



Historian Report for December 2018

South Central Chapter of ACA Christmas Rally

Old River Road RV Park in Kerrville, Texas.

What a great time we all had at the Christmas Rally in Kerrville Texas!

The Old River Road RV Park was out of town right along the Guadalupe River. Their Rally facility had plenty of room and they provided the Christmas tree and some of the decorations. The whole area looked festive with decorations inside and outside the buildings.

Many thanks to **Don and Candy Duncan** (who live nearby in Comfort, Texas) for finding this park and for **Hosting** our South Central Rally here.

Monday evening we brought heavy hors d'oeuvres and caught up on all the news each other had to share. As usual there was plenty of food for everyone and nobody went away hungry.



We met an American Coach owner that was staying at the park Denise and William Denise joined us during rally activities while husband William worked. They were new members who had just joined South Central Chapter in November of this year.



Tuesday we were served a full breakfast by our men breakfast team. Great as usual.

This was a very special day, because after breakfast on Tuesday morning the chapter welcomed Clay Lambert and Larry Pottridge, administrators of Veterans Assistance Dogs of Texas and a Special Veteran, John Bencken.

John had his service Dog, Susie, with him.



What a beautiful dog!!

They spoke about the mission of VA Dogs of Texas. Additionally they told us stories about what changes had been made in their organization in the last couple of years.

They now have several dogs placed with veterans and several more dogs have been rescued from shelters and have been placed in their service dog training program for possible placement.

It is amazing how a Service Dog can make such a remarkable change in a needy veteran's life.

We saw videos of Onyx, the first service Dog we donated money to obtain and train. Onyx is a valuable asset to Dan his owner now. They were not able to attend today due to illness. We were sad that we didn't get to see Onyx again.

Jerry Askins, Allen Meek, and Carl Anderson represented our South Central Club and presented these gentlemen with **a check for \$10,000.00** to help in obtaining and

training “our second service dog”. We have a close attachment to the dogs we feel we were directly responsible for sponsoring and hope to find out one day more information on “our second dog”. We were told that the day after receiving our check a dog was selected and placed with the trainers. They were very appreciative and kind in accepting this monetary gift from South Central and sent us a nice thank you letter immediately.



It was a wonderful and emotional time hearing stories of how these special dogs have changed the lives of service men that had given their all for us and our great country.

Wednesday we enjoyed another breakfast prepared by the guys.



Wednesday was ladies day.

Our ladies had a wonderful lunch at **Camp Verde** along with shopping at several stores in the historic town of Comfort.

That evening everyone enjoyed an awesome meal at **Mamacitas Mexican** Restaurant in downtown Kerrville.



Thursday brought yet another great breakfast and visiting. Oh, and it also brought rain but it could not dampen our spirits.

The ladies got together to plan what sides we were going to bring for our Christmas Dinner and Party that night.



Wow did we do good! Rally host Candy and Don Duncan cooked the turkey and some sides. Myrna and Robin warmed up the ham and made rolls. The rest of us filled in with some more delicious sides and deserts. As usual we all ate too much.



After dinner we all gathered around the Christmas tree to exchange gifts and play which always means lots of laughter and fun.



Gene Anderson did a great job of selling raffle tickets for our 3rd VA service dog. Hopefully we we be able to make another presentation soon.

Wishes for all to have a Merry Christmas and a wonderful, blessed, happy and healthy New Year.

Respectfully Submitted,
Susan Gesford, Historian