



# Guide Dog Foundation's Suncoast Puppy Raisers Newsletter January 2017



Suncoast Puppy Raisers  
**Puppy Saturday Meeting**  
**Date: January 14, 2017**  
**Where: USF St. Petersburg Campus**  
**The Tavern at Bayboro,**  
**120 6<sup>th</sup> Ave. south.**  
**Time: 10:00 am – 12:00 pm**  
**Link to map: <https://binged.it/2iOpB03>**  
Hi everyone,

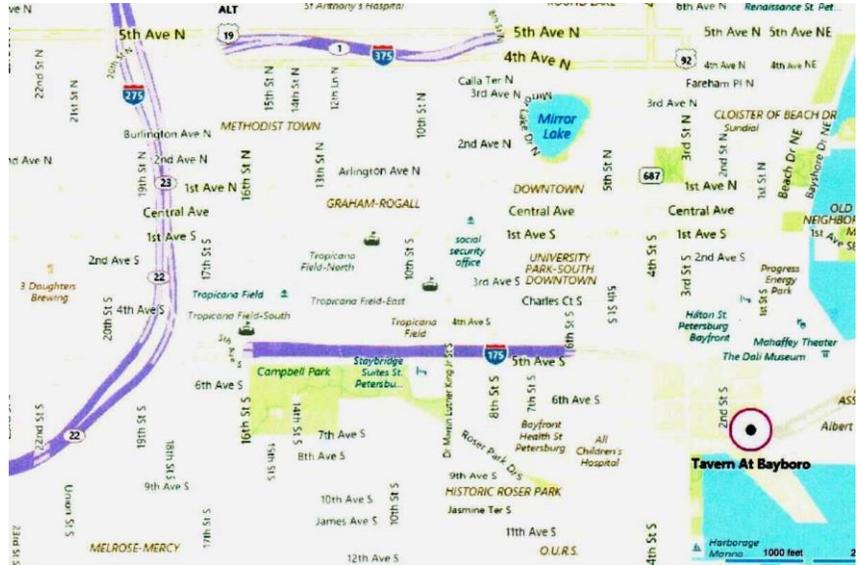
We are looking forward to sharing another great new year with our current and soon to be new friends and puppies. Although monthly meetings are required as part of your commitment as a puppy raiser for the Guide Dog Foundation, we also plan them to expose your puppy to the types of environments in which they will be working as a future guide dog. Three of the exposures your puppy can never get too much of are, public transportation, traffic and crowds. We will have all three and we will help you guide your puppy through each exposure.

First, we will meet in the parking lot at The Tavern at Bayboro, 120 6<sup>th</sup> St. S. It is located on the campus of the University of South Florida St. Pete. The restaurant is closed on Saturdays and Chuck has gotten permission from the owners to utilize the parking area for free. Park only in spaces that are designated for Tavern at Bayboro/The Grind not USF parking spots. After announcements and practicing some obedience, we will head

to the Downtown Trolley. Mainly designed for tourists, the trolley takes a loop around downtown St. Petersburg highlighting such destinations as the Museum of Fine Arts, Renaissance Vinoy Hotel and Dally museum. The cost is \$.50 per person and \$.25 for passengers over 65 or disabled. Exact change is required.

We will exit the Trolley to walk through the Saturday Morning Market. This will be very crowded and your puppies will be exposed to other people's pets, lots of noise and food distractions. After walking around and catching a bite to eat or drink, we will walk back to our vehicles. This is a bit of an ambitious venture so make sure you are wearing good shoes and dressed for the weather.

As always, our meetings are open to the public and we invite any one to join us, no RSVP required. So bring some friends and we hope to see you there.



**Nancy and Ashley check out the waves at Johns Pass during last month's meeting.**

**Directions:** Take I275 towards St. Petersburg take the I175 spur off I275, take it till it ends and turns into 5<sup>th</sup> Ave south, stay on 5<sup>th</sup> Ave south to 2<sup>nd</sup> street south , turn right on 2<sup>nd</sup> street south, turn left on 6<sup>th</sup> Ave South parking lot will be on your right. Call Chuck on his cell if you have any questions or need help finding us.

