



Suncoast Puppy Raisers

Guide Dog Foundation's Suncoast Puppy Raisers Newsletter

April 2017



Puppy Saturday Meeting

Date: April 8, 2017

Where: Phillip Park

2525 Philippe Parkway Shelter 2

Safety Harbor FL 34695-5134

Time: 11:00am -1:00pm

Hi everyone,

The pups have been invited to join the ARC of Tampa Bay for a picnic at Philippe Park. ARC is a nonprofit foundation that raises funds to secure the financial future of services provided to individuals with intellectual or developmental disabilities. This mission is accomplished through building community awareness, involvement, and fund raising.

On April 8, 2017, the ARC is having their annual picnic at Philippe Park in Safety Harbor. They are expecting about 200 people from all walks of life along with a steel drum band for entertainment. It sounds like a beautiful day in the park and a good exposure for our puppies to people and noise.

Directions From South Pinellas:

Go to Bayside Bridge (49th street North turns into Bayside Bridge north of Roosevelt Blvd.) Go north on Bayside Bridge stay straight it will turn into McMullen Booth road stay on McMullen Booth to Enterprise Road turn right on Enterprise Road take it till it ends at Philippe Parkway turn left or

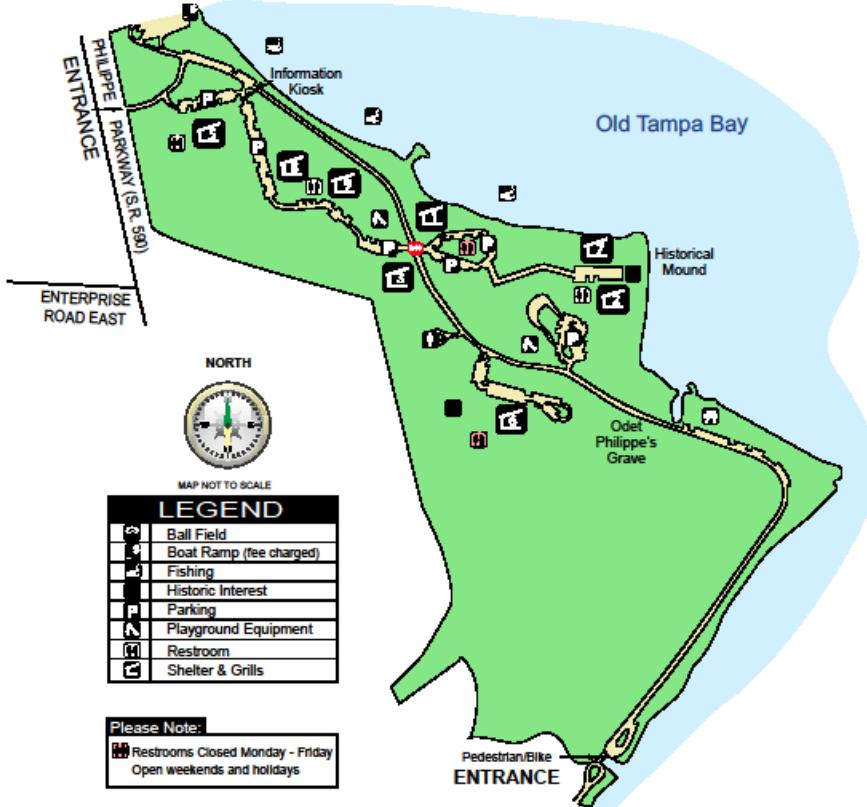
north on Philippe Parkway the entrance to the park will be on your right.

From North Pinellas: Go to East Lake Road go South on East Lake Road to Enterprise Road turn left on Enterprise take to end at Philippe Parkway turn left or north entrance to park will be on your right.

Inside the Park: Turn right or south on main road follow signs to parking for shelter 2. Shelter 2 is located next to the historical mound. Call Chuck on his cell if you have any questions or problems finding us.



PHILIPPE PARK
2525 Philippe Parkway
Safety Harbor, Florida 34695-5134



Last Month

A big thank you to everyone that went out of their way to join us at the Landing Bar and Grill for their American Vet Dog Fund Raiser. Tracy, The Landing's owner was very grateful our group showed up and is going to remit all the proceeds, to our Suncoast Puppy Raiser group fund raising account. They had raised about \$400.00 by the end of the event and she expects that to grow. Thank you, Tracy for hosting the event, and having us as guests.

