching the Easter Egg Hunting. Sienna is making great progress learning how to be polite around other dogs, she is really improving.



Luna Gumbin joined us for her very first Dog Scout Training with Mom Carlotta and sister Christina, she was the perfect little cadet and is well on her way to her Pup Scout Title!

On May 2nd we did our first Santana Row Mall Walk About Training since the Covid shut down. It was so good to see friends after being separated for over a year. Left to right we have Molly riding in style in her wagon with Mom Janet; Stretch with Dad Rod; for the first time doing this we have Jadelynn holding Daphne; Jan with Buddy and new dog Teddy then Duncan and then Wyatt also riding in a wagon; then Wishbone with Donna and new Dog Scout Kokoro with Mom Denise on the far right.



Troop 198—CA (cont.)

This is Janet with Molly in the wagon, and Jan with Buddy & little Teddy waiting for the rest of the group to finish practicing walking down the stairs on our mall walk training.



Here comes Donna and Wishbone showing how well they walk down the stairs together.



This is Jadelynn and Daphne after just completing a ride in the parking lot elevator during the training.

After the walk, Kokoro lies down for a belly rub from Mom Denise and Donna and Wishbone take the opportunity to practice a sit with distractions outside of Starbucks and the Ice Cream shop.



Leah, Wyatt and Duncan take a rest after the walk to sit and spend some time with precious friends we haven't seen in a while. It was a great day and another great Dog Scout memory to cherish. As always, the San Francisco Bay Area Troops 198 & 237 look forward to our next adventures and finding out what the rest of you are doing, see you in the next Scoop! WOOF!

Troop 217—MI ~ Motor City K9's

Sally Hoyle—Troop Leader

Our troop had a great time with our Spring Challenge that ran through the month of April! Every day participating members and our Troop 101 guests completed a task that I gave them through a Facebook group set up for the challenge. For some tasks they had to teach their dogs something new, and for others they had to choose a behavior they knew well and share with others. And some tasks made participants reflect on a certain time in their dog's lives. There were bonus challenges along the way and a very special, but optional task for May Day. No matter what I threw at them, they met the challenge! I rewarded participants "Spring Fun" patches and paw shaped medals if they completed all tasks and bonus tasks.



We are thrilled that some of our community events are back on the calendar this year!



We participated in the Toledo Bark in the Park event at the beginning of June and had a great time. Diane Baughman with Jackson, Diane Cranston with Sky, and Julie Lawler-Hoyle with Sam braved the heat and talked to people about DSA. We had an activity for all of the visiting pups to do, and shared the tricks our dogs love to do with the crowd.



We also got to take a hike together and do some letterboxing. We had a great time despite not finding the first two boxes we were looking for. It didn't seem to matter though because we truly enjoyed just being together. Hopefully we can get out again soon!

Many of our dogs have begun to do therapy work again. Sam can't go back to the VA Hospital just yet, but he is really enjoying his new gig at a nearby memory care facility. The residents all seem to appreciate his visits and his tricks.



We are SO happy to be able to get back together again and are busy planning our next adventures!

Troop 229—CA ~ Dogaholics Anonymutts

Mary Blackstone—Troop Leader

iZAR's 12th Birthday was on Easter this year, so we visited the Easter Bunny before heading to the store to pick out what he wanted for his birthday present!



We participate in a FB dog-walking group which has an optional Scavenger Hunt and iZAR LOVES water, so we often hike in many different places where we find all kinds of things & iZAR's favorite, ponds, creeks & waterfalls.



We also still love geocaching & letterboxing, although we don't have many local ones left to find, we find that it's a great way to waste time in other towns & cities, while we're waiting around for appointments or something. :)

DSA in the UK

Another New Dog Scout in the UK!

Just recently, we had another new member enroll from the UK. Susanna Walker and her dog Patch are really a great team! Patch earned his DSA title almost immediately after Susanna joined DSA. In a very short time Patch has now earned another 7 merit badges!

Here's what Susanna has to say about Patch:

"We are Patch and Susanna from England. Patch is a (maybe) 7 year old Working Sheepdog from Wales. He was originally a farm dog but he apparently wasn't very good at being a sheepdog and from what we can gather he was treated very cruelly. Luckily he was rescued by a kind person. It seems he was passed around a bit before ending up at his rescue centre. I saw him online and knew instantly we were meant to be together, although before Patch I was never really interested in his kind of dog (I've had two terrier crosses and an Old English Sheepdog as well). My Old English Sheepdog had died the year before, totally unexpectedly at only 3 years old, so there was a hole in my life and I wanted to adopt another dog."

"We have been together four and a half years now and he is my whole world. We are lucky enough to spend all day every day together and we really love to walk and do training and activities- I feel very lucky to have found the Dog Scouts of America- we can't wait to be a part of it. Thank you for letting us join you!"

Welcome Susanna and Patch!



Contact Dog Scouts of America

Learning new things that we may be more helpful

Website: dogscouts.org

Facebook: facebook.com/DogScouts

Instagram: instagram.com/dogscoutsofamerica/

Youtube: [Dog Scouts of America - YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCv8o05)

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

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

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

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

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

President: Sally Hoyle — president@dogscouts.org
(Also Mini-Camp Mentor, Merit Badge Submission Process)

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

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

Membership: Shirley Conley — membership@dogscouts.org

Troop Administration: troops@dogscouts.org
(Starting a troop/Troop Leader Tests)

Treasurer/Donations: Barb Whiting — bwhitingdsa@comcast.net

MERIT BADGE RECOGNITION PROGRAM

Video Evaluation: DSAVideoEval@gmail.com

Evaluator Certification: **Chris Kloski** — ChrisBill1966@gmail.com

TITLES/COMPETITIONS

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

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

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

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