## *Last Month*

It was nice to spend a little holiday time with our raisers and friends. We met on the beach at John's Pass and after a short walk on the beach we headed for the Friendly Fisherman where we had lunch. Afterwards we went shopping on the boardwalk and visited every dog's favorite store, Paw Paw's, "gifts for pets and the people who love them!" There Chuck and I bought Trouble's X-mas gift, A Tuffy Toy in the shape of a gator. She loves that toy and parades it around for everyone to see. Thanks to everyone who came out, it was nice to spend time with all of you.

For our second meeting, Donna treated each puppy and two guests to a Holiday performance of the Florida Orchestra. Unfortunately, Chuck and I had a Buc's game to go to but we heard it was a nice time. Thank you Donna for giving our raisers and pups such a nice treat.

## *New Arrivals*

We recently got word that Deana has one Golden Retriever pup to place. Bethani Shilladay has agreed to raise this little new comer. We don't have all the information on sex or name, but the little bundle is due to arrive in mid January. Currently, Bethani is raising Peach, who is being cleared for the breeding program. Peach is scheduled to go to Southeastern for her medical exams and then continue to New York about the same time the puppy will be arriving. Bethani says that she will miss Peach a lot because she was such a sweetheart, so getting a new pup will ease the pain. Congratulations Bethani!

Also moving in our group is Sunny, the cream colored Poodle our group sponsored. She is currently being raised by Phyllis and George Ulrich, but due to personal issues, they have asked to have someone else finish Sunny. Currently Poodle less, the Thompsons have agreed to finish Sunny. The exchange is due to take place at our Saturday meeting. Thank you Phyllis and George for raising Sunny and being willing to give her up, giving her the best opportunity to succeed as a guide dog.



**Above Mike and Walter B enjoy a walk on the beach during last month's meeting. Below we should all be as happy as Walter B to be going to work!**



## *Training Up Date*

We still have two dogs in training currently at Southeastern, Rugby and Buddy. We have not yet gotten a current training up date, but we expect one any day. Just remind yourselves, Jackie and Francis, no news is good news. I might throw in “patience is a virtue?”

## *Expanding Family*

The dynamics of our puppy raiser group is constantly changing. We have some raisers retiring, Darleen Bigham and Jackie Jordan, but we have also done 2 new home visits. We ‘also had a couple of inquiries about raising. So we may be welcoming some new faces soon.

## *Training Tip –Pup Ages 10 month to 15months*

What Chuck and I like to always tell perspective puppy raisers is, “unlike kids, our puppies come with a manual,” and quite an extensive one. The manual gives a great over view of the entire puppy raising process and then breaks it down into smaller sections. It is great to read it in its entirety before raising, but it is most useful as a reference to what to expect during each developmental stage of your puppy’s life. All of the puppies currently in our group are between the ages of 10 – 15 months, so I am going to highlight what the manual says on pages 22 - 23 about what to expect and what to do during these

developmental stages.

From 10 - 12 months of age, the manual says, “this is the time to really start holding our puppies accountable for their actions in a calm but firm way. When asking for a behavior, give your pup time to follow through without forcing the issue physically. If the pup makes the choice not to listen to your request, then a correction must follow. They may look like a fully grown dog, but they are still in their adolescence.

From 13 -15 months, your puppy is almost ready to go in for training. The exposures you’ve taken them on become repetitive and it’s more of a challenge to find new exposures for your puppy. However, this is also the last fear phase. If you notice your puppy shying away from things previously not an issue, the manual asks you to just ignore it and go about your day. Chances are the fear will pass.

Lastly, the manual reminds us that the most important job of a raiser is to socialize the pup to as many different environments as possible. This along with good obedience training builds the pups confidence and respect for the handler. Lastly, the best piece of advice, balance all work with play and remember they are only puppies so keep your sense of humor!



**Above: Karen & Mickey enjoying lunch. Below: A real test taking our pups into the pet store with all the chew toys at nose level, both at Johns Pass.**



We look forward to seeing you all in St. Pete to start off the new year of Puppy Raising. I will add some more pictures from Johns Pass. It was especially nice to see Katie McKewen a longtime friend of the Suncoast Puppy raisers join us with her friend whom she is training a dog to be his his service dog. We were very happy to help them work on steps. It was an issue for the team, but I do not think it will be any more. They did great and it was nice to have them join us. Hope we were or at least our pups were of some help encouraging the team to do steps together. You're A/C's Debbie & Chuck Hietala



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