On Wednesday, March 22nd, Don and Donna took the pups golfing at the Congo River Mini Gulf Course. This is always a fun event and entertaining to watch how the dogs react to the various obstacles and several rolling balls. While fascinated, I heard the pups did rather well. Good job pups and raisers.



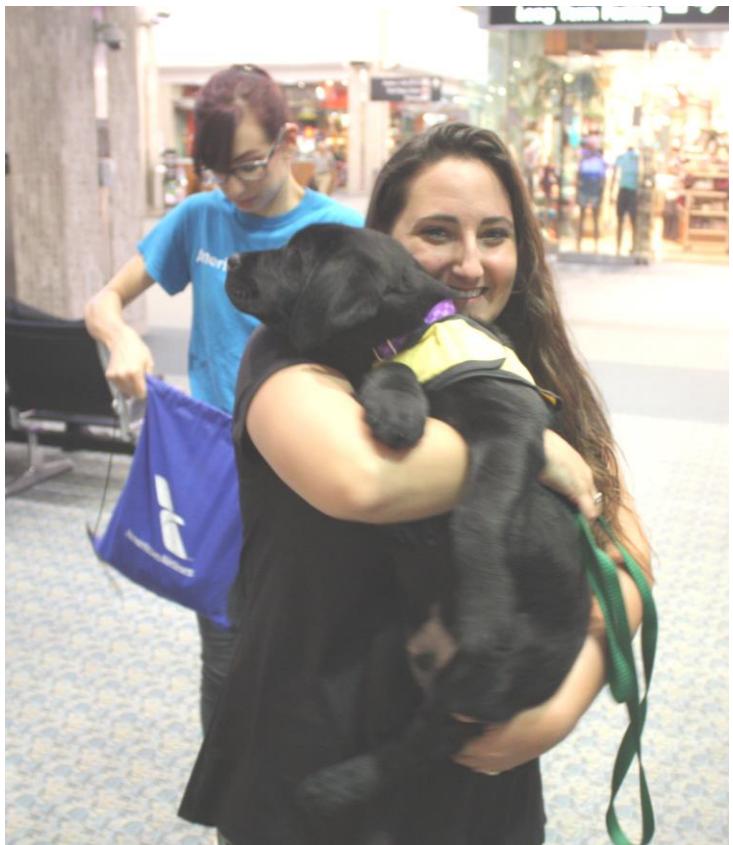
Josh & Molly with Josh's Vet Dog Joey during last month's meeting at the Landings. Thanks Josh for coming out. It really helps the public understand what they are giving money for when they see a working team.

Training Up Date

Our latest training up dates from Southeastern, report that Rugby and Buddy are working hard and learning all they can about being a good dog guide. Buddy's trainer says he is a gentle giant and one of the most affectionate dogs she has worked with. Rugby's trainer says he gives it his all and works very hard. Puppy raisers Frances Lucus and Jackie Jordan should be very proud of their boys.

New Arrival/New Puppy Raiser Group

Elaina Schmidt's, pup Chance a black lab male arrived on Monday March 27th. Since Elaina lives in Naples, this will officially mark the start of a new puppy raiser group in the Fort Meyers/Naples area with Bethani Shilladay as Area Coordinator. Congratulations Elaina on your new puppy and Bethani for your new group. We will miss you both but are excited for the Gulf Coast Puppy Raiser group in Southwest Florida. They have a 3rd pup as part of their group, Ziggy being raised by Marylyn and Paul Caruso. The Caruso's are raisers from the NY area who moved to South Florida. Ziggy will not be heading back to NY until late spring or early summer to start his formal training. So the Gulf Coast Puppers are off to a great start!



Elaina meets Chance at TPA, while behind her, Chance's Puppy in Flight volunteer Emily gets his bag ready to give her.

In for Training

Nancy and Joe O'Leary are getting ready for a tearful goodbye to Ashley. Ashley is scheduled for her advanced training in NY any day now. Best advice Nancy and Joe, is not to dwell on her leaving but to be proud of your hard work getting her ready. Also remember how you had struggled at the beginning but came through with flying colors at the end. I'm sure Ashley will make you proud. Besides, the best cure for a heart ache over one puppy is to get another!



Ashley looks around during the meeting at the Landings. Good Luck Ashley! We know you will make us all proud.

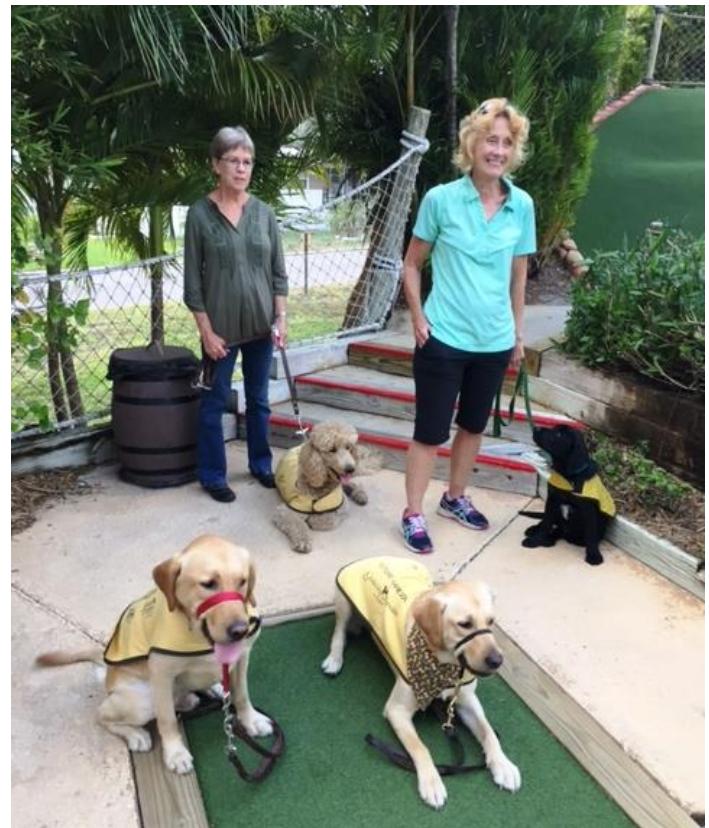
Training Tip – From Your Dog's Point of View

In almost any training we do with our puppies, it helps to consider your "dog's point of view." Dogs do not think like people and for the most part they "live in the moment." That is why you cannot correct your puppy for having an accident long after it has happened. They do not connect the punishment with the crime. You have to catch them in the act. This "living in the moment" also applies when you leave your puppy at home while you go out. Whether you just went to the mail box or left for a week, they really don't know the difference.

Right now, we currently have 4 dogs about the same age that will soon be called in for training. Because we are human, we are emotional about letting them go. In reality, the dogs see it as a great adventure and don't miss us as much as we miss them. Some dogs



Top: Harriet and Sunny cross the swinging bridge. **Middle:** Walter B checks out Mikes putting. **Bottom:** Group picture, all at Congo River last month. Pictures courtesy of Mike Masterson and Don Thompson



do, however, have trouble adjusting to kennel life since they were used to being the center of the universe at home, but after a couple of days, they get in the rhythm.

Shortly after they arrive they are assigned to a trainer that will take them through the next months of training to become guide dogs. This step takes about 4 months and your dog becomes very bonded with this trainer. The dogs are used to having one special person to bond with so the partnership comes quickly. The last step, your dog will be introduced to their final partner, a blind person. At first, they don't want to give up the connection with their trainer and during training walks, look backwards at them for confirmation and security. Then, something magical happens. The dog realizes that the person he is working with is blind and is depending on the dog for their safety. The trainer is still their friend but the blind person becomes their responsibility. The relationship between a blind person and their guide dog is indescribably unique. And leaving training they become a solid team.

For anyone who has attended a "Celebration Day" when they are introduced to the blind graduate with the dog they have raised will say the same thing, "the dog I raised sure got excited when they saw us but after a while they lie down next to their blind person." As puppy raisers, that is what we call "Pay Day," for all your hard work. So naturally, we are sad to see our puppies leave, but it is far more satisfying to know you have given a wonderful gift to someone who needs your dog more than you do.

I am still waiting for my wonderful gift #3. I have met with a trainer and have been told that they are actively looking for the right dog for me. So, who knows, maybe the dog you've raised will be my next guide dog!

We hope look forward to seeing you all at Philippe Park on the 8th. You're Area Coordinators Debbie & Chuck Hietala



Clockwise from top left
3 pictures Congo River last month.
Pictures Don T. and Mike M.
Bottom left at The Landings by Chuck



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